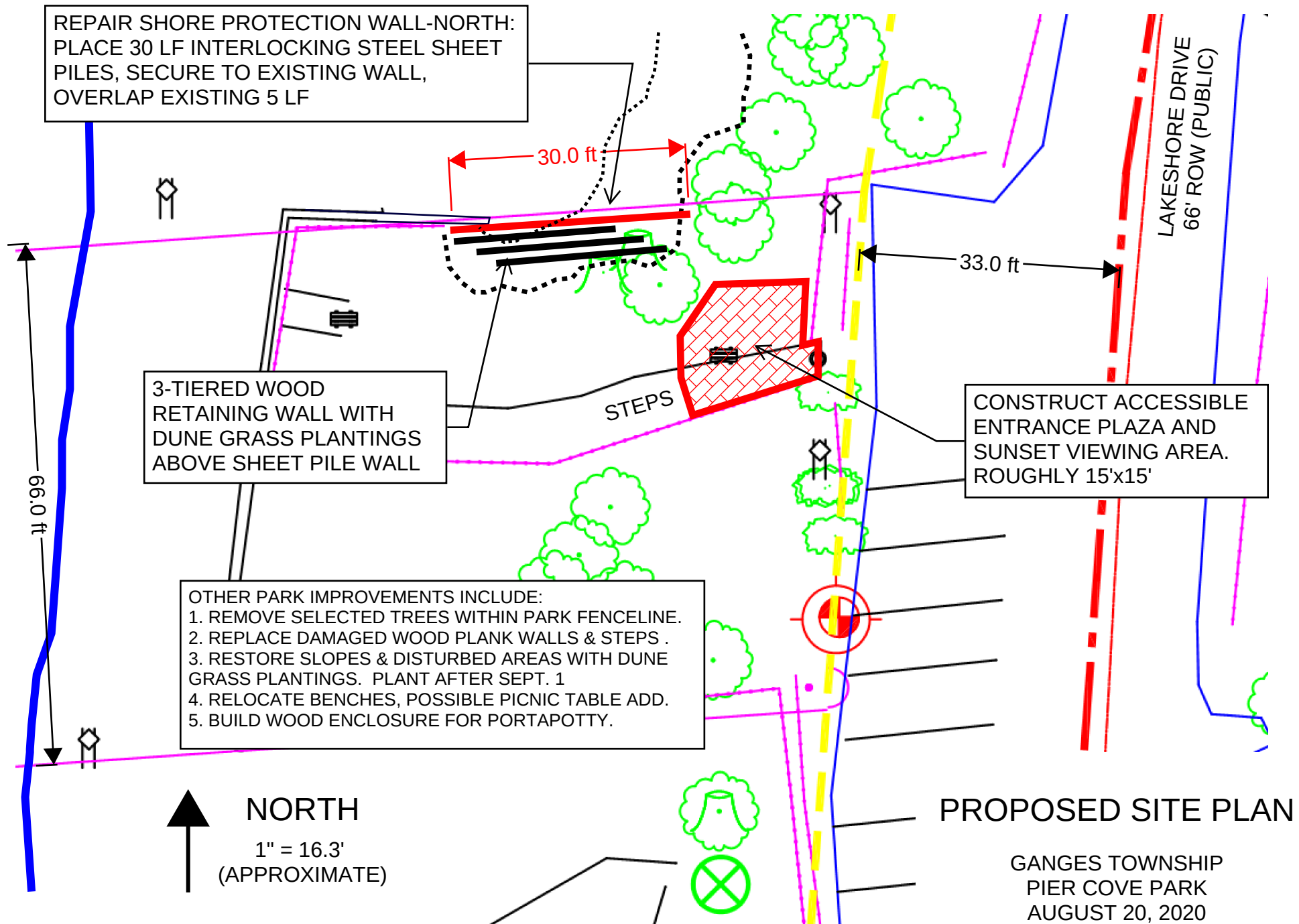


Appendix B – Development Plans and Supporting Information

Appendix B includes specific park development plans and supporting information for specific Action Program project concepts.



Appendix C – Public Hearing and Plan Adoption Documents

Appendix C includes final Public Hearing, Board Resolution, and required Notices for plan adoption.

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan
County of Allegan

Robin Clark, being duly sworn says she is one of the principal clerks of the Allegan County News, a weekly newspaper published and circulated in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit:

December 10th A.D. 2020

Robin Clark

Robin Clark

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of
December A.D. 2020

Julie Hotchkiss

Julie Hotchkiss

Notary Public, Allegan County, Michigan.
Acting In Allegan County, Michigan

My commission expires 03/15/2023

KAECHELE PUBLICATIONS, INC.

