

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP | SANILAC COUNTY

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A public hearing on the 2024 - 2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was held on December 5, 2022. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted by the Watertown Township Board on December 5, 2023.

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INTRODUCTION

Watertown Township has developed its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Plan) to serve as a guide for future decision-making regarding recreation facility improvements, and the development of new recreation opportunities over the course of the next five years. This document will be the basis for recreational recommendations and new initiatives that will meet the goals and interests of Watertown Township residents.

Before any Parks and Recreation Master Plan is adopted and enacted, it is first important to understand the needs of the residents, existing recreational opportunities, the demographic characteristics of the area, program initiatives, and projects that are best suited for the community. The basis of this Plan is from community input, suggestions from residents, Township officials, and the Planning Commission with the assistance of Spicer Group. Community input was a key component of this Plan. All the voices in the Township contributed to developing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the overall goal of enhancing the quality of life for the community members and visitors of the Township.

The foundation for the development of the Watertown Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community throughout the process of updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Identify and map existing Township-owned property that could be used for future recreational development.
- Build common ground among the Watertown residents and officials in addressing the recreational needs and priorities of the Township.
- Enable the Township to be eligible for financial assistance based on the Plan.
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing parks and recreation goals, objectives, and actions in partnership with the Township and other local groups.
- Support the implementation of barrier-free access at future recreational sites.

In conclusion, Watertown Township officials intend to use this Plan as a guide for their work on all future recreation developments within the Township. It is also a strategic document that articulates specific goals to various agencies and organizations that fund local recreational and park projects. Specifically, this Plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for the development of community Parks and Recreation Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Parks and Recreation Master Plan is necessary for Watertown to pursue MDNR-administered grants. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan is written for Watertown Township and covers all aspects of recreation within the Township over a five-year period from 2024-2028.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

REGIONAL SETTING

Watertown Township is located in the center of Sanilac County in the thumb of Michigan. The Township encompasses 35.25 square miles. Located 80 miles north of Detroit, 70 miles northeast of Flint, and 60 miles east of Saginaw. M-19, located on the western portion of the Township traverses north and south. At the northern border are M-46, the City of Sandusky, and Custer Township. To the east of the Township is Washington Township, with Elk and Buel Townships to the south, and Elmer Township to the west. The Township is primarily rural in nature.

MAP 1 – REGIONAL LOCATION MAP



DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

In this section, background information from the U.S. Census was used to analyze Watertown Township's current demographic trends and conditions. The information presented in this chapter uses the most recent Census Data from the 2020 Census and 2010 Census, and the 2021 American Community Survey.

The following section analyzes population trends, education, economic information, and housing characteristics within the Township to present an overall demographic analysis.

Understanding the characteristics of the population is helpful when evaluating parks and recreation facilities and Township needs. The table below provides a comparison of key demographic data between Watertown Township, Sanilac County, and the State of Michigan.

TABLE 1 – DEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISON

	Watertown Township	Sanilac County	Michigan
Population			
2010 Population	1,320	44,010	9,883,640
2020 Population	1,262	40,829	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	24.7%	21.6%	18.1%
Percent of Population Under 18	21.9%	23.7%	24.4%
Percent of Disabled Population	16.6%	18.3%	14.2%
Median Age	45.2	45.3	40.2
Education			
Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	13.7%	15.0%	31.7%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$56,250	\$52,459	\$63,202
Per Capita Income	\$30,236	\$28,408	\$ 35,353
Housing			
Average Household Size	2.3	2.4	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$151,600	\$130,900	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as a Percentage of Total Occupied Units	14.1%	20.5%	27.8%

Watertown Township's population in 2020 was 1,262, a decrease of 58 residents over the past decade. Exploring all the population's characteristics further allows the Township to understand its specific recreational needs. Today, the census reports that 16.6% of Township residents are disabled. In comparison to the other jurisdictions, the Township has the largest percentage of residents over 65 (24.7%), and the smallest percentage of residents under 18 (21.9%). Older and disabled populations may tend to look for more passive recreational facilities such as trails and multi-use paths that meet their needs. Whereas adults and younger populations gravitate towards active recreation. Even though the Township has a larger population of 65 and older, the Township's median age is only 45.2.

In addition to understanding the population trends it is as important to look at other demographic data. The Township median household income is \$56,250, and the median housing value is \$151,600 which falls between the County and State. Within the Township, 14.1% of the population are renters. Residents in high-density housing have a greater need for open spaces and recreational facilities. These owners may not have large green spaces at home and therefore will rely on parks and recreational facilities for their needs.

Within the Township is a wide range of age groups who all have their own recreational needs. Park facilities can create multigenerational linkage between individuals in these groups, and across all demographic groups. They provide gathering places, make exercise opportunities available, promote civic participation, and improve the quality of life in an area.



NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY

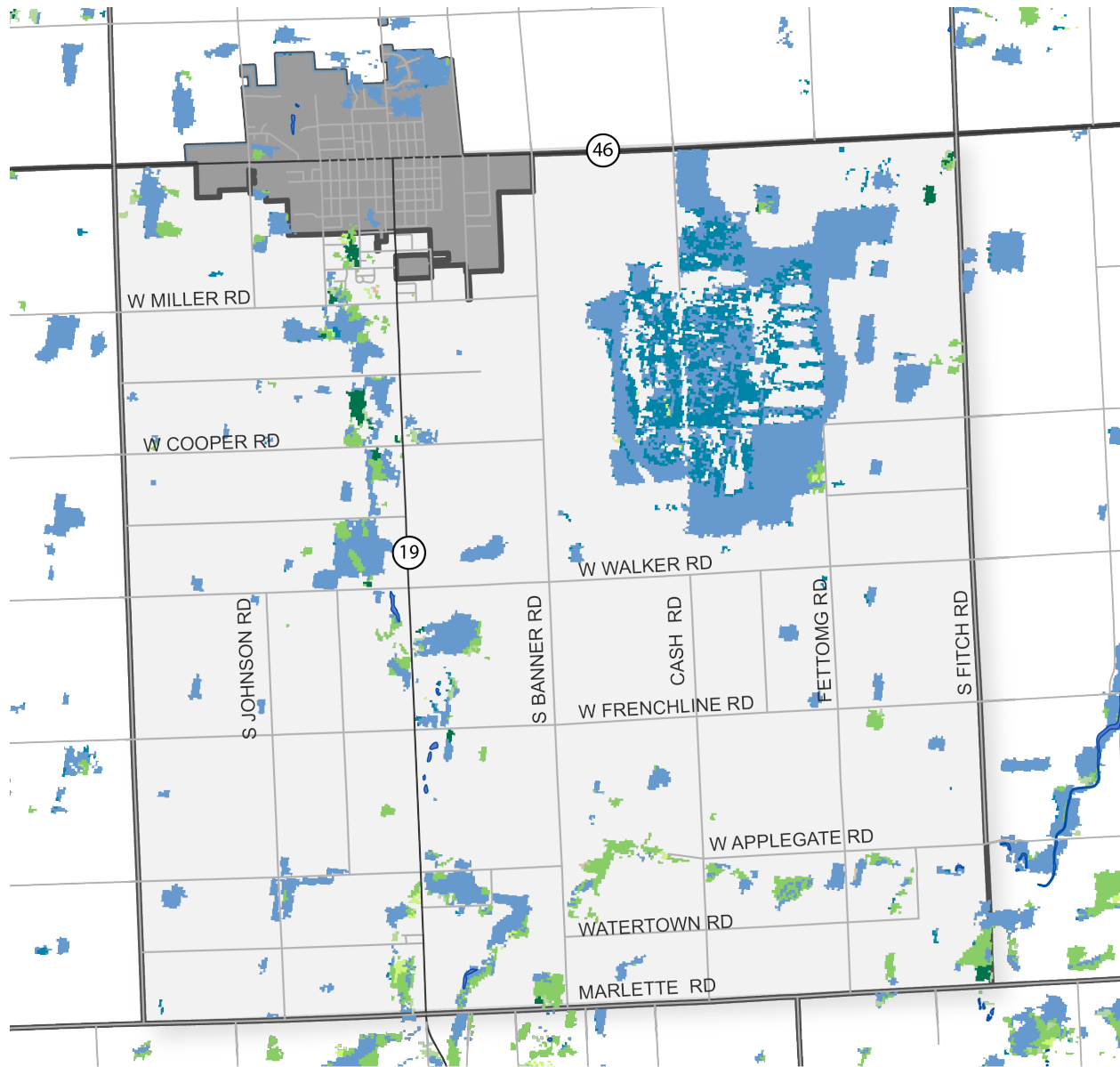
A natural features inventory is useful to recreation planning because it highlights existing resources and can show where gaps may be located. Furthermore, the natural features map, located on the following page, can be used as a guide for any future park acquisitions or park and trail development. Natural features can include things such as wetlands, water bodies, and wooded land. Watertown Township contains very few natural amenities. However, the Township wishes to preserve what natural features they have, while also utilizing them for recreation and relaxation.

The most significant natural resources in Watertown Township are Woody Wetlands and Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands. The largest pocket of wetlands is located in the northeastern portion of the Township and is owned by the DNR. There are other small pockets of wetlands spread throughout the Township.

The second most significant natural feature is Deciduous Forest, which can be found throughout the Township, typically in smaller pockets. Mixed in with the Deciduous Forest are Grasslands, Evergreen Forests, and Mixed Forests.



MAP 2 – NATURAL FEATURES



LEGEND

- Deciduous Forest
- Grassland
- Evergreen Forest
- Mixed Forest
- Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
- Woody Wetlands
- Shrub/Scrub





ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

INTRODUCTION

The administrative structure chapter outlines how recreational activities and resources will be governed and administrated within Watertown Township. There are currently no recreational facilities within the Township, therefore to date, they do not have a group that administers recreational items. In the future, the Township would like to create a Parks and Recreation Committee that would make recreation recommendations to the Township Board. This chapter will outline Township bodies and their roles and/or involvement with recreation in the Township.

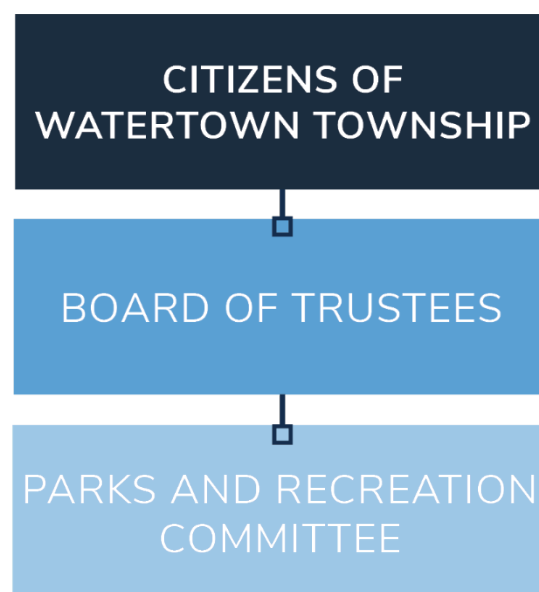
The Township Board is a five-member body, that is elected by Township voters and serves a four-year term. The Board's role will be to annually adopt a budget, that includes a line item for parks and recreation and approve park projects. The Board currently meets on the first Tuesday of the month.

In the future, the Parks and Recreation Committee will help with parks projects within the Township. The goal of the committee is to listen to the wishes of the Township and develop park facilities that will serve the community. The committee will consist of one board member, one planning commission member, and one to three residents.

Future park facilities will be maintained by Township staff and volunteers.

The Township administrative structure is in the figure below. It is crucial to understand how the Township's recreational structure and decision-making process will work in the future.

FIGURE 1 – WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



FUNDING AND BUDGET

The Township's parks and recreation budget is selected by the Township Board on an annual basis. The Township does not currently have any recreational facilities in the Township, therefore there is not a line item for recreational operations. However, the Township Hall expenditures could be used for future park developments. In addition to expenditures and the general fund, the Township will rely on grants and pavilion rentals for recreation improvements.

TABLE 2 – PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	Previous Year 2022	Current Year 2023
Expenditures	\$13,400	\$35,000
Programming	-	-
General Fund	\$723,524	\$723,524
Total	\$739,924	\$758,524

GRANT HISTORY

The Township has not been awarded any grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIP

Developing additional relationships can be very helpful in communities where there is a lack of resources. These relationships can not only help generate ideas, but they can also assist with funding and development. Relationships the Township could foster include volunteers, schools, local jurisdictions, local organizations, etc.

There are no current volunteer groups within the Township. When the Township develops a park, they would like to create a group of volunteers who could assist with park projects such as planting flower beds, hosting and planning events, assisting with park improvements, and holding clean-ups, etc. The Township in the future may also explore developing a relationship with the local school system. This relationship could consist of Township residents using their facilities, working together to develop programming for residents, or schools hosting events in the park.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

As parks and recreation continue to develop in the Township, the Township intends to also offer some type of programming and/or events such as Christmas parties and flea markets to its residents. The Township has the space and the need for recreation. The Township will continue to work towards providing more resources to their residents as well as work to create groups that can help with Township recreation opportunities.



RECREATION INVENTORY

INTRODUCTION

The following inventory analyzes how recreation could be implemented in the Township in the future. This chapter will cover ADA accessibility, park classifications, Township-owned land, future park development, and regional recreational facilities. The purpose of this chapter is to help the Township determine areas that will be best suited for recreational development, and what that recreational development could look like.

ACCESSIBILITY

When creating a park system, one should make sure that it is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to easily identify parks and facilities that are most and least accessible, based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines) to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design). See Table 3, below, for the grading system.

The Township recognizes the importance of equal access for all park users and is dedicated to developing park facilities and amenities with accessibility at the forefront of each design.

TABLE 3 - DNR ACCESSIBILITY GRADING SYSTEM FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

PARK SERVICE AREA AND CLASSIFICATION

A recreation inventory is the foundation for developing an understanding of the Township's recreation needs, deficiencies, and future plans. An inventory provides a snapshot of all the available facilities within a community along with details about the types of activities and features. The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There are five classification types that the Township may consider when developing its first recreational facilities. Understanding each type will help determine who they are reaching. The NRPA classifies several other park types, but they are not all applicable to the Township.

Mini- Parks

Mini Parks also known as pocket parks are the smallest park type, they are mainly designed to serve a concentrated population or specific age group. Mini Parks are designed for up to a ¼ mile radius of services and are 1.5 acres or less in size. Typically one can walk to this park, therefore there is usually no parking. The purpose of a Mini-Park is to provide recreation to residents where major roads do not have to be crossed, and amenities usually include play equipment or passive activities. They may also include a gazebo, benches, overlooks, picnic tables, and ornamental landscaping. Their service levels are 0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

Neighborhood Parks

Parks in this classification are the most basic park unit of a system and serve as the recreation and social focus of a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are easily accessible to neighborhood populations and geographically centered within safe walking distance and bike access. Typically, neighborhood parks are five to ten acres in size and can service a population of approximately 5,000 residents. The parks have a service location of ¼ to ½ mile distance. National standards recommend one acre of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents.

Community Parks

Community parks are intended to provide recreational services for several neighborhoods and usually serve a broad range of uses. The typical park size is 30 acres or more. Parks smaller than 30 acres may still be included in this chapter due to the broad population base they serve and the facilities/intended use of the park. The national classification system recommends five acres per 1,000 residents.

Special Use Parks

Special Use Parks cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use. These parks could be historical areas, nature centers, marinas, golf courses, amphitheaters, plazas, or community squares.

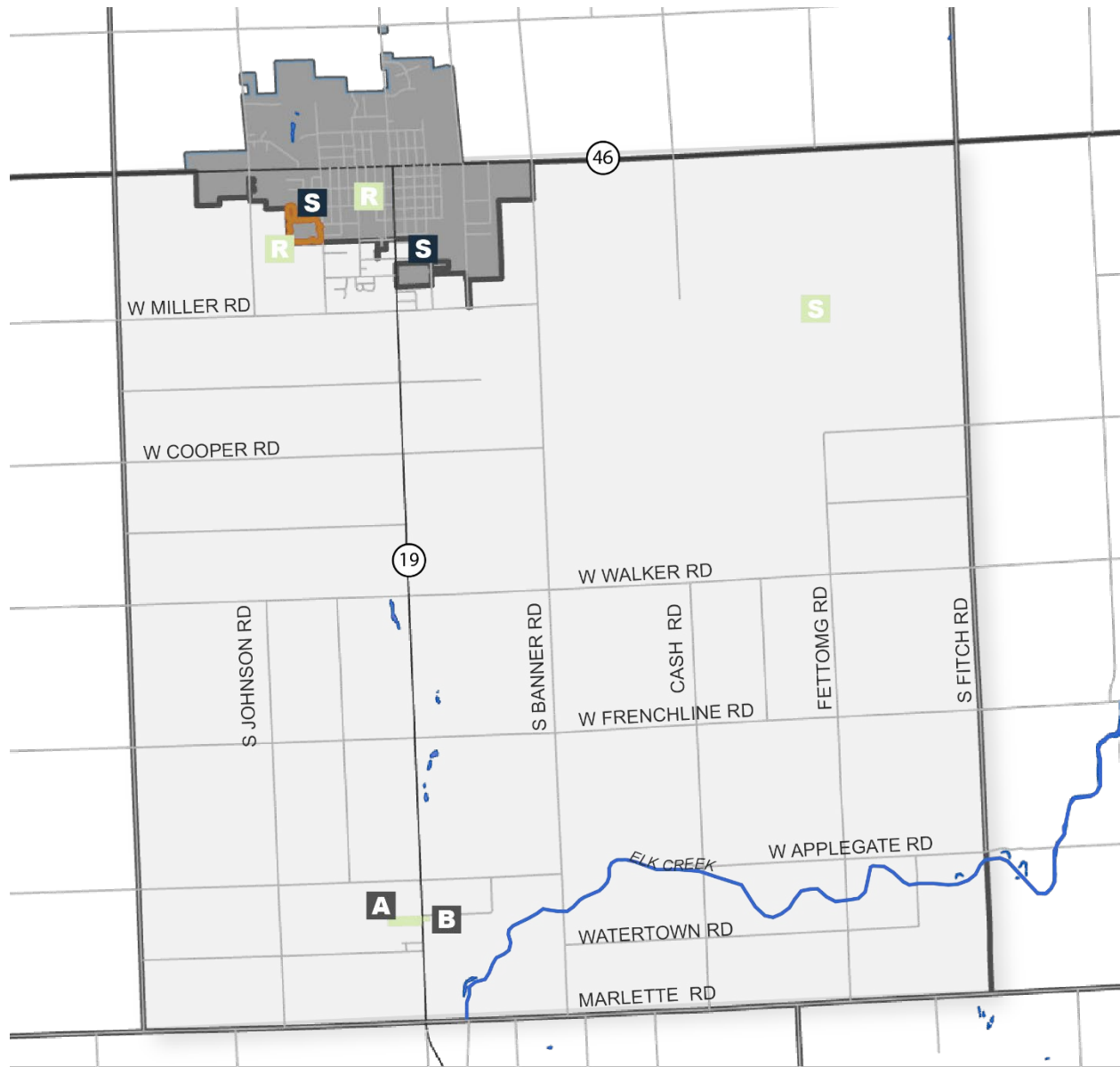
Natural Resources / Open Space

Natural Resource Parks/ Open Spaces are areas of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as viewing and studying wildlife, hiking, camping, or general conservation. They also may provide connections to a bike path system. The lands are set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. Examples include wetlands or forest preserves.



