



## AGENDA

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 12, 2021 6 PM

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Weather permitting, meeting will be held at Davis-Foster Preserve, 5120 Van Atta Road, Okemos MI.

To view the virtual meeting directly through Zoom, please visit:

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 861 5669 1607

Meeting Password: Preserve

To participate in public comment during the virtual meeting, please call 517.349.1232

If you are unable to access the meeting due to technical difficulties, please contact Director of IT, Stephen Gebes at 517.853.4222 or [gebesh@meridian.mi.us](mailto:gebesh@meridian.mi.us). Every effort will be made to help you participate in the meeting.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVE AGENDA
3. APPROVE MINUTES
  - A. April 14, 2021 Minutes
4. PRESENTATIONS
  - A. Deputy Township Manager, Derek Perry, to present Township Pathway Master Plan
5. COMMUNICATIONS
6. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. 2021 Financial Support for local conservation organizations
  - B. Lake Lansing South Preserve
    - A. Improvements – Native Seedbank Garden
    - B. Encroachment issues and improvements
  - C. Davis-Foster Improvements
    - A. Overlook plans
    - B. Security improvements
    - C. Native Seedbank Garden
    - D. Signage
7. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. MSU Forestry class research
    - I. Lake Lansing North Preserve
8. STAFF REPORT
  - a. Stewardship Coordinator
    - b. Stewardship Workdays
      - i. Ted Black Woods: 27 volunteers, 54 hours, removing invasive species

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Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board by contacting: Director LuAnn Maisner, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, MI 48840

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable prime community.



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- ii. Tihart-Cornell Wetland Earth Day Cleanup: 24 volunteers, 60 hours
- iii. Harris Nature Center: 9 volunteers, 13.5 hours, 400 pounds of dame's rocket removed
- iv. Towar Woods Preserve: 30 volunteers, 75 hours, 205 native trees planted
- v. Sowar Woods Preserve: 5 volunteers, 12.5 hours, removed invasive species
- vi. Hartrick Park: 25 volunteers, 62.5 hours, 800 pounds of garlic mustard and dame's rocket removed

9. COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 6 pm, at Lake Lansing North Preserve.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Zoom Meeting  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Yu Man Lee; Steve Thomas, Mark Stephens, Jamie Hiller, Chanelle Russ, Kris Parnell, Kendra Grassesschi  
ABSENT: None.  
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator; Rebecca Fisher, Stewardship Intern  
TOWNSHIP: Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:02 PM.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

**CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD DAVIS-FOSTER PRESERVE OVERLOOK TO STAFF REPORT ITEM A, AND DAVIS-FOSTER PRESCRIBED BURN UPDATE TO OLD BUSINESS ITEM C.**

**TRUSTEE OPSOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA. Board Member Stephens seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**3. INTRODUCTIONS**

- A. Rebecca fisher started as the new Stewardship Intern on April 8, 2021. Rebecca introduces herself to the board.
- B. Kendra Grassesschi elected to the Environmental Commission and chosen as the representative to the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Kendra introduces herself to the board.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 10, 2021 MINUTES. Seconded by Board Member Lee.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS – NONE**

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Re-Naming Preserve Properties
  - 1. Updated list converted into a Survey123 format; survey created for Board Members to vote on top 2 names for each preserve candidate. Results of survey were shared by Staff

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Member Campbell. List will be presented to Director of Parks and Recreation for final review.

2. Next steps: Take inventory and photos of preserve signage. Create list of signage needs, and incorporate new preserve names into signage bids.
- B. Foster-Crouse Preserve
1. Bike trail final decision
    - a. Board members discuss three options to vote on for the allowance of bikes on Foster-Crouse Preserve.
      1. Option 1: Allow the riding of bicycles on established Foster-Crouse Preserve trails.
        - A. Roll call vote: None.
      2. Option 2: Allow the passage of bicycles by walking only on established Foster-Crouse Preserve trails and install educational signage to promote this allowance.
        - A. Roll call vote: Board Member Stephens, Board Member Parnell, Vice Chair Thomas, Board Member Lee, Board Member Russ, and Chair Hiller.
      3. Option 3: Do not allow the use of bicycles on Foster-Crouse Preserve.
        - A. Roll call vote: None.

**BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO MAKE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE PASSAGE OF BICYCLES BY WALKING ONLY ON ESTABLISHED FOSTER-CROUSE PRESERVE TRAILS. Board Member Parnell seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

b. Next steps: Pursue bids and permits for boardwalk installment in wet area of preserve. Inform neighborhood residents of bicycle passage and include on list for signage purchase.

- C. Davis-Foster Burn Update
1. Staff member Campbell summarizes the prescribed burn and events leading up to burn jump. Staff member Campbell discusses burn plan policy moving forward with the board; higher level of communication between the Land Stewardship Coordinator and Meridian Fire Department, guidelines for weather and day of conditions for burn.

**BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO MAKE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE PASSAGE OF BICYCLES BY WALKING ONLY ON ESTABLISHED FOSTER-CROUSE PRESERVE TRAILS. Board Member Parnell seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Preserve Trail Maintenance: Trailblazer Program and volunteer practices within the preserves.
1. Important points of discussion by board and staff member Campbell on how to maintain preserve trails responsibly:

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- i. Boardwalk maintenance: priority for protection of sensitive or wet areas along established trails.
- ii. Removing invasive species: invasive species alongside the trail contribute to the spread of these species further into preserves and therefore maintenance in these areas is highly important.
- iii. Many residents utilize established trails to access preserve and volunteer maintenance provides ownership opportunities for residents.
- iv. Addition of new trails: acceptable if the goal is to redirect around a sensitive area.
- v. Maintenance of existing trails is necessary to allow safe access for Township staff and residents.

### B. 2021 Financial Support of the Stewardship Network

1. Staff member Campbell introduced a resolution to donate funds to the Stewardship Network and Friends of Ingham County Parks.
2. Board discusses revisiting how funds are donated and if there are more local organizations that share our same goals for conservation Meridian Township land.
3. Staff member Campbell will get with local contacts and come back to the next meeting with some options.

**VICE CHAIR THOMAS MOVED TO TABLE FUNDING DONATION RESOLUTION UNTIL OPTIONS ARE DISCUSSED. Board Member Parnell seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. STAFF REPORT

### A. Stewardship Coordinator

#### A. Stewardship Workdays

- I. Invasive species removed at Davis-Foster Preserve, Nancy Moore Park, Hillbrook Park, and Foster-Crouse Preserve
- II. 179 volunteer hours completed

#### B. Earth Month & Spring Stewardship Events

- I. Every Saturday Spring Stewardship is schedule from March through the end of May
- II. Earth Day Cleanup scheduled at Tihart-Cornell Wetland and an invasive species pull at Harris Nature Center

#### C. Davis-Foster Overlook

- I. Meet at Davis-Foster to discuss overlook plans, maintenance and improvements at preserve

## 9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE

## 10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Pike spawning area at Lake Lansing South Preserve area
  - I. No contact from DNR
- B. Check on Davis-Foster preserve naming rights

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- I. Change name on sign if needed
- C. Bring M.C.C. swag to next meeting for board members

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 12th 2021, 6 pm, at Davis-Foster Preserve.