The Allegan County News - The Union Enterprise

The Commercial Record

P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010 - (269) 673-5534 -

Fax (269) 673-5535

GANGES TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT PLAN REVIEW 2021-2025 GANGES TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

The Ganges Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the draft 5-year Community Parks & Recreation Plan for 2021-2025 on January 12, 2021, at 7:00pm, at the Ganges Township Hall, 1904 64th Street, Fennville, Michigan. Comments from the public will be accepted and are encouraged. The draft plan is available for viewing at the Township Office and online at www.gangestownship.org beginning December 10, 2020, and will also be available at the Public Hearing on January 12. Comments received in writing before the hearing and comments made in person at the hearing will become part of the hearing record. Written comments can be mailed to the above address or sent via email to John Hebert, Ganges Township Supervisor at ganges-supervisor@gmail.com.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township Clerk in advance by calling (269) 543-8316.

John Hebert, Supervisor	Robin Phelps, Clerk
Ganges Township	Ganges Township
(269) 543-4634	(269) 543-8316

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-1
RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTING
GANGES TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION PLAN
FOR GANGES TOWNSHIP
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

WHEREAS, the Ganges Township Board has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2021 through 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Ganges Township Board began the process of developing a Community Parks & Recreation Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Ganges Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the Final Draft Plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Ganges Township Hall, 1904 64th Street, Fennville, Michigan to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Ganges Township Board has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Ganges Township, and

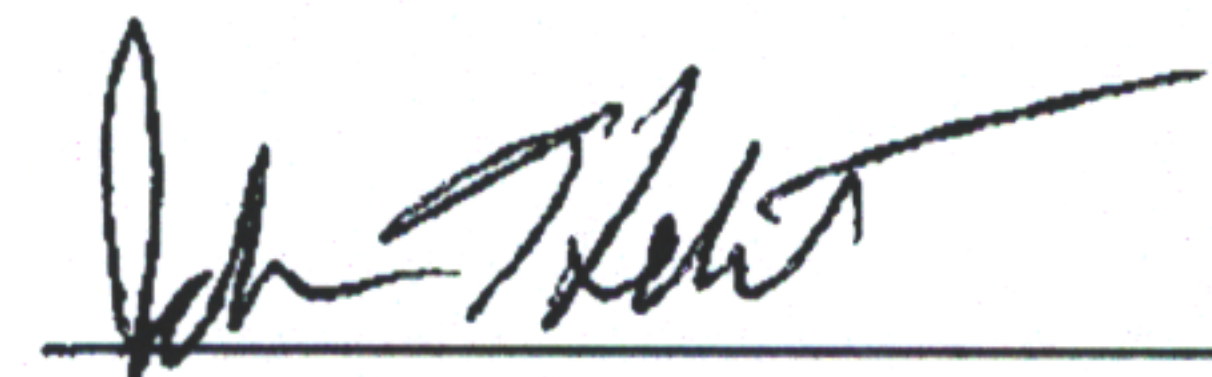
WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Ganges Township Board voted to adopt said Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Ganges Township Board hereby adopts the Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation Plan, with revisions.

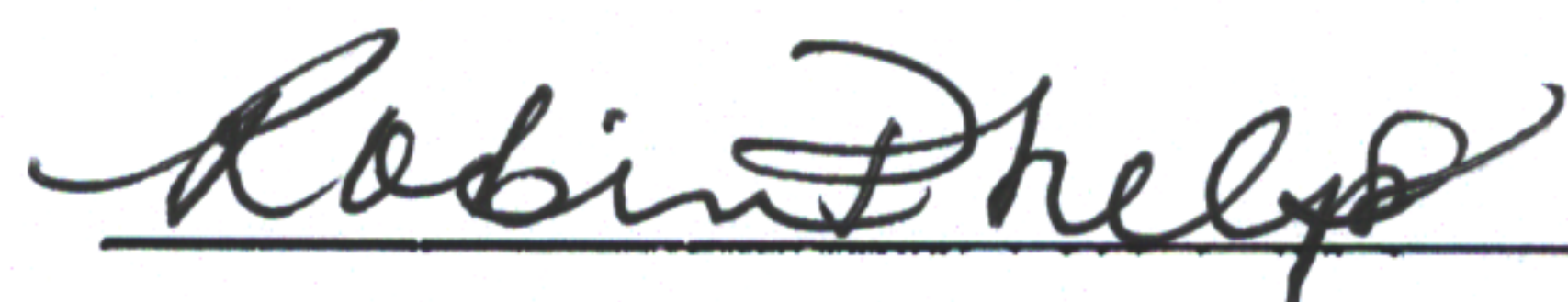
Motion made by Hebert, seconded by Hutchins. Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Yeas: Hutchins, Reimink, Hebert, Phelps Nays: None Absent: Gooding

I, Robin Phelps, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true
and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Ganges Township Board
at a Regular/Special Meeting thereof held on
the 12th day of January, 2021.



