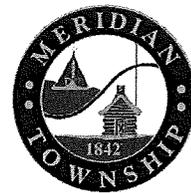




CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION  
TUESDAY MARCH 8, 2016  
COMMUNITY ROOM CENTRAL FIRE STATION



**WORK SESSION 6 PM**

(salmon)

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Master Plan Recommendations
4. Towner Road Park Development
5. Comments
6. Adjournment

**REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM**

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. **Public Hearings** (goldenrod)
  - a. Footbridge and Restroom Facility, Meridian Historical Village – Grant Application
  - b. Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector, Central Park – Grant Application
4. Presentations
5. Public Comment
6. Commissioner Reports and Comments
7. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
  - a. February 9, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
  - b. February 9, 2016 Regular Minutes
8. **Communications** (tan)
9. 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.*

10. **New Business** (pink)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
  - a. Grant Application - Footbridge and Restroom Facility, Meridian Historical Village
  - b. Grant Application - Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector, Central Park
  - c. Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Master Plan
  
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, April 12, 2016, Town Hall Room
  - b. Winter Farmers' Market – J C Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall, first and third Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm through April
  
15. **Public Remarks**
  
16. **Closed Session**
  
17. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting  
March 8, 2016

**WORK SESSION**

**Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Master Plan Recommendations**

**Towner Road Park Development**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Park Commission

**FROM:**   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** March 3, 2016

**RE:** Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan Recommendation

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The Meridian Township Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan is scheduled for review and the Park Commission has been asked to provide comments on the existing plan and make recommendations for additions and/or deletions. A copy of the plan is included on your packet for review and discussion.

Staff has reviewed the plan with the following suggestions:

- Currently, a paved shoulder is indicated on the master plan for the stretch of Towner that runs between Marsh Road and Saginaw Highway. The paved shoulder would be accomplished whenever the Ingham County Road Department repaves the road. Staff is suggesting that the designation be changed to Off-road pathway on the south side of the road. That would better protect pedestrians and cyclists who are trying to access the park.
- Create a country trail connection from Newton Road Park to Towner Road Park through Sierra Ridge subdivision.
- Add a connector trail from Tacoma Hills Natural Area, through the western edge of Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area, into MSU's Dobie Reserve.

Motion for Consideration:

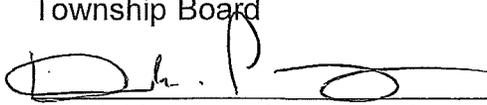
**MOVE TO FORWARD THE FOLLOWING PATHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR INCLUSION ON THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLE MASTER PLAN:**

- **ADD AN OFF-ROAD PATHWAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TOWNER ROAD BETWEEN MARSH RD AND SAGANAW HIGHWAY;**
- **ADD CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL BETWEEN NEWTON ROAD PARK AND TOWNER ROAD PARK THROUGH SEIRRA RIDGE SUBDIVISION;**
- **ADD A CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL FROM TACOMA HILLS NATURAL AREA THROUGH THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF SANDER FARM PRESERVED NATURAL AREA TO MSU DOBIE RESERVE.**



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Township Board

**FROM:**   
Derek N. Perry, Assistant Township Manager  
Director of Public Works & Engineering

**DATE:** February 25, 2016

**RE:** Township Pathway Master Plan

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As it's been several years since the Pathway Master Plan has been reviewed by the Township Board, we thought it was appropriate that it be presented for comments, potential revisions and ultimately affirmation, by the Board and key stakeholders in the community. As the Township Board is aware, the pathway and trail systems in Meridian Township are used frequently and continue to receive strong support from the residents. With the upcoming expiration of the pathway millage this year, it's increasingly important that a review occur so that the updated plan for the pathway system reflects what the resident's desire and will ultimately continue to embrace and support.

Attached with this memo is the current plan. As you review it you will notice several existing gaps on the pathway system as well as the proposed Michigan State University (MSU) river trail connector to Lake Lansing. This river trail is highly supported regionally and is our number one priority as we seek funding from the Ingham County Parks and Trail millage for its construction. We also feel that the existing gaps should continue to receive priority for construction in the plan update.

The dedicated pathway millage of 0.2774 generated approximately \$430,000 dollars in 2015 and as a stable funding source provided the dollars to fund the construction of such projects as the pedestrian bridge over the Red Cedar River on Okemos Road and closing the gap on Haslett Road between Okemos Road and Bayonne Avenue in 2015. As you review the Pathway Master Plan it's important to remember that this dedicated funding source is what has allowed most of this extensive pathway network to be possible.

Because input from the various stakeholders is critical to achieve the best plan update, we are recommending a schedule that offers multiple options for comments from the public be used to develop the Master Plan update. At the next Township Board meeting in March (3/15/16), we will be recommending that a public hearing be set to approve the updated plan in May. This will allow all of April for the gathering of opinions and meeting with groups strongly interested in the plan. In addition, the Township Park Commission will review and offer comments in March and April and staff will also be meeting with the

Friends of Meridian Township Pathways in early April. We expect both stakeholder groups to provide valuable input to the process of updating the Pathway Master Plan.

Attachment: Pedestrian Bicycle Pathway Map

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Park Commission

**FROM:**   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** March 3, 2016

**RE:** Towner Road Park

---

During the November, 2015 regular meeting, the Park Commission discussed the benefits and challenges of constructing Towner Road Park in phases or as one project. Following much discussion the Commission approved moving forward as one project with the understanding that there will be a need to borrow from future years' tax revenue as there is not enough in the fund balance currently to pay for the entire project. By extending the payback period, there would still be funds available in each year to complete other projects. This issue was discussed and voted on again during the February 9, 2016 meeting.

On Thursday, March 3, 2016, the project was reviewed by multiple departments during the Development Review Committee Meeting . These meetings are held prior to Site Plan Review to identify necessary plan amendments and required permits based on codes and zoning regulations. Some changes to the plan are necessary that will increase costs as well as variances for grading in a wetland setback. Our Site Plan Review Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22 at 3:00pm in the Township Hall. Adjoining property owners are noticed and invited to speak to the project as well during this time.

I look forward to discussing proposed changes, costs, and bidding.

Park Commission Meeting  
March 8, 2016

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS
- a) Footbridge and Restroom Facility,  
Meridian Historical Village
  - b) Central Meridian Regional Trail  
Connector, Central Park

PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE

- a) Chair declares public hearing open
- b) Staff presents project overview
- c) Staff acknowledge received items of  
communications
- d) Public comment
- e) Commissioners comment
- f) Chair declares public hearing closed

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



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

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

## Legal Notice

### 2016 DNR Grant Applications

Notice is hereby given that the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 at 7 pm in the Haslett/Okemos Rotary Community Room, Central Fire Station, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, to hear comments from all persons interested in the following proposed 2016 grant applications:

- Restroom Building and Bridge, Central Park/Historical Village
- Accessible Pathway throughout Central Park/Central Park South

Information may be examined at the Parks and Recreation Office, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett MI between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Questions, call (517) 853-4600.

Please publish in the February 28 and March 6 Towne Courier issues  
Please supply an affidavit



## LuAnn Maisner

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**From:** Stephens, Mark <steph143@anr.msu.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:55 AM  
**To:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Cc:** Wilson, Todd  
**Subject:** My Support of the Land Trust Grants

**Importance:** High

Hello Todd and LuAnn,

I apologize that I will not be in town next week for the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. I realize that there will be a public hearing for two (2) applications to the Land Trust Board. Though probably not "official" I want to express my support going forward with:

1) The restroom and bridge crossing in the Historical Village. This will provide us with a much need facility there in the village and allow us the flexibility to work with our Central Park Master Plan in regards to the market area.

2) The accessible pathway and promenade from the Market area to the south pond with access to Central Park Drive which will include the boardwalk and overlook/fishing area along the pond. We will be able to provide access to these areas that are underutilized for a number of reasons with access being one. We will be able to work on our Central Park Master Plan vision of creating a recreation resource that will be very popular with not only our residents but the entire Mid-Michigan community.

Thanks , my 2 cents anyway. If I were going to be here, this is the way I would support.

