

## **Appendix A – Public Input Summary**

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*Appendix A provides a summary of public input received throughout the development of this plan. Public input was reviewed and considered in the development of the Goals, Objectives, Action Program and project concepts presented.*

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

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County of Allegan

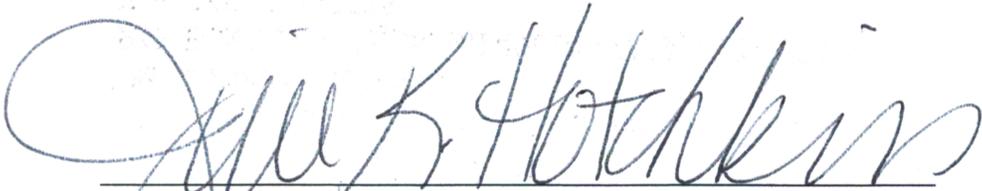
Robin Clark, being duly sworn says she is one of the principal clerks of the Allegan County News, a weekly newspaper published and circulated in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit:

October 29th                      A.D. 2020



Robin Clark

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of  
December A.D. 2020



Julie Hotchkiss

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

My commission expires 03/15/2023

## **KAEICHELE PUBLICATIONS, INC.**

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### **GANGES TOWNSHIP 5 YEAR RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

The Ganges Township Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed 5-year recreation plan on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 7:00pm at the Ganges Township Hall, 1904 64th Street, Fennville, Michigan. A copy of the proposed 5-year recreation plan will be available for inspection during this meeting.

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

John Hebert, Supervisor  
Ganges Township  
(269) 543-4634

Robin Phelps, Clerk  
Ganges Township  
(269) 543-8316

Supervisor Hebert called the Public Hearing on Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation 5- year Plan to order at 7:00 P.M. at the Ganges Township Hall located at the corner of 119<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 64<sup>th</sup> St. Board members present by roll call attendance: Hutchins, Reimink, Hebert, Phelps, Gooding.

**Public Comments** – Frank Conklin, 7009 Crawford Ave- commented that the Township did a nice job at Glenn Beach. Feels that we may be able to create a few more parking spots.

Dana Burd, 6871 Wiley Rd, Saugatuck Twp- Would love to hear from anyone about any of the parks. Appreciates all efforts with everyone involved. Met with folks at Glenn Beach and feels that there should be restoration of the gravel trail included in the parks plan.

Rudy Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr-Encourages the board not to shortcut public input. Would like future drafts be available at least 2 weeks before next public hearing. The board should consider finding a larger venue for the next public hearing due to Covid.

Dexter Gauntlett, 2287 Lakeshore Dr- Asks the board to look at the plan carefully. Pier Cove is exploding. Concerns are Speed, traffic, and over use of beach. Behind Dana, however this comes at a cost to local residents. Why are we spending all of this money on Pier Cove when the beach in Glenn is bigger? Understands that it's early in the game, but has lots of concerns going forward.

Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr- Asked how we got a 2 rating for accessibility for Pier Cove Park? Dana Burd explained that this is just a draft and he just threw that number in. Diane also commented that there is no parking place for handicap and no ramp. Also, concerned that the property line sign was gone. Concerned about maintenance of park and wants it to look presentable. Pier Cove park is over used. Feels that we need to do a survey of rentals over owner occupied homes and an age breakdown. Stated that the age of Ganges Township is getting older therefore the residents have limited abilities.

Several Letters were received prior to the Hearing. A copy of the letters will be included in the Plan and are available to see at the Clerk's office. A summary of the letters are as follows:

Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr- Sees many issues that need to be addressed. The safety of the park goes related to the parking adjacent to a busy road, lack of enforcement of parking and park rules.

Rudy Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr- Has long been an advocate for improved management to Pier Cove Park. Park ruled, Park management and enforcement, safety, accessibility are just a few issues. Parks should be budgeted, maintained and certain amenities should be considered. ADA port-o-let, a changing area and fixed bike racks are listed.

Sara Cullen, 6952 Lakeshore Court- In support of Dana Burd and improvements to Pier Cove. Listed several considerations. Parking safer and better, recycling, park signage, enforcement of rules and parking, maintenance and oversight just to name a few. Encourages Ganges Township to have a "charette" to find the solutions that are needed.

John 'Ric' Curtis, 2264 Lakeshore Dr- "Public access at Pier Cove Beach is a treasured asset that is so extremely much better now with some attention being paid to its control and safety needs."

Dexter Gauntlett, 2287 Lakeshore Dr- Commending Dana Burd for his initiative for spearheading this drive to improve Pier Cove Beach. Listed many concerns shared by himself and his neighbors. Overuse of Pier Cove Park, Parking, Litter, Sanitation, disrespect to adjoining Private property, graffiti, water monitoring of the creek, dogs on the beach, enforcement. Solution might be, making Pier Cove Beach a neighborhood-oriented park promoting more bicycle and foot traffic. Would ask that the township be careful with decisions.

Asa Palley, 2278 Lakeshore Dr- Would like to see Pier Cove Park continue to be a safe, friendly, and family-oriented resource for the community. Problems dealt with are due to the dangerous parking arrangement and overcrowding of the area. Feels that the number of parking spots needs to be reduced and the remaining spots widened and moved off of the road. Designated biking and walking lanes along the road. Speed bumps or another form of speed control should be installed along this stretch of road.

Philip Palley, 2278 Lakeshore Dr- Happy to see proposed upgrades/repairs to the sea wall and landscaping. Obvious that there are too many cars parked there on that blind turn, partying goes on in its parking lot after closing. Believes that with the widening of Lakeshore Dr, there will be more traffic speed and volume adding to the increased safety problems and congestions. Asks to consider converting to a walk-to or bike-to use, eliminating the parking lot and adding bike racks-safer and greener option. Lakeshore Drive is a part of the US Bicycle Route 35 and Pier Cove is one of the prettier sections of the route.

Jacob Petkus, 2295 Lakeshore Dr- Summertime is a nightmare due to traffic and unenforced no parking signs. The township needs to take a park size and location into consideration when developing a 5 year plan. The plan also needs to involve the police locking the park at designated time and providing adequate coverage.

Mark Ridley, 6952 Lakeshore Ct- Supports Dana Burd and his intention to repair retaining wall at Pier Cove. Would like to see angle parking. A structure for portable toilet and garbage cans and recycling. Suggests two cement stanchions in front of beach entrance.

Win Ryder, 2082 Ryder Rd- Admiration for Dana Burd. Top priority should be to address the safety issue. Cars driving fast through Pier Cove. The road should have rumble strips to slow traffic. Glad to donate to that cause.

Robert Simonds, 2318/2320 Lakeshore Dr- Provided history of Pier Cove to help provide context not only to the planning of the park and the beach access but also to its usage. Supportive of the 5 year plan. Asks to plan for ADA accessibility to a lookout for sunsets and a visual map of the beach to clearly mark what is public and what is private. The plan needs to consider the parks maintenance and protection.

Kathryn Stackhouse, 2288 Lakeshore- Supports the improvements to Pier Cove Park. States that the beach has too many vehicles and people for such a small area. Road safety is a growing concern. Lists options to improve overcrowding and traffic safety. Enforce parking restrictions, convert current parking spaces as space for improved sanitation facilities and a changing area and good bicycle parking.

Ron and Mary Voss, 2438 Lakeshore Dr- Thanking the township for supporting the improvements at Pier Cove.

Jeanne and Darell Zerbe, 2110 Lakeshore Dr- Parking is a concern at Pier Cove Beach as well as no oversight or monitoring of the beach or parking. Believes the gate access should be locked overnight and no parking should be allowed after hours. Troubled over the impact of the increasingly high lake levels and high wave damage and how that may affect the proposed improvements to the bluff and access stairs. Should warn visitors of rip tides, bacterial count in the water and dangers of exploring ice mounds in winter. Consider the impact of the project on neighboring properties and take their concerns seriously.

Hebert closed the Public Hearing and opened the regular meeting.

Reimink moved, Gooding seconded, to accept the agenda dated 11/10/2020 as presented with the addition of 13.B. Pier Cove Park Maintenance Update. Motion carried.

**Correspondence** – Received a letter from Rick Elenbaas attorney asking the board to be open minded about his complaints.

**Comments from the Audience regarding Agenda items-** None

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the regular meeting minutes of 10/13/2020. Motion carried.

Reimink reported the balances as of 10/31/2020 as follows:

General Fund	\$274,134.08
Ambulance Fund	181.74
Fire Fund	77,885.29
First Responders Fund	6,927.03
Road Fund	430,439.01
CD	193,654.50

Hebert moved, Hutchins seconded, to accept the Treasurer’s report as presented. Motion carried.

Gooding moved, Reimink seconded, to approve payment of the bills dated 11/10/2020 as presented from the following funds: General Fund - \$28,254.40; Fire Fund - \$13,262.29; First Responder Fund - \$6,681.34; Ambulance Fund - \$3,250.00. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports**

Matt Zawila, Asst. Fire Chief, reported calls were down. 22 for the month.

Reimink moved, Phelps seconded, to approve hiring Jacob Morse for a firefighter/first responder position. Motion carried.

Hebert reported that AJ Broe, Cemetery Sexton tried to replace the sign on the south side of Pier Cove beach. The high waves took it out again.

Barry Gooding reported on Oct.27 Planning Commission meeting. Discussions about Dan Ciesla sand mining and Campit putting up 2 towers without permits.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Supervisor Hebert asked the board if they had any ideas on the 5 year Recreation Plan.

Hutchins moved, Hebert seconded, to proceed to authorize the bid from DK Construction for \$26,680 to install steel sheet piling at Pier Cove Park. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS -None**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Phil Badra, 2230 Lakeshore Dr- Questioned not putting rock in front of wall.

Dexter Gauntlett, 2287 Lakeshore Dr- Making sure that issues are taken care of properly so that we aren't having to do again.

Frank Conklin, 7009 Crawford Ave -asked if we are looking into saving the hill going down to Glenn Beach.

