



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 21, 2014  
MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER



**WORK SESSION 6 PM**

(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications**
4. **Other**
5. **Public Comment**
6. **Adjournment**

**REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
  - a. August 12, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes
  - b. August 12, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
  - c. September 23, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)
8. **Director's Report** (yellow)
9. **New Business** (pink)

PUBLIC COMMENT

  - a. Eagle Scout Project Final Report – Ryan Nusdorfer
  - b. Ice Rink Proposal – Hillbrook Park
  - c. November Park Commission Regular Meeting

*Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Park Commission by writing or calling the following: Township Manager Frank Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-853-4250) - Ten days notice required.*

10. **Unfinished Business** (green)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
  - a. Commission Review #14083 (Planning Commission) Revised Goals and Objectives, 2005 Master Plan – Public Hearing October 27
  - b. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications
  - c. 2015 Grant Project Submissions
  
11. **Other Business** (cherry)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
  - a.
  
12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)  
PUBLIC COMMENT
  - a.
  
13. **Final Comments**
  
14. **Announcements**
  - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2014, Service Center
  - b. Farmers' Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays; 8 am - 2 pm; Central Park
  - c. Township Offices are closed November 11 in observance of Veteran's Day (Park Commission meeting moved up to November 4)
  - d. Meridian Township Celebrates Halloween on Saturday, October 25 with Halloween Adventures at Harris Nature Center and open houses at the Meridian Township Fire Stations, Public Safety Building, HOMTV and Historical Village
  
15. **Public Remarks**
  
16. **Closed Session**
  
17. **Adjournment**

~x

Park Commission Meeting  
October 21, 2014

WORK SESSION

3. Central Park Master Plan Request for Qualifications



**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS  
MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN  
October 21, 2014**

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Request for Qualifications Meridian Charter Township, Parks and Recreation

Interested Architectural/Engineering firms are requested to submit experience and qualifications to Meridian Charter Township, Parks and Recreation, regarding Architectural/Engineering Services for Central Park Master Planning services.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Central Park is a 279 acre park that is located in the center of Meridian Township, Michigan. In addition to offering recreational and nature areas, it also houses the Town Hall, Public Safety Building, and Service Center.

The Meridian Township Park Commission intends to develop a master plan for the redevelopment of Central Park. Central Park will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016 and the objective is to develop a master plan that will accomplish the following:

1. Provide amenities to enhance a community-wide destination that will accommodate many recreational opportunities
2. Serve as a home for the Township offices
3. Create non-motorized connections and to complement adjacent off-site uses
4. Provide means for appreciation of and protection of the natural resources
5. Create an identity for the park
6. Develop a logical framework for the design of Central Park
7. Develop a design that is consistent with our proposed budget
8. Develop a design that strives to maximize the best use of property and space
9. Develop a design that will serve to promote Central Park as a community-wide destination
10. Conduct public meetings to gain input from residents, park users, and nearby businesses

Central Park Master Plan (*schedule, budget? overall goals of project, community outreach, "program" elements? Should we say that we are not expecting construction docs or specs?*)

## QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING SERVICES

The successful Professional Services firm will have total responsibility for the design and documentation required for services necessary for the complete design of the project. All services will be provided consistent with Meridian Township practices and procedures.

**PURPOSE:** This form will be used as the basis for initial evaluation of landscape architects/engineers for planning, design, engineering, and construction phase services on the project captioned above.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form is applicable only for this project and all information requested must be submitted in six copies to:

**Meridian Charter Township, Clerk's Office**  
**ATTN: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation**  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

If supplemental material is to be included with this form it should nominally be 8 ½ inches by 11 inches.

Questionnaires must be received at the address listed above not later than 4:00 pm on ENTER DATE HERE

### Anticipated Selection Schedule:

Questionnaires Due: DATE  
Short-Listed Firms selected and notified: week of DATE  
Interviews: DATE  
Recommendation to Meridian Board of Trustees: DATE  
Meridian Board of Trustees approval: DATE  
Design to begin: DATE

1. FIRM NAME(s)/BUSINESS ADDRESS(s):

2. TELEPHONE NUMBER(s):

3. FEDERAL I.D. NUMBER(s):

4. OWNERSHIP: (Identify type of organization for the firm/team)

Parent Company: (Name and Location) \_\_\_\_\_

Branch Office: (Name and Location) \_\_\_\_\_

Corporation: (Name and Location) \_\_\_\_\_

Partnership: (Name and Location) \_\_\_\_\_

Individual: (Name and Location) \_\_\_\_\_

Other A/E team organization: (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

5. State the year(s) in which the firm(s) was/were established:

6. State the Name, Title and Telephone Number of the Contact Person:

\_\_\_\_\_

7. State the level of Professional Liability Insurance Coverage: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Identify all active projects currently underway, indicating the size in dollars and the status of each.

9. Current number of personnel of personnel discipline classification:

Architects (Registered)	_____	_____
Engineers (Registered)	_____	_____
Landscape Architects (Registered)	_____	_____
Designers	_____	_____
Construction Superintendents	_____	_____
Specification Writers	_____	_____
Draftspersons/CAD Operators	_____	_____
Support Staff (Clerical, etc.)	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____

Note: Personnel may be listed in more than one of the above classifications; however, please

clarify so there is no misunderstanding relative to the total. Where the team consists of more than one firm, list personnel separately for each firm.

10. If submittal is by association with more than one firm, please outline for each firm, specific professional services responsibilities in the areas of project management, administration, technical discipline and construction cost estimating.

11. Services to be provided:

Within Firm/Team By Consultant

Architectural

\_\_\_\_\_

Structural Engineering

\_\_\_\_\_

Civil Engineering

\_\_\_\_\_

Mechanical Engineering

\_\_\_\_\_

Electrical Engineering

\_\_\_\_\_

Landscape Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost Estimating

\_\_\_\_\_

Please identify frequently used consultants

12. Provide a list of completed projects of comparable program, size, and budget constructed within the last ten years. Please identify those projects accomplished with the proposed project team. Please include the year completed and the name and telephone number of the client representative. Preference may be given to those projects completed on medical college or university campuses.

14. Describe your firm's approach to improve the quality of documents, and your approach to managing change orders. Include a copy of your firm's plan review and coordination policies and practices in this questionnaire. (If you are selected for this project, Meridian Township may require a principal of the firm to certify that these processes have been followed.)

15. Submit any additional supportive information, not addressed in this questionnaire, which may be important for Meridian Township to consider in evaluating your firm/team. Please restrict proposals (six copies) to the size of this questionnaire or the firm brochure. Confine the content to current and pertinent information. This material will not be required.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Park Commission Meeting October 21, 2014

## 6. MINUTES

- a. August 12, 2014 Work Session Minutes
- b. August 12, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. September 23, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
 PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
 TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens (6:01 pm), Wilson  
 Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm and congratulated everyone on the passage of the Park Millage Renewal.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson accepted the agenda as presented

**3. 2015 Budget & CIP 2015-2020**

Director Maisner distributed and summarized proposed 2015 Budget and Capital Improvements Program 2015 projects as follows:

**General Fund:**

• Parks and Recreation Administration	\$146,139	
• Park Maintenance	<u>\$204,972</u>	
		\$351,111

**Park Millage:**

• Parks and Recreation Administration	\$154,675	
• Park Maintenance (add 1 utility worker)	\$233,891	
• Harris Nature Center	\$188,632	
• Park Development	<u>\$899,000</u>	
		\$1,476,198

**2015 CIP Projects**

• Wonch Park Pavilion (Grant)	\$250,000	
• Wonch Parking Lot	\$100,000	
• Orlando Park Play Equipment	\$ 35,000	
• Legg Park Parking, Dog Park, Stewardship	\$170,000	
• Hillbrook Park Accessible Playground	\$ 90,000	
• Towner Road Park Phase I	\$224,000	
• Dugout structures at Hartrick Park	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	
		\$873,000

- The proposed 2015 Budget and Capital Improvements Program projects were drafted from discussions at the Park Commission's July 15, 2014 Special Meeting
- Noted the Wonch Park Pavilion project total is \$250,000. \$187,500 will be reimbursed once the project is completed.
- The only change in the Park Millage Park Maintenance salaries line item is the inclusion of an additional utility worker

Discussion:

- Now that the Van Atta bridge is completed and the platform/canoe launch is built at the Nature Center, our next step is to seek funding to improve the dock for handicap access.
- Director Maisner shared that the canoe launch at Ferguson is deteriorating and needs renovating. This area was improved in 2001 with DNR Grant Funds. Park and Land Management Coordinator Greenway will research project.
- General Fund Park Maintenance: Township will continue to support maintenance effort for pre-1984 parks but future development projects for all parks will be funded through the Park Millage.
- Need to re-evaluate phases of Towner Road Park development. Maybe combine 1, 2 & 3 if possible.
- The Wonch Park pavilion grant results will be known in December.

**4. Other**

**a. Park Millage Ballot Results**

Director Maisner distributed the election results for the Park Millage Ballot proposal. It was noted there are 29,687 registered voters in the Township, a total of 7,445 voted which is approximately 25.08% of the population; the votes were 4,644 for the proposal and 2,653 against the proposal.

**b. Parks and Ground Maintenance Lead Worker Scot Stillman's Retirement Party**

Director Maisner invited the Park Commissioners to attend the retirement party for Scot Stillman on Thursday, August 14, at Nancy Moore Park Pavilion at 1 pm.

**c. New Lead Worker**

With the retirement of Scot Stillman, the Township interviewed for the open position and Robert MacKenzie was chosen. Mr. MacKenzie had previously

worked with Parks and Grounds and the Engineering Department. He was with the Water and Sewer Division before accepting the lead worker position. Welcome Rob.

**d. Patriarch Park**

Director Maisner conducted a site visit to the new playground at Patriarch Park and reported it was very well done. She recommended the Commissioners check it out as well. It is 1.5 acres with sidewalks, poured in place rubber safety surfacing, rain garden, interpretive signage, picnic areas and benches.

**e. Meridian Township Deer Program**

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway reported the 2014-2015 Deer Program will be same as last year.

**f. Wildlife Habitat Grant Submission**

Park Coordinator Greenway reported the \$50,000 grant proposal has been prepared and on the agenda for approval. There is a 10% match of \$5,000. The recommendations from the plan prepared by Fishbeck were incorporated into the grant proposal. This proposal is due August 12 and will be awarded October 1. The grant focus is on habitat for sustainable wildlife populations in a changing environment. The deer management program in Township parks will help with the scoring on the grant proposal. The funding source is from the hunting and fishing license fees.

**5. Public Comment**

None

**6. Adjournment**

Hearing no objection, Chair Wilson adjourned the Work Session at 6:32 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Banas, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson (left at 9 pm)  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Assistant Park Naturalist Nick Sanchez; Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 pm and welcomed new Park Commissioner Mike McDonald.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**3. Presentations**

**a. Resolution of Appreciation – Scot Stillman**

Director Maisner introduced retiring Parks and Grounds Maintenance Lead Worker Scot Stillman. She stated Scot has been with the Township for over 35 years; with the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division since 1980 and was promoted to Lead Worker in 2002; with four crew members, he supervised maintenance in over 900 acres of parkland and 800 acres of land preserves including special events and recreation activities all on a time-sensitive schedule; he is a "jack of all trades"; his leadership qualities will be missed and thanked him for his dedicated service to the Township.

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Banas and supported by Commissioner Stephens

**WHEREAS**, Scot Stillman has served the Charter Township of Meridian for thirty-five (35) years; from 1979 through 2014, as one of three generations of Stillmans who have served the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, Scot Stillman began on May 21, 1979 as a temporary seasonal laborer in the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division at the Physical Plant (former battery building) in Wonch Park and then at the Meridian Public Works Building at 2116 Haslett Road, earning \$3.75 per hour, and eventually working at the Meridian Service Center from 1988 through 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, Scot Stillman was hired full-time in 1980 in the Water Department and was promoted to crew chief in 1985; and

**WHEREAS**, Scot Stillman joined the Parks and Grounds Division in 1990 and has served as Lead Worker since 2002; and

**WHEREAS**, Scot Stillman's work ethic and leadership has played a vital role in maintaining the beauty and functionality of Meridian Township's parks and grounds for twenty-four (24) years; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, Scot Stillman received state-wide recognition from the Michigan Recreation and Park Association by winning the "Maintenance Leadership Award" for his dedication and leadership in park maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, The Park Commission is very appreciative of the effort, dedication and commitment to excellence that Scot Stillman has demonstrated over his career in serving the residents of Meridian Township; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN** extends its best wishes to Scot Stillman and expresses its gratitude for his service to the community.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo, Michael McDonald, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson

NAYS: None

Scot Stillman thanked the Commission for their resolution of appreciation and stated while working for the Township for the last 35 years, he received a lot of support. Without his co-workers, he would not have gotten the work done and they made his job a lot easier to do and that includes all the park-time crew members. He appreciates all that the Park Commission and Township Board have done for him, his crew and the residents.

#### **4. Public Comment**

None

#### **5. Commissioner Reports and Comments**

Commissioner Banas stated she appreciated that passage of the Park Millage Ballot proposal. She appreciated the voter turnout and supporting vote for the Park Millage. She thanked Scot Stillman for the great job he did for the Township. She also thank the over 90 financial supporters of the "Yes for Meridian Parks" campaign.

Commissioner Stephens thanked everyone for voting in favor of the Millage. The increased funding from this proposal will make the community better.

Commissioner McDonald thanked the businesses for allowing the Vote for Park Millage signage in front of their businesses.

Commissioner Jaramillo thanked HOMTV for their coverage of the August ballot items and the round table discussion. She also extended thanks for the promotional parties and articles of support in the Towne Courier.

Chair Wilson thanked the voters for turning out and voting in support of the Millage proposal. Parks provide for the community a refuge from urban life from walking the dog to picnics, to sports activities. The passage of this Millage proposal is a wonderful statement of support for parks and community.

## 6. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. July 8, 2014 Work Session Meeting Minutes – no changes
- b. July 8, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes – no changes
- c. July 15 Special Meeting – page 2, under Other, change “Commissioner Jaramillo” to “Commissioner Banas”

COMMISSIONER BANAS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JULY 8, 2014 WORK SESSION AND JULY 8, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED AND THE JULY 15, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## 7. **Communications**

### A. Items to/from the Public

None

### B. Commission Information

1. August Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Parks & Recreation Department July Report
3. Lansing State Journal: **July 3:** Van Atta Road bridge nears completion
4. Towne Courier: **July 6:** Support Meridian parks at polls/Layne and Sandy Cameron; Van Atta Road bridge nears completion; Guided moonlit walk July 11 set at nature camp; Meet reptiles at nature camps; guided evening walk for people, dogs July 11; **July 13:** Support park millage/John O Grettenberger; Meridian to create paved path along Red Cedar; **July 20:** Vote yes to library, park funding August 5/Bobbi DuByne; Wildlife identification program at HNC; Historical Village offers day camp; Meridian Twp. parks tax on ballot; **July 27:** Natural area protectors honored in Meridian; **August 3:** Woodpecker campfire event on Aug 9; **August 10:** Twp. parks tax wins by a mil

5. Harris Nature Center Foundation: 2013 Annual Report; HNC Foundation Minutes: January 13, 2014; February 10, 2014; March 10, 2014; April 14, 2014; June 9, 2014; July 14, 2014

#### C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

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

### 8. Director's Report

Director Maisner:

- Thanked HOMTV for the coverage of the Park Millage proposal
- Thanked Scot Stillman for his many years of outstanding service to the Township
- Welcomed Robert MacKenzie as the new Leader Worker of the Parks and Ground Maintenance Division team
- Welcomed Administrative Assistant Faust back from surgery leave
- Reported:
  - bids were let for the Legg Park driveway improvement project; Newton Road Park parking lot development project; Wonch Park loop trail development project; plans are to have these projects completed this fall
  - Van Atta Road is open; as part of the bridge project, Ingham County Road Department built a dock on the Harris Nature Center side of the river; funding will be needed to make it a handicap accessible canoe launch
  - with the receipt of \$10,000 in grant funding for the nature exploration area, the Harris Nature Center Foundation bid out Phase I of the project; Brian VanOrder of Michigan Demolition, has donated the work necessary to proceed and the materials will be purchased with the grant funding
  - Harris Nature Center summer camps were very successful even with the road closure
  - Held a ribbon cutting event for the revitalized Claire Twohy Garden and the Eleanor Luecke Memorial; thanked LINC (Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation) and the Meridian Garden Club for their support of these two projects.
  - Steve Brunner and others including Brian VanOrder on the Eastgate Park pump track, they continued the improvements they started in the spring
  - Snell-Towar Recreation Center playground program was very successful with over 30 attending each day; each week included a field trip and there was a daily free lunch program available through the Lansing Public School System

