



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2014
TOWN HALL ROOM



WORK SESSION 6PM

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Wonch Park Pavilion – Grant Request MNRTF
5. 2013 Park Volunteer List
6. Capital Improvement Projects
7. 2014 Park Millage Ballot Proposal
8. Other
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Public Comment
5. Presentations
6. Commissioner Reports and Comments
7. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. January 14, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - b. January 14, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - c. February 4, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Park Commission by writing or calling the following: Township Manager Frank Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4250) - Ten days notice required.


8. **Communications** (tan)
9. **Director's Report** (yellow)
10. **Unfinished Business** (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT
11. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Wonch Park Grant – Set Public Hearing Date
 - b. Support – HNC Foundation Play Area Grant
 - c. ICDC Controlled Burn Request – Towar Park Rain Gardens
12. **Other Business** (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT
13. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Park Millage Ballot Proposal
14. **Final Comments**
15. **Announcements**
 - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 Town Hall
 - b. Joint Meeting of the Boards and Commissions Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 6 pm, Town Hall
 - c. Farmers' Market – J C Penney Corridor of Meridian Mall, Saturday, February 15 and March 1 from 10 am-2 pm
 - d. Van Atta Road Closed from Grand River south to bridge, February 5 – May
 - e. Ice Fishing Derby – Central Park Pond; 9 am – noon; Free for children
 - f. Moonlight Sledding – North Meridian Road Park; 6 - 8:30 pm; Free
 - g. Snow Sculpture/Snowman contest deadline – February 28
16. **Public Remarks**
17. **Closed Session**
18. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting
February 11, 2014

WORK SESSION

4. Wonch Park Pavilion – Grant Request MNRTF
5. 2013 Park Volunteer List
6. Capital Improvements Projects
7. 2014 Park Millage Ballot Proposal

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Park and Recreation
DATE: February 7, 2014
RE: DNR Grant Application Wonch Park – Set Public Hearing

The Park Commission at their special meeting on February 4, 2014, discussed and evaluated possible projects for grant consideration. By consensus the Commission unanimously agreed to continue with implementation of the Wonch Park Master Plan by requesting funding assistance for a new pavilion. Wonch Park is a highly utilized facility for picnics and activities and the existing pavilion is no longer effectively meeting the needs of our park users. It was decided to apply to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for this project. The application deadline is April 1, 2014. Prior to submission, it is a requirement to conduct a public hearing to obtain feedback from residents. The following schedule is put forth for your review:

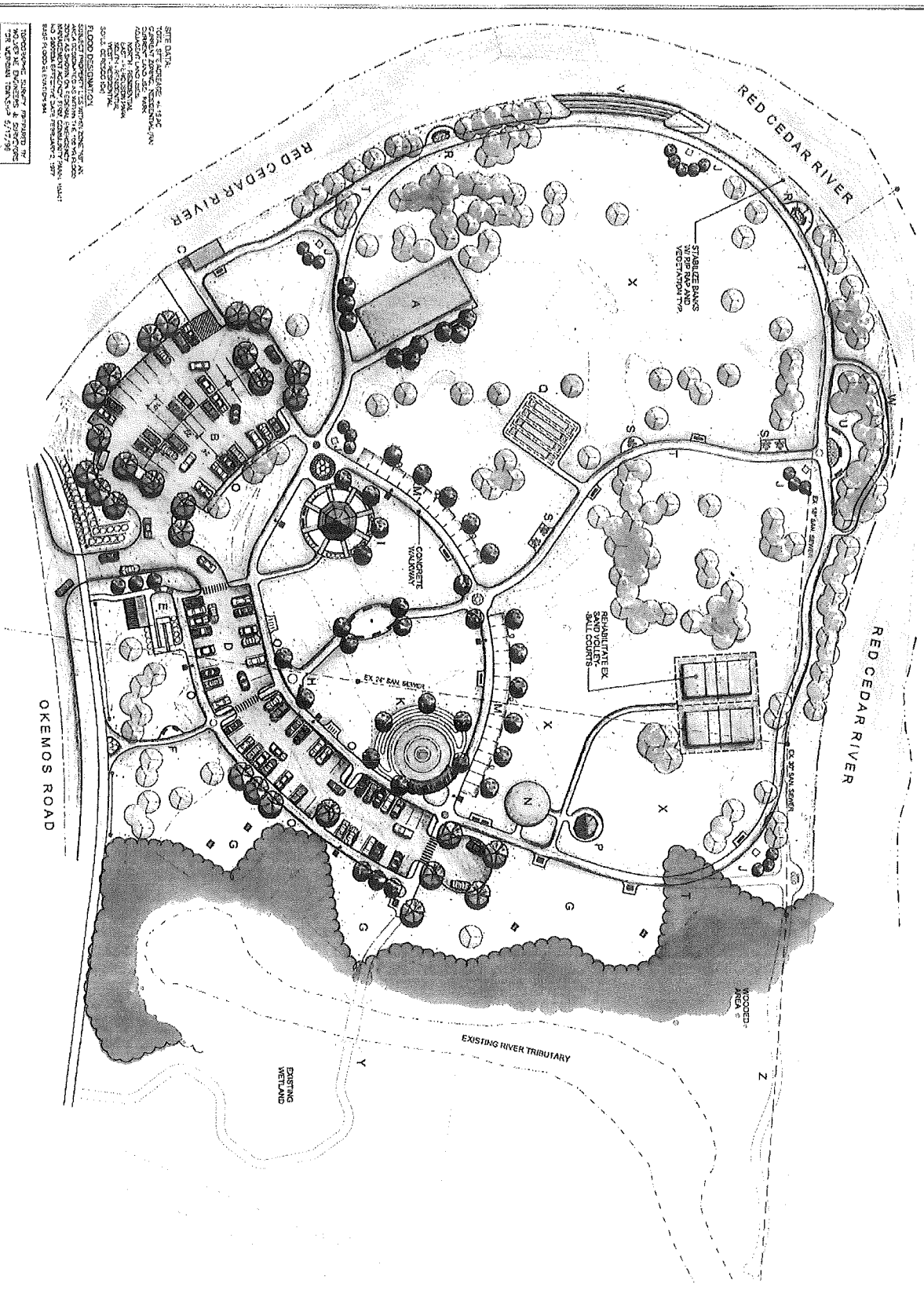
- March 11, 2014 – Public Hearing
- March 11, 2014 – Take action on resolution of support
- March 18, 2014 – Township Board action for grant submission
- April 1, 2014, - Application Deadline

Wonch Park

- Improvements include: New pavilion, 4- deciduous trees, electricity, water, and 2- universally accessible grills and 3-handicapped accessible picnic tables
- Estimated Project Cost: \$250,000
- Local Match from General Fund 25% \$62,500
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) request 75% \$187,500

Motion for consideration:

Moved to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 to solicit public input on the submission of a grant to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for improvements to Wonch Park which includes a pavilion, utilities, universally accessible grills and picnic tables.



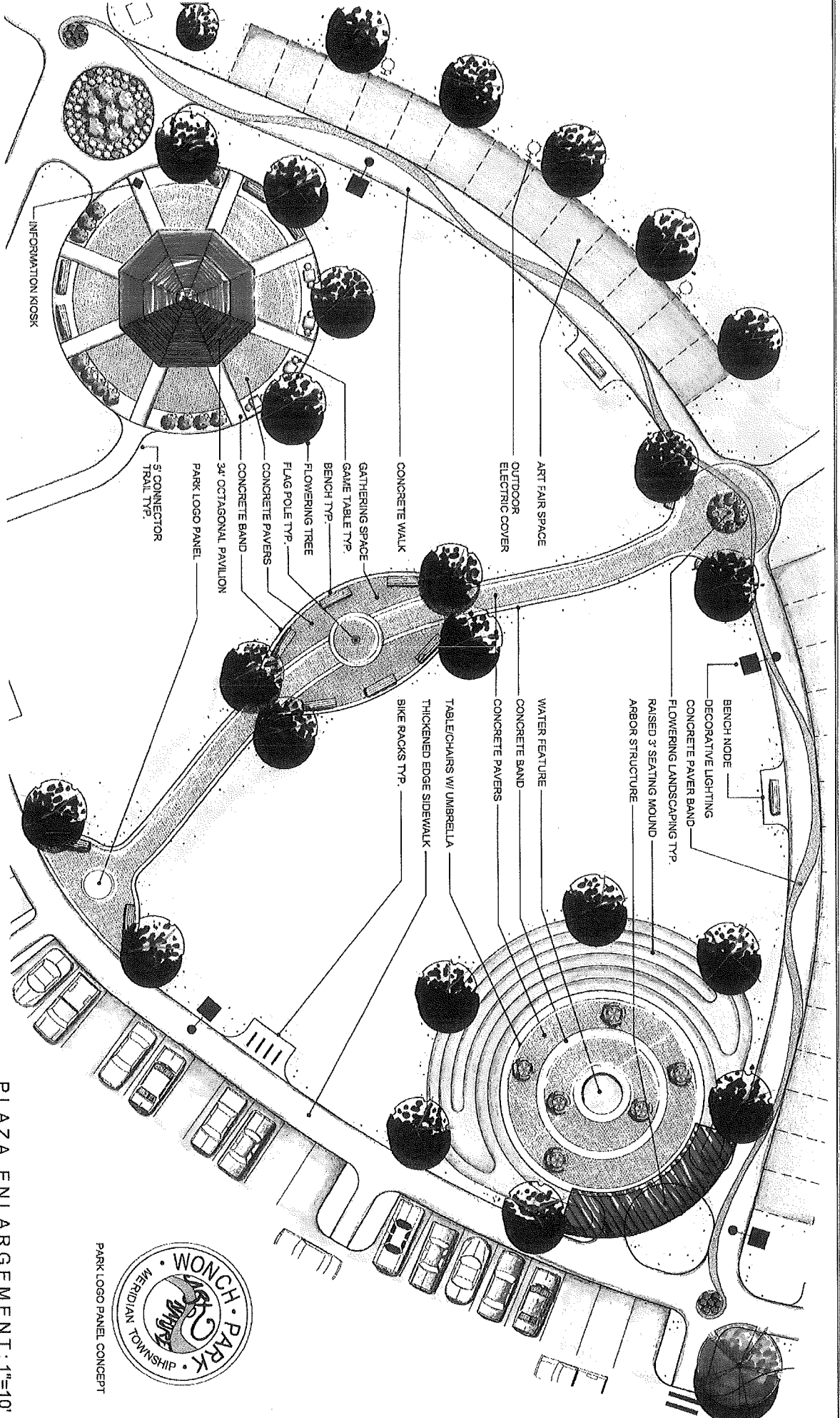
- LEGEND:**
- EXISTING CONTIGUOUS (1" INTERVAL)
 - EXISTING EDGE OF WOODS
 - EXISTING DISPERSED TREE
 - EXISTING SANITARY MANHOLE
 - EXISTING SANITARY SEWERLINE
 - EXISTING POWER POLE/W. GUY
 - EXISTING UTILITY GUY
 - EXISTING RIVER EDGE
 - EXISTING TRIBUTARY
 - PROPOSED BIKE RACKS
 - PROPOSED FLAG POLE
 - PROPOSED MONUMENT
 - PROPOSED DRINKING FOUNTAIN
 - PROPOSED BENCH
 - PROPOSED LIFE TRAIL FITNESS STATION
 - PROPOSED PICNIC TABLE
 - PROPOSED GAME TABLE
 - PROPOSED SHADE TREE
 - PROPOSED FLOWERING TREE
 - PROPOSED FUTURE PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE
 - PROPOSED OUTDOOR ELECTRIC LOCATION
 - PROPOSED LIGHT POLE
- FACILITY LEGEND:**
- A EXISTING PLAYGROUND
 - B PARKING LOT (46 SPACES)
 - C FISHING DOCK/CANOE LAUNCH
 - D PARKING LOT (60 SPACES)
 - E NEW REST ROOM FACILITY
 - F CONCRETE SEATING AREA (TYP)
 - G PICNIC AREA
 - H SEATING AREA W/ PAVERS & LOGO
 - I OPEN AIR PICNIC SHELTER W/ PLAZA
 - J CONCRETE PAD FOR ART DISPLAY
 - K EARTHEN MOUND SEATING AREA
 - L SEATING PLAZA W/ PAVERS, WATER FEATURE, ARBOR, LIGHTING & MUSIC
 - M ART FAIR EXHIBIT SPACE (LAWN)
 - N CLIMBING ROCK PLAY GROUND
 - O THICKENED EDGE SIDEWALK
 - P PICNIC SHELTER
 - Q HORSE SHOES
 - R CONCRETE RIVER VISTA SEATING AREA
 - S LIFE TRAIL FITNESS STATION
 - T ASPHALT TRAIL
 - U CONCRETE SEATING AREA W/ LANDSCAPING
 - V STEPPED RIVER EDGE SEATING AREA
 - W CONCRETE RIVER WALK PROMENADE
 - X OPEN PLAY
 - Y FUTURE BOARDWALK TRAIL / BRIDGE
 - Z FUTURE TRAIL EXTENSION

NORTH 3 23 40 80
 SCALE: 1"=40' 5/8"=200'

WONCH PARK MASTER PLAN

4535 OKEMOS ROAD • OKEMOS, MI 48864
 MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT • 2100 GAYLORD SMITH COURT • EAST LANSING, MI 48823





INFORMATION KIOSK

3' CONNECTOR TRAIL TYP.

