



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2015
TOWN HALL ROOM



WORK SESSION 6 PM

(salmon)

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Boundary Correction – Braemoor Subdivision
4. Towner Road Park Plan Revisions
5. Dog Rules – Doggie Playground
6. Central Park Master Plan
7. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update
8. Strider Park Trails
9. Comment
10. Adjournment

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Presentations (goldenrod)
4. Public Comment
5. Commissioner Reports and Comments
6. Approval of Minutes (blue)
 - a. September 8, 2015 Work Session Minutes
 - b. September 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. Communications (tan)
8. Director's Report

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.

9. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Boundary Correction – Braemoor Subdivision
 - b. Central Park Master Plan Adoption
 - c. Towner Road Park – Plan Amendment

10. **Unfinished Business** (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.

11. **Other Business** (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.

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

13. **Final Comments**

14. **Announcements**
 - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 8, 2015, Town Hall
 - b. Farmers' Market – Wednesday, November 25 10am – 2pm. Indoor Market begins at Meridian Mall

15. **Public Remarks**

16. **Closed Session**

17. **Adjournment**

**Park Commission Meeting
November 10, 2015**

WORK SESSION

- 3. Boundary Correction – Braemoor Subdivision**
- 4. Towner Road Park Plan Revisions**
- 5. Dog Rules – Doggie Playground**
- 6. Central Park Master Plan**
- 7. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update**
- 8. Strider Park Trails**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner

DATE: November 5, 2015

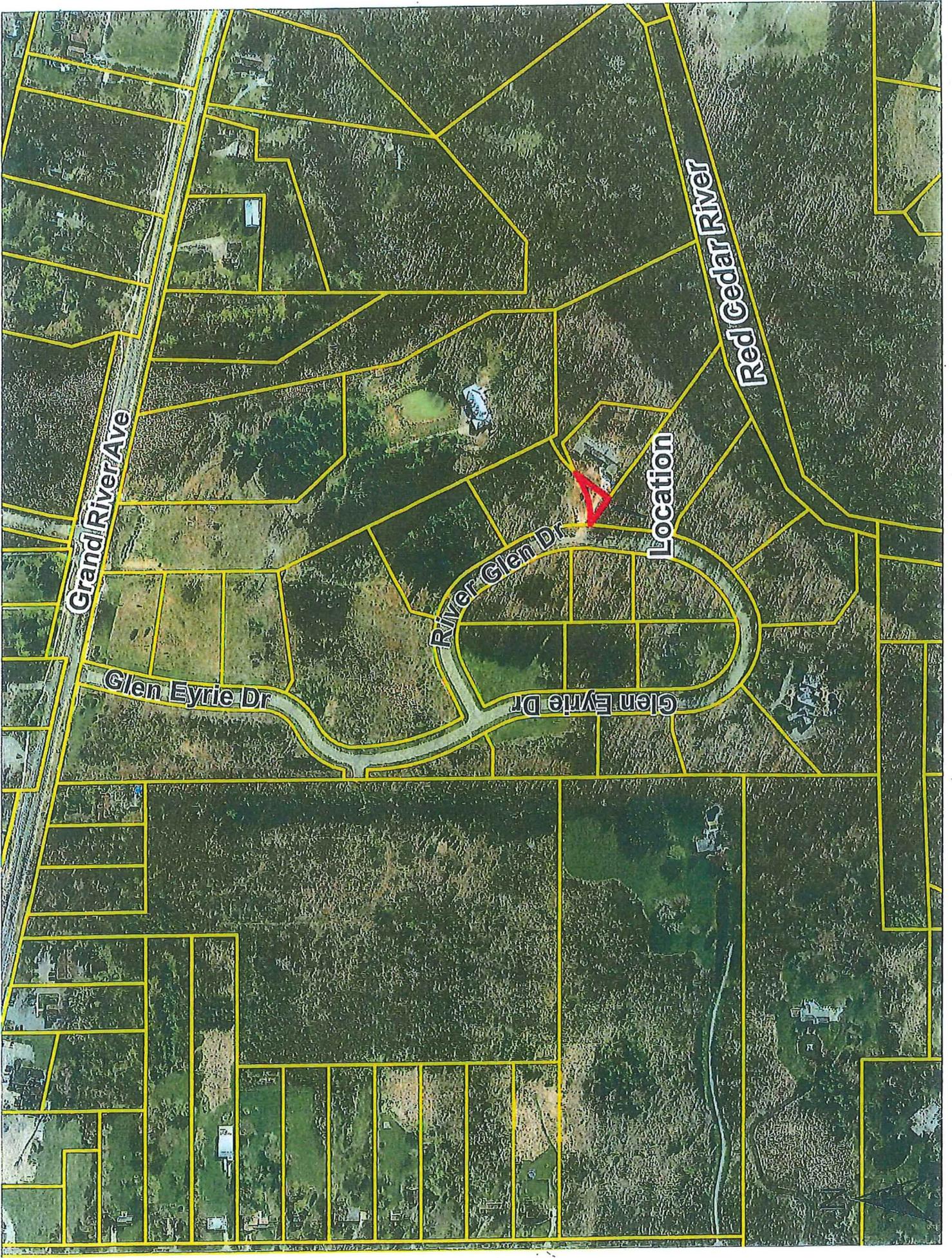
RE: Braemoor Parcel Boundary Amendment

In 2005, the Township acquired a 5.09 acre parcel along the Red Cedar River through a State of Michigan tax foreclosure sale. It is located in the Braemoor subdivision off of Grand River Avenue adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive. It has recently been determined that the boundary description on the Township parcel includes a small area in front of the home located at 4444 River Glen Drive between the residence and the roadway that has created an inadvertent trespass. Property owner, Brian Fleming has submitted a request to acquire .09 acres to correct the boundary.

The deed for this parcel stipulates that any resale of this property must be at a dollar per acre ratio of the purchase price, therefore making the sale price \$106.29. The Township Attorney has reviewed the proposal and did not have any concerns.

Motion for Commission Consideration:

MOVE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF TRANSFERING .09-ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO 4444 RIVER GLEN DRIVE TO BRIAN FLEMING IN THE AMOUNT OF 106.29 WITH PROCEEDS DEPOSITED INTO PARK MILLAGE REVENUE.



CH=259.81'
=S12° 11'42"E

 = PART OF EYDE PARCEL LISTED IN PROVIDED TITLE COMMITMENT

 = PROP OWNED BY MER TWP PER TAX MAPS

 = FLEMING DESCRIPTION (AS PROVIDED)

 = LOT 2, BRAEMOOR

L=62.98'
R=346.38'
Δ=10° 25'08"
CH=62.90'
=S12° 17'19"E

2

66.74'

42

RIVER GLEN DRIVE
66' WIDE PUBLIC

S07°04'44"W

179.97'

S30°55'56"W
120.92'

N54°23'26"W
123.84'

N54°23'26"W
360.00'

S81°17'33"E
100.50'

PARCEL A-2
82298.BND

N54°23'26"W
180.52'

N33°14'56"E
137.92'

S07°49'25"W

207.16'

N51°18'13"W
157.70'

N75°47'27"E
93.26'

25-251-010

102

RECEIVED SEP 09 2005

2

INGHAM COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS RECEIVED

2005 JUL 21 10 A & 19.

2005-039027 Page: 2
QUIT CLAIM DEED Receipt #256
Thu Jul 28 11:12:09 EDT 2005
Paula Johnson, Ingham County, Michigan

B:3175 P:1025



**Quit Claim
Governmental Sale Deed - Minerals Conveyed**

No.510003

Issued under authority of Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended.

THIS DEED, made this 6th day of July, 2005 BY AND BETWEEN, the DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY for the STATE OF MICHIGAN, hereafter called "Grantor", by authority of Act 206 of Public Acts of 1893, as amended, MCL 211.78m(1), 211.78m(3) and 211.78m(11), and

Charter Township of Meridian
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864-1198

hereafter called "Grantee".

WITNESS, that the Grantor, acting for and in behalf of the State of Michigan by authority of Act 206, P.A. 1893, as amended, and for the sum of Seven Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Four Dollars and Fifty Three Cents (\$7,274.53) paid to it by Grantee, hereby grants, conveys, and quit-claims unto the Grantee and to Grantee's successors and assigns, all the right, title and interest acquired by the State of Michigan in and to the following described land located in the County of Ingham, State of Michigan:

Township of MERIDIAN
Town 04 North, Range 01 West, Section 17
M17-41-4 COM AT PT 844 FT N OF S 1/8 POST OF SE 1/4 -N 217 FT -E 175 FT - N 132 FT - E 207 FT
- S 321 FT - SW'LY ALONG PRIVATE ROAD 385 FT TO BEG EXC BEG 475 FT S & 282.71 FT N 85
DEG 38 1/2' E FROM CEN. OF SE 1/4 OF SEC 17 - N 85 DEG 38 1/2' E 100.29 FT - N 217.8 FT - S 85
DEG 38 1/2' W 100.29 FT - S 217.8 FT TO BEG ON SE 1/4 OF SEC 17, T4N,R1W. EXC COM 475 FT S
OF CEN. OF SE 1/4 OF SEC 17, TH N 85 DEG 38 1/2' E 176.5 FT TH N 204.2 FT, TH W 175 FT, TH S
217 FT TO PT OF BEG.
33-02-02-17-476-004

Town 04 North, Range 01 West, Section 25
M25-10, 25-11 COM @ THE N 1/4 COR SEC 25 -S 02 DEG 51'35" W ON NS 1/4 LN 286.13 FT -S 74
DEG 22'00" E ALONG S R/W LN M-43 594.50 FT -S 02 DEG 50'00" W 505.60 FT -S 22 DEG 30'26" E
720.71 FT TO POB -S 22 DEG 30'26" E 160 FT -S 87 DEG 51'32" E 348.31 FT -S 36 DEG 07'56" E
478.78 FT TO A PT 20 FT NW'LY OF RED CEDAR RIVER -ALONG TRAVERSE LN S 76 DEG 00'17" W
365.90 FT -N 52 DEG 18'26" W 456.16 FT -S 79 DEG 12'33" E 100.50 FT -N 35 DEG 19'56" E 137.92 FT
-N 49 DEG 13'13" W 157.70 FT -N 87 DEG 51'32" W 93.26 FT -S 33 DEG 00'56" W 120.92 FT -N 52
DEG 18'26" W 90 FT -N 40 DEG 32'20" E 297.84 FT TO POB INCL LANDS BETWEEN TRAVERSE
LINE & RED CEDAR RIVER (DOES NOT INCL PCL 251-002) SEC 25 T4NR1W 5.09 AC M/L
33-02-02-25-251-010

It is expressly understood that when the above described land is no longer needed by the Grantee and sold for a valuable consideration, the proceeds from any such sale, in excess of the tax-foreclosure minimum bid and all costs incurred relating to demolition, renovation, improvements, or infrastructure development, the excess amount shall be returned to the land reutilization fund created by the State of Michigan under MCL 211.78n.

Exemption from State Transfer Tax is claimed under authority of Section 6(h)(1), Act 255, P.A. 1994 (MCL 207.526).

Exemption from County Real Property Transfer Fee is claimed under authority of Section 5(h), Act 134, P.A. 1966 (MCL 207.505).

= pg 2

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
DATE: November 5, 2015
RE: Towner Road Park Plan Amendment

The proposed re-design of the front portion of Towner Road Park will be distributed at the meeting along with the revised cost estimates for review and discussion. The redesign is due to additional land acquired by the Park Commission from the Township. All of the existing structures have been removed from the site. We have once again contracted with Viridis Design Group to continue with finalizing the plan and bidding the project.

I have attached the cost estimates from 2012 for your review. We have currently set aside 1,200,000 for the first phase of the estimated \$2,000,000 plus project cost. Waiting to construct the park in segments over multiple years may have a negative impact on development and cost efficiencies. I look forward to discussing construction priorities, options and possible financing opportunities.



October 11, 2012

TOWNER ROAD PARK
 Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan
Opinion of Construction Cost

VIRIDIS Design Group

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total
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PHASE 1 - SITE PREPARATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Silt fence	2500	LF	\$2	\$5,000
Existing concrete pavement removal	1,484	SF	\$2	\$2,968
Existing asphalt removal	9,895	SF	\$1	\$9,895
Remove existing gravel	2,520	SF	\$0.50	\$1,260
Remove existing fencing	75	LF	\$5	\$375
Individual tree removal	15	EA	\$250	\$3,750
Clearing and grubbing	1.5	AC	\$2,000	\$3,000
Existing overhead electric removal	115	LF	\$15	\$1,725
Existng electric pole removal	1	EA	\$750	\$750
Topsoil Stripping (6")	10,890	CY	\$3	\$32,670
Rough Grade Excavation (cut)	28,177	CY	\$4	\$112,708
Rough Grade Embankment (fill)	31,269	CY	\$4	\$125,076
PVC Sanitary sewer force main	480	LF	\$12	\$5,760
Sanitary sewer grinder pump	1	EA	\$12,000	\$12,000
Sanitary sewer clean out	2	EA	\$1,000	\$2,000
Domestic water service	1,100	LF	\$15	\$16,500
Automatic irrigation system	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000
Underground electric	1	LS	\$10,000	\$10,000
12" HDPE storm sewer pipe	1445	LF	\$30	\$43,350
12" flared end sections	15	EA	\$300	\$4,500
4' Precast storm sewer structure	12	EA	\$2,500	\$30,000
12" HDPE culvert	120	LF	\$30	\$3,600
Underdrain system for fields	1	LS	\$50,000	\$50,000
Asphalt pavement for parking lot (standard duty)	6,300	SY	\$25	\$157,500
Concrete curb and gutter	2,060	LF	\$12	\$24,720
Pavement markings	1	LS	\$2,500	\$2,500
Temporary Seed	72,000	SY	\$0.15	\$10,800

Phase 1 Subtotal **\$722,407**

Phase 2 - Baseball Fields

Fine Grading	2,240	CY	\$3.00	\$6,720
Skinned infield / warning track	8,050	SY	\$5	\$40,250
Dugouts	4	EA	\$15,000	\$60,000
Bleachers	4	EA	\$1,500	\$6,000
Perimeter fencing	2,400	LF	\$15	\$36,000
Backstop	2	EA	\$5,000	\$10,000
Bull pen	2	EA	\$500	\$1,000
Foul pole	4	EA	\$500	\$2,000
Seeding	121,000	SF	\$0.20	\$24,200
Player benches	4	EA	\$500	\$2,000

Phase 2 Subtotal **\$188,170**



October 11, 2012

TOWNER ROAD PARK
 Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan
Opinion of Construction Cost

VIRIDIS Design Group

Item	Quantity	Unit	Unit Price	Total
<u>Phase 3 - Soccer Fields</u>				
Fine Grading	2,685	CY	\$3.00	\$8,055
Player benches	2	EA	\$500	\$1,000
Soccer goals	4	EA	\$2,500	\$10,000
Seeding	145,000	SF	\$0.20	\$29,000
			Phase 3 Subtotal	\$48,055

Phase 4 - Site Improvements

Concrete plaza at parking (4")	6,630	SF	\$4	\$26,520
Concrete plaza at concession area (4")	18,247	SF	\$4	\$72,988
Colored concrete at concession area (4")	1,312	SF	\$10	\$13,120
Concrete around pavilion	2,530	SF	\$4	\$10,120
8' Asphalt walking path	2,042	LF	\$22	\$44,924
12' Asphalt walking path	305	LF	\$32	\$9,760
Sand Volleyball Court	2	EA	\$5,000	\$10,000
Batting cage	1	EA	\$5,000	\$5,000
Octagonal pavilion	1	EA	\$100,000	\$100,000
Restroom/concession/storage building	1	EA	\$300,000	\$300,000
Playground surfacing (poured in place)	1,590	SF	\$14	\$22,260
Playground equipment	1	EA	Allowance	\$50,000
Tot lot surfacing (poured in place)	1,915	SF	\$14	\$26,810
Tot lot equipment	1	EA	Allowance	\$25,000
Baseball Glove play climber	1	EA	\$25,000	\$25,000
Soccer Ball play Climber	1	EA	\$15,000	\$15,000
Fencing (chain link 4' with lean rail)	310	LF	\$20	\$6,200
Traffic control gate (double leaf swing gate)	2	EA	\$2,500	\$5,000
Boardwalk	600	SF	\$32	\$19,200
Sports themed bollards	10	EA	\$1,500	\$15,000
Concrete steps	120	SF	\$16	\$1,920
Barrier free parking signs	6	EA	\$500	\$3,000
Shade Trees	53	EA	\$400	\$21,200
Ornamental trees	24	EA	\$300	\$7,200
Shrubs, perennials, and grasses	1	LS	Allowance	\$20,000
Benches	15	EA	\$1,000	\$15,000
Trash Recepticles	10	EA	\$800	\$8,000
Flag pole	1	EA	\$1,500	\$1,500
Footwash/drinking fountain	1	EA	\$2,000	\$2,000
Lawn seeding (non-field areas)	21000	SY	\$0.20	\$4,200
Steep slope seeding	2700	SY	\$1	\$2,700
			Subtotal Phase 4	\$888,622

