



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2017  
MERIDIAN TOWN HALL ROOM



**WORK SESSION 6 PM**

(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **2017 Grant Proposals**
4. **5 - Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2017-2021**
5. **Comments**
6. **Adjournment**

**REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
  - a. Vernal Pool Mapping – Yu Man Lee, MNFI
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Public Hearing** (green)
  - a. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021
6. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
7. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
  - a. January 24, 2017 Work Session Meeting Minutes
  - b. January 24, 2017 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
8. **Communications** (tan)
9. **Director's Report**

*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. **New Business** (pink)
  - a. Vernal Pool Mapping of Township Parks
  - b. 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021
  - c. Towner Road Park Construction Contract
  - d. Set Public Hearing for 2017 Grant Submissions
11. **Other Business** (cherry)
12. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
13. **Final Comments**
14. **Announcements**
  - a. Park Commission Next Meeting – Tuesday, March 14, 2017
    - Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony
    - Public Hearing for Grant Submissions
  - b. Farmers' Market – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm, JC Penny corridor
  - c. Thursday, February 16:
    - 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Birthday Celebration of Meridian Township and Delhi Township, Michigan State Capitol Building, Rooms 402/403; 1:30-2:30 pm
  - d. Saturday, February 18:
    - Farmers Market, 10am-2pm, inside the Meridian Mall
    - Moonlight Ski and Shoe, 6-9 pm, at HNC, weather dependent
    - Moonlight Sledding, 6-8:30 pm, at North Meridian Road Park, weather dependent
    - Meridian Ice Fishing Derby - canceled
15. **Public Comment**
16. **Closed Session**
17. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting  
February 14, 2017

WORK SESSION

3. 2017 Potential Grant Projects

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission

FROM:   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 10, 2017

RE: 2017 PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT

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When the Park Commission met on January 10, 2017 they discussed grant opportunities for park development. The grant applications discussed included (1) a waterless restroom at the Harris Nature Center and (2) pickleball courts and a playground at Towner Road Park.

On January 30, 2017, bids for Towner Road Park were received. We were pleased to see that the lowest bid was approximately \$300,000 less than we had anticipated. Therefore, it is being proposed to include Bid Alternate #1 (pickleball courts) with the bid award. We feel this creates an opportunity to continue to aggressively pursue grant opportunities for both the restroom and a pavilion at the Harris Nature Center. Grant applications are due to the DNR by April 1, 2017 therefore, the public hearing will need to take place during the March 14, 2017 Regular meeting of the Park Commission.

### 2017 GRANT APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Harris Nature Center – Pavilion**  
This project proposes to construct a **pavilion** near the Harris Nature Center building in Meridian Riverfront Park. The pavilion may include an upper level that will provide opportunity for wildlife observation and star gazing. A pavilion will serve as a vital amenity along the recently established Red Cedar Water Trail
- 2. Harris Nature Center – Waterless Restroom**  
The Harris Nature Center staff have been requesting an outdoor restroom for many years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The following motion is proposed for your consideration:

MOVE TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 14, 2017 AT 7:00PM FOR THE 2017 PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR A PAVILION AND OUTDOOR RESTROOM AT THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER.

# Park Commission Meeting

## February 14, 2017

### 3. PRESENTATIONS

- Vernal Pool Mapping – Yu Mann Lee, Michigan Natural Features Inventory

## Vernal Pool Mapping and Monitoring Training and Community Involvement



Proposal to:

Charter Township of Meridian  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Submitted by:

Michigan Natural Features Inventory  
Michigan State University Extension  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Constitution Hall  
P.O. Box 13036  
Lansing, MI 48901-3036

February 2, 2017



MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

**Cover Photographs:**

*Left* – Vernal pool in Lake Lansing Park North, on the 120 acres covered by a Meridian Township Land Preservation conservation easement. Photo by Leslie Kuhn.

*Left inset* – Fairy shrimp, vernal pool indicator species. Photo from Wikimedia Commons.

*Right inset* – Blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*). Photo by Yu Man Lee.

*Top right* – Vernal pool training workshop, April 2015, Gaylord, MI. Photo by Angie Lucas.

*Bottom right* – Blue-spotted salamander egg masses. Photo by Yu Man Lee.

Proposal to Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department and  
Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board

**Vernal Pool Mapping and Monitoring Training and Community Involvement**

Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI)

Michigan State University Extension

**I. PROJECT UNDERSTANDING**

Effective management and conservation of natural resources require a basic knowledge of the ecosystems and biodiversity that occur in an area. To help inform and guide natural resource management and stewardship efforts, Meridian Township is interested in learning more about the distribution, status, and ecology of vernal pools that occur on the Township's natural areas and parks and in the Township in general. The purpose of this project is to provide training, support, and assistance to Meridian Township to initiate a citizen science- and community-based vernal pool mapping and monitoring program in the Township. This project is part of a larger, collaborative effort to launch a vernal pool mapping and monitoring program in mid-Michigan with a number of community partners including the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Cluster, Ingham County Parks/Friends of Ingham County Parks, and WildOnes. Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI), a program of Michigan State University Extension, proposes to provide staff with Meridian Township, the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Cluster, and other interested community partners with training, resource materials, support, and assistance to launch and implement vernal pool mapping and monitoring in Meridian Township and the mid-Michigan area. MNFI also will help train community volunteers on how to identify and monitor vernal pools, will provide ongoing support and assistance to community partners and volunteers, and will work with partners to compile the vernal pool data and get the data into the statewide vernal pool database. To provide some baseline data on vernal pools and provide potential vernal pools for community volunteers to map and monitor, MNFI also propose conducting air photo interpretation to identify and map potential vernal pools across all Meridian Township natural areas and park lands.

**II. PROJECT NEED AND BACKGROUND**

Vernal pools play an important role in maintaining Michigan's biodiversity and healthy forest ecosystems. Vernal pools (also referred to as ephemeral or seasonal pools) are small, shallow, depressional wetlands that usually contain water for only part of the year. They typically fill with water in the spring, fall, or winter, and usually dry up by late summer or early fall. Because they dry up, one of the key characteristics of vernal pools is that they lack fish. The alternating dry and wet conditions and lack of predatory fish populations have resulted in these wetlands providing critical breeding habitats for a host of forest-dwelling amphibians and invertebrates, including some species that are specialized for life in vernal pools and depend on these unique habitats for their survival. These include the Blue-spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), Spotted Salamander (*Ambystoma maculatum*), Wood Frog (*Rana sylvatica*), and fairy shrimp (Colburn 2004, Calhoun and deMaynadier 2008). They also provide habitat for other animal and plant species including threatened and endangered species, such as the Small-mouthed Salamander (*Ambystoma texanum*, state endangered), Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*, state threatened), and Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*, state special concern) (Harding 1997). The pools serve to connect larger wetland ecosystems by serving as

temporary rest stops for animals. Vernal pools also are important components of forest food webs and nutrient cycles, and provide a number of vital functions including water storage and infiltration, groundwater recharge, and flood control.

Vernal pools are highly vulnerable to disturbance or destruction, and are being lost across Michigan. Because of their small size and seasonal nature, vernal pools can be difficult to identify on the landscape, especially when they are dry, and are often overlooked. Vernal pools receive little or no protection under federal and state wetland regulations because they are small and often isolated from larger, permanent waterbodies and wetlands. Many of these small temporary wetlands have been drained or filled due to agricultural, residential, and/or other development. The construction of a single building can completely cover a pool or so alter local water flow that a pool may either dry up permanently, or remain wet year round. Some pools have been excavated to construct stormwater detention ponds or converted to permanent ponds. Vernal pools also have been impacted by forest management activities. These small ecosystems also may be impacted by climate change since changes in temperature and precipitation can cause dramatic shifts in the number, timing, and duration of vernal pools.

