



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION –
REGULAR MEETING
April 1st 2026 6:30 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
 2. ROLL CALL
 3. PRESENTATIONS
 4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
 5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC
 6. COMMUNICATIONS
 7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
 8. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – March 4th, 2026 REGULAR MEETING
 9. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Green Grant Program 2026
 10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 11. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Staff
 - B. Liaisons:
 - Township Board
 - Planning Commission
 - Land Preservation Advisory Board
 - Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
 - Parks Commission
 - C. Teams:
 - Energy Team
 - Green Team
 - ~~Food & Composting Team~~
 - Green Burial Team
 - D. Haslett/Okemos High School
 12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
 13. ADJOURNMENT
-

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting: Township Manager Tim Dempsey, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall
Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
REGULAR MEETING ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION –DRAFT-
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos MI 48864-1198
517.853.4000, Township Hall Room
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4th , 2026, 6:30PM

PRESEN Chair Yu Man Lee, Vice Chair Bill McConnell
T: Commissioners Richard Miksicek, Laura Belisle, Harrison Batten and
Trustee Nickolas Lentz

ABSENT:

STAFF: Project Engineer Jack Hughes

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Lee called the March 4th, 2026, Township Environmental Commission meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Staff Engineer Hughes called the roll of the Commission.

3. PRESENTATION

- A. Wetland Special Use Permit – Hoskins Drain
- Carla Close, Ingham County Drain Commission
 - Alan Boyer, PEA Group, Project Engineer
 - Mike Nurse, Streamside Ecology, Environmental Consultant

4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Information shared on 'Goat Scaping' alternative for consideration by Township groundskeeping staff. Demonstration event scheduled for October 17, 2026.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

7. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the Agenda of the March 4th, 2026 Environmental Commission Regular meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the Minutes of the January 7th, 2026 Environmental Commission Regular Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Wetland Special Use Permit – Hoskins Drain

The Environmental Commission held an extensive technical discussion on the proposed Hoskins Drain Wetland Special Use Permit, which Community Planning and Development Director Tim Schmidt explained is subject to administrative approval under the township's wetland ordinance, with the Commission's role to provide important feedback during the approval process. Schmidt outlined a four-part project proposed by the Ingham County Drain Commissioner to address chronic flooding in the Champion Woods area while minimizing wetland impacts. The project involves replacing aging infrastructure and excavating approximately six-tenths of an acre to create overflow ponds. The Drain Commission emphasizes that the majority of the impact involves excavation rather than filling, which they argue will actually enhance the local ecosystem by diversifying habitat in "low-quality" wetland areas currently dominated by invasive reed canary grass.

The work includes small, localized impacts at Bennett Road (Area D), pipe replacements with minimal wetland disturbance in Areas B and C, and a larger excavation in Area A to create shallow ponds within a low-quality reed canary grass wetland. Project Engineer Alan Boyer and environmental consultant Mike Nurse emphasized that the ponds are primarily an engineering solution to reduce long-term maintenance by stabilizing organic soils and preventing channel collapse, while also providing ecological benefits such as habitat diversity and improved conditions for sensitive species like Blanding's turtles and Butler's garter snakes. The Bennett Road overflow culvert was described as both a safety measure to prevent roadway flooding and as a "natural bottom" wildlife undercrossing designed within physical and cost constraints. While environmental reports recommended an 80-inch wide structure, the engineering team opted for a 48-inch pipe buried to create a 4-foot natural bottom. They explained that a larger culvert would have required raising Bennett Road by three feet.

Commissioners questioned the necessity and hydrologic effects of the ponds, alternatives to reduce wetland impacts, the long project timeline, permitting challenges with EGLE, and funding responsibilities. Commissioner Lee, a herpetologist, questioned if the pools further disrupted wetland hydrology. Engineers Boyer and Nurse clarified that the pools serve a critical maintenance function. Because the drain must be dredged of unstable, organic "mucky" soils, the pools act as buffers to prevent the banks from slumping back into the channel. The Drain Commission reasoned that this reduces the frequency of future heavy equipment incursions and provides a secondary benefit of habitat diversity, even if invasive reed canary grass is likely to recolonize the area due to the existing seed bank from Heron Creek. Further habitat restoration or larger design changes to the wildlife would exceed statutory authority and trigger offsite mitigation requirements.

The discussion concluded with acknowledgment that the project reflects a balance between flood control, environmental protection, cost, and regulatory limits, with staff indicating that all feedback would inform the administrative decision following further consultation and a public hearing.

A. Resolution of Support for Meridian Township's FY27 CDS Grant Application

The Environmental Commission discussed and unanimously adopted a resolution supporting Meridian Township's FY27 Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) grant application for a solar energy project at the Public Safety Building. Staff explained that the township is reapplying for funding after a prior \$400,000 request was selected by Senator Peters' office but not ultimately funded at the committee level. This year, the township will submit the same project to both Senator Peters and Senator Slotkin to improve its chances.

The proposal includes installing rooftop solar and solar carports sized to fully offset the Public Safety Building's electrical demand, advancing the township's goal of achieving 100% renewable energy use by 2035. Commissioners discussed the required 50% local match, which would need to be budgeted in a future cycle if the grant is awarded, and expressed support for the dual-submission strategy. The resolution was amended to remove a reference to the Paris Climate Accord, with commissioners noting the language was redundant and could be politically sensitive, while remaining consistent with township policy. Following discussion, the amended resolution was approved by a unanimous vote.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the Resolution of Support for Meridian Township's FY27 CDS Grant Application, as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Marshall Park Bioswale Update

The Environmental Commission reviewed an update on the Marshall Park bioswale project, which is intended to address ongoing flooding while enhancing park quality and ecological function. Staff presented two concept designs that share the same underlying stormwater strategy: a tiered system of three to four connected retention pools that temporarily hold runoff before slowly releasing it toward Lake Lansing, but differ in landscaping emphasis and park use.

Concept One emphasizes recreation and visibility by using native perennial plantings with large areas of open green space, requiring more intensive maintenance during establishment but preserving sightlines, safety, and flexibility for park activities. Concept Two prioritizes ecological benefits, featuring a more naturalized wetland with floodplain trees and shrubs that would reduce long-term maintenance, increase evapotranspiration, and provide greater habitat value, but would also reduce open space and alter views from Marsh Road.

The Park Commission and township staff expressed a preference for Concept One, citing public safety concerns, the importance of open recreational space, and the desire to preserve lake views for nearby residents, while suggesting selective additions such as shade trees near the playground and limited tree planting around the bioswales. Environmental Commissioners generally supported this direction, noting the need to balance recreation with ecological function and agreeing that both concepts would adequately address flooding. Several commissioners favored a hybrid approach, maintaining open areas for park use while adding native shrubs and trees near the emergent wetland zones to improve habitat, water uptake, and scenic value.

Commissioners emphasized the importance of using native species only and viewed the project as a strong example of integrating stormwater management with environmental stewardship. Staff thanked the Commission for its feedback and indicated that updates would continue as the project progresses.

C. Commission Roster and Applications to join the Environmental Commission

Staff presented the received applications to fill vacant positions on the Commission. All will be recommended for appointment to the Commission by the Township Board.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

11. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Staff

The Commission discussed preparations for launching the 2026 Green Grant Program, noting that the 2025 cycle has concluded and that application materials and agreements are already finalized and scheduled to be posted on the township's new website. Staff indicated the goal is to begin advertising the program in early March, slightly earlier than last year, to allow more time for applications, which have historically not exceeded available funding. Applications are expected to be due by the end of March, with reviews planned for April, consistent with the prior year's timeline. The Commission discussed how grant reviews should be handled this year, noting that last year a small subcommittee reviewed applications during a daytime meeting coordinated by staff. Several commissioners raised potential conflicts of interest because their homeowners associations may apply, while others cited limited availability. As a result, the Commission generally agreed that holding a closed-session review during the April meeting would be an efficient solution. Staff also clarified that the program will have \$15,000 available in 2026, down from \$20,000 the previous year, and that Green Grant funds are separate from other sustainability-related funding.

