



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION –
REGULAR MEETING
June 4, 2025 7:00 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATION
4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
5. COMMUNICATIONS
6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – May 7, 2025 REGULAR MEETING
8. NEW BUSINESS
9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. 2025 Green Grant Award Recommendations
10. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Staff
 - B. Liaisons:
 - Township Board
 - Planning Commission
 - Land Preservation Advisory Board
 - Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
 - Parks Commission
 - C. Teams:
 - Energy Team
 - Green Team
 - Food & Composting Team
 - Green Burial Team
 - D. Haslett/Okemos High School
11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
13. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting: Township Manager Tim Dempsey, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.



A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Dan Opsommer

Sent: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 2:40 PM

To: mcconn64@msu.edu; hrbatten67@gmail.com; Lseaman26@gmail.com; fraziertom58@gmail.com; Yu Man Lee <leeyum@msu.edu>; Nickolas Lentz <lentz@meridian.mi.us>; r.miksicek@comcast.net; petersoca@haslett.k12.mi.us; johnsarver3@gmail.com

Cc: Younes Ishraidi <ishraidi@meridian.mi.us>; Jack Hughes <hughes@meridian.mi.us>; LeRoy Harvey <harvey@meridian.mi.us>

Subject: MML's 2025 MI Green Communities Challenge

Good Afternoon Environmental Commission Members,

We were able to get our 2025 Green Communities Challenge application submitted ahead of the deadline tomorrow.

Michigan Green Communities currently plans to announce the results by early June. We currently expect to receive the Gold badge for the fourth consecutive year (2022-2025). We will let you know when we receive the formal announcement in June.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,



Dan Opsommer

Deputy Township Manager

Director of Public Works & Engineering

opsommer@meridian.mi.us

Work: 517.853.4440 | Fax: 517.853.4099

5151 Marsh Road | Okemos, MI 48864



FOOD
RESCUE
US®

Fill Plates.
Not Landfills.

Lansing Communities MI

Val Lafferty & Gabi Mayer
Co-Site Directors
517 349 6660



HUNGER IN THE U.S. IS REAL



1 IN 6

**CHILDREN
ARE LIVING WITH
HUNGER**



\$52.9B

**IN ADDITIONAL
HEALTHCARE COSTS
WAS SPENT ON
FOOD-INSECURE
HOUSEHOLDS**



23.5M

**PEOPLE
LIVE IN FOOD
DESERTS**

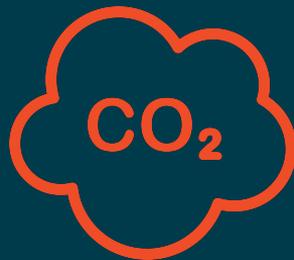
FOOD WASTE IN THE U.S. IS REAL

The following data is based on the U.S. in 2023.v



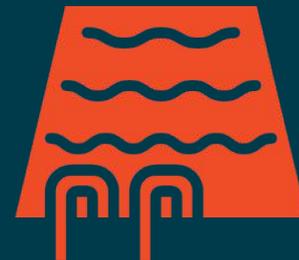
40%

**OF ALL FOOD IN THE
US ENDS UP IN THE
LANDFILL**



255+

**MILLION TONS
OF CO2EQ
RELEASED**



24+

**MILLION OLYMPIC
POOLS WORTH OF
WATER WASTED**

Goals Today!

- Awareness of Food Rescue US (FRUS) -Lansing Communities
 - Logistics needed to avoid wasting *perishable* commercial food.
 - Current food rescue reach in the Twp & larger Lansing Metro Area.
 - Public/commercial/non-profit engagement: no waste + food is medicine.
- **NEEDED: MORE PERISHABLE FOOD DONATION PARTNERSHIPS**
 - Partnering Opportunities with Meridian Township – Shared Goals.
 - Recognition that a perishable food rescue system can be durable.
 - A food rescue system is the source reducer in organic recycling plans and local units of governments' Material Mgmt Plans (MMPs).
 - A perishable food rescue system can be considered reliable *infrastructure* to a communities' healthy regenerative food system.



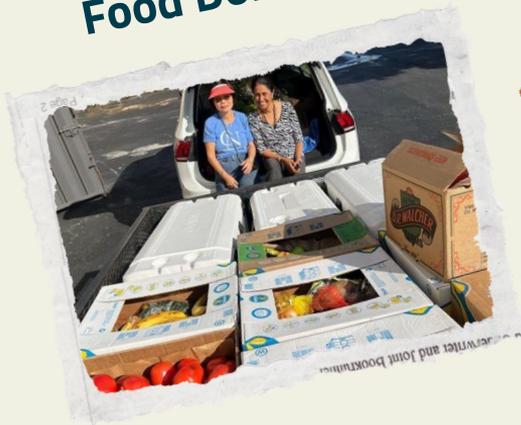
FOOD
RESCUE
US®

HOW OUR MODEL WORKS

Our volunteers rescue excess, high-quality food from food donors and deliver it directly to local social service agencies that feed the food insecure.

- Food Donors: farms, restaurants, bakeries, farmers markets, schools, grocery stores, etc.
- Receiving Agencies: community

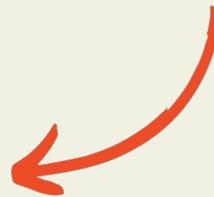
Food Donors



Food Rescuers



Receiving Agencies





 **FOOD RESCUE US**
Lansing Communities



In regard to the previous slide...

1. Many of our volunteers tag team with friends, husband/wife teams, or volunteers rescue with their children or grandchildren. Pictured is a mother/daughter rescue.
2. Typical rescued items.
3. This is a typical delivery to a food kitchen - Southside Community Kitchen. This Director shared that FRUS-Lansing Communities donors and volunteers have reduced their per plate cost by 40%!

As you know, **Perishable foods** include produce, meats, dairy and baked goods. We are pleased to deliver food or non food items to agencies along with perishables.

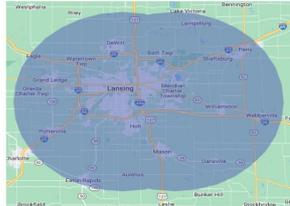
BE THE RESCUE.

FIGHT HUNGER. HELP THE PLANET.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



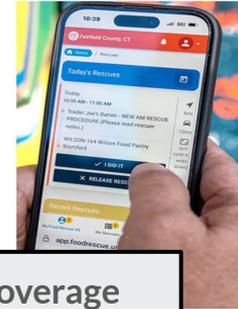
 **FOOD RESCUE US**
517-349-6660



<https://foodrescue.us>



Lansing Communities MI
lansingcommunitiesMI@foodrescue.us



Rough Idea of Geographic Coverage

1. Reduces food waste by giving food donors the opportunity to transfer their excess food to social service agencies
2. Provides meals to the food insecure by giving social service agencies the ability to join and receive food
3. Creates a schedule of local food rescues that volunteers can claim and complete

FRUS-Lansing Communities has been in operation for 1.5 years. We currently have 100 volunteer drivers using their own cars to complete rescues that, on average, are within 15 minutes from donor to receiving agency.