Despite the rich biodiversity, unique species, and integrative function of vernal pools, awareness of their importance has, until recently, not been widely recognized. This, however, is changing. The State of Michigan's recommended sustainable soil and water quality practices on forest land and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI®) and Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC®) forest certification standards have included protection for vernal pools on forest lands (Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality 2009, Sustainable Forestry Initiative 2010, Forest Stewardship Council 2010). However, little information is currently available on the status, distribution, and ecology of vernal pools in Michigan. This information is critical for conservation and management of these important and unique wetland ecosystems.

Due to recent increased awareness of the importance of vernal pools, there has been growing interest in identifying, studying, and conserving these small but valuable ecosystems in Michigan. To help address this need, the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) has developed and is in the process of implementing a statewide, citizen science-based vernal pool mapping and monitoring program. This program was developed as part of a project that was funded by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and was conducted in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Tech Research Institute, Herpetological Resources and Management, Michigan Nature Association, and The Nature Conservancy. The vernal pool program involves recruiting, training, and deploying volunteers/citizen scientists to help verify, map, assess, and monitor vernal pools using a standard protocol so that data can be compared and aggregated across sites and regions in the state. Data collected by the citizen scientists will be entered into a statewide vernal pool database, which is used to store and track information about the status, distribution, and ecology of vernal pools across the state (Lee et al. 2014). This information can be used to inform and guide vernal pool monitoring, research, and conservation efforts.

Meridian Township currently owns and manages over 900 acres of park land and over 700 acres of natural areas. Little information is currently available on the status, distribution, and ecology of vernal pools on these lands and in the Township in general. Little information is also currently available on vernal pools on other public and private lands in the mid-Michigan area. Working with the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative, Ingham County Parks, WildOnes, and other local partners to initiate a vernal pool mapping and monitoring program in Meridian Township and mid-Michigan will help raise awareness of the importance of vernal pools and

wetlands in general to healthy ecosystems and communities, and provide land managers with information needed to manage and protect these wetlands. This project will engage the local community in stewardship and protection of vernal pools and the surrounding ecosystems and natural areas/parks.

MNFI is uniquely qualified to provide training and support to local communities interested in getting involved with vernal pool mapping and monitoring given its role in developing the vernal pool program and diverse expertise in vernal pools, aquatic invertebrates, birds, herpetology, and botany. Over the past couple of years, MNFI has provided training to a number of community partners, agencies, and organizations in Michigan who have initiated or are going to initiate vernal pool mapping and monitoring with internal staff, volunteers, educators, and/or students in their local community and/or on the lands they manage. These partners have included the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Oakland County Parks, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, Ann Arbor Natural Areas Preservation, Little Traverse Conservancy, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Michigan Nature Association, Huron Pines, Michigan Sea Grant, Northeast and Northwest Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative, MSU Extension 4-H Program, Verso Paper Corporation, and a number of teachers and students at various schools in northern Michigan (e.g., Harbor Springs Middle School, Montessori Children's House in Traverse City, Interlochen Academy, Rogers City Middle School, Gaylord High School, Onaway Area School, Roscommon Middle School, and Vanderbilt Area School).

### **III. PROJECT APPROACH**

This project will consist of the following four main components:

- 1) Potential vernal pool mapping** – MNFI will review aerial imagery/air photos and identify and map potential vernal pools across all Meridian Township natural area and park lands. MNFI will work with Meridian Township to obtain the most recent and highest resolution, leaf-off (ideally color-infrared) aerial imagery available for Meridian Township lands. Potential vernal pools will be mapped in GIS (ArcMap 10.2.1), and a GIS shapefile with the locations of mapped potential vernal pools will be provided to Meridian Township.
- 2) Public presentation** – A public presentation by MNFI on vernal pools, their importance, indicator species, and the opportunity for involvement in vernal pool mapping and monitoring and the upcoming training. This will be scheduled at an evening or weekend time in mid- to late March, avoiding local school and MSU spring breaks, and when people who work can also participate. Staff and/or members of Meridian Township, the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Cluster, Ingham County Parks (ICP)/Friends of ICP, WildOnes (WO), and other community partners (e.g., Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy, Mid-Michigan CISMA (based in the four regional Conservation Districts, which have massive outreach), East Lansing Parks, Lansing Parks/Fenner, and possibly other groups like the Lake Lansing Property Owner's Association, MGROW, and Friends of the Looking Glass) will be invited. Meridian Township and partners will help invite the general community. Registration can be done to get a head count beforehand. Ideally, presentation will be held in Meridian Township Hall's conference room (other site possibilities: Chippewa Middle School's Meridian Senior Center facility (if room is large enough)).
- 3) Vernal pool training workshops** – MNFI will present two vernal pool mapping and monitoring training workshops. One workshop will be organized with MNFI by Meridian Township and will primarily focus on community outreach/participation and recruiting and training volunteers on how to map and monitor vernal pools in Meridian Township's natural

areas and parks and on other lands as well. The other workshop will be organized with MNFI by Mid-Michigan Stewardship/FICP/WO, and will focus on “training the trainers”, that is, training stewardship leaders from various organizations on vernal pool mapping and monitoring. The two training workshops will be advertised with these different purposes. Each workshop will consist of classroom presentations and in-field training. Training workshops will be held in early to mid-April (depending on local weather conditions and frog/salamander/fairy shrimp phenology). Training workshops will ideally be limited to 20 people per session, although we may be able to accommodate more participants. We will work with Meridian Township and Mid-Michigan Stewardship to select vernal pools for the in-field training, ideally pools in less sensitive and more accessible areas (e.g., in Lake Lansing Park North, near Sandhill Shelter) with adequate parking. Part of the project will be to assess which sites really are vernal pools, and then to follow up with data collection in spring and fall. MNFI and/or program partners will help participants/volunteers identify vernal pools/potential vernal pools to map and monitor in the field. Participants will commit to visiting their pool at least three times per year and sending/uploading their data to Meridian Township, Mid-Michigan Stewardship, or other partners and eventually to MNFI for processing and inclusion in the statewide vernal pool database.

- 4) Follow-up support and assistance** - MNFI experts will be available for follow-up questions from the trainees and partners as well as managing the data generated from this project. MNFI will work with Meridian Township, Mid-Michigan Stewardship, and other partners to plan and coordinate vernal pool mapping and monitoring. It is envisioned that Meridian Township program participants will map/monitor vernal pools/potential vernal pools on Meridian Township lands (e.g., those in Legg Park and in the land preserves). FICP/WO/MMSI/other agency participants will work on the vernal pools on their own lands, such as the Iosco Preserve of MMLC, Burchfield, and Lake Lansing Parks. MNFI also will provide program partners and participants with a summary of vernal pool mapping and monitoring data/results and how the data contribute to the statewide vernal pool database and understanding of the health of vernal pools in the project areas.

**IV. KEY TASKS AND TIMELINE**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Timeline</b>
Plan and coordinate with program partners for presentation and trainings	February – April 2017
Conduct air photo interpretation to map potential vernal pools	February – March 2017
Present public presentation	Mid-late March 2017
Conduct 2 training workshops	Early – mid April 2017
Participants conduct first monitoring visit	Mid – late April 2017
Participants conduct second monitoring visit	May 2017 (preferably early–mid May)
Participants conduct third monitoring visit (to verify pool dries)	Late August – September 2017
Participants compile and submit data to program partner	September – October 2017
Program partners compile and submit vernal pool data to MNFI	November 2017
MNFI enters data into vernal pool database and provides summary of results to partners/participants	December 2017

## **V. PROJECT COST**

The total cost for the proposed scope of work for this project is **\$6,100** (\$5,000 for the vernal pool presentation, trainings, and assistance; \$1,100 for mapping potential vernal pools on Meridian Township natural area and park lands). Of this total, \$5,100 will be used for salaries and fringe to cover MNFI staff time/effort on this project, and \$1,000 will be used to purchase and provide vernal pool monitoring supply kits for program partners and participants (based on \$25/kit @ 40 kits). Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative will be contributing \$2,000 total toward the project cost, with funds from Friends of Ingham County Parks and WildOnes. **We are requesting \$4,100 from Meridian Township (\$3,600 from Land Preservation Advisory Board and \$500 from Parks Commission) to cover the remaining balance.** Michigan State University and MNFI understand that this is a fixed fee agreement. MNFI will issue one invoice to Meridian Township for the total amount after the potential vernal pool mapping, public presentation, and training workshops have been conducted.

