

**Park  
Commission**

7200 S. Huron River Drive  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
Phone: 734-544-3800  
Fax: 734-544-3888  
www.ytown.org



David Streeter, Chair  
Tajalli Hodge, Vice Chair  
Brad O'Conner, Treasurer  
Jeff Neel, Secretary

Commissioners:  
Brad Hine  
Darrell Kirby  
Star Smith

*Charter Township of Ypsilanti*

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**YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP PARK  
COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Date: Monday, February 1, 2021

Time: 6:30 P.M.

**LOCATION**

Online via Zoom Webinar  
Ypsilanti Township Civic Center  
7200 S. Huron River Drive  
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

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**Charter Township of Ypsilanti  
Public Meeting Notice  
Park Commission Regular Meeting  
February 1, 2021 at 6:30pm**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission will hold a Regular Meeting scheduled for February 1, 2021 at 6:30pm. This meeting will be conducted virtually (online and/or by phone), due to health concerns surrounding Coronavirus/COVID-19 under the Governor of Michigan's Executive Orders 2020-15 and 2020- 21.

Public comment will be handled by the "Raise Hand" method as instructed below within Participant Controls.

If you need any assistance due to a disability please contact Mike Hoffmeister at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting at [mhoffmeister@ytown.org](mailto:mhoffmeister@ytown.org) or 734-544-3515.

**Meeting Information:**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: February 1, 2021 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Charter Township of Ypsilanti Park Commission

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://ytown.zoom.us/j/93936756086>

Webinar ID: 939 3675 6086

Or iPhone one-tap :

US: +13126266799, 93936756086# or +19292056099, 93936756086#

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782

International numbers available: <https://ytown.zoom.us/j/aJXjr2xBX>

### **Zoom Instructions for Participants**

#### **To join the conference by phone:**

1. On your phone, dial the teleconferencing number provided above.
2. Enter the Meeting ID number (also provided above) when prompted using your touch- tone (DTMF) keypad.

#### **Before a videoconference:**

1. You will need a computer, tablet, or smartphone with speaker or headphones. You will have the opportunity to check your audio immediately upon joining a meeting.
2. Details, phone numbers, and links to videoconference or conference call is provided below. The details include a link to “Join via computer” as well as phone numbers for a conference call option. It will also include the 9-digit Meeting ID.

#### **To join the videoconference:**

1. At the start time of your meeting, enter the link to join via computer. You may be instructed to download the Zoom application.
2. You have an opportunity to test your audio at this point by clicking on “Test Computer Audio.” Once you are satisfied that your audio works, click on “Join audio by computer.”

You may also join a meeting without the link by going to [join.zoom.us](https://join.zoom.us) on any browser and entering the Meeting ID provided.

If you are having trouble hearing the meeting, you can join via telephone while remaining on the video conference:

1. On your phone, dial the teleconferencing number.
2. Enter the Meeting ID number (also provided above) when prompted using your touch- tone (DTMF) keypad.
3. If you have already joined the meeting via computer, you will have the option to enter your 2- digit participant ID to be associated with your computer.

**AGENDA OF THE FEBRUARY 1, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Determination of Quorum**
- IV. Approval of Agenda**
- V. Approval of Minutes**
- VI. Citizens Participation**
- VII. Reports**
  - A. Staff Reports**
  - B. Commissioner Reports**
- VIII. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Dog park
- IX. New Business**
  - A. Willow Run Acres Community Farm
  - B. Community Focus Group Update
- X. Announcements**
- XI. Recommendations to the Township Board**
- XII. Adjournment**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF YPSILANTI  
PARK COMMISSION  
PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**

*Park Commission Agendas and Minutes are available on the township website at <https://ytown.org/park-commission>*

**I. Call to Order**

Commission Chair Streeter called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. via virtual public Zoom meeting.

**II. Roll Call**

**Commissioners Present:** Brad Hine, Tajalli Hodge, Darrell Kirby, Jeff Neel, Brad O’Conner, Star Smith, David Streeter

**Commissioners Not Present:** none

**Staff Present:** Mike Hoffmeister, Angela Verges, and Robin Castle-Hine

**III. Determination of Quorum**

Quorum present

**IV. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Kirby

Seconded by O’Conner

Motion Carried Unanimously

**V. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Motion to approve December 7, 2020 minutes made by Hodge

Seconded by Kirby

Motion Carried Unanimously

**VI. Citizens Participation**

Trustee Debbie Swanson offered her congratulations to Park Commissioners on their election.

