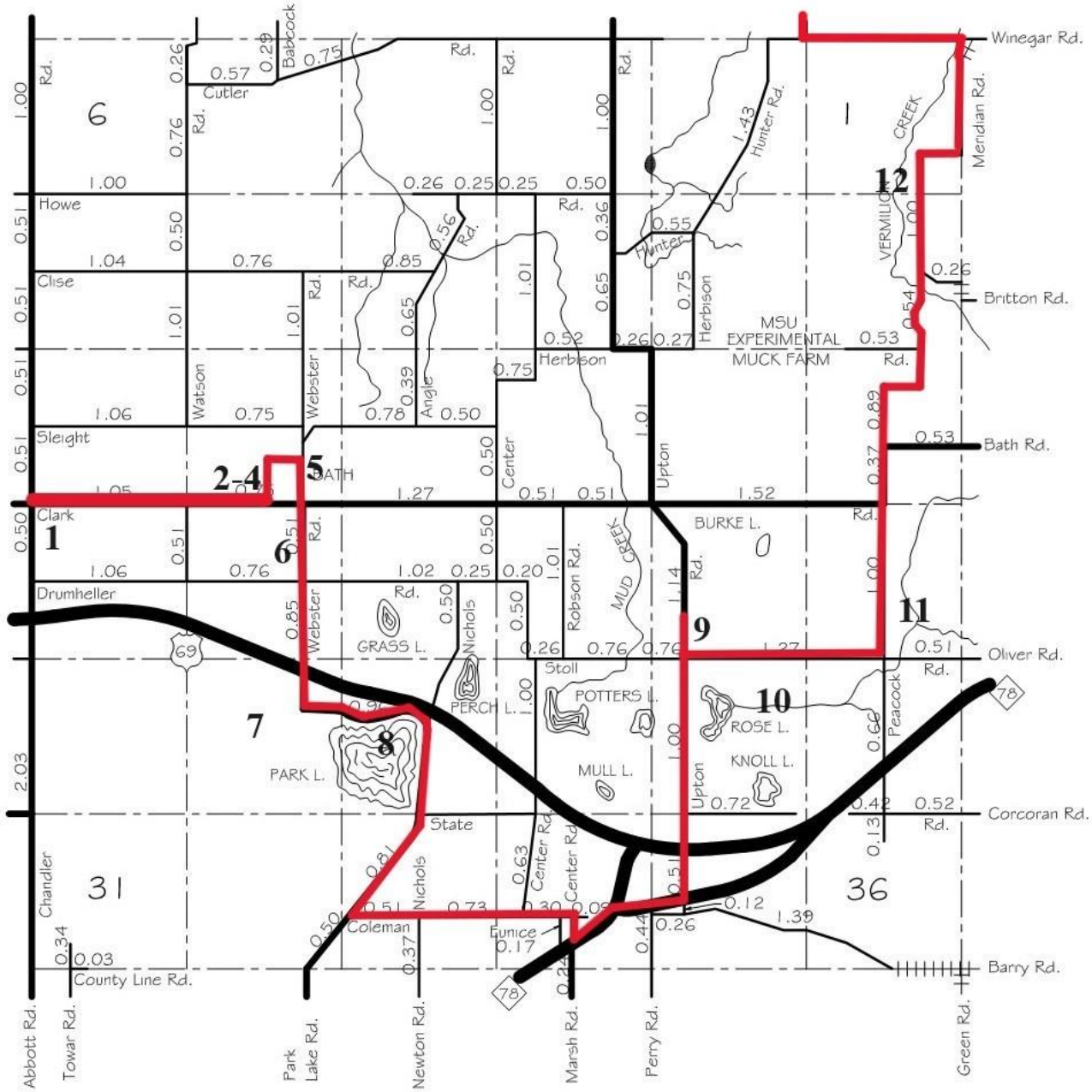
Bath Township Tour

Bath Township was among the last areas to be settled in the county due to swampy lands and some natives who scared off settlers. The unincorporated town of Bath was platted and organized after the railroad was built. The township is named after the town of Bath in Steuben County, New York.

This tour begins at the intersection of Clark and Chandler Road.



1	**Cushman Site** Southeast corner of Chandler and Clark Ira Cushman, one of the first settlers of Bath Township, settled here on 160 acres in 1837. A cemetery once was on this site. The first burial was Joseph Newman who died in 1838. Most of the remains were removed to the DeWitt and Gunnisonville cemeteries after the site was abandoned. Missing remains were discovered by utility workers in the 1970's. Across the road on the northeast corner of Clark and Chandler Roads is the site of the Cushman School which operated from the 1860's until 1922. Continue east on Clark Road and turn left on Main St., one block before Webster.
2	**James Couzens Memorial Park** 13753 Main Street *Michigan Historic Site* Established in 1975 on the site of the Bath School Disaster of May 18, 1927, when Andrew Kehoe killed 44, including 38 children, by dynamiting the school and a truck. The park contains the cupola from the building and an historical marker. James Couzens was a U. S. Senator who gave $75,000 to rebuild the school which was then named in his honor.
2	**Bath Veterans Memorial** 13753 Main Street Located in the northwest corner of James Couzens Memorial Park, this memorial was erected in 1988 to honor "all veterans who gave their lives and to those who proudly served our great nation during the many wars and conflicts."
3	**Old Community Hall** 13639 Main Street Michigan Historic Site This building was built in 1881 by Newell Dryer for community use. It was used as a morgue after the Bath School Disaster and then as a temporary school building. Many social events and club meetings took place here. In the 1970's it was converted into an apartment house. White Bros Music is located on the other side of Main Street. It is a must stop for those interested in stringed instruments.
4	**Bath Depot Site** Alley between Main and Walnut Streets & High Street and Sleight Road The Amboy, Lansing, and Traverse Bay Railroad began operating between Lansing and Owosso on November 20, 1862. Later this would be a part of the Michigan Central and Penn Central Railroad until 1976. Two depot buildings and freight offices were built here. The first depot was north of the tracks and east of Main Street. The second was south of the tracks and west of Main Street. Turn right on High Street and right on Webster Road.
5	**Bath School Museum** Bath Middle School 13675 Webster Road The Bath School Museum is housed in a hall near the middle school auditorium. Check with their Facebook page if you want to visit. Continue south on Webster Road.