PARK LOGO PANEL

34' OCTAGONAL PAVILION

CONCRETE BAND

CONCRETE PAVERS

FLAG POLE TYP.

FLOWERING TREE

BENCH TYP.

GAME TABLE TYP.

GATHERING SPACE

CONCRETE WALK

OUTDOOR ELECTRIC COVER

ART FAIR SPACE

ARBOR STRUCTURE

RAISED 3' SEATING MOUND

FLOWERING LANDSCAPING TYP.

CONCRETE PAVEMENT BAND

DECORATIVE LIGHTING

BENCH NODE

BIKE RACKS TYP.

THICKENED EDGE SIDEWALK

TABLE/CHAIRS W/ UMBRELLA

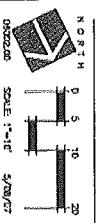
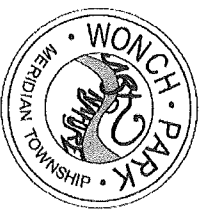
CONCRETE PAVERS

CONCRETE BAND

WATER FEATURE

PLAZA ENLARGEMENT: 1"=10'

PARK LOGO PANEL CONCEPT



WONCH PARK MASTER PLAN
 4555 OKEMOS ROAD
 MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
 2100 GAYLORD SMITH COURT
 OKEMOS, MI 48864
 EAST LANSING, MI 48224



HENSHAW HENNE S. ASSOCIATES, INC.
 3000 W. WALKER AVE. SUITE 100
 TROY, MI 48068
 313.487.1100

2014-2019 CIP
Lump Sum Per Park

January 30, 2014

Towner Road Park	\$2,200,000
Central Park	\$1,050,000
Legg Park	\$591,000
Marshall Park	\$455,000
Wonch Park	\$700,000
Meridian Riverfront Park	\$432,000
Playground Improvements all parks	

North Meridian Road Park	\$172,000
Hillbrook Park	\$260,000
Harris Nature Center	\$460,000
Nancy Moore Park	\$240,000
Newton Road Park	\$80,000
Orlando Park Trail	\$138,000
Ottawa Hills Park	\$50,000
Snell Towar Recreation Center	\$100,000
Hartrick Park	<u>\$280,000</u>
	\$7,208,000

Total Estimated Millage Revenue for Development Projects: \$5,724,000

Each of the Commissioners offered their top project priorities:

- Towner Road Park development (master plan has been designed)- 4 votes
- Central Park redevelopment (needs a master plan) – 4 votes
- Legg Park development (master plan has been designed) – 3 votes
- Marshall Park skate park development (needs a plan) – 3 votes
- Wonch Park development (master plan has been designed) – 2 votes
- Meridian Riverfront trail system improvements (needs a plan) - 2 votes
- Playground improvements for all parks – 2 votes

Draft Capital Improvements Program
 Summary by Year
 2015 – 2020
 February 4, 2014
 As amended from the February 4, 2014 Special Meeting

<u>2015</u>	<u>Gen. Fund</u>	<u>Park Millage</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Wonch Park Pavilion	\$62,500		\$187,500	
Orlando Park Shade Structure	\$ 30,000			
Orlando Park Play Equip & slide*	\$ 30,000			
Hillbrook Accessible Playground	\$ 35,000		\$35,000	
Hillbrook Restroom**	\$ 75,000		\$75,000	
Land Acquisition		\$40,000		
Legg Dog Park**		\$15,000		\$40,000
Legg Expanded Parking**		\$45,000	\$45,000	
Total 2015	\$232,500	\$100,000	\$342,500	\$40,000

*moved from 2014, added slide

**items moved from 2016 up to 2015

<u>2016</u>	<u>Gen. Fund</u>	<u>Park Millage</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Ottawa Hills Playground*	\$50,000			
Marshall Park Playground*	\$40,000		\$ 40,000	
Marshall Park Loop Trail	\$50,000			
Marshall Parking Improvements	\$ 8,000			
Marshall Park Landscaping	\$ 7,000			
Land Acquisition		\$ 40,000		
North Meridian Rd. Park Pavilion*		\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	
Nancy Moore Accessible Playground*		\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
Meridian Riverfront Restroom		\$125,000	\$125,000	
Towner Road Park Phase I		\$440,000	\$300,000	\$100,000
Newton Road Park Playground		\$ 40,000		\$ 10,000
Newton Road Park Loop Trail		\$ 30,000		
Total 2016	\$155,000	\$795,000	\$585,000	\$110,000

*items moved from 2015 down to 2016

**Snell-Towar Building roof was delete and added to maintenance list

<u>2017</u>	<u>Gen. Fund</u>	<u>Park Millage</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Marshall Park Skate Park	\$50,000			\$200,000
Orlando Trail to Mud Lake	\$78,000			
HNC Building Improvements (well/septic/generator)		\$50,000(HNC)		
Hillbrook Accessible Trails Acquisition	\$40,000	\$40,000		
Towner Road Phase II		\$400,000	\$300,000	\$100,000
Wonch Project	\$175,000		\$525,000	
Total 2017	\$343,000	\$490,000	\$825,000	\$300,000

<u>2018</u>	<u>Gen. Fund</u>	<u>Park Millage</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Hartrick Park Maint/Concession		\$100,000	\$100,000	
Land Acquisition		\$40,000		
Towner Road Phase III		\$280,000	\$280,000	
Snell Towar Shelter*	\$ 80,000			
Snell Towar Patio		\$10,000		
Central Park Improvements	\$250,000	\$25,000	250,000	
Nancy Moore Pavilion		\$75,000	\$75,000	
Total 2018	\$330,000	\$520,000	\$705,000	

*item moved from 2016 down to 2018

<u>2019</u>				
Hartrick Park Paved Trail		\$30,000	\$30,000	
Acquisition		\$40,000		
Central Park Improvements		\$275,000	\$250,000	
Meridian Riverfront River Trail		\$200,000	\$200,00	
Total 2019		\$545,000	\$480,000	

2020

2013 PARK VOLUNTEERS

FRIENDS OF THE PARK ADOPTION LIST

The following people live adjacent or near a park and have volunteered to provide stewardship activities and monitoring on a regular basis to help keep them safe and clean for the entire community. They have a direct connection to the Parks and Recreation Department to report vandalism, fallen trees or suggestions for improvements. Their involvement helps alert our staff by identifying and implementing necessary repairs. These individuals are true "Partners in Parks"!

Jim Hershiser	Brattin Woods
Steve DeBrabander	Brattin Woods
Keith Hanna	Tacoma Hills
Rick Little	North Meridian Road Park
John Green	Hillbrook Park
Bobbie DuByne	Hillbrook Park
Terri McElhinny & Pat Bills	Ted Black Woods Park
Tim Potter	Ted Black Woods Park
Layne Cameron	Red Cedar Natural Area and Meridian Riverfront Park
Haslett Beautification Association	Planted and maintained the Marshall Park and Welcome to Meridian Township signs
Meridian Garden Club	Planted and maintained gardens in the Historical Village, the gardens in front of the Municipal Building and Claire Twohy Memorial Garden located in Central Park
The Hentz/Buck Family	Hartrick Park (Martha Hentz, Chris, Evan, & Phillip Buck)
Jim and Lisa Bignall	Orlando Park
Allison and Russell Gallegos	Orlando Park

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Stephen James and friends	refurbished two sand volleyball courts, two horseshoe pits, cleaned up park pavilion, play structure, restroom building and park grounds in Wonch Park (he hosted a fundraiser to build a wheel chair ramp for injured friend)
Paige McKeon	Volunteered for Celebrate Downtown Okemos, cleaned park signs and planted flowers
Cindy Metieer & Cub Scouts	Picked up trash in Central Park and Historical Village
Teri Banas	Weeded flower beds at Marshall Park and Orlando Park; volunteered at Heritage Festival

Brownie Troop 30544	Weeded and spread mulch at Orlando Park along with neighbors
Martha Hentz	Planted and donated flowers at Hartrick Park around flagpole and sign
Haslett Lego Club	Cleared weeds at Orlando Park
Faith Lutheran Church	Spread mulch around 15 trees at Nancy Moore Park
Leslie Kuhn & Laurie Kaufman	Treated invasive species in Ted Black Woods
Matt Delong	Weeded Brattin Woods parking lot and spread mulch
Dave Caszatt & 44 volunteers	Northwest Land Preserve, clearing invasives and planting trees
Deer hunters - 61	Managed deer harvest on 21 properties
Murphy Elementary School	Planted a prairie at Lake Lansing North – in the 120 acre Meridian Township conservation easement
Mark Stephens	Volunteered at Heritage Festival fishing event
Robin Faust and Christina Hamilton	Spread mulch and pulled weeds at Welcome to Meridian sign on Marsh Road
Heidi Nusdorfer & 10 Okemos Girl Scouts	Planted native shrubs at Ted Black Woods
Eckhart Dersch	Provided maintenance reports for Ferguson, Wonch, North Meridian Road Parks
Lansing Oar & Paddle Club	Clearing of the Red Cedar River for easier navigation for canoes and kayaks (Jay Hanks, Mont Roberts, Bonnie Mernitz, George Stockman, Tina Ciaramitaro)
Larry Hennessey	Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of Bluebird boxes and cleanup efforts at Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area
Gene Wasserman	Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of Bluebird boxes in Meridian Riverfront Park and Hartrick Park
Patrick & Michelle Allen	Geocache Liaisons for the Parks – place and monitor the placement of geocaches and geocache permits in the parks
Georganne Withey	Fitness Over 50 Program Coordinator at the Meridian Mall

MSU Educating Student
Athletic Trainers In Medicine
(ESTIM)

Meridian Township Family Winter Sports Weekend Polar
Bear 5K Race (8 volunteers)

Forest Hills Neighborhood
Association

Spring Clean-up - Forest Hills Natural Area (Cecelia Kramer)

Kelly Colflesh

Ongoing maintenance around the Central Park pond to improve
fishing access and "borrow-a-Pole program

PARK SUPPORTERS

Harris Nature
Center Foundation

Fundraising efforts for the Harris Nature Center (Julie Moore,
President; Tony Bauer; Jim Buscetta; Norman Granneman;
Barbara Kissling; Michael Lenkowski; Treasurer, Mike
McDonald, Vice President; Patty Robbins, Secretary; Robert
Rusch) - 2013 accomplishments – bus scholarships, turtle
sculpture

Mid-Michigan Stewardship

Created to educate and involve the community in protecting and
Initiative and conserving native plants and wildlife in all their
natural diversity in Mid-Michigan, while allowing for compatible
and sustainable human use (Leslie Kuhn)

Towar Community Concerns
Committee (TC3)

Support of neighborhood activities and fundraising for the
Towar Teens Program (\$1,500); participated in the garlic
mustard pulls in the neighborhood, donated **\$1,260** to the
summer Youth Recreation Program (Dave Caszatt)

Friends of Historic Meridian

Outstanding efforts toward growth and sustainability of the
Meridian Historical Village and for providing meaningful and
educational programs for youth and families; (Jane Rose,
Executive Director; George Grettenberger, President)

Nokomis Learning Center

Supporting cultural activities and events that educate the
community on Native American cultural history; Cooperative
efforts with the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation
Department and Meridian Historical Village in organizing the
Heritage Festival special event.

