



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday March 11, 2026 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos MI

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. March 11, 2026
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. February 11, 2026
5. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. None.
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Pike Crossing Preserve proposed pathway
 - B. Parcel for Acquisition Consideration
 - A. No update.
7. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - b. MCC March & April Stewardship Calendar
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Yu Man Lee
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 - D. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas
8. PUBLIC COMMENT
9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6 pm at The Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.
11. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board by contacting: Director Courtney Wisinski, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

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

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee (Environmental Commission), Mark Stephens (Park Commission), Angela Demas (Township Board).
ABSENT: Kris Parnell, Jamie Hiller.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

a. February 11, 2026

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the February 11, 2026 Agenda to place on file. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

4. APPROVE MINUTES

a. January 14, 2026

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the minutes from January 14, 2026 to place on file. Commissioner Lee seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

5. PRESENTATION

- a. Dan Opssomer, Deputy Township Manager, Pike Crossing Preserve Proposed Pathway
 - i. Phase III pathway construction is starting in 2026.
 - ii. The proposed pathway through Pike Crossing is the only proposed route staff have been able to identify. Several other options have been explored including working with the local railroad company, which was denied.
 - iii. Board member questions:
 1. With the proposed routes, will the pathway avoid wet areas in the preserve? Will the stability of the pathway hold up during flooding events?
 - a. The pathway is navigating around the natural features on site, as well as the invasive species, Japanese knotweed and Tree of Heaven.

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- b. Topography of the site shows that it drains to the CN railway drainage ditch. What will happen if there is flooding?
 - i. If there is flooding, they plan to install culverts in those areas.
2. What other pathway options were looked at?
 - a. CN Railway permissions were asked by the Township and were denied.
 - b. The main purpose of the pathway is to
3. What data did they use to determine the pathway routes in the Township?
 - a. Surveys came out asking for more trails and pathways from the residents.
 - b. Off road trails are desired by residents for safety reasons and accessibility to natural areas.
4. Most of Phase III pathway is going to be constructed on Consumer Energy Utility easements.
5. Can the trail go directly next to the railroad line?
 - a. Pathway is going around the invasive species at the site, so it doesn't run all the way along the railroad.
 - b. Tree removal is being avoided as much as possible.
 - c. Staff can look at whether or not the pathway can run next to the railroad, while managing the Japanese knotweed stand.
6. Why is EGLE permitting required for Phase III?
 - a. Wetland mitigation and permitting is required for different areas of the Phase III pathway along Lake Drive.
7. What is the destination of the Phase III pathway?
 - a. Trail connectivity is the goal of the pathways. It will connect to the MSU and Lake Lansing pathway which will lead to Lake Lansing Parks.
8. Other pathways show that they are going through the roadway, why can't this proposed pathway follow that?
 - a. It will have to go through the CN Railway, which they cannot get permission to go across.
 - i. Staff went as far to propose that they will help remedy encroachments on other properties for CN Railway.
 - b. Going through Haslett Road, there is not enough road right of way to construct the pathway and they would have to get permissions from all property owners on that block.
9. Board member Fay proposed going down Franklin Street instead.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. None.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Pike Crossing Preserve Proposed Pathway
 - i. Pathway proposal discussion by board members:
 1. Clerk Demas feels this won't upset neighbors given the careful consideration.
 2. Can pathways give any funding to manage the invasive species on site?

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- a. Chair Thomas asked if we can have them fund the contractual management of tree of heaven and Japanese knotweed. Staff will consider this.
3. Board members are not as worried about the ecological value of the preserve, but the habitat fragmentation and precedent set for land preserves is of most concern.
4. The Hagadorn parcel that was donated (22.5 acres), could be a potential area for land preservation. Pike Crossing Preserve could be designated to Township pathways.
5. What about any existing wetlands on Pike Crossing Preserve?
 - a. One still needs to be delineated on the NE corner of the preserve.
6. Are the pike spawning areas going to be effected by this proposed pathway?
 - a. They should not be effected.
7. Board members request to add this proposed pathway as a discussion item for the March Agenda.

(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

Board member Fay made a motion to move into Closed Session Discussion. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Roll Call:

Yayes: Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Angela Demas.

Nayes: None.

- b. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration

Board member Fay made a motion to move out of closed session. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Yayes: Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Angela Demas.

Nayes: None.

