

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2016
6 PM – LAKE LANSING NORTH

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Public Remarks
4. Old Business
 - a. Towar Woods Brush Clearing Project
5. Land Management Coordinator Report
 - a. Deer Management
6. Public Comment
7. Announcements
 - a. At the adjournment of this meeting we will be taking the walk through Lake Lansing North to view the deer exclosures.
8. Adjournment

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
October 12, 2016

4. Old Business
 - a. Towar Woods Brush Clearing Project



Meridian Township Land Preservation Program

Business Name: Outdoor Expressions

Contact: MATT JONES Email: matt@outdoorexpressionslandscaping.com

Address: 6312 Gossard Ave E. Lansing, MI. 48823

Telephone Number: (517) 712-5430 Fax: (517) 333-7998

Total Not-to-Exceed Cost: \$ 7,744.80

Proposal Deadline: September 30, 2016 at 3:00PM



MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

September 16, 2016 REQUEST FOR QUOTES FOR Invasive Shrub Clearing

Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan

Owner: Meridian Charter Township
Meridian Service Center
2100 Gaylord Smith Court
Haslett, MI 48840

Contact Person: Kelsey Dillon, Land Stewardship Assistant
Contact Address: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Contact Phone: 517-853-4600, Fax 517-853-4099
Contact Email: dillon@meridian.mi.us
Project Name: 3 Acre Shrub Clearing
Site Location: Towar Woods Land Preserve

1. REQUEST

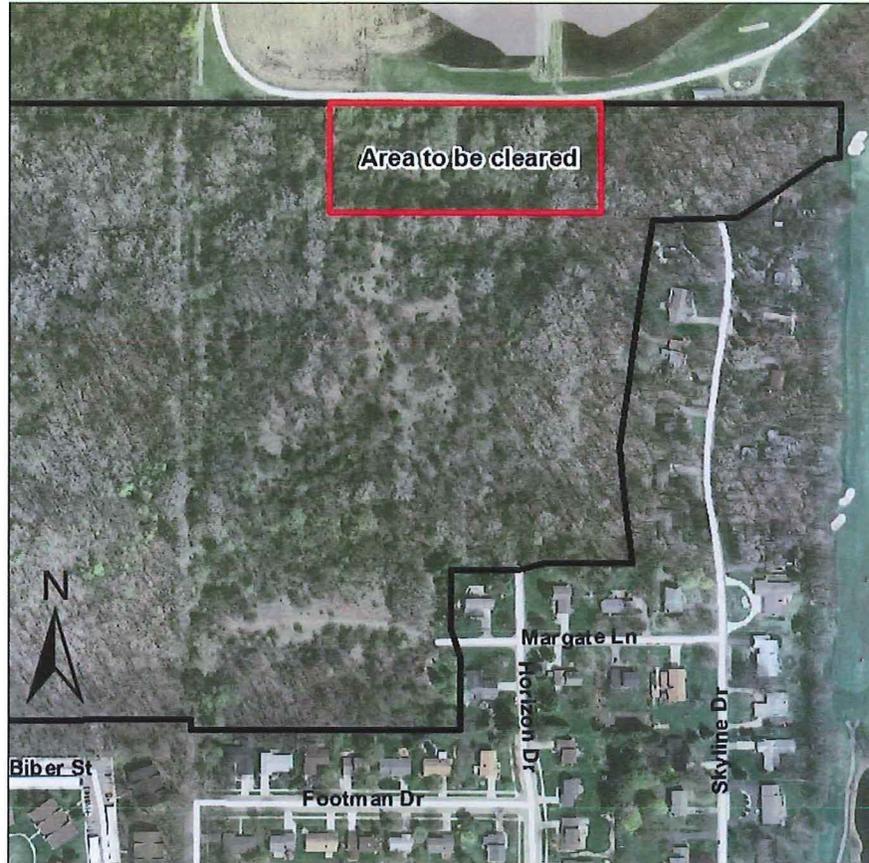
Meridian Township is seeking quotes for clearing a 3 acre area of invasive shrubs such as Buckthorn, Honeysuckle and Autumn Olive this fall.