## 9. New Business

### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### a. Wildlife Habitat Grant Submission

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway summarized the following:

- Asked for the Commission's support of Michigan Department of Nature Resources, Wildlife Division, Wildlife Habitat Grant Application for Legg Park
- The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program began in 2013 and is funded with a portion of hunting and fishing licenses that are sold each year. There is one million dollars available.
- The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to local governments and other groups to assist with developing or improving wildlife habitat for game species. The specific program goal of the grant is to manage habitat for sustainable wildlife populations in a changing environment.
- Staff feels this is an ideal source of funding to help develop the wildlife corridors and habitat improvement plans that have been planned for Legg Park. Plans include enhancing "edges" and corridors to facilitate nesting, roosting, and feeding of wildlife in the park. The terms of the grant require the commitment and maintenance of perennial herbaceous plantings to support wildlife.
- This grant will give the Township the opportunity to plant mast-producing species such as oak, establishment of a soft mast (crab apples, etc.) to promote winter food sources, and to provide long term herbaceous cover and forage plantings which restore openings that are degraded due to brush and undesirable herbaceous encroachment.
  - 31 mast producing trees (oak varieties and hickory)
  - 163 soft-mast trees and shrubs (crab, viburnum, dogwood, hawthorn)
  - 56 evergreens (white pine, cedar, jack and red pine)
  - 30 wetland enhancement shrubs (silky dogwood, red osier dogwood, nannyberry)
- Total project cost is \$50,000 and 10% local match is \$5,000
- Grants are awarded on October 1, 2014

#### Discussion:

- It appears the planting will conceal the fence line while improving wildlife value but how far is it from the fencing (this is a conceptual plan and will get into the detail of it after the grant is approved)
- Want to establish the wildlife corridors in this area and this Trust Fund Grant approves wildlife corridor improvements
- What is the scoring value (think the grant proposal will do well, will receive points for the present corridor want to improve, the deer management program, have the environmental plan from Fishbeck, the site plan is part of an overall master plan for Legg Park, are improving the park entrance, and is a good leverage of local dollars with millage dollars)

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MCDONALD SECONDED, TO DEDICATE \$5,000 OF THE PARK MILLAGE FUNDS AS A 10% MATCH FOR AN OVERALL PROJECT COST OF \$50,000 TOWARD A WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT FOR LEGG PARK THAT WILL BE FUNDED BY A WILDLIFE HABITAT GRANT THAT IS FACILITATED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

Roll Call:

AYES: Michael McDonald, Todd Wilson, Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo,  
Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

b. 2014 Deer Management

Assistant Park Naturalist Nick Sanchez reported per the direction of the Township Board, staff has prepared a 2014 Deer Management Plan. Staff will continue to explore options on how to improve and expand the program.

There are no major changes to the structure of the overall management plan. Highlights of the expanded program will include the following items:

- Pursue out of season damage permits from the DNR to extend available harvesting period post archery and firearm seasons.
- Continue to encourage large property owners to participate in the program.
- Continue to work with communications department to improve press releases and township website postings informing the public of managed hunt.
- Offer an alternative method of recording hunter participation and improve communication for efficiency in deer transportation to processor.

**Summary of the history of the program:**

	<b>Total Hunters</b>	<b>Properties Hunted</b>	<b>Deer Harvested</b>	<b>Deer-Car Collisions</b>
<b>2011</b>	25	7	43	152
<b>2012</b>	50	18	90	153
<b>2013</b>	60	20	127	180

Discussion:

- What are the properties (Meridian Riverfront Park, Red Cedar Natural Area, Central Park, Ted Black Woods and Towner Road Park, the same parks as last year)

- Is the Township looking at other properties (yes, working with owner of the Dobie Road properties and the same ones as last year; also contacting adjacent land owners to see if they want to participate; sending out letters to encourage land owners of over five acres to participate)
- Question why the deer harvested number has increased along with the deer-car collision number, any information on it (no, but an MSU student is studying the five-year cycle of deer placement/displacement in the Township; a resident suggested trapping the deer and then killing them; one area of the State employed snipers to kill off deer in their area)
- Asked to increase communication efforts to alert drivers of high populated deer area and driving strategies to help avoid an accidents (how to drive in areas during dusk time, where high accident areas are, when the deer travel, how deer travel along water areas, where deer are in your own neighborhood, etc.) and for public safety reasons to have this information on website and easy to find
- Suggested contacting insurance companies or driving schools to see if they have educational material on driving strategies that can be used on the website or materials that can be distributed
- Suggested speaking with Oakland County on how they are handling their deer issues.
- Asked to have the following recommendation to the Deer Management Plan:
  - Develop a comprehensive educational campaign using social and earned media along with Township publications and HOMTV to educate drivers on areas of high deer car accidents and provide preventative accident strategies for motorists
- Staff will prepare a public relations education program for review at next meeting

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner McDonald and supported by Commissioner Stephens:

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Meridian has documented numerous complaints relative to the issue of the over-population of white-tailed deer including: over-grazing of landscape plants, a high number of deer/car collisions, threats to public health, and threats to the ecological health of natural areas; and

WHEREAS a Deer Management Plan has been developed for the purpose of outlining measures for conducting a highly managed, safe and humane managed deer harvest on township-owned properties; and

WHEREAS it is recognized that controlled hunting may help control the overpopulation of white-tailed deer; and

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Meridian has authorized staff to conduct a managed deer harvest on township-owned properties that will occur seven days per week during the regular archery season (October 1, 2014 through January 1, 2015); and

WHEREAS the managed deer harvest will utilize qualified, competent, and experienced volunteer hunters; and

WHEREAS the township-owned properties are not open to unauthorized hunting; and

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Meridian will work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to operate under the Deer Management Assistance Program for the purpose of purchasing a large number of antlerless deer permits; and

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Meridian's Deer Management Program will comply with all State of Michigan rules and hunting regulations; and

WHEREAS the public will be properly notified of the deer harvest through posted signs on the designated hunting properties, township website postings, press releases in the local newspaper, and letters to owners of properties adjacent to designated hunting properties ; and

WHEREAS the majority of the venison from the harvested deer will be distributed to the hungry through local food banks; and

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Meridian has constructed an enclosure within Lake Lansing North Park for the purpose of visually observing areas that are open to deer browsing versus areas that are not, which has indicated a significant level of damage due to over-browsing of the natural vegetation; and

WHEREAS parks and natural areas provide ecological and aesthetic beauty, improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS the Charter Township of Meridian recognizes the benefits derived from parks and natural areas and appreciates benefits of local wildlife

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN THAT A TOWNSHIP-MANAGED DEER HARVEST WILL OCCUR ON THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES IN 2014: MERIDIAN RIVERFRONT PARK; RED CEDAR NATURAL AREA; CENTRAL PARK; TED BLACK WOODS; AND TOWNER ROAD PARK.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Melanie Jaramillo, Todd Wilson, Mike McDonald

NAYS: Teri Banas

Motion passed 4-1

c. 2015-2020 CIP

Director Maisner reported the Park Commission held a special meeting in July to discuss plans for the parks reviewing the proposed Capital Improvements Program projects, information from park surveys and 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and with the passage of the new Park Millage proposal, there will be \$873,000 available in fund for many of the proposed projects.

Discussion:

- Questioned the amount designated for the Wonch Park Pavilion (the entire amount of the project is used because the Township will not know about the grant result until December and if the grant is received, the cost will be reduced to \$62,500)
- Will the Legg Park amount be reduced if the Wildlife Habitat Grant is received (yes by \$45,000)
- What will happen to these amounts (unspent funds will remain in the Park Millage Fund Balance)
- What are we approving (During the July meeting, the Commission approved the projects for 2015 if the Millage proposal passed; since the proposal has passed, the Commission may want to meet to identify the needs for the parks, review information and reprioritize the proposed projects for 2016-2020 at a later meeting)
- Suggested sending out a press release on the 2015 park development projects

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, COMISSIONER BANAS SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2015- 2020 CIP WITH THE FOLLOWING CAPITAL PROJECTS SCHEDULED FOR THE 2015 BUDGET YEAR:

**2015 CIP Projects**

• Wonch Park Pavilion (Grant)	\$250,000
• Wonch Parking Lot	\$100,000
• Orlando Park Play Equipment	\$ 35,000
• Legg Park Parking, Dog Park, Stewardship	\$170,000
• Hillbrook Park Accessible Playground	\$ 90,000
• Towner Road Park Phase I	\$224,000
• Dugout structures at Hartrick Park	<u>\$ 4,000</u>
	\$873,000

Roll Call

AYES: Mike McDonald, Todd Wilson, Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

d. 2015 Proposed Budget Request

Director Maisner summarized the proposed 2015 budget request for the Parks in the General Fund and Park Millage as follows:

- Under the General Fund Budget, the Township will continue to support maintenance in the pre-1984 parks but future development projects in pre-1984 parks will be funded through the Park Millage
- Under the Park Millage Budget, the park development amount includes the proposed 2015 Capital Improvements Program projects and the addition of one utility worker was included in the Park Maintenance amount

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE 2015 BUDGET REQUEST FOR PARKS IN THE GENERAL FUND AND PARK MILLAGE IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS:

**General Fund:**

• Parks and Recreation Administration	\$146,139	
• Park Maintenance	<u>\$204,972</u>	\$351,111

**Park Millage:**

• Parks and Recreation Administration	\$154,675	
• Park Maintenance (add 1 utility worker)	\$233,891	
• Harris Nature Center	\$188,632	
• Park Development	<u>\$899,000</u>	\$1,476,198

Roll Call:

AYES: Mark Stephens, Melanie Jaramillo, Teri Banas, Todd Wilson, Mike McDonald

NAYS: None

Motion passed

**10. Unfinished Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None

**11. Other Business**

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None

**12. Discussion Items**

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None

**13. Final Comments**

None

**14. Announcements**

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, September 9, 2014 Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays; 8 am - 2 pm; Central Park

**15. Public Remarks**

None

**16. Closed Session**

None

**17. Adjournment**

COMMISSIONER BANAS, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2014

PRESENT: Commissioners: Banas, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens, Wilson (arrived at 6:21 pm)  
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: None

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Vice Chair Banas called the special meeting to order at 6:16 pm

**2. Roll Call**

The following Commissioners were present: Teri Banas, Melanie Jaramillo, Mike McDonald, Mark Stephens and Todd Wilson (arrived at 6:21 pm).

**3. Approval of Agenda**

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**4. Public Comment**

MSU Student Tony Garcia and Michelle Ghafari stated they were covering the meeting for the Meridian Times website magazine.

**5. 2014 Park Projects Update**

Director Maisner summarized the following:

- **Newton Road Park Parking Lot**
  - a. Gravel parking area, landscaping: Under construction
  - b. Fencing and signage: Scheduled for after parking area construction
  - c. Was contacted by Sierra Ridge Homeowners Association on the construction, including discussion on proposed play structure

- **Wonch Park Loop Trail**
  - a. Tree Removal: Completed (18 dead trees)
  - b. Paved Loop Pathway: Completed (people walking on it; will be planning a ribbon cutting ceremony; suggested adding benches)
  
- **North Meridian Road Park Sand Volleyball Court**
  - a. Request for Bid: Completed
  - b. Awarded contract: Completed (Michigan Demolition & Excavation)
  - c. Construction: October
  
- **Legg Park Improvements**
  - a. Entry & Small Parking Area Paving – Completed
  - b. Entrance Enhancement
    - clear area to improve sight distance: Fall
    - landscaping status: Need to plan
  - c. Enhancements
    - DNR Wildlife Habitat Grant/ \$50,000: will know about grant awarded October 1, 2014
  - d. Footbridges

**Additional Projects:**

- Legg Park Footbridge replacement                      \$ 5,000              Need to Plan  
 the new one is already on its side and staff had tried to reset it; discussed having an engineer look at site but it will be costly to install due to accessibility; hate to lose an Eagle Scout project; may need to close this portion of the trail
  
- Towner Road Park Temporary Security Gate and Sign                      \$ 1,500              Completed
- North Meridian Road Park Disc Golf and Gaga Ball                      \$ 6,000              In progress
- Trail Improvements                      \$ 5,000              Need to Plan
- Trail and Interpretive signage                      \$10,000              In process
- Tables, benches, grills, trash containers                      \$14,000              Ordering now
- Eagle Scout Support                      \$ 3,000              Ongoing
- Harris Nature Center Expand Overflow Parking Lot                      \$ 5,000              Planning
- Harris Nature Center Nature Playground                      \$10,000              In progress
- Central Park Master Plan                      \$16,000              Need to Plan  
 Suggest contracting with a facilitator to design the project; should this be a topic for future agenda to discuss how to engage public; the Commission's vision; need for connecting the different areas with an internal trail system; move Farmers Market to alternate location; Historical Village would like to add a pavilion and restroom facility; improve and enlarge the footbridge from Central Park to Historical Village with archway.

**Other Park Projects:**

- New Park Millage: passed 8/5/14
- Nancy Moore Park Garden renovations: underway
- Orlando Park Turf improvement program: completed
- Park Rules signs: underway
- Gaga Ball Pens: purchasing materials for construction this winter
- North Meridian Road Park Disc Golf: Have meeting scheduled with Capital City Renegades to discuss designing 9-hole disc golf course; will plan this year and construct in 2015; suggest placing on concrete pads at tee boxes.
- Ferguson Park: canoe landing needs repair; ramp has shifted and hand rails are gone. Repair is not budgeted for 2015 (may need budget amendment; need to access area to water to gain any "water trail points for grant; staff is working with Jeff Potter on creating a plan to identify and create ten (10) possible "put in" spots from Williamston to Lansing Commissioner Stephens suggested working with M-GROW
- Central Park Pond: evaluate condition of overlook and identify a renovation plan
- Friend of the Park Program improvements: in progress
- Complete GPS of all existing trails in parks: in progress (Central Park and Ted Black Woods completed)
- Add Park Trails to Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Master Plan: In progress
- Directional signage for park trails: In progress
- Develop a Water Trail Master Plan: First draft completed; next step add more launch areas
- Harris Nature Center New Canoe Landing: platform completed: maybe grant for handicap accessible launch
- Support fundraising efforts and construction of HNC Foundation for Natural Play Area: provided letters of support for Dart Foundation and Jackson National Life Foundation
- Invasive species removal and restoration projects in parks: in progress
- Deer management education: drafted informational poster; updating with additional informational; working with HOM-TV staff on promotional opportunities
- Community Outreach: worked with a number of civic and religious organizations on a variety of park projects

**6. 2015 Budgeted Park Projects**

Director Maisner summarized the following:

- Hartrick Park roof structure for players benches \$4,000  
Okemos Baseball Club has been fundraising for this project and staff will be working with them for construction in spring
- Nancy Moore Park Pavilion residing \$4,000
- Nancy Moore Park Safety Fencing \$6,000

- Harris Nature Center engineer and rebuild island drain \$4,000  
It was suggested the area could be developed as a rain garden, getting school children involved in growing and planting materials, there may be funding available through the Grand Learning Network
- Harris Nature Center crack seal drive and parking area \$5,250
- Ferguson Park crack seal drive and parking area \$5,250
- Eagle Scout Projects \$1,500
- Wonch Park Pavilion grant support \$250,000  
Staff was given preliminary scoring and will be preparing additional support documentation to submit for the Pavilion Grant; need to enhance the connection between the Pavilion and river
- Wonch Park parking lot paving \$100,000
- Orlando Park swing/slide \$35,000
- Legg Park parking area, dog park, stewardship \$170,000
- Towner Road Park Phase I \$224,000
- Hillbrook Park accessible playground \$90,000
- Total \$899,000

Commissioners and staff shared pictures of various park elements in park and recreation spaces in other communities. Director Maisner make the Commissioners aware that the planed work for 2014 and 2015 is an aggressive agenda and that staff is committed to working hard to keep projects on schedule but warned that Township "process" may slow some projects down. Commissioner Banas suggested that the Department improve communications with regards to park projects by posting their progress on Facebook and the Township website from time to time.

