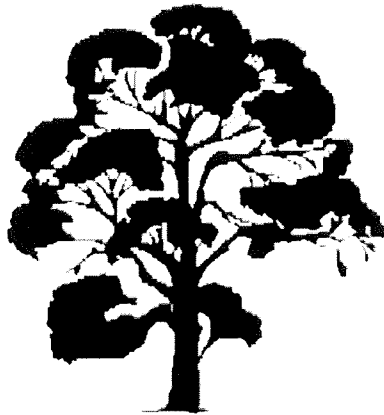


CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Public Remarks
4. Approve Minutes (blue)
 - a. March 9, 2016
5. Communications (tan)
6. Old Business
7. New Business (orchid)
8. Land Management Coordinator and Land Stewardship Assistant Report (green)
9. Public Comment
10. Closed Session (separate envelope)
11. Other
12. Announcements
13. Adjournment



Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting

Approval of Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

Members Present: Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Frank Hatfield James Kielbaso, Yu Man Lee, Jon Mayes

Members Absent: Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

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

Others: Ingham County Deputy Drain Commissioner Carla Close, Spicer Group representative James Ensign, Tom Rapaskey, Doug Gowan, Mark Hooper, Michael McDonald

1. Call Meeting to Order

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

2. Approve Agenda

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER LEE SECONDED, TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

Deputy Drain Commissioner Clos distributed and summarized information on the proposed maintenance activities that will occur on the Smith Consolidated Drain, specifically within and near the Meridian Charter Township Sower Woods Land Preserve. Maintenance work proposed will include removal of brush and saplings that have established on the channel banks within the last decade since this type of maintenance was last performed. She asked for the LPAB's input.

Discussion:

- Asked to have the area flagged to allow for Board Members to review the area
- Bank stabilization and erosion repair will be included in the scope of work
- Asked to schedule the meeting to walk the area within the next two weeks

- This drain was last maintained 12 years ago
- Bank stabilization will be on the west and north sides of the drain; will remove dead and fallen trees; will utilize the current corridor for maintenance access
- Four years ago the sewer maintenance was accomplished in this area and believes there may have been recent cleaning
- The work area will traverse over to Bennett Road
- There will be no excavation. There will be removal of dead trees; erosion repair will be completed with natural stone such as used in Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve project; will use native mix for planting
- There is no assessment to public lands from Ingham County Drain Commissioner
- Will perform the work in the most sensitive way possible; will use the same protocols as used in the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve project
- Asked to see the list of seed mix
- Work will be completed within the easement area; approximately 40 feet on either side of the centerline; with minimum damage to the flora

4. Public Hearing

a. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program, Acquisition

- Chair Kielbaso declared the public hearing open at 6:17 pm.
- Staff presents project overview

Project Description

Acquisition of 89 acres of greenspace known as the "Ponderosa Problem"

Justification

- ✓ Access points
- ✓ Utilize the corridor
- ✓ Wetlands
- ✓ Varying topography
- ✓ Green space
- ✓ Adjacent to Red Cedar Natural Area and Legg Park

Project Design

- Enhance wildlife corridors
- Enhance fishing corridors
- Enhance trail connections

Project Cost:

Estimated project cost: \$1.3 million including closing costs

Required local match: Minimum 25%, increased match equals greater points, Land Preservation Advisory Board match 50% including donation of \$136,000

DNR Grant amount:

- Staff acknowledges received items of communication
 - ✓ Legal Notice was placed in the Towne Courier on February 28 and March 6, 2016.
 - ✓ Notification of the public hearing was sent to all neighbors within 500 feet of the parcels
 - ✓ Received an letter of support from Chad Fedewa, Wildlife Biologist, DNR Wildlife Division
 - ✓ Received a email communication of support from Land Preservation Advisory Board Member/Park Commission Liaison Mark Stephens
 - ✓ Received a letter of support from J. James Kielbaso, Ph.D.
 - ✓ Received an email communication of support from Nathaniel Ostrom
 - ✓ Received letter of support from Thomas Rapaskey

- Public Comment
 - ✓ Thomas Rapaskey, Okemos, lives adjacent to the parcel and is in support of its preservation.
 - ✓ Mark Hooper, Stagecoach Drive, Okemos, lives adjacent to the parcel, lived in the area since 1981, has attended various meetings on Ember Oaks and recalls former Township Board Trustee and Park Commissioner Ted Black gave testimony on the forest and wildlife in this area and the need for its preservation in this area of the Township. He suggested opening up the area for a pedestrian and bicycle trail connecting from Legg Park to Jolly Road to Ember Oaks to this parcel. If this area remains undeveloped, it will maintain the watershed and avoid water damage to this area of the Township.
 - ✓ Michael McDonald, Wood Valley Road, Haslett, supports the proposed grant application to the Land and Water Trust Fund and supports the use of these funds to preserve and support preserving green space. He supports the LPAB proposed local match of more than 25% and suggested contacting the Harris Nature Center for a letter of support outlining wildlife, especially the salmon in this area.
 - ✓ Doug Gowan, part owner of the parcel, stated he is pleased to have this parcel preserved for future generations. He and others have enjoyed the property for many years and knows Mr. Forsberg, who recently passed away, also wished to have this area preserved instead of developed.

- Commissioners comment
 - ✓ Although the application is completed online, staff will print a copy for Members review
 - ✓ The LPAB recommend the grant application submission but it is the Township Board who submits the application; the grant application was noticed at a previous Township Board meeting and is on its next agenda for action

- ✓ The grant will include an outline of the setbacks from the railroad, easements, drains, etc.; a wetland and greenspace report
- ✓ The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will evaluate the proposed purchase after the grant application is submitted; negotiations will be handled after the review of the appraisals by the DNR
- ✓ If the seven acres is removed there will be only one access
- ✓ Seller will need to go through a split of the seven acres from one of the parcels if the purchase is completed
- ✓ Ember Oaks development has a proposed plan illustrating a road/trail which would be another potential access to the far left of the north-west parcel
- ✓ Voiced concern with the comps used by the current owner in the appraisal
- ✓ The cul-de-sac roadway is owned by Ingham County Road Department and there is a 66 foot easement
- ✓ Questioned if a boardwalk could be constructed under the railroad (does not believe so)
- ✓ Attributes of the land is diversity of topography and geomorphology, has hills, little pockets to walk into; wide variety of trees; streams; meadows; close proximity to Red Cedar Natural Area and Legg Park; creates a large expansion of land for in perpetuity; different forests including hardwoods; is attractive area to live in; would be a jewel for the Township preserves; ranked high during the ranking system walks

- Chair Kielbaso declared the public hearing closed at 6:55 pm.

