



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday January 10, 2024 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett MI

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. January 10, 2024
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. November 8, 2023
5. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. New Parks and Recreation Director, Courtney Wisinski
 - B. Board member vacancies: Trustee Courtney Wisinski and Commissioner Kendra Grassesschi will be stepping down.
6. ACTION ITEMS
 - A. 2024 Meeting Resolution
 - B. Election of Officers
 - a. Elect Chair and Vice Chair
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Cornell-Sweetwood Acquisition Post-Acquisition process
8. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. 2023 Annual Report for Stewardship
 - ii. 2024 Land Preservation and Stewardship Goals
 - iii. Update on preservation signage
 - iv. New Land Preservation name signage, brochure and map
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
9. PUBLIC COMMENT
10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at 6 pm at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett Michigan 48840.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board by contacting: Director LuAnn Maisner, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 1000 Wild Ginger Trail, Haslett, MI 48840

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable prime community.





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12. ADJOURNMENT

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Kendra Grassesschi, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay.
ABSENT: Mark Stephens.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Courtney Wisinski.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair hiller called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. November 8, 2023

Board Member Parnell moved to approve the November 8, 2023 Agenda to place on file. Board Member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: unanimous.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. October 11, 2023

Board Member Lee makes a motion to amend the October 11, 2023 minutes to reflect Commissioner Stephens as absent. Board member Fay seconded.

Board member Fay makes a motion to place the October 11, 2023 minutes on file as amended. Wisinski seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. None.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Stewardship Goals for 2024 – Emma do not forget to talk about Floristic surveys, riparian area protections, and leaf litter initiative
 - a. Discussion of the attached 2024 Stewardship Goals and input from board members.
 - i. Board members comments:

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- ii. Prescribed burn program: Have staff check to see if we are able to devote any preservation funds to burns on Township parkland (i.e. Legg Park).
 - 1. Stewardship easements could be an alternative option to establish funds for work in these areas.
 - 2. Severe boundaries need to be set in order to make sure funds are only used in those designated areas.
 - 3. Shared funds between parks and land preservation – both would have to allocate funds toward prescribed burns, or stewardship in parks.
 - iii. Add leaf litter initiative to 2024 goals for both staff and public
 - 1. Come up with a proposal for grounds staff with maps of areas where this is currently an issue; Riverside Cemetery.
 - 2. This initiative works well with the ‘No Dumping’ ordinance.
 - a. Add educational campaigns and ‘no dumping’ signs to goals list.
 - iv. Add individualized management plans for each preserve to 2024 goals
 - 1. Start with priority sites first that receive the most stewardship efforts. This will also include parks that are of high ecological quality and currently stewardship sites (i.e. Legg Park).
 - a. Potentially involve students from Michigan State University; pre-settlement background history for preserves as a foundation for management plans.
 - B. Red Cedar River Pledge; reducing the amount of electric scooters in the Red Cedar River/
Becoming a good community partner to support this initiative.
 - A. Staff is participating in the community wide Red Cedar River cleanup with Michigan Waterways Stewards, Delta Phi Sigma, and Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternities, this Saturday on November 11 at 10 am.
 - B. Staff will continue to work with Michigan Waterways Stewards on river cleanups and initiatives to improve riparian health around the Red Cedar River.
7. REPORTS
- A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. Cornell-Sweetwood Update
 - 1. Purchase agreement is finalized. Final documentation and negotiation is happening between lawyers and real estate agents before the closing.
 - ii. Preserve rule signage: Signage is set to go up in December when work slows down for the parks maintenance crews.
 - iii. Lake Lansing South Preserve Mowing Policy
 - 1. Mowing from neighbors continues on the preserve
 - 2. Stewardship plans will move forward, managing invasive teasel
 - 3. 1442 Haslett Road parcel delineation is still under legal review
 - iv. Lake Lansing North Burn Update
 - 1. The burn was successful and was hot enough to char logs and burn

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most of the leaf litter. About 80% was successfully burned.

b. Staff leaving in December:

- i. LuAnn Maisner (Parks and Recreation Director) and Rebecca Fisher (Assistant Stewardship Coordinator) are leaving at the end of December, 2023. We will miss them both dearly, and we thank them for their hard work at the Township.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi

- a. Commissioner Grassesschi – the last two meetings were cancelled. Please provide any last comments and/or input for the Climate Sustainability Plan. Budget is being finalized for the Green Grant funds. This program has been very successful and is recommended by staff to residents who wish to pursue sustainable initiatives in their community.