John Hebert, Supervisor



Robin Phelps, Clerk

**GANGES TOWNSHIP BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2021**

Supervisor Hebert called the meeting to order at 7:00pm at the Ganges Township Hall located at the corner of 119th Ave and 64th St. Board members present by roll call attendance: Hutchins, Reimink, Hebert, Phelps.

Public Comments- Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Drive, regarding the Proposed Parks and Recreation Plan asked questions and made suggestions about what should be added to the plan.

Dana Burd, Friends of Pier Cove Park- Thanked the board for allowing FOPCP to be a part of the plan development and suggested some language changes and some additions.

Mary Puglise, 2131 Lakeshore Drive- Asked if the board had heard from Craig Atwood of the ACRC regarding a letter she had written.

Public Hearing was closed and the regular monthly meeting was called to order at 7:15pm.

Reimink moved, Hutchins seconded, to approve the agenda dated 01/12/2021 as presented with the addition of Airpack Quote to 13 A. and Road Work Orders to 13 C. Motion carried.

Correspondence – Letters from the following all with proposed revisions to the Parks and Recreation Plan: Rudy and Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr; Robert and Joan Simonds, 2318 Lakeshore Dr; Jacob Petkus, 2295 Lakeshore Dr.

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the regular meeting minutes of 12/09/2020. Motion carried.

Reimink reported the balances as of 10/31/2019 as follows:

General Fund	\$284,960.49
Ambulance Fund	\$9,132.09
Fire Fund	\$71,312.74
First Responders	\$357.43
Road Fund	\$464,810.96
CD	\$193,654.50

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Reimink moved, Hutchins seconded, to approve payment of the bills dated 01/12/2021 as presented from the following funds: General Fund- \$18,517.94; Fire Fund- \$16,319.63; First Responder Fund- \$4,981.75; Road Fund-\$39,156.68; Ambulance Fund-\$3,250.00. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to adopt Resolution No. 2021-1 Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation Plan with revisions. Motion carried by roll call vote as follows: Hutchins-Y, Reimink-Y, Hebert-Y, Phelps-Y. (4/0)

New Business

Reimink moved, Hutchins seconded, to approve the estimate received by the Fire Department for repair of 3 AP50 Airpacks for \$2,209.00. Motion carried.

Hutchins moved, Hebert seconded, to approve the sale of the Fire Department Quad for \$5,000.00 to Joe Christopher. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to accept the recommendation from the ACRC for the 2021 gravel program which is 119th Avenue 66th Street to 62nd Street. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to approve work orders and move forward to get bids from the ACRC. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to approve the Kastran Erosion Abatement License Agreement and authorize the Clerk and Supervisor to sign when ready. Motion carried.

Reimink moved, Phelps seconded, to approve the Township Insurance renewal presented by HUB. Motion carried.

Reimink moved, Hebert seconded, to approve the Township Worker's Compensation Policy renewal with Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. for \$5,160.00. Motion carried.

Public Comments- Dana Burd, FOPC- Offered to start looking for volunteers for architecture work at Pier Cove Park. He will also contact someone on the board at Fennville Public Schools and see if they can contribute to the park through the recent Fennville Rec Millage that passed.

Anthony Garcia, 2170 62nd St- Introduced himself as the new General Manager at Virtue Cider.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to adjourn meeting at 7:45 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Phelps, Ganges Twp Clerk

January 12, 2021

Ganges Township Board
1904 64th Street
Fennville, MI 49408

RE: January 12, 2021 Public Hearing – Dana Burd Comments on Park Plan

Dear Township Board,

Thank you for allowing Friends of Pier Cove Park be part of the plan development. As someone who grew up in Ganges Township I fully appreciate the recreation opportunities the provided here and value them for my own young family now.

I have received some feedback on the draft plan and want to recommend some suggested edits that I agree with.

