



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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. April 10, 2024
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. February 14, 2024
5. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. None.
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Ribbon cutting ceremony in May for preservation signage
 - B. Acquisition
 - a. Re-evaluate the ecological inventory and the screening process for potential acquisitions by board members
 - b. Acquisition process; discuss updates and changes to bring to the Township Board for review and recommendation
 - C. Wetland setback ordinance; revisions outlined in Master Plan
 - a. Discuss what steps the board recommends taking during the revision process
 - D. Televised Land Preservation Advisory Board meetings
7. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - b. MCC April Stewardship Calendar
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Yu Man Lee
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
8. PUBLIC COMMENT
9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 6 pm at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett Michigan 48840.
11. ADJOURNMENT



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, Mark Stephens, Yu Man Lee.
ABSENT: None.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: 2023 Appointment not finalized

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at ___6:06___ pm

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. February 14, 2024

Board member Stephens moved to approve the February 14, 2024 Agenda to place on file. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: unanimous.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. January 10, 2024

Board member Parnell makes a motion to place the January 10, 2024 minutes on file as amended. Vice Chair Thomas seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. 2024 Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting Schedule (Please see Exhibit A)

B. Board vacancy

a. Supervisor Jackson will appoint a Township Trustee to the board at a later date. Yu Man Lee is the new liaison from Environmental Commission. The board will move forward with 7 members, filling the 8th spot if qualified applications are submitted.

Board member Parnell makes a motion to place February 14, 2024 Communications on file. Board member Fay seconded.

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Voice vote: Unanimous

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Election of Officers
 - a. Elect 2024 Chair and Vice Chair (Please see Exhibit B)

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Cornell-Sweetwood Post-Acquisition Process
 - a. Staff updates board members on the process of post-acquisition (flow chart in meeting packet)
 - b. Next step will be hiring a contractor to complete the environmental assessment Phase II, and stewardship plan
 - c. Staff and board members will perform a site visit this summer when the management plans are done to go through the plans and discuss the content
 - d. Board member comments:
 - a. Are there restrictions on the naming rights of the property?
 - i. Staff will look into this further
 - b. Please add a timeline for the contractual work to be completed by.

8. REPORTS

- A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. Recap for board members absent at January meeting; 2023 Annual Report for Stewardship, 2024 Land Preservation and Stewardship Goals, Update on preservation signage, New Land Preservation name signage, brochure and updated map
- B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - a. Master Plan for 2022-2027
 - b. Identify items in the Master Plan to work on with the Planning Commission
 - i. Woodland and Wetland Ordinance
 - ii. Potential to have a joint meeting with the Environmental Commission to discuss these issues
 - c. Wetland Education and Outreach Program
 - i. Commissioner Lee will continue to work on these efforts
- C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
 - a. Currently working on updates to Marshall Park play structures and flood mitigation, installing a native wet meadow in the low area near the basketball court
 - b. \$150,000 diverted from Township Board (not park funds) to do these updates
 - c. \$150,000 will be diverted in 2025 as well

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Schedule a ribbon cutting for land preserve signage in May at the April meeting

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11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

EXHIBIT A



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

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

PRESENT: Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, and Jamie Hiller.

ABSENT: Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens.

The following resolution supported by Chair Jamie Hiller:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ADOPTED: Vice Chair Thomas moved to approve the amended meeting calendar for 2024. Board Member Parnell seconded.

YEAS: Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, & Jamie Hiller.

NAYS: None.

The resolution passed

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss:
 COUNTY OF INGHAM)

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

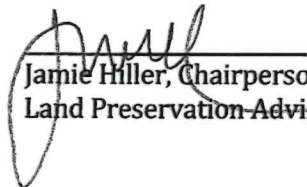

 Jamie Hiller, Chairperson
 Land Preservation Advisory Board

EXHIBIT B



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator
Date: February 14, 2024
Re: Election of Officers for 2024

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

BOARD MEMBER PARNELL MOVED, TO NOMINATE JAMIE HILLER AS CHAIR.
BOARD MEMBER FAY SECONDED.

