

## *Section 1 – Planning and Public Input Process*



## **Planning Approach**

The City staff began the process of updating their five-year plan in February of 2023 using a collaborative team approach. An internal team of staff members including professional recreation planners, operations staff, and field services personnel were charged with the development of the plan. Major steps in the planning process included the following:

- Needs assessment survey
- Updates and revisions to data included in the recreation inventory, community description, and administrative structure sections of the plan
- Public, stakeholder and staff reaction and review meetings to synthesize input from assessment data
- Data analysis and comparison
- Development of the action plan
- Plan review and adoption

The Battle Creek City Commission adopted the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update on December 19, 2023. A copy of the public notice and support resolution are included in Appendix C. The transmittal letters are included prior to the table of contents.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Battle Creek Parks and Recreation**

- Provide direction for the scope and focus of the master plan process
- Develop and collect information from various sources
- Promote and facilitate all community “stakeholder” meetings
- Compile information used for the community description, administrative structure and recreation and resources inventory sections
- Prepare master plan document
- Coordinate approval process for plan adoption
- Submit completed plan
- Key staff included:
  - o Duska Brumm, Recreation Director (project coordination and management, public and staff facilitation, document preparation project direction)
  - o Ted Dearing, Assistant City Manager (project coordination)
  - o Todd Gerber, Field Services Superintendent (project management and coordination)
  - o Todd Everson, Assistant Field Services Superintendent (project management and coordination)
  - o Nicole Gilmore, Recreation Technician (project support)
  - o Jessica Vanderkolk, Communications Manager (execute needs assessment survey)
  - o Matthew Cannady, Business Analyst/GIS Manager (project coordination)

The entire Parks and Recreation staff was involved in determining priorities, and establishing plan goals and objectives based on public input.

### **Needs Assessment Survey**

The department's planning priorities included identifying an accurate method of determining public recreation needs. The needs assessment survey was made available from May through July on the Parks and Recreation website and Facebook page as well as the City's website. Surveys were available in English, Burmese, and Spanish. Questions included citizen usage, satisfaction, needs and priorities for parks and recreation programs and services. This approach provided feedback from both users and non-users of recreation services and ensured that the final plan would be representative of the entire community.

The survey questionnaire was developed with input from residents and city staff, including references to questions from previous surveys for use as a baseline. Over 225 surveys were collected. The results represent people in all wards of the community.

Data was also collected from results obtained from the City's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan Strategic Priorities which included 9 public meetings and 950 survey respondents and from the 2022 National Community Survey which had over 700 respondents.

### **Public Input Process**

Prior to the development of this plan, parks and recreation staff conducted five focus groups, one with each of the Neighborhood Planning Councils (NPC's) that were currently meeting, involving over 50 residents designed to yield valuable information about the recreation-related issues facing the citizens of Battle Creek. The focus groups purposefully included representatives from various recreation and other community interests along with geographically diverse neighborhoods from around the community.

The focus groups were supplemented by a meeting with senior city staff and elected officials, and a meeting with parks and recreation staff. The meetings were designed to allow key stakeholders to provide "input" on the department's strategic directives for the next five years.

### **Public Review and Approval Process**

Based on responses from the needs assessment surveys and community input gathered by the recreation department, parks and recreation staff convened a series of larger community meetings designed to confirm the messages received to date and summarize the information into statements to be used to form an action plan.

Public meetings were held on two different dates and offered at two different times on each of those dates. Another meeting involved the City of Battle Creek management staff and once these meetings were complete, an additional meeting was held with the Master



Plan Advisory Committee. Complete details on the format and conclusions of these meetings can be found in Appendix C.

## **Action Plan**

The Action Plan included in this document is a reflection of the summation of a variety of inputs synthesized into direct action items. The action plan is divided into two strategic priority areas; the Parks Improvement Plan and Operations. Each strategic priority is accompanied by a series of goals statements, objectives and direct action steps. The goals, objectives and action steps were developed internally based on public and staff input along with directives from the previous master plan. The strategies developed in the action plan are meant to directly address the preferences of the community as articulated in the needs assessment survey.

The action plan also includes an evaluation component including performance measurements designed to assist the department in its efforts to implement the plan. The measures will allow the department to constantly evaluate its on-going performance and make the necessary adjustments to meet community needs. The measures will also allow citizens to hold the department accountable for its efforts on their behalf.

Finally, the action plan includes a capital improvement schedule listing the important facility and related expenditures that will be necessary to implement the plan. As with the plan action steps and performance measurements, the capital improvement projects identified are directly related to the goals and objectives of the plan. The capital improvement schedule also builds off the existing plan and is prioritized based on established city guidelines.

## **Public Approval and Plan Adoption**

Once all relevant plan data was assembled a draft report was prepared for internal review by parks and recreation staff. The draft report included the appropriate maps and tables to support information contained in the community description, administrative structure and recreation/resource inventory sections of the plan, including data concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act assessment. The draft report was presented to the parks and recreation staff in its entirety, city administration, elected officials, and was offered to the public for review electronically, in hard-copy form at Willard Public Library and the Battle Creek Parks and Recreation office and at a community gathering held at Full Blast - the City's recreation center.

The final plan was approved by the Battle Creek City Commission. The final plan includes a copy of the authorizing resolution from each body, meeting advertisements, and transmittal letters to the State and County.



## *Section 2 – Community Description*



## **Planning Jurisdiction**

Battle Creek is situated 70 miles east of Lake Michigan at the confluence of the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek rivers. The City features lakes, rivers, streams, hills and farms, and the terrain is characterized by vegetation and forests. Although Battle Creek experiences the four seasons, the climate is moderated by the “lake effect.” Prevailing westerly winds crossing Lake Michigan warm the winter and cool the summer. A brief overview of other social and physical characteristics of the community is included in this section.

The Kellogg Company, DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation world headquarters occupy the shore of the Kalamazoo and Battle Creek Rivers which run through downtown Battle Creek. A Linear Park stretches several miles along both rivers and connects open green space throughout the community.

More than 200,000 spectators come to Battle Creek every summer for the International Hot Air Balloon Champions. Other festivals include The World’s Longest Breakfast Table, Taste of Battle Creek, Juneteenth Family Day Celebration, Caribbean Festival, BC Pride Festival, and Cruise the Creek. The City’s Binder Park Golf Course is consistently rated one of the best municipal golf courses in the state. The City is also home to the nation’s ninth oldest symphony orchestra, the internationally renowned Battle Creek Brass Band, numerous auditoriums, a civic art center, and professional summer stock theatre.

Battle Creek Parks and Recreation is a department of the City of Battle Creek and thus its master plan efforts are generally intended to serve citizens living within the corporate limits of Battle Creek. Although the plan was developed primarily with these residents in mind, Battle Creek Parks and Recreation often serves a much broader audience including those living in nearby cities, villages, and surrounding townships (see **Map 2-1**).

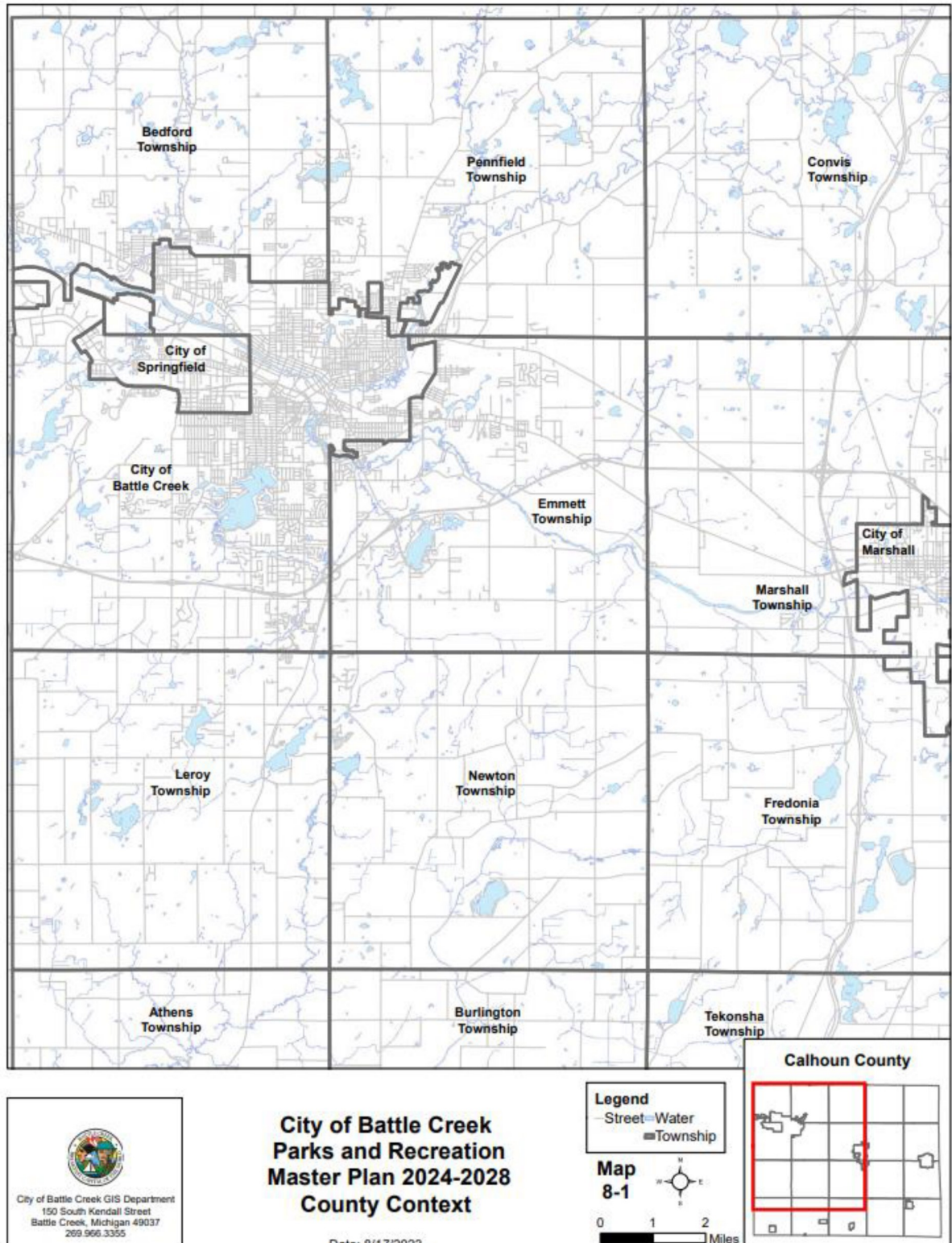
## **Planning Focus**

The plan was developed for the Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department and was intended to include all the appropriate aspects of parks and recreation. The Department continues to focus, through its mission, on improving the physical health and wellbeing of individuals, particularly youth, and thus the plan is designed to ensure the delivery of parks and recreation services that provide the opportunity for, and actively engage people in, physical activity.

The plan calls for recreation programs and services that actively engage users in physical activity with an emphasis on creating awareness and opportunities to be active and to improve lifestyle choices. Services emphasized include maintaining green and other open spaces as well as an active trail system that facilitate physical activity. The department will actively promote and encourage use of the community’s recreation assets while espousing the benefits of healthy lifestyle choices. Direct programming services are reserved primarily for youth and families.



Map 2-1



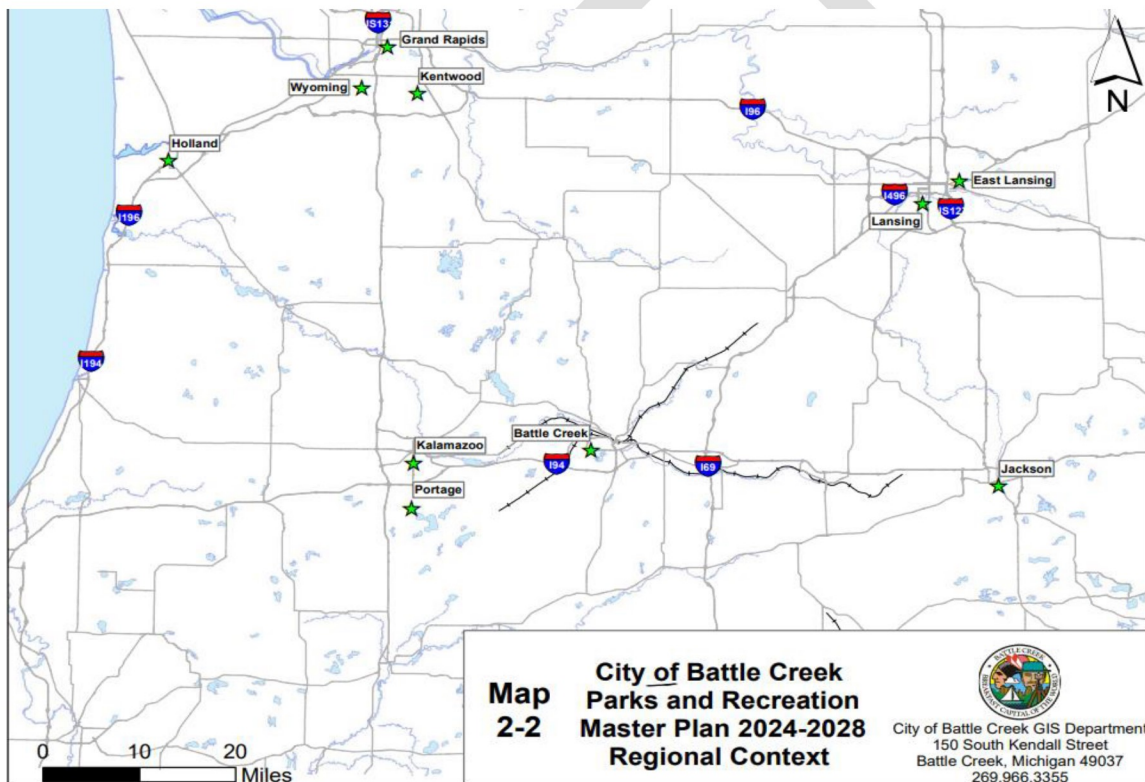


## Social Characteristics

### Regional setting

The city of Battle Creek is located in western Michigan, approximately 115 miles west of Detroit and 160 miles northeast of Chicago. **(Map 2-2).** It sits within Calhoun County and is the principal city of the Battle Creek Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Known as “Cereal City” and the “Breakfast Capital of the World,” Battle Creek is home to Kellogg’s, a multi-dollar, multi-national corporation specializing in food manufacturing.

I-94 runs through the southern portion of the community, connecting Battle Creek with Detroit in the east, and Chicago, Milwaukee and Minneapolis in the west. The community can also be accessed via freight rail (Canadian National and Norfolk Southern), passenger rail (Amtrak), and air (W.K. Kellogg Airport).



Battle Creek neighbors include the city of Springfield, Newton Township, and the Charter Townships of Bedford, Pennfield, and Emmett. The City serves as the employment, cultural, and recreation hub for the metropolitan area.

Information on demographic and socio-economic change in Battle Creek over the past several decades comes from a variety of sources, including the American Community Survey (ACS), the U.S. Census, the State of Michigan, the City of Battle Creek, Colliers International, and ESRI Business Analyst, a nationally recognized provider of business and market data.

