

Pier Cove Park Maintenance Plan

Maintenance of the expanded Pier Cove Beach would be supported in the same manner as the current park. Maintenance is budgeted each year in the Township General Fund Budget.

The following is the Maintenance Plan submitted with the Trust Fund Development Grant Application:

This plan discusses current and proposed levels of maintenance service for various aspects of Pier Cove Park. The plan considers ongoing conversations with park stakeholders, neighbors, and maintenance contractors to identify the cost associated with increasing current levels of service. Ganges Township will provide continual and on-going care for Pier Cove Park, including facilities constructed with grant assistance and any other facilities necessary for their use, such as parking, walkways, and restrooms.

Administration

- The Ganges Township Board oversees all maintenance requirements and approval of expenses related to Pier Cove Park.
- The township general fund provides long-term dedicated funding for maintenance of parks. There is a specific line item within the general fund for parks maintenance and improvements. This item is typically around \$6,000 per year for maintenance and improvements to both Pier Cove Park and Glenn Beach. In 2020-2021 fiscal year the budget was amended to \$30,000 to help pay for the steel sheet pile wall installation at Pier Cove Park. In future years the Township plans to increase annual parks maintenance to \$8,000 annually as noted in their 5-Year Plan.
- Park maintenance is currently completed by a combination of resources: Township cemetery sexton/maintenance staff, volunteers, multi-year contracted services, and county agencies such as the Allegan County Road Commission (ACRC) and Allegan County Sheriff's Department.
- Friends of Pier Cove Park has expressed their intention to develop a fund administered by the Allegan County Community Foundation with the express purpose of collecting private donations to support continued partnership for parks maintenance, volunteer activities, and future improvements to the park.

Maintenance Activates and Services

- Inspections – the park is routinely inspected for maintenance issues by the Township cemetery sexton/maintenance staff. There are many neighbors who routinely visit the park and alert the township of maintenance issues or park

abuses. Many area residents view themselves as partial caretakers of the park and pick up trash and conduct other volunteer maintenance on a regular basis.

- Hours – Park hours are clearly posted on the identification and rules sign. Renovated park signage will continue to clearly display park hours and rules. Signs for No Parking between certain hours will be added in the parking area as part of the project.
- Enforcement – Ganges Township meets with the County Sheriff's department and project stakeholders to develop plans for patrolling the beach and parking areas at appropriate times. The Township will continue working with park stakeholders to develop plans to enforce after hours abuse of the park and trespass violations. At times Ganges Township has paid for Reserve Officers with the Allegan County Sheriff's Department to help with issue of enforcement and trespass. There was also a period of time where Michigan State Police were involved with enforcement. Typical enforcement activities include: no parking in the road right-of-way outside of designated areas, patrolling for after hours abuse of the park, enforcement of trespass during busy summer weekends where park users overflow onto private beach property.
- Restroom – A portable restroom is provided as a contracted service each year (approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day). The proposed project will upgrade the restroom to a wheelchair accessible unit that will also serve as a family changing area. The restroom will still be provided seasonally. The restroom will have an accessible route from the parking and viewing/overlook area and be held within a designated and designed enclosure area.
- Trash Service - A roll-off cart is provided by an annual contract trash hauler and picked up at least once per week seasonally. Trash service typically extends a few months beyond the restroom service. Recycling is not a currently available service in this area. Proposed trash service will be kept largely the same, but the Township will discuss providing year-round trash service with stakeholders and maintenance contractors. In the past, the trash hauler had difficulty accessing the park in heavy snow. This may be improved if the Township contracts with a snow removal company instead of relying only on the Road Commission for snow removal.
- Snow Removal – Currently the Allegan County Road Commission will clear most of the parking area while plowing Lakeshore Drive. The level of service is mixed and at times plowed snow will block the stairs to the beach. The Township intends to seek proposals from area service contractors to better understand the cost of providing an improved level of service for snow removal.

Physical Park Features and Life-Cycle Considerations

- Asphalt in Lakeshore Drive ROW is maintained by ACRC.
- Concrete walkway will be replaced by Township as slab failures occur.
- Parking Lot striping will be maintained by Township in cooperation with ACRC.
- Specialized guardrail will be maintained by Township with assistance from ACRC.
- Steps and handrails will be inspected and maintained by Township with assistance from volunteers to maintain accessibility and use. Particular focus will be on maintaining level tread areas adjacent to handrails.
- Fencing removed/replaced with rustic material with this project will be maintained by Township with assistance from volunteers and local community groups.
- The Green Historical Marker Signage is coordinated through the Michigan Historical Commission (MHC). The current lettering is in decent shape. If the Township wanted to have the sign refinished that would cost \$1200. There is a matching grant available through the MHC to which the Township could apply that is a 60/40 grant/match. This sign will be relocated by volunteers to a location within the park selected in the design phase.
- DNR Recognition Plaque – a new 12" x 18" MNRTF plaque will be installed at the park and maintained in perpetuity. Ganges Township understands the continued maintenance of this plaque is an important aspect of their maintenance plan and the renewal of their 5-Year Plan.
- Interpretive Signage – Signs may utilize aluminum printing to be longer lasting. Colors will be selected to avoid fading and prolong the life of the sign. Funds will be budgeted to allow for replacement of signs every 5 to 10 years as needed.
- The Township ordinance for the park requires a fence and gate to be maintained. The current chain link fence and gate will be replaced with a more rustic and natural fence and gate that better respects park users and fits within the historic and scenic character of the area.
- Rustic Fencing – Rustic fencing will be inspected and repaired as needed. Inspection will be by Township's part time maintenance staff and cemetery sexton. The majority of fence maintenance can be completed by volunteer groups such as Friends of Pier Cove Park, by local boy scout troops, or other community groups. In the event that more extensive maintenance is needed the Township will hire a maintenance contractor.
- Gate to Beach Steps – The Township intends to solicit interest from local artists to create a custom gate that would become a park feature and local outdoor artwork. The intent of this piece would be to draw from the local history to

create functional and inspiring work that fits within the character of the neighborhood and provides a sense of nostalgia. The Township would draft an agreement with the local artist to ensure the gate can be maintained until it outlives its functional usefulness. At that point, the Township reserves the right to remove and replace it with a style and material they choose.

- The Bike Racks will be placed seasonally at the park and locked in place.
- Vegetation Management – newly planted vegetation will be watered and inspected during its establishment period by volunteers. Ongoing landscaped areas will be maintained by Township with assistance from volunteers. The Township has information on common Invasive Species for the area and will seek partnership opportunities with organizations such as the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy who routinely hold invasive species workdays at nearby properties.
- Shoreline Erosion – Existing seawall and retaining walls will be routinely inspected by Township maintenance staff and volunteers to address minor issues before they become major problems that could impact function of the park. The Township will monitor Lake Michigan water level changes.

Estimated Operation and Maintenance Costs Associated with the Project

Specific costs for the following items are planned be covered by an increase in the parks maintenance budget of roughly \$2,000 per year.

- Township is currently exploring improved enforcement of trespass and parking with County Sherriff, cost/year to be determined.
- Township is currently exploring improving contracted services for snow-plowing parking area and new plaza area, cost/year to be determined.
- Increased cost of restroom by providing and accessible portable restroom.
- Signage to be replaced every 5-15 years.
- Vegetation Management and maintenance is planned by volunteer for the first several years, then may become a contracted service. Mulch to be provided.
- Budget to replace wood elements every 10-20 years.

PIER COVE PARK - PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Pier Cove Park
2290 Lakeshore Drive
Fennville, MI

US31/I-196
to Saugatuck

M-89 to
Fennville

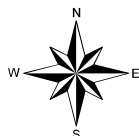
Blue Star Hwy.

