



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY MARCH 10, 2015
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL**



WORK SESSION 6 PM

(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Central Park Master Plan Consultant Proposals**
4. **Hillbrook Park Proposed Drain Improvements**
5. **Other**
6. **Public Comment**
7. **Closed Session – Acquisition Consideration**
8. **Adjournment**

REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations** (goldenrod)
 - a. Ingham County Drain Commission (ICDC) – Hillbrook Park – Proposed Drain Improvements
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Public Hearings** (orchid)
 - a. Meridian Riverfront Park/HNC Pavilion - Grant Submission
 - b. North Meridian Road Park Pavilion – Grant Submission
 - c. Hillbrook Park Tennis Court Renovation – Grant Submission
 - d. Ferguson Park Extension – Grant Submission
6. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
7. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
 - a. February 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes
 - b. February 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - c. February 20, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

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.

8. **Communications** (tan)
9. **Director's Report** (yellow)
10. **New Business** (pink)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. Towar Gardens Controlled Burn Request – ICDC
 - b. Hillbrook Park Drain Improvements - ICDC
 - c. Central Park Master Plan Consultant Contract
 - d. 2015 Grant Submission Request
 - 1) Meridian Riverfront Park/HNC Pavilion
 - 2) North Meridian Road Park Pavilion
 - 3) Hillbrook Park Tennis Court Renovation
 - 4) Ferguson Park Extension - Acquisition
11. **Unfinished Business** (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.
12. **Other Business** (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.
13. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a.
14. **Final Comments**
15. **Announcements**
 - a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 Town Hall
 - b. Farmers' Market – Saturday, March 21, April 4 & 18; 10am-2pm Meridian Mall
 - c. Township Offices will close at 12 Noon on Friday, April 3rd in observance of Good Friday.
16. **Public Remarks**
17. **Closed Session**
18. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting
March 10, 2015

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a) Meridian Riverfront Park/HNC Pavilion
- b) North Meridian Road Park Pavilion
- c) Hillbrook Park Tennis Court Renovation
- d) Ferguson Park Extension

PUBLIC HEARING PROCEDURE

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

MERIDIAN RIVERFRONT PARK/HARRIS NATURE CENTER
3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI
PAVILION DEVELOPMENT



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project proposes to construct a pavilion (24' X 44') near the Harris Nature Center building in Meridian Riverfront Park. The pavilion will roughly be located in the location of the existing pole barn. The pavilion will include a stone wall that will be used as extra seating.

PROJECT GOALS

1. Create a shelter (24' X 44') that will help expand environmental educational programs to include more interactive opportunities
2. Provide a community shelter for planned picnics and drop-in visitors
3. Provide a vital amenity along the recently established Red Cedar Water Trail

GRANT REQUEST

\$50,000

PROJECT AMOUNT

\$100,000, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Scope Items for Grant

Pavilion structure, concrete slab, seat wall	\$85,000
Site preparation/base for concrete slab	\$12,000
Engineering free	\$1,000
Accessible grill and picnic table	<u>\$2,000</u>
TOTAL =	\$100,000

**MERIDIAN RIVERFRONT PARK/HARRIS NATURE CENTER
3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI
PAVILION DEVELOPMENT**



Letters of Support

Patty Robbins, President
Harris Nature Center Foundation
Letter of Support for Grant Application

Margaret Holtschlag
Director of the BIG Lesson Programs
Clinton County Regional Education Service A Genday
Letter of Support for Grant Application

Roxanne Truhn Witcher, Vice President
Harris Nature Center Foundation
Letter of Support for Grant Application

Barbara Kissling
Harris Nature Center Foundation Member
Letter of Support for Grant Application



Harris Nature Center Foundation

Our mission is to provide a reliable source of funding for special projects to enhance the quality of nature appreciation and education at the Harris Nature Center.

March 3, 2015

HNCFB Board
Of Directors

Patty Robbins,
President

Roxanne Witcher,
Vice President

Barbara Kissling,
Secretary

Mike Lenkowski,
Treasurer

Tony Bauer

Jim Buscetta

Lolie Moore

Kit Rich
HNC Coordinator

Honorary
Directors

Howard & Helen
Fanner

Rick Preuss

Mr. Chip Kosloski, Grant Coordinator
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management Division
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Kosloski,

As President of the Harris Nature Center Foundation, I wish to express my enthusiastic support for building a large pavilion at the nature center. The pavilion will provide a shelter where families and groups can gather for picnics and events, protected from sun and rain (especially if there are rain flaps or walls that could be lowered in the event of storms). Visiting school groups and summer campers need a common space with tables for projects, assignments, games, experiments, sorting and other activities. Naturalists and school teachers will be able to provide quality enrichment activities that would be impossible without this space. Finally, if the pavilion is large enough, community celebrations and events, such as our Turtle Toast, would be possible and affordable.

As we build and develop the creative Nature Exploration Area, families will want a place to gather and eat together nearby. A pavilion with tables will be a perfect complement to our other NEA features, encouraging families to linger while children play and explore nature. This is an ideal project to enhance community life in Meridian Township.

Sincerely,

Patty Robbins
President
Harris Nature Center Foundation
pattyrobbins5@gmail.com

February 23, 2015

Mr. Chip Kosloski, Grant Coordinator
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management Division
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Kosloski,

It is with great pleasure I write this letter of support for the grant application for the construction of a pavilion at Harris Nature Center, Meridian Township. As both the Vice President of the Harris Nature Center Foundation and a former environmental educator recently returning to the area, I feel the pavilion is an important investment in the Nature Center and the community at large.

Calling on my experience as an environmental educator and community member of my former Pennsylvania community of 14 years; our nature center had a pavilion. The pavilion was utilized on a daily basis by the education program at the nature center as a classroom for interactive and hands-on presentations in addition it provided a covered area for teaching in inclement and extremely hot weather. When not in use by the nature center the pavilion was also used extensively by the community for scouting activities, community fund raising functions, and the general public for drop in picnics as they explored the natural setting. The pavilion at Harris Nature would offer these same opportunities to this community.

A pavilion at Harris Nature Center would augment the excellent outdoor lessons provided to the local school children by the park naturalists, Kit Rich and Kati Adams. We all know the importance of connecting children to nature. The pavilion would be another positive expansion for the center that would provide a natural setting for school programs, community events, scouting activities, and general use by the public.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Best of luck with your grant application.

Sincerely,

Roxanne Truhn Witcher
Vice President, Harris Nature Center Foundation
Mobile # 610-316-2090

Annie's BIG Nature Lesson

Clinton County Regional Education Service Agency

1013 South US 27, Suite A, St. Johns, MI 48879

517-230-8268

biglesson@gmail.com



Mr. Chip Kosloski, Grant Coordinator
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management Division
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909

March 4, 2015

Dear Mr. Kosloski,

It is a great pleasure to write in support of Meridian Township in their grant request for funds to build a pavilion at Harris Nature Center. As director of Annie's BIG Nature Lesson, I have worked with Kit Rich and Kati Adams for the past twelve years and am always inspired by their creativity and dedication to the community.

Harris Nature Center hosts Annie's BIG Nature Lesson (ABNL), a weeklong learning experience for children, parents, and teachers. Harris is a happening place in which the naturalists utilize every available space for education programs. Their highly interactive lessons are conducted outside as frequently as possible in order to nurture the love of the out-of-doors for our children, and with the addition of a pavilion, the naturalists will be able to enhance the learning for all participants.

Over the past twelve years, Harris Nature Center has hosted over 3,000 children, teachers, and parents for Annie's BIG Nature Lesson. Participation includes students from grades 1-8, from 13 school districts. The naturalists at Harris plan with the teachers, and offer them the opportunity to conduct stewardship activities at Harris. After their week at Harris Nature Center, the class continues the learning by applying the science concepts in their school environment. Here are the words of Andrea Hartlund, third grade teacher from Bath: "ABNL at Harris was our time to teach with the ways we knew would be best for kids. Engaging, inquisitive, and applicable to the real world."

During our ABNL weeks, the staff at Harris also host preschool classes, as well as school field trips. The building is used to its maximum. With the addition of a pavilion, classes and other groups can bring their learning right into the natural world, a natural transition for children to make connections with the out-of-doors. Harris Nature Center has outstanding naturalists who would make the most of the pavilion, for the benefit of all of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Holtschlag".

Margaret Holtschlag
Director of the BIG Lesson Programs



Harris Nature Center Foundation

Our mission is to provide a reliable source of funding for special projects to enhance the quality of nature appreciation and education at the Harris Nature Center.

March 3, 2015

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Tanner

Rick Preuss

Mr. Chip Kosloski, Grant Coordinator
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management Division
PO Box 30425
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Kosloski,

This letter is in support of constructing a pavilion at the Harris Nature Center in Meridian Township.

As a Kinawa Middle School teacher in the Okemos Public Schools, I took my science classes to Harris Nature Center every year for many years. Thus, I can envision current teachers and students using a pavilion as a wonderful outdoor classroom with a roof that provides shelter from inclement weather or the hot sun. Picnic tables can be hands-on work stations as well as areas for lunch. When several classes visit the nature center at the same time, a pavilion will help separate the groups in different locations.

As a retired teacher now serving on the Harris Nature Center Foundation, I see the potential for additional pavilion use. The naturalists or guest speakers can do presentations and classes in the pavilion. During nature center festivals, it can provide an area for children's games or projects or simply a place for seniors to rest while their grandchildren participate in the activities. The many walkers and skiers who enjoy the nature center trails can use the pavilion as a meeting place or to have a snack. Because the pavilion will be located near the parking lot and easily visible, it is sure to be a popular spot for activities.

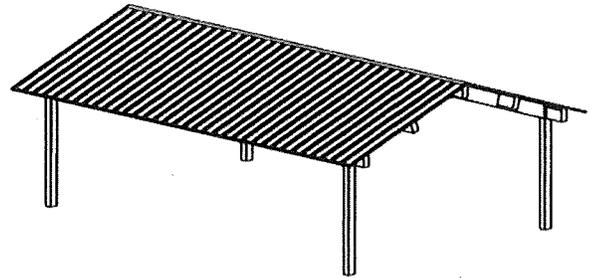
Thank you for considering funding of a pavilion at the nature center.

Sincerely,


Barbara Kissling

3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864 ** (517) 349-3866
directorpresident@hncfoundation.org ** www.hncfoundation.org

**NORTH MERIDIAN ROAD PARK
5191 N. Meridian Road, Williamston, MI
PAVILION DEVELOPMENT**



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project proposes to construct a **pavilion (24' x 34')** with a **concrete slab and internal pathways for accessibility**. The pavilion will have a green, metal roof and wood truss ornamentation to match the existing restroom building.

PROJECT GOALS

1. North Meridian Road Park is a very popular park in our community and these additions will provide necessary park amenities.
2. The proposed pavilion and sidewalks will open up the park to a broader range of users, thus allowing for an increased use of the already popular park nature trails and increased opportunity for wildlife viewing.
3. The pavilion will provide shelter and shade in an area that has virtually no shade at all.
4. Provide amenities to move the park toward a "four-seasons" facility.