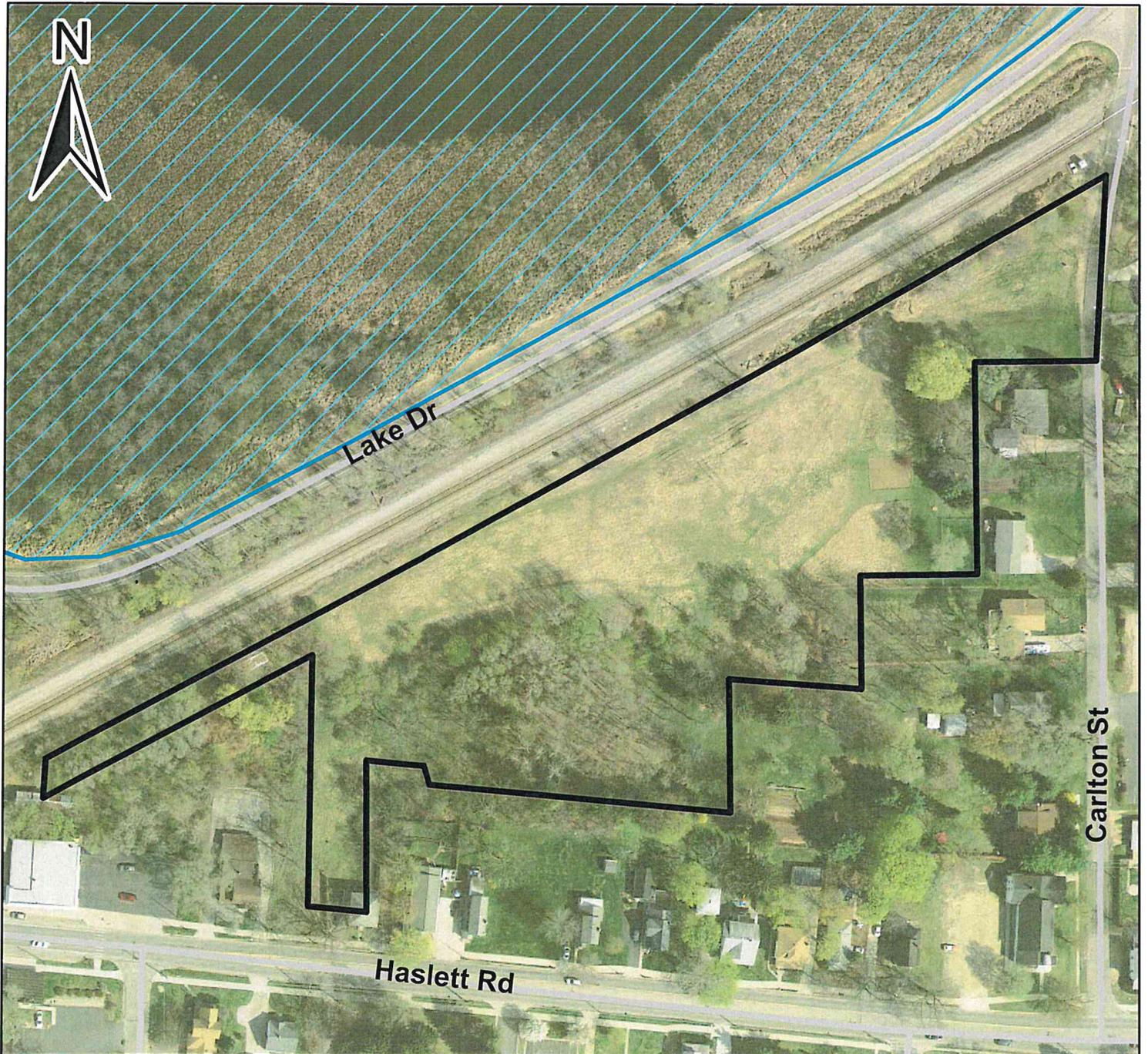
**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Seconded by Board Member Stephens.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