Board member Jamie Hiller accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay, (Jamie Hiller abstained)

NAYS: None

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

BOARD MEMBER PARNELL MOVED, TO NOMINATE STEVE THOMAS AS VICE CHAIR.
BOARD MEMBER FAY SECONDED.

Board member Steve Thomas accepted the nomination.

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

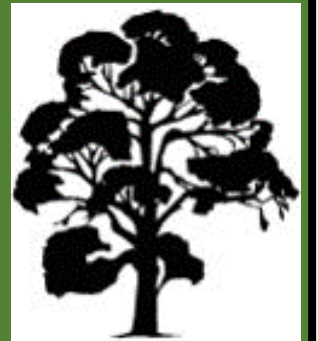
Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay, Jamie Hiller (Steve Thomas abstained)

NAYS: None.



Meridian Township's Land Preservation Program



Advised by:






Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board

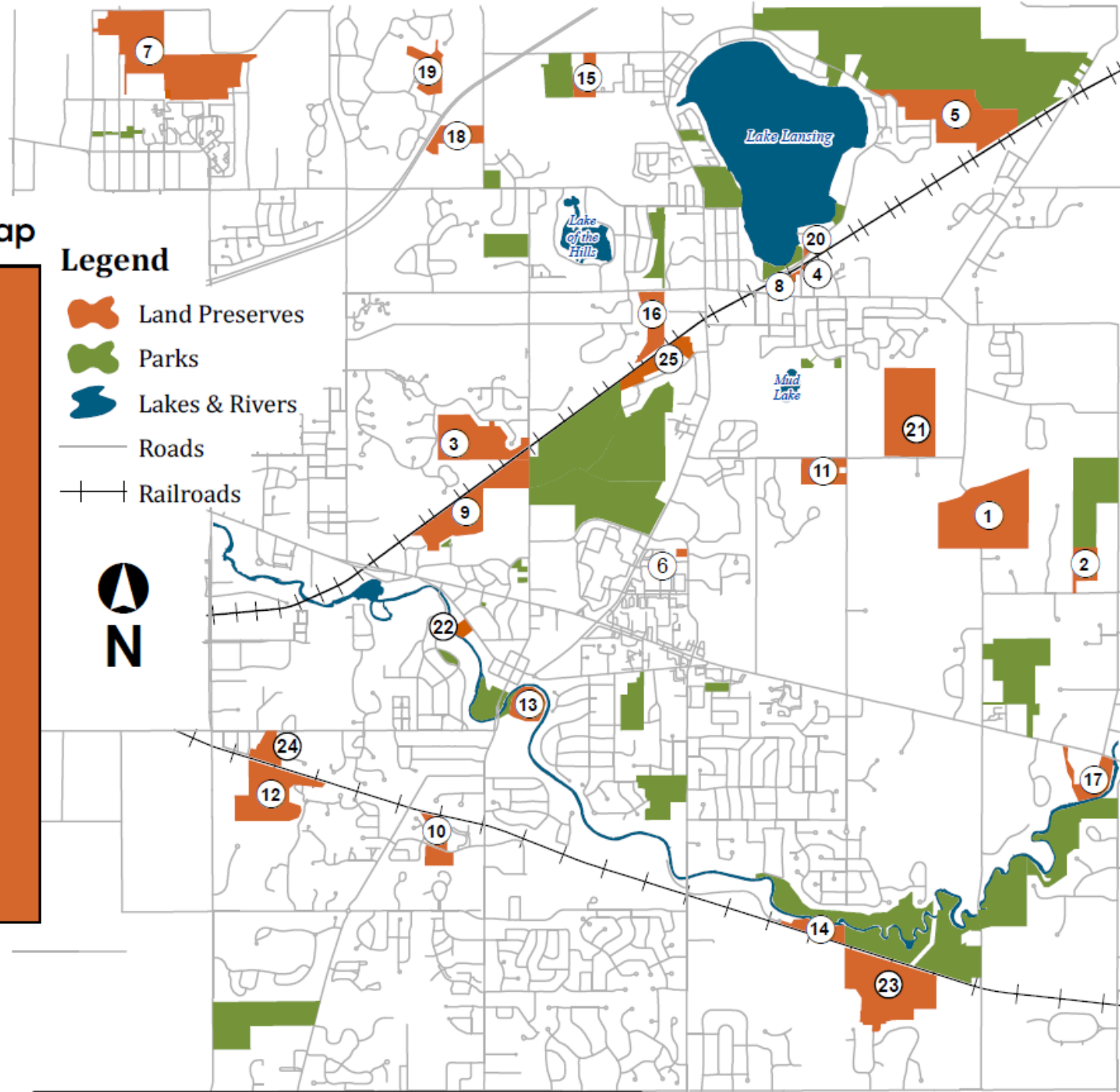


Land Preservation Map

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

Legend

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



The History of the Land Preservation Program



Meridian Township's Land Preservation Program is the first community-supported and funded program of its kind in Michigan for the acquisition and permanent preservation of ecologically important open space and natural features.



Since the program began, over 950 acres have been permanently protected in 25 land preserves.



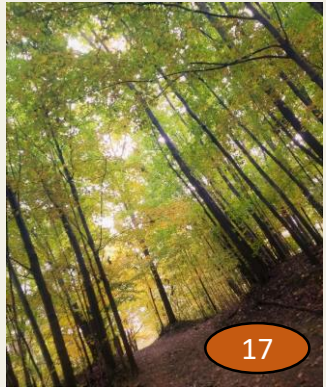
In 2000, voters approved a property tax of 0.75 mills over a 10-year period. In 2020, the millage was reduced to 0.1.



Properties are acquired through purchase in fee simple, conservation easement, or donation.



Meridian's Land Preservation Program has been recognized as a national model by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



The Purpose of the Land Preservation Program

1. 4-Toed Salamander (Species of Concern)



2. Blue Phlox (CoC- 5)



3. Monarch Butterfly (Candidate for Endangered Species Act)

4. Cardinal Flower (CoC- 7)