## 7. 2015 Grant Project Considerations

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway summarized the following projects that could qualify under the grant process:

- a. Meridian Riverfront Park Trail Pavilion - \$250,000
  - Electricity
  - Water
  - Tree removal / landscaping / rain garden
  - Concrete pad and pathway
- b. Meridian Riverfront Park Restroom - \$200,000
  - Electricity
  - Water
  - Concrete pad and pathway
  - Tree removal / landscaping / rain garden

- c. Wonch Park Renovation – \$350,000
  - Pavilion
  - Water Trail Signage
  - Additional parking area improvements
  - Restroom building improvements
  - Entrance enhancement
  - Signage
  - Additional paved pathway access to pedestrian/bicycle pathway system
- d. Central Park North/South Access
  - Research best access points
  - Apply for grant (possible joint funding with Engineering for pedestrian/bicycle pathway improvement)
- e. Towner Road Park Development Phase I - \$722,407

**Grant Programs specifications:**

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Minimum 25% local match, maximum request for development:\$300,000
- Land and Water Conservation Fund – Required 50% Maximum request for development: \$100,000

**Discussion:**

- Has staff considered applying for small grants from Sparrow Foundation, Jackson National Life or Harold Glassman Foundation
- The Meridian Riverfront Park trail pavilion would be located at the Harris Nature Center entrance in the current location of the barn; with the construction of the nature playground, overlook, proposed accessible canoe launch, access to the river
- Have not been successful with grant applications for Towner Road Park
- Staff had a meeting with developers about bringing community recreation to their Jolly/Okemos Road site; suggestions included a beach at the pond; indoor basketball courts in one of the current buildings; looking for partnerships especially with the expansion of Jackson National Life and extending a pathway connection to JNL; will be meeting with them again the future

**8. Park Naming – Newton Road Park**

Commissioners briefly discussed the name of Newton Road Park, naming policy, dollar amounts, etc. Commissioners were asked to forward their suggestions and ideas to Director Maisner for further discussion at the next meeting.

**9. Other**

**a. Central Park Master Plan**

After a brief discussion regarding the development of a request for proposals or a request for qualifications, staff was asked to prepare a request for qualifications for the next Park Commission meeting.

**b. Deer Management Educational Flyer**

Commissioners briefly discussed the driver awareness/education piece created by staff on deer. There was discussion by the Commission as to who should be creating this document, Police maybe? Commissioner Banas offered that the map should be enlarged to better understand location of hot spots for accidents. The Communications Department assisted with the flyer will be using the information in the upcoming Meridian Monitor. Parks and Recreation Department staff will no longer be involved in the flyer.

**c. October Meeting Date**

Chair Wilson and Director Maisner reported they would not be available for the Commission meeting scheduled for October 14. After a brief discussion, the October meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, October 21.

**10. Public Comment**

None

**11. Adjourn**

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING.

The special meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

# Park Commission Meeting

## October 21, 2014

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Bobbi DuByne; RE: request to revamp Hillbrook Park
2. From: Tom Wiserman; Re: Ottawa Hills Park request for repairs
3. From: Carrie Seroka; RE: thank you for ride toys in parks
4. From: DL Scapes; RE: zoning in our parks and land preserves
5. From: DNR; RE DNR Announces 2015 Wildlife Habitat Grant recipients
6. From: Tom Wiserman; RE: Ottawa Hills tree trimming request
7. From: Pat Harrington; RE: Lansing Oar and Paddle Club cleaning Red Cedar River on Saturday, October 4
8. From: Steve DeBrander, DNR Grants Manager; RE: WHGP Application 15-604, Legg Park Wildlife Enhancement Project

#### B. Commission Information

1. October Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Parks & Recreation Department September Report
3. Twitter Post: Garlic Mustard removal April-June 2014; 7 Tons
4. Lansing State Journal: **Sept 14:** Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's history
5. Towne Courier: **Aug 17:** Art class offered at HNC Aug 26; **Aug 24:** Nature center hosts exploration of water for kids; Live bats to be at nature center; **Aug 31:** Nature center hosts exploration of water for kids; Toddlers can discover nature; River exploration program at HNC; **Sept 7:** Harris Nature Center hosts 'Turtle Toast' Fundraiser Sept 11; Live bats come to nature center; Toddlers can discover nature; Chipmunk Story Time at HNC; **Sept 14:** Annual Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's rich history; Meridian announces another deer harvest; Qigong classes offered at HNC; Preschool Science Exploration at HNC Oct 2; Build a bird feeder at HNC Sept 28; Chipmunk Story Time on Sept 18; **Sept 21:** Benefit coed softball tourney set for Oct 4; **Sept 28:** Benefit coed softball tourney set for Oct 4; Legg Park much more than just weeds; **Oct 5:** Nature Center offers Halloween event, Qigong classes offered at HNC; you can build a fairy house on Oct 16
6. Harris Nature Center Foundation Minutes: August 11, 2014
7. Faith Family News October 2014 edition: thank you from Meridian Township

#### C. Staff Inquiries/Response

1. To: Assistant Planner Wyatt; Re: Comments on Aldi Development

8/19/14

LuAnn,

When I took my cleaning sweep  
at Hillbrook Park I noticed the  
drinking fountain wasn't work-  
ing. Usually I just pay attention  
to what's on the ground & didn't  
realize it wasn't working.

If it isn't on the list  
could you add it.

Thanks for the ramp you are  
going to give the park,

~~###~~

Balhi Du Byrne

## Robin Faust

---

**From:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Sent:** Friday, September 05, 2014 9:47 AM  
**To:** tom.wiseman@sbcglobal.net  
**Subject:** Ottawa Hills Park

Good Morning Mr. Wiseman,

Thank you alerting us to the ruts in the park. I will send our staff back to assess and repair the area. As far as mowing close to the property line – it is our responsibility to mow our property and your responsibility to mow yours. If we have encroached onto your property with the ruts, I apologize and we will make those repairs immediately.

However, if you are interested, we have a "Friend of the Park" volunteer program which would permit you to "adopt" the park and assist with maintenance activities. We currently have approximately twenty "friends" who have taken on maintenance tasks in parks throughout the Township. Neighborhood involvement helps keep parks neat and safe for neighborhood children and their families.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like additional information on the "Friends of the Parks" program. I may be reached at 853-4604.

Thank you.

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

**From:** Tom Wiseman [<mailto:tom.wiseman@sbcglobal.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 04, 2014 6:57 PM  
**To:** Lori Hagan  
**Subject:** Mowing in Ottawa Hills Park

Ms. Hagen-

Don't know if you are in charge of the parks in the township still, but I have a complaint. I live next to the Ottawa Hills Park on Hillcrest, and whoever mowed the lawn today(9/4) left circular ruts in the grass near my property line, if not on the line next to the park. This has happened from time to time this Summer, but this is the worst it has looked. Because of all the rain we have had the ground has not dried out like it usually does, so I would think the mowers would take that into account when doing there job. They need to take better care, and I tend to mow over farther than the line, so there is no need for them to come over so far and ruin the grass.

Tom Wiseman

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
Charter Township of Meridian  
517-853-4604

## LuAnn Maisner

---

**From:** Carol Hasse  
**Sent:** Friday, September 26, 2014 3:04 PM  
**To:** Carrie.extra@gmail.com  
**Cc:** LuAnn Maisner; Robin Faust; Frank Walsh  
**Subject:** RE: Contact Us (form) has been filled out on your site.

Dear Carrie,

Good afternoon. Thank you for contacting Meridian Township and sharing your kind words with us about the new kids cars. It is great to know that families are enjoying them. I am sharing your message with our staff in the Parks & Recreation Department as they are the ones responsible for placing them there.

I hope you are able to visit one of our parks during the next few days since the weather is going to be so summery. Have a great weekend!

Carol Hasse, Executive Assistant  
Meridian Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
(517) 853-4258  
[hassec@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hassec@meridian.mi.us)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Please Do Not Click Reply [<mailto:support@govoffice.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 7:54 PM  
**To:** Carol Hasse  
**Subject:** Contact Us (form) has been filled out on your site.

Your Site has received new information through an online form.

Online Form: Contact Us  
Site URL: [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)

-----  
Your Name: Carrie Seroka  
Street Address: 5609 Ventura Pl  
City, State, Zip Code: Haslett, MI , 48840 E-Mail Address: [Carrie.extra@gmail.com](mailto:Carrie.extra@gmail.com) Telephone Number:  
Please enter your comments or suggestion here: Our family wanted to say thank you for the new kids cars we have seen at the Meridian farmers market and Orlando Park. They are a great addition to the parks and our kids have really enjoyed them!  
Department or Employee Name: Parks

Do Not Click Reply - This e-mail has been generated from an online form.

## Jane Greenway

---

**From:** Jane Greenway  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 11:09 AM  
**To:** 'info@dlsclapes.com'  
**Subject:** Michigan beach sand

Dear DLScapes:

Thank you for your interest in our parks and land preserves. Please note that parks and land preserves are treated separately and are governed by different sections in the Meridian Zoning Code. I say this to clarify any confusion you may have that North Meridian Road Park, the future recipient of the beach sand, is actually a park, not a land preserve. If you would like to learn more about the land preservation philosophies and/or upcoming park projects, you can visit the Meridian Township website at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us) or contact me directly at 853-4610.

Regarding the lack of a need for sand volleyball courts, we actually have quite a strong demand for sand volleyball courts. Our league numbers continue to climb and indicate a need for additional courts. They also serve as a great amenity for general park users and family get-togethers. The fees from these leagues and others help fund our park and recreation programs.

We have been treating phragmites on township properties for over five years. If you would like more information on invasive species management, it may be found on our township website.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Jane L. Greenway, RLA  
Parks and Land Management Coordinator  
Meridian Charter Township  
Phone 517-853-4610  
Email [greenway@meridian.mi.us](mailto:greenway@meridian.mi.us)

“Creating Community Through People, Parks, and Programs”

-----Original Message-----

From: DLScapes [<mailto:info@dlsclapes.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, September 30, 2014 8:35 PM  
To: Jane Greenway  
Subject: Michigan beach sand

It has been called to my attention that not only are we building a volley ball court that nobody is going to use but you want Michigan beach sand for the project. Does this not conflict with your land preservation philosophies and cost an exorbitant amount of tax payer revenue?  
Your killing me with your never ending request for revenues that only enrich you and your cronies. Please give us some relief in our property tax duties.

By the the way, what is your plan of action for the phragmites invasion in our so called wet lands throughout the township?

P.S.

Leave a couple of deer for me and my family.

Tax paying residents since 1986.

Sent from my iPad

## Jane Greenway

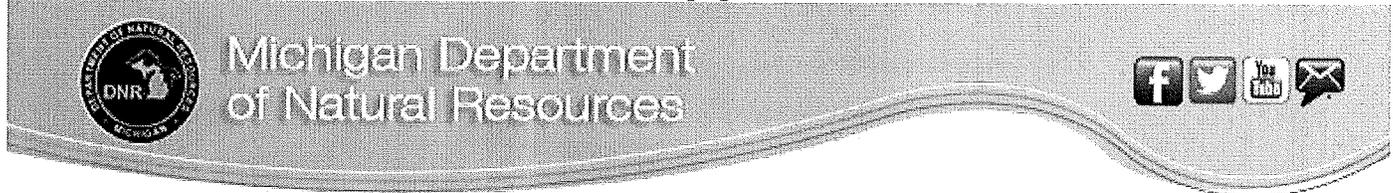
---

**From:** Michigan DNR <MIDNR@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 01, 2014 3:06 PM  
**To:** Jane Greenway  
**Subject:** DNR announces 2015 Wildlife Habitat Grant recipients

More than \$1 million awarded to improve quality, quantity of habitat for game species.

 SHARE

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## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 1, 2014

Contact: Clay Buchanan, 517-284-6214; Kelly Parker, 517-284-5957; or Holly Vaughn, 313-396-3863

### **DNR announces 2015 Wildlife Habitat Grant recipients**

The Department of Natural Resources today announced the recipients of the 2015 Wildlife Habitat Grants. A total of \$1,062,807 was awarded to various conservation organizations, units of government, landowners and nonprofit organizations.

The Wildlife Habitat Grant Program, which began in October 2013, is funded with a portion of the revenue from the hunting and fishing licenses sold each year. This grant program is directly related to the new hunting and fishing licensing structure passed by the Michigan Legislature that took effect in March 2014. The Department of Natural Resources administers the program through a cooperative effort between its Wildlife Division and Grants Management Section.

The program aims to enhance and improve the quality and quantity of game-species habitat in support of a specific goal from the Wildlife Division's strategic plan, The GPS (Guiding Principles and Strategies). The grant program's primary goal relates to GPS Goal 2 – Manage habitat for sustainable wildlife populations in a changing environment.

"Hunting generates more than \$2.3 billion for Michigan's economy," said Russ Mason, Wildlife Division chief. "This program impacts wildlife habitat across the state to ensure there are quality hunting opportunities. In addition, these grants benefit everyone who enjoys the state's world-class natural resources. We appreciate what hunters and anglers do to fund the professional management of Michigan's woods and waters."

Mason added that these grants provide additional resources to the DNR's partners so they can help do the work that wildlife need. "It expands our work force by having partners spend time on important wildlife priorities."

Examples of funded projects include the expansion of wetland areas for improved waterfowl habitat and improved food sources for upland game birds in several locations across the state, as well as increased food and shelter for white-tailed deer.

Below is a list of successful applicants, their award amounts, and the counties in which the habitat projects will take place.

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project County</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Clayton Gibson King	Iosco	\$20,240
Clinton Conservation District	Clinton	\$45,200
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Allegan	\$99,000
Grand Traverse Conservation District	Grand Traverse	\$55,300
Huron Pines	Cheboygan	\$59,600
Huron-Manistee National Forest Baldwin Ranger District	Lake, Newaygo, Oceana	\$25,200
John H. Kelly	Delta	\$22,800
Lenawee Conservation District	Hillsdale	\$15,000
Michigan United Conservation Clubs	Statewide	\$156,000
National Wild Turkey Federation	Livingston	\$20,800
National Wild Turkey Federation	Allegan	\$39,700
Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Huron	\$79,300
Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Lenawee	\$47,000
Pheasants Forever, Inc.	Gratiot	\$36,660
Presque Isle Conservation District	Presque Isle	\$23,000
Ruffed Grouse Society and American Woodcock Society	Benzie, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Grand Traverse	\$68,600
Saginaw Conservation District	Saginaw	\$48,207
Sanilac Conservation District	Sanilac	\$37,500

Wildlife Management Institute	Iron	\$15,200
Zero Day	Jackson, Washtenaw	\$148,500
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,062,807</b>

To learn more about the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program, visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants).

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

If you received this from a friend and would like to get emails on DNR topics that interest you, [please sign up](#).  
 For DNR-related questions, [contact us](#).  
 For suggestions on how the DNR can improve the emails you receive, please email [DNR-Bulletins@michigan.gov](mailto:DNR-Bulletins@michigan.gov).

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This email was sent to [greenway@meridian.mi.us](mailto:greenway@meridian.mi.us) using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Michigan DNR - Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan St., PO Box 30028  
 Lansing MI 48909 · 1-800-439-1420

## LuAnn Maisner

---

**From:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 4:33 PM  
**To:** 'Tom Wiseman'  
**Cc:** Dennis Antone; Robin Faust; Rob MacKenzie  
**Subject:** RE: Quick Question

Hi Tom,

I'm sure we can work something out. I'm not sure when you plan to have the work done, but it would be preferable if the work could wait to a time when the ground is dry and a little more firm. I think the weather man is predicting rain for the next 3 days. Also, if any damage would occur to the park, (i.e. ruts), you would be responsible for restoration.

Please use this email as approval for your request. Good luck with your project!

LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

**From:** Tom Wiseman [<mailto:tom.wiseman@sbcglobal.net>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 4:10 PM  
**To:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** Quick Question

Ms. Maisner-

I live in Ottawa Hills sub. next to the park. I recently got an est. to get some tree trimming done on my property. One of the trees is on the back corner of my house near the park. There is a possibility that in order for the company to get their equipment back to where the tree is, they will have to drive onto the park because there is not enough space to get there otherwise. I was wondering if I need to get some sort of permit or something that allows for that. Your help is appreciated.

Tom Wiseman

## Robin Faust

---

**From:** Pat Harrington <notification+k131hhdd@facebookmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 02, 2014 7:09 AM  
**To:** Friends of the Red Cedar River  
**Subject:** [Friends of the Red Cedar River] Lansing Oar & Paddle Club is hosting it's Annual...

