



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
**Land Preservation Advisory Board**  
**Wednesday, January 13, 2016**  
Meridian Service Center  
**6 pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Call Meeting to Order
  - a. Introduction of new board member, Yuman Lee
2. Approve Agenda
3. Public Remarks
4. Approve Minutes (blue)
  - a. December 9, 2015
5. Communications (tan)
6. Old Business
7. New Business (orchid)
  - a. Election of Officers
8. Land Management Report (green)
  - a. 2016 Updated Management Plan
9. Other (pink)
  - a. Joint Meeting with Boards and Commissions; January 12, 2016, 6 pm, Meridian Township Hall
  - b. Property Evaluation Criteria Form
10. Public Comment
11. Announcements
  - a. LPAB Meeting; February 10, 2016, 6 pm, Meridian Service Center
12. Closed Session (separate envelope)
13. Adjournment

Land Preservation Advisory Board  
January 13, 2016

4. MINUTES

- a. December 9, 2015

DRAFT

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2015  
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

Members Present: Roland Harmes, Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Mark Stephens,

Members Absent: Julie Brixie, Robert Rusch, Margo Smith

Staff: Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Kelsey Dillion, Land Stewardship Assistant; Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant II

Others: Timothy Patrick, Karen Forton, Tom Forton, David Kidd, Jim Hewitt, William Morgan, Larry Gerhardt, Tom Valli, Shirley Dutton

Prior to quorum being present, the public offered comment:

Jim Hewitt, Okemos, stated he submitted a letter advocating for consideration for a parcel on the Meridian Township Greenspace Plan. It is a fragile link in the Greenspace Plan that needs to be protected. The parcel is located near the Southwest Meridian Uplands and it would be more visible and accessible than Southwest Meridian Uplands.

Larry Gerhardt, Okemos, asked the Board to acquire of the parcel under consideration. If acquire, this parcel would assist in keeping the ecological, fragile balance in this area and as a business owner, the parcel is not a good buildable area. Since the Land Preservation Millage was established to preserve land, this parcel is a good example of land to be preserved.

Tom Valli, Okemos, stated he submitted a letter of support for preserving the parcel under consideration because it is a buffer between two land uses, would like to see it protected from development, it is environmentally sensitive and the neighborhood supports preservation of the rolling land and water ways in this area. He did state there may be need for some tree restoration.

Bill Morgan, Okemos, asked for the parcel to be considered. It is an overlooked area but is close to another preserved area. It has diverse woodland in both wet and dry areas, has open unwooded area, is in the floodplain, has diverse wildlife and is a wonderful buffer between the two zoning areas.

David Kidd, Okemos, stated he supports everything the other speakers stated. He is an amateur naturalist and is very interested in preserving this area. He reported recent homeowner purchasers stated they moved into this area because it is a quiet and has the natural area.

Timothy Patrick, Okemos, spoke in support of acquiring the parcel under consideration. He has lived in this area of the Township for 16 years and one of his reasons for purchasing is this natural area which is aesthetically pleasing and a gem. This land mass fits into this space, love seeing the wildlife and does not want it compromised.

Karen Forten, Okemos, stated they have lived in the area for 30 years. Their sons grew up exploring the parcel under consideration and love to watch the neighborhood children still exploring the area. It is a gem and is a great opportunity to enjoy nature and wildlife exploration and needs to be preserved for many years to come.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 6:28 pm and apologized for being so late.

2. Approve Agenda

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

Chair Kielbaso stated the previous public remarks will be considered part of the meeting minutes.

David Kidd, Okemos, stated the neighborhood is interested in preservation of this area and will volunteer to assist with preservation opportunities and activities and provide vegetation to enhance the property lines if the parcel is acquired.

Brianna Chamberlain, Okemos, support in support of preserving the wildlife and volunteers to assist with preservation opportunities.

Board Member Hatfield spoke about having a parcel owned privately versus publicly, that there is already dumping on this parcel and there may be more cars and visitors than what their neighborhood is used to, that would need to be addressed and appreciated knowing there are volunteers who want to assist with preservation opportunities.

When asked the rules about publicly owned land, Coordinator Greenway replied the area is open dawn to dusk, there is no dumping, and followings the same



rules as other preserves and parks in the Township and would include identification as a publicly owned parcel.

When asked about providing fencing along the railroad tracks, Coordinator Greenway replied the Township has not fenced along tracks in the other preserves.

When asked about signage, Coordinator Greenway replied a sign such as the one across the street would be installed.

Tom Valli stated there are not many visitors to the Southwest Meridian Uplands and some of the issues there have been cleaned up. If this parcel is acquired, it would be watch by the neighbors and understandings about the dumping and reported the owner did not have a problem with it.

4. Approve Minutes

a. November 4, 2015

- Page 1, change the meeting location to the Service Center
- Page 7, item #11, have the last sentence end at "Southwest Meridian Uplands site." and remove the remaining portion stated.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 4, 2015 MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

- To: LPAB; RE: Garlic Mustard
- From: Leslie Kuhn, To: LPAB; RE: The prairie project at Southwest Meridian Uplands/Sturk Land Preserve
- To: LPAB; RE: Update on Southwest Meridian Uplands/Sturk Land Preserve
- To: Township Board; RE: Recommendations to the Land Preservation Advisory Board
- To: LPAB; 2016 Stewardship Network Conference Attendance (Margo Smith, Jane Greenway, Kelsey Dillon attending; asked other Board Members to contact staff if interested in attending)
- To: LPAB; RE: Volunteer Event Saturday, December 5 at Towar Woods
- To: Leslie Kuhn; RE: The Stewardship Network

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Presentations

None

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

None

10. Land Management Report

Coordinator Greenway offered the following report:

- a. 2016 Management Plan
  - An updated 2016 Management Plan will be provided at the January 13, 2016 LPAB meeting
- b. 2015 Management Summary
  - Provided for your information
- c. 2016 Joint Meeting
  - January 12, 2016 at 6 pm in Town Hall Room
  - Staff is preparing a summary of 2015 activity and plan for 2016; will be emailing out for review by Board Members and asked to have any information changes to send back to staff before January 12
  - Copy of invitation distributed at meeting and emailed to Board Members
- d. Towar Woods Preserve, Management Update – Land Stewardship Assistant Dillon reported:
  - 11/5/2015: Towar Woods Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, and Autumn Olive Removal 9AM-12PM (3 hours): Volunteers (Dave Caszatt, Sandy Davis, and Don Dickman) moved throughout the property with two backpack sprayers and two markers (spray paint) treating Buckthorn, Autumn Olive, and Honeysuckle. Large and small plants were targeted especially around valuable hardwood saplings.
- e. Southwest Land Preserve/Sturk
  - Met with Vern Stephens to discuss the planting timeline (emailed to LPAB members)
  - Assessment of forest and floodplain area
    - ✓ Woody invasive will be easy to treat, reed canary grass infestation plan will take time to develop
- f. Mary Helmbrecht Pollinator Garden – Historical Village
  - Canada Thistle in plot treated with herbicide

- Planted all 400+ native plugs in the new garden and filled in areas of the existing garden
    - New area measured 13 ft x 20 ft
  - Students rotated stations between planting the garden, fishing exercise with Mark Stephens, a tour of the historical village, and a recreational program with Mike Devlin
  - Sign was modified and ordered – Question was raised about the flower being used on the sign and need to include and acknowledge the Grand Learning Network for their contributions.
- g. Davis/Foster Preserve
- Black locust treatment plan
  - Will prepare prescribed burn plans over the winter for a spring 2016 burn
- h. Deer Management Update
- 29 deer harvested
- i. Sylvan Glen
- The wildflower mix came up in the Spring but the deer ate it
- j. Communication Videos
- Will have Land Stewardship Assistant Dillon work on a list of topics and upcoming events and will work with promotional staff; if Board Member has an idea or topic, please email to staff
11. Other
- a. Joint Meeting with Boards and Commissions; January 12, 2016, 6 pm, Meridian Township Hall, attendance
- Coordinator Greenway reminded members to call or email Carol Hasse if attending.
- b. 2015 Summary
- Coordinator Greenway reported she will be preparing a summary of 2015 activity and plan for 2016. She will be emailing out for review by Board Members and asked to have any information changes to send back to staff by January 11
12. Public Comment
- None

13. Announcements

- a. LPAB Meeting; January 13, 2016, 6 pm, Meridian Service Center
- b. Agenda items for the January meeting include:
  - Election of officers
  - Joint Meeting with Park Commission, Environmental Commission & LPAB

Board Member Stephens reported an email went out to the current chairs with the suggestion of getting together in January to discuss an agenda and schedule the meeting for February.

Chair Kielbaso reported the Environmental Commission discussed this topic at their last meeting and one of the topics is the Michigan National Features Inventory. Associate Planner Harmony Gmazel is creating a map with an overlay of the green spaces, land preserves, parks, etc. From this map, you will be able to see where everything fits and then evaluate what is the next action step would be (more acquisition, stewardship, trail evaluation, desired links, education, etc.) Chair Kielbaso suggested the joint meeting be scheduled after the map has been completed by staff.

- Updated Management Plan for 2016

14. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES.