Jack Vandenberg, 7157 114<sup>th</sup> Ave, not enough parking for Glenn Beach

Gooding moved, Reimink seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Phelps, Clerk  
Ganges Township

**Theodore J. Williams, Jr.**  
(314) 345-5099  
[TWilliams@bscr-law.com](mailto:TWilliams@bscr-law.com)  
St. Louis Office

September 2, 2020

The Honorable John Hebert  
Ganges Township Supervisor  
1906 64<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fennville, MI 49408

Re: Pier Cove Park/Beach

Dear Mr. Hebert:

As a resident of Ganges Township and, in particular, the area adjacent to Pier Cove Park, I am writing in support of the efforts of Dana Burd to address necessary improvements to the Park as a result of erosion due to recent Lake Michigan water levels.

Since 2005, my wife and I have owned a vacation home located in Pier Cove Forest, just a short walk from Pier Cove Park and Beach. Since that time, our children, and now grandchildren, have enjoyed the recreational opportunities afforded by Pier Cove Beach and access to the lakeshore.

Over the past two years, we all have experienced problems with access as a result of cyclical higher lake water levels.

We understand though that the water level is receding, thereby renewing opportunities for the public to enjoy access to the lake. As I know you are aware, there are limited opportunities for the public to access Lake Michigan and to use available beach space. Pier Cove Park/Beach has been, and continues to be, one of those limited opportunities.

While we understand the need for the Township to have closed access to the park and beach due to safety concerns regarding lake levels, we were among those who were very happy when access was again available to the park and beach, as well as, to the Lake Michigan shoreline.

I know that the Ganges Township Board understands, and appreciates, the importance of having long term accessibility to the park and beach.

It is my understanding that Mr. Burd is spearheading an effort to make repairs and improvements to the park as a result of damage done by the high water.

September 2, 2020

Page 2

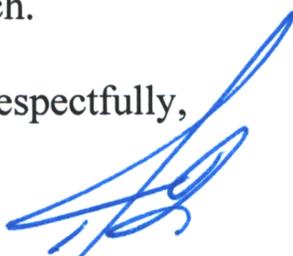
My wife and I fully support that effort.

I respectfully urge the board to join these efforts and to provide whatever assistance, to include financial, necessary to insure that access to Pier Cove Park and Beach remains for its citizens, and the public in general.

We are all blessed to live in this special place, the highlight of which is beautiful Lake Michigan and access to its shoreline.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Our family looks forward to many years of enjoyment at the park and beach.

Respectfully,



Theodore J. Williams, Jr.

TJW:kal



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Protect Pier Cove Park**

1 message

**McFarland, Colin** <CMcFarland@harrisassoc.com>

Wed, Sep 2, 2020 at 9:59 AM

To: "gangessupervisor@gmail.com" &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: "dburd01@yahoo.com" &lt;dburd01@yahoo.com&gt;, "Jim Wallace (wallace@alumni.princeton.edu)" &lt;wallace@alumni.princeton.edu&gt;, "Jim\_robillard@hermanmiller.com" &lt;Jim\_robillard@hermanmiller.com&gt;

John Hebert

Ganges Township Supervisor

1904 64th Street

Fennville, MI 49408

Mr. Hebert,

We support the project that Dana Burd is proposing to included:

- Installing a low profile sheet pile wall on the south side.
- Building a tiered timber wall to hold the slope above the sheet pile wall.
- Creation of a Donor's Plaza with donation bricks, an accessible entrance, benches, and a sunset viewing area.

We are residents of Pier Cove and reside at 2329 Forest Trail Circle, Fennville. We and our kids have enjoyed the beach for many years and have become saddened by the state that it is in because of the erosion caused by the high water mark in Lake Michigan. We would love to be able to enjoy it for many more years to come.

Please support his proposal.

cm

**Colin P. McFarland** | CCO - Harris Associates L.P. | 111 S. Wacker, Suite 4600, Chicago, IL 60606 | ☎: 312.646.3555 | ✉: cmcfarland@harrisassoc.com

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John Hebert <gangessupervisor@gmail.com>

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**Pier Cove Park**

1 message

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**EMILY URBANIAK** <emilyurbaniak@yahoo.com>  
Reply-To: EMILY URBANIAK <emilyurbaniak@yahoo.com>  
To: "gangessupervisor@gmail.com" <gangessupervisor@gmail.com>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 9:59 PM

Please support the Pier Cove Park improvements. My family and our guests love spending time there.

Emily Urbaniak  
2339 Forest Trail Circle

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

DEAR MR HERBERT,

AS A HOMEOWNER IN GANGES TOWNSHIP IN PIER COVE, WE AND OUR EXTENDED FAMILY HAVE LONG ENJOYED THE BEAUTY AND ACCESS TO LAKE MICHIGAN PROVIDED BY PIER COVE PARK.. I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS OF DANA BARD TO ADDRESS NECESSARY IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARK AS A RESULT OF EROSION DUE TO THE HISTORIC HIGH WATER LEVELS OF LAKE MICHIGAN.

I KNOW THAT THE GANGES TOWNSHIP BOARD UNDERSTANDS AND APPRECIATES THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING LONG-TERM ACCESSIBILITY TO THE PARK AND BEACH.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT MR BARD IS SPEARHEADING AN EFFORT TO MAKE REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PARK AS A RESULT OF DAMAGE DONE BY THE HIGH WATER.

MY WIFE AND MY CHILDREN FULLY SUPPORT THAT EFFORT I RESPECTFULLY URGE THE BOARD TO JOIN THESE EFFORTS AND TO PROVIDE WHATEVER ASSISTANCE, TO INCLUDE FINANCIAL, NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT ACCESS TO PIER COVE PARK BEACH REMAINS FOR ITS CITIZENS, AND THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION. OUR FAMILY LOOKS FORWARD TO MANY YEARS OF ENJOYMENT AT THE PARK AND BEACH.

Respectfully,

ALDEN JULGER

2809 FOREST TRAIL CIRCLE



John Hebert <gangessupervisor@gmail.com>

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## Pier Cove Beach

1 message

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**Doris Pacelli** <dorispacelli08@gmail.com>  
To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 2, 2020 at 3:34 PM

My husband and I greatly support preserving and improving Pier Cove Beach. It is why we love/live here since 1999. Please us know what we can do to help. Don Crews and Doris Pacelli-Crews.



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Pier Cove Park Maintenance**

1 message

**Jim Robillard** <jim\_robillard@hermanmiller.com>

Tue, Sep 1, 2020 at 9:21 PM

To: "gangessupervisor@gmail.com" &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

John;

I've become aware of a presentation that Dana Burd will be sharing with Ganges Township members on Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup>. Like Dana I cherish having Pier Cove Park within a quick walk from our home on Forest Trail Circle. I love being able to swim out to the sand bar on warm calm summer days, watching kids play in the stream and simply enjoying the sheer beauty that Pier Cove Park provides.

I'd like to encourage you to listen to and support Dana's maintenance suggestions. Pier Cove Park is the jewel of our community and we should make every effort to protect it.

Respectfully submitted.

Jim Robillard

2335 Forest Trail Circle

**Jim Robillard**

Live Platform Fulfillment Lead

hermanmiller.com  
616 403 9724 MOBILE**HermanMiller**



John Hebert <gangessupervisor@gmail.com>

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**saving the park**

1 message

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**Linda L** <ldvander@gmail.com>  
To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Wed, Sep 2, 2020 at 4:31 PM

please consider the importance of the park for all of us that live in the area. david vanderlaan

**gangestwp@i2k.com**

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**From:** John Hebert <gangessupervisor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** Ganges Township  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pier Cove Park

Can you print this for the packet

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Jay Gooch <jaywgooch@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Sep 3, 2020 at 4:22 PM  
**Subject:** Pier Cove Park  
**To:** <gangessupervisor@gmail.com>  
**CC:** [dburd01@yahoo.com](mailto:dburd01@yahoo.com) <[dburd01@yahoo.com](mailto:dburd01@yahoo.com)>

Mr Hebert, I am the President of the Pier Cove Forest Homeowners Association, a group of 21 homes on Forest Trail Circle off 123rd. I am writing in support of the efforts of Mr. Dana Burd and the Friends of Pier Cove Park to work with the township to improve the park and prevent further damage from erosion. We feel it is a great asset to the community and local property values and stand ready to help.

Respectfully,

Jay Gooch  
2304 Forest Trail Circle  
President  
Pier Cove Forest Homeowners Association

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**From:** Asa Palley <apalley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 31, 2020 8:07 PM  
**To:** gangessupervisor@gmail.com; gangestwp@i2k.com  
**Subject:** 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan for Pier Cove Park and Glenn Beach

Dear Supervisor Hebert and Board,

We would like to offer our comments on the plan for repairing the seawall and improving the Pier Cove Park and Glenn Beach. My grandmother grew up in Pier Cove and our family has owned a house right up the road for almost a century. The beach has been an important point of access to the lake and beach and we want to see it continue to be a safe, friendly, and family-oriented resource for the community.

However, we have dealt with some problems in recent years due to the dangerous parking arrangement and overcrowding of the area. The upcoming widening and repaving of Lakeshore Drive seems like a perfect opportunity to address some of these issues. The current situation is a recipe for disaster, since cars are traveling way too fast and do not follow the posted speed limits. Families with kids need to be extremely alert to them running up the steps back to their cars or to the park entrance and potentially darting into the roadway. The current orientation of the parking spots requires cars to back out straight into one or both road lanes and visibility is reduced by large vehicles blocking sightlines. The parking spots on the south side are even shorter and are really not large enough for many SUVs or pickup trucks which end up sticking out into the roadway.

The number of parking spots absolutely must be reduced and the remaining spots widened and moved off of the road so that they can be safely used and the park is not overcrowded. There should also be designated biking and walking lanes along the road so that people at the park can expect a reasonable degree of safety without cars flying by and almost hitting people.

Ideally speed bumps or another form of speed control (such as a lower speed limit with strict enforcement!) or diversion would be installed along this stretch of road as well Bikers and pedestrians deserve to be able to safely access the park and use the road too.

