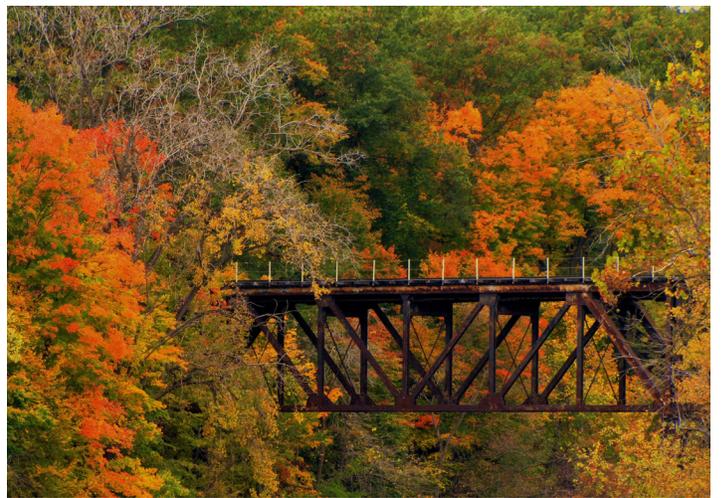


THE CITY OF GRAND LEDGE



2022 - 2026 PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2022 - 2026 City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Master Plan was a cooperative effort of the Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Commission, the Grand Ledge City Council, Grand Ledge Schools, and local citizens who expressed an interest in providing a high level of park and recreation services for the Grand Ledge community.

The first public hearing on the plan was held on October 28, 2021, at the City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. At the conclusion of this meeting, following public comments, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the City Council adopt the plan. The second public hearing was held at the November 22, 2021, City Council Meeting. The Grand Ledge City Council passed a resolution to adopt the recreation plan at the City Council meeting on December 13, 2021.

This participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents, and members of civic organizations is greatly appreciated. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of the following individuals:

CITY COUNCIL

Thom Sowle, Mayor
Keith Mulder (Mayor Pro-Tem)
Brett Gillespie
Tom Jancek
Rick Lantz
Lynne MacDowell
Don Willems

CITY MANAGEMENT

Adam Smith, City Manager
Jodie Willobee, Assistant to the City Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Dave Logel, Chair
Ruthann Jaquette, Vice Chair
Michael Krombeen, Secretary
Eva Lund
Raechel Marks
Teagan Byers
Dale Hoyes
Amber Slocum
Vacant, Grand Ledge Public Schools
Representative
Tom Jancek, City Council Liaison
Kurt Ristow, City Staff Liaison



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INTRODUCTION

The City of Grand Ledge has developed this Parks and Recreation Master Plan to serve as a guide for future decision-making regarding recreation facilities improvements and the development of new recreation opportunities. This document is the basis for the implementation of new improvements and initiatives that will meet the recreational goals and interests of the City of Grand Ledge and its constituents. The Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Commission has been fundamental in providing information about the community and guidance for the direction of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan throughout the planning process.

Before any Recreation Plan is adopted and enacted, it is critical to have an understanding of the needs of the residents, the recreation opportunities that are available, the demographic characteristics of an area, and the programs, projects, and facilities that are best suited to the community. The goals, objectives, and action items in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan are largely based on the careful consideration of public input and suggestions from City residents, City officials, and other community stakeholders. Community input was a critical component to this plan, and all of the voices in the City have united to develop a Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the overall goal of enhancing the quality of life for the community members and visitors of the City of Grand Ledge.

The foundation for the development of the City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Master Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community throughout the process of updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- Identify and map existing City-owned/operated recreation facilities.
- Build common ground among the City of Grand Ledge residents and stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs, increased safety at parks, and priorities of the City.
- Enable the City to be eligible for financial assistance based on the Parks and Recreation Plan.
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing parks and recreation goals, objectives, and actions in partnership with Eaton County, Grand Ledge City Schools, and others.
- Support the implementation of improvements for barrier-free or universal access to City parks and recreation sites.



Overall, City of Grand Ledge officials intend to use this plan to guide their work on all future recreation and parks projects within the City. It is also a strategic document that articulates specific goals in consideration to parks and recreation acquisition and improvement projects. This plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for the development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the City of Grand Ledge to pursue MDNR-administered grants. This Recreation Plan is written for the City of Grand Ledge and covers all aspects of recreation within the community over a five-year period from January 2022 – December 2026.



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

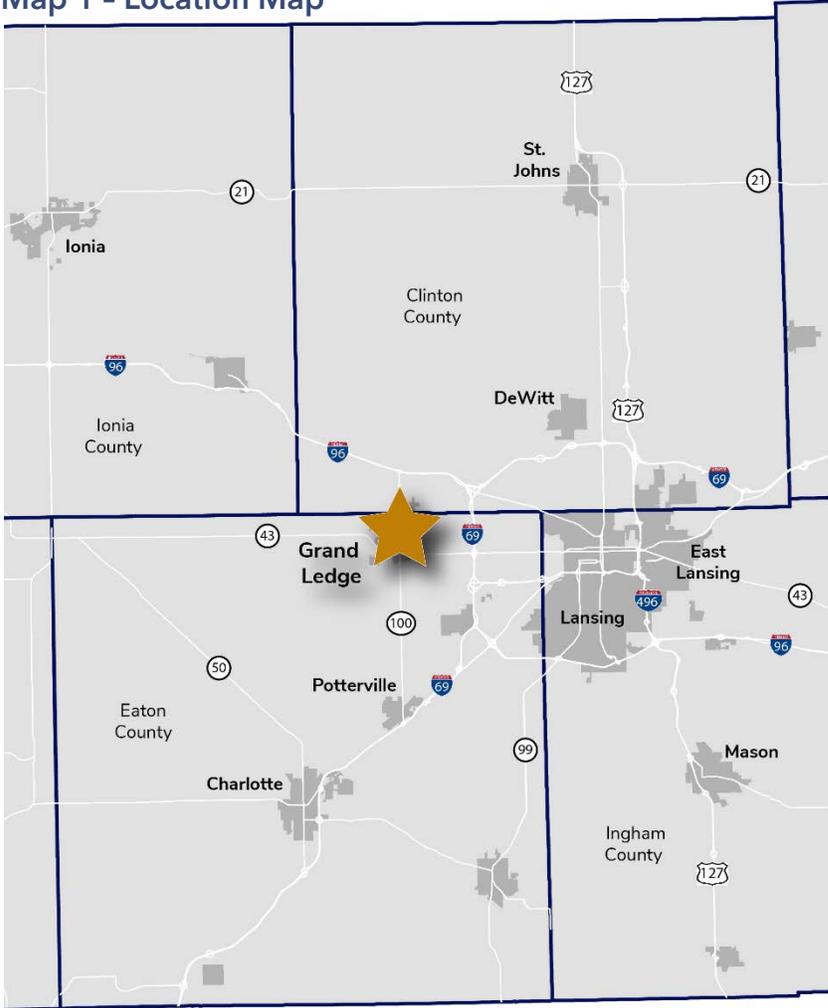
REGIONAL LOCATION

The City of Grand Ledge is located approximately 6.5 miles west of Lansing, in Eaton County. More specifically, it is located at the junction of M-43 and M-100. The majority of the City is located in Eaton County, a small northern portion is located in Clinton County. The City's location offers convenient access to I-69, I-96, and US-127. The region is served by Capital Region International Airport, which provides commercial service with connections to all domestic and international locations. Abrams Municipal Airport is adjacent to Grand Ledge's industrial area to the north. The CSX railroad crosses the northern edge of the City. Map 1 highlights the City of Grand Ledge within the surrounding counties.

Within the City there is a very distinct historical character, accented by the unique storefronts in the central business district. The small-town atmosphere makes Grand Ledge an increasingly popular place to live. At the same time, Grand Ledge offers convenient proximity to Lansing and the mid-Michigan educational, governmental, employment, medical, and cultural environments. The central business district, residential areas and parks are situated on high banks that overlook the Grand River. The name Grand Ledge came from the Grand in Grand River and the historic sandstone ledges located along the banks of the Grand River as it winds through the City. The City takes great pride in its well-maintained neighborhoods, historical buildings, local festivals, strong schools, and inclusive and welcoming environment.

The Grand River bisects the City as it travels in a northwesterly direction through Eaton County. City and County officials have protected this important resource by acquiring key properties for park and recreation purposes along with sensitive riverbank areas and in the river's floodplain. River widths reach nearly 400 feet near the City's western boundary.

Map 1 - Location Map



DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the U.S. Census, the 2010 population for the City of Grand Ledge was 7,786. According to the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS), the population is 7,842 people. Finally, according to the 2020 estimate numbers, the current population in the City is 7,784. Please note: the final numbers from the 2020 Decennial Census have not been released at the time of writing this Recreation Plan.

Table 1, below, provides other significant 2010 and 2019 ACS data for Grand Ledge, Eaton County, and the State of Michigan. Of note is the higher percentage of renters found in the City of Grand Ledge as compared to the other geographies. In the City, 35% of the occupied housing units are rented compared to 27% in Eaton County and the 28% in the State. Renters tend to have a greater need for open space and public park facilities, as they usually live in denser housing, such as apartment complexes, that do not offer large yards or open space.

Another factor to note is that the City has the smallest household size of the three jurisdictions at 2.25 persons. Aside from these factors, the City, County, and State are fairly comparable in demographic statistics.

Table 1 - Demographics

Select Census Data for the Grand Ledge Area, Eaton County, and Michigan			
	City of Grand Ledge	Eaton County	Michigan
Population- 2010 Census	7,786	107,759	9,883,640
<i>Population- 2019 estimate</i>	<i>7,849</i>	<i>109,456</i>	<i>9,986,857</i>
Percent of population 65 & older	15.7%	15.1%	14.6%
Percent of population under 19	25.6%	25.2%	25.9%
Median age	40.8	40.8	37.4
Percent with a bachelor's degree or higher	31.3%	27.8%	30%
Median household income	\$59,738	\$64,348	\$59,584
Average household size	2.25	2.34	2.47
Median housing value	\$240,500	\$155,000	\$169,600
Renter-occupied housing as % of total occupied units	35.0%	27.7%	28.8%
Percent of individuals below the poverty line	10.1%	10.1%	13%

Data from the 2019 ACS and the 2010 Decennial Census.

Based upon the analysis of social characteristics in the City of Grand Ledge, there are three special population groups who have distinct needs for recreational facilities and programming.

Senior Citizens: The senior citizens population is fairly consistent across the jurisdictions in the chart above, but as the US population ages, this population will also grow. Seniors have different needs in recreation facilities than other age groups. They tend to prefer, more passive recreation options such as pathways instead of playgrounds. Those on fixed incomes may also need low-cost recreational opportunities.

Residents in multi-family housing, apartments, and renters in general: Residents in high-density housing have a greater need for open space and recreational facilities because they do not have large yards or open areas of their own.

Youth: The younger population makes up just over a quarter of the population in the City of Grand Ledge. Youth populations benefit from recreational options and organized or unorganized athletic activities, which provides them with opportunities for exercise, community engagement, and education in a safe environment.

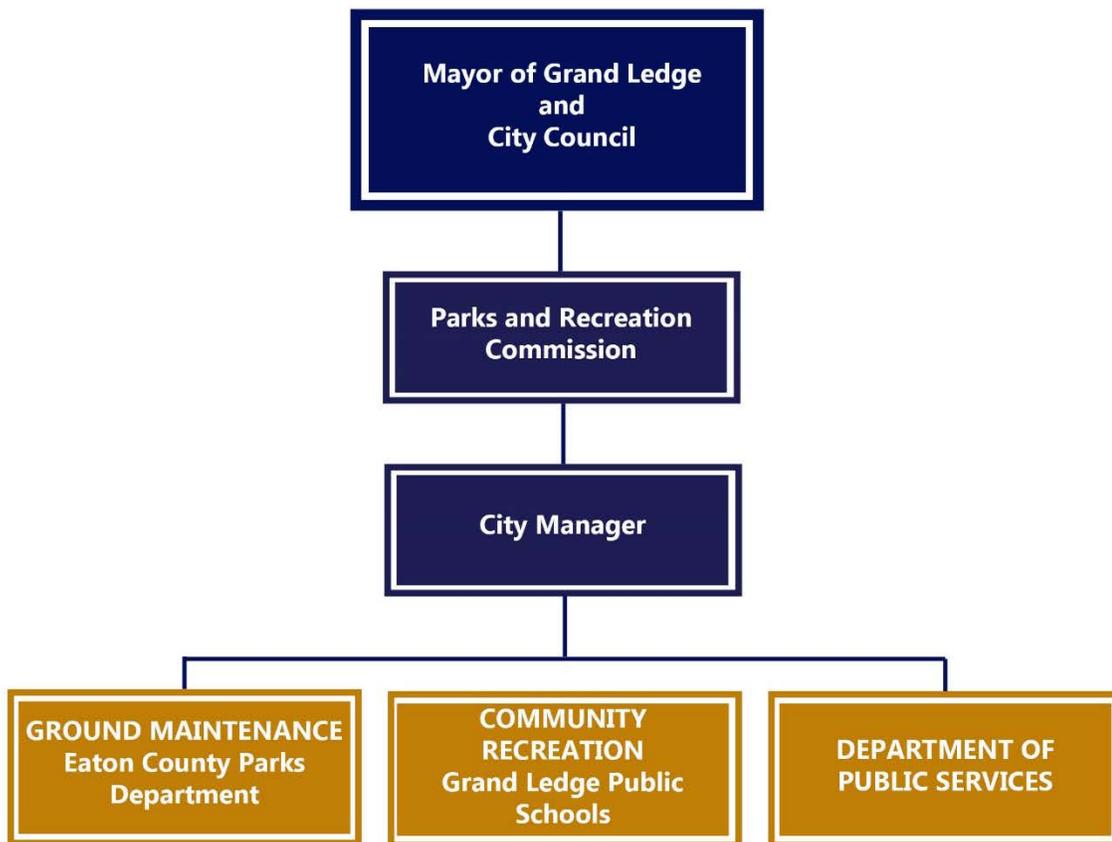
Finally, parks can create a multigenerational link between individuals in these three groups, and across all demographic groups. They provide gathering places, make exercise opportunities available, promote civic participation, and improve the quality of life in an area.



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Commission was created in 1979 by City Ordinance #275 of the City Code, Chapter 8, Article 6 (and later amended with regard to composition). There are two branches of authority for the administration of parks and recreation. The first branch is Park Maintenance and Operation, which is overseen by the City Manager with work performed by the Department of Public Services. The second branch is Recreation Programs and Service, which is overseen by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Figure 1 below further illustrates the breakdown of functions for parks and recreation in Grand Ledge.

Figure 1 - City of Grand Ledge Administrative Structure



Traditionally, the Parks and Recreation Commission consists of ten members. Eight of these are City residents, appointed at large by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The ninth member is appointed to represent the Grand Ledge Public Schools and has full voting privileges. The final member is a representative of the City Council who serves without voting privileges. Members serve three-year terms that overlap.

The Parks and Recreation Commission holds regular monthly meetings with special meetings as needed. The Commission reports directly to the City Council and is an advisory body in regards to all budgets, personnel, and policy-related matters. The Public Works Superintendent provides technical and support services to the Commission.

Historically, the City of Grand Ledge utilized Grand Ledge Public Schools’ staff, coaches, parents, and facilities to assist with internally ran recreation programming. In 2015, the City Manager and school’s superintendent drafted a community recreation agreement to transfer all administrative, supervisory, and management responsibilities to Grand Ledge Public Schools to carry out the delivery of community recreation programs in Grand Ledge. The City provided \$100,000 in start-up funds over a two-year period to help establish the initiatives prior to it becoming a self-sustaining program. Since that time, community recreational offering and participation have increased by **over 450%**.

In terms of operations and maintenance, the City has entered into a cooperative agreement with Eaton County Parks for ongoing grounds maintenance for all City Parks. These two agreements have allowed the City to reduce its overall Parks and Maintenance budget without any significant impact on the community.

FUNDING AND BUDGETS

The following are sources of funding for parks and recreation in Grand Ledge:

- Dedicated property taxes/millage/General Fund contribution
- PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Tax)
- Interest
- Activity fees
- Facility rentals

Table 2, below, provides the parks and recreation budget for the City of Grand Ledge for the 2020 and 2021 fiscal years.



Table 2 - 2020- 2021 Parks and Recreation Budget

	2020	2021
<i>Operations and Maintenance</i>	\$206,382	\$158,904
<i>Programming</i>	-	-
<i>Capital Expenditures</i>	\$32,760	\$31,200
<i>Total</i>	\$239,142	\$190,104

VOLUNTEERS

The City of Grand Ledge has over 80 volunteers to support various boards and commissions, of which ten serve on the Parks and Recreation Commission. Annually, an average of 100 community volunteers will devote their time and resources to support Grand Ledge parks. Volunteer activities include:

- Parks & Recreation Commission
- Activities and Events
 - Grand River Clean-up
 - Parks Clean-up
 - Donating Art
 - Creating Art
 - Donating Annual Christmas Tree
 - Promoting Parks via Social Media, Blogs, Videos, and Websites
 - Labor
 - Materials
 - Financial Donations

PROGRAMMING

The Grand Ledge Public School's Community Recreation Department offers several, year-round recreation programs to residents. The programs include sports leagues and summer camps/programs. The chart on the following page is a list of the programs as of the 2021 season.

Table 3 - Recreation Program Participation

Sport League	Age Groups
Fall Sports Programs	
Coed Soccer	3 year old – 5 th grade
Flag Football	Kindergarten – 5 th grade
Competitive Cheer League	3 rd – 5 th grade
Girls Basketball	Kindergarten – 6 th grade
Parent-Child Baseball Camp	1 st – 6 th grade
Flip Fly Cheer Clinic	PreK – 6 th grade
Middle School Cheer	6 th – 8 th grade
Winter Sports Programs	
Boys Basketball	Kindergarten – 8 th grade
Youth Wrestling	5 – 14 years old
Holiday Cheer Clinic	PreK – 6 th grade
Strength Training	7 th – 8 th grade
Spring Sports Programs	
Coed Soccer	3-year-old – 5 th grade
Volleyball Clinic	3 rd – 6 th grade
Middle School Coed Tennis	6 th – 8 th grade
Summer Sports Programs	
Coed T-Ball	4 year old and Kindergarten
Boys Machine Pitch Baseball	1 st and 2 nd grade
Boys Kid-Pitch Baseball	3 rd – 6 th grade
Girls Softball	1 st – 4 th grade
Strength and Agility Training	7 th and 8 th grade
Special Events	
Breakfast with Santa	December
Daddy Daughter Dance	February
Mother Son Dance	March
Summer Sports Camps	
Track	June – July
Cheer Camp	June
Boy's and Girl's Baseball Camp	June
Tennis Camp	June
Coed Lacrosse Camp	July
Coed Soccer Camp	July
Football Camp	July
Girl's 7 th /8 th Grade Volleyball Camp	July
Wrestling Camp	August
Enrichment Classes	
Adult/Child/Infant CPR	Fall/Winter/Spring
First Aid	Fall/Winter/Spring
Babysitting Class	Fall/Spring

CITY PLACEMAKING

The City of Grand Ledge supports the concept of placemaking as an important means to embrace the new economy, the knowledge economy, and the attraction and retention of knowledge-based workers. With City parks, a high priority is placed on projects that focus on creating destinations, using collaborative practices, and ensuring dynamic results. The essential elements within placemaking strengthen the connection between visitors and the City park spaces they share. Highlighted below are a few examples of projects that the City supports for their ability to add to the “sense of place” in Grand Ledge.

Public Art

The City of Grand Ledge currently has nine pieces of art in the community. Several of these art installations are located within or near City parks and all are accessible to the public. Additionally, the art installations can be located via the 517 ARTsearch app created by the Greater Lansing Arts Council. The City supports the creation and installation of future public art projects for their ability to enhance the community’s sense of place. The following is a list of the current art installations:

- *All Things*, 121 S. Bridge Street
 - The Commons is a beautifully landscaped area nestled between the historic Grand Ledge Opera House and the Grand River. This setting provides a picturesque showcase for the unique metal sculpture, *All Things*, created by the nationally recognized sculptor and West Michigan native, Johnny Blue.
- *Artistic Bike Racks* (3 locations)
 - Grand Ledge was one of three recipients of a \$10,000 Public Art Grant to commission and install a new piece of public art for year-round display. Flatlanders Sculpture Supply out of Blissfield, Michigan created these wonderful bike rack concepts that highlight our rich historic culture and natural landscape. You can find these bike racks along the Riverwalk Trail in Island Park, in Jaycee Park, and in the library parking lot.
- *Bridge Street Four*, Bridge Street Plaza
 - In early 2014, the City of Grand Ledge Downtown Development Authority (DDA) purchased 4 metal sculptures created by Michigan artist, Robert Barnum, that link the synergy between music and art.



- Greetings from Grand Ledge, Bridge Street Plaza
 - A 10' tall and 20' wide mural, "Greetings from GRAND LEDGE!" creates a colorful backdrop to a highly visible space in downtown Grand Ledge. Located at 209 S. Bridge Street, the mural highlights unique Grand Ledge amenities. The Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce spearheaded this project with Greetings Tour, Inc.
- *Growing Progress*, W. Jefferson and Harrison Streets
 - The sculpture titled, "Growing Progress" was created by Michigan artist, Thomas Sheerin and is made entirely of repurposed metal. You can find the sculpture on the corner of West Jefferson and Harrison Streets in downtown Grand Ledge.

- *Sound Garden*
 - Grand Ledge was one of three recipients of a \$10,000 Public Art Grant to commission and install new public art for year-round display. The Sound Garden's Flowerbells and Slap-Pipes were brought to the City by Tom Kaufmann of Tinkertunes Music Studios in Traverse City.



- *Tangled*
 - Tangled is a combination of photography and digital painting on aluminum composite. The art piece was generously donated by Steve Scarborough (a Grand Ledge native) and was entered in Grand Rapids' 2017 ArtPrize contest.

- *The Heart and Art of Grand Ledge*, Fitzgerald Field
 - In 2004, artist Tony Hendrick invited the community to aid in the design and painting of a mural depicting highlights in the City of Grand Ledge, both past and present. The end result is a colorful 58- by 26-foot true work of art affixed to the side of the City's former 1855 Fire Hall.



- *The Ledges*, Riverfront Park
 - *The Ledges* sculpture depicts the awe-inspiring and unique sandstone ledges that occur naturally in Grand Ledge. Installed in 2015, *The Ledges* sculpture was designed by artist Ivan Iler, stands nearly 18 feet tall and is 9 feet wide.

- *Waiting for the Mail*, Grand Ledge Post Office, 118 E. Jefferson Street
 - In 1938, James Calder painted the oil-on-canvas mural "Waiting for the Mail." The colorful mural hangs above the Postmaster door in the historic Grand Ledge Post Office.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Charging Stations

The City of Grand Ledge supports the installation of stand-alone, solar charging stations within City parks. Typical charging stations provide covered outdoor seating, configured with standard outlets and USB ports, as well as pads to support wireless charging. The umbrella covering is typically fitted with solar panels that power the unit. Charging stations provide a place for visitors to charge their smart devices without leaving the park adding value to their experience and helping to extend their stay.

Historic/Educational Signage

The city looks to add historic and educational signage to noteworthy areas of the parks and the downtown to draw attention to the factors that make Grand Ledge interesting and unique. Potential topics to highlight include the Grand River, sandstone ledges, railroad and trestle bridge, key industries and businesses, wildlife habitats, and special people who left a positive impact on the city.

Parklets

To further encourage walkability and provide added connections between downtown businesses and their customers, the City of Grand Ledge supports the repurposing of select, on-street parking spaces into parklets. The city views parklets, or pop-up parks, as temporary structures that provide a unique way to create additional outdoor seating or activity space that will entice people to spend more time exploring and enjoying the downtown.



ORGANIZATIONAL COLLABORATION

The City of Grand Ledge has several collaborative recreation agreements with the public schools, other local jurisdictions, the historical society, and various other groups. Please see Table 4.

Table 4 - City or Grand Ledge Collaborative Recreation Agreements

Organization	Recreation Activities	City Park(s) or Area Utilized
America Legion – Post 48	Veterans Day Program	Oakwood Cemetery
	Memorial Day Parade	Downtown and Oakwood Cemetery
Eaton County Parks	Grounds maintenance for all City parks	All City parks
	Operates Fitzgerald Park	Fitzgerald Park
Grand Ledge Area District Library	Various programs	Bridge Street Plaza, Jaycee Park Performance Shelter, and Gymnasium/Community Rooms at City Hall
Grand Ledge Area Emergency Services Authority	Recreation basketball	Gymnasium at City Hall
Grand Ledge Area Seniors	Meetings and twice-weekly luncheons	Community Room at City Hall
Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce	Music in the Park	Jaycee Park Performance Shelter
	Movies in the Ball Field	Fitzgerald Memorial Field
	Yankee Doodle Days	Jaycee Park and Performance Shelter/Bridge Street Plaza/Island Park
	Winterfest	Jaycee Park
	Market on the Grand	Jaycee Park (summer) and Gymnasium at City Hall (winter)
	Fall Festival (2021+ combining Beer Fest/Color Cruise/Island Festival)	Island Park/Jaycee Park/Fitzgerald Memorial Field
Grand Ledge Garden Club	Various parades	Bridge Street Plaza (Emcee)
	Organized memorial tree planting to encourage visits	Memorial Tree Trail – along Wide Walk

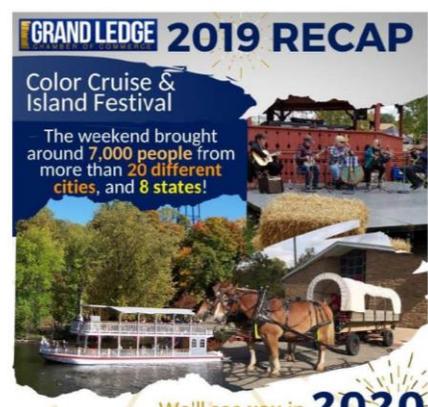
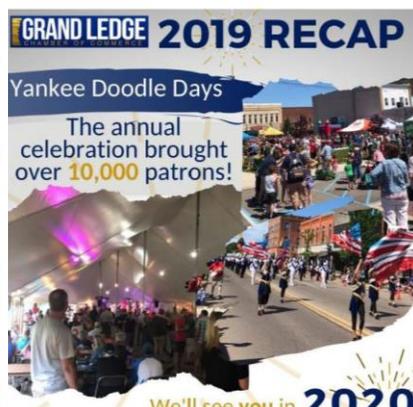
Organization	Recreation Activities	City Park(s) or Area Utilized
Grand Ledge Historical Society	Rotating display of historical items	City Hall
	Historical walking tours	Various areas around downtown and in city parks
	Historic baseball games	Fitzgerald Memorial Field
Grand Ledge Public Schools (GLPS)	Manages all student and community recreation programs (sign-up, scheduling, hiring staff/coaches/referees and promotion)	GLPS pool, fields, and classrooms Fitzgerald Memorial Field Fitzgerald Park
Grand Ledge Youth Baseball	Youth baseball games and tournaments	Fitzgerald Memorial Field
	Field maintenance	Fitzgerald Memorial Field
Grand Princess Riverboat	Riverboat rides	Island Park
Ledge Craft Lane	Island Art fair	Island Park
Michigan State University, Climbing Club	Rock climbing	Oak Park
Michigan State University, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences	Geological studies, on-site classrooms, and preservation consultation	Fitzgerald Park and Oak Park
Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW)	Grand River Exhibition	Jaycee Park and Fitzgerald Park
	Water trail/safety map	Jaycee Park, Island Park, Fitzgerald Park
	Water trail park signage	Jaycee Park, Island Park, Fitzgerald Park
mParks – Michigan Recreation & Park Association	Splashpad funding support	Jaycee Park
	Recreation guidance	All parks
Over the Ledge Theater Company	Theatrical productions	Ledges Playhouse at Fitzgerald Park
Various Sport Programs	Various sports (basketball, pom pom, volleyball)	Gymnasium at City Hall

FESTIVALS

The Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce hosts several events throughout the year. The following is a summary of those events for 2019. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Chamber did not host events in 2020.

- Movies in the Ballfield
 - Around 200 attendees for each event
- Music in the Park
 - 13 concerts
 - 26 musical acts
 - 7,000 attendees throughout the summer
- Grand Ledge Beer Fest
 - 430 patrons
- Parades
 - Average of 50 businesses or groups
 - 2,000 patrons
- Yankee Doodle Days
 - 10,000 patrons
- Color Cruise and Island Festival
 - 7,000 people from 20 different cities and 8 states

Below is a compilation of graphics from the Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce highlighting the information above.



NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY

When studying parks and recreation resources in a community, it can be worthwhile to examine significant natural resources that may need conservation or protection. In the City of Grand Ledge, the most significant natural resource is Michigan's longest river, the Grand River, and the surrounding natural features.