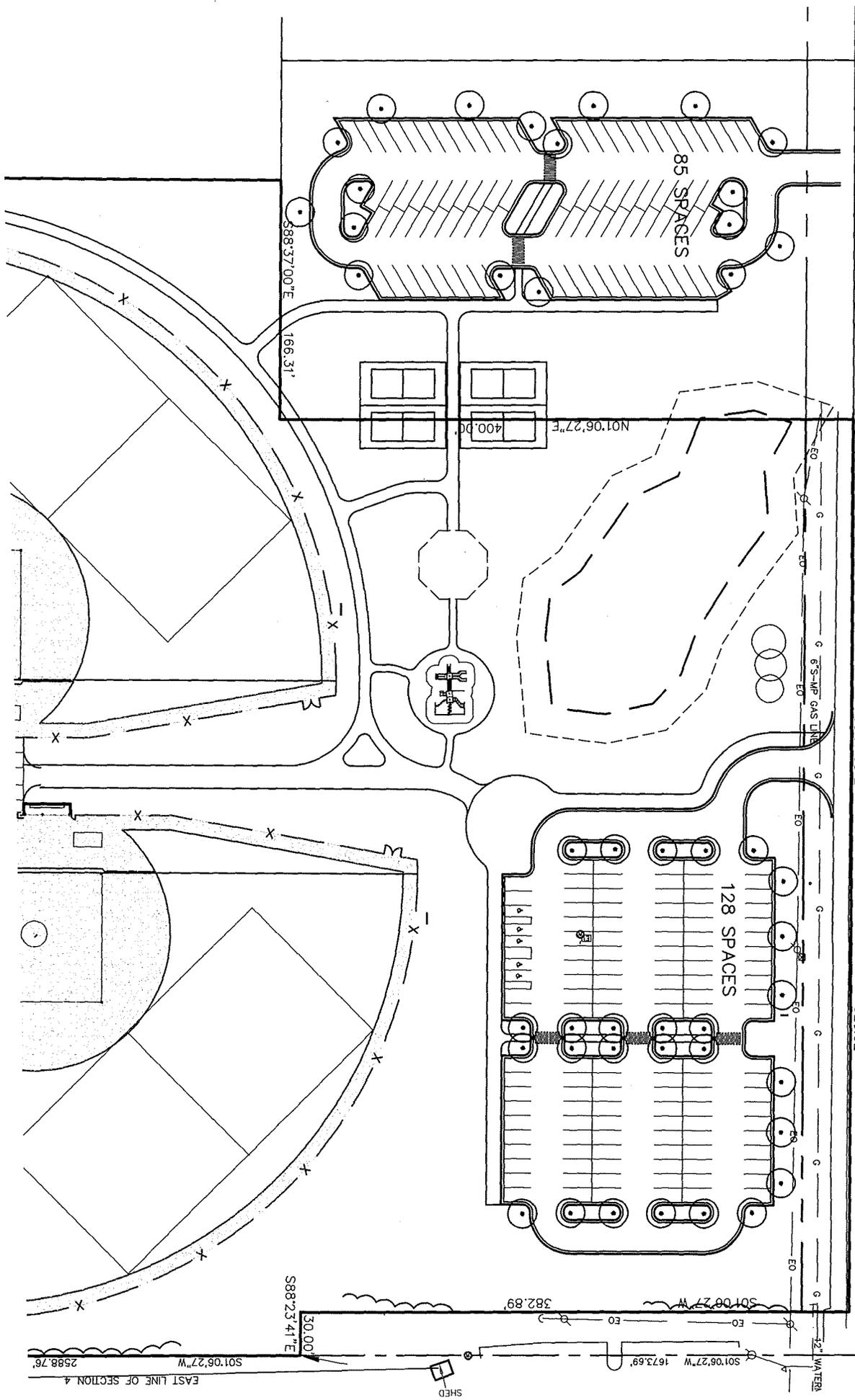


October 11, 2012

TOWNER ROAD PARK
Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan
Opinion of Construction Cost

VIRIDIS Design Group

<u>Item</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Unit Price</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Total construction Sub-Total (sum of all sub-totals)</u>				\$1,847,254
<u>Contingency (10% of construction sub-total)</u>				\$184,725
<u>Project Total</u>				\$2,031,979



S8837'00"E 620.92'

TOWNER ROAD

85 SPACES

128 SPACES

N01'06'27"E 400.00'

S8837'00"E 186.31'

S8823'41"E 30.00'

S01'06'27"W 382.89'

S01'06'27"W 2588.76'

EAST LINE OF SECTION 4

SHED

12" WATER

S01'06'27"W 1673.69'

E0

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

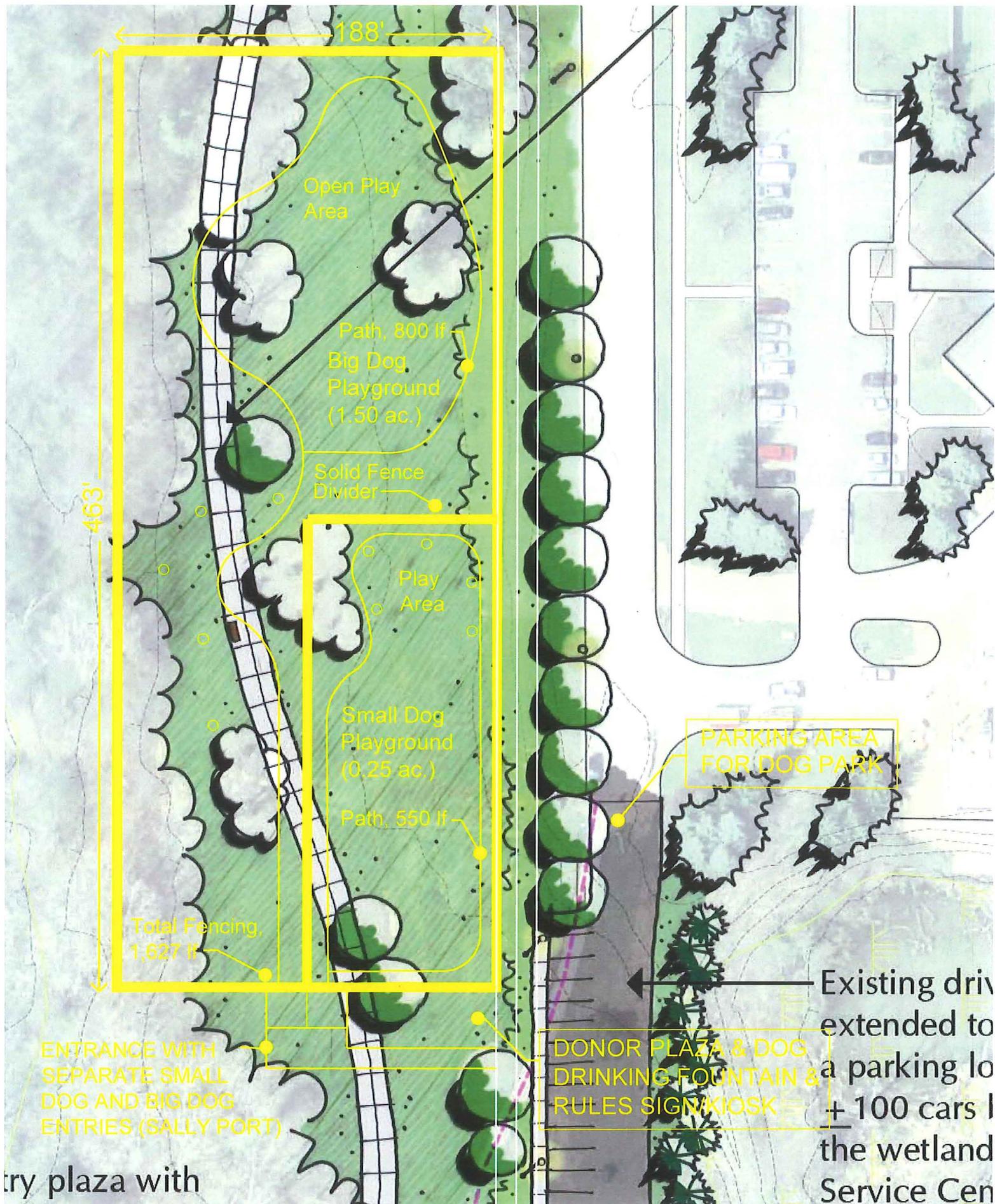
FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: November 6, 2015

RE: Doggie Playground

The Department of Parks and Recreation has received numerous complaints of off-leash dogs in our parks in recent years, but many more in recent months. We have reached out to our communications department as well as our Police Department and asked for increased promotion and enforcement. We have many dog owners in our community (over 50%) who have their favorite parks and trails within our system to walk and exercise with their pets. It is time to engage this population and being to work together to provide a resolution that addresses their concerns and needs.

One option worth considering is the development of a "Doggie Playground". This would be a speciality facility with areas for both large and small dogs to play and exercise with their owners. The draft plan, located on Gaylord Smith Court adjacent to the Meridian Service Center, shows a fenced small dog area of .25 acres and large dog area approximately 1.75 acres, both with dog agility amenities and walking paths. This would be the first of its kind in the area. This park could serve as a way to effectively engage our pet owners and open lines of communication. I look forward to hearing the Commission's thoughts and direction regarding this course of action.



try plaza with

DOGGY PLAYGROUND

Total Area = 2 acres (small dog area is 1/4 acre)





INDIVIDUAL PLAY ELEMENTS, SIGNS, FOUNTAIN, MESSAGE BOARD, SIGNS



SMALL DOG KIT



LARGE DOG KIT

DOGGY PLAYGROUND

CENTRAL PARK, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

November 2015

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation

🏠 / [PARKS & RECREATION](#) / [DOG RULES](#)

Dog Rules & Info

We are happy to report that a dog park is included in the plans for Grand Ravines County Park located in Jenison.

[View the plans and map. You can support the park by buying a brick!](#)

Ottawa County Parks & Recreation welcomes dogs to most of its properties! A few rules are in place to ensure all of our guests are comfortable while visiting the parks. These rules also protect wildlife and many fragile, natural features of the properties. If you fail to obey them, you risk being ticketed.

Rules:

1. Dogs must be controlled on leashes ten foot or less, except in off-leash areas.
2. Leave no trace of your dog. Clean up and dispose of animal waste immediately.
3. Dogs displaying vicious or aggressive behavior will be asked to leave.
4. Pets are not permitted in buildings, restrooms, picnic shelters, or playgrounds.

	WELCOME OFF LEASH	WELCOME YEAR ROUND	WELCOME SEASONAL LIMITS	WELCOME OFF SEASON	NOT ALLOWED
Kirk Park (South Beach) NEW!	•				
Bend Area	•				
Bur Oak Landing	•				
Eastmanville Bayou	•				
Grand River Open Space	•				
Grand River Ravines South	•				
Hiawatha Forest	•				
Johnson Street Forest	•				
Jubb Bayou	•				
Port Sheldon Natural Area	•				
Robinson Forest	•				
Van Buren Street Dunes	•				
Black Lake Boardwalk	•				
Macatawa Greenspace	•				
Musketawa Trail	•				
North Ottawa Dunes	•				
Riley Trails	•				
Upper Macatawa Natural Area	•				
Adams Street Landing	•				
Connor Bayou	•				
Crockery Creek Natural Area	•				
Eastmanville Farm	•				
Grand River Park	•				
Grand River Ravines North	•				
Grose Park	•				
Hager Park	•				
Hemlock Crossing	•				
Kirk Park	•				
Pigeon Creek Park*	•				
Pine Bend Park	•				
Riverside Park	•				
North Beach Park	•				
Spring Grove Park	•				
Tunnel Park	•				
Mt. Pisgah	•				
Olive Shores	•				
Rosy Mound Natural Area	•				

Please note that hunting is allowed on these properties.

Welcome year round on leash. Never allowed on the stairs at North Ottawa Dunes.

Welcome year round on leash, but on trails only from May 1 through September 30. *No dogs when there is snow.

Welcome on leash October 1 through April 30.

[View Guide.](#)

5. Leader dogs for those with disabilities are permitted in all areas at all times following leash laws.
6. Seasonal restrictions apply at some properties. Check the guidelines for your preferred park. [Print the Guide](#). Dogs are never allowed at Rosy Mound Natural Area, Olive Shores, Mt. Pisgah and the stairs at North Ottawa Dunes. Dogs are not allowed at Pigeon Creek when conditions are suitable for skiing. (Leader dogs are allowed.)
7. Michigan law requires that your dog is licensed. Licenses can be purchased from [Ottawa County](#).

Helpful Tips:

- » Do not assume other park visitors want to be greeted by your dog.
- » Even in off-leash areas, carry a leash with you and maintain voice control of your dog.
- » If your dog is acting vicious or not heeding your commands, leave. Even good dogs have bad days.
- » Consider a visit with your pet on a week day when parks are less likely to be busy.

From a Dog Owner's Perspective

Adams Street Landing

A small park located along the Macatawa River about a mile east of Van Raalte Farms on the north side of 16th/Adams Street. What appeals here to the dog owner is the under-bridge boardwalk connector to the Macatawa Greenway and numerous trails that are a part of the Ridgepoint Community Church trail system. The scenery is beautiful along the river, thru floodplain forests and wetlands. What Fido Says: Woof woof WOOF wof ruf.

Connor Bayou

Some of us dog owners love to walk our dogs along where there is water. Connor Bayou offers such an opportunity as it has a 1 mile trail along the Grand River. Along this river trail you may hear Sandhill Cranes or even see an Eagle or two. If after your hike you want more, there are forest trails that extend south of the river that are well marked. While you're there you'll see the refurbished cabin and many other upgrades to make this an overall beautiful park. What Fido Says: Ruf Ruf Woof WOOF wof.

Crockery Creek Natural Area

There are two choices of trails: the Woodland Loop or the Kirby Loop. The Woodland Loop takes you high above the Buttonbush Swamp until the end where there is a beautiful scenic stop overlooking Crockery Creek. The Kirby Loop eventually takes you down below so you are walking beside the swamp. Other features are an interesting historical kiosk as well as four buildings that make up a century old farm. Remember to keep you dog on a leash at this location or you may be making a swamp rescue! What Fido Says: Woof woof RUF woof WOOF!

Eastmanville Bayou

The trails here are divided into the East Trail and the West Trail. The East Trail takes you under the bridge of 68th Street and leads you between the Grand River and its flood plains. The West Trail takes you to where the Grand River empties into the Eastmanville Bayou. Another feature is a kayak launch so if your furry buddy is willing, you two can hop aboard a kayak and view this beautiful part of the Grand River together. What Fido Says: RUFF woof WOOF!

Eastmanville Farm

Off of Leonard Street between Grand Haven and Eastmanville you will find this beautiful 229 acre farm that is full of hiking trails. This unique setting takes you past a barn and farmhouse on to rolling hills, streams and vast open lands. To take in the whole farm is a long, sunny hike but one worthwhile. Your dog must be on a leash as you are sharing some of these trails with horses. What Fido Says: Ruf grr-ruf wof.

Hawthorne Pond Natural Area

Located just across the Adams Street Bridge, this hidden gem of a park provides views of the Macatawa River while the pond trail provides a setting for all nature lovers. If your dog will sit awhile you can bring your fishing pole and enjoy angling off the deck provided. What Fido Says: Ruff Woof wof.

Hiawatha Forest

Even though the name says "Forest" this Open Space Land has both trees and a large open area. You can enter either off Fillmore Street or 168th and take the trails through a tunnel of trees until you come to the open area where your dog can run free amongst the small pines and snag trees. This area also includes a forest on the west side of 168th which makes this area one of the largest in Ottawa County and sure to delight a dog who needs space to run. What Fido Says: Woof woof RUF!

Johnson Street Open Space

This Robinson Township Park is the smallest of our "open spaces." There is a kiosk off Johnson Street from which a trail leads straight north. The trail is narrow but your dog can be off leash and the heavy brush will keep him from wandering too far. Feel free to go off-trail to blaze your own. It's an adventure both you and your dog

will delight in. What Fido Says: Woof woof roff RUF!

Jubb Bayou

When you visit this Open Space Land you will only need to hike a short distance to get to Jubb Bayou and the Grand River. Hiking along both shores for 1.5 miles and in fairly open spaces there is plenty of room for your dog to run. On the way to or from the river your pet may spend some time in an old dilapidated barn on the property, smelling the history that once made this home to many animals. What Fido Says: Woof woof RUF woof WOOF!

Port Sheldon Natural Area

Trails into this area come off of 160th between Port Sheldon Street and Van Buren Street. You could call this area a true hidden gem as it provides one of the best cross sections of nature in the area. There are hidden ponds, creeks, numerous animal tracks, forest and open spaces with long trails on both sides of the road throughout its 440 acres. Your dog can be unleashed here and you can enjoy some of the best forest scenery around. What Fido Says: Woof woof WOOF wof ruf.

Robinson Forest

You are advised to leash your dog at the entrance to this park as you enter off of a busy road. But as you follow the wide trail away from the road, your dog is free to run on his own. You'll first come to a thinned out red pine area but when you continue on it becomes thickly forested again. Unique fallen tree formations abound as do many tracks off of the main trail. What Fido Says: Ruf grr-ruf wof

Riverside Park

When you enter this Robinson Township park you will want to park at the east end near the kiosk which shows you the Peninsula Trail. This beautiful trail leads you 1.25 miles east with the Grand River on your left and the waters of the Bass River Recreation Area on your right. Although you must keep your dog on a leash, this park is worth a visit. If your dog likes boat rides, you can also launch your boat here for a trip up or down the Grand River. What Fido Says: Woof woof WOOF wof ruf.

Upper Macatawa Natural Area

You and your dog could spend a day here hiking all the trails this area has to offer. At the entrance you'll find a kiosk with a map that helps you choose what trails you want to hike. You'll really enjoy the views--from farmland and wetlands to forests and streams. If you can keep your dog quiet you might even be able to get close and see the herons nesting in the hillside forest. What Fido Says: Woof woof RUF woof WOOF!