DONATIONS

Buddies Bar & Grill,
East Lansing

One fundraiser night for the 2013 Towar Summer Playground
Program and pizza for volunteers at two garlic mustard pull
events at a reduced cost (\$500 / Tammy Black)

TC3

2013 Towar Teens (\$1,500) and Summer Playground Program
(\$7,356)

Edgewood Village	2013 Towar Summer Playground Program (\$1,500)
Teri Banas	donated a portion of her Park Commission salary to the Snell-Towar Summer Playground Program (\$211.44)
Kiwanis Club of Okemos	donated \$500 toward the Summer Playground Program
Ideal Mortgage	donated \$400 for the Polar Bear 5K Run (Nate Ide)
Biggby Coffee	Biggby donated coffee and hot chocolate for Polar Bear 5K Race (Keegan O'Connor)
Scot Miller	Partial donation of service fee and materials for ice sculpture demonstration during the Winter Wonderland at Harris Nature Center
Fireworks Celebration Contributors	Meijer - \$2,000 (Terry Cole, Cindy Nunn, Chris Wilson/Okemos Store) Douglas J Spa and Salons - \$2,000 (Douglas & Sharon Weaver; Peter Eichler) Meridian Plumbing - \$2,000 (Craig Phillipich) The Hubbard Law Firm PC - \$1,000 (Andria Ditschman) WLNS TV 6 – in-kind advertising (Barbara Bruce) Culvers Butterburgers & Frozen Custard - \$531 (Cory) Eastside Tax and Accounting, LLC – \$250 (Thomas Johnson) Okemos Animal Hospital - \$250 (Nydia Alfonso) Ingham County Medical Care Facility and Rehabilitation Center - \$250 (Karen Webster)
Youth Scholarship Program	Kiwanis Club of Okemos (\$500); Jeffrey Kessner (\$200); Haslett/Okemos Rotary Foundation (\$500); Brian Beauchine (\$359.39)
Mark Stephens	Donated 10 rod and reel combos and miscellaneous tackle
Kelly Colflesh	Donated tackle and bait
David Reicosky	Donated eight (8) trees to the park system

MEDIA CATEGORY

Dawn Parker	Consistent, timely reporting on park activities and special events that improve public awareness and interest of our parks and recreation facilities in the Towne Courier
WLNZ Radio Station	Karen Love & Jack Robbins interview Senior Park Naturalist monthly promoting programs and activities at the Harris Nature Center

HOM-TV Channel 21

For their dedicated efforts to promote the Meridian Township Park System by providing coverage of programs and special events for community viewing. Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director; Senior Production Manager; Rob Gingerich, Production Manager and Lynn Meickle, Freelance Producer

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 7, 2014

RE: **INFORMATION ON 2014 PROPOSED MILLAGE FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS, RENOVATION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATIONS**

-
- Residents currently pay a .317 millage to support the Meridian Township Park System. This amount has not increased since the millage was first supported by voters in 1984.
 - The Park system has grown from 325 acres in 1984 to 904 acres today.
 - On April 16, 2013, the Meridian Township Board unanimously approved placing a ballot proposal before voters on August 5, 2014 requesting a new park millage consisting of **2/3rds mill (\$0.6667 on each \$1000 of taxable value)** to fund activities that maintain and enhance community parks.
 - **August 5, 2014 general election ballot** It would raise approximately \$1,042,000 to support necessary park improvements, renovation projects, maintenance, and operations
 - The proposed millage would be levied for a period of twelve **(12) years, 2014 through 2025 inclusive**
 - If approved, the owner of a home with a taxable **value of \$100,000 would pay \$66.67 per year** in property taxes for the next twelve (12) years.
 - If approved, the existing .317 park millage would sunset in 2016 and not be requested for renewal.
 - A total of over \$8,000,000 of park projects and improvements have been identified in the Capital Improvements and other necessary repairs.
 - If approved, an estimated \$6,000,000 will be available for park development and improvement projects in the next twelve years.
 - The following ballot question will appear before voters in the **August 5, 2014**, general election

MERIDIAN PARK SYSTEM MILLAGE

Shall the currently authorized limitation in the amount of taxes that may be assessed against all property in the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, be increased in the amount of .6667 mills (\$0.6667 on each \$1000 of taxable value), for a period of twelve (12) years, 2014 through 2025 inclusive, for additional funding of the Township's existing programs for park development, maintenance and operations? The estimate of the revenue that the Township would collect from this .6667 mill addition in the first year (if levied in 2014) is \$1,042,000.

Yes

No

Park Commission Meeting
February 11, 2014

7. MINUTES

- a. January 14, 2014 Work Session Minutes
- b. January 14, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. February 4, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the work session agenda as presented.

3. Park Millage Work Group Report

Director Maisner provided a list of "shovel-ready projects and a list of park supporters and volunteers as requested by Commissioner Banas. She shared a list of items that are in the process of being worked on to establish a "Say Yes to Parks" advocacy committee. She asked staff to forward photos to be used in campaign materials.

Discussion:

- Understand request for declarative statements but should it be specific
- Utilize Capital Improvements Project list but not be specific on development dates
- Promote projects we have completed to date on a restrictive budget; it demonstrates how frugal and responsible the Park Commission has been managing the budget.

4. Goals and Objectives/2014 Grant Applications

Director Maisner distributed possible grant projects for 2014 along with projected costs. After a brief discussion, a work session/special meeting is being called for Tuesday, January 28, 2014 at 6 pm, in the lunchroom of the Service Center.

5. Naming Policy

Discussion:

- The current policy was adopted in 2008 and does not meet the intended need

- It was suggested to discard it and redraft one in the future or review opportunities on a case by case basis.
- Suggested a plan be developed or amended to be utilized as a guiding principle
- It was agreed to move this item to the regular meeting agenda for action.

6. Other

None

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 6:53 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and
Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Additions to the Agenda:

- Under item #5, Presentations, add #5b, Drain Commissioner presentation on Eastgate Park Log Jam Removal and Ember Oaks Drain Restoration Project in Legg Park and Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve
- Other Business, add #12a, Naming Policy

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Comment/Moment of Silence honoring Mary Helmbrecht

The Park Commissioners asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of former Township Clerk and Park Commissioner Mary Helmbrecht.

Commissioner Banas stated she had known and worked with Mary for many years and Mary was in her glory on Election Days. She appreciated her enthusiasm for the community and was a very fine lady.

4. Presentations

- a. Shade Trees - David Fisher**, Township resident, offered a slide show presentation on suggested shade opportunities throughout the Township
- b. Eastgate Park Log Jam Removal/Ember Oaks Drain Restoration Project**
- Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, Deputy Drain Commissioner Carla Clos, Spicer Group representative James Ensign and Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick representative Kyle Seidel offered the following (documents on file in the minute book):
 - The log jam area affected the water flow through 12 county drain sites

- The large logs were used for revetment construction and bank stabilization
- Used wooded wetland mix plus native plantings in the restoration areas to stabilize the soils.
- The logs that were chipped were used on the park trail.
- Enjoyed working with Township staff
- Project cost was \$40,000 and will be shared between 10 drains and watersheds

Ember Oaks Drain through Legg Park and Red Cedar Natural Area – the following information was presented through a slide show (documents on file in the minute book):

- A number of grade falls and holes in the river bank have been corrected and once the plant material matures over the next two or three years, the changes will hardly be noticed
- Improved two drain paths
- Tried to protect the native species and trees on the site but did plant an additional 50 trees to compensate for ones removed during construction
- Re-established the water flow rates to pre-development rates
- Corrected the slope failures and soil erosion areas
- Thanked Township staff and neighbors in the area for their assistance with the project
- Project cost was \$895,000; the Township will have a 4% assessment and the remainder will be divided between the railroad, developer and residents over the next twenty years

Commissioners thanked the Drain Commissioner, his staff and engineers. It was a wonderful experience and appreciated their sensitivity to the Township's concerns for this area.

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

None

6. Approval of Minutes

a. December 10, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF SECONDED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 10, 2013 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A.

B. Items to/from the Public

1. To: Sylvan Glen Residents; RE: trail between through Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve into Legg Park open for to bicycle traffic

C. Commission Information

1. January Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation

2. Parks & Recreation Department Monthly Report – December
3. Towne Courier: **Dec 3:** Make nature crafts at HNC; Drive-Thru Santa available Dec 21
4. Kids' World News – December 2013 issues; Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Drive Thru Santa
5. The Gatekeeper; January 2014
6. Okemos Life Magazine January issue: Frosty Family Fun-Meridian Township Explores Winter Sports this Month; Create a Masterpiece in the Snow; Winter in Meridian Township offers Frosty Family Fun; A Growing Tradition – Family Winter Sports Weekend; A Look Back at 2013; Upcoming Calendar of Events

D. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. From: LuAnn Maisner; To: Park Commissioners; RE: update on Aldi Store Site Plan

E. Delivered at Meeting

1. Memorandum of Understanding between Tim Clark and Meridian Township on the construction of a temporary ice rink in Hillbrook Park

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. **Director's Report**

- **Hillbrook Park** – In December, Meridian Township resident, Tim Clark expressed interest in building and maintaining an ice skating rink in Hillbrook Park this winter for community use. A Memorandum of Understanding has been executed. The MOU was reviewed by our attorney and liability insurance company.
- **Deer** – to date 127 deer have been harvested, 1,300 lbs of venison donated to Okemos Community Church, Haslett Community Church, Lansing Rescue Mission, and Officer Gaelord Mankowski's Christmas Party at Central Elementary. Hunters were allowed to keep the second deer they shot. This is the third year of the program.
- **Snow sports** - North Meridian Road Park sledding hill has been busy and we have been receiving many favorable reports about cross-country skiing in our parks.
- **North Meridian Road Park Restroom** – has been temporarily closed due to frozen pipes. We still need to assess the damage.
- **Lots of storm damage:** Due to the wind storm in November, the ice storm before Christmas, and the snowstorm after Christmas, our crew has been working hard throughout the community. Being Meridian Township, a number of volunteers immediately stepped up to the plate (because they wanted to ski!) and have been clearing trails in Meridian Riverfront Park and Ted Black Woods Park (Layne Cameron, Dan Smith, Bryan Holland and sons, Frank Hatfield – to name a few).

- **Announcements**

- Joint Meeting with the Township Board and other Commissions - has not yet been rescheduled
- January 18: Farmers' Market at Meridian Mall; there are approximately 30 vendors; open from 10 am – 2 pm on the first and third Saturday of the month through to April.
- January 24 – 26: Family Winter Sports Weekend (Harris Nature Center, Saturday, from 10 am – 3 pm; North Meridian Road Park moonlight sledding, Saturday from 6-8:30 pm; bowling at City Limits East on Sunday from 12 noon to 4 pm (call for lane time); swimming at the Michigan Athletic Club on Sunday from 6:30-8:30 pm (call to reserve a spot), 7th Annual Polar Bear 5k Run on Sunday, at 10 am through Central Park (\$20 if pre-register by January 17); target practice at the Demmer Center, Friday from 4-6 pm, Saturday from 1-6 pm and Sunday from 1-6 pm (call to reserve a spot) and Curling at Central Park South on Saturday from 2-4 pm.
- February 1: Chinese New Year event at Meridian Mall from 1:30-6 pm. There will be a lion parade, musical performances and activities.
- February 15 – Ice Fishing Derby at the Central Park pond from 9 am – noon; kids free; awards from Dick's Sporting Goods and Family Moonlight Sledding at North Meridian Road Park from 6-8:30 pm.
- Snowman/Snow Sculpture Contest Deadline – February 28; have received a few entries.
- Sad to announce that Dan Ball, volunteer for Nokomis Learning Center, passed away over the holidays from a heart attack. He and his wife assisted with the Heritage Festival. Our condolences to his wife April Medicine Bear and their family.
- Longtime Township Clerk and former Park Commissioner Mary Helmbrecht also passed away over the holidays after battling a longtime illness. A memorial service is planned this Sunday, January 19 at 1 pm at the MSU Alumni Chapel. Donations are being accepted in her memory to the Land Preservation Program or MSU Forestry Program. She was very supportive of parks, natural areas and recreational opportunities.
- Michigan Recreation and Park Association Annual Conference – will be held next week. Director Maisner along with Parks and Recreation Specialists Devlin and Grothous will be attending.

9. Unfinished Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

10. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Land Preservation Appointment

Chair Wilson asked Commissioner Stephens if he would consider continuing as Land Preservation Advisory Board representative. Commissioner Stephens is an advocate for stewardship activities especially with school children. Commissioner Stephens accepted the appointment.

11. Other Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Naming Policy

Chair Wilson stated the existing policy is very vague, problematic and arbitrary and needs to be changed and amended.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER BANAS SECONDED, TO ABANDON THE EXISTING POLICY STATEMENT FOR NAMING MERIDIAN PARKS ADOPTED BY THIS COMMISSION ON APRIL 15, 2008, IN FAVOR OF A MORE ADEQUATE POLICY TO BE DEVELOPED WITHIN THE NEXT TWELVE (12) MONTHS. Voice vote. Motion passed.

12. Discussion Items

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Tree Policy in Parks

Director Maisner stated under Township Ordinance #54-35, no person shall damage, deface, destroy or remove any shrub, tree, flower or natural resource from a Township park. When trees fall and obstruct trails in parks or natural areas, the Parks and Ground Maintenance staff (or volunteers) either move the tree or it is cut and moved to the side of the trail. If a tree falls in a park or natural area, the tree is only removed if it is necessary; otherwise, it is left at its location. Trees may be removed for being dead, diseased, declared hazardous or cleared for development or access purposes. A draft policy has been offered for initial review and discussion:

Discussion:

- Supports development of a tree management policy/plan
- Suggested a timber sale might be beneficial to the health of a wood lot or the timber could be milled to be used on future park projects
- Need to look at resources we have to assist with this issue (MSU, forestry experts, Land Preservation Advisory Board, Ingham County Parks, Leslie Kuhn with Mid-Michigan Stewardship Network, etc.)
- Thinning areas is natural to open up and offer light for good tree growth

b. Plan Revisions – Special Use Permit #13171 (Aldi/Eyde)

Chair Wilson reported he and Director Maisner attended the Planning Commission meeting to present the Commission's concerns with the proposed Aldi/Eyde development adjacent to Central Park, Meridian Historical Village and Nokomis Learning Center. Two weeks later, he and Director Maisner met with representatives from Aldi and the Eyde Company to address the concerns. It was a very productive meeting with an offer to correct the pedestrian pathway and add additional screening.

c. 2013 Friends of the Parks Volunteer Recognition

Director Maisner suggested moving the recognition ceremony to May and holding the event in one of the parks. The event would be a picnic together with a tree planting ceremony of one or two large trees with a plaque listing

the names of all of the volunteers. She suggested it could be held in Central Park since trees are needed in this area.

