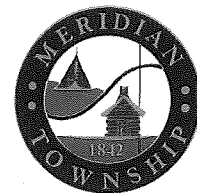




CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY DECEMBER 9, 2014
MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER



REGULAR MEETING 6 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. October 21, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - b. October 21, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report** (yellow)
9. **New Business** (pink)

PUBLIC COMMENT

 - a. 2015 Meeting Schedule
 - b. Election of Officers
 - c. Assignment of Land Preservation Advisory Board Representative
 - d. Budget Amendment Request – Safety Fence
 - e. 2015 Goals and Objectives
 - f. Commissioner Banas Resignation
10. **Unfinished Business** (green)

PUBLIC COMMENT

 - a. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications
 - b. 2015 Grant Project Submissions
11. **Other Business** (cherry)

PUBLIC COMMENT

 - a.
12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)

PUBLIC COMMENT

 - a. Park Commissioner Replacement

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.

13. Final Comments

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015
- b. Joint Meeting with Township Board and other Boards and Commission:
Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 6 pm in Town Hall Room
- c. Farmers' Market – Saturday, December 6 and 20, Meridian Mall 10am-2pm
- d. Township Offices are closed December 25 and 26; and January 1 and 2 for
holiday observance
- e. Christmas in the Village – Sunday, December 14 from 2-5pm

15. Public Remarks

16. Closed Session

17. Adjournment

Park Commission Meeting
December 9, 2014

6. MINUTES

- a. October 21, 2014 Work Session Minutes
- b. October 21, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Banas, Wilson

1. Call Meeting to Order

By consensus, Commissioner Jaramillo will Chair the meeting.

Acting Chair Jaramillo called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Under item #4, Other, add naming of Newton Road Park

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

3. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications

Director Maisner stated the Commissioners have discussed options for proceeding with the Central Park Master Plan planning process. Central Park covers over 279 acres with three main entrance points and staff had previously prepared maps with development zones (Active Recreation, Entertainment, Family Activity, Historic/Culture). During the budget process, \$16,000 was earmarked for the planning. During the September meeting, Chair Wilson suggested preparing a Request for Qualifications to assist with choosing a professional who is best qualified and experienced in park master planning.

Discussion/Questions:

- Should the proposal include a budget and the budget amount covered for planning?
- There is no real change to the layout of the Historical Village and Nancy Moore Park but we are looking at multi-use for Central Park, Central Park South and the Ledebuhr parcel
- Commissioner Stephens suggested we investigate the green, open space on the Mall site across from Central Park South and the cost.
- Great opportunity to develop a partnership with the Mall during this planning process
- Need design to match budget

- Identify what programs and activities are envisioned (Staff has prepared an inventory analysis)
- The site needs connecting walkways
- Create a destination/identity; suggest using fencing, archways, signage
- Conduct community meetings to learn what people are interested in
- Incorporate wetlands and universal access into the plan
- Combination of paved and natural trails with signage and kiosks

Possible program elements to incorporate into the design?

- Trails with signage, especially directional signage
- Create a brand
- Improve the wetland areas with trail system and amenities such as floating platforms; have information on website; include interpretative signage
- Trail enhancements; natural area element enhancements such as the Mudd Lake Drain, fishing
- Create public/private partnerships especially with the Meridian Mall
- Create a link to the Mall
- Fishing dock and boardwalks in, around and to Central Park South, but need to rehab the area first
- Create more fishing access and boardwalks around both ponds
- Floating island to enhance the water quality of both ponds
- Need to look at the site as a large piece, not just segments; it is open for greater use; make entrance points like a 20'+ footbridge into the Historical Village; new pavilion with separate restroom; winding paved sidewalks and trails connecting areas including picnic pods along the way;
- Improved pathways, trails, parking
- Promote as a family destination
- Like to add a splash pad, no chlorine needed, a fun water feature with water spouts flush to ground.
- Add Wi-Fi
- Suggest talking to bikers to see what they would like to see along the trails and pathways

4. Other

a. Naming Newton Road Park

Due to time constraints, this item will be moved to the regular meeting agenda.

5. Public Comment

None

6. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Acting Chair Jaramillo adjourned the work session at 7:01 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2014

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

ABSENT: Commissioners Banas, Wilson

1. Call Meeting to Order

By consensus, Commissioner Jaramillo served as Acting Chair. Hearing no objections, Acting Chair Jaramillo called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

The following changes were made to the meeting agenda:

- Under Item #9, New Business, delete Item #a, Eagle Scout Project Final Report – Ryan Nusdorfer
- Under Item #9, New Business, add Item #d, Park property transfer from Ingham County Parks
- Under Item #12, add Item #a, Newton Road Park Naming

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

3. Presentations

None

4. Public Comment

Bill McConnell, 4376 Manitou, Okemos, stated the Environmental Commission would like to be more informed of the activities in the Township and he volunteered to attend Park Commission meetings.

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner McDonald spoke about the upcoming vote on the proposed new Ingham County Park Millage; that this proposed millage is very different from the Township's recently passed Park Millage and that if it passes, the Township should request funding to support trail connections in the community.

Commissioner Stephens reported on the October 24 he will be leading a project to create the new Mary M. G. Helmbrecht Butterfly Garden around the Central Park pond with 130 youths from Murphy Elementary and Haslett Middle School. The students will plant 1,500 square feet with seeds and plugs; conduct tree mapping; fish and play games. In the spring, additional plantings will expand the garden area. The fall planting was funded with the donations to the Land Preservation Fund in the memory of former Township Clerk, Mary Helmbrecht; and the spring planting will be funded by the Grand Learning Network. The garden will enhance the pond's edge, create a butterfly garden and provide a vegetation strip to deter geese and ducks from entering the Village from the pond. Commissioner Stephens also spoke about the upcoming Salmon Run Race fundraiser he is hosting in November.

Commissioner Jaramillo shared pictures of plays areas, farmers markets and skate parks she visited.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. August 12, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. August 12, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. September 23, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 12, 2014 AND SEPTEMBER 23, 2014 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Bobbi DuByne; RE: request to revamp Hillbrook Park
2. From: Tom Wiserman; Re: Ottawa Hills Park request for repairs
3. From: Carrie Seroka; RE: thank you for ride toys in parks
4. From: DL Scapes; RE: zoning in our parks and land preserves
5. From: DNR; RE DNR Announces 2015 Wildlife Habitat Grant recipients
6. From: Tom Wiserman; RE: Ottawa Hills tree trimming request
7. From: Pat Harrington; RE: Lansing Oar and Paddle Club cleaning Red Cedar River on Saturday, October 4
8. From: Steve DeBrander, DNR Grants Manager; RE: WHGP Application 15-604, Legg Park Wildlife Enhancement Project
9. From: Eckhart Dersch; Re: game piece boxes for Central Park game table

B. Commission Information

1. October Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Parks & Recreation Department September Report
3. Twitter Post: Garlic Mustard removal April-June 2014; 7 Tons
4. Lansing State Journal: **Sept 14:** Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's history

5. Towne Courier: **Aug 17:** Art class offered at HNC Aug 26; **Aug 24:** Nature center hosts exploration of water for kids; Live bats to be at nature center; **Aug 31:** Nature center hosts exploration of water for kids; Toddlers can discover nature; River exploration program at HNC; **Sept 7:** Harris Nature Center hosts 'Turtle Toast' Fundraiser Sept 11; Live bats come to nature center; Toddlers can discover nature; Chipmunk Story Time at HNC; **Sept 14:** Annual Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's rich history; Meridian announces another deer harvest; Qigong classes offered at HNC; Preschool Science Exploration at HNC Oct 2; Build a bird feeder at HNC Sept 28; Chipmunk Story Time on Sept 18; **Sept 21:** Benefit coed softball tourney set for Oct 4; **Sept 28:** Benefit coed softball tourney set for Oct 4; Legg Park much more than just weeds; **Oct 5:** Nature Center offers Halloween event, Qigong classes offered at HNC; you can build a fairy house on Oct 16
6. Harris Nature Center Foundation Minutes: August 11, 2014
7. Faith Family News October 2014 edition: thank you from Meridian Township

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. To: Assistant Planner Wyatt; Re: Comments on Aldi Development

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

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO MOVE ITEM #9 NEW BUSINESS, #B ICE RINK PROPOSAL HILLBROOK PARK FORWARD ON THE AGENDA. Voice vote. Motion passed.

9b. Ice Rink Proposal – Hillbrook Park

Tim Clark, 1755 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett, asked the Commission to install a temporary ice rink from his backyard into Hillbrook Park. Although he was granted permission last year, he was unable to install it. He asked to start the project in November with staking and preparing the area.

Director Maisner stated a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding between Mr. Clark and the Township was included in the meeting packet and is similar to the one executed last year.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MR. TIM CLARD GRANTING HIM PERMISSION TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A TEMPORARY ICE RINK IN HILLBROOK PARK FROM NOVEMBER, 2014-MARCH 2015. Voice vote. Motion passed.

Commissioner Stephens suggested Mr. Clark keep the Commissioners updated on the project with postings to the Parks and Recreation Facebook page.

8. Director's Report

- Wildlife Habitat Grant – not funded; the Township can reapply next year
- 2014 Deer Management – as of October 1st, 55 deer have been harvested and this is without the early antlerless period
- **Park Projects Report Update**
 - Newton Road Park – the parking lot and fencing have been installed; seven (7) shade trees are scheduled to be installed
 - Legg Park – the entry is completed and will be striped in the spring
 - Wonch Park – the paved pathway has been completed and the grant funding report will be submitted by the end of the year
 - North Meridian Road Park – the sand volleyball court bid was awarded to Michigan Demolition and Excavation with construction scheduled for this fall/winter. Staff is researching containment borders for the courts before the sand is installed.
 - Nancy Moore Park – the front garden area was cleaned up with new plans developed to make it more manageable to maintain for completion in 2015.
- Paul Peterson Memorial Dedication – project included a concrete pad, bench, tree, rock and plaque located in Nancy Moore Park. The dedication was held in October
- Nancy Moore Park - path improvements for safety and maintenance were made in the area near the new Paul Peterson Memorial area.
- Christmas Tree Drop Off – the only site to be used in 2014/2015 is Nancy Moore Park parking lot; there will be no tree drop off at Wonch Park
- Disc Golf Course – staff has met with representatives from Lansing Renegades and looked at developing a course in North Meridian Road Park; the recommendation is for 18 holes in order to hold tournaments; they explained their experiences with development projects in other areas in Lansing; they did express excitement with Central Park but told them we were in the process of developing a renovation plan for the park; the Renegades are looking at other sites in the Township and will come back to the Commission when they have a plan; there are great courses in Grand Rapids and Boyne
- Meridian Garden Club cleaned up gardens in Historical Village and Clare Twohy gardens this week
- Parks will be winterized this week
- Butterfly Garden will be planted around the Village Pond this Friday, October 24 by students from Haslett Schools under the supervised of Commissioner Stephens; a level of maintenance will be needed at the beginning, a little more in the spring but not after that time; in the future, seeds will be harvested and grown by students for future plantings in parks and land preserves
- Lansing Oar and Paddle Club cleared branches from the Red Cedar River from Grand River Ave to the Harris Nature Center on October 5; removing all but one major log jam

- Ted Black Woods – as part of the deer management program, it was reported that a cow has been walking the trails in the evening
- Attended the annual National Recreation and Park Association Conference in North Carolina; enjoyed visiting the exhibit hall and meeting with many vendors; attended sessions on: comprehensive master planning; outdoor fitness parks; apps for trails in the parks which would include downloads showing topography, amenities, etc.; dog parks and programming including fencing, fobs, big versus small dogs; staying in tune with aging population; and natural playgrounds
- Celebrated two anniversaries in the Department – 25 years for Administrative Assistant II Faust and 15 years for Director Maisner

9. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Eagle Scout Project Final Report – Ryan Nusdorfer

This item was removed from the agenda.

b. Ice Rink Proposal – Hillbrook Park

This item was moved forward in the agenda and discussion prior to Item #8, Director's Report.

c. November Park Commission Regular Meeting

Director Maisner reported the regular meeting date for November 4 is election day and November 11 is Veteran's Day (holiday).

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO CANCEL THE NOVEMBER PARK COMMISSION MEETING. Voice vote. Motion passed.

d. Park property transfer from Ingham County Parks

Director Maisner reported that the two outstanding parcels owned by Ingham County located in Ferguson and Wonch Parks have been approved by the Ingham County Park Board and Board of Commissioners for transfer to Meridian Township. Resolutions authorizing the transfer of ownership to the Township by Ingham County were provided to the Commissioners.

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND THE TOWNSHIP BOARD ACCEPT PARCEL # 33-02-02-21-451-002 AND PARCEL #33-02-02-21-453-005 FROM INGHAM COUNTY FOR ONE DOLLAR. Voice vote. Motion passed.

10. Unfinished Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Commission Review #14083 (Planning Commission) Revised Goals and Objectives, 2005 Master Plan – Public Hearing October 27

Director Maisner reported the Planning Commission accepted the Park Commission's recommended changes. The Planning Commission is holding a public hearing on the revised goals and objectives for the 2005 Master Plan Update and are inviting all Township boards and commissions to participate.

b. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications

Director Maisner reported staff will proceed as discussed during the work session.

c. 2015 Grant Project Submissions

Possible grant projects for 2015:

- Meridian Riverfront Park Trail Pavilion - \$250,000 (electricity, water, tree removal / landscaping / rain garden, concrete pad and pathway)
- Meridian Riverfront Park Restroom - \$200,000 (electricity, water, concrete pad, pathway, tree removal / landscaping)
- Wonch Park Renovation - \$250,000 (restroom building improvements)
- Hillbrook Park Tennis Courts and Pickleball Courts - \$100,000

Discussion:

- The pavilion and outdoor restroom will make the HNC a major destination site in the Township
- Pavilions and restrooms along the river will have the ability to get more points added to the grant application
- The Meridian Riverfront additions would be a link to the developing nature play area at the Harris Nature Center
- Some area along the Red Cedar River would allow for handicap access if the water level supported it
- Suggest applying for the Meridian Riverfront Pavilion first and following with the restroom building

11. Other Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Discussion Items

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. Final Comments

None

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014, Service Center - canceled
- b. Farmers' Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays; 8 am - 2 pm; Central Park
- c. Township Offices are closed November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day (Park Commission meeting moved up to November 4)
- d. Meridian Township Celebrates Halloween on Saturday, October 25 with Halloween Adventures at Harris Nature Center and open houses at the Meridian Township Fire Stations, Public Safety Building, HOMTV and Historical Village

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

None

17. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

December 9, 2014

7. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Friend of the Park/Central Park Report
2. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Friend of the Park/North Meridian Road Park Report
3. From: Eckhart Dersch; Re: Friend of the Park/Ted Black Woods Report
4. From: DNR; RE: MNRTF Development Application Evaluation Worksheet
5. From: Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation; RE: Recommend mini-dog parks
6. From: Haslett Food Bank; RE: Thank you for venison for Food Bank

B. Commission Information

1. November & December Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Parks & Recreation Department October and November Monthly Reports
3. Press Release: Local Parks See Improvements – Projects Completed at Wonch and Newton Road Parks
4. Township Focus Magazine: Oh Deer! Townships, hunting and deer management
5. Towne Courier: **Sept 14:** Qigong Classes offered at HNC; Preschool Science Exploration at HNC Oct 2; Build a bird feeder at HNC Sept 28; Chipmunk Story Time on Sept 18; Meridian Announces Another Deer Harvest; Annual Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's rich history; **Oct 12:** Qigong Classes offered at HNC; Build a fairy house Oct 16; **Oct 19:** HNC has Halloween adventures Oct 25; **Oct 26:** Hunters harvest 45 deer in managed hunt in twp; **Oct 26:** Learn about ducks at HNC Nov 9; **Nov 30:** Meridian Township touts practice fields, walking path
6. Mary Helmbrecht Butterfly Garden Report

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. To: Assistant Planner Wyatt; Re: Comments on Aldi Development
2. To: Jon Mayes, DNR; RE: Meridian Riverfront Park, Project No. 26-01426; removal of backstop and player benches from Eastgate Park

**FRIEND-OF-THE-PARK
OCCASIONAL REPORT
TO THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION**

DATE: October 17, 2014

SUBMITTED BY: Eckhart Dersch

PARK VISITED: Central Park: Report # 2

OBSERVATIONS AND/OR ACTIONS:

1. High-density garlic mustard populations continue to be a major problem throughout the park.
2. Buckthorn infestation is especially heavy in the vicinity of trailhead near Service Center and along the east loop trail and west loop trail. Systematic removal must be initiated soon or this invasive plant will continue to crowd-out native plants.
3. Autumn olive populations are also advancing throughout the park, and must be controlled soon.
4. Removed some fallen branches and trash from trails. (Dog owners seem to have been especially conscientious about picking up after their dogs this year).
5. Trail restoration is impressive between south pond and Okemos Road and north of the middle Mud Lake foot bridge.

