

**BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA  
Monday, May 20, 2024  
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS - (two-minute limit)

ADDITIONS / DELETIONS

MINUTES APPROVAL

1. Approval of the minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on Monday, April 15, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of payroll for the dates 4/12/24 in the amount of \$166,969.85 and for 4/26/24 in the amount of \$189,440.37.
2. Approve \$100,000.00 transfer of funds from General Fund to Public Safety Fund for the month of April 2024.
3. Receive Revenue and Expenditure Report for the month of April 2024.

CLERK'S UPDATE

1. County Clerk
2. Election Update

SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

1. Scout Land Consultants – Discussion

TREASURER'S UPDATE

1. Region 2 Finances Report

PUBLIC SAFETY

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PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Planning Commission Draft Minutes May 7, 2024.
2. Update Blackman Charter Township's 2019 Master Plan – Discussion
3. Approve Contractual Agreement, with Region 2, Blackman Charter Township Master Plan Update 2024; an amount not to exceed \$16,750.00 for technical assistance services rendered, as billed on a quarterly basis.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

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PARKS & RECREATION

1. Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes April 30, 2024
2. Approve Blackman Charter Township Parks & Recreation Plan 2023 – 2028.
3. Prioritize Parnall Rd. Complex – Discussion
4. Approve the quoting process for trail work, pickleball courts, pavilion, and bathrooms.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

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UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

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NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve Resolution #06-2024-0520; Notification of Release of Right of First Refusal under Public Act 123 of 1999 for the County of Jackson 2024; foreclosures for delinquent 2021 and/or prior years of unpaid property taxes.
2. Approval of agreement with Rehmann as outlined in Letter of Engagement - Alternative Compliance Examination Engagement (ARPA) Audit.

BILLS

- Approve payment of bills on the Board Invoice Report dated 5/07/24 in the amount of \$421,046.18 and Board Invoice Post Audit Report dated 5/21/24 in the amount of \$556,891.04.

EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute limit)

OPEN DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

Regular Board Meeting  
Blackman Charter Township  
April 15, 2024

The Blackman Charter Township Board convened at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024, at the Township Hall, 1990 West Parnall Road, Jackson, Michigan.

**Members present:** Supervisor Jancek, Clerk Elwell, Treasurer Preston, and Trustees: Ambs, Pack, Thomas, and Williams.

**Members absent:**

**Public Attendance:**

Ray Snell	Doug and Lisa Bates	Jennifer Biddinger
Deborah Nagy	Nate Edwards	Tina Beagle
Keith Gillenwater		

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS - (two-minute limit)**

1. **Nate Edwards, Resident**
  - a. Public Act 233 Zoning Authority Ballot Initiative – Discussion
2. **Keith Gillenwater, Enterprise Group**
  - a. Introduction
3. **Ray Snell, 9<sup>th</sup> District County Commissioner**
  - a. Parks Resolution – recognition of service, Nancy Seydell.
    - i. Naming a pavilion at Minard Mills Park in her honor.
  - b. Resolution - Public Act 233 Supporting Zoning Authority Ballot Initiative.
  - c. Resolution - Police Week – May 12-18 recognizing Public Safety Officers.
  - d. Update on ARPA funds.
    - i. 40 projects.
4. **Lisa Bates, Resident**
  - a. Trash dumping on Hillsdale St.
  - b. Loitering on Blackstone St.
    - i. Would like to see a gate or barrier installed to prevent loitering and dumping.
  - c. Trash dumping at Shahan Properties behind Hillsdale St.
5. **Jennifer Biddinger, Resident**
  - a. Road Paving – timeframe

**ADDITIONS / DELETIONS**

1. No additions/deletions.

Motion by Trustee Thomas, supported by Trustee Pack to approve the Board of Trustee agenda for the Regular Board Meeting held on Monday, April 15, 2024.

***Unanimously approved by voice vote***

**MINUTES APPROVAL**

1. No changes/corrections.

Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Trustee Williams to approve the Board of Trustee minutes for the Regular Board Meeting held on Monday, March 18, 2024.

***Unanimously approved by voice vote***

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of payroll for the dates 03/01/24 in the amount of \$189,299.19 and for 03/15/24 in the amount of \$169,693.72 and for 03/29/2024 in the amount of \$174,803.12.

2. Receive Revenue and Expenditure Report for the month of March 2024.  
Motioned by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Ambs  
**Roll Call:** *Ayes - Elwell, Pack, Thomas, Williams, Ambs, Jancek, Preston*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

#### SUPERVISOR'S UPDATE

1. County Range – Discussion  
Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Clerk Elwell to authorize Supervisor Jancek to write a formal acceptance letter to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office supporting the County Range.  
***Unanimously approved by voice vote***
2. Potential Antenna in Right of Way – Discussion
  - a. Counsel advised.
    - i. 2019 - Small version of the Metro Act. Will provide specifics.
    - ii. Revenue
3. Attended a gathering with the AG in attendance, at Andy's Place - Discussion

#### TREASURER'S UPDATE

1. Audit – Rehmann May 23-25
  - a. Nannette working with Linda and Hal

#### CLERK'S UPDATE

1. Election update
  - a. May 7, 2024 Election – bond proposal for East Jackson Schools
  - b. Precinct 1
  - c. Election Inspector training has taken place.
  - d. 218 AV ballots sent
  - e. 94 ballots returned to date
2. Bond Cemetery
  - a. Parking – no existing parking space.
  - b. Quotes for parking area construction
3. Fifield Cemetery Clean Up – scheduled with Cub Scout Pack 339 on May 11, 2024, at 10:00am.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY

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#### PLANNING COMMISSION

1. Case #89.2024 – Site Plan Review; 199kw Ground Mounted Solar Array, at 2400 N. Elm Ave., Zoned Light Industrial (L-1), requested by Stephen Patterson. Conditional Use approved with the condition that the fence in place must have fence slats for screening, 50' North and 100' South of the Solar Array being placed. – Site Plan approved.

**CASE #1573:  
COND. USE -  
NEW CELL  
TOWER 3600  
WAYLAND DR.**

Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Trustee Williams to approve Case #1573 – Conditional Use Permit: New Cell Tower at 3600 Wayland Drive, Jackson, MI, Parcel 000-08-30-226-005-02, Zoned Highway Commercial (C-3), requested by Tony Phillips.

**Roll Call:** *Ayes - Jancek, Preston, Pack, Thomas, Elwell, Ambs, Williams*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

3. Special Events Permit Application – Discussion
  - a. Special Events Application Draft for review.
  - b. Boots & Bands has an event planned without permission nor approved application.
    - i. Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

1. Case#1572 - Variance Request: Rear yard setback of 5’ at 1811 River St., Parcel 000-08-27-229-021-00, requested by Amy Gilpin – Request approved.

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**POLICY FOR ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS & SPONSORSHIPS** Motion by Treasurer Preston, supported by Supervisor Jancek to approve the Blackman Charter Township: Policy for Acceptance of Donations and Sponsorships.  
*Roll Call: Ayes - Williams, Preston, Thomas, Jancek, Ambs, Elwell, Pack*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

2. 2024 -2028 Five Year Plan DRAFT – Review, send to Region 2 Planning Commission.

**TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE**

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**UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

1. City Sewer Rate Proposal - Discussion
  - a. Ensure the money collected by municipalities goes for treatment costs only.

**ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE**

1. Upcoming Ordinance Review and Updates
  - a. Disorderly person – grass clippings
  - b. Cemetery
  - c. Fireworks
  - d. Blight

**NEW BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION #05-2024-0415 SUPPORT BALLOT INITIATIVE** Motion by Clerk Elwell, supported by Trustee Ambs to approve Resolution #05-2024-0415; a resolution supporting ballot initiative to allow voters the option to restore local control for utility scale solar and wind developments.  
*Roll Call: Ayes - Jancek, Ambs, Williams, Pack, Elwell, Preston, Thomas*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

**REMOVE CHARLES EVERIDGE** Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Thomas to remove Charles Everidge from the Zoning Board of Appeals Committee and the Region 2 Planning Commission Representative for non-attendance.  
*Roll Call: Ayes - Thomas, Ambs, Elwell, Jancek, Pack, Williams, Preston*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

**REMOVE CHAD LINABURY** Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Treasurer Preston to remove Chad Linabury from the Board of Review per his request.  
*Roll Call: Ayes - Preston, Williams, Thomas, Ambs, Pack, Elwell, Jancek*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

**APPOINT CHRIS  
CRISENBERRY**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Clerk Elwell to appoint Chris Crisenbery as the Hearings Officer for Dangerous and Dilapidated Buildings.  
**Roll Call:** *Ayes - Pack, Elwell, Preston, Williams, Thomas, Jancek, Amb*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

**REAPPOINT  
MARK HARRIS**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Williams to reappoint Mark Harris to the Construction Board of Appeals for a 3-year term ending 03/31/2027.  
**Roll Call:** *Ayes - Elwell, Pack, Thomas, Williams, Ambs, Jancek, Preston*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

**REAPPOINT STAN  
GODLEWSKI**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Thomas to reappoint Stan Godlewski to the Construction Board of Appeals for a 3-year term ending 03/31/2026.  
**Roll Call:** *Ayes - Ambs, Thomas, Jancek, Elwell, Preston, Pack, Williams*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

**BILLS**

Motion by Supervisor Jancek, supported by Trustee Thomas to approve payment of bills on the Board Invoice Post Audit Report dated 4/04/24 in the amount of \$139,046.35 and Board Invoice Report dated 4/16/24 in the amount of \$1,745,551.74.  
**Roll Call:** *Ayes - Jancek, Preston, Pack, Thomas, Elwell, Ambs, Williams*  
*Nays - None Motion Approved*

**EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT (Three-minute limit)**

1. **Nate Edwards, resident**
  - a. Ballot Initiative – AxMiTax to Amend the MI Constitution to eliminate property tax.
    - i. 184,000 MI residents lost their property through tax foreclosure.
    - ii. Restore the Right to own private property.
2. **Lisa Bates, resident**
  - a. Concerned about dilapidated buildings.
3. **Tina Beagle, resident**
  - a. Cleaning up garbage at Grand River.
  - b. Tree cutting by JCDOT.

**OPEN DISCUSSION**

Supervisor Jancek thanks everyone in attendance. Appreciates the participation.

***The Supervisor declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52pm.***

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**David Elwell, Township Clerk**



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ScoutLandConsultants.com  
904-906-4113

4/19/24

Mr. David Elwell  
1990 W Parnall Rd  
Jackson, MI 49201

Dear David,

I am working with a national solar developer, interested in leasing a portion (or possibly all) of multiple properties you own. As one example, we have identified your land in Jackson County, MI based on the size, characteristics, and proximity to specific powerlines.

They are interested in a purchase or ground lease and are paying well above market rates for this specific use. Their target project size is 30-40 Acres and they would be willing to purchase or lease a portion of the land if you so preferred. I've included the property of interest and general typical terms below.

<b>Property:</b>	Approximately 142.88 acres located in Jackson, MI (APN # 000-08-19-401-001-00)
<b>Rent:</b>	Above Market Value
<b>Option Premium:</b>	Year 1: \$3,000 Year 2: \$4,000 Year 3: \$5,000 Year 4: \$6,000
<b>Option Term:</b>	4 Years

Please give me a call (or text) on my cell at 517-836-3535 and I can explain the details of this offer. I have extensive experience in the energy leasing industry and am happy to share my insights if you have other questions as well.

Sincerely,

Isaac Ness  
Land Acquisition Manager  
Scout Land Consultants  
517-836-3535  
[iness@scoutlandconsultants.com](mailto:iness@scoutlandconsultants.com)  
[www.scoutlandconsultants.com](http://www.scoutlandconsultants.com)



Since 2014, Scout Land Consultants helped over 1,400 landowners reach lease agreements for renewable energy projects across the country.

## How It Works

The developer acquires a site lease on a property, constructs a solar project, and sells the power back to the local utility via a long term power contract. The landowner is paid a fixed rent during the operating term of the project (25-40 years).