Lakeshore Drive

West Side County Park
Allegan County Parks
(Landmark)

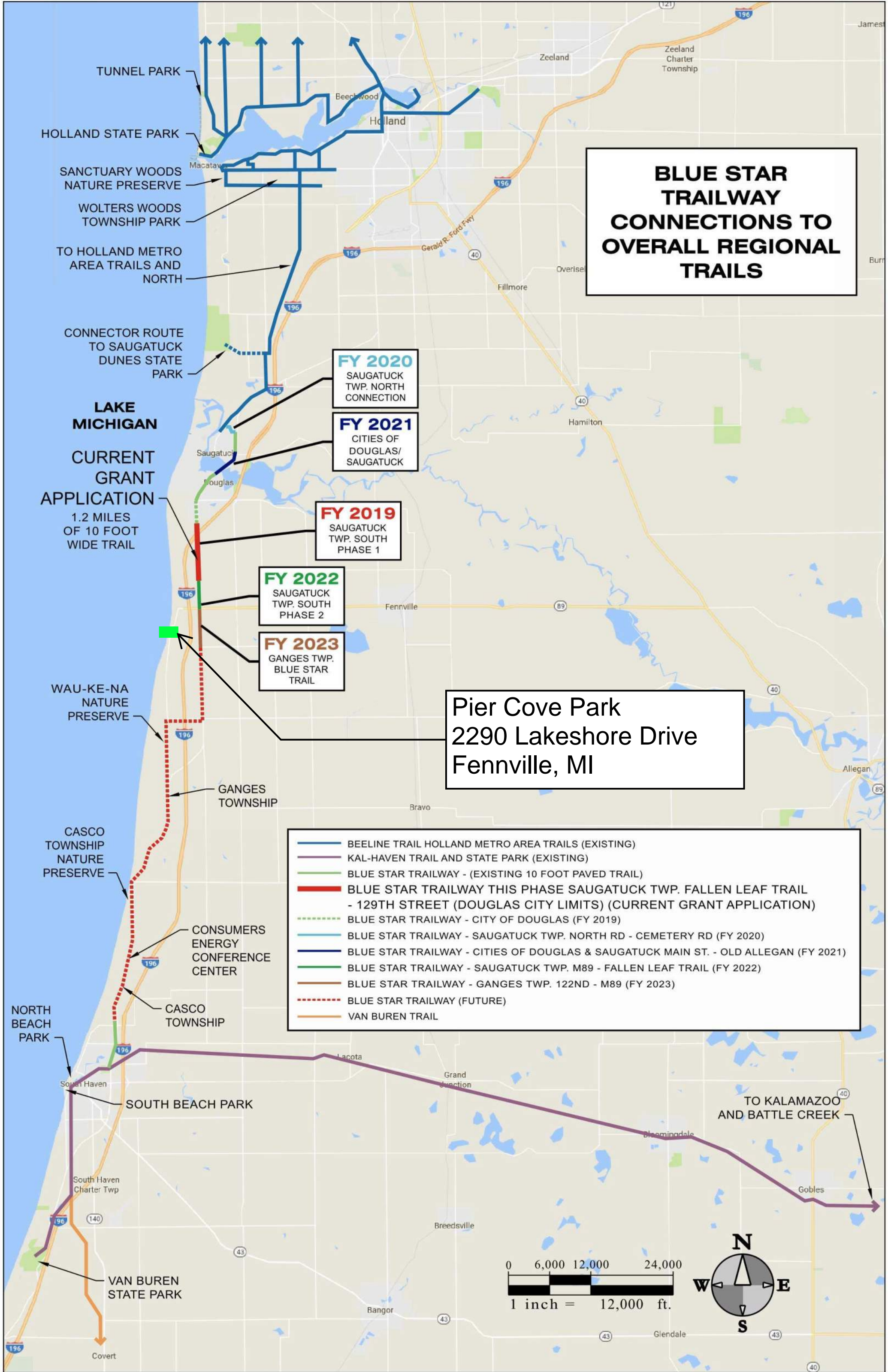
US31/I-196 to
South Haven

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Allegan County GIS Services assumes no
liability for the conclusions drawn from the use of these data.

1 inch = 3,009 feet
Map Printed: 3/28/2021



**BLUE STAR
TRAILWAY
CONNECTIONS TO
OVERALL REGIONAL
TRAILS**

FY 2020
SAUGATUCK
TWP. NORTH
CONNECTION

FY 2021
CITIES OF
DOUGLAS/
SAUGATUCK

FY 2019
SAUGATUCK
TWP. SOUTH
PHASE 1

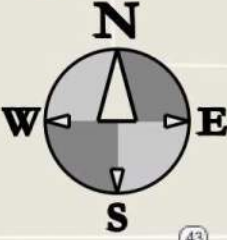
FY 2022
SAUGATUCK
TWP. SOUTH
PHASE 2

FY 2023
GANGES TWP.
BLUE STAR
TRAIL

Pier Cove Park
2290 Lakeshore Drive
Fennville, MI

- BEELINE TRAIL HOLLAND METRO AREA TRAILS (EXISTING)
- KAL-HAVEN TRAIL AND STATE PARK (EXISTING)
- BLUE STAR TRAILWAY - (EXISTING 10 FOOT PAVED TRAIL)
- BLUE STAR TRAILWAY THIS PHASE SAUGATUCK TWP. FALLEN LEAF TRAIL - 129TH STREET (DOUGLAS CITY LIMITS) (CURRENT GRANT APPLICATION)
- BLUE STAR TRAILWAY - CITY OF DOUGLAS (FY 2019)
- BLUE STAR TRAILWAY - SAUGATUCK TWP. NORTH RD - CEMETERY RD (FY 2020)
- BLUE STAR TRAILWAY - CITIES OF DOUGLAS & SAUGATUCK MAIN ST. - OLD ALLEGAN (FY 2021)
- BLUE STAR TRAILWAY - SAUGATUCK TWP. M89 - FALLEN LEAF TRAIL (FY 2022)
- BLUE STAR TRAILWAY - GANGES TWP. 122ND - M89 (FY 2023)
- BLUE STAR TRAILWAY (FUTURE)
- VAN BUREN TRAIL

0 6,000 12,000 24,000
1 inch = 12,000 ft.



Michigan's Water Trails



Lakeshore Bluffs

A 6.7 paddle from 121st Street Access to Oval Beach near Saugatuck/Douglas.

[Home](#) / [Regions](#) / [Lakeshore Bluffs](#)

Lake Michigan Water Trail Southwest

[+ Add to Itinerary](#)

This is a 6.7 mile paddle from 121st Street Access to Oval Beach near Saugatuck/Douglas. This stretch has many high bluffs with few resting/beach areas. Chicago Tribune rated Oval Beach #1 among the Midwest's top five beaches and also ranked it the best beach on Lake Michigan. Behind Oval Beach is the magnificent Mt. Baldhead, a 600 foot tall dune that overlooks Lake Michigan. You can see Mt. Baldhead from many location around Saugatuck as well as from Lake Michigan. There is a large white ball atop the dune that actually is an old World War II radar station that was used to detect planes coming over the Great Lakes. **Scroll down to the map for access locations.**

Show Places on the Map

Click an icon below to add or remove places on the map.

 [Access to River, Lake or Stream](#)

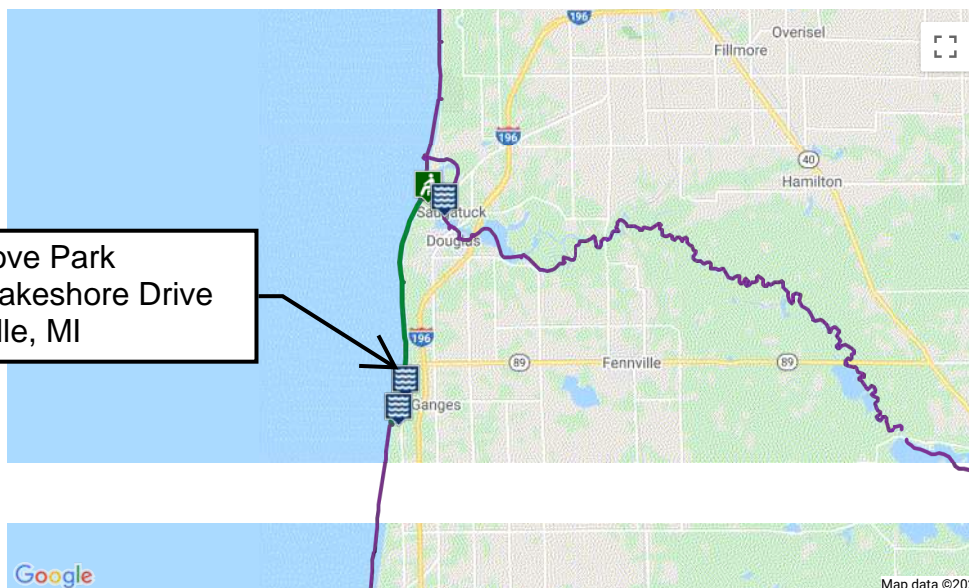
 [Rest Stop](#)

 Lakeshore Bluffs

 Hide All Water Trails

 Show Shoreline Photos SW

Pier Cove Park
2290 Lakeshore Drive
Fennville, MI



Contact: [Southwest Michigan Planning Commission](#)



This project was funded, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, Department of Environmental Quality Office of the Great Lakes and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.



