

Meridian Charter Township 2015 Goals Document

Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.

Goal #1 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance the environment

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Update the street tree ordinance and adopt a tree protection ordinance			Street Tree	Tree Protection
b. Prepare, update, and enforce ordinances that protect natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplain areas		✓		
c. Utilize the Township's Greenspace Plan as part of the review for land development projects		✓		
d. Apply the best planning practices to encourage the preservation of green and open spaces		✓		
e. Build a new <i>green</i> Central Fire Station			✓	
f. Continue the Deer Management Program to reduce the deer population in our community		✓		
g. Manage invasive species in the parks and land preserves (removing garlic mustard, buckthorn, autumn olive, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hedge parsley, and phragmites)		✓		
h. Administer and enforce the Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control Program		✓		
i. Maintain the sewer system to minimize sewage backups		✓		
j. Develop an Urban Management Service area			✓	
k. Maintain robust recycling initiatives including the Meridian Recycling Center, community events, and educational programs, and work to enhance recycling opportunities in apartment complexes		✓		
l. Continue energy, water, and waste reduction efforts in Township buildings and other facilities		✓		
m. Adopt an ordinance prohibiting or regulating, as the law allows, fracking within the Township				✓
n. Review and update open space requirements	✓			
o. Mitigate climate change - including investigating becoming a solar ready community		✓		

Goal #2 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance public safety

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Increase information shared with the public through social media regarding public safety tips, PSAs (Public Service Announcements), emergency communications, and police and fire services		✓		
b. Provide Beyond the Badge police and fire programs and stories		✓		
c. Strengthen communication and educate developers/builders, business owners, and neighborhood associations regarding the planning process in an effort to minimize violations and negative impacts		✓		
d. Continue implementation of the Grand River Corridor Access Management Ordinance		✓		
e. Provide police coverage for Williamstown Township		✓		
f. Administer the Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Traffic Grant		✓		
g. Purchase new mobile phone forensics software				✓
h. Upgrade the booking area camera			✓	
i. Evaluate conversion to the State Records Management System (RMS) in the Police Department, and implement if determined to be feasible		✓		
j. Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software		✓		
k. Construct the new Fire Station at Okemos Road and Central Park Drive			✓	
l. Purchase 1 replacement ambulance for the Fire Department	✓			
m. Purchase 3 replacement patrol vehicles for the Police Department	✓			
n. Complete the Okemos Road Pathway Bridge crossing the Red Cedar River	✓			
o. Continue fire service to Alaiedon Township		✓		
p. Continue the yearly Police Citizens' and Youth Academies		✓		
q. Participate in the Lansing Regional Shared Fire Services		✓		
r. Process monthly police and fire citizen surveys		✓		
s. Monitor legislative actions relative to medical marihuana and prepare to act accordingly with local ordinances		✓		
t. Explore revision and/or modification of Township ordinances for the purpose of reducing penalties for possession or use of small amounts of marihuana				✓

Goal #3 - Meridian Township shall provide an unparalleled parks system

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Develop Phase I of Towner Road Park			✓	
b. Complete Legg Park projects - parking area, dog park, and stewardship				✓
c. Construct roof structures over the dugouts at Hartrick Park			✓	
d. Install new siding on the pavilion at Nancy Moore Park	✓			
e. Install new safety fencing around the ball diamonds at Nancy Moore Park	✓			
f. Rebuild the drainage system for the Harris Nature Center parking island			✓	
g. Improve parking lot surfaces at Harris Nature Center, Ferguson Park, and Wonch Park	✓			
h. Construct the Wonch Park Pavilion with grant support			✓	
i. Install new play equipment at Orlando Park and Hillbrook Park			✓	
j. Develop a new Master Plan for Central Park	✓			
k. Replace the footbridge at Legg Park				✓
l. Provide support for Eagle Scout Projects		✓		
m. Build an 18 hole disc golf course				✓
n. Improve directional signage on trails				✓
o. Construct a youth environmental exploration area at Harris Nature Center		✓		
p. Establish a plan for development of a smart-phone application (App) that provides Township Parks and Trails information				✓
q. Develop the Water Trail Access Program			✓	
r. Investigate purchasing the five (5) acres to the east of Wardcliff School, which borders Park Lake Road, for recreational uses	✓			

Goal #4 - Meridian Township shall provide exemplary public services and facilities