### Land Acquisition Leadership



**Jason Bledsoe**  
DIRECTOR OF LAND ACQUISITION



**Clay Cooper**  
DIRECTOR OF LAND ACQUISITION



**Lawton Barnwell**  
DIRECTOR OF LAND ACQUISITION



**Ryan Gillespie**  
DIRECTOR OF LAND ACQUISITION

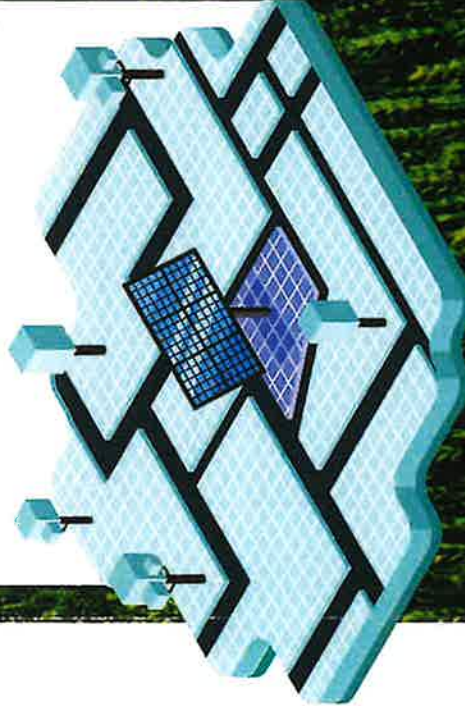
## The Cost

Developers typically invest up to \$250,000 per site before construction of a project to determine if the site is viable for solar.

**There is absolutely NO COST to you.**

Often the developer will offer a signing bonus, or option premium, which typically range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 per year depending on the size of the project.

Lease payments are paid per acre per year, beginning at project construction.



## The Benefits



**No Cost To Landowner**



**Long-Term, Fixed Income**



**Diversification of Land Use**



**Support Community with Clean Energy**

**As Featured In...**



REUTERS

**yahoo!**



Nasdaq

**Solar**  
Power World



Alternative Energy

**International Business Times**



## Why Work With Us?

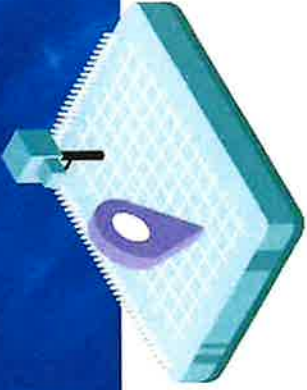
### SCOUT KNOWS LAND.

We've been working in the industry for years with the nation's top developers.

Traditionally, developers would reach out directly to landowners to let them know of their interest, however we offer the ability to bring several developers and present you with balanced information to help you make the right decision.

Given the extensive development timeline, it's critical that you find the right partner to help get your project to the finish line.

## Leasing Your Land for Solar



### What's Next for You

If you are interested in proceeding, our team will review your property in detail and if suitable, prepare a comprehensive engineering package and present to our developer network.



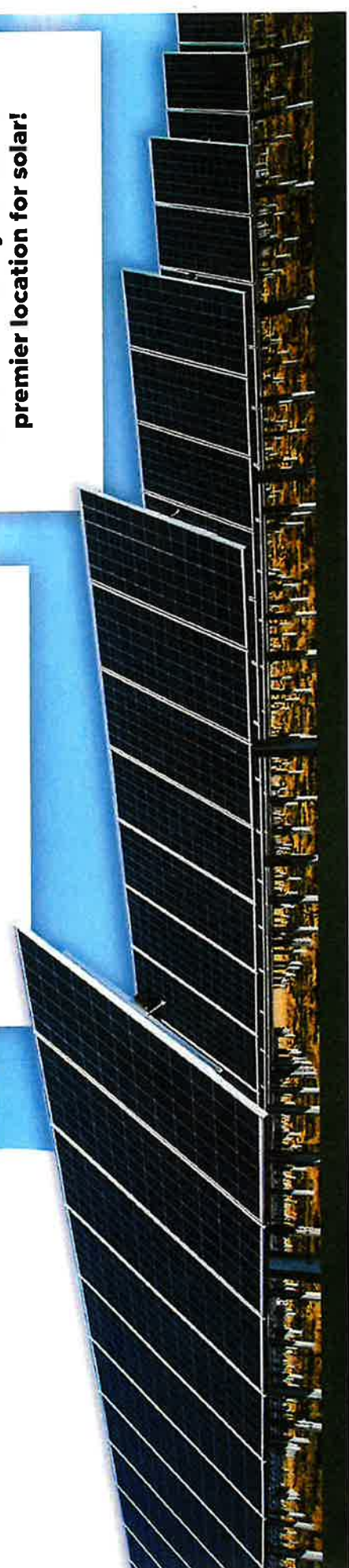
For more information about solar development please visit us at:

[scoutlandconsultants.com](http://scoutlandconsultants.com)



We have performed a comprehensive review of your property's site characteristics, including topography, wetlands, floodplains, and most importantly proximity to suitable power lines & utility infrastructure.

**We've identified your site as a premier location for solar!**



MINUTES  
BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
1990 W. PARNALL RD.  
**THURSDAY May 07, 2024**  
6:00PM

The Blackman Charter Township Planning Commission Convened at 6:00pm on Tuesday, May 07, 2024, at the Blackman Township Office.

Members Present: Decker, Preston, Schroeder, Grabert, Frohm  
Members Absent:

Sign-in list of names present: In file

**MINUTES APPROVAL: May 07, 2024**

Motion by: **Preston**, supported by: **Frohm** to approve Minutes for Planning Commission meeting held 05/07/2024.

**Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motion Carried.**

**CASE #93.2024 – Site Plan Review**

**New Kelly Fuels Gas Station**

Address: 3797 W. Michigan Ave, Jackson, MI 49203

Parcel #000-08-32-302-001-00

Zoning: General Commercial (C-2)

Requested by: Rob Harris, RW Mercer

Presented by: Andrew Rosse, AR Engineering

-New 8,500 sq ft gas station and bank and demolition of existing facility.

Public Comment: None

Motion by: **Schroeder** & seconded by **Grabert** to **approve case #93.2024 with conditions as follows: South drive off Robinson Road to be moved north to align with south property line, North drive off Robinson Road to be removed and drive thru to meet criteria of Zoning Ordinance Section 5.3.4 (specifically 12' drive width and stacking of vehicles per use.**

**Roll Calls: Ayes 5, Nays 0. Motions carried.**

**OTHER MATTERS REVIEWED:**

**Zoning Ordinance Update:** Zoning ordinance being justified and paper copies for next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**TRUSTEE REPORT:** Various Items

**ZBA REPORT:** None

**OPEN DISCUSSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by: **Decker**, supported by: **Schroeder**, adjourned at 6:55 pm

Minutes prepared by: Byron Schroeder, Secretary

Blackman Charter Township:  
FY24 Monthly Dues Balance

Description	Montly Charges	Balance
April 1 Dues Balance		12,861.92
Less April 2024 Project Charges: Blackman CT Recreation Plan	363.39	<u>                    </u>
May 1 Dues Balance		12,498.53

# Region 2 PLANNING COMMISSION

Serving Hillsdale, Jackson & Lenawee Counties

## CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT

Region 2 Planning Commission  
120 W. Michigan Avenue, 9th Floor  
Jackson, MI 49201

**PROJECT NAME: Blackman Charter Township Master Plan Update 2024**

This Agreement made and entered into this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024 by and between the Region 2 Planning Commission, hereinafter referred to as "COMMISSION," and the Blackman Charter Township Planning Commission hereinafter referred to as the "BCTPC" for the purpose of establishing the rights, obligations and responsibilities of the parties with regard to provision of technical assistance services.

### WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS the BCTPC requested the COMMISSION to provide technical assistance services; and

WHEREAS the COMMISSION and the BCTPC with regard to their respective interests as above described and as hereinafter set forth, agree that:

### THE COMMISSION SHALL:

Provide technical assistance services identified in the attached Scope of Services.

### THE BCTPC SHALL:

Reimburse the COMMISSION an amount not to exceed \$16,750.00 for technical assistance services rendered, as billed on a quarterly basis.

### IT IS FURTHER AGREED THAT:

- A. In the event of a change in the Scope of Services, caused by unforeseen circumstances, which result in an increase in the costs for the COMMISSION, the fee shall be subject to renegotiation. Any changes or increases in costs shall require written approval by BOTH PARTIES.
- B. Either party may terminate this Agreement after no less than 30 days written notice to the other party. In the event of termination, the COMMISSION shall be reimbursed for all eligible costs incurred in the furtherance of the above-mentioned services as of the date of such termination.

This agreement shall become binding on the parties hereto and of full force and effect upon the signing thereof by the duly authorized officials for the COMMISSION and for the BCTPC.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed the day and year first above written.

REGION 2  
PLANNING COMMISSION

BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jacob Hurt, Executive Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pete Jancek, Township Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Blackman Charter Township Planning Commission Master Plan Update 2024  
Scope of Work**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Est. Cost</b>
<b>Task 1: Updates to 2019 Blackman Charter Township Master Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update Chapter 1: Introduction</li> <li>• Update Chapter 2: Background</li> <li>• Update Chapter 3: Issue Identification</li> <li>• Update Chapter 4: Goals, Objectives, and Strategies</li> <li>• Update Chapter 5: Land Use Plan</li> <li>• Update Chapter 6: Plan Implementation and Zoning Plan</li> <li>• Update Appendix A: Community Profile</li> <li>• Update Appendix B: Comments Received from Plan Distribution</li> <li>• Update Maps</li> </ul>	<b>\$12,200.00</b>
<b>Task 2: Public Involvement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist the Planning Commission in developing a public engagement survey and distribute in both electronic and hard copy formats</li> <li>• Analyze survey results and comments for inclusion in Master Plan Update 2024</li> </ul>	<b>\$2,200.00</b>
<b>Task 3: Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend regular meetings of the Blackman Charter Township Planning Commission during the anticipated project schedule (March 2024 – March 2025) and present the final report to the Planning Commission and/or Township Board at conclusion of project</li> </ul>	<b>\$2,350.00</b>
<b>Total Not-to-Exceed Cost</b>	<b>\$16,750.00</b>

*\* Draft Report Issued for public comment January 2025*



## BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP

1990 W. Parnall Road • Jackson, Michigan 49201-8612 • Phone (517) 788-4345 • Fax (517) 788-4689

### **Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes 4/30/24 5:30 PM Township office.**

Attendees: Phil Preston, Dave Elwell, Shelly Sercombe, Phil Sczykutowicz (NW Schools)  
Dan Arntz.  
Missed: Jeff Kinney  
Interested parties: Kristina Edgar (AM 1), Teresa Donahee (BCT resident)

#### **Goal:**

**Prioritize Parnall options for submittal to the Board for May,**

#### **Action Decisions:**

#### **Committee discussions & actions**

The committee ranked the following for priority, with actions /explanations following.  
Some Explanation:

Based upon meeting with **Jaguars Soccer club (Pete, Dave, Phil)** and the Organizations input, a key item needs to be considered / added. Improving Drainage on the soccer field to allow full use of the fields. Currently, significant parts of the field are not available for play due to water.

The Soccer Club (SC) **would like to have 6 fields**, three different sizes. Jack Ripstra will assist with a layout to scale to see how best to fit the fields onto the property. AND, current property is not completely usable due to water collecting for much of the season.

- **Board input to commit to have 6 fields is needed.**

With the above in mind, notes as follows:

#### **1. Walking path.**

- a. Surface - small stone with pavement along Parnall. Agreed.
- b. Quote to be for both 8 feet and 10 feet in width.
- c. Quote with & without the cross trail, just before the soccer fields.
- d. **PATH WORK** along the west side of soccer fields to include **drainage for the fields. This may be delayed until fall. Significant portions of the field are not usable for significant parts of the year.**

2. Dog Run.

Put one in. 4 feet in height agreed upon.

*Location tbd, based upon layout of 6 soccer fields, pickleball, bathrooms,  
And pavilions.*

3. Pickleball courts.

a. Agreement to install 4 courts. Location is agreed upon.

Jack to develop RFP based upon specification from the Jackson PB club.

1. Checking with Jax parks & Rec for comparison

4. Bathrooms.

a. Water vs Vault will be researched for cost comparison, with decisions to follow.

-work is underway to evaluate cost / prepare specifications for RFP.

-specific location TBD.