Added that the Park Commission is in great hands with the support of full-time staff, Mike Hoffmeister, Angie Verges, and Robin Castle-Hine

**VII. Reports**

**A. Staff Reports**

Mike Hoffmeister stated that a potential contract with Carlisle Wortman concerning dog park planning, design and installation, and potential for community engagement sessions would be brought to the Board of Trustees during their next meeting, Jan 18.

Hoffmeister shared that an initial conversation with the National Fitness Campaign would be taking place, sometime in January, concerning the potential for an outside fitness gym installation in a Township park.

Hoffmeister shared that a capital project may be required for replacement of two boat docks at Ford Lake Park. The current temporary boat docks are in storage now, and damaged. A possible replacement measure may be installation of two permanent docks.

Hoffmeister shared that Ford Lake Park and Ford Heritage Park are the only two community parks currently open daily and being maintained for snow removal. Commissioner Neel inquired about situations where a car could be closed inside the park in the evening. Robin Castle-Hine described the process if this situation were to occur, and that the park entrance/exit sign has a contact number to reach if a car has been locked in after hours.

Angie Verges shared that we are approaching the time of year where park shelter rental requests being to increase.

Verges shared that they are in talks with recreation consultants to review usage and potentials for programming. A possible focus group would be conducted via zoom, though nothing is scheduled at the moment.

**B. Commissioner Reports**

Vice Chair Hodge shared that she removed 5 bags of trash that was illegally dumped at Sugarbrook Park. Mike Hoffmeister was made aware of the situation, and is in talks with Mike Radzik, Township Director of Community Standards for follow up.

**VIII. Unfinished Business**

Election of Secretary for 2021:

Chair Streeter Nominated Commissioner Neel for Secretary

Support by Kirby

Neel accepts seat for Secretary

Motion Carried Unanimously

**IX. New Business**

None

**X. Announcements**

None

**XI. Recommendations to the Township Board**

None

**XII. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Kirby

Seconded by Hine

Meeting Adjourned at 7:01p.m.

Motion Carried Unanimously

Minutes Taken and Prepared by David Streeter, Chair

## Willow Run Acres Community Farm

### **Introduction:**

Willow Run Acres, a local 501(c)(3) non-profit aims to combat community poverty by establishing a long-term partnership with Ypsilanti township through a community maintained parcel of land designated for personal learning, growth, and sustainability.

With direct gardening options applicable and specific to the needs of the community being served, this will allow for self-sustainability and ensured nutrition for those who participate firsthand and those by proxy in surrounding areas with the produce grown by Willow Run Acres being available at fair rate for community access.

### **Purpose:**

To provide an open opportunity for community members to actively participate in the cultivation of their own food. With a safe space for learning and growing it will encourage self-sustainability and promote lifelong lessons for generations impacted in the area.

### **Code of Conduct:**

Rules and regulation for use of space to be defined by Willow Run Acres after parcel has been cleared for use. Specific regulations, policies, and procedures will be kept in line with best practices found in similar communal use spaces.

### **Grounds Maintenance:**

Part of the participation by community members is to patrol and control their own space, as such each partition of garden space will be self regulated under the to-be established "Code of Conduct". All other Grounds Maintenance within the boundaries of the established "Garden Zone" are under the purview of Willow Run Acres, whereas all other City/Township property is expected to be maintained by established community based services.

### **Five year goal:**

Each year Willow Run Acres will be growing the lot towards the end result, a community access garden with routine participation and community support. To achieve this, incremental developments will have to take place on an annual basis.

### Year 1 - \$5k

Through initial grant writing there has been funds allocated to establishing the internal chicken-wire fencing of all community garden plots, ¼ of the raised beds for those impacted by or in need of differentiated gardening options, the foundation markers for the "Sensory Garden" will be staked, "Flower Gardens" will be built and sowed, and the "Underground Railroad Connection Garden" will be fenced and staked.

### *Goals*

Grounds will be platted and outlined for use.

Fencing will be installed.

Perennial flowers planted.

Perennial fruit plants will be planted.

Marketing for community member participation will be solicited and advertised

(aim 5 new participants)

Paths will be wood chipped

All garden plots will be tilled and turned  
Underground Railroad Connection Garden will be staked and marked. Grant writing to ensue.