Sincerely,

Asa Palley and Charlotte Agger  
Homeowners just down the road at  
2278 Lakeshore Drive, Fennville MI 49408

November 10, 2020

Dear John Hebert, Barry Gooding, Dick Hutchins, Robin Phelps and Cindy Reimink

RE: 5 year Park and Recreation Plan for Ganges Township

I live next to the Pier Cove Park and see many issues that need to be addressed in a long needed redo/updo of the Pier Cove Park and which must also be addressed for any park plan. The biggest issue I witness often is the safety of the park goes largely related to the parking directly adjacent to a busy road. Michigan’s Department of Transportation did a study on August 4 and 5, 2020 of Lakeshore Drive which is shown below:

5:38 PM Sat Aug 15

mdot.ms2soft.com

Garbl's Writi...style guides Meijer Acco...Management Home - BBC News Carousel —...istrict Library

MD( Reader Reader Annual Aver... Transportati... eway

List View All DIRs

Record 1 of 1 Goto Record go

Location ID	03-5033	MPO ID	
Type	SPOT	HPMS ID	
On NHS	No	On HPMS	No
LRS ID	0781703	LRS Loc Pt.	4.711
SF Group	Recreational Non State	Route Type	
AF Group	NoFactor	Route	
GF Group	Recreational Non State	Active	Yes
Class Dist Grp	NTL_5	Category	Primary
Seas Class Grp			
WIM Group			
QC Group	Default		
Funct'l Class	(5) Major Collector	Milepost	
Located On	LAKESHORE DR		
Loc On Alias	Lake Shore		
SOUTH OF	124th Ave		

More Detail

STATION DATA

Directions: 2-WAY NB SB

Year	AAADT	DHV-30	K %	D %	PA	BC	Src
2020	1,240						
2019	1,013 <sup>3</sup>		10		973 (96%)	40 (4%)	Grown from 2018
2018	992 <sup>3</sup>		10		966 (97%)	26 (3%)	Grown from 2017
2017	985 <sup>3</sup>		10		938 (95%)	47 (5%)	Grown from 2016
2016	946		10		946 (100%)	0 (0%)	MDOT

VOLUME COUNT			
Date	Int	Total	
Wed 8/5/2020	15	1,338	
Tue 8/4/2020	15	1,201	
Wed 9/26/2012	60	929	
Tue 9/25/2012	60	829	

VOLUME TREND	
Year	Annual Growth
2020	22%
2019	2%
2018	1%
2017	4%

CLASSIFICATION			
Date	Int	Total	
No Data			

NOTES/FILES

Note	Date

Location

Location ID: 03-5033  
 Located On: LAKESHORE DR  
 124th Ave  
 Direction: 2-WAY  
 AADT: 1240 (2020)  
[View Detail in a New Search](#)

Map data ©2020

It indicates an average daily traffic count on Tuesday of 1,201 vehicles and 1,338 on Wednesday. Can you imagine the count on a Saturday and Sunday in July and August?

Plans call for widening the road from Plummerville to M89 into two 10 foot lanes with two 4 foot shoulders. We already see many vehicles (motorcycles, cars, service vehicles and semis) going far in excess of the posted 30 miles

per hour. The right of way parking lot that serves the park has a blind curve to the north and an incline in the road to the south.

There is no designated walkway. People need to walk behind vehicles...and often must do so in the roadway. Even areas along the shoulder where pedestrians from the community could walk are often filled by illegally park vehicles.



Some parking spots are short and yet some drivers with long vehicles take those spots. Not only do these vehicles extend into the roadway, but they create barriers to drivers who want to leave the parking lot. They have little choice but to back into the roadway without a clear view of approaching or passing traffic.



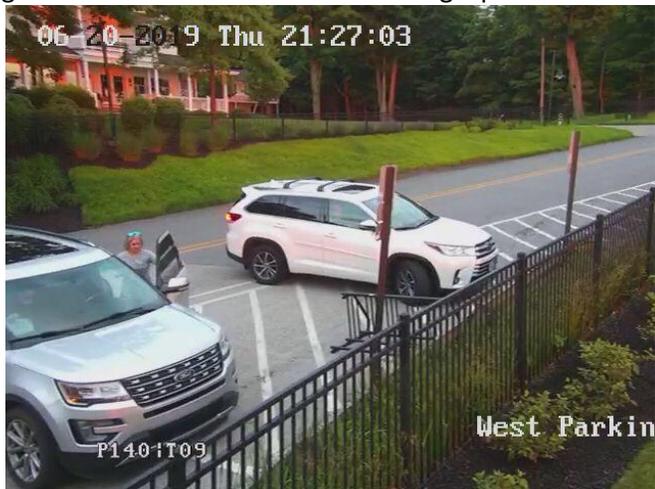
Ten parking spots are allotted for park visitors. (There are no ADA parking spots at Pier Cove unlike parking for Glenn Beach.) Often the emergency parking spot is filled as is the hash-marked area adjacent. The result is more difficulty for park visitors to get to the gate. Should there be an emergency on the beach, EMTs would have difficulty getting equipment to the beach. The following two photos show cars in the emergency parking spot and entrance area.



Combined with the relatively heavy traffic of beach goers traveling to West Side County Park and residents traveling to and from their homes, we see Pier Cove beach goer-wannabes parked on the shoulder or the “authorized vehicle only” area waiting for spaces to open up. When a space opens, they often race to the road to grab the spot. Area driveways, private roads and the 3 way stop at Lakeshore and 123<sup>rd</sup> also become frequent turn-around spots. This creates safety issues for pedestrians, bicyclists, local residents and motorists.



Vehicles parked in the hash-marked area near the crest of the hill are at times partially in the roadway. Vehicles heading south often need to pull over the double yellow line to get around the illegally parked vehicles. The single township bicycle rack that was intended to help prevent parking in this area is much too small and is chained to the guard rail at one end. This allows illegal parkers to move the rack to suit their parking needs.



Beyond these safety issues, there is a general lack of enforcement. We called for assistance on July 5 and had to wait 40 minutes for a State Trooper to arrive to disperse nine illegally parked cars on the shoulder and our yard. There seems to be conflicting signage in regards to "No Parking." Many signs indicate a "tow away" zone which means an officer needs to call for a tow truck rather than just issue a citation. It seems a meeting with township officials, the Michigan State Police, the Allegan County Sheriffs' Department and Allegan County Road Commission would be helpful in sorting out who can do what given current signage or if a signage change is in order in some or all places.

The lack of enforcement extends to essentially each of the posted park rules. The park becomes a private beach access point where township park "visitors" encamp on private beaches to drink alcohol, make campfires, and run their dogs. It seems some type of "park ranger" should be hired to monitor visitors going in and where they settle down...are they coming with alcohol, beer, drugs, dogs?

Enforcement and control of the park after hours also seems a necessity for a public park. It provides some increased safety for property owners up and down the beach, reduces disturbances for directly adjacent property owners and safety for beach goers who take for granted that the beach is a safe place to be after dark (there are over 20 registered sex offenders in a 5 mile radius of Pier Cove Park). Closing/Locking the park at closing time makes it easier for law enforcement officer to know the park is closed, and generally speaking those park visitors on the lake side of the gate have violated the Ganges Township Parks Ordinance.



Thanks for seeking public comment and for making efforts toward improvements to Pier Cove Park. I trust the development of the 5 Year Plan will lead to even further community comment leading to steps that resolve many of the issues which have plagued Pier Cove Park for so many years.

Diane Broekhuis  
2297 Lakeshore Dr  
Fennville, MI 49408

November 1, 2020

John Hebert  
Supervisor Ganges Township Board

I am writing you regarding the proposed repair and upgrading of Pier Cove Beach. As you already know, Dana Burd has initiated a fund-raising effort to help subsidize the many overlooked maintenance issues which have existed for years and continue to plague Pier Cove Beach. I commend Dana for his initiative for spearheading this drive to improve Pier Cove Beach. These needed improvements are very important, assuring continued beach access to current and future residents of Pier Cove. However, Pier Cove Beach continues to be a problem for many of us who live within close proximity to this access.

Please understand that I/we do not want to see Pier Cove Beach closed to the public. Actually, the last thing I want to see is another 121st road end closing which I still think today was a major hoodwinking to the residents of Ganges Township. Furthermore, many Township residents believe that everybody who resides along Lakeshore Drive wants to selfishly keep the Lakeshore to themselves. This is simply not true.

The energy that Dana has taken thus far to spearhead some of the renovations at Pier Cove Beach has been justifiably well received. In spite of this, it would be short sighted to not acknowledge the problems which currently exist. Individually these are small but serious problems. Collectively they reflect a potential for much longer lived problems of a much larger magnitude. Please consider the following observations and how they may impact the decision to renovate Pier Cove Beach.

The following concerns are also shared by many of my neighbors consisting of both full time and part time residents. These are not new concerns as they have already been shared with the Ganges Township Board.

1. Overuse of the Pier Cove Park in its current state is already a problem. Enhancing the park will only attract even more people. Many of which are from out of state.
2. Parking continues to be not monitored and not enforced. People park on private property, in Private Driveways and along the shoulder of Lakeshore Drive creating hazards to other vehicles and pedestrians, as well.
3. Litter. While there is a collection receptacle available, diapers, cans and bottles are still discarded along the beach and/or along the roadway.
4. Sanitation in a Covid environment. Assuming the beach users stay within the boundaries of Pier Cove Beach, (Which they don't) how are they to maintain a safe distance. How does Pier Covid Beach sound as a new tag for our little park?
5. Disrespect to adjoining private property. Theft from private areas of beach and car break-ins in parking area. My neighbors and I have had chairs and Hammocks stolen from our beaches more than once.
6. Graffiti/Tunnel of Pier Cove Creek looks like it's been tagged.

7. Water monitoring of Pier Cove Creek ? Does Allegan County still test the water at Pier Cove ?
8. People already ignore the no dogs rules. I like dogs, but I do not want other peoples' dogs running un-leashed on my property.

I realize that you are already aware of the aforementioned concerns. Many of these items could be remedied with simple enforcement. Renovating Pier Cove Park is needed, but, the potential for increased usage will also be problematic if they continue to be un-checked and un-enforced.