5. Pavilion(s). two places?

a. Location options remain in discussion. **This and other layouts for facilities may be affected by further analysis of the Soccer fields.**

b. Size & facilities

c. Cost estimates & RFP

6. Sponsorships.

A Meeting with **Jaguars Soccer Club** was held with Phil, Pete & Dave with positive views. They are willing to participate with financial support. TBD.

We are Reaching out to the **Jackson Pickleball Club** for specifications and to determine possible support.

Ongoing communication with a **local financial institution** continues with naming rights offer to be determined.

Reported by Phil Preston





# Blackman Charter Township

## Parks & Recreation Plan

2023-2028 edition



*developed by*

*Blackman Charter Township Parks and Recreation Committee, Blackman Township Board,  
and Region 2 Planning Commission.*

# Blackman Township Board

Pete Jancek, Supervisor.

Dave Elwell, Clerk.

Phil Preston, Treasurer.

Trustees: Mike Thomas, Brandon Williams, Scott Pack, Mike Ambs



## Plan Approval and Adoption

Blackman Township Parks and Recreation Committee.....	TBD Blackman
Charter Township Board.....	TBD
Michigan Department of Natural Resources Submittal.....	

*The 2023-2028 edition of the Blackman Charter Township*

*Parks and Recreation Plan will expire on December 31, 2028*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page Number</u>
Community Description	1 - 3
Administrative Structure	4 - 5
Parks & Recreation Budgeting	5
Relationships with Other Recreation Providers	6
Recreation & Resource in Greater Jackson, Inventory	7
Parks & Recreation Facilities in Blackman Township	7 - 10
Parks & Recreation Facilities in Surrounding Area	11 - 14
Description of Planning & Public Input Processes	15 - 18
Jackson County Regional Trailway Study	19 - 22
Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan	22 - 24
Goals & Action Program (5 Year Plan)	25 - 30

# Community Description

## Blackman Charter Township Parks & Recreation Plan



A priority of Blackman Charter Township is to develop a parks and recreation plan which responds to the recreational needs and desires of its residents. Given that charge, this plan provides a clear picture of the recreation opportunities available to residents regardless of who provides them. This review includes nontraditional opportunities such as shopping venues as well as traditional parks and recreation facilities.

A sincere effort was spent in developing this parks and recreation plan, which represents the projected needs for recreation facilities and services in the 21st Century. For example, the presence of a potential trail corridor, and the public's support for a bike path, requires serious consideration regarding the construction of a new non-motorized trail. This document must be re-evaluated regularly and updated into new editions that meet the current needs of the community at least every five years.

### Location

Blackman Charter Township is located in northern Jackson County, surrounding the northern third of the City of Jackson. The Township is also bordered by Rives Township to the north, Henrietta Township to the northeast, Leoni Township to the east and southeast, Summit Township to the south, Spring Arbor Township to the southwest, Sandstone Township to the west, and Tompkins Township to the northwest. A number of major roadways traverse the 31.8 square mile municipality: Interstate Highway 94 (I-94), United States Highway 127 (US-127), Michigan Highway 60 (M-60), Michigan Highway 50 (M-50), and Michigan Highway 106 (M-106) (see Map 1 - Location).

Jackson County is located in south-central Lower Michigan, close to the border with northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana. The Jackson Urbanized Area is located in the center of the County and covers the majority of Blackman Township. The junction of I-94 and US-127 is located along the Township's southern border with the City of Jackson, earning the Area the nickname of "Crossroads of Michigan." Those roads connect Jackson directly to Ann Arbor and Detroit to the east, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to the west, and Lansing to the north.

## A Brief Socioeconomic Summary

The demographic composition of the population of Blackman Township has an effect upon its recreational needs. Pertinent demographic components are listed below along with a brief paragraph describing the local situation. Each of the components is described in greater detail in Appendix A of this document.

- **Population History & Projections** — Blackman Township's population was 25,759 in 2022 according to the US Census. The population of the Township grew in every decade between 1930 and 2020, with the largest increases occurring in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s. It's projected the Township's population will grow nearly five (4.9) percent by 2050, resulting in projected populations of 27,027 in 2050.

It should be pointed out that 28.9% of the population lived in group quarters (i.e., were institutionalized) in 2021, in the various state prisons located in the Township. It is important to note that this factor reduces the population to be served and skews the demographic profile of the population living in the rest of Blackman Township.

- **Age & Gender** —the estimated median age of Blackman Township residents was 38.9 years for the 2016-2021 time period. People aged 20-29 and 30-39 years old each comprised an estimated 17.6 percent of the population during the 2016-2021 time period. While those aged 40 to 49 years old comprised an estimated 15 percent of the population. People aged 50 to 59 years old comprised an estimated 12.7 percent of the population. Males comprised an estimated 62.1 percent of the population for the 2016-2021 time period (note that as the prisons in Blackman Township are all male, this is one of the clearest instances of how those facilities skew the demographics, with the following category of race being a close second).
- **Race & Ethnicity** — African Americans comprised the largest minority group with an estimated 16.1 percent of the population for the 2016-2021 time period. Other minority groups comprised an estimated 12.1 percent of the total population, leaving it substantially white (71.9 percent). People of Hispanic origin are a small but important segment (3.6%) of the Township's population, as are the nearly six percent (5.8%) who identify as multi-racial.
- **The Disabilities of Residents** — it is estimated that disabled individuals comprised 23 percent of Township residents during the 2016-2021 time period. An estimated 21.3 percent of residents 18-64 were disabled in some way and an estimated 11.4 percent had an ambulatory disability. An estimated 9.2 percent of residents at least 65 years old were disabled in some way and an estimated 6.8 percent had an ambulatory disability.
- **Households & Families** — Families comprised 75.4 percent of Blackman Township's estimated 8,237 households for the 2016-2021 time period. The average size of the average size of a household was 2.16. An estimated 24.6 percent of households consisted of a single person.
- **Household Income** — the estimated median family income for Blackman Township was \$52,003 for the 2016-2021 time period, substantially higher than the estimated \$23,054 reported for non-family households. The estimated median household income for all households was \$52,003. The estimated per capita income was \$26,054.

## The Health of Jackson County Residents

Obesity describes ranges of weight that are above healthy guidelines given a certain height. Body Mass Index is used to calculate an individual's ratio of height to weight. Generally, a person with a Body Mass Index score of 25.0 or greater is considered obese.<sup>1</sup> In 2023, 34.4 percent of Michigan residents were considered obese,<sup>2</sup> with 39 percent of adults in Jackson County reporting being obese.<sup>3</sup> According to a report published by Michigan State University's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research and Institute for Health Care Studies, being overweight or obese substantially increases the risk for cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, lipid disorders, stroke, gallbladder disease, osteoarthritis, sleep apnea, respiratory problems, psychological disorders, stress incontinence, and cancers of the endometrium, breast, prostate and colon.<sup>4</sup> It has been established throughout peer reviewed medical research that one of the leading causes of death in the United States is poor diet and physical inactivity.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, a publication by the World Health Organization states that physical inactivity and a poor diet are large contributors to being overweight and obesity.<sup>6</sup> According to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 28 percent of Jackson County residents reported being physically inactive.<sup>7</sup> These statistics point to a need for more active recreational opportunities in all communities. Those opportunities may include providing more walkable neighborhoods as well as the provision of actual recreational opportunities such as athletic fields (e.g., soccer, baseball, etc.) and courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, etc.). Factors of particular relevance to community growth, development, and planning contributing to unhealthy weight according to the *2006 Jackson Community Report Card* produced by the United Way of Jackson County include:

- "Inadequate community infrastructure limits the ability of people to be active. These include lack of accessible indoor and outdoor exercise facilities, neighborhood sidewalks, walking paths, and bicycle trails. Additionally, inclement weather, lack of adequate recreational opportunities, fear of unsafe neighborhoods, and unattractive/unpleasant local environments may prevent people from exercising."

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<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2012). Obesity and Overweight for Professionals: Adult: Defining – DNPAO - CDC. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/obesity/adult/defining.html>

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). Obesity and Overweight for Professionals: Data and Statistics — DNPAO - CDC. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/prevalence-maps.html>

<sup>3</sup> County Health Rankings. (2023). Adult obesity in Michigan | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/michigan/jackson?year=2023>

<sup>4</sup> Kreulen, G. J. (2002). *Promoting healthy weight in Michigan through physical activity and nutrition (Informing the debate: health policy options for Michigan policymakers)*. East Lansing: Institute for Public Policy & Social Research and Institute for Health Care Studies at Michigan State University.

<sup>5</sup> For example: <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/198357>

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization. (2009). Unhealthy Diets & Physical Inactivity. Retrieved from [http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/fact\\_sheet\\_diet\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/publications/fact_sheet_diet_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> County Health Rankings. (2023). Physical inactivity in Michigan | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/michigan?year=2022&measure=Physical+Inactivity>

- “Programs and policies are necessary to promote smart community growth and the establishment of urban and rural environments supportive of physical activity. Active community environments access to safe favorable conditions for physical activity and promote the development of social support networks that encourage activity.”

The Michigan State University Report: *Promoting Healthy Weight in Michigan through Physical Activity and Nutrition* (Kreulen, 2002), recommends cooperation among state and local units of government and residents in the promotion of active environments, including the following actions.

- “Develop walkable communities by widening and maintaining or building sidewalks, safe roadway crossings, and aesthetically pleasing areas.”
- “Encourage bicycling by developing, maintaining, and promoting the use of bike paths.”
- “Require [that] all urban planning and re-design incorporate the concepts of active community environments and thereby promote physical activity.”

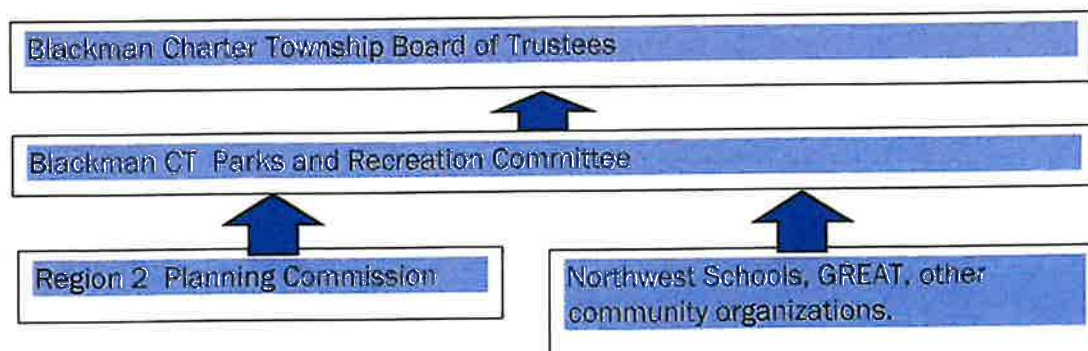
## Administrative Structure

The authority to provide public park systems and recreation programs is granted by the State of Michigan. Blackman Township’s parks are established under the authority of Public Act 156 of 1917, *Recreation and Playgrounds (MCL 125.51 et seq)*. The act also allowed the creation of the Blackman Charter Township Parks and Recreation Committee.

## Organizational Structure

Blackman Charter Township's Board of Trustees created the Parks and Recreation Committee and charged it to plan for and implement recreational services and facilities in the community (please see the organizational chart). The committee assesses the needs and desires of the community (e.g., develops this document), makes appropriate budget requests to the Board, and seeks out grant opportunities on behalf of the Township.

**Blackman Township Organizational Chart**





Blackman Township does not maintain any parks and recreation staff. Mowing and other ongoing maintenance responsibilities are currently contracted out. The Parks and Recreation Committee undertake specific maintenance and improvement projects by partnering with the Township's

Beautification Committee and other volunteers (please see the organizational chart). The cooperation of Township departments and other commissions, boards, and committees is also needed from time-to-time in order to administer projects and grants.

### ***Parks and Recreation Budgeting***

The Township's parks and recreation operating budget for 2023 was \$130,000 and it is anticipated that the budget should remain constant with the millage approved in 2022. Several projects are planned with the addition of property on Parnall Road that will be completed during the current millage cycle.

#### Sources of Funding

The following funding sources are utilized by Blackman Township for parks and recreation purposes:

- Millage for parks and recreation;
- general tax fund dollars may be used;
- rental fees for pavilions and sporting facilities;
- grants and donations awarded for specific projects.