5. Approve Minutes

a. February 10, 2016

- ✓ Page 5, #12, Closed Session, correct spelling of acquisition
- ✓ Page 5, #12, Closed Session, second motion, add "moved" after "Mayes"

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIED SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 10, 2016 MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

6. Communications

• Emails:

- ✓ From: Member Hatfield, RE: wrong sign in Red Cedar Glen Preserve
- ✓ From: Member Hatfield, RE: ATV in Red Cedar Glen

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

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

a. Natural Resources Trust Fund Program, Acquisition Grant Request

Coordinator Greenway distributed a communication from DNR Grant Coordinator Tamara Jorkasky and a proposed resolution of support for the grant submission. The new proposed resolution takes into account the recommendations from the DNR Grant Coordinator, which reworks the donation and local match amount who is suggesting a 55% total match.

Discussion:

- Grant points are awarded based on the Township's Median Household Income which is in the upper 1/3 base level which means to get 20 points will need a local match percentage up to 55%
- Closing costs and taxes may be approximately \$15,000
- Agree with an amount of \$1 million for the purchase price and include the closing costs and donation as part of the total purchase price
- Everything at this point is an estimate; LPAB local match at \$500,000; donation at \$136,000, equaling \$514,900
- Will be requesting a local match of 55%, not 46%
- This will be a good grant application with a higher point ratio
- The grant award could be less than asking price; the award is based on the evaluation of the appraisals

The following resolution was offered by Board Member Julie Brixie and supported by Board Member Yu Man Lee:

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Program was established in 2000 to protect, preserve and enhance Meridian Township's open spaces, natural features, natural habitats and water quality for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board is interested in the continued improvement of Meridian Township's Land Preservation Program; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the acquisition or development of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the acquisition of property, parcel numbers 33-02-02-35-426-006; 33-02-02-35-200-012, which will provide for the protection of land for its environmental importance and scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2011-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of natural areas supports Township Board Policy 1.1,2; 1.2,5; 1.3,2; and 1.3,5.

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 9, 2016 and found to be acceptable;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application titled Ponderosa Land Preserve to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for an estimated total project cost of \$1,150,900 for the acquisition of property with parcel numbers: 33-02-02-35-426-006; 33-02-02-35-200-012, Okemos, Michigan. Meridian Charter Township is requesting \$514,900 from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Meridian Charter Township has made a financial commitment to the project in the amount of \$636,000 (46%) consisting of \$136,000 in land donation and \$500,000 from the Land Preservation Millage.

Discussion:

- Need the amendment motion to remove the seven acres and the grant is for the proposed purchase of 89 acres

BOARD MEMBER MAYES OFFERED THE FOLLOWING FRIENDLY AMENDMENT:

- 4TH WHEREAS, changed to: WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the acquisition of *approximately 89 acres* of property, parcel number 33-02-02-35-200-012 and part of parcel number 33-02-02-35-426-006 (see Exhibit A); which will provide for the protection of land for its environmental importance and scenic beauty; and
- In NOW, THEREFORE motion, change percentage from 46% to 55%

Friendly Amendment accepted by Maker and Supporter of the Resolution.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Yu Man Lee, Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jon Mayes, James Kielbaso, Frank Hatfield,

NAYS: None

The resolution passed.

9. Land Management Coordinator and Land Stewardship Assistant Report

Highlights include:

- Sturk Preserve: Working with Vern Stephens, Designs by Nature, on late April planting
- MSU Global Day of Service: researching projects for submission for their service day on April 16
- Lake Lansing North deer exclosures: will continue monitoring activities this June
- Towar Woods: ordered new dibble bars to assist with tree planting; herbicide treatment with volunteers; planning a clear cut with Outdoor Expressions when weather permits; developing a map for the area
- Davis/Foster Preserve: addressing concerns about the upcoming prescribed burn; received four bids; will tabulate later in the week
- Signage: designing new land preserve bollards for preserve signage; Reviewed Trail Marker Posts; suggested moving from recommendation #3 to #5; reduce "no" signs to the horse, ATV and fire; QR Code is an important link and when accessed, can be tracked by staff; important to keep dog on leash
- "Why Not to Dump Yard Waste" article submitted to HOM-TV; important to stop residents from encroaching and dumping
- Ordered new tree tags
- Would like to find "leaders" for each of the preserves such as Dave Caszatt and establish clean up dates

10. Other

a. Open Meetings Act

Board Member Brixie spoke on the importance of avoiding the use of the "reply all" feature to avoid creating a deliberation which is in violation of the open meetings act.

b. Greenspace Map Overlay

Coordinator Greenway distributed a copy of the greenspace map Associate Planner Harmony Gmazel is working on. When completed, a larger version will be distributed to members.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Announcements

None

13. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED, TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ACQUISITION ISSUES.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Yu Man Lee, Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jon Mayes, James Kielbaso,
Frank Hatfield,

NAYS: None

The Land Preservation Advisory Board entered into closed session at 8:02 pm.

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Yu Man Lee, Julie Brixie, Jon Mayes, Roland Harmes, James
Kielbaso, Frank Hatfield

NAYES: None

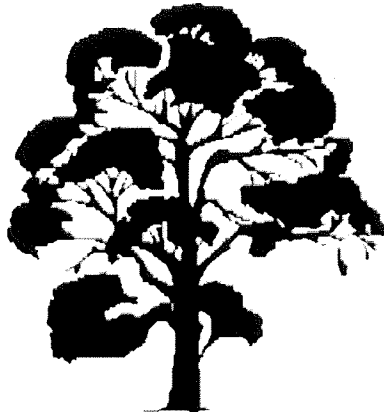
The Land Preservation Advisory Board returned to open session at 8:31 pm.

Members briefly discussed the need for additional management activities in the land preserves and asked staff to explore fees for contracting out some of the services and need to avoid violation of the Labor Act.

13. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.



Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting

Communications

1. From: PatriciaLackey; RE: support acquisition of 89 acres from Ponderosa LLC
2. From: Kelsey Dillion; To: LPAB Members; RE: Work in Towar Woods
3. From: Kelsey Dillion; To: LPAB Members; RE: Prescribed Burn
4. From: Carla Clos, Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office; RE: Update and Seed mix for drain maintenance disturbance at Sower Woods Land Preserve
5. From: Jane Greenway; To: LPAB Members; RE: Update on Seed Mix for Sower Woods Land Preserve

March 23, 2016

Ms. Jane L. Greenway, RLA
Charter Township of Meridian
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840

Dear Ms. Greenway:

I strongly support the acquisition of the 89 acre Ponderosa, LLC property north of Ponderosa Estates to develop into a park for the Township.

The property supports many beautiful stands of large oaks, cherry and maple. Abundant wildlife makes the property their home. Fox, coyotes, squirrel and deer can be seen almost every day. I really enjoy watching the fawns grow up under their mother's care.

Birds of all kind, including geese and ducks, raise families there. Coho salmon, trout, blue gill and bass spawn in the stream flowing through the property.

It would be a great "nature preserve" if added to the Meridian Township Land Preserve and Parks system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Lackey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Patricia Lackey
1102 Bonanza Drive
Okemos, MI 48864

Kelsey Dillon

From: Kelsey Dillon
Sent: Thursday, March 24, 2016 12:18 PM
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'; 'leeyum@msu.edu'
Cc: Jane Greenway
Subject: Work in Towar Woods
Attachments: 12896274_10209203789313323_13870422_o.jpg; 12887328_10209203999878587_1393892062_o.jpg; video-1458834692.mp4

Hello LPAB Members,

We were finally able to accomplish our work in Towar Woods with Outdoor Expressions! The weather finally gave us a break and we spent all of yesterday and Tuesday working in the field. Two more acres of invasive shrubs were cleared with a brush hog to make room for planting deciduous hardwoods next year. Our operator, Matt, did a great job of not only knocking over the invasives but grinding them into mulch to give us plenty of access to the area. Dave Caszatt and Don Dickmann came to help out and Nick Sanchez even stopped by to lend a hand. While the machine was operating we focused on using tree loppers to cut grape vine, poison ivy, and shrubs away from valuable hardwoods that we now have access to. We're excited so many hardwoods were saved that will give this area a head start on reforestation.

We also had several neighbors come out to ask questions and were all very happy to see stewardship efforts in the preserve. We even gained a few more volunteers for our hardwood tree planting in April (including the Outdoor Expressions company who will help us plant and lend us shovels!). We plan on hitting this newly cleared area with herbicide this summer to keep the herbaceous weeds at bay until we can plant trees next year. We are moving ahead with the planting of 120 hardwoods in the previously cleared area with Don Dickmann's help on placement and volunteer groups. I've attached a few pictures and a video (beware it's very loud) and have more before/after shots that I'll share with you at our next meeting. I also encourage you to go check it out! If you park at the end of Margate you can't miss it!

Please remember not to reply all to this message. If you have any questions or comments email me directly 😊.

Thanks!
Kelsey Dillon

--
Land Stewardship Assistant
Meridian Township Parks and Recreation
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840
Phone 517-853-4600
Fax 517-853-4099

Kelsey Dillon

From: Kelsey Dillon
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2016 8:11 AM
To: 'steph143@msu.edu'
Subject: RE: Prescribed Burn Success!

Hey Mark,

I sent Vern an email early last week about buying seed for the seed bombs and also some native plugs for a different project, but haven't heard back from him. I definitely want to move forward with the project and think it would be a great opportunity to work with Eric Bubolz at Haslett Middle School. I'll try to connect with Vern again this week.

Thank you,
Kelsey Dillon

From: ERIC BUBOLZ [<mailto:bubolze@haslett.k12.mi.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 11:31 AM
To: Stephens, Mark
Cc: Kelsey Dillon; eric bubolz
Subject: Re: Prescribed Burn Success!

I am interested in this. would need school district approval

Eric Bubolz
Haslett Middle School

On Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 9:59 AM, Stephens, Mark <steph143@anr.msu.edu> wrote:

Thanks Kelsey,

Has Vern gotten back with you about seed balls? Jane sent me those cool cakes made out of paper. Let me know if you would like me to coordinate with a school. I know Haslett Middle School is interested in doing something bigger with you guys. Eric Bubolz is working on something. I've copied Eric.

From: Kelsey Dillon [<mailto:dillon@meridian.mi.us>]
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 9:23 AM
To: Kielbaso, J; steph143@msu.edu; Julie Brixie; jtmayes@sbcglobal.net; Margo.Smith@chm.msu.edu; harmesr@aol.com; hatfield@egr.msu.edu; Lee, Yu
Cc: Jane Greenway; LuAnn Maisner
Subject: Prescribed Burn Success!

Hello LPAB Members,

David Borneman successfully burned the 19 acre unit at the Davis Foster Land Preserve this past Saturday (26th).

He noted, "Thatch burned almost completely, fire was hot with moderate intensity. You should see lots of positive effects from the fire. We were happy to get this burn done early enough to avoid any nesting burns (as noted in RFP)."

Photos are attached!

Have a great day,

Kelsey Dillon

--

Land Stewardship Assistant

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation

2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court

Haslett, MI 48840

Phone [517-853-4600](tel:517-853-4600)

Fax [517-853-4099](tel:517-853-4099)

--

Eric Bubolz

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY: This is a transmission from Haslett Public Schools and the information contained is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the addressee, please note that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of this message is prohibited.

Jane Greenway

From: Clos, Carla <CClos@ingham.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 10:04 AM
To: Jane Greenway; LuAnn Maisner
Subject: Re: Update and Seed mix for drain maintenance disturbance at Sower Woods Land Preserve

Yes. They migrate between winter hibernacula and summer habitat. The threatened Northern Long Eared Bat and endangered Indiana Bat roost in trees with peeling bark and crevices or in snags so if we try really hard to arrange to take any trees that need to come down for drain maintenance before April 1 or after October so we don't disturb any areas they may be in.

No guarantee we are helping them because they may not be in this area, but at least we are being careful in case they are.

Maybe your maintenance staff would like to know about such things for their programs.

Best regards,

Carla

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 23, 2016, at 9:25 AM, "Jane Greenway" <greenway@meridian.mi.us> wrote:

This is wonderful Carla! Thank you so much for taking so much time for this project.

Did I read that correctly.... The bats? Do bats migrate? Interesting!