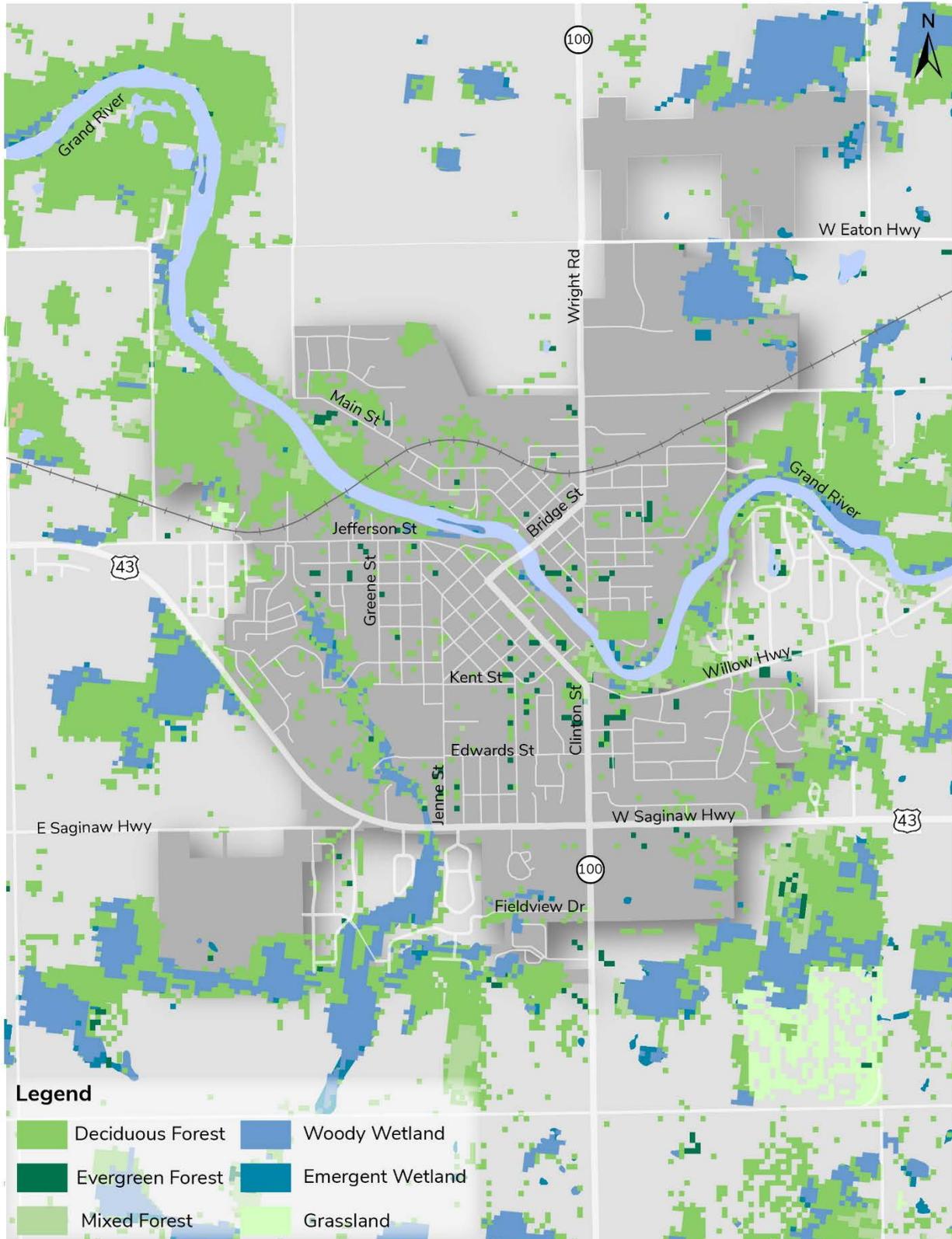
Although most of the river basins in mid-Michigan are fairly broad and enclosed by gentle slopes, the Grand River basin in the area of Grand Ledge is a notable exception. For a distance of just less than two miles, the Grand River has entrenched its bed to a depth as much as sixty feet below the surrounding surface, exposing the rugged mass of sandstone that underlines the surface soils. This occurrence is highly unusual for the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Within the surrounding counties, the Grand River basin ranges from a quarter-mile to one-mile-wide and is bordered by gentle slopes. Areas along the Grand River that have more gradual banks and are subject to flooding, are carefully managed by the use of a comprehensive zoning ordinance, which includes a well-defined Flood Plain District. From a park development perspective, soils are not a significant or limiting issue with the exception of erosion. It is naturally occurring but is also affected by foot traffic and human impact.

The City is built around the Grand River, as it is a key feature in the community. As Map 2 illustrates, the majority of the larger wooded areas in the City are located around the river. The Grand River is different than other southern Michigan rivers in that it is very wide and has sections of steep rocky banks or ledges. A portion of those sandstone ledges can be found within the City and this provides the area with many unique recreational opportunities that are not open to other river communities.

The surrounding wooded land provides further recreational opportunities around the river and will be important to consider when making future development decisions. There are few wetlands located within the City, but the largest can be found along the Grand River corridor. These are also important natural features to consider in the development process. In the future, the lands highlighted on Map 2 would be priority conservation lands for any future land acquisition or park improvements and should be considered in any new development of park land.



Map 2 - Natural Features and Conservation Land



INVENTORY OF RECREATION FACILITIES

The inventory of park amenities and facilities was updated by the planning consultant and verified by City staff in the summer of 2021. The text below includes in-depth descriptions of each of the City-owned and/or operated parks. This chapter also contains a brief discussion of other recreation facilities in the City and region.

ACCESSIBILITY

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. The DNR has developed a grading system to identify parks and facilities which are most and least handicap accessible and useable, based on the American Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from 1 to 5. See Table 6, below.

In the summer of 2021, City staff, with assistance from the planning consultant, updated the ADA compliance information with the update of this recreation plan. There are a few sites and undeveloped land that are not ADA accessible. However, the City recognizes the importance of equal access for all citizens and is dedicated to improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage.

Table 6 - DNR Accessibility Grading System

DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreational Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

PARK SERVICE AREA AND CLASSIFICATIONS

A recreation inventory is the foundation for developing an understanding of the City's recreation needs, deficiencies, and future plans. An inventory provides a snapshot of all the available facilities within a community along with detail about the types of activities and features. The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It recognizes types of parks based on size, service area, facilities and use groups. Each park in the City of Grand Ledge is classified as a neighborhood park, a community park, or a regional park. The NRPA classifies several other park types, but they are not all applicable to the City of Grand Ledge.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Parks in this classification are the most basic park unit of a system and serves as the recreation and social focus of a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are easily accessible to neighborhood populations and geographically centered within safe walking distance and bike access. Typically, neighborhood parks are 5 to 10 acres in size and can service a population of approximately 5,000 residents. The parks have a service location of ¼ to ½ mile distance. National standards recommend 1.0 acre of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents. Neighborhood Parks are identified by the service area of City of Grand Ledge (C) in the following inventory section.

The City of Grand Ledge provides 7 acres of neighborhood park spaces, which just under the requirements of the national standards, about 8 acres. The neighborhood parks in the City of Grand Ledge are:

- Elaine Dible Memorial Park
 - Colonial Park
 - Fieldview Open Space
 - Oakwood Greenspace
- Coming available in 2022
- West Washington Street Greenspace
 - West Main Street Greenspace
 - West Front Street Greenspace

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are intended to serve several neighborhoods and usually serve a broad range of uses. The typical park size is 30 acres or more. The City one park that is classified as a community park, however, it is smaller than the nationally recognized standard of 30 acres. It is included in this category because of the broad population base it serves and the facilities/intended use of the park. The national classification system recommends 5 acres per 1,000 residents. Community Parks are identified by the service area of Neighborhood Park (N) in the following inventory section.

The Community Parks within the City of Grand Ledge total 65 acres, and include:

- City Hall Park
- GLPS School Recreation Facilities

Compared to national standards, it appears that the City of Grand Ledge may be deficient in terms of community parks. However, schools can help provide de facto parks facilities in the category of

community parks. If schools are included in the community park category, there is a total of 65 acres of recreation/park land which is an excess of 15 acres, according to the national standards

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are typically classified as serving several communities and being large in size, typically 200 acres or more. They are land that is set aside for preservation, natural resources, environmental significance, use, or historic/cultural interest. While the national standard acreage is large, and the Grand Ledge regional parks are smaller, the NRPA does not only categorize parks by size. A park can be small but have a regional use or cultural significance. This is the case in the City of Grand Ledge. National Standards suggest 5 acres per 1,000 residents. Regional Parks are identified by the service area of Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR) in the following inventory section. The City owns nine regional parks, and operates eight of those facilities. They are:

- Island Park
- Jaycee Park
- Fitzgerald Memorial Field
- Oak Park
- Riverfront Park
- Bridge Street Plaza
- Little Fitz
- Future Ball Field Complex
- Fitzgerald Park – operated by Eaton County

Though smaller than 200 acres, these regional parks provide the variety and intensity of outdoor recreational activities and draw from a regional population. The City has a total of 157 acres of regional park land which is an excess of 117 acres. In addition to the regional parks, the City also has two regional trail systems. The Widewalk is a 2-mile linear park within the City that connects many points of interest and neighborhoods, and the Riverwalk Trail is a .5 mile trail that follows the river through the heart of Grand Ledge.

CITY PARK FACILITIES

ISLAND PARK

Acreage: 2.25

ADA Accessibility Grade: 4

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

Island Park is in a wide section of the Grand River immediately north of Bridge Street. In the late 1800s, there were seven (7) islands significant enough in size to hold a 3-story resort hotel, a casino, camping areas, boat livery, and even a rollercoaster. While today only one island remains accessible via a pedestrian bridge, the picturesque setting offers a relaxed and often secluded atmosphere that has proven popular to generations of park users.

The island, connected to the mainland by a pedestrian bridge, also plays a major role in Grand Ledge's hosting of several regionally popular annual festivals. The bridge was partially funded through a Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Grant. The island's natural linear shape works well for the set-up of art shows and exhibitor booths making the island the focal point for these events. Adding to the appeal of the island is the relatively natural condition of the banks on the opposing sides of the river. During most of the year, park users limit themselves to relaxed strolls, sightseeing, and enjoying the opportunity to sit quietly on a blanket and watch the river. Kids are frequently seen fishing off the banks. Previous park improvements include a large gazebo, benches, erosion control measures, and a new bridge.

Due to seasonal flooding, periods of intense heavy use, and the maturing of trees on the island, a sensitive environmental condition exists that requires careful management. The island's banks were restored to protect it from further erosion; pathways were paved and landscaping was installed to preserve Island Park for future generations. The park's development was funded partially through a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund Grant.

Island Park includes not only the main island but also the much smaller first island that can be accessed only by boat. Left in a very natural condition, the smaller first island compliments the overall park setting and provides a natural habitat for birds, geese, and the small animals living along the riverbank.



JAYCEE PARK

Acreage: 5.92

ADA Accessibility Grade: 3

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

This popular, linear park is located southeast of the central business district in downtown Grand Ledge and offers spectacular views of the Grand River, a modern play structure, large swing set, sand volleyball court, basketball court, picnic tables, pavilion, public boat launch ramp, natural canoe/kayak launch, ADA-accessible canoe/kayak launch, sledding hill, universally accessible splash pad, performance shelter with seating for over 500, over 100 on-street parking spaces with 10 (ten) designated handicap parking spaces, permanent and portable ADA-accessible public bathrooms, and direct access to the non-motorized Riverwalk Trail with direct connect to the two-mile Wide Walk.

In 2013, the City hired Viridis Design Group to complete the Jaycee Park and Riverfront Master Plan. This plan proposed improvements in Jaycee Park that included, a non-motorized pathway along the riverfront in downtown, a farmer's market, amphitheater, public access launch, spray plaza, natural playground, skate area, public restrooms, active recreation courts, bio-engineered riverfront restoration, and overlook improvements along the Riverwalk Trail.

The Jaycee Park and Riverfront Master Plan is included in Appendix A. With strong support from Grand Ledge residents who believed the plan would greatly enhance Jaycee Park for all to enjoy, the City has strategically secured funding opportunities to make the majority of the proposed improvements a reality. As of 2021, with generous funding from community donations, Consumers Energy Foundation, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Patronicity, mParks Foundation, Grand Ledge Rotary Club, and DNR, Jaycee Park offers amenities for all ages, abilities, and interests. Beyond the Master Plan vision, with funding support from the Lansing Economic Development Corporation, Jaycee Park also offers an ADA-accessible Sound Garden for interactive musical experiences and an artistic bike rack for fun and practicality.



FITZGERALD MEMORIAL FIELD

Acreage: 3.11

ADA Accessibility: 2

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

Fitzgerald Memorial Field is located on the western bank of the Grand River, in the center of downtown Grand Ledge. Dedicated in 1936, the lighted and irrigated field hosts the Mustang League baseball games (ages 9 and 10) as well as the City's Little League Championship series. Fitzgerald Memorial Field also hosts family-friendly Movies in the Ballfield in the summer, space for vendors in various festivals, and Beer Fests in the fall

Island Park and Fitzgerald Memorial Field are connected by a popular pedestrian bridge and share a paved parking lot with 31 spaces and 2 (two) dedicated handicap spaces. Beginning in 2021, the field house will undergo renovations to bring back a concession area, kitchen, meeting room, and upgraded restrooms. The field house provides a scenic overlook and attractive access point to downtown shops, restaurants, Riverwalk Trail, Fitzgerald Memorial Field, and Island Park.



OAK PARK

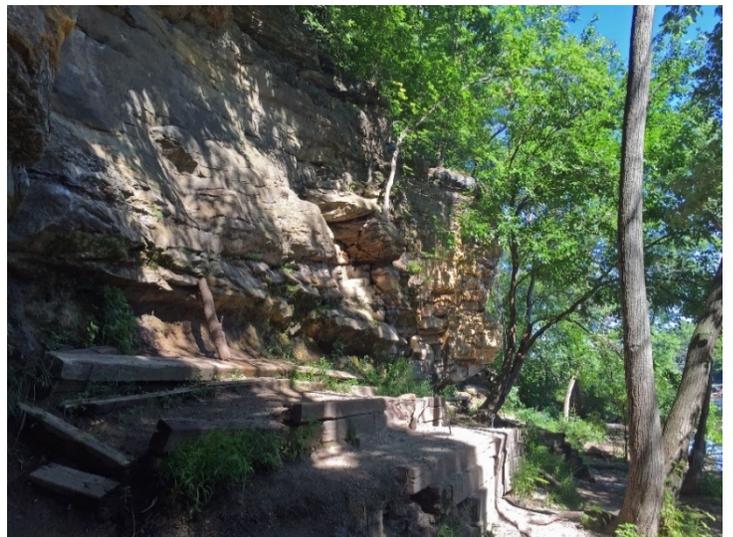
Acreage: 8.98

ADA Accessibility Grade: 1

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

Located on a northerly bluff overlooking the Grand River, Oak Park offers a passive, natural setting as well as access to the popular, historic sandstone ledges from which the City's name was derived.

The park offers beautifully shaded picnic areas, wildlife viewing areas beneath the canopy of its mature oaks, and nearly 1,180 feet of riverfront access. The park is about a 10-minute walk from downtown.



A main focal point of the park is the sandstone ledges. Rock climbers from all areas of Michigan and beyond use the ledges for recreational climbing, instruction, and rescue training. As many as 80 climbing routes up the ledge's sheer rock-face have been identified, named, and rated as to

their degree of difficulty. The ledges in Oak Park are not a place for beginner climbers unless they are part of a group receiving qualified instruction. Visitors are advised to use extreme caution on and near the ledges. Climbers are urged to follow the posted Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Rock Climbing to ensure a safe experience and help preserve the fragile cliff surfaces and plant ecology. Various programs and training sessions are offered for a fee by Michigan-area vendors and clubs who may provide the necessary equipment and knowledgeable instructors.

ELAINE DIBLE MEMORIAL PARK

Acreage: 0.8

ADA Accessibility Grade: 3

Service Area: Neighborhood Park (N)

Located in the Candlewood Estates subdivision off Willow Highway, this small neighborhood park is accessible via a pedestrian walkway, and offers picnicking opportunities and open space.



COLONIAL PARK

Acreage: 0.87

ADA Accessibility Grade: 1

Service Area: Neighborhood Park (N)

Located in the Colonial Park neighborhood, this small, neighborhood park is accessible via a pedestrian walkway. There are picnicking opportunities and walking areas in the park. While this park is not ADA-accessible, future recreation improvements proposed for this park will be ADA-accessible.



RIVERFRONT PARK

Acreage: 0.21

ADA Accessibility Grade: 3

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

Riverfront Park is located at the corner of Bridge Street and East Front Street in downtown Grand Ledge. It includes a large deck with a picnic area overlooking the Grand River and is often used by photographers for the many weddings held in Grand Ledge. This quaint park has a beautifully landscaped parking area for Grand Ledge visitors as well as park bench seating.



BRIDGE STREET PLAZA

Acreage: 0.75

ADA Accessibility Grade: 43

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

Bridge Street Plaza, a popular pocket park is located in the heart of downtown Grand Ledge. In the front of the park, ample street parking is available along Bridge Street and in the back of the park, there is direct access to 94 parking spots with 3 (three) handicap accessible spots creating an ideal, accessible area for pedestrians to explore the downtown.



CITY HALL PARK

Acreage: 0.46

ADA Accessibility Grade: 3

Service Area: City of Grand Ledge (C)

City Hall Park is located behind City Hall on Greenwood Street. Amenities in the park include picnic areas, tables, playground, and basketball court. The park is central and easy to access with parking on the surrounding streets. This park does not have many ADA-accessible elements. If any recreation improvements are proposed for this park in the future, they will be ADA-accessible.



In addition to the park outside, City Hall offers ADA-accessible community rooms and a gymnasium that can be rented for public or private events.

FIELDVIEW OPEN SPACE

Acreage: 3.11

ADA Accessibility Grade: 1

Service Area: Neighborhood Park (N)

Fieldview Open Space is a neighborhood park located on the south side of the city off of M-100/Hartel Road. This open space is accessible by a pedestrian pathway and offers picnic areas, sledding opportunities, and walking areas. This is a passive open space area commonly utilized by surrounding residents. This park is not ADA-accessible. If any recreation improvements are proposed for this park in the future, they will be ADA-accessible.



features in the future. As of the summer of 2021, the City has not had an official ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the park to the public. All public events were shut down in 2020 and early/mid-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City plans to have an official ribbon-cutting ceremony for this park in the near future. The park is not currently ADA-accessible, however, when improvements are made to this park in the future, they will have ADA-accessible features.

HISTORIC LEDGES PLAYHOUSE

Located in Eaton County's Fitzgerald Park, the Historic Ledges Playhouse offers highly respected dramatic performances from May through September. The theater is housed in a 100-year-old structure nestled into the park's wooded area on the bluffs overlooking the Grand River. The facility is leased to Over the Ledge Theater Company, a local non-profit, that performs local shows each summer.



FUTURE GREENSPACE

WEST MAIN STREET GREENSPACE

Acreage: 0.75

ADA Accessibility Grade: 1

Service Area: Neighborhood Park (N)

Available for public use in 2022, this greenspace is located north of the downtown area and provides plenty of space for kickball games, playing catch, and having a picnic. A passive park accessible by connected sidewalks, it also offers wooded areas great for nature watching.

WEST WASHINGTON STREET GREENSPACE

Acreage: 0.27

ADA Accessibility Grade: 1

Service Area: Neighborhood Park (N)

Available for public use in 2022, this greenspace is located north of the downtown and provides a nice space for playing catch and having a picnic. This is a passive park accessible by connected sidewalks.

WEST FRONT STREET GREENSPACE

Acreage: 0.58

ADA Accessibility Grade: 1

Service Area: Neighborhood Park (N)

Available for public use in 2022, this greenspace is located on the north side of downtown with fantastic views of the Grand River and Island Park. A passive park accessible by connected sidewalks is good for picnicking and enjoying the outdoors.

CITY PATH/NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL FACILITIES

WIDE WALK

Acreage: 2 miles

ADA Accessibility Grade: 4

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

This Wide Walk is a 10-foot-wide, 2-mile long non-motorized pathway within the City of Grand Ledge. The pathway extends from Jaycee Park, south along Clinton Street, and west along West Saginaw Highway to Grand Ledge High School. The path is for walking and biking. The Wide Walk connects to Riverwalk Trail extending an accessible route for path users and connecting more parks and residential neighborhoods.



MEMORIAL TREE TRAIL

Acreage: 0.11 miles

ADA Accessibility Grade: 4

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

The Memorial Tree Trail is a dedicated, ADA-accessible trail connecting the Riverwalk Trail at the southern end of Jaycee Park and the Wide Walk at East Jefferson/M-100. The memorial trees are maintained by Grand Ledge Garden Club.



RIVERWALK TRAIL

Acreage: 0.5 miles

ADA Accessibility: 4

Park Type: Community Park (C)

The Riverwalk Trail is located on the south side of the Grand River connecting Island Park, Fitzgerald Memorial Field, and Jaycee Park to the Wide Walk. The Riverwalk Trail is predominantly situated along the Grand River offering spectacular views and ample opportunities to extend a visit while resting on a bench or picnic table. The trail was constructed using funds from the City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation operating millage, a donation from the Grand Ledge Opera House, and a grant from the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund.



UNIMPROVED TRAIL BETWEEN ISLAND PARK AND FITZGERALD PARK

Acreage: 0.5 miles

ADA Accessibility Grade: 1

Service Area: Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)

There is an unimproved pathway between the Island Park bridge at the Riverwalk Trail and Fitzgerald Park along the Grand River shoreline. While not an official recreation pathway in the City, it is used by many visitors as an extension of the Riverwalk Trail, connecting the City's most popular parks. The path was mentioned many times in the public input survey as a good resource that people would like to see officially developed.



Table 6 - Grand Ledge Park Inventory

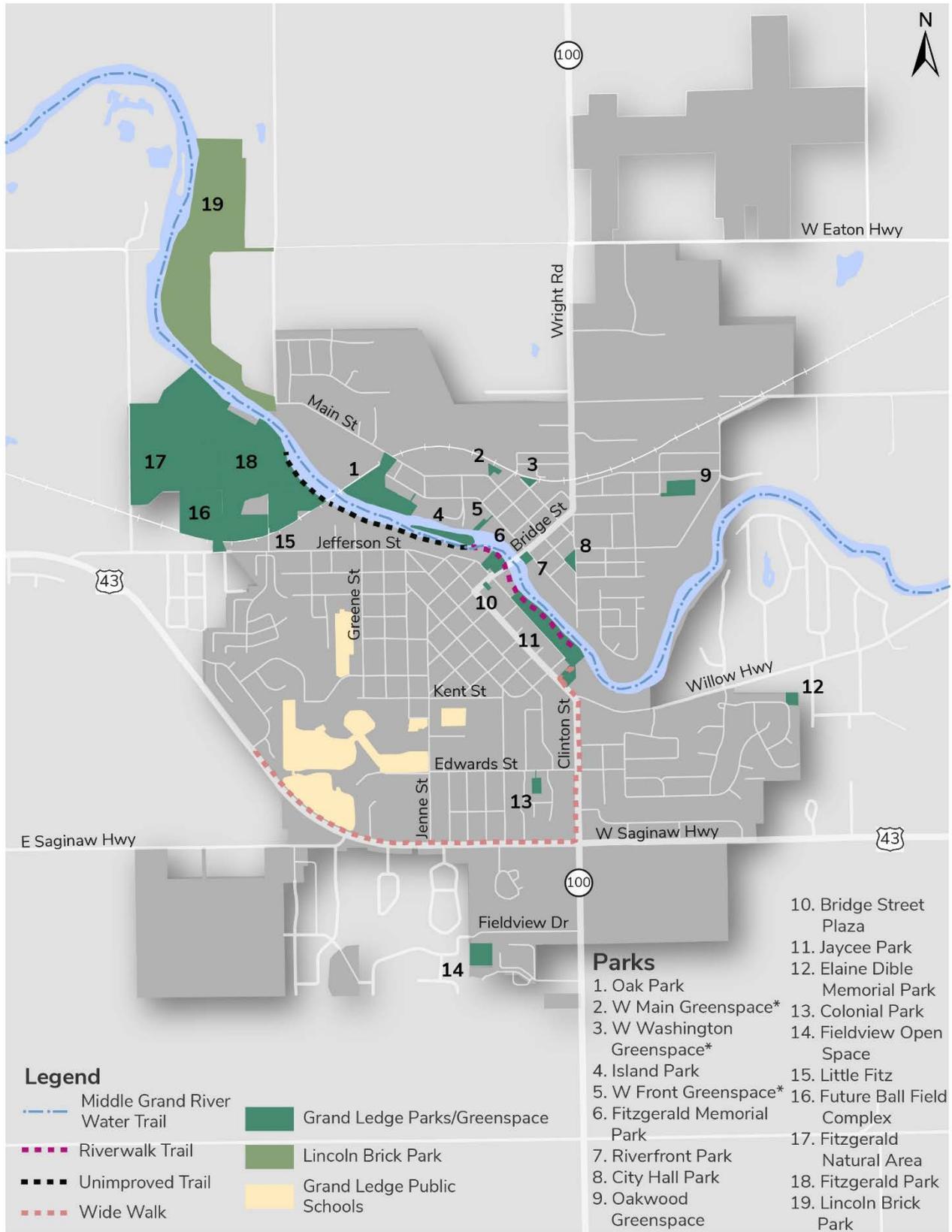
Grand Ledge Parks Inventory	Island Park	Jaycee Park	Fitzgerald Memorial Field	Oak Park	Elaine Dible Memorial Park	Colonial Park	Riverfront Park	Bridge Street Plaza	City Hall Park	Fieldview Open Space	Little Fitz	Oakwood Greenspace	Future Ball Field Complex	Fitzgerald Park*	Future W Main St Greenspace	Future W Washington St Greenspace	Future W Front St Greenspace	Wide Walk	Memorial Tree Trail	Riverwalk Trail	Unimproved Trail
Acreage	2.25	5.92	3.11	8.98	0.8	0.87	0.21	0.75	0.46	3.11	7.22	2.2	10.1	78	0.75	0.27	0.58	2 miles	0.11 miles	0.5 miles	0.5 miles
Service Area**	GR	GR	GR	GR	N	N	GR	GR	C	N	GR	N	GR	GR	N	N	N	GR	GR	GR	GR
Accessibility	4	3	2	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	4	4	4	1
Picnic Shelter/Gazebo	X	X												X							
Picnic Areas		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X			X	
Tables	X	X		X	X		X		X					X							
Grills		X		X										X							
Playgrounds		X							X					X							
Restrooms	X	X	X	X										X							
Boat Ramp		X																			
Natural Canoe/Kayak Launch	X	X		X																	
Accessible Canoe/Kayak Launch		X												X							
Hiking/Walking	X	X		X		X				X				X				X	X	X	X
Fishing	X	X		X										X						X	
Baseball/Softball Field			X											X							
Ice Skating/Sledding														X							
Volleyball		X												X							
Sledding		X								X				X							
Basketball		X							X					X							
Shuffleboard														X							
Cross Country Skiing														X							
Rock Climbing				X																	
Theatre														X							
Splash Pad		X																			
Performance Shelter		X																			
Disc Golf														X							

*Fitzgerald Park is owned by the City of Grand Ledge and operated by Eaton County

**Service Area: Neighborhood (N), City of Grand Ledge (C), and Greater Grand Ledge Region (GR)



Map 3 - Grand Ledge Park Map



* Future Greenspace

COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

The City has committed to taking a steady and consistent approach to developing park facilities that provide lifelong recreation options for the residents of Grand Ledge. When considering level of service, it is important to note that Grand Ledge provides de facto recreation services and facilities to a population greater than its residential population. Therefore, it is important to consider this broader need in terms of demand and not just classification standards for park land per 1,000 residents.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has published typical recreation facility standards that specify facility service area, the number of facilities needed to service the population, and the land area needed. These standards can be used in conjunction with the acreage standards to further identify Grand Ledge’s recreation needs. Table 7, provides a comparison of the City’s public recreation facilities against the NRPA’s published recreation facility standards.

In general, the City rates very well compared to the DNR’s suggested facility development standards regarding the acreage of park land necessary for their population. The table only indicates excess parkland in Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Regional Parks.

In addition to the standards outlined in the table below, more recent park guidelines indicate that officials must also consider the parks and recreation “Level of Service” desired by the residents of a community. If the City’s resident needs are met with the existing park land and facilities, then that amount is sufficient, regardless of the standards or acreage suggestions. This is why the community input portion of a recreation plan is so important. While it appears that the City has enough recreation land, the community input results indicated some deficiencies in parks such as restrooms, walking trails, natural spaces, and water access at the Grand River. Residents are most concerned with improving the current facilities. The Parks and Recreation Committee needs to understand the wishes of the community it serves to provide the appropriate level of service.

