



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, June 14, 2022 4:30pm
Meridian Service Center
2100 Gaylord Smith Ct, Haslett 48840

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Eagle Scout Project – Zach Sieloff - Bike Fix-it Station at Eastgate Park Pump Track Final Report
 - B. Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator – Report on Floating Islands
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Eastgate Park trails email
8. ACTION ITEMS
None
9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. CIP – Capital Improvement Plan 2023-2028
 - B. Red Cedar River Trail Project with Rotary Club
10. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS
13. ADJOURNMENT

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, LuAnn Maisner:
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord Smith Ct. Haslett, MI 48840



5. Agenda

June 14, 2022



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, June 14, 2022 4:30pm
Meridian Service Center
2100 Gaylord Smith Ct, Haslett 48840

REGULAR MEETING – 4:30PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PRESENTATIONS
 - A. Eagle Scout Project – Zach Sieloff - Bike Fix-it Station at Eastgate Park Pump Track Final Report
 - B. Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator – Report on Floating Islands
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 10, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
7. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Eastgate Park trails email
8. ACTION ITEMS
None
9. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. CIP – Capital Improvement Plan 2022-2027
 - B. Red Cedar River Trail Project with Rotary Club
10. DIRECTOR’S REPORT
11. PUBLIC COMMENTS
12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS’ COMMENTS
13. ADJOURNMENT

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Parks & Recreation Director, LuAnn Maisner:
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord Smith Ct. Haslett, MI 48840



6. Minutes

May 10, 2022



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

Meridian Service Center

2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022 4:30 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Mary Nardo-Farris; Vice Chair, Ami Van Antwerp; Commissioner, Mark Stephens; Commissioner, Mike McDonald
ABSENT: Commissioner, Amanda Lick
STAFF: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator; Bridget Cannon, Administrative Assistant

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Nardo-Farris called the meeting to order at **4:32 pm**.

2. ROLL CALL

Chair Nardo-Farris called the roll of the Commission.

All present other than Commissioner Lick. Commissioner Stephens arrived at 4:42 pm.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Capital Youth Cycling Association

Teresa DeLisle and Steve Rodgers, representing the Capital Youth Cycling Association, non-profit group, provided a summary of the club's summer bicycle program that meets at Eastgate and Burchfield Parks. The group has been tremendously popular with the area youth and registration sells out within minutes. The group maintains and develops various bike track features at Eastgate Park, with the assistance of Meridian Township Parks and Recreation staff. CYC is very appreciative of the support they have received from the Parks Department and were excited to present a generous donation check as a thank you for the trail maintenance and porta-jon facilities at the park. They request an additional water source to help maintain the track, an additional porta-jon, and additional signage. She then presented the Park Commission with a donation check in the amount of \$1,000 from the CYC Association.

Director Maisner remarked she is very appreciative of the support of the CYC and their sweat equity at Eastgate Park. She feels the group builds community. Unfortunately, an additional water source at the park would require a well to be drilled. There is no water line to the park. She can assist with an additional porta-jon. An additional porta-jon is scheduled to be delivered to Eastgate Park in June. Additional signage is also being looked at for the park.

Commissioners remarked how excited they are to have the CYC as part of our community programs and expressed their appreciation for the donation.

B. Eagle Scout Project – Ethan Olds

Ethan Olds, Haslett BSA Troop 97, proposed a Wetland Buffer installation project for Central

Minutes – Park Commission

May 10, 2022 - DRAFT

Page 2

Park South. Ethan, with the assistance of Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator, will install native plants as a “wetland buffer” to filter the water runoff, provide habit for certain species, and reduce impacts of human disturbance. The project will help protect the greenspace at Central Park South and provide natural beauty to the park. He has been fundraising and has a goal of \$635 to fund the project. The Eagle Scout Project is slated to be complete June, 2022.

