

**Hawk's Nest Park
Public Input Meeting Notes
May 7, 2009
Hannah Community Center**

Attendees: Tim McCaffrey, Director, East Lansing Parks and Recreation, Wendy Longpre, Assistant Director, East Lansing Parks and Recreation, Robert Ford, Landscape Architects and Planners (LAP), Robert Stasiuk, LAP, Pat Judd, Gerry Welhelm

1. How do maintenance costs compare to others?
 - Reductions are about 30% - 50%
2. Controlled burns liability. Who takes responsibility?
 - Professional burn experts carry \$2 million +
3. Concern about community burning.
 - Fire Marshall – Was contacted
 - Taxes – Future maintenance
 - Asthma concerns
4. What is the development schedule?
 - Start design as soon as possible
 - Was dependent upon Legislature approval – informed that Governor just signed allocation of funds
 - Web site – add to East Lansing web site to post burn schedule in advance
5. Can the public have a compost pile in the park?
6. Communication
 - Neighborhood newsletter, e-mail, web site
 - Is there a way to advance the schedule with MDNR?
7. Add benches along the path?
 - Benches are included with interpretive signs at this stage of the design.
8. Concerned about turf areas browning out
 - Raise mower to allow more grass blade to be exposed to the sun which conserves moisture and energy.
9. Can we add trees in the park?
 - Yes
10. Will there be future tax assessments for the park?
 - Probably not
 - If there are special items above the current scope – maybe?

11. Can we have community gardens in the park?
- This will need more research to determine
12. Does a community garden fit into natural theme of the park?
- Possibly not
13. Is there a chemical process that will be used to control weeds, etc., and what are the harmful impacts?
- There will be an herbicide used to defoliate the existing invasive plants. Then prescriptive burns will be used to control invasive species.
14. What will happen to the pond edges?
- They will be graded to form gentler edges and spread out water.
 - They will be planted to absorb moisture.
15. Park edges.
- How do we address transition to lawns?
 - By using cool season grass buffer
 - Resident gardens
 - No buffer at all
 - Trails
16. Will the park be irrigated?
- Irrigation is not included in this scope and not planned for the foreseeable future.
17. What are the phases for park development?
- Trail
 - Ponds
 - Grading
 - Play equipment
 - Lawn areas
 - 5-acre restoration project