Table 7 - Comparison to Standards

	Standard	City Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency/ Excess
Neighborhood Parks	1 acre/1,000 residents	8.6	8	+0.6
Community Parks*	5 acres/1,000 residents	65	40	+15
Regional Parks	5 acres/1,000 residents	116	40	+117
Total		188	88	+76

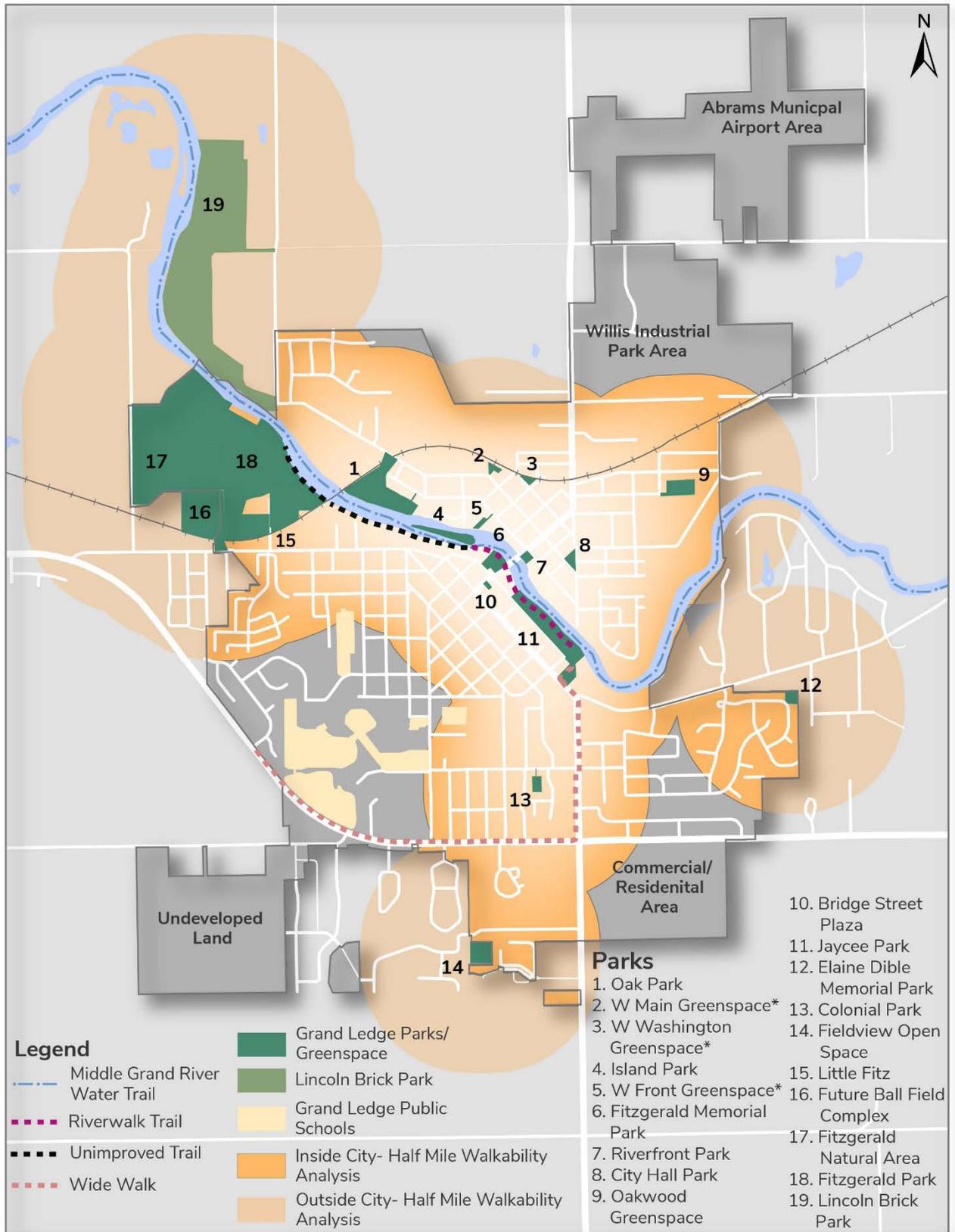
Table is based on the 2020 Census Population
 *Community Park calculations include the school properties

GRAND LEDGE WALKABILITY

Map 4, below uses National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) service radii (a straight line from the center to the circumference of a circle) to determine what areas of the City of Grand Ledge are within a 10-minute walk of a park. This map depicts walking distances only. A distance of a half-mile (approximately 10-minute walk) was used as a likely maximum distance the average park user would be expected to walk to visit a park for any purpose. While there are several outdoor recreation options within facilities at Grand Ledge Public Schools and St. Michael Catholic School within the City, they are not shown because the property is not publicly available during school hours.

The map shows the half-mile radius around all the parks in the City of Grand Ledge indicating that the vast majority (approximately 80%) of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. According to The Trust for Public Land, the national average is 55% of residents living within a 10-minute walk to a park. The small gaps areas in the northern, southeastern, and southwestern corners of the City, indicate additional opportunity areas for future parks.

Map 4 - Grand Ledge Walkability Map



* Future Greenspace

COUNTY AND STATE REGIONAL FACILITIES

EATON COUNTY PARKS

The Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission was established in 1970 under Act 261 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan. Today, the Parks Commission operates nine (9) park areas that total over 730 acres. Eaton County park facilities include a variety of historical, recreational, educational, and scenic, and wildlife habitat areas. Although several areas within the system are well developed, others are protected and left in their natural state.

Two of the parks are of primary importance to this study, the first, Fitzgerald Park is located within the City limits of the City of Grand Ledge while Lincoln Brick Park is situated directly across the Grand River from Fitzgerald Park and immediately north of the city's boundary.

Fitzgerald Park - This 78-acre park, located on West Jefferson Street, just off M-43 in Grand Ledge, is best known as the site of the ledges- an ancient sedimentary rock outcropping lining the banks of the Grand River.



Naturalist Services are available through the park's Nature Center, with programs relating to ecology, wildlife, and natural history. The ledges provide an excellent opportunity for hands-on geological study.

Fitzgerald Park serves as a 12-month recreation resource with three miles of nature, hiking, and cross country ski trails; picnic areas for up to 300 people; two softball fields; volleyball and basketball courts, a sledding hill, and shuffleboard facilities. Special facilities include a disc-golf course and the regionally popular Historic Ledges Playhouse. While owned by the City of Grand Ledge, Fitzgerald Park is leased to and operated by the Eaton County Parks Department.

Lincoln Brick Park - Lincoln Brick Park is the newest of the developed Eaton County park properties in the Grand Ledge area. Located north of Grand Ledge on Tallman Road, the park offers a variety of habitats from woodland to open meadows, including over 6,000 feet of scenic river frontage. Named after the brick production operation that took place on the site, Lincoln Brick Park provides trails, fishing access, an archery range, a playground, Frazier Pond, and two picnic pavilions. The Interpretive Center and museum are used for



environmental education programs, County Park Commission meetings, and are available for rent. The museum area features a display of the history of Lincoln Brick Park and includes a large collection of fossils and rocks.

Fox Memorial Park - Located near Pottersville, Fox Park is a 100-acre site that includes a small lake that is ideal for swimming, fishing, and ice-skating. Other features include two picnic pavilions, a large play structure, and nature and cross-country ski trails.

Keehne Environmental Area - Built on the site of an abandoned limestone quarry, the 17-acre site features an extensive boardwalk system, ponds, nature trails, and nature study areas.

Optimist Youth Camp - This 20-acre primitive campground is operated by the Charlotte Optimist Club in cooperation with the Eaton County Parks Commission and is used by local youth groups.

Butler Park - This public boating access site on the Battle Creek River is located near Bellevue in southwestern Eaton County.

Dyer Kiln Historic Site - This historic site features one of the first limestone kilns in Eaton County and was used in the preparation of cement in the late 19th century. Located in Bellevue, the site offers an attractive park-like setting.

Crandell Park - A 432-acre park located in Charlotte with numerous recreational opportunities including a 160-acre lake for fishing, swimming, and non-motorized watercraft.

Duane Tirrell Roadside Park - A small roadside park located on Battle Creek Road between Bellevue and Charlotte is used as a respite for travelers.



STATE OF MICHIGAN

Three state parks are located within 40 miles of Grand Ledge.

Sleepy Hollow State Park - Located in Clinton County, this park offers modern and group camping facilities, a swimming beach on Ovid Lake, fishing, canoeing, cross-country ski trails, snowmobiling opportunities, hunting, horseback riding trails, and mountain biking.

Ionia Recreation Area - Located in Ionia County, this park offers a boat launch and fishing, picnic areas, hiking, cross-country ski trails, snowmobiling opportunities, hunting, horseback riding trails, and mountain biking.

Yankee Springs Recreation Area - Located in Barry County, this park offers a boat launch and fishing, picnic areas, hiking, cross-country ski trails, snowmobiling opportunities, hunting, horseback riding trails, and mountain biking.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

The Grand Ledge Public Schools System operates facilities throughout its 125-square mile district. These are located both inside the City of Grand Ledge, as well as in the immediate outlying area. Neff Early Education Center, Holbrook Elementary, Beagle Middle School, and Grand Ledge High School are located within the corporate limits of the city. Also located in the city is Sawdon Administration Building. Located in the immediate outlying area are Delta Mills Early Childhood Center, Willow Ridge Elementary, Wacousta Elementary, Delta Center Elementary, and Hayes Intermediate.

Through a collaboration agreement between the City of Grand Ledge and the Grand Ledge Public Schools, many well-maintained and modern athletic facilities are available for community recreation programs. Other school facilities are used for adult enrichment programs and serve as neighborhood play areas. The school facilities are listed below:

- **Neff Early Childhood Center** - Gymnasium, playground, outdoor basketball/asphalt play area.
- **Delta Mills Early Childhood Center*** - Gymnasium, playground, outdoor basketball/asphalt play area.
- **Holbrook Elementary** - Gymnasium, playground, (playground) softball diamond, and outdoor basketball/asphalt play area.



- **Wacousta Elementary School*** - Gymnasium, playground, outdoor basketball/asphalt play area.
- **Willow Ridge Elementary School*** - Gymnasium, playground, outdoor basketball/asphalt play area, and sledding hill.
- **Delta Center Elementary School*** - Gymnasium, playground, outdoor basketball/asphalt play area, and sledding hill.
- **Sawdon Administration Building** - Multi-purpose room and outdoor basketball court.
- **Beagle Middle School** - Gymnasium, sand volleyball, basketball, softball fields (3), baseball diamond, outdoor track, soccer field, and indoor swimming pool and track (2023).
- **Hayes Intermediate*** - Gymnasium, baseball fields (2), soccer fields (2), and a playground.
- **Grand Ledge High School** - Gymnasiums (2), indoor swimming pool, tennis courts, baseball diamond (Gorman Field), football field (GLHS Stadium), and soccer field (Boughton Field).
- **Marsh Field** - Football, baseball, and softball fields.

* Indication GLPS outside of City Limits

PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

There are a number of privately owned recreation opportunities located within convenient travel distance from Grand Ledge.

There are several privately-owned recreation opportunities located within convenient travel distance from Grand Ledge.

- **Grand Ledge Country Club** - Eighteen holes with driving range, outdoor pool with lifeguard, and banquet facilities located on St. Joe Highway.
- **Ledge Meadows Golf Course** - Eighteen holes of golf and a driving range with indoor winter golf, located on Grand Ledge Highway (M-43); just west of Grand Ledge.
- **Funtime Adventure Park** - Miniature golf along with batting cages, go-carts, driving range, and game room located just east of Grand Ledge on Saginaw Highway.
- **Sundance Riding Stable** - Hourly and daily horse rentals, guided trail rides, pony rides, lessons, carriage and hayrides, and breakfast and dinner rides are offered at the Sundance Riding Stable located on Nixon Road just minutes from Grand Ledge. The Sundance Stable offers a unique western-style riding experience.



- **Grand Kayak and River Town Adventures** – Local kayak rental companies that offer Grand River paddling options to begin or end a trip at Jaycee Park. Both companies offer self-guided tours with life jackets, paddles, and single or tandem kayaks.
- **J & K Steamboat Line** – J & K offers cruises and charters on three riverboats, one of which, the *Princess Laura*, often operates out of Island Park in Grand Ledge. These paddlewheel-style boats operate spring to fall and offer sightseeing excursions, dinner theaters, and musical entertainment. The largest, the *Michigan Princess*, has three levels, oak staircases, and crystal chandeliers. It operates in Lansing on the Grand River. A tour of the Ledges is popular, especially during the fall color season.
- **Health And Fitness Clubs** - Specialized fitness facilities are available locally through Snap Fitness and Ledge’s Sweat Shop. Regionally, fitness opportunities can be found and through Planet Fitness, Westside YMCA, University Club of Michigan State University, Court One Athletic Clubs, and numerous yoga studios and weight-training centers. The Westside YMCA is a state-of-the-art facility that offers the following indoor activities: a rollerblade rink, skate park facilities, climbing wall, splash and lap pools, weight training center, track, basketball courts, and special rooms for teens to play pool.
- **Soccer Zone** - Located on Jolly Road in Lansing, offers multiple indoor playing surfaces. Programs include leagues for youth and adult teams during the winter months and summer season instructional camps and coaching clinics.
- **Church Recreation Facilities** - There are numerous churches within this Master Plan’s area, some of which avail their facilities to the public.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

Communities across the United States are creating regional trail systems in both cities and rural areas to provide a higher quality of life for residents. In fact, of all the states, Michigan has the largest rail-trail system. Even more impressive, these trails cover long distances, which is uncommon in other states. Trails allow residents to be more active and healthy, safer while walking or biking on the roads, provide additional ways to experience their community, and give all users the option of increased mobility in different modes of travel.

Communities are now working toward creating a network of trails and roads that are accessible to several forms of traffic. This often means sharing the existing road right-of-way with bikes or having a separate pathway running parallel to the road which is designated for non-motorized use and connects regional centers. In addition to traditional trails, water trails are also becoming more popular. Water trails follow an existing riverbed or shoreline with access points at strategic areas to encourage regional use.



WHY TRAILS ARE IMPORTANT

While trails can be a challenge to implement, their positive effects on a community cannot be disputed. It has been proven that trails create a pride of place and a sense of ownership in Michigan residents. Trails are also an important driver in the local and regional economy, increase property values, and provide safe and healthy recreation options.

The growing trail trend in Michigan is also reflected in Grand Ledge residents' opinions. On the whole, they feel trails and pathways would be an asset to their community. In the public input survey, respondents emphasized how important non-motorized pathways and trails are to the residents. Residents also emphasized how they would prefer to have more water access along the Grand River to access this resource and use the water trail.

Trail users have a measurable impact on the local economy. Working with the surrounding townships and other jurisdictions is an effective way to connect with existing systems and expand the non-motorized pathway infrastructure. These projects would create a long-term, valuable investment in the community and the opportunity to connect the City to others in the region. This would promote economic vitality, encourage a healthier lifestyle in their residents, and create a safer travel environment.

COMPLETE STREETS

The City of Grand Ledge has implemented a Complete Streets policy. For the City, implementing a Complete Streets approach integrates people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the local transportation network. Additionally, this policy helps ensure streets are safe for people of all ages and abilities, balance the needs of different modes, and support local land uses, economies, and natural features.

TRAILS AND PATHS

The City of Grand Ledge has three non-motorized trails in the City, the Riverwalk Trail, connecting Memorial Tree Trail, and the Wide Walk. These trails are highlighted on Map 3, and in addition to the sidewalk network, serve as the primary mode of non-motorized transportation in the City. The Recreation Plan survey results showed support to expand this network, specifically, connecting the Wide Walk to Fitzgerald Park and extending the Riverwalk Trail.



Currently, the Wide Walk ends at the intersection of M-43 and Timber Creek Drive. There appear to be several possible routing options to connect the path to Fitzgerald Park from this location. Referencing the community input results, there were also several comments about taking advantage of the Grand River and developing an enhanced and extended Riverwalk Trail that

connects Jaycee Park to Fitzgerald Park. In the future, if both of these trails are developed, the City would have a connected non-motorized loop that passes through several of the most popular parks.

WATER TRAIL

The Middle Grand River Water Trail is a part of a 262-mile water trail that is easily accessible in Grand Ledge. A network comprises three different sections of the Grand River, the Lower Grand River Water Trail, The Middle Grand River Water Trail, and The Upper Grand River Water Trail. These three different trail sections are all part of the Grand River corridor and each has a group, organization, or alliance working to create a connected water trail route. In 2018, The Middle Grand River Water Trail was selected by the Department of Natural Resources as one of the first state-designated water trails in Michigan.



The Middle Grand River section of the water trail is approximately 87-miles and stretches from Eaton Rapids to Lyons. The City of Grand Ledge is located within the Middle Grand River Trail. The Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds (MGROW) and the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission developed a Water Trail Plan for the Middle Grand River section of the trail. The plan is an extensive review of the existing conditions of the trail and proposes location improvements for access sites, river clean-up, and wayfinding signage. The plan identifies four (4) locations in the City of Grand Ledge as access points. The City owns three (3) of these sites located at Jaycee Park (motorized boat launch, ADA-accessible kayak/canoe launch, and natural kayak/canoe launch), Island Park (natural kayak/canoe launch), Fitzgerald Park (dock access for motorized boat and kayak/canoe). The fourth site is the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) bridge for Bridge Street in downtown Grand Ledge. MGROW added directional signs at all access points along the Middle Grand River Water Trail in 2019 and is in the process of adding additional mile-markers along with bridge identification signs on MDOT bridges.



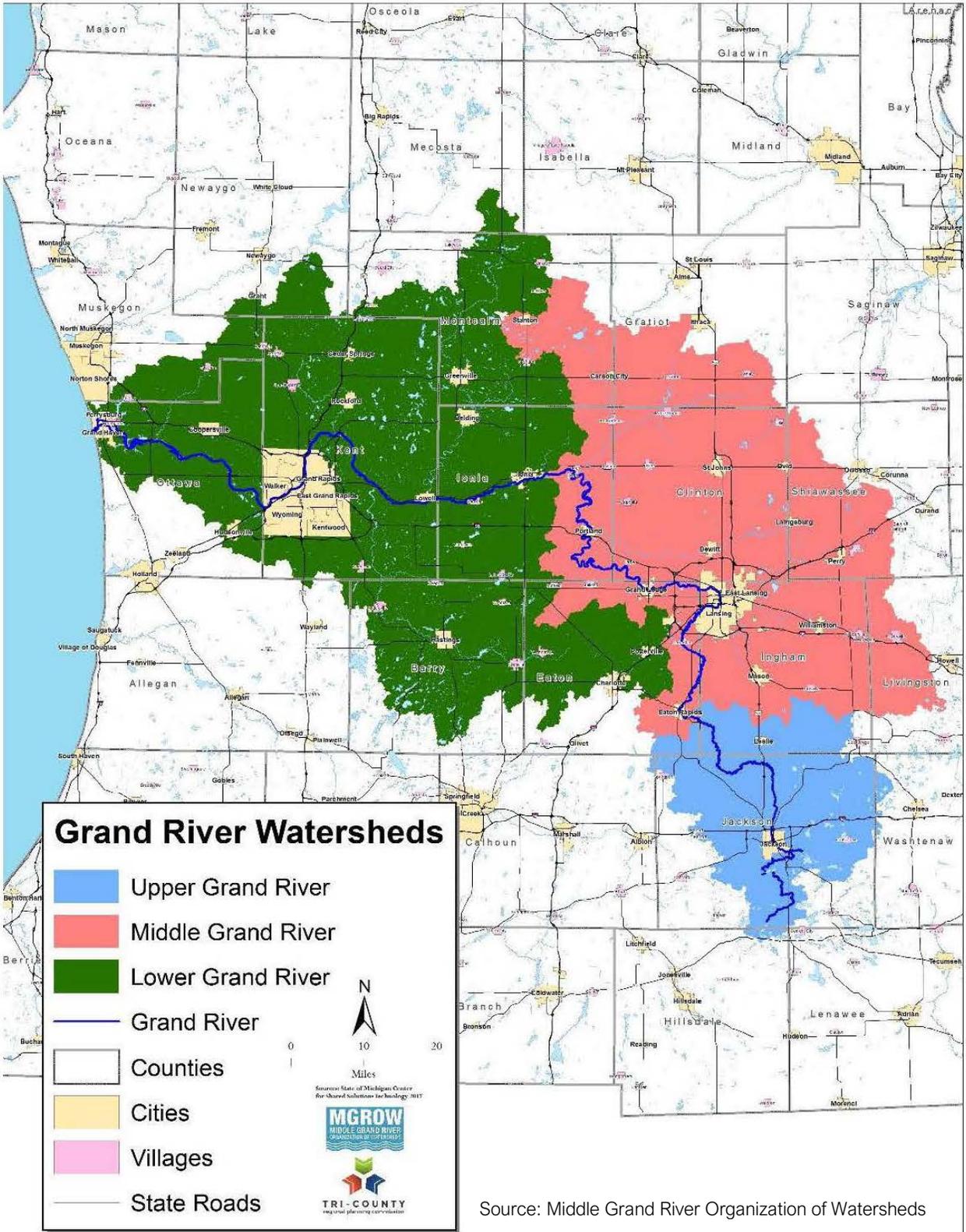
The plan identifies potential improvements at each of these sites to enhance the River Trail Corridor such as mile-marker signs and bridge identification signs. The following is a list of proposed improvements at each park based on the Water Trail Development Plan:

- Jaycee Park: Install a kiosk/bulletin board and improve streambank erosion control.
- Island Park: Install barrier-free launch, improve access to the river (tail, path), install kiosk/bulletin board, and improve streambank erosion control.
- Fitzgerald Park: Improve parking facilities, install barrier-free launch, improve access to the river (trail, path), install kiosk/bulletin board, provide drinking water, and improve streambank erosion control.

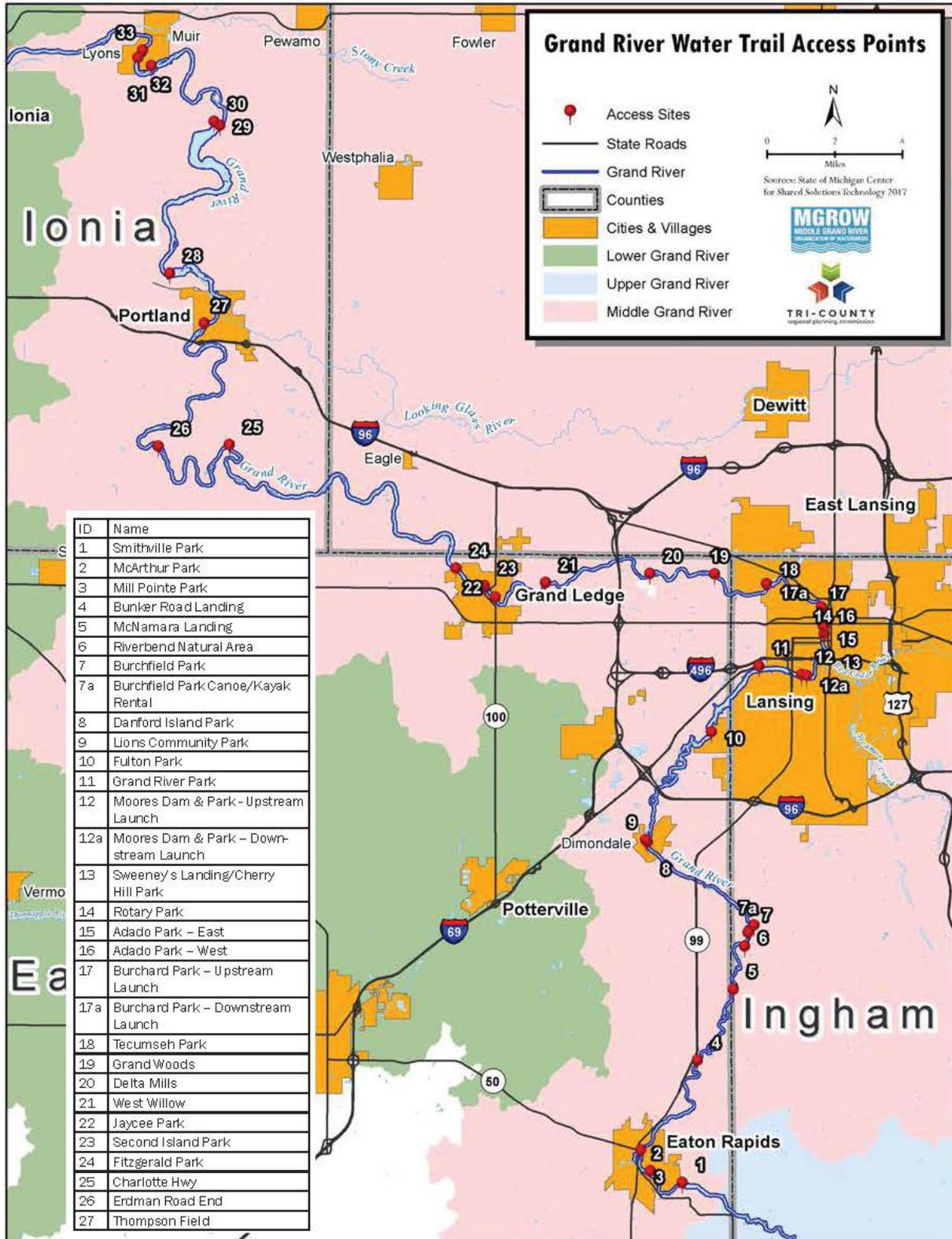
Potential improvements to city parks or city-owned properties to support the development of the water trail could be considered based on the MGROW water trail plan. For further information on this plan or to see an interactive trail map, users may visit <https://www.mgrow.org/>.

The following maps show the entire Grand River Water Trail system and the access points along the Middle Grand River Water Trail. Both maps are from the Middle Grand River Water Trail Development Plan.

Map 5 -Grand River Water Trail Map



Map 6 - Middle Grand River Water Trail Access Points



Source: Middle Grand River Organization of Watersheds

STATE GRANT ASSISTED PARKS AND FACILITIES

The City of Grand Ledge has received six (6) State of Michigan grants since 2000.

1. Island Park Restoration, Clean Michigan Initiative grant (CM00-035) was awarded in 2000 for \$455,000. The project stabilized and developed Island Park with paths, boardwalk, play area, dock, and renovated the bridge and pavilion.
2. Riverwalk Extension, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant (TF06-118) awarded in 2006 for \$192,100. The project was a 2,500-foot extension of the Riverwalk, to connect multiple parks, improve fishing access, and provide access to wetlands. Additionally, the grant was for fencing, a fishing pier, and benches.
3. Boat Launch Improvements, DNR MNRTF (TF11-041) for \$138,800 was awarded in 2011 for the development of Jaycee Park's boat launch. The project created an improved boat launch area with more convenient vehicle turn-a-round and improved access to the Grand River.
4. Jaycee Park Expansion, DNR MNRTF Land Acquisition Grant (TF14-0161) for \$150,000 was awarded in 2014 to allow the purchase of 0.92 acres along the Grand River. This acquisition provided needed space to improve the park's boat launch and create options for future park improvements including connecting the Riverwalk to the Wide Walk, providing boat trailer parking, and increasing greenspace.
5. Oak Park Expansion, DNR MNRTF Land Acquisition Grant (TF15-0195) for \$42,000 was awarded in 2015 to allow the purchase of 3.41 acres along the Grand River increasing the parkland by approximately 60%. Due to this grant, Oak Park has increased in size from 5.58 acres to 8.99 acres.
6. Jaycee Park Developments, DNR MNRTF Development Grant (TF17-0014) for \$98,400 was awarded in 2017 to add an ADA-accessible kayak/canoe launch, shoreline stabilization, access path extending the existing Riverwalk Trail to the Wide Walk, improved stone parking lot with three (3) handicap parking spaces.

The MDNR Self-Completion Post-Inspection Reports, which includes the status for all grant-assisted sites, are included in Appendix B. The City does not currently have any conversions.



COMMUNITY INPUT RESULTS

One of the most important aspects of a community's Recreation Plan is the inclusion of the park user's opinions about how they view the future of their parks and recreation system. The City of Grand Ledge created two (2) community surveys to gather the information which would guide their parks and recreation program for the next five (5) years. The first was a community-wide, online public input survey and the second was a specialized survey specifically geared toward Grand Ledge Public School students in grades K-12. A complete tabulation of the results for both surveys is available for review in Appendix C. The text below describes significant results.

The second means of input was provided during the required public review period held September 7, 2021, through October 5, 2021, and concluding with the public hearing at Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on October 28, 2021. Parks and Recreation Commission will make a recommendation for City Council to approve the Recreation Plan on October 28, 2021. City Council will hold a public hearing at their November 22, 2021, meeting. City Council will approve the plan on December 13, 2021.

SURVEY RESULTS

The City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Plan community-wide survey was available online, from April to May of 2021, under the web address www.grandledgeparksurvey.com. The community-wide survey received 608 responses. It was publicized with a variety of methods:

- Facebook post on City of Grand Ledge page and shared on numerous pages including the Grand Ledge Community Facebook page
- Link on City website
- Colorful plastic signs with a QR Code and the City website address were placed at all parks in Grand Ledge
- Email blasts from City staff to City Council and various boards/commissions
- Shared in the Grand Ledge Chamber of Commerce e-newsletter

The custom, four-question survey for Grand Ledge Public School K-12 students was available online from June 8 through June 15, 2021. Information about the online survey with QR Code and website link access was distributed by school administration to all students via their email addresses and included an email to their teachers. Many teachers encouraged the completion of the online survey as a class activity. The custom, student survey received 305 responses.