#### Year 2

##### *Goals*

Marketing for community member participation will be solicited and advertised  
(aim 10 new participants)

Build stronger partnership with community school for school visits to “Sensory Garden”

Build on-site Green House / Hoop House for seed starting plants and nursery for community plants

Build on-site produce stand for communal access

Complete build of all raised beds

#### Year 3

##### *Goals*

Marketing for community member participation will be solicited and advertised  
(aim 10 new participants)

Build on-site storage facility for produce storage.

Re-sow perennial fruit plants into soil to duplicate produce

#### Year 4

##### *Goals*

Marketing for community member participation will be solicited and advertised  
(aim 15 new participants)

Re-till all gardens and rotate parcels

#### Year 5

##### *Goals*

Marketing for community member participation will be solicited and advertised  
(aim 15 new participants)

#### **Monthly Subscriptions (ran on annual basis):**

*Monthly contribution to the efforts of the non-profit / maintaining Willow Run Acres County Farm*

- Monthly through Patreon, \$10 a month

#### *Garden Options*

- To rent a parcel of land to use for gardening, there are options:

1. 15' x 15' = \$5 a month (40 available spaces)

2. 15' x 32' = \$10 a month (20 available spaces)

3. 16' x 4' = \$8 a month (20 available spaces)

This can be set up for auto-payment from Checking/Savings accounts, PayPal, or Patreon.

Tilled ground Garden

40 garden beds plots 15-by-15-foot-space 65.00 per season  
20 garden beds plots 15-by-32-foot- space 125.00 per season

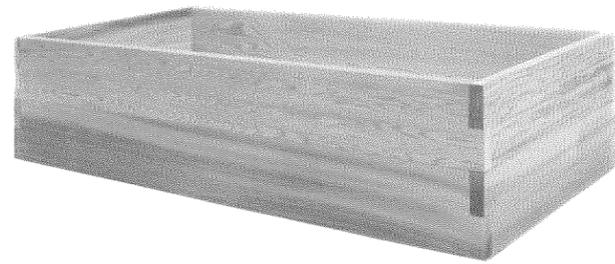
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Raised Garden Beds

10 garden beds plots  
Two--16-by-4 foot raised bed  
105.00 per season



Americans with Disabilities Act accessible raised beds  
12 4-by-8 raised beds handicap accessible 2500 in cost



4 flower pollinator Gardens  
\$2000 in cost.



## Sensory Garden

### 60 ft by 60 ft sensory garden for children and learning

First and foremost when choosing plants for sensory gardens, it is imperative that you choose plants that will thrive in your garden region. Native plants are great because they are used to the environment, are less susceptible to disease, and are generally lower maintenance than other non-native plants.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Creating A Sensory Garden – Ideas And Plants For Sensory Gardens <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/accessible/sensory-garden-ideas.htm>

Sound – To stimulate hearing, choose plant flora that makes noise when the wind passes through them, such as bamboo stems. Many seed pods make interesting sounds as well and the end of season leaves provide a fun crunching sound under feet. You can also include plants that encourage wildlife in the garden. The buzzing of a bee, the chirping of a cricket, or the whizzing of a hummingbird all stimulates the sense of hearing.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Creating A Sensory Garden – Ideas And Plants For Sensory Gardens <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/accessible/sensory-garden-ideas.htm>

Touch – There is no shortage of plants that offer interesting textures, perfect for encouraging the sense of touch. From the baby soft feel of a lamb's ear to the irresistible sensation of cool moss through the fingers or the brush of rough seedpods, it is possible to incorporate many different textures into the garden. Do not plant anything that may be dangerous, however, such as prickly roses or spiny agaves.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Creating A Sensory Garden – Ideas And Plants For Sensory Gardens <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/accessible/sensory-garden-ideas.htm>

Smell – The sense of smell is extremely memorable and aromas easily find their place in our memory banks. Most sensory gardens are full of mingling aromas that entice a wide range of emotions. Highly aromatic plants, such as the sweet smelling gardenia, honeysuckle, herbs and spices, provide ample opportunity for stimulation.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Creating A Sensory Garden – Ideas And Plants For Sensory Gardens <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/accessible/sensory-garden-ideas.htm>

Sight – Adding visual interest to a sensory garden can be achieved by using plants with varying habits such as those that creep, climb, trail, bush, or stand upright. Incorporating plants with different bloom, leaf, bark, and stem colors provide visual appeal as well.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Creating A Sensory Garden – Ideas And Plants For Sensory Gardens <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/accessible/sensory-garden-ideas.htm>

Taste – Edible fruits, herbs, and spices planted in a sensory garden allow visitors an opportunity to experience nature’s bounty while enticing their taste buds. Vegetables can also arouse the taste buds.

