



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY JANUARY 24, 2017
MERIDIAN TOWN HALL ROOM



WORK SESSION 6 PM
(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Dog Park/Playground**
4. **2017 Potential Grant Projects**
5. **5 - Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update**
6. **Comments**
7. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
 - a. Eagle Scout Final Report – Gage Van Order
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. December 13, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
 - b. December 13, 2016 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)

8. Director's Report

9. New Business (pink)

- a. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition
- b. 2017 Potential Grant Projects

10. Other Business (cherry)

11. Discussion Items (lilac)

12. Final Comments

13. Announcements

- a. Park Commission Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 14, 2017
 - Public Hearing on 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan at 7 pm
- b. Chinese New Year Celebration – Saturday, February 11, 1-4:30 pm at Meridian Mall (new location)
- c. Farmers' Market – 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm, JC Penny corridor
- d. Winter Family Weekend Activities:
 - ✓ Saturday, January 28
 - Winter Wonderland, 10 am–3 pm, at HNC
 - Moonlight Sledding, 6-8:30 pm, at North Meridian Road Park, weather dependent
 - ✓ Saturday, February 4
 - Learn to Cross Country Ski, 9:30-11:30 am at HNC
 - Learn to Snowshoe, 1-3 pm at HNC
 - Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, inside the Meridian Mall
 - ✓ Friday & Saturday, February 10 & 11
 - Friday: Howl at the Moon, at 7 pm, at HNC
 - Saturday: Chinese New Year Celebration, 1-4:30 pm, inside Meridian Mall
 - Owl Prowl Campfire, at 7 pm, at HNC
 - ✓ Saturday, February 18
 - Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, inside the Meridian Mall
 - Moonlight Ski and Shoe, 6-9 pm, at HNC, weather dependent
 - Meridian Ice Fishing Derby, 9am-12 noon, location TBA

14. Public Comment

15. Closed Session

16. Adjournment

Park Commission Meeting

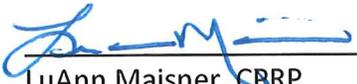
January 24, 2017

WORK SESSION

3. Dog Park/Playground
4. 2017 Potential Grant Projects
5. 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CBRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

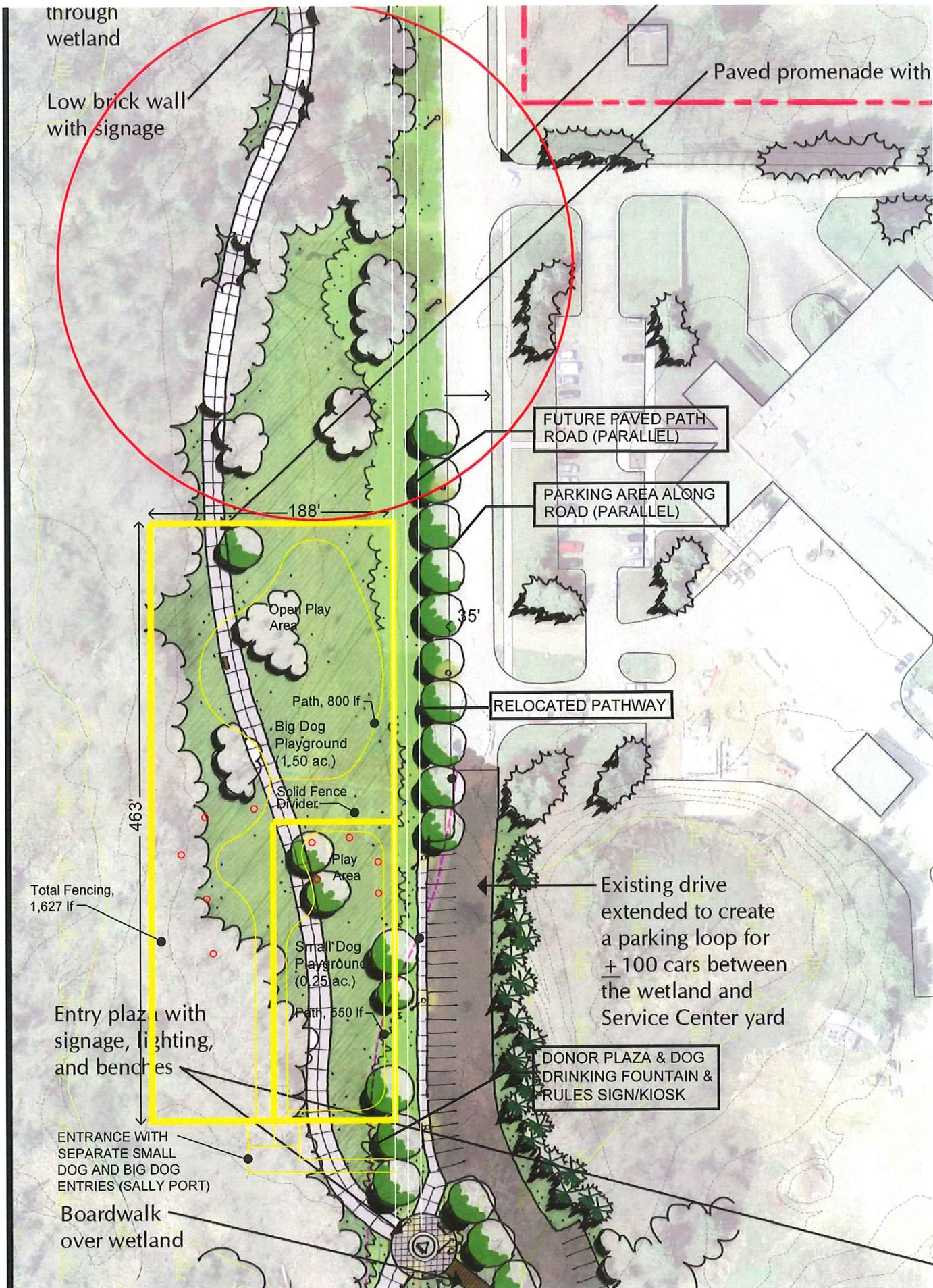
DATE: January 19, 2017

RE: Dog Park Update and Discussion

Staff is preparing for construction of a Doggie Playground in the space across from the Meridian Service Center on Gaylord Smith Court this spring. The playground will include a loop trail consisting of stone dust which is firm and stable for accessibility while also being pervious, agility equipment, and fencing. We are utilizing this as a "first step" in building dog parks in our community.

We are also in the process of reviewing land adjacent to the new fire station as a possible location to allow off-leash walking.

Many dog owners currently walk their pets off-leash in our parks which is prohibited by park ordinance. Complaints have been many and enforcement has been difficult. I look forward to discussing this topic with you Tuesday evening to look at ways to accommodate the community's desire for a dog park and off-leash opportunities.



DOGGY PLAYGROUND

CENTRAL PARK, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

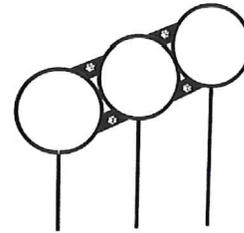
January 2017

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



NORTH

SCALE: 1" = 100'



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



SMALL DOG KIT

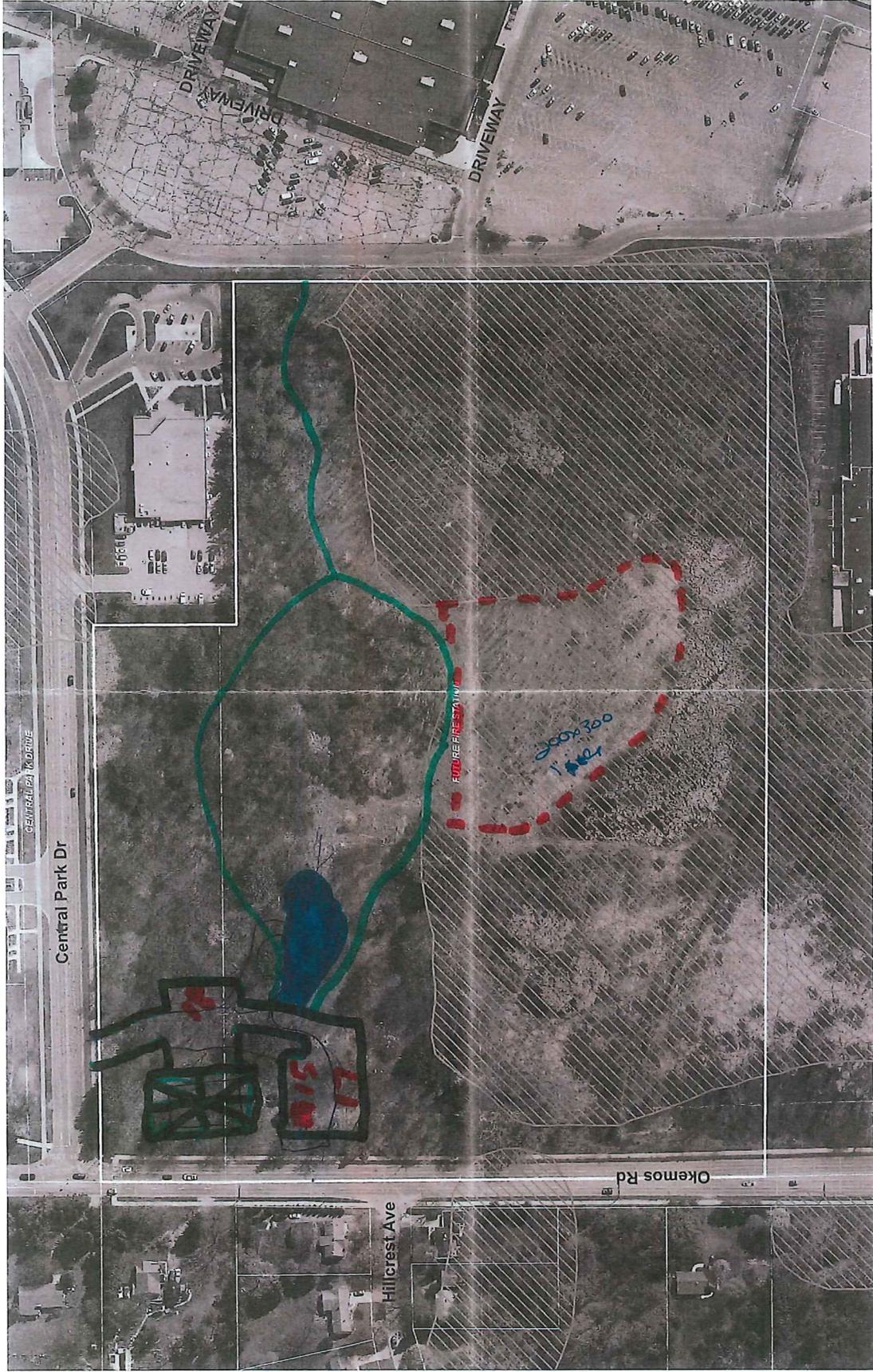


LARGE DOG KIT

DOGGY PLAYGROUND

CENTRAL PARK, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

November 2015



MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, MI

Distance/Times to Local Dog Parks

Delta Dental

Soldans	6.56 mi	5 min
East Lansing	12.49 mi	16 min
Central Park South	2.18 mi	5 min
Legg Park South	4.94 mi	7 min

Okemos High School

Soldans	4.19 mi	6 min
East Lansing	9.77 mi	13 min
Central Park South	4.54 mi	9 min
Legg Park South	4.74 mi	6 min

Snell-Towar Recreation Center

Soldans	8.87 mi	13 min
East Lansing	1.29 mi	3 min
Central Park South	4.89 mi	9 min
Legg Park South	8.59 mi	15 min

North Meridian Road Park

Soldans	12.48 mi	19 min
East Lansing	8.38 mi	16 min
Central Park South	5.49 mi	8 min
Legg Park South	3.46 mi	5 min

Lake Lansing Park North

Soldans	11.80 mi	18 min
East Lansing	5.79 mi	11 min
Central Park South	4.08 mi	10 min
Legg Park South	5.95 mi	11 min

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP ZONING CODE

§ 54-37 Dogs and other pets.

[Code 1974, § 34-10]

(a)

Permitted. Dogs and other pets may be brought upon park property, unless posted otherwise.

(b)

Control. Any dog on park property shall be upon a leash of six feet or less, unless posted otherwise, and shall be under the immediate control of a competent person at all times.

(c)

Removal of feces. Any person having custody of a dog on park property shall immediately remove all feces deposited by such dog on any public footpath, athletic field or other area frequented by the public, and shall dispose of same in a sanitary manner.

(d)

Public buildings. No dog or pet shall be allowed to enter any public building.

(e)

Application to guide, service, or leader dogs. This section does not prohibit the use of guide dogs, service dogs, or leader dogs as provided and defined in § 502c of the Michigan Penal Code (MCL § 750.502c).

SIGNS POSTED AT EACH PARK AND TRAIL HEAD



**PETS ARE WELCOME
IN OUR PARKS!**

PLEASE BE A COURTEOUS PET OWNER.

1. All pets must be on a leash six feet or less in length.
 - This protects your pet from other pets.
 - It relieves the stress of visitors who are uncomfortable around pets.
 - It insures the safety of wildlife living in the park.
2. Pet owners must remove all feces deposited by their pets.
 - This is for the health and safety of all park visitors.

**THANK YOU FOR BEING A COURTEOUS PET
OWNER AND A FRIEND OF THE PARKS!**

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE # 54-37

INFORMATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION BROCHURE

Pets in the Parks

As the weather gets warmer, you may want to get out in the fresh air and walk your pets in the parks. To help protect all park visitors, please follow the Meridian Township Parks Rules and Regulations.

1. Pets are permitted in all parks unless otherwise posted. Pets are not permitted in the Historical Village during organized programs.
2. Pets shall be kept on a leash no greater than six feet in length, under the immediate control of a responsible person and shall not disturb other park visitors. Also, do not tie your pet to a tree or harass waterfowl or other animals in the park.
3. Please clean up after your pet. Pet owners are required to use and carry a container of suitable size to clean up after their pets. Plastic bags are recommended. Poop bag dispensers can be found in most Meridian Township parks.
4. Seeing-eye or service assistant dogs are permitted in all parks.

INFORMATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION BROCHURE

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IN OUR PARKS!

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THANK YOU FOR BEING A COURTEOUS PET OWNER AND A FRIEND OF THE PARKS!

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 19, 2017

RE: 2017 Potential Grant Projects

Grant applications are due to the Department of Natural Resources by April 1 each year. The application process can be very time-consuming so making a determination is necessary at this meeting.

Below are the recommended projects for the 2017 grant cycle:

1. **The Harris Nature Center** hosts hundreds of school children each year as well as numerous outdoor special events. The Center is also along the Meridian Riverfront trail that extends from Eastgate Park to the East to Legg Park on the west and on through the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve to Dobie Road. Harris Nature Center staff have been requesting an outdoor restroom for a number of years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
2. Construction of **Towner Road Park** will take place in 2017 and will not be ready for active play until 2019. In order to best afford the park's development, staff is recommending that a grant be pursued for construction of six pickleball courts, native plantings and stormwater management, a playground and the northern parking lot.

Motion for Park Commission Consideration:

MOVE TO COMPLETE GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AN OUTDOOR RESTROOM AT THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER; AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SIX PICKLEBALL COURTS AND PARKING LOT FOR TOWNER ROAD PARK.

2017 – 2022 CIP Summary by Park

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department

Central Park

Improvement	Cost
Restroom Buildings	\$200,000
Bridge Into Village	\$100,000
Promenade Pathway (A, C, D)	\$370,000
Covered Basketball, Ice Rink & Parking	\$500,000
Sculpture Garden	\$60,000 + Art
Overlook Shelter, Railing & Path	\$80,000
Overlook Dock	\$62,000
Pavilion & Sidewalks (Village)	\$275,000
Pavilion, Playground & Splash Pad	\$400,000
	\$2,047,000
Other Projects & Amenities in Master Plan	\$2,800,000
Total	\$4,847,000

Harris Nature Center

Improvement	Cost
Pavilion	\$150,000
Nature Playground	\$20,000
Restroom Building near HNC	\$200,000
Parking Lot Expansion	\$60,000
Total	\$430,000

Hillbrook Park

Improvement	Cost
Restroom Building	\$150,000
Accessible Trails	\$40,000
Total	\$190,000

Legg Park

Improvement	Cost
Pave Driveway	\$120,000
Expanded Parking	\$60,000
Habitat Improvement	\$15,000
Total	\$195,000

Marshall Park

Improvement	Cost
Accessible Playground	\$100,000
Paved Loop Trail	\$50,000
Parking Improvements	\$10,000
Total	\$195,000

Meridian Riverfront

Improvement	Cost
Pave/Boardwalk River Trail	850,000
Total	\$850,000

Nancy Moore

Improvement	Cost
Accessible Playground	\$100,000
Paved Loop Trail	\$50,000
Parking Improvements	\$10,000
Total	\$195,000

Newton Road

Improvement	Cost
Playground	\$80,000
Total	\$80,000

Ottawa Hills

Improvement	Cost
Playground	\$80,000
Total	\$80,000

Wonch

Improvement	Cost
Restroom	\$250,000
Stream Bank Improvements	\$200,000
Accessible Canoe Landing	\$125,000
WiFi	\$10,000
Total	\$585,000

Eastgate

Improvement	Cost
Pave Parking Lot	\$50,000
Total	\$50,000

Towner Road

Improvement	Cost
Development	\$2,200,000
Total	\$2,200,000



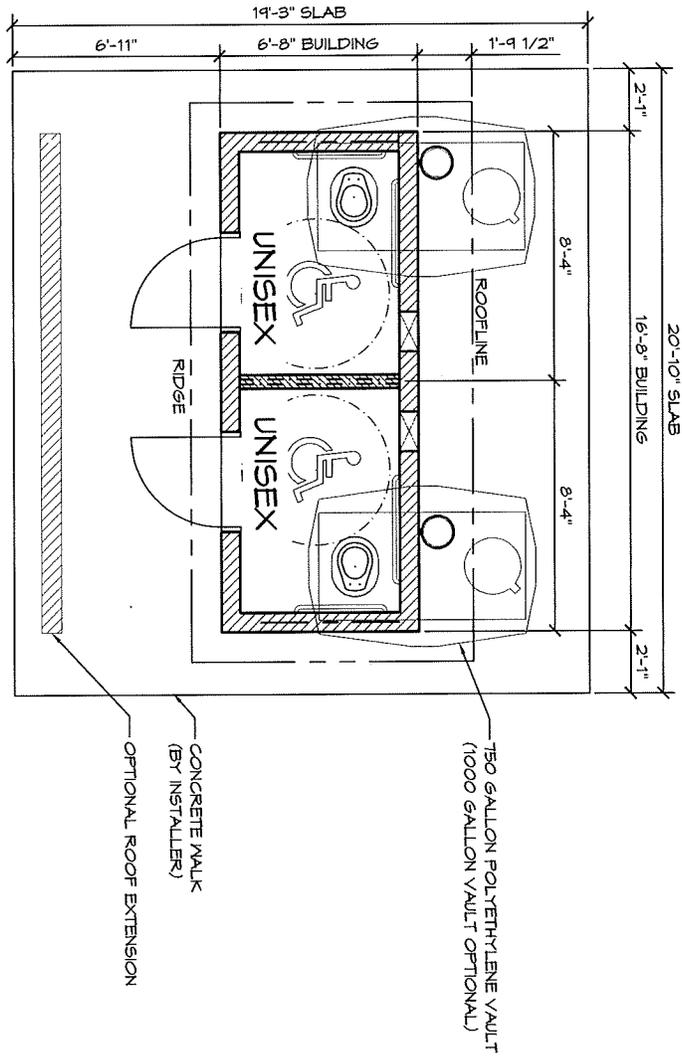




LEGEND		AREA/ QUANTITY
---	GABLE WINDOW	2
==	2x6 WOOD FILLER WALL	1
---	16' x 24' EXTERIOR WALL VENT LOCATED IN CMU WALL	2

