



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
March 2, 2022 7 pm

---

Town Hall Meeting Room, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF/ ADDITIONS TO AGENDA and CONSENT AGENDA  
(Committee [Updates](#) and [Goals](#)) <https://bit.ly/EC-update>
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
4. PUBLIC REMARKS
5. NEW & OLD BUSINESS
  - A. 2022 Goals:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/10aCDbqQA3c7qk8\\_STKGArYzb4Qe5xL7I6J3FbQgERkI/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/10aCDbqQA3c7qk8_STKGArYzb4Qe5xL7I6J3FbQgERkI/edit)
  - B. Wetland Educational Campaign
  - C. Green Grants
  - D. 5-Year Review: Climate Sustainability Plan Review & Update (see Sarver's plan attached)
    - McConnell proposed discussing one topic per meeting (energy, water, waste, etc.)
    - This month it is suggested that we start with "energy"
    - See the full plan here <https://bit.ly/climatesustainabilityplan>)
  - E. Silverleaf Development Discussion
  - F. Nominations and Elections (Chair and Vice Chair)
  - G. New Commissioners Appointments/Openings
  - H. Timely Environmental Topics
  - I. Commission/Committee Dialogue
  - J. Other
6. COMMISSIONER & STAFF NEWS (personal and highlights/questions from [bit.ly/EC-update](https://bit.ly/EC-update))
7. OTHER
8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. ADJOURNMENT

# Attachments

- Agenda
- Minutes
- Updates
- Goals
- Updated memo from Brian - Silverleaf
- Annual Report
- Wetland Walks
- Harris Native Plant Sale & Workshop

# Environmental Commission Meeting: December 1, 2021 (corrected)

## **Condensed Summary**

The Environmental Commission discussed potential next steps to support green infrastructure, welcomed new Senior Planner Brian Shorkey, pondered commission expansion, and considered goals for 2022.

## **Welcome Brian Shorkey**

The Commission welcomed Brian Shorkey, Meridian's new Senior Planner. Brian has been a planner for about 20 years and has served on Meridian's Zoning Board of Appeals. Part of his experience was in Georgetown, which had a stringent stormwater ordinance utilizing green infrastructure.

## **Green Infrastructure Audit**

Harvey mentioned possibilities of moving forward on a regional and local level. Shorkey mentioned that the Planning Staff are discussing utilization some of the ideas in the months to come, especially in parking. He also has experience working with permeable pavement. The Land Use Lunch (mid-MEAC) might be one forum to launch the regional conversation. The Land Use and Health Resource Team, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, the Drain Commissioner, and surrounding governments may all be interested in regional progress. There is interest in a conversation with the Drain Commissioner and Tim Schmitt about collaboration possibly at the Dec. 15 Green Dialogue. Frazier suggested permeable pavement as a potential focus. Wisinski suggested that we include this in our goal and visioning discussion.

## **Timely Environmental Topics**

Grasseschi has talked with Kurt Armbruster with the Lake Lansing Advisory Council. Harvey has also been discussing one or more shoreline restoration projects with Younes Ishraidi, Chief Engineer. Jackson suggested the Lake Lansing South might be a good location. Lafferty mentioned that the Ingham Parks Commission and MSU might be a potential partners. Harvey asked about Federal infrastructure dollars that might be used for green infrastructure and mentioned a Township property. C. Wisinski mentioned that the \$ may be available in January and she will discuss further with Harvey and Manager Walsh.

## **Commission and Committee Discussion**

Lafferty expressed a desire to explore ways to get more people involved. L. Wisinski echoed a desire to involve more. Frazier asked about how the size of the Environmental Commission compares to other Commissions and suggested that task forces and subcommittee provide involvement opportunities. McConnell said the number varies. C. Wisinski suggested that goals dictate our people needs. Lafferty mentioned a "panel of experts" role that might be called upon as needed.