PROBLEMS:

1. The north part of the west loop trail has not been maintained and is now impassable. With the recent north/south gas line mowing, it would seem to be an easy matter to begin using that as our trail and reconnecting it to the north side of the loop trail.
2. The north side of the boardwalk north of the east-most bridge over the Mud Lake Drain needs either a board walk extension or gravel "hardening" to reduce the muddy trail condition there.
3. Map box at "Lake Catherine" overlook is still not functional.
4. It would be good to add gravel and possibly a culvert where mowers bog down on the trail between the south pond and the soccer field.
5. The east/west trails along the Mud Lake drain are problematical. On the south side the foot bridge is out and the north side is not mowed.
6. The east loop trail has not been mowed in a long time.
7. Although the trail is very nice now between Okemos Road and the south pond, there is no longer access control at Okemos Road. (The gate is gone).

**FRIEND-OF-THE-PARK
OCCASIONAL REPORT
TO THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION**

DATE: May 24, 2013; November 2, 2014 UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY: Eckhart Dersch

PARK VISITED: North Meridian Road, Report # 1; #2

OBSERVATIONS AND/OR ACTIONS:

1. Trails are in excellent condition and well maintained. YES. (Nicely mowed & cleared).
2. I cleared trails of small amounts of trash. YES
3. I picked-up shredded (by mowers) beverage bottles from playfield area.
4. I removed five large fresh dog piles found on trails. None found, but some trash remains in brush at edge of soccer fields.
5. I removed a few fallen branches from trails. YES
6. I pulled several dozen rogue garlic mustard plants along trails before they developed into colonies. **With a little bit of care this park could be made garlic mustard free. CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM WEST OF SLEDDING HILL.**
7. Four people/families were observed walking their dogs – no dogs were leashed. When I politely reminded them that dogs must be leashed and the reason for this regulation, three visitors were apologetic and the fourth replied angrily that I had no right to tell him what to do in a public park. He stormed off with his three large dogs saying: “I don’t give a @#* if you are a friend of the park, I am a friend of my dog. Mind your own @#\$\$% business.” No unleashed dogs seen, only occasional feces on trail.

PROBLEMS:

1. Lower section of west-facing slide has a bad break in the plastic. FIXED
2. “Fibar” under swings is worn away. CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM.
3. Massive infestation of garlic mustard west of sledding hill must be removed before mowers and feet spread the seed throughout the park. CONTINUES TO BE A PROBLEM.
4. The approaches to both boardwalks would benefit from gravel “hardening.” NORTH BOARDWALK IMPROVED. SOUTH BOARDWALK APPROACHES ARE STILL A PROBLEM.
5. Redtwig Trail is essentially impassable for both mowers and foot traffic throughout the year. Until we find an Eagle Scout candidate to build a boardwalk over the wet section of this trail, I recommend that we post a sign at the head of this trail worded something like “TRAIL PASSABLE ONLY DURING DRY

SEASON." NO SIGN YET. TRIAL STILL MUSHY. GRAVEL REINFORCEMENT, BOARDWALK, OR THICK WOODCHIP APPLICATION RECOMMENDED.

6. BIRCHBARK PASS HAS MUSHY SECTION. GRAVEL REINFORCEMENT, BOARDWALK, OR THICK WOODCHIP APPLICATION RECOMMENDED.
7. WOODLAND LOOP TRAIL IS MUSHY IMMEDIATELY SOUTH OF THE EASTERN SOCCER FIELD. NEEDS HARDENING.
8. KIWANIS BENCH ON WOODLAND LOOP MIDWAY BETWEEN REDTWIG PASS AND PRAIRIE PASS IS BROKEN (ROTTED LEGS NEED TO BE REPLACED. CHECK WITH LARRY BACON TO SEE IF KIWANIS HAS ANY SPARE LEGS.)
9. SMALL POPLAR HAS FALLEN ACROSS WOODLAND LOOP NEAR INTERSECTION WITH PRAIRIE PASS.
10. This park has a significant population of invasive autumn olive and honeysuckle shrubs which must be removed either by a volunteer group or our maintenance crew, otherwise they will continue to spread. NO IMPROVEMENT. THE INFESTATION AT THE SOUTH END OF SAVANNAH LOOP IS MASSIVE! SOME OF THESE SHRUB STEMS ARE OVER SIX-INCHES IN DIAMETER NOW AND THEY ARE SPREADING NORTHWARD ACROSS THE ENTIRE SITE AND ELSEWHERE IN THE PARK. A PLAN MUST BE DEVELOPED FOR ITS ERADICATION BEFORE IT TAKES OVER EVEN MORE OF THE NATIVE VEGETATION IN THIS PARK.

**FRIEND-OF-THE-PARK
OCCASIONAL REPORT
TO THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK COMMISSION**

DATE: May 24, 2013; November 2, 2014 UPDATE

SUBMITTED BY: Eckhart Dersch

PARK VISITED: Ted Black Woods, Report # 1; Report #2

OBSERVATIONS AND/OR ACTIONS:

1. Removed two colonies and several dozen rogue garlic mustard plants along trails. With a little care this park could be kept essentially free of garlic mustard. Looks better. Still scattered problems.
2. Removed several fallen branches from trails. Done again.
3. Trails are in excellent condition and well maintained. Continues. (Nicely mowed and cleared).
4. Only one of five dogs was leashed. All dogs leashed.

PROBLEMS:

1. Only one "Mary Jane Trail" sign remains. I recommend that one of the uncommon screw heads be used to fasten this remaining sign, and the replacement signs, to the posts; and make sure that the posts are securely anchored. NO CHANGE.
2. The large ginseng plant that Ted Black protected and worried about for many years is gone – either dug out or cut when the trail was widened.
3. A colony of what I believe to be invasive Japanese Knotweed is located under the hemlocks near the Grand River Avenue trailhead. Once verified, they must be removed before they become a significant problem. Forgot to check.
4. Three recent tree falls are blocking the trails (One south and one west of the point where the trail from the new Ted Black entrance joins the Mary Jane Trail, and one is north of the point where the Grand River Ave. access trail meets the BOC Trail). FIXED.
5. The original access trail off of VanAtta Road is totally blocked by a large pile of construction debris and yard waste dumped onto park property apparently from the Winslow Trailer Park. The trail is now unused and impossible to find. NO CHANGE. THIS ACCESS POINT IS TOTALLY UNMAINTAINED: GONE AND UNUSED NOW.
6. The trailhead from Winslow's is well used but the signs are in poor condition and outdated. NO CHANGE.
7. AGAIN, I FOUND SOME LOST WALKERS IN THIS PARK! A FAMILY WITH SMALL CHILDREN WAS NEAR PANIC BECAUSE THE SUN WAS SETTING AND THEY COULD NOT FIND THE PARKING LOT AT THE

TED BLACK ENTRANCE. They had gone round and round in the park because the only "parking lot" signs point to the Grand River entrance. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT DIRECTIONAL SIGNS BE PLACED WHERE THE TED BLACK ENTRANCE TRAIL MEETS THE "BOL" TRAIL AND WHERE THE WINSLOW'S ACCESS TRAIL MEETS THE "BCL" TRAIL.

8. "BOL" AND "BCL" TRAIL NAMES MEAN NOTHING TO THE VISITOR UNLESS THEY HAVE A MAP WHICH EXPLAINS THESE APPREVIATIONS. NO MAPS WERE FOUND AT THE TED BLACK AND GRAND RIVER ENTRANCES.
9. A PERPETUAL WET ZONE ON THE "BOL" TRAIL JUST BEYOND THE HIGH-POINT EAST OF WHERE THE TED BLACK ENTRANCE TRAIL MEETS "BOL" NEEDS HARDENING.
10. A FRESH FULL-SIZED DOE CARCAS IS LOCATED TO THE LEFT OF THE "BCL" TRAIL A SHORT DISTANCE EAST OF WHERE THE WINSLOW ACCESS TRAIL MEETS "BCL." The deer was shot just below the backbone above the shoulder (no sign of an arrow).



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MNRTF DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION EVALUATION WORKSHEET

Instructions:

- Click **Save** to make Print Version available.
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Development Core Criteria

1. NEED FOR PROJECT

	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A) Rationale for the Project: The proposed project is consistent with the community/state recreation plan's goals and objectives. The proposed project is adequately justified in terms of the need for additional facilities of the type proposed. The availability of the proposed type of facility in the region was evaluated (as appropriate).	20	20	20
B) Public Support: The application/recreation plan demonstrates that the proposed project is widely supported in the community/region and a resolution of support has been approved by the local governing Board. Also, there is minimal public opposition to the proposed project or applicant is working to address the concerns. Opposition based primarily on the desire to keep the public from the state's natural resources will not be considered. Documentation of support was provided.	20	20	20
Maximum Possible Points (A+ B)	40	40	40

Comments to Applicant:

2. COLLABORATION

	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A) There is formal agreement between 2 or more unites of government for the maintenance and/or operation of this recreation site. An Operating Agreement Memorandum of Agreement, Inter-Governmental Agreement or other similar document has been provided.	30		
B) There is an agreement for operation and/or maintenance of the site. The agreement is either a formal or informal agreement between a unit of government and other non-governmental organization or a less formal agreement between units of government. Documentation such as a letter or agreement has been provided.	15		15
C) The recreation site will not have shared maintenance or operations.	0	0	
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)	30	0	15

Comments to Applicant:

No formal or informal operation or maintenance agreement submitted.
Friend of the Park

3. SITE AND PROJECT QUALITY

	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A) Ability to Get to the Site- The amount and type of directional signage is adequate for the type of park. The park site is easily recognized as a public park or outdoor			

	recreation area. The park can be directly and safely accessed and is appropriately located for the type of project. The amount of parking (existing or proposed) is appropriate for the type, location, and expected usage of the project. For urban projects, site is on a public transportation route or is served by a "dial-a-ride" type transportation service for seniors and persons with disabilities.	20	20	20
B)	Compatibility-Site is compatible with its intended purpose and the proposed site design. Site design is clear and understandable.	20	20	20
C)	Renovation--Project involves renovation at an existing park site. Renovation is not needed as a result of inadequate maintenance or design. Park must be at least 20 years old.	20	20	20
D)	Environmentally Friendly Features (Note: Project must include at least 3 qualifying features to receive points.)	20	0	0
E)	Crime Prevention Measures	20	20	20
F)	Programming/Marketing- The applicant has addressed how they will make the public aware of the project.	20	20	20
Maximum Possible Points (A + B + C + D + E + F)		120	100	100

Comments to Applicant:

No information submitted on environmentally friendly materials to be utilized.
Some of the items listed in the supplemental for Environmentally Friendly Features are not part of the application.

4. APPLICANT HISTORY

		Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A)	Applicant has not received a development grant from the recreation grant program in the past 20 years (MNRTF, LWCF, Recreation Bond Fund, CMI).	40		
B)	Per capita development grant assistance (MNRTF, LWCF, Recreation Bond Fund, CMI) received by the applicant in the past 20 years is less than the median value awarded to all communities over the past 20 years.	20	20	20
C)	Per capita development grant assistance (MNRTF, LWCF, Recreation Bond Fund, CMI) received by the applicant in the past 20 years exceeds the median value awarded to all communities over the past 20 years.	0		
	Median value : \$30.70 Applicant's per capita development grant assistance:	\$20.67		
D)	Compliance with Program Procedures - the applicant is in compliance with all requirements at park sites that have been acquired or developed with recreation grant assistance in the past - Including signage requirement. Also, the applicant is currently in compliance with DNR procedures on active, open grants (acquisition and development). Do not give points if the applicant has an on-going conversion, but is working to resolve the conversion. Give points if the applicant has never received a grant.	10	10	10
E)	Applicant has a formal recreation department/DNR division or parks committee.	10	10	10
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C) + D + E		60	40	40

Comments to Applicant:

Grants-per-capita \$20.67

5. CONVERSION HISTORY

		Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A)	Applicant has a known unresolved conversion of a grant-assisted site to a use that does not qualify as public outdoor recreation (applies to all grant programs).	-50	0	0
Point DEDUCTION		-50	0	0

Comments to Applicant:

6. NATURAL RESOURCE BASED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

		Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A)	Project proposes the highest quality natural resource based recreation opportunities and will provide an opportunity that is rare or nonexistent in the applicant's service area.	40		
B)	Project proposes good quality natural resource based recreation opportunities and will provide highest quality opportunities that are already present in the applicant's service area.	20		
C)	Project proposes fair quality natural resource based recreation opportunities and will provide good quality opportunities that are already present in the applicant's service area.	10		
D)	Project will not provide material resource protection or use.	0	0	0
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C or D)		40	0	0

Comments to Applicant:

7. FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE APPLICANT

	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A) Lowest one-third median household income (up to \$40,306)	40		
B) Middle one-third median household income (\$40,306 - \$50,417)	20		
C) Upper one-third median household income (greater than \$50,417)	0	0	0
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)	40	0	0

Comments to Applicant:

MHI - \$62,112

8. URBAN AREA RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES (PARKS WITHIN URBAN BOUNDARIES AS DEFINED BY THE U.S. CENSUS BUREAU)

	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A) Park is within the political boundaries of a core or inner ring city for a Metropolitan Statistical Area.	40		
B) Park is within the Urbanized Area for a Metropolitan Statistical Area	30	30	30
C) Park is within the political boundaries of a core city for a Micropolitan Statistical Area	20		
D) Park is within an Urbanized Cluster--areas surrounding the core city of a Micropolitan Statistical Area or other, smaller communities defined as Urban Clusters.	10		
E) Park is not within an Urban Area	0		
Urban Area in which the project is located:	Lansing		
Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C or D or E)	40	30	30

Comments to Applicant:

9. APPLICANT MATCH*

Local Match Percentage**	Top ~2% Median Household Income***	Top 1/3rd MHI	Middle 1/3rd MHI	Bottom 1/3rd MHI
0-25%	0	0	0	0
26-29%	0	0	5	10
30-39%	0	5	10	20
40-49%	5	10	20	30
50%+	10	20	30	40

* Only match that is documented and secure is used to score this criterion.

**Match percent is adjusted down, for the purpose of scoring this criterion only, when total project cost (not grant amount requested) exceeds \$400,000.

If total project cost is < or = to \$400,000, then:

$$\frac{\text{Local Match}}{\text{Total Project Cost}} = \text{Local Match \%}$$

If total project cost is > \$400,000, then:

$$\frac{\$400,000 - \text{Grant Request}}{\$400,000} = \text{Local Match \%}$$

***Those communities with Median Household Income values greater than \$89,531.

Applicant's adjusted match percentage: %

	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
Maximum Possible Points	40	0	0

Comments to Applicant:

25% match

10. ENTRANCE FEES

	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A) No entrance fees; OR Site is readily accessible by methods other than the automobile (applicant must demonstrate this through site records or other means) and there is no entrance fee when using these alternative methods to get to the park (e.g., public transportation, bicycle, walk-in); OR Entrance fees in place with partial or complete waiver available and applicant can demonstrate that the waiver policy is effective in bringing people with low incomes into the park.	30	30	30
B) Entrance fees in place with partial or full waiver but effectiveness in bringing people with low incomes into the park is questionable; OR			

	Park entrance fees are waived, reduced, or by-donation-only on a regular basis for all users.	15		
C)	Entrance fees in place with no waiver.	0		
	Maximum Possible Points (A or B or C)	30	30	30

Comments to Applicant:

11. UNIVERSAL ACCESS DESIGN

		Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
A)	The applicant obtained information on persons with disabilities in their community or the state and gathered comments regarding recreation interests and accessibility needs. Documentation of dialogue with an organization or individual with disabilities was provided. The applicant has documented how any applicable ideas and suggestions influenced the design of the proposed project. Please provide letters. The proposed facilities incorporate the 7 principals of Universal Design and are designed beyond the 2010 ADA Standards and current Accessibility Guidelines for Outdoor Developed Areas. Descriptions of how the facilities incorporate the 7 principals and go beyond ADA must be provided the consideration of points in this category. Dimensions, preliminary drawings or catalogue cut-sheets were provided to demonstrate Universal Design features.	10	10	10
B)	ALL of the proposed facilities meet these criteria.	20		
C)	SOME of the proposed facilities meet these criteria.	10	10	10
D)	NONE of the proposed facilities meet these criteria and/or insufficient documentation was provided.	0		
	Maximum Possible Points (A + (B or C or D))	30	20	20

Comments to Applicant:

Need information on picnic tables and grills.

	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS UNDER CORE DEVELOPMENT CRITERIA 1-11	470	260	275

PRIORITY PROJECT TYPES OF THE MNRTF BOARD

		Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score
1)	Trails (including water trails) and trail amenities that provide direct access to:			
	A. Regional Trail/Trailhead - Development of a trail that will connect to an existing regional trail or for a trailhead on an existing regional trail. The proposed trail must be identified on a documented trail plan.	50		
	B. Documented Water Trail – Development of trailhead and/or canoe pull out facilities on a documented and promoted water trail. Provide a copy of the documented trail plan or a website link where the plan can be viewed. Trailhead development must also include wayfinding and promotion materials.			
	C. Local Trail/Trailhead - Development of a trail or trailhead that is not connected to an existing regional trail. The proposed trail must be part of a trail network that is identified on a documented trail plan. Provide a copy of the documented trail plan or a website link where the plan can be viewed.	30		
	D. Proposed Water Trail – Development of trailhead and/or canoe pull out facilities for a proposed water trail. Provide a copy of, at a minimum, a conceptual trail map. Trail development should also include wayfinding and promotion materials.			
	E. Secondary Trail/Amenities – While the project may include a trail that is or will be part of a trail network and/or amenities for trail users, these are not the primary result or intention.	10		
	F. Secondary Water Trail Amenities – While the project may include incidental trailhead and/or canoe pull out amenities for water trail users, these are not the primary result or intention.			
	G. Trail is contained within a park or water access is only provided for the park in which it is located.	0	0	0
	H. Project will not provide a trail or trail amenities.			