[Pat Harrington posted in Friends of the Red Cedar River](#)



**Pat Harrington**

7:08am Oct 2

Lansing Oar & Paddle Club is hosting it's Annual Red Cedar River Clean and Clear Project  
Saturday, October 4, 2014 9:00 AM

Harris Nature Center - 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI

From their meetup post: Join us as we work on the obstructions identified from Grand River Blvd. to Ferguson Park. Please bring waders, wetsuits, and gloves and prepare to get your feet wet and your hands dirty. We meet at 9:00 am at the Harris Nature Center and assign responsibilities after a safety orientation. If you own a chainsaw please bring it but only owners are allowed to operate them as a safety policy. We usually are done for the day by 2:00 pm.



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RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

October 1, 2014

Ms. Jane Greenway  
Meridian Charter Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Greenway:

SUBJECT: WHGP Application 15-604, Legg Park Wildlife Enhancement Project

I am writing to provide you with the results of the review and evaluation of the 2015 Wildlife Habitat Grant Program (WHGP) applications.

The WHGP provides funding to local, state, federal and tribal units of government, profit or non-profit groups, and individuals to assist the Wildlife Division with developing or improving wildlife habitat for game species.

A total of \$1,062,807.00 was available for grant awards under this competitive program. Staff of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received and evaluated 54 WHGP applications, requesting a total of approximately \$2.1 million. The DNR Director approved twenty projects, utilizing all available funds.

**I regret to inform you that the application listed above was not included among the WHGP applications approved by the Director.** We do appreciate your interest in the program and the results do not mean your project was unworthy of funding. Due to limited funding and a large number of applications received, it was not possible to fund all eligible projects. We anticipate the next request for proposals will be announced sometime in mid 2015. If you choose to reapply for a Wildlife Habitat Grant, we suggest you work with local DNR Wildlife Division staff to develop your project proposal.

If you have any questions regarding your application, please contact Ms. Kelly Parker, Program Manager, WHGP, Grants Management, at 517-284-5957, email [parkerk4@michigan.gov](mailto:parkerk4@michigan.gov) or Mr. Clay Buchanan, WHGP Coordinator, Wildlife Division at 517-284-6214, email [buchananc1@michigan.gov](mailto:buchananc1@michigan.gov). You can also write us at the following address: **Grants Management, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.**

Sincerely,

Steven J. DeBrabander, Manager  
Grants Management  
517-284-5930  
[debrabanders@michigan.gov](mailto:debrabanders@michigan.gov)

SJD:lh

cc: Mr. Clay Buchanan, DNR  
Ms. Kelly Parker, DNR

## Robin Faust

---

**From:** Jane Greenway  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 08, 2014 12:12 PM  
**To:** Robin Faust  
**Subject:** FW: Game Table

**From:** Jane Greenway  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 08, 2014 9:10 AM  
**To:** 'Eckhart Dersch'  
**Subject:** RE: Game Table

Hi Eck,

Sounds great. Yes, please send us the receipts and we can reimburse you. Thanks for your help.

So far the deer count is up to 14. Yet the car accidents last year were higher than the year before. I have to think that we are reducing the population, but it seems that there are still too many. I wish we could build green land bridges for them to cross the busy roads.

Have a great day,  
Jane

**From:** Eckhart Dersch [<mailto:dersch@anr.msu.edu>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 07, 2014 10:31 PM  
**To:** Jane Greenway  
**Subject:** Game Table

Hi Jane,

Today I had a chance to install the game-piece boxes. I ended up with two dry boxes because both checkers and chess would not fit in the smaller box as originally planned. Now the larger box contains chess pieces and the smaller box the checkers pieces - which works out better because the pieces will not get mixed together.

I have an extra set of game pieces for you just in case you find that an occasional piece needs to be replaced. I have an extra set too, and will check the table whenever I am in the area.

(I have receipts for the things I purchased. Hopefully Parks and Recreation will be able to reimburse some or all of the cost).

Hope your autumn is going well and that the deer hunt will be even more successful than it was last year.

Eck

# Meridian Township Parks & Recreation

## October Calendar of Events



October 1 – Youth and Adult Fall Introduction to Target Archery Registration Deadline

October 2 – Preschool Science Exploration: Searching for Seeds

October 2 - Meridian Blood Drive

October 3 – Weekday Science Programs: Non-flowering Plants

October 4 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class

October 5 – Meet the HNC Critters

October 6 – First Class Dog Training Basic Obedience Class

October 8 – Sporties for Shorties Camp

October 10 – Howl at the Moon

October 11 – Misunderstood Animals Campfire and Program

October 13 – Sporties for Shorties Camp

October 16 – Chipmunk Story Time: Big Pumpkin

October 18 – HNC Stewardship Mornings

October 19 – Autumn Discovery Walk

October 21 – Sporties for Shorties Camp

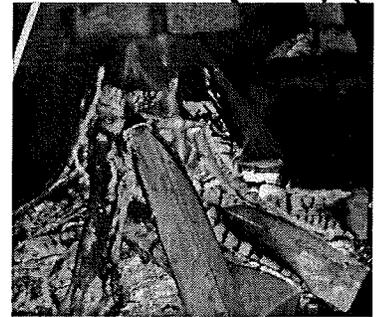
October 21 – Youth and Adult Summer Introduction to Air Rifle Registration Deadline

October 23 – FHM Lecture Series

October 25 – **Meridian Township Celebrates Halloween**

- Halloween Adventures at Harris Nature Center
- Halloween Open House at the Meridian Township Police Department
- Meridian Fire Stations Halloween Open House
- HOM-TV Studio Funhouse
- Halloween in the Village
- Meridian Farmers Market

October 31 – Haslett 4th - 6th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball League Registration Deadline



Questions, call Meridian Township Parks & Recreation at (517) 853-4600



## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **1. Park Commission:**

At the meeting on September 23 Special Meeting: The Commissioners received an update on the progress of budgeted 2014 park projects; reviewed the 2015 budgeted park projects; discussed grant opportunities for and projects for grant submission.

The next regular meeting of the Park Commission has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 21 at the Township Service Center with the work session at 6 pm and regular meeting at 7 pm.

### **2. Administration:**

The Meridian Heritage Festival was held on Saturday, September 20 with approximately 3,000 visitors. The festival included Native American and Pioneer activities, food, music, dancing and vintage base ball.

Farmers' Market moved to the Meridian Mall Parking lot on Saturday, September 20 to help accommodate the Heritage Festival in Central Park.

Met with local developer to discuss the possibility parks and public facilities in proposed development plan near the corner of Jolly and Okemos.

New Utility Worker in the Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division, Robert Stacey began work on September 8.

Met with Jeff Potter to discuss his plan to create 8-10 put-in areas for canoes and kayaks from Williamston to Lansing. His plan is currently being reviewed by staff.

Placed orders for new chairs and tables for the Meridian Senior Center.

Met with Dave Yankee regarding an appraisal request for Land Preservation

Met with a landowner regarding property for Land Preservation.

Awarded contract for driveway improvements at Legg Park; construction of gravel parking lot at Newton Road Park; and universally accessible loop path at Wonch Park. All three projects were substantially complete in September.

### **3. Parks and Land Management**

#### **Land Preservation**

- The next regular LPAB meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at 6 pm at the Meridian Service Center.
- Met with two homeowners concerning dead trees on parks/land preserves adjacent to their homes.

- Northwest Land Preserve (Towar Woods): Neighborhood volunteers held two work days in August to remove competing invasive vegetation with newly planted trees at the Northwest Land Preserve.
- Worked with Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative community partners to annually treat the invasive species; Japanese Knotweed and Phragmites throughout the Township (Ted Black Woods Park, Northwest Land Preserve, Davis/Foster Land Preserve, Towner Road Wetland Preserve, and Spengler Marsh).
- Future land preserve acquisitions: Worked with applicants on their land preserve applications and began negotiations for property acquisition.
- Developed memo on behalf of the LPAB to respond to Planning Commission's suggestion to rezone the land preserves.

### **Deer Management**

- Processed applications and enrolled hunters in the 2014 deer management program. Attended archery safety and proficiency workshops at the MSU Demmer Center to provide information and answer questions from new hunters. Continued preparations for the 2014 deer management program.
- The program will run October 1, 2014 through January 1, 2015. The program includes 72 hunters (6 of which are township employees) who are assigned to 19 township-owned properties, 1 county-owned property, and 1 private property (Delta Dental). The parks and land preserves remain open during the harvest and the trail entries will be marked with orange signs.
- Developed press releases and sent maps and other material to the media.
- Participated in television interviews regarding deer management program

### **Parks**

- Wonch Park: Central Excavating, LLC completed the Wonch Park pathway. Many park visitors have been enjoying the new addition to the park.
- Newton Road Park: Mike and Son Asphalt constructed a gravel parking lot and landscape installation.
- Legg Park: Mike and Son Asphalt paved the entry way and small parking area in Legg Park.
- North Meridian Road Park Sand Volleyball: Mid-Michigan Demolition and Excavation was chosen to construct two sand volleyball courts at the park. Construction is scheduled for October.
- Red Cedar Natural Area: Met with neighbor to assess dead trees in the park near his home.
- Paul Peterson Memorial Garden: Continued to work on construction of a memorial garden in Nancy Moore Park to honor Paul Peterson, a former township employee. Worked with our engineering department to plan the concrete area. The garden will include a concrete plaza area surrounding the existing flagpole, memorial bench, memorial rock, grass areas, and a tree. A softball tournament will be held in Paul's honor on October 4.
- Park Pick-Up Palooza: Over 70 volunteers from local Lutheran churches participated in a community wide park clean up event is planned on Saturday, September 6 from

- 10-noon. This event was organized in response to a request from local churches who expressed a desire to volunteer within the township. Volunteer work included cleaning the parking lot and landscaping at Brattin Woods, spreading mulch at Nancy Moore, plant installation and spreading mulch at North Meridian Road Park, and clean-up and painting in the Historical Village.
- Grand Learning Network: Met with local teachers from the Grand Learning Network to plan monarch butterfly garden at the pond in the Historical Village on October 24, 2014.
  - Meridian Garden Club: Continued to work with MGC on their requests in the parks (mulch delivery, weed pick up, sign coordination, irrigation shut off).
  - Red Cedar Watertrail: Met with local paddler, Jeff Potter, to discuss locations for informal canoe/kayak launches along the Red Cedar.
  - Disc Golf: Met with president of Capital City Renegades Disc Golf organization to discuss plans for a disc golf course at North Meridian Road Park.
  - Mosquito Larvae in Parks and Land Preserves: Provided maps and information to MSU Entomology Department to collect mosquito larvae in our parks and preserves.

#### 4. Recreation

- First Class Dog Training – 22 enrolled in two classes
- Okemos – 372 currently enrolled in fall soccer, 116 currently enrolled in flag football
- Haslett – 201 currently enrolled in fall soccer, 116 enrolled in flag football
- Williamston – 114 kids currently enrolled in tackle football, 73 in flag football, and 37 in cheerleading
- Sporties for Shorties - 13
- 41 Seniors to the Grand Hotel “Grand Experience”

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  - Halloween Adventures at Harris Nature Center
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  - Meridian Fire Stations Halloween Open House
  - HOM-TV Studio Funhouse
  - Halloween in the Village

➤ Meridian Farmers Market  
October 31 – Haslett 4th - 6th Grade Boys and Girls Basketball League Registration  
Deadline

5. **Harris Nature Center**

Attendance: September 2014:

- 509 drop-in visitors to the Nature Building
- 103 students learned about nature (7 programs)
- 24 Middle School students received an Outreach Program on animals
- 4 children enjoyed Preschool Science Exploration
- 5 children participated in Weekday Science
- 15 children attended Chipmunk Story Time
- 24 toddlers are enrolled in 6-week Nature for Toddlers programs
- 20 children enjoyed 2 Birthday Parties
- 5 adults participated in 5 Elements Qigong (1 class)
- 31 people enjoyed the Harvest Moon Campfire
- 54 people attended Live Bats of the World
- 2 people participated in Build a Bird Feeder Workshop
- 60 people attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Turtle Toast
- 6 people participated in Stewardship Morning
- 8 people volunteered in the Nature Exploration Area
- 11 people rented/used the building for 1 meeting

Naturalist Staff Notes:

- Staff taught 21 programs.
- September Volunteer Projects:
  - HNC Stewards spread woodchips on the Deer Run Trail.
  - Nature Exploration Area volunteers spread s mountain of wood chips.
  - Brian Van Order created the Nature Exploration Area pathway, dug the Fossil Dig sand pit and filled it with sand.
  - Turtle Toast volunteers organized and set-up the event, sold raffle tickets, donated prizes, checked people in, directed parking and entertained with live music and song.
- Staff sent out 17 press releases on upcoming HNC programs.
- HNC Facebook summary through 9-30-14:

• Total Likes	• 887
• Highest Reach	• 2,368
- Staff posted 21 times on Facebook and 13 times on Twitter in September.
- Staff was interviewed about upcoming programs on WLNZ radio: Coffee Break Show.
- Staff was interviewed on Q106 for a PSA about Stewardship Mornings.
- Staff created and sent out a Fall Newsletter
- Staff received training on health care for the hawks.
- Staff is planning and prepping the Halloween Adventures event.
- All nature trails are open from dawn to dusk for walking. The nature building is back to regular hours: open Tuesday-Saturday, 9am-4pm and Sunday 12pm-4pm. There is a porta-john available when the building is closed.

Upcoming Programs:

**Meet the HNC Critters:** Sunday October 5 at 3 pm; who's Tyco and what's Scooter? You've seen them all, but this is a chance to get up close and learn their personal stories from the naturalists who care for them. (\$3/person or \$7/family)

**5 Elements Qigong,** Mondays, October 6, 20, 27 at 7-8 pm; qigong (pronounced chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. We will learn the 5 Elements, 8 Pieces of Silk Brocade and White Crane Looks Back. Qigong can be practiced by people of all ages and is enhanced by practicing in nature. (\$10/class, drop-in)

**Howl at the Moon,** Friday October 10 at 8 pm; guided night walk under the full moon; dogs welcome on a leash. Meet in the parking lot. (\$3/person)

**Misunderstood Animals Campfire,** Saturday October 11 at 7 pm; gather around the campfire for marshmallow roasting and program about animals that scare us, followed by a guided walk. (\$3/person or \$7/family)

**Chipmunk Story Time, "Big Pumpkin"** Thursday October 16 at 10 am; preschool and elementary children join Chicory and Hickory Chipmunk for nature stories followed by a walk, game or craft (\$3/child)

**Discover the Magic of Fairy Houses,** Thursday October 16 at 6-9 pm; create a home for fairies out of all nature materials while enjoying adult beverages, appetizers and good company (must be 21 to attend). (\$35/person)

**Stewardship Mornings: It's always Earth Day!** Saturday October 18 at 9-11 am; help keep our park and trails healthy and safe through removal of invasive plants, maintaining habitat areas and gardening around the building. Volunteer once or become a regular once each month (no fee)

**Webelos Scouts Forester Badge Workshop:** Saturday October 18 at 10am – 12pm; scouts complete all of the activities needed for their Forester Badge. (\$4.50/scout)

**Autumn Discovery Walk at Ted Black Woods,** Sunday October 19 at 3 pm; enjoy a guided nature walk in Ted Black Woods. Meet in the parking lot on Van Atta Road. (\$3/person or \$7/family)

**Collage for the Outdoor Soul,** Tuesday October 21 at 9am-3pm; become inspired by nature! Paint and sketch in the park and then use this artwork to create a collage. Open to adults and high school students. No previous art experience necessary. Must bring a sack lunch. Taught by Jessica Kovan. Please pre-register. (\$65/person, all materials included)

**Halloween Adventures,** Saturday October 25 at 10 am- 5 pm; funhouse, pumpkin patch, games, crafts, friendly forest activities, hayride and MUCH more fun for kids! (\$6/ child)

**Preschool Science Exploration: Sensing Fall,** Thursday November 6, at 12:30 pm; preschoolers (4 & 5 year olds) explore science topics through hands-on activities and time outdoors once each month (\$4/child)

**Weekday Science: Autumn Changes,** Friday November 7 at 1 pm; science enrichment for children 5-14 years old (\$4/child)

6. Meridian Senior Center  
 a. Events and Programs

**Event Category: Club**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># of occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Book Club	1	8
2. Genealogy	1	2

**Event Category: Computer/Technology**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># of occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Computer Club	1	9

