



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday February 11, 2026 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos MI

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. February 11, 2026
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. January 14, 2026
5. PRESENTATION
 - A. Dan Opsommer, Pike Crossing Preserve proposed pathway
6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. None.
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Pike Crossing Preserve proposed pathway

(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

 - B. Parcel for Acquisition Consideration

(END CLOSED SESSION)
8. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - b. 2026 Land Preservation Program Goals
 - c. MCC February Stewardship Calendar
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Yu Man Lee
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 - D. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas
9. PUBLIC COMMENT
10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6 pm at The Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.
12. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee (Environmental Commission), Mark Stephens (Park Commission), Angela Demas (Township Board).
ABSENT: None.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Beth Bechtel, Meridian Township resident
 - i. Request to eliminate chemical use in land management practices. Full public comment included in Exhibit A.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

- a. January 14, 2026

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the January 14, 2026 Agenda to place on file. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- a. November 12, 2025

Board member Stephens moved to approve the minutes from November 12, 2025 to place on file. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. None.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- a. 2026 Meeting Resolution (Exhibit B)

Board member Parnell makes a motion to approve the 2026 Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting Resolution. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Minutes - Land Preservation Advisory Board

January 14, 2026

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b. 2026 Election of Officers



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator
Date: January 14, 2026
Re: Election of Officers for 2026

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

Board member Parnell nominates Jamie Hiller for Chair. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Board member Hiller declined the nomination.

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

Board member Parnell nominates Kathy Fay for Chair. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Board member Fay declined the nomination.

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

COMMISSIONER LEE MOVED, TO NOMINATE STEVE THOMAS AS CHAIR.
BOARD MEMBER PARNELL SECONDED.

Board member Thomas accepted the nomination.

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

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Jamie Hiller, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay, Kris Parnell, Angela Demas, Steve Thomas (abstained).

NAYS: None.

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

BOARD MEMBER PARNELL MOVED, TO NOMINATE JAMIE HILLER AS VICE CHAIR.
BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED.

Board member Hiller accepted the nomination.

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



Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Jamie Hiller (abstained), Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay, Kris Parnell, Angela Demas, Steve Thomas.

NAYS:

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

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(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

Board member Stephens made a motion to move into Closed Session Discussion. Vice Chair Hiller seconded.

Roll Call:

Yayes: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Angela Demas.

Nayes: None.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration

Board member Parnell made a motion to move out of closed session. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Yayes: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Angela Demas.

Nayes: None.

(END CLOSED SESSION)

8. REPORTS

- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell (Exhibit C)
- i. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - 1. Encroachment at 1442 Haslett Road
 - ii. 2025 Land Preservation Program & Stewardship Report
 - iii. MCC January Stewardship Calendar
- b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
- i. Stewardship staff gave a presentation on the wetland education signage
 - ii. Bird City MI resolution was passed. The resolution will go to the Township Board next. Stewardship staff is leading the team and completing the application for this designation.
 - iii. Climate Sustainability Plan discussion and funding for Climate Sustainability. Ideas are being brought to the Commission by staff, such as the bio-swale at Marshall Park.
 - iv. Green Grant deadline is March 26, 2026. \$15,000 has been allocated to this from the board.
- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
- i. Bio-swale presentation at Marshall Park.
 - ii. Pathway connection from Inter-Urban trail behind American Housing
- d. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas
- i. Joint Board Meeting on February 10, 2026 at 6 pm at Town Hall.
 - ii. Three Township elections scheduled for this year.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

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January 14, 2026

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- a. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Hiller moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Exhibit A

Dear Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board Members,

I respectfully ask that you commit to providing a non-toxic township community by reducing and eventually eliminating the use of toxic synthetic chemicals for township land management for invasive species, field turf management, etc. All communities' residents and employees have the right to be healthy. Please add non-toxic GoatScaping Services to the toolbox of strategies combined with mulching, native ground covers, manual removal, controlled burns, natural non-toxic bio-herbicides and natural non-toxic bio-pesticides for management of invasive species, field turf management, etc.