TOWNSHIP PARK FACILITIES

MAP 3 – CURRENT AND FUTURE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES



LEGEND

- A** Township Hall Property
- B** Township Cemetery
- R** City of Sandusky Parks
- Diamond Park Trail
- S** Sandusky State Game Area
- S** City of Sandusky Schools
- Watertown Township
- City of Sandusky
- Waterbodies



FUTURE PARK PLANS

Watertown Township does not currently have any recreational facilities. The Township is in the beginning phases of discussing how the two Township-owned properties could be developed for recreational use. The two properties, Property A and Property B, are shown on the map on the previous page (page 18).

Property A

Property A is home to the Township Hall. The Township would also like to build a pavilion and park on-site and develop a walking path that would wind throughout the property. The path would eventually connect Property A to Property B which is located across the street. Property A is 12.09 acres in size. If possible, the Township would also like to develop a regional non-motorized trail network in conjunction with the City of Sandusky and the Village of Peck.



Property B

Plans for Property B, which is located across from the Township Hall, include developing a small park. This park would serve the entire community and may include recreational amenities such as play equipment, benches, a memorial pavilion with a picnic table, and parking. The property is 1.05 acres.

Sandusky State Game Area (Owned by the DNR)

The Department of Natural Resources owns eight parcels within the Townships boundary. The parcels total 1,473.52 acres in size and are located in the northeastern portion of the Township. The site is currently used for wildlife conservation, wildlife observation, and hunting. If the opportunity arises the Township would be interested in working with the DNR to develop additional recreational opportunities such as a trail system for the Township residents.

REGIONAL FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

Regional recreation facilities such as local, county, and state parks provide additional opportunities to Township residents. These additional facilities provide residents with a variety of activities and opportunities that the Township currently does not provide. These include acres of land, lakes, camping, recreation centers, and other recreational activities. A brief inventory of these facilities is below.

Local Parks

City of Sandusky

- **Diamond Trail** – Located on Maple Valley Street, the park offers a 1-mile paved walking path, exercise equipment along the path, a pavilion, and a sledding hill in the winter months.
- **Doerr Field** – Located on West Speaker Street, the park has 3 baseball/softball fields, batting cages, a basketball court, a playground, a splash pad, and two pavilions which are available to rent.
- **George Haupt Memorial Park** – Located on East Mills Street is the City's newest park, the initial plan is to develop a playground, benches, and landscaping. Future plans may include a pavilion.



Moore Township

- **Snover Memorial Park** – Located off M-19 and Freiburger Road, the park has a playground, pavilion, parking, restroom facilities, and open screen space.

County Parks

Many of the surrounding Counties (Sanilac, Tuscola, and Lapeer) have county-operated parks and recreational facilities.

Sanilac County – The County has four park areas, Evergreen, Forester, Lexington, and Delaware Parks. The park in closest proximity to Watertown would be Lexington Park, approximately 20 miles directly east. The other three Sanilac County Parks are over 20 miles away.

Tuscola County – Maintains and operates Indian Fields Park, in Caro, approximately 40 miles northwest of Watertown.

Lapeer County – Contains a number of facilities with the closest being over 40 miles away.

State

Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park – Located 30 minutes northwest of the Township in Cass City. The park features hiking, historic programs, picnic areas, observation platforms, and water access.

Lakeport State Park – Located 30 miles southeast of the Township in Lakeport. The State Park is 560 acres in size and offers a variety of recreational amenities including, swimming, cabins and lodges, a picnic area, picnic shelters, a playground, and water access. There are 54 miles of trails within the park.

There are three state game areas within the County, Sandusky State Game Area, Minden City State Game Area, and Sanilac State Game Area. There are an additional six that are within a 45-minute drive from the Township.

- Sandusky State Game Area, Watertown Township, Sanilac County
- Minden City State Game Area, Palms, Sanilac County)
- Sanilac State Game Area, Greenleaf, Sanilac County)
- Cass City State Game Area, Shabbona, Tuscola County
- Deford State Game Area, Ellington, Tuscola County
- Lapeer State Game Area, Barnes Lake, Lapeer County
- Murphy Lake State Game Area, Juniata, Tuscola County
- Tuscola State Game Area, Caro, Tuscola County
- Vassar State Game Area, Gilford, Tuscola County

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

Communities across the United States are creating regional trail systems in both cities and rural areas to provide a higher quality of life for residents. Trails give residents the opportunity to create a more active lifestyle and healthy habits while offering safety when walking or biking on the roads. Trails are also able to provide additional ways to experience a community and give all users the option of increased mobility in different modes of travel.

Why trails are important

While trails can be a challenge to implement, their positive effects on a community cannot be disputed. It has been proven that trails create a place of pride and a sense of ownership in Michigan residents. Trails are also an important driver in the local and regional economy, they increase property values and provide safe and healthy recreation options. The growing trail trend is across the state of Michigan. Trails and pathways are an asset to every community.

Trail users have a measurable impact on the local economy. Working with the surrounding townships and other jurisdictions is an effective way to connect with existing systems and expand the non-motorized pathway infrastructure. These projects create a long-term, valuable investment in the community and the opportunity to connect the Township to others in the region, which promotes economic vitality, encourages a healthier lifestyle in residents, and creates a safer travel environment.

The Township in the future would be interested in developing a non-motorized trail along the M-19 right-of-way that traverses from the Village of Peck to the City of Sandusky.

WATER TRAILS

Watertown Township is located less than 20 miles from Lake Huron. Along Lake Huron are numerous water trail access points. The trail is known as the Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail, ten of those points are within Sanilac County. The trail starts in the Village of Lexington and traverses north along Lake Huron, to the tip of the Thumb, and into the Saginaw Bay where it then connects to the Saginaw Bay Water Trail. The closest access points to the Township are Port Sanilac Harbor, Horatio S. Earle Park, and Walker Road. A map of the route is located in Appendix A.



COMMUNITY INPUT

OVERVIEW

Watertown Township believes that solid community input should be the basis for recreational decisions and future capital improvement projects. Public input helps community leaders determine the wants and needs of residents and then provides the framework for parks and recreation goals and objectives. To comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans, the Township offered two public input opportunities. These included an online community input survey and a 30-day public review period for comments on the draft plan.

The Plan was available for public comment during the required 30-day public review period held between November 2023 to December 2023 and concluding with a public hearing on December 5, 2023, and adopted by the Township Board on December 5, 2023.

COMMUNITY INPUT SURVEY

Watertown Township created a combined community-wide survey for the Parks and Recreation Plan and the Master Plan. In the spring of 2023, an online survey was available to gather input. The online survey included 23 questions regarding Township conditions, park facilities, and respondent demographics. The community-wide survey received 350 responses.

The survey was assigned the web domain www.watertowntwpsurvey.com. The survey was available on the Township's website and could also be found by scanning the QR code on flyers placed in Township Hall and businesses throughout town. Key points of the survey are summarized on the following pages, and the remaining tables developed for the report can be found in Appendix B.

ABOUT THE RESPONDENTS

- Of the 350 respondents, 78% are Watertown Township Residents, 9% live within Sanilac County, and 4% live in the City of Sandusky.
- From the 78% of respondents who live in the Township, 43% have lived in the Township for over 20 years. 19% have lived there for 50-plus years, 26% have lived there 6-20 years, and 12% have lived in the Township for less than five years.
- Almost every age cohort participated in the survey. The responses below are listed from highest to lowest percentage.
 - Age 60-69: 28%
 - Age 50-59: 21%
 - Age 70-79: 18%
 - Age 40-49: 15%
 - Age 30-39: 10%
 - Age 80+: 4%
 - Age 18-29: 4%

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

Understanding why residents live in the Township is important when determining what kind of improvements to make. The survey asked respondents why they live in the Township, the top five answers are listed below.

- Like rural living: 67.5%
- Close to family and friends: 49.2%
- Like the community: 34.1%
- Jobs: 21.8%
- Affordable housing: 16.7%

It is important to know how residents would rate the quality of living. If residents did not think the Township was providing a good quality of life that would be a cause for concern. Of the respondents, over 50 percent would rate the quality of life good and almost 20 percent would say it's excellent.

The survey asked respondents what the Township's greatest needs are. Of the responses, a common theme was the need for recreation.

"I like the sense of community. My neighbors are great! We all get along and are willing to help each other out when needed."

- Road improvements: 52.6%
- Recreational opportunities: 31.7%
- Jobs: 25.4%
- Walking Path: 19.9%

Watertown Township does not currently offer any recreational opportunities to residents. A crucial part of the survey was to determine what recreational facilities are in the area they are using. Therefore, when the Township decides to develop a park or recreational facilities, they know what is liked in these areas and what may be missing. Below indicate which parks Township residents use.

- City of Sandusky Parks: 70.1%
- Sanilac County Parks: 53.5%
- Regional trails: 15.9%

Within those parks, the residents use the following facilities the most.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ▪ Fairgrounds | ▪ Splash pad |
| ▪ Trails for walking, biking, hiking | ▪ Ballfield |
| ▪ Beach access | ▪ Natural trail |
| ▪ School facilities | ▪ Sportsfields |
| ▪ Playgrounds | ▪ Fishing |

The Township would like to create its own recreational opportunities for the residents. To assist the Township in understanding what residents may be interested in the survey asked what additional amenities they would like to see added to the Township.

- [Community trails linking to Sandusky](#): 49%
- [Bike path and walkways](#): 48.1%
- [Campground](#): 25.9%
- [Other write-in](#): 19.8%
- [Parkland](#): 14.8%

Other write in

- ATV Trails
- Pavilion by Township Hall
- Nature Trails
- Pool
- Disc Golf Course
- Dog Park

The final questions in the survey were open-ended. The first question asked respondents what they liked best about the Township. The second question asked what they would do to improve the Township. These two questions provide a quick snapshot of how residents are feeling.

Residents like:

- Agricultural land
- Country Living
- Quietness/Peaceful
- People
- Cost of Living

Residents would improve:

- Communication
- Roads
- No solar or wind
- Blight
- Keep out growing facilities
- [Add recreational amenities and a path](#)

Townships may or may not have a long list of improvements they believe should take place, however, that does not always mean that list aligns with what residents would like to see. The final survey question asked respondents what the Township's top three priorities should be. In the end, the list provided the Township with a priority list. The top responses are listed below.

- Blight
- Solar/Wind
- [Parks and Trails](#)
- Land Preservation
- Low Taxes
- Roads



Watertown
Township

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP



SMART
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Watertown Township Boundary Signage

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP GOALS

INTRODUCTION

Developing effective and achievable goals and objectives is an important part of the parks and recreation planning process. Overall, the Planning Commission and Township Board would like to provide high-quality recreation opportunities for the community. More specific goals and objectives are based on the demographic characteristics of the population, the physical and environmental characteristics of Watertown Township, and input from the community.

Goals are the broadest level of ideas. By necessity, they are overreaching and general. Objectives carry out the purpose of each goal. Action Plan items are the most specific level, they identify specific projects and programs to be pursued over the next five years. Action Plan items can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions. The consultants with the Planning Commission formulated the following goals and objectives.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 | USE PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO HELP IMPROVE THE PARKS AND RECREATION IN WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP.

Objectives:

1. Collaborate with the City of Sandusky on recreational developments.
2. The Township wishes to work cooperatively with the City of Sandusky on future recreation projects.
3. Continue to seek partnerships with other recreation providers, agencies, and neighboring communities to share ideas and provide complementary programs and facilities. Examples include but are not limited to civic groups, community groups, places of worship, scouts, user groups, etc.
4. Apply for grants and seek donations, endowments, and/or sponsorships for the maintenance and development of facilities that support the vision of the Watertown Township Parks.
5. Continue to coordinate with the school district on shared use of facilities and clearly define facility and programming needs for each party.
6. Maintain a relationship with the DNR.
7. Partner with other federal, state, local, and nonprofit recreation providers within the County to support opportunities for new recreational facilities.

8. Seek and apply for grants to support recreational initiatives through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and local foundations.

GOAL 2 | PROVIDE SAFE NON-MOTORIZED TRAVEL IN WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP.

Objectives:

1. Develop a Township Bike Route that is part of a regional trail and would connect to the City of Sandusky and the Village of Peck.
2. Use public right-of-way along streets, roads, abandoned railroads, or along drain easements for non-motorized, pedestrian, and bike paths where possible and needed.
3. Explore the possibility of working with adjoining communities and other partners to develop the non-motorized path network.
4. Develop walking paths and non-motorized trails in and around the City of Sandusky, the Township Hall, and the M-19 shoulder.

GOAL 3 | ACQUIRE, RETAIN, AND DEVELOP APPROPRIATE PROPERTY TO EXPAND PUBLIC RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Objectives:

1. Develop passive recreation opportunities around the former peat bog area in the northeast portion of the Township.
2. Work cooperatively with the DNR to add recreational features to this property to develop it into a passive recreational park.
3. Develop a concept plan for a local park at the Township Hall.
4. Study the feasibility of using and developing Elk Creek as a canoe/kayak trail.
5. Preserve and protect open space and other important natural features in Watertown Township.
6. Identify open space for potential future parkland.
7. If desired, acquire property as it becomes available.

GOAL 4 | PROVIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES THAT INSPIRE COMMUNITY PRIDE.

Objectives:

1. Design sustainable and attractive recreation facilities that contribute to community character.
2. Ensure that Watertown Township parks are safe.
3. Utilize the recreation plan survey results as a guide for future park and program development.
4. Develop parks with amenities and facilities to meet the wants of Township residents.
5. Provide recreation facilities to improve health and fitness.
6. Once developed market and promote the new facilities to Township residents and surrounding communities.



GOAL 5 | PROVIDE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES THAT ARE FUNCTIONAL FOR A VARIETY OF USES AND AGES.

Objectives

1. Provide outdoor recreation experiences for people of all ages and abilities.
2. Develop new recreational opportunities that can be used by those of all abilities.

ACTION PLAN

With goals and objectives in place, Watertown Township has developed a five-year Action Plan that will enable the Township to move towards accomplishing specific projects. The Action Plan is used to highlight specific projects which improve the recreational opportunities in the Township.

Each action item relates to a goal/objective from the previous section. Each project was assigned a priority of 1 through 3 with 1 being most important and 3 being least important. The potential capital improvements that are listed in Table 4, have been established to provide a framework for decision-makers and to enable the Township to apply for grant funding for those proposed projects.

The project list is not a fixed element, nor is it exhaustive. It reflects the results of the input received from the Township staff and the online survey. Future circumstances, especially the availability of funding, may influence the order in which the projects are completed.

TABLE 4 – ACTION PLAN

Action Item	Related to Goal/Objective	Priority
Develop a park across from the Township Hall	3, 4, 5	1
Explore using Elk Creek for canoeing/kayaking	4, 5	3
Add a walking trail around Township Hall and connect to the proposed park property	2, 5	1
Exploring using road shoulders for trails	2	1
Develop a Township Trail Network and connect to the City of Sandusky's	2	1
Collaborate with the DNR for park development	1, 3, 4	2
Collaborate with the City of Sandusky on future recreation projects	1	2
Determine where tennis courts could be developed and work with the City of Sandusky	1, 4	1
Explore other Township lands that could be used for park development	3	3



PLANNING PROCESS

PROCESS

In a continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, Watertown Township has developed its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of community parks and recreational facilities over the next five years. The Plan will provide the Township eligibility for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist the community in reaching its recreational goals.

Watertown Township contracted with Spicer Group of Saginaw, Michigan to assist with the completion of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The consultant met with the Planning Commission several times during the development of the Plan.

During the development of the plan, two opportunities for input, participation, and review were provided:

- Online community input survey that was available from March 2023 to May 2023.
- 30-day review period and a public hearing held on December 5, 2023.

Based on the existing information and public input, the Township developed the goals and objectives for parks and recreation for the next five years. Then, the Township developed its action plan to accomplish the goals and objectives.

REVIEW AND ADOPTION

Spicer Group completed a Parks and Recreation Master Plan draft which was available for review at the Township Hall and on the Township's website. The review period from November to December was publicized in the local paper. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public hearing held before the adoption of the Plan at the Board meeting on December 5, 2023. After the public hearing, the Board passed a motion to adopt the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. On December 5, 2023, the 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Plan was adopted by the Township Board.

Copies of the Plan were transmitted to the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments and Sanilac County. The Plan was uploaded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for approval in January 2024. Copies of the noticed advertisements, public hearing minutes, and the resolution are included in Appendix C.



Elk Creek

APPENDIX A

WATER TRAIL MAP

Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail Launch and Landing Map

Our shop is located at the Center of the Huron County portion of the

Tip of the Thumb Heritage Water Trail.