Discussion:

- Would want a park with a pavilion and restroom
- How will the 2013 Park Friend of the Year be acknowledged
- Like the idea of holding a group event in the park and tying it to reforesting the parks
- Could use Central Park Pavilion or use Barn or Chapel in Historical Village
- If choose Central Park, could use event to get ideas for the master plan we need for the Park
- Staff will check to see what other events are occurring in the Township to ensure it does not want to conflict with any major school events and Commissioners will bring ideas for next meeting

13. Final Comments

Commissioner Stephens spoke about the Kriego Park development and its opening this spring.

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, February 11, 2014; Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building; 6 pm work session and 7 pm regular session.
- b. Farmers' Market – J C Penney Corridor of Meridian Mall; Saturdays, February 15 and March 1 from 10 am – 2 pm
- c. Family Winter Sports Weekend – Friday, Saturday and Sunday, January 24-26, 2014
- d. Bridge on Van Atta Road will be closed from Grand River south; January 15 - May 9; will need to access Harris Nature Center from Jolly Road
- e. Brush Removal from Storm – Curbside or can take to the Christmas tree drop area at Wonch Park or Nancy Moore Park.
- f. Special Meeting of the Park Commission has been called for Tuesday, January 28, 2014, at 6 pm, in the lunchroom of the Meridian Service Center.

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER ARONOFF MOVED, COMMISSIONER BANAS SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Aronoff, Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks & Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks & Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the special meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion
passed.

3. Public Comment

None

4. CIP 2015-2020

The Commissioners discussed the CIP and how each park project has been divided into individual elements over the next six years. This "phased" approach was due mainly to the lack of funds available for park improvements or development. The Park Commission is requesting a new park millage on the August 2014 ballot to assist with accomplishing many of the projects identified in the CIP. Since the timing of the CIP review and update precedes the August election, it was decided to focus on 2015 and 2016 until the election outcome is determined. The Commissioners made the following recommendations for change to the plan:

<u>2015</u>	<u>Gen. Fund</u>	<u>Park Millage</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Donation</u>
Wonch Park Pavilion	\$62,500		\$187,500	
Orlando Park Shade Structure	\$ 30,000			
Orlando Park Play Equip & slide*	\$ 30,000			
Hillbrook Accessible Playground	\$ 35,000		\$35,000	
Hillbrook Restroom**	\$ 75,000		\$75,000	

Land Acquisition		\$40,000		
Legg Dog Park**		\$15,000		\$40,000
Legg Expanded Parking**		\$45,000	\$45,000	
Total 2015	\$420,000	\$100,000	\$155,000	\$40,000

*moved from 2014, added slide

**items moved from 2016 to 2015

2016	Gen. Fund	Park Millage	Grant	Donation
Ottawa Hills Playground*	\$50,000			
Marshall Park Playground*	\$40,000		\$ 40,000	
Marshall Park Loop Trail	\$50,000			
Marshall Parking Improvements	\$ 8,000			
Marshall Park Landscaping	\$ 7,000			
Land Acquisition		\$ 40,000		
North Meridian Rd. Park Pavilion*		\$ 75,000	\$ 75,000	
Nancy Moore Accessible Playground*		\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	
Meridian Riverfront Restroom		\$125,000	\$125,000	
Towner Road Park Phase I		\$440,000	\$300,000	\$100,000
Newton Road Park Playground		\$ 40,000		\$ 10,000
Newton Road Park Loop Trail		\$ 30,000		
Total 2016	\$155,000	\$795,000	\$585,000	\$110,000

*items moved from 2015 to 2016

**Snell-Towar Building roof was delete and added to maintenance list

Commissioner comments:

- playground improvements, shade, restrooms, and water should be a general mission for the parks
- concern was expressed on the entrance to Wonch Park and questioned the status of the Douglas J development
- would like to move forward with fundraising for the dog park such as selling pavers or linear fencing
- move forward with the master plan for Central Park;

5. Park Millage Project Priorities

Each of the Commissioners offered their top project priorities:

- Towner Road Park development (master plan has been designed)- 4 votes
- Central Park redevelopment (needs a master plan) – 4 votes
- Legg Park development (master plan has been designed) – 3 votes
- Marshall Park skate park development (needs a plan) – 3 votes
- Wonch Park development (master plan has been designed) – 2 votes
- Meridian Riverfront trail system improvements (needs a plan) - 2 votes
- Playground improvements for all parks – 2 votes

Commissioner Banas reviewed the communication materials developed by the Park Millage Workgroup.

6. 2014 Goals

Director Maisner summarized the budgeted park projects for 2014 including new projects, carryover projects and other park projects such as a complete GPS of all existing trails in the parks to access through an app and on the Township website.

7. 2014 Grant Applications

Parks & Land Management Coordinator Greenway summarized the grants workshop she recently attended. The DNR encouraged the development of trail projects in urban areas and water trail improvements. The Township is currently working with Williamstown Township and other communities along the Red Cedar River to create a "water trail master plan". The maximum project amount is \$300,000 but they do have small grant project amounts of \$50,000 for wildlife and green corridor improvements. A submission for athletic facilities or playgrounds was not encouraged. This area of Michigan has a new grant coordinator, Jules Stafford. Coordinator Greenway suggested applying for a grant to construct a pavilion in Wonch Park. She believe it will receive a favorable review since the DNR approved a grant last year for the paved loop trail for this park and the Township is making improvements to the pedestrian bridge on Okemos Road. Coordinator Greenway reported that this year all grants need to be submitted electronically and a master plan with drawings need to be included.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to move forward in preparing a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a new pavilion in Wonch Park. Staff will provide a report at the February 11, 2014 regular meeting and as well as a public hearing date for Commission action. Applications are due to the DNR by April 1, 2014.

8. Other

Commissioner Stephens shared his discussions with a representative from "Floating Island International" about techniques for pond water quality improvement. He suggested this as a viable application to improving water quality in the Central Park South pond. Staff will research this opportunity and discuss with the ICDC.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Adjourn

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER ARONOFF
SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

January 14, 2014

8. COMMUNICATIONS


- A. Items to/from the Public
 - 1. To: Clerk Dreyfus; RE: 2014 Park Commission Chair/Vice Chair Election Results
 - 2. To: Planning Commission; RE: Special Use Permit #13171 (Aldi/Eyde)
 - 3. To: Residents; RE: Land Preservation Advisory Board allowing bicycle access through Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve
 - 4. To: Jane Greenway; From: Julie Johnston, Michigan Search and Rescue; RE: dog training in Central Park South

- B. Commission Information
 - 1. February Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
 - 2. Parks & Recreation Department Monthly Report – January
 - 3. Towne Courier: **Dec 8:** Terrific tree planting sustains land preserve; Drive Thru Santa; **Jan 2:** Historic bridge renewal; **Jan 26:** Family Winter Sports events this weekend, Meridian Farmers Winter Market, Meridian's deer harvest grows nearly 30 percent, Chipmunk Story Time at HNC at Feb 13, Chinese New Year celebration Feb 1
 - 4. Kids' World News – January 2013 issues; Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Family Winter Sports Weekend
 - 5. 2013 Park Accomplishments

- C. Staff Inquiries/Response

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION



TO: Brett Dreyfus, Clerk
FROM: LuAnn Maisner, CPRP, Director 
DATE: December 11, 2013
RE: Park Commission Election Results

At their December 10, 2013 meeting, the Park Commissioners elected Todd Wilson as Chair and Teri Banas as Vice Chair for 2014.

If you have any questions, I may be reached at 853-4604.

Cc: Frank Walsh
Carol Hasse
Sandy Otto
Deborah Guthrie
Kristi Schaeding
Brandie Hansen

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Todd Wilson
Park Commission Chair

DATE: December 11, 2013

RE: Special Use Permit #13171 (Aldi/Eyde)
Mixed Use Planned Unit Development (Aldi/Eyde)



At their December 10, 2013 meeting, the Park Commission reviewed the Aldi/Eyde proposed development and offered the following comments/concerns:

- 1. Proposed five foot wide concrete sidewalk/walkway with reinforced turf pavers on south side of Aldi Food Market building:**
 - Concerned with its proposed location:
 - It enters the middle of an existing parking area utilized by the Nokomis Learning Center and Meridian Historical Village instead of lining up with the existing entrance drive in front of the Nokomis Learning Center building.
 - This sidewalk is designated as a 20' foot emergency access and there are no preventative measures to ensure against unauthorized vehicle use.
 - This sidewalk empties into the middle of the Nokomis Learning Center and Meridian Historical Village parking lot where no safe pedestrian facility exists. (Resolve: Developer construct a 7' wide sidewalk along the northern edge of the Township's parking lot to create a safe pedestrian facility.)
- 2. Proposed five foot wide concrete sidewalk between the residential and commercial areas from Marsh Road to the park:**
 - The proposed sidewalk ends in an undeveloped area of the park.
 - Possible resolve: Developer work with Park Commission to create usable park area at that access point for residents and the general public.
- 3. Additional screening is needed along the south and west boundaries of the site.**
 - To help visually preserve the character of the Meridian Historical Village and Nokomis Learning Center from a commercial enterprise.
 - Noise reduction.

We are very interested in working together to resolve these concerns and are available to meet to discuss resolutions. I may be reached at 517-927-4612 / tdwilson@pplant.msu.edu or contact our staff liaison LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation at 517-853-4604 / maisner@meridian.mi.us.

Thank you.

Cc: Park Commission
Mark Kieselbach, Director of Community Planning and Development
Martha Wyatt, Landscape Architect/Associate Planner
Richard Brown, Associate Planner

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Supervisor
Brett Dreyfus Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Gerald J. Richards Manager



Milton Scales Trustee
Ronald Styka Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee
Angela Wilson Trustee

December 17, 2013

Dear Resident:

As you may know, Meridian Township acquired the property known as the Red Cedar Glen Preserve in 2006 through the Land Preservation Program. The property is located between the east end of Sylvan Glen Road and the western boundary of Legg Park and the total area is 14.91 acres.

At their November 13, 2013 regular meeting, the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board voted to **allow bicycles along the main east-west natural pathway in the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve.**

- Bicycle traffic will be allowed on the main, east-west trail **ONLY** of the land preserve from the entrance at the cul-de-sac on Sylvan Glen Road to Legg Park.
- Allowing bicycles on the land preserve provides an important connection for non-motorized vehicles from Dobie Road through to Van Atta Road.
- This access will be allowed for a period of one year. The preserve will be monitored throughout the one year period to assess impacts, if any, to the preserve.
- After one year, the impacts to the preserve will be evaluated and a determination will be made if the bicycle access should be permanent.
- Other trails in the preserve will be designated as "foot traffic only." Signage will be installed at the Sylvan Glen Road and Legg Park entrances to the preserve stating that bicycles are allowed on the main trail only.

If you would like to learn more about the land preservation program, the Land Preservation Advisory Board generally holds their meetings on the second Wednesday of each month. These meetings, which are open to the public, are held at the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord Smith Court, Haslett at 6:00 p.m.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 517-853-4610 or by email at greenway@meridian.mi.us.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane L. Greenway".

Jane L. Greenway, RLA
Parks and Land Management Coordinator
cc: Frank Walsh, Township Manager
David Hall, Chief of Police
Land Preservation Advisory Board
Park Commission

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000 FAX (517) 853-4096

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Jane Greenway

From: julie.johnston@dot.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 10:01 AM
To: Jane Greenway
Subject: MISAR in Okemos on the news
Attachments: 1008215_10151852512130880_2076983880_o.jpg; DSC_0053.JPG; Abbie2.JPG

Hi Jane, I thought you might be interested in the news story that covered our training at Central Park on Sunday. There's a photo gallery on there in addition to the video. We had officers from Ingham County and the Meridian Township Police Department there as well. The Meridian Township officer (can't remember his name, he is their k9 officer) stayed for quite a while and practiced with his dog with us.

<http://www.wilx.com/news/localnews/headlines/Dogs-Learn-to-Save-Lives-241095521.html>

here is our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Michigan-Search-and-Rescue/128305365879>

Feel free to share in your newsletter or whatever. And please express our thanks to the Parks Department for allowing us to train in Central Park on Sunday. We were able to give final mission ready tests to 2 dogs and handlers. I passed with my air scent dog Abbie and our trailing dog Xenia (bloodhound) and her handler Jackie Harris passed their test as well. So, our team now has 2 new dog teams that are able to go out and save lives.

Thanks again!