**Event Category: Congregate Meal**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># of occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Lunch	10	285

**Event Category: Education**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. AARP Driver Safety Class	1	25
2. Elder Abuse	1	0
3. Speaker Mike Bacon	2	3

**Event Category: Equipment Loan**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Equipment Loan	17	1

**Event Category: Fitness/Exercise**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Jazzercise	13	188
2. Line Dance	4	7
3. Mind Benders	2	18
4. Table Tennis	4	16
5. Tai Chi	4	29
6. Yoga	4	11

**Event Category: Games**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Bingo	9	94
2. Bridge	9	100
3. Bridge Lessons	4	32
4. Chess	5	14
5. Cribbage	5	15
6. Euchre	9	60
7. Hand and Foot	5	37
8. Mah Jongg	4	12
9. Pinochle	4	38
10. Practice Bridge	5	10
11. Puzzles	22	36

**Event Category: Health Screening**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Blood Pressure	1	12
2. Chair Massage	2	10
3. Hearing Screening	1	1
4. Reflexology	2	7

**Event Category: Information/Resource Sharing**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Information/Membership	22	27

**Event Category: Legal Services**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Ask a Lawyer	1	0
2. MiCafe	1	0

**Event Category: Media**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Current Events	2	6
2. Documentary Monday	1	10
3. Library	22	15
4. Friday Flicks	2	13

**Event Category: Meetings**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Advisory Board meeting	1	9

**Event Category: Support Groups**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Creating Confident Caregivers	4	12

**Event Category: Off Site Event**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># occurrences</u></b>	<b><u>Monthly Total</u></b>
1. Out to Lunch Bunch	1	10

**Event Category: Volunteer Hours**

<b><u>Event Title</u></b>	<b><u># of events</u></b>	<b><u># of volunteers</u></b>	<b><u># of Hours</u></b>
1. Volunteers	8	(12 times)	165.50

**7. The Parks and Grounds Maintenance Division**

In September, 9 interments, 29 interments to date, 0 disinterment, at Glendale Cemetery

Assisted staff with site preparations for the annual Heritage Festival and moved items for Farmers Market over to the Meridian Mall for this event

Completed installation of the Paul Peterson Memorial

Tree removal form trails in Ted Black Woods

Repaired washed out area on Harris Nature Center driveway

Removed dead deer from Okemos Road by Central School

Removed debris from Hatch Road pathway

Continued athletic field preparations (aerated and dragged fields, lining, painting, mowing, trimming, etc.) for fall soccer, flag football, adult kickball and adult softball at Township and school fields (between 8 – 15 fields daily)

Removed trash and restocked dog waste receptacles in 18 Parks and at the Cemetery

Continued with off-road trail maintenance

Continued with mowing and trimming of Township properties

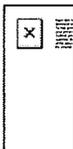
Assisted building maintenance crew with repairs

Hung announcement banners on Township Hall site

**Robin Faust**

---

**From:** Dr. Elly LaRoque (via Twitter) <notify@twitter.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 10, 2014 6:32 AM  
**To:** Robin Faust  
**Subject:** Dr. Elly LaRoque (@DrEllyLaroque) favorited one of your Tweets!



**Meridian Parks & Rec,**  
Your Tweet got favorited!



**Meridian Parks & Rec**  
@meridianParkRec

Thanks everyone for contributing to the removal of 15,870 POUNDS (7 TONS) of garlic mustard from April to June!  
[pic.twitter.com/6Vd5bonGpG](http://pic.twitter.com/6Vd5bonGpG)

06:58 AM - 21 Aug 14



**Favorited by**



**Dr. Elly LaRoque** @DrEllyLaroque  
*Orthopaedic Surgeon with focus on the shoulder, knee and woman's sports injuries.*

See what else @DrEllyLaroque is favoriting.

[View their profile](#)

Forgot your Twitter password? Get instructions on how to reset it.  
You can also unsubscribe from these emails or change your notification settings. Need help?  
If you received this message in error and did not sign up for Twitter, click not my account.

Twitter, Inc. 1355 Market St., Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103

# Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's history

By Dawn Parker  
dparker@lsj.com

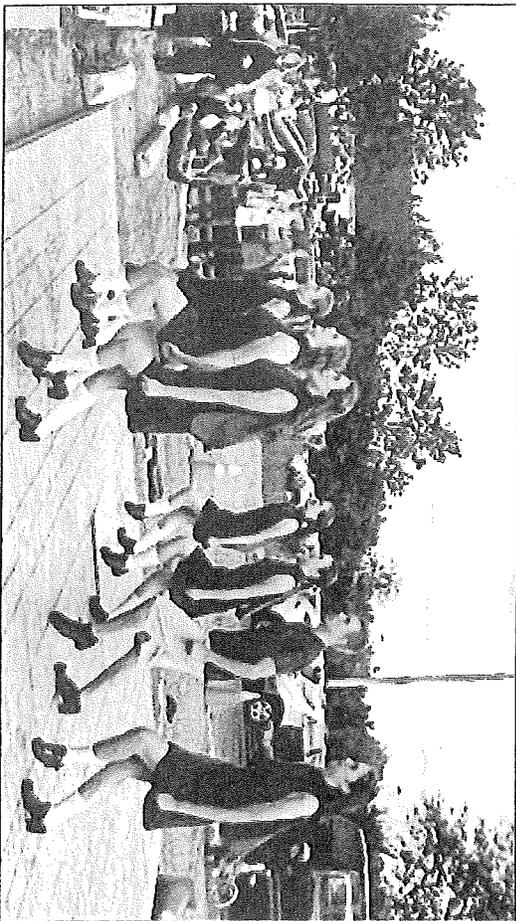
**MERIDIAN TWP.**—From its early settlers to the present, Meridian Township's history is rich.

That history will be on display Sept. 20 during the annual Heritage Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the Meridian Historical Village, located behind the township hall complex at 5151 Marsh Road.

"The Friends of Historic Meridian have been hard at work creating a fun and family-friendly line-up of activities for the community at the festival," said Jane Rose, executive director of the Meridian Historical Village.

"There will be fun activities for all ages, with special hands-on activities and games for children," Rose said.

This free event will include some special activ-



A local troupe of Irish dancers will show off their skills at the Heritage Festival. COURTESY PHOTO

ities to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Friends, including a "cupcake" cake walk for children and samples of "Anniversary Cake" for a small donation.

The Historical Village was begun in January 1974 when one little farm-

house was moved to an empty field.

From that humble beginning the village has grown to include a toll house, a schoolhouse, general store, barn, log cabin, an inn and tavern, and, finally, a chapel.

"The growth of the vil-

lage was the result of many people coming together to rescue, relocate and renovate buildings significant to our local history," Rose said.

"We stand on the shoulders of many area residents committed to preserving the past and educating our youth to carry our rich history into the

future," Rose said. Some activities offered at the festival include: Civil War home-life re-enactments from the Sisters of the Union, cart and pony rides, rug making, loom weaving, lace making, basket weaving, and children's games.

Performers include the Ardan School of Irish dancers and the Haslett-based Gracewood Singers who will sing old-fashioned gospel-style songs, including a selection of "shape note" songs.

There will also be an exhibit of quilts in the Barnes House Inn and Tavern and a display of antique toy trucks in the Tollgate House.

The Meridian Farmers' Market will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Meridian Mall parking lot.

## Art class offered at HNC Aug. 26

Being outdoors brings a special awareness of beauty and artist Jessica Kovan will help you create your own artistic interpretation of that beauty as a mixed media collage. This one-day class will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$65/person and is open to adults and high school students. Contact at 349-3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us.

## HARRIS NATURE CENTER HOSTS 'TURTLE TOAST' FUNDRAISER SEPT. 11

The Harris Nature Center Foundation has partnered with Harris Nature Center staff, Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department, as well as local sponsors to host the Second Annual "Turtle Toast" event at the Harris Nature Center (3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos) on Thursday, Sept. 11 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Fundraiser seeks to spread nature's joys.

The event is being held to celebrate the work on phase one of the Nature Exploration Area.

This exploration area is intended to be a space where visitors can interact with nature in a way that they are not allowed to in the park at large.

The exploration area will also provide opportunities to strengthen existing programs and introduce new ones at the nature center. Additional funding from the event will go towards bus scholarships to enable more area school children to visit the nature center.

Tickets are \$35 per person (adults only) and available at the Harris Nature Center or online at [www.hncfoundation.org](http://www.hncfoundation.org).

Sunday, August 24, 2014 • Towne Courier

## Nature center hosts exploration of water for kids

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township on Thursday, Sept. 4 at 12:30 p.m. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is Water Wonders. The program is designed for 4-5 year old children. The fee is \$4/child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact them at [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

## Live bats to be at nature center

Silently hunting insects at night, bats are frequently seen and just as often, their intent is misunderstood. The Organization for Bat Conservation will bring live bats to the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. There is a \$6/person fee and pre-registration is recommended. For more information and to register, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

2A • Sunday, August 31, 2014 • Towne Courier

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## Toddlers can discover nature

Introduce your toddler or young preschooler to nature at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Six-week sessions begin Monday, Sept. 22 and Tuesday, Sept. 23 for children 4 years and younger accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

Sessions of My Cub and I, which is designed for children under 3 years old, will meet from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Mondays or 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Timber Tots, which is designed for 3- and 4-year-olds, will meet from 9-10 a.m. on Mondays.

## River Exploration program at HNC

Enhance your child's science education at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Friday, Sept. 5 at 1 p.m. during their Weekday Science program called River Exploration. The programs are open to children 6-14 years old. For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

An edition of the  
Lansing State Journal

# The Towne Courier™

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A PENNETT COMPANY

Your very own newspaper serving East Lansing, Okemos, Haslett and Meridian Township

Vol. 51 — No. 51

www.TowneCourier.com

September 14, 2014

## MERIDIAN ANNOUNCES ANOTHER DEER HARVEST

In an effort to reduce the over-population of deer, a managed harvest will occur on select township properties during the regular 2014 hunting season.

The managed hunt is not open to the general public. Only approved, qualified, competent and experienced hunters will be allowed to access township property for the managed harvest. Meridian Township continues to receive numerous complaints of deer over-population that have resulted in an increase of damage to landscaping, an increase in reports of vehicle/deer accidents, concern for public health and a disruption to the ecological balance of natural areas.

The Deer Management Plan for 2014 includes the following measures for a deer harvest:

- » Hunting to take place Oct. 1 through Jan. 1.
- » Participation of a limited number of qualified, competent, experienced hunters who are familiar with the area.

- » Archery hunting only.
- » The majority of the deer are donated to local food banks. Michigan Sportsmen Against Hunger provides funding for the processing fee.

- » Entrances to designated hunting properties will be posted, advising visitors of the harvest

Those wishing to be added to the waiting list for the 2014 harvest, e-mail your name, address and contact information to Nick Sanchez at [sanchez@meridian.mi.us](mailto:sanchez@meridian.mi.us) or call (517) 853-4600.

2A • Sunday, September 7, 2014 • Towne Courier

### Live bats come to nature center

Silently hunting insects at night, bats are frequently seen and just as often, their intent is misunderstood. The Organization for Bat Conservation will bring live bats to the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Sunday, Sept. 21 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. There is a \$6/person fee and pre-registration is recommended. For more information and to register, call (517) 349-3866.

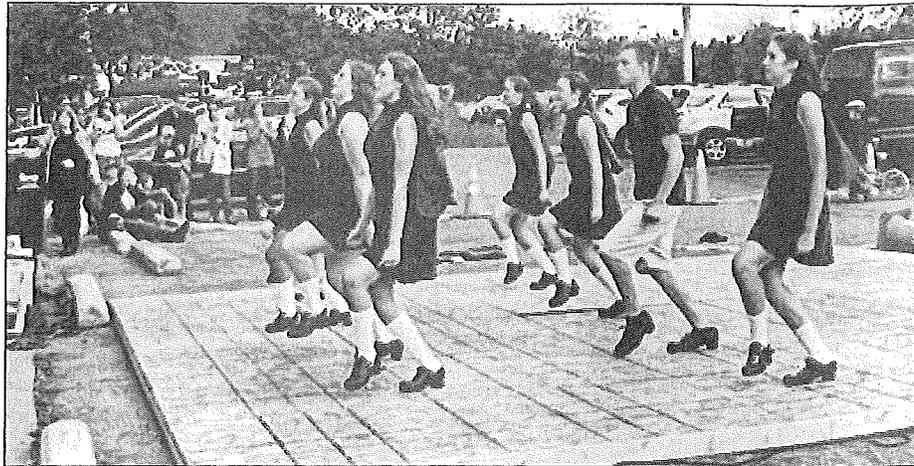
### Toddlers can discover nature

Introduce your toddler or young preschooler to nature at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township. Six-week sessions begin Monday, Sept. 22 and Tuesday, Sept. 23 for children 4 years and younger accompanied by an adult. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

Sessions of My Cub and I, which is designed for children under 3 years old, will meet from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Mondays or 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Timber Tots, which is designed for 3- and 4-year-olds, will meet from 9-10 a.m. on Mondays.

### Chipmunk Story Time at HNC

Children are invited to join Chicory Chipmunk at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. for this month's Chipmunk Story Time, "Home at Last." The story times are open to preschool and elementary children. The fee is \$3/child/session and is due at the time of the program. For more



A local troupe of Irish dancers will show off their skills at the Heritage Festival. COURTESY PHOTO

# Annual Heritage Festival showcases Meridian Township's rich history



For the sports fan, a "vintage base ball" doubleheader will be part of the Heritage Festival's offerings. COURTESY PHOTO

**By Dawn Parker**  
dlparker@lsj.com

**MERIDIAN TWP.** — From its early settlers to the present, Meridian Township's history is rich.

That history will be on display Sept. 20 during the annual Heritage Festival. The festival will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the Meridian Historical Village, located behind the township hall complex at 5151 Marsh Road.



"Dr. Bloodworth" will be one of the presenters at the annual Meridian Township Heritage Festival, set for Sept. 20 at the Meridian Historical Village. COURTESY

## IF YOU GO...

**What:** Meridian Township Heritage Festival

**When:** Saturday, Sept. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**Where:** On the grounds of the Meridian Historical Village, located behind the township hall complex at 5151 Marsh Road.

**Cost:** Free

## MORE INFORMATION?

For more information about the Meridian Heritage Festival activities, visit the Meridian Township web site at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us) or the Meridian Historical Village website at [www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org](http://www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org).

"This event will benefit from the support of those companies," Rose said. "We are very fortunate to have Douglas J and Michigan State University's Federal Credit Union participating as major sponsors."

Douglas J will sponsor the music entertainment, which will allow for performances in the Village Chapel and a Native drum with singers and dancers on the lawn in front of Nokomis Learning Center.

"The Friends of Historic Meridian have been hard at work creating a fun and family-friendly line-up of activities for the community at the festival," said Jane Rose, Executive Director of the Meridian Historical Village. "There will be fun activities for all ages, with special hands-on activities and games for children."

This free event will include some special activities to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Friends, including a "cupcake" cake walk for children and samples of "Anniversary Cake" for a small donation.

The Historical Village was begun in January 1974 when one little farmhouse was moved to an empty field.

From that humble beginning the village has grown to include a toll house, a schoolhouse, general store, barn, log cabin, an inn and tavern, and, finally, a chapel.

"The growth of the village was the result of many people coming together to rescue, relocate and renovate build-

PHOTO

ings significant to our local history," Rose said.

"We stand on the shoulders of many area residents committed to preserving the past and educating our youth to carry our rich history into the future."

Some activities offered at the festival include: Civil War home-life re-enactments from the Sisters of the Union, cart and pony rides, rug making, loom weaving, lace making, basket weaving, and children's games.

Performers include the Ardan School of Irish dancers and the Haslett-based Gracewood Singers who will sing old-fashioned gospel-style songs, including a selection of "shape note" songs.

There will also be an exhibit of quilts in the Barnes House Inn and Tavern and a display of antique toy trucks in the Tollgate House.

At least two major benefactors are helping make the festival possible.

The MSU Federal Credit Union is supporting the children's activity area, which Rose said will allow for an old-fashioned "fish pond" game with prizes, pony and cart rides, the cake walk and a water-carrying game for the children.

"Other local businesses have also stepped forward with commitments, such as Wood's Okemos Marathon, a long-time family-run Okemos business," Rose continued.

"And businesses from both the Haslett and Okemos areas have expressed an interest in being sponsoring partners."