This trail offers many great places to explore. We love paddling in and around the shallow, natural area of Bay Port; this is a birder's paradise. We also like the rugged shoreline and lighthouses between Grindstone City and Harbor Beach. Let us know where you want to paddle along the trail, and we will get you there. **BE SAFE and HAVE FUN!**



119 East Spring Street
Port Austin, MI 48467
989-550-6651 • info@thumbkayak.com
www.portaustinkayak.com



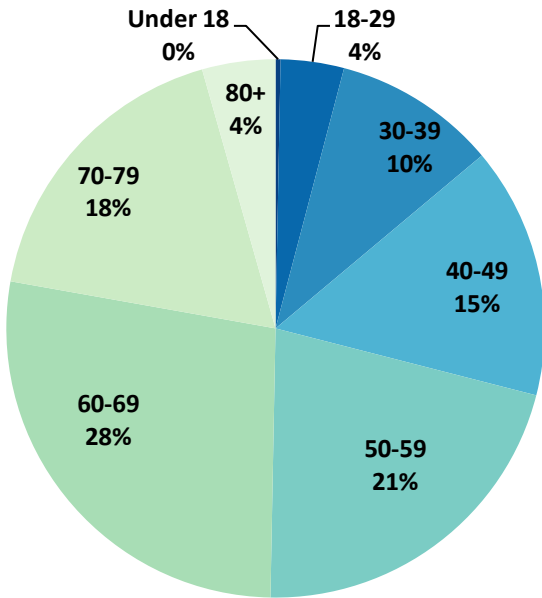
APPENDIX B

COMMUNITY INPUT RESULTS

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP 2023 SURVEY RESULTS

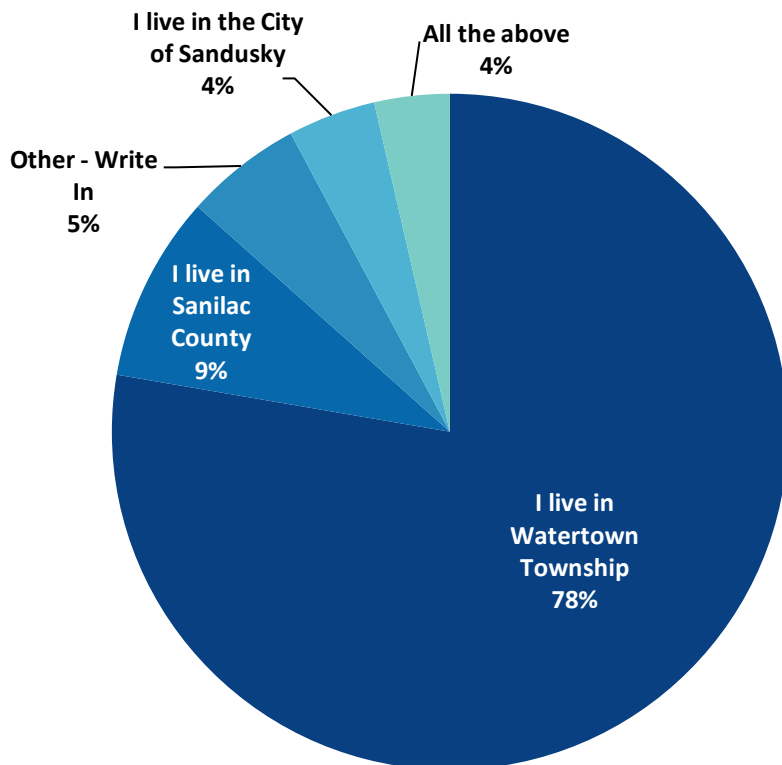
Complete 350, Partial 2 | 202 paper copies mailed in

1. What is your age range?



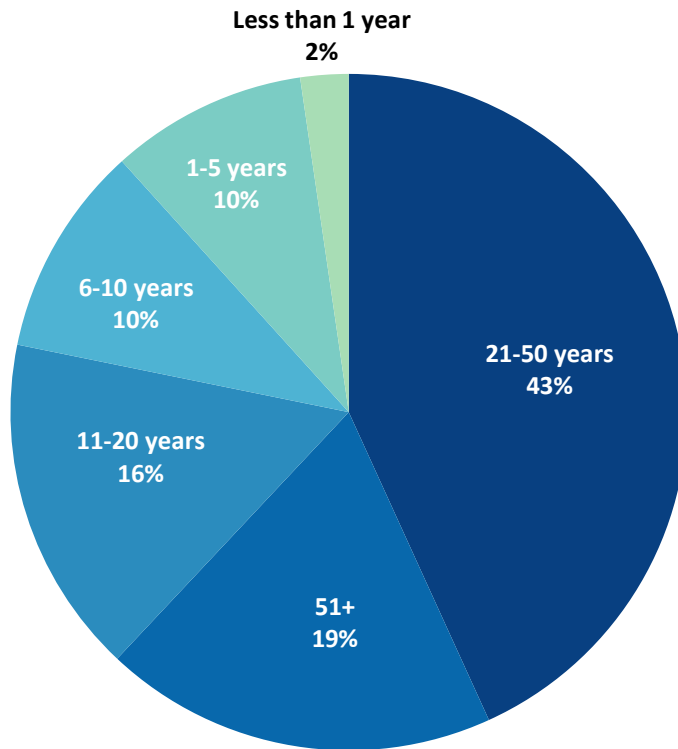
Value	Percent	Count
Under 18	0.3%	1
18-29	3.8%	13
30-39	9.8%	33
40-49	15.1%	51
50-59	21.3%	72
60-69	27.5%	93
70-79	17.8%	60
80+	4.4%	15
Totals		338

2. What is your relationship to Watertown Township?

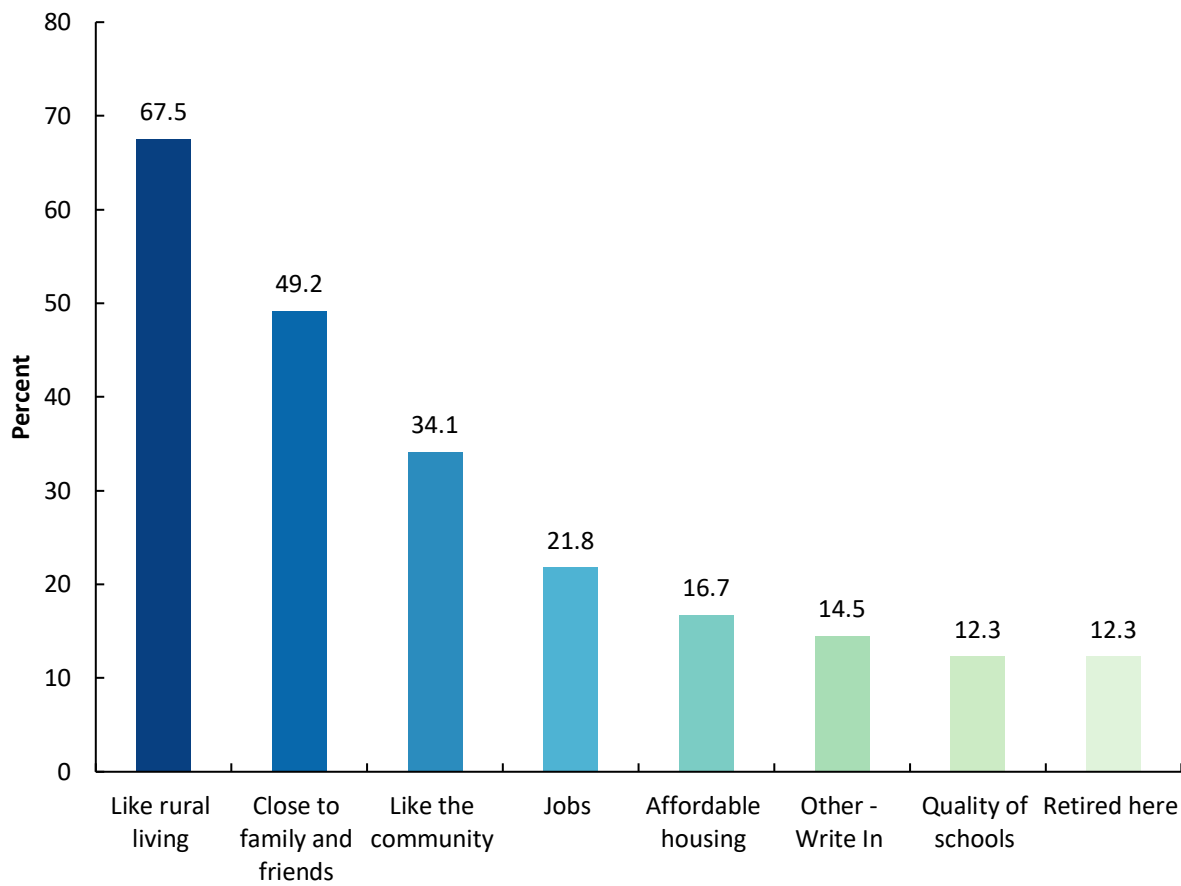


- Other write in -**
- Property Owner
 - I attend a church in Watertown Twp
 - I farm ground in Watertown township.
 - I own land in the township.
 - I own land in the County
 - Own vacant land

3. How long have you lived in Watertown Township?



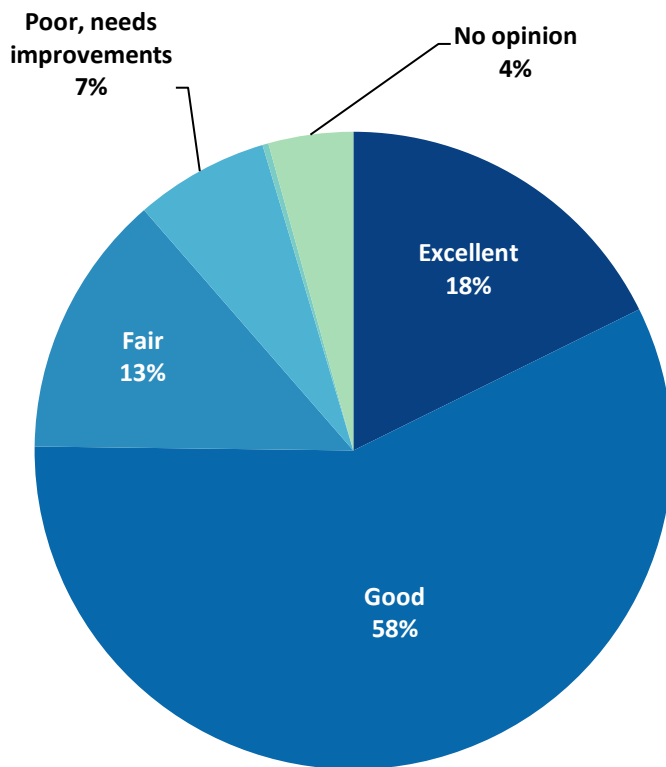
4. Why do you live in Watertown Township? Please check all that apply.



Other write in -

- Born Here / lived here my whole life (11)
- Farm (8)
- Business (2)
- Own a home (7)
- Do not live in township
- My family has owned my land for over 100 years
- The land has been in my family for over 100 years.
- We bought a house when we got married thinking my wife would find work in Sandusky while I worked in Lexington.
- all over lives
- don't know any better
- landowner
- not enough money to leave
- trying to put a trailer for me and daughter

5.How would you rate the quality of life in the Township?

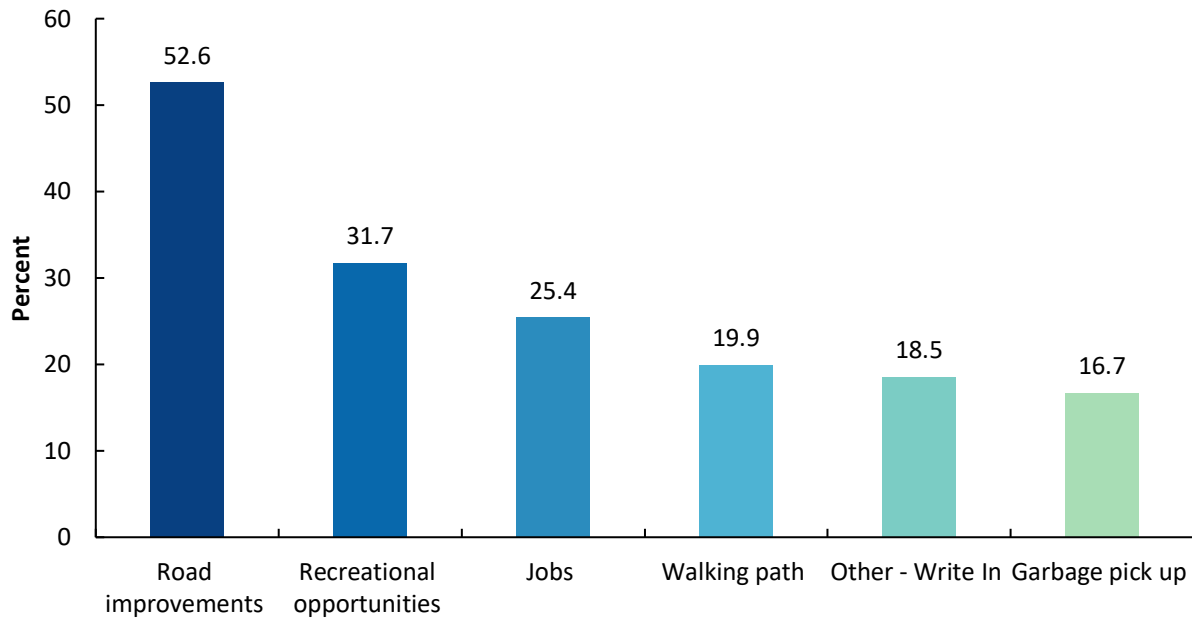


Value	Percent	Count
Excellent	17.7%	57
Good	57.5%	185
Fair	13.4%	43
Poor, needs improvements	6.8%	22
Very poor, needs lot of improvements	0.3%	1
No opinion	4.3%	14
<i>Totals</i>		322

6.If you selected poor or very poor on the previous question please explain why.

- For the people that own farmland they should be able to do with it they want,they paid for it and they pay the taxes on it,it's there's not someone who owns 1 or 2 acres,they should not be able to tell you what you can and cannot do with it.
- Wind farms will destroy property values and country living
- Do not like the greed involved in the solar energy decisions. They absolutely should not be allowed near any residential homes or on main roads. They are an eyesore and will lower property values. That is not fair to the homeowners.
- roads, when I take out the garbage or get the mail, I have to put on muck boots. Put some stone on the roads.
- government officials are completely unresponsive to the taxpayers (will not return calls) vindictive attitude of several board members
- lack of opportunity
- poorly kept roads, no consideration for people that are not a part of farming. Farmers lack of consideration, blocking roads, destroying of roads. area blight is increasing
- if solar farms is built across from my house
- roads are bad
- there really isnt much to do or see here in watertown
- Home and property owners are stuck with paying what ever the board thinks would better our lives. Renters don't pay nothing and make all the mess
- need decent restants for family dinners (no fries, baked potato mashed) decient grocery Foodland (did not lik taking tress down it cemainty in watertown
- average household income is below the median household income
- person in charge of assessing the property taxes keeps raising the taxes w/out even looking first. Does not live even in /sanilac County
- people don't take care of their property
- no jobs, no opportunity
- planning co. is biased on alternative energy needs, gravel roads poorly maintained
- too many dead deers
- Difficult for businesses to make money

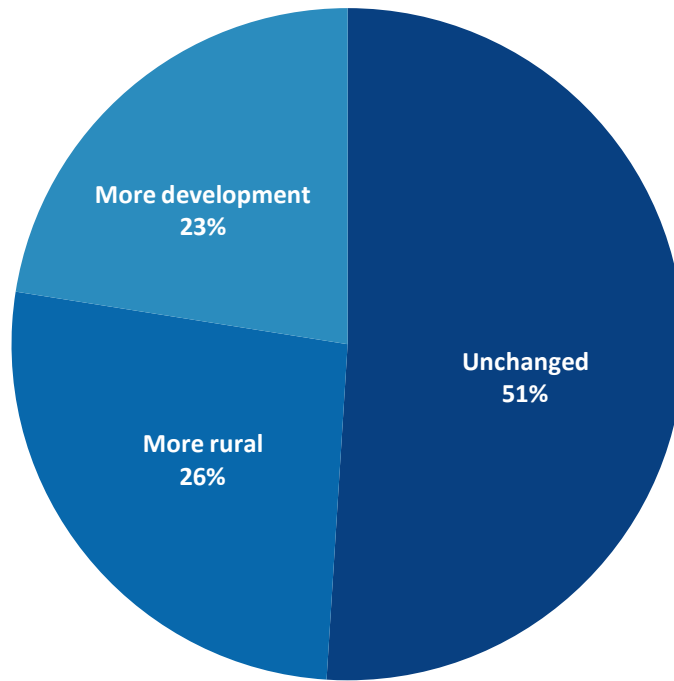
7.What are our Township's greatest needs? Please check all that apply.



Other write in -

- Solar Farm for (2) / against (2)
- Preserve rural land (6)
- Bike Trail (2)
- WiFi availability (2)
- More Housing Options- all types (4)
- Better government / change in (3)
- Grocery store (4)
- Businesses (2)
 - another department store, large chain restaurant, olive garden, etc.
 - weed / pot shops (2)
- Clean up / improvements (7)
 - Blight
 - Trash pick up
 - New roads
- Better education opportunities/reasons for educated young people to stay or return
- Discgolf course
- Ditch drainage
- Gleason Street and Dell Street always ruddy dirt roads. Asphalt would be nice.
- Great rural space to live. Keep it rural. We do not need garbage pickup. Taxes are high enough. Town is close. They have a park and walking trail.
- Learn how to recycle everything.
- Rail-bed walking path
- dog park
- mental health facility
- public for kids
- school security
- thin some deer out of the township
- township hall that has area for small showers or family gatherings

8.How do you envision the character of the Township in the future?



Value	Percent	Count
Unchanged	51.0%	156
More rural	26.5%	81
More development	22.5%	69
Totals		306

9. In the following categories, how do you feel Watertown Township has changed in the past five years?

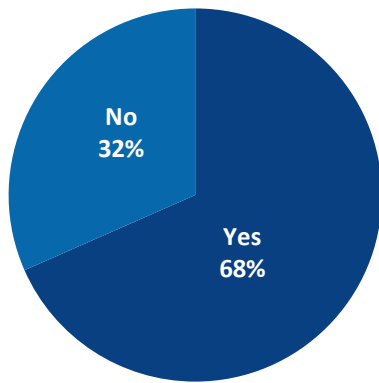
	Much Better	Better	Same	Worse	Much Worse	No Opinion	Responses
Road conditions							
Count	21	92	166	29	6	14	328
Row %	6.4%	28.0%	50.6%	8.8%	1.8%	4.3%	
Traffic							
Count	2	20	208	70	9	15	324
Row %	0.6%	6.2%	64.2%	21.6%	2.8%	4.6%	
Natural environment							
Count	4	21	224	42	15	17	323
Row %	1.2%	6.5%	69.3%	13.0%	4.6%	5.3%	
Overall quality of life							
Count	3	46	228	28	4	17	326
Row %	0.9%	14.1%	69.9%	8.6%	1.2%	5.2%	
Parks and recreation							
Count	3	36	204	14	3	54	314
Row %	1.0%	11.5%	65.0%	4.5%	1.0%	17.2%	
Schools							
Count		26	169	56	33	34	318
Row %	0	8.2%	53.1%	17.6%	10.4%	10.7%	
Fire protection							
Count	8	56	226	7	3	20	320
Row %	2.5%	17.5%	70.6%	2.2%	0.9%	6.3%	
EMS							
Count	10	57	226	9	2	18	322
Row %	3.1%	17.7%	70.2%	2.8%	0.6%	5.6%	
Police protection							
Count	10	55	208	19	6	16	314
Row %	3.2%	9.0%	66.2%	6.1%	1.9%	5.1%	
Zoning and enforcement regulations							
Count	6	29	168	61	17	40	321
Row %	1.9%	9.0%	52.3%	19.0%	5.3%	12.5%	

10.If you selected worse or much worse on the previous question please explain why.

