

## APPENDIX C: PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

### OVERVIEW

The public process for the development of the *GO! Green Oshtemo* Plan was designed to follow both the legislative requirements for master plan adoption and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources local adoption process. This would allow the final document to be incorporated into the Township's overall Master Plan, as well as ensuring eligibility for possible future conservation and recreation grant consideration.

Public participation played an integral role in the *GO! Green Oshtemo* planning process, including study groups, open houses, an online survey, and the public hearings for adoption. The information below provides a summary of the meetings and public input received throughout the months of planning for *GO! Green Oshtemo*.

### KICK-OFF MEETING

The first public meeting held in March of 2018 provided an overview of existing conditions in the Township related to parks, recreation, nonmotorized transportation, and conservation. Existing plans, ordinances, and Township policies were discussed. But, much of the kick-off meeting was designed to hear from the participants and their desires for these important amenities. The following outlines some of the comments heard at that meeting:

#### Nonmotorized Transportation

- Needed on 9th Street (from KL to Main) & needed on KL Avenue (from 9<sup>th</sup> to apartments).
- Oshtemo plans should connect with the KATS "Map 7" plan.
- Provide connections to Kal-Haven Trail and to Grange Hall.
- Utility corridors – Use & connect w/neighbors through existing or planned utility corridors.
- Current Plan is rectilinear (and along existing roads). Natural features follow different boundaries. The system for non-motorized should consider natural features too.
- Where sewer is installed between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> on KL Ave– new stretch works well for bike lane/bicyclists.
- Destinations for non-motorized include: Fish Hatchery, Wolf Tree Preserve, and the KRVF.
- Coordinate non-motorized projects with sanitary road construction projects.
- How to cross M43, West of 9th St.? This is a problem.
- Think about functional requirements of non-motorized users
- Road shoulders- are they safe enough?

#### Parks and Recreation

- Current park facilities are good.
- They are lovely in Spring and Fall.
- Parks need Winter options for recreation, such as cross-country skiing.
- Drake Farmstead – Good location for new park activities.
- More playground at Grange Hall is needed.
- Add electric vehicle charge option at parks, especially Flesher Field.
- Is there a park re-use plan for KL Landfill?
- Water features would add community benefit.
- Maximize number of shelters in the parks.
- Use solar panels for power in the parks.
- The diversity of activities at Township Park is good.
- Provide an all-weather shelter in one of the township parks?
- Provide more tennis/pickle ball courts.

- Provide more basketball courts.
- Add more parks – large and neighborhood parks, and provide passive recreation: (picnic & trails), and active recreation (areas for football, soccer) and less mowed areas to save on maintenance dollars.
- The County property south of landfill on KL Ave is an opportunity for conservation.

### Greenways/Conservation

- What is happening with natural features conservation on the East side of Oshtemo Township?
- Use GIS as a tool with overlays (will enhance discussion).
- Greenways will provide a “perk” for neighborhoods.
- There should be protection of natural features (woods, etc.) on East side of township.
- Use buffer zones along sensitive areas (example; given that such buffer resulted in an increase in land values).
- What impact on property owners will greenways have? (Cost, land value, etc.). This question needs more vetting.
- Can the powerline be used for greenway corridor?
- Likely to result in greater property value on greenbelts (if connected to something).
- Provide trail ways everywhere? Or conserve some corridors for wildlife only?
- There is value in preserving wildlife corridors.

## STUDY GROUPS

During the kick-off meeting, participants were asked to volunteer for one of three study groups convened for the *GO! Green Oshtemo* planning effort; one for each focus of the plan. The study groups included interested residents; Township Board, Parks Committee, and Planning Commission members; and staff. These groups generally met monthly from April through September to discuss the public process, review research conducted by staff, provide input on the goals, action strategies, and intended outcomes of the Plan.

## OPEN HOUSES

Two *GO! Green Oshtemo* open houses were held on June 6<sup>th</sup> and August 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2018 in order to gauge public opinion on parks and recreation, nonmotorized transportation, and conservation. The open houses were advertised via Township newsletter, website, and email, and on social media sites like Facebook and Nextdoor. Public input was given via informational stations at the open houses and through emails and phone calls before and after the events. Oshtemo residents in attendance participated in survey activities that allowed them to share their input on all elements of the plan and the planning process.

The first open house was designed to receive input on the draft maps created for the three differing amenities, as well as ranking of facilities within the parks. The main themes generated from the meeting, in no particular order, included:

- Provide more hiking/walking paths/trails.
- Protect natural features in the Township from encroachment and development.
- Ensure connectivity of neighborhoods and Township destinations through nonmotorized facilities.
- Access to nature/outdoors should be promoted.
- Safety of pedestrians and bicyclists is paramount.

The second open house was intended to gather community input on the goals and action strategies of the Plan. Comments were provided on the nonmotorized transportation and conservation goals, assisting with some refinement of these action strategies.