## **VI. KEY ASSUMPTIONS**

For the purposes of costing this scope of work, MNFI assumes that:

1. Meridian Township will work with MNFI to secure an indoor facility/ies for the public presentation and training workshops, and access to a vernal pool(s) for the in-field training portion of the workshops.
2. Meridian Township will help advertise or promote the public presentation and training workshops to community partners and members, and will help MNFI recruit community volunteers to participate in the program.
3. MNFI will be responsible for all travel, supplies, and equipment necessary to fulfill the contract.
4. It is important to note that estimated costs for this project are based on the proposed scope of work and these key assumptions. While there is some flexibility, significant additions or changes to the proposed scope of work may not be able to be accommodated with current estimated costs, and proposed scope of work and estimated costs may/would need to be revised.

## **VII. REFERENCES**

Calhoun, A.J. and P.G. deMaynadier. 2008. Science and Conservation of Vernal Pools in Northeastern North America. CRC Press, New York, NY. 363 pp

Colburn, E.A. 2004. Vernal Pools: Natural History and Conservation. The McDonald and Woodward Publishing Company, Granville, OH. 426 pp.

Harding, J.H. 1997. Amphibians and reptiles of the Great Lakes Region. The University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI. 378 pp.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (Michigan DNR) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (Michigan DEQ). 2009. Sustainable Soil and Water Quality Practices on Forest Land. Revised Feb. 24, 2009. Lansing, MI. 79 pp.

Park Commission Meeting  
February 14, 2017

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a) 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021

PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE

- a) Chair declares public hearing open
- b) Staff presents project overview
- c) Staff acknowledge received items of communications (see attachment)
- d) Public comment
- e) Commissioners comment
- f) Chair declares public hearing closed

# 5-Public Hearing

## 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021

- c) Staff acknowledge received items of communications
- Master Plan open for public review
    - ✓ The Towne Courier articles on January 15, January 22 and 29
    - ✓ Township website: [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)
  - Notice of Public Hearing
    - ✓ The Towne Courier public hearing notice, January 29 and February 12
  - Emails received from public:
    - ✓ From: Lynn Ochberg; RE: Making Meridian a Winter Wonderland
    - ✓ From: Eric Ederer; RE: Ice rink, warmth, Copenhagen, garden
    - ✓ From: Eric Ederer; RE: Canadian City Winter Plan
    - ✓ From: Eric Ederer; RE: Hygge Idea—A light sculpture festival/contest in Jan/Feb
    - ✓ From: Eric Ederer: RE: Article on Holland, MI steam sidewalks
    - ✓ From: Eric Ederer: RE: 2 Parks with lights for people who work during the day
    - ✓ From: Eric Ederer; RE: Steam Heated Park Sidewalks
    - ✓ From: Eric Ederer; RE: Danish Winter Urban Park/Planning Design
    - ✓ From: Donna Rose; RE: Leadership/Nature for All Launches New Website [www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com) to Bring Outdoor Experiences to the Blind and Visually Impaired

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[www.TowneCourier.com](http://www.TowneCourier.com)

January 22, 2017

### Master plan up for review

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is in the final stages of updating their 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021. The plan is available for public review until Feb. 8 at the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Office, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Township Clerk's Office, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, and on the township's website, [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

The Intent of this plan is to identify current and future parks and recreation needs in order to continue providing programs and services to maintain and improve the quality of life in our community. This plan follows the guidelines and requirements established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to provide eligibility for grant funding.

There will also be an additional opportunity to provide input during the public hearing 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 14 at the Municipal Building. Comments may also be forwarded to LuAnn Maisner, director of Parks and Recreation at [mainsner@meridian.mi.us](mailto:mainsner@meridian.mi.us) or 517-853-4600 on or before Feb. 8.

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[www.TowneCourier.com](http://www.TowneCourier.com)

January 15, 2017

### Master plan up now being reviewed

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is in the final stages of updating their 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021. The plan is available for public review until Feb. 8 at the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Office, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Township Clerk's Office, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, and on the township's website, [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

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# The TOWNE COURIER™

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

Vol. 54 - No. 19

[www.townecourier.com](http://www.townecourier.com)

January 29, 2017

## Meridian's master park plan available

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is in the final stages of updating their 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021. The plan is available for public review until Feb. 8 at the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Office, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Township Clerk's Office, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, and on the township's website, [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us).

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[Back to Web Site](#)

## Charter Township of Meridian Michigan

### Parks & Recreation Department

The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department runs many exciting programs and events in our community.

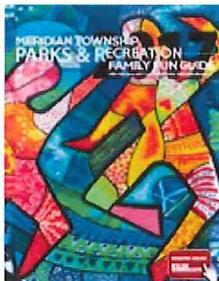
Did you know that our township provides a park or natural area within a 15-20 minute walk of every resident? That is approximately 2000 steps (on your pedometer) closer to a positive and healthier lifestyle. With 904 acres of parks, 750 acres of land preserves and nearly 80 miles of bicycle-pedestrian pathway, we have numerous opportunities for you and your family to get out and get busy enjoying what the parks have to offer.

Check out our Family Fun Guide to serve as your "Resource for Fun" below. In the Family Fun Guide, you'll find our calendar of events, adult and youth sports information, information on our parks and more!

When registering for programs in 2017, we strongly encourage utilizing our on-line option, as it keeps information secure, improves information accuracy, it's fast, convenient and no service fees are assessed. Please take the time right now and review your existing account or if new to our programs, create an account. This will make registration a breeze! Please click on the link below to get started.

[Register Now!](#) by [ACTIVE Network](#)

#### [2017 Family Fun Guide](#)



#### [Draft 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021](#)

For information on the Master Plan sections, [click here](#)

#### Contact Information:

##### **Parks and Recreation Director**

LuAnn Maisner  
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[maisner@meridian.mi.us](mailto:maisner@meridian.mi.us)

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##### **Recreation Specialist**

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##### **Senior Park Naturalist/Harris Nature Center Coordinator**

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##### **Senior Park Naturalist**

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[kadams@meridian.mi.us](mailto:kadams@meridian.mi.us)

##### **Farmers Market Manager**

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[farmers.market.manager@gmail.com](mailto:farmers.market.manager@gmail.com)

##### **Meridian Senior Center Coordinator**

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##### **Facilities Superintendent**

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Lansing State Journal

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Vol. 54 – No. 19

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January 29, 2017

#### 5-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021

Meridian Township Park Commission will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, at 7 pm, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, to hear comments from all persons interested in the Master Plan.

The Plan is available for review at the Meridian Municipal Building, Parks and Recreation Office, 2100 Gaylord Smith Court, Haslett, and online at [www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us). Questions to LuAnn Maisner at (517) 853-4604 or [maisner@meridian.mi.us](mailto:maisner@meridian.mi.us).

Brett Dreyfus, CMMC  
Charter Township of Meridian.

1/29,2/12/17

## LuAnn Maisner

---

**From:** Frank Walsh  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2017 2:09 PM  
**To:** David Hall; David Lee; Deborah Guthrie; Derek Perry; Fred Cowper; Joyce Marx; LuAnn Maisner; Mark Kieselbach; Michelle Prinz; Miriam Mattison; Stephen Gebes  
**Subject:** FW: Making Meridian a Winter Wonderland!

A thought from former Trustee Lynn Ochberg.

FW

**Frank L. Walsh**  
Township Manager  
Charter Township of Meridian  
P: (517) 853-4254  
F: (517) 853-4251

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

[www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship](https://www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship)

[www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp](https://www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/frankwalsh3>

<https://managersperspective.wordpress.com/>

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**From:** lynn ochberg [<mailto:nlv33@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2017 1:50 PM  
**To:** Board  
**Subject:** Making Meridian a Winter Wonderland!