Please Note: By using this website you certify that you understand, accept and agree to the **Michigan Great Lakes Water Trails Safety Statement**.

We would like to hear your **Comments or Questions** about this website!

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Pier Cove Park

Small Roadside Park

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County

[Allegan County](#)

Lake Michigan Water Trail

[Lake Michigan Water Trail Southwest](#)

Lake Michigan Water Trail Southwest

[Lakeshore Bluffs](#)

Michigan Regions

[Southwest Michigan](#)

[+ Add to Itinerary](#)

A small roadside park with parking for 10 and bathrooms.



Parking Lot parking is available.

Public restrooms are available (Pit Toilet).

Length of access is more than 50 yards.

some stairs

GPS: 42° 35.15700, -86° 13.62960

[➔ Get Directions](#)

[🏠 Find Nearby Places](#)





of the Great Lakes and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.



Lakes Water Trails Safety Statement.

We would like to hear your **Comments or**
Questions about this website!

Search

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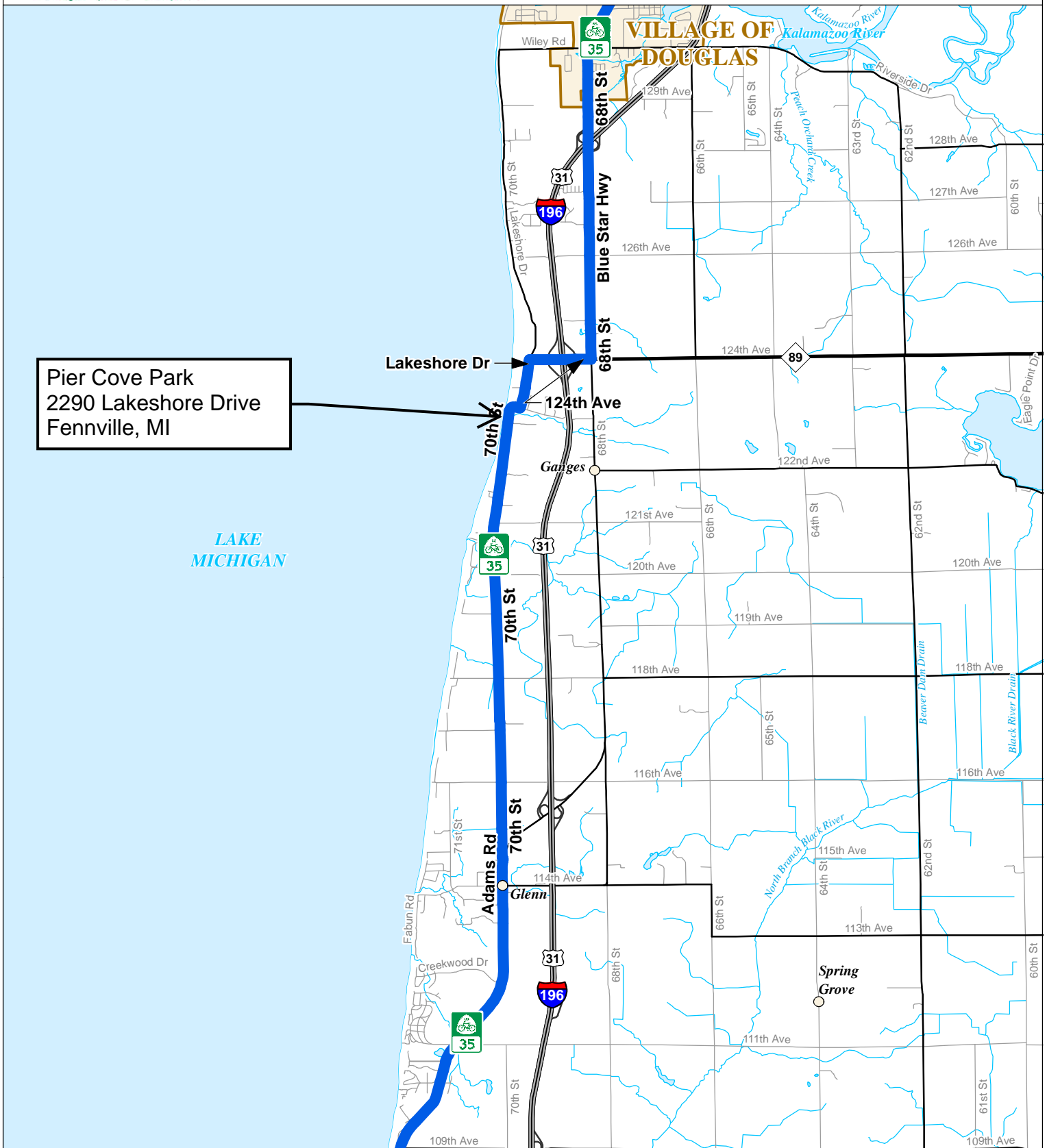
Website by LIAA

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Pier Cove Park
2290 Lakeshore Drive
Fennville, MI



Produced by: CSSTP
MI Dept. of Technology, Management, and Budget
06/27/12

Legend

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| US Bicycle Route 35 on Road | Freeway | Railroad | Water Feature |
| US Bicycle Route 35 on Trail | Highway | County | City or Village |
| Ferry Service | Primary Road | State | Unincorporated Place |
| | Local Road | River or Stream | |



07-420-003-50

Note: County GIS in this area does not show accurate

PROPOSED
PARCEL "A"

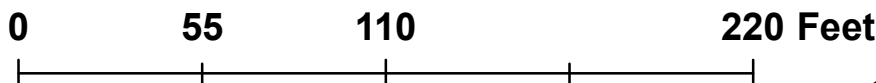
GANGES
TOWNSHIP
ACQUISITION
PARCEL

07-420-056-50
GANGES TOWNSHIP
CURRENT PIER COVE PARCEL

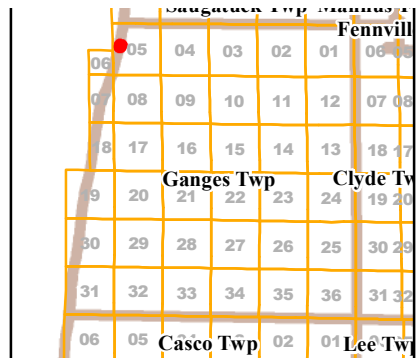
CONCEPTUAL PLAN

Proposed Acquisition

Parcel "A"



PREPARED BY DANA BURD, P.E.
AUGUST 25, 2021



The information contained herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.

Image Year: 2018 Map Date: 9/4/2020

TF21-0205 Boundary Map



Ganges Township
Pier Cove Park Acquisition
2290 Lakeshore Drive
Allegan County, MI
0.383 acres



