

**Beaver Creek Township Organization**

Beaver Creek Township is organized as a General Law Township. The Township Hall is located seven miles south of Grayling at 8888 S. Grayling Road.

The Beaver Creek Township Board consists of five members; the supervisor, clerk, treasurer, and two trustees. The board members run the Township government, and produce the budget. The management of the Beaver Creek Township Park is under the direct control of the Township Board.

**Utilities**

Consumers Power provides electric service to 95 percent of the Township with the exception of a small area in the northwest corner served by Top of Michigan utilities. Limited public gas service lines are available in the Township. Bottled gas is available by tank placement on private property. Public sewer and water systems, while planned, do not currently serve Beaver Creek Township.

**Public Services**

The Crawford County Sheriff Department, and the Michigan State Police, provide police and public safety services to the Township residents. The Township uses the Crawford County Sheriff's office as their primary law enforcement agency. The Crawford County Sheriff Department is located in Grayling at 200 West Michigan Avenue.

Beaver Creek Township is served by the Crawford-AuSable School District and Gerrish-Higgins School District. The Crawford-AuSable District is the largest covering 79% of the residents of our township.

Beaver Creek Township has its own fire department located in the Township at the corner of W. Seven Mile Road and South Grayling Road. The Township Hall located north of the fire station on S. Grayling Road acts as the government center for its residents. Waste Management picks up solid waste from a transfer station in the Township. Library services are provided by the Devereaux Memorial Library. Mercy Hospital in Grayling serves the health care of Township residents. Ambulance service is available in Beaver Creek Township for both basic and advanced life support from MMR which has a staffed office at the fire department building.

\* See page 3-7 regarding solid waste disposal facility recycling.

## Recreation

Beaver Creek Township, like Crawford County, is rural and sparsely developed. There are, however an abundance of campgrounds and outdoor recreation opportunities in the Township. The Beaver Creek Township Community Center does provide indoor facilities.

Several of the county's outdoor recreation facilities are found in Beaver Creek Township. In the northeast corner of the Township, 4-Mile Trail Campground provides 50 campsites and a horse camp. On the southern edge of the Township North Higgins Lake State Park contains 210 campsites, and a trailer sanitation station. The site offers access to Higgins Lake, fishing, hiking and cross-country skiing trails, a museum, and pavilions. The DNR MacMullan Conference Center is also located on Higgins Lake in Beaver Creek Township. Higgins Hills RV Park is located on Federal Highway just east of South Grayling Road. The park is situated on 60 acres with mature hardwoods and offers year-around family camping. Ninety-eight sites, from rustic to full hookup are available.

The first 18-hole, par 72 golf course to be built in the Township was Fox Run Country Club located on W. 4 Mile Road just west of the I-75 interchange. Fox Run was opened in 1990, situated among numerous hardwoods and follows the natural hilly terrain. Hazards include marshes and ponds. It is a favorite among golfers of all skill levels and is usually on the list of courses to play when visiting the Northern Michigan Golf Mecca. Included at Fox Run Country Club is a beautiful club house/pro shop and restaurant.

Beaver Creek Township will have a second 18-hole golf course when Hawk Ridge opens the second nine holes. The public course opened play on the first nine the summer of 2004. Hawk Ridge is an appropriate name for the beautiful new course. The golf course will be in addition to the winter ski park, which has been in operation for several decades. Skyline has also recently renovated its club house and restaurant. When completed, the new course will feature changes in elevation of almost 150 feet from one end of the course to the other. It will be a par 72 course.

The 36-acre Beaver Creek Township Park is located on South Grayling Road, behind the Township Hall, north of the fire station. Facilities in the park include a basketball court, two tennis courts, a community center building, a softball diamond with bleachers and dugouts, two playgrounds, soccer fields, horseshoe courts, a volleyball court, walking trail, two pavilions and picnic area with paved parking. The parking area for the park can accommodate up to 100 automobiles.

In April 2000, Beaver Creek Township moved their offices and Township Hall to a newly constructed building attached to the Community Center. For the first time, the Township offices, Community Center, Fire Department, and park are now located together on 40 acres in the northwest corner of the South Grayling Road and W. Seven Mile intersection. A branch of the Devereaux Memorial Library was included in the new office building and has been in operation since June 2000.

Funds for maintaining the park are appropriated by the Township Board from the general fund to the "Park Fund" in the budget. Two part time employees maintain the park and facility. The Township has also hired youth to assist the maintenance personnel in their duties during the summer. A Beautification Committee consisting of volunteers has planted and maintained flowers, shrubs and trees for several summers since the park was opened.

The event of the year is the Annual Beaver Creek Township Picnic held at the park on the 3rd Saturday of August. The 2005 picnic was the 14th summer in a row in which the picnic was held. The picnic is undertaken by volunteers from the community and the Township Board. Georgia Pacific has underwritten a major part of the cost of putting on the picnic since it was started in 1992. Weyerhaeuser, Fick & Sons Inc., Fox Run Country Club, Jerry DeWitt, Avita Water Company, Skyline Ski & Country Club, AuSable Valley Homes and other businesses and individuals in the community, have also contributed to the success of the picnic over the last several years.

The Township has made a concerted effort to maintain the park since it was opened. There have been only subtle changes or

improvements in the park. However, 2003 brought about major changes. A grant from the National Park Service through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, was implemented. Three projects were completed which include a 40 foot by 40 foot picnic pavilion, an approximately half mile long walking - non motorized trail, and expansion and paving of the parking area. The Project was completed within the budgeted amount of \$90,000, with Beaver Creek Township providing a 50% match to the grant from the LWCF. The Weyerhaeuser Foundation has also recently granted the Township \$5,000 which was used to purchase picnic tables and other needs for the new pavilion. A new sign at the park entrance was completed by late spring 2003. The sign itself has two facings and is very colorful. The cost of purchasing the signs was donated by Jerry DeWitt. The cost of the base was borne by the Township. Most of the labor to construct the base was donated by Rich Raybuck assisted by Larry Helvie and Ken Wilske.

The following list is an updated Beaver Creek Township Recreation Capital Improvement Schedule. The list included in the original Master Plan has a majority of the proposed projects completed. Items in the original list such as the library, community center, horseshoe pits and security lighting have to some extent been accomplished. The new picnic pavilion will not be large enough to accommodate a skating rink, but is designed in such a way that it will lend itself to future expansion. Landscaping and security items, such as fence, gates, and lighting continue to be ongoing projects and will receive consideration in the future as both routine maintenance projects and capital improvements. Below is an updated list of ongoing and future projects for the township with estimated costs.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT LIST:**

| <u>Improvement</u>                 | <u>Cost Estimate</u> | <u>Possible Funding</u>      |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Additional playground equipment | \$25,000             | DNR Local, Private Donations |
| 2. Shuffleboard courts             | \$ 5,000             | DNR Local, Private Donations |

# Community

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|---|----------------------|--|
| 3. Landscaping & transplanting trees  | \$ 2,000             | Volunteers, Local                              |
| 4. Expand picnic pavilion   | \$30,000             | DNR Local, Private Donations                   |
| 5. Add up to 3 small covered picnic pavilions large enough to cover four to six-8 foot picnic tables. | \$ 3,000 ea.         |  |
| 6. Irrigation well and system   | \$20,000             | DNR Local, Private Donations                   |
| 7. Ball field lighting  | \$10,000             | DNR Local, Private Donations                   |
| 8. Walking trail additions  | \$10,000 to \$40,000 |  |
| 9. Separate building or addition for Library expansion  | \$50,000             | CDBG, Local, Private Foundations and Donations |
| 10. Additional parking  | \$ 6,000             | DNR Local, Private Donations                   |

Project 1. The existing playground equipment has served the community well since it was installed in 1992 and is still in good condition. With the other improvements being made in the park, adding and updating the playgrounds now becomes one of the top priorities.

Project 2. It is possible that shuffleboard courts can be added in the new pavilion. This would allow use even during unfavorable weather and would cost considerably less than separate courts.

Project 3. The new picnic pavilion will lend itself to future expansion. It was added on the south end of the existing

pavilion/bathroom building. The south end of the new pavilion has a clear span and lends itself to be doubled or even tripled in size and allow for the possibility of a winter skating rink under the pavilion.

- Project 4. The addition of small pavilions would allow for other groups to access covered areas when the larger pavilions are being used. They could be scattered around the park. For instance one of the proposed small pavilions could be located near the playgrounds and would provide cover for adults supervising children. They could be built as funds become available and are small enough to be constructed by donated labor.
- Project 5. The Beaver Creek Park is located on the type of soil that does not retain water. In order for the park to look green during the dry season, the addition of an irrigation well and system would keep the park green through the entire time the park is open for use.
- Project 6. The softball field would lend itself very well to lighting especially if the field was being irrigated. This would allow play to continue even after dark.
- Project 7. The new walking trail lends itself to expansion. There is also a possibility that the trail within the park could be connected to a proposed trail system running from Grayling to North Higgins Lake State Park.
- Project 8. The Devereaux Memorial Library has been operating a branch in the Beaver Creek Office Building since June of 2000. In the event that the Township would need additional space, or if the library ever wanted to expand, it would be necessary to expand the office building or bring about the construction of a separate building dedicated to library use.

Project 9. Landscaping and the addition of transplanted trees would greatly enhance the park's appearance. Improvements of this nature could be incorporated with other projects, they could also be facilitated by volunteers similar to what we have experienced in the past.

Project 10. Additional parking was included within the projects constructed the summer of 2003. The added facilities and increasing popularity of the park may require even more expansion for parking in the future.

The project list above is not in any particular order, as far as priorities are concerned. The availability of funding, requests from all sources in the community and new ideas or needs not included in the list could change both the order and add new projects to the schedule.

The Township has indicated a desire to actively seek grants for funding of recreational goals.

**\* Recycling at solid waste disposal facility**

The Township transfer site on Merrio Road can now accept various recycling materials such as: newspapers, cardboard, #1 and #2 plastic, tin and aluminum cans. Large metal items are accepted year round. Through an agreement with Grayling Township, recyclables can also be dropped off at the Grayling Township Recycling Center.