RESPONDENTS

COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY

There were a total of 608 respondents who participated in the survey. Respondents were not required to answer every question. Therefore, not all of the questions have a total of 608 answers. Figure 2a depicts a breakdown of where the respondents live based on the larger community and park users, while 2b is a more detailed breakdown by municipality. In Figure 2a, 51% of the respondents were from the City of Grand Ledge and 38% were from the Greater Grand Ledge Community. The breakdown by municipality splits the Greater Grand Ledge Community into three categories with the following responses:

- Greater Grand Ledge Community – 22.5%
- Clinton County – 4%
- Eaton County – 11.9%

Figure 2a - Where Respondents Live

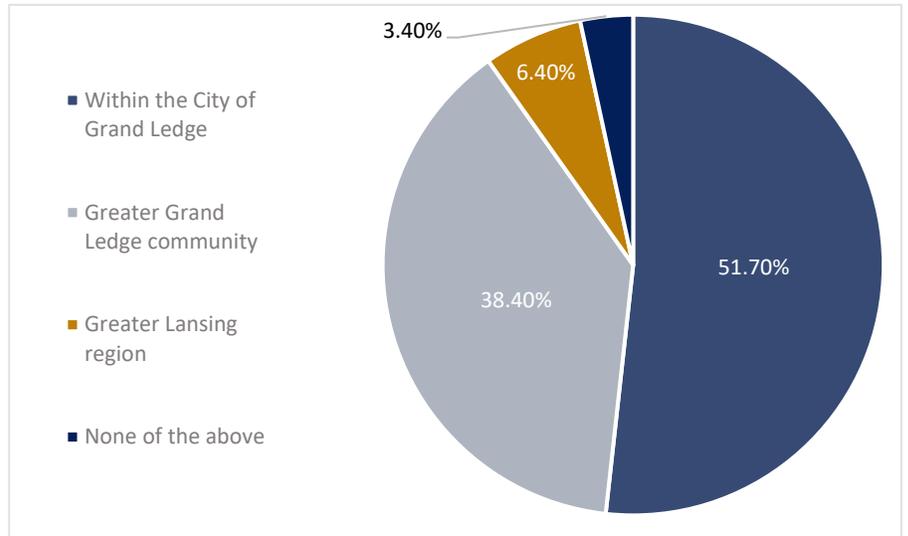
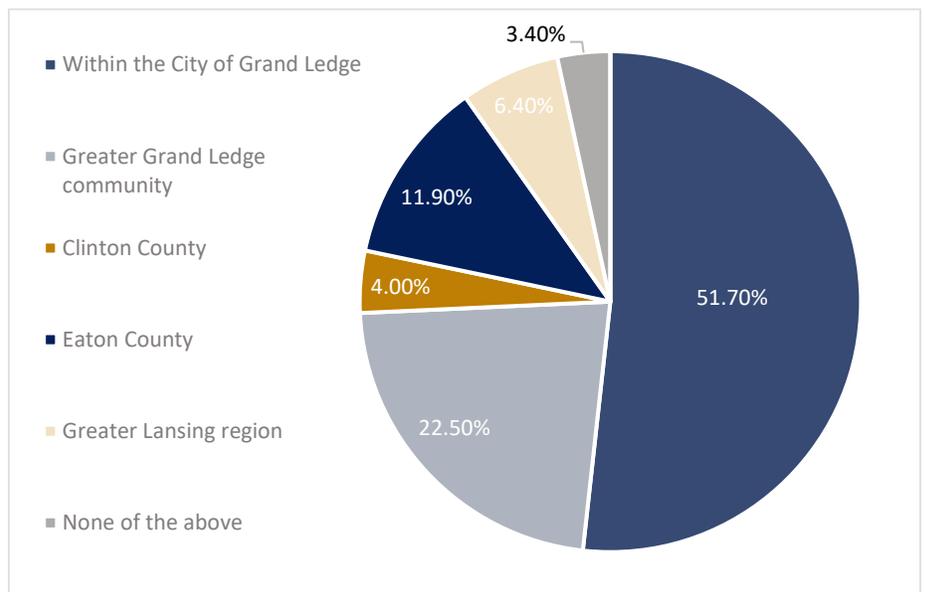


Figure 2b - Where Respondents Live

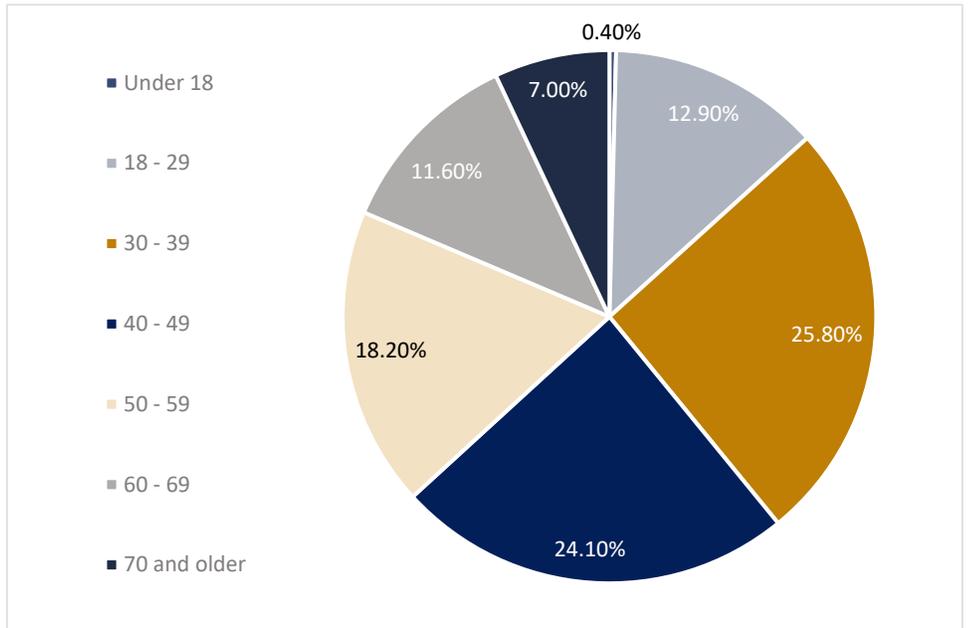


Respondents were asked how long they have lived in the Grand Ledge area. One hundred and seventy-six respondents (33.2%) have lived in the Grand Ledge area for 10 years or less, 69 respondents (13%) have lived in the area for 11 – 19 years, and 252 respondents (47.5%) have lived in the Grand Ledge area for over 20 years.

The age breakdown of the community-wide survey results was comprehensive for all age groups over 18. There were only two

respondents who were under 18 years of age. Due to the lack of youth response, the City decided to expand its community input efforts with the Grand Ledge Public School survey. The community-wide respondent age group breakdown is shown in Figure 3.

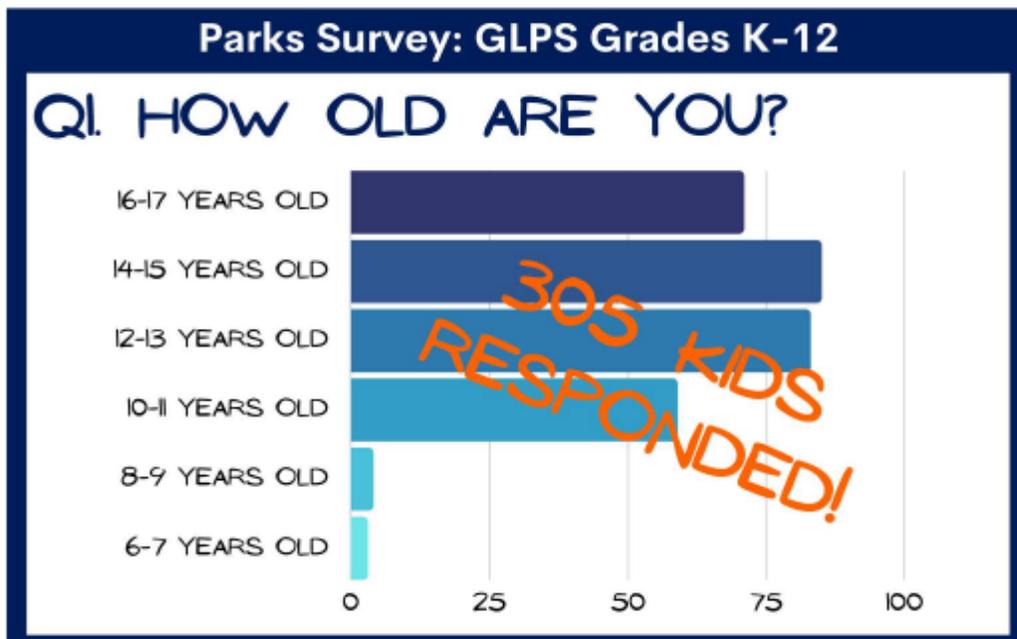
Figure 3 - Age of Respondents



SCHOOL SURVEY

The survey sent to the Grand Ledge Public School system had a total of 305 responses from kids ranging from 6 – 17 years old. Figure 4 is a breakdown of the respondents from the school survey.

Figure 4 - Age of Student Respondents



PARK VISITS IN THE PAST YEAR

The first survey question strove to create a better understanding of which parks were visited most, and how many times users took advantage of the recreation opportunities in Grand Ledge. Respondents were asked how many times they had visited each park in Grand Ledge over the past year. The five Grand Ledge parks that respondents visited most frequently are:

- Fitzgerald Park
- Island Park
- Jaycee Park
- Lincoln Brick Park
- Riverwalk Trail

2017 Most Visited Parks

- Island Park
- Fitzgerald Park
- Riverwalk Park
- Jaycee Park
- Bridge Street Plaza

In comparison, the parks with the least amount of visits can be viewed as areas where the parks and recreation program has the opportunity for great improvement. Whether it be through additional advertising and wayfinding signs, more amenities, or additional maintenance of the facilities. The five Grand Ledge parks that respondents visited least frequently are:

- Elaine Dible Memorial Park
- Fieldview Open Space
- Oakwood Greenspace
- Colonial Park
- "Little Fitz" (area adjacent to Fitzgerald Park, off of Gulf Street)

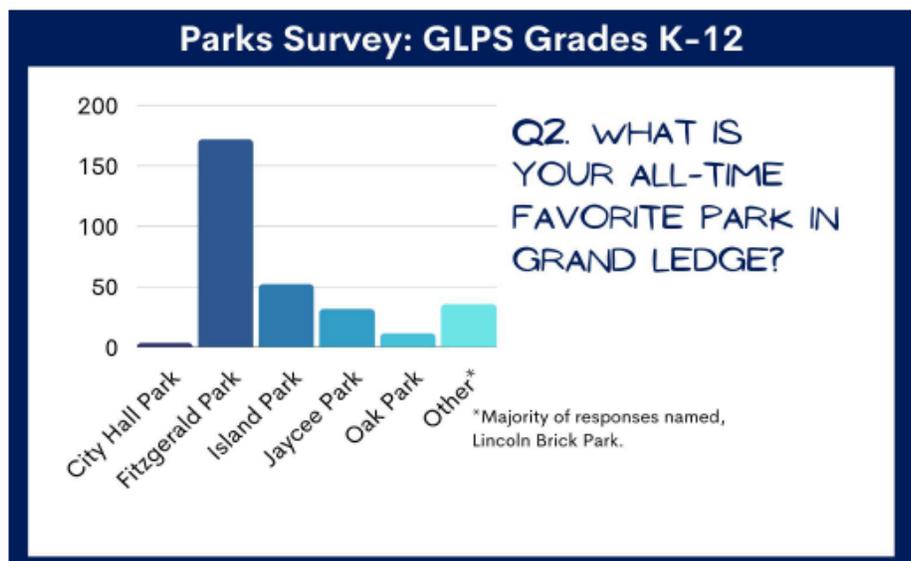
2017 Least Visited Parks

- Fieldview Open Space/Elaine Dible Memorial Park (tied)
- Colonial Park
- City Hall Park
- Riverfront Park
- Oak Park

As compared the to 2017 Recreation Plan, the top 5 most visited parks had only one change. Lincoln Brick Park had more park visits than in the past survey and replaced Bridge Street Plaza. The least visited parks had the following changes: Oakwood Greenspace and Little Fitz replaced City Hall Park and Oak Park as the least visited sites.

This is not surprising as both are brand new parks. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Little Fitz did not have an official opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Little Fitz received signage installation in 2021 and is actively marketed by the City as park space.

Figure 5 - Students' Favorite Park



REASON FOR VISITING PARKS

Respondents were asked why they choose to visit parks and open spaces in the Grand Ledge area. The respondents were given 32 options, including an option for “other –write in.” The following are the top 10 answers and the percentage of respondents who chose that answer. Respondents were encouraged to check all responses that applied to them.

1. Nature enjoyment - 82%
2. Walking – 72%
3. Hiking – 57%
4. Participating in other annual events/festivals – 49%
5. Health and fitness - 47%
6. Farmers market – 43%
7. Playgrounds – 42%
8. Music in the Park/Performance shelter – 37%
9. Picnics – 35%
10. Kayaking – 29%

To see a full list of the results and a table of the “write-in” options, see Appendix C.

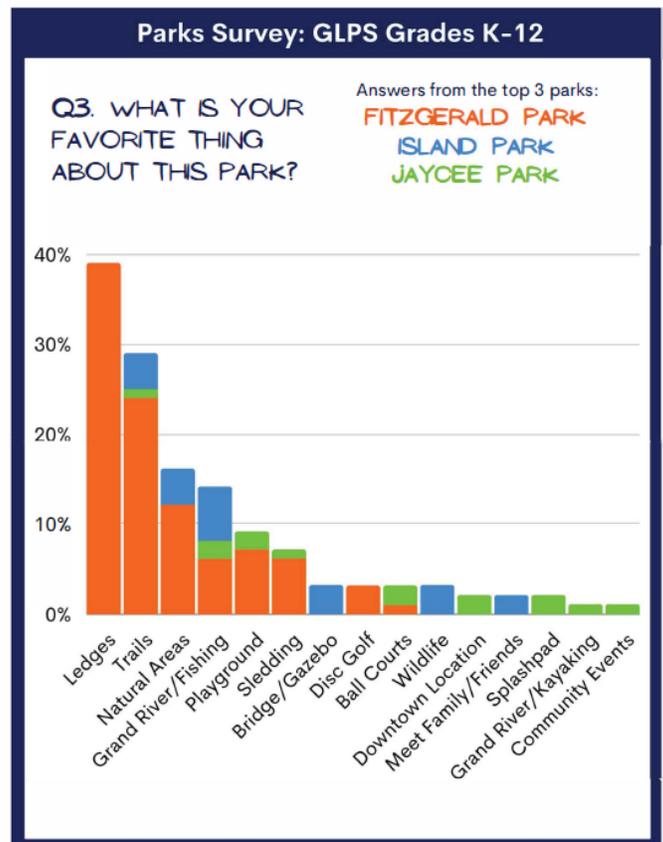
These activities are very similar to the reason respondents visited parks from the 2017 survey. The top two activities switched places with Nature enjoyment replacing Walking in the 2021 results. Kayaking, number 10 in 2021, replaced Bicycling which was number 10 in 2017. Otherwise, the other results were all the same activities just in a different order.

The school survey asked the students to indicate their favorite thing about their favorite park. Figure 6 shows answers from the three most popular parks. At Fitzgerald Park, the most popular activity is the Ledges and at Island Park and Jaycee Park the most popular activity are the trails.

2017 Reasons to Visit Parks

- Walking (79%)
- Enjoying Nature (70%)
- Health and Fitness (55%)
- Farmer’s Market (51%)
- Annual Events and Festivals (51%)
- Music in the Park (46%)
- Playgrounds (40%)
- Picnics (38%)
- Watching organized sports/activities (28%)
- Bicycling (27%)

Figure 6 - Favorite Thing about the Park



PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

To understand the priorities of the park users over the life of the Parks and Recreation Plan, the survey asked respondents to identify their priority from the following three choices.

1. Enhance existing parks (77%)
2. Acquire more park space (14%)
3. Keep the parks as they are (8%)

2017 Priorities

The order of the priorities was the same in 2017

IMPORTANCE OF GENERAL RECREATION OPTIONS

Respondents were also asked to provide their level of agreement with five general recreation statements. The statements generally describe different types of recreation. These statements will be evaluated to have a better understanding of what priorities should be important for parks and recreation in Grand Ledge. The majority of respondents strongly agree with each recreational statement, indicating how important recreation opportunities are to the residents of Grand Ledge. Further, this question highlights how important the Grand River is to the City of Grand Ledge. Sixty-three percent of respondents strongly agree that it is important to preserve and protect the Grand River, and 31% agree that it is important, which means that 94% of the respondents would like to protect and preserve this resource. Another key type of recreation activity for park users is non-motorized pathways and trails. Sixty-six percent of the respondents strongly agree that paths and trails are important, and 28% agree they are important. Meaning, over 93% of the respondents would like paths and trails in the City. See Table 8 below for a complete description of the results.

Table 8 - Recreation Statements

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<i>It is important to enhance recreational opportunities along the Grand River.</i>	55.4%	33.8%	8.8%	1.4%	0.7%
<i>It is important to preserve, protect, and enhance public access to the Grand River.</i>	63.1%	31.0%	4.8%	0.9%	0.2%
<i>It is important to provide outdoor recreational facilities and athletic fields within the Grand Ledge park system.</i>	42.4%	36.4%	17.1%	2.7%	1.4%
<i>It is important that Grand Ledge parks have non-motorized pathways and trails.</i>	66.7%	28.7%	3.6%	0.7%	0.4%
<i>Open greenspace is an important element of Grand Ledge parks.</i>	46.1%	41.4%	11.4%	0.7%	0.4%

FUTURE FUNDING

For the 2021 survey, the City wanted to know if the residents would support additional funding, in the form of a millage, for parks and recreation. Specifically, the City asked if residents would support a millage increase for park enhancements. The majority of respondents (64%) said they would support a new millage, only 16% said they would not, and the remaining 20% of the respondents had no opinion or are not residents of the City.

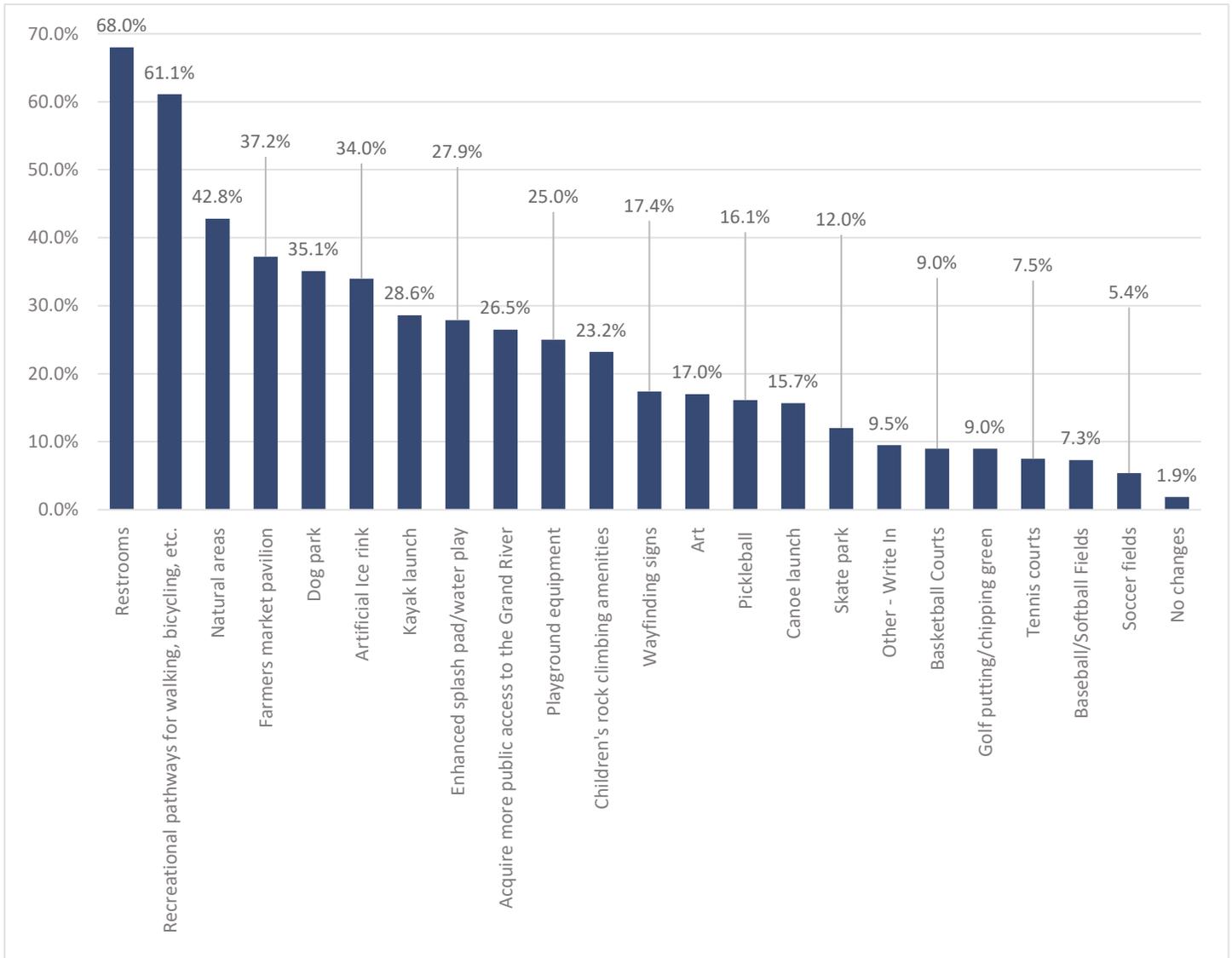
The City was curious what type of millage residents would vote to support. The following is the breakdown of the responses:

- Limited-Term Millage – 28%
- Perpetual Millage – 31%
- Special Projects Millage – 40%

In 2017, the City asked a more general question about increased funding, and 85% of the respondents stated they would support more funding. The difference from the previous survey to the 2021 survey, could indicate a decrease in the support of funding, but could also be reflective of the specificity of the question in the most recent survey. In the past, the City did not indicate the increased funding would come from a millage.

ADDITIONAL FACILITIES

Figure 7 - Additional Recreation Facilities

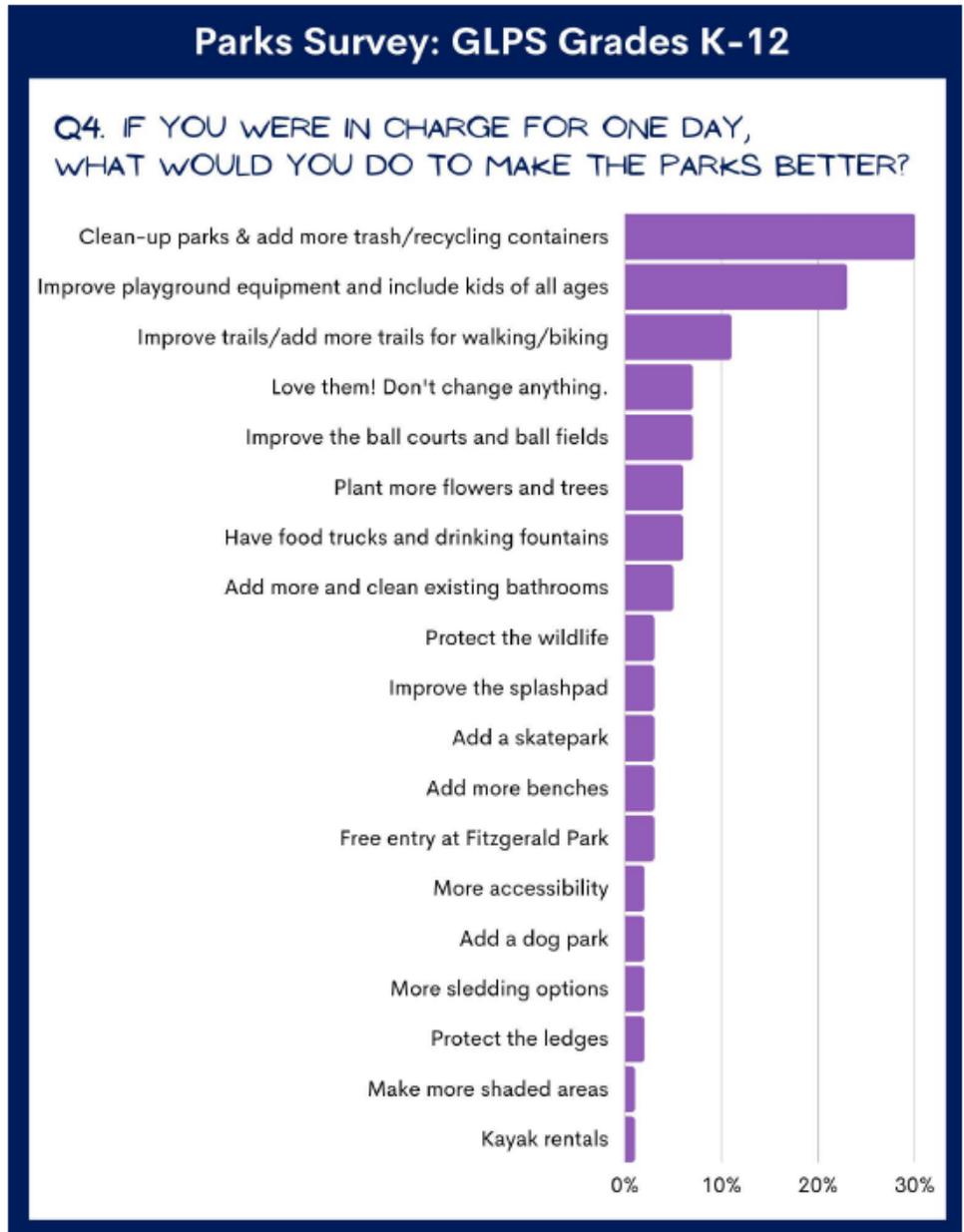


In regards to future amenities, respondents were asked what additional facilities they would like to see added to City parks and open spaces. Respondents were encouraged to check any of the 23 answers that applied and were also given a final choice of “other” with the option to write in a unique answer. The above Figure 7 chart illustrates the responses with their corresponding percentages.

The top five most desired new amenities are restrooms, recreational pathways, natural areas, farmers market pavilion, and dog park. The top two amenities are the same as the responses from the 2017 survey. In 2017 the top five most desired amenities were restrooms, recreational pathways, farmers market/pavilion, kayak/canoe launch, and splash pad/water play. Over the past 5 years, the City installed canoe/kayak launches along the river and a splash pad at Jaycee Park.

For the school survey, the students were asked what they would do to make the parks better. The responses are shown in Figure 8. Generally, the kids wanted to see cleaner parks, improved playgrounds, more trails, and improved courts/fields for basketball and baseball.

Figure 8 - How to Improve the Parks



ACCESSIBILITY

It is important for the City of Grand Ledge to have parks that are open and easily accessible to people of all ability levels. If respondents had a disability or had someone in their family with a disability, they were asked to indicate their level of agreement with potential accessibility improvements in the City operated parks and open spaces. The responses were ranked in the following order, from most needed to least needed. The percentages represent the percent of respondents that strongly agreed and/or agreed with the accessibility improvements:

1. Accessible Restrooms (71.8%)
2. Accessible Parking (61%)
3. Accessible Spectator Viewing Seats (58.6%)
4. Accessible Waterfront Access (55.9%)
5. Accessible Playgrounds (55%)
6. Paved Trails (54.9%)
7. Flatter, Easier Grades (53.4%)

2017 Rankings

1. Accessible Restrooms (82%)
2. Accessible Parking (76%)
3. Accessible Spectator Viewing Seats (70%)
4. Accessible Waterfront Access (69%)
5. Accessible Playgrounds (68%)
6. Paved Trails (67%)
7. Flatter, Easier Grades (59%)

WIDE WALK

The respondents were asked if they supported an extension of the existing Wide Walk to connect to Fitzgerald Park. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority (72%) supported the extension, 21% had no opinion, and 6% did not support the extension.

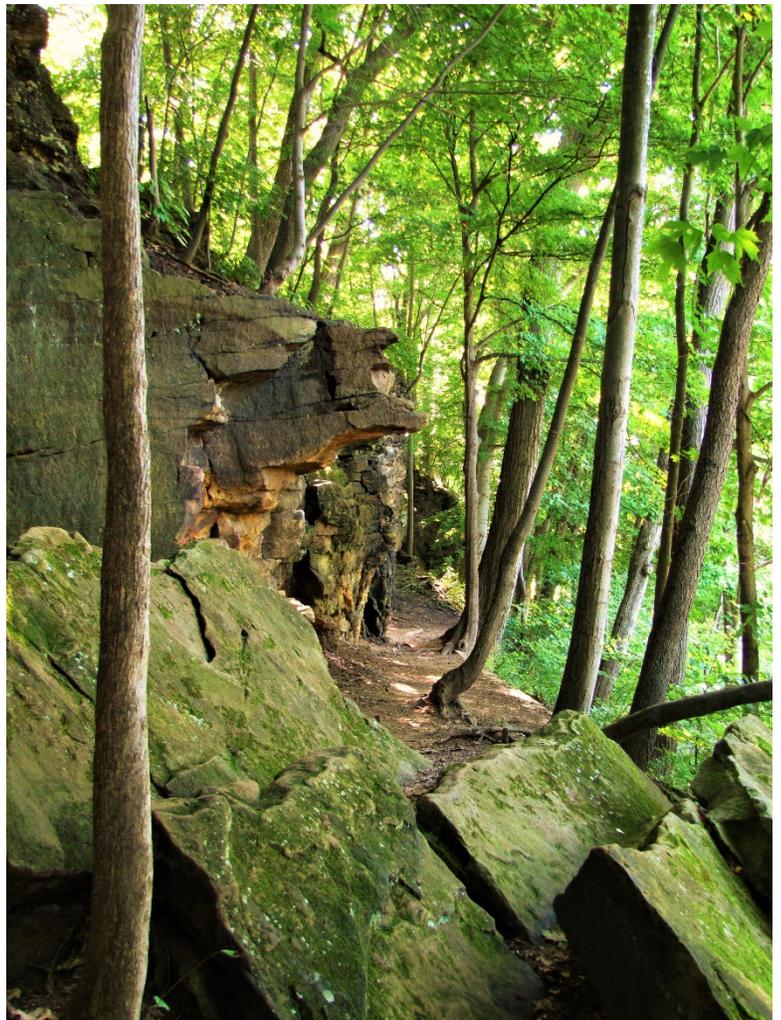
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Developing effective and achievable goals and objectives is an important part of the parks and recreation planning process. Overall, the Commission would like to provide high quality recreation opportunities for the community. More specific goals and objectives are based on the demographic characteristics of the population, the physical and environmental characteristics in Grand Ledge, and the input from the community.

Goals are the broadest level of ideas. By necessity, they are overreaching and general. However, objectives carry out the purpose of each goal. Action Plan items are the most specific level, they identify specific projects and programs to be pursued over the next five years. Action Plan items can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions. The City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Commission formulated the following goals and objectives.

GOAL 1 – PROVIDE SAFE, CLEAN, AND WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS AND FACILITIES THAT ENABLE ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCES FOR ALL WHO VISIT.

- Objective – Update and add facilities as needed to provide outdoor recreation experiences for people of all abilities and when possible, design new park facilities to meet Universal Access principles.
- Objective – Develop and use short and long-term maintenance plans for park facilities.
- Objective – Continue focused, preventative maintenance at all parks and recreation facilities.
- Objective – Obtain Park property as needed to meet the recreation needs of the community.
- Objective – Provide recreational opportunities for the Grand Ledge community through public and private partnerships.



GOAL 2 – PROVIDE GREEN SPACE WITHIN THE CITY.

- Objective – Examine existing green space in Grand Ledge and look for significant gaps/shortages.
- Objective – When appropriate, acquire new park land for the addition of open space to the park system and expansion of existing parks.



GOAL 3 – PROVIDE SAFE NON-MOTORIZED TRAVEL IN GRAND LEDGE.

- Objective – Expand and loop the non-motorized trail system in Grand Ledge, working to connect the existing park system through a network of sidewalks and non-motorized pathways to create a more connected and safe system.
- Objective – Expand the Wide Walk to connect to Fitzgerald Park.

GOAL 4 – CAPITALIZE ON GRAND LEDGE’S UNIQUE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.

- Objective – Provide water access and viewing opportunities along the Grand River.
- Objective – Enhance recreation opportunities on the Grand River.
- Objective – Plan for park amenities and improvements that are specific to the ledges.
- Objective – Market and capitalize on the unique resources of the ledges to bring in additional park users to the Grand Ledge system.
- Objective – If possible, acquire parcels that are high in natural resource value.
- Objective – Plan park upgrades that are complementary to the natural resource system.
- Objective – Protect significant natural resources in Grand Ledge, especially the Grand River and the unique sedimentary rock ledge formation along the riverbank.



