

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

Resolution

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 _____, 2023

Kevin Braddy, Township Supervisor

Elizabeth Knight, Township Clerk

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

2023 Revision by:
Pleasant Plains Township Planning Commission

Su Eling, Chairman
Dave Ghent, Secretary
Deb Russell, Board Liason
Deb Vayda, Member
Randy Eling , Member

Pleasant Plains Township Board Members:

Kevin Braddy, Supervisor
Elizabeth Knight, Clerk
Ronette Hanna, Treasurer
Debra Russell, Trustee
Sondra Lemm, Trustee

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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 Commission 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 Commission 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.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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 2023, based on the original plan previously submitted and approved by the Department of Natural Resources, and is being dedicated to the people we serve.

This Plan was developed to follow the DNR Guidelines for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans.

The updated Parks and Recreational Plan was formally adopted by the Pleasant Plains Township Board on _____2023.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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 Northwest 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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 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. A great many of them are in Pleasant Plains Township, and more specifically the "Scenic Pere Marquette River" which traverses our entire Township along with its numerous tributaries.

“PLAT MAP – ATTACHED”

8 – A



plat map.pdf

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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

	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

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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. These 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 water table 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 moisture 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

white pine. Here is a seasonally high water table but it generally does not reach to within five feet of the surface. However, inclusions of somewhat poorly drained to very poorly drained soils are found in some areas within this soil grouping.

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 & Histisoils (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.

“SOIL GROUPINGS MAP – ATTACHED”

12 – A



Soil.pdf

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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 thousands of years ago, and their melt waters 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 melt water 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.

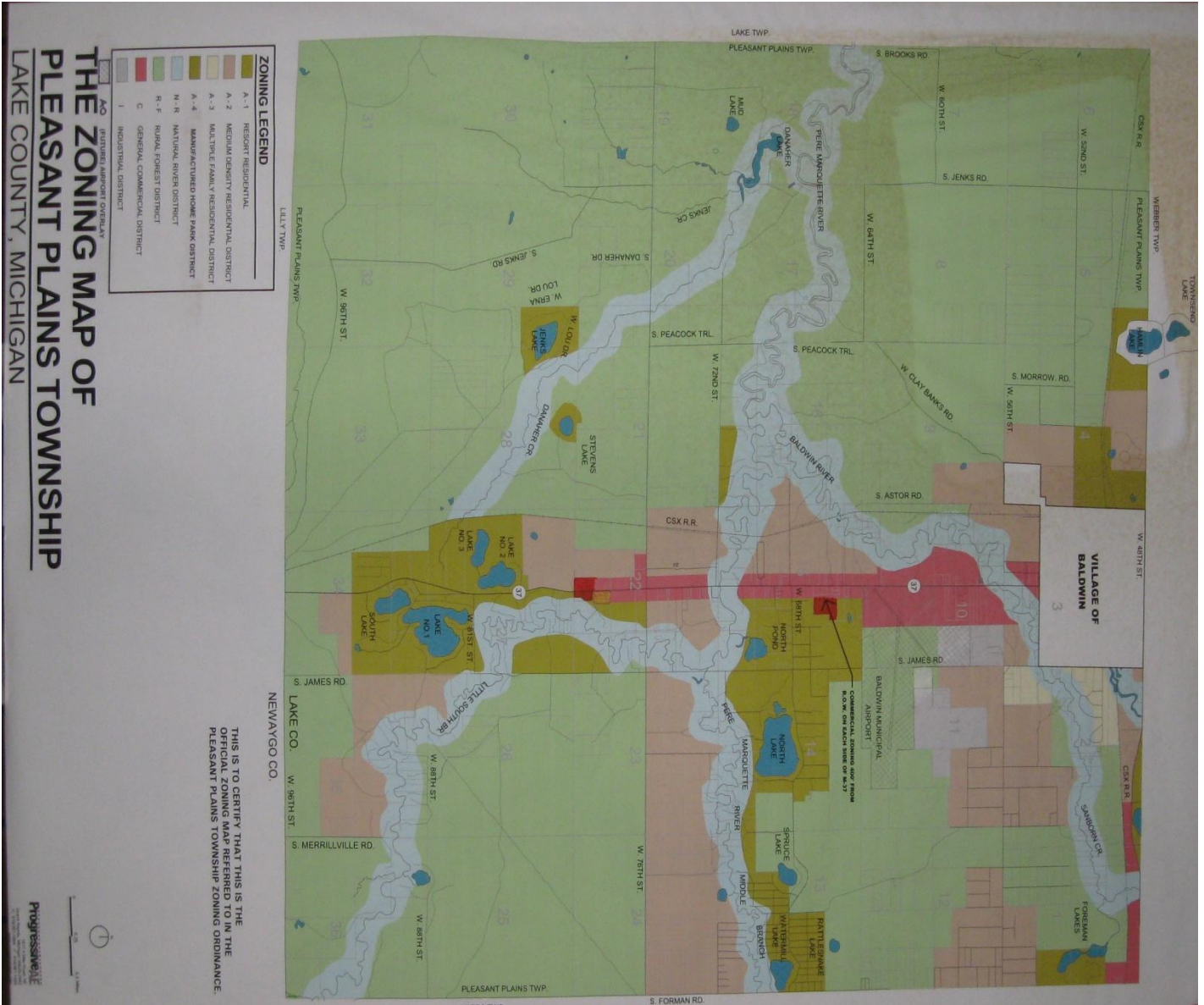
“LAND USE”

