

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## Resolution

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**The Pleasant Plains Township Board**, in recognizing the need for a “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN” for its residents, hereby offers the following resolution;

**WHEREAS**, a need exists for a “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN” for the residents of Pleasant Plains Township, and

**WHEREAS**, in recognizing this need, the Pleasant Plains Township Board hereby appoints the “TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION” to act and serve as the Pleasant Plains Township “PARKS & RECREATION BOARD”, and is hereby authorized and directed to develop, implement and oversee the “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN” for Pleasant Plains Township, and

**WHEREAS**, upon completion of the Township “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN”, shall present same to the Pleasant Plains Township Board for final acceptance and approval, and

**WHEREAS**, upon final approval and adoption by the Pleasant Plains Township Board, said “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN” shall be submitted to the DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES for their approval and acceptance as the PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN”, and

**WHEREAS**, Upon acceptance and approval by the DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, will allow Pleasant Plains Township to make application for GRANTS as offered by the DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES for the purpose of acquiring, developing and implementation of the Pleasant Plains Township “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN”, now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Pleasant Plains Township Board, the appointment of the “TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION” is hereby directed to act and serve as the “TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD”,

**THIS RESOLUTION** Approved and Adopted on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Chamberlain, Township Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kellie Allen, Township Clerk

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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2014 Revision by:  
Pleasant Plains Township Planning Commission

Randy Eling, Chairman  
Mike Oostermeyer, Vice Chairman  
Craig Davis, Secretary  
Rand Lauritzen, Member  
Berna Ward, Member  
Clint Jackson, Member  
Kevin Braddy, Member

Pleasant Plains Township Board Members:

Jeff Chamberlain, Supervisor  
Kellie Allen, Clerk  
Julie Hoffman, Treasurer  
Debra Russell, Trustee  
Craig Davis, Trustee

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## **INTRODUCTION TO PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP**

The Township of Pleasant Plains is a progressive Township with a major commitment to improving the quality of life for its residents. The Township Planning Commission and the Township Administration, both recognize the fact that today's society is in the midst of a trend that advocates health and fitness through proper nutrition and exercise. Recreation can play an important role in providing varied, constructive, and alternative leisure time activities. Not only will recreation benefit the user's health, but economic benefits can also be realized from the existence of quality recreational opportunities. A community can retain residents and attract new residents; as well as entice new commercial and industrial enterprises by providing adequate recreational areas and facilities for its constituents.

The Township of Pleasant Plains would like to provide needed recreational opportunities such as day parks with walking paths, children's playgrounds, to its residents, as well as to the seasonal residents and tourists which migrate to our area. We would like our recreational program to continue to grow each year. Currently we could serve in excess of 7500 residents every summer, at a time when our population more than doubles. It is the Township's intent to offer a long standing commitment to providing recreational facilities for its residents and tourists alike, by way of offering and providing programs and opportunities that involve the residents in utilizing facilities, which would positively enhance the entire community.

In 1989 the Township Board of Pleasant Plains realized that there was a great need for the development of a Parks and Recreation Program for its residents. We would like to continue with this endeavor through this updated five (5) year Parks and Recreation Plan for the Township. The Township Board had formerly adopted a resolution authorizing the Township Board Planning Board to act as its Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission consists of seven (7) Township citizens, one of which is a Township Board Trustee. The Planning Board Chairman who also serves as Parks and Recreation Director, and members at large, were delegated the responsibility of designing a Parks and Recreation Plan for the Township, which included: recommending property acquisition for future parks, and making recommendations for the development of park sites throughout the Township.

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Pleasant Plains Township is unique in that it is located in the Manistee National Forest area and has the scenic Pere Marquette River and its headwaters located within its boundaries. This lends to the overall potential of a magnificent Parks and Recreational Program, under a controlled environment, and proper application and utilization of its natural resources. It will be the intent of our Parks and Recreation Commission, to compliment, not to eradicate, our uniqueness

Our Recreational Plan is an updated plan for 2014, based on the original plan previously submitted and approved by the Department of Natural Resources, and is being dedicated to the people we serve.

The updated Parks and Recreational Plan was formally adopted by the Pleasant Plains Township Board on \_\_\_\_\_2014

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## **PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP “REGIONAL SETTING”**

Pleasant Plains Township is located in the extreme South-central portion of Lake County In The Northwest quadrant of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. It is situated approximately 65 miles North of Grand Rapids, 65 miles South of Traverse City, 30 miles East of Ludington and 32 miles Northeast of Big Rapids. To the Township North is Webber Township, to the West is Lake Township, to the East is Yates Township, and to the South is Newaygo County’s Lilley Township. Pleasant Plains Township is comprised of 36 Sections totaling 22,702 Acres (35.1 square miles). The Village of Baldwin is located in the Northern ¾ of Section #3 and encompasses approximately 480 acres of land within the Township. There are numerous lakes (156) rivers and streams (46) that traverse Lake County, with a great many of them in Pleasant Plains Township, and more specifically the “Scenic Pere Marquette River” which traverses our entire Township, along with it’s numerous tributaries.

