



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
September 8, 2021
Zoom Meeting

To view the virtual meeting directly through Zoom, please visit:

<https://zoom.us/join>

Meeting ID: 861 5669 1607

Meeting Password: Preserve

To participate in public comment during the virtual meeting, please call 517.349.1232

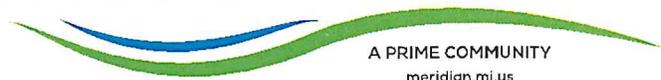
If you are unable to access the meeting due to technical difficulties, please contact Director of IT, Stephen Gebes at 517.853.4222 or gebess@meridian.mi.us. Every effort will be made to help you participate in the meeting.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 2. PUBLIC COMMENT
 3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. August 25, 2021
 4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. August 25, 2021
 5. COMMUNICATIONS
 6. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Davis-Foster Preserve maintenance and improvements
 1. Bids for wildlife viewing overlook at two different locations
 2. Burn unit pathway revisions
 - a. Mitigate mowing in sensitive areas
 - B. Renaming of Preserves: Finalized list for new names
 8. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 9. PUBLIC COMMENT
 10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 9th, 6 pm, over Zoom.
 12. ADJOURNMENT
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Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board by contacting: Director LuAnn Maisner, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, MI 48840

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Meridian Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett MI
Wednesday, August 25th, 2021, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Steve Thomas, Mark Stephens, Jamie Hiller, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee.
ABSENT: Board Members: Kendra Grassesschi, Chanelle Russ.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:07 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. NONE.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

**BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 25, 2021 AGENDA.
Trustee Opsommer seconded.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 9TH, 2021 MINUTES.
Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.**

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Coordinator Campbell briefly outlines important sections of the Land Preservation Ordinance to preface discussion on Lake Lansing South Preserve. Sections highlighted are Section 22-95, Destruction of Land Preservation Property, and Section 22-113, Installations, Construction, or Maintenance.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Lake Lansing South Meeting Debrief

1. Ordinance enforcement protocol

a. Notification & Education: Once violation is observed, contact must be made with Township resident notifying them of current violations against the ordinance, and how to take actions to remedy the situation. A period of time will be stated in the letter, giving time for communication and action.

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- b. Enforcement: If the violation has not been remedied by the stated date, the issue will be handed over to office of Code Enforcement and a fine will be issued.
- c. Each scenario will be handled on a case by case basis.
- 2. Board Discussion: Board members agree that ordinances must be upheld equally across all Land Preserves in order to protect these areas that were purchased with the mission to conserve ecologically diverse green space from development.
 - a. If any mowing is take place on Meridian Township Land Preserve property, it must be done by Township personnel or authorized contractors.
 - b. Installation of split rail fencing, and Land Preserve signage at both entrances (Carlton Road & Haslett Road) will aid in the recognition of the area as protected and help educate local residents.
 - c. Following a management plan to remove invasive species and plant native species, will improve the area and involve neighbors in the stewardship of the area.
 - d. A pathway is an option in the future, but will need to be coordinated separate from the Parks and Pathways mowing maintenance schedule and will come from Land Preserve funds.
 - e. Old Shed located on the west end of the preserve needs to be removed. Coordinator Campbell complete a work order for this job.

TRUSTEE OPSOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF THE FOLLOWING AT LAKE LANSING SOUTH PRESERVE: SPLIT RAIL FENCING AT THE CARLTON RD. & HASLETT RD. PRESERVE ENTRANCES, NATIVE SEEDBANK GARDENS, AND SIGNAGE FOR THE LAND PRESERVE AND RULES. Board member Parnell seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. STAFF REPORT

- A. Coordinator Campbell gives a brief update on stewardship in the Township as well as fall stewardship plans.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- A. NONE.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Board member Stephens gives an update on a possible fish assessment to happen at Lake Lansing. A fish assessment will aid in the pike management plan for the Township property surrounding Lake Lansing.
- B. Chair Hiller announces she will be absent for the October 9th meeting.
- C. Board member Thomas inquires about the land acquisition process and whether or not the Land Preservation Advisory Board is still interested in acquiring more land for the Land Preservation Program.

