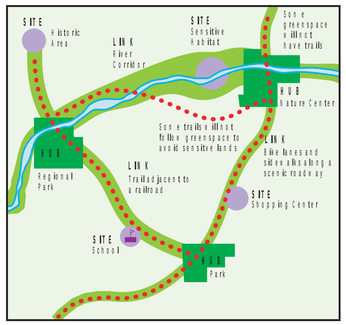
Meridian Township Greenspace Plan

Anatomy of a Greenspace System



A greenspace system can be viewed as having three key elements: links, hubs and sites. The illustration at the left shows how these three elements work together to form a greenspace system.

Links are the heart of the greenspace system. They are the linear connections for people and wildlife. Links are comprised of the Priority Conservation Corridors, Scenic Road Corridors, and Non-motorized Corridors.

Hubs are the anchors of the system. Hubs provide a base or destination for people and wildlife. Hubs include large parks and open spaces like Lake Lansing Park, Red Cedar Natural Area and Central Park.

Sites are smaller features than hubs and serve as points of interest, origins, or destinations. The township's schools, commercial areas, and neighborhood parks serve as hubs or sites. Individual wetlands, pocket habitats, and protected properties are sites for wildlife and plants.

Vision and Goals of the Greenspace Plan

Vision
When implemented, the greenspace plan will provide a network of greenspaces and non-motorized linkages that will protect and connect valued natural and cultural resources, provide linkages to adjacent communities, and improve the quality of life for township residents.

Greenspace Goal
Identify a network of ecologically and culturally valuable resources to be protected.

Non-motorized Goal
Define an off-road system that links major destinations for both recreation and transportation and provides opportunities for people of all abilities.

Implementation Goal
Outline a feasible implementation strategy that provides an equitable solution for all stakeholders.

Implementation Tools

Conservation Zoning
Development is clustered so that 30% of a developable site may be set aside for open space.

Land Acquisition
Purchase of land from willing sellers.

Conservation Easement
Voluntary dedication of private land to permanent open space.

Purchase of Development Rights
Property remains in private ownership but ability to develop is voluntarily relinquished through a purchase of those rights by the township or conservation organization.

Trail Easement
Voluntary dedication of private land for public access.

Linked Site Plan Approvals
Allows for non-contiguous sites to be considered as one site if it meets the Township's open space preservation objectives.

Voluntary Stewardship
Education, encouragement and techinical assistance programs.

Implementation Matrix

There is no one implementation tool that can be used for the overall protection of the physical network of Priority Conservation Corridors, Scenic Road Corridors and Non-motorized Corridors. The following matrix indicates the different tools that must be engaged to implement the physical network for different situations of property ownership or states of development existing on the land. The larger the tool icon, the more important the tool. For example, to protect Priority Conservation Corridors on private residential land, the primary implementation tool to be used is voluntary stewardship measures. Conservation easements and land acquisition may also be used in critical cases.

	Vacant Land	Private	Institution	Commercial	Quasi-Public
Priority Conservation Corridors					
Scenic Road Corridors					
Non-Motorized Corridors					
Areas of Special Concern					

Legend

- **Priority Conservation Corridor** a network of ecologically significant open space
- **Scenic Road Corridor** roadways that are tree-lined or have outstanding views
- **Parks and Open Space**
- **Public School Property**