Making the most of the winter season requires thinking differently. As you develop a strategy, it will become apparent that the community is ready to make a culture shift, no longer viewing winter as something to escape from, but instead, seeing it as a unique and magical season. There are several northern cities around the world already working to embrace winter. In Copenhagen, outdoor patios are now open year-round with blankets and heaters to keep patrons warm in winter. Kemi and Oulu, both in northern Finland, plow the snow from bike paths before roads and Oulu commits to clearing bike paths by 6 a.m. after a snow fall. In Oslo, Norway, outdoor artificial turf fields are heated and kept clean of snow, so sports like soccer and lacrosse are played year round. People want to know where to find inexpensive skates or skis to rent. And there's desire for rules and regulations to be lifted somewhat, allowing greater creativity on our streets: fire pits in public places, snow slides and mounds to play on. Not all activities should be downtown and it should

be easier to get to activities. Many people don't know how to properly dress for winter, and taking that a step further, there is opportunity for Meridian Township to become a winter fashion hub in and around our Mall.

*Winter lights in key downtown areas. Education of newcomers as well as oldtimers about winter in the Meridian Monitor would help. More winter events like concerts and festivals and outdoor installations and snow and ice sculpture contests will be a new draw to our economic sustainability goals. Better snow removal protocols, especially for the convenience of walkers and bikers will encourage residents and visitors to go outside to play and exercise. Instead of making it more and more convenient to speed through our township, perhaps Meridian should develop into walkable, livable chunks that can be accessed by all and enjoyed in all seasons.*

These ideas are courtesy of the City of Edmonton, Canada, [https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/documents/PDF/COE-WinterCity-Love-Winter-Summary-Report.pdf](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/PDF/COE-WinterCity-Love-Winter-Summary-Report.pdf)

## LuAnn Maisner

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**From:** Eric Ederer <ericed@umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 15, 2017 2:58 PM  
**To:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** Ice rink, warmth, Copenhagen, garden

LuAnn--

After much research and discussion, I have concluded that a great winter investment for the parks would be the planned refrigerated ice rink. Nordic sports, such as cross country skiing, are only an occasional event due to lack of snow. Still, winter ice makes most of the park paths difficult to walk on. A refrigerated ice rink, like they have in Copenhagen and New York City, is a great bet for cold weather and little snow. The ice rink is perfect for our climate.

Adding warmth to the parks would be another good idea. A warming device for fishermen on the Central Park Pond Dock would be useful and encourage winter fishing. A warming device for parents watching their kids play sports on Central Park and other fields would also be helpful. The Parents often get cold. The rest room in Central Park could give hot water in the fall, and cold water in the summer. Hot and cold water in the Historical Village would be worthwhile too for all seasons.

Copenhagen has a large Jazz Festival in the winter to cheer people up. Copenhagen has weather like Lansing. However, a large part of their public transit is train based so they can have the festival no matter what the weather. The Friends of Historic Meridian had their Christmas festival washed out this year because of bad weather. Unless Meridian Township switches to trains, any winter festival could be wiped out by the weather.

To have many small recreation events through out the winter like Parks and Rec currently does is the best solution to keep people going in the winter. This is the best bet. Also, if Nokomis could increase its open hours, it would be even a better resource for the Township--especially in Spring, Fall, and Winter.

Finally, a community garden where people could rent gardening plots would be worthwhile--especially for lower income people in Meridian Township. I believe that Leroy Harvey set up the community garden near the East Lansing Food Co-Op. He would be a good contact to get in touch with those who currently run that community garden. Also, given the decline in bees in the Midwest, does the Meridian Garden club offer a flower garden class?

Thank you for your time and patience,

Eric Ederer



## LuAnn Maisner

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**From:** Eric Ederer <ericed@umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 12:42 PM  
**To:** Kit Rich; LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** Canadian City Winter Plan

Hi.

Here's is a related link on Edmonton, Canada's Winter City Plan.

It points to how getting people outdoors help fight Season Affect Disorder, and leads to more people visting local businesses. One feature which appears in both Edmonton and Demank is an outdoor skating rink. Both Edmonton and Denmark focus on promoting light and warm. They have designs for year round outdoor gathering places.

The local Whole Foods has an outdoor gas fire gathering place. The Red Roof Inn in Ann Arbor also has one. Maybe some type of outdoor heating/light pit (does not have to have a fire) could be built with chairs or benches around it.

Also, I posted the announcement of the open period for planning to Lansing Ski Party, and Friends of the Red Cedar Facebook groups.

Here is the link. It also leads to the actual Edmonton Winter Plan.

<http://www.citylab.com/cityfixer/2016/01/how-edmonton-is-making-winter-great-again/424146/>

Eric

**LuAnn Maisner**

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**From:** Eric Ederer <ericed@umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2017 8:46 PM  
**To:** Kit Rich; LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** Hygge Idea--A light sculpture festival/contest in Jan/Feb

In Dannish Hygge, light is very important at winter time. Christmas lights are also lights which "lighten" people in winter. Lack of light can contribute to depression.

Many people put up Christmas lights, but there is nothing for the rest of the hard winter. Christmas lights should not be sponsored by government.

A non-sectarian light sculpture festival would be something to look forward to after the New Year. It could be done near the Township Buidling in the Soccer fields or the historical village or along the paved Central Park paths.

This is my last idea for the night. I hope I have not overwealmed you.

Eric

**LuAnn Maisner**

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**From:** Eric Ederer <ericed@umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2017 8:24 PM  
**To:** Kit Rich; LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** Article on Holland, MI steam sidewalks

<http://www.treehugger.com/sustainable-product-design/are-holland-michigans-heated-sidewalks-intelligent-infrastructure.html>

**LuAnn Maisner**

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**From:** Eric Ederer <ericed@umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2017 8:19 PM  
**To:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** 2 Parks with lights for people who work during the day

One of the big problems with Michigan during the fall, winter, and early spring is that it is too dark to walk, bike, or run. Most people work during the day, and can only take advantage of parks in the early morning or evening.

We could have solar-triggered, programmable lamps which light park paths during the morning (say starting at 6am for example till dawn) and are lit from sundown till 9pm.

Central Park would be an ideal candidate, and a park in Haslett for the residents there.

One issue could be security.

We could install emergency contact stations on the lamp posts like they have at MSU along the Red Cedar.

Lights would create even heavier pedestrian traffic making crowds which would deter crime.

That is all for now--until my next idea.

Eric

## LuAnn Maisner

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**From:** Eric Ederer <ericed@umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2017 6:14 PM  
**To:** Kit Rich; LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** Steam Heated Park Sidewalks

LuAnn---

In Sweden they have steam heated sidewalks for people to safely walk on. Holland, MI used Swedish designs for their city heated sidewalks. Sweden could be using other energy forms to heat their sidewalks as well.

Why don't we heat the new Central Park pathways? This would be a great way for people to safely get moving out of doors. Even with good snow removal (like MSU has), there are still icy spots on sidewalks.

A safe year round outdoor sidewalk would bring people out of doors. Also, walking or running or Nordic Walking keeps people warm at winter time. We might be able to even get a grant from Playmakers--this would really sell running shoes, and would be a boost to the Michigan running community.

You could also design special lights for winter time to illuminate the path. They use special lighting at Winter time in Nordic countries to cheer people up, and most people are light deprived in Michigan. The lights would be useful in fall and spring also when light is low.

Let me know what you think.

Eric

**LuAnn Maisner**

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**From:** Eric Ederer <ericed@umich.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 08, 2017 5:38 PM  
**To:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** Danish Winter Urban Park/Planning Design

LuAnn--

This is an article on the Danish concept of Hygge- or "cozy happiness". There are some planning concepts such as "outdoor warmth", "outdoor light", and being with nature. I think that Denmark might be close to Lansing in climate, and has some park design ideas that we could use. I am should be meeting with Kit Rich this week to talk about this way of designing urban spaces and parks.

One puzzle that I have is how do we design park usage for weather in between winter and spring/summer. When it is full blown winter, we can cross country ski etc. But what do you do when it is simply cold but no snow? The only idea I have is Nordic Walking (where you use ski poles to walk), and running. Both of these keep you warm in a cold climate, but running does run the risk of slipping on ice. I don't think bird watching is generally a great idea because there are so few birds and you don't move fast enough to keep warm.