5. Blue-spotted Salamander Eggs (Species in Decline)

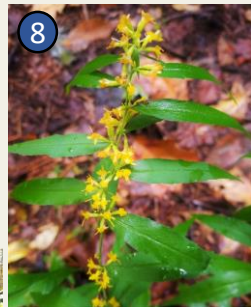


6. Cancer Root (CoC- 8)

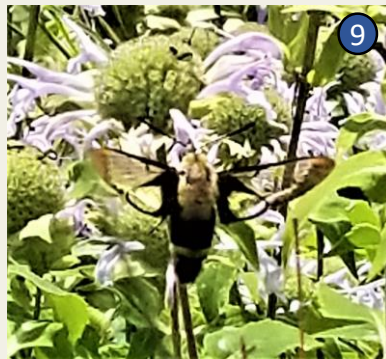


7. Green Dragon (CoC-8)

8. Blue Stem Goldenrod (CoC-6)



9. Snowberry Clearwing (Species in Decline)



10. Common Trillium (CoC- 5)



11. Wild Columbine (CoC-5)



12. Swamp Milkweed (CoC- 6)



13. Yellow Lady Slipper (CoC- 5)



1. Protect, preserve, and enhance Meridian Township's open spaces and natural features.

2. Establish a reserve fund for perpetual stewardship of these lands.

3. Enhance and sustain natural habitat and water quality.

4. Ensure the continuation of a pleasant and livable community that will benefit our residents, visitors, and the local economy.

5. Leave an important natural legacy for future generations.

The Advisory Board

An 8-member **Land Preservation Advisory Board** is appointed by the Township Board.

Duties include:

- Identify & evaluate candidate properties
- Advise the Township Board and Planning Commission
- Accept applications from landowners & negotiate property acquisition
- Develop stewardship plans for each property
- Public education



Property Nomination



- Any landowner can nominate his or her property for consideration.
- Applications are made in writing to the Land Preservation Advisory Board c/o Township Clerk.
- Applications can be obtained from:
 - Township Clerk's Office.
 - Department of Community Planning and Development
 - On-line at <http://meridian.mi.us/>

Process For Review & Acquisition

1. APPLICATION

Property owner or their designee submits application to Township Clerk. Clerk forwards application to Land Preservation Advisory Board.

2. REVIEW and APPROVAL

Land Preservation Advisory Board performs ecological review of property using land screening criteria.