A. **Desired Work**

Contractor will use chainsaws/saws/loppers to cut down dead, dying and alive invasive shrubs in a 3 acre area at the back of a township owned land preserve. Some of these shrubs have been previously treated with basal bark herbicide and are dead/dying and some have not been previously treated. Even though they are shrubs they are severely overgrown in this area and are very large (10-20 feet high with tree-like trunks). Contractor would be responsible for piling the brush on site. Contractor also responsible for treating stumps with basal bark herbicide (provided by township) if the shrub is still alive. Area is accessible by way of 2940 Margate Lane. To give an idea of the scope of work, a previous contractor has stated that the work could be completed with a small team over a time period of 5 days.

B. Towar Woods – Land Preserve, East Lansing, MI 48823

****If you would like to set up an in-person visit to the site please contact Kelsey Dillon by phone: 517-853-4600 or by email: dillon@meridian.mi.us****



Legend

-  Towar Woods Boundary
-  Streets



C. Photo



Photo taken in target area next to dead Buckthorn shrubs that were treated earlier this year

2. CONTENT OF PROPOSAL

- Information regarding the company
- A not-to-exceed amount for providing services
- Information relative to your experience
- Three copies of the quote

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Three (3) copies of the quote should be submitted to:

Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator
CLERK'S OFFICE
Charter Township of Meridian
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Bids will be accepted at the Clerk's office up until 3:00pm on September 30, 2016

4. JUDGING OF PROPOSALS

The Township will judge proposals received based on professional qualifications and experience, completeness of proposal, ability to meet project work schedule, and total bid cost. The Township reserves the right to reject all bids, waive informalities or irregularities, and accept the bid that it determines to be in the best interest of its residents.

5. THE COMPANY CHOSEN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- **Clearing 3 acres of invasive shrubs**
- Piling brush that is not ground into mulch
- **Providing \$1,000,000/\$2,000,000 of Comprehensive General Liability and Comprehensive Automobile Liability Insurance**

6. MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Site prep and on-site instruction

Kelsey Dillon

From: Donald Dickmann <dickman1@msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2016 9:36 AM
To: Kelsey Dillon
Cc: Dave Caszatt
Subject: Re: Towar Woods Buckthorn Removal

Hi Kelsey—Killing the buckthorn in place has appeal, not the least of which is its lower cost. The dead buckthorn would also provide shelter for the young planted trees. However, if we use Tuley tubes again, they provide the shelter. The reduction of accessibility and general hassle of working around the dead shrubs is a disadvantage. Plus the site will not look very good. The eradication/planting system used so far seems to have worked fairly well, though expensive. Spraying stumps after cutting is a lot easier than basal spraying live trees in a jungle-like setting. If a grant can be obtained to fully or partially fund the cutting and piling I think that's the best option. If not, the basal spraying in place can be a back-up.

The Towar site is a difficult proposition. The LP Board must realize that if they want to continue forward with its rehabilitation, it's going to cost. Much progress has been made so far, and I'd like to see it move forward. I also think that paying attention to what has already been done is equally important than new plantings. Replacing dead trees and protecting those that have become established needs to be done. Buckthorn will take back over that site if we're not careful. The ground is covered with their seedlings in many areas. I would not begin to relax until the planted trees are at least 10-15 feet tall.

Them's my thoughts at this stage.

Don

On Oct 6, 2016, at 9:06 AM, Kelsey Dillon <dillon@meridian.mi.us> wrote:

Hello Dr. Dickman,

I hope this email finds you doing well. I'm writing to get your opinion on a project that we have proposed in the Towar Woods Land Preserve. Dave Caszatt and I introduced a motion at the last Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting to allocate funds to hire a contractor to cut and pile the large Buckthorn in 3 acres of the preserve. This is the area north of the tree plantation we were working in and has the largest and densest population of Buckthorn. The work would be similar to the what volunteers have been doing for 3 years in the area where the Swamp White Oaks were planted (west of the main tree plantation along the drainage ditch).

Outdoor Expressions came in with the lowest bid of \$8,000. The board discussed the other option of leaving the Buckthorn up and just continuing the basal bark treatments to kill the Buckthorn but leave them standing dead until they fall over. The board also discussed that it might be a better idea to use that money to plant our hardwood seedlings under the dead Buckthorn more densely and take the loss when the Buckthorn fall over on top of them. Dave Caszatt argued that the area is too tangled and dense with the Buckthorn to conduct a planting. I'm worried about the large population of invasive species (herbaceous and woody) growing under the dead/dying Buckthorn that we will not be able to properly get in and control. Your name came up in the discussion since you've been working in that area

for years and the board members (and myself and Dave) value your opinion on the project. With that being said what do you think is the best method for replanting that area with native hardwoods?