Thanks again,
Jane

From: Clos, Carla [mailto:CClos@ingham.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:18 AM
To: Jane Greenway <greenway@meridian.mi.us>
Cc: LuAnn Maisner <maisner@meridian.mi.us>
Subject: Update and Seed mix for drain maintenance disturbance at Sower Woods Land Preserve

Good morning,

I shared these seed mixes last week with Jim , Jon and Steve at the site visit at the Sower Woods Land Preserve . Wanted to make sure you all received a copy as well in case you wanted to distribute them to other members of the Board. The exact seed mix used will

depend on the area we are working as you can see they are tailored for various light conditions. We are purchasing the seed from Wildflower Farm in Portland who are the same vendor for the seed we used during the Ember Oaks project in the Sylvan Glen Preserve.

I think the walk was very productive and a number of trees were marked to work around. It does not look like we need to leave our easement in order to avoid these areas of protected flora. Also, it appears that the entry with the least impacts to the Preserve will be our adjacent easement and not the Township's sanitary sewer easement off Sower Blvd.

We hope to get in to cut the trees before the bats return April 1st in and out of the Preserve, as that is all hand work, but the rest of the maintenance work in the Preserve as well as the area upstream and downstream will be on hold for a week or so because the weight restrictions have not come off and we cannot move the equipment.

We have sent a notice out to all adjoining landowners so you may get calls on this maintenance work. Please feel free to refer them to me at 676-8395 or my cell phone, 719-4913.

Thanks so much for all your assistance in protecting the valuable resources of the Township while we do our drain maintenance.

best regards, Carla

Michigan Wildflower Farm
DEEP SHADE WOODLAND MIX

| Species | Common Name | oz./acre |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Actinomeris alternifolia | Wingtem | 10 |
| Arisaema triphyllum | Jack in the Pulpit | 3 |
| Aster shortii | Short's aster | 5 |
| Bromus pubescebs | Hairy wood chess | 10 |
| Campanula americana | Tall bellflower | 10 |
| Carex blanda | Common wood sedge | 2 |
| Carex brevior | Plains oval sedge | 8 |
| Carex molesta | Field oval sedge | 8 |
| Carex muskingumensis | Palm sedge | 8 |
| Carex sprengeii | Long-beaked sedge | 4 |
| Elymus hystrix | Bottlebrush grass | 24 |
| Elymus villosus | Silky wild rye | 24 |
| Hydrophyllum appendiculatum | Great waterleaf | 1 |
| Hydrophyllum virginianum | Virginai waterleaf | 1 |
| Polygonatum biflorum | Solomon's seal | 1 |
| Smilacina racemosa | Solomon's plume | 6 |
| Solidago flex | Zig zag goldenrod | 3 |
| | | 128 |

**MICHIGAN WILDFLOWER FARM
WOODLAND EDGE MIX**

| Scientific name | Common name | % by wt. |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| FORBS | | |
| Allium cernuum | Nodding Wild Onion | 2 |
| Anemone canadensis | Canada anemone | 1 |
| Anemone virginiana | Tall thimbleweed | 1 |
| Aquilegia canadensis | Wild columbine | 4 |
| Aster cordifolius | Heart-leaved aster | 2 |
| Campanula americana | Tall bellflower | 2 |
| Desmodium canadense | Showy tick-trefoil | 2 |
| Eupatorium rugosum | Snakeroot | 4 |
| Geranium maculatum | Wild geranium | 1 |
| Helianthus divaricatus | Woodland sunflower | 2 |
| Monarda fistulosa | Bergamot | 4 |
| Penstemon digitalis | Foxglove beardtongue | 4 |
| Penstemon hirsutus | Hairy beardtongue | 1 |
| Solidago caesia | Bluestem goldenrod | 2 |
| Thalictrum dasycarpum | Purple meadow rue | 3 |
| | | 35 |
| GRASSES | | |
| Elymus canadensis | Canada Wild Rye | 30 |
| Hystrix patula | Bottlebrush grass | 10 |
| Schizachyrium scoparius | Little bluestem | 25 |
| | | 65 |

Michigan Wildflower Farm
Tried N' True Seed Mix

| Scientific Name | Common Name | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| Forbs | | |
| | | % |
| Achillea millefolium | Yarrow | 2 |
| Asclepias syriaca | Common Milkweed | 5 |
| Aster novae-angliae | New England Aster | 5 |
| Coreopsis lanceolata | Sand Tickseed | 5 |
| Echinacea purpurea | Purple Coneflower | 10 |
| Monarda fistulosa | Wild Bergamot | 5 |
| Ratibida pinnata | Yellow Coneflower | 6 |
| Rudbeckia hirta | Black-Eyed Susan | 10 |
| Solidago rigida | Stiff Goldenrod | 6 |
| Solidago speciosa | Showy Goldenrod | 6 |
| Total | | 60 |
| Grasses | | |
| Elymus canadensis | Canada wild rye | 20 |
| Schizachyrium scoparius | Little bluestem | 20 |
| Total | | 40 |

Jane Greenway

From: Jane Greenway
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 9:31 AM
To: Kielbaso, James (kielbas3@anr.msu.edu); JON MAYES (jtmayes@sbcglobal.net)
Cc: Julie Brixie; 'hatfield@egr.msu.edu'; 'Roland Harmes'; Stephens, Mark (steph143@anr.msu.edu); Yu Man Lee; 'margo.smith@chm.msu.edu'; Kelsey Dillon
Subject: FW: Update and Seed mix for drain maintenance disturbance at Sower Woods Land Preserve
Attachments: MWF DeepShadeMixA-2.xlsx; MWF WOODLAND EDGE MIX-2.xlsx; MWF TRIED N TRUE MIX-2.xlsx

Dear LPAB:

Last week Jim K and Jon M walked the Sower Preserve with representatives from the Drain Commissioner's office. The purpose of the walk was to look at the areas along and within the drain that will be cleared.

Everyone was pleased with the proposed work and the ICDC will proceed with their project any day now.

Please contact me with any questions but do not reply to all.

Thank you,
Jane

Jane L. Greenway, LLA
Parks and Land Management Coordinator
Meridian Charter Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone 517-853-4610
Fax 517-853-4099

"Creating Community through People, Parks, and Places"

From: Clos, Carla [mailto:CClos@ingham.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 23, 2016 8:18 AM
To: Jane Greenway <greenway@meridian.mi.us>
Cc: LuAnn Maisner <maisner@meridian.mi.us>
Subject: Update and Seed mix for drain maintenance disturbance at Sower Woods Land Preserve

Good morning,

I shared these seed mixes last week with Jim , Jon and Steve at the site visit at the Sower Woods Land Preserve . Wanted to make sure you all received a copy as well in case you wanted to distribute them to other members of the Board. The exact seed mix used will depend on the area we are working as you can see

they are tailored for various light conditions. We are purchasing the seed from Wildflower Farm in Portland who are the same vendor for the seed we used during the Ember Oaks project in the Sylvan Glen Preserve.