If property meets criteria, a real estate market appraisal is prepared.

3. NEGOTIATION

Land Preservation Advisory Board negotiates property acquisition with landowner.

4. ACCEPTANCE

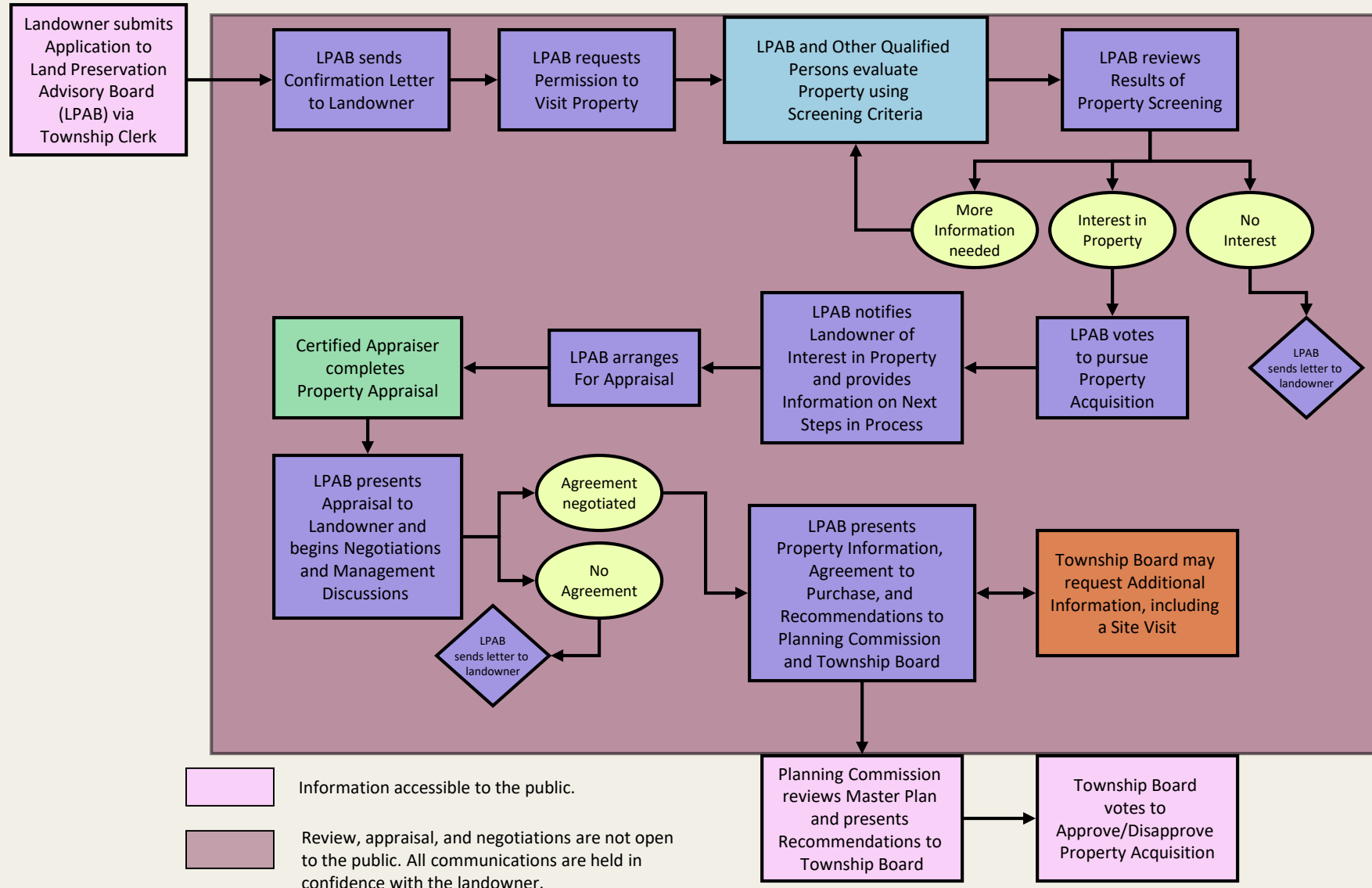
If an agreement is met, Land Preservation Advisory Board makes recommendations to Planning Commission and Township Board.