## **Commission Opening**

Harvey mentioned Graham Dietrich has applied. Sarver suggested that we invite him to the January meeting and the desire involve a student from Haslett schools. Frazier mentioned that Diedrich is running for the House of Representative which might demand most of his time. C. Wisinski asked about the process. Sarver mentioned that the commission receives applications, invites them to attend meetings, and then recommends appointments to Supervisor Styka who makes the appointments. Harvey mentioned that he receives the application, invites them to attend, and encourages involvement on a committee. Grasseschi and Colby expressed appreciation student involvement and an interest in Haslett student involvement.

## **Meeting Schedule**

The E.C. approved the meeting schedule for 2022. (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7pm)

## **Goals for 2022**

Harvey shared an [outline of current initiatives](#).

Topic	Committee
Green Grants	Green Grant Committee (John, LeRoy, Kendra, Courtney)
Wetland Education/Outreach	Wetland Education Committee (Kendra, Courtney, Emma, LeRoy, Brandie, Paige)
Food, Food Waste, and Organics Recycling	Food Team (Valerie, Anna, Tom, Nevin, Anne, Dave +)
Climate Action	Energy Team, Food Team, and Others (John, Roger, Valerie, LeRoy, Heidi)
Recycling Events	Green Team (Ellen, Tom, Dave, Elaine, Sarah, LeRoy, Luca)
Green Neighbors Network	GNN Committee (John, LeRoy, Kendra, Sarah)
Student Action	Earth Club/Action (Bernadette, Audrey, Luca, Annaka)
Environmental Justice	EJ Study Group (Courtney, Kendra, Sarah)
Green Infrastructure Policy Improvements	E.C. plus... (Cliff, Tim, Brian, regional collaborators, others)

Members suggested some additions. The Climate Sustainability Plan offers a good framework. Lafferty suggested working with ordinances (the Capital Area Sustainability Planning – CASP might offer guidance). The Green Infrastructure Audit and code suggestions should be added. Grasseschi suggested equity, environmental justice, and the need for consistency and protocol for existing policies and procedures. Colby mentioned exploring policies related to food procurement an increase food resilience. Jackson mentioned packaging (especially COVID-related topics like on-line ordering, fast food, masks, etc.). He mentioned “[atom economy](#).” Lafferty mentioned that there is crossover between goals such as food audits and student involvement (guest speaker will discuss this at the Food Group meeting this week). C. Wisinski mentioned that it would be helpful to have a list of the members of each committee and a “point person” or reporter for each. She also asked about mentioning staff that are involved in each of the goals and echoed interest in litter reduction. Grasseschi suggested that communication and collaboration between commissions might be a goal as well. Harvey suggested that each committee provide more detail for each topic. Colby agreed that this would provide the opportunity for non-EC committee members to weigh in. McConnell suggested that the specific sections in the Climate Sustainability Plan could be a framework for future agendas.. i.e. energy, water, waste, etc. and provide an opportunity appreciate progress and future opportunities. Grasseschi mentioned that the Climate Sustainability Plan, the Master Plan, and the Code provide a roadmap. Sarver suggested that members visit the google doc <https://bit.ly/22goals> and add more detail about each goal. C. Winsinki offered to keep the EC updated on the Master Plan Updates. Frazier asked about adding the Environmental Stewardship Awards. Jackson supported. McConnell noted the very broad involvement and partnership in environmental stewardship (Conservation Corps, Recycling volunteers, Tree Planting, etc. C. Wisinski also suggested the possibility of honoring everyone. Grasseschi invited Audrey, Annaka, and Bernadette to share their wetland infographics.

#### Individual Updates:

Grasseschi mentioned that Land Preservation Board met and discussed protecting the bio diversity of Davis Foster and purchase of additional properties. The Wetland Education group will meet in December. She spoke with the Lake

Lansing Advisory Committee and shared with the Green Neighbor Network and provided some edits on the Green Grants request for proposal. She's given some presentations on Environmental Justice and will share more later.

Frazier mentioned the Coat Drive and the Green Team's progress in planning events for next year. He also encouraged us to explore future involvement with the Green Community Network. There will be awards and this might be part of our future goals.