C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens

- a. Commissioner Stephens is absent.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Vice Chair Steve Thomas will receive the Volunteer of the Year Award at the November 9, 2023 Township Board meeting.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Grassesschi moves to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Parnell seconded.

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator
Date: January 10, 2024
Re: Election of Officers for 2024

The current Chair/Vice Chair opens floor for nominations of Chair:

- a. A commissioner nominates a member of the Commission.
- b. Another Commissioner seconds the nomination.
- c. The nominee either accepts or declines nomination.
- d. The Chair asks if there are any other nominations, and if there are, then steps a, b and c are repeated.
- e. Once all nominations are offered, the Chair closes the floor to nominations (or a Commissioner can move to close the floor to nominations) and the Chair takes a roll call vote.

The current Chair/Vice Chair opens the floor for nominations of Vice Chair:

- a. A commissioner nominates a member of the Commission.
- b. Another Commissioner seconds the nomination.
- c. The nominee either accepts or declines nomination.
- d. The Chair asks if there are any other nominations, and if there are, then steps a, b and c are repeated.
- e. Once all nominations are offered, the Chair closes the floor to nominations (or a Commissioner can move to close the floor to nominations) and the Chair takes a roll call vote.



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE
2024 LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING RESOLUTION**

At a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 10th day of January 2024 at 6:00 pm, Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution supported by Chair Jamie Hiller:

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board deems the 2024 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board's Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board's Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD ADOPTS ITS REGULAR 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Date</u>		
January 10	Regular Meeting	6 pm
March 13	Regular Meeting	6 pm
April 10	Regular Meeting	6 pm
June 12	Regular Meeting	6 pm
July 10	Regular Meeting	6 pm
August 14	Regular Meeting	6 pm
September 11	Regular Meeting	6 pm
October 9	Regular Meeting	6 pm
November 13	Regular Meeting	6 pm

1. The Land Preservation Advisory Board has set a schedule to meet on the second Wednesday of the month. No meeting will be held for the month of February, May and December, unless one is called by the chairperson.
2. Each of the above meetings shall be held at the specified time in the lunch room of the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, Michigan, (517) 853-4000; with the exception of the joint meeting of the boards and commission which is held in the Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos; unless changed and noticed in accordance with MCL 15.265

3. Special meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
4. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Land Preservation Advisory Board pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
5. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building within ten (10) days after the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year in accordance with the MCL 15.265

ADOPTED: Board Member _____ moved to approve the amended meeting calendar for 2024.
 Board Member _____ seconded.

YEAS:

NAYS:

The resolution passed

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss:
 COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chairperson of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board held on the day of January 10th, 2024.

 Jamie Hiller, Chairperson
 Land Preservation Advisory Board



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator
Date: January 10, 2024
Re: Election of Officers for 2024

Chair opens the floor for nominations for **Chair**.

BOARD MEMBER _____ MOVED, TO NOMINATE _____ AS CHAIR.
BOARD MEMBER _____ SECONDED.

Board member _____ accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nominations for Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

Chair opens the floor for nominations for **Vice Chair**.

BOARD MEMBER _____ MOVED, TO NOMINATE _____ AS VICE CHAIR.
BOARD MEMBER _____ SECONDED.

Board member _____ accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nominations for Vice Chair.

