



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION  
TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2016  
MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER



**WORK SESSION 6 PM**

(salmon)

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Election of Officers - Discussion**
4. **Park Commission Role and Responsibility**
5. **5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update**
6. **Comments**
7. **Adjournment**

**REGULAR MEETING – 7 PM**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Presentations**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Commissioner Reports and Comments**
6. **Approval of Minutes** (blue)
  - a. October 11, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes
  - b. October 11, 2016 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
  - c. November 1, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes
7. **Communications** (tan)

*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. **New Business** (pink)
  - a. 2017 Meeting Calendar
  - b. Election of Officers for 2017
  - c. Appointment to Land Preservation Advisory Board
  - d. Set Public Hearing Date – 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan
9. **Director's Report**
10. **Other Business** (cherry)
11. **Discussion Items** (lilac)
12. **Final Comments**
13. **Announcements**
  - a. Farmers' Market – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays, 10 am-2 pm, JC Penny corridor
  - b. New Year's Eve Fireworks – December 31 at 6:45 pm
  - c. 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Kick Off Celebration at Studio C, December 31, 4-8 pm
14. **Public Comment**
15. **Closed Session**
16. **Adjournment**

Park Commission Meeting  
December 13, 2016

WORK SESSION

5. **5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan Update**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commissioners

FROM:   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: December 9, 2016

RE: 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

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The update of the plan is nearly complete. The document itself is nearly 4" thick! The public had opportunities to participate in the following ways:

22,000 postcards were mailed inviting residents to participate in the in-line survey beginning November 8-November 27 and it also invited them to attend the Public Input Open House that was held on November 21. An additional 17,000 emails were sent requesting participation. A total of 1146 people responded to the survey; 25 people attended the open house; 26-3<sup>rd</sup> graders from Bennett Woods Elementary School sent in their comments; Parks and Recreation Staff shared their needs based on current participation and identified park system weaknesses; as well as 44 farmers' market vendor responses.

Although the analysis is still underway, comments and input from the Commissioners is still needed. Attached is a summary of input received. We will discuss items you would like represented in the plan during the meeting on Tuesday.

I plan to have the first draft of analysis to you on Monday to help lead our discussion on Tuesday.

# 2017 – 2022 CIP Summary by Park

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department

## Central Park

Improvement	Cost
Restroom Buildings	\$200,000
Bridge Into Village	\$100,000
Promenade Pathway (A, C, D)	\$370,000
Covered Basketball, Ice Rink & Parking	\$500,000
Sculpture Garden	\$60,000 + Art
Overlook Shelter, Railing & Path	\$80,000
Overlook Dock	\$62,000
Pavilion & Sidewalks (Village)	\$275,000
Pavilion, Playground & Splash Pad	\$400,000
	\$2,047,000
Other Projects & Amenities in Master Plan	\$2,800,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,847,000</b>

## Harris Nature Center

Improvement	Cost
Pavilion	\$150,000
Nature Playground	\$20,000
Restroom Building near HNC	\$200,000
Parking Lot Expansion	\$60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$430,000</b>

## Hillbrook Park

Improvement	Cost
Restroom Building	\$150,000
Accessible Trails	\$40,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$190,000</b>

## Legg Park

Improvement	Cost
Pave Driveway	\$120,000
Expanded Parking	\$60,000
Habitat Improvement	\$15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>

## Marshall Park

Improvement	Cost
Accessible Playground	\$100,000
Paved Loop Trail	\$50,000
Parking Improvements	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>

## Meridian Riverfront

Improvement	Cost
Pave/Boardwalk River Trail	850,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$850,000</b>

## Nancy Moore

Improvement	Cost
Accessible Playground	\$100,000
Paved Loop Trail	\$50,000
Parking Improvements	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$195,000</b>

## Newton Road

Improvement	Cost
Playground	\$80,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>

## Ottawa Hills

Improvement	Cost
Playground	\$80,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$80,000</b>

## Wonch

Improvement	Cost
Restroom	\$250,000
Stream Bank Improvements	\$200,000
Accessible Canoe Landing	\$125,000
WiFi	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$585,000</b>

## Eastgate

Improvement	Cost
Pave Parking Lot	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>

## Towner Road

Improvement	Cost
Development	\$2,200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,200,000</b>



Meridian Township, Community Recreation Plan  
2017-2021 Update

Recreation programs and parks in Meridian Township are developed to provide our community with a sense of place and opportunities for social engagement, exercise and personal reflection. What makes our programs and facilities so special is that they are a direct reflection of your interests and your values.

The Meridian Township 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is in the process of being reviewed and updated and your input is necessary. This survey should take 8-10 minutes to complete. The results of this survey combined with upcoming public meetings will provide a blueprint for the future of parks and recreation in our community

By completing this survey, you will be entered into a drawing to win one of four \$50 gift cards to the Meridian Township business of your choice.

Thank you for your participation.

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

1. PARK AND FACILITY USAGE: Please tell us how often you used each park or facility in the past year.

	Never	1-5 Times	6-10 Times	More than 10 Times
<b>Nancy Moore Park</b> (Okemos Road and Gaylord Smith Court)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Hartrick Park</b> (Hulett Road and Jolly Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Central Park</b> (Marsh Road/Central Park/Okemos Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Central Park South</b> (Central Park Drive)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>North Meridian Road Park</b> (North Meridian Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Legg Park</b> (Van Atta Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Eastgate Park</b> (Meridian Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Harris Nature Center</b> (Van Atta Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Never	1-5 Times	6-10 Times	More than 10 Times
<b>Hillbrook Park</b> (Lake Lansing Road and Haslett Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Ferguson Park</b> (Okemos Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Wonch Park</b> (Okemos Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Towner Road Park</b> (Towner Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Marshall Park</b> (Marsh Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Ted Black Woods</b> (Grand River Avenue and Van Atta Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Ottawa Hills Park</b> (Hillcrest Avenue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Red Cedar Natural Area</b> (Oscoda Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Cedar Bend Heights Park</b> (Kenmore Drive)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Sander Farm Natural Area</b> (Dobie Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Brattin Woods Park</b> (Okemos Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Tacoma Hills Natural Area</b> (Hamilton Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Forest Hills Natural Area</b> (Northview Drive)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Schriener Park</b> (Algonquin Way)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Orlando Park</b> (Orlando Drive)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Indian Hills Park</b> (Nakoma Drive)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Newton Road Park</b> (Newton Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Snell-Towar Recreation Center</b> (Porter Avenue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Towar Park</b> (Pollard Avenue)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Never	1-5 Times	6-10 Times	More than 10 Times
<b>Meridian Historical Village</b> (in Central Park, Marsh Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Nokomis Learning Center</b> (Marsh Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Meridian Senior Center</b> (Kinawa Road)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Farmers' Market</b> (in Central Park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Land Preserves</b>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you do not use our park facilities, please share why?

**2. PARK MAINTENANCE:** In reference to the above listed parks, please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement below.

	Agree	Disagree	N/A
Mowing schedules are adequate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trash containers are emptied frequently	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Restroom facilities are clean and sanitary	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor facilities are properly maintained	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adequate parking areas are provided	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails are well maintained	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trail signage provides clear direction	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harris Nature Center Building is clean, and well maintained	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

3. RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION: In the past 12 months have you or other members of your household participated in any of the following programs or activities sponsored by Meridian Township?:

	Yes	No
Youth Sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adult Sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harris Nature Center Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meridian Historical Village Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Meridian Senior Center Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Farmers' Market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nokomis Learning Center Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteered at a Township Park or Event	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Special Events / Festivals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Classes or Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please share programs or events you would like to see offered:

4. Please select the activities you enjoy while using our parks. (Please select all that apply).

- Walking/Hiking
- Jogging/Running
- Baseball, Softball, Kickball
- Soccer
- Football
- Basketball
- Golf
- Lacrosse
- Racquet Sports (Tennis, Pickleball, Racquetball)
- Ice Skating Sports (Hockey, Ice Skating)

- Swimming
- Fitness/Wellness Programs (Aerobics, Yoga)
- Skateboarding
- Biking (Paved trails or street)
- Mountain Biking
- Picnicking in the Parks
- Playing on the playgrounds in the park
- Frisbee/Disc Golf
- Dog Walking
- Kayaking/Canoeing
- Volleyball
- Sledding/Tobogganing
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Horseback Riding
- Nature Observation
- Visiting the Farmers' Market
- Nature Center Events/Classes/Camps
- Studio Arts (Painting, Sculpting, Drawing)
- Performing Arts
- Attending festivals or special events
- Visiting Museums, Historic Sites or Exhibits
- Community Service or Volunteering
- Cross Country Skiing
- Eating Lunch
- Other (please specify)

5. INFORMATION: Please indicate all sources that you have used to search for information about events, programs, or activities in Meridian Township. (Please select all that apply)

- Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide
- Meridian Township Website (www.meridian.mi.us)
- Meridian Township Newsletters
- Calling Parks and Recreation Office or Harris Nature Center
- Email
- Social media (Facebook/Twitter)
- Flyers to schools
- HOMTV (channel 21)
- Signs or banners
- Newspaper
- Word-of-mouth (friends, family)
- Meridian Senior Center Newsletter
- Farmers' Market Newsletter
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

6. CUSTOMER SERVICE: How would you rate the following services?

	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
Customer service	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Park pavilion reservations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Program registration process	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Responsiveness	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Language/Communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interactions with Parks and Recreation Department Staff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments:

7. POTENTIAL PARK PROJECTS: Select the recreation amenities or facilities you would like to see improved or added in township parks.

- Neighborhood Parks
- New Farmers' Market Facility
- Wi-Fi in parks
- Indoor Basketball Facility
- Recreation Center
- Playgrounds
- River Access Areas
- Restroom Buildings
- Dog Park
- Splash Pad
- Pickleball Courts
- Picnic Pavilions
- Outdoor Fitness Equipment
- Ice Rink
- Baseball/Softball Fields
- Soccer/Lacrosse/Football Fields
- Cricket Fields
- Trail Signage
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Disc Golf Course
- Outdoor Performance Area
- Paved Trails
- Skate Park
- Art/Sculptures
- List other amenities that would interest you

8. KEY ISSUES: Please respond to the following questions:

	Yes	No	N/A
The current Farmers' Market facility effectively meets my needs.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would support relocating the Farmer's Market to a nearby location	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
There is a need to reduce the deer population in my community.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. VALUES STATEMENTS: Please respond to the statements describing you or members of your household.

	Yes	No	Neutral
I feel comfortable and accepted when participating in a program or activity in Meridian Township	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am satisfied with my level of fitness and health.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am proud to tell others where I live.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I enjoy volunteering through the Parks and Recreation Department	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. OVERALL SATISFACTION: How satisfied are you with the Meridian Township parks and facilities?

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
Maintenance of parks	<input type="radio"/>				
Amenities available in parks	<input type="radio"/>				
Feeling safe in parks	<input type="radio"/>				
Handicap accessibility of parks	<input type="radio"/>				
Proximity of park locations to your home	<input type="radio"/>				
Non-motorized access to parks from neighborhoods	<input type="radio"/>				
Special events and festivals	<input type="radio"/>				
Recreation programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Harris Nature Center Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Meridian Senior Center Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Meridian Farmers' Market facility	<input type="radio"/>				
Meridian Historical Village Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Nokomis Learning Center Programs	<input type="radio"/>				

11. What Ethnicity / Race do you identify with?

- Hispanic or Latino
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Arab / Middle Eastern
- White
- African American
- American Indian
- Identified by two or more
- Other

12. I feel that Meridian Township parks and programs adequately address the cultural diversity of our community.

Yes

No

Comments (please specify)

13. Please select the ages that describe you and other members of your household. (Please select all that apply)

Ages under 5

Ages 5-12

Ages 13- 17

Ages 18-24

Ages 25-30

Ages 31-39

Ages 40-49

Ages 50-59

Ages 60-69

Ages 70 and older

14. Do you or any of the members of your household have a disability?

Yes

No

What could be done to better accommodate you in the township parks and with programming?

UNIVERSAL ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD: Creating meaningful opportunities for persons of all abilities is a priority of the Parks and Recreation Department. To improve accessibility and experiences for persons with special needs, we have created a Universal Access Advisory Board to review and advise us on programs, park development and renovation planning. To join, contact the Parks and Recreation office at 517-853-4600 or [maisner@meridian.mi.us](mailto:maisner@meridian.mi.us)

15. What is your zip code?

- 48823
- 48840
- 48864
- 48895
- Other (please specify)

16. What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?

17. I'm interested in learning about volunteer opportunities in my community.

- Yes
- No

18. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

19. If you would like to be entered into a drawing to win one of four \$50 gift certificates for a Meridian Township business of your choice, please enter your contact information. Again, your responses will be kept confidential and at no time will your name be identified with results.

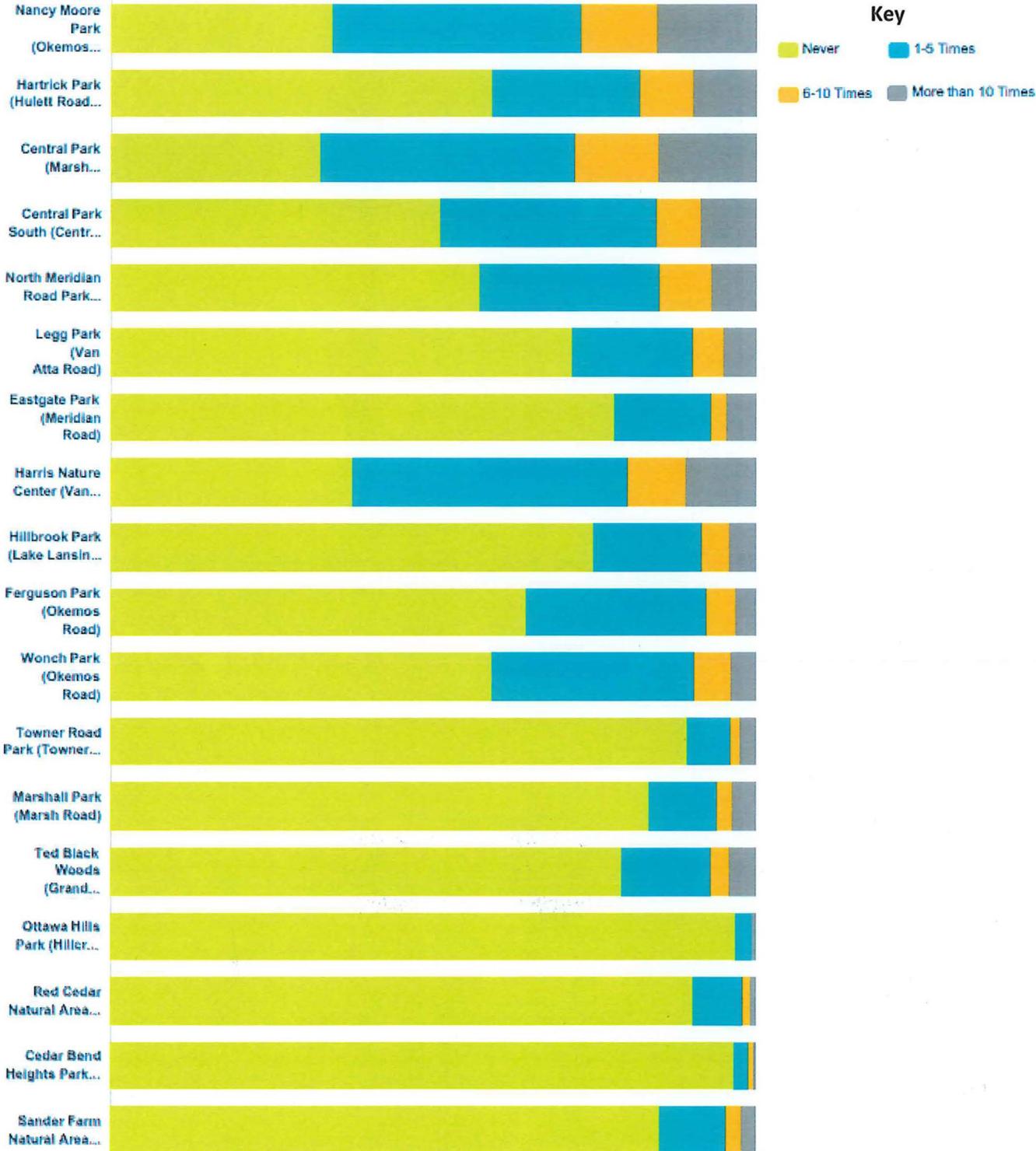
Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
City/Town	<input type="text"/>
State	<input type="text"/>
Zip Code	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Phone	<input type="text"/>

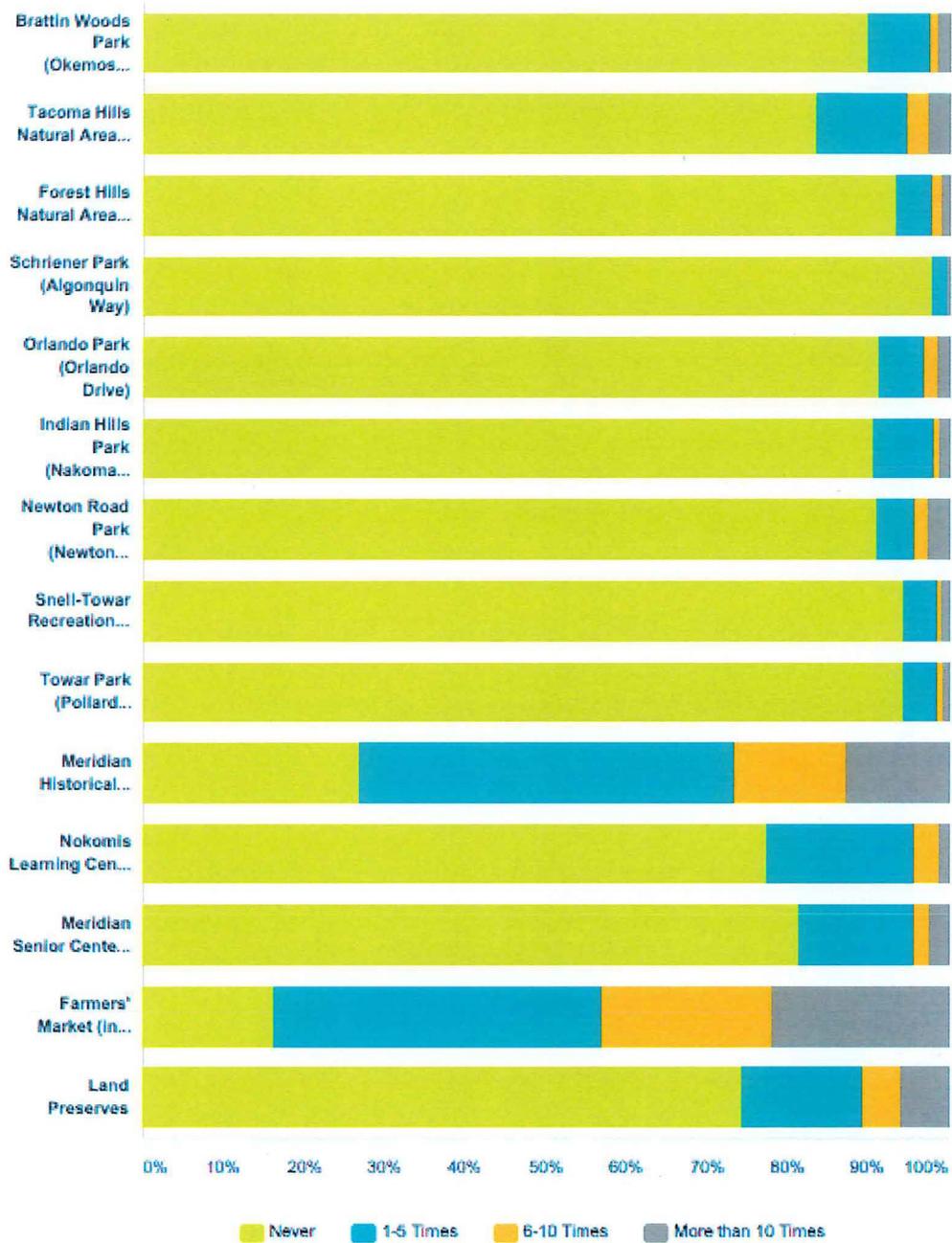
Thank you for completing this survey! Please join us on Monday, November 21st for our Public Input Open House at the Meridian Service Center/Parks and Recreation Office from 1:00pm - 5:30 pm and 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

**Appendix: Charter Township of Meridian- Parks and Recreation Survey**

**Question 1: Park and Facility Usage:** Please tell us how often you used each park or facility in the past year.

(Answered: 1,144 Skipped: 2)

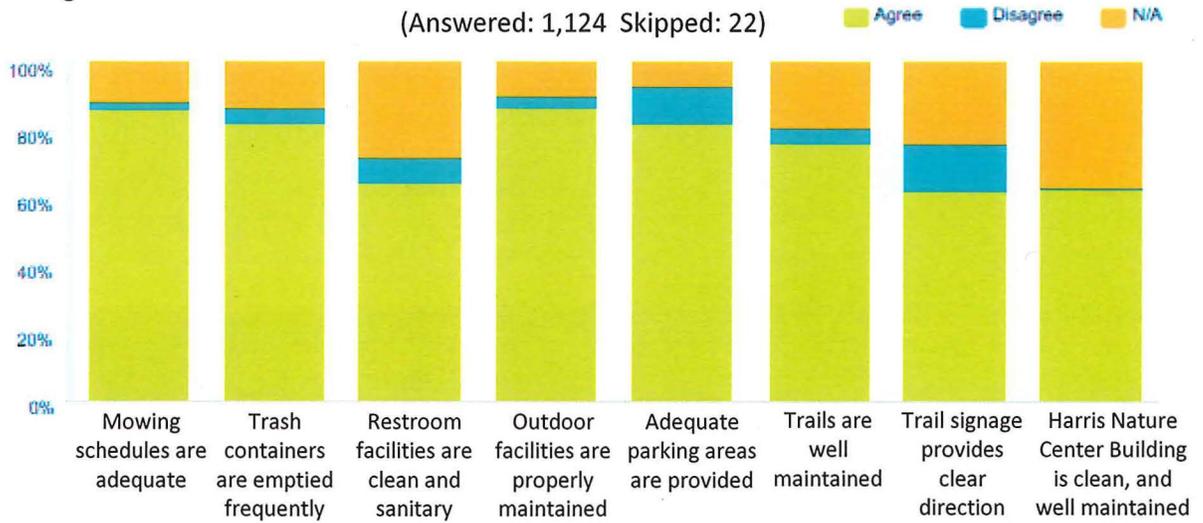




The top parks, based on frequency of visits, remained the same from 2010. The most visited parks are Central Park (Nancy Moore Park, Meridian Historical Village and the Farmers' Market) and Harris Nature Center. The lowest frequently visited parks are Schriener Park, Cedar Bend Heritage Park, and Ottawa Hills Park. Some of the low attendance parks or underutilized parks could be evaluate to see what park improvements/features could be added to make them more utilized.