Thank you!

Kelsey Dillon

Park Naturalist

Meridian Township Parks and Recreation

2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court

Haslett, MI 48840

(517) 853-4600

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

TO: Land Preservation Advisory Board

FROM: Jane Greenway
Jane Greenway
Land Management Coordinator

Kelsey Dillon
Kelsey Dillon
Land Stewardship Assistant

DATE: October 12, 2016

RE: Motion for Invasive Shrub Removal at Towar Woods



Background

The eastern portion of the Towar Woods Land Preserve has been the focus of long term ecological restoration for 5+ years. The invasive plant Buckthorn has completely taken over the northern part of the preserve. Volunteer efforts have been successful but slow in the removal of these large shrubs. Most of the Buckthorn still standing has been treated with a basal bark herbicide and is dead/dying but will not fall for 3-5 years preventing new desirable hardwoods from establishing. The Buckthorn needs to be removed and volunteer efforts would take 2-3 years (using past removal efforts as a reference).

Rationale for Buckthorn Removal

Buckthorn is an invasive plant that creates monocultures lowering diversity and shades out native hardwood trees. The goal of the Towar Woods management plan is to restore a native, hardwood forest and this cannot be accomplished until the large Buckthorns are removed. Invasive shrubs are re-sprouting underneath these Buckthorn and getting to them for herbicide treatment and mowing will be very difficult/impossible. We cannot maneuver around all of these shrubs to get to the invasives that are taking their place and carpeting the ground. If we do not treat the invasives while they are small and vulnerable they will quickly take the place of the large dead Buckthorn.

Project Description

Contractor will use chainsaws/saws/loppers to cut down dead, dying and alive invasive shrubs in a 3 acre area at the back of a township owned land preserve. Some of these shrubs have been previously treated with basal bark herbicide and are dead/dying and some have not been previously treated. Even though they are shrubs they are severely overgrown in this area and are very large (10-20 feet high with tree-like trunks). Contractor would be responsible for piling the brush on site. Contractor also responsible for treating stumps with basal bark herbicide (provided by township) if the shrub is still alive.