Grants are sought from various state, federal, and philanthropic sources for the development of a specific park, facility (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.) or programs. Donations from the general public and various service organizations for a specific park, facility, or program are also accepted. A portion of the local match required of most grants may also come from the general fund or donations. A DNR Grant (highly competitive) provided 50% of funding for upgraded playgrounds at Rod Mills Park in 2021-2022

The Michigan Transportation Fund Act (Act 51) states that "a reasonable amount, but not less than 1% of" funds allocated to the state or a county, city, or village "shall be expended for construction or improvement of non-motorized transportation services and facilities." That set-aside can be used to fund "an improvement in a road, street, or highway which facilitates non-motorized transportation . . . or improvement of a sidewalk in a city or village, or any other appropriate measure." The Michigan Department of Transportation and the Jackson County Road Commission receive funding through Act 51. Coordination with those entities could result in the expenditure of Act 51 funds on non-motorized projects proposed within this document.

## ***Relationships with Other Recreation Providers***

Blackman Charter Township is not the only supplier of parks and recreational opportunities to local residents.

### **Schools**

Local school districts are significant suppliers of parks and recreational opportunities to their students and boosters as well as the general public. The Northwestern School District covers most of Blackman Township and its schools are located in the Township. However, Jackson Public Schools, East Jackson Community Schools, and the Western School District also serve some of the youth of the Township (see the School Districts map). The Jackson Intermediate School District also maintains facilities in Blackman Township.

### **Local, County, State Government and Private Providers**

Some of the surrounding townships and the City of Jackson also maintain parks, trails, and recreation programs. The same is true for Jackson County. Blackman Township also joined other local governments in planning for a state wide trail system that is under work passing through the County and Blackman Charter Township. This is partially completed, with the remainder to be completed in Blackman in 2024-2025.

The State of Michigan provides a variety of recreational facilities in the form of state game, wildlife, and recreation areas; state historic parks; and state parks in the vicinity of Blackman Township. A variety of private entrepreneurs and quasi-public agencies also provide recreation facilities and programs in and around the Township.

Please refer to Page \_\_\_\_ for a more detailed description of recreation facilities in Blackman Charter Township.

## ***Recreation and Resource in Greater Jackson, Inventory.***

In order to plan for future parks and recreation facilities it is important to prepare a complete inventory of existing resources and facilities. The following inventory is comprised of all known parks and recreation facilities and programs available in Blackman Township, not just those owned and managed by the Township. The parks, facilities, and programs were identified through local knowledge and review of current and historic documents and maps.

## Park Classifications and Standards

It is also important to be able classify parks and recreation facilities in order to identify the need for additional parkland and recreation facilities in Jackson County and the City of Jackson. Park systems are comprised of several types of parks:<sup>8</sup>

- Mini-Parks — Small parks (less than an acre) which address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.
- Neighborhood Parks — Informal active and/or passive recreation parks which serve as the focus of the neighborhood; *this park type also serves as a mini-park for the area immediately adjacent to the facility.*
- Community Parks — Parks which serve a broader focus than a neighborhood and may also preserve a unique landscape or open space; *this park type also serves as a neighborhood park for the area immediately adjacent to the facility.*
- Regional Parks — Parks which serve the entire county as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces; *this park type also serves as a community park for the area surrounding the facility.*
- Connector Trails — Linear parks which serve as non-motorized connectors among neighborhoods, business areas, parks, schools, and other destinations.

## ***Parks and Recreation Facilities in Blackman Township***

Parks and recreation facilities found in Blackman Township are provided by the Northwest School District and a variety of private and quasi-public entities as well as the Township.

### Blackman Township Park

Blackman Townships' park system is comprised of Rod Mills Memorial Park, and newly acquired property adjacent to the Township offices. A community park which encompasses approximately 115 acres Given the population of 25,759 people in Blackman Township in 2022— once the institutionalized population has been subtracted – the park, which serves as a community park, satisfied ??% of the acreage recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association.

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<sup>8</sup> Springate, Lee, "Defining Parks and Park Systems," From Recreation to Re-creation: New Directions in Parks and Open Space System Planning, Megan Lewis, editor (PAS Report Number 551)

### Blackman Township Parks

Key	Name	Acres	Facilities	BFA
A	Rod Mills Memorial Park	91.5	Hiking trails, picnic pavilions, picnic tables and grills; baseball diamonds; a playground area, vault bathroom facilities	3
B	Parnall Complex	25	In progress, with plans for pavilions, pickleball courts, hiking paths, bathrooms based upon community feedback and survey	3

It is important that the township park be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, an estimated 6% of township residents had ambulatory difficulties in the 2008-2010 time period. Accordingly, the park was rated according to its level of barrier free access.<sup>9</sup> The number listed under the BFA column in the above table equates to the barrier-free rating listed in the table below.

### Barrier-Free Access (BFA) Analysis

Key	Description
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 area meet accessibility guidelines
4 =	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5 =	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principal of universal design

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<sup>9</sup> The analysis of barrier free access was provided by the Blackman Township Parks and Recreation Committee, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

Schools

Schools also provide a variety of recreational facilities. For example, elementary schools provide numerous playgrounds aimed at different age groups and sports fields. Middle and high schools provide football fields, ball diamonds and tennis courts. Elementary, middle, and high schools provide gymnasiums. Because of those facilities, schools generally function as community parks.

**Schools**

Key	Name	District	Facilities
B	Northwest High*	Northwest	Gymnasiums, baseball/softball field, soccer field, football field, and track
C	R. W Kidder Middle**	School District	
D	Parnall Elementary	Northwest	Gymnasiums, Playgrounds, baseball/softball fields, and soccer fields
E	Northwest Elementary	School District	
F	Lyle Torrent Training Center	Intermediate School District	Playground and baseball field
G	da Vinci Primary School	da Vinci Institute	Playground
<p>* The Northwest Alternative High School is located in the High School complex</p> <p>** The former Flora List Elementary School, located to the north, still contains a playground</p>			

The Northwest School District serves the majority of Blackman Township students and all of its schools are located within the municipality. Several other public school districts also serve students from Blackman Township. However, they maintain no facilities in the municipality.

The Lyle Torrent Training Center — a Jackson County Intermediate School District (ISD) which serves students from across the county — is located within the Township. Other ISD

facilities are located outside of the surrounding area. Blackman Township is home to the da Vinci Institute's primary school (K-8). The da Vinci Institute— a public charter school perated by Central Michigan University — also maintains a secondary school (9-12) outside of the surrounding area.

Quasi-Public and Private Recreation Facilities

Finally, a number of quasi-public and private entities also maintain facilities in Blackman Townships that have some recreational value. For example, the Jackson County Airport— Reynolds Field — provides a place for recreational flyers to land, maintain, and store their aircraft. The Jackson District Library (JDL) also provides access to books, films, and a variety of enrichment programs; the JDL's Meijer Branch is located in Blackman Township; the other branches are located throughout the county (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more detail on JDL facilities).

The main purpose of other facilities is strictly recreational. Golf Jackson maintains a mini golf course and driving range and the Rando Activity Center provides basketball courts and a gymnasium.

**Other Recreation Facilities**

Name	Facilities
Richard F Smith Post Foundation	Baseball field
Rando Activity Center	Basketball courts and gymnasium
Golf Jackson	Mini Golf dome, driving range, volleyball courts
Marino's Fields	Soccer fields
Keeley Park	Indoor pickleball courts
Cascades Falls park	Hurst Foundation pickleball courts , outside

## Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Surrounding Area

Parks and recreation facilities utilized by Blackman Township residents are also located in the surrounding area.

### Other Municipal and County Parks

Some of the surrounding municipalities also provide parks to their residents (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more facilities).

- City of Jackson – the City maintains a total of 27 parks (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more detail).
- Leoni Township – Peter Alex Ball Park, Leoni Community Park, Bender Park, and a public boat launch
- Rives Township – Rives Township Park
- Spring Arbor Township – Fritz Gallagher Park and Harmony Park
- Summit Township – Probert Road Trail
- Tompkins Township – Tompkins Township Park
- County of Jackson – the County maintains a total of 16 parks (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more detail).

### Other Public School Districts

The following school districts also maintain facilities within the surrounding area (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more school districts).

- East Jackson Community Schools – covers portions of Blackman, Leoni, Summit, and Waterloo Townships. The district maintains the following facilities: Bertha Robinson Elementary School, East Jackson Middle School, Memorial Elementary School and East Jackson High School.
- Jackson Public Schools – The district covers the City of Jackson and portions of Blackman, Liberty, Napoleon, and Summit Townships. Jackson Public Schools, which is part of the Jackson County Intermediate School District, maintains the following facilities: Bennett Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School, Cascades Elementary School, Sharp Park Academy, Dibble Elementary School, Amy Firth Middle School, Frost Elementary School, Middle School at Parkside, Hunt Elementary School, Jackson High School, McCulloch Elementary and T.A. Wilson Academy



- Western School District – The district covers the Village of Parma and portions of Blackman, Concord, Parma, Sandstone, and Spring Arbor Townships. The district maintains the following facilities: Bean Elementary School, Parma Elementary School, Warner Elementary School, Western Middle School, Western High School, Western Options High School and Woodville Community Center.

### Local Colleges

There are several local colleges. Baker College's local campus is located in the Township, north of the Jackson County Airport. Jackson Community College's main campus is located in Summit Township. Finally, Spring Arbor University's main campus is located in the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor.

Many colleges provide access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities. Township residents can also avail themselves of the other recreational facilities and programs hosted by those institutions. For example, The Potter Center (Jackson Community College) "is comprised of the most versatile and complete performing arts complex in the area."<sup>10</sup> The Ganton Gallery (Spring Arbor University) "is one of the largest, single-room galleries in Michigan."<sup>8</sup> The local Baker College campus does not contain significant recreation facilities that are open to the general public.

### Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

A variety of other public agencies and private entrepreneurs also provide recreational opportunities to city and county residents.

### State Parks

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), a significant provider of regional parks and recreation facilities, maintains the following park which extends into the surrounding area (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for more state parks in Jackson County): Meridian-Baseline State Park, Henrietta and Rives Townships (not open to the general public).

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.iccni.edu/events/pottercenter/theatres.htm>

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.arbor.edu/edu\\_detail.aspx?id=37930](http://www.arbor.edu/edu_detail.aspx?id=37930)

The following state game and recreation areas which extend into Jackson County are also provided by the DNR (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more state game and recreation areas in Jackson County): Waterloo Recreation Area, Grass Lake, Leoni, and Waterloo Townships. The Waterloo Recreation Area provides opportunities for cross-county skiing, snowmobiling, boating, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, swimming, horseback riding, picnicking, playing (i.e., playgrounds), and camping.

Finally, the DNR also maintains 5 boat launches in the surrounding municipalities (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for more DNR boat launches in Jackson County).

- Center Lake and Gilletts Lake, Leoni Township
- Maple Grove Bridge (Grand River) Rives Township
- Tompkins Bridge (Grand River), Tompkins Township
- Trestle Bridge (Grand River), Tompkins Township

#### Jackson County Fairground – Keeley Park.

The Jackson County Fair is held every August in the City of Jackson. However, it is important to note that the Fairground also hosts other special events throughout the year, including the annual 'Nite Lights at the Fairgrounds.' Private and Quasi-Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

A number of private and quasi-public institutions also provide recreation facilities.

#### Golf Courses

In addition to the public courses associated with the Ella Sharp and Sparks Foundation (Cascades) County Parks, a variety of private courses are available to Blackman township residents. Many of those courses are open to the general public (please see the [City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan](#) for a complete listing of golf courses in Jackson County).

### Recreation and Sport Centers

The YMCA of Jackson provides a variety of sports and recreational activities. Allskate Fun Center and Optimist Ice Arena are also located in the City of Jackson. Finally, at least five bowling alleys operate in surrounding municipalities: Airport Lanes, AMF Summit Lanes, Center Stage, and Suburban Bowling Lanes.

### Public and Private Facilities with Recreational Benefits

Various other facilities in the surrounding area (provided publicly and privately) also have recreational benefits: Cemeteries – Cemeteries provide important green space. They can also be used as safe places to walk/exercise and contemplate nature (please see the City of Jackson and Jackson County Recreation Plan for a listing of cemeteries in Jackson County).