Harvey asked for clarification about Graham Diedrich. He will invite him to the January meeting. He also mentioned an upcoming meeting with the Haslett Climate Action club. Other updates can be found in the consent agenda.

Lafferty mentioned an upcoming tour of Hammond Farms composting facility next week and extended the invitation to others. She also mentioned upcoming grants through NextCycle and EGLE. Collaboration between governments is encouraged.

Jackson mentioned that the Brownfield Redevelopment Committee did not meet. He expressed interest in the idea of "Be an Eco-Tourist in Your Own Town" which could be a bike tour. He also like the idea of a resource team of experts and offered to create space on the Commission if it's the will of the EC.

C. Wisinski mentioned that she'd like to work with LeRoy to highlight some of the accomplishments of the E.C. She'll check with LuAnn Maisner about volunteer recognition and desire to be involved with the Green Community designation and the Eco-Tour idea.

Osborne mentioned the clothing upcycling of outdated OHS clothing with the old "Chiefs" logo.

Hirschert-Walton is exploring availability of native plants for their greenhouse as well as invasive species eradication.

Sarver mentioned the Solarize Meridian Project, next steps for solar, and progress on our renewable and efficiency progress. We are doing well on our goal! We are over halfway toward solar goal!

Harvey also mentioned recent receipt of our Electric Vehicle Assessment. Contact him if you'd like a copy of the results.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

## January/February/March 2022

<p>Earth Club/Student Groups (Bernadette, Luca, Annaka)</p>	<p>Treeplish Tree Planting Event website is up!! <a href="http://tpevents.org/school/2219">http://tpevents.org/school/2219</a> Please buy a tree if you're interested and share with people you know! The last day to order saplings is March 30th, the event will be on April 30th. OHS also now has a mascot, so we would like to have a new logo to replace the "Chiefs" labeled merchandise. Any help with this would be useful.</p>
<p>Energy Team (John, Roger, Valerie, Heidi, LeRoy, Bill David Arnosti)</p>	<p>An RFP has been developed for the 2022 Solar array to be installed on the carports at the public safety building. Attend the Solarize kick-off on Mar 2nd at the Green Dialogue. Discussions about the 2022 Solarize Meridian project and the Public Safety Building carports solar project continue. Recommendations from an Electric Vehicle Assessment will be considered as we budget for 2023. <b>Solarize Meridian</b> is an organized opportunity for interested property owners to learn about the process of going solar from fellow, experienced Township residents. Group discounts are available. An orientation session for meeting hosts will be held on zoom on Monday, Feb. 28. Neighborhood Solarize meetings will start in March and April.</p>
<p>Environmental Justice (Courtney, Kendra, Sarah Allen)</p>	<p>Ongoing work on equity issues continues.</p>
<p>Food &amp; Organic Waste Study Group (Anna, Valerie, Tom Cary, Tom Frazier, Dave Batten, Nevin Brittain, Elaine Putvin, &amp; Gabi Mayer from Williamstown Twp)</p>	<p>December: Two meetings - the EGLE Composting specialist presented, including a description of a Lansing elementary school cafeteria food audit which educated students/staff about food waste and ways to improve recycling. Then an EGLE Recycling Specialists for our area encouraged us to apply for one of several grants. We toured Hammond Farms composting operation in Dimondale. Anna did a goal setting exercise. Starting small with a gleaning program &amp; working with schools scored highest, followed by food scrap collections for composting. Studying/Recommending/Updating Twp food &amp; recycling policy is an aspiration. January: Two meetings: Allen Bryant, Environmental Coordinator for Delhi Twp, discussed their program which channels food scraps into their digester for electricity. Lori Welch, Sustainability Mgr of Lansing and Steering Committee member of CASP (Capital Area Sustainability Partnership), discussed Lansing's recycling program and the revived regional CASP effort which was just approved for an EGLE grant to do a recycling feasibility plan for our region with City of Lansing as the fiduciary and Ann Erhardt, Public Sector Consultants and fellow CASP Steering Committee member, as the grant consultant. Feb 4, Dr. Liao, Director of MSU Anaerobic Digestion, explained the possibility of digester for Meridian. Research is now underway. Darla Jackson from Meridian Twp was interviewed by F-C group about current Twp. efforts to address food insecurity and food recapture in our area. The interview was shared with those who were unable to attend the interview. Next meeting is March 4. Results/focus to date of the group: (1) Gleaning - Southside Community Soup Kitchen will partner with the Meridian Farmers Market and F-C to accept surplus produce ...plan is to work out the kinks and then expand. Meridian Twp has pledged refrigeration space that is available for surplus produce during the warm months (alternately used by the Parks' Dept for deer culling venison for food pantries) that makes this possibility a reality! (2) Increase residential composting and res/commercial food scrap collection through education, outreach and perhaps pursuing a grant with the Twp to expand food scrap collection. (3) School outreach. Given complications of COVID and short staffing, minimally one event later in the year like a food audit. We will continue to reach out &amp; develop gleaning and school outreach/partnership opportunities where possible.</p>