North

Proposed Acquisition Parcel
is part of 07-420-155-60

Signature of Authorized Individual
John Hebert, Township Supervisor

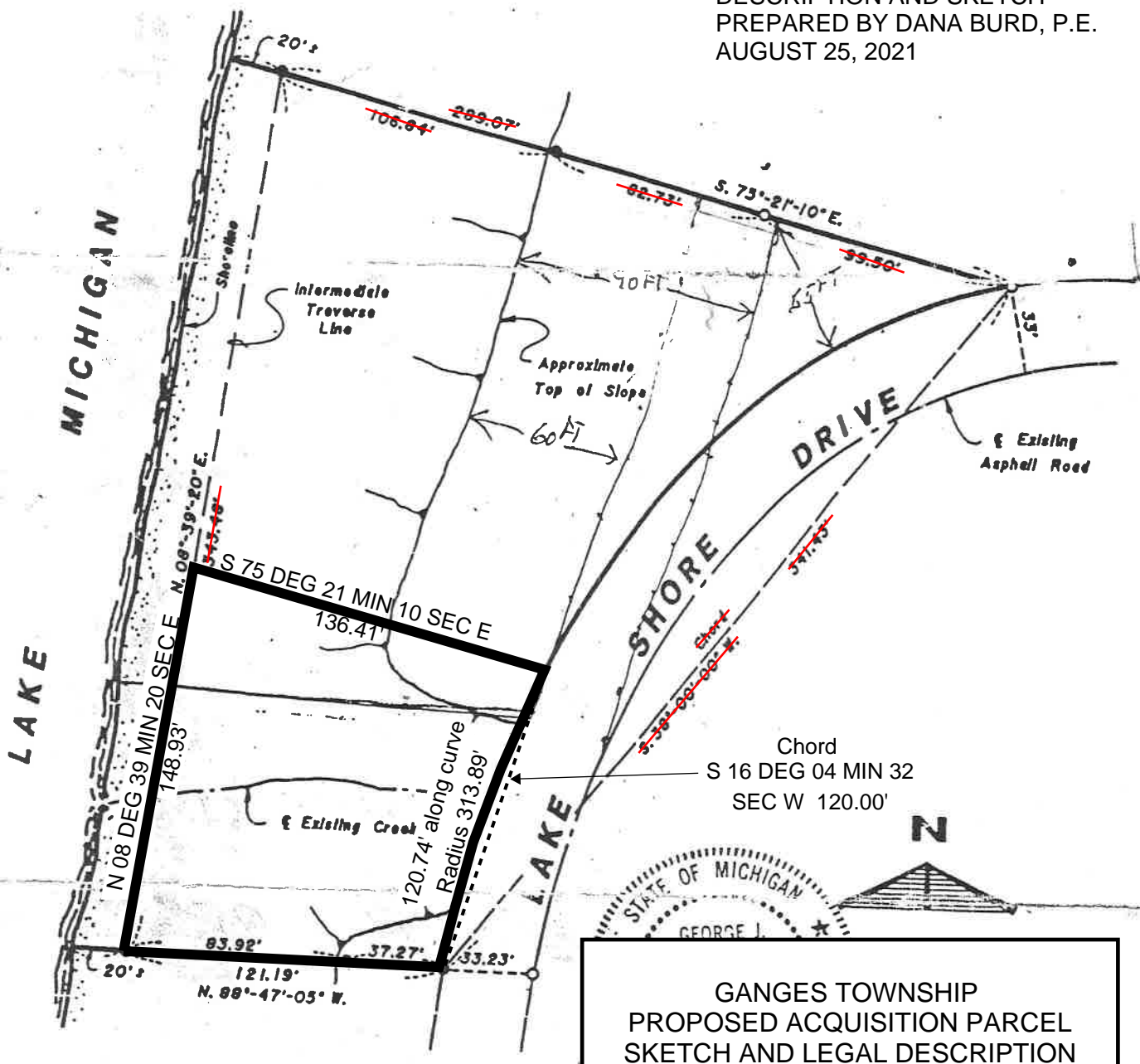
PROPOSED GANGES TOWNSHIP ACQUISITION OF PART OF ALLEGAN COUNTY
PARCEL 07-420-155-60

Description of Acquisition Area:
Beginning on the West Line of Lake Shore Road at a Point 300 feet North of the East and West quarter line of Section 5, Town 2 North, Range 16 West, Ganges Township, Allegan County, Michigan:

Thence North 88 degrees 47 min 05 sec West, parallel with the East and West quarter line, 121.19 feet to a point on an intermediate traverse line along Lake Michigan; thence North 08 degrees 39 min 20 sec East on said traverse line, 148.93 feet; thence South 75 degrees 21 min 10 sec East, 136.41 feet to the West line of Lake Shore Drive; thence along said West line on a curve with Radius 313.89 feet to the left to the far end of a chord that bears South 16 degrees 04 min 32 sec West, 120.00 feet to the place of beginning.

-----THIS IS NOT A SURVEY-----

DESCRIPTION AND SKETCH
PREPARED BY DANA BURD, P.E.
AUGUST 25, 2021

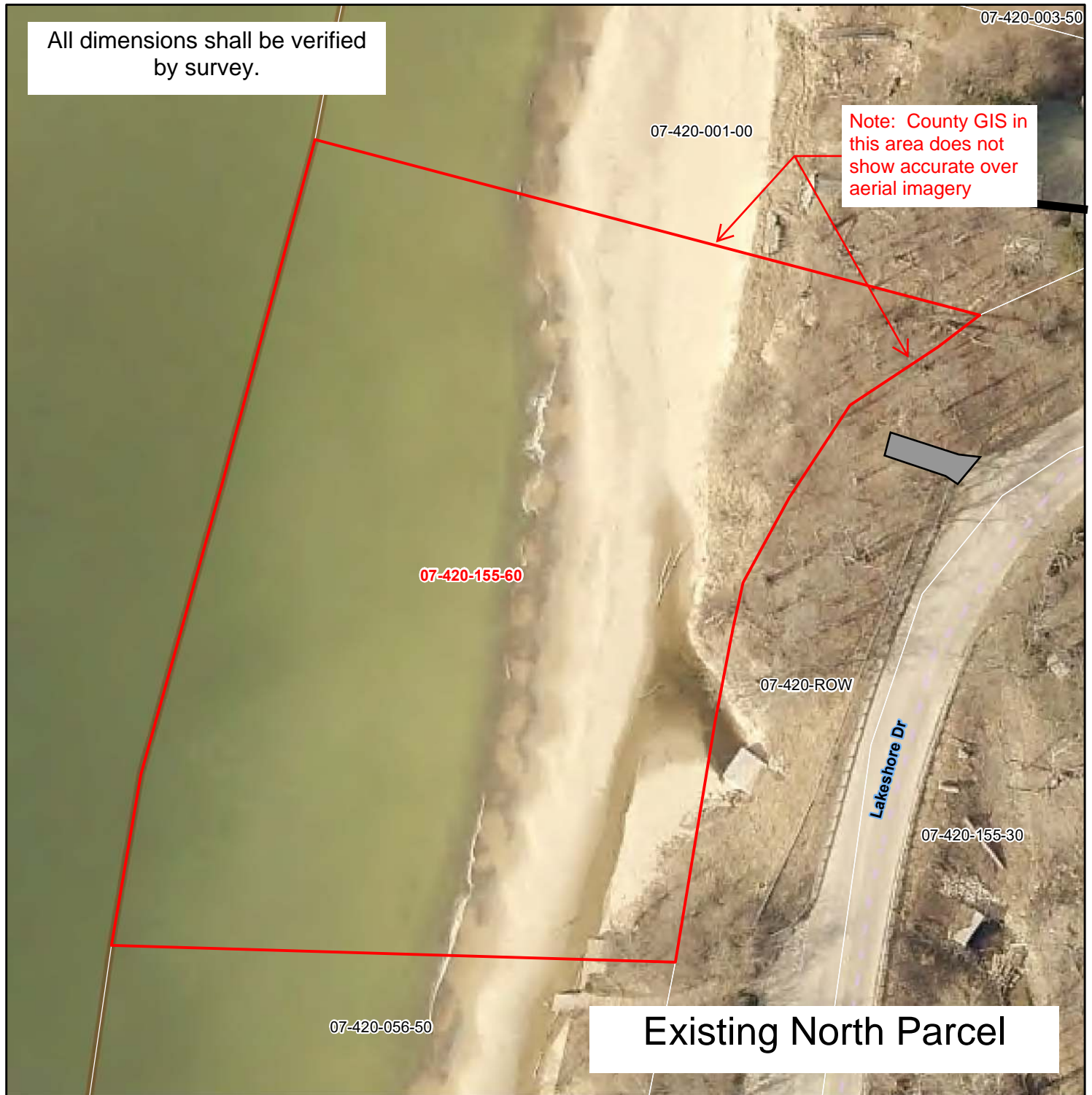


DESCRIPTION AND SKETCH PREPARED BY DANA BURD, P.E.
AUGUST 25, 2021

THIS IS NOT A SURVEY

Allegan County Parcel Number: 07-420-155-60

All dimensions shall be verified by survey.



