



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION – REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 - 6:30 pm

REGULAR MEETING – MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER – 6:30 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 2. PRESENTATIONS
 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. September 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
 6. COMMUNICATIONS
 7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 8. ACTION ITEMS
 9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Work Plan for 2019 & 2020
 - B. Helen and Howard Tanner Memorial Recommendation
 - C. Staffing Update
 - D. Wish List
 - E. Historical Village Request
 - F. MNRTF Scoring updates
 - G. Michigan State Park Advisory Board Openings
 10. PUBLIC COMMENTS
 11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS
 - A. Commissioner Comments
 - B. Events Calendar:
 1. October 11: Howl at the Moon, Harris Nature Center, 7-8 pm
 2. October 12: Stewardship Morning, 9-11 am
 3. October 13: Autumn Color Walk, Harris Nature Center, 2-3 pm
 4. October 16: Fire Prevention Open House, Central Fire Station, 10am-1pm
 5. October 18: Meridian Cares Benefit Night at Old Chicago, 4-9 pm
 6. October 19: Halloween Adventures at the Harris Nature Center, 10am-5pm
 7. October 26: Halloween Adventures at Meridian Public Safety Building & Historical Village (10am-1pm), Farmers Market (8am-2pm)
 8. November 2: Nighttime Family Scavenger Hunt, Harris Nature Center, 7-8:30pm
 9. November 8: Howl at the Moon, Harris Nature Center, 7-8 pm
 10. Farmers' Market:
 - a. Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm, Central Park Pavilion, through end of October
 - b. Wednesdays, starting July 10, 3-7 pm; through the end of October.
 - c. Thanksgiving Market, November 27, 10am-2pm
 12. ADJOURNMENT
 13. Next Park Commission Meeting – Tuesday, November 12, 6 pm in the Town Hall Room, in the Meridian Municipal Building
-

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, LuAnn Maisner: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett

Park Commission Meeting
October 8, 2019

5. MINUTES

- a. September 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT
Location: Service Center Building
Okemos, MI 48864

DATE: September 10, 2019
PRESENT: Amanda Lick, Michael McDonald, Annika Schaeztl, Mark Stephens, Ami VanAntwerp
EXCUSED: None
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
2. PRESENTATIONS:
 - A. Introduction of new Park Naturalist, Allison Goodman
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Seconded by Commissioner Lick.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - A. George Kass, 4512 Nakoma Drive, Okemos, spoke about the National Night Out event held by the Indian Hills Homeowners Association and the need for a playground structure on the open space. After a brief discussion, Mr. Kass was asked to take this request back to the Indian Hills Homeowners Association for further research and possible Resolution of Support for this request
 - B. Fred Hawley, 4543 Eastwood Drive, Okemos, spoke in support of the Deer Management Program and asked to see more done to decrease the deer population.
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - A. July 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes
Commissioner Stephens moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 9, 2019 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN. Seconded by Commissioner VanAntwerp.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.
6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Items to/from the Public
None
 - B. Commission Information

1. Helen K Tanner Obituary
2. Harris Nature Center Foundation Minutes
 - a. March 11, 2019
 - b. April 8, 2019
 - c. May 13, 2019
 - d. June 10, 2019
 - e. August 12, 2019
3. Press Releases:
 - a. Howl at the Moons – Guided Evening Walk for People and Dogs
 - b. Strings and Wood Playing Outdoors Venue – Music in Nature Series Final Performance at Harris Nature Center
 - c. Preschoolers Discover Nature – Preschool Science Exploration Class Investigates Nocturnal Nature
 - d. Harris Nature Center Encourages Stewardship – Volunteer Opportunities Connect People with Parks
 - e. Harvest Moon Stories around the Campfire – Lansing Storytellers Providing Entertainment at Campfire Program
 - f. Toddlers and Preschoolers can Discover Nature at the Harris Nature Center – Nature Tots Registration Begins
 - g. Chipmunk Story Time at Harris Nature Center – Chicory Chipmunk presents “Possum’s Harvest Moon”
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
None

Commissioner Stephens moved TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzl.

VOICE VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

8. ACTION ITEMS

None

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. 2019 Deer Management Program

Meridian Township's ninth year of deer management will officially commence on October 1, 2019 and will run until January 1, 2020. This popular program places volunteer archery hunters on select Township and County owned properties to manage the deer population. Meridian Township has an over-population of deer that has resulted in an increase of damage to landscaping, reports of vehicle/deer accidents, concern for public health, and a disruption to the ecological balance of our natural areas. In response, the Meridian Township Board directed staff to develop and implement a deer management plan that outlines measures for a highly managed program to harvest white-tailed deer in a number of selected township-owned properties.

The program began in 2011 and has been conducted each year since that time. The harvest is held during the regular archery season, October 1st through January 1st. The managed

harvest is NOT open to the general public. All hunters must be approved by the Township and are tested for proficiency at the MSU Demmer Archery Center. Only approved, qualified, competent and experienced hunters will be considered to access Township property for the managed harvest. Neighboring property owners are notified of the harvest each year. All parks and land preserves remain open to the public during archery season. The hunters have proven to be valuable partners and act as the eyes and ears on Township-owned properties. The program continues to receive accolades statewide and serves as a model for suburban wildlife management. The intention is to continue the volunteer archery deer management program in 2019 at 39 sites in the Township with the hope that our volunteer's efforts will continue to reduce the herd and provide valuable data on Chronic Wasting Disease to the Michigan DNR. In 2018, the management harvest was held on 38 sites and harvested 57 deer. There was 129 deer/vehicle collisions in 2018.

The Parks and Recreation office regularly fields calls from residents complaining about deer damage to personal property. Our environmental consultants and staff continue to report severe ecological damage to the natural areas due to over-browsing. The onset of CWD has also raised concerns about the health of the deer herd in Meridian Township. While not its original intention, the deer management program now plays a vital role in providing the Michigan DNR and MSU with valuable data on the disease. Although, this now means one of the goals of the program to donate all harvested venison is not a possibility at this time. We will keep encouraging hunters to privately donate the venison they harvest and as soon as the CWD restrictions are lifted, we hope to resume all donations to Sportsman Against Hunger.

b. Climate Sustainability Program

Director Maisner shared the plan with the Commissioners and asked them to review it and make recommendations in the future on methods to support the plan's goals.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

11. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

A. Project updates

1. Marketplace on the Green – Contract awarded to Gordon Construction Services in July. Currently working with their engineer to finalize design of pavilion. Site work to begin at the end of September.
2. Central Park Projects –are currently out to bid. Proposals due September 17, 2019.
3. Meridian Senior Center – patio furniture and paved loop trail project nearly completed
4. HNC Pavilion and Restroom – Will go to bid later this month as we are waiting for DNR approval with the plans. The HNC Foundation was awarded a \$25,000 grant to construct a bird overlook platform that we are working on currently as well.
5. Large Dog Park – contracting now for grading and seeding.
6. Hartrick Park Soccer Field Renovation – topdressing and over seeding utilizing topsoil from Okemos High School Football Field renovation.
7. Youth sports programs going on now include Soccer- 654; Flag Football -241
8. Summer Camp Participation – 440 children