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10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 8th, 2021 over Zoom.

11. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Board member Parnell seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Davis - Foster Preserve

Survey/Land

- Almost 109 acres
 - 31.74 acres is wetlands
 - 4.68 acres are road and drain easement
 - 72.5 agricultural use
- Wetland & Coastal Resources Stewardship Plan
 - **13 Ecological Communities**

- **Idle Farm Field**

- ★ Majority of the site
- ★ Dominant species:

Mullein	Giant Foxtail	Amaranth
Purple Dead-Nettle	Stink Grass	

- **Mixed Scrub-Shrub and Emergent Wetland**

- ★ Most of site West of Van Atta Road
- ★ Dominant species:

Silky Dogwood	Common Elder	Glossy Buckthorn
Willows	Gray Dogwood	Reed Canary Grass
Touch-Me-Not	Tussock Sedge	

- **Mature Forested Wetland**

- ★ One West of Van Atta, One East of Van Atta
- ★ Dominant species:

Eastern Cottonwood	Box-Elder	Wild Black Currant	Tall Meadow-Rue
Giant Goldenrod	Glossy Buckthorn	Reed Canary Grass	

- **Scrubby Forested Wetland**

- ★ West of Van Atta
- ★ Dominant species:

Reed Canary Grass	Tall Meadow-Rue	Box-Elder
Glossy Buckthorn	Nanny-Berry	

- **Scrubby Upland Forest**

- ★ Dominant species:

Box-Elder	Eastern Cottonwood	Black Cherry
Black Oak	Honeysuckle	Hawthorn
Virginia Creeper	White Avens	Red Pines

- **Stream and Mixed Emergent and Scrub-Shrub Wetland**

- ★ Near Foster Drain along northern site boundary

- ★ Dominant species:

Willows	Common Elder	Reed Canary Grass
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- **Field Borders**

- ★ Narrow bands of mixed woody/herbaceous vegetation

- ★ Dominant species:

Wild Plum	Black Cherry	Box-Elder
Honeysuckle	Smooth Brome	

- **Emergent Wetland**

- ★ Dominant species:

Reed Canary Grass

- **Mixed Forested and Emergent Wetland**

- ★ Northeastern corner of site

- ★ Along eastern boundary

- ★ Dominant species:

Box-Elder	Silky Dogwood	Common Elder	Reed Canary Grass
Glossy Buckthorn	Eastern Cottonwood	American Elm	

- **Weedy Upland Forest**

- ★ Northeastern corner of site

- ★ Dominant species:

Box-Elder	Black Cherry	Black Locust
Red Raspberry	Red-Fruited Elder	White Avens

- **Upland Forest**

- ★ Highest quality upland type on this site
- ★ Dominant species:

Black Cherry	Black Oak	White Oak	Gray Dogwood
Red Raspberry	Hazel	Violet	White Avens

- Parts of the site are encompassed in a 100-year floodplain
- **Wildlife**

Black-Capped Chickadee	Blue Jay	Common Snipe	Coyote
Brown-Headed Cowbird	Crow	Downy Woodpecker	Field Sparrow
Fox or Gray Squirrel	Goldfinch	Gray Tree Frog	Horned Lark
Garter or Ribbon Snake	Northern Cardinal	Northern Flicker	Raccoon
Red-Bellied Woodpecker	Red-Tailed Hawk	Ring-Necked Pheasant	Sandhill Crane
Red-Winged Blackbird	Tufted Titmouse	White-tailed Deer	

- **Soils**

Adrian Muck	Boyer-Spinks Loamy Sand	Bady Sandy Loam
Cohoctah Silt Loam	Edwards Muck	Colwood-Brookston Loam
Granby Loamy Fine Sand	Houghton Muck	Kibbie Loam
Owosso-Marlette Sandy Loam	Marlette Fine Sandy Loam	Spinks Loamy Sand

