

**COMMITTEE: PARKLAND
AGENDA ITEM: A NEW PARK?**

A proposal has come to you to turn several of the local wetland areas into parkland. The environmentalists who proposed it say that it would help keep the good water quality of the local river. But parkland doesn't make any money for the township. Some of the area probably no one would want to build on anyway because it gets too wet, but sometimes dirt can be added and then a wetland can be developed (built on). Some of these wetlands are only a little wet, and maybe someone would want to build on these. What do you think you should do?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Wetlands act as natural filters and water cleaners, which is why the park would help keep up the river's water quality. They are also an important place for animals to live. Across the United States, many wetlands have been destroyed for buildings and farmland. In some areas this has caused flooding, and has meant that animals could no longer live in that area.

**COMMITTEE: POLLUTION PROBLEM
AGENDA ITEM: OLD DUMP SITE**

A business that is starting to build a warehouse comes upon over 100 old rusty barrels. They have some smelly liquids at the bottom which are probably some dangerous chemicals. Old-timers think that they come from the old auto parts business. What should be done?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Thirty years ago, there were very few laws about how you had to get rid of waste. What this business did might have been legal then (although today it wouldn't be). The problem is that a lot of the liquids have probably leaked out of the barrels into the ground. So the ground might be polluted, although you wouldn't be able to tell unless you checked. If the ground is polluted, you will probably need to dig up the ground and take it to a hazardous waste landfill. And the old auto parts business closed down a while ago. Who will pay for the cleanup? It could be very, very expensive.