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Roland Harmes, Mark Stephens, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes

NAYS: None

The meeting went into closed session at 6:25 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Roland Harmes, Mark Stephens, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes

NAYS: None

The meeting returned to open session at 8:07 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES  
SECONDED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS DISCUSSED  
DURING CLOSED SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Roland Harmes, Mark Stephens, James Kielbaso, Jon  
Mayes

NAYS: None

15. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES  
SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Land Preservation Advisory Board  
January 13, 2016

5. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Advisory Board Member List Updated
- 2016 Board Meeting Calendar
- Press Release; Meridian Land Preserve & Local Scouts Prepare Their Defense Against Deer
- 12-17-15 update from Land Stewardship Intern Dillon

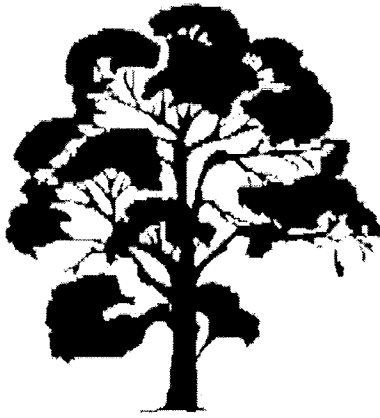
Charter Township of Meridian  
Land Preservation Advisory Board  
2016

Name	Contact Information	End Date
Julie Brixie, Treasurer Township Board Representative 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864	Office: 517-853-4144 Email: <a href="mailto:brixie@meridian.mi.us">brixie@meridian.mi.us</a>	11/20/2016
Roland Harmes Jr, Resident Member 5120 Cornell Road Okemos MI 48864	Home: 517-881-2068 Email: <a href="mailto:harmesr@aol.com">harmesr@aol.com</a>	12/31/2019
Frank Hatfield, Resident Member 1578 Sylvan Glen Okemos MI 48864	Home: 517-349-4779 Email: <a href="mailto:hatfield@egr.msu.edu">hatfield@egr.msu.edu</a>	12/31/2016
Jim Kielbaso Environmental Commission Representative 4696 Huron Hill, Okemos MI 48864	Home: 517-349-2095 Email: <a href="mailto:kielbas3@msu.edu">kielbas3@msu.edu</a> Cell: 517-896-8907	12/31/2014
Jon Mayes, Resident Member 2099 Ashland Avenue Okemos MI 48864	Home: 517-347-7765 Email: <a href="mailto:itmayer@sbcglobal.net">itmayer@sbcglobal.net</a>	12/31/20119
Yuman Lee, Resident Member 3559 E Hiawatha Drive Okemos MI 48864	Cell: 517-449-7900 Email: <a href="mailto:leeyum@msu.edu">leeyum@msu.edu</a>	12/31/2019
Margo Smith, Resident Member 5375 Wild Oak Drive East Lansing MI 48823	Home: 517-881-2836 Email: <a href="mailto:smithmk@msu.edu">smithmk@msu.edu</a>	12/31/2018
Mark Stephens Park Commission Representative 1710 Haslett Road, Haslett MI 48840	Home: 517-339-0159 Email: <a href="mailto:steph143@msu.edu">steph143@msu.edu</a> Cell: 517-614-4474 / Work: 517-432-2700	12/31/2016

**STAFF**

Jane Greenway  
Parks and Land Management Coordinator  
Kelsey Dillon, Land Stewardship Assistant  
Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant  
Meridian Service Center (Nancy Moore Park)  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett MI 48840

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Email: [greenway@meridian.mi.us](mailto:greenway@meridian.mi.us)  
Office: 517-853-4600 / [Dillon@meridian.mi.us](mailto:Dillon@meridian.mi.us)  
Office: 517-853-4608 / [Faust@meridian.mi.us](mailto:Faust@meridian.mi.us)



## Land Preservation Advisory Board 2016 Meeting Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 13	Service Center	6 p.m.
February 10	Service Center	6 p.m.
March 9	Service Center	6 p.m.
April 13	Service Center	6 p.m.
May 11	Service Center	6 p.m.
June 8	Service Center	6 p.m.
July 13	Service Center	6 p.m.
August 10	Service Center	6 p.m.
September 14	Service Center	6 p.m.
October 12	Service Center	6 p.m.
November 9	Service Center	6 p.m.
December 14	Service Center	6 p.m.



# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



Milton L. Scales  
Ronald J. Styka  
John Veenstra  
Angela Wilson

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2016

**Media Contact:** Kelsey Dillon  
Stewardship Assistant  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
[dillon@meridian.mi.us](mailto:dillon@meridian.mi.us) / 517. 853.4600

## **Meridian Land Preserve & Local Scouts Prepare Their Defense Against Deer** *Local Scouting Groups Assist with Land Stewardship*

**Meridian Township, MI** — Two local scout troops (Haslett Cub Scout Troop 265 and Okemos Boy Scout Troop 109) spent a recent Saturday participating in a volunteer project that was a bit different than what they are used to. Their volunteer project included spraying blood on newly planted trees in Towar Woods, a 125-acre land preserve in Meridian Township. The product is Plantskydd, which is an organic chemical-free product that helps protect plants from deer and rodents for up to six months. Other sections of the newly planted trees have been protected by fencing or tree tubes. "I loved seeing the kids' enthusiasm out in the field and both troops went above and beyond to ensure every tree was protected," said Kelsey Dillon, Stewardship Assistant. "I'm excited to see so much interest from the community for these volunteer projects in the parks and preserves. We will continue to coordinate stewardship efforts to strengthen these connections."

Towar Woods is a 125-acre natural area in the northwest portion of the Township. It offers beautiful natural trails for hiking or cross country skiing. Recent land management efforts have included the restoration of a portion of the woods that was formerly overrun with invasive buckthorn, autumn olive, and honeysuckle. David Caszatt, a neighbor of the preserve and former member of the Land Preservation Advisory Board, has been leading the charge to conduct multiple volunteer events throughout the year improving this beautiful natural area. Volunteers have planted hundreds of trees, installed deer fencing, cleaned up trash, and conducted invasive species removal.

The public is welcome (and encouraged!) to visit any of the land preserves throughout Meridian Township from dawn to dusk. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Kelsey Dillon at the parks and recreation department by email, [dillon@meridian.mi.us](mailto:dillon@meridian.mi.us), or phone, 517-853-4600. You can also keep track of volunteer events in the community by joining the Meridian Parks Volunteer Connection Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1676277579259237>.

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 517.853.4000  
[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)



## Kelsey Dillon

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**From:** Kelsey Dillon  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 17, 2015 9:09 AM  
**To:** 'kielbas3@anr.msu.edu'; 'steph143@msu.edu'; Julie Brixie; 'jtmayes@sbcglobal.net'; 'Margo.Smith@chm.msu.edu'; 'harmesr@aol.com'; 'hatfield@egr.msu.edu'  
**Cc:** Jane Greenway; Robin Faust  
**Subject:** LPAB Update 12-17-15

Dear LPAB Members,

I'm writing to give an update of what I've been up to since the LPAB meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Dave Caszatt and I had a great day treating Buckthorn and Honeysuckle out in Towar woods on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. Since the weather was so nice we worked 6 hours using a basal bark herbicide treatment and covered a lot of ground in the valuable forest area as well as near the swamp oak planting sight. We also used the Plantskydd product around the perimeter of the deer enclosure to hopefully keep rabbits out of there this winter. I have about ½ a box of Plantskydd left, so if anyone knows of any plants in the preserves that need protected just let me know and I'll get out and treat them before the real cold weather sets in.

On Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> I was able to get out in the field with Katherine Neils and Jim Hewitt in order to treat the Black Locust trees in the Davis Foster Preserve prairie. I emailed Vern Stephens as Mark had suggested in the meeting and he recommended adding 2 ounces of Milestone to every gallon of the Michigan Blend herbicide I ordered for this treatment. I did just that and we were able to basal bark and cut stump treat all of the Black Locust saplings in the prairie (~100 trees). I have high hopes for completely eradicating the Black Locust in the prairie, but at some point we need to discuss the mature trees in the forest that are responsible for the saplings (I will add this into the management plan for discussion). Also Katherine Neils was a huge help and had a lot of great knowledge about invasive plant treatment from her time volunteering with the DNR. She said to count her in on future projects at Davis Foster and other preserves, so I'm very excited to have made that connection with her.

Finally, I met with Jim Hewitt in the Sturk/SW Meridian Upland preserve on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss ideas for the preserve management plan. We walked the entire preserve and noted any areas to prioritize for invasive species treatment. We mainly focused on woody invasive species removal since that can be done throughout the winter (especially if it remains this mild). We decided the best place to start is to "open up" views from the main two-track path by removing Autumn Olive and Buckthorn blocking visitors from seeing the forest and wetland areas. These populations are satellite infestations that will be relatively easy to control. Another area to prioritize is the forest in the eastern part of the preserve that contains many mature, native trees and where the woody invasives have not yet established a large population (also very viewable from the main two track path). We also discussed areas where paths could be created to give guests easier access to currently inaccessible areas of the preserve. I will continue to develop this plan with maps, photos and explanations for the January meeting. Jim Hewitt has also volunteered to get out there with me in order to treat the woody invasives throughout the winter which will be a huge help.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday!  
Kelsey Dillon

--  
Land Stewardship Assistant  
Meridian Township Parks and Recreation  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court  
Haslett, MI 48840  
Phone 517-853-4600

Land Preservation Advisory Board  
January 13, 2016

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Election of Officers for 2016

# MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP



TO: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members

FROM: Jane Greenway  
Land Management Coordinator

DATE: January 8, 2016

RE: Procedure to Elect Officers

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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.

**Sample motion wording:**

Chair opens the floor for nominations for Chair.

COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ MOVED, TO NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_ AS CHAIR.  
COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED.

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

The motion .....

Chair opens the floor for nomination for Vice Chair.

COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ MOVED, TO NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_ AS VICE CHAIR.  
COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED.

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

The motion ....

Chair opens the floor for nominations

COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ MOVED, TO NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_ AS CHAIR AND  
\_\_\_\_\_ AS VICE CHAIR. COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED.

Commissioners \_\_\_\_\_ accept the nominations.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closes the floor to nominations.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

The motion ....

Land Preservation Advisory Board  
January 13, 2016

8. LAND MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR  
AND LAND STEWARDSHIP  
ASSISTANT REPORT

**Stewardship Assistant Report for Kelsey Dillon  
Monthly Accomplishments and Updates – December 2015**

11/29-12/5

- Meeting in Towar Woods with Dave C. discussing the upcoming volunteer event
  - Include a trash pick-up and trail clearing to keep all scouts busy
- Responded to both scout groups about Saturday's volunteer event
  - Forwarded this email to LPAB members
- Created a list of supplies needed for the volunteer event
- Contacted Vern Stephens about visiting his nursery and returning supplies (also ID lesson)
- Contacted Katherine Neils about black locust in Davis Foster prairie
- Met with Steve Thomas Friday at 11am to talk about Sower Woods volunteerism
  - How to recruit more volunteers to help with stewardship in Sower woods
- Site visit with the LPAB for potential acquisition
  - Noted same Reed canary grass infestation as with the STURK property
- Piece of metal at Sturk has been removed, trees taken care of, cattle gate set to be fixed
- Towar Woods Plantskydd application, trail clearing, and trash pickup with Cub scouts
  - Two Cub Scout troops volunteered in Towar Woods on Saturday. The first group consisted of 12, 7 year olds with parents (group of 24) and they started from 10am-11am with a trash pick-up led by Dave C. They finished the project from 11am-12pm with the Plantskydd application. The second group arrived at 12:30pm and conducted the Plantskydd application until 2:30pm. This group had 10 troops (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and two troop leaders. Both troops are interested in future projects with the township.