GRANT REQUEST

\$50,000, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

PROJECT AMOUNT

\$100,000

SCOPE ITEMS FOR GRANT

Pavilion structure & slab	\$66,000	Engineering	\$5,000
Accessible paths	\$10,000	Accessible grill	\$300
Site preparation	\$12,000	Accessible picnic tables	\$2,000
Electricity	\$4,000	Signs	<u>\$700</u>

TOTAL = \$100,000

HILLBROOK PARK, 1747 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett, MI

TENNIS COURT/RENOVATION PROJECT



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Renovate the existing two tennis courts and the attached half-court basketball area.
- Process: The existing asphalt courts will be pulverized, re-graded, and compacted. New acrylic colorcoat and play lines will be added to the courts.
- Fencing: The project will also include the installation of new fencing and gates that will accommodate wheelchairs.
- Pickleball and tennis: The court striping will be modified to accommodate both pickleball and tennis.

PROJECT GOALS

1. Replace hazardous and aging tennis court and basketball surface and fencing. (The courts were originally constructed in 1972 and the township has resurfaced them with various repair methods numerous times, but they continue to fail.)
2. Maintain/rehabilitate the only tennis courts within Meridian Township's park system.
3. Improve the accessibility of the parks.
4. Modify courts to include pickleball, an up and coming sport that is being requested.
5. Improve the aesthetics of a popular (but aging) neighborhood park.

GRANT REQUEST

\$50,000, Land and Water Conservation Fund

PROJECT AMOUNT

\$100,000

SCOPE ITEMS FOR GRANT

Renovated tennis courts	\$67,000	Site preparation	\$6,000
Replace fencing	\$15,500	Engineering fee	\$2,000
Replace net and poles	\$2,000	Accessible sidewalk	<u>\$6,000</u>
Signage	\$1,500	TOTAL =	\$100,000

4534 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI
Owner: Ghulam and Sufia Sumbal
ACQUISITION GRANT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project proposes to acquire a 8.09 acre property located at 4534 Okemos Road. The property is adjacent to Ferguson Park and the Sumbal Land Preserve. There is an existing house and driveway on the property that would be demolished.

PROJECT GOALS

1. Increasing the size of the existing parkland and natural area.
2. Providing addition park land in close proximity to an elementary school.
3. Acquiring additional buffer space that helps protect the Red Cedar River, which is an important natural resource in Meridian Township.

GRANT REQUEST

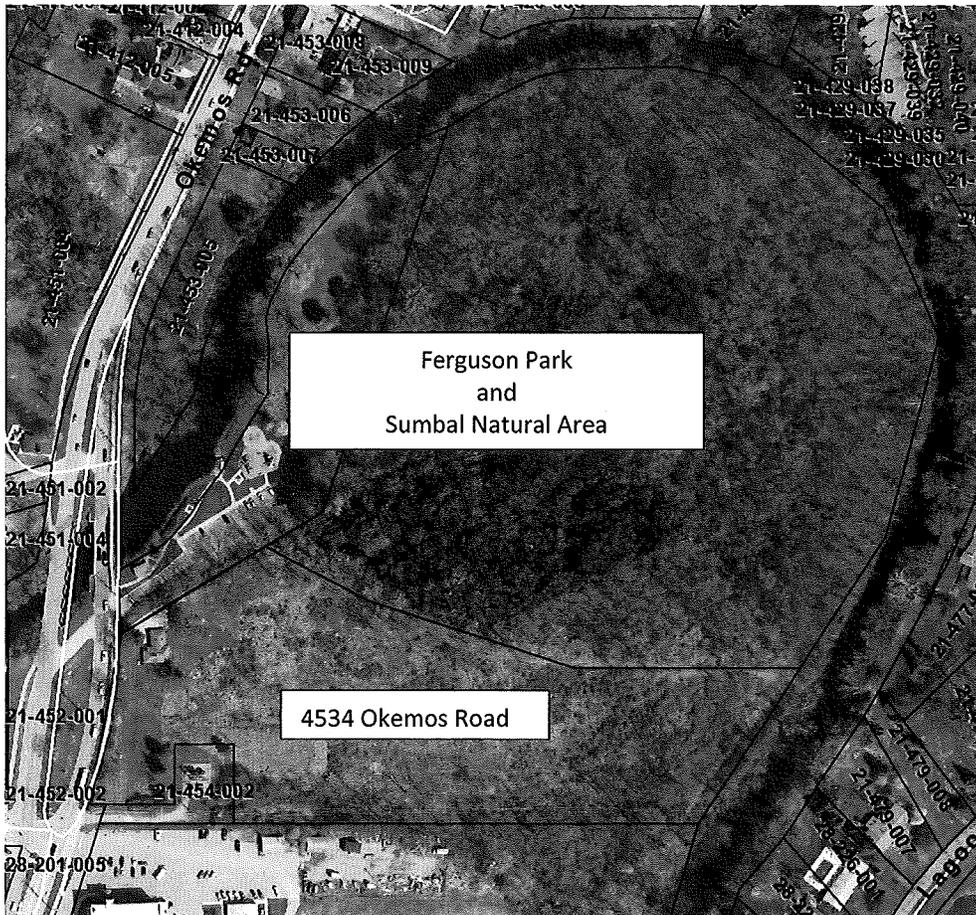
\$300,000 with a \$100,000 match

PROJECT AMOUNT

\$400,000 (seller is asking)

GRANT PROGRAM

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund



Park Commission Meeting
March 10, 2015

7. MINUTES

- a. March 10, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. March 10, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. February 20, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioner McDonald

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the work session to order at 6:07 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Hearing no additions or deletions, Chair Wilson approved the agenda as submitted.

3. Central Park RFQ

Coordinator Greenway distributed and summarized the design process for the Central Park Master Plan. She reported on receiving five (5) responses to the Request for Qualifications and copies were included in the meeting packet.

Director Maisner reported staff has not completed an analysis of the submissions. She suggested the Commissioner review and select their top three (3) candidates and conduct interviews, one hour each, for Friday, February 20. She mentioned that if more than three (3) Commissioners are involved in the interview process, the meeting would need to be posted. After a brief discussion, staff was asked to post the meeting date and schedule the interviews.

4. Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage

Chair Wilson reported he attended the first meeting where it was noted there was no plan, no agreement on how the millage would be spent or its goal but did establish an advisory group who will proceed with the process.

Director Maisner reported she attended the second and third meeting. Nancy Krupiarz, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance presented information on development of a trail from Muskegon to Flint (regional approach) where others at the meeting were looking at developing internal trails. Director Maisner distributed a draft copy of the February 5, 2015 Trails and Parks Task Force Meeting Agenda. Former Commissioner Teri Banas chairs The Task Force. Director Maisner offered the following information from the meetings she attended: Task Force members discussed:

- Create overlay maps to identify what is existing
- Communities submit projects for consideration
- Creating an application and scoring criteria for Parks Board to follow
- River trail is a priority
- Create master plan together with update of 5-Year Plan
- Local match important
- Emphasis on inter-connectivity or connecting to major trails
- Increase use of technology and signage
- Mountain bike trails needed
- Develop specifications for all communities to follow
- Communities responsible for maintenance
- Lead to other modes of transportation
- May not fund any projects until 2016 and use this year to plan
- Next two meetings are February 19 and March 5

Discussion:

- Ingham County indicated developing a dog park at Lake Lansing North
- Millage will collect 3.5 Million over next six (6) years Should a representative from Meridian Township attend all the meetings
- Fenner wants to be connected to the River Trail and Crego Park
- \$750,000 was the Township's annual contribution to the millage
- Possible Township projects include: Okemos Road boardwalk near Nancy Moore Park; cross-country trail on Rysberg Preserve from Okemos Road to Campus Hill Apts.; Meridian Riverfront trail along the Red Cedar from Meridian Road to Dobie Road (is also on the Heart of Michigan trail map)
- How can the Township benefit from this Millage
- Water Trails are eligible for funding -Blue Trails/Water Trails
- Need more bicycle accessible trails
- It was suggested to monitor the progress and keep in contact with Teri Banas.

5. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony

Director Maisner distributed a draft list for the Friend of the Park Recognition Ceremony and since volunteer recognition week is in April, suggested holding the event then.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to host the event outdoors in the Central Park pavilion in May, similar to last year and to continue the tree planting in honor of the volunteers. The event will be held on May 12 and if there is business that needs the Commission's attention, a brief meeting will be held after the ceremony.

6. Other

The Commissioners welcomed new member Philip Deschaine and each introduced themselves and gave a brief background to him.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Wilson adjourned the work session at 6:53 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioners: Deschaine, Jaramillo, Stephens, Wilson
Staff: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner; Parks and Land
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Parks and Recreation
Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

ABSENT: Commissioner McDonald

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 pm. He introduced new Commissioner Philip Deschaine.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Presentations

a. Eagle Scout Candidate Steven Harrelson,

Eagle Scout Candidate Steven Harrelson distributed a picture of his proposed project of constructing a prairie fence behind log cabin in Meridian Historical Village. He is proposing to construct a 75' prairie fence behind the log cabin with red oak timbers. The stacked split-rail fence was suggested by Education Director Jane Rose and will aid in the Historical Village's efforts to educate the community about how early pioneers lived and plotted their land. The proposed location is directly east behind the log cabin along the brush line as they were in early pioneer period. For safety purposed, he is proposing to attach the logs in the corners with bolts as discussed with staff.

Discussion:

- He plans to raise funds by collecting permission from store owners to create and sell store coupon sheets.
- The lumber is reclaimed and is purchasing them from an individual who has them in 10 foot lengths and ready to use for fencing.
- He hopes to complete the project by mid-May depending on the weather.
- Long-term maintenance - a treated board will be placed on the bottom rung closest to the ground to keep the fence boards from resting on the ground.

4. Public Comment

None

5. Commissioner Reports and Comments

Commissioner Jaramillo spoke about signage she had seen that may be useful in our parks. She will forward the information to staff.

Commissioner Stephens spoke about information he had seen on pond maintenance and habitats on PondBoss.com and will be sharing information with staff. He encouraged everyone to attend the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Conference at the Lansing Center this week. He will be staffing the live fishing tank in the exhibit hall.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. January 13, 2015 Work Session Minutes
- b. January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 13, 2014 MINUTES AS WRITTEN. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

A. Items to/from the Public

None

B. Commission Information

1. February Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Towne Courier: **Jan 11:** Nature center hosts story time for kids; **Jan 18:** Construction of Pedestrian bridge on Okemos Road begins; Meridian Township will host kickball tournament; Meridian's deer hunt yields 1,500 pounds of venison to food banks; **Jan 25:** Harris Nature Center to host Winter Wonderland
3. State Journal: **Feb 1:** Howl at the Moon, Moonlight skiing and snowshoeing; Winter snowshoe night hike; Wonderland of dog sledding, ice sculpture
4. City Pulse: **Feb 4:** Winter Wonderland

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

None

D. Distributed at meeting

1. 2014 Annual Report

2. Harris Nature Center Foundation Board Minutes from December 8, 2014 and January 19, 2015
3. To: Township Board, From: Director Kieselbach, RE: Wayne Beyea, MSU School of Planning, Design & Construction – Sustainability Assessment; this item will be presented at future Township Board meeting and will furnish information at next meeting.