B. STAFF NEWS

1. Kit Rich retired a Sr. Park Naturalist after 25 years of service at the Harris Nature Center on August 23, 2019
2. Dennis Antone, Facility Superintendent resigned effective August 30 to become the Director of Public Works in Eaton Rapids.
3. Darcie Weigand, Parks and Recreation Specialist resigned effective September 18, 2019 and is moving to Virginia with her family.
4. Kelsey Dillon got engaged to boyfriend David Dietz over Labor Day Weekend
5. New Farmer's Market Manager – Tom Carey
6. Kati Adams was named the new coordinator for the Harris Nature Center.
7. We welcome Allison Goodman as our new full-time Park Naturalist.
8. Open Positions:
 - A. Parks and Recreation Specialist to replace Darcie
 - B. Assistant Park Naturalists – HNC
 - C. Recreation Intern
 - D. Senior Fitness Program Leader
 - E. Parks and Land Preservation Supervisor
9. Incident at Harris Nature Center. Will be looking into installing security cameras in the future.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

13. NEXT MEETING: The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 8, 2019**, in the Service Center Building; 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI, with the non-televised regular meeting at 6:30 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

October 8, 2019

6. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

None

B. Commission Information

1. Press Releases:

- a. Music in Nature Concludes with Final Concert at Harris Nature Center – Series Featured Trios Playing Live Music
- b. Preschoolers Discover Animals – Preschool Science Exploration Class Investigates Animals in Autumn
- c. Family Special: Tails of Michigan Wildlife – Harris Nature Center helps Families Enjoy Time in Nature
- d. Autumn Color Walk – Harris Nature Center Leading Walk in the Autumn Woods
- e. Blue and Grey Event Transports Visitors to Civil War Era – Go Back in Time with the War Between the States
- f. Meridian Township Deer Management Program Continues – Program Continues for 9th Consecutive Year
- g. Howl at the Moon – Guided Evening Walk for People and Dogs

C. Staff Inquiries/Response



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2019

CONTACT: Kati Adams, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | adams@meridian.mi.us

Music in Nature Concludes with Final Concert at Harris Nature Center
Series Featured Trios Playing Live Music

Meridian Township, MI – This summer, Harris Nature Center (3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos) launched a new series called Music in Nature. Two different trios have already played live music in the Gathering Circle, while visitors had the choice to listen by either concert-style, walking the trails, picnicking or freely moving around the park.

The final of the three concerts of the 2019 summer series will take place on Saturday, September 14th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm featuring Strings and Wood.

Strings and Wood is a trio comprised of Meridian Township employees; Kati Adams, Matt Foreman and LeRoy Harvey. Matt is known locally as lead vocals and guitar for the Mama Tryd Band and LeRoy is a member of the popular group Whoa Nelly. While Kati may be best known as the Senior Park Naturalist and new Coordinator for Harris Nature Center, visitors will discover she has a hidden talent when they hear her play and sing.

These events are sponsored by the Harris Nature Center Foundation and are free to the public. For more information about this and other programs offered at Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

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The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.





FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2019

CONTACT: Kati Adams, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | kadams@meridian.mi.us

Harris Nature Center
A Meridian Township Park Millage Facility



Preschoolers Discover Animals

Preschool Science Exploration Class Investigates Animals in Autumn

Meridian Township, MI- Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township on Thursday, October 3rd at 1-2 pm. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is Animals in Autumn. The program is designed for 4-5 year old children. The fee is \$3/child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866.

"Preschoolers love learning about animals," said Senior Park Naturalist Kati Adams, "and so this month, during Animals in Autumn, they will discover the many ways that animals change as the autumn days get colder."

Each Preschool Science class has a different science topic and will always include a walk in addition to the science activities.

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us and www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter and www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt.

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A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2019

CONTACT: Kati Adams, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | kadams@meridian.mi.us

Harris Nature Center
A Meridian Township Park Millage Facility



Family Special: Tails of Michigan Wildlife

Harris Nature Center helps Families Enjoy Time in Nature

Meridian Township, MI- Families can spend time participating in nature activities and discover what woodpeckers and opossums have in common at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Sunday September 29th at 2 pm. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866.

“Animals’ tails can help them with balance and propulsion, as well as many other things,” said Nature Center Coordinator Kati Adams. “At this program, families will engage in hands-on nature activities to learn more about these fascinating appendages.”

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us and www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter and www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2019

CONTACT: Kati Adams, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | kadams@meridian.mi.us

Harris Nature Center
A Meridian Township Park Millage Facility



Autumn Color Walk

Harris Nature Center Leading Walk in the Autumn Woods

Meridian Township, MI- Leaves of red and gold decorate the trees, flowers have gone to seed and animals prepare for winter. Enjoy nature in autumn on a guided walk with a naturalist on Sunday October 13th at 2 pm at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866.

“Autumn is a beautiful time of the year to walk in the woods and a great time to view the plants and animals there,” said Nature Center Coordinator Kati Adams.

The Harris Nature Center holds guided walks throughout the year with various themes based on the seasons or nature topics.

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us and www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter and www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2019

CONTACT: Patrick Reynolds, Village Executive Director
517.347.7300 | meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com

Blue and Grey Event Transports Visitors to Civil War Era
Go Back in Time with the War Between the States

Meridian Township, MI – Join the Friends of Historic Meridian for the Blue and Grey Event highlighting historical 19th century activities during the Civil War.

What: Blue and Grey Event

When: October 5th, 11:00 am – 4:00 pm

Where: Meridian Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road Okemos, MI

Who: Open to the public

Why: Visitors can enjoy early American demonstrations and exhibits as well as participate in children's activities and games. Witness what life was like during the Civil War with a Civil War Encampment and visit docents and tour the historic buildings.

At 11:00 am, watch a company drill reenactment of Civil War soldiers training and practicing various formations for battle. Following the military drill, a living history presentation and recruitment scenario will take place.

Battle reenactments will occur at 2:00 pm with the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B and 102nd Regiment U.S. Colored Troops.

For more information about the Blue and Grey Event, call the Meridian Historical Village at 517.347.7300 or visit the Meridian Township website www.meridian.mi.us.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2019

CONTACT: Kelsey Dillon, Park Naturalist & Stewardship Coordinator
517.853.4614 | dillon@meridian.mi.us

Meridian Township Deer Management Program Continues *Program Continues for 9th Consecutive Year*

Meridian Township, MI – In an effort to reduce the over-population of deer within the Township, the Deer Management Program has begun for the regular 2019 archery season.