Land History

- Was originally called the Van Atta Preserve, Davis Farm, Davis Land Preserve, **Davis-Foster Park** (final name required to remain the name as part of the purchasing contract)
- Previous owners- Larry A. & Sylvia J. Davis the property had been in Mr. Davis' family for over 100 years (info from Market Value Appraisal document). That makes this property eligible for historic recognition by the state of Michigan (was looked into at one point by the township but opted out of submitting application/
- Previously had a single family ranch style home with a 2 car garage as well as an older 2 story farm style home
- Michigan Natural Features Inventory *Vegetation circa 1800 of Ingham County, Michigan* pegs area as historically being a "mixed conifer swamp", "oak history

forest in upland area”, and potentially Oak Savanna, Hardwood Swamp, Oak Forest, Beech-Sugar Maple Forest

- In the last 100 years or so the land served as agricultural cropland

Previous Management Plan

- **June 24, 2008-** 5.5 acres on the west side of Van Atta Rd was planted with native grasses and forbs
 - September 30, 2008 this site was informally evaluated and it was noted there was a lot of fox-tail, black-eyed-susans, wildlife using the area as forage
 - Following recommendations were made:
 - ❖ Apply herbicide at low rate of 2 oz in the spring of 2009 to control weeds
 - ❖ Mow all edges in order to create a fire break
 - ❖ In 3-5 years either perform a controlled burn of disc the area then spread additional Michigan genotype wildflowers
 - ❖ Plant native shrubs aline the edge of road to enhance the beauty and provide more habitat
- **Fall 2007-** restoration efforts to east side if Van Atta Rd began
 - Collected and planted Bur and Red Oaks along drain on the NE side of then property
- **Spring 2008-** hickory nuts were planted in same area as oaks, champion seedlings were planted along both sides of van Atta Rd (seeds collected from champion tree at the capitol)
- **Spring 2009-** was the start of major site restoration.
 - 6 acres of cool season grasses
 - 14.3 acres of native warm season grass (located N & S of the wetland on the E side of the property)
 - Firebreaks 15 feet wide and will delineate each of the restoration areas
 - West side of road there was a patch of canadian Thistle growing near the barn it was recommended to mow the thistle for 4-5 years to prevent from going to seed rather than treating with chemicals so that the wildflowers were not affected
 - East side of Van Atta Rd- 55 acres planted by Pheasants Forever with warm season grasses, forbs, cool season grasses, and legume firebreaks. Strip of sunflowers was planted along the perimeter of the 50 acre planting areas.
- **2010 & 2011**
 - East Side- weed control was main focus for the entire 50 acre plot, began treatment of small patch of invasive phragmites on an annual basis

- West Side- far fewer flowers than previous years
- **2012**
 - Prescribed burn on west side of Van Atta Rd (successful in control of weeds)
 - Planned to burn east side but Henslow's sparrows had nesting sites in this area so no burn conducted on E side.
 - ❖ Recommended early season burning to avoid ground nesting birds in this area
- **2013**
 - Several birds were observed on the east side Van Atta Rd.
 - ❖ **Henslow's sparrow**
 - ❖ **Dicksissel**
 - ❖ **Grasshopper sparrow**
 - ❖ **Woodcock**
 - East side- even fewer wildflowers, grasses are thriving
- **2011+**
 - Perform prescribed burns each year in all "prairie" areas for the first 3 years and then every 2 years thereafter (2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020)
 - Perform periodic site inspections to assess status of invasive plant populations and identify any management concerns. Begin program to remove non-native and other invasive vegetation
 - Perform selective cutting and removal of invasive species (priority to buckthorn and black locust on E side of property)
 - Plant additional trees on E side of property

Previous Short and Long-Term Tasks

Short Term:

- It appears as though most of the short term goals have been accomplished at this property