12/6-12/12

- Set up time to spray black locust at Davis Foster
  - Next Tuesday December 15<sup>th</sup> with Katherine Neils
- Wrote up a press release and organized photos from the scout volunteer project
  - Saved in folder
  - (printed out and in packet)
- LPAB meeting 12-9-15
  - Discussed accomplishments since last board meeting and future goals
  - Land management plan for January's meeting
- Emailed Jim Hewitt to set up a meeting in the SW Meridian Upland preserve
  - We will discuss stewardship priorities on the preserve, the best way to get volunteers out in the field,
- Emailed Vern Stephens about chemical recommendation for treating the black locust seedlings in the Davis Foster prairie
  - Add 2 oz. of Milestone to the Michigan Blend herbicide for legumes
- Started work on Management Plan for 2016

- Successful volunteer day treating woody invasive species (mainly buckthorn but a few honeysuckle and autumn olive as well) using a basal bark in Towar woods with Dave C.
  - 9am-1:30pm
  - Treated buckthorn and honeysuckle along trail behind Castle Pointe Apartments and around the tree planting area
  - Flagged pine trees that were missing one (~25)
  - Sprayed Plantskydd on the pine trees that were not protected by the scouts during the December 5<sup>th</sup> volunteer event
  - Used Plantskydd to create a scent barrier around the deer proof enclosure to keep out rodents over the winter

12/13-12/19

- Created signage specific for Davis Foster about keeping pets on leash and picking up after them
  - In response to complaint by Katherine Neils about the amount of dog poop on the trails  
(printed out and in packet)
- Mixture of herbicide recommended for Black Locust (from Vern Stephens)
  - 2 ounces of Milestone added to every gallon of the Michigan Blend Herbicide
  - Michigan Blend contains Garlon 4 Ultra, dye, and penetrating oil
- Treatment of Black Locust at Davis Foster Preserve with Jim Hewitt and Katherine Neils
  - Treated all black locust seedlings in the prairie in 2 hours
  - Smaller ones = cut stump treatment
  - Larger ones (over 3 in dbh) basal bark treatment
  - Discuss future plans for taking out the large grandparent trees
- Management plan meeting at STURK with Jim Hewitt
  - Written up notes and sent to LPAB members (printed out and in packet)
- Create Sturk Management plan
  - Add on to 2016 management plan specific to the Sturk property
  - Add maps and photos to show the areas of invasive species removal
  - (printed out and in packet)
- Starting with GIS work
  - Want to create easily accessible maps for each preserve on GIS for the department
    - Had to put in a work order for fixing the file paths

12/20-12/26

- \*\*Only worked on Tuesday, December 22
- Continue work on the 2016 land preservation management plan for the January meeting
  - Completed planned activities from March-September
- Started work on the interpretive sign recommendations for the preserves
  - Tree ID plaques and invasive ID posters for common plants in all preserves
  - (printed out and in packet)
- Equipment cleaning
  - Plantskydd supplies cleaned and organized



- Herbicide organization in locked cabinet

01/03-01/09

- Worked on the Proposed Management and Opinion of Cost Budget Spreadsheet
  - Determining 2016 budget proposals and accomplishments of 2015
  - (printed out and in packet)
- Forest Grove and Northridge Land Preservation Sign installation complete by Maintenance Dept.
  - Installed on 12/31/15, permits filed
  - Map created of the location for board meeting
  - (printed out and in packet)
- Finalized Press Release for boy scout work day
  - Sent to HomTV, copy in LPAB meeting packet for January
- Worked on Quarterly Parks and Recreation Report for October – December
- Completed 2016 Land Preservation Management Plan
  - (printed out and in packet)

## Land Preservation Management Plan 2016

### January – Stewardship Awareness Month

- HomTV media blitz about the importance of Stewardship in Meridian Township
  - Raise awareness about the natural areas
  - Rally citizens to join the Facebook group and fill out volunteer form
  - Get people excited for the large community volunteer events in the coming year
- Plan ahead for the upcoming season's work
  - Order seed, equipment, plants, trees, etc.
  - Search for grants and funding opportunities (Hardwood Forestry Fund for Spring 2017)
- Create better AcrGIS files for easy access in the parks dept. (W)
  - Map different ecosystems within the parks and land preserves (wetlands, forests, prairies, etc.)
  - This is a vital tool for land preservation for multiple reasons
    - Updated acreage of ecosystems
    - Easy to send for grants
- Mid-Michigan Stewardship Network Conference
- Signage in Land Preserves
  - Both the Land Preservation Signs and Rules Signs

### February – Volunteerism Month

- Update signage in land preserves
  - Trail markers, info signs, plant/tree ID plaques, etc.
  - Signage about invasive species and how to help control them
- Create a Newsletter similar to Ann Arbor's Land Preservation Program to send out to citizens
  - Keeps people interested in the land preservation program
  - Creates a buzz about land preservation to gain new volunteers
- Create a Land Preservation Section of the Meridian Township Website under Parks and Recreation
  - Highlight volunteer groups and keep schedule of set volunteers events here
- Volunteer coordination improvements
  - Go through all volunteer lists from previous years in order to compile comprehensive volunteer database for each project

### March – Garlic Mustard Month

- As soon as snow melts get up and running with treatments of invasive species throughout land preserves and parks (basal bark spray of woody invasives)
- Garlic Mustard pulls are an easy way to engage large groups of volunteers
  - Organize several workdays near the end of March

- Garlic Mustard is easy for citizens to spot in the early spring because it is often the only green herbaceous plant
- Davis Foster Preserve Burn 2016
  - Burn prep, media contacts, notifications to neighbors
- Assess tree seedlings at the Towar Woods Preserve
  - Did the Plantskydd protect these seedlings over the winter?
- Help Steve Thomas to recruit volunteers for the upcoming season of stewardship volunteer projects (mainly hand pulling of herbaceous invasives) in Sower Woods

#### **April – Prescribed Burning and Prairie Information Month / Tree Planting Month**

- Weather dependent burn could take place in April instead of March
- Use photos and/or video of the burn to educate the community about the importance of burning prairies
- Highlight some of the grassland bird species that nest at the Davis Foster Preserve
  - Henslow's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Horned Lark
- Garlic mustard/Dame's rocket spraying when temperature allows (above 52 F)
- Continue basal bark treatments of woody invasive species
- Tree planting of 120 deciduous trees in Towar Woods Preserve
  - Get a lot of volunteer groups involved that can successfully plant the trees
- Control spotted knapweed, Canada thistle, and common mullein in SW Meridian Uplands
- Design and order the signage for the Davis Foster Prairie

#### **May – Spring Wildflowers and their Pollinators**

- Start looking into Monarch Butterfly rearing through Monarch Watch
- Contact Haslett Public Schools about continuation of Pollinator buffer plantings
- Continue treatment of invasive species mentioned in previous month's sections
- I'd like to maybe get something going with beekeepers associations
  - Bee awareness and how citizens can support bees
- Continue large volunteer Garlic Mustard pulls
  - Can do this in association with Mid-Michigan Stewardship Network
- Investigate possibility of flooding the reed canary grass at Sturk over the summer
  - Speak with drain commissioner
  - Need second opinions on this plan from mnfi, mid mich stewardship network, etc.

#### **June & July**

- Herbaceous Invasive Species Control
  - Continue garlic mustard pulls and herbicide treatments
  - Japanese knotweed control
    - Keep an eye out for the hybrid (possibly some behind new fire station)
  - Sweet Coltsfoot in Ted Black woods

- Trail mapping in the preserves to create brochures similar to park brochures
  - Highlight plants in bloom, animals that are active, etc.
  - Include Invasive Species Most Unwanted posters
- Initiatives to get people out into the preserves (Summer Preserve Days?)
  - Lead interpretive hikes to highlight the preserves and show people where the trails and access points to the preserves are
  - Contact neighbors around each preserve for these hikes
  - This will get people invested in the preserves and build a larger volunteer base
- Monitoring the prairie planting of grasses at Sturk Preserve with Vern Stephens
- Install the Tree ID Plaques throughout the preserves

### **August –Monarchs and Floral Seeds**

- Monarch Migration Awareness
  - Hopefully be able to tag Monarchs for release
  - What citizens can do to help the Monarch along its migration route
- Seed collection
  - Seed collection is an easy and cost efficient way to propagate native, valuable species in the township
  - Seed collections are easy to do and a great way to get kids involved in land preservation
  - Need to designate an area for seed storage, possibly the barn at Davis Foster
  - Use a paper shredder without the blade to separate seed from seed heads once dry
  - Develop a schedule of when certain flowers are producing seed
    - Mostly use these opportunities to train volunteers so they can collect the seed in their own time and drop it off to us
- Phragmites control along inter urban pathway and throughout preserves
  - Need permits for this where there is standing water
  - Need aquatic pesticide certification
  - Coordinate with the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Network

### **September**

- Revisit idea of herbicide treatment for the large, mature Black Locust trees at the Davis Foster Preserve
  - Keep an eye out in the prairie for any young seedlings
  - Jim Hewitt recommends girdling herbicide treatment
- Giving school children tours in the preserves as field trips (contact teachers in late August)
  - Informative field trips for groups of school kids, scouts, etc. to get them out in nature
  - Create lesson plans for stewardship topics throughout the preserves
- Possible broadcast hand seeding of forbs into the prairie at the Sturk property
  - Determined by Vern Stephens
  - Could be a good volunteer project
- Continue seed collection by citizens

## **October**

- Continue the treatment of woody invasives throughout the preserves
- Continue seed collection by citizen volunteers
- Continue treatment of herbaceous invasives throughout the preserves
- Make sure Rule signs have been installed throughout all of the preserves
  - Do this throughout the year, work orders

## **November**

- Continue the treatment of woody invasives throughout the preserves
- HOMTV Topic about Yard Waste dumping
  - Why not to do this and how it can lead to the spread of exotic species

## **December**

- Continue the treatment of woody invasives throughout the preserves
- HOMTV Topic about Wildlife Management by citizens
  - What not to do in the parks and preserves with wildlife (feeding, harassing, etc.)
  - Pets and wildlife living alongside each other
  - Highlight the deer management program