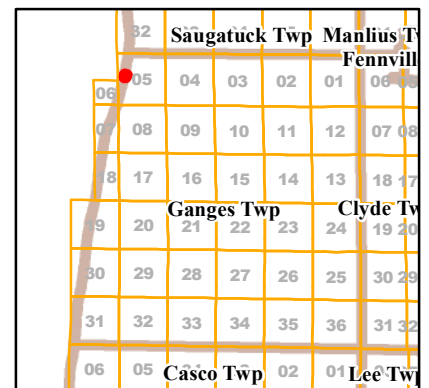
0 55 110 220 Feet

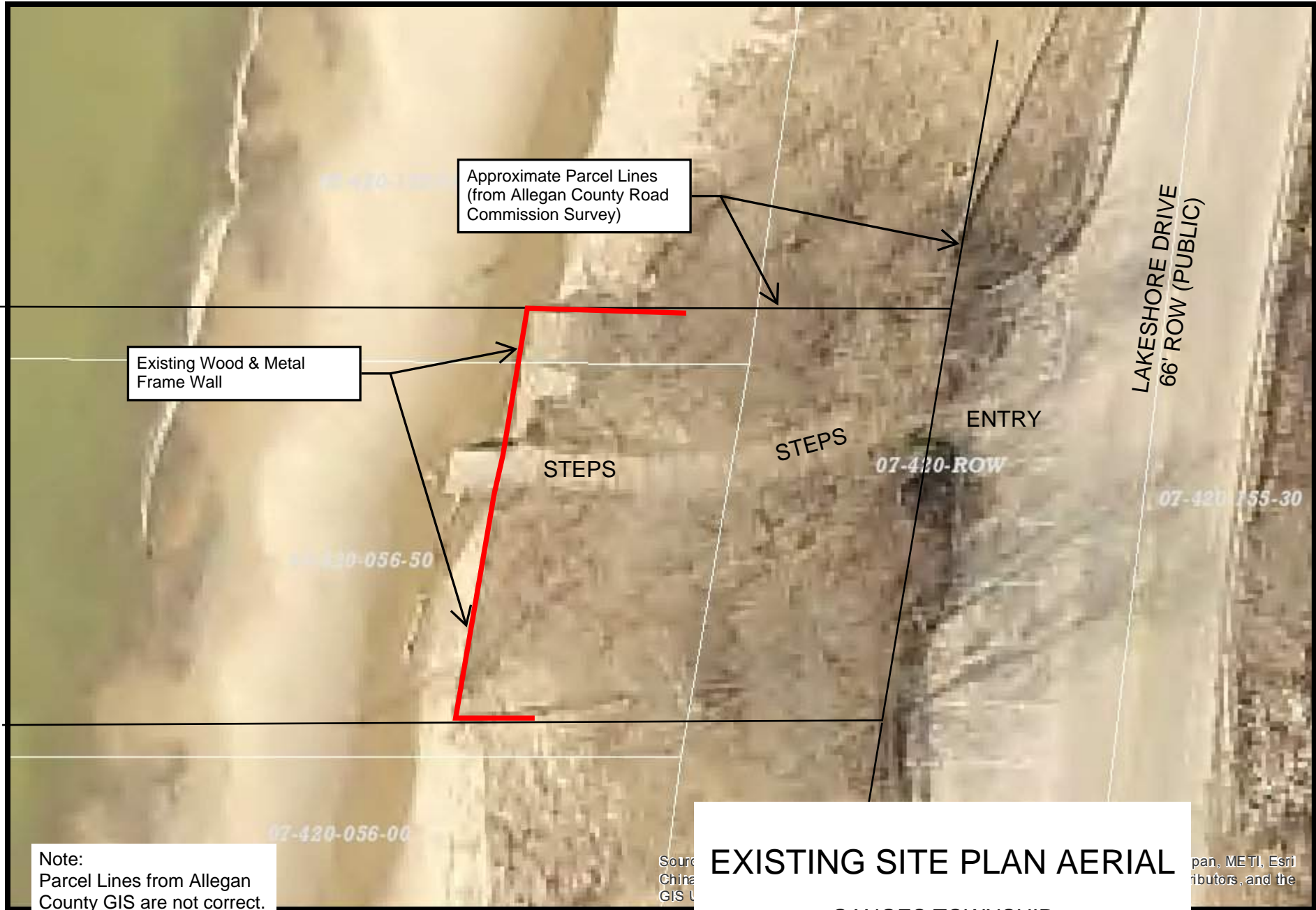
Address: Lakeshore Dr
Owner: Trull Donald B & Kathryn S
Acres: 1.67



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Image Year: 2018 Map Date: 9/4/2020





EXISTING SITE PLAN AERIAL

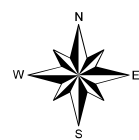
GANGES TOWNSHIP
PIER COVE PARK
AUGUST 20, 2020

1 inch = 30 feet

Map Printed: 8/20/2020

ECLEWRD
WRP025871 v1.0
Approved

Issued On:10/22/2020
Expires On:10/22/2025



Allegan County GIS Services assume
liability for the conclusions drawn from

Photo 1 – Current aerial view of beach and Pier Cove Creek Outlet (shown in low water)



Photo 2 – November 2020 looking southeast. Wood wall is current park boundary. Metal fence is road right of way to Lakeshore Drive. Photo shows beach area south of culvert and north of Park.



Photo 3 – November 2020 looking northwest from Lakeshore Drive road right of way. Showing Pier Cove Creek outlet to Lake Michigan and beach area just north of culvert during high water.



Photo 4 – similar to Photo 3, but at sunset. Shows wooded area north of culvert which is approximately 120 feet north of the current park boundary.



Photo 5 – Looking north toward the current park from the acquisition parcel. Permission was granted by the parcel owner to access construction of a steel sheet pile to maintain the current park entrance damaged during great lake high water.



Photo 6 – Pier Cove sunset over Lake Michigan



Photo 7 – view looking north from parking area. Guardrail follows the 120' acquisition area of the norther parcel.



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan
County of Allegan

R. Michael Wilcox, being duly sworn says he 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.

September 9, 2021 A.D.

R. Michael Wilcox
R. Michael Wilcox

Subscribed and sworn to me before this

23rd September 2021
_____ day of _____ A.D. _____

Julie Hotchkiss

Julie Hotchkiss
Notary Public,
Acting In Allegan County, Michigan
My commission expires 03/15/2023

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF GANGES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 AT 7:00 PM

TO THE RESIDENTS OF GANGES TOWNSHIP
AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The Ganges Township Board will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:00pm at the Ganges Township Hall located at 1904 64th St. Fennville MI.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public input on Ganges Township's proposed submittal of a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application for the proposed purchase of property adjacent to Pier Cove Park, which is located near the corner of 123rd Avenue and Lakeshore Drive.

The goal of this application is to increase the available beach space for park visitors, directly addressing one of the biggest concerns expressed during previous public hearings on proposed park improvements.

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

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

GANGES TOWNSHIP BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
MINUTES OF September 14, 2021

DRAFT

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

Supervisor Hebert opened the Public Hearing for proposed Property Purchase Adjacent to Pier Cove Park

Public Comments –

Andy Murch, 2384 Lakeshore Dr.- Stated that he was neutral to the process, but feels that we are putting the cart before the horse. If the township expands ownership he would like to see us devote resources for oversight and maintenance of the property with a budget item. He would also like to see a public document of record to hold the board accountable for taking care of Pier Cove Park.

Sara Cullen, 6952 Lakeshore Ct- Asked the board to stop any further plans and efforts to secure grants or any funding until the township has agreed to a well publicized, well organized “charette” administered by an independent qualified individual. (See Letter for further comments)

Dana Burd, 6871 Wiley Rd- Thanked the Trull and Simonds family for their willingness to have a conversation to have this idea come before the community. He enthusiastically supports the idea of the application to the DNR. Pier Cove Park helped shape his life. (See letter)

John Hagen, 2127 Lakeshore Dr- Expressed his interest in seeing the Township purchase the property at Pier Cove. He believes that we need to buy first, then develop. There’s no point in having a plan if you don’t have the property. It should be simple. (See Letter)

Charles Landefeld, 2089 Lakeshore Dr- President of the LMSA stated that the township needs to slow down the process. Most were just made aware of this Friday before the meeting. He also asked that all correspondence be posted to the Township website. Feels that they need to be more informed. (See letter)

Tim McKeown, 2318 Lakeshore Dr- Representing the Simonds family and also Pier Cove Ravine Trust, is working with the Township and the Trulls to find an equitable solution. He supports Sara Cullen’s points. We need input from as many people as possible and making sure that rights of the private beach owners and the neighboring community members are being heard as well. Pier Cove Ravine Trust has not formulated an opinion as of yet.

Diane Broekhuis, 2297 Lakeshore Dr- Asked if there had been an appraisal done and is it available to the public? Also, what was the appraisal? (See letter)

Daphne Fairbanks, 2343 Lakeshore Dr- Supports the purchase, but also would like hearing ideas about maintenance. Believes we should get the property first.

Andy Murch, 2384 Lakeshore Dr- Felt that the township didn’t get the info out in time.

Sara Cullen, 6952 Lakeshore Ct- Asked if there was any way that she could get assurances about having a “charette”? Stated that she was fortunate enough to participate with Westside County Park. Explained that a charette came first and then continued with an explanation of how it worked.