**OPINION OF COST
CENTRAL PARK DOGGY PLAYGROUND
MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
6-Nov-15**

NO. ITEM	UNIT	ESTIMATED QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
Fencing				
1 Vinyl Chain Link Fencing, 6' ht.	LF	1300	\$ 20.00	\$ 26,000.00
2 Gated Entry (Sally Port) - 3 gates	EACH	3	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,800.00
3 Solid Fence to Block View on Small/Big Dogs	LF	327	\$ 25.00	\$ 8,175.00
4 Vinyl Double Gates (12' Maintenance Access)	EACH	2	\$1,500.00	\$ 3,000.00
			Fencing SubTotal=	\$ 38,975.00
Dog Park Entry Area				
5 Decomposed granite - small dog area 25' x 25', 4"	SY	15	\$ 60.00	\$ 900.00
			Dog Park Entry Area SubTotal=	\$ 900.00
Signs				
6 Park Rules Sign/Bulletin Board/Other	LS	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
			Signs Area SubTotal =	\$ 1,500.00
Site Amenities				
7 Dog Waste Bag Dispensers	EACH	3	\$ 350.00	\$ 1,050.00
8 Mulch Pathways	LSUM		\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
9 Litter Receptacles	EACH	3	\$ 900.00	\$ 2,700.00
10 Dog/Person Drinking Fountain	EACH	1	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
11 Water Service (well, water line)	LSUM	1	\$ 3,500.00	3500
12 Big Dog Play Kit	LSUM	1	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 6,500.00
13 Small Dog Play Kit	LSUM	1	\$ 2,800.00	\$2,800.00
			SubTotal=	\$ 21,050.00
TOTAL=				\$ 66,725.00

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: November 6, 2015

RE: Central Park Master Plan Adoption and Priorities

The Park Commission was successful in developing the Master Plan for Central Park that included public participation and input from stakeholders, local business, boards and commissions, the general public and staff. The final result was a comprehensive plan that will guide renovations and development in the future. The plan was formally presented to the Park Commission on September 9, 2015 by O'Boyle, Blalock, Cowell and Associates who detailed the planning process, and explained the plan in detail.

Motion for Park Commission Consideration

MOVE TO ADOPT THE CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED BY SANDY BLEISENER, O'BOYLE, BLALOCK, COWELL AND ASSOCIATES ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.

The Central Park Master Plan is a complex document that affects and impacts many of our existing facilities as well as adds additional amenities. The benefit of having a plan in place is the flexibility it provides in addressing various elements either intentionally scheduled or based on random opportunity. I look forward to hearing your ideas and discussing priorities to addressing implementation. The plan and cost estimates are attached.



Preliminary Budget Estimate for:
Central Park Master Plan
 Meridian Township, Michigan
 4 September 2015



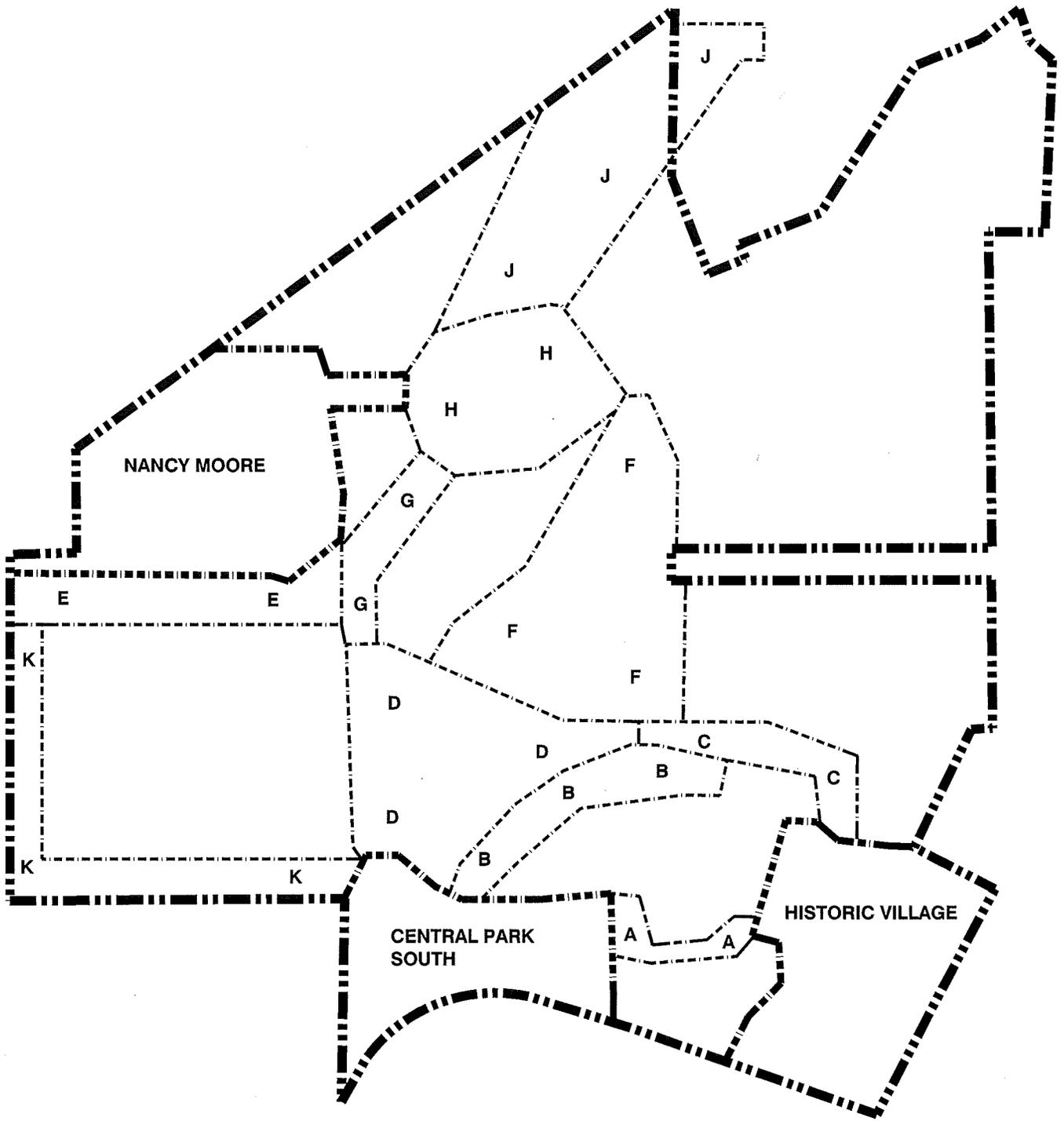
	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Total
Nancy Moore Park Improvements				
Removals	1	LS	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00
Existing Pavilion and Restroom Demolition	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Grading and Drainage	1	LS	\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00
Utilities	1	LS	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Asphalt Drive and Parking	6,000	SY	\$20.00	\$120,000.00
Concrete Paving	13,000	SF	\$5.00	\$65,000.00
Integral Curb	450	LF	\$8.00	\$3,600.00
20x30 Picnic Pavilion	2	EA	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00
Restroom Building	1	EA	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Composting Toilets	6	EA	\$5,000.00	\$30,000.00
Bike Racks	4	EA	\$825.00	\$3,300.00
Benches	5	EA	\$2,000.00	\$10,000.00
Picnic Tables	4	EA	\$1,600.00	\$6,400.00
Trash Receptacles	10	EA	\$1,200.00	\$12,000.00
Recycling Stations	2	EA	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
Wheel Stops	50	EA	\$75.00	\$3,750.00
Wetland Boardwalk	180	LF	\$225.00	\$40,500.00
Entry Plaza				
Information Kiosk	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Interpretive Signs	4	LS	\$1,000.00	\$4,000.00
Concrete Paving	1400	SF	\$5.00	\$7,000.00
Benches	3	EA	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00
Lighting	4	EA	\$5,000.00	\$20,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00
			Nancy Moore Park Improvements Subtotal	\$731,550.00
Historic Village Area Improvements				
Removals	1	LS	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00
Existing Pavilion and Restroom Demolition	1	LS	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Utilities	1	Allowance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Grading and Drainage	1	LS	\$45,000.00	\$45,000.00
Concrete Paving	28,800	SF	\$5.00	\$144,000.00
Integral Concrete Curb	250	LF	\$8.00	\$2,000.00
Decorative Paving in Historic Village	6,000	SF	\$9.00	\$54,000.00
Brick Retaining/Sign Walls	300	LF	\$125.00	\$37,500.00
20' Wide Bridge	1	Allowance	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
30'x60' Pavilion	1	Allowance	\$80,000.00	\$80,000.00
40'x60' Pavilion	1	Allowance	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Restroom Building	1	Allowance	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
10'x30' Overlook Shelter with Guardrail	2	EA	\$50,000.00	\$100,000.00
Bandshell	1	Allowance	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00
Splash Pad Elements and Mechanical System	1	Allowance	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Play Area and Safety Surfacing	1	Allowance	\$220,000.00	\$220,000.00
Bike Racks	6	EA	\$825.00	\$4,950.00
Benches	22	EA	\$2,000.00	\$44,000.00
Picnic Tables	10	EA	\$1,600.00	\$16,000.00
Trash Receptacles	20	EA	\$1,200.00	\$24,000.00
Recycling Stations	3	EA	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00
Lighting (Includes Electrical Service)	14	EA	\$5,000.00	\$70,000.00
Boardwalk	180	LF	\$225.00	\$40,500.00
Landscaping	1	Allowance	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Signage				
Entrance Sign	1	EA	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00
Information Kiosk	3	LS	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Interpretive Signs	6	LS	\$1,000.00	\$6,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00
			Historic Village Area Improvements Subtotal	\$1,734,950.00

	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Total
Central Park South Improvements				
Removals	1	LS	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Storm Water Management Feature at Pond	1	LS	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Existing Pavilion and Restroom Demolition	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Utilities at Pavilion	1	Allowance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Grading and Drainage	1	LS	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Asphalt Drive and Parking	3,300	SY	\$20.00	\$66,000.00
Concrete Paving	24,000	SF	\$5.00	\$120,000.00
Integral Concrete Curb	150	LF	\$8.00	\$1,200.00
Asphalt Path (10' wide)	1,100	SY	\$16.00	\$17,600.00
Retaining/Seat Walls	2,500	SF	\$30.00	\$75,000.00
Brick Retaining/Sign Walls	200	LF	\$125.00	\$25,000.00
60'x90' Pavilion	1	Allowance	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
10'x30' Overlook Shelter with Guardrail	1	EA	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Overlook Deck at Pond	1	Allowance	\$62,000.00	\$62,000.00
Sculpture Displays		Not Included		Not Included
Bike Racks	6	EA	\$825.00	\$4,950.00
Benches	12	EA	\$2,000.00	\$24,000.00
Picnic Tables	6	EA	\$1,600.00	\$9,600.00
Trash Receptacles	12	EA	\$1,200.00	\$14,400.00
Recycling Stations	1	EA	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Lighting (Includes Electrical Service)	8	EA	\$5,000.00	\$40,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Signage				\$0.00
Entrance Sign	2	EA	\$8,500.00	\$17,000.00
Information Kiosk	3	LS	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Interpretive Signs	6	LS	\$1,000.00	\$6,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Central Park South Improvements Subtotal				\$920,250.00
Farmers' Market Improvements				
Removals	1	LS	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
Utilities at Pavilions	1	Allowance	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Grading and Drainage	1	LS	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00
Asphalt Drive and Parking	900	SY	\$20.00	\$18,000.00
Concrete Paving	13,000	SF	\$5.00	\$65,000.00
Restroom Building	1	Allowance	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
Play Area / Performance Platform	1	Allowance	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
40'x90' Pavilion	3	Allowance	\$120,000.00	\$360,000.00
Bike Racks	6	EA	\$825.00	\$4,950.00
Benches	10	EA	\$2,000.00	\$20,000.00
Picnic Tables	6	EA	\$1,600.00	\$9,600.00
Trash Receptacles	10	EA	\$1,200.00	\$12,000.00
Recycling Stations	1	EA	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Lighting (Includes Electrical Service)	12	EA	\$5,000.00	\$60,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00
Signage	1	Allowance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Central Park Drive Median		Not Included		
Farmers' Market Improvements Subtotal				\$847,550.00
Area `A' Connector				
Removals	1	LS	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
Concrete Paving	13,000	SF	\$5.00	\$65,000.00
Benches	6	EA	\$2,000.00	\$12,000.00
Boardwalk (16' wide)	225	LF	\$275.00	\$61,875.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$750.00	\$750.00
Area `A' Subtotal				\$148,125.00
Area `B' Connector				
Removals	1	LS	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
6' wide Boardwalk	1,060	LF	\$150.00	\$159,000.00
Canal Dredging	1	Allowance	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Area `B' Subtotal				\$384,000.00
Area `C' Connector				
Excavation and Grading	1	LS	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Asphalt Path (6' wide)	300	SY	\$20.00	\$6,000.00
Decorative Paving at Plaza	1,000	SF	\$9.00	\$9,000.00
Benches	4	EA	\$2,000.00	\$8,000.00
Signage	1	Allowance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Boardwalk (6' wide)	170	LF	\$150.00	\$25,500.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$500.00	\$500.00
Area `C' Subtotal				\$66,000.00

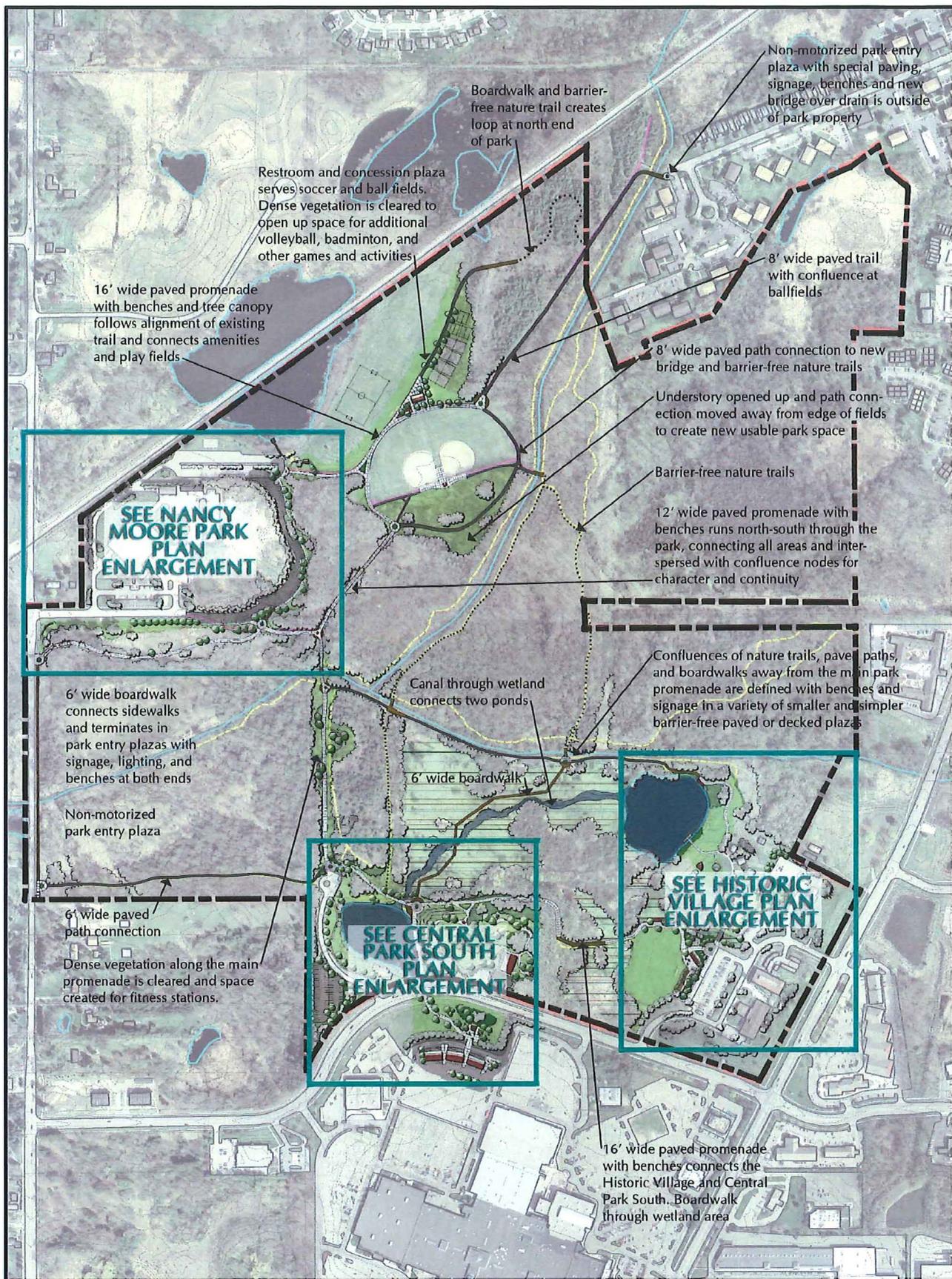
	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Total
Area `D' Connector				
Removals	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Excavation and Grading	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Concrete Promenade (12' wide)	10,000	SF	\$5.00	\$50,000.00
Boardwalk (6' wide)	160	LF	\$150.00	\$24,000.00
Accessible Nature Trails	900	LF	\$10.00	\$9,000.00
Decorative Paving at Plaza	900	SF	\$9.00	\$8,100.00
Asphalt Path (6' wide)	750	SY	\$18.00	\$13,500.00
Benches	4	EA	\$2,000.00	\$8,000.00
Trash Receptacles	2	EA	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00
Fitness Stations	1	Allowance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
			Area `D' Subtotal	\$156,000.00
Area `E' Connector				
Removals	1	LS	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Excavation and Grading	1	LS	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Concrete Promenade (12' wide)	13,500	SF	\$5.00	\$67,500.00
Concrete Promenade (16' wide)	4,000	SF	\$5.00	\$20,000.00
Entry Plaza				
Decorative Paving	1,200	SF	\$9.00	\$10,800.00
Signage	1	Allowance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Benches	2	EA	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
Trash Receptacles	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Brick Retaining/Sign Walls	55	LF	\$125.00	\$6,875.00
Lighting (Includes Electrical Service)	3	EA	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$500.00	\$500.00
			Area `E' Subtotal	\$156,875.00
Area `F' Connector				
Excavation and Grading	1	LS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Accessible Nature Trails	2,800	LF	\$10.00	\$28,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$500.00	\$500.00
			Area `F' Subtotal	\$30,500.00
Area `G' Connector				
Removals	1	LS	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Concrete Promenade (12' wide)	10,300	SF	\$5.00	\$51,500.00
Decorative Paving	900	SF	\$9.00	\$8,100.00
Benches	2	EA	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
Trash Receptacles	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Pedestrian Bridge	1	Allowance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$500.00	\$500.00
			Area `G' Subtotal	\$83,300.00
Area `H' Connector				
Removals	1	LS	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
Excavation and Grading	1	LS	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Concrete Paving	26,000	SF	\$5.00	\$130,000.00
Decorative Paving	900	SF	\$9.00	\$8,100.00
Asphalt Path (8' wide)	1,500	SY	\$20.00	\$30,000.00
Benches	8	EA	\$2,000.00	\$16,000.00
Picnic Tables	4	EA	\$1,600.00	\$6,400.00
Trash Receptacles	6	EA	\$1,200.00	\$7,200.00
Recycling Stations	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Bike Racks	4	EA	\$825.00	\$3,300.00
Pedestrian Bridge	1	Allowance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
			Area `H' Subtotal	\$271,200.00