The Deer Management Plan for 2019 includes the following measures for a deer harvest:

- Deer management takes place October 1st through January 1st.
- This year's program includes 38 total managed areas with a total of 2,293 acres.
- The managed harvest is NOT open to the general public. Participants include 82 qualified, competent, experienced hunters who are familiar with the area.
- Archery hunting only.
- Entrances to designated hunting properties are posted advising visitors of the harvest.

“We are working closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to do what we feel is best to help reduce the population of deer. We have placed our hunters in all Township-owned properties that are practical and safe for archery hunting,” said Jane Greenway, Parks & Land Management Coordinator.

As part of the Deer Management Program, Meridian Township is working with Michigan State University and the Michigan DNR to track and manage deer with Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

Meridian Township continues to receive numerous complaints of deer over-population that have resulted in an increase of damage to landscaping, an increase in reports of vehicle/deer accidents, concern for public health and a disruption to the ecological balance of natural areas. In response, Meridian Township developed a Deer Management Plan that outlines measures for a highly managed program to harvest white-tailed deer in numerous Township and County-owned properties. Neighbors of the Township properties that will be managed will receive notification about the harvest. All parks and land preserves remain open to the public during this time.

For more information on the 2019 Deer Management Program, call 517.853.4600 or visit www.meridian.mi.us/residents/living-with-wildlife/deer-management-program.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2019

CONTACT: Kati Adams, Harris Nature Center Coordinator
517.349.3866 | kadams@meridian.mi.us

Harris Nature Center

A Meridian Township Park Millage Facility



Howl at the Moon

Guided Evening Walk for People and Dogs

Meridian Township, MI- Enjoy the full moon while taking a guided walk through the moonlit woods of the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township on Friday, October 11th at 7 pm. Dogs are welcome and the group meets in the parking lot. The fee is \$3/person, due at the time of the walk. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866.

“During the Halloween season is a great time to get outside and have fun with others,” said Nature Center Coordinator Kati Adams. “While I don’t find the woods spooky, sometimes it is a little scary for those not used to it and walking with a guide can help people to become more comfortable in the woods.”

It is not necessary to have a dog to attend the walk, however, participants are reminded that dogs must be on non-retractable leashes and flashlights are permitted.

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us and www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter and www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt.

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Park Commission Meeting
October 8, 2019

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Parks and Recreation Department Staff Report
September 25, 2019**

- A. **Marketplace on the Green** – The contract for construction was awarded to Gordon Construction Services for entire project. We have experienced difficulties during the design phase in obtaining our desired pavilion layout but are working toward a resolution which may include purchasing the pavilion from another vendor. Either way, site work should begin in early October with the intention of still meeting our May 2020 opening.
- B. **Central Park Projects** – Bids were received for the Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector, Gateway footbridge and restroom in Central Park/Historical Village on September 17. A total of 23 general and sub-contractors took out plans but only three bids were received – (two for the trail and one for the restroom/bridge). All three bids were much higher than anticipated. Came in very high, therefore, we have rejected the bids and will put the projects back out in December/January.
- C. **Meridian Senior Center Patio**– Members of the Senior Center now have a beautiful place to enjoy the out of doors while visiting the Center. The paved patio is now home to new furniture, umbrellas, raised garden boxes and landscaping. A new loop trail has been installed for small walks that can also host future memorial trees and benches. Details of a ribbon cutting ceremony are forthcoming.
- D. **HNC Pavilion and Restroom** – The DNR recently reviewed our final site plans and bid specifications and has given the green light to move forward with the bidding process.
- E. **Small Dog Park** – This new facility in Nancy Moore Park has been a huge success with 123 members currently with an average use of 15 visits a day.
- F. **Large Dog Park** – The fencing and entry control systems have been purchased and the site graded and seeded in preparation of construction this spring. The parking lot in Central Park South is also slated for expansion as well.
- G. **Hartrick Park Soccer Field Renovation** – Because of the heavy wear and tear of the soccer field area in Hartrick Park, the turf is in dire need of attention. The Field is closed this fall and next spring as renovation activities are taking place adding new topsoil and seed.
- H. **Adult Sports Fall Season**
 - 1. Kickball – 9 teams
 - 2. Sand Volleyball - 13 teams
 - 3. Pickleball Players 50 individuals
 - 4. Sr. Fitness at Mall Approx. 50/day (90 registered)
- I. **Youth Sports Fall Season**
 - 1. Soccer - 667 participants/70 teams
 - 2. Playmakers Running Club - 31 participants
 - 3. Sporties for Shorties - 18 classes at maximum enrollment (360 kids) June - September
 - 4. Flag football - 242 Meridian Township participants with a total of 45 teams including teams from Williamston and Bath

- J. **Meridian Senior Center** – This past summer the Center scheduled various outings that were extremely popular. Activities included Summer Barbeque at Wonch Park, Bad Brewing/Keans/Courthouse and ice cream in Mason and Stahl Automotive Museum in New Baltimore. They also hosted their annual Rummage Sale and made \$1,414.50 and held their first-ever Arts and Crafts show utilizing their talented members art projects.
- K. **2019 Deer Management Program:** Meridian Township's ninth year of deer management will officially commence on October 1, 2019 and will run until January 1, 2020. This popular program places volunteer archery hunters on select Township and County owned properties to manage the deer population. The 2019 program involves managing 85 hunters on 38 properties. We continue to receive complaints from residents regarding the high deer population.
- L. **Acquisition Grant** - 5280 Okemos Road Acquisition (Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund) 170k total (WE PAY \$42,500). We received a very good preliminary score and will receive final notification in December. This acquisition, if approved, will provide a safer and more visible entrance to Nancy Moore Park and will serve as a parking area/trailhead for the Interurban Trail, MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, and other nearby park and land preserve trails.
- M. **Stewardship** – A total of 55 volunteers engaged in restoration projects in Land Preserves with three more workdays planned for fall.
- N. **Japanese Knotweed** – This extremely invasive plant has been successfully treated on two Land Preserve properties.
- O. **Consumers Energy Tree Grant** – Consumers Energy offers a street tree grant each year and we have been successful recipients of 20 native trees that are scheduled for planting along Central Park Drive during the month of October.

STAFF NEWS

- A. **Kit Rich** retired a Sr. Park Naturalist after 25 years of service at the Harris Nature Center on August 23, 2019
- B. **Dennis Antone**, Facility Superintendent resigned effective August 30 to become the Director of Public Works in Eaton Rapids.
- C. **Darcie Weigand**, Parks and Recreation Specialist resigned effective September 18, 2019 and is moving to Virginia with her family.
- D. Hired a new Farmer's Market Manager – **Tom Carey**
- E. **Kati Adams** was named the new coordinator for the Harris Nature Center.
- F. We welcome **Allison Goodman** as our new full-time Park Naturalist.
- G. Lead Worker in Parks, **Matt Foreman** moved to become Lead Worker in the Sewer Division
- H. **Open Positions:**
 1. Parks and Recreation Specialist to replace Darcie
 2. Assistant Park Naturalists – HNC
 3. Recreation Intern
 4. Senior Fitness Program Leader
 5. Parks and Land Preservation Superintendent
 6. Lead Worker in Parks and Land Preservation

PARK COMMISSION
October 8, 2019

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Work Plan for 2019 & 2020
- B. Helen and Howard Tanner Memorial Recommendation
- C. Staffing Update
- D. Wish List
- E. Historical Village Request
- F. MNRTF Scoring updates
- G. Michigan State Park Advisory Board Openings

Work Plan for 2019 Parks

Marketplace:

- Finalize Pavilion
- Bid Playground Equipment
- Bid site Furnishings
- Begin Construction in October

HNC

- Restroom, Pavilion, Bird Overlook out for bid now
- Work toward completing overlook before December 1, 2019.