Currently:

- 110 Volunteers with app on their smartphones
- 41 registered commercial Food Donors
- 36 Receiving Agencies

In 1.5 years:

- 1800 rescues/deliveries (We've never missed a rescue.)
- 300,000 lbs of food rescued, estimated value \$600,000
- 810,000 lbs of Co2 offset
- 30,000,000 gallons of water saved (offset)



The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness



Climate

These states tried, and failed, to cut food waste. One succeeded.

Researchers studied the effect of five laws requiring supermarkets and restaurants to reduce waste, part of a broader effort to keep food out of landfills, where it contributes to climate change.

September 12, 2024

HOME > SCIENCE > VOL. 385, NO. 6714 > OF THE FIRST FIVE US STATES WITH FOOD WASTE BANS, MASSACHUSETTS ALONE HAS REDUCED LANDFILL WASTE



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY



Of the first five US states with food waste bans, Massachusetts alone has reduced landfill waste

[FIORENTIA ZOI ANGLOU](#) , [ROBERT EVAN SANDERS](#) , AND [IOANNIS STAMATOPOULOS](#) [Authors Info & Affiliations](#)

SCIENCE · 12 Sep 2024 · Vol 385, Issue 6714 · pp. 1236-1240 · DOI: [10.1126/science.adn4216](https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adn4216)

Editor's summary

Food waste produces about half of the greenhouse gas emissions from the global food system, including methane emissions from food waste deposited in landfills. To reduce emissions, some governments have banned food waste disposal in landfills. Anglou *et al.* evaluated the effectiveness of bans that applied to commercial waste producers in five US states. They found that such policies can succeed, but this has not been the norm. The states with bans showed almost no change in organic waste disposal into landfills compared with controls derived from states without bans. The exception to this was the state of Massachusetts. Simplicity of regulation, sufficient infrastructure, low cost of compliance, and/or strong enforcement may have contributed to Massachusetts' success. —Bianca Lopez

BECOME A FOOD DONOR

DONATE YOUR EXCESS FOOD TO END HUNGER AND FOOD WASTE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

Food Rescue US is dedicated to eliminating hunger and food waste (keeping food out of landfills and reducing greenhouse gasses). We engage volunteers and food donors through our proprietary web-based app to directly transfer nutritious excess food to social service agencies serving the food insecure. Food Rescue US inspires local food providers to become food donors, ensuring their excess food goes to those who need it most.

WHO CAN BE A FOOD DONOR?

Any business that has excess food that could be going to waste can connect with their local Food Rescue US location and discuss donating their food. These businesses can include:

Grocery Stores | Restaurants | Hospitals | Schools
Performing Arts & Sports Arenas | Farms | Farmers Market
Corporate Dining Facilities | Hotels & Convention Centers

The local Site Director will match the donated food to a social service agency in the community that can best utilize it. Then a volunteer rescuer will select a time that's convenient for them to pick-up and drop-off the excess food. It's as easy as that!

Reach out at info@foodrescue.us
to find out how you can
donate your excess food today!

Fill Plates. Not Landfills.



Federal Liability Protection For Food Donation LEGAL FACT SHEET

Businesses and nonprofits that donate or distribute donated food or grocery products are well-protected by laws designed to provide immunity from liability related to food donations. The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, originally passed in 1996 and amended by the Food Donation Improvement Act (FDIA) in 2022 (hereinafter collectively referred to as "the Emerson Act"), provides comprehensive federal liability protection to encourage food donation to individuals experiencing food insecurity.² Furthermore, the risk of liability for food and grocery product donation is already very low; no court case exists to date related to food donation liability.



The Emerson Act provides civil and criminal liability protection for liability that might arise due to harm from donated food or grocery products.

The Emerson Act covers both donors and intermediaries that distribute food, including:³

- All individuals
- Government entities
- Schools⁴
- Businesses (including retailers, restaurants, and wholesalers)
- Nonprofit organizations
- The officers of businesses and nonprofit organizations
- Gleaners (individuals that harvest donated agricultural crops for a nonprofit organization that distributes the food to individuals⁵)

Passed 1996, amended 2022, Provides comprehensive federal liability to encourage food donation to those who are food insecure (preempts state laws). The donation must be “apparently wholesome” or “apparently fit grocery produce”, direct donation through non-profits, offered for free ... must be made and distributed in “good faith.”

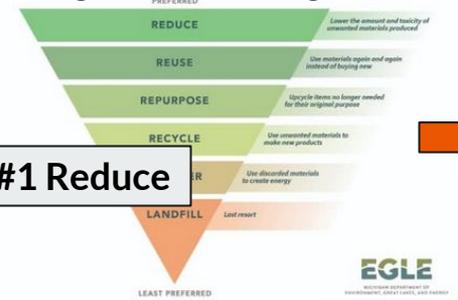


Wasted Food Scale

How to reduce the environmental impacts of wasted food



SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT Michigan: Material Management Plans



Michigan.gov/EGLE | 800-662-9278



=



=



=



1. We serve several **Food Pantries**, including Believers Food Pantry (pictured) & Grand Ledge Food Pantry Okemos Food Pantry, First Presbyterian, Cristo Rey, Southside Lansing Ministries, LMTS, Lansing Area Aids Network, Pagans in Need, Child & Family Services, Epicenter of Worship, Edgewood Village, Mid-Michigan Recovery Services & Karmanos Cancer Ctr @ McLaren Hospital.

2. **Community Kitchens** we serve include New Hope-Holy Cross (pictured), Cristo Rey, City Rescue Mission, Southside Community Kitchen, St. Luke Saturday Lunch & Advent House weekend breakfast/lunch/dinner.

3. **Shelter Facilities** include Homeless Angels (pictured), Punks with Lunch, Advent House, New Hope, Angel House, Horton House, Glass House, Advent House & Mid-Michigan Recovery Services.

Several agencies provide multiple services to their clientele/guests, like food pantry and community kitchen.



Current Receiving Agencies



Food Pantry

Holy Cross Services
NEW HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER

Grand Ledge Seventh-Day Adventist Church





Contact:
Valerie@foodrescue.us
Gabriele@foodrescue.us
to learn more!

