



Grand Ledge
Parks and Recreation Commission

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
310 GREENWOOD ST., GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837

- I. ROLL CALL OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION** – Chair Ruthann Jaquette, Vice Chair Teri Langley, Bill Barnes, Chris Klaver, Michael Krombeen, Raechel Marks, Casey McDonnell, Amber Slocum, and Thomas Steinbis
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
 - A. Motion** – To approve the Thursday, February 26, 2026, regular Parks and Recreation Commission agenda.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - A. Motion** – To approve the Thursday, January 22, 2025, regular Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.
- V. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS – EARTH DAY SUBCOMMITTEE**
- VII. STAFF REPORTS**
 - A.** Monthly Financial Statements
 - B.** Parks Update
 - i. Jaycee Park ADA Observation Platform
 - ii. Ballfield Phase II
 - iii. Ballfield Phase III
- VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
- IX. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A.** Master Plan Follow up items
 - i. Develop stakeholder list
 - ii. Review Master Plan action plan progress
 - iii. Other items

- B. Earth Day 2026
- C. Consider a recommendation to support a grant application for Ballfield Phase III

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

XI. COMMISSION COMMENTS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting will be held in person, per the Open Meetings Act, and will also be live-streamed via Zoom for informational purposes only. The public is invited to attend in person to participate and offer comments. Written comments can also be submitted to the City Clerk at 310 Greenwood St., Grand Ledge MI 48837, or cityhall@cityofgrandledge.com.

Here is the zoom information for the February 26, 2026 meeting

Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83975444564>

Phone one-tap:

+16468769923,,83975444564# (New York), +16469313860,,83975444564#

Join via audio:

+1 646 876 9923 (New York), +1 646 931 3860, +1 301 715 8592 (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968, +1 309 205 3325, +1 312 626 6799 (Chicago), +1 386 347 5053, +1 408 638 0968 (San Jose), +1 507 473 4847, +1 564 217 2000, +1 669 444 9171, +1 669 900 6833 (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000, +1 719 359 4580, +1 253 205 0468, +1 253 215 8782 (Tacoma), +1 346 248 7799 (Houston), +1 360 209 5623

Webinar ID: 839 7544 4564

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83975444564>

THE GRAND LEDGE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WILL HOLD ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS CITY HALL, 310 GREENWOOD ST., GRAND LEDGE, MICHIGAN.

GRAND LEDGE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
310 GREENWOOD ST.
GRAND LEDGE MI 48837
(517) 627-2149

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
310 GREENWOOD ST., GRAND LEDGE MI 48837

I. ROLL CALL OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
Ruthann Jaquette, Chair	X	
Teri Langley, Vice Chair	X	
Bill Barnes – Grand Ledge Public Schools		X
Chris Klaver	X	
Michael Krombeen	X	
Raechel Marks	X	
Casey McDonnell		X
Amber Slocum	X	
Thomas Steinbis		X
OTHERS		
Dave Logel, City Council Liaison	X	
Rich Morrison, Community Development Director	X	
Kurt Ristow, Public Works Superintendent		
Mayor Keith Mulder	X	

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

COMMISSIONER KROMBEEEN NOMINATED RUTHANN JAQUETTE AS CHAIR AND TERI LANGLEY AS VICE-CHAIR.

NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS.

RUTHANN JAQUETTE UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED AS CHAIR.

TERI LANGLEY UNANIMOUSLY ELECTED AS VICE-CHAIR.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – REMOVE ITEM FOR SPECIAL MEETING

- A. Motion** – To approve the Thursday, January 22, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission regular agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR AGENDA. MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LANGLEY, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER KROMBEEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Motion** – To approve the Thursday, December 11, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES, AS PRESENTED. MOVED BY COMMISSIONER KROMBEEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LANGLEY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Earth Day Subcommittee**

Commissioner Marks reported the Earth Day Subcommittee met prior to the January 22, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission regular meeting and discussed a number of ideas for Earth Day; and recommends the 2026 Earth Day be similar to the 2025 Earth Day with expanded activities and be held from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on April 18, 2026.

VIII. STAFF REPORTS

Staff reported the construction start for the ADA Observation Platform in Jaycee Park is delayed due to harsh weather.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Kickoff Meeting with ROWE.