The article has lots of great ideas. Please take a look at it. I would like to meet with you to discuss this after I meet with Kit.

Eric

<http://www.citylab.com/navigator/2017/01/how-the-danish-concept-of-coziness-is-refaming-the-urban-winter/511967/>

**LuAnn Maisner**

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**From:** Jane Greenway  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2017 1:47 PM  
**To:** Donna Rose; Kit Rich  
**Cc:** Ronald Styka; Kelsey Dillon; LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** RE: [leadership] FW: Nature for All Launches New Website [www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com) to Bring Outdoor Experiences to the Blind and Visually Impaired

Hi Donna,

Good to hear from you! Thank you very much for your email. I had not heard of Braille trails and they sound really neat.

We will definitely take this information into consideration as we work to re-develop Central Park.

Have a great day,  
Jane

Jane L. Greenway, LLA  
Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator  
Meridian Charter Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864  
Phone 517-853-4610  
Fax 517-853-4099

*"Creating Community through People, Parks, and Places"*

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**From:** Donna Rose [mailto:wild-rose@sbcglobal.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2017 10:44 PM  
**To:** Kit Rich <kitrich13@gmail.com>; Jane Greenway <greenway@meridian.mi.us>  
**Cc:** Ronald Styka <styka@meridian.mi.us>

**Subject:** FW: [leadership] FW: Nature for All Launches New Website [www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com) to Bring Outdoor Experiences to the Blind and Visually Impaired

Dear Kit and Jane,

Thought you might find the forwarded email below interesting and even useful for planning purposes. My favorite thing to do in nature or in the parks is to sit with others and play cards! Hey, how about a book bench? That won't help blind people, but I bring my own audio books and listen there as well. Sighted people might like to pick up a book in the park or nature center and sit for a while and read. They can take the book with them and return it or many people replace it with another. This is very popular in Detroit at bus stops where a small company called "Sit On It Detroit" builds these benches for riders and loads them with books. People actually bring the books back and add more. That's the Detroit I love!

Take care.

Sincerely,  
Donna Rose

It is better to light a single candle than to curse the darkness.  
Attributed to Eleanor Roosevelt

***For Immediate Release:***  
**January 2017**

**Nature for All Launches New Website [www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com) to Bring Outdoor Experiences to the Blind and Visually Impaired**

Nature for All has launched a new website, Nature for the Blind, at [www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com) to provide information about Braille trails, sensory gardens and other outdoor experiences available for the visually impaired and others with disabilities. Founded in 2013 by Evan Barnard, Nature for All is an organization dedicated to providing outdoor experiences for the visually impaired and others with disabilities through the construction of inclusive Braille trails and sensory gardens in public areas all over the world, as well as outdoor programs and events for the visually impaired and opportunities for student volunteers to join visually impaired youth for nature experiences. The new website provides information on 165 Braille trails and sensory gardens located in 28 countries around the world, plus other opportunities for the visually impaired such as schools for the blind, other educational programs, outdoor sports, and travel resources.

According to the World Health Organization, approximately 285 million adults and children worldwide are blind or visually impaired. Some are born blind or with limited vision, others lose their vision over time through disease or aging, and some, such as veterans, experience traumatic injuries.

Access to the outdoors and nature is important to the health and education of all individuals regardless of age, location, or physical capabilities. Navigating the outdoors is especially challenging for the visually impaired, but there are opportunities to make experiencing the outdoors safer and more accessible for those with disabilities. Imagine being visually impaired and trying to walk along an outdoor path with only a cane, a seeing-eye dog, or a companion for guidance. Braille trails and sensory gardens offer the visually impaired opportunities for increased mobility and access to nature through an independent outdoor experience. Tactile additions such as Braille signage, guide ropes and path markers allow the visually impaired to enjoy trails and gardens without assistance, and accessible pathways remove barriers to mobility regularly experienced by those with disabilities.

A Braille Trail is a nature trail with Braille informational signage and physical aides that allow the visually impaired to experience the trail unassisted. Braille trails usually include a guide rope or rails for the visually impaired to hold and follow along a guide dog friendly path, with Braille informational signage about the natural surroundings and stations to experience physical trail features placed at key points along the guide rope. Some trails have tactile walkways to provide direction, others have audio components such as guided audio tours or smartphone access, and many have features making them wheelchair-accessible.

A sensory garden is designed to provide tactile experiences through the usage of specific plants in a specially designed layout to create opportunities and accommodations for the visually impaired and others with disabilities to enjoy the touch, sounds and scents of the outdoors. Sensory gardens utilize aromatic and textural plants, and often have Braille informational signage, guide ropes or rails, audio features, and tactile pathways for the visually impaired to walk along the paths unassisted. Many sensory gardens have wheelchair-accessible walkways and raised garden beds.

Always interested in nature, Evan Barnard started working with the visually impaired community at age 12 in 2010 when he helped clear pathways and replace stolen Braille signs along a vandalized Braille trail in the Nature Conservancy-owned Marshall Forest in Rome, Georgia. Barnard became involved with the

local Rome-Floyd County chapter of the Georgia Council of the Blind and was immediately drawn to the people. He learned about the difficulties the visually impaired face in everyday life and especially outdoors, and began advocating for increasing their access to natural areas. Barnard eventually designed and built another Braille nature trail, the Whispering Woods Braille Trail, to give more visually impaired people access to the outdoors. The trail was designed with input from members of the Georgia Council of the Blind and built by student and adults volunteers with grants and corporate donations. The finalized Braille trail was officially dedicated with a nature walk for Georgia Council of the Blind members in 2014.

“The main goal was to promote natural environments so people without sight could enjoy the sounds, smells, tastes, and feel of nature just the same as their sighted peers,” stated Marsha Farrow, past president and current treasurer of the Georgia Council of the Blind. “Blind and visually impaired children especially need the opportunity to experience the outdoors and realize that they can successfully participate in sports and enjoy nature like children who are not visually impaired. These trails promote much needed opportunities for physical exercise, and have provided many teachable moments for children and adults to respect, conserve and love the beauty of our forests.”

Barnard began coordinating local nature walks and programs along the new Braille trail for visually impaired youth and adults, creating the organization Nature for All to bring student volunteers together with visually impaired youth to share nature experiences. While researching building a new Braille trail at the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, he discovered there were Braille trails and sensory gardens in other cities across the U.S., and even around the world. However, there was no directory or way for the visually impaired to find these mostly unpublicized trails and gardens, and many visually impaired people were unaware the opportunities existed, even in their own communities.

Now 18 years old and a freshman at the University of Georgia majoring in ecology, Barnard decided to expand the scope of Nature for All to include a website at [www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com) to link visually impaired people from across the U.S. and other countries with accessible outdoor experiences. The website provides locations and information about Braille nature trails and sensory gardens for the visually impaired and those with other physical disabilities in the United States and around the world. The directory lists detailed information on 165 Braille trails and sensory gardens found in 28 countries worldwide, including 93 trails in 31 different U.S. states and Puerto Rico. These trails and gardens are incredibly diverse in terms of location, natural features, trail design, and opportunities for interaction.

Some U.S. states like California and Massachusetts have as many as nine different Braille trails and sensory gardens, and internationally South Africa has 14 Braille trails, most at national parks. There are even tours available for the visually impaired to travel to multiple national parks around South Africa and experience the different Braille trail locations with others. Some Braille trails have themes, such as a trail in Tennessee based on the book series *The Chronicles of Narnia* and a discovery Braille trail in South Africa based on fossils.

The Nature for the Blind website also provides information on the history of Braille trails, the importance of connecting those with disabilities to the outdoors, links to outdoor and travel resources for the blind and visually impaired, and other educational opportunities and programs. Educational resources on the website include links to schools for the visually impaired around the world, as well as summer camps, education programs and other informational links. Contacts for outdoor sports for the visually impaired highlighted on the site include golf, horseback riding, beeper ball, bowling, plus many others, including unconventional opportunities such as blind snow skiing and wind surfing.