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

8. Director's Report

Director Maisner offered the following information:

- Family Winter Weekends – Prior years, this event was held on the last weekend in January, but this year was expanded to include events every weekend in January and February
 - Polar Bear 5K Run/Walk in Central Park – January 25 (225 runners)
 - Saturday, January 31: **Winter Wonderland** at Harris Nature Center – Snow Shoeing, Cross-County Skiing, dog sled demonstrations, ice sculptures, bon fire, games and more! (Free) - 600
 - Winter Kickball Tournament 6 teams @ Nancy Moore Park Feb 8
 - Moonlight Sledding (Free) approximately 400 participants Feb 8
 - Saturday, February 14: Meridian Ice **Fishing Derby**, Central Park pond (Free)
 - Many have been enjoying cross country skiing in Ted Black Woods, Meridian Riverfront Park, Central Park, all of the parks.
- Deer Management - Six (6) deer have been taken during extended harvest; Program will continue through February 28. Properties are posted. Deer are donated to local food banks in Okemos and Haslett. Coordinator Greenway is presenting on our deer management program at the MRPA Conference tomorrow. 150 deer were harvested during the regular hunting season.
- Highlighted numerous items from the 2014 Parks and Recreation Department Annual report (included in communications)
- 72 volunteer hunters in deer management program, harvested 150 deer, 1,600 pounds of venison (8,250 meals)
- Over 1,354 volunteers donated 37,751 hours in parks, recreation, Harris Nature Center, Meridian Historical Village, Land Preservation programs, Meridian Senior Center and Deer Management Program for a total value of \$835,430
- Economic impact of teams sports: 3,757 youth and adult players for estimated local expenditures of \$453,989 (numbers based on program evaluation reports)
- Chinese New Year – Meridian Township facilitates this annual event with 16 different Chinese groups in the Greater Lansing area; held at the Meridian Mall; scheduled for Saturday, February 21 from 1:30-6 pm; this year includes

a dragon parade at 1:30 pm and booths/tables set up at 2 pm; family friendly event

- Family Fun Guide – 64 pages of fun covering the entire year; mailed out to residents first week of January; available on township website as pdf
- Central Park RFQ for planning services
 - Received five (5) bids on February 4; scheduling interviews on Friday, February 20
 - Assisting the township with defining their program and goals for central park
 - Facilitating public meetings
 - Providing conceptual plans and color renderings for the central park master plan
 - Providing an opinion of cost for future construction
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Bridge – work continues on bridge crossing over Red Cedar River on Okemos Road. Scheduled to be completed in April; plans to have a joint grand opening ceremony for bridge and Wonch Park pathway in Spring

9. New Business
PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Eagle Scout Project Approval

Chair Wilson stated Eagle Scout Candidate Steven Harrelson proposed to construct a split rail prairie fence behind the log cabin in the Historical Village.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSION JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED FENCE PROJECT IN THE MERIDIAN HISTORICAL VILLAGE PRESENTED BY EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE STEVEN HARRELSON. Voice vote. Motion passed.

b. Sander Farm Natural Area Lease and Open Space Easement Renewal

Director Maisner stated in February 1995, Meridian Township entered into the first ten year Open Space Development Rights Easement and Lease Agreement with Dr. Maureen Sander for 31.9 acres located adjacent to Dr. Sander's home at 4275 Dobie Road, Okemos.

For the past 20 years, this agreement with Dr. Sander has allowed public access for passive recreation purposes. Also, Tacoma Hills resident, Larry Hennessey monitors, repairs and replaces (when necessary), the bluebird boxes placed in various locations along the existing nature trail.

Dr. Sander met with Director Maisner to convey her desire to renew the Open Space Development Easement and Lease Agreement with the Township until February 5, 2025.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, THE RECOMMEND TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING OPEN SPACE DEVELOPMENT EASEMENT AND LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DR. MAUREEN SANDER FOR 31.9 ACRES OF NATURAL AREA FROM FEBRUARY 5, 2015 THROUGH FEBRUARY 5, 2025 FOR PARCEL #33-02-02-27-177-007. Voice vote. Motion passed.

When asked about trail development, Director Maisner reported there are informal trails and deer runs on the property and Dr. Sander is in favor of trail development and providing accessibility.

c. 2015 Grant Projects – Set date for Public Hearings

The Commission is interested in submitting grant applications for three projects to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. As part of the application process, the projects must be open to a public hearing to gain community input. The projects include: during its March 10, 2014 televised meeting date at 7 pm in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building for three grant submissions as discussed during prior Commissions meeting and as listed below:

- **North Meridian Road Park, 5191 N. Meridian Road, Williamston – pavilion construction project**
- **Hillbrook Park, 1747 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett - tennis court renovation project**
- **Meridian Riverfront Park/Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos -pavilion construction project**

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR GRANT FUNDING REQUESTS ON TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2015, 7 PM, TOWN HALL ROOM, MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MI. FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS: PAVILION IN NORTH MERIDIAN ROAD PARK; TENNIS COURT RENOVATIONS AT HILLBROOK; AND A PAVILION IN MERIDIAN RIVERFRONT PARK/HARRIS NATURE CENTER. Voice vote. Motion passed.

d. Schedule interview meeting date for Central Park Master Plan RFQ

Chair Wilson reported five (5) proposals for the Central Park Master Plan were received and as briefly discussed during the work session; interviews will be scheduled for Friday, February 20 from 2-5 pm. Since there may be a quorum of Park Commissioners, a special meeting is being called.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PARK COMMISSION TO CONDUCT CENTRAL PARK MASTER PLAN RFQ FIRM INTERVIEWS ON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 FROM 2-5 PM IN THE TOWN HALL ROOM OF THE
MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING. Voice vote. Motion passed.

10. Unfinished Business (green)
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

11. Other Business (cherry)
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

12. Discussion Items (lilac)
PUBLIC COMMENT

None

13. Final Comments

None

14. Announcements

- a. Next Regular Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 10, 2015, Town Hall
- b. Farmers' Market: Saturdays; February 21 and March 7, 10 am-2 pm;
Meridian Mall
- c. Family Weekend Winter Fun Events:
 - February 14: Meridian Youth Ice Fishing Derby
 - February 20, 21 & 22: Target Practice at MSU Demmer Center
 - February 22: Wildlife Identification: Reptiles at Harris Nature Center
 - February 28: Moonlight Ski and Shoe at Harris Nature Center
- d. 2nd Annual Meridian Township Snowman/Snow Sculpture Contest picture
deadline, March 5
- e. Chinese New Year Celebration: Saturday, February 21; 2-6 pm in Meridian
Mall

15. Public Remarks

None

16. Closed Session

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF
PROPERTY CONSIDERATION.

Roll Call

AYES: Mark Stephens, Philip Deschaine, Todd Wilson, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

The Commission moved into closed session at 7:49 pm.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO
SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Philip Deschaine, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson,

NAYS: None

The Commission returned to open session at 8:07 pm.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO DIRECT
STAFF TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED
SESSION.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Philip Deschaine, Mark Stephens, Todd Wilson,

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

17. Adjournment

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE
SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2015

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

EXCUSED: Commissioners Deschaine, McDonald,

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wilson called the special meeting to order at 2:01 pm

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Interview Central Park Master Plan Consultants

The following consultant firms participated the in the interview process:

- VIRIDIS Design Group Inc.
- Spicer Group
- O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc.
- Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc.
- The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

The representatives shared information about their firms and how they would each provide the services needed to accomplish the goals of the Park Commission including public input processes, site challenges, accessibility etc. Each interview lasted approximately 30 minutes. Following the interviews, the commissioners entered into a discussion of each firm. At the conclusion of discussion, the following motion was offered for consideration

4. Consultant Recommendation

After much discussion, the Commissioners agreed to request proposals from two firms, Viridis Design Group and O'Boyle Cowell, Blalock and Associates.

CHAIR WILSON MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED TO REQUEST PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN FOR CENTRAL PARK FROM VIRIDIS DESIGN GROUP AND O'BOYLE, COWELL, BLALOCK & ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR REVIEW AND SELECTION. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. **Other**
None

6. **Public Comment**
None

7. **Adjourn**
COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, CHAIR WILSON SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE SPECIAL MEETING. VOICE VOTE PASSED.

The special meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Park Commission Meeting

MARCH 10, 2015

8. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Items to/from the Public

1. From: Former Park Commissioner Teri Banas; RE: Thank you

B. Commission Information

1. March Calendar of Events for Parks & Recreation
2. Towne Courier: **Feb 8:** Meridian ice fishing derby set; Mall to host Chinese New Year event; **Feb 15:** Nature center hosts exercise classes; preschool class explores science of rain; **Feb 22:** Join Harris Nature Center hunt for skunk cabbage; Harris Nature Center hosts wildlife identification; Nature center hosts exercise classes; preschool class explores science of rain; Attract birds, butterflies, with native plants; **March 1:** Legal Notice of 2015 DNR Grant Applications Public Hearing Notice; Snowman contest deadline March 6; Skunk cabbage at Harris Nature Center; Pre-school class explores rain
3. State Journal: **Jan 31:** Winter Wonderland features dog sledding, ice sculpture; **Feb 9:** 8 active date ideas for Valentine's Day (Harris Nature Center go cross-country skiing or snowshoeing; Meridian Township Ice Fishing Derby); **Feb 10:** Ingham County starts looking into parks millage spending
4. Capital Gains Media: **March 4:** Slowing but surely connecting parks and trails systems in Ingham County
5. Red Cedar Watershed 2014 Stream Monitoring Report

C. Staff Inquiries/Response

Dear Commissioners
and Fuhrer,

Even though I wasn't able
to attend last month's meet-
ing when you gave me an
official "shred-off," I had a
good accounting of your
kind words. Please know
how much that meant to
me. The 10 years I spent on
the Township Park Commission
were more important to me
than you realize. I am so
proud of the work we all
accomplished and know
more good things are com-
ing. Best wishes to each
of you in your public
service!



Sometimes there just
aren't enough words
to describe the appreciation.

