

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP GRANT COMMITTEE

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Statement of Intention to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The village of Lake Station (Garfield Township, Clare County) is located along US-10, approximately 8 miles west of Farwell and 13 miles east of Evert. The Pere Marquette State Rail Trail passes through Lake Station, parallel to US-10.

Garfield Township is in the planning stages to develop the Lake Station Trailhead and make other improvements in the community to encourage greater tourism and commerce. Its location on the PM Rail Trail makes it a natural trailhead and staging area for a number of outdoor activities.

The depot building has been painted and is undergoing other development, ideally as a museum. A new Lake Station sign was just installed, and landscaping plans around it are underway. Rowe Professional Services is working with the Township for the design and MDOT-TAP grant application. The community has begun fund raising efforts for the grant match, as well as for other grant applications. We are developing our 5-yr Recreation Plan to file with the DNR as prerequisite for grant applications to the DNRTF, for both Acquisition grants and Development grants.

The trailhead we envision incorporates parking, ADA parking and restroom facilities, bike racks, water, air hose, picnic tables, benches, welcome center/information kiosk, and a multi-use pavilion. The Township owns the depot building and land parcel which measures 320' wide [east-west] and 120' deep [north-south].

Garfield Township would like to incorporate DNR property along Mystic Lake Rd. for picnic tables, benches, ADA restroom facilities, and supplemental parking area. A natural slope in terrain at one point between the Rail Trail and Mystic Lake Rd. would make an ideal loading ramp for snowmobilers. Landscaping would utilize native Michigan plants to support wildlife habitat. The Township would also like to move the caboose to the north side of the Rail Trail to better showcase its historic significance. A teen in our community is undertaking the project of painting the caboose to meet the criteria for his Eagle Scout badge with the Boy Scouts of America.

Another historic icon of interest is the coaling tower. In correspondence with Fritz Milhaupt of the Pere Marquette Historical Society, this coal chute is one of just 4-5 remaining along the PM Rail Trail, and one of just eleven coal towers left in the entire Lower Peninsula. Fritz stated: "From an historic preservation perspective, the coaling tower at Lake is situated as one of the best candidates, if not the best, for preservation in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan." Garfield Township is interested to explore what options may be possible.

Jeanie Stewart
Garfield Township Grant Committee

Garfield Township Grant Committee:

David Lee Byl, Garfield Township Supervisor
Greg Bergtold, Global Advocacy Director, Dow Building & Construction, Dow Chemical Company
Steven Conroy, Eagle Scout Candidate, Boy Scouts of America Troop 620 of Clare, Michigan
Joan'E Farwell, Deputy Clerk, Garfield Township
Don Kolander, Program Coordinator, Clare County Parks & Recreation
Tom Pirnstill, Executive Director, Clare County Transit Corporation
Patty Reuter, Treasurer, Crooked Lake Improvement Association
Martha Rottiers, Garfield Township Clerk
Bill Scheall, Manager, Garfield Township Depot and Parks Department
Ralph Stewart, Assistant Treasurer, Eight Point Lake Property Owners' Corporation
Jeanie Stewart, Website Coordinator, Eight Point Lake Property Owners' Corporation
Kevin Tubbs, Fire Chief, Garfield Township Fire Department