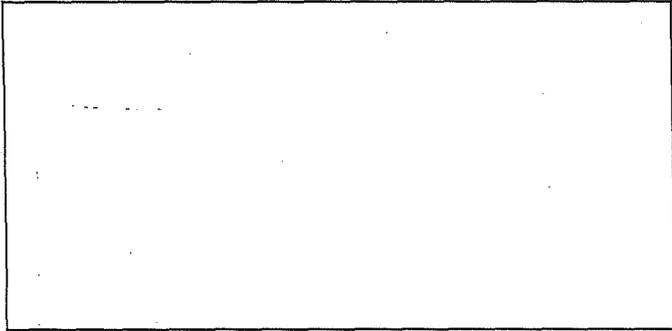
“The website provides resources for the visually impaired to find opportunities to enjoy the outdoors wherever they live or visit,” noted Evan Barnard, founder of Nature for All and the website’s creator. “My goal is to allow people with vision loss to fully engage in the natural wonders of our planet and to promote the importance of creating opportunities for inclusive outdoor experiences in public areas for people with disabilities in communities around the globe.”

Linking the visually impaired and others with disabilities to nature enhances their physical health and education, as well as encouraging interactions with non-disabled community members. Providing accessible opportunities for outdoor experiences is a way to remove barriers to mobility, increase public understanding and access to nature for disabled populations, and establish communities with sustainable and inclusive outdoor areas and other developments that benefit all people regardless of their physical abilities.

Website visitors from around the world are encouraged to share information and photos of local Braille trails and sensory garden and other outdoor opportunities and events for the blind in their community with Nature for All at [communications@nature4all.org](mailto:communications@nature4all.org) for inclusion on the website and to be highlighted on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/naturefortheblind/>. Additional Braille trails and

sensory gardens are already under construction and will be added to the website directory as completed. Barnard hopes to expand the website to provide additional resources and opportunities for visually impaired adults and youth to connect through common interests and share outdoor opportunities in their communities with others.

For more information on Nature for All or the new website, please contact [communications@nature4all.org](mailto:communications@nature4all.org).



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Park Commission Meeting  
February 14, 2017

7. MINUTES

- a. January 24, 2017 Work Session Minutes
- b. January 24, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners Baker, McDonald, Schaetzi, Stephens

EXCUSED: Commissioner Lick

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair McDonald called the work session to order at 6:05 pm

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

**3. Dog Park/Playground**

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

Staff is also reviewing land adjacent to the Central Fire Station as a possible location to allow off-leash dog walking. Farm fencing would be installed for safety. Many dog owners currently walk their pets off-leash in our parks which is prohibited by park ordinance. Complaints have been many and enforcement has been difficult.

**4. 2017 Potential Grant Projects**

Director Maisner reviewed the recommended projects for the 2017 grant cycle:

1. **The Harris Nature Center** hosts hundreds of school children each year as well as numerous outdoor special events. The Center is located along the Meridian Riverfront trail that extends from Eastgate Park to Legg Park on the west and on through the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve to Dobie Road. Harris Nature Center staff have been requesting an outdoor restroom for a number of years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park

restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

2. Construction of **Towner Road Park** will take place in 2017 and will be ready for active play in 2019. Staff is recommending that a grant be pursued for construction of six pickleball courts, native plantings and stormwater management, a playground and the north-west parking lot. It was recommended that Staff discuss development of a bike lane with the Ingham County Road Department.

## 5. **5 - Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update**

Director Maisner reported that the draft version of the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021 has been available the month of January for public review in hard copy version at the Parks and Recreation Department Office and the Township Clerk's Office as well as on-line on the Township's website.

During this time, staff has also re-reviewed the document and identified a few corrections to the draft. The pages included in the meeting packet indicate the proposed changes. During the open review time, Staff received input from the community which was also included in the meeting packet.

The public hearing for the master plan will take place during the Park Commission meeting on February 14, 2017 at 7 pm and will be followed with a resolution of recommendation.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Baker shared minor corrections

## 6. **Comments**

None

## 7. **Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald adjourned the work session at 7 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017

PRESENT: Commissioners Baker, McDonald, Schaetzi, Stephens

EXCUSED: Commissioner Lick

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair McDonald called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Add, #3b, Emerald Ash Borer Presentation

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER, SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**3. Presentations**

**a. Eagle Scout Final Report – Gage Van Order**

Eagle Scout Candidate Gage Van Order summarized his final report on the construction of the overlook at Ted Black Woods.

**b. Emerald Ash Borer Presentation**

Leah Bauer, PhD, Research Entomologist, US Forest Service, Northern Research Station shared findings of the Emerald Ash Borer study in the Township as follows:

- Management of Emerald Ash Borer Using Classical Biological Control in Forested Ecosystems – the conclusions are:  
(26 page PowerPoint Presentation on file in the minute book)
- Entomological Society of America: Biological and Microbial Control – Establishment and Abundance of *Tetrastichus planipennisi* (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) in Michigan: Potential for Success in Classical Biocontrol of the Invasive Emerald Ash Borer (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) by Jian J Duan, Leah S Bauer, Kristopher J Abell, Jonathan P Lelito and Roy Van Driesche, (copy of the article on file in the minute book)
- Elsevier/Science Direct: Biological Control/Long-term monitoring of the introduced emerald ash borer (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) egg parasitoid,

Oobius agrili (Hymenoptera: Encyrtidae), in Michigan, USA and evaluation of a newly developed monitoring technique by Kristopher J Abell, Leah S Bauer, Jian J Duan, and Roy Van Driesche (copy of the article on file in the minute book)

- Ms. Bauer presented two copies of Biology and Control of Emerald Ash Borer for staff and an online version of the book may be found at: [https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/FHTET-2014-09\\_Biology\\_Control\\_EAB.pdf](https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/FHTET-2014-09_Biology_Control_EAB.pdf)
- Ms. Bauer offered to assist citizen scientists or volunteers interested in getting involved in EAB biocontrol in our parks.

#### 4. Public Comment

None

#### 5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Stephens recommended not holding the ice fishing derby in February and also recommended the public stay off the ice for safety reasons.

#### 6. Approval of Minutes

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

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL, SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 13, 2016 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

#### 7. Communications

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

1. From: Lynn Ochberg; RE: Making Meridian a Winter Wonderland
2. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Ice rink, warmth, Copenhagen, garden
3. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Canadian City Winter Plan
4. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Hygge Idea—A light sculpture festival/contest in Jan/Feb
5. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Article on Holland, MI steam sidewalks
6. From: Eric Ederer; RE: 2 Parks with lights for people who work during the day
7. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Steam Heated Park Sidewalks
8. From: Eric Ederer; RE: Danish Winter Urban Park/Planning Design
9. From: Donna Rose; RE: Leadership/Nature for All Launches New Website [www.naturefortheblind.com](http://www.naturefortheblind.com) to Bring Outdoor Experiences to the Blind and Visually Impaired

##### B. Commission Information

1. Joint Meeting Report from the Park Commission
2. Joint Meeting Report from Land Preservation Advisory Board

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

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

**8. Director's Report**

Director Maisner offered the following report:

- a. Towner Road Park bid opening - Monday, January 30, 2017
- b. Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage Grant
  - ✓ Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector - Not recommended for funding (\$61,225)
  - ✓ MSU to Lake Lansing Phase 1 – Recommended for funding (\$950,000)
- c. Grant Applications receiving funding:
  - ✓ Historical Village Restroom Building and Gateway Footbridge (\$150,000) LWCF (\$300,000 project cost)
  - ✓ Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector – (\$272,500) (\$395,000 project cost)
  - ✓ Ponderosa Land Preserve Acquisition – (\$519,500) (MNRTF)
- d. 2017 Projects
  - ✓ North Meridian Road Park Pavilion
  - ✓ Doggie Playground – Central Park
  - ✓ Development of Towner Road Park
- e. Fireworks New Years' Eve – very successful
- f. Polar Bear 5K Race – 220 participants, numerous dogs and strollers
- g. Trails report: Due to strong winds, many trees down in parks. Maintenance staff has been working to re-open trails
- h. Events:
  - ✓ Winter Wonderland January 28 Harris Nature Center
  - ✓ Farmers Market February 4 & 18
  - ✓ Chinese New Year Event – February 11, 1-4:30 Meridian Mall
- i. Communications:
  - ✓ New Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide/brochure
- j. Plant It Pink garden
  - ✓ Plant it pink garden – bricks – we should invite the Meridian Garden Club to a meeting to make a public announcement?