- Not previously known to the area, can't compare
- Schools have gone woke & political! Educate. Blight unenforced.
- Watertown is not progressive and seems satisfied continuing living in the 1960's
- To much of!
- Taxes too high on Nolan's Dome and the bonehead bus driver ramming a vehicle
- Critical race theory being taught along with the nepotism
- Please protect us from poisonous industrial solar complex
- See a lot of blight conditions within twp. Doesn't appear there is any monitoring or enforcement. Is there any ordinances to maintain property?
- You should' have cut down all the trees at Watertown Cemetery
- The school need attention – need to stop accommodating the minority. Need to get the bible back into the schools
- Blight
- More vehicles on the road. More careless drivers
- To much government control
- Schools to involved in politics
- Traffic increasing everywhere – need paving of W Miller to S Gates for Truck bypass. Sandusky schools losing ground
- Building being built where they shouldn't be built
- The school is now woke, I am happy my kids are graduated and out of them
- Hold teachers accountable, no more unions. Zoning and enforcement is based on Board Members personal benefit
- Roads need some repair. Zoning blight areas
- I think things were a lot better in the 70's then they are now. Teachers worked with students one on one. You have to go home to get help with your homework from parents now a days
- Increasing taxes, increasing traffic. Petty crime. Grow houses
- Some things are not enforced
- Zoning admin refuses to enforce ordinances even though he is paid to do so. Afraid of paybacks
- More people = More traffic
- 20 years ago roads were A+, today they are mud 3rd world
- Disappointed to see removal of all trees in the cemetery. I thought they gave the area a more rural & environmentally healthy appeal.
- More traffic, too many regulations
- Roads – more traffic has had an affect on local road. Traffic – since COVID people have moved to rural areas affecting several ways of life that we're losing in the thumb area. Environment – to many fence rows/woods ripped off then farms complain about vision issues, also puts stress on drainage ways. Zoning – seems like people are getting away with more since COVID. Probably because others are afraid of repercussions from neighbors or others in this new post COVID world
- Road conditions need no explanation
- More traffic – more stops signs running on side roads. More trees being destroyed to increase acreage – schools that are too liberal & not enough focus on studies. Bullying is allowed even when reported. Lack of respect.
- Traffic just uses the road as an expressway going 70 all hours
- Big AG is a traffic issue. Natural environment is being stripped away. Zoning is run by a group with their hands in each others pockets
- Schools have gone to hell. Don't know why roads and environment have gotten worse. Management I suppose
- Traffic is heavier (trucks)

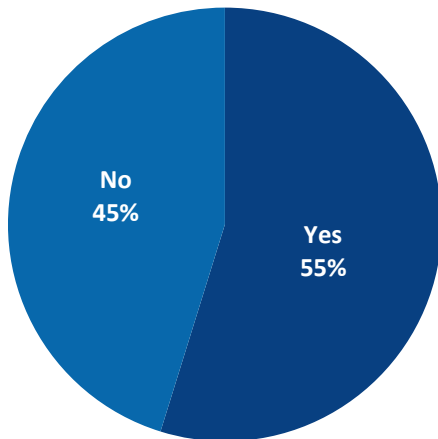
- We have nothing to offer here, no parks, no pool, no fishing, no sidewalks, no bike path or walk path
- Traffic has increased greatly. Schools are not teaching basic education and they are incorporating a woke agenda which is unacceptable
- Not allowing the sale of marijuana is single handley crippling the twp
- Sandusky school mascot – change school board problems
- Need to do better on blight
- Road is always full of potholes. Sometimes impossible to drive on with a car
- Certain times of the day are really hard to pull out onto the highway
- Enforcement of zoning & regulations are not there unless you are making improvements to your property, the dumpy places get left alone
- Becoming more liberal
- Natural environmental continue to decline with loss of woodlots, fence rows, big farm equipment using roads like farm lanes
- No progress by planning commission
- Cut down too many trees, now all the deers are getting hit
- Zoning administrators don't seem to enforce blight ordinance
- Gravel roads need serious updates, school administration
- We do not like the amount of farm houses with buildings that have been sold to promote pot growing operations & the lack of upkeep of those homes & property
- Traffic is worse everywhere.
- We teach kids stuff – not to think (basics before technology)
- To much land clearing
- There should more enforcement on people to maintain their property
- The roads are rough and bumpy. Schools are less intrusive on needs on how to live
- Why is some one that doesn't live here growing pot in the house down the road? Young people can't take root here if all the affordable housing is bought up by pot growers.
- If your ambulance people have to call for extra help they shouldn't be on the ambulance. Police if I call twice with a complaint I expect someone to come out and check it out.
- School board, bad teachers to woke
- There's more traffic and no speed limits enforced. Farmers have removed fence rows and woods
- The teacher & leaders have went downhill and quality of education
- Bad admin & leader, school board
- Township makes decisions on issues without resident voting. For example, cutting down trees in cemetery.
- Who authorized the cutting of the trees in the cemetery????? Great job keeping the “natural environment”
- Parents have no say in what children are taught.
- Schools are becoming to woke. Didn't like Sandusky superintendent. Glad he is gone
- Our road is terrible most of the time, dust to poor gravel quality and lack of traffic is worse because of Walmart. The wooded areas of years past are gone. Self explanatory on schools, police are stretched to thin, zoning enforcement is up to the county group
- My side road gets worse. The water from rain just exists on the side of the Rd. No where for it to drain. And the bumps are horrible
- Way too many properties that are falling down and or trashed like E Miller Rd
- The only thing worse for zoning enforcement is I didn't appreciate grow houses in my area with out us getting notified of that business. I had to notify neighbors about my business and put it in the new paper to allow them the chance to deny me.
- Zoning regulations seem to be political tools rather than best interest

11. Do you currently pay for garbage removal services?



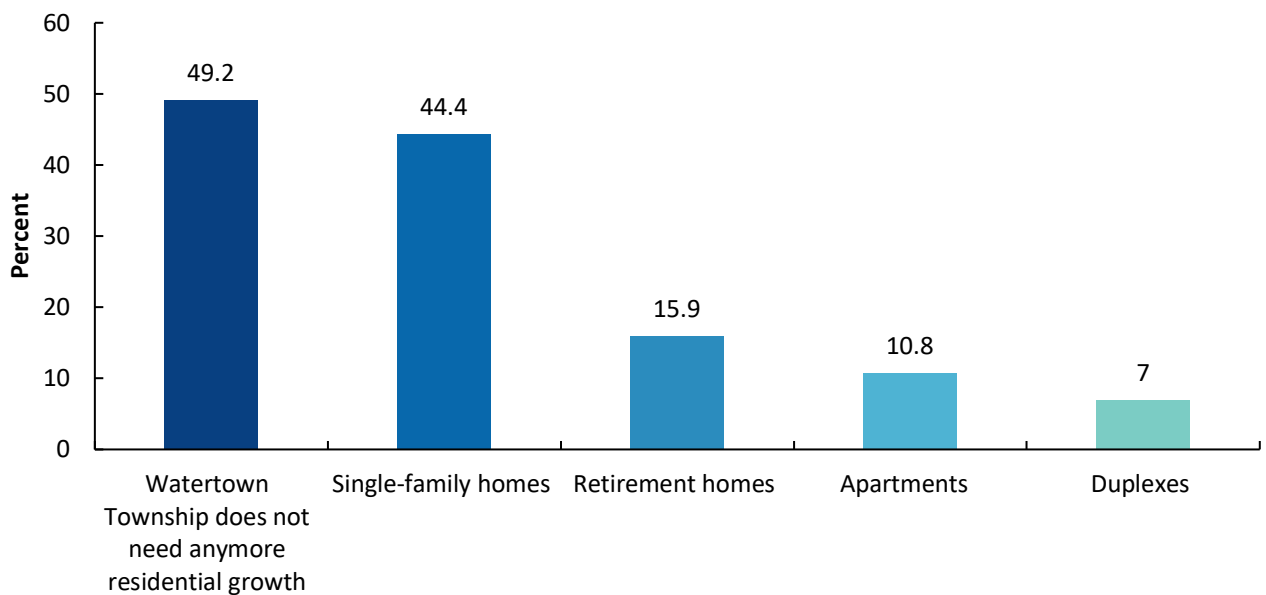
Value	Percent	Count
Yes	68.4%	225
No	31.6%	104
Totals		329

12. Would you support a Township provided trash service?



Value	Percent	Count
Yes	54.8%	172
No	45.2%	142
Totals		314

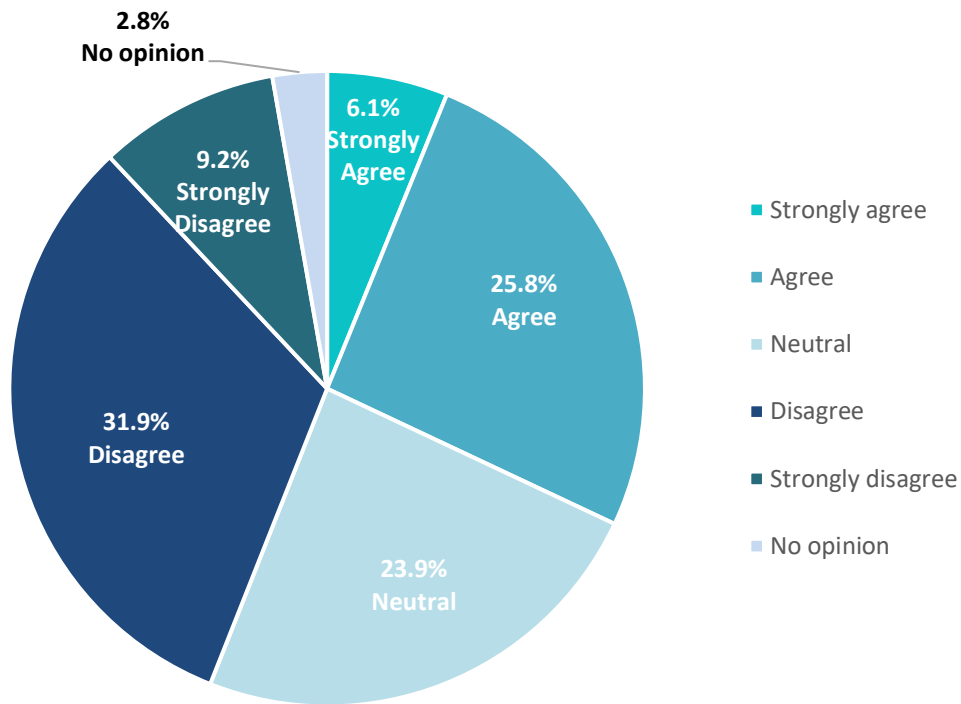
13. Which housing choices would you like to see more of in the Township? Please check all that apply.



14. What is your opinion regarding the following agricultural land use statements?

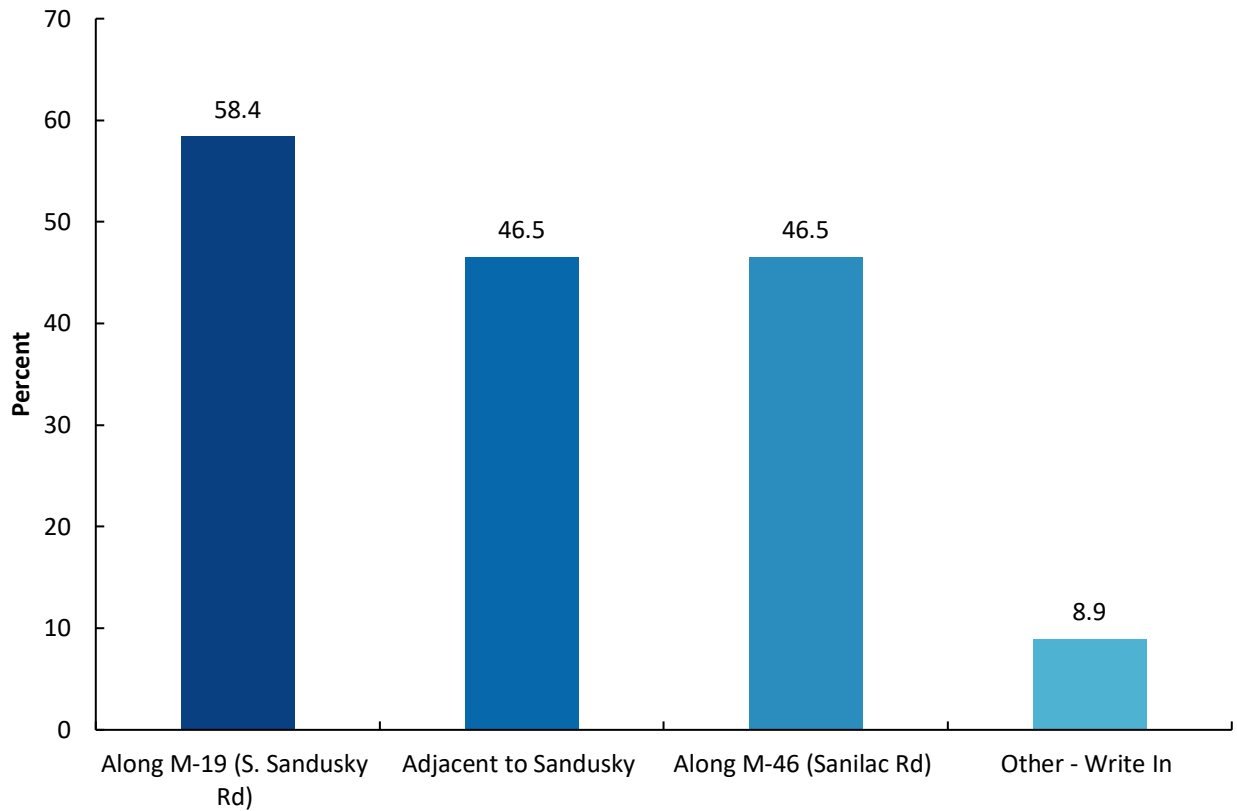
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	No Opinion	Responses
Agriculture is an important aspect of the Watertown Township economy Count Row %	211 64.1%	82 24.9%	22 6.7%	5 1.5%	1 0.3%	8 2.4%	329
Agriculture is an important aspect of the Watertown Township landscape Count Row %	193 59.0%	84 25.7%	31 9.5%	11 3.4%	2 0.6%	6 1.8%	327
Agriculture land should be preserved Count Row %	200 60.8%	58 17.6%	42 12.8%	18 5.5%	4 1.2%	7 2.1%	329
Using agriculture land for new development is appropriate for accommodating growth and development Count Row %	21 6.4%	61 18.7%	75 23.0%	62 19.0%	101 31.0%	6 1.8%	326
Agriculture land should not be used for large scale solar Count Row %	181 54.5%	41 12.3%	40 12.0%	19 5.7%	44 13.3%	7 2.1%	332
Agriculture land should not be used for wind turbines Count Row %	163 49.5%	48 14.6%	57 17.3%	15 4.6%	39 11.9%	7 2.1%	329

15. Watertown Township should promote more commercial development in the coming years.



Value	Percent	Count
Strongly agree	6.1%	20
Agree	25.8%	84
Neutral	23.9%	78
Disagree	31.9%	104
Strongly disagree	9.2%	30
No opinion	2.8%	9
Totals		326

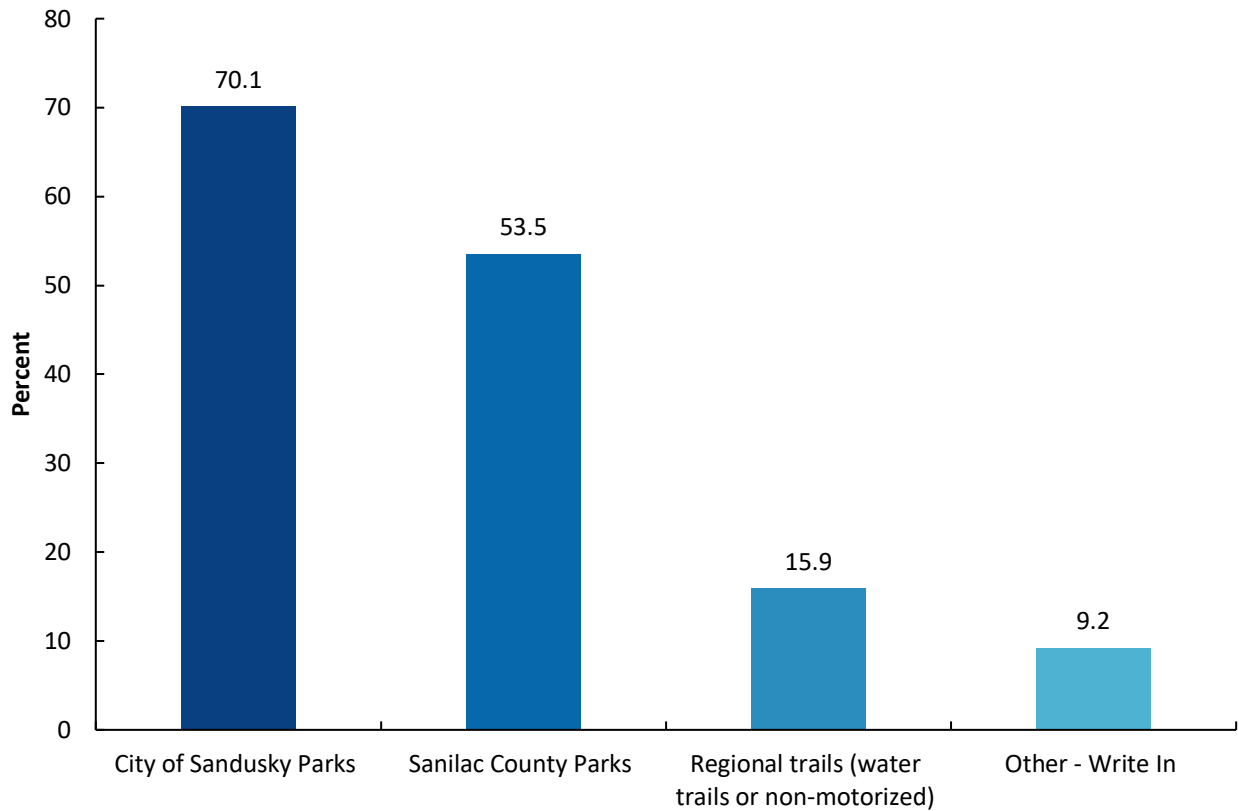
16.If you selected agree or strongly agree where would you like to see future commercial development?