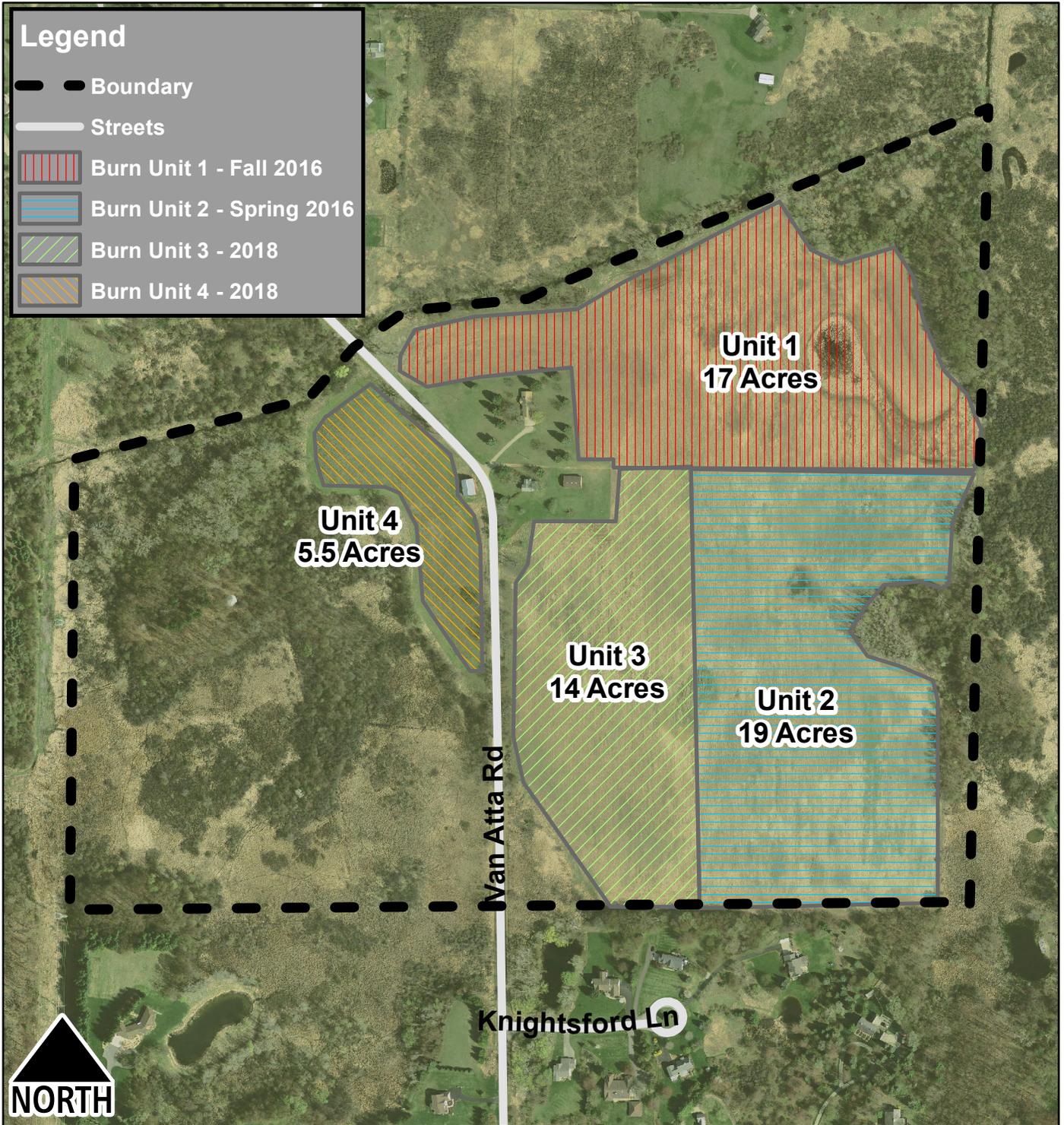
Long Term:

- Observation deck
- Continued management of invasive species
- Restoration of old barn

Current Management Plan:

- None found

Davis Foster Land Preserve Burn Units



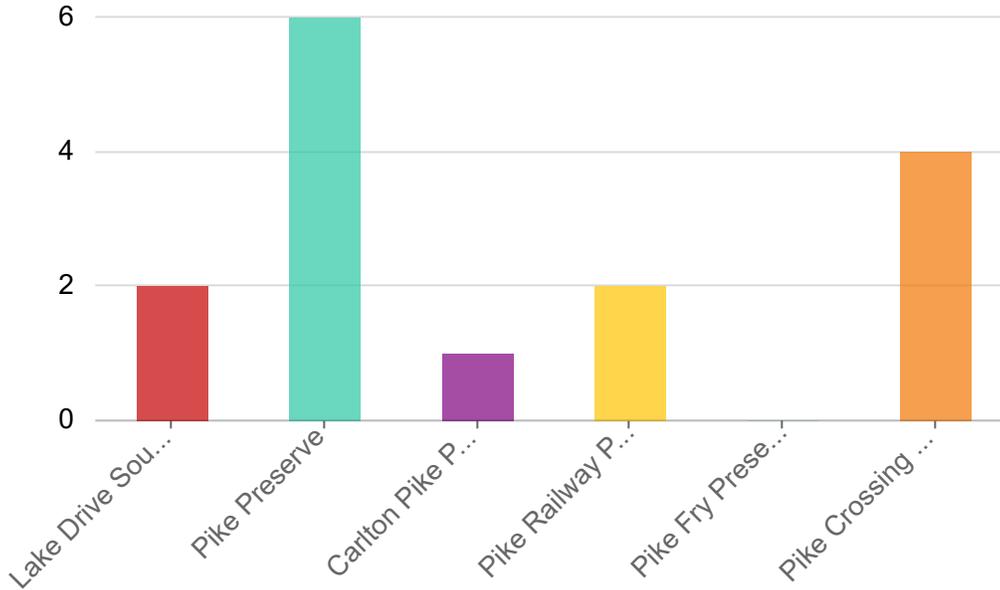
5120 Van Atta Road, Okemos, MI 48864



Total Acres = 109.62

Re-naming Meridian Township Preserves

Lake Lansing South Preserve *

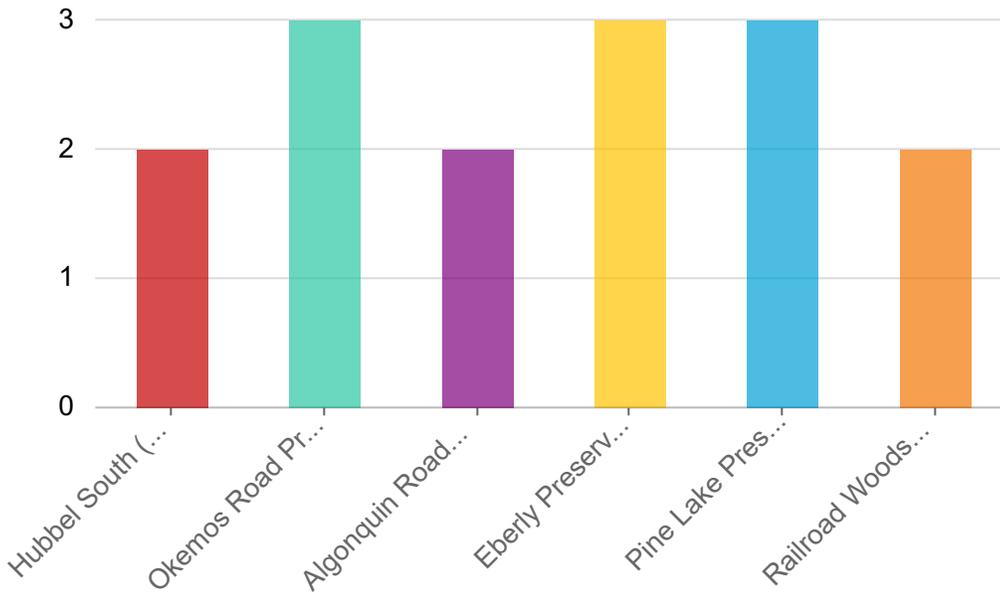


Answers	Count	Percentage
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Lake Drive South	2	22.22%
Pike Preserve	6	66.67%
Carlton Pike Preserve	1	11.11%
Pike Railway Preserve	2	22.22%
Pike Fry Preserve	0	0%
Pike Crossing Preserve (this was an option also mentioned for naming all the wetland preserves in this area)	4	44.44%