Please note that even small spot-treatments applications of toxic synthetic chemicals such as Glyphosate, Triclopyr, etc. disrupt soil microbiomes and create long-term toxic synthetic chemicals' dependency. Additionally, please note in in a USA Today article dated October 14, 2025, it states that Bayer (Monsanto) has been ordered to pay \$600 million judgment in a lawsuit claiming its Glyphosate product Roundup herbicide causes cancer. Thus far, Bayer (Monsanto) has paid out approximately \$11 billion to settle nearly 100,000 lawsuits related to its Glyphosate product Roundup with thousands of court cases still pending. Significant health concerns also exist regarding toxic synthetic chemical Triclopyr. Moreover, GoatScaping Services are cost-effective and provide predictable contracts, reduced chemical and labor costs, plus provide natural fertilization, etc. that helps restore soil health in the long term.

Additionally, natural bio-herbicides and natural bio-pesticides are proven very effective with reduced costs over the long-term, such as the products EPA Registered bio-herbicide Contact Organics (now Firehawk) (<https://www.contactorganics.com> & <https://livkleen.com/about-livkleen/>), EPA Registered bio-pesticide Orange Guard (<https://orangeguard.com/>), etc.

To protect the health of Meridian Township residents and employees, I respectfully ask this Board take **a first step with a GoatScaping Services pilot program** to help manage invasive species along with starting the process of using natural bio-herbicides and natural bio-pesticides. I am providing you a folder of resources of both health information and a 6-page contact list of Michigan GoatScaping Services and their respective clients for references. Additionally, I respectfully ask that you please contact local Okemos based Executive Director Jared Harmon of non-profit Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy (<https://www.midmilandcons.org/>) for both his expertise & his experience using GoatScaping on land preserves, etc. for invasive species management. Jared also has co-hosting experience and has previously lead at least 5 Michigan public events demonstrating GoatScaping, etc. with herds of goats.

Thank you,
Beth Bechtel
Haslett, MI

Exhibit B



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE
2026 LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING RESOLUTION**

At a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 14th day of January 2026 at 6:00 pm, Local Time.

PRESENT: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kathy Fey, Yu Man Lee, Kris Parnell,
Mark Stephens, Angela Demas
ABSENT: None

The following resolution supported by Chair Jamie Hiller:

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board deems the 2026 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board's Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board's Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD ADOPTS ITS REGULAR 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

<u>Date</u>		
January 14	Regular Meeting	6 pm
February 11	Regular Meeting	6 pm
March 11	Regular Meeting	6 pm
April 8	Regular Meeting	6 pm
June 10	Regular Meeting	6 pm
August 12	Regular Meeting	6 pm
September 9	Regular Meeting	6 pm
October 14	Regular Meeting	6 pm
November 11	Regular Meeting	6 pm

1. The Land Preservation Advisory Board has set a schedule to meet on the second Wednesday of the month. No meeting will be held for the month of May, July and December, unless one is called by the chairperson.

2. Each of the above meetings shall be held at the specified time in the lunch room of the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, Michigan, (517) 853-4000; with the exception of the joint meeting of the boards and commission which is held in the Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos; unless changed and noticed in accordance with MCL 15.265
3. Special meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
4. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Land Preservation Advisory Board pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
5. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building within ten (10) days after the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year in accordance with the MCL 15.265

ADOPTED: Board Member Parnell moved to approve the amended meeting calendar for 2026.
 Board Member Fay seconded.

YEAS: Jamie Hill, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay, Angela Demas

NAYS: None.

The resolution passed

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss:
 COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chairperson of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board held on the day of January 14th, 2026.

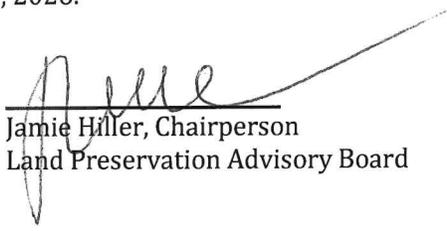

 Jamie Hiller, Chairperson
 Land Preservation Advisory Board

Exhibit C

STEWARDSHIP SUCCESS

2025 Stewardship at a Glance



- 622 HOURS OF STEWARDSHIP COMPLETED IN THE TOWNSHIP
- 415 CORPS MEMBERS WITH 67 NEW SIGNUPS IN 2025
- 46 STEWARDSHIP WORKDAYS
- 10 EDUCATIONAL EVENTS
- 36 SPECIES OF INVASIVE PLANTS MANAGED
- 2 SUCCESSFUL PRESCRIBED BURNS
- 51 SPECIES OF NATIVE PLANTS ETHICALLY COLLECTED
- 7 SPECIES OF NATIVE TRANSPLANTS PLANTED
 - Sky blue aster, old field goldenrod, early goldenrod, foxglove beardtongue, Am. plum, purple angelica, culver's root
- 7 MANAGEMENT PLANS FINALIZED FOR PARKS & PRESERVES
- 'NO BIKE' SIGNAGE INSTALLED AT RED CEDAR GLEN PRESERVE



INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Pull, cut, dab, and restore!



