

**ST. JOSEPH CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

COPY

**Resolution #2023-08**  
**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT**  
**“BERRIEN COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN**

At the regular meeting of the St. Joseph Charter Township Board of Trustees on the 9th day of January, 2023, commencing at 6:00 p.m., the following preamble and resolution was offered by \_\_\_Griffin\_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_Meny\_\_\_\_\_.

**WHEREAS**, St. Joseph Charter Township is committed to maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for citizens throughout the region 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**, the Friends of Berrien County Trails with its partners and steering committee has engaged Berrien County municipalities, the County and its residents in the development of a countywide master plan for trails; and

**WHEREAS**, the “Berrien County Trails Master 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**, 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**, trails will help improve the quality of the air we breathe by promoting reduced congestion through increasing safer non-motorized transportation options; and

**WHEREAS**, trails are freely accessible community assets offering opportunities for transportation, recreation and exercise to everyone, including children, youth and families, schools and provide safe places for people to experience a sense of community and create stronger social and family ties; and

**WHEREAS**, trails have significant impact on the health and economic viability of the region through encouraging active lifestyles, increased levels of tourism, enhanced property values, added jobs related to the construction of and along the trail, as well as enhanced ability to attract and retain businesses to the region due to improved quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the “Berrien County Trails Master Plan” provides the foundation for a long-term strategy that will continue to grow and evolve and will provide an invaluable resource for our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Joseph Charter Township has identified the provision of trails as a priority in the future planning of Berrien County in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of the region.

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that St. Joseph Charter Township Board of Trustees is committed to the promotion and continued development of the “Berrien County Trails Master Plan” and in concept to working with neighboring communities to plan, design, build and maintain a system of trails that will connect our communities, people and special regional points of interest for years to come.

**Be it further resolved** that St. Joseph Charter Township will incorporate the “Berrien County Trails Master Plan” into our master plan, recreation plan and other relevant planning documents.

Roll Call Vote:	Yeas	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Ronald Griffin, Trustee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Melissa Hahn, Trustee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Edward Meny, Trustee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Thomas Milnikel, Trustee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Patrice Rose, Clerk	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
Roger Seely, Supervisor	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
David Vonk, Treasurer	<u>  X  </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted.

Attested by:

Dated: January 9, 2023

  
 Patrice Rose, Township Clerk

**Resolution #2023-08**

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board of St. Joseph Charter Township at a regular meeting held on January 9, 2023, the original of which is on file in my office and available to the public. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meeting Act, Act 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan 1976, (MCL 15.261 *et seq*).

Dated: January 9, 2023

  
 Patrice Rose, Township Clerk