BE THE RESCUE

Incidentally, we also rescue flowers/plants from Trader Joe's seven days a week. They are delivered to senior centers, teachers, nurses, etc. besides some of our regular agencies with their food deliveries.

Our volunteers enjoy working with all of the donors and receiving agencies, but we have a corps of volunteers who especially like the opportunity to get flowers/plants into the hands of others that would not normally receive flowers. It's become known as "Spread the Joy" donation.



TAKE AWAYS!

- **About Food Rescue US (FRUS) -Lansing Communities**
 - Logistics to rescue perishable foods & help fight hunger.
 - Enthusiastic & reliable volunteer network around the area.
 - Currently serving many Twp food donors and social service agencies.
- **NEED HELP-ENCOURAGING MORE PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS!**
 - Partner with Meridian Township – Educational Outreach for a healthy food system & continuing/expanding filling plates not landfills in the Twp.
 - Local units of government might consider Food Rescue in their Material Management Plans (MMPs)
 - Other parts of MMPs can rely on Food Rescue as infrastructure, as source reduction! Let's bake it in for healthy, regenerative food system!



[<< Back To All Food Rescue Sites](#)

FOOD RESCUE US - LANSING COMMUNITIES

BE THE RESCUE.

Food Rescue US - Lansing Communities disrupts the cycle of food waste by directing nutritious, surplus food to those in need. We leverage technology and a network of volunteers to streamline food rescue and distribution while fostering strong community connections and ensuring easy accessibility for participants.





**FILL PLATES. NOT
LANDFILLS.**

#BETHERESCUE

**FOOD
RESCUE
US[®]**

Lansing Communities

517-349-6660

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION –**DRAFT**-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7TH, 2025, 7:00PM

PRESENT: Commissioners Harrison Batten, Laura Belisle, Tom Frazier, John Sarver,
Richard Miksicek, Cynthia Peterson, Chair Bill McConnell and Trustee
Nickolas Lentz

ABSENT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee

STAFF: Deputy Township Manager Dan Opsommer, Project Engineer Jack Hughes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the May 7th, 2025, Township Environmental Commission meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Project Engineer Hughes called the roll of the Commission.

3. PRESENTATION

Former Commissioner Val Lafferty and Gabi Mayer delivered a presentation from “Food Rescue US - Lansing Communities” on reducing perishable food waste in the community. The program's core function is to connect food donors (grocery stores and restaurants) directly with receiving agencies (such as soup kitchens, food banks, and homeless shelters) via a network of volunteer drivers.

In the last year and a half, the program has achieved significant results:

- 1,800 rescue deliveries.
- 300,000 pounds of food rescued, which would have otherwise been wasted.

The program currently has approximately 110 active volunteers, 41 registered food donors, and 36 receiving agencies. They emphasize the need for more food donors to match their volunteer capacity and the demand from receiving agencies. The two common concerns from potential food donors, particularly grocery stores, are Liability and Bureaucracy.

A federal law indemnifies businesses that donate food in good faith, protecting them from liability. The presenters note that many stores are unaware of this protection. Some larger chains face internal bureaucracy that prevents local managers from donating food, even when they wish to.

The presentation concludes with a call for community awareness and support, seeing townships and other local entities as potential partners to help build a more resilient and healthy food rescue system.

Refer to the Environmental Commission website for presentation slides.

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

No communications to convey.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair McConnell proposed to approve the agenda.

Commissioner Frazier brought a motion to amend the agenda to add an Item 9b. on Chair Succession.

Without objection, the adopted agenda was approved unanimously.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 2nd 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as amended with a few minor typo corrections provided by Commissioner Frazier.

Without objection, the minutes for the April 2nd meeting, as amended, were approved unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wetland Use Permit #25-01

Project Engineer Caycee Hart from Meridian Township introduced a proposed pathway project in the Sanctuary subdivision.

The project involves constructing a seven-foot-wide, off-road, non-motorized concrete pathway. This pathway will serve as a direct link between the Okemos Reserve neighborhood to the north and the Sanctuary subdivision to the south.

The project will result in a 0.03-acre impact on wetlands at the crossing of the Smith Consolidated Drain. To manage this, a 36-inch concrete culvert will be constructed to allow water to flow underneath the pathway, maintaining the existing drainage pattern.

To comply with the Township's mitigation ordinances, the project will compensate for this wetland loss in a previously established wetland mitigation area. This mitigation was performed as part of the *MSU to Lake Lansing Phase II* pathway project, where an existing wetland was expanded by 0.14 acres through the excavation of an upland area. This existing mitigation site will offset the wetland impacts from the Sanctuary Pathway Project.

Project Engineer Hart then introduced the Township Community Planning and Development Director, Tim Schmitt. Tim provided an overview of the project's wetland use permit. Unlike typical projects requiring a formal site plan and Planning Commission review, this pathway project falls under an exception in the Township's ordinance. Because it's a standalone

project not otherwise subject to Planning Commission oversight, it undergoes an administrative process:

- Wetland Delineation Verification: The project first goes to the Township's wetland consultant to confirm the wetland delineation.
- Environmental Commission Feedback: It then comes before the Environmental Commission for their input and recommendations.
- Public Hearing: A public hearing is held, similar to those for site plans after Planning Commission review.
- State Approval (EGLE): Crucially, the project has already received sign-off from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). This was done proactively to ensure state approval before proceeding further.

The project involves two types of impacts on wetlands:

- Direct Fill Impact: A very small impact of 0.03 acres due to filling.
 - Shoulder Impact: An impact of 129 cubic yards for the pathway's shoulder.
- While EGLE would not require mitigation for a project of this nature, Meridian Township's ordinance mandates it. The Township has exceeded its mitigation requirements by already having a mitigation site from a previous pathway project (*MSU to Lake Lansing Phase II*), where an existing wetland was expanded by 0.14 acres. This existing mitigation more than compensates for the current project's impacts.

Township staff and consultants have reviewed the project and have no major concerns. They acknowledge that some wetland crossing is unavoidable for the pathway but believe the chosen location is the most suitable. Importantly, the design largely avoids wetlands on a Consumers Energy site, which was initially a concern.

Staff confirms that the project meets all 11 criteria in the Township's ordinance for granting a permit. Therefore, they recommend issuing the permit, contingent upon the already established mitigation efforts.

Chair McConnell asked for a brief rundown of the differences in state and township regulations.

The state typically regulates wetlands that are two acres or greater in size or located within 500 feet of a water feature (lake, stream or drain). There's some ongoing change in the interpretation of "navigable waters" due to a recent Supreme Court case, which might affect man-made drains.

Meridian Township's regulations are generally more stringent. They regulate any wetland of any size. There are exceptions for "Non-Essential" Wetlands. In rare cases, a wetland might be deemed "non-essential" if it's of very poor quality or clearly man-made and provides minimal ecological function. However, this is uncommon and requires a rigorous determination process.