	Quantity	Units	Unit Cost	Total
Area `J' Connector				
Removals	1	LS	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Excavation and Grading	1	LS	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Concrete Paving	10,000	SF	\$5.00	\$50,000.00
Asphalt Path (6' wide)	400	SY	\$18.00	\$7,200.00
Asphalt Path (8' wide)	1,250	SY	\$20.00	\$25,000.00
Boardwalk (6' wide)	200	LF	\$150.00	\$30,000.00
Accessible Nature Trail	750	LF	\$10.00	\$7,500.00
Restroom/Concession Building	1	EA	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00
Game Courts	1	Allowance	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Pedestrian Bridge	1	Allowance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Decorative Paving	900	SF	\$9.00	\$8,100.00
Bike Racks	2	EA	\$825.00	\$1,650.00
Benches	4	EA	\$1,200.00	\$4,800.00
Picnic Tables	2	EA	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Trash Receptacles	2	EA	\$750.00	\$1,500.00
Recycling Stations	1	EA	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Lighting (Includes Electrical Service)	3	EA	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Signage	1	Allowance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
			Area `J' Subtotal	\$510,950.00
Area `K' Connector				
Removals	1	LS	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00
Boardwalk (6' wide)	1,100	LF	\$150.00	\$165,000.00
Concrete Paving	1,000	SF	\$5.00	\$5,000.00
Decorative Paving	500	SF	\$9.00	\$4,500.00
Bike Racks	1	EA	\$825.00	\$825.00
Benches	2	EA	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00
Lighting (Includes Electrical Service)	3	EA	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
Landscaping and Restoration	1	Allowance	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Signage	1	Allowance	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Soil Erosion Control Measures	1	LS	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
			Area `K' Subtotal	\$236,785.00

Central Park Master Plan Subtotal	\$4,306,581.00
Permit Fees	\$20,000.00
Contingency @ 10%	\$430,658.10
Professional Fees @ 8%	\$380,579.13
CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN TOTAL	\$5,137,818.23

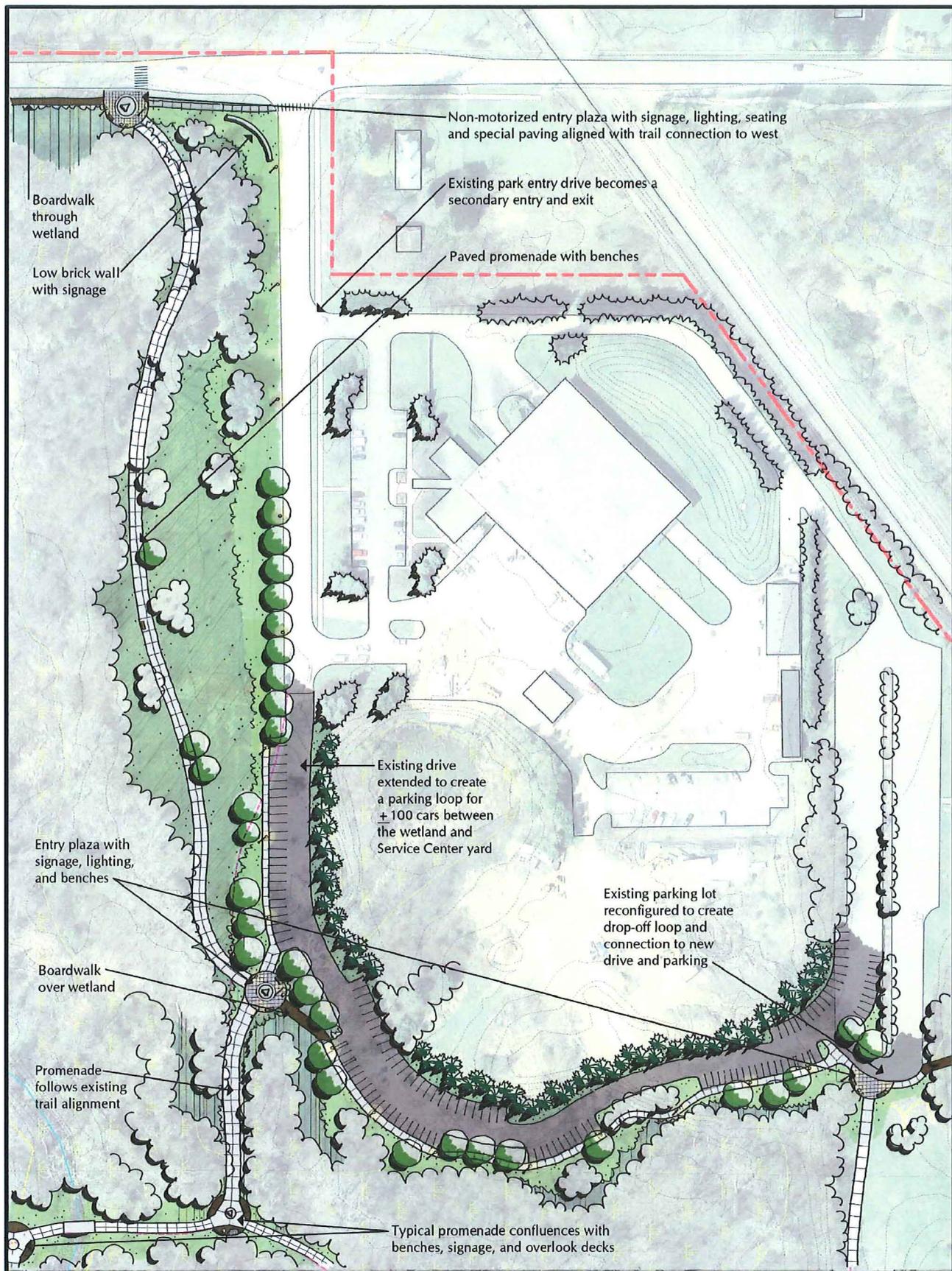


Budget Estimate Area Key Plan



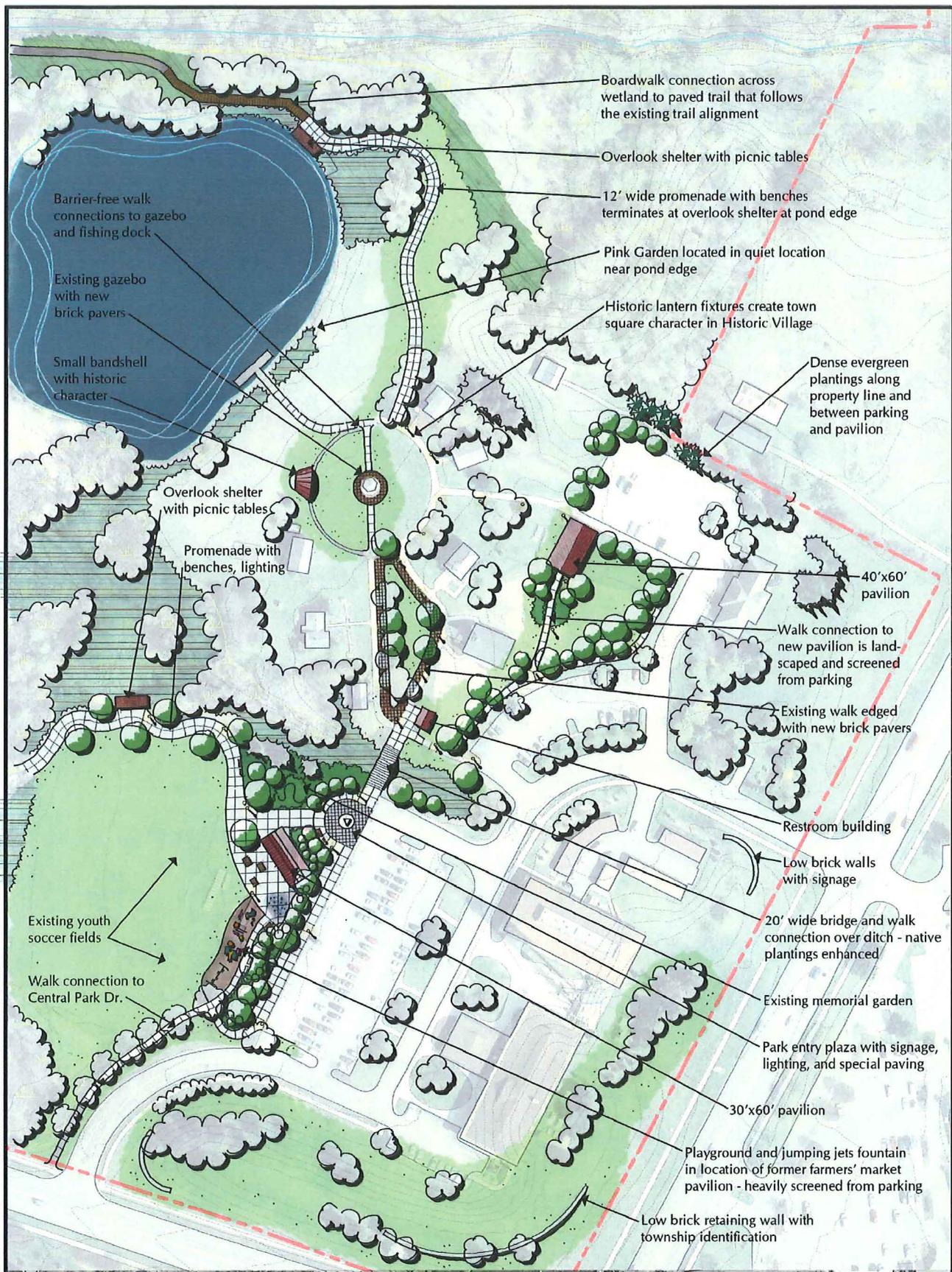
Overall Park Development Plan

Central Park Master Plan



Nancy Moore Plan Enlargement

Central Park Master Plan



Barrier-free walk connections to gazebo and fishing dock

Existing gazebo with new brick pavers

Small bandshell with historic character

Boardwalk connection across wetland to paved trail that follows the existing trail alignment

Overlook shelter with picnic tables

12' wide promenade with benches terminates at overlook shelter at pond edge

Pink Garden located in quiet location near pond edge

Historic lantern fixtures create town square character in Historic Village

Dense evergreen plantings along property line and between parking and pavilion

Overlook shelter with picnic tables

Promenade with benches, lighting

40'x60' pavilion

Walk connection to new pavilion is landscaped and screened from parking

Existing walk edged with new brick pavers

Restroom building

Low brick walls with signage

Existing youth soccer fields

20' wide bridge and walk connection over ditch - native plantings enhanced

Walk connection to Central Park Dr.

Existing memorial garden

Park entry plaza with signage, lighting, and special paving

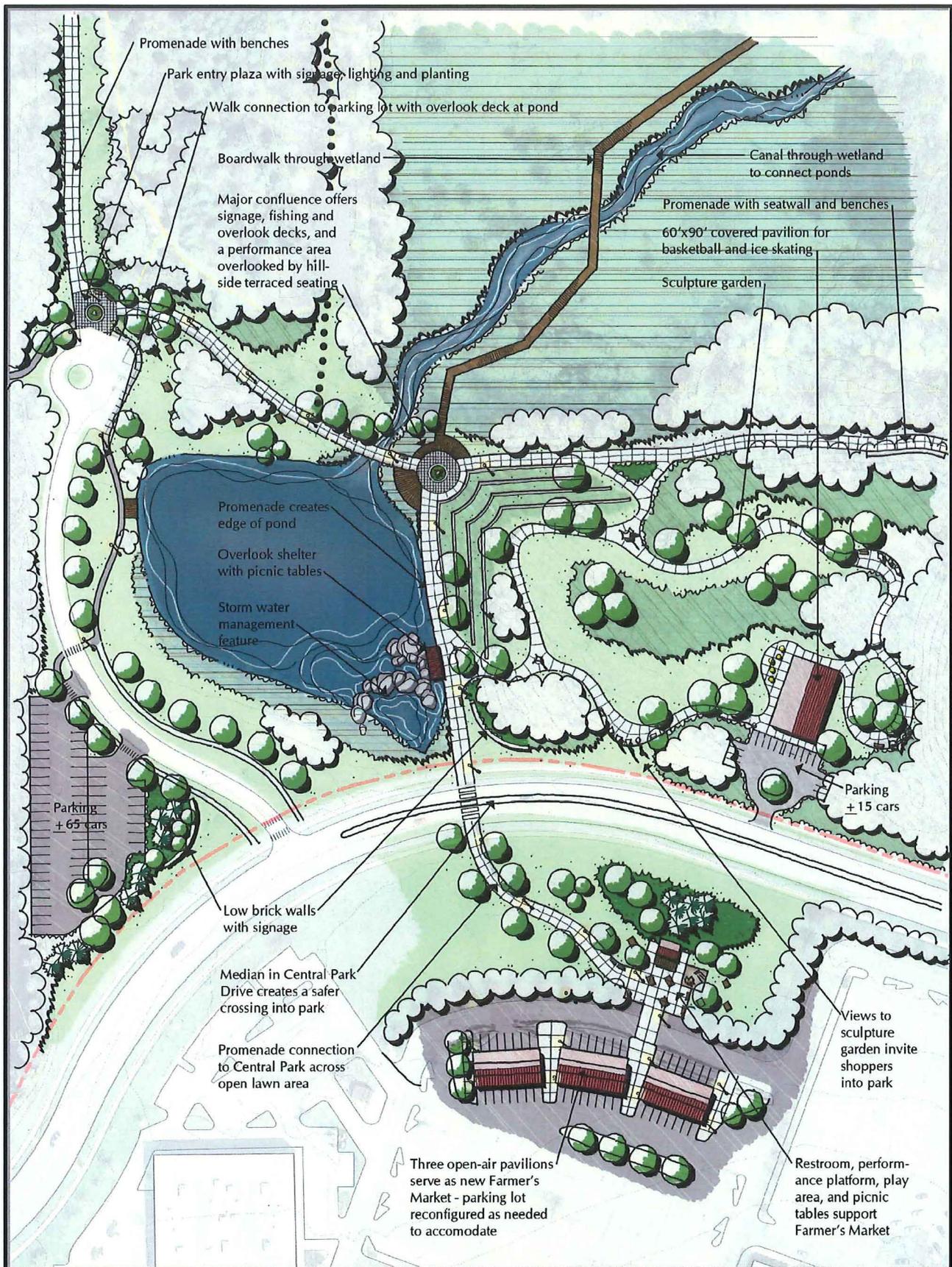
30'x60' pavilion

Playground and jumping jets fountain in location of former farmers' market pavilion - heavily screened from parking

Low brick retaining wall with township identification

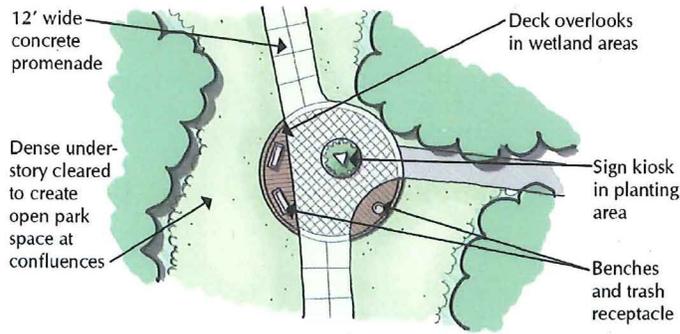
Historic Village Plan Enlargement

Central Park Master Plan

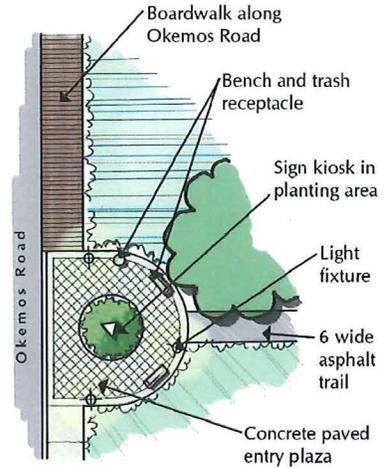


Central Park South Plan Enlargement

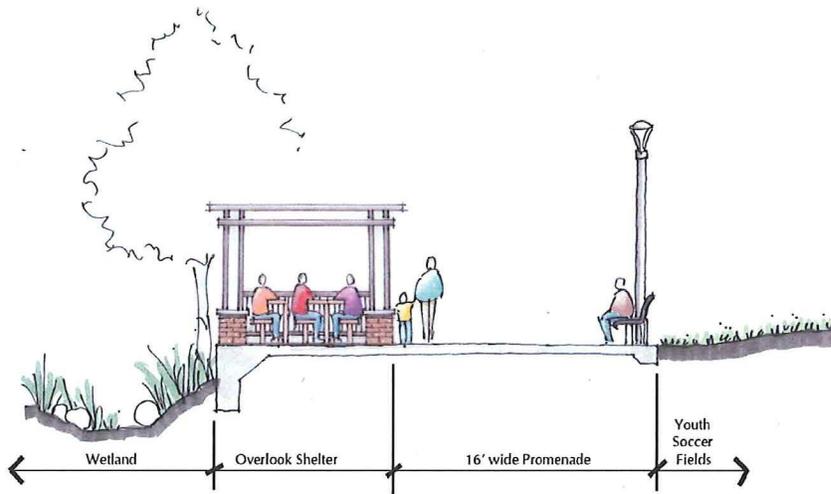
Central Park Master Plan



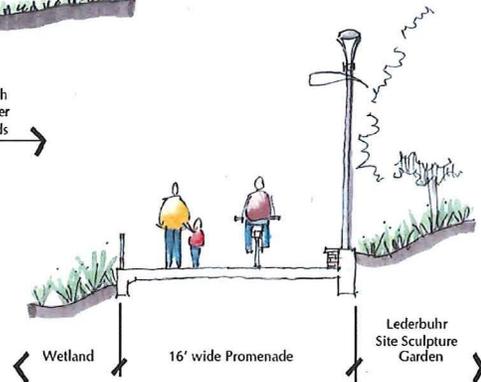
Typical Confluence Plan Enlargement



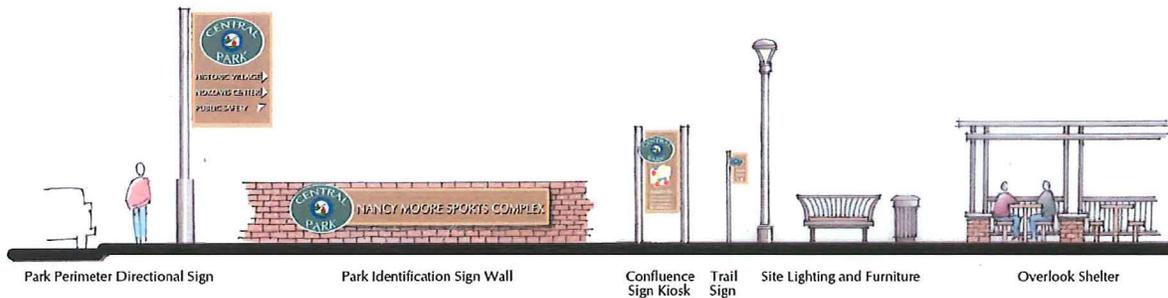
Non-Motorized Entry Plaza Plan Enlargement