Commissioner Baker moved, Commissioner Stephens seconded, to formally thank Leah Bauer for including Central Park and Legg Park in her extended studies of the Emerald Ash Borer and for her generous gift of two books of research information. Voice vote. Motion passed.

**9. New Business**

**a. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition**

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

COMMISSIONER SCHAETZL MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER SECONDED, TO SCHEDULE THE 2016 FRIEND OF THE PARK VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017 AT 6 PM AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL. Voice vote. Motion passed

**b. 2017 Potential Grant Projects**

Staff is recommending the following projects for the 2017 grant cycle:

1. **The Harris Nature Center** hosts hundreds of school children each year as well as numerous outdoor special events. The Center is also along the Meridian Riverfront trail that extends from Eastgate Park to Legg Park and through the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve to Dobie Road. Harris Nature Center staff have requested an outdoor restroom for a number of years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The project has an estimated cost of \$80,000.
2. Construction of **Towner Road Park** will take place in 2017 and will not be ready for active play until 2019. In order to best afford the park's development, staff is recommending that a grant be pursued for construction of six pickleball courts, native plantings for storm water management, a playground and the western parking lot. The project has an estimated cost of \$350,000.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER BAKER SECONDED TO COMPLETE GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR AN OUTDOOR RESTROOM AT THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER; AND PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, SIX PICKLEBALL COURTS AND PARKING LOT FOR TOWNER ROAD PARK. Voice vote. Motion passed

**10. Other Business**

None

**11. Discussion Items**

None

**12. Final Comments**

None

**13. Announcements**

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

**14. Public Comment**

**15. Closed Session**

None

**16. Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Chair McDonald adjourned the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Park Commission Meeting  
February 14, 2017

8. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
  - 1. From: Deborah Guthrie, 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chair, Invitation to Celebrate Enactment Day on February 16, 2017, Michigan State Capitol Building, Room 402/403, from 1:30-2:30 pm
  
- B. Commission Information
  - None
  
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
  - None



# Celebrate Enactment Day

February 2, 2017

Dear Board Members and Commissioners,

It is our pleasure to extend a formal invitation to attend the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Birthday Celebration of Meridian Township and Delhi Township on Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 from 1:30pm – 2:30pm at the Michigan State Capitol building, Rooms 402/403.

By way of introduction, Jacob McCormick and I, write to you on behalf of Delhi Township and Meridian Township. We are the 175<sup>th</sup> Special Events Coordinators for our respective communities. Jacob is also President of the Holt-Delhi Historical Society and a board member of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and the Ingham County Historical Commission, and I am the Communications Director and Brand Manager for Meridian Township.

We would like to invite you to join us at the State Capitol to celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> birthdays and anniversaries. Presenters will be state dignitaries, township officials and local representatives along with Holt #30239, Haslett #30003 and Okemos #30009 Girl Scout Troops conducting an opening/closing flag ceremony.

**Welcome:**

**Deborah Guthrie**, Meridian Township's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair/Communications Director

**George Orban**, Ingham County Historical Commission Chair

**Ronald J. Styka**, Meridian Township Supervisor

**Jacob McCormick**, Delhi Township's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chair/Holt-Delhi Historical Society President

**John Hayhoe**, Delhi Charter Township Supervisor

**Tribute:**

**Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr.**, 23rd District State Senator

**Representative Sam Singh**, 69th District State Representative

**Representative Tom Cochran**, 67th District State Representative

**Kara Hope**, Ingham County Commissioner District 7

**Dr. Cathy Ash**, Superintendent of Okemos Public Schools

**Thank You:**

**Jane Rose**, Ex. Director of Meridian Historical Museum and Friends of Historic Meridian

**Valerie Marvin**, Capitol Historian/Vice President of the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

As regional partners, we intend for our Celebrate Enactment Day to successfully pay tribute to our community's past, present and future history. Refreshments will be served, as well as a commemorative medallion for those in attendance. Please RSVP to Andrea Smiley [smiley@meridian.mi.us](mailto:smiley@meridian.mi.us) by February 14, 2017. We look forward to your presence.

Sincerely,

Deborah Guthrie, 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Chair

Meridian Township Communications Director/PIO

[guthrie@meridian.mi.us](mailto:guthrie@meridian.mi.us) 517.853.4380

# Park Commission Meeting

## February 14, 2017

### 10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Vernal Pool Mapping of Township Parks
- b. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021
- c. Towner Road Park Construction Contract
- d. Set Public Hearing for 2017 Grant Submissions



# MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION

TO: Park Commission

FROM: LuAnn Maisner  
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Department Director

DATE: February 9, 2017

RE: VERNAL POOLS MAPPING PROJECT

---

Representatives from Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) and the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative (MMSI) approached Meridian Township with a proposal to develop a Vernal Pool Mapping and Monitoring Training and Community Involvement Program.

Vernal pools (also referred to as ephemeral or seasonal pools) are small, shallow, depressional wetlands that usually contain water for only part of the year. They typically fill with water in the spring, fall, or winter, and usually dry up by late summer or early fall. Meridian Township currently owns and manages over 900 acres of park land and over 700 acres of natural areas. Little information is currently available on the status, distribution, and ecology of vernal pools on these lands and in the Township in general.

To help inform and guide natural resource management and stewardship efforts, Meridian Township is interested in learning more about the distribution, status, and ecology of vernal pools that occur on the Township's natural areas and parks and in the Township in general. Vernal pools play an important role in maintaining Michigan's biodiversity and healthy forest ecosystems.

The purpose of this project is to provide training, support, and assistance to Meridian Township to initiate a citizen science- and community-based vernal pool mapping and monitoring program in the Township.

The Meridian Land Preservation Advisory Board approved the expenditure of \$2,500 at their February 8, 2017 regular meeting. MNFI is requesting **\$500 from Parks Commission to cover the remaining balance. The \$500 will be utilized to develop maps of the vernal pools within the park system.**

Draft motion for consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE A BUDGET ALLOCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500 TO MICHIGAN NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY (MNFI) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING MAPS THAT SHOW VERNAL POOLS IN THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARK SYSTEM.

**MEMORANDUM**



**TO:** Park Commission  
**FROM:** *LuAnn Maisner*  
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
**DATE:** February 9, 2017  
**RE:** 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

---

In order to remain eligible for state and federal grants administered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), communities must have a parks and recreation master plan on file and updated every five years. More importantly, it serves as a planning tool for future development opportunities based on community input, current uses and future trends.

Public input for the plan included a public input meetings, a community-wide survey that received more than 1,100 responses, meetings with staff, and a public hearing. The draft plan was available for public review on our website, Meridian Service Center and in the Clerks Office.

Once approved, the plan will be forwarded to the MDNR.

**Motion for Board Consideration:**

**MOVE TO APPROVE THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE 2017-2021 5-YEAR PARKAND RECREATION MASTER PLAN.**

**Park Commission Resolution  
to Recommend Adoption of  
5-Year Parks and Recreation  
Master Plan 2017-2021**

**RESOLUTION**

At a regular meeting of the Township Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, in said Township on the 14th day of February, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., Local Time,

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Park Commission has undertaken a Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan update which describes the physical features, existing parks and recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain parks and recreation facilities during the period between 2017 to 2021, and

WHEREAS, the Meridian Township Park Commission began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and Environment and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of Meridian Township were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource plan, and

WHEREAS, the community was given a well-advertised opportunity to review the final draft plan for at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 at the Meridian Township Hall, to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan draft, and

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

WHEREAS, the Plan once approved will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment to meet eligibility requirements for state and federal grants administered by the MDNR from 2017-2021.

