Introduction

The Village of Paw Paw Waterfront Overlay District was developed by the Planning Studio class of Western Michigan University for application to the shorelines of the water bodies and watercourses within the Village of Paw Paw.

The class project was defined as follows:

> Develop a *Waterfront Overlay District* for the Maple Lake/Briggs Pond area, including the branches of the Paw Paw River, within the Village of Paw Paw.

In the development of the Waterfront Overlay District, the following planning tasks were undertaken and completed by the class:

- Understand the principles and components of resource protection plans/ordinances and the use of an 'overlay' zoning approach.
- **Macro-Scale Analysis**: review the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance for the Village of Paw Paw; understand the 'pieces' of the community (ie. corridors, land uses, utilities, waterfront areas).
- **Micro-Scale Analysis**: review the Concept Plan developed for the Briggs Pond area; review area watershed management plans; conduct an area review (aerial photos); conduct site reconnaissance (walking; photos).
- Interview with Village Manager.
- In-Class Visioning Exercise.
- Define project boundaries.
- **Waterfront Overlay District**: develop using Master Plan objectives, recommended resource protection guidelines and field notes.

The Village of Paw Paw was selected for study by the Planning Studio class because it is served by a Master Plan that supports watershed protection measures and a recently adopted Concept Plan for the Briggs Pond area that specifically calls for waterfront protection. Additionally, the Village

of Paw Paw is located in close proximity to Western Michigan University allowing for on-site study of the project area and interaction with the community.