Other write in -

- Any type to grow tax base
- East side
- Fill the empty buildings on M-46
- In commercial zoned areas
- Industrial Park
- Peck and Sandusky we need more grocery stores because Walmart is horrible. They have the highest prices in Sanilac county and talent county is one of the poorest counties when I ask why their prices are so high I was told by the manager they have no competition. Let's bring in some competition with better choices to shop.
- in watertown proper
- industrial park

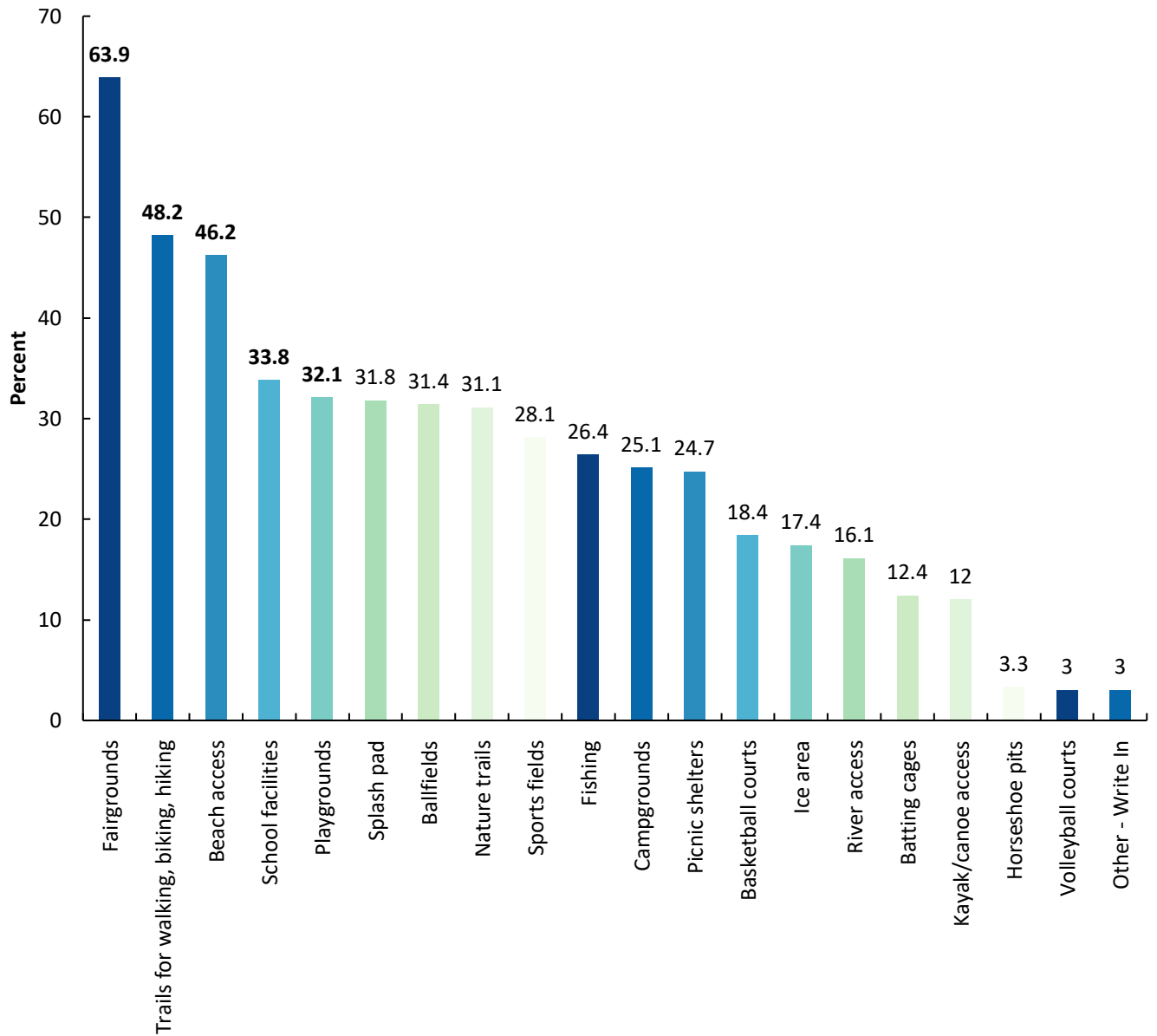
17. Which of the following parks/trails did you use last year?



Other write in -

- Diamond trail
- I don't use them at all
- I personally don't use the parks or trails.
- My own
- Private owned local trails
- Walking path in Sandusky
- Cass City pool, beach in Cassville
- Driving on the roads are trails
- Just walked in the yard
- Metro parks
- Snowmobile
- State turn offs on M-25
- Walking trail

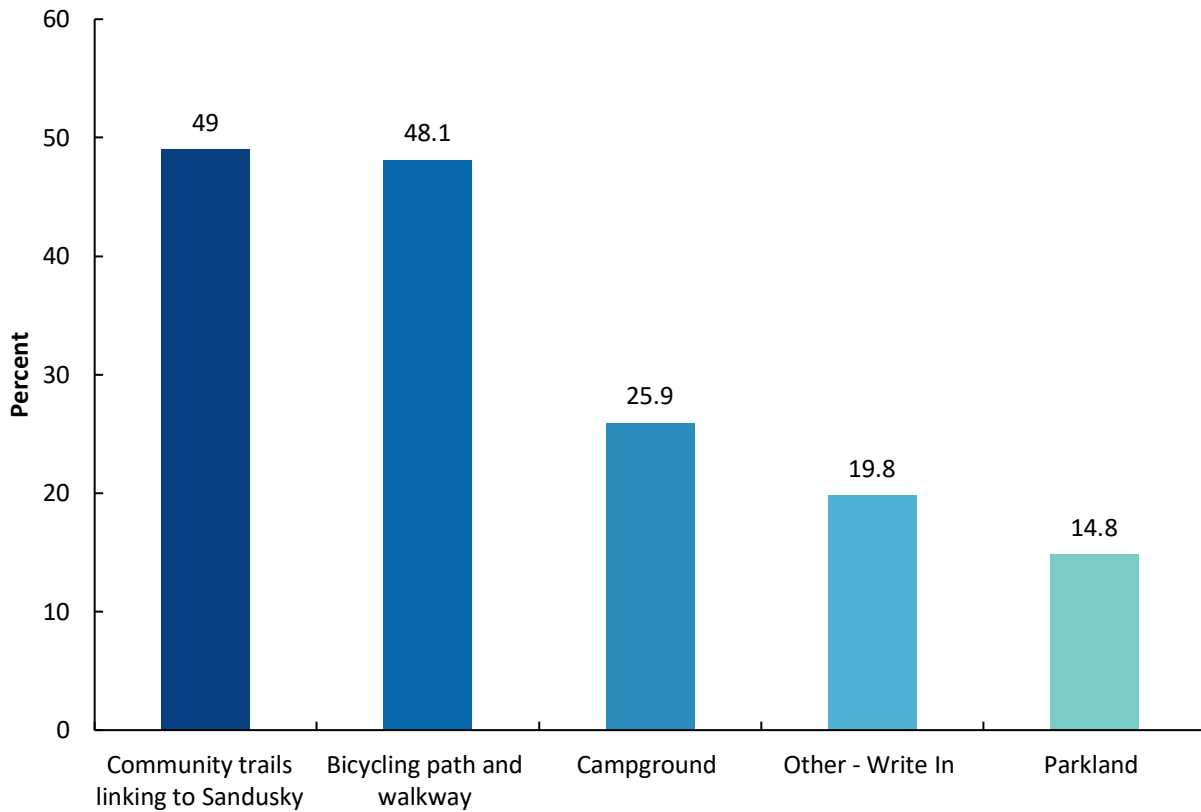
18. What amenities do you or your family use in the area? Please select all that apply.



Other write in -

- Any additional that can be made available
- Football fields
- We want a dog park
- hunting should have been added to this list
- more avents for everyone to get involved with besides cort house lawn
- pickleball courts
- there is nothing to do here except the movies if you like to spend midnight out

19. What additional recreational amenities would you like to see added to the Township? Please check all that apply.

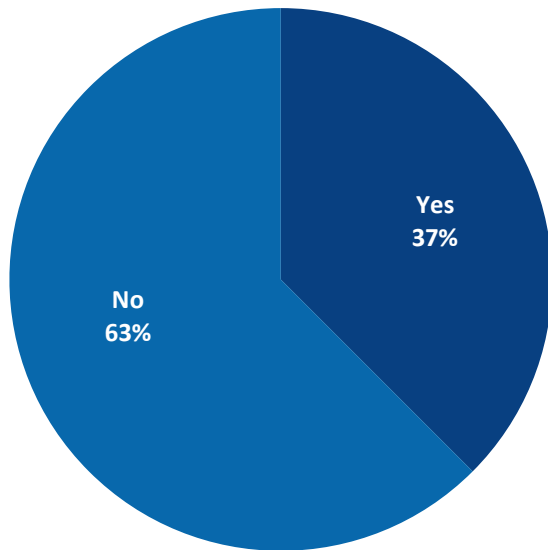


Other write in -

- ATV trails (2)
- small park pavilion by twp hall (2)
- Nature Trails (3)
- None of the above (3)
- Pool (2)
- We have enough (3)
- Discgolf course (2)
- Dog park (2)
- Other trails - Horse trails, Dirt bike orv snowmobile trails (2)
- Non if you want to live in the city, then stay there, this is a FARMING area
- In door walking area
- Kayak canoe access
- Lake front camp improvments
- Picnic style parks with a pavilion and ball field
- Shooting Range
- We have everything in the City of Sandusky
- any large enough property opened for hunting on a permit basis that has small fee. opens more opportunities and twp gets little more income

- replace trees in zion cemetery
- roads I can drive down
- skateboard park
- what a joke, we have no such facilities

20. Have you visited www.watertowntownship.net for information about the Township meetings, ordinances, or our Master Plan?



Value	Percent	Count
Yes	37.5%	119
No	62.5%	198
Totals		317

21. What do you like best about the Township?

Most Common Responses –

- Agricultural land
 - County Living
 - Quietness/Peaceful
 - People
 - Cost of Living
-
- The agriculture style community
 - Quiet, Comfort
 - Agricultural
 - Supervisor and the board are more fair to all people
 - It's not that great
 - Used to be quiet before drug dealers and city people moved in
 - Country living
 - living here on a FARMING , if people want live like they do in the City, then they need to stay living there, NOT here
 - People
 - Being close to town but still in the country.
 - Wesch gas station
 - The peace & quite

- Quiet affordable living.
- Quiet, nice people,
- The people and the quiet.
- Quite place to live
- Just living in the country.
- Rural look, rural feel, NO SOLAR!!!
- Rural living
- Rural living
- The landscape
- Safe community
- Country living and it's peaceful.
- The view of fields. The nice people.
- Peaceful, wildlife, be nicer if streets in town were smoother for rideing scooters, streets are pitted and no ways to get from one side to other without being on main streets.
- The peace and quiet
- It is peaceful in the area we live in
- It is quiet
- Quiet country living yet close to town.
- The location
- Quiet rural living
- That it's a rural setting without turbines or solar
- The senery
- Everything
- The rural living
- Like it the way it is. Quite living.
- Low cost of living
- It's rural aspect
- So far people are for preserving farm land and not wanting to look at solar panels. Solar panels do not belong on main roads like M-19. They are an eyesore. Solar panels do not need to be any residential area. It's not fair to the people in the township that pay taxes and have lived in their homes for years. I strongly disagree with the one on M-19 as I would have to look at that from my front yard. It's just not fair.
- Rural, peace and quiet, friendly
- The quietness of a small town.
- Quietness
- Rural peace and quiet.
- The people
- I like the sense of community. My neighbors are great! We all get along and are willing to help each other out when needed.
- It has good farmland and the people.
- There's no wind mills or solar panels in the fields
- It's rural character and agriculture
- The people
- Just far enough from town to be rural.
- Relatively peaceful
- I like that agricultural land will continue too stay ag for conservation purposes

- I like that it's simple and is a nice representation of what I see as nice looking highly productive farm land with producers taking pride in what we do.
- The community.
- The parts Stoutenburg's don't own.
- Not a lot of people
- It's small community atmosphere.
- Rural
- The cemetery
- Public security, lac of crime
- Everything but it's less every time you dingle nuts start building or tearing stuff apart.
- Rural area, no outsiders. NO CRIME!!!
- Rural
- I loved it before Scott Franzel was in office
- Did love beautiful trees in cemetery whose stupid boneheaded idea was that to debeautify down town
- Small town feel and knowing our neighbors
- It's small, people stay in contact with others, some people speak to others on a first name basis.
- Keeping it rural, keep the small farms productive. Big is 'not' always better... Help the long time local rural people's needs that love this areas and don't appease to city/urban needs. Don't cut all the trees or woods either. Sorry, lot of mumbling from me but you get the drift.
- Keeping it rural, keep the small farms productive. Big is 'not' always better... Help the long time local rural people's needs that love this areas and don't appease to city/urban needs. Don't cut all the trees or woods either. Sorry, lot of mumbling from me but you get the drift.
- Why did you cut down the trees in my ancestors cemetery and where did the money go and who's big idea was that
- Quiet Close to town Good school district
- Rural living, enjoying the farming community, small town living
- Good location
- Quiet...low crime
- The landscape and space.
- Rural area, watching wildlife, close proximity to Sandusky.
- Community minded. Leadership
- Quiet family community
- Better road than other townships
- pleasant place to live, a long way from shopping, cultural events, etc. I often say it takes an hour to get to civilization. Jobs are still low paying and difficult to find without travel.
- Country living. Good place to raise kids
- Quietness, not commercialized
- Quiet/rural setting
- friendly
- Quiet rural community
- Not having people living next door
- nice area good neighbors
- Quiet, safe and friendly
- 20 years ago it was the roads
- Quiet Rural setting
- country living

- rural living
- born and raised here
- It's very laid back...
- The farming community.
- Rural safe secure living when we lived here 50yr ago, now so much. Now opportunist and drugs being allowed
- I like the people within our community.
- The natural beauty
- This is a safe and Beautiful place to live, I live near corn and soybean fields and it's so nice to have neighbors like I do.
- Being surrounded by farm fields and agriculture. Rural living, corn fields, tractors. Seclusion, peacefulness
- The rural nature
- Nothing to note
- We have loved having the dumpsters available for clean up days. We don't have a truck, so haven't used the free dump uses on Ruth Rd.
- The quiet atmosphere and friendly people
- Good mix of agriculture and residential
- People
- Very quiet area. Rural living but close enough to town for shopping
- It's rural
- Small
- it's outside the city limits
- the people
- friendly, everyone knows everybody. Helpful when needed
- the peace & quiet & the few people that i have met are really nice
- rural setting
- the people, friendships community closeness
- it's a quiet place to live
- the roads are aging. looks good all around
- the rural country setting, yet close to home
- farm ground
- rural conservative
- it's a peaceful space to live
- It is close to Sandusky so we can use it's amenities without payig higher taxes
- rural atmosphere
- quiet rural, no traffic & stop lights everywhere. love the rural area that's why i moved here to get away from the city life, but yet close to town. Don't like the hussle and bussle & it keeps the crime out of here
- county living
- the people
- rural living yet close to town for kids activities
- the people and no solar and windmills. they hurt the land and animals.
- most of the people are very friendly
- people
- welshe's old gas station

- quiet rural
- i feel safe
- it used to be the rural nature of the township. neighbors look out for neighbors. now its just where we live
- quiet
- rural area
- near town but outside limits, rural location
- I can live in the country and be 1/4 mile from a beer store
- Rural Living
- quiet
- small nice community
- rural community quiet
- no solar panels
- I like the country living
- rural area
- rural ag community
- no solar panels
- nice area
- great people making a difference. small and rural area to raise family. love the agricultural aspects of our area
- no solar
- Rural character and preservation of agricultural
- keep solar out of here
- no solar in township will do awful things here - bring down community standards
- like country living
- it's a friendly place to visit
- neighbors, twp board, farmland
- farmland
- the people
- it's rural but close to town. we have good neighbors
- country side w/ enough commercial
- natural area - streams & wooded areas (the few that are left)
- small town friendly
- the setting and being rural. I think it's very important it stays. I do appreciate the lights that have been placed @ major crossways
- The people
- small town rural living
- it's small so things like voting are quick and easy
- small community and friendly
- adjacent to sandusky, stores restaurants gas stations
- it is close to town but still have country feel
- rural small community atmosphere. close enough to sandusky or larger cities. Definitely notice attitude change of city dweller's moving into neighborhood. Less friendly & overly protective of their land. Not step on my property attitude
- living in the country
- country living

- affordability
- mom home and my farming way of life. do not want any solar or wind turbines
- quiet and peaceful
- quiet not a lot of traffic. not to many neighbors for country living
- quiet
- rural land
- the township boards desire to follow communities best interests
- The family environment
- It's Quiet
- Peace and quiet
- it is my home
- Good people, quiet place to live, nomcrime
- roads are getting much better
- private land
- close to town but country living
- Friendly neighbors. I use to use many of the amenities before when we raised 2 adopted children and then had 2 foster kids for 3 years, but now we are to elderly to do to much
- It's rural. Keep it that way
- It's rural and want it kept that way
- privacy
- rural atmosphere
- small town feeling but still a lot of growth potential
- peace ad quiet
- nice quiet farming community
- nothing
- see question #4
- I like the rural life
- rural area great place to live
- the country
- rural, farming woodlands
- rural and quiet
- quiet, rural, watching natures floor show
- good people
- rural living, quiet, watching nature
- rural aspects, affordable housing
- rural atmosphere
- that we grow weed in the area
- no opinion
- country living
- keep rural
- the way it is
- retain rural atmosphere
- Rural living

22. What is one thing you would do to improve the Township?

Most Common Responses –

- Change in leadership
 - Communication
 - Roads
 - No solar or wind
 - Blight
 - Add trees in the Cemetery
 - Keep out growing facilities
 - Add recreational amenities and a path
-
- Banning all future attempts on development of solar and wind parks
 - Parks, Change of command
 - More shopping, especially a grocery store
 - Fine the way it is
 - Improve walking/bike paths
 - Let solar come in
 - Not allow drug house and cannabis grow farms.
 - Relationship with city
 - A board where all the members listen to the people's opinion and not their own agendas
 - Public water
 - Pave Townline rd. .
 - A bike/walking trail to Sandusky
 - A garbage service would be nice, and a party store.
 - Get a new township supervisor that is transparent, honest, and follows the law over his own personal preferences and biases. Make the township budget viewable to the public,
 - Taxes and our assessor.
 - Township infighting. Crime is increasing. Upsetting to see so many houses and outbuildings used for drug production. How do you improve a community with that kind of activity going on? Would be nice to have a small store back, with food and basic necessities.
 - More press time , a better way of letting the public know what is being planned.
 - Start listening to the residents, end onean rule.
 - Less chemicals on fields
 - Less chemicals used by farming
 - Keep the woods and fencerows
 - Put the trees back in the cemetery
 - Better roads
 - No commercials solar industry parks
 - Really need 2nd grocery store or better conveniences to shop for household foods. South East side of town.
 - Nothing
 - Road improvements
 - A store.
 - I'm happy with the current status of the township.
 - More new tree growth
 - Keep out solar and wind turbines
 - Get a new township board