Central Park

- Reject current bids
- Evaluate Bid Specs
- Re-bid in Dec/January

Site amenities

- Research new and outstanding site furnishings to add to our parks for uniqueness.

Hartrick Park Field Renovation

- Contract Awarded
- Find solution for screening topsoil we received from Okemos High School

Shade Structure for Pickleball Courts at Towner

- Bid new shade structure
- Ron Applegate had donated \$10,000 over the last 2 years

Wind Screen for Pickleball Courts at Towner

- Bid wind screen this fall

Hillbrook Boundary Markers

- Add boundary markers around new donation and signage

Brattin Woods Boundary Markers

- Add boundary markers around new donation and signage

New Park Signs

- Create and order new Park signs to phase in at all parks

Update Wish List

- Update wish list with current needs and volunteer projects

Work Agenda for 2020

Central Park

- Begin and complete construction of Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector
- Begin and complete construction of Gateway walk and restroom building in Historical Village.

Central Park South

- Expand parking lot
- Construct and open large dog park

Marketplace

- Construct and open Marketplace on the Green

Land Acquisition Grant

- Implement land acquisition if grant is awarded

Towner Road Park

- Install wind screens
- Apply for grant to install playground

North Meridian Road Park

- Expand Parking Lot

Harris Nature Center

- Construct pavilion and restroom grant projects



Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Wish List

The business community, non-profit organizations, service groups and individual residents all play a key role in supporting and maintaining the high quality and success of our park system and recreation services. Every effort, whether large or small, contributes significantly to the overall parks and recreation experience. There are a variety of ways to demonstrate your support.

Brattin Woods

- Landscape maintenance
- ❖ Trail maintenance

Central Park

- Splash Pad – (\$400,000)
- Site Furnishings for Marketplace on the Green
- Invasive species removal
- Trash receptacles
- Adopt-a-Trail
- ❖ Renovate overlook at Historic Village pond

Eastgate Park

- Pump track signage
- Adopt-a-Trail
- ❖ Trail surface improvements

Harris Nature Center

- Stackable washer and dryer
- Bird seed, suet, feeders and predator guards
- Funds for taxidermy of animal mounts and study skins
- Scholarship Fund contribution for school class visits
- Exhibit sponsorship
- Harris Nature Center Foundation Contribution

Hillbrook Park

- Nature trail, woodchips
- Invasive species removal

Hartrick Park

- ❖ Trail maintenance

Legg Park

- Road improvements

- Parking lot construction
- Interpretive signage
- Invasive species removal
- ❖ Native landscaping & habitat restoration
- ❖ Footbridges

Marshall Park

- Picnic tables and benches
- Trees
- New play structure
- ❖ Native plants for landscaping

Nancy Moore Park

- Landscape maintenance
- Pavilion
- New Play structure

North Meridian Road Park

- Invasive species removal
- Shade structure near play area
- ❖ Trail surface improvements
- ❖ Boardwalks
- ❖ Landscape maintenance

Orlando Park

- Invasive species removal
- Landscape maintenance

Red Cedar Natural Area

- Invasive species management
- ❖ Trail signage & installation
- ❖ Trail restoration
- ❖ Benches

Snell-Towar Recreation Center

- New roof
- Outdoor patio/awning area

- Half court tennis courts
- Picnic shelter
- Gaga ball

Tacoma Hills Park

- ❖ Remove random yard waste piles
- ❖ Trail Improvements

Ted Black Woods Park

- ❖ Boardwalks
- ❖ Trail surface improvements

Towner Road Park

- Batting cage
- Scoreboards
- Play structures
- Sports sculptures
- Landscaping
- Invasive species management

Wonch Park

- Stone steps/bump outs
- Stream bank improvements
- Fishing dock/canoe launch
- Public art display

Meridian Historical Village

- Covered Wagon
- Kiosks
- Log cabin, install stove pipe
- Farmhouse: repair torn screens, clean out eaves, repaint back porch door and surrounds
- Tollgate House: remove insulation from crawl space, repair split between wall and ceiling on northwest corner

- Schoolhouse: Tether front and back walls by adding a metal rope. Add quarter rounds where missing.
- Brick General Store: Clean out eaves
- Barnes House: Move artifacts from basement of house to the basement of the chapel

On-Going Opportunities

- ❖ Clear fallen trees and branches over trails and from the Red Cedar River from Harris Nature Center to Ferguson/Wonch Parks
- Park clean-up projects in spring and fall
- Financial Contribution for Celebrate Meridian
- Youth Scholarship Fund contribution for recreation programs
- Park Benches - \$1,000
- Memorial Trees - \$750
- Topiaries
- Trail brush/branch trimming
- Year-around trash pick-up
- Park benches along Bicycle/Pedestrian pathway route and on park trails
- Adopt-a-Trail Program
- Grant writing

Special Events for

Volunteers

- Celebrate Meridian
 - Fishing Derbies
 - Halloween Adventures
 - Love a Park Day
 - Earth Day
 - Senior Health and Fitness Day
- ❖ Potential Eagle Scout Projects

For more information contact:

LuAnn Maisner,
 Director
 Parks and Recreation
 517-853-4600
 Maisner@Meridian.mi.us

or

Jane Greenway
 Parks and Land Management
 Coordinator
 517-853-4610
 greenway@meridian.mi.us

updated September 27, 2019

Historical Village Request

LuAnn Maisner

From: BB Brogren <bbbrogren@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 10:49 AM
To: LuAnn Maisner
Cc: Norv Burgett; Patrick Reynolds; john@lorannoils.com; john@lorannoils.com; Renee Tierney; Linda Brogren; Linda McAlvey; Elizabeth Evangelista; John Grettenberger; Elizabeth Bartels; Mary Rhodes
Subject: Fw: Meridian Historical Village Windmill

Good Morning LuAnn,

Following is a response from Miller Windmill Service to fix the village's windmill. Norv has put considerable effort into locating someone that can do this repair. The guy from Portland who has worked on it says it's irreparable and can only be replaced.

This windmill is an important feature of the village's farmstead. Norv's desire is to add a pump rod from the gearbox down to a hand pump in a recirculating tub to show kids how water used to be pumped. I believe this could be added at minimal expense during the rebuilt.