Julie

Michigan Search and Rescue



Meridian Township Parks & Recreation February Calendar of Events



Owl Prowl Campfire and Program

February 10 – Sporties for Shorties in the Training Space

February 13 – Chipmunk Story Time “Snowy Valentine”

February 14 – Howl at the Moon

February 15 – Meridian Ice Fishing Derby

February 15 – Winter Farmers’ Market in Meridian Mall

February 15 – Free Family Moonlight Sledding

February 1 – Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe

February 1 – Cross Country Ski Class

February 1 – Snowshoe Class

February 1 – First Class Dog Training: Dog Obedience

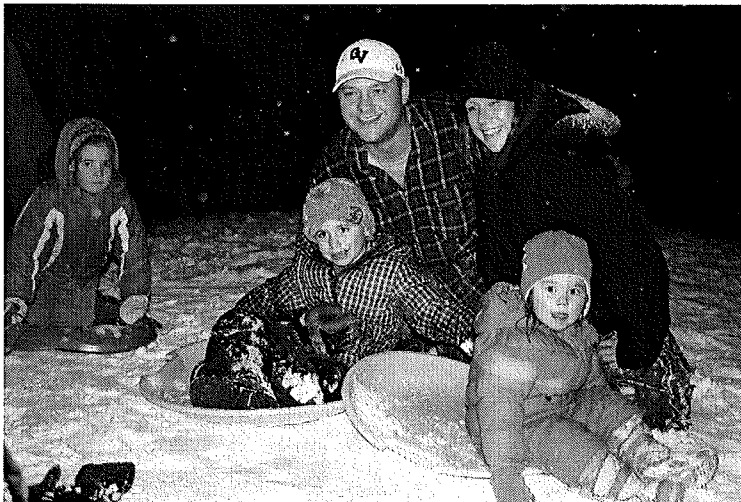
February 1 – Winter Farmers’ Market in Meridian Mall

February 3 – First Class Dog Training: Dog Obedience

February 5 – Photography Class with Ron St. Germain

February 7 – Weekday Science Programs “Rocks and Minerals”

February 8 –



February 28 – Meridian Township Snowman/Snow Sculpture Contest

February 28 – Haslett 1st – 8th Grade Softball Leagues registration deadline

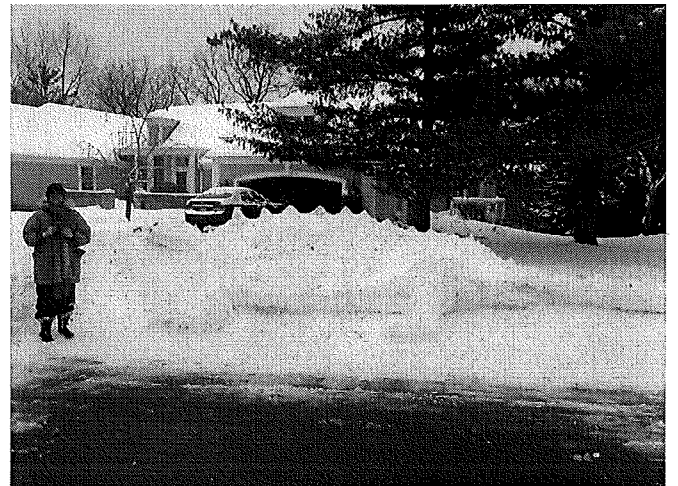
February 17 – School’s Out Day Trip – Craig’s Cruisers

February 21 - Okemos Kindergarten – 8th Grade Boys and Girls Soccer League registration deadline

February 22 – Moonlight Ski and Shoe at HNC

February 27 – Sporties for Shorties at the MAC

February 28 – Haslett 1st – 8th Grade Baseball Leagues registration deadline



Questions, call Meridian Township
Parks & Recreation
at (517) 853-4600

PARKS & RECREATION

1. Park Commission

At their January 14 meeting, the Park Commission:

At their January 14 work session, the Park Commission received an update from the Park Millage Work Group on the Park Millage Renewal; set a special meeting to review the Commission's goals and objectives for 2014 and Grant Applications for 2014 and discussed the naming policy.

At the regular meeting on January 14, they received three presentations: 1) shade trees in parks from David Fisher; 2) Eastgate Park/ Red Cedar River log jam removal from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner and 3) Ember Oaks Drain Restoration project through Legg Park and the Red Cedar Glen Natural Area from the Ingham County Drain Commissioner; Mark Stephens was appointed the representative to the Land Preservation Advisory Board; plan revisions and Park Commission concerns on Special Use Permit #13171 (Aldi/Eyde) development and the 2013 Friends of the Park Volunteer Recognition ceremony.

The next regular meeting of the Park Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2014 in the Town Hall Room at the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. The work session is scheduled for 6 pm and the regular televised meeting will begin at 7 pm.

2. Administration:

Met with members of the Chinese New Year planning committee on several occasions to finalize the event scheduled for Saturday, February 1 at the Meridian Mall. The event will consist of singing, dancing, music, fashion show, parade, and activity booths from local organizations on Saturday, February 1, 2014 from 1:30-6pm.

Attended the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Conference and Trade Show in Traverse City on January 21-24.

Met with planning committee for 2014 Celebrate Downtown Okemos event scheduled for Saturday, June 14.

Worked on developing and editing the 2014 Family Fun Guide. Planned distribution date is early March.

3. Parks and Land Management

Land Preservation:

- LPAB did not meet in January
- LPAB Monthly Meeting: The next regular LPAB meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2014 at 6 pm at the Meridian Service Center in Nancy Moore Park.
- Joint Meeting for all Boards and Commissions: The LPAB will present the past year's accomplishments and the future goals at the February 18, 2014 Joint Meeting that will be held at 6 pm at the Township Hall.

- Future Land Acquisitions: Obtained bids for an appraisal of a property that the LPAB is considering for acquisition
- LPAB Donations: We have received \$675 in donations to date, in memory of Mary Helmbrecht
- Davis/Foster Land Preserve: Continued to work with Ingham County Health Department and Michigan Demolition to submit permits to complete demolition of two residential structures
- Prescribed burns: Put together plans for spring prescribed burning at Lake Lansing Park – North (Land Preservation easement parcels) and Davis Foster Land Preserve
- Attended two day Stewardship Network conference to explore new options for invasive species management

Parks:

- Attended DNR Recreation grant workshop at the Michigan Library and Historical Center
- Developed a summary of recommendations for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grants
- Developed a partial list of maintenance projects for all parks
- Park Rules Signs: Edited park rules sign based on park commission recommendations and submitted for further edits
- Put together 2014 Stewardship Plan/Calendar to identify specific projects within parks and land preserves to be carried out throughout the year

Deer Management:

- Provided deer management information to Ottawa County Parks office
- Presented summary of 2013 Deer Management Program to Meridian Township Board on January 21, 2014
- Met with representatives from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to explore options for managing deer in residential settings that are not suitable for hunting. Also discuss season results and more options for deer management in neighborhoods; specifically trapping/euthanization and sharpshooters
- Continued to work with MSU student, Chad Blass and his assistants who are gathering pellets around the township for their study of the Spatial Structure of Deer in Suburban Settings. They are also in the process of working to collect live tissue
- Prepared year end survey for 2013 Deer Management Program hunters
- Prepared year end summary for 2013 Deer Management Program
- Completed the DNR reporting requirement for Deer Management Assistance Permits
- Picked up and distributed 609lbs of venison donated from the deer management program to food banks at the Haven House in East Lansing, Lansing City Mission, Lansing's First Presbyterian Church and Okemos Community Church
- Developed plans to construct a deer enclosure at the Northwest Land Preserve and plant it with native trees and shrubs working with Towar community neighborhood volunteers and a potential school or scout group. Submitted the project proposal to the Grand Learning Network to match with a potential school partner.
- Wrote up an assessment of potential costs and efficacy of wildlife deterrent roadside reflectors based on case studies

4. Recreation

January First Class Dog Training Classes – 6 participants

60 Seniors continue to participate in the 50-plus Workout program in the Meridian Mall every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We hosted a holiday party for them following class on December 13. These seniors are a real inspiration! The oldest participant is 99 years old!

294 enrolled in K-6th grade boys and girls Haslett Basketball program

263 enrolled in K-6th grade boys and girls Williamston Basketball program

Two indoor market days were held with 31 vendors at each. The Farmers' Market will continue through April.

Family Winter Sports Weekend – January 24-26

480 attended Winter Wonderland at Harris Nature Center

60 attended Family Moonlight Sledding

160 attended Meridian Bowls

100 attended Meridian Swims

198 participated in the 7th Annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk

92 attended Meridian Target Practice Opportunities at Demmer Center

1,090 participants

Curling at Central Park South was canceled due to the extreme cold.

No indoor ice skating this year due to availability

February Calendar of Events

February 1 – Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe

February 1 – Cross Country Ski Class

February 1 – Snowshoe Class

February 1 – First Class Dog Training: Dog Obedience

February 1 – Winter Farmers' Market in Meridian Mall

February 1 – First Class Dog Training: Puppy Obedience

February 3 – First Class Dog Training: Dog Obedience

February 5 – Photography Class with Ron St. Germain

February 7 – Weekday Science Programs "Rocks and Minerals"

February 8 – Owl Prowl Campfire and Program

February 10 – Sporties for Shorties in the Training Space

February 13 – Chipmunk Story Time "Snowy Valentine"

February 14 – Howl at the Moon

February 15 – Meridian Ice Fishing Derby

February 15 – Winter Farmers' Market in Meridian Mall

February 15 – Free Family Moonlight Sledding

February 17 – School's Out Day Trip – Craig's Cruisers

February 21 - Okemos Kindergarten – 8th Grade Boys and Girls Soccer League registration deadline

February 22 – Moonlight Ski and Shoe

February 27 – Sporties for Shorties at the MAC

February 28 – Haslett 1st – 8th Grade Baseball Leagues registration deadline

February 28 – Meridian Township Snowman/Snow Sculpture Contest

February 28 – Haslett 1st – 8th Grade Softball Leagues registration deadline

5. Snell-Towar Recreation Center

Senior Luncheon: The January luncheon was cancelled due to severe weather. The next luncheon will be on February 6th.

Staff is planning a "Towar Teens" ski trip to Caberfae Peaks in Cadillac for February 18th funded through a grant from the Capital Region Community Foundation.

6. Harris Nature Center

Due to a recent death in HNC Coordinator Kit Rich's family, the January report will be included in the February report.

7. Meridian Senior Center

Special events/programs in January

- Rita Wilhelm – Cluttergone presentations on organization - 1/14 and 1/15 – 36 participants
- Bill Nelson – CADL – Home Front- 1/16 – 1 participant
- New Line Dance class – 1/22- 3/26 – 4 participant
- New World Dance class – 1/27 – 3/28 – 2 participants
- iPad class 1/30 & 1/31 – 5 participants

Professional development/networking:

- Networking Meeting at Burcham
- Willow of East Lansing Board Meeting
- Madison attended training with Elder Law

Reminders:

Senior Center was closed on 1/20 for Martin Luther King Day

Senior Center will be closed on 2/14 and 2/17 for President's Day/mid-winter break

February Events/programs:

8. The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division

In January, 5 interments, 5 interments to date, 0 disinterment, at Glendale Cemetery

Assisted staff with site preparations (set up and take down) for annual Family Winter Sports Weekend events: Winter Wonderland at Harris Nature Center, 5K Run through Central and Nancy Moore Parks, curling at Central Park South, sledding at North Meridian Road Park

Assisted staff with site set up for the Chinese New Year event in the Meridian Mall

Continued to treat Township sidewalks, parking lots, pathways, parks, for ice and snow plowed as required

Refilled salt barrels at cross walks

Removed snow from overflow parking at Harris Nature Center

Removed snow from sidewalks in various locations in Old English Estates and on Picadilly Drive (code enforcement)

Addressed fire hydrant leak on Mt. Hope

Removed trash and restocked dog waste receptacles in 18 Parks and at the Cemetery

Continued with off-road trail maintenance

Hung banners at Town Hall and across Hamilton Road

Assisted building maintenance crew with repairs

Meridian's deer harvest grows nearly 30 percent

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP — The third year for a managed hunt on designated township properties yielded nearly a 30 percent increase of deer taken by hunters and about 1,300 pounds of venison donated to local food banks.

Hunters harvested 127 deer, exceeding 2012's total of 90 deer, during the regular archery hunting, firearm and early antlerless seasons.

It is estimated that one pound of venison equals five meals; therefore, 6,500 meals were donated through the 2013 Deer Management Program.

Hunters were allowed to keep their first deer, but remaining deer were donated to local food banks. Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger provided funding for the processing fee.

"We are pleased that our increased efforts have resulted in a greater

harvest. Reports from the residents are mixed — some are saying that they are definitely seeing a reduction in deer, while others are reporting large deer herds living in their backyards," said Jane Greenway, Parks and Land management coordinator.