# Lake Lansing South Land Preserve



## Legend

-  Land Preserve
-  Wetland
-  Roads

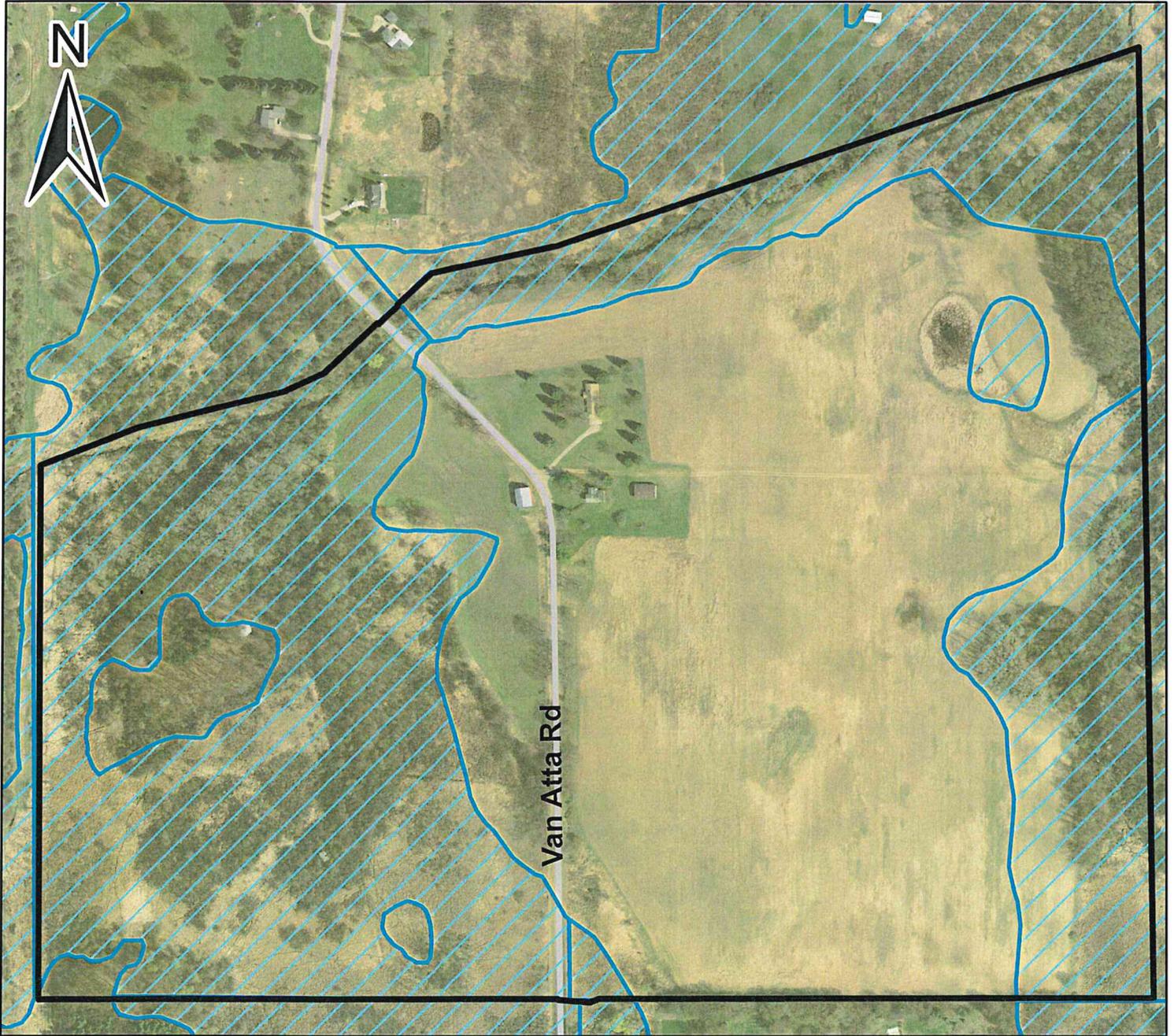
**Location:** West side of Carleton Street north of Haslett Road and south of railroad crossing  
**Area:** 5.5 acres (2 parcels)  
**Year Acquired:** 2010  
**Purchase Price:** \$27,507  
**Description:** Old field







