



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday September 9, 2026 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos MI

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. September 9, 2026
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. August 12, 2026
5. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. 2026 Meridian Deer Management Program

(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Parcels for Land Acquisition Consideration
 - B. Schedule Site Visit for Ecological Screening

(END CLOSED SESSION)

- C. Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve Floristic Survey
7. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. Pike Crossing Pathway Update
 - b. MCC September Stewardship Calendar & Volunteer Thankquet
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner, Yu Man Lee
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner, Mark Stephens
 - D. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas
8. PUBLIC COMMENT
9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6 pm at The Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.
11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable prime community.



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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 6 PM

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

a. August 12, 2026

Vice Chair Hiller made a motion to amend the agenda to include Item 7A for a Closed Session Item. Chair Thomas seconded.

Voice Vote: Unanimous

Vice Chair Hiller makes a motion to approve August 12, 2026 Agenda as amended to place on file. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

4. APPROVE MINUTES

a. June 10, 2026

Commissioner Stephens made a motion to place the June 10, 2026 minutes on file. Vice Chair Hiller seconded.

Voice Vote: Unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. None.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. 2026 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

i. Memo attached.

ii. Board members comments:

1. Board members want to ensure that proper sewer maintenance can be

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

August 12, 2026

Page 2 of 3

- performed to avoid potential complications in the future for that area.
- 2. There is a concern with what type of aggregate will be used on the sewer easement pathway, and where exactly the pathway will be placed.
- 3. Township staff will work together to ensure that the best compromise is met for the sewer maintenance as well as the preservation of the land preserve.

b. Hamilton Parcel Update

- i. Staff Campbell updates the board on the final steps for the Hamilton Road Parcel

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. 2026 Sanitary Rehab

Vice Chair Hiller moves to approve the removal of vegetation and creation of an access route to a sanitary sewer manhole on the Nemoke preserve for rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance of the sewer system, with additional discussion on aggregate used in the pathway. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Vice Chair Hiller makes a motion to move into closed session to discuss parcels for acquisition consideration. Chair Thomas seconded.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Steve Thomas, Jamie Hiller, Mark Stephens, Angela Demas, Yu Man Lee.

Nays: None.

(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

b. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration

Vice Chair Hiller makes a motion to move out of closed session. Chair Thomas seconded.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Steve Thomas, Jamie Hiller, Mark Stephens, Angela Demas, Yu Man Lee.

Nays: None.

(END CLOSED SESSION)

8. REPORTS

a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell

- i. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - 1. Pike Crossing Preserve Encroachment Update
 - 2. Invasive Species Management Update
- ii. MCC June Stewardship Calendar

b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee

- iii. Presentation on Private well abandonment; if they are not properly capped it can cause contamination of ground water. There are incentive programs to take

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

August 12, 2026

Page 3 of 3

care of these wells properly. There are 1,500 private well owners in the Township.

1. Climate Sustainability Funding of \$20,000 to allocate to the Township.
There is interest in using these funds to implement this type of program.
EC will gage interest in private well owners.
- iv. Composting program is of interest as well.
- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
 - v. 5 year master plan and community survey will be open until the end of August.
- d. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas
 - vi. Hamilton Parcel update
 - vii. The Township Board went over their goals, which consisted of Environmental Sustainability as a priority.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- a. At the Environmental Commission meeting, Commissioner Belisle mentioned the importance of the MCC Backyard Consult program, which she participated in as a homeowner this past year. This program is available to all taxpaying property owners in Meridian Township and can be scheduled with the Stewardship Coordinator.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lee seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:51 pm.



X.Y

To: Land Preservation Advisory Board

From: Jack Hughes, Senior Project Engineer

Date: August 7, 2026

Re: 2026 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Meridian Township's Sanitary Sewer system requires routine and preemptive maintenance, like all public utilities, in order for it to function properly. The Department of Public Works crews perform regularly scheduled cleaning of the sewer lines using remote cameras and high-pressure water jetters to clear roots, debris and grease accumulations which are common to sanitary sewers. This practice is essential in reducing the chances of backups or clogs which can lead to overflows of sewage into basements or natural areas. In order to perform this work, the crews require access to the manholes and the ability to drive a truck full of equipment to the location. For most manholes that are typically placed within a roadway, this is not an issue. For the rarer manholes placed in natural areas, this becomes a cause of concern.

Earlier this year one of the larger (18" Diameter) and older (1960's) sanitary sewers running beneath the CSX railroad experienced a collapse adjacent, but not under, the railroad due to its age and condition. Thankfully the Township's emergency contractor was able to access the area via a resident's yard and perform the repairs without interfering with railway operations. After this incident the Township staff reviewed other sanitary sewers of similar age and condition which also cross underneath railroads. To prevent any similar incidents from occurring in the near future, with potentially greater consequences, the Township decided to perform a rehabilitation project on these sewer crossings.