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**“PLAT MAP – ATTACHED”**

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# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP

### “CLIMATE”

Weather influences the types of recreation that an area can support, Pleasant Plains Township like the rest of Michigan, experiences the seasonal changes – which means the area can support a variety of recreational activities ranging from swimming in the summer to sledding in the winter. Generally, January is the coldest month of the year with an average temperature of 20.1 degrees Fahrenheit and July is the warmest with an average temperature of 68.9 degrees Fahrenheit. January has the highest snowfall, averaging 25.0 inches. Snow generally falls in eight of the 12 months. Six months of the year average over three inches of precipitation, with August averaging 3.62 inches. February has the least precipitation with 1.68 inches. The prevailing wind is from the west-southwest with an annual average wind speed of 10.0 miles per hour.

### TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION DATA

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	Temperature (F)			Precipitation (inches)	
	Average Daily Maximum	Average Daily Minimum	Average	Average	Average Snowfall
January	29.1	11.1	20.1	2.29	25.0
February	32.1	9.4	20.8	1.68	16.3
March	41.9	19.7	30.3	2.18	10.9
April	57.3	31.3	44.3	3.19	1.9
May	70.5	42.0	56.3	2.93	0.1
June	79.3	51.0	65.1	3.27	0
July	83.1	54.7	68.9	2.88	0
August	80.9	53.2	67.0	3.62	0
September	72.3	46.1	59.2	3.29	0
October	61.0	36.6	48.8	3.00	0
November	45.8	27.4	36.6	3.20	10.0
December	33.5	17.0	25.3	2.44	18.0
Year	57.2	32.3	45.2	33.98	82.6

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## PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP “SOILS”

While a detailed modern soil survey is not yet available for Lake County, several assumptions can be made concerning the general capability of the soils in Pleasant Plains. Broad soil classifications (See Generalized Soils Map) indicate that the soils of Pleasant Plains Township are not conducive for agriculture use, are generally well drained and consist of highly permeable coarse textured material such as sand and gravel. In areas of high housing density, or other intensive use, these are conditions that constitute a potential hazard. In such areas, the contamination of shallow wells and leaching of nutrients from on-site septic systems into surface waters is more readily possible. The areas having the poorest drainage, and as a result, the most severe limitations with regard to development generally occur near or within the flood plains of rivers and streams and are characterized by lowland forests and wetlands/ an area of the Township containing poorly drained soils that is not associated with a major river or stream is the Sterling Marsh area located in the southwest portion of the Township.

The following is a brief discussion of the various soil groupings found in the Township. It is based on the “Forest Soils Report” of Lake County that was completed for the Northwest Michigan Prime Forests Land Identification Project. The discussions relate directly to forest soils potential and can only be broadly applied in reference to development limitations.

**Grayling Soils (A1):** These soils are deep, sandy, and excessively drained and occur on the nearly-level to gently-sloping outwash plain. The soils have low to medium-high forest production potential and low to moderate reforestation potential. The major tree species found on these soils are jack, pine, and oak. The watertable fluctuates to within 5 feet of the surface with in this soil grouping.

**Graycalm-Grayling Soils (A2):** These soils are excessively to somewhat excessively drained soils found on the outwash plain and low moraines. They generally occur on topography that is nearly-level to steep. The erosion hazard is slight to steep depending on the slope. The majority of these soils are forested with oak and aspen. Forest production and reforestation potential is low to medium-high depending upon the tree species and draughtiness of the soil. Scattered wet spots occur within this area of soils.

**Rubicon, Montcalm-Graycalm Soils (B-1):** There are only three small areas of this soil grouping located within the Township. They are deep and sandy and somewhat excessively drained. They occur on level surfaces within the outwash plain. Because of this, the erosion hazard is slight but increases to severe with slope. Forest productivity is medium-low to very high depending on the tree species. Red and White pine have the highest productivity potential. The major forest types presently occurring aspen and oak.

**Crosswell Soils (D-2):** These are moderately well drained deep, sandy soils. They occur primarily on the outwash plain and to some extent on the low terraces along drainage ways. They occur on nearly-level to gently-sloping surfaces and pose a slight erosion hazard. Forest productivity is variable and ranges from low to high. Reforestation is high for white pine. The major tree species associated with this soil grouping are lowland hardwoods, aspen, jack pine, oak and red

## Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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white pine. Here is a seasonally high water table but it generally does not reach to within five feet of the surface. However, inclusions

**Augers, Finch and Winter Field Soils (E-4):** These are somewhat poorly drained soils that are sandy in texture and that occur on some of the low flats and beaches adjacent to drainage ways, bogs, and on flood plains. They are generally covered with lowland hardwoods, swamp conifers, aspens, and white pine in the drier areas. Because of wetness, there are moderate to severe limitations with regards to construction. Forest productivity is low to medium-high, but because of wetness, heavy equipment movement would be limited and reforestation constrained. Development is similarly constrained as a seasonally high water table fluctuates to within six feet of the surface.