My question to you is, as you've probably anticipated, can the township pay for this? We have spent over \$8000 this year on repairing and painting the Barnes and brick house, repairing the farmhouse roof and miscellaneous maintenance expenses which we will ask reimbursement for.

Thanks for your consideration. Brad

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: DUANE MILLER <Millerswindmill@msn.com>
To: BB Brogren <bbbrogren@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019, 4:02:43 PM EDT
Subject: Re: Meridian Historical Village Windmill

Brad,

Your windmill is an 8' diameter Flint & Walling model #24. Flint & Walling windmills were made in Kendallville, In. and your particular model was made from 1924-1936. I can see from the pictures that the windmill wheel is striking the tower, this is causing the damage to the blades. Typically there is a bearing failure in the gearbox that allows the main shaft to drop down and the wheel to tilt inward at the bottom. This bearing failure then allows the wheel to strike the tower leg. For us to come up to Okemos, take the windmill head down, bring it back to Middlebury, In. and rebuild it as needed then return it and install it back on the tower my estimate would be \$3000-\$3500. Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions.

Thank You

Duane Miller

Miller's Windmill Service 574-825-2877 office 574-612-6143 cell

From: BB Brogren <bbbrogren@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 1:34 PM
To: millerswindmill@msn.com <millerswindmill@msn.com>
Cc: Norv Burgett <roxnor@aol.com>; Patrick Reynolds <patrick.edmond.reynolds@gmail.com>
Subject: Meridian Historical Village Windmill

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
SCORING CRITERIA UPDATE SUMMARY
FOR THE 2020 GRANT CYCLE**



The following information on pages 1 to 2 represents a high-level summary of the scoring criteria review that took place through the Grants Management Section of the Department of Natural Resources from February through August of 2019. Page 3 provides a comparison of the current weighted categories in place for the 2019 application cycle with the revised weighted categories for the 2020 application cycle. Finally, the specific scoring criteria that will be implemented in the 2020 application cycle can be found on pages 4 through 11 & can be compared to the current score sheets in [chapter 4 of the 2019 application guidelines booklet](#).

What –

Review of the scoring criteria, categorical weights & language across recreation grant programs:

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Recreation Passport

Why -

- Confirmation that the scoring criteria continues to support the original intent & objectives of each program
- Ensure clarity & consistent language that overlap the three programs
- Stratification of scoring criteria sections that overlap the three programs
- Individual programs have had scoring changes over time, but never holistically across the three programs at the same time

When –

- Engagement process from February through August 2019
- Looking to make changes for the 2020 application cycle
- Time needed in fall of 2019 to update materials & MiRecGrants (online grant system)
- Potential for later phases (Senate Joint Resolution O ballot issue in 2020)

Who –

Staff & stakeholders included:

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board
- Michigan Recreation & Parks Association
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance
- Heart of the Lakes
- Divisional DNR staff
- National Park Service

How –

Initial staff analysis included:

- Revisit the original intent language in the founding legislation
- Evaluation of 2016 through 2018 scope categories
- Evaluation of 2018 application categories
- Analysis of 2019 customer survey
- Side by side analysis of category weights
- Side by side comparison of category language
- Initial recommendations for categories increasing, decreasing or remaining the same

How –

Stakeholder engagement schedule included:

- April, initial thoughts based upon experience
- May, feedback & suggestions from April's presentation
- June, incorporation of May's feedback

Engagement with the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board included:

- Kickoff presentation & overview of the intended process at the February meeting
- Review of the initial analysis & background information at the April meeting
- Summary of the stakeholder meetings & preliminary recommendations at the June meeting
- Presentation of recommendations at the August meeting

How –

Changes focused on:

- Adjustments in scores, weights & language
- Alignment of scores, weights & language
- Shifting of some scoring categories to application requirements
- Identifying new core criteria categories
- Identifying new MNRTF board priority categories
- Streamlining of application & scoring materials

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Weighted Scoring Criteria Comparison



DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION				
Scoring Criteria Category	Current Pts. for 2019	Current Weight% for 2019	Revised Weight% for 2020	Revised Pts for 2020
NATURAL RESOURCE ACCESS AND CONSERVATION	40	7.69%	12.00%	60
URBAN AREA RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES (PARKS WITHIN URBAN BOUNDARIES AS DEFINED BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU)	40	7.69%	12.00%	60
PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES OF THE MNRTF BOARD	50	9.62%	10.00%	50
APPLICANT MATCH	40	7.69%	9.00%	45
FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE APPLICANT	40	7.69%	8.00%	40
UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN	30	5.77%	7.00%	35
NEW - QUALITY OF OVERALL PARK DESIGN	0	0.00%	6.00%	30
ENTRANCE FEES	30	5.77%	5.00%	25
Program Compliance	10	1.92%	5.00%	25
Sustainable Design	20	3.85%	5.00%	25
Renovation	20	3.85%	5.00%	25
PROPOSED MAINTENANCE	30	5.77%	4.00%	20
Grant Award History	40	7.69%	4.00%	20
Formal Recreation Department	10	1.92%	2.00%	10
Park Visibility	0	0.00%	2.00%	10
Ease of Access	20	3.85%	2.00%	10
PUBLIC SUPPORT	40	7.69%	2.00%	10
Crime Prevention	20	3.85%	0.00%	0
Programming/Marketing	20	3.85%	0.00%	0
Site Plan	20	3.85%	0.00%	0
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SCORING	520	100.00%	100.00%	500

APPLICANT HISTORY (grouped category)
SITE QUALITY (grouped category)
2020 BOARD PRIORITIES
1. Trails
2. Regionally Significant

ACQUISITION APPLICATION				
Scoring Criteria Category	Current Pts. for 2019	Current Weight% for 2019	Revised Weight% for 2020	Revised Pts for 2020
NATURAL RESOURCE ACCESS AND CONSERVATION	80	14.55%	18.00%	90
URBAN AREA RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES (PARKS WITHIN URBAN BOUNDARIES AS DEFINED BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU)	40	7.27%	12.00%	60
PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES OF THE MNRTF BOARD	50	9.09%	10.00%	50
APPLICANT MATCH	60	10.91%	9.00%	45
FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE APPLICANT	40	7.27%	8.00%	40
Conservation or Green Space Planning	20	3.64%	6.00%	30
ENTRANCE FEES	30	5.45%	5.00%	25
Program Compliance	10	1.82%	5.00%	25
PROPOSED MAINTENANCE	30	5.45%	4.00%	20
Grant Award History	40	7.27%	4.00%	20
Ability to get to site	20	3.64%	4.00%	20
Compatability	20	3.64%	4.00%	20
Purchased fee simple	20	3.64%	3.00%	15
LAND OWNERSHIP	10	1.82%	3.00%	15
Formal Recreation Department	10	1.82%	2.00%	10
PUBLIC SUPPORT	40	7.27%	2.00%	10
MOTORIZED RECREATION USE	10	1.82%	1.00%	5
Programming/Marketing	20	3.64%	0.00%	0
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS FOR ACQUISITION APPLICATION SCORING	550	100.00%	100.00%	500