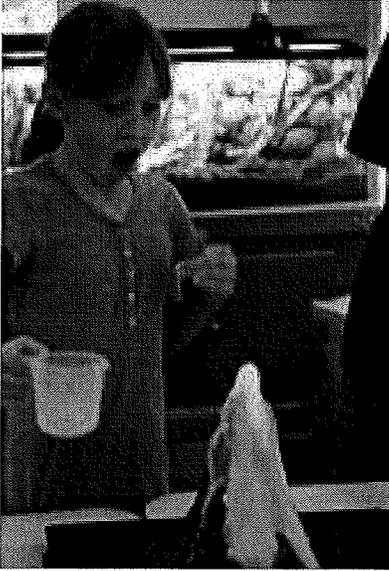
Thank You So Much

Best wishes,

Tom Brown

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation

March Calendar of Events



- March 2 – 5 Elements Qigong
- March 5 – Preschool Science Exploration/A Raindrop Adventure
- March 6 – Howl at the Moon at Harris Nature Center
- March 6 – Weekday Science Program/Water Everywhere
- March 6 – Haslett 1st-4th Grade, U-12 & U-14 Baseball registration deadline
- March 6 – 2nd Annual Meridian



Township Snowman / Snow Sculpture Contest registration deadline

- March 6 – Okemos 1st- 4th Grade, U-12 & U-14 Baseball registration deadline
- March 6 – Haslett 1st Grade-U-10 Softball registration deadline
- March 6 – Okemos 1st Grade – U-14 Softball registration deadline
- March 6 – Haslett Kindergarten Co-ed T-ball registration deadline
- March 7 – Winter Farmers Market
- March 14 – Webelos Cub Scout Geologist Badge
- March 15 – Skunk Cabbage Hunt
- March 19 – Chipmunk Story Time/Counting Nature
- March 21 – Winter Farmers Market
- March 21 – Welcome Spring Campfire



- March 22 – FHM Lecture Series
- March 31 – Gardening with Native Plants



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

Mall to host Chinese New Year event

MERIDIAN TWP. — Greater Lansing Chinese Association together with several organizations and sponsors in the Greater Lansing Area is planning a festive day to celebrate Chinese New Year.

This annual event is taking place at the Meridian Mall on Saturday, Feb. 21 from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

This festival is focused on bringing the en-

tire community together in celebration of the Chinese culture that will include a parade, fashion show, music, dancing, singing, carnival games, arts and more.

"More than 1,200 visitors enjoyed the entertainment last year and this year looks to be bigger and better than ever," stated Julie Jiang, event coordinator and President of the Greater Lansing Chinese Association.

"This collaboration is bringing together resources that will make for a fanatic and incredible program to celebrate the Chinese Culture 2015, so we are inviting everyone in the community to attend."

Event Schedule:

- » 1:30 p.m. Lion and Dragon Parade
- » 2-4 p.m. Entertainment
- » 4-6 p.m. Games and Activities

Towne Courier • Sunday, February 8, 2015

Meridian ice fishing derby set

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department is hosting its annual Meridian Ice Fishing Derby for youth ages 5-16 Saturday, Feb. 14, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Central Park pond in the Meridian Historical Village. The event is free of charge.

Volunteers will provide assistance with creating fishing access. Bait and a limited number of poles will be available as well. Prizes will be awarded for the largest fish, second largest fish and most fish

caught. This event is held in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources "Free Fishing Weekend" held Feb. 14-15. This opportunity allows all residents and visitors to Michigan to fish without a license for two days. Although a license is not required for this weekend, a fishing license is recommended. For more information, visit the Meridian Township website at www.meridian.mi.us or call Greg Grothous at 517-853-4616.

Towne Courier • Sunday, February 22, 2015

Attract birds, butterflies with native plants

The pre-order forms for the Harris Nature Center's Annual Native Plants Sale are available now through April 22. Pre-ordered plants can be picked up on May 2 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township. Proceeds from the sale support the Harris Nature Center. For more information, a pre-order form and plant list, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866.

"Native plants thrive in Michigan and will attract birds and butterflies to your garden," said Kit Rich, Harris Nature Center Coordinator. "We hold this sale every year to help people discover the variety and versatility of using native plants in their gardens."

Plants are available for pick-up on Native Plants Day, May 2, when there will be additional plants available as well. The plants are grown locally by Designs by Nature in Laingsburg.

Towne Courier • Sunday, February 15, 2015

Pre-school class explores science of rain

Curious preschool children will enjoy hands-on science exploration activities at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, in Meridian Township on Thursday, March 5 at 1 p.m.

This month's Preschool Science Exploration theme is Raindrop Adventures. The program is designed for 4-5 year old children.

The fee is \$4 per child and is due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866.

This month's exploration will be about rain, where it goes and how it helps the earth. Each monthly class has a different science topic and will always include a walk and a craft in addition to the science activity.

Towne Courier • Sunday, February 15, 2015

Nature center hosts exercise classes

Qigong (chi gung) is an ancient Chinese exercise practice that conditions the body while quieting the mind. Qigong classes will be held on Mondays at 6:30-7:30 p.m. beginning March 2 at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos. The fee is \$64/8-week class or \$10/person/week for drop-ins. There will not be class on March 9th and April 13th. Contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866 for more information.

For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us and find out more online at www.meridian.mi.us.

Towne Courier • Sunday, February 22, 2015

Harris Center hosts wildlife identification

With technological advances in our daily lives, many once-common life skills have been lost. Among these is the ability to identify local wildlife. The Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Okemos can help with that. Experts are holding a program on Michigan Reptile Identification on Sunday Feb. 22 at 3 p.m. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517.349.3866. For more information about this and other programs offered at the Harris Nature Center, contact them at 517.349.3866 or hnc@meridian.mi.us

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Towne Courier • Sunday, February 22, 2015

Join Harris Nature Center hunt for skunk cabbage

Join the park naturalist at the Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road in Meridian Township, Sunday March 15 at 3 p.m. for a guided walk to look for the early-blooming Skunk Cabbage plant and other natural phenomena. There is a \$3 per person or \$7 per family fee due at the time of the program. For more information, contact hnc@meridian.mi.us or 517-349-3866.

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Skunk cabbage at Harris Nature Center

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This month's exploration will be about rain, where it goes and how it helps the earth. Each monthly class has a different science topic and will always include a walk and a craft in addition to the science activity.

Legal Notice

2015 DNR Grant Applications

Notice is hereby given that the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the Meridian Municipal Building, Town Hall Room, to hear comments from all persons interested in the proposed 2015 grant applications to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Passport. The following projects are proposed for grant applications:

- Pavilion-North Meridian Road Park, 5191 N. Meridian Road, Williamston
- Tennis court renovation- Hillbrook Park, 1747 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
- Pavilion-Meridian Riverfront Park Harris Nature Center, 3998 Van Atta Road, Okemos
- Land acquisition- Ferguson Park Extension, Okemos Road, Okemos, Michigan

Information may be examined at the Parks and Recreation Office, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett MI between the hours of 7:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Questions, call (517) 853-4600.

TC-1183045

3/1,8/15

Snowman contest deadline March 6

The Meridian Township invites residents to participate in the second annual snowman and snow sculpture contest. Entries must have been built with snow beginning with the first snowfall in the 2014-15 season and prior to Friday, March 6. Email a photo of your creation to grothous@meridian.mi.us or mail to Meridian Township Parks & Recreation, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court. Include the name of your creation along with the names of the builder, location of the piece, and contact information of the lead builder. One picture must have at least one of the builders for scale. Submissions are due by Friday, March 6. Questions can be directed

to Parks & Recreation Specialist Greg Grothous at grothous@meridian.mi.us or contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 517-853-4600.

Winter Wonderland features dog sledding, ice sculpture

Kate DuHadway, Lansing 6:27 p.m. EST January 31, 2015

The Winter Wonderland Festival at the Harris Center on January 31. Featuring dog sledding and ice sculpting demonstrations, children's activities, free cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. By Kate DuHadway, Lansing State Journal



Buy Photo

(Photo: Robert Killips/Lansing State Journal)

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP – Clipper was relishing the attention. As families and kids stopped by to pet her, she barked excitedly for her turn to pull the sled.

The fluffy white Samoyed sled dog and her team were one of the main attractions at the Winter Wonderland Festival in Meridian Township Saturday.

The free event featured dog sledding and ice sculpting demonstrations, outdoor games for kids, refreshments, a silent auction and free cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

"I think the sunshine really brought people out," said Harris Nature Center Coordinator Kit Rich as she served hot chocolate to visitors. "We've been packed since we started at 10 a.m."

As of 1 p.m., close 300 people had stopped by, said Kati Adams, park naturalist at the Harris Nature Center. The event lasted until 3 p.m.

Danny and Andrea Wittenborn were at the festival with 18-month-old Oliver and 4-year-old Ethan, who they said tried cross-country skiing for the first time Saturday and loved it. The family recently moved to Okemos from Washington, D.C., and were exploring fun wintertime things to do in the area.



Kaden Grothous, 5, and his sister Madelyn, find a chunk of ice to keep them occupied at Harris Nature Center's Winter Wonderland Festival Saturday, January 31, 2015. (Photo: Robert Killips | Lansing State Journal)

Becky Boudreau-Schultz of Mason said climbing and sliding down the snow piles, in addition to petting the sled dogs, was a big hit with her 4-year-old son, Simon. "The fresh air and the sunshine definitely make his day better," she said.

Kathryn Hoyt, a part-time assistant naturalist at the Harris Nature Center, directed a mini "snow golf" course in the snow and a scavenger hunt for brightly colored ice cubs and helped kids with the hula hoop toss and tic tac toe board. She said the mini snow golf, a game in which kids putt a golf ball through sticks and around colored globes of ice, was by far the most popular.

Donations from Saturday's festival and silent auction went toward the Harris Nature Center Foundation, which pays for projects above and beyond the nature center's daily operations, said Patty Robbins, president of the foundation.

While Meridian Township owns the Harris Nature Center and pays the salaries of the staff, the foundation supports bus scholarships, which help local school districts offset the cost of bringing kids to the center for field trips, Robbins said.

The foundation is also raising money to build a nature exploration area at the center. Plans include a log gym, a fossil dig with real Michigan fossils, a "beaver lodge" play area with tunnels to crawl through, a giant spider web strung between trees for kids to climb, an outdoor gathering places for classes and events and a "tree surfing" walkway connecting a series of tree houses, Robbins said.

Everything in the nature exploration center will be focused on providing opportunities for kids and adults to "explore and experience nature," Robbins said. "It's meant to be hands on."

For daily reminders and ideas for living an active lifestyle in the greater Lansing community, follow reporter Kate DuHadway on Twitter [@k8rouse](https://twitter.com/k8rouse) (<https://twitter.com/k8rouse>) or Instagram [@move Lansing](http://instagram.com/k8duhadway) (<http://instagram.com/k8duhadway>).

Harris Nature Center

For more information about the Harris Nature Center, including upcoming programs and events, visit www.meridian.mi.us/harrisnaturecenter (<http://www.meridian.mi.us/harrisnaturecenter>).

For more information about the Harris Nature Center Foundation, visit www.hncfoundation.org (<http://www.hncfoundation.org>).

Read or Share this story: <http://on.lsj.com/1CMrCfH>

8 active date ideas for Valentine's Day



Kate DuHadway, kduhadway@lsj.com 5:13 p.m. EST February 9, 2015



(Photo: LSJ file photo, 2012)

This year, treat your Valentine to something fun and exciting you'll both remember for years to come. Here's a list of active date ideas in the Lansing area that will get your hearts pumping.

Go dancing

Learn how to ballroom dance (<http://search.lansingstatejournal.com/localevents/event/145284-The-Art-of-Ballroom-Dance>) from professional competitors and instructors Mary Benjamin and Jerry Wilson at the MSU Broad Art Museum this Friday at 6 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person and includes food, two drink tickets, a giveaway and a demonstration. Reservations required. Visit www.broadmuseum.msu.edu

(<http://www.broadmuseum.msu.edu/>).