Meridian Township Land Preservation - 2015									
Proposed Management Activities & Opinion of Cost									
		QUANTITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>1 Land Preservation Signs</b>									
Davis/Foster	1 large					\$2,000			
Foster Crouse									
Hubbel	1 small	\$1,000				\$1,000			
Kuzma									
Lake Lansing North									
Newman Equities									
Towar Woods	3 small	\$2,000		\$1,000					
Lake Lansing South (Potter)									
Central Meridian Uplands	1 large, 1 small		\$2,000	\$1,000					
Sower Woods									
Tihart/Cornell Wetland	1 large					\$2,000			
Southwest Meridian Uplands	3 small	\$3,000							
Sumbal									
Red Cedar Glen									
Towner Road Wetland	1 large, 1 small					\$3,000			
Meridian Central Wetlands	2 small		\$2,000						
Red Cedar River East	1 large, 1 small					\$3,000			
Northridge	1 small		\$1,000						
Forest Grove	2 large		\$4,000						
	Subtotal =	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$2,000	\$11,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<b>2 Property Boundary Marker Posts &amp; Installation</b>									
Southwest Meridian Uplands		\$6,900							
Meridian Central Wetland		\$2,500							
Red Cedar River East						\$4,000			
Northridge				\$4,000					
Forest Grove				\$5,500					

	QUANTITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Lake Lansing North			\$10,000					
Subtotal =		\$9,400	\$10,000	\$9,500	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$0
<b>3 Boundary Surveys</b>								
Southwest Meridian Uplands		\$6,100						
Lake Lansing North					\$8,000			
Red Cedar River East			\$4,000					
Northridge			\$4,000					
Forest Grove			\$4,000					
Subtotal =		\$6,100	\$12,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>4 Interpretive Signage/Trailheads</b>								
Davis/Foster - east side	1				\$15,050			
Foster Crouse					\$50			
Hubbel					\$50			
Kuzma					\$50			
Lake Lansing North					\$50			
Newman Equities					\$50			
Towar Woods					\$50			
Lake Lansing South (Potter)					\$50			
Central Meridian Uplands	1		\$1,000		\$50			
Sower Woods - south side	1		\$1,000		\$50			
Tihart/Cornell Wetland					\$50			
Southwest Meridian Uplands	3				\$3,050			
Sumbal					\$50			
Red Cedar Glen	1		\$1,000		\$50			
Towner Road Wetland					\$50			
Meridian Central Wetlands					\$50			
Red Cedar River East					\$50			
Northridge					\$50			
Forest Grove					\$50			
Subtotal=		\$0	\$3,000	\$0	\$18,950	\$0	\$0	\$0

			QUANTITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>5 Rules Signs</b>										
	Davis/Foster		2				\$100			
	Foster-Crouse		1				\$50			
	Hubbel		2				\$100			
	Kuzma		1				\$50			
	Lake Lansing North (HDI)		1				\$50			
	Newman Equities		1				\$50			
	Northwest Properties		5				\$250			
	Lake Lansing South (Potter)		2				\$100			
	Central Meridian Uplands		3				\$150			
	Sower Woods		2				\$100			
	Tihart/Cornell Wetland		3				\$150			
	Southwest Meridian Uplands		3				\$150			
	Sumbal		1				\$50			
	Red Cedar Glen		2				\$100			
	Towner Road Wetland		2				\$100			
	Meridian Central Wetland		3				\$150			
	Red Cedar River East		2				\$100			
	Northridge		2				\$100			
	Forest Grove		2				\$100			
			Subtotal =	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>6 Stewardship Plans/Invasive Species Assessments</b>										
	Southwest Land Preserve						\$8,000			
	Red Cedar River East							\$4,000		
	Northridge							\$4,000		
	Forest Grove								\$3,000	
			Subtotal =	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$3,000	\$0





	QUANTITY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sower Woods								
Tihart/Cornell Wetland								
Southwest Meridian Uplands				\$10,000	\$5,000	\$6,000		
Sumbal								
Red Cedar Glen								
Towner Road Wetland								
Meridian Central Wetland								
Red Cedar River East								
Northridge								
Forest Grove								
	Subtotal =	\$10,500	\$25,000	\$10,000	\$12,500	\$9,000	\$6,000	\$0
<b>9 Trail Maintenance</b>								
All applicable preserves		\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$1,600
	Subtotal =	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,400	\$1,600	\$1,600
<b>10 Stewardship Groups</b>								
Stewardship Network - support		\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative		\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500
	Subtotal =	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>11 Wages and Benefits</b>								
Grounds Maint. & Township Fees <small>(taxes, assessments, mowing, etc)</small>		\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$44,000	\$44,000
Parks and Land Management Coordinator		\$35,000	\$40,000	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$52,500	\$55,000	\$57,500
Assistant Naturalist/Stewardship Coordinator		\$30,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
	Subtotal =	\$105,000	\$110,000	\$125,000	\$132,000	\$134,500	\$139,000	\$141,500
	<b>TOTAL=</b>	<b>\$143,000</b>	<b>\$183,500</b>	<b>\$158,200</b>	<b>\$206,650</b>	<b>\$169,400</b>	<b>\$154,600</b>	<b>\$148,100</b>

<b>Budget Summary for Land Preservation Millage, 2012 - 2019</b>										
Note: The investment income amounts are ESTIMATES ONLY.										
			<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Long-term Maintenance Account (210)</b>										
This is reserved for maintenance and the number will never change. The interest generated from this account is earmarked for perpetual maintenance.										
It is the total of 25% of millage revenue collected in the first millage (2000-2009), \$2,707,300.										
	Annual Investment Income on 210 Acct.		\$18,129	\$18,129	\$18,129	\$18,129	\$18,129	\$18,129	\$18,129	\$18,129
	Grant Revenue		\$7,613	\$1,288						
	Unrestricted Maintenance Balance		\$263,918							
	<b>TOTAL=</b>		<b>\$289,660</b>	<b>\$309,077</b>	<b>\$327,206</b>	<b>\$345,335</b>	<b>\$363,464</b>	<b>\$381,593</b>	<b>\$399,722</b>	
<b>Acquisition and Maintenance Account (209)</b>										
These funds may be spent on land acquisition or maintenance.										
Note: Total available for acquisition only left over from 1st millage = \$372,269 (shown as part of fund balance)										
	Fund balance		\$1,406,332	\$1,406,332	\$1,920,116	\$2,433,900	\$2,947,684	\$3,461,468	4,489,036	\$5,002,820
	Tax Revenue		\$513,784	\$513,784	\$513,784	\$513,784	\$513,784	\$513,784	\$513,784	\$513,784
	<b>TOTAL=</b>		<b>\$1,406,332</b>	<b>\$1,920,116</b>	<b>\$2,433,900</b>	<b>\$2,947,684</b>	<b>\$3,461,468</b>	<b>\$3,975,252</b>	<b>5,002,820</b>	<b>\$5,516,604</b>
	<b>PROJECTED EXPENSES=</b>		<b>\$169,000</b>	<b>\$197,000</b>	<b>\$164,900</b>	<b>\$206,650</b>	<b>\$169,400</b>	<b>\$154,600</b>	<b>\$148,100</b>	
	<b>TOTAL=</b>		<b>\$1,751,116</b>	<b>\$2,236,900</b>	<b>\$2,782,784</b>	<b>\$3,254,818</b>	<b>\$3,805,852</b>	<b>4848220</b>	<b>\$5,368,504</b>	

## 2016 Land Preservation Budget Appendix

### 1. Land Preservation Signs

- Davis Foster
  - 1 Large sign on the west side of the main road
- Hubbel
  - 1 small sign
- Tihart/Cornell Wetlands
  - 1 large sign
- Towner Road Wetland
  - 1 large sign and 1 small sign
- Red Cedar River East
  - 1 large sign and 1 small sign along river

### 4. Interpretive Signage

- All Preserves
  - Native Tree and Shrub ID Plaques - \$950
- Southwest Meridian Uplands
  - Two trailhead signs at the gate entrances and one when you enter the property on the two track road
- Davis Foster Preserve
  - Interpretive Sign about the Prairie Restoration
    - Could also include information about pollinators
    - Possibly turn this into a sitting area with a lookout over the prairie

### 5. Rules Signs

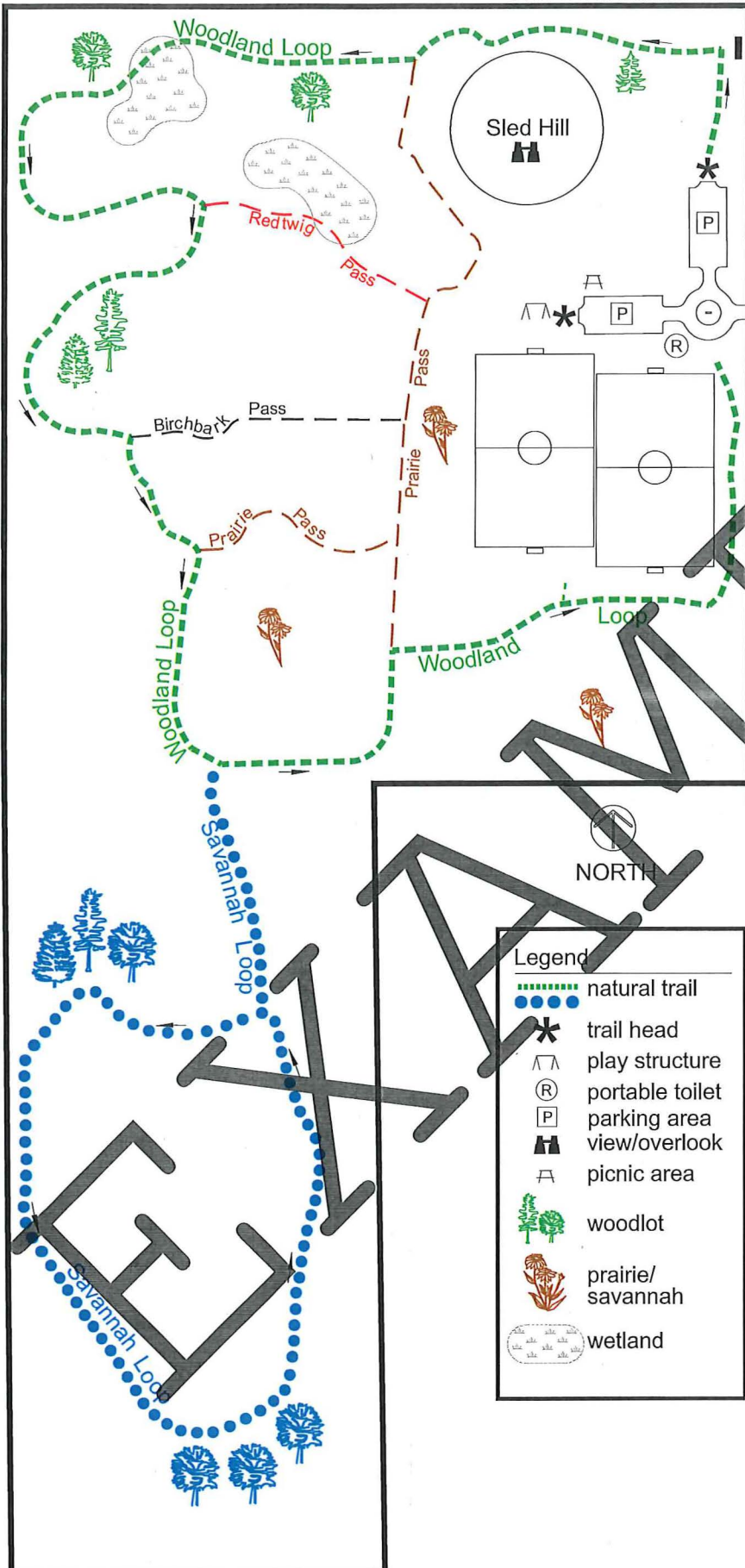
- All Preserves (number varies, see budget spreadsheet) - \$2,000

