

**Hawk Nest Park
City of East Lansing
Public Input Meeting**

Date: March 31, 2009

Time: 7:00pm

Location: Hannah Community Center, Executive Conference Room
819 Abbot Road

Project Design Team

City of East Lansing

Timothy McCaffrey, Director, Parks, Recreation & Arts

Wendy Longpre, Assist. Director, Parks, Recreation & Arts

Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc

Bob Ford, RLA

Mike Bristol, RLA

Patrick Judd, Conservation Design Forum

Meeting Notes

I. Introduction/Welcome Remarks

The meeting was opened at 7:05 pm by Timothy McCaffrey, Director of the City of East Lansing Department of Parks and Recreation. Mr. McCaffrey introduced the project design team and reviewed the agenda.

II. History of Site/MDNR Grant & Requirements

A history of Hawk Nest Park was presented by Wendy Wilmers Longpre. Ms. Longpre also outlined the Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant process and the required park elements which include: a playground and picnic pavilion, a 10' paved pathway connection across the park to the Northern Tier Trail on the east, site pathways to join access points to each other and the park amenities, re-vegetation of the site to promote the growth of diverse natural habitats, and an interpretive signage program to highlight the park natural features.

III. Review MDNR Masterplan submitted

The preliminary Hawk Nest Park master plan as submitted to the MDNR was reviewed by Bob Ford, consultant on this project.

IV. Explain "Park Vision"

Patrick Judd, with Conservation Design Forum, offered a PowerPoint presentation and discussed the practice of using prescribed ecological burns as a method to establish and manage natural plant systems. There was extensive discussion regarding this topic.

V. Listen to Public Input

The meeting was opened up for public input. Comments focused around concerns with the idea of a prescribed ecological burn, including: just what was the process for establishing a native habitat and what is the roll of burns in that process; what areas would be burned; why is that necessary; the pros and cons of prescribed burning; what happens to the animals during a burn; and what protection would be given to the adjacent homeowners were all raised. Staff agreed to conduct further review and host at least one additional meeting to discuss the topic further. The meeting was closed at 8:40 pm.