**Question 2: PARK MAINTENANCE:** In reference to the above listed parks, please indicate if you agree or disagree with each statement below.

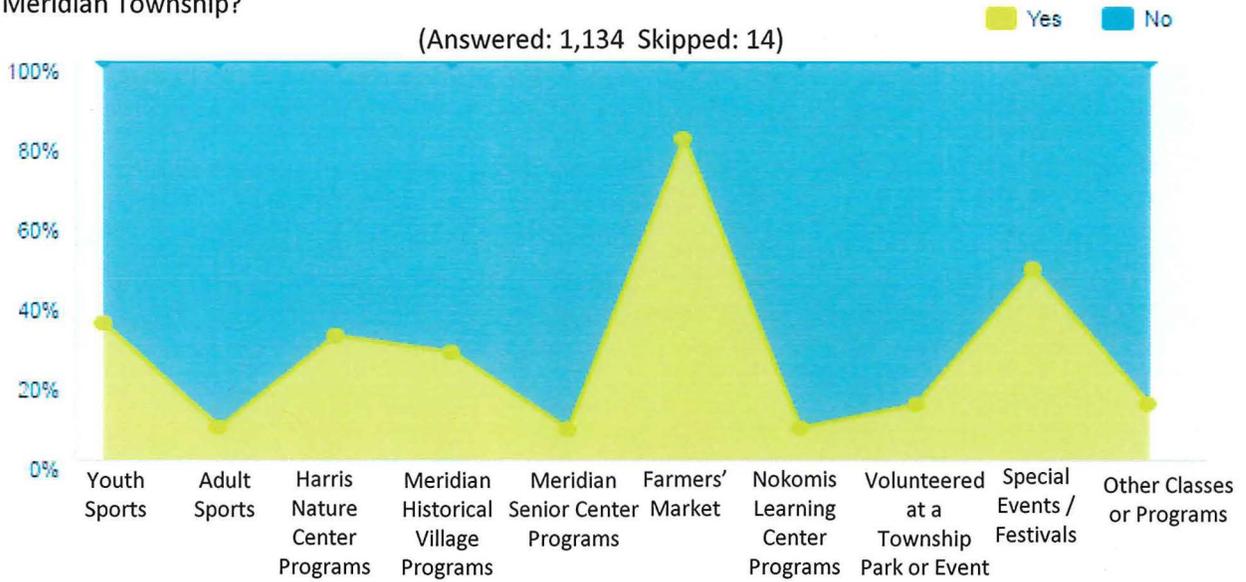
(Answered: 1,124 Skipped: 22)



Between 70-90% of respondents were satisfied with park maintenance, with the most needs identified for parking, restrooms, and trail signage; consistent with 2010 input. The township could look into additional parking areas such as utilizing green parking pavers to keep drainage issues low maintaining a natural aesthetic, but allow more adequate parking areas. The township could look into developing a way finding park system for the trails to increase signage and awareness of what else is nearby.

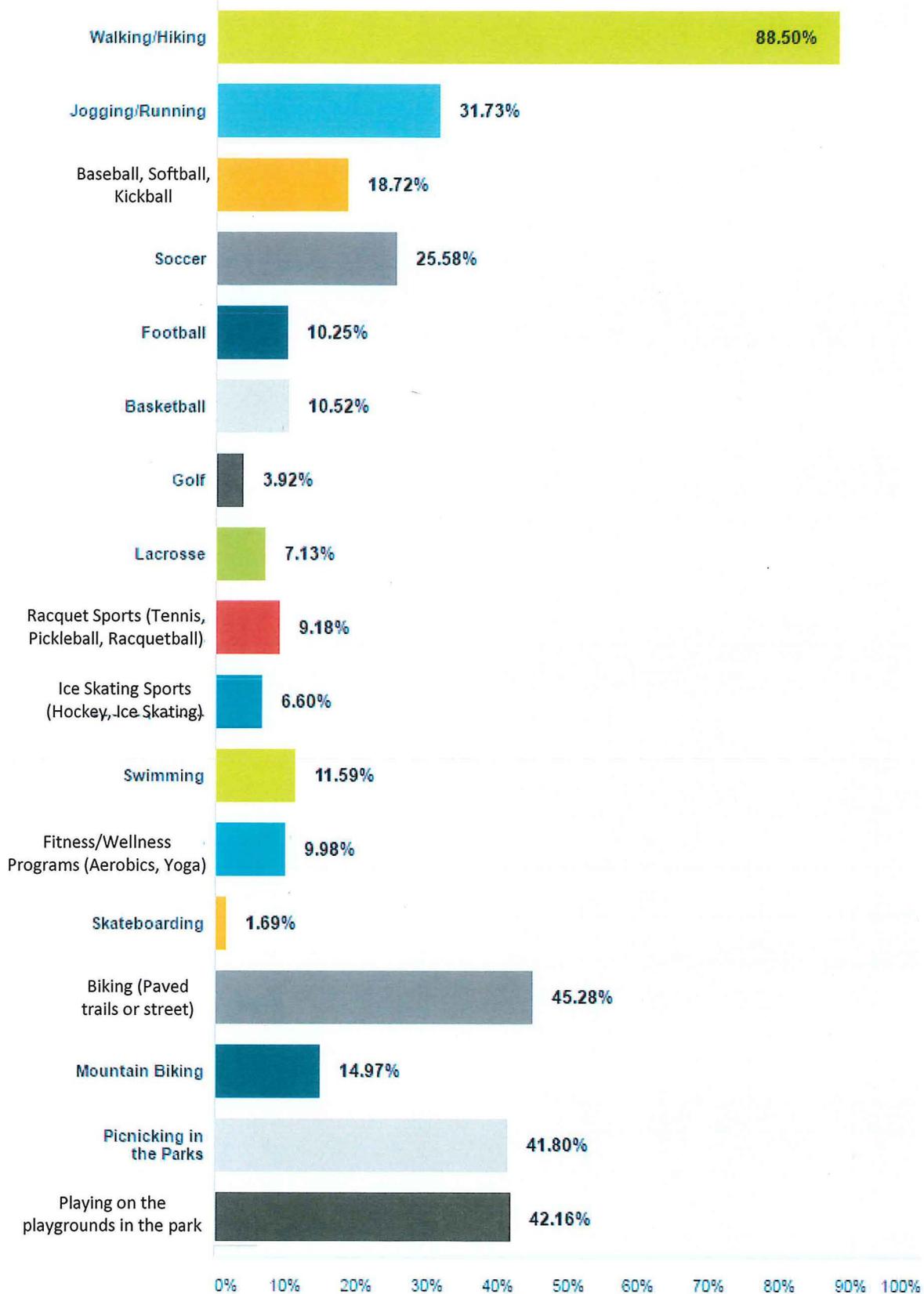
**Question 3: RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPATION:** In the past 12 months have you or other members of your household participated in any of the following programs or activities sponsored by Meridian Township?

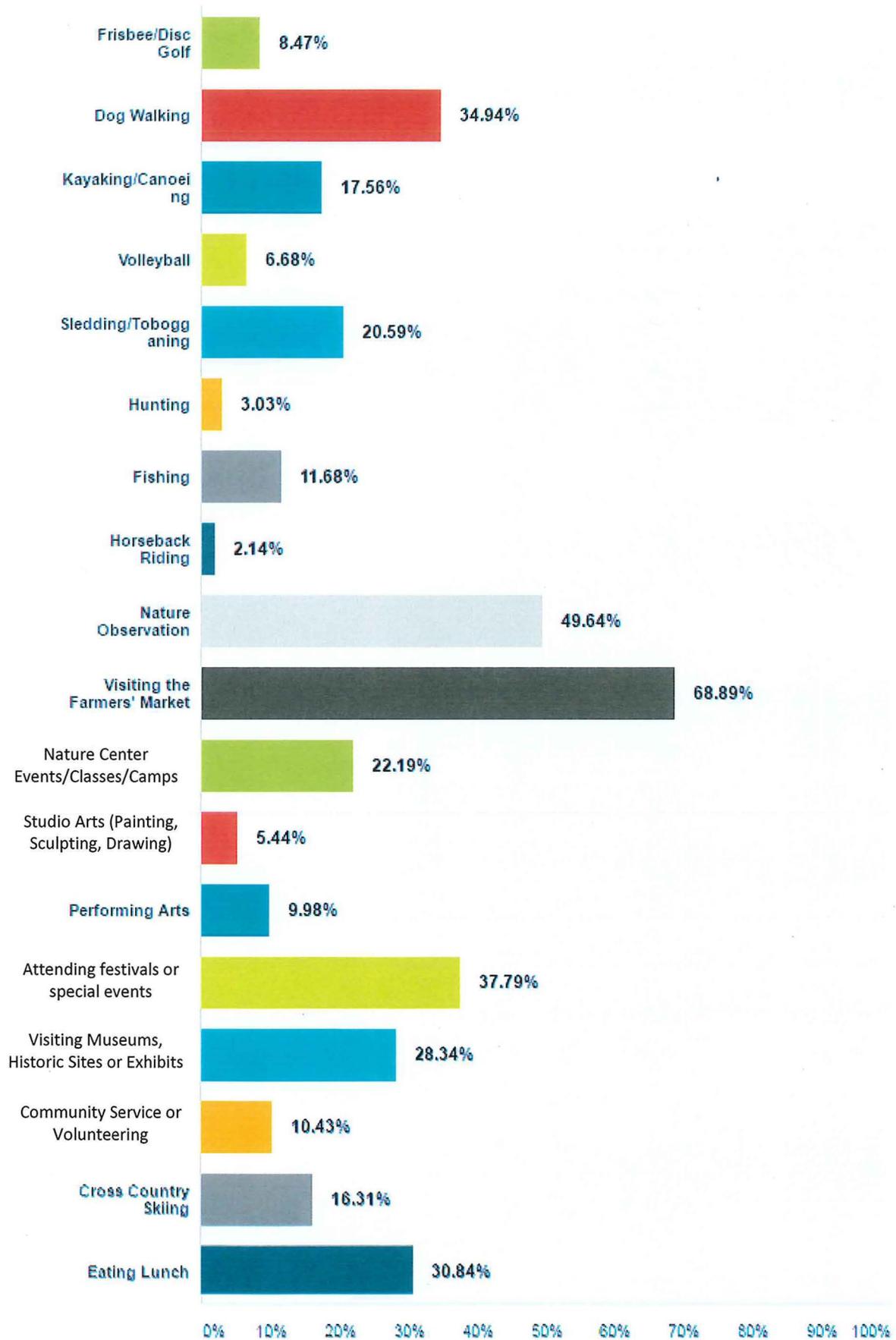
(Answered: 1,134 Skipped: 14)



About 80% of survey responses said their family had visited the Farmers' Market within the past year. The three lowest attended programs are adult sports, Meridian Senior Center Programs, and Nokomis Learning Center Programs. The township could look into if accessibility, knowledge, or interest in the programs or other potential reasons are why these are low attendance programs. The township should determine if they would like to cut underutilized programs or how to make those programs more successful or attended.

**Question 4:** Please select the activities you enjoy while using our parks. (Please select all that apply).  
 (Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 26)



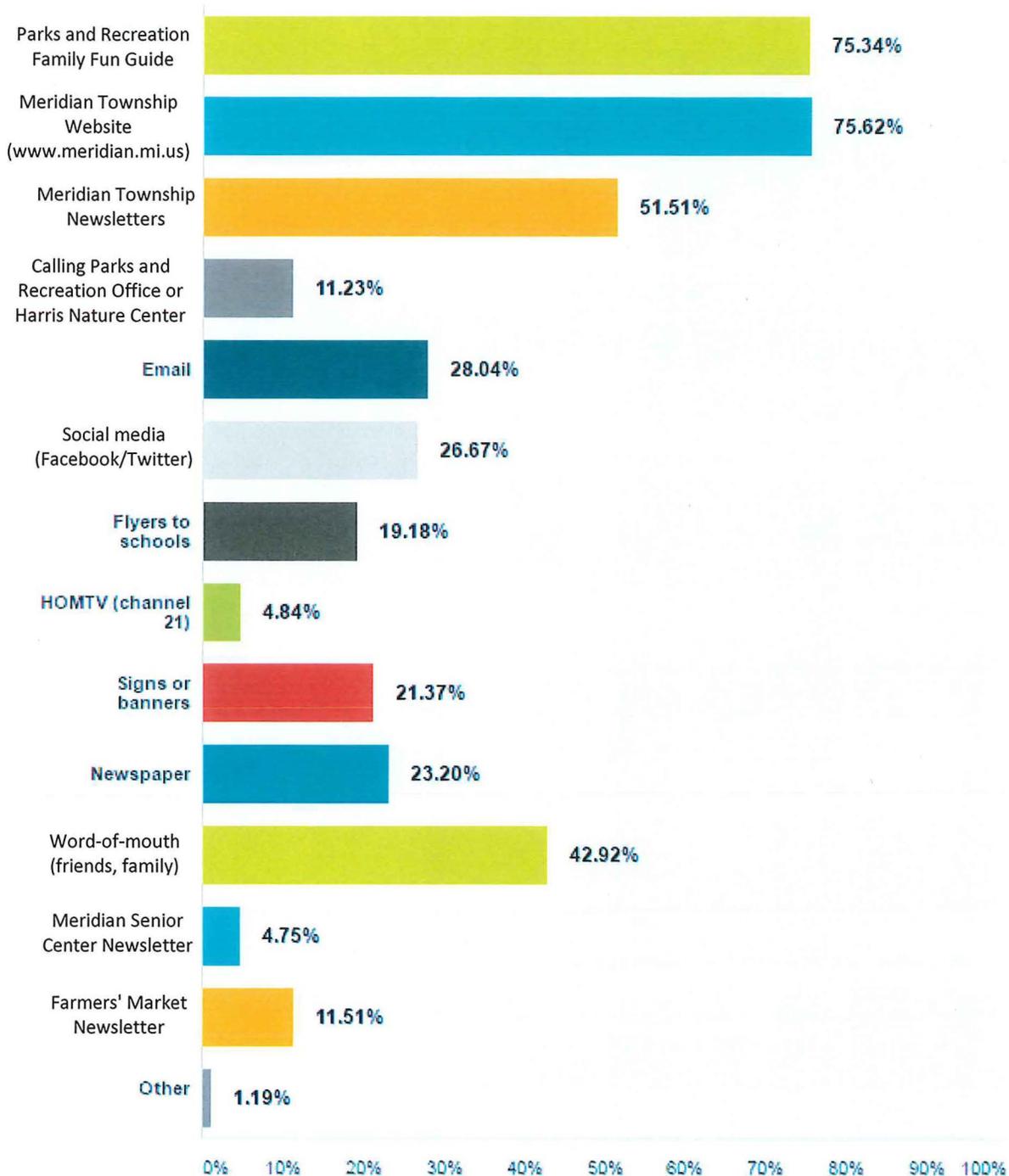


Other (please specify) 6.24%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

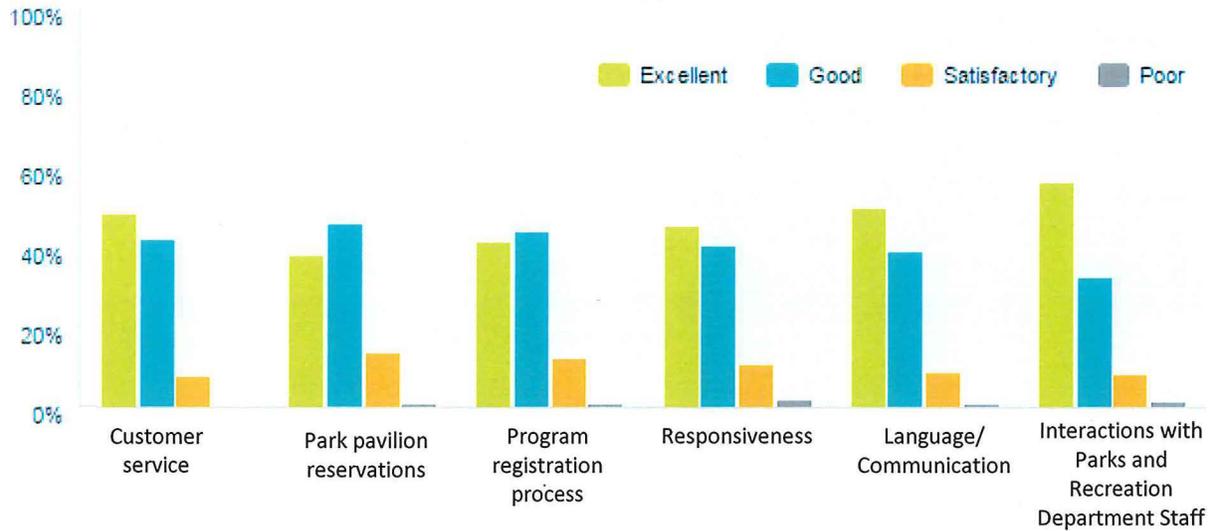
Residents overwhelmingly enjoy walking and hiking (88%). Other top activities (more than 40%) include biking, use of playgrounds, nature observation, visiting the Farmers' Market, and picnicking. The township may want to see if these popular activities could be expanded or built upon. There could be the increase in walking, biking, hiking trails, new playground equipment, etc.

**Question 5: INFORMATION:** Please indicate all sources that you have used to search for information about events, programs, or activities in Meridian Township. (Please select all that apply)  
 (Answered: 1,096 Skipped: 53)



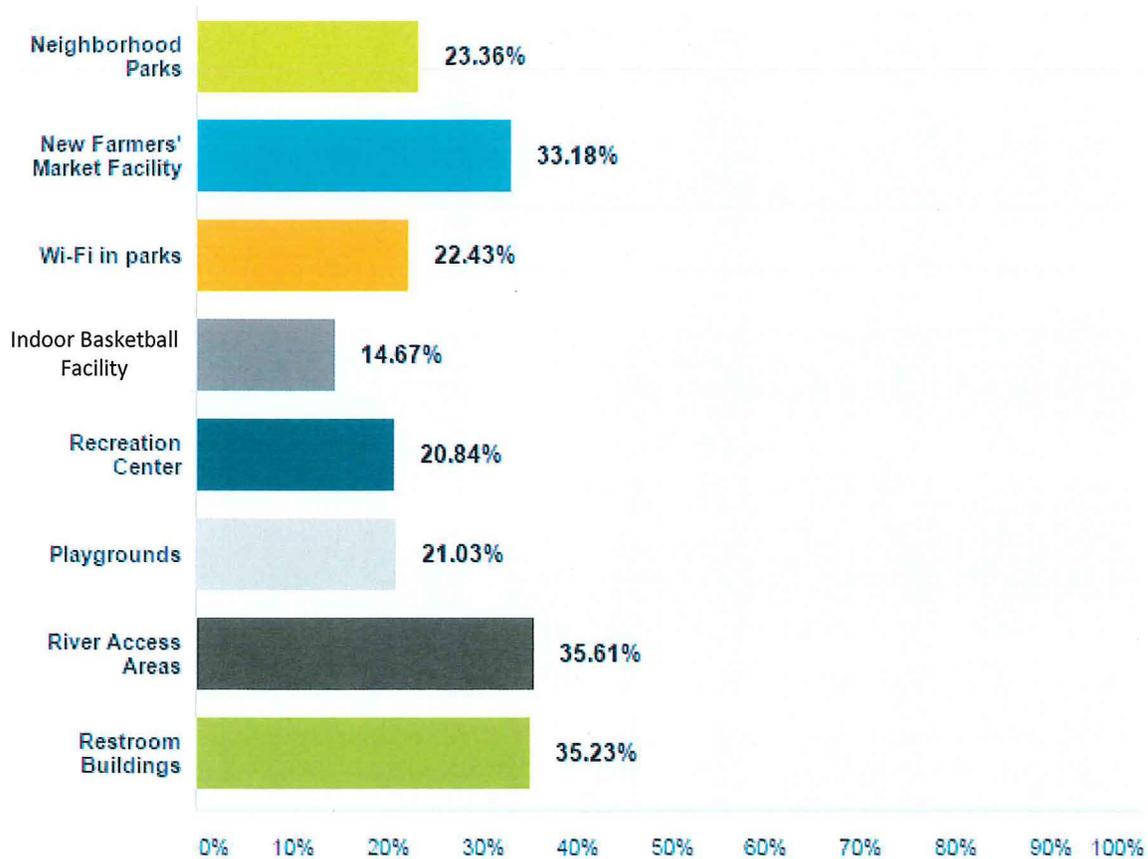
About 75% of respondents used the township website and Family Fun Guide as their source of information for events, programs, and activities; only 26% rely on social media. The township appears to be providing a wide variety of ways to get information about the Parks and Recreation, with multiple sources being used for information.