(END CLOSED SESSION)

8. REPORTS

- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - i. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - ii. 2026 Land Preservation Program & Stewardship Goals
 - iii. MCC February Stewardship Calendar
- b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - i. No Environmental Commission meeting to report on.
- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
 - i. No Park Commission meeting to report on.
- d. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas

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- i. Joint board and commission meeting on February 10th went very well.
- ii. Kris Parnell gave the Land Preservation Advisory Board report at the Joint Board Commission on behalf of the board.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- a. Board member Fay wanted clarification on the process of addressing public comments.
- b. Commissioner Stephens inquired into whether or not sewer easements could be identified on Phase I Environmental Site Assessments. Staff will report back.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Stephens moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members

From: Dan Opsommer, Deputy Township Manager
Director of Public Works and Engineering

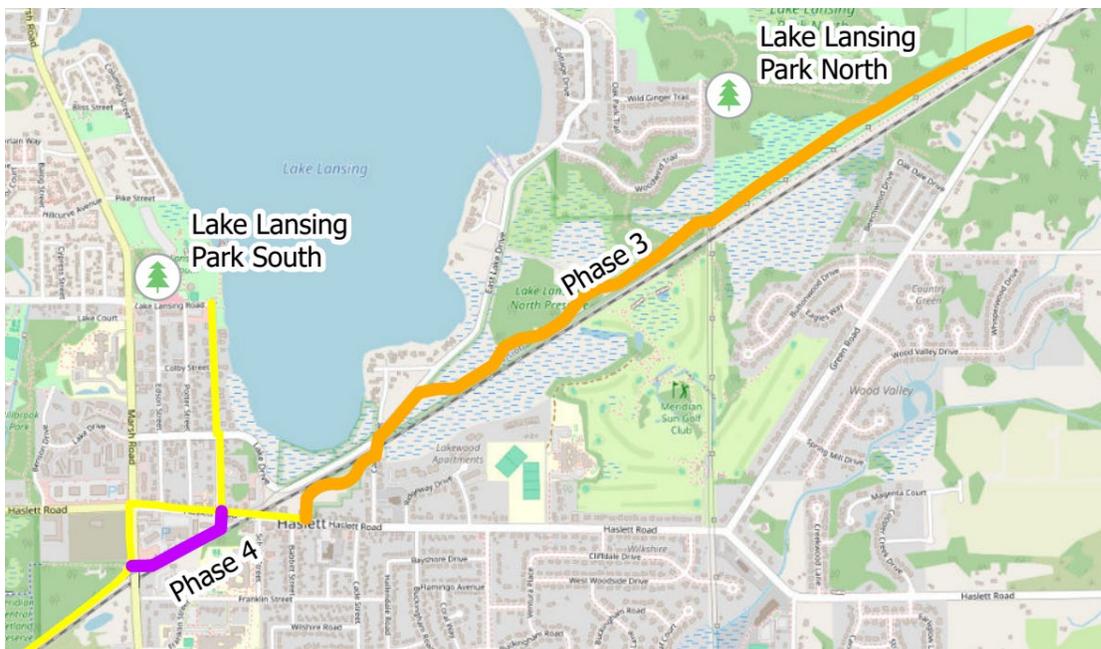
Date: January 28, 2026

Re: Pike Crossing Preserve and MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, Phase III

Township staff have been working over the past 2 years to find a viable route for Phase III of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail. The purpose of Phase III of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail is to identify and construct an off-road trail/pathway to provide connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists to Lake Lansing Park North. The MSU to Lake Lansing Trail is intended to be an off-road trail/pathway so that users do not have to worry about conflicts motorists as it relates to safety.