## SURVEY

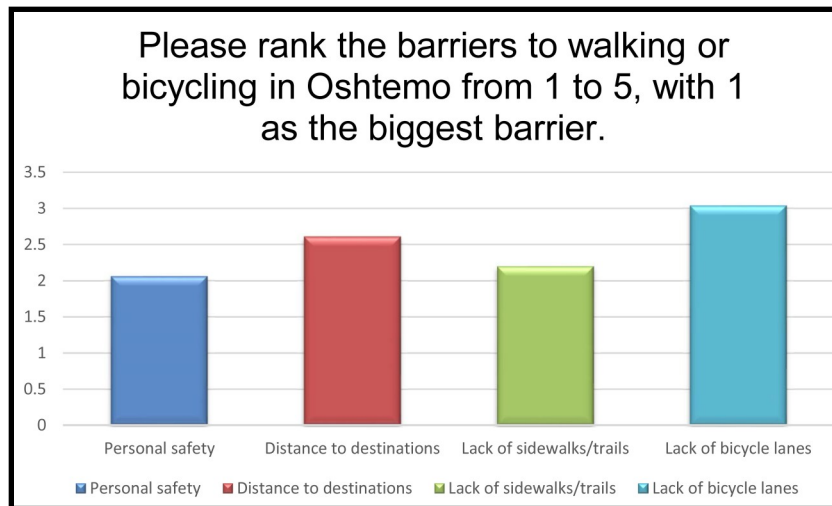
During the kick-off meeting and for a month after in an online format, the Township requested residents complete a survey with questions related to parks, nonmotorized transportation, and conservation. Over 200 citizens responded to the survey, providing important insight into resident desires. The results of this survey are provided below and on pages 4 and 5 of this attachment.

If a sidewalk was available, how far would you walk to a park, school, or other destination?	
Up to a quarter mile	3.7%
Up to a half mile	7.9%
Up to a mile	28.7%
A mile or more	33.3%
Would not walk	26.4%

If a bike path or bike lane was available, how far would you bike to a park, school, or other destination?	
Up to a quarter mile	1.9%
Up to a half mile	5.6%
Up to a mile	18.5%
A mile or more	38.9%
Would not walk	35.2%

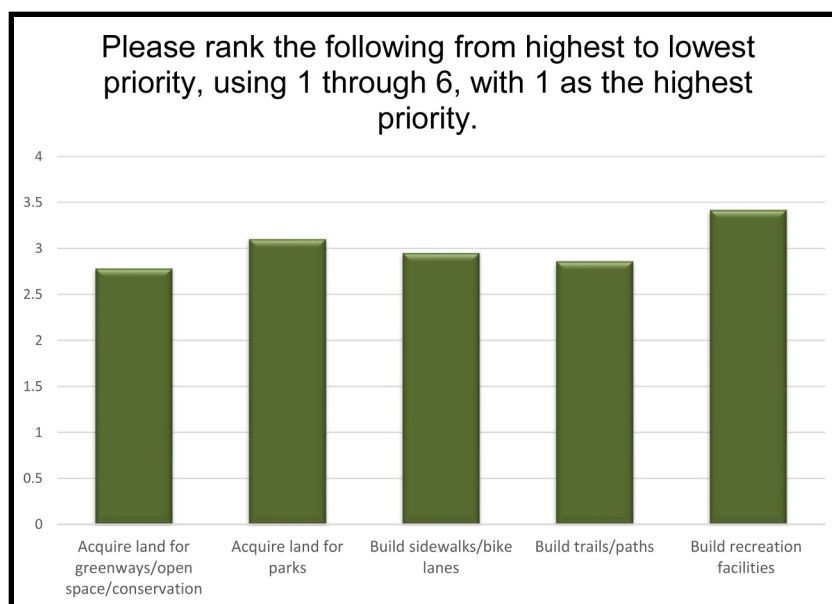
How satisfied are you with the recent improvements at Flesher Field and Township Park?	
Very Satisfied	15.4%
Satisfied	34.6%
Dissatisfied	6.6%
Very Dissatisfied	6.1%
Don't Know	30.3%
Are there any specific comments you'd like to share with us?	7.0%

What benefits of non-motorized facilities are most important to you? (choose all that apply)	
Transportation to work	12.3%
Connectivity to destinations	41.5%
Access to nature/outdoors	59.0%
Recreation/fitness	73.6%
Other (please specify)	10.4%



If the Township works to conserve greenways/open spaces, should path/trails be developed within those areas?	
Definitely	36.4%
Maybe, but strategically placed in some areas	33.2%
No, preserve natural areas	28.1%
Not sure	0.9%
Other (please specify)	1.4%

What level of millage would you support for parks, sidewalks, trails and conservation?	
0.25 mil	14.15%
0.50 mil	23.58%
0.75 mil	7.08%
1.0 mil	32.55%
None	29.72%
Other (please specify)	2.36%