I think the walk was very productive and a number of trees were marked to work around. It does not look like we need to leave our easement in order to avoid these areas of protected flora. Also, it appears that the entry with the least impacts to the Preserve will be our adjacent easement and not the Township's sanitary sewer easement off Sower Blvd.

We hope to get in to cut the trees before the bats return April 1st in and out of the Preserve, as that is all hand work, but the rest of the maintenance work in the Preserve as well as the area upstream and downstream will be on hold for a week or so because the weight restrictions have not come off and we cannot move the equipment.

We have sent a notice out to all adjoining landowners so you may get calls on this maintenance work. Please feel free to refer them to me at 676-8395 or my cell phone, 719-4913.

Thanks so much for all your assistance in protecting the valuable resources of the Township while we do our drain maintenance.

best regards, Carla



Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting

Land Management Coordinator And Land Stewardship Assistant Reports

Stewardship Assistant Report for Kelsey Dillon
Monthly Accomplishments and Updates – March & April 2016

03/06-03/12

- Emailed Leslie Kuhn about the Garlic Mustard Posters
 - Unwanted Posters encouraging pulling garlic mustard
 - Took her suggestions and have the finished poster
- Marked valuable hardwood trees in Towar woods with pink forestry tape
 - New date for the clear cut is March 22nd with Outdoor Expressions
 - Assessed pine trees again
- Discuss plans for Love a Park Day
 - April 23rd
- Inquire with Signarama about Dedication signs for the volunteers of Love a Park Day
- Preparation for the LPAB meeting
- LPAB Meeting 03/09/2016
- Coordinate with the drain office on a walk to Sower Woods
 - Include Steve Thomas in these discussions
- Development of “Why We Burn” Piktochart for Meridian Facebook page

03/13-03/19

- Finished the “Why We Burn” infographic
- Wrote neighbor notification letter to send to property owners near Davis Foster Preserve concerning the prescribed burn
- Wrote press release about the prescribed burn at Davis Foster
- Attended the GRAND Learning Network meeting 03/16
 - Stay in contact with Lisa about potential garden projects this spring
- Meeting in Towar Woods with Dave C. to discuss plans for clearcut next week in Towar Woods
 - Need to get back out to clear the new pathway for the equipment
 - Old pathway is now blocked by standing water
 - Recruit Nick Sanchez and Don Dickmann to look for valuable trees along the new pathway
- Visit to Davis Foster to walk around the unit to be burned
 - Need to inform maintenance about standing water along the mow break
 - Coordinate with maintenance on the best route to mow the burn break

03/20-03/26

- **3 Day week due to Good Friday**
- Invasive Removal with Outdoor Expressions in Towar Woods
 - Two full days of using a brush hog to clear out invasives in Towar Woods

- Over 2 acres cleared of invasive species
- Matt did a wonderful job of grinding up the shrubs into mulch
- He also went after half-dead large Buckthorn that would have taken a lot more chemical to kill completely and years to fall over
- Kelsey, Dave Caszatt, And Don Dickmann supervised at various points over the two days
- Kelsey, Dave, and Don also cut away grape vine and poison ivy to valuable large trees that are now accessible due to the clear cut
- Boulders installed around main gate to keep vehicles out of the preserve
- Plan on hitting this area with roundup this summer to keep out herbaceous weeds and then plant with deciduous hardwoods next year
- Burn letter notifications to neighbors
 - 14 neighbors that border the Davis Foster preserve
- Burn Press Release and Infographic sent to HomTV
 - Information about the benefits of prescribed burning and why it is a safe process

03/27-04/02

- Prescribed Burn at Davis Foster Land Preserve with David Borneman (03/26)
 - 19 acre unit set to be burned completed
 - Notes from Borneman: "Thatch burned almost completely; fire was hot with moderate intensity. You should see lots of positive effects from the fire. We were happy to get this burn done early enough to avoid any nesting burns (as noted in RFP)."
- Post-burn Visit and Photos
 - Area looks great!
 - Update given to LPAB via email
- Planning Tree Planting Day in Towar Woods
 - Decided on April 16th
 - Contacted several volunteers groups and members of the neighborhood to volunteer

- Yard Waste for Meridian Monitor

04/03-04/09

- Coordination and Planning for Love A Park Day
 - Updating letters
 - Writing Press Release
 - List of activities at each park
- Response to MSU Student on Invasive Species
 - Chris Hung at MSU
 - Saved in folder
 - Describes Meridian invasive species and what the department does to combat them
- Ordering plaques for Love a Park Day Volunteers
 - From Signarama
- Tree Planting Preparation in Towar Woods
 - Locations for seedlings

- Ordered Blue-X tubes

04/10-04/16

- A lot of Love a Park Day Planning
 - Response to Meridian Times about event
 - Updating tasks in each park and writing it up for volunteers
 - Ordering t-shirts for volunteers
- Tree Planting in Towar Woods (More planning)
 - Meeting with Dave C. and Jane about tree planting and future Towar Woods projects
 - Ordered t-posts for blue-x tubes
- Research into seed bombs and flats for Monarch Garden planting at Hartrick Park
 - Using Dave Reicosky's recommendations for plugs
 - Using Vern Stephens recommendations for seed bombs (no stratification required)
- Tree Planting Event in Towar Woods – Success!
 - Had 15 volunteers plant 80 trees
 - All trees had blue-x tubes installed to protect them
 - DD from maintenance was able to clear fallen trees and push logs to an area where the path was widened by the clear cutting machinery to block entrance from ATVs and trucks that could drive in and destroy the newly planted trees
 - 40 SM will be in on the 27th and volunteers will plant those on the 30th

