



BROOKS TOWNSHIP ACQUIRES RECREATION AND NATURAL FEATURES AREA— DEDICATION IS OCTOBER 6, 2001

Brooks Township is pleased and excited to announce that our township residents now own **400 acres** of undeveloped and environmentally significant land in the north central portion of the township. Brooks Township obtained 75% of the acquisition cost from the Michigan DNR Trust Fund. The remaining share was donated by The Nature Conservancy; a portion of which was the 80 acre Ore-Ida Prairie and the balance was in cash.



Both Bigelow and Coolbough Creeks run through the property. In addition to these two creeks, significant natural features include white pine-white oak forests, dry sand prairie remnants, a three acre pond and over seven acres of wetlands. The area is home to the Karner Blue Butterfly and Blanding's Turtle. The property will provide recreational and educational opportunities for area residents, and at the same time enhance tourism while protecting environmentally sensitive areas. Future plans call for hiking paths, interpretive nature trails, support for local school environmental curriculums and other low-impact public uses.

The property can be accessed from the north end of Barberry Road along 58th Street. The property will be permanently preserved and open for public use. Significant natural features, including habitat to rare and endangered species, will be managed with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy and other environmental partners.



There will be a dedication ceremony at 10:00 am Saturday October 6, 2001. There is limited parking at the property so we request that you come to the Township Hall between 9:15am and 9:30am for group transportation to the site. The ceremony will include a ribbon cutting, refreshments and brief remarks by Township Officials and representatives from The Nature Conservancy. After the ceremony, there will be guided tours of the property for those who wish to participate. A buffet lunch will be served at the Township Hall beginning at 12:30pm.

In order to plan food and transportation, we must have a headcount. Please call the township at 231-652-6763 to indicate your attendance. Bring your family and friends so they may enjoy what we hope will be a pleasant and unique experience.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

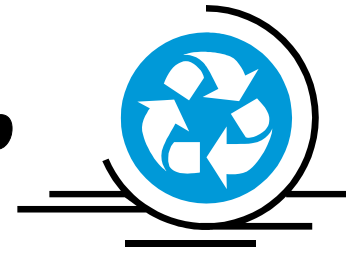


As we announced in our last newsletter, Brooks Township residents have adopted a section of M-82 in connection with the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway program. Our 2-1/4 mile section is between M-37 and Summer Avenue.

Cleanups were held in April, July, and September. There were about 10 residents that participated in each of these cleanups, who picked up **nearly 70 bags of trash** from our section of road this year.

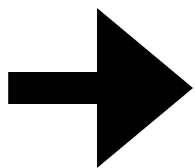
This is a wonderful opportunity to help clean up our township and get to know some of your fellow residents. We would like to establish a volunteer list for future cleanups. If you would like to be on this list please call the township treasurer Chris Haynor at 652-6763 ext. 13 or sign up on our website at www.brookstownship.org. Residents on this list will be sent a post card to let them know of dates and times of future cleanups. Reminders will also be in the local papers a week before our scheduled dates. Come have some fun and help us keep our township clean!

Brooks Township Recycles

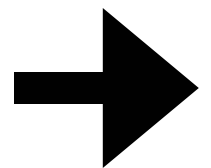


Since May the township has made recycling available to its residents. Every third Saturday of the month a portable recycling center is located in the township parking lot. The items that are accepted are **#2 plastic only** (milk jugs, detergent containers, etc.—please check the bottom of your containers for the number), **tin and aluminum** (clean with lids removed), **clear glass** and **newspapers**. We also have information available on where other recyclable items that we do not currently accept.

We have had about 20 residents a month participating in the recycling program. We would like to see that number grow. With just a little effort from all of us we can play a part in keeping our environment healthy. Please consider joining our team. *If we all do our part we can make a difference.* For more information please call the township office.



