



Grand Ledge City Council

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, 27 DECEMBER 2016

7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL

310 GREENWOOD ST., GRAND LEDGE MI 48837

- I. **ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL** – Mayor Kalmin Smith; Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Mulder; and Council members Tom Jancek, Rick Lantz, Jamie Malecki, Thom Sowle, and Don Willems
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Any person(s) attending may participate in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. The Mayor may choose to designate, with their consent, a Council member or a person attending to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The City Council shall not require any Council member or person(s) attending to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** – Any person(s) attending may comment on any subject. All presentations before the City Council shall be limited to five minutes per individual presentation.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** – The City Council approves items listed on the consent agenda by a single roll call vote without debate. If the City Council desires to debate any item listed on the consent agenda, it may remove the item and place it on the regular agenda for consideration in due order.
 - A. **Motion** – To approve the Tuesday, 27 December 2016 City Council consent agenda, as follows:
 - i. Financial transactions and bills.
 - ii. Monday, 12 December 2016 regular City Council minutes.
- V. **APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA** – The City Council may remove any item from or add any item to the regular agenda.
 - A. **Motion** – To approve the Tuesday, 27 December 2016 regular City Council agenda.
- VI. **COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS** – Council members and staff may report on discussions and actions of committees and boards.
- VII. **STAFF REPORTS** – The City Council may receive reports from various department heads.
- VIII. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – The City Council may again debate any item(s) previously debated but not finally disposed of and may or may not act upon the item(s) as indicated.

- IX. NEW BUSINESS** – The City Council may debate any item(s) under its authority not previously debated and may or may not act upon the item(s) as indicated.
- A. Resolution** – To approve the 2017 – 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
- X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION** – Any person(s) attending may comment on any subject. All presentations before the City Council shall be limited to five minutes per individual presentation.
- XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL** – The Mayor may make appointments and reappointments to boards and committees, may report on subjects referred by Council members, staff and residents, and may comment on any subject. City Council members may comment on any subject.
- XII. CLOSED SESSION** – The Open Meetings Act allows the City Council to discuss certain subjects without the presence of the public. The City Council may request a staff member or any other person the City Council determines to be necessary, by a majority of the Council members present, to attend the closed session. Once the Closed Session has ended, the City Council will resume the regular meeting.
- A. Motion** – To move into closed session, per the Open Meetings Act, Section 8(a), to consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing.
- XIII. ADJOURNMENT** – When the City Council has completed all items listed on the approved agenda, it may not take any further action until its next regular meeting or a special meeting. If the time is significantly late and items remain on the approved agenda, the presiding officer may ask for a motion to adjourn the meeting to another specific date, time, and place at which to resume and complete the approved agenda.



Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

THE GRAND LEDGE CITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD ITS NEXT REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, 09 JANUARY 2017, AT 7:30 P.M. IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 310 GREENWOOD ST., GRAND LEDGE, MICHIGAN.

12/22/2016

CUSTOM INVOICE REPORT FOR CITY OF GRAND LEDGE

VENDOR NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
44 NORTH	HRA/TELEDOC - JANUARY 2017	846.60
ABRAHAM'S TROPHY & GIFT SHOP	NAME SIGN	8.00
ACE HARDWARE	SUPPLIES	66.92
AYLES TREE SERVICE, INC	TREE TRIMMING	6,125.00
BOBCAT OF LANSING	WING KIT	453.00
BOBCAT OF LANSING	10 FOOT PUSHER	5,045.00
CAPITOL COMMUNICATIONS	ADD EXTENTION TO RING GROUP	115.00
CITY OF GRAND LEDGE-GENERAL	WINTER 2016 TAXES	517.38
CLINE ENTERPRISES	ELECTRIC REIMBURSEMENT - 2016	125.01
COMCAST	CITY HALL PHONE	245.96
COMCAST CABLE	ACCT 8529 11 402 0065318 - CITY HALL	292.00
COMCAST CABLE	ACCT 8529 11 402 0062661 - DPS	82.90
COMCAST CABLE	ACCT 8529 11 402 0065482 - PD	9.39
CRAIG ELECTRIC	REPAIR LIGHT IN LOG JAM ALLEY	362.00
CRAIG ELECTRIC	SEASONAL DECORATIONS	2,000.00
CRAIG ELECTRIC	INSTALL GASKETS	3,600.00
D HILL ENVIRONMENTAL	TRAINING	225.00
DBI BUSINESS INTERIORS	OFFICE SUPPLIES	148.61
EATON COUNTY TREASURER	LEDGEWAY TRAILER TAX - NOV 2016	395.00
EATON COUNTY TREASURER	GRAND OAKS TRAILER TAX - NOVEMBER 2016	352.50
ETNA SUPPLY INC	FRAME FOR TREE	142.36
ETNA SUPPLY INC	THREAD TAPE	15.21
ETNA SUPPLY INC	SOFT COIL	350.00
FIRST PLACE SPORTS INC	UNIFORMS	95.20
FORTINO'S MARKET	ELECTRIC REIMBURSEMENT - 2016	695.77
GRAINGER WW INC	HEATER/THERMOSTAT	532.74
GRAND LEDGE AUTO PARTS INC	SUPPLIES	323.42
GRAND LEDGE FORD LINCOLN	CAR REPAIR	4,384.08
GRAND LEDGE FORD LINCOLN	CAR REPAIR	100.00
GRAND LEDGE FORD LINCOLN	REPAIR PARTS	456.89
GRAND LEDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS	RECREATION AGREEMENT	25,000.00
GRANGER	310 GREENWOOD - RECYCLING	48.00
GRANGER	310 GREENWOOD TRASH REMOVAL	72.80
HASSELBRING CLARK	COPY CHARGES	868.83
LANSING BOARD OF WATER & LIGHT	LAB SERVICES - NOV. 2016	212.00
LANSING ICE AND FUEL	FUEL	755.74
LANSING ICE AND FUEL	ACCT #1-081681 - DPS FUEL	1,327.62
LANSING UNIFORM COMPANY	PATCHES	350.00
LOG JAM RESTAURANT	ELECTRIC REIMBURSEMENT 2016	500.05
MAURER'S TEXTILE RENTAL	RUGS	19.30
MENARDS - LANSING WEST	SUPPLIES	423.19
MID MICH BLDG INSPECTIONS, LLC	BLDG PERMITS/INSPECTS 12/21/16	1,490.00
MID MICH BLDG INSPECTIONS, LLC	BLDG PERMITS/INSPECTS 12/09/16	1,588.00
MID MICH BLDG INSPECTIONS, LLC	BLDG PERMITS/INSPECTS 12/16/16	5,244.00
MML WORKERS' COMP FUND	WORK COMP	1,812.00
MWEA	MEMBERSHIP 09/10/16 - 09/10/17	70.00
MYERS PLUMBING & HEATING	REPLACE BALLAST	190.00

MYERS PLUMBING & HEATING	WORK AT WWTP	1,983.49
OKINAWAN ACADEMY OF MARTIAL	ELECTRIC REIMBURSEMENT - 2016	125.01
OLD DOMINION BRUSH INC	VACUUM FOR LEAF TRUCK/TRAILER	44,750.00
ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP	WINTER 2016 - 030-014-100-045-02	56.45
ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP	WINTER TAX 030-013-200-005-00	3,158.03
ONEIDA CHARTER TOWNSHIP	WINTER 2016 TAX - 030-014-200-060-00	43.06
PARAGON LABORATORIES, INC.	MERCURY TESTING	195.00
PARAGON LABORATORIES, INC.	MERCURY TESTING	180.00
PITNEY BOWES, INC.	METER SCALE UPDATES/RENTAL	256.44
REPCO PAPER, BAGS AND MORE	CAN LINERS	194.50
VILLA SALVADOR AND ELIAS	TAX OVERPAY 400-003-400-082-00	7.42
SHELL FLEET PLUS	FUEL - PD	1,247.52
SPARROW OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	PHYSICALS	437.50
SPARROW OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH	PHYSICALS	770.00
SPICER GROUP	PARK AND RECREATION PLAN	301.75
SPRINT	PD CELLS - ACCT 925230661	5.59
STATE OF MICHIGAN -MDEQ	NPDES PERMIT - 2017 MI0020800 - GL WWTP	5,500.00
THRUN LAW FIRM, P.C.	PROSECUTIONS - NOV 2016	767.25
TRANSUNION RISK AND	BACKGROUND CHECKS	25.00
TRI COUNTY REGIONAL PLANN COMM	GLRC DUES - 2017	6,287.50
USA BLUE BOOK	SENSOR	894.91
VERIZON WIRELESS	ACCT 242013090-00001 - DPS CELLS	406.00
WESLEYAN NAZARENE CHURCH	COMM ROOM RENTAL DEPOSIT	100.00
WINZER CORPORATION	HEAT SEAL BUTTON CONNECTORS	120.30
YES CENTER	ELECTRIC REIMBURSEMENT - 2016	125.01
	GRAND TOTAL:	136,020.20
Manual Checks Prior to Council Mtg		
RELIANCE STANDARD LIFE	SHORT TERM DISABILITY - JAN 2017	405.00
STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	VISION/DENTAL - JAN 2017	3020.24
EATON COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS	FILING FEES	90.00
	TOTAL CHECKS	3,515.24

**GRAND LEDGE CITY COUNCIL
310 GREENWOOD ST.
GRAND LEDGE MI 48837
(517) 627-2149**

**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2016
7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
310 GREENWOOD ST.**

- I. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL** – Mayor Kalmin Smith; Mayor Pro-Tem Keith Mulder; and Council members Tom Jancek, Rick Lantz, Jamie Malecki, Thom Sowle, and Don Willems
OTHERS PRESENT – Adam Smith, City Administrator; Gregory Newman, City Clerk; Cheryl Grice, Finance Director / City Treasurer; Martin Underhill, Chief of Police; Susan Stachowiak, Zoning Administrator; Ameer King, Assistant City Administrator; Kurt Ristow, Utilities Supervisor; Gordon VanWieren, City Attorney;

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Smith led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Don Keller, 201 Ledge St., commented on the “Park Property” signs at the Oak Park boundary and the lack of signs at other park property.

Tom Dart, 10549 Eaton Hwy., commented on the “No Trespassing” signs at the Grand Ledge Willis Industrial Park boundary.

Kassandra Lutz, 715 W. Main St., commented on the Water and Sewer Fund and General Fund fund balances, asked about the Water and Sewer Fund bonds, and commented on an online petition addressing the cost and quality of City water.

Linda Parks, 43 Ferguson St., commented on the cost and quality of City water, and the City’s attitude toward water customers.

Andrew Marsh, 300 W. South St. and McDonald’s, commented on the cost and quality of City water, and the impact of City water quality on local businesses.

Ranjit Singh, 11747 W. Andre Dr., commented on the cost and quality of City water.

Tim Holland, Representative Tom Barrett’s office, introduced himself and welcomed comments.

John Phillipich, 11805 Stonebluff Dr., commented on the cost and quality of City water, and the City’s communication with utility customers.

Edward Webber, 212 E. Front St., commented on the cost and quality of City water.

Dan Muska, Grand Ledge Ravines Manager, commented on the testing and quality of City water.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

A. Motion (from staff) – To approve the Monday, 12 December 2016 City Council consent agenda, as follows:

- i. Financial transactions and bills.
- ii. Monday, 28 November 2016 regular City Council minutes.
- iii. Traffic Control Orders #2016-06 and #2016-07.
- iv. Resolution #42 of 2016 – To approve Contract Modification #01 for the Jenne St. Reconstruction Project.

COUNCIL MEMBER MALECKI MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER WILLEMS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2016 CITY COUNCIL CONSENT AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

A. Motion – To approve the Monday, 12 December 2016 regular City Council agenda.

COUNCIL MEMBER LANTZ MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER WILLEMS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2016 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. COMMITTEE AND BOARD REPORTS

VII. STAFF REPORTS

Administrator's Office

Michigan Rural Water Association

Mike Engels, Michigan Rural Water Association, presented the rate study used to establish the current water and sewer rates.

The Council discussed the rate study used to establish the current water and sewer rates, the City's infrastructure improvements, the quarterly billing cycle, the City's efforts to communicate with residents and business owners, the accounting constraints on the Water and Sewer Fund prohibiting use of the money in other funds, the costs included in the rate study, the codes listed on the utility bill to designate the different rates and charges, the City's fiscal year and the time-frame of water and sewer rates, the State of Michigan's new asset management requirement for all communities with greater than 1,000 population, the Water and Sewer Fund fund balance needed to provide adequate cost coverage, and the \$4.5M wastewater treatment plant improvement project.

Dick Peffley, Board of Water and Light General Manager, commented on the Board of Water and Light's utilities and coverage area, and on its current negotiations with five municipalities.

Scott Hamelink, Board of Water and Light Water Division Director, commented on the past year's discussions to serve the City, mentioned the preliminary \$5,500,000 to \$6,500,000 cost to connect to the City, and commented on expected reduced water usage due to the Board's softened water.

The Council discussed the redundancies needed to maintain emergency water supply and the ongoing costs of maintaining the City's system to distribute water, the continued sewage treatment by the City, the options of bringing Board of Water and Light water from Watertown Township or Delta Township, the State's requirement for a study to determine feasibility and safety, and the option of building a water softening plant.

Adam Smith, City Administrator, mentioned the public statement available on the City's website and at City Hall explaining the City's Water and Sewer Fund revenues and expenditures, and the additional water and sewer information available on the City's website and at City Hall.

Amee King, Assistant City Administrator, reported on personnel turn-over and the Library parking lot project, and thanked Don Collins for his extra effort in maintaining City Hall.

Clerk's Department

Gregory Newman, City Clerk, reported on the Charter Commission and the 08 November 2016 recount.

Finance Department – Revenue / Expenditure Report

Cheryl Grice, Finance Director / City Treasurer, reported on the audit services request for proposal and the online credit card payment system.

Police Department

Martin Underhill, Chief of Police, reported on the traffic study and traffic calming measures implemented at the E. Lincoln St. and Taylor St. intersection, and on downtown resident parking permit changes and communication efforts.

Department of Public Services

Adam Smith, City Administrator, mentioned the Department of Public Services monthly report included in the packet, and mentioned last night's staff efforts to clear roads, sidewalks, and parking lots.

Assessing Department

Adam Smith, City Administrator, mentioned the City Assessor's monthly report included in the packet.

Planning and Zoning Department

Susan Stachowiak, Zoning Administrator, reported on the Planning Commission's approval of Meadow Woods East Phase 2, Fieldstone Farms Estates Phase 5, Zoning Ordinance amendments, and its annual report and work plan.

COUNCIL MEMBER WILLEMS LEFT, AT 9:04 P.M.

The Council discussed the development approved in Meadow Woods East Phase 2.

Building Department

Adam Smith, City Administrator, mentioned the Building Official's monthly report included in the packet.

- A. Motion – To receive and place on file the November 2016 staff reports.**

COUNCIL MEMBER MALECKI MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER SOWLE SECONDED, TO RECEIVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE NOVEMBER 2016 STAFF REPORTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution #43 of 2016 – To approve the Site Plan for Meadow Woods East Phase 2, contingent upon the conditions contained in the Engineer's letter dated 22 November 2016.**

COUNCIL MEMBER MULDER MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER SOWLE SECONDED, TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #43 OF 2016, TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR MEADOW WOODS EAST PHASE 2, CONTINGENT UPON THE CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE ENGINEER'S LETTER DATED 22 NOVEMBER 2016.

Adam Smith, City Administrator, explained the continued Meadow Woods East development.

Susan Stachowiak, Zoning Administrator, reported the Planning Commission recommends approving Meadow Woods East Phase 2 and the site plan meets all Zoning Ordinance requirements.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #43 OF 2016, TO APPROVE THE SITE PLAN FOR MEADOW WOODS EAST PHASE 2, CONTINGENT UPON THE CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE ENGINEER'S LETTER DATED 22 NOVEMBER 2016, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Motion – To receive the Planning Commission 2016 Annual Report and 2017 Work Plan.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULDER MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LANTZ SECONDED, TO RECEIVE THE PLANNING COMMISSION 2016 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2017 WORK PLAN.

Susan Stachowiak, Zoning Administrator, explained the Annual Report and Work Plan covers the Planning Commission's work in 2016 and its proposed work for 2017.

MOTION TO RECEIVE THE PLANNING COMMISSION 2016 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2017 WORK PLAN, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Motion – To approve a revised Fieldstone Subdivision Phase 5 Preliminary Plat, dated 27 January 2016, contingent upon the conditions contained in the Zoning Administrator's memorandum dated 07 December 2016.

COUNCIL MEMBER SOWLE MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LANTZ SECONDED, TO APPROVE A REVISED FIELDSTONE SUBDIVISION PHASE 5 PRELIMINARY PLAT, DATED 27 JANUARY 2016, CONTINGENT UPON THE CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMORANDUM DATED 07 DECEMBER 2016.

Susan Stachowiak, Zoning Administrator, reported on the development of the land covered in the 425 Agreement approved 22 June 2015 and the Planning Commission recommends approving the Fieldstone Subdivision Phase 5 Preliminary Plat.

MOTION TO APPROVE A REVISED FIELDSTONE SUBDIVISION PHASE 5 PRELIMINARY PLAT, DATED 27 JANUARY 2016, CONTINGENT UPON THE CONDITIONS CONTAINED IN THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S MEMORANDUM DATED 07 DECEMBER 2016, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Motion – To approve the 2017 - 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, as recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

COUNCIL MEMBER MULDER MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER LANTZ SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE 2017 - 2021 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION.