For any wetland impact, a wetland use permit is required. The Township's policy is "no net loss," generally requiring a minimum of 1.5 to 1 mitigation (meaning 1.5 acres of wetland creation/restoration for every 1 acre impacted).

Wetland setbacks are considered a zoning item, separate from the wetland use ordinance. Appeals for non-zoning wetland issues go to the Township Board and then Circuit Court, while zoning-related appeals go through the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) first.

Commissioner Sarver asked about the availability of future wetland use credits.

The township is able to cover small projects like this however should it take on a larger development similar in scope to the 'Okemos Road Pathway Bridge' there would need to be some serious evaluation of other potential sites, as they are quite limited.

Commissioner Belisle asked for a refresher on the overall scope of this project.

The Sanctuary Pathway Project is a crucial component of the Pathway Master Plan, aiming to connect to the Heart Trail (also known as the Second Memorial Trail), which runs east-west. The drain has historically been a significant barrier to this connection.

The pathway significantly enhances connectivity and mobility within the community. It provides a much safer and easier route to the high school for residents in neighborhoods north of the drain, allowing them to avoid main roads. It also improves accessibility for recreational users, such as local run clubs, who currently find it challenging to access this area of the trail system.

There are no viable alternative routes for this pathway. The long, narrow parcel of land owned by the Township is the only feasible way to extend the pathway northward.

Chair McConnell asked for clarification regarding a criteria to mitigate wetlands within the same watershed as a proposed development, as it does not seem to be the case here. At this time there are no other tracts of land available for mitigation but Project Engineer Hart noted she will look into the watershed.

Deputy Manager Opsommer provided an overview of the Township's Pathway Master Plan and context for how this project will fit in to the overall purpose of this plan.

Without objection, the motion to approve the Wetland Use Permit #25-01, was approved unanimously.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. 2024 Climate Sustainability Funds

Project Engineer Hughes provided an overview on the 2024 Climate Sustainability Funds with a focus on implementation of bioswales at Marshall Park.

The Township Board allocated \$30,000 for environmental projects aligned with the Climate Sustainability Plan. Currently, \$5,362 has been spent, leaving approximately \$24,637 (with an additional \$1,000-\$2,000 pending for signage). The Township is seeking input from the Environmental Commission on how to best utilize the remaining funds.

The Township is proposing to use the funds to create bioswales alongside Marshall Park roads that are slated for restoration and resurfacing in 2027. Bioswales are enhanced ditches with native plantings, offering several advantages over traditional ditches such as:

- Creation of native habitats.
- Improved drainage and flood mitigation.
- Reduced maintenance and watering compared to turf grass.

While the road project could proceed with standard ditches without the special funding, the

Climate Sustainability Funds would enable the more eco-friendly bioswale option. If the Commission approves, the Township plans to engage the engineering firm Spaulding DeDecker for a more in-depth study of the proposed bioswales.

In response to Chair McConnell's inquiry last meeting, Project Engineer Hughes provided context for how the bioswale project directly aligns with two of the Climate Sustainability Plan's objectives.

Water and Green Infrastructure Management: It directly addresses the objective to "increase resiliency towards extremes of weather by continuing to upgrade green infrastructure and other best management practices to minimize stormwater runoff and flood vulnerability, while retaining enough surface water to mitigate drought damage." Bioswales are specifically mentioned as an example within this objective.

Water Conservation: Bioswales inherently require less water and maintenance than traditional landscaping, contributing to water conservation, particularly of treated water.

The Township believes this project is an appropriate and highly effective use of the funds, as it would significantly help alleviate severe flooding issues in the area while providing environmental benefits.

Deputy Manager Opsommer provided some additional context for this project.

The project focuses on the intersection of Lake Lansing and Columbia Street, where existing storm drains currently discharge directly into Lake Lansing. Since Lake Lansing is essentially a "large bathtub" with no natural inlet or outlet streams (its level is controlled by a man-made dam), maintaining water quality is paramount.

Bioswales offer a crucial solution by providing natural filtration of stormwater runoff before it enters the lake. This is the optimal approach to treating the water by preventing pollutants from entering the lake. Flooding, such as on Okemos Road, is often due to stormwater runoff overflowing the dam. Bioswales would help mitigate this by better managing stormwater at its source.

The bioswale project also presents a unique opportunity for collaboration among several groups: The Environmental Commission, The Park Commission (due to Marshall Park's involvement) and The Lake Lansing Advisory Board/Commission (which oversees the lake and its special assessment district for water quality maintenance). This collaboration aligns with the broader goals of the Township's Climate Sustainability Plan, bringing together different bodies to work on shared environmental objectives.

The current status of two other small projects where some of the climate sustainability funding had previously been allocated towards were then discussed.

The Township has purchased two compost bag dispensers to help a composting program grow and maintain momentum. While bags are currently available at both composting sites, the Township aims to make them more visible to the public by installing the new dispensers on walls or freestanding mounts. There's a minor issue with a missing rod for the bag rolls, which the Township is working with the vendor to resolve.

The ongoing services for the composting initiative, including emptying the bins and restocking bags, are now being covered by the Park Millage. This means these costs have been transferred off the Climate Sustainability Funds, freeing up those resources for other projects. The final cost to the Climate Sustainability Funds for this particular initiative was the purchase

of the bag dispensers themselves.

Commissioner Frazier raised a question about promoting the food composting program using the Township's communications department. This will be looked at for a future packet. He then asked if there were any developments regarding the purchasing of signage for the recycling center. There has not been at this time. The Commission would like to ensure there is enough funding to complete both the composting and signage projects before tackling the Marshall Park Bioswales. A quote was obtained by Trevor for 10 signs, 24"x36" with wire stakes which may or may not be feasible considering the limestone and gravel site.

Commissioner Sarver asked if the area delineated on the displayed map was going to be entirely allocated to bioswale development.

While the exact footprint and specific plantings are still in the design phase, the goal is to maximize its size to handle as much stormwater as possible. However, due to the volume of flood water in the area (with homes on Columbia Street seeing water against their foundations) the bioswale won't be able to store all the water. The intersection of Lake Street and Columbia Street is identified as the worst drainage area in the Township. Given that Lake Lansing lacks natural streams for inflow and outflow, stormwater quality is critical. The bioswales will naturally filter pollutants before discharge, which is vital for the lake's health.

While the Township has installed smaller-scale bioswales or rain gardens (a demonstration project on Shaw Street and another in Lake Lansing Park South), this Marshall Park project would be the largest comparable bioswale installation by the Township to date. This makes it a significant demonstration project for what bioswales can achieve, potentially setting a standard for drainage solutions around Lake Lansing, especially in areas where space is available and owned by the Township.