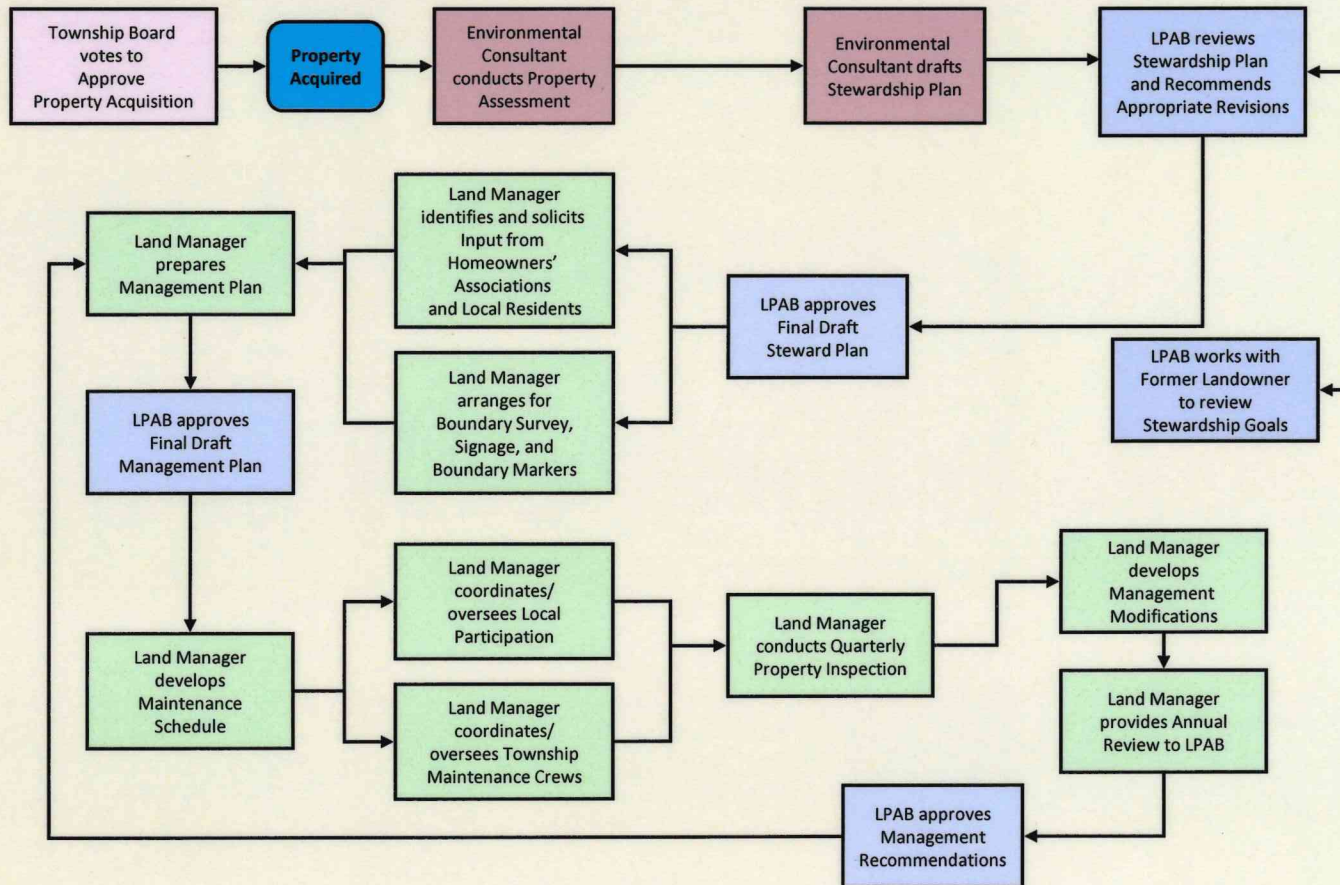
Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

Incorporating Properties Post-Acquisition

In Accordance with Land Preservation Ordinance and Rules of Procedure



Meridian Township

2024 Land Preservation Program Goals



Stewardship Objectives & Management Goals

Implementing land management on an ecosystem level to address the overall environmental health of the Township. Management of priority areas will improve ecosystem health, community health, as well as environmental outreach and education. Program goals are expanding to include homeowner stewardship of nearby wetlands and private property landscaping.

1. Invasive Species Identification, Removal, & Monitoring; Continued expansion of contractual management

- a. **Priority species:** a species focus in necessary when setting management priorities. The following species are difficult to eradicate once established, and spread at a fast rate.
 - i. Woody Species: Oriental bittersweet, common/glossy buckthorn, autumn olive, Japanese barberry
 - ii. Herbaceous Species: Japanese knotweed, phragmites, reed canary grass, Japanese hedge parsley,
 - iii. Other species such as honeysuckles, dame's rocket and garlic mustard are managed mostly during MCC workdays in areas of high quality and diverse native plant species present
- b. **Priority contractual management (current & future):**
 - i. Black locust at Davis Foster Preserve
 - ii. Phragmites at Ted Black Woods, Northridge Preserve, Central Meridian Wetlands, and Davis Foster Preserve
 1. Additional sites for next year and working on a phragmites outreach program to partner with homeowners for more extensive Township management
 2. Japanese & Giant Knotweed treatment at Ponderosa Preserve. Ted Black Woods stands are managed by staff
 3. Invasive management at Ted Black Woods; there are a myriad of new & aggressive invasive plant species invading the Grand River side of this park.
 - iii. Spot spraying invasive species at preserves (larger tracts of area that need management, but staff has limited time to get to)
 1. Tihart Preserve; spot spraying herbaceous and shrubby invasives in the old farm field adjacent to wetlands
 2. Red Cedar Glen Preserve; spot spray prescribed burn site

