

DR. CHARLES "TED" BLACK 1914 - 2007

The Ted Black Woods Park is a living memorial honoring the life and career of Charles "Ted" Black. He made Meridian Township and this site his home while extending his professional expertise throughout Michigan and the world. Once described as "a natural treasure in mid-Michigan," he began his career as a wildlife biologist and environmental advocate conducting postdoctoral research under Aldo Leopold, the founding father of wildlife ecology.

His profound knowledge of birds came from 80 years of birding, during which time he field-identified over 2,000 bird species, served as an elected board member of the Michigan Audubon Society for 40 years, and received the prestigious National Audubon Society's William Dutcher Award. His latest book, released in 2004, was the popular "Birds of Michigan."

At home in Meridian Township, Ted served on the Board of Trustees, Environmental Commission, and the Park Commission. Here, he was also instrumental in the creation of our Wetland Protection Ordinance, the Land Preservation Advisory Board, and the Harris Nature Center Foundation.

Ted and his wife of 68 years, Marijane Dahlem Black, were passionate environmentalists who traveled the world as wildlife and botanical educators leading over 25 birding and nature tours across five continents. During his 36 years with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Ted made significant contributions as a wildlife biologist and promoted Michigan's lead in banning DDT. Later he served as Director of the Rose Lake Wildlife Research Center and Chief of the Office of Environment Review.

The inspiration one receives from walking through the natural wonder of these woods is in part a reflection of the legacy left here and around the world by Ted and Marijane Black, for all to enjoy and be enriched in mind and spirit.

DEDICATED JUNE 4, 2011

OPEN DAWN TO DUSK

North Entrance

4714 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI

South Entrance

540 W. Grand River Avenue, Okemos, MI



TRAIL CONDITIONS

The trails in Ted Black Woods have uneven terrain with some steep areas. During rainy seasons, the trails may become muddy or impassable. Please do not ride bikes or horses on the trails at these times.

For detailed information on Meridian Township Park Ordinances, visit meridian.mi.us

**Chapter 54: Parks & Recreation
Section 26-51**

TED BLACK WOODS TRAIL MAP



**Parks & Recreation
Department
517.853.4600**




A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

TED BLACK WOODS







LEGEND

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Park: 74 Acres |  Major Crossroad |
|  Parking Lot |  Wetlands |
|  Trailhead |  Observation Deck |

NATURE TRAILS

These trails are natural with rough terrain and steep grades.

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Black 0.14 mi |  Blue 1.13 mi |
|  Yellow 0.26 mi |  Orange 0.74 mi |
|  White 0.49 mi | |