5. ACQUISITION

Township Board of Trustees votes to acquire property.

Review & Acquisition Flowchart

In Accordance with Land Preservation Ordinance and Rules of Procedure



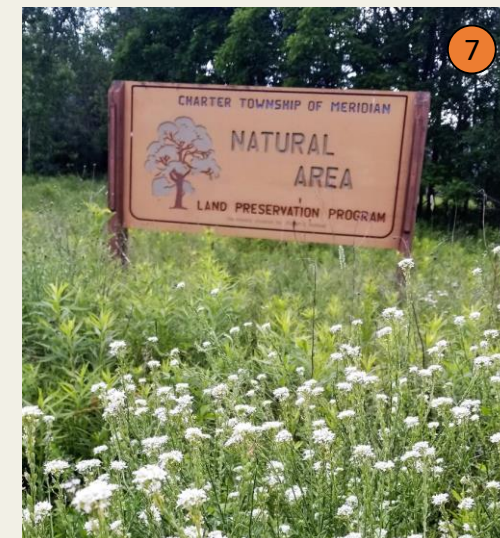
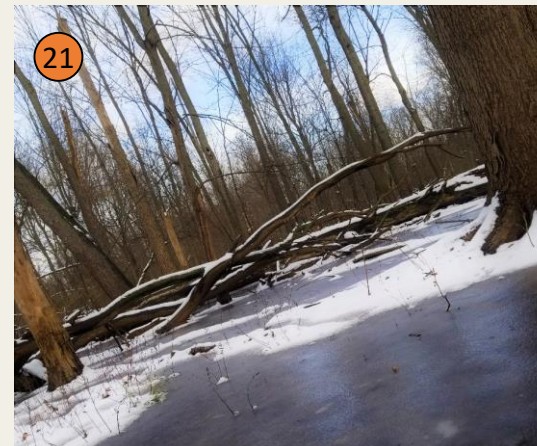
Property Evaluation- Unique Screening Criteria

- ECOLOGICAL VALUE –
 - Ecosystems of state, regional, or local importance
 - Threatened or endangered species
 - Habitat for protected species
- PARCEL SIZE –
 - Large land area with significant natural resource potential
 - 5-acre or larger parcel contiguous to preserved lands (Township Park or Natural Area); or has Planned Unit Development or Conservation Easement offered
 - Any parcel of greater or less than 5 acres with important habitat values



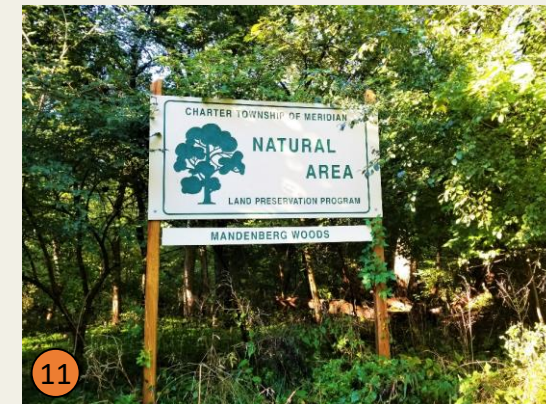
Property Evaluation- Unique Screening Criteria

- NATURAL/FUNCTIONAL VALUE –
 - Upland buffer for wetlands, riparian areas, or shorelines
 - Woodlots or woodlands to minimize habitat fragmentation
 - Prime, unique soils or agricultural value
 - Ground water recharge, water quality enhancement; flood or storm water control
 - Other important, but otherwise unprotected natural features (e.g., unique landforms)



Property Evaluation- Unique Screening Criteria

- SURROUNDING LAND USE –
 - Contiguous to wetland, riparian area, park
 - Contiguous to agricultural area, residential area, or mixed-use area
- ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY –
 - Property contains no known environmental contamination
- AESTHETIC VALUE –
 - Provides open, green space that separates incompatible land uses or monotony of same uses
 - Provides unique multiple use opportunities
- SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS –
 - Determined on a case-by-case basis