WALL TYPE SCHEDULE

-  8" CMU WALL REINFORCED & GROUT FILLED
-  6" CMU WALL REINFORCED & GROUT FILLED



1 FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



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PROJECT: 1012 95T ASPEN DOUBLE RESTROOM

CUSTOMER PROJECT LOCATION

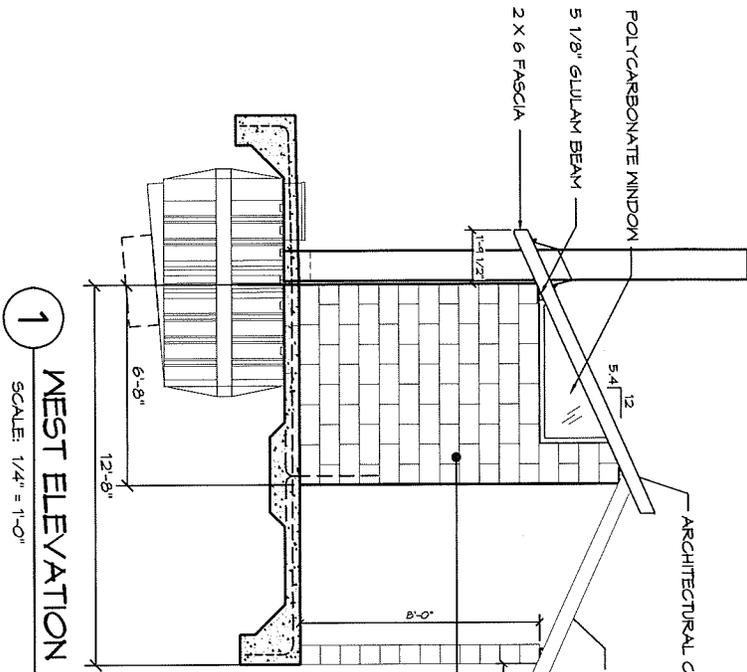
SHEET TITLE: FLOOR PLAN

DATE:	01/26/15	
REVISIONS:		
NO.	DATE	BY

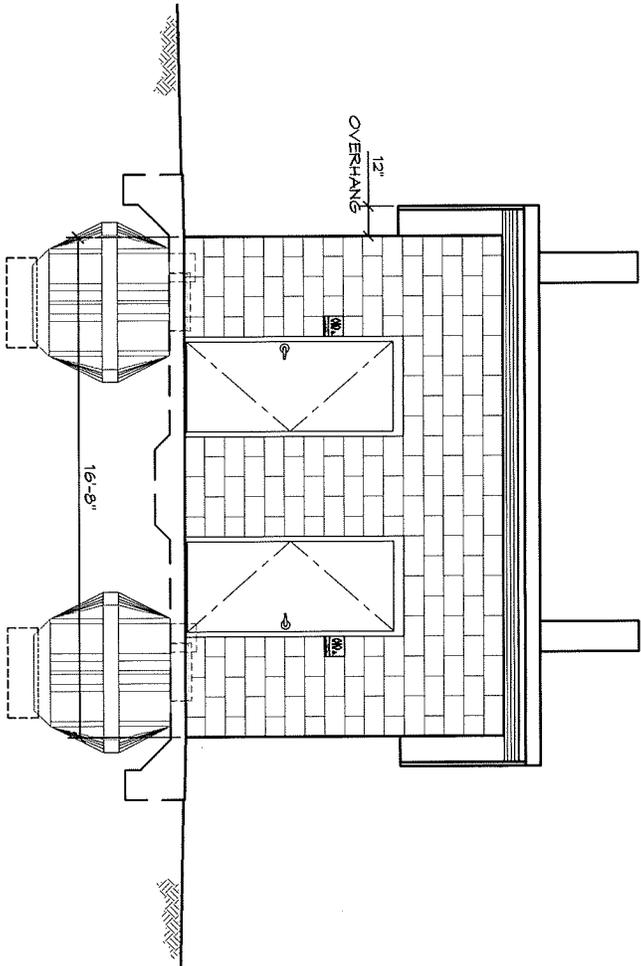
PROJECT NO: 1012
MODEL: XXXX
DRAWN BY: TH
SHEET NO: 1

ROMTEC
18240 NORTH BANK ROAD - ROSEBURG, OR 97470
(541) 498-3541 FAX (541) 498-0803

PRELIMINARY



1 WEST ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



2 SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

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PROJECT: 1012 55T ASPEN DOUBLE RESTROOM
CUSTOMER PROJECT LOCATION
 SHEET TITLE: ELEVATIONS

DATE:	01/26/15	
REVISIONS:		
NO.	DATE	BY

PROJECT NO: XXXX
 MODEL #: 1012
 DRAWN BY: TH
 SHEET NO: 2

ROMTEC
 18240 NORTH BANK ROAD - ROSEBURG, OR 97470
 (541) 496-3541 FAX (541) 496-0803

PRELIMINARY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 19, 2017

RE: 5-Year Parks and Recreation master Plan 2017-2021 Update

The draft of the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021 has been available the month of January for public review in hard copy version as well as on-line on the Township's website. During this time as staff has also re-reviewed the document and identified a few necessary changes to the draft. The attached pages indicate the proposed changes. During this time, we also have received input from the community. That information is attached for your review as well.

Action on this information will take place following the public hearing on February 14th. These proposed changes are also posted on the website.

VISION STATEMENT

“Creating Community through People, Parks and Programs”

MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Introduction

Our parks and recreation programs are perceived as an essential component of the community by meeting the needs of local residents and providing a major attraction for future township residents. It is intended that the Master Plan will fulfill the following goals:

1. Document broad-based public input regarding the current and future parks and recreation needs and priorities of Meridian Township residents.
2. Document the needs and desires of current Meridian Township.
3. Provide the Park Commission, department staff, and other community stakeholders with information to guide parks and recreation planning for the next five years and beyond.
4. Project the needs of current and future residents based upon demographic trends and public input.

This 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan describes the park and recreation opportunities in Meridian Township and establishes goals, objectives and an overall vision for our community's parks and recreation future. It is intended to be a planning tool and guide for future decision making and application of resources.

The intent of this plan is to identify the current and future parks and recreation needs in order to continue providing programs and services to maintain and improve the quality of life in our community. This plan follows the guidelines and requirements established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to provide eligibility for MDNR grant funding. The required plan content includes the following chapters:

- **Community Description.** Includes the character and demographics of the population that is served by the park and recreation facilities and programs. Meridian Township residents are proud of their community; they are well educated,

with a balance of young families and increasingly aging population consistent with state and national trends that place demand on a wide range of recreation needs.

- **Administrative Structure.** This section outlines the township and parks and recreational organization structure, partnerships and volunteer efforts, and relationships with the local school districts and other public agencies in regard to recreational, programming, and funding sources that are available for the parks and recreation department. Meridian Township is well organized, with a professional park staff that leverages available resources to maximize the recreation opportunities to its residents.
- **Recreation Inventory.** A thorough listing of park programs and facilities is included. Analysis of these facilities includes comparison to National Standards as well as how they meet local demands. An accessibility assessment helps identify opportunities to eliminate physical barriers to recreation. Funding sources for each park are included, as well as status of each grant funded park as part of the appendix. Land use and environmental features are identified that help shape opportunities and constraints for park development. The township has ample public landholdings, with only a percentage of developed parks supporting the demand for various activities. There are many recreation partners and volunteers that can and will continue to help support recreation to the community.
- **Planning Process.** The Parks and Recreation staff took the lead in directing the planning process and preparation of the master plan, with guidance from the elected Park Commission and other township staff members. ROWE Professional Services Company provided consulting services on areas of the plan that include public survey information and analysis from an objective third party perspective that helped direct the development of goals and objectives.
- **Goals and Objectives.** This section outlines the guidelines that shape the intent for future facility and program development within the community. They describe the character and vision that can be applied as opportunities are evaluated by the township regarding park and recreation improvements.
- **Action Plan.** The Action Program is the section of the plan that identifies how the township intends to meet, or work towards meeting goals and objectives over the next five years. Specific projects that are identified during the planning process should be described and an explanation provided as to how they will meet the goals and objectives. The citizens of Meridian Township have continually demonstrated their support for the maintenance, stewardship and development of quality parks, natural areas, and recreation facilities. Past surveys revealed strong local support in favor of continued development and maintenance of the existing facilities. The preparation of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan provided opportunities for citizens to play a key role in defining the future of parks and recreation in Meridian Township.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS SINCE THE 2011-2015 PLAN:

The success of the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is evident based on the following successes since the last plan written in 2011:

A. TOWNSHIP MILLAGES & ORDINANCES

The public support for these recommendations and the importance of parks and recreation was substantiated by the successful passage of related ordinances and millages:

1. **New Park Millage** (.6667 mill passed in 2014 through 2025) provides funds for acquisition, maintenance, equipment and facility development.
2. **Previous Park Millage** (.317 mill renewed 1984-2016) provided funds for acquisition, maintenance, equipment and facility development.

B. GRANT AWARDS

Seven different grants have been awarded to the township since 2011 for a total of \$ 1,012,582, including three recently awarded by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Land and Water Conservation Fund.

1. North Meridian Road Park, Pavilion, \$50,000 MNRTF (2015)
2. Greenfields Outdoor Exercise Gym, Wonch Park, \$17, 682 (2016)
3. Consumers Energy, Right Tree Right Place Grant, Ferguson Park, \$1,000 (2016)
4. Capital Region Community Foundation, Volunteer Tool Shed Grant, \$6,500 (2016)
5. Central Park Regional Trail Connector & Fishing Platform, \$272,500 MNRTF (2016)
6. Central Park/Historical Village, bridge and restroom building, \$150,000 LWCF (2016)
7. Property acquisition, 80-acres, "Ponderosa", \$514,900, MNRTF (2016)

C. LAND PRESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS

Management plans were developed for the land preserves within the township to prioritize available resources to maintain the health of these ecosystems.

D. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Two full-time positions were added to the parks and recreation department in 2016:

- **Stewardship Coordinator:** This position was added in response to the department's growing commitment to facilities and natural areas management. The position is responsible for carrying out management plans for the natural areas. Activities involve invasive species management, recruiting and working with volunteers, and carrying out other duties set forth by the Park Commission and Land Preservation Advisory Board.
- **Grounds Maintenance Employee:** A full-time grounds maintenance employee was added in 2016, making a total of five full-time employees.
- **Employees attend conferences and trainings annually to network and remain current on licenses and trends in their respective fields.**

I. Community Description

A. Location Description and Population Information

The community of Meridian Township lies along the eastern border of East Lansing and the campus of Michigan State University and in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol. Centrally located in the palm of Michigan's hand, Meridian Township has nestled within its borders two healthy and active communities; Haslett and Okemos. A smaller portion of the Township is comprised of East Lansing and Williamston mailing addresses.

Founded in the early 1800's along the Red Cedar River as a trading point, Meridian Township residents enjoy quiet, safe, and well maintained connected neighborhoods with outstanding schools, exceptional public safety, and plenty of parks, pathways, and recreational opportunities for visitors and families to enjoy. With natural beauty on roads, interurban pathways, and a vibrant business corridor, Meridian Township is a great atmosphere for families, seniors, and young professionals.

A destination for raising families since before the turn of the century, Meridian Township offers an array of quiet neighborhoods and an abundance of natural beauty with four seasons of outdoor activities.

With a park system that has **911.58 acres** of park land in 29 parks and 771 acres of land preserves, Meridian Township welcomes visitors from surrounding areas to its parks and to the largest lake within 25 miles of the State Capital, Lake Lansing.

Quick Facts

- **Population: 41,139***
- **Square Miles: approximately 32**
- **Median Age: 38.1 years***
- **Households: 18,354***
- **College Graduates: 64.4%***
- **Median Household Income: \$65,143 ***
- **Township Parks: 911.58 acres**
- **County Parks: 430+ acres**
- **Township Land Preserves: 771 acres**

***Data is from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates for the year 2015**

~~Meridian Charter Township is located in Central Michigan, on the northern edge of Ingham County. According to the 2016 Master Plan, the population reached an all-time high in 2014, with an estimated population of just over 40,000. The median age of residents is 38.1 years old (2015), up from 35.4 years old in 2000. As the population grows older, it is important to plan for amenities, recreational opportunities and housing types that will support an older population. Since 1980, the Township has consistently had 10-12% of its population come from the 20 to 24-year-old age group, the largest percentage of all age groupings from the U.S. Census Bureau. This trend is likely due to the close proximity to Michigan State University.~~

Meridian Township is the local government unit that includes the unincorporated communities and census-designated places of Haslett and Okemos. The Township takes its name from the Michigan Meridian, the prime north-south survey line, which runs through the township. It is from this line that all townships were surveyed and measured.

Meridian Township originally encompassed 36 square miles with boundaries of Coleman Road on the north, Jolly Road on the south, College/Abbott Roads on the west and Meridian Road on the east. Over the years, due to annexations by East Lansing and a 425 agreement with the City of Lansing, the western boundary has changed and the Township now encompasses 31.7 square miles. Michigan State University borders the Township on the southwest side. Michigan's State Capital, Lansing, is located eight miles to the west of Meridian Township.

and recreation was substantiated by the successful passage of related ordinances and millages:

- ♦ **New Park Millage** (.6667 mill passed in 2014 through 2025) provides funds for acquisition, maintenance, equipment and facility development.
- ♦ **Previous Park Millage** (.317 mill renewed 1984-2016) provided funds for acquisition, maintenance, equipment and facility development.
- ♦ **Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Millage** (0.333 mills renewed in 2016 and continuing through 2028) maintain bicycle and pedestrian pathways.
- ♦ **Land Clearing Ordinance** (adopted in 2002) to prevent clear cutting of land prior to obtaining a permit from the Township.
- ♦ **Community Services Millage** 0.15 mil Community Services Millage (2012-2021),) provides funds for recreation, human services, and the Meridian Senior Center.
- ♦ **Land Preservation Millage** (.75 mills passed in 2000 until 2010, 0.33 passed in 2010 until 2020) provides funds to acquire and manage open-space for preservation and management.
- ♦ **Wetland Protection Ordinance** (originally adopted in 1991 and amended in 2001) provides funds to preserve and protect wetlands in joint jurisdiction over state regulated wetlands in Meridian Township.

add aesthetic value and enhance public enjoyment of the outdoors. Although the preserves are not part of the park system, they complement our parks and add to the overall quality of life in Meridian Township. During 2006 the United States Environmental Protection Agency, studying similar type programs throughout the nation, ranked Meridian's as a "model program".

D. Role of Parks and Recreation Department

The Meridian Township Department of Parks and Recreation was established in 1999, and consists of 15 full-time positions: a Director, Administrative Assistant, two Parks and Recreation Specialist, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator, two Senior Park Naturalists, Stewardship Coordinator, Senior Center Coordinator, Facilities Superintendent, and five (5) Utility Workers. In addition, there is a part-time Farmers' Market Manager, Senior Center assistant as well as numerous seasonal recreation, environmental, maintenance and park ranger staff. These positions all play an integral role in providing professional, broad-base programs and services to Meridian Township residents. (See Figure 1)

The Department of Parks and Recreation staff work to continually increase their ability to serve Meridian Township residents by participating in professional organizations, certification training and education opportunities.

The Department of Parks and Recreation administers the following activities:

- ♦ Coordinates acquisition, development and park renovation activities.
- ♦ Provides year-around maintenance to Meridian Township's 911.58 acres of parks and open space (29 parks and natural areas), 77 miles of bicycle/pedestrian pathway, two cemeteries, and 200 acres of township grounds and plazas. Also provides sports field preparation and special event set-up/take down activities.
- ♦ Implements policies of the Park Commission.
- ♦ Obtains grants to leverage local millage funds.
- ♦ Manages the Land Preservation Program by providing staffing to the land Preservation Advisory Board, coordinating acquisition, stewardship and management of Meridian Township's 771-acres of land preserves.
- ♦ Develops, promotes and delivers community-wide recreation programs to encourage use of park facilities and amenities.
- ♦ Operation of the Harris Nature Center, Meridian Senior Center, Snell-Towar Recreation Center, Farmers' Market
- ♦ Manages the operations of Riverside and Glendale Cemeteries.
- ♦ Organizes and implements community festivals and special events such as the Meridian Fireworks Celebration, Chinese New Year, Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, Meridian Heritage Festival, Celebrate Meridian, Halloween Adventures, Family Winter Sports Weekends, and Free Fishing Weekend with DNR.

- Michigan class A&B UST System Operator
- Graduate of Michigan Public Services Institute

9-12. Utility Workers

Responsibilities of the Parks and Grounds Maintenance staff include:

Year-round maintenance and repair of 911.58 acres of park facilities; year-round maintenance of 80 miles of pathways (trim, mow, snow removal); year-round maintenance of 771 acres of land preserves; and recreation program support including field preparation, set-up and take-down of numerous recreation programs and special events throughout the year.

13. Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant II

The Administrative Assistant is responsible for program registration, contract program management, social media/public relations, customer relations and clerical support for the entire department. Other Township duties include providing support services for the coordination of the Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace, creates packets and records minutes for Park Commission and Land Preservation Advisory Boards.