Adam Smith, City Administrator, mentioned the Parks and Recreation Commission's work on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and reported the Parks and Recreation Commission recommends approving the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2017 - 2021 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

X. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Unidentified audience member expressed support of getting water from the Board of Water and Light.

Andrew Marsh, 300 W. South St. and McDonald's, asked for an explanation for the change in acronyms from DS to FW.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Council member Mulder mentioned the successful Christmas Parade.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Motion** – To move into closed session, per the Open Meetings Act, Section 8(h), to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute, per the Freedom of Information Act, Section 13(g), information or records subject to the attorney-client privilege.

COUNCIL MEMBER MALECKI MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER SOWLE SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION, PER THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT, SECTION 8(H), TO CONSIDER MATERIAL EXEMPT FROM DISCUSSION OR DISCLOSURE BY STATE OR FEDERAL STATUTE, PER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, SECTION 13(G), INFORMATION OR RECORDS SUBJECT TO THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, AT 9:26 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

COUNCIL MEMBER MALECKI MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER SOWLE SECONDED, TO RETURN TO THE MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2016 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, AT 10:49 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL MEMBER MALECKI MOVED, COUNCIL MEMBER SOWLE SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2016, REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, AT 10:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

Kalmin D. Smith, Mayor

Grand Ledge City Council Resolution #_____ of 2016

A Resolution to Approve the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

A resolution adopted by the Grand Ledge City Council, at a regular meeting held on Tuesday, 27 December 2016, in the Council chambers, City Hall, 310 Greenwood St. Grand Ledge, Michigan.

Whereas, the City of Grand Ledge, Michigan (“City”) is a municipal corporation organized under the provisions of the Home Rule City Act, Public Act 279 of 1909, as amended, and is governed by the provisions of the Grand Ledge City Charter adopted 03 January 1963, as amended (“Charter”); and

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Commission has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2017 through 2021, and

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Commission began the process of developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

Whereas, residents of the City were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

Whereas, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for a period of at least thirty days, and

Whereas, a public hearing was held on 01 December 2016 at Grand Ledge City Hall to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the draft 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

Whereas, the Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the City;

Now, Therefore, It Is Resolved:

1. The City adopts the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Motion by

Second by

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent:

Approved:

Kalmin D. Smith, Mayor

I, Gregory L. Newman, Grand Ledge City Clerk, certify this is Resolution #_____ of 2016, adopted by the Grand Ledge City Council at a regular meeting held on Tuesday, 27 December 2016; a meeting held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Public Act No. 267 of 1976, as amended.

Gregory L. Newman, City Clerk

City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Draft 11/11/2016

2017 – 2021



Acknowledgments

The 2017 -2021 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, and local citizens who expressed an interest in providing a high level of park and recreation services for the Grand Ledge community.

A public hearing on the plan was held on _____. On _____, the City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the City Commissioners adopt the plan. The plan was adopted by the City Commissioners on _____.

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:

MAYOR

Kalmin D. Smith

CITY COUNCIL

Keith Mulder (Mayor Pro-Tem)

Don Williams

Rick Lantz

Jamie Malecki

Tom Janeck

Thom Sowle

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Adam Smith

CITY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

David Smith, Chair

Rachel Kuntzsch, Vice Chair

Brody Boucher, Grand Ledge Public Schools

Representative

Matthew Dale

Ruthann Jaquette

Raechel Marks

Chuck Mills

Christine Richardson-Beagle

Michael Doty

Rick Lantz, City Council Liaison

Larry LaHaie, City Staff Liaison

Jodie Willobee, City Staff



With assistance from Spicer Group, Saginaw, MI

www.spicergroup.com



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Introduction

The City of Grand Ledge has developed this Recreation Plan to serve as a guide to future decision making regarding recreation facilities improvements, and development of new recreation opportunities. Therefore, this document is the basis for policy implementation of improvements and new initiatives that will meet the recreational goals and interests for 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 recreation 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 already available, the demographic characteristics of an area, and the programs, projects, and facilities that are best suited to the community. This information is all based on public input and careful consideration of the 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 Recreation 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 Recreation Plan
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing parks and recreation goals, objectives, and actions in partnership with Eaton County and others.
- Support the implementation of improvements for barrier-free, Universal Access to City parks and recreational sites.

Overall, the City of Grand Ledge officials intend to use this plan to guide their work on all future recreational 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 *Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway 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 2017 – December 2021.



Community Description

Regional Location

The City of Grand Ledge is located in proximity to the junction of M-43 and M-100, 6.5 miles west of Lansing, in Eaton County. The City offers convenient access to I-69, I-96, and US-27. The region is served by Capital City 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 on the following page highlights Eaton County and the City of Grand Ledge.

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, 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 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 its pleasant small town environment.

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



Island Park



Map 1 Location



Demographics

According to the U.S. Census, the 2010 population for the City of Grand Ledge was 7,786. According to the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS), the population is 7,779 people. This minor decrease indicates a relatively stable population in the City.

Table 1 below provides other significant 2014 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, 36% of the occupied housing units are rented compared to 28.5% in both Eaton County and 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 a relatively large population of individuals who have a disability, estimated at 16.5%. Finally, the City has the smallest household size of the three jurisdictions at 2.25 persons. Aside from these three factors, the City and the surrounding geographies are fairly comparable in demographic statistics.

Table 1 - Demographic Characteristics

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
Population- 2014 estimate	7,779	108,081	9,889,024
% of Population 65 & older	15.74%	15.11%	14.59%
% of Population under 19	25.62%	25.20%	25.86%
% of Civilian non-institutionalized population with a disability	16.5%	13.6%	13.9%
Median Age	40.8	40.8	37.4
% with a Bachelor's Degree or higher	25.9%	24.2%	26.4%
Median Household Income	\$53,654	\$55,223	\$49,087
Per Capita Income	\$27,632	\$27,089	\$26,143
Average Household Size	2.25	2.34	2.47
Median Housing Value	\$116,200	\$133,400	\$120,200
Renter-occupied housing as % of total Occupied Units	36.0%	28.5%	28.5%

Data from the 2014 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 this population is expected to grow. Seniors have different needs in recreation facilities (for example, pathways vs playgrounds) and those on fixed incomes may need low-cost recreational opportunities.

Residents in multi-family housing, apartment dwellers, 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, providing them with opportunities for exercise, community engagement, and education in a safe environment.

Finally, parks have the ability to 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.



Jaycee Park



Natural Features Inventory

When studying parks and recreation resources in a community, it can be worthwhile to examine significant natural resources that may be in need of conservation or protection. In the City of Grand Ledge, the most significant natural resource would be 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 which 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, and 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.

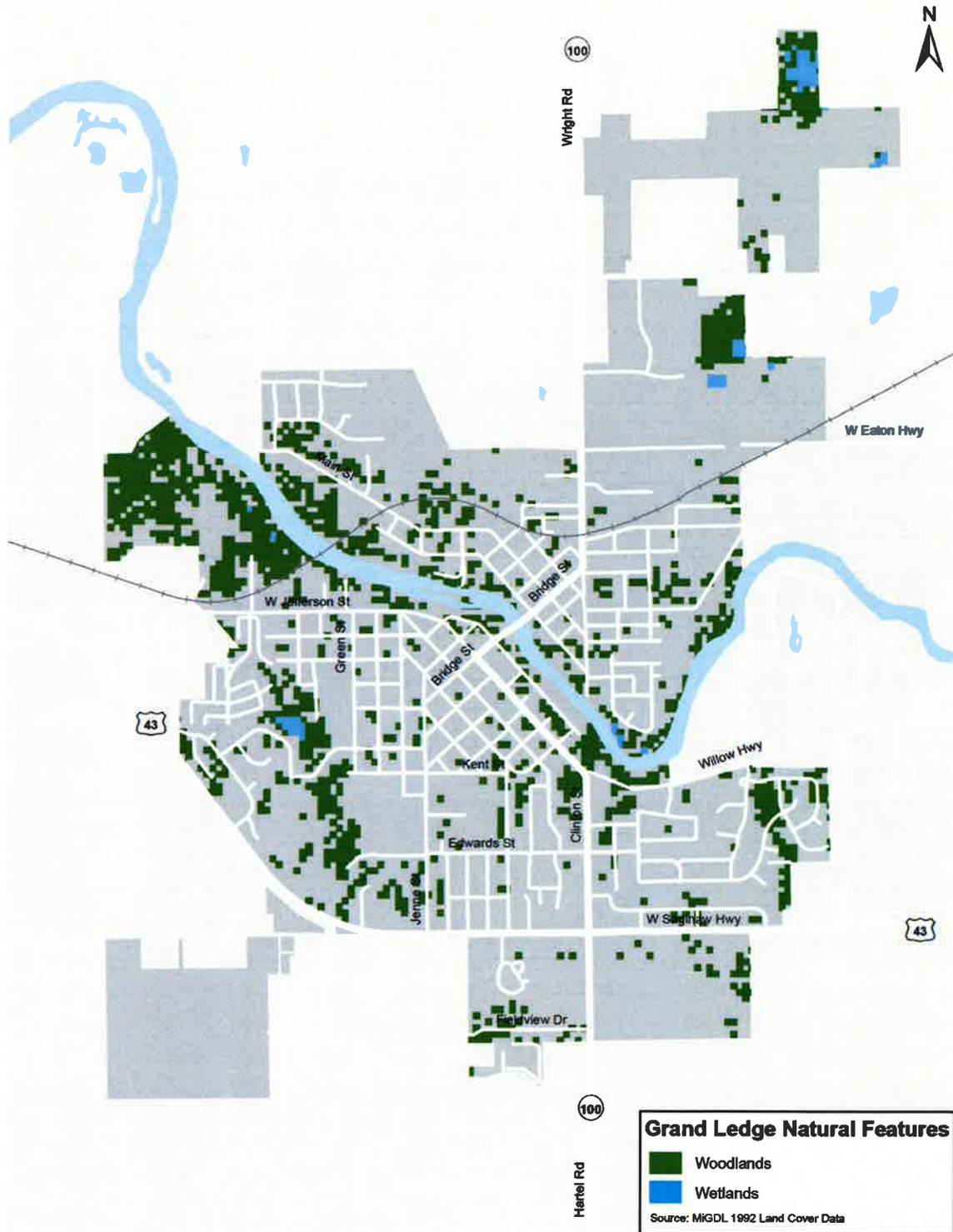


Grand River at Island Park

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. These are also important natural features to consider in the development process.



Map 2 Natural Features



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 the parks and recreation. The first branch is Park Maintenance and Operation, which is overseen by the City Administrator with work performed by the Department of Public Service. 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 appointed at-large by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council. The ninth member represents 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 is directly responsible to the City Council and is advisory in nature in regard to all budgets, personnel, and policy related matters. The Director of the Public Service Department provides technical and support services to the Commission.

Since the completion of the 2011 Parks and Recreation Plan and the first Recreation Master Plan, two significant administrative changes have occurred. First, the long time Parks and Recreation Director has retired. Subsequently, the City contracted with the Grand Ledge Public Schools (GLPS) to provide recreation programming. For the next two years, GLPS will work with the City on recreation programming.



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 to the community.

Funding and Budgets

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

- Property taxes/General Fund contribution
- PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Tax)
- Interest
- Participant activity fees
- Grand Adventure Race
- Facility rentals

Table 2 below provides the parks and recreation budget for the City of Grand Ledge for the 2016 and 2017 fiscal years.

Table 2 - 2016 – 2017 Parks and Recreation Budget

	2016	2017
Operations and Maintenance	\$138,129	\$84,028
Programming	\$31,154	\$50,000
Capital Expenditures	\$22,808	\$21,610
Total	\$192,091	\$155,638

Volunteers

The City of Grand Ledge has approximately 10 volunteers which it provides to the council via the Parks and Recreation Commission, and approximately 100 volunteers which support the numerous activities and events put on by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Volunteer activities include:

- Parks & Recreation Commission
 - a. Council
 - b. Support
- Activities and Events
 - a. Organizing
 - b. Promoting
 - c. Getting sponsors
 - d. Registration
 - e. Safety patrol
 - f. Course directors
 - g. Food and beverages
 - h. Trash and recycling



Widewalk



Complete Streets

The City of Grand Ledge has begun to study the implementation of a Complete Streets policy. For the City, implementing a Complete Streets approach will integrate people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the transportation networks. Additionally, this policy will help 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 environments.

Programming

The City of Grand Ledge offers several recreation programs to their residents. The programs include sport leagues and summer camps/programs. The following chart is a list of the programs and their participants as of the 2016 summer season.

Table 3 - Recreation Program Participation

Program	Participants
Spring and Summer Programs	
Arts & Crafts	17
Baseball T-Ball to 6 th Grade	343
Cheerleading	54
Gymnastics	57
Soccer – Pre K to 3 rd Grade	110
Softball	55
Swimming – Spring	94
Swimming – Summer	95
Track	10
Volleyball	53
Summer Camps	
Baseball	126
Basketball – Boys	158
Basketball – Girls	115
Softball	56
Volleyball (7 th , 8 th , 9 th)	39
Wrestling	18
Fall and Winter Programs	
Flag Football	172
Soccer – Pre K to 3 rd Grade	90

Participation numbers as of August 31, 2016.



Fitzgerald Park



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.

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.

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.

Grand Ledge Public Art

The City of Grand Ledge currently has eight 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.

- Blake’s Opera House, 121 S. Bridge Street
- All Things, 121 S. Bridge Street
- Ledges Playhouse, 137 Fitzgerald Park Drive
- The Ledges, Riverfront Park
- Heart and Art of Grand Ledge, Fitzgerald Field
- Bridge Street Four, Bridge Street Plaza
- Growing Progress, W. Jefferson and Harrison Streets
- Waiting for the Mail, Grand Ledge Post Office, 118 E. Jefferson Street



Accessibility

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. The MDNR 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 4 below.

The parks and recreation staff 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 4 - MDNR Accessibility Grading System

MDNR 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



Elaine Dible Memorial Park



Colonial Park



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 5.

Table 5 - City or Grand Ledge Collaborative Recreation Agreements

Organization	Recreation Activities	City Park(s) or Area Utilized
Delta Township	Recreation programs	GLPS fields
Eaton County Parks	Grounds Maintenance for all City parks Operates Fitzgerald Park	All City parks Fitzgerald Park
Grand Adventure Race	Triathlon	Jaycee Park/Island Park/Oak Park
Grand Ledge Area District Library	Various Programs	Bridge Street Plaza 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 Movies in the Park Yankee Doodle Days Winterfest	Bridge Street Plaza Bridge Street Plaza Bridge Street Plaza Bridge Street Plaza/Island Park/Jaycee Park
Grand Ledge Farmer's Market	Farmer's Market	Bridge Street Plaza (summer) and Gymnasium at City Hall (winter)
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
Grand Princess Riverboat	Riverboat rides	Island Park
Ledge Craft Lane	Art Fair	Island Park
Michigan State University, Climbing Club	Rock climbing	Oak Park
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



Inventory of Recreational Facilities and Programs

Overview

The inventory of park amenities and facilities was updated by the planning consultant and verified by City Staff. The text below includes in-depth descriptions of each of the City-owned and operated parks. Table 6 summarizes these facilities in tabular form. This chapter also contains a brief discussion of other recreation facilities in the City and region.

City Facilities

ISLAND PARK

Acreage: 2.25

ADA Accessibility: 3

Greater Grand Ledge Region Park

Island Park is in a wide section of the river immediately north of Bridge Street. In the late 1800's there were seven 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. Its 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 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: 3

Greater Grand Ledge Region Park

This linear park is located southeast of the central business district and offers frontage on the Grand River, a modern play structure, a large swing set, a sand volleyball court, a basketball court, picnic tables, a pavilion, a heavily used public boat launch ramp, a canoe/kayak launch, sledding, off-street parking, and a non-motorized trail. The park is ADA accessible by accessing it at the Fitzgerald Memorial Field parking lot at properly designated spots and traveling down the Riverwalk Trail.



In 2013, the City hired Viridis Design Group to complete the Jaycee Park and Riverfront Master Plan. This plan proposed improvements along the Grand River Riverfront in downtown Grand Ledge. The improvements include: 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 Riverwalk trail with overlook improvements along the sandstone ledges.

Concept plans and drawings for Jaycee Park are included in Appendix A. This master plan was mentioned numerous times in the public input survey of this recreation plan. The citizens of Grand Ledge believe this will greatly enhance their park and make for a wonderful place to visit. They strongly encouraged the City to proceed with all of the ideas presented. In 2016, the City began construction improvements for the boat launch/ river access point and on-street parking for over 100 vehicles. These are the first two improvements completed under the Jaycee Park and Riverfront Master Plan.



RIVERWALK TRAIL

Acreage: 1.5

ADA Accessibility: 4

Community Park

The Riverwalk Trail is located on the south side of the Grand River connecting Jaycee Park from the boat launch to Island Park's pedestrian bridge. The Riverwalk along the Grand River 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. The addition of the walkway has significantly improved the view of and access to the Grand River to the users of Jaycee Park and greatly enhanced this element of the park and riverfront's appeal as evidenced by the numerous daily walkers.



FITZGERALD MEMORIAL FIELD

Acreage: 3.11

ADA Accessibility: 3

Greater Grand Ledge Region Park



Fitzgerald Memorial Field is located on the western bank of the Grand River, in the very center of downtown Grand Ledge. Dedicated in 1936, the lighted and recently irrigated field now hosts the Mustang League baseball games (ages 9 and 10) as well as the City's Little League Championship series.