## Population Trends

The population of Battle Creek has decreased slightly over the past two years and is expected to decline at a slower rate over the next five years. Between 2020 and 2027, the population of Battle Creek is estimated to decrease by 1,097 people, which is roughly a decrease of 2.1% over the decade. This follows the same trend expected for Calhoun County, which is expected to decrease by 1.8%. Similarly, households are expected to decrease in both geographies between 2022 and 2027. **Table 2-1.**

**Demographic Summary (2020, 2022, 2027)  
Battle Creek County & Calhoun County**

**Table 2-1**

<b>Battle Creek County</b>					
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Projected Change (2020-2027)</b>	
Population	52,721	52,250	51,624	-1,097	-2.1%
Households	21,466	21,118	20,820	-646	-0.9%
Average Household Size	2.41	2.41	2.40	-.01	0.0%
Median Age	37.6	38.1	38.6	1.0	3.6%
Median Household Income	\$44,668	\$47,440	\$55,120	\$10,452	12.3%

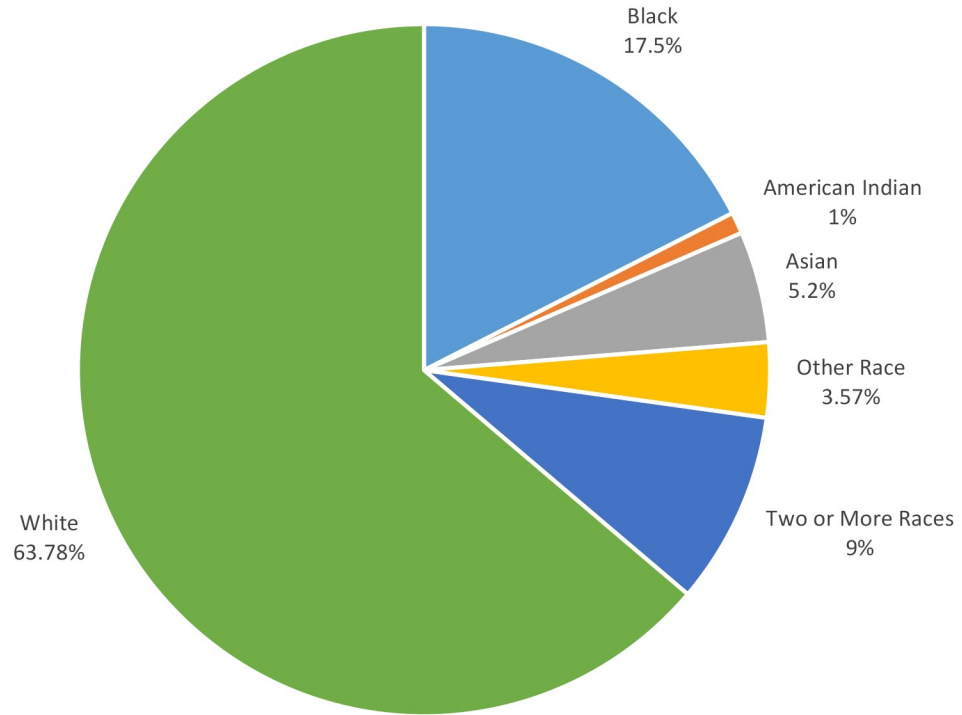
<b>Calhoun County</b>					
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>Projected Change (2010-2020)</b>	
Population	134,768	133,412	132,380	-2,388	-1.8%
Households	54,406	53,825	53,450	-956	-1.7%
Average Household Size	2.41	2.40	2.39	-0.02	-0.8%
Median Age	40.8	41.1	41.8	1.0	4.1%
Median Household Income	\$50,526	\$53,723	\$63,639	\$13,113	20.6%

## Population by Race

Battle Creek is becoming more diverse, but remains majority white. In 2022, the majority of Battle Creek's population was White (63.78%), followed by Black (17.53%), "Two or More Races" (9.09%), Asian (5.22%), and "Other Race" (3.57%). Between 2022 and 2027, the White share of the population is expected to decline by 4.10%, with a tantamount increase in minority populations. In both 2022 and 2027, it is estimated that Battle Creek (29.8% racial minority) is more diverse than Calhoun County (17.8% racial minority). **Table 2-2.**

Population by Race (2022)

Table 2-2





## Physical Characteristics

### Existing Land Use

A field inventory of each block and every parcel within Battle Creek was completed in the Fall of 2015. Based on a thorough assessment, existing land uses within Battle Creek were classified into 17 categories. A City-wide and neighborhood level breakdown of land use composition can be seen in accompanying **Table 2-4**.

**Table 2-4**

**Existing Land Use Composition Table  
Battle Creek**

<b>Existing Land Use Categories</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Agriculture	2,734	10.7%
Single Family Detached	7,142	28.1%
Single Family Attached	176	0.7%
Multi-Family	632	2.5%
Mobile Home	118	0.5%
Commercial (includes service & general)	892	3.5%
Office	118	0.5%
Mixed-Use	7	0.0%
Parking	46	0.2%
Light Industrial	235	0.9%
Heavy Industrial	1,717	6.7%
Airport	1,520	6.0%
Parks (includes golf course and cemeteries)	1,467	5.8%
Open Spaces	4,127	16.2%
Public/Semi-Public	1,914	7.5%
Utility	619	2.4%
Vacant	1,996	7.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,460</b>	<b>100%</b>

The city of Battle Creek has a comprehensive plan which includes a Future Land Use Plan (**Map 2-3**) designed to encourage more compact growth with the incremental expansion of already developed areas guided through planned infrastructure extensions. The plan includes the delineation of a limited urban services boundary, beyond which full water and sewer to support intensive development is recommended.

### Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

**Map 2-3** illustrates an extensive network of open space corridors through the City. This “Greenway system” is designed to preserve natural resource corridors (stream channels, wetlands, wooded areas), provide open space relatively close to all residents, link existing

and proposed parks and school sites, and offer linear recreational opportunities (walking and biking). The Future Land Use Plan shows six park preserves in the City, as well as three combined school/park sites, located in the southwest portion of the community.

### Non-Motorized Transportation

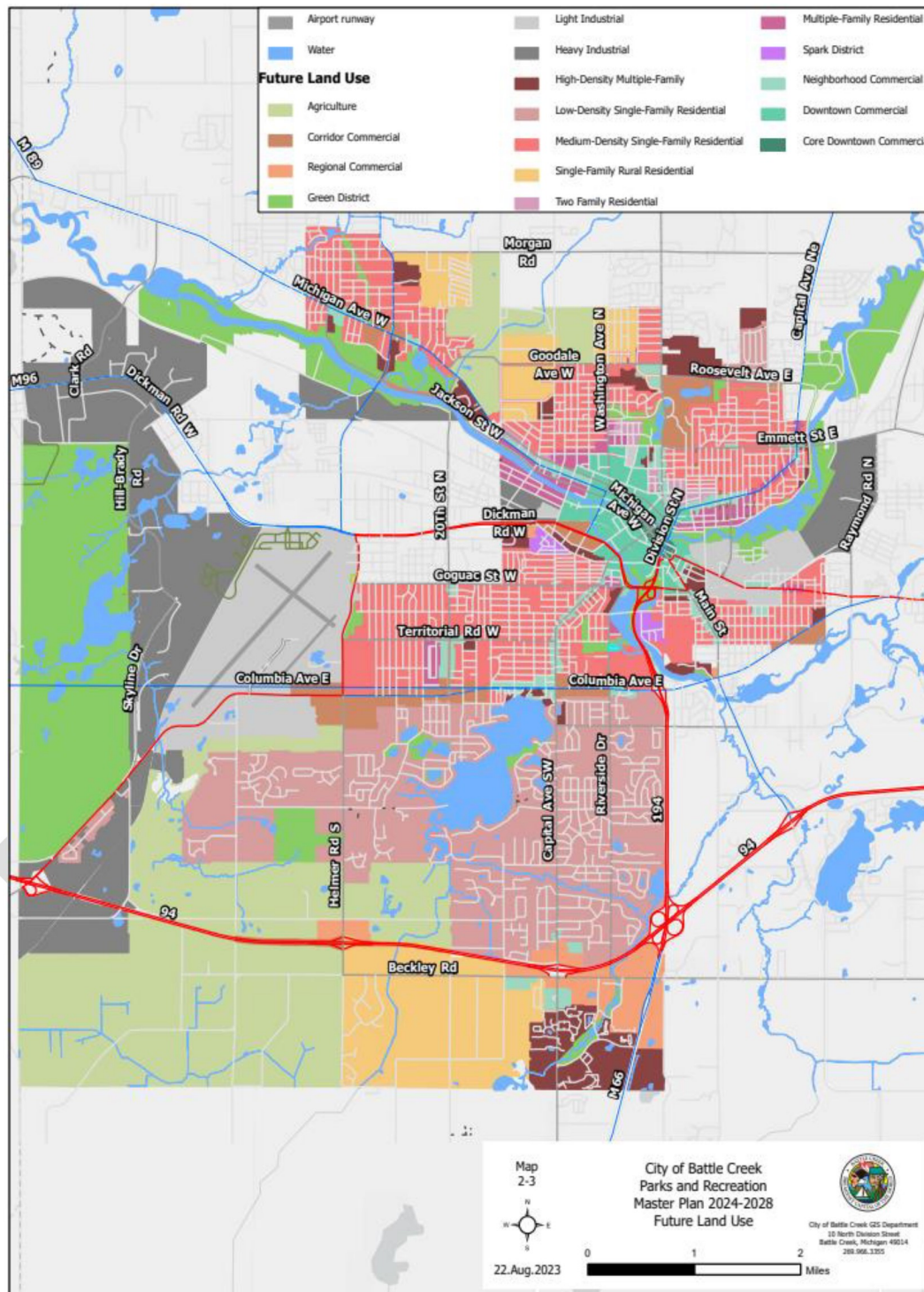
The City Commission of the city of Battle Creek, is projected to adopt the updated *City of Battle Creek Non-Motorized Transportation Network Master Plan* at their December 2023 meeting. The purpose of the plan was to develop a 20-year non-motorized vision for both on and off-road non-motorized facilities that would provide a convenient and safe option to link people, schools, business, parks, natural resources, and cultural and historic landmarks to each other as well as to adjacent communities and resources.

The goals of the plan include:

- Be implementation oriented and serve as a guide for non-motorized trail, bike lane, and route signage planning, funding, design, and construction
- Communicate in a highly illustrative manner, the vision, goals, and possibilities for non-motorized connections
- Communicate the various benefits of a connected non-motorized system
- Utilize community and stakeholder involvement and input to develop the non-motorized vision
- Utilize the plan to establish Battle Creek as a non-motorized friendly community

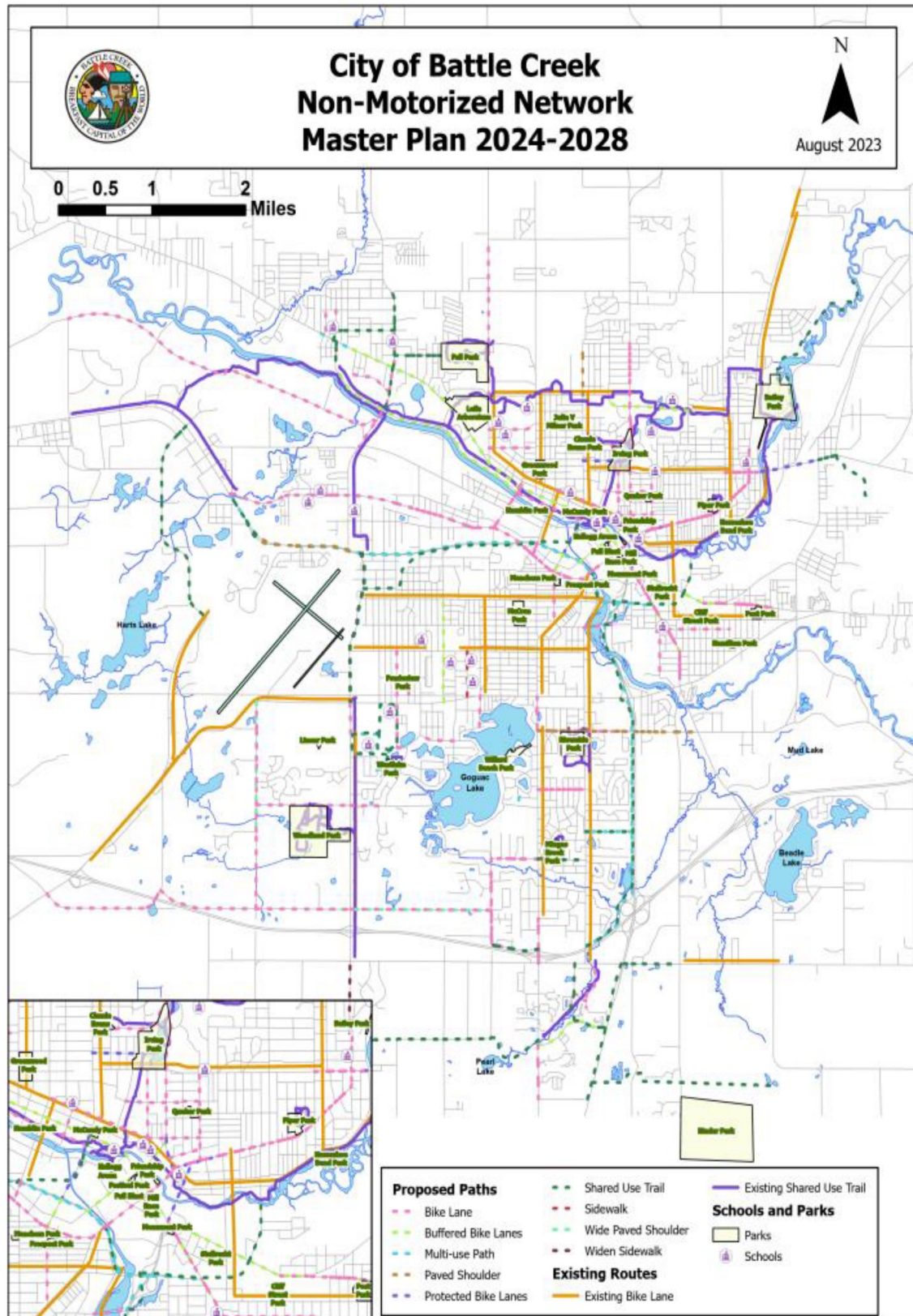
In the ensuing years the city has made progress on implementation in areas such as bike lanes and trail connections (**Map 2-4**).

Map 2-3





Map 2-4



## *Section 3 – Recreation Inventory*



This section describes the types of parks, facilities, and programs available in the Battle Creek area. The recreation inventory will be used as a guide within the Parks and Recreation department for programming purposes and to create awareness and provide opportunities to members of the public to get physical activity and enjoy a higher quality of life.

### **City-Owned Parks and Facilities**

**Table 3-1** provides an inventory of City-owned parks and facilities (including linear pathways) along with information on the “type” of each park and total acreage where appropriate

**Figure 3-1** is a general information grid on parks and recreation parks and facilities

**Table 3-2** provides an inventory of equipment and support facilities at each park or facility

**Map 3-1** illustrates the geographic distribution of City-owned parks and facilities

### **Schools**

**Table 3-3** identifies each school building in the community by type and district.

**Table 3-4** provides a full inventory of equipment and facilities found at the various schools as identified in Table 3-3

**Map 3-2** illustrates the geographic distribution of each school identified in Table 3-3

### **Non-Municipal Leisure Providers**

**Table 3-5** provides a list of non-municipal leisure providers by the leisure service provided

**Table 3-6** provides a list of additional recreation and leisure services provided by a number of non-municipal recreation service providers in the Battle Creek area

**Map 3-3** illustrates the geographic distribution of the various non-municipal leisure and recreation service providers



Battle Creek Parks and Recreation  
Parks and Facility Summary

**Table 3-1**

Park Name	Park Type	Acreage
Cliff Street	Mini	1
Hamblin	Mini	1
Horseshoe Bend	Mini	1
Julie V. Milner	Mine	1
Prospect	Mini	2
Claude Evans	Neighborhood	10
Greenwood	Neighborhood	10
Hamilton	Neighborhood	2
McCrea	Neighborhood	19
Meachem	Neighborhood	1
Piper	Neighborhood	7
Post	Neighborhood	7.5
Quaker	Neighborhood	5
Sam J. Stellrecht	Neighborhood	4
Bailey	Community	80
Fell	Community	80
Festival	Community	1.5
Friendship	Community	1
Irving	Community	54
Leila Arboretum	Community	71
McCamly	Community	2
Mill Race	Community	2
Monument	Community	3
Wave	Community	1
Willard Beach	Community	16
Woodland	Community	144
Binder	Special Use	796
Linear Park	Park Trail	28 miles
Metcalf Lake	Natural Resources Area	160
Minges Brook	School Park	5
Prairieview	School Park	3
Riverside	School Park	80
Westlake	School Park	5
Kellogg Arena	Sports Complex	
Full Blast	Sports Complex	
Totals		1,602

Notes: Mini, neighborhood and school parks typically serve the surrounding neighborhood. Others serve the broader community or a regional audience.

## Inventory of Services

### Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Programs

In addition to the various programs and services being offered by non-municipal providers, the Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department provides a comprehensive set of programs to a large and diverse audience (**Table 3-7**). In order to extend its resources even further and maximum the benefit offered to residents, Parks and Recreation also engages in partnerships and collaborative efforts with other providers to offer additional or expanded programming.

