September 2026
Antrim County BULLETIN

2026 Storm Damage
SBA and FEMA Updates

Antrim County residents, businesses, and private nonprofit organizations affected by the April 2026 severe storms and flooding are still able to apply for physical damage loans.

Though August 31, 2026 was the deadline to file for physical damage loans, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is continuing to accept applications for **an additional sixty days,** until October 31, 2026.

Eligible businesses, homeowners, renters, and private nonprofit organizations in Antrim County may still apply for low-interest disaster loans to help address eligible physical damage caused by the disaster.

The SBA encourages anyone who experienced disaster-related damage and has not yet applied to contact the agency as soon as possible during the grace period. For more information or to apply, visit sba.gov/disaster or call (800) 659-2955 for assistance.

FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) has released the final numbers for the June 30 disaster declaration. Sixty Antrim County households and individuals received a total of $644,071 for direct financial assistance, home repair assistance, housing assistance, or other qualifying needs.

Halloween at Barnes Park
Saturday, October 3

Join us at the boo-utiful Barnes Park for the annual **Halloween at the Park** on October 3.





The day will be filled with family-friendly activities: a kids' Halloween costume contest, a campsite decorating contest, complimentary cider and donuts, trick-or-treating throughout the park, and more!

Camping reservations are available now. For details, go to Barnes Park Campground Facebook page or the Barnes Park page on the County website.

Public Safety Center Progress

The Michigan Department of Corrections has approved plans for the Public Safety Center. Construction documents are now being reviewed a final time by the design team, which consists of architects, engineers, and County staff and officials. Requests for bids are expected to be released in October.



Preparatory site work will begin this fall. Work will include moving and relocating utilities along the north side of East Cayuga Street.

Grass River Natural Area (GRNA)
Ribbon Cutting

GRNA recently celebrated the total reconstruction of its raised wooden boardwalk system with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, September 11. An open house celebration was held the following day. The project was nearly ten years in the making and represents an investment of more than $3 million.

Planning began in 2016, with the first phase completed in August 2018. Phase Two was completed in 2024; Phase Three wrapped up in July of this year.

GRNA now offers more than 1.25 miles of level, raised wooden boardwalks along with an additional 0.80 mile of crushed gravel connector paths. Together, these improvements provide the longest ADA-accessible boardwalk system in Michigan, expanding safe access to some of our region's rarest ecosystems.



Executive Director for GRNA Inc., Jenn Wright, notes that "We've already welcomed groups from Meadow Brook Care Facility whose residents have come in wheelchairs or with walkers to explore spaces many have not been able to access for years."

GRNA trails, including the new boardwalk, are open seven days a week from dawn to dusk. The Grass River Center is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through October, when Center hours shift to weekends only.

The Grass River Natural Area property is owned in large part by Antrim County and is managed for the County by GRNA, Inc., a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.