Comments to Applicant:

Red Cedar Water Trail. Pull out/put in is in Ferguson Park so would not be park of the trail in Wonch Park.


	Maximum Possible Points	Preliminary Score	Final Score

2)	Wildlife/Ecological Corridors and Winter Deeryard Acquisitions. N/A--Acquisition Applications Only.	N/A		
3)	Urban Areas (parks within the urban boundaries defined by the U.S. Census Bureau):			
	A. Park is within the political boundaries of a core city or inner ring city for a Metropolitan Statistical Area.	50		
	B. Park is within the Urbanized Area for a Metropolitan Statistical Area	40	40	40
	C. Park is within the political boundaries of a core city for a Micropolitan Statistical Area.	30		
	D. Park is within an Urban Cluster--areas surrounding the core city of a Micropolitan Statistical Area or other, smaller communities defined as Urban Clusters.	20		
	E. Park is not within any type of Urban Area	0		
	Urban Area in which the project is located:	Lansing		
	Maximum Points for Priority Project Criteria = 50 Total Points (highest score from 1 or 3)	50	40	40

Maximum Points Possible = 520	Total Application Points	300	315
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Comments to Applicant:

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LIAISON FOR INTER-NEIGHBORHOOD COOPERATION



A MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FEDERATED HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 40 • Okemos, Michigan 48805

December 4, 2014

Park Commission
Meridian Charter Township
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
East Lansing, MI 48823

RE: Dog Park – A Fresh Look

Dear Park Commissioners:

Due to the continuing expressions of concern heard about the proposed dog park in Legg Park, the LINC Board has taken a fresh look at this issue to see if there might be a new paradigm that would not only resolve the concerns but also improve upon the original plan. The following is presented to you as our rethinking of the dog park concept. We believe that this offers a sensible and cost-effective solution that will be more acceptable to our community.

We discovered very compelling reasons for a dog park plan based on carefully distributed **MINI-DOG PARKS** rather than one very large park. Here are the reasons this would make sense:

1. Several of our existing parks already have small one or two-acre unused but mowed areas suitable for dogs.
2. By making use of these already-mowed areas we would NOT be adding significantly to the maintenance burden and expense a large new dog park would require.
3. With dogs distributed over several smaller parks the dog density and conflict among dogs would be less. By placing a small dog park in an existing park, the dog could experience not only a free-run in the dog park but then could also roam the rest of the park on a leash.
4. A system of small dog parks could be operated on a less formal basis than one large park where carefully controlled access and monitoring would be required and costly.
5. Mini-dog parks would offer a **no-environmental-loss solution** while gaining valuable dog park space. A significant problem with the current dog park proposal is that it would cause significant natural area losses to plant and animal communities as well as to the overall balance of natural processes taking place in the area. The proposed Legg Park area is exactly where well documented uses are already being made by the Harris Nature Center, local schools, MSU, Audubon Society, and Nature Discovery for educational purposes, research, and recreational enjoyment. This wonderful field laboratory for student groups from grade school to graduate student levels would be lost. And the casual walker and birder would lose the multiple enjoyable benefits of this area as well.
6. A well balanced distribution of mini-dog parks would offer access to more residents and make travel distance to a park considerably shorter. Many more residents would even be able to walk to the dog park.
7. Bringing mini-dog parks on-line could be staged over time in an incremental manner rather than burdening staff with a massive and costly construction project (exceeding \$600,000 by one estimate).
8. The total cost of a mini-dog park system would be substantially less than a large park “made from scratch.” The only real initial cost of the mini-dog park would be the installation of a fence and gate. Even that would be less costly because the terrain is already relatively flat, parking space is already in place and the areas are already being mowed.

9. A less grandiose system of mini-dog parks would be more in keeping with the sentiment of Township residents who informed the Park Commission in its recent public opinion survey that **47.5% of respondents considered dog parks to be a low priority need.** It should also be noted that **15 park needs were identified as having a high or medium priority greater than “dog park.”** Let’s remember to invest resident tax dollars where the expressed needs are greatest. (It would also seem wise to explore the possibility of developing an agreement with Joey’s Outfitters to provide Township residents access to their large dog park located just a short distance east of our Township and having a fine water feature).
10. With fewer dogs in each of the multiple mini-parks there will be fewer problems with barking that might annoy neighbors if there are homes nearby and there would be less deterioration of the grass. (One need only look at existing dog parks to see that dogs and dog owners congregate near the entrance gate and make little use of the larger site).
11. **We conclude that residents of Meridian Township would realize a greater range of dog park experiences and opportunities at a lower cost from a system of mini-dog parks in our existing parks than they would from a single new large dog park.**

Several of our existing parks have suitable one or two-acre unused areas which are already maintained and would seem to be excellent candidates for the installation of mini-dog parks. They include:

1. Eastgate Park: In a portion of the unused but mowed grassy area near the parking lot and/or in the mowed grassy but unused area around the seldom used picnic shelter.
2. Central Park South: In the mowed but relatively unused grassy area east of the parking lot and adjacent to the pond. The pond would be a nice water feature for dogs.
3. North Meridian Road Park: In the mowed but relatively unused grassy area west and northwest of the southern parking lot.
4. Nancy Moore Park: In the mowed but unused grassy area south of the ball fields and/or in the unused but mowed grassy area where the Shakespeare plays were formerly held.
5. Ferguson Park: In the relatively unused mowed grassy area east of the parking lot. This would also offer the dogs a nice water feature.
6. Wonch Park: Plenty of mowed grassy area now, but could be made part of the new master plan for the park.
7. Legg Park: In the mowed grassy but relatively unused area southwest of the picnic shelter and/or the mowed grassy but relatively unused area east and southeast of the rarely used picnic shelter.
8. Towner Road Park: This would add a welcome “passive” feature to this largely “active” sports facility.

We present this recommendation and information to you in the interest of helping you find a viable, less costly, more accessible, and more environmentally friendly dog park opportunity for our Township dog owners. This recommendation does not preclude the possible need for a large dog park in the future when it would be better to purchase land more suitable for this purpose.

Yours for a better community,

Eckhart Dersch
 President
 Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC)

Cc: Meridian Township Board of Trustees
 Meridian Township Planning Commission
 Meridian Township Environmental Commission

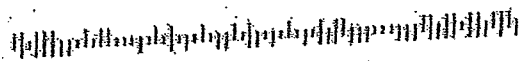


Haslett Food Bank
1427 Haslett Rd.
Haslett, MI
48840



Jane Greenway
Meridian Township
2100 Gaylord Smith
Okemos, MI 48864

10000



Dear Jane Greenway & Nick Sanchez,
Thank you for arranging for
our food bank to receive 500 pounds
of venison.

You have allowed us to help so
many people in our community in
need.

We appreciate your support.

Sincerely, Betty Robinson
Haslett Food Bank

THANK YOU



Meridian Township Parks & Recreation November Calendar of Events

November 1 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class

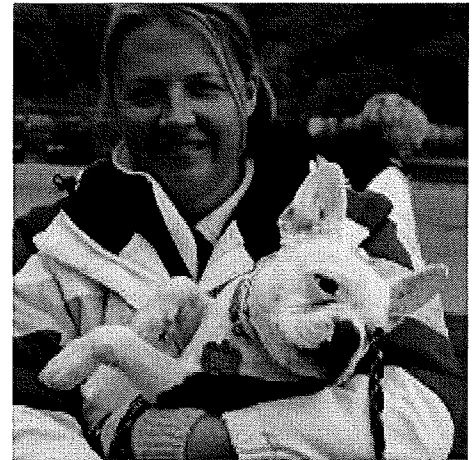
November 1 – Brownie Girl Scout Hiker Badge Workshop

November 3 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class

November 6 – Preschool Science Exploration: Sensing Fall

November 7 – Weekday Science Programs: Autumn Changes

November 7 – Howl at the Moon



November 8 – HNC Stewardship Mornings

November 8 – Webelos Cub Scout Naturalist Badge Workshop

November 9 – Family Special: Diving and Dabbling with Ducks

November 12 – Youth and Adult Fall Introduction to Target Archery Registration Deadline

November 20 – Chipmunk Story Time: Countdown to Fall



November 26 – Pre-Thanksgiving Market Day



MERIDIAN FARMERS' THANKSGIVING MARKET

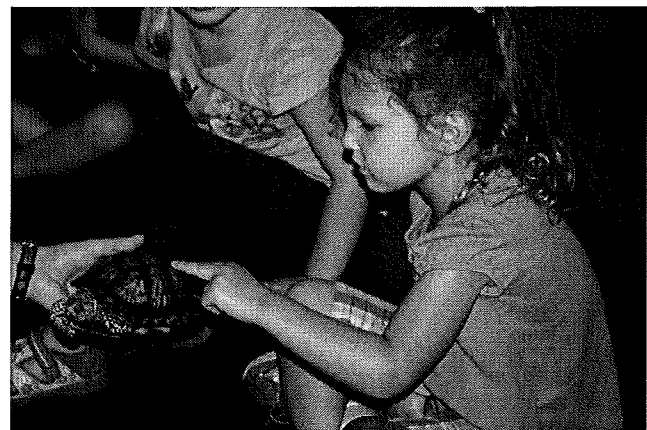
CENTRAL PARK PAVILLION

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH



8AM - 2PM



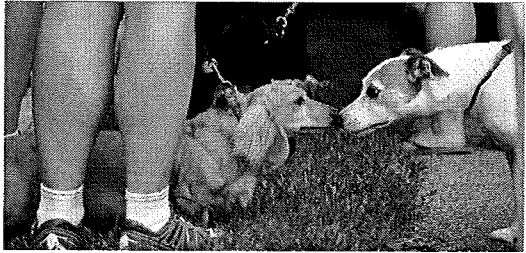


Questions, call Meridian Township Parks & Recreation at (517) 853-4600

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation December Calendar of Events

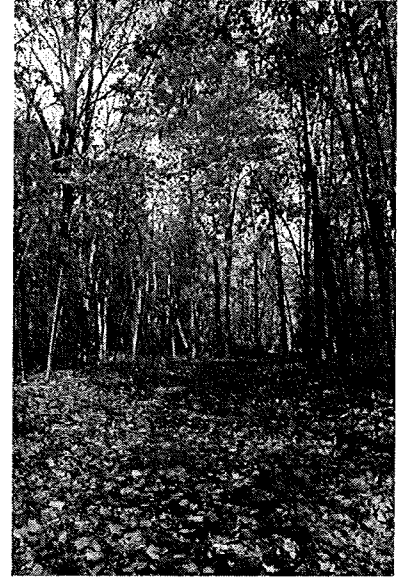
December 4 – Preschool Science Exploration: Life in an Evergreen

December 5 – Haslett K - 3rd Grade Boys and Girls Basketball League Registration Deadline



December 5 – Weekday Science Programs: Fir Evergreen

December 5 – Howl at the Moon



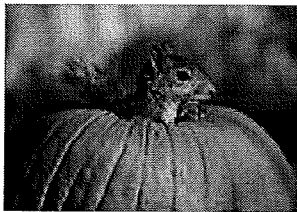
December 6 – **Winter Farmer's Market** in Meridian Mall begins

December 8 – Sporties for Shorties Camp

December 13 – **Drive Thru Santa**

December 14 – **Christmas in the Village**

December 18 – Chipmunk Story Time: Snow Time



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



PARKS & RECREATION

1. Park Commission:

At their meeting on October 21 Special Meeting: The Commissioners discussed the proposal for request for qualifications for the Central Park Master Plan development; received and approved a request to install an ice rink in Hillbrook Park for the 2014-2015 winter; discussed park projects for grant submission; and canceled the Commission meeting in November.

The next regular meeting of the Park Commission is Tuesday, December 9 at the Township Service Center with the work session at 6 pm and regular meeting at 7 pm.

2. Administration:

Farmers' Market fall season ended on Wednesday, 29 but there will be a special pre-thanksgiving market day on Wednesday, November 26 from 10-2pm.

The indoor Farmers' Market season begins Saturday, December 6 and operates the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10-2pm in the JC Penney corridor from December – April at the Meridian Mall.

Received new stackable chairs for the Meridian Senior Center.

On October 4, the Lansing Oar and Paddle Club conducted its annual river clearing from Grand River Ave to Harris Nature Center. A total of 12 volunteers participated.

Attended National Recreation and Park Association Conference in Charlotte, NC from October 13-17. Attended numerous education sessions and spent a large amount of time interacting with vendors in the Exhibit Hall.

3. Parks and Land Management

Land Preservation

- LPAB Meeting: The next regular LPAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 6 pm at the Meridian Service Center.
- Northwest Land Preserve (Towar Woods): Neighborhood volunteers and MSU Givegab student volunteers worked on October 18 to mark planted conifers for monitoring, remove litter, groom overgrown trails and place interpretive signage.
- Worked with Clinton County area high school students, educators from Clinton County Regional Educational Service, and Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative partners to remove invasive shrubs from Clinton Lakes County Park. Focused discussion on invasive species and effects on forestry, parks and fisheries.
- Future land preserve acquisitions: Worked with applicants on their land preserve applications and began negotiations for property acquisition.
- Developed memo on behalf of the LPAB to respond to Planning Commission's suggestion to rezone the land preserves.

Deer Management

- Developed press releases and sent maps and other material to the media.
- Placed trail cameras to monitor activity at Davis/Foster Land Preserve in response to recent issues.
- Participated in three HOM-TV interviews regarding deer management program
- Mailed letters to adjacent residents of the Ingham County Farm property notifying them of the induction of the property in the program
- Responded to numerous questions and concerns via email, phone, and letters to residents regarding the deer management program
- Assisted in the carrying out of the deer management program tasks including: daily record keeping, transporting harvested deer to Merindorf Meats for donation, as well as daily communications with township staff and deer management program hunters

Parks

- Central Park: Worked with Haslett elementary and middle school students on October 24, 2014 to plant a native pollinator garden near the pond at the Historical Village. Students worked in groups and rotated in stations between the planting project, fishing, outdoor exercise/games, and a tour of the village. Over 1,200 native plants were installed. This garden was funded utilizing donations made in Mary Helmbrecht's memory. The seeds will be harvested and distributed on various land preserves in the township.
- Wonch Park Pathway project: Continued to work on grant reimbursement application and paperwork. Many park visitors have been enjoying the new pathway in the park.
- Wonch Park Pavilion – Grant Application: Provided supplemental information for our grant application for a new pavilion. The grant results will be announced in December 2014.
- Newton Road Park: A vinyl, split-rail fence was constructed along Lake Lansing Road. We are still waiting on the landscape installation and plan to order a new park sign.
- Meridian Garden Club: Met with Meridian Garden Club members to discuss updates to interpretive signage for butterfly garden in the Claire Twohy garden in Central Park
- Disc Golf: Met twice with Capital City Renegades Disc Golf Club to discuss locations for an 18-hole course within one of our parks.
- Attended Aldi DRC meeting to provide comment on landscaping and to review connection with Central Park.
- Helped design and attended Paul Peterson memorial event on October 4, 2014. The softball tournament was cancelled due to rain, but approximately 20-25 family members and friends attended the memorial.
- Park Commission meeting: Attended meeting on October 21, 2014 to discuss Central Park Master Plan. It was decided to develop a request-for-qualifications for design services for the master plan.

4. Recreation

- First Class Dog Training – 23 participated in three classes
- Haslett – 95 currently enrolled in K-6th grade recreational basketball
- Williamston – 157 currently enrolled in K-8th grade recreational basketball
- Sporties for Shorties - 19 participated
- Sporties for Shorties at the MAC 18 participated
- Soccer and Flag football season is completed
- Hosted the Sectional Competition of the NFL Punt, Pass & Kick Competition on Oct 12th with 45 participants.
- Hosted the 3rd Annual Paul Peterson Memorial Softball Tournament on Oct 11th with 4 teams participating. "Run PMP" was the tournament champion. This team consisted of friends and family of Paul. Tournament was originally scheduled for Oct 4th but had to be rescheduled due to weather.
- Hosted a Halloween Open house during the Trick or Treat hours at the Snell-Towar Recreation Center with just over 125 people stopping by.

