



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee (Environmental Commission), Mark Stephens (Park Commission), Angela Demas (Township Board).
ABSENT: Kris Parnell.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

a. June 11, 2025

Board Member Fay moved to approve the June 11, 2025 Agenda to place on file. Commissioner Lee seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

4. APPROVE MINUTES

a. April 9, 2025

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the April 9, 2025 minutes to place on file. Clerk Demas seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

b. May 14, 2025

Board Member Fay moved to approve the May 14, 2025 minutes to place on file. Commissioner Lee seconded.

Chair Hiller makes a motion to update the May 14, 2025 minutes to include the sentence after 6 pm to conduct a site visit and ecological screening. Clerk Demas makes a motion to change the meeting from a Regular Meeting to a Special meeting in the title. Clerk Demas seconded.

Roll Call:

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

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Nays: None.

Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to approve minutes as amended. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. None.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Acquisition Prioritization (Exhibit A)

i. Part 1: Current Land Preservation inventory & management efforts

1. Comments about ecological inventory additions:

- a. Degree of remnant habitat
- b. Ease of restorability
- c. Obstacles to restorability
- d. Rephrasing the word ‘use’ under Aesthetic Value to include more specific language (preserves are not for recreation, but can provide educational and deer management opportunities)
- e. Parcel size may not need as large of a scoring section

2. Environmental Quality Section: Phase I Environmental Assessment are a requirement as part of the screening process. Instead of having board members fill this out, have the information added to the score once the Phase I Environmental Assessment is included.

3. A Land Use History should be included to give more information on the area for the ecological screening

4. Commissioner Lee proposes that we can make decisions about scoring as a group and come to a decision together for scoring instead of scoring as individuals

- a. Vice Chair Thomas proposes that we score as individuals and then get together to discuss the group scoring

5. Cost of Land scoring. Incorporate this into the scoring once the appraisal is completed and returned.

6. Chair Hiller proposes that the Environmental Commission should take a look at the final scoring that LPAB drafts

b. Cornell-Sweetwood Preserve Naming (Exhibit B)

- i. Geographical location references help public know where the preserve is

Chair Hiller makes a motion to move into closed session. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

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- c. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration
 - i. Parcel A
 - ii. Parcel B

Commissioner Stephens moved to end closed session. Vice Chair Thomas seconded.

Roll Call:

Yayes: Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay, Angela Demas.

Nays: None.

(END CLOSED SESSION)

Chair Hiller moved to not pursue further action for the acquisition of Parcel A. Clerk Demas seconded.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

Chair Hiller makes a motion to take such action as discussed in relation to Parcel B. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None.

7. REPORTS

- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - i. MCC June Stewardship Calendar (Exhibit C)
 - 1. Organizing contractual work
 - 2. Native plantings and habitat restoration
- b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - i. Wetland use permit discussion: Bike-pedestrian pathway to connect two neighborhoods at the Smith Consolidated Drain. Wetland mitigation was used to offset the 0.3 acres.
 - ii. Bioswale at Marshall Park proposal created using the Climate Sustainability Funds.
 - iii. Finished approving two Green Grants at HOA properties. Approved Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy Green Grant. Commission plans to re-evaluate the Green Grant program and reporting procedure.
 - iv. Green Fair is August 17, perhaps Stewardship staff can have wetland education materials at that event.
 - v. Climate Sustainability Funding; Township Board is going to re-evaluate. How do

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goals overlap for the CSP in conjunction with Land Preservation

- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
 - i. Did not have a park commission meeting this month.
 - ii. Currently going over the 5 year master plan for parks and recreation department. Listening sessions and online surveys will be available to help staff create the 5 year plan. Next listening session is September 30.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Lee moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair seconded.

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.

Exhibit A



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

LAND PRESERVATION ACQUISITION & STEWARDSHIP RECORD
UPDATED JULY 2024

Land Preserves: 25

Acquisitions: 45

Acres of Current Land Preserves: 980 acres

- The original goal of the program set in 2000 was to acquire 600 acres, or 10% of identified available land; the Land Preservation Program is currently at 17%

Total acquisition costs = \$9,559,708

***Please see in Preserve Bios Document for full descriptions of parcels**

Land Preserves

1. Davis-Foster Preserve

- Location: East and west sides of Van Atta Road approximately ¼ mile south of Tihart Road
- Area: 108.90 acres (2 parcels)
- Year Acquired: 2006
- Purchase Price: \$1,650,000
- Description: Former farm; riparian and lowland hardwoods, shrub-scrub and emergent wetlands, and savannah grasslands and woodlands (active management areas)
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Restoration of grasslands funded in part by U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
 - Regular maintenance of the grassland through prescribed ecological burns and targeted invasive species treatments
 - Staff management of invasive phragmites in remnant wetland along Van Atta Road 2021
 - Contractual management of invasive phragmites in the same area since 2022
 - Contractual management of invasive black locust will commence in fall of 2024-2025 season
 - Native seed collection from remnant seedbank locations as well as seeded areas
 - Seed Sowing and transplanting native species in remnant wetlands as well as seeded grassland area
 - Seeds and transplants are all collected from remnant native seedbank areas. Transplants are grown from seed collected by MCC staff and volunteers and given to local native nurseries to grow for planting back into preserves.
 - Prescribed Burn Program (Burn Unit maps are outlined in the Davis Foster Preserve management Plan)
 - April 2012, 14 acres on East side of Van Atta Rd, Unit 3 on Burn Map
 - Spring 2014, 14 acres on East side of Van Atta Rd, Burn Unit 3, and 5.5 acres on West side of Van Atta Rd., Burn Unit 4
 - March 2016, 17 acres on East side of Van Atta Rd., Burn Unit 2
 - October 2016, 17 acres on East side of Van Atta Rd., Burn Unit 1
 - March 2019, 14 acres on East side of Van Atta Rd., Burn Unit 3. The burn jumped a fire break and also burned almost all of Burn Unit 2.