B. Liaisons

Trustee Lentz reported on recent Meridian Township Board discussions highlighting two issues of interest to the Environmental Commission. First, the Board spent considerable time discussing the Authentic Okemos project near Central Park Drive, specifically a proposed change to an existing settlement agreement that would allow multifamily development. Of particular relevance environmentally, approximately half of the property would be permanently preserved under a conservation easement, prohibiting future development and protecting existing wetlands and open space for the benefit of neighboring residents. The project may come before the Township Board for formal action at its upcoming meeting, and commissioners were encouraged to attend or provide public input if interested. Trustee Lentz also noted a preliminary discussion regarding the township's parks millage, which sunset at the end of last year but remains funded through the current year; the tentative plan is to place its renewal on the November 2026 ballot. The millage, in place since 1984, has historically received strong voter support, and further clarification on related funding and tax issues is expected from the Township Manager.

Vice Chair McConnell reported that at its February 23 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed a request to rezone land at the far eastern end of Hanna Boulevard to allow additional student housing as the third phase of the Hanna Farms development. Because the property's current zoning does not permit the proposed use, rezoning is required before a formal concept plan and a Planned Unit Development application can proceed. The proposal

follows the earlier Hanna Lodges and Hanna Lofts phases and reflects substantially increased coordination with the nearby Indian Lakes Homeowners Association compared to prior phases. As part of the rezoning conditions, the development would include a 248-foot buffer between the new multifamily housing and existing single-family homes, creating a permanent green space and wildlife corridor. Building heights would transition from three stories near existing higher-density structures to two-story townhomes closer to the neighborhood, providing a gradual scale change and preserving open space between residential areas.

Chair Lee reported on the Land Preservation Advisory Board's February 11 meeting, highlighting two main areas of discussion. The Board reviewed a proposal for Phase Three of the MSU-to-Lake Lansing Trail, which would cross through Pike Crossing Preserve; township staff presented the concept and the Board discussed potential implications, with a site visit scheduled to further evaluate the alignment. The Board also reviewed Meridian Township's 2026 land preservation and stewardship goals, which include continued invasive species removal and monitoring, development of management plans for preserves and parks, and implementation of prescribed burns at several preserves throughout the year. Additional priorities include maintaining boundary surveys and markers, expanding the township's native plant program in partnership with private landowners and homeowners associations, and installing or updating educational and regulatory signage at preserves to address issues such as trail use restrictions, native habitat awareness, and illegal dumping.

Commissioner Frazier provided an update from the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. The Brownfield Development Authority did have a three-minute meeting in February. The only item of business was to elect their chair and vice chair for the current year.

Commissioner Miksicek reported on recent Parks and Recreation Commission activity from meetings held on January 13 and February 17. At the January meeting, staff announced that the township's application to the Michigan DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund for development of the Okemos Road Trailhead project was recommended for funding, with an anticipated \$150,000 state grant matched by \$150,000 in local funds. Additional grant funding is being pursued through a DALMAC grant to further support the project. The trailhead will be located on former residential property near the entrance to Nancy Moore Park that has since been demolished, and is intended to connect area trails while providing amenities such as a bike station. The commission also selected consulting firm Mannik & Smith to assist with preparation of a new five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which must be submitted to the DNR by February 1, 2027, and plans to conduct a resident survey to gather community input. Capital improvement plans for 2026 were reviewed as well, including restroom and pavilion renovations at Nancy Moore Park, repair of storm-damaged wind screens at the Farmers Market, and installation of floating docks and consistent signage at Ferguson Park and Harris Nature Center tied to the Red Cedar Water Trail project. The February meeting also included a follow-up on the Marshall Park project, consistent with information previously presented.

C. Teams

Commissioner Miksicek reported on an Energy Teams discussion highlighting the concept of "balcony solar," also known as plug-in solar, which has gained popularity in Germany and other European countries. This approach allows apartment and condominium residents to install small solar panels on balconies or patios and connect them to a simple inverter that plugs directly into a standard electrical outlet, enabling users to offset a portion of their household electricity use without complex interconnection agreements. While this system is

currently not permitted in most of the United States, Utah has enacted legislation allowing plug-in solar systems of up to 1.2 kilowatts, bypassing traditional net-metering requirements. Other states, including New Hampshire and Vermont, are considering similar policies, raising the possibility that this model could become available in Michigan in the future. Commissioner Miksicek noted that additional information on the topic is available through a white paper by the Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) and indicated he would share more updates at a later time.

Commissioner Frazier reported that the Green Team continues to meet monthly and has finalized a lineup of community outreach events running from early spring through September. Recent activities included an educational table at the Farmers Market focused on food waste reduction. Upcoming events include the return of the Sustainable Fashion Show, scheduled for Saturday, March 21 in the Meridian Mall's center concourse, which follows the success of the same event held two years ago. The Green Team is also preparing for the annual Spring Recycling Event on April 25, where residents can recycle materials such as metals, paint, bicycles, and documents for shredding. Additional sustainability and education events are planned throughout the season, many in coordination with the Farmers Market, as the Green Team continues its community engagement efforts.

D. Haslett/Okemos High School

Commissioner Batten reported on a range of ongoing education, outreach, and advocacy efforts, noting significant progress across several initiatives. Schools in the district are nearing completion of Green School certification, with final coordination underway with high school teachers and steady progress reported across all buildings. Batten also highlighted continued engagement with elementary school Earth Clubs, where students recently learned about biomagnification and microplastics through hands-on, age-appropriate lessons.

Beyond schools, Batten discussed work with a statewide environmental advocacy group focused on improving environmental policy, including virtual discussions with state legislators to better understand legislative constraints. Outreach efforts are expanding through monthly newsletters and social media, and Batten shared upcoming speaking engagements, including a presentation at the Michigan Healthy Climate Conference in April and a session at an EGLE-hosted Sustainability Summit in May, reflecting growing recognition of these efforts and opportunities to share best practices more broadly.

E. Other

No reports.

12. OTHER MATTERS AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chair Lee initiated a discussion about revisiting the township's Climate Sustainability Plan goals as the current 2022–2027 plan approaches its end. She explained that she met with fellow commissioners and staff to explore ways the Commission could more actively review progress, reassess objectives, and determine which goals are complete, no longer feasible, or in need of renewed focus. The idea is to consolidate and update the existing spreadsheet of goals, potentially reassign responsibility for specific objectives, such as those aligned with Green Team activities, and hold a future meeting dedicated to reviewing progress and identifying areas that may require additional effort or funding from climate sustainability resources. Staff indicated they

plan to consolidate multiple versions of the document and host a finalized version on the new township website for easier access and collaboration.

Commissioner Frazier then raised a separate but related concern about the township's food waste composting initiative at the Farmers Market, which had previously received sustainability grant funding but has seen limited public awareness. He emphasized the need for better outreach and education so residents know where and how to drop off food scraps, noting that collection costs are modest and already eligible for sustainability funding. Chair Lee supported this concern, sharing an anecdote illustrating the lack of visibility of the program. Although no detailed data is currently collected on participation levels, commissioners suggested that basic outreach through the township website and potentially a student-led data collection project could help improve engagement and demonstrate the program's impact.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 19, 2026

CONTACT: Jack Hughes, Project Engineer
517.853.4470 | hughes@meridian.mi.us

Meridian Township Accepting 2026 Green Grant Applications
Grant Applications Accepted Through March 31st

Meridian Township, MI – For the sixth consecutive year, Meridian Township will accept grant applications from local organizations looking to start environmental projects.

Meridian Township's Green Grants program invites applications from schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, congregations, clubs, and other parties in the Township. The Township will accept applications for the 2026 program until 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 31st.

The Green Grants program will distribute up to \$15,000 for green projects in the community. In previous years, grant awards ranged from \$300 to \$4,500. Applicants are encouraged to submit grant applications with project budgets in this range.

Eligible projects can include, but are not limited to:

- Tree plantings
- Native plants, shrubs, or trees
- Renewable energy systems
- Gardens or green gathering spaces used for pre-K-12 education
- Green infrastructure
- Pollinator gardens
- Invasive species mitigation
- Habitat protection and restoration

Depending on the number of applications received, the Township may hold a second grant application window in April 2026. Meridian Township expects to award grants in April 2026. To find additional details and a fillable grant application form, please visit www.meridian.mi.us/living-in-meridian/conservation-green-initiatives/green-grants/

For questions or additional information, please contact the Meridian Township Department of Public Works and Engineering at 517.853.4470 or hughes@meridian.mi.us.