Areas of Special Concern
- Highlights Fragile Links
- Restoration Opportunities

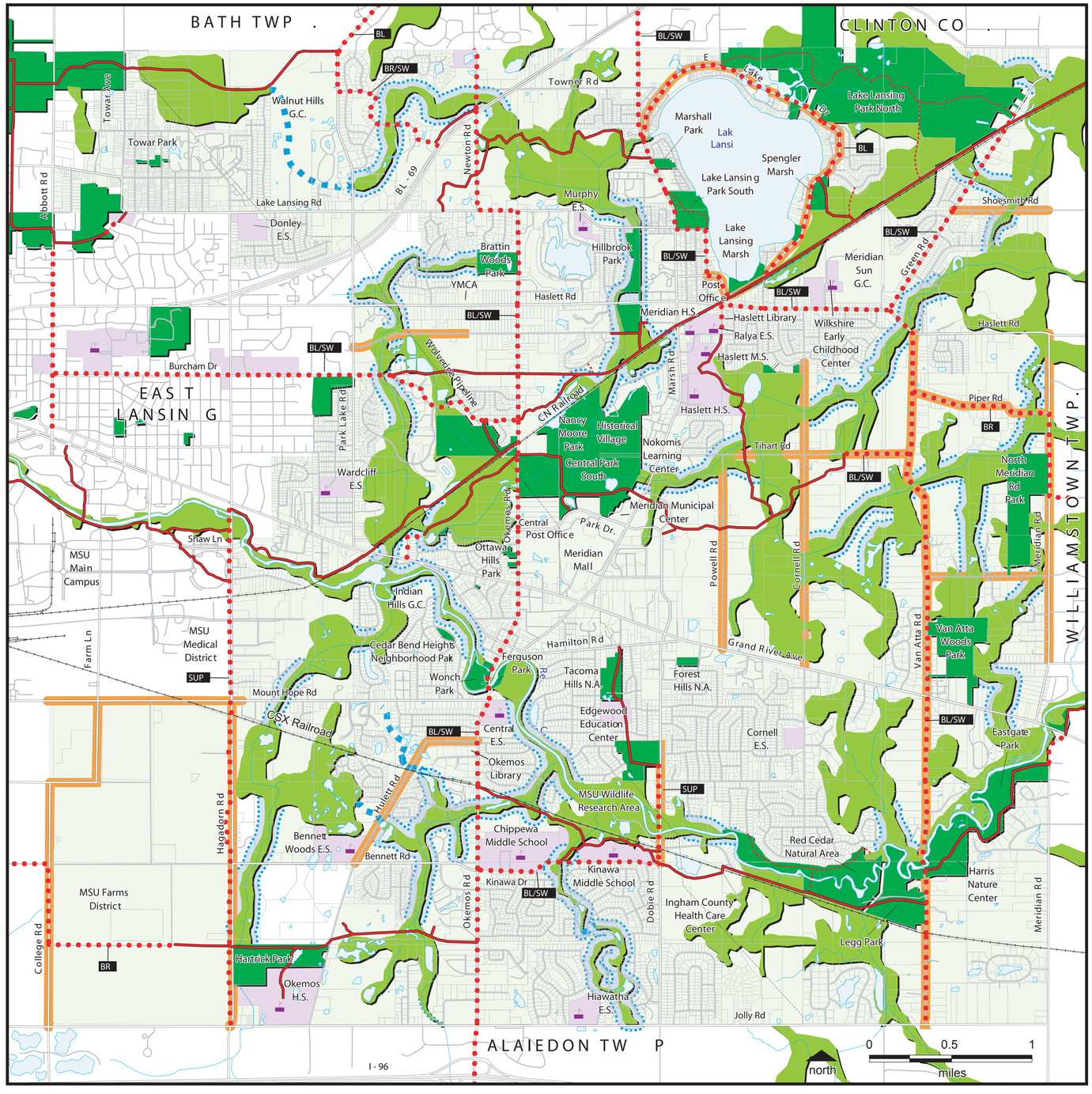
Non-Motorized Corridors
- Foot Trail (Outside road right-of-way)
- Shared-use Path (Outside road right-of-way)
- On or Adjacent to Roadway: (See Following Key for Type)

BL Bike Lane - a portion of the roadway designated for bicycle use. Pavement striping and markings along with signage are used to delineate the lane.

BR On-road Bike Route - a Bike Route is a signed route intended as an aid to help bicyclists find their way to a destination where the route is not clear or where there is an alternative route ideal for bicycles that is not obvious.

SW Sidewalk - a paved walkway separated from the road for use by pedestrians. Bicycle use may also be permitted.

SUP Shared-use Path along roadway - a pathway that is a minimum of 10' wide, separated from the roadway by an open ungaved space or barrier.



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The Greenway Collaborative, Inc.
Greenway, Trail, Open Space, and Non-motorized Planning