GOAL 5 – FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO SUSTAIN AND ENHANCE CITY PARKS

- Objective – Assess millage opportunities.
- Objective – Provide continued support for public/private and public/public partnerships.
- Objective - Support tax-deductible means to encourage additional fundraising opportunities, donations, and sponsorships.
- Objective – Strategically seek and apply for grants

ACTION PLAN

With goals and objectives in place, the City of Grand Ledge has developed an accompanying 5-Year Action Plan that will enable the City to move toward accomplishing the goals and objectives outlined in the Recreation Plan. The action program is used to highlight specific projects which will maintain and improve the quality and diversity of amenities in the parks.

Potential projects are shown in Table 8 on the following page. Each of these action items relates to one or more of the goals from the previous Goals and Objectives Section. They have each been assigned a priority level of 1, 2, or 3. The potential capital improvements that are listed in Table 9 have been established to provide a framework for decision makers, and to enable the City to apply for grant funding for those proposed projects.

The project list is not a fixed element, nor is it exhaustive. It reflects the results of the input received from the City staff, the public hearing, and the online survey. Future circumstances, especially availability of funding, may influence the order in which the projects are completed.

FINANCING POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS

Funding for parks and recreation capital improvements can come from a range of local, state, and federal programs. Grant funding is available for parks and recreation projects. However, applicants need to target potential funding agencies and programs very carefully so as to meet the specific required criteria. See Appendix D for potential sources of recreation funding.



Table 9 - Five Year Action Program

City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Action Plan		
Improvement	Priority	Relates to Goal
ALL PARKS		
Improved, cohesive directional signage to locate parks from vehicles and foot/bike traffic	1	1, 3, 4, 5
Support vendor partnerships to further recreational opportunities (e.g., kayak, bike rentals)	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Formalize a "Friends of Grand Ledge Parks" to create tax-deductible donation opportunities to support park improvements	1	1, 5
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
Urban tree canopy	1	1, 2, 5
Improve ADA accessibility	1	1, 3, 4, 5
Add trash receptacles and recycling bins to parks	2	1, 5
Acquire adjacent parcels for dedicated park land when feasible	2	1, 2, 4, 5
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
Add drinking fountains for people and dogs	2	1, 5
Fully utilize existing park amenities	2	1, 2, 4, 5
Add natural kayak/canoe launches and destination sites	2	1, 2, 4, 5
Additional bike racks	3	1, 3, 5
Enhance maintenance activities to include landscaping and beautification	3	1, 4, 5
Add art installations to enhance parks	3	1, 4, 5
Provide more fields for community recreation and sports in cooperation with Grand Ledge Public Schools	3	1, 2, 4, 5
ISLAND PARK		
Restoration of island and bank stabilization	1	1, 4, 5
Restoration of gazebo	2	1, 4, 5
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
Enhance sidewalk-grade space and accessibility (e.g., ADA seating, decking, retaining walls)	1	1, 4, 5
Enhancement of splashpad (e.g., additional features, additional section, shade canopy)	2	1, 4, 5
Build stairs down from East River Street into the park	2	1, 4, 5
Place retention pond near performance shelter underground	2	1, 5
Mural on performance shelter retaining wall	3	1, 4, 5
Develop skate park	3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

Improvement	Priority	Relates to Goal
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
Enhance boardwalk portion of the trail (e.g., lookout/platform, enhance area, memorial trees, butterfly garden)	2	1, 3, 5
FITZGERALD MEMORIAL FIELD		
Enhance spectator area, including ADA accessibility	1	1, 5
Add mural to all sides of fieldhouse building	3	1, 4, 5
Renovate fieldhouse to allow rental of building (kitchen, meeting space, concession area)	3	1, 5
OAK PARK		
Trail improvement for viewing the ledges, fishing and river access	1	1, 3, 4, 5
Interpretive signage for ledges, Grand River, and railroad	2	1, 3, 4, 5
Parking lot improvements	2	1, 5
RIVERFRONT PARK		
Enhance the view shed and river access with deck expansion	2	1, 4, 5
WIDE WALK		
In cooperation with partners add accessible routes to connect to Fitzgerald Park	1	1, 3, 5
FITZGERALD PARK		
Explore improving portage opportunities around the dam at Fitzgerald Park with Eaton County.	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
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
BALL FIELD DEVELOPMENT		
Develop Phase I - install one youth ball field with ADA accessibility	1	1, 2, 3, 5
Add ADA accessible restrooms	1	1, 2, 3, 5
Add ADA accessible playground equipment	2	1, 2, 3, 5
Develop Phase II - install two youth ball fields with ADA functionality	3	1, 2, 3, 5
LITTLE FITZ PARK		
Establish rustic trails for hiking and mountain biking	1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
LINCOLN BRICK PARK		
In cooperation with Eaton County, establish connection of park facilities within the City.	2	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

PLANNING PROCESS

To provide quality recreation opportunities for its citizens, the City of Grand Ledge has developed this Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of recreation facilities over the next five years. This plan represents an ongoing commitment by the City to establish recreational goals and objectives for the community. The plan will also provide Grand Ledge eligibility for grants from the Department of Natural Resources to assist the City in reaching its recreational goals.

The City of Grand Ledge contracted with the Spicer Group of Saginaw to assist the Parks and Recreation Commission with the completion of this plan. Spicer Group consultants met with City Staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission during 2021 while working on the plan.

Data was collected about the City of Grand Ledge, including demographics and an inventory of the parks and facilities owned and operated by the City. This data was gathered from numerous resources including City staff, the 2017 Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission, research of aerial images provided by Google Earth, and through field visits.

Two opportunities for input and participation were provided during the development of this plan, the results of which were described in an earlier section of this plan. Based upon the existing information and the public input, City staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission developed goals for parks and recreation in the City of Grand Ledge. The Parks and Recreation Commission also created an action program to accomplish the goals of the plan.

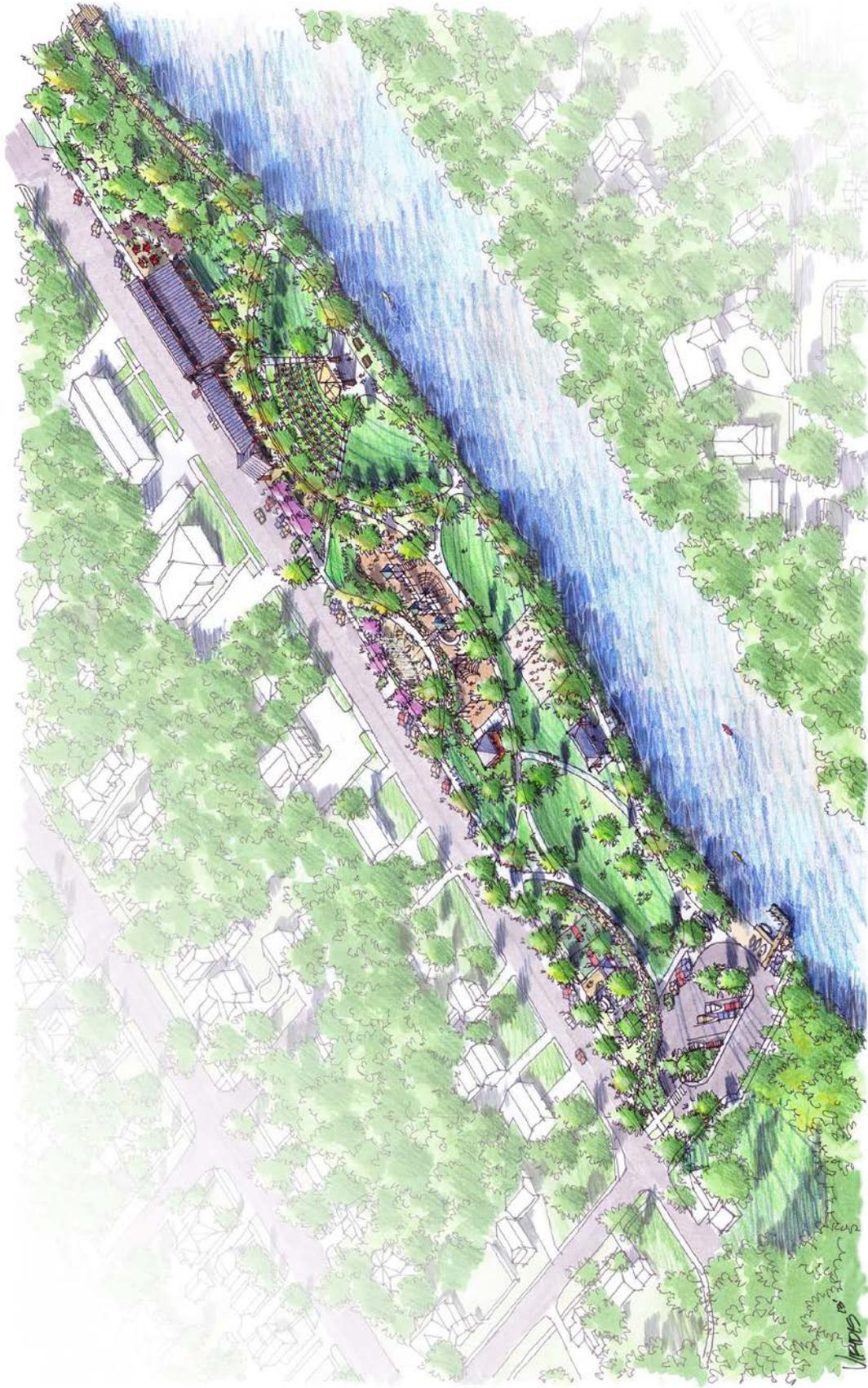
Spicer Group completed a draft recreation plan which was subsequently available for review at Grand Ledge City Hall and on the City’s website. The review period from September 7 through October 5, 2021, was publicized on the City website, Facebook page, and the local Cable television channel. The final opportunities for community input occurred at the advertised public hearings held prior to the adoption of the plan, at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on October 28, 2021, and at the City Council meeting on November 22, 2021. After the October 28 public hearing, the Parks and Recreation Commission passed a motion recommending City Council adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The plan was transmitted to the City Council for its review. The second public hearing was held at the November 22 City Council meeting. The Grand Ledge City Council passed a resolution to adopt the recreation plan at the City Council meeting on December 13, 2021. Copies of the recreation plan were transmitted to Eaton County and the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. The Plan was uploaded to the DNR for approval in January of

2022. Copies of the notification advertisements, the public hearing minutes, and the resolution are included in Appendix E.



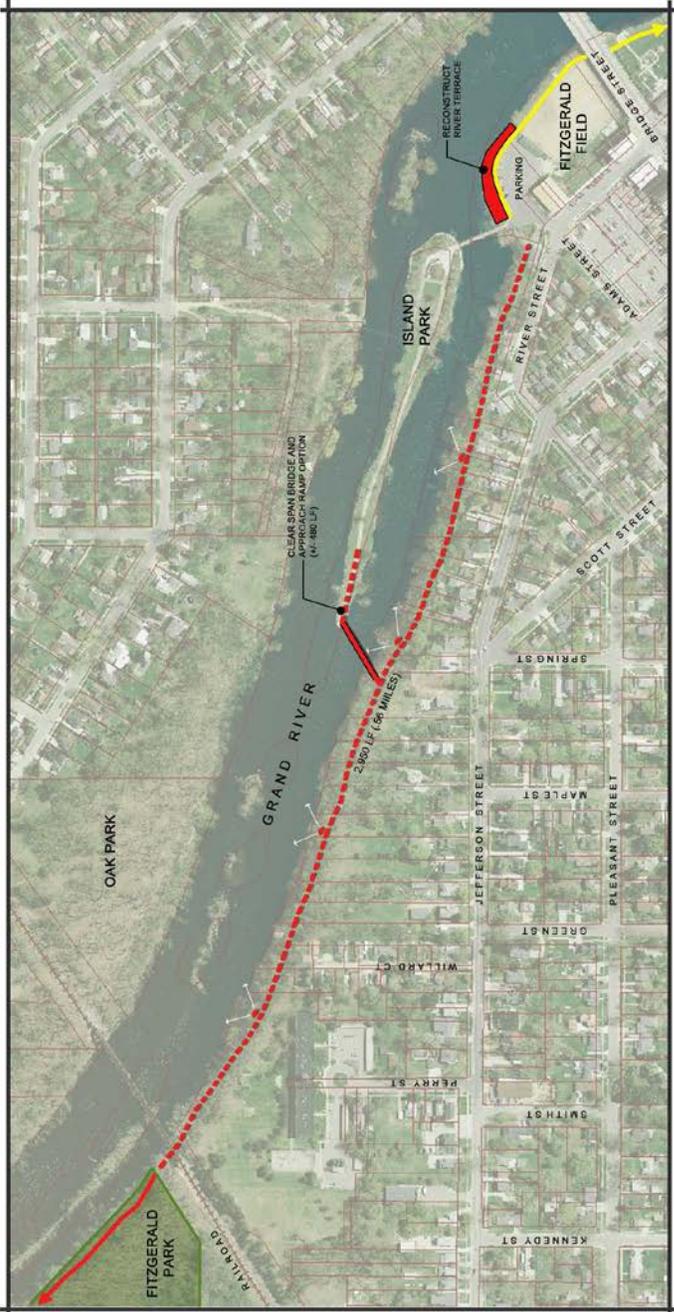
APPENDIX A

JAYCEE PARK MASTER PLAN



Jaycee Park Master Plan

City of Grand Ledge, Michigan
November, 2013



LEGEND

- EXISTING RIVERWALK, PAVED, 10' WIDE
- EXISTING RIVERWALK, GRAVEL, 3'-6" WIDE
- PROPOSED RIVERWALK, GRAVEL, 3'-6" WIDE
- PROPOSED LOOKOUT/SEATING AREA

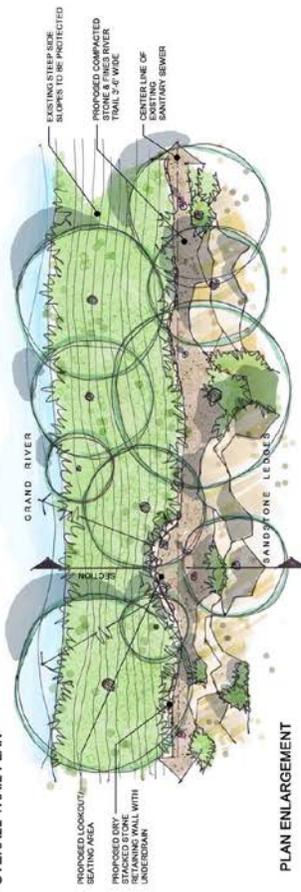


VIEW OF SANDSTONE LEDGES

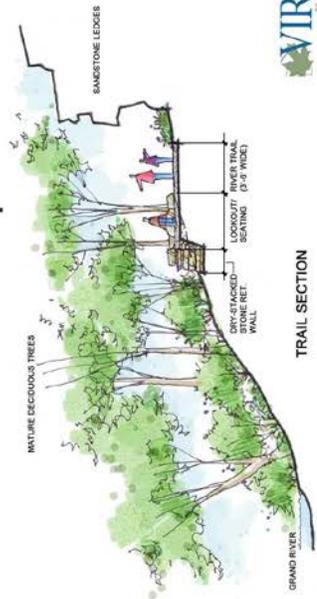


VIEW OF GRAND RIVER AND ISLAND PARK

OVERALL TRAIL PLAN



PLAN ENLARGEMENT



TRAIL SECTION



JAYCEE PARK AND RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN

City of Grand Ledge, Michigan

11.20.13



Riverwalk Concept Plan



PUBLIC ACCESS AND PICNIC AREA
 - 100-150 VEHICLE PARKING
 - 100-150 VISITOR LAUNCH
 - AT-GRADE CANOE LAUNCH
 - PICNIC AREA

GRAND RIVER

24'X48' PICNIC SHELTER
 SAND VOLLEYBALL

PARK AMPHITHEATER
 - SEATING FOR 500-600
 - 100-150 VISITOR LAUNCH
 - BARRIER FREE ACCESS

WET MEADOW PLANTING AREA
 EX. BOARDWALK

EX. RIVERWALK TRAIL
 OPERA HOUSE

EX. TRAIL TO ISLAND PARK
 FITZGERALD FIELD

RIVER STREET

MULTI-USE FARMERS MARKET
 - 44 INDIVIDUAL COVERED STALLS
 - COVERED ICE SKATING RINK
 - OUTDOOR GOLF RANGE
 - PLAZA OVERLOOKING AMPHITHEATER

HISTORIC HOME RELOCATION SITE
RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPROVEMENTS
 - 10' WALKWAY
 - CONTINUOUS SIDEWALK

MULTI-AGE PLAYGROUND & SPRAY PAD
 - ELEVATED BRIDGES AND STRUCTURES
 - NATURALIZED PLAY WITH STONE AND LANDSCAPING
 - PERMETER BENCH SEATING

RESTROOM & STORAGE BUILDING

SKATE SPOT
 - 2,000 SF

BASKETBALL COURT
 - 1/2 SIZE COURT

EX. TRAIL TO JEFFERSON STREET

FRANKLIN ST

RUSSELL ST

BRIDGE ST

JAYCEE PARK AND RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN

City of Grand Ledge, Michigan

11.20.13



Concept Plan



APPENDIX B

GRANT ASSISTED PARK HISTORY

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REPORT TO FOLLOW

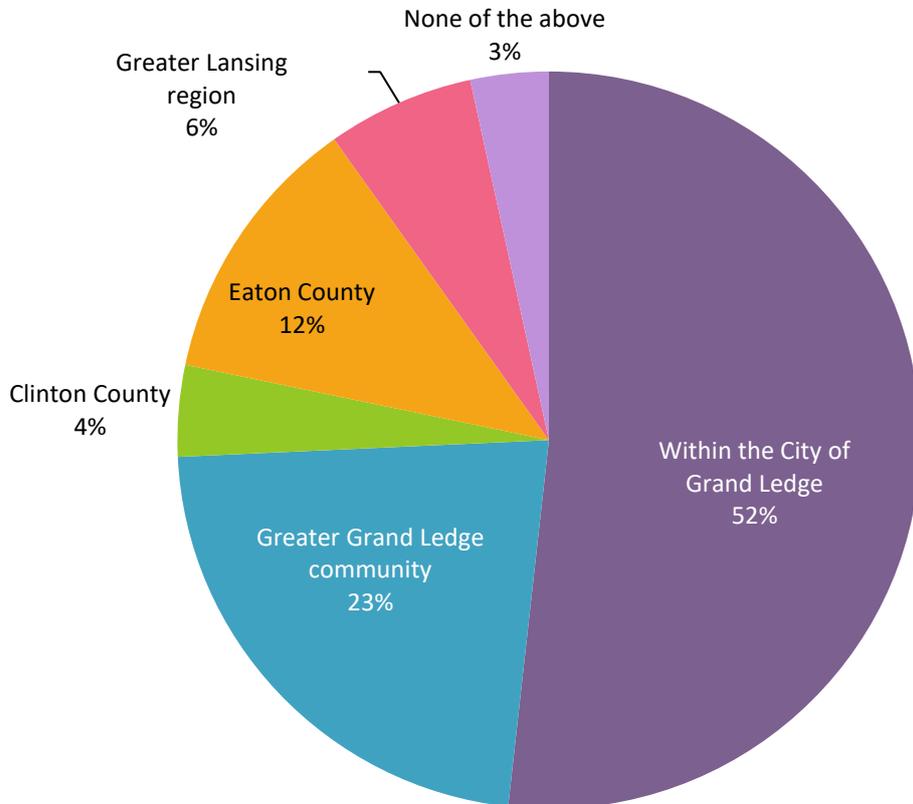
APPENDIX C

PUBLIC INPUT RESULTS

City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation 2021 Survey Results Public Input Survey Report June 2021

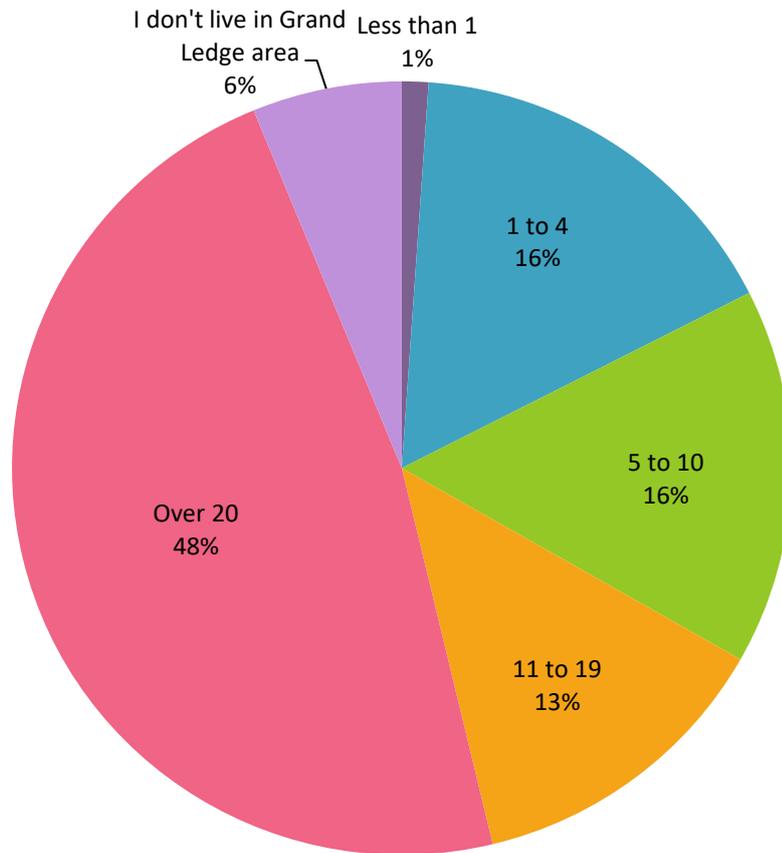
Response: 608 Responses

Where do you live?



Value	Percent	Count
Within the City of Grand Ledge	51.7%	273
Greater Grand Ledge community	22.5%	119
Clinton County	4.0%	21
Eaton County	11.9%	63
Greater Lansing region	6.4%	34
None of the above	3.4%	18

How many years have you lived in the Grand Ledge area?

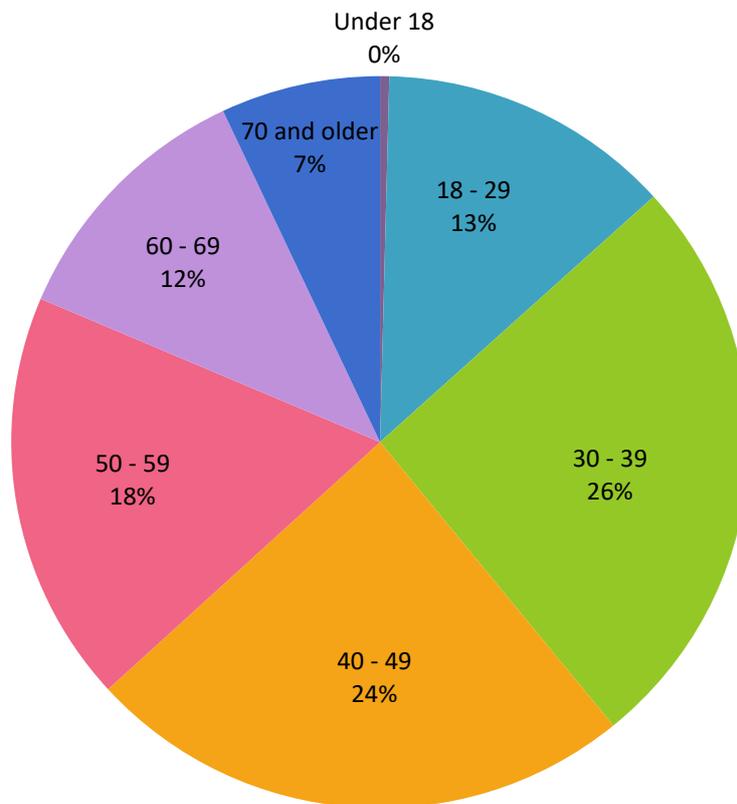


Value	Percent	Count
Less than 1	1.1%	6
1 to 4	16.4%	87
5 to 10	15.7%	83
11 to 19	13.0%	69
Over 20	47.5%	252
I don't live in Grand Ledge area	6.2%	33

How many people from each of the following age groups live in your household?

	1	2	3	4	5+
Under 18	78 24.8%	116 36.8%	33 10.5%	13 4.1%	5 1.6%
18 - 29	83 39.3%	53 25.1%	5 2.4%	4 1.9%	4 1.9%
30 - 39	62 28.6%	92 42.4%	3 1.4%	0 0.0%	1 0.5%
40 - 49	74 33.0%	78 34.8%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.4%
50 - 59	71 37.4%	59 31.1%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.5%
60 - 69	40 24.8%	43 26.7%	0 0.0%	0 0.0%	1 0.6%
70 and older	31 24.4%	18 14.2%	0 0.0%	1 0.8%	1 0.8%

What is your age?



Value	Percent	Count
Under 18	0.4%	2
18 - 29	12.9%	68
30 - 39	25.8%	136
40 - 49	24.1%	127
50 - 59	18.2%	96
60 - 69	11.6%	61
70 and older	7.0%	37

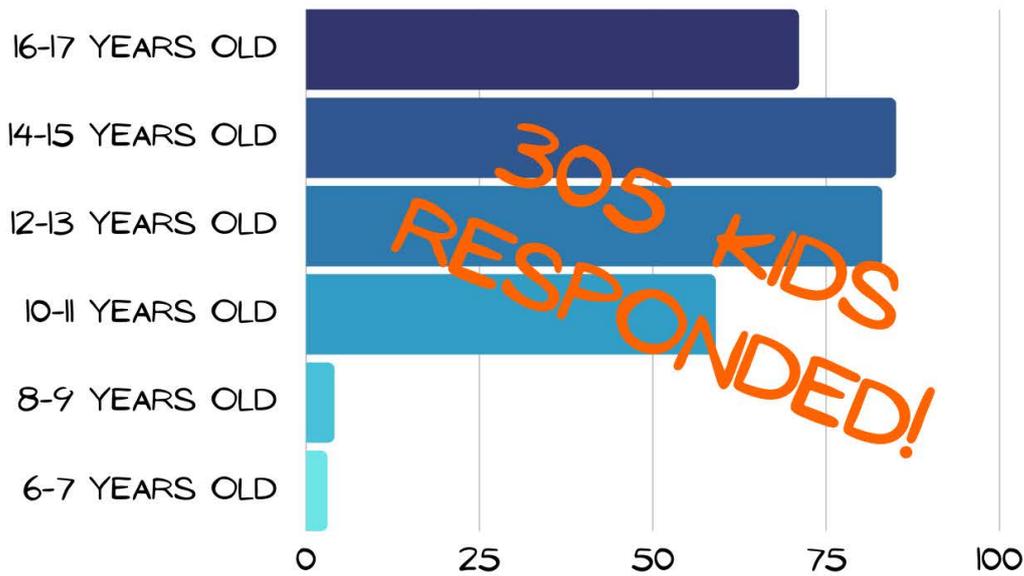
The City of Grand Ledge created a four (4) question, electronic survey sent to Grand Ledge Public School (GLPS) K-12 students to better understand their perspective of our parks. In one week, we collected 305 responses from children ages 6-17 years old, showing tremendous interest in our parks.

Each of the four (4) survey questions is marked with "Parks Survey - GLPS Grades K-12" and the following questions:

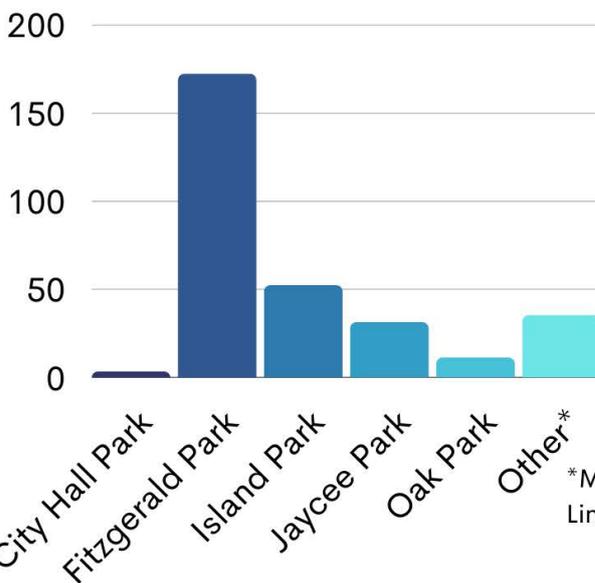
- Q1. How old are you?
- Q2. What is your all-time favorite park in Grand Ledge?
- Q3. What is your favorite thing about this park?
- Q4. If you were in charge for one day, what would you do to make the parks better?

Parks Survey: GLPS Grades K-12

Q1. HOW OLD ARE YOU?