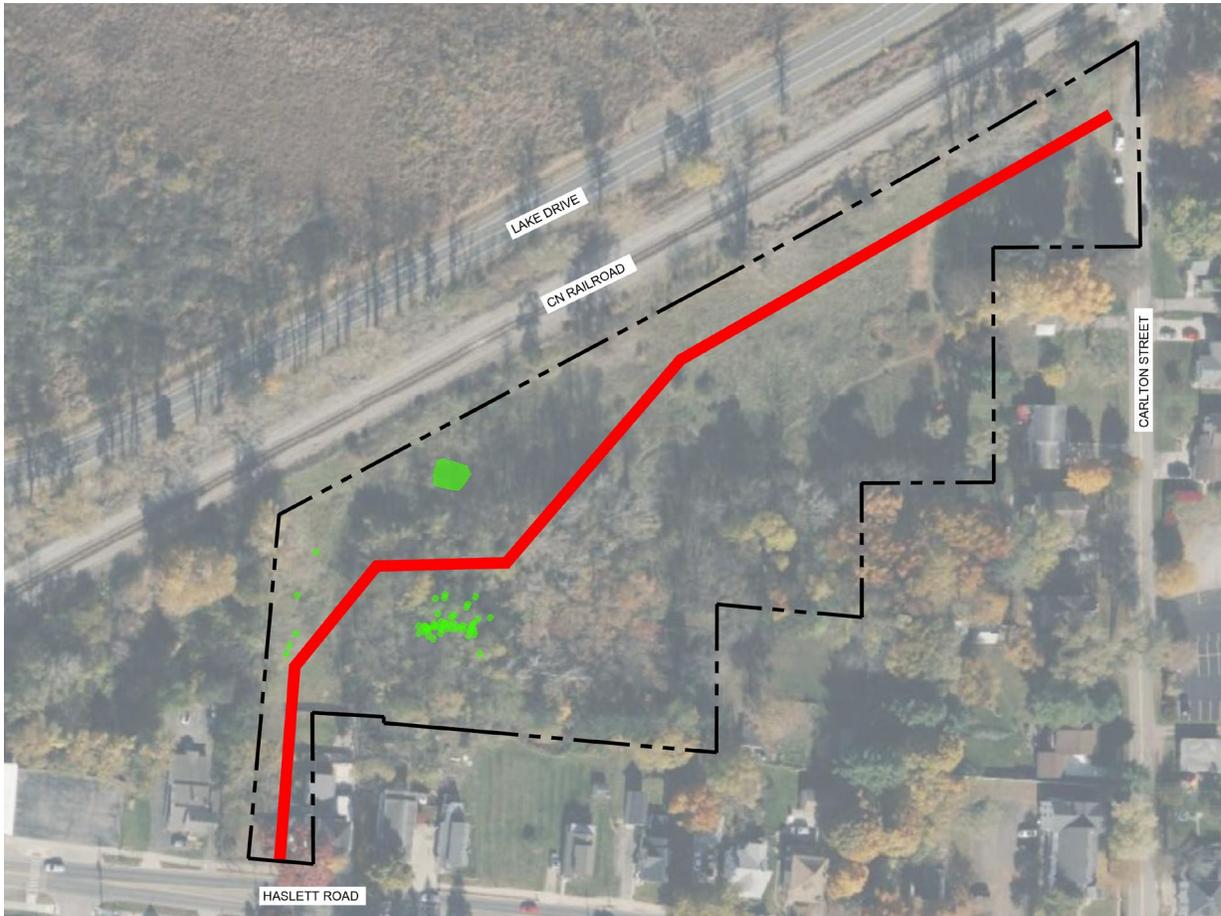
For example, a pathway that runs parallel to a primary road, such as Haslett Road, has many different curb cuts for driveways to private businesses, homes and apartments. This creates conflict points where bicyclists and pedestrians have to be vigilant about the motoring public. The purpose of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail is to minimize these conflict points with motorists to the greatest extent possible.

The only viable route we have been able to identify north of Haslett Road is to utilize the Pike Crossing Preserve property. The entire route for Phase III we have identified as being viable is shown below in orange:



Memo to Land Preservation Advisory Board
January 28, 2026
Re: Pike Crossing Preserve and MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, Phase III

In the interest of ensuring that the Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria Japonica*), which are currently found on the Pike Crossing Preserve property, do not spread further, Township staff inventoried the locations of the existing species found on the property and have developed a trail route that would avoid these areas, as shown below:



Phase III of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail will be constructed as a 10'-wide trail using both concrete and asphalt at various segments of the trail.

Under the Township's Code of Ordinances, Township staff need the Land Preservation Advisory Board's approval to construct the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail across the Pike Crossing Preserve. The specific provision in the Township's Code of Ordinances is:

§ 22-113. Installations, construction, or maintenance.

[Ord. No. 2007-15, 12-16-2007]

No installation, construction, or maintenance shall be made above or below ground, across or beneath Land Preservation property by any person, except duly authorized personnel, without the prior written permission of the land preservation advisory board through land

Memo to Land Preservation Advisory Board
January 28, 2026
Re: Pike Crossing Preserve and MSU to Lake Lansing Trail, Phase III

management personnel for such installation, construction, or maintenance specifying in detail the work to be done and any conditions to be met.

I will be in attendance at your February 11, 2026 meeting to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to speaking with you all in greater detail about this future off-road trail.