Future Plan

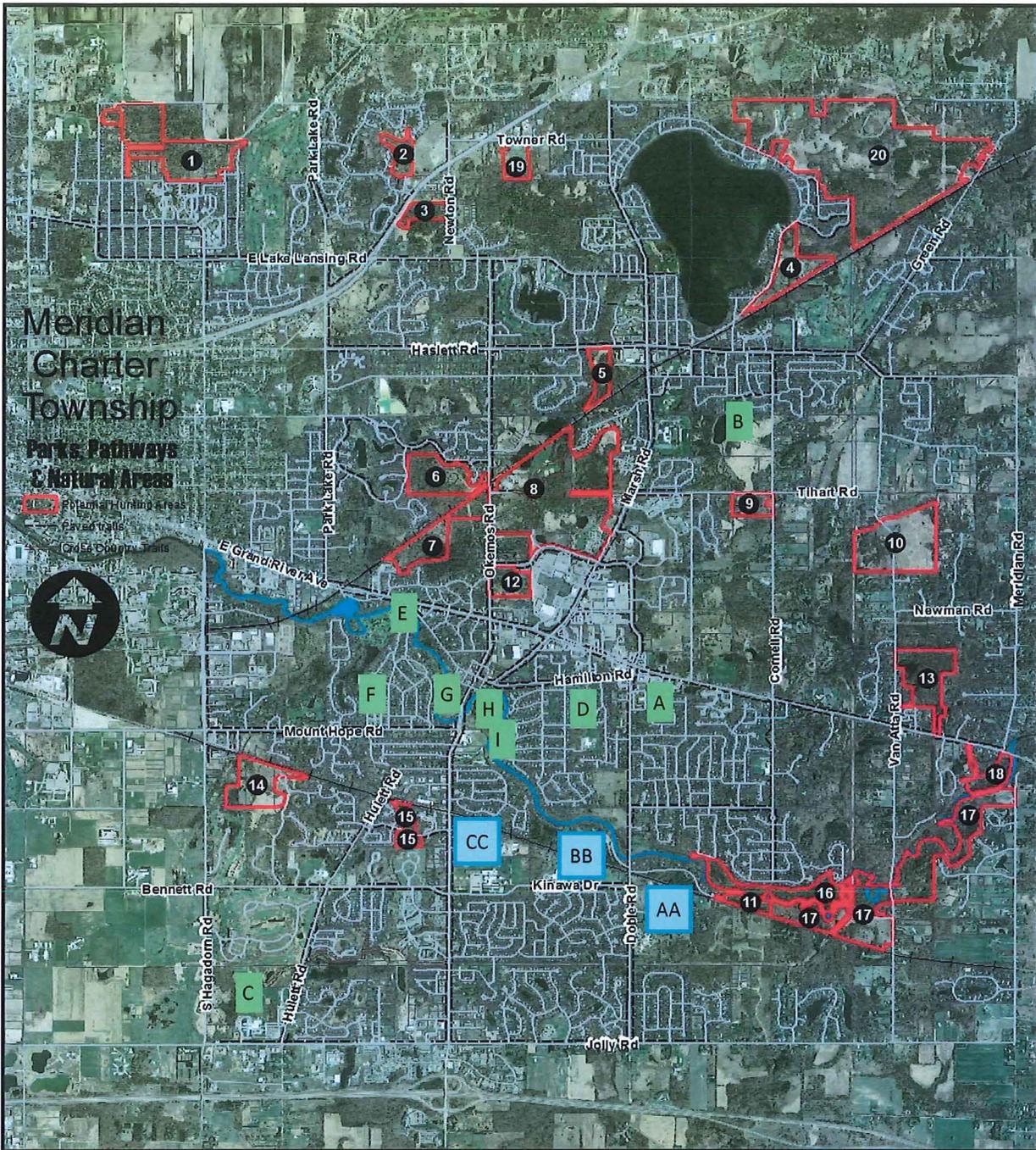
The area where the Buckthorn is removed will be planted with native hardwood trees. These trees will be protected with Blue-X tubes like the other seedlings planted on the property.

The Following Motion is Proposed:

MOVE that the Land Preservation Advisory Board approve the expenditure of up to \$8,000.00 of maintenance funds for the purpose of removing 3 acres of invasive shrubs at the Towar Woods Land Preserve.

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
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5. Land Management Coordinator Report
 - a. Deer Management Update



Area Name	Acreage	Area Name	Acreage
1 Northwest Land Preserve	125	11 Red Cedar Glen Preserve	14
2 Northridge Land Preserve	25	12 Central Park Drive/Okemos Road (SE Corner)	28.5
3 Forest Grove Land Preserve	25	13 Ted black Woods Park	74
4 Meridian Transfer Station Property	50.6	14 Southwest Meridian Uplands Land Preserve	60
5 Meridian Central Wetland Land Preserve	25	15 Sower Woods Land Preserve	18
6 Hubbel Land Preserve	58	16 Red Cedar Natural Area	56
7 Central Meridian Uplands Land Preserve	60	17 Meridian Riverfront Park	204.5
8 Central Park	237	18 Red Cedar River East Land Preserve	25
9 Tihart/Cornell Wetland Land Preserve	21	19 Towner Road Park	22
10 Davis/Foster Land Preserve	109	20 Lake Lansing Park North	360

Non-Township Owned Properties That Are Hunted

AA-(Dobie Road Ingham Cty. Farm); BB-(MSU's Dobie Reserve); CC - (Delta Dental)

- ADDITIONAL PROPOSED TOWNSHIP-OWNED PROPERTIES:**
- A. Forest Hills Natural Area
 - B. Orlando Park Outlot "B"
 - C. Hartrick Park
 - D. Tacoma Hills Natural Area
 - E. Riverside Cemetery
 - F. Glendale Cemetery
 - G. Wonch Park
 - H. Ferguson Park
 - I. Sumbal Natural Area (Land Preserve)