1. In the Township Inventory for Pier Cove Park
 - a. There is a photo of the stream. It has been noted that this photo is actually private property and better photo of the park has been provided by the Simonds Family. This photo should be swapped in. Also I support adding a line clarifying “The stream is not part of the park. The park is 66 feet wide and park boundaries are signed.”
 - b. I support removing the wording “popular beach” and replacing with “provides a public beach and access for shore-walking” in the last paragraph. I would also swap the word “popular” for “frequented” in the 3rd sentence. I support changing the language from “2,500 Ganges Township residents” to “greater Ganges Township community”.
2. In the Township Inventory for Glenn Beach
 - a. I support similar wording of “Glenn Beach provide a public beach and access for shore-walking” in the first paragraph.
3. In the Accessibility section
 - a. I would add “providing an ADA compliant toilet” to ways Pier Cove Park could be improved.

4. Under Goal 7 regarding the balance between public use and neighbor concerns,
 - a. I support removing “their decision to live near public properties” language.
5. Under Action Program,
 - a. Under Pier Cove Park Accessible Entrance Plaza
 - i. I support removing the language, “No changes to parking are proposed with this concept. Maintain the same level of access for the general public and same number of existing parking spaces.” From the 3rd paragraph.
 - b. Under Pier Cove Park Parking and Pedestrian Safety Improvements
 - i. I support revised wording to “maintain close to the current number of parking space while incorporating a barrier free space”.
 - ii. I support removing the 2nd paragraph entirely.
 - iii. I support adding a sentence at the end of the third paragraph to say, “Simply reducing or eliminating parking is in conflict with the goals and objectives of this plan.”

As a brief explanation, I am vehemently opposed to reducing the current number of parking spaces at Pier Cove. However, I do support softening some language in the plan as the current language is perceived to limit the addition of a barrier free parking space. I fully support adding a barrier free parking space and believe it can be done in such a way as to maintain the current number of spaces. A barrier free space is still available to the public!

When I helped draft some of the plan language, I did not want to “slam” anyone. However, I fully understand there are those in the community who would like to see parking greatly reduced or possibly eliminated entirely from the park. I am concerned the argument for “safety” will be used as a means to further reduce or eliminate parking. I feel it is important to maintain the same level of public access to the park for Ganges Township residents and the general public. I believe the revised language would still accomplish that without being as strongly worded.

Thank you,



Dana Burd
Friends of Pier Cove Park
6871 Wiley Road
Dburd01@yahoo.com

Robert & Joan Simonds
 2318 Lakeshore Drive
 Fennville MI 49408

January 10, 2020

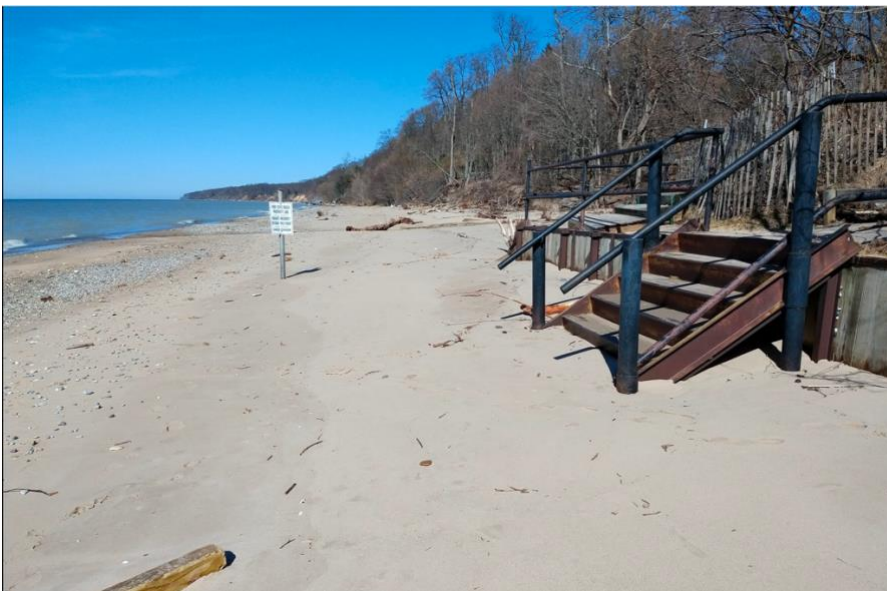
Re: 2021 – 2025 GANGES TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION PLAN– Proposed Revisions

Dear Ganges Township Board:

We have read and considered the latest draft of the Five-Year Parks Plan. We want to compliment the board, stakeholders and volunteers who have crafted this document and for their desire to improve the experience for all Ganges Township residents. We do however hope to offer suggestions to revise or consider for the final document prior to approval by the board.

We think about the Pier Cove Park/Beach in very personal terms. O.C. Simonds donated the land to the township that makes up this beach access. We live just to the North and can observe the park/beach usage daily. We simply hope and expect that the access and beach is preserved responsibly, used with respect, used safely, and avoids trespassing on private property.