Island Park and Fitzgerald Memorial Field share a common paved parking lot and are connected by a bridge. The baseball field has been used during the Island Festivals and other events for carnivals, exhibitors' booths and overflow parking. The field house is a modern building which houses a concession area, restrooms, a small park office and a large warming room. The donated Brooks' property is adjacent to the west of Fitzgerald Memorial Field and provides a scenic overlook and attractive access point to and from the downtown shops, Fitzgerald Memorial Field and Island Park.

OAK PARK

Acreeage: 8.98

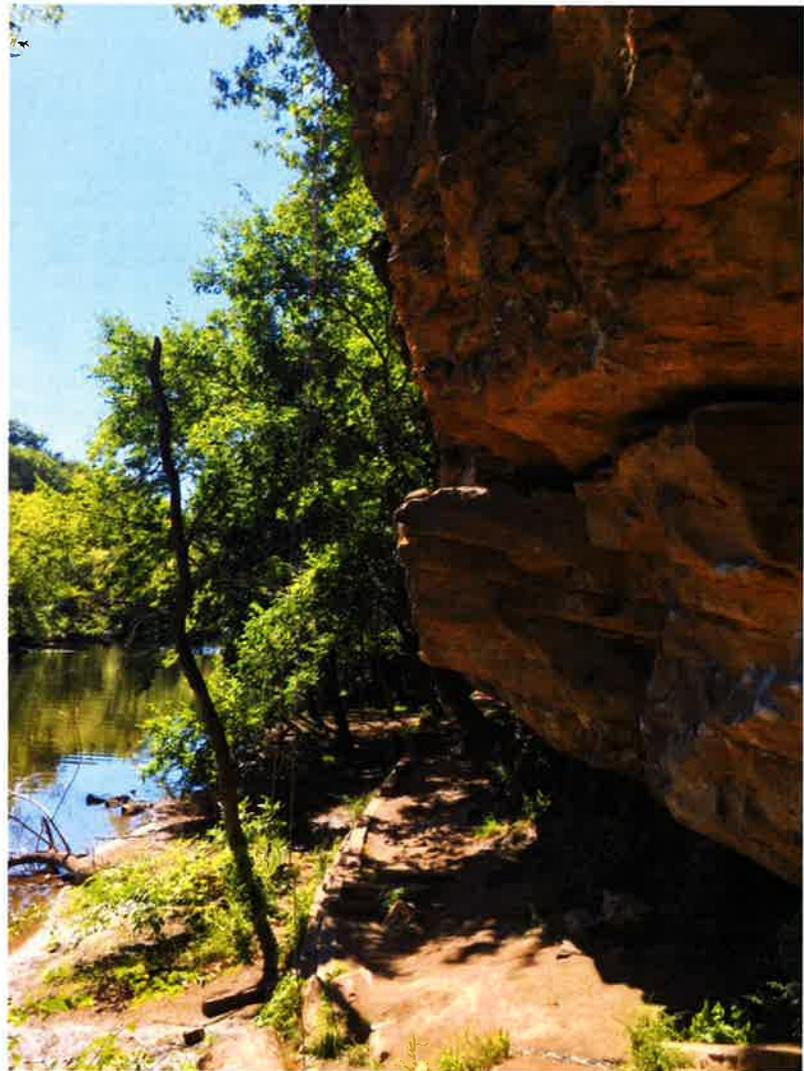
ADA Accessibility: 1

Greater Grand Ledge Region Park

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

The park offers a beautifully shaded picnic and wildlife viewing area beneath the canopy of its mature oaks. A main focal point of the park is the sandstone ledges. Rock climbers from throughout Michigan and beyond use the ledges for recreational climbing, instruction and rescue training. The park is located at the end of West Front Street near downtown.

A heavy demand is placed on the ledges at Oak Park. 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. Local climbing enthusiasts, working with the Grand Ledge Parks and



Recreation Commission, have authored and printed a Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Rock-Climbing. These are permanently posted at the park and available in printed form.

The ledges in Oak Park are not a place for a beginning climber unless they are part of a group receiving qualified instruction. Oak Park serves as an outdoor classroom for emergency rescue training programs and private instruction. Many of these programs and training sessions are offered for a fee by a local vendor who provides all of the equipment as well as a team of knowledgeable instructors.

Use of the ledges in Oak Park by climbers has steadily increased in popularity in recent years creating concern for the impact climbing will have long term on the fragile cliff surface and plant ecology. This park is not ADA accessible, and should any recreational improvements for this park be proposed in the future, those improvements will be ADA accessible.

ELAINE DIBLE MEMORIAL PARK

Acreage: 0.8

ADA Accessibility: 3

Neighborhood Park

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



COLONIAL PARK

Acreage: 0.87
ADA Accessibility: 1
Neighborhood Park

Located in the Colonial Park neighborhood, this small neighborhood park is accessible by a pedestrian walkway. There are picnicking opportunities and walking areas in the park. This park is not ADA accessible. If any recreational improvements for this park be proposed in the future, they shall be ADA accessible.



RIVERFRONT PARK

Acreage: 0.21
ADA Accessibility: 3
Community Park

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 park provides a beautifully landscaped parking area for Grand Ledge visitors as well as park bench seating.



BRIDGE STREET PLAZA

Acreage: 0.75

ADA Accessibility: 3

Greater Grand Ledge Region Park

Bridge Street Plaza is located in downtown Grand Ledge. It is an open plaza that hosts numerous public events, including: Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings from May – October; Music in the Park, a free series of summer concerts on Thursday nights from June – August; Movies in the Park, free cartoons and movies on Friday nights in August; Victorian Days in May; Yankee Doodle Days in July; and the Christmas Tree display in December.



CITY HALL PARK

Acreage: 0.46

ADA Accessibility: 2

Community Park

City Hall Park is located behind City Hall on Greenwood Street. Amenities in the park include: picnic areas, tables, a playground, and a 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 recreational improvements for this park are proposed in the future, ADA accessible improvements will be considered as part of the overall plan.

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. City Hall is regularly used by various groups such as Grand Ledge Senior Citizens who gather on Tuesday and Thursday for lunch and socializing, as well as school athletic teams and other groups who utilize the gymnasium for practice and other recreation activities.



FIELDVIEW OPEN SPACE

Acreage: 3.11
ADA Accessibility: 1
Neighborhood Park

Fieldview Open Space is a neighborhood park located off of Fieldview Drive and accessible by a pedestrian pathway. This park offers picnic areas, sledding opportunities, and walking areas, but is mostly a passive open space area for the surrounding residents. This park is not ADA accessible. If any recreational improvements for this park are proposed in the future, ADA accessible improvements will be considered as part of the overall plan.



WIDE WALK

Miles: 1.9
ADA Accessibility: 4
Community Park

This Wide Walk is a 10-foot-wide 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. This extension connects the existing path to the Riverwalk extending the route for path users and connecting more parks and residential neighborhoods.



HISTORIC LEDGES PLAYHOUSE

Located in Eaton County's Fitzgerald Park, the Historic Ledges Playhouse offers highly respected dramatic performances May through September. The theater is housed in a 100-year-old structure nestled into the parks 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.



Table 6 – Grand Ledge Park Inventory

Grand Ledge Parks Inventory	Island Park	Jaycee Park	Riverwalk Trail	Fitzgerald Memorial Field	Oak Park	Elaine Dible Memorial Park	Colonial Park	Fitzgerald Park*	Riverfront Park	Bridge Street Plaza	City Hall Park	Fieldview Open Space	Wide Walk
Acreage	2.25	5.92	1.5	3.11	8.98	0.8	0.87	78	0.21	0.75	0.46	3.11	1.9 Miles
Service Area**	GR	GR	C	GR	GR	N	N	GR	C	GR	C	N	C
Accessibility***	3	3	4	3	1	3	1	2	3	3	2	1	4
Picnic Shelter/Gazebo	X	X						X					
Picnic Areas		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					
Boat Ramp		X											
Canoe/Kayak Launch		X						X					
Hiking/Walking	X	X	X		X		X	X				X	X
Fishing	X	X	X		X			X					
Baseball/Softball Field				X				X					
Sledding		X						X				X	
Basketball		X						X			X		
Volleyball		X						X					
Shuffleboard								X					
Cross Country Skiing								X					
Rock Climbing					X								
Theatre								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)													
***See page 26 for accessibility guidelines													



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 eight park areas that total nearly 300 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.

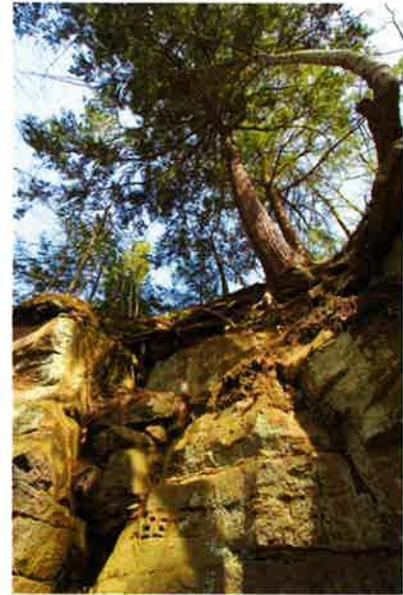
Two of the parks are of primary importance to this study. Fitzgerald Park is located within the corporate limits of the City of Grand Ledge while Lincoln Brick Park is situated directly across the Grand River from Fitzgerald Park and immediately north of the city's boundary.

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 Grand Ledge. 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 is used for environmental education programs, County Park Commission meetings, and is available for rent. The



museum area features a display on the history of Lincoln Brick Park and includes a large collection of fossils and rocks.

FOX MEMORIAL PARK

Located near Potterville, 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.

EDWARD 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.

CHARLOTTE 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.

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 site 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 site and fishing, picnic areas, hiking, cross-country ski trails, snowmobiling opportunities, hunting, horseback riding trails, and mountain biking.



Oak Park



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. Holbrook, Neff, and Beagle are located within the corporate limits of the city. Also located in the city are Sawdon Administration Building and Grand Ledge High School. Located in the immediate outlying area are: Willow Ridge Elementary, Wacousta Elementary School, Delta Center Elementary and Hayes Middle School.

Through a collaboration agreement between the City of Grand Ledge and the Grand Ledge Public Schools, many well-maintained and very 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:

- **HOLBROOK EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER** - Gymnasium, playground, (playground) softball diamond, and outdoor basketball/asphalt play area.
- **NEFF KINDERGARTEN CENTER** - Gymnasium, playground, 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 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** - Gymnasium, sand volleyball, basketball, softball fields (3), baseball diamond, track and soccer field.
- **HAYES MIDDLE SCHOOL*** - 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.



Fitzgerald Memorial Field

* 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.

- **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.
- **FUNTYME 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.
- **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 paddle wheel 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 CLUB** - Specialized fitness facilities are available regionally through the YMCA and YWCA, Healthcor, The Michigan Athletic Club, the Court One Athletic Clubs, Snap Fitness, Curves for Women, and several weight-training centers. The Westside YMCA is a state-of-the-art facility which 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, Soccer Zone offers two indoor playing surfaces as well as an outdoor soccer field. 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 eleven churches within this Master Plan's area, some of which avail their facilities to the public.

Grant Assisted Parks and Facilities

The City of Grand Ledge has received five State of Michigan grants since 2000.

1. Island Park Restoration, Clean Michigan Initiative grant (CM00-035) 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 will create 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 park land by approximately 60%. When the project is completed, Oak Park will have grown from 5.58 acres to 8.99 acres.

The MDNR Self-Completion Post-Inspection Reports for these parks are included in Appendix B.

Accessibility

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to easily identify those parks and facilities which are most and least handicap accessible and usable, based on the ADA guidelines. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines), to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design).

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.



An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance assessment of Grand Ledge parks was conducted during the summer of 2016. The assessment consisted of a visual inspection of each park in regards to access, circulation in relation to the park facilities. As noted in the inventory listing, some of the parks do not meet all criteria for handicap accessibility. Grand Ledge is dedicated to continuing its efforts towards improving accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities and signage.

City of Grand Ledge Park Map

Map 3 on the following page, is an updated park map for the City of Grand Ledge. The parks and facilities are denoted by the governmental unit or organization that is responsible for operations. The City of Grand Ledge Parks are shown in red.



Map 3 Park Map



Community Input

One of the most important aspects of a community’s Recreation Plan is the inclusion of the resident’s opinions about how they view the future of their parks and recreation system. The City of Grand Ledge created a community survey to gather the information which would guide their parks and recreation program for the next 5 years. A complete tabulation of the results is available for review in Appendix C. The text below provides a description of significant results.

A second means of input was provided during the required public review period ____ and the public hearing _____.

Survey Results

The City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Plan survey was available online, from April 28, 2016 to May 22, 2016, under the web address www.grandledgesurvey.com. It was publicized with a variety of methods:

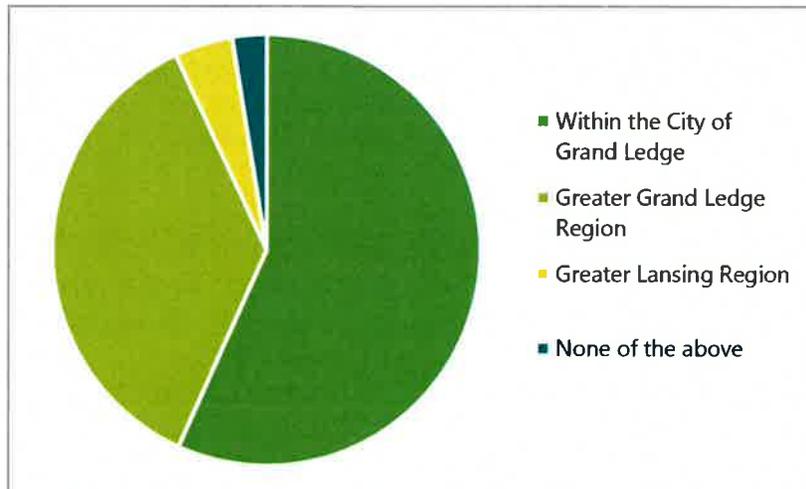
- Facebook post on Grand Ledge Community Facebook page
- Link on City website
- Flyers placed around town
- Email blasts

Respondents

There were a total of 285 respondents who participated in the survey. Respondents were not required to answer every question. Therefore, not all of the questions have a total of 285 answers. Figure 2 depicts where the respondents live, one hundred and fifty-five respondents were residents of the City of Grand Ledge and 99 respondents were from the greater Grand Ledge region. Thirty-two percent of respondents were between the ages of 18 and 30. Fifty-one percent of respondents were between the ages of 40 and 50. Another 15% of respondents were age 65 and older.

Respondents were asked how long they have lived in the Grand Ledge area. Seventy-three respondents (27%) have lived in the Grand Ledge area for 10 years or less, 61 respondents (22%) have lived in the area for 11 – 19 years, and 127 respondents (46%) have lived in the Grand Ledge area for over 20 years. Finally, respondents were asked how many children under the age of 18 live in their household. 72% of respondents have 1 or 2 children, 27% have 3 to 5 children, and 1% had 6 or more children.

Figure 2 – Residence of Respondents



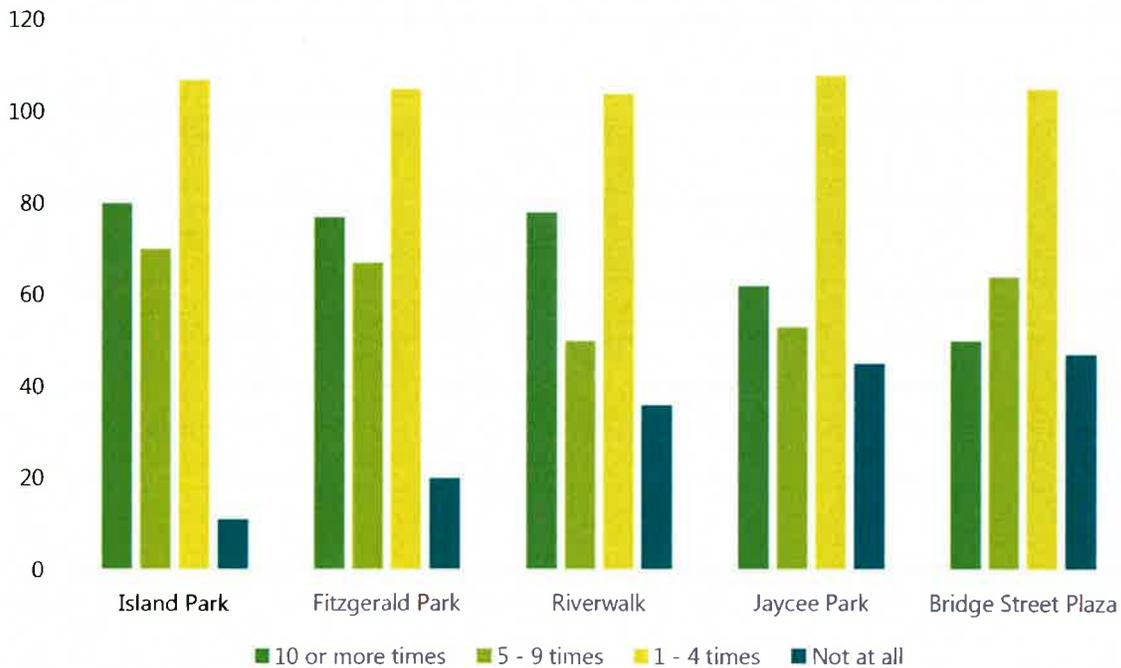
Visits to parks in the past year

The first 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:

1. Island Park
2. Fitzgerald Park
3. Riverwalk Park
4. Jaycee Park
5. Bridge Street Plaza

Figure 3 - Top 5 Most Visited Parks



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 following list, with number 1 being least visited, are the City parks that are underutilized:

1. Fieldview Open Space/Elaine Dible Memorial Park (tied)
2. Colonial Park
3. City Hall Park
4. Riverfront Park
5. Oak Park



Why do you visit parks and open spaces?