3. Spot spray/glove herbaceous and shrubby invasives in the remnant wetland at Davis Foster
 4. Lake Lansing North Preserve; sweet woodruff treatment (may be done by staff, considering alternatives for this sensitive site)
 - c. **Preserves currently undergoing active invasive species management include:** Red Cedar Glen, Lake Lansing North, Foster-Crouse, Towar Woods, Lake Lansing South, Southwest Meridian Uplands, Serafine, Sower Woods Preserve, Tihart, Tihart-Cornell Wetlands, Forest Grove, Northridge, Ponderosa, Central Meridian Uplands, Sumbal, & Towar Woods.
 - d. **Parks currently undergoing active invasive species management:** Nancy Moore, Central Park, Hartrick, Red Cedar Natural Area, Legg, Harris Nature Center, Eastgate, Forest Hills, Ted Black Woods, Hillbrook, Sander Farm, Red Cedar Natural Area, Brattin Woods.
- 2. Individualized Management Plans for Preserves**
- a. Master stewardship and management plans exist for the Township to tackle management issues as a whole, as well as management plans for individualized invasive species
 - b. Preserves that receive the most management and have high ecological value will be prioritized first
 - c. Once priority preserves are finalized, the rest of the preserves will receive a plan based on the information currently gathered about the area
 - d. This process will continue into 2025, and plans will continue to be updated as more information is acquired
- 3. Expansion of the Prescribed Burn Management Program**
- a. Spring of 2024
 - i. Davis Foster Preserve; Unit 1 (see attached burn unit map)
 - b. Fall of 2024
 - i. Red Cedar Glen Preserve; 5 acre unit burned in Spring of 2023
 - ii. Legg Park; smaller unit if approved by parks
 - iii. Ted Black Woods Park; smaller unit if approved by parks
 - c. Tihart Preserve; consultation from contractor to determine 'burnability' of this site
 - d. This goal will also help us reach our goal of Invasive Species Management Township-wide.
- 4. Land Preservation Boundary Surveys & Marker Replacement**
- a. Begin the process of updating boundary markers at all preserves
 - b. Currently most preserves lack boundaries due to boundary markers degrading over time
 - c. Replace boundary markers at priority preserves, those that receive encroachment from neighbors
- 5. Planting a Native Meridian Program**
- a. Continue expansion of native plant program and habitat restoration at parks, preserves, and private property
 - b. Install purchased greenhouse structure for transplant storage, seeding and maintenance throughout the growing season

- i. Great volunteer opportunity, as well as propagation opportunities for small amounts of seed
 - c. Continue recruiting volunteers to scout potential seed collection and remnant population sites
- 6. Michigan State University Collaboration**
 - a. Continue partnerships with MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Department research teams, Fisheries and Wildlife Club prairie restoration and seed exchange, macroinvertebrate and turtle research
- 7. Meridian Conservation Corps Website Update**
 - a. Update all material and resources on the MCC website, and add updated pictures
- 8. Update land preservation program brochure and website**
 - a. Update program brochure and website (work with the Communications Department on this).
 - b. Add an educational campaign for no dumping leaves in fall, as well as other yard waste
 - i. Feature on website and post to social media sites
- 9. Continued expansion of educational signage and installment of preserve signage**
 - a. Preserve Rule Signage: continue installation throughout 2024
 - b. Name signage: continue installation throughout 2024
 - c. Wetland Education & Restoration signage: ordinance signage ordered and will be installed 2023-24
 - i. Education signage is developed. Order and install in 2024
 - d. Trail signage for the following:
 - i. No bikes allowed reminder throughout trails
 - ii. Not a trail, sensitive area signage for ecological diverse areas receiving high traffic
 - iii. No foraging/taking of plant/wildlife reminders throughout the trails
 - e. Native plant habitat and restoration signage will be implemented at Township restoration sites, as well as made available to homeowners who are utilizing native plants in their landscaping
 - f. No dumping signage at preserves where encroachment is an issue

MISSION OF THE PROGRAM

- Protect, preserve, and restore Meridian Township's open spaces and natural features
- Establish a reserve fund for perpetual stewardship of these lands
- Enhance and sustain natural habitat and water quality



- Ensure the continuation of a pleasant and livable community that will benefit our residents, visitors and local economy
- Leave an important natural legacy for future generations



MERIDIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

The MCC is a program devoted to increasing community involvement in our parks and preserves. Stewardship activities include invasive species removal, native plant restoration, trash cleanup, and ecological surveys. Join the MCC by filling out the form on the township webpage or email ecampbell@meridian.mi.us.