The commissioners were excited to hear Ethan’s enthusiasm and look forward to working with him.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Claudia Kerbawy, 1398 Hickory Island Drive, Haslett

Susan Andrews, 6088 Columbia Street, Haslett

They stated that some residents are concerned about duck hunting on Lake Lansing. Duck hunting was observed in the fall of 2020 and again in fall of 2021. There is a small area greater than the 450 feet from homes near the south end of the lake that the hunters are utilizing to comply with the required isolation distance for hunting. Lake Lansing was established as a Wild Life Sanctuary in 1925. At one time, there were signs posted noting the Sanctuary Lake status, but signs have since been removed. Township police and the Michigan DNR said they cannot enforce without signs being posted to alert hunters that there is No Hunting. Residents have asked the DNR to re-post Sanctuary Lake/No Hunting signs. The DNR then asked for a review by the Attorney General’s Office. The AG’s guidance was to not re-post signs. However, the Sanctuary Lake status has not been revoked. The homeowner’s association is willing to raise funds for signage, if township is willing to deem as a park with no hunting with firearms.

Commissioners are requesting conversation with township police, attorney for further guidance with legality of hunting on Lake Lansing before making signage decisions. Director Maisner will follow up on this.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.**

Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Van Antwerp moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 8, 2022 REGULAR MEETING.** Seconded by Commissioner Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously

7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. The Power of Parks to Address Climate Change
- B. Letter to Local Horse Farms Regarding Trail Usage
- C. Resident complaint
- D. Meridian Conservation Corps Evaluability Assessment

Minutes – Park Commission

May 10, 2022 - DRAFT

Page 3

Commissioner Stephens moved **TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE THE LISTED ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION.** Seconded by Commissioner Van Antwerp.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. Eagle Scout Project by Ethan Olds - Commissioner Stephens moved **TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT BY ETHAN OLDS OF DEVELOPING A NATURAL BUFFER AREA IN CENTRAL PARK SOUTH AND WORK UNDER THE DIRECTION AND ADVISEMENT OF EMMA CAMPBELL, STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR.** Seconded by Commissioner McDonald.

VOICE/HAND VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Roundtable Discussion on Various Topics

A. Horses on Trails – We have experienced numerous complaints over the years from park users and concerns from staff about horse damage and droppings left on the multi-use trails in Meridian Riverfront Park. Horses are allowed by Ordinance currently but posted trail advisories against use during wet weather conditions seem to be ignored by many. Letters were sent to adjacent horse farms on Meridian Road requesting that horse droppings need to be removed. A new horse farm owner has now begun to ride the trails of Meridian Riverfront Park with a horse and cart. We have received complaints from pedestrian users regarding safety concerns. The Land Preserves prohibit horses on trails currently. The Commissioners recommended placing new signage at affected trailhead areas to help deter usage. The next step would be to amend the existing ordinance.

B. Inclusive Playground – As we look forward to the 2023 budget process, an inclusive playground was identified need in the Parks and Recreation Masterplan 2022-2027 process. Visit this link for a great article on this topic: <https://nextcity.org/urbanist-news/playgrounds-designed-with-accessibility-in-mind-make-play-fun-for-every-kid>. The Commissioners discussed the importance of this type of amenity and are interested in expanding discussions on location and amenities. Staff will return with a recommendation at a future meeting.

C. Capital Improvement Program – The Meridian Township Budget Process begins in June and the CIP is part of this process. Now is the time for its annual review for planning and implementation scheduling for the next six years. The Commissioners were provided with the current plan in their meeting packet for review. Vice-Chair Van Antwerp suggested this item be placed on the next agenda to facilitate a full discussion of future project planning. This item will appear again on the June 14, 2022 Regular meeting agenda.