APPLICANT HISTORY (grouped category)
SITE QUALITY (grouped category)
2020 BOARD PRIORITIES
1. Trails
2. Regionally Significant
2. Lake & River Public Access
3. Wildlife Habitat & Hunting Access Part A
4. Wildlife Habitat & Hunting Access Part B
5. Wildlife Habitat & Hunting Access Part C

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
ACQUISITION APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA
FOR THE 2020 GRANT CYCLE**



1. PUBLIC SUPPORT		
A. The application/recreation plan demonstrates that the proposed project is widely supported in the community/region. Also, there is minimal public opposition to the proposed project or applicant is working to address the concerns. Opposition based primarily on the desire to keep the public from the state's natural resources will not be considered. Documentation of support was provided.		10
Maximum Possible Points		10
2. PROPOSED MAINTENANCE		
A. Within the provided maintenance plan and associated materials, the applicant has demonstrated that a <u>combination of</u> long-term dedicated funding (millage, operation & maintenance budget, etc.), existing and permanent fulltime operational staff, multi-year contracts, or a formal endowment exists which relates to continual and on-going care of the proposed improvements.		20
B. Within the provided maintenance plan and associated materials, the applicant has demonstrated at a minimum that <u>one</u> of the following is in place: long-term dedicated funding (millage, operation & maintenance budget, etc.), existing and permanent full-time operational staff, multi-year contracts, or a formal endowment exists which relates to the continual and on-going care of the proposed improvements.		10
C. Only a maintenance plan was provided with <u>no or limited</u> additional details ensuring that the continual and on-going care of the proposed improvements are in place.		0
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)		20
3. SITE QUALITY		
A. Ability to Get to the Site: The park can be directly and safely accessed and is appropriately located for the type of project.		20
B. Compatibility: Site is compatible with its intended purpose. Site is compatible with the proposed site design, if the site is to have developed facilities in the future. Site design is clear and understandable.		20
C. Conservation or Green Space Planning: Proposed project is part of a local or regional plan which focuses on land conservation or green space planning. Documentation has been provided to MNRTF staff.		25
D. Property will be purchased fee simple.		20
Maximum Possible Points (A + B + C + D)		85
4. APPLICANT HISTORY		
A. Applicant has not received an acquisition grant from the recreation grant program in the past 10 years.		20
B. Per capita acquisition grant assistance received by the applicant in the past 10 years is less than the median value awarded to all communities over the past 10 years.		10
C. Per capita acquisition grant assistance received by the applicant in the past 10 years exceeds the median value awarded to all communities over the past 10 years.		0
D. Compliance with Program Procedures: The applicant is in compliance with all requirements at park sites that have been acquired or developed with recreation grant assistance in the past—including signage requirements. Also, the applicant has complied with Department procedures while completing grant-assisted projects (acquisition and development) awarded in the past 6 years. Points will be awarded if the applicant has never received a grant. Issues that are considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA execution (60 days) • PSB and contractor approval (180 days) • Progress reports (every 180 days) 		25

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final reimbursement (90 days after the end of the project period) Recognition plaques are in place at grant-assisted sites Conversions or other significant changes in use at grant-assisted sites Post-completion reports 	
E. Applicant has a formal recreation Department/DNR division or parks committee.	10
F. Conversion History: Applicant has a known unresolved conversion of a grant-assisted site to a use that does not qualify as public outdoor recreation (applies to all grant programs).	-50
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C) + D + E + F	55
5. NATURAL RESOURCE ACCESS AND CONSERVATION	
A. The project will effectively implement the priorities identified in Michigan's Wildlife Action Plan to conserve the most imperiled or rare species and community types, or include Critical Dune Areas, frontage on Great Lakes or their connecting water bodies (Detroit River, St. Mary's River, St. Clair River, or Lake St. Clair), frontage on Designated Natural Rivers, land that is or will become part of a dedicated wilderness, natural area, or Pigeon River Country State Forest.	70
B. The project will conserve or provide direct access to documented high-quality natural communities or resources, rivers, or lakes which are not listed in criteria A.	50
C. The project will conserve or provide direct access to a commonly found natural resources.	30
D. The acquisition and intended use of the property will provide minimal natural resource conservation or access OR no natural resource values were noted in the application materials.	0
E. Project will provide a good quality hunting, fishing, or wildlife viewing opportunity.	20
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C or D) + E	90
6. FINANCIAL NEED OF THE APPLICANT	
A. Lowest one-third median household income	40
B. Middle one-third median household income	20
C. Upper one-third median household income	0
*MHI is based on ACS 5-Year Survey.	
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)	40
7. URBAN AREA RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES (PARKS WITHIN URBAN BOUNDARIES AS DEFINED BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU)	
A. Park is within the political boundaries of a core or inner ring city for a Metropolitan Statistical Area.	60
B. Park is within the urbanized area for a Metropolitan Statistical Area.	45
C. Park is within the urbanized area for a Micropolitan Statistical Area.	30
D. Park is within an urbanized area which doesn't meet the criteria for a Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area, or park is within 15 miles from an urbanized area.	15
E. Park is not within 15 miles of an urbanized area.	0
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C or D)	60

8. APPLICANT MATCH*				
Local Match Percentage*	Top ~2% Median Household Income	Top 1/3rd MHI	Middle 1/3rd MHI	Bottom 1/3rd MHI
0-25%	0	0	0	0
26-29%	0	0	10	15
30-39%	0	10	15	25

40-49%	10	15	25	35
50%+	15	25	35	45
* Only match that is documented and secure is used to score this criterion.				
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS				45
9. ENTRANCE FEES				
A. No planned entrance fee; OR Site will be readily accessible by methods other than the automobile and there will be no entrance fee when using these alternative methods to get to the park (e.g., public transportation, bicycle, walk-in); OR There will be an entrance fee with partial or complete waiver available and the waiver policy is likely to be effective in bringing people with low incomes into the park.				25
B. There will be an entrance fee with partial or full waiver but effectiveness in bringing people with low incomes into the park is questionable; OR Park entrance fee will be waived, reduced, or by-donation-only on a regular basis for all users.				15
C. There will be an entrance fee with no waiver for low-income users.				0
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)				25
10. LAND OWNERSHIP				
A. Project is located in a county that contains 50% or more privately owned land.				15
Maximum Possible Points				15
11. MOTORIZED RECREATION USE				
Maximum Possible Points				5
Maximum Possible Points				5
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS UNDER CORE ACQUISITION CRITERIA 1-11				450

PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES OF THE MNRTF BOARD – ACQUISITION

Listed are the maximum possible points that may be earned under each priority project type. An application may earn points under only one of the priority project types. Factors used to score applications, and their associated points, will be developed and available for review on the evaluation worksheet.