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- April 2021, 4.5 acres of remnant wetland on East side of Van Atta Rd.
- April 2023, 4.5 acres on of remnant wetland on East side Van Atta Rd.
- April 2024, 17 acres on East side of Van Atta Road, Burn Unit 1

2. Foster-Crouse Preserve

- Location: North side of Newman Road approximately 1 mile north of Grand River Avenue and ¼ mile west of Meridian Road
- Area: 18.08 acres
- Year Acquired: 2002
- Purchase Price: Donation
- Description: Mixed deciduous upland and lowland forest and emergent wetlands
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Trail maintenance to widen trails and manage invasive species trailside.
 - Priority invasive species removal; black swallow-wort, Asiatic bittersweet
 - Black swallow-wort was identified at the site in fall of 2024

3. Hubbel Preserve

- Location: Okemos Road approximately ½ mile north of Grand River Avenue and north of railroad crossing
- Area: 57.66 acres
- Year Acquired: 2003
- Purchase Price: Donation
- Description: Mixed deciduous lowland forest and shrub-scrub upland

4. Kuzma Preserve

- Location: East side of Carleton Street north of Haslett Road and south of railroad crossing
- Area: 0.32 acres
- Year Acquired: 2003
- Purchase Price: Donation
- Description: Pond

5. Lake Lansing North Preserve

- Location: Southern additions to Ingham County Lake Lansing North Park
- Area: 120 acres (3 parcels)
- Year Acquired: 2010
- Purchase Price: \$675,000 (Township contribution toward DNRE Grant Purchase, approx. \$1.2 million)
- Description: Mixed deciduous upland and lowland forest and forested wetlands
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Prescribed burn on forest floor to encourage spring ephemerals and oaks and discourage invasive species from growing; recent burns in fall of 2021 & 2023
 - Installation of 4 deer exclosures to monitor seedling survival
 - Invasive species removal of autumn olive, Japanese barberry and other invasive shrubs
 - Native seed collection from remnant seedbank locations
 - Seed Sowing and transplanting native species throughout preserve
 - Seeds and transplants are all collected from remnant native seedbank areas. Transplants are grown from seed collected by MCC staff and volunteers and given to local native nurseries to grow for planting back into preserves.

Land Preservation Advisory Board Agenda Item 6.B.A.

6. Newman Equities Preserve

- Location: Central Park Drive adjacent to the MSU Credit Union
- Area: 13.41 acres
- Year Acquired: 2004
- Purchase Price: Donation
- Description: Shrub-scrub wetland and mixed deciduous upland
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Trash pickup since 2021; a large volume of trash blows into this area from surrounding businesses

7. Towar Woods

- Location: Northwest corner of Meridian Township along the northern boundary of the Tower Neighborhood and the western boundary of Walnut Hills Country Club
- Area: 124.8 acres (10 parcels)
- Year Acquired: 2004 through 2008
- Purchase Price: TOTAL \$2,351,561:
 - Ranes 11.26 ac. \$300,000 (2006)
 - Ranes 15 ac. \$300,000 (2006)
 - Van Acker 9.2 ac. \$180,000 (2004)
 - Van Acker 9.42 ac. \$180,000 (2004)
 - DNR 3.16 ac. \$4,261 (2002)
 - Whitcomb 3.91 ac. \$19,000 (2008)
 - DNR 8.06 ac. \$300 (2004)
 - East Lansing Schools 24 ac. \$118,000 (2007)
 - Walnut Hills 14.72 ac. \$625,000 (2005)
 - Walnut Hills 25 ac. \$625,000 (2005)
 - Mitroka Addition 1 ac. Donation (2017)
- Description: Mixed deciduous forested wetlands
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Goal is to reforest the eastern part of the preserve with native hardwood species and contain spread of invasive Buckthorn
 - Planted 2,000 red pines and 1,000 white pines in the preserve
 - Planted hundreds of native hardwood trees protected with Blue-X tubes & fencing enclosures
 - 300 planted in 2019
 - 200 planted in 2020
 - 200 planted in 2022
 - Installed a deer enclosure and planted 20-30 native hardwood trees within it
 - Invasive management:
 - 6 total acres of professional shrub clearing (mostly invasive shrubs)
 - Regular herbicide treatments of Buckthorn, Honeysuckle, and Autumn Olive for past 9 years throughout the entire preserve focusing on the eastern portion
 - Contractual brush hogging of common buckthorn on 12 acres of native tree plantation area
 - 2022 & 2024

8. Pike Crossing Preserve

- Location: West side of Carleton Street north of Haslett Road and south of railroad crossing
- Area: 5.5 acres (2 parcels)
- Year Acquired: 2010
- Purchase Price: \$25,000 + \$2,507 (winter tax bill) = \$27,507

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- Description: Old field
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Chemical and mechanical management of Japanese knotweed and teasel

9. Okemos Road Preserve

- Location: Okemos Road approximately ½ mile north of Grand River Avenue and south of railroad crossing
- Area: 60.22 acres (2 parcels)
- Year Acquired: 2005
- Purchase Price: Partial Donation, \$80,000
- Description: Mixed shrub-scrub and deciduous woodlands, old field, and forested wetlands
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Removal of common buckthorn, amur honeysuckle, Asiatic bittersweet and autumn olive from wetland mitigation area, and in higher quality woodland areas
 - Vernal Pool monitoring by volunteers
 - Trash removal from College Apartments entrance with boy scout group in 2022 (20 tires removed, and over 3,000 pounds of trash)