# Davis Foster Land Preserve



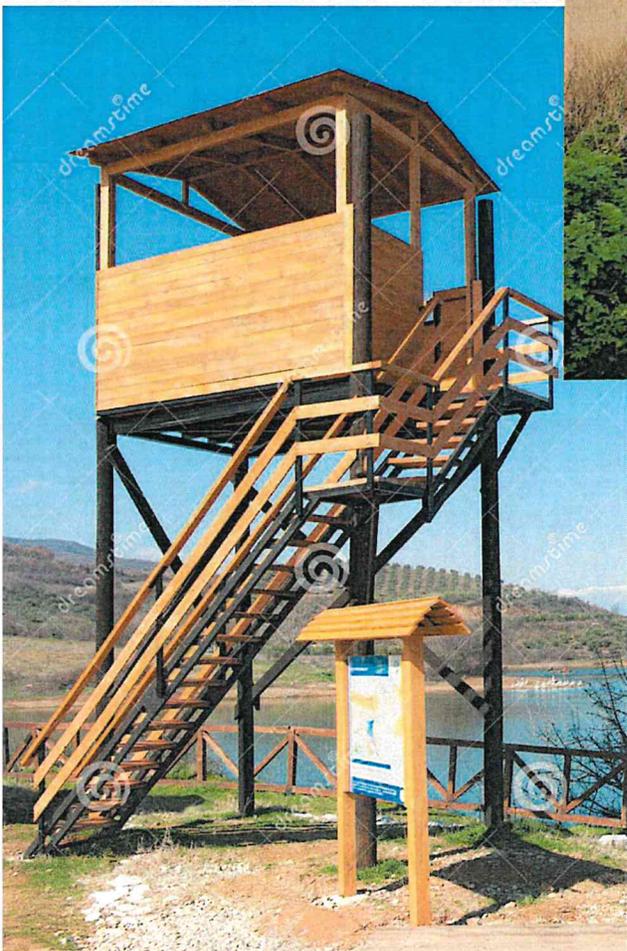
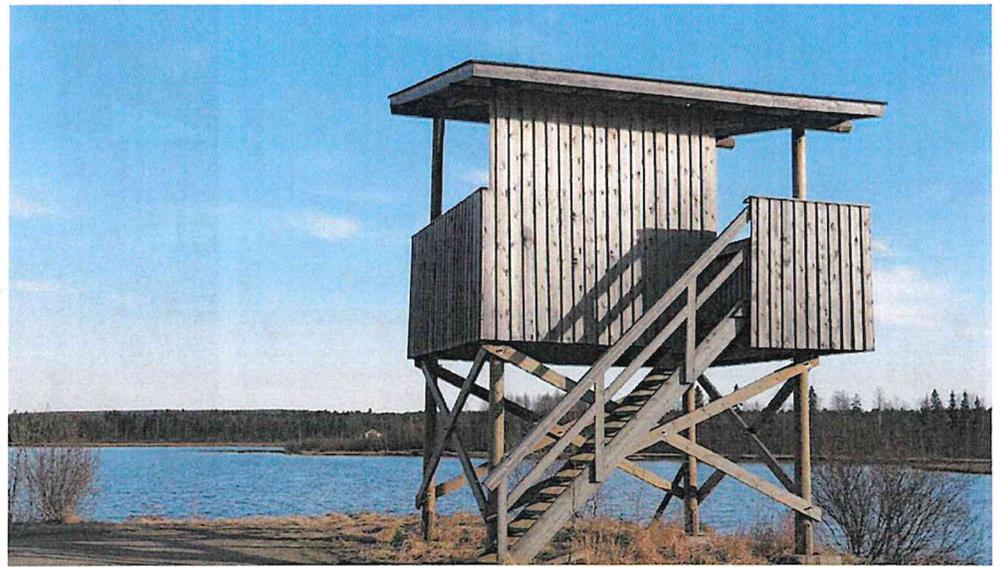
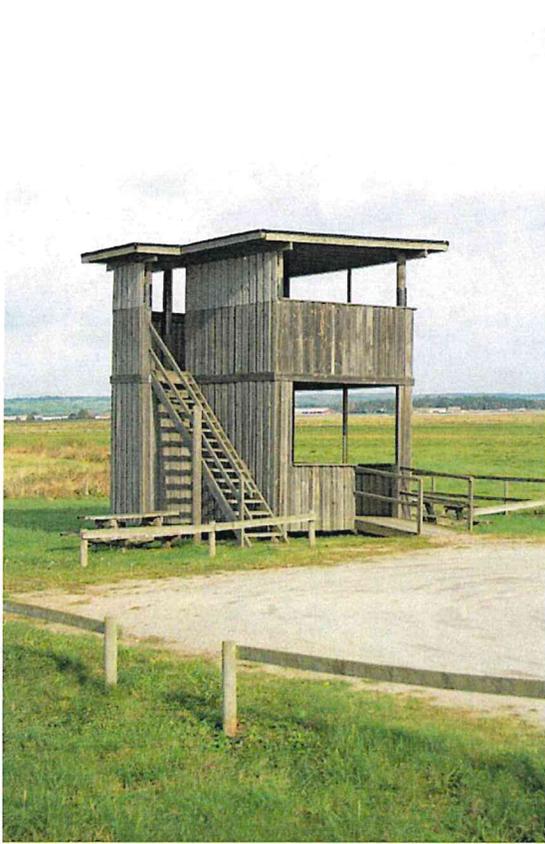
## Legend