Promenade Section at Youth Soccer Fields



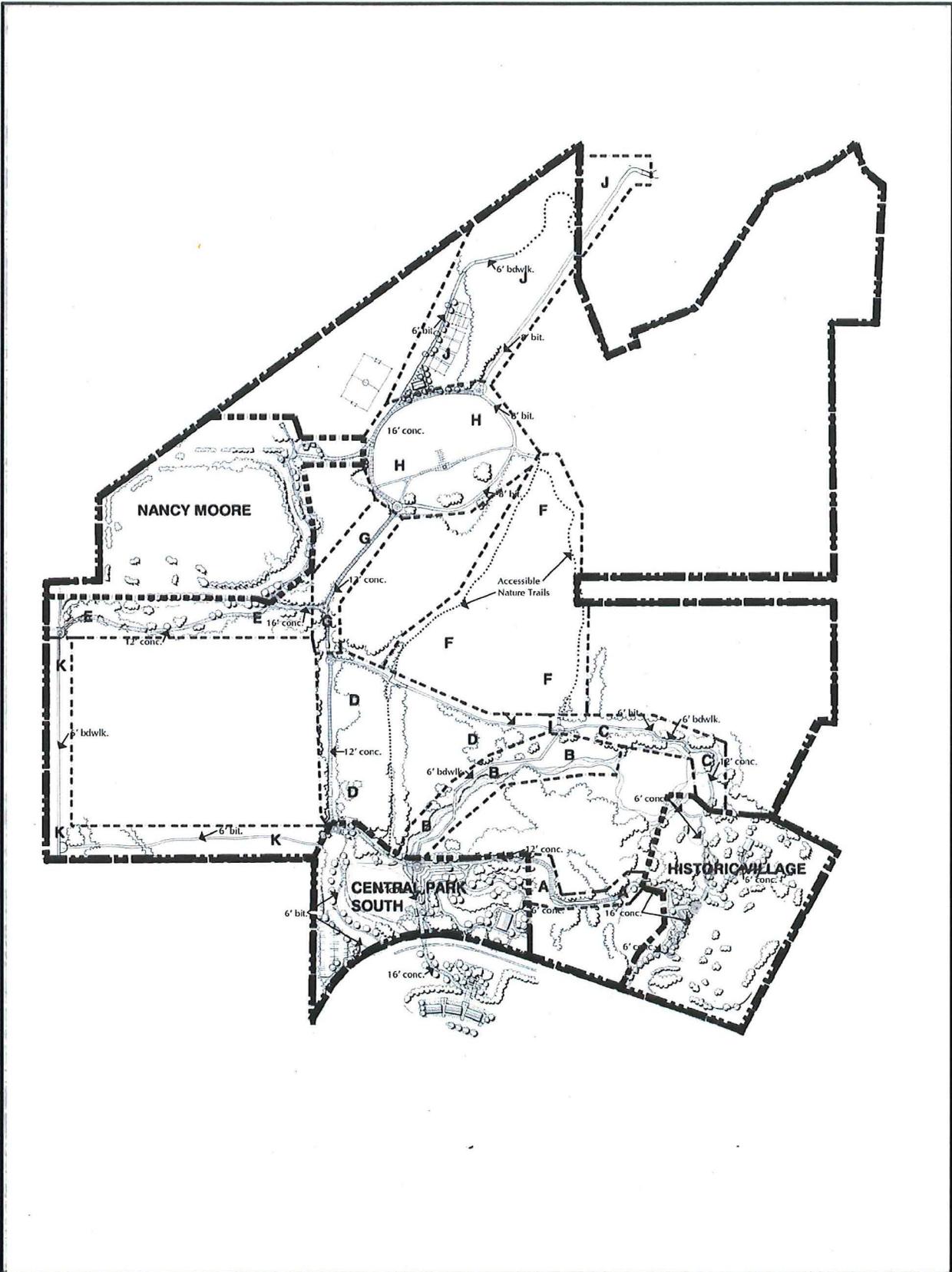
Promenade Section at Lederbuhr Site



Signage and Furniture Concepts

Master Plan Details

Central Park Master Plan



Overall Park Budget Key Plan

Central Park Master Plan

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: November 6, 2015

RE: Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021

Our Five – Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2011-2015 is due to be updated in 2016. Even though our plan should have expired this year, the DNR has provided us with a 1-year extension. This was due to the fact that in 2011, the DNR amended the master plan requirements but were in transition mode. We followed the new criteria when many other communities did not. Because of the confusion at the time, they awarded us and additional year of eligibility. Our current plan officially expires December 31, 2016.

Our plan received a major overhaul in 2011 and was completed in-house by township staff. Much of our base information such as organizational structure, park inventories and maps are in really good shape. The portion of the plan that supports our direction for the next five years and beyond comes from community input and needs assessments. The public input we gathered for our current plan was a culmination of focus group meetings, staff interviews, and a community survey conducted on-line through Survey Monkey. Non-computer users were mailed a hard-copy version to complete and return. Postcards were sent to every household to encourage a broad range of participants.

There is \$16,000 budgeted for the plan update in 2016. This does provide some funds for professional assistance if necessary. I look forward to hearing the Commissions thoughts and ideas for public input methods, possible plan assistance and direction.

VII. Goals and Objectives

The Meridian Township parks, recreation and open space system exists to serve the needs and desires of the residents of the Township and the Meridian community by providing a full spectrum of recreational opportunities, while enhancing the visual quality of neighborhoods and the Township as a whole. Historically, Meridian Township's parks, recreation and open space system has been looked upon as one of the most important elements in the quality of life for Meridian Township residents.

The Park and Recreation system-wide goals have not changed that significantly from the previous plan. This is because after gathering the public input, staff recognized that even though some issues have changed, the overriding goals and objectives are still relevant and respond to the desires and concerns of residents today.

A. GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PHILOSOPHIES

1. Provide accessible facilities and leisure opportunities for all persons regardless of their physical and socio-economic characteristics.
2. Efficiently employ Township resources, in concert with other public, private and volunteer resources, to provide a wide range of recreation and leisure opportunities and avoid duplication of services where unnecessary.
3. Actively seek the most appropriate acquisition and uses of community open space and natural features to meet the community's needs for active, structured recreation, as well as passive enjoyment of the out-of-doors.
4. Plan for the continued availability of financial, physical and personnel resources to support the parks and recreation system.

B. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Accessibility**
 - a. Increased multi-use trails in parks and natural areas.
 - b. Improved trail maintenance and trail signage.
 - c. Improve amenities for universal access in all park facilities.
 - d. More year-around restrooms in parks.
 - e. More benches along trails and pathways.
 - f. Improve connectivity between parks.

2. **Safety**
 - a. Crime prevention through environmental design.
 - b. Safety through improved maintenance.
 - c. Safety through increased park usage.
3. **Environmental Sustainability**
 - a. LEED Design for environmental sustainability (new building and renovations) – Energy saving opportunities.
 - b. Improved non-motorized transportation connections between parks.
4. **Financial Stewardship**
 - a. Increase partnerships and collaborative opportunities.
 - b. Seek additional grant support.
 - c. Seek additional Millage to support park improvements and maintenance.
 - d. Seek sponsorships and donations.
 - e. Continue to encourage and utilize volunteerism.
5. **Environmental Stewardship**
 - a. Educate, monitor and respond to invasive species removal and encourage native plantings.
 - b. Work cooperatively with the Land Preservation program or assistance in stewardship planning and implementation.
 - c. Monitor and respond to early signs of erosion, disease, and facility deterioration.
 - d. Identify and protect rare and sensitive species in the parks where feasible.
6. **Education**
 - a. Utilize recreation as a vehicle to educate and instill positive personal attributes such as ethics, values, citizenship, sportsmanship and leadership characteristics.
 - b. Expand the educational outreach of the Harris Nature Center by adding interpretive signage at the entrance and along trails of our

natural area parks to facilitate self-directed and self-paced nature study.

- c. Expand and encourage additional educational outreach of the Meridian Historical Village and Nokomis Learning Center by adding educational/interpretive signage to the grounds surrounding the buildings to facilitate self-directed and self-paced cultural education.
- d. Improve awareness regarding the qualities, benefits, and diversity of the park system.
- e. Expand Harris Nature Center environmental programs and outreach throughout the entire park system.

7. Recreation

- a. Encourage and expand the use of parks for exercise and stress relief regimens for all ages and abilities.
- b. Expand and seek opportunities for collaborations, partnerships and shared services.
- c. Seek grants and sponsorships to support recreation services.
- d. Provide healthy outlets for teens and adolescents.
- e. Provide programs and services during a variety of days and times to reach the greatest number of participants.
- f. Provide activities that focus on health, wellness and physical fitness and positive youth development.

8. Parks

- a. Support Farmers' Market, Snell Towar Recreation Center, and Harris Nature Center operations and facility improvements.
- b. Provide diverse amenities in the park system to accommodate citizens' interests and needs.

VIII. Action Program

This section highlights a series of recommended actions that resulted from the process of preparing this Master Plan. The recommended actions are intended to guide the Park Commission and staff when making decisions regarding the priorities for the park and recreation needs of Meridian Township residents, businesses, and visitors for the next five years and beyond. They are intended to guide decision-making regarding the park and recreation needs of Meridian Township residents, businesses, and visitors for the next five years and beyond.

The action program was developed based upon input gathered from the community survey, public input meetings, township-wide planning efforts, demographic data, land use trends and efforts of adjacent communities. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP), developed by the Park Commission and staff for future park projects, outlines future development projects and their associated costs (Appendix D). Many of the top park or facility additions identified through the process are in alignment with proposed park improvement projects in the CIP.

It is the responsibility of the Department of Parks and Recreation to provide services and programs that meet the needs of residents. The Department must be alert to the population and demographic trends in the Township and adjust accordingly. Meridian Township not only has to be aware of the aging population trend, the large population of college aged residents, but also the active children and families in the community.

It has been demonstrated that the provision of restrooms, multi-purpose trails, open space, greenways, improved Farmers' Market facility, indoor basketball facilities, and athletic fields are important to the residents. The Department must continue to set common goals and form partnerships with other departments and community organizations in order to enhance the quality of life of all residents, businesses, and visitors.

The recommendations and actions are summarized below:

A. Capital Improvement Program

To meet the recommendations and actions, the Park Commission and the Department of Parks and Recreation have identified a series of capital projects for the next six years. These projects will address the needs identified in this Master Plan and are reviewed every year. Additional public input is obtained prior to final planning of each project. Appendix D summarizes the capital projects that are detailed in the 2011-2016 Meridian Township Six Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP). To keep connected to the most recent CIP Plan, visit www.meridian.mi.us.

1. Restrooms

The highest priority identified during the public input process was the development of restroom facilities. The CIP also recognizes this priority, and proposes new or renovated restroom buildings as a part of future development projects in the following parks: Central Park, Harris Nature Center, Hillbrook Park, Legg Park South, and North Meridian Road Park. Plans for an environmentally friendly, year-round restroom building in North Meridian Road Park are currently being developed and will be constructed in 2011.

2. Trails/Pathways

Another item identified during the public input process was the continued development of multi-purpose trails or pathways in existing parks and pathways that link the parks together. This will provide non-motorized access to parks and recreation facilities to satisfy the needs of pedestrians, bicyclists and joggers, and to facilitate use of natural areas, including the Meridian Riverfront Park. Walking, hiking, and bicycling were identified as some of the most popular leisure activities in the community survey and during other public meetings. Enhancing the trails would also serve persons with disabilities and bicycle commuters by providing much improved access through the parks. Also a priority is improved trail maintenance, better trail signage and more benches. The Township's non-motorized bicycle/pathway plan typically constructs paths alongside roadways, but there are many opportunities to extend these pathways into the park system to create a large network of trails. In addition, Ingham County is also developing the "Heart of Michigan Trail" in Meridian Township and adjacent communities (See Appendix A).

3. Parks and Facilities Improvement and Maintenance

a. Central Park

The Farmers' Market is located in Central Park, which is also home to some of our most popular athletic fields, paved and unpaved trails, Nokomis Learning Center, and the Meridian Historical Village. Central Park has been called the "Heart of Meridian" and is well-loved and well-used by many residents. In order to continue to meet the recreational needs of the residents, a master plan will be developed to evaluate opportunities for:

- Universal accessibility
- Farmers' Market expansion
- Greater use of water features
- Multi-use trails
- ~~▪ Recreation Center~~
- Splash pad
- ~~▪ Skate park~~
- Restroom building
- Other outdoor recreation facilities

- Outdoor interpretation in the Historical Village and around Nokomis.
- Ash tree replacements

b. Towner Road Park

A strong need for athletic fields in the northern portion of our community has been identified for a number of years in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and is supported by the large number of youth participating in sports programs. Plans include:

- Athletic fields for soccer, lacrosse, football, and baseball
- Pavilion and restroom
- Play equipment
- Accessible loop trail
- Interpretive signage
- Parking lot

c. Legg Park

Plans are being created for the continued development of Meridian Riverfront Park, Legg entrance, 3891 Van Atta Road, Okemos, by designing and implementing a master plan for amenities including:

- Dog park
- Pavilion/restroom
- New entry drive and parking lot
- Universally accessible trails
- Trail improvements
- Habitat improvements
- Ash tree replacements
- Footbridge replacement

d. Harris Nature Center

Enhance the Harris Nature Center by adding indoor and outdoor universally accessible activity space and amenities to meet growing demand, including:

- River overlook/outdoor classroom
- Energy efficiency improvements to building
- Pavilion
- Outdoor restroom building
- Natural playground
- River access/launch
- Building expansion
- Outdoor interpretive signage and displays

e. North Meridian Road Park

This park contains two soccer fields, sled hill, playground nature trails and parking. Improvement plans include:

- All-seasons pavilion for winter warming area, cross-country ski rental and concessions
- Sled hill improvements including lights, tubing area with tow-rope
- Trail improvements and signage
- Expanded parking
- Landscaping.

f. Wonch Park Improvements

Wonch Park is located on Okemos Road and the Red Cedar River within the Okemos DDA District. Implement the Master Plan which includes:

- New pavilion with electricity
- Accessible loop trail with benches
- Stream bank stabilization improvements
- Fishing dock/canoe launch
- Parking lot expansion and resurfacing
- New restroom facility
- Landscaping
- Plaza area with seating
- Connector trail to downtown Okemos

g. Hartrick Park Phase II

Phase I of Hartrick Park was completed in 2004 with grant assistance from MNRTF. Phase II is a continuation of the plan including:

- Accessible pathways/trail improvements
- Dugouts
- Maintenance/concession building.

h. Hillbrook Park

Future plans include:

- Restroom building
- Trail improvements and signage
- New playground
- Landscaping

i. Marshall Park

Plans include:

- Accessible loop trail
- New Playground Equipment
- Skate Park
- Landscaping

j. Meridian Riverfront Park

Meridian Riverfront Park extends along the Red Cedar River for approximately 2.5 miles. Plans include:

- Universally accessible river trail including boardwalk and/or hard surfaces and bridges
- Footbridge replacement in Legg Park
- Trail and interpretive signage.
- Benches

k. Nancy Moore Park

Nancy Moore Park contains two soccer fields, two ball fields and two sand volleyball courts but only one pavilion. There is a demonstrated need for additional pavilions in our community and this site would best accommodate the addition. Plans include:

- Addition of a second pavilion

l. Orlando Park Trail

Orlando Park, located at 1275 Orlando Drive, Haslett is the newest mini-park in our system. Plans include:

- Swings in the playground area
- Develop trail from Orlando Park to Mud Lake in partnership with Haslett Schools. This would be an excellent opportunity for a cooperative effort to provide exposure to nature for both the neighborhood and the Haslett School students.

m. Snell-Towar Recreation Center

Snell-Towar Recreation Center provides much needed recreation services to the Towar Gardens/Edgewood Village neighborhood, mainly engaging youth and seniors in stimulating, creative and active programs. The building was constructed in 1978 and is in need of a few upgrades including:

- Kitchen renovation and relocation
- Office for center staff
- Renovation to front room/foyer area
- New roof

n. Van Atta Bridge Pathway

Work cooperatively with the Ingham County Road Commission to fund and construct a pedestrian pathway under the bridge on Van Atta Road adjacent to the Harris Nature Center. The bridge is slated for replacement in 2013. This project will improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the road between Legg Park and the Harris Nature Center.