"Our hope is that sustained deer management will allow the native vegetation to flourish and will reduce the conflicts between deer and cars. Meridian Township is very dedicated to protecting nature and enriching life. We are utilizing scientific principles and best management practices to actively manage our natural communities."

It is uncertain if a deer harvest will be held during the regular 2014 archery season; the township board votes on this issue annually.

— From Meridian Township

NEWS BRIEFS

Anyone wishing to publicize a non-profit event may submit a short story for our news briefs. Please e-mail your submission to kumadden@lsj.com. If you have any questions, please call 377-1093. The deadline for all submissions is each Tuesday at noon for the following Sunday's publication.

Chinese New Year celebration Feb. 1

The Greater Lansing Chinese Association, together with 20 other Chinese organizations and sponsors in the Greater Lansing area, is planning a festive day to celebrate the beginning of the Chinese New Year at the Meridian Mall in Okemos on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 1:30-6 p.m. in the center court area.

This festival is focused on bringing the entire community together in celebration of the Chinese culture that will include a parade, fashion show, music, dancing, singing, carnival games and more.

Chipmunk Story Time at HNC Feb. 13
Children are invited to join Chitcory Chipmunk at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. for this month's Chipmunk Story Time, "Snowy Valentine." The story times are open to preschool and elementary children. The fee is \$3/child/session and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866.

DRIVE-THRU SANTA

Meridian Township residents will be able meet Santa at a Drive-Thru. Visit Santa on Saturday, Dec. 14 and 21 from 5-8 p.m. at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court (Nancy Moore Park entrance).

Drive-Thru Santa provides an opportunity for families to visit with and have their picture taken with Santa without ever leaving the car. The price is \$5 per car plus one canned good which includes a visit with Santa, a photo and a small treat.

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation



Family Winter Sports Weekend
Friday - Sunday,
January 24-January 26



Call 517-853-4600 • www.meridian.mi.us



Dave Caszatt (center) and two others were among numerous volunteers who combined for more than 370 volunteer hours on a recent project. COURTESY PHOTO

Terrific tree planting sustains land preserve

Honored volunteer helped put 3,000 seedlings in the ground

By Dawn Parker
dlparker@lsj.com

MERIDIAN TWP.—Volunteering comes naturally to Dave Caszatt, from his time in the Peace Corps to work within his Towar Gardens neighborhood.

Caszatt's latest effort, the planting of 3,000 pine seedlings in the Northwest Land Preserve, earned him recognition

of the kind he rarely seeks – a resolution presented by the township board at its Dec. 3 meeting.

The resolution recognizes the “valuable and beautiful” work done to restore the site, including the coordination of volunteers who combined for more than 370 work hours on the project.

Such formal acclaim isn't

necessary, Caszatt insisted.

“I don't need certificates,” he said. “If a friend or a neighbor pats me on the back says thanks, that's the good stuff.”

Meridian Township parks and land management coordinator Jane Greenway said she is grateful for Caszatt's help. The township's parks and land preserves rely on volunteer efforts to help leverage a small budget, she added.

“Dave's continued devotion to Meridian Township's natural areas has gone far above and beyond the realm of typical volunteer work. He has spent

countless hours improving and conserving the Towar Woods Land Preserve, a beautiful and significant 125-acre woodlot,” Greenway said.

“But the best part about Dave is his humor, charm and overall positive attitude. He is a pleasure to work with, and I wish we had 100 more volunteers just like him.”

Caszatt served on the Land Preservation Board from 2004-11 and is a founding member of TC3, short for Towar Community Concerns Committee.

See PRESERVE, Page 4

Preserve

Continued from Page 1A

The seedlings — 1,000 white pines and 2,000 red pines — were planted in an area formerly choked by common buckthorn, an invasive plant in Michigan.

The 16- to 24-inch seedlings were purchased from Alpha Nurseries of Holland with Land Preservation stewardship funds.

The white pine is the state tree of Michigan, while red pines are common in many areas of the state but especially in the northern Lower Peninsula and Upper Peninsula.

Caszatt said buckthorn

was used in Great Britain as a natural fencing shrub, but took over once it was brought to New England and coastal regions of the U.S.

The goal for the project also involves planting hardwoods — nut-producing trees like hickory, walnut or acorn — surrounded by a deer fence.

Work began three ago on a 20-acre parcel managed by the Land Preservation Board, which had purchased it from Walnut Hills Golf and Country Club. Caszatt said Walnut Hills planned to build an additional nine holes but decided not to.

The first thought was to eradicate the buckthorn using chemicals.

“Then we thought, ‘Why are we killing ourselves?’ We need to put something in there which will take over,” Caszatt recalled.

Many hands made light work of clearing the scrub brush and the buckthorn, along with readying the land for planting.

Volunteers included Towar Gardens and Skyline Hills residents, as well as MSU students belonging to Alpha Phi Omega, a co-ed service fraternity.

The pesky buckthorn may come back. If it does, Caszatt said, “We will continue to attack buckthorn. Once the trees establish, they’ll be in charge — not the buckthorn.”

The Towne Courier

An edition of the

Lansing State Journal

TM

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A GANNETT COMPANY

Your very own newspaper serving East Lansing, Okemos, Haslett and Meridian Township



The Van Atta Road Bridge, built in 1935, will undergo a \$940,000 reconstruction, beginning later this month. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATHAN HOLT

HISTORIC BRIDGE RENEWAL

Van Atta Road Bridge over the Red Cedar River to be rebuilt

By Kurt Madden
kumadden@lsj.com

MERIDIAN TWP — The Van Atta Road Bridge over the Red Cedar River will be closed later this month as work begins to rebuild historic structure.

The \$940,000 project is tentatively scheduled to start the week of Feb. 10, depending on the weather, according to the Ingham County Road Department.

The existing 60-foot long bridge will

be replaced by a 100-foot long bridge that will straddle the existing bridge foundations. It is anticipated that the new bridge will open to traffic in late May.

People on their way to the Harris Nature Center will have to follow a detour. "I am thinking there will be a learning curve involved. People will come to the bridge and assume that we are closed," Kit Rich, coordinator for center, said.

"We will be open during our normal

hours, and all of our programs will be continuing during the construction," Rich said.

The 16-year-old nature center, 3998 Van Atta Road, is located just south of the bridge in the 200-acre Meridian Riverfront Park. Some 20,000 people visit the center annually.

The bridge, built in 1935, will also provide a future dedicated sidewalk on

See BRIDGE, Page 3A

Bridge

Continued from Page 1A

the west side of the bridge that fits the township's non-motorized master plan and a canoe launch along the shore of the nature center, according to road department officials.

While the bridge will be closed to through traffic, local residents will always be able to access

their property from at least one direction.

Traffic will be detoured along Jolly Road, Meridian Road and Grand River Ave.

The project is being funded by the State Local Bridge Program and ICRD. The construction contract has been awarded to Davis Construction of Lansing at the low bid of \$940,000.

For project updates, visit the ICRD Web site at www.inghamcrc.org.

Family Winter Sports events this weekend

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
 — The 14th annual Family Winter Sports event will take place this weekend. The township's recreation department, Michigan Athletic Club, Playmakers, Demmer Center, Lansing Area Curling Club and City Limits East Lansing Bowling Center are collaborating on the event.

This three-day physical activity extravaganza takes place through Jan. 26. Most events are free, but some have a minimal charge.

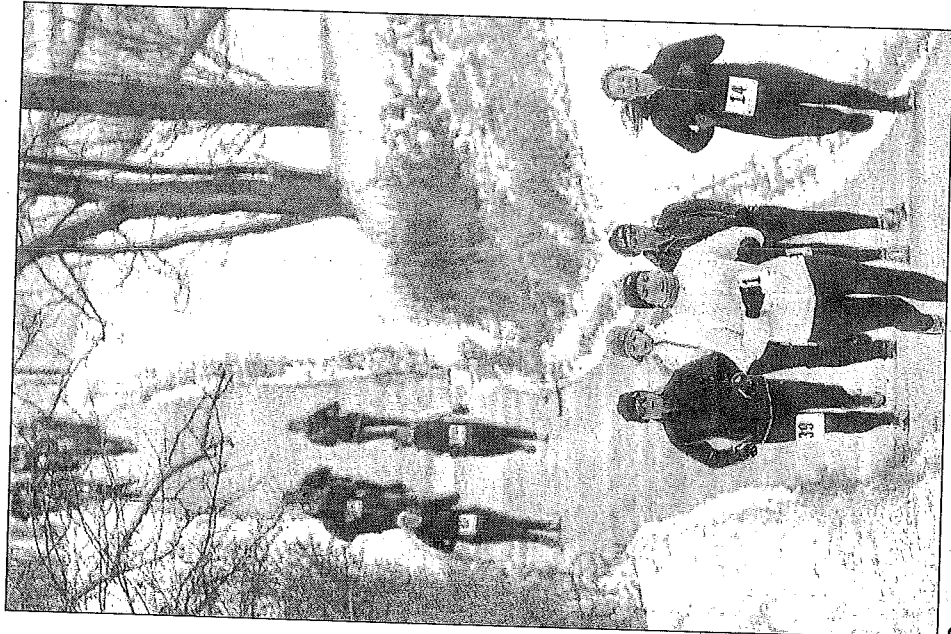
Family Winter Sports Weekend event schedule:

- Jan. 25**
 - » Winter Wonderland, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Harris Nature Center
 - » Curling Event, 2-4 p.m., Central Park South Pond
 - » Meridian Target Practice, 1-6 p.m., Demmer Center
 - » Family Moonlight Sledding, 6-8:30 p.m., North Meridian Road Park
- Jan. 26**
 - » Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk, 9 a.m., Municipal Building
 - » Meridian Bowls, noon-4 p.m., City Limits East Lansing
 - » Meridian Target Practice, 1-6 p.m., Demmer Center
 - » Meridian Swims, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Michigan Athletic Club

Free events include Winter Wonderland at the Harris Nature Center, moonlight sledding, curling and swimming. Nominal fees are charged for the Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk, shoe rental for the Meridian Bowls event and target practice at Demmer Center. All events and fees are family friendly.

Pre-registration is required for the Meridian Swims event; residents can call the Michigan Athletic Club at (517) 364-8888 to register. Reservations for Meridian Target Practice can be made by calling the Demmer Center at (517) 884-0550.

Open registration for the run/walk will also start at 9 a.m. the day of the event.




Runners compete in last year in Meridian Township's annual Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk. ROBERT KILLIPS/LSJ



Residents are encouraged to contact the Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department at (517) 853-4600 to register. — From Meridian Township

MERIDIAN FARMERS' WINTER MARKET

SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 1 & 15
10AM - 2PM



MERIDIAN MALL
JCPenney Corridor

2013 PARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

"The year of the Red Cedar River!"

Many of the park's projects in 2013 focused around the aesthetics and ecological health of one of our community's best resources... the Red Cedar River.

River Efforts

- A volunteer river clean up and clearing which resulted in the removal of 19 log jams
- Working with the ICDC to remove a large logjam at Eastgate Park (this logjam led to the loss of one of the park trails)
- Planning for a new canoe landing at the Harris Nature Center, a huge log jam removal in East
- Working with the LPAB and ICDC on the major site restoration project at the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve and Legg Park
- Worked with surrounding communities to develop a Water Trail plan – this plan will allow us to be eligible for certain grants. A "water trail" is exactly as it sounds – a trail that is water with designated stopping points for shelter, rest, water, restrooms, etc.

Grants

1. Wonch Park
Received a \$45,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for an accessible pathway in Wonch Park. We are gearing up to begin the engineering plans and contract development and will begin constructed in 2014.

Volunteers

1. Friends of the Parks - Honored over 125 individuals and organizations at the annual "Friends of the Parks" Volunteer Recognition Ceremony. Barbara Kissling was honored as the 2012 Park Friend of the Year". Barb Kissling has been a devoted supporter the Harris Nature Center for many years. She was one of the first directors of the Harris Nature Center Foundation in 2006 and served as treasurer and president of the Foundation. As the Foundation's first project, Ms. Kissling oversaw the planning, building, and dedication of the Red Cedar River Overlook, an outdoor classroom space for Nature Center programming as well as a beautiful viewing area for all visitors. Ms. Kissling initiated the annual fund drive and annual silent auction events that provide necessary funding for other Foundation priorities, such as school bus scholarships that bring

classroom children to the nature center.

2. Eagle Scouts (current projects)
 - a. Thomas Laub - construction of bridge in Legg Park
 - b. Alex Rogers – developed gravel walkway in Ted Black Woods
 - c. Peter Miklavic – constructed footbridge on pathway between Eastgate Park and Harris Nature Center
3. Other Volunteer Activities
 - a. 2013 River Clearing Event scheduled for Saturday, October 5 with a focus on 19 log jams between Grand River Avenue to Harris Nature Center to Ferguson Park

Invasive Species Management

- Continued to work with staff and volunteers and the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative to identify and remove invasive species in our parks, land preserves and other township properties.
- Evaluations were completed for Hartrick Park, Ted Black Woods and Brattin Woods Park

Park Planning

1. Newton Road Park

Staff designed parking lot configuration; working with Ingham County Road Commission on park entrance and will soon install a vinyl split rail fence along Lake Lansing Road

2. Central Park

Began review of master plan to improve the trail system in the parks and also improve the “edges” of the park. The goal is to give Central Park an identity and a design that will strive to become a destination within the heart of Meridian Township.