**Roscommon & Tawa Soils and Fluvaquents & Histisols (F-4):** This soil group is a complex of poorly drained mineral and very poorly drained organic soils. They occur in swamps and drainage ways within the outwash plain. They consist of sandy, loamy, clayey and organic soils. The soils are primarily forested with swamp conifers, lowland hardwoods, and aspen. Most areas exhibit low to medium-low productivity and because of wetness, commercial harvesting and reforestation is not recommended. They are not suitable for development.

**Lupton and Loxley Soils ( G-L/G-2):** these are very poorly drained organic soils that occur in bogs and drainage ways within flood plains or on the outwash plain. Tree species include swamp conifers, lowland hardwoods, and aspen. Forest productivity is low to high but harvesting and reforestation is not recommended due to wetness. Development is severely restricted by wetness and other soil properties. The following is a brief discussion of the various soil groupings found in the Township. It is based on the "Forest Soils Report" of Lake County that was completed for the Northwest Michigan Prime Forests Land Identification Project. The discussions relate directly to forest soils potential and can only be broadly applied in reference to development limitations.

**“SOIL GROUPINGS MAP – ATTACHED”**

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# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## **“TOPOGRAPHY AND SURFACE GEOLOGY”**

Apart from the numerous lakes, small depressions and river valleys and stream cuts that bisect the area, the topography of Pleasant Plains Township is generally flat. This is the result of the glaciers that occurred thousand of years ago, and their meltwaters that laid down a thick blanket of sand and gravel called “outwash”. An “outwash plain” covers most of the township and has a depth of over 400 feet. In Pleasant Plains, the upper level of material left by the meltwater is primarily sand.

A small portion of the Township is attributed to a different glacial process. It is an area of “ground moraine” and is located in the extreme southeast corner of the township. The topography of the area is much more varied than that found in the rest of the Township and contains a mixture of unsorted sand, gravel and other material. This material was deposited directly by glacial ice and was formed by ice movements. Elevations exceed 900 feet in this area and are the highest of any in the township.

## **“LAND USE”**

Pleasant Plains Township is very rural. Much of the township is covered with forest lands including both State and Federal land. Very low density residential areas exist throughout much of the Township. Higher levels of commercial and residential development exist along M-37. the Village of Baldwin, which lies partially within Pleasant Plains Township, and areas around the Village, have concentrations of commercial, residential, and public land use; such as the County Court House, schools and parks.

**“LAND USE MAP – ATTACHED”**

**14-A**

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## “WATER FEATURES”

The surface hydrology or drainage network of the Township involves the Pere Marquette River and its major tributaries, as well as numerous small lakes and wetland depressions. The Surface Hydrology map illustrates the major water features of the Township and the land area that each of the more significant streams drain.

The Pere Marquette River flows into the Township from the east in Section 13. From there it meanders west and exits the Township in Section 18. Two major tributaries of the Pere Marquette are the Little South Branch of the Pere Marquette River and the Baldwin River. The Little South Branch enters the Township in the extreme southeast (Section 36) and meanders northwest through Section 35, 26, and 27. It then heads north through Sections 27 and 22 to its confluence with the main stream of the Pere Marquette in the northeast corner of Section 22. The Baldwin River enters the Township in Section 2 and flows diagonally to the southwest through Sections 3 and 10 before converging with the Pere Marquette in the south-central portion of Section 16. Lesser tributaries of these rivers include: Danaher Creek, which drains directly into the Pere Marquette in Section 18; Jenks Creek which drains into Danaher Creek; and Sanborn Creek which flows into the Baldwin River in the southeast corner of the Village of Baldwin (Section 4).

Cedar Creek, in the extreme southern portions of Sections 32 and 33, flows into and out of the Township on its way to its confluence with the Big South Branch of the Pere Marquette River in Newaygo County.

As can be seen on the Surface Hydrology Map, the majority of the wetlands located in the Township are associated directly with lakes or river and stream courses. In many cases, these wetland areas lie within the relatively narrow flood plains of the various streams and bounded by valley wells which separate them from the flat upland surfaces. Other wetland areas, such as those found in Sections 9 and 30, are associated with low depressions found within the outwash plain.