10. Sower Woods Preserve

- Location: North and south of Sower Boulevard west of Okemos Road
- Area: 17.97 (5 parcels)
- Year Acquired: 2005 through 2008
- Purchase Price: TOTAL \$240,242:
 - 5.43 ac. \$231,000 (2005)
 - 1.36 ac. \$4,261 (2002)
 - 5.166 ac. \$4,261 (2002)
 - 4.038 ac. \$720 (2008)
 - 1.77 ac. \$4,261 (2002)
- Description: Moist upland hardwood forest and lowland mixed hardwoods
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Neighborhood volunteers routinely remove small invasive species by hand and plant native species in their place
 - Once a year since 2021 the Meridian Conservation Corps removes herbaceous invasive plants in the spring, and sows native seeds in the fall

11. Cornell Wetland Preserve

- Location: Southwest corner of Tihart Road and Cornell Road
- Area: 21.26 acres
- Year Acquired: 2006
- Purchase Price: \$206,000
- Description: Mixed shrub-scrub and forested wetlands
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Large trash removal from wetland; 27 tires, over 4,000 pounds of trash
 - Native seed collection from remnant seed collection sites
 - Shrubby invasive removal from upland area on Cornell Road
 - Management of purple loosestrife and phragmites in ditch along Tihart Road

12. Heron Creek & Serafine Preserve

- Location: North of Bennett Road at the eastern boundaries of Champion Woods and Heron Creek neighborhoods and eastern boundary of College Fields Country Club
- Area: 91 acres (4 parcels)

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- Year Acquired: 2010
- Purchase Price: TOTAL = \$1,460,000 A: \$157,161
B: \$216,369
C: \$733,058
D: \$193,412
14 ac. Serafine addition: \$160,000 (2017)
- Description: Upland deciduous woodlands, old field, and emergent wetlands
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Unintentional fire gave an opportunity to install a 7 acre native grassland on the property
 - Herbaceous and shrubby invasive removal in 2021 and 2022
 - Native seed collection since 2022 from remnant areas in preserve
 - Serafine addition is being eradicated of invasive shrubs by neighborhood volunteers who also plant native species along Mount Hope Road, along Heron Creek, and in the middle of the grassland area

13. Sumbal Preserve

- Location: Okemos Road, southern boundary of Ferguson Park
- Area: 20.31 acres
- Year Acquired: 2004
- Purchase Price: Donation
- Description: Riparian hardwood forest
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Removal of honeysuckle from button bush swamp by individual volunteers in the neighboring area
 - Native seed collection from remnant wetland areas

14. Red Cedar Glen (Sylvan Glen) Preserve

- Location: Between east end of Sylvan Glen Road and western boundary of Legg Park
- Area: 14.91 acres
- Year Acquired: 2006
- Purchase Price: \$425,000
- Description: Riparian hardwood forest; bottomland and upland deciduous forest
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Drain maintenance/erosion control
 - Mechanical removal and herbicide treatment of Autumn Olive
 - Native seed collection from remnant seedbank locations
 - Seed Sowing and transplanting native species in woodland opening on border of Legg Park
 - Seeds and transplants are all collected from remnant native seedbank areas. Transplants are grown from seed collected by MCC staff and volunteers and given to local native nurseries to grow for planting back into preserves.
 - First prescribed fire in the spring of 2023 on 4 acres

15. Towner Wetland (Applegate) Preserve

- Location:
- Area: 14.96 acres
- Year Acquired: 2006
- Purchase Price: \$207,645
- Description: Emergent wetland and shrub-scrub upland

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- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - 2024-25 season will include:
 - Removing large dumping piles of yard waste from preserve entrance at the end of Wilder Court
 - Installing a boundary fence and rule signage at the same entrance
 - Letters to go out to neighbors notifying them of planned stewardship work and reminder of preserve ordinances
 - Managing purple loosestrife in wetland area

16. Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve

- Location: Haslett Road, ¼ mile west of Marsh Road
- Area: 24.78 acres (2 parcels)
- Year Acquired: 2003-2004
- Purchase Price: TOTAL= \$93,000 [13.36 ac. (\$50,000); 11.38 ac. (\$43,000)]
- Description: Scrub-shrub, emergent, and forested wetlands
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Native seed collection from middle wetland area
 - Removal of trash from middle wetland area
 - 2024-25 removal of common and glossy buckthorn from bridge over wetland – increase visibility in that area, and begin restoring area around remnant native wetland plants
 - Contractual management of invasive phragmites since 2023 off the Inter-Urban trail

17. Red Cedar River East Preserve

- HOWE (original preserve area)
 - Location: Southwest corner of Grand River Avenue – Meridian Road junction
 - Area: 9.14 acres (2 parcels)
 - Year Acquired: 2010
 - Purchase Price: \$92,000
 - Description: Riparian hardwood forest
- **Wangler addition**
 - Location: Southwest of Grand River Avenue – Meridian Road junction
 - Area: 13.30 acres
 - Year Acquired: 2011
 - Purchase Price: \$13,106.89 (tax- reverted property from Ingham County Land Bank)
 - Description: Adjacent to Red Cedar River, wooded, wetland, floodplains

18. Glacial Ridge (Whitehills) Preserve

- Location: Adjacent to Whitehills Lake subdivision at Whitehills Lake Drive and Fenwick Court
- Area: 25 acres
- Year Acquired: 2010
- Purchase Price: \$400,000
- Description: Mixed hardwood forest and shrub-scrub
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Planting of White Oak trees
 - Contractual management of invasive phragmites from wetland located off Mereford Court since 2021
 - Cutting of invasive phragmites thatch in fall/winter of 2023-24 for neighborhood visibility

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19. Forest Grove (White M-78) Preserve

- Location: on the east side of Old M-78 (Saginaw Street), and the west side of Newton Road, north of Lake Lansing Road, and south of Towner Road.
- Area: 20.4 acres
- Year Acquired: 2011
- Purchase Price: \$425,000
- Description: Heavily wooded and much of the property is wetland
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Remnant native plant inventory as a native seed collection site for Planting a Native Meridian program