D. Marshall Park Proposed Wetland Enhancement Project – Marshall Park, located adjacent to Lake Lansing, is wet and soggy for most of the year, which makes it difficult to maintain. This area used to be utilized as a practice soccer field. Over the years, had become too wet. Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell is proposing a project to plant wetland plants that are supported by these conditions. Volunteer opportunities will be created with this project. Prior to implementation, Director Maisner suggested that a meeting be conducted with nearby neighbors to explain the project and to enlist volunteers. Our preliminary discussions with a

Minutes – Park Commission

May 10, 2022 - DRAFT

Page 4

few neighbors have been favorable. This project will proceed in the fall.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. **Floating Islands** for Central Park South – In an effort to improve water quality in Central Park South pond, 5 islands (islands are 7.5 x 10') have been ordered for arrival in May. Each island will be planted with 54 native wetland plants to facilitate the filtration process. The islands are scheduled to arrive in May. Volunteers will help plant in early June..
2. **Consumers Energy Ferguson Park bench donation** – this bench, made from recycled milk jugs was donated to the township in exchange for an easement in Wonch Park as part of the bridge replacement program on Okemos Road.
3. **Michigan Municipal League Community Excellence Award** for Marketplace on the Green – submitting project for consideration - due May 13.
4. **Trail Map** – Kati is getting a price for embellishment to the map from the trail map co that she works with. Jane will complete order once we consider the additional cost.
5. **5280 Okemos Rd/Nancy Moore Park Acquisition** – Demolition of the house took place the week of May 2, 2022. Site restoration is underway.
6. The Engineering Department is developing a plan for creating **recycling drop off area** off the Nancy Moore Park entry driveway adjacent to the Service Center.
7. **Hillbrook Park** – IDC owes us 40 trees after drain work in park. Some have been installed, more are coming this spring. The trees will be planted along Montebello Ave and along the edge of the woods (Dogwood, Spicebush, High Bush Cranberry, Winterberry, Sugar Maple, Red Maple, Serviceberry, Eastern Redbud, Flowering Dogwood, Red Oak, Swamp White Oak, Bur Oak, Sycamore, Tulip Tree, Basswood)
8. **Stewardship**
 - Vernal Pool Patrol launched with 12 new volunteer monitors. (two training days were held)
 - Earth Day Clean-up was held on April 22 where 18 volunteers picked up 250lbs of trash along Central Park Drive
 - Wetland Trash Clean-up took place at Central Meridian Uplands. Approximately 1,000lbs of trash removed with 20 volunteers.
 - Conducted first annual staff invasive species field training 8 stewardship workdays and/or educational opportunities conducted including wetland walks, stewardship Saturdays, Trailblazers workday, weekend warriors with 74 participants
9. **Recreation**
 - Haslett Prom at Marketplace - success
 - Flashlight Easter Egg hunt at Nancy Moore Park - 400 participants 50 volunteers
 - Mom to Mom sale-46 vendors May 1st – success!
 - 756 soccer players
 - 500 Baseball/Softball/T-ball players
 - 13 classes of Sporties for Shorties are full starting in June
 - Adult sports registration is open

Minutes – Park Commission

May 10, 2022 - DRAFT

Page 5

- Haslett and Okemos Baseball clubs are using Towner and Hartrick fields
- Haslett and Okemos Soccer clubs are using Towner-Hartrick-North Meridian-Nancy Moore fields
- Playmakers running club has 28 participants – Nancy Moore Park
- Planning underway for the **2022 Heritage Festival** on Saturday, October 1.

10. **Farmers Market** - First day of Spring season was Saturday, May 7. 47 vendors with 2,400 visitors!

11. **Celebrate Meridian** – Saturday, June 25, 2022 at Central Park and Marketplace on the Green

12. Park Maintenance

- Upgraded the pole barn at the Okemos Road property with a new roof and fixed the doors
- Installed one windscreen at Marketplace for demonstration purposes. More will be ordered this summer.
- Successful Love-a-Park Day with 20 volunteers in 4 parks
- Completed laying the pavers around the Gazebo at Historical Village
- All soccer fields prepped
- Baseball/softball fields groomed and ready
- All Park restrooms are open (except for Wonch and Ferguson) closed for the year.