- Fix the side roads
- Little more enforcement of ordinances already on the books. Every time a farmer rips out a woodlot or fence row they complain about soil erosion or ditches being cleaned out. Maybe they should have some kind of penalty for that because the rest of us have to deal with their problems
- No solar or wind technology out of the area.
- Clean up the dangerous, horrible-looking property next to the elementary school.
- Keep it simple
- Just keep solar away from main residential areas.
- Get training for the boards so they are more effective, especially the treasurer. Our sewer bills and tax checks are paid on time but she doesn't tell the county.
- Roads
- No more pot growers
- Look into the future of advanced technology
- Keep out solar and wind turbines
- More recreational opportunities. Sports dome like Pigeon has.
- Less housing honestly. I live in the populated part of Watertown that's close to 19. Although I like my neighbors, I have too many of them. Haha.
- I don't like that they cut all trees down in the cemetery it was beautiful now looks depressing
- More limestone on the roads
- Build bike path
- Better living. Community for housing
- Get rid of any Karens.
- More farmers on the board
- We need no renewable energy projects dividing us as a community. We also need no mandatory trash pickup. We also need some trees or plants of some kind put back into our cemetery.
- Roads
- More paved roads
- Plant more trees. Bring back tree lined roads.
- Crime
- Not a goddamn thing
- SPEED LIMIT SIGN IN CASH VILLAGE AND NO CHANGES WITH BUILDINGS. IT BRINGS CRIME
- Fire whoever ordered to cut down trees
- More community events and parks to keep us a close knit community
- Everything should be listened to and treated the same, no matter who is speaking about or on whatever subject. One person's opinion should not have more clout compared to another's opinion dealing with Township issues.
- I want to know why you cut down the trees in the cemetery and who thought they were authorized to do so and where did the money go?
- You haven't answered me why did you cut the trees down in my ancestors cemetery where did the money go and who's idea was it
- Enforce blight laws
- We need to take care of the issues at hand first, prior to spending money elsewhere. Next, we need more living facilities to bring more people in. The taxes for someone to develop this type of property is astounding and therefore we will get no one to come in and put up these dwellings with the taxes that are being thrown at them. We need to be proactive and build a better township rather than reactive.
- We need ditch work and road work done in the sub division.

- Improve Townline Rd (pavement)...very high traffic
- Lower taxes.
- Better road maintenance.
- Once or twice a year paper shredding day offered for free for residents
- Stop solar farms on or near residential areas. It's not fair to homeowners. Definately lowers value of their homes and that's just not fair at all
- Plant more trees in the cemetary. Someone cut all the trees down, now the cemetary is ugly. We never had a say, no vote, nothing.
-
- When 70% of residents are satisfied and resistant to change improving the township is difficult, when we already are perfect. Most residence of waterotwn township think gravel roads were good enough in the 1800's and are good enough forever!!
- Get the marijuana growers out. This should be a wholesome area. Some moved in the place next to mine. I don't like smelling the odor when I go outside to enjoy my property. The township knew what the people wanted the property with the big sheds with when they were sold and still let the sales happen. Should have been shut down immediatley.
- Internet access for all
- Better and more transparent information by the board. Examples, cutting downs trees in cemetary without consulting family members first was unforgivable. taxes being sent out on time is an ongoing issue.
- more limestone on gravel roads. more attention to blight enforcement
- No grow/pot houses in township
- trying to get more commercial restaurants and store and advertise them
- Improve roads
- Lower taxes
- in my subdivision (Gleason M-19) even with occasional grading and adding dirt. Dell St & Gleason are always full of ruts and holes due to school buses and garbage trucks. Asphalt on cement would be nice without constant upkeep.
- roads, roads, roads
- plant trees back in cemetary
- forbid pot/grow houses in the township. improve on enforcing blight
- Twp board be more open (special meetings are almost secret meetings. Have lighted sign to post meetings or special meetings. Are on door sometimes not even able to read them. Supervisor should be removed. His vindictive nature disqualifies him from a leadership position.
- employment
- Dispensarie would benefit it's citizens...
- Keeping the roads up.
- Keep out development that destroys rural communities. Why allow marijuana grow houses into township - why try to install solar/wind mills into residential areas that we have to suffer the consequences if f greed for money to a few - you can't eat solar or wind and survive without precious land to grow
- Jobs
- Keep large scale solar out! We need the jobs that the farm store, farmers, and agriculture businesses provide to all of us!
- To not be overtaken by big companies and industrialization.
- Leave it how it is

- Will they be planting new trees at the cemetery?
- Put in pickelball courts
- higher standards for blight
- getting rid of the extreme blight in twp
- Nothing at this time
- Would like at least one party store near the township hall
- Reduce weight limits on all roads
- Have people get all the junk out of their yards. Lean it up
- Make it buses stores cheaper for people to rent
- More paved roads
- keep out wind and solar farms
- In my world everything is great. Great place to raise children
- Things to do as a family, camping, swimming, water park, rollerskating park
- Quit selling property to people for use to grow marijuana
- improve roads
- the only thing that i would love to see is a trail from watertown to sandusky
- internet at a affordable price
- taxes seem high for what we have
- township website, being able to view and pay taxes online
- senior center
- have spending more thought out. there are some things that tax money does not need to buy
- ban the use of farmland for commercial development, including wind or solar farms
- dog park
- more forestry woods
- tax rate is too high
- Create a township facebook page where meetings could be live streamed and keep up to date on township news
- Have more stores, grocery, dollar general, family dollar, aldi's. olies, big lots. few more restaurants - culvers, country buffet, golden coral, pizza express
- quarterly billing to monthly
- School Security. At the courthouse we gave a doorway type metal detector and a cop inside with a gun. we need both of these things at our schools. Money would be better spent on this instead of a parking lot or changing the school mascot
- some how provide ways to help residents with alternative energy on individual scale rather than large solar or wind farms
- Farming more of the land
- have owners need to clean up their junk in their yard.
- more parks
- remove pot sheds, houses. all facilities
- board decisions that focus on improving lives of residents without increasing taxes
- the board removed all the stately trees from the zion cemetery. Hired a logger to excavate. Should have hired an arborist to evaluate each tree. The trees need to be replaced. Pehaps the township needs a cemetery advisory board. Use the new sign to post special meetings. Not a small sign on the door.
- paved streets, lighting
- leave rural area & maintain roads & ditches

- keep status quo
- pave miller road to gates road and gates rd to m-46. pave jean st to maple valley and maple valley down to miller
- roads
- Plant new trees in the cemetery. Not sure who made the choice to cut down all the trees, but whoever did made a terrible mistake. The cemetery looks terrible. shame on any and all who was involved in that decision.
- Better communication for Board Members watertown township clear-cut of the tree in cemetery
- do not ruin with commercial solar or wind projects
- blight in township
- no solar panels
- no solar in the township
- no solar panels
- no solar panels
- I don't want to look at solar panels - go some where else
- Do not bring solar to our community
- no solar
- keep solar out the people in our community are here for agricultural settings people don't know how much the farmers for for the local economic
- no solar panels
- improve by keeping solar out
- leave as is
- put a stop light down by Burger King. when you come out of Mcdonalds it hard to get out of there at certain times of the day
- I'm fine with the status quo
- Encourage farmers to keep tree lines and tress along road way would like to keep county charm
- bit cut down all the trees in the watertown cementery. Everyone is shocked and angry
- Housing
- remove school board & superintendent educate done indoctrinate
- adding trails/bike path/walking path to surrounding towns. Abolish any marijuana growing area. Continue to promote agriculture and areas for retired people. a pavilion would be nice also
- growth of commercial and residential
- garbage pick up to be included in taxes. I think this would help to eliminate many blight/blemishes in our township
- I don't think we have been here long enough to offer an opinion
- communication with the voters of the township needs to be improved
- make or have some type of ordinance for junk/garbage on land/lawns
- Possible more housing for retirement income or a few duplexes. Nothing huge as we are rural and live here because we like country living
- leave it as it is
- leave as is
- have a township place for reunions w/ kids park and gazebo w/ picnic tables. more watertown activities to pull comm together
- have people clean up there yards
- allow more single family homes and mobile trailers. with cost of living some families can only afford mobile trailer/homes
- coordinate development goals with city of sandusky.
- Grocery Store
- make sure the side rd are in good shape. bad side rd are very hard on vehicles

- keep the marijuana growing facilities out of this township, stop selling every farm or place that has a big shed on it. Stop the real estate sales person/township supervisor from being involved in this.
- rec park fir gatherings of family-friends
- Get rid of all the pot growers
- get rid of self-serving board members. planning board members working for themselves
- decrease in property taxes for seniors
- no solar or wind. Blight control
- More trees & woodlots for windbreaks especially along ditches. I know farmers disagree but I prefer to protect the land & waterways. I would like to see much more CRP for improved wildlife & beautify landscape
- Don't waste money on walking trail, for example. Manage money in a smart way. Have intelligent people on the board making decisions. NO NEED for commercial development of any kind!!! Parks, recreational opportunities, cutting down trees are not necessary
- Keep commercial projects out of Watertown Township
- lower taxes
- continue to improve roads
- young officials/members of board
- senior recreation
- stop the sale of our houses for drug growing
- get rid of the pot houses. if you want the next generation to live out here, we need affordable housing and jobs for them
- Bring phesants back
- walking path, garbage pick up
- plant new trees in the Zion Watertown Cemetery to replace the more than necessary amount of the trees the board allowed to be removed
- repair roads and encourage more businesses such as groceries or shopping area's
- put the hammer down on people that don't keep up their homes. need more recycle options
- roads and drainage
- limestone, more sideroads, more recreation
- we are very upset about the loss of all pine trees in Zion Cemetery. We understand one fell down during winter storm. Did it cause grave stone damage? why cut down every pine tree and at what cost? was this done by a vote?
- bring in low cost high speed internet to all (rural) better cell phone service to all (rural)
- pave town line rd between marlette rd & m-46
- need affordable broadband internet & better cell phone service for everyone in rural areas
- fix miller road, pave to townline td
- better internet
- prohibit wind and solar development that kind of development belongs on the michigan peat fields on stringes roads
- wee shop
- no opinion
- road Maintenace on local level, main & primary are good. Who ever made the decision to remove all of the trees from the cemetery needs to step down from the board
- add sidewalks
- keep it rural - no solar
- prevent solar
- more road maintenance pavilion & small play area for kids
- don't destroy more trees - such as zion cemetery - bad decision
- Too many zoning rules for lifestyle of those in the township. Especially rural areas

23. What three priorities should the Township focus on?

Most Common Responses –

- Blight
 - Solar/Wind
 - Parks and Trails
 - Land Preservation
 - Low Taxes
 - Roads
-
- No solar. No windmills. Single family dwellings
 - Blight, zoning enforcement and taxes
 - protecting our farmland
 - Support solar walking/ bike trails
 - Listen to the public,
 - Blight Trash Roads
 - Solar, can't put a new home up unless you own at least 40 acres
 - Side road grading using lime stone not gravel only roads get special attention is county officials live on or road bosses
 - Parks and trails Solar Relationship with city
 - Not letting solar or wind turbines in
 - Utilities, walking trail linked to Sandusky
 - Keep land taxes low and reasonable.
 - Recreation, medical services for veterans, trails.
 - Garbage service, more federal dollars dedicated to programs available for wildlife and habitat conservation and less focus on windmills and solar. Our county is TOO SMALL for these "solutions" and will turn Michigan into a DESERT.
 - 1. Get all township officials training so they know how to do their jobs efficiently. 2. New Recreational opportunities like motorized trails and a park. 3. Maintenance of sewer system.
 - Cutting the budget and saving taxpayer dollars. permanent roll off dumpster at the township hall. Getting tough on crime. Please do not add garbage pickup costs to our taxes. People are facing hard times and the township representatives should be focusing on improving the life of residents. If taxes can't be paid, people lose their property. So how can the township impose a utility bill on people who may be struggling with hard times? That's a land grab.
 - No solar No wind turbines Preserve agriculture
 - More paved roads
 - Lower taxes Sustain property values Respect sight lines
 - Stay an agricultural community
 - Land preservation,
 - Keeping the land farming. Protect our water ways. No industrial solar parks
 - Smoother streets, shopping, lower income housing!!
 - Keeping feilds safe keeping it peaceful and the keeping it the same housing
 - A store, a park, and getting RID of the Marijuana houses.
 - Keeping solar out. Keeping wind turbines out. Keeping taxes reasonable.
 - Sustainable energy, water source protection, preventing deforestation
 - No solar No turbines Advertise items coming before the board better.
 - Fixing side roads Keeping solar away Keeping property taxes low
 - Solar should be a priority for the individual home owner rather than a big solar park. How to balance the rural life with development. (I travel the state and country for work and notice that most rural areas get dumped on big cities and companies, including our own. Just because we're "simple people"). Work with the county to improve recycling opportunities for county/township residents

- Keeping us a rural community. Keeping land owners in check about new technologies. Keeping blighted areas in check
- Stop the solar Stop the wind turbines Get honest board members who care about the people NOT lining their pockets or their family
- Roads, blight.. we need to adapt a blight ordinance.
- Training, put in a park or ORV trail, being fair to all residents not just favorites.
- No windmills.
- Lower taxes No solar No marijuana growing farms
- Solar farms, roads, taxes
- No solar No turbines Keep it rural
- Growth. New business safety
- Dog park/walking trail. There are sooooo many dogs in this community. Blight. A lot of houses are run down and have messy yards. Property taxes. My property taxes are quite high for the lack of amenities offered in my area.
- Fiscal responsibility, efficiency of services and preserving farmland.
- Getting houses cleaned up, more limestone on the roads, and maybe a walking trail
- Preserve rural character Work on bike path
- Water and sewer, encourage farmers to sell land for commercial use, subdivision
- Doing what the citizens want. Always be transparent in your dealings and decisions.
- Don't fix what isn't broken
- Preserving our township Focus on blight individually instead of punishing everyone by making everyone pay Continue to keep the roads in as nice of condition as they can be
- Roads, drainage, bridges
- Allowing people to use their land as they want More commercial along M19 A funeral chapel at the cemetery. Make it nice.
- Growth Walking path Park
- Crime, More trees, visuals
- Public safety, roads, and commercial industry.
- Ag, no solar, no wind
- Pave roads, build solar, deversivy
- Leaving farm land and all land the hell alone
- Better police presence and not changing anything else. Go tear into a different township. We all enjoy how it is
- Housing, job growth and recreational activities/facilities
- The Township should not get involved in other people's business. Everyone should be treated equal, no favoritism should be accepted or witnessed. Working towards capitalizing on green living. Wether we like it or not that is the way things are being changed over to.
- Keep big outside land developers. Meetings where everyone can participate easily, most people work long and at various hours. Keep druggie and solar out of this township...
- Get the solar permit approved. Dragging this out for years is not benefitting the township. Beware of positioning the township to be drug into a costly lawsuit. Marijuana farms and increase in crime related to them. I worry far more about the safety of my family living next to a commercial pot growing business than next to a solar panel. Also, what is the future regarding them as they are already being abandoned.
- Housing, lower taxes for new dwellings for rental complexes (not rental houses), making sure that all board members are completing their jobs and are available as they should be and as stated for citizens of the township.
- Ditch drainage,roads,
- Keeping agricultural land safe Keeping the road maintained No solar or windmills

- Road maintenance, garbage/recycling pick-up, and small park or convenience store where kids can go for ice cream.
- Dispensarie Keeping farmers happy Environment
- Keeping farm ground in agriculture. Keep blight down. Keeping the roads in good shape.
- Seeking companies that need a place to build their businesses, small or large companies.
- Protection of the key element that put us on the map, farmers! Keep up our roadsides Safety in the community
- Preserving our roots, agriculture, and rural living. Change is not always a good thing.
- Maintaining an agricultural based township, keeping the scenic nature of our area,
- Nothing

APPENDIX C

ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION



WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP SHARE YOUR OPINION

Watertown Township is updating their Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Plan. The Township is asking the community to share their opinion to help shape the future of Watertown Township!

The survey should take you no more than ten minutes to complete. Your input is greatly appreciated!

TAKE THE SURVEY

www.watertowntwpsurvey.com



SHARE YOUR OPINION

Watertown Township
wants your opinion to help
shape the future of the
Township.

SCAN ME



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WE NEED YOUR INPUT! This survey is your opportunity to help shape the future of Watertown Township.



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AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

IN THE MATTER OF: NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF REVIEW
DRAFT FIVE YEAR RECREATION MASTER PLAN

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF SANILAC: ss

William R. Dixon being duly sworn, says that he is the publisher of Tribune Recorder Leader, a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published.

The annexed notice has been duly published in said paper at least once each week for ONE successive week(s).

Commencing November 1, 2023 A.D. and ending November 1, 2023 A.D.



Subscribed and sworn to before this 1st day of November, 2023 A.D.



Notary Public, Sanilac County, Michigan
My Commission expires October 15, 2024

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Where the Deals Are!

NOTICE

Kirby CLEANING TIME!
Do you want your carpets to be clean & free of dirt & dust? Built in the USA ensuring quality, reliability and performance. Reconditioned Kirby vacuums. Will ship bags and belts with no delivery charge. New Kirby vacuums on sale now. Three year warranty on parts and labor. Kirby Vacuum of Bad Axe in business 48 years. Located across from Franklin Inn. Call 989-269-7562 Daniel Messing for repairs, parts or service.