Please Take a Minute to Complete **Healthy Home—Healthy Environment**



Healthy Home—Healthy Environment has been designed for Newaygo area residents through our ongoing Land Use Vision Project. You see, each of us can play a part in protecting our shared environment—and we must if we want clean water, healthy forests, pure air and abundant wildlife for our children and grandchildren.

We hope you will take a moment to go through this checklist—to evaluate your household and identify ways you can make changes around your home. **Healthy Home—Healthy Environment** is solely for educational purposes. It is meant to increase your awareness and help you identify potential risks to the environment in and around your own home. Because it is only two pages long, it does not go into detail about correcting areas identified as risky to the environment. But, we can help you with that too. As you complete the worksheet, call Kara at Brooks Township if you have any questions or visit our website for links to other organizations with related information. You may also fill out a survey at our website to let us know what you think about **Healthy Home—Healthy Environment** or any part of the Land Use Vision Project.



MUSKEGON RIVER PATROLS TO INCREASE

Pretty soon Muskegon River residents and recreationalists will see these signs along the river. Along with these signs, patrols will increase. Numerous complaints from river residents sparked action on the part of Brooks Township and surrounding townships along the river, the Newaygo County Sheriff's Department, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These signs, and increased patrols from law enforcement agencies, is just one way we are working to keep the Muskegon River safe and enjoyable for all river users.

Brooks Township residents are reminded that complaints can be called in to the township at 652-6763. Specific reports of violations should be reported to the Newaygo County Sheriff at 231-689-6623. Keep in mind that law enforcement officials are better able to address complaints if specific information such as descriptions of people/watercraft and any identification numbers on the watercraft are provided.

Volunteers Needed for Wetland Restoration Project -

Fun in the Forest in the Fall with your Friends

Earlier this year, Brooks Township received a \$4,600 grant from the Department of Natural Resources to restore a wetland on federal forest land damaged by illegal and inappropriate off-road vehicle use. With our plan approved from the U.S. Forest Service, we are ready to go. *The one thing we need are people to help with this project.*

This project will involve stabilizing an eroding bank (to keep sediment from filling the wetland) and closing off the illegally-created vehicle roads throughout the site. To do this we need people who are able to use equipment and tools such as chainsaws, posthole diggers, drills, sledgehammers and shovels.

We plan to work on this project on Friday, October 12 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and finishing up on Saturday, October 13, 2001. Hopefully we'll be able to complete the project in two days—if not a third work day will be scheduled for Saturday, October 20, 2001. If you are able to help out for a hour or a whole day, the more help we have to quicker we'll be able to complete this project. If you'd like to volunteer or need more information, please contact Kara McCrimmon, Land Use Vision Project Coordinator, at 652-6763 extension 26.

P.S. This is a good way for high school students to get needed community volunteer hours!!

Brooks Township Meeting Dates and Times

Brooks Township Board

Third Monday of the Month
Dale Black , Supervisor
Lora Jones, Clerk
Christina Haynor, Treasurer
Bob Wood, Trustee
Bob Henning, Trustee

Planning Commission

Fourth Monday of the Month
Kim Hoyle
Fred Norton
Mark Pitzer
Fred Hawkey
Bill Sherman
Bob Wood
Rob Aitchison
Jim Leonard
Diane Wykes

Zoning Board of Appeals

Meets as needed
Bob Henning
Mark Pitzer
Frank Janusz
Irv Boeskool
Dick Besser

Brooks Township Hours: 9:00 a.m. till noon...Monday through Friday

Phone 231-652-6763 Fax 231-652-6721

www.brookstownship.org

All meetings are held at the Township Office at 490 Quarterline, Newaygo at 7:00 p.m.



Brooks Township Office

P.O. Box 625

490 Quarterline

Newaygo, MI 49337

The Township newsletter is sometimes the only communications some residents have with the Township. We feel that it needs to contain what is important you, the residents of Brooks Township. We welcome any suggestions to help make the newsletter what it should be— a link between the happenings in the Township and it's residents. Please feel free to call or write with any input you may have.