

# BROOKS TOWNSHIP

BROOKS TOWNSHIP  
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## Land Use Leadership Council

In February 2003, Governor Granholm issued Executive Order 2003-4 announcing the formation of a bipartisan **Michigan Land Use Leadership Council**. In an effort to preserve the character of Michigan, this 26-member council was charged with addressing the trends, causes, and consequences of unmanaged growth and development (**SPRAWL**) in Michigan. The council provided recommendations in August 2003 to the governor and the legislative leaders designed to minimize the impact of current land use trends on Michigan's environment and economy.

Population growth and attendant land use in Newaygo County, especially Brooks Township, is at the heart of the reasons Michigan must urgently address the issue of sprawl. During the decade ending year 2000, the U.S. population grew 13.2% while that of Michigan grew 6.9%. Locally, the population of Newaygo County grew 25.3% while Brooks Township grew 34.6%. These statistics reveal Michigan's problem. Michigan's inner cities are being abandoned while consumption of additional land is six to eight times the rate of population growth. When the population "spreads" over the landscape there are many economic, social and environmental consequences. Examples of these consequences include; loss of farmland, open space, historic resources and wildlife habitat; increased commuting; increased cost to provide infrastructure; and degradation of water quality.

The 2000 Census placed the population of Brooks Township at nearly 3700. The 2003 population is estimated to be over 4000. Our population is primarily concentrated around Hess, Brooks, Emerald and Sylvan Lakes and along a beautiful stretch of the Muskegon River. Aside from water resources, our township is blessed with private and public forest and ecologically significant dry-sand prairie remnants.

What is Brooks Township doing to manage growth to minimize the negative impact on our abundant natural features? The township's Mission Statement is: **To serve township citizens while protecting the environment and our way of life**. The township board has the commitment and the financial resources to support proactive planning and zoning. Our planning and zoning is focused on managing growth, land uses, and conversion of land uses. The Brooks Township Board provides training and educational opportunities for all boards, commissions and employees. A recent example is the successful completion of MSU-E's 10-week **Citizen Planner** curriculum by 7 members of the Planning Commission.

In collaboration with like-minded conservation groups and a cross-section of township stakeholders, the township developed and published the **Brooks Township Land Use Vision** (1998/1999). This document describes characteristics and natural features deemed important, an assessment of these features, and strategies to preserve and protect these features. This led to the development of a new **Land Use Master Plan** (2001), plus on-going work to align the **Township Ordinances** with the master plan. The new master plan is unique in that it begins with a map of "special areas," then undertakes to describe how and where the township plans for growth to occur. These documents are available at the township hall and are accessible on the internet at [www.brookstownship.org](http://www.brookstownship.org).

Brooks Township has a proven track record of planning and zoning competence. Also, we demonstrate the will and means to enforce our land use ordinances. We strive for on-going communications and actively seek your input. The goal is to maintain, hopefully improve, our quality of life. The township believes that we are doing a good job. Let us hear from you – get involved!

# BITS AND PIECES

## BROOKS TOWNSHIP CALENDAR

December	1	Winter tax bills mailed
	8	Township Board Mtg. (note change)
	15	Planning Comm. Mtg. (note change)
	20	Recycling
January	17	Recycling
	19	Planning Comm. Mtg. (note change)
	26	Township Board Mtg. (note change)
February	16	Township Board Mtg.
	16	Winter taxes due
	21	Recycling
	23	Planning Comm. Mtg.

## THANK YOU!

The Brooks Township Board would like to say "Thank You" to Diane Wykes for her service on the Township Planning Commission.

## WELCOME!

The Township Board would like to welcome Amy Roehrig to the Planning Commission. She will be replacing Diane Wykes.

*Township Board meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.*

*Planning Commission meetings are held on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.*

*Meetings are open to the public.*

## ATTENTION

### DOG OWNERS!

The Brooks Township Treasurer will **NOT** be selling dog licenses this year. The Newaygo County Treasurer has decided to issue **ALL** dog licenses at their location in White Cloud. They will be selling them year round. You will now be able to purchase a one or three year license. Call the Newaygo County Treasurer at (231) 689-7230 for more information.

# RECYCLING

More recyclables are now being accepted at the Township on the third weekend of each month. Listed below is everything you may bring in:

### PAPER

Newspaper

Magazines/Catalogs  
bottles,

Discarded Mail

laundry envelopes, fliers, typing and shampoo bottles)

computer paper

Grocery bags

Phone Books

This includes

Cardboard

clean

broken down and/or cut to fit

in a grocery bag and place in bin  
cheese,

containers,

posable diapers.

### GLASS

All clear food and beverage

containers (remove lids and

rinse clear)

### METALS

Tin food cans, Aluminum, beverage

cans, aluminum foil, EMPTY aerosol

cans, pie plates, TV dinner plates

(Empty and rinse cans to remove food

residue and flatten if possible).

Do not include cans used for

### PLASTICS

All #1 and #2 plastics

(water, juice and soda

milk jugs, cleaning and  
products, and

### POLYSTYRENE

All #6 Styrofoam.

egg cartons and meat trays. Rinse

**DON'T INCLUDE:** cottage

yogurt, margarine or deli con-

plastic bags or dis-

## NEEDED: USED HORSESHOES

The Coolbough Environmental Commission is looking for horseshoes to be used in marking the horse trail at Coolbough Natural Areas. If you would like to donate any horseshoes please contact Chris Haynor at 231-652-6763, ext. 13.