Professional Credentials

- Associate's degree - Business Administration
- Certified Professional Secretary
- International Association of Administrative Professionals - member

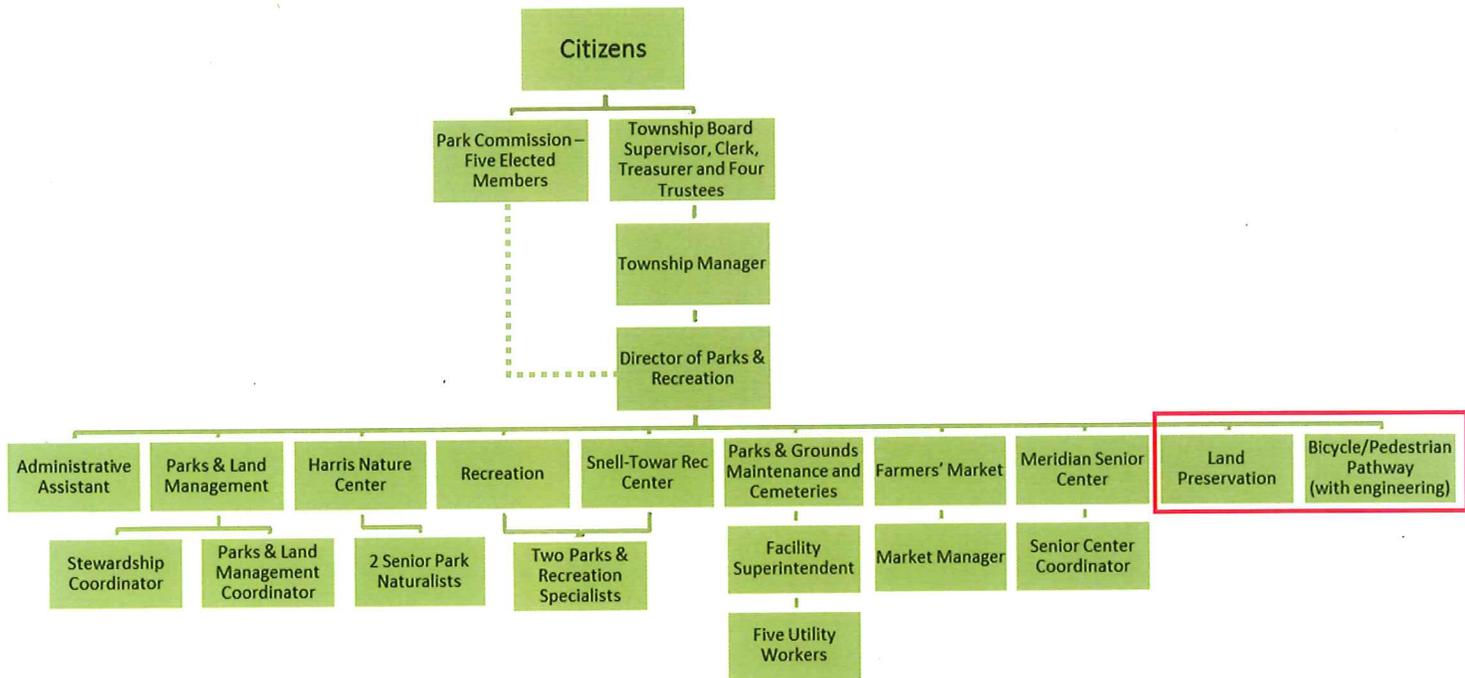
14. Christine Miller, Farmers' Market Manager

The Farmers' Market Manager is responsible for recruitment of vendors, daily on-site management, and advertising/promotion for the 28-week Farmers' Market season (May-October). An indoor winter market at the Meridian Mall on the first and third Saturday of each month from December through April. This is a year-round part-time position.

Professional Credentials

- Bachelor's degree - Animal Science with a specialization in food processing.
- Teaching certificate - Elementary education with minors in math and science.
- Michigan Farmers Market Association – Member & President
- Foodspeak (MI Good Food Charter) - Member
- 4-H – Leader and Superintendent

F. Administrative Structure Organizational Chart – Figure 1



G. Funding Sources and Budget

The residents of Meridian Township place a high value on quality of life in their community. This has been demonstrated through the passage and numerous renewals of millages that support parks, recreation, senior services, land preservation, HNC operations and bicycle/pedestrian pathways.

The Park Millage (2/3 mill passed in 2014 through 2025), provides funds for acquisition, maintenance, equipment and facility development.

More detailed budget descriptions are located in the appendices, as well as the 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the Township’s DNR (Department of Natural Resources) grant history document. Since 1972, Meridian Township has received 24 grants totaling \$1,682,616.

Recreation is supported in part by a 10-year, 0.10 mill Community Services Millage that passed in 2002 for Recreation, Senior Programs and Human Services. The millage was renewed in 2012 through 2021 at the increased rate of 0.15 mill. Other sources of funding include general fund, grants and user fees.

- 2008: The Club designed a Blue Star Memorial garden that is located near the Town Hall.
- 2013: The Club collaborated with the Township to install irrigation in all of the gardens that are maintained near the Town Hall, Historical Village, and the Claire Twohy Garden near the Farmers' Market pavilion.
- 2015 the Club developed the Claire Twohy butterfly garden near the pavilion in Central Park. The Twohy Garden received was First Place for Civic Achievement at both the State and National levels.
- Future Plans: The Club's next large endeavor is the Plant it Pink garden in the Historical Village. This garden will provide a quiet area in memory of those who have experienced breast cancer. It will include a bench, beautiful pink shrubbery and donor bricks.

6. Haslett Beautification Association

In 2005, residents gathered and formed the Haslett Beautification Association (HBA). The group spearheaded a non-profit organization that collects donations for the purpose of creating public gardens along the commercial areas of Haslett, Lake Lansing, and Marsh Roads. The mission of HBA is to improve the aesthetic appearance of downtown Haslett and encourage businesses to invest in the downtown. HBA has a strong history of fundraising and creating public improvements in downtown Haslett, which benefit businesses, residents, and visitors.

7. Other Community Organizations

- a. — Okemos Kiwanis
- b. — Haslett Kiwanis
- c. — Schools
- d. — TC3
- e. — Churches
- f. — Library — story walk
- g. — Grand Learning Network
- h. — Lansing Oar and Paddle Club

I. Relationships with School Districts, Other Public Agencies and Private Organizations

The Township has continued to foster strong partnerships with the Haslett and Okemos School Districts and Libraries, boy & girl scouts, civic organizations, businesses, the Grand Learning Network and Lansing Oar and Paddle Club. Other partnerships have been formed with recreation groups, such as: Haslett Youth Recreation Association, Haslett Baseball Club, Okemos Baseball Club, Okemos and Haslett Soccer Clubs, neighborhood associations and civic groups. Meridian Township also administers youth recreation sports programs for Williamston School District students through a contract with the City of Williamston since 2010.

J. Role of the Environmental Commission

The Meridian Township Environmental Commission was established by the Township Board in 1995. Among its duties, the Commission provides comments on wetland use permits, educates the public through its Green Themes Speaker Series and publications, and since 1997, implements an annual Environmental Stewardship Award program to recognize local residents, businesses, and organizations.

K. Other Environmental Planning Organizations

Meridian Township staff members regularly attend and support other organizations such as the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, Friends of Meridian Pathways, Friends of the Red Cedar River, Friends of The Wetlands, the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Network, the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative, Grand Learning Network and the Ingham County **Heart of Michigan** Trail Planning Group.

L. Communications

The Department of Parks and Recreation utilizes the following methods to inform the public of programs, services and facilities:

- **Family Fun Guide** – The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide is published annually and mailed to 22,000 households, businesses and PO Boxes in Meridian Township, serves as the primary information source for programs, special events, facilities, and general Township news. The Guide is also available at the Township Hall, Meridian Service Center, Okemos, Haslett, East Lansing and Lansing Libraries, Harris Nature Center and online.
- **Email** – The Department utilizes email as a communication and promotional tool to program participants. Email, social media, Township website and ActiveNet have taken the place of flyers to elementary schools (which were once the most effective promotional method). Flyers to schools are still utilized, but on a very limited basis.
- **ActiveNet** – ActiveNet is the online registration program the Department utilizes that also provides credit card registration. This program provides direct marketing opportunities via broadcast email through the system of current and former program participants.
- **HOM-TV 21 (Haslett, Okemos, Meridian TV)** - Meridian Township has its own cable access channel together with programming staff who produce promotional shows and program coverage.
- **Social Media – (Facebook/Twitter/etc.)** - Meridian Township website has improved greatly over the last five years since Department staff has

10. Tacoma Hills Park **22 Acres**
1815 Hamilton Road, Okemos

Park Description:

- This property borders Hamilton Road on the north and the former Edgewood Elementary School on the south. It is primarily utilized by adjacent property owners for walking. Its primary feature is an open, successional field that has a loop trail, nearly a mile in length.

History of Park Acquisition and Development:

- 1988: The land was donated to Meridian Township by the Ingham County Drain Commission as part of the Spross Drain Improvement Project.

Future Park Development Plans:

- Additional future plans may include vegetation management, maintenance of the existing trails, and the possible construction of boardwalks along the wet portions of the trail.

Community Parks **(8 parks totaling 665.30 acres)**

1. Central Park **187.8 Acres**

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos
(187.8 acres includes park areas, historical village, Nokomis Learning Center, Town Hall, Public Safety and Farmers' Market).

Overall Park Description:

- Central Park is a diverse area offering many recreational, cultural, and nature appreciation opportunities.

Municipal Complex: The Municipal Complex is in the southeast quarter of Central Park. This area contains the Township Municipal buildings (including the Township offices, Public Safety Building, entrance drives and parking lots), Farmers' Market pavilion, soccer fields, Historical Village, Nokomis Learning Center and a pond. This section of the park also includes restrooms, interpretive facilities, sidewalks, a pavilion, picnic areas, natural trails, historic structures, playground and paved parking.

Historical Village: The Historical Village includes seven buildings. (See more on building details under Park Facilities).

overlook. Construction of the overlook is scheduled for 2011. Other improvements to enhance and educate visitors are being planned as well.

5. Nokomis Native American Cultural Center
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos

In 1987, the Meridian Township Board applied and received a \$100,000 grant from the Michigan Equity Program to build the Nokomis Learning Center, a Native American cultural center. The funding provided a building housing a display/demonstration room, exhibit/meeting room, kitchenette, office, restrooms, and lobby entrance. The funding sources are tours, programs, gift shop sales, donations, memberships and competitive grants. By agreement, the Township owns the land and the building, but the Nokomis Learning Center Board operates as a non-profit out of the building.

B. Description of Meridian Township Recreation Programs

Recreation in our community has created many opportunities to develop partnerships with local businesses, service organizations, neighboring communities and schools, as well as engage numerous residents in volunteer service or as program participants. Our youth and adult recreation programs, outreach volunteer programs and special events have increased use of our 911.58-acre park system. Meridian Township offers a wide range of programs and events to meet the year-round and seasonal needs of all segments of the population from youths to seniors.

Some youth programs are offered free of charge with grant assistance in order to reach a broader segment of the community. Youth recreational programs focus on positive youth development, including opportunities for adopting healthy, active lifestyles. Recreation services are provided by numerous clubs, leagues, citizen groups, and the Community Education Departments of Haslett and Okemos. Both Community Education Departments offer contract recreation classes, youth sports, senior activities and child care programs for their school districts.

In 2010, Meridian Township also began to provide recreational programming services for its neighbors to the east, to the City of Williamston.

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation's "Family Fun Guide" provides a detailed listing of all events and programs offered by the

1. **Mini Park** - Used to define limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Typical park size is up to one acre. A mini park serves a ¼ mile distance in a residential setting. NRPA standard acreage for mini-parks is 0.25 to 0.50 – acre per 1,000/population.
2. **Neighborhood Park** - Designed to provide leisure and recreation opportunities for a neighborhood and may include features such as play structures, multi-use courts, family picnic areas, and open-space areas. NRPA standards range from one acre to 24 acres. A Neighborhood Park serves a population within one square mile of residential development. The NRPA standard acreage for a neighborhood park is one to 20 acres per 1,000/population.
3. **Community Park** - Serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. A community park may offer such features as lighted athletic fields, large and small group picnic areas, aquatic facilities, restrooms and parking. Park size is 25 to 60 acres and is intended to service a population within a one- or two-mile radius of the park. The NRPA standard acreage for a community park is five to eight acres per 1,000/population.
4. **Regional Park** - Designed to provide centralized recreational opportunities for a major portion of the governmental entity. A regional park is developed as a large complex with a variety of amenities capable of accommodating large groups. Features of a regional park may include theme recreation areas and/or large open areas intended for active sport use. Regional parks offer restroom facilities and parking. Park size is 70+ acres. The NRPA standard acreage for a regional park is five to 10 acres per 1,000/population.

F. Overall Summary of Recreation Open Space in Meridian Township Relative to NRPA Standards

The Charter Township of Meridian currently has a total of 911.58 acres of park land to meet the recreational demands of residents. Although 911.58 acres exceeds the overall National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommended Open Space Standards (8 to 10 acres/1,000 population), a closer look reveals that 82% of the township park land is wooded, wetland, or floodplain, therefore unavailable as “active” open space for park development. In fact, there are only 166.25 acres of “active” park areas. Therefore, there may be a need to acquire additional parkland for active use. These “active” areas are defined as upland areas that are

future needs based upon national open space standards and demographic projections.

This plan recognizes that township-owned parks are not the only opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Department of Parks and Recreation has developed strong relationships with schools and quasi-public organizations to increase the amount of open space that is available to meet the recreational needs of Meridian Township residents. As a result, residents have access to an additional 540.3 acres of open space that are located at schools. The recreation needs for some residents in the Meridian Township area are provided through quasi-public and school-owned recreation facilities, ranging from county parks to performance theaters. In addition, many Township residents take advantage of recreation opportunities at regional facilities outside the Township's corporate boundary. Private open space should be considered a valuable supplement to public open space, but not a substitute, because of its restricted usage.

The evaluation of park acreage is based on existing inventory of parks, NRPA standards, and population trends. As noted above, Meridian Township has an existing inventory of 911.58 acres of parks and natural areas. Currently, NRPA does not provide standards for natural areas.

Figure 4

NRPA STANDARDS FOR PARKLAND

NRPA Park Type	Acres/1000 Population	Minimum Size	Service Area Radius
Mini-Park	0.25 - 0.50	1 acre or less	< .25 mile/5 minute walk
Neighborhood Park	1 - 20	1 - 24 acres	1 mile/12 minute walk
Community Park	5 - 8	25 - 60 acres	1-2 miles/5 minute drive
Regional Park	8 - 10	70+ acres	30 miles/1 hour drive

Figure 5

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP QUANTITIES OF PARKLAND

NRPA Park Type	Acres/1000 Population (38,494)	Existing Area	Surplus or Deficiency
Mini-Park	9.62 - 19.25	5.63 acres	-3.99 / -13.62
Neighborhood Park	39.49 - 769.88	100.1 acres	+ 60.61 / - 669 acres
Community Park	192.45 - 307.92	663.72 acres	+ 441.27 / + 355.80
Regional Park	307.92 - 384.94	0 acres	-384.94 / -384.94
Natural Areas	n/a	139.3 acres	--

Figure 5

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP QUANTITIES OF PARKLAND

NRPA Park Type	Acres/1000 Population (40,635)	Existing Area	Surplus or Deficiency
Mini-Park	10 - 20.3	5.63 acres	- 4.37 / -14.67
Neighborhood Park	40.62 - 812.5	100.1 acres	+ 59.48 / - 712.4 acres
Community Park	203.13 - 325	665.30 acres	+ 462.17 / + 340.3
Regional Park	325 - 406	0 acres	- 325 / -406
Natural Areas	n/a	139.3 ac. (parks) & 771 ac (land pres)	--

NOTE:

40,635 is the population per the 2014 community survey 5 year population estimate

Figure 6

Park Areas Mowed, Existing and Future Development Areas

	Park Name	Total Acres	Acres Mowed	Acres Developed (parking, athletic field or ball diamond, pavilion, paths, play structure, open mowed areas)	Acres of Natural Areas (Wooded, Wetland, or Open Un-mowed Areas)	Acres of Open, Upland Area Available for Future Development
1	Nancy Moore Park	40	20.5	30	10	2.5
2	Central Park (N & S)	203	31	38	165	4.4
3	Towner Road Park	23.58	12.5	14.35	7.65	14
4	Wonch Park	15	8.25	9.75	5.25	0
5	Ferguson Park	5.7	3.3	3.7	2	0
6	Harris Nature Center	48	2.7	4.7	43.3	0
7	Eastgate Park	53	7.6	8.85	44.15	6.35
8	Legg Park	103	7.5	9.5	93.5	21.25
9	Hartrick Park	61	14.6	12	49	6
10	Towar Park	4	2.5	4	0	2.5
11	Hillbrook Park	16	4.5	5.3	10.7	0.5
12	Marshall Park	5	4	4.75	0.25	2
13	Ted Black Woods	75	0.02	0.5	74.5	0
14	North Meridian Road Park	60	10	10	50	4.5
15	Ottawa Hills Park	3	1	0.25	2.75	0
16	Red Cedar Natural Area	56	0.6	0.6	55.4	0
17	Cedar Bend Heights Park	0.3	0.25	0.3	0	0
18	Sander Farm Natural Area	34	0	0	34	0
19	Forest Hills Natural Area	4	0	0.2	3.8	0
20	Brattin Woods	20	0.25	0.75	19.25	0
21	Tacoma Hills Natural Area	22	0.75	0.75	21.25	0
22	Schriener Park	1	0.6	0.6	0.4	0
23	Orlando Park	1.3	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.15
24	Indian Hills Park	3	3	3	0	3
25	Lake Lansing Marsh	46	0	0	46	0
26	Spengler Marsh	3.3	0	0	3.3	0
27	Newton Road Park	5	3.5	3.5	1.5	0
	TOTAL	911.58	139.8	166.25	743.40	67.15

H. Accessibility Assessment

According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey, in 2015 8.9% of Meridian Township residents were disabled. The sixty-five and older age group had the highest proportion of individuals who were disabled (63.6%). Full data can be seen in Appendix F.

The accessibility of each park was evaluated using the MDNR ADA Rating Scale (1 through 5). Figure 7 provides a general rating of each park according to the MDNR criteria. Efforts are constantly made toward improving accessibility in the parks, but we recognize that more work is necessary. Many of the proposed park improvements outlined in our Capital Improvement Plan include upgrades to the park system related to enhanced accessibility. The Meridian Universal Access Advisory Board, formed in 2007, provides comments on existing and future park plans in an effort to improve the accessibility of the parks.

The features assessed when rating the accessibility of a park include:

- An assessment of the ease of getting to the park
- Parking
- General travel around the park
- The existing facilities (including restrooms and other support facilities)
- Any recreation programming within the park.

MDNR ADA Rating Scale (1 through 5):

- 1) None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2) Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3) Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4) The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5) The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

Meridian Township submitted two grants for trail projects in 2016 and is currently waiting on approval. Utilizing grants and awards from the Ingham County Parks and Trails millage assists Meridian Township in extending its local funds to accomplish additional projects and maintenance needs.