13. Harris Nature Center:

- Annie's Big Nature Lesson in March for the entire month of April (5 schools, 8 classes, 189 students)
- MSU Science Festival Virtual Wildlife Programs: 11 classes, 264 students
- All staff is hired for Summer Camp
- Getting ready to pave the trail to the new observation deck this spring
- Planning for 25th Anniversary Event on July 23rd
- Annual Native Plants Sale, Saturday, May 7th \$8,000 gross sales
- Wildflower Wednesdays, all month long in May at 1 pm
- HNCF is interested in updated its By-Laws and Partnership Agreement. I will share their suggestions as soon as they are confirmed. The Park Commission will need to vote in favor of the amendments in order to approve.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Stewardship chat with Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator

- Trash removal (20+ tires from Central Meridian Upland)
- Invasive removal – garlic mustard and Dame's Rocket
- Planting of natives will start soon.
- Over 45 new MCC members this year.
- Wetland Walks have been great education opportunities for the public.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Nardo-Farris adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

The next scheduled meeting is **June 14, 2022** at the Meridian Service Center, 4:30 pm.

14. SITE VISIT – 5280 OKEMOS ROAD – Due to timing, the site visit was canceled for a date in the near future.



7. Communications

June 14, 2022

Bridget Cannon

From: LuAnn Maisner
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 11:09 AM
To: 'Matt Dubiel'; Parks
Subject: RE: Eastgate park trails

Good Morning Mr. Dubiel,

Thank you so much for contacting us about this! Yes, horses are allowed on park trails by ordinance currently, but the Park Commission is in the process of reviewing this as we continue to receive complaints of horse droppings on our trails. Also, I plan to forward your email to the Police Department as it appears there was recklessness on behalf of the owner. Thank heavens you and your daughter were not injured. Would you like the police to contact you for a report? Even if you do not, I plan to alert our Police Department of this incident. I will also be sharing your emails with the Park Commission to keep them alerted to these complaints.

Please feel free to stay in contact with me if you encounter this again.

Sincerely,

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

From: Matt Dubiel
Sent: Wednesday, May 11, 2022 10:59 AM
To: Parks <Parks@meridian.mi.us>
Subject: Re: Eastgate park trails

Plus they crap all over the trail and I don't see the owners carrying large bags to clean up after their pets?

On May 11, 2022, at 10:57 AM, Matt Dubiel wrote:

Morning!

Hey - my wife and 16 month old kid were using the trails this morning. My kid was playing on the trail and all the sudden a horse and carriage zoomed by? My wife was able to get our kid out of the way but man that seems like a dangerous situation? Are these trails open to horses? Horses pulling carriages? With all the dogs and small kids around seems like a recipe for disaster?

Figured I'd reach out to understand what the Meridian Park rules are?

Thanks!

Matt Dubiel



9. Discussion Items

A. CIP - Capital Improvement Plan 2022-2027

B. Red Cedar Trail Project with Rotary Club



To: Park Commission
From: LuAnn Maisner CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation
Date: June 7, 2022
Re: 2022-2027 Capital Improvement Plan

The purpose of the Capital Improvement Plan is to assist with planning, funding and coordination of capital projects of \$5,000 or more in the Township. Items include acquisitions of land/structure/facility for long-term use or construction of a building/street/park/utility/etc. This plan is reviewed each year and amended as needed based on priorities, need and available funding.

Since this plan is reviewed by you annually, the most important year for consideration right now is next year (2023), as these projects will be included in the 2023 budget request. This plan also serves as a tool for planning and seeking grant funding in future years.

The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that the Park Commission adopted last year for years 2022-2027 is attached for your review. The only item from 2022 that will need to carry forward is the **Towner Road Park Playground Project**. All other 2022 projects will be completed this year. Other items or projects for your consideration may include: Ferguson Park Canoe Launch Renovation, Universally Accessible Playground, HNC Building improvements, Meridian Historical Village Building Renovation and repairs, public art sculpture, Additional Pickleball Courts, splashpad, skatepark, Cricket pitch, other.