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Conduct an annual assessment/reinspection program of taxable properties within Meridian Township	✓			
b. Finalize the Comcast franchise agreement to include high definition (HD) PEG (Public, Education & Government) channels, VOD (Video on Demand), and PEG on the program guide system	✓			
c. Develop a 5-year equipment purchase plan to be adopted by the Cable Communications Commission (CCC) that includes HD studio cameras and playback	✓			
d. Improve communication and educate the public on the Rental Housing Program and continue to improve the process for rental housing inspections		✓		
e. Revise the sign and parking regulations			Sign Regulations	Parking Regulations
f. Continue support of and membership in regional organizations (i.e. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)		✓		
g. Strengthen cooperative planning efforts with the Ingham County Road Department, Ingham County Drain Commission, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and surrounding jurisdictions		✓		
h. Promote good design standards through the site plan review process		✓		
i. Utilize a health impact assessment guide, created in conjunction with the Ingham County Health Department and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, in the review of development projects		✓		
j. Streamline field survey procedures so that information will flow directly into the Geographic Information System			✓	
k. Participate with Tri-County regional partners to contract for flight services to provide orthographic photography for the entire Township and surrounding areas			✓	
l. Bring the Township's payroll back in-house and incorporate the human resources module software	✓			
m. Update the patrol car graphic design				✓
n. Evaluate options for upgrades to in-building camera systems within the Public Safety Building and potential expansion to include other facilities	✓			
o. Upgrade or replace lift station SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system communications and software			✓	
p. Complete the first year of 3-year SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) Grant project to develop sanitary sewer system asset management plan		✓		
q. Replace the Towar lift station	✓			
r. Replace the control panel at Woodhill lift station			✓	
s. Replace pumps at Shoals lift station and Sundance lift station	✓			

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
t. Complete the Pathway Bridge on Okemos Road crossing Red Cedar River	✓			
u. Construct a new pathway on the south side of Haslett Road (east of Okemos Road to west of Bayonne)	✓			
v. Replace the retaining wall on Mt. Hope Road at Glendale Cemetery	✓			
w. Replace the pathway retaining wall at 2322 Mt. Hope Road	✓			
x. Construct a pathway on the south side of Mt. Hope Road (Okemos Road to Maumee)			✓	
y. Reroof the Service Center	✓			
z. Pursue Ingham County Trail Millage funding to implement the Lake Lansing to River Trail connector pathway			✓	
aa. Investigate options for establishing Meridian Township as a smart community and explore viable plans for expanding municipal fiber, broadband, and public Wi-Fi in Meridian Township			✓	
bb. Investigate providing a leaf pickup program in Meridian Township			✓	
cc. Fill in pathway gaps		✓		

Goal #5 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance our economic prosperity for all residents

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Defend assessment appeals made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal		✓		
b. Develop a branding campaign and marketing strategy and propose a 2016 budget to the Township Board to include branding campaign, imaging, print, design, and marketing	✓			
c. Enhance and encourage the retention of existing businesses and establishment of new businesses		✓		
d. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries		✓		
e. Formulate and adopt an Economic Development Plan				✓
f. Encourage infill and/or redevelopment of existing commercial sites		✓		
g. Promote mixed-use development in commercial areas		✓		
h. Facilitate the objectives of the Downtown Development Authority by eliminating the causes of property value deterioration and promoting economic growth		✓		
i. Continue streetscape improvements to define downtown areas and promote a sense of place		✓		
j. Assist with the redevelopment of the former Central Fire Station/MARC property		✓		
k. Continue economic focus on Haslett, Carriage Hills, Grand River, and Okemos		✓		
l. Continue focus on the Douglas J project		✓		
m. Continue to conduct monthly business visits with a focus on customer service		✓		
n. Complete the 2005 Master Plan update			✓	
o. Sustain and enhance our positive working relationship with Michigan State University			✓	
p. Complete the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) receiving an unmodified audit opinion and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting		✓		
q. Complete the annual budget process focusing on how the budget mirrors our annual goal setting process		✓		
r. Maintain, per the Board's direction, a minimum fund balance in the General Fund of \$5,250,000		✓		
s. Increase enrollment of online bill pay and explore options for new platforms to accept these payments (including BS&A's AccessMyGov-Internet Services)		✓		
t. Support all types of transportation modes in the Township including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)			✓	
u. Encourage the use of complete streets practices as a routine part of operations		✓		

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
v. Investigate the pension liability funding plan			✓	
w. Investigate reaching out and expanding the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event to include other areas of the Township, including Haslett and East Lansing		✓		

Goal #6 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance diversity across the Township