**Is there anything else related to the Go! Green Oshtemo effort that you want us to be aware of?**

Strive to make Oshtemo age-friendly.
Specialized recreational facilities for specific populations: seniors ( a growing segment), teens, and any other group that doesn't have recreational avenues in the township.
Would love to see more recycling in our neighborhoods... Maybe even twp wide like some of the cities and villages...if this is efficacious.
I really think that sidewalks are needed along 11th street. There is a ton of walkers to and from the bus stops and it can be a little dangerous.
I would like to see more disc golf courses. It helps get kids outside and into nature instead of video games.
We need more Disc Golf courses! The course at Oshtemo Township Park is good, but with the massive growth in the sport over the last few years it is becoming crowded. It would be great to see another course or 2 in the area (there looks to be enough room at Oshtemo Township Park to add another 18??!) to support the growth. Especially with 5 High Schools in the area now having Disc Golf teams! Building a Disc Golf Course also allows the design of walking paths strategically to ensure safety and allow for the space to be multi-use. In other areas I've noticed it to be pretty common for having bike & walking trails in the same area as the Disc Golf course - you obviously don't run a trail through a fairway, but that's all part of design.
Be more thoughtful with city planning. Don't turn M43 and the rest of Oshtemo into a concrete wasteland of strip malls. Preservation is key to a happy thriving community. Protect our skyline and green spaces. Create safe ways for residents to get out and enjoy them. Don't let just anyone build here we don't need more banks offices and as gas stations. Support unique shops trails and natural spaces that people want to go to.
I love the Music in the Park at Flesher Field. We need more, but the gazebo is NOT the place to do it. The traffic is loud, and covers up the music. The sun beats down there too, for performers and audience. Northwest corner would provide shade, and a little more quiet for everyone.
Strongly support acquisition of wooded areas and trails.
I believe there is a high need for a side walk on 10th or 9th Street. It would connect West Main to the Kal Haven Trail. Also allow the home owners in between 9th and 10th to walk or ride a bike safely to the Township park, the new Latitude 42 restaurant, and other West Main stores. PLEASE build that sidewalk!!!
More well-maintained recreation areas are a huge plus! Disc golf, tennis, cross country skiing!
Set aside / purchase natural space and leave it as that.
Sometimes the Stadium Drive sidewalk/bike path gets plowed in the winter. Many times it is not. Because of frequent packed ice/snow, it is often unusable in winter. Keep it plowed please!
Please listen to residents and charge a user fee for non-residents. Enough of raising our taxes!

### PUBLIC REVIEW AND HEARINGS

The Plan was made available for public comment from November 13, 2018 through final adoption. A digital copy of the Plan was posted on the Township website and e-mailed to a broad audience, including public meeting attendees, neighboring jurisdictions, and Township boards and officials. A hard copy of the Plan was made available at the Township Hall. Finally, an adoption process was designed to allow for three public hearings, providing the residents of Oshtemo opportunities to weigh in on the draft Plan.

The first public hearing was held before the Township Board on November 13, 2018 when the *GO! Green Oshtemo* Plan was approved for distribution to neighboring jurisdictions per the master plan requirements of Public Act 33 of 2008. Prior to making a motion, the Board allowed interested residents an opportunity to speak. Two residents spoke at the meeting; one in support of the Plan and one with questions related to the public input process. The Board requested staff provide more detail related to the public input in the Plan. As a result, the full results of the March survey is now included in this Appendix, as well as lists of comments received during the public meetings.

At the conclusion of the 63-day period where the public and neighboring jurisdictions were able to weigh in the Plan, the Planning Commission held their public hearing on January 24, 2019. No public comment was received. The minutes of this meeting are included with this appendix. At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Planning Commission forwarded a recommendation of approval to the Township Board.

The Township Board held their public hearing on February 12, 2019. A notice was placed in the Kalamazoo Gazette and on Mlive.com on February 7, 2019 and posted on the Township's website on February 1, 2019. In addition to the public notice, Public Media Network completed a digital story of the *GO! Green Oshtemo* Plan, which they posted to their website on January 18, 2019 and played on their cable channel for approximately one month.


Two members of the public spoke in favor of the Plan, stating the combined approach of evaluating parks, recreation, nonmotorized transportation, and conservation was a positive step for the Township. In addition, a comment was made that planning for the future ensures we have a community we all want to live in. The Board unanimously adopted the *GO! Green Oshtemo* Plan by resolution. This resolution can be found in Appendix I.

KICK OFF MEETING AND OPEN HOUSES

March 5, 2018 Kick Off Meeting Facebook Post:

 **Oshtemo Township** ✓ ▶ **GO! Green Oshtemo Community Input Meeting** ...  
February 21, 2018 · 🌐

Go! Green Oshtemo Flyer. Please share with friends. 😊



**CONNECTING COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION**

**WHO:** Everyone

**WHEN:** Monday, March 5, 2018 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

**WHERE:** Oshtemo Township Hall  
7275 West Main Street

**WHAT:** Are you interested in parks and trails? Where sidewalks should be planned? The conservation of open spaces? Please come to the kick-off meeting to further the development of greenways, parks, recreation, non-motorized transportation and cemeteries. Snacks provided, as well as activities for kids.

To learn more about this project, please contact the Go! Green Oshtemo team at:  
269.375.4260 or by email at [oshtemo@oshtemo.org](mailto:oshtemo@oshtemo.org)

1 Share

👍 Like      💬 Comment

June 6, 2018 Open House Facebook Postings:

**Oshtemo Township**

May 6, 2018 · 🌐

Mark your calendars! On Wednesday, June 6th there is a Parks and Recreation Open House from 4pm-7pm at the Skyridge Church of the Brethren at 394 S. Drake Rd.



### Planning Ahead for Oshtemo Parks

Does your neighborhood need a playground? Or a place to play basketball or tennis? Concerned about how our parks will meet the needs of a growing and aging population? Please share your ideas, thoughts and concerns as we update Oshtemo's Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**Parks and Recreation Open House**  
**Wednesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> from 4 to 7 pm**  
**Skyridge Church of the Brethren,**  
**394 South Drake Road, Kalamazoo 49009.**

*Please arrive any time during the open house. Stay for just a few minutes or as long as your schedule allows!*

If you can't attend the meeting but would like to participate, please contact Karen High, Parks Director, at (269) 216-5233 or [khigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khigh@oshtemo.org)



 Like Comment Share

**Oshtemo Township**

May 30, 2018 · 🌐

We are one week from the Parks and Recreation Open House on June 6th at 4pm-7pm at the Skyridge Church of the Brethren at 394 S. Drake Rd.