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The community of Meridian Township is in close proximity to the Michigan State Capitol and Michigan State University. The Township serves the community through exceptional services, beneficial amenities and an outstanding quality of life. It is a welcoming community that celebrates quality education, recreation and lifestyles.





2026 Green Grant Application

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026*
In previous years, grant awards have ranged from \$300-\$4,500

* Depending on the number of applications received during the initial grant application window in March, the Township may hold a second grant application window in April of 2026.

Date: March 5, 2026

Name of Organization: Wildwood Lakes - HOA (WWL-HOA) Land Stewards

Primary Contact: Vicki Miksicek

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

A brief description of project (i.e. location, scope of work, etc.):

Proposal Summary*: The land stewardship team for the Wildwood Lakes Homeowners Association is requesting \$3,700 for habitat improvement projects at two high visibility sites within a communal greenspace managed by the Association. The 50 acre WWL-HOA Natural Area is part of an extensive wildlife corridor in western Meridian Township, contiguous with the Hubbel Nature Preserve, the Interurban Wetland Preserve, the Okemos Road (Central Upland) Preserve, Raby Drain, as well as other privately held woodlots and emergent wetlands. The habitat restoration projects described in the accompanying narrative involve the removal of invasive and nuisance plant species and their replacement by native plants chosen to increase local plant diversity and restore a more natural habitat. Area #1 lies along the shoreline of the centrally located Wild Basin Lake. This area experiences seasonal flooding and in recent years has formed a noxious monoculture willow thicket. Area #2 represents a sunny area of lakeside embankment overgrown with non-native plants such as common vetch, autumn olive, and common buckthorn. These sites and the selection of plantings have been carefully chosen to support pollinator and other insect species which represent vital links within the food web for birds and other wildlife living within this natural area, and to provide cover for nesting birds, amphibians and other small animals. By supporting increased plant diversity and a visible demonstration project of habitat restoration within an area frequented by neighborhood residents, these funds will also serve an important educational role in land stewardship and responsible habitat management.

*see accompanying **Project Narrative** for a detailed description of the location and scope of the proposed work.

Does the project align with [Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#)? If so, please explain:

Yes, this proposal describes habitat restoration projects within a natural area owned and maintained by the Wildwood Lakes HOA. Due to budgetary constraints, HOA funds are typically earmarked for routine maintenance, grounds upkeep, and storm damage clean-up. Rarely do funds exist for land stewardship and conservation efforts such as those described in this grant application. If awarded, the majority of these

funds will be used to purchase live native plants and wildflower seeds, replacing non-native plants with beneficial species, increasing plant diversity within our Natural Area. Care has been taken to compile a list of species that is native to our area, rich in pollinator species and host plants for indigenous insects. These efforts will improve the health of our food web to support resident bird and animal populations, as well as providing improved habitat for nesting birds, amphibians, and small animals¹. Private lands such as ours represent important buffer zones for parks and preserves owned and managed by the township, requiring responsible stewardship efforts by both parties to control further encroachment by invasive species in our area. Each of these goals align closely with priorities contained within the **Meridian Township Climate Sustainability Plan** (Invasive Species Control, Native Plantings, Natural Vegetation Buffers, Natural Shorelines, Sustainability Education), as well as complementing the stewardship goals of conservation organizations such as the Meridian Conservation Corps, the Capitol Area Audubon Society / Bird City - Michigan Program, the Red Cedar Chapter of Wild Ones, and the Michigan Shoreland Stewards.

¹ Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard (2019) by Douglas W. Tallamy, Timber Press

Team leader(s) and team member(s):

Vicki Miksicek*, Team Leader (representing Bear Lake HOA)
Kayla Sarles*, Team Member (representing Emerald Lake COA)
Karen Webster, Team Member (representing Dream Lake COA)
...and other resident volunteers

* currently receiving specialized training as part of the MSU Extension – 2026 Extended Conservation Stewards Program

Note: Financial arrangements will be made through the WWL-HOA management company, Cummings Property Management (c/o Brian Bushey) on behalf of the Wildwood Lake Land Stewards.

Contact: brian.bushey@cummingspm.com Phone: (800)-965-5290 ext 220

Outreach plan to inform the community:

We will embrace every opportunity to enhance community awareness by recruiting volunteers, coordinating with our boards, publicizing our efforts in HOA newsletters, and providing educational signage on site. A budget line for signage has been included.

Expected materials and/or services required to complete the project:

Project Schedule (The grant agreement requires that projects be completed by 12/31/2026. The township is willing to grant extensions if needed, but the applicant is required to request extensions in writing.):

In October 2025, Emma Campbell (Meridian Township Land Stewardship Coordinator) provided WWL-HOA with a [Land Management Report](#) including recommendations for Projects #1 and #2. During Spring 2026 we plan to complete soil testing and engage an outside consultant (Designs By Nature) for herbicide treatment (as necessary) and guidance on plant selection and planting strategy. Orders to purchase live plants and wildflower seeds will be placed during Spring and early Summer for immediate planting upon pickup or delivery. Seeds will be sown in either Spring or Fall depending on their individual requirements for cold stratification. The sites will be monitored and watered for the remainder of the year, shifting our focus to community outreach and education to further engage neighborhood residents throughout the growing season. Temporary deer fencing will be installed as necessary. Project completion is anticipated in Fall 2026.

Total Project Budget:

Matching and/or in-kind contributions are encouraged. In-kind contribution are goods and/or services/labor hours that are donated toward the project (e.g. plants donated, volunteer labor hours, etc.). If proposing matching and/or in-kind contributions, please provide estimated amounts in your project budget. In-kind contributions can be quantified by simply listing the estimated number of volunteer hours that will be contributed through completion of the proposed project.

A budget summary is provided below. Prices include local sales tax. (Note: A detailed budget including a list of live plant and seed varieties is provided in the accompanying narrative.)

Live Plants and Seeds	\$2,270
Deer Fencing and Stakes	\$296
Garden Supplies	\$104
Other materials	\$50
Signage	\$320
Consulting for Herbicide Treatment and Plant Selection	\$660
Project Total	\$3,700

Contribution In Kind: During Fall 2025, WWL HOA contracted with its landscaping service to remove willows and other aggressive plants to prepare Project Area #1 for planting. This entailed clearing and removal of two truckloads of woody debris, at a cost of \$1,430. Additionally, over 100 man-hours of volunteer labor have been provided by our WWL Land Stewards for site preparation in Project Areas #1 and #2, as well as invasive plant removal in these and other locations within our 50 Acre Natural Area. These efforts will continue in 2026 with an estimated minimum of 100 additional volunteer man-hours to complete the work outlined above.

Award Amount Applied for: \$3,700.00.

How scalable is the project?

The Township may not have available funds to award the full requested amount. Please explain if the project could be scaled back and list the minimum award amount your organization would need to proceed with a project.

In the event that this proposal cannot be fully funded, we would scale back our efforts to focus on Project Area #1 only, reducing costs by approximately 50%. Planning and site preparation would continue in Project Area #2, as we explore options to fully fund project completion. A minimum award of \$2,000 would permit us to initiate work with the reduced goal of completing plantings in Project Area #1.

Minimum Award Amount Required to proceed with a scaled back project: \$2,000.00.