Vendors will be on hand in the food court with a selection of delicious food for sale. The Meridian Township Arts and Crafts Marketplace will also be open featuring products from a variety of local vendors.

The Meridian Farmers' Market will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Meridian Mall parking lot across from the Younker's men's store.

### Qigong classes offered at HNC

Qigong (chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. Qigong classes will be held on Mondays from 7-8 p.m. beginning Sept. 29 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$64/eight-week class or \$10/person/week for drop-ins. There will not be class on Oct. 13 and Nov. 10. Contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866 for more information.

### Preschool Science Exploration at HNC Oct. 2

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 12:30 p.m. This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is called Searching for Seeds. The program is designed for 4-5-year-old children. The fee is \$4/child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us) or (517) 349-3866.

### Build a bird feeder at HNC Sept. 28

Many of our favorite song birds can be attracted to our backyards all through the winter when a feeder is provided. Build your own feeder at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township; on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 3 p.m. Bird feeder styles available are: hopper feeder (\$20), suet feeder (\$12), bluebird feeder (\$25) and peanut butter feeder (\$8). For more information and to reserve a feeder, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

### Chipmunk Story Time on Sept. 18

Children are invited to join Chicory Chipmunk at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, on Thursday, Sept. 18 at 10 a.m. for this month's Chipmunk Story Time, "Home at Last." The fee is \$3/child/session.

Sunday, September 21, 2014 • Towne Courier

### Benefit coed softball tourney set for Oct. 4

The Third Annual Paul Peterson Memorial 1 Pitch softball tournament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Nancy Moore Park in East Lansing.

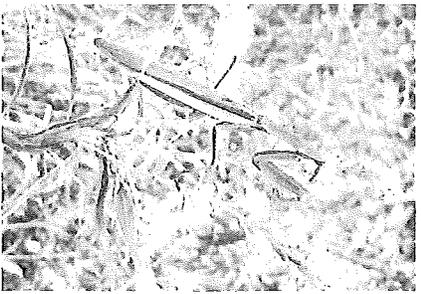
The cost is \$125 per team and all proceeds will help fund a memorial in Paul's honor.

A 1 pitch tournament is played under the same rules as slow pitch softball with the exception of each team pitches to their own team and you only get one pitch to put the ball in play.

Games will begin at 9 a.m. All teams are guaranteed three games. Teams need to be registered by Sept. 29.

For more information, contact Greg Grothous at (517) 853-4616 or [grothous@meridian.mi.us](mailto:grothous@meridian.mi.us).

# Legg Park much more than just weeds



COURTESY PHOTO

A praying mantis perches atop a goldenrod at Meridian Township's Legg Park ready to snap up a passing bee or grasshopper. This natural area is slated for destruction to make room for a dog park.

**A**re you aware that Meridian Township Parks Commission, entrusted with overseeing the township's public lands and natural areas, is about to permanently destroy acres of biologically rich, upland natural area at Legg Park for a pet project?

They've proven themselves driven to strong-arm their trendy dog park into this area whether the citizens are for it or not. A few years ago, a friend informed me of his attempt to voice opposition to the commission's

**GUEST COLUMN**  
Jim McGrath

proposal. He was stunned by their dismissive attitude.

One commissioner even referred to the natural area as just "a bunch of weeds." Since I am a wildlife biologist and local natural science educator who has often used this natural area for lessons and activities with area youth, he asked if I would contact the commission to give them my perspective. I submitted a letter that not only informed of

my first-hand recognition of the diversity and abundance of plant and insect life here, but of the presence of at least two nesting pairs of Field Sparrows.

This bird is currently known to be experiencing steep declines due to — you guessed it — habitat loss ([www.stateofthebirds.org](http://www.stateofthebirds.org)). I finished by offering to guide the commissioners on a walk through the area to identify the array of plant, insect and bird life that exists here. Their response? No response!

I've interviewed adjacent property owners distraught over the disruption they anticipate to their natural surroundings.

I've also talked with biology teachers, other educators, parents and students of all ages, some of who have also voiced opinions to deaf ears.

All agree that the irreplaceable loss for the township is not worth the gain for a few, but the commissioners choose to hear none of it as they get their bulldozers in order. Here is an opportunity

to not just experience the diversity inherent in natural habitat, but, eventually, to personally witness and feel its loss.

On Sunday, Oct. 4 at 4 p.m., I encourage anyone who values natural habitat and its myriad components to join us at Legg Park to explore and appreciate this natural area before it's gone.

For much more information, visit [www.nature-discovery.net](http://www.nature-discovery.net) and click on the October newsletter.

Jim McGrath is owner of Nature Discovery in Williamston.

## Benefit coed softball tournament set for Oct. 4 in E.L.

The Third Annual Paul Peterson Memorial 1 Pitch softball tournament will be held on Saturday, Oct. 4, at Nancy Moore Park in East Lansing. The cost is \$125 per team and all proceeds will help fund a memorial in Paul's honor. A 1 pitch tournament is played under the same rules as slow pitch softball with the exception of each team pitches to their own team and you only get one pitch to put the ball in play. Games will begin at 9 a.m. All teams are guaranteed three games. Teams need to be registered by Sept. 29.

For more information, contact Greg Grothous at (517) 853-4616 or [grothous@meridian.mi.us](mailto:grothous@meridian.mi.us).

### **Nature Center offers Halloween event**

The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, has Halloween adventures for the whole family on Saturday, Oct. 25 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Most children like to begin their adventure at the Halloween Fun House, a Halloween thrill without blood or gore. They continue their adventure with crafts inside the building and games outside. Children accompanied by an adult can follow a trail for a short walk through the "Friendly Forest" participating in activities and meeting a "spider" and a "bat" along the way to the pumpkin patch where they will be allowed to choose a pumpkin and take it back to the building to decorate. Children can also take a hayride with a naturalist through the park and then enjoy spooky stories while roasting marshmallows around the campfire.

In the main display area of the nature building visitors will have the opportunity to enjoy refreshments and to learn about the animals on display there. Children can participate in all of these activities for \$6. No registration is necessary and it will continue regardless of the weather.

For more information, contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

### **Qigong classes offered at HNC**

Qigong (chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. Qigong classes will be held on Mondays from 7-8 p.m. beginning Sept. 29 at the Harris Na-

ture Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$64/eight-week class or \$10/person/week for drop-ins. There will not be class on Oct. 13 and Nov. 10. Call (517) 349-3866 for more information.

### **You can build a fairy house on Oct. 16**

Discover the magic and fun of building your own fairy house with enthusiast Rosemary Buscetta. Participants will create their houses will enjoying snacks and wine on Thursday, Oct. 16, 6-9 p.m. at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road. The fee is \$35/person and is open to anyone over age 21. To register contact (517) 349-3866 or [hnc@meridian.mi.us](mailto:hnc@meridian.mi.us).

**Harris Nature Center Foundation  
Minutes**

August 11, 2014

**Board Members Present:** Tony Bauer, Barb Kissling, Mike Lenkowski, Julie Moore, Bob Rusch, Roxanne Witcher and HNC Coordinator Kit Rich

**Board Members Absent:** Jim Buscetta, Norm Grannemann, Patty Robbins

**Agenda:** The meeting was called to order. The agenda and minutes were reviewed and accepted.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer Mike Lenkowski reported a cash balance of \$20,830.84. The Farmer's Market raffle ticket sales have been over \$200 to \$400/week.

**President's Report:** Mike McDonald sent an email to all Directors on July 22 stating his decision to resign from the Board.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Raffle:** 517 tickets have been sold. The Kiwanis will sell tickets August 16 and September 6.

- **NEA:** Cyrus & Matt are ordering materials for the fossil casts.

Tony reported that Brian Van Order is donating his labor to do the excavation for the path, fossil dig, and log jam. Joe Penoni donated his labor for tree removal. Stone and stone dust were ordered from Hammond Farms and Brian will move it to the path. Fibar or shredded bark has been ordered and volunteers will spread it. Tony shared an updated budget which showed expenditures, orders in process, and additional items to be purchased. The total estimated budget is \$13,079 leaving \$9571 in uncommitted funds.

Kit has contacted Lise Schools about doing interpretive signs for the fossil dig later this year or in early spring. There is a lot of information to put on a sign so the identification of fossils portion may be shown on 1 or 2 smaller signs. The big sign will be geared to middle school age and older. The sign cost will be greater than expected because there is more of them and illustrations must be purchased or drawn for us. Emergent Bio Solutions has a group of 8 to 10 volunteers for a day in mid October. They could build the split rail fence if it still needs to be done. The HNC Stewardship group works monthly and they could help with projects also.

Tony indicated that limestone rock with fossils could be used through the middle of the fossil dig to separate it into two sections. Julie suggested checking Young Brothers and Daly for the limestone. Tony noted that the Rotary is interested in funding the classroom next year and that the Haslett and Okemos Kiwanis groups could combine to do a bigger project in the NEA. He feels strongly that the NEA committee needs to start planning bigger projects like the Hawk's Nest to get matching funding.

- **Turtle Toast 9/11:** Today Kit sent out the TT flyer via e-mail to 1421 people. Julie will handle the online tickets purchased through PayPal and keep a master list of who bought the tickets.

**Harris Nature Center Foundation  
Minutes**

Directors are asked to record the names of anyone who buys tickets and give that information to Julie. (If someone loses their tickets, we would have a record of them being purchased.) Tickets will be sold at the event.

Roxanne reviewed details of the Turtle Toast and asked for feedback on several items. Guests will receive 6 wine/beer tasting tickets and if they wish to buy additional, it was decided to sell special tickets for a full glass of wine or beer at \$5. Kit will recruit 4 volunteers to help with ticket sales for the drinks and the raffle. Special A'Fare Catering will serve the beer. A tent, tables and chairs for 80 people have been ordered. White tablecloths will be purchased from GFS. Other decorative items to consider are tea candles, flowers, Christmas lights, and luminaries lighting the paths. A jar is needed for raffle tickets. The display boards and easels being used at the Farmer's Market should be set up. Julie will provide a big container for ice and Roxanne will check with the caterer to see if they are providing ice. Kit has a water pitcher. Kati will take photographs. HOMTV and WKAR will be present.

Raffle tickets will be \$3 a piece or 2 for \$5. There could be drawings every half hour if we have sufficient prizes. We currently have 4 prizes in addition to the framed VanFrankenhuyzen prints. You must be present to win for these drawings. The last drawing of the evening (7:30?) will be the bike raffle. Following the 6:30 raffle drawing, Mike Lenkowski will do a presentation on the NEA project and our fundraising (including the grants received) for it. Tony suggested we invite Brian Van Order and introduce him during the presentation. Kit and Kati will be available to take groups of people on a walk through the NEA area. (after the presentation?)

**Harris Nature Center Report:** Kit announced that summer camps were over. About 379 young people attended along with 11 junior volunteers (225 volunteer hours!) There has been a lot of volunteer participation at HNC this summer including 2 youth groups and one adult group that scraped, painted, and weeded the grounds. Kit and Kati are currently preparing for the fall. Change inside the building includes a new handmade case for the blue heron.

**Old Business:** No new leaves are needed for the Tree of Thanks at this time. The next time leaves are purchased, a leaf will be included for the donations in memory of Kit's father, John Kircher.

**New Business**

After a brief discussion, it was decided to keep the meeting time of 6:30. The September 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a work session to prepare for the Turtle Toast.

**Meeting adjourned**

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Kissling

**Important Dates**

August 13, 6-8 PM: Nature Friends Barbecue

September 8 meeting

September 11: Turtle Toast & Raffle Drawing

## **Youth News and Events**

The Youth are excited for a new year and are making plans for a Mission Trip and attending the ELCA National Gathering, which is in Detroit this year. In order to participate in these wonderful events, we need to do fundraising, A LOT of fundraising; however, we also want to make these fellowship opportunities for the whole faith family. Meals with the family seems the most appropriate way to combine both elements, so they will be planning several "food" fundraisers this fall. We will also be hosting a child care event in December called Santa's Little Helpers, and many more, so keep an eye on upcoming events in the bulletins.

## **Upcoming Fundraising Events**

**The Flock of Flamingos** is back! Our traveling flock will be visiting many different homes this year. If you have someone you would like to lovingly flock (for a small donation), please let Melinda Schultz know and the Youth will be happy to oblige. Flocking is done in the spirit of fun, but if you would prefer your lawn pink free, please notify Melinda or Rita and we will be sure to help the flock migrate somewhere else.

**2015 Calendars** The Youth will be selling God's Creation calendars in the Narthex for the next few months. They will make excellent gifts at Christmas time, as they have beautiful pictures and a verse of scripture for each month. Calendars are \$10.00 each.

**Chili/Pumpkin Carving/Games** The Youth will be helping out Membership Development's Chili/Pumpkin Carving Event on October 26 from 5 – 7 p.m., by providing fun games for the children and assisting with the carving. Membership Development has graciously offered to help the Youth with their fundraising efforts, so there will be a basket available for donations. Please come out and enjoy some fun, family time.

## **Thank You**

### **From Meridian Township**

We received the following letter in response to the work we did as part of "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday.

The landscape beds look great mulched and weed free! Your efforts at Brattin Woods Park are greatly appreciated. Thank you for thinking of Meridian Township parks when you considered dedicating your time and effort toward a volunteer activity.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable time last Saturday. The weather conditions were perfect and the teamwork outstanding. The trail work is also greatly appreciated. Please send us any photos of the volunteer day so that we can include them in our slide show at our Volunteer Recognition Ceremony in 2015. We would really like to make this an annual event, adding more community partners in the future and expanding projects.

Sincerely,

Jane L. Greenway, Parks and  
Land Management Coordinator

Nicholas Sanchez, Assistant  
Park Naturalist

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Martha Wyatt, Assistant Planner

**FROM:** *Jane Greenway*  
Jane L. Greenway, RLA  
Parks and Land Management Coordinator

**DATE:** September 15, 2014

**RE:** Aldi Development

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We have reviewed the landscape plan, L1.1, dated September 3, 2014. Particular attention was paid to the proposed landscaping on the southwest portion of the Aldi site, as it is the area near Central Park. We request the opportunity to review the amended landscape plans prior to final approval.

### Comments:

- 1. Potential for Future Deer Damage to Proposed Landscaping:**  
Some of the plant material on the landscape plan is susceptible to deer damage. Deer are particularly damaging to landscapes in Meridian Township and because the owner is responsible to maintain the plantings in perpetuity, it would be in their best interest to install landscaping that is deer resistant. We have attached a list of deer resistant plants that was developed by the Michigan State University Extension Office.
- 2. Proposed Non-native/Invasive Species:**  
For a variety of reasons, it is preferable to utilize plants that are native to Michigan. In addition, plants that are found on common invasive species lists should be avoided. These include: *Euonymus alatus* and *Acer platanoides*. Suggested native tree replacements include: *Quercus alba* (White oak); *Amelanchier laevis* (Serviceberry); *Cercis Canadensis* (Redbud). Suggested native shrub replacements include: *Physocarpus opulifolius* (Ninebark); *Viburnum trilobum* (*V. opulus* var. *americanum* – Highbush cranberry); or other varieties of *viburnum* including *lentago*, *prunifolium*, or *rafinesquianum*.
- 3. Future Landscape Maintenance:**  
Plantings should be concentrated in mulched, edged landscape beds. This will ultimately be easier to maintain the area for weed control and will prevent mowers from damaging the bases of trees.
- 4. Emergency Access Connection to Township Hall:**  
We have some questions regarding the details about this connection. Will there be curb cuts on both properties? Is there any future landscaping associated with this connection?

# “DEER-RESISTANT” PLANTS FOR HOMEOWNERS

## AUTHORS:

**Jordan Pusateri Burroughs**  
Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Michigan State University

**Thomas A. Dudek**  
MSU Extension, Ottawa County



J. Burroughs, MSU

Damage to ornamental plants by white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) continues to increase. This damage has been associated with:

- Increasing deer abundance.
- Human population shifts to rural and suburban homesites.
- Maturing of abandoned agricultural lands into deer habitat.
- Landowner decisions to prevent deer hunting.
- Restrictions on firearm use in suburban regions.

