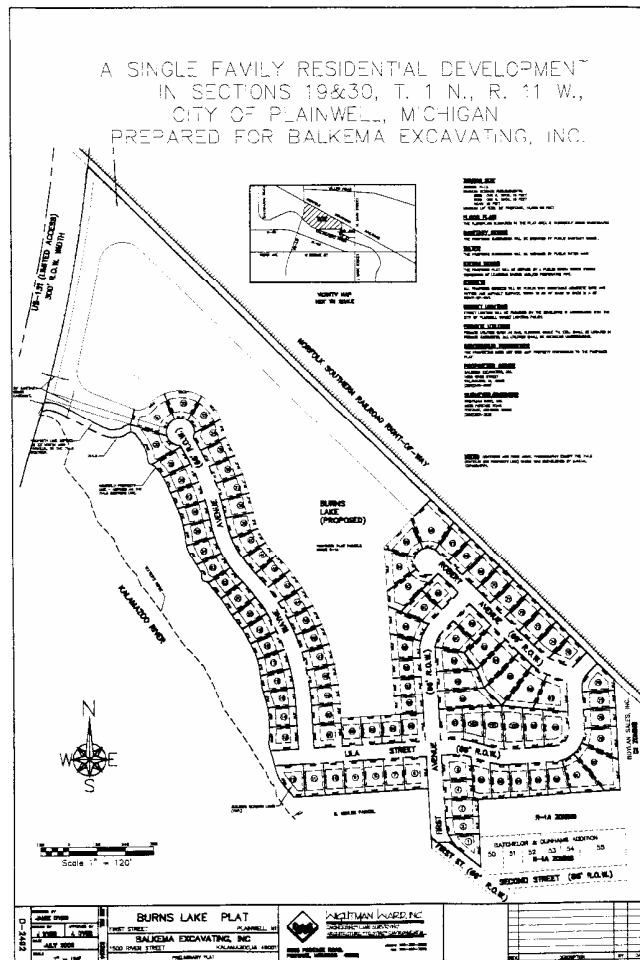


Balkema Lake Plat Summary

Updated: February 13 May 24, 2006

Throughout this process it has been the goal of the City Council, Planning Commission and City staff to go above and beyond are working to provide information about this project in a manner far exceeding the notices required the minimum standards set by law to disseminate information about this project. Whether it's holding an informational meeting, noticing meetings to a larger segment of the City (and neighboring community), mailing general information out or posting information to the City web page, we want to ensure our residents have a chance to give their input. In keeping with those efforts, the City has provides the following summary information related to this project:



What does the project entail?

Balkema Excavation owns 65 acres of land formerly known as the “Burns Property.” It is the owners wish to create constructionconstruct a development consisting of a 20 -25 acre lake with surrounded by approximately 115 new homes.

Where is the project located?

The project is located in the northwest section of the City; east of U.S. 131 and north of the Kalamazoo River.



Where are we in the process?

Preliminary plans were initially submitted to the City Planning Commission for prior to an October 2003 meeting. Due to the numerous questions posed by residents and the Planning Commission, an Ad Hoc Committee was created to study the effects of this development in greater detail. The Ad Hoc Committee consists of two members from the City Council and two members from the Planning Commission.

The Ad Hoc Committee has met several times to and generated a list of questions for the developer derived in part from community input as well as committee questions. What has been readily apparent to the Ad Hoc Committee was the overriding concern of is over the gravel trucks truck traffic and the route(s) that such trucks would take. Balkema Excavation's original plan proposed taking the gravel out to N. Main Street, then either north to 106th towards the Grand Rapids area, or south to M-89 towards the Kalamazoo area. Over the course of 24-months, it was apparent that the Ad Hoc Committee viewed negatively using N. Main Street as a gravel route. Responding to a progress request from Balkema Excavation, City Administrator Erik Wilson stated that in his opinion approval of the project as is was unlikely. This and other concerns were communicated to the developer.

Since that time, the developer has offered another option that would not entail using N. Main Street as a route. The developer wishes to transport the material under the Kalamazoo River via

pipng with the processing happening behind the City of Plainwell's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The developer proposes limiting the gravel route to M-89 then U.S. 131.

This matter will be placed on the Planning Commission's June 7, 2006 Agenda.

Thank you,

Rick Brooks, Mayor
City of Plainwell

Diana Lubic, Chairperson
Plainwell Planning Commission