

**TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN:** Your County Administration Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of Berrien County government to provide leadership, cooperation with all units of government, sound fiscal management and planning, thereby promoting public safety, health, well-being, and prosperity in order to improve the quality of life for present and future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners adopted the 2020-2024 Berrien County Parks and Recreation Plan via resolution #P1912359 on December 19, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, a part of that plan is designated “Berrien County Linear Trail, Water-Trails, Trails & Greenways”, identifying the importance of making trails and greenways available for the citizens of Berrien County and offers the support of the Parks & Recreation Commission to assist all units of government and non-profits with the planning and development of trails and greenways; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners further authorized resolution #B2103178 which endorses the efforts of its municipalities as they submit applications for grant funding to create recreational opportunities for their residents; and

**WHEREAS**, many communities, agencies, and trail advocates in the region have taken a lead in planning and/or building local trails, and those efforts can be greatly enhanced by being connected to a larger regional network of trails; and

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of Berrien County Trails, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is also committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for citizens and recognizes that a network of trails in Berrien County will contribute greatly to quality of life by connecting people, communities and regional assets; and

**WHEREAS**, trails will help improve the quality of the air we breathe by promoting reduced congestion through increasing safer non-motorized transportation options and have a significant impact on the health and economic viability of the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners via Resolution #P2204236, contributed \$5,000 to the creation of the “Berrien County Trails Master Plan” (PLAN), spearheaded by the Friends of Berrien County Trails; and

**WHEREAS**, the PLAN presents a county-wide vision and recommends increasing cooperation and collaboration to create a network that will provide transportation, exercise, leisure, safety, accessibility, recreation and community benefits aimed at enhancing the quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the PLAN provides the foundation for a long term strategy that will continue to grow and evolve and will provide an invaluable resource for future generations; and

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December 1, 2022

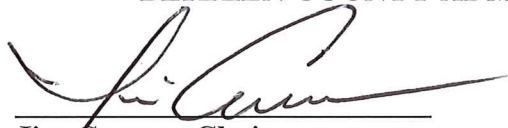
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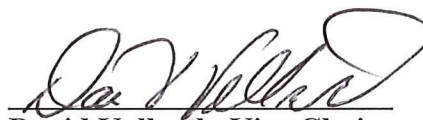
**WHEREAS**, the Berrien County Board of Commissioners have demonstrated their investment in planning for the County's future to include and increase the number of trails, water trails, and greenways through inclusion in the Parks and Recreation Plan, the Berrien County Master Plan, and participation in the funding the aforementioned PLAN; and

**WHEREAS**, to identify additional participation in the development of future non-motorized transportation facilities, the Board of Commissioners adopted Policy ADM-5210 "Non-Motorized Transportation Facilities Development" at their October 13, 2022 meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners believes in the concept of working with neighboring communities to plan, design, build and maintain a system of non-motorized transportation facilities that will connect our communities, people, and special regional points, applauds the efforts of the Friends of Berrien County Trails, acknowledges the Berrien County Trails Master Plan and will apply it where appropriate in the future planning of Berrien County.


**Respectfully submitted,  
BERRIEN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

  
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**Jim Curran, Chairperson**

  
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**David Vollrath, Vice Chair**

  
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**Julie Wuerfel**

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**James R. Martin**

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM	
Administration 	Date 11-16-27
Comments Attached _____	
Corporate Counsel TH	Date 11/16/22
Comments Attached _____	