August 2, 2018 Open House Facebook Postings:

**Oshtemo Township**   
July 20, 2018 · 

Join us on August 2nd at the Oshtemo Township Hall at 7275 West Main St. any time between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to learn more about Go! Green Oshtemo and to provide input for conservation greenways, parks, recreation, non-motorized transportation and cemeteries.

If you have any questions, or would like to provide input directly to the Township, please email [oshtemo@oshtemo.org](mailto:oshtemo@oshtemo.org) or call 269-375-4260.



**GO! Green Oshtemo**  
**Open House**

**When:** Join us anytime on August 2nd between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Township Hall  
7275 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo

**Why:** We want to hear from YOU!  
Share your input on Oshtemo Township's future goals for conservation greenways, parks, recreation, and non-motorized transportation!

For more information, please visit:  
[www.oshtemo.org/go-green-oshtemo](http://www.oshtemo.org/go-green-oshtemo)

 2

 Like  Comment  Share

**Oshtemo Township**   
August 1, 2018 · 

Join us tomorrow, August 2nd, at the Oshtemo Township Hall at 7275 West Main St. any time between 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to learn more about Go! Green Oshtemo and to provide input for conservation greenways, parks, recreation, non-motorized transportation and cemeteries.

If you have any questions, or would like to provide input directly to the Township, please email [oshtemo@oshtemo.org](mailto:oshtemo@oshtemo.org) or call 269-375-4260.

August 2, 2018 Open House Newsletter Announcement:



*To advance the quality of life of all residents through a commitment to responsible growth, and value-driven municipal services that promote the relationships among economic vitality, environmental stewardship, and social equity. (Adopted 2/14/2017)*

# oshtemo NEWSLETTER

July 2018

**Oshtemo Township Board of Trustees**

**Supervisor**  
Libby Heiny-Cogswell 216-5220  
libbyhc@oshtemo.org

**Clerk**  
Dusty Farmer 216-5224  
dfarmer@oshtemo.org

**Treasurer**  
Nancy Culp 216-5221  
ncoshtwp@oshtemo.org

**Trustees**  
Dave Bushouse 370-4307  
dboshtwp@oshtemo.org  
Deb Everett 375-4260  
deverett@oshtemo.org  
Zak Ford 271-5513  
zak.r.ford@gmail.com  
Ken Hudok 359-0787  
khudok@oshtemo.org

**Township Department Information**

**Assessor:**  
Kristine Biddle 216-5225 [assessor@oshtemo.org](mailto:assessor@oshtemo.org)

**Fire Chief:**  
Mark Barnes 375-0487 [mbarnes@oshtemo.org](mailto:mbarnes@oshtemo.org)

**Ordinance Enf:**  
Rick Suwarsky 216-5227 [rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org](mailto:rsuwarsky@oshtemo.org)

**Parks Director:**  
Karen High 216-5233 [khhigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khhigh@oshtemo.org)  
Rental Info 216-5224 [oshtemo@oshtemo.org](mailto:oshtemo@oshtemo.org)

**Planning Director:**  
Julie Johnston 216-5223 [jjohnston@oshtemo.org](mailto:jjohnston@oshtemo.org)

**Public Works:**  
Marc Elliott 216-5236 [melliott@oshtemo.org](mailto:melliott@oshtemo.org)

**Township Customer Service Hours**

Monday thru Thursday  
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday  
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
(1st Thurs of each month at 9 a.m.)  
**(269) 375-4260**

**We will be CLOSED**

July 4th—Independence Day  
September 3rd—Labor Day

**PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED FOR SERVICES**



**2018 Dump Day Schedule**

Township Hall Parking Lot  
7275 W. Main St. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Yard waste, kitchen garbage, dead animals, hazardous materials, or large quantities of building materials cannot be accepted.

July 28th	August 25th
Sept. 29th	Oct. 27th
Nov. 17th	

**Shred Day**  
September 22nd - 10 a.m.-Noon

Township Hall Parking Lot  
Max - 10 banker size boxes

**Fall Leaf Drop Off Days**  
Nov. 3rd & 17th



**Welcome Oshtemo's New Assistant Assessor: Yale Smith**



Yale comes to us as a new graduate of Grand Valley State University. He is from the Jackson, MI area, but moved to Kalamazoo for this opportunity to serve the residents of Oshtemo as the Assistant Assessor. He has achieved his Michigan Certified Assessing Technician certificate and plans to continue toward the Michigan Certified Assessing Officer certificate. When not in the office, Yale takes advantage of the parks for disc golf and soccer. Welcome, Yale!

**GO! Green Oshtemo Open House**

**Thanks!** Your feedback helped us develop a draft vision for parks, recreation, non-motorized connections, and conservation in Oshtemo Township. Please join us to fine tune the goals and implementation strategies that will help us reach our vision.

**Thursday, August 2nd from 4 to 7 p.m.**  
**Oshtemo Township Hall**  
**7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo 49009.**  
*Please arrive any time during the open house. Stay for just a few minutes or as long as your schedule allows!*

If you can't attend the meeting but would like to participate, please contact Karen High, Parks Director, at (269) 216-5233 or [khhigh@oshtemo.org](mailto:khhigh@oshtemo.org).