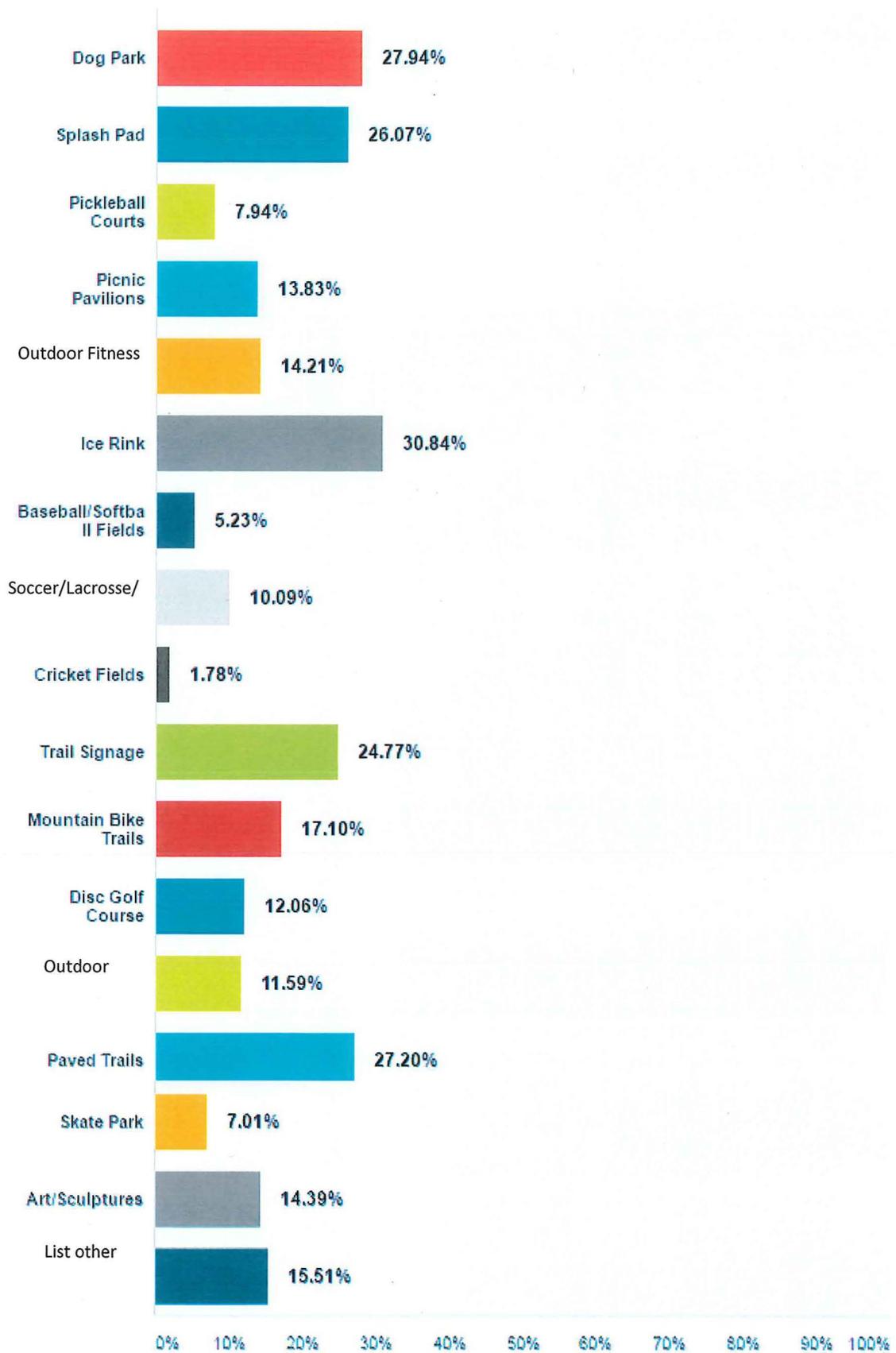
**Question 6: CUSTOMER SERVICE: How would you rate the following services?**  
 (Answered: 898 Skipped: 250)



Most responses listed customer service as good or excellent. The township has received high marks for customer service, language/communication, and interaction with parks and recreation department staff. By having these as top qualities it is more likely individuals will continue to be engaged with the parks and recreation system.

**Question 7: POTENTIAL PARK PROJECTS: Select the recreation amenities or facilities you would like to see improved or added in township parks.**  
 (Answered: 1,070 Skipped: 78)

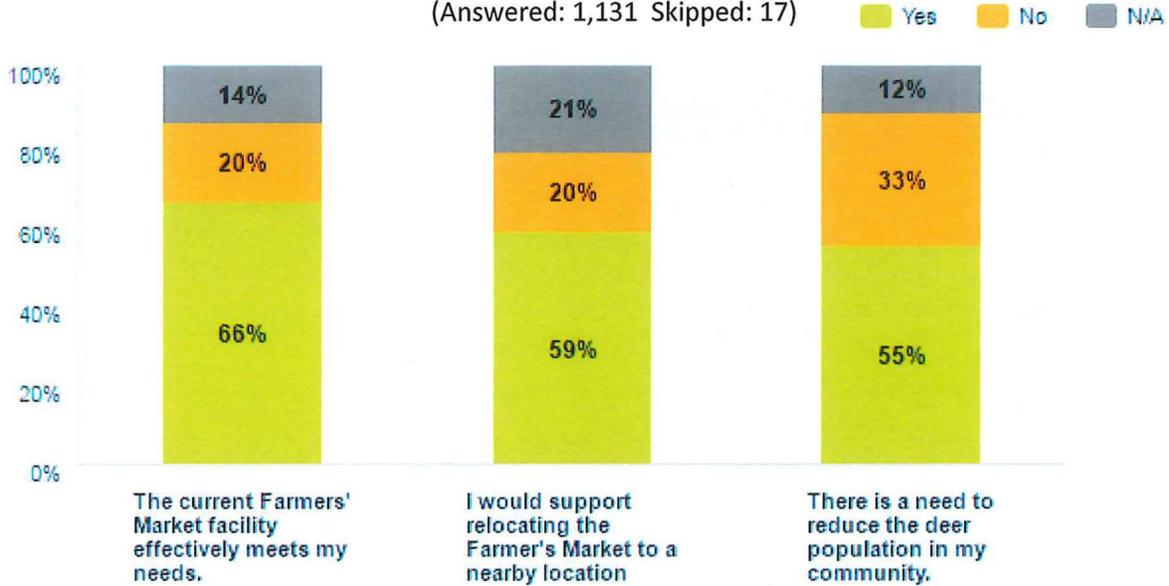




The top recreation amenities or facilities that respondents indicated were: above 30% indicated river

access areas, restroom buildings, ice rink, and New Farmers' Market Facility. The township can look into creating more river access areas, more restroom buildings in various parks, add an ice rink feature in one of the underutilized parks, and look or build a new Farmers' Market Facility in Center Park or elsewhere. All of these suggestions could be put into a capital improvement plan ranking them on cost feasibility, location available within parks, and maintenance.

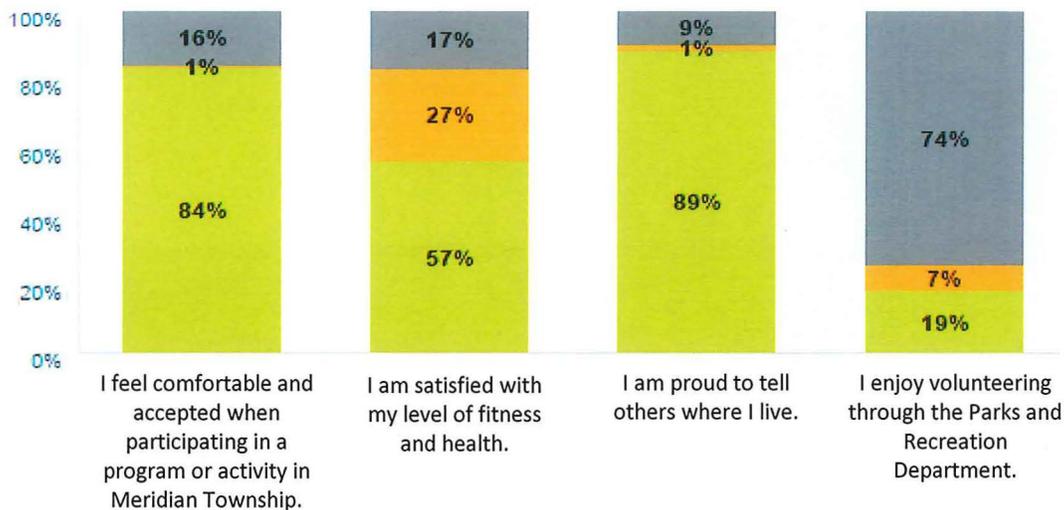
**Question 8: KEY ISSUES:** Please respond to the following questions:  
 (Answered: 1,131 Skipped: 17)



The current Farmers' Market facility has a 66% consensus of respondents that the facility effectively meets their needs; however, over half of the respondents were in support of relocating the Farmers' Market. Respondents that indicated the facility is effective could also be pertaining to the amount of vendors, goods, etc. as the Farmers' Market is now, but not including the potential growth of the market. Most people are still in favor of the location changing. Reducing the deer population in the community was over half of the respondents had a concern with. The township should continue to do strategies to reduce the deer population until the desired consensus is reached.

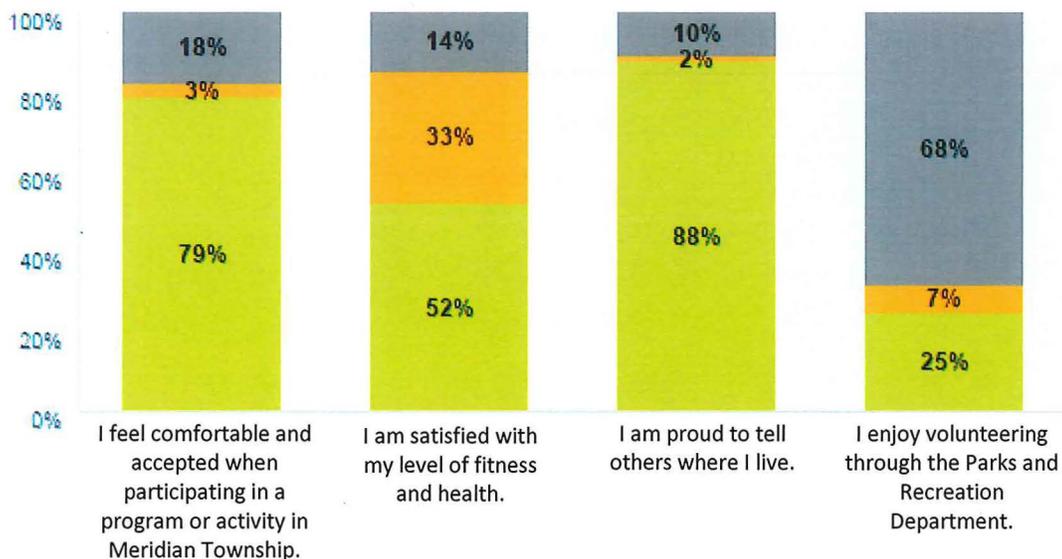
**Question 9: VALUES STATEMENTS:** Please respond to the statements describing you or members of your household.

(Answered: 1,127 Skipped: 21) ■ Yes ■ No ■ Neutral



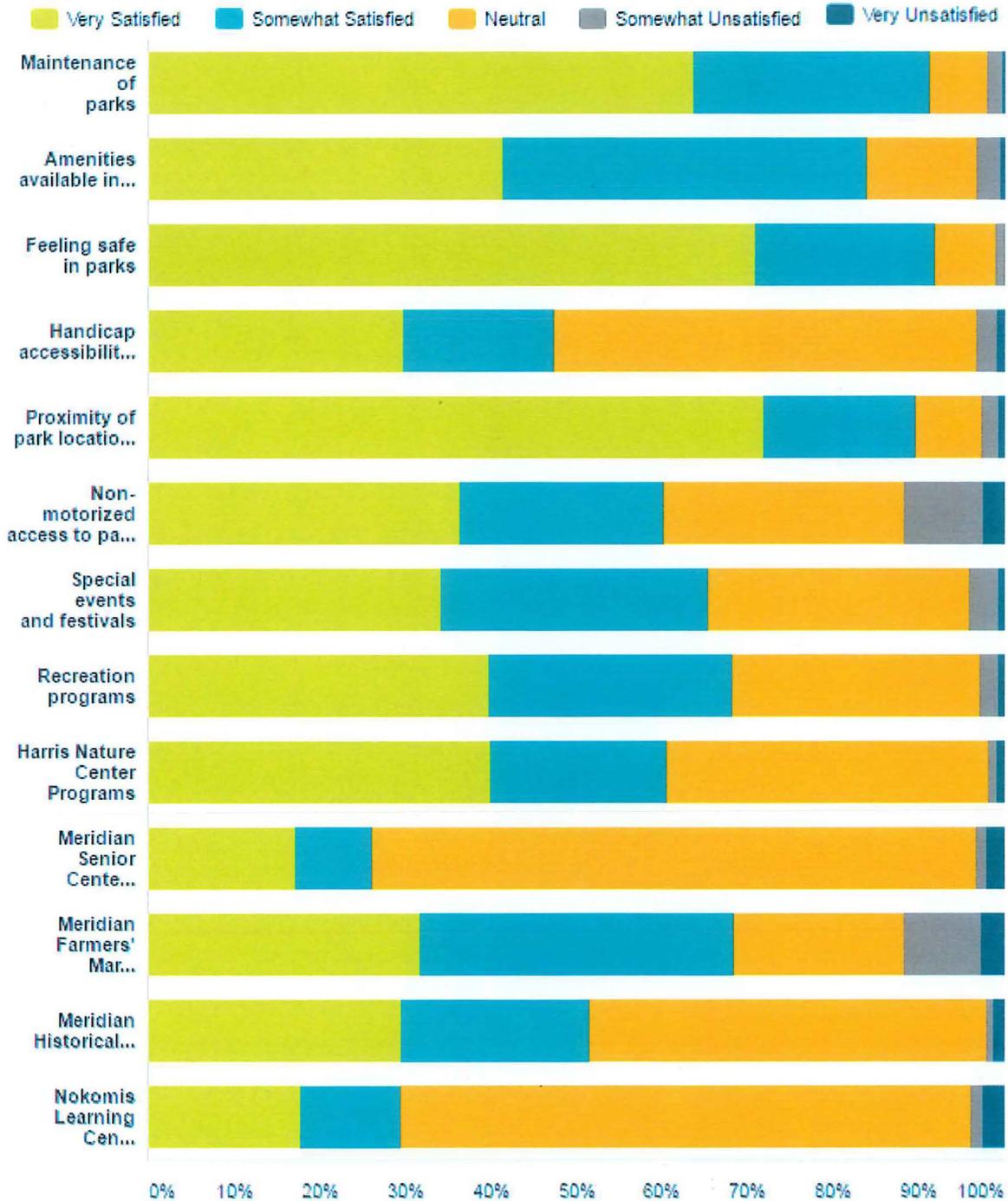
Over 80% of respondents agreed they feel comfortable and accepted when participating in program or activities in the township and proud to tell others where they live. Those who are able to feel comfortable and accepted are more likely to continue participation in programs and activities. Having pride of being part of community can result in more engagement as well as ownership of different elements within the township. There is a large majority of respondents that were neutral about volunteering through the parks and recreation department, perhaps because they have not volunteered. There are more individuals that had a positive experience over negative which helps retain them as helpers.

Below is the same question, but filtered to only include those who identify as non-white. There is a slightly lower percent (5%) of individuals that felt comfortable and accepted in programs and activities. However, the majority of the non-white respondents feel comfortable and accepted.



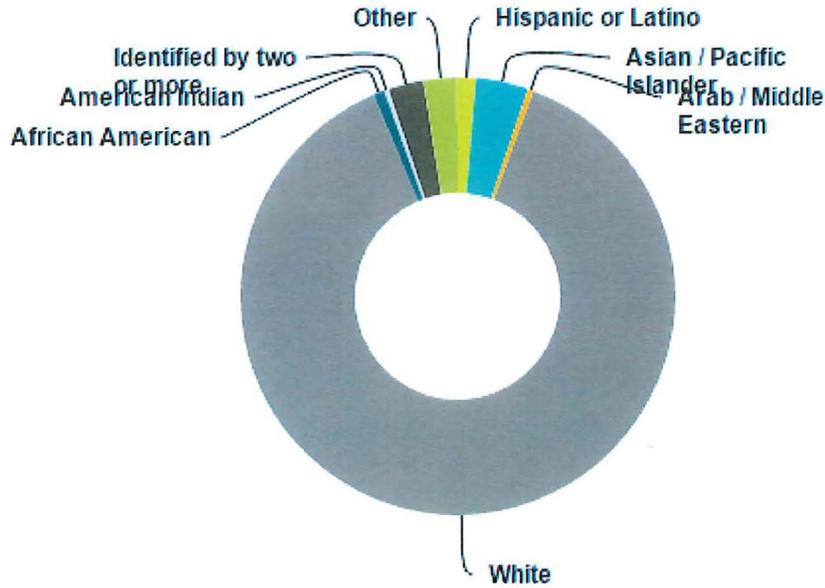
**Question 10: OVERALL SATISFACTION: How satisfied are you with the Meridian Township parks and facilities?**

(Answered: 1,110 Skipped: 38)



Categories that received top ratings include location of parks to their home, feeling safe in the park, maintenance of parks, and amenities available in parks.

**Question 11:** What Ethnicity / Race do you identify with?  
 (Answered: 1,105 Skipped: 43)

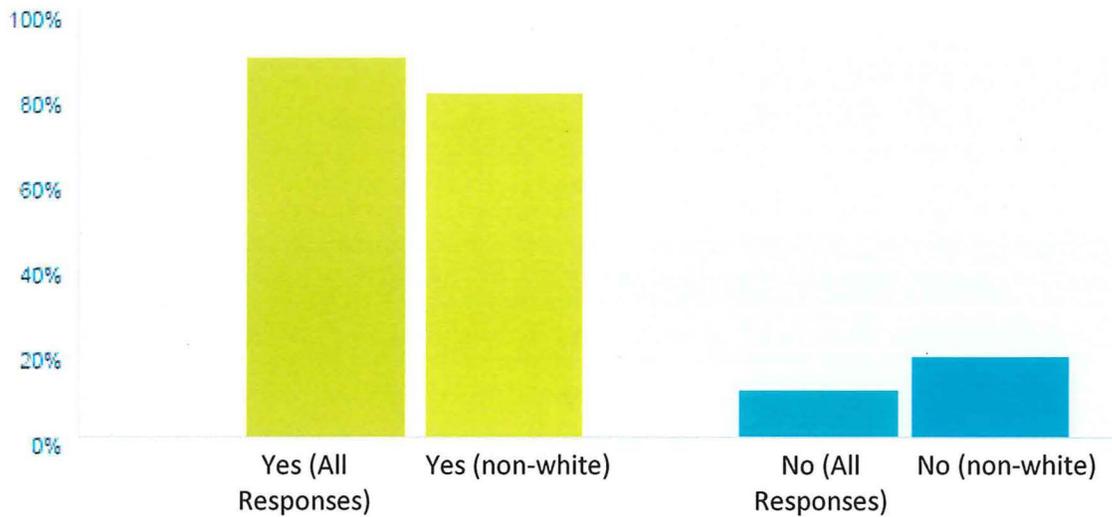


Answer Choices	Responses
Hispanic or Latino	1% 15
Asian / Pacific Islander	4% 43
Arab / Middle Eastern	0% 5
White	88% 972
African American	1% 9
American Indian	0% 4
Identified by two or more	3% 29
Other	3% 28
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,105</b>

The majority of the respondents were white about 88%. There is some diversity of the respondents including Hispanic or Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, African American, two or more races, and other.

**Question 12:** I feel that Meridian Township parks and programs adequately address the cultural diversity of our community.

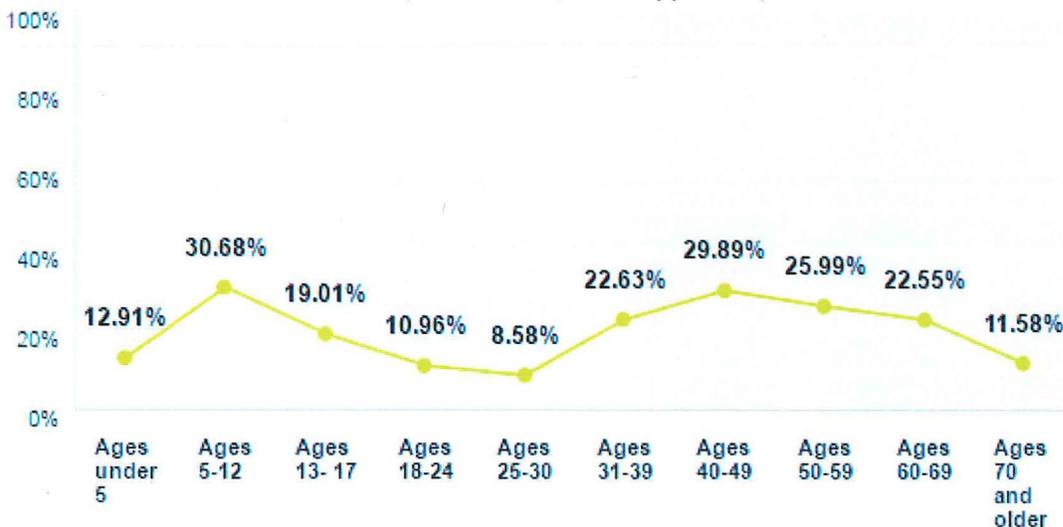
(Answered: 973 Skipped: 175)



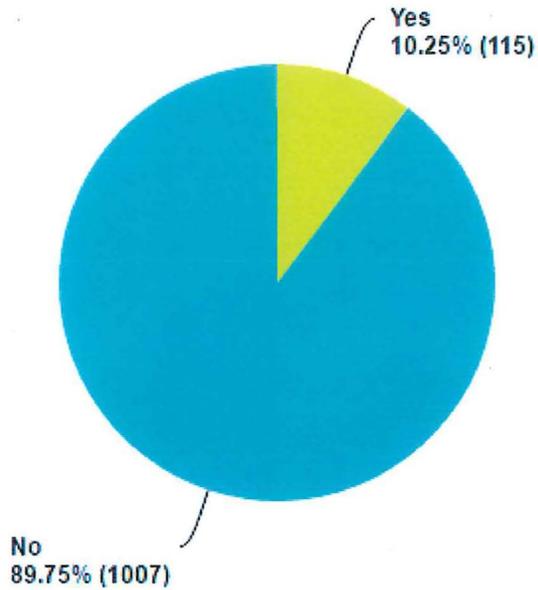
A majority of the respondents feel the parks and programs adequately address the cultural diversity of the community. Shown in the brighter colors, are the responses from those that did not identify as white. Within this group there was still a high amount of satisfaction. The township could work on developing partnerships with churches or other organizations to help develop or team up with programs that represent a larger variety of the cultural diversity in the community.