November Calendar of Events

November 1 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class

November 1 – Brownie Girl Scout Hiker Badge Workshop

November 3 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class

November 6 – Preschool Science Exploration: Sensing Fall

November 7 – Weekday Science Programs: Autumn Changes

November 7 – Howl at the Moon

November 8 – HNC Stewardship Mornings

November 8 – Webelos Cub Scout Naturalist Badge Workshop

November 9 – Family Special: Diving and Dabbling with Ducks

November 12 – Youth and Adult Fall Introduction to Target Archery Registration Deadline

November 20 – Chipmunk Story Time: Countdown to Fall

November 26 – **Pre-Thanksgiving Market Day**

5. Harris Nature Center

Attendance: October 2014:

803 drop-in visitors to the Nature Building

557 students learned about nature (24 programs)

30 Elementary School students received an Outreach Program

9 children enjoyed Preschool Science Exploration

5 children participated in Weekday Science

3 children attended Chipmunk Story Time

24 toddlers were enrolled in 6-week Nature for Toddlers programs

20 scouts earned nature badges

25 children enjoyed 2 Birthday Parties

15 adults participated in 5 Elements Qigong (3 classes)

15 adults enjoyed the Magic of Building Fairy Houses

18 people attended the Meet the HNC Critters program

18 people enjoyed the Misunderstood Animals Campfire

21 people and 13 dogs participated in the Howl at the Moon walk

2 people attended the Autumn Discovery Walk at Ted Black Woods

540 people enjoyed Halloween Adventures

5 people participated in Stewardship Morning

20 people volunteered for a Group Volunteer Project
6 people rented/used the building for 1 meeting

Naturalist Staff Notes:

- Staff taught 50 programs in October.
- October Volunteer Projects:
 - HNC Stewards spread woodchips on the Deer Run Trail.
 - Volunteers from Emergent Bio Solutions built a fence in the Nature Exploration Area, moved sand, logs and rocks, repaired benches in the amphitheater and raked leaves.
 - Volunteers from HNC and MSU's PARC and KDP Fraternity helped with the Halloween Adventures event by baking treats, creating and manning the games area, directing traffic, reading stories, teaching crafts, manning the fun house and organizing the refreshment table.
- Staff sent out 13 press releases on upcoming HNC programs.
- HNC Facebook summary through 10-30-14:

• Total Likes	• 912
• Highest Reach	• 3,739
- Staff posted 20 times on Facebook and 12 times on Twitter in October.
- Staff was interviewed about upcoming programs on WLNZ radio: Coffee Break Show.
- Staff was interviewed about Halloween Adventures on:
 - WILS radio: Mid-Michigan Pet Expert Show.
 - HOM-TV
 - WILX-TV
 - Meridian Times (MSU Journalism student)
- Staff wrote an article for the upcoming Meridian Monitor.
- Staff added winter 2015 program information to the web site.
- Staff applied for a \$1000 grant from the Meridian Area Business Association for a portion of the Nature Exploration Area.
- Staff planned and implemented the Halloween Adventures event.
- All nature trails are open from dawn to dusk for walking. The nature building hours: open Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-4pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm. There is a porta-john available when the building is closed.

Upcoming Programs:

Family Special: Diving and Dabbling with Ducks, Sunday November 9 at 3 pm; Families and individuals can learn about duck characteristics, sounds and habits at this nature program. The program will include time inside and outside. (\$3/person or \$7/family)

5 Elements Qigong, Mondays, November 17, 24 and December 1 at 7-8 pm; qigong (pronounced chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. We will learn the 5 Elements, 8 Pieces of Silk Brocade and White Crane Looks Back. Qigong can be practiced by people of all ages and is enhanced by practicing in nature. (\$10/class, drop-in)

Chipmunk Story Time: Countdown to Fall, Thursday November 20 at 10 am; preschool and elementary children join Chicory and Hickory Chipmunk for nature stories followed by a walk, game or craft (\$3/child)

Preschool Science Exploration: Life in an Evergreen, Thursday December 4, at 12:30 pm; preschoolers (4 & 5 year olds) explore science topics through hands-on activities and time outdoors once each month (\$4/child)

Weekday Science: Fir Ever Green, Friday December 5 at 1 pm; science enrichment for children 5-14 years old (\$4/child)

Howl at the Moon, Friday December 5 at 7 pm; guided night walk under the full moon; dogs welcome on a leash. Meet in the parking lot. (\$3/person)

6. Meridian Senior Center

a. Events and Programs

Event Category: Club

Event Title	# of occurrences	Monthly Total
1. Book Club	1	9
2. Genealogy	1	2

Event Category: Computer/Technology

Event Title	# of occurrences	Monthly Total
1. Computer Club	1	9

Event Category: Congregate Meal

Event Title	# of occurrences	Monthly Total
1. Lunch	9	290

Event Category: Education

Event Title	# occurrences	Monthly Total
1. AARP Driver Safety Class	1	25
2. MMAP Medicare	1	12
3. Women League of Voters	1	9

Event Category: Equipment Loan

Event Title	# occurrences	Monthly Total
1. Equipment Loan	23	0

Event Category: Fitness/Exercise

Event Title	# occurrences	Monthly Total
1. Jazzercise	14	203
2. Line Dance	4	12
3. Mind Benders	2	8
4. Table Tennis	5	15
5. Tai Chi	4	8
6. Yoga	5	14

Event Category: Games

Event Title	# occurrences	Monthly Total
1. Bingo	9	96
2. Bridge	9	259
3. Bridge Lessons	2	12
4. Chess	4	14
5. Cribbage	4	15

6. Euchre	9	59
7. Hand and Foot	4	29
8. Mah Jongg	5	19
9. Pinochle	5	54
10. Practice Bridge	4	37
11. Puzzles	23	37

Event Category: Health Screening

<u>Event Title</u>	<u>occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Blood Pressure	2	12
2. Chair Massage	2	7
3. Flu Shot Clinic	1	13
4. Foot Care Clinic	1	14
5. Hearing Screening	1	3
6. Reflexology	2	12

Event Category: Information/Resource Sharing

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Information/Membership	23	8

Event Category: Legal Services

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Ask a Lawyer	1	1
2. MiCafe	1	2

Event Category: Media

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Current Events	2	8
2. Documentary Monday	1	3
3. Library	23	46
4. Friday Flicks	2	10

Event Category: Meetings

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Advisory Board meeting	1	4

Event Category: Special Events

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Halloween Celebration	1	40

Event Category: Support Groups

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
2. Creating Confident Caregivers	0	0

Event Category: Off Site Event

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Out to Lunch Bunch	1	5

Event Category: Training

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Rec Pro Training (staff)	1	2

Event Category: Volunteer Hours

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># of volunteer's</u>	<u># of hours worked</u>
1. Volunteers	19	225.42

Cancelled classes or programs:

1. Pumpkin decorating with ACTION on 10/13

b. Professional Development/Networking

1. Meeting with LCC regarding Meeting with Amberlee (Okemos Health and Rehab) Health Fair and Thanksgiving Dinner 10/3
2. Rec Pro training at Community Education 10/17
3. Madison internship 10/1

7. The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division

In October, 2 interments, 32 interments to date, 0 disinterment, at Glendale Cemetery

Assisted staff with preparations for annual Township Recycling event

Assisted staff with site preparation for annual Halloween Adventures at Harris Nature Center

Assisted Meridian Garden Club volunteers with clean-up/winterizing projects in Historical Village

Assisted staff with delivery of materials for school planting at Central Park pond

Trimmed trees along new pathways in Nancy Moore and Wonch Parks

Began preparing parks for winter closure

Removed orange fence along Beech Tree Trail in Eastgate Park

Installed new gate material at Towner Road, Newton Road and Ted Black Woods Parks

Removed airplane toy at Snell Towar Recreation Center

Removed deer from Hartrick Park

Repaired irrigation line in Historical Village

Repaired split rail fence in Hillbrook Park

Installed new plaques and signage in Historical Village, Orlando, Eastgate and Wonch Parks and Northwest Land Preserve

Repair debris box at North Fire Station

Restriped basketball court in Nancy Moore Park

Cold patched various pathway locations

Continued athletic field preparations (aerated and dragged fields, lining, painting, mowing, trimming, etc.) for fall soccer, flag football, adult kickball and adult softball at Township and school fields (between 8 – 15 fields daily)

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

Continued with off-road trail maintenance

Continued with mowing and trimming of Township properties

Assisted building maintenance crew with repairs

Hung announcement banners on Township Hall site

PARKS & RECREATION

1. Park Commission:

The Park Commission meeting for November was canceled.

The next regular meeting of the Park Commission is Tuesday, December 9 at the Township Service Center with the work session at 6 pm and regular meeting at 7 pm.

Teri Banas was elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners and will be resigning from the Park Commission.

2. Administration:

Red Cedar Water Trail: Canoed the Red Cedar to assess future informal launch locations

The regular season of the Farmers' Market ended on October 29 and Pre-Thanksgiving Market was held on Wednesday, November 26 from 10-2pm with 19 vendors

The indoor Farmers' Market season begins Saturday, December 6 and operates the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10-2pm in the JC Penney corridor from December – April at the Meridian Mall.

Began organizational meetings for Chinese New Year (Saturday, February 14) and Celebrate Downtown Okemos (Saturday, June 13)

Ingham County Parks Director, Willis Bennett retired in November.

3. Parks and Land Management

a. Land Preservation

- LPAB Meeting: Attended LPAB meeting on November 12, 2014. The next regular meeting will be held on December 10 at 6 pm at the Meridian Service Center.
- Future land preserve acquisitions: Began negotiations for a property acquisition

b. Deer Management

- Distributed 1,100 pounds of venison to the Haslett Community Church and Okemos Community Church. The venison will also be distributed to needy Meridian families on December 13 at the Mankowski Christmas Party at Central Elementary school.
- Participated in two HOM-TV interviews regarding deer management program
- Responded to numerous questions and concerns via email, phone, and letters to residents regarding the deer management program
- Assisted in the carrying out of the deer management program tasks including: daily record keeping, transporting harvested deer to Merindorf Meats for donation, as well as daily communications with township staff and deer management program hunters
- Met with local Quality Deer Management Association members to discuss deer management ideas for our program
- Worked with our police department to address resident's concerns over hunters and disposed deer carcasses.

c. Parks

- Wonch Park Pathway project: Continued to work on grant reimbursement application and paperwork. Many park visitors have been enjoying the new pathway in the park.
- Central Park: Refined request-for-qualifications for design services for the master plan. Master planning services and community will begin in early 2015.
- Nancy Moore Park Fencing: Received bids for 550 lf of safety fencing for the ball diamonds. The fencing will be installed during early spring 2015. Spartan Fencing was awarded the bid.
- Nancy Moore Park: A volunteer, Jasper Bergen, planted 50 small Eastern Redbud trees along the trails in the park in memory of her mother.
- Butterfly habitat: Met with Dave Reicosky to discuss planting milkweed and other nectar and host plants in the parks and land preserves for butterfly habitat.
- Claire Twohy Butterfly Garden: Met with Andrea Kramer from the Meridian Garden Club to discuss the garden and the interpretive sign that will discuss the garden and the lifecycle of a butterfly.
- Mary Helmbrecht Memorial Butterfly Garden: Designed sign to recognize and describe the garden that was planted near the shore of the Historic Village pond.
- Historic Village: Worked with Grounds Maintenance to address pruning/shrub removal needs in the Village.
- North Meridian Road Park: The sand volleyball court will be under construction mid-December. Mid-Michigan Demolition was awarded the bid.
- Newton Road Park Landscaping: Worked with landscaping subcontractor to make arrangements for future landscape installation.

4. Recreation

- Haslett – 244 currently enrolled in K-6th grade recreational basketball
- Williamston – 268 currently enrolled in K-8th grade recreational basketball

December Calendar of Events

December 4 – Preschool Science Exploration: Life in an Evergreen

December 5 – Haslett K - 3rd Grade Boys and Girls Basketball League Registration

Deadline

December 5 – Weekday Science Programs: Fir Evergreen

December 5 – Howl at the Moon

December 6 – **Winter Farmer's Market** in Meridian Mall begins

December 8 – Sporties for Shorties Camp

December 13 – **Drive Thru Santa**

December 14 – **Christmas in the Village**

December 18 – Chipmunk Story Time: Snow Time

5. Harris Nature Center

Attendance: November 2014:

321 drop-in visitors to the Nature Building

30 students learned about nature (2 programs)

57 Elementary and Middle School students received Outreach Programs

3 children enjoyed Preschool Science Exploration

11 children participated in Weekday Science

- 55 scouts earned Nature Badges
- 33 children enjoyed 3 Birthday Parties
- 10 adults participated in 5 Elements Qigong (3 classes)
- 28 adults enjoyed an Outreach Program
- 9 people attended the Diving and Dabbling with Ducks program
- 33 people and 12 dogs participated in the Howl at the Moon walk
- 15 people participated in Stewardship Morning
- 14 people volunteered for a Group Volunteer Project
- 8 people rented/used the building for 1 meeting

Naturalist Staff Notes:

- Staff taught 20 programs in November.
- November Volunteer Projects:
- HNC Stewards planted milkweed seeds near the HNC drive.
- Volunteers from the MSU Accounting Students Club built the Sticks and Stones feature in the Nature Exploration Area.
- Staff sent out 9 press releases on upcoming HNC programs.
- HNC Facebook summary through 11-30-14:

• Total Likes	• 934
• Highest Reach	• 1,001

- Staff posted 16 times on Facebook and 6 times on Twitter in October.
- Staff was interviewed about upcoming programs on WLNZ radio: Coffee Break Show.
- Staff added winter 2015 program information to ActiveNet.
- Staff met multiple times with a Monarch Watch volunteer about habitat restoration.
- Staff was notified that the HNC Foundation received a \$1000 grant from the Meridian Area Business Association for a portion of the Nature Exploration Area.
- All nature trails are open from dawn to dusk for walking. The nature building hours for the month of December will be: open Tuesday-Friday, 9am-4pm and Saturday-Sunday 12pm-4pm. There is a porta-john available when the building is closed.

Upcoming Programs:

Preschool Science Exploration: Life in an Evergreen, Thursday December 4, at 12:30 pm; preschoolers (4 & 5 year olds) explore science topics through hands-on activities and time outdoors once each month (\$4/child)

Weekday Science: Fir Ever Green, Friday December 5 at 1 pm; science enrichment for children 5-14 years old (\$4/child)

Howl at the Moon, Friday December 5 at 7 pm; guided night walk under the full moon; dogs welcome on a leash. Meet in the parking lot. (\$3/person)

Chipmunk Story Time: Snow Time, Thursday December 18 at 10 am; preschool and elementary children join Chicory and Hickory Chipmunk for nature stories followed by a walk, game or craft (\$3/child)

6. Meridian Senior Center

A. Events and Programs

Event Category: Arts

Event Title	# of occurrences	Monthly Total
1. Decorating with Patti	1	10
2. ACTION Fall Craft	1	4

Event Category: Club

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># of occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
3. Book Club	1	8
4. Genealogy	1	2

Event Category: Computer/Technology

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># of occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Computer Club	1	3

Event Category: Congregate Meal

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># of occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Lunch	8	171

Event Category: Education

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Consumers Energy	1	30
2. AARP Driver Class	2	48
3. Alzheimer's Education	2	10
4. ACTION Learn Spanish	1	3

Event Category: Equipment Loan

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Equipment Loan	20	2

Event Category: Fitness/Exercise

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Jazzercise	12	175
2. Line Dance	4	8
3. Mind Benders	2	11
4. Table Tennis	5	9
5. Tai Chi	4	60
6. Yoga	4	16

Event Category: Fundraiser

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Craft /used book sale	1	25

Event Category: Games

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Bingo	8	57
2. Bridge	8	126
3. Chess	4	10
4. Cribbage	4	13
5. Euchre	8	36
6. Hand and Foot	4	17
7. Mah Jongg	4	6
8. Pinochle	4	31
9. Practice Bridge	4	14
10. Puzzles	20	25

Event Category: Health Screening

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Blood Pressure	2	0
2. Chair Massage	2	7
3. Hearing Screening	1	0
4. Reflexology	2	6

Event Category: Information/Resource Sharing

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Information/Membership	23	3

Event Category: Legal Services

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Ask a Lawyer	1	3
2. MiCafe	0	0

Event Category: Media

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Current Events	2	9
2. Documentary Monday	1	13
3. Library	23	35
4. Friday Flicks	2	0

Event Category: Meetings

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Advisory Board meeting	1	12

Event Category: Special Events

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Veterans Day Luncheon	1	11
2. Health Fair	1	50
3. Thanksgiving Dinner	1	66

Event Category: Off Site Event

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># occurrences</u>	<u>Monthly Total</u>
1. Out to Lunch Bunch	1	5

Event Category: Volunteer Hours

<u>Event Title</u>	<u># of volunteer's</u>	<u># of hours worked</u>
1. Volunteers	16	163.25

Number of New/First Time Members who joined this month: 1

Cancelled classes or programs:

1. TCOA Lunch on November 11 – Veterans Day TCOA closed, we had a Pizza luncheon

b. Professional Development/Networking

1. MASC Conference November 5 – 7 in Mt. Pleasant (Michigan Association of Senior Centers)

7. The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division

In November, 1 interments, 32 interments to date, 0 disinterment, at Glendale Cemetery

Assisted staff with election site preparations and cleanup

Worked with County Roads on tree removal from roadways and pathway system

Completed winterizing parks

Removed aquarium from Harris Nature Center and disconnected water into the basement

Installed new lights on the tree in Historical Village

Installed new posts for security gate at Glendale Cemetery

Removed broken bench from North Meridian Road Park

Added materials to approach to bridge, repaired hazards areas near bridges, replaced broken boards on bridges, cleaned trails and installed signage in Eastgate and Legg Parks

Repaired debris trap at North Fire Station

Repaired fencing, repaired back stops at athletic fields, trimmed overhanging trees across pathways, maintained pathways in Nancy Moore Park

Distributed stone dust in athletic fields at Hartrick Park

Repaired gate cable and lock at Towner Road Park

Cleaned pathways in Ted Black Woods

Cut and removed fallen trees from trails in Central Park and Nancy Moore Park

Cleaned up the Riverside Cemetery

Assembled new picnic tables and grills for the parks

Began equipment preparations for winter

Cold patched various pathway locations

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

Continued with off-road trail maintenance

Continued with mowing and trimming of Township properties

Assisted building maintenance crew with repairs

Hung announcement banners on Township Hall site

Staff attended Pesticide classes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



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

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2014

Media Contact: Jane Greenway
Parks & Land Management Coordinator
greenway@meridian.mi
(517) 853-4610

Local Parks See Improvements

Projects Completed at Wonch Park and Newton Road Park

Meridian Township, MI — The Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department has recently completed some long-awaited improvements to Newton Road Park and Wonch Park with more plans for park enhancements in the future.