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION - Park Grant Applications 2016



Dear Meridian Township Resident/Neighbor:

The Meridian Township Park Commission is proposing to submit grant applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for two projects in Central Park Historical Village, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. These projects are identified in the new Central Park Master Plan that was adopted by the Park Commission in November, 2015:

- New Restroom Facility to better serve visitors to Central Park and the Meridian Historical Village
- Accessible looped pathway from the Historical Village, through Central Park to Central Park South returning to the Historical Village parallel to the Mud Lake Drain. The wooded and wetland features on the site lend themselves to future environmental education opportunities as well as universal access through the park

You are invited to offer comments at a public hearing on the proposed project at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 in the Community Room at the new Central Fire Station, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos.

The grant application is available for review at the Parks & Recreation Office located at 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, (in Nancy Moore Park on Okemos Road), Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Written comments may be sent to the Meridian Township Park Commission, Attn: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation, by email at [Maisner@meridian.mi.us](mailto:Maisner@meridian.mi.us) or by phone at 517-853-4604.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LuAnn Maisner".

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTIFICATION - Park Grant Applications 2016



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You are invited to offer comments at a public hearing on the proposed project at 7 pm on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 in the Community Room at the new Central Fire Station, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos.

The grant application is available for review at the Parks & Recreation Office located at 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, (in Nancy Moore Park on Okemos Road), Monday through Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm. Written comments may be sent to the Meridian Township Park Commission, Attn: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation, by email at [Maisner@meridian.mi.us](mailto:Maisner@meridian.mi.us) or by phone at 517-853-4604.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "LuAnn Maisner".

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

## GRANT APPLICATION 2016 – LWCF CENTRAL PARK – ACCESSIBLE GATEWAY BRIDGE AND RESTROOM BUILDING

**Project Description:** This project proposes to develop a family-friendly, accessible restroom building with two unisex stalls with baby changing stations. The restroom building will be located in the Historic Village near the trail head to Central Park. The project also includes the development of a 20' wide gateway bridge that will provide access to the proposed restroom from the existing farmers' market area, proposed trail head, and parking lot.

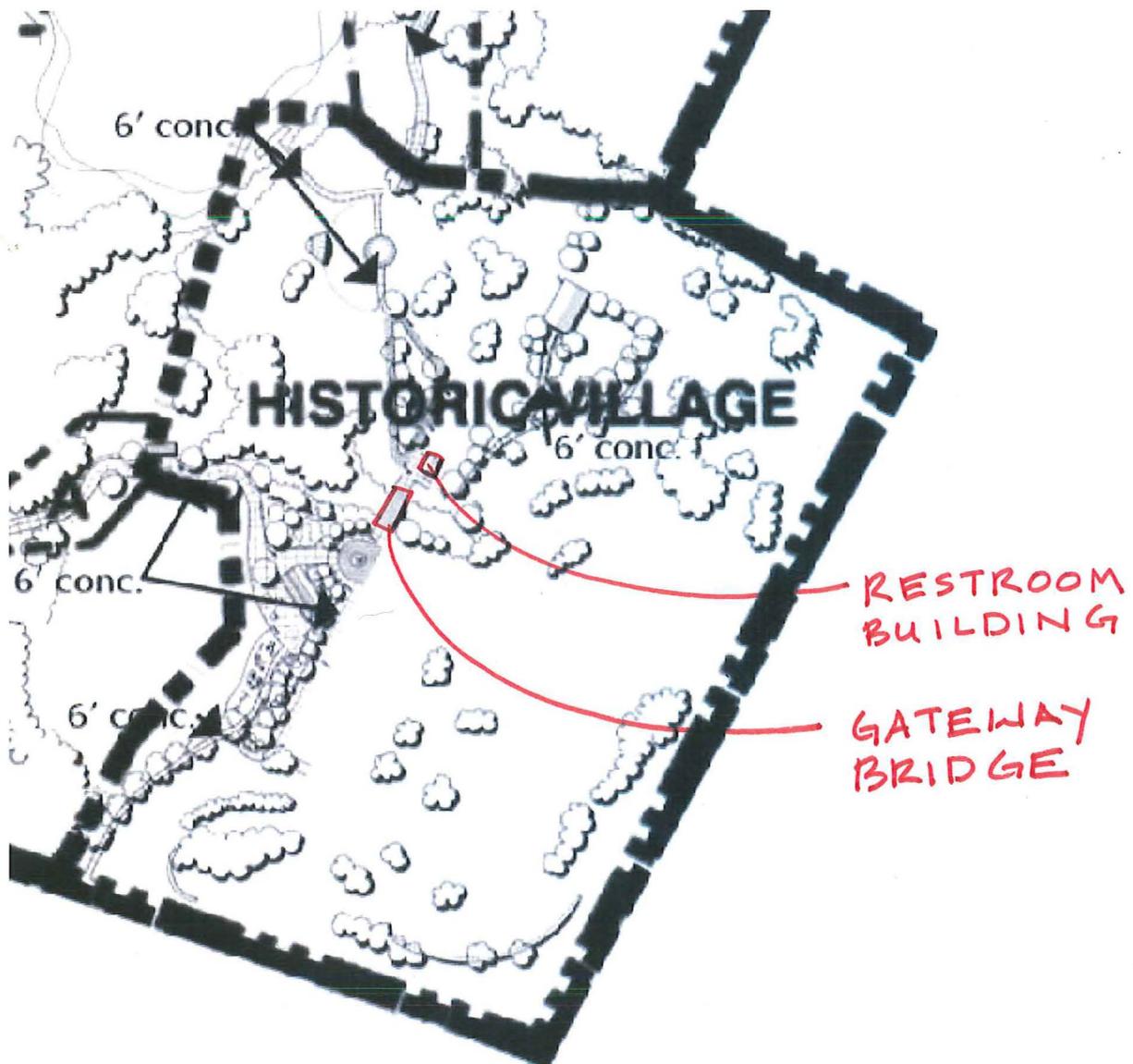
### Project Cost:

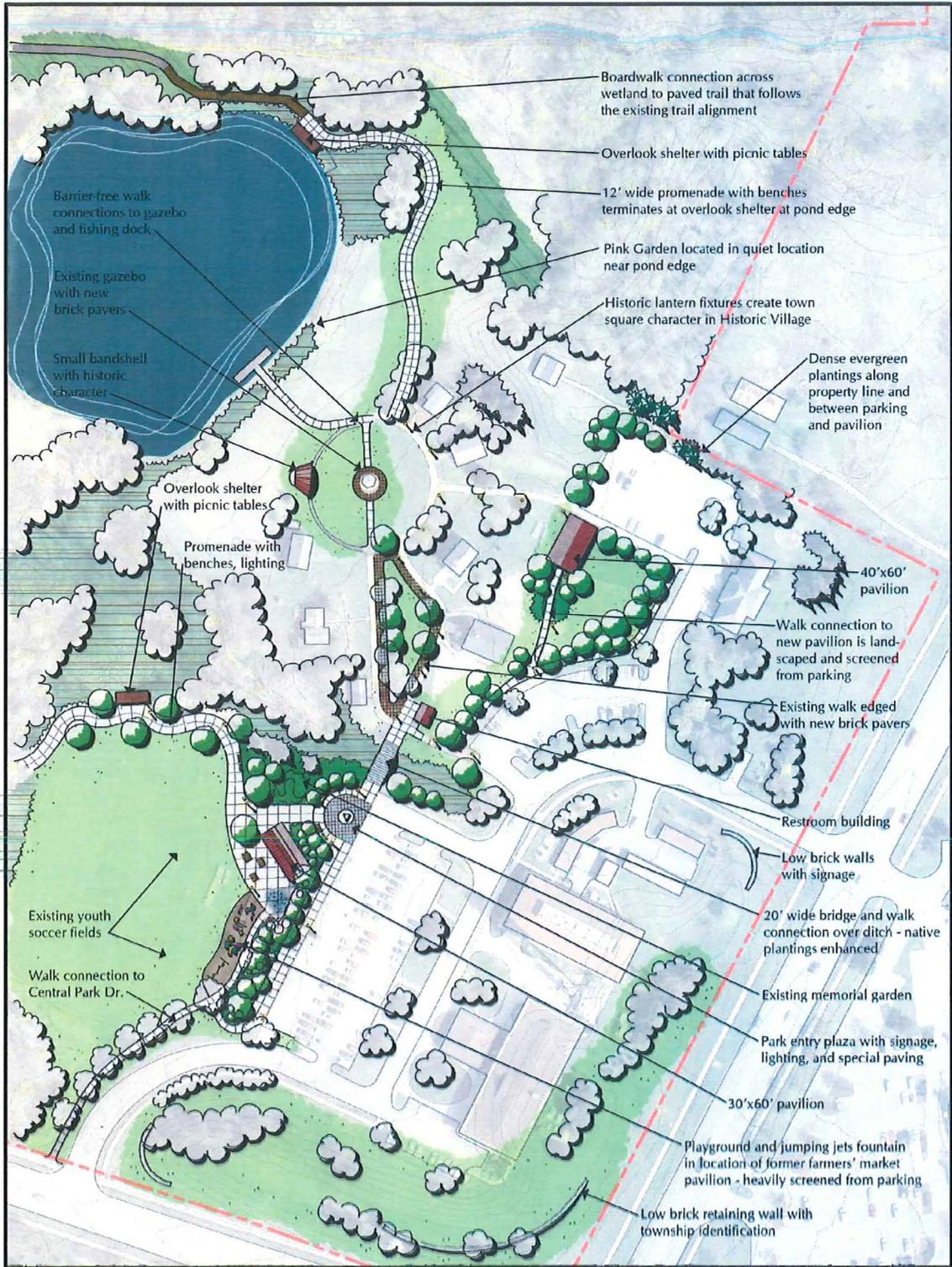
Estimated project cost: \$300,000

Minimum local match: 50% (\$150,000) Park Millage Funds

### Scope Items:

1. Accessible restroom building with 2 unisex stalls and baby changing stations
2. Concrete site work surrounding restroom
3. Utilities
4. Accessible drinking fountain
5. Architecture/engineering fees
6. Gateway bridge structure, 50'





# Historic Village Plan Enlargement

## Central Park Master Plan





**CENTRAL PARK - RESTROOM IDEAS**

**GATEWAY BRIDGE IDEAS**



## **GRANT APPLICATION 2016 – MNRTF CENTRAL MERIDIAN REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTOR**

**Project Description:** The Central Meridian Regional Trail Connectivity Project proposes to develop a 2,500 lf accessible pathway and fishing station through Central Park, a 279-acre community park located in the heart of Meridian Township. The proposed improvements will provide a vital east-west accessible connection that is part of a regional trail plan that will connect Michigan State University to Lake Lansing. In addition to being a key off-road transportation corridor, users of the trail will enjoy opportunities for bird watching; fishing; and the enjoyment of many other park amenities.

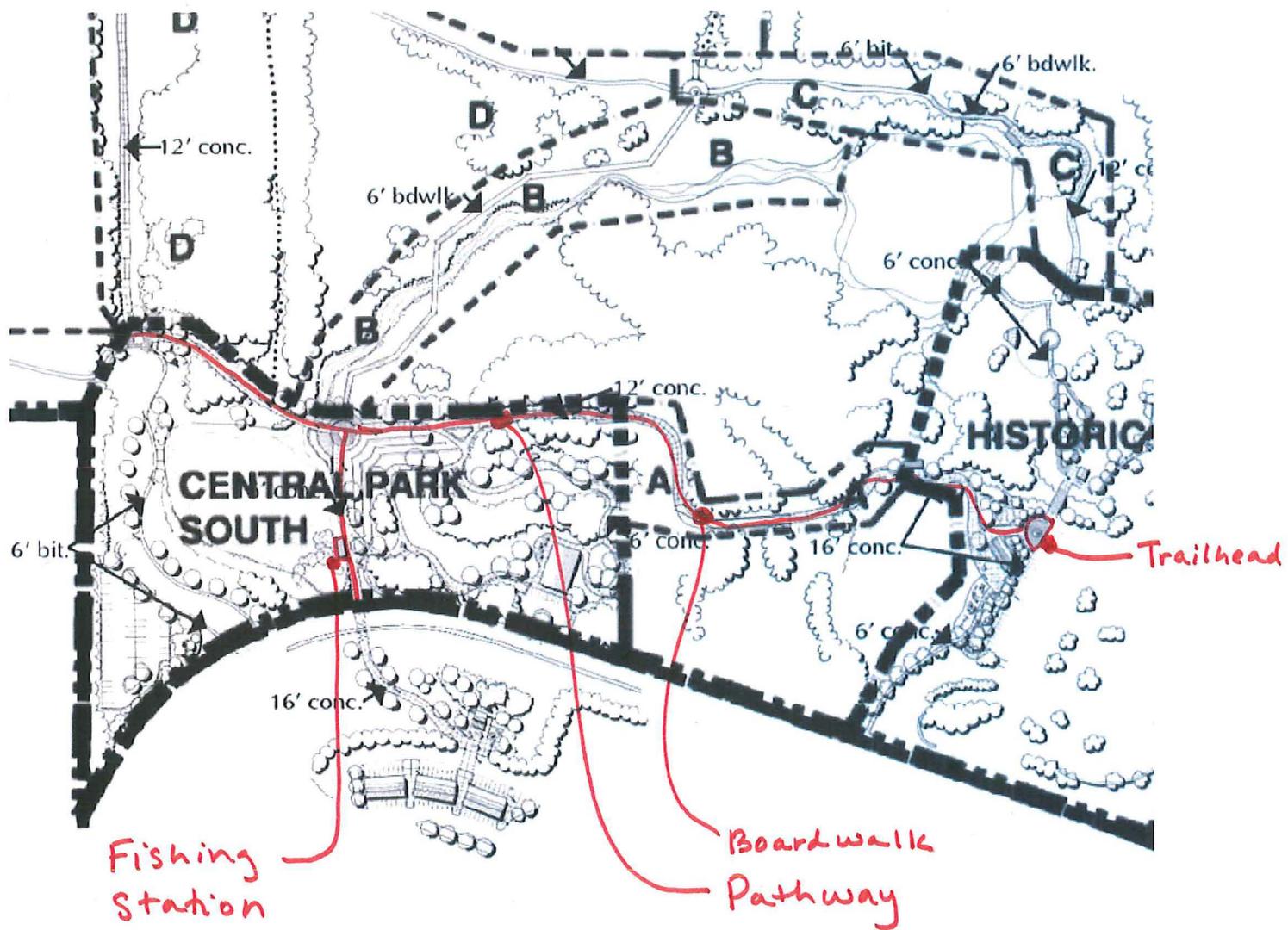
An exciting and important element of the pathway plan is a designated fishing station that will be located along the pathway along the existing fishing pond. The fishing area will be fully accessible and will include lowered railings for wheelchair access, rod holders, and benches with room for companion seating. A trail head at the parking area in Central Park will provide a trail head, bicycle air pump/fix-it station; charging station for electric wheelchairs; and a trail head sign.

This pathway will be comprised of paved surface and boardwalk. Currently, park visitors and users of the non-motorized pathway system cannot take advantage of this beautiful route through the park as it is seasonally wet and does not meet ADA standards. This project includes the development of an accessible trail leading from the Historical Village footbridge to Central Park South pond and connect to an existing north-south paved trail. A secondary route will be created along the eastern edge of the pond and will provide accessible fishing opportunities.