Green Grants	Several proposal were submitted. The Green Grant Team has been reviewing and may make a recommendation Wednesday at our meeting.
<a href="#">Green Neighbors</a> (John, Kendra, Sarah, LeRoy)	Chief Plaga has offered to mention the Green Neighbors Network to the Neighborhood Watch Group.
Green Team (Tom, LeRoy, Ellen, Elaine, Sarah, Dave, Luca)	The Green Team is planning a pop-up recycling event on 2/26 at the Marketplace on the Green (pots, pans, pre-orders of compost bins & vendor composting, Bill's worm bin, and the sale of upcycled clothing). A large recycling event is planned to take place on April 30 (paint, metal, documents, clothing, bikes, etc.). Another large recycling event is tentatively planned for October 1. In addition, the Team has been involved in some discussions concerning upgrading the township's recycling drop-off site.
Tree Team (Emma, Jane, Kati, Michelle Beloskur, Kendra)	There may be interest in resurrecting the Tree Team. Charles Kotz wants to do a tree-planting project in Cornell Woods Common area.
Wetland Education & Outreach (Kendra, Courtney, LeRoy, Emma, Brandie)	See recent notes <a href="#">here</a> . Emma and others are developing a calendar, native planting guide, and media outreach effort to promote upcoming plant sales, classes, and more. World Wetland Day on 2/2/22. A draft of the Wetland Outreach Plan is under construction. January <a href="#">draft</a> . Several wetland educational walks are planned with Emma Campbell.
<b>STAFF</b> (LeRoy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helping organize a compost bin and rain barrel sale and distributions.</li> <li>• Organizing spring and fall recycling events.</li> <li>• Holding discussions about recycling center improvements.</li> <li>• Participating in the Wetland Education Team</li> <li>• Organized a presentation for the Lake Lansing Advisory Committee See presentation <a href="#">here</a> by Julia Kirkwood with the MI Shoreline Partnership.</li> <li>• Developing a map of natural shoreline examples here: <a href="http://bit.ly/lakelansing">http://bit.ly/lakelansing</a></li> <li>• Invites sent to potential sponsors for 2022 Recycling Events</li> <li>• Welcome Dan Opsommer at the new Director of Public Works. Dan has been a long time support of the Township through many roles including a Trustee and rep to several commissions.</li> <li>• Director of our DPW has been offered a new position as City Manager in Marshall Michigan. Please wish him well. He has been very supportive of our efforts for over half a decade!</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure Grants are open. Latest draft <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• January &amp; February <a href="#">Green Gazette</a>s distributed.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Green Dialogues</a> on Wednesdays at 9am. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Salt brine discussion</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Continued exploring a natural shoreline restoration on Lake Lansing.</li> <li>• Prepared <a href="#">2021 annual report</a>.</li> <li>• Graham Diedrich has been helpful in researching student environmental groups and interested teachers.</li> <li>• Our Grant Team debriefed with EGLE on our 2021 Recycling Infrastructure Grant Proposal</li> </ul>
<b>STAFF</b> (Planning, etc.)	See Senior Planner Brian Shorkey's memo in the March Packet.