**Do you have an Address Sign?**

If you don't have an address number sign, they are available to order through the Township office for \$10.00.

Please contact Linda to order yours.  
375-4260 or  
[lpotok@oshtemo.org](mailto:lpotok@oshtemo.org)

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

Newsletter Announcements :

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER - EXCERPT

## Agritourism in Oshtemo Township

To assist with implementation of the recently approved update to the Township's Master Plan, which included a set of strategies for the preservation of rural character, the Planning Commission has been working on the development of an Agritourism Ordinance.

During the public outreach for the rural preservation strategies of the Master Plan, many residents indicated a desire to have more economic opportunities associated with agriculture and agricultural related activities. The Agritourism Ordinance is intended to provide more options to property owners in a way that is compatible with the rural character of area.

Agritourism is typically defined as an agriculturally based operation or activity that brings the public to a working farm for the purpose of enjoyment, education, or active involvement in the farm operation. These activities can range from small roadside farm stands where seasonal fruits and vegetables are sold to large centers that operate year-round and provide a multitude of agriculture experiences.

The Township Planning Commission is currently reviewing a draft Ordinance that would allow a wide variety of agritourism opportunities. We are looking for your input! The Planning Commission will continue their review of the draft Ordinance at their work session on September 27<sup>th</sup> and we hope to have a public input session on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Please watch the Township's website for more information. You can also provide your input by contacting Planning Director Julie Johnston at [jjohnston@oshtemo.org](mailto:jjohnston@oshtemo.org).

## GO! Green Oshtemo

During 2018, the Township has been working on a comprehensive effort to plan for the future of parks, non-motorized pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and conservation and greenway initiatives. This project is a Township-wide effort to determine the best location and future goals for these needed amenities. Each component of this larger planning effort will coordinate to ensure facilities are appropriately located with an emphasis on overall connectivity.

Parks and recreation provide many benefits to the quality of life for Oshtemo residents, including opportunities for improved health and social interaction. Non-motorized facilities help to connect our community, linking park and recreation opportunities, and serving as transportation corridors. Greenway development and conservation efforts connect people to the natural environment and help to preserve important natural resources. In addition, conservation will support the efforts of the Township Master Plan, which includes strategies to preserve rural character.

Several public outreach meetings have taken place during the GO! Green Oshtemo effort. A kick-off meeting was held in March and two open houses, held in June and August, allowed the public to provide input on the goals and action strategies outlined in the draft plan. At this time, the project team is working to finalize the draft GO! Green Oshtemo Plan and hope to have it available on the Township's website for public review by October 11, 2018. We anticipate the following schedule and encourage your input at any time during this process:

Planning Commission update:	October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Township Board update:	October 23 <sup>rd</sup>
Township Board public hearing:	November 13 <sup>th</sup>
Public comment period:	November 14 <sup>th</sup> - January 24 <sup>th</sup>
Planning Commission public hearing:	January 24, 2019
Township Board adoption hearing:	February 12, 2019



## Public Works—UPDATE

The USDA has approved funding for Phase I of the sewer extension project. Phase I will be \$8.35M for 40-years at 2.375% interest and will build sewer on Beech Ave, West Main Street between 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the Township Hall, 7<sup>th</sup> Street from West Main to just south of Cross Country Drive, and the neighborhoods of Skyridge, Whitegate Farms, Fairlane, and Sunset/Meridian. The Township intends to solicit construction bids in December and January, and open the bids at the end of January 2019. Construction will start once we have approval of the contract from USDA and the frost laws are lifted.

The Township submitted the Phase II application to the USDA and it has been accepted. Phase II is for \$19.5M to build sewers in Westport, Country Club Village, KL Ave from 8<sup>th</sup> Street to Autumn's Way Blvd, 11<sup>th</sup> Street from N Ave to Parkview, and the Frie & Gibbs plat. Engineering design will commence in January 2019 with the intention to go out for bids in December 2019 and Spring 2020 construction. We are awaiting funding approval from USDA to lock in the rest of the schedule.

## Ordinance Enforcement-

Under the updated Litter ordinance language, residents are required to maintain the leaves on their property. This will eliminate leaves from blowing onto neighboring properties as well as pedestrians from slipping on the wet leaves. You will also have less cleanup in the spring!



**Snow is coming! Please be mindful that property owners are required to keep their sidewalks clear from snow. Many people use the sidewalks on a daily basis and need to have clear access.**

## Planning Department—Go! Green Oshtemo Update

The GO! Green Oshtemo Plan is the first of its kind for Oshtemo Township where parks, recreation, nonmotorized facilities, and conservation of open space and greenways are planned in a comprehensive and coordinated way. This project is a Township-wide effort to determine the best location and future goals for these facilities. In addition, the Plan is a guide that addresses expressed community desires related to these important amenities, which plays a vital role in the lives of Township residents by providing:

- \* Active recreational opportunities
- \* Passive enjoyment of rural areas and natural landscapes
- \* Opportunities for environmental preservation and sustained rural character.
- \* Improved community health and quality of life

At this time, the project team is working to finalize the draft GO! Green Oshtemo Plan. The full Plan will be available on the Township's website for public review by November 8, 2018. We anticipate the following schedule and encourage your input at any time during this process:



Township Board public hearing:	November 13 <sup>th</sup>
Public comment period:	November 14 <sup>th</sup> through January 24 <sup>th</sup>
Planning Commission public hearing:	January 24, 2019
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## DO YOU HAVE AN OPEN BUILDING PERMIT WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP?