**Project Cost:** Estimated project cost: \$400,000, minimum local match: 25% (\$100,000) Park Millage Funds

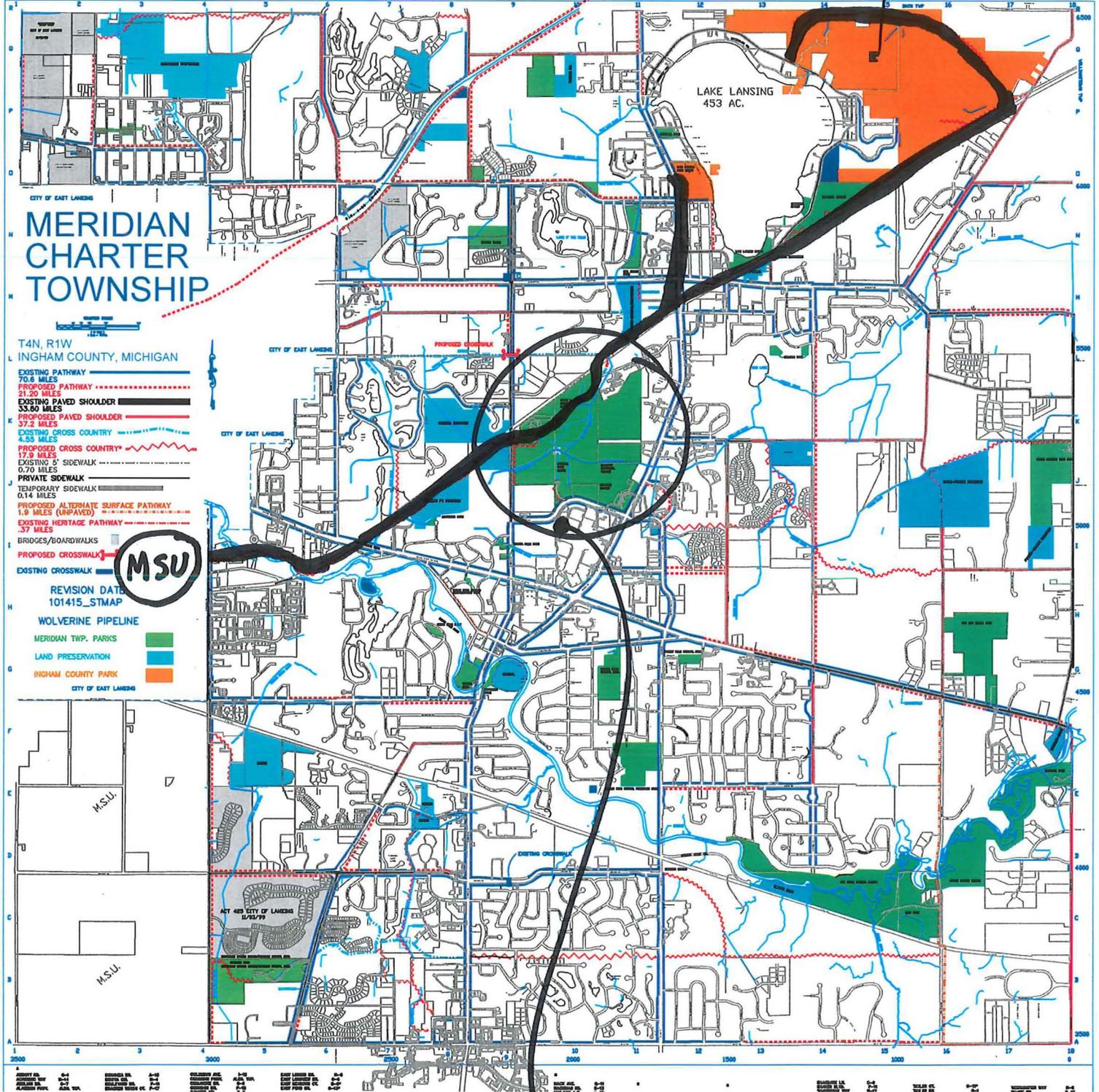
### **Scope Items:**

1. Accessible pathway, 16' wide, concrete, 2,250 lf total
2. Accessible boardwalk, 16' wide, 250 lf
3. Benches with companion seating (3) along accessible trail
4. Trailhead area, concrete with bike fix-it station; electric wheelchair charging station; and trailhead map
5. Fishing station, accessible with lowered rails, companion seating areas, and rod holders



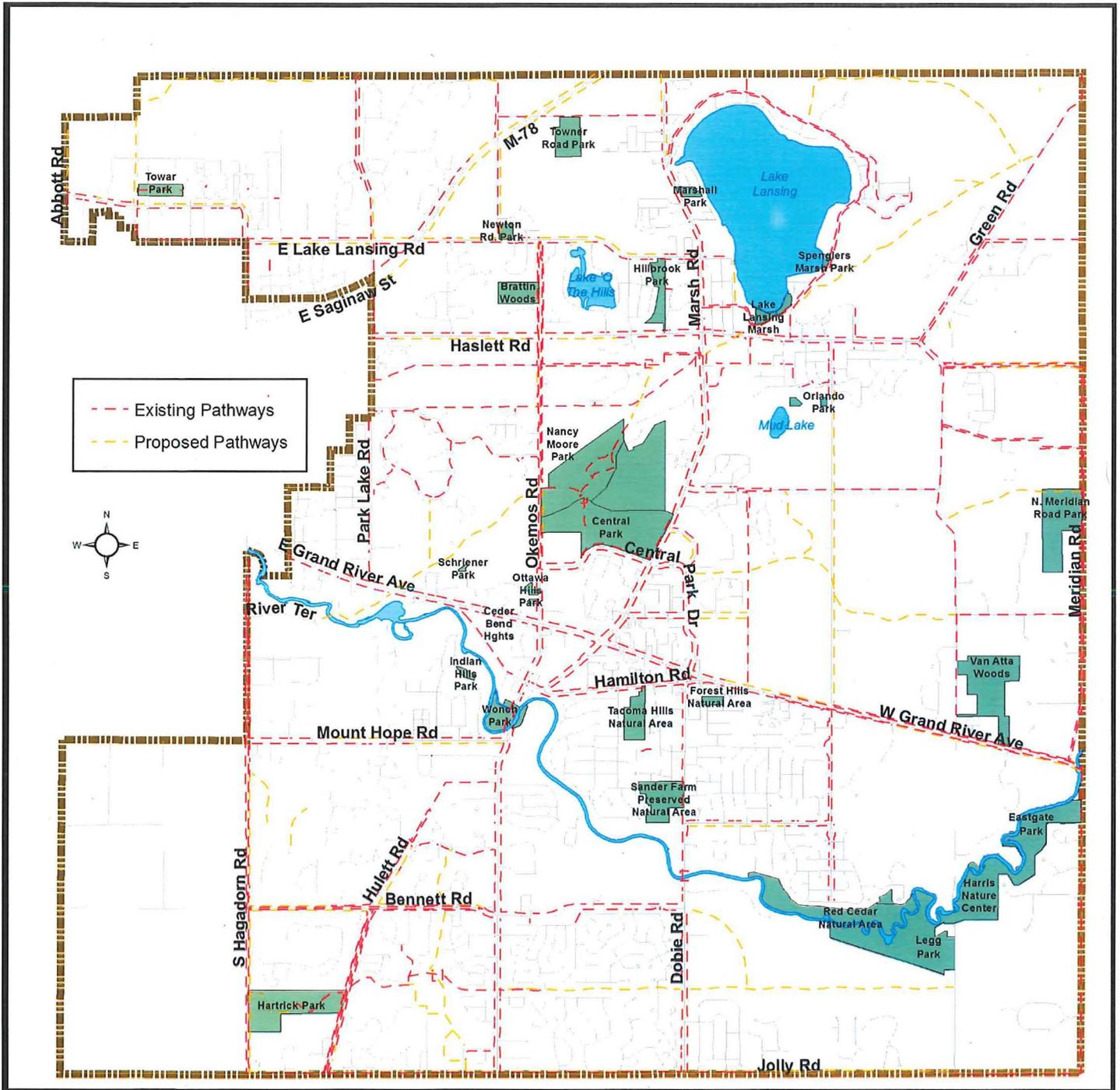
# PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE PATHWAY MAP