Attachments: Please include a W-9 form. Other optional items might include an operation and/or maintenance plan, pictures, rough designs/concept drawings, etc. Please list attachments:

- 1) Wildwood Lakes HOA – Green Grant Application (Narrative)
- 2) Signed W-9 Form

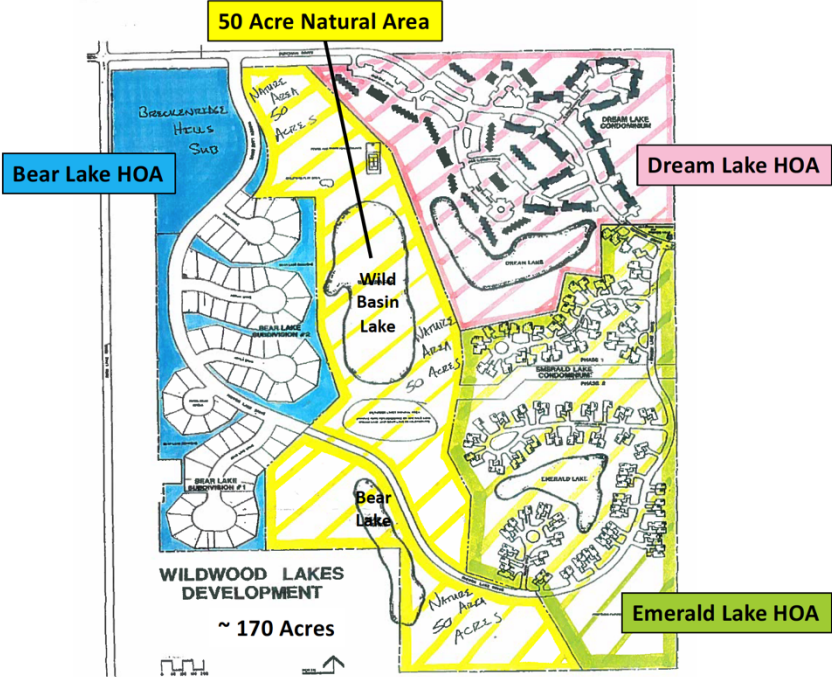
If further information is required, a site visit can be arranged by contacting the applicant, Vicki Miksicek.

Wildwood Lakes HOA
2026 Green Grant Application

Proposal Summary: The Land Stewardship Team for the Wildwood Lakes Homeowners Association is requesting \$3,700 for habitat improvement projects at two high visibility sites within a shared natural area managed by the Association. Both projects involve the removal of invasive and nuisance plant species and their replacement by native plants chosen to increase local plant diversity and restore a more natural habitat. Area #1 lies along the shoreline of the centrally located Wild Basin Lake. This area experiences seasonal flooding and in recent years has formed a monoculture willow thicket. Area #2 represents a sunny area of lakeside embankment overgrown with non-native plants such as common vetch, autumn olive, and common buckthorn. These sites and the selection of plantings have been carefully chosen to support pollinator and other insect species which represent vital links within the food web for birds and other wildlife living within this natural area, and to provide cover for nesting birds, amphibians and other small animals. By supporting a visible demonstration project of habitat restoration within an area frequented by neighborhood residents, these funds will also serve an important educational role in land stewardship and responsible habitat management.



Project Background: Wildwood Lakes Homeowners Association (WWL HOA) represents a 170 acre subdivision located on the western edge of Meridian Township. It consists of three affiliated homeowner and condominium associations (Bear Lake HOA, Emerald Lake COA, and Dream Lake COA) that collectively own and manage a 50 acre “Natural Area” consisting of the centrally located Wild Basin Lake surrounded by communal recreational amenities, significant woodlots, secluded vernal pools, paved pathways, and unpaved trails (see accompanying map and satellite image on page 1).



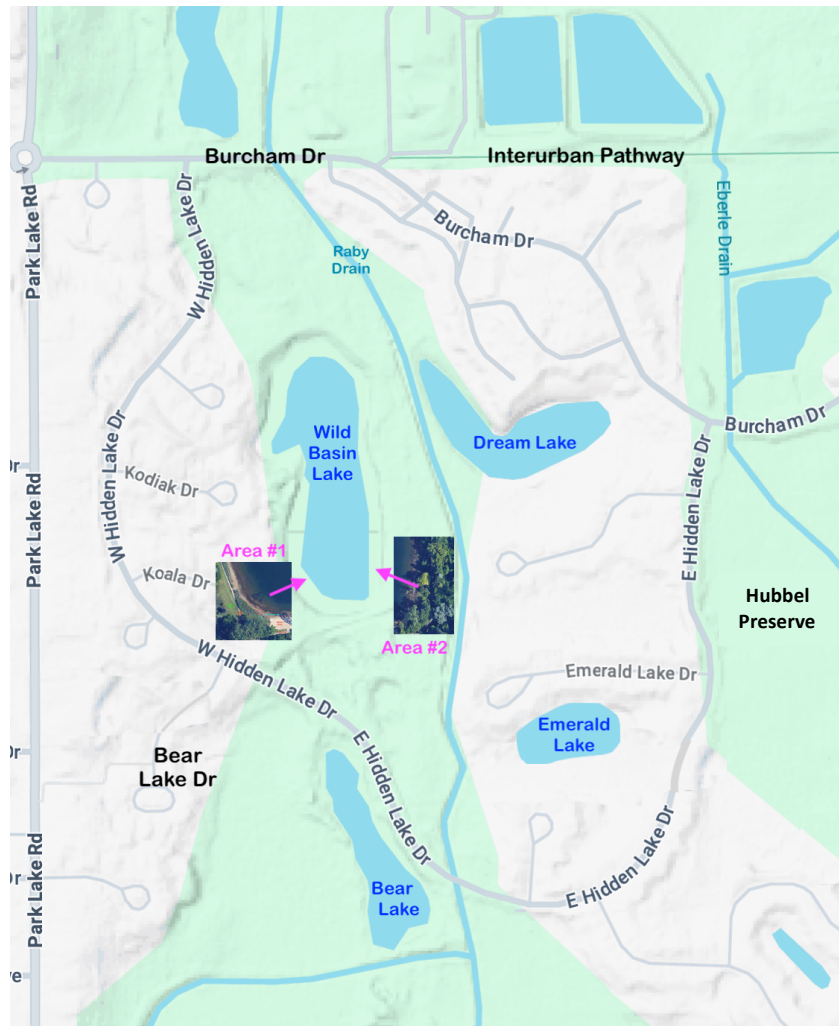
During Spring 2025, WWL HOA requested a site visit by the Meridian Township Land Stewardship Team lead by Emma Campbell and her staff. This visit resulted in preparation of an extensive [Land Management Report](#) detailing problematic invasive plants and highlighting opportunities for land management and habitat restoration. In order to implement specific recommendations contained within this report, WWL HOA has begun to assemble a Land Stewardship Team. Working in coordination with its Association Boards the Wildwood Lakes Land Stewards will recruit volunteer teams from among subdivision residents to undertake targeted stewardship projects. The two projects highlighted below represent the first of several recommendations contained within the Township Land Management Report for targeted habitat improvement in high visibility, high priority areas of the WWL HOA communal “Natural Area”. These largely volunteer-led efforts, supported by HOA and Township resources and management expertise are intended to promote homeowner engagement, to build upon a growing conservation culture, and to represent a template for responsible land management practices by other homeowner associations within the community.

Wildwood Lakes Land Stewardship Team:

- Vicki Miksicek, Team Leader (Bear Lake Homeowners Association)*
- Kayla Sarles (Emerald Lake Condominium Association)*
- Karen Webster (Dream Lake Condominium Association)

*Members currently receiving specialized conservation training as part of the MSU Extension – 2026 Extended Conservation Stewards Program.

Project Description: Areas targeted for habitat restoration are shown in the accompanying map, with details provided below.



While the majority of the Wildwood Lakes Subdivision has a history of intensive human use, first as agricultural land and subsequently as a gravel quarry, it currently consists of a number of residential cul-de-sacs divided between three affiliated homeowner and condominium owner associations that were developed during the 1980s and 1990s. Exercising considerable foresight and restraint, the developers set aside a central “Natural Area” of approximately 50 acres, wholly owned by the WWL HOA. The 50 acre Natural Area extends from Burcham Dr in the north and includes a tract of contiguous woodlots and emergent wetlands flanking Hidden Lake Dr in the south and in the east. These woodlots are part of a significant wildlife corridor in western Meridian Township, encompassing other privately held parcels that are contiguous with Hubbel Nature Preserve, the Interurban Wetland Preserve, the Okemos Road (Central Upland) Preserve, and Raby Drain. Within the tract of wetlands south of Hidden Lake Dr, WWL HOA participates in the annual township deer management program. Wild Basin Lake, encompassing 7.5 acres and surrounded by an interconnected asphalt multi-use pathway, represents a central feature of the subdivision and a focal point for the two proposed projects, described below.