John Hagen, 2127 Lakeshore Dr- Stated that the level of effort needs to fit the size of the project. Let’s not over complicate it. There’s no point in doing a charette unless you have control of the property. Do not put the cart before the horse.

David Nash, 2308 Lakeshore Dr- When there is contention, the township should send an official letter to all residents. Pier Cove Park needs to be better taken care of. Would like to have an independent person come in to lead. (See letter)

Dana Burd, 6871 Wiley Rd- Stated that he appreciates the dialogue. Friends of Pier Cove Park tried to reach out to all stakeholders. He is not opposed to a charette. The Township is close to receiving scores for the development grant. No design has been done beyond the drawing that Bob Giese has done. When we get awarded the grant, it would then be a good time to have a charette. If you haven’t read the park plan, you need to.

Helen Curtis Foster, 2265 Lakeshore Dr- Believes that the township should be sending a letter to all Ganges Township residents to let them know. Tax payers should be notified.

Sara Cullen, 6952 Lakeshore Ct- Believes that getting the property first and then having a charette is problematic. She wants an

assurance that a charette will happen. There are people that have the ability to make the acquiring of the property possible so we want some assurances that a charette will be in place.

Greg Dziewit, 6945 Lakeshore Ct- Asked what the opportunity of time is to make the acquisition? Hates to see the Township lose the property. (See letter)

Tim McKeown, 2318 Lakeshore Dr- Stated that this was like trying to buy a car before knowing how to drive it. Wants the township to be clear about assurances. The Simonds family is looking for a set of assurances. Presented a report from Ganges Township in 1970. They had the exact same issues with similar constituents and board challenges with resources. In 50 yrs, problems have not been solved. We need to find balance.

Daphne Fairbanks, 2343 Lakeshore Dr- We wouldn't be here if Dana hadn't taken us under his wing as a project to try to improve the park. She appreciates that.

Hebert closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular meeting at 7:41 pm.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to accept the agenda dated 9/1/2021 as presented with the removal of 14C. Proposed Pier Cove Park Property Purchase and DNR Grant Application and the addition of 14C. Solar Speed Limit Signs and 15A. Virtue Cider Outdoor Entertainment Application. Motion carried.

Correspondence – Letter was received from Apple Blossom Chapel regarding complaints that a neighbor is in violation of our Noise Ordinance and believes that there is a health code violation as well. They are asking the township to look into it.

Many letters have been submitted regarding the possible Pier Cove Park property acquisition. These letters will be posted on the Township website.

Comments Regarding Agenda Items- Jeffrey Pappenheimer, 6044 Forbidden Oak Dr., commented on last month's meeting minutes and items that he felt were not included in regards to the road maintenance agreement fees.

Hutchins moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the regular meeting minutes of 8/10/2021 as presented. Motion carried.

Reimink reported the balances as of 8/31/2021 as follows:

General Fund	\$413,641.83
Ambulance Fund	16,762.29
Fire Fund	114,483.40
First Responders Fund	13,625.26
Road Fund	669,669.20
CD	194,234.20

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

Reimink moved, Hebert seconded, to approve payment of the bills dated 9/14/2021 as presented from the following funds: General Fund - \$36,582.88; Fire Fund - \$7,353.45; First Responder Fund - \$1,545.28; Ambulance Fund - \$7,072.50; Road Fund-\$22,815.94. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dan Diaz, Fire Chief, Nothing to report.

A J Broe, Cemetery Sexton, reported 1 burial for the month. Eagle Scout is finalizing the project for the cemeteries.

Hutchins moved, Gooding seconded, to approve a variance for a headstone placement by the family of Rodney Stehle at Taylor cemetery. Motion carried.

Barry Gooding reported on the August Planning Commission meeting. New Roads and signs were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS -

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to approve the purchase of a new outdoor posting board. Motion carried.

Hebert moved, Gooding seconded, to approve the work order from the Allegan County Road Commission for the purchase and installation of 2 solar powered radar speed limit signs for Lakeshore Dr between 121st Ave and 124th Ave for approx. \$6500. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Hebert moved, Gooding seconded, the approval of the Virtue Cider Outdoor Entertainment permit for the remainder of 2021. Motion carried.

Public Comments- Jeff Pappenheimer, 6044 Forbidden Oak commented that the dead-end private road concerns that Mr. Gooding spoke of are a civil matter.

Russ Nally commended the board and gave his appreciation. He is concerned about the 5 volunteer firefighters that he heard had quit.

Andrew Murch, concerned about the speed of vehicles on Lakeshore. There are more people walking and riding bikes since the road was widened. Survey was done by local residents and speed limit signs were the number one item so they are pleased to hear we are putting those in. They would also like to see crosswalks. Are there resources, grants for other signage?

Jeff Pappenheimer stated that the township could create a police department or have a code enforcement officer to help with Pier Cove and enforce the rules.

Andy Starring, asked if the township has developed a criteria to get speed signs for other area roads. The Lakeshore isn't the only area with these problems.

Diane Broekhuis stated that they should put bike path signs on the bike path. People are parking in that lane. Spoke with a county police officer who suggested that we should hire a township police officer. She believes that we should look into this. It would be for the whole township. Not just Pier Cove.

Hebert moved, Reimink seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Phelps, Clerk
Ganges Township

ALL LETTERS
FROM THE
PUBLIC HEARING
WILL BE
INCLUDED WITH
THE
APPLICATION



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



DANIEL EICHINGER
DIRECTOR

March 18, 2021

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board
Grants Management
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Lansing, Michigan

RE: Letter of Support for Pier Cove Park Renovations
DNR Trust Fund Development Grant

Dear MNRTF Board:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division supports the Ganges Township's DNR Trust Fund Grant application to renovate Pier Cove Park. The park is located at the outflow of Pier Cove Creek into Lake Michigan. The park provides public access to the Lake Michigan shoreline which provides several recreational opportunities. Shoreline Great Lakes fishing access is provided through the site. This allows anglers to target nearshore fish communities, particularly spring coho salmon fishing. Great Lake fish have access to run Pier Cove Creek and in high water may provide some spawning opportunities. Historically smelt commonly ran into Pier Cove Creek through the park. DNR Fisheries is working with MDOT to improve stability of Pier Cove Creek by improving the crossing of I-94 less than a mile upstream. Exposure to natural resources is one of the most important factors for recruiting future outdoor enthusiasts. This park provides easy access to Lake Michigan and the proposed improvements will allow more people to utilize this resource. I fully support Ganges Township's application to the DNR Trust Fund and recommend that it be funded. Thank you for consideration of my support and feel free to contact me with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Matt Diana
Fisheries Biologist
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
621 N 10th St.
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-910-0157
dianam@michigan.gov

March 29, 2021

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board
Grants Management
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Lansing, Michigan

RE: Letter of Support for Pier Cove Park Renovations
DNR Trust Fund Development Grant

Dear MNRTF Board:

I am writing as a representative of the Holland Audubon Club in support of Ganges Township's DNR Trust Fund Grant Application to renovate Pier Cove Park. Pier Cove has been a special place along the Lake Michigan shoreline for generations. The park provides much needed opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's natural environment. Our members look to sites like this for Lake Michigan shoreline bird watching access throughout the year.

Ganges Township is seeking a grant request from the DNR Trust fund for renovations including:

- Safety improvements to pedestrian and vehicle traffic along Lakeshore Drive.
- Create an accessible gathering space with benches to overlook views of Lake Michigan.
- Organize park amenities such as the restroom, historical and park signage, and trash receptacles.
- Improve accessibility for those with limited mobility in parking, restroom, and upper park areas.
- Repair erosion and manage the vegetation with native grasses and wildflowers.
- Improve the overall attractiveness from Lakeshore Drive by replacing metal chain fence, guardrail, and overhead utilities with more natural and rustic materials befitting the character of the neighborhood and honoring the historical significance of the site.

I fully support Ganges Township's application to the DNR Trust Fund and encourage your funding. Our club members look forward to using this Lake Michigan access site to continue their hobby of bird watching.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Krupka".

James Krupka, President
Holland Audubon Club



March 29, 2021

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board
Grants Management
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Lansing, Michigan

RE: Letter of Support for Pier Cove Park Renovations
DNR Trust Fund Development Grant

Dear MNRTF Board:

I am writing as a representative of ODC Network in support of Ganges Township's DNR Trust Fund Grant Application to renovate Pier Cove Park. Pier Cove has been a special place along the Lake Michigan shoreline for generations. The park provides much needed opportunities for outdoor recreation in Michigan's natural environment.