Parks Survey: GLPS Grades K-12



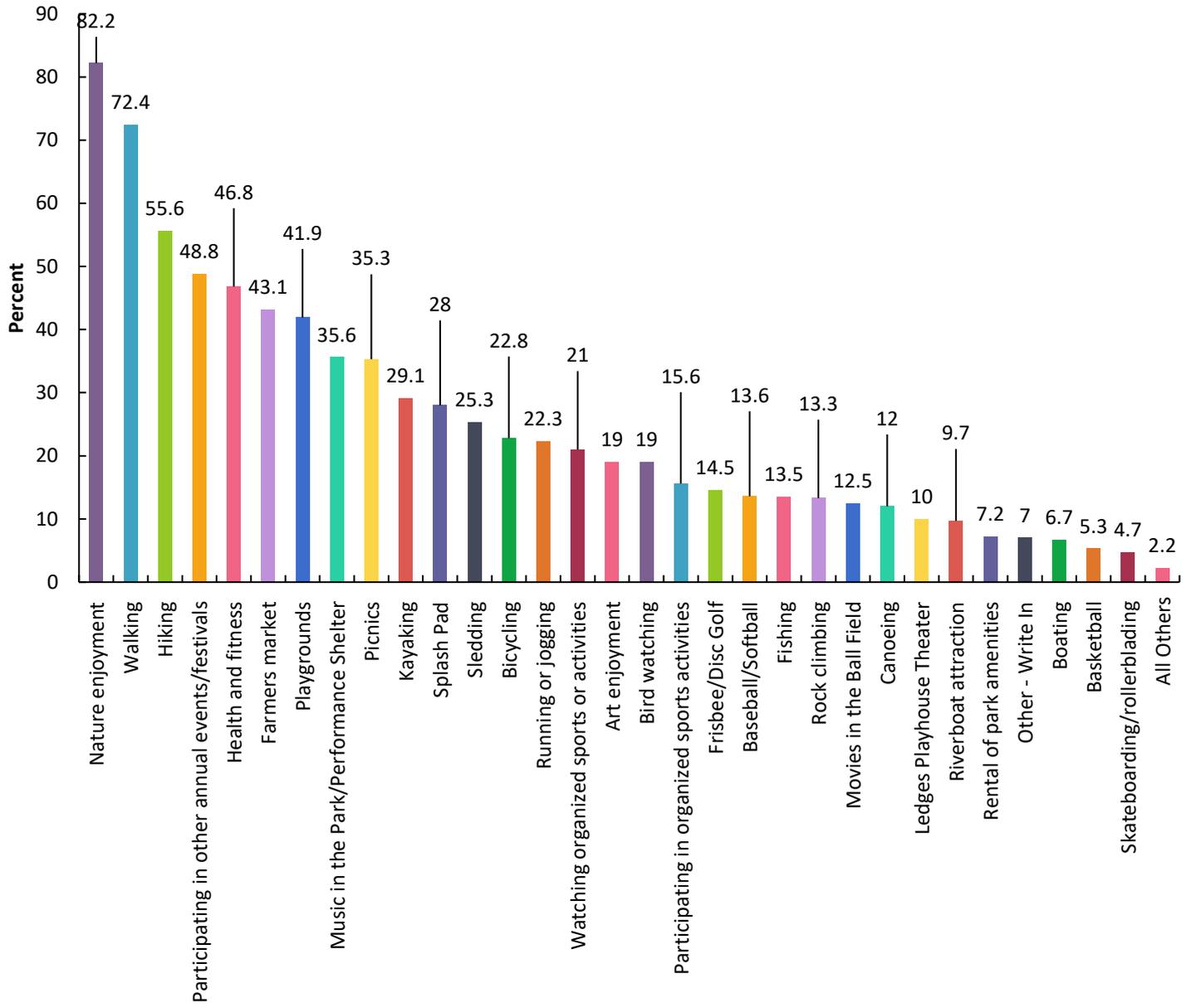
Q2. WHAT IS YOUR ALL-TIME FAVORITE PARK IN GRAND LEDGE?

*Majority of responses named, Lincoln Brick Park.

Considering all area parks and open space facilities owned and/or operated by the City of Grand Ledge, Eaton County Parks, and Grand Ledge Public Schools as referenced on the map above, how often have you visited the following facilities in the past years?

	10 or more times	5 - 9 times	1 - 4 times	Not at all
Bridge Street Plaza	131 22.2%	90 15.3%	208 35.3%	161 27.3%
City Hall Park	44 7.5%	36 6.1%	133 22.6%	376 63.8%
Colonial Park	22 3.7%	19 3.2%	122 20.8%	424 72.2%
Elaine Dible Memorial Park	23 3.9%	23 3.9%	72 12.2%	471 80.0%
Fieldview Open Space	25 4.3%	18 3.1%	89 15.2%	455 77.5%
Fitzgerald Memorial Field	163 27.7%	94 16.0%	179 30.4%	152 25.9%
Fitzgerald Park	316 53.2%	126 21.2%	124 20.9%	28 4.7%
Grand Ledge Public School outdoor recreation facilities	169 28.7%	79 13.4%	126 21.4%	214 36.4%
Island Park	343 57.9%	105 17.7%	102 17.2%	42 7.1%
Jaycee Park	324 54.8%	88 14.9%	96 16.2%	83 14.0%
Lincoln Brick Park	189 32.0%	84 14.2%	192 32.5%	126 21.3%
"Little Fitz" (area adjacent to Fitzgerald Park, off of Gulf Street)	43 7.3%	48 8.1%	109 18.5%	389 66.0%
Oak Park	133 22.3%	88 14.7%	170 28.5%	206 34.5%
Oakwood Greenspace	24 4.1%	28 4.8%	107 18.3%	425 72.8%
Riverwalk Trail	260 44.1%	108 18.3%	126 21.4%	95 16.1%
Riverfront Park	199 33.9%	88 15.0%	145 24.7%	155 26.4%
Unimproved pathway between Island and Fitzgerald Park	202 34.2%	98 16.6%	145 24.5%	146 24.7%
Wide Walk	132 22.6%	60 10.3%	117 20.0%	275 47.1%

Based upon your responses in Question 1, why do you visit area parks and open spaces? Please check all that apply.



Value	Percent	Count
Nature enjoyment	82.2%	494
Walking	72.4%	435
Hiking	55.6%	334
Participating in other annual events/festivals	48.8%	293
Health and fitness	46.8%	281
Farmers market	43.1%	259
Playgrounds	41.9%	252
Music in the Park/Performance Shelter	35.6%	214
Picnics	35.3%	212
Kayaking	29.1%	175
Splash Pad	28.0%	168
Sledding	25.3%	152
Bicycling	22.8%	137
Running or jogging	22.3%	134
Watching organized sports or activities	21.0%	126
Art enjoyment	19.0%	114
Bird watching	19.0%	114
Participating in organized sports activities	15.6%	94
Frisbee/Disc Golf	14.5%	87
Baseball/Softball	13.6%	82
Fishing	13.5%	81
Rock climbing	13.3%	80
Movies in the Ball Field	12.5%	75
Canoeing	12.0%	72
Ledges Playhouse Theater	10.0%	60
Riverboat attraction	9.7%	58
Rental of park amenities	7.2%	43
Other - Write In	7.0%	42
Boating	6.7%	40
Basketball	5.3%	32
Skateboarding/rollerblading	4.7%	28

Value	Percent	Count
Volleyball	2.2%	13

Based upon your responses in Question 1, why do you visit area parks and open spaces?

- Dog walking
- cross country skiing
- Photographs
- Photography
- Pokémon Go
- BOAT LAUNCH
- Covid
- Disc Golf
- Dog walking
- Dogs
- Ducks
- Horseshoe
- I checked other because of COVID I didn't go to any school sports events. Otherwise would have many times
- I use my mobility cart
- Just plain relaxing
- Kayaking
- Longboarding
- Meeting friends
- Michigan State University geology class field trips
- Playing Pokemon Go
- Pokémon Go
- Relaxing in area by and around the dam.
- Swimming
- Walking my dog
- Work for the Eaton county park
- dog walking
- dog walking, socializing
- geology
- skateboarding
- swimming

Please provide your overall opinion regarding the following aspects of City operated parks and open spaces.

	Excellent	Good	Poor	Don't Know
Park Maintenance/Appearance	134 23.8%	389 69.2%	28 5.0%	11 2.0%
Variety of Amenities/Facilities	74 13.2%	372 66.3%	93 16.6%	22 3.9%
Safety	142 25.3%	370 65.8%	29 5.2%	21 3.7%

Parks Survey: GLPS Grades K-12

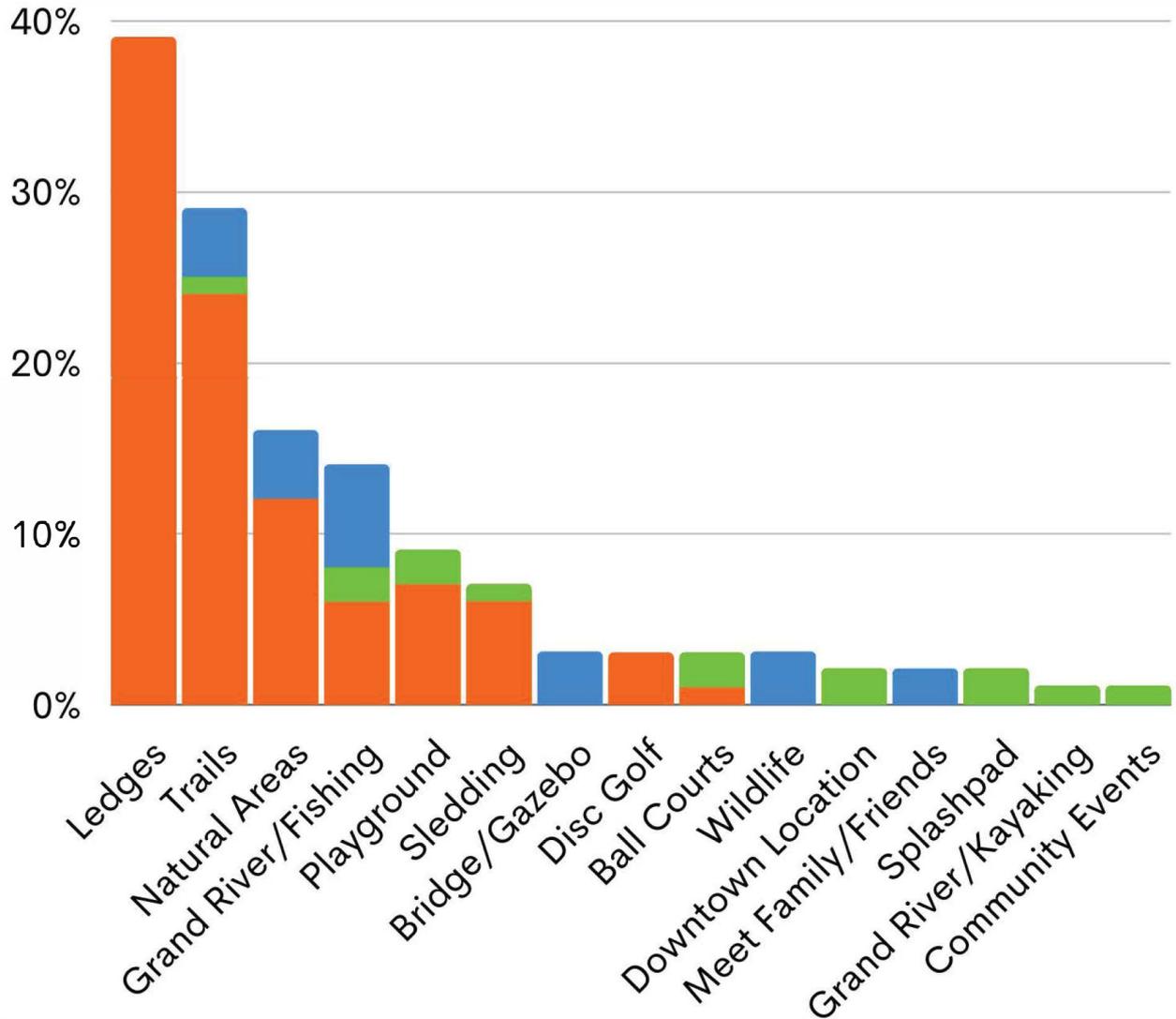
Q3. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT THIS PARK?

Answers from the top 3 parks:

FITZGERALD PARK

ISLAND PARK

JAYCEE PARK



"GOOD WALKING TRAILS." "LOVE ALL THE TREES!" "THE LEDGES."

"I LIKE THE NATURE AROUND IT BECAUSE I LOVE NATURE."

"IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL WITH THE RIVER ALL AROUND IT."

"AMAZING SCENERY, A GREAT PLACE TO MEET FRIENDS."

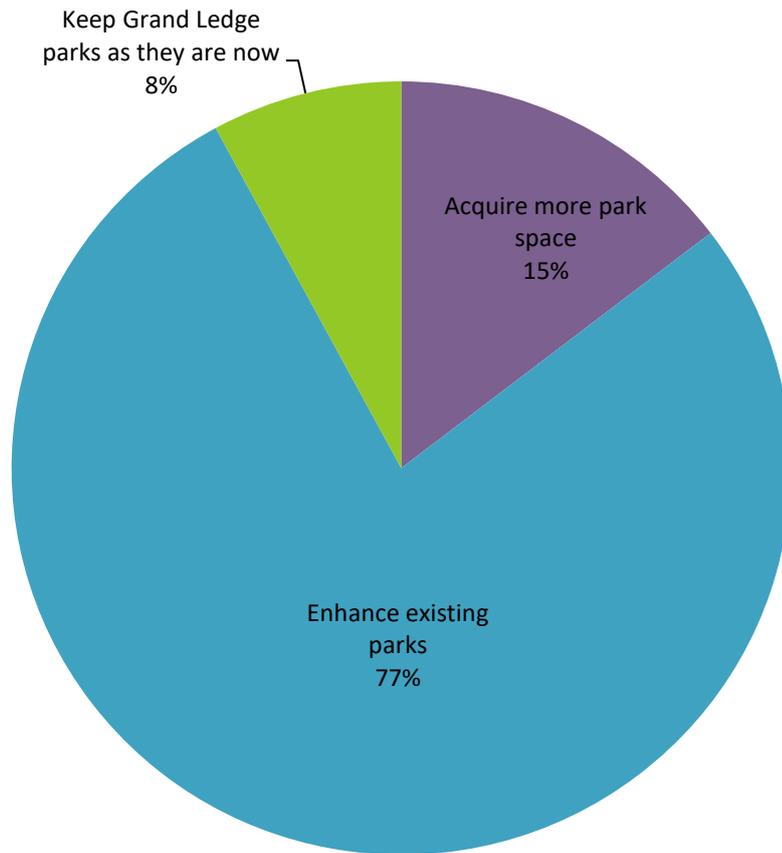
"I LOVE THAT IT'S BIG AND REALLY LIKE ACCESS TO THE RIVER"

"IT'S FUN TO PLAY BASKETBALL." "SPLASHPAD AND RIVER WALK"

Please provide your opinion regarding these recreational statements.

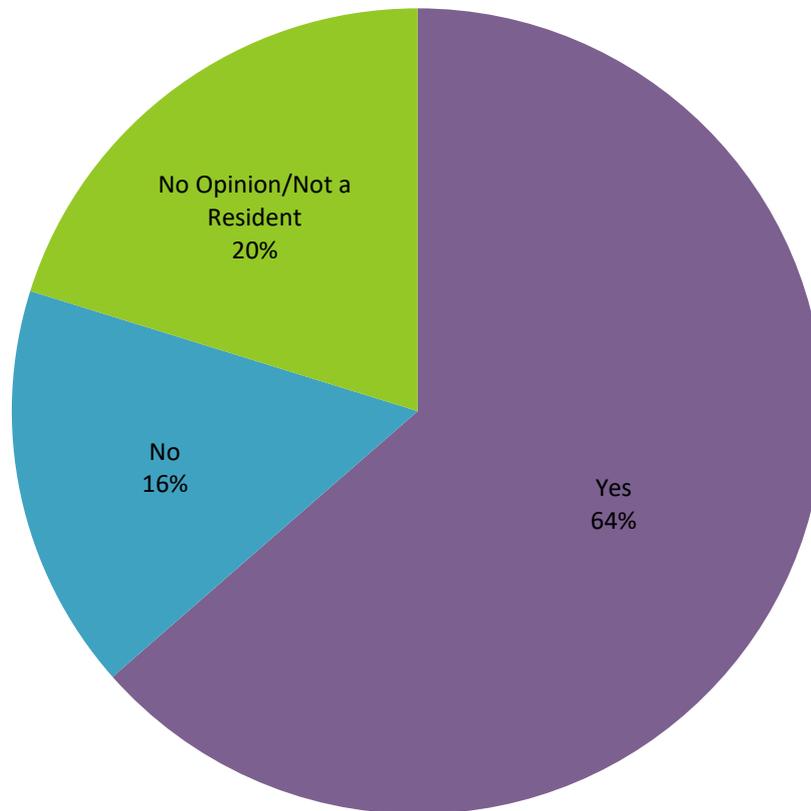
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
It is important to enhance recreational opportunities along the Grand River.	310 55.4%	189 33.8%	49 8.8%	8 1.4%	4 0.7%
It is important to preserve, protect, and enhance public access to the Grand River.	354 63.1%	174 31.0%	27 4.8%	5 0.9%	1 0.2%
It is important to provide outdoor recreational facilities and athletic fields within the Grand Ledge park system.	238 42.4%	204 36.4%	96 17.1%	15 2.7%	8 1.4%
It is important that Grand Ledge parks have non-motorized pathways and trails.	374 66.7%	161 28.7%	20 3.6%	4 0.7%	2 0.4%
Open greenspace is an important element of Grand Ledge parks.	258 46.1%	232 41.4%	64 11.4%	4 0.7%	2 0.4%

Considering the resources and funds available, which of the following is most important for City operated parks and open spaces in the next 5 years?



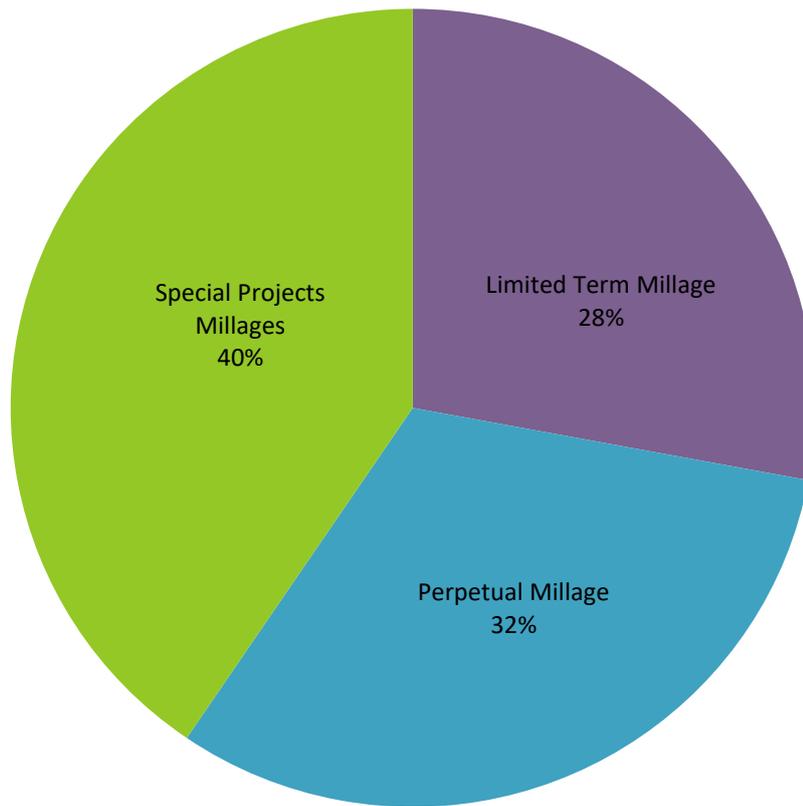
Value	Percent	Count
Acquire more park space	14.6%	82
Enhance existing parks	77.5%	434
Keep Grand Ledge parks as they are now	7.9%	44

Currently, the City levies 0.8 mills for Parks and Recreation, generating approximately \$162,000 annually to cover basic mowing, trimming, trash collection, and general maintenance for over 46-acres of City parks. In considering future Parks and Recreation revenue, adjusted for Tax Increment Financing, if one additional mill was levied this would generate an estimated \$200,000 annually allowing for park enhancements. For a home valued at \$100,000, that would be about \$50 additional per year, or for a home valued at \$200,000, that would be about \$100 additional per year. Would you consider supporting a millage increase for park enhancements?



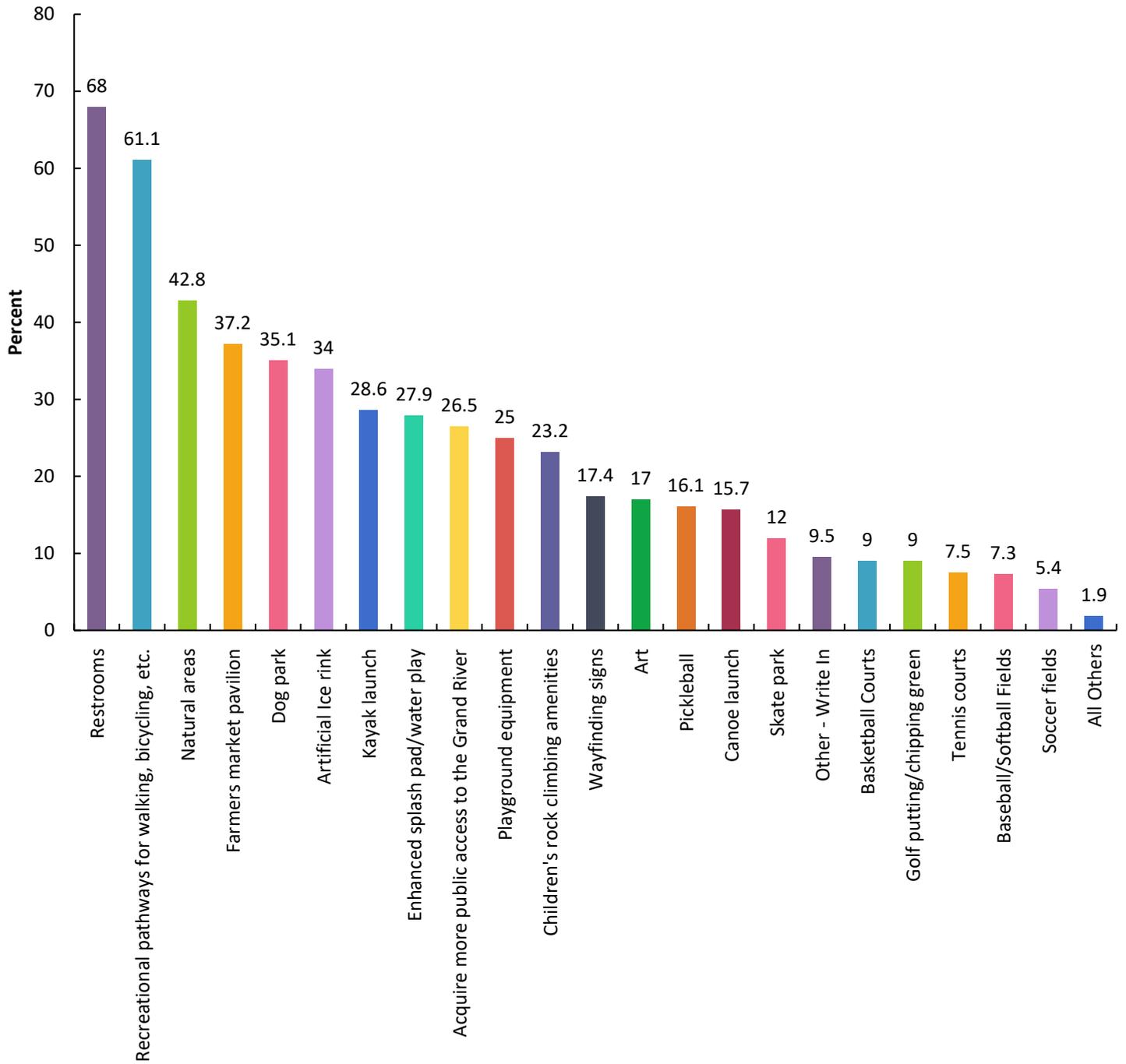
Value	Percent	Count
Yes	63.6%	356
No	16.3%	91
No Opinion/Not a Resident	20.2%	113

If you would support a millage, what type of millage would you support?



Value	Percent	Count
Limited Term Millage	27.9%	97
Perpetual Millage	31.6%	110
Special Projects Millages	40.5%	141

What additional facilities or amenities would you like to see added to City operated parks and open spaces? Please check all that apply.

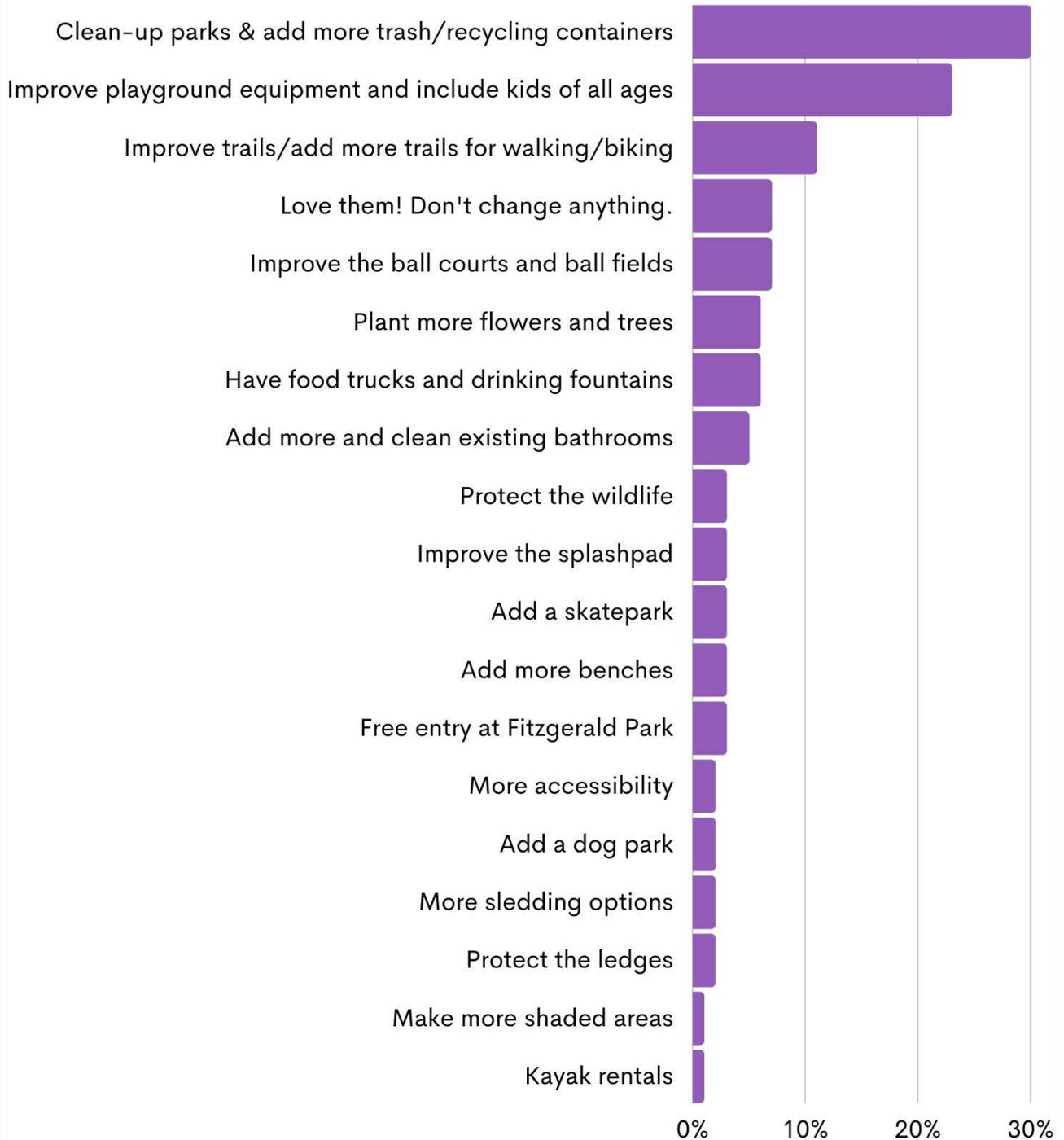


What additional facilities or amenities would you like to see added to City operated parks and open spaces? Please check all that apply

Value	Percent	Count
Restrooms	68.0%	364
Recreational pathways for walking, bicycling, etc.	61.1%	327
Natural areas	42.8%	229
Farmers market pavilion	37.2%	199
Dog park	35.1%	188
Artificial Ice rink	34.0%	182
Kayak launch	28.6%	153
Enhanced splash pad/water play	27.9%	149
Acquire more public access to the Grand River	26.5%	142
Playground equipment	25.0%	134
Children's rock climbing amenities	23.2%	124
Wayfinding signs	17.4%	93
Art	17.0%	91
Pickleball	16.1%	86
Canoe launch	15.7%	84
Skate park	12.0%	64
Other - Write In	9.5%	51
Basketball Courts	9.0%	48
Golf putting/chipping green	9.0%	48
Tennis courts	7.5%	40
Baseball/Softball Fields	7.3%	39
Soccer fields	5.4%	29
No changes	1.9%	10

Parks Survey: GLPS Grades K-12

Q4. IF YOU WERE IN CHARGE FOR ONE DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO TO MAKE THE PARKS BETTER?



"ADD RECYCLING BINS AND MORE TRASH CANS TO REDUCE LITTER"

"BUILD A BRIDGE TO CONNECT FITZGERALD AND LINCOLN BRICK PARKS."

"ADD LOTS OF FLOWERS AND MAKE IT REALLY PRETTY."

"ADD MORE TRAILS TO MAKE FOR LONGER HIKE." "MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS"

"ADD PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT FOR BIGGER KIDS
- TEENS LIKE TO PLAY TOO, YOU KNOW."

"ADD MORE SWINGS!"