Show off your line dancing, ballroom and stepping moves at the Old Town Marquee's Valentine's Day Soiree (<http://www.lansing.org/includes/events/A-Valentine-s-Day-Soir%C3%A9/9494/>) from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door and include food, dancing and entertainment. Call 517-853-5880 for more info or to reserve your spot.

Play laser tag

Ultraviolet lights and loads of fun more your style? Treat your date to a game of laser tag. Spare Time Entertainment (<http://www.sparetimelansing.com/valentines-day/>) in Lansing offers a Valentine's special this weekend with pizza and two games of laser tag. At Zap Zone (<http://www.zap-zone.com/location/lansing/>) at the Lansing Mall, you can also try your hand at a round of glo-golf or bumper cars.

Go cross-country skiing or snowshoeing

Buy Photo



Elliot Sabin, 9, goes ahead of her family and has fun trying out cross country skis Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Harris Nature Center. (Photo: Robert Killips, Lansing State Journal)

For family-friendly outdoor fun, come by Lansing Loves Winter at Burchfield (<https://www.facebook.com/events/320175288182029/>) for free ski lessons for kids and adults this Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your own picnic and don't forget to hit the sledding hill with the kids.

For a more romantic night out, join the Friday night moonlight ski or snowshoe at Burchfield Park from 6-9 p.m., or beat the crowds and strike out on your own. Wondering where to go? Here's everything you need to know to try cross-country skiing in mid-Michigan ([/story/life/diet-fitness/active-fit-lansing/2015/01/17/go-cross-country-skiing-mid-michigan/21931611/](http://story/life/diet-fitness/active-fit-lansing/2015/01/17/go-cross-country-skiing-mid-michigan/21931611/)).



Lee Dudasik, 8, right, hauls in a fish as his sister Lillian, 6, grabs it at the annual Meridian Township Ice Fishing Derby in 2014. (Photo: LSJ file photo, 2014)

What's more romantic than packing a thermos of hot chocolate and cuddling up with your sweetheart in an ice shanty? Valentine's Day just so happens to fall on Michigan's twice-annual [free fishing weekend](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261_50497---,00.html) (http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10364_52261_50497---,00.html). That means you don't need a license to fish February 14 or 15; all other regular fishing rules apply.

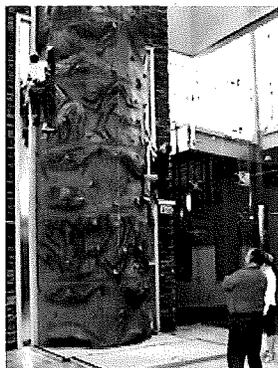
Bring the family: Meridian Township is hosting its [free annual ice fishing derby](http://www.meridian.mi.us/index.asp?Type=B_PR&SEC=%7BB90B8271-F117-4434-9A87-8C3004D695C5%7D&DE=%7B84E74870-7E8A-425D-9D52-564D85C4B582%7D) (http://www.meridian.mi.us/index.asp?Type=B_PR&SEC=%7BB90B8271-F117-4434-9A87-8C3004D695C5%7D&DE=%7B84E74870-7E8A-425D-9D52-564D85C4B582%7D) for youth ages 5-16 from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Central Park pond in the Meridian Historical Village. There will be prizes for largest fish, second largest fish and most fish caught.

Do a 5K

If you and your significant other enjoy running together, give the couples run a try at the [Heart Throb 5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/EastLansing/HeartThrob5krun?embedId2=FyheMk4f) (<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/EastLansing/HeartThrob5krun?embedId2=FyheMk4f>) in East Lansing Saturday morning. The couples division ranks the combined time of you and your partner, and there is a solo division if one of you would prefer to cheer from the sidelines. The race also includes a Valentine's-themed costume contest.

[Lansing's Red Dress Run](https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/LansingRedDressRun?embedId2=FyheMk4f) (<https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/LansingRedDressRun?embedId2=FyheMk4f>) kicks off Saturday at noon at the Midtown Brewing Company. For this run, all participants, male and female, are expected to wear their most flattering red dress (or skirt, tunic or muumuu). A \$10 donation for the Greater Lansing Food Bank is requested.

Go rock climbing



The rock-climbing wall inside Hayes Green Beach Memorial Hospital's ALIVE health and wellness facility. (Photo: LSJ file photo 2013)

Take your date to the [free indoor rock climbing wall](http://www.myalive.com/places/soar) (<http://www.myalive.com/places/soar>) at the ALIVE community health center in Charlotte. While you're at it, drop the kids off at the center's recreation and enrichment area for children (\$4 for two hours) and treat yourself to a massage or facial at the center's [full-service spa](http://www.myalive.com/programs/spa-services) (<http://www.myalive.com/programs/spa-services>).

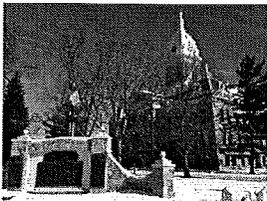
Go ice skating

Public skating is available at [MSU's Munn Ice Area](http://www.munnicearena.com/schedules.html) (<http://www.munnicearena.com/schedules.html>), [Summit Sports in Lansing](http://thesummitsportsandice.com/admin/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/February-15-Public-Skate1.pdf) (<http://thesummitsportsandice.com/admin/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/February-15-Public-Skate1.pdf>), and [Suburban Ice in East Lansing](http://www.suburbaniceeastlansing.com/page/show/380542-schedule) (<http://www.suburbaniceeastlansing.com/page/show/380542-schedule>). Times vary, so be sure to check the public skate schedule before you go.

If you prefer outdoor skating, try the [Muskegon Winter Sports Complex](http://www.msports.org/skate) (<http://www.msports.org/skate>), which features an outdoor hockey rink, family skating rink and 1/4-mile outdoor trail. While you're there, take your date on a hair-raising ride on Muskegon's luge — one of only four luge tracks that exist in the United States..

Ingham County starts looking into parks millage spending

Curt Smith, Lansing 8:54 p.m. EST February 10, 2015



(Photo: Curt Smith/Lansing State Journal)

MASON – A task force of Ingham County commissioners has begun talks on ways to use a parks millage approved in November, according to Commissioner Teri Banas, who chairs it.

County voters on Nov. 4 supported a six-year, 0.5-mill levy to build new trails and restore funding for park maintenance. The millage will generate \$3.5 million a year.

During a public meeting of Democratic commissioners Tuesday night, Banas said the Ingham County Trails and Parks Task Force had its first meeting the previous Thursday. She said it lasted about two hours.

A key issue, she said, was trail connectivity.

"There was a general interest and consensus in being able to connect population centers, schools to communities and parks to parks," said Banas, D-Haslett. The group also discussed the need to determine how much of the levy will go toward park maintenance, she said.

The task force is scheduled to meet again on Feb. 19 and March 5. Both sessions start at 5:30 p.m. at the county Human Services Building, 5303 S. Cedar St. in Lansing.

The Democratic caucus preceded the full Board of Commissioners meeting.

Read or Share this story: <http://on.lsj.com/1DgpIEd>

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Features

Slowly but surely connecting parks and trails systems in Ingham County

KEVIN DUFFY | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 04, 2015



TIM MORGAN - PARKS DIRECTOR - PHOTO DAVE TRUMPIE

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[ENLARGE](#)

Tim Morgan arrived in the Lansing area just weeks after Ingham County voters approved a new millage that will raise roughly \$3.5 million each year for the development of a new system of trails and parks that may eventually connect communities throughout Ingham County.

Morgan, the newly appointed director of the Ingham County Parks Department, will be tasked with helping to plan, develop, and maintain that system. After 22 years of growing and developing the parks system in LaPorte County, Indiana, he felt like the time was right for a change of pace.

"It was a perfect time in my life," explains Morgan. "My oldest daughter just got married, my youngest is a sophomore in college and Ingham County Parks has so much to offer and the potential to achieve even greater things with the Trail and Park millage."

Before he can begin to sink his teeth into the nitty-gritty details of developing the count trail system, a few other people have to have their say.

The local planning and development process went into full swing earlier this month when the recently

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- Careening Car-Free in the Capital City
- Slowly but surely connecting parks and trails systems in Ingham County
- The truth about my love for Lansing
- Landing back in Lansing: Jeremy Orr
- Shift to urban living kindles interest in leading the tiny life
- Emil's: Serving as an anchor restaurant on Lansing's Eastside for over 90 years
- Are year-round schools in Michigan's future?
- Eaton Rapids eyes riverfront development with adaptive reuse of historic property

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formed Trails Task Force met for the first time. Teri Banas, a former Meridian Township park commissioner and current Ingham County commissioner, was appointed to head the task force.

Banas acknowledged the expectations among voters are high after they committed nearly \$20 million to the effort over the next six years.

“The voters handed us a great responsibility, along with their confidence, in November,” says Banas. “We are all thrilled at the opportunity this presents for finally being able to deliver some long-delayed improvements to our parks and trail system.”

Many community groups are excited about the potential impact that a well-formed and extensive trail system could have on the health and wellness of the public.

Steve Leiby is the treasurer of the Tri-County Bicycle Association and he believes trails will offer greater opportunities for people who want to exercise outdoors but may not be comfortable on busy streets and sidewalks.

“The trail millage offers an opportunity to significantly expand the current trail system to attract more people to bicycle riding and enjoy local parks,” says Leiby. “Expanding the trails will translate to more people exercising outdoors; which is good.

It should be noted that while the millage proposal passed handily in November, the idea was met with opposition in the rural sections of Ingham County. Out county residents have a long history of opposing new taxes. Leslie city manager Brian Reed explains that rural residents often feel disconnected from the services their tax dollars support.

“For the trails and parks millage, there is a feeling like that is an extra millage that the out-county folks will pay without seeing a benefit locally,” says Reed. He went on to say that he hopes the trail system will eventually reach as far south as Leslie.

Many of the people involved in the decision making process understand the concerns of the rural areas and hope that the trail system will eventually reach every corner of Ingham County.

Members of the Ingham County Parks Commission met in January to discuss, among other issues, their individual priorities for the millage funds (full disclosure: I am a member of the parks commission). Ideas presented included connecting pre-existing trails developed throughout the region and expanding the system into the outlying areas of the county.

Banas notes that while the millage funds may seem like a lot of money when it comes to developing and building trails, there are other factors to consider.

“Obviously, \$3.5 million a year for six years is a great deal of money,” explains Banas. “But it’s just a fraction of the cost of large scale capital improvements, which can run \$1 million per mile of new trail, and some pricey repairs to older, existing trail systems within the county.”

One thing everyone involved can agree on is that nobody should expect trail development anytime soon. Community input will be gathered over the next year while committees and planners continue to meet.



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In the meantime, Tim Morgan is planning to make 2015 a year for, well, planning. He wants to develop a new Five Year Master Plan for the parks department while also engaging the public and the various community leaders in dialogue as the trails task force and the parks commission work toward moving dirt for trail development.

Kevin Duffy is a freelance writer for Capital Gains.

Photos © [Dave Trumpie](#)

[Dave Trumpie](#) is the managing photographer for Capital Gains. He is a freelance photographer and owner of [Trumpie Photography](#).