See Appendix A

N. Deer Management Program Information

In an effort to reduce the over-population of deer within the Township, a managed harvest is conducted yearly in select Township properties during the regular archery season.

The program began in 2011 in response to numerous complaints of deer over-population that have resulted in an increase of damage to landscaping, an increase in reports of vehicle/deer accidents, concern for public health and a disruption to the ecological balance of natural areas. In response, Meridian Township developed a Deer Management Plan that outlines measures for a highly managed program to harvest white-tailed deer in numerous Township and County-owned properties. All parks and land preserves remain open to the public during this time.

The managed harvest is not open to the general public. Only approved, qualified, competent and experienced hunters will be allowed to access Township property for the managed harvest. Township staff works closely with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to do what we feel is best to help reduce the population of deer. The program places hunters in all Township-owned properties that are practical and safe for bow hunting. Although this project is aimed at deer reduction, it is also offers an excellent opportunity for outdoor recreation.

See Appendix B.III

IV. Resource Inventory

A. Existing Land Use Description

Based on information from the 2016 Meridian Township Master Plan, Meridian Township covers approximately 20,000 acres, nearly 32 square miles. Land use in Meridian Township has reached new levels of developed land as a result of residential and commercial growth over the past decade. Over 85% of the Township has been developed or improved. With Township preservation efforts, infill development is a viable option to pursue in the future. Single-Family Residential development utilizes the most land, at 35.8%, followed by Recreation and Open Space, with 22.8% and Institutional (government, education complexes), at 14.9%. Other prominent developed uses include Road and Railroad Right-of-Ways and Multi-Family Residential. Only 11% of the 2,281 acres of potentially developable land is used for agriculture; the remaining area is left natural or unimproved.

Since 2002, the Township has used nearly 39% of its total developable land. Institutional land uses have grown the most significantly, but Multi-Family Residential land uses have increased in scope in the last 13 years. A land use category that was not present in 2002 and now covers 95 acres in the Township is mixed use. Mixed use, while still a low percentage of the total land use coverage, has likely emerged due to efforts from the Township to encourage creatively combining compatible land uses, such as Smart Growth principles that influence the Township's Master Plan and implementation mechanisms like the Mixed Use Overlay Zoning District.

Meridian Township currently owns and maintains 911.58 acres of parks and natural areas. There are an additional 971.3 acres of quasi-public open space in Meridian Township that is utilized by residents for recreational use (School sites: 540 acres; and Ingham County parks: 431 acres). The Meridian Township Land Use Map (Appendix A) illustrates the current land use in Meridian Township. The Township has also acquired 771-acres of land through the Land Preservation Millage program. These lands are reserved for preservation purposes.

B. Environmental Features

- Key waterways, adjacent wetlands and upland buffers
- Walking and biking routes that link parks, schools and other community resources
- Agricultural lands

According to the Greenspace Plan, green-spaces and pathways must remain interconnected in order to be functional to both people and wildlife. This plan identifies key areas in Meridian Township to preserve and to maintain the health of the entire system. The vision of the plan is to “provide a network of green spaces and non-motorized linkages that will protect and connect valued natural and cultural resources, provide linkages to adjacent communities, and improve the quality of life for Township residents.” The entire Greenspace plan can be viewed on the township website at www.meridian.mi.us. (See Appendix A)

C. Demographic Information

Source: 2010 U.S. Census Bureau Survey

1. Population and Household Size

The 2010 population of Meridian Township was 39,688. The township population is increasing with a recent 2015 estimate putting the population at 42,191.

The following household and breakdown is from the 2010 Census Survey data (Appendix F).

Total households	17,377
Average household size	2.26
Average family size	2.92
Family households	9,970
Non-Family households	7,407
Householder living alone	5,495

2. Age and Gender Demographics

The following age and gender breakdown is from the 2010 Census Survey data (Appendix F).

There are a total of 18,878 males and 20,810 females residing in Meridian Township (Total – 39,688).

- Ages under 5 = 1,835
- Ages 5 - 19 = 7,300

-----23%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ages 20 - 34 = 9,442 ▪ Ages 35 - 54 = 10,010
-----49%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ages 55 - 64 = 5,840 ▪ Ages 65 - 74 = 2,703 ▪ Ages 75+ = 2,558
-----28%	

The Township's population is aging as the "baby boom" generation moves through middle age. This is reflected in the increase in the Township's median age during the past four decades: 1980 (28.1 years), 1990 (32.3 years), 2000 (35.4 years) and in 2010 (38.7 years). Currently the median age is 38.2; 27% of residents are over the age of 55. 49% of adults are between the ages of 20-54 and 24% of our population consists of youths ages 19 and under.

AGE & GENDER	Population (%)
Total Population	39,688
Male – Total	18,878 (47.6%)
Males - Under 19 Years	4,621
Male – 65 years and over	2,218
Female - Total	20,810 (52.4%)
Females - Under 19 Years	4,514
Female – 65 years and over	3,043

3. Race

The following race breakdown is from the 2010 Census Survey data (Appendix F).

Race	
White	31,749 (80.0%)
African-American	1,926 (4.9%)
American Indian	145 (0.4%)
Asian	4,333 (10.9%)
Pacific Islander	7 (0.0%)
Other Race	407 (1.0%)
Total	39,688

VI. Description of the Public Input Process

A. Description of the Methods Used to Solicit Public Input

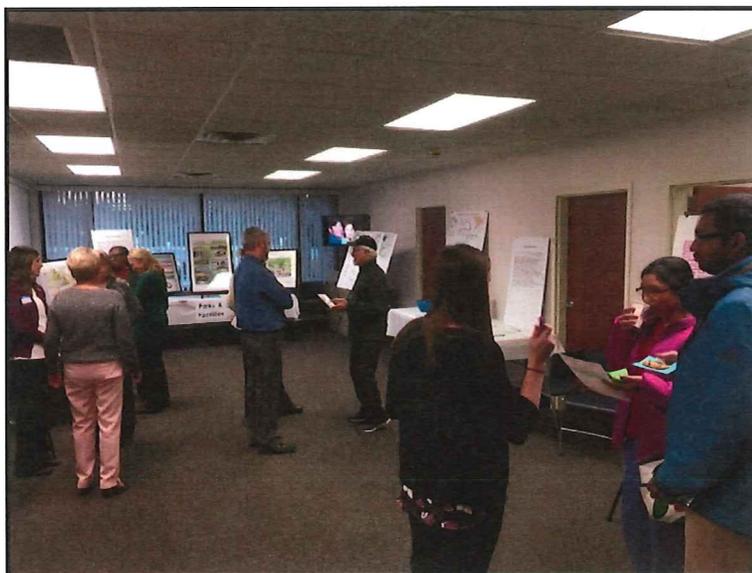
Creating a venue for dialogue and enlisting feedback from the public, community leaders and staff **are** the most valuable element of this planning process. The process not only allowed **residents** to voice their opinion, it also served **as** a promotional tool to remind others of the parks and recreation benefits and opportunities available in their community. Input into this plan was obtained through the following methods:

1. **Public Input Meetings**
2. **Online Community Survey**
3. **Online Farmers Market Survey**
4. **Meeting with Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Commission and Staff:**
5. **Public Hearing**

An open house was held on November 21, 2016 providing an opportunity for in-depth discussions between residents and staff on various topics. A variety of suggestions were listed and provided to staff for further evaluation.

B. Overall Summary of Community Input

Rowe Professional Services was engaged in the plan update process to assist Meridian Township with community engagement/public input, goal and objective development and action plan recommendations. A postcard was mailed to 22,000 households inviting them to participate in an on-line survey and to also attend the Public Input Open House that was held on November 21, 2016 from 1pm-9pm. Over 16,000 emails were also sent to encourage public participation as well as postings on social media.



Comments were also received from a

- Emphasize connections to existing destinations
- Educate about stewardship plans and ecosystems (differences between each preserve, unique and special features)
- Work with schools for outdoor classrooms
- Newsletters about accomplishments
- Conservation and education programs about endangered species, utilize resources from MSU, etc.
- Make sure volunteer time is spent productively, must show results.
- Work with corporate sponsor days (a day 'on' vs a day off) use employees for a day or an event
- Call attention to special projects on website for volunteers
- Partner with groups with similar goals (Stewardship Network, Sierra Club, etc.)
- More invasive treatments in parks (Buckthorn in Central Park)

Parks and Facilities

- Boardwalks through wet areas on park trail
- Paved trails in all parks for ADA, small loops, etc,
- Pavilion at Harris Nature Center
- Tennis court backboard needed
- Half court tennis courts
- Two full tennis courts at Hillbrook
- Dog park at Legg Park
- Food truck at Farmers' Market
- Restrooms at all parks
- Accessible canoe launch
- Maintain Towar Rec area
- Love art in the park at Wonch Park
- Dog park
- Central Park paths, trails, signage and access (develops a town center)
- Kayak landing at Lake Catherine (Historic Village Pond)
- Lighted drop-in soccer field at Central Park with turf
- Walking bridge at Inner Urban into Nancy Moore

Although the Township has 1675 acres of dedicated greenspace (771 acres of land preserves and 911.58 acres of parkland). Only 200 acres (12%) are developed. Site qualities (wetlands, floodplains, etc) limit ability to develop to meet community wants and needs.

Trail and Pathways

- Check trails for downed trees, limbs
- Guided hikes for land preserves, get people familiar with natural trails
- Signage for lands preserve trails
- Add trails in Red Cedar and Sower Woods
- Interpretive signs
- Overall park map, hard to find on website
- Clear trails in fall for cross country skiing
- Trail signs at Ted Black Woods
- Roots in Ted Black make walking / skiing difficult
- ID what trails are good for what (running, walking, birding)
- Clear phragmites on Interurban, south side near Marsh Rd
- Mow 4' each side of path
- Prune edge of vegetation back more frequently
- Identify path linkages / destinations, use MUTCD signage
- Wheelchair charging stations
- More benches on trails
- Need signals at busy street crossings

- ✓ Communication
 - ✓ Maps with where I am and what you can find
34. Residents want:
- ✓ pavilions and restrooms (need both for Harris Nature Center and restroom for Hillbrook)
 - ✓ River access next to restrooms
 - ✓ More family-oriented programs; suggest re-working some of the current options and gear toward families
 - ✓ Passive recreation without committed times; maybe with media direction; able to access trail system on phones; self-directed opportunities
 - ✓ Offer on-line invasive species removal workshops
 - ✓ To feel safe in the parks
 - ✓ A dog park but staff questions the amount of maintenance
35. Offer Tools for teachers; expand what staff is currently doing and start charging; create shovel ready projects to offer teachers
36. Create a senior type playground; have installed fitness equipment in Wonch; what about swings that are easier to access especially for the physically challenged
37. Suggested developing volunteer groups to walk and trim up the trails once a month; create an adopt a trail video; could ask Martha Hentz to speak; she and her family love Hartrick Park
38. Need to improve marketing presence at the Town Hall; lost the indoor kiosk but need something there to promote programs and events
39. Recreation:
- ✓ Install a cricket ball batting cage and a game field
 - ✓ According to numbers need additional lacrosse fields and softball fields (there may be enough once Towner Road is developed)
 - ✓ Would like to see an indoor basketball court
40. Suggest listing accomplishments at front of Master Plan along with future plans
41. Try to work with railroad to create a pedestrian crossing over the railroad tracks connecting in inner-urban pathway to the Nancy Moore park trail; there is a make-shift path already being used.

Trends:

- People are interested in using parks and land preservation parcels but we need to improve:
 - ✓ Publicity
 - ✓ Signage (color coding)
 - ✓ Maps (web-based; where am I? What is here?)
 - ✓ trail system
 - ✓ parking
 - ✓ Connect with other locations
- Citizen science and volunteering
- River access with destination stops with restrooms
- Interpretative signs / use of native plants
- Passive recreation
 - ✓ Include all natural areas of township
 - ✓ Guided walks with professionals and with staff members
 - ✓ Self-guided activities

- Show signs instructing park users on invasive removal in parks and preserves
 - ✓ Map invasives
 - ✓ Guided walks / workshops
 - ✓ “passive” volunteer removal
- Create more opportunities
 - ✓ Make information available for teachers on website
 - ✓ Different projects in different parks and preserves
- Promote volunteerism
- ✓ Update wish list of projects
- Additional recreation facilities (cricket ball, gaga ball , disc golf, pickle ball, etc.)
- **Placemaking, technology and millennials**
 - **Wifi and charging station tables to host outdoor business meetings and study groups**

YOUTH INPUT

The following input was received from a class at Bennett Woods Elementary courtesy of Ms. Ivy Schmidt’s third grade class, Okemos Schools.

Wishes -

- gaga pit
- basketball hoops
- more playground equipment
- dodgeball court (I reminded him that these are usually inside!)
- tetherball
- more trails
- small fountain (not a drinking fountain)
- zipline (!)
- parkour jumps/setup
- giant trampoline
- chess tables
- more bathrooms (they were saying they think they're so far away at Nancy Moore)
- more volleyball sites
- tornado (like the equipment at BW)
- climbing walls
- lights (holiday)
- pool
- merry go round
- oval track (or like the one at Lake Lansing for Big Wheels)
- they're fun
- so many benches/tables
- fields
- they're safe
- entertainment
- swings
- many trees
- wildlife
- lots to do
- peaceful/quiet

What they like -

- the parks look good

operations and planning. Based on the broad overview of public input, ROWE Professional Services offers the following observations and recommendations to be addressed in the Goals, Objectives and Action Plan:

1. **The township's most popular parks have been consistent for the past 10 years (Central Park and Harris Nature Center).** The proximity to parks and amenities in parks had a high approval rating. There was not a significant park project identified in question 7 of the survey that would require additional property other than gaining control for trail extensions. These indicators suggest there is **low priority for acquiring additional park property** at this time. Efforts should focus on **improving** existing facilities that handle the most use, such as **Central Park**.
2. Based on satisfaction levels in question 10 of the survey, **additional investigation** should be made as to what improvements can be made **regarding accessibility** in parks, and what particular items need to be addressed at the **Senior Center and Nokomis Learning Center** to meet user expectations.
3. Other needs, identified in the written comments, included **additional parking, wayfinding signage and more and/or cleaner restrooms**. ~~Question 7 in the survey identified ice skating as a facility that should be added, supported by 31% of the respondents (the top 4 out of 26), almost as high as a new Farmers Market.~~
4. **58% of respondents supported moving the Farmers Market** from its current location. The current market meets the needs of 65% of visitors. In a survey sent to the Farmers' Market vendors, 82% of vendors would support a move to the Meridian Mall parking lot.
5. Although park maintenance is rated well in the survey overall, the need for clean restrooms is listed repeatedly in comments and this area received the lowest satisfaction level in survey question 2. Other write-in comments listed the need for trail clean up repeatedly. Staff comments rate the need for additional staffing for maintenance as a priority. Additional facilities such as the Towner Park sports complex will **require additional maintenance and raise the need for additional staff support**. Future improvements should factor in associated maintenance needs.
6. One observation that was revealed was the popularity of park usage during lunchtime. This, coupled with the high ratings for the Farmers Market, would suggest that **additional investigations should explore how to maximize opportunities at other park locations for lunchtime users**. For example, are there additional improvements needed to support this use (more picnic tables), should programs be focused at this time of day, or is there partnering opportunities with local food vendors at local parks.
7. If 88% of the population enjoys walking and hiking. Since the township is looking for ways to **engage volunteers, using walking activities or locations** along trails would appear to be an opportunity market to target efforts in recruiting.

8. The **Family Fun Guide and website** are strong resources for communicating to Meridian Township residents and should be maintained. A communication plan that identifies how the township can utilize its existing database, email lists, frequency and other methods throughout the year may be useful in securing additional volunteerism.
9. The paddle sport (kayak, stand-up boards) industry is a growing national trend. Creating more river access areas is the most popular potential park project in survey question 7. The township should investigate **how to improve access and awareness of the Red Cedar watertrail.**

The top ten potential park projects include:

- i. River access
 - ii. Restrooms
 - iii. New Farmers' Market
 - iv. Ice rink
 - v. Dog park
 - vi. Paved trails
 - vii. Splash pad
 - viii. Trail signage
 - ix. Neighborhood parks
 - x. Playgrounds
10. There was a specific intent to identify diversity needs within the community; at this point 80% of the non-white respondents indicated **parks and programs adequately address the community's cultural diversity**. There were no specific requests for additional facilities or programs to meet the needs of special populations. Engagement with diverse community members should continue to be a goal of future park department communication efforts.
 11. The community values the open space it has preserved. In the National Citizen Survey, 40% of the survey respondents rated this as essential. The quality of the natural environment was also rated high, above the national average. **Appropriate management of land preserves is an important function.**
 12. **Adding more amenities for teenagers and young adults was a frequent theme in the survey comments. Increasing technology in the urban parks such as adding Wi-Fi and study tables with charging stations should address this need.**

INPUT FROM PARK COMMISSION

The Park Commission reviewed the public input summary in December, 2017 and provided additional comment and direction for the development of Goals, Objectives and Action Plan development.

D. Meridian Township Master Plan

Meridian Township planning staff is currently updating the information for the Planning Commission initiated Master Plan review. The Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan when completed will be adopted into the Township Master Plan. The Master Plan can be viewed by visiting www.meridian.mi.us.

E. Meridian Township Board Goals and Ends Statements

Each year the Township Board reviews its goals and ends statements which provide guidance and direction to township operations, philosophy and budget. Many of the board's goals are related to parks, environment and recreation. This document is provided in Appendix H, together with action staff is taking to meet the board's goals in 2017. The goals and end statements can be viewed by visiting www.meridian.mi.us.

F. Meridian Township Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathway Master Plan

The Bicycle/Pedestrian Pathway Master Plan was developed in 1974 in an effort to create non-motorized transportation links throughout the township. The plan indicates seven-foot wide paths and expanded shoulders on the roadway that serve as bicycle lanes. The pathways are supported by a millage that has been renewed several times since 1974 (0.3333 mills renewed in 2016 for the years 2017-2028), and provides funds to develop and maintain pathways. Over 71-miles of paved pathway have been developed to date. The bicycle/pedestrian pathway master plan may be viewed at www.meridian.mi.us.

See Appendix B.III

G. Public Meeting Notices

1. Community Survey

An on-line community survey was conducted from November 17, 2016 to December 5, 2016 to obtain information regarding the likes and recommendations for improving parks and recreation services and facilities in Meridian Township. Postcards were mailed to approximately 22,000 residences, post office boxes and businesses inviting total community participation. Over 16,000 emails were also sent to encourage public participation as well as advertised through social media and press releases. People were given the option of completing the survey on-line or requesting a hardcopy in the mail. A total of 1,149 surveys were completed.