04/17-04/23

- Love-A-Park Day Prep
 - Organizing what to do and where to do it
 - Contacting volunteers to get a final count
 - T-shirts arrived, checked inventory
 - 2 maintenance employees going to help
 - Assign volunteers to parks as they call in throughout the week
 - Bought supplies including snacks and flowers
- Garlic Mustard at Dream Lakes, Emerald Lakes, and Bear Lake condo association
 - Member of their board came in and spoke to myself and Jane about how to treat Garlic Mustard on their property
 - Property management voted not to treat garlic mustard or ban yard waste
 - Margo Smith asked me to write a response talking about why Meridian treats Garlic Mustard and bans yard waste dumping in natural areas
 - Letter written and sent to the condo association's board
- Love-A-Park Day 2016 = Success!
 - 26 volunteers just at my site at Nancy Moore
 - Perennials planted around dedication rocks, Trees mulched, Weeding, Trash Pick-Up
 - Volunteer were also at the Harris Nature Center and Forest Hills Natural Area
- STURK prairie preparation

- Vern Stephen's crew disked and culti-packed the site
- Work order for downed tree
- He will seed next weekend (grasses only)
- Monitor over the summer
- Planning on seed bombs for this coming fall to introduce the forbs
 - Also supplemental hand seeding

04/24-04/30

- Love-A-Park Day Wrap Up
 - Collected all information and written up as a summary of event
 - Plan for what to do differently next year
- Tree Planting Round 2 Preparation
 - Work with Dave C. and 1 volunteer to flag 40 locations in the current planting area for the 40 sugar maples to be planted on the 30th
 - Drive fence posts into the ground in these locations in order to speed up planting process for the smaller group of volunteers
 - Tag trees with ID tags that have already been planted
 - Purchase mulch to put around the base of trees
- Bird Walk in Central Meridian Uplands
 - Species list saved in file; next walk is May 15
- Monarch Garden at Hartrick Park
 - Order flats of nectar plants from Wildtype Nursery
- Seed Bombs for Davis Foster Preserve
 - Spoke with Vern Stephens about species recommendations:
 - Smooth Blue Aster, Wild Bergamot, Horsemint, Purple Coneflower, False Boneset, Mountain Mint, Culver's Root
 - Vern also recommended using modelling clay
 - Spoke with Esther Durnwald at the Michigan Wildflower Farm about seed mix
 - They would have everything except Culver's Root
- Sower Woods Garlic Mustard Day
 - Coordinating with Steve Thomas for a Garlic Mustard Pull on May 14th
 - I will be doing the advertising and recruiting in the neighborhood and provide supplies
- Interview for HOMTV on Garlic Mustard and Oak Wilt
 - Discussing the Stewardship Networks Garlic Mustard Challenge and Oak Wilt Disease in Meridian Township

05/01-05/07

- Towar woods Tree Planting Wrap Up
 - Volunteers successfully planted the 40 Sugar Maples in the desired locations
 - Trees were tagged and tubed
 - Wrote a Press Release for the project

- Coordination with Zsa Mahon and Eric Bubolz on Seed Bomb Project
 - Shooting for late May/early June for the seed bomb project
 - Have the students make the seed bombs at Davis Foster
 - Throw them into the 19 acre burned prairie area
 - Have other stations as well similar to Historical Village event in November
- Friend of the Park Appreciation Event
 - Design brochure for event
 - Get table cloths, table clips, and flowers
- Monarch Garden at Hartrick Planning
 - Met with Dave Reicosky to plan the details of the Monarch Garden planting event
 - Full schedule and logistics written up and saved in folder
- Glyphosate spraying in Towar Woods
 - Sprayed glyphosate around 120 newly planted trees to keep back weeds

Why Do We Burn?



Information About Ecological Burning in Meridian Township



Fire is Native

Southern Michigan Ecosystems are Fire-Adapted

Many of our local ecosystems such as prairies, dry oak-hickory woodlands, and certain wetlands burned frequently before people moved in and suppressed natural fires.



Invasive Population Decrease

Native Population Increase

Fight Invasives

Invasive Species are NOT as Well-Adapted

By bringing fire back to these sites we encourage the competitive advantage over invasive species that native species have evolved and restore the site to its former ecological health.



Prime Habitat

Creates a Unique Habitat for Wildlife

Did you know the endangered Henslow's Sparrow calls our grassland at the Davis Foster Land Preserve home? Grasslands support a wide variety of native flora and fauna that cannot survive in any other ecosystem.



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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
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Trustee
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2016

Media Contact: Kelsey Dillon
Land Stewardship Assistant
Parks and Recreation
dillon@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4600

Controlled Burn Planned Within Next Several Weeks

Meridian Township supports healthy natural features on township-owned property

Meridian Township, MI — Meridian Township officials have planned an ecological controlled burn at the Davis Foster Land Preserve, a township-owned property located at 5120 Van Atta Road. The burn will include 19 acres in the southeast portion of the restored grassland on the property.

Many of our local ecosystems such as prairies/grasslands, dry oak woodlands and certain wetlands, are adapted to fire and actually require it to stay healthy. These natural communities support a diversity of plants and wildlife. Fire stimulates native plants to grow by darkening the soil and increasing its temperature, releasing nutrients, keeping woodlands and prairie more open and sunny, and discouraging plants that are not adapted to fire, such as non-native invasive species. The Davis Foster restored grassland is broken up into four units that are burned on a rotational basis for the purpose of providing refuge for wildlife.

"This section of the grassland is due for a prescribed burn in order to encourage the growth of native forbs and grasses that have been previously planted there. The presence of a state-endangered bird, Henslow's Sparrow, as well as many other ground nesting birds show that this is a healthy grassland ecosystem and we intend to keep it that way" said Kelsey Dillon, Meridian Township's Land Stewardship Assistant.

David Borneman LLC has been hired to plan and conduct this work. David has not only burned this property before, but his crew has extensive professional experience conducting these types of burns throughout Michigan. The merits of ecological burns are supported by Meridian Township ordinances, and this project involves the cooperation and approval of the Meridian Township Fire Inspector Tavis Millerov. Permits have been issued for these burns to be conducted.

MORE

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 517.853.4000

www.meridian.mi.us



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Prior to burning, "burn breaks" will be created around the area to help control the fire. The burn is done in a slow and deliberate manner, with safety equipment on hand to monitor and control its spread. The burn will also be conducted in such a manner as to minimize the amount of smoke produced and to direct any smoke away from smoke-sensitive areas as much as possible. Neighbors of the properties that will be burned will receive notification in the mail.

Due to the burn being weather-dependent, it is difficult to schedule the precise day of the burn. The burn will be scheduled within the next several weeks and is likely to occur between 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Kelsey Dillon or check out David Borneman's website:
<http://www.restoringnaturewithfire.com>.