4. Additional Considerations

- a. Recreation Facilities:** Residents also identified the need for additional recreation facilities (other than sports and trails) at existing parks. Priorities include restrooms that can be open year-around, concessions, continue to coordinate with volunteers to remove obstructions and provide safe clear river access for canoe

and kayak navigation, maintenance utility buildings, and preservation of historic buildings. As people are staying closer to home and utilizing our park facilities to much greater degree, it becomes important to make park experiences enjoyable, diverse and educational. To that end, the Park Commission and Department should work toward adding more uniform directional and interpretive signage and outdoor exhibits at the Harris Nature Center and on all park trails and facilities. Visitor experience could be greatly enhanced at the Historical Village and Nokomis Center with more outdoor displays and signage.

- b. **Sports Fields and Facilities:** The public input process identified the need for additional sports facilities. There is a need for more game quality fields that can be utilized by soccer, football, lacrosse, baseball, t-ball and softball.

The Park Commission acquired a 22-acre parcel in the northern portion of the township in 2007 (Towner Road Park) for the purpose of developing much-needed athletic fields. The Haslett School District area is deficient in sports fields for recreation play thus making the Towner Road acquisition very important for addressing that need. Strong efforts will be made in the next five years to develop the Towner Road Park site.

Legg Park South, acquired in 1994, was purchased for the purpose of providing active recreation facilities in the future when growth occurred in the eastern part of the township. The need for developing athletic facilities at Legg Park South is not a priority in the next five years, but parts of the property are currently being planned for a dog park.

There is also a need for seven more indoor basketball courts to support current and future demands as well. The Park Commission will be completing a master plan for Central Park in 2011 that may include a plan for this type of facility.

In addition, there is a need to upgrade existing sports facilities to ensure the safety and enjoyment of participants and spectators. Facilities should be developed or upgraded to provide a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. As noted, there is a need for more quality sports fields and active recreation facilities. This need can be met by development of neighborhood and community park sites, by working in collaboration with local schools to renovate and upgrade their sites for recreational use, and by upgrading existing facilities throughout the Township.

- c. **General Park Development:** Residents also urged the Park Commission and the Department to continue to develop existing parks to improve the accessibility, quality, and diversity of recreation opportunities. There was strong encouragement toward repair and maintenance of existing facilities. According to the community survey, over 70% of respondents said they would support a new Park Millage for improvements and maintenance of parks. The Park Commission and Department are focusing efforts toward park planning at this time in preparation of available funding.
- d. **Land Acquisition and Easement Agreements:** In the future, it is imperative that new land acquisitions target the geographic and type of use based on current and future demands of residents.

Also, the long-term potential of the Red Cedar River corridor has yet to be realized. Future land acquisitions and easement agreements should be pursued with the goal of eventually providing a pedestrian/bicycle trail system that links the Harris Nature Center to the Bicycle/Pedestrian trail system in Meridian Township. It would also serve as a major attraction for new residents and tourists.

In order to maximize the potential benefits of open space and natural areas, it is necessary that there is increased coordination of efforts between the Land Preservation Advisory Board and the Park Commission. It is important that new developments in Meridian Township also be encouraged to incorporate parks and recreation amenities that complement the efforts of the Department and Park Commission. The benefits of these collaborations will enhance the potential for recreation, conservation and stewardship.

B. Programs and Services

Based on the community survey, respondents were very satisfied with the programs and services being provided by the Department of Parks and Recreation. It is clear that residents value the potential benefits of leisure/free time activities, especially those related to wellness.

The results indicated that residents were appreciative of the Farmers' Market and the other special events/festivals offered by the Department. They also suggested that additional special events and festivals are needed that focus on local culture and history. Focus strategies for the next five years includes:

- Increase activities for toddler and preschoolers during evening and weekends

- Additional programs that serve adolescents and teenagers.
- Because older adults are working longer, offer opportunities for active recreation for them in the evenings and on weekends.
- Foster greater cooperation and collaboration with schools, surrounding governmental units and business.
- Maintain services to youth and seniors at Snell-Towar Recreation Center.
- Provide additional special events

C. Communication

Effectively reaching our community and keeping them informed is a primary goal and need to be successful.

- Creatively promote all the parks in the park system.
- Meet with park neighbors to discuss stewardship and to identify future development opportunities.
- Continue to publish and distribute the “Family Fun Guide” to all residents in the community two times per year.
- Continue to utilize the website, Facebook and Twitter to promote programs and activities.
- Continue to utilize HOM-TV to promote parks and recreation programs throughout the community.
- Continue to operate quality programs to take advantage of the least expensive form of promotion – word of mouth.

IX. Quality of Life Initiatives

Meridian Township is constantly promoting quality of life initiatives in the community. Some of these measures include:

- **“Complete Streets” Ordinance** - Meridian township to adopt in 2011.
- **“Potential Conservation Assessment”** project - Tri-County Regional Planning
- **“Greening Mid-Michigan Plan”** - Participated in development with Tri-County Regional Planning in regional vision for green infrastructure.
- **“Meridian Township Greenspace Plan”** - adopted in 2004.
- **Meridian Township “Land Preservation Program”** - Millage to acquire and manage fragile lands in the community.
- **“Heart of Michigan Trail Plan”**- Active participation with the Meridian Township portion in conjunction with Ingham County Parks.
- **Meridian Township “Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathway Millage”** - Has developed almost eighty miles of pathway in the community.
- **“Promoting Active Communities” Award Program** - Sponsored by the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports (5-time award winner).

X. Acknowledgements and Final Comments

The public input for this Master Plan proved invaluable. The information from the input meetings and individual comments (i.e., email, phone, and in-person) were used by the Department of Parks and Recreation and Park Commission. The public input identified residents' strong desire for high quality parks and recreation and the connection to higher quality of life. It also validated the Township's, Department's, and the Park Commission's commitment to continuously improve parks and recreation in Meridian Township. It is also clear that these improvements have resulted in increased expectations for parks, facilities, and programs.

In addition to meeting the requirements for the MDNR, it is hoped that this Plan will result in additional public input to accomplish the recommendations and actions presented in this report. Over the next five years, it is hoped that this Plan will result in additional amenities in existing parks and expansion of existing programs to meet the needs of all Meridian Township residents. The Park Commission will continue to encourage and work cooperatively with developers to site neighborhood parks in their developments.

The Department's effort to increase collaboration has resulted in stronger relationships with many community-based organizations (e.g., neighborhood and sport), schools, businesses, neighboring communities, and non-profits. These efforts should continue in order to ensure that residents and visitors are aware of all of the recreation opportunities in the Township. This report will be shared with these groups to discuss strategies to increase overall recreation participation and enhance the many potential benefits.

In conclusion, this Plan represents the efforts and input of many individuals. It is hoped that it will result in more dialogue with residents and community leaders to assist Meridian Township Department of Parks and Recreation to meet its mission:

To enhance the quality of life for Township residents and visitors by providing diverse park facilities and recreation opportunities where participants are able to learn and play; create and imagine, and be safe and secure utilizing qualified, professional staff and volunteers emphasizing community interaction.

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Park Commission Meeting
November 10, 2015

6. MINUTES

- a. September 8, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. September 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Deschaine

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

The following items were added and changed to the agenda:

As new agenda item #5, Newton Road Parking lot
As new agenda item #6, Sanitary sewer system in Central Park/Historical Village
As new agenda item #7, Closed Session
As new agenda item #8, Comment
As new agenda item #9, Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson approved the agenda as amended.

3. Strider Bikes

Since Commissioner Deschaine asked to have this item on the agenda and he is
absence, this item will be tabled until the next meeting.

4. Facebook and Park Promotion

Director Maisner reported the Communication Department hosted a one-day
social media campaign to increase engagement and visibility for the Parks and
Recreation Department. Results: increased fan page likes by 302 people from
583 to 870; increased reach by 122% reaching 4,460 people; increased
engagement by 286%, engaging 129 people through likes, comments and
shares; organically reached 2,017 people; highest post reach that day was 1,134
and out-performed other pages the Communication Department watches.
Staff will follow up with Director Guthrie about developing a budget and plan for
purchasing advertising space on Facebook and twitter and also a media plan

5. Newton Road Parking Lot

The Ingham County Road Department is scheduled to pave Newton Road and has already paved a portion from Lake Lansing Road to just past the entrance to the park. There have been concerns raised about the current design of Newtown Road Park parking lot with regards to not having a drop-off area for the children for sport practices. Director Maisner distributed a new design that included a drop off loop. When the entrance and gravel parking lot were developed in 2014, there was a requirement to pave the parking lot within one year. The estimated cost for the new plan is approximately \$46,000. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commissioners to add this item to the regular meeting agenda for action.

6. Sanitary Sewer System in Central Park/Historical Village

During the Central Park Master Plan public input and design charrettes in July, a new proposed restroom was discussed and where the best sewer connection would be located. It was suggested that the Park Millage could fund an extension of the sewer system from Aldi's construction site into the Central Park for with a ball park cost of \$15,000. After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commissioners to add this item to the regular meeting agenda for action.

7. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER MCDONALD MOVED, BOAD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS A POSSIBLE LAND ACQUISITION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens, Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

The Commission moved into closed session at 6:35 pm.

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens, Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

The Commission returned to open session at 6:42 pm.

8. Comment

None

9. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 6:50 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 2015

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

ABSENT: Commissioner Deschaine

OTHERS: Eckhart Dersch, Victoria Voges, Chad Gruber, Angie Wilson, Madeline
Masterson

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Under #3, Presentations, add new item #a. Eagle Scout Final Report
Presentation from Eagle Scout Candidate Grant Porter and Central Park Master
Plan Final Report becomes new item #3b.

Under #9 New Business, add #b Newton Road Parking Lot and #c. Central Park
Sanitary Sewer System

BOARD MEMBER JARAMILLO MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS
SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion
passed.

3. Presentations

a. Eagle Scout Final Report Presentation

Eagle Scout Candidate Grant Porter reported on his project that entailed
constructing and installing eight Aldo Leopold benches in Central Park
(diagram included in the minute book). The benches are anchored in
concrete and he raised enough funds to cover the project expenses. When
asked what he learned, Candidate Porter replied "not to dig in clay if at all
possible".

b. Central Park Master Plan Final Report

Project consultant Sandy Bliesener, O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock and Assoc.,
stated the public input and charette/design workshop meetings were very
successful and from the comments, suggestions, input and mission for this
project, the Overall Park Development Plan includes major entrance
points/confluences with specific elements highlighting each portion of the park
and 6'-16' wide barrier-free paved path or promenades, boardwalks,

sidewalks, and nature trails into the 279 acres of parkland. Highlights of each area include:

Historical Village:

- New 40'x60' pavilion landscaped and screened adjacent to parking lot between Village buildings and Nokomis Learning Center
- Town Square area with brick pavers, lights, benches, picnic area
- Small band shell with historic character
- Wide promenade around the Village and around the pond
- 20' wide bridge between the Village and park plaza
- New restroom building over bridge on Village side
- Removal of former Farmers' Market pavilion/restroom building
- Construction of a new pavilion
- Continuation of wide promenade around pond and from new pavilion over to Central Park Drive
- Play structure, splash pad, memorial garden
- Low brick retaining wall signage at entrance points and into the berm on Marsh Road/Central Park Drive

Nancy Moore Park:

- New entrance into the park with the continuation of Gaylord C Smith Drive around the east side of the Service Center entering by the existing ball fields
- Continuation of the wide paved pathways and boardwalk promenade along the drive connecting over the Land Preservation parcel on west side of Okemos Road
- Confluence entrance plaza including additional parking, signage, overlooks/observation area, benches
- New pavilion and restroom buildings

Central Park South/Ledebuhr parcel:

- Continuation of the wide paved pathways and boardwalk promenade from Central Park over to this area to a confluence entrance plaza
- Covered pavilion that could be used for basketball and ice skating
- Sculpture garden
- Canal through wetlands connecting the two ponds
- Additional parking areas
- Additional overlook shelter and picnic areas
- Storm water management features
- Fitness stations for all ages and abilities

New Farmers Market area:

- After researching possible improvements to the present pavilion for the Farmers' Market enterprise, it was decided to find a new location
- The proposed design is to move this enterprise over to the Meridian Mall adjacent to the Younkers Men's Store entrance

- Construction three open-air pavilions to allow farmers to back into the facilities
- On the green, constructing a new restroom building, performance platform, play area with picnic tables
- The promenade would continue from the Mall side of Central Park Drive over onto the Central Park/Ledebuhr side of the roadway
- Suggestion to construct a median on Central Park Drive to address pedestrian crossing issues

Ms. Bliesener stated the budget materials for the project has been created for phased development. She thanked the Commissioners, staff and residents for attending the public input and charette sessions.

Discussion:

- Thanked everyone for their involvement in this project
- Very impressed with information that was received to create this wonderful plan
- It is a great plan
- It will be an amazing project with a lot of diversity
- Very glad Wes Landon was brought into the development of this project- he was a great asset
- This final product includes everyone's comments and ideas into one plan
- The final cost might be 5 million but we can't be afraid of it. This project can be completed in phases and with partners and grants
- This project has created a vision for the community, this is something to get everyone exciting about, creating this destination park
- Thanked Ms. Bliesener and her team for all their hard work on this project and for developing the estimate of cost. It will be the mission of the Park Commission to determine how to move this project forward.

4. Public Comment

Victoria Voges, Education Director, Nokomis Learning Center, spoke about the new hours including Saturdays and Sundays and their new website. The Center received a permit to receive and display a Bald Eagles' Bole along with the remainder of the nest. This is the only one displayed in Michigan. The Center is has set a fundraising of \$5,000 to reconstruct the whole nest. The Bole can be seen in the gallery for a modest fee. Information can be found on the new website or on face book.

Eckhart Dersch, Butternut, Okemos, stated the Commission and residents will be astounded when the Central Park Master Plan is completed. He visited a similar project in Missouri. He suggested including a bike repair station where the tools are anchored to the site and an oversized bird house with a book library. He loved the promenades and trail connections throughout the park.

Angie Wilson, Mohawk Lane, Okemos, stated the Central Park Master Plan is an amazing plan and the consultant did a wonderful job of incorporating everyone's comments. She can't wait to see this plan come together and with community support is very excited for this project. She thanked residents, Commissioners and staff for their contributions to this project.

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Jaramillo reported on the recent Grand Opening of the paved pathway loop in Wonch Park. The "victory lap" was conducted by an Irish piper. It was a wonderful event.

Commissioner McDonald spoke about a lighted pedestrian crossing in Allegan County that may be of interest to us. Their transportation plan is on their website. It has an alerting system with lights and reflectors which reduce vehicle and pedestrian accidents without a stop sign or stop light. He likes the boulevard median plan for the Central Park Master Plan project.

Commissioner Stephens spoke about the Red Cedar Salmon Run at MSU on October 18 and the funds from the race will support the "Salmon in the Classroom" program. Many of the salmon have been and will be grown and released in Meridian Township.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. August 11, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. August 11, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 11, 2015 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

None

B. Commission Information

1. September Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Towne Courier: **Aug 2:** Kids two-day camps offered at Harris Nature Center; **Aug 9:** Expert to guide edible plant walking tour; **Aug 23:** Chinese Qigong exercises occur each Monday; Exploration of Red Cedar River water Sept 13; Delicious or Dangerous? Harris Nature Center walk teaches attendees how to spot safe edibles in the wild; **Aug 30:** Exploration of Red Cedar River water Sept 13; Preschool will focus on dragon flies Sept 10; Meridian Heritage Festival Sept 19 at Historical Village; Meridian Township's Wonch Park opens new paved pathway
3. Lansing State Journal: **Aug 17:** Delicious or Dangerous? Harris Nature Center walk teaches attendees how to spot safe edibles in the wild

4. DeWitt Bath Review: **Aug 30:** Meridian Heritage Festival Sept 19 at Historical Village
5. Press Releases: **Aug 10:** Meridian Township Hires Recreation Specialist/ New Employee Brings More than Eight Years of Experience; **Aug 24:** Meridian Township Takes Residents Back in Time/History Comes to Life at Annual Heritage Festival; **Aug 24:** Meridian Township Celebrates Grant Funded Project/Wonch Park Pathway Ribbon Cutting Event Scheduled; **Aug 31:** Teamwork and Timbers Return/History Comes to Life at Annual Heritage Festival; **Aug 31:** Meridian Township Celebrates Grant Funded Project/Wonch Park Pathway Ribbon Cutting this Wednesday

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. From: Martha Wyatt, Associate Planner/Landscape Architect; RE: Site Plan Review#15-14-07 (Meridian Township Parks & Recreation); 4555 Okemos Road; remove existing and install new pavilion

The Edible Plant Walking Tour was well attended and covered in the newspapers. There is an app for identify and reporting invasive species of Michigan to "MISIN" (Michigan Invasive Specific Information Network).

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

8. Director's Report

Director Maisner reported the following

• Wonch Park:

- Parking lot paving and striping has been completed
- Loop Pathway Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held on Wednesday, September 2 at noon with approximately 50 people in attendance. The event had media coverage from TV 6, TV 10 and HOMTV. The event was also live streamed on Twitter. The universally accessible trail was funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (\$45,000); the Park Millage (\$15,000) and benches were constructed and installed by the Okemos Kiwanis Club members. Younes Ishraidi and Nyal Nunn from the Engineering Department were team leaders on the project. The loop measures 1/3 mile.
- We are currently working on ordering a **new pavilion and drinking fountain** for Wonch Park. Our permit applications have been submitted to the Community Planning and Development Office and to MDEQ for work in a floodplain. The project is being funded by the Park Millage. We plan to have the site work completed this year. The pavilion construction will depend on delivery and end-of-year weather. The cut and fill for this project will result in no change to the 100 year floodplain.