- a. An emphasis on environmental sustainability (new buildings 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 seasonal staff for maintenance support.
- d. Seek sponsorships and donations.
- e. Continue to encourage and utilize volunteerism.

5. Environmental Stewardship

- a. Monitor and remove invasive species, encourage native plantings and educate the public about ecosystem health.
- b. Work cooperatively with the Land **Preservation Advisory Board and Environmental Commission** 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.
- b. Expand the educational outreach of the Harris Nature Center by adding interpretive signage at the entrance and along trails of our natural areas 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.

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:

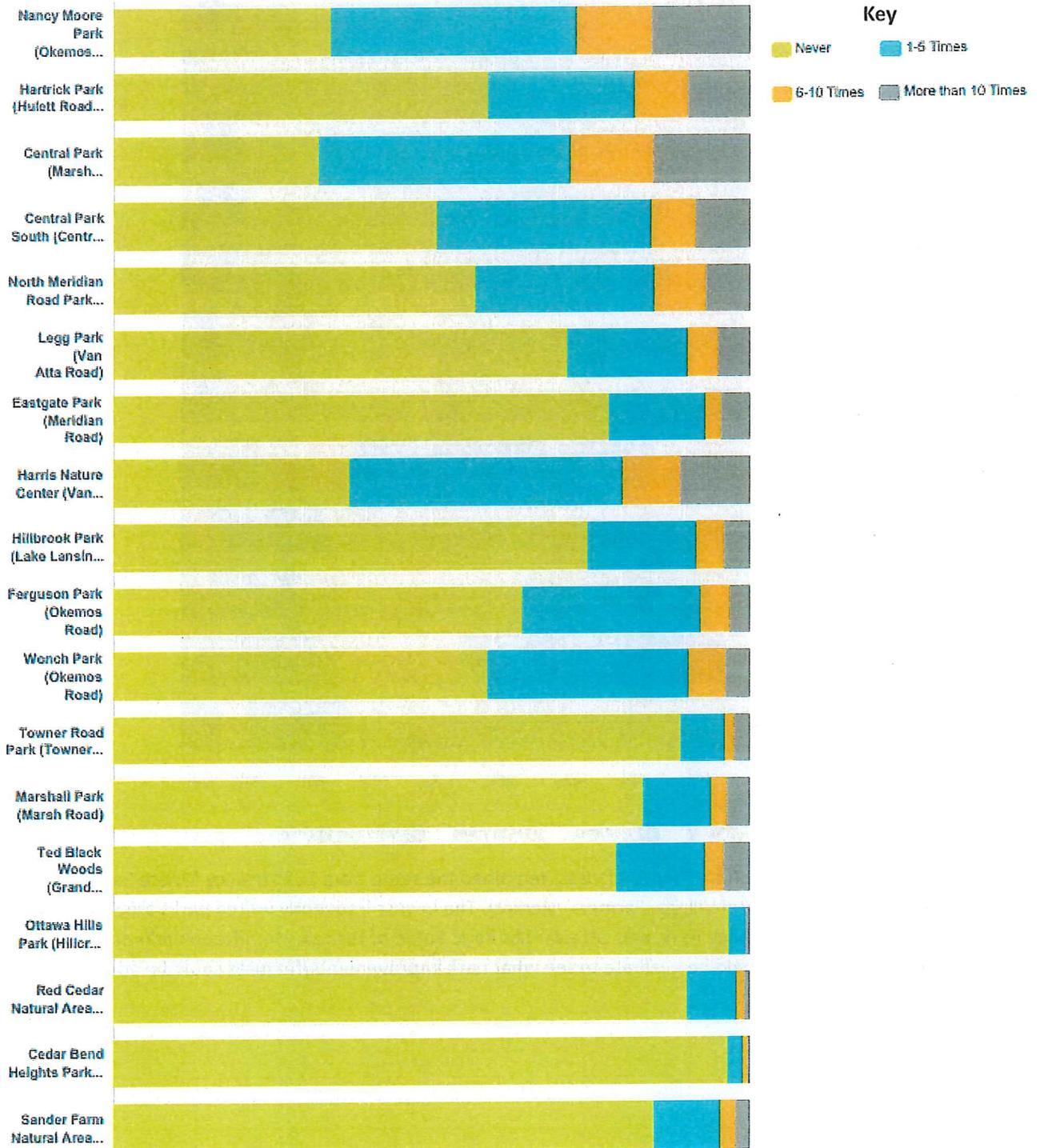
A. Capital Improvement Program

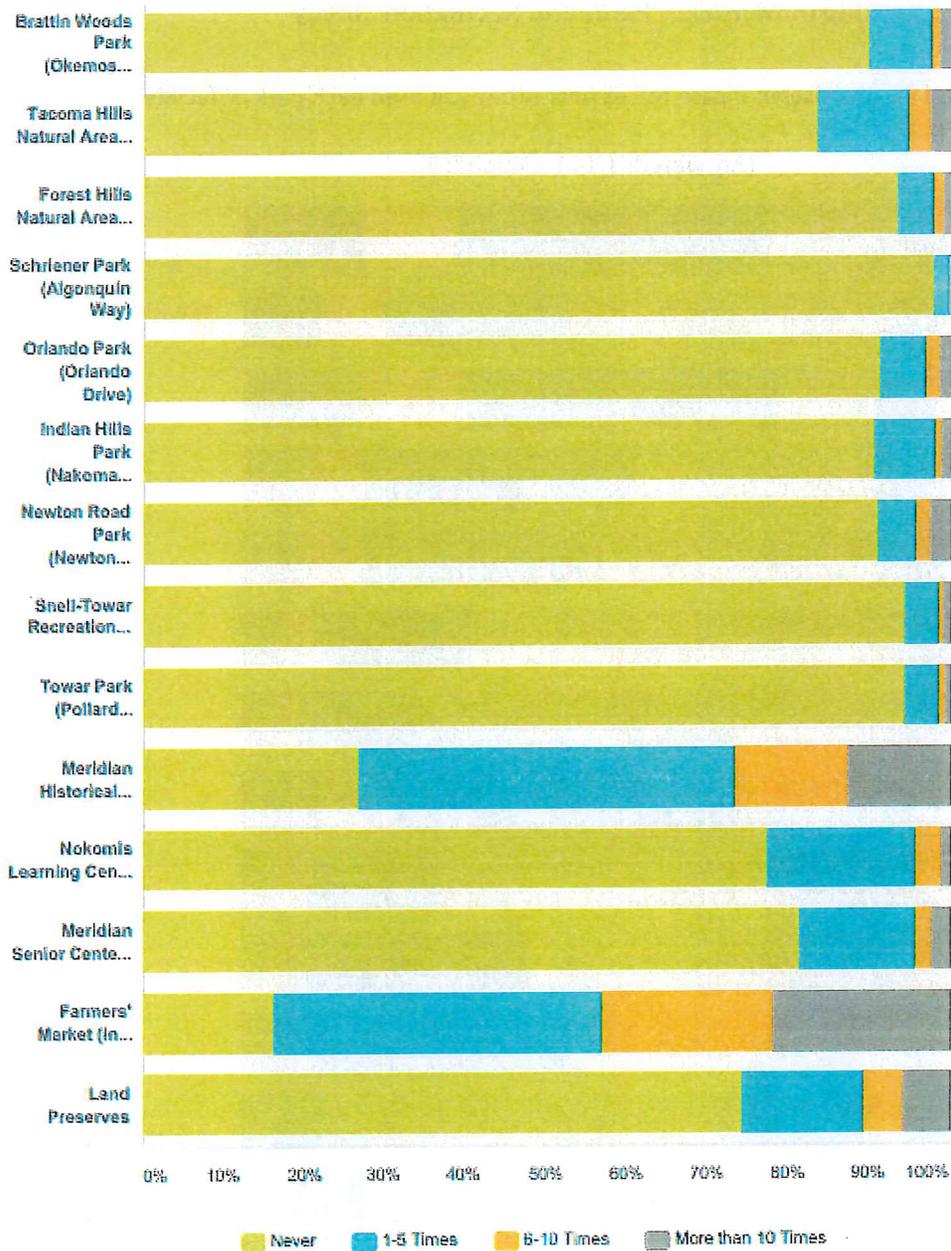
To meet the recommendations and actions, the Park Commission and the Department of Parks and Recreation have identified a series of capital projects for the next six years. These projects will address the needs identified in this Master Plan and are reviewed every year. Additional public input is obtained prior to final planning of each project. Appendix D summarizes the capital projects that are detailed in the 2017-2022 Meridian Township Six Year Capital Improvement

Appendix: Charter Township of Meridian- Parks and Recreation Survey

Question 1: Park and Facility Usage: Please tell us how often you used each park or facility in the past year.

(Answered: 1,144 Skipped: 2)

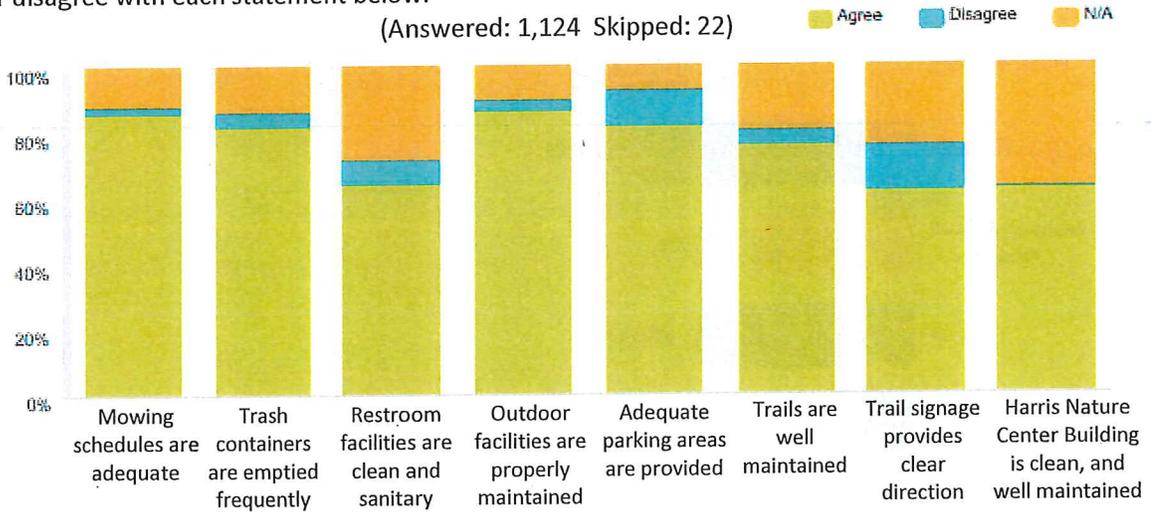




The top parks, based on frequency of visits, remained the same from 2010 (Nancy Moore Park, Central Park, Meridian Historical Village, Farmers' Market). The lowest frequently visited parks are Schriener Park, Cedar Bend Heritage Park, and Ottawa Hills Park. Some of the low attendance parks or underutilized parks could be evaluate to see what park improvements/features could be added to make them more utilized.

Question 2: PARK MAINTENANCE: In reference to the above listed parks, please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement below.

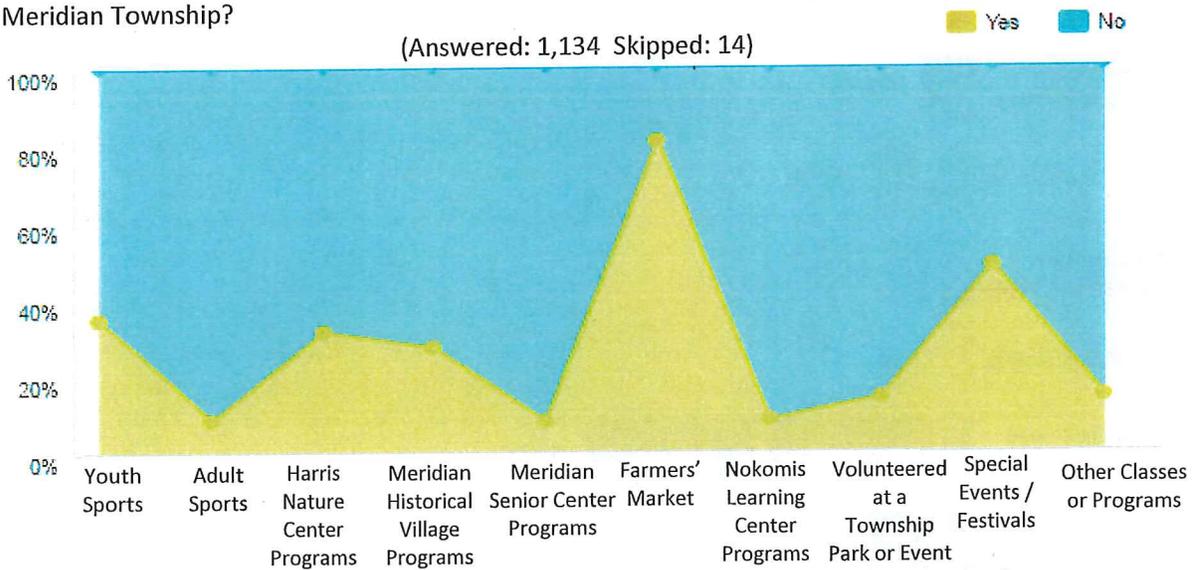
(Answered: 1,124 Skipped: 22)



Between 70-90% of respondents were satisfied with park maintenance, with the most needs identified for parking, restrooms, and trail signage; consistent with 2010 input. The township could look into additional parking areas such as utilizing green parking pavers to keep drainage issues low maintaining a natural aesthetic, but allow more adequate parking areas. The township could look into developing a way finding park system for the trails to increase signage and awareness of what else is nearby.

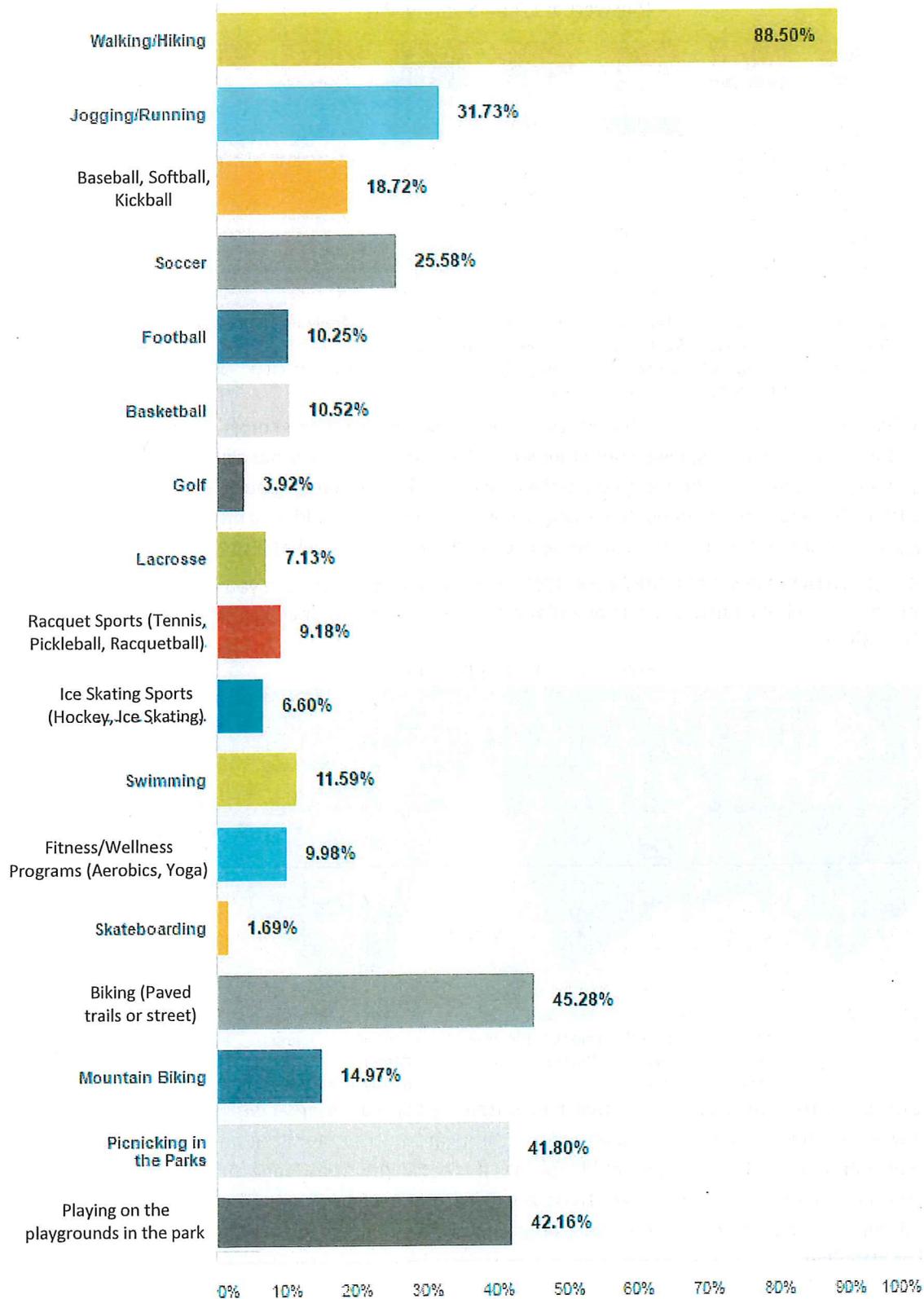
Question 3: RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION: In the past 12 months have you or other members of your household participated in any of the following programs or activities sponsored by Meridian Township?