Post-Acquisition

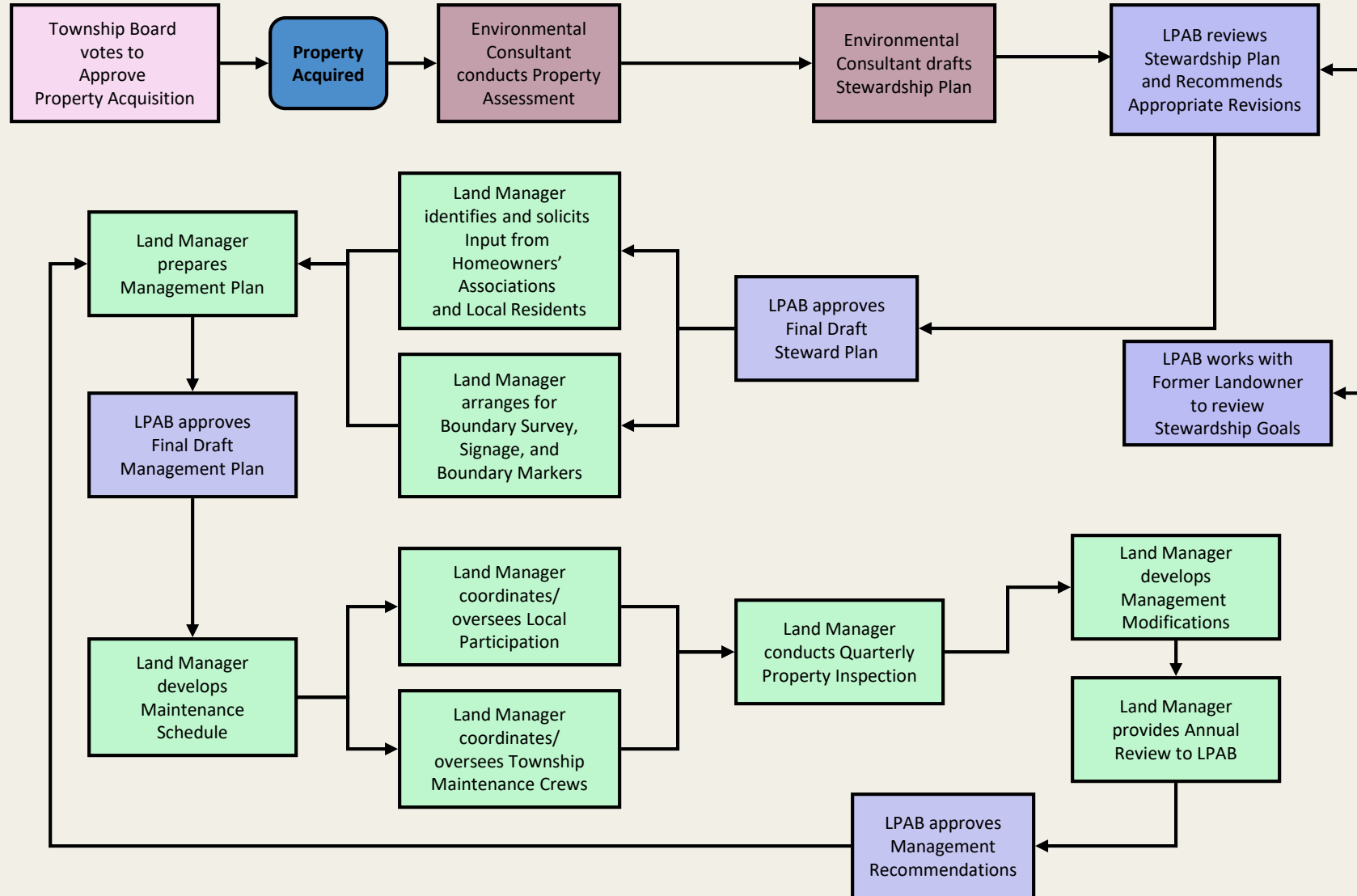
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Each property is managed and maintained as a **Natural Area** under a Land Stewardship Plan prepared for that property . . .

Incorporating Properties Post-Acquisition

In Accordance with Land Preservation Ordinance and Rules of Procedure



In summary, Land Preservation in Meridian Township . . .