Deer prefer to feed on certain plant species, including some ornamental plants used for landscaping. Additionally, ornamental plants may be more attractive to deer because they are fertilized and irrigated. Deer avoid feeding on some species of plants because they are less palatable. A technique to reduce deer browsing of landscape plants is to substitute less palatable species of plants for those that deer prefer to eat. **Though no plants are totally resistant to deer browsing, some are less palatable to deer and are less likely to receive heavy damage.**

Whether deer will eat a particular plant species or variety depends on the deer's previous experience, nutritional needs, plant palatability, seasonal factors, weather

conditions and the availability of alternative foods. Deer are creatures of habit, and prior movement patterns or foraging experience can help predict where damage can occur. New plantings added to an existing landscape already severely damaged by deer will likely suffer extreme browsing pressure.

Deer may sample some less palatable plants until they determine the plants are varieties they do not prefer. Snow cover may prevent deer from finding food, and high deer numbers can create competition for available food, which can cause hungry deer to eat whatever plants are available. Note that unpalatable landscape plants may still incur antler rubbing damage. Only physical protection such as exclusion techniques can reduce or prevent deer antler rub damage to trees and shrubs.

To minimize deer damage, select landscape and garden plants that are less preferred by deer. The following tables provide a guide to the relative likelihood of deer damage to plants used by Michigan landscape contractors and landowners. This information can be useful for both selecting plants that are less likely to be damaged by deer and identifying those ornamentals that frequently require protection. Plants listed as **rarely damaged** are infrequently fed upon by deer and are the best candidates for landscapes prone to deer damage. Deer sometimes feed on ornamentals listed as **seldom severely damaged**, but damage is usually minor and has limited effect on the shape or attractiveness of the plant. The category **occasionally damaged** includes plants that may be severely damaged by deer. Finally, ornamental plants in the **frequently damaged** category appear to be preferred by deer and usually require physical or chemical protection whenever deer are present.

Before planting any of the following plant species, check to make sure that they are adapted to local climate and soil conditions. For additional information, contact your local county Michigan State University Extension office.



Bulletin produced in cooperation with the Michigan State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife and Department of Horticulture, MSUE Fisheries and Wildlife Area of Expertise Team, Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources and Michigan Natural Features Inventory.

**MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION**

## PLANTS RARELY DAMAGED

<b>Botanical name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<b>Perennials</b>	
<i>Achillea</i> spp.	Yarrow
<i>Aconitum</i> spp.	Monkshood
<i>Allium</i> spp.	Onion
<i>Allium christophii</i>	Star of Persia
<i>Allium neapolitanum</i>	Daffodil garlic
<i>Allium ostromskianum</i>	Lily leek
<i>Anemone x hybrida</i>	Japanese anemone
<i>Anemonella thalictroides</i>	Rue anemone
<i>Aquilegia</i> spp.	Columbine
<i>Arabis</i> spp.	Rockcress
<i>Arisaema thiphylum</i>	Jack-in-the-pulpit
<i>Aubrietia deltoidea</i>	Rock cress
<i>Aurinia saxatilis</i>	Basket-of-gold
<i>Bergenia</i> spp.	Bergenia
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Plumbago
<i>Cimicifuga racemosa</i>	Snakeroot
<i>Colchicum autumnale</i>	Colchicum
<i>Colchicum speciosum</i>	Colchicum
<i>Consolida ambigua</i>	Larkspur
<i>Coreopsis verticillata</i>	Threadleaf coreopsis
<i>Cyclamen hederifolium</i>	Neapolitan cyclamen
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i>	Bleeding heart
<i>Digitalis</i> spp.	Foxglove
<i>Dryopteris marginalis</i>	Wood fern
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	Purple coneflower
<i>Epimedium</i> spp.	Barrenwort
<i>Euphorbia</i> spp.	Euphorbia
<i>Fritillaria</i> spp.	Fritillary
<i>Galium odoratum</i>	Sweet woodruff
<i>Gloriosa superba</i>	Glory lily
<i>Hemerocallis 'Stella d'Oro'</i>	'Stella d'Oro' daylily
<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Deadnettle
<i>Lavandula</i> spp.	Lavender
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	Toadflax
<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Native spicebush
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i>	Rose campion
<i>Matteuccia struthiopteris</i>	Ostrich fern
<i>Narcissus</i> spp.	Daffodil
<i>Osmunda regalis</i> var. <i>spectabilis</i>	Royal fern
<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>	Allegheny spurge
<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>	Japanese spurge
<i>Papaver orientale</i>	Oriental poppy
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i>	Russian sage
<i>Rudbeckia</i> spp.	Coneflower
<i>Salvia</i> spp.	Sage
<i>Santolina chamaecyparissus</i>	Lavender cotton
<i>Scilla</i> spp.	Squill
<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	Lamb's ears
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Common tansy
<i>Thymus</i> spp.	Thyme
<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	Foam flower
<i>Yucca</i> spp.	Yucca

### **Botanical name**

#### **Annuals**

<b>Botanical name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<i>Ageratum houstonianum</i>	Ageratum
<i>Anethum graveolens</i>	Common dill
<i>Antirrhinum majus</i>	Snapdragon
<i>Capsicum annuum</i>	Hot peppers
<i>Capsicum frutescens</i>	Sweet peppers
<i>Citrulus lanatus</i>	Watermelon
<i>Cucumis melo cantalupensis</i>	Cantaloupe
<i>Cucumis sativus</i>	Cucumber
<i>Hyacinthus orientalis</i>	Hyacinth
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet alyssum
<i>Nicotiana</i> spp.	Flowering tobacco
<i>Pelargonium</i> spp.	Scented geranium
<i>Rheum rhabarbarum</i>	Rhubarb
<i>Solanum melongena</i>	Eggplant
<i>Tagetes</i> spp.	Marigold
<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Nasturtium

### **Botanical name**

#### **Ornamental Grasses**

<b>Botanical name</b>	<b>Cultivar</b>
Ravennae grass, hardy pampas grass <i>Saccharum ravennae</i>	
Japanese silver grass <i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	'Cabaret'
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	'Cosmopolitan'
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	'Malepartus'
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	'Morning Light'
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	'Strictus'
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	'Variegatus'
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	'Zebrinus'
Switch grass <i>Panicum virgatum</i>	'Cloud Nine'
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	'Dallas Blues'
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	'Heavy Metal'
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	'Northwind'
<i>Panicum virgatum</i>	'Shenandoah'
Tall purple moor grass <i>Molinia litoralis</i>	'Skyracer'
<i>Molinia litoralis</i>	'Transparent'
Feather-reed grass <i>Calamagrostis xacutifolia</i>	'Karl Foerster'
Northern sea oats <i>Chasmanthium latifolium</i>	
Fountain grass <i>Pennisetum orientale</i>	'Karley Rose'
Japanese grass <i>Hakonechloa macra</i>	'Aureola'
Sedges <i>Carex morrowii</i>	'Variegata'
<i>Carex oshimensis</i>	'Evergold'
<i>Carex flagellifera</i>	'Toffee Twist'

**Botanical name****Native grasses**

*Andropogon gerardii*  
*Bouteloua curtipendula*  
*Carex muskingumensis*  
*Carex pennsylvanica*  
*Elymus canadensis*  
*Koeleria macrantha*  
*Luzula multiflora*  
*Panicum virgatum*  
*Schizachrium scoparium*  
*Sorghastrum nutans*  
*Sporobolus heterolepis*

**Shrubs**

*Buxus sempervirens*  
*Ilex opaca*  
*Leucothoe fontanesiana*  
*Pieris japonica*

**Trees**

*Betula papyrifera*  
*Picea pungens*

**Common name**

Big bluestem  
 Sideoats grama  
 Palm sedge  
 Pennsylvania sedge  
 Canada wild rye  
 Prairie June grass  
 Woodrush  
 Switch grass  
 Little bluestem  
 Indian grass  
 Prairie dropseed

Common boxwood  
 American holly  
 Drooping leucothoe  
 Japanese pieris

Paper birch  
 Colorado blue spruce

**PLANTS SELDOM SEVERELY DAMAGED****Botanical name****Shrubs**

*Celastrus scandens*  
*Cornus florida*  
*Cornus kousa*  
*Cornus sericea*  
*Crataegus laevigata*  
*Enkianthus campanulatus*  
*Forsythia* spp.  
*Ilex cornuta*  
*Ilex glabra*  
*Juniperus chinensis*  
*Kolkwitzia amabilis*  
*Pinus mugo*  
*Salix matsudana tortuosa*  
*Sassafras albidum*  
*Syringa vulgaris*  
*Wisteria floribunda*

**Trees**

*Betula pendula*  
*Fagus sylvatica*  
*Gleditsia triacanthos*  
*Kalmia latifolia*  
*Picea abies*  
*Picea glauca*  
*Pinus nigra*  
*Pinus resinosa*  
*Pinus rigida*  
*Prunus serrulata*

**Common name**

American bittersweet  
 Flowering dogwood  
 Kousa dogwood  
 Red osier dogwood  
 English hawthorn  
 Redvein enkianthus  
 Forsythia  
 Chinese holly  
 Inkberry  
 Chinese junipers  
 Beautybush  
 Mugo pine  
 Corkscrew willow  
 Common sassafras  
 Common lilac  
 Japanese wisteria

European white birch  
 European beech  
 Honey locust  
 Mountain laurel  
 Norway spruce  
 White spruce  
 Austrian pine  
 Red pine  
 Pitchpine  
 Japanese flowering cherry

**PLANTS OCCASIONALLY DAMAGED****Botanical name****Perennials**

*Asparagus officinalis*  
*Campsis radicans*  
*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*  
*Potentilla fruticosa*

**Annuals**

*Abelmoschus esculentus*  
*Cucurbita pepo*  
*Raphanus sativus*  
*Solanum tuberosum*

**Shrubs**

*Cornus racemosa*  
*Cotinus coggygria*  
*Cotoneaster* spp.  
*Cotoneaster apiculatus*  
*Cotoneaster horizontalis*  
*Cryptomeria japonica*  
*Forsythia x intermedia*  
*Hamamelis virginiana*  
*Hibiscus syriacus*  
*Hydrangea anomala petiolaris*  
*Hydrangea arborescens*  
*Hydrangea paniculata*  
*Ilex crenata*  
*Ilex x meserveae*  
*Juniperus virginiana*  
*Ligustrum x vicaryi*  
*Lonicera x heckrottii*  
*Philadelphus coronarius*  
*Pyracantha coccinea*  
*Rhododendron* spp.  
*Rhododendron carolinianum*  
*Rhododendron maximum*  
*Rhus typhina*  
*Rosa rugosa*  
*Salix* spp.  
*Spiraea x bumalda*  
*Spiraea prunifolia*  
*Syringa x persica*  
*Syringa villosa*  
*Viburnum x juddii*  
*Viburnum carlesii*  
*Viburnum plicatum tomentosum*  
*Viburnum rhytidophyllum*  
*Weigela florida*

**Trees**

*Abies concolor*  
*Acer griseum*  
*Acer rubrum*  
*Acer saccharinum*  
*Acer saccharum*  
*Aesculus hippocastanum*  
*Amelanchier arborea*  
*Amelanchier laevis*

**Common name**

Asparagus  
 Trumpet creeper  
 Virginia creeper  
 Bush cinquefoil

Okra  
 Squash  
 Radish  
 Potatoes, Irish

Panicked dogwood  
 Smokebush  
 Cotoneaster  
 Cranberry cotoneaster  
 Rockspray cotoneaster  
 Japanese cedar  
 Border forsythia  
 Common witchhazel  
 Rose of Sharon  
 Climbing hydrangea  
 Smooth hydrangea  
 Panicle hydrangea  
 Japanese holly  
 China Girl/Boy holly  
 Eastern red cedar  
 Golden privet  
 Goldflame honeysuckle  
 Sweet mock orange  
 Firethorn  
 Deciduous azaleas  
 Carolina rhododendron  
 Rosebay rhododendron  
 Staghorn sumac  
 Rugosa rose  
 Willows  
 Anthony waterer spiraea  
 Bridalwreath spiraea  
 Persian lilac  
 Late lilac  
 Judd viburnum  
 Koreanspice viburnum  
 Doublefile viburnum  
 Leatherleaf viburnum  
 Old-fashioned weigela

White fir  
 Paperbark maple  
 Red maple  
 Silver maple  
 Sugar maple  
 Common horsechestnut  
 Downy serviceberry  
 Allegheny serviceberry

<b>Botanical name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<b>Trees (continued)</b>	
<i>Chaenomeles speciosa</i>	Japanese flowering quince
<i>Larix decidua</i>	European larch
<i>Magnolia x soulangiana</i>	Saucer magnolia
<i>Metasequoia glyptostroboides</i>	Dawn redwood
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	Eastern white pine
<i>Prunus avium</i>	Sweet cherry
<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	Douglas fir
<i>Pyrus communis</i>	Common pear
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak
<i>Quercus prinus</i>	Chestnut oak
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Northern red oak
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Japanese tree lilac
<i>Tilia cordata</i> 'Greenspire'	Littleleaf linden
<i>Tilia Americana</i>	Basswood
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Eastern hemlock
<i>Tsuga caroliniana</i>	Carolina hemlock

### PLANTS FREQUENTLY DAMAGED

<b>Botanical name</b>	<b>Common name</b>
<b>Perennials</b>	
<i>Aegopodium podagaria</i>	Bishop's weed
<i>Athyrium niponicum</i> var. <i>pictum</i>	Japanese painted fern
<i>Syringa reticulata</i>	Wallflower
<i>Clematis</i> spp.	Clematis
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> var. <i>coloratus</i>	Wintercreeper euonymus
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i> 'Kewensis'	Wintercreeper
<i>Fragaria</i> spp.	Strawberries
<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy
<i>Hemerocallis</i> spp.	Daylily
<i>Hosta</i> spp.	Hosta
<i>Iberis sempervirens</i>	Candytuft
<i>Lilium</i> spp.	Lily
<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>	Solomon's seal
<i>Trillium</i> spp.	Trillium
<i>Tulipa</i> spp.	Tulips
<i>Vinca minor</i>	Periwinkle

#### **Annuals**

<i>Beta vulgaris</i>	Beets
<i>Brassica oleracea</i>	Kohlrabi
<i>Brassica oleracea botrytis</i>	Cauliflower
<i>Brassica oleracea capitata</i>	Cabbage
<i>Brassica oleracea italica</i>	Broccoli

#### **Botanical name** **Annuals (continued)**

<i>Brassica rapa</i>	Turnip
<i>Daucus carota sativa</i>	Carrot
<i>Helianthus</i> spp.	Sunflower
<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	Potatoes, sweet
<i>Lactuca sativa</i>	Lettuce
<i>Matthiola incarna</i>	Stock
<i>Pelargonium</i> spp.	Geranium
<i>Phaseolus</i> spp.	Beans
<i>Pisum sativum</i>	Peas
<i>Ranunculus asiaticus</i>	Buttercup
<i>Spinacia oleracea</i>	Spinach
<i>Viola</i> spp.	Pansies & violas
<i>Zea mays</i>	Corn, sweet

#### **Shrubs**

<i>Chamaecyparis thyoides</i>	Atlantic white cedar
<i>Euonymus alatus</i>	Winged euonymus
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Rhododendrons
<i>Rhododendron</i> spp.	Evergreen azaleas
<i>Rhododendron catawbiense</i>	Catawba rhododendron
<i>Rhododendron periclymenoides</i>	Pinxterbloom azalea
<i>Rosa x hybrid</i>	Hybrid tea rose
<i>Taxus</i> spp.	Yews
<i>Taxus baccata</i>	English yew
<i>Taxus brevifolia</i>	Western yew
<i>Taxus cuspidate</i>	Japanese yew
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	American arborvitae

#### **Trees**

<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam fir
<i>Abies fraseri</i>	Fraser fir
<i>Acer platanoides</i>	'Crimson King' maple
<i>Cercis canadensis</i>	Eastern redbud
<i>Cornus mas</i>	Cornelian cherry dogwood
<i>Malus</i> spp.	Apples
<i>Prunus</i> spp.	Cherries
<i>Prunus</i> spp.	Plums
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	European mountain ash

Tables based on text by M.J. Farglone, P.D. Curtis and M.E. Richmond. 1991. Resistance of woody ornamental plants to deer damage. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell Coop. Ext. with information from Dr. Arthur Cameron, MSU Department of Horticulture.

#### PLEASE REMEMBER:

**Under some conditions, deer may eat unpalatable or "deer-resistant" plants — no plant species will be avoided by deer under all conditions.**



Park Commission Meeting  
October 21, 2014

9. NEW BUSINESS

November Park Commission Regular  
Meeting

**October 21, 2014  
Park Commission Agenda  
New Business Item #9-C**

**November Park Commission Meeting Date**

Just a reminder that the November Park Commission meeting date was set for Tuesday, November 4 because November 11 is Veterans' Day Holiday.