- 28 WORKDAYS & EVENTS DEVOTED TO INVASIVE REMOVAL & TRAINING
- 19 HERBACEOUS INVASIVES:
 - Dame's rocket, garlic mustard, Japanese hedge parsley, Japanese Knotweed, purple loosestrife, phragmites, reed canary grass, lesser celandine, yellow rocket, sweet clover, black swallow wort, speedwell, cutleaf teasel, bird in a bush, yellow bamboo, spotted knapweed, mugwort, Vinca, Pachysandra
- 17 WOODY INVASIVES:
 - invasive bittersweet, honeysuckle (4 species), autumn olive, common & glossy buckthorn, multiflora rose, Japanese barberry European privet, black locust, tree of heaven, Siberian elm, winged euonymus, wineberry & jetbead

• 15 PRESERVES & 15 PARKS MANAGED FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

• PURPLE CROWN VETCH & CHINESE BUSHCLOVER WERE IDENTIFIED FOR FUTURE MANAGEMENT

(BELOW) STAFF WAS TRAINED HOW TO UTILIZE NEW TOOLS, LIKE THIS POLE SAW, WHICH MAKES CUTTING DOWN MULTIFLORA ROSE A LITTLE LESS PRICKLY!



(BELOW) STAFF EXPERIMENTED WITH DIFFERENT MECHANICAL MANAGEMENT METHODS, LIKE USING A BRUSH HOG TO BATTLE BUCKTHORN SAPLINGS AT TOWAR WOODS PRESERVE.



(BELOW) A BIG WEEKDAY WARRIORS GROUP CAME OUT IN THE SNOW TO CUT BACK BUCKTHORN ENCREACHING ON WETLAND BUFFER RESTORATION AREAS.





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STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- January 10th, Red Cedar Glen Preserve/Legg Park, invasive shrub removal & winter native seed sowing
 - Meet at the end of Sylvan Glen Drive in Okemos
- January 24th, Harris Nature Center, Invasive shrub & bittersweet vines removal
 - 3998 Van Atta Rd. | Okemos MI

WEEKDAY WARRIORS | Bi-weekly | 1-3 PM

- January 15th, Davis Foster Preserve, Invasive shrub removal & winter native seed sowing
 - 5120 Van Atta Rd | Okemos MI
- January 29th, Okemos Road Preserve, Invasive shrub removal & winter native seed sowing
 - 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett MI

TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | OWL PROWL NIGHT HIKE

- Join us to learn about the courtship rituals of local owl species, such as the great horned & barred owl
 - January 27th, Red Cedar Glen Preserve
 - End of Sylvan Glen Rd. | Okemos MI



*ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Happy New Year	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
11	12	13	14	15 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	16	17
18	19 MLK DAY OFFICES CLOSED	20	21	22	23	24 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
25	26	27 TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY 7-8:30 PM	28	29 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	30	31

PLEASE RSVP TO EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.897.3610



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members

From: Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Manager
Director of Public Works and Engineering

Date: January 28, 2026

Re: Pike Crossing Preserve and MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, Phase III

Township staff have been working over the past 2 years to find a viable route for Phase III of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail. The purpose of Phase III of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail is to identify and construct an off-road trail/pathway to provide connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists to Lake Lansing Park North. The MSU to Lake Lansing Trail is intended to be an off-road trail/pathway so that users do not have to worry about conflicts motorists as it relates to safety.

For example, a pathway that runs parallel to a primary road, such as Haslett Road, has many different curb cuts for driveways to private businesses, homes and apartments. This creates conflict points where bicyclists and pedestrians have to be vigilant about the motoring public. The purpose of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail is to minimize these conflict points with motorists to the greatest extent possible.

The only viable route we have been able to identify north of Haslett Road is to utilize the Pike Crossing Preserve property. The entire route for Phase III we have identified as being viable is shown below in orange:



Memo to Land Preservation Advisory Board
January 28, 2026
Re: Pike Crossing Preserve and MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, Phase III

management personnel for such installation, construction, or maintenance specifying in detail the work to be done and any conditions to be met.

I will be in attendance at your February 11, 2026 meeting to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to speaking with you all in greater detail about this future off-road trail.