Another concern is the widening of Lakeshore Drive as scheduled for 2021 by the Allegan County Road Commission. While it is unlikely that the section of roadway abutting Pier Cove Beach will be expanded, the roadway north and south will un-fortunately be widened. My concerns are that this widening will propagate increased traffic and increased vehicular speed. This will likely result in an even more dangerous section of roadway. The impact of these factors (Speed and Increased Traffic) on an already dangerous parking area should be considered while discussing the Pier Cove Beach renovations.

One solution, might lean towards making Pier Cove Beach a neighborhood oriented park promoting more bicycle and foot traffic. This would promote more local usage as intended by its' founder OC Simonds. I believe that under this type of scenario more residents in the vicinity of Pier Cove Beach would "step up" to help monitor/patrol the environs of Pier Cove Beach. Pier Cove, loosely defined as being from M89 south to Plummerville, has and continues to expand. This is evidenced by the amount of new construction currently taking place. While this trend is also putting a negative physical strain on the actual lakeshore, it is not anticipated to stop or diminish in the foreseeable future. Given these trends, and assuming we want to remain as a rural community it is even more paramount that we act diligently on how we move forward.

In closing, the community of Pier Cove has been and continues to be a beautiful neighborhood in Ganges Township. Pier Cove Beach has always been and hopefully always will be an integral part of our neighborhood and greater community, as well. Continued overuse has already made a negative impact on the physical attributes of Pier Cove Beach as well as to the private properties which neighbor it. Without proper and well thought-out guidance it is my opinion that the charm of not only Pier Cove Beach, but the rural character of our neighborhood is potentially at risk. Please be careful with your decisions.

Sincerely Yours,



Dexter Gauntlett

2287 Lakeshore Drive

Fennville, MI 49408

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**From:** Jacob Petkus <jacobpetkus@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 8, 2020 9:33 PM  
**To:** gangestwp@i2k.com; gangessupervisor@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Ganges Township 5 year plan

To Supervisor Hebert and the Ganges Township Board

I have some input for Ganges Township 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

I am not familiar with the Glenn Beach, but I live near Pier Cove Park. Summertime is a nightmare due to traffic, unenforced “no parking” signs, people turning around in my driveway and parked on my yard waiting for spots to open up in the parking lot. I think a township needs to take a park size and location into consideration when developing a 5 year plan. How many homes and cottages are already in the area? How many visitors come per car? Are there too many parking spaces for the size of beach/park when looking at the number of homes and cottages in the area? I’d be interested to see a study on that.

Another matter is controlling a park. When I was a kid I would make a lot of use of a parks in Hudsonville. Police would make regular patrols hourly through the area and each night at a specific time they locked the park. No graffiti, no loud parties, no drug and alcohol use. Police are still doing this today. At Pier Cove Park there are many times people in the park and in parking lot well past closing time...too much noise from cars and people too late at night. So I think the plan also needs to involve the police in locking the park at designated times and providing adequate coverage.

Sincerely  
Jacob Petkus  
2295 Lakeshore Dr.  
Fennville, MI

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**From:** Kathryn Stackhouse <kadahs@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9, 2020 10:48 PM  
**To:** gangessupervisor@gmail.com; gangestwp@i2k.com  
**Subject:** 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan for Pier Cove Park and Glenn Beach

To Supervisor Hebert and Ganges Township Board,

I am writing about the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan for Pier Cove Park and Glenn Beach, to specifically address Pier Cove Park. I have seen some of the proposals to improve this Park, including the seawall, steps, landscaping and perhaps other measures, and I support improvements to improve this little gem of a park and public access to it. I have read that the original 1912 deed from Mr. O.C. Simonds was a 66 foot-wide property right of way to Ganges Township. That is a small piece of land and now this little beach has problems with too many vehicles and thus too many people for such a small area. The vehicles and people spread beyond the area of the park. My late friend, Mr. Robert Johnson, who lived across the road from the Park wrote about these problems in his 1970 Ganges Township Park Report; and they have continued. Road safety is a growing concern because Lake Shore Drive is narrow, with a sharp bend at the Park which limits visibility for vehicles; further there no sidewalks for the increasing number of pedestrians, dog walkers, runners and cyclists who also use the road.

The development of a 5 Year Plan is a very good opportunity to address the ongoing overcrowding and traffic concerns, in addition to improvements to protect the beach, provide safe access down to it, and add landscaping. Options to improve overcrowding and traffic safety include; 1) enforce existing parking restrictions to reduce the number of cars that spill beyond the public area; and 2) remove the current parking spaces and convert that area to space for improved sanitation facilities and a changing area, along with good bicycle parking facilities - this would make the park available for walk-ins and bicyclists. Perhaps there are other more creative solutions.

I am pleased the park will be improved and hope there will be ongoing public discussion of options to improve the park for visitors and neighboring property owners.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Stackhouse, daughter of Jeanette Studley

2288 Lake Shore  
Pier Cove,  
Fennville, MI 49408

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**From:** Mark Ridley <markrid@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 9, 2020 6:53 PM  
**To:** gangestwp@i2k.com  
**Subject:** Pier Cove

Ganges Township Meeting Nov. 10, 2020

John Herbert and Ganges Board Officers,

I am a fulltime resident in the Wind and Woods Association and use Pier Cove and West Side County Park for my beach access. I support Dana Burd and his intention to repair the existing retaining wall at Pier Cove. The project however does not begin and end there. We must work on a fuller plan for Pier Cove.

The biggest issue is that Pier Cove parking is on a heavily traveled roadway not in a designated separate parking lot. Additionally it is just around a blind curve in the road with poor visibility for cars traveling south. This has always been one of the greatest concerns for local residents and people who frequently travel on Lakeshore Drive. The pedestrians and bike riders and all the local area beach goers who are walking with strollers and beach carts to Pier Cove are right on the road. Beach goers often have children in tow and that makes it increasingly dangerous.

If we can angle the parking at Pier Cove it would be safer. There would be better visibility for cars pulling out. Also cars would not have to pull so far into oncoming traffic to leave a parking space. Currently they have to pull all the way into the southbound lane blocking traffic. This is right at the blind curve in the road.

Placing the portable toilet at the northern end of Pier Cove in a structure with enclosed garbage cans and recycling would also be a great addition to the park. When the road is widened this space should be configured so it is safe, ADA compliant, accessible and has a cement foundation. Currently the garbage and the port-o-john are behind the guardrail on dirt.

We need two cement permanent stanchions in front of the beach entrance. This space cannot continually be misused for parking. It is much too crowded and dangerous to allow parking where the people access the stairs. Children are coming up from the beach between two cars and people are carrying all their gear up from the beach. This area must remain open for safety reasons.

Since all parks have hours and Pier Cove has them as well, why doesn't the parking lot and the beach close when the park hours end? This would help the adjacent neighboring homes a lot and would be a reasonable compromise that Ganges Township could easily allow. It would go a long way in building good will and would demonstrate a willingness to listen and be fair. There isn't any reason that cars should be parked at Pier Cove after 10:00 pm.

Thank You,  
Mark Ridley

6952 Lakeshore Ct  
Fennville, MI 49408  
248-425-6275



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Pier Cove Beach**

1 message

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**Eric Biegansky** <ebiegansky@gmail.com>  
To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 5:23 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Eric Biegansky <ebiegansky@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 4:20 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Pier Cove Beach  
**To:** <jchebert@ganges.us.com>, Jill Biegansky <jbiegansky@gmail.com>

To: John Hebert  
Ganges Township Supervisor  
RE: Pier Cove Beach

Hello, Mr. Hebert:

As a long-time resident of the Pier Cove community, we are writing to respectfully voice our ongoing support for Pier Cove beach and its ongoing care and maintenance. We have lived in the neighborhood since 2009 and have had years of life experiences with our children as they have grown up with the public beach access being an instrumental part of their summers. As we continue to mobilize to ensure the beach is responsibly updated and maintained, we wanted to make sure you were aware of the importance of the beach to our community. We strongly encourage all efforts to keep the beach safe and updated to enable positive experiences for our locals as well as visitors. Thank you for your continued leadership to support Pier Cove beach as a priority. We feel fortunate that the water levels have receded to the point where we could open it back up, and we wouldn't want to backtrack from that momentum.

Best regards,

Eric Biegansky  
6930 Ravine Trail  
Fennville, MI



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Comments on Pier Cove Park and the 5-year recreation plan**

1 message

**Sue Trull** <suetrull@att.net>

Thu, Nov 5, 2020 at 10:24 PM

To: "gangessupervisor@gmail.com" &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Dana &lt;dburd01@yahoo.com&gt;

Township Supervisor John Hebert

Ganges Township Hall

1904 64th Street

Fennville, Michigan 49408

Dear Supervisor Hebert:

I am writing in support of proposed efforts to repair and maintain facilities for free public access to Lake Michigan at Pier Cove Park. Thank you for authorizing the fundraiser and permit application for this work. My great-grandparents settled in the area, my mother and brother own property in Pier Cove, and our extended family has been using the park access for six generations. With the current high-water levels in the Great Lakes, the repair work proposed by Mr. Dana Burd seems a good start to keeping that access available and the lakeshore road intact. Since the Township also has the Pier Cove Ravine Trust immediately east of the beach access, and connected by Pier Cove Creek, there are opportunities to make this location a signature site in the township recreation system.

Recent case law affirms the right of the public to walk the lakeshores of the Great Lakes, up to the high-water line. Pier Cove beach provides an access point for us all to enjoy that right. I recommend the Township Board reconsider the 1963 ordinance for Pier Cove Park which limits park hours to 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Some of us like to walk the beach in early morning and some like to stay a bit later than 10 p.m., especially in high summer.

I'd also suggest for your 5-year recreation plan that the Township consider (with MDOT approval) adding signs at a suitable point along Lakeshore Drive between the stop sign at 123rd Ave and the park, and also south of the park, saying "congested area" or "pedestrians on road" or something similar. The road shoulders are narrow and these signs might enhance safety for those accessing the park. It would be great if Lakeshore Drive could have designation as a bicycle route as well.