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Craig Gunn · Michigan State University

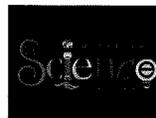
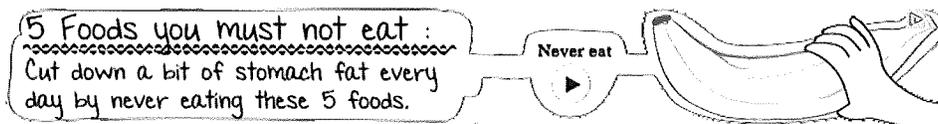
3.5 million a year to trails and my car is wrecked with potholes and deteriorating roads. When will Americans understand that the infrastructure is ready to completely collapse while we support frivolity. Perhaps what I read lately, "The only thing wrong with America is its people!" is very true.

Reply · Like · about an hour ago

Shari Kinney · Didn't go to college great something i dont use . fix the roads

Reply · Like · 33 minutes ago

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Red Cedar Watershed 2014 Stream Monitoring Report

Introduction

The Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council (Mid-MEAC) is an action-based, nonprofit organization that raises awareness of various environmental concerns in the Tri-County Region (Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton). Through volunteering and educating the community, Mid-MEAC has been monitoring six sites along the Red Cedar Watershed for more than a decade. The Volunteer Stream Monitoring program is designed to engage the community through macroinvertebrate collection along the selected sites.

The abundance and diversity of macroinvertebrates are extremely useful indicators of the overall health of streams and rivers. The types of macroinvertebrates collected are indicative of the amount of pollution in certain parts of the rivers, as some species thrive in polluted areas while others require a clean and healthy river. Volunteers collect these bugs using nets and they later identify the species collected from each site. Mid-MEAC uses this data, with the help of volunteers, to contribute to a public database (www.micorps.net). Volunteer Stream Monitoring encourages the public to become more knowledgeable about issues which their watershed faces and promote better stewardship of these streams and rivers.



In 2012, Mid-MEAC added two monitoring sites: upstream and downstream of the Montgomery Drain. These locations have proven to be an important addition to the program and reflect the environmental concerns associated with the pollution and contaminants from the Frandor Shopping Center parking lot in Lansing. In 2013, Mid-MEAC added two more monitoring sites: Ferguson Park in Okemos and near the Layton Road Bridge in Fowlerville. These two additions bring the total sites monitored to ten –helping create a more complete report of the Red Cedar River Watershed.

2014 Stream Monitoring Events

Spring 2014 Monitoring

On June 7th, volunteers collected macroinvertebrates from ten sites. The volunteers worked diligently, sampling from all areas of the stream and recording the appearance of each site. Many different bugs were collected and stored until the Spring bug ID day.



Spring 2014 Bug ID Day

On July 22nd, volunteers sifted through the macroinvertebrates collected from the stream monitoring day. With the help of Mid-MEAC employees, the bugs were successfully identified and recorded. Stream scores of overall health were calculated and recorded as well.



Fall 2014 Monitoring

An impressive group of volunteers braved the cold temperatures on October 11th to help collect macroinvertebrates. At each site, they sampled the different habitats in the stream, catching macroinvertebrates with nets. The Lansing State Journal and HOMTV provided excellent coverage of the event. Help from the numerous volunteers and the great weather aided in making the Fall 2014 monitoring day a success.

Lansing Community College Identifications

On October 23rd, Mid-MEAC had the opportunity to teach an Environmental Science class at Lansing Community College about the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. Students learned about the Michigan Clean Water Corps, the collection and identification of macroinvertebrates, and how these bugs can tell us about the health of the streams. Students were then

separated into groups and given an actual sample to identify the bugs and calculate a stream score using what they just learned.

Fall 2014 Bug ID Day

On November 11th, volunteers helped identify the macroinvertebrates collected from the Red Cedar Watershed. After the identifications were made, a stream quality score was calculated for each site. These scores were entered into the

MiCorps database and will be used to track the health of the Red Cedar Watershed over time.

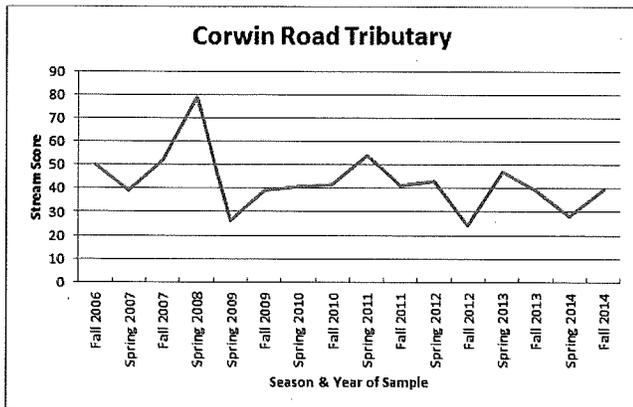
Right: Map showing the ten sites where Mid-MEAC's volunteer stream monitoring program collected data in relation to major highways and roads.

Below: Mid-MEAC volunteers collecting and sorting bugs at the various sites.



Scoring

Since macroinvertebrates are important indicators of water pollution, it is important to sample all of the different habitats in the stream. Once the macroinvertebrates have been identified, a stream score is calculated based on how many pollution sensitive or insensitive bugs were found in the area. A score of 49 or higher shows excellent water quality, 34-48 represents good quality, 19-33 is fair quality, and 0-18 is poor stream quality.



Site #1

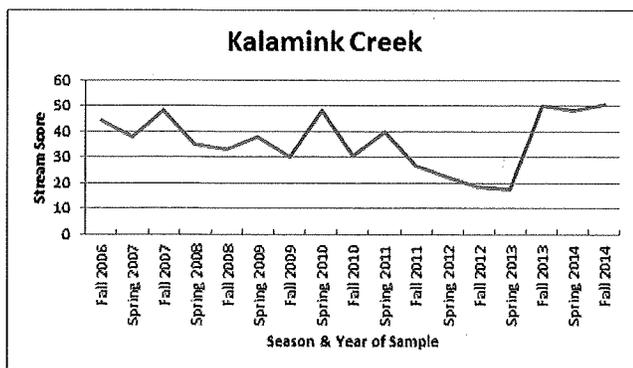
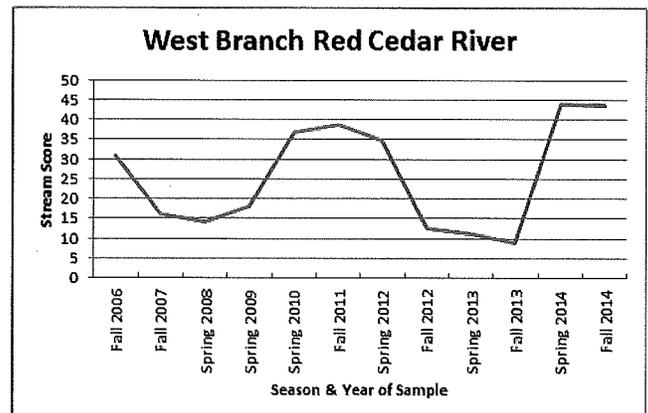
Corwin Road Tributary

The Corwin Road site is located on a small tributary that flows into the Red Cedar River just west of Williamston. The site is at the foot of a steep embankment near Grand River Avenue. The many riffles, cobbles, pools, woody debris, leaf packs, and runs make for a diverse macroinvertebrate habitat. This site is one of our more consistent sites and typically tends to have a good stream score, as found during our Fall 2014 sampling.

Site #2

West Branch of Red Cedar at Kane Road

This site is located on the West Branch of the Red Cedar River near the intersection of Kane Road and M-36 near Stockbridge. The stream is in an agricultural area with a riparian zone along its banks. The muddy substrate makes for an interesting bug community and proves to be difficult for volunteers during monitoring. As seen in the graph, this site fluctuates greatly –both the lowest and highest recorded stream scores were collected over the past year.



Site #3

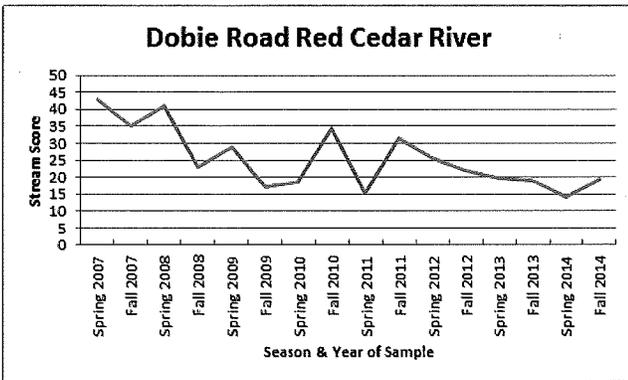
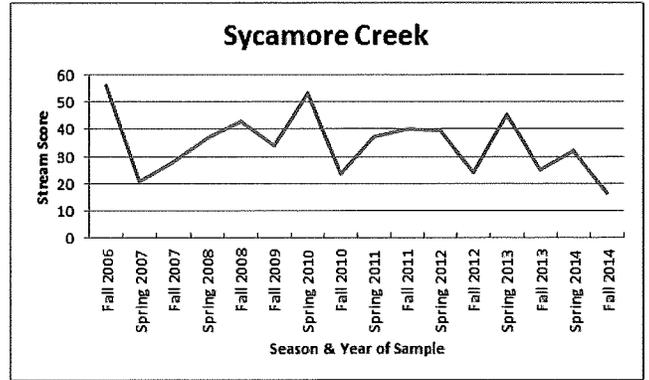
Kalamink Creek at Van Orden Road

The Kalamink Creek site is located near the intersection of Elm Road and Van Orden Road south of Webberville. It is a wooded area near the Alchin Farm Cemetery with overhanging trees and muddy substrate. This site has also recovered from being in the poor health category and earned excellent health in Fall 2014.

Site #4

Sycamore Creek at Biggie Munn Park

The Sycamore Creek site is located at Biggie Munn Park near the intersection of Jolly Road and Aurelius Road in Lansing. A large grass field runs directly to the edge of the stream. A small buffer zone and minimal rooted plants results in high erosion on the side of the park. The other side of the stream is lined with trees and other vegetation. Runs, small pools, and woody debris offer a good habitat for bugs. This site has shown a decreasing trend in health and was classified as poor health in Fall 2014.