PLUMBING SERVICES

WATER PUMP REPAIR & INSTALLATION: Water pumps, water tanks, sump pumps and sewage pumps. Emergency service. Call Paul's Pump Repair, L.L.C. 989-673-4850 or 1-800-745-4851. 11-1

SALT FREE IRON CONDITIONER AND WATER SOFTENERS: Free estimates. In-home service on all brands. Call Paul's Pump Repair, L.L.C. 989-673-4850 or 1-800-745-4851. 11-1

CRAFT SHOW

MARLETTE VFW CRAFT SHOW: November 18, from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Free admission. Luncheon, bike raffle, ornament decorating for kids. 11-15

BUSINESS CARDS

BUSINESS CARDS: 500 to 5,000. Professional set-up free with first order. Fast turnaround, excellent quality. Call the Tribune Recorder Leader, 810-648-5282.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Red, White and Baker potatoes. \$8.00 for 10 pounds. Freshly dug. Call 810-376-4307. tfn

FOR RENT

FOR RENT: 2 bedroom, 1 bath duplex. No pets, 1 parking space. Kitchen, living room. 49 Hart St., Sandusky. Call 313-460-9949 or 810-648-9626. 11-1

RUBBER STAMPS

RUBBER STAMPS: All sizes, colors available. Fast delivery. Tribune Recorder Leader, 43 S. Elk Street, Sandusky 810-648-5282. tfn

Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising. Call 810-648-5282 Today.

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVERS, CLASS A CDL, 3 months recent tractor/trailer experience. Benefits after 90 days-401K after 1 year. Call 586-752-4529, Ext. 1028. 5-1-24

MECHANIC, Must have tractor/trailer experience. Benefits after 90 days-401K after 1 year. Call 586-752-4529 Ext. 1005. 5-1-24



Village of Deckerville Residents

Strict enforcement of Winter parking overnight begins November 1st to April 30th.

On-street parking shall be prohibited on all streets between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Violation will result in ticketing and/or towing at vehicle owner expense.

Marriage License Applications

James Woodard, 48422 and Lisa Ann (Six) Keglovitz, 48422
 William Grace Smith, Applegate, MI 48401
 Crowell, MI 48422 and Yosbany Len Betancourt, Brown City, MI 48416 and Katharine Sharon Ann flowers, Brown City, MI 48416
 Patrick Gerald Barrigar, Sandusky, MI 48471 and Rikki Nicole Goss, Sandusky, MI 48471
 Tyler Roland Begley, Applegate, MI 48401 and Cera Grace Smith, Applegate, MI 48401
 Veronica Louise Solmosan, Port Sanilac, MI 48469
 Sebastian Michael Defer, Sandusky, MI 48471 and Alexis Ray Major, Sandusky, MI 48471
 Paul James Albrecht, Port Sanilac, MI 48469
 Heilig, Jr., Brown City, MI 48416 and Bobbie Marie Zissler, Brown City, MI 48416
 Brandon Joseph Elias Hilbert, Crosswell, MI 48422 and Briana Angela Anderson, Crosswell, MI 48422
 Kyle Dale Reynolds, Sandusky, MI 48471 and Janeen Ann Hughes, Sandusky, MI 48471
 Brian Daniel Robinson, Chicago, IL 60618 and Courtney Lynn Anderson, Chicago, IL 60638



Be Like the Wise Old Owl - Subscribe to the Tribune Recorder Leader 810-648-5282

Deckerville Community Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes September 25, 2023

The Deckerville Community Schools Board of Education met in regular session on September 25, 2023 in the high school library. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Board President, Brandon Stolicker.
Members present: Kendra Messing, Richard Hamill, Brandon Stolicker, Danielle Walsh, Jason McConnachie, Randee Kirkpatrick
Members absent: Curt Vogel
Administrators present: Matthew Connelly, Josh Stern, Aaron Sutherland
 Motion by Kendra Messing, support by Danielle Walsh to adopt the agenda for the September 25, 2023 Regular Meeting. **Carried.**
 Motion by Richard Hamill, support by Randee Kirkpatrick to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2023 regular meeting. **Carried.**
 Motion by Richard Hamill, support by Kendra Messing to approve the General Fund bills in the amount of \$301,041.50 as presented. **Carried.**
 Motion by Richard Hamill, support by Danielle Walsh to approve the Athletic fund bills in the amount of \$1,134.61 as presented. **Carried.**
 Motion by Kendra Messing, support by Richard Hamill to approve the Student/School Activity Fund bills in the amount of \$3,094.28 as presented. **Carried.**
 Motion by Richard Hamill, support by Kendra Messing to approve the Food Service Fund bills in the amount of \$11,540.66 as presented. **Carried.**
 Motion by Richard Hamill, support by Kendra Messing to approve the Capital Projects Fund bills in the amount of \$263,093.63 as presented. **Carried.**
 Motion by Richard Hamill, support by Danielle Walsh to approve the Debt Service Fund bills in the amount of \$19,700.00 as presented. **Carried.**
 The Board reviewed the prompt pay bills for August 2023.
 The Board heard reports from administrative staff Aaron Sutherland, Elementary Principal, and Josh Stern, High School Principal.
 Motion by Kendra Messing, support by Richard Hamill to approve the hiring of John Kirkpatrick for the bus driver position. **Carried.**
 Motion by Richard Hamill, support by Jason McConnachie to approve the hiring of Suzan Emerich for the High School Special Education teacher position. **Carried.**
 Motion by Kendra Messing, support by Danielle Walsh to approve, with regret, the resignation of Kirk Forsyth from the Junior/Senior High School Science teacher position. **Carried.**
 Motion by Jason McConnachie, support by Richard Hamill to approve Kendra Messing for the MASB delegate. **Carried.**
 Motion by Kendra Messing, support by Randee Kirkpatrick to approve the updates made to the Food Service Financial Policy and the Meal Charging Policy. **Carried.**
 Motion by Jason McConnachie, support by Kendra Messing to approve the Debt Retirement Millage at .98 and the Operating Millage at 18, both are the same as last year. **Carried.**
 Motion by Kendra Messing, support by Danielle Walsh to adjourn at 7:41 p.m. **Carried.**
 Respectfully submitted,
 Randee Kirkpatrick, Secretary
 Board of Education
 I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the adopted minutes of the regular board meeting held on the 25th day of September 2023 and that said adopted minutes have been available for public inspection at the address designated at the posted notice of said meeting from and after the 29th day of September.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Randee Kirkpatrick, Secretary
 Board of Education

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ISSUE BONDS BY THE VILLAGE OF PECK, MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Village of Peck, Michigan, (the "Village") intends to issue limited tax general obligation bonds in one or more series in the aggregate principal amount of not to exceed \$400,000 for the purpose of defraying all or part of the cost to acquire and construct certain capital improvements, including without limitation construction, reconstruction and improvements to the Village's sidewalk system; acquisition of dump trucks and other capital improvements the Village shall determine to make; and to pay the costs of issuance of said bonds (the "Project").
 The bonds will bear interest from their date at a rate or rates to be determined upon the sale thereof but in no event to exceed such rates as may be permitted by law.
 The bonds will be issued under and pursuant to the provisions of Act No. 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended, and the full faith and credit of the Village will be pledged to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as the same shall become due. The Village will be obligated, as a first budget obligation, to advance moneys from its general funds or to levy ad valorem taxes on all taxable property within its corporate boundaries to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds as the same shall become due; provided, however, that the amount of taxes necessary to pay the principal and interest on the bonds, together with the taxes levied for the same year, shall not exceed the limit authorized by law.

RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REFERENDUM

This notice is given, by order of the Village Council of the Village of Peck, to and for the benefit of the electors of the Village in order to inform them of their right to petition for a referendum upon the question of the issuance of the aforesaid bonds. The bonds will be issued, without submitting such a question to a vote of the electors, unless within 45 days after the date of publication of this notice a petition requesting a referendum upon such question, signed by not less than 10% or 15,000 of the registered electors residing within the Village, whichever is the lesser, shall have been filed with the undersigned Village Clerk. In the event that such a petition is filed, the bonds will not be issued unless and until the issuance thereof shall have been approved by the vote of a majority of the electors of the Village qualified to vote and voting thereon at a general or special election.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information relative to the issuance of said bonds, the purpose of the bonds and the subject matter of this notice may be secured at the office of the Village Clerk of the Village of Peck, 30 East Lapeer Street, Peck, Michigan 48466.
 This notice is given pursuant to the provisions of Act 34, Public Acts of Michigan, 2001, as amended.
 Angela Van Sickle, Clerk
 Village of Peck

NOTICE OF REVIEW WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP DRAFT FIVE YEAR RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Watertown Township has developed a Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Plan evaluates future recreation opportunities, reviews public opinion regarding recreation, establishes recreational goals, and proposes a five-year schedule of improvements and other related items that the Township wishes to pursue. A copy of the Draft Plan is available for review at WEBSITE www.watertowntownship.net, and can also be reviewed at the Watertown Township Hall at 2630 South Sandusky Road, Sandusky, MI 48471 with appointment.

If you are interested in submitting comments regarding the Draft Plan, please send comments to William Dixon, Township Supervisor at dixonwr@gmail.com, or by phone at (810) 837-2327.

A public meeting to take input on the draft plan will be held on December 5, 2023, at the Watertown Township Hall at 2630 South Sandusky Road, Sandusky, MI 48471, at 6:00 p.m.

CUT IT OUT!

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Thumb Area (Sanilac/Huron/Tuscola)	\$31.00	\$58.00
Michigan	\$39.00	\$69.00
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www.TribuneRecorderLeader.com

Watertown Township
 PO BOX 47
 2630 South Sandusky Rd.
 Sandusky, MI 48471

Home Contacts Township Minutes Ordinances Documents Board of Review ECF/Land Values Pictures Archives

Board Contact Information

- ▶ William Dixon - Supervisor
- ▶ Sheila Coats - Treasurer
- ▶ Tammy Ross - Clerk
- ▶ Rebecca Cambridge - Trustee
- ▶ Susan Cole - Trustee

Township

- ▶ Planning Commission Minutes
- ▶ Township Master Plan-2017
- ▶ 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan DRAFT
- ▶ Meeting Procedures
- ▶ Schedule of Fees
- ▶ Cemetery Information
- ▶ FOIA Procedures and Guidelines
- ▶ Public Records Search

Education/Training

- ▶ MSU Citizen Planner Course
- ▶ MSU Master Citizen Planner Course

Government

- ▶ City of Sandusky
- ▶ MDOT

About Us

Just 12 miles from Lake Huron, Watertown Township encompasses picturesque farmlands in the Thumb of Michigan located adjacent to the Sanilac County seat of Sandusky. M-46 is the northern border running east and west M-19 runs north and south through the township. Township Board meetings are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Announcements

▶ **NOTICE OF REVIEW**

Watertown Township has developed a Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Plan evaluates future recreation opportunities, reviews public opinion regarding recreation, establishes recreational goals, and proposes a five-year schedule of improvements and other related items that the Township wishes to pursue. A copy of the Draft Plan is available for review by clicking on the link on the left side tab under "Township", and can also be reviewed at the Watertown Township Hall at 2630 South Sandusky Road, Sandusky, MI 48471 with appointment. If you are interested in submitting comments regarding the Draft Plan, please send comments to William Dixon, Township Supervisor at dixonwrd@gmail.com, or by phone at (810) 837-2327. A public meeting to take input on the draft plan will be held on December 5, 2023, at the Watertown Township Hall at 2630 South Sandusky Road, Sandusky, MI 48471, at 6:00 p.m.

November 2023

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Township

- ▶ [Planning Commission Minutes](#)
- ▶ [Township Master Plan-2017](#)
- ▶ [2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan DRAFT](#)
- ▶ [Meeting Procedures](#)
- ▶ [Schedule of Fees](#)
- ▶ [Cemetery Information](#)
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Government

- ▶ [City of Sandusky](#)
- ▶ [MDOT](#)
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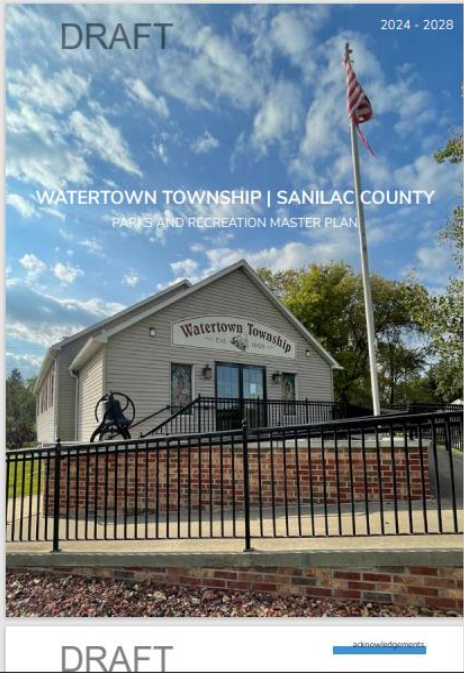
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▶ **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 27 28 29 30



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

IN THE MATTER OF: NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
DECEMBER 5, 2023

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF SANILAC: ss

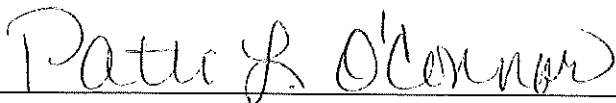
William R. Dixon being duly sworn, says that he is the publisher of Tribune Recorder Leader, a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published.

The annexed notice has been duly published in said paper at least once each week for ONE successive week(s).

Commencing November 15, 2023 A.D. and ending November 15, 2023 A.D.



Subscribed and sworn to before this 15th day of November, 2023 A.D.



Notary Public, Sanilac County, Michigan
My Commission expires October 15, 2024

THE CLASSIFIEDS - Where the Deals Are!

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE
THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE INACTIVE DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Under the power of sale contained herein in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or a cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Sanilac County, starting promptly at 10:00 AM, on December 7, 2023. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. MORTGAGE SALE - Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Robert G. Hooper (deceased) and Linda S. Hooper, aka Linda S. Ward-Hooper, husband and wife, original mortgagors, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for FMF Capital LLC, dated December 15, 2006, and recorded January 8, 2007 in Liber 977 Page 796, in Sanilac County records, Michigan, and assigned to The Huntington National Bank as Trustee by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on July 23, 2009 in Liber 1074 Page 304, and assigned to The Huntington National Bank as Trustee for Franklin Mortgage Asset Trust 2009-A by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on December 28, 2009 in Liber 1087 Page 500, and assigned to Wilmington Savings Fund Society, FSB, not in its individual capacity but solely as Certificate Trustee of Bosco Credit III Trust Series 2010-1 by an Assignment of Mortgage recorded on September 27, 2023 in Liber 1568 Page 734, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of Seventy-four Thousand Ninety-three and 86/100 dollars (\$74,093.86). Said premises are situated in the City of Marlette, County of Sanilac, and State of Michigan, and particularly described as: Lot 17, Block 1, McGunagle's Subdivision to the Village of Marlette, according to the plat thereof as recorded in Liber 3 of Plats, on Page 22, Sanilac County Records. Property Address: 6224 Kigour Street, Marlette, MI 48453 Parcel No.: 330-130-001-017-00 The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Dated: November 1, 2023 For more information, please call: (440) 572-1511 Sottile and Barile

LEGALS

PLLC Attorneys for Servicer 7530 Lucerne Drive, Suite 210 Middleburg Heights, OH 44130 File MF2302006 -Hooper, Robert and Linda (11-08)(11-29)

NOTICE

Kirby CLEANING TIME!
Do you want your carpets to be clean & free of dirt & dust? Built in the USA ensuring quality, reliability and performance. Reconditioned Kirby vacuums. Will ship bags and belts with no delivery charge. New Kirby vacuums on sale now. Three year warranty on parts and labor.
Kirby Vacuum of Bad Axe in business 48 years. Located across from Franklin Inn
Call 989-269-7562
Daniel Messing for repairs, parts or service.

Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising. Call 810-648-5282 Today.

CRAFT SHOW

MARLETTE VFW CRAFT SHOW: November 18, from 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Free admission. Luncheon, bike raffle, ornament decorating for kids. 11-15

EMPLOYMENT

DRIVERS, CLASS A CDL, 3 months recent tractor/trailer experience. Benefits after 90 days-401K after 1 year. Call 586-752-4529, Ext. 1028. 5-1-24

MECHANIC, Must have tractor/trailer experience. Benefits after 90 days-401K after 1 year. Call 586-752-4529 Ext. 1005. 5-1-24

RUBBER STAMPS

RUBBER STAMPS: All sizes, colors available. Fast delivery. Tribune Recorder Leader, 43 S. Elk Street, Sandusky 810-648-5282. tfn

PLUMBING SERVICES

WATER PUMP REPAIR & INSTALLATION: Water pumps, water tanks, sump pumps and sewage pumps. Emergency service. Call Paul's Pump Repair, L.L.C. 989-673-4850 or 1-800-745-4851. 11-1

SALT FREE IRON CONDITIONER AND WATER SOFTENERS: Free estimates. In-home service on all brands. Call Paul's Pump Repair, L.L.C. 989-673-4850 or 1-800-745-4851. 11-1

STATE-WIDE ADS

MISCELLANEOUS
Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-866-495-1709

MISCELLANEOUS
Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roofs! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-718-3124

MISCELLANEOUS
The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15% Call Today! 1-877-957-1264

BUSINESS CARDS

BUSINESS CARDS: 500 to 5,000. Professional set-up free with first order. Fast turnaround, excellent quality. Call the Tribune Recorder Leader, 810-648-5282.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Red, White and Baker potatoes. \$8.00 for 10 pounds. Freshly dug. Call 810-376-4307. tfn

Land Transfers

October 23, 2023
Kathline Nichol to Jacob Globke & Kendra Berden-Simpson; Lots in Carson's Plat, Carsonville
Saad J. Karana to John Hana, Wasem Henino & Mohanad Isso; Section 21, Worth Township
CJH 130 Minden Land Trust to Vanessa Stadler; Lot in Hubbard & King's Sub, Sandusky
Marilyn J. Light Trust to James & Lori Hunt; Lots in Plat of Village of Monrovia, Lexington
Donna Biebel

to Vicki Harbin; Copeland Trust to Raid Abdul-Salamkilano; Section 6, Timothy Marlette Township
Raymond Hartwick to Melinda Smith; Section 36, Village of Applegate
November 1, 2023
Angel & Jodi Martinez to Monthir Nissu, Sec. 2, Elk Twp.