Doug Shultz, ROWE Professional Services, provided an outline of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process including the timeline, goals, objectives review, and public participation.

The Commission discussed a survey as part of the public participation process and continuing discussion at the February 26, 2026 meeting.

Commissioner Krombeen volunteered to prepared and tabulate a survey.

B. Earth Day 2026.

The Commission discussed Earth Day.

C. Earth Day Subcommittee.

MOTION TO ADD COMMISSIONER SLOCUM TO THE EARTH DAY SUBCOMMITTEE. MOVED BY LANGLEY. SECONDED BY MARKS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

City Council Liaison Dave Logel informed the Commission that City Council recently adopted its 2026-2027 Priorities and that parks remains on the priority list.

Mayor Mulder commented that the Universally Designed ADA Accessible Playground at Jaycee Park was fully funded and thanked the Commissioners for its work.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners commented on the harsh weather, Earth Day, and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT – 8:40 P.M.

Submitted by:

Rich Morrison, Community Development Director

ACTION PLAN PROGRESS: 2022-2026 City of Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Table 9 - Five Year Action Program

				Progress on Action Plan Items as of August 2024 and Updated February 2026	
City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Master - Action Plan			KEY	Outstanding (OS), Ongoing (OG), Partially Complete (PC), Completed (C)	
Improvement	Priority	Relates to Goal	Status	Notes	
ALL PARKS			ALL PARKS		
Improved, cohesive directional signage to locate parks from vehicles and foot/bike traffic	1	1, 3, 4, 5	PC	To date, directional signs have been installed on Bridge Street to locate Jaycee Park, Fitzgerald Park, and Oak Park (C).	
Support vendor partnerships to further recreational opportunities (e.g., kayak, bike rentals)	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	OS		
Formalize a "Friends of Grand Ledge Parks" to create a tax-deductible donation	1	1, 5	OS		
Explore addition of dog park at a city park or in cooperation with Eaton County at Fitzgerald or Lincoln Brick Park	1	1, 2, 5	OS		
Urban tree canopy	1	1, 2, 5	OS		
Improve ADA accessibility	1	1, 3, 4, 5	PC	Adjacent to FITZGERALD PARK: Ball Park Ph I (C) and Ph II (OG) will have ADA accessibility. JAYCEE PARK: We-Go-Swing (OG), ASL Bike Racks install 2024 (C), ADA Observation Viewing Platform (OG) - under construction Replace Playground (C) New Universally Accessible Playground completed Nov. 2025	
Add trash receptacles and recycling bins to parks	2	1, 5	PC	All parks have trash receptacles but not recycling bins (PC)	

ACTION PLAN PROGRESS: 2022-2026 City of Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Acquire adjacent parcels for dedicated park land when feasible	2	1, 2, 4, 5	OG	Included in City CIP
Add historical/educational signage to promote facts about the Grand River, ledges, railroad/trestle bridge, key industries/businesses, wildlife habitats, and key figures in Grand Ledge	2	1, 4, 5	PC	RIVERWALK TRAIL: Fish Sign added to Memorial Fishing Dock 2023 (C). ISLAND PARK: Rollercoaster Sign added to the rollercoaster bike rack 2021 (C) OAK PARK & FITZGERALD PARK: Railroad signs added for safety/education 2024. (C) JAYCEE PARK: American Sign Language sign added to ASL bike rack 2024 (C), Flora/Fauna sign to be added to ADA Observation Platform (OG - MNRTF award)
Add drinking fountains for people and dogs	2	1, 5	PC	RIVERFRONT PARK: Drinking fountain installed (C) FITZGERALD PARK: A drinking fountain/water bottle filler is proposed for Phase II of the Ball Park (OG)
Fully utilize existing park amenities	2	1, 2, 4, 5	PC	OAK PARK: New trail installed with direct access to the ledges and Grand River (C). JAYCEE PARK: An ADA Observation Viewing Platform to be built into the hill to capitalize on the views from 80 feet above the Grand River (OG) – under construction. Butterfly garden to be added along Riverwalk Trail, near Grand River (C)
Add natural kayak/canoe launches and destination sites	2	1, 2, 4, 5	OS	
Additional bike racks	3	1, 3, 5	OG	JAYCEE PARK: ASL-shaped bike racks in Jaycee Park (C). Adjacent to FITZGERALD PARK: new bike racks will be installed at Phase I of the Ball Park (C)
Enhance maintenance activities to include landscaping and beautification	3	1, 4, 5	PC	OAK PARK: New trail was added to Oak Park by Earth Day volunteers in 2024 (C). JAYCEE PARK: Butterfly garden installed adjacent to the Riverwalk Trail in 2024 (C) LITTLE FITZ: The National Guard helped clear storm debris in 2024 (C).