This project will consist of a variety of trenchless pipe and manhole restorations with the goal of reducing the amount of groundwater infiltrating the system as well as improving the stability and resiliency of the sewer network. The bulk of the sewer rehabilitation will be Cured-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP) installations. This method installs a new sewer pipe within the existing pipe to structurally reinforce it against collapse and prevent root infiltration. It is far less invasive of a process than physically replacing older sewer pipes as it requires no excavation, drilling or ground disturbances. It does however require truck access to the manholes upstream and downstream of the sewer pipe being rehabilitated.

For both routine maintenance and for large scale rehabilitation projects, access to the manholes of the sanitary sewer system is critical.

One of the sanitary sewer railway crossings under review by the township is within the Nemoke Preserve, parcel #33-02-02-15-100-010. This parcel is indicated by the red arrow in the following section of the Parks and Preserves Map.

Figure 1. Preserves Map Sectional showing location of Parcel.

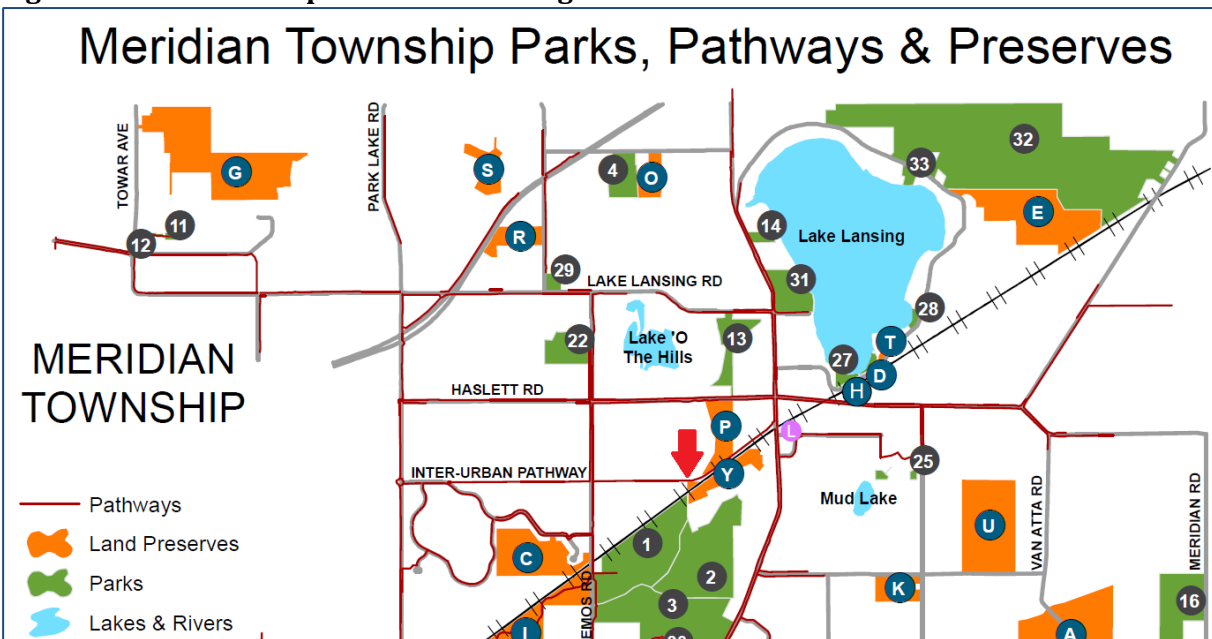
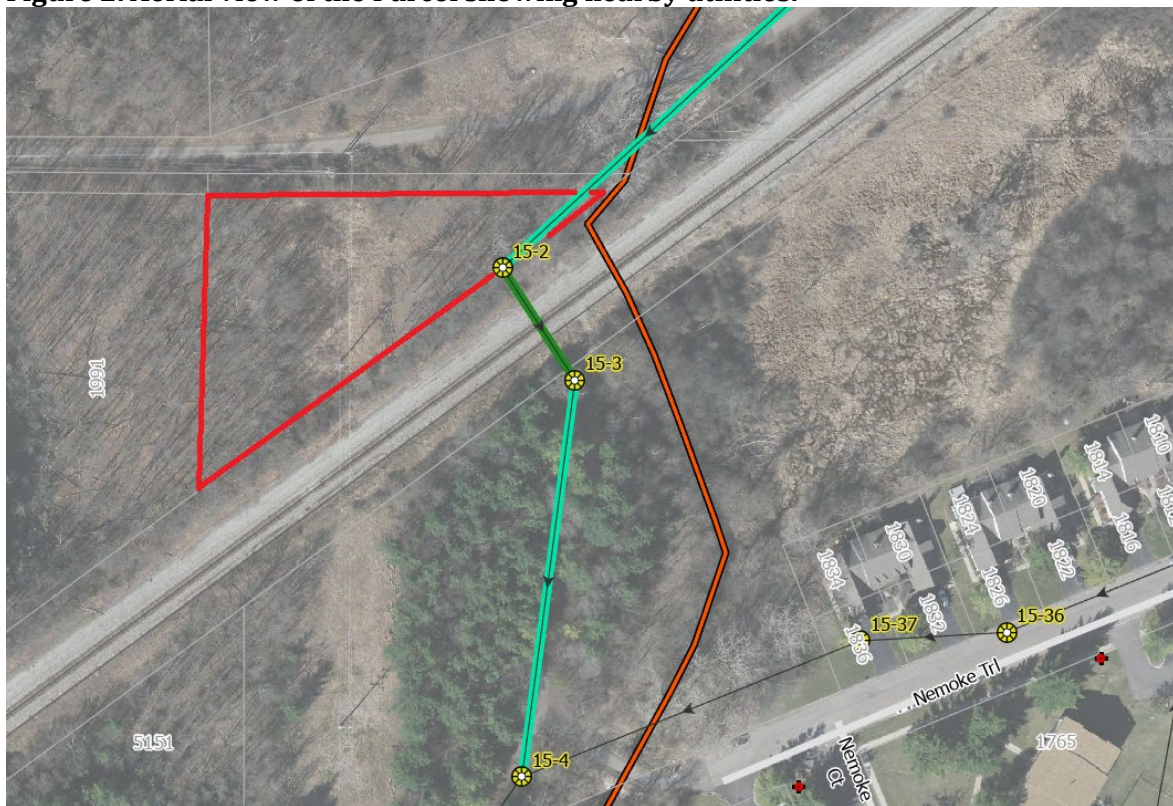