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

Central Meridian Uplands Preserve *

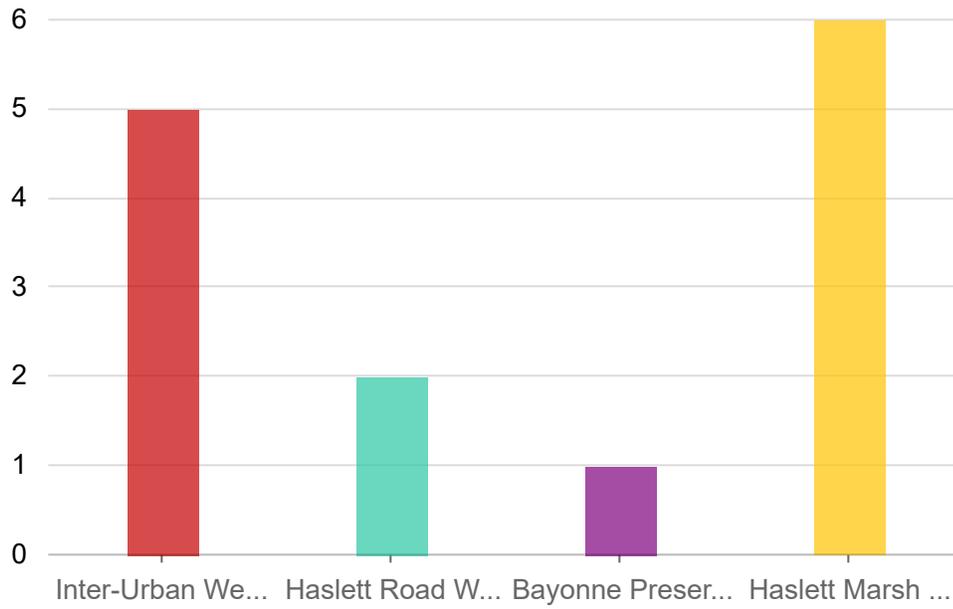


Answers	Count	Percentage
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Hubbel South (Hubbel Preserve would then be re-named Hubbel North, combining the two preserves)	2	22.22%
Okemos Road Preserve	3	33.33%
Algonquin Road Preserve	2	22.22%
Eberly Preserve (Eberly Drain runs through)	3	33.33%
Pine Lake Preserve (Pine Lake Drain runs through)	3	33.33%
Railroad Woods Preserve	2	22.22%

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

Meridian Central Wetlands Preserve *

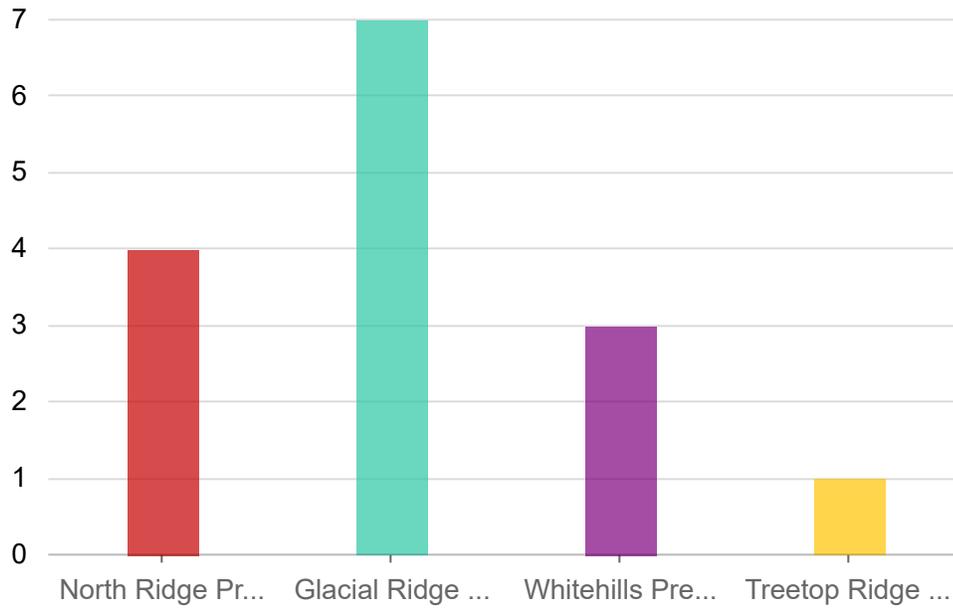


Answers **Count** **Percentage**

Inter-Urban Wetlands Preserve (Inter-Urban Pathway runs through)	5	55.56%
Haslett Road Wetlands Preserve	2	22.22%
Bayonne Preserve	1	11.11%
Haslett Marsh Preserve	6	66.67%