Improvements to Newton Road Park, located on the north-east corner of Lake Lansing and Newton Roads, include a vinyl split-rail fence, a 20-car parking area, and multi-purpose athletic fields. The beautiful turf in this park was developed based on guidance from Dr. John “Trey” Rogers, MSU turf grass expert. These athletic fields will be utilized as practice fields for youth soccer, football and lacrosse. A grand opening ceremony will be planned in the spring of 2015.

Wonch Park is one of the oldest and most visited parks within the Meridian Township system and is located on Okemos road north of Mt. Hope Road. Future development plans include a canoe launch, pavilion, improved parking, restroom facility, fitness stations, and more. The most recent project was the construction of a 2,100 linear foot paved pathway that meanders along the edge of the beautiful Red Cedar River and greatly improves the accessibility of the park. The Wonch Park Pathway project was partly funded by a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant. The paved pathway was designed by the Meridian Township Public Works & Engineering Department. “This pathway is a perfect, short walk for our lunchtime crowd that frequents the park,” said Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator. A grand opening ceremony will be planned for the park in the spring of 2015.

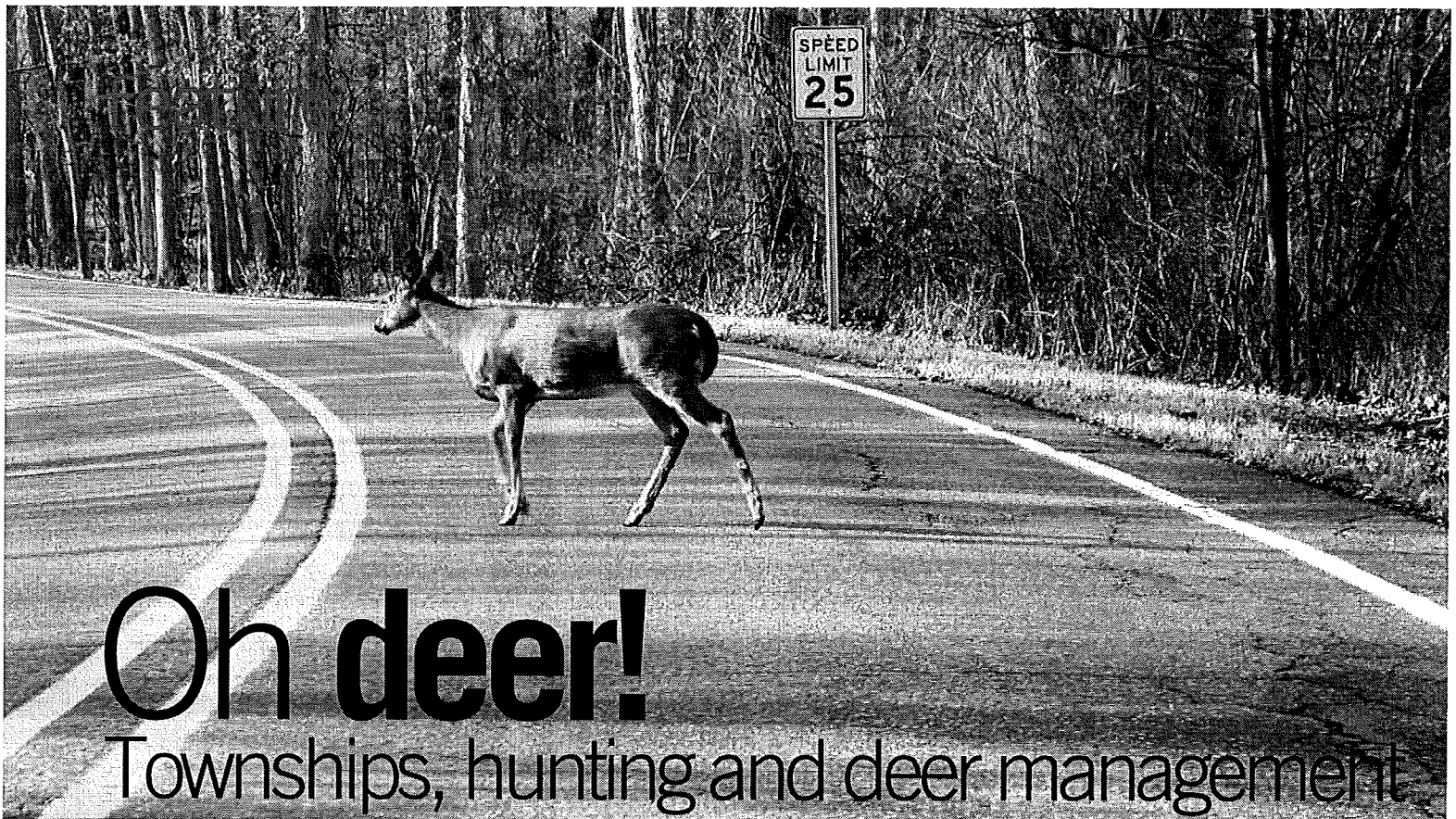
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Oh deer!

Townships, hunting and deer management

Fall is in here, when thoughts turn from fishing, swimming and boating to other outdoor pursuits—which for nearly 700,000 Michiganders means deer hunting.

Hunting is the primary tool for managing Michigan's wildlife species, has a positive impact on state and local economies, and can also provide state residents and visitors alike with recreation and family time enjoying Michigan's natural resources.

Looking at hunting and hunter's safety

Hunting and fishing have a large economic impact for the state and its local communities—some 1.9 million hunters and fishermen spend \$4.8 billion annually and support 72,462 jobs in Michigan alone. According to a national study from 2011, that spending is more than the combined revenues for dairy products, corn and soybeans, the state's three highest grossing agricultural commodities that year (\$4.83 billion vs. \$4.47 billion). Sportsmen and women in Michigan also generated \$576 million in state and local tax revenue in 2011—enough to support the average salaries of 10,948 police and sheriff's patrol officers.

In terms of safety, there were just nine reported hunting incidents in 2013 statewide, including one fatality, which is down from 15 incidents with one fatality in 2012. The 2013 numbers encompassed more than 661,000 deer hunters who spent a total 9.2 million days afield.

The state's hunting regulations, education and mentoring help bring in new ranks of hunters and pass this Michigan

tradition onto youth, while maintaining a safe environment for hunters and the public. In 2011, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Mentored Youth Hunting Program was created to allow youth under 10 to hunt alongside a properly licensed mentor at least 21 years old. Youth or any new adult hunter can also become an apprentice hunter for up to two years before taking DNR hunter education, where they must hunt with another licensed hunter 21 years or older.

Once hunters have completed hunter education, they still must hunt with an adult until they are 17. Each of these learning opportunities can help to instill the value of safe and ethical hunting and the joy of the outdoors at an early age.

Undertaking deer management

Despite the popularity of deer hunting in this state, local officials likely know all too well that there can certainly be a downside to deer in certain areas across the state, where the population or lack of natural habitat has led to vehicle-deer collisions, damage to agriculture and forest production, and late-night backyard raids in residents' flowerbeds and vegetable gardens.

These problems might be enhanced by recreational feeding of deer. In most areas of the state, it is legal to provide a limited amount of food for deer (up to two gallons at a

time) within 100 yards of a residence—though placing even a limited amount of feed may draw deer into urban and suburban communities.

Deer hunters can be allies in helping to address these issues, turning them into positives for your community and local economy. One mid-Michigan township is taking a novel approach to assist with deer management on township-owned properties.

Meridian Charter Township's approach

Meridian Charter Township (Ingham Co.) has documented hundreds of complaints related to deer over-population—from vehicle-deer collisions, damage to personal property such as landscaping, concern for public health, and a disruption to the ecological balance of natural areas.

"Some say that drivers should simply slow down, but I've had numerous phone calls where residents tell me they were actually driving *under* the speed limit and the deer ran into them," noted **Jane Greenway**, the township's parks and land management coordinator. "Clearly, the deer enjoy our township as much as we do, and everyone loves living near natural areas and within a proximity of the Red Cedar River."

In an effort to reduce the over-population of deer within its borders, the township piloted a unique managed harvest program in 2011 on select township properties. The project, in its fourth year, has grown each year, and now includes 20 township and county-owned properties.

"We have placed our hunters in all township-owned properties that are practical and safe for bow hunting," said Greenway. "Meridian Township's approach is fairly unique in that we are opening up the majority of our parks and land preserves to managed bow hunting, rather than utilizing professional sharpshooters."

In 2014, the managed deer harvest will occur in land covering more than 1,600 acres—including five township parks, 13 land preserves, two additional township-owned properties, and one county park. "Our parks and land preserves remain open during the harvest," Greenway noted.

Working with the DNR

According to Nick Sanchez, with the township's parks and recreation department, when the township board first decided to tackle its deer over-population problem, the township began by contacting the DNR to help craft an approach that would work for the community. The deer management plan must be approved annually by the township board, land preservation advisory board, and park commission.

The managed hunt operates under a DNR Deer Management Assistance Permit. Permits are provided to hunters by the township. In 2013, the township purchased a total of 170 permits in 2013, which led to the harvest of 127 deer. For 2014, the permits have been reduced to \$10 each. The hunters are required to purchase their own base hunting (\$11) and antlered deer license (\$20). In addition, the township was permitted to distribute the antlerless deer permits to hunters on private properties adjacent to those within the deer management program. Three residents took advantage of this opportunity in 2013.

Only qualified hunters need apply

The managed hunt is not open to the general public—roughly 75 approved, qualified and experienced hunters who are familiar with the area are allowed to access township property for the managed harvest. Selected hunters choose which property they want to hunt, and are asked to call ahead to notify the township which days they are hunting and post a flyer in their vehicle window alerting the public that there is hunting in progress on that property. They must check in with township staff every time they enter and leave the property.

The program is archery only, which limits range and allows the hunter the opportunity to better identify the target without error. The hunters are required to hunt from an elevated tree stand, which ensures that the arrow quickly reaches the ground in the event that a deer is missed.

"We also require hunters to report stand locations so we can double check to make sure that they are out of the 450-foot safety zones around all occupied dwellings, as well as away from any trails," Greenway explained. "Having a network of communication among the program hunters, parks department and police department staff not only demands that hunters act responsibly on township property but also discourages potential trespassing hunters who we may otherwise be unaware of."

There is an annual waiting list as the program's popularity has grown. The 2014 harvest takes place during the regular archery deer hunting seasons (Oct. 1 through Jan. 1, 2015).

Despite the program's popularity among hunters, Greenway says the township is holding off on dubbing it a complete success. "The deer/car accident numbers continue to climb, despite our efforts," she said. "However, I have to believe that the numbers would be even higher if we were not harvesting the deer."

New deer regulations for southern Michigan

This year, state firearm deer hunting regulations that have been in place in northern Michigan for a number of years will expand to the southern portion of the state. For 2014, a new regulation allows the use of certain low-powered rifles and air rifles in the traditional "shotgun zone."

The relevant language redefines the "shotgun zone" as the "limited firearms deer zone" and adds the following to the list of allowable firearms in southern Michigan:

"(d) A .35 caliber or larger rifle loaded with straight-walled cartridges with a minimum case length of 1.16 inches and a maximum case length of 1.80 inches.

(e) A .35 caliber or larger air rifle or pistol charged only from an external high-compression power source such as an external hand pump, air tank, or air compressor."

These new regulations include rifles and ammunition that are lower in power than existing shotguns and muzzleloaders that have long been allowed for hunting purposes. These same firearms have also been in use in the northern two-thirds of Michigan and in Indiana for a number of years.

feature

Helping feed the hungry

Successful hunters must report their take as soon as possible and must donate their first deer to local food banks. They are allowed to keep their second deer, but must donate each deer thereafter. Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger provides funding for the processing fee. Some 1,300 pounds of venison—providing 6,500 meals—was donated to the Mid-Michigan Food Bank in 2013.

Area residents—not just the area hunters—have been supportive of the project, says Greenway. “The community has strongly supported our efforts at deer management,” she said. “Many residents appreciate the fact that the venison is donated to the local food banks. The most commonly heard complaint we receive is that we need to harvest *more deer*.”

Greenway is also pleased to be able to provide a recreational opportunity for hunters in the township, saying that, “We are proud that we can provide our resident hunters the ability to pursue outdoor recreation right here at home, rather than having to drive ‘up north.’”

In fact, she continued, “‘Up north’ communities are actually contacting us for advice on deer management.”

To that end, Greenway recommends that any townships considering undertaking a deer management program of their own survey residents to ascertain their thoughts, and utilize local experts to advise the township on any plans. Meridian

Charter Township sought expertise from residents, the township garden club, local biologists, experts from Michigan State University and the DNR, among others.

Looking to the future, the township has also indicated its interest in exploring opportunities with the DNR to allow authorized hunters to take deer outside of the regular archery seasons under deer damage shooting permits.

Considerations for townships

A township cannot directly prohibit the discharge of firearms or hunting in all or part of the township except in very narrow circumstances, and in most of those circumstances, state approval is required (and has only been granted in very few instances since the 1980s). Township officials can, however, undertake efforts to control the deer population and help to minimize the impact that deer overpopulation can have on the township, its residents and property within its borders.

.....
Amy Trotter, Resource Policy Manager
Michigan United Conservation Clubs, Lansing

For more information, visit www.mucc.org, or contact Trotter at (517) 346-6484 or atrotter@mucc.org.

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MERIDIAN ANNOUNCES ANOTHER DEER HARVEST

In an effort to reduce the over-population of deer, a managed harvest will occur on select township properties during the regular 2014 hunting season.

The managed hunt is not open to the general public. Only approved, qualified, competent and experienced hunters will be allowed to access township property for the managed harvest. Meridian Township continues to receive numerous complaints of deer over-population that have resulted in an increase of damage to landscaping, an increase in reports of vehicle/deer accidents, concern for public health and a disruption to the ecological balance of natural areas.

The Deer Management Plan for 2014 includes the following measures for a deer harvest:

- » Hunting to take place Oct. 1 through Jan. 1.
- » Participation of a limited number of qualified, competent, experienced hunters who are familiar with the area.
- » Archery hunting only.
- » The majority of the deer are donated to local food banks. Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger provides funding for the processing fee.
- » Entrances to designated hunting properties will be posted, advising visitors of the harvest

Those wishing to be added to the waiting list for the 2014 harvest, e-mail your name, address and contact information to Nick Sanchez at sanchez@meridian.mi.us or call (517) 853-4600.

Qigong classes offered at HNC

Qigong (chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. Qigong classes will be held on Mondays from 7-8 p.m. beginning Sept. 29 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$64/eight-week class or \$10/person/week for drop-ins. There will not be class on Oct. 13 and Nov. 10. Contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866 for more information.

Preschool Science Exploration at HNC Oct. 2

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 12:30 p.m. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is called Searching for Seeds. The program is designed for 4-5-year-old children. The fee is \$4/child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866.

Build a bird feeder at HNC Sept. 28

Many of our favorite song birds can be attracted to our backyards all through the winter when a feeder is provided. Build your own feeder at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township; on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. Bird feeder styles available are: hopper feeder (\$20), suet feeder (\$12), bluebird feeder (\$25) and peanut butter feeder (\$8). For more information and to reserve a feeder, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Chipmunk Story Time on Sept. 18

Children are invited to join Chicory Chipmunk at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. for this month's Chipmunk Story Time, "Home at Last." The fee is \$3/child/session.

NEWS BRIEFS

HNC has Halloween adventures Oct. 25

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, has Halloween adventures for the whole family on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Most kids like to begin their adventure at the

Halloween Fun House, a Halloween thrill without blood or gore. They continue their adventure with crafts inside the building and games outside. Again this year, they can take a swing at a pumpkin piñata and collect candy when it breaks. For information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.



A local troupe of Irish dancers will show off their skills at the Heritage Festival. COURTESY PHOTO

IF YOU GO...

What: Meridian Township Heritage Festival
When: Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: On the grounds of the Meridian Historical Village, located behind the township hall complex at 5151 Marsh Road.
Cost: Free

MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the Meridian Heritage Festival activities, visit the Meridian Township web site at www.meridian.mi.us or the Meridian Historical Village website at www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org.

Annual Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's rich history



For the sports fan, a "vintage base ball" doubleheader will be part of the Heritage Festival's offerings. COURTESY PHOTO

By Dawn Parker
 dparker@tj.com

MERIDIAN TWP. — From its early settlers to the present, Meridian Township's history is rich.

That history will be on display Sept. 20 during the annual Heritage Festival. The festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the Meridian Historical Village, located behind the township hall complex at 5151 Marsh Road.

"The Friends of Historic Meridian have been hard at work creating a fun and family-friendly line-up of activities for the community at the festival," said Jane Rose, Executive Director of the Meridian Historical Village. "There will be fun activities for all ages, with special hands-on activities and games for children."

This free event will include some special activities to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Friends, including a "cupcake" cake walk for children and samples of "Anniversary Cake" for a small donation.