If your answer is yes, you may be receiving a site visit from the Assessor's Office. In the State of Michigan, December 31<sup>st</sup> is referred to as "Tax Day". All property in the State of Michigan is valued as of December 31<sup>st</sup> for the upcoming year. It is important to note that in order for accurate, fair and equitable assessments the Assessor's Office view open building permits as close to Tax Day as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the Assessor's Office at 216-5225.





Facebook Posting:

**Oshtemo Township** updated their status.

November 14, 2018 · 🌐

Good Afternoon!

The GO! Green Oshtemo Plan is the first of its kind for Oshtemo Township where parks, recreation, nonmotorized facilities, and conservation of open space and greenways are planned in a comprehensive and coordinated way. This project is a Township-wide effort to determine the best location and future goals for these facilities. In addition, the Plan is a guide that addresses expressed community desires related to these important amenities, which plays a vital role in the lives of Township residents by providing:

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Public comment period: November 14th through January 24th  
Planning Commission public hearing: January 24, 2019  
Township Board adoption hearing: February 12, 2019

If you are unable to attend one of these meetings, please be sure to provide feedback to the Board or Planning Commission via Planning Director Julie Johnston, [jjohnston@oshtemo.org](mailto:jjohnston@oshtemo.org) or by calling 375-4260.

<http://www.oshtemo.org/gogreen/>

 3

1 Share

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Write a comment...

## Website Posting:



269-375-4260 7275 W. MAIN ST.



- Home
- Contact Us
- Elections Information
- Frequently Asked Questions
- About Oshtemo >
- Officials / Departments >
- Minutes and Agendas
- News and Events >
- Cemeteries
- Community >
- Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Applications & Fees >

## Go! Green Public Comment

Home Notice Board Go! Green Public Comment

The GO! Green Oshtemo Plan is the first of its kind for Oshtemo Township where parks, recreation, nonmotorized facilities, and conservation of open space and greenways are planned in a comprehensive and coordinated way. This project is a Township-wide effort to determine the best location and future goals for these facilities. In addition, the Plan is a guide that addresses expressed community desires related to these important amenities, which plays a vital role in the lives of Township residents by providing:

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<http://www.oshtemo.org/gogreen/>

SHARE

**Planning Commission Public Hearing Newsletter Announcement:**

JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER - EXCERPT

**Fire Department Assessment Increase Update—**

A frequent question from residents in recent weeks asks why there was a recent change to the Township fire assessment. The Township fire assessment has not been increased since 1979. The Township simply could not continue to operate at 2.5 mills when its newest fire engine cost nearly \$800,000. Also, the Township could not maintain sufficient on-call firefighters and felt compelled to add 10 full-time firefighters over the last two years in order to ensure the safety of its citizens, as well as its firefighters. The Supervisors Office (HR) and Fire Department accepted applications and interviewed candidates. Following physical agility and other testing, the goal is to hire six additional 24-hour (full time) firefighters by the end of January.

**Public Works—****Drake Road Non-Motorized Path**

Oshtemo was awarded a \$507K grant to build a non-motorized path on the west side of Drake Road from West Main Street to Green Meadow Drive. The construction contract was awarded to Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc. The construction will start mid-April 2019 and is scheduled to complete in mid-August. Construction will start at the Drake Road and West Main intersection and proceed south. The right lane may be closed at times to provide a safety buffer to the construction workers and to allow for curb improvements. The Public Works Department will host a public meeting in February or March for interested residents to discuss the schedule and other concerns with the contractor.

Oshtemo was also awarded two other grants totaling \$473K to build a non-motorized path from Green Meadow Drive to Stadium Drive. That portion of the Drake Road non-motorized path is delayed pending approval from Amtrak for the railroad crossing.

**Stadium Drive Shared-Use Path**

Oshtemo was awarded a \$260K grant for 2020 to construct a six-foot shared-use path on both sides of Stadium Drive from 11<sup>th</sup> Street to the Oshtemo Downtown Development Authority (DDA) boundary (approximately Quail Run Drive). The Oshtemo DDA is planning to complete the six-foot shared-use path on both sides of Stadium Drive within the DDA area (approximately Quail Run Drive to 8<sup>th</sup> Street) in 2020 as well. Engineering design of the sidewalk is underway and easement acquisition has started.

**USDA Sewer Extension Project**

Phase I of the USDA sewer extension project was expected to go out for bids in January 2019. The Federal government shutdown will affect this work. The due date for these bids will be 6 weeks after posting. The contractor will be selected and then we will immediately start working with the contractor to develop a construction schedule. When the schedule is completed, the Public Works Department will host public meetings with the contractor and affected neighborhoods to discuss the schedule and other concerns.

**Planning Department—Go! Green Oshtemo Update**

The draft *GO! Green Oshtemo* Plan is available for public comment and the Township would like to hear from you! The full Plan is available on Oshtemo's website at <http://www.oshtemo.org/gogreen/>. The Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm to garner input on the Plan. Comments can either be provided to the Planning Commission through the Planning Director at [jjohnston@oshtemo.org](mailto:jjohnston@oshtemo.org) or by attending the meeting.