ACTION PLAN PROGRESS: 2022-2026 City of Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Add art installations to enhance parks	3	1, 4, 5	PC	FITZGERALD MEMORIAL FIELD: Giant fish mural added to east side of fieldhouse building in 2023 (C). Storm Drainage Art- Island Park Parking lot in 2025 (C) , JAYCEE PARK: American Sign Language-Shaped bike racks and informational sign installed in 2024 (C), Future murals on retaining wall at Performance Shelter (OG).
Provide more fields for community recreation and sports in cooperation with Grand Ledge Public Schools	3	1, 2, 4, 5	PC	Phase I of the Ball Park completed in the fall of 2025 (C). Phase II Ballfield under construction summer 2026 (OG). Grant application for Ballfield III – Spring 2026 (OG)
ISLAND PARK			ISLAND PARK	
Restoration of island and bank stabilization	1	1, 4, 5	OS	
Restoration of gazebo	2	1, 4, 5	OS	

			Status	Notes
JAYCEE PARK			JAYCEE PARK	
Improved and ADA-accessible playground equipment for all ages (e.g., a slide from East River Street downhill into park, youth rock climbing wall, wheelchair swings)	1	1, 4, 5	PC	New universally accessible playground completed Nov. 2025 (C). ADA We-Go-Swing and shade sail grant applications (OG).
Enhance sidewalk-grade space and accessibility (e.g., ADA seating, decking, retaining walls)	1	1, 4, 5	PC	ADA Observation Viewing Platform under construction. Estimated completion May 2026.(PC)
Enhancement of splashpad (e.g., additional features, additional section, shade canopy)	2	1, 4, 5	OS	
Build stairs down from East River Street into the park	2	1, 4, 5	PC	New Playground provides access from E. River St. to Jaycee Park. (C). ADA Observation Platform has stairs from E.River St into the lower level of the platform. Project under construction (PC). Estimated completion May 2026
Place retention pond near performance shelter underground	2	1, 5	OG	

ACTION PLAN PROGRESS: 2022-2026 City of Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Mural on performance shelter retaining wall	3	1, 4, 5	OG	
Develop skate park	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	OS	
RIVERWALK TRAIL			RIVERWALK TRAIL	
In cooperation with Eaton County, improve the Riverwalk from Fitzgerald Park to connect downtown to the Riverwalk Trail.	1	1, 3, 4, 5	OS	
Enhance boardwalk portion of the trail (e.g., lookout/platform, enhance area, memorial trees, butterfly garden)	2	1, 3, 5	C	Butterfly garden installed in 2024 (C).
FITZGERALD MEMORIAL FIELD			FITZGERALD MEMORIAL FIELD	
Enhance spectator area, including ADA accessibility	1	1, 5	C	W. River St. Hillside Seating completed 2025 (C).
Add mural to all sides of fieldhouse/warming-house building	3	1, 4, 5	PC	A mural was added to the east side of the building in 2023.
Renovate fieldhouse/warming-house to allow rental of building (kitchen, meeting space, concession area)	3	1, 5	PC	Agreement with Grand Ledge Youth Baseball for use of former skate storage room. (C)
OAK PARK			OAK PARK	
Trail improvement for viewing the ledges, fishing and river access	1	1, 3, 4, 5	OG	Earth Day volunteers created trail from Parking Lot to Ledge Trail. (C) Other improvements need to be developed and implemented (OG)
Interpretive signage for ledges, Grand River, and railroad	2	1, 3, 4, 5	OG	Railroad safety signs installed in 2023 (C)
Parking lot improvements	2	1, 5	OS	This improvement should be revisited based on recent Parks and Rec recommendation to keep Oak Park natural. (OS)
RIVERFRONT PARK			RIVERFRONT PARK	
Enhance the view shed and river access with deck expansion	2	1, 4, 5	C	Deck and restrooms completed in 2025. (C).e deck will be expanded and view shed enhanced in 2024