The Historical Village was begun in January 1974 when one little farmhouse was moved to an empty field.

From that humble beginning the village has grown to include a toll house, a schoolhouse, general store, barn, log cabin, an inn and tavern, and, finally, a chapel.

"The growth of the village was the result of many people coming together to rescue, relocate and renovate build-



"Dr. Bloodworth" will be one of the presenters at the annual Meridian Township Heritage Festival, set for Sept. 20 at the Meridian Historical Village. COURTESY PHOTO

ings significant to our local history," Rose said.

"We stand on the shoulders of many area residents committed to preserving the past and educating our youth to carry our rich history into the future."

Some activities offered at the festival include: Civil War home-life re-enactments from the Sisters of the Union, cart and pony rides, rug making, loom weaving, lace making, basket weaving, and children's games.

Performers include the Ardan School of Irish dancers and the Haslett-based Gracewood Singers who will sing old-fashioned gospel-style songs, including a selection of "shape note" songs.

There will also be an exhibit of quilts in the Barnes House Inn and Tavern and a display of antique toy trucks in the Tollgate House.

At least two major benefactors are helping make the festival possible.

"This event will benefit from the support of those companies," Rose said. "We are very fortunate to have Douglas J and Michigan State University's Federal Credit Union participating as major sponsors."

Douglas J will sponsor the music entertainment, which will allow for performances in the Village Chapel and a Native drum with singers and dancers on the lawn in front of Nokornis Learning Center.

The MSU Federal Credit Union is supporting the children's activity area, which Rose said will allow for an old-fashioned "fish pond" game with prizes, pony and cart rides, the cake walk and a water-carrying game for the children.

"Other local businesses have also stepped forward with commitments, such as Wood's Okemos Marathon, a long-time family-run Okemos business," Rose continued.

"And businesses from both the Haslett and Okemos areas have expressed an interest in being sponsoring partners."

Vendors will be on hand in the food court with a selection of delicious food for sale. The Meridian Township Arts and Crafts Marketplace will also be open featuring products from a variety of local vendors.

The Meridian Farmers' Market will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Meridian Mall parking lot across from the Yunker's men's store.

Hunters harvest 45 deer in managed hunt in twp.

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP — The deer population in the township is being reduced through another managed harvest during this fall's archery hunting season.

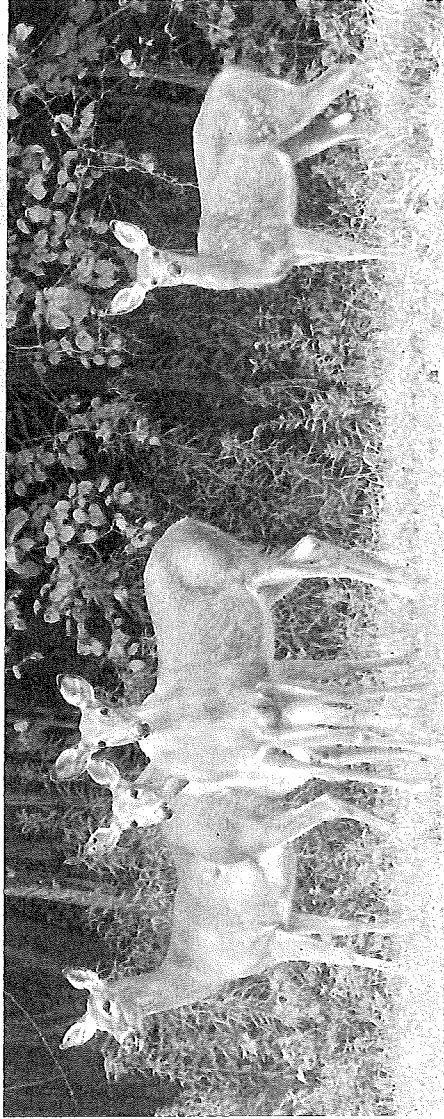
A total of 45 deer have been harvested with 72 volunteer hunters on 22 township-owned properties. Venison from the harvested deer is donated to local food banks.

Almost 250 deer have been harvested in managed hunts over the last three years.

The regular bow season began Oct. 1, 2014 and runs through Jan. 1, 2015. Hunting occurs seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

Township properties are not open to the general public for hunting. Only approved hunters will be allowed to access township property for the managed harvest.

The program is bow only and



COURTESY PHOTO

Meridian Township says a larger local deer herd is causing property damage and is a traffic danger.

the hunters are in tree stands, shooting down.

"We have a great group of hunters this year and we are hoping to help the local food

banks keep up with their increased demands for venison," said Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management coordinator.

"The venison from the donat-

ed deer is distributed through the food banks at the Okemos Community Church and Haslett Community Church."

The parks and land pre-

erves remain open to the public. The program is full, but Meridian Township is still accepting names for their waiting list.

Residents may contact Meridian Township if they would like to be matched with a hunter for their property or if they would like to be placed on a waiting list to hunt. This program is not open to non-residents.

For any questions or concerns, contact greenway@meridian.mi.us or (517) 853-4600.

Those interested in participating in the deer harvest can fill out and return the application found on the township Web site at www.meridian.mi.us.

Contact the non-emergency police number at (517) 332-6526 if problems are encountered during the managed harvest.

— From Meridian Township

• Sunday, October 12, 2014 • Towne Courier

Qigong classes offered at HNC

Qigong (chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. Qigong classes will be held on Mondays from 7-8 p.m. beginning Sept. 29 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$64/eight-week class or \$10/person/week for drop-ins. There will not be class on Oct. 13 and Nov. 10. Contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866 for more information.

Build a fairy house Oct. 16

Discover the magic and fun of building your own fairy house with enthusiast Rosemary Buscetta. Participants will create their houses will enjoying snacks and wine on Thursday, Oct. 16 from 6-9 p.m. at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$35/person and is open to anyone over age 21. To register for the class and for more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Meridian Township touts practice fields, walking path

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP — Practice fields and a paved walking path have been created at two township parks.

Newton Road Park, located on the northeast corner of Lake Lansing and Newton roads, now has a vinyl split-rail fence, a 20-car parking area and multi-purpose athletic fields.

The turf on athletic fields in this park was developed based on guidance from John "Trey" Rogers, MSU turf grass expert.

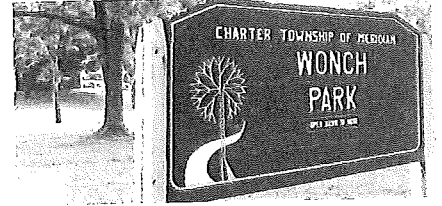
These fields will be utilized as practice fields for youth soccer, football and lacrosse.

Wonch Park, one of the oldest and most visited parks in the township, is located off Okemos Road north of Mt. Hope Road.

A 2,100 linear foot paved pathway that meanders along the edge of the Red Cedar River has been completed.

The Wonch Park Pathway project was partly funded by a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund grant.

Development plans include a canoe launch, pavilion, improved parking,



GREG DERUITER

A 2,100 linear foot paved pathway meanders along the Red Cedar River has been completed in Wonch Park in Meridian Township.

restroom facility and fitness stations. The paved pathway was designed by the Meridian Township Public Works & Engineering Department. "This pathway is a perfect, short walk for our lunchtime crowd that frequents the park," said Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management coordinator.

Grand opening ceremonies will be planned for both parks in the spring of 2015.

— From Meridian Township

• Sunday, October 26, 2014 • Towne Courier

Learn about ducks at HNC Nov. 9

Did you know that some ducks are divers and some are dabblers? Families will learn more about ducks at a nature program on Sunday, Nov. 9 at 3 p.m. at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. There is a \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Martha Wyatt, Assistant Planner

FROM: *Jane Greenway*
Jane L. Greenway, RLA
Parks and Land Management Coordinator

DATE: October 27, 2014

RE: Aldi Development – Landscape Plan

We have reviewed the landscape plan, L1.1, dated October 22, 2014. We are pleased to note that the majority of the plants have been replaced with native, deer-resistant species as recommended. One exception is arborvitae, a species that is particularly attractive to deer.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



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

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

October 31, 2014

Jon Mayes, Unit Manager Recreation Grants
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909

SUBJECT: Meridian Riverfront Park, Project No. 26-01426

Dear Mr. Mayes:

I am writing in regards to a backstop and player benches that we plan to remove from the Eastgate Park portion of the Meridian Riverfront Park system in Meridian Township.

The backstop was constructed in 1986 and is now nearly 30 years old. We would like to remove it due to age, deterioration and for safety concerns. The ball diamond at this location had become obsolete and was therefore removed.

This park is well maintained and serves as a viable park area for area residents.

Please accept this letter for consideration of accepting removal of this amenity and declaring the backstop obsolete.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Jane L. Greenway, RLA
Parks and Land Management Coordinator



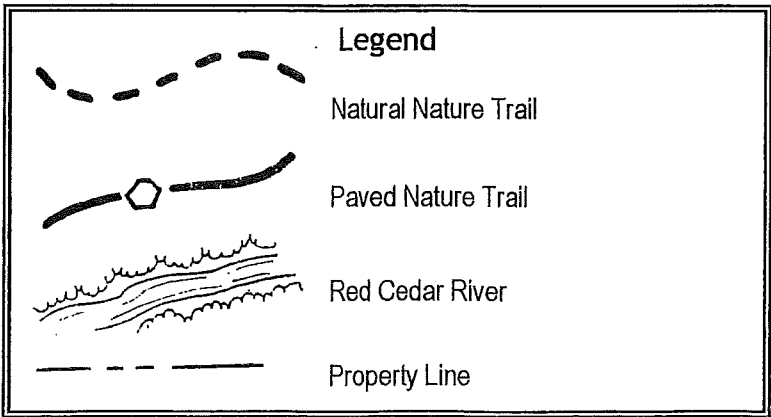
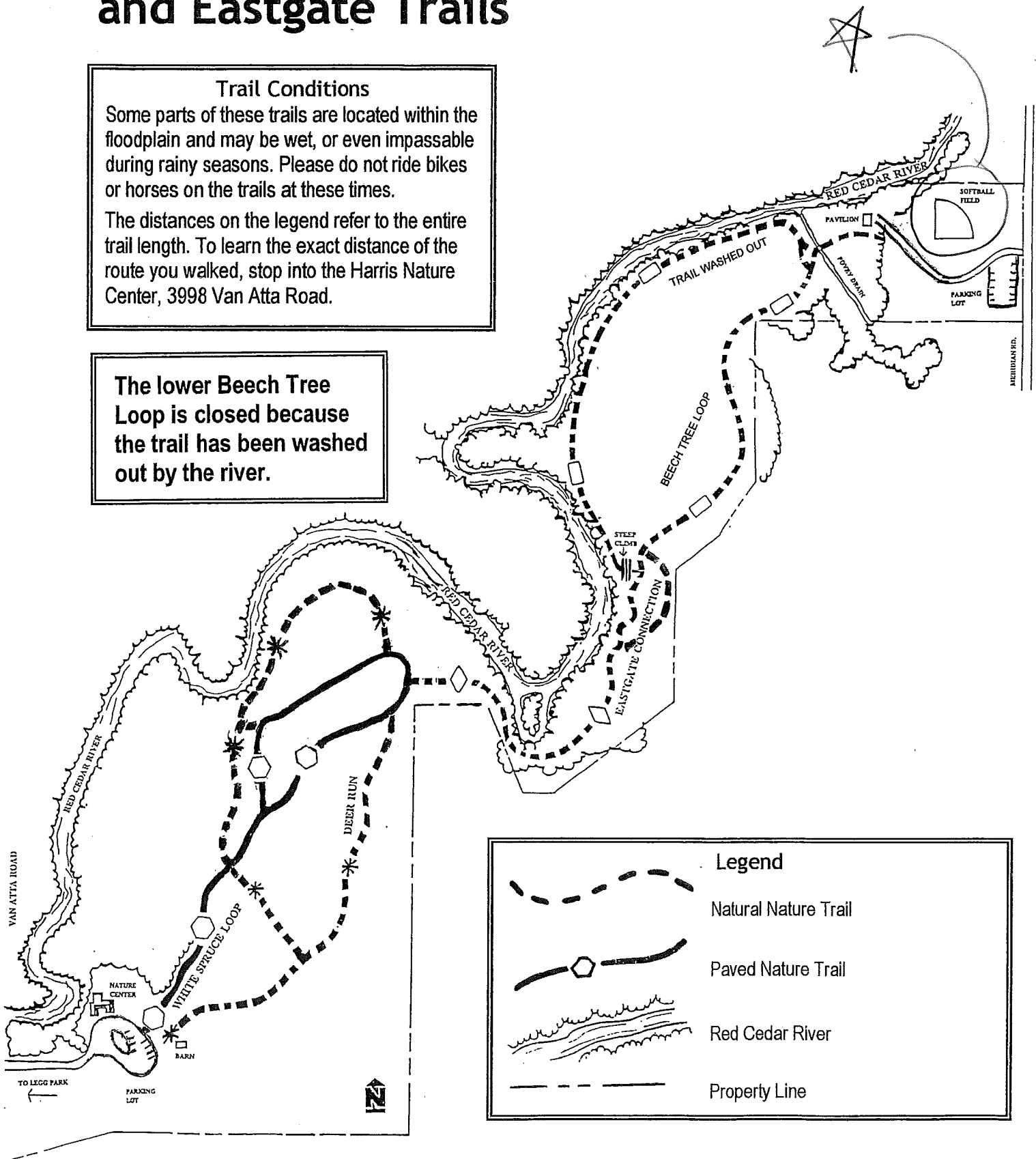
Harris Nature Center and Eastgate Trails

Trail Conditions

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

The distances on the legend refer to the entire trail length. To learn the exact distance of the route you walked, stop into the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road.

The lower Beech Tree Loop is closed because the trail has been washed out by the river.



White Spruce Loop

.5 mile trail: follow the

The head of the interpretive White Spruce loop is northeast of the nature center parking lot. This trail is paved. Look for signs that will interpret portions of local ecology. Land use here has changed over the years. In the past, it was a hunting and fishing area, then a farm and pasture land. More recently the land has been encouraged to evolve back toward its natural state.

Deer Run

.80 mile trail: follow the *

Begin the Deer Run trail just west of the pole barn at the nature center. As it wanders through old field and pasture land, look for thickets of blackberries and soft-needled White Pine trees. The trail crosses the White Spruce Loop as it passes into the swampy river wetlands caused by spring overflows. The Red Cedar River is visible along parts of the northern portion of the trail.

Eastgate Connection

.5 mile trail: follow the

The trail begins at the point where the White Spruce Loop and Deer Run merge. This meadow trail serves as a connection between the Harris Nature Center interpretive trails and the Eastgate Trail system.

Beech Tree Loop

1 mile trail: follow the

From the Eastgate picnic area, cross the bridged creek and circle around a large depression which was probably formed by a receding glacier. The northwestern portion of the trail traverses the lowlands along the Red Cedar River. The southeastern side of the loop cuts through an upland hardwood area which includes Black Walnut, Sugar Maple and American Beech trees. In the spring, this area is full of wildflowers – Trillium, Spring Beauty, Trout Lily, Bloodroot, May Apple, Violets, Dame's Rocket and Jack-in-the-pulpit. By summer's end, look for Virginia Knotweed, Pale Jewelweed, Wild Cucumber and Tall Bellflower.

Park Facilities

Both parks offer nature trails for hiking and skiing.

Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road

- Paved Interpretive Trail
- Nature Center Building

Hours: Tues – Fri: 9am – 4pm

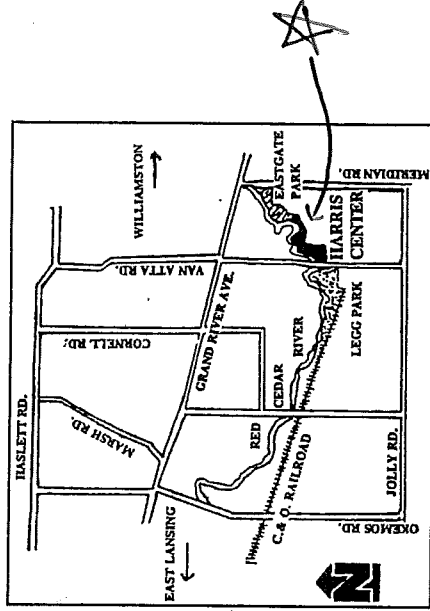
Saturday: 9am – 5pm

Sunday: 11am – 5pm

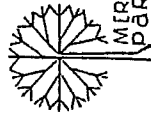
Eastgate, 4203 S. Meridian Road

- Picnic Pavilion with tables and grills

Meridian Township welcomes all park visitors, regardless of race, religion, age, or level of ability.