### 7. Invasive Species Management

- Herbicide chemicals and equipment needed for the removal of woody and herbaceous species in the preserves listed

# NORTH MERIDIAN ROAD PARK

5191 North Meridian Road



## PARK FACILITIES

- 58 acres of park land
- 2 miles of nature trails
- Sledding hill
- Athletic fields
- Picnic area
- Play equipment
- Portable toilet facility

## TRAIL INFORMATION

- **Woodland Loop = 1 mile**  
The woodland loop begins on the north side of the park and meanders through a series of wooded areas. Species of trees found along this trail include sugar maple, red pine, white pine, and spruce. This shady trail also features a giant sugar maple tree. In the early spring look for woodland wildflowers such as spring beauties and bloodroot.
- **Savannah Loop = 0.5 mile**  
The savannah loop trail is an extension of the woodland loop trail. From the back of the athletic fields follow the trail around a remnant prairie habitat. The high diversity of plants growing here attract many birds and insects. Flowers bloom along this trail from mid-spring through the summer. Look for hawkweed, ragwort and flowering spurge in the spring and chicory and St. Johnswort in the summer.

## NOTES

Some parts of these trails may be wet or even impassable during rainy seasons. Please do not ride bikes or horses on the trails at these times.

Please do not walk in the cross-country ski trails.

Please pick up after your dogs.

For additional information on these trails or any Meridian Township Park, contact the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Office at 517-853-4600 or the Harris Nature Center at 517-349-3866 to speak with a naturalist.

North Meridian Road



Your Park Millage dollars at work!





# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

## PARK RULES

Welcome to the Meridian Township Park System  
OPEN FROM DAWN TO DUSK

### ENJOYABLE ACTIVITIES:

- ◆ Hiking & biking
- ◆ Bird & wild life watching
- ◆ Canoeing/kayaking
- ◆ Dogs on a leash (Pick up after pets please)
- ◆ Motorized vehicles in designated parking areas
- ◆ Fires in designated grills or fire pits
- ◆ Fishing with a valid state fishing license
- ◆ Horses, llamas and other draft animals on trails

### PROHIBITED:

- ◆ Bicycles or horses on soft or muddy trails
- ◆ Hunting & trapping animals
- ◆ Picking and collecting wildflowers, fruits & mushrooms
- ◆ Removing wood or plants
- ◆ Fireworks
- ◆ Camping
- ◆ Flying of model airplanes
- ◆ Metal detectors
- ◆ On any pond or public drain:
  - Swimming
  - Boating
  - Ice skating

Reservations for pavilion or athletic field use may be arranged by calling the Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Office at 517-853-4600.

If you observe a violation of these rules including vandalism, please report the incident to the Meridian Township Police Department at 517-853-4800 or call 911.

A copy of the complete Meridian Township Park Ordinance is available at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us). (Ord. Ch 54, Park and Recreation)

 Enjoy your Parks.

[WWW.MERIDIAN.MI.US](http://WWW.MERIDIAN.MI.US)







# Public Notice

## PET OWNERS - PLEASE BE ADVISED

- ❑ PETS ARE WELCOME at the Davis Foster Preserve but you must be a responsible owner.

### **Violation of the following = \$75 fine**

- ❑ **All pet feces must be picked up and properly disposed.**
- ❑ **It is mandatory that pets remain on a leash no longer than 6-feet in length and under direct control of the owner. This is for the safety of other visitors and the grassland birds that nest here.**

#### **Meridian Township Ordinance**

**Article II, Section 54-37**

**Meridian Township Police: 517-853-4800**

**Meridian Township Parks and Recreation: 517-853-4600**

## Interpretive Signage Ideas

### Tree ID Plaques



- Put these tree tags near 5-10 of the most common native hardwoods in all 19 Land Preserves near the beginning of trails
  - About \$4 a sign (depending on quantity ordered)
    - One shown is from Voss Signs, but there are many options out there
  - Signs will also be great near the newly planted seedlings in Towar

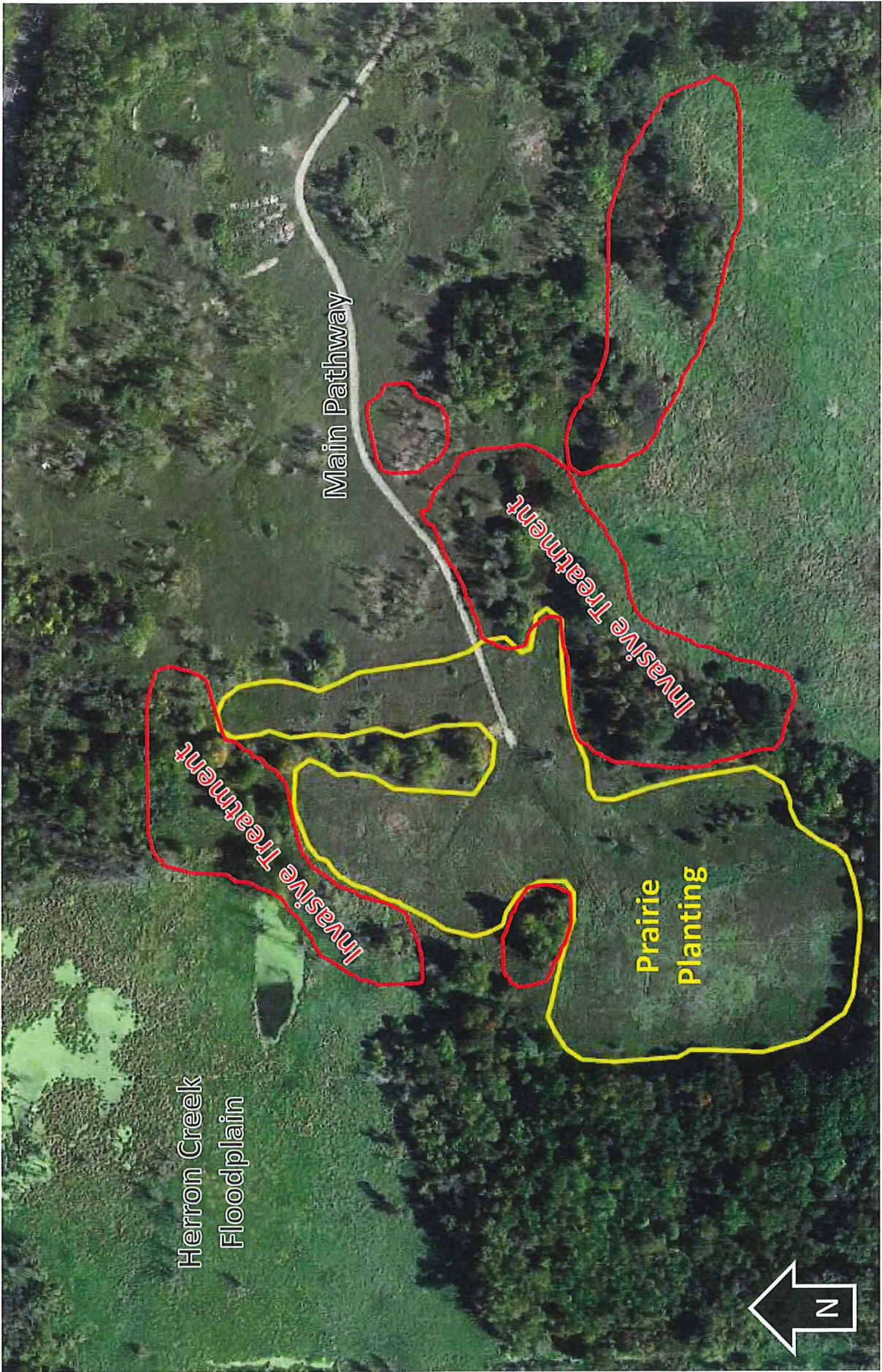
### Invasive Species ID Plaques

- These are less easy to find as metals signs readily available for order
- We can use the “Unwanted Invasive Species” signs laminated for now
  - Put these near the invasive it is identifying near the beginning of trails