20. Tank Wetland Preserve

- Location: near Carlton and Lake Drive
- Area: 2.51 acres
- Year Acquired: 2016
- Purchase Price: Donation
- Description: 100% wetland

21. Tihart Preserve (Linn)

- Location: Tihart Rd.
- Area: 90 acres
- Year Acquired: 2018
- Purchase Price: \$600,000
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Mechanical & chemical management of invasive species such as autumn olive, invasive honeysuckle species, Asiatic bittersweet, reed canary grass, field thistle and bull thistle
 - Chemical management of purple loosestrife and invasive phragmites in the ditch along Tihart Road since 2022
 - Native seed sowing and transplanting in front 'farm field' area since 2021.
 - Seeds and transplants are all collected from remnant native seedbank areas. Transplants are grown from seed collected by MCC staff and volunteers and given to local native nurseries to grow for planting back into preserves.
 - Contractual brush hogging in front 5 acres of 'farm field' planting area in spring of 2024. Goal was to open up more sunlight for seeded areas.

22. Mandenberg Woods

- Location: Hamilton Rd. Okemos
- Area: 4 acres
- Year Acquired: 2018
- Purchase Price: \$63,000
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Native plant inventory and preliminary survey of trash sites completed in spring of 2024
 - Planned trash removal and invasive management will begin in 2025

23. Ponderosa

- 92 acres

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- Purchase Price: \$485,100 (because we received a \$514,900 MNRTF grant) – Total land value was 1.2 million
- Year Acquired: 2018
- **Major Stewardship Activities:**
 - Management of Japanese Knotweed stand
 - Staff has chemically managed the stand since 2022
 - Trail maintenance has been completed since 2021 by MSU students and MCC volunteers, removing invasives such as autumn olive that are crowding the trail
 - Invasive species management in the oak/hickory woodlands
 - 2 vernal pools were identified in 2024 and will be monitored in the 2025 season

24. Nemoke Preserve

- 12 acres
- Year Acquired: 2018
- Purchase price: \$3,547

25. Cornell-Sweetwood Preserve

- 2.97 acres (mostly wetland)
- Year Acquired: 2023
- Purchase Price: \$62,000
- Still implementing boundary markers and preserve signage

DRAFT LAND PRESERVATION SITE SCREENING CRITERIA

AN ADVISORY REPORT FOR THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP BOARD

Submitted By
Meridian Township Environmental Commission

In July, 2000, the Land Preservation Task Force submitted a final report to the Township Board outlining a number of recommendations for preserving open space lands and natural features in Meridian Township. Included in the Task Force report was an evaluation system outlining site selection review criteria to identify, evaluate, and distinguish properties within the Township that represent important open green spaces or special natural features for potential preservation. The Task Force also recommended that the Township Board have the Environmental Commission review these criteria, and offer suggestions for refinement. This advisory report is submitted by the Environmental Commission pursuant to a request by the Township Board for that review and refinement of the criteria.

The suggested screening criteria as refined by the Environmental Commission were organized according to a cumulative weighted point system; and, were selected to reflect the general objectives outlined by the Land Preservation Task Force. The suggested criteria expanded on the three general criteria suggested by the Task Force:

- Criterion #1 Based on parcel size and relationship to adjoining properties.
- Criterion #2 Based on identifiable physical characteristics.
- Criterion #3 Based on percent of property within a designated category.

These criteria represent guidelines that can be used to assist the Land Preservation Advisory Board and Township Board in selecting candidate sites for acquisition. The criteria were developed through discussion and debate among Environmental Commissioners of the relative merits of various weighted factors that could be considered in assessing the ecological, open space, and functional value of land resources of the Township. The criteria primarily are environmental in content and scope and should be considered as advisory only. They can and should be modified as necessary in accordance with additional considerations of the decision makers, stakeholders, and citizens of Meridian Township. Some of these additional factors might include real estate value, purchase price and return on investment, willing seller-willing buyer, and liability concerns.

The criteria were selected to help decision makers identify and prioritize those land areas within the Township that represent the most important or valuable

open space or natural features that should be preserved for the enjoyment of both present and future generations of citizens. No attempt was made to exclude particular land use alternatives or interests. We assumed that the intention of the Land Preservation Task Force was to identify and protect the "best of the best" of our natural heritage.

We have also tried to identify various factors that could be used in the weighting process to better describe and provide rationale for selecting among a number of candidate sites. These were identified as categories and subcategories. Each category was assigned an overall value, expressed (and ranked as to relative importance) as a total number of points. Each category was then broken down into several subcategories, each of which received a weighted value. This ranking/weighting system is shown in the accompanying graphic. Total point value and weighting factors provide the ability to analyze site characteristics, assign points for each, and then provide a cumulative score for each property.

Suggested criteria that could be used in the evaluation process include the following categories, ranked in decreasing order of importance:

- (1) Ecological value. Sites that would rank highest include those that are of statewide or regional, as well as, local importance. Other sites of high ecological value would include areas that are known to contain endangered, threatened, or rare wildlife and plants that are protected by state or federal law, or those that have significant habitat resources for such species, and species that are of concern locally. Such areas are of critical importance in the protection of viable natural populations and communities. Areas that provide corridors for wildlife movement or for greenways are of lesser importance, but should be considered important nonetheless.
- (2) Natural or functional value. These sites are important because of the role they play in maintaining the functional integrity or to the overall diversity of ecosystems, both natural and human. Such areas might provide upland buffers for areas, including wetlands, already protected by state or local regulations. Other areas could contain unique features, including prime soils, woodlots, and recharge or flood control zones that help maintain stability over time.
- (3) Parcel size. This criterion recognizes the dwindling open space within the Township and the need to acquire properties of sufficient size to ensure protection of natural features and functions. The preference is to acquire larger land units or areas that are already contiguous to protected properties to increase the likelihood that the resultant areas would eventually function as a total unit. On the other hand, small parcels that contain unique natural values should also be considered.