###



Davis Foster Prescribed Burn March 2016

19 acres successfully burned



Before



After



Yard Waste Dumping – What’s the Big Deal?

Yard waste dumping in parks and natural areas is a consistent problem here in Meridian Township. Besides being illegal (Meridian Charter Township Zoning Code, Section 46-2) dumping plant matter such as tree trimmings, leaf litter, and garden waste has a lot of harmful effects on our beautiful natural areas both aesthetically and ecologically.

You might be thinking, “It’s biodegradable, so how can it hurt to throw tree branches into the woods behind my house?” Natural systems are in a delicate nutrient cycling balance that can be thrown off with even the smallest amount of added yard waste. So that pile of brush you and your neighbors add to will take years longer to biodegrade than the leaf and woody litter that accumulates naturally. You may also think that these piles of yard waste provide wildlife habitat, but native species appreciate the natural habitat that an undisturbed ecosystem provides rather than yard waste that could introduce invasive species or yard chemicals to their home.

So why are these brush piles a big deal?

Negative Impacts:

- Fire Hazard – dried brush, leaf litter, and branches are a perfect ignition source
- Attracts pests – introduces a food source and shelter for mice, rats, and unwanted insects
- Decrease in native plants – suppressed by shade and increased heat from decomposition
- Introduction of non-native species– plants can grow from vines, roots, and seeds
- Aesthetically unpleasing – nobody likes to see heaps of rotting plants

How Can You Help Preserve Neighboring Natural Areas:

- Keep yard projects separate from natural areas
- Do not extend your yard or store things beyond your property line
- Consider using native Michigan plants in your garden and yard
- Join local stewardship volunteer efforts in your neighborhood -natural area

Easy Disposal of Yard Waste at the Meridian Recycling Center!

- Address: 5967 E. Lake Dr. Haslett, Michigan 48840
- Cost: \$2.00 per 30 gallon bio-degradable brown bag, \$15.00 per cubic yard, \$20 per typical level truck bed
- No building or wood trash, trim to at least 4ft length and 10 inches thick
- Website: <http://www.reclaimedbydesign.com>
- Hours:

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Sunday | Closed |
| Monday | 2:00-6:00 |
| Tuesday | 10:00-6:00 |
| Wednesday | 10:00-6:00 |
| Thursday | 10:00-6:00 |
| Friday | 2:00-6:00 |
| Saturday | 10:00-5:00 |

Hello Chris!

I'm so excited you contacted us and are writing a report on invasive species! It's an issue not many people know about but one that directly affects our natural areas in a big way.

> What is the single most harmful invasive species to Meridian Township right now? Is there a reason for this?

This is hard question to answer! Invasive species all present unique challenges and impact our natural areas differently. I've only been working here since October so I've mainly dealt with the woody invasive species and not the herbaceous ones. My main nemeses are Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, and Autumn Olive. These are all very hard to get rid of if they have a foothold in an area. As far as herbaceous invasives species go I haven't treated any yet (that is done in the growing season) but Garlic Mustard, Japanese Knotweed, Dame's Rocket, and Phragmites are the big ones that the department actively controls. I don't think I could single out just one of these as "the most harmful" and there are others I'm sure I'm not thinking of at this moment that are also harmful.

> Are there any that provide potential health risks, and what are the associated health risks -- if any?

Invasive species, for the most part, are controlled not due to the direct danger they present to humans but due to the danger they present to our native ecosystems (which we are a part of). Invasive species reduce biodiversity due to their ability to completely take over in an ecosystem. Since the ecosystems have not had time to adapt to these new inhabitants they are able to dominate in large monocultures due to a lack of predation and natural control mechanisms.

> Is a lot of effort put into maintaining Meridian's parks to control invasive species? What is done?

My job as the Land Stewardship Assistant is mostly invasive species control and the planting of native species in their place. The Land Preservation Advisory Board allocates funds to the maintenance of our natural areas in Meridian Township for just this purpose. We have very detailed invasive species reports for each site that document the location of invasive species and also which areas are high priorities for treatment. Our philosophy is to tackle the satellite populations that have not yet established first because they only require minimal effort to completely control so we can easily impact large areas. More intense management on large monoculture populations of invasive species is focused on 2-3 natural areas each year on a rotational basis. These are very labor intensive efforts and often the population is only temporarily reduced to a "tolerable" level. All management efforts to eradicate invasive species must be on-going or you will quickly lose ground.

Here are some of the things we actively do:

- Herbicide treatments for both woody and herbaceous species (I have a right-of-way herbicide applicator's license through the Michigan Department of Agriculture)
- Hand pulling/trimming/cutting down (can be coupled with herbicide treatments)
- Prescribed burning – contracted out to David Borneman from Ann Arbor
- Large-scale Mechanical Removal – hire company to bring in a large brush hog to clear acres of invasive shrubs (we just did this 2 weeks ago!)

> Anything interesting you'd like me know that I might not have covered?

You should come out and see one of our natural areas! Trying to fit everything about invasive species management and treatment in Meridian Township into an email is hard! I would love to show you around one of the preserves where we are actively working and give you a better idea about what exactly what we do. You can volunteer as well! One of the major parts of my job besides just getting out in the field to tackle these invasive species is to educate community members and get them out and involved directly in these projects. Raising awareness about invasive species and what people can do to help cannot be undervalued. Without public attention, knowledge and support we cannot hope to win the battle against invasive species.

Another Great Resource/Contact:

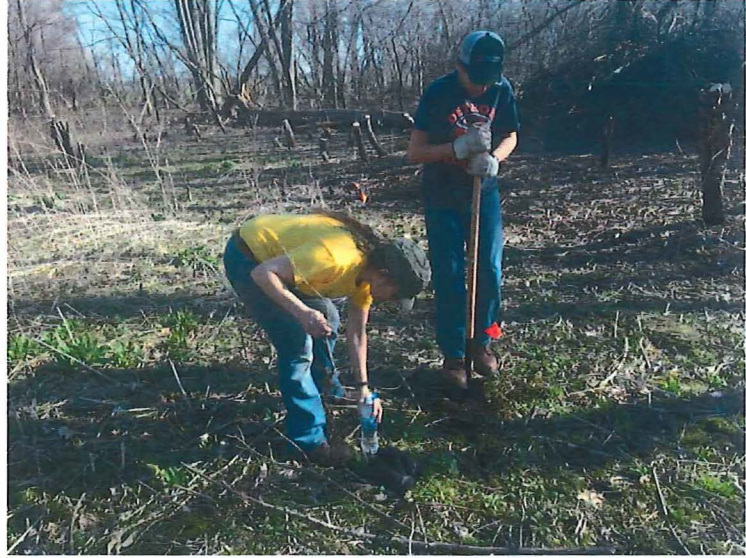
The Stewardship Network – We work with the Mid-Michigan Cluster of this group very regularly. They provide all kinds of amazing information and advice on invasive species management. Leslie Kuhn and Jim Hewitt would be good resources to tap into for your report as well. They have been working in this area for a lot longer than I have and could speak more to the development of management plans and strategies over time.