Figure 3-1

Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Parks and Facilities Grid

	Acreage	Baseball Field	Basketball Court	Beach	Concessions	Disc Golf Course	Drinking Fountain	Electricity	Fishing	Golf	Open Space	Park Benches	Parking	Picnic Shelter	Picnic Tables	Playground	Restroom	Shuffleboard	Skiing	Soccer	Swimming	Trails	Volleyball Court
Bailey Park/Angbodies Play Ground 1392 Capital Ave. NE	80																						
Binder Park Golf Course 7255 B Drive S.	300																						
Claude Evans Park 320 Washington Ave.	10																						
Cliff Street Park 195 Cliff St.	1																						
Felt Park 260 Villard Ave.	80																						
Festival Park 25 S. McCamly St.	1																						
Friendship Park 10 State St. W.	1																						
Full Blast Recreation Center 35 Hamblin Ave.	4																						
Greenwood Park 153 Wood St. N.	10																						
Hamblin Park 480 Hamblin Ave.	1																						
Hamilton Park 151 Academy St.	2																						
Horseshoe Bend Park 480 Wagner Dr.	1																						
Irving Park 311 North Ave.	54																						
Julia V. Milner Park 88 Rosemeath	1																						
Leila Arboretum 992 W. Michigan Ave.	71																						
Linear Park Pathway Asphalt/Biking/Running paths in City	204																						
McCamly Park 10 Washington Ave.	2																						
McCrea Park 190 McCrea Dr.	19																						
Meachem Park 80 Meachum St.	1																						
Metcalfe Lake 4575 Baseline Rd.	160																						
Mill Race Park 11 Capital Ave. SW	2																						
Minges Park 435 Lincoln Hills Dr.	5																						
Monument Park 110 E. Michigan Ave.	3																						
Piper Park 260 Sherman Rd.	7																						
Post Park 800 E. Michigan Ave.	7.5																						
Prairieview Park 1675 Iroquois	3																						
Prospect Park 1120 Rittenhouse	2																						
Quaker Park 135 Fremont St.	5																						
Riverside Park 650 Riverside Dr.	80																						
Stellrecht Park 85 Bennett St.	4																						
Wave Park SE corner of W. Michigan & McCamly	1																						
Westlake Park 1894 S. 24th St.	5																						
Villard Beach Park 50 George S Place	16																						
Woodland Park 14175 Helmer Rd. & 2518 Gethings Rd.	144																						

Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Equipment and Facility Inventory

Table 3-2

	Outdoor Facilities		Picnic Area/Picnic Table		Pavilion/Shelter	Grill	Garbage Can	Dog Waste Dispensers	Fuse Boxes - Power Pole	Drinking Fountain	Benches	Bike Rack	Storage Building	Fire Pit	Restrooms	Natural Resource Area	Beach	Water Access	Decorative Fountain	Designated Parking Area	Surfaced Pathways	Signs	Informative	Identification	Instructional	Ordinance	Rules	Donor Plaque	Other	Playground Equipment	Whirls	Swings Sets	Slide	Monkey Bars	Climbers	Spring Animals	Sandboxes	Play Structure	Teeter Totters	Sand Digger	Tire Swing	Tot Swings	Tetherball/Funnel Ball		
Festival Park		17	1		8															1				1																					
Friendship					12			1		15										1	1			1						1															
McCamly					3			1		19										1	1			3						2															
Mill Race Park		2			10					15										1	1	1		1	1			1									1								
Wave Park		4			1									1						1																									
Hamilton		2	1		2					2												1											1												
Post		4	1	2	2					8											1	1		14								1	1		1							1			
Sam J Stellrecht					1					2											1	1			1							1				1						1			
Monument					2			1		5										1	1			2	1				7																
Cliff Street																																													
Horseshoe		2			1					3											1	1		1								1										1			
Piper		5	2	2	9					5	1											1			2			2					1	3	1		1	2					4		
Quaker		1			1					2												1			2					5			1			1	1		2			1			
Bailey (All)		85	4	6	70				3	21	2	2			4			1			8	1										1	3	1		1	2	1	5	3	1	1	8		
Julia V Milner					1																			1									1			1							1		
Claude Evans		16	2	4	22					8			1		1						1	1			1	2		5	1				1		1	1	2				2				
Greenwood		1		1	2					2																							1			1	1			1	2				
Irving		7	2		6					7	1									1	1	1			1							2	2		1	1			1	1		1			
Fell		4	1	1	4					2					1							1	1		1												1								
Leila Arboretum		14	2		11			1		6										1	2	1		7	2			2		1															
Hamblin		1		1	1																												1			1							1		
Prospect																																													
McCrea		2	1		2					4											1	1																							
Meachem		2			2					2												1			1								1					1			1	1			
Prairieview		6	1		3					2	1											1			1								1	3			3		3	1	1	1	1	1	
Westlake		1	1		3					5																							1	1		1		2	1			1			
Willard Beach		74	5	14	28	1			1		2	1		2			1	1			3	1		1	1	1	2	5									1								
Minges Brook		7	1	1	1					1											1	1			1		1							1	1			1	1						
Riverside		3	1		8	4	1			10	4	2									2	1		5	1		1	4					1	3			3		3	1			1		
Woodland					2											1					2			1	2																				
Linear Park		6	1		1					2	0										12	1			2			1		7															
Metcalf Lake												2	5			1		1																											
Full Blast													4															1																	
Kellogg Arena													4		4						1							1																	
Binder Park Golf Course											1	2		3							1							1																	

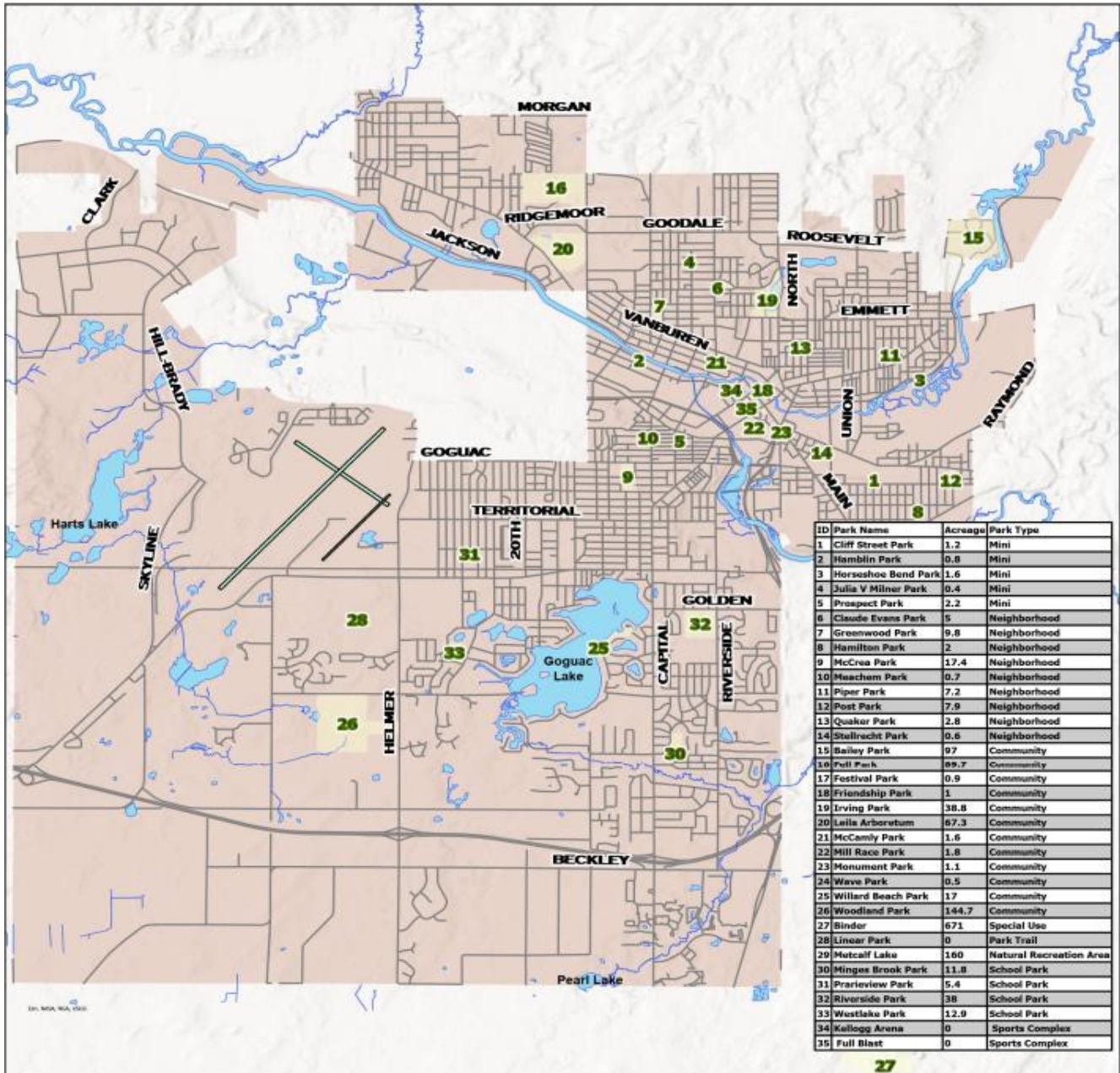


Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Equipment and Facility Inventory continued

Table 3-2

	Indoor Facilities									Outdoor Facilities																
	Jogging Track	Gymnasiums	Multi-Purpose Room	Swimming Pool/Water Park	Theater/Auditorium	Fitness Area	Batting Cages		Sport Area	Basketball Goals	Ball Diamonds	Enclosed Dugouts	Uncovered Dugouts	Players Bench	Sledding Hill	Sand Volleyball Court	Shuffleboard	Soccer Goal	Stadium/Track	Horseshoe Pits	Disc Golf	Concession Buildings	Bleachers	Scoreboard	Athletic Field Lighting	
Festival Park																										
Friendship																										
McCamly																										
Mill Race Park																										
Wave Park																										
Hamilton											1			2												
Post										2																
Sam J Stellrecht										2																
Monument																										
Cliff Street																										
Horeshoe																										
Piper											1			2	1											
Quaker																										
Bailey (All)											12	10	14	48		4			1			2	23	11	11	
Julia V Milner																										
Claude Evans										4	1			2									5			
Greenwood										1																
Irving																				1	1					
Fell											2															
Leila Arboretum																					1					
Hamblin																										
Prospect																										
McCrea										1	2			4	1											
Meachem										1																
Prairieview										1	1							2								
Westlake										2	1							2								
Willard Beach																1						1				
Minges Brook										1	1							2								
Riverside										2	3							8								
Woodland																										
Linear Park																										
Metcalf Lake																										
Full Blast		1	3	1	1		1	2		4									1			2	8	3		
Kellogg Arena			1			1				2												7		4		
Binder Park Golf Course															1							1				

Map 3-1



**City of Battle Creek  
Parks and Recreation  
Master Plan 2023  
City-Owned Parks and Facilities**



City of Battle Creek GIS  
Department  
10 North Division Street  
Battle Creek, Michigan 49014



Battle Creek Parks and Recreation  
Summary of Local School by Type

**Table 3-3**

	School Name	School Type	Acreage
B	Ann J. Kellogg	Elementary	5
B	Dudley	Elementary	10
B	Franklin	Elementary	3
B	Fremont	Elementary	4
B	Lamora Park	Elementary	20
B	Urbandale	Elementary	5
B	Valleyview	Elementary	7
B	Verona	Elementary	6
L	Minges Brook	Elementary	14
L	Prairieview	Elementary	7
L	Riverside	Elementary	80
L	Westlake	Elementary	12
P	Calhoun Community	Elem/Middle/HS/Private	14
P	St. Joseph	Elementary/Middle/Private	4
P	Battle Creek Christian	Elementary/Middle/Private	5
B	BC STEM Innovation	Middle	9
P	Calhoun Christian	Elementary/Middle/Private	16
C	Arbor Academy	Charter	4
C	Endeavor Academy	Charter	5
B	Northwestern	Middle	15
B	Springfield Middle	Middle	45
L	Lakeview	Middle	46
	Math & Science Center	High School	7
	West Michigan Virtual	Middle/High School	1
P	Battle Creek Academy	K-12 Private	43
	CACC	High School	25
P	St. Philip	High School – Private	4
B	Battle Creek Central	High School – Public	32
B	W.K. Kellogg Prep	High School – Public	4
L	Lakeview	High School - Public	60
K	Kellogg Community College	Community College	110
	Total		622

Key to letters

B= Battle Creek Public Schools

L= Lakeview School District

P = Private School

C= Charter School

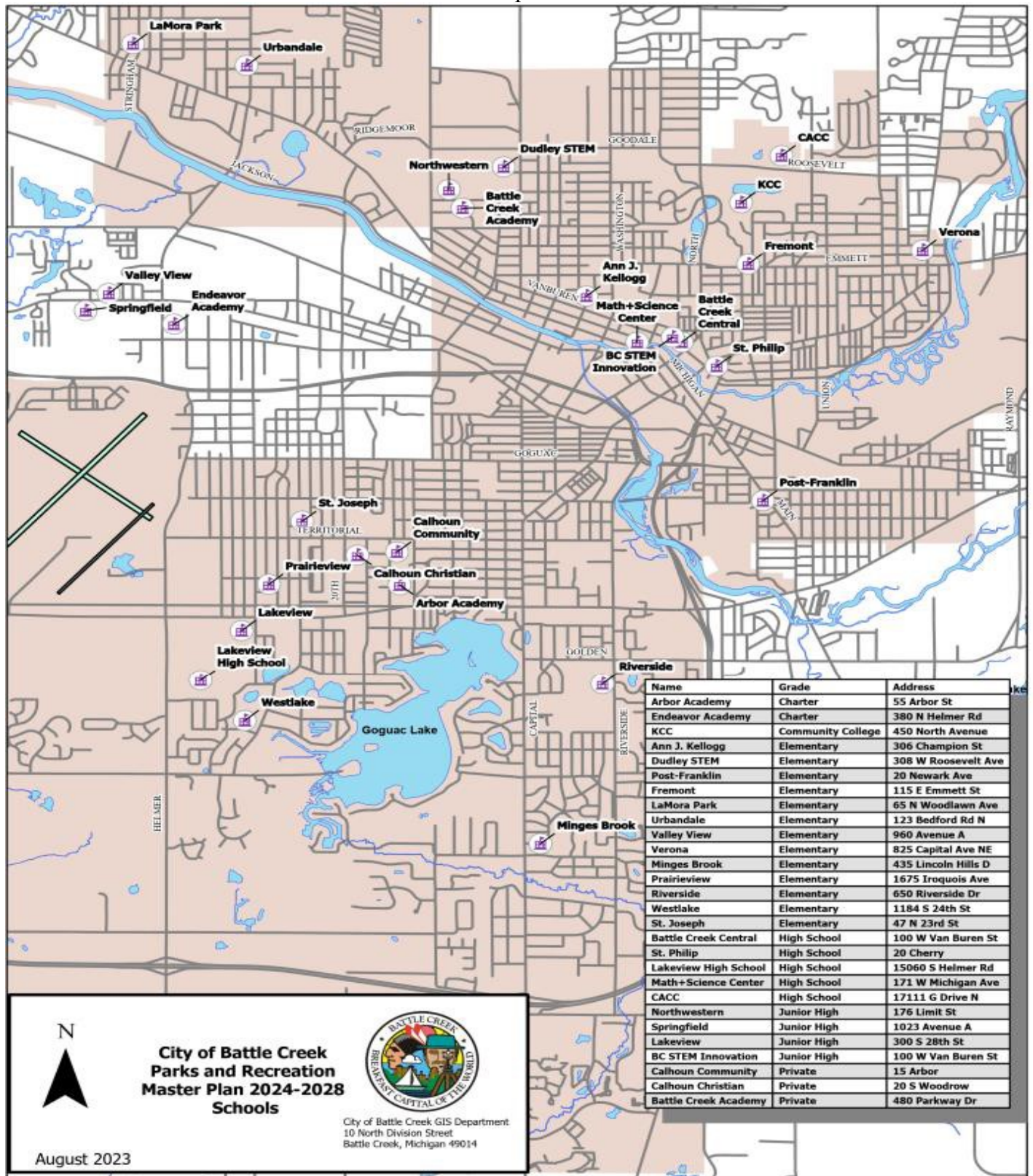
K= Kellogg Community College



**Table 3-4**

<b>Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Equipment and Facility Inventory by School System</b>							
	Battle Creek School District	Lakeview School District	Charter Schools	Private Schools	Community College	Other	Total
<b>INDOOR FACILITIES</b>							
Gym	12	8	1	4	2		27
Multi-Purpose Room	4	2		2	3		11
Swimming Pool	2	1					3
Theater/Auditorium/Stage	7	4		2	1		14
Library	8	6	2	3	1		20
Fitness Area	2	1		3	1		7
Computer Lab	11	9	2	4	9	2	37
<b>PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT</b>							
Merry-Go-Round		2		1			3
Swing Sets	25	17	3	8			53
Slides	5	3	1	3			12
Monkey Bars	6	7		1			14
Climbers	16	19	1	1			37
Spring Animals				7			7
Balance Beam	2	3					5
Play Structure	17	12	2	30			61
Teeter Totters	6	1	1	1			9
Other	15	15	2	11			43
<b>OUTDOOR SPORTS AREA</b>							
Basketball Goals	20	9	2	6			37
Baseball Diamonds	11	10		3			24
Softball Diamonds		1					1
Exercise Course		1					1
Tennis Courts	15	12			9		36
Football/Soccer Field	7	17		2	1		27
Stadium/Area/Track	1	1					2
Concessions Building	1	1					2
Bleachers	8	19		3	7		37
Athletic Field Lighting		2					2
<b>OUTDOOR FACILITIES</b>							
Picnic Area/Picnic Tables	11	10	3	5		1	30
Pavilion/Shelter	1	3		1			5
Restrooms	1	3				1	5
Open Space Areas	6	6	2	2	1		17
Drinking Fountain		2					2
Parking	10	9	2	4	7		32
Benches	10	9	2	4	7		31
Bike Rack	28	22	3	2	7		62
Pathways	10	4	1	2			17