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.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

“LAND USE MAP – ATTACHED”

14-A



Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

“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.

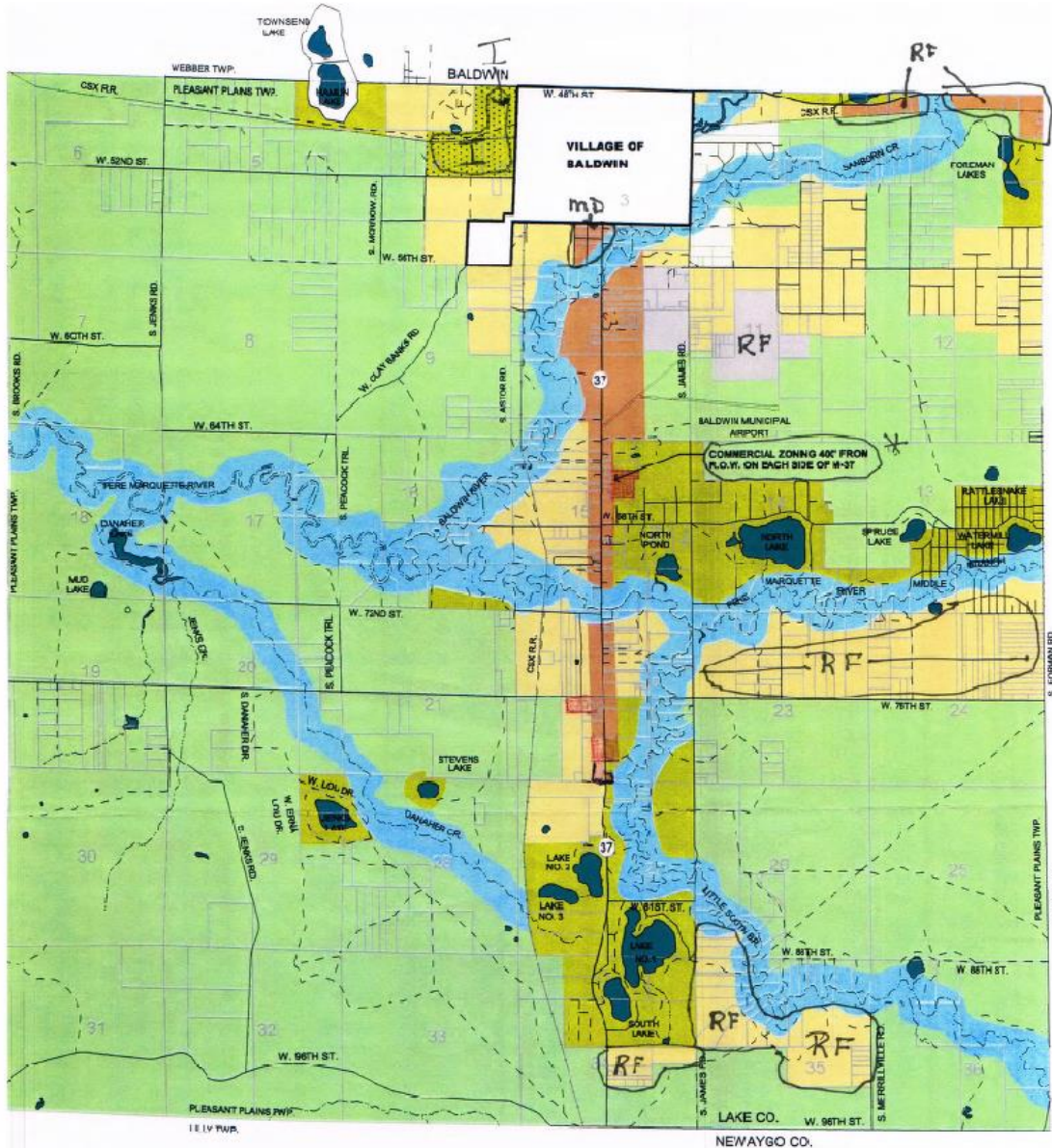
“SURFACE HYDROLOGY MAP – ATTACHED”