What additional facilities or amenities would you like to see added to City operated parks and open spaces? Please check all that apply

Other – Write In

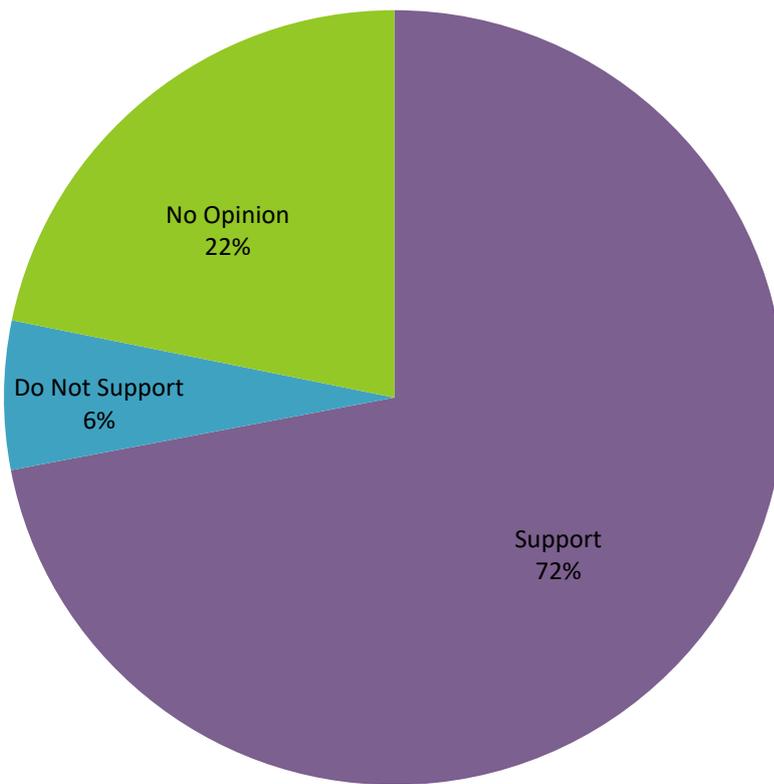
- Recycling bins
- A public pool/water park
- Accessibility for senior citizens
- Add more disc golf holes
- Additional trash bins
- Address ongoing erosion issues at Oak Park
- Better parking lot in oak park
- Better steps and boat dock at oak park
- Bike repair stations, lighting along the river front path for safety.
- Clean up the trails. There is so much garbage, broken glass, at Fitzgerald
- Connection between Oak Park and Island Park or Fitzgerald
- Disc golf course other than fitzgerald
- Enhance information about historical significance of various areas
- Enhance the walk (#14 on map) so it is t so muddy and treacherous.
- Erosion control w/in Oak Park
- Exercise equipment. Pull up bars dip bars.
- Free disc golf course
- Gardens
- Historical and/or interpretive signage
- I would like to see more preservation of nature. Less concrete. Less black top. Less "sculptures" More natural art. More natural playgrounds.
- I would like to see the bike path that runs on 43 go all the way to Jefferson
- IMPROVE YOUR CURRENT PARKS! Oak park needs a lot of work to it, it seems as if you don't know the trail goes down to the river and only focus on the open green space near the parking lot.
- Ice skating
- Improve Riverwalk Trail Safety between island and fitz park
- Improved signage at oak park for rules/safety guidance for climbers
- Lacrosse Field, move disc golf courses
- Maintain current infrastructure. MAINTENANCE NOT GOOD
- Making the river trail safer
- More and improved disc golf
- More areas for runners and walkers
- More blacktop side walks like in Saginaw highway by 22 acres
- More focus on farmer market and vendors, a community garden, more flowers and native plants, a butterfly garden.
- More informational signage about the geology/science of the ledges
- More non motorized trails
- More paved trails and longer paved trails
- Mountain bike trails and more walking trails
- Pickleball and would love a winter ice skating rink again
- Playground checked for Lincoln Brick
- Remove excessive signage and move trash cans to parking lot so vehicles don't compact the soil as they drive they the park rain or shine. Treat the parking lots to keep the dust down. The city employees are talented. Utilize that talent.
- Restrooms are of utmost importance and should be available at all parks that have playground equipment
- Sensory playground
- Updated playground at jaycee park for the kids

- bike and walking trails that connect so some of the longer lansing trails.
- cement skate park like Charlotte
- disc golf
- drinking fountains
- if you increase taxes anymore, I will have to sell my house. PLEASE don't. Grand Ledge is too expensive. Please consider all income brackets, not just the wealthiest. I won't be able to live here anymore.
- rock climbing
- upgrade play equipment
- volleyball courts

If you or a family member has a disability, please indicate which of the following are needed in the City operated parks and open spaces. If no one in your family has a disability, please skip to Question 10.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Flatter, easier grades	39 22.4%	54 31.0%	72 41.4%	6 3.4%	3 1.7%
Accessible playgrounds	42 25.1%	50 29.9%	68 40.7%	3 1.8%	4 2.4%
Accessible parking	62 31.8%	57 29.2%	70 35.9%	2 1.0%	4 2.1%
Accessible waterfront access	47 25.0%	58 30.9%	78 41.5%	1 0.5%	4 2.1%
Accessible restrooms	73 39.7%	59 32.1%	49 26.6%	1 0.5%	2 1.1%
Paved trails	52 26.9%	54 28.0%	74 38.3%	8 4.1%	5 2.6%
Accessible spectator viewing areas	52 28.0%	57 30.6%	71 38.2%	2 1.1%	4 2.2%

Do you support an extension of the existing Wide Walk to loop and connect to Fitzgerald Park?



Value	Percent	Count
Support	72.0%	347
Do Not Support	6.2%	30
No Opinion	21.8%	105

What park do you use most and what amenity do you wish it had? (405 Responses)



City Hall Park

- I wish it had a swing set for my daughters.
- needs updated playground equipment, swings and a play structure for younger children.
- I wish it had more playground equipment and things for kids to do.
- We use the park at city hall the most and would love to see an addition of swings!
- Could use more/better playground equipment.

Elaine Dible Memorial Park

- Please add a playground and play set to Dible Park and perhaps a half court basketball court. We have a large amount of children in the Candlewood and east side neighborhoods without quick access to other city parks.

Farmers Market

- More accessible to people who cannot climb hills or walk great distances.

Fieldview open public space park

- It has nothing and no purpose. Many use it to exercise and their children play
- playground
- an off leash fenced in dog park option would be great!

Fitzgerald

- would be nice if it was fully paved.
- biking trails, kayak launch
- park trails, wish it was paved, I am blind and it is very difficult to navigate
- playground equipment appropriate for younger children (1-3 years old)
- trash cans along trails and water pump
- dog park
- Dog park
- keep natural but add a dog park at the new part little Fitzgerald park area
- more shelter
- mountain bike trails
- winter ice skating
- a dog park
- disc golf warning signs for people.
- I wish it had a dog park.
- could really use a kayak launch above and below the dam
- field, needs a better playing surface. Too many rocks and dips all over. The hill is not safe by the stands. Need safe access from bridge st to the stands.

- Wish it had a restroom and a few more trash/recycle bins.
- More restrooms
- None
- None
- a kayak launch below the dam would be nice, as well as better enforcement of dog leash laws. Right now the biggest safety hazard in the park is people letting their dogs run loose after other dogs and people and there seems to be no enforcement of leash laws by park staff.
- Concessions
- enclosed dog area
- I wish it was cleaner. We went on a long hike and ended up surrounded by Broken glass, tires, and trash.
- more pavilions and restrooms near parking.
- Natural areas for walking and bird watching. More nature interpretive signs.
- I wish it had more nature trails. They go quickly
- I wish it had a splash area or at least something for smaller children to do.
- rock climbing
- I like it the way it is
- I would like to see the river trail improved as there are places on the unimproved trail that can at times be difficult to use. I would also like to see the trail extended to the west end of the park.
- more restrooms
- paved trails and improved bathroom facilities and daughter says skate park
- would like to see more area that would attract more birds, and other small wild life.
- easier access to paths for handicap that can't climb steps
- it would be cool if the drinking fountains were opened as soon as the health department allows it.
- better fishing accessibility
- can't think of any additional amenities.
- I wouldn't change it.
- More picnic spaces with grills. Easy accessibility to each picnic area. Accessible outlook over river/dam for walkers, scooters, etc.
- pickle ball courts
- A canoe or kayak launch
- Bark on paths
- Better canoe (and add kayak) rentals
- I love it as it is!
- Wish it had a bridge to Lincoln Brick.
- Accessible bathrooms on the disc golf course. Maybe in the area surrounding holes 9, 17, 18. A redesign of the course to move holes 1-6 away from the main park.
- I wish it had a dog park.
- I wish the trails could be cleaned up and better maintained.
- Longer trails
- More bathrooms available
- More/longer trails.
- My little guys would love a cement skate park like the one in Charlotte Mi
- The ball fields need to be usable for youth baseball and softball
- improved trail signage
- more disc golf holes and bathroom facilities
- better walking path for strollers, better bathrooms.
- Splash pad for kids
- pickleball
- pickleball courts
- better bathrooms.
- a store

- access to river
- Bathrooms opened, and the resource area opened by the dam
- dog park
- more paved trails
- nicer bathrooms in the back by the nature center.
- Better fishing access below the dam
- Groomed ski trails
- Love it there
- Maybe work on the trail because it tends to get really muddy and slippery in the spring and fall
- More bathrooms and perhaps a tennis court!
- Paved parking.
- Add softball fields for men's leagues
- Better bathrooms. Definitely ditch the always full portapottys.
- Better trail to the city park.
- Bike paths connecting the whole town
- Bridge connecting to Lincoln Brick park.
- Clean the logs off the dam. Looks awful. Disgusting that this hadn't been done for so long.
- Dog park
- Fitness equipment
- I would really enjoy a mountain bike trail and skate park . This could really be anywhere in our parks here but we have very limited locations for any type of bike use.
- more and safer play equipment
- No further amenities needed.
- Wish it had more paved walking trails and/or a track. Easy to get lost in woods, but do enjoy and use same.
- a clean dam.
- concessions
- Groomed ski trails.
- we love sledding and don't want to see it destroyed due to updated water treatment plant
- an off leash fenced in dog park option would be great!
- I wish it had more trash cans in the walking trails.
- pet dropping pickup would be nice to see. Better sledding hill.
- I think connecting the wide walk to Fitz would be amazing. It would be great also if there was a dog park.
- had more pathways through the lower (wetter) areas, and easier access through the more vertical areas.
- Perhaps more fishing docks/piers. Also a better dock/portage system for kayaks/canoes at the dam at Fitzgerald park
- If I could rent a kayak here, I would 100%

Grand Ledge High School track.

- Grand Ledge High School track Waiting for it to be open again. Overall more walking trails would be great.

Greenwood

- Greenwood is closest and wish it had a little bit more choices for activities

Island Park

- to have dog accessible drinking fountains that fill a bowl at bottom, but still regular fountain on top
- kayak launch area. don't need an amenity, just less goose poop
- better parking

- needs playground equipment and bathrooms. It'd be great to have a large wooden playground somewhere that older kids can enjoy too, instead of just basic swings and slides (think wacousta's dream depot or lake odessa's Swifty's park)
- needs restrooms. Would love an ice skating rink.
- recycling bins
- I enjoy the park as it is. Only issue I've ever noticed is the geese making a mess on the path.
- more bathrooms and eating areas
- quality, indoor, permanent restrooms
- restrooms or porta potty
- wish erosion wasn't making it vanish
- I wish it had restrooms open year-round near the parking lot/ball fields.
- I wish the bathrooms or pottapotty was unlocked during normal hours.
- I'd rather it not change significantly.
- Restrooms
- restrooms
- bathrooms
- restrooms near by. I know there are benches, but don't remember seeing picnic tables.
- Bathroom
- I use the Island most and I wish it had more festivals
- I wish there was an ice skating rink at the island park ball diamond like there was when I was a kid.
- I wish there was still a skating rink under the bridge. It was a shame to ruin it to have a grass infield for baseball. The skating rink was used by everyone, young and old, in Grand Ledge.
- needs simple drain of the walk where it puddles at the far end
- Restroom
- goose poop clean up
- Take care of the island before its gone!

Jaycee Park

- restrooms
- bathrooms
- bigger splash pad
- nothing, it's great!
- bathrooms
- Better restrooms
- more teen activities and updated pavilion roof. Roof makes park look run down when the other areas of it are new.
- Dog park
- bathrooms
- could use new play equipment and enhance the splashpad.
- I'm content with the current layout
- larger, clean bathrooms
- new, improved playground, enhanced. More art! More vibrant! More color!
- playground, fishing, basketball and splash pad Just open the splash pad this year please!
- Restrooms
- Restrooms
- restrooms
- Restrooms
- would like to see restrooms. Our family visits Fitzgerald Park often - enjoy the hiking trails, playground and open spaces.
- restrooms...not portapotties...near splashpad!!!! Neff playground would be used as it is nearer but always locked!!
- accessible restroom

- a better playground for the kids or an ice rink for winter.
- I wish it had the restroom and more seating for the splash pad and some shade for it as well
- Bathrooms, picnic tables, shade, area for dogs to run, lighting at night
- The park is so nice but has an outdated run down playground. It also doesn't seem that safe. Other parks have really nice playgrounds but not this one
- a bathroom closer to the boat launch.
- improved farmers market
- needs a real restroom
- needs restrooms.
- Restrooms
- should have a year-round bathroom. Here it is late April and there is no bathroom.
- updated/additional playground equipment.
- Pickleball courts!
- public restrooms
- I wish it did have some restrooms
- bigger and better splashpad!
- cages around basketball hoop pad to limit potential for lost ball
- geese deterrent
- I wish it had more smaller pavilions instead of one bigger one. Also wish it had restrooms.
- on site kayak, canoe rental
- Bathrooms, updated playground without weeds, shade on top of the playground, and soft wood chips. Also more picnic tables and a drinking fountain!
- Dog friendly play area. Trash cans closer to kayak launch area. Doggie splash pad
- I wish there were "real" restrooms (not porta potties).
- More playground structures and restrooms.
- Better restrooms.
- Bigger splash pad and playground area.
- I wish it had a really nice bathroom facility. Kids using the splash pad, families enjoying the playground, music in the park, and the farmers market need more than porta potties. I also feel like it could use a more substantial playground. When I visit towns like Lake Odessa and Hastings they have restrooms and large, wooden play structures at their city parks.
- I wish it had lighting on the wide river front path so it could be more utilized in the winter months when it gets dark earlier.
- It needs restrooms, especially considering families with young children use the playground and splash pad. Would be useful for events and during the farmers market.
- Not sure.
- Restrooms
- Restrooms!!
- RESTROOMS!!!!!! Pickle Ball Courts.
- Restrooms.
- Year round porta johns. People use the area all four seasons, permanent facilities would be great.
- more playground equipment.
- sturdier playground equipment since it shakes a bit or some smaller equipment for younger kids. Nice bathrooms instead of portapotties is always a plus! An ice skating rink anywhere in GL in the winter would be amazing!!!
- dog park. I'm a new resident in the area it was a negative that there was not a dog park when I was evaluating cities. The boat launch outweighed this although for the tax rate I pay we should have competitive park amenities with neighboring communities like Eaton Rapids and Hastings.
- enhanced splashpad and better playground equipment for children.
- fishing platform
- Enhanced water pad
- Restrooms.

- Enhanced splash pad and putting green
- Improved playground.
- N/a
- Bathrooms needed badly... Not porta johns
- more pavilions
- better stuff on splash pad, more playground options
- Restroom
- expanded splash pad
- bathroom
- drinking fountain
- restrooms
- Additional fishing docks with handicap access.
- Better Splash pad, bigger play place, better restrooms and an ice rink.
- Easier walking access from River St Such as staircases.
- Bathrooms that are actually open regularly!
- bathrooms and with easy access.
- Wish it had a decent bathroom Wish more free parking days at fitzgerald
- Kayaking
- Dog park
- I wouldn't mind some machines with bird feed around so people could feed the geese.
- I wish the playgrounds were nicer. Jaycee park playground is awful and falling apart. I would take my kids there so much more of the playground was good. I actually drive far out of grand ledge just so my Kids can play on a fun playground. Portland has some good ones. Also the splash pad could be better. It's a cement slab with water shooting out of the ground, my kids got bored of it fast.
- The Jaycee park playground is always in awful shape. No new wood chips, broken equipment, not mowed. It looks horrible and is unsafe. I have no idea why there is no pride taken in this playground
- I wish the goose poop was cleaned away daily near the park and others along the river.
- more picnic tables in Jaycee Park with more benches around playground.
- Would like to see restrooms.

Lincoln Brick Park

- a dedicated dog area for them to swim
- Bathrooms
- Better foot path trails with better access to a restroom.
- Like it just the way it is.
- I like it natural I hope you don't change anything there
- bathrooms with sinks
- We love it the way it is!
- needs more restrooms
- Perfect as is
- bathrooms by the parking lot would be nice.
- I wish it had some garbage cans along the trails.
- I nicer restroom
- River walk
- restrooms
- Swimming
- recycle bins
- perfect the way it is. Maybe a bathroom by the playground in the wide open area.
- rest room not so far away. Move the amenities (playground, picnic tables, and restrooms) out of seclusion.
- I would like to see better wayfinding signs into the park from the Tallman Rd/Main St. side. (Oak Park if only talking Grand Ledge Parks).

- Drinking fountain and clean flush toilets
- Tennis or Pickle Ball
- No WWTP-more security
- environment, more upgrades like playground, picnic areas. Move Farmers market back to Bridge Street
- ORV trail
- We use the soccer fields and the trails. It would be great to have trail signs as well as a skate park for the kids.
- We would love the playground at Lincoln brick extended as it's close to our house. We would love to see Lincoln Brick get bathrooms. The water to be clean with a decent beach area.

Oak Park

- I am a rock climber and go to Oak Park twice a week. There needs to be improvement to the stairs accessing the river front and almost all the existing landscape ties need to be replaced or repaired. It would also be nice to see a trash can put at the bottom or top of each staircase. Signage about littering and keeping dogs on leash should be placed along the river. Most of the climbers try to do their part picking up trash but this would make it all that more convenient. Thank you.
- I don't understand the 4 ft high posts marking the property. Usually things like that are in ground. Also the porta John Next to the peoples house on the hill by the kayak launch screens rude. Would you like a porta John next to your front yard? Its not like there wasn't any other spot.
- Bathrooms More parking
- needs one or two more trash cans in the parking lot. I pick up the trash of others quite often.
- none
- Better, delineated parking. Better surface under the cliffs. Improved anchors for climbers up top.
- improvements on benches and drainage in climbing area
- More grass growing where it should be but can't because it is driven on every Monday Wednesday Friday to collect one bag of trash. A simple solution would be to unchain the trash can from the tree and place it in the parking lot.
- more trails & more riverside access
- rock climbing, restrooms.
- A restroom would be awesome... but I love Oak Park even without one!
- Oak park for the sole use of rock climbing. There needs to be a public restroom built as most of us are there from dawn till dusk when we visit, most of us are driving from all over the state. Rarely do I see a local there.
- I wish it had a family climbing club!
- I wish that the grass was allowed to be longer and the leaves remain in the fall.
- kids playground and paved parking lot
- restrooms would be fantastic but not a must. Keep rock climbing accessible! I know tons of people that come to GL solely to climb but also end up having dinner and putting into the local businesses
- Restrooms. As a female climber that likes to spend the day out there, that would be an amazing addition.
- Oak park rock climbing by far. Only outdoor climbing in 300 miles. Grand ledge doesn't realize what a gold mine they have.
- bathrooms
- bathrooms or even continuing the porto john would be nice
- Better bathroom with running water
- grand ledge misses the supporting businesses to reach a real tourism highlight it should be with its unique features. City counsel needs to all resign in my personal opinion, they don't seem to have the city's well being at heart amid this covid nonsense. Choose to push fear over facts.
- I wish it had permanent restroom facilities. Also because of the sheer number of people who set up top ropes at Oak Park I would lime to see more permonant anchors at the top of the cliffs
- more accessibility for climbers/ over beautification of the area

- portapotties or restroom
- preservation - just good natural undisturbed nature is best
- restroom
- Restroom
- Restrooms
- Restrooms
- restrooms
- restrooms
- walkway that was plowed in the winter
- How about work out equipment?
- Bathrooms
- I wish there were better stairs leading to the bottom of the climbing area
- Improved pathways over muddy areas to keep people on trail instead of trampling off trail to avoid water. Restroom.
- restroom facilities, paved parking
- N/A
- would love to see a permanent restroom on site.
- need bathrooms the ones that have them to keep them at all parks unlocked and maintained year round or at least 10 months.
- improved stairway to bottom of oak park
- a dock like island park so the riverboat can dock. Also better steps down to the river.
- Restrooms

Riverwalk

- I would like to see additional trails for walking and biking.
- bathrooms,/ changing rooms by splashpad
- less geese
- No changes
- Wish there were picnic tables, covered would be nice, around the splash pad. I wish for pickleball courts. I wish the playground at the riverfront was rebuilt with more safety in mind.
- Riverfront park/ music in the park. Restrooms.
- Riverfront walking trail
- Rest rooms
- Year-round bathroom.
- I believe they need year-round restrooms. I understand having open restrooms is a security hazard, but these parks are used year-round. Porta-potties are not cutting it.
- Riverwalk needs pavement or improvement - many portions are narrow and unsafe due to erosion over time
- It's hard with COVID but more events would be great.
- restrooms year round

Not Specified

- A connected safe continuous trail system or path.
- A fenced in dog park would be nice.
- a skate park because with out one public property is getting ruined there is more than one area around town were skaters including me have left marks that would take a lot of work to get rid of
- a skate park--such a positive thing for youth
- All of our parks could benefit from signage with park names
- I don't visit Grand Ledge parks often enough to speak to this.
- I currently use all. I like the change of scenery. No other amenities are needed
- I walk a lot and enjoy the community events such as the music and movies
- I wish there were more bike paths & sidewalks connecting all of grand ledge

- I would like to see a youth sports complex with more baseball and softball fields available
- I would like to see the splash pad improved, there isn't much there, it's more of a fountain that should be in a downtown area. It would be nice to have better parking and better access to the island parks and pathway. We would also love to see more pathways/walkways/boardwalk trails around the water.
- More clean restrooms
- More paved trails please.
- N/A
- No comment
- Pollinator planting more. Mowing less.
- Trails. More Trails.
- We are happy with the parks we visit
- We like to visit as many parks as we can but with the lack of people social distancing and wearing mask in the community we do not feel safe.
- Kayak access more year round
- Walking path. I would like something other than walking along the very busy and very loud M43.
- Grand ledge needs some Fenced in Dog run areas within their Parks. Some for Big Dogs and some for Small Dogs.
- Walking and hiking. Loved the farmers market in the old location and with more farmer vendors. Loved concerts, movie, theater in the park. Love festivals in the park. Need more restrooms.
- The splash pad. A better splash pad.
- We need more green spaces that people can walk to. We need more blacktop along Saginaw connecting to Jefferson street and maybe on both sides of the highway.
- More benches and informative signs

Fitzgerald and Island Park

- Bird boxes and maybe a nesting platform should be added to the inaccessible islands to add a variety of birds to the area. I do think more should be done to prevent the Islands erosion.
- bathrooms, working outlets, resting spots
- Bathroom, seating to sit along water,
- Seating looking at the river at Fitzgerald and a variety of plants that do not need much maintenance - grasses, hostas, perennials - perhaps at the entrance to both parks.
- A bathroom or upgraded bathroom would be nice.
- More/better restrooms and much enhancement is needed to the trails that connect the 2 parks
- There are places along the unimproved trail between island and Fitz that are hard to traverse, especially when muddy, that would be helped by some stones or boardwalk.
- Unimproved path between Island Park and Fitzgerald Park. A few sections have noticeable washout, general maintenance on these would make it a little less precarious with little children.
- Walkway & trail from island to Fitz park. Improved trail along river. I see people have trouble with all the tree roots and muddy areas.
- An ice rink or dog park nearby would be great in any park that can accommodate them.
- I am older now and a wide path from the island to Fitz would be appreciated.
- I'd like if there was more art and perhaps more flowers to look at.
- So wish that was an actual maintained path. It's gorgeous to walk that route!
- And it needs a bathroom not ports pot
- wish GL had a dog park and would love the river trail to be paved.
- Reopen drinking fountains

Fitzgerald and Oak Park

- park-paths accessible to Visitors with mobility issues

Fitzgerald and Jaycee Parks

- Please consider a skate park as we drive to Charlotte and Holt many times Spring, Summer and Fall to use their parks so our three little boys can practice on bikes, scooters and skateboards. Give kids that may or may not already play "sports" something fun and challenging to do outside.
- We'd love to see an artificial ice rink in winter, with so many young families in the area! More updated playground equipment in those 2 parks as well.
- wish both of them had functional restrooms that aren't porta potties
- Wish the limited pathways between Jaycee and the island would extend further in any direction and/or wish that Grand Ledge had a river trail like Portland does. Fitz is great the way it is when I don't have to pay to get in.
- I wish there was more equipment for the kids to play on, enhanced splash pad

Fitzgerald and Lincoln Brick

- dog park.
- trash cans out on hiking trails. A bridge connecting the two and/or connecting the wide walk loop to Fitzgerald would be nice too.
- better parking areas and safer playground equipment along with safe trails for small children
- Like them as is! Wish we had a place to play pickle ball!
- Both are fantastic parks. Just maintain current level
- A water fountain at LBP would be wonderful.
- more/better bathrooms.
- No amenity extras-
- Need a dog park
- I wish the trails were better maintained, graffiti and littering was discouraged, and that there was better signage about the geological and natural importance of the area
- Would love so graded, paved trails in Ftz and Brick for more use to a wider audience
- RESTROOM facilities would be awesome. We go to these specifically because we have children and having somewhere we can clean up would be great. Some facilities for younger children would be great too (2-5 year olds) some of the playground equipment is a little large (slides)

Island and Jaycee Parks

- I wish there was more bench seating around the area.
- I wish there were less bugs. BUT mainly bathrooms.
- Bathrooms would be nice. A dog park would be nice. Splash pad turned out horrible. Should see the one north of us in Carson city! It is amazing! But there is a lot of water used.
- year around public bathrooms
- Improved retaining wall at the island(by stairs) Improved playground equipment and bathrooms for Jaycee park Actually open the splash pad! And provide more shade
- There are no trash bins from Island Park until picnic area and I think adding more would help stem the littering problem.
- Restrooms
- More native vegetation, less invasive species planted for aesthetics.
- Better restrooms and more paths along the river.
- Both need restrooms that are clean & actually open/available to be used
- the huge hill from parking to playground-- need steps down
- . Lighting along the wide path (between JC park and the Island park) for safety, and to be able to use the trail at night, would be so nice. It would also allow for winter / evening events and festivities (as it gets darker earlier).
- Restrooms would be nice. We also miss the ice rink

Widewalk

- Again I wish that the bike path would make a loop down 43 to Jefferson so when riding a bike one would not have to ride on the road. I often drive to Portland to use their bike path as it's safer.
- Bike path along the river like Portland has.

- I wish it was extended and it would be nice to have some history or nature signage along the way. Maybe more benches or a watering fountain for the summer time
- Most important is the connection to Fitzgerald Park wide walk and the trail along the river connecting the Island and Fitzgerald. The city needs to really take advantage of our ability to walk and bike along the river! Look at Delta Township model! We drive there to use their trails! Serious upgrade needed at Fitzgerald Park also!
- resurface

Colonial Park

- LOVE that space for playing with the kids

Bridge Street Plaza

- Public Bathrooms and a few benches with sun shades.

Mount Hope Park

- be a great choice for a splash pad

Rotary Park

- If anything, another bathroom, or at least don't close down the one at Rotary Park in the winter.

12. What is the park you use least and what is it missing? (223 Responses)



Bridge Street Plaza

- nothing there but a sign
- miss having events (music and movies) here. Was centrally located. Had made events a night, with stops at Jaycee part and a local restaurant before stopping for music or movies.
- everything
- I think this should be developed with a building. Its too noisy downtown with all the traffic to use as a park. Its much more peaceful at Jaycee or Fitzgerald Parks.
- Nothing's there anymore. No concerts, no nothing. Maybe have it an outdoor patio for socializing. Maybe have food trucks come in.
- it's just really plain. I think it should have more trees and put farmers market there
- Not easy for me bc parking but there is nothing that can be done about that.

City Hall Park

- didn't know it existed
- n/a
- needs to be improved/updated.
- nothing missing
- I don't know, as I don't use it.
- I didn't know it exist. Grand Ledge does not mail out an annual guide to parks and features similar to other communities do. Many long term residents don't know all options.
- A resting/setting/viewing space

Colonial Park

- never knew it was a city park
- not enough nature hiking
- a play structure.
- the memorial park back in the nice neighborhood and any of the green spaces. Honestly I feel those benefit mostly the residents of those areas because it's open, undeveloped space that I'm sure they take more advantage of but they do have "attractions" to draw other people in. I think that's fine, however, if you want people to be aware of and use these spaces, then you need a reason for them to visit it.
- Doesn't have a park feel. It is like an extension of the property owner's backyard.
- Needs playground and better signs to let people know the park is there. I've lived here 40yrs and just learned about it.
- No easy access.

- No great access and feels as if you're in people's backyards.
- playground/playset, children's amenities
- Playground equipment Oakwood greenspace, the one memorial park, Little Fitz. Didn't even know they existed.
- didn't even know it was a park
- it is in the middle of peoples back yards. It doesn't feel like a public space.

Elaine Dible Memorial Park

- other small spaces which shouldn't be parks or need to be maintained by the city at public cost.
- Didn't know several of these parks existed. Isn't little fitz a vacant building?
- didn't realize how many parks i've never been too. plan to now try and visit them. so it wouldn't be fair fir me to answer
- Don't know
- Don't know
- Don't know
- didn't know it was there
- A reason to go there.

Fieldview Open Space

- Not missing anything—just not in an area I would consider walking on my route (across Saginaw).
- Pickle ball and tennis courts.

Fitzgerald Park

- missing skate park
- just overall not thrilling for young couple without kids. Haven't returned to it. Maybe more hiking or viewing places?
- more playground structures
- Ability to climb
- Not enough walking paths

Not Specified

- All None
- All Nothing
- All of the others!
- All the little "private" parks in subdivisions...who knew? How are they accessible other than through homeowner's yards?
- Any of the free space parks. Never knew they existed.
- Any of the parks without play equipment or bathrooms.
- Any of the small ones in town, hiking trails and nature.
- any of the smaller 'random' parks. I didn't even know they existed.
- Anything besides oak park
- Anything with little to no parking.
- Athletic. Not my thing
- Ay of the greenspaces. I didn't know they existed.
- Boring open spaces
- Brickyard
- Green spaces. Trails
- I did not know about 7 of the parks.
- I didn't know about half of the parks listed at the beginning of this survey. I wonder how inviting they look (like non-sketchy). You could mention them on the Grand Ledge community page more for visibility, awareness.
- I didn't know about the ones I've never visited.