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

North Ridge Preserve *

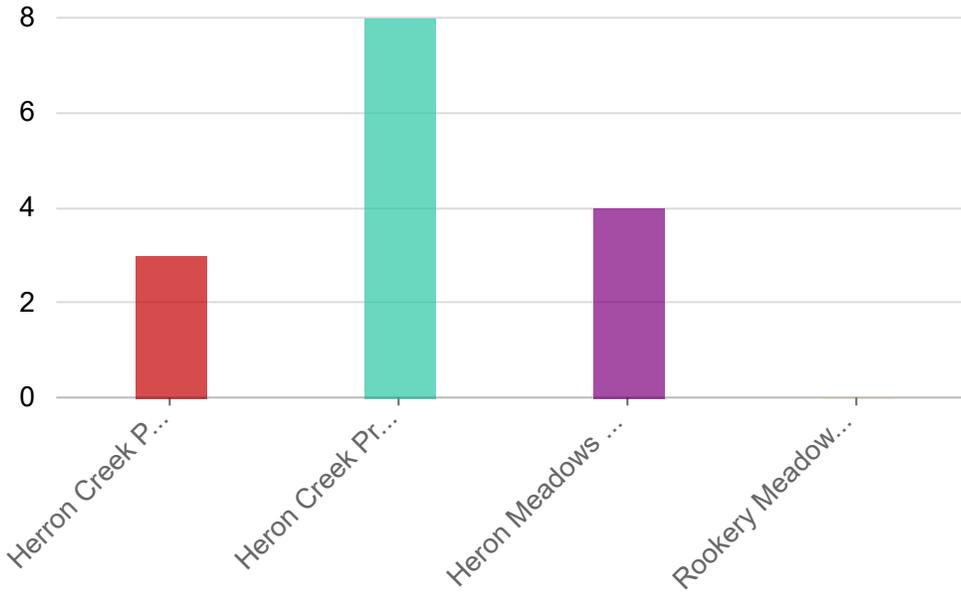


Answers **Count** **Percentage**

Answers	Count	Percentage
North Ridge Preserve (retain current name)	4	44.44%
Glacial Ridge Preserve	7	77.78%
Whitehills Preserve	3	33.33%
Treetop Ridge Preserve	1	11.11%

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

Southwest Uplands Preserve *

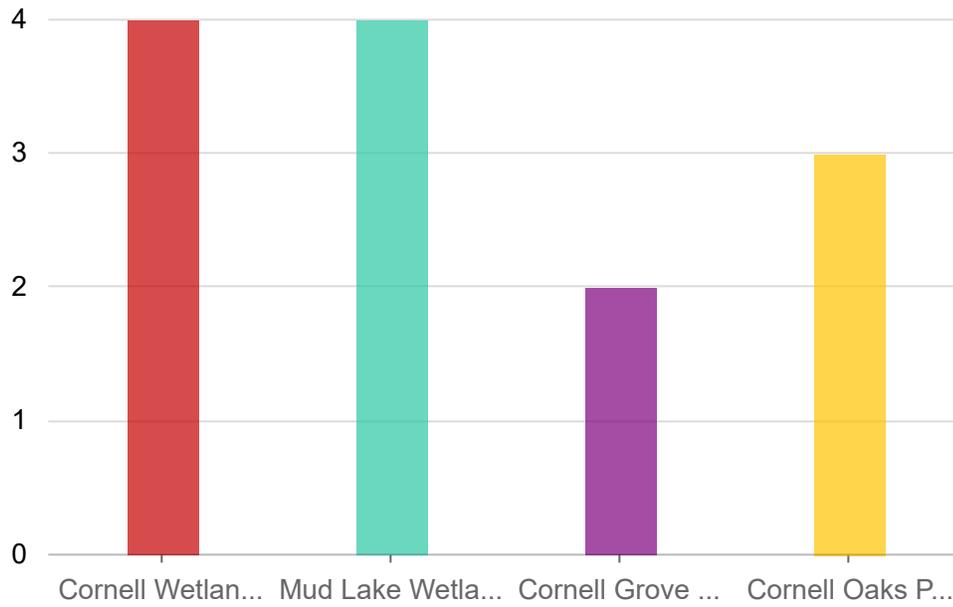


Answers	Count	Percentage
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Herron Creek Preserve (Spelling of Creek name)	3	33.33%
Heron Creek Preserve (named after the bird instead of the creek)	8	88.89%
Heron Meadows Preserve	4	44.44%
Rookery Meadows Preserve (Heron rookery located in wetland below meadow)	0	0%