Project Area #1 (approx 9,000 sq ft): At the southwest corner of Wild Basin Lake is an area of seasonally flooded shoreline. As the water table of the lake seems to have risen over the past decade, this area has become overgrown with a dense willow thicket (see figure below) consisting primarily of a single aggressive species, tentatively identified as sandbar willow (*S. interior*). Purple Loosestrife (*L. salicaria*), Autumn Olive (*E. umbellata*), and Narrow-Leaf Cattail (*T. angustifolia*) are additional non-native species that are being monitored and controlled in this area.



A control option recommended by the township management plan is to upgrade this habitat with a higher diversity of wetland native plants. As an initial step to implement this recommendation (Phase 1), the WWL HOA Board directed its landscaping contractor to aggressively thin this willow thicket, after which members of our Land

Stewards Team completed site preparation by manually removing a majority of the willow root stock. Phase 1 of this project was completed in Fall 2025, preparing this area for habitat restoration in 2026. It is expected that some of the willows and adjacent beds of cattail will naturally return, but to increase the species diversity and improve the esthetic and ecological value of this area before the willows once again overtake this site, we are requesting funds to purchase native plants that should be well adapted to this shoreline habitat. A zonal strategy will be taken to replant this area with the following water-adapted species:

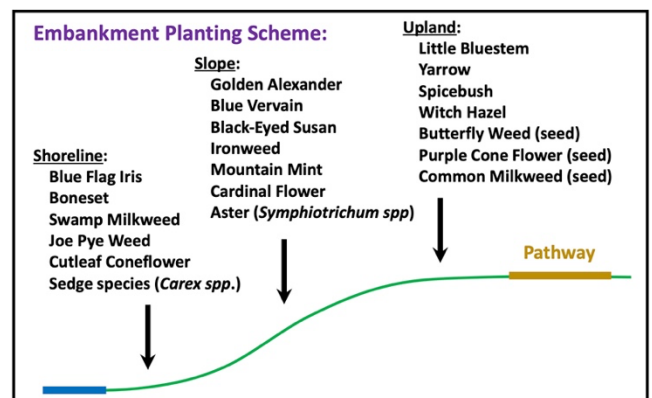
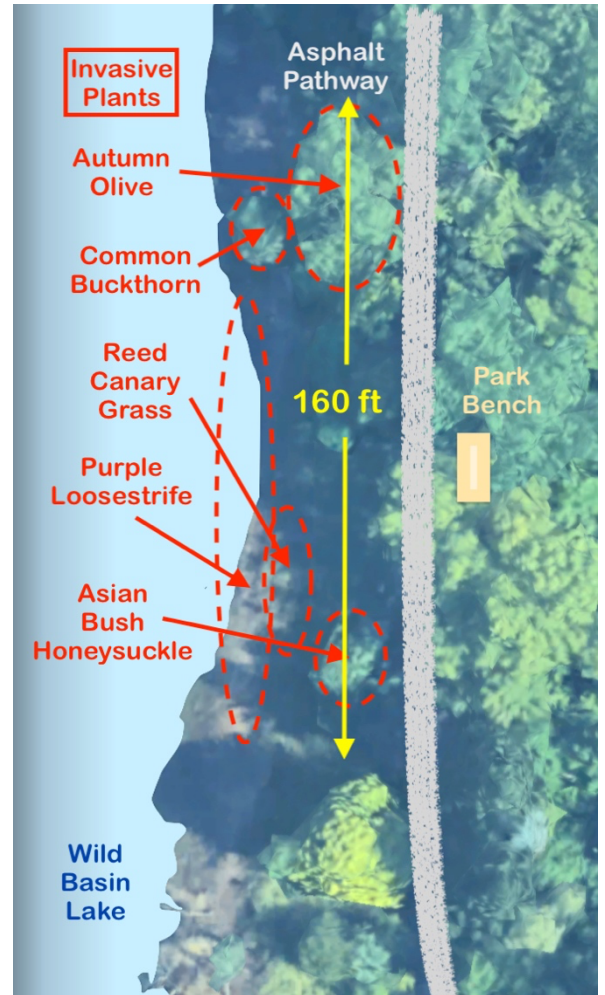
1. Aquatic Zone: Arrowhead, Blue Flag Iris, Pickerelweed, Leatherleaf
2. Transition/Seasonally Flooded Zone: Cardinal Flower, Turtlehead, Swamp Milkweed, Joe Pye Weed, Marsh Blazing Star, Mountain Mint, Ninebark
3. Upland Zone: Butterfly Weed, Common Milkweed, Blue Vervain, Meadowsweet Spirea, Button Bush, New Jersey Tea, Spicebush, Winterberry, Witch Hazel

Regrowth of willows will be conservatively controlled as the newly introduced native species become established. This area provides important habitat for redwing blackbirds, ducks, migratory waterfowl, and shorebirds, as well as frogs, garter snakes and other small animals. Funds are also included in our project budget to install a trailside sign to educate passersby about this habitat restoration project and to acknowledge support from Meridian Township.

Project Area #2 (approx 5,000 sq ft): At the southeast corner of Wild Basin Lake is ~160 ft of embankment situated between the shoreline and the asphalt pathway which encircles the lake. Several non-native or invasive species have begun to invade this area including purple loosestrife and reed canary grass along the shoreline, and common buckthorn, autumn olive, and Asian bush honeysuckle on the embankment, as well as crown vetch which was seeded by the developer in the 1980s to provide erosion control. Due to its sunny location, visibility, and proximity to the pathway, this site was identified by the township management plan as a high priority area for habitat restoration and a promising location for replanting with native pollinators, bird- and insect-friendly species, shown schematically below.



During Fall 2025 and Spring 2026, the HOA land stewards team has begun to prepare this area for planting by removing the designated invasive shrubs from this embankment. If funds for this project are awarded, replacement species will be purchased for this area, including a combination of live plants and wildflower seeds, with a preference for local varieties.



A portion of the grant funds will also be used to obtain professional guidance, including herbicide treatment if necessary to control or remove crown vetch, in preparation for planting and seeding of native species. As with Project #1 (above), labor will be provided by resident volunteers. The following budget also includes materials for temporary deer fencing, as well as a soil testing kit, compost, and garden soil to increase the likelihood for plant germination and survival in this recovering natural habitat.

Itemized Budget Request (*cost reflects catalogue prices plus 6% Michigan sales tax):

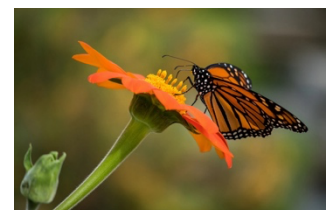
Common Name, Plants	Species	Amount	Cost*	Source
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	2 Flat/38	\$160	Meridian Plant Sale (Harris Nature Center)
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	2 Flat/38	\$160	
Blue Flag Iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	2 Flat/38	\$160	
Black-Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	2 Flat/38	\$160	
Boneset	<i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i>	1 Flat/38	\$80	
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	1 Flat/38	\$80	
Culver's Root	<i>Veronicastrum virginicum</i>	Per 6	\$45	
Golden Alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	Per 6	\$45	
Ironweed	<i>Veronia missurica</i>	Per 6	\$45	
Marsh Blazing Star	<i>Liatris spicata</i>	Per 6	\$45	
New Jersey Tea	<i>Caenothus americanus</i>	Per 10	\$74	
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	Per 5	\$32	Ingham County Conservation District (ICCD)
Spice Bush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>	Per 10	\$58	
Witch Hazel	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	Per 10	\$58	
Winterberry	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	Per 10	\$58	
Ninebark	<i>Physocarpus opulifolius</i>	Per 10	\$58	Eaton County Conservation District (ECCD)
Mountain Mint	<i>Pycnanthemum virginianum</i>	Per 10	\$49	
Meadowsweet Spirea	<i>Spirea alba</i>	Per 25	\$93	
Button Bush	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>	Per 25	\$93	
Wildflower Seeds	Species	Amount	Cost	Source
Purple Cone Flower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	4 Oz	\$21	Native Connections (Wildflower Seeds)
Smooth Blue Aster	<i>Aster laevis</i>	1 Oz	\$52	
Joe Pye Weed	<i>Eupatorium maculatum</i>	2 Oz	\$127	
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	1 Oz	\$85	
Butterfly Weed	<i>Asclepius tuberosa</i>	4 Oz	\$136	
Swamp Milkweed	<i>Asclepius incarnata</i>	2 Oz	\$52	
Pollinator Seed Mix	<i>various</i>	¼ acre	\$244	
Misc. Supplies	Description	Number	Cost	Source
Deer Fencing	4 ft x 100 ft Rolls	4 @ \$35 ea	\$148	Home Depot
Fence Stakes	5 ft & 6 ft Green T-Stakes	20 @ \$7 ea	\$148	
Compost	ProBlend 40 lb Bag	10 @ \$5 ea	\$52	Hammond Farms
Garden Soil	50/50 ProBlend, 40 lb Bag	10 @ \$5 ea	\$52	
Marking Flags	Planting Area Identification	Pack / 100	\$24	ECCD
Soil Testing Kit	Includes pre-paid analysis	1 ea	\$26	MSU Stores
Signage	Planting Description & Credits	2 ea	\$320	TBD
Services	Description	Time	Cost	Vendor
Consulting	Herbicide & Planting Service	6 hr	\$660	Designs By Nature
Total			\$3,700	