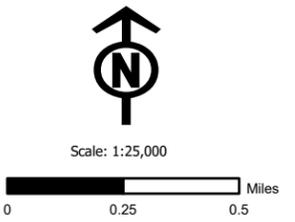
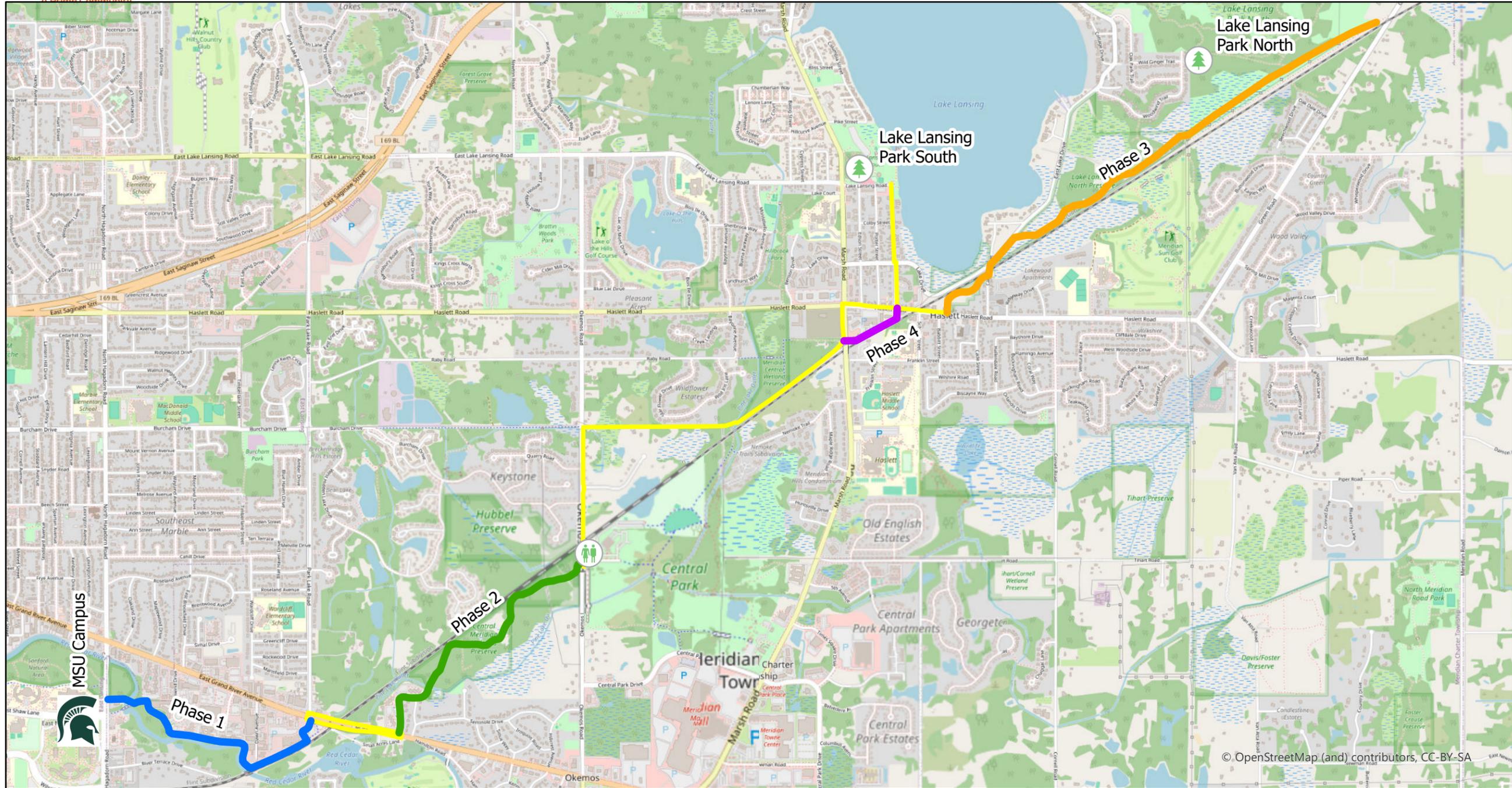
The following motion has been prepared for the Board's consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE III OF THE MSU TO LAKE LANSING TRAIL ACROSS THE PIKE CROSSING LAND PRESERVE PROPERTY.