- I didn't know that half of these existed.
- I do not know the names of half the parks for question #1 to answer this adequately. I do not use ball fields, and either invest in an outdoor farmers market space or give it up. More people go to Flour Child than any of the stalls by the river.
- I dont know
- I don't know
- I don't know
- I don't know because I didn't recognize half of the parks listed at the beginning.
- I dont think i have an answer for this..... maybe some signage indicating that it is a park or green space or city owned? Or some kind of general attraction?
- I don't think the parks are missing anything. Please do not put in a bunch of signs on trails that take away from the natural beauty of our parks.
- I had no idea some parks like colonial park even existed even though it's not far from my house. I think a better way of communicating where parks are and what amenities they have would be helpful. Signage downtown and in neighborhoods to provide information on park locations and amenities would be helpful.
- I have been a grand ledge resident/lansing west side resident for most of my life, and I have never been to or heard of several of the parks listed. Better advertising or amenities at those sites?
- I haven't visited all the parks, and I really should! My favorite parks are those that have lots of space to walk and bird watch and nature watch
- I tend to use the parks closest to me and within walking distance. There were several on the list I didn't know and haven't visited.
- I use all of them
- I use the inner city parks the least because I am not in those areas and they are not large enough to support hiking/biking
- I wasn't aware of most of the other parks even existing!
- I wasn't even aware of some of the neighborhood parks. Maybe some of them could be used for a dog park?
- Im not sure, maybe better sinage or some kind of attraction(s)?
- I've lived here most of my life and haven't heard of a few of the parks. Marketing and events a different parks would help get the word out.
- I've lived in Grand Ledge for most of the 41yrs I've been alive. Some of these parks I have never been too. I have a 12yr old daughter and a 22yr old son to give some perspective. I also have a disabled brother. Anything that would improve the parks for children and those with disabilities would be good. As an avid disc golfer anything that would bring more of the growing sport to the Grand Ledge area would be welcomed also.
- I can't think off the top of my head which I don't use at all
- Knowledge that they are available for us
- Lot of smaller parks, just due to location (if going to a park it's usually to walk/hike, so usually visit Fitzgerald, Lincoln-Brick, Island, or Riverwalk).
- Many and I wouldn't know their names but also newer to the area
- Many of the parks on the first page I've never even heard of, and I've lived in GL for 25 years. Dible park, Fieldview greenspace, if the map was on this page, I could give you more. I don't live close to them and have no reason to visit them.
- Many of them I didn't even know existed ! If I'm not in the neighborhood I guess I am not aware it even existed!?! Some I use often others never
- More natural areas, less amenities
- Most of the smaller parks, but only because of the pandemic.
- Most of them - distance, need to pay to enter, some I did not know about - are they open to everyone, or only those living in those neighborhoods?
- N A
- N/a
- N/A

- N/A
- N/A
- N/A
- Na
- NA
- NA
- Na
- Neighborhood ones, just don't live there too small
- No useful opinion.
- No answer
- No comment
- No opinion
- No opinion
- No opinion.
- None
- None
- None
- none I got to most of park in town or out of town they are fine way they are
- Not sure
- Not sure what to put.
- Not sure, we look for fun playgrounds for our kids.
- Not sure.
- Not sure.
- Not sure.
- Nothing I try to go everything evenly.
- Open space parks, I have no current use or need to go there.
- Parks that are off by themselves ex: Dible Park. Not connected to anything, too isolated.
- Probably one I haven't heard of, so that's why we wouldn't go.
- Probably one of the lesser known ones, although last year is the first time I heard of Lincoln break park and went to it. I was pleasantly surprised.
- Public bathrooms are needed in general for kids
- Random neighborhood ones, didn't even realize they existed
- Restrooms.
- Size. Access.
- Small green spaces. Like them as is.
- Small parks in town - no outdoor rec opportunities (wildlife viewing or water access).
- Smaller parks could go away, don't utilize
- Some I them I had no idea they even existed.
- Some of the smaller neighborhood parks. Just not something we've ever considered accessing.
- Some of the smaller parks are mistaken for "neighborhood" exclusive parks. If they are open to all public, they should maybe have a theme to draw in people outside the neighborhood.
- Splash pad
- Splash pad park (Jaycee?) is too busy for me I prefer quiet and less people but that has nothing to do with that park as far as a negative thing.
- The ones I didn't list owned run by city.
- The ones I don't visit is just because I don't frequent those areas of town as much.
- The ones in the neighborhoods, sell them those are not very public
- The ones that are not near our home, they do not look inviting so we go elsewhere

- The open spaces... Fieldview, Elaine Dible, Colonial Park... Just no reason to go there. Maybe it would be a good spot for a few picnic tables, horseshoe pits, dog park etc...
- The parks I don't use are because they aren't really advertised.
- The parks I use least are the ones that don't have a paved trail.
- The playground near town hall is an embarrassment. It's overgrown and has hardly anything. It's needs an entirely new awesome play set.
- The walkway need to be completed around the town
- There are many parks I didn't even know of till I saw the map at the beginning of this survey. I wish I could find more information about them and that they were advertised more.
- There are quite a few I've never used because I didn't know they were there
- There are several small parks that I did not know existed, therefore, have never used them.
- There are several that I've never heard of. Maybe what's missing is City advertising. What are the amenities at Elaine Dible park?
- There are several we've never visited.
- There were some on the list that I simply didn't know existed.
- Too many to name. Mostly that I didn't know they existed, as there have never been public events there, that I was aware of.
- Trash cans
- Unknown
- Unknown
- Unsure
- Use most all of them. Missing anything that takes away from the natural beauty.
- Use the park that used to have music for some musical performances also. That had a very good audience ambience. Should still be used.
- Wasn't aware of all the park land but maybe some could be developed more to make them more usable
- We don't use any of the parks like: colonial park and Dible, as it feels as though you are trespassing on home owners property.
- We probably use the neighborhood parks the least. They are valuable, but we just don't have reason to visit them.
- We try to frequent them all, we do wish there were swings at the city hall park
- We've never been to a few, that is just because we have not looked for them. Other than what has already been mentioned, there is nothing more to add.

Jaycee Park

- I
- really wish that they would put restrooms (not port a johns) at Jaycee park. Sometimes that park is crowded.
- more playground equipment
- needs bathrooms.
- bathrooms
- splash pad. Restrooms with changing area for the splash pad is needed.
- has no restrooms
- It's just small and doesn't have the nature that I like when I go to a park.
- pickleball courts
- Jaycee's Playground is always covered in goose poop so we avoid the Music in the Parks and stopped using the playground.
- We visit Jaycee the least because it isn't accessible for my disabled sister. We don't participate in music in the park anymore and way less farmer's markets since they have moved as well. The ground is not level and very difficult to access for handicap and elderly.

Lincoln Brick Park

- I don't feel safe being there, it is too remote and there are too many places for someone to hide
- A nice swimable lake ! Without a giant hill..
- A trail network connecting parks would be welcome.
- needs a better swimming area and Restrooms/changing area.
- Could use a restroom but that's not why I don't go there often.
- new items
- a connection to Fitzgerald across the river and pave Tallman Road with a trail to get to the park by walking and bicycle.
- it's beautiful, just haven't explored it much
- It is a pain to pay for parking and entry.
- A great big updated playground for kids
- Restrooms.
- We like walking to the parks we go to and that's too far away
- bike trails

Oak Park

- playground, seating, parking, & restrooms
- restrooms.
- More information about the attractions at these parks
- has nothing for small children to do safely.
- better accessibility
- bicycle rack
- equipment rental for rock climbing
- have young grandchildren, they want playgrounds.
- improved paths, steps and trails for safer use and access. River access point for kayaks and boats.
- missing amenities. More defined park boundaries. I use paths, but worry I am trespassing on neighboring land.
- playgr
- playground or children's climbing equipment
- Not many trails
- Everything
- Lack of access from the other parks that I frequent as well as minimal/no facilities.
- To many trouble kids , drugs
- it is good for hammocking i just don't go there frequently
- Not a rock climber
- it always smells very strongly of marijuana
-

Oakwood Greenspace

- could use some trees
- Never knew they were there. Nor do I know what they offer.
- No point to it being there. It is a waste of mowing time
- would be nice to have a garden club to grow vegetables and fruit for kids and people in needed.

Riverfront Park

- difficulty in seating , no parking , accessibility fir senior citizens is very limited . Stopped going to music in the park for all these reasons .
- Prior to this survey, I was unaware the area was actually a park.

- If there was a park program to borrow trash reacher grabbers and a bag, I would take one with me while I walked and clean as I went. I think that would be a cool friends of the park program.
- Be nice to have additional areas along river to exit the river in kayak and park vehicles
- It would be nice to have more art in places like under the bridge
- I love Grand Ledge! Any comments I make are not a criticism, but out of a desire to help make our great city even better. Although I'm not a city resident, we live close to the city and utilize the parks often. We would contribute to fundraisers because our taxes don't contribute to the parks.
- If you want to people to use parks and be more active you need a safe way to get there by foot or bicycle. Invest in more sidewalks & bike paths.
- Portland's bike/walk trail is amazing. GI should take notes on that!
- We pick up trash along JC and Island Park, as do others. We also take the time to educate others to keep the area clean, and that racoons are some of the biggest culprits of trash. :)
- Like showing off the city parks to visitors, Modify portions of the river to make kayak challenge course
- I would like a dog park, somewhere i can let my dog run around freely, as I live in the city and do not have a fence. I have visited my sister and my dog is soon excited just to run! I wish the parks had made improvements for children while my kids where little. Again, see the splash pad in Carson City ! See how it brings the community together there! Our little slab of cement that spits water is silly.
- Please look at my ideas. I wish there was just more to do.
- Please don't spend money punishing people disobeying mask mandates etc.
- A dog park is definitely needed and could be a good draw to the parks
- I enjoy all of GL parks. I love to see families out enjoying nature, and each other's company.
- Make the River corridor more touristy.
- I absolutely love living within walking distance of all the parks; Oak Park and Lincoln Park being my favorites. They are well maintained and great for hiking. A few garbage cans along the trails would be helpful.
- The improvements at Jaycee park have been amazing. Splash pad, kayak launch, the new amiptheater. That stretch between Jaycee to Island park could be packed with people (once it's safe to do so) multiple times a year. The festival that happened last year was amazing to have it stretch out. The farmers market could do something similar maybe-how about a couple breakfast/brunch food trucks come park by Jaycee during a farmers market and have activities at the island or ball field. If that was once a month, you'd draw a big crowd and get better farmers market vendors. Definitely keep up music in the park because it was greatly missed last year - but even that I think could have more vendors selling goods/food
- I wish there was some way to connect Lincoln brick and fitzgerald park. Also, I wish there could be a bike path going from Grand Ledge to Lansing someday.
- Please fence in some Dog Runs for Big and Small Dogs.
- Looking forward to indoor rec facilities. A community fitness center would be amazing during winter months. Only true facility with good equipment and pool is YMCA and it's a drive outside of grand ledge.
- No.
- Improve the existing parks. There is not a need for more parks.
- Down town development should be enhanced. Store fronts , island enhanced & do more with the island to draw people. Ie. Color cruise, art fair
- Thank you.
- I would love for Fitz park to have more amenities seeing that its a park you pay to enter.
- Grand Ledge has great parks. I am happy we moved here. I wish I had more free time to enjoy them more.
- Would love to see a bike path connect to Delta township by way of Willow hwy. We have a huge community of bikers that would love a safe bike path
- No
- Parks and GL area need more paved areas and restrooms

- The parks are one of the best things about living in grand ledge. Being able to safely walk thru town, visit the parks is wonderful. Anything to enhance them I am 100% on board with
- Thank you for seeking public input and for taking accessibility into consideration.
- Extending the wide walking trail down m43 to Jefferson and to the park would be amazing. Pickleball courts in the area would be awesome.
- Let's pass that bond!
- No
- We enjoy the parks and open space available. Wish there was a swimming area available
- More bike paths connecting delta, grand ledge, wacousta etc. we are light years behind progressive growing cities. (Portland, Lansing, etc)
- I love walking the trails of all the parks and dont care for any of the amenities. Love the rustic simplicity.
- Please add bathrooms. Real ones, not random outhouses
- I like what we have
- Please invest some money into the island park before it's gone, make the festivals grand again.
- My grown children use city parks and the county leased and owned parks.
- Keep our parks clean and safe without taking away from the natural beauty.
- I don't know if this affects Grand Ledge directly, but I've heard that Fitzgerald Park might close the back half in favor of expanding the water treatment plant, and I'm really hoping that there's a better solution. The back half of Fitzgerald Park is slowly becoming more ideal because of the nature trails.
- No thank you
- If possible, I'd like to see more bicycle trails, even outside of town
- No
- Love to see the natural beauty that grand ledge is privy to preserved
- Natural areas and open space are fantastic. So too are non-motorized paths in non-park areas. Thank you for having great parks!
- Thank you for updating our parks!! We love them and want to see them evolve and adapt.
- You could do an ice rink on the island that doubles for a stage during festivals
- No
- A mountain bike trail would be nice somewhere along Grand River if possible
- Try to get rid of the bees at Fitzgerald Park near the playground
- Thank you for the beautiful parks.
- no
- The Island Art Fair is in a problem area. It is a very crowded space, too soggy if it has rained, and too much goose poop. It is attractive in good weather but the space limits possibilities for growth and charm. A farmers market area could be set up near the Art Fair and have a real food area, maybe a food truck. I would like to see murals on the sides of some of the exposed building walls downtown. Make the Bridge Street Plaza more attractive with a garden mural and some plants.
- Please connect the wide walk and river trail to Fitzgerald Park! It is a must! Clean-up and upgrade Lincoln Brick and Fitzgerald Park! These are gems that we need to maintain better. Connecting Lincoln Brick over the river to Fitzgerald would be awesome! 21st Century thinking!
- Pathways for bikes and walking will always get our vote
- Love the many parks and facilities GL offers. Wish Jaycee still had a building rental. That was so nice for graduations and other gatherings.
- Preserve the outcrop with the coal near the nature center in Fitzgerald Park for all the geology classes in the lower peninsula thank you
- More art around town would be nice. I'd like to see something on the blank brick wall across the street from the log jam
- Improvement to the walking path between Fitzgerald and the island park, as well as Improvements to protecting and preserving the island park are on the top of my list of things that need to be addressed.

- I know this is about city parks but many sidewalks on Gretchen and Burlington are extremely dangerous.
- We need more protected bike paths
- Would love to continue the river walk with a paved trail for bikes and dogs. The trail between Island and Fitz would make sense. Then continue from Fitz to the new trail on M43
- The grand ledge parks are good and don't need too much improving.
- Great park system. I use it for walking, running, kayaking and concerts. And I often visit area restaurants when doing these activities. Thanks
- Love the Grand Ledge community, and love the ability to visit several parks close to home.
- I hate to beat it up but a better bike trail connecting the parks as best as possible would be a great asset.
- The splash pad was not a good idea. I don't support that improvement as it brings out of towners who don't support GL with their tax dollars. It's also a liability.
- No
- I hope the splash pad and music in the park is returned.
- N/A
- I would love improved restrooms that are open year round. Being able to connect the wide walk to Fitzgerald would be awesome.
- n/a
- Overall the parks are very nice and kept up well.
- Would like to also see the sidewalk extended to a complete circle
- Clean up the trails at Fitzgerald. Love the park naturalist At Fitzgerald and love the observatory at fox park.
- We love Grand Ledge - all of our relatives think it is beautiful and it is wonderful to be out in nature. Keeping our natural landscape and enhancing what's there would be awesome
- I think the city needs to think more environmentally about the city plan and this includes the parks. When developing something new, and when maintaining lawns, etc. we should be thinking more about Low Impact Development, and Green Infrastructure, and green energy. These types of things are what would mark us as "progressive". I personally have sent emails on grant opportunities etc for non point source pollution reduction, and green infrastructure, and didn't even get a response.
- A pedestrian river crossing at the dam or train bridge would be amazing. More and improved disc golf would be great. Improved facilities for the farmers market would be great. Keep parks pedestrian friendly and safe. The parking lot at island park can be dangerous.
- Thanks for asking us! Love when the parks are clean and trimmed without weeds!
- I'd like to see natural areas stay natural
- Jaycee park needs permanent restrooms, opened year round. People walk on trails all year. GL needs a grant to clear downed tree and other debris from the river to make it safer for boaters. If GL parks dept doesn't want people climbing on the ledges, a stairway from the lower paths to the Gulf St area green space & path would be useful.
- Do not add anymore construction projects and disrupt businesses and that small town feeling and quaintness we have been known for. If you want to enhance the parks please do with much consideration on how it will affect the community either by disruption or inception.
- Over all Grand Ledge Parks are great. Our grand children and great grandchildren use them often. Some are not so easy for senior use and access ability.
- We spend time in GL Parks all year round. We love the parks and appreciate the variety and all that they have to offer. We are not residents in the City of GL but, drive to the parks from Eagle. GL Parks is a huge draw to this community. The City of Grand Ledge is built to take advantage of the amazing setting it falls on. I hope the City of GL and the Parks Dept is able to continue to grow and expand upon this. I believe future growth and improvements will be a huge draw for people considering moving into our community and will continue to make GL a destination for recreation.
- We love the uniqueness of the Grand Ledge parks and their natural beauty
- With the rise of climbing's popularity and the pandemic forcing many of the climbers outside, Oak Park has seen an incredible increase in climbing traffic. More Climbers is great for the city of

Grand Ledge and its climbing community. Climbers spend money and encourage each other to grow! However simple improvements could be made that would lessen the impact of this traffic on the natural beauty that are the ledges. A better boardwalk/trail system would be a great place to start. Some railroad ties that were installed to protect riverbank erosion could use updating. There is a dedicated, if loosely organized, community of climbers that would be eager to work with the city to improve Oak Park, as well as national organizations like the American Alpine Club and the Access Foundation that would likely lend their expertise if not also grant money. Bruce Bright is a knowledgeable resident who has lived and climbed the ledges for something like 60 years and would be a great person to talk to about Oak Park and working with those national organizations. Unfortunately I don't have a contact for him besides talking to him at Oak Park. My own contact is benpoulson@gmail.com

- Keep grandledge open to climbers. As the sport grows access has been shrinking. Do not close to climbing please consider other avenues when considering safety and maintenance.
- Please keep rock climbing accessible!!
- Don't wreck nature.
- Oak park rocks
- Nope. Thanks for reaching out to the community
- Would like better bike path connections to the surrounding community; all Grand Ledge schools should be accessible via bike
- I like the wild life that I see at Fitzgerald park and hope to still see said wild life after the ball fields are installed at start of Fitzgerald park but the loud equipment could scare them off and that would be a loss of wild life to be viewed by people who come to the park to see nature and wildlife
- 1. There is a great need for recycling bins. I see all kinds of recycling items (plastic & cans) littered all over all parks. Provide recycling cans to reduce trash that will end up in the river. 2. Focus on what we have and make it great.
- It is necessary to evaluate the budget as is and not automatically ask for mileage increases.
- Not sure if this is still a plan, but I strongly disagree with any plans to expand or build water treatment plants within Fitzgerald Park. Doing so would greatly reduce the recreational appeal of the park and would be an ecological travesty.
- Generally, we are impressed with the Park system and the maintenance thereof. Most of our comments are minor complaints, and do not interfere with our enjoyment of the parks.
- Oak Park is a valuable facility for climbers in the power peninsula. I know climbers will do whatever is necessary to keep climbing access open at the park.
- My family enjoys the local parks and paths. They are one of the best things about being in the City. One of the best things about the past year with the pandemic was to see more people enjoying them, too.
- I come from grand rapids to climb at oak Park. Maintaining access to rock climbing there is important to me and other climbers from the grand rapids area. Keeping to rock ledge open to climbing probably helps bring in a lot of visitors from out of town for you guys.
- Fitzgerald Park is beautiful. I will bring friends there for their first time visiting the park. Also, when I'm walking the trails it is not uncommon for out of town visitors to ask me questions about the Park. I am so fortunate to live in a city that has this park.
- Parks and greenspaces are vital to the health and wellbeing of area citizens and must be prioritized, especially in this challenged time. More resources need to be devoted to improving the parks and greenspaces already within the system.
- It would be great to work with the climbing community to do more to prevent erosion at Oak Park. Many of us are concerned and would volunteer to help protect the park.
- Another fun attraction would be something like the tricycle track at lake Lansing South Park. Just something different and fun for kids!!
- I would love to help build a skate park I will do anything that helps my email is barberlogan35@gmail.com
- Please keep allowing climbing at oak park. It's one of the only areas in lower Michigan.

- Park maintenance should include best practices for maintaining and increasing biodiversity within the ecosystems that the park incorporates. Green grass in open areas are not as great for wildlife as they are for people. Need to consider ecosystems instead of what humans think "looks good".
- Rock climbing!
- Public access is important, AND preserving the river front's natural habitats is much much more important. The river front is not a renewable resource. Additionally, more accurate historical markers at the parks are needed, particularly in collaboration with local Anishinaabeg. See MSU Indigenous Studies Program or Nokomis Learning Center for support. The historical markers at Oak Park are incomplete and can be done better.
- Do Not Develop
- please add more public bathrooms - Jaycee park really needs one.
- We love the outdoor space here which is a big reason we bought a house in the area. We're also expecting so the playgrounds and splash pad will become more relevant soon. Would like better communication on park events in the future though. We love those
- Thanks for asking
- None that have been stated. Please improve Oak Park, it seems neglected besides what is climbers try to do.
- Thanks for working to improve our parks. They are one of the best things about living in GL!!
- We love the parks, keep improving them, it would be nice to see food trucks down at Jaycee in the summer, maybe during music in the park, whenever that returns
- Please reconsider the major changes and/or elimination of the sledding hill and other amenities at Fitzgerald Park without a replacement plan. I understand the need to modernize the water treatment facility and yet this needs to be a balanced approach. The recreational assets at Fitzgerald Park have been a jewel for this community for many years and should not be eliminated without replacement.
- It would be nice to see the farmer's market come back to the Bridge Street Plaza where it is more visible and allows for more foot traffic.
- I value and treasure the parks system and natural resources Grand Ledge has to offer. I would like to see greater education to the public on the importance of preserving natural resources and protecting wildlife. People need to understand the impact their actions have and be better stewards for the environment. Feeding junk food to the birds, harassing the wildlife, and littering are all examples of the behavior I've observed.
- I love this city and the many parks around. I don't mind if my tax dollars go to improve them for everyone :)
- Keep it natural, I work in grand ledge. People are traveling from all over the state to hike the ledges. Maybe a pedestrian bridge from Fitzgerald to oak park?? People outside of grand ledge have no idea those are active train tracks. At least signs stating it is active train tracks. A connection from oak park to lincoln brick park?
- I would love to see Grand Ledge have a trail simliar to the portland rail trail!!!
- I like the parks. If the city water plant expands, need to ensure the park gets more land added. Grant funds given to those parks have long term strings attached.
- We recently took a hike at Woldumar and I loved the way the trails were marked and they had a lot of large plaques explaining the area. More of that on the Grand Ledge Trails would be nice. That being said, I love the parks in GL
- I don't want to lose any of our park space!!!
- Very clean and maintained parks, nice job on snow removal at Fitzgerald for sledding parking
- Routine maintenance on trails and pathways is lacking. Boardwalks rotting, missing railings, wood unprotected and deteriorating. Garbage/trash lying about.
- More access to pools please!
- Love Grand Ledge!!
- No longer have teens in the house but years ago there was supposed to be a skate park. That never happened. We need to provide for them. A teen group should be formed to assess what is needed for that age group.

- Open the splash pad this year! Also back in the day as a kid, the baseball field under the bridge was turned into ice skating in the winter. That would be awesome to bring back! Something for families in the winter - sell hot cocoa and popcorn
- I would like to see a ban on hammocks. I was hiking in LBP and saw teenagers having sex in one, there was a family with very young children not too far away. There are quite a few people in hammocks who are noisy, leave trash, disturb the peace. 2) a sign warning people about using strollers on the Ledges trail from Island Park to Fitzgerald Park. I've seen people try using one, not realizing the type of trail it is. I've seen people use a stroller on the train tracks too.
- I would like to see Grand Ledge embrace the natural beauty we have in this community vs adding man made things to keep people entertained. I would like to see programs for our youth that teach and get them involved with preserving our natural areas. I would like to see activities for our youth and community as a whole that focus on embracing the natural beauty that is our town. Getting them involved may help us save some of it vs tearing it apart to make room for the next best thing that is vandalized or ignored within a few years anyways.
- Bridge connecting Fitzgerald to Lincoln Brick would be awesome
- I love the community events that are held at some parks. I liked it when the farmer's market was at the Bridge Street Plaza.
- Glad to see that the parks are being looked at for improvement.
- No
- Thank you for all the improvements to JC and the expansion of all the parks!
- No
- We have used the parks more in the last 2 to 3 years than the 30 previous years
- Make yearly county park passes purchaseable online.
- I love that Grand Ledge has so many parks and that they are well cared for. We enjoy walking the paths and also the farmers market, but wish it could be more visible and have more options. Gladwin has a wonderful pavilion and it's always full with a large variety of vendors. I often wonder why GL is unable to support a similar model
- Thank you for everything you do!
- A dog park would be so well utilized and there is space for it at Fitzgerald.
- Fitzgerald Park needs to be free to seniors!!!!
- Just would like some pickleball courts
- I love the Grand Ledge parks and look forward to seeing how they are enhanced in the future!
- Thank you for the variety of places to visit & for maintaining them so well. We love Grand Ledge!
- A local small dog park would be super nice!
- Preserving land along the river for public enjoyment is my top priority.
- I hope the parks continue to grow and improve!
- I really like the recent improvements too all of the parks and paths.
- Love the variety of parks and walking spaces
- Fitzgerald get a kayak launch like Jaycee has.

APPENDIX D

SOURCES OF RECREATION GRANT FUNDING

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

- Match requirement – minimum of 25%
- Development grants
 - Minimum Grant Request \$15,000
 - Maximum Grant Request \$300,000
- Acquisition grants
 - No minimum or maximum
- Goals of MNRTF Board
 - Resource Protection – very important
 - Water Access
 - Community Recreation
 - Urban Recreation
 - Economic Development
- Due annually on April 1
- www.michigan.gov/dnr

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- Administered by MNRTF
- 50% match required
- Minimum grant request \$30,000 (\$60,000 project total)
- Maximum grant request \$300,000 (\$600,000 project total)
- Funds a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects
- Applications due annually on April 1
- www.michigan.gov/dnr

Michigan Recreation Passport Grant

- Administered by MNRTF
- Minimum 25% match
- Focus is on improving and renovating existing parks
- Minimum Grant Request - \$7,500, Maximum \$150,000
- Applications due on April 1
- For outdoor *and indoor* recreation projects
- www.michigan.gov/dnr

Michigan Department of Transportation - Transportation Alternatives Program

- For non-motorized transportation (paths) and rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (bridges, railroad depot, etc.)
- 20% minimum match required, 40% recommended
- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, and villages. Other organizations may *sponsor* applications (i.e. County Road Commission or local MDOT office sponsors a township application)
- Rolling on-line application process
- www.michigan.gov/mdot Go to “Projects and Programs”.

Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (GLFT)

- Objective – improve or create shore-based Great Lakes recreational access.
- Must be located on the Great lakes or lower portions of major tributaries
- Matching funds not required but projects with local funding will be favored.
- Due in August/September
- www.gfft.org

Michigan Coastal Management Grants

Objectives

- Protect, manage and restore coastal communities and habitats
- Restore historic structures
- Revitalize urban waterfronts
- Increase recreational opportunities along Michigan's Great Lakes coast
- Applicant must be a coastal unit of government
- Maximum grant request - \$100,000
- Match requirements – 50% (some flexibility in match for non-construction projects that result in changes to local master plans or zoning ordinances, regional greenways, or include conservation planning)
- Eligible projects
 - Studies, Designs and Land Use Plans – must have a direct connection to coastal planning and/or resource protection.
 - Construction – boardwalks, trails, lighthouse preservation, habitat restoration, scenic overlook, etc.
- Due annually on May 1
- www.michigan.gov/deqcoastal

Other grant programs to consider:

Coastal Program – Great Lakes – US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Grants to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and to support healthy coastal ecosystems
- Rolling application process
- www.fws.gov/coastal/coastalgrants/index.html

Specific sports and sports foundations

- United States Tennis Association (USTA)
 - funding for tennis courts and programs
 - www.usta.com
- Major League Baseball
 - Baseball Tomorrow Fund
 - www.baseballtomorrow.com
- United States Soccer
 - www.ussoccerfoundation.org

Safe Routes to School

- For projects near elementary and middle schools:
 - Sidewalks
 - Traffic calming and speed reduction
 - Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
 - On-street and off-street bicycle facilities
 - Off-street pedestrian facilities
 - Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- Need to complete the safe routes planning process to apply
- www.saferoutesmichigan.org

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

- Conservation Transactions
TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas. TPL serves as an independent agent, buying land from willing landowners and then transferring it to public agencies, land trusts, or other groups for protection. In some instances, TPL will protect land through conservation easements, which restrict development but permit traditional uses such as farming and ranching.
- www.tpl.org

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants

- Must be part of a watershed management plan
- Projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution (streambank and shoreline stabilization, rain gardens, erosion control, conservation easements)
- 25% match required
- www.michigan.gov/deq - Go to "Water", then "Surface Water" and then to "Non-point Source Pollution".

Community Foundations

Private Foundations and Endowments

KEEP IN MIND...

- Match requirements can usually be in-kind services, donations, or cash,
- Most grants are provided on a reimbursable basis.
- Barrier free accessibility is usually required for improvement projects,
- Multiple partners, multiple jurisdictions can be viewed favorably – think "regional" projects.

APPENDIX E

ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION TO FOLLOW