The *GO! Green Oshtemo* Plan is the first of its kind for Oshtemo Township where parks, recreation, nonmotorized facilities, and conservation of open space and greenways are planned in a comprehensive and coordinated way. This project is a Township-wide effort to determine the best location and future goals for these facilities. In addition, the Plan is a guide that addresses expressed community desires related to these important amenities, which play a vital role in the lives of Township residents by providing:

- ◆ Active recreational opportunities
- ◆ Passive enjoyment of rural areas and natural landscapes
- ◆ Opportunities for environmental conservation and sustained rural character
- ◆ Improved community health and quality of life



**Township Board Public Hearing Notice:**

Posted in the Kalamazoo Gazette and on Mlive on February 7, 2019.

**OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
GO! Green Oshtemo Plan  
Parks & Recreation, Nonmotorized Transportation, and Conservation**

NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is given to any and all interested parties that the Oshtemo Township Board will hold a public hearing on February 12, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street, to hear comments on the draft GO! Green Oshtemo Plan for Parks & Recreation, Nonmotorized Transportation, and Conservation.

Notice is further given that the Oshtemo Charter Township Board will consider adoption of the GO! Green Oshtemo Plan for Parks & Recreation, Nonmotorized Transportation, and Conservation at its meeting of February 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Notice is further given that the draft GO! Green Oshtemo Plan for Parks & Recreation, Nonmotorized Transportation, and Conservation is available for review and comment until February 12, 2019 at 5:00 pm at Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, during regular business hours and on-line at <http://www.oshtemo.org>.

Oshtemo Township is preparing the GO! Green Oshtemo Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the Plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities and programs over the next five years.

All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to the Oshtemo Township Parks Director, 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, MI, 49009, or may contact the Parks Department at 269-216-5223.

OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP

Township Board Public Hearing Notice:

Posted on Township website.

269-375-4260 7275 W. MAIN ST.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
**oshtemo**  
EST. 1839

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## Legal Notices

[Home](#) [Legal Notices](#)

- Notice of Zoning Public Hearing for Special Exception Use & Site Plan for 5018 W. Main and Site Plan for 5924 Stadium Drive at the Planning Commission meeting on March 14, 2019. *posted Feb. 15, 2019*
- Notice of Ordinance Submittal for a Nuisance Ordinance at the Township Board Meeting on February 26, 2019. *posted Feb. 15, 2019*
- Notice of Ordinance Adoption for re-codifying the Zoning Ordinance. *posted Feb. 15, 2019*
- Notice of Ordinance Submittal for amendment to Zoning Ordinance Subsection 53.510 at the Township Board Meeting on February 26, 2019. *posted Feb. 15, 2019*
- Notice of March Board of Review. *posted Feb. 15, 2019*
- Notice of Zoning Public Hearing for two variance requests for Parcel 05-13-280-062 at the Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting on February 26, 2019. *posted Feb. 4, 2019*
- Notice of Ordinance Submittal for re-codifying the Zoning Ordinance at the Township Board Meeting on February 12, 2019. *posted on Feb. 1, 2019*
- Notice of Public Hearing for GO! Green Oshtemo at the Township Board Meeting on February 12, 2019. *posted on Feb. 1, 2019*
- Notice of Ordinance Adoption to Amend Land Sections 60, 23, and 35. *posted on Feb. 1, 2019*



### OTHER PUBLIC OUTREACH

#### Public Media Network Interview and Public Hearing Announcement:



The screenshot shows the PMN9 Public Media Network website. The header includes social media icons (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter) and navigation links: HOME, ABOUT, LEARN, GET INVOLVED, MAKE, EXPERIENCE WHAT'S ON, and WATCH LIVE TV. A search icon is also present. The main content area features the article title "GO! GREEN OSHTEMO" with social sharing icons (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Pinterest, Email, Print). Below the title is a video player with the title "Go Green Oshtemo" and a play button. The video shows a paved path leading through a wooded area.

Oshtemo Township leaders are ready to get started on the Go Green Oshtemo initiative, a Township-wide effort to determine the best location and future goals for parks, recreation, non-motorized facilities and conservation. Public comment on the plans will be heard at the January 24th Planning Commission Meeting and again for a final time at the February 12th Township Board meeting. You can find the entire master plan [here](#).

[Previous article](#)

[Next article](#)

**PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

**Township Board Meeting Minutes:**

Excerpt from the November 13, 2018 minutes when the Township Board approved the *GO! Green Oshtemo* Plan for public comment and set the public comment period from November 14, 2018 through January 24, 2019.

Motion by Farmer, second by Culp to accept the rezoning from R-2 to R-3 for first reading and set second reading for December 11, 2018. Motion carried 7-0.

**Public Hearing – GO! Green Oshtemo Master Plan for Parks, Conservation, & Non-motorized**  
Planning Director Julie Johnston presented the draft Go! Green Oshtemo Master Plan for Parks, Conservation, & Non-motorized.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment. One person spoke.

Motion by Heiny-Cogswell, second by Ford to send the Go! Green Oshtemo Master Plan to neighboring jurisdictions for the 63-day comment period. Motion carried 7-0.

**~~Consideration of Autumn Grove Site Condominium – Step 2 Review~~**

Planning Director Julie Johnston presented the infrastructure plans for Step 2 Review for Autumn Grove Site Condominium.

In response to a question regarding water installation prior to Step 2 approval, the developer responded that they did not initially understand that Board approval was required to do the work in the right-of-way.

**Planning Commission Meeting Minutes:**

Excerpt from the January 24, 2019 minutes when the Planning Commission made a motion to recommend approval of the *GO! Green Oshtemo Plan* to the Township Board.