Attachment:

1. Map of the Proposed Trail Route on the Pike Crossing Preserve
2. MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Construction Schedule Map

MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Construction Schedule



Questions?
517.853.4440
dpw@meridian.mi.us
Updated: 09/15/25

G:\Engineering & Public Works\Pathways & Sidewalks



The Township applied for a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant in the spring of 2025 to help fund the design and construction of a trailhead with parking, a drinking fountain, bike repair station, seating under the canopy of the mature trees on site, and other amenities. If funding allows, the Township may also construct ADA accessible restrooms. The Township should learn if it will be awarded the grant sometime between January and March of 2026. If the Township receives the grant, we currently anticipate design and bidding for construction in 2026 with construction occurring in 2027.



Parks

Phase I: Opened to the public on December 8, 2023. 1 mile: Begins on the north side of the Hagadorn Rd/Shaw Ln intersection. Concludes at the Grand River Ave/Park Lake Rd intersection.



Phase II: Opened to the public on September 14, 2024. 1.2 miles: Begins at the northeast corner of the Grand River Ave/Campus Hill Dr intersection. Concludes on the south side of the Okemos Rd/Gaylord C Smith Ct intersection.



Phase III: Land acquisition and design began in 2024. Construction is currently expected to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027. 1.8 miles: Begins on the north side of Haslett Rd just east of the CN railroad crossing and concludes near Green Rd in the NE corner of the Township.



Phase IV: This future phase, comprising 0.37 miles, will be constructed if land can be acquired. At this time, it does not appear that land can be acquired.



Existing trails and pathways that are a part of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail

Meridian Township

2026 Land Preservation & Stewardship Goals



Stewardship Objectives & Management Goals

Implementing land management on an ecosystem level to address the overall environmental health of the Township. Management of priority areas will improve ecosystem health, community health, as well as environmental outreach and education. Program goals are expanding to include homeowner stewardship of nearby wetlands and private property.

1. Invasive Species Identification, Removal, & Monitoring; Continued expansion of contractual management

- a. **Priority species:** a species focus is necessary when setting management priorities. The following species are difficult to eradicate once established, and spread at a fast rate. These are prioritized regardless of the ecological value of the natural area.
 - i. **Woody Species:** Asiatic bittersweet (*Celastruc orbiculatus*), common/glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica/Rhamnus frangula*), autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellate*), Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)
 - ii. **Herbaceous Species:** Japanese knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), phragmites (*Phragmites australis*), lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), common speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), Bird in a Bush (*Corydalis solida*)
 1. Priority species when established in small populations: reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Japanese hedge parsley (*Torilis japonica*), purple crown vetch (*Securigera varia*), Cutleaf teasel (*Dipsacus laciniatus*).
 - iii. All other species are listed in our document, "Description of Management Activities for Township Parks & Preserves". These species are managed by staff and by volunteers during MCC workdays, in areas of high quality where diverse native plant species are present.
- b. **Priority contractual & staff management (current & future):**
 - i. Black locust at Davis Foster Preserve
 - ii. Phragmites at Ted Black Woods, Northridge Preserve, Inter-Urban Wetland, and Davis Foster Preserve
 1. Additional sites for next year: Lake Drive, Nancy Moore Park, Central Park, Lake Lansing North Preserve

- a. Continued outreach for homeowners with phragmites infestations on their property
 - iii. Japanese & Giant Knotweed treatment at Ponderosa Preserve, Pike Crossing Preserve.
 - 1. Ted Black Woods and Ponderosa Preserve stands have been managed by staff
 - iv. Lesser Celandine & Bird in a Bush
 - 1. A large portion of our mapped infestations will be contracted out for spring management
 - 2. Sensitive areas where these plants occur will be managed by staff
 - v. Cutleaf teasel at Pike Crossing Preserve, Okemos Road Preserve and Serafine Preserve
 - 1. Pike Crossing Preserve is currently contracted out
 - 2. Other sites will be contracted out for spot treatment
 - vi. Contractual spot spraying invasive species at preserves (larger tracts of area that need management, but staff has limited time to get to)
 - 1. Tihart Preserve; spot spraying herbaceous and shrubby invasives in the old farm field adjacent to wetlands
 - 2. Spot spray/glove/cut-stump treat herbaceous and shrubby invasives at Davis Foster Preserve
 - 3. Lake Lansing North Preserve; sweet woodruff treatment (may be done by staff, considering alternatives for this sensitive site)
 - c. **Expansion of Mechanical Invasive Species Management**
 - i. Mechanical management is an important part of our Integrative Pest Management (IPM) plan to reduce the use of chemicals for invasive management
 - ii. Brush hogging and mowing of dense invasive areas; Towar Woods Preserve, Tihart Preserve, Davis Foster Preserve (to stimulate growth of forbs), Serafine Preserve, Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve, Cornell Wetland Preserve
 - 1. Purchase of a walk behind brush hog for use by staff
 - iii. Cattail management: cutting below water line
2. **Individualized Management Plans for Preserves (and parks)**
 - a. Master stewardship and management plans exist for the Township to tackle management issues as a whole, as well as management plans for individualized invasive species
 - b. Preserves and parks that receive the most management and have high ecological value will be prioritized first. Other areas have been prioritized due to proposed projects at these sites.
 - i. Finalized plans exist for Davis Foster Preserve, Ted Black Woods Park, Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve, Tihart Preserve, Sumbal Preserve, Pike Crossing Preserve, Lake Lansing North Preserve, and Serafine Preserve.