**Park Commission Resolution  
to Recommend Adoption of  
5-Year Parks and Recreation  
Master Plan 2017-2021  
Page 2**

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PARK COMMISSION OF MERIDIAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP HEREBY RECOMMENDS ADOPTION OF THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021 AS A GUIDELINE FOR IMPROVING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND SERVICES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP.

Roll Call:

AYES:

NAYS:

State of Michigan    )  
                                  ) ss:  
County of Ingham    )

I, \_\_\_\_\_, Chair of the Meridian Township Park Commission, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Park Commission of the Meridian Charter Township at a regular meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson  
Meridian Township Park Commission

# MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP



TO: Park Commission

FROM: LuAnn Maisner  
LuAnn Maisner  
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 10, 2017

RE: Summary of Contractor Selection  
Towner Road Park Project

---

We are pleased to provide the final bid results and recommendation for the contractor of the Towner Road Park Project. Construction on this long-awaited project will begin in March or April with an anticipated completion date of November 1, 2017.

January 9, 2017: A pre-bid meeting was held at Towner Road Park. Over 30 contractors and sub-contractors attended the meeting.

January 30, 2017: Five contractors submitted qualified bids:

1. Laux Construction \$1,714,426.00
2. Woodhull Construction \$1,868,000.00
3. Moore Trosper \$1,930,300.00
4. Central Excavating \$1,972,820.00
5. ET Mackenzie Co. \$1,997,300.00

Our consultant, VIRIDIS Design Group has evaluated the proposals and conducted a post bid interview with the low bidder, Laux Construction. In addition, the consultant reviewed the bid alternates and feel that the alternate prices are reasonable should the Township wish to incorporate the alternate items. Our recommendation is to include Alternate #1 in the bid recommendation but to postpone the construction of Alternate #2 at this time.

**ALTERNATE #1 – Pickleball Courts and Adjacent Concrete Pathways**  
\$107,300

**ALTERNATE #2 – Parking Lot B (westernmost parking lot)**  
\$218,900

The following motion is offered:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE BID FROM LAUX CONSTRUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,714,426.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING TOWNER ROAD PARK, WHICH INCLUDES ATHLETIC FIELDS, BALL DIAMONDS, PARKING, A RESTROOM BUILDING, PAVILION, LOOPED PATHWAY, SIDEWALKS, UTILITIES, DRINKING FOUNTAIN, AND LANDSCAPING; AND TO APPROVE BID ALTERNATE #1 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$107,300.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING PICKLEBALL COURTS, AND TO UTILIZE PARK MILLAGE FUNDS FOR THE TOTAL PROJECT COST IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,821,726.

G:\Parks\Commission\2017

Towner Road Park  
Meridian Township  
1/30/2017

BID TAB

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Base Bid</b>	<b>Alt #1</b>	<b>Alt #2</b>	<b>Bid Bond?</b>	<b>Addenda</b>
Laux Construction	\$1,714,426	\$107,300	\$218,900	Yes	Yes
Woodhull Construction	\$1,868,000	\$200,000	\$187,000	Yes	Yes
Moore Trosper	\$1,930,300	\$104,100	\$253,500	Yes	Yes
Central Excavating	\$1,972,820	\$110,152	\$196,353	Yes	Yes
ET Mackenzie Co	\$1,997,300	\$107,000	\$198,000	Yes	Yes

Alternative #1 – Six (6) Pickleball Courts  
Alternative #2 – Paving of west parking lot

# T O W N E R R O A D P A R K

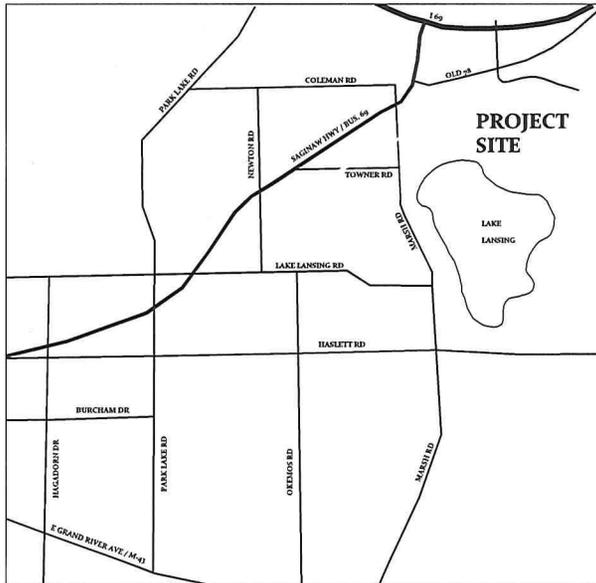
Meridian Township Parks and Recreation

Charter Township of Meridian, Michigan

**OWNER:**  
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
 2100 GAYLORD C. SMITH COURT  
 EAST LANSING, MI 48823  
 www.twp.meridian.mi.us

**LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:**  
 VIRIDIS DESIGN GROUP  
 313 N. BURDICK STREET  
 KALAMAZOO, MI 49007  
 269.978.5143 (VOICE)  
 www.virdg.com

**ARCHITECT/CIVIL ENGINEER:**  
 KINGSCOTT ASSOCIATES, INC.  
 229 EAST MICHIGAN AVE.  
 KALAMAZOO, MI 49007  
 269.381.4880 (VOICE)  
 866.381.9110 (FAX)



**VICINITY MAP**  
 Not to Scale



## DRAWING INDEX

- T01 TITLE SHEET
- C1.0 TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY
- C2.0 DEMOLITION PLAN
- C3.0 OVERALL LAYOUT PLAN
- C3.1 ENLARGEMENT PLANS
- C4.0 OVERALL GRADING PLAN
- C4.1 SOIL EROSION CONTROL PLAN
- C5.0 SITE UTILITY PLAN
- C6.0 OVERALL LANDSCAPE PLAN
- C6.1 LANDSCAPE DETAILS
- C7.0 IRRIGATION PLAN
- C7.1 IRRIGATION DETAILS
- C8.0 SITE DETAILS
- C8.1 SITE DETAILS
- C8.2 SITE DETAILS
- E0.1 SITE ELECTRICAL SITE PLAN & DETAILS



Issued For	Date
SITE PLAN	02.12.16
BIDDING	12.15.16





## MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission

FROM:   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: February 10, 2017

RE: 2017 PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT

---

When the Park Commission met on January 10, 2017 they discussed grant opportunities for park development. The grant applications discussed included (1) a waterless restroom at the Harris Nature Center and (2) pickleball courts and a playground at Towner Road Park.

On January 30, 2017, bids for Towner Road Park were received. We were pleased to see that the lowest bid was approximately \$300,000 less than we had anticipated. Therefore, it is being proposed to include Bid Alternate #1 (pickleball courts) with the bid award. We feel this creates an opportunity to continue to aggressively pursue grant opportunities for both the restroom and a pavilion at the Harris Nature Center. Grant applications are due to the DNR by April 1, 2017 therefore, the public hearing will need to take place during the March 14, 2017 Regular meeting of the Park Commission.

### 2017 GRANT APPLICATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Harris Nature Center – Pavilion**  
This project proposes to construct a **pavilion** near the Harris Nature Center building in Meridian Riverfront Park. The pavilion may include an upper level that will provide opportunity for wildlife observation and star gazing. A pavilion will serve as a vital amenity along the recently established Red Cedar Water Trail
- 2. Harris Nature Center – Waterless Restroom**  
The Harris Nature Center staff have been requesting an outdoor restroom for many years to accommodate the large number of visitors. Park restrooms are also identified and supported in our Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

The following motion is proposed for your consideration:

MOVE TO SET A PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 14, 2017 AT 7:00PM FOR THE 2017 PROPOSED GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR A PAVILION AND OUTDOOR RESTROOM AT THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER.