

THE STAR



November 5, 2024 General Election

The November 5 General Election is almost here! Michigan voters have several ways to cast their votes in the upcoming election:

Vote early in person, open 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Saturday, October 26 – Sunday, November 3 at one of these four locations in Kalamazoo County:

- Portage Parks & Recreation Department (320 Library Ln, Portage, MI 49002)
- Kalamazoo County Expo Center (2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048)
- Fetzer Center at WMU (2251 Business Ct, Kalamazoo, MI 49008)
- Douglass Community Association (1000 W Paterson St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007)

Vote by mail

- Request a ballot be mailed to you for one or all future elections
- Or come to the Clerk's Office with photo ID to request your ballot
- Return your ballot by mail, in person at the Clerk's office, or using the 24/7 drop box in the Township Hall parking lot, by 8:00 PM on election day
- Remember, ballots DO NOT FORWARD in USPS mail! Not home? Visit www.mi.gov/vote to update the address where we send your ballot for this election, or contact the Clerk's office at elections@texastownship.org.

Vote in person on Election Day

- Polling places are open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM
- Precincts 1 & 6: Calvary Community Church, 7829 South 5th Street
- Precinct 2: Texas Township Hall, 7227 West Q Ave
- Precinct 3: KVCC Groves Campus, 7107 Elm Valley Drive
- Precincts 4 & 5: Southridge Church, 6726 Texas Drive

Make sure your voter registration is up to date at the Michigan Voter Information Center at www.michigan.gov/vote! You can also preview your ballot, find your polling location, request a mail-in ballot, and update your mailing address if you utilize a PO Box or will be traveling.

Interested in joining our Elections team as a poll worker? Elections would not be possible without the dedicated individuals who perform this important service, and we're looking for additional workers to help in November. All Election Inspectors must attend mandatory training every two years to be certified, and the Township pays for both training and election hours worked. Contact the Clerk's Office at elections@texastownship.org if you're interested in learning more about becoming an Election Inspector.

**VOTE EARLY
IN KALAMAZOO COUNTY***

KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT
CLERK | REGISTER OF DEEDS

Pick the day that works best for you

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER 26						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
OCTOBER 27	OCTOBER 28	OCTOBER 29	OCTOBER 30	OCTOBER 31	NOVEMBER 01	NOVEMBER 02
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 03		NOVEMBER 05				

**Early voting sites are open
from 10/26 – 11/03, 9AM–5PM**

kalcounty.com/vote

*Except Pavilion Charter Township Voters

Five-Year Recreation Plan Update Survey Results

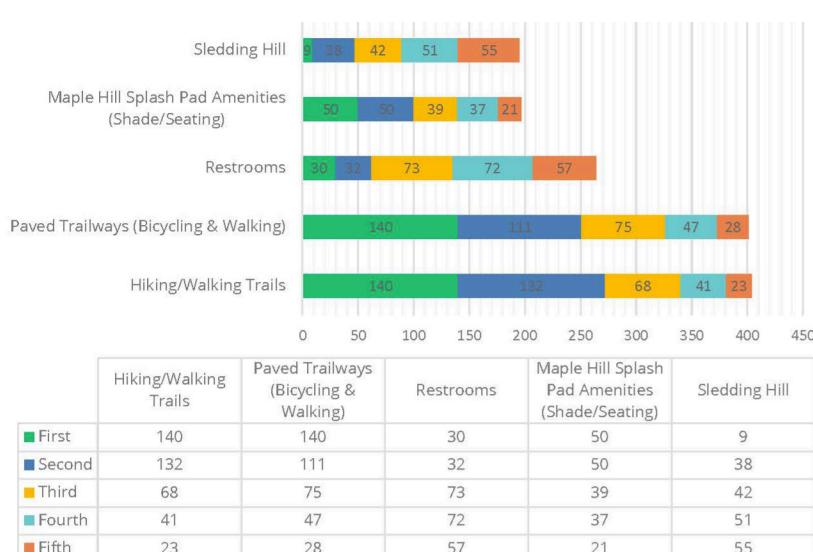
The Planning Department, Administration, and the Parks Committee are beginning to update the Township's Recreation Master Plan, which was adopted in January 2020. This Plan provides an outline for park development and prioritization of goals. In June, the township launched a survey to collect feedback on the quality of existing facilities and where to focus efforts for the improvement and expansion of park facilities and non-motorized trailways. Thank you to all 999 community members that participated! Overall, we are pleased with the results and found them to align with the future planning efforts for parks and trails. Below are a few key takeaways from the survey. **View the full results at: www.texastownship.org/rec-plan-update**. Future community engagement events related to the Recreation Master Plan will be announced on the Township's website.

Q14: Please select your top 5 priorities for new or enhanced park features you would like to see within the Township:

Answered: 772 Skipped: 227

1. Hiking/Walking Trails
2. Paved Trailways (Bicycling and Walking)
3. Restrooms
4. Sledding Hill
5. Maple Hill Splash Pad

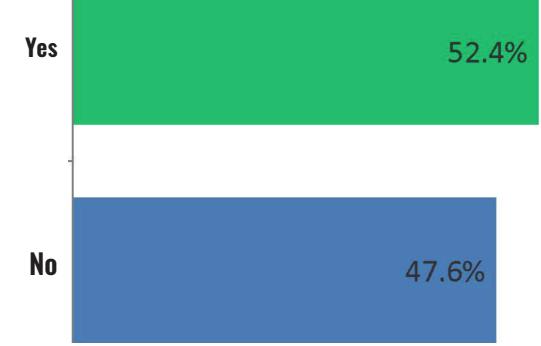
Amenities (Shade/Seating)



Q11: How would you rate the overall condition of parks and recreation facilities?

8/10

Q17: Would you like to see an off-leash dog park constructed in the Township?



Leaf Drop-Off Service at KLS Begins November 1

This fall, residents can drop-off leaves and yard waste at Kalamazoo Landscape Supplies (KLS) for disposal. The Township will subsidize the cost of disposal up to 10 cubic yards per household at no charge. Additional material will be accepted, but KLS will charge a \$12/cubic yard fee to residents. Communities that coordinate disposal through a single contractor are permitted 10 cubic yards per household in the development - approved addresses are on file with KLS. **Please note that the Township does not offer a curbside leaf collection service.**



Scan to view service details

2024 Drop-Off Dates: November 1-29

Hours: Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4 pm
Location: 5111 S 9th Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Yard Waste Requirements:

- Leaves must be clean and free of soil and debris to be accepted
- KLS accepts bagged and non-bagged leaves - if using bags, we recommend recyclable bags
- KLS also accepts grass clippings and tree branches up to 5' long and no more than 12" in diameter

Township Continues Investment into Park Improvements

In 2024, the Township made substantial investments to constructing new restroom and pavilion facilities, improving existing trailway and parking lots, and investing into studies to evaluate options for non-motorized trailway expansion. We are pleased that the 5-Year Recreation Plan survey results align with these investments. Below is an overview of projects that are underway and new projects planned for 2025.

6th Street Park Restroom & Pavilion

Anticipated Completion: Fall 2024

Construction of the 6th Street Park Restroom & Pavilion is nearing completion. The 30'x40' open air pavilion was added to the project scope due to favorable pricing received during construction bidding. Originally, the pavilion was slated as part of the next phase of development. Please check our website for a grand opening ceremony date!

Phase I Trailway Repaving & Texas Drive Park Asphalt Pavement Repair

Completed September 2024

Michigan Paving submitted the lowest bid to make asphalt pavement repairs on the Phase I Trailway and at Texas Drive Park. Their favorable pricing allowed the Township to invest in several alternates, including repaving the entire Phase I Trailway (versus crack filling and resealing), reshaping and repaving the middle entry drive to provide for ADA parking spaces adjacent to the Maple Hill Splash Pad (concrete connection planned for 2025), and repaving the driveway apron at the NE entrance. Thank you to the Friends of Texas Township Parks & Trails non-profit organization who donated \$10,000 to assist with funding the trailway repaving.

Trailway Feasibility Study

Project Timeline: Aug 2024 to Jan 2025

The Township has contracted with Williams & Works to perform a feasibility study to evaluate expansion of the non-motorized trailway network. Williams & Works is working with a steering committee to evaluate potential route options for these segments:

- Downtown Texas Corners to 6th Street Park
- Downtown Texas Corners to 12th Street via Q Avenue
- 10th Street from Texas Drive to Q Avenue (to include connecting the existing trailway segment ending on Texas Drive across from Bentley Drive)
- 10th Street from Q Avenue to Swallow Ave
- 12th Street from Queen Victoria Lane to Q Avenue

Community engagement efforts on preliminary route design are scheduled to begin in November. Stay tuned for more information!

2025 Planned Park Projects

1. Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenities - Shade Structures

• Installation in Spring 2025

3. Texas Drive Park Exercise Stations Engineering

- Engineering in 2025
- Construction Anticipated in 2026

2. 6th Street Park Play Structure Engineering

- Engineering in 2025
- Construction Anticipated in 2026

4. Relocation of Texas Drive Park Sand Box

5. Texas Drive Park Concrete Improvements

6th Street Park Restroom & Pavilion



Texas Drive Park NW Entry - Before



NW Entry - After



Texas Drive Park Middle Entry - Before & After



scan for more info



Join us for the Tree Lighting & Holiday Makers' Market on Sat Nov 9 from 4-7 PM. Tree lighting will be held at 6:30 PM.

Arthur & Mildred Woollam Nature Preserve Now Open

The Woollam Nature Preserve, a 212-acre County Park located at the former Rota Kiwan Boy Scout Camp, is now open to the public from 9:00 AM to Sunset on Saturday & Sunday. In May 2025, it will be open 7 days a week. As a County park, it is subject to the County's entrance fees. The County continues work on improvement projects. Below is a synopsis of the facilities that are currently open and those that are forthcoming. Learn more at www.kalcounty.com/parks/woollampreserve.

Kalamazoo County Park Fees:

Daily Entrance Per Car - \$5 | Annual Pass - \$30 | S. Pass (62+) - \$25 | Bike/Walk-In/Bus Per Person: \$2

Current Open Facilities:

Bass Lake - 46 Acres
Scouters Pond - 23 Acres
Hiking Trails - 6 Miles
Shoreline Fishing
Modern Restrooms

Coming in May 2025!

Kayak Rentals
Fishing Docks
Picnic Shelters
Additional Hiking Trails
Nature Themed Playground

Nature Center

Indoor Lodge Meeting & Event Space
Youth Rental Cabins & Camping
Additional Restrooms

If you are interested in supporting the Woollam Preserve capital campaign, please consider contributing to the joint Texas Township Friends of Parks & Trails and Parks Foundation of Kalamazoo County capital campaign. 60% of your gift will be designated to the Woollam Nature Preserve and 40% will be restricted for Texas Township parks and trails. Learn more at www.texastownshipparks.com.



Downtown Development Authority Hires First Staff Member

The downtown core of Texas Township, commonly referred to as Texas Corners, is encompassed by the Corners Business District (CBD). The Corners Business District has grown exponentially since the inception of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) in 2000. To help facilitate its growth, the DDA added their first-ever part-time staff member: DDA Coordinator Stacy Davison. This position will help facilitate projects for the DDA, plan community events, serve as a liaison to businesses in the DDA, and help with recruitment and retention efforts.

DDA Coordinator Stacy Davison

Email: dda@texastownship.org
Phone: 269-548-1998

Downtown Development Authority Makes Investment to Repair Crosswalks in Texas Corners

The crosswalks at the intersection of Q Avenue and 8th Street received extensive repairs this fall to fix large cracks in the cement, which were a safety concern for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. The Downtown Development Authority (DDA) contracted with H&H painting to cut and remove damaged areas and apply urethane cement to achieve clean and level surfaces. This is a temporary fix until the Road Commission of Kalamazoo County repaves Q Avenue (est. In 5-7 years), at which time a more permanent solution will be implemented. We know these repairs caused traffic delays and inconveniences, so thank you for your patience while this project was completed.



Now Accepting Applications for Boards & Committees

The Township has several Boards & Committees with vacancies or an upcoming expiring term. If you are interested in serving your community, now is the perfect time to apply! Please submit an application form by November 18 for priority consideration. The Township Supervisor makes recommendations on appointment to the Township Board. Appointment to a Board or Committee is done by vote of the Township Board.

You can access the application form and learn more about opportunities to serve at www.texastownship.org/committee.

Township Board Adopts 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

In August, the Township Board adopted the 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a flexible multi-year plan based upon long range infrastructure needs of the Township. The purpose of a CIP is to facilitate the orderly planning of infrastructure improvements and to maintain, preserve and/or schedule replacement of equipment to ensure the efficient delivery of services to the community. To qualify as a Capital Project, the Township stipulates that the total cost must be at least \$20,000 and meet other criteria as outlined in the Plan. Below is a snippet of projects planned for 2025. It is important to note that while a project is included in the CIP, funding is not always available. During the annual budgeting process, the Township Board will determine which projects will receive funding.

2025 Capital Projects Identified by Category

Utilities & Infrastructure

- Ring Road Construction: Vineyard Parkway to Shooting Star Lane
- Corners Business District Entry & Wayfinding Signage
- PQ Avenue Sewer Extension: Finnegan to S. 4th Street (partially developer funded)

Vehicles & Equipment - No projects planned

Transportation - Road projects forthcoming

Public Safety, Health & Welfare

- SCBA Bottles
- Extrication Tool
- Apparatus Bay Floors Epoxy Coating

Community Facilities & Development

- Master Plan Update
- Farmers' Market Pavilion Improvements
- Township Hall Storage Building
- Corners Streetscape and Walkability Study Plan

Parks & Open Space

- 6th Street Park Play Structure - Engineering Only
- Texas Drive Park Exercise Stations - Engineering Only
- Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenities


Texas Township Capital Improvement Plan
2024-2029
Adopted August 26, 2024

Township Board of Trustees

Supervisor - Nick Locks	Trustee - Linda Kerr
Treasurer - Trish Roberts	Trustee - Don Bowen
Clerk - Emily Beutel	Trustee - Barb Hammom
	Trustee - Michelle O'Neill

Planning Commissioners

Chairperson - Mike Corfman	Commissioner - Kathy Buckham
Vice Chairperson - Barb Davis	Commissioner - Ryan Faeley
Secretary - Larry Locks	Commissioner - Jeff Masion
Commissioner - Trish Roberts (Township Board Representative)	

6th Street Park - Restrooms & Pavilion Renderings (2024 CIP Projects)

Scan to read the full Plan



Riparian Ordinance Update

The Planning Department has continued working with the Planning Commission to develop new riparian standards. In 2023, the Township distributed a Riparian Ordinance Survey to collect feedback on proposed concepts. The results of that survey were utilized in creating the draft language. Beginning in February 2024, the Planning Commission began working to solidify the draft language. Over the course of the spring/summer, the draft language has been reviewed at more than six meetings. A public hearing was held on September 24th and the Planning Commission unanimously recommended introduction to the Township Board, pending a few minor modifications.

The standards were drafted based upon the Riparian Survey and the Township's legal authority to regulate. Michigan lakes and streams are regulated at the state level under the authority of Part 301, Inland Lakes, and Streams, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (Act 451 of 1994, as amended). Under Part 301, permits are required from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Division for dredging, filling, constructing or placement of a structure on bottomlands (docks), constructing a marina, interfering with natural flow of water, or connecting a ditch or canal to an inland lake or stream. The Township does not have jurisdiction over these structures or activities. Learn more at: www.texastownship.org/riparian-ordinance.

Major Highlights of the Proposed Riparian Standards

1. The ordinance is not an overlay or "Riparian" ordinance, rather supplemental standards that are applicable to riparian lots (and lots in common ownership).
2. The dimensional standards are separated by Districts: R-2 District and R-1, RC, and A Districts.
3. Within the R-2 District, standards are written for existing vacant lots that measure 109' or less along the road/access/street side and standards for existing vacant lots that measure 110' or more along the road/access/street side.
4. The most significant issue addressed in this ordinance is how to handle non-conforming lots of record with existing residences. As written, the ordinance permits the re-construction of non-conforming buildings on non-conforming lots, using the same footprint, setbacks, and lot coverage. The ordinance is written so that an existing structure on a riparian parcel today- regardless of the lot size or frontage- is considered conforming.
5. New ordinance language permits the use of a non-riparian lot (within 250 feet of a riparian lot and under common ownership) to construct an accessory building and/or sport court without a principal structure on the lot.
6. Ordinance provides new graphics to illustrate riparian "yards," "setbacks," and fence locations and standards.
7. Additional language further addresses water side structures and best practice standards for vegetation, drainage, and soil erosion.

