

## **PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

# **Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan**

This document serves as a partnership agreement between individuals, interest groups, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, units of government and others that are interested in the future of the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed.

**The Partnership Agreement does not convey any specific responsibilities to those signing other than a commitment to participate to the best of their efforts in the development of an Arcadia Pierport Watershed Plan.**

The undersigned believe that the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed is critical to the well-being and economic vitality of the area and that a plan should be created to ensure the wise use and management of the watershed – now and for future generations.

Accordingly, those signing this agreement support the following:

- a) The development and implementation of an Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan through an open, inclusive process that includes representation of all interests in the watershed. The Plan will be a living document that is updated and modified as circumstances warrant. The Plan will involve area citizens, year-round and seasonal residents and youth; schools, community colleges and universities; riparian owners; lake associations; businesses and business groups; agriculture; all forms of governments, including Tribal government; citizen and civic groups; students of all ages; recreators; conservation organizations and others.
- b) The Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan will aid the watershed's communities in managing the use of the natural, cultural, historical, social and economic resources to sustain a healthy, thriving watershed that contributes to citizen long-term quality of life and economic well-being.
- c) The Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan is intended to foster development through the incorporation of locally driven solutions for the responsible stewardship of land, water and other natural resources.
- d) The Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan will include consideration for sustained implementation and implementation funding – in partnership with Alliance for Economic Success (AES), including the development of both endowed and non-endowed maintenance funds within the Manistee County Community Foundation (MCCF) to support Plan implementation for generations to come.
- e) The Arcadia-Pierport-Watershed Plan will utilize and build from the information and strategies prepared and developed as part of the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative (L2L).

### **Background Information**

The Arcadia-Pierport Watershed includes portions of Arcadia, Onekama, and Pleasanton Townships in Manistee County, and Joyfield and Blaine Townships in Benzie County. The Arcadia-Pierport Watershed encompasses 25.8 square miles, or 16,562 acres, approximately 750 acres of which consist of Arcadia Lake and Arcadia Marsh. Arcadia Lake provides direct access to Lake Michigan by way of a channel that falls under federal jurisdiction. The Pierport Watershed is an isolated watershed nestled between the Arcadia and Portage Lake watersheds. Several adjacent small watersheds will also be included in this initiative.

**It is proposed that the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan be developed in three phases:**

**Phase 1 – Determination of Community Support**

Includes; the identification of community stakeholders; review of a preliminary scope of work; followed by a decision about moving forward to Phase 2.

**Phase 2 – Preparing for the Planning Process**

Includes; the formation of a Watershed Leadership Team consisting of all stakeholder groups to: set the agenda of the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan, and to aid in advocacy and community outreach; formation of an Executive Committee to: secure funds to support the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan development, identify a consulting firm to develop the technical aspects of the Watershed Plan, implement the agenda set by the Watershed Leadership Team, and to facilitate the operations /administration of the Watershed Plan. Both the Watershed Leadership Team and the Executive Committee will collaborate to secure funds, advocate, participate in plan implementation and community outreach/education.

**Phase 3 – Plan Development**

Includes; the development of a plan outline and schedule; development of background data and information; and the preparation of a plan which includes the identification of actions that could be taken to protect and manage the watershed.

**Funds Required for the Plan**

It is estimated that the plan development will cost up to \$85,000 and will be sought through a combination of grants and contributions.

**Plan Uses**

When completed, the plan will be used to: provide watershed based educational programs to all stakeholders, engage youth and adults in watershed management and monitoring projects; guide water quality monitoring and watershed restoration; develop complementary recreational, business and other initiatives; develop funding tools to sustain implementation of the plan; and secure state, federal or other sources of funding to implement the plan.

**Proposed Action**

We, the undersigned, agree that the development and implementation of the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed Plan is in the best long term interest of property owners, individuals, groups, organizations, businesses, schools, students and other interested parties concerned with the Arcadia-Pierport Watershed – now and in the future. We commit our support to the development and implementation of this Plan in accordance with the objectives and principles contained in this Partnership Agreement.

<b>Name/Organization</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Date</b>
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