Page 11... There is a beautiful photo looking North to private property – **Please include a photo similar to this that actually shows the size of the beach**, not the just the neighboring property for shore walking. The current photo mischaracterizes the size of the beach – which is similar to what is found online and in social media –not the 66 feet of beach with boundary signage.



Page 12..."Today the [Pier Cove] park is a popular beach." This is a subjective assessment without supporting data to qualify it. As direct neighbors to Pier Cove Park Beach – we can share our perspective from living here

full-time for the last 24 years, and since summering here for close to 90 years! The Park/Beach is popular because it is utilized in a way that usually exceeds its original purpose and constraints in dimension as an “access” and only 66 feet wide beach. Beachgoers spread mostly to the North, trespassing on private property including our’s. This is largely the result of the public ignoring posted signs and because there is little enforcement of the beach property and rules. We would like to make note that just because we own private beach and have access to Lake Michigan, if our steps wash out, we have just the same right of public access via Pier Cove Park. So please know that we view this plan and its considerations holistically, not purely from the perspective of a neighbor but as a tax-paying resident of Ganges Township. **Instead of “popular beach” it should be stated as a “public beach and access for shore-walking”. Please state that a study should be commissioned to actually observe and measure the usage of the park so there is a data to compare and assess.**

“The park is enjoyed by all ages including families, multi-generational users, vacationers, locals, and is available for all 2, 500 Ganges Township residents alike.” This makes is sound like the entire community of Ganges can fit on the 66 feet of beach at once – perhaps a qualifying statement that the park and beach is small and should be utilized as an access for beach walking and a limited number of users to set up on the beach to picnic, etc. **There should be a rule or guideline on the number of people allowed on the beach in order to avoid trespassing.**

As we stated in our July 14 email/letter to the board (also attached), it was donated to the township to provide access to residents in the area who did not have their own access to the shore and lake. Trying to plan the park/beach as anything more than a modest (small) access point to the beach seems like an over-reach in its intent and affordances.

Page 13... “[Glenn] Park serves the general public, surrounding neighborhoods within walking distance, Glenn School, and the greater Glenn community.” This same terminology could apply to Pier Cove Park.

Page 14... “Glenn Beach is a popular beach and shoreline access point.” If PC Park is available for all 2500 township residents, Glenn Beach must be, too. These should be the same point.

Page 16... “Accessibility of Ganges Township Parks” “Pier Cove Park Rating: 2. Some of the site elements/facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.” However there is no ADA parking spot. No ADA port-o-let. Please make a statement that an ADA parking space will be provided during the summer of 2021 along with committing to an ADA compliant port-o-let. Some of the elements meet accessibility guidelines, but if you cannot park a vehicle with ADA plates or tag, it can be extremely difficult for access.

Since dogs are not allowed at Ganges Township beaches, it might make sense to post at both of the township parks the three venues above that do allow dogs. Perhaps some of the many who ignore this rule at Pier Cove Park will consider taking their dog elsewhere for public health and safety reasons.

Page 25... “Goal 1” “As new facilities are developed and existing facilities are improved, provide recreational opportunities that meet or exceed ADA standards.” Neither park/beach has facilities currently. It is not known what facilities may be contemplated or when. An ADA parking space to allow parking access for visitors with walkers or canes (along with the appropriate ADA plate or tag) would be a quick and simple thing to implement. Such designated spaces exist at Glenn Beach, but not at the more popular Pier Cove Park.

Page 26..."Goal 3, c" "Work with the Allegan County Road Commission on historical and appropriate uses of road right-of-way and road ends to maintain current levels of access." PC Park parking is in the road right of way. The Michigan State Police should also be consulted about how this use of the right of way can be safely used by visitors and not impede transient vehicle traffic.

Page 28..."Goal 7 b" "The protection of the interests of neighbors must be balanced with their decision to live near public properties and public's right to access and use those properties." This statement seems rather one-sided. **It should simply read: "The protection of the interests of neighbors must be balanced with the public's right to access and use those properties."**

Page 29..."Pier Cove Park Shore Protection and Maintenance" "Work with adjacent park agencies (Allegan County Parks and Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy) to encourage them to keep their access points open to the public during high water periods to relieve excess traffic at Pier Cove." Ganges Township Ordinance No. 2 "declares that the Township Board of Ganges Township shall constitute the Ganges Township Board of Park Commissioners." The growth in homes in the area since the ordinance was written in 1963 must be significant (it would be an interesting statistic to include if the Township has such records). The demands on Township Board members has also likely grown. Local residents are counting on the Board members to be able to also fulfill their role as Park Commissioners.