- **Greenfield Outdoor Fitness Equipment Grant** – submitted grant application on September 1; it is a matching grant for \$40,000 and will be installed in either Wonch or Central Park. If successful, the equipment will need to be ordered by November 15. The award should be made at the end of September and it will then be up to the Commission if they will fund the 50% match amount.
- **New Lead Worker in Parks and Grounds** – Have awarded the position to Lawrence (Larry) Bobb. Larry has worked in the Public Works Department for 13 years. We are excited to welcome Larry to our team. He is a great thinker, organizer, mechanic and recently led the project to complete a **footbridge connection project** between Central Park/Historical Village and Nancy Moore Park.
- **Monarch Butterfly project at Hartrick Park** – Last fall, former Planning Commission member Dave Reicosky, lead a project that included third grade students and their teachers from Bennett Woods Elementary with a planting project in Hartrick Park to support vegetation for growing and attracting Monarch caterpillars. It has been exciting to read the numerous emails that have been sent this week regarding the wonderful activity taking place there now. The area is located along the south side of the entry drive. Commissioner Stephens reported last year as part of the Grand Learning Network, he worked with teachers to improve monarch way stations, tagging and following the Monarchs in Michigan.
- **Town Hall Paving Project** – started two weeks ago and the **Farmers' Market** was temporarily relocated to the Meridian Mall parking lot and will be there until after the **Heritage Festival** on Saturday, September 19 from 10 am – 3 pm. The lot between Nokomis and the Historical Village was repaved as well.
- **Harris Nature Center:**
 - Summer Camps concluded with a total of 440 participants. According to HNC staff, this was the largest camp numbers since the Nature Center opened in 1997 and was very successful.
 - The parking lot is scheduled for crack fill, seal and strip September 14 and three new doors have been ordered for the center as well.
 - The Nature Exploration Area has two new additions: a Spider Web and Gathering Circle. We hope to be successful in obtaining the grant for a new pavilion and will be notified in December.
 - HNC Foundation President Julie Moore has reported Tony Bauer has resigned from the Board due to health issues and it was suggested the Commission honor him at a future meeting.
 - Mary Lou Gifford representing **Mid-Michigan Republican Women** are donating a plaque and tree for the Meridian Historical Village in memory of former Township Clerk, Virginia White.

9. New Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Declaration and Notice – MNRTF Grant

Director Maisner reported on a new requirement in the grant process with the Department of Natural Resources which entail communities to file a Declaration and Notice with boundary map with Ingham County to assure that the grant funded site remain in the public domain for the public use, confirming the Township's obligation to retain ownership of Wonch Park and its conservation for public outdoor recreation.

The following Declaration and Notice was offered by Board Member Stephens and supported by Board Member McDonald:

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Meridian, governing body, hereinafter called Meridian Township, being the owner of all the property described as Wonch Park

A parcel of land in the E ½ of SW ¼ Section 21 and the W ½ of the SE ¼ of Section 21 bounded by the Red Cedar River, Okemos Road and the Grist Mill Trail Race to the Red Cedar River

Tax ID #33-02-02-21-451-004 / Wonch Park

Herein after referred to as the Property, attached hereto, located in the Township of Meridian, County of Ingham, Michigan, hereby makes the following declaration to which the Property may be put.

WITNESSETH:

This declaration contained herein is based on the following factual recitals:

- A. Meridian Township developed the Property, in part, through the grant money from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.
- B. As a condition of the grant by the DNR, Meridian Township has agreed to impose certain restrictions on the developed portion of the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, HEREBY DECLARES THAT THE PORTION OF THE PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS THE PROJECT AREA IS AND SHALL BE HELD, TRANSFERRED, SOLD, CONVEYED, LEASED, OCCUPIED AND USED SUBJECT TO THE OBLIGATION HEREINAFTER SET FORTH, ALL OF WHICH SHALL RUN WITH THE LAND.

THE LANDS INCLUDED IN THIS DEED DEVELOPED BY MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP WITH FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND PURSUANT TO PROJECT AGREEMENT TF-12-024, WONCH PARK PATHWAY DEVELOPMENT, BETWEEN THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, EXECUTED ON JULY 2, 2013. THE PROJECT AGREEMENT DESCRIBES CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS TO ENSURE THE LONG-TERM CONSERVATION OF THE PROPERTY AND ITS USE FOR PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION. MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP IS PLACING THIS NOTICE ON RECORD AS CONFIRMATION OF ITS OBLIGATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THE PROJECT AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE REQUIREMENT THAT THE CONSENT OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES IS REQUIRED PRIOR TO THE CONVEYANCE OF ANY RIGHTS OR INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY TO ANOTHER ENTITY, OR FOR THE USE OF THE PROPERTY FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN CONSERVATION OR PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

The resolution passed unanimously

b. Newton Road Park Parking Lot

The Ingham County Road Department is paving Newton Road and has already paved the portion from Lake Lansing Road to just past the entrance to the Park. There was a requirement to pave the existing gravel lot (which was constructed in 2014 within one year. The estimated cost for paving the existing gravel lot and new drop-off loop is \$46,000. After reviewing the budget and since the Wonch Park project is coming in less than originally budget, she believes there will be funds available without the need for a budget amendment.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE AN EXPENDITURE OF APPROXIMATELY \$46,000 TO PAVE THE NEWTON ROAD PARKING LOT LOCATED AT 6025 NEWTON ROAD.

Roll Call:

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson, Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The motion passed

c. Central Park Sanitary Sewer System

During the Central Park Master Plan public input and design charrettes in July, a new proposed restroom located in the Historical Village was discussed and as to where the best sewer connection would be located. It was suggested that the Park Millage could fund an extension of the sewer system from the new Aldi's construction site into the Central Park for with a ball park cost of \$15,000.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO APPROVE AN EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$20,000 FROM THE PARK MILLAGE TO INSTALL A SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM EXTENSION FROM THE NEW ALDI FOOD STORE SITE ON MARSH ROAD, INTO CENTRAL PARK NEAR NOKOMIS LEARNING CENTER AND TO TALK WITH THE TOWNSHIP BOARD TO SHARE THE COST AT A LATER DATE.

Roll Call:

AYES: Mark Stephens, Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

10. Unfinished Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. Other Business

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Discussion Items

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. Final Comments

Chair Wilson spoke about his participation in the recent Dragon Boat Races on the Red Cedar River. It was a fundraiser for the Lansing Women's Shelter; it was a lot of fun but hard work.

Commissioner Jaramillo spoke about attending a Dragon Boat Race in Oregon.

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2015, Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, July 1-October 31, 8 am – 2 pm, Central Park Pavilion

- c. Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Sunday, September 27, 11 am – 4 pm, Central Park Pavilion
- d. Heritage Festival – Saturday, September 19, 10 am – 3 pm, Central Park-Meridian Historical Village

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

This item was moved to the Work Session.

17. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

NOVEMBER 10, 2015

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
1. From: Michael Chuff, Financial Specialist, DNR Grants Management; RE: Wonch Park Pathway Development Grant final payment
 2. From: Robert Deans; Re: work in floodplain area in Wonch Park
 3. To: Robert Deans, RE: response to concerns about work in floodplain area in Wonch Park
- B. Commission Information
1. November and December Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
 2. Towne Courier: **Sept 6:** DNR asks hunters to aid assessment; Exploration of Red Cedar River Sept 13; Chinese Qigong exercises occur each Monday; Meridian Heritage Festival Sept 19 in Historical Village; **Sept 13:** Meridian Heritage Festival Sept 19 in Historical Village; **Sept 20:** DNR spotlights Meridian's role in dealing with CWD among deer population; **Oct 4:** Gathering Circle at Harris Nature Center celebrated; **Oct 11:** Guided autumn walk at HNC Oct 18; Waterfowl focus of Nature Discovery on Sunday; Guided moonlit walk at HNC Oct 30; Meridian Twp hosts special Halloween events; **Oct 25:** Turtle Time at Harris Nature Nov 5; Guided moonlight walk at HNC Oct 30; Turkey campfire program set Nov 14; **Nov 1:** Turtle Time at Harris Nature Nov 5; Turkey campfire program set Nov 14
 3. Lansing State Journal: **Oct 18:** Halloween Adventures at Harris Nature Center
 4. Press Releases: **Oct 26:** Meridian Township Celebrates Halloween; **Nov 3:** Meridian Township offers Day before Thanksgiving Farmers' Market
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
1. From: Martha Wyatt, Associate Planner/Landscape Architect; RE: Site Plan Review#15-14051 (Meridian Township Parks & Recreation); 4555 Okemos Road; work in floodplain associated with new pavilion construction in Wonch Park



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

October 8, 2015

Ms. LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation
Meridian Charter Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Maisner:

SUBJECT: TF12-024, Wonch Park Pathway Development

A final review of the above-referenced project has been completed. A copy of the summary report of project expenses is enclosed for your records.

A final payment has been processed in the amount of \$4,500.00.

This letter also serves as notification that the above project is now closed and the financial obligations of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as referenced in Section 6 of the project agreement, have been met. Any subsequent expenditure for this project will not be considered by the DNR for reimbursement.

You are reminded that long-term project agreement obligations remain in place. Please refer to your project agreement for the terms of this responsibility.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 517-284-5951, or you may write to me at the following address: **Grants Management, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.**

Sincerely,

Michael Chuff, Financial Specialist
Grants Management
517-284-5951
chuffm@michigan.gov

MC:lh
Enclosure
cc: Mr. Chip Kosloski, DNR

October 7, 2015

**Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Summary Statement of Project Cost and Reimbursement**

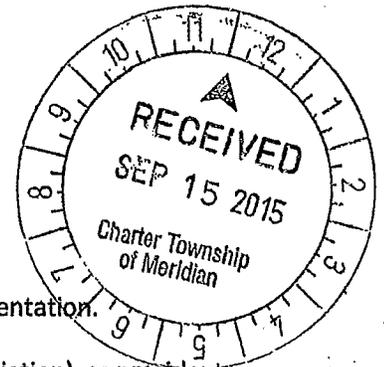
Grant Number TF12-024
Grantee Meridian Township
Project Name Wonch Park Pathway Development
Grant Maximum \$45,000
Grant Percentage 75%
Allowed Engineering \$5,000

	Reimbursement Request	
	1	Total
<u>Project Expenses</u>		
Construction	57,039.22	57,039.22
Engineering	7,992.85	7,992.85
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	65,032.07	65,032.07
<u>Less Ineligible Expenses</u>		
Excess Engineering	(2,992.85)	(2,992.85)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Eligible Expenses	62,039.22	62,039.22
MNRTF Grant Earned	45,000.00	45,000.00
Payment to Grantee	\$40,500.00	40,500.00
Final MNRTF Grant Payment to:	Meridian Township	\$4,500.00

Sept 14, 2015

Meridian Township Planning Commission ; Parks and Recreation

Re: Wonch Park Development Plans



I am writing because I have to be away from the area and cannot attend the presentation.

Some time ago I was involved in GOVRA (Greater Okemos Village Residents Association) as president and became closely involved in certain resident matters. One in particular was relevant to this current issue.

A resident that was located in the same flood plain area as Wonch park had just built a short slatted fence (about 3 to four feet high-- I think as a pet restrainer)..They had been contacted by the Township about this being illegal under recently initiated regulations pertaining to flood plain management and I was present at a meeting to discuss the problem. It was stated that there was a grandfather understanding on existing facilities and surfaces but that there could be no changes which would restrict water flow rate nor impede surfaces water absorption. They could not increase the size of existing structures nor pave surfaces. These residents were told to remove the fence and not proceed with a plan to black top a path... which they did.

This concept is now understood by residents living in the flood plain/wave and has been used in their planning and living routines.

If the Parks and Recreation plan involves structure expansion and further paving of Wonch park ,then the Township should inform all residents located in the various flood plain classified areas that the mandates in place are no longer valid and that the concern over flooding incidence has been reduced and why.

With the national concern over environmental hazards, this seems to be not the time to be relaxing or enforcing flood water control and dissipation standards . This is no time for a double standard.

Robert J. Deans

2191 Clinton, Okemos

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Supervisor
Brett Dreyfus Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Frank L. Walsh Manager



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

September 21, 2015

Mr. Robert Deans
2191 Clinton Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Mr. Deans:

We received your letter regarding your concerns over the Wonch Park Pavilion replacement project that was recently reviewed by the Planning Commission. As you stated, this park lies within the floodplain of the Red Cedar River. As such, we are required to submit an application for review to the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). In addition, we are required to request that the Planning Commission review the plans for the purpose of issuing a special use permit for work within the floodplain.

Our plans do not call for any fill within the floodplain or for an increase in impervious material. We are simply removing the existing pavilion, which was built in the 1970's, and replacing it with a new pavilion.

Typically if there is any sort of "fill", we are required to provide a compensating cut elsewhere within the floodplain. I am not aware of a grandfather clause and would advise you to contact the MDEQ with questions relative to activities that are allowed within the floodplain.

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

Yours truly,

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

Jane L. Greenway, RLA
Parks and Land Management Coordinator

cc: Frank Walsh, Township Manager
LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation
Meridian Township Park Commission



Meridian Township Parks & Recreation

November & December

Calendar of Events

November 5 – Preschool Science Exploration/Turtle Time

November 7 – Brownie Girl Scout Bugs Legacy Badge

November 14 – Webelos Cub Scout Forester Badge

November 14 – Turkey Gobbler Campfire

November 15 – FHM Lecture Series

November 19 – Chipmunk Story Time/Animals are Sleeping

November 25 – Pre-Thanksgiving Farmers Market Day



December 3 – Preschool Science Exploration/Busy Beavers

December 4 – Haslett Kindergarten-3rd Grade Basketball registration deadline

December 5 – Winter Farmers Market inside Meridian Mall

December 6 – Family Special: Critter Holiday

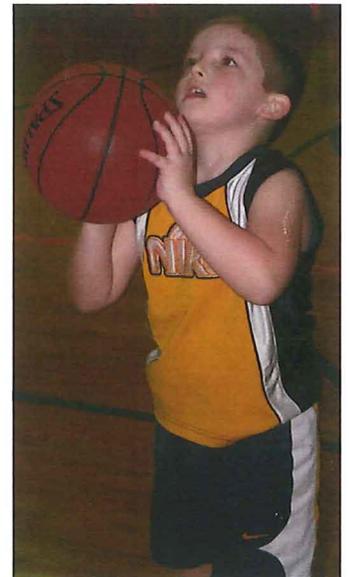
December 7 – Winter Sporties for Shorties Camps

December 13 – Christmas in the Village

December 17 – Chipmunk Story Time/Moon Game

December 19 – Winter Farmers Market inside Meridian Mall

December 19 – Drive Thru Santa



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





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Look for **In Your Voice**
at the bottom of the story

The Towne Courier™

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A GANNETT COMPANY

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

Vol. 52 - No. 49

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September 6, 2015

DNR asks hunters to aid assessment

KEN PALMER

LANSING STATE JOURNAL

OKEMOS — Some new rules will be in place for deer hunters this fall in Ingham, Clinton and Shiawassee counties as biologists work to assess the spread of chronic wasting disease.

Hunters who take a deer in the core CWD area covering nine townships will be required to bring the carcass to one of three area check stations so the animal can be tested for the disease, state Department of Natural Resources officials said Thursday.

The agency will be more lib-

eral in granting antlerless permits in all three counties, and permit fees will be cut by 40 percent, they said.

"We need a lot of hunter and landowner participation to combat this disease," DNR deer specialist Chad Stewart said during a town hall meeting in Meridian Township.

More than 100 people — many of them hunters — attended the two-hour session at the township hall on Thursday night. Stewart and other officials discussed the agency's response to the discovery of CWD in free-ranging deer in Meridian Township earlier this year.

So far, three deer killed within a one-mile radius of the Haslett Road/Marsh Road intersection have tested positive for the fatal disease, and all were part of an extended family group, said Steve Schmitt, a DNR wildlife veterinarian.

Schmitt said 560 deer have been tested for the disease. Most have been taken by sharpshooters from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services Division. The remainder were killed in car-deer collisions or taken by landowners who have disease control permits.

The DNR hopes to test 3,000

to 4,000 animals to assess the extent of the outbreak and determine whether CWD can be eradicated, Schmitt said. CWD has been eradicated in two states where the outbreak was discovered very early, he said.

CWD is a neurological disease that affects hoofed animals such as deer, elk and moose. Biologists believe it cannot be transmitted to humans.

Nine townships part of new DMU

The DNR has created a separate deer management unit (DMU 333) for the core CWD area, which includes Alameda,

Bath, Delhi, DeWitt, Lansing, Meridian, Wheatfield, Williamstown and Woodhull townships.

Baiting is illegal in all of Ingham, Clinton and Shiawassee counties, which the DNR is calling the CWD Management Zone. Baiting concentrates deer and promotes disease transmission, biologists say.

Deer check stations will be opened in Williamstown and Lansing townships and at the DNR's Rose Lake facility and will be open seven days a week, officials said.

Biologists will keep the head

See CWD, Page 4A

CWD

Continued from Page 1A

of the deer and allow hunters to take the rest of the animal. The agency says it will accommodate hunters who take a trophy animal and want to keep the head for taxidermy.

The test results will be posted on the agency's website within a few days,

The last thing biologists want is for hunters to leave the area, Stewart said.

"The whole point is to get hunters into this area and (get them to) help with surveillance and management," he said.

Meridian Heritage Festival Sept. 19 a Historical Village

The Meridian Heritage Festival will take place free of charge, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sept. 19 at the Meridian Historical Village near Central Park, 5151 Marsh Road. Residents will celebrate the community's history by enjoying a day of pioneer food, entertainment, demonstrations, games, exhibits and activities providing fun for visitors of all ages. The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department and Friends of Historic Meridian present the history event.