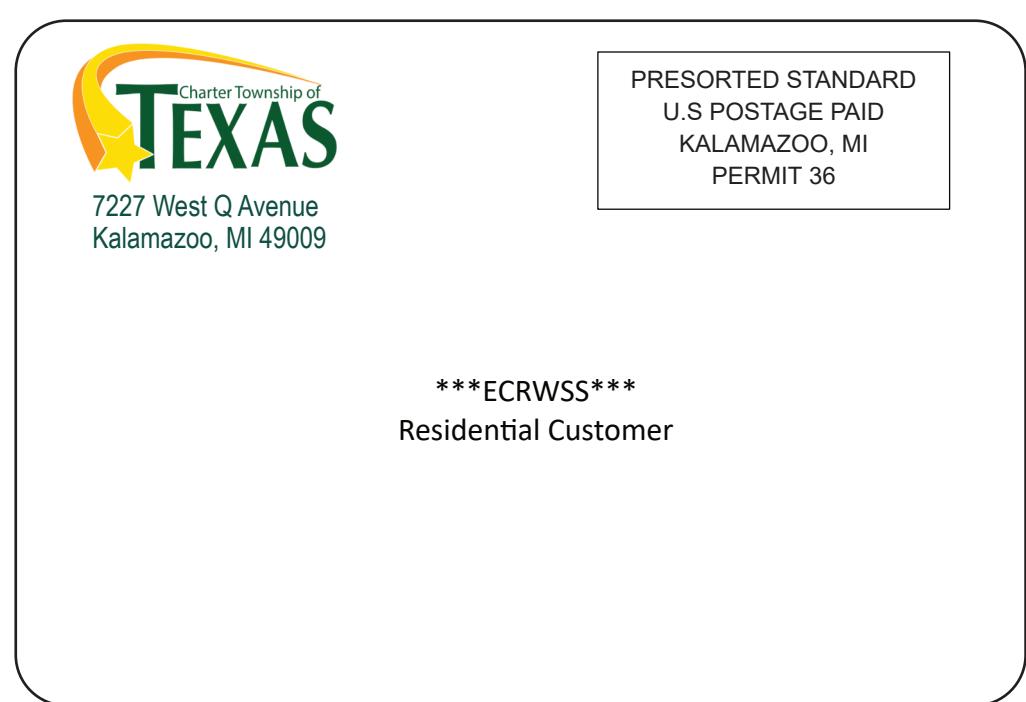
Farmers' Market Season Continues Through Oct 19

Holiday Farmers' Market | Sat Nov 23 | 8am-12pm

Fall is in the air, and the Farmers Market is still thriving! This season has been wonderful so far, and we all are enjoying the wonderful produce of the season and the company of our friends and our wonderful vendors and musicians at our market. Apples, potatoes, squashes, zucchini, tomatoes, root vegetables, plums, microgreens, mushrooms, onions, and much more are on display at our market. Much more than our produce, we have our wonderful baked goods, wood worked items, popcorn, coffee, cheeses, meats of all kinds, eggs, freeze dried candy, specialty chocolate, soaps and body products, pasta: all wonderful gifts for your family and friends to consider as we barrel ahead toward the holidays.

Speaking of which, we will once again be hosting our Holiday Market. The date is Saturday, November 23rd from 8am-noon, and you'll likely see all of your favorite vendors there. There will be ways to warm yourself up as well, with hot breakfast by Top Shelf Catering, and some warming stations around the market. Be sure to come out and mark your calendar for this wonderful holiday kick off event with us!

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of the businesses in the DDA and the DDA Board. We are so grateful for all your support this season - especially to provide wonderful music all season! Please join us from now through October 19th, 8 am-noon, for a wonderful time at your Texas Township Farmers Market.



Texas Township Board of Trustees



Supervisor Nick Loeks
nloeks@texastownship.org



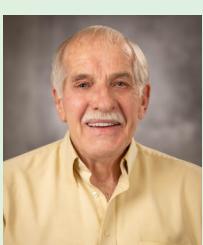
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Trustee Linda Kerr
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Trustee Don Boven
dboven@texastownship.org



Trustee Barb Hammon
bhammon@texastownship.org



Trustee Michelle O'Neill
moneill@texastownship.org



Erik J. Wilson, Superintendent
superintendent@texastownship.org

2024 Meeting Schedule

Township Board Meetings are held on the second and fourth Monday at 6:00 p.m. Meetings are held at the Township Hall and are always open to the public.

Oct 14
Oct 28
Nov 11
Nov 25
Dec 09
Dec 23

To view upcoming agendas or meeting minutes, please visit www.texastownship.org.

Township Superintendent

The Township Superintendent is appointed by the Township Board and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the township.