



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
PARK COMMISSION
TUESDAY MAY 12, 2015
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL**



- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Welcome Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Ceremony Attendees**
- 3. BBQ Dinner**
- 4. Friend of the Park Volunteer Recognition Event**
- 5. Adjournment**

2014

Friends of the
Park

Volunteer
Recognition
Ceremony



2014 PARK VOLUNTEERS

The support and engagement from residents and organizations in parks and recreation programs is just one element contributing to the greatness of our community. The giving of time, money, and knowledge continue to strengthen the ties between residents, businesses and government.

FRIENDS OF THE PARK ADOPTION LIST

The following people live adjacent or near a park and have volunteered to provide stewardship activities and monitoring on a regular basis to help keep them safe and clean for the entire community. They have a direct connection to the Parks and Recreation Department to report vandalism, fallen trees or suggestions for improvements. Their involvement helps alert our staff by identifying and implementing necessary repairs. These individuals are true "Partners in Parks!"

Steve DeBrabander	Brattin Woods
Keith Hanna	Tacoma Hills
Rick Little	North Meridian Road Park
John Green	Hillbrook Park
Bobbie DuByne	Hillbrook Park
Terri McElhinny & Pat Bills	Ted Black Woods Park
Tim Potter	Ted Black Woods Park
Layne Cameron	Red Cedar Natural Area and Meridian Riverfront Park
Haslett Beautification Association	Planted and maintained the Marshall Park and Welcome to Meridian Township signs
Meridian Garden Club	Planted and maintained gardens in the Historical Village, the gardens in front of the Municipal Building and Claire Twohy Memorial Garden in Central Park; donated and planted an Arbor Day tree in Village near the pond with a plaque
Martha Hentz/Chris Buck Family	Hartrick Park (Martha Hentz, Chris, Evan, & Phillip Buck) - Planted and donated flowers at Hartrick Park around flagpole and sign, trash pick-up
Jim and Lisa Bignall	Orlando Park
Allison and Russell Gallegos	Orlando Park
Eckhart Dersch	Provided reports on Ferguson, Wonch, North Meridian Road Parks to identify needed maintenance

VOLUNTEER EFFORTS AND SUPPORTERS

Dr. Maureen Sander	Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area lease and open space development rights easement, 34 acres for public use
Eagle Scout Peter Miklavcic	Constructed boardwalk in Eastgate Park near the Harris Nature Center
Eagle Scout Ryan Nussdorfer	Constructed boardwalk in North Meridian Road Park
Eagle Scout Thomas Laub	Repaired and anchored existing footbridge in Legg Park
Bethany Riggs and Okemos Boy Scouts, #109 Rhonda Wuycheck Sherri Trezise Tina Kahn Larry Parker Kyle Lu Nancy Shannon Leonard Provencher Kimber Peterson & Okemos girl Scouts Craig Murray	Earth Day Clean Up in the Parks event volunteers on April 19
St. Luke's Church Faith Lutheran Church, and Haslett Community Churches	Park Pick-Up Palooza on September 6 (Victor Samuelson, Phil Deschaine, Bill Gohier, Jean Gohier Barbara Reigle, Alanna Harvey, Tom Haas, Kim Huston, Sophie Kirchoff, Kurt Kirchoff, Joe Hess, David Arnosti, Dominic Arnosti, Heidi Bowers, Kadin Bowers, John Schleicher, Bob Nelson, Warren Heilman, Tammy Heilman, Jonny Farbro, Carolyn Fabro, Dave Russ, Aaron Irving, Darlene Wenner, Tom Chester, James Fackler, Addy Fackler, Brigetta Fackler, Asher Fackler, Gerry McNamera, A J McNamera, Becky Holnagle, John Holnagle)
135 Haslett Elementary School Students Grand Learning Network Land Preservation Advisory Board, Mark Stephens, Vern Stephens	Designed and installed the Mary M G Helmbrecht Shoreline Garden around Historical Village Pond
Haslett Kiwanis Club	Hosted " Day of Caring " with Orlando Park Clean-up on June 21 (Alana Harvey, Bill Gohier)
Liaison for Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation (LINC)	Donation for the Eleanor Luecke Memorial area in Central Park (concrete pad and checkboard table)