I am not familiar with other Lake Michigan access points that the Township operates, but I urge you to keep these points open to all. The Pier Cove Ravine is a special place and would benefit from trail maintenance, which could perhaps also be included in the 5-year plan. Certainly, Township funds for recreation enhancement will likely be limited so the plan may need to specify how to work with volunteers and partners for this work. I look forward to seeing a draft of the 5-year plan and commend you for taking this step to maintain and enhance recreation opportunities in Ganges Township.

Sincerely,

11/10/2020

Gmail - Comments on Pier Cove Park and the 5-year recreation plan

Susan Trull

124 W. Norrie St.

Ironwood, MI 49938



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Pier Cove Park improvement plans**

1 message

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**Kay Trull** <ktrull@peoplepc.com>  
Reply-To: Kay Trull <ktrull@peoplepc.com>  
To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Sat, Nov 7, 2020 at 3:35 PM

Township Supervisor John Hebert  
ganges Township Hall, 1904 64th Street  
Fennville, MI 49408

Dear Supervisor Hebert, I am writing in support of the plans for Pier Cove Park being made by Dana Burd and his colleagues. I am so glad that the Township is supporting the fund drive and helping with permit applications. That you are now preparing a five year plan for the whole Township is wonderful. My husband's family, the Bensons, came early to the Cove, living in the Orchard House and later at the farm house above the mill pond. So, our family has a long interest in the Cove and the Ravine. I now own the shore property next north of the Cove and have agreed to any necessary encroachment on my land during the restoration process. I strongly support the access improvements as proposed and would encourage making a small courtyard -- patio --open space at the entrance which would include better access to the portable toilet.. Many beach goers walk from nearby homes. The warning signs for cars to go slowly are not adequate. Better signage would help, but best would be a walk beside the road, perhaps a wider shoulder?. Thank you.  
Kathryn Trull



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Glenn beach**

1 message

**Jean Veenema-Birky** <jcbirky@gmail.com>

Sun, Nov 8, 2020 at 3:29 PM

To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Thank you for taking up the important issue of parks and recreational areas.

As a family we moved to this area several decades ago because of its natural beauty and peacefulness. We also value the unique ecosystem that is part of the lake community and therefore find ourselves protective of all aspects of it. We support the preservation of the natural world and the slower and quieter lifestyle that this provides for human inhabitants. With this in mind we offer the following comments in response to the Glenn Public Beach.

Please continue to restrict parking. This summer and even to this day, there are a number of cars parked outside of designated areas on our little street. This summer there were days with at least 75 people on this tiny beach with limited parking, poor access and no facilities. It seems this is asking for incidents that put the township at risk for liability. For those of us that live here year round, this also impacts our experience of safe entering and exiting of our driveway.

The access has often been compromised by ATV use as well as big equipment that sometimes utilizes it. This, combined with waves and high water has often reduced the safety of the beach entrance. Obviously this needs also to be addressed at this time.

Once again, thank you for addressing these concerns.

Sincerely, Jean and Curtis Birky  
Sent from my iPad

Sent from my iPad



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Park and Recreation Plan**

1 message

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**Ellie Dietrich** <dietrich.elliechris@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 9:10 AM

To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Good Morning,

We became aware of the new community plan through LMSA and Dana Burd and were advised to send you comments rather than attend the meeting.

Living within walking distance of Glenn Beach we would like to comment on the township's role in its maintenance. Given the extraordinary lake levels over the past several years, we acknowledge the difficulty in maintaining the access path to the lake. Although additional material was added to the path to alleviate a dangerous access situation, the solution did not last beyond the next significant storm (rain, wind, and waves). The solution needs to be engineered differently. Drainage does not appear to be working and the slope seems rather steep. We'd like to advocate engineering a different and better solution.

Ellen & Chris Dietrich  
1355 Wildflower Ln.



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Ganges Township 5 Year Plan**

1 message

**Christine Deacon** <cdeacon@opc-ohio.com>

Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 10:50 AM

To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Township's proposal for a long term plan for parks in the area, including Pier Cove Park.

My family ties to the area go back several generations. My great grandparents were part of the early days of the township, delivering fruit which they produced to the pier where the park is now. My grandfather and his siblings attended Peachbelt School.

Our family owns several properties in the area to this day, and using the access at Pier Cove Park is very important to them and to those of us who visit on a regular basis. I hope that the 5 year plan will include an update to the actual access such as improving the safety of the stairs and of the roadway and parking area. I understand that patrolling the area and maintaining the safe use of the park is a concern and would suggest a more secure after hours control including gates and security cameras.

I am aware of Dana Burd's proposals and efforts to improve the park and am in support of those as well. Thank you to the Township for assisting in those efforts.

I hope that between the local community and the Township we will be able to keep Pier Cove Park an asset for all to enjoy for many more generations.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Christine Deacon  
417 Apple Drive  
Eaton OH 45320  
cDeacon@opc-ohio.com  
937-409-1229

Sent from my iPhone

November 9, 2020

Dear Mr. Hebert,

We want to thank you for improving access to the Glenn Beach in 2020. Being homeowners on 114<sup>th</sup> Avenue, we noticed an increased use of the Beach each summer since parking was developed a few years ago. This year especially, the beach has been used consistently and heavily into the fall months. We appreciate the need for people to enjoy nature and especially Lake Michigan.

We do not imagine the Township can afford a permanent fix for accessing Glenn Beach, but we believe it is important to have a yearly budget item to keep the access maintained.

Another matter to consider is limiting the heavy equipment driven on the access path by private citizens. There has been heavy equipment, ATV's, and pick-up trucks used by private citizens driven up and down the access throughout the summer. This obviously contributes to the erosion of the access path. Perhaps a more permanent bar could be installed at the access point, along with signage prohibiting this type of usage.

Sincerely,

Barbara and Richard White

7136 114<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Glenn, MI



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Pier Cove Park**

1 message

**Chelsea Trull** <chelsea.trull@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 9, 2020 at 12:03 PM

To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Township Supervisor John Hebert

Ganges Township Hall

1904 64th Street

Fennville, Michigan 49408

Hello Township Supervisor Hebert,

I am writing in support of the proposed efforts to repair and maintain the public access to Lake Michigan at Pier Cove Park. My family and I are grateful that a permit application and fundraiser were authorized in support of this work.

I learned about these efforts through Mr. Dana Burd's GoFundMe page as well as via family members. More than sixty living family members have fond memories of visiting Pier Cove Park, both as kids as well as in recent years. This area was where our ancestors lived and played. We've admired the care that Ganges Township puts into the Pier Cove Ravine Trust and more recently, renewed work on the creek area and Pier Cove Park.

Pier Cove Park has always been a part of my life. The access available from the steps allows anyone access to walk the beach at the high water line, which is quite enjoyable. I would recommend you to keep any Lake Michigan access points that Ganges Township operates open and accessible as much as possible. This year has renewed folks' interest in nature and being outside, and providing safe, sustainable, and accessible access will continue to be of great importance going forward. We've been grateful for the new bench, signs, place for litter, and anything that can be done to preserve the park experience for all visitors.

In addition to preservation of the Pier Cove Park beach against erosion, I would like to recommend signage to encourage drivers coming from either direction to be aware of pedestrians, or specify a slower speed limit around the bend along Lakeshore Drive, to the benefit of those walking, biking, and parking vehicles. Additional signage encouraging folks to take ownership of the clean-up of the beach would also be positive, as I think folks are in a better mindset to care about nature as they're visiting more frequently outside.

I look forward to reading more about the 5-year plan as it develops. If volunteers are needed for the work that's coming, it would be great if a plan can be developed to organize them. Thank you again for making the maintenance of this park a priority.

Best regards,  
Chelsea Trull



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

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**Parks and Recreation Plan for Ganges Township**

1 message

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**Cate Rutter** <cate.rutter@glenn.school>  
To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Tue, Nov 10, 2020 at 1:51 PM

Dear Mr. Hebert,

I am writing on behalf of the Glenn School staff regarding the parks and recreation plan for Ganges Township.

Glenn School regularly uses Glenn Beach for outdoor learning. We have done beach clean up walks, made natural water purifiers from sand and rocks, studied life science, and flying kites.

Glenn Beach is an integral part of our nature-based learning initiative. Students greatly enjoy walking to the beach and enjoying the natural beauty around us.

We look forward to seeing the beneficial changes coming to Glenn Beach in the next five years.

—

**\*\*Please note my new email address of cate.rutter@glenn.school\*\***

**Cate Rutter**

Administrative Assistant  
**Glenn Public School**  
1392 Adams Road  
PO Box 69  
Glenn, Michigan 49416  
269-227-3411

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**From:** Philip Palley <philpalley@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 8, 2020 8:57 AM  
**To:** gangessupervisor@gmail.com; gangestwp@i2k.com  
**Subject:** Pier Cove Park plan

Philip Palley  
2278 Lakeshore Drive  
Pier Cove, MI 49408  
[philpalley@aol.com](mailto:philpalley@aol.com)  
301-254-7222

Dear Supervisor John Hebert and Township Board Members,

As a Pier Cove property owner, I would like to comment on the proposed upcoming maintenance and improvement to the Ganges Township Pier Cove Park.

I am very happy to see the proposed upgrades/repairs to the sea wall and landscaping.

However, I feel that the park's current use has long outgrown the small footprint of beach O.C. Simons left for Pier Cove residents to use generations ago. It's obvious that there are too many cars parked there in the warmer months on that blind turn, and it is common knowledge that evening partying goes on in its parking lot after closing.

Lakeshore Drive is scheduled for widening in 2021 - with expected traffic speed and volume increases, that will only add to increase safety problems and congestions.

With this plan, I ask to consider converting this tiny bit of beach to a walk-to or bike-to use, eliminate the parking lot altogether, and adding ample bike racks - a safer and greener option. After all, Lakeshore drive is part of the U.S. Bicycle Route 35 and Pier Cove is certainly one of the prettier sections of the route. Let's keep it that way!