-  Land Preserve
-  Wetland
-  Roads

**Location:** East and west sides of Van Atta Road, approximately 1/4 mile south of Tihart Road  
**Area:** 108.9 acres (2 parcels)  
**Year Acquired:** 2006  
**Purchase Price:** \$1,650,000  
**Description:** Former farm; riparian and lowland hardwoods, shrub-scrub and emergent wetlands, and savannah grasslands and woodlands



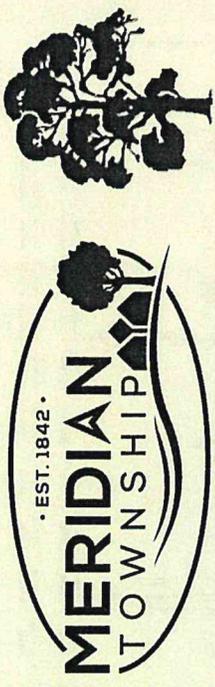




Download from  
Dreamstime.com



# Davis Foster Land Preserve Grassland Restoration



## Site History

This property was a Centennial Farm owned by the Davis and Foster families when it was purchased by the Meridian Township Land Preservation Program.



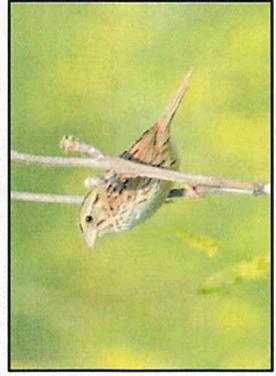
## Restoration and Management

The farm fields were converted into a native grassland with funding from the USDA. Grasslands are low maintenance but still need management such as prescribed ecological burns, invasive species removal and additions of native forbs to increase biodiversity.



## Valuable Habitat

Grasslands are a valuable habitat in Michigan for a variety of wildlife including birds, insects and small mammals. The Davis Foster Preserve is home to the state endangered Henslow's Sparrow that needs this particular habitat to nest. Pollinators such as the Monarch Butterfly also call this grassland home.