**Dave Caszatt, Austin Brown
Cathy & Max Lindquist,
Dave Wearsch, Margo Smith,
Frank Hatfield, Phil Deschaine,
Rick Loftus, Tom Tederington,
Tom Vogal** Cleared invasive plants and planting trees in Northwest Land Preserve and Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve

Deer Management Program Managed deer harvest on 21 properties with 73 volunteer hunters: Aaron Rustad, Alan Franklin, Andrew Taylor, Ben Cummings, Billy Haskins, Brian Watts, Bruce Bussing, Chad Cannon, Chad Houck, Charles Otlewski, Christopher Wilcox, Conlan Adams, Dan Smith, Dave Hendersen, Glen Thomas, Jack Shull, James Hurst Jr., Jeff Neilson, Jeffrey Speer, Jeremy Kapalla, Jonathon Mayes, Justin Cook, Ken Phinney, Kenneth Plaga, Kent Bainbridge, Kim Emery, Kirk Schalau, Kyle Cook, Larry Harb, Layne Cameron, Lee Colony, Margaret Delong, Marvin Johansen, Matthew Cuthbert, Matthew Delong, Matthew Foreman, Matthew Prinz, Matthew Solit, Matthew Wesener, Max Miller, Michael Ellis, Michael Meade, Michael Pemble, Michael Reilly, Mike Kingsley, Mike Marinez, Nicholan Hallenbeck, Nicholas Jagan, Ray Nachreiner, Robbie Pairolero, Robert Alexander, Robert Fortino, Roger Cook, Ryan Brzak, Ryan Holem, Scott Davis, Scott Goldammer, Scott Vercruysse, Steve Potvin, Steven Busch, Thomas Forton, Thomas Porter, Thomas Taylor, Timothy Swartz, Tom Cannon, Trevor Arnold, Zachary Archibald, Stephen Moore

Steve Brunner Maintenance and enhancements to the bicycle pump track in Eastgate Park

Lansing Oar & Paddle Club Cleared branches and fallen trees from the Red Cedar River between Grand River Avenue and Dobie Road to improve recreational use (Jay Hanks, Rich Bailey, George Stockman, Don Potter, John Flaherty, and Tony Kuhlman)

Kyle Wilkins Constructed Great Blue Heron display case at Harris Nature Center

Jasper Bergen Planted 50 small Eastern Redbud trees along trails in parks in memory of her mother

Haslett Robotics Club Trail maintenance in Legg Park (Todd Wilson)

Leslie Kuhn & Laurie Kaufman Treated invasive species in Ted Black Woods; garlic mustard, phragmites and knotweed. Mapping/permitting/owner contacts and treatment