1. TRAILS	
A. Regional land trail/trailhead or documented or designated (state or federal) water trail: Acquisition of land that will be a trail or trailhead which is documented, promoted, and easily identified (signs).	50
B. Local land trail/trailhead or documented water trail: Acquisition of land for a trail or trailhead which is documented but not as promoted or easily identified as A.	30
C. Project will not acquire property for a trail or trailhead.	0
2. REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT	
A. The Department has determined that the project is regionally significant to their prosperity region, the state of Michigan, the Midwest or the country through a combination of their planning processes, diversified partners, and uniqueness and significance of natural resources or recreational opportunities. In addition, the project would provide public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available within a reasonable distance. When viewed in its entirety, the project is likely to significantly affect the quality of life for the regional community and visitors.	50
B. Project is not regionally significant to the prosperity region, the State of Michigan, the Midwest, or the country.	0
3. LAKE AND RIVER PUBLIC ACCESS	
A. Acquisition of land (or permanent public access easement) that includes Great Lakes shoreline that is located in a DNR mapped “gap” area where there is a stretch of shoreline greater than 5 miles without public access. The Great Lakes shoreline gap map is available on the DNR website at:	50

https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79133_85340_85625-373280--,00.html		
B.	Acquisition of land (or permanent public access easement) that includes Great Lakes shoreline that is not located in a mapped “gap” area but increases public access to the Great Lakes shoreline, or land (or permanent public access easement) on an inland lake greater than 100 acres in size, or on a navigable river where there is a stretch greater than 5 miles without public access.	30
C.	Acquisition of land that does not include Great Lakes shoreline, or access to an inland lake greater than 100 acres in size, or on a navigable river.	0
4. WILDLIFE HABITAT AND HUNTING ACCESS		
A. Winter Deeryard Acquisitions		
i.	Acquisition of functioning winter thermal cover (does not require habitat management) within the core a of DNR-identified winter deeryard. Documentation, such as a letter from the DNR or planning document will need to be provided for confirmation of DNR-identified winter deer yard.	50
ii.	Acquisition of lowland within a DNR-identified winter deeryard that requires habitat management to become fully functioning winter thermal cover. Documentation, such as a letter from the DNR or planning document will need to be provided for confirmation of DNR-identified winter deer yard.	30
iii.	Acquisition of uplands immediately adjacent to a DNR-identified winter deeryard, i.e., land containing habitat that supports deer in the deeryard. Documentation, such as a letter from the DNR or planning document will need to be provided for confirmation of DNR-identified winter deer yard.	10
iv.	Acquisition of land that is not a deeryard or does not contain habitat that supports deer in a deeryard.	0
B. Wildlife/Ecological Corridors and Natural Area Buffers		
i.	Corridor - The acquisition provides a connection between at least two existing protected properties sufficient for wildlife passage.	50
ii.	Buffer - The acquisition provides a complete connection on at least one entire side of an existing protected property and documentation was provided.	
iii.	The acquisition provides a connection to at least a portion of an existing protected property significant enough to provide a buffer and documentation was provided.	30
iv.	The acquisition does not provide a corridor, buffer, or a significant connection to an existing protected property, or documentation was not provided.	0
C. Hunting Access		
i.	The acquisition provides a new dedicated hunting area in a location of the state that has been identified as lacking in hunting opportunity acreage per the DNR's Managed Public Land Strategy. Eligible projects will involve 500 or more acres of land in one of the strategy zones OR, if less than 500 acres, are in a strategy zone and located where it is reasonable to conclude that the area can grow to 500+ acres in the future.	50
ii.	The acquisition does not provide a new dedicated hunting area or does not meet eligibility requirements.	0
TOTAL BOARD PRIORITY POINTS		50
TOTAL POSSIBLE CORE + BOARD PRIORITY POINTS		500

**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION SCORING CRITERIA
FOR THE 2020 GRANT CYCLE**



1. PUBLIC SUPPORT		
A. The application/recreation plan demonstrates that the proposed project is widely supported in the community/region and a resolution of support has been approved by the local governing Board. Also, there is minimal public opposition to the proposed project or applicant is working to address the concerns. Opposition based primarily on the desire to keep the public from the state's natural resources will not be considered.	10	
Maximum Possible Points		10
2. PROPOSED MAINTENANCE		
A. Within the provided maintenance plan and associated materials, the applicant has demonstrated that a <u>combination of</u> long-term dedicated funding (millage, operation & maintenance budget, etc.), existing and permanent fulltime operational staff, multi-year contracts, or a formal endowment exists which relates to continual and on-going care of the proposed improvements.	20	
B. Within the provided maintenance plan and associated materials, the applicant has demonstrated at a minimum that <u>one of</u> the following is in place: long-term dedicated funding (millage, operation & maintenance budget, etc.), existing and permanent full-time operational staff, multi-year contracts, or a formal endowment exists which relates to the continual and on-going care of the proposed improvements.	10	
C. Only a maintenance plan was provided with <u>no or limited</u> additional details ensuring that the continual and on-going care of the proposed improvements are in place.	0	
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)		20
3. SITE QUALITY		
A. PARK VISIBILITY		
i. The site is easily recognizable as a public park and is easy to locate or will have adequate directional or identification signage in place.	10	
ii. The site is moderately recognizable as a public park, or the location needs signage improvements to be more easily recognized.	5	
iii. Site is difficult to locate and is difficult to recognize as a public park	0	
PARK VISIBILITY POINTS (i or ii or iii)		
B. EASE OF ACCESS		
i. Ability to get to the site in multiple ways besides an automobile, such as: sidewalks, trail, or public transportation	10	
ii. Ability to get to the site in an additional way besides an automobile	5	
iii. Site can only be accessed by automobile	0	
EASE OF ACCESS POINTS (i or ii or iii)		
C. SUSTAINABLE DESIGN		
i. Significant proposed sustainable design systems or features.	25	
ii. Some proposed sustainable design systems or features	15	
iii. No proposed sustainable design features	0	
SUSTAINABLE DESIGN POINTS (i or ii or iii)		
D. Renovation: Renovation or removal and replacement of an existing outdoor facility that is at least 20 years old with the same type of facility OR renovation of a building or structure that is at least 40 years old. The cost of	25	