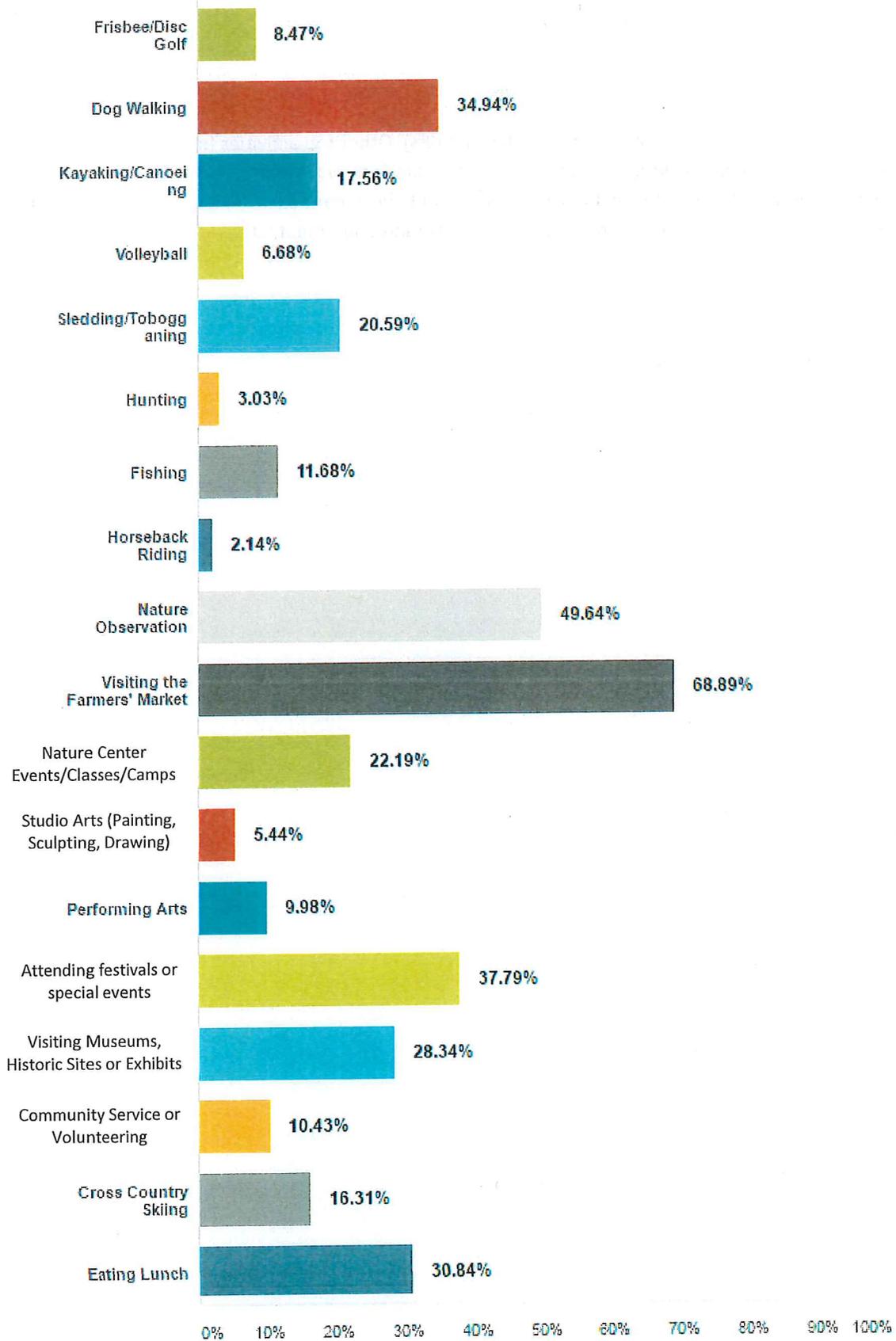
(Answered: 1,134 Skipped: 14)



About 80% of survey responses said their family had visited the Farmers' Market within the past year. The three lowest attended programs are adult sports, Meridian Senior Center Programs, and Nokomis Learning Center Programs. The township could look into if accessibility, knowledge, or interest in the programs or other potential reasons are why these are low attendance programs. The township should determine if they would like to cut underutilized programs or how to make those programs more successful or attended.

Question 4: Please select the activities you enjoy while using our parks. (Please select all that apply).
 (Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 26)





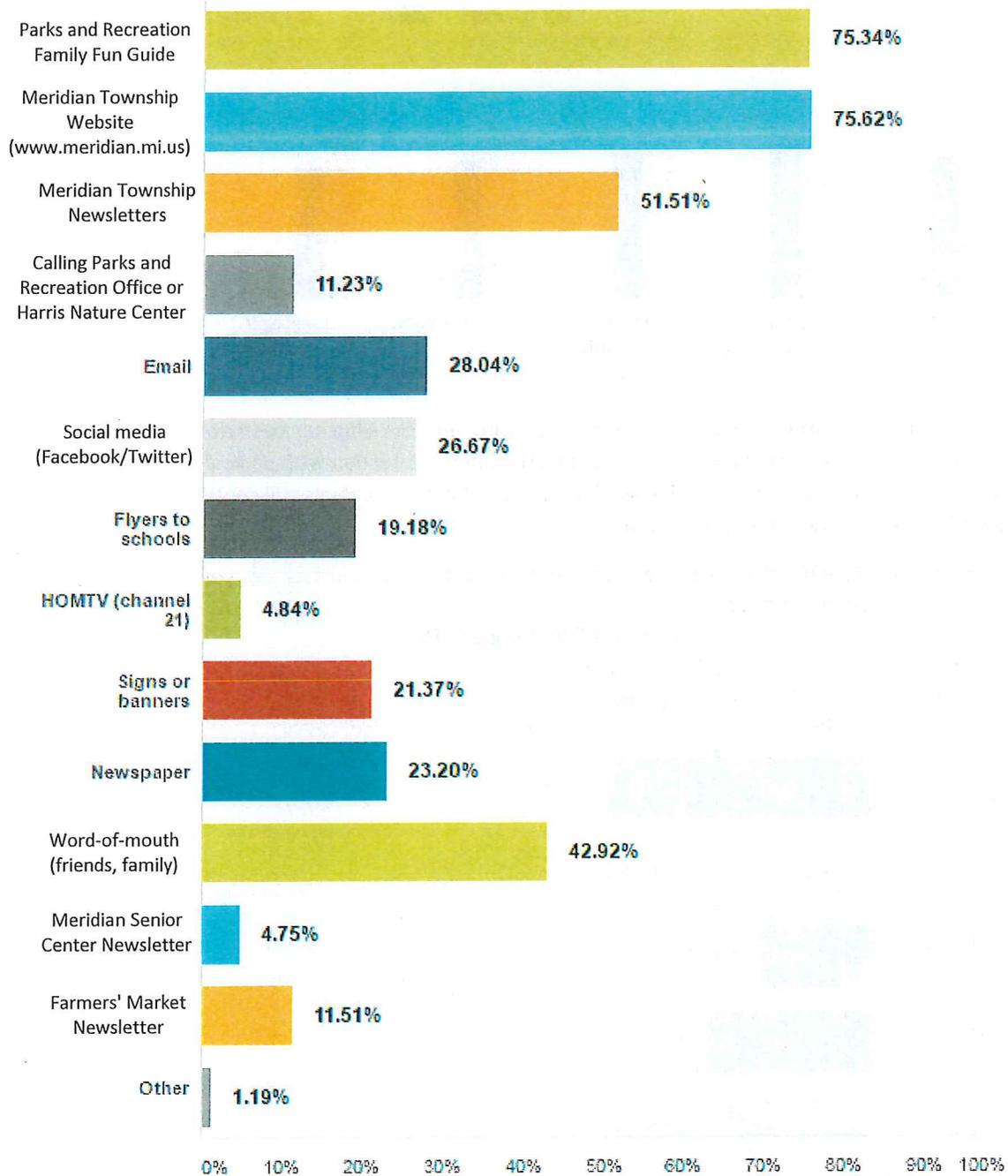
Other (please specify) 6.24%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Residents overwhelmingly enjoy walking and hiking (88%). Other top activities (more than 40%) include biking, use of playgrounds, nature observation, visiting the Farmers' Market, and picnicking. The township may want to see if these popular activities could be expanded or built upon. There could be the increase in walking, biking, hiking trails, new playground equipment, etc.

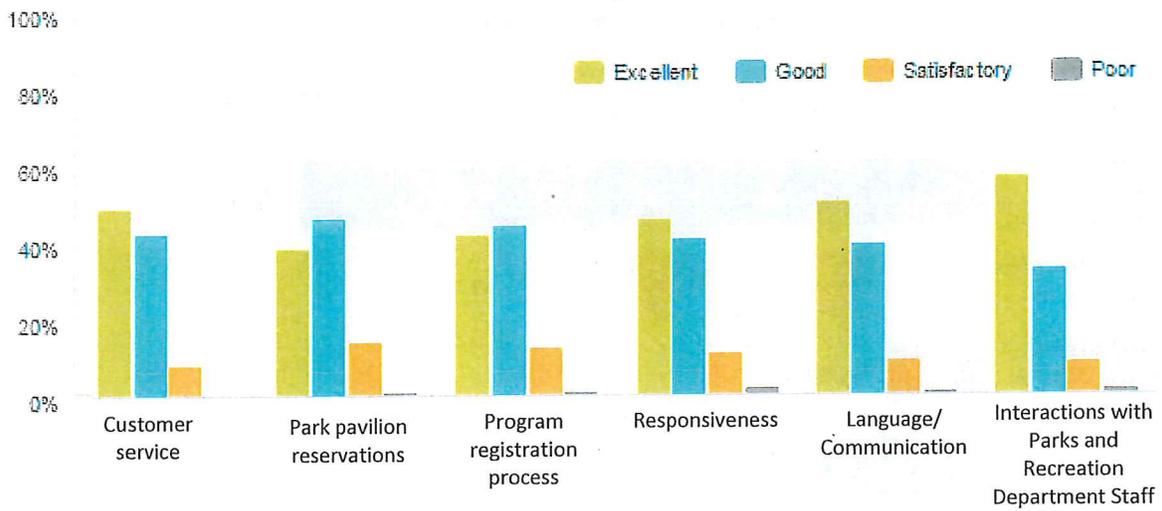
Question 5: INFORMATION: Please indicate all sources that you have used to search for information about events, programs, or activities in Meridian Township. (Please select all that apply)

(Answered: 1,096 Skipped: 53)



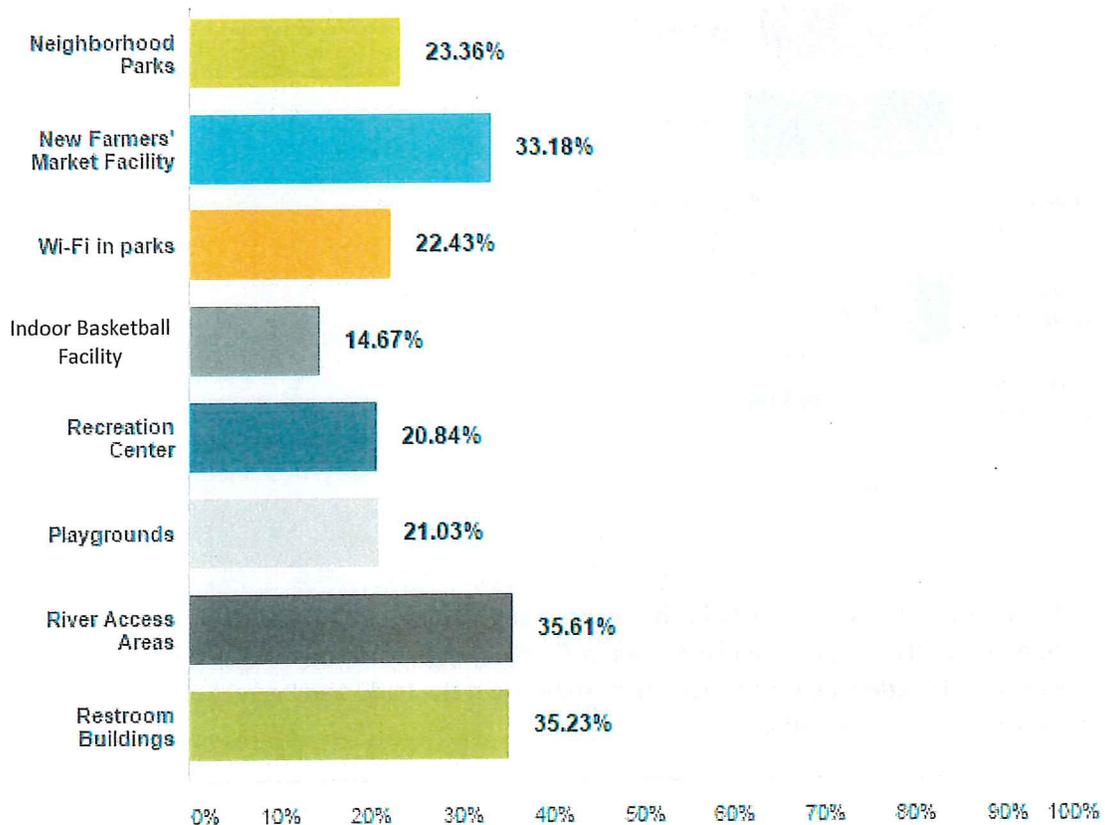
About 75% of respondents used the township website and Family Fun Guide as their source of information for events, programs, and activities; only 26% rely on social media. The township appears to be providing a wide variety of ways to get information about the Parks and Recreation, with multiple sources being used for information.

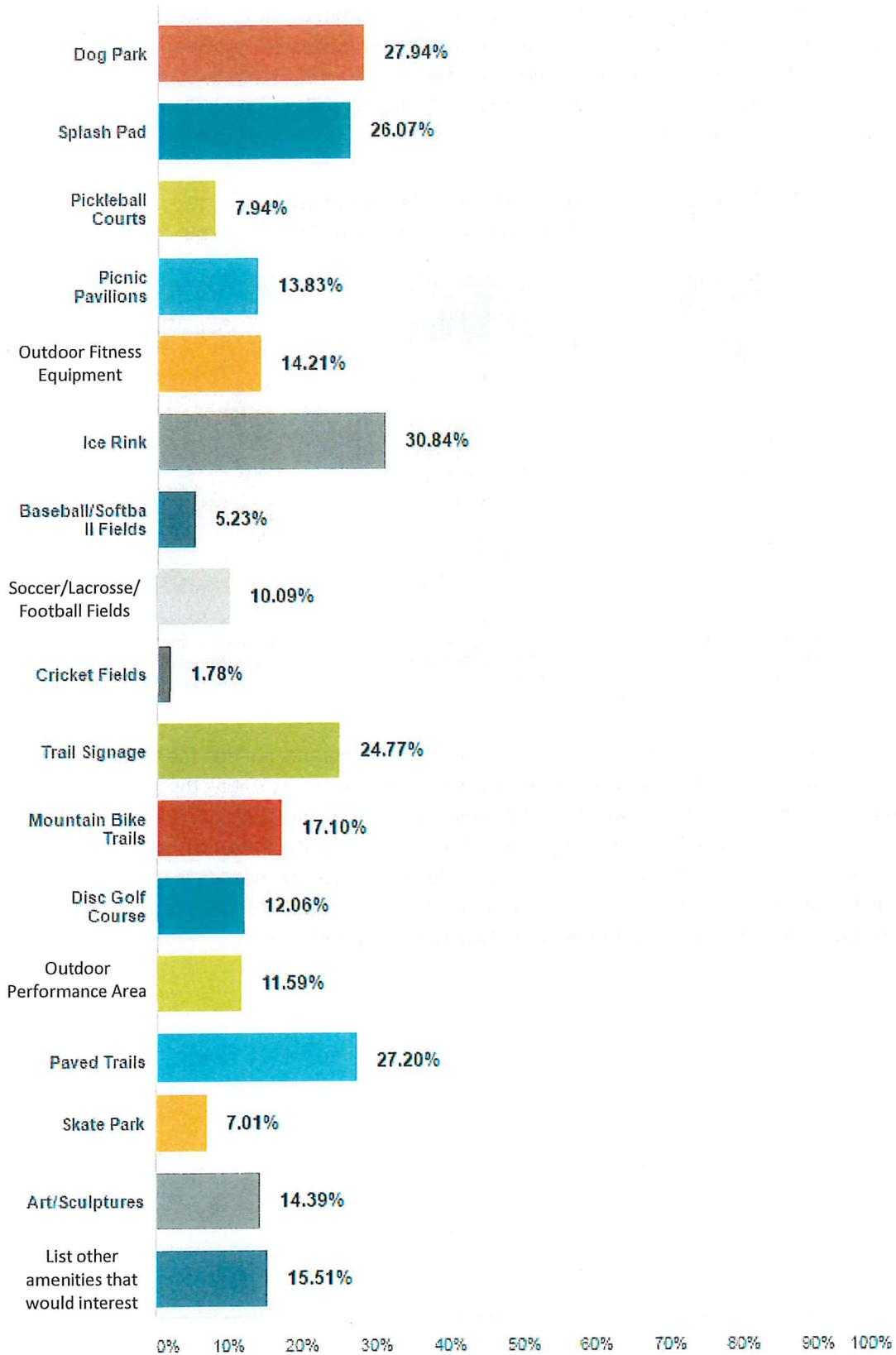
Question 6: CUSTOMER SERVICE: How would you rate the following services?
 (Answered: 898 Skipped: 250)



Most responses listed customer service as good or excellent. The township has been done an especially excellent with customer service, language/communication, and interaction with parks and recreation department staff. By having these as top qualities it is more likely individuals will continue to be engaged with the parks and recreation system.

Question 7: POTENTIAL PARK PROJECTS: Select the recreation amenities or facilities you would like to see improved or added in township parks.
 (Answered: 1,070 Skipped: 78)





The top recreation amenities or facilities that respondents indicated were above 30% indicated river

access areas, restroom buildings, ice rink, and New Farmers' Market Facility. The township can look into creating more river access areas, more restroom buildings in various parks, add an ice rink feature in one of the underutilized parks, and look or build a new Farmers' Market Facility in Center Park or elsewhere. All of these suggestions could be put into a capital improvement plan ranking them on cost feasibility, location available within parks, and maintenance.

Question 8: KEY ISSUES: Please respond to the following questions:

(Answered: 1,131 Skipped: 17)

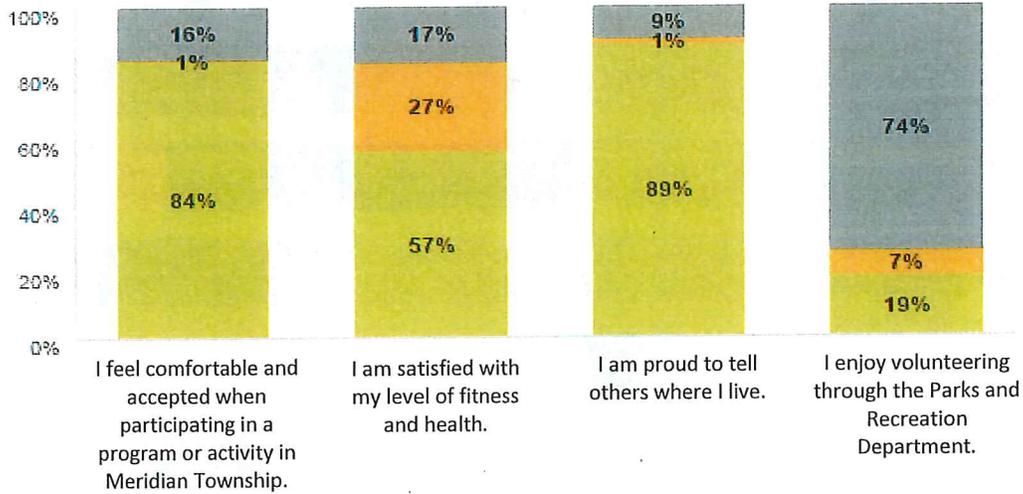
Yes No N/A



The current Farmers' Market facility has a 66% consensus of respondents that the facility effectively meets their needs. Over half of the respondents were in support of relocating the Farmers' Market. Respondents that indicating the facility is effectively could also be pertaining to the amount of vendors, goods, etc. as the Farmers' Market is now, but not including the potential growth of the market. Most people are still in favor of the location changing. Reducing the deer population in the community was over half of the respondents had a concern with. The township should continue to do strategies to reduce the deer population until the desired consensus is reached.