## Descriptions of the Planning and Public Input Processes

### Blackman Charter Township Parks & Recreation Plan



### Description of the Planning Process

The development of this edition of the Blackman Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan included the following steps:

- Blackman Township's Board recognized the need to create a Parks and Recreation Plan.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee conducted a community survey with the assistance of Northwest Schools.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee held two advertised public meetings to review and receive input and suggestions for future planning of facilities and activities.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee in conjunction with Region 2 Planning Commission staff to assist it in the review and updating of the Parks and Recreation Plan.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee approved the draft of the Parks and Recreation Plan for the 2023 thru 2028 edition, released it for public review on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024
- The Parks and Recreation Committee held a public hearing on the Parks and Recreation Plan on two occasions, including April 15, \_\_, 2024. The Committee subsequently approved the document and recommended it for adoption by the Township Board.
- The Township Board adopted the Parks and Recreation Plan on \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

### Public Opinion Survey

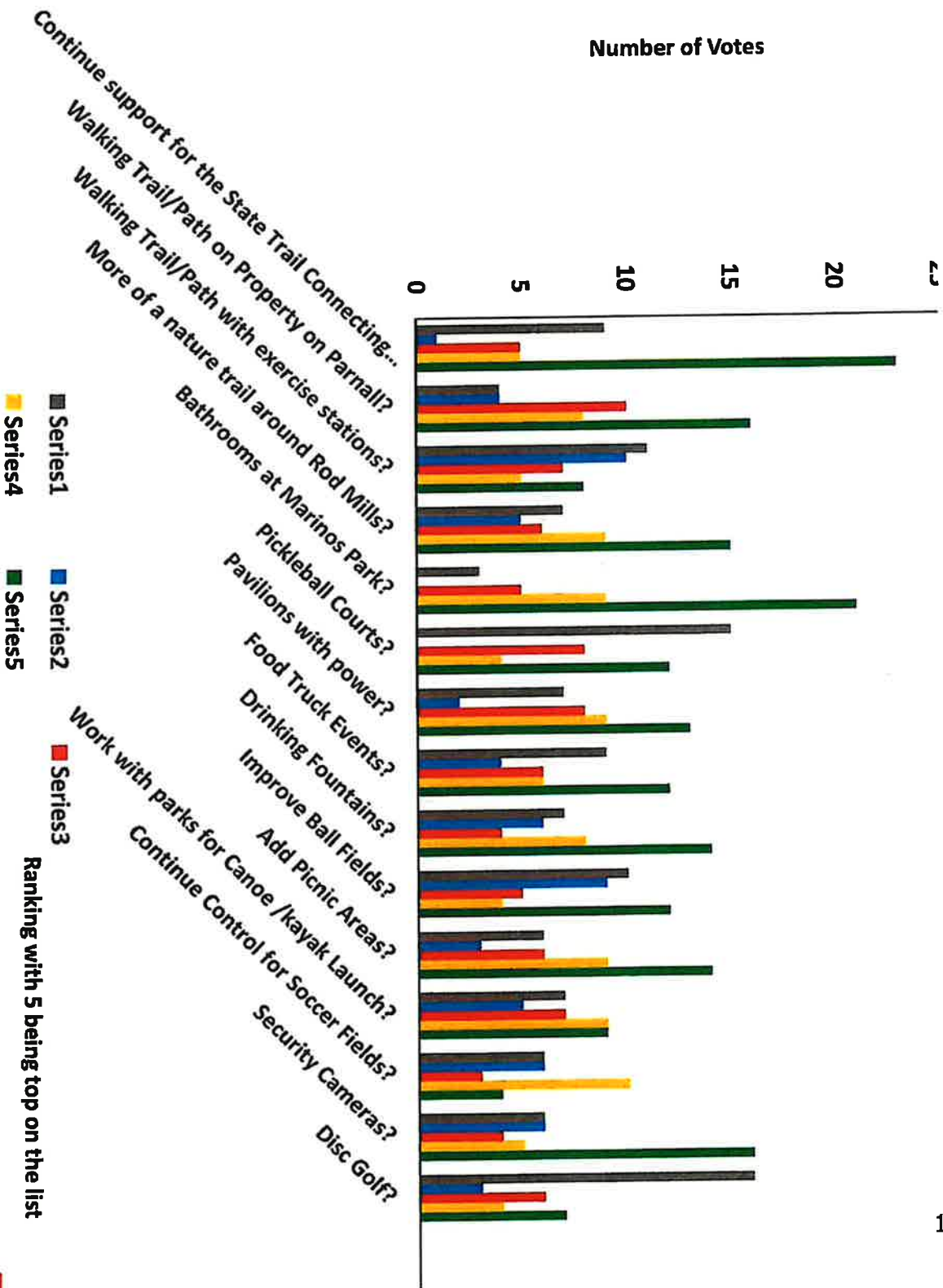
The following survey was distributed through the mail with the tax bills for the Township, that also included our Newsletter. In addition the survey was distributed at the Township office for walking visitors, and through direct contact with Township employees and Park Committee members.

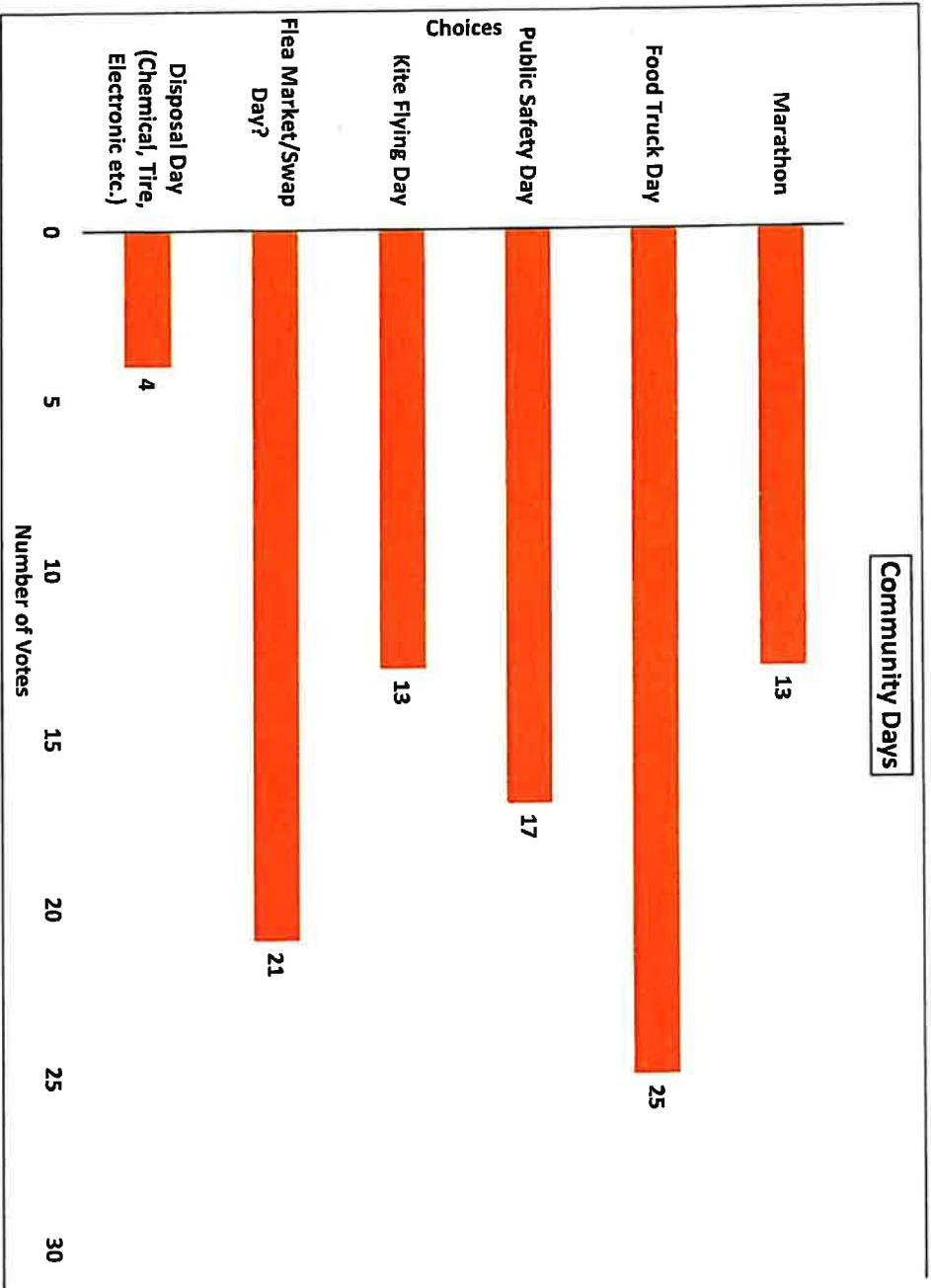
*Parks and Recreation Survey for Blackman Charter Township*

Blackman is ready for Public Input on our Plans for the Next Five Years. Attached is a survey of thoughts & ideas for you to provide input for consideration. Please feel free to add comments at the end, or to add suggestions. Please mark up and return Back to the Township office or email your comments to [ppreston@blackmantwp.com](mailto:ppreston@blackmantwp.com)

*Blackman Charter Township Survey for Parks and Recreation Planning.*

	Item	Comment	Ranking 1-5 (5 being high)
1.	Continue support for the State Trail connecting from Cooper / Parnall to the city.	In the works, may include a trail head in Blackman. Within 2 years.	
2.	Walking trail /path around the property on Parnall	Could be 5,000 feet in length	
3.	Walking trail/path with exercise stations	At Marino Park, as above	
4.	More of a nature trail around Rod Mills Park		
5.	Bathrooms like at Rod Mills	At Marino Park	
6.	Pickleball courts (2 courts)	Marino Park property on Parnall	
7.	Pavilion with power	At Marino Park	
8.	Drinking fountain	At Each Park	
9.	Food Truck events	At Marino Park	
10.	Improve the ball fields	At Rodd Mills Park	
11.	Add a Picnic area	At Marino Park	
12.	Continue control of Marino soccer fields for sports teams	Fields are maintained by Soccer clubs, not Township.	
13.	Security Cameras	At Rod Mills & Marino Park	
14.	Disc golf	Either at Rod Mills or Marino Park	
15.	Sponsor events at the Parks?  Rod Mills Park and / or Marino Park.	Community tire disposal day, etc. -flea market / swap day -kite flying day? -Public Safety Day -Food Truck Day	Circle & rank
16.	Work with the County Parks to create canoe / kayak launch at confluence of the Grand & Portage Rivers	North side of Blackman, off 106.	
17.	What would you like to see in the Parks or in Blackman for Recreation opportunities?		



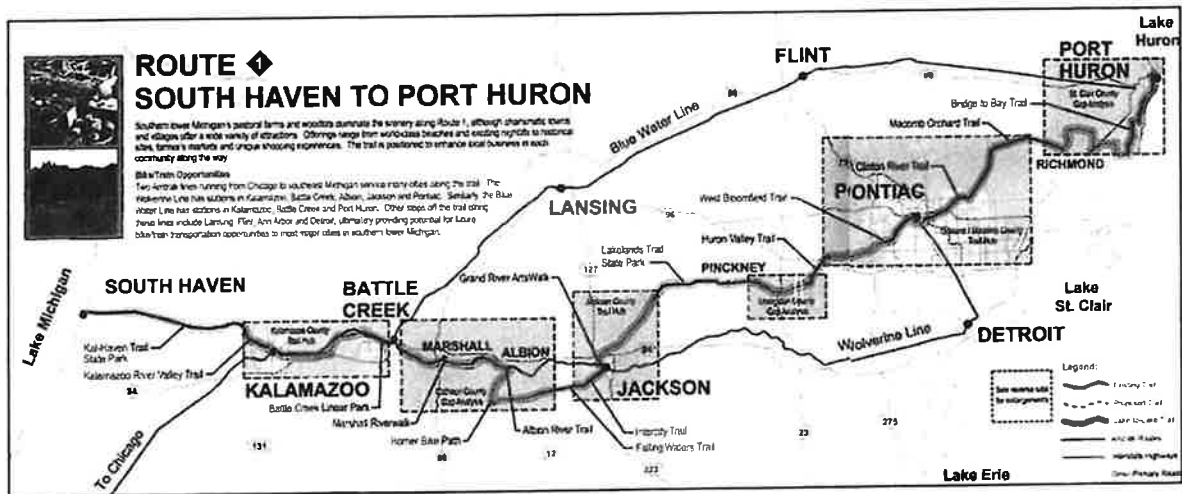




Jackson County Regional Trailway Study

Blackman Township; the Parks Departments of Jackson County and the City of Jackson; the Townships of Spring Arbor and Summit; the Falling Waters Trail Committee; and the Lakelands Trail Effort joined together in 2002 to develop the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study.