Ganges Township is seeking a grant request from the DNR Trust fund for renovations including:

- Safety improvements to pedestrian and vehicle traffic along Lakeshore Drive.
- Create an accessible gathering space with benches to overlook views of Lake Michigan.
- Organize park amenities such as the restroom, historical and park signage, and trash receptacles.
- Improve accessibility for those with limited mobility in parking, restroom, and upper park areas.
- Repair erosion and manage the vegetation with native grasses and wildflowers.
- Improve the overall attractiveness from Lakeshore Drive by replacing metal chain fence, guardrail, and overhead utilities with more natural and rustic materials befitting the character of the neighborhood and honoring the historical significance of the site.

I fully support Ganges Township's application to the DNR Trust Fund and encourage your funding.

Sincerely,

3/29/2021

X 

Signed by: Ben Heerspink

Ben Heerspink,
ODC Network

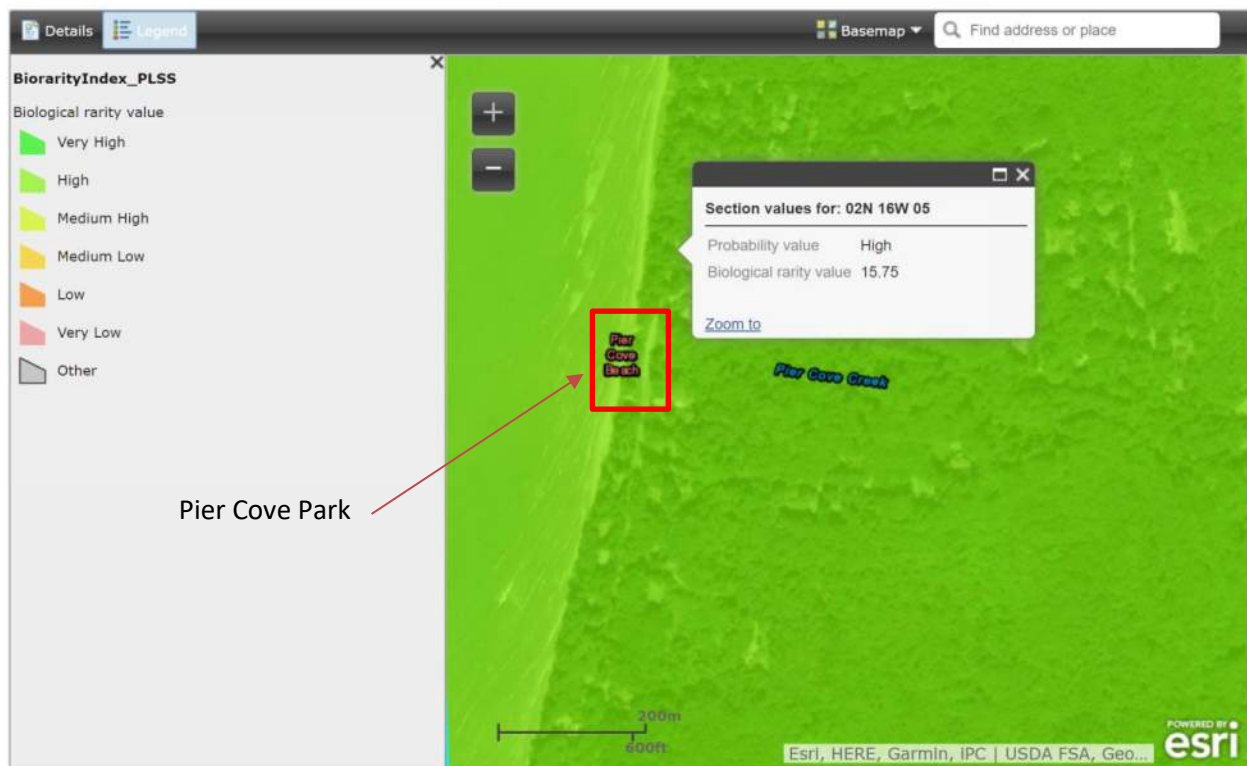
Natural Resource Value – Expert Documentation

To document the natural resource value of Pier Cove Park several letters were obtained, Biological Rarity Index in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, and USFWS data was reviewed.

Michigan Natural Features Inventory

The Pier Cove area has a “high” biorarity value of 15.75 as shown (below) in the Michigan Natural Features Inventory Biological Rarity Index.

The Biorarity model, as stated on the MNFI website, is based on “the MNFI database of known sightings of threatened, endangered, or special concern species and high quality natural communities. Each record is spatially subset to its habitat using land cover data, stream lines, and rail corridors. The record is then assigned three values based on the species' global status, State status, and occurrence quality rank. These values are multiplied by a likelihood of continued occurrence factor based on the age of the database record. Finally, the scores of all the records in a geographic unit are summed to determine the Biorarity Index for that unit.”



Link here. <https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/resources/biological-rarity-index>

USFWS IPaC Endangered Species and Migratory Birds Search

IPaC websearch identified 8 Threatened or Endangered Species that may be found in the area and 6 Migratory Bird species:

Mammals - Indiana Bat and Northern Long-eared Bat

Birds – Piping Plover, Red Knot, Whooping Crane

Reptiles – Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake

Insects – Karner Blue Butterfly

Flowing Plants – Pitcher's Thistle

Migratory Birds – American Golden-plover, Bald Eagle, Bobolink, Dunlin, Red-headed Woodpecker, Rusty Blackbird

Michigan DNR Fisheries Biologist

A letter of support and documentation was provided by MDNR Fisheries Biologist Matt Diana.

Outdoor Discovery Center

A letter of support and documentation was provided by Outdoor Discovery Center Conservation Manager Ben Heerspink.

Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy

A letter of support and documentation was requested of Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

Holland Audubon Club

A letter of support and documentation was provided by Holland Audubon Club President James Krupka.

Grand Rapids Audubon Club

A letter of support and documentation was requested of Grand Rapids Audubon Club

Historical Significance of Site

A letter of support and documentation was provided by the Saugatuck Douglas History Center. The Pier Cove area has deep ties to O.C. Simonds who is one of the founders of modern Landscape Architecture as we know the profession today. O.C. Simonds deeded Pier Cove Park to Ganges Township 100 years ago in 1921. A private trust with his descendants maintains the private ravine connected along Pier Cove Creek today. Their website is included here for more information on his legacy in the Pier Cove area including how US 31 interstate was rerouted in the 1960's to avoid the Ravine property and more history on the two 300' piers that existed at the site in the late 1800's.

<https://piercoveravinetrust.org/>

<https://piercoveravinetrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Pier-Cove-for-website.pdf>

The Lake Michigan Shore Association, founded by conservationist William Erby Smith, has an active membership of property owners and neighbors surrounding this area. Their website speaks to the uniqueness and history of the area and efforts to preserve its natural beauty. Much of Smith's conservation property is now controlled by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy just down the road from Pier Cove Park.