Read more at Gardening Know How: Creating A Sensory Garden – Ideas And Plants For Sensory Gardens <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/special/accessible/sensory-garden-ideas.htm>

Parcel Number: K -11-01-226-001      Jurisdiction: YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP      County: WASHPENAW      Printed on: 08/25/2020

Grantor	Grantee	Sale Price	Sale Date	Inst. Type	Terms of Sale	Liber & Page	Verified By	Prct. Trans.

Property Address: 400 WOODRUFF LN  
 Owner's Name/Address: HARPER TWP OF YPSILANTI, 200 S HUDON RIVER DR, YPSILANTI MI 48197  
 Class: EXEMPT COUNTY, CI Zoning: R3 SI Building Permit(s)  
 School: YPSILANTI SD (WILLOW RUN DEPT)  
 P.R.E. 0%  
 MAP #: R 001 047 00  
 2021 Est TCV Tentative

Improvements	Land Value	Estimates for Land Table	00900.EXEMPT - YPSILANTI TWP 900
Public			
Improved	X	Vacant	
Public			
Improvements			
Dirt Road			
Gravel Road			
Paved Road			
Storm Sewer			
Sidewalk			
Water Sewer			
Electric			
Gas			
Curb			
Street Lights			
Standard Utilities			
Underground Utilis.			

Who	When	What	Year	Land Value	Building Value	Assessed Value	Board of Review	Tribunal/Other	Taxable Value
	2021	EXEMPT	2021	EXEMPT	EXEMPT	EXEMPT			EXEMPT
	2020	EXEMPT	2020	EXEMPT	EXEMPT	EXEMPT			EXEMPT
	2019	EXEMPT	2019	EXEMPT	EXEMPT	EXEMPT			EXEMPT
	2018	EXEMPT	2018	EXEMPT	EXEMPT	EXEMPT			EXEMPT

Comments/Influences: PPLERIDGE PARK AND BUD & BLOSSOM PARK  
 The Equalizer. Copyright (c) 1999 - 2009. Licensed To: Township of Ypsilanti, County of Washtenaw, Michigan  
 \*\*\* Information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed\*\*\*

**Self Contained / Non-Community maintained:**

*Flower Gardens*

These are specific flowers grown in strategic locations for the procurement of pollinators. As well, each site will be used as a location for education about said pollinators.

*Sensory Garden/ Underground Railroad Connection Garden*

Modeled after another garden local to Washtenaw County and built by Willow Run Acres. Parcel will be exactly as follows, w/ grant funding permitting.

30' x 80' Parcel fenced In

Cut into: Five (5) – Various sized portions

1. *Heirloom Herbs / Spices*: Basil, Thyme, Chives, Oregano, Sage, marjoram, garlic (FRENCH CUISINE)

2. *Heirloom Fruits*: Strawberries, Raspberries, Tomato (beef steak and rutgers)

3. *Heirloom native flowers (South U.S. through Ohio River)*: Dandelion, hollyhock, marigold, black eyed Susan, baby breath, fox wood violet

4. *Heirloom vegetables*: Bell pepper, carrot (kaleidoscope), beets (Detroit), shell peas (Lincoln), green zucchini, yellow squash, parsnip, collard greens, giant leaf mustard

5. *Math Garden / Annual - Bi-Annual - Perennial*

MATH GARDEN PURPOSE: Long term plants = Asparagus 764 days to harvest, leeks = 168 days to harvest one variety, onions (four varieties - red, white, yellow, walla walla)

Annual - BiAnnual - Perrinnial: cosmos, zenia, morning glory, marigold - Caraway - fennel and dill

*Tree:*

Georgia Peach Tree

*Fence line: Taste / Smell / Feel Garden*

Taste / Smell - red sorrel, oregano, basil, lemon thyme

Smell - "VICKS" plant (vapo-rub)

Taste / Sound - ground cherries

Taste - Mexican tarragon

Taste - Stevia (sweetener)

Taste / Smell: Mint (Lime mint, chocolate mint, peppermint, spearmint, etc.)

*Flowers:*

Morning Glory / Four O'Clock / Moon flower: Lesson where children learn how to tell time

*Sensory Component:*

Plants with vibrant colors, notable tastes, interesting textures, and reminiscent smells will engulf children and adults when they step into this garden. In consultation with educators and local youth, this area will be made specific to enhance sensory (taste, touch, smell, see, hear) engagement and encourage curiosity. The surroundings will have artistic renderings of various plants as further enhancement of the learning and environment.