Land Screening Criteria

Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board

Revised June 2010

Property/Parcel:

Reviewer Name:

Date:

Land Preservation Category	Subcategory	Weighting/ Ranking	Point Value	Partial Points	Total
Ecological Value (100 points)	Contains potential populations of protected species or ecosystems of state or regional importance	0.40	40.0		
	Contains overall high diversity of species or ecosystems of local importance	0.30	30.0		
	Contains potential habitat for protected species	0.15	15.0		
	Helps connect greenspace and wildlife corridors	0.10	10.0		
	Other ecological values	0.05	5.0		
Natural/Functional Value (90 points)	Important upland buffer to an area otherwise permanently protected (wetland, riparian area, or shoreline)	0.35	31.5		
	Contains important woodlot or woodland to minimize habitat loss or fragmentation	0.25	22.5		
	Contains prime/unique soils or agricultural values	0.20	18.0		
	Provides ground water recharge and water quality enhancement; enhances flood and storm water control	0.15	13.5		
	Important natural feature not protected by other means	0.05	4.5		
Parcel Size (80 points)	Large land area (> 40 acres) with potential, through succession, to become important natural resource	0.50	40.0		
	Parcel > 5 acres, contiguous to permanently preserved property or one which has PUD/PDR offered	0.25	20.0		
	Parcel > 5 acres	0.15	12.0		
	Parcel < 5 acres having important habitat value	0.10	8.0		
Surrounding Land Uses (70 points)	Contiguous to protected property (e.g., wetland, riparian area, park)	0.35	24.5		
	Open space value of property can be protected after purchase or low probability of encroachment	0.25	17.5		
	Contiguous to agricultural area	0.20	14.0		
	Contiguous to residential area	0.15	10.5		
	Contiguous to mixed use area	0.05	3.5		
Environmental Quality (40 points)	Contains no known environmental contamination	0.80	32.0		
	Contains possible environmental contamination; can be remediated	0.15	6.0		
	Contains known environmental contamination; remediation possible but potentially costly	0.05	2.0		
Aesthetic Value (40 points)	Provides open greenspace to separate incompatible land uses or monotony of same uses	0.55	22.0		
	Provides unique multiple use opportunities	0.30	12.0		
	Aesthetic values exceptional for township	0.15	6.0		
Special Considerations (Maximum of 40 points)	Subcriteria determined on a case-by-case basis				

Optional: Add property description, observations, and other notes (use reverse side for additional space).

Meridian Township
 - Proposal for Qualitative & Quantitative
 Rating System for New Property Acquisitions

↓ Examples: (Circle One, comment if desired) ↓

1) Size

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
↑				↑	↑			↑		↑
under 1 acre				30-40 acres				over 200 acres		
Comments:										

2) Connectivity to Public Land

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
↑				↑	↑			↑		↑
> 1,000ft from public park/preserve				1 side adjacent to park/preserve				Enclosed by park/preserve		
Comments:										

3) Cost

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9
↑				↑	↑			↑		↑
Donation > \$200,000 per acre				\$15,000 to \$20,000 per acre				Donation		
Comments:										

4) Diversity of Habitats

5) Habitat Quality ~~Getc.~~ etc.



2023 REQUEST FOR BIDS

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Prescribed Burn Treatment

Owner: Meridian Charter Township
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840

Contact Person: Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator
Phone: 517-853-4614
Email: ecampbell@meridian.mi.us

Project Name: Legg Park Prescribed Burn Treatment

1. REQUEST

Site Specifications:

Legg Park (3891 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI 48864): Prescribed burn of approximately 7.8 acres in Legg Park. Current condition of the burn unit is largely an oak dominated deciduous forest with relatively few understory shrubs. The location has probably not experienced fire in at least 40 years. The burn unit is surrounded by a well-used foot trail about 8 feet wide with vehicle on southern portions of the trail and ATV access to the entire trail. The Red Cedar River runs parallel to the northern edge of the burn unit, and is just beyond the northern foot trail that would serve as a designated burn break. Fuels on average are moderately well developed but somewhat patchy, and consist mostly of oak leaves. Desired fire intensity is moderate (flame heights between 1 and 2 feet are ideal, but slightly cooler or slightly hotter would be acceptable). There are residential neighborhoods located to the west of the preserve, as well as to the north across the river. They will receive letters notifying them of the burn. Pictures of the area are located on the next page (Fig. 1 & Fig. 2).

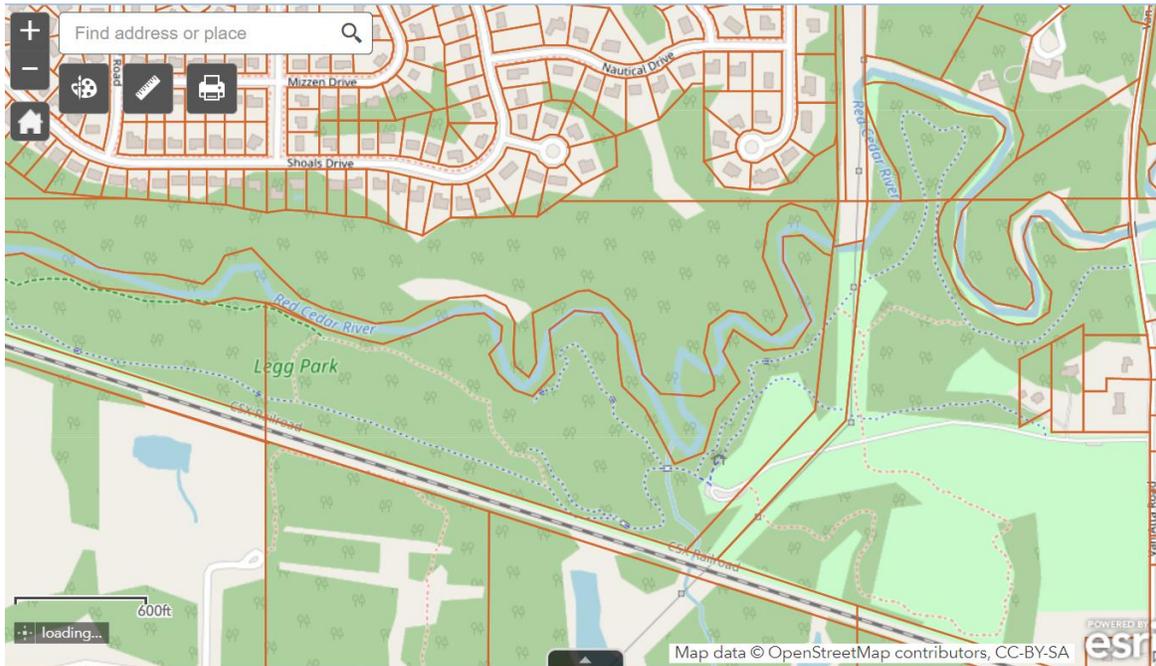
Goals of Legg Park Burn: The primary goal of the fire would be to stimulate herbaceous vegetation and provide better habitat for insects as we expand stewardship in this area, which has included invasive species removal and native plantings of woodland flora. There is a desire to increase sunlight in this area to improve growing condition for native woodland flowers. An ideal prescribed burn would consume most of the duff layer and top-kill some percentage of the numerous ash sapling, beech and maple seedlings, etc.