6	**Pleasant Hill Cemetery** 14480 Webster Road This cemetery was established by Bath Township in 1870 on 3 acres purchased from Isaac M. Dryer as the Village Cemetery. It was renamed Pleasant Hill in 1896. This is the final resting place of the following victims of the Bath School Disaster (Sections 2, 3, and 4): Emilie M. Bromundt, Robert F. Bromundt, Floyd E. Burnett, Russell J. Chapman, Ralph A. Cushman, Katherine O. Foote, Galen L. Harte, LeVere R. Harte, Stanley H. Harte, Doris E. Johns, Nelson R. McFarren (rescuer), James "Jay" E. Medcoff, Emma A. Nickols, Richard D. Richardson, Pauline M. Shirts, Glenn O. Smith (postmaster and rescuer), and Harold L. Woodman. Glenn O. Smith and Nelson McFarren were killed along with Andrew Kehoe and School Superintendent Huyck when Kehoe detonated his truck. Continue south on Webster Road and turn left on Park Lake Road.
7	**Chandler Marsh** Southwest corner of the township What is now subdivisions and golf courses was once swamp. Zachariah Chandler, a U.S. Senator (1857-1875) and later, Secretary of the Interior (1875-1877), purchased 3,160 acres of swamp land in the southwest corner of Bath Township in 1867 and began an expensive, yet successful experiment by digging ditches and converting the land into useable farm land.
8	**Park Lake** In 1872 Cyrus and Mary Young purchased land at Park Lake and began developing a resort on the north shore with a bathing beach, boat livery, and steamboat for excursions on the lake. On the hill was a large dance hall, hotel, a campground, and log cabins for rent as Park Lake became a popular destination for Lansing residents. In 1920 a new large dance hall was built over the water of Park Lake. There were also changing rooms, food stands, and a baseball diamond. The dance hall which had hosted crowds of 5,000 to hear well-known bands of time was destroyed in a fire in 1932 and never rebuilt. Today there is a beach and park with playground. Continue south on Park Lake Road. Turn left on Coleman Road. At Marsh Road turn right. At business I-69/Saginaw turn left. At Lansing Road turn right and then left on Upton Road.
9	**Rose Cemetery** Upton Road, North of Stoll Road Originally this was a burial ground on the Silas W. Rose, Sr. farm. Bath Township took ownership on April 7, 1853. The earliest burials are in Section B and include Silas W. Rose, Sr (1844), and members of the Rose, Tyler and Colister families. Victims of the Bath School Disaster buried here in Section C1 are Iola I., Percy E., and Vivian O. Hart; and Elizabeth J. and Lucile J. Witchell. Backtrack to Stoll Road and head east and turn left on Peacock Road.

10	**Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area** Southeast corner of the township The Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area, originally known as the Park Lake Experiment Project, began in 1938 with the purchase of 4 farms from Fred Cochran, Alton Church, O. M. Randal, and Dennis N. Taylor. The area has expanded to 4,140 acres and includes several lakes. A number of hiking trails starting from trailheads on the roads in the area are available allowing you to see what the area would have looked like to early settlers.
11	**Martell/Fink Farm** 14679 Peacock Road The land grant for this farm was signed by Martin VanBuren in 1837. The Peacock family owned this farm for most of its existence. The modified Victorian style house was built in 1840. Or 1846. Now owned by Brian M. Fink
12	**Peacock Road Family Farm** *11854 Peacock Road* This farm offers lots of activities especially during the fall apple harvest season. The Sprague schoolhouse from Woodhull Township in Shiawassee County was moved here after it closed in 1954 and is available for tours. The original location was on the southwest corner of Woodbury and Winegar Roads. Continue north to Cutler Road. Go west to Hollister Road and north to Round Lake Road.

Additional Reading Suggestions:

Bath Massacre: America's first school bombing by Arnie Bernstein
Bath School Disaster by M. J. Ellsworth
History of Bath Charter Township, Clinton County, 1826-1976 by Harold B. Burnett
History of the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center by Robert M. Ankney
Mayday by Grant Parker
Reflections of Bath, Michigan: a historical look at the Bath-Park Lake Area through the lens of a camera by Gene Wilkins