## 2022 Environmental Commission Goals

Topic	Committee	Description
Green Grants	Green Grant Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assist with Green Grants Program</li> <li>• Select projects that will highlight green infrastructure opportunities</li> </ul>
Wetland Education/Outreach	Wetland Education Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and Conduct a comprehensive Wetland Outreach Educational Campaign</li> <li>• Collaborate with township, state, and community partners</li> </ul>
Food, Food Waste, and Organics Recycling	Food-to-Compost Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Food – Waste Opportunities</li> <li>• Include food issues in Climate Action Plan</li> <li>• Food procurement - best practices</li> </ul>
Climate Action	Energy Team and Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review, Revise, and Pursue Climate Action Plans (add green infrastructure, food topics, etc.)</li> </ul>
Recycling Events	Green Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct large events in the spring and fall</li> <li>• Conduct events at the Farmers Market</li> <li>• Consider other recycling opportunities and improvements.</li> </ul>
Green Neighbors Network	GNN Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to expand Green Neighbor Network</li> <li>• Use GNN for wetland education, Solarize Meridian 2.0, and other initiatives</li> </ul>
Student Action	Student Commissioners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate collaboration between schools &amp; Environmental Commission</li> </ul>
Ordinance Changes (Green Infrastructure)	Environmental Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement green infrastructure audit recommendations</li> </ul>
Environmental Justice/ Equity	EJ Study Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create/Implement consistency in policy, protocol, and procedures</li> </ul>
Other?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold Environmental Stewardship event to recognize volunteers and staff</li> <li>• Identify a point person for each topic</li> <li>• Discuss staff assignments/roles</li> <li>• Discuss Commission roles</li> <li>• Improve communication/collaboration</li> </ul>

### Ongoing

- Participate in regional collaboration
- Continue Study Groups on Environmental Justice and other topics
- Host Green Theme Presentations
- Review Wetland Permits
- Communicate with other Commissions, Boards, Trustees, and the Public
- Adapt and revise goals as needed
- Strive for consistency in policies and procedures



**To: Environmental Commission**

**From: Brian Shorkey, AICP, Senior Planner**

**Date: February 24, 2022**

**Re: Site Plan #21-04 (Bennett Road Holding, LLC)**

---

Bennett Road Holding, LLC has submitted a site plan for approval to build the first three phases of a 150-unit Planned Unit Development (PUD) on Bennett Road. The PUD, named Silverleaf, is proposed to be constructed on a property that is made up of five parcels totaling approximately 76.5 acres in size and zoned RAA (One-Family/Low Density Residential). There is a sixth northern parcel, approximately 22 acres and not showing on the attached site plan, that is being conveyed to Meridian Township as permanent greenspace.

The subject property is located on the north side of Bennett Road, east of South Hagadorn Road and west of Hulett Road. The Board voted to approve Planned Unit Development #20014 to construct the PUD at its regular meeting held on October 6, 2020.

The site plan shows two wetlands on the subject property, as well as five stormwater basins. Detention basin 3 includes a 27-inch storm pipe that drains to the northwest and ends in a spreader to mimic natural water flow. The construction of the storm pipe requires a special use permit (SUP #22-021) for floodplain crossings. The Planning Commission held a public hearing for SUP #22-021 on Monday, February 14, 2022, and is expected to approve SUP #22-021 at their meeting on Monday, February 28, 2022. After that, Staff anticipates sending comments on the site plan to the applicant.

The Environmental Commission is being given an opportunity to review the site plan and submit comments to Staff. If these comments are received after the next regular Environmental Commission meeting, they can be reviewed and noted before Staff sends out their site plan review comments. A full size hard copy of the site plan will be available for your review at your meeting.