Site #5

Red Cedar by Dobie Road

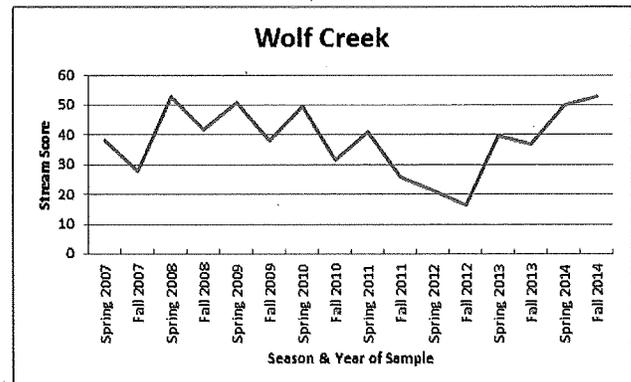
This site is located at the mouth of a small tributary of the Red Cedar River near the intersection of Dobie Road and Kinawa Road in Okemos. It is the most remote and wooded site. A wide variety of wildlife can be spotted during monitoring events. Aquatic habitats include riffles, runs, woody debris, cobbles, and pools. Severe erosion is present along parts of the stream bank. This site has also experienced a decrease in health, but went from poor health in

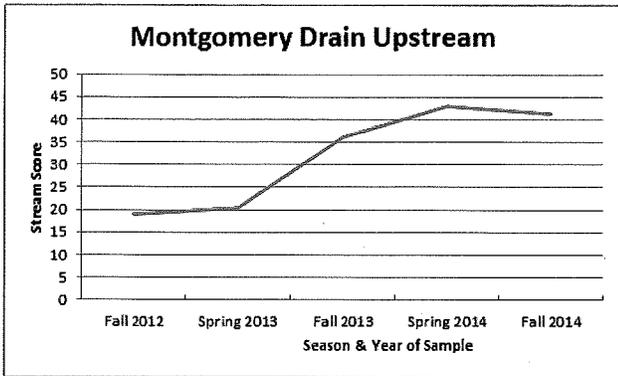
Spring 2014 to fair health in Fall 2014.

Site #6

Wolf Creek at Bell Oak Road

Our Wolf Creek site is located near the intersection of Bell Oak Road and Morrice Road just north of Webberville. The stream has good riparian vegetation along the banks, with some good runs, small pools, riffles, and woody debris for bugs. This site was in good health in Spring 2014 and improved to excellent health status in Fall 2014.





Site #7

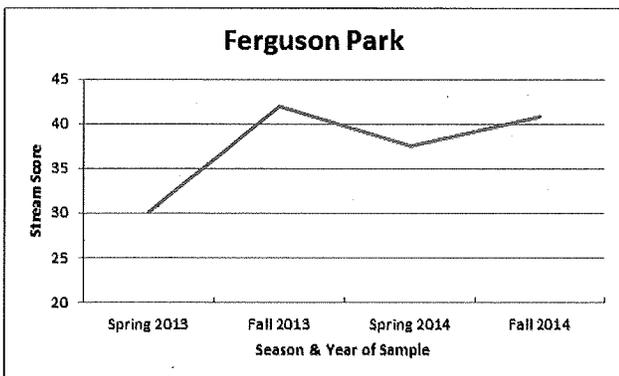
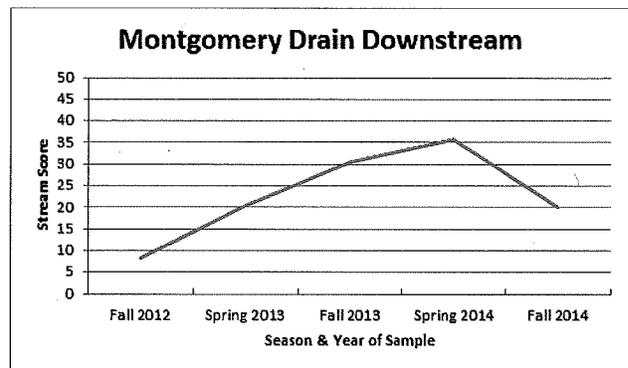
Montgomery Drain: Upstream

This site is located just west of Michigan State University's campus near the former Red Cedar Golf Course and upstream of the Montgomery Drain. Parts of this section of the Red Cedar have been channelized, while other areas host a variety of habitats including woody debris from downed trees, cobbles, riffles, and aquatic plants. The substrate is mostly gravel and silt. This site fell from excellent health in Spring 2014 to good health in Fall 2014.

Site #8

Montgomery Drain: Downstream

This site is directly downstream from the Montgomery Drain. The river is not as wide or as deep as it is upstream. Woody debris and riffles are the two main habitats found here. Erosion can be seen along the outside bank. Gravel deposition occurs along the inside bank of the meanders. The substrate tends to be mostly sand and gravel. This site fell from good health in Spring 2014 to fair health in Fall 2014.



Site #9

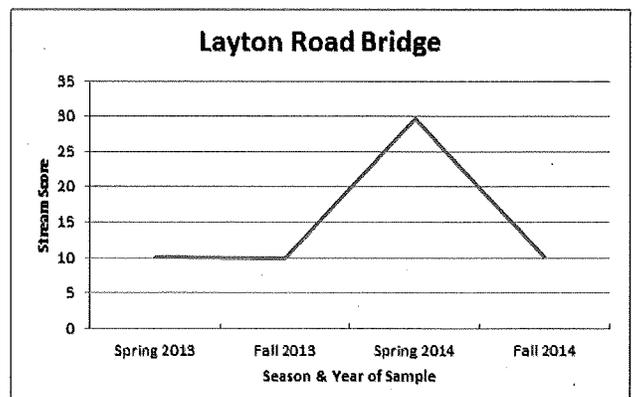
Ferguson Park

This site is located slightly north of the cross section of Okemos Road with Mt. Hope Road. The bank has almost no erosion, but has a poor riparian zone with little vegetation. Grasses are dominant with some trees and algae on the rocks. The substrate was mostly sand with some evidence of gravel. This site was classified to be in good health in both the Spring and Fall 2014.

Site #10

Layton Road Bridge

This site is located just downstream of a newly rebuilt bridge in a rural area heavily dominated by farmland. The substrate is primarily fine grain organic matter and some sand, making it extremely difficult to traverse and sample. With the exception of the Spring 2014 sampling, this is typically our lowest scoring site.



The MiCorps Database: How to Access Data Online

The data Mid-MEAC collects each season is uploaded into a statewide lake and stream monitoring database called the Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) database. Using the MiCorps database, any person, group, or governmental agency can access data from Volunteer Stream Monitoring programs around the state. The database is watched by the Department of Environmental Quality, along with the concerned public, to detect problems with water quality. Specific data, such as stream scores and bug types collected, can be found for all of Mid-MEAC's sites. To access the MiCorps database, follow these steps:

- 1) Go to www.micorps.net.
- 2) Move the mouse over the Data Exchange tab in the upper right hand corner and select View Data.
- 3) On the MiCorps Data Exchange Network page, click Streams.
- 4) Select the search criteria. To view all of Mid-MEAC's sites, select Upper Grand in the Watershed/Hydrologic Unit Code tab.
- 6) Hit Search and find the Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council sites.
- 7) Hit the 'more' button for more detailed data.

Acknowledgements

Mid-MEAC would like to thank all the volunteers who devoted time to protecting the Red Cedar Watershed. Your work ensures that we will have healthy water resources for generations to come.

Spring 2014 Monitoring Volunteers: Cheryl Overley, Elisha Overley, Norma Bauer, Margaret Barondess, Rachael Loucks, Ken Roubal, Nicole Smith, Jennifer Hunnell, Don Moore, Theresa Moore, Kya Rose, Elizabeth Merchant, Gabe Zawadzki, Paige Filice, Julie Powers, Brandon Kawalec, Andrew Stables, Rachel Townsend.

Spring 2014 Bug ID Volunteers: Brandon Kawalec, Rachel Townsend, Mark Bauby, Christo Ferguson, Liutauras Gedvilas, Julie Powers, Courtney Weatherbee, Gabe Zawadzki.

Fall 2014 Monitoring Volunteers: Bruce Peffers, Kendra Peffers, Caitlin Peffers, Sara Weeden, Christo Ferguson, Cheryl Overley, Boaz Overley, Elisha Overley, Matthids Overley, Theresa Moore, Don Moore, Nicole Smith, Bob Kavetsky, Lihong Li, Juliana Baker, Gabe Zawadzki, Paul Brogan, Matt Flechter, Bethany Renfer, Enoch Overley, Intesar Hameed, Hannah Meyer, Brandon Kawalec

Fall 2014 BUG ID Volunteers: Cheryl Overley, Elisha Overley, Emily Dievendorf, Ryan Walquist, Jonaton Martinez, Ryan Rowe, Hannah Meyer, Brandon Kawalec

Photographs: Bob Killips, Lansing State Journal

If you would like more information about our program, or would like to participate in future events, contact Mid-MEAC at:

**midmeac@gmail.com or (517) 292-3078.
www.midmeac.org**

Park Commission Meeting
March 10, 2015

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Towar Gardens Controlled Burn Request – ICDC
- b. Hillbrook Park Drain Improvements – ICDC
- c. Central Park Master Plan Consultant Contract
- d. 2015 Grant Submission Request
 - 1) Meridian Riverfront Park/HNC Pavilion
 - 2) North Meridian Road Park Pavilion
 - 3) Hillbrook Park Tennis Court Renovation
 - 4) Ferguson Park Extension - Acquisition

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: March 3, 2015

RE: Annual Controlled Burn Request
Towar Gardens Area
Ingham County Drain Commission

The Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office is requesting to conduct a controlled burn in the rain gardens in Towar Park sometime in March or April, depending on the weather. Controlled burning in those areas has been done since 2010 and have been very successful. They are proposing the same program as in years past and they work in conjunction with our Fire Department and a licensed contractor.

The following motion is offered:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FROM THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONERS OFFICE TO CONDUCT CONTROLLED BURNING IN THE RAIN GARDENS NEAR SNELL-TOWAR RECREATION CENTER AS AN EFFECTIVE WEED CONTROL MEASURE IN 2015. THE ICDC IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING REQUIRED PERMITS AND FOR FOLLOWING STANDARD SAFETY MEASURES AND WILL INFORM THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT OF THE EXACT DATE AND TIME OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY.

Patrick E. Lindemann

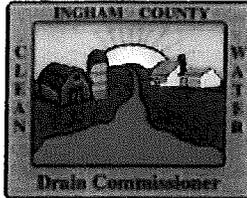
Ingham County Drain Commissioner

PO Box 220
707 Buhl Avenue
Mason, MI 48854-0220

Phone: (517) 676-8395

Fax: (517) 676-8364

<http://dr.ingham.org>



Carla Florence Clos
Deputy Drain Commissioner

Paul C. Pratt
Deputy Drain Commissioner

David C. Love
Chief of Engineering and Inspection

Sheldon Lewis
Administrative Assistant

March 2, 2015

Dear Towar Gardens Resident,

The Office of the Ingham County Drain Commissioner had a successful prescribed burn in 2014 at the Towar Park and in the rear yard rain gardens. We are planning to continue this maintenance program this spring. The maintenance burn will occur sometime in March or April depending on the weather (please see attached brochure).