**Question 13:** Please select the ages that describe you and other members of your household. (Please select all that apply)

(Answered: 1,131 Skipped: 17)



The largest proportion of respondents' households have members that are children are between the ages of 5-12 years and are between 40-69 years old. The lack of senior citizens (60 and older) do not represent a large portion of the respondents, which may be while the senior center has high neutral rankings because respondents do not yet utilize the program.



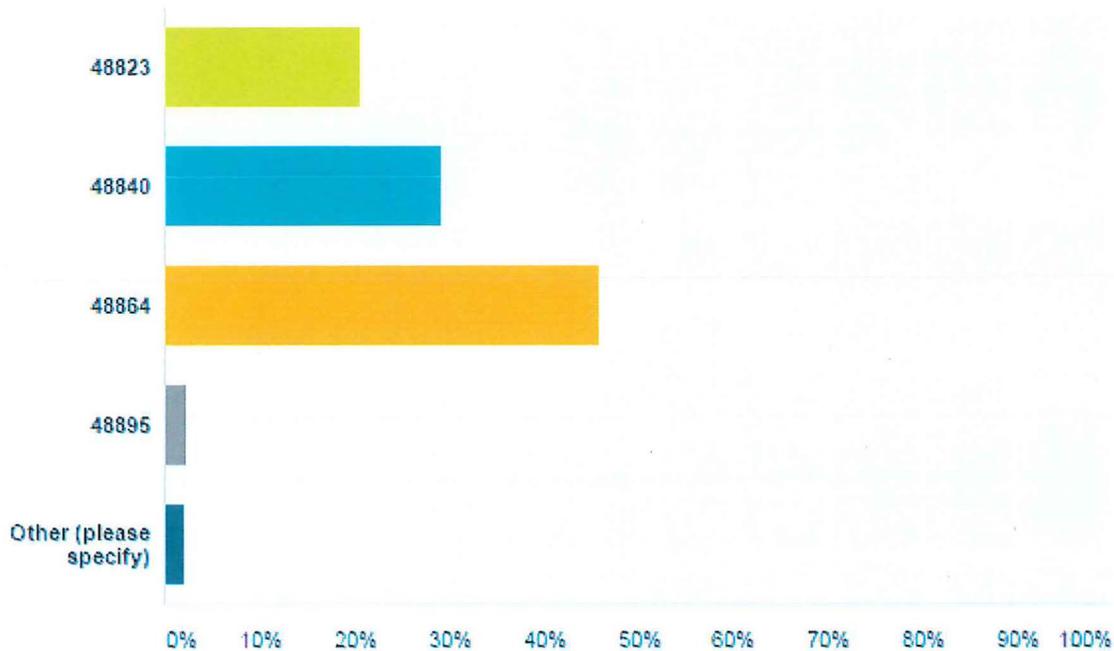
**Question 14:** Do you or any of the members of your household have a disability?

(Answered: 1,122 Skipped: 26)

The majority of respondents do not have a member of their household with a disability.

**Question 15:** What is your zip code?

(Answered: 1,133 Skipped: 15)



The majority of the respondents are from the Okemos zip code (48864) is 45%; with 27% respondents from the Haslett zip code (48840) followed by 20% from East Lansing zip code (48823).

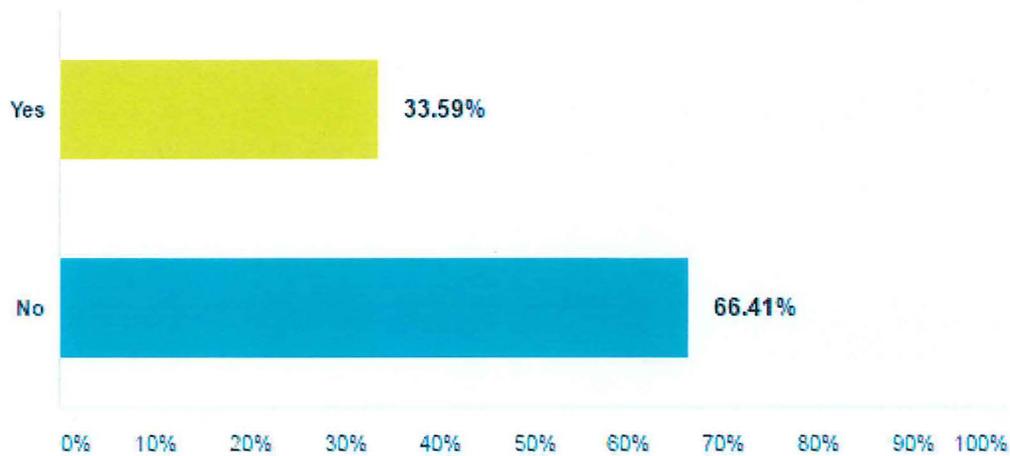
**Question 16:** What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?

(Answered: 283 Skipped: 865)

This wordle shows a collection of the different responses, where the larger the word the more people stated the same improvement. The responses included 47 comments about various trail improvements (install benches, improve maps and trail signage, etc.), 22 comments about improved parking, 33 comments on general maintenance issues (mosquito issues, pet clean up), 39 on misc. park improvements (restrooms, playgrounds, etc.) 11 comments about a dog park, 17 comments on improving communication, 19 comments about the farmers market (location, vendors, etc.), and 18 comments on programs (senior, safety, deer, kayaking/water access, and indoor amenities). The following are all of the comments about program improvements.

**Question 17:** I'm interested in learning about volunteer opportunities in my community.

(Answered: 908 Skipped: 240)



There was about 33% of respondents that were interested in learning about volunteer opportunities in the community. That is about 302 individuals that are willing to help. The township should work on ways to connect with these individuals if their help is needed.

**Question 18:** Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

The comments were categorized into 10 groups based on what was generally talked about in each of the comment. 24% of the comments are uncategorized where the comment mainly stated they had no other comments. 19% of the comments were general positives about the community or thank you to for the quality of parks. 15% if comments discussed park improvements either additional parks areas, park amenities that could be added, etc. About 9% of the respondents talked about trails and pathways either locations, improvements, or current negatives. 7% of comments pertained to the deer issue either in support or against the program. Another 7% were issues or comments for the Parks and Recreation Department were comments directly about staff or concerns that staff can address. 6% were about existing or potential programs. 5% of respondents were in the “Need to Discover” group because they were unaware of amenities or communication. 4% talked about the Farmers’ Market mainly location concerns and parking. 2% were about the development of a dog park, where majority were in favor. Another 2% were comments from respondents do not want the expansion of parks in the township.

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
Deer	I hope you will continue the program of culling the deer herds in the parks. I also wish that more effort would be put into removing invasive species (especially shrubs) in the wooded areas.
Deer	I feel strongly about not having the BRT project proceed in our area.
Deer	NO CATA BRT. More deer hunters allowed to hunt with a bow in more areas, it is frightening to drive at night especially for seniors with so many deer.
Deer	Be sure that the CATA system serves as many of the parks and recreation facilities as possible.
Deer	Continue to manage and reduce the deer population in neighborhoods.
Deer	keep shooting those deer.
Deer	Reduce the deer population in Indian Glen area is my number one priority!!!!!!
Deer	Please get rid of the deer. They ATE everything in my yard!
Deer	STOP killing our deer. We are the invasives. We need to live with them. Accommodating disabilities and diverse peoples is all well and good but the animals were here first. Want to live free of deer, raccoons, geese, etc? Move to the big city! This is, was and should remain a (semi) rural area. There should be room for us all. By the way-traffic is becoming TERRIBLE! We built more roads, stores, etc. and more people pour in. Soon it will be like a suburb of Chicago or Detroit-crowded, scary. This is not how Meridian Township should be.
Deer	DONT KILL THE DEER. We like to watch them grow up in our backyard (Forest Hills Natural Area) and photograph them. also DON'T BUILD NEW SUBDIVISIONS ON CURRENT GREENSPACE (forests, like on Powell, etc.) that is not only against the master plan but is causing the deer to be in the neighborhoods! HELLO, think that through. Use the green spaces for parks, not houses and you will solve a lot of issues.
Deer	Deer population is out of control. Neighbor has been observed feeding deer in back yard.
Deer	I would absolutely support measures to thin the deer population in the township. I am concerned about the safety of motorists in our area and they are a nuisance in the yard and garden.
Deer	The deer population needs to be better controlled in the Central Park

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	area, as they wander into the adjoining neighborhoods and eat our landscaping.
Deer	While I am concerned about the number of deer killed at the side of the road -- I really do not want to encourage increased hunting in the area, or any kind of managed kill approach.
Deer	I really enjoy the parks. I understand the reason for the deer kill last year, but unless absolutely necessary, I don't support it. We really enjoy having them around.
Deer	We live by the river in Riverdowns. As many as 14-15 deer at different times roam our neighborhood. So frustrating when you want to grow your own vegetables and flowers. We love working outside but sad to see our plants chewed down to dirt. We feel bad for the deer knowing open areas miles away would be better for them and happier for all of us.
Deer	kill the damn deer which are all over forest hills
Deer	I am pleased with number of parks and programs in the community. Keep up the good work. I would avoid the question of "There is a need to reduce the deer population in my community." The question is a bit insensitive. Who are we to say the population of any species needs to be reduced. If someone is unhappy with the deer here they are free to leave and live somewhere else.
Deer	Deer situation is really poor. I've lived in Okemos area since 1964 and it 100x what it was back then. I am ok with relocation or killing but do something!!! Current program is a joke
Dog Park	please build a dog park
Dog Park	we need a big dogpark. Legg park would be great.
Dog Park	Hi guys, hope you enjoyed these comments. on a real note. dog park. Make it so.
Dog Park	More dog-friendly activities please! We love howl at the moon and think a dog park with dog-related events would bring people with similar interests together.
Dog Park	Would like to see a dog park or similar opportunity in the township. Additionally, I live in one of the oldest neighborhoods in the township, as well as one of the neighborhoods with some of the lowest socio-economic groups on the township. It is clear that the neighborhoods to the southeast of the township are where the time, money, and investment in neighborhoods are.
Dog Park	Please retain natural areas that are beautiful. Find a location for a dog park that does not compromise these (e.g. Legg Park)
Dog Park	If a Dog Park ...keep it simple and cheap.
Farmers Market	Vendors at the market are too expensive - I don't buy much there - unfortunate. I do go and there are a few that I love to spend my money & support however!
Farmers Market	Farmers market does not have adequate refrigeration for vendors to be selling perishable products. Portable coolers are not adequate in the summer, especially when opened frequently. Food borne illness waiting to happen. I would highly recommend Save Serve training through the health department and even asking them to do an inspection.
Farmers Market	Although the Meridian Farmer's Market has a wide selection of products and vendors, the open hours only serve the non-working elite of our Township. Additionally, the hours force the Vendors to serve produce that has not been freshly picked. Great Farmer's Markets feature

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	produce picked "that day" in the morning and make the food available to folks mid-afternoon and into the early evening to serve the folks heading home from work. The best produce is freshly picked and available to all of us.
Farmers Market	The Farmers Market honestly could use an improvement. Parking is insufficient, the space is tight and overflowing all over the place, and it could benefit from more participants, especially truly locally sourced organic products. Many vendors simply sell wholesale fruits and vegetables, you ask them where the blueberries are from and they can't tell you. Currently the same type of produce can be bought from Whole Foods, Meijer, or Kroger since they buy from the same wholesalers that bring products to the Farmer's Market. So we end up only buying from the one or two vendors we know grow their own products, and don't shop from the rest, but it seems a waste of the concept of a Farmer's Market.
Farmers Market	I think we deserve a better facility to host our Farmers Market that has more and better parking and more room. The current location is not good. I like the idea of moving the Farmers Market to the Meridian Mall space near Studio C.
Farmers Market	More parking is needed at the Farmer's Market
Farmers Market	About #8: Hard to answer. How nearby is nearby? Parking is occasionally a problem, otherwise ok.
Farmers Market	I feel very strongly that our farmers market could support so much more than it does. An area with food trucks and places to sit, visit and make going to the farmers market a "event" would benefit everyone. As it is currently I often go quickly by myself spend my \$ at the vendors I like and leave. Back when we had 1-2 food trucks I would meet friends, bring my family, eat, visit neighbors and frankly spend ALOT more \$\$\$\$ than I had originally anticipated. We loved it, it was something family and friends looked forward to. I would like to see more events there, music, culture and educational events, food festivals...you name it, there is such a void of these things in this area, despite a solid economic base. I frankly don't get it?
Farmers Market	move farmers market close Nakomis and repurpose
Farmers Market	We love the farmers market. I think keeping it in its current location near trees and a playground is really attractive to many people. We often go to the market for food then end of sitting and snacking there are the park or historical village. I understand when it is necessary to move it to the mall parking lot but that really loses some of the appeal for us. Also having the indoor farmers market in the mall in the winter is great!
Farmers Market	need a new farmer's market
Farmers Market	Not sure from questions if there is a plan to move Farmer's Market. I love the location near the park and Historical Village but understand that it is getting very crowded and parking can be a challenge.
Need to Discover	I should utilize the resources more
Need to Discover	From completing this survey, I gather that there are many more programs than I'm currently aware of. I do not know if your marketing is limited or how I've not known about so many parks and programming.
Need to Discover	I would have liked to have known about possible changes to Hillbrooke tennis courts ahead of time. I have been involved in this community for almost 40 years, serving on various committees, etc. and would have liked to have been on a committee to study changes BEFORE they took place. It seems the open house was a little late.

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	It is very disappointing to see the change in the tennis court facility. It needed to be redone, but it was a well used facility, so taking out one of the courts & one basketball hoop in exchange for 3 pickleball courts was a big mistake. My only hope is that it will be still be possible to put the backboard up so a player faces north & has room to use it properly. I plan to look to see if this is even possible with all the fencing. A much better idea would have been to install the pickle ball courts somewhere else in the park or at Marshall Park. I can't believe there is a need for 3 courts. It is very important to me to have facilities that can be used by single people in neighborhoods or areas that have traffic or other people using them, not in remote areas, so that they will feel safe.
Need to Discover	I have loved visiting the parks we do frequent and this survey definitely helped remind me of other places we should check out. I always support mileages for our parks, and we look forward to seeing the parks continue to change for the better.
Need to Discover	Meridian Township parks are an amazing resource, and more should be done to promote them. Just taking this survey I've learned of several parks I didn't know existed.
Need to Discover	Update the township website more often
Need to Discover	We just moved here in June, 2016, after 34 years of living in Mason. We have not yet acclimated to our new community, although we are interested in doing so. I especially appreciate the walking path near our home. It is one of the reasons we decided to buy our house.
Need to Discover	Possibly volunteering. Don't know enough about opportunities available.
Need to Discover	having a brochure describing all parks and locations would be helpful.
Need to Discover	We wonder why we no longer receive the township weekly newspaper
Need to Discover	I only signed on to the survey because of the card that came in the mail. We don't seek parks for entertainment - mostly, we walk around the neighborhood, shop at a few of the stores. Glad the parks are there, but at this time we are not using them.
Need to Discover	As a new resident of this community, I am very pleased with the facilities and hope to be able to use trails and parks in the future.
Need to Discover	The parks here have been an amazing experience and we love to live so close to great parks. The only thing missing would be to maybe receive the newsletters/programs/etc either by mail or email (or maybe social media).
Need to Discover	It's possible that I just don't know where they are, but I am surprised at how few basketball hoops/courts there seem to be.
No more parks	To many parks, stop buying more. You can't maintain what you have.
No more parks	1) Need to stop neighbors from feeding deer- 5-10 can often be seen in their backyard throughout the day. We reported this to the township and yet there's been no change. Their address is 5967 West Sleepy Hollow, East Lansing. 2) There's enough parks in this township, more aren't needed and it's already a property tax burden.
No more parks	If the township paid as much attention to the roads and certain areas of the township as they do parks, we would all be better off.
No more parks	TOO MANY PARKS!!!
No more parks	The township is spending too much taxpayer's money on the parks. If you don't know what to do with all the extra taxpayer's money, return it to us! Don't just spend it!!
No more parks	We will not be voting in favor of any more park millages until the roads in

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	Ingham County are all repaired. Stop creating new parks and FIX OUR AWFUL ROADS!!!
Park Improvement	I'm gratified that there's an interest in clearing the red cedar river of the felled trees for both recreation and drainage. this has been neglected for to long. we can make this river an asset to the community.
Park Improvement	It is embarrassing to bring out-of-town guests to Harris Nature center, with that hideous turtle out front. The "improvements" there seem to be adding clutter rather than enhancing experience of nature. The observation deck newly added in Ted Black Woods seems aimed intrusively to observe neighborhood homes rather than wetland fauna. Benches have been a fine addition along the trails, but tree removal and maintaining low-lying spots in paths so that they don't become muddy pits and incite pedestrians to widen the paths would be a better improvement.
Park Improvement	Hosting recreational activities like free ice skating at Summit should be a high priority for expending taxpayer dollars. The focus should be on providing experiences that people cannot, individually or collectively through small groups, provide for themselves. Providing substantial areas of undeveloped property is a prime example.
Park Improvement	More variety of classes thru township; seems like it is the same classes offered year after year. Support more bike trails. Support outdoor ice rink.
Park Improvement	Please do not pave paradise. We are very fortunate to have the undeveloped parks/natural areas/preservation lands that we have now.
Park Improvement	I would like to see more effort put into erradicating non-naive plants in the parks and inter-urban trail. Also to commuicate with households by words, pictures and possibly workshops, the species of concern so that they may attack them on their own properties.
Park Improvement	Have been and am willing to pay taxes for superior parks.
Park Improvement	More parks in Haslett, please.
Park Improvement	We oppose "dog parks"
Park Improvement	I would like to see the trail that starts by Park Lake and Birch am extended.
Park Improvement	Dredge Lake Lansing to make it deeper in more of the lake. 10' -15' will be good.
Park Improvement	My wife and I like to kayak on the Red Cedar. Between Meridian Road and Dobie Road, there are many required Portages due to fallen trees. This seriously cuts down one's ability to enjoy Meridian Township's wonderful resource of the Red Cedar. A small crew of township workers with chainsaws could clear these tangles in a day or two early in June, opening up this long stretch of river for kayakers, canoers, and fishermen to enjoy until fall. Alternatively, the Township could help to facilitate the formation of a volunteer group to do this each summer, similar to the Friends of the Looking Glass. I cannot do the job myself (although I do some clearing each year), but would certainly join a group to clear the river.
Park Improvement	A new, covered farmers market would be nice with ample parking. Sometimes the weather keeps me from attending.
Park Improvement	Help complete a riverwalk from Lansing to Williamston and river cleanup for canoe/kayakers.
Park Improvement	Enhance HNC w/additional bathrooms and a pavilion.
Park Improvement	I feel quality field space for lacrosse is needed. Other priorities would be football and soccer. There are plenty of baseball field which can't be

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	used for anything else. I'd like to see more multi-purpose youth sports field space especially for Haslett areas.
Park Improvement	please DO NOT develop the Towner Road Park!!! Its will add TOO much noise and traffic and parking problems in residential areas!!!! KEEP IT A NATURAL AREA PLEASE!!!
Park Improvement	Indoor waterpark/pool/fitness center would be AMAZING!
Park Improvement	Recreational sport parks ie. multi sport soccer field, baseball etc. parks should be developed in areas where there is already sidewalks and bike paths. I don't understand the development of the Towner Road park into such a rec center. Why make this natural wetland area with no adjacent sidewalks and no road shoulder, into a 200 car parking lot, multi-soccer field area? Kids will be drawn to bike and walk there on 45 mph Towner Road which has absolutely no shoulder let alone a bike lane. Build this kind of recreational area, focused on kids sports where its SAFE for kids to get there on their own, biking or walking which also will greatly reduce the number of cars/parking lot space. There is easily room to do this on the undeveloped fields of Wardcliff and Murphy Schools which already linked to sidewalks, parking lots and roads with bike paths.
Park Improvement	Please no wi-fi in parks!! No expensive equipment necessary. Keep it simple.
Park Improvement	Can we make a community space out of the old MARC building/fire station area? Getting a safe outdoor/grass area in downtown Okemos would be great. Maybe fenced in, too?!
Park Improvement	Would be great if we had an outdoor pool and splash pad for the community!
Park Improvement	No more garish plastic playgrounds! Keep it natural or fitting with surroundings. No more soccer fields, what a unused wasted space, most of the time. NO tax money towards public art please. And just because something is donated doesn't mean it shouldn't first be voted on by community.
Park Improvement	I like the overall goals of the park system. Green spaces are needed closer to children's homes. Where do the younger kids play when out of school? Neighborhood parks.
Park Improvement	I love how many different parks there are. Wish maybe you could repurpose some abandoned buildings back to nature if no one wants to move in there (like the corner of Marsh and Haslett)
Park Improvement	I specially enjoy the Meridian Historical Village. I'm an artist and paint on location there. It's a very pleasant place. I'm not sure though about the fishing dock. Somehow it killed a bit the beauty of the place.
Park Improvement	I am very disapointed in the tennis area at Hillsboro Park! Three pickleball courts and 1 tennis court limits our group in playing tennis together as we have done there for years! One pickleball court would be sufficient- 2 tennis courts is desired. This could be corrected quite easily!!!!!!
Park Improvement	I love the idea of an indoor basketball facility! I would absolutely use that and I know many friends who would as well. It would be a terrific addition to our community!
Park Improvement	Please help us improve access to and quality of field space (especially practice space) for Haslett lacrosse. We are a successful, growing program with strong community support. Everyone who wants to play lacrosse can, regardless of gender, experience or ability. The Newton Rd park is great but not large enough to accommodate two full-sized

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	fields. Marshall Park has poor drainage and is consistently wet. We've used Towner Park for overflow and wet field situations and multiple kids have incurred ankle injuries from uneven ground. We paint our own fields and provide our own nets, we just need a commitment of more space and mowing.
Park Improvement	skate park and basketball courts would be great!
Park Improvement	We live in Ottawa Hills. our park is neglected. Please make it nice like the one across grand river close to the Bike shop.
Park Improvement	I love that we have so many parks and playgrounds, and so many opportunities for our kids to be active.
Park Improvement	I would like to see a spring soccer season for the Haslett students.
Park Improvement	We need more lacrosse fields. Towner rd fields need some serious work and improve the drainage of the fields
Park Improvement	Utilize the large space at Marshall park better with larger updated playground equipment. Better drainage.
Park Improvement	Again, we would love to have a park that has a handicap accessible pavilion with bathrooms attached and electricity and running water/or kitchen inside the pavilion, and volleyball and playground close to the pavilion. This would be a fantastic area for family reunions, corporate gatherings. Etc...
Park Improvement	Please save Walnut Hills as a golf course
Park Improvement	Ice skating rinks would be wonderful!
Park Improvement	Soccer is rapidly gaining in popularity; the Township should support it better with an indoor soccer facility for winter recreation. I don't play basketball, but I can understand the appeal to a facility for that as well.
Park Improvement	I would like to see more amenities offered at at our parks.
Park Improvement	I think a winter sports park would be an amazing addition to Meridian Township!! Find a park with a nice hill and a big field and some woods or trails and you could have a sledding hill, an ice rink and cross country ski/snowshoe trails. This would bring families out in the winter.
Park Improvement	I am an avid running and pass many of the Meridian Township parks as I run through the community. They are well maintained, but underutilized. I suggest that the township focus on offering organized programs at the parks (similar to Harris Nature Center) that would generate more use.
Parks & RecDepartment	I am 90 years old and cannot use parks as much as in past.
Parks & RecDepartment	Jane Greenway and the Parks and Recreation Department is very helpful and professional. Willing to go the extra mile to help volunteers in the deer hunting program.
Parks & RecDepartment	LuAnn does a great job
Parks & RecDepartment	Park staff appear to have a strained relationship with the community sports clubs (baseball, softball, football, soccer). It is unclear why. I would hope that the community and the clubs could find a way to work together to jointly improve opportunities for our youth.
Parks & RecDepartment	Parks and Recreation are top of the line!
Parks & RecDepartment	I do extensive volunteering, and would be unable to add anything else at this time!
Parks & RecDepartment	Please, we would be grateful to send for us any helpful information about programs and volunteering opportunities.
Parks & RecDepartment	Not really. I love everything the parks department is doing. One thing I love about Meridian Township are the parks.