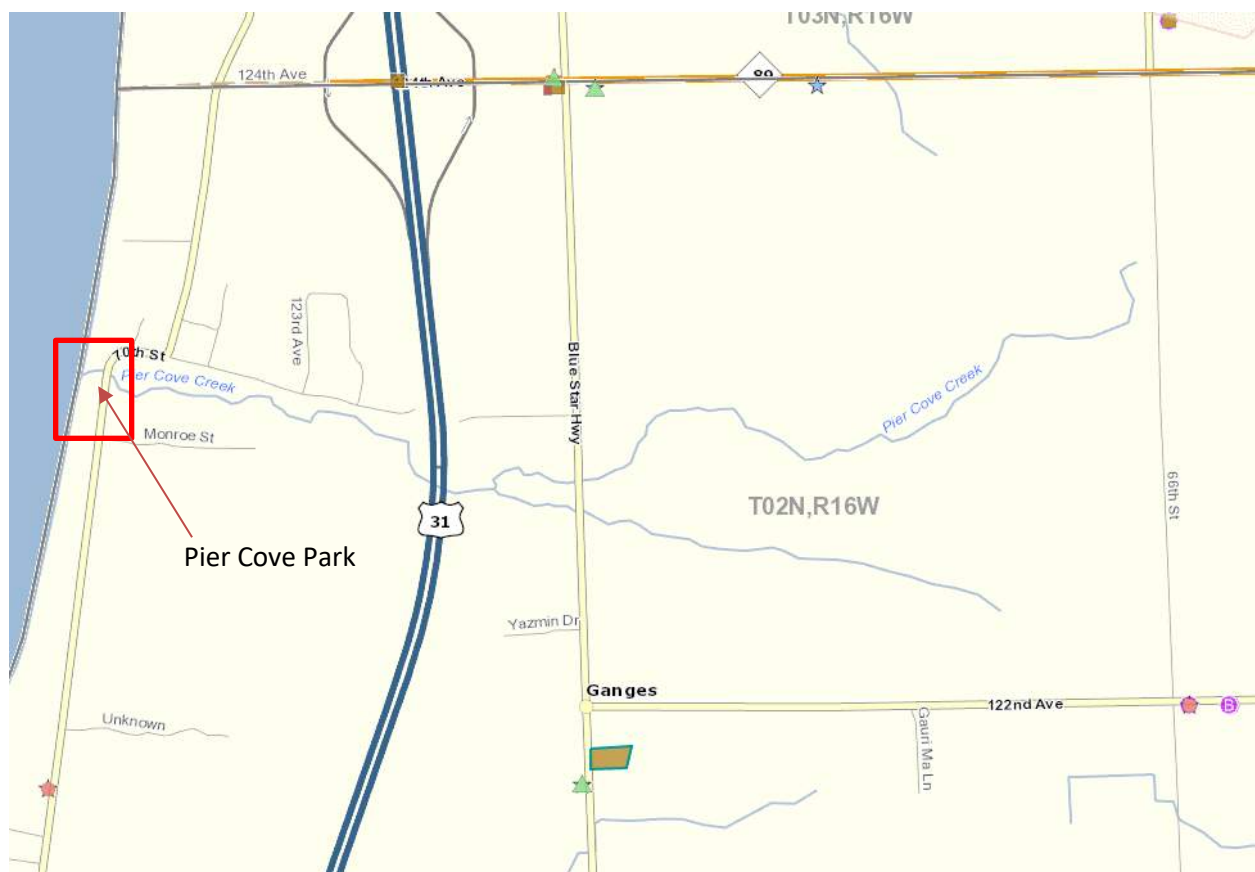
<https://www.lmsa.us/history.html>

Environmental Documentation

The Pier Cove area has no known documented environmental contamination sites.

EGLE Environmental Mapper

Pier Cove Park is located adjacent to the outlet of Pier Cove Creek where it flows into Lake Michigan. There are no known documented sites of environmental contamination within 0.75 miles of the park as shown (below).



IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Allegan County, Michigan



Local office

Michigan Ecological Services Field Office

☎ (517) 351-2555

📠 (517) 351-1443

2651 Coolidge Road Suite 101
East Lansing, MI 48823-6360

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/EastLansing/>

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species¹ and their critical habitats are managed by the [Ecological Services Program](#) of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries²).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact [NOAA Fisheries](#) for [species under their jurisdiction](#).

1. Species listed under the [Endangered Species Act](#) are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the [listing status page](#) for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Indiana Bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i> Wherever found There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5949	Endangered
Northern Long-eared Bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Piping Plover <i>Charadrius melodus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6039	Endangered
Red Knot <i>Calidris canutus rufa</i> Wherever found This species only needs to be considered if the following condition applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only actions that occur along coastal areas during the Red Knot migratory window of MAY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30. No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1864	Threatened
Whooping Crane <i>Grus americana</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/758	EXPN

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
------	--------

Eastern Massasauga (=rattlesnake) *Sistrurus catenatus*

Threatened

Wherever found

This species only needs to be considered if the following condition applies:

- For all Projects: Project is within EMR Range

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2202>

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Karner Blue Butterfly <i>Lycaeides melissa samuelis</i> Wherever found There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6656	Endangered

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Pitcher's Thistle <i>Cirsium pitcheri</i> Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8153	Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS AT THIS LOCATION.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act¹ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act².

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described [below](#).

- The [Migratory Birds Treaty Act](#) of 1918.
- The [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/birds-of-conservation-concern.php>
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/project-assessment-tools-and-guidance/conservation-measures.php>
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/pdf/management/nationwidestandardconservationmeasures.pdf>

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the [USEWS Birds of Conservation Concern](#) (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ [below](#). This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the [E-bird data mapping tool](#) (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found [below](#).

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON (IF A BREEDING SEASON IS INDICATED FOR A BIRD ON YOUR LIST, THE BIRD MAY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA SOMETIME WITHIN THE TIMEFRAME SPECIFIED, WHICH IS A VERY LIBERAL ESTIMATE OF THE DATES INSIDE WHICH THE BIRD BREEDS ACROSS ITS ENTIRE RANGE. "BREEDS ELSEWHERE" INDICATES THAT THE BIRD DOES NOT LIKELY BREED IN YOUR PROJECT AREA.)
American Golden-plover <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds elsewhere

Breeds Dec 1 to Aug 31

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626>

Breeds May 20 to Jul 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Breeds elsewhere

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA

Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Breeds elsewhere

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is $0.25/0.25 = 1$; at week 20 it is $0.05/0.25 = 0.2$.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Bald Eagle Non-BCC Vulnerable (This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.)												
Bobolink BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)												
Dunlin BCC - BCR (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA)												
Red-headed Woodpecker BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)												
Rusty Blackbird BCC Rangewide (CON) (This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.)												

Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

[Nationwide Conservation Measures](#) describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. [Additional measures](#) or [permits](#) may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#) and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle ([Eagle Act](#) requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the [AKN Phenology Tool](#).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the [Avian Knowledge Network \(AKN\)](#). This data is derived from a growing collection of [survey, banding, and citizen science datasets](#).

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, migrating or present year-round in my project area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may refer to the following resources: [The Cornell Lab of Ornithology All About Birds Bird Guide](#), or (if you are unsuccessful in locating the bird of interest there), the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology Neotropical Birds guide](#). If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are [Birds of Conservation Concern \(BCC\)](#) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the [Eagle Act](#) requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the [Northeast Ocean Data Portal](#). The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the [NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf](#) project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the [Diving Bird Study](#) and the [nanotag studies](#) or contact [Caleb Spiegel](#) or [Pam Loring](#).

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to [obtain a permit](#) to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the [National Wildlife Refuge](#) system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

THERE ARE NO REFUGE LANDS AT THIS LOCATION.

Fish hatcheries

THERE ARE NO FISH HATCHERIES AT THIS LOCATION.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to [NWI wetlands](#) and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

LAKE

[L2UBH](#)
[L2US2A](#)

RIVERINE

[R2UBH](#)

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the [National Wetlands Inventory website](#)

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tubercid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

October 6, 2021

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

RE: Ganges Township
Pier Cove Beach Acquisition Trust Fund Grant Application
Notice of Intent to Apply

Dear Mr. Bee:

Ganges Township intends to submit a grant to the Michigan DNR for the acquisition of 120 feet of Lake Michigan frontage to expand Pier Cove Park. The attached and completed Notice of Intent for Recreation Grant Projects form PR5750-2 is enclosed for your reference. The grant will be submitted before October 30, 2021.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that this form be submitted to the Regional Planning Agency to allow cooperation and coordination of efforts.

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

Sincerely,

Robin Phelps
Ganges Township Clerk
gangesclerk@gmail.com

Enclosure: Notice of Intent form

**NOTICE OF INTENT FOR RECREATION GRANT PROJECTS***This information is requested by authority of Part 19, Act 451 of 1994, to be considered for a MNRTF grant.*

1. Name of Project		2. Date
3a. Identity of the applicant agency, organization, or individual:		3b. Indicate below the representative of the applicant to contact for additional information regarding this notice:
		Name
		Address (Street/PO Box)
		City, State, ZIP Code
		Telephone
4a. Agency from which assistance will be sought: <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Department of Natural Resources		Name of Program: _____ Public Law or USC#: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund _____ Part 19 of Act 451 of 1994
5. Estimated Cost: FEDERAL: _____ STATE: _____ OTHER: _____ TOTAL: _____		6. Estimated date by which time the applicant expects to formally file an application: _____
		7. Geographic location of the project to be assisted: (indicate specific location as well as city or county. Attach map if necessary).
8. Brief description of the proposed project. This will help the clearinghouse identify agencies of state or local government having plans, programs, or projects that might be affected by the proposed project:		
8a. Type of project:		
8b. Purpose:		
8c. General size or scale:		
8d. Beneficiaries (persons or institutions benefited):		
8e. Indicate the relationship of this project to plans, programs, and other activities of your agency and other agencies (attach separate sheet if necessary):		