In 2024, much of this plan has been implemented with a section in Blackman Charter Township to be completed in 2024 that will connect from the City of Jackson with the trail headed northeast.



Lake Trails):<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup> Please refer the trail map in Appendix C as well as the full study for greater detail. <sup>12</sup> Please see the individual recreation plans for greater detail.

## Jackson County Regional Trailway Study Corridors

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Route #1 Corridor:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Lakelands Trail (Extension) – 15.4 mi.</li><li>③ Henrietta Loop – 19.9 mi.</li><li>③ Portage Lake Trail – 6.5 mi.</li><li>○ Blackman Township Loop (Partial) – 8.0 mi.</li><li>○ Intercity Trail – 7.5 mi.</li><li>○ Falling Waters Trail – 11.5 mi.</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Other trail corridors:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ North Trail – 7.6 mi.</li><li>○ Airport Trail – 5.5 mi.</li><li>○ Hanover Trail – 8.9 mi.</li><li>○ Summit Township Loop – 7.2 mi.</li><li>○ Ella Sharp Park Trail and Cascades Park – 4.4 mi.</li><li>○ South Trail – 19.5 mi.</li><li>○ Connection to Existing Trail on Page Avenue – 0.3 mi.</li></ul></li></ul>
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Significant segments of Route #1 of The Great Lake to Lake Trails traversing Jackson County are complete. For example, the majority of the Intercity Trail was already in place at the time the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study was released (although more construction is required); the Grand River ArtsWalk, a 1½ mile extension of the Intercity Trail to the north city limits, has since been completed. A 10½ mile section of the Falling Waters Trail was also completed from the east village limits of Concord to Weatherwax Road.

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## Jackson County Regional Trailway Study: Connecting Communities

In 2002, The Jackson County Regional Trailway study was initiated by a collective effort from numerous municipal, non-profit, and public entities. Their shared vision was to create a comprehensive trail network that would enhance recreational opportunities, promote active lifestyles, and foster community connections. The following partners played pivotal roles in this undertaking:

1. **Blackman Township.** As a central player, Blackman Township recognized the importance of trail development in enhancing the quality of life for its' residents. The township actively participated in planning and implementing trail segments.
2. **Parks Departments of Jackson County and the City of Jackson.** These departments contributed their expertise in park management, trail design, and community engagement. Their collaboration ensured that the trail system seamlessly integrated with existing parks, recreational facilities and green spaces, focusing on maximizing accessibility and usability.
3. **Townships of Spring Arbor and Summit.** Spring Arbor and Summit townships joined forces to extend the trail network beyond municipal boundaries. Their commitment to regional connectivity allowed the trail expansion to link neighboring communities, creating a continuous pathway to explore on foot or by bike.
4. **Falling Waters Trail Committee.** This volunteer committee was a vital force in the development of the Falling Waters Trail. Their advocacy and hard work contributed significantly to the success of the overall Trailway Study.
5. **Lakelands Trail Effort.** The Lakelands Trail effort focused on expanding the existing Lakelands Trail, creating a continuous route that meanders through picturesque landscapes, connecting lakes, towns, and natural areas.

Fast-forward to 2024, and the vision outlined in the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study has materialized into tangible achievements. Notable progress includes:

### ***Intercity Trail Enhancement.***

*The Intercity Trail*, a cornerstone of the regional trail network, was largely established during the initial release of the Jackson County Regional Trailway Study. Subsequent construction efforts have further solidified its presence.

The completion of the Grand River Artswalk, a 1½ mile extension, now extends the Intercity Trail to the northern city limits, offering a picturesque pathway for residents and visitors alike.

***Falling Waters Trail Completion.***

A significant portion of the *Falling Waters Trail*, totaling 10 ½ miles, has been successfully completed. This section connects the east village limits of Concord to Weatherwax Road.

***Blackman Charter Township Extension.***

Blackman Charter Township is on track to finalize a critical trail segment. This extension will establish a vital link between the City of Jackson and the northeast-bound trails, enhancing regional connectivity and opportunities to explore, appreciate nature, and the abundance of natural resources in Blackman Township.

## Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan

Continuing with this vision, in 2020, the City of Jackson, Jackson County, and several communities within the County collaborated to create an undated Nonmotorized Network Plan, aimed at enhancing nonmotorized routes. Blackman Township, representing the Township of the County Steering Committee, played a crucial role in shaping this plan. The primary objective was to improve nonmotorized transportation options, making it more convenient for both residents and visitors to walk, bike, and connect with key destinations.

However, Blackman Township faces unique challenges due to its proximity to railroads, highways (such as US-127 and I-94), and the Grand River. To address these challenges, the plan outlined several priorities specifically related to Blackman Township:

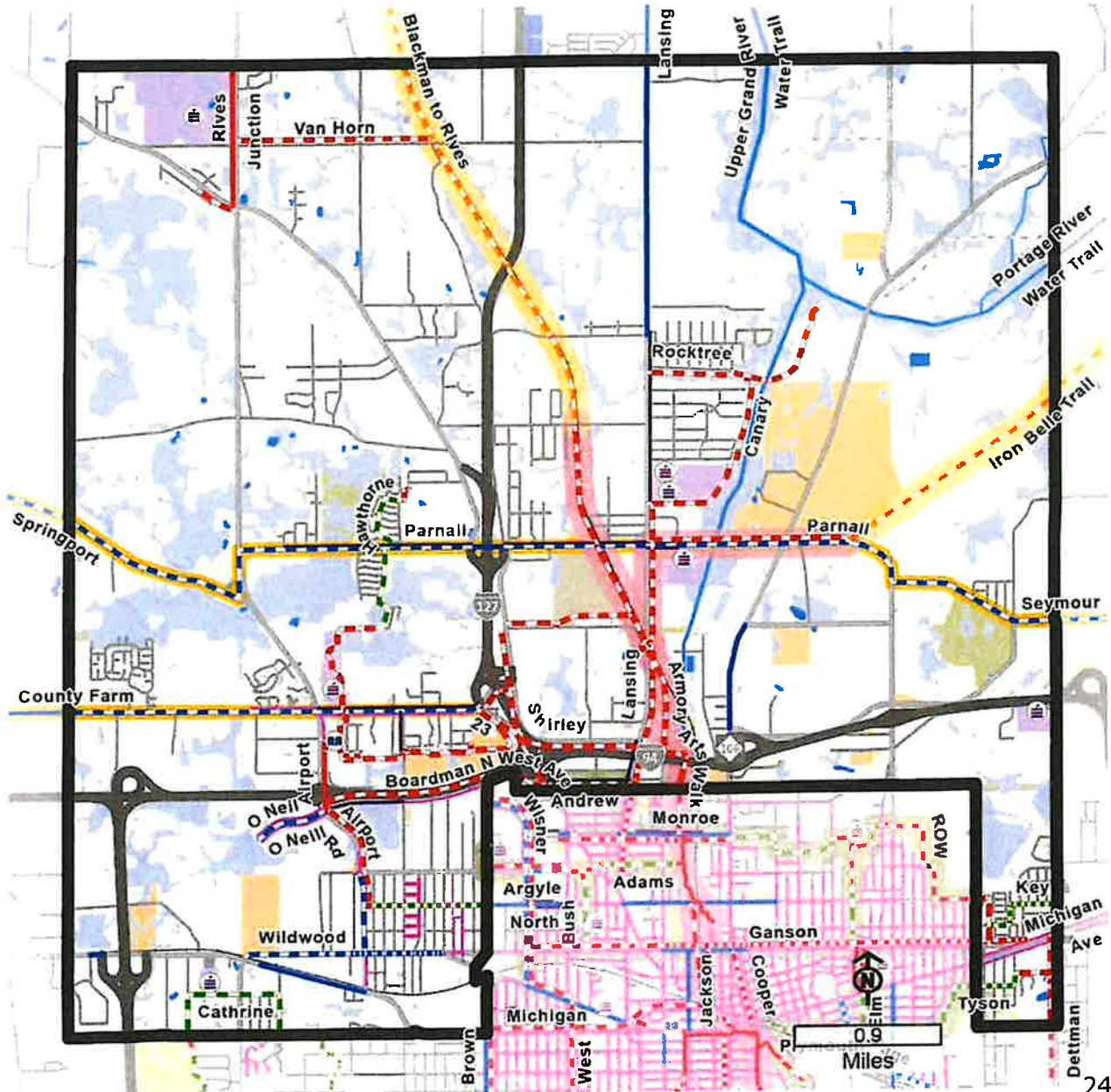
1. **Completing Sidewalk Gaps.** Filling in missing sidewalk segments along critical route.
2. **Improving Crosswalks.** Ensuring crosswalks comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provide safe routes to schools.
3. **Creating Connections.** Establishing pathways across expressways, rivers and bridges.
4. **Linking to Schools.** Enhancing connectivity to educational institutions.

5. **Connecting Isolated Neighborhoods.** Bridging gaps between neighborhoods.
6. **Iron Bell Trail/Great Lake-to-Lake Trail Route One.** Integrating with this major trail system.

For more details, you can explore the [Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan](#) as well as the Blackman Township Nonmotorized Network Map on the following page.

# Blackman Township Nonmotorized Network

- |                             |                 |                |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| <b>Nonmotorized Network</b> | <b>existing</b> | <b>planned</b> |
| Trail (paved)               |                 |                |
| Trail (unpaved/gravel)      |                 |                |
| Bike Lane/Paved Shoulder    |                 |                |
| Signed Bike Route           |                 |                |
| Sidewalk                    |                 |                |
| Footpath/Hiking Trail       |                 |                |
| <b>Regional Connections</b> |                 |                |
| Priority Paved Shoulders    |                 |                |
| Unpaved Trails and Routes   |                 |                |
| Paved Trails and Routes     |                 |                |
| <b>City of Jackson</b>      |                 |                |
| Family Friendly Routes      |                 |                |
| <b>Roads</b>                |                 |                |
| Major Roads                 |                 |                |
| Local Roads                 |                 |                |
| Gravel Roads                |                 |                |



## Goals and Action Program 2024-2028 Five-year Plan (DRAFT)

### **Mission:**

***Provide more community-wide recreation opportunities for each and every resident. Support goals established in the Blackman Charter Township Master Plan to link Master plan goals with capital expenditures and to Establish a Community Identity.***

The following Goals continue working on our 2017 plans while utilizing input from our 2023 Survey and public meeting discussions. This includes updated information from Region 2 Planning Commission, courtesy of Jacob Hurt, Executive Director.

**Major opportunities** became possible in 2023 with the purchase of properties adjacent to our Public Safety office on the west, and adjacent to the Township offices to the East, that will greatly enhance the sense of a community center for Blackman with space for events and recreational activity.

The financial means to these goals and added recreational facilities hinged on the millage strongly supported by the community. The 2024 - 28 plan has significant expansion of recreational and community activities made possible by the ongoing public support.

The following goals piggyback on the past 5 years, and expand opportunities for years to come:

### **Goal A**

***Create a more walk able and bike friendly community.***

Responses to the survey show a very strong support for non-motorized State trail system being available in Blackman. The completion of the Mike Levine trail section along Parnall and Lansing avenues connecting the Township with the City of Jackson is a priority for the Township, utilizing funding from outside sources. .