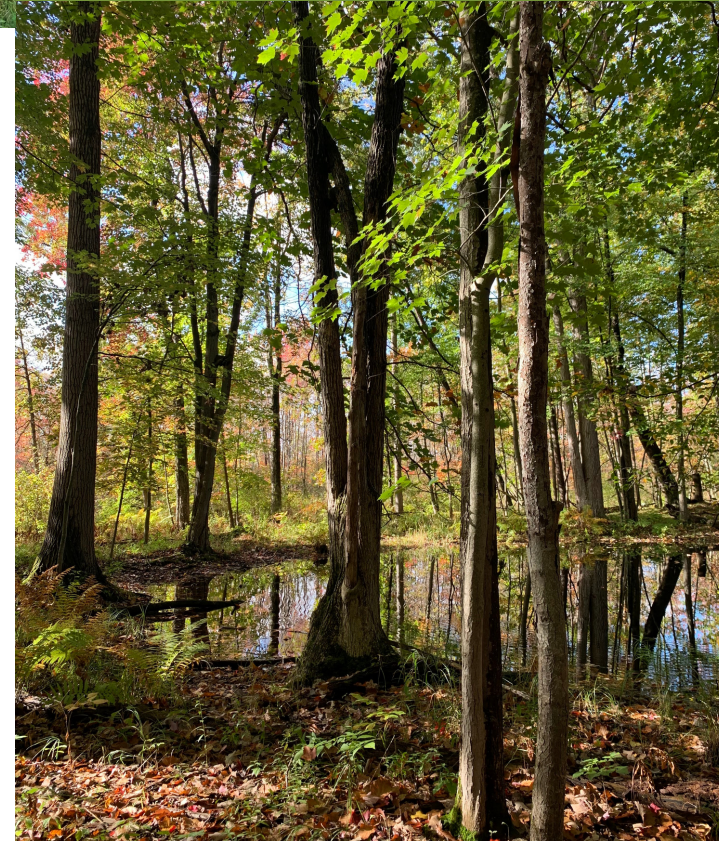
Volunteer programs include:

- Stewardship Saturdays
- Weekday Warriors
- Vernal Pool Patrol
- Planting a Native Meridian



Education programs include:

- Invasive Species Workshops
- Wetland Walks
- Trailside Ecology Hikes



A WALK IN THE WOODS IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL...

LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION
517.853.4600

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

- 950 acres have been preserved to comprise 25 land preserves
- Michigan's first community-funded preserve program
- Designed to permanently protect and restore ecologically valuable natural areas, habitats, and plants
- Recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a national model



LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

The Meridian Township Board of Trustees appointed an 8-member advisory board to oversee the Land Preservation Program. Duties include:

- Identifying and evaluating candidate properties
- Accepting applications for properties referred by landowners
- Advise the Township Board and Planning Commission
- Aid in development of individual preserve stewardship plans
- Providing public education about the land preserve program
- Ensuring resource availability for continual stewardship activities

The Advisory Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:00 pm. Public welcome! Check our website for location, www.meridian.mi.us.

TYPES OF PROPERTIES



WETLANDS



GRASSLANDS



UPLAND FORESTS



FLOODPLAIN FORESTS



PROPERTY ACQUISITION PROCESS

APPLICATION

Property owner or designee submits application to the Township Clerk for forwarding to the Advisory Board.

REVIEW & APPROVAL

The Advisory Board and the Environmental Commission members perform an ecological review of the property. If property is desired, the owner is notified and a real estate appraisal is prepared.

NEGOTIATION

Based upon the appraised value, negotiations for acquisition with the property owner are pursued.

ACCEPTANCE

If an agreement is met, the Advisory Board recommends acceptance and purchase to the Planning Commission and Township Board.

ACQUISITION

The Township Board acts upon the recommendation to acquire the property.



Land Preservation Map

- 1 Davis/Foster Preserve
- 2 Foster-Crouse Preserve
- 3 Hubbel Preserve
- 4 Kuzma Preserve
- 5 Lake Lansing North Preserve
- 6 Newman Equities Preserve
- 7 Towar Woods Preserve
- 8 Pike Crossing Preserve
- 9 Okemos Road Preserve
- 10 Sower Woods Preserve
- 11 Cornell Wetland Preserve
- 12 Heron Creek Preserve
- 13 Sumbal Preserve
- 14 Red Cedar Glen Preserve
- 15 Towner Wetland Preserve
- 16 Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve
- 17 Red Cedar River East Preserve
- 18 Forest Grove Preserve
- 19 Glacial Ridge Preserve
- 20 Tank Wetland
- 21 Tihart Preserve
- 22 Mandenberg Woods
- 23 Ponderosa Preserve
- 24 Serafine Preserve
- 25 Nemoke Preserve

Legend

-  Land Preserves
-  Parks
-  Lakes & Rivers
-  Roads
-  Railroads