# 2021 Annual Report



## Environmental Commission

(draft - 12/21/21)

# Introduction

**2021 was an active year for the Environmental Commission. While COVID presented some challenges, Zoom and other virtual platforms offered an increased ability to meet, communicate, and connect. Virtual meetings saved time, space, money, energy, and tax dollars. Student involvement on the Environmental Commission also increased. The outdoor Marketplace on the Green also provided many opportunities for safe educational opportunities and recycling events.**

**This report provides an overview of activities related several subcommittees including the:**

**Energy Team  
Food-to-Compost Group  
Green Team  
Wetland Education Team  
Green Grants Team  
Green Dialogue  
Environmental Justice Study Group  
Green Neighbors Network**

## **MEMBERS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION IN 2021**

**John Sarver, Chair  
Anna Colby, Vice Chair  
Tom Frazier, Commissioner  
Kendra Grasseschi, Commissioner, Liaison to Land Preservation Advisory Board  
Ned Jackson, Commissioner, Liaison to Brownfield Redevelopment Authority  
Bill McConnell, Commissioner, Liaison to Planning Commission  
Bernadette Osborn, Student Commissioner  
Annaka Saffron, Student Commissioner  
Rose Vadnais, Commissioner  
Luca Wisinski, Student Commissioner  
Courtney Wisinski, Trustee Liaison**

## **STAFF TEAM MEMBERS**

**LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Manager  
Derek Perry, Deputy Township Manager/Director of Public Works  
Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator  
Denise Green, Administrative Assistant  
with support from Rob MacKenzie, Stephen Gebes, Cara Maney,  
Brandie Yates, Andrea Smiley, Tom Cary and others.**

# Energy

The Energy Team provided support for several Township initiatives including expansion of Meridian's renewable energy usage. Solar photovoltaic systems were installed at the Service Center and the Marketplace on the Green.

Factoring increased energy efficiency of Township operations, increased utility-supplied renewable, and on-site solar generation, Meridian is approaching the halfway point towards its 2035 Climate Sustainability Goals. View Meridian's real-time solar output at [bit.ly/meridianPV1](http://bit.ly/meridianPV1).

Energy Team members helped organize a Solar and Sustainable Tour which featured a dozen solar installations as well as other "green" sites. Video documentaries of sites and a full list can be found at [bit.ly/SolarSustainable](http://bit.ly/SolarSustainable).

Meridian participated in PowerMIFleet, a program designed to help fleet owners and operators reduce operating costs, eliminate emissions, and simplify vehicle maintenance by transitioning to electric vehicles. This study will help with planning for future charging station priorities and vehicle purchase.

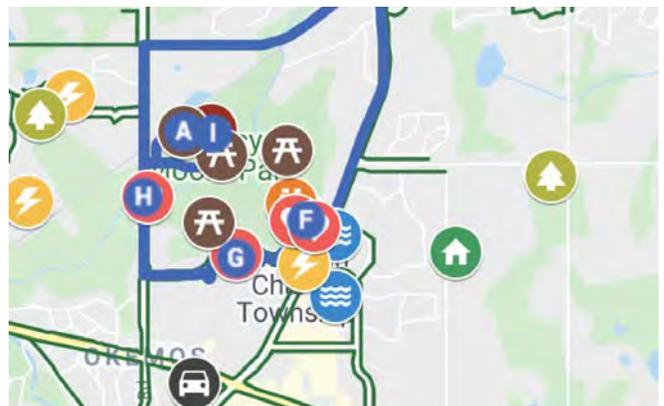
**Energy Team**  
Roger Eberhardt  
LeRoy Harvey  
Rob Kaercher  
Valerie Lafferty  
Rob MacKenzie  
Derek Perry  
Heidi Porter  
JoAnn Render  
John Sarver



Meridian Township Climate Sustainability Plan  
100% Renewable Energy Goal for Electricity for Township Operations  
Status Update – 2018 to 2020

Baseline is 2018	2035 Goal	Status at end of 2020
Consumers Energy	40%	11%
Energy Efficiency	30%	14%
On-Site Solar	30%	17%*
Total	100%	42%
		Status at end of 2021
On-Site Solar kW's	406	202

\*On-site solar includes actual and projected kWh's based on 202 kW



# Water & Green Infrastructure

A Wetland Education Committee was created in 2021. Initial outreach included distribution of a letter and brochure to 1400+ individuals that either reside or own property on or adjacent to a wetland. A factsheet on the "8Rs of Fall Yard Care" was also distributed.