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Page 29..."No changes to parking are proposed with this concept. Maintain the same level of access for the general public and same number of existing parking spaces." Again, the plan gave lip service to accessibility, but the door seems shut to taking even a small, easy step of providing an ADA parking space.

Page 30..."Pier Cove Park Parking and Pedestrian Safety Improvements" "Concerns over pedestrian and vehicle safety have been expressed. These concerns have come largely from property owners who do not rely on the park for beach access." This statement is inappropriate. Of course these concerns come from the local residents – we experience the issues every day! It is not purely an issue for users of the park and the parking – it is a basic safety issue for the area and the park is contributing to the lack of safety with parking in the right of way and little control of traffic both pedestrian and vehicles moving around a blind corner with no signage or speed controls. Many local residents who have private beach access do enjoy the ability to walk to neighbors in the area...sometimes that entails walking in the area of the right of way parking lot...dangerous for them and others in the community who walk to the park for beach access.

We ask that the Board take the concerns expressed here seriously and seek to be open to input.

Sincerely,

Robert & Joan Simonds

(Letter sent via email on July 14, 2020 to Ganges Township Board)

My grandfather, OC Simonds intended the Pier Cove Public beach to be an access for homeowners in Pier Cove to be able to get to the beach who did not have a way to enjoy the beach from their property. It is a "little jewel" along Lake Michigan for which people come from all over the country to enjoy. The downside is that it is not taken care of like a jewel, more like a dump.

The trash is not picked up and is spread from one end of the park to the next. It is also on the beach front.

The parking lot which is overflowing many days with cars is not patrolled enough. On the weekends we have counted 60-80 people on the beach. That is not social distancing – on what is 66 feet of public beach. So what happens? They spill onto private property.

We as property owners can complain all we want, but when is there going to be real action? Not just a patrolling of the park a couple of times a day on busy weekends, a port o potty installed for 3 months of the year, and a small garbage can left to overflow. Please take care of this jewel, not treat it like a dump.

Sincerely,
Robert and Joan Simonds
2318 Lakeshore Drive

January 7, 2021

Dear Ganges Township Board

We have taken the time to review the latest draft of the Five Year Parks Plan. We are in agreement with the following observations concerning the plan and recommend modification of the draft to reflect these changes.

Page 12..."Today the [Pier Cove] park is a popular beach." No survey work has been done about its popularity other than the photos in public comments showing chronic parking problems and people walking in the roadway behind parked vehicles to get to the entrance. How many people in the community walk in/bike in to use the park? How many people from out of the area drive in to use the park?

"The park is enjoyed by all ages including families, multi-generational users, vacationers, locals, and is available for all 2, 500 Ganges Township residents alike." Sounds like Disney World...but not enough parking.

Additionally, is there any way to balance the size of the park and facilities with the numbers of people using the park? Theoretically, it is a new crowd of people at the park/beach every day (especially in the summer)...seemingly, many of them from out of state (certainly out of the area) who are not familiar with its size or its rules (and many don't care about rules since they are around only for a short while).

As Bob and Joan Simonds state in their July 14 email/letter to the board (also attached), it was donated to the township to provide access to residents in the area who did not have their own access to the shore and lake. This clearly demonstrates the need to have some type of written understanding by people donating property to the township as to how the township will manage it in the future.

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Page 17..."Hutchins Lake Sanctuary" What is the address of this township land on Hutchins Lake? How large is the parcel? "Sanctuary" implies that it has some scenic, idyllic aspects to it. Why not put it to use?

Page 17 -19 "Regional Recreation" Addresses for sites noted would be useful. It would also seem useful to note that the Westside County Park is only one mile from PC Park.

The Critter Barn is a non-profit located at least 20 minutes away from Pier Cove. Where does one go to access the Kalamazoo River/Watershed and the Black River/Watershed? It might be useful to note that Wau-ke-na has 1,300 feet of beach. Cooperative efforts should be explored to provide improved parking and access at Wau-ke-na with the Southwest Land Conservancy.