A fall burn for 2023 is strongly preferred (November 1 through December, 2023). It is assumed that the burn will be prioritized by the prescribed burn vendor when suitable weather occurs, and thus completed during that timeframe. However, if legal contingencies or contracting delays prevent the prescribed burn vendor from conducting the work in November or December of 2023, the burn contract will remain in force and the burn shall take place in spring (January through April 7, 2024). Burning outside of these timeframes is not preferred and can only occur under discussion with Meridian Township. Missing these preferred timeframes may result in no burn at all, and forfeiture of the contract.

(Fig. 1) The prescribed burn area of approximately 7.8 acres located within Legg Park. The boundary shown in white consists of a well-used foot trail.



(Fig. 2) The property boundary of Legg Park with Red Glen Preserve located to the west and residential neighbors to the north.



Township staff and/or volunteers will be available to cooperate with the prescribed burn vendor as needed, by walking burn units, inspecting fire breaks, or discussing contingencies or sensitive locations within the weeks, days, or hours prior to the prescribed burn.

2. SCOPE OF WORK FOR BID

- Prescribed burn treatment of Legg Park in Meridian Township, of approximately 7.8 acres.

3. CONTENT OF PROPOSAL

- An itemized amount for the product.
- Timeline for treatment plan.
- References for work to be completed (minimum of 3).

4. THE COMPANY CHOSEN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Creating a burn plan that includes emergency contacts, appropriate weather conditions in which the burn could take place and the proposed crew make up
- Discussion of burn plan with the Meridian Township Fire Chief and obtaining the necessary burn permit from Tavis Millerov, Fire Inspector
 - Contractor may be responsible for fire department fee, which can be passed on to Meridian Township in their invoice
- Conducting the prescribed burn treatment of approximately 7.8 total acres of Legg Park, located in Meridian Township
- Supplementing burn breaks the day of, as needed
- Notifying all necessary parties immediately prior to the burn
- Providing required types of insurance coverage:

- Commercial General Liability Insurance: The Contractor shall procure and maintain on an “Occurrence Basis” with limits of liability not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and aggregate.
- Workers Compensation Insurance: The Contractor, including sole proprietors with any employees, shall procure and maintain during the life of this contract, Worker’s Compensation Insurance, including Employers’ Liability Coverage, in accordance with all applicable statutes of the State of Michigan. If the Contractor is a sole proprietor with no other employees, in lieu of Workers’ Compensation Insurance, the Contractor must submit a Waiver of Workers Compensation.
- Motor Vehicle Liability: The Contractor shall procure and maintain during the life of this contract Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance, including Michigan No-Fault Coverages’ with limits of liability not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence.

5. JUDGING OF PROPOSALS

- Meridian Township reserves the right to reject all bids, waive informalities or irregularities, and accept the bid that it determines to be in the best interest of its park users.

6. SUBMISSION

Fill out the form on the next page and return by the submission date. Bids shall be sent to Emma Campbell by email or mail

Email: ecampbell@meridian.mi.us

Mail: MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840

Please see the next page for the bid form. Bids will be accepted up until 5:00PM on Feb. 17th, 2023

Prescribed Burn Treatment Company Form

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation

Business Name: _____

Contact: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax: _____

Total Not-to-Exceed Cost: \$ _____

Bids will be accepted up until 5:00 pm on February 17th, 2023.

Exhibit B

Policy Statement for Naming Meridian Parks

Adopted by Park Commission April 15, 2008

The Meridian Township Park Commission, hereby establishes this policy regarding the naming of public parks and park features within the Township. The name shall be based upon criteria established by this policy with the Park Commission having the final authority. Consideration will be given to naming, but not limited to, these listed examples.

Park Names

- May be named for a person, family, organization, corporation or other entity that played a significant role in the founding and early development or redevelopment of the Park.
 - A benefactor donated all of the park land or contributed 75% or more of the purchase price for the park land.
 - A benefactor who made a significant gift to the parks of a minimum of \$500,000.
 - A person can be recognized for sustained commitment and dedication to the park

Park Buildings/Facilities

- New Facilities or additions to existing facilities consistent with the latest 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and/or projects approved by the Park Commission, may be selected for funding by a benefactor wishing to make a gift for the construction of a specific facility.

Park Feature or Element Names

- A park feature or element such as, but not limited to, a structure, addition to a structure, an amenity (benches, grills, play equipment), an athletic field, or a bridge, may be named for a donor who contributes 100% of the cost for the element.
- A benefactor who provides a significant bequest of \$250,000 or more to a Park may be honored by having a particular park feature named on behalf of that donor.