Assumed Names

Alexander Trucking, 6043 Shephard Rd., Brown City, MI 48416. Owner: Robert L. Alexander
Angela Marie Christensen, c/o 8055 Garfield St., Melvin, MI 48454. Owners: Angela Marie Christensen and Angela Marie Stanton
B&P Farms, 425 Henderson Rd., Sandusky, MI 48471. Owners: Jared J. Piper and Brandon D. Bennett
Borseau's Wash Service, 210 Richmond Rd., St. Clair, MI 48079. Owner: Hunter Leland Bordeau
Campbell Hillside Farms, 4190 Hunt Rd., Deckerville MI 48427. Owners: Randy H. Campbell and Steven E. Campbell
Grohman's Quality Painting, 1896 Huronview, Port Sanilac, MI 48469. Owner: Kyle Steven Massman
Signature Custom Orthotics Lab, Inc. 2610 Harneck Rd., Applegate, MI 48401. Owner: Howard H. Hillman
Wallace Farms, 4680 Custer Rd., Carsonville, MI 48419. Owner: Patricia A. Wallace

Wiselman Services, 810 West Cooper Rd., Sandusky, MI 48471. Owner: Alexis Helen Wiselman
Mark's Barber and Styling Shop, 41 South Elk, Sandusky, MI 48471. Owner: Robert Mark Heberling
Whispering Pine Tree Farm, 2855 Koylette Rd., Marlette, MI 48453. Owners: Michael Joseph Galetti, Karen Ann Galetti
Wolschleger Construction, 5758 N. Ruth Rd., Palms, MI 48465. Owner: Randall Raymond Wolschleger

Small Business Saturday, November 25

LANSING - With the holiday season quickly approaching, the Small Business Association of Michigan is urging Michiganders to participate in Small Business Saturday, which will be held on Saturday, November 25. Small Business Saturday is an opportunity to celebrate and support small businesses and the important role they play in our communities. Michigan small businesses make up 99% of Michigan's businesses, with more than 900,000 small businesses operating in the state. This accounts for nearly half of the state's workforce. Additionally, more than 10 million Americans have formed small businesses in the last two years. "Small Business Saturday is a great way to kick off holiday shopping and support small businesses at the same time," said SBAM President and CEO Brian Calley. "Patronizing small businesses shows our appreciation for the critical role they play in our communities and helps them succeed." For more information about Small Business Saturday was founded by American Express in 2010 and has also been sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration since 2011. This day has become an important part of small businesses' success during the busy shopping season and many businesses have promotions and sales to celebrate the date.

CITY OF SANDUSKY OCTOBER 16, 2023 SYNOPSIS 5:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Lukshaitis, Council Members: Bissett, Mitchell, Stone, Barr, Harris, and Schramm
Absent: None
Administration: City Manager D. Faber, Police Chief B. Lester, and Director of Public Works M. Harris
Guests: K. Kohn, J. Reid, C. Powell, L. Quandt, K. Ostrowski, S. Ostrowski, K. Spiegel, P. Wadsworth, L. Laurence-Kirk, D. Kirk, T. McMahon, E. Levine, J. Renaudin, M. Ferrara, T. Hillman, C. Powell, K. Cee, C. Uffig, B. Jones, D. Ferguson, and D. Ferguson.
Passed: Councilperson Bissett moved, Schramm seconded to approve the minutes of October 2, 2023 as presented.
Passed: Councilperson Mitchell moved, Harris seconded to approve the bills in the amount of \$274,058.84.
Passed: Councilperson Bissett moved, Barr seconded to approve the agenda as printed.
Passed: Councilperson Stone moved, Mitchell seconded to approve the Street Sale Application from the Lions Club for November 20, 2023 as presented.
Passed: Councilperson Schramm moved, Barr seconded to approve the Sandusky Arts Council the use of Diamond Trail for the 2024 Lawn Chair Music Series as presented.
Passed: Councilperson Bissett moved, Barr seconded to approve the use of Doerr Field October 31, 2023 for trick-or-treating by Holy Family Parish.
Passed: Councilperson Mitchell moved, Schramm seconded to approve the Lexington Street Parking Lot Quote from RLS for seal coating, crack sealing and striping in the amount of \$9,875.00.
Passed: Councilperson Bissett moved, Barr seconded to approve the Morse Street Curb bid at the Post Office from Miller Masonry in the amount of \$5,220.00.
Passed: Councilperson Mitchell moved, Harris seconded to approve the Lincoln Street Parking Lot Driveway approach bid from Miller Masonry in the amount of \$5,925.00.
Passed: Councilperson Mitchell moved, Harris seconded to authorize Manager David Faber to sign MDOT Contract 23-5274 as presented.
Passed: Councilperson Mitchell moved, Stone seconded to authorize Manager David Faber to sign MDOT Contract 2023-0749 for Chemical Storage Facility as presented.
Passed: Councilperson Schramm moved, Bissett seconded to approve the Columbarium Concrete bid from Williamson Construction in the amount of \$23,300.00 as presented.
Passed: Councilperson Schramm moved, Barr seconded to approve the Sanilac County Early Voting Site Agreement as presented.
Passed: Councilperson Bissett moved, Barr seconded to adjourn at 6:43p.m.

Thomas Lukshaitis, Mayor
Laurie Burns, City Clerk

WATERTOWN TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Watertown Township Board of Trustees shall conduct a public hearing on December 5, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Watertown Township Hall at 2630 South Sandusky Road, Sandusky, MI 48471 for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed draft of the Watertown Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The Plan evaluates future recreation opportunities, reviews public opinion regarding recreation, establishes recreational goals, and purposes a five-year schedule of improvements and other related items that the Township wishes to pursue. A PDF copy of the Plan is available for review online at www.watertowntownship.net

If you are interested in submitting comments regarding the Draft Plan, please send comments to William Dixon, Township Supervisor at dixonwr@gmail.com, or by phone at 810-837-2327. All comments, written and oral, will be noted for the record.

Watertown Township

2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, December 5, 2023 –6:00 pm

PRESENT: Cambridge, Coats, Cole, Dixon, Ross and Diaz

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Diane Ferguson, Jeff Renaudin, Dick Henderson, Matt Cole, Al Stoutenburg, Clint Stoutenburg, James Hacker, Jason Radloff, Jeff Renaudin, Jason Radloff, Dorothy & Greg Thorley, Gary Herberling, Jim Cambridge, Scott Kenny.

PUBLIC HEARING: FIVE YEAR MASTER RECREATION PLAN

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

1. AGENDA: CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Dixon requested that:

- Drain Notices – Hale Drain and the Watertown State & Lynch Drain be placed under Correspondence, Item 3a
- Road Commission Ditch Improvement Agreement for Campbell be placed under New Business, Item 4e
- Assessing Office Personal Property Annual Canvas Policy be placed under Tax Assessor, Item 12a
- Legal Opinion be placed under Planning Commission, Scott Kenny - Item 10e and Scott Franzel – Item 10f

*** Motion by Cambridge, supported by Coats to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: CONSIERATION/APPROVAL

Dixon requested approval of the October 30, 2023 (November Meeting) Minutes

*** Motion by Cambridge, supported by Coats to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

a) Drain Notices – Hale Drain and the Watertown State & Lynch Drain

Dixon reported:

- The Watertown State & Lynch Drainage maintenance project will be completed by Site Services Excavating. Estimated start will be on December 18th, weather permitting. Landowners are asked not to till within 20 feet of a drainage ditch. The county will notify landowners.
- The Hale Drainage maintenance project will be completed by Campbell Farm Tile. Estimated start date was December 4th.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) Five Year Master Recreation Plan: RESOLUTION ADOPTION, CONSIDERATION, APPROVAL

- Dixon requested consideration of the Five-Year Master Recreation Plan as presented in the Board Packet.

*** Motion by Cambridge, supported by Coats to adopt the Five-Year Master Recreation Plan Resolution as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

- b) Set 2024 Meeting Dates, BOT, PC, ZBA, BOR, FA CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL
 - Dixon reported that all meeting date calendars presented take into consideration the election cycles that apply for 2024. He also noted that the Planning Commission Meetings are left at monthly as the Master Plan is still ongoing. Coats doesn't believe monthly meetings of the Planning Commission will be necessary for the entire year.

*** Motion by Cambridge, supported by Coats to approve the meeting dates as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

- c) Parcel Division, Sleda, 1815 Elk Creek Rd. CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL
 - Dixon reported that this parcel division has been tentatively approved pending Board action

*** Motion by Coats, supported Ross to approve the Sleda land split as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

- d) PA 116 Application, Gentner, 2 Parcels CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL

*** Motion by Coats, supported by Cambridge that the PA 116 application for 2 parcels be approved as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

- e) Road Commission Ditch Improvement Agreement for Campbell
 - Dixon reported that 33% of this project will be paid by the Road Commission, 33% will be paid by Watertown Township and 34% will be paid by the petitioner. Total cost of the project is projected at \$851.50 trucking \$280.00.

*** Motion by Coats, supported Cambridge to approve the Campbell ditch request as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a) ARPA Grant Funding Planning Deadline for Proposals 12-31-2023
 - RFPs (Request for Proposals) are due at the end of the month. Dixon has had some companies contact him regarding the project.
- b) Ordinance Review and Updates (on going)
 - This item has been tabled until the regular Board Meeting in January 2024.
- c) Worker's Comp Replacement Check
 - Ross reported that as this check has been issued several times and not received, she is working with another representative.
- d) Township Waste Removal District Special Assessment Report Preparation (in process)
 - Coats reported there isn't an update at this time.
- e) Sylvan Dr. Dangerous Buildings complaint (on-going)
 - The homeowner was contacted regarding this complaint in May of 2023. However, no action has been taken on the owner's agreement that the complaint would be taken care of in 90 days. Therefore, Dixon reported that he requested Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara write an enforcement letter.
- f) Zoning Administrator/Enforcement Officer Job Description (consideration/approval)
 - Cambridge believes the description needs more work and organization. The Board concurred.

TREASURER'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

Coats requested approval of the October 2023 checks number 17400 thru 17432 for a total amount of \$19,560.30,

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Dixon to approve the November 2023 checks as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Approval of current month claims

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to approve payment of the monthly claims as presented. All in favor. Motion carried

- b) November Election Recap
- Ross reported that the November 2023 election went very well, with a 38% voter turn-out. Cambridge complimented Ross and her election team on a well-run and organized election. Starting with the February 2024 election, a permanent absentee voter list will be available. Applications will not be needed for voters on this list. Also, starting with the February 2024 election, nine days must be made available for absentee voting. All voting precincts plan on doing this in one location.

Ross reminded the Board of the invitation to attend the Sanilac Chapter of Michigan Township Association Christmas party/meeting. The event will be held on Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at Liberty Lanes, starting at 5:00 p.m. Cost is \$20.00 each. Guest speaker is Neil Sheridan of MTA. Reservations must be received by Ross or the County Clerk's Office on or before December 6, 2023

CEMETERY REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Burials & Lot Sales
- Ross reported one (1) weekend burial at the winter rate.
- b) Paterson contacted by Susan Cole (on-site review pending availability)
- Dixon reported that he and Cole are still working on this issue.
- c) Headstone Repair
- No update

SEWER REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

James Hacker reported:

- He has one more inside meter reading and will give the address to Dixon.
- James Hacker reported that, while reading meters, a resident complained that she is still being overbilled. Coats reported that all the old charges have been removed. However, during the next quarter, the usage was over 10,000 gallons and the resident refuses to pay the overage charge.

PLANNING BOARD/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) 11/16/23 PC Meeting Summary
- Cambridge reported that
- Resident Rick Pangburn spoke to the Planning Board regarding his concerns about the new law allowing the state to take over renewable energy zoning decisions. Dixon reported that this law does not take effect until November 2024.
 - She handed out two letters from Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara regarding 11 Watertown Road and 551 S. Sandusky Road

- Spalding DeDecker and Foster Swift returned their opinion on the Samsung's site plan. There were many concerns about the plan and it was returned to Samsung with the concerns.
- b) Joint Committee Group Solar Application Work Session CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL
 - James Hacker reviewed the Planning Commission's request to have a five-member Joint Committee Group for Solar Application Work.

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported Ross that James Hacker heads a five-member Special Work Group Committee comprised of Planning Commission Members Al Stoutenburg, & Jason Radloff, and Township Board Members William Dixon & Rebecca Cambridge to meet as necessary to see the project through. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dixon reminded the Board that no tax payer funds will be used for this committee. All costs are to be paid by the applicant.

- c) Spalding DeDecker Invoice
 - Cambridge reported that all Spalding DeDecker and Foster Swift for this solar project will be charged to the Samsung deposit.
- d) Master Plan Schedule
 - Cambridge reported that on December 21st the Planning Commission will meet regarding implementation strategies and finalize the Future Land Use Map. They will also review the Master Plan Draft and provide comment to Spicer. On February 15th, the Planning Commission's goal is to recommend the Master Plan Draft to the Board for review. On May 16th, the Planning Commission's goal is to adopt the Master Plan. The Board will then do a final adoption.

WEBSITE REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

Cambridge reported she

- Added the December 12th Board of Review Notice
- Added proposed and approved minutes
- Achieved minutes as appropriate
- Added a side tab for the 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Draft for public review
- Posted the RFP for the Solar GPS Location
- Added the notice of the review of the 2024 Parks and Recreation Draft Master Plan
- Updated the calendar as needed

TAX ASSESSOR/POSSIBLE ACTION

Diaz reported that the State of Michigan requires the Board to have a policy regarding how the Assessor handles Personal Property Information.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cole to approve the assessor's policy to survey the township and assesses personal property each year, as presented. All in favor. Motion carried

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- Commissioner Gary Heberling submitted a written report to the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Township resident Jeff Renaudin handed out pictures of other rural areas that enforce residents to participate in garbage pickup showing trash cans left at the end of long driveways. Mr. Renaudin expressed concerns about some Board members having a conflict of interest if they vote on the issue and a conflict of interest in the Township's newspaper of record. He also urged the Board to review the proposed dog pound.

- Township resident Diane Ferguson asked when the Master Recreational Plan was discussed and if it was advertised in the newspaper. Coats replied that the review was done at the Planning Commission. Dixon replied that it was advertised in the Sandusky Tribune, on the website and surveys were sent out. She doesn't agree with enforced waste removal and she also does not agree with hiring a Zoning Officer. She requests that the Board let Commissioner Gary Heberling report at the beginning of the meeting, so everyone can hear his report and he can get to his 2nd monthly meeting that is on the same night. She supports Mr. Renaudin's views and asked who on the Board was voting in a des jure manner. No one raised their hand.
- Township resident Dick Henderson requested that Mr. Dixon apologize for a remark he made about an area of the township. Mr. Dixon agreed and made the apology.

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Cambridge supported. All in favor. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 2, 2024, 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 2, 2024 –6:00 pm

PRESENT: Cambridge, Coats, Cole, Dixon, Ross and Diaz

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Dick Henderson, Scott Kenny, Jeff Renaudin, Matt Cole, Steve Scribner, and Gary Heberling

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: CONSIERATION/APPROVAL

Dixon requested approval of the December 5, 2023 Minutes.

*** Motion by Coats supported by Cambridge to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC OFFICIAL

County Commissioner, Gary Heberling gave his monthly report.

- On January 10th, the State of Michigan is offering a webinar on the New Solar Energy Program.
- There has been confusion on the State ORV ordinance. Per M-DOT, the current State ORV ordinance does not allow an ORV to be ridden on any State M Road such as M-46 or M-19. The Sanilac County ORV Ordinance allows an ORV to be ridden on county paved roads to the nearest side road.
- Some constituents have stated complaints about farm equipment tearing up roads, large equipment causing excessive dust, young children driving large equipment, etc. The Right to Farm Act of 1991 has been discussed and farmers have the right to farm. Mr. Heberling would like to see a meeting between the stakeholders in order to come up with a reasonable solution.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments

4. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) AARP Grant Fund Planning: Consideration/Approval

1. Townley Engineering RFP Geo-location and inventory of sanitary sewer.

- Dixon reported that the proposal from Townley Engineering, LLC for the GPS Geo-location and inventory project has been received. The project is to be paid from the ARPA Grant Funds received by the Township. The proposal stops short of a video inspection and cleaning of the underground assets. However, Mr. Dixon recommends this as the first step in geo-location and inventory of assets. The quote is for \$5,750.

*** Motion by Coats, supported by Cole to adopt the Townley Engineering RFP as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

b) Poverty Guidelines

- Dixon presented the updated 2024 Poverty Guidelines. Assessor, Jeannie Diaz, stated that this year low income landowners are allowed to request a 100%, 75%, 50% or 25% reduction in property taxes.

*** Motion by Cambridge, supported by Coats to approve the 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Sylvan Dr. Dangerous Buildings complaint (on-going)
 - Dixon reported the Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara sent a letter, dated December 18, 2023, to the homeowner stating the property must be brought into compliance within 30 days of receipt of the letter. If the 30-day deadline is not met, the Township may initiate legal action to abate the nuisance and bring the property into compliance. As of today, the Township has not received a response.

TREASURER'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

Coats requested approval of the December 2023 checks number 17433 thru 17463 for a total amount of \$50,405.72

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Cole to approve the December 2023 checks as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Approval of current month claims

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cole to approve payment of the monthly claims as presented. All in favor. Motion carried

Ross reported that the February 27, 2024 Election Public Accuracy Test will be held on the same date as the regular Township Board Meeting – February 6, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

CEMETERY REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Burials & Lot Sales
 - No burials
- b) Headstone Repair
 - No update

SEWER REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

No Report

PLANNING BOARD/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) 12/21/23 PC Meeting Summary
 - Cambridge reported that
 - The Planning Commission Minutes are included in the Board Information Packets. She was unable to attend the meeting and recommends contacting Planning Commission Chairman Jim Hacker with any questions.

WEBSITE REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- Cambridge reported she
 - Added proposed and approved minutes
 - Updated the calendar as needed

- Added the new cemetery rates that went into effect January 1, 2024
- Archived minutes as needed

TAX ASSESSOR/POSSIBLE ACTION

No report

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m. Cambridge supported. All in favor. Motion carried

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Election Public Accuracy Test – Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk

UNAPPROVED

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT RECREATION PLAN

WHEREAS, Watertown Township has undertaken a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features in the Township, future recreation plans, and the desired actions to be taken to develop recreation facilities during the period between 2024 and 2028 and,

WHEREAS, public input was received via an online survey that was available from February 24, 2023 to May 1, 2023, to provide an opportunity for citizens to share ideas, express opinions, regarding the future of parks and recreation in Watertown, and

WHEREAS, the draft plan was made available for review from November 1, 2023 through December 1, 2023, at the Watertown Township Hall and at www.watertowntownship.net/, and

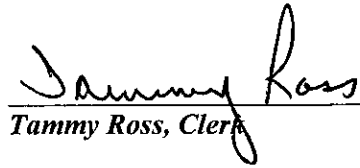
WHEREAS, a public meeting was held on December 5, 2023, at 6.00 p.m. at Watertown Township Hall at 2630 South Sandusky Road, Sandusky, MI 48471 to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, Watertown Township has developed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Watertown Township Board adopts the Watertown Township 2024 – 2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

(Yeas Nays: Absent:)

I, TAMMY ROSS, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by Watertown Township Board at a meeting thereof held on December 5, 2023, at 6:00 pm.



Tammy Ross, Clerk