Question 2 asked respondents why they visited parks and open spaces in the area. Respondents were given 29 options, one being “other” with the option to type in an answer. The following are the top 10 answers and the percent of respondents who chose that answer:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Walking (79%) | 7. Playgrounds (40%) |
| 2. Enjoying Nature (70%) | 8. Picnics (38%) |
| 3. Health and Fitness (55%) | 9. Watching organized sports/activities (28%) |
| 4. Farmer’s Market (51%) | 10. Bicycling (27%) |
| 5. Annual Events and Festivals (51%) | |
| 6. Music in the Park (46%) | |

Twenty-four respondents wrote in other responses, the two most popular responses were walking dogs and cross country skiing.

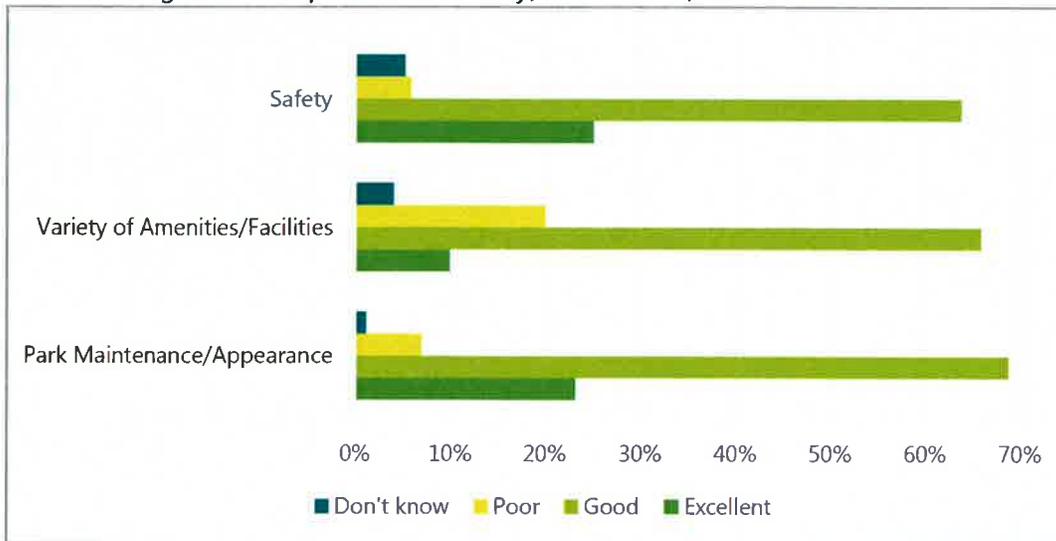
Opinion regarding parks and recreation

Respondents were asked to provide their opinion on the following three aspects of City operated parks and open spaces:

1. Park Maintenance/Appearance
2. Variety of Amenities/Facilities
3. Safety

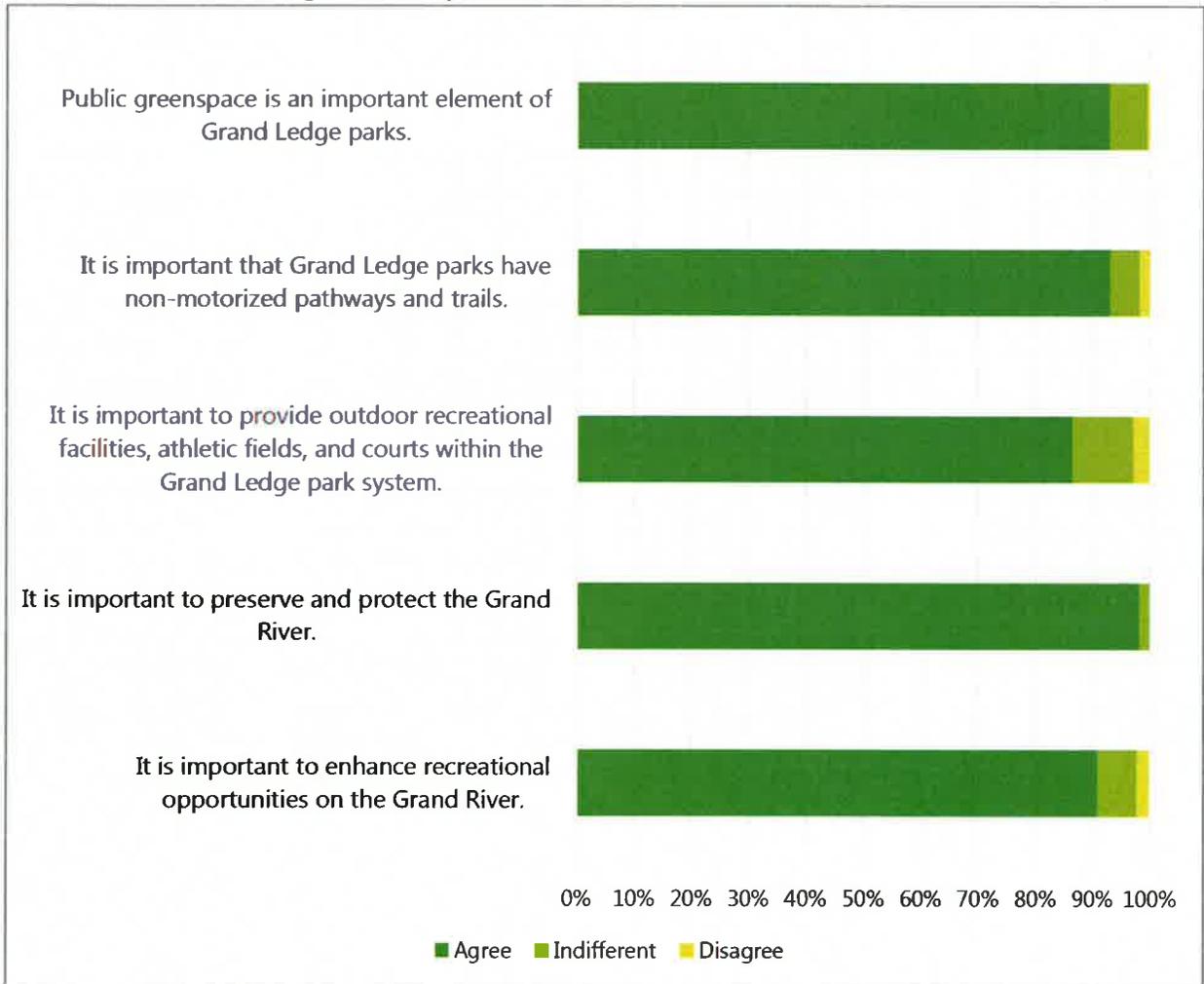
Sixty-eight percent of respondents believe that parks maintenance and appearance are in good condition, 66% of respondents believe that variety of facilities is good, and 64% of respondents also believe that the safety of the parks and open spaces are good. Figure 4 depicts these answers in greater detail. Variety of amenities/facilities had the highest number of poor responses (20%), and safety had the highest number of excellent responses (25%).

Figure 4 – Opinion of Safety, Amenities, and Maintenance



Respondents were also asked to provide their level of agreement with five general recreation statements. These statements will be evaluated to have a better understanding of what priorities should be important to parks and recreation in Grand Ledge. The majority of respondents strongly agree with each recreational statement, indicating how recreation opportunities are important to the residents of Grand Ledge. Further, this question highlights how important the Grand River is to the City of Grand Ledge. Seventy-six percent of respondents strongly agree that it is important to preserve and protect the Grand River, and 22% agree that it is important, this means that 98% of the respondents would like to protect and preserve this resource. See Figure 5 below for a complete description of the results.

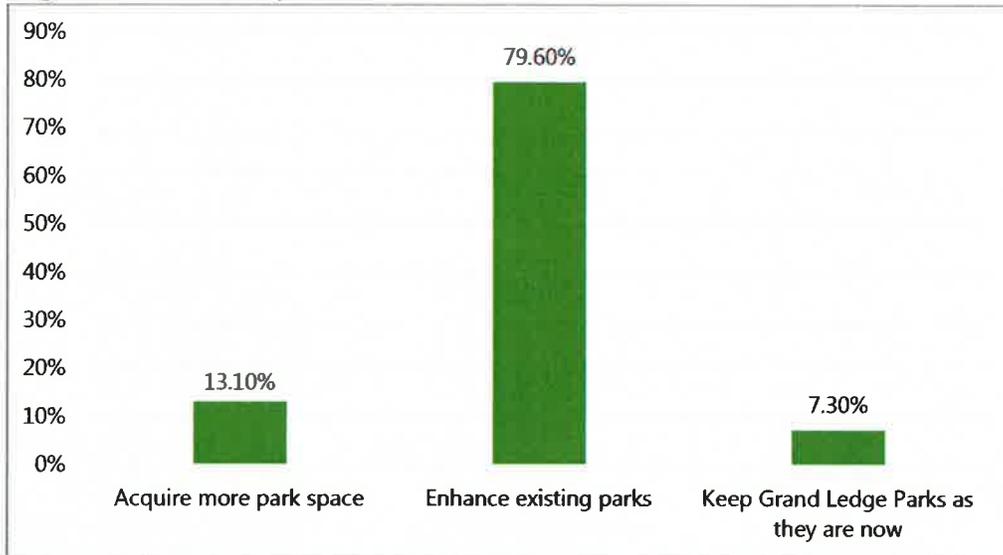
Figure 5 – Opinion of Recreation Statements



Funding

Question 5 asked respondents, considering the resources and funds available, which of the following is the most important for City operated parks and open spaces in the next 5 years? Eighty percent of respondents believe it will be most important to enhance the existing parks. See Figure 6.

Figure 6 - Most Important for Parks and Recreation in the Next 5 Years



Question 6 asked if respondents would favor increased funding for Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation. Nearly 85% of the respondents indicated they would support more funding.



Oak Park

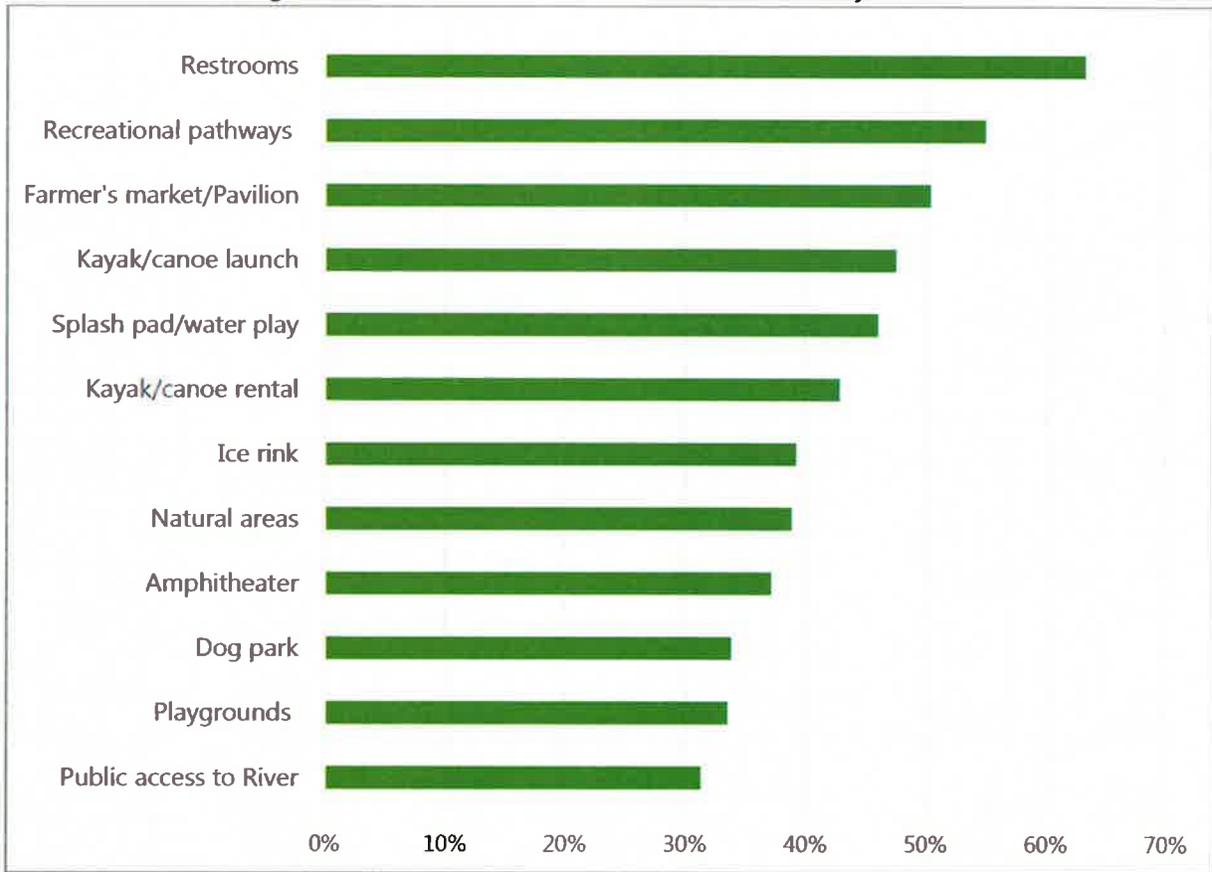


Jaycee Park

Additional Facilities

Question 7 asked respondents what additional facilities they would like to see added to City parks and open spaces. Respondents were encouraged to check all the answers that applied, and were also given a final choice of “other” with the option to type in a unique answer. There were 21 options. The following charts illustrates the top twelve responses with their corresponding response percentages. It should be noted that playgrounds were ranked 11 by 0.5%. The rest of the results can be found in the Appendix C.

Figure 7 – Additional Facilities added to City Parks



There were 34 responses to “other”. The two most popular were pickle ball courts and a swimming pool/waterpark.



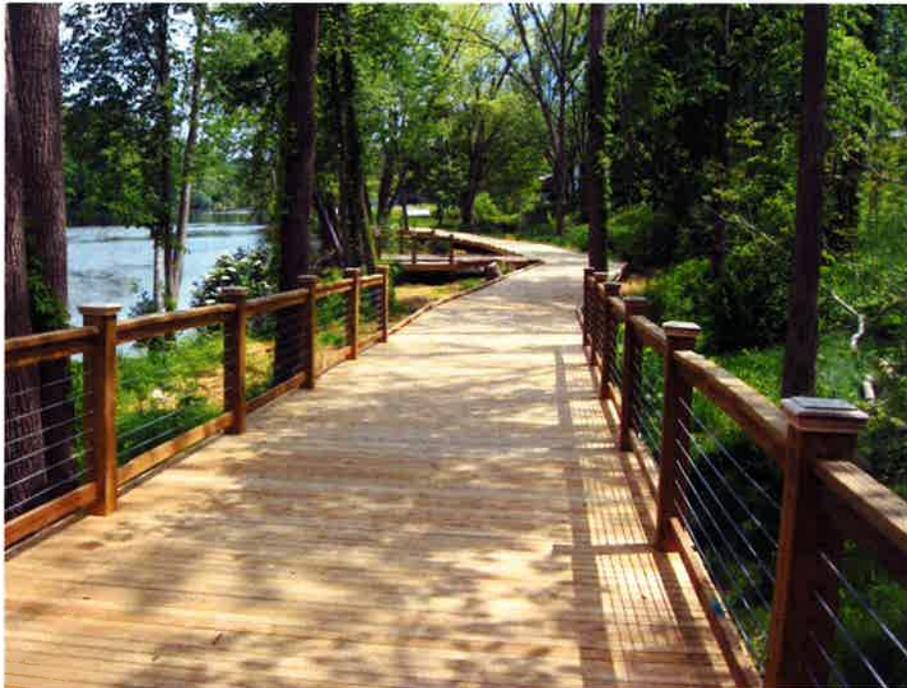
Disability and Collaboration

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 or agreed with the accessibility improvements:

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%)

No respondents strongly disagreed with any of the proposed accessibility improvements.

Respondents were also asked if they supported collaborative partnerships among Grand Ledge Public Schools, Eaton County, and the City of Grand Ledge. Ninety-six percent of the respondents agreed that they do support partnerships.



Riverwalk

Open Ended Questions

Questions 10, 11, 12, and 17 were open ended questions. Respondents were asked to fill in answers for various questions regarding parks in Grand Ledge.

Question 10 asked respondents what they liked best about parks and recreation in Grand Ledge. There were 146 responses. The following chart represents the overall themes from the responses and a selection of survey comments that are representative of the majority of the comments. The themes are ranked in order of popularity.

Table 8 - What do you Like Best about Parks in Grand Ledge?

What do you like best about parks in Grand Ledge	
Themes	Sample Survey Comments
[Natural Features] The existing natural features make Grand Ledge a beautiful place to live, and the opportunities provided by these resources are integral to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The river and natural green space is the centerpiece. The parks make use of Grand Ledge's natural beauty. I think it is so important to preserve and protect these parks because they are part of what makes Grand Ledge so unique and special. Grand Ledge is blessed to have an abundance of fine natural resource based and sports based recreational facilities.
[Variety] There is a unique variety of natural features available to the community, there are numerous options of recreation activities, and there are opportunities for all age groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When it comes to our parks and rec, I've always felt our city has something for everyone! From just sitting and watching the Grand River to hiking the trails in Fitzgerald Park to listening to the summer music, I feel lucky to call this home. My family loves the diversity of recreation and things to do at all the various parks. All of the different park options. Each park offers something different depending on what you are planning or wanting to do on a specific day.
[Asset] The parks in Grand Ledge are an asset to the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parks should be highly showcased to further enhance the City's best feature. The parks are truly an amazing asset to our community.
[Trails] There is a good system of trails and walkways in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can get nearly all the way around town on a bicycle or by running/walking without having to go in the street. The ready availability of paths and access to the outdoors. I walk my dog along the river trail OFTEN. The walking trails in the county parks are great, expanding trail system would be good.
[Proximity] Recreation opportunities are close to home and downtown.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is close to home and is a great way to get the family outside. I also love that their proximity to some of our natural resources, like the Grand River and the Ledges. Abundance of spaces and close access across town, proximity to river.