3. Wonch Park

Executed project agreement with Michigan Department of Natural Resources; designed 7/8 foot wide concrete looped pathway and GPS locations connecting to the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway system; construction to begin spring 2014.

4. Legg Park

Completion of the Red Cedar Glen/Legg Park Drainage Restoration project; worked with Land Preservation Advisory Board to open an 8 foot

wide natural pathway between Legg Park through Red Cedar Glen to
Sylvan Glen for pedestrians and bicyclists

5. **Eastgate Park**

Worked with Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office to clear a
massive log jam in the Red Cedar River. Planted the disturbed area with
native plants

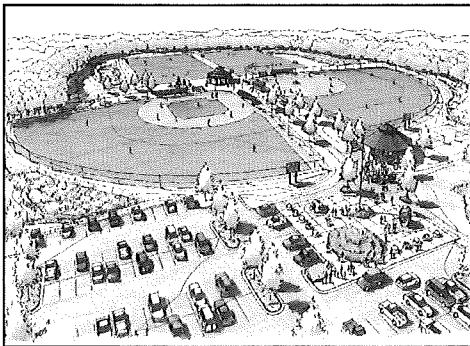
6. Discussed future funding plans for the parks

Other

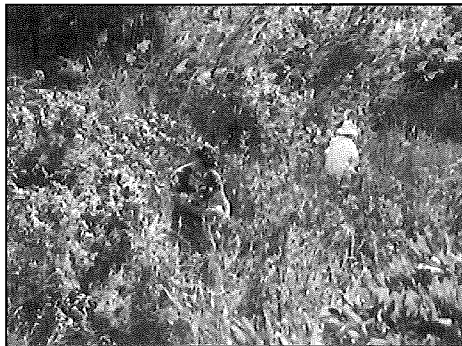
1. Elected Todd Wilson as Chair and Teri Banas Vice Chair
2. Park Millage ballot initiative

Meridian Township Parks - 2013

"Creating Community through People, Parks, and Programs"



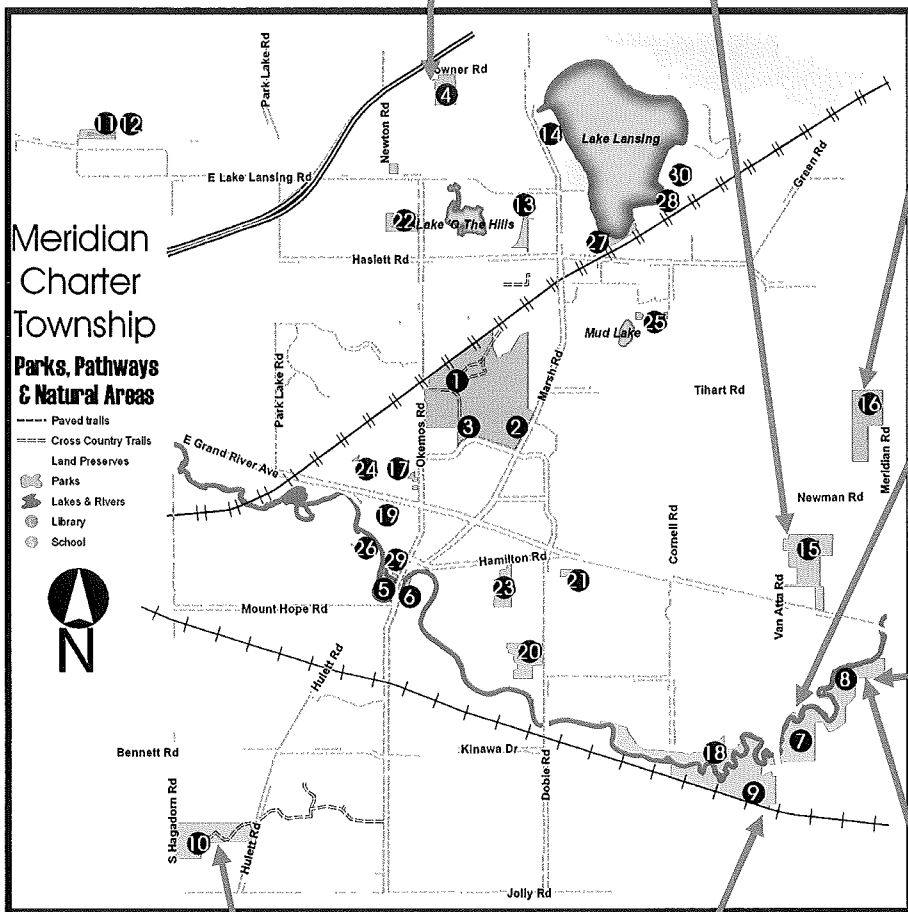
Towner Road Park—Engineering Plans



Ted Black Woods—Treating invasive phragmites



Parking Lot Resurfacing—N. Meridian Rd. Pk.



Harris Nature Center, Natural Playground Planning



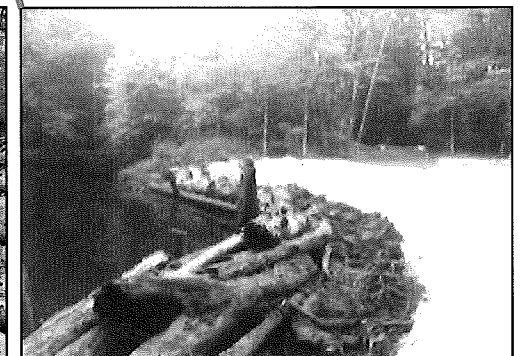
Eastgate Park—Massive Log Jam (before)



Hartrick Park – volunteer flower planting at sign



Legg Park, Site Restoration & Boardwalk



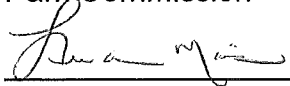
Eastgate Park—Log Clearing & Stabilization (after)

Park Commission Meeting
February 11, 2014

11. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Wonch Park Grant - Set Public Hearing Date
- b. Support - HNC Foundation Play Area Grant
- c. ICDC Controlled Burn Request - Towar Park Rain Gardens

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Park and Recreation
DATE: February 7, 2014
RE: DNR Grant Application Wonch Park – Set Public Hearing

The Park Commission at their special meeting on February 4, 2014, discussed and evaluated possible projects for grant consideration. By consensus the Commission unanimously agreed to continue with implementation of the Wonch Park Master Plan by requesting funding assistance for a new pavilion. Wonch Park is a highly utilized facility for picnics and activities and the existing pavilion is no longer effectively meeting the needs of our park users. It was decided to apply to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for this project. The application deadline is April 1, 2014. Prior to submission, it is a requirement to conduct a public hearing to obtain feedback from residents. The following schedule is put forth for your review:

- March 11, 2014 – Public Hearing
- March 11, 2014 – Take action on resolution of support
- March 18, 2014 – Township Board action for grant submission
- April 1, 2014, - Application Deadline

Wonch Park


- Improvements include: New pavilion, 4- deciduous trees, electricity, water, and 2- universally accessible grills and 3-handicapped accessible picnic tables
- Estimated Project Cost: \$250,000
- Local Match from General Fund 25% \$62,500
- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) request 75% \$187,500

Motion for consideration:

Moved to schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, March 11, 2014 to solicit public input on the submission of a grant to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for improvements to Wonch Park which includes a pavilion, utilities, universally accessible grills and picnic tables.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 9, 2012

RE: Annual Controlled Burn Request
Towar Gardens Area
Ingham County Drain Commission

The Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office is requesting once again to conduct a controlled burn in the rain gardens in Towar Park. Controlled burning in those areas has been done on an annual basis since 2010. They are proposing the same program once again and they work in conjunction with our Fire Department and a licensed contractor.

The following motion is offered:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONERS OFFICE TO CONDUCT CONTROLLED BURNING IN THE RAIN GARDENS NEAR SNELL-TOWAR RECREATION CENTER AS AN EFFECTIVE WEED CONTROL MEASURE IN 2014. THE ICDC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING REQUIRED PERMITS AND FOR FOLLOWING STANDARD SAFETY MEASURES AND WILL INFORM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OF THE EXACT DATE AND TIME OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY.

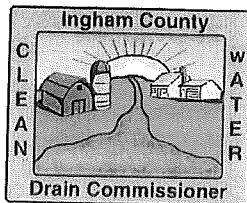
Patrick E. Lindemann

Ingham County Drain Commissioner

PO Box 220
707 Buhl Avenue
Mason, MI 48854-0220

Phone: (517) 676-8395

Fax: (517) 676-8364



Carla Florence Clos
Deputy Drain Commissioner
Cecelia Kramer
Deputy Drain Commissioner
Paul C. Pratt
Deputy Drain Commissioner
David C. Love
Chief of Engineering and Inspection
Sheldon Lewis
Administrative Assistant

February 17, 2012

Dear Landowner,

The Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner had a successful prescribed burn last year at the Towar Park and the rear yard rain gardens. We are planning to continue this maintenance program this spring. The maintenance burn will occur sometime in March or early April depending on the weather (please see attached brochure).

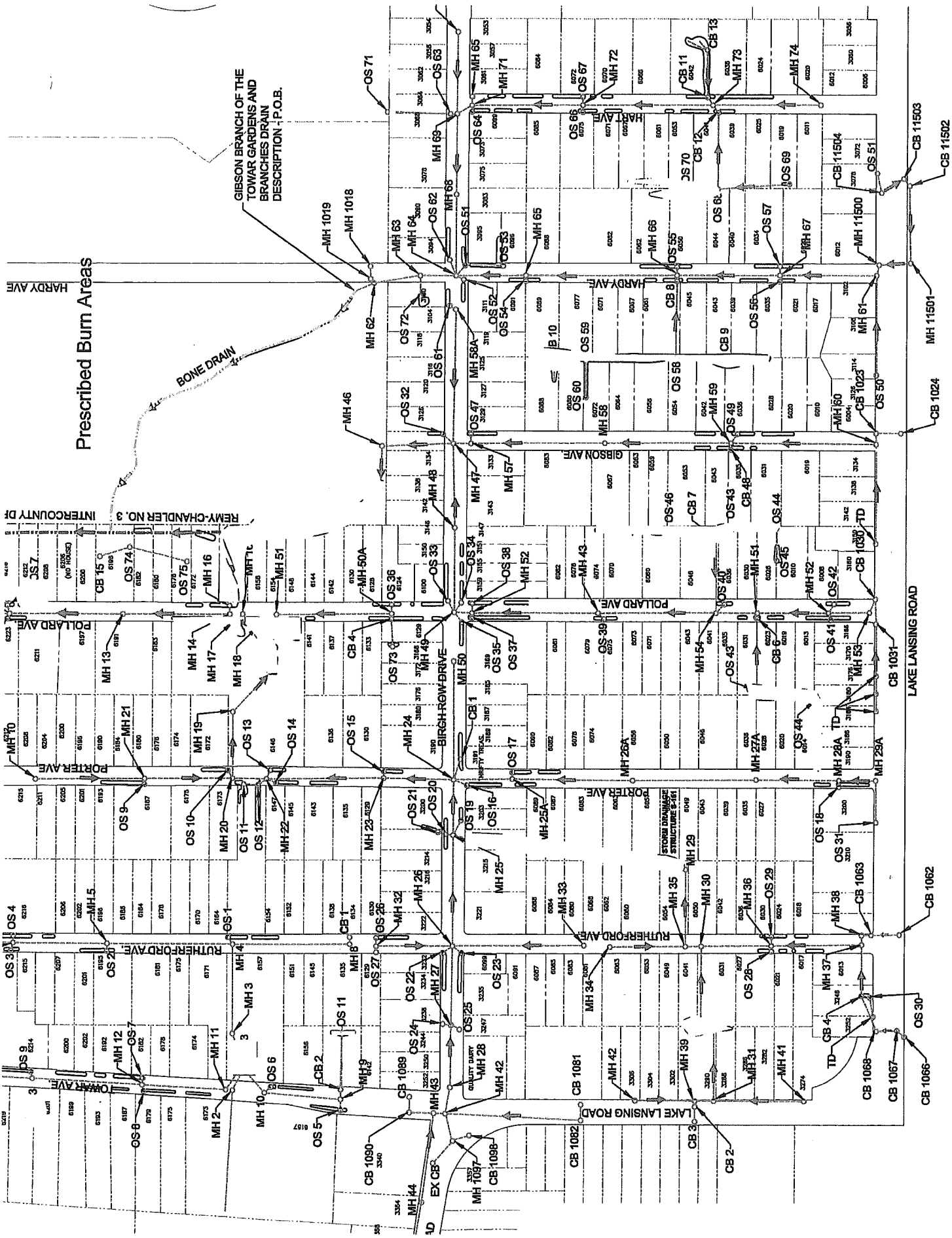
Please contact Assistant Project Coordinator Angie Cosman at (517) 719-5431 if you have any questions or would like further information about this maintenance. Also, call Project Coordinator Cosman if you need to avoid the smoke exposure for medical reasons or would otherwise like to be informed the day the maintenance will occur.