**Objective: Connect the State trail from Cooper/Parnall to the City.**



**ACTIONS:**

1. Work with the following organizations in trail planning activities throughout the Township: Michigan DEQ, Michigan DNR, County of Jackson DOT, MDOT.
2. Identify possible funding sources including budgeting support and grant applications leading to a trail head within Blackman to encourage usage of the trail and enhancing ease of access for Blackman residents.
3. Work with MDOT on long term road and bridge planning to assure maximum efficiency during construction / reconstruction in Blackman and surrounding community.
4. Expand community sidewalks system for bikes, strollers, skating, or wheelchair by identifying usage patterns in the township for determining needs. Identify crossing points for improvements in safe crossings.

**Goal B:**

***Development of the Marino Park facilities***

The purchase of property on Parnall has provided multiple opportunities for the Township. First, to meet Public Safety Department needs for more officer space. And second, to enhance our community identity and to add park and recreational options. Priority is to solve the overcrowded conditions with new PS facilities, and to plan and complete added facilities for Parks and Recreation around the Parnall complex.

**ACTIONS:** in rough sequence , with priority to PS construction.

<p><b>1) Plan the footprint for the entire Parnall property</b>, which is underway as of January, 2024. Information from the 2023 Public survey is used as a guide for inclusion.</p>	<p>Work is underway on redesign &amp; expansion plans for Marinos. Additional facilities will follow in the planning process.</p> <p>Target: spring, 2024</p>
<p><b>2) Removal of B &amp; H Machine shop</b> ending with clean grass area.</p>	<p>Underwork.</p> <p>Target: spring, 2024</p>
<p><b>3) Create walking path around the Parnall Property.</b></p>	<p>-agree on path layout</p> <p>-agree on the surface</p> <p>-RFP, RFQ, Construction.</p> <p>Target: summer 2024.</p>
<p><b>4) Bathrooms at Marinos park</b></p>	<p>-location determined for bathrooms and drinking fountain</p> <p>-style agreed upon ( vault, water? )</p> <p>-Bid &amp; installation.</p> <p>-</p> <p>Target: fall 2024</p>
<p><b>5) Installation of Security Cameras for Rod Mills Park and Parnall Park.</b></p>	<p>-Under work with signed contract.</p> <p>-Enhance power &amp; water at same time.</p> <p>Target: summer 2024</p>
<p><b>6) Pavilion in Marino Park.</b></p>	<p>-location &amp; size determined</p> <p>-amenities determined: power, water sewer, tables, lighting</p> <p>-Bid &amp; construction</p> <p>Target: spring 2025</p>

<p><b>7) Pickleball Courts in Marino Park</b></p>	<p>-TBD</p> <p>- location, number of courts ?</p> <p>-covered ?</p> <p>-bid &amp; construction</p> <p>Target: summer 2025</p>
<p><b>8) Support for Soccer &amp; Little Leagues</b></p> <p>The Township is committed to maintaining facilities in direct support of the Master Plan Goals for Community Identity.</p>	<p>-ensure ongoing availability of fields.</p> <p>-improve the fields &amp; facilities, including the turf, drainage, line &amp; maintenance of the fields.</p> <p>-improve ball fields at Rod Mills.</p> <p>Target: <i>ongoing, with contracts to ensure care</i></p>
<p><b>9) Ensure ongoing care of Park &amp; Recreation facilities.</b> Pavilion improvements to include upgrade power &amp; water during #5, Camera work at Rod Mills.</p>	<p>-<i>regular maintenance</i> for Rod Mills Park, including: bathroom facilities, trash, mowing, playground &amp; ball fields.</p> <p>-pavilion roof maintenance, estimate replacements in 2029.</p>
<p><b>10) Sponsor/ coordinate Food Truck Days for Blackman.</b></p>	<p>-work with food truck owners to support a Blackman community type event.</p> <p>Target: Summer 2024.</p>
<p><b>11) Repurposing the current public Safety Building.</b></p>	<p>Several options for consideration.</p> <p>-service bay for vehicles</p> <p>-meeting rooms for public use</p> <p>-community center</p> <p>-precinct voting</p> <p>Target: 2027-2028</p>

## **GOAL C**

*Work with GREAT (Grand River Environmental Action Team) to protect the Grand River environment and enhance river access improvements where feasible.*

### **ACTIONS:**

1. Continue GREAT membership on the Parks & Recreation committee to ensure interests of GREAT and Blackman Parks & Recreation are compatible and supportive.
2. Combine / coordinate resources to acquire financing and assist in completing tasks identified which are open to all Blackman residents and meets the Mission Statement.
3. Provide some financial support to the GREAT organization who provide facilities and work for the betterment of Blackman Township residents.
4. Evaluate the use of Canary Lane Township Property for future use, including non-motorized walk from Parnall to the Northwest Community Schools.

## **Goal D:**

*Create a more handicap accessible, handicap friendly community.*

**Objective:** Improve Barrier-Free Access (BFA) meeting the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), reaching for Universal access where feasible.

The estimated disabled population in Blackman Township numbers 3,321 people (19%), with 40 % of these being in the 65 and over category. With the importance of recreational facilities in Blackman rated at 84%, the Committee is committed to inclusion of our disabled population, and for improvements to current recreational opportunities.

### **ACTIONS:**

1. Seek expertise (JCISD & others) to assess current compliance on equipment and facilities and develop plans for improvements to move towards universal access where possible.
2. Ensure facilities added and maintained in the Township meets ADA requirements, and work to reach universal access where feasible financially.

3. Participate in the planning of recreational facilities in the Township to Promote ADA compliance, including ADA approved launch facilities for the Type A sites on the Upper Grand River Water Trail Master Plan.
4. Partner with JCISD young adult training program with ongoing learning experiences that add value to the Township, Rod Mills Park and the students.

## Goal E

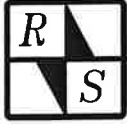
*Assure ongoing funding for parks and recreation in Blackman Charter Township.*

**Objective:** Ensure the Parks & Recreation Committee continues a team effort with stakeholders in the community participating Blackman Charter Township.

In 2017 the Township made a conscious attempt to include community representatives and needs to continue this effort in support of a Community Identity. This effort continues with the renewed parks and recreation plans. Several projects require substantial funding for completion, followed by ongoing maintenance costs for years following.

### **ACTIONS:**

1. Reach out to community organizations to participate on the Township Committee in ways that *work for them*.
2. Create opportunities for organizations and/or individuals to contribute to park and recreation goals in exchange for public recognition of the support, such as naming rights, or event sponsorships. This would be a BCT Policy approved by the Board.



**RIPSTRA & SCHEPPELMAN, INC.**

**CIVIL ENGINEERING - LAND SURVEYING**

2535 SPRING ARBOR ROAD

JACKSON, MI 49203

OFFICE 517-789-9898

FAX 517-789-6065

*www.ripstra-scheppelman.com*

**PARNALL ROAD COMPLEX NON MOTORIZED PATHS  
BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP DDA, JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**10' WIDE LIMESTONE PATH AND CONCRETE PATH - SOUTH PHASE**

NO.	ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1.	10' Wide 6" Concrete Path	s.f.	9,627	\$8.00	\$77,016.00
2.	Sawcut and Remove Back of Curb	l.f.	60	\$15.00	\$900.00
3.	10' Wide 21AA 3" Limestone Path	s.y.	683	\$20.00	\$13,660.00
4.	10' Wide 21AA 6" Limestone Path	s.y.	1,558	\$40.00	\$62,320.00
5.	Topsoil, Seed, Fertilize and Mulch	l.s.	1	\$6,104.00	\$6,104.00
<b>TOTAL COST ESTIMATE</b>					<b>\$160,000.00</b>

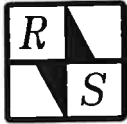
**10' WIDE LIMESTONE PATH - NORTH FUTURE PHASE**

NO.	ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1.	10' Wide 21AA 6" Limestone Path	s.y.	2,821	\$40.00	\$112,840.00
2.	Topsoil, Seed, Fertilize and Mulch	l.s.	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,160.00
<b>TOTAL COST ESTIMATE</b>					<b>\$118,000.00</b>

Prepared By: Jack L. Ripstra, P.E.

May 17, 2024

c:/documents/data/paths/parnall road complex paths.123



**RIPSTRA & SCHEPPELMAN, INC.**  
**CIVIL ENGINEERING – LAND SURVEYING**

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JACKSON, MI 49203  
OFFICE 517-789-9898  
FAX 517-789-6065  
[www.ripstra-scheppelman.com](http://www.ripstra-scheppelman.com)

**PARNALL ROAD COMPLEX PARKING AND SIDEWALKS**  
**BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP DDA, JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**PARKING AREA AND SIDEWALKS**

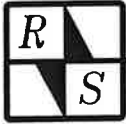
<b>NO.</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1.	6" Concrete Parking Lot	s.f.	1,520	\$8.00	\$12,160.00
2.	4" Concrete Sidewalk	s.f.	1,826	\$7.00	\$12,782.00
3.	Painted Blue ADA Symbol	each	6	\$100.00	\$600.00
4.	Painted Blue 4" Wide Stripe	l.f.	190	\$2.00	\$380.00
5.	Concrete Bumper Block	each	196	\$120.00	\$23,520.00
6.	Topsoil, Seed, Fertilize and Mulch	l.s.	1	\$2,558.00	\$2,558.00
<b>TOTAL COST ESTIMATE</b>					<b>\$52,000.00</b>

Prepared By: Jack L. Ripstra, P.E.

May 17, 2024

c:/documents/data/paths/parnall road complex parking.123





**RIPSTRA & SCHEPPELMAN, INC.**

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**PARNALL ROAD COMPLEX PICKLE BALL  
BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP DDA, JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

PICKLE BALL COURT

NO.	ITEM	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1.	Cascades 8 Court Bid	l.s.	1	\$626,000.00	\$626,000.00
2.	21AA Gravel Subbase	s.y.	(934)	\$12.00	(\$11,208.00)
3.	2.5" HMA Leveling Course	s.y.	(934)	\$15.00	(\$14,010.00)
4.	1.5" HMA Wearing Course	s.y.	(934)	\$12.00	(\$11,208.00)
5.	ADA Parking Striping	l.s.	(1)	\$500.00	(\$500.00)
6.	Shade Cover	l.s.	(1)	\$5,074.00	(\$5,074.00)
<b>TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR 8 COURTS</b>					<b>\$584,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL COST ESTIMATE FOR 4 COURTS</b>					<b>\$292,000.00</b>

Prepared By: Jack L. Ripstra, P.E.

May 17, 2024

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**RIPSTRA & SCHEPPELMAN, INC.**

**CIVIL ENGINEERING - LAND SURVEYING**

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JACKSON, MI 49203  
OFFICE 517-789-9898  
FAX 517-789-6065  
[www.ripstra-scheppelman.com](http://www.ripstra-scheppelman.com)

**PARNALL ROAD COMPLEX RESTROOM BUILDING  
BLACKMAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP DDA, JACKSON COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**PARKING AREA AND SIDEWALKS**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>UNIT</b>	<b>QUANTITY</b>	<b>UNIT PRICE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
1.	Restroom Building	s.f.	384	\$500.00	\$192,000.00
2.	6" Sanitary Sewer Service	l.f.	530	\$40.00	\$21,200.00
3.	2" Water Service	l.f.	220	\$20.00	\$4,400.00
4.	Topsoil, Seed, Fertilize and Mulch	l.s.	1	\$2,400.00	\$2,400.00
<b>TOTAL COST ESTIMATE</b>					<b>\$220,000.00</b>

Prepared By: Jack L. Ripstra, P.E.

May 17, 2024

c:/documents/data/paths/parnall road complex restroom building.123

**poligon**<sup>®</sup>



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REK 20x44

# Office of the Jackson County Treasurer

*Karen A. Coffman*

County Treasurer

---

*James C. Bradley, Chief Deputy*

*Cynthia Snyder, Assistant Deputy*

April 30, 2024

Dear Local Unit Clerk,

Attached is a list of parcels in your unit that the County Treasurer, acting as the Foreclosing Governmental Unit (FGU) under the authority of the General Property Tax Act has foreclosed upon in Circuit Court. The foreclosures were for delinquent 2021 and/or prior years unpaid property taxes. A public auction of these parcels will be held August 20, 2024. Preliminary minimum bids have been established and include all delinquent taxes, fees, penalties, interest and any costs to date associated with preparing this property for auction. Further costs and fees may be added before the auction. The enclosed list includes those preliminary minimum bids.