Map 3-2





**Inventory of Non-Municipal Leisure Providers**

**Table 3-5**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>	<u>Address</u>
<b><u>Bowling Centers</u></b>		
Bowlero Lanes	963-9121	775 W. Columbia Ave.
M-66 Bowl	962-9597	19794 M-66
<b><u>Cinemas</u></b>		
JC Cinema	841-4345	15375 Helmer Rd S
NCG Battle Creek Cinema (Lakeview Square Mall)	979-2225	5775 Beckley Rd
GQT W. Columbia 7	963-3456	2500 W. Columbia Ave.
<b><u>County Parks</u></b>		
Historic Bridge Park	781-0784	S. Wattles Rd
Kimball Pines	781-9841	1150 E. Michigan Ave.
<b><u>Dance</u></b>		
AGW Conservatory of the Arts	965-6695	410 W. Van Buren St.
Center Stage	979-4500	12898 Beadle Lake Rd
Dance in Motion	968-5468	1650 Goguac St. W
Elite Dance Center	317-1389	693 Capital Ave. SW
In His Steps	753-1568	833 Golden Ave.
Shari Rarick School of Dance	963-0669	1400 W. Columbia Ave.
<b><u>Fine Arts</u></b>		
Art Center of Battle Creek	962-9511	265 E. Emmett St.
Battle Creek Youth Orchestra	966-2527	569 E. Hamilton Ln
Brass Band of Battle Creek	789-2222	50 W. Van Buren St.
Music Center of South Central Michigan	963-1911	450 North Ave.
<b><u>Firearms/Archery</u></b>		
Southside Sportsman's Club	968-4229	539 Capital Ave. SW
<b><u>Golf Courses/Driving Ranges/Disc Golf</u></b>		
Battle Creek Country Club	962-8734	318 Country Club Dr.
Bedford Valley Golf Course	965-3385	23161 Waubascacon Rd
Begg Park Disc Golf Course	962-7215	53 Military St., Springfield
Cedar Creek Golf Club	965-6423	1400 Renton Rd
Custer Greens Golf Course	968-7398	5500 Armstrong Rd
Hit-Em Here	965-5221	1790 E. Columbia Ave.
Marywood Golf Course	968-1168	21310 North Ave.
Oakland Hills Golf Club	965-0809	11619 H Drive North
Riverside Country Club	964-0291	245 E. Columbia Ave.
Springbrook Golf Course	441-7529	1600 Avenue A
<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>	<u>Address</u>
Squirrel Hollow Golf Course	979-7277	12111 Helmer Rd S
Kimball Pines	962-3272	1145 Michigan Ave E.





**Gyms/Exercise Clubs**

Altogether Slimmer-Trimmer U	962-3636	2277 Columbia Ave. W
Battle Creek YMCA	963-9622	182 Capital Ave. NE
Blue Moon Fitness	979-7800	5700 Beckley Rd
Centering Yoga	282-0919	1279 Columbia Ave. W
Cereal City Athletics	<a href="http://www.cerealcityathletics.com">www.cerealcityathletics.com</a>	50 W. Michigan Ave.
The Energy Nook	660-1699	51 Michigan Ave. W
Fit in 30	209-5539	2545 Capital Ave. SW
The Fitness Loft	969-8956	200 W. Michigan Ave.
Minges Creek Athletic Club	979-1111	21 Minges Creek Pl.
New Level Sports Ministries	964-4172	400 Michigan Ave.
Planet Fitness	969-9997	294 Highland Ave.

**Gymnastics**

Branch Gymnastics	963-4770	393 Helmer Rd. N
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**Ice Arena**

The Rink	963-7465	75 Houston St.
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**Martial Arts**

Korean Martial Arts	963-5425	1600 Goguac St. W
Kwang's Taekwondo Academy	660-2500	938 W. Columbia Ave.
Mushin Academy of Martial Arts	579-2020	1270 E. Columbia Ave.

**Miniature Golf**

Hit-Em Here	965-5221	1790 E. Columbia Ave.
Riverview Recreation	965-5221	2000 E. Columbia Ave.

**Museums**

Historic Adventist Village	965-3000	411 Champion St.
Kimball House Historical Museum	965-2613	196 Capital Ave. NE
Battle Creek Regional History Museum	968-8573	307 Jackson St. W
Kingman Museum of Natural History	965-5117	175 Limit St.
Fantasy Forest	969-0270	928 Michigan Ave.

**Nature Centers/Zoos**

Binder Park Zoo	979-1351	7400 Division Dr
Grever's Nature Center	781-1250	12369 Verona Rd
Kalamazoo Nature Center	381-1574	7000 N. Westnedge Ave.
Ott Biological Reserve	781-0782	End of Arlington Ave.

**Other**

Battle Creek Bombers	962-0735	189 Bridge St.
Kool Family Community Center (Burnham Brook Center)	965-0000	200 W. Michigan Ave.

<b><u>Organization</u></b>	<b><u>Contact Info</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>
Leila Arboretum Society	969-0270	928 W. Michigan Ave.
Wattles Park Men's Club	965-6300	144 S. Wattles Rd



**Outdoor/Adventure Recreation**

Buffalo Campground	964-7295	13705 Renton Rd
Climb Kalamazoo	385-9891	136 S. Burdick
Excalibur Paintball	963-3925	10580 Gorsline Rd
Fort Custer State Recreation Area	731-4200	5163 Fort Custer Dr
Hideaway Hills	753-1180	21901 Collier Ave.
Sub Aquatic Sports & Service	968-8551	347 Helmer Rd N
Team Active Cycling and Fitness	962-7688	22 W. Michigan Ave.

**Therapeutic Recreation**

CIR (Community Inclusive Recreation)	968-8249	331 Jackson St. W
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**Non-Municipal Recreation and Leisure Services in the  
Battle Creek Area**  
**Table 3-6**

	Youth	Adult	Sr	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Specific Time	Special Event
<b><u>Binder Park Zoo</u></b>								
<b>Camps</b>								
FAWN Playgroup	*					*	*	
Safari Day Camp	*				*		*	
<b>Overnight Programs</b>								
Family Safari Slumber Party	*	*	*			*	*	
Overnight Safari	*				*		*	
Zoo Snooze	*				*		*	
<b>School Programs</b>								
Big Zoo Lesson	*	*	*					*
<b>Special Events</b>								
Birthday Parties	*			*				*
Bonteboktoberfest		*	*					*
Cheetah Chase	*	*	*					*
Corks for Conservation		*	*					*
Members' Breakfast	*	*	*					*
Sunset on Savanna		*	*					*
Twiga Giraffe Experience	*	*	*					*
ZooBoo	*	*	*					*
Zoorassic Park	*	*	*					*
Zoo Lights	*	*	*					*
<b>Wildlife Management Events</b>								
Zoo Teens		*	*	*			*	
<b>Community Inclusive Recreation</b>								
<b>Arts &amp; Music</b>								
ETC Arts Glass & Jewelry		*	*		1		*	
Painting	*	*	*		1		*	
Dancing	*	*	*		1		*	
Music Lover's	*	*	*		1		*	
<b>Athletics</b>								
Disc Golf		*	*		1		*	
Kickball Classic	*	*	*					*
M-66 Bowling League		*	*		1		*	
<b>Enrichment</b>								
Adventure Club		*	*				*	





## Battle Creek Parks and Recreation

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Cooking	*	*	*		1		*	
Game Night		*	*		1		*	
Life Skills		*	*		1		*	
<b>Fitness</b>								
Music Fitness	*	*	*		1		*	*
Swimming	*	*	*		1		*	
Walking Club	*	*	*		1		*	
Water Aerobics Class	*	*	*		1			
<b>Outings/Socials</b>								
Airway Lanes	*	*	*				*	*
Alligator Sanctuary	*	*	*				*	*
Binder Park Zoo	*	*	*				*	*
Battle Jacks Game	*	*	*				*	*
Fall Into the Arts	*	*	*					*
Leilapalooza	*	*	*					*
Post Band	*	*	*					*
Renaissance Festival	*	*	*					*
<b>The Rink</b>								
Drop in Hockey	*	*			2		*	
Learn to Skate	*	*			1		*	
Open Skate	*	*				*	*	
Over 30 Hockey League		*			2			
<b>KCC's Division of Lifelong Learning</b>								
<b>Arts &amp; Hobbies</b>								
Crafting a Spring Burlap Wreath		*	*				*	
Golf Fitness		*	*		*		*	
Beach Glass class		*	*		*		*	
Beginning Acoustic Guitar		*	*		*		*	
Beginning Knitting - Part 1		*	*		*		*	
Drone Photography Adventure		*	*		*		*	
Beginning Knitting - Part 2		*	*				*	
Sew Fun! Beginning Sewing		*	*				*	
Painting a Welcome Peeps Porch Sign		*	*		*		*	
Learn to Flyfish		*	*		*		*	
Quilt Shop Hop		*	*		*		*	
Mason Jar String Art Workshop		*	*		*		*	
Love Where You Live		*	*		*		*	
Knit a Lacy Spring Scarf		*	*		*		*	
The Wonderful Watercolors		*	*				*	
Let's Create a Hoop Pocket Spring Door Hanger		*	*		*		*	



## Battle Creek Parks and Recreation

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Discover Tunisian Crochet		*	*		*		*	
It's a Paint Party: Barn		*	*		*		*	
Sew Exciting! Beginning Sewing - Part 2		*	*		*		*	
It's a Paint Party: Truck		*	*		*		*	
<b>Business</b>								
Erase Yourself from the Internet		*	*				*	
File Management & Back Up Basics		*	*				*	
<b>Cooking</b>		*	*				*	
Starting Gardens Early		*	*				*	
Food for Fitness with Cooking Demo		*	*				*	
Let's Get Planted		*	*				*	
Nutrition Essentials		*	*				*	
<b>Day Trips</b>								
BC Regional History Museum		*	*				*	
Quilt Shop Hop		*	*				*	
<b>Fitness</b>								
Loosen Up with Linda		*	*		3		*	
Chair Yoga		*	*		1-2		*	
Discover Tai Chi		*	*		*		*	
Loosen Up with Linda		*	*		3		*	
Hatha Yoga		*	*		*		*	
Lunch Yoga		*	*		*		*	
Golf Fitness		*	*		*		*	
Yin Yoga for Stress Relief		*	*		*		*	
Myths of the Asanas: Deepen Your Yoga Practice		*	*				*	
Wellness Hikes		*	*		*		*	
Introduction to Tap Dance		*	*		*		*	
Pickleball Players		*	*		*		*	
Pickleball Players - Session 2		*	*		*		*	
<b>Healthy Living</b>								
Nutrition Essentials		*	*				*	
Ditch Sugar for Good!		*	*					
The Energy of Color		*	*				*	
Empower Your Empathy!		*	*				*	
Numerology for Fun & Success		*	*				*	
Love Where you Live		*	*		*		*	
Food for Fitness with Cooking Demo		*	*				*	
Guided Meditation for Weight Loss		*	*				*	



Introduction to Meditation		*	*				*	
Intuitive Stone Readings		*	*				*	
<b>History</b>		*	*				*	
History of Women in 100 Objects - Part 1		*	*				*	
The Impact of Rosie the Riveter		*	*				*	
The Presidents Children		*	*				*	
America's First Ladies		*	*				*	
Great Lakes Shipwrecks		*	*				*	
BC Regional History Museum		*	*				*	
Murder in the First Degree: Famous Michigan Murders		*	*				*	
Armchair Travel Series: The British Isles		*	*				*	
The Civil War Part 2: Changing Nature of the War		*	*				*	
The California Days of Ralph Waldo Emerson		*	*				*	
<b>Language</b>								
Conversational Spanish for Travelers		*	*				*	
<b>Money &amp; Financial Health</b>								
Retirement Planning		*	*		*		*	
Investing for the Future		*	*				*	
Estate Planning 101		*	*				*	
<b>Movie</b>		*	*				*	
Film Classics Study: Betty Hutton		*	*				*	
<b>Music</b>								
Beginning Acoustic Guitar		*	*				*	
The Rise of Girl Groups		*	*				*	
<b>Professional Development</b>								
Discover the Google Drive Suite		*	*				*	
Caregiver Celebration!		*	*				*	
<b>Technology</b>								
Drone Photography Adventures		*	*				*	
Erase Yourself from the Internet		*	*				*	
File Management & Back Up Basics		*	*				*	
Discover the Google Drive Suite		*	*				*	
<b>Youth Programs Ages 5-8</b>								
Mini Cake Boss: Adult & Child	*	*	*				*	
Little Spikers: Adult & Child	*	*	*				*	





<b>Youth Programs Ages 12-18</b>								
CPR & First Aid	*						*	
SafeSitter Essentials-Babysitting	*						*	
Study Skills for Teens	*						*	
<b>Youth Programs Ages 10-14</b>								
ROBLOX	*						*	
Theatre Camp: Matilda	*						*	
ROBLOX Coders & Entrepreneurs	*						*	
Minecraft	*						*	
Minecraft Modders	*						*	
Pickleball Camp	*						*	
Minecraft Redstone Engineers	*						*	
Coding Week	*						*	
Cyber Spies	*						*	
Python Programmers	*						*	
Make It & Take It : DIY Jewelry	*						*	
Bonjour! A Trip to France	*						*	
Beats and Jams: Digital Music Creators	*						*	
Creators Week	*						*	
Learn to Knit!	*						*	
YouTube Content Creators	*						*	
<b>Youth Programs Ages 14-18</b>							*	
Summer Training Program: Strength, Speed & Agility	*						*	
Theatre Camp: Matilda	*						*	
A Day in the Life: Skilled Trades	*						*	
A Day in the Life: Public Safety	*						*	
A Day in the Life: Nursing, Dental Hygiene & Allied Health	*						*	
A Day in the Life: Early Childhood & Teacher Education	*						*	
Aviation Discovery Camp	*						*	
A Day in the Life: Business & Computer Information Technology	*						*	
<b>Youth Programs Ages 8-12</b>								
Astronaut Training Camp	*						*	
S'more Fun! Camping Crafts	*						*	
Grossology: The Science of Gross Stuff	*						*	
Super Scientists	*						*	



Just Beachy! Beach Themed Arts & Crafts	*						*	
Sew Perfect! Sewing for Beginners	*						*	
Water Works Art	*						*	
Dinosaurs & Paleontology	*						*	
Art Smart: Drawing Basics	*						*	
Pizza Garden	*						*	
Shark Squad	*						*	
Life in the Artic	*						*	
<b>Youth Programs Ages 8-14</b>								
Exciting Edible Art	*						*	
Be a Cake Boss! Cake Decorating	*						*	
Make It & Take It: DIY Room Décor	*						*	
Paint Party! Llama	*						*	
Make It & Take It: Spa Party!	*						*	
Paint Party! Octopus	*						*	
Christmas in July: Christmas Crafts	*						*	
Christmas in July: Gingerbread Houses	*						*	
Christmas in July: Beginning Embroidery	*						*	
Christmas in July: Sweets & Treats	*						*	
Make It & Take It: Fidgets, Poppers & Spinners	*						*	
<b><u>Kool Family Community Center</u></b>		-						
<b>Games</b>								
Billiards		*	*	*				
Cards & Games		*	*	*				
<b>Music</b>								
Lew Boyd Band		*	*					
Riverside Connection		*	*					
Voice & Horn		*	*					
<b>Recreational &amp; Fitness Activities</b>								
Biking		*	*		*			
Golfing		*	*			*		
Dancing		*	*		*			
<b><u>New Level Sport Ministries</u></b>								
<b>Education &amp; Enrichment</b>								
After School Program	*				5			
Camp I Can	*							
<b>Sports</b>								
Baseball/Softball	*							