Beyond the bioswale, the Township plans to investigate diverting stormwater from alleys on the lakefront side of Columbia Street to construct additional swales. This aims to intercept water before it reaches the severely low-lying area at Columbia & Lake, thereby reducing the overall storage requirement for the main bioswale.

The Environmental Commission expressed general support for the project but cautioned about reserving sufficient funds for other already approved projects from the Climate Sustainability Funds.

B. Chair Succession

Chair McConnell opened the floor for nominations of chair.

Commissioner Sarver nominated Chair McConnell. Commissioner Frazier seconded.

Chair McConnell nominated Commissioner Lee for the position of Vice Chair.

Without objection, the motion carries unanimously.

10. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Staff

Deputy Manager Opsommer provided an update on the Green Grant applications. This update covers two main topics regarding the Green Grant program: an application from the Mid Michigan Land Conservancy and an in-field meeting with the Cornell Woods Homeowners Association (HOA).

The Mid Michigan Land Conservancy submitted a new application for a tree planting project on Judy Lind's property (Piper Road), similar to their 2024 grant. The Green Grant Review Committee has requested a written update and documentation of the work completed under the 2024 grant. A committee meeting will be scheduled to review this late application

The Green Grant Committee met with the Cornell Woods HOA in the field to discuss their proposed project. The HOA affirmed their commitment to incorporating school and educational signage, which was a committee requirement. They expressed reluctance to implement a bioswale, and the committee observed no significant stormwater ponding during their visit, even after a recent rain event. The committee will revisit the decision on additional funding, as the HOA was initially approved for a minimum of \$5,000 but requested up to \$7,000.

Regardless of additional funding, the HOA will scale their native planting garden (approximately a quarter-acre) around four previously planted trees to accommodate the cost of the educational signage. This garden is intended to address existing issues, such as algae growth in a nearby pond, which was a part of their initial grant application. The committee requested a modification to their plan: avoiding planting mulch within a ten-foot radius of a culvert under the Township pathway to prevent mulch from washing into wetlands.

The committee is prepared to reconvene virtually to discuss both the Cornell Woods HOA's request for additional funding and the Mid Michigan Land Conservancy's late application. Their goal is to bring a final funding award recommendation to the Environmental Commission's June meeting.

B. Liaisons

Trustee Lentz provided an update from the Township Board.

The Township is launching a Youth Commission for 14- to 19-year-old students. This commission aims to gather opinions from young residents on local issues. Interested and "industrious young students" are encouraged to apply via the Township website; the commission will operate on a school-year basis.

A significant discussion recently took place at the April 15th Township Board meeting regarding a ballot proposal for a Senior Community Center. For detailed information, one can watch the HOMTV recording of the April 15th or April 3rd Board meetings, or review the extensive discussions held by the Senior Community Center Task Force over the past seven months. Trustee Lentz encouraged anyone interested in sharing their opinion on this matter to attend the upcoming Township Board meeting.

Relevant to the Environmental Commission, there was a presentation on the Red Cedar River Cleanup at a recent joint governmental commissions meeting. As a former member of the Ingham County Parks Commission, Trustee Lentz highly commends Meridian Township for acting as a fiduciary for this regional project, which benefits the entire area, not just the Township. As a kayaker, he personally values the accessibility and availability of the waterway for residents. He plans to obtain a digital copy of the presentation from the Parks

Department Director to share with the Environmental Commission.

Chair McConnell provided an update from the Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission considered and ultimately approved a revised Special Use Permit for a proposed car wash at the former Outback Steakhouse site on Marsh Road. Although there was some initial objection to a "passerby" business like a car wash replacing a destination like a restaurant, a major factor in its approval was the commitment to convert the existing eastern parking lot into green space. This move will increase green space and reduce impervious surfaces on the site, aligning with the Township's broader environmental goals.

The other main topic of discussion was a proposed revision of the Township's parking ordinance. This revision aims to reduce minimum parking requirements, giving developers more flexibility and preventing the creation of excess parking. It will also encourage landscaping within new parking areas. This landscaping is intended to provide environmental benefits such as water retention and heat reduction, directly supporting the Township's Climate Sustainability Plan and Master Plan.

As Commissioner Lee was absent the update from the Land Preservation Advisory Board was skipped.

Commissioner Sarver mentioned there would be a meeting the next day for the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. He will share the details of that meeting at the next Environmental Commission meeting.

Commissioner Miksicek provided an update from the Parks Commission.

The Parks Commission is beginning strategic planning for the renewal of the Parks and Recreation millage, tentatively scheduled for the August 2026 ballot. A suggestion arose to create an advocacy group, "Friends of the Millage," to help develop literature and garner support for their priorities.

Director Wisinski reviewed the Parks and Recreation budgets for March and April 2025. The commission reached a consensus on approving an updated Historic Village Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and lease renewal for the Friends of Historic Meridian. Further details on these documents are available in the April 8th meeting package.

During that meeting Director Wisinski also mentioned the proposed bioswale project at the southeast corner of Marshall Park, intended to address recurring flooding issues. This project is now on the Parks Commission's agenda, and they are awaiting the Environmental Commission's decision (which was just given) to explore the costs and details involved.

The next Parks Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13th, at 4:30 PM.

C. Teams

Commissioner Sarver provided an update from the Energy Team.

A recent Solarize meeting saw a good turnout of about 30 people, with roughly half of them requesting on-site proposals for solar installations. These proposals have been issued, and individuals now have until June 14th to decide whether to proceed. Commissioner Sarver expects to provide an update at the next meeting on how many of these proposals have resulted in actual solar installations.

Commissioner Frazier provided an update from the Green Team.

The Green Team recently hosted a highly successful Spring Recycling Event. It saw significant participation and collection numbers:

- 57 volunteers (including two from the Environmental Commission)
- 495 vehicles processed
- 8,775 pounds of paint collected
- 144 appliances with coolant collected by Consumers Energy
- 13 Gaylords of documents for shredding
- Approximately 50 bicycles collected
- 30 cubic yards of heavy metal items collected
- Hundreds of egg cartons collected for reuse, primarily by Titus Farms

Their next public event is scheduled for May 17th, focusing on "Planting a Native Meridian."

An update from the Food Composting Team was skipped as the topic had been well covered by the earlier presentation.

Commissioner Frazier provided an update from the Green Burial Committee.

The Green Burial Committee is aiming to present to the Township Board in July. This timing is to ensure all three committee members can be present. Importantly, the committee is no longer pursuing the grant that was discussed last year. This change could potentially free up funds for the previously discussed bioswale project.