Black Eyed Susan



Purple Coneflower



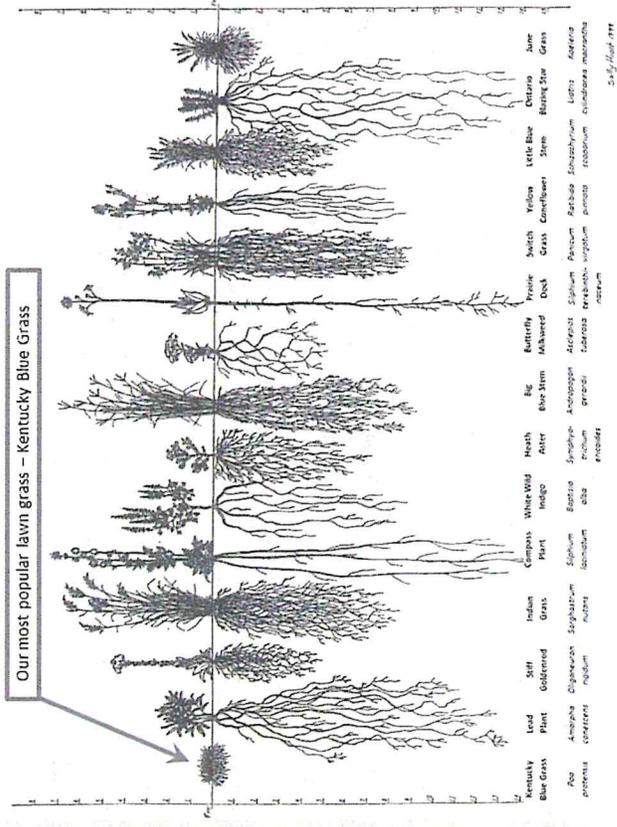
Prairie Tickseed



Wild Bergamot

## Did You Know...

The native grassland plants you see in front of you have roots that can reach up to 15 feet underground? They evolved these deep root systems to access water and survive naturally occurring fires. These grasses benefit the ecosystem by preventing soil erosion, filtering runoff water, providing a unique habitat for wildlife and supporting pollinator species.





## **REQUEST FOR BIDS**

**Meridian Township Parks and Recreation**

**2-RAIL FENCING**

**DAVIS FOSTER LAND PRESERVE**

**Owner:** Meridian Charter Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

**Contact Person:** Kelsey Dillon, Park Naturalist  
Phone: 517-853-4614  
Email: dillon@meridian.mi.us

**Project Name:** Davis Foster 2-Rail Fence

**Project Location:** 5120 Van Atta Road Haslett, MI 48840

### **1. REQUEST**

Meridian Township Parks is requesting proposals for fencing at Davis Foster Land Preserve. The Contractor shall furnish all labor, materials, tools and equipment for the project.

### **2. SCOPE OF WORK FOR BID**

- Approx. 1,500 linear feet of white 2-rail ranch style vinyl fence
- Height of 36"
- 6" rail size; each post capped
- One access gate across driveway; swing gate: two 10' gates that lock in middle
- Restore any adjacent landscape damaged during construction, as needed

**3. SITE REPAIR**

Any damage done to property, facilities or other features not included in the Contract work shall be repaired or replaced by the Contractor, to the Owner’s satisfaction, at no additional expense to the Owner.

**4. PERMITS**

The Contractor shall secure clearance from any and all utility companies who have jurisdiction for the sites. The Contractor shall notify MISS DIGG prior to the start of construction.

**5. CONTENT OF PROPOSAL**

- Information regarding the company including qualifications
- Related project experience
- An itemized amount for providing scope services for the project
- Three copies of the proposal
- Provide all insurance necessary to protect and save harmless Meridian Township and its employees

**6. ESTIMATED TIMELINE:**

September 30, 2016	Advertise for Bids
October 14, 2016	Bids Due
October 24, 2016	Contractor Selection
November 2016	Construction (if weather permits, if not, early spring of 2017)

**11. JUDGING OF PROPOSALS**

Meridian Township will judge proposals received based on professional qualifications and experience, completeness of proposal, ability to meet project work schedule, and total bid cost. Meridian Township reserves the right to reject all bids, waive informalities or irregularities, and accept the bid that it determines to be in the best interest of its park users.