What do you like best about parks in Grand Ledge (con't.)	
Themes	Sample Survey Comments
[Accessibility] Ease of access for all individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy accessibility. • Safe and fun for all of my kids, there are things to do with all of them. Regardless of age, size and handicaps. • Ease of access.
[Climbing] Climbing opportunities for the Region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oak Park provides some of the finest natural geologic exposures of bedrock in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and virtually the only rock-climbing within two hundred miles in any direction. • Oak Park climbing is a HUGE attraction. • The Ledges. I can't believe that, given the history of GL, the exposure and promotion of the ledges is so subdued.
[Safety] Safety of the parks and the familial atmosphere.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are clean and safe. • The feeling of being safe and secure (to a large extent) because of the others enjoying the same activities. • The sense of community that GL is known for seems to be brought out in part by the parks and community events held there.
[Maintenance] Overall cleanliness of parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintained. • All appear to be well-maintained and safe. • I feel they are nicely kept and attractive to a passerby - to stop what they may be doing and proceed into the park to explore and make happy memories.
[Events] Events and activities in the parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This City has a lot to offer in terms of events. I think music and movies in the park are wonderful additions to the Grand Ledge scene. • The opportunity for kids to participate in recreational activities year-round. • Outdoor community events.
[Cost] Low cost.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are free. • For the most part free entry. • Easy access and the green space and no charges.

It should be noted that playgrounds were another common response to this question.



Island Park



Island Park

Question 11 asked respondents what they would do to improve parks and recreation in the City. There were 147 responses, see Table 9 for a summary of those responses. It represents the overall themes found in the responses and a selection of survey comments that are representative of the majority of the comments pertaining to that theme. The themes are in order of popularity.

Table 9 - What would you Improve in Grand Ledge Parks?

What would you do to improve parks in the City of Grand Ledge	
Themes	Sample Survey Responses
[Trails] Expand, upgrade, or connect the existing trail system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bike trails need expansion. Trail to Fitzgerald Park from island is greatly in need of improvement. • More paved trails connecting parks. • I would like more integrated trails to connect the different parks. • Work to "loop" the Widewalk from M-43 back to Fitzgerald Park, and extend the Riverwalk to Fitzgerald Park to connect the entire city through a bike path.
[Maintenance] Maintain existing park facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the maintenance and safe use of the parks at a tip top level. • Enhance and keep the parks updated. • Maintaining what we have now. When structures need minor maintenance fix the issue while its still minor.
[Organized Activities] Recreation classes and lifestyle classes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult enrichment classes to build community. • Continue to offer workshops / classes on our natural world. I have attended a few different walks with our naturalist 'Jackie.' She is an excellent resource. • I would like there to be more recreation activities/classes offered.
[Riverfront] Tie the existing infrastructure together to enhance our greatest feature and provide adequate access for users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There needs to be access to the river to at least get your feet wet for those who don't have access to the enjoyment of being close to or in the water anywhere else. It will also promote conscious awareness of how important it is to keep the river clean and the eco system healthy and balanced. • Better river access with water craft rental. It's odd that there is no rental business in our town.
[Public Use] Encouraged increased public use and interest in parks and recreation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the parks to enhance and encourage increased public use (restroom convenience, boating facilities, entertainment venues, event and sports seating). • Fitzgerald Park, Oak Park, Island, and Jacyee Park properties are some of the best anyone could ask for; just need to focus on enhancing the opportunities that they provide and the potential of their expansion! • Adding things that would allow more year round use of the parks (like having an ice rink).
[Children/Teen Activities] Foster a network of activities and opportunities for younger generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things to keep teens occupied. • Put stuff in for the kids! They are our future! Let's give families a reason to stay in and come to Grand Ledge! • It would be nice to see more activities available for kids and families.
[Restrooms] Increase quantity and quality of restrooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open restroom(s) in Fitzgerald in winter. • Provide public bathroom facilities. • Clean bathrooms, instead of outhouses.



What would you do to improve parks in the City of Grand Ledge (con't.)	
Themes	Sample Survey Responses
[Accessibility] Increase ease of use for all individuals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make the system more accessible to the aging population and disabled population. • Barrier Free parking. • Side walk accessibility.
[Wayfinding Publicity] Create a cohesive wayfinding system for parks and recreation and increase awareness for residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicize and enhance the 'hidden' parks. Who knew there was a public park on Colonial? in Fieldview? somewhere east of town: "Dible"? • I would recommend better signage for accessing trails and parks and make them more clearly connected to each other. • Tying the riverfront together from Jaycee park to Fitzgerald park with a better trail, vista sites, interpretative signs (historic and natural) like geological info, plant info, settlement info, etc
[Jaycee Master Plan] Move forward with Jaycee Park Master Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the plan for Jaycee Park. There is not much to do when downtown. Bringing more people to the area only benefits the City as a whole. • Proceed with their Master Plan - that sounds very exciting. • Invest in the plan for the Jaycee Park. We need to incorporate the river views in future planning.
[Safety] Increase safety of parks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase police presence to impede criminal behavior. • Annex Lincoln Brick Park to allow police to patrol and curb the abuse of the swimming area. • Better security.
[Collaboration] Work with local agencies to provide a cohesive parks and recreation system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think that anytime you can partner with other groups who share the same goals and visions, it usually benefits everyone. • Create a community service partnership with the Grand Ledge School District. • With a collaboration with GL Schools, would like Adult ed/recreation. Access to a pool during the day would be nice.

In addition to these overall themes, there were several specific parks or activities that were requested numerous times throughout the responses. They included the following:

- Maintain playgrounds and update broken or unsafe equipment
- Dog park
- Splash pad or community pool
- Amphitheater
- Acquire more park land, if feasible
- Ice rink
- Art in the parks and a mural downtown
- Baseball/softball diamonds
- Skate park



Question 12 asked what recreation programs the respondents would like to see in Grand Ledge, the following are the most frequent answers, listed in order of popularity. There were a total of 98 responses to this question.

1. Recreation programs for kids and teens
2. Exercise classes
3. Splash pad/community pool
4. Adult sports leagues
5. Canoe/Kayak rental
6. Concerts and art in the parks
7. Bike Trails
8. Dog park
9. Adult enrichment classes
10. Senior center
11. Ice rink
12. Walking path

Several respondents felt that there were not enough activities and parks geared toward kids and teens. They would like activities and spaces for those age groups so they have more opportunities for productive activities and a healthy lifestyle. Many other respondents would like the opportunity to participate in exercise classes and adult sports leagues.



Grand River at Jaycee Park

Question 17 was the final question in the survey, and asked if there were any additional comments the respondents would like to add. There were a total of 76 additional comments and the following list of the most popular themes from the responses.

1. Continue to work on upkeep and maintenance of the existing facilities.
2. Go forward with the Jaycee Park Master Plan.
3. Upgrade/maintain playground equipment.
4. Work toward connecting the parks along the waterfront from Jaycee Park to Fitzgerald Park.
5. Erosion control and bank stabilization
6. Add a dog park.
7. Improve boat launch and water access.
8. Support and provide activities for the aging population.
9. Increase accessibility.
10. Bring back free Wednesday.
11. Protect natural resources.
12. Acquire more park land.

It should also be noted that almost half of the responses to this question were respondents expressing how pleased they were with the recreation opportunities in Grand Ledge, and how happy they were with the ability to participate and voice their opinions on the future of parks and recreation in the City.



Riverwalk



Riverwalk

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, and the input of 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.
- *Objective* – Develop and use short and long-term maintenance plans for park facilities.
- *Objective* – Update parks to provide outdoor recreation experiences for people of all abilities.
- *Objective* – Obtain park property as needed to meet the recreation needs of the community.

Goal 2 – Provide green space within the City.

- *Objective* – Examine existing green space in Grand Ledge and look for significant gaps/shortages.
- *Objective* – Consider the addition of green space to the park system.



Fitzgerald Memorial Field



Goal 3 – Provide recreational programming for the Grand Ledge community.

- *Objective* – Continue to collaborate with Grand Ledge Public Schools and public and private partners to provide programming to suit community needs.
- *Objective* – Investigate the opportunity for new events, programs and leisure activities.
- *Objective* – Provide programs and activities that are accessible and affordable.
- *Objective* – Enhance recreation opportunities on the Grand River.

Goal 4 – Provide safe non-motorized travel in Grand Ledge.

- *Objective* – Expand the non-motorized trail system in Grand Ledge.

Goal 5 – Protect significant natural resources in Grand Ledge, especially the Grand River and the unique sedimentary rock ledge formations along the riverbank.



Island Park



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. The action program is used to highlight specific projects which will maintain and improve the quality and diversity of its parks and recreation opportunities.

Potential projects are shown on the following chart. 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 open house, 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 10 – Action Plan

City of Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Master Plan Action Plan		
Improvement	Priority	Relates to Goal
All Parks		
Signs along boundaries where park meets private property that encourages the public to respect private property while allowing them to fully utilize the public space.	1	1
Improved, cohesive directional signage to locate parks from vehicles and foot/bike traffic.	1	1, 4
Explore addition of a dog park at a City Park or in cooperation with Eaton County at Fitzgerald Park.	2	1, 3
Island Park		
Restoration of island, bank stabilization, and access steps to river.	1	1, 3, 5
Jaycee Park		
Boat trailer parking and Riverwalk Trail connection construction.	1	1, 3
Pull out for kayak and canoe.	1	1, 3, 5
Add ADA accessible boater/paddler access.	2	1, 3
Add ADA accessible restrooms.	2	1
Band shell.	2	1, 3
Farmers Market Pavilion.	3	1, 3
Splash Pad.	3	1, 3
Riverwalk Trail		
In cooperation with Eaton County, develop a riverwalk from the nature center at Fitzgerald Park to connect downtown to the Riverwalk.	1	1, 3, 4
Fitzgerald Memorial Field		
Enhance spectator area, including ADA accessibility.	1	1
Oak Park		
Parking and trail improvement for viewing the ledges, fishing and river access.	1	1, 3, 4, 5
Pull out for kayak and canoe.	1	1, 3, 5
Interpretive signage for sandstone ledges, Grand River and railroad.	3	1, 3, 5
Add ADA accessible restrooms.	3	1
Riverfront Park		
Enhance the view shed and river access.	3	1, 3
Wide Walk		
In cooperation with partners, add accessible routes to connect to Fitzgerald Park entrance.	2	1, 3, 4
Fitzgerald Park		
Explore improving portage opportunities around Fitzgerald Dam with Eaton County.	1	1, 3, 5
In cooperation with Eaton County, establish connection of park facilities with the construction of a bridge over the Grand River.	3	1, 4, 5
Lincoln Brick Park		
In cooperation with Eaton County, establish connection of park facilities within the City.	3	1, 4, 5
Other		
Develop future skate park.	2	1



Planning Process

In an effort to provide quality recreational 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 Spicer Group of Saginaw to assist the Parks and Recreation Commission with the completion of this plan. Spicer Group consultants met with the Parks and Recreation Commission four times during 2016 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 a number of resources including City staff, the 2011 Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission, research of aerial images provided by Google Earth, and through field visits.

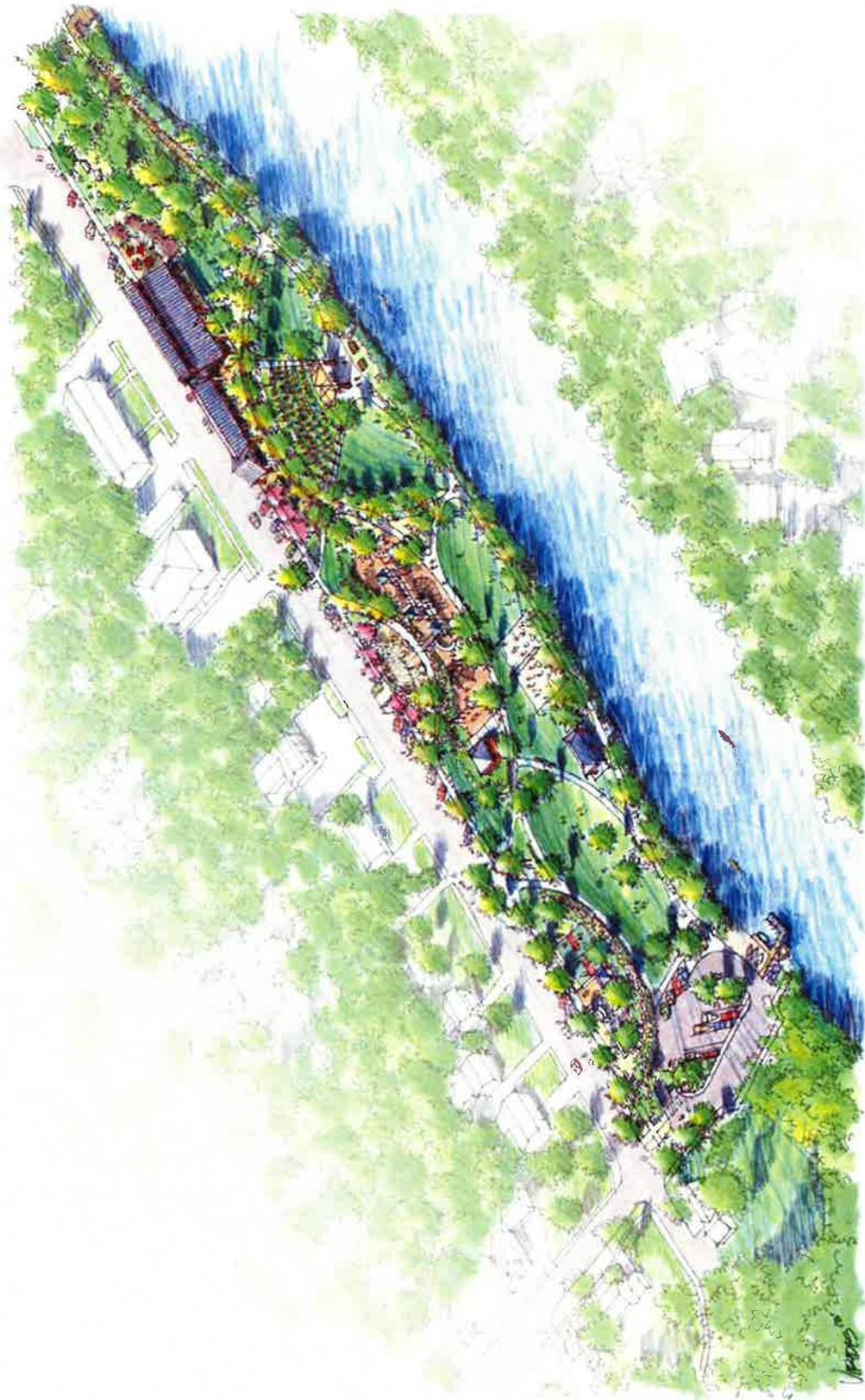
Two opportunities for input and participation were provided during the development of this plan, the results of which were described in an earlier section of this plan. Based upon the existing information and the public input, City staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission developed goals for parks 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 the _____, and on the City's website. The 30-day Notice of Review was published in the _____ on _____. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public hearing held prior to adoption of the plan, which was held on _____. **After this public hearing, the Parks and Recreation Commission passed a resolution recommending adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.** Finally, the plan was transmitted to the City Council for its review. The City of Grand Ledge approved a resolution to adopt the recreation plan at the City Council meeting on _____. Copies of the recreation plan were transmitted to _____, the _____, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in _____. Copies of the notification advertisements, the public hearing minutes, and the resolution, are included in Appendix E.



Appendix A

Jaycee Park and Riverfront Master Plan



Jaycee Park Master Plan

City of Grand Ledge, Michigan
November 2013





JAYCEE PARK AND RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN

City of Grand Ledge, Michigan

11.20.13



VIRIDIS / fc
Thoughtful Design

Appendix B

Post Completion Self-Inspection Reports

Appendix C
Complete Survey Results

Question 1 - 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 year?