Project Schedule: In October 2025, Emma Campbell provided us with a [Land Management Report](#) including encouragement to proceed with Projects #1 and #2. During Spring 2026 we plan to complete soil testing and engage an outside consultant (Designs By Nature) for herbicide treatment (if necessary) and guidance on plant selection and planting strategy. Orders to purchase live plants and wildflower seeds will be placed during Spring and early Summer for immediate planting. The sites will be monitored and watered for the remainder of the year, shifting our focus to community outreach and education to further engage neighborhood residents throughout the growing season. Temporary deer fencing will be installed as necessary.

Contribution In Kind: During Fall 2025, WWL HOA contracted with its landscaping service to remove willows and other aggressive plants to prepare Project Area #1 for planting. This entailed clearing and removal of two truckloads of woody debris, costing \$1,430. Additionally, over 100 man-hours of volunteer labor have been provided by our WWL Land Stewards for site preparation in Project Areas #1 and #2, as well as invasive plant removal in these and other locations within our 50 Acre Natural Area. These efforts will continue in 2026 with an estimated minimum of 100 additional volunteer man-hours to complete the work outlined above.

Minimum Award Amount To Proceed With A Scaled-Back Project: In the event that this proposal cannot be fully funded, we would scale back our efforts to focus on Project Area #1 only, reducing costs by approximately 50%. Planning and site preparation would continue in Project Area #2, as we explore options to fully fund project completion. A minimum award of \$2,000 would permit us to initiate work with the reduced goal of completing Project Area #1.

Justification and Alignment With The Meridian Township Climate Sustainability Plan: This proposal describes targeted habitat restoration projects within a natural area owned and maintained by the Wildwood Lakes HOA. Due to budgetary constraints, HOA funds are typically earmarked for routine maintenance, grounds upkeep, and storm damage clean-up. Rarely do funds exist for land stewardship and conservation efforts such as those described in this grant application. If awarded, the majority of these funds will be used for the purchase of native plants and wildflower seeds, to replace non-native plants with native species, increasing the plant diversity within our Natural Area. Care has been taken to compile a list of species that is native to our area, rich in pollinator species and host plants for indigenous insects. These efforts will improve the health of our food web to support resident bird and animal populations, as well as providing improved habitat for nesting birds, amphibians, and small animals. Private lands such as ours represent important buffer zones for parks and preserves owned and managed by the township, requiring responsible stewardship efforts by both parties to control further encroachment by invasive species in our area. We will embrace every opportunity to enhance community awareness by recruiting volunteers, communicating with our boards, publicizing our efforts in HOA newsletters, and providing educational signage on site. Each of these goals align closely with priorities contained within the **Meridian Township Climate Sustainability Plan** (Invasive Species Control, Native Plantings, Natural Vegetation Buffers, Natural Shorelines, Sustainability Education), as well as complementing the stewardship goals of conservation organizations such as the Capitol Area Audubon Society / Bird City - Michigan Program and the Red Cedar Chapter of Wild Ones.





2026 Green Grant Application

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026*
In previous years, grant awards have ranged from \$300-\$4,500

* Depending on the number of applications received during the initial grant application window in March, the Township may hold a second grant application window in April of 2026.

Date:

Name of Organization:

Primary Contact:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

A brief description of project (i.e. location, scope of work, etc.):

Does the project align with [Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#)? If so, please explain:

Team leader(s) and team member(s):

Outreach plan to inform the community:

Expected materials and/or services required to complete the project:

Project Schedule (The grant agreement requires that projects be completed by 12/31/2026. The township is willing to grant extensions if needed, but the applicant is required to request extensions in writing.):

Total Project Budget:

Matching and/or in-kind contributions are encouraged. In-kind contribution are goods and/or services/ labor hours that are donated toward the project (e.g. plants donated, volunteer labor hours, etc.). If proposing matching and/or in-kind contributions, please provide estimated amounts in your project budget. In-kind contributions can be quantified by simply listing the estimated number of volunteer hours that will be contributed through completion of the proposed project.

Award Amount Applied for: \$_____.

the work will be completed through volunteer labor hours. The entire project could take about 20 hours.

How scalable is the project?

The Township may not have available funds to award the full requested amount. Please explain if the project could be scaled back and list the minimum award amount your organization would need to proceed with a project.

Minimum Award Amount Required to proceed with a scaled back project: \$_____.

We are a non-profit so any amount helps.

Attachments: Please include a [W-9 form](#). Other optional items might include an operation and/or maintenance plan, pictures, rough designs/concept drawings, etc. Please list attachments:

A brief description of project (i.e. location, scope of work, etc.):

Upgrade our front, exterior landscaping with a pollinator garden around our business sign using plants and flowers that invite pollinators such as butterflies and humming birds, as well as using native plants, shrubs, and flowers to line the building. We would also like create garden areas within our playgrounds and lining our fences to allow the children to help grow the food for our season menus (farm to table)

Does the project align with Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan? If so, please explain:

"Contribute to worldwide efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions." The addition of plants will assist with the reduction of greenhouses gases through photosynthesis.

"Make our community a more sustainable, resilient, affordable, and vibrant place to live." The addition of food production gardens will aid in making the center more sustainable, resilient, and affordable. Our food program is a significant expense. It would be beneficial to cut the cost of the food program and avoid putting the ever-rising food costs on the families through substantial tuition increases. While the tuition increases are inevitable, we would appreciate the opportunity for the increases to be as minimal as possible. On another note, our pollinator garden project will assist in creating a more vibrant community by increasing our curb appeal in front, facing Haslett Road, which is a well-traveled road within the community.

"Encourage and support the development of farm-to-school and school garden programs in schools in the Township." and "Encourage and support residents, businesses and institutions within the township, such as public schools and childcare centers, to increase the proportion of sustainable and locally grown foods on their menus." Our food production gardens are within the children's outdoor play spaces. Children will be involved in the water, weeding, and harvesting of the produce to be used in our snacks and meals. Teaching them the importance of sustainability.

Outreach plan to inform the community:

We are creating a new website, which includes a page thanking organizations for the projects completed via grants and donations. Therefore, in addition to posting on our social medial platforms (i.e. Facebook and Instagram) images and descriptions will be posted on our website.

Expected materials and/or services required to complete the project:

Soil for the raised garden beds, pollinator plants, thornless raspberry plants, edging material, mulch to reduce weeds, garden trellis, native shrubs, plants, and flowers, wood for the raised garden beds, various fruits and vegetable seeds and plants.



Pollinator plants
and flowers



1546 Haslett Rd.
517-339-2926



Pollinator plants and flowers around sign

native shrubs/plants (possibly raspberry bushes for landscaping and garden uses)





Native plants, flowers, and shrubs for landscaping

HCD
HASLETT CHILD DEVELOPMENT
1546 Haslett
517-339-292

Garden spaces for teaching sustainability to the children and growing food for our menu





garden trellis space



**vegetable and fruit
garden space**



**Vegetable and
fruit garden**

2026 GREEN GRANT REQUEST FORM PROPOSAL

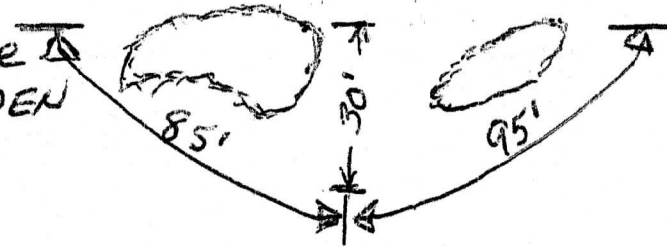
March 17, 2026

1. **Name of Organization:** Pine Creek II Condo Association of Haslett
2. **Contact Information:**
3. **Brief Description:** This Green Grant proposal is in two parts:
 - 1) Finish removing invasive species from the surrounding wooded area behind condo units: 1860, 1866, 1872, 1878, 1863, and 1867. This would finish removal of the larger invasive trees, mainly Buckthorn, from the woods surrounding the condo association.
 - 2) The second part is to begin the rehabilitation of an area filled with invasive plants and trees and develop a native pollinator garden. The area is behind units 1884, 1888, 1892, 1896, 1900, 1906, 1910. The area has been neglected and left as a natural area. It contains some native plants and many invasives. The steps to make it into a pollinator garden will take a number of years. The goal is to clean up invasives in that area; enhance the soil; and plant native plants, shrubs, and trees. The area is quite large and will be divided into workable patches. The Green Grant will be used to start the cleanup of the area; take invasives to the compost center; and purchase some native plants and shrubs.
4. **Team Leaders:** The landscape committee comprises Chris Knapp, Helen Reinhart, Gloria Stragier, Sheldon Knoespel, and Doug Holem. Other volunteers include Steve Pifer, Lucia Franchini, Katherine Jones, William, and Maureen Lamperis
5. **Outreach plan to inform the Community:** Our Landscape committee has focused on condo owners changing their landscape plants to native species. The pollinator garden will allow owners to view native plants that we are recommending be planted in our association. Educating association members in non-native species removal will help prevent the regrowth of species like Buckthorns from recurring. The garden provides one more tool in the toolbox to help the community to GO NATIVE.
6. **Expected materials/services needed:** Volunteers already have tools and a trailer for invasive removal. We are estimating eight trailer loads of invasives to be delivered to Reclaimed by Design at a cost of \$400.00. We request another \$400.00 for soil amendments, mulch, 6-10 shrubs and a variety of native plants for the pollinator garden area. The total amount of grant request therefore is \$800.00.
7. **Project Schedule:** Work will start in early summer of 2026 and will be completed in the fall.
8. **Project Budgeting:** Each load to Reclaimed by Design is \$50.00 per agreement with the recycling facility. All of the labor is volunteer. In previous years, the work to remove invasives from the woods, cut, load, and deliver to the Reclaimed facility was 4-5 hrs per load. At \$20 an hour, the volunteer labor amounts to \$80-\$100 per load for in-kind expenses. All of the work for the future pollinator garden will be volunteer work.
9. **Attachments:** Map of condo area showing where invasives will be removed and the location of the pollinator garden and shrub planting area.

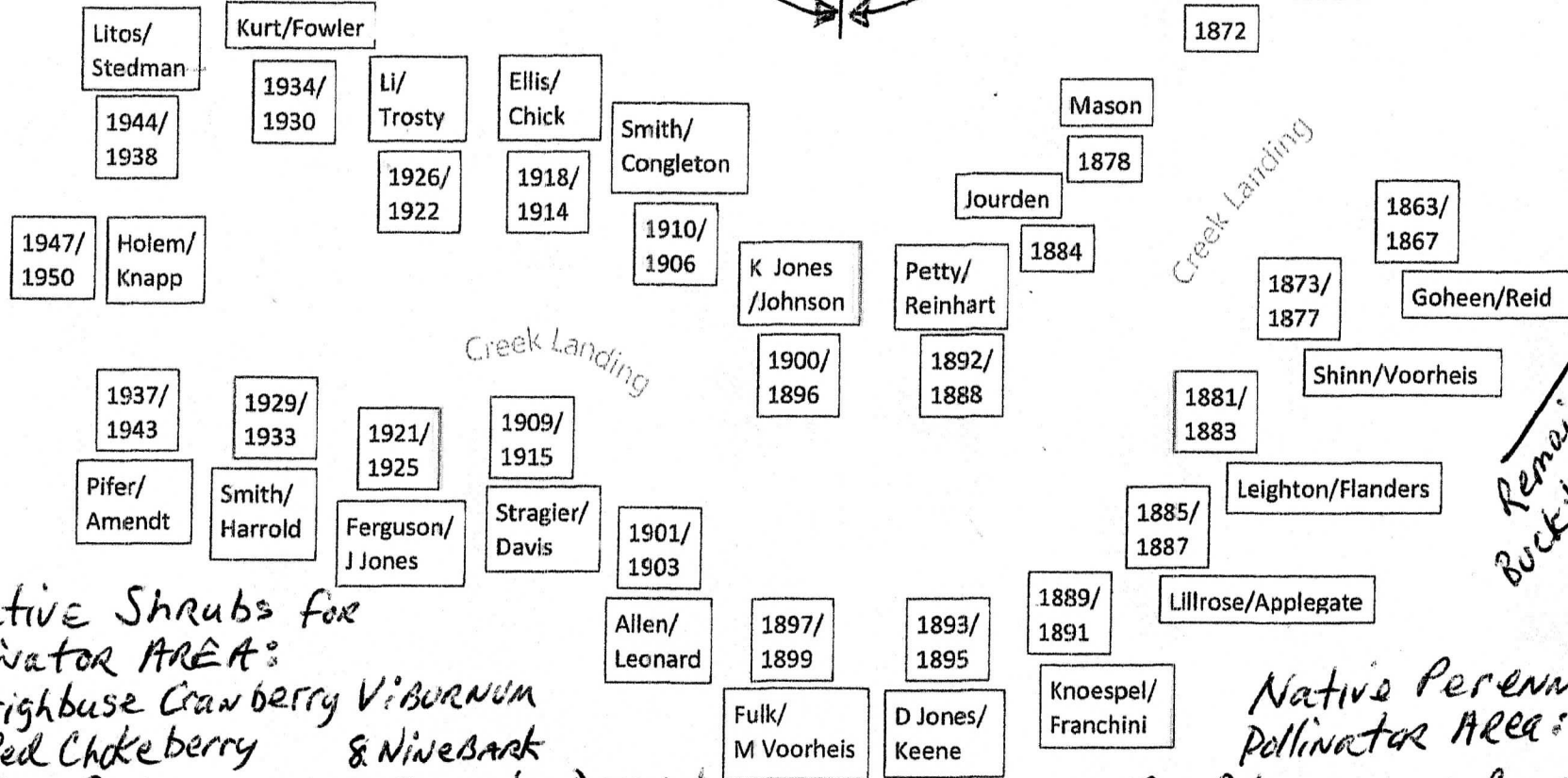
HASLETT ROAD

Buffer- Creek Landing - Zone

Naturalized
AREA TO BECOME
POLLINATOR GARDEN



Remaining Buckthorn Removal



Native Shrubs for pollinator AREA:

1. Highbush Cranberry *VIBURNUM*
2. Red Chokeberry & Ninebark
3. Paw Paw
4. Spicebush
5. Witch Hazel
6. Blackhaw *VIBURNUM*
7. Serviceberry
8. Flowering Dogwood
9. Black Gum

Native Perennials for Pollinator Area:

1. Bee Balm
2. Butterfly Weed
3. Yarrow
4. Lupine
5. Coreopsis
6. Coneflower
7. Golden Alexander
8. Spiderwort
9. Swamp Milkweed
10. Joe Pye Weed



2026 Green Grant Application

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2026*
In previous years, grant awards have ranged from \$300-\$4,500

* Depending on the number of applications received during the initial grant application window in March, the Township may hold a second grant application window in April of 2026.