Public Act 123, as amended, establishes the First Right of Refusal procedure for the purchase of foreclosed properties by state and local municipalities prior to auction. The law establishes the following order of preference for purchase:

1. The State of Michigan has the first right of refusal and it must pay the fair market value of the property.
2. The city, village, or township, in which the property is located, may purchase the property for the minimum bid provided that no Notice of Claim has been filed or fair market value, if a Claim has been filed.
3. The county may purchase the property for the minimum bid provided that no Notice of Claim has been filed or fair market value, if a Claim has been filed.

Please let Jim Bradley know before July 1, 2024, if your unit is interested in purchasing any of the parcels. (This date should give time for the Township Board to review the list at their May or June meeting). A "Notice to Purchase Foreclosed Property" form (contact my Office for the form) must be filled out for each parcel you are interested in purchasing, along with a copy of the Township Board's resolution authorizing the purchase. Use for Public Purpose is no longer required.

Local Unit transfer price depends on whether a Notice of Claim has been filed on or before July 1, 2024. If a Notice of Claim has been filed (pursuant to 211.78t(2)) The greater of the fair market value or minimum bid must be paid. If Notice of Claim has not been filed, the minimum bid may be paid. The Fair Market Value is determined to be 2 times the 2024 Assessed Value.

Please contact Jim Bradley at 517-768-6722 or [JBradley@mijackson.org](mailto:JBradley@mijackson.org), if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Karen A. Coffman  
Treasurer

Enclosures

FORECLOSURE LIST FOR JACKSON COUNTY  
 For 2024 Foreclosures of 2021 and prior taxes  
 BLACKMAN TOWNSHIP  
 Interest Computed As Of Foreclosure Date

PARCEL	TAX DUE	INTEREST/FEES DUE	TOTAL DUE	TAX YEARS	DELINQUENT
000-08-15-451-003-18	33,559.98	7,829.52	41,389.50	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: 1200 W PARNALL RD JACKSON MI					
000-08-16-377-004-02	26,463.93	14,154.35	40,618.28	2023 2022	2021 2020 2019 2018
Property Address: 3335 CLINTON RD JACKSON MI					
000-08-17-386-006-00	4,051.20	1,669.99	5,721.19	2023 2022	2021 2020
Property Address: 4035 BRIGGS CT JACKSON MI					
000-08-21-455-005-00	1,962.14	963.33	2,925.47	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: BILED A CT JACKSON MI					
000-08-22-251-009-00	4,524.99	1,506.43	6,031.42	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: 3005 LANSING AVE JACKSON MI					
000-08-22-429-003-00	4,875.49	1,498.75	6,374.24	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: 153 BOLAND ST JACKSON MI					
000-08-27-128-004-00	386.99	601.19	988.18	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: SHIRLEY DR JACKSON MI					
000-08-27-253-017-00	4,667.33	2,461.50	7,128.83	2023 2022	2021 2020
Property Address: 400 HILLSDALE ST JACKSON MI					
000-08-28-327-011-00	4,870.52	1,708.93	6,579.45	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: 1424 LONGFELLOW AVE JACKSON MI					
000-08-28-328-011-00	1,460.60	858.96	2,319.56	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: WAYNE ST JACKSON MI					
000-08-36-413-006-00	90.92	549.93	640.85	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: ROBERTS ST JACKSON MI					
000-08-36-413-007-00	90.92	549.93	640.85	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: ROBERTS ST JACKSON MI					
000-08-36-413-022-00	90.92	501.16	592.08	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: HENRIETTA ST JACKSON MI					
000-08-36-418-020-00	4,688.07	1,556.44	6,244.51	2023 2022	2021
Property Address: 200 WATTS ST JACKSON MI					
PARCEL COUNT: 14	91,784.00	36,410.41	128,194.41		

**RESOLUTION**

**Notification of Release of Right of First Refusal  
Under Public Act 123 of 1999 for  
The County of Jackson**

WHEREAS pursuant to Public Act 123 of 1999, MCL 211.78m, the State of Michigan has first right of refusal for all foreclosed property of its Counties, and

WHEREAS pursuant to Public Act 123 of 1999, MCL 211.78m, the local unit of government has subsequent first right of refusal for all foreclosed property of its Counties, and

WHEREAS the Township of Blackman is aware of a Public Act 123 of 1999, MCL 211.78m, a city, village, township, or city authority may purchase foreclosed property located within that city, village, township, or area of the city authority included in the judgment and subject to sale under this section by paying the foreclosing governmental unit the greater of the minimum bid or the fair market value of the property.

WHEREAS the Township of Blackman has reviewed the following parcels and made a determination that it does **not** want to purchase those under the aforesaid first right of refusal:

Please see list attached.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that at the meeting of the Blackman Township Board of Trustees, on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024, the Board hereby declines to exercise its first right of refusal for the 2024 Foreclosed parcels located in the Township of Blackman, County of Jackson, State of Michigan.

Members Present: \_\_\_\_\_

AYE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAY: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2024.

Township of Blackman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk

April 26, 2024

Board of Trustees  
Blackman Charter Township  
1990 W. Parnall Road  
Jackson, MI 49201

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide for Blackman Charter Township (the "Township") for the year ended December 31, 2023.

We will examine the Township's compliance with the compliance requirements "activities allowed or unallowed" and "allowable cost/cost principles" (the specified requirements) as described in Part IV "Requirements for an Alternative Compliance Examination Engagement for Recipients That Would Otherwise be Required to Undergo a Single Audit or Program-Specific Audit as a Result of Receiving Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds" of the CSLFRF section of the 2023 OMB Compliance Supplement (referred to herein as "Requirements for an Alternative CSLFRF Compliance Examination Engagement") during the year ended December 31, 2023. The objectives of our examination are to (1) obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Township complied with the specified requirements; and (2) to express an opinion as to whether the Township complied, in all material respects, with the specified requirements.

Our examination will be conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Accordingly, it will include examining, on a test basis, your records and other procedures to obtain evidence necessary to enable us to express our opinion. We will issue a written report upon completion of our examination. Our report will be addressed to the Board of Trustees of the Township. We cannot provide assurance that an unmodified opinion will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinion. If our opinion is other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the examination or are unable to form or have not formed an opinion, we may decline to express an opinion or may withdraw from this engagement.

Because of the inherent limitations of an examination engagement, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk exists that some material misstatements may not be detected, even though the examination is properly planned and performed in accordance with the attestation standards.

We will plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Township complied with the specified criteria. Our engagement will not include a detailed inspection of every transaction and cannot be relied on to disclose all material errors, or known and suspected fraud or noncompliance with laws or regulations, or internal control deficiencies, that may exist. However, we will inform you of any known and suspected fraud and noncompliance with laws or regulations, internal control deficiencies identified during the engagement, and uncorrected misstatements that come to our attention unless clearly trivial.

We understand that management will provide us with the information required for our examination and that you are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of that information. We may advise management about appropriate criteria, but the responsibility for the subject matter remains with management.





Management is responsible for compliance with the specified criteria. Management is responsible for, and agrees to provide us with, a written assertion about whether the Township complied with the specified criteria. Failure to provide such an assertion will result in our withdrawal from the engagement. Management is also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the measurement, evaluation, or disclosure of the subject matter; (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the examination; and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the Township from whom we determine it necessary to obtain evidence. Management is also responsible for making all management decisions and performing all management functions; for designating an individual with suitable skill, knowledge, and/or experience to oversee any nonattest services we provide; and for evaluating the adequacy and results of those services and accepting responsibility for them.

At the conclusion of the engagement, you agree to provide us with certain written representations in the form of a representation letter.

We may from time to time, and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but we remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information, and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

Management is responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the Township involving (a) management, (b) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (c) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the procedures performed. Management is also responsible for informing us of its knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the Township received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, customers, vendors, or others. In addition, management is responsible for identifying and ensuring that the Township complies with applicable laws and regulations.

We are not hosts for any Township information. Management is expected to retain all financial and non-financial information that management uploads to a portal (document sharing site), and management is responsible for downloading and retaining in a timely manner anything we upload. Portals are meant as a method only of transferring and sharing data, and are not intended for the storage of Township information, which may be deleted at any time. Management is expected to maintain control over the Township's accounting systems to include the licensing of applications and the hosting of said applications and data. We do not provide electronic security or back-up services for any of the Township's data or records. Giving us access to the Township's accounting system does not make us hosts of information contained within.

The not-to-exceed fee for the compliance examination will be charged at rates commensurate with the value of our professional services rendered and are not expected to exceed \$7,000.

Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation.

This fee is based on the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the compliance examination. This fee is based on anticipated cooperation from the Township's personnel, continued readiness and proactive assistance on their part in providing us with complete and accurate information (whether financial or nonfinancial in nature) considered necessary by us to form an appropriate opinion, and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the compliance examination. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss the related circumstances with management and arrive at a new fee estimate, which may or may not occur before we incur the additional time. In these circumstances, we may also issue a change order form (an attached example is provided.)

With regard to electronic dissemination of the compliance examination report, the Township understands that electronic sites are a means to distribute information and, therefore, we are not required to read the information contained in these sites or to consider the consistency of other information in the electronic site with the original document.

Management shall discuss any independence matters with Rehmann that, in management's judgment, could bear upon Rehmann's independence.

By applying a digital signature to this engagement letter or other document via DocuSign or a similar third-party digital signature service, management acknowledges the Township's consent to receive and execute such documents via this method. Management further acknowledges that a digital signature applied via DocuSign or a similar third-party digital signature service has the same legal commitment as a traditional physical signature.

At the conclusion of the engagement, we will complete the appropriate sections of the Data Collection Form that summarizes our examination findings. It is management's responsibility to submit the reporting package along with the Data Collection Form to the federal audit clearinghouse. We will coordinate with management the electronic submission and certification. If applicable, we will provide copies of our reports for the Township to include with the reporting package the Township will submit to pass-through entities. The Data Collection Form and the reporting package must be submitted within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the independent accountants' reports or nine months after the end of the examination period, unless a longer period is agreed to in advance by the cognizant or oversight agency for audits.

The compliance examination documentation for this engagement is the property of Rehmann and constitutes confidential information. However, pursuant to authority given by law or regulation, we may be requested to make certain compliance examination documentation available to a cognizant or grantor agency for audit or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the compliance examination, to resolve compliance examination findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify management of any such request. If requested, access to such compliance examination documentation will be provided under the supervision of Rehmann personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected compliance examination documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The compliance examination documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of five years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the cognizant agency, oversight agency for audit, or pass-through Township. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency, pass-through Township, or auditee is contesting a compliance examination finding, we will contact the parties contesting the compliance examination finding for guidance prior to destroying the compliance examination documentation.

Our compliance examination engagement and our responsibility as independent accountants ends on delivery of our compliance examination report to the Board of Trustees. Any follow-up services that might be required will be part of a separate, new engagement. The terms and conditions of that new engagement will be governed by a new, specific engagement letter for that service.

*Government Auditing Standards* require that we provide the Township with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any subsequent peer review reports received during the period of the contract. Our 2020 peer review report accompanies this letter.

This engagement letter, including the attached Rehmann Compliance Examination Engagement Letter Terms and Conditions which are incorporated herein by reference as if set forth within the body of this engagement letter in their entirety, reflect the entire understanding between us relating to the compliance examination services covered by this agreement. This agreement may not be amended or varied except by a written document signed by both parties. It replaces and supersedes any previous proposals, correspondence, and understandings, whether written or oral. The agreements of the Township and Rehmann contained in this document shall survive the completion or termination of this engagement. If any term hereof is found unenforceable or invalid, this shall not affect the other terms hereof, all of which shall continue in effect as if the stricken term had not been included.

We appreciate the opportunity to assist Blackman Charter Township and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us. If the need for additional procedures arises, our agreement with you will need to be revised. It is customary for us to enumerate these revisions in an addendum to this letter. If additional specified parties of the report are added, we will require that they acknowledge in writing their responsibility for the sufficiency of procedures.



Nathan C. Baldermann, CPA, CGFM  
Principal  
Executive responsible for supervising the  
engagement and signing our report

Blackman Charter Township  
April 26, 2024  
Page 5

**ACKNOWLEDGED AND ACCEPTED:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of *Blackman Charter Township*.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Officer Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date