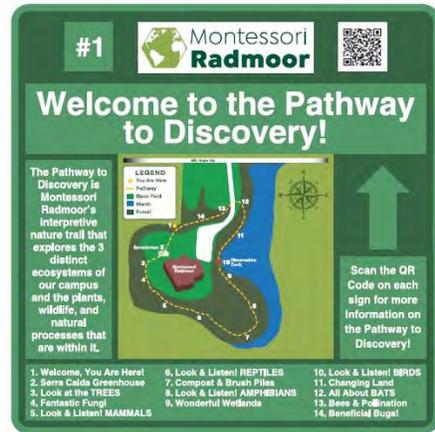
Green Infrastructure Grants were awarded to two local schools. Projects included an outdoor courtyard renovation at Haslett Middle School and a nature trail, signage, and greenhouse renovation at Montessori Radmoor in Okemos.

Over 500 tree saplings were distributed at the Marketplace on the Green with help from the Green Team, staff, volunteers, and the Ingham Conservation District.

Eight sealcoat contractors applied to provide environmentally-friendlier sealcoating services in the Township.

Several work days were held at the Hidden River Rain Garden (Burcham and Park Lake) which included planting, weeding, and pet rocks painted by residents of Burcham Hills Senior Living.

The Township Board of Trustees budgeted \$5000 to support a wetland education and outreach plan in 2022.



## Wetland Education Committee

- Emma Campbell
- Paige Felice
- Kendra Grasseschi
- LeRoy Harvey
- Rose Vadnais
- Courtney Wisinski

## Green Grant Committee

- Kendra Grasseschi
- LeRoy Harvey
- John Sarver
- Rose Vadnais
- Courtney Wisinski



# Recycling & Waste Reduction

Several recycling events were held during 2021 in partnership with Okemos Schools, Okemos Action, Meridian Farmers Market, Okemo Earth Club, Granger, Delta Dental, Meridian Cares, and others. Over 100 volunteers assisted in recycling electronics, bicycles, eyeglasses, plastic utensils, styrofoam, and coats/clothing.

Other events were also held by the Green Team including a Green Fair, a medicine collection, and a tree distribution.

A Food-to-Compost Committee was launched in 2021 and had explored possibilities for reducing food waste, a gleaning initiative, composting alternatives, and local partnerships. A tour of Hammond Farms' composting operation was held.

A plan and proposal to improve and expand the Meridian Recycling Center was developed in partnership with Reclaimed by Design, Spicer Group, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council and others.

Twelve issues of the Green Gazette were published in 2021 (185 issues to date) filled with local, regional, and other environmental news. To subscribe, visit <http://bit.ly/gg-directory>



**GREEN  
FAIR**

## Green Team

Sarah Allen  
Dave Batten  
Ellen Dillman  
Tom Frazier  
LeRoy Harvey  
Audrey Herchert-Walton  
Bernadette Osborn  
Anne Perkins  
Elaine Putvin  
Luca Wisinski

## Food-to-Compost Committee

Dave Batten  
Nevin Brittain  
Tom Cary  
Anna Colby  
Tom Frazier  
Valerie Lafferty  
Gabi Mayer  
Elaine Putvin



## Other Collaborative Initiatives

### Green Neighbors Network

Kick-off of the Green Neighbors Network (GNN) began in January. This is a grassroots movement that allows neighbors to share green topics, practices, knowledge and expertise with neighbors and the greater meridian community.