I feel there is value in discussing and amending priorities based on events from the last two+ years coupled with new upcoming State ARPA grant funding on the horizon totaling 65 million dollars.

Central Park Pavilion Renovation Project – Since the pandemic, pavilion usage is at an all-time high. This pavilion, constructed in 1975 has served as the farmers’ market location and is in desperate need of facelift. 2023

New Park Signs – As the Township has designed and developed a new and improved look for signage, it is important to carry the brand and image throughout the Township including our parks. Many of our signs are in terrible condition and are on need of replacement. 2023

Meridian Historical Village Maintenance and Repair – Meridian Township is fortunate to be in partnership with the Friends of Historic Meridian and the Meridian Garden Club for operation and beautification of the Historical Village. The pandemic, changing leadership, and pressing economic times have all hindered the FHMs ability to keep up with needed building repairs and maintenance. The park and the structures belong to the Township and it is important that efforts be taken soon to keep the historic structures open and available to the public. 2023

Hillbrook Park Restroom Building – This project has been a lower priority on the list in recent years, but with development of the pickleball courts and increased park usage, consideration should be discussed to move this up on the priority list. (together with increased parking). 2023-24

Ferguson Park/Wonch Park Canoe Landing Renovation and Streambank Stabilization – With the recent commitment from five Rotary Clubs from Williamston, Haslett/Okemos, East Lansing and Lansing to create and maintain a water trail along the Red Cedar River, we need to direct attention to improving the condition and accessibility of the landing area at Ferguson Park. 2023-24

Universally Accessible Playground – This would be planned and implemented utilizing our Universal Access Advisory Board Members and other experts and users in the area. Grant agencies will look favorably upon this partnership and project. 2024. (Location to be determined)

MSU-Lake Lansing Trail Hub/ Nancy Moore Park Entrance – With the upcoming trail project for 2022-2023, planning and implementation of this project should be considered for grant funding for development in 2024 and coordinated with the Engineering Department pathway project.

Playground Replacements – We have a number of playgrounds in our community that have outlived their intended life expectancy. Recommended replacements include: Nancy Moore Park, Ottawa Hills, Marshall Park. 2024.

CIP Recommendation for 2023:

1. **Central Park Pavilion Renovation** – est. cost \$80,000 includes sidewalk, landscaping, paint or vinyl siding.
2. **Historical Village Buildings Maintenance and Repair** – Lump Sum \$100,000
3. **Park Sign Replacement Project** – Lump sum \$100,000

Work Plan for 2023:

1. **Engineering Services for Ferguson Park Canoe Landing Renovation and Wonch Park Accessible canoe dock.** Est. cost \$50,000
2. **Conduct meetings and develop a plan for a universally accessible playground and begin fundraising efforts.**
3. **Design plans for new parcel on Okemos Road** to include a trail hub for the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail and a more prominent entrance for Nancy Moore Park.
4. **Implement Repair and Maintenance plan in the Historical Village**