LAKE LANSING PARK

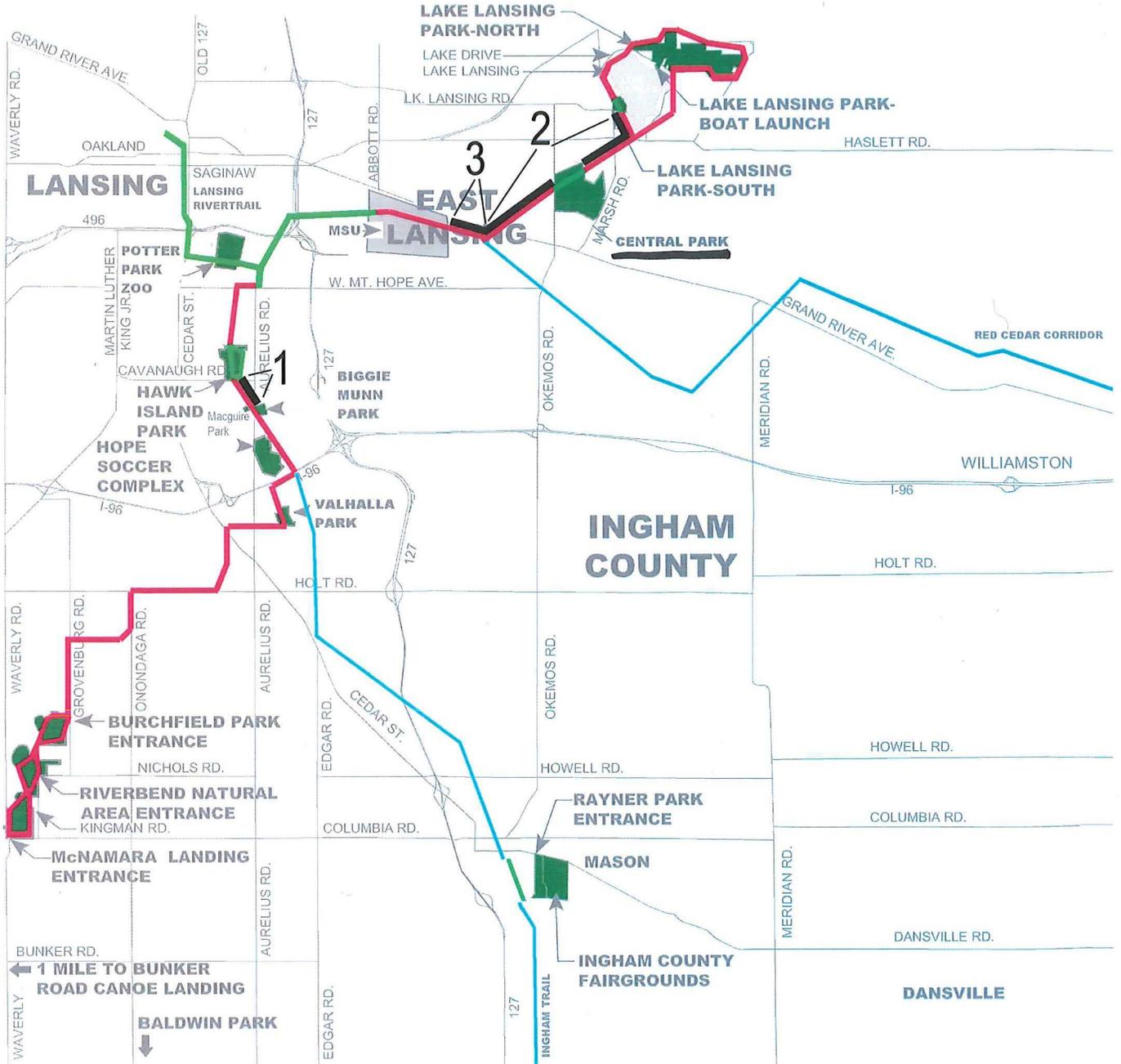


CENTRAL PARK

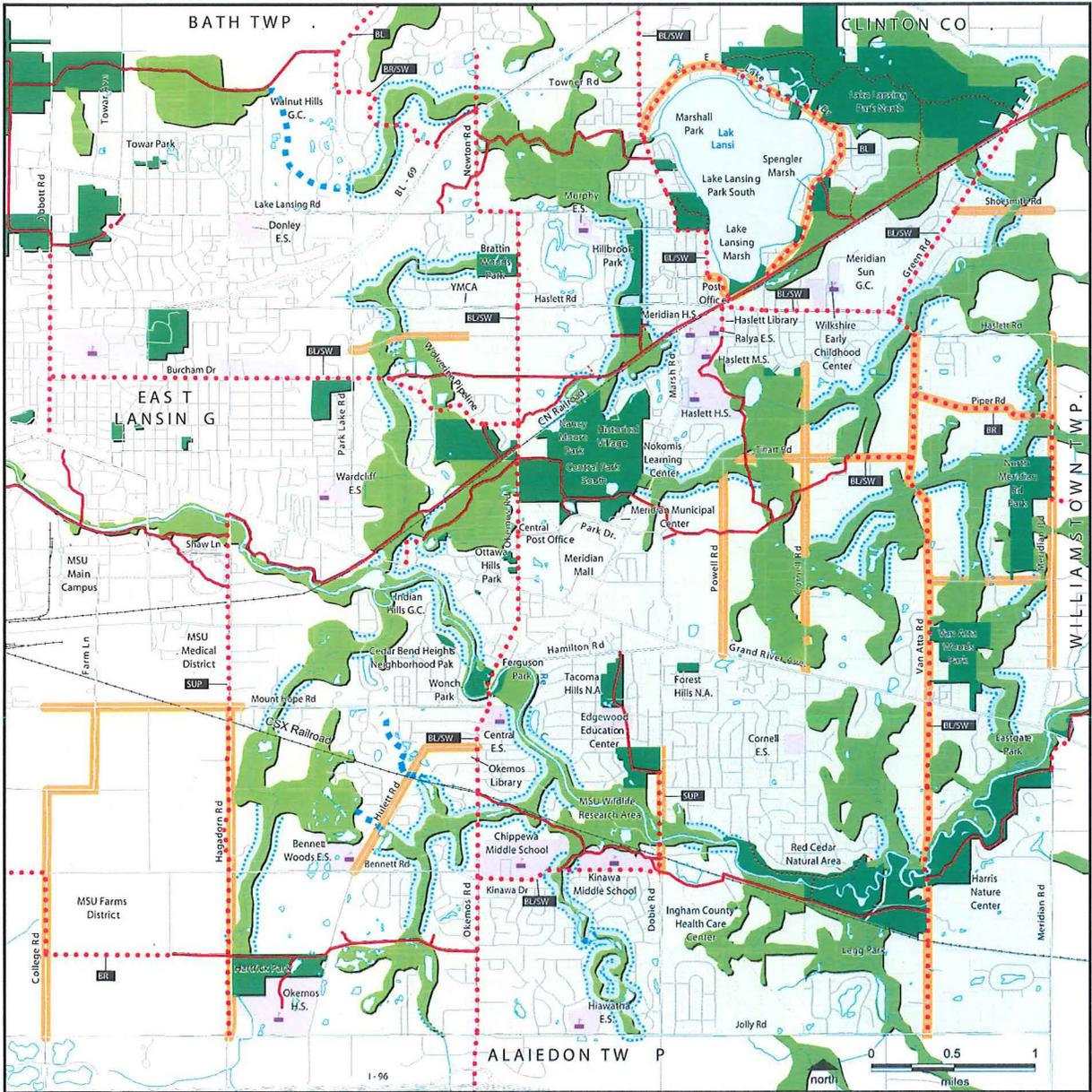
# Map 2: Meridian Township Paved Pathways



# Map 3 - Ingham County's Proposed Heart of Michigan Trail



# Map 8b – Overall Greenspace Plan



Park Commission Meeting  
March 8, 2016

7. MINUTES

- a. February 9, 2016 Work Session Minutes
- b. February 9, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, 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: None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:04 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the agenda as submitted.

**3. Public Remarks**

None

**4. CIP 2017 – 2022**

Director Maisner stated the Commission reviewed the proposed CIP proposal at the January meeting. It is projected that the Commission will have between \$200,000 and \$300,000 per year for capital projects and this discussion will help determine which projects should be targeted for grants. Official action on the CIP will not be needed until May, but evaluating the plan now will determine grant eligible projects for 2016.

Discussion:

- Hillbrook Park is receiving new play structure this spring year and suggests completing the tennis courts renovation and walkway project even though we did not receive the grant.
- Wonch Park received a paved pathway, repaved parking lot, new pavilion (spring installation) and new outdoor fitness zone (spring installation); Staff will conduct evaluation on the restroom building for possible renovations with cost estimates.
- Marshall Park play structure should be a high priority based on its age and condition. The open grass area is currently used for soccer and flag football practice sessions
- People are excited about the new Central Park Master Plan and suggested a good kick-off would be submitted grant for restroom building, footbridge and promenade pathway.

- MNRTF projects score high when emphasis is on accessibility, trail development, proximity to water.
- Ferguson Park stream bank improvements
- Acquisition of parcel near Ferguson Park
- HNC pavilion and restroom building; Need meeting with HNC Foundation Board to discuss development priorities.
- Staff recommend applying for a restroom building and bridge improvement for Central Park/Historical Village and a second grant for the promenade/pathway from Central Park through Ledebuhr site over to Central Park South creating a fishing/overlook dock.
- Work with Drain Commissioner's Office on water quality improvements in the Central Park South pond.

## **5. Grant Proposals 2016 Projects**

Following discussion, the Commission supported applying for two grants – new restroom building and footbridge in Central Park/Historical Village; and development of promenade/pathway from Central Park through Ledebuhr parcel to Central Park South including a fishing/overlook area with pathway continuing to Central Park Drive.

## **6. Doggie Playground Proposal**

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway stated the Commissioners discussed this proposal at their November and January meetings and staff is recommending the construction of a "doggie playground" in Central Park across from the Meridian Service Center on Gaylord C. Smith Court. This would be a specialty park for both large and small dogs, approximately 2 acres in size with trails and agility equipment. This would be the first off-leash dog facility in our community. This urban playground for dogs and owners would provide an opportunity to foster relationships with our pet owners to determine the next steps in creating other dog-friendly facilities in the community.

### Points of Information

- There will be separate areas for small and large dogs
- To avoid muddy trails, stone dust will be used as the trail surface as it meets accessibility guidelines, is pervious, and is gentle on paws.
- Effective management and maintenance are important to the success of dog facilities so its proximity to the Service Center should be beneficial. Also, police and fire personnel regularly drive by accessing fuel pumps.
- Maybe area pet stores may wish to contribute to the facility.
- Will host special events for pets
- Pet waste will be addressed by signage; good dog owners tend to police other dog owners

**7. Nancy Moore Park Sand Volleyball Court**

Director Maisner explained that the sand volleyball courts in Nancy Moore Park were constructed in 1996 and it is staff's recommendation that the sand is in need of replacing. The estimated cost is \$12,000 and a budget amendment is necessary.

**8. Towner Road Park Development Project Funding**

In November, the Park Commission discussed the pros and cons of developing Towner Road Park in phases or as one project and utilizing a construction manager vs a general contractor. Chair Wilson, a construction manager at Michigan State University shared that if the park is built in a single phase, there would definitely be cost savings in comparison to a phased approach. It would mean however, borrowing money from future tax revenue to move forward in this manner. The Park Commission has borrowed money multiple times before on previous land acquisitions. Phasing the project adds costs with multiple engineering and bid specifications, construction supervision and mobilizations. There also may be additional repair and restoration costs from work completed in an earlier phase. It also leaves the park looking "under construction" for multiple years.

At that time, the Commission decided that moving forward as one project made the most sense from practical and economic standpoints, and to use a construction manager to receive the best pricing and enhanced project oversight.

Director Maisner stated this item is no the regular meeting agenda for official action.

**9. Comments**

None

**10. Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 7:07 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, 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: None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:16 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Under #9, New Business, add #f. Towner Road Park Development Project  
Funding

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

**3. Presentations**

None

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Commissioner Reports and Comments**

Commissioner Deschaine reported on hearing from the Kids N Dogs Store owner who has been very busy over the holidays and plans to present a proposal at the March meeting. He also reported the Kiwanis Club is interested in providing funding for the project.

Commissioner Stephens reported the annual Ice Fishing Derby scheduled for this weekend has been canceled due to the weather conditions.

Commissioner McDonald reported the trail link from Meridian Township to MSU was given a high priority for the Ingham County Trail Millage projects.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

- a. December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. January 21, 2016 Work Session Minutes

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 8, 2015 AND JANUARY 21, 2016 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**7. Communications**

**A. Items to/from the Public**

1. From: Michigan House of Representatives, RE: Meeting Agenda to discuss Elections
2. From: United States Senator Debbie Stabenow; RE: Thank you for supporting conservation projects
3. From: Dr. Maureen Sander; RE: 2016 Michigan Barn Preservation Network Calendar – featuring The Maureen Sander Barn (March)

**B. Commission Information**

1. Towne Courier: **Nov 8:** Turkey campfire program set for Nov 14; **Jan 3:** Harris Nature Center has cross-country ski, snowshoe classes; Qigong exercise classes offered at nature center; Preschool Science Exploration Class; Snow Tales walk at the Harris Nature Center; **Jan 10:** Harris Nature Center has cross-country ski, snowshoe classes; Chipmunk Story time at nature center; Snow Tales guided walk at the Harris Nature Center; **Jan 17:** Meridian deer removal efforts resumes; Native plants available for sale through April 29; Photography class offered; "An Afternoon of Relaxation" event Jan 24; Chipmunk Story time at Harris Nature Center
2. 2016 Township Board Goals, Action Plan and Strategic Plan
3. Meridian Township 2015 Community Livability Report
4. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Newsletter; Winter 2016
5. Ingham County Parks & Recreation Commission – A meeting of the Planning and Community Outreach Committee of the Ingham County Park & Recreation Commission, January 19

**C. Staff Inquiries/Response**

1. Associate Planner Harmony Gmazel; RE: Special Use Permit #16031 (Fann)

**D. Distributed at the Meeting**

1. 2015 Parks and Recreation Annual Report

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

## 8. Director's Report

Director Maisner offered the following report:

- Central Park Master Plan – has been developed, received public input, held design charrettes which includes connections through Central Park (Town Hall, Public Safety Building, Historical Village, Central Park South, Ledebuhr parcel, Nancy Moore Park, Service Center), total project cost is \$5.5 Million
- Renewed our Open Space Easement with Dr. Maureen Sander which allows for public access on 30-acres of the Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area on Dobie Road
- Received two grants: \$50,000 MNRTF for Pavilion in North Meridian Road Park and \$17,000 from Greenfields Outdoor Fitness for 12 universally accessible outdoor exercise machines that will be installed in Wonch Park this spring.
- Nancy Moore Park – safety fencing, foul poles, siding, repaved driveway, gaga ball pit, 10 new trees flowering crabs, and 2 -red maple
- Footbridge repair in Central Park South and two in Legg Park
- Constructed two new sand volleyball courts in North Meridian Road Park utilizing Lake Michigan beach sand.
- Wonch Park – conducted ribbon cutting for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant funded accessible loop pathway; repaved parking lot, new fencing along Okemos Road, removed old pavilion and began construction on new 40' pavilion (completed this spring), outdoor fitness equipment (spring installation).
- Harris Nature Center – Parking lot seal and stripe, erosion repair from parking lot drainage, three new doors on Nature Center building, "log jam" climbing structure, spider web climber, Haslett-Okemos Rotary Gathering Circle/outdoor classroom
- Historical Village – new fence around vegetable garden, landscape repair and maintenance. Special thanks to the Friends of Historic Meridian, Meridian Garden Club and staff for their great work.
- Other parking lots sealed and stripped: Brattin Woods Park, Ted Black Woods Park
- Deer Management – 57 hunters, 54 deer were removed, there was no baiting this year and the meat was not donated, 550 deer were tested for the Chronic Wasting Disease from sharp shooters and car-deer accidents. Over 1,000 deer have been taken in the last four years. Reported Car-deer stats: 2011-152; 2013 – 153; 2104- 137 and 152 in 2015.
- Harris Nature Center – 452 programs, two large special events; 46 building rentals; 7,541 drop-in visitors, 10,261 program participants; total participation/visitors 17,802. Expressed appreciation for the work and efforts by Kit Rich, Kati Adams and Interpretative Staff.