	10 or more times	5 - 9 times	1 - 4 times	Not at all	Total Responses
Island Park	80 (29.9%)	70 (26.1%)	107 (39.9%)	11 (4.1%)	268
Bridge Street Plaza	50 (18.8%)	64 (24.1%)	105 (39.5%)	47 (17.7%)	266
Jaycee Park	62 (23.1%)	53 (19.8%)	108 (40.3%)	45 (16.8%)	268
Riverwalk	78 (29.1%)	50 (18.7%)	104 (38.8%)	36 (13.4%)	268
Wide Walk	43 (16.5%)	33 (12.7%)	57 (21.9%)	127 (48.8%)	260
City Hall Park	13 (5.0%)	12 (4.6%)	50 (19.2%)	186 (71.3%)	261
Fitzgerald Memorial Field	28 (10.7%)	24 (9.2%)	96 (36.6%)	114 (43.5%)	262
Oak Park	28 (10.6%)	19 (7.2%)	91 (34.3%)	127 (47.9%)	265
Elaine Dible Memorial Park	4 (1.5%)	2 (0.8%)	12 (4.6%)	241 (93.1%)	259
Colonial Park	4 (1.5%)	3 (1.1%)	23 (8.8%)	231 (88.5%)	261
Riverfront Park	35 (13.5%)	25 (9.7%)	88 (34.0%)	111 (42.9%)	259
Fieldview Open Space	2 (0.8%)	5 (1.9%)	13 (5.0%)	238 (92.2%)	258
Fitzgerald Park	77 (28.6%)	67 (24.9%)	105 (39.0%)	20 (7.4%)	269
Lincoln Brick Park	51 (19.2%)	33 (12.5%)	88 (33.2%)	93 (35.1%)	265
Grand Ledge Public School outdoor recreation facilities	73 (27.1%)	30 (11.2%)	65 (24.2%)	101 (37.5%)	269

Question 2 -Based upon your responses in Question 1, why do you visit area parks and open spaces? Please check all that apply.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Art enjoyment		25.7%	71
Baseball/Softball		19.6%	54
Basketball		5.8%	16
Bicycling		26.8%	74
Bird watching		15.6%	43
Boating		6.2%	17
Canoeing or kayaking		26.1%	72
Farmers Market		51.4%	142
Fishing		17.0%	47
Frisbee/Disc Golf		12.7%	35
Health and fitness		54.7%	151
Ledges Playhouse Theatre		12.7%	35
Music in the Park		46.4%	128
Movies in the Park		22.1%	61
Nature enjoyment		69.6%	192
Participating in other annual events/festivals		50.7%	140
Participating in organized sports or activities		18.1%	50
Picnics		38.0%	105
Playgrounds		40.2%	111
Riverboat attraction		11.2%	31
Rock climbing		9.8%	27
Running or jogging		20.3%	56
Shelter rental		5.4%	15
Skateboarding/rollerblading		1.8%	5
Sledding		20.7%	57
Volleyball		2.2%	6
Walking		78.6%	217
Watching organized sports or activities		27.9%	77
Other (please specify):		8.7%	24
		Total Responses	276

Question 2 -Based upon your responses in Question 1, why do you visit area parks and open spaces? Please check all that apply. (Other (please specify):

#	Response
1.	Volunteer work
2.	If I could afford to go to all the parks I certainly would , I would have bubble more parks and activities... I was saying if there was a survey about healthiest people in a city it would be ...GL seems like everywhere I go it's city/people utilize all available rather it's the school, parks or the sidewalks heck I even saw a couple jogging by the highway Eastbound by broad bent. Unfortunately, I do not live in Grand ledge but I was raised in good old home town and coming to Grand ledge is a site/nostalgic. Believe me I see the community and I see the parks are beauty.
3.	Dog walking, wild flowers
4.	just checking things out
5.	cross country skiing
6.	Taking pictures
7.	visit parks as part of my employment with the city
8.	cross country skiing
9.	Walking dog
10.	Watch the seasons change.
11.	relax and unwind in nature
12.	Tennis
13.	Letterboxing
14.	the Neff playground is always locked or we would use it almost daily
15.	hiking
16.	Disc Golf
17.	Fetch with dog
18.	Swimming
19.	playground
20.	Hiking
21.	Showing visitors from outside of Grand Ledge.
22.	Scouting Events
23.	Off leash dog park
24.	Dog park

Question 3 - Please provide your overall opinion regarding the following aspects of City operated parks and open spaces.

	Excellent	Good	Poor	Don't know	Total Responses
Park Maintenance/Appearance	63 (23.2%)	187 (68.8%)	19 (7.0%)	3 (1.1%)	272
Variety of Amenities/Facilities	27 (9.9%)	180 (65.9%)	55 (20.1%)	11 (4.0%)	273
Safety	68 (25.1%)	173 (63.8%)	16 (5.9%)	14 (5.2%)	271

Question 4 - Please provide your opinion regarding these recreational statements.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Indifferent	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Responses
It is important to enhance recreational opportunities on the Grand River.	161 (58.8%)	88 (32.1%)	19 (6.9%)	4 (1.5%)	2 (0.7%)	274
It is important to preserve and protect the Grand River.	208 (75.9%)	61 (22.3%)	5 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	274
It is important to provide outdoor recreational facilities, athletic fields, and courts within the Grand Ledge park system.	141 (51.5%)	96 (35.0%)	29 (10.6%)	6 (2.2%)	2 (0.7%)	274
It is important that Grand Ledge parks have non-motorized pathways and trails.	186 (67.6%)	70 (25.5%)	14 (5.1%)	4 (1.5%)	1 (0.4%)	275
Public greenspace is an important element of Grand Ledge parks.	174 (63.7%)	80 (29.3%)	18 (6.6%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.4%)	273

Question 5 - 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?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Acquire more park space		13.1%	36
Enhance existing parks		79.6%	218
Keep Grand Ledge Parks as they are now		7.3%	20
		Total Responses	274

Question 6 - Would you support increased funding for Grand Ledge Parks and Recreation?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		84.4%	227
No		15.6%	42
		Total Responses	269

Question 7 - What additional facilities or amenities would you like to see added to City operated parks and open spaces? Please check all that apply.

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Amphitheater		37.1%	103
Art		15.5%	43
Baseball		5.4%	15
Basketball courts		9.7%	27
Dog park		33.8%	94
Farmer's market/Pavilion		50.4%	140
Ice rink		39.2%	109
Kayak/canoe launch		47.5%	132
Kayak/canoe rental		42.8%	119
More public access to the Grand River		31.3%	87
Restrooms		63.3%	176
Natural areas		38.8%	108
Playground equipment		33.5%	93
Recreational pathways for walking, bicycling, etc.		55.0%	153
Skate park		9.0%	25
Soccer fields		10.8%	30
Splash pad/water play		46.0%	128
Tennis courts		12.6%	35
Wayfinding signs		19.1%	53
No Changes		2.9%	8
Other (Please specify):		12.2%	34
Total Responses			278

Question 7 - What additional facilities or amenities would you like to see added to City operated parks and open spaces? Please check all that apply. (Other (Please specify):

#	Response
1.	More Jaycee Park parking spaces
2.	something for announcing reservation status of rental facilities
3.	Places for wading in the river.
4.	Water park
5.	parking at new proposed boat ramp - not on River St.
6.	Pickle ball court
7.	at least 2 pickleball courts
8.	Reinforcement of slopes/banks along the river (reduce erosion, improve plant life)
9.	Question about funding, above, is dependent on projects being undertaken
10.	mountain bike single track trails
11.	Skateboard park
12.	nothing till our streets are fixed
13.	More Wide walks
14.	Maintain Oak Park as a Passive Open Space Area
15.	More thought put into color, placement and comfort of benches, picnic tables and other items places in parks. Keep man made items to a minimum. Have you ever seen anyone having a picnic at the end of Russell Street? No, but the folks sure miss the woods.
16.	Improve path between island park and Fitzgerald park
17.	Create accessible walking trail from islands to Fitz Park. Protect fragile riverbank ecosystem. Don't build a bunch of junky clutter; that will only look trashy and lower area property values.
18.	baseball/softball fields. We are in desperate need of more softball fields. Our program is growing by leaps and bounds and the fields would be put to good use.
19.	Band Shell
20.	Handicap friendly playground features
21.	Oak Park: Let brush grow tall and wide along the RR tracks, to deter persons from walking the tracks and trestle. Don't mow so close at Oak Park so there is less erosion around the trees. Could thinning of trees be considered?
22.	Repair dam so river level stays useable
23.	community outdoor swimming pool
24.	We already have a place for the farmers market. We need stuff for the young kids and teenagers to do that is local! They have nothing to do in town, and it gives them more opportunity to get in trouble. We need a place they can play basketball and such year round! They don't have anywhere to practice, and they have huge cuts in the basketball program in high school. Doesn't give them opportunity to better themselves.
25.	Pickleball courts - great for seniors, also a intergenerational playground
26.	Restoration to Island Park Gazebo and riverboat docks (Island Park, Jaycee, and Fitzgerald Parks)
27.	community pool
28.	Pool

29. Mtb trails
30. Food truck court
31. More disc golfing
32. Open restrooms @ Island Park every day!
33. Pickle ball courts
34. Boat launch (Fishing)

Question 8 - 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 9.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Responses
Flatter, easier grades	12 (22.2%)	20 (37.0%)	20 (37.0%)	2 (3.7%)	0 (0.0%)	54
Accessible playgrounds	14 (26.4%)	22 (41.5%)	16 (30.2%)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	53
Accessible parking	15 (27.3%)	27 (49.1%)	12 (21.8%)	1 (1.8%)	0 (0.0%)	55
Accessible waterfront access	14 (26.9%)	22 (42.3%)	15 (28.8%)	1 (1.9%)	0 (0.0%)	52
Accessible restrooms	21 (38.2%)	24 (43.6%)	10 (18.2%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	55
Paved trails	12 (21.1%)	26 (45.6%)	17 (29.8%)	2 (3.5%)	0 (0.0%)	57
Accessible spectator viewing areas	19 (33.9%)	20 (35.7%)	17 (30.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	56

Question 9 - Do you support collaborative recreation partnerships among Grand Ledge Public Schools, Eaton County, and the City of Grand Ledge?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Yes		96.3%	262
No		3.7%	10
		Total Responses	272

Question 10 - What do you like best about parks and recreation in Grand Ledge?

#	Response
1.	For the most part free entry
2.	Openess and accessibility.
3.	I look forward to seeing if the plan to develop Jaycee Park is completed. The plan is amazing and would give residents more opportunities to enjoy the downtown area and the Grand River. The is so little to do now in the downtown area that appeals to a broad audience.
4.	The nature trails and views of the river.
5.	Grand Ledge is a beautiful city. I believe it is its greatest asset. The parks should be highly showcased to further enhance the City's best feature.
6.	The walking trails in the county parks are great, but the river walk in alot of help. Expanding trail system would be good.
7.	Access to trails along the Grand River and access to this river.
8.	The parks are truly an amazing asset to our community.
9.	That the Grand River is part of the parks and rec system.
10.	playgrounds. we only visit jaycee park and the schools though. Parking at fitgerald used to be free on wednesday... i guess with the addition of that payment box now its no longer a free family day though :- (We cannot afford to pay to park more than once or twice per year.
11.	Makes Grand Ledge a very liveable place; provides much needed physical activity areas for improved health of our residents;
12.	Abundance of spaces and close access across town, proximity to river.
13.	The beautiful trails
14.	Clean safe
15.	Easy to access
16.	There are a lot of natural areas and places to hike/walk. There are also many places to put in a kayak.
17.	The River Walk is beautiful. Our kids enjoyed the playground equipment.
18.	greenspaces in downtown; island park being maintained;
19.	That there are parks available to conduct recreational activities in. I also feel they are nicely kept and attractive to a passer by - to stop what they may be doing and proceed into the park to explore and make happy memories.
20.	Oak Park provides some of the finest natural geologic exposures of bedrock in Michigan's Lower Peninsula, and virtually the only rock-climbing within two hundred miles in any direction (and that's as the crow flies).
21.	Oak Park rock climbing and Lincoln Brick Park swimming
22.	Rock climbing at Oak Park
23.	Grand Ledge parks are amazing & restoration around the river is most important to me, especially erosion prevention.
24.	I like the fishing access to the Grand River. I also like natural outdoor settings. I do occasionally use parks for social gatherings or playing sports but really mostly enjoy the river access.
25.	NATURAL!
26.	The unique natural features (sandstone ledges and river) and the large trees.
27.	There is a lot of variety in the parks spaces we have.
28.	Grand Ledge is blessed to have an abundance of fine natural resource based and sports based recreational facilities.
29.	Quiet natural areas.

30.	Natural beauty of the Grand River and ledges
31.	outdoor community events
32.	I like the nature trails at Lincoln Brick Park (especially north trail) and at Fitzgerald. Although I haven't climbed in years, Oak Park climbing is a HUGE attraction. I like the Barn Theater, but have only gone on a few occasions. The frisbee golf, skiing and sledding at Fitzgerald is great.
33.	Grand River, River walk
34.	They are THERE. The community has supported their development and are often in walking distance from one's home.
35.	safety
36.	Many different types of activities are included; green spaces, walking trails, space for sporting events. This city has a lot to offer in terms of events. I think Music and movies in the park are wonderful additions to the Grand Ledge scene.
37.	walking paths
38.	The river and natural green space is the centerpiece. Having restaurants and other opportunities so close to many of the parks is a great aspect above and beyond the parks themselves.
39.	proximity to home and ability to join classmates for rec activities
40.	River, woodland, accessibility to pets.
41.	I like that they are safe and that you can get nearly all the way around town on a bicycle or by running/walking without having to go in the street.
42.	They are free
43.	the variety is wonderful. The widewalk/riverwalk is great for strollers. playground equipment is nice at every park. oak park and island are good for sharing with out of town visitors do to the unique natural beauty.
44.	Kayaking
45.	Love the natural beauty of the area.
46.	You can walk, not far to go to do and observe.
47.	There are many opportunities to do a variety of activities.
48.	Lincoln Brick Park and Fitzgerald Park are gems, with wild space, walking paths in forested areas, picnicking facilities, and other amenities.
49.	Easy access and the green space and no charges.
50.	There is good variety of parks and things to do in the parks.
51.	We especially appreciate the parks that are on the river and that we can enjoy walking along the river, whether in the more formal downtown parks or more natural setting of Fitzgerald park.
52.	I think overall, they enhance the community spirit of Grand Ledge. I also love that their proximity to some of our natural resources, like the Grand River and the Ledges
53.	Lincoln Brick brings beauty without a lot of expense.
54.	The wide walks along Grand River and the Memorial Tree Trail.
55.	Wide walks.
56.	Availability, variety
57.	There is a lot to choose from. Something for everyone. We use the River Walk and Oak Park the most as we enjoy nature. The reason people enjoy rivers and bodies of water so much is it's generally "development free" on the water. We enjoy Oak Park because its generally "development free" Oak Park at one time was classified as Passive Open Space. We hope this will continue.
58.	Grand Ledge has some of the most spectacular natural views in the area. We need to step away from the trend that more stuff is "enhancement" of our parks. We're just burying our most precious assets.

59.	Widewalk for biking
60.	It is not 'gimmicky;' not full of cement, plastic and vendors.
61.	fitz park @ walkways and riverwalk and parks
62.	When it comes to our parks and rec, I've always felt our city has something for everyone! From just sitting and watching the Grand River to hiking the trails in Fitzgerald Park to listening to the summer music, I feel lucky to call this home.
63.	Variety of offerings and activities.
64.	Well maintained
65.	Grand Ledge is a nice small town and I find most of the parks and recreational facilities accessible by foot.
66.	Our parks are beautiful. Island park needs maintenance and a plan to deter geese.
67.	That they are available & important to the community.
68.	The sense of community that GL is known for seems to be brought out in part by the parks and community events held there. Would LOVE to have more options for children and families!
69.	Proximity to my home
70.	They are clean and safe.
71.	We have a good start on family park areas, they just need upgrading...especially restroom facilities.
72.	Access to the Grand River, and space for art/music to be promoted.
73.	The parks are beautiful in their own right because of the unusual proximity to the Grand River and its historic ledges.
74.	easy accessibility
75.	I like taking my kids to the parks.
76.	The significant amount that we have!
77.	Natural walking trails
78.	I really enjoy the easy access to nature available to us in Grand Ledge. I've really enjoyed using the riverwalk to connect JC Park and Island Park. I like the diversity of parks too. If you want wooded areas you can go to Oak Park. River views and access are great from JC Park and Island Park.
79.	Picnic tables and paths
80.	The parks make use of Grand Ledge's natural beauty. I think it is so important to preserve and protect these parks because they are part of what makes Grand Ledge so unique and special.
81.	Rules
82.	The mermaid and river edge trail at Oak Park. Is the acquisition of riverfront from Terry Hanks downstream or upstream of Oak Park?
83.	It's close to home but needs activities for younger kids
84.	Variety and many different places to go!
85.	I love how I can go to Oak Park, and have a nice picnic, then walk/climb along the ledges when I'm done. I love Lincoln Brick Park, and how beautiful and relaxing it is to hike through there, especially in the morning. Getting to spend time in nature is very important to me, and I wish more people did the same.
86.	the disc golf course
87.	Condition, variety, proximity,
88.	All appear to be well-maintained and safe areas; improvements in recent years to river walk, wide walk were very important and much appreciated.
89.	Variety of parks available in a small area

90.	Lots of peaceful areas to just sit and enjoy.
91.	Safe and fun for all of my kids, there are things to do with all of them. Regardless of age, size and handicaps.
92.	I like that there are actually still parks to take kids to and not have to worry about anything falling apart.
93.	The ease of access is great and they make good use of the space available.
94.	Trails, Disc golf, Water access, Rock claiming, kid friendly.
95.	The parks
96.	The ready availability of paths and access to the outdoors. I walk my dog along the river trail OFTEN.
97.	I like that many of the parks incorporate the river view.
98.	Scenery and ability to walk without vehicles.
99.	We usually head somewhere else to go to a park...grand ledge parks aren't too exciting for a big age range of kids.
100.	walking paths
101.	Beauty of woods and trails
102.	The diversity of the parks.
103.	Variety
104.	It is close to home and is a great way to get the family outside.
105.	I can take my kids to explore and have a great time.
106.	Accessibility and variety of things to do.
107.	Having so much natural beauty on the river and right downtown is wonderful. There is so much history in this town, and its preservation is very important. The parks showcase some of that history.
108.	Upkeep & sense of community
109.	Must of it is along the river. Hills for biking.
110.	The opportunity for kids to participate in recreational activities year-round.
111.	I enjoy the nature aspect to all of Grand Ledge's parks and taking walks with my family. Also taking the kids to play on the playground equipment at certain parks.
112.	The river. The current natural beauty (Ledges, Riverwalk, Island). Plenty of walking areas.
113.	Natural beauty.
114.	Natural beauty, wildlife, river.
115.	The variety
116.	love the music in the park, the farmers market, the playgrounds the green space and the river views
117.	Scenery, safety
118.	That they exist and are in relatively good condition.
119.	Ease of access
120.	The feeling of being safe and secure (to a large extent) because of the others enjoying the same activities. The beautiful scenery.
121.	Natural, unique surroundings. Nature trails. Variety of parks.
122.	Lots of different spots for kids to play
123.	They're usually quiet and enjoyable
124.	Having entertainment for children/families to spend time together.
125.	I love how nature is integrated into existing attraction/entertainment options

126.	The beauty of nature and the town's historical architecture.
127.	Variety, cleanliness, quantity.
128.	Parking and locations
129.	Beautiful locations
130.	I like that we have a beautiful river to enjoy along with the ledges. I also like to walk the many trails and go letterboxing and geocaching. We have an awesome sledding hill that my family has enjoyed for years, as well.
131.	Each park is its own personality and character. Always something new to see and explore.
132.	Beauty by the river. The opportunity to eat under the pavilion, playgrounds, and walk way from one park to the other.
133.	Safety, green space, quiet, natural areas.
134.	Parks are well kept and have lots of wildlife
135.	Recreational sport opportunities and safe environments are great.
136.	My family loves the diversity of recreation and things to do at all the various parks.
137.	Local
138.	The Ledges. Seriously. I just spent 13 years in the Upper Peninsula. I graduated from Grand Ledge High School. I worked in the tourism industry up north. I can't believe that, given the history of GL, the exposure and promotion of the ledges is so subdued. The school doesn't have rock climbing or paddling clubs. The city doesn't host competitions or events. Other cities and towns would kill for the features and interests gl has.
139.	A great variety.
140.	variety and the proximity
141.	The natural beauty
142.	Upscale locations to enjoy outdoors with the family. Playground areas.
143.	They have always provided excellent programs for my kids to participate in
144.	Small town feel
145.	Location, visitors (or residents), family atmosphere for most part
146.	All of the different park options. Each park offers something different depending on what you are planning or wanting to do on a specific day.