16 – A



Water.pdf

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan



- ZONING LEGEND**
- A-1 RESORT RESIDENTIAL
 - A-2 MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
 - A-3 MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
 - A-4 MOBILE HOME PARK DISTRICT
 - N-R NATURAL RIVER DISTRICT
 - R-F RURAL FOREST DISTRICT
 - C GENERAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
 - I INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THIS IS THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP REFERRED TO IN THE PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE.

Future

THE ZONING MAP OF PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP 2018

LAKE COUNTY, MICHIGAN



ProgressiveAE
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 Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525-2442
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 www.progressiveae.com

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

“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 4:00 pm Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 3:00 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

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 2010 and 2020 saw the population of the unincorporated portion decrease. Currently there are 1,749 residents and 601 households.

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 following data will give some indication of our Township Population Projections.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

“RACIAL BREAKDOWN” PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP 2020 Census

White.....	1,175
Black.....	244
American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut.....	7
Other.....	57
Total Population.....	1,603

As can be seen from the table above, Pleasant Plains Township is largely white, with the majority of the population. However, blacks do constitute a sizable minority of the population. The remaining percentage is either of American Indian 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.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

“ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS”

The poverty rate for Pleasant Plains is 26.7 percent and the unemployment rate is 1.6% which is higher than the rest of Lake County and 1.5 times the average State rate.

The Median Household average income for Pleasant Plains is \$25,649 vs the National average of \$69,021. It is also only 3/5 as much as the rest of Lake County. The Median Individual average income is \$17,938 vs the National average of \$34,429. It is also only 80% as much as the rest of Lake County.

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

With the above statistics facing our Township and in our area in general, 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.

Since ‘opting in’ to the State Marihuana laws of 2018, Pleasant Plains Township has seen our Industry base expand, thus increasing our tax base. The Township now receives funds from the State for our Recreational Marihuana facilities as well. This also has the potential for additional jobs within the Township. With the additional funds from the State we may now start to be able to implement some of the Park and Recreation goals, if some of those funds were allocated to these endeavors.

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 had not been developed.

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“INCOME AND POVERTY DATA” (2020 Census)

	<u>Pl. Plains</u>	<u>Baldwin</u>	<u>Lake Co.</u>
Total Population	1603	902	12,096
Total Households	601	402	4,349
Med. Household Income	25,649	22,593	40,753
Med. Family Income	38,929	23,942	40,753
% Population in Poverty	30.8	32.8	19.4

* Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, 2020 Census of Population & Housing

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

“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 the 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

RECREATIONAL INVENTORY

1. **CANOEING:** The Pere Marquette National Scenic River offers some of Michigan's finest canoeing and rafting water. There is one rental in Pleasant Plains Township, Baldwin Canoe Rentals, which services the permitted section of the Pere Marquette National Scenic River. Baldwin Canoe Rental has over 500 watercraft including canoes, inflatable rafts, solo & tandem kayaks and tubes.
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. We have motels, restaurants, sporting goods stores, etc.
6. **SNOWMOBILING:** Pleasant Plains Township has access 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 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

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 just outside the southwest corner of Pleasant Plains Township in Lake Township and is open to the public.
8. **ATV/UTV** 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. **BALDWIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** The 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.
13. **GIBSON PARK:** Currently a picnic park.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE 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 park projects by the Township Board. The account shall be monitored by this Board on an on-going basis. We will request the assistance of the State of Michigan to perform the final audits on any funds forthcoming. Specifically Using the Department of Natural Resources Grants Management written program is hereby adopted as a guide to our Parks and Recreation Plan.
- C. Bids will be requested via newspaper advertisement. All bids received will be reviewed by the Township Board in cooperation with the engineering firm of the Boards choosing.
- 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 the same to the Township Board. Liability insurance will also be required, including, but not limited to Workers Compensation Insurance.
- E. All contractors and/or subcontractors sought for a 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 funds received for any DNR approved Parks & Recreation project. Payment will be remitted to the contractor, vendor and/or sub-contractor upon completion, with receipts of the products or work provided. The submission of a statement for services or products for each phase of completion on any funded Parks & Recreation project is required.
- 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:

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PROCEDURES

1. The Township Planning Commission and/or Township Board will approve and confirm that the quality of work performed and materials used by the contractors have met the standards of The Township as well as the State for construction performed and completed on each project.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. The Township Clerk and the Township Treasurer will maintain a separate accounting of the project. A financial statement shall be issued 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.