D. Haslett/Okemos High School

Commissioner Batten provided an update from the High Schools with input from Commissioner Peterson. April was a busy month for sustainability initiatives within the school district.

Middle schools hosted numerous Earth Month activities. While more challenging at the high school due to class schedules, students still participated in events like the recent recycling drive.

The District Sustainability Team held a productive meeting on April 16th, focusing on developing a mission and vision statement to create a unified focus. The group is bonding and working towards common goals.

There are discussions about expanding the "Green Michigan Schools" designation to a district-wide "Green District" status.

High school students from the Sustainability Club toured the local Recycling Center, including the surplus store and various processing areas. This tour provided inspiration for potential initiatives at their own school, with a compost setup being a "dream goal."

The Key Club, a volunteer organization, received a grant to revitalize the high school courtyard. This has historically been difficult to maintain, but cleanup efforts have begun, with more work planned.

The elementary school's Earth Club, a group for younger students, engaged in fun activities like tie-dye. The club is wrapping up its year with picnics and continues to maintain strong momentum and positive feedback from participants.

E. Other

No reports.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No public comment.

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Trustee Lentz clarified that the presentation on the Red Cedar River Cleanup is already available online. It can be found within the first ten pages of the agenda and packet for the April 29th meeting on the Township website.

Commissioner Frazier reminded that Meridian Township's participation in the Michigan Green Communities Challenge is approaching its May 15th deadline. Given recent staff transitions within the Environmental Commission, it's uncertain if this year's application has been submitted yet. Chair McConnell thanked him for the reminder.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.



To: Environmental Commission

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

Jack Hughes, Project Engineer

Date: May 29, 2025

Re: 2025 Green Grant Award Recommendations – Round 2

The 2025 Green Grant Committee convened on March 31 to review the initial applications received by prior to the March 30 5 p.m. deadline.

The 2025 Green Grant Committee previously recommended, and the Environmental Commission previously approved, the following awards:

Applicant	Amount Requested	Min Amount Requested	Award Recommendation
Cornell Woods Homeowners Association	\$7,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Troop 30037	\$1,000.00	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy	\$5,200.00	TBD	TBD
Montessori Radmoor School	\$3,950.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,950.00
Pine Creek II of Haslett Condo Association	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	\$1,000.00
YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing-Parkwood YMCA Branch	\$2,607.00	\$1,480.00	\$2,607.00
TOTALS:	\$20,757.00	\$9,580.00	\$13,557.00
AVERAGE:	\$3,459.50	\$1,596.67	\$2,259.50

The Committee informed the Cornell Woods Homeowners Association that it would revisit the award that it has made for this project based on the answers to the following questions. We have included the Cornell Woods Homeowners Association’s responses to each question below:

1. **QUESTION:** The Committee would like the HOA to consider making this bioswale open to school groups from Cornell Elementary. Would the HOA be willing to consider this use of its land after the improvements have been made to the property through this grant?

ANSWER: Yes

Memo to Environmental Commission

May 29, 2025

Re: 2025 Green Grant Award Recommendations – Round 2

- 2. QUESTION: If the Committee is willing to allow Okemos Public Schools to use this area for educational purposes, would you be willing to ask Okemos Public Schools if they would be interested in using the site for educational purposes?

ANSWER: Yes

- 3. QUESTION: If the answer to questions 1 and 2 are yes, then would you be willing to include an educational sign that details the species that are planted and some basic information about each species?

ANSWER: Yes

- 4. QUESTION: Lastly, the Committee is wondering if you would consider working with your contractor to reduce the footprint of the project from .25 acre to a smaller footprint and excavate about 2' below the existing grade in the lowest lying area of the property where storm water currently ponds after sever rain events so that this would serve as stormwater detention like a traditional bioswale would. If this were pursued, we would recommend a 1:4 slope from the existing grade down to the bottom of the bioswale.

If this is something that the HOA wishes to pursue, can you please work with your contractor to determine how many square yards the bioswale would cover if we were to award the minimum \$5,000 versus the maximum of \$7,000?

ANSWER: No

Based on the feedback from the Cornell Woods Homeowners Association and the new application submitted by the Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy, the 2025 Green Grant Committee is recommending the following final awards:

Applicant	Amount Requested	Min Amount Requested	Round 2 Award Recommendations
Cornell Woods Homeowners Association	\$7,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$7,000.00
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Troop 30037	\$1,000.00	\$800.00	\$1,000.00
Montessori Radmoor School	\$3,950.00	\$2,000.00	\$3,950.00
Pine Creek II of Haslett Condo Association	\$1,000.00	\$300.00	\$1,000.00
YMCA of Metropolitan Lansing-Parkwood YMCA Branch	\$2,607.00	\$1,480.00	\$2,607.00
Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy	\$2,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,500.00

Memo to Environmental Commission
May 29, 2025
Re: 2025 Green Grant Award Recommendations – Round 2

TOTALS:	\$18,057.00	\$11,080.00	\$18,057.00
AVERAGE:	\$3,009.50	\$1,846.67	\$3,009.50
		Budgeted Funds:	\$20,000.00
		Remaining Funds:	\$1,943.00

We look forward to discussing this in greater detail with the Environmental Commission.

The following motion has been prepared for the Commission’s consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE AN INCREASE TO THE AWARD FOR THE CORNELL WOODS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION FROM \$5,000 TO \$7,000 AND AWARD \$2,500 TO THE MID-MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY.

Attachments:

1. Cornell Woods Homeowners Association 2025 Green Grant Application
2. Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy 2025 Green Grant Application



2025 Green Grants Application

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 30, 2025*

In previous years, grant awards ranged from \$300 to \$4,500

*Depending on the number of applications received during the initial grant application window from March 19-30, the Township may hold a second grant application window in April 2025.

Date: 03/21/2025

Name of Organization: Cornell Wood Homeowners

Primary Contact: Sarah Allen

Phone: 517-881-5244

Cell: 517-881-5244

Email: cornellwoodassociation@hc

A brief description of the project (i.e. location, scope of work, etc.):

Convert approximately 1/4 Acre of turfgrass in the Cornell Woods North Common Area to a biodiverse
Native plant landscape

Does the project align with [Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#)? If so, please explain:

Yes it does. It will 1. Plant many trees and plants to covert CO2, Create a cooling space, reduce *gas*
emissions from mowers & blowers

Team leader(s) and team member(s):

Sarah Allen, Miely Miller, and Charlie Kotz

Outreach plan to inform the community:

We will use facebook, our neighborhood newsletter and the Cornell Woods PTA to inform the *community*

Expected materials and/or services required to complete the project:

Contract with Bukk Schneider (WildType), herbicide for grass removal, native seed plantings, *install thick woody plants*

Project schedule (The grant agreement requires that projects be completed by December 31, 2025. The Township is willing to grant extensions if needed, but the applicant is required to request extensions in writing):

Spring of 2024: Site Preparation, Remove turf grass and oversee with native wildflowers. Summer
water & nurture new seeds, Fall plant Native Trees & perennials

Total Project Budget: \$7,000

Matching and/or in-kind contributions are encouraged. In-kind contributions are goods and/or services/labor hours that are donated toward the project (e.g. plants donated, volunteer labor hours, etc.). If proposing matching and/or in-kind contributions, please provide estimated amounts in your project budget. In-kind contributions can be quantified by simply listing the estimated number of volunteer hours that will be contributed through completion of the proposed project.

Award Amount Applied for: \$ 7,000

How scalable is the project?

The Township may not have available funds to award the full requested amount. Please explain if the project could be scaled back and list the minimum award amount your organization would need to proceed with a project.

The size of plot for native plantings and trees could be reduced if necessary

Minimum Award Amount Required to proceed with a scaled back project: \$ 5,000

Attachments: Please include a [W-9 form](#). Other optional items might include an operation and/or maintenance plan, pictures, rough designs/concept drawings, etc. Please list attachments:

- 1.

Please See Attachement



GREEN GRANT PROPOSAL

CORNELL WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD

2025

INTRODUCTION

The Cornell Woods Neighborhood Association is interested in continuing its efforts to “rewild” a portion of the neighborhood 2 1/2 acre common area. This large parcel, located in the northeast corner of the subdivision, is currently planted with turf grass, that is mowed regularly during the growing season. Four large native deciduous trees were planted in the northeast corner of this field in the Fall of 2022, thanks to Meridian Township Green Grant funding. This *new funding request* will enable us to further enhance the area where the trees have been planted. This next phase, to be started in the Spring of 2025 would involve:

- Removing approximately ¼ acre of grass, through application of herbicide
- Overseeding with native flowering plants
- Planting small woody trees and shrubs

DISCUSSION

This project seeks to attempt to create biodiversity, where there currently is none. These new plantings will, with time, create a habitat that is beneficial to songbirds, and the insects that they feed upon. Fortunately, this area is situated at the lower end of a downslope, so it receives water runoff from the entire field. This will minimize any need for supplemental watering. There is currently no shade, so the new plants will receive an abundance of sunlight throughout the day. There is an existing wetland, that runs along the border of Cornell Road, just to the east. However, the concrete sidewalk that borders the common area creates a barrier between the wetland and the grass common area. The trees that were planted three years ago, plus this new planting project will eventually create cooling shade over this entire area.

The financial cost of mowing this large field has been a cause for concern among Cornell Woods residents, as this has evolved into the major part of the annual “neighborhood association dues”. “Why are we paying so much to have the grass cut on this parcel with such regularity, when there are only a few residences that back up to this field”, has become a logical inquiry from residents, as the cost escalates each year. Removing this ¼ section from the regular mowing schedule will provide a small, but positive step in the right direction. Reducing CO2 emissions and decreasing the noise from gas powered leaf blowers, etc., are additional benefits of this project.

Finally, this common area is located about a 5 minute walk from Cornell Elementary school. The students at Cornell could learn a great deal about ecology, plant identification, bird life, etc., by making observations in this part of Cornell Woods.

COST ESTIMATION

2/18/25

Mini Forest

Trees	# of trees or shrubs	unit cost	subtotal	cost of one cage	subtotal of cages	bags of mulch per plant	cost of mulch per plant	subtotal for mulch
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i> - Hackberry - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
<i>Cercis canadensis</i> - Redbud - gallon	3	\$13.80	\$41.40	\$12.00	\$36.00	1	\$5.00	\$15.00
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> - Alternate Leaf Dogwood - gallon	3	\$13.80	\$41.40	\$12.00	\$36.00	1	\$5.00	\$15.00
<i>Gymnocladus dioica</i> - Kentucky Coffee Tree - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> - Tulip Poplar - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> - Sycamore - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
<i>Quercus alba</i> - White Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$5.25	\$31.50	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
<i>Quercus bicolor</i> - Swamp White Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> - Bur Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> - Chinquapin Oak - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
<i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i> - Chinquapin Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
<i>Quercus rubra</i> - Red Oak - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
<i>Quercus rubra</i> - Red Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
<i>Tilia americana</i> - Basswood - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
Shrubs								
<i>Cornus amomum</i> - Silky Dogwood - gallon	3	\$11.45	\$34.35	\$12.00	\$36.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$7.50
<i>Cornus sericea</i> - Red-osier Dogwood - gallon	3	\$11.45	\$34.35	\$12.00	\$36.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$7.50
<i>Corylus americana</i> - American Hazelnut - gallon	3	\$13.80	\$41.40	\$12.00	\$36.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$7.50
<i>Diervilla lonicera</i> - Bush Honeysuckle - gallon	6	\$11.45	\$68.70	\$12.00	\$72.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$15.00
<i>Sambucus racemosa</i> - Red-Berried Elder - gallon	6	\$11.45	\$68.70	\$12.00	\$72.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$15.00
<i>Viburnum lentago</i> - Nannyberry - gallon	3	\$11.45	\$34.35	\$12.00	\$36.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$7.50
	78		\$1,426.65		\$708.00			\$186.00

\$2,320.65
 \$4,400.00
 \$6,720.65
 \$1,200.00

The above table lists the plant identification, and cost for each plant. The objective is to create a density of favorable native plants, that will "take over" the area, and crowd out invasive grass and weeds. These are all plants native to this region, that should thrive and successfully transform this area. We are able to increase or decrease the total number of plants, depending on the Green Grant dollar amount. **The grant amount that we are requesting is \$7,000.**

This would allow for plant costs, labor, seeding, and other items such as mulch, and wire deer screening. The company that we have determined has the expertise and experience, is Wildtype. Bill Schneider has discussed this project with us, and has provided excellent guidance. He is a licensed herbicide applicator, and has worked on many similar projects.

We are hopeful that this project is deemed acceptable by Meridian Township, and we are sincerely thankful for the Green Grant team taking the time to consider our request.

CORNELL WOODS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2/18/25

Mini Forest

Trees	# of trees or shrubs	unit cost	subtotal	cost of one cage	subtotal of cages	bags of mulch per plant	cost of mulch per plant	subtotal for mulch
Celtis occidentalis - Hackberry - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
Cercis canadensis - Redbud - gallon	3	\$13.80	\$41.40	\$12.00	\$36.00	1	\$5.00	\$15.00
Cornus alternifolia - Alternate Leaf Dogwood - gallon	3	\$13.80	\$41.40	\$12.00	\$36.00	1	\$5.00	\$15.00
Gymnocladus dioica - Kentucky Coffee Tree - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
Liriodendron tulipifera - Tulip Poplar - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
Platanus occidentalis - Sycamore - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
Quercus alba - White Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$5.25	\$31.50	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
Quercus bicolor - Swamp White Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
Quercus macrocarpa - Bur Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
Quercus muehlenbergii - Chinquapin Oak - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
Quercus muehlenbergii - Chinquapin Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
Quercus rubra - Red Oak - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
Quercus rubra - Red Oak - RootMaker pruning pot	6	\$4.95	\$29.70	\$5.00	\$30.00	0.2	\$1.00	\$6.00
Tilia americana - Basswood - 7 gallon	2	\$73.50	\$147.00	\$14.00	\$28.00	1	\$5.00	\$10.00
Shrubs								
Cornus amomum - Silky Dogwood - gallon	3	\$11.45	\$34.35	\$12.00	\$36.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$7.50
Cornus sericea - Red-osier Dogwood - gallon	3	\$11.45	\$34.35	\$12.00	\$36.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$7.50
Corylus americana - American Hazelnut - gallon	3	\$13.80	\$41.40	\$12.00	\$36.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$7.50
Diervilla lonicera - Bush Honeysuckle - gallon	6	\$11.45	\$68.70	\$12.00	\$72.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$15.00
Sambucus racemosa - Red-Berried Elder - gallon	6	\$11.45	\$68.70	\$12.00	\$72.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$15.00
Viburnum lentago - Nannyberry - gallon	3	\$11.45	\$34.35	\$12.00	\$36.00	0.5	\$2.50	\$7.50
	78		\$1,426.65		\$708.00			\$186.00

\$2,320.65 material only

~~\$4,400.00~~ labor**\$6,720.65****\$1,200.00** follow-up maintenance training



2025 Green Grants – Instructions to Applicants

Background:

Inspired by local interest in wetland protection, flood prevention, environmental education, and climate sustainability, the Green Grant Program began in 2021. Applications are encouraged from schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, congregations, home owners associations, local clubs, and other parties located in Meridian Township.

Eligible Projects Include:

- Native Plants, Shrubs, and Trees
- Buffer zones/natural vegetation buffers
- Rain gardens/bioswales/other green stormwater management infrastructure
- Green roofs/living walls
- Outdoor classrooms/gathering spaces
- Natural shorelines
- Wetland preservation
- Signage (educational or place making)
- Stormwater management
- Composting facilities
- Renewable energy projects
- Educational projects that involve birds, bats, trees, native plants, and pollinators.
- Habitat protection and restoration

Please refer to www.greenschoolyards.org for additional project ideas.

Projects will be evaluated, in part, based on how well they align with the goals and objectives outlined in Meridian Township's [2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#). Please review the [2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#) to determine if your proposed project is in alignment. Ideally, applicants will speak to how well their project aligns with the [2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#) in their application.

Evaluation of Applications

Applications are evaluated by the Green Grant Committee based on clarity, educational value, ecological impact, and alignment with [Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#). The Green Grant Committee will recommend grant awards to the Environmental Commission for final approval. Please provide information requested on the Green Grant Application Form.

Grant Award Amounts:

The Environmental Commission may award an amount that is less than the amount requested. On your application, please provide the minimum award amount you will need to proceed with the project. Applicants may also propose scaled back projects that correspond with lower grant award amounts.

Grant awards in previous years have ranged from \$300-\$4,500.

Timelines:

March 30: Please submit application to the Green Grants Team at dpw@meridian.mi.us by Sunday, March 30 at 5:00 pm. There is a white drop box in front of the Meridian Township Municipal Building (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos) if an applicant would like to submit their application in a hard copy format. There may be an opportunity for a second application window if there are uncommitted funds after the first round of applications.

March 31-April 1: Green Grant Committee begins review.

April 2: Green Grant Committee presents recommendations to the Environmental Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting for their approval. The Environmental Commission is scheduled to meet at 7:00 pm in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Township Municipal Building (5151 Marsh Road, Okemos).

April 7-11: Township staff present the awardees with the 2025 Green Grant Agreements. The Township provides 50% payment upon receiving the signed grant agreement. The remaining grant funds will be paid out once the project has been completed, a site inspection has been completed by Township staff, and the Township receives an invoice for the remaining balance from the grant recipient.

September 5: Grant recipients must provide a written progress report, including pictures and other documents, that give a detailed but concise overview of the work that has been completed to date, what work is outstanding (if any), and a project schedule for all remaining work (if any).

October 1: Township staff present to the Environmental Commission and Township Board on the current status of all 2025 grant awards.

December 31: Project completion deadline (unless the grant recipient requests an extension in writing and it is approved by the Township).

Questions

For questions, please contact the Meridian Township Department of Public Works & Engineering at dpw@meridian.mi.us.

Please fill out the application on the next page.



2025 Green Grants Application

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on Sunday, March 30, 2025*

In previous years, grant awards ranged from \$300 to \$4,500

*Depending on the number of applications received during the initial grant application window from March 19-30, the Township may hold a second grant application window in April 2025.

Date:

Name of Organization:

Primary Contact:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

A brief description of the project (i.e. location, scope of work, etc.):

Does the project align with [Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#)? If so, please explain:

Team leader(s) and team member(s):

Outreach plan to inform the community:

Expected materials and/or services required to complete the project:

Project schedule (The grant agreement requires that projects be completed by December 31, 2025. The Township is willing to grant extensions if needed, but the applicant is required to request extensions in writing):

Total Project Budget: \$3,100

Matching and/or in-kind contributions are encouraged. In-kind contributions are goods and/or services/labor hours that are donated toward the project (e.g. plants donated, volunteer labor hours, etc.). If proposing matching and/or in-kind contributions, please provide estimated amounts in your project budget. In-kind contributions can be quantified by simply listing the estimated number of volunteer hours that will be contributed through completion of the proposed project.

Award Amount Applied for: \$ _____

How scalable is the project?

The Township may not have available funds to award the full requested amount. Please explain if the project could be scaled back and list the minimum award amount your organization would need to proceed with a project.

Minimum Award Amount Required to proceed with a scaled back project: \$ 1500_____

Attachments: Please include a [W-9 form](#). Other optional items might include an operation and/or maintenance plan, pictures, rough designs/concept drawings, etc. Please list attachments:

1.

- Jared Harmon's time: 20 hours @ \$30/hour = \$600
- Use of planting tools (auger, dibble bars)
- Volunteer time calculated at federal volunteer rate (~\$31.80/hour)