## Southwest Meridian Upland Management Plan

- Trails
  - “Create” several paths off of the main two track road
    - Clean up deer paths that already exist
    - Create branches of two track in the restored prairie (will need this anyway for prescribed fire breaks)
  - Create trail heads that show the property boundary and the paths that branch off of the two track road at the entrance points
  - Put up trail head signs at access points that show the property
- Woody Invasive Species Management
  - Start with the satellite populations of honeysuckle, autumn olive, and buckthorn blocking views from the main two track paths
  - Continue to treat woody invasive species in the valuable forest areas where the populations have not yet established large populations
  - There are a few buckthorn that can be easily treated in the southern lowland area that is overtaken with reed canary grass
  - Once satellite populations are treated move on to the more mature populations along the forest edge
- Herbaceous Invasive Species Management
  - Treat Dame’s Rocket, Garlic Mustard, and Knapweed as needed throughout the property with herbicide
  - Control the Mullein infestation by removing seed heads and treating basal leaves with herbicide
  - Keep an eye out for herbaceous invasive species in the prairie planting area
- Prairie Planting with Designs by Nature
  - Steps for the prairie planting
    - Prep and plant grass species, cultipack (seed drill) next spring
    - Plateau/Roundup herbicide to control broadleaf weeds
    - Monitor over summer
    - Fall 2016 broadcast colony planting of forbs if the area is ready (Vern assesses area). Hand seed (possible involvement opportunity with school group)
    - Burn in two sections for management in the future, alternate spring and fall. Fall burns support grasses, spring burns support wildflower
  - The forb seed mix will target flowers with early spring to late fall bloom in order to attract the most pollinator and bird species
  - Vern recommends regular mowing in the open area near the prairie to discourage weed growth and make the space more inviting to visitors



Herron Creek  
Floodplain

Main Pathway

Invasive Treatment

Invasive Treatment

Prairie  
Planting









CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN



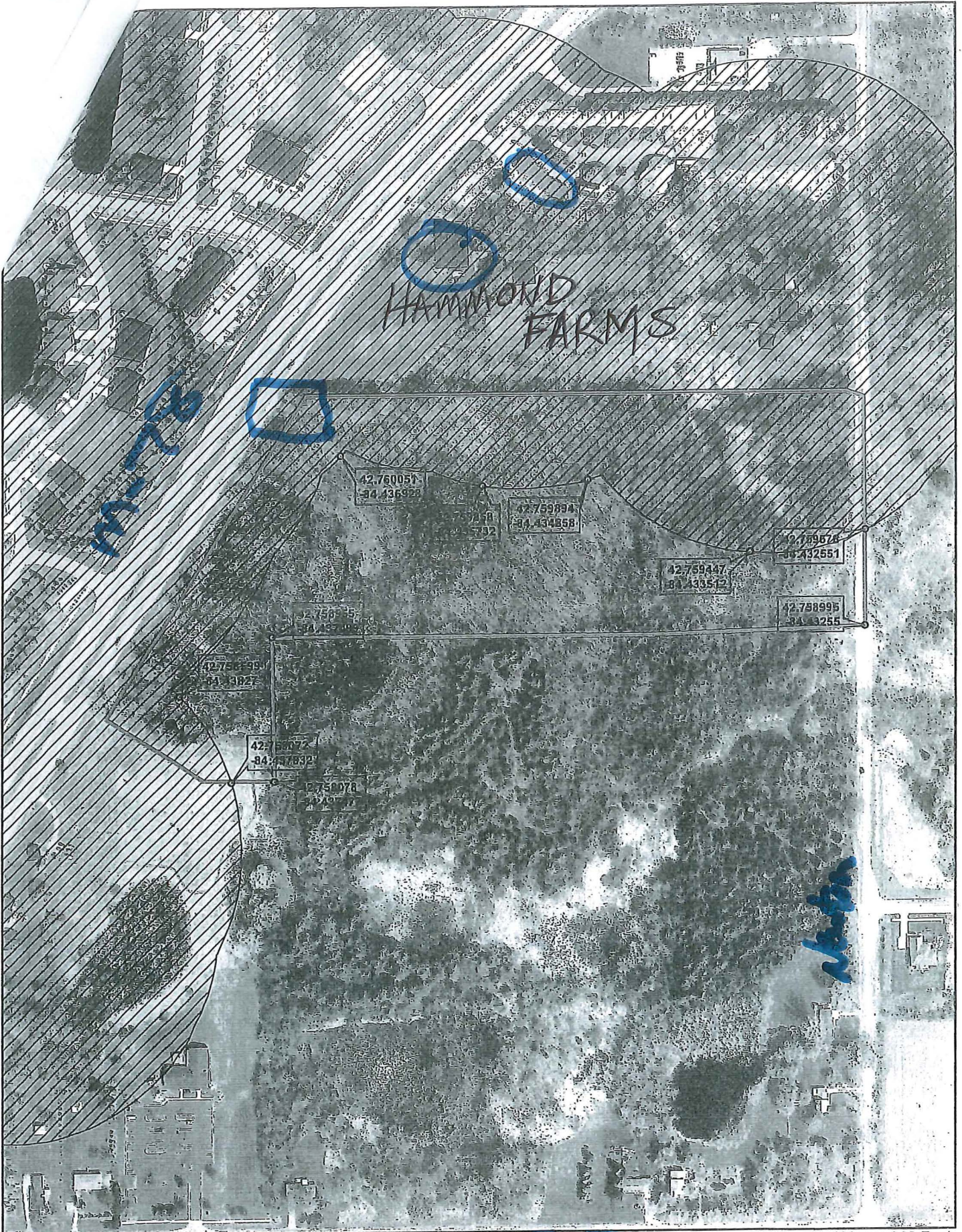
NATURAL  
AREA

LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

*Handwritten notes:*  
C-1114  
10/11









\*2010 Imagery Data to be used for reference purposes only, not to be used in place of a field survey.



-  Hunting Areas
-  450 Ft Building Buffer

Forest Grove Land Preserve



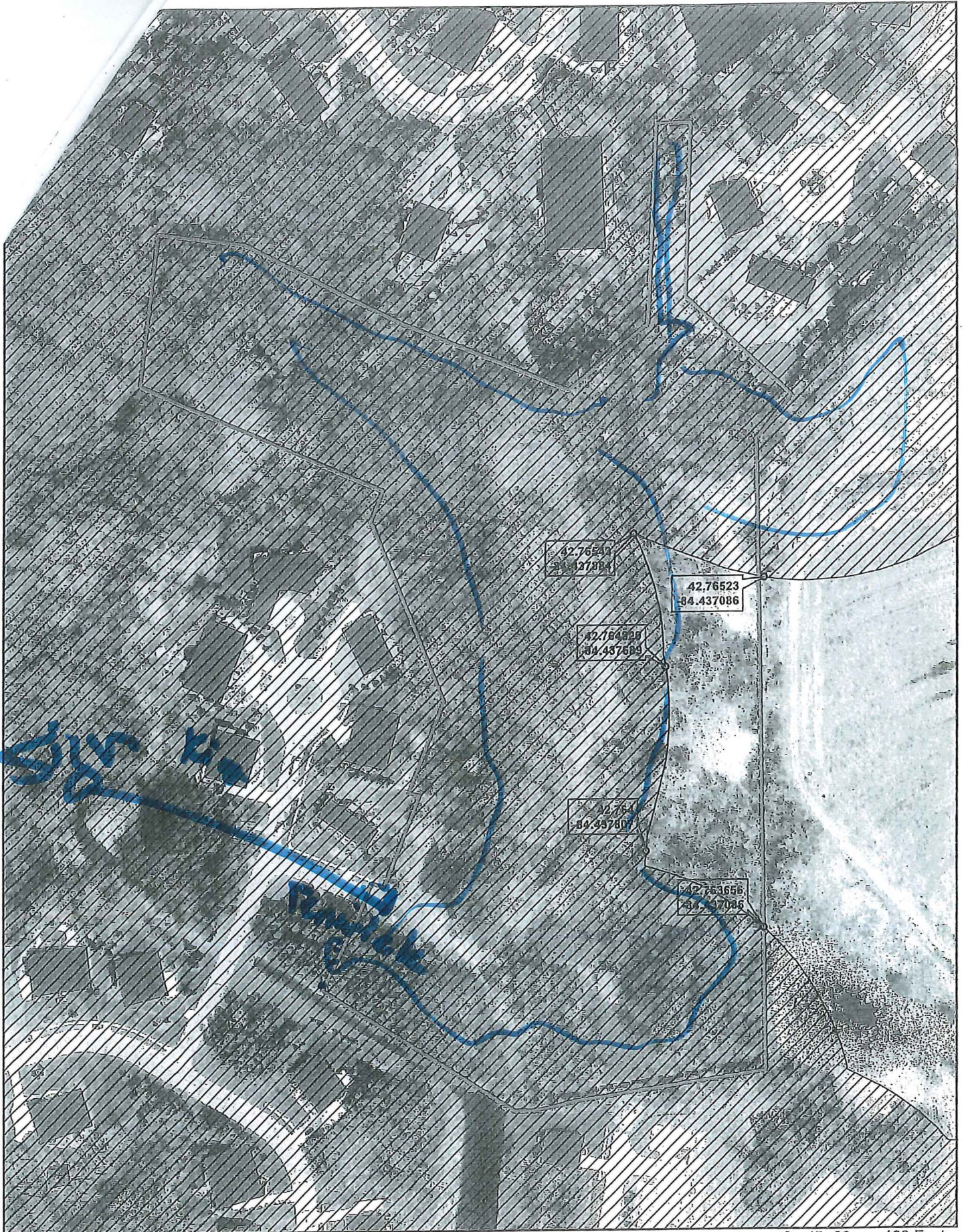
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN



NATURAL  
AREA



LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM





\*2010 Imagery Data to be used for reference purposes only, not to be used in place of a field survey.

0 45 90 180 Feet

-  Hunting Areas
-  450 Ft Building Buffer

Done 12-30-19  
 16H - DD

Northridge Land Preserve



# LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The Land Preservation Program is supported by a township millage that was first passed by residents in 2000 and was renewed at a reduced rate in 2010. Approximately 780 acres of the township's most beautiful, scenic and natural lands have been acquired over the past fifteen (15) years. Stewardship and management plans are currently being developed and implemented for each property. The management plans outline stewardship activities necessary to protect or restore the site. Maps and management plans may all be found on the township website.

## WHY IS LAND STEWARDSHIP IMPORTANT?

Proper land management of our natural areas is essential to enjoying their rewards, such as spotting your favorite butterfly in the park or hearing a beautiful bird song on your morning hike. Aldo Leopold, widely considered the father of modern conservation, wrote that all ethics rest upon the single premise "...that the individual is a member of a community of interdependent parts. The land ethic simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, waters, plants, animals, or collectively: the land." This is to say that once we understand that humans are not separate from, but are part of and depend on the natural community, we will develop an ethic to care for the community as a whole.