- Parks and Grounds Maintenance: Expressed appreciation for the great job the staff has done to keep the parks and athletic fields in great condition through this past year.
- 2015 Volunteer Totals: The value of volunteer support is calculated each year by the State and this year it is \$23.07/hour. The total number of volunteers from parks, recreation, Harris Nature Center, Meridian Historical Village, Land Preservation, Meridian Senior Center and Deer Management Program was 1,906. Total number of hours 31,708 for a total value of \$731,504. Special thanks to our volunteers who help to make the community a better place to live. We appreciate their involvement.
- Recreation Youth and Adult Sports Programs Economic Impact: Had approximately 4,000 youth and adult athletes participate in Meridian Township Programs which increased support to our local businesses by \$446,986. This figure comes from a survey questions and does not include registration fees.
- Proposed 2016 Projects:
  - ✓ Development of Towner Road Park
  - ✓ Install new playground equipment in Orlando Park this spring
  - ✓ Install new Pavilion in Wonch Park this spring
  - ✓ Install new fitness equipment in Wonch Park this spring
  - ✓ Construct Doggie Playground in Central Park
  - ✓ Update the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (to be eligible for grants, the Master Plan needs to be updated every five years and this helps leverage millage dollars)
  - ✓ Construct roof structures over dugouts in Hartrick Park this spring
  - ✓ Trail surface and directional signage in parks.
  - ✓ Continue with stewardship activities including invasive plant removal, restoration projects and butterfly habitat projects
  - ✓ Proposed submission of two grant applications
  - ✓ Work with Ingham County to secure trail millage funds for projects in Meridian.

## 9. **New Business**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### a. **Accessible Doggie Playground Proposal**

The Commission and staff have been researching the development of an off-leash dog park for many years. Staff is proposing to build a "Doggie Playground" to be located in Central Park on Gaylord Smith Court adjacent to the Meridian Service Center. This would be a specialty park for both large and small dogs, approximately 2-acres in size with trails and agility equipment. This would be the first off-leash dog facility in our community. This urban playground for dogs and owners would provide an opportunity for us to foster relationships with our pet owners to

determine the "next steps" in creating other dog-friendly facilities in the community.

#### Points of Information

- There will be separate areas for small and large dogs
- To avoid muddy trails, stone dust will be used as the trail surface as it meets accessibility guidelines, is pervious, and is gentle on paws.
- Effective management and maintenance are important to the success of dog facilities so its proximity to the Service Center should be beneficial. Also, police and fire personnel regularly drive by accessing fuel pumps.
- Maybe area pet stores may wish to contribute to the facility.
- Opportunities for special pet events
- Pet waste will be addressed by signage; good dog owners tend to police other dog owners

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO BUILD A DOGGIE PLAYGROUND IN CENTRAL PARK ADJACENT TO GAYLORD C SMITH COURT, HASLETT, APPROXIMATELY 2-ACRES IN SIZE WITH BOTH LARGE AND SMALL DOG AREAS, TRAILS, AND AGILITY EQUIPMENT FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$76,000 FUNDED BY THE PARK MILLAGE.

#### Roll Call:

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

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

#### **b. Lansing Economic Area Partnership (LEAP) Request for Proposals of Public Art for Communities 2016**

Director Maisner reported a few years ago, the Meridian DDA was awarded a grant to commission a sculpture for the round-about at Hamilton and Marsh Roads. LEAP is once again accepting proposals for public art. Associate Planner, Peter Menser is preparing another application and is proposing the location to be Wonch Park and is asking for a \$500 commitment from the Park Millage to use as a grant match. The grant award is \$10,000.

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO SUPPORT THE SUBMISSION OF THE PUBLIC ART FOR COMMUNITIES GRANT PROPOSAL FOR WONCH PARK TO THE

LANSING ECONOMIC AREA PARTNERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTE A LOCAL MATCH OF \$500 CASH FUNDED THROUGH THE PARK MILLAGE.

Roll Call:

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

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

**c. Projects for 2016 Grant Proposals**

The Commissioners reviewed the proposed CIP projects during work session and are recommending the following projects for grant submission for 2016:

- Restroom building and new footbridge in the Historical Village- estimated cost: \$300,000
- Promenade/pathway from the Historical Village, through to the Ledebuhr parcel, to the Central Park South pond and down to Central Park Drive with overlook/fishing platform. Estimated cost: \$370,000.

Staff will prepare the grant applications and discuss the proposals with DNR Staff to determine which projects fit best with each grant program.

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO HAVE STAFF PREPARE GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR TWO PROJECTS – RESTROOM BUILDING AND FOOT BRIDGE IN THE MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE WITH AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$300,000; AND FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A PROMENADE/PATHWAY THROUGH CENTRAL PARK TO CENTRAL PARK SOUTH INCLUDING AN OVERLOOK/FISHING PLATFORM WITH AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$370,000. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**d. Set Public Hearing Date for Grant Proposals**

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO MOVE TO SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR THE PROPOSED GRANT SUBMISSIONS FOR A RESTROOM BUILDING AND NEW FOOT BRIDGE; AND FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PROMENADE/PATHWAY THROUGH CENTRAL PARK ON TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2016, AT 7 PM, AT THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION, HASLETT/OKEMOS ROTARY COMMUNITY ROOM, 5000 OKEMOS ROAD, OKEMOS, MI. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**e. Nancy Moore Park Sand Volleyball Court Improvement**

Director Maisner reported that the sand volleyball courts in Nancy Moore Park were installed in 1996. These courts have hosted Township and public leagues, tournaments and casual play for the last 20 years. Staff is recommending the sand be replaced at a cost of approximately \$12,000 for two courts. This recommendation requires a budget amendment.

COMMISSIONER MCDONALD MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO APPROVE A BUDGET AMENDMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,000 TO PURCHASE NEW SAND FOR TWO SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS IN NANCY MOORE PARK IN 2016 FROM THE PARK MILLAGE FUND.

Roll Call:

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

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

**f. Towner Road Park Development Funding**

Chair Wilson reported that in November, the Commission discussed and approved the delivery of work in a single piece verses in smaller pieces for development of Towner Road Park, and the costs associated with each method of development. With the current millage, there will be a need to borrow if the project is to move forward as one project. There will be an interest incurred on borrowed funding but this would be offset by the costs of developing in stages which would require additional staff time, document development, request for proposal process, etc. The major benefit for delivery in one piece is the park will be available sooner for the community's use. By approving the method of delivery, the Commission can proceed to formally discuss the project and its' funding with the Township Board.

Discussion:

- This is a large project and to build in phases would mean piecemealed infrastructure making it more difficult to oversee the project, and the finished product may not be a quality product
- Make better use of staff time, and present a finished product to the community
- Would there be a perception that by borrowing funds in the second year of a new millage that there would not be funds available for future park projects or maintenance?

- Support of loan option to get this project developed all at once because it would be available for the community much sooner than if developed in phases
- If developed as one project, will receive a better bid from contractors who can keep their crews busy throughout the work season

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO MOVE TO CONSTRUCT TOWNER ROAD PARK, IN ONE PHASE, UTILIZING A CONSTRUCTION MANAGER, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT A LOAN WILL BE NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT. THIS LOAN WILL BE REPAID BY THE PARK MILLAGE.