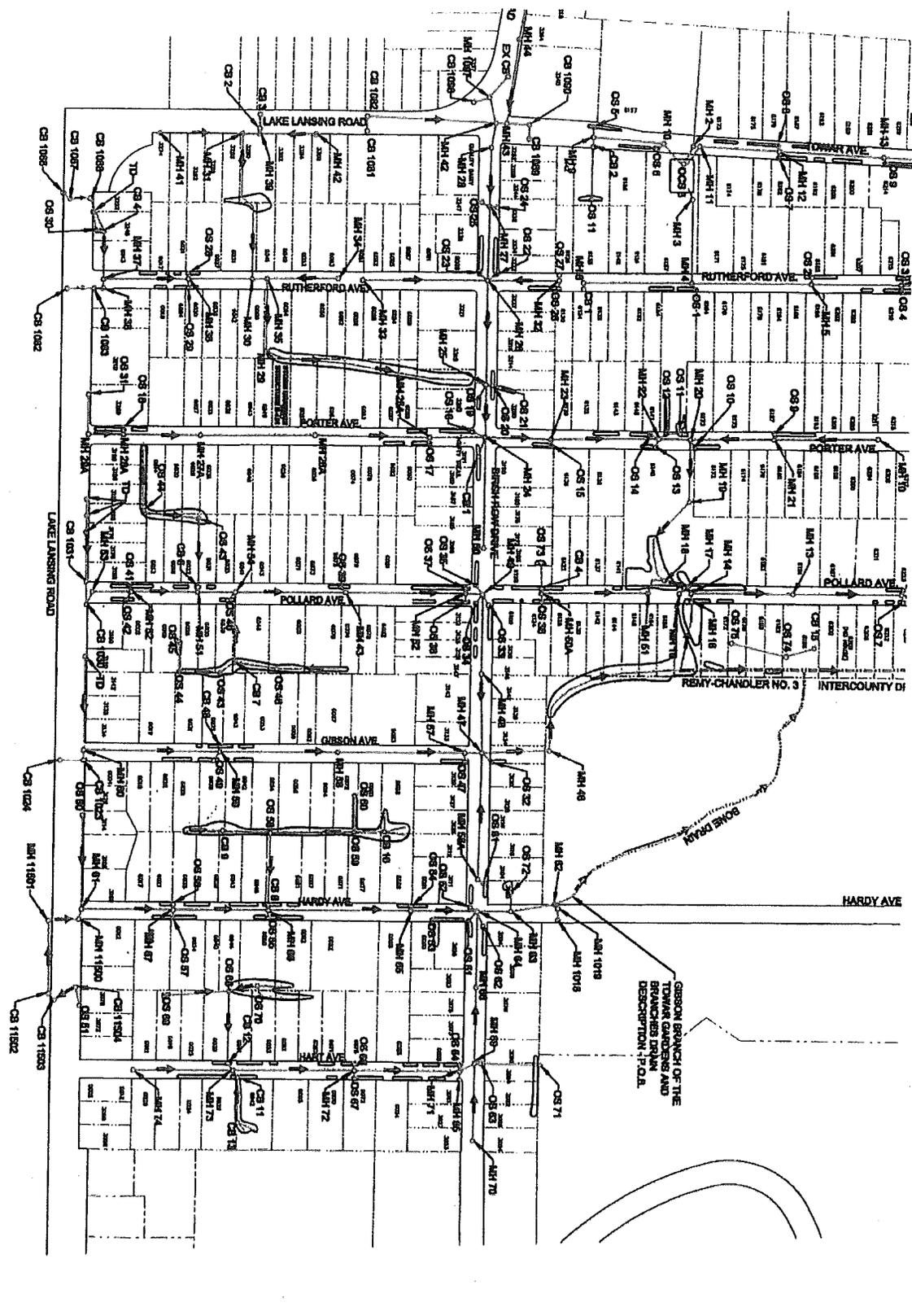
Please contact Assistant Project Coordinator Angie Cosman at (517) 719-5431 if you have any questions or would like further information about this maintenance. Also, call Project Coordinator Cosman if you need to avoid the smoke exposure for medical reasons or would otherwise like to be informed of the day the maintenance will occur.

Thank you in advance for your help. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve you and the other citizens of Ingham County.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Patrick E. Lindemann'.

Patrick E. Lindemann
Ingham County Drain Commissioner



STRUCTURE NUMBER EXHIBIT

DRAIN ID NO.
T05-53

1 OF **1**

PROJECT NO.
04070.00

SHEET NO.

PATRICK E. LINDEMANN
INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER
TOWARD GARDENS AND BRANCHES DRAIN
 MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP, INGHAM COUNTY, MI



environmental, engne
3122 BOVERSON DR

CONTROLLED PRESCRIBED BURNING

N O T I C E

Who?

Ingham County Drain Commissioner, managing the Towar Snell and Towar Gardens Drains.

Why?

Restore native plantings that are designed to clean stormwater.

When?

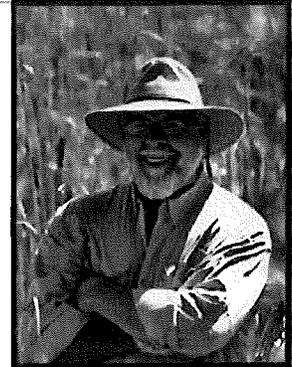
March or April 2015

Where?

see attached map

CONTROLLED PRESCRIBED BURN NOTICE

The Towar Snell and Towar Gardens and Branches Drain Drainage Districts are planning a controlled prescribed burn.



Ingham County Drain Commissioner
Patrick E. Lindemann

Residents and Neighbors of the Towar Snell and Gardens Drains:

As part of maintaining the drain and its natural buffer vegetation, we will be conducting a controlled prescribed burn on some areas around the wetland ponds and rain gardens. This flyer is designed to give you some information needed to understand the process. Should you have questions, please feel free to call (517) 676-8395.

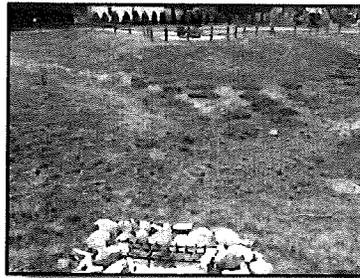


Why Burn? Historically, fire was a common feature of the midwest landscape. By reintroducing fire we are reintroducing a natural process. With the cessation of fire, we have allowed many fire-intolerant, non-native plant species to out-compete the native, fire-adapted plants. Native plants are needed at Towar for their superior ability to help cleanse stormwater of pollutants from our neighborhoods.

Are Burns Safe? The burn is conducted by well-equipped, fully-trained staff with the Meridian Township Fire Department in attendance. A prescribed burn will produce some smoke. In general, emissions from burns are significantly less than those produced from mowing a comparably-sized site. Persons needing to avoid any smoke exposure for medical reasons may leave contact information with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office, and they will be given individual notice of the burn timing. Animal life will be protected by not burning while ground nesting activity occurs.

When? Burns are best done in Spring, before much new growth has occurred. We're planning this burn for March or April. In order to conduct a prescribed burn, we must wait until conditions are right. Weather conditions - temperature, wind direction and strength, humidity, barometric pressure, and ground moisture - all must be within the proper range before we proceed. We will notify local news media on the morning we are conducting the burn. If you would like to be notified the morning we plan to burn, please call.

Towar Gardens Rain Garden

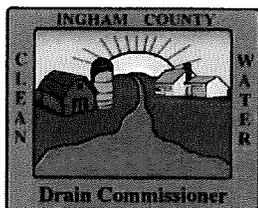


Picture taken 2 weeks after prescribed burn.



Picture taken 6 weeks after prescribed burn.

This year, the prescribed burn will occur around the parks and rear yard rain gardens (see attached map on the back of the letter for areas highlighted in yellow).



MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission

FROM: 
LuAnn Maisner
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: March 4, 2015

RE: **Central Park Master Plan Consultant Proposal Award**

On Friday, February 20, 2015, the Park Commission heard presentations from five (5) consulting firms on their qualifications to assist with the development of a master plan for Central Park.

- VIRIDIS Design Group Inc.
- Spicer Group
- O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc.
- Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc.
- The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc.

After the presentations, the Commission voted to request proposals from the following two (2) firms with a Monday March 9, 2015 deadline:

- VIRIDIS Design Group Inc.
- O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates, Inc.

The Commissioners will review the proposals during their work session on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. The estimated budget for the Central Park Master Plan Project is \$16,000 and has is shared between the General Fund and Park Millage funds.

The following motion is offered:

MOVE TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO _____ IN THE AMOUNT OF _____ FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A MASTER PLAN FOR CENTRAL PARK WITH THE FUNDING BEING SHARED BETWEEN PARK MILLAGE AND GENERAL FUND

Roll Call

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 10th day of March, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the acquisition and development of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 75% of the total project cost funded by the Natural Resources Trust Fund program; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is comprised of revenue generated from gas and mineral rights on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park improvement projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program for an estimated \$100,000 of improvements to Meridian Riverfront Park/ Harris Nature Center consisting of a universally accessible pavilion facility and access sidewalks to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park improvements and development are supported by Township Board Policy and 2015 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 10, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for a universally accessible pavilion facility and access sidewalks in Meridian Riverfront Park/Harris Nature Center with an estimated total project cost of \$100,000 with a 50% local match of \$50,000 from the Township's Park Millage Fund.

ADOPTED: YEAS:

NAYS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Chair of the Park Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission on the 10th of March, 2015.

Todd Wilson
Park Commission Chair

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 10th day of March, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the development and acquisition of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 75% of the total project cost funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Program is comprised of revenue generated from gas and mineral rights on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for \$100,000 of improvements to North Meridian Road Park consisting of a universally accessible pavilion facility and access sidewalks to improve and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities and ages; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park improvements and development are supported by Township Board Policy and the 2015 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 10, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support submission of a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for construction of a universally accessible pavilion facility with access sidewalks in North Meridian Road Park for an estimated project cost of \$100,000 with a 50% local match of \$50,000 from the Township's Park Millage Fund.

ADOPTED: YEAS:

NAYS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Chair of the Park Commission, Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission on the 10th of March, 2015.

Todd Wilson
Park Commission Chair

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 10th day of March, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the acquisition and development of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 50% of the total project cost funded through Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund is a Federal Grant Program consisting of revenues generated from offshore oil and gas leasing and managed by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage Funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park improvement projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Land and Water Conservation Fund program for an estimated \$100,000 of improvements to Hillbrook Park consisting of tennis court renovations and ADA access improvements to provide and expand recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2014-2019 Capital Improvement Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park improvements and development are supported by Township Board Policy and 2015 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open for public review on March 10, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, as follows:

To support the submission of a grant application to the Land and Water Conservation Fund for tennis court renovations and ADA access improvements in Hillbrook Park with an estimated total project cost of \$100,000 with a 50% local match of \$50,000 from the Township's Park Millage Fund.

ADOPTED:

YEAS:

NAYS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Chair of the Park Commission Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and a complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission on the 10th day of March, 2015.

Todd Wilson
Park Commission Chair

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 10th day of March, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____:

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources accepts grant requests from local units of government to assist in the acquisition and/or development of recreation properties; and

WHEREAS, it is possible to have up to 75% of the total project cost funded by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Program; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund is comprised of revenue generated from gas and mineral rights on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission is interested in leveraging local Park Millage funds by obtaining supplemental grant funding for park improvement and acquisition projects whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has prepared a grant application for submission to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the appraised value for acquisition of parcel number 33-02-02-21-454-007 located adjacent to Ferguson Park on Okemos Road, which will increase existing parkland and improve recreation opportunities and accessibility for visitors of all abilities and ages; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2011-2015 Parks and Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Meridian Township Board and Park Commission, and is on file with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is outlined and justified in the 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program adopted by the Township Board and Park Commission; and

WHEREAS, park acquisition is supported by Township Board Policy and 2015 Goals and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, this grant request was open to public review on March 10, 2015.