I was not sure if November 4 was the best date due to it being an election day.

The next available meeting date for a Tuesday is November 18.

The next regular meeting date of the Park Commission is Tuesday, December 9

# PARK COMMISSION

October 21, 2014

10. Unfinished Business
  - a. Commission Review #14083 (Planning Commission) Revised Goals and Objections, 2005 Master Plan
  - b. RFQ
  - c. 2015 Grant Project Submissions

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff      Supervisor  
Brett Dreyfus              Clerk  
Julie Brixie                 Treasurer  
Frank L. Walsh             Manager



Milton L. Scales            Trustee  
Ronald J. Styka            Trustee  
John Veenstra             Trustee  
Angela Wilson             Trustee

October 8, 2014

Todd Wilson, Chair  
Park Commission  
Charter Township of Meridian  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

RE:    Commission Review #14083 (Planning Commission)  
       Revised Goals and Objectives, 2005 Master Plan

Dear Chair Wilson:

The Planning Commission is pleased to share with you the revised Goals and Objectives section of the 2005 Master Plan. If the Park Commission has an opportunity to review the attached document and wishes to comment, comments may be made at the public hearing scheduled for the Planning Commission's Monday October 27, 2014 meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building.

If you, or a representative of the Park Commission, are unable to attend the meeting, comments may be submitted in writing to Gail Oranchak, Principal Planner, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864, or by e-mail to [oranchak@meridian.mi.us](mailto:oranchak@meridian.mi.us). The revised Goals and Objectives are also available on the Township's website, [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

If you have questions, please contact me at 517-853-4564 or e-mail me at [oranchak@meridian.mi.us](mailto:oranchak@meridian.mi.us).

Sincerely,

Gail Oranchak, AICP  
Principal Planner

Attachment

g:\planning\CR\14083\Park Commission

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)



## GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The fundamental statement of community values, the personal values, the values relating to government and the vision for the year 2020 provide the foundation upon which subsequent policy decisions in this Plan rests. To guide the formulation of specific policy decisions, the Planning Commission established a more detailed set of goals and objectives, and strategies for pursuing them.

The Planning Commission presents the following set of specific goals, which are derived from the statements of community values (no priority is implied):

- *Goal 1:* Preserve and strengthen residential neighborhoods.
- *Goal 2:* Preserve open space and natural areas.
- *Goal 3:* Enhance the viability of Township businesses.
- *Goal 4:* Maintain and expand a diverse park system.
- *Goal 5:* Maintain essential public services.
- *Goal 6:* Provide and Support an Efficient, Safe, and Environmentally Sensitive Multi-modal Transportation Network.
- *Goal 7:* Promote efficient and sustainable growth principles.

For each of these goals, a series of objectives is stated, and for most of the objectives, one or more strategies for achieving this objective are specified.

### **GOAL 1: PRESERVE AND STRENGTHEN RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOODS**

#### **Objective A: Maintain a community of desirable, attractive residential neighborhoods.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Prevent inconsistent uses from encroaching into residential areas.
2. Continue to support the designation and preservation of historic neighborhoods and residences.
3. Designate appropriate neighborhoods as special land use areas and adopt zoning specific to their needs.
4. Encourage cluster developments, mixed use and other compact residential choices closer to shopping, public transit and other services.
5. Ensure that the Future Land Use Map has a range of residential densities which will result in a diversity of housing that meets the needs of various income levels and household types.

**Objective B: Ensure new residential developments meet high standards of visual attractiveness, health and safety, and environmental sensitivity.**

**Strategies:**

1. Minimize erosion and the intrusion of roads, pathways, houses, and driveways into wetlands and floodplains in residential developments.
2. Continue to require the planting of trees along rights-of-way, and the replacement of trees when they are damaged, destroyed, or diseased.
3. Encourage residential design that enhances use of outdoor areas for recreation, community walkability and integration with public transit.
4. Lay out new residential developments to accommodate public transit, for example, by providing pedestrian connections to bus stops and by designing for curb side bus stops near entrances.
5. In all subdivisions and residential developments, encourage layouts which maintain maximum green space and/or common open space.

**GOAL 2: PRESERVE OPEN SPACE AND NATURAL AREAS**

**Objective A: Adopt policies and programs that maximize the preservation of open spaces, natural areas, other undeveloped areas and agricultural land uses in the Township.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to develop and implement Township policies regarding the protection of open space land and natural areas via zoning, the public purchase of land, conservation easements, and development rights, and other appropriate techniques.
2. Encourage landowners to donate natural areas or open spaces to the Township, and to place their properties under the protection of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation (Part 361) or the Conservation and Historic Preservation Easement (Part 21) of PA 451 of 1994 Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, where appropriate.
3. Encourage landowners to donate land or development rights to non-profit land trusts.
4. Continue to coordinate efforts with the Park Commission to support and promote the preservation of open space and environmentally sensitive lands in the Meridian recreation areas through donations of land with natural, open space and ecological and/or historical significance.
5. Preserve the ecological integrity of the Red Cedar River through zoning, voluntary agreements with landowners, donation of land to the Township, or the purchase of land, scenic easements, and development rights, where appropriate.
6. Develop a tree preservation ordinance to protect significant mature trees.

**Objective B: Conserve wetlands, floodplains, and other water retention areas.**

**Strategies:**

1. Identify all wetlands, floodplains, and other water retention areas.
2. Continue to communicate and coordinate with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on activities affecting lakes, streams, and wetlands.
3. Discourage development within wetlands, floodplains, floodplain fringe areas, and water retention areas.
4. Support the Environmental Commission's educational efforts to minimize infiltration of salt, fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide.

**Objective C: Link open spaces and natural areas into a network of continuous greenways throughout the Township.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to use the Greenspace Plan as a guide for determining how natural areas can be linked into continuous greenways throughout the Township.
2. Work with the Land Preservation Board and Park Commission to continue the establishment of a continuous greenway along the Red Cedar River through the identification of additional parcels of land which are important to the ecological and visual integrity of the Red Cedar River.
3. Utilize land planning methods, purchases of land and development rights, and plat, site plan, and other review processes to create and maintain continuous greenways.
4. Encourage the Environmental Commission to develop educational programs about the importance of protecting endangered animals and plants, ecosystems and other unique or sensitive natural features.

**Objective D: Protect groundwater recharge areas in the Township.**

**Strategies:**

1. Support regional efforts to protect groundwater recharge areas.
2. Continue to educate citizens about the importance of protecting groundwater recharge areas.
3. Use zoning and other appropriate land management techniques to protect important groundwater recharge areas.

**Objective E: Preserve greenbelts, open spaced and natural areas and create pathways by encouraging the use of planned unit development or other suitable zoning strategies for new residential developments.**

**Objective F. Work with the Park Commission, Department of Public Works and Engineering and the school districts, where appropriate, to maximize the amount of land left in a natural state as common open space to encourage developers and builders.**

### **GOAL 3: ENHANCE THE VIABILITY OF TOWNSHIP BUSINESSES**

#### **Objective A: Upgrade commercial areas.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Participate in regional efforts to redevelop the Grand River corridor.
2. Identify strategies to maintain the Haslett Road commercial area's traditional character.
3. Encourage redevelopment of the downtown Okemos area using the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Integrated Plan as a guide.
4. Evaluate opportunities for walkable urban design.
5. Cooperate with regional partners and other entities to participate in studies.
6. Encourage attractive architecture which harmonizes with the environment through innovative design and landscaping.
7. Identify specific areas where the form-based code technique may be appropriately applied and make recommendations based on the results of the study.

#### **Objective B: Develop the Township's commercial core into a viable and vibrant district.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Conduct and/or participate in studies where appropriate.
2. Explore the viability of upper floor residences in the commercial core.
3. Continue to engage the public in deciding the direction for development in the commercial core.
4. Explore options for public-private partnerships to revitalize the Township's commercial core.
5. Develop the Township's center into a vibrant mixed use district, through the addition of planned or committed office and residential land uses in and adjacent to the core area.

#### **Objective C: Improve the attractiveness of the Township's entrances and transportation corridors.**

##### **Strategies:**

1. Investigate grant-based funding opportunities to improve landscaping along major thoroughfares.
2. Create a series of well-designed and attractively landscaped entrances along the main roads entering into the community.

## **GOAL 4: MAINTAIN AND EXPAND A DIVERSE PARK SYSTEM**

**Objective A: Continue to expand the Meridian Township park and recreational system to meet the recreational needs of residents into the future.**

**Strategies:**

1. Pursue acquisitions that target current and future demands of residents.
2. Employ acquisition strategies that leverage available dollars to secure maximum property for the value.
3. Support Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway linkages to parks and recreation facilities.
4. Provide accessible facilities and leisure opportunities for persons of all physical abilities and socio-economic characteristics.

**Objective B: Develop and support Meridian Township park development and recreation programming that is diverse, widely distributed, fiscally responsible, and represents community needs.**

**Strategies:**

1. Support the Park Commission's continuing efforts to pursue public input in determining park and recreation development needs.
2. Utilize cooperative methods of providing recreation facilities by working with local recreation associations, schools, businesses, neighborhood groups and associations to provide diverse recreation programs.
3. Increase coordination between the Township Board, Park Commission and Land Preservation Advisory Board to maximize the potential benefits and enhance stewardship of open space, natural areas and park lands.
4. Encourage developers to incorporate parks and recreation amenities in new developments to complement the efforts of the Park Commission.
5. Continue to promote fiscal responsibility through partnerships and collaborative opportunities, grant support, sponsorships and donations, and encouraging volunteerism.
6. To provide resources necessary to maintain and develop a diverse parks and recreation system that:
  - a. Provide a high quality of life for our community residents.
  - b. Provides necessary support for maintenance and operation of these amenities.

## **GOAL 5: MAINTAIN ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Objective A: Ensure that any future growth is consistent with the Township's present or planned capacity for sewage treatment, public water, and other utility systems.**

**Strategies:**

1. Focus growth into an urban services district to ensure efficient and fiscally responsible use of public services.
2. Routinely assess the demands on the utility systems from developments to determine available capacity for future development based on demographics.
3. Routinely inventory water, sewer and other utility systems capacity.
4. Maintain and upgrade the infrastructure (water, sewers, roads, community facilities) of the Township through the Capital Improvements Program's systematic scheduling of infrastructure construction, maintenance, and renovation.
5. Continue to use Special Assessment Districts to finance infrastructure projects.
6. Incorporate appropriate recommendations from Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Wellhead Protection Audit for regional best practices to protect the public water supply.

**Objective B: Maintain police, fire, and ambulance service to all areas of the community.**

**Objective C: Maintain quality library service for the community.**

**Objective D: Use land use policies to assist the public school districts which are a valued community asset that makes Meridian Township a unique and desirable place to live.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue and/or initiate land use policies that attract families with students.
2. Support the Park Commission's agreement with the School Districts to coordinate park facilities and programs.
3. Support street and pathway improvements that provide safe access routes for school children.

**Objective E: Promote cooperation between adjoining communities, school districts, and appropriate agencies.**

**GOAL 6: PROVIDE AND SUPPORT AN EFFICIENT, SAFE, AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE MULTI-MODAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK**

**Objective A: Evaluate the existing transportation network and identify problems, including traffic congestion, safety, environment, and aesthetics, which can be solved at acceptable cost.**

**Strategies:**

1. Cooperate with county, regional and state entities to develop strategies to improve traffic flow.
2. Consider zoning and other design strategies such as Complete Streets as effective means of ensuring safe and efficient travel for all modes of transportation.

**Objective B: Maintain local roads.**

**Strategies:**

1. Support improvements to local streets when a special assessment district request has been received from local residents.
2. Review reconstruction and expansion of local non-subdivision streets through the Capital Improvements Program process when 50 percent of the improvement's funding will be paid for by the Township or its residents through special assessment districts.

**Objective C: Develop a Complete Streets policy for all users of Township roads.**

**Strategies:**

1. Define a vision for a Complete Streets program.
2. Review current policies to identify inconsistencies and impediments to implementing a complete streets policy.
3. Conduct planning, regulatory and physical audits of current street designs as needed and financially feasible.
4. Coordinate the Pedestrian-Bicycle Pathway Plan with Safe Routes to School policies and other Township plans.
5. Share the Township's vision and work with transportation and road authorities.

**Objective D: Expand and improve the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Plan.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to implement the requirement for sidewalks as determined necessary.
2. Continue to implement the pedestrian/bicycle pathway system through site plan review.
3. Continue to support the pedestrian/bicycle pathway millage for construction and maintenance of the Township's pedestrian/bicycle pathway system.
4. Investigate alternative surfacing materials to reduce the amount of impervious surface materials used in the construction of the pedestrian/bicycle system.
5. Continue to investigate strategies for safe and efficient travel for bicyclists and pedestrians.
6. Coordinate the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Plan with parks, schools, preserves, Greenspace Plan, neighborhoods, and other destinations.

**Objective E: Encourage the use of public transportation.**

**Strategies:**

1. Encourage and promote public transportation service to any new developments and in conjunction with redevelopment via site plan review.
2. Institute design standards for site plan review to ensure public transportation access to all segments of the population but particularly those with physical disabilities.

**Objective F: Coordinate Meridian Township's transportation planning with regional planning efforts administered by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and recorded in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.**

**Strategies:**

1. Coordinate transportation planning and road improvements for all non-local streets with the region's long range plan.
2. Advocate and promote the Township's needs and interests in transportation improvements with transportation and road authorities.

**GOAL 7: PROMOTE EFFICIENT AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH PRACTICES**

**Objective A: Implement sustainable energy and environmental practices throughout the Township utilizing the most current best practices**

**Strategies:**

1. Budget funds to have Township buildings assessed for energy efficiency a minimum of once every five years.
2. For Meridian Township procurement purposes, when equivalent products or services are available, preference should be given to the more sustainable services or products.
3. Encourage electric car charging stations.
4. Establish a minimum level of LEED certification or the equivalent for all projects undertaken by the Township.
5. Establish ordinances providing incentives for redevelopment that emphasizes infill development, building reuse and/or deconstruction.
7. Increase the use of alternative transportation modes for commuting and recreation by encouraging the use of mixed use planned unit developments and implementing the Greenway Plan.
8. Explore methods through ordinances or by providing incentives for existing businesses to upgrade their parking lots and landscaping to increase tree cover and shade to be energy efficient and environmentally friendly.
9. Explore incentives for new or redeveloped projects to be LEED certified or equivalent.

**Objective B: Develop Township policies to balance and manage growth.**

**Objective C: Maintain open spaces and natural features in suburban and rural areas of the Township.**

**Strategies:**

1. Continue to develop zoning standards and Township policies.
2. Continue to encourage and support voluntary citizen land conservancy efforts which maintain the Township's open spaces, natural features, and rural areas.

**Objective D: Define an urban services district to promote walkable community development and dynamic community improvement through redevelopment.**

**Strategies:**

1. Promote land use policies that emphasize compact infill development.
2. Investigate opportunities to maximize the use of existing infrastructure through development and redevelopment within the urban services district.
3. Investigate additional strategies to provide incentives for development and redevelopment within the urban services district.

**Objective E: Encourage development in Meridian Township that leads to sustainable land use.**

**Strategies:**

1. Engage all stakeholders to study new techniques for the control and management of development.
2. Review the legality and suitability of these techniques for Meridian Township.

**Objective F: Prepare and implement a redevelopment strategy**

**Strategies;**

1. Eliminate inflexible or obsolete zoning regulations.
2. Identify priority redevelopment sites.
3. Expand public participation.
4. Prepare annual reports to the Township Board reporting progress towards the stated benchmarks and recommending any needed changes.

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# Possible Grant Requests for 2015

October 8, 2014

1. Meridian Riverfront Park Trail Pavilion - \$250,000
  - Electricity
  - Water
  - Tree removal / landscaping / rain garden
  - Concrete pad and pathway
  
2. Meridian Riverfront Park Restroom - \$200,000
  - Electricity
  - Water
  - Concrete pad and pathway
  - Tree removal / landscaping / rain garden
  
3. Wonch Park Renovation – \$250,000
  - Restroom building improvements
  
4. Hillbrook Park Tennis Courts and Pickleball Courts - \$100,000

## Grant Programs:

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Minimum 25% local match, maximum request for development:\$300,000
- Land and Water Conservation Fund – Required 50% Maximum request for development: \$100,000