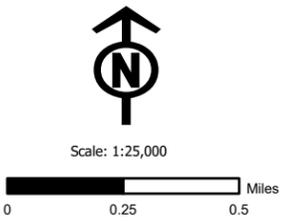
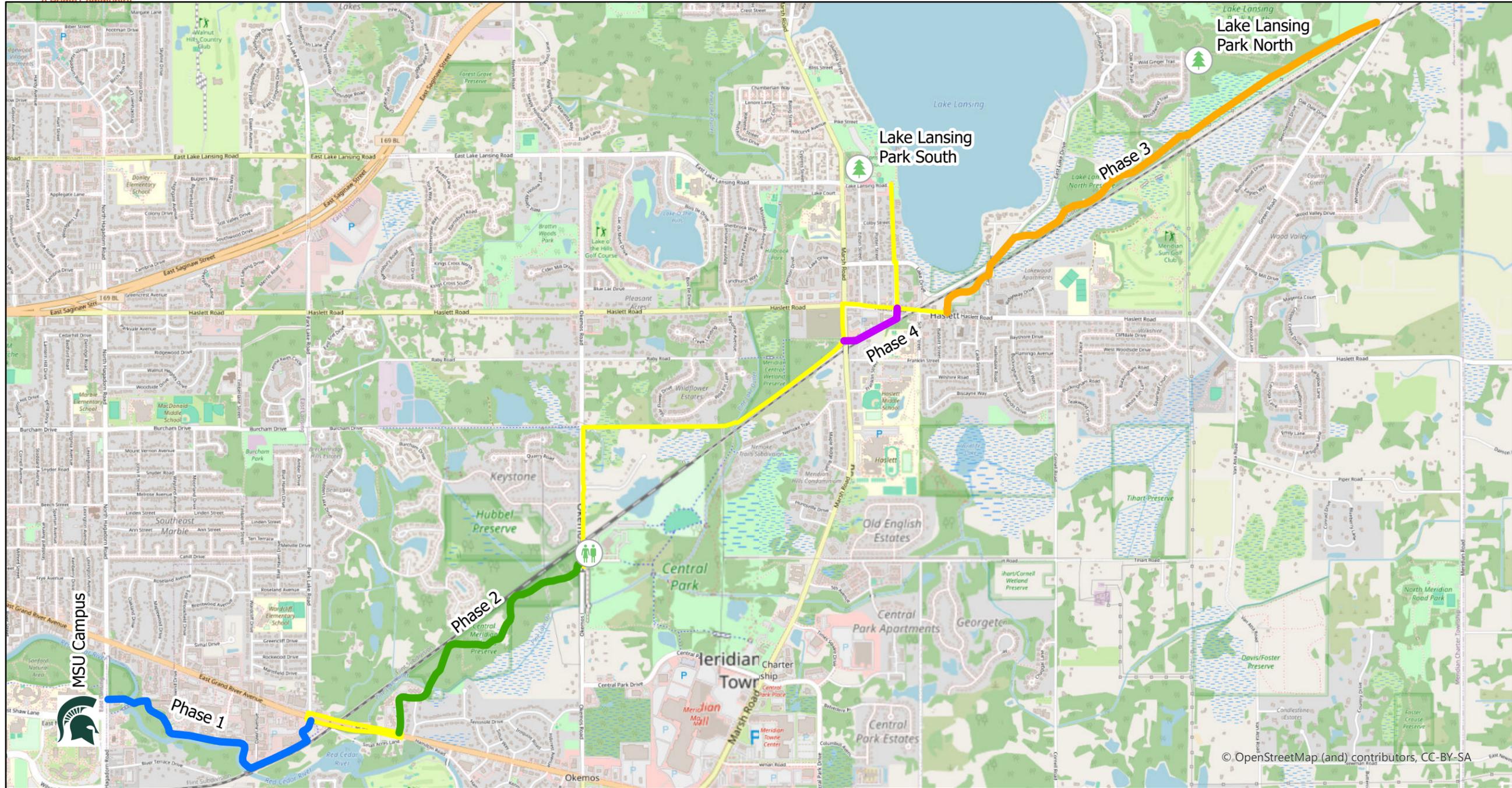
The following motion has been prepared for the Board's consideration:

MOVE TO APPROVE THE APPROVE THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE III OF THE MSU TO LAKE LANSING TRAIL ACROSS THE PIKE CROSSING LAND PRESERVE PROPERTY.