- Was established by a multi-stakeholder Land Preservation Task Force
- Was approved and financially supported by our community
- Is designed to complement—not stop or control—development
- Is separate from the Township’s Park System or Greenspace Plan— but contributes to our open space assets
- Operates on the principle of “willing buyer - willing seller”
- Adds value to surrounding property and to the Quality of Life for all Meridian Township citizens
- *Most importantly*, is all about protecting important and sensitive open spaces, natural areas, habitats, plants, and wildlife.

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For More Information

- Information is available on-line at the Township's web site, <http://meridian.mi.us/> Land Preservation Program
- Questions can be directed to:
 - Land Stewardship Coordinator- Emma Campbell
 - ecampbell@meridian.mi.us
 - 517.853.4614

Directions to the Land Preserves

- 1 Cornell Wetland**
5227 Cornell Road, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 2 Davis-Foster**
5120 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI, 48863
- 3 Forest Grove**
2245 East Saginaw Street, East Lansing, MI, 48823
- 4 Foster-Crouse**
250 Newman Road, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 5 Glacial Ridge**
Near: 6256 Fenwick Court, East Lansing, MI, 48823
- 6 Heron Creek**
Near: 2704 Creekstone Trail, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 7 Hubbel**
Near: 5317 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 8 Inter-Urban Wetland**
1727 Haslett Road, Haslett, MI, 48840
- 9 Kuzma**
5770 Carlton Street, Haslett, MI, 48840
- 10 Lake Lansing North**
Near: 1000 Wild Ginger Trail, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 11 Mandenberg Woods**
2265 Hamilton Road, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 12 Nemoke**
Near: 1765 Nemoke Trail, Haslett, MI, 48840
- 13 Newman Equities**
Near: 1775 Central Park Drive, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 14 Okemos Road Preserve**
5190 Okemos Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823
- 15 Pike Crossing**
5763 Carlton Street, Haslett, MI, 48840
- 16 Ponderosa**
3700 Ponderosa Drive, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 17 Red Cedar Glen**
1389 Sylvan Glen Road, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 18 Red Cedar River East**
101 Grand River Avenue, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 19 Serafine**
Near: 4435 Del Mar Drive, East Lansing, MI, 48823
- 20 Sower Woods**
2351 Sower Boulevard, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 21 Sumbal**
4538 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 22 Tank Wetland**
Near: 5873 East Lake Drive, Haslett, MI, 48840
- 23 Tihart**
Near: 954 Tihart Road, Okemos, MI, 48864
- 24 Towar Woods**
2948 Margate Lane, East Lansing, MI, 48823
- 25 Towner Wetland**
Near: 1963 Wilder Street, Haslett, MI, 48840

APRIL

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CONSERVE



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- April 6th, Hartrick Park, Invasive mustard pull
- April 20th, Pull-Pizza-Plant @ Harris Nature Center



- 9:30 am - 12 pm Invasive mustard pull
- 1 pm - 3 pm Native Tree Planting



PIZZA FOR LUNCH

WETLAND WALK | 7:30 PM - 9 PM | Davis Foster Preserve

- This special hike at dusk will focus on the American Woodcock, a shorebird that lives in young forests & shrubby old fields. We will watch for its dusk courtship display, called a sky dance. ***Limited to 15 participants.**

WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1 - 3 PM | BI-WEEKLY

- April 11th, MCC Vernal Pool monitoring at Nancy Moore Park (1960 Gaylord C. Smith Court)
- April 25th, Trash pickup along Tihart Rd. (Meet at the intersection of Whitetail Court & Tihart Rd)

TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | Spring Ephemeral Hike | Hartrick Park

- Join us at 3658 Hulett Rd, Okemos for a walk to talk about spring wildflowers & their important ecology. We will be able to see species such as trillium, cut-leaved toothwort and trout lily among others.



* ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4 WETLAND WALK 7:30 - 9 PM	5	6 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
7	8	9	10	11 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 EARTHDAY PULL-PIZZA-PLANT!
21	22	23	24	25 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	26	27
28	29	30 TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY 5:30 - 7 PM				

PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.853.4614