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	I guess the only thing is I'd like to help out sometime and make the bridges better in Legg Park. Especially where there should be a connector, but is not as it's always flooded. In the winter time it's fine when it freezes, but in the summer time it's always flooded.
Parks & RecDepartment	I think the survey would be more accurate had you lined up each park with the specific questions. Reason being, cleanliness at one park may apply, but maybe one of the other parks was a trashed mess.
Parks & RecDepartment	Coyotes are killing domestic animals quite frequently and need to be eliminated or trapped. This is a danger to those of us who have unimproved land close by.
Parks & RecDepartment	survey is too long
Parks & RecDepartment	I volunteer often for coaching.
Parks & RecDepartment	I am not sure about volunteering and work a lot of hours, need more info. My interest is being able to include my whole family w/ my dog if possible. I have experience w/ people w/ TBI and rehab.
Parks & RecDepartment	We have volunteered but off and on. Wondering why the planned park on Towner hasn't been built yet?
Parks & RecDepartment	I think it is unreasonable that I have to pay a separate entrance fee for each park - I believe all Ingham County parks should be covered under one fee (a day fee should get you into any park) and there should be an annual fee that gives you access to all parks (such as the State of Michigan DNR). It is wrong that when I went to Lake Lansing South Park and then to Lake Lansing North Park I had to pay two separate fees and can't get an annual permit. I also do not feel our tax \$\$ should be used to build a recreation center - something few would benefit from, any recreation center should have a fee basis. Lastly, the paddle boat rental space at Lake Lansing South is a joke - you rent a paddle boat and are allowed to only use an extremely small area to paddle around in circles. The area needs to be greatly enlarged to paddle boat in - makes me feel like property owners on the lake have a large voice that restricts the use.
Parks & RecDepartment	Interacting with the Harris staff has always been helpful and useful. They have always tried to be accommodating and flexible.
Parks & RecDepartment	*not sure if you realize your newsletter/bifold mail-outs routinely do not have the correct day/corresponding dates on it. Thankfully we usually get a mass email with the correct dates/times on it prior to events.
Parks & RecDepartment	I know that there is signage up about having "loose" dogs in the parks. There are still many that do not uphold this in designated areas. If there was a notification place to alert authorities such that a citation or two is given more might not violate it so frequently. I have limited times going to some areas because I have seen many who violate this and then blame the fact that they cannot control their canine from approaching mine that is on a 6 foot leash and under control. Posting without any enforcement is the same as not posting. Even though I write this, I do not want this to eliminate access with dogs, just encourage it to be a safe environment for all. Not all friendly dogs are friends!
Positive Thank Yous	Thank you for the Pickleball courts on Lake Lansing! We have played there, they are very nice. We had kids and adults stop by to see what we were doing. At some point you might want to offer classes for those wanting to learn how to play.
Positive Thank Yous	Though I don't use parks much, I am very supportive of our park system and facilities for their value to the community and the preservation of open spaces both for environmental reasons and recreational use.

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
Positive Thank Yous	Thanks for your work!
Positive Thank Yous	Thank you for your hard work with our parks and services!
Positive Thank Yous	Appreciate your efforts.
Positive Thank Yous	Thanks for taking our input
Positive Thank Yous	Our community is special because it is intertwined within natural areas. We repeatedly vote to acquire natural areas to keep this peaceful buffer. Those nature preserves should be left untouched and natural.
Positive Thank Yous	Hillbrook is a beautiful park in a very good location.
Positive Thank Yous	Liked the Public Input Open House.
Positive Thank Yous	I love living in meridian township and have a very positive opinion about our parks and recreation opportunities. Keep up the good work!
Positive Thank Yous	I like living in Meridian Twp.
Positive Thank Yous	Again, love the 50 plus Exercise Program and Georgeanne, Jessica and Molly are very professional and pleasant
Positive Thank Yous	I think the parks and natural areas in Meridian Township are amazing and something to feel very proud about. Along with our schools, they are a highlight of living in this area.
Positive Thank Yous	Appreciate the survey to gain information for the MP. Thank you.
Positive Thank Yous	This is a wonderful community with great natural amenities. We enjoy the outdoors and all that the parks & recreation has to offer its residents. Everyone involved with the Parks & Rec division of the township do a wonderful job!
Positive Thank Yous	The parks in Meridian township are one of the main reasons I moved here with my family.
Positive Thank Yous	Meridian Township is a great place to live and be a part of a community. I feel safe here. We should not take for granted all the green space around our community!
Positive Thank Yous	I hope I win. I would put it toward getting a new pair of walking shoes to use in your parks!
Positive Thank Yous	Keep up the great work
Positive Thank Yous	I live and chose 8 yrs ago to live in Meridian Township because of the parks and the overall attitude of residents. At the time I didn't know I would be in subsidized housing.
Positive Thank Yous	Not at this time. Thank you!
Positive Thank Yous	I think you do a great job. Our parks are a huge asset in the Haslett area!!
Positive Thank Yous	No ,I believe this area is rich in wonderful parks for people of all kinds and interests.
Positive Thank Yous	Great job!
Positive Thank Yous	I an VERY impressed with the number of parks and natural areas, especially the smaller neighborhood areas. Keep up the amazing work, we'll need it now more than ever!!!
Positive Thank Yous	Keep up the good work!
Positive Thank Yous	I love having so many well-maintained community parks by me, and look forward to spending more time in them. I enjoy getting information from the township, and always feel well-informed about the community.
Positive Thank Yous	Thank you for seeking public opinion.
Positive Thank Yous	Love all the parks in my area and improvements to hillbrook park.
Positive Thank Yous	I think you are great! Thanks for all your hard work. It makes this a great community in which to live!
Positive Thank Yous	I don't technically live in Meridian Township now, but I am very close to all of the parks and use them frequently

<b>Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?</b>	
<b>Categories</b>	<b>Response Text</b>
Positive Thank Yous	Keep the township green!
Positive Thank Yous	Our township offers something for everyone that lives here.
Positive Thank Yous	I really enjoy having many parks in Meridian township, especially ones that I can walk to from my home.
Positive Thank Yous	I enjoy the wildlife that I see within our parks. I am concerned about the impact of development on our wetlands during the past forty years. I am very thankful of land purchases by our township to preserve our wetlands.
Positive Thank Yous	There is something going on somewhere in Meridian Township all the time. I appreciate that!
Positive Thank Yous	Thank you for your continuous efforts to expand & improve you services.
Positive Thank Yous	The number and quality of parks within walking distance is fantastic (enough that I haven't checked out many of the other ones). This has been one of the best things about moving here and I am surprised at how underutilize they seem to be. Going to the parks / playgrounds is one of the favourite activities for myself and my two toddlers. Thank you.
Positive Thank Yous	overall u do a good job
Positive Thank Yous	Thank you to all who organize and care for these parks and facilities! You do a great job!
Positive Thank Yous	The Township has a truly outstanding park system and can be proud of the value it adds to the quality of life here.
Positive Thank Yous	Generally, I think Meridian Township Parks are doing pretty well. I would not want them to be reduced in any way and improvements adds to the community.
Positive Thank Yous	no, i enjoy living in this community
Positive Thank Yous	It is beautiful here! Coming from Texas, we have been impressed with the number of parks nearby and how well maintained they are.
Positive Thank Yous	I'm very grateful for all the opportunities offered in this community.
Positive Thank Yous	Thank you for all you do!
Positive Thank Yous	We enjoy living in Meridian Township
Positive Thank Yous	As a single adult I do not use the parks/rec as much as I would like to. I like the availability of rhe park system and am grateful they are available. Tax dollars well spent.
Positive Thank Yous	I pretty much keep check by email and going on the Meridian Township website. I called to volunteer at different things when I am in town! I like living in Meridian Township
Positive Thank Yous	Love the new facilities at Wonch Park!
Positive Thank Yous	Thank you for the wonderful park system and parks and rec youth activities. They make this community a wonderful place to live and play. Thank you for the fishing pond at Central Park.
Positive Thank Yous	nice parks
Positive Thank Yous	Not at this time. Keep up the great work!
Positive Thank Yous	Thank you for creating a beautiful and safe environment for our families.
Programs	Expand walking tours.
Programs	As a local Middle School & High School Cross Country Coach who uses Nancy L. Moore Park for practices, I would like to help design a 5k Cross Country Course to host meets, community races and/or workouts. The Trail system at Nancy L. Moor and Central Park provides a good place to start, but signage and trail markers would be a great addition.
Programs	Would like to see LGBT groups/events and safe spaces
Programs	An extremely important and unmet need is for places for teens to go and safely have fun that are (a) open at night and (b) not commercial. There

**Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?**

Categories	Response Text
	is no place to go to "hang out" that isn't a store or other business. Teens like to visit their friends, but in a family with working parents, sometimes the late timetables of such groups wouldn't fit, and many teens don't want to be hanging around with adults anyway. Parks are officially closed at night (itself a questionable choice; where can people legally gather to watch, for instance, an eclipse of the moon?) If a person who is in a park is immediately converted from being a community member enjoying the facilities to being a trespasser just because the sun has gone down, that is problematic. It should be OK for teens to just be together at, for instance, a park shelter without having to worry about being accosted by police.
Programs	hire dedicated staff to lead invasive species removal efforts in Meridian Township parks and natural areas
Programs	The sportiest for shorties program was a highlight of my kids youth when they were young. When I volunteered to coach youth soccer, having the coaches clinic taught by Rob Antcliff was a real life saver.
Programs	Haslett should be hosting Summer lake side type events. ie water ski comps. Full weekend music Fests. October Fest. Irish Fest. car shows, that type of thing.
Programs	I would love to see Meridian Twp. explore the possibility of creating a community well-being facility such as ALIVE in Charlotte. Obviously, this would require funding and a lot of planning and coordination, but it's possible. Charlotte (Hayes Green Beach) took an empty grocery store and turned it into an amazing facility that is open to the entire community. It's a gathering place for health, wellness and provides the community with a sense of belonging.
Programs	A winter festival would be fun, or a holiday market with a bonfire and sleigh rides. Something to get people out of the house during the crazy season.
Programs	Is the stretch and flex class at the mall one of your programs? My husband attends regularly, but has almost stopped attending on many occasions, because a woman in the class (Georgeann), who does NOT live in MT, treats other class members like they are kindergartners. She is allowed to practically run the class. Someone should tell her to back off.
Programs	re start the old annual clean lake lansing project where volunteers pick mup trash and township picks up bags of roadside trash.
Programs	Meridian Twp sports for young kids are awesome.
Programs	I think you do a great job for families with young kids, not sure my family with older kids has a connection to your programs anymore.
Programs	Been playing adult co-ed volleyball for years and love the program. I would be willing to pay a slightly higher registration fee to have games officiated though.
Programs,Park Improvement	This survey was extremely long. The added costs to get into Lake Lansing North and South for taxpayers seems to not outweigh the benefit of going tonlarger parks offered in other jurisdictions. As a taxpayer we should have access. There should be more kids programs.
Programs,Trail & Pathways	We love the parks around us and the staff are wonderful. Would like to see all neighborhoods connected to the parks in a non-motorized way. We are sad to see so much "development" taking place in Meridian township and are considering moving out. A certain amount of functioning, intact, non-fragmented habitat is necessary within the township to support human and non-human life. This amount should be

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	determined as should the resultant carrying capacity of the township in terms of human population. How about leaving half the township wild (as per E.O. Wilson)? Above all, we would like to see invasives removed from the parks and native Michigan habitat restored. Township ordinances should be changed as in Novi and Ferndale to encourage native habitat restoration among homeowners. This would protect and enhance our natural areas.
Trail & Pathways	Yes, it's not a park, but I lovelovelove the pathway from Marsh road to Burcham and use it several times a week. As for deer, we enjoy their presence and can live with them eating the plantings in our yard. They didn't do this before development (Wildflower Estates) took a large part of their food source. I have development to thank for the pathway, but dislike the density that confines the deer to small unconnected pieces of land making them a driving hazard. I see the problem as a dense development problem, not a deer problem. I'd trade the pathway for the former undeveloped land on Raby in a half-second, but there ain't no turning the clock back!
Trail & Pathways	I discovered the trail that goes from Dobie road to the Harris Nature Center and then on to Eastgate park this summer on my bike. I also discovered some old trails, no longer maintained, near the really tall radio tower on Dobie Road. The trails are on the north side of the river in that area. I've discovered a number of other trails in nature areas throughout the city this summer too. I encourage you to continue maintaining these trails and to open additional trails for biking and hiking wherever the opportunity presents itself! I really appreciate having these areas to explore and ride. If there is any opportunity to continue a trail system along the Red Cedar - I am very, very much in favor of pursuing that!!!
Trail & Pathways	A walkway is despartly needed along okemos rd between Nancy Moore and Central Park! I see pedestrians running or walking along the narrow bridge everyday. I've seen many runners pushing small children. It's only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured. The park updates can wait, this should be a priority. I have to wonder why exercise equipment is placed in parks ahead of this important project. Priorities seem out of wack! I also would like to see swimming added to the recreation options. There is enormous interest in this activity. The Kinawa pool sits full of water and yet it is unused.
Trail & Pathways	I am one of the coordinators of Friends of Meridian Pathways. We are eager to work with the township. See contact info below.
Trail & Pathways	Make paved pathways around Cornell area to get people safely to Harris nature center. Pave a rail trail along the railroad tracks in Okemos.
Trail & Pathways	Please DO NOT develop another trailhead in the Trails of Lake Lansing Neighborhood. The trailhead at the end of Wild Ginger is adequate. There has been talk of making a path through the 'meadow" on the dead end of Woodwind Trail. We already have a huge parking issue, where people block our driveways and park in ways that our neighbor is unable to back out of their driveway. This isn't a quiet neighborhood park, people drive from miles away to park in our neighborhood to gain access to the trails. They do this to avoid paying for parking at the North Park. People will even post on running and event sites to park at Wild Ginger so they don't have to pay. Was this your intent? As a retired

**Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?**

Categories	Response Text
	<p>Sheriff's Deputy, I feel it my responsibility to keep an eye on the activities that go on there. Also because I live there. Many people meet there to walk back into the woods to smoke pot, then get into there cars and drive through our neighborhood impaired. We try to get plates and descriptions, and report suspicious activity to Meridian Twp. Police. Suggestion: Post a sign that states the Trails/Park close after dark. Please take into the concerns of the impacted home owners that creating another trailhead would problem and a nuisance to us. Not to mention a safety issue. Many times I came close to running into into people that were crossing at the end of my driveway where there is a large tree causing a blind spot, or by people just walking in the middle of the road. I do enjoy the parks and it's nice to have a neighborhood trail head at the end of Wild Ginger. But don't expand any further than that. Please REMOVE that blue sign at the end of Woodwind Trail and place it at the other end where there is an established trail.</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>I would like to see more trails. It would keep bicycling kids off streets and runners safe. It connects communities. Maybe a crushed gravel trail extending from the trail system behind Kinawa middle school going north over the tracks, skirting the edge of the MSU property north then east with a foot bridge over the Red Cedar and emerging onto Redwing Rd. This would connect Briarwood and Riverwood to Tacoma and other subdivisions to the east. it also give another option over the Red Cedar other than Dobie and Okemos.</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>I'm very excited about the planned trail section that will connect the south end of Park Lake Rd with the East end of Shaw Lane and MSU</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>Please extend the Rivet Trail to Okemos!!</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>I would ask the Township to take a much more expansive view of how to make getting around on a bicycle much easier. There are many places where you can't even safely ride a bike. Getting to the parks on a bike in may places is just impossible.</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>Overall, we need better, safer non-motorized access to Nancy Moore.</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>Please use more of your millage funds to improve park facilities for walkers and hikers.</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>I've been VERY impressed with the maintenance of the bike paths and trails--so much that I wish there were more of them!</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>I would love a bike path on Okemos Rd that extends from the Nancy Moore Park drive to Grand River Rd. That would make it so much easier for people to access business, the library, schools, etc on their bike without having to add an extra mile or so to go around. Overall I am very happy with the ability to bike the community as well as all the parks and programs this community provides.</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>It would be great if some of the parks could be connected with paved walking/biking paths or designated routes along roadways (but not in high traffic roads)</p>
Trail & Pathways	<p>Movement throughout the township would be greatly enhanced by a network of linear parks (i.e., off-road trails) that link most of the existing parks as well as commercial and civic centers. A trail that extends the full length of the Red Cedar River banks (from Meridian Rd to Hagadorn Rd, from east to west in the township) seems like a logical first move. It would be forward thinking and viewed as progressive minded by those living in the community as well as new families moving to the region. The information I see indicates that accoutrements like a network of trails adds value and social capital to the communities that have them.</p>

Question 18: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?	
Categories	Response Text
	The few trails in place are good, but lack the cache and usability because they look like/are a job half done.
Trail & Pathways	I would be happy to help work the township to get support from neighbors on Van Atta for a pathway.
Trail & Pathways	We are very much opposed to the recent opening of a second trailhead into the Lake Lansing North Park at the end of Woodwind Trail, approximately 200 feet from the existing one. We are the impacted residents, and have enough trouble with parking, litter, dogs, and traffic in general. Please close the gap in the new fence, and move the invasive species sign to the fence at the other end of the "neighborhood meadow!"
Trail & Pathways	There should be one place with at least 10 miles of trails for mountain biking in Meridian Tsp.
Trail & Pathways	I often walk down Okemos Rd, between Grand River and Haslett, part of which requires walking on the section with no sidewalk. The traffic is busy, fast and the small amount of shoulder inadequate. I see many other walkers and bikers doing the same. I know the swamp presents issues for trails/walkways, but something should be done, especially when the dog park opens nearby.
Trail & Pathways	Wonderful paved trails. I use Meridian parks as they are so well-maintained. More so than EL paths.
Trail & Pathways	We enjoy the bike paths/sidewalks in our community that make it easy to get around on foot and bikes.
Trail & Pathways	we really like the interurban pathways!
Trail & Pathways,Deer	1. Deer are overrunning the Riverwood subdivision, opening up hunting in the Red Cedar Preserve behind Sugar Maple would help. 2. Access to Red Cedar Preserve from Riverwood / Kinewa etc. would be nice for communities bordering it.
	Fix Nancy Moore Parks playing field. Harris Nature Center is rather expensive and not geared to early teen age.
	Again, I find dog owners in the Township rude and impolite. They often let their dogs run off a leash.
	No thank you.
	I will enter for the \$50 gift certificate, but if I win it, please donate to someone who really needs it. Thanks!