2022-2027 CIP – PARKS

The Meridian Township Capital Improvement Plan is a six-year planning and budgeting tool that is reviewed and updated annually by the Park Commission and is based on project need and community input. It is a partner document to the Goals and Objectives, and Action Plan from the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Project Name</u>	<u>2022 Cost</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>
2022	Towner Road Park Playground	\$400,000	MNRTF/Park Millage
2022	Parking Lot repaving/expansion (Central Park South, N. Meridian Rd Park HNC, Marshall)	\$200,000	Park Millage
2022	New Park Signs and site furnishings	\$50,000	Park Millage
2022	Shade Structure at Towner	\$20,000	Park Millage
2022	Floating Islands Purification System	\$18,000	Park Millage
<hr/>			
<u>2023</u>			
2023	Central Park Pavilion Renovation, Landscaping	\$150,000	Park Millage
2023	Marshall Park Playground Replacement	\$150,000	Park Millage, Grants
2023	Okemos Road Parcel Development	\$400,000	Park Millage, Grants
2023	New Park signs	\$20,000	
<hr/>			
<u>2024</u>			
2024	Ottawa Hills Playground Replacement	\$ 75,000	Park Millage, Grants
2024	New Park Signs	\$20,000	
<hr/>			
<u>2025</u>			
2025	Nancy Moore Park Playground	350,000	Park Millage/grant
2025	Nancy Moore Park Pavilion	\$300,000	Park Millage/grant
2025	Nancy Moore Park Loop Trail	<u>\$90,000</u>	Park Millage/grant
<hr/>			
<u>2026</u>			
2026	Hillbrook Park Restroom Building	\$250,000	Park Millage, Grants
2026	Wonch Park Improvements – Restroom, Streambank, launch, WiFi	\$500,000	Park Millage, Grants
2026	Snell-Towar Recreation Center Improvements	<u>\$185,000</u>	Park Millage, Grants
<hr/>			
<u>2027</u>			
2027	Central Park Improvements-Splashpad	\$500,000	Park Millage, Federal or State Grants
2027	Meridian Riverfront Park Trail Improvements	\$1,000,000	Park Millage, Pathway Millage, Federal/State Grants

Other items for future discussion/consideration: Skate Park; Splash Pad



To: Park Commissioners

**From: LuAnn Maisner CPRP, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator**

Date: June 8, 2022

**Re: Red Cedar Water Trail Update – Steering Committee Update
Regional Rotary Clubs Initiative/Adopt-A-River Program**

Several area Rotary clubs (Williamston Sunrise and Satellite; Haslett/Okemos; East Lansing; and Lansing) are teaming up to develop a program that strives to bring recreation back to the Red Cedar River.

Although Meridian Township Parks developed a Water Trail map nearly 10 years ago, the ideas behind the map have never been fully realized for several reasons; some segments of the river have been choked with logjams, other areas lack sufficient launch sites, and throughout the river system there is a lack of information regarding paddling opportunities and information on safe paddling.

The Rotary clubs seek to build on the foundation of the Meridian Township vision by addressing issues that have limited recreation on the river. To make the river more attractive and usable for river users, the Red Cedar Pathway plans to establish a series of Adopt-A-River segments focused on the specific needs within each river segment. Collectively, the hope is to create a viable, navigable water trail that provides an “up north” experience to area residents and visitors. If successful, the Red Cedar Pathway plans to continue its efforts downstream into Lansing to the confluence of the Red Cedar River with the Grand River and ultimately ending at Rotary Park in downtown Lansing.

The Red Cedar Water Trail allows for the connection of Williamston, Williamstown Township, Meridian Township, East Lansing, and MSU through the shared resource that is the Red Cedar River. The Rotary clubs are optimistic that this partnership will reap benefits for the entire region. The clubs are planning a series of outreach efforts to gather ideas for enhancing the water trail from folks who are interested in canoeing, kayaking, and fishing the river.

The first meeting was held on June 1 at the Meridian Township Hall. Meeting discussion items included the general role of the steering committee. The idea for the steering committee is to address issues that are common across the Red Cedar River Water Trail and to provide guidance to the clubs on establishing and administering adopt-a-river programs within their jurisdictions. Ingham County Parks Department has reported that they will coordinate and fund wayfinding signage.

LuAnn Maisner and Jane Greenway will keep the Commission apprised of any and all future meetings and proposed developments.

**Red Cedar River Water Trail
Williamston Upstream Adopt-A-River Segment
Project Plan (Approved by the Williamston Satellite Rotary Club June 6, 2022)**

River Segment

This river segment includes the portion of the Red Cedar River Water Trail upstream from the new Williamston canoe/kayak launch, including the rapids along Old Mill Park and river stretch from McCormick Park upstream to Dietz Road.