Most of the lakes within the Township are what is termed “ice-block lakes” or “kettle lakes”. These were formed at the end of the glacial period and are the result of large blocks of ice that remained after the glacier receded. They melted to form water-filled depressions within the outwash plain. These lakes are typified by having no surface inlets or outlets. The 4-L. Lakes, and Jenks Lake are all examples, with North Lake being a spring fed lake which feeds the Pere Marquette River.

**“SURFACE HYDROLOGY MAP – ATTACHED”**

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**“PLEASANT PLAINS ZONING MAP- ATTACHED”**

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# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## “TRANSPORTATION”

Pleasant Plains Township has one primary east-west route and one primary north-south route and a series of local and county roads to serve the transportation needs of the Township. US-10, the only U.S. Route in the Township, is the primary east-west route, which when continued east, links with US-131 in Reed City (Osceola County) and the north-south Expressway (US –131). When going west, US-10 links with Expressway (US-31) and the City of Ludington and the car ferry to Wisconsin. M-37 is the Township’s primary north-south route, extending south to Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, etc., and north to Traverse City.

Public transportation is provided by Yates Township Dial-A-Ride Transit. The service provides transportation to residents county-wide including the area’s public schools and agencies. The service has 24 public buses. The Dial-A-Ride has 44 employees and 7 volunteers. Rates depend on age and location and range from \$.50 to \$2.00. NOTE: The Township has a contract with Yates Dial-A-Ride Transit for a reduced rate for all seniors living within the Township. The hours of service are 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturdays. The service is also available for special events as desired by various agencies. No services are available Sundays or Holidays. The system serves an average of 700 residents per day, including students, and is funded through federal, state, local, and school sources as well as fares.

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## POPULATION TRENDS

In 2010, the population of Pleasant Plains Township stood at 2,154 persons. In contrast to past decades, the ten year period between 2000 and 2010 saw the population of the unincorporated portion increase at a rate of 8.3%. It is noteworthy, the past five (5) years are indicating a growth rate of 1 percent per year. This may be due in part to those “baby boomers” reaching retirement age and wanting to retire to a more rural area, with many natural amenities being offered.

The population data stated, does not take into account the tremendous influx of seasonal residents, and tourists into the Township. The total number of persons found in the Township on any given day during the peak tourist season, could easily exceed 3000. Often an influx of 1500 people on any given weekend during the summer is realized. At special events, such as “Trout-A-Rama” and “Blessing of the Bikes” there are upwards of 15,000 to 20,000 people. During the deer hunting season, and during trout opening weekend the population easily doubles or even triples.

It is believed that the major influx of residents to our Township will be those in the retirement age, which have summer homes in our township or build their retirement homes here for the aesthetic qualities of our rural area. Due to a lack of tax base of substance, the younger people seek employment out of the area, but tend to return as seasonal residents and ultimately do retire here. The fact we have considerable Federal and State land which the Township receives no tax base from, limits the financial support needed for local services.

The attached graph will give some indication of our Township Population Projections, as determined by the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.

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(\*) Source: Michigan Dept. of Management & Budget, Office of Revenue and Tax Analysis.

(\*\*) Source: West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, Data on Pleasant Plains Township.

(\*\*\*) Source: West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, Data on Pleasant Plains Township.

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## **“RACIAL BREAKDOWN” PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP 2010 Census**

<b>White</b> .....	<b>1,234</b>
<b>Black</b> .....	<b>256</b>
<b>American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut</b> .....	<b>14</b>
<b>Other</b> .....	<b>77</b>
<b>Total Population</b> .....	<b>1,581</b>

As can be seen from the table above, Pleasant Plains Township is largely white, with 73% of the population. However, blacks do constitute a sizable minority, being 256 in number, at 16% of the population. The remaining 6% is either of American India origin, or other racial classification.

Therefore, recreation programs in the Township might easily be expected to accommodate the two major and relatively common racial groups found here.

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## “ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS”

The poverty rate for Lake County is 24.1 percent vs. 14 percent for the State.

Approximately 26.5% of all jobs held by residents can be directly or indirectly attributed to the retail and wholesale trades, with Lake County retail and wholesale jobs have risen the fastest of all industries, climbing 41.5 percent since 1990.

Lake County's annual average unemployment rate in 2010 was 15.9 percent, compared to 6.9 percent in 2000. Michigan on average stood at 6 percent.

The private wage and salary workers comprise less than one-half of the work force as compared to over three-fourths for the State of Michigan as a whole.

As can be seen in the attached data, the average household and average family incomes are approximately one-half of those in the State as well.

Needless to say, the poverty status for various segments of our population range from tow to three times the level of the State.

With the above statistics facing our township and in our area in genera, we are in need of outside assistance in any project we attempt to undertake for our Township and/or the County of Lake.

A major part of our problem can be attributed to the lack of any type of industry being located in our Township and/or County. Even the slightest improvement in this area would have a tremendous impact on our Township and its tax base.

Another part of our economic climate dilemma stems from the enormous amount of State and Federal Land, on which we receive little, if any revenue in the way of tax dollars returned to the Township. The loss of State Shared Revenue has had a major impact on our Township over the past several years.

Due to the economic climate of our area, we just do not have the tax base to draw from in our Township.

Thus, the Parks & Recreation projects which we are proposing in our Parks & Recreation Plan have not been developed.

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### “INCOME AND POVERTY DATA” (2010 Census)

	<u>Pl. Plains</u>	<u>Baldwin</u>	<u>Lake Co.</u>	<u>State</u>
Total Population	1581	1208	11,539	9,883,640
Total Households	708	404	4,139	1,532,223
Med. Household Income	24,414	17,621	30,390	3,872,508
Total Families	900	435	3,521	48,471
Med. Family Income	28,452	23,942	30,390	53,046
% Population in Poverty	34.3	32.8	24.1	14.0
% Family in Poverty	25.8	29.9	25.2	17.5
% Children in Poverty	37.3	32.0	32.0	12.0

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\* Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 2010 Census of Population & Housing

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## “POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS”

### I. Population & Housing

	<u>2010 Population</u>	<u>2010 Housing Units</u>
State of Michigan	9,883,640	4,532,233
Pleasant Plains Total	1,581	1,676
Baldwin	1,208	404
Lake County	11,539	14,824

### II. Population Change

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>%Change 2000-2010</u>	<u>%Change 1990-2000</u>
Pleasant Plains	1,581	1,535	943	855	.01	11.02
Baldwin	1,107	1,107	551	546	.01	1.01
Lake County	11,539	11,333	8,583	7,711	.12	1.11
State	888,640	9,938,444	9,295,297	9,262,078	.20	1.00

### III. AGE – 2010

	<u>Total Persons</u>	<u>% Under 18</u>	<u>% Over 60</u>	<u>Med. Age</u>
Pleasant Plains	1,581	.22	0.18	45
Baldwin	1,208	.22	0.19	36.8
Lake County	11,333	16.9	25.5	50.2
State	9,883,640	22.9	14.6	41.8

### IV. Population by Sex

	<u>Pleasant Plains</u>	<u>Baldwin</u>	<u>Lake County</u>	<u>State</u>
Male	801	644	5,885	4,848,114
Female	780	564	5,654	5,035,526

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## “DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES”

### PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

- A. Each year the Parks & Recreation Commission shall formulate plans for the ensuing fiscal year, and shall submit same, together with its estimated budget to the Township Supervisor on or before the 1st day of January. The Township supervisor shall review the proposed budget and shall take such proposed budget into consideration in the submission of the annual budget to the Township Board
- B. The Township Parks & Recreation Commission shall advise the Township Board as to the effectiveness of the programs and quality of performance personnel.
- C. The township Parks & Recreation Commission shall have the authority to adopt such reasonable rules and regulations for the conduct of its affairs and shall not be inconsistent with the provision of this resolution.
- D. The Township Parks & Recreation Commission shall have the power to recommend:
  - 1. The purchase of real and personal property.
  - 2. The renting or leasing of such property.
  - 3. Recreational programs for all seasons.
  - 4. Personnel selection for programs requiring special supervision or monitoring.
  - 5. Scheduling of all public recreational facilities.
  - 6. The establishment of rules and regulations for all parks and recreation facilities.
- E. The Parks & Recreation Commission shall make a written annual report to the Township Board by December 1st of each year. Such report shall recite such facts, recommendations, appraisals, and programs initiated or completed or other pertinent information, as the Township Board shall deem appropriate or necessary to operate a quality Parks & Recreation Program.

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

1. **CANOEING:** The Pere Marquette National Scenic River offers some of Michigan's finest canoeing and rafting water. There are two canoe rentals in Pleasant Plains Township which service the Pere Marquette. Baldwin Canoe Rental has 190 canoes and 29 rafts and 130 kayaks. Ivan's Canoe Rental has 109 canoes, 7 rafts and 28 kayaks. These two rentals serve a combined total of approximately 35,000 customers each summer.
2. **CAMPING:** Pleasant Plains Township has a great amount of State and Federal forest land, but no designated campgrounds within the Township. There are two privately owned campgrounds in Pleasant Plains Township. Ivan's Campground and Cabins has 50 sites, 30 of which have electric hookups. They have flush toilets and shower facilities, playground, pavilion, and volleyball courts. Ivan's can hold up to 500 people at one time. Whispering Oaks Campground has 41 sites, 30 have water and electricity. They have flush toilets and shower facilities. Ten cabins and 8 primitive campsites. Both campgrounds combined serve near 20,000 people each year.
3. **FISHING:** There are 12 lakes within Pleasant Plains, with varied fishing and access. Pleasant Plains is also home to the Pere Marquette's designated quality fishing section of river starting at M-37 and ending at Gleason's landing. This section of river is restricted to fly fishing only, and serviced by several river boat guides. The Baldwin River has numerous access sites which are subject to change through DNR rules.
4. **HIKING:** The North Country Trail, used for hiking and cross country skiing cuts through the southwest corner of Pleasant Plains Township. We also have bicycle trails within the township.
5. **HUNTING:** With the vast woodlands located in and around Pleasant Plains Township, we serve a great amount of game and hunting needs, among them are; grouse, turkey, deer, and other assorted game. Motels, restaurants, sporting goods stores, etc.
6. **SNOWMOBILING:** Pleasant Plains Township has access ability to snowmobile trails within its boundaries and there are several trail systems throughout the neighboring townships. The Rails-to-Trails commences in the Township and offers an excellent snowmobiling trails as well as some of the old railroad grades that are available. The "Trail Riders Snowmobile Club" is very active in maintaining and grooming the trails, as well as signing of the numerous trails located in the Township, as well throughout the County. Snowmobilers



## Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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have the majority of their vacationing needs met within Pleasant Plains Township. Motels, dining, sporting goods, etc.

7. **GOLF:** Pere Marquette Trails Golf Course is an 18 hole course which is located juts outside the southwest corner of Pleasant Plains Township in Lake Township and is open to the public.
8. **ATV's** Most of the Township roads are open to ATV use.
9. **SHRINE OF THE PINES:** Designated as a Michigan Historical Site honoring the logging and lumbering days of yesteryear. A world famous tourist attraction, located along the Pere Marquette River. Over two hundred handcrafted masterpieces are displayed.
10. **BALDWIN BOWLING LANES:** Leagues and open bowling are available. The facility has recently been upgraded, and offers refreshments and spirits. Eight lanes are available, located in the Village of Baldwin.
11. **VILLAGE PARK:** there are two softball fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court and a newly updated children's playground and skateboard facility.
12. **SNOWMOBILE RACES:** Held several times each winter as snow permits, and are held at the Airport, one mile south of Baldwin, in the Township. Dog Sledding is becoming very popular during the winter months in the area and is being developed.
13. **BALDWIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** Has a new High School. Has a gym, baseball field, football field, and children's playground. The gym is available for men's basketball and other organized activities, with approval only.
14. **Gibson Park:** Currently a picnic park, Gibson Park is being developed into a children's playground as well.

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## PROPOSED ADMINISTRATION PLAN

- A. The Pleasant Plains Township Planning Commission will be serving as the “Parks & Recreation Commission” for the Township, and acting in this capacity, and will be responsible for the administration of the funds for the Parks & Recreation projects.
- B. A separate Grant Fund Account will be established for the park projects by the Township Board, and shall be monitored by this Board on an on-going basis. We will also request the State of Michigan to assist us and also to perform the final audits on any funds forthcoming.
- C. Bids will be requested from all contractors, and will be advertised in the local newspaper for all projects, and/or various aspects of the project. All bids will be received and reviewed by the Township Board and in cooperation with an engineering firm of the Board’s choosing, will be chosen for appropriateness of facts on any project undertaken.
- D. The contractor(s) selected, will be required to provide performance bonds for the duration of all construction of any recreational project, and shall submit same to the Township Board. Liability insurance will also be required, including, but not limited to Workers Compensation Insurance.
- E. All contractors and/or sub-contractors sought for an Parks & Recreation development shall be from the local area when possible. It will be requested that they also be licensed. Equal opportunity hiring will be practiced for any project undertaken by the Township.
- F. All contracts and/or agreements shall be reviewed by the Township attorney of record and retained by same.
- G. The Township Board will make all necessary payments from projects funds received for any DNR approved Parks & Recreation project to the contractor or vendor and/or sub-contractor upon completion or receipt of the products or work provided, and the submission of a statement for services or product for each phase of completion on any funded Parks & Recreation project.
- H. The following is a proposed method of confirmation of work performed, or product received, as well as the method for authorizing payment for same:

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## PROCEDURES

1. The Township Planning Commission and/or Township Board will approve and confirm that the quality of work performed as well as materials used by the contractors, and have met his/her standards of design and those of the State for construction performed and completed for the project.
2. The Township Supervisor will notify the Township Board that all items have been satisfactorily accomplished to our specifications and will recommend to the Township Board that payment be made for work complete to date.
3. The Township Supervisor will review the work completed and if satisfactory, will submit the signed voucher and/or invoice to the Township Clerk for payment.
4. The Township Clerk and the Township Treasurer will maintain a separate accounting of the project and shall issue a financial statement on a monthly basis to the Township Board and Township Planning Commission as required by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and/or Fund Granting Agency.
5. It will be requested that all projects have a quarterly payment schedule, based on percent of completion of any Parks & Recreation project, to each contractor and sub-contractor.