# Misc. Park Improvements

## Maintenance Issues

Playground Improvements Trail Maps Signs **Parking Issues** Improve Communication **Restroom Improvements** Safety Programs **Farmers Market** Senior Programs

# Trails

## Dog Park

<p><b>Question 19:</b> What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?</p>
<p>Are used the packs and activity programs a great deal when I was raising my children. I really use it now except when my grandchildren with me. There are more usable parks for me in East Lansing. I'm dictating this and I'm not sure if all of this is coming out correctly! I can't scroll back to doublecheck, so good luck!</p>
<p>???</p>
<p>1. Provide adequate parking space. 2. Enforce Township ordinances that are applicable (e.g., fines for not cleaning up after pets foul the trails.</p>
<p>A soccer complex. The idea of playing at different parks is a great idea in a vacuum, but does not work when you coach and have children play at different "home" fields.</p>
<p>Add a disc golf course</p>
<p>add baseball, soccer, lacrosse, football fields</p>
<p>Add benches along trails.</p>
<p>Adding more bike routes in the township and bike trails/paths (such as along Meridian or VanAtta Rd.)</p>
<p>Additional Parking at North Meridian</p>
<p>again, don't let the BRT disrupt the entire character of our township</p>
<p>Again, we would love to have a park that has a handicap accessible pavilion with bathrooms attached and electricity and running water/or kitchen inside the pavilion, and volleyball and playground close to the pavilion. This would be a fantastic area for family reunions, corporate gatherings. Etc...</p>
<p>All comments above</p>
<p>an easier way to get from the parking lot to the pavilion at Nancy Moore Park.</p>
<p>An off-leash dog park would be a fantastic addition to the township!</p>
<p>Annual sticker should be per household not per car, it shouldnt matter which house car you are driving.</p>
<p>As a former soccer coach with two sons in soccer, I have traveled to a few area soccer fields. The grass of our fields could be better. The parking, as I've stated, could also be better.</p>
<p>As I said previously, i would like more outdoor ed classes ---but inside. AND maybe classes in the history of MI and this area.</p>
<p>As mentioned above having a text or email "hotline"</p>
<p>As mentioned, it would be great to find ways to connect the parks (or some of them) via non-motorized pathways.</p>
<p>As mentioned, the restrooms have been appreciated on Meridian RD. We just need to have them open and available year round....Nancy Moore Park.</p>
<p>bathrooms and playgrounds</p>
<p>Be more inclusive to bike riders</p>
<p>Beer Carts</p>
<p>Better advertise programs and events</p>

<b>Question 19:</b> What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?
Better advertisement of parks, amenities, and future park plans.
Better advertising of events/needs
better and more places to launch a kayak or canoe on the Red Cedar river
Better attention to winter trail maintenance. Not just what is convenient to a staffer on a snow mover
Better info. The guide that comes out isn't applicable to what I'm interested in. Maybe separate sections for adults and kids (seems like you have to look hard for what you're interested in). Better organization. Regular emails received leave out a lot of info though I understand the need not to make them too long. Maybe have different distribution lists - those interested in trails, kids programs, sports, etc.
Better litter pick up on trails. Trail aesthetics and signage.
better parking for farmer market
Better Parking for Legg and Eastgate. All dogs on leash. Walkways for muddiest areas of trails.
Better restrooms
better signage on Harries Nature Center trail, more trash containers
Better sporting event fields for lacrosse.
Better use of money to improve parks and not millions for a bridge to no where.
Bike and dog friendly
Build mountain bike trail networks at parks
Build the pavillion and/with bathrooms at Harris Nature Ctr.
clean up the goose poop
Cleanliness, Better restroom facilities and maintenance of the parks
Clear red cedar for better paddling experiences
Community oriented events are always fun, however, more events/festivals to engage community is needed. Without a City government, it doesn't feel like we are one community.
Could there be a zoo in our community?
Create more paved trails
Dedicated walking/bike trails (not sidewalks) away from the main roads would make a huge difference.
Development of a first class Farmer's Market facility.
Do the soccer field lawns really need so many applications of herbicides?
dog park
Dog park
Dog Park, more paved trails for parents to use strollers
Dog poop clean up
Dogs on leashes, and people picking up after their dogs.
dogs should be on leashes at all times & cleaned up after, signs for people to not walk in ski tracks
Don't change a thing
DONT KILL THE DEER! WE LIKE TO WATCH THEM and PHOTOGRAPH THEM
Drinking fountains near pathways
eliminate park fees for in township residents
Enhance security and enforce dog leash rule
Expand bike parking
expand central park access and ammenities
Farmers market is amazing but the location is much too small and awkwardly configured

<b>Question 19:</b> What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?
Food truck rodeo
Garbage can at Brattin Woods Park!
Get around to cutting dead trees that represent danger.
get rid of the deer in the southern part of the township not just the North
Great parks, just want safe walking/ biking access to them!
Gym Space is needed in Haslett
Harris Nature Center Really needs more restrooms accessible without going in the building !!
Harris Nature Center should be expanded and added to
Have clean bathrooms and maintain playgrounds
Have fenced in areas for dogs to run off leash
Have police patrol the outlying parks. Seems sometimes come and leave quickly. Drugs maybe?
Have police patrol the parks more often. Makes me feel safer.
Having a closer dog park or allowing dogs in part of lake Lansing park would be great. Improve parking at farmers market and bathroom at hillbrook park
Having a person in charge who communicates effectively, who can READ forms correctly when people have taken the time to fill them in, and can run programs with integrity and not drag family names through the mud to attempt to cover up his own mistakes and inability to accurately read forms.
Hiking trails, ability to be outdoors in nature, ability to have longer trails for biking
I am annoyed by dog owners who bring their dogs everywhere. They do not seem to spend time in the dog dedicated parks which is frustrating.
I am regularly involved and a member of EL Hannah Center prime Time program which I find far superior and closer to my home than Meridian Senior programming.
I am totally satisfied with the types of parks and trails we have, would just like to keep expanding the network as opportunities arise - I feel its beneficial for our community to have good walking trails.
I do wish more of the parks had actual restroom facilities open especially during sports seasons, but I understand why they aren't available.
I enjoy the current opportunities and would like to see more "protected" outdoor activities for Sr. Citizens. Thank you for the opportunities you do provide.
I have begun to dislike going to the farmers market because there is not enough parking and too crowded to get around. WIDER isles please. I enjoy purchasing from the vendors but do not like all the hassle that goes with it. Please move to better location!
I need to use them more.
I think we have great parks. A community pool would be very awesome.
I truly do not know the names of most the parks. Simple signage would be nice. For instance, what is the name of the park/trail that starts on Hulett and weaves behind homes and goes all the way to Okemos road?
I will update you when necessary.
I wish that my property was removed from the proposed walkway map. There is an adequate trail across the road from my house and I would be saddened to see concrete added to my natural front yard (one of the main reasons I purchased the property). Most serious bikers and joggers don't use the walkways that exist in my neighborhood (Hulett Rd north of Bennett Woods).
I would ask the Township to take a much more expansive view of how to make getting around on a bicycle much easier. There are many places where you can't even safely ride a bike. Getting to the parks on a bike in may places is just impossible.
I would like more long trails 3+ miles

**Question 19:** What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?

I would like to have fun, interactive STEM related exhibits and activities in the parks. One example is the Solar Walk, a scale model of the solar system on Kinawa Drive. I have several similar ideas. Please contact me at 517-282-6466 or Umakanth@GoSymbiosis.com.

I would like to see more walking paths in the parks. Most of time when I go to a park I want to walk but a lot of the parks do not have long walking paths. Also more of variety of things in the park such as a dog park or different sport/game activities.

I would love more group fitness opportunities (yoga class, aerobics/weight class, running group, etc). Also more opportunities for moms/parents with small kids. (mommy and me type classes). We are new to the area with a young baby and would love more opportunities to meet other young families. Many youth activities don't start until age 3-4 and many local activities are during the day and do not work for working parents.

I would love to have a very well designed dog park in our community. I have heard that one was planned (not the VanAtta Road site , but one more centrally located. I haven't heard anything more. I would like to see some facilities in that meet my family's recreational desires-- plenty of soccer fields, ball diamonds, etc-- none of which I use, but do support-- and a well designed dog park supported and maintained by the township could be a very positive addition.

I would really like to see trails created in the nature preserves. I enjoy walking in Red Cedar Natural Area, and I would love to have similar access to the other preserves. I also enjoy biking on the paved trails and would like to see the proposed trail from Okemos Road to Van Atta Road built.

Ice rink near meridian mall

I'd like to know what is uniquely appealing about each of these parks.

I'm happy

improve maintenance of natural areas and existing trails

Improve natural area trail maintenance

Improve parking at North Meridian and add a turf soccer field.

Improving access to shade and seating

In some cases closer parking like at Nancy Moore Park when we go see our great-grandkids play soccer. The walk from distant parking to distant fields nearly does me in.

Increased access by bike/non motorized, advocacy for bike paths in community

Increased parking

indoor soccer for winter

Indoor waterpark/pool/fitness center would be AMAZING!

Interconnected parks. Paths allowing jogging from one end to the other would helps us keep fit and safe from street traffic.

It is completely unsafe to get to Nancy Moore Park via Okemos Rd. We MUST provide an actual bike or a sidewalk.

It would be nice if trails were marked adequately and maps available for the woods behind the Towar neighborhood. It would also be nice if more parking was available. Also more effort should be made to prevent dumping of yard waste in the woods. Contractors and residence both do this.

It would be nice to have more bike trails.

It would be nice to have more parking in a couple of the crowded parks that are used for sporting

It would be very helpful to make pedestrian access getting to some some of the parks betterthe

I've lived in 4 states in the last couple of decades and can compare parks across these locations. Unfortunately, I've been disappointed with the parks here: the playgrounds are not innovative or exciting; the township events I've attended do not make me want to return; I have a hard time finding

**Question 19:** What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?

the parks and when I've gone out of my way to find a new one, it's been disappointing. We mostly use a nearby school playground and then travel to East Lansing (Patriarch is awesome) and Lansing (Hawk Island, Potter Park, river trail, etc) for their parks. I do like the Farmers' Market, although parking is a problem, and the park near Lake Lansing. Also, I like Harris Nature Center but it could use some updating too.

Just get out and do it. "to me I am saying this"

Keep dogs on leash.

Keep parks clean and properly mowed, maintain playground equipment

Keep up the great work!

Keeping everything cleaner, having more activities or festivals

Keeping the parks safe.

Lack of adequate indoor facility for families. No access to local school gyms or pools-even for a small fee. Example - williamston school open for membership.

land marks / milestones on pathways/trails to facilitate meeting friends

Larger parking lot at north meridian... more trails paved

Larger playgrounds, more restrooms

Less bugs( maybe farther from water.

Longer hiking trails

looking forward to the new trail that runs behind Hobby Lobby

Love the idea of a dog park!!!

Make a much bigger Farmers Market pavilion.

Make it easier to qualify to take deer by archery, and increase the limit.

Make paved pathways around Cornell area to get people safely to Harris nature center. Pave a rail trail along the railroad tracks in Okemos.

Make sure all bathrooms are open at normal park times and very clean.

make sure children's climbing equipment is safe (no open areas up high to fall from: in other words Rails and not open areas

Make youth sports more efficient by removing duplication between Okemos Community Ed and Meridian Parks & Rec

Making sure restrooms and paved trails remain or are improved

maps of park trails, where applicable

maybe lights on the baseball fields

Maybe more benches.

Maybe rotating tours at different parks and/or different activities at different parks other than the main three...

Maybe try to invite and transport people from Senior residents to some programs-once in a while.

Meridian multi-use path-- have on demand pedestrian lights !

More bike trails and bike bridges!

more bike trails such as the inter urban trail-- our community is severely lacking in thsi regard.

More bus stops further out more often

More classes

More communication to new-comers

More dog friendly

More effort to teach sustainability to community. Signs, graphics, information

<b>Question 19:</b> What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?
More farmer's market - larger and year round
More for senior physical fitness.
More fun playground options. More organized farmers market
More high-profile events to excite the millennials & youth!
more information on your website about the different parks and what the different parks offer
More information via email or mailings. Trips to Tigers game, Gilmore museum, etc
More maintained trails and bike paths
More news letters
more off-road paths
More parking
More parking and outdoor restroom facilities in the highly visited parks such as the Harris Nature Center.
More parking at north meridian park.
More parks!
more paved bike and walking trails
more paved trails in our parks are needed
More playground equipment
more progams..encourage fairs and amusement parks to come town
More restroom facilities
more running trails
More support for Meridian Historical Village Programs
More trails; more connections between parks where possible; better/minimal winter maintenance
Mosquito control in the Nancy Moore/Central Parks area. It is HORRIBLE during the mosquito months and I avoid the area entirely because of it.
mowing trails; clearing snow off sidewalks
My main suggestion would be to improve the farmer's market facility.
My wife and I are active in the volleyball community in our area and we would absolutely play in the sand volleyball league Meridian hosts during the summer, but it's too expensive! We've played in leagues at Trinity, coaches, City Limits, Spare Time and others and we'd like to play in the Meridian league, but it's more expensive than all of them!
n/a - i am highly satisfied
Need a dog park
Need more restrooms and drinking fountains
Need to expand covered area of farmers market
New location for Farmers market with expanded customer and vendor parking.
New restrooms would be nice
No Leash Dog Facility, Ice Skating Rink
no mosquitos
None off the top of my head. I love the parks...but am very busy now with high school activities w/ my kids!
None really. We think the park system is top notch.
none---you are doing a great job now
Not sure how I could be of more assistance to you beyond the honest answers I supplied you with above. While I DID indeed indicate many of my opinions and thoughts, I would need a lot more time

<b>Question 19:</b> What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?
to come up with any well thought-out solutions that were reasonable, logical, and possible.
Nothing to meet my needs is available at this time. I had to join an indoor athletic club.
Only concern I'm aware of is mosquito control...
Only pertain to me, show up!
Other than the Farmer's Market issue above, it works very well.
Parking is a problem at the current location. Visitors insist on parking along the fire-lane entrance off of Central Park Pl even though there are spots in the lot. I wish there could be better enforcement, maybe volunteers who stop visitors from parking there and direct them to spots in the lot.
Parque para perros
Paved bike trails!!
Paved or cleared paths, and signs.
Pavilion and restrooms at Harris Nature Center
Plant more trees around parking lots, in double rows of evergreens, to create a more pleasing environment. More trees planted around perimeters of parks, tennis courts, and other structures.
Please enforce clean-up of dog poop
Please figure out a way to reduce the dog poop on trails. At least signs that indicate people will be fined for not picking up.
Please leave the beautiful natural areas in some of our parks (eg. Legg, nature preserves) untouched. The serenity of walking quietly with nature in large, undeveloped areas is unique to our township. Concentrate the sports facilities, dog park, etc. in certain parks (where they already exist) and leave the natural ones alone. We are already over-programmed in our society, and a refuge of tranquility in nature is good for our mental health. Kayaking down the river is also a tranquil experience unique to our township. Clearing log jams, especially between the launch platforms at Harris and Ferguson park, would be a great enhancement and open up kayaking as a more accessible sport for our community.
Please remove downed trees blocking unpaved trails at Hillbrook Park!
Post Surveys for sport programs
Printed map at entrance to all the trails
Provide a dog park and connect all the bike paths.
Provide restrooms at Harris and periodically clear the river of fallen trees.
Put a lid on prices at the Farmers Market if possible. Their prices are very high compared to many others.
Put the farmer market somewhere else.
reduce taxes, pay per use
repave broken paths, e.g. Okemos Road to Hulett
Replace foot bridges in Legg Park!
Restrooms would be #1
Restrooms
Restrooms at all parks!
River access for kayaking
River trail bigger parking lot at north meridian.
Satisfied
Scheduling of soccer at Meridian too close parking problems
see above
See above concerning baseball fields. Firm that ground up.

<b>Question 19:</b> What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?
See comments above.
Since you mentioned the farmer's market, the lack of parking keeps me from attending.
Some bug or lawn spray to avoid mosquitoes
stop charging fees for admission....use exclusively tax dollars
Support for more bike lanes (or bike trails) to get to things on bike easier
The
The dog leash law is not well enforced in parks.
The farmer's market area is not large enough and does not have adequate parking. So, we simply don't go.
The mini gardens/dedication gardens are a mess, not kept up, weeded, appropriately mulched or planted with appropriate plants. The remainder of parks are maintained well.
The only issue I have really ever had was with parking.
The Senior Center could use some freshening. It needs to appeal to the "baby boomer" generation which should be coming into the program.
Ticket owners of dogs that aren't on a leash.
Too many mosquitoes in the wonch park and ferguson park to play with kids
trails map and pathway map and signage and app
Trash can availability.
unknown
unpaved trail improvements
Update the equipment
updated restrooms
Updates to bathroom facilities at parks and Harris Nature Center building. No problems right now, just to make them more modern. Also, a permanent bathroom at Harris that can be accessed when the building is closed.
Updating playground equipment and restrooms
Walking trails from every neighborhood.
We are only interested in moving the Farmer's Market if it is moved to a beautiful natural area. One of the chief attractions of the current location is the beauty of the setting. Please don't relocate to the Meridian Mall parking lot (we have heard a rumor in this regard). While there is a lot of deer pressure in Meridian township, we would like to see the problem alleviated by reducing the amount of edge areas in our neighborhoods and park areas. Allowing the return of large predators would help also.
We belong to a CSA and therefore use the market less than we did, BUT when we do, I find it unpleasantly crowded. Also I GREATLY prefer growers & makers only, no re-sellers of produce or products.
We have had a overall great experience participating in programs and visiting the parks.
We need facilities beyond a port-a-potty for children's soccer fields
We need more street lights, I suggest using LED. We pay taxes for street lights including at our parks and they are very poorly lit. At least half of the street lamps are out on marsh road. LED would be much more cost effective, maybe not initially but they last longer and cost less to run. I don't feel safe in the parks with the current lighting situation.
WiFi is a must.
Would appreciate more areas for kayaking.
Would be good to know actual times when you are doing deer harvesting. Not just general like signs

**Question 19:** What suggestions do you have to improve your experience when visiting our parks and participating in our programs?

state at the park. When they are there place marker or something on the sign to let people know the hunters are there.

Would be nice to have couple senior days no charge at Lake Lansing

would like a recreation center with modern equipment, a pool, like a ymca.

Would love to see adult recreation basketball offered

## **5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Staff Meeting Notes November 29, 2016**

The following staff members conducted a round-table discussion to share their observations and provided their views on facilities and program needs and opportunities as we look toward growth in the next five years and beyond:

Mike Devlin and Darcie Weigand, Parks and Recreation Specialists; Kit Rich and Kati Adams, Sr. Park Naturalists; Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Kelsey Dillon, Stewardship Coordinator, Matt Foreman, Lead Worker Parks and Grounds Maintenance; Keith Hewitt and Ryan Moore, Parks and Grounds Maintenance Utility Workers, Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant, Jesse Hansen, Recreation Intern, and LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation

### **Needs and Trends, Strengths and Weaknesses**

- Create a report card of goals, projects and programs that have been accomplished in the last five years that were identified in previous plan.
  - ✓ Diversity and inclusion – in facilities, programs and events.
- Thank residents for their input; add a thank you note in the Family Fun Guide, send newsletter addressing misconceptions raised in survey.
- Communication important:
  - ✓ keep kiosks updated
  - ✓ create a newsletter
  - ✓ fun fact Fridays on Facebook
  - ✓ virtual walks/tours through parks; can use temporary signage when highlighting a trail or pathway for a couple of weeks utilizing a go-pro video
  - ✓ list of 5 things to do in the Township for specific age groups such as parents with children ages 1-5; just for seniors; just for people with dogs
  - ✓ Mobile story walk like the one in Orlando Park
- Create uniform wayfinding signage
- Should focus on improving amenities and self-directed amenities to increase enjoyment of parks for casual users.
- Include amenities that will attract new users
- Totally agree that additional staff is needed for parks and grounds maintenance.
- Need to better clarify and communicate the number of parks in our system. Many of our 29 parks are marshes, wetlands, floodways and floodplains.
- Move to on-line pavilion rental system
- Address trash dumpster/can needs and emptying schedule.
- What about evening and weekend maintenance needs from Memorial Day to Labor Day? Use seasonal or part-time staff?
- Excited to move forward with implementing the Central Park Master Plan
- Need to assist the Friends of Historic Meridian in obtaining new members
- Include more artwork in the parks (murals, sculptures)
- Create a performing arts area for plays etc.

- Plan for spring clean-up, painting, work on trails
- Would like to access a list of all the activities in the Township on a specific day or week; Robin and Darcie will work on this project
- Farmers' Market needs to relocate to the Meridian Mall.
  - The current location does not have sufficient parking
  - Site drainage is not good
  - Sidewalk too narrow for pedestrians
  - Play structure blocked by vendors
  - Difficult for vendors because they cannot park near their booth
- Maintenance:
  - ✓ Too much for guys to do
  - ✓ Asked to do too much too fast with not enough time
  - ✓ The crew takes pride in their jobs but need additional staff
  - ✓ New lawn mowers are needed; two old ones need to be replaced asap
  - ✓ Clear intersections of trails for user safety and easier access by plows and mowing equipment
  - ✓ Maybe hire outside firm to clean restrooms and pick up trash, even on weekends; would free up a lot of staff time
  
  - ✓ Appreciate summer help but the system needs attention; would like another option other than using college-aged crew
- Land Preservation
  - ✓ People are interested in accessing, walking and biking the trails
  - ✓ Need signage; directional and interpretative signage
  - ✓ Need off road parking
- North Meridian Road park needs expanded parking – currently unsafe
- Need to let the public know where the parks are:
  - ✓ Publicity
  - ✓ Communication
  - ✓ Maps with where I am and what you can find
- Residents want:
  - ✓ pavilions and restrooms (need both for Harris Nature Center and restroom for Hillbrook)
  - ✓ River access next to restrooms
  - ✓ More family-oriented programs; suggest re-working some of the current options and gear toward families
  - ✓ Passive recreation without committed times; maybe with media direction; able to access trail system on phones; self-directed opportunities
  - ✓ Offer on-line invasive species removal workshops
  - ✓ To feel safe in the parks
  - ✓ A dog park but staff questions the amount of maintenance
- Offer Tools for teachers; expand what staff is currently doing and start charging; create shovel ready projects to offer teachers
- Create a senior type playground; have installed fitness equipment in Wonch; what about swings that are easier to access especially for the physically challenged

- Division between parks, maintenance and activities; safety is a priority; these areas are always in the public eye and survey stated residents are happy with trails
- Suggested developing volunteer groups to go out, walk and possibly trim up the trails once a month; create an adopt a trail video; could ask Martha Hentz to speak; she and her family love Hartrick Park
- Suggest more marketing presence at the Town Hall; lost the indoor kiosk but need something there to promote programs and events
- Recreation:
  - ✓ Install a cricket ball batting cage and a game field
  - ✓ According to numbers need additional lacrosse fields and softball fields (there may be enough once Towner Road is developed)
  - ✓ Would like to see an indoor basketball court
- Suggest listing accomplishments at front of Master Plan along with future plans
- It might not be in our jurisdiction, but what about a bridge over the railroad tracks connecting in inner-urban pathway to the Nancy Moore park trail; there is a make-shift path already being used.

### **Strengths**

1. Operation on limited staffing
2. Customer service
3. Pride
4. Ability to work with the community
5. Farmers' Market

### **Weaknesses**

1. Each park needs to be spruced up. Little things like post covers and flowers make a huge difference
2. Need tree pruning and maintenance
3. Need trail maintenance
4. Paint all bathrooms
5. Need more grounds crew
6. Need to "pretty everything up"
7. Need fresh landscaping at many parks
8. Need beautiful signs for all parks and Preserves, and pathways that are throughout the township – like EL's wayfinding signs
9. Need interpretive signs or other info at all parks and preserves telling WHY the land is here, maybe a boundary map, what is interesting about the land
10. Need professional maps and signage
11. Need multiple dog parks: Nancy Moore, Hartrick? Towner?
12. Need an improved farmers' market facility

### **Strengths**

1. Volume of land
2. Overall customer service
3. Pride over parks and trails (mostly)
4. Satisfaction with youth recreation

## Weaknesses

1. Natural trail maintenance
2. Signage - park ID
3. Promoting parks- requests for guided hikes and programs on nature and history
4. Need for a dog park
5. Trail maps and routes - suggestions on website for good hikes, best playgrounds for certain ages, best places for a picnic, maybe have a “best of” contest?
6. Need to diversify marketing efforts.