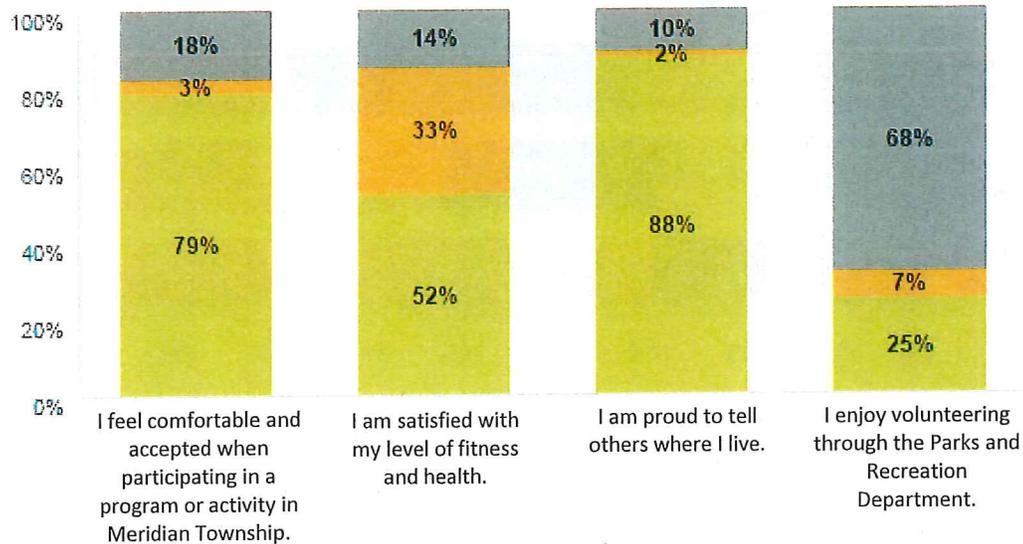
Question 9: VALUES STATEMENTS: Please respond to the statements describing you or members of your household.

(Answered: 1,127 Skipped: 21) ■ Yes ■ No ■ Neutral



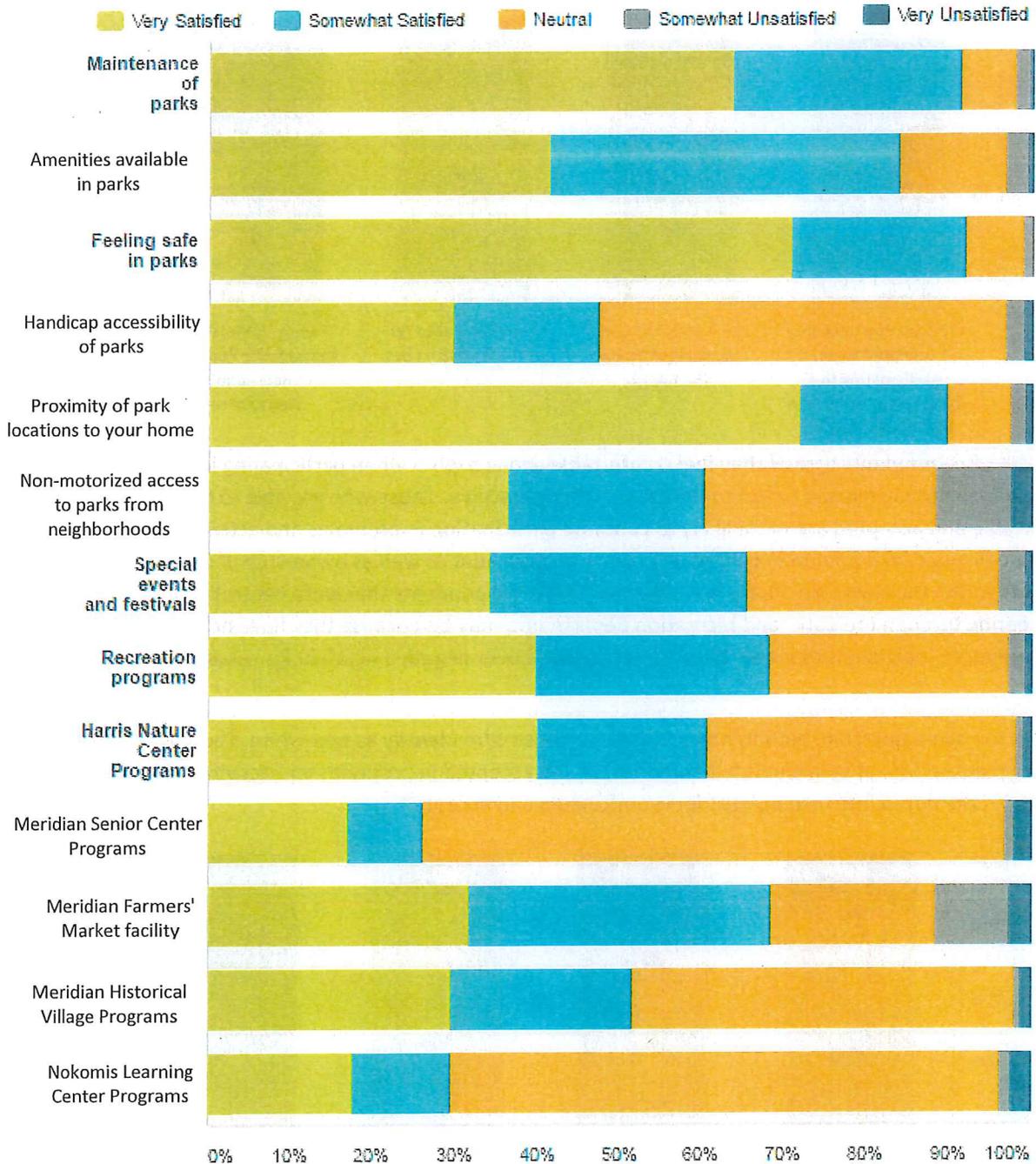
Over 80% of respondents agreed they feel comfortable and accepted when participating in program or activities in the township and proud to tell others where they live. Those who are able to feel comfortable and accepted are more likely to continue participation in programs and activities. Having pride of being part of community can result in more engagement as well as ownership of different elements within the township. There is a large majority of respondents that were neutral about volunteering through the parks and recreation department, may be because they have not volunteered. There are more individuals that had a positive experience over negative which helps retain them as helpers.

Below is the same question, but filter to only include those who identify as non-white. There is a slightly lower percenter (5%) of individuals felt comfortable and accepted in programs and activities. The majority of the non-white respondents feel comfortable and accepted.



Question 10: OVERALL SATISFACTION: How satisfied are you with the Meridian Township parks and facilities?

(Answered: 1,110 Skipped: 38)

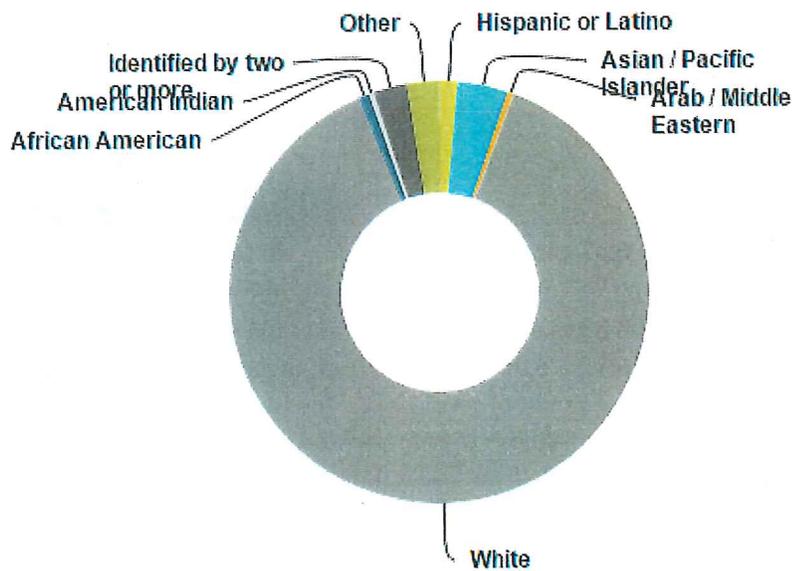


The top most satisfied parks and recreation facilities (very satisfied and somewhat satisfied over 70%) include location of parks to their home, feeling safe in the park, maintenance of parks, and amenities available in parks. These are indicated the location, amenities, and maintenance of the parks are satisfactory to the residents. Two were largely neutral over 50% are the Meridian Senior Center

Programs and Nokomis Learning Center Programs. This could be because these are features not many people participate in that took the survey. The township could target to advertise these programs to the right demographic. There are largely no major unsatisfactory or very unsatisfactory rankings, but the township could work to improve the non-motorized access to parks from neighborhoods and farmers' market facility, which had the greatest dissatisfaction.

Question 11: What Ethnicity / Race do you identify with?

(Answered: 1,105 Skipped: 43)

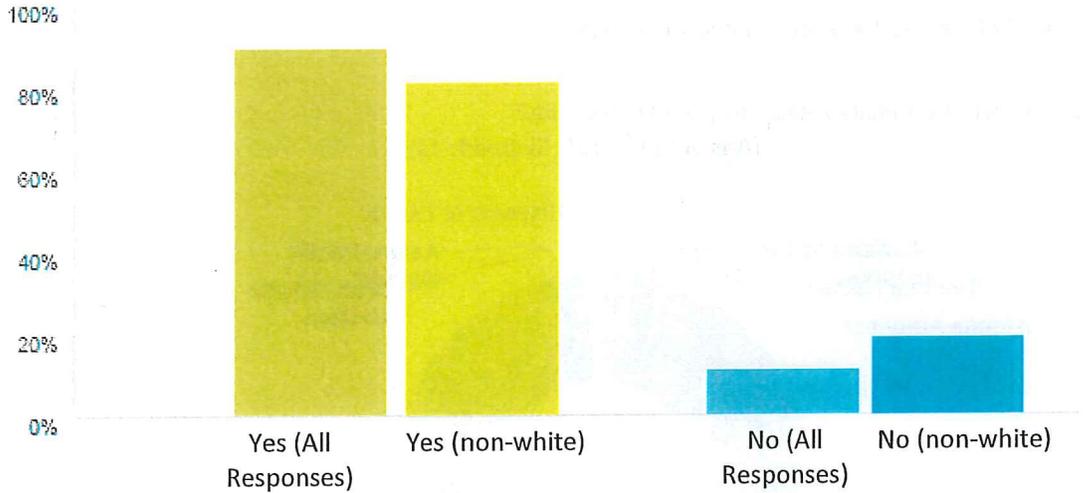


Answer Choices	Responses
Hispanic or Latino	1% 15
Asian / Pacific Islander	4% 43
Arab / Middle Eastern	0% 5
White	88% 972
African American	1% 9
American Indian	0% 4
Identified by two or more	3% 29
Other	3% 28
Total	1,105

The majority of the respondents were white about 88%. There is some diversity of the respondents including Hispanic or Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, two or more races, and other.

Question 12: I feel that Meridian Township parks and programs adequately address the cultural diversity of our community.

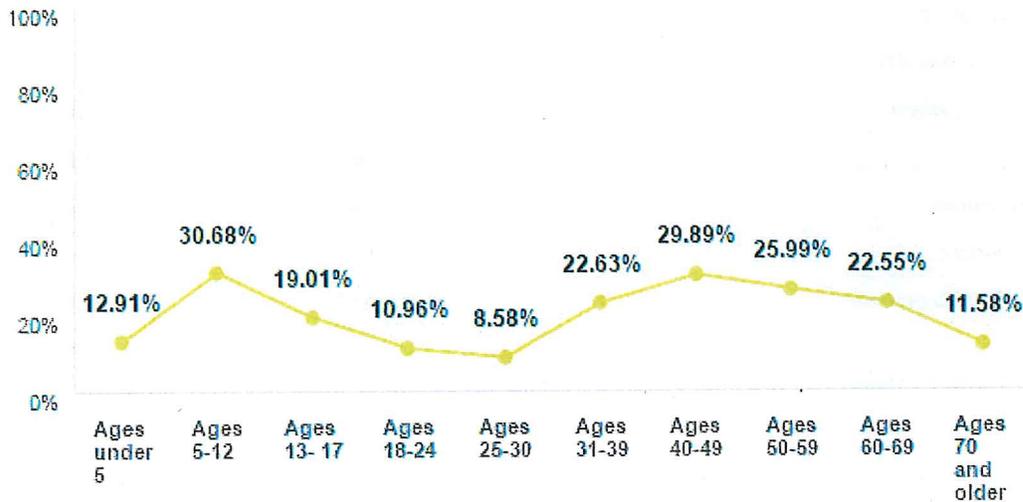
(Answered: 973 Skipped: 175)



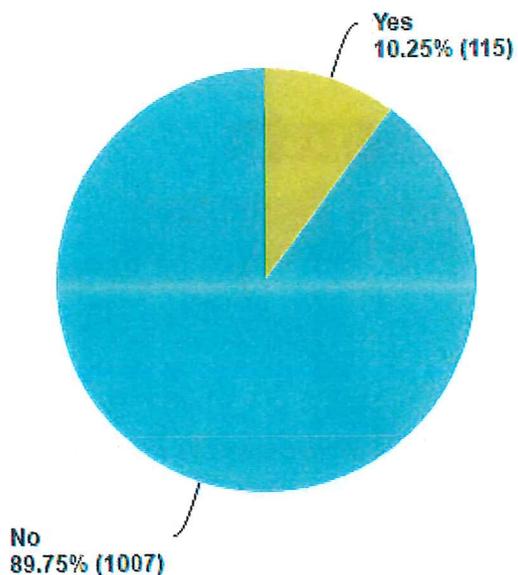
A majority of the respondents feel the parks and programs address the cultural diversity of the community. Shown in the brighter colors, are the responses from those that did not identify as white. Within this group there was still a high amount of satisfaction. The township could work on developing partnerships with churches or other organizations to help develop or team up with programs that represent a larger variety of the cultural diversity in the community.

Question 13: Please select the ages that describe you and other members of your household. (Please select all that apply)

(Answered: 1,131 Skipped: 17)



The largest proportion of respondents' households have members that are children are between the ages of 5-12 years and are between 40-69 years old. The lack of senior citizens (60 and older) do not represent a large portion of the respondents, which may be while the senior center has high neutral rankings because respondents do not yet utilize the program.



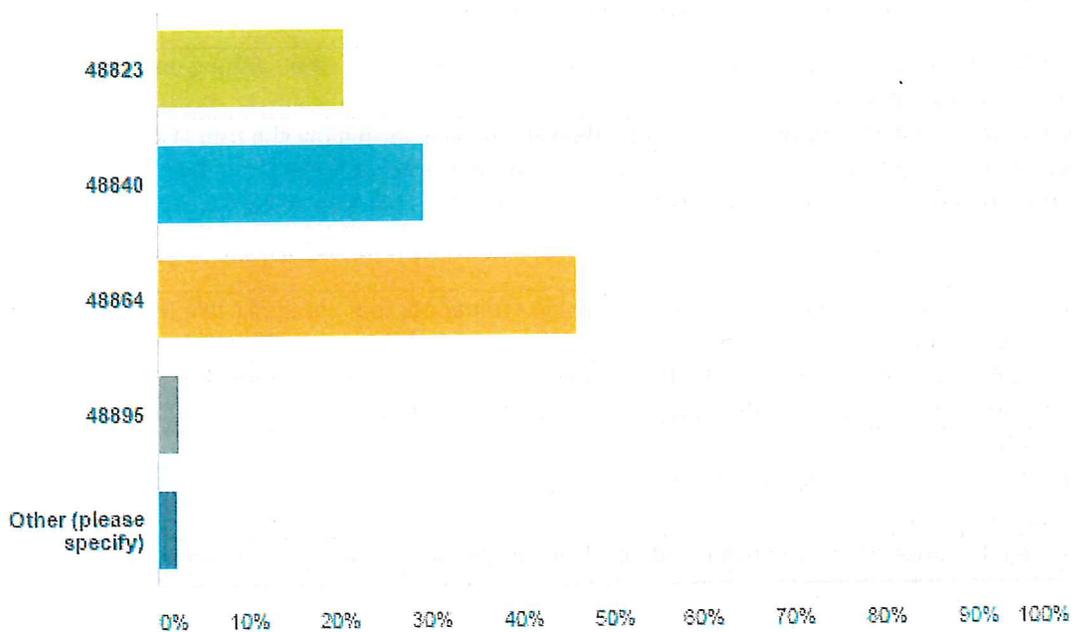
Question 14: Do you or any of the members of your household have a disability?

(Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 26)

The majority of respondents do not have a member of their household with a disability.

Question 15: What is your zip code?

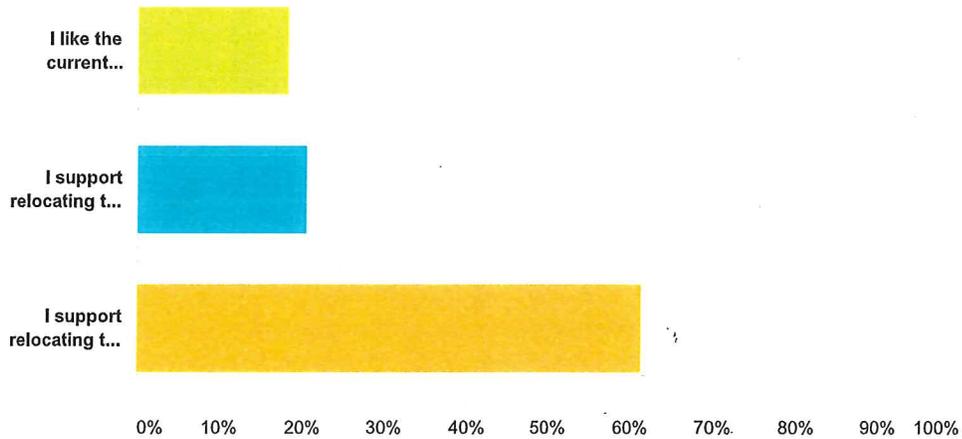
(Answered: 1,133 Skipped: 15)



The majority of the respondents are from the immediate area with the highest amount in Okemos.