Thank you in advance for your help. It is an honor and pleasure to serve you and the other citizens of Ingham County.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick E. Lindemann".

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner



Prescribed Burn Areas

GIBSON BRANCH OF THE TOWAR GARDENS AND BRANCHES DRAIN DESCRIPTION: P.O.B.

INTERCOUNTY DR

REMY-CHANDLER NO. 3

PORTER AVE

POLLARD AVE

RUTHERFORD AVE

PORTER AVE

BIRCHROW DRIVE

POLLARD AVE

RUTHERFORD AVE

PORTER AVE

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Patrick E. Lindemann

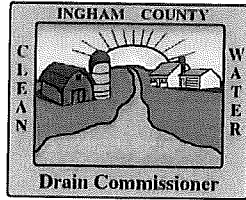
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

PO Box 220
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Phone: (517) 676-8395

Fax: (517) 676-8364

<http://dr.ingham.org>



Carla Florence Clos
Deputy Drain Commissioner

Paul C. Pratt
Deputy Drain Commissioner

David C. Love
Chief of Engineering and Inspection

Sheldon Lewis
Administrative Assistant

NEWS RELEASE

CONTROLLED/PREScribed BURN TODAY!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Carla Clos
517-676-8395 or 517-719-4913

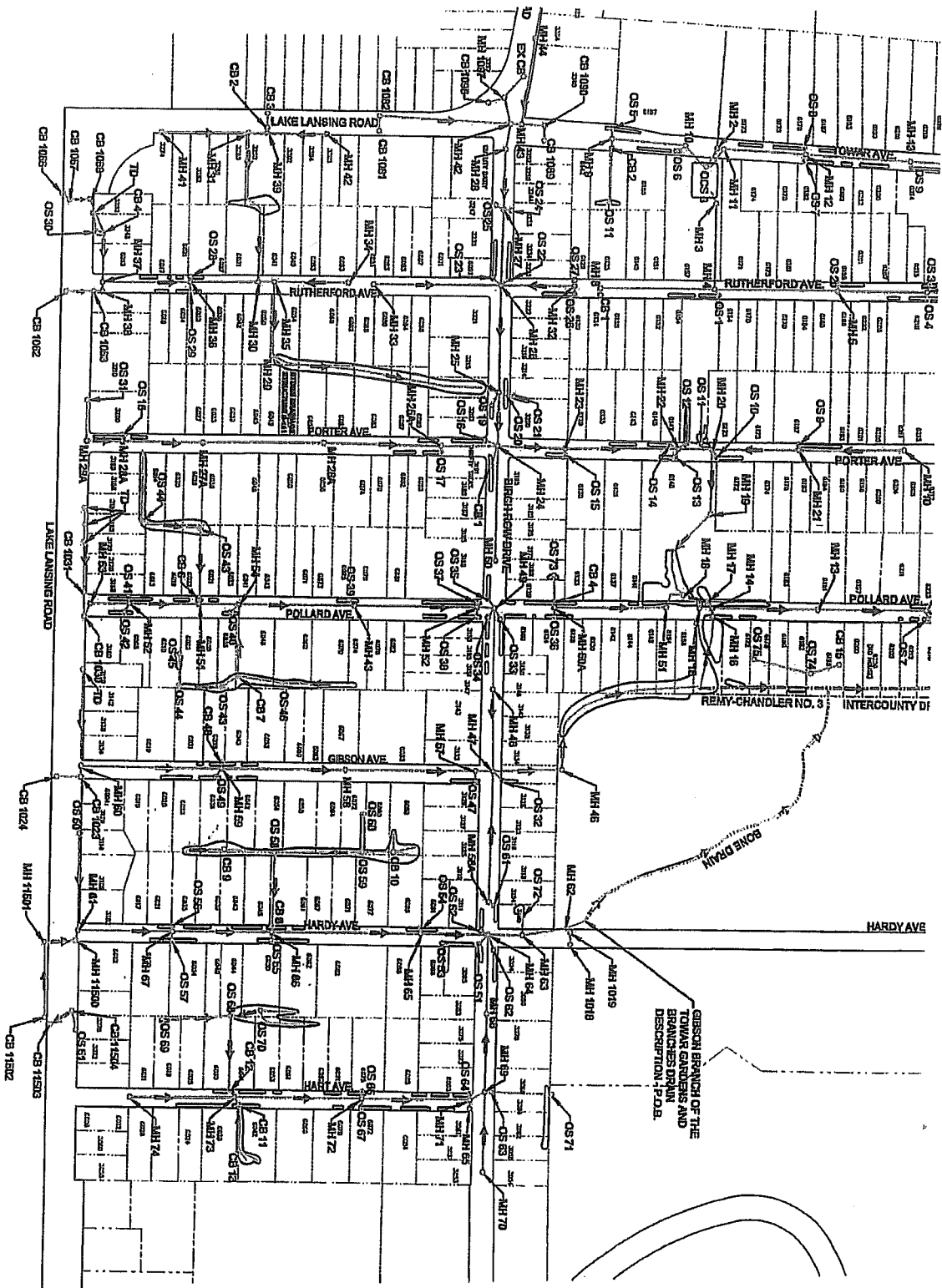
Ingham County Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann will conduct a controlled/prescribed burn in the Towar Gardens neighborhood between **12 to 7 p.m. today, Tuesday, March 20, 2012.** The burn areas are shown in the attached map.

“This buffer area planted in native flowers and grasses will thrive after the controlled burn gets rid of the invasive/non-native vegetation,” according to Drain Commissioner Lindemann. Native plants are important because they filter and cleanse the runoff before it enters the water. They also have deeper root systems that hold the soil and increase its porosity.

Historically, fire was a common feature of the midwest landscape. Reintroducing fire helps to curb the non-native invasive species and give the native fire-adaptive plants a chance to renew.

The burn will be conducted by David Borneman, LLC. David Borneman, its President, has over 22 years of professional experience conducting prescribed, ecological burns on thousands of acres.

The whole procedure should take only a few hours. The Meridian Township Fire Department will be in attendance. The neighborhood has received notice of this event by mail. Additional information or questions can be directed to Deputy Drain Commissioner Carla Clos at the Drain Office, 676-8395 or Project Coordinator Angie Cosman at 517-719-5431.



STRUCTURE NUMBER EXHIBIT

DRAIN ID NO.
T05-53

1 OF 1

SHEET NO.
04070.00

PATRICK E. LINDEMANN
INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER
TOWAR GARDENS AND BRANCHES DRAIN
 MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, INGHAM COUNTY, MI



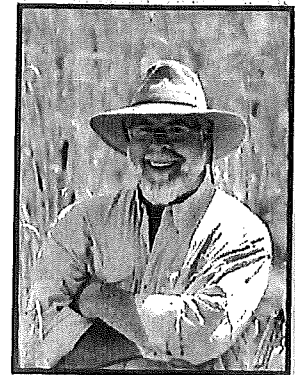
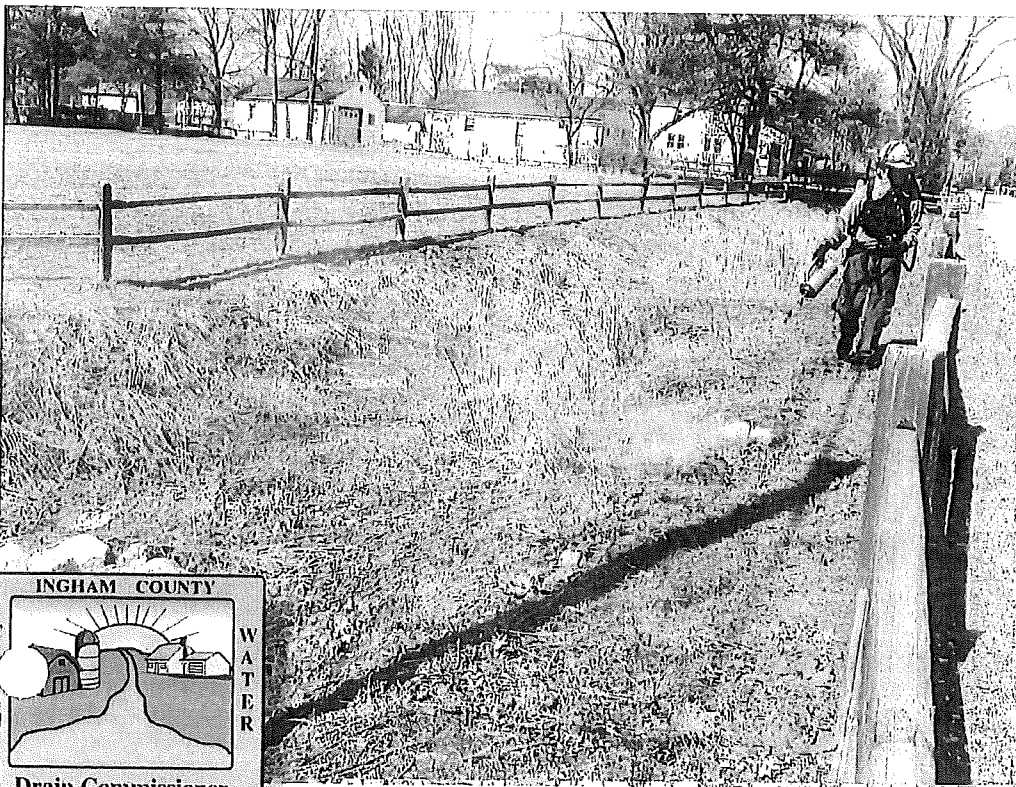
CONTROLLED PRESCRIBED BURNING

NOTICE

<p>Who? <i>Ingham County Drain Commissioner, managing the Towar Snell and Towar Gardens Drain.</i></p>	<p>Why? <i>Restore native plantings that are designed to clean stormwater.</i></p>	<p>When? <i>March 2012 or Early April 2012</i></p>	<p>Where? <i>see attached map</i></p>
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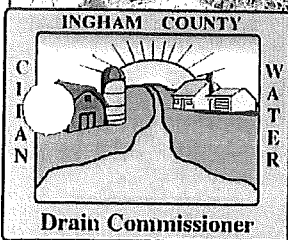
CONTROLLED PRESCRIBED BURN NOTICE

The Towar Snell and Towar Gardens and Branches Drain Drainage Districts are planning a controlled prescribed burn.



Ingham County Drain Commissioner
 Patrick E. Lindemann

Residents and Neighbors of the Towar Snell and Gardens Drains:
 As part of maintaining the drain and its natural buffer vegetation, we will be conducting a controlled prescribed burn on some areas around the Park rain gardens and rear yard rain gardens. This flyer is designed to give you some information needed to understand the process. Should you have questions, please feel free to call (517) 676-8395.



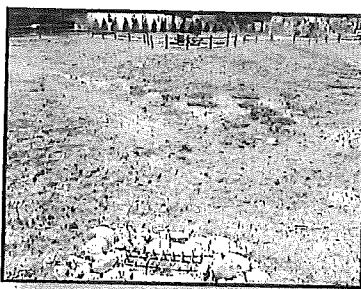
Why Burn? Historically, fire was a common feature of the midwest landscape. By reintroducing fire we are reintroducing a natural process. With the cessation of fire, we have allowed many fire-intolerant, non-native plant species to out-compete the native, fire-adapted plants. Native plants are needed at Towar for their superior ability to help cleanse stormwater of pollutants from our neighborhoods.

Are Burns Safe? The burn is conducted by well-equipped, fully-trained staff with the Meridian Township Fire Department in attendance. A prescribed burn will produce some smoke. In general, emissions from burns are significantly less than those produced from mowing a comparably-sized site. Persons needing to avoid any smoke exposure for medical reasons may leave contact information with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, and they will be given individual notice of the burn timing. Animal life will be protected by not burning while ground nesting activity occurs.

When? Burns are best done in Spring, before much new growth has occurred. We're planning this burn for March or early April. In order to conduct a prescribed burn, we must wait until conditions are right. Weather conditions - temperature, wind direction and strength, humidity, barometric pressure, and ground moisture - all must be within the proper range before we proceed. We will notify local news media on the morning we are conducting the burn. If you would like to be notified the morning we plan to burn, please call.



Towar Gardens Rain Garden



Picture taken 2 weeks after prescribed burn from 2011



Picture taken 6 weeks after prescribed burn from 2011

Last year the controlled burn on the Towar Snell and Towar Gardens Drain Drainage Districts was done around the Park rain gardens and rear yard rain gardens.(see attached map)

For more information on Towar or other prescribed burns in Ingham County go to: <http://web.me.com/icdclindemann>