Vice Chairperson Smith moved to the next agenda item.

**PUBLIC HEARING: GO! GREEN OSHTEMO MASTER PLAN UPDATE  
PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER A RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWNSHIP  
BOARD TO INCLUDE PARKS AND RECREATION, NONMOTORIZED  
TRANSPORTATION, AND CONSERVATION EFFORTS OUTLINED IN THE GO!  
GREEN OSHTEMO PLAN AS PART OF THE TOWNSHIP MASTER PLAN.**

In the absence of Ms. Johnston, Vice Chair Smith asked Ms. Karen High to review the recommendation.

Ms. High said the *GO! Green Oshtemo* planning effort has been underway since the beginning of 2018. The intent of the project is to coordinate the parks, recreation, nonmotorized, and conservation plans of the Township into one guiding document. This will be the first time the Township has had a coordinated plan, which will not only assist the Township in achieving its overall vision, but will support grant applications made to state and local agencies.

To ensure that the *GO! Green Oshtemo Plan* is supported to the fullest extent, it will be incorporated as part of the Township's Master Plan, which includes a hearing before both the Planning Commission and Township Board.

During the course of the Plan development, she said individual study groups were created for the different components of the Plan – parks and recreation, nonmotorized, and conservation. These study groups met regularly to help guide the public process, provide input into the development of the plan, and offer a citizen's perspective.

In addition to the study groups, three public input sessions were held in March, June and August of 2018. These sessions were publicized on the Township's website, Facebook page and in the newsletter. Invitation emails were sent to interested master plan participants and to other social media sites like NextDoor. At the March open



house, a survey was developed for participants to weigh in on the GO! Green Oshtemo subjects. This survey was made available on the Township's website for a month after the March meeting.

Finally, Ms. High said that per state regulations, neighboring jurisdictions were notified of the Township's intent to plan for parks, recreation, nonmotorized transportation and conservation. When the draft Plan was complete, they were provided a 63-day opportunity to provide input on the Plan. We received letters or emails of support from the City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, and Kalamazoo County.

Ms. High said if there are no further final suggested changes, Ms. Johnston suggested the Planning Commission forward a recommendation of approval to the Township Board, which would likely be considered at the February 12 meeting.

Vice Chair Smith thanked Ms. High for her report and said it is a beautiful, comprehensive program, good for Oshtemo and far-sighted.

Attorney Porter noted the letters from other municipalities were supportive and positive.

Mr. Baker, Public Works Technical Specialist said a lot of data was gathered for all the areas around the Township to try to integrate with their plans to create seamless at all boundaries to meet everyone's needs.

Mr. Commissaris said he was impressed and felt the plan was well done. He was pleased to see the match ups with other municipalities, particularly the Kal-Haven Trail and the Portage Trailway.

Vice Chair Smith opened the meeting for Public Comment, and noted no members of the public were in attendance. She asked for a motion.

Ms. Farmer made a motion to recommend approval of the Go! Green Oshtemo Plan for inclusion in the Master Plan as presented. Ms. Maxwell supported the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Agritourism Ordinance Public Comment**

Attorney Porter indicated Ms. Johnston hoped Commissioners would review the most up-to-date version of the Agribusiness and Agritourism Ordinance. The new information provided was based on comments received from the public at the December 13, 2018 meeting and the Commission's review on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Attorney Porter said Staff attempted to capture the Commission's comments

**Township Board Meeting Minutes:**

Excerpt from the February 12, 2019 minutes when the Township Board held a public hearing on the *GO! Green Oshtemo Plan* and then approved the Plan by unanimous resolution. The resolution can be found in Appendix I.

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 12, 2019**  
**7:15 PM**

The Oshtemo Township Board Regular Meeting was held at the Township Hall. Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called the meeting to order at approximately 7:31 PM.

**PRESENT:**

Supervisor Libby Heiny-Cogswell  
Clerk Dusty Farmer  
Treasurer Nancy Culp  
Trustee Deb Everett  
Trustee Zak Ford  
Trustee Cheri Bell

Also present were Township Attorney Jim Porter, Public Works Director Marc Elliott, Fire Chief Mark Barnes, Planning Director Julie Johnston, and 10 interested people.

**Public Comment**

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell called for public comment. No public comment.

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Minutes of January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Special Meeting
- b. Receipts & Disbursements Report
- c. Recodification of Township Zoning Ordinance & (6) Amendments – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading
- d. Employee Handbook Amendment – Internet, Computer Use, Employee Information Privacy

Motion by Ford, second by Everett to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried 6-0 with one absence.

**Public Hearing – Go! Green Oshtemo Plan**

- a. Township Master Plan Update for Parks, Non-Motorized, & Conservation
- b. Cemetery Master Plans for West Oshtemo, Hill, & Genessee Prairie

Planning Director Julie Johnston provided a summary of the Go! Green Oshtemo master planning process and recommended approval of the Parks, Non-Motorized, and Conservation Plan.

Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell opened public comment for the Go! Green Master Plan Update for Parks, Non-Motorized, & Conservation. Four people spoke. Two spoke in favor of the plan update, and two had questions about the effects of the non-motorized portion. Two residents submitted email comments in support of the plan update.

Motion by Ford, second by Everett to approve the Go! Green Oshtemo Five-Year Master Plan for 2019-2023. Roll call. Resolution adopted 6-0, with Hudok absent.