Q1 Meridian Township is in discussions with the Meridian Mall to permanently move the Farmers' Market to the outdoor location it occupied during the 2015 and 2016 market seasons (between Younkers and Studio C). The plan includes providing electricity, water, restrooms, trees, and picnic area. Future amenities may include a performance stage and playground all in the grassy area on the north side of the parking lot. No final determination or agreement has been made at this time. 1. With the understanding that no additional parking will be added to the current Farmers' Market location at the Township Hall, please select the answer that best reflects your opinion.

Answered: 44 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices

Responses

I like the current location and prefer the market to remain	18.18%	8
I support relocating the market to the Meridian Mall parking lot only if there is pavilion-like structure	20.45%	9
I support relocating to market to the Meridian Mall parking lot even if we have to provide our own tents and tables	61.36%	27
Total		44

Park Commission Meeting

January 24, 2017

3. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Eagle Scout Project Presentations:
 - Final Report - Ted Black Woods Overlook Construction – Gage VanOrder
 - Final Report - North Meridian Road Park Trail Construction – Clayton Carmichael

Eagle Scout Service Project Report

*To be completed after the service project has been concluded. It is not necessary to provide lengthy answers.
Please be prepared to discuss your responses at your board of review.*

Eagle Scout candidate: Gage VanOrder

Once planning was completed, when did the work begin? Oct. 29 When was it finished? Dec. 4

Summary

What went well?

On day one of the project many scouts were able to come out and help screw down the decking, and we finished an hour and a half early which allowed us to go get some much needed pizza after.

What was challenging?

Calculating, measuring, and leveling off the structure was really tough. We would get it level on one side but not the other. Then we would have to measure and raise or sink the structure all over again to even out the opposite side.

Changes

What changes were made as the project was conducted?

Two major changes that needed to be made were the ramp and the placement of the entire structure. When we got to phase two, where the ramp needed to be constructed, I realized that if the ramp was going to meet the building inspection standards it would have to be over ten feet long. I thought this wouldn't look as good and would be a waste of time and money so we decided to move the structure to lower ground and take out the ramp completely. Instead, the choice was made to use a gravel path leading to the structure.

Leadership

In what ways did you demonstrate leadership?

I assigned scouts to do certain jobs such as carrying wood or screwing down the decking. I also taught the scouts how to use the different tools and showed them what needed to be done. Another thing I did was introduce them to techniques that would help them work faster and more efficiently. Lastly, I managed the boys and made sure they were doing things correctly. I also lead by example by doing the same jobs as the scouts and subbing in at times.

What was most difficult about being the leader?

The hardest part for me as a leader was getting the boys to listen. They are young and want to hang out and have fun which I get because I was like that too. It was just frustrating at times and I had to repeat myself a lot.

What was most rewarding about being the leader?

Being the leader was rewarding because I controlled the project and how it would come together in the end. It was also rewarding because it gave me a chance to set a good example for the scouts and teach them how to be leaders as well.

What did you learn about leadership, or how were your leadership skills further developed?

I learned that being a leader is more than just about telling people to do stuff. A leader has to do the most prepping and problem solving out of the group. This project helped me become a better leader because it tested what I had learned about leadership in scouting. Two of the most important things I learned about being a leader are expect mistakes and have a plan B.

Materials, Supplies, Tools

Were there significant shortages or overages of materials, supplies, and tools? If so, what effect did this have?

In the end, I had a lot of decking material left over. It was almost double what was needed. This was good and bad because it's better to be safe than sorry, but I did waste a lot of money. Unfortunately, there weren't any overages of pizza from phase one.

Eagle Scout Service Project Report, continued

Entering Service Project Data

The Boy Scouts of America collects information on the hours worked* on Eagle Scout service projects because it points to achievement on our citizenship aim. So that you can assist with the data collection, please keep a list of the people who help on your project, and a log of the number of hours they work. Then, please provide the information requested below. Be sure to include yourself, and the time spent on planning.

	No.	Hours
The Eagle Scout candidate	1	11
Registered BSA youth members	4	2
Other youth (brothers, sisters, friends, etc., who are not BSA members)	1	2
Registered BSA adult Scout leaders	1	
Other adults (parents, grandparents, etc., who are not BSA members)	1	11
Totals	6	26

*There is no requirement for a minimum number of hours that must be worked on an Eagle Scout service project.

If you have been told you must meet a minimum number of hours then you may lodge a complaint with your district or council. If you have given leadership to an otherwise worthy project and are turned down by your board of review solely because of a lack of hours, you should appeal the decision.

Funding

Describe your fundraising efforts:
 Fundraising was difficult. At first I went around town to places I thought would like to donate in exchange for their logo to be put on a plaque that would be hung at the overlook. Nobody wanted to donate so I turned to plan B which was collecting scrap metal from jobs I worked with my dad. My dad takes down houses for a living and after we would take down a house, I would go through a pick out all the metal and take it to the scrap yard in exchange for cash which I put towards the project.

How much was collected? about \$1,400 How much was spent? about \$1,020

If your expenses exceeded funds available, explain why this happened, and how excess expenses were paid.
 The project fit within the funds.

If you had money left over after the project completion, did you turn it over to the project beneficiary? If "No," when and how long will that take place?

How were the donors thanked?
 I did have two family members that donated which were both of my grandparents. They both donated \$100 each. I sent them thank you cards for helping me fund the project.

Photos and Other Documentation

If you have them, attach any "before," "during," and "after" photographs. Attach letters, maps, handouts, printed materials, or similar items that might be helpful to your board of review.

Candidate's Promise

On my honor as a Scout, I was the leader of my Eagle Scout service project and completed it as reported here.

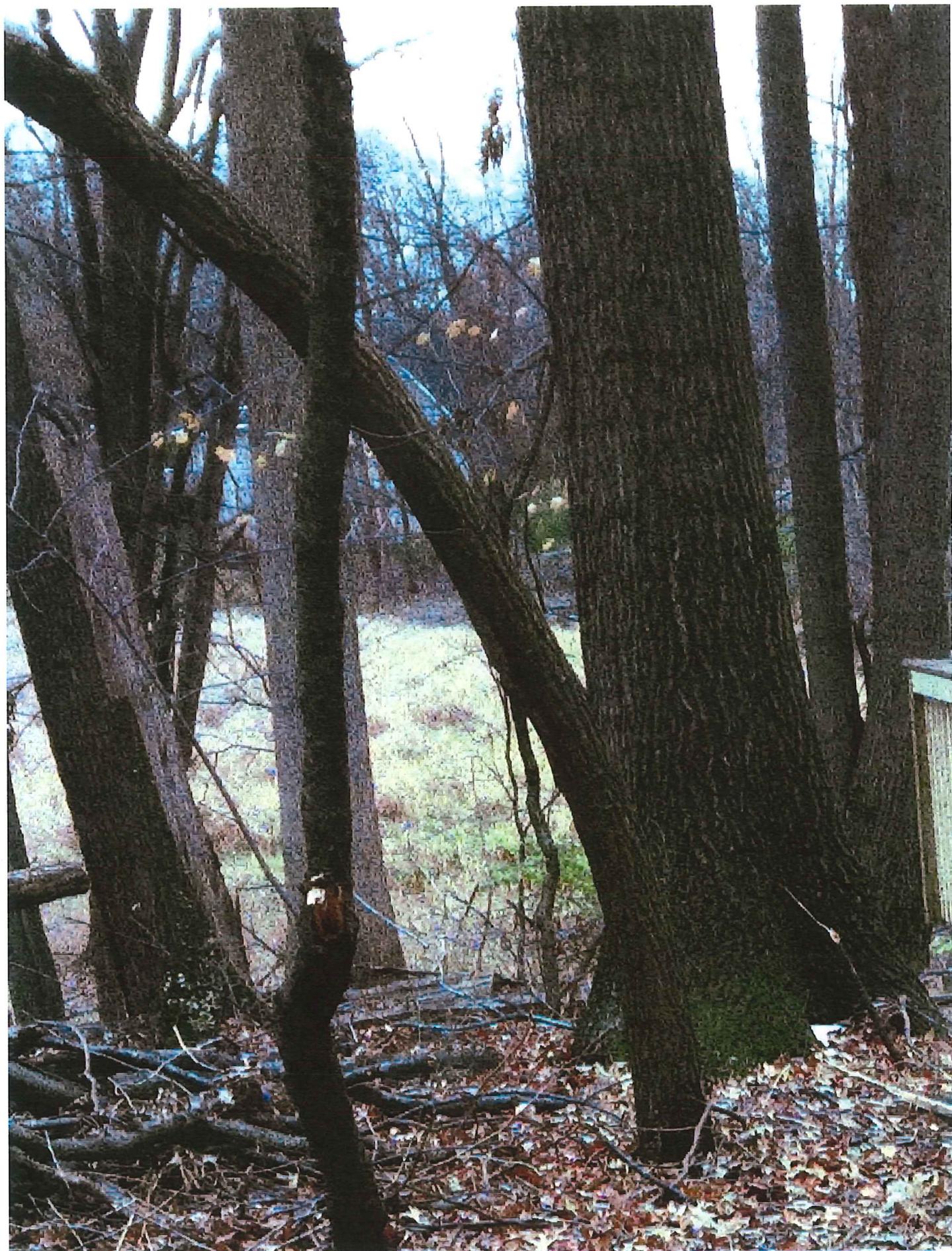
Signed: *George Vander* Date: 12/11/16

Completion Approvals

In my opinion, this Eagle Scout service project meets Eagle Scout requirement 5, as stated on page 4 of this workbook.

Beneficiary name:	Unit leader name:
Signed: _____	Signed: <i>Steve King</i>
Date: _____	Date: 12/12/16









Park Commission Meeting
January 24, 2017

6. MINUTES

- a. December 13, 2016 Work Session Minutes
- b. December 13, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Baker, Lick, McDonald, Schaetzl, Stephens

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Stewardship Coordinator Kelsey Dillon; Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

1. Call Meeting to Order

Acting Chair McDonald called the work session to order at 6:07 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER BAKER MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE WORK SESSION AGENDA. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Election of Officers - Discussion

Director Maisner stated officers (Chair and Vice-chair) serve one-year terms and are usually selected at the December meeting. Officers can serve in the position for multiple years if desired by a majority of the Commissioners.

4. Park Commission Role and Responsibility

Chair McDonald and Director Maisner summarized items in the Park Commission Policy Notebook

5. 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update

The Parks and Recreation Department is in the process of updating the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan for 2017-2021. The plan is due to the MDNR by March 1, 2017 to become grant eligible. The Department has contracted with Rowe Professional Services Company to manage the public input portion of the Plan. When completed, the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021 will be incorporated into the Township's Master Plan.

Rowe Professional Services representative Doug Schultz distributed the draft public input summary and offered the following comments:

- Was contracted to conduct the community engagement/public input portion of the Plan, develop goals and objectives and action plan recommendations.

- 22,000 postcards and 16,000 emails were sent to encourage community input in an on-line survey and open house event. Over 1,100 responses were received from the survey. Comments were also obtained from a third grade Bennett Woods Elementary Class, vendors from the Farmers' Market, Parks & Recreation Department staff and Park Commissioners
- A draft copy of the Plan was created and will be available for public review for a minimum of 30 days followed by a public hearing and adoption by resolution by the Park Commission and Township Board before its submission to the MDNR by March 1
- Key findings include:
 - ✓ Top parks based on visitor frequency include #1 - Central Park (including Nancy Moore Park, Meridian Historical Village and Farmers' Market) and #2 – Harris Nature Center
 - ✓ 70-90% are satisfied with park maintenance but listed parking, restrooms and trail signage as a significant need
 - ✓ 80% have visited the Farmers' Market
 - ✓ 88% enjoy walking and hiking with 40% listing biking, using playgrounds, nature observation and picnicking
 - ✓ 75% use the Township website and Family Fun Guide as their source of information
 - ✓ Most list customer service as good or excellent
 - ✓ Top picks for potential park projects include new Farmers' Market relocation (strong support for its relocation, river access, restroom buildings, ice rink and trail signage (ice rinks are hard to keep open and maintenance is a big issue; could look at having during special events or using synthetic ice)
 - ✓ 89% proud of where they live
 - ✓ 84% feel comfortable and accepted at programs and events
 - ✓ 80% of non-white respondents indicated parks and programs adequately address the community's cultural diversity
 - ✓ 45% respondents were from Okemos zip code and 29% respondents from Haslett zip codes
- National trends indicate people want to recreate on their own time (Be a tourist; reacquaint yourself with Meridian; Park Yourself Here; offer a place to do homework or hold a meeting, self-directed park tours)

Director Maisner reported the public input; goals, recommendations and action plan will be incorporated into the Master Plan and will have it ready and open for public review by the end of the month.

6. Comments

None

7. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Acting Chair McDonald adjourned the work session at 7:52 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Baker, Lick, McDonald, Schaeztl, Stephens

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Stewardship Coordinator Kelsey Dillon; Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

1. Call Meeting to Order

Acting Chair McDonald called the regular meeting to order at 7:52 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

COMMISSIONER LICK MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Presentations

None

4. Public Comment

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Acting Chair McDonald referenced the press release from Governor Snyder's office applauding the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Boards grant recommendations.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. October 11, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. October 11, 2016 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
- c. November 1, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, ACTING CHAIR MCDONALD SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 11, 2016 AND NOVEMBER 1, 2016 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Eastgate Park observations and recommendations

B. Commission Information

1. Gov. Rick Snyder applauds Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board recommendations
2. Calendar of Events for December
3. Mark Stephens Award Presentation
4. Meridian Garden Club Newsletter – Plant It Pink Garden in the Historical Village and Blue Star Memorial Rededication
5. Emerald Ash Borer Presentation scheduled for January Park Commission Meeting

C. Staff Inquiries/Response - None

Commissioners congratulated Commissioner Stephens on receiving the Board and/or Commissioner Member of the Year Award from the Township Board.

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

8. New Business

a. 2017 Meeting Calendar

COMMISSIONER BAKER MOVED, BOARD MEMBER LICK SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE PARK COMMISSION MEETING SCHEDULE AS OUTLINED IN THE DECEMBER 8, 2016 STAFF MEMORANDUM AND ATTACHED RESOLUTION WITH COPIES FORWARDED TO THE APPROPRIATE INDIVIDUALS FOR POSTING.

Roll Call:

AYES: Richard Baker, Amanda Lick, Annika Schaetzi, Mark Stephens,
Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion/Resolution passed.

b. Election of Officers for 2017

Acting Chair McDonald opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED TO NOMINATE MICHAEL MCDONALD AS CHAIR. Seconded by Commissioner Baker.

Michael McDonald accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Acting Chair McDonald closed the floor for nominations for Chair.

Roll Call:

AYES: Richard Baker, Amanda Lick, Annika Schaetzi, Mark Stephens,
Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

Chair McDonald opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair.

COMMISSIONER BAKER MOVED TONOMINATE MARK STEPHENS AS VICE CHAIR. Seconded by Commissioner Schaetzi

Mark Stephens accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair McDonald closed the floor for nominations for Chair.

Roll Call:

AYES: Richard Baker, Amanda Lick, Annika Schaetzi, Mark Stephens,
Michael McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

c. Appointment to Land Preservation Advisory Board

Chair McDonald asked Commissioner Stephens to continue representing the Park Commission on the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Commissioner Stephens accepted.

d. Set Public Hearing Date – 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Director Maisner stated the draft 2017-2021 Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be ready and open for public review at the end of December. Based on the plan submittal deadline of March 1, 2017 and remaining meeting schedules for the Park Commission and Township Board, it is recommended that the mandatory public hearing be conducted on February 14 together with plan adoption then to the Township Board on February 21. A hard copy of the report will be available at the Parks and Recreation Office and the Clerk's Office and for viewing on-line on the Township's website.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL SECONDED, TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021 FOR TUESDAY,

FEBRUARY 14, 2017 AT 7 PM IN THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL,
MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS. Voice
vote. Motion passed.

9. Director's Report

Director Maisner reported the following:

- a. Grant Success! MNRTF, CRCF and LWCF
 - Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector \$272,500 (local match \$122,500)
 - Land Acquisition Land Preservation – Ponderosa Land Preserve \$514,900
 - LWCF – Gateway footbridge and restroom building in Historical Village – will be announced next week \$150,000/\$150,000.
 - Capital Region Community Foundation - \$6,500 award for a tool trailer for volunteer projects in parks.

- b. Projects for 2017
 - Bidding for Towner Road Park – out to bid later this week. Bids due January 30.
 - Doggie Playground Development
 - New Pavilion –North Meridian Road Park (MNRTF Grant \$50,000/\$50,000)
 - Beaver Lodge – Harris Nature Center
 - New directional signage on trails
 - New trail maps
 - New Web application for parks and trails
 - New Maintenance Worker still one short
 - Fireworks on Dec 31
 - Footbridge and trail improvements – Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage

10. Other Business

None

11. Discussion Items

None

12. Final Comments

None

13. Announcements

- a. Farmers' Market – 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm, JC Penny corridor
- b. New Year's Eve Fireworks – December 31 at 6:45 pm
- c. 175th Anniversary Kick Off Celebration at Studio C, December 31, 4-8 pm

14. Public Comment

None

15. Closed Session

None

16. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:36 pm.

Park Commission Meeting
January 24, 2017

9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition
- b. 2017 Potential Grant Projects

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 19, 2017

RE: 2016 Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition

We are very fortunate to have a very giving community and people who volunteer regularly, as well as single-project support. Each year, the Park Commission hosts a Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony to honor and thank our volunteers. Staff is recommending that the event occur during the March 14, 2017 regular Park Commission Meeting beginning at 6:00pm.

Motion for Park Commission consideration:

MOVE TO SCHEDULE THE 2016 FRIEND OF THE PARK VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 AT 6:00PM AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: January 19, 2017

RE: 2017 Potential Grant Projects

Grant applications are due to the Department of Natural Resources by April 1 each year. The application process can be very time-consuming so making a determination is necessary at this meeting.

Below are the recommended projects for the 2017 grant cycle:

1. **The Harris Nature Center** hosts hundreds of school children each year as well as numerous outdoor special events. The Center is also along the Meridian Riverfront trail that extends from Eastgate Park to the East to Legg Park on the west and on through the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve to Dobie Road. Harris Nature Center staff have been requesting an outdoor restroom for a number of years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
2. Construction of **Towner Road Park** will take place in 2017 and will not be ready for active play until 2019. In order to best afford the park's development, staff is recommending that a grant be pursued for construction of six pickleball courts, native plantings and stormwater management, a playground and the northern parking lot.

Motion for Park Commission Consideration:

MOVE TO COMPLETE GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AN OUTDOOR RESTROOM AT THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER; AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SIX PICKLEBALL COURTS AND PARKING LOT FOR TOWNER ROAD PARK.