Please call the Harris Nature Center at (517) 349-3866 to speak with a naturalist for additional information on the trails or any Meridian Township Park. To reserve a pavilion, call the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department at (517) 853-4608



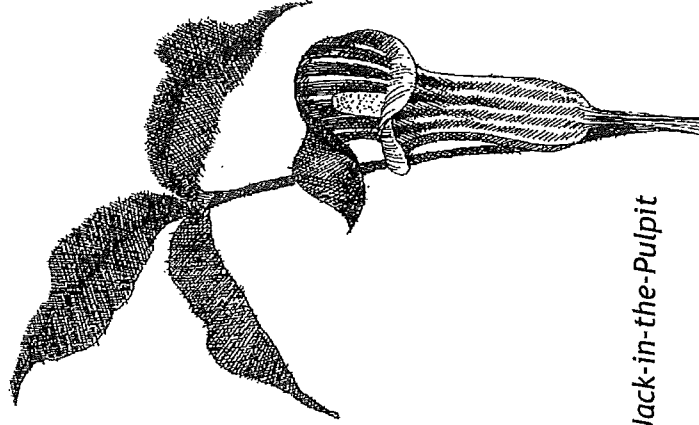
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP
PARK COMMISSION

Fourth Printing, August 2009

Harris Nature Center and Eastgate Trails

in the

Meridian Riverfront
Natural Area



Jack-in-the-Pulpit

A Meridian Township
Park Millage Facility

MARY HELMBRECHT BUTTERFLY GARDEN

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

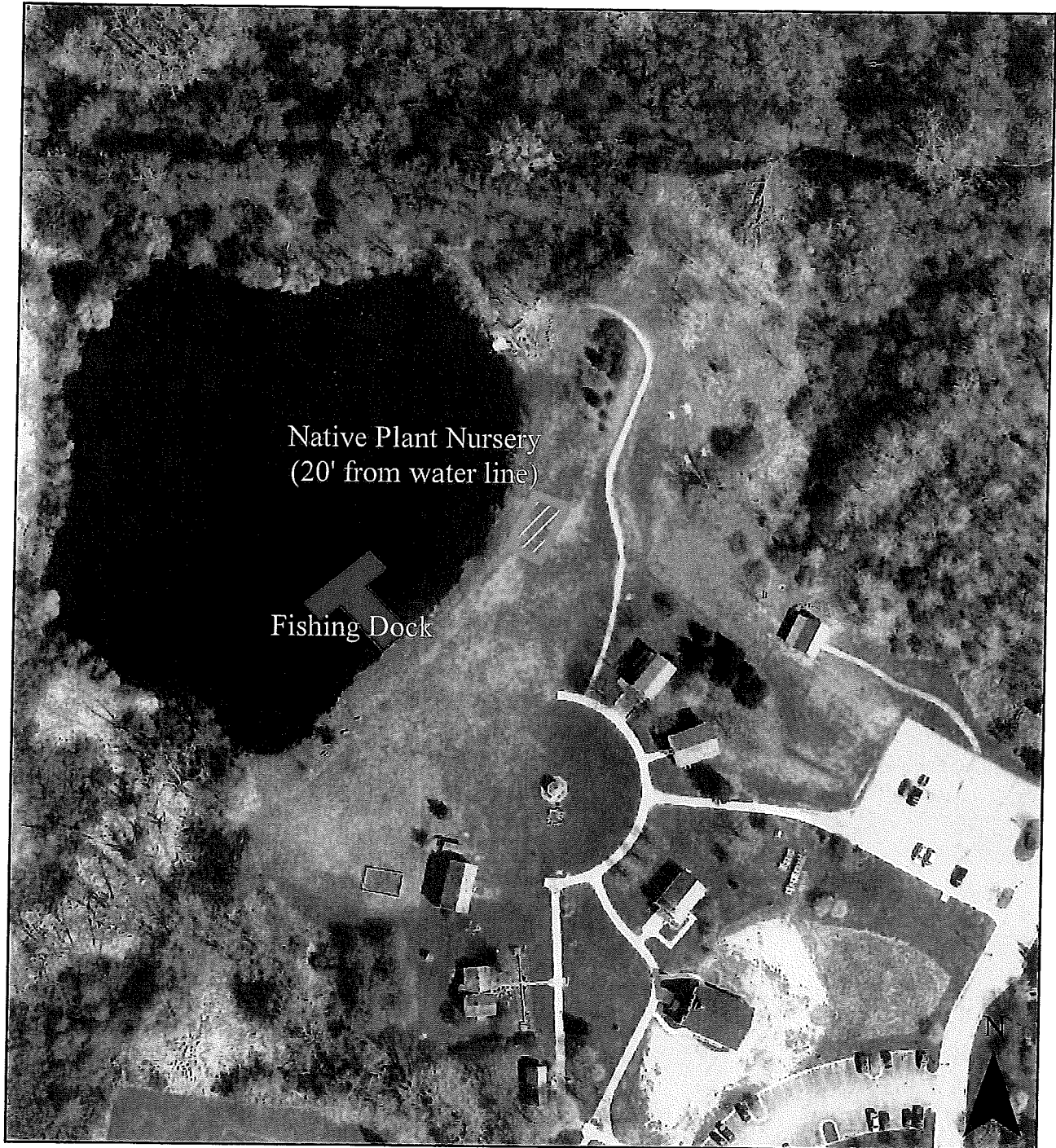
On October 24, 2014, 130 fifth and sixth grade schoolchildren from Haslett planted 1,200 native plugs in a butterfly garden along the shore of the pond in the Historical Village Pond. The plants were \$1,000 and were purchased utilizing funds that were donated in memory of Mary Helmbrecht, former Meridian Township Clerk and Vice-Chair for the Land Preservation Advisory Board. The children worked in "stations," which included planting the butterfly garden, touring the historical village, doing "tree math," writing in their journal, fishing, and activities with Coach Mike Devlin.







Proposed Native Plant Nursery
Meridian Historical Village
Approx. 1500 ft²



0 50 100 200 Feet

Park Commission Meeting
December 9, 2014

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2015 Meeting Schedule
- b. Election of Officers
- c. Assignment of Land Preservation Advisory Board Representative
- d. Budget Amendment Request – Safety Fence
- e. 2015 Goals and Objectives
- f. Commissioner Banas Resignation

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION



TO: Park Commission

FROM: LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: December 9, 2014

RE: 2015 Commission Meeting Schedule

In light of the approved 2015 Township Board meeting schedule and in an effort to be televised, the following 2015 Park Commission Meeting Schedule is being recommended:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 8 *	Town Hall Room	Joint Meeting at 6 pm
January 13	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
February 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
March 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
April 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
May 12	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
June 9	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
July 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
August 11	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
September 8**	<u>Service Center</u>	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
October 13	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
November 10	Town Hall	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
December 8***	<u>Service Center</u>	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg

The exceptions to the meeting schedule are: on January 8 is a joint meeting of all boards and commissions with the Township Board; September 8th, the Township Board has scheduled budget deliberations and December 9, the Township Board will be holding its second meeting of the month in the Town Hall Room.

The following motion is proposed:

MOVE that the Park Commission meeting schedule as outlined in the December 9, 2014 staff memorandum and attached Resolution be accepted and approved, and copies of the meeting schedule be forwarded to the appropriate individuals for posting.

/attachment

**Park Commission Meeting Dates
2015 Schedule**

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 9th day of December, 2014, at 7:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

WHEREAS, the Park Commission desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission deems the 2015 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 Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Park Commission adopts its regular 2015 meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 6 *	Town Hall Room	<u>Joint Meeting</u> with Township Board at 6 pm
January 13	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
February 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
March 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
April 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
May 12	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
June 9	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
July 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
August 11	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
September 8**	<u>Service Center</u>	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
October 13	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
November 10	Town Hall	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
December 8***	<u>Service Center</u>	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg

2. The Park Commission has set a schedule to meet on the second Tuesday of the month.

3. Each of the above meetings shall be held in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, (517) 853-4000, with the exception of September 8, and December 8, when the Commission shall meet at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840 (517) 853-4600.
4. If the meeting location is in the Town Hall Room, the Park Commission meeting shall consist of a non-televised work session at 6 pm and the televised regular meeting at 7 pm. If the meeting location is other than the Town Hall Room, the non-televised meeting will consist of a non-televised work session at 6 pm and a regular meeting at 7 pm unless a work session is not required and therefore the regular meeting will begin at 6 pm.
5. Special meetings of the Park Commission may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
6. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Park Commission pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
7. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, and a copy of this resolution shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building.

ADOPTED:

YEAS:

NAYS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chairperson of the Park Commission 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 Park Commission held on the 9th day of December, 2014.

Chair
Meridian Township Park Commission

MEMORANDUM

TO: Township Board
FROM: Brett Dreyfus
Brett Dreyfus, Township Clerk
DATE: November 3, 2014
RE: 2015 Regular Board Meeting Schedule

The attached 2015 Proposed Regular Board Meeting Schedule is submitted to the Township Board in compliance with Board Policy 3.1.3.a. such that:

- i. The establishment of the meeting schedule is the Board's Responsibility.
- ii. The meeting schedule is subject to Board Policies (as discussed below) and through its Rules & Procedures (**Rule 2.1 - Township Board Meetings**).

Please note that as of this writing, there are no elections scheduled for 2015.

The following motion is proposed:

Move to adopt the 2015 Township Board Meeting Schedule Resolution.

sko

Attachment

2015 TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 6th day of November, 2014 at 6:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, the Township Board desires to announce the time, date, and place of all regular meetings of the Board, pursuant to MCL 42.7; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board deems the 2015 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Board's Policies and Procedures, and advance its Global Ends.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan that the Township Board adopts its regular 2015 meeting schedule as follows:

Tuesday, January 6, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Joint Meeting (Township Boards and Commissions)
Saturday , January 10, 2015	10:00 A.M. Policy Governance Review
Tuesday, January 20, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 3, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 17, 2015	6:00 P.M. Joint Meeting with School Districts and Local Governments
Tuesday, April 7, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 5, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 2, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 16, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 21, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, August 18, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 1, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting (Budget Deliberations)
Tuesday, September 15, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 6, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting (Proposed Budget Hearing)
Tuesday, October 20, 2015	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION



TO: Park Commission

FROM: LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: December 2, 2014

RE: Procedure to Elect Officers

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

COMMISSIONER _____ MOVED, TO NOMINATE _____ AS CHAIR.
COMMISSIONER _____ SECONDED.

Commissioner _____ accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:
NAYS:

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

COMMISSIONER _____ MOVED, TO NOMINATE _____ AS VICE CHAIR.
COMMISSIONER _____ SECONDED.

Commissioner _____ accepted the nomination.

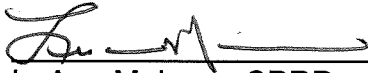
Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nomination for Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:
NAYS:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: December 2, 2014

RE: Nancy Moore Park
Ball Diamond Safety Fencing
Bid Selection and Budget Amendment

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department has received bids for the construction of approximately 575 linear feet of 8' tall galvanized chain link fencing and two maintenance access gates at Nancy Moore Park. The project is budgeted in the 2015 Park Millage account.

Base on bid results, we recommend the bid be awarded to Spartan Fence in the amount of \$9,900.

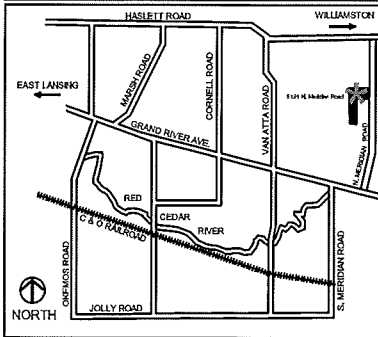
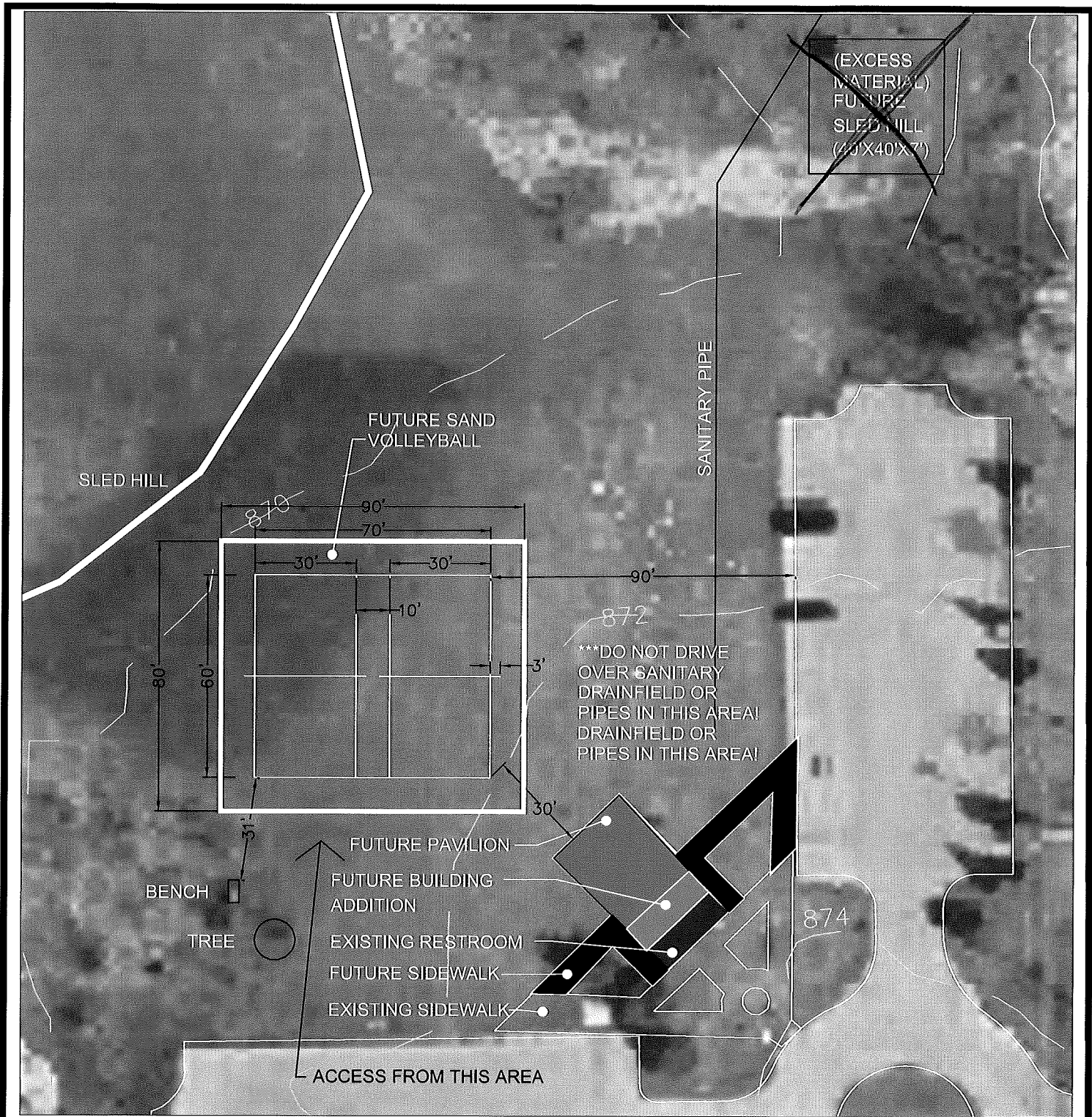
The bids were as follows:

1. **Spartan Fence:** \$9,900
2. Dewitt Fence: \$14,178
3. Cleary Fence: no bid received
4. Sawdon Fence: no bid received

The budgeted amount for this project is \$6,000. After investigating the site more closely, we realized that additional fencing was necessary for the purpose of providing safety from fly balls and overthrows. The additional fencing increased the budgeted amount. A budget amendment is required in the amount of \$3,900.

The following motion is offered:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE BID FROM SPARTAN FENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,900 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING BALL FIELD SAFETY FENCING IN NANCY MOORE PARK; AND APPROVE AMENDING THE PARK MILLAGE BUDGET TO INCLUDE AN ADDITIONAL \$3,900 FOR THE PROJECT IN 2015.



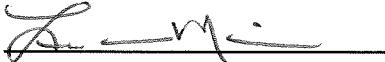
LOCATION MAP (NOT TO SCALE)

PROPOSED SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS
18" DEPTH, 80' x 90' = 400 CY



MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: December 4, 2014

RE: 2015 Goals and Objectives

2015 Draft Goals and Objectives – The Township Manager has led staff and the Township Board through a process of identifying goals with objectives that will implemented through the 2015 budget. Please review this document as the projects of the Park Commission are included. This can also be amended to include potential additional Park Commission goals if you choose. This document will serve as a work plan to keep focused and on-task throughout the year.

Meridian Township 2015 Goal Setting

2015 Goals and Objectives

Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.