IN CONCLUSION, all accounts will be audited by the State of Michigan immediately upon completion 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

PARKS & RECREATION PROPOSED FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

1. THREE PATHWAYS:

A. A NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY will be developed for walkers, joggers, and bicyclists. This pathway will begin at the 885 8th Street in Baldwin 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 68th 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 8th Street and James Road. This pathway would also lead to the proposed Community Pool and Skating facility. 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

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 68th 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 footbridge over the South Branch of the Pere Marquette River connecting James Road south with 81st Street, west on 81st Street to M-37 and north on M-37 to the airport. This new footbridge 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.

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/EGLE for foot bridge.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

C. PATHWAY A non-motorized pathway would be developed to connect pathways “A” & “B”

Together. The pathway would start and end at 885 8th Street in Baldwin. From 885 8th Street in Baldwin go east on 8th 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 8th 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 road's 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.

D. DEVELOPMENT OF A CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAIL in the township. We would like to be able to have this trail begin and end at the Township Hall complex if possible and would like to have this included in the State’s Rails-to-Trails Program within our Township.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

(5 YEAR DETAIL PLANS)

YEAR # 1

2023-2024

GIBSON PARK

1. Picnic Area:

- a) Add a picnic table and benches

YEAR # 2

2024-2025

PLEASANT PLAINS PARK

1. Picnic area

- a) Covered area with concrete
- b) Picnic tables and benches
- c) grills
- d) Design, layout and develop Walking Trail at the Township Hall

YEAR # 3

2025-2026

1. Rails To Trails in Pleasant Plains Township

- a) pave for easier walking and biking

YEAR# 4

2026-2027

1. Completion of Rails To Trails paving

YEAR # 5

2027-2028

1. Continue improvements to both Parks, including the ski trail and walking paths, Proposed Future Developments A, B, C & D.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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 2023-2024

Gibson Park:

Picnic Area:
Project (1)

Year 2024-2025

Pleasant Plains Park:

Covered area with concrete:
Project (1)
Picnic tables and benches:
Project (2)
Grills:
Project (3)
Design, layout and develop Walking Trail at the Township Hall
Project (4)

Year 2025-2026

Rails To Trails in Pleasant Plains Township:

Pave for easier walking and biking
Project (1)

Year 2026-2027

Completion of Rails To Trails paving
Project (2)

Year 2027-2028

Continue improvements to both Parks:
Project (1)
Look at implementing the Future Proposed Developments A, B, C & D.

CONCLUSION

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

While Pleasant Plains Township is a center for hunting, canoeing, hiking, camping, fishing, trail activities and other “traditional” outdoor activities, the Township has very few opportunities for “traditional” recreational activities or facilities such as developed parks, ball diamonds, soccer fields and activities to provide the area’s residents and visitors with opportunities to interact with people.

The purpose of this plan is to improve the recreation opportunities for the residents of Pleasant Plains Township. In order to accomplish this, it was essential to identify the issues in the Township, establish goals and create actions to help reach these goals. Issues were identified by studying the natural and social features within Pleasant Plains Township; by conducting an inventory of facilities within the Township; and by encouraging a high level of citizen participation to occur throughout the planning process. Once the issues were identified, the goals and actions were established to address the issues.

The Plan represents an effort on Pleasant Plains Township’s part to plan recreation opportunities for its residents. Many things were done, including a comprehensive inventory of facilities and activities and creating a revised five (5) year action plan to address these recreational needs. As the Plan is implemented changes will occur that may influence the actions in the plan – this can be expected since the desires and requirements of the area’s residents change. Even as this plan was being developed changes were occurring that will influence the Township during the next five (5) year planning period.

Finally, this Parks & Recreation Plan is a plan that is meant to provide information and guidance for our community.

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, shuffleboard tournaments, horseshoe 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 young and old alike.

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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:

_____, 2023

Su Eling, Chairman

Dave Ghent, Secretary

Deb Vayda, Member

Randy Eling, Member

Debbie Russell, Ex-Officio

Pleasant Plains Township Parks and Recreation Plan

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 _____, 2023.

Kevin Braddy, Supervisor
PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP

Elizabeth Knight, Clerk
PLEASANT PLAINS TOWNSHIP