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Promote cultural diversity with our community programs and celebrations		✓		
b. Explore closed captioning costs for HOM-TV programs	✓			
c. Investigate and possibly launch a Chinese version of HOM-TV news programs				✓
d. Continue to encourage the use of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development and Commercial Planned Unit Development Ordinances		✓		
e. Encourage developers to provide affordable housing		✓		
f. Encourage a wide range of housing types		✓		
g. Strengthen community pride through such activities as downtown events and expanded outdoor sculpture displays		✓		
h. Seek diversity in hiring and promoting			✓	
i. Update the Personnel Policy Manual, along with having the Human Relations Ordinance statement prominently displayed in the introduction, and continuous outreach to special agencies and networks for recruitment of new hires, volunteers, interns, etc.			✓	
j. Host Chinese New Year and Heritage Festival events		✓		
k. Promote Nokomis Learning Center activities		✓		
l. Consider implementing the Language First Program (in an effort to aid our Township staff with communicating with visitors from all over the world)		✓		
m. Utilize additional recruiting outlets and resources such as on-line job boards, advertisements, and professional organizations to attract qualified minorities to apply for job openings			✓	
n. Provide professional training and development to staff			✓	

**Goal #7 - Meridian Township shall provide outstanding
recreational and cultural programs**

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Provide sports and fitness programs for youths and adults		✓		
b. Administer environmental programs and events for all ages at Harris Nature Center		✓		
c. Offer educational, fitness, and social opportunities for senior citizens at the Meridian Senior Center and Meridian Mall		✓		
d. Coordinate the Farmers' Market outdoors (May-October) and indoors (December-April)		✓		
e. Investigate Farmers' Market Relocation (location, size, and funding)			✓	
f. Support activities of the Friends of Historic Meridian		✓		
g. Support activities of the Meridian Garden Club		✓		
h. Conduct special events: Chinese New Year, Celebrate Downtown Okemos, July 4th Fireworks Celebration, Meridian Heritage Festival, Halloween Adventures, Drive-thru Santa, Christmas in the Village, Free Family Winter Sports Weekends, Polar Bear 5K Race, Music in the Park Program		✓		
i. Continue the Arts and Crafts Marketplace each month during the summer		✓		
j. Continue Recreation Services Agreement with the City of Williamston		✓		

Goal #8 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance constituent communications

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Continue to respond to <u>all</u> citizen inquiries in a timely, professional, and efficient manner		✓		
b. Provide assessment information to property owners and their representatives (e.g., real estate agents, title company employees, private real estate appraisers, etc.)		✓		
c. Replace the Town Hall microphones and bases	✓			
d. Investigate replacement of Township hall video imager	✓			
e. Increase public engagement and participation through multimedia and other ways to connect to the Township			✓	
f. Create a monthly Township Manager blog and increase its outreach			✓	
g. Conduct a communications needs assessment			✓	
h. Investigate costs of new Township website	✓			
i. Audit social media outlets and develop a social media strategy campaign			✓	
j. Upload packet information on the Township website that is in a searchable format for ease of use by the public	✓			
k. Publish the Meridian Monitor twice-yearly to all residents		✓		
l. Reach out to residential and business groups regarding potential development impacts		✓		
m. Increase staff engagement and participation with neighborhood groups using social media, fire safety programs, HOM-TV interviews, and Beyond the Badge		✓		
n. Add a new disk appliance to the network to increase storage space and reliability		✓		
o. Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software		✓		
p. Print and distribute one issue of the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide (distribution in January)		✓		
q. Increase communication with constituents through email and multi-media sources		✓		
r. Rename select Land Preserves		✓		
s. Conduct the citizen survey through ICMA with the same process or method as was used in 2012			✓	
t. Begin the process of overhauling the Township website and branding up to an amount of \$30,000	✓			

Goal #9 - Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance neighborhoods and eliminate blight

	Completed	Completed & Ongoing	In Progress	No Action
a. Create DAS (Distributed Antenna System) ordinance with the Public Works & Engineering and Planning Departments			✓	
b. Promote Neighborhood Watch	✓			
c. Develop a method to increase compliance of communications companies using the rights of way in the Township			✓	
d. Continue to work with homeowners associations to strengthen code enforcement in residential neighborhoods		✓		
e. Promote and encourage the preservation of older neighborhoods		✓		
f. Enforce the Property Maintenance Code		✓		
g. Continue the Code Enforcement Committee with neighborhood associations		✓		
h. Continue pavement preservation program on local roads		✓		
i. Continue sidewalk repair program (order to maintain)		✓		
j. Maintain and improve the water and sewer systems		✓		
k. Hire a part-time code enforcement officer	✓			
l. Support the community gardens in the Township		✓		
m. Inspect Township owned buildings annually to ensure appropriate maintenance		✓		