Goal #1

Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance the environment

- a. Update the street tree ordinance and adopt a tree protection ordinance
- b. Prepare, update, and enforce ordinances that protect natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplain areas
- c. Utilize the Township's Greenspace Plan as part of the review for land development projects
- d. Apply the best planning practices to encourage the preservation of green and open spaces
- e. Build a new *green* Central Fire Station
- f. Continue the Deer Management Program to reduce the deer population in our community
- g. Manage invasive species in the parks and land preserves (removing garlic mustard, buckthorn, autumn olive, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hedge parsley, and phragmites)
- h. Administer and enforce the Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control Program
- i. Maintain the sewer system to minimize sewage backups
- j. Develop an Urban Management Service area
- k. Maintain robust recycling initiatives including the Meridian Recycling Center, community events, and educational programs, and work to enhance recycling opportunities in apartment complexes
- l. Continue energy, water, and waste reduction efforts in Township buildings and other facilities
- m. Adopt an ordinance prohibiting or regulating, as the law allows, fracking within the Township
- n. Review and update open space requirements
- o. Mitigate climate change - including investigating becoming a solar ready community

Goal #2

Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance public safety

- a. Increase information shared with the public through social media regarding public safety tips, PSAs (Public Service Announcements), emergency communications, and police and fire services
- b. Provide Beyond the Badge police and fire programs and stories
- c. Strengthen communication and educate developers/builders, business owners, and neighborhood associations regarding the planning process in an effort to minimize violations and negative impacts
- d. Continue implementation of the Grand River Corridor Access Management Ordinance
- e. Provide police coverage for Williamstown Township

- f. Implement the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Traffic Grant
- g. Purchase new mobile phone forensics software
- h. Upgrade the booking area camera
- i. Evaluate conversion to the State Records Management System (RMS) in the Police Department, and implement if determined to be feasible
- j. Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software
- k. Construct the new Fire Station at Okemos Road and Central Park Drive
- l. Purchase 1 replacement ambulance for the Fire Department
- m. Purchase 3 replacement patrol vehicles for the Police Department
- n. Complete the Okemos Road Pathway Bridge crossing the Red Cedar River
- o. Continue fire service to Alaiedon Township
- p. Continue the yearly Police Citizens' and Youth Academies
- q. Participate in the Lansing Regional Shared Fire Services
- r. Process monthly police and fire citizen surveys
- s. Monitor legislative actions relative to medical marihuana and prepare to act accordingly with local ordinances
- t. Explore revision and/or modification of Township ordinances for the purpose of reducing penalties for possession or use of small amounts of marihuana

Goal #3
Meridian Township shall provide an
unparalleled parks system

- a. Develop Phase I of Towner Road Park
- b. Complete Legg Park projects - parking area, dog park, and stewardship
- c. Construct roof structures over the dugouts at Hartrick Park
- d. Install new siding on the pavilion at Nancy Moore Park
- e. Install new safety fencing around the ball diamonds at Nancy Moore Park
- f. Rebuild the drainage system for the Harris Nature Center parking island
- g. Improve parking lot surfaces at Harris Nature Center, Ferguson Park, and Wonch Park
- h. Construct the Wonch Park Pavilion with grant support
- i. Install new play equipment at Orlando Park and Hillbrook Park
- j. Develop a new Master Plan for Central Park
- k. Replace the footbridge at Legg Park
- l. Provide support for Eagle Scout Projects
- m. Build an 18 hole disc golf course
- n. Improve directional signage on trails
- o. Construct a youth environmental exploration area at Harris Nature Center
- p. Establish a plan for development of a smart-phone application (App) that provides Township Parks and Trails information
- q. Develop the Water Trail Access Program
- r. Investigate purchasing the five (5) acres to the east of Wardcliff School, which borders Park Lake Road, for recreational uses

Goal #4
Meridian Township shall provide exemplary
public services and facilities

- a. Conduct an annual assessment/reinspection program of taxable properties within Meridian Township
- b. Finalize the Comcast franchise agreement to include high definition (HD) PEG (Public, Education & Government) channels, VOD (Video on Demand), and PEG on the program guide system
- c. Develop a 5-year equipment purchase plan to be adopted by the Cable Communications Commission (CCC) that includes HD studio cameras and playback
- d. Improve communication and educate the public on the Rental Housing Program and continue to improve the process for rental housing inspections
- e. Revise the sign and parking regulations
- f. Continue support of and membership in regional organizations (i.e. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)
- g. Strengthen cooperative planning efforts with the Ingham County Road Department, Ingham County Drain Commission, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and surrounding jurisdictions
- h. Promote good design standards through the site plan review process
- i. Utilize a health impact assessment guide, created in conjunction with the Ingham County Health Department and Tri-County Regional Planning, in the review of development projects
- j. Streamline field survey procedures so that information will flow directly into the Geographic Information System
- k. Participate with Tri-County regional partners to contract for flight services to provide orthographic photography for the entire Township and surrounding areas
- l. Bring the Township's payroll back in-house and incorporate the human resources module software
- m. Update the patrol car graphic design
- n. Evaluate options for upgrades to in-building camera systems within the Public Safety Building and potential expansion to include other facilities
- o. Upgrade or replace lift station SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system communications and software
- p. Complete the first year of 3-year SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) Grant project to develop sanitary sewer system asset management plan
- q. Replace the Towar Lift Station
- r. Replace the control panel at Woodhill lift station
- s. Replace pumps at Shoals lift station and Sundance lift station
- t. Complete Pathway Bridge on Okemos Road crossing Red Cedar River
- u. Construct a new pathway on the south side of Haslett Road (east of Okemos Road to west of Bayonne)
- v. Replace the retaining wall on Mt. Hope Road at Glendale Cemetery
- w. Replace the pathway retaining wall at 2322 Mt. Hope Road
- x. Construct a pathway on the south side of Mt. Hope Road (Okemos Road to Maumee)
- y. Reroof the Service Center

- z. Pursue Ingham County Trail Millage funding to implement the Lake Lansing to River Trail connector pathway
- aa. Investigate options for establishing Meridian Township as a smart community and explore viable plans for expanding municipal fiber, broadband, and public Wi-Fi in Meridian Township
- bb. Investigate providing a leaf pickup program in Meridian Township
- cc. Fill in pathway gaps

Goal #5

Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance our economic prosperity for all residents

- a. Defend assessment appeals made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal
- b. Develop a branding campaign and marketing strategy and propose a 2016 budget to the Township Board to include branding campaign, imaging, print, design, and marketing
- c. Enhance and encourage the retention of existing businesses and establishment of new businesses
- d. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries
- e. Formulate and adopt an Economic Development Plan
- f. Encourage infill and/or redevelopment of existing commercial sites
- g. Promote mixed-use development in commercial areas
- h. Facilitate the objectives of the Downtown Development Authority by eliminating the causes of property value deterioration and promoting economic growth
- i. Continue streetscape improvements to define downtown areas and promote a sense of place
- j. Assist with the redevelopment of the former Central Fire Station/MARC property
- k. Continue economic focus on Haslett, Carriage Hills, Grand River, and Okemos
- l. Continue focus on the Douglas J project
- m. Continue to conduct monthly business visits with a focus on customer service
- n. Complete the 2005 Master Plan update
- o. Sustain and enhance our positive working relationship with Michigan State University
- p. Complete the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) receiving an unmodified audit opinion and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- q. Complete the annual budget process focusing on how the budget mirrors our annual goal setting process
- r. Maintain, per the Board's direction, a minimum fund balance in the General Fund of \$5,250,000
- s. Increase enrollment of online bill pay and explore options for new platforms to accept these payments (including BS&A's AccessMyGov-Internet Services)
- t. Support all types of transportation modes in the Township including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- u. Encourage the use of complete streets practices as a routine part of operations
- v. Investigate the pension liability funding plan
- w. Investigate reaching out and expanding the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event to include other areas of the Township, including Haslett and East Lansing

Goal #6

**Meridian Township shall promote and enhance
diversity across the Township**

- a. Promote cultural diversity with our community programs and celebrations
- b. Explore closed captioning costs for HOM-TV programs
- c. Investigate and possibly launch a Chinese version of HOM-TV news programs
- d. Continue to encourage the use of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development and Commercial Planned Unit Development Ordinances
- e. Encourage developers to provide affordable housing
- f. Encourage a wide range of housing types
- g. Strengthen community pride through such activities as downtown events and expanded outdoor sculpture displays
- h. Seek diversity in hiring and promoting
- i. Update the Personnel Policy Manual, along with having the Human Relations Ordinance statement prominently displayed in the introduction, and continuous outreach to special agencies and networks for recruitment of new hires, volunteers, interns, etc.
- j. Host Chinese New Year and Heritage Festival events
- k. Promote Nokomis Learning Center activities
- l. Consider implementing the Language First Program (in an effort to aid our Township staff with communicating with visitors from all over the world)
- m. Utilize additional recruiting outlets and resources such as on-line job boards, advertisements, and professional organizations to attract qualified minorities to apply for job openings
- n. Provide professional training and development to staff

Goal #7

**Meridian Township shall provide outstanding
recreational and cultural programs**

- a. Provide sports and fitness programs for youths and adults
- b. Administer environmental programs and events for all ages at Harris Nature Center
- c. Offer educational, fitness, and social opportunities for senior citizens at the Meridian Senior Center and Meridian Mall
- d. Coordinate the Farmers' Market outdoors (May-October) and indoors (December-April)
- e. Develop a Farmers' Market Relocation Plan (location, size, and funding)
- f. Support activities of the Friends of Historic Meridian
- g. Support activities of the Meridian Garden Club
- h. Conduct special events: Chinese New Year, Celebrate Downtown Okemos, July 4th Fireworks Celebration, Meridian Heritage Festival, Halloween Adventures, Drive-thru Santa, Christmas in the Village, Free Family Winter Sports Weekends, Polar Bear 5K Race, Music in the Park Program
- i. Continue the Arts and Crafts Marketplace each month during the summer
- j. Continue Recreation Services Agreement with the City of Williamston

Goal #8

**Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance
constituent communications**

- a. Continue to respond to all citizen inquiries in a timely, professional, and efficient manner
- b. Provide assessment information to property owners and their representatives (e.g., real estate agents, title company employees, private real estate appraisers, etc.)
- c. Replace the Town Hall microphones and bases
- d. Investigate replacement of Township hall video imager
- e. Increase encouragement of public engagement and participation through multimedia and other ways to connect
- f. Create a monthly Township Manager blog and increase its outreach
- g. Conduct a communications needs assessment
- h. Investigate costs of new Township website
- i. Audit social media outlets and develop a social media strategy campaign
- j. Upload packet information on the Township website that is in a searchable format for ease of use by the public
- k. Publish the Meridian Monitor twice-yearly to all residents
- l. Reach out to residential and business groups regarding potential development impacts
- m. Increase staff engagement and participation with neighborhood groups using social media, fire safety programs, HOM-TV interviews, and Beyond the Badge
- n. Add a new disk appliance to the network to increase storage space and reliability
- o. Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software
- p. Print and distribute one issue of the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide (distribution in January)
- q. Increase communication with constituents through email and multi-media sources
- r. Rename select Land Preserves
- s. Conduct the citizen survey through ICMA with the same process or method as was used in 2012
- t. Begin the process of overhauling the Township website and branding up to an amount of \$30,000

Goal #9

Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance neighborhoods and eliminate blight

- a. Create DAS (Distributed Antenna System) ordinance with the Public Works & Engineering and Planning Departments
- b. Promote Neighborhood Watch
- c. Develop a method to increase compliance of communications companies using the rights of way in the Township
- d. Continue to work with homeowners associations to strengthen code enforcement in residential neighborhoods
- e. Promote and encourage the preservation of older neighborhoods
- f. Enforce the Property Maintenance Code
- g. Continue the Code Enforcement Committee with neighborhood associations
- h. Continue pavement preservation program on local roads
- i. Continue sidewalk repair program (order to maintain)
- j. Maintain and improve the water and sewer systems
- k. Hire a part-time code enforcement officer
- l. Support the community gardens in the Township

m. Inspect Township owned buildings annually to ensure appropriate maintenance

PARK COMMISSION
December 9, 2014

10. Unfinished Business

- a. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications
- b. 2015 Grant Project Submissions



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN
December 1, 2014**

Interested Landscape Architectural/Engineering firms are requested to submit experience and qualifications to Meridian Charter Township, Parks and Recreation Department. The chosen candidate will be responsible for:

- Assisting the Township with defining their program and goals for Central Park
- Facilitating future public input meetings
- Providing a conceptual plan and color rendering for the Central Park master plan and improvements.

Interviews will be conducted by Meridian Charter Township for the purpose of reviewing and evaluating the qualifications of landscape architecture/engineering design firms.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Central Park is a 279-acre park that is located in the center of Meridian Township, Michigan. In addition to offering recreational and nature areas, it also houses the Town Hall, Public Safety Building, Service Center, Farmers' Market and Historical Village.

The Meridian Township Park Commission intends to develop a master plan for improvements to Central Park. Central Park will celebrate its 50th birthday in 2016 and the objective is to develop a master plan that will accomplish the following:

1. Provide amenities to enhance a community-wide destination to accommodate multiple recreational opportunities
2. Create non-motorized connections
3. Complement adjacent off-site uses
4. Provide means for universal access, appreciation and protection of the site's natural resources
5. Create an identity for the park
6. Develop a logical framework for the design of Central Park
7. Develop a design that is consistent with our proposed budget
8. Develop a design that strives to maximize the best use of property and space
9. Develop a design that will serve to promote Central Park as a community-wide destination
10. Conduct public meetings to gain input from residents, park users, and nearby businesses

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES

The successful candidate will have total responsibility for the design and documentation required for services necessary for the complete design of the project. All services will be provided consistent with Meridian Township practices and procedures.

PURPOSE: This form will be used as the basis for initial evaluation of landscape architects/engineers for professional services relative to the project captioned above.

INSTRUCTIONS: This form is applicable only for this project and all information requested must be submitted in six copies to:

Meridian Charter Township, Clerk's Office
ATTN: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

If supplemental material is to be included with this form it should be 8 ½ inches by 11 inches.

Questionnaires must be received at the address listed above not later than 4:00 pm on ENTER DATE HERE

Anticipated Selection Schedule:

Questionnaires Due: DATE

Short-Listed Firms selected and notified: week of DATE

Interviews: DATE

Top three companies will be asked to submit a bid for the project

Bids Due:

Recommendation of chosen firm to Meridian Board of Trustees: DATE

Design to begin: DATE

1. FIRM NAME(s)/BUSINESS ADDRESS(s):

2. TELEPHONE NUMBER(s):

3. FEDERAL I.D. NUMBER(s):

4. OWNERSHIP: (Identify type of organization for the firm/team)

Parent Company: (Name and Location) _____

Branch Office: (Name and Location) _____

Corporation: (Name and Location) _____

Partnership: (Name and Location) _____

Individual: (Name and Location) _____

Other A/E team organization: (explain) _____

5. State the year(s) in which the firm(s) was/were established.

6. State the Name, Title and Telephone Number of the Contact Person:

7. State the level of Professional Liability Insurance Coverage: _____

8. Current number of personnel:

Architects (Registered) _____

Engineers (Registered) _____

Landscape Architects (Registered) _____

Landscape Designers _____

Construction Superintendents _____

Specification Writers _____

Draftspersons/CAD Operators _____

Support Staff (Clerical, etc.) _____

Total _____

Note: Personnel may be listed in more than one of the above classifications; however, please clarify so there is no misunderstanding relative to the total. Where the team consists of more than one firm, list personnel separately for each firm.

9. If submittal is by association with more than one firm, please outline for each firm, specific professional services responsibilities in the areas of project management, administration, technical discipline and construction cost estimating.

10. Services to be provided:

Within Firm/Team

By Consultant

Architectural

Structural Engineering

Civil Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

Electrical Engineering

Landscape Architecture

Cost Estimating

Please identify frequently used consultants:

11. Identify all active projects currently underway, indicating the size in dollars and the status of each.

12. Provide five references from projects similar to Central Park.

13. Explain in detail why your firm is best suited for this project? (100 words or less)

14. Provide a list of completed projects of comparable program, size, and budget constructed within the last ten years. Please identify those projects accomplished with the proposed project team. Please include the year completed and the name and telephone number of the client representative. Preference may be given to those projects completed in parks.

15. Describe your firm's approach to facilitating public input sessions.

16. Submit any additional supportive information, not addressed in this questionnaire, which may be important for Meridian Township to consider in evaluating your firm/team. Please restrict proposals (six copies) to the size of this questionnaire or the firm brochure. Confine the content to current and pertinent information. This material will not be required.

Signature: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Possible Grant Requests for 2015

December 5, 2014

1. **Meridian Riverfront Park Trail Pavilion - \$250,000**
 - Electricity
 - Water
 - Tree removal / landscaping / rain garden
 - Concrete pad and pathway

2. **Meridian Riverfront Park Restroom - \$200,000**
 - Electricity
 - Water
 - Concrete pad and pathway
 - Tree removal / landscaping / rain garden

3. **Wonch Park Renovation – \$250,000**
 - Restroom building improvements

4. **Legg Park dog park, improved parking and stewardship**

5. **Hillbrook Park Tennis Courts and Pickleball Courts - \$100,000**

6. **Dugouts at Hillbrook Park -\$25,000**

7. **North Meridian Road Pavilion – work is done already ☺**

8. **Marshall Park or Ottawa Hills**

Park Commission Meeting
December 9, 2014

12. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Park Commissioner Replacement

Press Release
December 2, 2014

Meridian Township Park Commission Looks to fill Vacancy

A long-time member of the Meridian Township Park Commission, Theresa (Teri) Banas, was recently elected to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners effective January, 2015. She has served on the Park Commission since 2008. The Park Commission is a publicly elected 5-member policy-making board responsible for the 904-acre Meridian Township park system.

Those interested in applying for the vacancy must be township residents and at least 18 years old. Applicants are encouraged to complete an Application for Public Service available at www.meridian.mi.us/forms or send a letter of interest and resume to Maisner@meridian.mi.us or to Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department, 2100 Gaylord Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840 by December 22, 2014.

The Park Commission will meet in January to review applications and make a recommendation to the Meridian Township Board for final action on January 20, 2015. Any questions may be directed to LuAnn Maisner, CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation at 853-4600 or Maisner@meridian.mi.us.

Submitted by LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
517-853-4600
Maisner@meridian.mi.us