Philip Palley



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

**Re: Friends of Pier Cove**

1 message

John 'Ric' &lt;Ric\_Curtis@comcast.net&gt;

Sun, Nov 1, 2020 at 6:50 PM

To: Sara Cullen &lt;sarascott919@gmail.com&gt;, John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;, Dana Burd &lt;dburd01@yahoo.com&gt;

Thank you Sara, John, Dana et al;

The public access at Pier cove Beach is a treasured asset that is so extremely much better now with some attention being paid to its control and safety needs . My heart and spirit are with you. I'll let others sweat the details.

On 11/1/2020 12:47 PM, Sara Cullen wrote:

There is a meeting on Nov 10th at 7:00 at Ganges Twp. Hall (1904 64th St) and Pier Cove (PC) will be on the agenda. If you cannot attend, you can compose an email to John Herbert <gangessupervisor@gmail.com> so your thoughts are reflected in the planning for future developments at PC.  
(Be sure to also send me a copy if you like, so your thoughts can be used for future planning meetings concerning Pier Cove.)

Dana Burd's "Friends of Pier Cove " plans to shore up the existing retaining wall and terrace the bluff sound like good ideas and have my support.

Other ideas for Pier Cove that were discussed at a meeting at West Side County Park were also good and important:

1. Parking and the related issues
2. Park hours and park rules
3. Oversight, maintenance and enforcement of rules and parking restrictions
4. Enclosing the Port-o-John
5. Garbage collection, enclosing the garbage, providing recycling
6. Handicap parking
7. Can the gate be closed after park hours to prevent late night parking after 10:00pm?
8. Stanchions at the stair entrance to prevent this area being used as a parking space
9. Angled parking for better road safety and visibility
10. Placement of the Port-o-John on a cement foundation and not behind the guardrail on dirt

I thought the meeting presented a lot of good ideas and also brought forward concerns. I think we can all commend Dana Burd for his interest in protecting PC. This is an important first step. I hope we can continue to work on the future of Pier Cove and make it safer, better, more attractive and cared for.  
Sara Cullen

--  
John F 'Ric' Curtis  
2264 Lakeshore Drive  
Pier Cove  
Fennville, MI 49408-9715

Ric\_Curtis@comcast.net  
269.543.4444 phone  
616.644.4059 cell

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**From:** ROBERT SIMONDS <rcsimonds@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 3, 2020 10:23 PM  
**To:** gangessupervisor@gmail.com; gangestwp@i2k.com  
**Cc:** McKeown, Eve; Tim McKeown  
**Subject:** Pier Cove Park: 5 year Parks and Recreation Plan

Dear Supervisor Hebert and Board:

in regards to the development of a 5 year Parks and Recreation Plan, including Pier Cove Park, I would like to offer input as a neighbor to the Park and life-long resident, ahead of the November 10th Township Board Meeting.

Pier Cove is rooted in my family history. My grandfather, O.C. Simonds, first came to the "Cove" in 1876 and later in 1889 decided to acquire much of Pier Cove property from 1891-1895. He was a well-known landscape architect and over this adult life, transformed the wind-blown sands of a once vibrant Pier Cove and the 100-acre ravine that runs East and South of Pier Cove Park into a mostly native forest and botanical garden that was highly regarded as one of the finest private arboretums in the midwest. I mention this because a little history helps to provide context not only to the planning of the park and the beach access but also to its usage. My grandfather understood the joy of experiencing nature, the landscape, and the shores of Lake Michigan. His house still stands as the Orchard House just North of the park. As he shared the Cove with his friends and extended family each summer, he realized the need for the ones who did not have direct access to the lake, to have a Right of Way and so I'm told he donated this 66' lot that is now owned and maintained by the Township.

As a retired city planner, I am very supportive of a 5-year plan to help gain necessary funding and to envision the betterment of the property and have it benefit all the stakeholders, not just the people entering the park to enjoy the view or descend steps to the beach. I hope to advise the need to consider not only the layout and physical features but also include accommodations for elderly patrons such as myself and my wife who is confined to a wheelchair. We are now in our 90s, so my ask is to plan for ADA accessibility to a lookout for sunsets. Likewise, I hope to advise the need to consult a landscape architect to ensure the look/feel of the park continues the vision of O.C. Simonds and his ravine. Regarding the beach and its usage. My family has rented the Orchard House for 4 decades now. We are able to secure these renters because of our private beach. Pier Cove Park has a 66' wide access and a 66' wide beach. The signs in the sand that state this are largely ignored (only one is still standing). Beachgoers spread largely to the North to play in the creek and even extend further to my property. I get continual complaints from my renters that the beach is occupied by beachgoers from Pier Cove Park. Generally, this trespass is easily corrected. I kindly ask that perhaps a visual map of the beach be clearly marked for what is public and what is private. I realize we don't want a slew of signs but the general issues of the beach on a warm sunny day in the summer have prevailed for many decades. In the late 1950s and early 60s, my uncles and my mother paid the local deputy sheriff to patrol the beach each summer. In the early 1970s a stern letter was sent to the Ganges Township Board (Sept 11, 1973) informing of the prevailing 'nucense' of the public beach. At the time there were issues of camping and late night drunken parties that the sherrif would not enforce. Many Lake Michigan easements such as the one at Pier Cove Park had been closed due to their poor management and neglect. I share this because the issues I mention are not new.

As a neighbor of the park and beach, I see it is mostly as daytime trespassing that could be managed with appropriate signage and enforcement of stated rules (closing time, no dogs, fires, fireworks, etc). The plan needs to consider more than just the land and the features - it needs to consider its maintenance and protection.

I applaud the volunteer efforts to save the park and the access from erosion and glad there is support to pursue this further.

I have copied my daughter, Eve Simonds McKeown, who manages the Orchard House now and my son in law, Tim McKeown, who is president of the Pier Cove Ravine Trust - the land owner of my grandfather's Ravine.

Sincerely,  
Robert C. Simonds

2318 / 2320 Lakeshore Drive  
Fennville (Pier Cove) MI 49408

Tim McKeown - Presidnet  
Eve Simonds McKeown - Director  
Pier Cove Ravine Trust Association  
Pier Cove Ravine Property owner

November 9, 2020

To: Supervisor Hebert and the Ganges Township Board  
RE: Comments on a 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments concerning township parks. I have long been an advocate for improved management of the Pier Cove Park.

**Park Rules**

Signage detailing the rules of the park should be clear and direct. (Currently the south boundary sign is missing on the lakeside.) Signs need to be professional in appearance and complete. The details and rules regarding the park should also appear on the Township website for visitors who are looking for area parks to utilize as well as for out of the area short term renters who should “know before they go.”

**Park Management and Enforcement**

Lakeside parks and beaches should not be viewed as being under control of absentee owners. This often leads to abuse of park property, infringes on the safety and enjoyment of other park visitors and negatively impacts the private property rights of adjacent property owners. Perhaps it is a combination of a paid seasonal township park ranger and a clear understanding with law enforcement that response times to the ranger will be speedy should assistance be needed. It seems reserve deputies cannot ticket illegally parked cars per an email exchange by Lt. Ensfield and Supervisor Hebert, so a seasonal township park ranger could fill the bill if a reserve deputy cannot be retained for dependable enforcement on a regular basis.

**Safety**

Park visitors should have reasonable expectations that they will have a safe and enjoyable visit to any park.

This would include safe steps, appropriate handrails and railings to prevent falls from elevated areas just as homeowners and commercial property owners are required to have. Steps should be made of material that minimizes or eliminates the need for maintenance following high wave action. The photos below were taken after the waves of November 1, 2020:



Steps are again eroded and trip hazards



Railings are not installed at this seawall area of the park embankment

The parking area should be safe for park visitors, pedestrians, bicyclists, and transient motorists. An emergency parking spot should be clearly marked and “protected” from illegal parking. In the case of Pier Cove Park with parking in the road right of way, this presents its own particular challenges. An improved roadway will lead to more traffic and greater speeds.



Dangerous parking conditions and illegal parking on shoulder.



Lack of safe walkways and bike path. Limited visibility.

### **Accessible**

Parks should have access that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This should be understood to be inviolable. People having mobility, sight, hearing or other ADA issues should not be excluded from visiting township parks. Meeting special needs includes appropriate parking spots, park entry, seating areas and toilet facilities. It is not only the law, but also the right thing to do. PC Park’s bluff offers a fairly gentle slope. There is no apparent topographic reason that it cannot be open to all and provide a great view of lake and beach.

### **Budgeted**

Parks should have budget line items in the township budget for routine maintenance and money should be regularly set aside for major updates and repairs.

### **Maintained**

Parks should have a maintenance plan that covers litter pick-up, garbage service, toilet facility cleaning, review and quick disposition of any vandalism, replacement of damaged or missing signage, and plant and tree management. Many of these should be on at least a weekly schedule, more often in peak season.

### **Amenities**

The placement of an ADA port-o-let on a solid footing and enclosed to provide an improved visual aesthetic for the park would seem very reasonable while improvements are underway. Additionally, the incorporation of a changing area as part of the enclosure so visitors don’t have to change in the street or on the beach should also be considered.

Bicycle racks that are fixed in the pavement rather than chained to the guardrail would assist in providing secure places for bicycles and help prevent illegal parking.

Respectfully submitted  
Rudy Broekhuis  
2297 Lakeshore Dr.  
Fennville, MI 49408

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**From:** Sara Cullen <sarascott919@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 7:23 AM  
**To:** gangessupervisor@gmail.com; gangestwp@i2k.com  
**Subject:** Five Year Parks Plan, "Friends of Pier Cove"

PIER COVE, 5 Year Parks Plan  
Proposed Improvements by "The Friends of Pier Cove"  
November 5, 2020  
Ganges Township Board

I live along the lakeshore in the Wind and Woods association. I do not have private access to Lake Michigan. I use both Pier Cove and West Side County Park for my access to the Lake. I am abundantly thankful that these two access points exist.

I think it's wonderful that Dana Burd has initiated support from the community to secure the existing seawall, to add bluff terracing and to look at improvements to the entrance at Pier Cove. It is certainly worthy of a great deal of attention and improvement. Pier Cove has a wonderful history and its care and preservation is important.