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

Tihart-Cornell Wetlands *

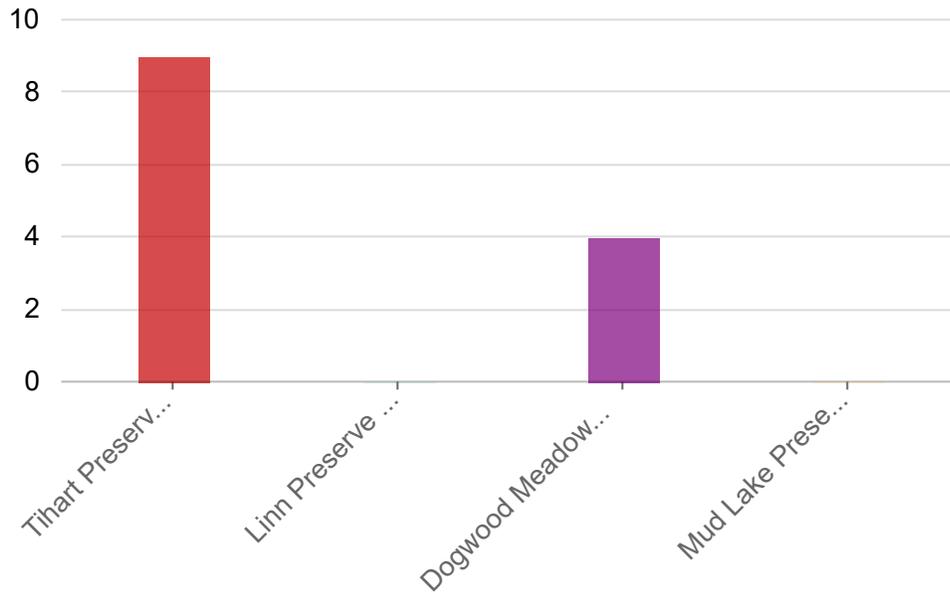


Answers **Count** **Percentage**

Answers	Count	Percentage
Cornell Wetlands Preserve	4	44.44%
Mud Lake Wetlands Preserve	4	44.44%
Cornell Grove Preserve	2	22.22%
Cornell Oaks Preserve	3	33.33%

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

Tihart Preserve *



Answers **Count** **Percentage**

Answers	Count	Percentage
Tihart Preserve (keep current name)	9	100%
Linn Preserve (Linn family name will stay on the sign regardless)	0	0%
Dogwood Meadows Preserve	4	44.44%
Mud Lake Preserve	0	0%

Answered: 9 Skipped: 0

Renaming Township Preserves Vote Summary

****Highlighted yellow names are the staff pick**

Lake Lansing South Preserve (top two votes)

1. Pike Preserve 66%
2. Pike Crossing Preserve 44%

Central Meridian Uplands

1. Okemos Road Preserve 33%
2. Eberly Preserve 33%
3. Pine Lake Preserve 33%

Meridian Central Wetlands Preserve

1. Haslett Marsh Preserve 66%
2. Inter-Urban Wetlands Preserve 55%

North Ridge Preserve

1. Glacial Ridge Preserve 77%
2. North Ridge Preserve 44%

Southwest Uplands Preserve

1. Heron Creek Preserve 88%
2. Heron Meadows Preserve 44%

Tihart-Cornell Wetlands

1. Cornell Wetlands Preserve 44%
2. Mud Lake Wetlands Preserve 44%

Tihart Preserve

1. Tihart Preserve 100%
2. Dogwood Meadows Preserve 44%