Basketball	*						
Cheerleading	*						
Football	*						
Golf	*						
Track & Field	*						
<b>Family Y-Center</b>							
<b>Aquatics Programs &amp; Classes</b>							
Aqua Zumba	*	*	*				
Deep Water Swim	*	*	*				
Family Swim	*	*	*				
Lifeguard Class	*	*					
Pre-Natal Fitness in the Therapy Pool		*					
Swimming Lessons	*						
Theraeutic Swim	*	*	*				
Twinges	*	*	*				
Water Aerobics Class	*	*	*				
<b>Child Care</b>							
Lemon Tree Pre-School	*			*			
YMCA Child Watch	*			*			
<b>Group Fitness</b>							
Band, Core, & More	*	*	*		*		
B.O.A	*	*	*		2		
Bokwa	*	*	*		*		
Bootcamp	*	*	*		*		
Boxing on Adrenaline		*			*		
Butt & Gut	*	*	*		*		
Cardio Drumming	*	*	*		5		
Cardio Tone		*			*		
Cardio Tennis	*	*	*		*		
Chair Yoga		*	*		*		
Double Step	*	*	*		*		
Hi-Lo Areobics		*			*		
Hula Hooping		*	*		*		
Indoor Cycling	*	*	*		3		
Indoor Cycling & Lift		*	*		2		
Kettleball		*			*		
Kickboxing Circuit	*	*	*		*		
Kids Fit	*	*	*		*		
LiteFit	*	*	*		*		
Metabolic Circuit	*	*	*		*		
PiYo	*	*	*		2		





## Battle Creek Parks and Recreation

## Master Plan 2024-2028

Power Circuit	*	*	*		2			
Pro Performance		*	*		*			
P90X		*			*			
Silverstars		*	*		2			
Stretch	*	*	*		2			
Strong Bodies		*			*			
SWAT	*	*	*		*			
Tabata	*	*	*		*			
Tang soo do	*	*	*		*			
X-Fit		*			*			
Y-Pump		*	*		2			
Yoga	*	*	*		3			
Yoga for Fitness	*	*	*		*			
Zumba	*	*	*		*			
<b>Literacy &amp; Other Programs</b>								
English as a Second Language (ESL)	*	*	*					
G.E.D. Prep	*	*						
Literacy Education	*	*	*					
<b>Sports &amp; Programs</b>								
Basketball	*							
Basketball Academy	*				3			
Baseball	*							
Cereal City Classic Run	*	*	*					*
Corporate Cup	*							
Group Weight Training for Teens	*							
Racquetball	*							
Soccer	*							
Swimming	*							
Tang Soo Do	*	*			2			
Tennis	*				1-2		*	
Triathlon Training		*	*					
Volleyball	*							
<b>Wellness Programs</b>								
Health screening								
Massage Therapy								
Pre-Natal Fitness								
<b>Wattles Park Men's Club</b>								
Basketball	*				*		*	
Baseball/Softball	*				*		*	
Fall/Spring Soccer	*				*		*	
Floor Hockey	*				*		*	
Indoor Soccer	*				*		*	



*Battle Creek Parks and Recreation*

*Master Plan 2024-2028*

Indoor Baseball	*				*		*	
Lacrosse	*				*		*	
Pickleball	*				*		*	
Volleyball	*				*		*	







Battle Creek Parks and Recreation  
Parks and Recreation Program Offerings

**Table 3-7**

Season	Program	Season	Program
Summer	Summer Aquatics	Winter	Parents Night Out
	Golf and Youth Golf		Youth Volleyball League
	Claude Evans Basketball		Youth Basketball
	Volleyball Camp		Youth Indoor Flag Football
	Kidventure Camp		Youth Floor Hockey
	Adult Baseball		Winter Break Camp
	Baseball Tournaments		BC Kings Floor Hockey
	Softball Tournaments		IFH Tournament
	Adult Men's Softball		Start Smart Basketball
	Youth Baseball		Youth Indoor Soccer
	Fast Pitch Softball		Tiny Tot Floor Hockey
	Little Tyke T-Ball		Virtual School
	Co-Ed Adult Softball		Learn to Skate
	Start Smart Golf		Learn to Play Hockey
Fall	Co-Ed Adult Softball	Spring	Co-Ed Adult Softball
	Flag Football		Lock-Ins
	Adult Men's Softball		Youth Individual Baseball
	Learn to Play Hockey		Spring Break Camp
	Learn to Skate		Flag Football
	Puppy Plunge		Adult Men's Softball
	Virtual School		Start Smart Indoor Soccer
	Adult Softball Tournament		Virtual School
	Soccer		Soccer
	Baseball Training Camp	Year Round	Fitness Memberships
Start Smart Sports Development			Birthday Parties
			Court Rentals
			Batting Cage Rentals
			Tournament Rentals

## Barrier Free Evaluation

Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all public service areas are required to be built with barrier-free accommodations. The following is an evaluation of the barrier-free status of the various parks and recreation facilities identified in Table 3-1. Each park or facility is accompanied by an accessibility ranking as defined under: *Recreation Inventory, Subsection 4. Accessibility Assessments* in the State of Michigan's 2016 *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* (see [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/IC1924\\_149265\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/IC1924_149265_7.pdf)).

### Accessibility Rankings

- 1 = None of the park/facility areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = Some of the park/facility areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = Most of the park/facility areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Also included is information regarding the necessary transition steps needed to bring non-conforming parks and facilities into compliance. Improvements are expected to take place at the next renovation of the park or facility in question. All improvements are expected to comply with ADA standards.

### Mini-Parks

- **Cliff Street (Accessibility Ranking = 1)**
  - Cliff Street serves primarily as a community garden. No additional recreation amenities exist at the Park. Access to the park is not of barrier-free design.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.
- **Hamblin (Accessibility Ranking = 1)**
  - Hamblin has a limited number of play structures and minimal open space. Minimal street parking is available. Access to the park is not of barrier-free design and the park's equipment is not accessible.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.
- **Horseshoe Bend (Accessibility Ranking = 2)**
  - Horseshoe Bend is adjacent to a section of the city's Linear Park trail system. Barrier-free parking is available with a small turf surface from the parking area to the play structures. The playground includes a sand surface that is not barrier-free.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.

- Julia V. Milner **(Accessibility Ranking = 2)**
  - Milner Park is not accessible from the street due to the lack of a barrier-free curb cut. Beyond the curb, an asphalt path, consisting of ADA-compliant wood-particle surfacing, allows for access to play structures.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.
- Prospect **(Accessibility Ranking = 1)**
  - Prospect is a mini-park containing minimal open space and no usable equipment.
  - Any anticipated future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.

### *Neighborhood Parks*

- Claude Evans **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Claude Evans has parking areas that allow for barrier-free access to all park equipment and facilities, via hard-surface path. The restroom facilities are ADA-compliant. All fall-zone and playground surfacing is ADA-compliant pea stone.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- Greenwood **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Greenwood has parking areas that allow for barrier-free access to all park equipment and facilities, via hard-surface path. All fall-zone and playground surfacing is ADA-compliant wood particle.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- Hamilton **(Accessibility Ranking = 3)**
  - Hamilton has street parking. Barrier-free pathways are available to access equipment. Playground and fall-zone areas are compliant with wood particle.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.
- McCrea **(Accessibility Ranking = 2)**
  - McCrea's accessibility is limited by a lack of barrier-free curb cuts adjacent to parking areas. The park's basketball courts are not accessible however tennis courts and a shelter are serviced by barrier-free curb cuts and a hard-surface path to the shelter.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.



- Meachem **(Accessibility Ranking = 3)**
  - Although minimal street parking is available at Meachem, accessibility exists from the street to the park. A paved pathway provides barrier-free access to all recreation elements in the park and the playground area includes ADA-compliant wood-particle surfacing.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- Piper **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Piper Park is accessible via curb cuts and a hard-surface trail network throughout. The two picnic shelters have a concrete base and are serviced by hard-surface path. All playground elements are surfaced with ADA-compliant wood-particle.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- Post **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Post is accessible via curb cuts adjacent to parking areas and a hard-surface trail system. All the park's facilities are barrier-free.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- Quaker **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Quaker has barrier-free street parking and all playground facilities are ADA compliant with wood particle. Signage within the park with information regarding its historic nature is accessible.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- Sam J. Stellrecht **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Parking at Stellrecht is adjacent to the Franklin Neighborhood Center. All recreation facilities within the park are ADA-compliant.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.

#### *Community Parks/Community-Sports Complex*

- Bailey **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Bailey has numerous parking areas, all of which are accessible to either hard-surfaced pathways or ADA-compliant surfaced pathways. Two play areas, along with a picnic shelter have ADA-compliant surfacing.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.
- Fell **(Accessibility Ranking = 3)**
  - Fell Park is served by a section of the city's linear path which is ADA compliant. There are however no hard-surfaced pathways connecting visitors to restrooms and playgrounds areas that are ADA-compliant.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.

- Festival Market Square **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Festival Market Square is adjacent to accessible parking areas. The staging area in the park is accessible via a hard surfaced path and a barrier-free seating area.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- Friendship **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Friendship Park is adjacent to accessible parking areas. The staging area in the park is accessible via a hard-surfaced path and a barrier-free seating area.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- Irving **(Accessibility Ranking = 2)**
  - Irving is served by a single accessible parking lot. The park has a hard-surfaced path. Play areas in the park are not ADA-compliant and other features such as benches, flower gardens, and a pond offer only limited accessibility.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.
- Leila Arboretum **(Accessibility Ranking = 3)**
  - Leila Arboretum was established for the natural preservation and study of plants, shrubs, and trees. The arboretum is owned by the City, but is managed by a private non-profit agency. Due to the nature of the park, full ADA compliance would strain its functionality. Certain facilities, such as areas of parking and some sidewalks are accessible.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.
- McCamly **(Accessibility Ranking = 3)**
  - McCamly is served by an accessible parking lot used for an adjacent business. Hard-surfaced pathways in the park are accessible via curb cuts. A stage in the center is not ADA-compliant.
  - Actions needed to bring the park into compliance will be incorporated into future renovations.
- Mill Race Park **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Mill Race Park is accessible via curb cuts and a hard-surface trail network throughout. All playground elements are surfaced with ADA-compliant material.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.

- **Monument (Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Monument has limited parking. The park has a hard-surfaced path, accessible from the parking area via curb cuts. The park is home to several monuments of historic significance to the community. Barrier-free accommodations are available in the appropriate areas.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- **Wave Park (Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Wave Park is accessible via curb cuts adjacent to parking areas. All the parks facilities are barrier-free.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- **Willard Beach (Accessibility Ranking = 3)**
  - Willard Beach is served by a large main parking area. Two of the parks three pavilions are barrier-free and two sets of restrooms are barrier-free. A handicapped parking area is located close by that provides access to the beach.
  - Any future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free design.
- **Woodland (Accessibility Ranking = 2)**
  - Woodland is served by two accessible parking areas. The park is currently being used primarily for passive leisure and natural resource observation.
  - The department's master plan for the park includes a network of trails that would be ADA-compliant.

#### *Special Use/Park Trail*

- **Binder (Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Binder Park is home to the 27-hole Binder Park Golf Course. The course is currently ADA compliant.
  - All future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free designs.
- **Linear Park/Greenways (Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - The city's Linear Park includes approximately 22 miles of hard-surfaced pathway. The Linear Path and all City owned property adjacent to the Linear Path is designated park land. Barrier-free parking is available at many locations along the path.
  - All future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free designs.

#### *Natural Resource Areas*

- **Metcalf Lake (Accessibility Ranking = 1)**
  - Metcalf Lake is currently an underdeveloped natural resource area previously gifted to the city.
  - A preliminary master plan for the area includes improvements that incorporate barrier-free designs.

### *School Parks*

- Minges Brook **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Minges Brook Park is currently ADA compliant.
  - All future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free designs.
- Prairieview **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Prairieview Park is currently ADA compliant.
  - All future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free designs.
- Riverside **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Riverside Park is currently ADA compliant.
  - All future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free designs.
- Westlake **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Westlake Park is currently ADA compliant.
  - All future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free designs.

### *Indoor Facilities*

- Full Blast **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Full Blast is a multi-faceted family community recreation center. It has three gymnasiums, indoor and outdoor water parks, two general multi-purpose rooms, a fitness center and jogging track, concessions and locker rooms. The facility is utilized year-round for recreation programming and community use with the exception of the water parks which are open primarily during the summer months. The facility is currently ADA compliant with the exception of Braille signage for people with visual disabilities.
  - All future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free designs.
- Kellogg Arena **(Accessibility Ranking = 4)**
  - Kellogg Arena is a multi-functional regional meetings, conventions, and sports/concert venue. There is barrier-free parking adjacent and barrier-free access to bathrooms and drinking fountains were added. While the Arena's bleachers are not entirely barrier-free, accommodations are made for visitors at every event.
  - All future developments are expected to incorporate barrier-free designs.

## **DNR Recreation Grant Inventory**

**Table 3-8** briefly identifies a complete list of each park/facility which was partially or completely acquired or developed with DNR grant money by the City of Battle Creek and its Parks and Recreation Department as identified by the Department of Natural Resources for the State of Michigan.



For each grant, summary information is provided regarding the scope and current status of the park or facility and the related improvements.

Battle Creek Parks and Recreation  
DNR Grant Inventory 1965-2023

**Table 3-8**

Project No.	Project Title/Park Name	Type	Year	Amount
26-00099	Willard Beach Park	Development	1965	\$58,674.50
26-01023 X2	Bailey Park	Development	1977	\$65,516.88
26-01023 Y2	Fell Park	Development	1977	\$28,960.62
TF617	Linear Park	Dev./Acquist.	1982	\$995,000.00
26-01315	Binder Park Zoo	Development	1984	\$152,000.00
26-01480	Willard Beach Park	Development	1989	\$168,750.00
TF89-095	Bailey Park Renovation	Development	1989	\$375,000.00
BF89-457	Parks Quality Improvement	Development	1989	\$276,210.00
BF 93-182	Neighborhood Park Improvement	Development	1994	\$371,000.00
CM99-188	Piper Park Renovation	Development	1999	\$300,000.00
TF99-187	Southside Park Land Purchase	Acquisition	1999	\$500,000.00
BF00-149	Leila Arboretum Improvements	Development	2000	\$250,000.00
TF03-107	Bailey Park Improvements	Development	2003	\$229,300.00
TF13-010	Willard Park Beach Relocation	Development	2013	\$300,000.00

## Grant Inventory

### ***Willard Beach Park (1965)***

***Type: Development***

Project Scope: Currently, records do not exist that provide specific details on the scope of this particular project.

Current Condition: Willard beach remains a well-utilized local recreation asset.

Modifications: The park has received several modifications and upgrades over the years all designed to improve the user experience.

### ***Bailey Park (1977)***

***Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included the addition of restrooms, concessions and lighting.

Current Condition: Not applicable (see modifications below)

Modifications: The original improvements have since been replaced with newer, more modern, ADA-compliant facilities.

### ***Fell Park (1977)***

***Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included the addition of restrooms to the park.

Current Condition: The original restrooms have since been renovated and improved to comply with accessibility standards.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed.

### ***Linear Park (1982)***

***Type: Acquisition***

Property Purchased: The project included multiple purchases throughout portions of the community including property consolidated by the railroad along the city's downtown



riverfront, property formerly owned by Consumer's Energy running from Spring Lake to Bailey Park and property along Wagner Drive. Other smaller miscellaneous pieces at various locations were also purchased.

Current Use: All of the purchased property currently serves the city's Linear Park. The Linear Park system is heavily used by a large and diverse group of local residents.

Recreation Facilities: The property purchased has since been improved with hard-surface pathways. A portion of the property purchased along the riverfront, with the approval of the Trust Fund Board, has since been sold to the W.K. Kellogg Foundation which continues to provide the property for public recreation use.

***Binder Park Zoo (1984)***

***Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included the construction of an entrance road and large surface parking lot.

Current Condition: The road and parking lot are currently in good condition.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed. The parking lot has since been expanded.

***Willard Beach Park (1989)***

***Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included the new construction of a beach front building designed to house restrooms, concessions and dedicated rooms for beach lifeguards. A previously existing diving area was removed from the beach and tongue and groove ceiling material was added to the underneath side of the main shelter/pavilion at the beach.