I participated in finding solutions for West Side County Park over seven years ago when Allegan County proposed using this charming 9 acre park for 36 RV campers. Thankfully this "wrong-minded" proposal was defeated early on by Allegan County residents who wanted to protect this unique asset. Subsequent to that defeat, Allegan County held a "charrette" that allowed Allegan County residents to provide input into what improvements they wanted at West Side County Park. For clarity a charrette is defined as; *"An intense period of design or planning activity. The word charrette may refer to any collaborative session in which a group of individuals drafts a solution to a design problem."*

I propose we do the same thing for Pier Cove.

I think we must look at all the different parts of Pier Cove and have an active, inclusive dialogue about what improvements can be made for the safety, appearance, oversight and maintenance of this small community park. Our considerations should include:

- The soon to be completed road work & widening on Lakeshore Drive, how can we make the parking at Pier Cove safer & better?
- Garbage collection & recycling (currently no recycling)
- Port-o-john placement with a cement foundation slab, an enclosure for the port-o-john (currently it is behind the guardrail on uneven dirt)
- Park signage
- Historical Marker and placement
- Warning signs for dangerous lake conditions/Undertow, E-coli in the stream bed after heavy rainfall, Tick & Lyme Disease
- Beach entrance/ fencing & gate considerations
- Improved Beach stairs and handrails
- Bike rack placement
- Park Hours
- Pier Cove Rules (currently missing: no fires, no parking when the park closes, no overnight parking, no RV parking)
- The enforcement of park rules and parking restrictions
- Maintenance and oversight

I think we can all agree that Lake Michigan access is becoming increasingly desirable and crowded. How should Pier Cove adjust to the growing numbers who seek access to the Lake? What rules should be in place, how can

parking restrictions be enforced? How can the appearance of the park and its safety be improved? Should there be more parking, less parking, no parking? Should the current 10 parking spaces include a handicap space, a drop off space?

What was the original gift of the 66' of shoreline from the Simonds family intended for? It would appear that its intention was for a stairway so nearby residents could have access to the Lake. This year it was very hard for members of the community to find an open parking spot at Pier Cove as the ten parking spaces filled up as early as 9:00 in the morning. Many individuals residing or renting a vacation home near Pier Cove walk along Lakeshore Drive with their strollers, beach gear and umbrellas and hope to find a spot somewhere on the 66' at Pier Cove. This poses a problem for road safety, as there is no designated pedestrian walkway. Can a pedestrian/bike walkway be included in the 2021 road widening? Could this be accomplished by moving the placement of the center lane off-center to allow for a larger shoulder on one side of Lakeshore Drive for pedestrians?

We need to have an open dialogue that allows Allegan County residents to collectively determine what Pier Cove needs for the future. We need to listen to the problems, we need to address them, and most importantly we need to find fair and reasonable solutions to those identified issues related to the park. It is time to provide this little treasure with all the care and planning that it deserves. I encourage Ganges Township to have a "charrette" to find the solutions that are needed.

Respectfully,  
Sara Cullen  
6952 Lakeshore Court  
Fennville, Michigan 49408  
[Sarascott919@gmail.com](mailto:Sarascott919@gmail.com)  
248-644-7272



John Hebert <gangessupervisor@gmail.com>

**Pier Cove**

1 message

**Mary Voss** <maryjvoss@icloud.com>  
To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 12:16 PM

Thank you for supporting the improvements at Pier Cove. We live less than a mile north of the park and because of the high water erosion we have lost our beach and steps. Being able to access the beach through the park a couple of times this summer was wonderful! I send in a donation to the go fund me page and hope all the support from individuals will help contribute to state funding applications.

Please include me in your Future mailings. We are also members of the LMSA. Hope to hear lots of good news going forward. We noticed a bit more beach this week  
Ron and Mary Voss 2438 Lakeshore dr. Fennville, MI 49408. Rjmvoss@gmail.com

Sent from my iPad



image0.jpeg  
7465K



John Hebert &lt;gangessupervisor@gmail.com&gt;

**Friends of Pier Cove Park**

1 message

**Win Ryder** <ryderwon@aol.com>

Tue, Oct 27, 2020 at 12:53 PM

To: gangessupervisor@gmail.com

Cc: dburd01@yahoo.com

The Ryder family has been in Ganges Township for 70 years.  
My wife and I live south of Pier Cove and drive by the park several times a day.  
I think what Dana Burd is doing is admirable but my wife and I think the top priority should be to address the safety issue.  
We have both seen some very scary scenes, especially involving children. Cars go through there fast.  
With the widening of 70th Street, the cars will be coming faster.  
The road needs rumble strips With good marking to slow Traffic.  
We will be glad to donate to that cause.

Win Ryder  
2082 Ryder Rd  
Fennville, MI 49408  
616.834.3795  
Sent from my iPhone

Dear Mr. Hebert,

As Lakeshore Dr. homeowners we would like to address the new plans for the proposed Pier Cove Beach project.

Parking in the present form has always been a serious concern for us. The spaces are set up perpendicular to the beach which causes a potentially dangerous situation as visitors to the beach are required to back out of the spaces into the roadway, frequently into both the North and South bound lanes. Drivers traveling South on Lakeshore Dr. are approaching that area from a blind curve while North bound drivers are approaching from over a hill.

We also believe the number of spaces seems excessive in relation to the size of the beach area. The Glenn Beach is considerably larger in size but has only 5 or 6 regular spaces and 2 dedicated handicap spaces. Those parking spaces run parallel to the road making arrival and departure much safer. Parking at the Glenn Beach is more in conformance to the appropriate ratio of visitors expected according to the size of the beach.

Another concern is the fact that there is no oversight or monitoring of the beach or parking. Frequently we see cars parked well after dark and occasionally parked there all night long. We also believe the gate access should be locked overnight and that no parking should be allowed after hours.

Many of our lake front neighbors have had items stolen from their property this past year. Most likely this is due to the erosion which has caused their property and possessions to be much more visible to anyone walking the beach. It is our belief that these thefts may be occurring after dark by visitors who have access to either West Side County Park or Pier Cove beach

In addition to these issues, we are equally troubled over the impact of increasingly high lake levels and high wave damage and how that may affect the proposed improvements to the bluff and access stairs. It is common knowledge how the lack of these considerations affected the stairs and ramp system at West Side County Park.

Safety of the prospective visitors should be carefully scrutinized including warning about rip tides, bacterial count in the water and the dangers of exploring ice mounds in the winter.

Most importantly, please consider the impact of this project on neighboring properties and take their concerns seriously.

Respectfully,

Jeanne and Darell Zerbe

2110 Lakeshore Drive

Nov. 18, 2020

MR. DANA BURD

My name is JOHN "Skip" DUBOIS  
I Live at 2303 Lake Shore Dr. Fenwick  
just across the street from Pier Cove.

I inherited the house from my mother 2 1/2 yrs ago.  
But I have been enjoying the beach as well as the  
whole area since my Mother purchased it in the 1980's

I am in total support of keeping the beach  
open to the public ALL year round.

I also think the township made a big mistake  
selling the property next to Pier Cove to Mr. Dan Tene  
from Buchanan Ma years ago and should really  
rethink that decision and purchase it back  
THE AREA IS growing every year with people who  
want access to the beach.

Good Luck -

Thank you  
Skip

October 28, 2020, 4:30 pm

Dana Burd Meeting notes

Friends of Pier Cove Park Stakeholder Meeting  
Regarding the Pier Cove Park Fundraiser and Improvement effort

Location: outside at West Side County Park - South Pavilion

Attendees:

Sara Cullen and Mark Ridley (Wind and Woods Neighborhood)  
Dexter Gauntlet (adjacent property owner)  
Diane and Rudy Broekhius (adjacent property owner)  
John Adams (neighbor further south)  
Jay Gooch (Pier Cove Forest Association President)  
Mary Puglise (Lake Michigan Shore Association Representative)  
Dana Burd (Friends of Pier Cove Park Founder)

Introductions & Dana shared some background on the fundraising effort, current status, and tried to answer questions on specific ideas for facelift and maintenance improvements as well as structural improvements to maintain access and the existing shore wall during the high water period of Lake Michigan. Also requested stakeholder input on the park and how it can be made better for everyone. Let everyone know about the developing park plan and upcoming public hearing and encouraged input.

Summary of Discussion:

Variety of stakeholders including those who drive to the park from outside the area, those who live next to the park but have their own private beach, those who walk to the park, those who live in the general area. Acknowledged that various stakeholders have differing perspectives on use, enforcement, access, etc. Acknowledged that we should all listen and take one another's perspectives into account.

Some suggested specific improvement plans should have community involvement with design charrettes. All final plans must be approved by Township Board. Design professionals cost additional money and were not budgeted in fundraiser.

Specific improvements beyond the steel sheet pile wall are only defined in concept and include:

- Enclosing the toilet facility (port a john)
- Enclosing the trash can
- Building a terraced wood retaining wall with dune grass plantings above the steel sheet pile wall to hold up the entrance area following install of the steel wall. Wall would be volunteer built with material purchased by fund raiser.
- A donor brick paver plaza (\$100 donation) at the upper entrance that would be level and accessible with relocating the existing concrete benches for a sunset viewing area.

- Incorporating interpretive and historical signage with Saugatuck Douglas Historical Society.
- Donor plaque for donations of \$500 or more.
- Trimming overgrown trees and brush to clear views and make a space for a picnic table just north of entrance. Additional planting to stabilize ground.
- Planning for additional work on the shore wall if erosion continues or wall fails.

Some desired more enforcement of park hours, locking the park at night, increased patrols to remove people from private beaches, more patrols of parking area.

Some desired reducing the public's access to the park by reducing the number of parking spaces, reducing traffic, suggested charging fees, re-routing traffic to west side park, taking a space away to make more an entry area, taking a general parking space away for a barrier free space. Some suggested a parking study or comparison of beach area to available parking.

Others desired more access and suggested there should be zero reduction in parking spaces. An option for concern over parking safety is to acquire additional property.