Over 25 neighborhoods are currently represented in this network. For more information, visit <https://bit.ly/greenneighbor>



### GNN Organizers

Sarah Allen  
Kendra Grasseschi  
LeRoy Harvey  
John Sarver

### Environmental Justice Study Group

The Environmental Commission's Environmental Justice Study group attended a 3-day conference entitled: "Michigan Environmental Justice: Building Trust, Reimagining Justice, and Removing Barriers." The study group's work has centered on the equitable treatment of all including residents, staff, and the implementation of environmental policies.

*"Environmental Justice is the equitable treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, ability, or income and is critical to the development and application of laws, regulations, and policies that affect the environment, as well as the places people live, work, play, worship, and learn."*

-MI Office of the Environmental Justice  
Public Advocate

### Environment Justice Study Group

Sarah Allen  
Kendra Grasseschi  
Rose Vadnais  
Courtney Wisinski



# Wetland Walks

As part of the Meridian Wetland Education & Restoration Program, tours will be offered the first Wednesday of every month featuring wetlands in the Township.



**February 2nd**

**5 - 6:30 PM**

**Nancy Moore Park**

Get an introduction to wetland ecology & take in the winter scenery!

**March 2nd**

**5 - 6:30 PM**

**Tihart Preserve**

Observe the effect agriculture has had on our wetlands historically, & how to begin restoration.

**April 6th**

**5 - 6:30 PM**

**Lake Lansing North Preserve**

Explore the springtime stirrings of Vernal Pools, our smallest & most precious wetlands!

**May 4th**

**5 - 6:30 PM**

**Davis-Foster Preserve**

Explore the wondrous diversity of wetland species, & what to look for throughout the season.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 22, 2022

CONTACT: Kati Adams, Harris Nature Center Coordinator  
517.853.4616 | [kadams@meridian.mi.us](mailto:kadams@meridian.mi.us)

---

### **Harris Nature Center to Host a Native Plants Sale and Class**

*Attract Pollinators to Your Garden and Help "Build Back the Buffer" with Native Plants*

**Meridian Township, MI** – For those looking to prepare their gardens for the 2022 season, the Harris Nature Center (HNC) will be hosting a Gardening with Native Plants class and Native Plants Sale this spring.

The Gardening with Native Plants class will take place on Tuesday, March 22 at 7:00 pm at HNC (3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos). The class is taught by Vern Stephens of Designs by Nature in Laingsburg. The class provides residents an opportunity to ask questions and learn about the importance of native plants.

HNC is also hosting its annual Native Plants Sale on Saturday, May 7 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Center (3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos) and all proceeds from the sale support HNC. Plant prices vary and include Michigan native shrubs, sedges, grasses, wildflowers, ferns and complete garden kits. The native plants are grown locally at Designs by Nature. Community members can order plants ahead of time or shop on the day of the sale. Order forms are available now through Friday, April 29. Orders will be available for pick up the day of the sale. Please note, not all plants are available for pre-order.

"Native plants thrive in Michigan and will attract birds and butterflies to your garden," said Nature Center Coordinator Kati Adams. "We hold this class and sale every year to help people discover the ease and importance of using native plants in their gardens."

Native plants also benefit Township wetlands. Over 25% of Meridian Township is covered in wetlands, making wetland stewardship an important responsibility and opportunity in every neighborhood. Residents can help protect wetlands and take part in the "Build Back the Buffer" Wetland Education Campaign, by planting native plants on their property. Putting native plants back into the buffer or vegetation strip helps to maintain ponds, streams and wetlands in their natural state by filtering out pollutants, providing habitats for wildlife and securing stream banks against erosion.

For more information about the Native Plants Sale and Class or to receive an order form, contact HNC at [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517.349.3866. For those looking to register for the Gardening with Native Plants Class online, visit [www.meridian.mi.us/HNC](http://www.meridian.mi.us/HNC). To learn more about the Township's Wetland Education Campaign and how you can help "Build Back the Buffer", please visit [www.meridian.mi.us/Wetlands](http://www.meridian.mi.us/Wetlands).

###

The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.