Current Condition: The building and improved shelter are currently in good condition and readily used by the public. Some general maintenance will be required in the immediate future.

Modifications: No items have been removed. Plexiglas panels have been added to the beach front building.

***Bailey Park Renovation (1989)***

***Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included the construction of fully fenced 6,000 seat baseball stadium with irrigation, field lighting, scoreboard, dugouts, restrooms, concessions, press box area and open concourse. Additionally, a four (4) field (quad) softball complex was constructed including fencing, restrooms, scoreboard and concessions housed in a separate building.

Current Condition: Currently, the stadium serves as the home to the minor league Battle Creek Bombers and is used for various other events throughout the summer months. The stadium is in good general condition. The softball complex is heavily used by local and out-of-town players. It is in generally good condition.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed although additions have been made to the stadium (lighting, seating) to accommodate minor league baseball.

***Parks Quality Improvements (1989)***

***Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included renovations at three city parks. An additional four (4) field softball complex was added at Bailey parking including lighting, irrigation, fencing and a stand alone, centrally located building (hub) along with added parking.

New playground equipment and basketball courts, along with renovations to existing restrooms were installed at Claude Evans Park. And a new shelter/pavilion and two (2) individual play areas were added at Irving Park.

Current Condition: All improvements are in good condition requiring only routine maintenance.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed.

***Neighborhood Park Improvement (1994)******Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included renovations at six (6) city parks. Improvements included the addition of playground equipment, site fixtures, landscaping, basketball courts and signage at five parks; site work at four locations; fencing and hard surface paths at three locations; a picnic shelter/pavilion at two parks; two (2) tennis courts at McCrea Park and the addition of sand volley ball courts, soccer goals and a ball field renovation at Greenwood Park.

Current Condition: All improvements are in good condition and well utilized by the public.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed.

***Piper Park Renovation (1999)******Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included the construction of a large, accessible playground area, perimeter hard surface path, two (2) small picnic shelters, drinking fountains, landscaping, a renovation of the existing ball field and associated backstop, park signage and other minor recreation amenities.

Current Condition: The improvements are in good general condition requiring only routine maintenance.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed.

***Southside Park Land Purchase (1999)******Type: Acquisition***

Property Purchased: 144 acres on the cities southwest side currently referred to as Woodland Park.

Current Use: The Park is currently being used for general recreation purposes.

Recreation Facilities: Several recreation facilities have been added including two paved parking areas, trail map signage and natural walking paths.

***Leila Arboretum Improvements (2000)******Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included the installation of an irrigation system in a portion of the park, signage detailing native plant species, a gazebo, added parking and walking paths, landscaping improvements and other minor recreation amenities.

Current Condition: All improvements are in good condition and maintained, in part, by a dedicated non-profit organization.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed.

***Bailey Park Improvements (2003)******Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included a boat launch ramp, large, accessible, fenced playground area, parking for cars and boat trailers, a paved pathway with observation



decking along the river, a shelter/pavilion, landscaping improvements and other minor recreation amenities.

Current Condition: All improvements are in good condition and well utilized by the public.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed.

***Willard Park Beach Relocation (2013)***

***Type: Development***

Project Scope: The project included an access drive, bathhouse picnic addition, beach relocation, bio-retention basin, decorative fencing, hard surface trails, picnic shelters, relocation of parking/drop off area and volleyball court.

Current Condition: All improvements are in good condition and well utilized by the public.

Modifications: No scope items have been removed.



## *Section 4 – Administrative Structure*



## Method

Battle Creek has implemented comprehensive community awareness and involvement programs over the past several years. The programs have resulted in clearer communication between the people and the government regarding community strengths and shortcomings. It has also provided regular feedback on the desires of the people and the responsiveness of the City departments. Each department has benefited by listening first, then taking action to better serve the needs of the community.

The Parks and Recreation Department has been the leader and the most visible proponent of the citizen involvement process. Many of the projects undertaken by the Parks and Recreation staff have been implemented after receiving considerable input from the citizens. This is especially true regarding neighborhood park improvement projects.

## Mission

The Parks and Recreation Department completed an internal strategic planning and mission realignment process. The goal of the effort was to ensure the distribution of departmental resources (both human and financial) in support of mission. Based on input from a variety of citizen-driven initiatives and an internal analysis of customer wants and needs the department refined its mission as follows:

Battle Creek Parks and Recreation is committed

*....to providing recreation programs and services that improve the physical health and wellbeing of the individual and the community.*

The department has allocated all of its resources to achieving this goal with a particular emphasis on getting young children physically active, creating opportunities for physical activity, and promoting healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices.

## Organization

The city of Battle Creek Parks and Recreation services are delivered through the direction of a mayor-led, nine member City Commission. The City Manager serves at the pleasure of the Commission, providing the link between the direct representatives of the citizenry of Battle Creek and the professional staff. A list of the current elected City officials, administrative staff, and master plan advisory committee members may be found in **Figure 4-1**. **Figure 4-2** is the organizational chart for the city of Battle Creek and identifies senior staff leaders and members of the City's strategic leadership team along with supervisory responsibilities.

The Recreation Director reports directly to the City Manager and is a key member of the City's strategic leadership team. An organizational chart for the Parks and Recreation Department is included in **Figure 4-3**. The Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for providing services in two primary areas to the Battle Creek community; recreation programming and facility management.

## **Staffing**

The organizational chart in **Figure 4-3** shows the organizational structure of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Recreation Director is responsible for the management and programming of the department's recreation center, which includes a Flash Flood Water Park, Bailey Park, Willard Beach, a fitness center, and programming staff. This position also is responsible for marketing and communications. The Binder Park Golf Services Manager is responsible for the operation of the City's 27-hole golf course.

Battle Creek has a full service Parks and Recreation department. There are a total of 12 full-time and over 250 part-time and/or seasonal employees in the park maintenance, customer service, and program assistant functions. Throughout the year there are numerous volunteers that help the department provide its services. Volunteers play a significant role in the delivery of a number of youth sports and camps. Volunteers support both operations and administration for various local, regional, and national athletic and tourism related events and support certain fundraising and other revenue generating activities.

## **Budget**

The budget for the Parks and Recreation Department is \$2,814,782.00 in fiscal year 2024-25. The department is divided up into 19 different business units as noted in **Table 4-1**. Parks and Recreation is partially supported by a subsidy from the City's general fund and derives additional revenue from program fees, services charges, rental and lease agreements, grants, donations and other general fees. The department's overall budget has remained relatively stable in recent years as has its general fund subsidy.

## **Partnerships**

The Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department believes strongly in collaborative partnerships that extend the department's reach and allow it to leverage its limited resources to impact the greatest number of people. The department has worked hard to form partnerships with recreation providers and other like-minded organizations with similar mission directives. The department pursues strategic partnerships that allow it to provide the broadest and best quality recreation services to the people of Battle Creek. Based on established policies, parks and recreation staff have formed dozens of partnerships in recent years, all of which are currently active and are producing positive results for the community. **Table 4-3** provides an overview of the department's various partnership efforts.

## **Policies and Procedures**

The operations of the Parks and Recreation Department, as well as the services it offers to the public, are governed by a number of administrative and procedural policies. As a department of city government, Parks and Recreation is subject to the administrative policies of the City in such areas as personnel and purchasing. The department also has a number of internal administrative policies articulated in such documents as the Parks and



Recreation Revenue and Memorial and Donations Policies. Additionally, the department is subject to the laws of the State of Michigan where applicable.

The department's revenue policy provides detailed direction on the various aspects of managing revenue sources and includes policies for determining cost recovery standards, establishing and collecting fees, facility and equipment rental, sponsorships, grants and donations, and contractual relationships. The department's partnership policy provides standards and guidelines for collaborative initiatives and specifies the conditions under which that department will seek and enter into partnership relationships. Various other miscellaneous policies govern programmatic issues and parks and facility maintenance and use.





**Figure 4-1**

City of Battle Creek Administration

**Members of the City Commission**

Reynolds, Carla	At-Large
Behnke, Mark (Mayor)	At-Large
Smith, Jake	At-Large
Sofia, Sherry (Vice Mayor)	At-Large
Ballard, Roger	Ward 1
Morris, Jenasia	Ward 2
O'Donnell, Patrick	Ward 3
Simmons, Christopher	Ward 4
Lance, Jim	Ward 5

**Administrative Staff**

City Manager	Rebecca Fleury
Assistant City Manager	Ted Dearing
City Attorney	Jill Steele
City Clerk	Victoria Houser
City Treasurer	Tammy Giannunzio

**Directors**

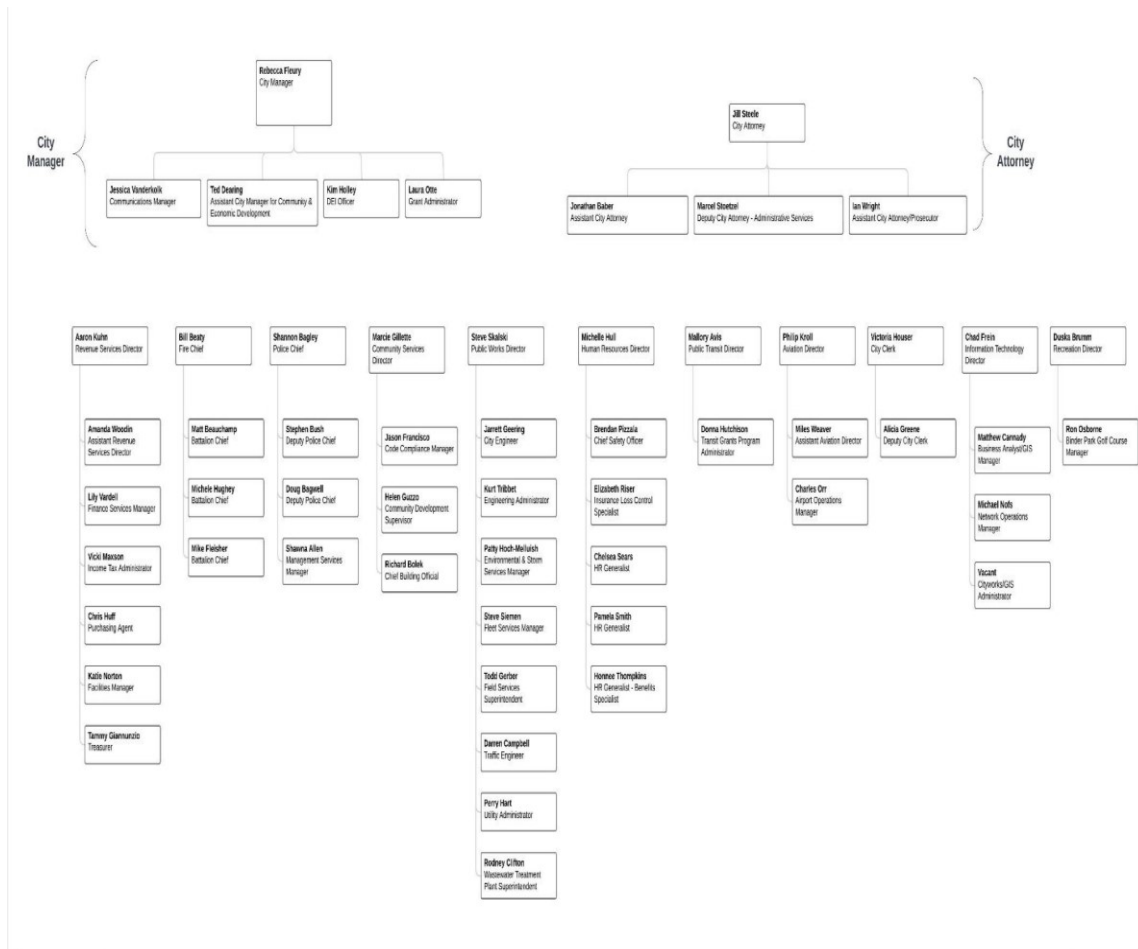
Finance Director	Aaron Kuhn
Human Resources Director	Michelle Hull
Community Services Director	Marcie Gillette
Public Works Director	Steve Skalski
Recreation Director	Duska Brumm
Chief of Police	Shannon Bagley
Fire Chief	Bill Beaty
Public Transit Director	Mallory Avis
IT Director	Chad Frein
Communications Manager	Jessica Vanderkolk
Aviation Director	Philip Kroll
DEI Officer	Kimberly Holley

**Master Plan Advisory Committee**

Duska Brumm	Battle Creek Parks and Recreation
Nicole Gilmore	Battle Creek Parks and Recreation
Ted Dearing	Assistant City Manager
Todd Gerber, Superintendent	Field Services Superintendent
Todd Everson	Assistant Field Services Superintendent
Matthew Cannady	Business Analyst/GIS Manager
Jessica Vanderkolk	Communications Manager

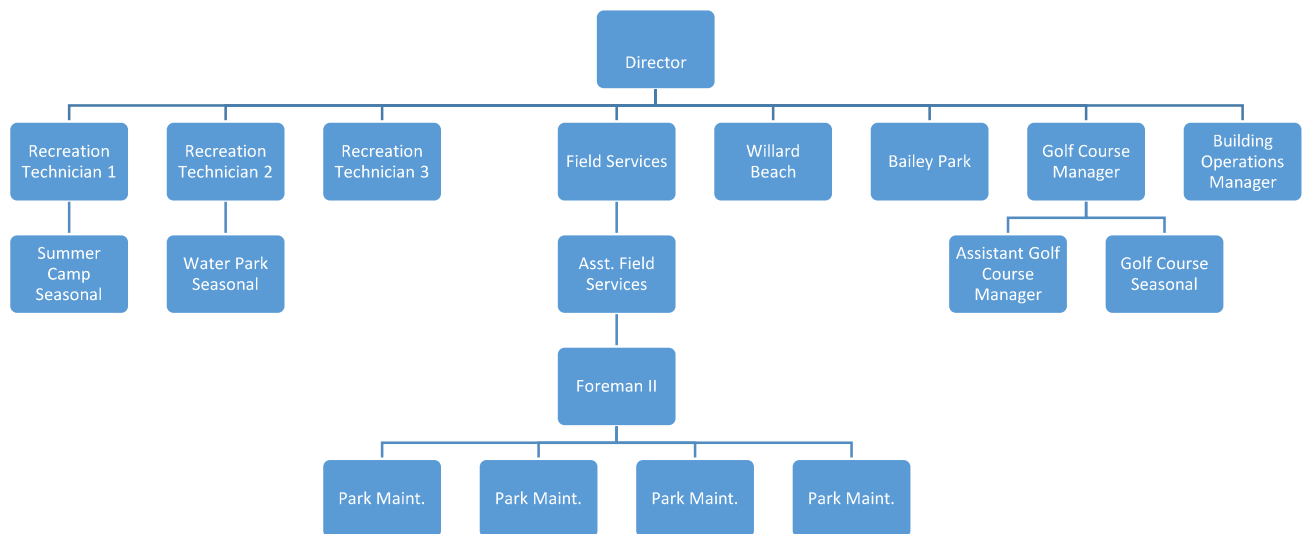
**Figure 4-2**

**Organizational Chart for the City of Battle Creek**



**Figure 4-3**

## Organizational chart for the City of Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department





**Table 4-1**

Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget by Business Unit				
Business Unit #	Business Unit Description	Budgeted Revenues	Budgeted Expenses	Budgeted Subsidy
4560	Parks Building & Maint	0	733,265	733,265
4565	Willard Beach	0	66,463	66,463
4570	Linear Park Maint & Develop	0	136,562	136,562
7000	Admin	30,800	284,188	253,388
7010	Special Projects	0	0	0
7011	Capital Repairs	0	0	0
7020	Athletics	74,800	151,465	76,665
7021	Enrichment	0	0	0
7022	Sports Forum Programs	186,300	272,709	86,409
7023	Youth Golf	20,709	31,909	11,200
7028	Health & Fitness Programs	0	0	0
7030	Interagency	0	0	0
7050	Bailey Park	160,300	297,718	137,418
7060	Binder Park Golf Course	1,122,900	1,317,409	194,509
7100	Willard Beach Admin	32,000	25,772	-6,228
7160	Flash Flood Water Park	389,750	355,425	-34,325
7170	Full Blast Building	111,000	415,809	304,809
7175	Fitness Center	47,000	2,500	-44,500
7190	Central Business District	0	899,147	899,147
<b>Totals</b>		<b>2,175,559</b>	<b>4,990,341</b>	<b>2,814,782</b>



**Table 4-3**  
Battle Creek Parks and Recreation  
Collaborative Partnerships

Facility/Program	Partner	Description
Bailey Park	*Battle Creek Public Schools St. Phillip Catholic School, Kellogg Community College	Softball/Baseball facilities
	*Convention Visitors Bureau	Operations & capital investment
	*B.C. Battle Jacks (Northwood League)	Minor league baseball
	*B.C. Shuffleboard Club	Shuffleboard
	*National Amateur Baseball Federation	World Series Tournament
Binder Park	*Binder Park Jr Golf Academy	Youth golf programming
Claude Evans Park	*Cereal City Hoopsters	Youth basketball programming
Full Blast	*Kellogg Arena	Operations/equipment support
	*West Michigan Virtual School	Alternative education
	*Family YMCA	Summer Camp
		Aquatic support
	*B.C. Area Pickleball	Pickleball
	*Kellogg's	Basketball program
	*Gordon Food Service	Facility sponsorship
	*Pepsi	Facility sponsorship
Homeless Health Fair	*Area Community Service Groups	Homeless program
KCC Sportsplex	*Kellogg Community College	Shared sports facilities
Kellogg Arena	*Cereal City Development Corp	Facility management
Kidventure Camp	*Kellogg's	United to Be Kind Anti-bullying
	*United Way	United to Be Kind Anti-bullying
Leila Arboretum	*Leila Arboretum Society	Park & program management
Metcalf Lake	*Calhoun County Conservation District	Park management
McCrea Park	*Shamrock Baseball	Youth baseball
Minges Brook Park	*Lakeview Public Schools	Joint park operations
Prairieview Park	*Lakeview Public Schools	Joint park operations
Riverside Park	*Lakeview Public Schools	Joint park operations
	*ASYO	Youth athletic programming
Rotary Christmas	*Battle Creek Rotary Club	Youth program
Tinsel Toes	*Cereal City Athletics	5K Event
VA Stand Down	*Area Community Service Groups	Veteran's and Homeless program

## *Section 5 –Goals and Objectives/Action Plan*



## **Planning Strategy**

The Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department embarked upon its 2024-28 master planning process with a desire to build on the successes of the previous five years. Rather than pursuing an entirely new strategic direction, the department sought to capitalize on the citizen-driven directives in its current plan as well as align the distribution of its resources with broader community goals established through similar community-driven processes.