Land stewardship, or maintaining natural resources and features, is an important part of our job at the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department. In some cases, human interaction and urban development have negatively impacted our natural areas and steps may need to be taken to reverse those impacts. The key to good land stewardship is to ensure that the basic building blocks for healthy ecosystems are taken care of. These basic building blocks are healthy soil, clean water and air, and biological diversity.

One of the biggest culprits of the decrease in ecosystem health in our areas is invasive plant species. These non-native plants have been known to drastically reduce biological diversity by crowding out native plants, resulting in vast monocultures of plants that native animals do not feed on.

The replacement of one plant with another may not seem like a pressing matter until you consider the whole food chain and ecosystem. For example, if Buckthorn takes over a native grassland and shades out milkweed and flowering plants, the beautiful Monarch Butterfly will lose valuable food sources and places to lay their eggs. Native grassland birds such as Eastern Meadowlark, Field Sparrow and Savannah Sparrow will lose places to call home and build their nests. So you can see how a small change in the flora of a small area magnifies itself to affect the entire ecosystem of a region. The good news is, you can help us reverse those effects.

Maintaining our natural areas is about keeping a balance between different ecosystems in order to preserve high biodiversity. You can do your part on your private property by removing invasive plants, planting native species, and using best land practices to maintain the quality of natural resources such as soil and water. You can also help us improve the natural areas in Meridian Township. We will be organizing community service project events or you may call us to organize your own project.

**Kelsey Dillon, Land Stewardship Assistant:**  
517-853-4600 | [dillon@meridian.mi.us](mailto:dillon@meridian.mi.us)

**Jane Greenway, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator**  
517-853-4610 | [greenway@meridian.mi.us](mailto:greenway@meridian.mi.us)



**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP**  
[BIT.LY/MERIDIANPARKVOLUNTEERS](https://www.facebook.com/meridianparkvolunteers)



## HomTV Video Topics

We will be doing short videos for HOMTV about land preservation and stewardship to raise awareness of our township's natural areas and volunteerism within them.

January – Why is Stewardship Important?

- Use information from page in Parks and Recreation Catalog
- Get people excited about stewardship for the year!
- Brief intro to invasive species in township (introduction of Invasive Most Unwanted)
  - Give example of an invasive species and why it's "bad"

February – Volunteerism

- Highlight past projects that have taken place in the land preserves
- Encourage people to get involved in their own backyard
- Volunteer connection Facebook and form highlight

March – Garlic Mustard

- What it looks like, why it's bad, where to find it, how to kill it
- Hopefully get out in one of the preserves to show on video
- Have specific dates for Garlic Mustard pulls to get community members involved

April – Prescribed burning and information on prairies

- Davis foster preserve will be an example
  - Set to burn in early spring 2015
- Why is burning important to prairies?
- Connect people to the birds that calls prairies home

May – Wildflowers in bloom for spring

- Focus on pollinators and why they're important
- Definitely get out into a preserve for visual impact
- Introduce the idea of have pollinator way stations in yards
- Feature the planting in STURK

June – Highlight a Preserve and Invasive

- Towar Woods and Buckthorn
- Talk with Dave C. about all of the work put into the preserve
- Large tree planting, buckthorn removal

July – Highlight a Preserve and Invasive

- STURK and Autumn Olive

August – Summer Wildflowers and Monarchs (can be moved to July depending on which month has more blooming flowers in the preserves)

- Definitely include the monarch butterfly in this since this is the time of their migration
- Possibly work with MonarchWatch to tag Monarch butterflies with school groups

September – Herbicides for control of invasive (Discuss this topic)

- I think getting information about how herbicides can have a positive impact on ecological work would be a good thing for the public to know
- Possibly move this to earlier in the year so citizens understand why we use herbicide in the natural areas

October – Japanese Knotweed Invasive Report

- All about knotweed as an invasive

November – Yard Waste Dumping

- Why not to do it

December – Wildlife management

- Dos and Don'ts of living alongside wildlife

# Land Preservation Advisory Board

## January 13, 2016

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### **9. OTHER**

- a. Joint Meeting with Boards and Commissions; January 12, 2016;  
6 pm; Town Hall Room
- b. Property Evaluation Criteria Form

## Jane Greenway

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**From:** Frank Hatfield <hatfield@egr.msu.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 14, 2015 4:25 PM  
**To:** James Kielbaso; Jane Greenway  
**Subject:** Land Screen form  
**Attachments:** LPAB form.docx

Jim and Jane --

For seven years I have been annoyed by the "Land Screening Criteria" form used by LPAB. I thought I was alone, but at our last meeting several others expressed dissatisfaction. The form requires assignment of numerical scores to subjective criteria, creating a false appearance of precision. The "point values" seem arbitrary, without justification.

Therefore, I created a new form (draft attached). If you think it has potential, perhaps it should be discussed at a future meeting.

-- Frank



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.  
[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

Property \_\_\_\_\_ . Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_ . Date \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Check boxes that apply and add comments. Then make recommendations.

<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>	√	<b>COMMENTS</b>
<b>Special natural features*</b>		<b>DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION BY LPAB</b>
Attractive topography		
Large trees of desirable native species		
Diverse communities of native plants		
Relatively free of invasive plants		
<b>Enhancement of habitat*</b>		
Included in township "Green Space" plan		
"Fragile Link" or "Conservation Corridor"		
Protected or unusual species or ecosystems		
Size (large is better)		
<b>Enhancement of water quality*</b>		
Includes or borders river, creek, or pond		
Wetland not otherwise protected		
Watershed for river, creek, lake, or pond		
Floodway. Detains storm water		
<b>Natural Landscape*</b>		
Relatively undisturbed		
No dumps or toxic waste		
No encroachment		
No buildings, other structures		
<b>Pleasant and livable community*</b>		
Separates incompatible or monotonous uses		
Contiguous to other public land		
Accessible by road or trail		
Walkable		
Location (convenient? area underserved?)		
<b>Other</b>		

\*Headings quoted from Meridian Township Ordinance section 22-58

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	√	<b>COMMENTS</b>
Need more information		
Begin acquisition process		
Need further discussion		
Indifferent		
Accept as gift		
Do not acquire		

## Land Screening Criteria

Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board

Revised June 2010

Property/Parcel:

Reviewer Name:

Date:

Land Preservation Category	Subcategory	Weighting/ Ranking	Point Value	Partial Points	Total
<b>Ecological Value</b> (100 points)	Contains potential populations of protected species or ecosystems of state or regional importance	0.40	40.0		
	Contains overall high diversity of species or ecosystems of local importance	0.30	30.0		
	Contains potential habitat for protected species	0.15	15.0		
	Helps connect greenspace and wildlife corridors	0.10	10.0		
	Other ecological values	0.05	5.0		
<b>Natural/Functional Value</b> (90 points)	Important upland buffer to an area otherwise permanently protected (wetland, riparian area, or shoreline)	0.35	31.5		
	Contains important woodlot or woodland to minimize habitat loss or fragmentation	0.25	22.5		
	Contains prime/unique soils or agricultural values	0.20	18.0		
	Provides ground water recharge and water quality enhancement; enhances flood and storm water control	0.15	13.5		
	Important natural feature not protected by other means	0.05	4.5		
<b>Parcel Size</b> (80 points)	Large land area (> 40 acres) with potential, through succession, to become important natural resource	0.50	40.0		
	Parcel > 5 acres, contiguous to permanently preserved property or one which has PUD/PDR offered	0.25	20.0		
	Parcel > 5 acres	0.15	12.0		
	Parcel < 5 acres having important habitat value	0.10	8.0		
<b>Surrounding Land Uses</b> (70 points)	Contiguous to protected property (e.g., wetland, riparian area, park)	0.35	24.5		
	Open space value of property can be protected after purchase or low probability of encroachment	0.25	17.5		
	Contiguous to agricultural area	0.20	14.0		
	Contiguous to residential area	0.15	10.5		
	Contiguous to mixed use area	0.05	3.5		
<b>Environmental Quality</b> (40 points)	Contains no known environmental contamination	0.80	32.0		
	Contains possible environmental contamination; can be remediated	0.15	6.0		
	Contains known environmental contamination; remediation possible but potentially costly	0.05	2.0		
<b>Aesthetic Value</b> (40 points)	Provides open greenspace to separate incompatible land uses or monotony of same uses	0.55	22.0		
	Provides unique multiple use opportunities	0.30	12.0		
	Aesthetic values exceptional for township	0.15	6.0		
<b>Special Considerations</b> (Maximum of 40 points)	Subcriteria determined on a case-by-case basis				

Optional: Add property description, observations, and other notes (use reverse side for additional space).

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff    Supervisor  
Brett Dreyfus            Clerk  
Julie Brixie              Treasurer  
Frank L. Walsh          Manager



Milton L. Scales        Trustee  
Ronald J. Styka        Trustee  
John Veenstra          Trustee  
Angela Wilson          Trustee

December 8, 2015

Land Preservation Advisory Board  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Board Members:

The Township Board members would like to extend an invitation to you to attend a special meeting between the Township Board and the Township's Boards and Commissions. This meeting has been set for **Tuesday, January 12, 2016**, in the Town Hall Room. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together the various Boards and Commissions for the purpose of sharing what has been accomplished in 2015 and the goals for the coming year. It will also be important to discuss ways we can make our great community even better.

I do hope you will be able to join us. In order to anticipate how many chairs and tables will be needed, please contact Carol Hasse with your confirmation (853-4258 or [hasec@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hasec@meridian.mi.us)). Happy holidays to you, and I look forward to seeing you on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

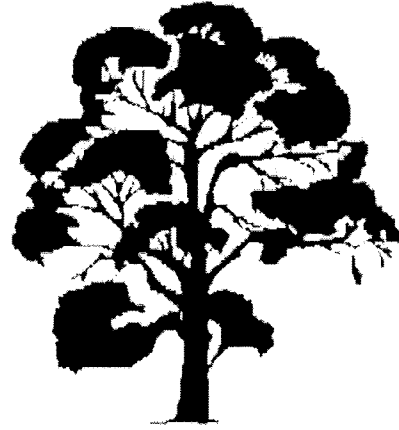
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth LeGoff".