- c. Creation of plans is ongoing year round. Management is intended to be a working plan that will continue to evolve.
- 3. Prescribed Burn Management Program**
 - a. Spring of 2026
 - i. Davis Foster Preserve; Unit 1 (see attached burn unit map)
 - b. Fall of 2026
 - i. Red Cedar Glen Preserve; 5 acre unit
 - ii. Legg Park; smaller unit if approved by parks
 - iii. Lake Lansing North Preserve; current burn units plus an addition on the eastern preserve boundary
 - c. This goal will also help us reach our goal of Invasive Species Management Township-wide.
 - 4. Land Preservation Boundary Surveys & Marker Replacement**
 - a. Begin the process of updating boundary markers at all preserves
 - b. Currently most preserves lack boundaries due to boundary markers degrading over time
 - c. Replace boundary markers at priority preserves, those that receive encroachment from neighbors
 - i. Pike Crossing Preserve was completed in 2025
 - 5. Planting a Native Meridian Program**
 - a. Continue expansion of native plant program and habitat restoration at parks, preserves, and private property
 - b. Integrate management plan to begin restoration of native berry producing shrubs and trees to increase habitat for local bird species
 - 6. Michigan State University Collaboration**
 - a. Continue as a sponsor and host to the Glassen Scholars Program
 - i. We will host an intern for 12 weeks in the summer
 - 7. Meridian Conservation Corps Website Update**
 - a. Update all material and resources on the MCC website, and add updated pictures
 - 8. Continued expansion of educational signage and installment of preserve signage**
 - a. Preserve Rule Signage: continue installation throughout 2024
 - b. Name signage: continue installation throughout 2024
 - c. Wetland Education & Restoration signage: ordinance signage ordered and will be installed 2023-24
 - i. Education signage is developed. Order and install in 2024
 - d. Trail signage for the following:
 - i. No bikes allowed reminder throughout trails
 - ii. Not a trail, sensitive area signage for ecological diverse areas receiving high traffic
 - iii. No foraging/taking of plant/wildlife reminders throughout the trails
 - e. Native plant habitat and restoration signage will be implemented at Township restoration sites, as well as made available to homeowners who are utilizing native plants in their landscaping
 - f. No dumping signage at preserves where encroachment is an issue

FEBRUARY

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WETLAND LOVE EDITION

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

- February 7th, Tihart Preserve, Invasive shrub & native winter seed sowing
 - Park at the intersection of Tihart Road and Whitetail Court in Okemos
- February 21st, Sumbal Preserve, Invasive shrub removal & native seeding
 - Park at Wonch Park, 4555 Okemos Rd

WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1-3PM

- February 12th, Harris Nature Center, Invasive shrub and bittersweet cutting and removal (possible seed sowing)
 - 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos
- February 26th, Serafine Preserve, invasive shrub removal
 - Park at the Western end of Del Mar Drive in Okemos



World Wetlands Day
FEBRUARY 2

STEWARDSHIP

***ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**

S M T W T F S

1	2 <i>World Wetlands Day</i> FEBRUARY 2	3	4	5	6	7 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
8	9	10 Vernal Pool Virtual Training 6-8pm	11	12 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	13	14
15	16 TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED	17 Vernal Pool Virtual Training 6-8pm	18	19	20	21 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
22	23	24 Vernal Pool Virtual Training 6-8pm	25	26 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	27	28

PLEASE RSVP TO EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.897.3610