Some expressed concern over the high amount of public use traffic the park has seen, the amount of vehicle traffic on Lakeshore Drive, development in the area, increased park usage during the pandemic, high lake levels, the popularity of rock hunting, etc. Concern also for pedestrian safety.

Others expressed gratitude that the access has largely been kept open during the pandemic when people most want socially distant activities that are multi-generational. Many other public beaches have been closed due to erosion when they are needed most during the historic pandemic. Parks use throughout the nation is high now.

Neighbor concerns should be balanced with the public's right to use the park and access the Lake Michigan shoreline.

Some discussion of road plans to widen Lakeshore Drive and how that may increase speed coming into the park area.

Discussion that facelift improvements are supported and with proper care and signage can create a level of respect for a well-maintained park and encourage users to take care and be respectful of neighboring properties.

Other suggested ideas

- Parking and pedestrian safety improvements
- Providing recycling
- Incorporating a changing area to move pedestrian traffic out of the parking lot
- Providing a barrier free/handicap space when the plaza is built

- End of Dana Burd notes -

11/8/2020, 8am meeting at Glenn Beach

Dana Burd's Notes

Attendees: Mike Pcolinski (park neighbor), Ron Coleson (park neighbor), Dana Burd (Friends of Pier Cove Park)

Glenn Creek is large flashy watershed that has ravine outletting at Glenn Beach similar to Pier Cove. Ravine is owned by one property owner. Used be dammed and a lake prior to 1920's. Area had an old fruit pier (south of actual Glenn Beach). No historic site marker. No watershed group or active group of neighbors have organized around the beach/ravine although there are many who look after the beach and know a lot about its history

Neighbor concern with cuttings washing into creek and creating more erosion.

Parking is allowed along road (neighbors say 10 spaces), signs mark parking areas, there is one designated barrier free space. There is no gate and no fence marking the park/access boundary.

Prior to 1980's the access was a v-shaped clay footpath that was difficult to get down. Then it was improved with drainage and a level gravel walking area. 3 CB's were observed and an 18" storm pipe outlet at bottom. Ron was involved with getting access improved and got 163 signatures to get it done.

Ron has looked into county records and township records on access. Says there was a survey of Pier Road prior to 1920's/now Fabun Road is public because it has been maintained with public funds.

Benefit of this access is during low water it's one of few areas where emergency access vehicles can get to lakeshore with a 4wheeler or other. This has been used in the past.

The Ramp slope has also been used per Mike, for wheelchairs to get people down to beach and provides access that stairs cannot allow.

Maintenance of the access and park is between the Road Commission and Township. Residents don't really know who does what.

The north slope of the access was observed to have recently sluffed at the bend in the creek below. Wave action from the lake may also contribute. The slope is very eroded and unstable and a slope stabilization project is greatly needed with armor at the toe with stone and reconstruction of the slope with stable vegetation.

The wood bridge is not part of the park but is the ravine property owner's access. The creek is flashy. This morning it was not flowing into the lake (not connected), but most of the time it is per residents.

Jack Vandenberg owns ravine property and also owns half of the south several hundred feet of frontage along Fabun Road. This is owned with John Matsock. The many property owner's south don't own the actual lake frontage, but have access over the bluff with permission from Jack and John. Possible public acquisition. 1990's it was purchased for \$5000.

Park users and neighbors get along well. There is no movement to close the park, restrict access, or anything like that. Property owner's north understand township owns frontage. Site used a lot by Glenn school and has been used by university students to study geology unique to area.

Historical erosion is evident on steep clay bluffs. Observed old well sticking out of bluff. Houses used to be on west side of Fabun road. Most lost. Some moved throughout history.

Summary of Glenn Beach stakeholder concerns:

- Highest priority must be keeping the park open and accessible
- Users described how disabled children can more easily get down the slope than most beach access points that have stairs only. Try to maintain a sloped path and not replace entirely with stairs.
- Need more parking – acquire land as needed
- Huge concern over failing slope along access drive – need large scale slope stabilization project to protect toe from Glenn Creek and high water erosion and restabilize the slope with vegetation.
- Explore potential to acquire additional park land (possibly large ravine parcel north or large privately owned lake frontage parcel south)
- Maintain large washout at bottom of slope where road commission gravel has washed out over clay.
- Park is highly used and loved by neighbors and users alike.

11/11/2020, 10:30 am meeting at Glenn School

Dana Burd's Notes

Attendees: Kate Rutter (Glenn School), Dana Burd (Friends of Pier Cove Park)

School uses Glenn Beach for life science studies and STEM based learning curriculum for grades K-5. Often will take 30-40 students and 5 teacher to park during school as field trips and outdoor class time. They walk with wagons to the beach.

School has done beach clean ups in the past and studied types of beach trash collected.

Fire department uses access for emergencies and trainings.

Students with mobility issues struggle to use the park.

Many families and residents of Glenn bike to the park.

Discussed school playground open to the public and other spaces in Glenn.

Suggested improvements:

1. Maintain a stable entrance that is safe and will ensure the park remain open and accessible.
2. Increase parking area – possibly through acquiring adjacent land
3. If possible make wheelchair accessible areas for disabled students
4. Amenities desired include: benches, toilet facility, trash cans, picnic tables
5. Place to park bikes

November 4, 2020

Mr. John Hebert  
Ganges Township Supervisor  
1904 64th Street  
Fennville, MI 49408  
VIA EMAIL: [gangestownshipsupervisor@gmail.com](mailto:gangestownshipsupervisor@gmail.com)

**RE: Pier Cove Park Update – Bids Received**

Dear Supervisor Hebert,

It has been two months since Friends of Pier Cove Park launched the fundraiser for the park. Yesterday we received bids for the installation of 30 feet of steel sheet pile wall. Unfortunately, bids were higher than expected. I have summarized the bids here:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Contractor Name</b>	<b>Bid Amount</b>
1	DK Construction Inc, Steve King, 346 West 15th Street Holland, MI	\$ 26,680.00
2	Diversified Marine Construction, LLC, Rich Zmuda, 12813 Riley Street, Holland, MI	\$ 27,500.00
3	Riverworks Construction, Inc, Grant Plockmeyer, 5776 143rd Ave. Holland, MI	\$ 41,000.00

We had requested bids from 9 local contractors. Several did not bid including: Quantum Construction, King Company, Harbor Hawk, Milbocker & Sons, Anlaan Corporation, and LandTec WMI. Reasons given for not bidding included: the project was too small, too busy with other shoreline work, or could not put a bid together in time. I also received an unsolicited bid from Great Lakes Sea Walls who has been determined to be an ineligible bidder.

I am planning to contact Steve King with DK Construction to discuss some value engineering ideas. My hope is we can work out some ideas to lower the cost while still accomplishing the goal of protecting the slope and existing shore wall. The fundraiser had budgeted \$12,500 for the sheet pile wall based on some initial input from contractors.

Here is an additional update on the Pier Cove Park effort:

- As of November 4, 2020 a total of \$11,416.00 has been raised from 73 donors including: \$9,666 on GoFundMe, \$1,500 collected directly at Ganges Township, and \$250 to me.
- On November 1<sup>st</sup> the park was hit with gale force winds causing waves to wash up and around the north side wall further eroding the slope.
  - See video on Friends of Pier Cove Park Facebook Page and on GoFundMe page. Video was shared 27 times and reached 4,478 people.
  - The gravel around the bottom step washed out - again. We are coordinating a repair to fill it back in similar to what was done last June.
  - That storm caused additional damage to the handrail on the bottom stair. We are looking for someone to weld that back on.
- The evening of October 28<sup>th</sup> a group of 9 stakeholders meet at West Side County Park to discuss the ongoing efforts at Pier Cove Park. Stakeholders included some property owners directly adjacent, park users who walk, park users who drive, and neighbors who own private beach but use the park to walk a loop on Lakeshore Drive.
- 266 people are following our Facebook Page @friendsofpiercovepark
- The EGLE Shoreline Permit was received! Good for 5 years.
- The Allegan County Soil Erosion Permit Application was submitted including \$350 permit fee which we tried unsuccessfully to get the fee waived.
- Army Corp of Engineers contacted that their permit/jurisdictional review was underway.
- The fundraiser sign was hung up at the park.
- A letter with information on the park effort was sent out via email blast to all members of the Lake Michigan Shore Association, and I am working directly with Mary Puglise (a board liaison) on specific ideas and input regarding the park.
- A Letter to the Editor was published in the Commercial Record to encourage input for the Public Hearing.
- October 27<sup>th</sup> I attended the Ganges Township Planning Commission Meeting to present a letter introducing the Pier Cove Park effort and DNR Park Plan effort to encourage their involvement in the planning and public hearing.

- An outline of the Ganges Township Community Parks & Recreation Plan was put together for the November 10<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing. The purpose of this public hearing input phase is to hear from the public before the 5-Year Plan is developed further.
- A group of stakeholders around Glenn Beach is also being assembled to receive additional input for the 5-Year Plan.
- I continue to be contacted by park supporters giving thanks and seeking to be more involved in the Pier Cove Park effort.

For next steps, I will keep working on a way to fund and implement a shore protection solution. This is the time of year when big storms can cause a lot of damage. I am considering proposing a temporary sand bagging effort if things get much worse. I am also looking forward to helping finalize the 5-Year Park Plan with public input received. This will make the Township eligible for future grant applications. DNR grant applications would be due April 1<sup>st</sup> with funds available in October 2021 if awarded. I would hate to wait that long to get a shoreline solution in place.

At this time I would like ask for permission to repair the bottom step at Pier Cove Park again and get the handrail welded back on.

I would like to again thank the many people who have donated thus far and those who are engaging to help with the effort. I would also like to again thank the Township Board for your effort to develop a 5-year park vision for not only Pier Cove Park, but also Glenn Beach and other parks and recreation opportunities in Ganges Township.

Sincerely,



Dana Burd  
Friends of Pier Cove Park  
6871 Wiley Road  
[Dburd01@yahoo.com](mailto:Dburd01@yahoo.com)

Enclosure: Bids Received