Question 11 - What would you do to improve parks and recreation in Grand Ledge?

#	Response
1.	Smoother running paths in Fitzgerald; open restroom(s) in Fitzgerald in winter
2.	Tying the riverfront together from Jaycee park to Fitzgerald park with a better trail, vista sites, interpretative signs (historic and natural) like geological info, plant info, settlement info, etc.
3.	Complete the plan for Jaycee Park. There is not much to do when downtown. Bringing more people to the area only benefits the city as a whole.
4.	make a resident lifetime pass.
5.	Develop the parks to enhance and encourage increased public use (restroom convenience, boating facilities, entertainment venues, event and sports seating).
6.	see above
7.	Bike trails need expansion. Trail to Fitzgerald Park from island is greatly in need of improvement. Canoe launch at JC park needs upgrade.

8.	Fitzgerald Park, Oak Park, Island, and Jacyee Park properties are some of the best anyone could ask for; just need to focus on enhancing the opportunities that they provide and the potential of their expansion!
9.	Make the system more accessible to the aging population and handicappers. There also needs to be access to the river to at least get your feet wet for those who don't have access to the enjoyment of being close to or in the water anywhere else. It will also promote conscious awareness of how important it is to keep the river clean and the eco system healthy and balanced.
10.	bring back free parking wednesday at fitzgerald.
11.	Volunteer time.
12.	Bathrooms, more children's activities (rink, splash pad, improved playgrounds,) no smoking or firearms!
13.	I love how organized they are.
14.	More way finding signs to get you to and around the parks
15.	More paved trails connecting parks.
16.	JC park being developed to host more activities
17.	Water park
18.	Proceed with their Master Plan - that sounds very exciting.
19.	Barrier Free parking. Boat & trailer parking right at new boat ramp & NOT up on River Street. Angle parking only on River Street
20.	The Ledges of Oak Park are subjected, at times, to rather significant sheet run-off due to the local gradient and overenthusiastic mowing. The oaks of Oak Park are not a particularly healthy stand due to the resultant depletion of top-soil & humus. The run-off also produces far more erosion at the base of the cliffs (due to intermittent waterfalls) than might be imagined. A vegetative buffer zone (perhaps incorporating a very modest berm of soil) is sorely needed to retard and absorb rain water.
21.	No major changes
22.	Stop mowing the grass so short at Oak Park and allow the leaves to remain at Oak Park.
23.	Enhance areas around Grand River, especially erosion prevention measures.
24.	I would not improve much...maybe trial markings could be better at some, though I don't mind them being unmarked. I like the parks the way they are. The only things I can think of is maybe some small general maintenance work and clean up.
25.	STOP adding fences, memorial boluder the size of cars...busted fences that do NOTHING but look bad after a few years....we don't get involved anymore because our word does not matter anyway. And tree's being cut down for no reason OAK tree's 60 years old or less...nothing wrong with them I guess they were "sick" although I could point to OLDER tree's that DO need to be trimmed or removed "hollow and dead" yet those remained...go figure.
26.	Keep the maintenance and safe use of the parks at a tip top level.
27.	Annex Lincoln Brick Park to allow police to patrol and curb the abuse of the swimming area.
28.	More/better playground structures
29.	Need a place for Canoes to get in and out away from the boat launch and also Handicap launch
30.	Better erosion control. Less grass trimming.
31.	walkability
32.	1st, and foremost, would be to commission a mural for the northeast side (southwest facing) wall at Bridge Street Plaza with a minimum \$35,000 budget. This would be a dramatic improvement, creating a highly visible energy and sense of place for Grand Ledge complimenting the new library renovation and welcoming people to Grand Ledge. Next would be an integrated biking trail system like Portland has. Last would be to expand natural land acquisition.
33.	more space
34.	I think that anytime you can partner with other groups who share the same goals and visions, it usually benefits everyone.

35.	offer organized pickleball events and increase walking paths also have nice/clean bathrooms
36.	Enhance and keep the parks updated
37.	General upgrade of facilities, paved access roadways.
38.	It would be great if there was some way to keep the riverwalk from flooding over (but honestly, it's not that often, so not that big of a problem). Public art is always nice to see.
39.	dog park!
40.	Lengthen the wide walk along M-43 to Jefferson. Extend the River Walk all the way to Fitzgerald Park. Make it more accessible via walkers and bikers (paved or boardwalk along river.
41.	Up keep
42.	not sure
43.	Better river access with water craft rental. It's odd that there is no rental business in our town. Offer a community ed climbing class that also teaches about the geology of the ledges and how we can be good stewards to preserve them.
44.	My only complaint is the goose poop on the Island Park.
45.	Would like to see a community activity building somewhere within the parks system.
46.	Improvements on the trail that goes from the parking lot where you feed the geese to Fitzgerald Park. It's one of my favorites but can be treacherous which I rather like the challenge of...sometimes. I didn't see it on the list above so guess it's not an official park. It's actually one of GL's best hidden secret nature areas.
47.	Despite how I answered Q. 5 (highest priority: maintain existing parks and facilities), I would acquire more park space within the City limits if appropriate land and funding are both available.
48.	Offer greater opportunities for nature classes.
49.	I would like to see improvements to the walking path between Fitzgerald Park and the downtown.
50.	More nature areas with walking paths, etc.
51.	I would love to see a more robust Farmer's Market -- something similar to the Meridian Twp. Farmer's Market. I love the trails around the ledges, but think we could do more to develop park space and recreation around the Grand River.
52.	nothing at this time, see above comment in Question 7
53.	I would expand the wide walk program / river trail to extend down to Fitzgerald Park
54.	ADD MORE PUBLIC RESTROOMS!
55.	MUST MUST police the rock climbers in Oak Park, they are constantly leaving trash EVERYWHERE. Hardly any are even from GL. maybe they need to pay to get in if they can't clean up after themselves.
56.	Maintaining what we have now. When structures need minor maintenance fix the issue while its still minor. The River Walk deck/bridge or the fence and the wire entangled in a tree at Oak Park for example.
57.	The Parks and Recreation board should be directing the Public Works staff as to how each park is to be maintained not the other way around.
58.	I love what you're planning with Jaycee park so wish it could start earlier. improve the path between Island park and Fitzgerald because would love to be able to have a better path for walking/running.
59.	Extend the widewalk along with more bike paths
60.	See earlier notes.
61.	Continue to offer workshops / classes on our natural world. I have attended a few different walks with our naturalist 'Jackie.' She is an excellent resource.
62.	Add a bandshell
63.	Increase maintenace and provide public bathriom facilities.

64.	Maintain what we have with the exception of adding softball fields and an amphitheater.
65.	Would love to see the Ledges trail maintained & improved
66.	More opportunities for play and recreation.
67.	Update playground
68.	Improve restrooms and playground equipment. Ensure that ALL playgrounds are unlocked on a daily basis all 12 months of the year. Upgrade the playground equipment as there are many broken elements at the Jaycee park that can cause injury. Publicize and enhance the 'hidden' parks. Who knew there was a public park on Colonial? in Fieldview? somewhere east of town: "Dible"? If citizens are subsidizing them through taxes they should be readily available to all.
69.	Increase the number of facilities for music/ sports to be participated in.
70.	Maybe the over abundance of bird manure on the Island could be alleviated if that is possible. If not, we just have to expect it in order to keep the ducks coming to visit.
71.	more walking trails
72.	I would like there to be more recreation activities/classes offered.
73.	Lincoln Brick Park needs a proper sign for the pedestrian access to the park along the river for all the residents on Main Street and the Meadow Woods subdivision - you shouldn't have to drive down Tallman Road to the main park access. We need an improved river trail from the island to Fitzgerald Park! With it's expansion, lets make Oak Park as great as it can be for the entire community and visitors not just its neighbors - lets make this an active space for the rock climbers, fishermen, kayakers, and walkers all to enjoy with an improved trail system and river access!
74.	Side walk accessibility
75.	I would like more integrated trails to connect the different parks. Also adding things that would allow more year round use of the parks (like having an ice rink).
76.	Clean up and shore up the edges of the island
77.	Add a dog park!!
78.	Things to keep teens occupied.
79.	Walking and biking paths
80.	Add more playground equipment- have an ice skating rink
81.	Splash pad for small children
82.	Island Park especially, is FILTHY. I do go to this park a lot, (it's great to grab ice cream from Corner Cone and stroll over) however every time I go I am saddened by all the trash that is everywhere, and the vandalism on the tables. Maybe increased police patrol and perhaps some more trash cans with signs about littering consequences would help a little.
83.	build a walking bridge to connect lincoln brick park to Fitz
84.	Keep any/all areas of current & add potential: park/nature/land/organic earth
85.	Can't think of anything specific, other than greater police presence along river walk and on island in the evenings.
86.	More kid parks!
87.	I would like to see more nature trails and more a variety of toys for the kids to play on. I also think having a place to rent kayaks would be pretty nice as well.
88.	The Riverwalk is nice, but it seems to just fall apart after Jaycee Park. A better connection to the Widewalk would really help it feel like a more complete path.
89.	Skate park and aquatic center
90.	Put in one or more dog baggie stations elsewhere in town; install a small dog park; facilitate a kayak/canoe livery and launch in addition to a small outfitter with fishing stuff.

91.	I would recommend better signage for accessing trails and parks and make them more clearly connected to each other.
92.	Clean goose droppings from paths more frequently.
93.	Put stuff in for the kids! They are our future! Let's give families a reason to stay in and come to grand ledge! I keep telling my husband, we need to move! If we want to do something fun, we have to leave town. We have kids ranging from 2 to 14, not much around here we can do where they all would have fun.
94.	More trails
95.	Find a way to develop the river trail between the island parking lot and Fitzgerald.
96.	My daughter is 4. Anything a 4 yr old would like :) More by city hall, which is closest to our house.
97.	We need to add more amenities for our senior citizens like pickleball which is becoming much more popular plus playgrounds designed for kids as well as specialized equipment for seniors.
98.	Update the play areas
99.	Would to see Grand Ledge have a band shell and promote it's use.
100.	More variety
101.	I like the Jaycee park plan. I would love a longer river trail similar too lansing. I like to enjoy long bike rides and those sort of trails offer a safe place. Maybe connect to the one in delta township.
102.	I think parks and rec are doing a great job.
103.	Some of the buildings and amenities need restoration. But overall, the natural beauty should be allowed to shine.
104.	More activities like music/movies in the park. Shakespeare in the park or other theater in the park would be great.
105.	Better advertising to be more competitive with Delta Twp. with rec leagues.
106.	Better reservation system for pavilion, often bring used when reserved. Splash pad.
107.	Mtb trail system. Trail systems bring a lot of visitors from other parts of the state. They typically stop at a party store on the way, get gas at some point and eat out afterwards. Basically it equals a lot of money being spent in the city.
108.	Kayak rentals, a launch area, pavilions for music/movies in the park.
109.	It would be nice to see more activies available for kids and families such as more playgrounds and possibly a water park and/or public pool. More available restrooms.
110.	Boat launch repairs. Amphitheater (as suggested on the recent plan). Area for farmer's market (protection from rain).
111.	Improve playgrounds, maintain play structures, safer areas near playgrounds, lawn maintenance at play areas, restrooms at parks
112.	Better security including security cameras. Add a couple parking structures downtown to allow festival patrons access without having to be bussed in. Add free wifi to some of the downtown parks.
113.	An official parks and rec program like Delta Twp with lots of fun classes. It builds community!
114.	a place for swimming and or splash pad would be a very nice addition
115.	More recreational opportunities such as canoeing/kayaking, tennis courts
116.	Add more bike trails like Portland.
117.	Lengthen the wide trail on M43, would be nice if it was longer. Sidewalk or trail on South side of M43 for residents South of roadway and a cross walk at Kenner Street light
118.	Create a community service partnership with the grand ledge school district b
119.	Unsure.
120.	Dog park

121.	Support downtown businesses. If you move the farmers market and music to Jaycee park then you are taking visitors from the downtown area. Use the park for recreational activities.
122.	Idk
123.	Increase police presence to impede criminal behavior
124.	a dog park would be most appreciated
125.	New equipment
126.	Add additional recreational attractions
127.	More opportunities for outdoor recreation (I.e. Canoe rental, etc.)
128.	Jc park in particular the playground is falling apart and really needs to be updated.
129.	Bring the fire pit back to the sledding hill.
130.	Probably start by focusing on maintenance and grooming.
131.	Clean bathrooms, instead of outhouses, and some could use cleaner picnic tables.
132.	The play grounds all need updating. JC park has really gone down hill.
133.	Add natural pathways and hiking trails. I think a skate park and ice rink are very badly needed.
134.	With a collaboration with GL Schools, would like Adult ed/recreation. Access to a pool during the day would be nice
135.	I believe that more voluntary river and park clean ups would be extremely beneficial (and easy).
136.	Invest in the plan for the Jaycee Park. We need to incorporate the river views in future planning.
137.	More tennis
138.	Offer adult leagues.
139.	clean up trash and keep properties mowed and the tall weeds trimmed down...
140.	I would make it the central Michigan destination for rock climbing and I would seriously consider bringing back the amusement park of old. It's a good idea.
141.	A dog park would be a great addition.
142.	Increase amenities & events
143.	Open school athletics fields to public when not in-use by schools. Install small boat launch for public boating and fishing. Perhaps a dock or pier at the Jaycee location with boardwalk and lease vendor permits to local companies to cater to public on the boardwalk, seasonally.
144.	We need a dog park
145.	Offer more walkways, boardwalks and make use of our waterways.
146.	More family usage, items to keep kids busy and entertained, attractions to take guests when visiting area (residents).
147.	Option available to rent canoes and kayaks, raise money for the city and give people a way to enjoy the Grand River

Question 12 - What new recreation programs would you like to see in Grand Ledge?

#	Response
1.	Concerts in Fitzgerald Park
2.	Adult enrichment classes. Cake decorating, Basket making, Scrapbooking, Couponing
3.	Not sure, but anything to get kids and adults up and moving
4.	Canoe/kayak launch/rental and a Skate Park. There is literally nothing for kids to do downtown. One small basketball court really doesn't help anyone - increase the courts.