If you have any other questions or would like to get out to one of the land preserves please feel free to contact me!

Best,

Kelsey Dillon

Towar Woods Tree Planting April 2016



Kelsey Dillon

From: Kelsey Dillon
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 10:10 AM
To: 'jbretz@legacy.services'
Cc: 'Margo.Smith@chm.msu.edu'; 'floyd@msu.edu'; Jane Greenway; LuAnn Maisner; Kati Adams
Subject: Garlic Mustard Treatment in Meridian Township

Dear Mr. James Bretz,

Your recent letter to Margo Smith was forwarded to me in connection to an inquiry about Garlic Mustard on the Wildwood Lakes Dream Lake Condominium Association property. I am the noted biologist that is referenced in the letter and I am excited your condo association is concerned with the invasive species issues our township faces and I just wanted to let you know about our program in Meridian Township.

Meridian Township has had a lot of success using herbicide to control the spread of Garlic Mustard. Sylvan Glen, one of our beautiful land preserves, has been almost fully cleared of Garlic Mustard through pulling and spraying efforts. It is definitely possible to clear natural areas of garlic mustard similar to the area described to me by your Board member. You are correct in the fact that it will need to be followed up on for a few years after the initial treatment, but these secondary treatments should not be as expensive or time-consuming if coupled with volunteers pulling the plants.

Garlic Mustard can spread into woodlands; it will not stay on the outer edges. We have seen time and time again how Garlic Mustard can invade valuable forests and completely take over the forest floor. Garlic mustard suppresses the growth of forest understory plants by disrupting their affiliation with mycorrhizal fungi, a highly diverse group of soil microbes that most plant species depend on, especially woody plants. Without the fungi aiding in nutrient uptake, many saplings are stunted or even killed by Garlic Mustard. This in turn opens up more area for the invasion to spread. You will not see many beautiful wildflowers or young hardwood seedlings in woodlands overrun with Garlic Mustard.

The use of herbicide for the control of Garlic Mustard is well-documented and recommended as an effective method of control. Hand-pulling Garlic Mustard is only advised when the population is small and isolated or when these efforts are coupled with spray treatments. Herbicide control should be conducted in the early spring and late fall when the native plants are dormant; this drastically reduces any off-target effects of the treatments. The up-front cost of treating Garlic Mustard may seem like a lot, but the aesthetics and health of the forest ecosystem will be more valuable in the long run.

I have also been asked to speak about the issue of yard waste dumping. Meridian Township has an ordinance against yard waste dumping in our natural areas for these and other reasons.

Negative Impacts of Yard Waste Dumping:

1. Fire Hazard – dried brush, leaf litter, and branches are a perfect ignition source
2. Attracts pests – introduces a food source and shelter for mice, rats, and unwanted insects
3. Decrease in native plants – suppressed by shade and increased heat from decomposition
4. Introduction of non-native species– plants can grow from vines, roots, and seeds
5. Aesthetically unpleasing – nobody likes to see heaps of rotting plants

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to call or email me. The Mid-Michigan branch of the stewardship Network is also a fantastic resource on invasive species control. I would encourage you to report any hand-pulling efforts to them so it can be entered for our region in the 2016 Garlic Mustard Challenge:

<https://www.stewardshipnetwork.org/story/2016-garlic-mustard-challenge>.

Thank you,

Kelsey Dillon

--

Land Stewardship Assistant

Central Meridian Upland Bird Walk 2016

04/24/2016

List of species: 23 Species

- Great Blue Heron
- Mallard
- Wood Duck
- Red-tailed Hawk (on nest)
- Turkey (heard)
- Mourning Dove
- Kingfisher (heard)
- Red-bellied woodpecker
- Downy woodpecker
- Pileated woodpecker
- Blue Jay
- Crow
- Black-capped Chickadee
- Tufted titmouse
- White-breasted nuthatch
- Carolina Wren
- Robin
- Cardinal
- Song Sparrow
- Field Sparrow (heard at Nancy Moore parking area)
- Red-winged Blackbird
- Cowbird
- Am Goldfinch (heard)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 03, 2016

Media Contact: Kelsey Dillon
Land Stewardship Assistant
Parks and Recreation
dillon@meridian.mi.us / 517.853.4600

Tree Planting in Towar Woods Land Preserve

Neighborhood Volunteers Plant Native Hardwoods to Continue Ecological Site Restoration

Meridian Township, MI — Neighborhood volunteers planted 120 native hardwood seedlings in the Towar Woods Land Preserve on April 16th and April 30th. This project is part of the ongoing stewardship efforts to increase ecosystem health not only in this land preserve, but all natural areas throughout Meridian Township.

Over 30 volunteers planted 40 Sugar Maple, 40 Bur Oak and 40 Red Oak seedlings in open areas previously cleared of an invasive species, Buckthorn. They also installed protective tubes on the trees to prevent deer predation. Among the volunteers were residents of the surrounding neighborhood, employees from the company Outdoor Expressions, members of Meridian's Land Preservation Advisory Board, and members of the Forestry Department at MSU.

"Reforestation using these native hardwoods is important for our goal to improve ecosystem health in this land preserve. Planting these trees and tubing them required a lot of hard work and we cannot thank our volunteers enough," said Kelsey Dillon, Land Stewardship Assistant at Meridian Township Parks and Recreation.

The restoration work in the Towar Woods Land Preserve has included extensive invasive species removal and reforestation efforts. Visitors to the preserve can already note the drastic improvements being made and it will only get better from here. All land preserves in Meridian are open to the public from dawn to dusk.

If you are interested in getting involved with stewardship efforts in one of your local Land Preserves or Parks in Meridian Township please contact Kelsey Dillon by email, dillon@meridian.mi.us, or phone, 517-853-4600.

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