

# around state

townships in the spotlight



## Groveland Township

**G**roveland Township, with its picturesque landscape of woodlands, lakes and wildlife, is located in northern Oakland County. The township, which today is home to almost 5,600 residents, was established in 1835, settled by farmers. An approximately 4,000-year-old stone drill and a group of burial mounds point to the existence of Native Americans in the area prior to the farmers. Ox-drawn wagons, stagecoaches, and two small hotels for travelers advertising "a tumbler of whiskey for 3 cents" sprang up. Around these two stagecoach stops, the small villages of Austin Corners and Groveland Corners developed. As the rough road became a portion of the Dixie Highway, Model Ts replaced the stages, and the two villages virtually disappeared. But the draw of the landscape continued, and the lack of urban development became the township's strength, not its weakness.

The residents of Groveland Township enjoy a quiet community where quality of life is important. More than 8,000 acres of the township is state-owned land for public use. The feel is "up-north," but the location is near all modern conveniences. The township office reflects this with a pavilion and playground situated behind the building, adjacent to hiking trails in the Holly State Recreation Area. Recently, the office was voted "Best of the Best" for Curb Appeal by area residents.



Year-round recreation abounds. In winter, there is downhill skiing at Mt. Holly and cross-country skiing through the parks. Spring brings hiking, biking and hunting opportunities, and summer finds the state and county campgrounds full. Fishing and boating in the park are popular, and kayakers enjoy beautiful Wildwood Lake, a no-wake lake that is the jewel of the park. The beach on Heron Lake hosts the inflatable Whoa Zone for family fun. Groveland Oaks County park boasts many activities for folks of all ages. In the fall, hunting, touring the colors and attending the Michigan Renaissance Festival are popular.

Township projects have enhanced life for residents, some whose families have been here more than 100 years. Natural gas was brought to approximately 700 homes. The storm warning siren system was enhanced, and the fire department's Insurance Services Office rating was lowered to 3. Roads were paved and others graveled. Over the years, four different attempts to create a landfill in abandoned gravel pits were crushed.

Residents are seeing the fruition of a multi-year plan in partnership with the state and county. The county's only ORV park will open in June 2020 on a mined-out gravel pit. Holly Oaks ORV Park, a 235-acre playground, will bring outdoor recreation enthusiasts to the family-friendly Dixie Byway. This corridor of the Dixie Highway deviates from I-75 at exits 93 and 106, and takes visitors on a route that allows them to slow down and enjoy what the township has to offer. Visitors will find that list is a long one.





Dustin Drabek

Bob DePalma

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The residents of Groveland Township enjoy a quiet community where quality of life is important. Over 8,000 acres of the township is state owned, DNR land for public use. The feel is “up-north,” but the location is near all modern conveniences. The township office reflects this with a pavilion and playground situated behind the building adjacent to hiking trails in the Holly State Recreation Area. Recently, the office was voted Best of the Best for Curb Appeal by the residents in the area.

Year-round recreation abounds. In winter, there is downhill skiing at Mt. Holly and cross-country skiing through the parks. Spring brings hiking, biking and hunting opportunities and summer finds the state and county campgrounds full. Holly State Recreation Area offers heavily wooded and secluded campsites. Fishing and boating in the park are popular and kayakers enjoy beautiful Wildwood Lake, a no-wake lake that is the jewel of the park. The beach on Heron lake hosts the inflatable Whoa Zone for family fun. Groveland Oaks County park boasts many activities for folks of all ages. In fall, hunting, touring the colors, and attending the Michigan Renaissance Festival are popular.

Township projects have enhanced life for residents, some of whose families have been here over 100 years. Natural gas was brought to over 700 homes. The storm warning siren system was enhanced and the fire department’s ISO rating was lowered to 3, an excellent rating. Roads were paved and others graveled. Over the years, four different attempts to create a landfill in abandoned gravel pits were crushed. Residents are seeing the fruition of a multi-year plan in partnership with the state and county. The county’s only ORV park will open in June of 2020 on a mined-out gravel pit. Holly Oaks ORV Park, a 235-acre playground, will bring outdoor recreation enthusiasts to the family friendly Dixie Byway. This corridor of Dixie Highway deviates from I-75 at exits 93 and 106, and takes visitors on a route that allows them to slow down and enjoy what the township has to offer. Visitors will find that list is a long one.

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