The Regional Health Alliance, in partnership with the Coordinating Council, Bronson Battle Creek, Oaklawn Hospital, the Calhoun County Public Health Department, Grace Health, and Borgess worked together beginning in the Fall of 2018 on a Calhoun County Community Health Needs Assessment. The results were used by key stakeholders as they developed individual and collective strategies to address the most pressing needs affecting the residents of Calhoun County. The assessment also incorporated key findings from the Senior Health Needs Assessment.

The Alliance also sought input directly from medically underserved, low-income, minority populations, and other community representatives. The interviews, focus groups, and data reviewed by the staff revealed several areas where the health and health-related behaviors of Calhoun County residents could be improved, and that overweight and obesity were in the top health issues in the county. The Alliance recognized, as did focus group and interview participants, that to address overweight and obesity, the health issues of physical activity and nutrition would also have to be addressed.

The Alliance findings reflect the community's awareness and concern for the impacts of poor lifestyle choices on current and future generations. Despite Battle Creek's proactive approach, both regionally and nationally, health concerns related to poor lifestyle choices continue to grow.

In addition, the prevalence of obesity in the adult population is spreading to children putting young people at an increased risk of having other chronic health conditions and diseases that influence physical health. These include asthma, sleep apnea, bone and joint problems, type 2 diabetes, and risk factors for heart disease. A much greater number of children are now suffering from diseases that were once thought to only plague adults.

For these reasons, as the Parks and Recreation Department began the development of its master plan, it sought to continue its recent emphasis on community health needs. It is clear to the department that physical fitness and healthy lifestyles remained a high priority among citizens and that a focused and strategic approach is needed. The intent is to respond to the current and previously articulated citizen needs in a more purposeful way while building on past efforts.

As the plan was developed the department sought to continuously re-enforce the impact of the mission on its strategic action steps. Citizens were not only asked to rate parks and recreation services but to provide input on how the department could improve physical



health and promote healthier lifestyle choices. By doing so, citizens played an active role in defining the department's future, based in part, on the department's most recent past. This approach was instrumental in determining strategic areas and specific actions steps that continue the department's current momentum and ensure its place as an essential service provider to the community.

The Strategic Directives, as well as the Goals and Objectives of the plan are gleaned from input from a variety of sources including the current plan, the 2023 Needs Assessment survey, members of the public (in public forums), Parks and Recreation management staff, and members of the Master Plan Advisory Committee. The social and physical characteristics of the community reviewed in Section 2 also played an important role in shaping the action items. The goals, objectives and related action steps place particular emphasis on improving the physical activity levels and healthy lifestyle choices.

## **Strategic Directives**

### **Primary Directives**

All of the goals, objectives and action steps included in the plan are driven by three overarching primary strategic directives:

- (D1) Emphasize the physical recreation environment
- (D2) Leverage assets through partnership
- (D3) Develop structures that support self-directed recreation

Each strategic directive reflects a common thread woven throughout the various information gathering sessions held during the public input process. Emphasizing the physical recreation environment means investing in the park system by improving physical facilities, maintenance, and safety to facilitate the use of natural environments in support of physically active lifestyles. Leverage assets through partnerships means extending the department's reach by impacting more people through cooperative and collaborative arrangements with a diverse set of recreation providers. Developing structures that support self-directed recreation means emphasizing non-structured over structured programming for certain constituents to encourage great participation.

The following goals, objectives and action steps tie back to these strategic objectives and are further categorized as either part of Programs and Services or Operations (administration).

## **Goals and Objectives**

### **Programs and Services**

#### **Target Audience: General Population**

Goal (PS1): To increase opportunities to regularly participate in physical activity



*Objective: Provide services (including facilities) that align with active recreation preferences.*

**Action Steps:**

- Advocate, promote and assist, as resources allow, in the implementation of the city's Non-Motorized Transportation Plan.
- Collaborate with other regional trail groups. Foster the inclusion/connection of the current Linear Park System within a regional transportation/recreation network including linkage with open space in neighboring jurisdictions.
- Evaluate the feasibility of developing and (as funds allow) adding multi-use facilities that create opportunities for physical activity based on recreation preferences.
- Provide equipment and facilities in support of community special events.

**Goal (PS2): To increase awareness of the benefits of regularly participating in physical activity**

*Objective: Act as a source of physical health information.*

**Action Steps:**

- Incorporate information on the benefits of active living into all programs and service communications.
- Utilize the department's website to communicate information on the benefits of active living.

**Goal (PS3): To increase education and awareness of the benefits of healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices**

*Objective: Form education and marketing alliances.*

**Action Steps:**

- Coordinate the department's efforts with broader health education initiatives such as those sponsored by the Regional Health Alliance.
- Partner with local community organizations to produce and promote at least two community-wide health fairs annually.

**Target Audience: Youth (14 and under)**

**Goal (PS4): To actively engage all youth 14 and under in regular physical activity**

*Objective: Maximize the amount of available departmental resources used to support youth programming.*

**Action Steps:**

- Commit and maintain a minimum of 25% of the department's general fund subsidy to youth programming.
- Commit and maintain a minimum of 70% of the department programming hours to active youth programming.
- Annually review the use of all programming and service resources to ensure the most efficient delivery of youth services.



*Objective: Increase accessibility to programming for economically disadvantaged youth.*

Action Steps:

- Commit and maintain a minimum of 3% of the department's general fund subsidy for scholarships.

Goal (PS5): To increase awareness among all youth 14 and under of the benefits of healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices

*Objective: Improve nutritional habits.*

Action Steps:

- Integrate healthy snacks into all department sponsored programs.
- Provide healthy eating tips/receipts and related information to all registered program participants.
- Promote a positive anti-substance abuse message as part of programming in partnership with other advocacy groups.

**Target Audience: Teens 15 and older (with younger siblings)**

Goal (PS6): To increase the number of teens between 15-18 who regularly engage in physical activity

*Objective: Capitalize on youth recreation preferences.*

Action Steps:

- Explore school and other partnerships to provide intramural sports and athletic programming to teens.
- Create "drop-in" programming blocks that allow for unstructured activities that promote physical activity.

**Target Audience: Families (with young children)**

Goal (PS7): To increase the number of opportunities for family recreation

*Objective: Identify parks for small investments to specifically improve health, happiness, and well-being*

Action Steps:

- Use the park inventory to create a master plan for each park.
- Annually review the budget process and park inventory to allocate funds to park renovations, repair, and maintenance.

**Target Audience: Adult/Competitive Athletes**

Goal (PS8): To support the development of a competitive sports and health and wellness brand

*Objective: Maintain adequate facilities to support sports tourism.*

Action Steps:

- Meet annually with CVB officials to determine facility needs and update CIP with capital projects as required.

- Work cooperatively with the CVB and other appropriate civic organizations, attractions, and festivals to maximize sports tourism opportunities and potential.

## **Operations**

### **Marketing and Communications**

Goal (OP1): Increase resident awareness of parks and recreation programs and services

*Objective: Develop a comprehensive integrated marketing and communications plan.*

Action Steps:

- Align marketing/communication efforts with targeted audiences (direct mail, e-marketing, etc.).
- Produce and distribute an annual report with performance measurements.
- Develop additional cross-marketing partnerships with co-providers.

### **Facilities**

Goal (OP2): Improve the quality of neighborhood parks

*Objective: Identify opportunities to improve quality.*

Action Steps:

- Develop a local neighborhood parks improvement “business plan” including strategies to:
  - Define “neighborhood” parks including size, location, amenities and service levels.
  - Build local neighborhood parks “partnerships” for planning and implementing improvements.

### **Maintenance**

Goal (OP3): Maintain a natural (passive) recreation environment with active living amenities

*Objective: Sustain a high level of park maintenance.*

Action Steps:

- Work with the Street and Parks Superintendent to establish a service level baseline for maintenance and safety.
- Advocate for an increase in general fund subsidy for parks maintenance to sustain the service level baseline.
- Complete a full assessment of increased and/or on-going maintenance costs associated with a project when considering any service improvements or expansion to ensure that adequate maintenance resources are available.

*Objective: Update and/or improve equipment and facilities that promote active use at all park locations.*

Action Steps:

- Maintain a Capital Improvements Projects list for each park with annual priority updates.

- Advocate for a source of ongoing funding for extraordinary repairs on an annual basis for those items that do not qualify for capital improvement dollars.
- Upgrade playground equipment where needed in neighborhood parks as capital dollars become available.

## **Service Delivery**

### **Goal (OP4): Develop strong programming and facility partnerships with local providers**

*Objective: Formulate policies and nurture relationships that support and facilitate the development of partnerships.*

#### **Action Steps:**

- Create and update annually, a partnership list that identifies potential partner organizations with shared organizational values and goals.
- Develop and maintain at least one programming or facility partnership with Community Integrated Recreation, Kellogg Community College, Cereal City Athletics, and the Wattles Park Men's Club.
- Develop additional new contractual program provider relationships on an annual basis.

### **Goal (OP5): Improve overall program and service quality and safety**

*Objective: Provide a broad spectrum of diverse program and service options.*

#### **Action Steps:**

- Review programming annually to ensure a diverse set of offerings.
- Seek out programming partnerships with non-traditional contractual providers (i.e. martial arts, wrestling).
- Configure and maintain facilities and facility space to allow for "flexible" uses that promote physical activity.

*Objective: Provide a broad spectrum of diverse program and service options.*

#### **Action Steps:**

- Conduct a bi-annual survey of adult and youth programming preferences.
- Maintain an online needs assessment survey to receive customer input.
- Align programming with "prime-times" as determined by users.
- Create flexible "drop-in" programming times that allow youth to choose activities.
- Evaluate individual programs and services on an annual basis to ensure that offerings meet customer needs (program evaluations).

*Objective: Improve customer perceptions regarding program and service safety.*

#### **Action Steps:**

- Provide contact information in all parks for emergency and related services.

## **Evaluation**

As part of the master planning process the Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing the City's residents with timely and accurate information about its performance so that citizens can adequately assess how the department is doing.



Additionally, the department is interested in developing a system that will allow staff to improve performance by measuring the efficiency and effectiveness with which it delivers services. By establishing certain performance measurements as part of its five-year plan, the department believes it can promote greater understanding of its mission, goals and objectives, strengthen its accountability to taxpayers, and improve overall performance.

The performance measures established in this plan are directly related to the goals and objectives identified above. The department intends to calculate, analyze and report on the measures on an annual basis in an effort to determine how well the department is meeting its directive to provide programs, services and operations in support of individual and community health and wellbeing (an overview follows on the next two pages).



## Performance Objective

The Department seeks to provide both opportunity and access to programs and services that get people physically active with particular emphasis on promoting physical activity and healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices for youth in order to eliminate the dangers of childhood obesity.

### Performance Measurement Guild

#### Programs and Services

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##### **General Population**

(PS1): To increase opportunities to regularly participate in physical activity

(PS2): To increase awareness of the benefits of regularly participating in physical activity

(PS3): To increase education and awareness of the benefits of healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices

- Total park utilization
- Website visitation and health click-throughs
- Number of health and wellness partnerships and services delivered

---

##### **Youth (14 and under)**

(PS4): To actively engage all youth 14 and under in regular physical activity

(PS5): To increase awareness among all youth 14 and under of the benefits of healthy nutrition and lifestyle choices

- Total programs offered
- Total program enrollment
- Recreation contact hours
- Increases in activity levels (self-report)
- Increases in healthy nutrition/lifestyle choices (self-report)

---

##### **Teens 15 and Over**

(PS6): To increase the number of teens between 15-18 who regularly engage in physical activity

- Total program enrollment
- Recreation contact hours
- Increases in activity levels (self-report)
- Increases in healthy nutrition/lifestyle choices (self-report)

---

##### **Families (with young children)**

(PS7): To increase the number of opportunities for family recreation

- Increase in use of parks (self-report)
- Parent/child recreation contact hours
- Increases in activity levels (self-report)
- Increases in healthy nutrition/lifestyle choices (self-report)

---

##### **Adult/Competitive Athletes**

(PS8): To support the development of competitive sports and health and wellness brand

- Total park utilization
  - Total tournament enrollment
  - Number of health and wellness partnerships and services delivered
-





Operations

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**Marketing and Communications**

(OP1): Increase resident awareness of parks and recreation programs and services

- Number of residents identifying lack of information as a barrier
- Number of visits to website
- Number of participants utilizing social media offerings
- Total participation numbers

---

**Facilities**

(OP2): Improve the quality of neighborhood parks

- Completion of individual park master plans
- Number of planning partnerships

---

**Maintenance**

(OP3): Maintain a natural (passive) recreation environment with active living amenities

- Completion and monthly adherence to service level standards
- Total \$ in general fund subsidy for park maintenance
- Total \$ in park maintenance per capita/per acre
- Total capital \$ allocated for improvements
- Customer satisfaction with maintenance levels (survey)

---

**Service Delivery**

(OP4): Develop strong programming and facility partnerships with local providers

(OP5): Improve overall program and service quality and safety

- Number of total partnerships
  - Number of participants reached through partnerships
  - Number of volunteers engaged in programming
  - Number of recreation hours provided through partnerships
  - Customer satisfaction ratings relative to quality (survey)
  - Customer satisfaction ratings relative to safety (survey)
-

## **Capital Improvement Projects**

The capital improvements contained in the 2024-2028 Master Plan are intended to provide physical facility support to the goals and objectives included in the Action Plan. Much like the Action Plan, the Capital Improvements Plan is a reflection of input from a variety of sources and incorporates several remaining priorities from the current master plan.

The plan is broken down into year-by-year increments with each proposed project coded to reflect:

- Its priority as determined by a ranking system approved by the Battle Creek City Commission and used to prioritize spending on capital improvement projects city-wide
- The potential source(s) of funding for the project
- Its direct relationship to goals and objectives established in this plan.

The Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department seeks to leverage and combine a variety of funding sources in its efforts to implement the Capital Improvement plan. Projects are completed if and when resources become available.