Figure 2. Aerial view of the Parcel showing nearby utilities.



In the above picture, the parcel is shown outlined in red. The Township's 24" and 36" sanitary sewer is highlighted in shades of green. Manholes are indicated by yellow circles with labels. The orange and black line denotes the location of the Intercounty Pine Lake Drain managed by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office. To the left (or west) of the sewers and drain, a vertical clearing can be seen where Consumers Power Lines are located.

Meridian Township is proposing the clearing of trees between the Manhole labeled 15-2 and the paved Inter-Urban Trail. This will allow DPW crews and Rehabilitation contractors the ability to bring trucks and equipment to the manhole in order to perform their necessary work. Once cleared, the route will be maintained by DPW crews for future use in routine maintenance. The clearing that is performed will be the minimal clearing necessary.

Figure 3. Current Lack of Accessibility to Manhole 15-2.



While the disturbance to a preserve is unfortunate, considering the risks to the open creek Pine Lake Drain should these sewers overflow, or the risks to the railroad should they collapse, the Township believes the benefits of having access to the sewer system in this area is of greater overall importance.

Under the Township's Code of Ordinances, Township staff need the LPAB's approval to perform this work. The specific provision in the Township's Code of Ordinances is:

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

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

No installation, construction, or maintenance shall be made above or below ground, across or beneath Land Preservation property by any person, except duly authorized personnel, without the prior written permission of the land preservation advisory board through land management personnel for such installation, construction, or maintenance specifying in detail the work to be done and any conditions to be met.

The construction contract will be awarded on August 18 by the Township Board. The first priority of work under this contract is to line the existing sanitary mains that cross under railroads. We would like to perform this work this fall while we still have viable weather conditions. To meet this timeline, we do need your approval as soon as possible, which is why we are hoping you could approve this at your August meeting.

We are happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

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

MOVE TO APPROVE THE CREATION OF AN ACCESS ROUTE TO A SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE ON THE NEMOKE PRESERVE FOR REHABILITATION AND ONGOING MAINTENANCE OF THE SEWER SYSTEM.

Attachment:

1. [2026 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Contract Book](#)
2. [2026 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Contract Plans](#)



To: Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board

From: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks & Recreation
and Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

Date: September 9, 2026

Re: Meridian Township Deer Management Program 2026

Meridian Township is heading in to its sixteenth year of urban deer management. Urbanization has caused an over-population of deer that has resulted in an increase in reports of vehicle/deer collisions, concern for public, and a disruption of the ecological balance of our natural areas. While these remain the priorities of our program, we will continue to grow and evolve to best serve our community as well as the health of the Township's white-tail deer population.