ACTION PLAN PROGRESS: 2022-2026 City of Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Master Plan

WIDE WALK			WIDE WALK	
In cooperation with partners add accessible routes to connect to Fitzgerald	1	1, 3, 5	OS	Improvements listed in City Capital Improvement Program.
FITZGERALD PARK			FITZGERALD PARK	
Explore improving portage opportunities around the dam at Fitzgerald Park with Eaton County.	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	OG	Ongoing conversations with MGROW on funding availability.
In cooperation with Eaton County, establish connection of park facilities with the construction of a bridge over the Grand River for pedestrians with emergency vehicle ingress/egress capabilities	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	OS	Ongoing discussions with Eaton County about Bridge feasibility study.
BALL FIELD DEVELOPMENT			BALL FIELD DEVELOPMENT	
Develop Phase I - install one youth ball field with ADA accessibility	1	1, 2, 3, 5	C	Phase I of the Ball Park completed in the fall of 2025. (C). Some additional work needs to be completed.
Add ADA accessible restrooms	1	1, 2, 3, 5	PC	Phase I of the Ball Park, to include ADA portable restrooms. Permanent ADA restrooms will be constructed as part of a future Phase of the ballfield development as funds are available. (OG)
Add ADA accessible playground equipment	2	1, 2, 3, 5	OS	Future Phase of ballfield development (OG)
Develop Phase II & Phase III - install two youth ball fields with ADA functionality	3	1, 2, 3, 5	PC	Phase II of the Ball Park submitted to MNRTF and grant has been secured. Construction of Phase II scheduled for Summer 2026.(OG) A grant application for Phase III is anticipated to be submitted in Spring 2026. (OG).
LITTLE FITZ PARK			LITTLE FITZ PARK	
Establish rustic trails for hiking and mountain biking	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	OS	

ACTION PLAN PROGRESS: 2022-2026 City of Grand Ledge Parks & Recreation Master Plan

LINCOLN BRICK PARK			LINCOLN BRICK PARK	
In cooperation with Eaton County, establish connection of park facilities within the city.	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	OS	

TO: Park and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Rich Morrison, Community Development Director

DATE: February 23, 2026

RE: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund – Application Support Recommendation for the Grand Ledge Ball Park - Phase III Project

The city is preparing to submit an application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the Grand Ledge Ball Park Phase III development project. Phase III notes the final field of the ball park design and includes the development of a 9U to 13U youth baseball and 9U to adult softball field to complement the Phase I (13U/14U and up baseball) field and the Phase II (9U to 12U baseball/9U to adult softball) field, currently being designed for construction this year. The Phase III project will include ADA-compliant amenities such as viewing access to the new field, connecting sidewalks, and a drinking fountain/water bottle filling station, in addition to a stormwater treatment swale with native plantings.

The development of Phase III is estimated not to exceed \$500,000. The maximum MNRTF grant is \$400,000. The MNRTF requires a minimum match of 30%, which would equate to \$150,000 in matching funds for a \$500,000 project.

Staff proposes that the Parks and Recreation Commission support a recommendation that the City Council submit a Phase III grant application to the MNRTF in advance of the April 1, 2026, deadline.

MNRTF Deadlines

- April 1, 2026– Grant application is due (Actual).
- December 2026 – MNRTF Board recommendations for funding (Anticipated).
- Late 2027 – Project grant agreements are issued (Anticipated).
- Late 2028 – Phase III construction completed (Anticipated).

Status of Grand Ledge Ball Park Project

Phase I

- Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony held in June 2025
- Field is open for spring 2026 baseball

Phase II

- Received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant agreement in November 2025
- Soliciting for construction bids this spring, 2026
- Construction is estimated to begin this summer, 2026

Phase III

- MNRTF applications are due April 1, 2026
- If successful, a grant would be received in December 2027, with construction completed in 2028