Larry Hennessey	Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of Bluebird boxes and cleanup efforts at Sander Farm Preserved Natural Area
Gene Wasserman	Maintenance, monitoring and reporting of Bluebird boxes in Meridian Riverfront Park and Hartrick Park
Patrick & Michelle Allen	Geocache liaisons for the parks – monitoring caches that have been placed in the parks
Georganne Withey MSU Educating Student Athletic Trainers In Medicine (ESTIM)	Fitness Over-50 Program Coordinator at the Meridian Mall Meridian Township Family Winter Sports Weekend Polar Bear 5K Race on January 26, 2014 (8 volunteers)
Kiwanis Club of Okemos	Managed youth fishing activity during the Meridian Heritage Festival, summer and winter fishing derbies; worked on the construction of the natural exploration area at the Harris Nature Center; donated \$1,000 to the HNC Foundation (Larry Bacon, Jim Decker, Al Wood, Dick Witter, Arnie Johnson, Paul Marttila)
Forest Hills Neighborhood Association	Spring Clean-up - Forest Hills Natural Area (Cecelia Kramer)
Kelly Colflesh	Assisted with maintenance around the Central Park pond to improve fishing access and provided assistance with annual fishing events
Brian Van Order Michigan Demolition and Excavation, Inc.	Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many parks projects including the Nature Exploration Area and numerous Eagle Scout projects.
Joe Penoni Rapid Tree Removal	Contributions of time, expertise, equipment for many parks projects including the Nature Exploration Area,
Harris Nature Center Foundation	Fund-raising efforts for the Harris Nature Center (Julie Moore, Tony Bauer, Jim Buscetta, Norman Granneman, Barbara Kissling, Michael Lenkowski, Mike McDonald, Patty Robbins, Robert Rusch, Roxanne Witcher) - 2014 accomplishments: bus scholarships, Successful grant requests, planning and implementation of the Nature Exploration Area
Friends of Historic Meridian	Outstanding efforts toward growth and sustainability of the Meridian Historical Village and for providing meaningful and educational programs for youth and families; (Jane Rose, Executive Director; George Grettenberger, President)
Nokomis Learning Center	Supporting cultural activities and events that educate the community on Native American cultural history; Cooperative efforts with the Friends of Historic Meridian in organizing the Heritage Festival special event (Victoria Voges, Liz Gorecki,

Meridian Senior Center Advisory Board	Brian Moore) Provide input, direction and volunteer program support for the Senior Center. (Arnie Johnson; Peggy Frisch; Darla Jackson; Richard Fox; Jack Whitmyer; Maxine Harper; LuAnn Maisner; Jim Massa; Mary McNeely; Mildred Novotny; Janet Quenson; Cherie Wisdom)
Meridian Township Police Department	Special recognition for our Police Department for opening and closing our parks and park restrooms daily thus supporting a safe and secure park system for our community

DONATIONS

TC3	2014 Towar Teens and Summer Playground Program (\$6,000) Capital Region Community Foundation
Edgewood Village	2014 Towar Summer Playground Program (\$1,000)
Kiwanis Club of Okemos	2014 Towar Summer Playground Program (\$400)
Haslett/Okemos Rotary Club	\$10,000 HNCF for Nature Exploration Area
Biggby Coffee	Donated coffee and hot chocolate for Polar Bear 5K Race (Keegan O'Connor)
Fireworks Celebration Contributors	Meijer - \$2,000 (Terry Cole, Cindy Nunn, Chris Wilson/Okemos Store) Douglas J Spa and Salons - \$2,000 (Douglas & Sharon Weave) Meridian Plumbing - \$2,000 (Craig Phillipich) The Hubbard Law Firm PC - \$1,000 (Andria Ditschman) WLNS TV 6 – in-kind advertising (Barbara Bruce) Culvers Butterburgers & Frozen Custard - \$531 (Cory Chavala) Eastside Tax and Accounting, LLC – \$250 (Thomas Johnson) Okemos Animal Hospital - \$250 (Nydia Alfonso) Ingham County Medical Care Facility and Rehabilitation Center - \$250 (Karen Webster)
Youth Scholarship Program	Kiwanis Club of Okemos (\$400); Brian Beauchine (\$407)
Kelly Colflesh	Donated tackle and bait; ongoing stewardship of Central Park Fishing Area in Historical Village, donated coffee and bagels for Winter Fishing Derby
Marilyn Aronoff	Donated to Dog Park Fund (\$211)

MEDIA CATEGORY

Dawn Parker

Consistent, timely reporting on park activities and special events that improve public awareness and interest of our parks and recreation facilities in the Towne Courier

HOM-TV Channel 21

For their dedicated efforts to promote the Meridian Township Park System by providing coverage of programs and special events for community viewing. Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director; Rob Gingrich, Senior Production Manager; and Lynn Meikle, Freelance Producer

**2014 Park Friend of the Year
is**