the renovation must represent a majority of the total project cost.	
Maximum Possible Points (A + B + C + D)	70
4. QUALITY OF OVERALL PARK DESIGN	
A. Site Plan: Site is compatible with its intended purpose and the site plan is clear and understandable.	10
B. Application clearly describes the proposed and existing facilities at the site. Development is feasible and fully compatible with the size, natural and physical characteristics of the site. Expected traffic flow pattern is safe and convenient, access routes are provided to all facilities, facilities are placed to have the least environmental impact, layout maximizes groundwater infiltration, and the recreation and support facilities do not negatively impact each other.	20
C. Application clearly describes the proposed, existing, and future facilities at the site, including clear site plans. However, there are concerns about expected traffic flow, access to facilities, environmental impacts or the impact facilities will have on each other.	10
D. The application does not clearly describe the proposed, existing, and future facilities at the site or there are strong concerns about the expect traffic flow, access to facilities, environmental impacts or the impact facilities will have on each other.	0
Maximum Possible Points A + (B or C or D)	30
5. APPLICANT HISTORY	
A. Applicant has not received a development grant from the recreation grant program in the past 10 years (MNRTF, LWCF, Recreation Passport).	20
B. Per capita development grant assistance (MNRTF, LWCF, Recreation Passport) received by the applicant in the past 10 years is less than the median value awarded to all communities over the past 10 years.	10
C. Per capita development grant assistance (MNRTF, LWCF, Recreation Passport) received by the applicant in the past 10 years exceeds the median value awarded to all communities over the past 10 years.	0
D. Compliance with Program Procedures: The applicant is in compliance with all requirements at park sites that have been acquired or developed with recreation grant assistance in the past—including signage requirements. Also, the applicant has complied with Department procedures while completing grant-assisted projects (acquisition and development) awarded in the past 6 years. Points will be awarded if the applicant has never received a grant. Issues that are considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA execution (60 days) • PSB and Contractors (180 days) • Progress reports (every 180 days) • Final reimbursement (90 days after the end of the project period) • Recognition plaques are in place at grant-assisted sites • Conversions or other significant changes in use at grant-assisted sites • Post-completion reports 	25
E. Applicant has a formal recreation Department, DNR division or parks committee.	10
F. Conversion History: Applicant has a known unresolved conversion of a grant-assisted site to a use that does not qualify as public outdoor recreation (applies to all grant programs).	-50
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C) + D + E + F	55
6. NATURAL RESOURCE ACCESS AND CONSERVATION	
A. Project provides direct access to the highest quality natural resource-based recreation opportunities such as Critical Dune Areas, frontage on Great Lakes or their connecting water bodies (Detroit River, St. Mary's River, St. Clair River, or Lake St. Clair), frontage on Designated Natural Rivers, land that is or will become part of a dedicated wilderness, natural area, or Pigeon River Country State Forest.	60
B. Project provides direct access to good quality natural resource-based recreation opportunities such as inland lakes, rivers, natural communities or resources.	40

C. Project provides direct access to fair quality natural resource-based recreation opportunities.	20
D. Project will provide minimal natural resource-based recreation opportunities OR no natural resource values were noted in the application materials.	0
E. Project will provide supporting amenities and features of the Natural Resources at the site. Support includes trailheads, parking lots, restroom buildings, or interpretation. If supporting A - 30 points, B - 20 points, C - 10 points.	30
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C or D or E)	60
7. FINANCIAL NEED OF THE APPLICANT	
A. Lowest one-third median household income	40
B. Middle one-third median household income	20
C. Upper one-third median household income	0
MHI is based on ACS 5-Year Survey.	
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)	40

8. URBAN AREA RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES (PARKS WITHIN URBAN BOUNDARIES AS DEFINED BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU)	
A. Park is within the political boundaries of a core or inner ring city for a Metropolitan Statistical Area.	60
B. Park is within the urbanized area for a Metropolitan Statistical Area.	45
C. Park is within the urbanized area for a Micropolitan Statistical Area.	30
D. Park is within an urbanized area which doesn't meet the criteria for a Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area, or park is within 15 miles from an urbanized area.	15
E. Park is not within 15 miles of an urbanized area.	0
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C or D or E)	60

9. APPLICANT MATCH*				
Local Match Percentage*	Top ~2% Median Household Income	Top 1/3 rd MHI	Middle 1/3 rd MHI	Bottom 1/3 rd MHI
0-25%	0	0	0	0
26-29%	0	0	10	15
30-39%	0	10	15	25
40-49%	10	15	25	35
50%+	15	25	35	45

* Only match that is documented and secure is used to score this criterion.	
MAXIMUM POSSIBLE POINTS	45

10. ENTRANCE FEES	
A. No entrance fees; OR Site is readily accessible by methods other than the automobile (applicant must demonstrate this through site records or other means) and there is no entrance fee when using these alternative methods to get to the park (e.g., public transportation, bicycle, walk-in); OR Entrance fees in place with partial or complete waiver available and applicant can demonstrate that the waiver policy is effective in bringing people with low incomes into the park.	25
B. Entrance fees in place with partial or full waiver but effectiveness in bringing people with low incomes into the park is questionable; OR Park entrance fees are waived, reduced, or by-donation-only on a regular basis for all users.	15

C. Entrance fees in place with no waiver for low-income users.	0
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)	25

11. UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN	
A. The applicant obtained a design review from a person with a disability in their community, an organization representing people with disabilities or an advocate for persons with disabilities. Documentation of this review was provided.	10
B. The entire project is designed using the Principals of Universal Design with the intent to provide accessible recreation for all users. These criteria apply to scope items where ADA standards and guidelines apply.	25
C. A majority of the project is designed using the Principals of Universal Design. These criteria apply for scope items where ADA standards and guidelines apply.	15
D. Some of the project is designed using the Principles of Universal Design. These criteria apply for scope items where ADA standards and guidelines apply.	10
E. ADA standards and guidelines do not apply to the scope items OR scope items do not exceed ADA standards.	0
Maximum Possible Points A + (B or C or D or E)	35
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS UNDER CORE DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA 1-11	450

PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES OF THE MNRTF BOARD – DEVELOPMENT

Listed are the maximum possible points that may be earned under each priority project type. An application may earn points under only one of the priority project types. Factors used to score applications, and their associated points, will be developed and available for review on the evaluation worksheet.

1. TRAILS	
A. Regional land trail/trailhead or documented or designated (state or federal) water trail: Development of a trail or trailhead which is documented, promoted, and easily identified (signs).	50
B. Local land trail/trailhead or documented water trail: Development of a trail or trailhead which is documented but not as promoted or easily identified as A.	30
C. Trail amenities: The emphasis and intent of the overall project is focused on supporting amenities for a local or regional trail such as signs, kiosk, pavilions or other trail or trailhead items.	10
D. Trail project does not meet the criteria for A, B, or C	0
2. REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT	
A. The Department has determined that the project is regionally significant to their prosperity region, the state of Michigan, the Midwest or the country through a combination of their planning processes, diversified partners, and uniqueness and significance of natural resources or recreational opportunities. In addition, the project would provide public natural resource based recreational opportunities that are not otherwise available within a reasonable distance. When viewed in its entirety, the project is likely to significantly affect the quality of life for the regional community and visitors.	50
B. Project is not regionally significant to the prosperity region, the State of Michigan, the Midwest, or the country.	0
Total Board Priority Points	50
TOTAL POSSIBLE CORE + BOARD PRIORITY POINTS	500