Strengths – programming throughout the department is outstanding from an insider and outsider viewpoint! I wouldn't change a thing other than increase marketing efforts.

- Outstanding staff that goes above and beyond!

## Improvements:

- The nature center needs an outdoor restroom for program participants and casual park/trail users. It is needed not only when the Nature Center is closed, but when hosting school groups 50-75 kids at a time and during special events.
  - The nature center needs a pavilion. We have outgrown our space and since school come with bus loads, additional classroom/program space is needed – a pavilion would help with that greatly! The park is also becoming a destination location and could host picnics and family get-togethers.
  - Replace play equipment in parks like Ottawa Hills.
  - Spruce up each and every park when possible.
  - Maps, Trailhead signs and interpretive signs for all parks!
  - More Parks and Grounds staff is needed as they have way too much on their plates with such a small crew. If we want to spruce up parks and trails, we need more manpower.
- 
- People are interested in using land preservation parcels
  - People don't know where parks are, need improved:
    - ✓ Publicity
    - ✓ Signage
    - ✓ maps
  - Improve trail system and parking
    - ✓ Color code
    - ✓ Connect with web-based maps
    - ✓ Where am I? What's here?
  - If residents are asking for programs we already have, need better publicity
  - Citizen science and volunteering
  - River access with restrooms
  - Interpretative signs / use of native plants
  - Find balance between nature and recreation
- 
- Promote passive recreation

- ✓ Include all natural areas of township
- ✓ Guided walks with professionals and with staff members
- Show signs of invasive removal in parks and preserves
  - ✓ Map invasives
  - ✓ Guided walks / workshops
  - ✓ “passive” volunteer removal
- Create more opportunities
  - ✓ Make information available for teachers on website
  - ✓ Different projects in different parks and preserves
- Promote volunteerism
  - ✓ Wish list of projects
- Promote land preserves

**Goals and Objectives page (#86)**

- Under B. Goals and Objectives, #7, add, g. Programs to meet the diverse needs of the community
- Under B. Goals and Objects, #8, change title to Parks and Facilities
- Under B. Goals and Objects, #8a, after Harris Nature Center, add Meridian Senior Center and Meridian Historical Village
- Under B. Goals and Objects, add new #9. Volunteerism and Community Engagement – Kelsey Dillon will draft language

Park Commission Meeting  
December 13, 2016

6. MINUTES

- a. October 11, 2016 Work Session Minutes
- b. October 11, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. November 1, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION WORK SESSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Deschaine (arrived at 6:15 pm), Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Administrative Assistant Robin Faust

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Acting Chair McDonald called the work session to order at 6:05 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Add new item #6, 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and new item #7 Park Commission November 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting date and renumber remaining agenda items.

Hearing no objection, Acting Chair McDonald approved the work session agenda as amended.

**3. 2016 Deer Management Program**

Coordinator Greenway reported sharp shooters have harvested over 1,000 deer from the northern section of the Township. Currently there have been very few complaints from Haslett but numerous complaints from the Okemos residents, particularly south of Grand River. For this year, the DNR has lifted the 450 foot rule from occupied dwellings for archery hunting and staff is asking the Commission to consider adding the following parks to the program: Tacoma Hills Natural Area, Forest Hills Natural Area, Hartrick Park, Wonch Park, Ferguson Park, and Orlando Park Outlot B.

To date, we have heard from one resident who has concerns with hunting in Forest Hills Natural Area because her children play in that area. Staff has received several calls from other Forest Hills residents supporting the hunt. Director Maisner reported that Schools has requested that hunting adjacent to school locations be limited to weekends and during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday breaks.

Discussion:

- Commissioner Deschaine reported that during campaigning the primary issues were roads and the deer problem.

- When questioned about including the Sander Farm Natural Area, Director Maisner replied the Township has an open space easement but does not own the site.
- When asked if Hillbrook Park was considered, Coordinator Greenway replied no but the focus for this season was to add location in the southern portion of the community.
- With regards to Forest Hills Natural Area, Coordinator Greenway replied there will be two hunters assigned to the site who are neighbors to the park. The stand will be located in an area furthest from the houses and trail.
- Orlando Park Outlot B is not connected to Orlando Park
- There will be hunting on the MSU property and at Lake Lansing North and is verifying that Indian Hills Golf Course will be participating as they did last year
- The majority of complaints are from Cornell Woods and Forest Hills Natural Area residents

#### **4. International Transmission Company (ITC) Temporary Easement Request**

Director Maisner reported a representative from ITC is requesting an easement to reach and replace a monopole tower on College Fields property. Staff has walked the area and due to wetlands at both the east and west ends of the site, it is recommended ITC enter through Hartrick Park. Access will be permitted down the entry drive, through the parking lot to the south side of the ball diamond and west end of the soccer field to the college Fields Golf Course. A copy of the draft easement and site map is included in the packet.

Discussion:

- Would like to request more than \$250 for the easement; suggested \$1,000, plus ITC will pay for any and all damages the equipment may cause
- Suggested having the park naturalist review the west area of the park to ensure the protection of any sensitive vegetation and/or animals, particularly birds, in the area
- The proposed access will not impact the eagle scout pathway

#### **5. Meridian Township Master Plan**

Director Maisner reported all of the goals and objectives recommended by the Park Commission were incorporated into the Township' Master Plan and the Township's Master Plan references the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which is a valuable reference tool.

#### **6. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Director Maisner reported an RFP had been sent out and four firms submitted bids to assist with designing and conducting the residents' survey, hosting input session and correlating the data to assist with updating the Master Plan. Director Maisner distributed the survey questions used in updating the Master Plan in 2011 and asked the Commissioners to review. She recommended the current

Commissioners with the incoming Commissioners meet in October to begin the updating process. After a review of schedules, it was the consensus of the Commission to hold a special meeting to discuss updating the Master Plan on Wednesday, October 26, at 6 pm, at the Meridian Service Center.

**7. Park Commission November 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Date**

Due to the General Election being held on November 8<sup>th</sup>, it is recommended to cancel the regular Park Commission Meeting.

**8. Comments**

None

**9. Adjournment**

Hearing no objection, Acting Chair McDonald adjourned the work session at 7 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Deschaine, Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Land  
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Administrative Assistant II  
Robin Faust

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Acting Chair McDonald called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 pm

**2. Approval of Agenda**

- Under item #3, Presentations, removed item #a, Certificate of Appreciation for Todd Wilson
- Under item #10, Other Business, add item #a, Park Commission November 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Date

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

**3. Presentations**

**a. Certificate of Appreciation – Todd Wilson**

Item was postponed from the agenda.

**b. Water Trail Proposal**

Director Maisner reported there have been ongoing discussions to construct and promote a water trail from Williamston to Lansing. Jeff Potter is present to share his plan to move the project forward.

Jeff Potter, Out Your Back Door, LLC, stated his group consists of other local river enthusiasts with backgrounds in construction and media/internet access. They believe the river is an under used resource and want to launch a campaign to increase awareness which would involve over a dozen agencies, governments, and entities covering over 23 miles. They are recommending the creations of boat launch sites that would be seen from the roadway. Very much like Ferguson Park (which is in dire need of renovation). His proposal includes proposed sites, launch construction and signage. Their analysis recommends having options that provide for one to two hour trips. They estimate the entire project to cost approximately \$70,000 and would be

asking each community to contribute and will be reaching out to Ingham County Trails Millage to assess their interest but know the County will require letters of commitment from the interested communities. He would like Meridian Township to serve as the fiduciary agency for the entire project.

Discussion:

- Would promote recreation on the water and address water quality issues of the river
- Looking at public/private partnerships such as with Power of Water
- Power of Water does volunteer for water clearing projects
- There will be a common, low impact design for the launch sites
- Working with an interested individual to create a handicap accessible site
- Will need to create a plan where everyone can help keep the river clear and open
- Would be working with volunteers from the new MSU water initiative program

**4. Public Comment**

Fred Hawley, 4543 Eastwood Drive, Okemos, spoke in support of the deer management program and it is especially needed in the Forest Hills Natural Area, Tacoma Hills Natural Area. Residents have an on-going battle to project their landscaping. He is very concerned with safety with so many deer in yards and the spread of diseases and for traveling in the neighborhoods and along roadways.

Charles Griffen, 1655 Boulevard Drive, Okemos stated the deer are no longer discriminate eaters, they eat everything. During the day, there are up to 5-6 standing in your yard and looking into the windows. He supports all attempts to getting this deer herd in Forest Hills under control.

**5. Commissioner Reports and Comments**

Commissioner Deschaine reported this will be his last meeting on the Park Commission and it has been a pleasure to serve with the Commissioners. While campaigning, he heard two key issues: too many deer in the Okemos areas and they need to be removed; and the redevelopment of Central Park and moving the Farmers Market to a new, expanded location, both of these issues he supports.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

a. August 23, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 23, 2016 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## 7. Communications

Director Maisner summarized the following items of communication:

- A. Items to/from the Public
  - 1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Ted Black Woods park observations and recommendations
  - 2. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Tacoma Hills Neighborhood Park observations and recommendations
  - 3. From: Peter Cobbett; RE: Meridian Deer Management
  - 4. From: Mary Lou Gifford; RE: Deer problem
  - 5. From: Michael Garrette Sr; RE: Deer herd
  - 6. From: Jessi Wortley; RE: Meridian Deer Management
- B. Commission Information
  - 1. Calendar of Events for October and November
  - 2. Harris Nature Center Foundation 2015 Annual Report
  - 3. Press Releases:
    - Red Cedar River Clearing Event rescheduled to October 29
    - Meridian Township Celebrates Halloween on October 22 & October 29
    - Local Business Helps Raise Funds for Meridian Township's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Culver's October 12
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response
  - 1. To: Meridian Township Residents; RE: information Deer Management Areas to adjacent residents
  - 2. From: Harmony Gmazel, AICP Associate Planner; RE: Wetland Use Permit #16-04 (Ingham County Drain Commissioner)
- D. Distributed at Meeting:
  - 1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Eastgate Park observations and recommendations

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

## 8. Director's Report

Director Maisner summarized the following:

- Hillbrook Park – the tennis, pickleball and basketball courts project is nearing completion with poles, nets and stripping being finished; trees have been ordered and will be installed around the courts and play structure within the next two weeks
- Towner Road Park – request for qualification proposals for a construction manager for the project have been sent out and are due Monday, October 17

- Doggie Playground – staff cleared an area, will be removing invasives, fencing three areas, develop pathways and construct agility structures, plan to have installed before the end of the year
- 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan – an updated plan is due to DNR by March 1, requested proposals to assist with the community input and goals and objectives portions of the Plan, four proposals were received, staff interviewed three
- Community Regional Foundation Grant for Tool Crib – staff submitted a \$6,500 grant to create a tool crib which will house tools needs by staff and volunteers at project sites.
- Pet Smart Dog Park Grant – the Township did not receive a grant this year but a grant was awarded to a Michigan city
- Grants Update – staff received preliminary scores for each of the three grants, staff submitted additional information to increase the score:
  - ✓ Land and Water Conservation Fund – Historical Village Restroom and Gateway Bridge: originally received 270/430 with additional material score increase to 340/430
  - ✓ MNR Trust Fund – Regional Pathway Central Park: originally received 355/520 with additional material score increase to 400/520
  - ✓ MNR Trust Fund – Ponderosa Acquisition: originally received 400/550 with additional material score increase to 415/550

## 9. **New Business**

### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### a. Hillbrook Drain Easement Request

Ingham County Deputy Drain Commissioner Paul Pratt reported plans have been submitted for approval and staff is working on the legal phrasing for the drain easement agreement. Director Maisner stated the current drain that runs through Hillbrook Park is inadequate and needs repair. They will be maintaining the integrity of the existing trail system by constructing a footbridge. They will also be removing trees that are necessary for the project and replacing them at a 2:1 ratio. Some of those trees will be planted near the new playground area in the northern portion of the park.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE EASEMENT REQUEST IN HILLBROOK PARK FROM THE INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING THE NAMOKA DRAIN. ALL TREES REMOVED BY THE PROJECT WILL E REPLACED AT A MINIMUM OF A TWO TO ONE RATIO. A BOARDWALK/FOOTBRIDGE WILL BE CONSTRUCTED OVER THE DRAIN AS PART OF THE PROJECT TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE EXISTING TRAIL SYSTEM. MOVE TO APPROVE PENDING ATTORNEY REVIEW. Voice vote. Motion passed.

b. 2016 Deer Management Program

Coordinator Greenway reported the Township is in its sixth year of the Deer Management Program covering 20 parks and land preserves. In the last five years, 473 deer have been harvested and there have been 1,355 deer car collisions. Last year, CWD was discovered in Haslett. All harvested and road kill deer have been checked in the core area. Complaints of deer damage have steadily increased especially from residents in Cornell Woods and Forest Hills Natural Area. Staff is asking to include six (6) additional parks and land preserves to the program trying to reach residential areas south of Grand River. To address the concerns by Okemos Schools, hunting in areas adjacent to Okemos Schools will only occur on weekends and during Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. The proposed locations are: Forest Hills Natural Area, Orlando Park Outlot B, Hartrick Park, Tacoma Hills Natural Area, Wonch Park and Ferguson Park. The Land Preservation Advisory Board will be considering the additional of the Sumbal Land Preserve which is adjacent to Ferguson Park. Residents were notified of the proposed sites.

Discussion:

- There will be two hunters in western end of Hartrick Park
- All stand locations are approved by staff
- Forest Hills will probably have only one hunter
- Our hunters are Township residents and/or employees and usually live adjacent to the area they are hunting in
- Orlando Park Outlot B is not connected to Orlando Park, is adjacent to the Mudd Lake Drain but not easy accessible from Haslett School due to the wetlands and there are no trails in the area. There will be one hunter at this site
- Other areas participating in deer harvest include Delta Dental, Ingham County Farm on Dobie Road, Lake Lansing North and MSU Reserve on Dobie Road.

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED (and read into the record),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE PARK COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN AUTHORIZES THAT THE TOWNSHIP-MANAGED DEER HARVEST WILL ADD THE FOLLOWING PARK PROPERTIES TO THE PROGRAM IN 2016: FOREST HILLS NATURAL AREA, ORLANDO PARK OUTLOT B, HARTRICK PARK, TACOMA HILLS NATURAL AREA, WONCH PARK, AND FERGUSON PARK. ALL PARK PROPERTIES WILL REMAIN OPEN TO THE PUBLIC DURING NORMAL HOURS AS IDENTIFIED IN THE PARK ORDINANCE.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED.

Roll Call

AYES: Mark Stephens, Philip Deschaine, Michael McDonald, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

Resolution passed.

c. International Transmission Company (ITC) Temporary Easement Request

Director Maisner reported ITC is requesting to access their easement to their power lines on the College Fields property that extends to east and west along the northern border of Hartrick Park. their access would be allowed from Hulett road through the park and around behind the ball fields and soccer fields. ITC is offering \$250 for use of the park and the Township Attorney is reviewing the temporary easement.

Discussion:

- Suggested the fee be increased to \$1,000 to be used to benefit the park
- Asked to have the area in the west end of the park reviewed first to see if any area should be environmentally protected as there may be song birds in the area

ACTING CHAIR MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT REQUEST FROM INTERNATIONAL TRANSMISSION COMPANY (ITC) TO ACCESS THEIR POWER POLES FOR MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT THROUGH HARTRICK PARK. ITC MUST AGREE TO REPAIR ANY AND ALL DAMAGE THAT OCCURS TO THE DRIVEWAY, PARKING LOT, AND/OR TURF AREAS AND FOLLOW ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE EASEMENT LANGUAGE. THE TEMPORARY ACCESS EASEMENT EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2016. Voice vote. Motion passed.

d. Consumers Energy Tree Grant Award

The Township applied and received a grant in the amount of \$1,000 from Consumers Energy's Community Tree Planting Grant program. The goal of the program is to encourage municipalities to plant the "right tree in the right place". The grant requires trees to be native and to not plant them on top of or underneath utility lines. Staff is proposing to purchase and plant ten native flowering trees in Ferguson Park and the planting will be completed by Chippewa Middle School students.

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO ACCEPT THE TREE GRANT FROM CONSUMERS ENERGY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000 TO PLANT TEN TREES IN FERGUSON PARK WITH A PROJECT COMPLETION DATE OF NOVEMBER 14, 2016.

Roll Call

AYES: Mark Stephens, Philip Deschaine, Michael McDonald, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

e. Ingham County Parks and Trails Millage Application

Director Maisner reported the Commission submitted grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the Central Meridian Regional Trail Connector project which creates a trail head in Central Park and runs west to Central Park South connecting to an existing north/south paved pathway. Staff is recommending the Commission submit a grant to the Ingham County Parks and Trail Millage for 50% of the local match to the Trust Fund Grant.

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE INGHAM COUNTY PARKS AND TRAILS MILLAGE FOR A REQUEST OF \$61,225 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP'S LOCAL MATCH OF THE MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT FOR THE CENTRAL MERIDIAN REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTOR PROJECT.

Roll Call

AYES: Mark Stephens, Philip Deschaine, Michael McDonald, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

f. Harris Nature Center Building Improvements

Director Maisner stated there is an ongoing water problem in the basement of the Harris Nature Center building and it needs corrective action immediately. Bids have been received to build a new drainage system in the foundation for \$13,110.

With this work in the basement, Staff is also recommending that a new building generator be installed to prevent power outages especially since there are a number of animals that could be in danger in extreme weather conditions. The estimated cost is \$13,000, but bids will be sought before the work is completed.

ACTING CHAIR MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE BID FROM STAY DRY BASEMENT WATERPROOFING, INC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13, 110 FOR INSTALLATION OF A COMPLETE HYDO-FLO DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND MOLD TREATMENT AT THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Michael McDonald, Philip Deschaine, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

ACTING CHAIR MCDONALD MOVED, COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A BUILDING GENERATOR AT THE HARRIS NATURE CENTER TO SERVE AS A BACK-UP POWER SOURCE DURING POWER-OUTAGE EVENTS IN THE ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF \$13, 000.

Roll Call

AYES: Mark Stephens, Philip Deschaine, Michael McDonald, Melanie Jaramillo

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

g. Professional Services Agreement- 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Director Maisner stated the Department is in the processing of updating its 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and are seeking consulting services to assist with implementing community input, development of goals and objectives and implementation of the planning process. The Master Plan must be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources by March 1, 2017. The Township received four bids and interviewed three firms and is recommending awarding the contract to Rowe Professional Services Co.

COMMISSIONER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CO IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,900 FOR UPDATING THE FIVE-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021 PENDING TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY REVIEW AS TO FORM.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Michael McDonald, Philip Deschaine, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

**10. Other Business** (cherry)

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Park Commission November 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting Date

Acting Chair McDonald reported due to the general election, the Commission will be canceling their November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO CANCEL THE NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> PARK COMMISSION MEETING DATE DUE TO THE GENERAL ELECTION. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING DATE IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016. Voice vote. Motion passed.

It was the consensus of the Commission will be holding a special meeting on Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 6 pm, at the Meridian Service Center to discuss the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This will be a kick-off meeting and the incoming Park Commissioners will also be invited to participate.

**11. Discussion Items**

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Red Cedar Water Trail Proposal

Discussion:

- How will this all be connected
- Maintenance is a major issue
- Need to know what other communities are involved and potential commitment
- Not sure Williamston or Williamstown will commit financially
- Need more details before reaching out to residents and businesses
- Suggest hosting a series of focus groups, present the idea and see what the interest is
- Will need to address beavers, trapping, erosion problems, bank stabilization
- Excited about the proposal but need to build consensus and support
- Large undertaking
- Would like to hear from Williamston, East Lansing and MSU
- MSU is focusing on water this year
- Would be good if the MSU canoe rental and launch were revived.
- Need to know how the project will be coordinated; like to see a more complete project package
- Commissioners will send Director Maisner their thoughts and the topic will be on a future agenda

**12. Final Comments**

Commissioner Jaramillo expressed her appreciation to Commissioners and residents and enjoyed serving as a Park Commissioner. A lot of good work has been accomplished in the last four years.

Commissioner Deschaine stated it has been a great two years and glad to see the new Park Millage put to good use.

**13. Announcements**

- a. Farmers' Market –Wednesdays and Saturdays, 8 am-2 pm, until end of October; Thanksgiving Market will be held on Wednesday, November 23 from 10 am – 2 pm
- b. Red Cedar River Clearing Event has been rescheduled to Saturday, October 29, 9 am, meeting at the Harris Nature Center
- c. Culver's hosting 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser, Wednesday, October 12; a portion of sales received between 4-10 pm to support community celebration
- d. Meridian Township Celebrates Halloween
  - Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Halloween Adventures at the Harris Nature Center from 10 am – 5 pm and Fire Safety Open House at Meridian Central Fire Station from 10 am – 1 pm
  - Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>: HOMTV Studio Funhouse from 10 am – 1 pm; Meridian Police Department Open House from 10 am – 1 pm; Halloween in the Village from 10 am – 2 pm; Meridian Farmers' Market from 8 am – 2 pm (last market day of the summer/fall season)

**14. Public Comment**

None

**15. Closed Session**

COMMISSIONER JARAMILLO MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO MOVED INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Michael McDonald, Philip Deschaine, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The Commission entered into closed session at 9:11 pm.

COMMISSIONER DESCHAIINE MOVED, ACTING CHAIR MCDONALD SECONDED, TO MOVED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call

AYES: Melanie Jaramillo, Michael McDonald, Philip Deschaine, Mark  
Stephens

NAYS: None

The Commission returned to session at 9:26 pm.

**16. Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Acting Chair McDonald adjourned the regular meeting at 9:27 pm.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
PARK COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioners Jaramillo, McDonald, Stephens

ABSENT: Commissioner Deschaine

STAFF: Parks and Recreation Director LuAnn Maisner, Parks and Land  
Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Administrative Assistant II  
Robin Faust

OTHERS: Richard Baker, Annika B. Schaetzi

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Acting Chair McDonald called the special meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

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

**3. 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Director Maisner offered the following:

- The current plan is scheduled to expire in 2016 and an updated version is required to be submitted by March 1, 2017.
- To qualify for grants, an up to date Master Plan needs to be on file with the DNR
- Staff accesses the Recreation Plan throughout the year for a number of issues
- The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is incorporated into the Township's Master Plan
- The Master Plan assists with decisions on acquiring future sites
- The current plan was updated by staff six years ago. For this plan, an outside firm has been contracted to assist with the public input portion which includes the survey, workshops, focus groups, evaluation of goals and objectives, creating an action plan and executive summary
- A kickoff meeting was held with consultant last week to evaluate the current plan and to develop the survey questions.