5.	none
6.	A dedicated Senior Center and anything to further support existing community events and activities.
7.	bike trails
8.	Not sure.
9.	Senior and community recreation programs beyond organized youth sports.
10.	Art and Music for all ages, including the aging. Again, our population is aging with nothing here in this area to add to the quality of life for senior citizens. We also need a Senior Citizen's Center that is active and well staffed. This will end up being a center for socializing and promoting a healthy, happy, connected, active senior life-style. This is the most necessary part of the recreational system that must be developed. There is nothing here for people as they retire.
11.	splash park
12.	More sports for kids
13.	Nature and gardening clubs.
14.	Tennis, yoga, basketball, dance, gymnastics
15.	Exercise programs for seniors. Rock climbing courses.
16.	more bike racks and bike paths throughout the city; more connections to other bike paths in surrounding areas
17.	Summer Sport - Day camps
18.	A new amphitheater, a dog park, ice skating rink, available bathrooms, a kayak rental space, and maybe a small shack for fish bait, light snacks, water or soda pop.
19.	None.
20.	Fly fishing
21.	leave the natural parks alone the ones that are simply great as they are...don't add swings and fences, memorials for people we don't know. As I mentioned years ago we were more involved, not anymore.
22.	Ice skating rink in the winter (weather permitting).
23.	None
24.	adult sports leagues (basketball, volleyball, tennis, etc.)
25.	drop in dance class or shorter sessions for little ones, language classes for kids, music and movement for little kids
26.	Biking trail.
27.	collaborative partnership w/ Delta Twp?
28.	Pickle ball
29.	summer program for kids
30.	pickle ball court playing
31.	Availability of organized recreational sports programs for ALL ages/grades especially those for middle school and high school aged children that are not making the 1 team per sport offered in the grand ledge school system. IE Keeping all kids involved in the summer months regardless of their middle school/high school sports affiliation.
32.	Nature activities - nature camp for kids on days off from school. Family-focused activities. BUT - don't compete w/ other programming; find a niche.
33.	not sure
34.	I would love to see a zero depth pool or splash pad for children.
35.	not sure. I don't do rec programs.
36.	Walking groups

37.	Skateboard park and lacross area.
38.	I would like to see an amphitheater on the river for the GLHS/Community band concert on Memorial weekend and also the Thursday night concerts.
39.	I would love an outdoor yoga class during the summer months, art programs for adults and kids, kayaking, cooking classes, tennis classes for adults, snowshoeing in the winter.
40.	nothing
41.	Expansion of wide walks
42.	Extend the wide walk to Fitzgerald Park.
43.	Boat rentals in town
44.	Tree watching contests.
45.	Repair the dam so water activities can continue.
46.	More regular river clean-up! Expand the boundaries for clean-up.
47.	Again, as a retired science teacher, I would enjoy workshops on earth science, botany, wildlife, chemistry of our River and its watershed.
48.	Cycling
49.	More recreation areas for children & teens
50.	At this point focus should be placed on completion of the plan that has been designed before moving forward with other wants and desires.
51.	N/A
52.	Art classes/activities, children's activities
53.	I don't know about that. I'm a senior citizen.
54.	Dog park!!
55.	none. The discussion by Ranger Blanc recently at Lincoln Brick was informative and realistic.
56.	I would love a nice bike trail through the woods, without disrupting any hiking trails. Maybe with the expansion of Oak Park a nice trail could be added.
57.	running club
58.	Fencing, youth volunteering, adult women's basketball, youth fitness, anything in the kitchen
59.	Adult leagues for indoor volleyball and outdoor kickball; would like to see more "fun" fitness opportunities for adults. Anything to expand and improve upon Farmer's Market would be great, too, as this is a great addition to our community.
60.	Splash pad!
61.	Splash pad
62.	A community swimming pool and splash pad.
63.	Would love a beginning or supportive runner/walker club
64.	Pickleball
65.	Kayak or Canoe rental.
66.	This is why I marked No on #10; I didn't quite understand the question. I worry about school rec programs getting involved too much, because of this town's obsession with sports. We already have sports facilities all over town; it would be a shame to add still more to our parks and mar the natural and wildlife aspects that are limited and precious within town. If we're not talking about that, though, I'm sure you have loads of good ideas -- you mentioned some above. Will there be town halls on this to exchange ideas?
67.	Recreation center with a community pool would be a wonderful addition.

68.	Tennis for the kids and maybe some adult sport leagues.
69.	More swimming
70.	More variety of classes for kids and adults.
71.	Unsure.
72.	Some kind of water play area for all ages. A kayak/canoe launch and rental place. More activities for younger kids (infant - 5)
73.	Health classes in the park? (yoga / tai chi). Sand volleyball leagues? Ice skating. Kayak instruction?
74.	Add an amphitheater large enough to attract National acts but structure it so that the noise doesn't bother anyone.
75.	Tai Chi or Qi gong classes (great for older people like me at age 60), art classes,,aquatics program for older people (morning / afternoon classes.
76.	Lacrosse boys Archery for boys 7 and up
77.	Need to have recreational sports teams similar to programs offered at the YMCA
78.	Splash park / water sports options
79.	Adult organized sports
80.	Maybe more kayaking access places
81.	Community volleyball
82.	Water park, and other family entertainment
83.	Adult softball.
84.	Kayaking
85.	More choices for older adults.
86.	A splash pad, amphitheater would be nice or a place to host a nice farmers market.
87.	Water park/splash pad
88.	yoga, pilates, water aerobics, lawn bowling
89.	adult softball league
90.	A dog park.
91.	Different sports for kids to try
92.	Pickle ball, and splash pad park.
93.	Paddling and climbing.
94.	Am yoga on the green. Summer.
95.	Something that brings young & old together
96.	Allow the use of ATV and Motocross vehicles of less than 400 cc on specified trails within Fitzgerald or Lincoln Brick Parks. A special permit can be obtained by residents for a fee and vehicles can be inspected for safety and noise restraints by the staff at each park.
97.	Dog park
98.	Dog park and walking trails

Question 13 - Where do you live?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Within the City of Grand Ledge		56.8%	155
Greater Grand Ledge Region		36.3%	99
Greater Lansing Region		4.4%	12
None of the above		2.6%	7
		Total Responses	273

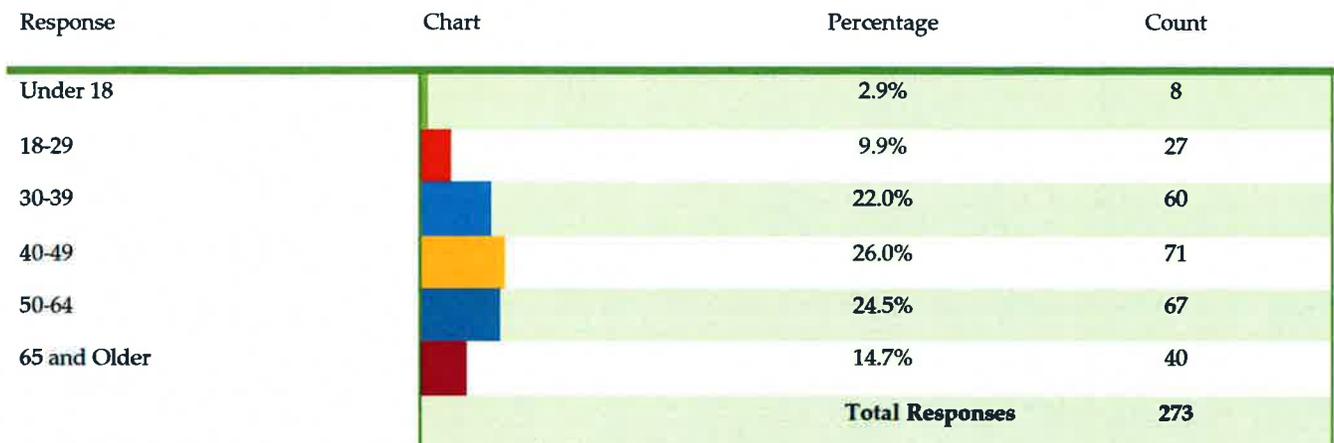
Question 14 - How many years have you lived in the Grand Ledge area?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
Less than 1		2.9%	8
1 to 4		12.1%	33
5 to 10		11.7%	32
11 to 19		22.3%	61
Over 20		46.5%	127
I don't live in the Grand Ledge area		4.4%	12
		Total Responses	273

Question 15 - How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?

Response	Chart	Percentage	Count
1		35.2%	56
2		36.5%	58
3		19.5%	31
4		5.0%	8
5		2.5%	4
6 or more		1.3%	2
		Total Responses	159

Question 16 - What is your age?



Question 17 - Are there any other comments you wish to add?

#	Response
1.	Improve and expand boat launch
2.	I think it is important to preserve many of the current assets Parks has like maintaining the boardwalk and river trail to Fitzgerald park before they become deteriorated and unusable
3.	PLEASE move forward with the development of Jaycee Park. Why was money wasted on Bridge Street Plaza when the property is available for sale? Those funds should have been directed to a space with a broader appeal to all.
4.	I don't live in Grand Ledge, however, I have worked here for 10 years. One of my daughters lives here and all five of my grandchildren attend Grand Ledge schools. The parks and school programs and venues are frequently utilized.
5.	finish or expand walking and biking trails
6.	Erosion on North side of dam was created by city during dam repair and is now in serious need of attention to both repair damage and create safe access to river for folks who fish at TG his popular spot.
7.	We should work to "loop" the sidewalk from M-43 back to Fitzgerald Park and extend the riverwalk to Fitzgerald Park. Thank you for your recent efforts in the Oak Park expansion, Jaycee Park expansion and finally improving the boat launch.
8.	I have lived in the city and now in Oneida Township for over 60 years. I am currently considering moving out of my hometown because there is not much here to engage citizens as we grow closer to retirement. There also doesn't seem to be much in the way of day to day support offered by our town for citizens as their needs change; I'm also concerned about the seemingly lack of social support for people as they age, as well. Maybe I'm missing it but, Grand Ledge seems to be more focused on the younger generations than the generations that have grown old in our town and are still vital--and then again, what about the people that would love to be social but that cannot get out by themselves to enjoy our parks and rec system? I think what is needed in town is more about making services available to people that need it so the CAN enjoy what is already available. I think it would also be beneficial to Grand Ledge to bring back something similar to what use to make our town a 'destination'...it use to be fun--a family and resort destination. Why did the town let all of that go? 'Rebuild it and they will come.' It can and should be done. Build on our history--bring it back--the blueprint still exists; I can't think of anything more wonderful than rebuilding Grand Ledge into what it use to be back in its days of 'glory'.
9.	wish we could afford to go to gl parks more often. cant afford \$3 a day though, nor can we afford the family pass.. please bring back free wednesdays!!!!
10.	I do not like being at a playground with my children where people are open carrying weapons
11.	Love the recreation for children, well organize and informed...most cleanest healthy nice city with up most welcoming environment Friendly staff

12.	I am extremely excited for this new venture GL is conducting.
13.	Grand Ledge has some of the finest amounts and quality of park land per capita of any Michigan town or city. Though attendance is sparse at Park and Recreation meetings, there are many citizens of Grand Ledge who are very interested in the availability and welfare of public greenspace / open space/ park land.
14.	Thanks!
15.	I love the parks and would love to get more involved with them.
16.	thanks Jodi
17.	no
18.	Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this survey. The parklands are the reason we chose Grand Ledge as our home.
19.	Arts, Parks and Recreation and the Library are the foundation for a vibrant, connected community.
20.	question 15 doesn't have an answer for zero
21.	Keep up the good work making GL a beautiful place to live!
22.	Grand Ledge is a wonderful town to live in with many beautiful parks.
23.	A cleanup of the first island. Cleaning up the debris.
24.	yeah, there was no check box for zero children in my house)
25.	Q. 15 - zero
26.	Current Parks Director is doing a fine job.
27.	We love the Grand Ledge community, and fully support efforts to enhance our parks, sidewalks and recreational opportunities.
28.	nothing
29.	The parks system is not only a quality of life enhancement but adds value to our community in the form of higher property value and increased business traffic.
30.	Grand Ledge is a wonderful community. I love it here!
31.	There has been a lot of graffiti in the past several weeks at JC Park. Swear words wrote on the playground equipment. I live by the park and have seen a increased amount of older kids hanging out on the playground after school is out, hence the graffiti. The police do a good job of frequent drive bys but maybe they can time them when school gets out? And I do plan on letting the police dept know about this.
32.	Anything that requires maintenance requires money. Please...Design with that in mind.
33.	You need to establish memorial gift guidelines. Trees are always an appropriate gift for parks. Memorial plaques would be more appropriate placed at ground level so as to not be a reminder of our immortality every time we visit a park. There are times when Tributes are appropriate and they could be approved by City Council.
34.	Please do not add a lot of cement to the riverwalk park!
35.	I would love to see an amphitheater put in somewhere. With such a strong musical identity in Grand Ledge, we really should have one.
36.	Thank you for providing this survey.
37.	I would like to see a connection of the Delta trail to the Grand Ledge trail system.
38.	I live in Oneida township and love the downtown activities and events. Would love for parks and recreation to play a bigger role and offer more.
39.	We walk the city on a daily basis. The walking trail/sidewalk is in need of upkeep ie: dog and duck feces. Understanding that it is difficult to control, we still find it unpleasant and discouraging for families with children. We attend the Music in the Park weekly. While the venue is okay it will be nice to have a larger area now that attendance has grown. We are concerned, however, with the parking availability on River Street. As grandparents we like to use the playgrounds but find them inaccessible frequently and dangerous with broken equipment. If the Public School playgrounds are included in the

	offerings of the City Parks/Recreation then the school system needs to keep them open during holidays and summer. We are hoping that the dream plans for the riverfront are completed in our lifetime!
40.	The parks are very nice and natural. I have nothing of any consequence to add.
41.	Thank you for your efforts and allowing us to participate in our future parks system!
42.	No, thank you
43.	I can try to help with light manual labor, I am retired. 517 643-2301
44.	Have some kind of food - simple food stands somewhere- especially during parades- During the St Patricks day parade there was no place to get any food- hot dog/chips drinks except for the very crowded bars
45.	I love our Parks, let's keep them clean and appreciate the beauty we have in this area by preserving it and taking better care of our environment!
46.	SO excited to put down roots in GL! Grand ledge ROCKS
47.	I'm just moving to the area and haven't had much time to explore yet, but I know I'd love to see a dog park!
48.	Thank you for the amazing place to live and play. I am enjoying watching my kids grow, play and explore in the grand ledge parks!
49.	<p>I love that there is an emphasis and importance placed on the value that adding green space to the community. I don't have children, so planning space for recreation and opportunities to interact with other community members, makes this an enjoyable community for people like myself. Sure, having great schools are important for home values, etc... but these kind of improvements, truly benefit EVERYONE and encourage people outside our community to come visit.</p> <p>Lastly, the River Island needs some maintenance and upkeep: the pavilion needs to be painted and spruced up as does the bench and railing at the very end of the island. It would also be helpful to have one or two more small trash receptacles along the river trail.</p> <p>Thank you for all you do!!</p>
50.	From what I gather, the classic car show is supposedly grand ledges biggest fundraiser? I feel that more should be put into that, if that's the case. Fitzgerald is HUGE!! Make use of it! Cram it full of fun stuff to do, see, participate in! Contests, such as karaoke, chalk coloring, free throw shooting, 3 on 3 tournaments, talent show, dodgeball...you name it! Charge small appropriate fees for each event! Also curious if all of these suggestions actually get read!
51.	Thank you for asking people before spending money on things people won't use. Parks greatly enhance quality of life. Very difficult to ride bike in area because roads are made for it. Need more bike trails.
52.	Thank you :)
53.	We love Grand Ledge parks!
54.	Need more areas on the North Side.
55.	Have you ever thought of having a overnight parking area for travellers with campers? I was thinking of Lincoln Park.
56.	<p>Thank you for requesting feedback. It's great to know these issues are under consideration. I'd love to see posts about it on the city Facebook to stay informed, as well. Since I live on the river a stone's throw from several of these parks, these issues are extra important to me.</p> <p>Thanks!</p>
57.	I would like to see more of an effort to preserve the natural wildlife that live along the river. Maybe informative signs and some coin operated feeders with bird safe grains. Bread really isn't good for the ducks and geese.
58.	Thanks for asking for our input!
59.	The play structure at city hall is used often, but is in such poor condition. recently a part of a slide was broken, and instead of having it repaired or replaced it was just removed and a rough (think slivers galore) board was put up. I would love to see the park improved for the kids on that side of town. Jaycee park has a decent play structure, but the landscaping is usually poorly maintained. I often find myself driving to neighboring communities with nicer parks for my children to play (dewitt, delta twp)

60.	Make it friendly to be outdoors and being with other people. That does not mean more spending for organized sports GL is already to focused on that and not family activities.
61.	More running/biking paved pathways would be nice. Crosswalk at M43 and Jenne and a sidewalk or some type of path on the south side of M43
62.	Dog park!!!!
63.	No
64.	Thank you for asking the community for input!
65.	I answered 0 or 1-4 on all parks, however as I now have a daughter I forsee visiting parks more frequently. I've lived outside of Grand Ledge for 3 years now, and have just visited parks this year for the first time (my daughter is 18 months) so I feel we'll be spending a lot more time in the Grand Ledge parks.
66.	Thank you for asking for community feedback!
67.	I should have added this above. I think it would be nice if Lincoln Brick park building or other parks in the area, were open more often, so that there could be learning / teaching opportunities for our children. Also, I love the number of parks that we have in the area.
68.	Love the plan for farmers market!!
69.	I live next to Colonial Park. I moved their two and a half years ago. One of my neighbors has been their 9 years. As of approximately 4 weeks ago the city just started mowing the park. Myself and the neighbors have been taking care of it since I moved in. Another resident stated the city has not mowed the area for at least nine years. WHY NOW?
70.	Invest in the Jaycee Park/Riverwalk plan with the Farmer's Market pavilion and the amphitheater.
71.	No
72.	Look at your city's history and appreciate the future your forefathers imagined; they were good ideas.
73.	I think these are great ways for the city to upgrade the parks, and raise funds to help maintain them.
74.	Thanks for offering us this survey. Anxiously waiting the results.
75.	A dog park area would be wonderful. LOTS or residents out walking dogs in the area, so know it would be used often - and promotes community socializing with other pet owners also in the area. Contributes to exercise and movement. Etc.
76.	Thank you for putting out this survey to hear community members opinions.

Appendix D

Sources of Recreation Grant Funding in Michigan

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 \$100,000 (\$200,000 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 \$45,000
- 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.glft.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 - \$50,000
- 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

Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network

- For projects that improve the watershed and help build sustainable communities
- Good for use as seed and match money
- Have helped fund canoe launches, trails, and other park projects
- Applications taken on a rolling basis, awarded semi-annually
- See www.saginawbaywin.org/grants/ for more info

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
Supplemental Documents

Public Notice
Articles Here

Minutes
Minutes Here

Resolution
Resolution Here