2026 Meridian Deer Management Overview:

- The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Deer Management Plan was submitted and approved for 200 deer harvests utilizing Deer Management Assistance Permits (DMAP). These permits allow for antlerless harvest of white-tailed deer only.
- 63 residents are registered as volunteer archers, to enact the management program from October 1st, 2026 to January 1st, 2027. This program is not open to the public for hunting. Each volunteer has registered with staff, passed a background check and completed mandatory training and proficiency testing.
- 43 Township properties have been selected for the 2026 management program with volunteer archers placed at each (2026 management map attached). All properties remain open during the archery season and are posted with signage notifying the public.
- 27 private properties have given permission for hunter placement during the archery season.
- All volunteers are required to donate their first deer harvested. All donated venison is tested for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and delivered to local food banks. Testing and processing costs are paid by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Hunters Feeding Michigan program. In 2025-2026, an estimated 6,000 pounds of venison was donated to 13 local food banks. Since 2020, over 40,000 pounds have been donated.

Meridian is a leader in urban deer management and provides a unique opportunity for residents to participate in important land management. Collaboration with researchers at Michigan State University and state biologists with the MDNR will continue to provide important data to aid in future management decisions for white-tail deer in the Township.

Item 7.A.



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
Date: September 9, 2026
Re: September 2026 Stewardship Staff Report

Staff provides a brief summary of land preserve updates:

1. Summer stewardship activities continue as we add fall management:
 - a. Invasive shrub and vine removal and cutting where necessary (cut-stump method)
 - i. Asiatic bittersweet, tree of heaven
 - b. Chemical treatment of foliar application for the following invasive species:
 - i. Reed canary grass, Asiatic bittersweet, phragmites, Japanese knotweed and black swallow wort (second treatments)
 1. PLM Land and Lake Corps will work across several Township sites to manage invasive phragmites
 - c. Seed collection of certain native species that have ripe seeds.
 - d. Two flats of New Jersey tea plants collected as seed from Lake Lansing North ROW were picked up from Feral Flora and will be planted in parks and preserves this fall for habitat restoration and future seed collection sites
2. Staff is working with several participants from the MSU Extension Conservation Stewards Program on participant's capstone projects
 - a. Forest Hills Pollinator Meadow, Wildwood Lakes HOA management of common space areas and installation of native plantings, Lake Lansing North Preserve species inventory of prescribed burn areas
3. Mackena Rhadigan joined our staff this week as the new Assistant Stewardship Coordinator. She will be a great addition to our team!
4. The Volunteer Thankquet will take place on September 18th at the Central Park Pavilion located at 5151 Marsh Road from 6 pm to 8 pm. We encourage board and commission members to stop out and celebrate the volunteers who work hard to steward our natural areas across the Township.



SEPTEMBER



STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM
These workdays occur every other Saturday year round

- September 19th, Davis Foster Preserve (5120 Van Atta Road, Okemos)
- Join us to celebrate the start of fall with cider, donuts & native planting
- September 26th: Every year we partner with a MSU class to steward an area from 10 am to 4 pm. Feel free to join at any time to slay autumn olive, if you so desire, at Red Cedar Glen Preserve (we will meet at the end of Sylvan Glen Drive)

WEEKDAY WARRIORS: Occurs every other Thursday

- September 10th, Tihart Preserve, native planting
- September 24th, Heron Creek Preserve (End of Creekstone Trail, Okemos), native seed collection & invasive removal

VOLUNTEER THANKQUET | 6 PM - 8 PM
A celebration of our hardworking community!

- Join us at the Central Park Pavilion for a night of food, refreshments, lawn & board games, and good conversation! BYOB; alcohol is allowed in the park, just no glass please.



STEWARDSHIP

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

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5 LABOR DAY WEEKEND
6	7 TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED	8	9	10 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 VOLUNTEER THANKQUET 6 - 8 PM	19 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
20	21	22 FALL	23	24 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	25	26 MSU CSUS SERVICE DAY
27	28	29	30			

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

Save the Date

VOLUNTEER THANKQUET 18 SEPTEMBER 2026

A CELEBRATION OF OUR
HARD WORKING COMMUNITY

**CENTRAL PARK
PAVILION 6:30 PM - 8 PM**

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS

**JOIN US FOR FOOD,
*REFRESHMENTS, GAMES, RAFFLES
& GOOD CONVERSATION!**

*ALCOHOL IS ALLOWED IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BYOB
(NO GLASS CONTAINERS ALLOWED)