Some activities offered at the festival include: Civil War home-life re-enactments from the Sisters of the Union and a civilian encampment by the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company B. Returning this year are cart and pony rides, rug making, lace making, and basket weaving, French Voyageurs and a demonstration of Colonial-era medical equipment. New this year will be demonstrations of how to make socks on an antique turn-of-the-century machine. Returning after a hiatus of a few years is the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Teamwork and Timbers project for children and adults to help put together a quarter-sized barn.

Performers include the Haslett-based Gracewood Singers who will sing old-fashioned gospel-style songs. The Meridian Arts & Crafts' Marketplace will be open.

Visitors should park at the Meridian Mall; on-site parking will be very limited. Bicycle parking is available for residents to pedal to the event.

Exploration of Red Cedar River water Sept. 13

There's a lot more than fish living in the Red Cedar River in Legg Park, 3891 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. On Sunday Sept. 13, 3 p.m., guided by the Harris Nature Center naturalists, you can use a net to dip in the water and down in the mud to find a world of invertebrate animals. The program is open to all ages. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866. The Harris Nature Center will provide equipment for people to use during this activity. Participants are encouraged to wear old shoes and to register ahead. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact us at 517-349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Chinese Qigong exercises occur each Monday

Classes for Qigong (chi gung), an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind, take place 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays this summer at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$10/person/class attended. There will not be class on Aug. 10. Contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866 for more information. Qigong can be practiced by all people of all ages and abilities.

Meridian Heritage Festival Sept. 19 a Historical Village

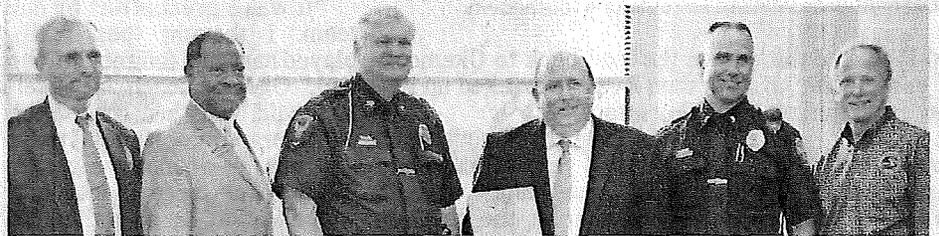
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DNR spotlights Meridian's role in dealing with CWD among deer population



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPH

DNR Director Keith Creagh and DNR Wildlife Chief Russ Mason acknowledged the essential role that Meridian Township is playing in Chronic Wasting Disease management of the local deer population with a Partners in Conservation Award at the September Natural Resources Commission Meeting at the MSU Veterinary Health Center. From left are Russ Mason, DNR Wildlife Division Chief; township trustee Milton L. Scales; township Police Chief David Hall; township manager Frank Walsh; Meridian police Lt. Ken Plaga and Keith Creagh, DNR Director.

Gathering Circle at Harris Nature Center celebrated

OKEMOS — The Gathering Circle, an outdoor classroom and small, rustic amphitheater on the grounds of the Harris Nature Center, is open.

It will serve as a site for school and camp lessons, nature center presentations and other community programs.

The Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club officials and the Meridian Township Harris Nature Center representatives will celebrate the site 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 6 at the center, 3998 Van Atta Road,

Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club committed \$10,000 to the project which included a \$2,000 grant from the Rotary District Foundation 6360.

The club was also active in garnering support from Rotarians throughout Michigan to assist the Harris Nature Center Foundation in winning a \$5,000 Michigan Make-



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPH

The Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club has worked on and supported the Gathering Circle at the Harris Nature Center.

over grant from the Okemos branch Flagstar Bank.

The balance of the \$20,000 project was raised by the Harris Nature Center Foundation and their generous donors.

“The Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club is pleased to support the gathering circle to help educate and entertain many adults and children in our community” said Club President Carrie Hindmon. Club members volunteered their time during the building of the

Circle and will continue to actively participate in stewardship events at the Center.

The Gathering Circle is one of three elements of the planned Nature Exploration Area designed to increase family appeal, expand ways for children to explore nature and expand educational programming.

The Haslett-Okemos Rotary Club Tuesdays noon at the MARC and invites other service-minded community members to consider joining the Club.

Turtle Time at Harris Nature Nov. 5

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Thursday, Nov. 5 at 1 p.m. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is Turtle Time. 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.

Guided moonlit walk at HNC Oct. 30

Enjoy the full moon while taking a guided walk through the moonlit woods of the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30. Dogs are welcome and the group meets in the parking lot. The fee is \$3/person, due at the time of the walk. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or (517) 349-3866.

Turkey campfire program set Nov. 14

Enjoy a campfire and find out more about our native wild turkey at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 7 p.m. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more in the community as well as a three-person panel made up of industry innovators.

Towne Courier • Sunday, October 25, 2015 • 3A

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Meridian Twp. hosts special Halloween events

Meridian Township will offer activities for all ages at Halloween open houses and events Oct. 24 and Oct. 31st beginning at 10 a.m. Here is the schedule: **Oct. 24:** Halloween Adventures 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road; **Oct. 31:** Farmers' Market 8 a.m.-2 p.m., 3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos Road; Halloween in the Village 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road; HOMTV Studio Funhouse 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road; Meridian Police Station 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Public Safety Building, 5151 Marsh Road; Meridian Fire Stations (2 & 3) 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Station 2, 2140 Haslett Rd. Station 3, 3711 Okemos Rd. Kids will have a chance to meet McGruff the Crime Dog, sit in a patrol car and activate the siren at the Police Department. At the fire stations, kids will be able to try on fireman gear, win prizes and climb into fire trucks and ambulances.

Guided autumn walk at HNC Oct. 18

Enjoy nature in autumn on a guided walk with a Harris Nature Center naturalist at 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18 at Ted Black Woods, Van Atta Road entrance in Okemos. There is a \$3/person or \$7/family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

Waterfowl focus of Nature Discovery on Sunday

Nature Discovery of Williamston will host a Powerpoint Guide to Michigan Waterfowl 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 11. More than 40 species of waterfowl are within Michigan's borders. After the presentation, participants can carpool to Park Lake to view a variety of migrants on the water through binoculars and a spotting scope. Visitors of all ages can interact with members of an on-site zoo of Michigan-native reptiles and amphibians. Admission is \$5 per person. Open 1-5 p.m., Nature Discovery is located at 5900 N. Williamston Road, north of Williamston. Call 655-5349 or visit www.naturediscovery.net.

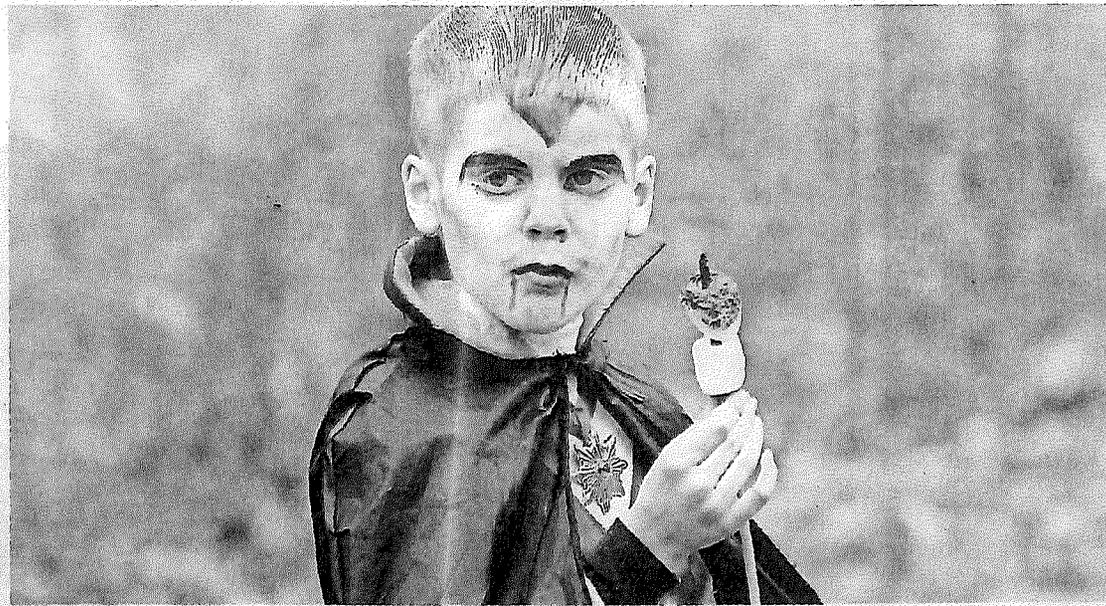
2D || SUNDAY, 10.18.15 || LSJ.COM

calendar

Find event listings at www.lsj.com/entertainment

HOLIDAY

Halloween Adventures, Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 24. Meet a spider and a bat, pick a pumpkin to decorate, walk through a "friendly forest" and swing at a pinata filled with candy. Children also can take a hayride with a naturalist through the park, and hear spooky stories while roasting marshmallows around the campfire. Info: 349-3866, www.meridian.mi.us. Cost: \$6 per child.



Halloween Adventures at Harris Nature Center in Okemos will be Oct. 24 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

LSJ FILE

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
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 26, 2015

Media Contact: LuAnn Maisner
Director of Parks & Recreation
maisner@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4600

Meridian Township Celebrates Halloween *Family Friendly Activities Offered for Spooky Fun*

Meridian Township, MI — As Halloween approaches, Meridian Township will be celebrating with activities for all ages. Halloween open houses and events will be held on Saturday, October 31st beginning at 8:00 am.

Halloween Open Houses & Events Schedule:

October 31st:

Farmers' Market	8:00 am to 2:00 pm	3998 Van Atta Rd, Okemos Rd.
Halloween in the Village	10:00 am to 2:00 pm	Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Rd.
HOMTV Studio Funhouse	10:00 am to 1:00 pm	Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Rd.
Meridian Police Station	10:00 am to 1:00 pm	Public Safety Building, 5151 Marsh Rd.
Meridian Fire Stations (2 & 3)	10:00 am to 1:00 pm	Station 2, 2140 Haslett Rd. Station 3, 3711 Okemos Rd.

Kids will have a chance to meet McGruff the Crime Dog, sit in a patrol car and activate the siren at the Police Department. At Fire Stations 2 and 3, kids will be able to try on fireman gear, win prizes and climb into fire trucks and ambulances.

Meridian Township's Government Access Channel, HOMTV, will be hosting a studio funhouse. Kids and families will be able to take a behind the scenes look at how a television station works.

Children and parents can also visit the Meridian Farmers' Market and the Meridian Historical Village in Central Park. Vendors at the Farmers' Market will be selling homemade goodies for your trick-or-treaters. The Historical Village Buildings will be open for walk-through tours and the goodies will be handed out at the Brick General Store.

For more information about these activities visit the Meridian Township website www.meridian.mi.us.

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5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864 517.853.4000
www.meridian.mi.us



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Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
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Trustee
Trustee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 3, 2015

Media Contact: LuAnn Maisner
Director of Parks & Recreation
maisner@meridian.mi.us
517.853.4600

Meridian Township Offers Day before Thanksgiving Farmers' Market *Fill Your Table with Fresh, Locally Grown Ingredients*

Meridian Township, MI — The Meridian Township Farmers' Market will be open the day before Thanksgiving, Wednesday November 25th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

“There will be approximately 20 vendors attending the market where customers can pick up fresh Thanksgiving turkeys and all the fixings to go with their Thanksgiving feast,” said Market Manager Christine Miller.

Vendors will feature locally and state grown products at the market such as: squash, potatoes, onions, pickles, baked goods, pies, apples, cider, beef, lamb, cheeses, seasonal arrangements, spinach, kale, collards, honey, eggs, jams, jellies, soap, kettle corn, bread, maple syrup, chicken and turkey. The Purple Carrot Food Truck will also be at the Market (weather permitting).

Vendors are taking reservations for turkeys. A limited quantity may be available Market day but reservations are preferred.

For additional information and to make a turkey reservation, please contact Meridian Township Farmers' Market Manager Christine Miller at 517.712.2395 or farmers.market.manager@gmail.com. Information may also be found by visiting www.meridian.mi.us.

The Meridian Township Farmers' Market is located at 5151 Marsh Road at the Central Park Pavilion, directly north of the Meridian Mall and located on the CATA bus route.

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2100 GAYLORD C. SMITH COURT, HASLETT, MICHIGAN 48840 517.853.4600
www.meridian.mi.us



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August 27, 2014

Ms. LuAnn Maisner
Director of Parks & Recreation
Charter Township of Meridian
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840

RE: Special Use Permit #15-14051 (Department of Parks & Recreation)

Dear LuAnn:

This is to notify you that the Planning Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian has scheduled a public hearing regarding your request for a special use permit for Monday, September 14, 2015. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, 48864.

Meridian Township Department of Parks & Recreation is requesting a special use permit to allow work in the 100-year floodplain associated with the replacement of the pavilion and portions of the sidewalks in Wonch Park. The subject site is located at 4555 Okemos Road, which is on the west side of Okemos Road at the Red Cedar River in Section 21 of the Township.

Please note the Planning Commission may make a decision on Special Use Permit #15-14051 the same night as the public hearing.

The purpose of the public hearing is to give the Planning Commission an opportunity to hear all persons interested or involved in the request. Your presence or that of your representative is requested to explain the project and to answer questions. If you have any questions, please contact me at (517-853-4568) or e-mail me at brown@meridian.mi.us.

Sincerely,

Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP
Associate Planner

Cc: Jane Greenway

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

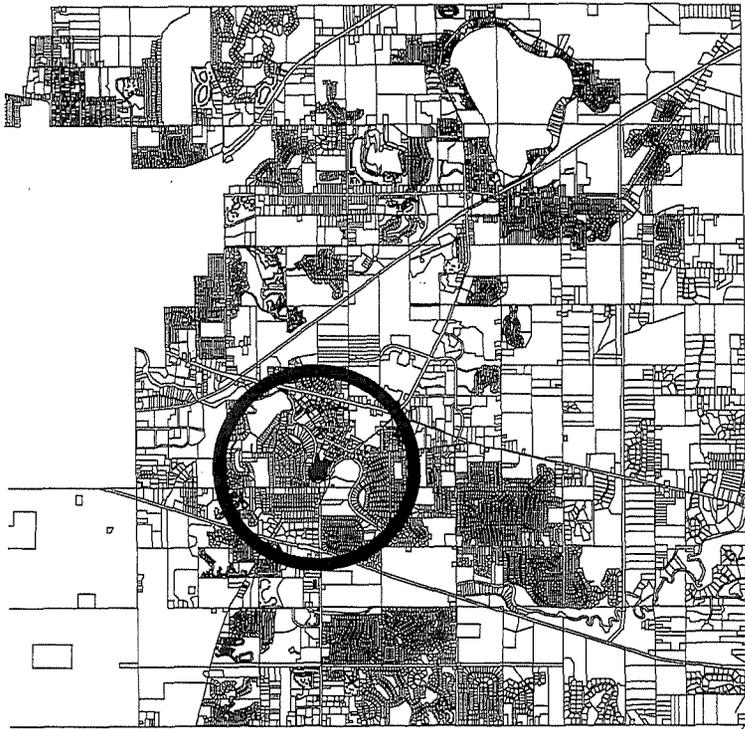
www.meridian.mi.us



**SPECIAL USE PERMIT #15-14051
(DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION)**

**REQUEST TO WORK IN THE 100-YEAR
FLOODPLAIN FOR REPLACEMENT OF THE
PAVILION AND PORTIONS OF THE SIDEWALKS
IN WONCH PARK**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN



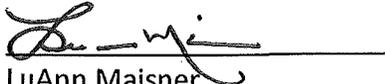
Park Commission Meeting
November 10, 2015

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Boundary Correction – Braemoor Subdivision
- b. Central Park Master Plan Adoption
- c. Towner Road Park – Plan Amendment

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner

DATE: November 5, 2015

RE: Braemoor Parcel Boundary Amendment

In 2005, the Township acquired a 5.09 acre parcel along the Red Cedar River through a State of Michigan tax foreclosure sale. It is located in the Braemoor subdivision off of Grand River Avenue adjacent to 4444 River Glen Drive. It has recently been determined that the boundary description on the Township parcel includes a small area in front of the home located at 4444 River Glen Drive between the residence and the roadway that has created an inadvertent trespass. Property owner, Brian Fleming has submitted a request to acquire .09 acres to correct the boundary.

The deed for this parcel stipulates that any resale of this property must be at a dollar per acre ratio of the purchase price, therefore making the sale price \$106.29. The Township Attorney has reviewed the proposal and did not have any concerns.

Motion for Commission Consideration:

MOVE TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF TRANSFERING .09-ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED ADJACENT TO 4444 RIVER GLEN DRIVE TO BRIAN FLEMING IN THE AMOUNT OF 106.29 WITH PROCEEDS DEPOSITED INTO PARK MILLAGE REVENUE.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: November 6, 2015

RE: Central Park Master Plan Adoption and Priorities

The Park Commission was successful in developing the Master Plan for Central Park that included public participation and input from stakeholders, local business, boards and commissions, the general public and staff. The final result was a comprehensive plan that will guide renovations and development in the future. The plan was formally presented to the Park Commission on September 9, 2015 by O'Boyle, Blalock, Cowell and Associates who detailed the planning process, and explained the plan in detail.

Motion for Park Commission Consideration

MOVE TO ADOPT THE CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN AS PRESENTED BY SANDY BLEISENER, O'BOYLE, BLALOCK, COWELL AND ASSOCIATES ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2015.

The Central Park Master Plan is a complex document that affects and impacts many of our existing facilities as well as adds additional amenities. The benefit of having a plan in place is the flexibility it provides in addressing various elements either intentionally scheduled or based on random opportunity. I look forward to hearing your ideas and discussing priorities to addressing implementation. The plan and cost estimates are attached.