The following are a number of recreational places within 10 to 12 minutes of the PC Park not listed in the plan and should be included:

Saugatuck Natural Harbor Nature Area, Oval Drive, Saugatuck, MI
 Oval Beach, Oval Drive, Saugatuck, MI
 Mount Baldhead Park, 769 Park St., Saugatuck, MI
 Saugatuck Dunes State Park, 6575 138th Avenue, Saugatuck, MI
 Farview Nature Park, 6291 138th Avenue, Saugatuck, MI (dogs and horses welcome)
 Tail N Trails Dog Park, 6359 134th Avenue, Saugatuck, MI (6 acres of off leash play area)
 Schultz Park and Boat Launch, 301 Riverview Dr., Douglas, MI (includes a dog park area)
 Douglas Beach Park, 3099 Lakeshore Drive, Douglas, MI
 Wade's Bayou Memorial Park, 52 Bayou Street, Douglas, MI
 Casco Township Nature Preserve, 770 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, MI

Since dogs are not allowed at Ganges Township beaches, it might make sense to post at both of the township parks the three venues above that do allow dogs. Perhaps some of the many who ignore this rule at Pier Cove Park will consider taking their dog elsewhere for public health and safety reasons.

Page 21..."The Township recognizes its role in maintaining the character of the community and wishes to be responsive to citizen needs and desires through the process of developing well thought out goals and objectives to serve the entire community." This sounds encouraging, but it could be coupled with the idea of actively seeking input from the community and providing feedback.

Page 25..."Goal 1" "As new facilities are developed and existing facilities are improved, provide recreational opportunities that meet or exceed ADA standards." Neither park/beach has facilities currently. It is not known what facilities may be contemplated or when. An ADA parking space to allow parking access for visitors with walkers or canes (along with the appropriate ADA plate or tag) would be a quick and simple thing to implement. Such designated spaces exist at Glenn Beach, but not at the more popular Pier Cove Park.

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Page 28..."Goal 7 b" "The protection of the interests of neighbors must be balanced with their decision to live near public properties and public's right to access and use those properties." How is this going to be done? Does the township have a list of things that prospective property buyers should be alert to and be willing to accept? The signage listing park rules and the existence of Ganges Township Ordinance No. 2 would indicate the Township is actively managing a relatively small park. Those who live along the lakeshore enjoy seeing beach walkers, hearing kids laugh and enjoy the water. They don't enjoy those who ignore the posted rules and the fact that there is little or no enforcement.

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I ask that the Board take the concerns expressed here seriously and seek to be open to input.

Sincerely

Rudy and Diane Broekhuis
2297 Lakeshore Drive
Fennville, MI 49408

1/10/2021

Dear Ganges Township Board

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 Mount Baldhead Park, 769 Park St., Saugatuck, MI
 Saugatuck Dunes State Park, 6575 138th Avenue, Saugatuck, MI
 Farview Nature Park, 6291 138th Avenue, Saugatuck, MI (dogs and horses welcome)
 Tail N Trails Dog Park, 6359 134th Avenue, Saugatuck, MI (6 acres of off leash play area)
 Schultz Park and Boat Launch, 301 Riverview Dr., Douglas, MI (includes a dog park area)
 Douglas Beach Park, 3099 Lakeshore Drive, Douglas, MI
 Wade’s Bayou Memorial Park, 52 Bayou Street, Douglas, MI
 Casco Township Nature Preserve, 770 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, MI

Since dogs are not allowed at Ganges Township beaches, it might make sense to post at both of the township parks the three venues above that do allow dogs. Perhaps some of the many who ignore this rule at Pier Cove Park will consider taking their dog elsewhere for public health and safety reasons.

Page 21...“The Township recognizes its role in maintaining the character of the community and wishes to be responsive to citizen needs and desires through the process of developing well thought out goals and objectives to serve the entire community.” This sounds encouraging, but it could be coupled with the idea of actively seeking input from the community and providing feedback .

Page 25...“Goal 1” “As new facilities are developed and existing facilities are improved, provide recreational opportunities that meet or exceed ADA standards.” Neither park/beach has facilities currently. It is not known what facilities may be contemplated or when. An ADA parking space to allow parking access for visitors with walkers or canes (along with the appropriate ADA plate or tag) would be a quick and simple thing to implement. Such designated spaces exist at Glenn Beach, but not at the more popular Pier Cove Park.

Page 26...“Goal 3, c” “Work with the Allegan County Road Commission on historical and appropriate uses of road right-of-way and road ends to maintain current levels of access.” PC Park parking is in the road right of way. The Michigan State Police should also be consulted about how this use of the right of way can be safely used by visitors and not impede transient vehicle traffic.

Page 28..."Goal 7 b" "The protection of the interests of neighbors must be balanced with their decision to live near public properties and public's right to access and use those properties." How is this going to be done? Does the township have a list of things that prospective property buyers should be alert to and be willing to accept? The signage listing park rules and the existence of Ganges Township Ordinance No. 2 would indicate the Township is actively managing a relatively small park. Those who live along the lakeshore enjoy seeing beach walkers, hearing kids laugh and enjoy the water. They don't enjoy those who ignore the posted rules and the fact that there is little or no enforcement.