**12. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

Three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted to:

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP CLERK’S OFFICE  
ATTN: Kelsey Dillon  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

**Bids will be accepted up until 3:00pm on Friday October 14, 2016**



**Construction Services Proposal Form  
DAVIS FOSTER LAND PRESERVE – FENCING  
Meridian Township Parks and Recreation**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Not-to-Exceed Cost: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Deadline: 3:00pm on Friday October 14, 2016**

**Bids shall be delivered or mailed to:**

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP CLERK'S OFFICE  
ATTN: KELSEY DILLON  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864





## **REQUEST FOR BIDS**

**Meridian Township Parks and Recreation**

### **OBSERVATION DECK DAVIS FOSTER LAND PRESERVE**

**Owner:** Meridian Charter Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

**Contact Person:** Kelsey Dillon, Park Naturalist  
Phone: 517-853-4614  
Email: dillon@meridian.mi.us

**Project Name:** Davis Foster Observation Deck

**Project Location:** 5120 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI 48864

#### **1. REQUEST**

Meridian Township Parks is requesting proposals for the design and construction of a two-story observation deck to be installed at the Davis Foster Land Preserve.

**Please provide TWO bids for both projects described (Project A and Project B).**

#### **2. SCOPE OF WORK FOR PROJECT A**

- Design a two-story, wooden observation deck that is AHA compliant
- Construct (or contract out construction) of the observation deck
- Include following elements in observation deck\*:
  - A. Areas for signage on top floor
  - B. Two built in sets of binoculars; one higher for adults and one lower for children and those in wheelchairs
  - C. AHA compliant ramp to the second floor
  - D. Designs carved or burnt into the wooden floor (different bird feet)

- E. Bench seating on top floor
- F. Wooden platform for bottom floor
- G. Photography blind on two sides/walls of the bottom floor
- General specs of the observation deck:
  - A. Second floor is 10 feet above first floor
  - B. Area of first floor and second landing is

### **3. SCOPE OF WORK FOR PROJECT B**

- Design a two-story, wooden observation deck that is AHA compliant
- Construct (or contract out construction) of the observation deck
- Include following elements in observation deck\*:
  - A. Areas for signage on top floor
  - B. AHA compliant ramp to top floor
  - C. Bench seating on top floor
- Project B will not have a “first/bottom” floor, carved/burnt design on floor or binoculars
- 

\*Please see attachments for examples of design elements. These do not need to be replicated in the final design but are attached to give a general example of the finished product to the bidder.

### **4. SITE REPAIR**

Any damage done to property, facilities or other features not included in the Contract work shall be repaired or replaced by the Contractor, to the Owner’s satisfaction, at no additional expense to the Owner.

### **5. PERMITS**

The Contractor shall secure clearance from any and all utility companies who have jurisdiction for the sites. The Contractor shall notify MISS DIGG prior to the start of construction.

### **6. CONTENT OF PROPOSAL**

- Information regarding the company including qualifications
- Related project experience and examples of design work
- An itemized amount for providing scope services for the project
  - Please separate design fee and construction costs
- Three copies of the proposal
- Provide all insurance necessary to protect and save harmless Meridian Township and its employees

**7. ESTIMATED TIMELINE:**

July 16, 2017	Advertise for Bids
July 28, 2017	Bids Due
August 18, 2017	Contractor Selection
August/September 2017	Construction Starts

**11. JUDGING OF PROPOSALS**

Meridian Township will judge proposals received based on professional qualifications and experience, completeness of proposal, ability to meet project work schedule, and total bid cost. Meridian Township reserves the right to reject all bids, waive informalities or irregularities, and accept the bid that it determines to be in the best interest of its park users.

**12. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

Three (3) copies of the proposal shall be submitted to:

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP CLERK'S OFFICE  
ATTN: Kelsey Dillon  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

**Bids will be accepted up until 3:00pm on Friday October 14, 2016**



**Construction Services Proposal Form  
DAVIS FOSTER LAND PRESERVE  
Meridian Township Parks and Recreation**

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Not-to-Exceed Cost **PROJECT A**: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Not-to-Exceed Cost **PROJECT B**: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal Deadline: 3:00pm on Friday**

**Bids shall be delivered or mailed to:**

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP CLERK'S OFFICE  
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