Date:

Name of Organization:

Primary Contact:

Phone:

Cell:

Email:

A brief description of project (i.e. location, scope of work, etc.):

Does the project align with [Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan](#)? If so, please explain:

Team leader(s) and team member(s):

Outreach plan to inform the community:

Expected materials and/or services required to complete the project:

Project Schedule (The grant agreement requires that projects be completed by 12/31/2026. The township is willing to grant extensions if needed, but the applicant is required to request extensions in writing.):

Total Project Budget:

Matching and/or in-kind contributions are encouraged. In-kind contributions are goods and/or services/ labor hours that are donated toward the project (e.g. plants donated, volunteer labor hours, etc.). If proposing matching and/or in-kind contributions, please provide estimated amounts in your project budget. In-kind contributions can be quantified by simply listing the estimated number of volunteer hours that will be contributed through completion of the proposed project.

Award Amount Applied for: \$_____.

Volunteer labor: Approximately 60–80 volunteer hours

How scalable is the project?

The Township may not have available funds to award the full requested amount. Please explain if the project could be scaled back and list the minimum award amount your organization would need to proceed with a project.

Minimum Award Amount Required to proceed with a scaled back project: \$_____.

Attachments: Please include a [W-9 form](#). Other optional items might include an operation and/ or maintenance plan, pictures, rough designs/concept drawings, etc. Please list attachments:

- W-9 Form
- Demonstrated Need and Organization Capacity
- Project Schedule and Maintenance Plan
- Project Budget
- Pictures
- Rough Designs/Concept Drawings
- Grant Application as Word Doc

A brief description of project (i.e. location, scope of work, etc.):

This project will install two 12' x 20' raised bed gardens at Shared Ground Community Gardens, located at 3745 Dobie Road in Okemos, Michigan. The project supports Meridian Township Green Grant goals by creating accessible green infrastructure that promotes sustainable gardening, environmental education, and broad community benefit for Township residents.

Does the project align with Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability Plan? If so, please explain:

Yes, this project aligns with Meridian Township's 2023 Climate Sustainability by creating accessible green infrastructure that supports sustainable gardening, environmental education, and broad community benefit through an open-access community garden.

Outreach plan to inform the community:

We will promote the project through multiple channels to engage the Meridian Township community. This includes:

- Posting updates and volunteer opportunities on the Shared Ground Community Gardens website and social media platforms.
- Partnering with the Greater Lansing Food Bank's Garden Project to share information through their network.
- Distributing flyers at local libraries, community centers, and the Ingham County Medical Care Facility.
- Providing updates to the Meridian Township Environmental Commission and participating in Green Meridian events to showcase the project's progress and impact.

Expected materials and/or services required to complete the project:

Materials and services include lumber and hardware for two horseshoe-style raised beds; bulk topsoil and compost sufficient to fill both beds; silt fence and landscape materials for accessible pathways; material delivery; site preparation; and installation.

Demonstrated Need and Organizational Capacity

The sustained success and full capacity of **Briarwood Community Garden** demonstrates strong and ongoing demand for community gardening opportunities within Meridian Township. From an environmental stewardship perspective, consistently full plots indicate not only resident interest, but also the effectiveness of community gardens as small-scale green infrastructure that supports sustainable land use, soil health, and local food production. However, limited space at existing gardens constrains the Township's ability to meet this demand, leaving many residents without access to gardening opportunities.

Shared Ground Community Gardens was intentionally developed to address this gap by expanding overall community garden capacity while removing participation barriers tied to housing type or organizational affiliation. Unlike gardens that are restricted to schools, homeowners' associations, or apartment communities, Shared Ground Community Gardens is designed to be open to all Meridian Township residents. This inclusive model aligns with Environmental Commission priorities by ensuring that the environmental benefits of green infrastructure investments—such as sustainable gardening practices and environmental learning—are broadly accessible.

With experienced leadership proven through years of successful leadership of Briarwood Community Garden, Shared Ground Community Garden's leaders demonstrate strong organizational capacity to implement and maintain environmentally beneficial projects. This experience includes coordinating volunteer labor, maintaining garden infrastructure, and stewarding shared resources in a manner that supports long-term sustainability.

The proposed infrastructure improvements will create a durable, low-maintenance community garden that can immediately begin serving residents who are currently on waitlists or otherwise excluded from existing garden opportunities. By expanding access to community gardening, this project advances the goals of Meridian Township Climate Sustainability Plan of environmental stewardship, sustainable land use, and supporting a resilient community through practical, locally grounded initiatives.

Project Schedule (Estimated Dates)

- **April 1–April 7, 2026**
Upon receipt of the Green Grant award, Shared Ground Community Gardens will finalize the materials list, confirm vendors, and schedule delivery of raised bed materials, soil, compost, and pathway supplies.
- **April 10–April 30, 2026**
The first group of volunteers will report to the site to complete site preparation, including layout and light grading at raised bed and pathway locations.
- **May 1–May 15, 2026**
Construction and installation of **two horseshoe-style raised garden beds**.
- **May 16–May 25, 2026**
Installation of topsoil and compost within the raised beds and installation of silt fence and landscape materials to define and stabilize accessible garden pathways.
- **May 26–June 1, 2026**
Final site review, cleanup, and project close-out documentation.

The project will be **fully completed by June 1, 2026**, in advance of the December 31, 2026 deadline required by the Meridian Township Green Grant agreement. Any required extensions would be requested in writing in accordance with Township requirements.

Operations and Maintenance Plan

Shared Ground Community Gardens will be responsible for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the raised garden beds and accessible pathways installed through this project.

Routine maintenance activities will include seasonal soil amendment, replacement of compost as needed, inspection and tightening of bed hardware, and periodic pathway upkeep to ensure surfaces remain stable, accessible, and clearly defined. Silt fence and landscape materials used for pathways will be inspected regularly and adjusted or replenished as necessary to maintain accessibility and reduce soil displacement.

Maintenance activities will be coordinated by the project leadership team and supported through scheduled volunteer workdays. The directors of Shared Ground Community Gardens bring multiple years of experience managing community garden infrastructure and volunteer maintenance activities, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project.

No specialized equipment or ongoing contracted services are required for routine maintenance, and all maintenance activities will be completed using volunteer labor and standard garden tools.

Project Budget — Full Scope (Requested Award)

Estimated total project cost: \$4,850

Grant Funds

Item	Cost
Materials – for 2 Raised beds construction (lumber, posts, fasteners)	\$2,000
Materials – Topsoil and compost (bulk delivery)	\$800
Materials – Silt fence and landscape materials (accessible pathways)	\$600
Delivery and site preparation services	\$400
Total Grant Funds Requested	\$3,800

In-Kind Contributions

	Contribution
Volunteer labor (site prep, bed installation, soil placement, pathways)	60–80 hours
Total In-Kind Contribution	Approx \$1,050

Project Budget — Minimum Award (Scalable Version)

Minimum award amount to proceed: \$2,500

If awarded less than the full requested amount, Shared Ground Community Gardens will prioritize raised bed installation and soil placement, with pathway improvements reduced or phased as volunteer labor and donated materials allow.

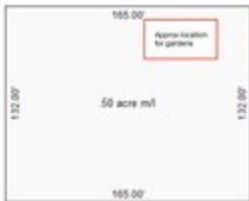
Grant Funds

Item	Cost
Materials – for 1 Raised bed construction (lumber, posts, fasteners)	\$1,000
Materials – Topsoil and compost (bulk delivery)	\$700
Materials – Silt fence and landscape materials (accessible pathways)	\$400
Delivery and site preparation services	\$400
Total Grant Funds Requested	\$2,500

In-Kind Contributions

	Contribution
Volunteer labor (site prep, bed installation, soil placement, pathways)	50–60 hours
Total In-Kind Contribution	Approx \$825

34-401-001



Sketch by Apex Sketch

Item 2 of 2 < Prev

Close or Esc Key
Next

Property Information

Jump To: OK

Click here to

Parcel is Vacant

Owner and

Over

East ^

Approx.
garden
location

Powerlines



Edging/Seal

Paving

Driveway

Edging

Seal

Current Tree Line



Property Line