Elizabeth LeGoff  
Supervisor



# Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board 2015 Annual Report and 2016 Goals



## Background of the Land Preservation Program

- The lands and waters found within the preserves provide valuable habitat for native plants and animals, protect air and water quality, add aesthetic value, and enhance public enjoyment of the outdoors. Although the preserves are not part of the park system, they complement the parks and add to the overall quality of green space in Meridian Township.
- Preserves are distributed throughout the township and represent upland and wetland areas, woodlands, former agricultural areas, and increasingly rare, sensitive, and disappearing habitats once common in mid-Michigan.
- The Land Preservation Program is now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of existence, and the LPAB have exceeded the original goal of acquiring/protecting 10% of the available, desirable open space in the Township.
- The focus of the LPAB is moving toward an emphasis on land management and stewardship, but will still consider acquiring small properties

## Millage

Township residents approved a ten year, 0.75 mil Land Preservation Millage in November, 2000. Residents approved a ten year, 0.33 mil Land Preservation Millage in November, 2010.

## Notable 2015 Accomplishments

1. **Towar Woods – Continued to restore a seven acre portion of the preserve** that area was filled with the invasive shrub, buckthorn, and was replanted by volunteers in 2014 and 2015 with **3,000** conifers and **125** deciduous trees and shrubs.
2. **Mary Helmbrecht Wildflower Garden at Historical Village Pond: 100 Haslett schoolchildren** from Murphy Elementary school to install additional native plants along the edge of the pond in the Historical Village. Funding was provided by donations that were made in memory of Mary Helmbrecht, a long- serving member and former township clerk and trustee who passed away in December of 2013. A sign will be installed in the spring.
3. **Conducted one site visit** of a potential future land acquisition.
4. **Thirteen land preserves were part of the 2015 deer management program** which strived to control the local deer population for the purpose of reducing ecological damage to township property and nearby residential areas.



5. **Southwest Meridian Uplands** – a seven acre portion was treated and mowed in preparation for a spring 2016 native planting project.
6. Board members walked numerous preserves and participated in volunteer activities
7. Most importantly..... **we hired a new stewardship assistant, Kelsey Dillon!** We went most of the year without an assistant but in her three months of being here we have been able to accomplish many great things:
  - Treating invasive plants in numerous preserve
  - Organizing and working with over 100 volunteers on several projects
  - Helping the LPAB prioritize their management efforts

#### **Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB)**

- The LPAB was established by the Township Board in January, 2001, and in November, 2001, the Township Board passed the Land Preservation Ordinance officially providing the mechanism for implementation of the program.

#### **Responsibilities of the Land Preservation Advisory Board (Sec 22-89, Charter Township of Meridian Code) are to:**

1. Establish a process to actively encourage, identify, and review potential properties ... for acquisition....
2. Review applications... for acquisition... and make recommendations to the township board.
3. Review activities of the township to identify inconsistencies with the stated purposes of the land preservation program.
4. Develop... an individualized stewardship plan for each property....
5. Submit a written report annually to the township board.
6. Assume such other duties related to the land preservation program as may be assigned by the township board.

#### **2015 Land Preservation Advisory Board Membership**

Dr. James Kielbaso, Chair of LPAB and Environmental Commission Liaison

Mr. Jon Mayes, Vice-Chair, Resident Member

Ms. Julie Brixie, Township Board Liaison

Dr. Frank Hatfield, Resident Member

Mr. Roland Harmes Jr., Resident Member

Mr. Robert Rusch, Resident Member

Ms. Margo Smith, Resident Member

Mr. Mark Stephens, Park Commission Liaison

Staff: Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator

Kelsey Dillon, Land Stewardship Assistant

Robin Faust, Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant II

### 2015 Acquisitions

There were no acquisitions in 2015, but the LPAB is in the process of evaluating a properties for acquisition that may occur in 2016.

### Total Land Preserve Property as of December 2015:

20 properties comprising 755.5 acres

### Goals for 2016

1. **Land Acquisition:** Complete land acquisition currently under consideration.
2. **Community Engagement:** Engage the community and energize stewardship activities. Recruit local neighborhood organizations and schools to actively participate in cleanup and maintenance of the preserves, including elimination of invasive, non-native plants for several preserves.
3. **Grants and Other Environmental Organization Support:** Continue developing partnerships with public agencies and non-profit organizations to enhance the environmental value and public enjoyment of the preserves.
4. **General Land Management:** Complete signage, bollard placement and stewardship plans for all preserves currently in program.
5. **Deer Management:** Continue deer management program in the preserves.
6. **Site Restoration Projects:** Continue site restoration project at the Southwest Meridian Uplands (aka, "Sturk"). Engage local schoolchildren to assist with the project. Continue site restoration work at the Towar Woods Land Preserve.
8. **Davis/Foster Preserve Overlook:** Complete plans for an overlook/outdoor educational area at the Davis Foster Preserve.
9. **Mary Helmbrecht Butterfly Garden:** Continue to develop the butterfly garden in the historical village. Seeds from plants in this garden will be distributed at other land preserves.

Respectfully submitted,

*James Kielbaso*

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Dr. James Kielbaso, Chairperson  
Land Preservation Advisory Board  
and Environmental Commission Liaison



# Meridian Township Land Preservation Program, 2015



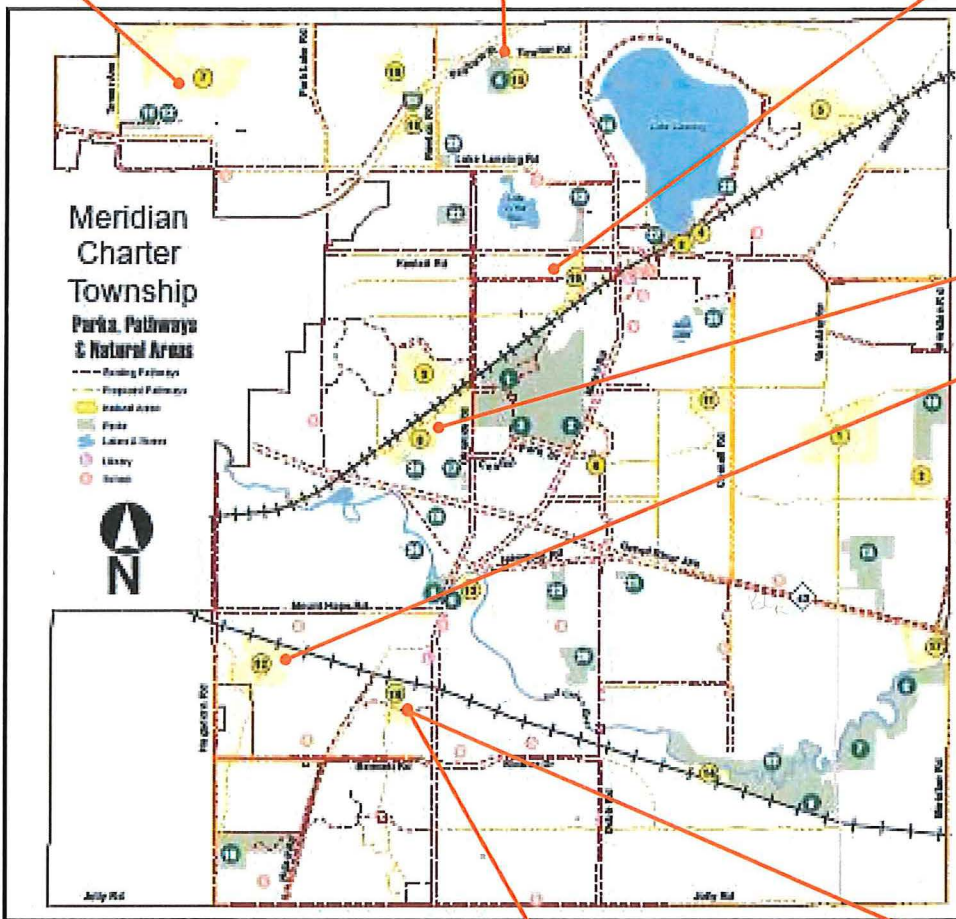
Site Restoration at Towar Woods



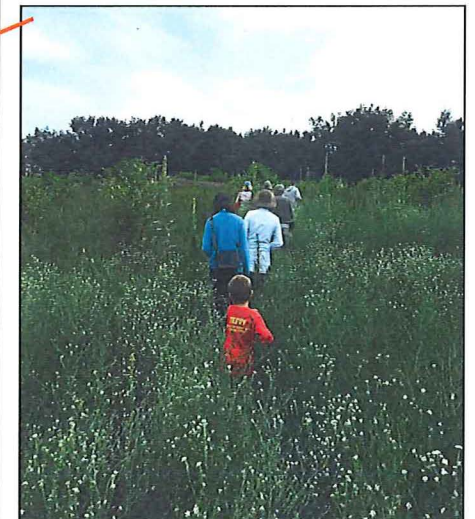
Invasive Species Management



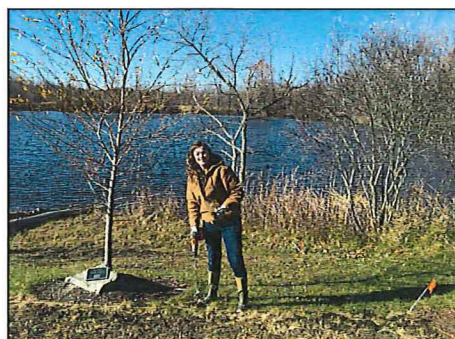
Deer Management



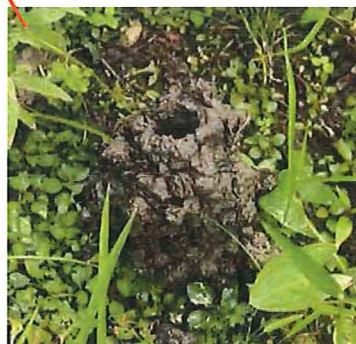
Central Meridian Uplands - site visit



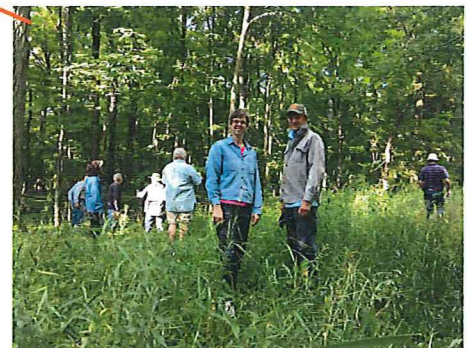
SW Meridian Uplands - site visit



New Stewardship Assistant - Kelsey Dillon -  
Mary Helmbrecht Pollinator Garden



Sower Woods - site visit  
Crayfish Chimneys



Sower Woods Land Preserve - site visit