Page 29..."Pier Cove Park Shore Protection and Maintenance" "Work with adjacent park agencies (Allegan County Parks and Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy) to encourage them to keep their access points open to the public during high water periods to relieve excess traffic at Pier Cove." Ganges Township Ordinance No. 2 "declares that the Township Board of Ganges Township shall constitute the Ganges Township Board of Park Commissioners." The growth in homes in the area since the ordinance was written in 1963 must be significant (it would be an interesting statistic to include if the Township has such records). The demands on Township Board members has also likely grown. Local residents are counting on the Board members to be able to also fulfill their role as Park Commissioners.

Page 29..."Pier Cove Park Accessible Entrance Plaza (Development and Construction)" Several laudable ideas have been presented, but there are no cost estimates. The development of a line item budget combined with engaging with residents in setting priorities would seem useful in terms of gaining additional donations.

Page 29..."No changes to parking are proposed with this concept. Maintain the same level of access for the general public and same number of existing parking spaces." Again, the plan gave lip service to accessibility, but the door seems shut to taking even a small, easy step of providing an ADA parking space.

Page 30..."Pier Cove Park Parking and Pedestrian Safety Improvements" "Concerns over pedestrian and vehicle safety have been expressed. These concerns have come largely from property owners who do not rely on the park for beach access." Is this a slam at property owners expressing concern? How is this sentence to be taken? Many local residents who have private beach access do enjoy the ability to walk to neighbors in the area...sometimes that entails walking in the area of the right of way parking lot...dangerous for them and others in the community who walk to the park for beach access.

We ask that the Board take the concerns expressed here seriously and seek to be open to input.

Sincerely

Jacob Petkus 2295 Lakeshore Dr.



COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR through MiRecGrants **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than February 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan: Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation Plan 2021-2025		
List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Ganges Township	Allegan County	January 2021

PLAN CONTENT
INSTRUCTIONS: Please check <u>each</u> box to certify that the listed information is included in the <u>final</u> plan. ☒ 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION ☒ 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE ☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) ☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart ☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming ☒ Current Funding Sources ☒ Role of Volunteers ☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations Recreation Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only: ☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities ☐ Articles of Incorporation ☒ 3. RECREATION INVENTORY ☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory ☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities ☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) ☒ Accessibility Assessment ☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities ☐ Waterways Inventory (if applicable) ☐ 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL) ☒ 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

☒ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- ☒ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

- ☒ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice Dec 10, 2020

Type of Notice Allegan County News

Plan Location Township website, township hall

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 12/10/20 - 1/12/21

- ☒ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice Dec 10, 2020

Name of Newspaper Allegan County News

Date of Meeting January 12, 2021

- ☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☒ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

☒ **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)**

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- ☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 12, 2021
- ☐ 2. Official resolution of the _____ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: _____
- ☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 18, 2021
- ☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 18, 2021

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Ganges Township

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated

Robin Phelps

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

1-19-21

Date

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.

January 18, 2021

Mr. Dave Bee, Executive Director
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
1345 Monroe Ave. NW, Suite 255
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
VIA EMAIL: dbee@wmrpc.org

RE: Ganges Township – Five-Year Community Parks & Recreation Plan

Dear Mr. Bee:

Ganges Township is submitting their 2021-2025 Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation Plan. The plan was formally adopted by the Ganges Township Board on January 12, 2021.

Enclosed is an electronic copy of the plan for your files. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that a copy of the plan be submitted to the Regional Planning Agency and the County to allow cooperation and coordination of efforts.

If you have any questions or comments please send them directly to myself or Ganges Township Supervisor John Hebert.

Sincerely,

Robin Phelps
Ganges Township Clerk
gangesclerk@gmail.com

January 18, 2021

Ms. Brandy Gildea
Parks Coordinator at Allegan County Parks and Recreation
3283 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010
VIA EMAIL: Parks@allegancounty.org, bgildea@allegancounty.org

RE: Ganges Township – Five-Year Community Parks & Recreation Plan

Dear Ms. Gildea:

Ganges Township is submitting their 2021-2025 Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation Plan. The plan was formally adopted by the Ganges Township Board on January 12, 2021.

Enclosed is an electronic copy of the plan for your files. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that a copy of the plan be submitted to the Regional Planning Agency and the County to allow cooperation and coordination of efforts.

If you have any questions or comments please send them directly to myself or Ganges Township Supervisor John Hebert.

Sincerely,

Robin Phelps
Ganges Township Clerk
gangesclerk@gmail.com