Meridian Township 2016 Deer Management Areas



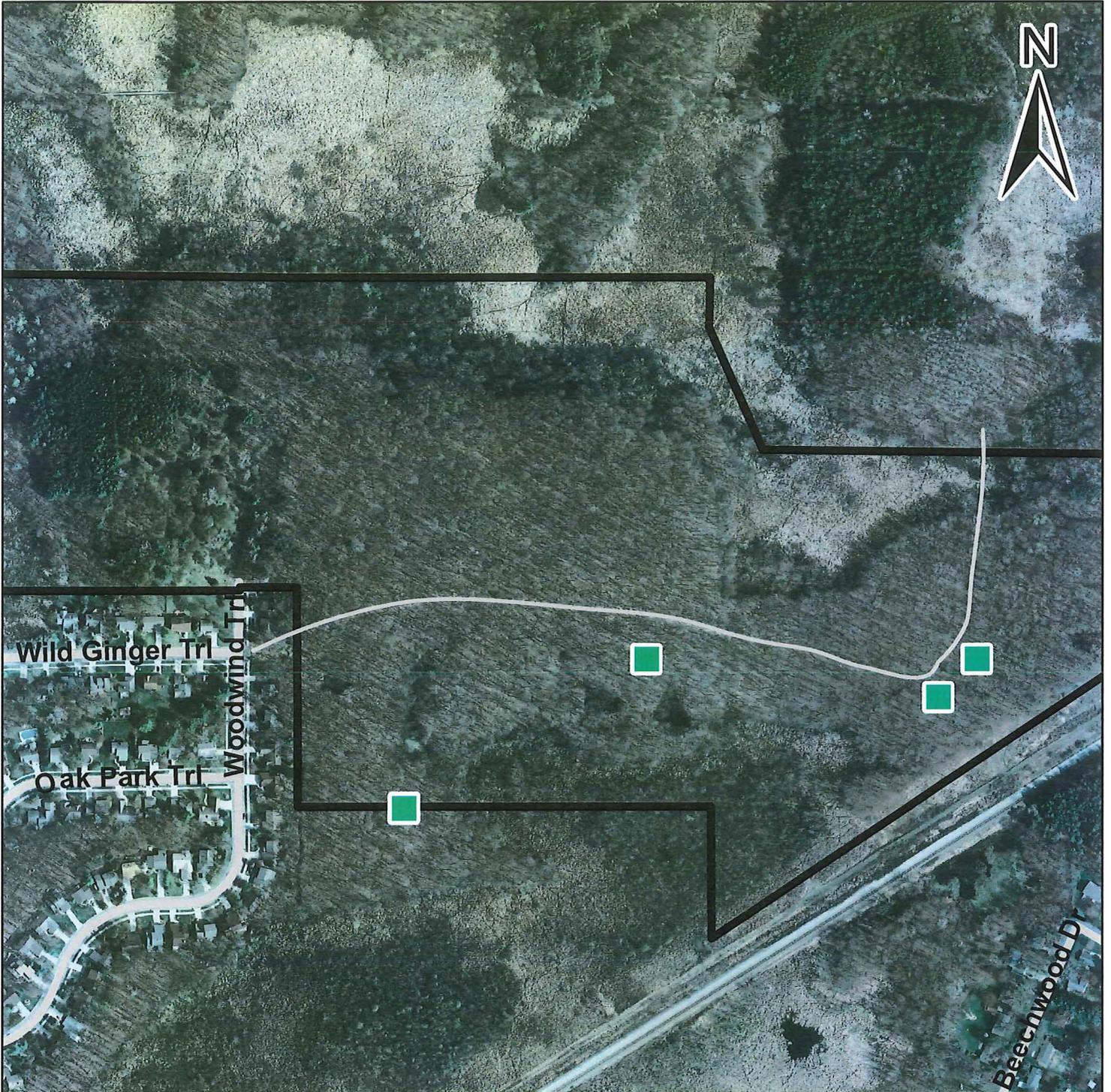
-  No Hunt Zone
-  Hunting Area
-  BUILDINGS

Sumbal

LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
October 12, 2016

7. Announcements
 - a. At the adjournment of this meeting we will be taking the walk through Lake Lansing North to view the deer exclosures.

Lake Lansing North



Legend

-  Deer Exclosure
-  Land Preserve Boundary
-  Streets/Pathways