IN CONCLUSION, all accounts will have an audit by the State of Michigan, immediately upon completion of any project undertaken, at the request of the Township Board and/or as required by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and/or Fund Granting Agency.

A certified copy of all audits will be mailed within five (5) working days, upon receipt by the Township from the State of Michigan to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and/or Fund Granting Agency or as required by said agencies.

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## **PARKS & RECREATION PROPOSED DEVELOPMENTS**

**1. GIBSON PARK** and M-37 Park will be developed as an outdoor park geared toward families with small children and the elderly. Gibson Park will have a quality children's playground, a pavilion to be used for picnic and organized functions, pump-out toilet facilities, drinking fountain, and a service/storage building. Pleasant Plains Township already owns the land to be developed. Possibilities for the future include horse shoe pitching, shuffle boards, walking paths, and greater development of children's playground.

### **2. THREE PATHWAYS:**

**A. A NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY** will be developed for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists. This pathway will begin at the Pleasant Plains Township Hall and go east to James Road then south to Baldwin Road, pass Gibson Park and continue east on Baldwin Road to Forman Road, on Forman going south to 68<sup>th</sup> Street to M-37, and then north on M-37 to the Village of Baldwin and the Township Hall. The completed pathway would encompass a total of 9.2 miles, and would feature a nature trail at the Baldwin Creek near the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and James Road. We are suggesting the pathway to be paved 6 feet wide to accommodate bicycle, baby-stroller, and wheelchair use. This NON-Motorized Pathway could possibly be connected to the State "Rails-to-Trails Program".

Requirements: Approximately 12 Distance and Directions signs

Approval from the Road Commission to place the signs on right-of-way as well as paving.

A Bulletin Board at the Township Hall that would have a large map of all the trails,

Plus a place to hold small maps for use by the walkers and joggers

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

**B. A WALKING PATHWAY** would be developed for walkers and joggers. This pathway would begin at the Airport on M-37. It would go south on M-37 to 68<sup>th</sup> Street, then east to James Road and then south to the South Branch of the Pere Marquette River where the Taylor Bridge was removed. Then you would return on the same trail to the airport. This pathway would encompass a total of 6.2 miles. This walking path could be looped back to the airport with a new foot bridge over the South Branch of the Pere Marquette River connecting James Road south with 81<sup>st</sup> Street, west on 81<sup>st</sup> Street to M-37 and north on M-37 to the airport. This new FOOT bridge over the river would enable pedestrians from both the L-Lakes area and Marlborough to use the shoulders of these roads as a walking pathway.

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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Requirements: 8 distance & direction signs.

Approval from the Road Commission to place signs.

Pathway Extension or loop:

Approximately 4 distance & direction signs.

Foot Bridge over South Branch Pere Marquette River.

Approval from DNR/DEQ for foot bridge.

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

**C. NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY** A non-motorized pathway would be developed to connect pathways “A” & “B” together. The pathway would start and end at the Township Hall. From the Township Hall go east on 8<sup>th</sup> Street to James Road, then south on James Road to the airport. At the airport follow the snowmobile trail southwest on the north edge of the airport to M-37, then take M-37 north to 8<sup>th</sup> Street and east to the Township Hall. This pathway could also start at the airport.

Requirements: Approximately 6 distance and direction signs.

Approval from the Road Commission to place signs on the road right-of-way.

Approval from the Village of Baldwin to use the snowmobile trail on the north edge of the airport.

(SEE ATTACHED MAP)

Since doctors are now increasingly advocating walking a 20 minute mile as a health benefit, many local residents of this area are already utilizing the roads advantages of the smooth walking surface with good visibility even at pre-dawn and post-dusk periods. The addition of “Caution Pedestrian” signs and better berm maintenance would help insure the safety of those now using the road along with those who will be increasingly using it in the future.

There are many side trails in the woods surrounding James Road and these trails could be tied in for slower walking when visibility enables the walker to see both obstructions and holes. This whole complex is rife with the spotting of deer, turkey and grouse, and would be a definite asset to the area.

**3. TRAP, SKEET AND RIFLE/HAND GUN RANGE** to be developed for the purpose of holding trap, skeet and rifle/hand gun sanctioned tournaments. Sanctioned tournaments would be held for the Local, State and National recognition.

## Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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- 4. DEVELOPMENT OF A CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL** near town. We would like to be able to have this trail begin and end at the proposed Township Hall complex if possible and like to have this included in the State's Rails-to-Trails Program within our Township.
- 5. DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY SWIMMING POOL.**

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## ( 5 YEAR DETAIL PLANS )

### YEAR # 1 2015-2016

#### **GIBSON PARK**

##### **1. Picnic Area:**

- a) Build a covered picnic area with a concrete floor, and underground electric service to the building.
- b) Site Plan – layout of Park development
  - 1. Parking development & paving

##### **2. Playground:**

- a) Equipment Procurement
- b) Cyclone fence 4' high around playground area

##### **3. Restrooms:**

- a) Concrete block restrooms – male & female – pump out style

##### **4. Drinking Fountain:**

- a) 4" well – with drinking fountain – (handicap capable & non handicap capable)

### YEAR # 2 2016-2017

##### **1. Non-Motorized Pathway – Baldwin to Gibson Park:**

- a) Layout/development
- b) Easement acquisition
- c) Development of pathway

##### **2. Trap, Skeet and Rifle/Hand Gun/Archery Range – Outdoor/Indoor:**

- a) Property acquisition
- b) Hire designer to layout & design facility
- c) Layout & development
- d) Construction

### YEAR # 3

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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**2017-2018**

- 1. Gibson to Foreman Road Pathway**
- 2. Walking Pathway:**
  - a) New Foot Bridge over South Branch Pere Marquette River
  - b) Berm Maintenance along roadway

**YEAR# 4**  
**2018-2019**

- 1. Completion of Non-Motorized Pathway System:**
  - a) Finishing of Non-Motorized Pathway

**YEAR # 5**  
**2019-2020**

- 1. Cross Country Ski Trail – (Feasibility-Planning):**
  - a) Design, layout and develop Trail starting at new Township Hall
- 2. Community swimming pool**



# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## **PROPOSED FUNDING SOURCES**

At this time there are no viable sources for funding further development for the needs stated here-in. As funds bases develop, we can populate the future costs for the amenities stated. Targeted sources for the required funding are the Pleasant Plains Township General Fund, State, Federal and Private Grants, local service groups and the general population via donations to serve any specific agenda.

### **Year 2015-2016**

#### **Gibson Park:**

Picnic Area:

Project (1)

Playground/Restrooms/Drinking Fountain:

Project (2-3-4)

### **Year 2016-2017**

Non-Motorized Pathway – Baldwin to Gibson Park

Project (1)

Trap, Skeet and Rifle/Hand Gun Range – Indoor

Project (2)

### **Year 2017-2018**

Non-Motorized Pathway:

Project (1)

### **Year 2018-2019**

Completion of Non-Motorized Pathway System:

Project (2)

### **Year 2019-2020**

Cross Country Ski Trail:

Project (1)

Community swimming pool

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## **NOTE:**

It is hoped our Township would eventually have a Parks and Recreation Complex which could be the site of a Northwest Michigan Special Olympics Program.

Items to be considered for future expansion, could also include, sanctioned Trap & Skeet Shooting, working dog trails, shuffle board tournaments, horse shoe pitching tournaments, just to mention a few possibilities.

Due to our location, we feel we could offer a wide diversity in our Parks and Recreation Plan, especially with the help of the Department of Natural Resources, for both young and old alike.

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## PLAN REVIEW AND ADOPTION

The Parks and Recreation Plan embodied in this document was officially reviewed and adopted by the Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Commission at its \_\_\_\_\_ meeting. The Parks and Recreation Commission will recommend that the Pleasant Plains Township Board, officially adopt this Plan as the Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan.

Copies of the Parks and Recreation Plan, as adopted have been forwarded to the appropriate Planning Agencies.

\_\_\_\_\_ made a motion to approve and adopt the Plan Review for the Pleasant Plains Parks and Recreation Plan. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion.

Approved and Adopted by the Following Planning Commission Members:

March 26, 2014

\_\_\_\_\_  
Randy Eling, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Oostmeyer, Vice Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Craig Davis, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rand Lauritzen, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Berna Ward, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clint Jackson, Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin Braddy, Member

# Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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## RESOLUTION

# \_\_\_\_\_

**The PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP BOARD**, recognizing the need for a “Parks & Recreation Plan” for the Township, hereby offers the following resolution;

**WHEREAS**, the Township Board having directed the Township “Planning Commission” to also serve as the Township “PARKS & RECREATION BOARD”, and

**WHEREAS**, said “PARKS & RECREATION BOARD” having been directed to develop a “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN”, for the Township, and

**WHEREAS**, the “PARKS & RECREATION BOARD” having developed a “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN” for the Township as directed, and have presented said Plan to the Township Board for approval and adoption, and

**WHEREAS**, the Pleasant Plains Township Board having reviewed said “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN” as presented, and

**WHEREAS**, the “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN” as presented, and having met the needs of its residents, especially the needy and under served areas of our Township,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Pleasant Plains Township Board hereby approved and adopts the “PARKS & RECREATION PLAN”, as presented by the Township “PARKS & RECREATION BOARD”, on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Ghent, Supervisor  
PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kellie Allen, Clerk  
PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP