

**TOWNSHIP OF SAUGATUCK  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03**

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE  
ACCEPTANCE OF NEW BUILDING AND ZONING APPLICATIONS FOR  
PROPERTIES LOCATED ON THE SHORELINE OF LAKE MICHIGAN

THE TOWNSHIP OF SAUGATUCK ORDAINS:

1. Title. This ordinance shall be known as the “Saugatuck Township Shoreline Development Moratorium Ordinance.”
2. Purpose.
  - a. The Township is currently in the process of developing and adopting new regulations for the development of property located on the shoreline of Lake Michigan — more specifically, all parcels to the west of Lake Shore Drive, between the municipal boundaries of Douglas to the north and Ganges Township to the south (the “Subject Parcels”) — which are particularly susceptible to erosion.
  - b. The Planning Commission and Township Board require sufficient time to study and develop the new regulations and to follow the applicable procedures that might be needed to implement them. It is anticipated that a zoning ordinance amendment addressing these topics will be ready for the Township Board’s consideration in the late winter or early spring of 2025.
  - c. The Township Board wishes to impose a temporary moratorium on the development or further development of the Subject Parcels in order to allow sufficient time for the development and implementation of the new ordinance amendment, such that any application for a building or other zoning approval received after the date of the moratorium can be reviewed and approved pursuant to the newly adopted standards. In doing so, the Board wishes to except certain projects involving the construction and/or repair of stairs, based on a determination that such projects have little if any impact on soil erosion.
3. Moratorium Parameters. Beginning on the effective date of this Ordinance and continuing as provided in Section 4, the Township shall not accept applications for building permits or zoning approvals for new development or other exterior construction activities on the Subject Parcels. This Ordinance shall not be construed as prohibiting the processing or approval of zoning or building permit applications for projects for which one or more of such applications was submitted to the Township, in complete form, prior to the effective date of this Ordinance as stated below. Nor shall it be construed as prohibiting the processing or approval of applications for projects that would take place entirely within the interior of an existing building (e.g., building-permit applications for interior home renovations) or project involving demolition only.
4. Duration of Moratorium. The moratorium established in Section 3 shall remain in effect for a period of 4 months following the effective date of the ordinance or until the effective date of newly adopted zoning ordinance amendment regulating the development of the Subject Parcels. Notwithstanding the forgoing, before this moratorium expires, the Township Board may by resolution extend the moratorium for a reasonable amount of time to the extent needed to complete the consideration and development of such zoning ordinance amendment.
5. Exception for Specified Stair-Related Projects. The moratorium established in Section 3 shall not apply to applications for building permits or zoning approvals that are limited to the following projects: (1) the repair of exterior stairs; (2) the replacement of exterior stairs within their existing

footprint; or (3) the construction of new stairs located in a side yard that that are setback at least 15 feet from the side lot line; provided that such construction does not involve tree clearing, grading, removing earth materials, or installing impervious surfaces other than the stairs themselves.

6. Severability. This Ordinance and the various parts, sentences, paragraphs, sections, subsections, phases and clauses are hereby declared severable, and if any of them are adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, it is hereby declared that the remainder of this Ordinance shall not be affected by such determination.

7. Conflicting Ordinance. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance are hereby repealed and superseded to the extent of any conflict.

8. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon publication as provided by law following adoption by the Township Board.

Yeas: Board member: Osman, Marcy, Helmrich, Aldrich, Bigford  
Nays: Board member: Ø  
Abstain: Board member: Ø  
Absent: Board member: Ø

CERTIFICATION

I certify that this is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Saugatuck Township Board at a regularly scheduled meeting held on December 11, 2024.

Abby Bigford  
Abby Bigford, Township Supervisor

Cindy Osman  
Cindy Osman, Township Clerk