Attachment:

1. Map of the Proposed Trail Route on the Pike Crossing Preserve
2. MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Construction Schedule Map

MSU to Lake Lansing Trail Construction Schedule



Questions?
517.853.4440
dpw@meridian.mi.us
Updated: 09/15/25

G:\Engineering & Public Works\Pathways & Sidewalks



The Township applied for a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant in the spring of 2025 to help fund the design and construction of a trailhead with parking, a drinking fountain, bike repair station, seating under the canopy of the mature trees on site, and other amenities. If funding allows, the Township may also construct ADA accessible restrooms. The Township should learn if it will be awarded the grant sometime between January and March of 2026. If the Township receives the grant, we currently anticipate design and bidding for construction in 2026 with construction occurring in 2027.



Parks

Phase I: Opened to the public on December 8, 2023. 1 mile: Begins on the north side of the Hagadorn Rd/Shaw Ln intersection. Concludes at the Grand River Ave/Park Lake Rd intersection.



Phase II: Opened to the public on September 14, 2024. 1.2 miles: Begins at the northeast corner of the Grand River Ave/Campus Hill Dr intersection. Concludes on the south side of the Okemos Rd/Gaylord C Smith Ct intersection.



Phase III: Land acquisition and design began in 2024. Construction is currently expected to begin in 2026 and be completed in 2027. 1.8 miles: Begins on the north side of Haslett Rd just east of the CN railroad crossing and concludes near Green Rd in the NE corner of the Township.



Phase IV: This future phase, comprising 0.37 miles, will be constructed if land can be acquired. At this time, it does not appear that land can be acquired.



Existing trails and pathways that are a part of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail

APRIL

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STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- April 4th, Tihart Preserve, Invasive mustard pull
- April 18th, Earth Day Pull-Pizza-Pull Day!
 - 9:30 am - 12 pm | Harris Nature Center
 - 12 pm - 1:00 pm Pizza | HNC Pavilion
 - 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm | Legg Park (3900 Van Atta Road)



WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1 - 3 PM | BI-WEEKLY

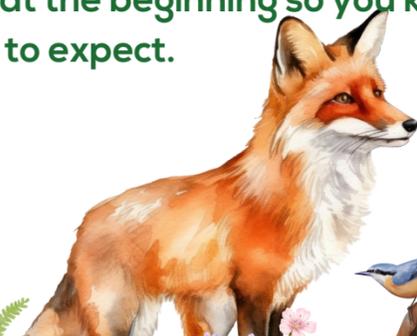
- April 9th, North Meridian Road Park, Invasive mustard pull & native plant inventory
- April 22nd, Davis Foster Preserve, Earth Day Invasive mustard pull & Trash pickup along Van Atta Road



TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | Timberdoodle Sunset Walk | Davis Foster Preserve, 5120 Van Atta Rd, Okemos | 8 - 9:15 pm

- This special hike at dusk will focus on the American Woodcock, a shorebird that lives in young forests & shrubby old fields. We will watch for its dusk courtship display, called a sky dance. We will also talk about Prescribed Burns and how these management practices help birds like this one!

- Please note, we do not ever use recorded calls on walks to lure birds in. We will listen to one quietly at the beginning so you know what sounds to expect.



STEWARDSHIP

* ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF

S M T W T F S

			1	2	3	4 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
5	6	7	8	9 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	10	11
12	13	14 TIMBERDOODLE WALK 8 - 9:15 PM	15	16	17	18 EARTHDAY PULL-PIZZA-PLANT
19	20	21	22 EARTH DAY	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

PLEASE RSVP TO EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.897.3610

MARCH

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CONSERVE



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- March 7th, Ted Black Woods Park (540 W Grand River), Invasive shrub removal & lesser celandine education!
- March 21st, Hartrick Park (3685 Hulett Rd., Okemos), Scouting & Bagging invasive mustard plants

WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1 - 3 PM

- March 12th, Marketplace on the Green (1995 Central Park Dr.), trash pickup
- March 26th, Foster Crouse Preserve (Buttercup Ln, Okemos), Invasive mustard pull & native plant inventory

TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | VERNAL EQUINOX MARCH 21ST | 2:30 PM - 4:00 PM



Vernal Pool Discovery Walk at Ponderosa Preserve

- Celebrate the spring equinox by learning about some of our smallest & most valuable wetlands; Vernal Pools! We will do some pool dipping to look for indicator species like fairy shrimp & salamanders! Wear your muck boots and get ready for some magic.



***ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
8	9	10	11	12 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM 
22	23	24	25	26 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	27	28 VPP Volunteer Monitor Field Training

PLEASE RSVP TO EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.897.3610