- Staff will be conducting outreach meetings with different groups in the township to gather input plus hold a public open house

Director Maisner distributed the survey questions used for the current Master Plan.

Discussion:

- #1, would like to know why a person does not use a park; need a dialogue box for it
- #2, suggested adding "in reference to the above listed parks, please..."
- #2, an a comment section on interacting with maintenance staff; like to know how a person feels other than to agree or disagree to a question
- #3, want to know if people are participating; need information for grant production; want to know where we are lacking; will compare with answers in current Master Plan; ask to add question for further information on why not in a youth or adult sports program
- #4, add an "other" category
- #5, add comments box
- #6, question prioritizing the top five; question using a point system
- #7, suggested the vendors at the Market be done separately; vendors have more specific needs
- #8, add a question "I do not use the outdoor recreation facilities because" or "if you do not visit a park, why?"
- #9, remove the first two questions because they are mentioned earlier in survey; like to know if park is used for a social gathering place; like to know why a persons is using the parks; what do you use a park for: walking, picnics, socializing?;
- #10, a census question
- #12, move paragraph to right after question #14
- #14, make these two as an "a" and "b"
- Add question such as "what would make your experience better when visiting our parks or participating in our programs, please share your ideas for additional programs or activities
- Add question on volunteering

Director Maisner summarized the proposed schedule to complete the Master Plan:

Survey and public input	November 8-30
Analysis	December 1-9
Park Commission Input and Review	December 13
Open for 30 day public review	December 15-January 15
Public Hearing and park Commission adoption	February 14
Township Board Adoption	February 21
Submit to DNR	March 1

A postcard will be send to every household in the Township inviting residents to complete the survey and with an invitation to the open house. The draft Master Plan will be available for public review for 30 days and the public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 14 as part of the Park Commission meeting. The Master Plan will need to be submitted to the Township Board for their adoption on February 21 and the Master Plan will be submitted to the DNR by March 1, 2017.

**4. Other**

None

**5. Public Comment**

None

**6. Adjournment**

Hearing no objections, Acting Chair McDonald adjourned the special meeting at 7:42 pm.

# Park Commission Meeting

December 13, 2016

## 7. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Items to/from the Public
  - 1. From: Eckhart Dersch; RE: Eastgate Park observations and recommendations
  
- B. Commission Information
  - 1. Gov. Rick Snyder applauds Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board recommendations
  - 2. Calendar of Events for December
  - 3. Mark Stephens Award Presentation
  - 4. Meridian Garden Club Newsletter – Plant It Pink Garden in the Historical Village and Blue Star Memorial Rededication
  - 5. Emerald Ash Borer Presentation scheduled for January Park Commission Meeting
  
- C. Staff Inquiries/Response

**DATE:** October 10, 2016

**TO:** LuAnn Maisner  
Jane Greenway  
Park Commissioners

**FROM:** Eckhart Dersch

**SUBJECT:** Eastgate Park: Observations and Recommendations

This park continues to offer the visitor a very pleasant place to enjoy its many natural features. The trails are remarkably free of fallen trees; yet another sign that our maintenance crew has been actively involved in maintaining this park. While most visitors would experience the many beautiful features of this park, the following notes are presented through the more critical eye of this former Park Commissioner:

**TRAILS:**

- a) No trail maps are in the case at the trailhead. The new plastic case is a very nice addition.
- b) The left trail branch near the trailhead is eroding badly and requires the addition of crushed stone to harden that section of trail. The ruts and exposed roots here pose trip-hazards for walkers.
- c) One section of handrail along the steps up the bluff halfway into the park is broken due to a fallen limb.
- d) A small tree has fallen across the trail between the Scrimger and Stilwill bridges, along the riverside trail.
- e) This would be a good time of year to see where bare-trail conditions would warrant addition of wood chips to reduce compaction of soil around the root zone of trees and to reduce muddy trail conditions after a rain.
- f) There is not a trash barrel at the picnic shelter.
- g) There are no handicap-accessible picnic tables at either of the handicap picnic pads along the paved access trail.

**ENCROACHMENTS:**

- a) The previously reported metal fence installed on park property behind a home on Trillium Way has not been moved. If the homeowner was notified about this trespass, the warning is being ignored.
- b) The previously reported dumping of yard waste in the park by another homeowner on Trillium Way continues. If the homeowner was advised to remove the yard waste and stop dumping, the warning is being ignored.
- c) The previously reported extension of lawn into park property by a Chimney Oaks homeowner has not changed.

## Jane Greenway

---

**From:** Farrell, James (AG) <farrellj@michigan.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2016 1:05 PM  
**To:** Jane Greenway  
**Subject:** FW: Gov. Snyder applauds Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant recommendations

**From:** Michigan DNR [mailto:MIDNR@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 09, 2016 12:49 PM  
**To:** Farrell, James (AG) <farrellj@michigan.gov>  
**Subject:** Gov. Snyder applauds Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant recommendations

Recommendations represent both development and acquisition projects.

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## Statewide DNR News

*The following news release was issued earlier today by the Office of Gov. Rick Snyder:*

Dec. 9, 2016

Contact:

Gov. Snyder's communications office, 517-335-6397

Jon Mayes (DNR grants management), 517-284-5954

## Gov. Rick Snyder applauds Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board recommendations

### *Board recommends \$47.6 million to enhance public outdoor recreation*

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today applauded the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board for its submission of grant recommendations for recreational development and land acquisition projects to the state Legislature.

“For 40 years, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund has provided opportunities to Michiganders to experience our state’s world-class natural resources. These recommendations reflect that ongoing commitment to a better quality of life for Michigan citizens in every part of our state,” Snyder said.

The board’s recommendations total more than \$47.6 million for projects in 2017, including \$19.9 million in recreational development and \$27.7 million in land acquisition projects.

Of the \$27.7 million recommended to fund acquisition projects, \$19.9 million would be awarded to local units of government, while the remaining \$7.8 million would be awarded to the Department of Natural Resources. Of the \$19.9 million recommended to fund development grants, \$17.9 million would support 79 local government projects and \$2 million would support eight DNR projects.

In 2016, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund celebrated 40 years of funding high-quality outdoor recreation opportunities for Michigan residents and visitors. Over the past four decades, the Trust Fund has granted more than \$1 billion to state and local units of government to develop and improve outdoor recreation opportunities in all 83 counties.

“The board’s grant recommendations reflect the long-standing tradition of the Trust Fund’s support of healthy lifestyles, public recreation and regional economies,” said DNR Director Keith Creagh. “The Trust Fund is truly a unique treasure and we look forward to the continuing support it will provide Michigan communities.”

The board's recommendations will go to the state Legislature for review as part of the appropriations process. Upon approval, the Legislature will forward legislation to the governor for his signature.

A full list of the final recommendations made is available [here](#).

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The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state’s natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).



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This email was sent to [farrelli@michigan.gov](mailto:farrelli@michigan.gov) using GovDelivery, on behalf of: Michigan Department of Natural Resources · Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan St., PO Box 30028 Lansing MI 48909 · 1-800-439-1420

# Meridian Township Parks & Recreation December Calendar of Events



## DECEMBER

December 1 – Preschool Science Exploration/All About Squirrels

December 2 – Haslett Kindergarten – 3rd Grade Basketball registration deadline

December 3 – Winter Farmers Market inside the Meridian Mall

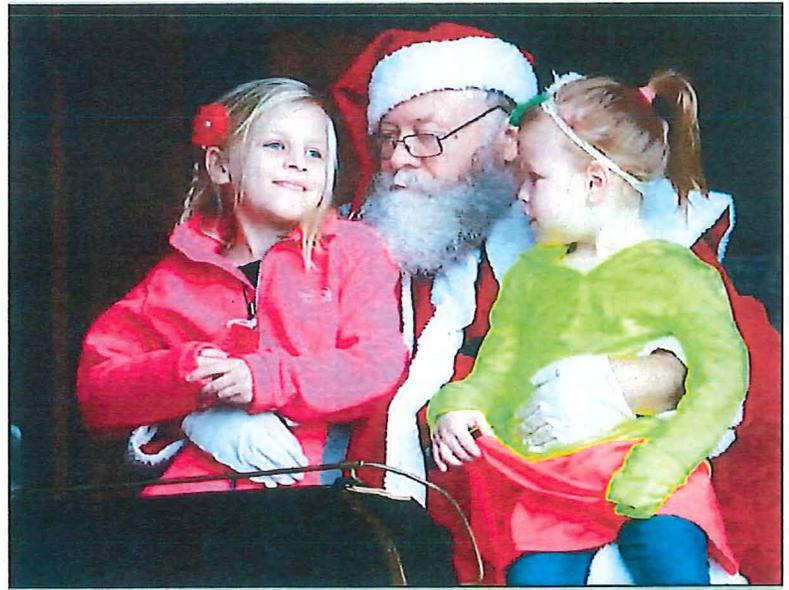
December 11 – Christmas in the Village

December 15 – Chipmunk Story Time/Earl the Squirrel

December 16- Howl at the Moon

December 17 – Winter Farmers Market inside the Meridian Mall

December 26-January 31 – Christmas Tree Disposal in Nancy Moore Park parking lot



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



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Go to [BITLY.COM/MERIDIANREGISTER](https://bitly.com/meridianregister)

to set up an account



## MARK STEPHENS

If you know Mark Stephens, you know he likes fishing! Mark believes that it is important to get people, especially children, outside and engaging with the natural world around them.

We are very fortunate that Mark has served as a Park Commissioner in Meridian Township for ten years. (He was appointed February 21, 2006 and elected November 2006).

Mark has also served as the Park Commission's liaison to the Land Preservation Advisory Board since 2012.

Over the past 10 years, Mark has introduced fishing and land stewardship to thousands of children and adults in Meridian Township and beyond.

In his professional capacity, Stephens is an education program coordinator for a program called Project F.I.S.H., Friends Involved in Sportfishing Heritage, an extension of Michigan State University's Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies.

Mark is also a leader in The Grand Learning Network, The GRAND Learning Network is a stewardship initiative that uses place-based education to give youth, teachers, and communities in Mid-Michigan tremendous opportunities to learn and grow in their appreciation of our water resources.

Mark was instrumental in engaging thousands of school children in nature related activities that have improved our parks and land preserves including:

1. In 2008, Mark enlisted the help of Haslett Elementary School teachers and students to design, grow and plant a **butterfly garden** as part of the Orlando Park development project. That was the successful beginning of engaging classrooms in local place-based learning in our parks - and it has only continued to grow!
2. **Mary Helmbrecht pollinator garden** – engaged 200 kids in growing and planting native plants that will attract pollinators.
3. **Lake Lansing North pollinator garden** – 120 children collected native seeds, grew plants, and planted them in the Meridian Land Preservation section of Lake Lansing North Park
4. **Davis/Foster Preserve** – tree planting and seed ball project. Nearly 300 schoolchildren planted trees and planted seed balls in the native grassland
5. **Salmon Releases** – thousands of school children have released salmon into the Red Cedar River at Ferguson Park and Legg Park as part of Mark's "Salmon in the Classroom" program.
6. **Mark led a wetland restoration program in Legg Park engaging hundreds of school children.**
7. **Mark has a gift of making learning about our environment FUN!**

Mark has brought our community together around fishing, our local environment and local ecology which has greatly benefited our parks and land preserves.

Mark is a gem and we consider ourselves lucky to have him as a Park Commissioner.

# The Meridian Gardener



November 2016

Volume Eleven

*The official publication of Meridian Garden Club, Inc.  
Member of Michigan, Central Region and National Garden Clubs, Inc*

## Plant It Pink Progress



Thanks to all who made our groundbreaking such a big success! Our partners, the Capitol Area Landscape and Nurserymen's Association, have already installed our brick pathway and the irrigation will be put in before the snow flies. Additionally, our club and this project will be featured in the spring 2017 issue of The National Gardener.

For the committee,  
Sue Nieland



## Now's the Time: Fall Clean-Up Beats Iris Borers

Shared by Mary Lou Hatfield



Now is the best time to conquer iris borers -- and it's easy. Cleanliness is the key. In the fall, iris borer moths lay their eggs on iris leaves and anything similar that's close by. In the spring, the eggs hatch into tiny grubs that crawl up the leaves and then chew their way down into the rhizomes where they wreak havoc. By eliminating the eggs in the fall, you'll save yourself a lot of grief. Simply wait till **after a good hard frost** (which kills the adult moths) and then (a) cut back all iris leaves to a couple of inches and (b) remove all dead leaves and stalks as well as any debris and mulch that's near the plants. To be safe, don't compost this stuff; burn it or throw it out with the garbage. Repeat this simple, poison-free clean-up every fall and you'll have very little problem with borers. Now isn't that easy? Click <http://blogs.k-state.edu/kansasbugs/tag/iris-borers/>.

## Blue Star Memorial Rededication



Our garden club and Meridian Township officials rededicating our Blue Star Memorial with Michigan Garden Club, Inc. Blue Star Chair, Jean Geotz's leadership.

## Gingerbread House Construction



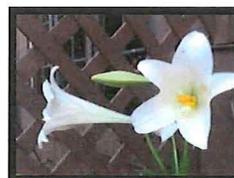
This month we will be putting together holiday gingerbread houses. They will be approximately 4 inches square and 7 inches tall. The gingerbread will be baked and ready to put together. Signing up with Peggy Bryson by November 14 is necessary to ensure that I will have enough materials.

Everyone will receive enough royal icing to construct and ample candy to decorate your house. There will be candy to choose from but if you would like to bring in your own candy you're more than welcome. Also if you have bags and tips that you would like to use for the icing, bring them with you as well. A 10" cake round will be provided for the base. I suggest you bring in 3 or 4 canned goods to assist you in standing up your walls while the icing dries. A box to transport your finished house is also suggested.

I will provide handouts with the recipes I used so if you wish to build an addition you're ready to go.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call me, my cell phone number is 517-897-6099.

*Jodie Szalankiewicz*



Photos from Tressa McAllister's Fall Garden

## Robin Faust

---

**From:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 9:01 AM  
**To:** Bauer, Leah -FS  
**Cc:** Robin Faust; Jane Greenway  
**Subject:** RE: emerald ash borer biological control research in Meridian township

Hi Leah,

We are happy to collaborate with you and your extended study of EAB. I'm sure there is no problem with moving forward with your efforts.

With the election upon us, I will have a new Park Commission soon (3 new members). It would be great if maybe you could attend the December 13, 2016 regular meeting to talk briefly about your study and the work you have done in Meridian. Technically, they would be the ones to approve your request and I will bring it forward for a vote on Dec. 13. Can you come that night? 7:00pm at the Meridian Township Hall, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos 48864.

Thank you.

LuAnn

*\* Rescheduled to January 24 meeting*

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**From:** Bauer, Leah -FS [<mailto:lbauer@fs.fed.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 17, 2016 3:08 PM  
**To:** LuAnn Maisner  
**Subject:** emerald ash borer biological control research in Meridian township

Hi LuAnn,

As you probably know, we began studying the use of biological control to manage the emerald ash borer (EAB) at Meridian Riverfront park and Central South/Nancy Moore parks in Meridian township in 2007, when the EAB natural enemies from China were first approved for release in North America. These natural enemies are now being reared by USDA in a laboratory in Brighton, MI for release throughout much of the U.S. and Canada. However, the study sites in these two Meridian township parks (and other sites at Burchfield County park and three Michigan DNR State Game Areas) are of major importance in understanding the long-term impacts of biological control on EAB and ash health. In the fall of each year at two study plots in each of these six parks, we cut and dissect four small ash trees, and evaluate each EAB larva feeding under the tree bark for natural enemies. We would like permission to continue this work again this year.

Attached are some the recent papers we wrote, reporting on the results of our research. We also helped write a book on EAB biology & control (the cover photo was taken of young ash trees growing in Central south park), which is available at this link [http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/FHTET-2014-09\\_Biology\\_Control\\_EAB.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/technology/pdfs/FHTET-2014-09_Biology_Control_EAB.pdf)

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Leah

Leah Bauer, PhD  
Research Entomologist & Adjunct Associate Professor  
USDA Forest Service Northern Research Station & Michigan State University  
p: 517-884-8059  
c: 517-256-0623  
f: 517-355-5121  
[lbauer@fs.fed.us](mailto:lbauer@fs.fed.us)  
3101 Technology Blvd., Suite F  
Lansing, MI 48910

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# Park Commission Meeting

## December 13, 2016

### 9. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2017 Meeting Calendar
- b. Election of Officers for 2017
- c. Appointment to Land Preservation Advisory Board
- d. Set Public Hearing Date – Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan

# MEMORANDUM

TO: Park Commission

FROM:   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: December 8, 2016

RE: 2017 Commission Meeting Schedule

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In light of the approved 2017 Township Board meeting schedule and in an effort to be televised, the following 2017 Park Commission Meeting Schedule is being recommended:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>January 10*</b>	<b>Town Hall Room</b>	<b>Joint Meeting with Township Board at 6 pm</b>
<b>January 24**</b>	<b>Town Hall Room</b>	<b>6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg</b>
February 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
March 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
April 11	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
May 9	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
June 13	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
July 11	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
August 8	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
September 12	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
October 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
November 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
<b>December 12***</b>	<b><u>Service Center</u></b>	<b>6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg</b>

The exceptions to the meeting schedule are:

- On Tuesday, January 10, the Township Board is hosting the annual joint meeting of all boards and commissions. If the Commission moves their January meeting to January 23, the meeting can be televised.
- In December, the Township Board is meeting on the first and second Tuesday in the Town Hall Room. If the Commission would like to have their meeting remain on the second Tuesday, the meeting location is scheduled to be held at the Service Center.

The following motion is proposed:

MOVE that the Park Commission meeting schedule as outlined in the December 8, 2016 staff memorandum and attached Resolution be accepted and approved, and copies of the meeting schedule be forwarded to the appropriate individuals for posting.

/attachment

**Park Commission Meeting Dates  
2017 Meeting Schedule**

**RESOLUTION**

At a regular meeting of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 13th day of December, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., Local Time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEREAS, the Park Commission desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Park Commission deems the 2017 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board's Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board's Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Park Commission adopts its regular 2017 meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
<b>January 10*</b>	<b>Town Hall Room</b>	<b><u>Joint Meeting with Township Board at 6 pm</u></b>
<b>January 24**</b>	<b>Town Hall Room</b>	<b>6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg</b>
February 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
March 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
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October 10	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
November 14	Town Hall Room	6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg
<b>December 12***</b>	<b><u>Service Center</u></b>	<b>6 pm work session/7 pm regular mtg</b>

2. The Park Commission has set a schedule to meet on the second Tuesday of the month; except in January, when it will meet on the fourth Tuesday.

3. Each of the above meetings shall be held in the Town Hall Room of the Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan, (517) 853-4000, with the exception of December 13, when the Commission shall meet at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840 (517) 853-4600.
4. If the meeting location is in the Town Hall Room, the Park Commission meeting shall consist of a non-televised work session at 6 pm and the televised regular meeting at 7 pm. If the meeting location is other than the Town Hall Room, the non-televised meeting will consist of a non-televised work session at 6 pm and a regular meeting at 7 pm unless a work session is not required and therefore the regular meeting will begin at 6 pm.
5. Special meetings of the Park Commission may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
6. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Park Commission pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
7. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, and a copy of this resolution shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building.

ADOPTED:

YEAS:

NAYS:

STATE OF MICHIGAN        )  
  ) ss  
COUNTY OF INGHAM        )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Acting Chairperson of the Park Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Park Commission held on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

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Michael McDonald, Acting Chair  
Meridian Township Park Commission

## 2017 TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

### RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: Supervisor LeGoff, Clerk Dreyfus, Treasurer Brixie, Trustees Scales, Styka,  
Veenstra, Wilson

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Clerk Dreyfus and supported by Trustee Veenstra.

WHEREAS, the Township Board desires to announce the time, date, and place of all regular meetings of the Board, pursuant to MCL 42.7; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board deems the 2017 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Board's Policies and Procedures, and advance its Global Ends.

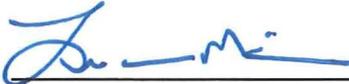
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan that the Township Board adopts its regular 2017 meeting schedule as follows:

Tuesday, January 3, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2017	6:00 P.M. Joint Meeting (Township Boards and Commissions)
Tuesday, January 17, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 21, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 7, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
<b>Thursday</b> , March 30, 2017	6:00 P.M. Joint Meeting (School Districts and Local Governments)
Tuesday, April 4, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 16, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 20, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
<b>Thursday</b> , July 6, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 18, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 1, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, August 15, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 5, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting (Proposed Budget Hearing & Deliberations)
Tuesday, September 19, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 3, 2017	6:00 P.M. Regular Meeting



# MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION



TO: Park Commission  
FROM:   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation  
DATE: December 12, 2016  
RE: Procedure to Elect Officers

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Chair opens the floor for nominations for **Chair**.

COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ MOVED, TO NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_ AS CHAIR.  
COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED.

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nominations for Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:  
NAYS:

Chair opens the floor for nomination for **Vice Chair**.

COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ MOVED, TO NOMINATE \_\_\_\_\_ AS VICE CHAIR.  
COMMISSIONER \_\_\_\_\_ SECONDED.

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ accepted the nomination.

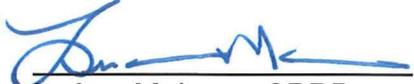
Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nomination for Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:  
NAYS:

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Park Commission

**FROM:**   
LuAnn Maisner, CPRP  
Director of Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** December 9, 2016

**RE:** Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan – Set Public Hearing Date

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As we get closer to finalizing a draft of the 2017-2021 Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, we anticipate it being ready for public review beginning \_\_\_\_\_ . There is a 30-day requirement for public review prior to the public hearing. The draft plan will be available on-line, and in hard-copy form at the Meridian Service Center and Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

Motion for Commission consideration:

**MOVE TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR THE 5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2017-2021 FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017 AT 7 PM IN THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP HALL, MERIDIAN MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS.**