Endowed Position Names

- A particular position, such as that of a Nature Center Naturalist, may be named for a benefactor who funds an endowment, the proceeds of which would be sufficient to fund the salary and fringe benefits of such a position.

Miscellaneous

- If the name is not used in the actual name of the Park, a sign, marker or plaque honoring the person's memory can be placed in the Park in accordance with the applicable regulations and policies of the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Under some circumstances, a portion of donations or bequests may be designated for perpetual care and maintenance of a particular gift; such as, but not limited to, benches, trees, or gardens that would require continued upkeep.

Process for Name Proposal

An individual or group living in Meridian Township may propose a name using an application available from the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department. The Park Commission will review the proposals to ensure that the application(s) is complete.

A notice will be published on the web site for Meridian Township and in the local newspaper requesting public feedback on the proposal(s) for a 30 day period.

At the conclusion of the 30 day feedback period, the Park Commission will make a decision, by a majority vote, and announce it at their next regular scheduled meeting.

Rules of Procedures

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
RULES OF PROCEDURE
Final Adoption February 13, 2002

RULE 1 AUTHORIZATION

The Land Preservation Advisory Board, hereafter referred to as the Advisory Board, is established pursuant to Chapter 127 of the Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Meridian, Land Preservation Program Ordinance, (the Ordinance). Section 127-4D of the Land Preservation Program Ordinance allows the Advisory Board to adopt rules for the transaction of business.

RULE 2 OFFICERS

- 2.1 Selection: At the first regular meeting of each calendar year, the Advisory Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair from among its members.
- 2.2 Term: The term of office for the Chair and Vice-Chair shall be for one (1) year, with eligibility for re-election.
- 2.3 Duties: The Chair shall preside at all meetings, authorize calls for special meetings, and perform such other duties as may be specified by the Advisory Board.

The Vice-Chair shall act in the capacity of the Chair in the Chair's absence.

In the event the member elected Chair vacates the position during his or her term as Chair, the Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair for the remainder of the term, and the Advisory Board shall select a Vice-Chair from the remaining members of the Advisory Board to serve for the remainder of the term.

The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for keeping minutes and for notifying the Clerk's Office of all special and public meetings pursuant to the Open Meetings Act..

RULE 3 MEETINGS

- 3.1 Regular Meetings: The Advisory Board shall hold no less than six (6) regular meetings per calendar year, with at least one meeting held each quarter throughout the calendar year.

- 3.2 Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the Chair. The Chair shall call a special meeting at the written request of two or more members of the Advisory Board upon at least 48-hour notice to the Clerk's Office and the members thereof.
- 3.3 Quorum: Five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at meetings unless otherwise specified in these rules. The Chair may postpone or reschedule a meeting in the event a quorum will not be present. A quorum must be present for the Advisory Board to take any action as to resolutions, findings or recommendations.
- 3.4 Public Participation: All special and regular meetings shall be open to the public subject to the provisions of the Open Meetings Act (P.A. 267, 1967, as amended).
- An opportunity for public comment shall be provided at all special and regular meetings. The Advisory Board may take action to set rules for public comment during regular and special meetings on a case by case basis.
- The Chair may call to order any person who disrupts the orderly conduct of a meeting and prohibit said person from further participation or attendance at such meeting.
- 3.5 Records The Advisory Board shall keep minutes of its resolutions, findings, and recommendations, which shall be made available to the public consistent with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act MCL 213.51 et seq.
- 3.6 Procedure for Meetings: *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern all questions of procedure not otherwise provided for in these rules or by Township, State or Federal law.

RULE 4 COMMITTEES

- 4.1 Purpose: The Advisory Board may establish committees necessary to assist in fulfilling the Advisory Board's responsibilities. The Advisory Board shall define the purpose, functions, tenure, meeting and reporting requirements for each committee. The establishment of committees shall not preclude the use of individuals or study groups in the exploration or research of specific issues.
- 4.2 Appointments: Committee members shall be appointed by the Chair, with approval by a majority vote of the Advisory Board.

- 4.3 A committee may be discharged from its responsibilities by a majority vote of the Advisory Board.

RULE 5 SUSPENSION OF RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 5.1 Suspension: A rule may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of Advisory Board members present and voting at a meeting, provided said action is in accordance with established Township, State and Federal Law.
- 5.2 Amendment: Rules not required by Township, State or Federal Law may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Advisory Board. No vote shall take place relative to the amendment of said rules prior to the posting of the proposed amendment for thirty days and an opportunity for public comment be made available as to the proposed amendment.

RULE 6 LAND SELECTION CRITERIA

- 6.1 Initial Review: An initial review of the applications shall be performed by the Advisory Board based on criteria including, but not limited to: ecological value, water quality value, natural or functional value, historic or heritage value, property size, surrounding land uses, environmental quality, overall natural features and aesthetic value consistent with the purpose of the Ordinance. The Advisory Board shall determine by majority vote whether a property included in an application meets one or more of the criteria stated above, meriting an ecological review to be performed by a person or entity with expertise in the specific criteria that the property meets.
- 6.2 Criteria for Final Selection: (Attachment "A")

RULE 7 NEGOTIATIONS WITH PROPERTY OWNER

- 7.1 Appraisals. Appraisals shall be made by a State Certified Appraiser selected by the Advisory Board. The selected appraiser shall not have a property interest, personal interest, or financial interest in the eligible and, and shall immediately disclose any conflict of interest associated with a property.
- 7.2 Review of appraisals by property owner: All appraisals shall be in writing and will be furnished to both the property owner and the Advisory Board. Either party may point out errors of fact, however, only the appraiser may correct the appraisal.