Roll Call:

AYES: Mark Stephens, Philip Deschaine, Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson  
NAYS: Melanie Jaramillo

Motion passed 4-1

**10. Unfinished Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None

**11. Other Business (cherry)**

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. **March meeting location change - Central Fire Station Haslett/Okemos Community Meeting Room**

Director Maisner reported the March meeting location needs to be moved to another location due to the upcoming elections.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO RELOCATE THE MARCH 8, 2016 PARK COMMISSION MEETING FROM THE TOWN HALL ROOM, MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, TO THE CENTRAL FIRE STATION HASLETT/OKEMOS ROTARY CLUB COMMUNITY ROOM AND THE MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6 PM. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**12. Discussion Items**

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None

**13. Final Comments**

None

**14. Announcements**

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 8, 2016, Central Fire Station Haslett/Okemos Rotary Community Room, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos
- b. Winter Farmers' Market – J C Penney Corridor, Meridian Mall, first and third Saturday, 10 am - 2 pm
- c. Meridian Ice Fishing Derby – Saturday, February 13, 9 am – Noon, Central Park South Pond / cancelled due to the weather
- d. Moonlight Sledding, Saturday, February 13, 6-8:30 pm; North Meridian Road Park, weather dependent
- e. Animal Valentine Campfire, Saturday, February 13, 7 pm, Harris Nature Center
- f. Howl at the Moon, Friday, February 19, 7 pm, Harris Nature Center
- g. Moonlight Ski and Shoe, Saturday, February 20, 6-9 pm; Harris Nature Center
- h. Family Special: Birds of Winter; Sunday, February 21, 3 pm; Harris Nature Center
- i. Meridian Swims, Sunday, February 21, 6:30-8 pm; Michigan Athletic Club, space limited - pre-registration is required

**15. Public Remarks**

None

**16. Closed Session**

None

**17. Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

# Park Commission Meeting

MARCH 9, 2016

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
  - 1. From: mParks 2016 Conference Committee; To: LuAnn Maisner; Re: Thank you for speaking at conference
  
- B. Commission Information
  - 1. Towne Courier: **Feb 7:** Nature center to host Valentine's Day program; 'The Birds of the Winter' at Harris Nature Center; **Feb 14:** "The Birds of the Winter" program at Harris Nature Center; Night ski or snowshoe Feb 20; **Feb 21:** Native plants available through April 29; "The Birds of the Winter" program at Harris Nature Center; "Brilliant Bats" at Harris Nature Center; **Feb 28:** Qigong classes at Harris Nature Center; Nature program and walk March 13; "Brilliant Bats" at Harris Nature Center; Native plants available for sale through April 29
  - 2. March
  
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
  - 1.

# movement<sup>2016</sup>

HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT / HEALTHY LIFESTYLES / HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

mParks Conference and Trade Show  
February 16-19, 2016  
Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, Acme, MI



Many thanks for sharing your time and expertise at the 2016 mParks Conference. Your contribution helps to create a valuable experience for our parks, recreation, and natural resources professionals so they may better the lives of Michigan residents. We hope the enclosed serves as a reminder of your time in the Grand Traverse area.

Sincerely,

*The mParks 2016 Conference Committee*

### Nature center to host Valentine's Day program

Love and commitment are found in the animal world too, as demonstrated by animals such as the gray wolf and barred owl. The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp. will hold a campfire program about these animal valentines 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517-349-3866. The program will take place around a campfire and will include a short walk through the winter woods. For more information, contact 517-349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us). Find more online at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us), on Facebook and Twitter.

### 'The Birds of the Winter' at Harris Nature Center

The Harris Nature Center frequently receives questions about the birds people see near their homes in winter. The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp., will hold a program about common winter birds 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517-349-3866.

Towne Courier • Sunday, February 14, 2016

### 'The Birds of the Winter' program at Harris Nature Center

The Harris Nature Center frequently receives questions about the birds people see near their homes in winter. The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp., will hold a program about common winter birds 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517-349-3866.

### Night ski or snowshoe Feb. 20

Ski or snowshoe at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp., 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 20. There is a \$3 per person fee if you bring your own equipment and \$10 per person fee if you borrow our equipment, which includes a head lamp. There will be additional head lamps available to rent for \$2 if that is all you need. Contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517-349-3866 to register and reserve your skis or snowshoes. This event will be canceled if we do not have snow. Flashlights and headlamps are recommended and participants are advised to dress appropriately for the weather. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact 517.349.3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) and find out more online at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us) and [www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter](http://www.facebook.com/HarrisNatureCenter) and [www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt](http://www.twitter.com/HarrisNatureCnt).

Sunday, February 21, 2016 • Towne Courier

### "The Birds of the Winter" program at Harris Nature Center

The Harris Nature Center frequently receives questions about the birds people see near their homes in winter. The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp., will hold a program about common winter birds 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 21. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517-349-3866.

### 'Brilliant Bats' at Harris Nature Center

This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is "Brilliant Bats," 1 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 3 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp. The program is designed for 4- 5-year-old children. The fee is \$4 per child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517.349.3866.

### Native plants available through April 29

The pre-order forms for the Harris Nature Center's annual Native Plants Sale are available

now through April 29. Pre-ordered plants can be picked up May 7 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp. Additional plans will be available. Proceeds from the sale support the Harris Nature Center. For more information, a pre-order form, and plant list, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517-349-3866. All plants are grown locally by Designs by Nature in Laingsburg.

### **Qigong classes at Harris Nature Center**

Qigong (pronounced “chi gung”) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. Qigong classes will be held 6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays, March 7 - May 2 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos. The fee is \$10 per person for each class attended. There will not be classes on March 14, 21, or April 11. Contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517-349-3866 for more information.

### **Nature program and walk March 13**

There will be a presentation on squirrels 3 p.m. Sunday, March 13 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517-349-3866. There is an optional guided walk with a Harris Nature Center naturalist after the presentation.

### **“Brilliant Bats” at Harris Nature Center**

This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is “Brilliant Bats,” 1 p.m. Thursday, March 3 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Meridian Twp. The program is designed for 4- 5-year-old children. The fee is \$4 per child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or 517.349.3866.

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Park Commission Meeting  
March 8, 2016

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Grant Application - Footbridge and Restroom Facility,  
Meridian Historical Village
- b. Grant Application - Central Meridian Regional Trail  
Connector, Central Park
- c. Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Master Plan

## RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 9th day of March, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner and supported by:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 50% of the total project cost funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Land and Water Conservation fund for \$300,000 of improvements to Central Park consisting of a universally accessible restroom facility and gateway footbridge to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities and ages; and

WHEREAS, this project is identified and supported in the Central Park Master Plan and in the 2011-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2016-2021 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park development and improvements are supported by Township Board Policy and the 2016 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 9, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for construction of a universally accessible restroom building and gateway footbridge in Central Park-Meridian Historical Village with a total project cost of \$300,000. The fifty percent local match of \$150,000 will be funded by the Park Millage, with the remaining fifty percent (\$150,000) funded by the grant.

STATE OF MICHIGAN    )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF INGHAM    )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Chair of the Park Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 2016.

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Todd Wilson  
Park Commission Chair

## RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 9th day of March, 2016 at 7:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner and supported by:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 25% of the total project cost funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust fund for \$400,000 of improvements to Central Park consisting of a Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities and ages; and

WHEREAS, this project is identified and supported in the Central Park Master Plan and in the 2011-2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2016-2021 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park development and improvements are supported by Township Board Policy and the 2016 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 9, 2016.



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Park Commission

**FROM:**   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** March 3, 2016

**RE:** Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan Recommendation

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The Meridian Township Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan is scheduled for review and the Park Commission has been asked to provide comments on the existing plan and make recommendations for additions and/or deletions. A copy of the plan is included on your packet for review and discussion.

Staff has reviewed the plan with the following suggestions:

- Currently, a paved shoulder is indicated on the master plan for the stretch of Towner that runs between Marsh Road and Saginaw Highway. The paved shoulder would be accomplished whenever the Ingham County Road Department repaves the road. Staff is suggesting that the designation be changed to Off-road pathway on the south side of the road. That would better protect pedestrians and cyclists who are trying to access the park.
- Create a country trail connection from Newton Road Park to Towner Road Park through Sierra Ridge subdivision.
- Add a connector trail from Tacoma Hills Natural Area, through the western edge of Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area, into MSU's Dobie Reserve.

Motion for Consideration:

MOVE TO FORWARD THE FOLLOWING PATHWAY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR INCLUSION ON THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PEDESTRIAN-BICYCLE MASTER PLAN:

- ADD AN OFF-ROAD PATHWAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF TOWNER ROAD BETWEEN MARSH RD AND SAGANAW HIGHWAY;
- ADD CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL BETWEEN NEWTON ROAD PARK AND TOWNER ROAD PARK THROUGH SEIRRA RIDGE SUBDIVISION;
- ADD A CROSS-COUNTRY TRAIL FROM TACOMA HILLS NATURAL AREA THROUGH THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF SANDER FARM PRESERVED NATURAL AREA TO MSU DOBIE RESERVE.