Administering Club: Williamston Satellite Rotary Club

River Monitoring

The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will partner with the Boy Scouts to conduct river monitoring. The monitoring will be conducted once each month from May to October and will include all of the following:

1. Observe from land the area between the new Williamston canoe/kayak launch to the McCormick Park Launch to determine whether there are obstacles to navigation or trash along the banks.
2. Paddle the river from the McCormick Park Launch to Dietz Road. Remove trash from the river and, with the supervision of parents or scout leaders, remove obstacles that can be removed with hand tools.
3. Identify logjams that cannot be removed with hand tools on a map and with GPS coordinates.
4. Prepare a river monitoring trip report that identifies activities conducted, stream flow rate, the amount of trash removed, logjams identified that will need heavier equipment to remove and a general description of those logjams, wildlife encountered along the stretch of river, and any other noteworthy information.
5. Provide a copy of the trip report to the Williamston Satellite Rotary Club.

River Projects

The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will review trip reports submitted by the Boy Scouts and will plan work days appropriate to address the items identified in the trip reports. If heavier equipment is needed to remove logjams, the club will, to the extent funding is available, contract with a tree trimmer to remove those logjams. The club will also post the trip reports on a website that provides information to paddlers using the Red Cedar River.

River Segment Needs

1. An information kiosk at the McCormick Park Launch that provides a map of the water trail, information on launch sites along the water trail, safety information, local services, and Adopt-A-River Sponsors. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will assist the City of Williamston in seeking a county grant or will work with the Williamston Sunrise Rotary Club on a Rotary grant to fund this kiosk.

2. Wayfinding signage that identifies the McCormick Park Launch, the Dietz Road Bridge, and the Putnam Street Bridge. The signage attached to the Putnam Street Bridge should include a caution regarding the downstream rapids. Additional wayfinding signage might include Camp Pawapi, Memorial Park, and Old Mill Park. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will work with the Ingham County Parks Department on the location and content of this signage.
3. A Williamston Rapids kayak loop that will allow kayakers to run the rapids and then portage back to the top of the rapids for multiple runs. To accomplish this goal, a portage would be constructed across the arm that separates the Mill Pond from the main river. A kayaker then could paddle across the pond to a second portage across the island and re-enter the water above the rapids. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will consult with the Lansing Oar and Paddle Club on the locations for these portages and the signage guiding kayakers. Prior to implementing this project, the Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will present the idea to the Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission to obtain their approval. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will also remove the logs that have accumulated along the concrete spillway at the top of the rapids.
4. Canoes for use by the Boy Scouts in conducting river monitoring. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will seek to obtain funding for the purchase of canoes.
5. Boy Scout canoe/kayak boat rack. This project has been proposed as an Eagle Scout project to provide local paddlers an opportunity to store their boat directly at the McCormick Park Launch. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will help to oversee the construction.
6. Adopt-A-River Sponsors program to provide a funding source for Adopt-A-River financial needs, including removal of logjams, when necessary. This program will provide recognition to individual and business sponsors.
7. An EZ dock for easier entry and exit from the river at the McCormick Park Launch. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will work with the City of Williamston on grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Ingham County Trails and Parks Grant Program to fund the installation of this dock.
8. Memorial Park riverfront improvements. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will work with the Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission on projects that will enhance the riverfront of Memorial Park.

Future Enhancements

An "Art in the Park" structure that removes the unnecessary guardrail at the McCormick Park Launch and replaces it with an artwork that depicts and calls attention to the launch. The Williamston Satellite Rotary Club will work with the City of Williamston on a potential grant to fund this artwork.

Future Community Events

1. A canoe race that begins at the McCormick Park Launch circles an upstream buoy twice and finishes below the rapids at the new Williamston canoe/kayak launch.
2. Paddling clinics sponsored by Camp Pawapi and the Lansing Oar and Paddle Club.