- 7.3 Donations: The Advisory Board, using the same review process defined in Rule 6, shall consider acceptance of donated property.
- 7.4 Installment purchase Agreements or Contracts: The Advisory Board may consider the use of a single, or a combination of purchase methods and incentives as is legally permissible and agreeable with the property owner. A licensed realtor with the review and approval of the Township Attorney shall prepare all contracts and agreements.
- 7.5 Other negotiations: The Advisory Board, or its agent, and the property owner may negotiate other legally permissible incentives as may be suggested by the Advisory Board or the property owner. A licensed realtor with the review and approval of the Township Attorney shall prepare written documentation for all negotiated incentives.

RULE 8 EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY

- 8.1 Exchange of Property: The Advisory Board may recommend, and submit to the Township Board for approval, the exchange of property enrolled in the Land Preservation Program that no longer serves the purpose of the Program as outlined in the Code of Ordinances outlined in Section 127-1.C for the acquisition purchase of another property. A recommendation shall be specific as to purpose, rationale, consistency with contract agreement and benefit to the Land Preservation Program.
- 8.2 Exchange/Purchase Agreements, Contracts and Negotiations: Upon approval of the Township Board to go forward with an exchange of property, a licensed realtor or real estate attorney, with the review and approval of the Township Attorney, shall prepare all contracts and agreements.

RULE 9 SALE OF PROPERTY

- 9.1 Sale of Property. Land enrolled in the Land Preservation Program may be sold in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the Land Preservation Ordinance.

RULE 10 STEWARDSHIP

- 10.1 Stewardship: The Advisory Board shall serve as steward of all land in the Program by purchase, easement, gift or other device. Such stewardship

shall be for the purpose of upholding the intended purpose of this Ordinance and any special provisions contained in particular acquisition agreements.

- 10.2 Stewardship Plan: Within one year of the time when a property is placed in the Land Preservation Program, a stewardship plan for that property shall jointly be prepared by staff and the Advisory Board. Such plan shall describe any maintenance and habitat improvement needs particular to special features of a fee simple or gifted property, and shall outline a reasonable monitoring and maintenance schedule. For properties placed in the Program through acquiring property interests, staff, in consultation with the Advisory Board and the property owner, will develop a mutually agreeable stewardship plan and maintenance schedule. Plans will be reviewed on regular basis, with each property's stewardship plan being reviewed a minimum of once every five years.

RULE 11 MONITORING

- 11.1 Monitoring: Lands enrolled in the Land Preservation Program shall be monitored on at least an annual basis to ensure the integrity of the purposes of such acquisition under the program. Monitoring does not include the maintenance or enhancement of property or interest in property.
- 11.2 Monitoring Method: Township staff shall annually provide the Advisory Board with a listing of properties enrolled in the Land Preservation Program. For each property, such listing shall include specific information to properly ascertain and report the status of continued compliance with the stewardship plan.
- 11.3 Funding: Expenditures for the stewardship of properties placed in the Land Preservation Program shall be paid from the interest on the Land Preservation Reserve Fund during the life of the millage or as the Township makes available.
- 11.4 Oversight: Members of the Land Preservation Advisory Board shall be assigned specific properties enrolled in the Program, for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the stewardship plan and maintaining site integrity.

RULE 12 ANNUAL REPORT

- 12.1 An annual report shall be prepared by the Land Preservation Advisory Board within a timeframe ensuring inclusion of the report within the Township's Annual Report.

Item 6.C.II.



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
Date: April 9, 2025
Re: Parcel B: Hamilton Rd, Parcel #: 33-02-02-21-179-008

This parcel was reported to staff by several residents as a potentially high interest parcel for incorporation into the Land Preservation Program. The property lies directly NW of the Township property, Mandenberg Preserve. Staff was advised by the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) to gather initial information from the site to bring to the March 12, 2025 board meeting. After discussion, a letter of interest will be sent to the landowners.

Staff provided a brief summary of the property, which includes the following information:

1. Parcel B is a vacant parcel currently for sale directly adjacent and adjoining Mandenberg Woods Preserve. Parcel B is 1.94 acres and is listed for \$94,000 on Zillow.
2. Parcel B may have an aggressive invasive species that Chair Hiller and Commissioner Stephens observed during the acquisition of Mandenberg Preserve. It is a yellow spring flower. Staff was advised to investigate this observation. A resident called and provided information on the plant, which has been determined as non-native aggressive, winter aconite (*Eranthis hyemalis*).
3. The Board advised staff to provide initial information on the property and report findings at the March 12th board meeting. The board discussed scheduling a site visit to Mandenberg Preserve to gather more information on the surrounding area and parcel of interest.
4. A letter of interest will be sent to the landowners along with a Land Preservation Program application with permission for property entry.



Exhibit C

JUNE

CONNECT
LEARN
CONSERVE



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- June 14th: This workday will consist of a native planting at Lake Lansing North Preserve, IF our plants come in time! Otherwise we will be removing invasive species at Legg Park, pending flooding & mosquitoes!
 - 3900 Van Atta Road, Okemos



WEEKDAY WARRIORS

- June 5th: Davis Foster Preserve, Invasive purple loosestrife & Japanese hedge parsley removal
 - 5120 Van Atta Road, Okemos
- June 20th: Okemos Capital Area Library, Native Garden weeding and volunteer training. We are looking to recruit a volunteer to help maintain their lovely native gardens!
 - 4321 Okemos Road, Okemos

TEEN NIGHT & CELEBRATE MERIDIAN

- Teen night will be at Marketplace on the Green | Fun activities include gaga ball, food trucks, music, lawn games, & crafts!
- Check out the schedule of events & volunteer opportunities for Celebrate Meridian on our website at www.meridian.mi.us under the 'About Us' tab



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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
15	16	17	18	19 JUNE TEENTH TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED	20 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 TEEN NIGHT 6PM-9PM	28 CELEBRATE MERIDIAN FESTIVAL
29	30					

PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.853.4614