Table 5-1

									All projects need to be scored before Mandate 8. Score can be filled in. (Leave AS IS)		Rank Dept. Priority in order - 1 is Top Priority. Can only use a number once.					
Department	Fund Name	New? (Yes or No)	Project Title	Project Description	Project Justification	Fund (Yes or No)	Meets Master Plan (Yes or No?)	Mandate 8 Prov Program	Consent Result	Dept. Prior (1 to 20)	CF Total (Y or No?)	Extm Useful	Funding Source(s)			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	Playground Safety Improvements	Upgrade equipment and amenities to meet new safety standards at Greenwood, Monarch, Irving, Minor, Mauchien, Mingo Brook, Putnamville, Quaker and Stillbriest playgrounds.	To meet new safety standards for playgrounds.	No	Yes	4	1	2	18	20	Cathouse County Parks Village			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	Playground Safety Surfacing	Upgrade safety surfacing materials under all city park playgrounds.	Replacement is required to ensure compliance with ASTM impact and accessibility standards.	No	Yes	4	1	5	18	5	Cathouse County Parks Village			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	Park Amenities Improvements	Improvements and repairs to structures and amenities located through the city park systems. Items include buildings, pavilions, fencing, railings, ball fields, courts, trash receptacles, benches, picnic tables, etc.	Improvements and repairs to park system amenities help ensure the safety of residents and visitors and managing/reducing the city's risk exposure.	No	Yes	1	2	4	18	10	Cathouse County Parks Village			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	General Parks asphalt road and parking area repairs.	Surface treatments for all roads, parking lots, and paths in selected parks. Includes milling as needed.	The surfaces in a number of local parks have deteriorated to the point of becoming a safety concern due to uneven surfaces and cracking. Repair is also needed in order to avoid more significant long-term maintenance costs.	No	Yes	1	2	6	18	15	Cathouse County Parks Village			
Field Services / Parks	Downtown Dev. Authority	No	Park Electrical Systems Upgrade	Upgrade the electrical systems in McCamly Park and Claude Franks Park to provide support for recreation activities and special events.	The existing electrical systems in McCamly Park and Claude Franks Park are limited. Upgrading these systems will provide better support for recreation activities and special events that use these spaces - Family Day at Claude Franks and the Corned Festival at McCamly Park are examples.	No	Yes	2	3	7	18	25	Downtown Dev. Authority			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	Linear Trail Signage	Engineering and signage in preparation for the connection at the City line from the Kalamazoo Trail.	Connecting statewide trail system across Southern Michigan.	No	Yes	1	3	8	18	15	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	Linear Path Expansion, I-94 Corridor	Expansion of the Linear Path along the I-94 corridor between Midway Road and Capital Avenue (Phase I) and Capital Avenue to M-66 (Phase II).	This expansion would link existing path on Midway Road and create access to Capital Ave. and access to Beckley Road. Phase II would connect Capital Ave. to M-66. This would also benefit the City's Vision Motorist Transportation Plan.	No	Yes	0	3	17	18	20	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	Linear Path Expansion, North Side to South Side	Construction of Linear Park connecting downtown to Riverside Park along the Mill Pond and Kalamazoo River and from Riverside Park to Beckley Rd Linear Park section.	Improve connectivity of Linear Park from downtown towards Riverside Park and Beckley Road and connect with an existing isolated section.	No	Yes	0	3	18	18	20	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	Amphibious Playground restroom facility	Add a permanent restroom facility near Amphibious Playground.	Amphibious Playground, located in Bailey Park, is the City's most visited playground. Currently, Port-a-Johns are placed seasonally (A	No	Yes	1	2	3	18	30	Cathouse County Parks Village			
Field Services / Parks	ADHA	No	Public Wi-Fi at Claude Franks Park	This proposed project would include all fiber, hardware, and access points to provide public Wi-Fi to Claude Franks Park.	Whether it is for school, business, or pleasure, internet connectivity is no longer an option today, it has become a necessity. The city can help provide this by extending the public Wi-Fi currently available in the downtown to our more frequently used public park spaces.	Yes	Yes	1	2	1	18	20	ADHA			
Field Services / Parks	General	No	Automatic Vehicle Gate System at Willard Beach	The installation of an automatic vehicle gate system at the front entrance at Willard Beach.	The front gate system at Willard Beach must be opened and closed manually throughout the park season. This project will install an automatic gate system, allowing programmed open/close times and accept payments electronically.	No	Yes	1	4	10	18	15	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	YES	Public Wi-Fi & Security Cameras at Willard Beach	Extend the city's fiber optic lines to Willard Beach for wi-fi and security cameras.	Whether it is for school, business, or pleasure, internet connectivity is no longer an option today, it has become a necessity. The city can help provide this by extending the public Wi-Fi currently available in the downtown to our more frequently used public park spaces.	No	Yes	1		9	18	25	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	YES	Willard Beach / Gogusee Lake Sea Wall	Replace failing wooden sea wall at former Willard Beach Gogusee Lake Sailing Club	The wooden sea wall at the former Willard Beach / Gogusee Lake Sailing Club on George P. Place is failing and in need of replacing.	No	Yes	1		11	18	25	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	YES	Public Wi-Fi & Security Cameras at Piper Park	Extend the city's fiber optic lines to Piper Park for wi-fi and security cameras.	Extend the city's fiber optic network to Piper Park to provide wireless access points for public wi-fi and the ability to connect security cameras.	No	Yes	1		12	18	20	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	YES	Public Wi-Fi & Automatic Door Locks at Fall	Extend the city's fiber optic lines to Fall Park for wi-fi and for control of automatic bathroom door locks.	Extend the city's fiber optic network to Fall Park to provide wireless access points for public wi-fi and control of an automatic door lock system at the restrooms. Depending on the route, the extension of the fiber may also accommodate Lake Arborview and Fire Station 5.	No	Yes	1		13	18	20	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	YES	Public Wi-Fi & Security Cameras at Bailey Park	Extend the city's fiber optic lines to Bailey Park for wi-fi.	Extend the city's fiber optic network to Bailey Park to provide wireless access points for public wi-fi and the ability to connect security cameras.	No	Yes	1		14	18	20	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	YES	Linear Path Paving	Paving portion of the linear path	Repaving of portions of the linear path.	No	Yes	1		15	18	20	General			
Field Services / Parks	General	YES	Master Planning for Parks	Creation of Master Plans for general parks such as Claude Franks, Fall, Piper, Bailey, Irving, Riverside, and Willard Beach	A Master Plan for each of our larger general parks/Creation of Master Plans for general parks such as Claude Franks, Fall, Piper, Bailey	No	Yes	1		16	18	10	General			

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## *Appendices*





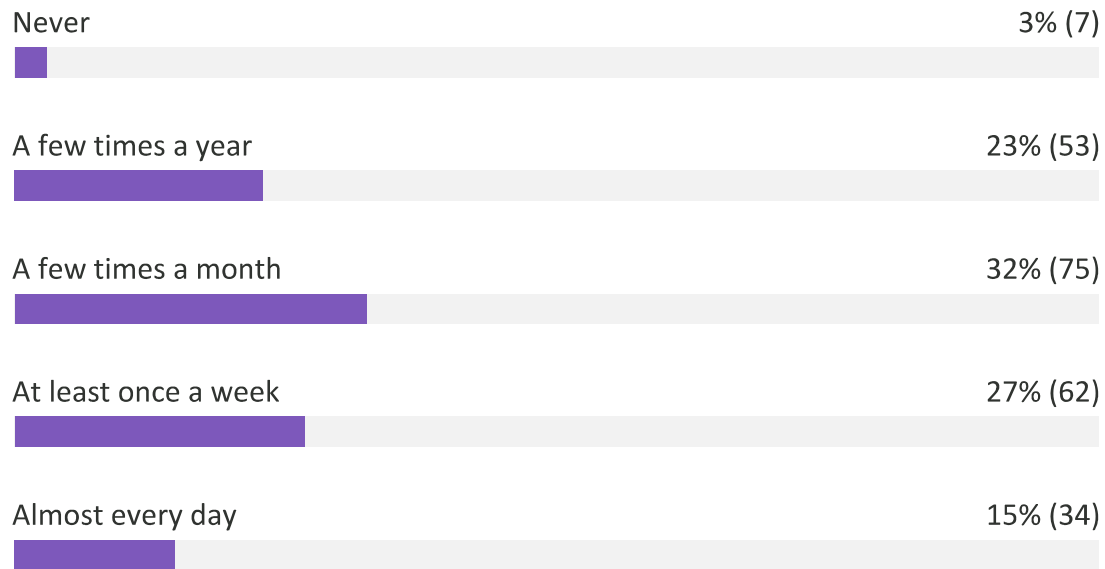


## Active in the City - Parks and Recreation in Battle Creek

Survey Results  
FINAL

06/21/2023

How often do you or members of your household visit a park or natural area?



How often do you or members of your household use the following city park/recreation facilities?

Question	Never	A few times a year	A few times a month	At least once a week	Almost every day
Full Blast Recreation Center (includes Flash Flood Water Park)	54%	36%	6%	2%	2%
City Recreation programs	54%	35%	5%	6%	1%
Bailey Park	19%	52%	15%	13%	1%
Willard Beach	37%	42%	12%	6%	3%
Binder Park Golf Course	66%	26%	5%	1%	1%
Linear Park path	24%	38%	21%	13%	5%

[Expand all](#) / [Collapse all](#)



Full Blast Recreation Center (includes Flash Flood Water Park)

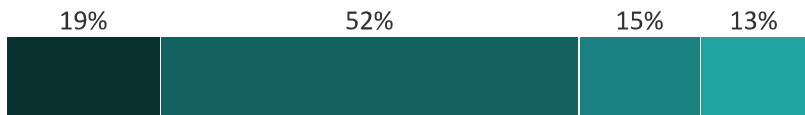




City Recreation programs



Bailey Park



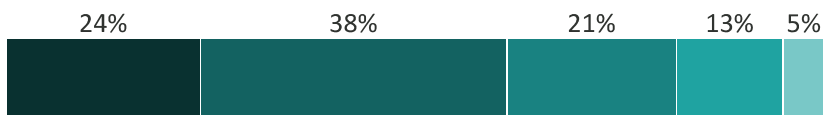
Willard Beach



Binder Park Golf Course

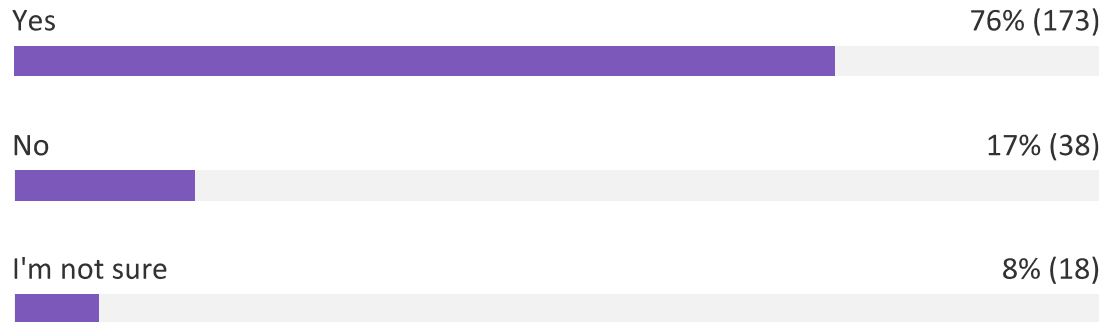


Linear Park path





Is there a park in the City of Battle Creek that you can easily access near your home?







Which street do you live on? This will help us know which parks are closest to you.

Pine lake road

Arbor Pointe Drive

Helen M Montgomery Avenue

Shadywood

West Willard Ave.

31st St.

Willard Ave W

Pinehurst

Pleasant Avenue

Main Street

Territorial Rd W

Westchester

Glencro Ln.

Lady Jessica Isle in Emmett Twp

452 Lakeview ave

Springview

Eldredge

N Broad Street

W Hamilton Lane

Mason ave north

Garrison Ave

Parkridge Dr (Fell Park)

Prudence lane

Mesa Verde Dr

ANN AVE

Guest St

Clover Ln

Althea Ave

Frances Drive

Morningside Dr

East Avenue North - Bailey Park

Bradley St

Berkley

Bryant St

Elizabeth St

E Hamilton Ln

Minges Circle

Weeks Ave

Orchard Ave



Verona Rd
Embury
Cascade Drive
23rd St S
W. Hamilton In
Byron Street
Central Street
Bellevue rd
E. Minges/Riverside
20827 Waubascon Rd.
Wattles Road
Sonoma Rd
Park Ridge Dr.
Eaton St
West Street
24th St S
E Hamilton Ln
Orchard Lane
McKinley Ave N
Woodland Dr
28
Sonoma Rd
Cascade Hills
Battle creek ave
Illinois
Saratoga
Gorsline Rd
Oxford St.
Clinton Dr.
Sharon avenue
Roxbury Lane
Curtis Ave
South Hills Dr
E Acacia Blvd
Hamilton Lane
Meadow
Calvin Road
Peets Cove
23 Fourth St
Maryland drive
Ave A in Springfield
Lakeshire Road



305 Buick Drive Battle Creek Michigan 49015

315 Fairfield Ave Battle Creek, MI 49015-3217

Capital Ave NE

Orchard Pl

South LaVista Blvd.

Ridgeview Drive

Central

Watkins Road

Fairway Dr- the park at Minges Brook is a great partner park

North Ave

Laredo Ave

Capital Ave SW

Capercaillie In.

Sunnyside Dr

Lynwood Drive

32nd St n.

Lincoln Blvd

212 Lakeshire Road

113 Sunset Blvd East

East Sylvan Dr.

Capital S W

moorland

michigan Avenue

Wagner Drive

maurer dr

Andrus St

Riverside

Lakewood Drive

North Broad Street

26th St

Sawgrass LN

East Avenue

West Jackson Street

Oneita

Jennings Road

Territorial Rd W

Fairfield Ave

Middle LN

Washington

East Michigan

11 Mile

Leila Arboretum



We live in Marshall now, but still use BC Parks and Recreation for sports and family gatherings.

Clear Lake Ave

Lakeshire road

Avenue A

Kistler

East Roosevelt Avenue

Beckwith Dr

N Wabash Ave

Pleasantview Dr

Territorial Rd W

Brentwood Drive

Broad St

groveland

Glendale ave

Surby Ave

South West Capital

Harper Creek Drive

Michigan Ave W

Toulouse Blvd

Skyview lane

Evans Street

Poulsen ave

Tecumseh rd

Live in Springfield closest would be McRae park

Capital Ave SW

Monroe beach

Burnham W

Laurel Dr

Watkins

Pennfield Rd.

Capital sw

Wagner Drive

Wagner Drive

Winter

Jacaranda

Overlook lane

23rd Street

Gardenia Street

Glencro Ln.

Fair home and winter

American Legion Drive

Creekview Drive



Bittersweet lane
206 Dogwood Trl
Territorial Rd W
Feld ave
Goguac
Dunham Dr
Brewer Dr.
24th St S
Woodlawn
127 Alida Dr.
Bayshore
Briar hill Drive
Chestnut
Marl Lake Rd
ILLINOIS
Harper Creek Dr
D dr north
Moorland Dr
Marie Ave
23rd s
31 East Ave S.
Harper Crossing
North 31st Street
Cascade Dr
Bittersweet Ln
Mechem park
211 Grove Street
Spaulding Ave W
Capital Ave SW
Cascade Drive
Cascade
Pleasant Ave
Guest St
Cedar avenue
Breezy bluff street
Springview Drive
Jennings w
Gethings Circle
Territorial Road
Laura LN.
minges creek place
minges creek place





East Ave N

East Ave N

East Avenue N

South Minges

Lakeshire Rd

Highland Blvd

Summer

Deer path In

Potters Drive

Riverside

Eldredge Street

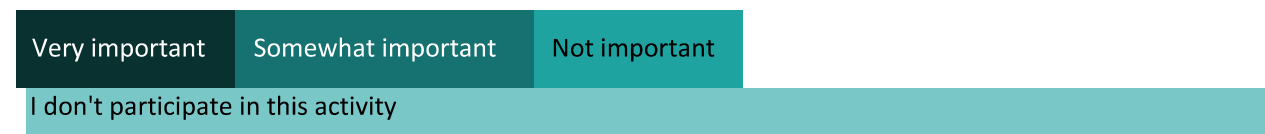
Orchard Pl

Highland blvd

Which of the following activities are most important to you and members of your household?

Question	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	I don't participate in this activity
Visiting parks for walking, running, hiking, or biking	65%	27%	5%	3%
Enjoying nature and open spaces	68%	27%	3%	2%
Picnics	18%	51%	23%	8%
Specialty activities (gardening, golf, disc golf, dog park)	28%	36%	23%	14%
Visiting playgrounds	41%	27%	13%	19%
Visiting community centers for activities or educational opportunities	22%	43%	18%	18%

[Expand all](#) / [Collapse all](#)



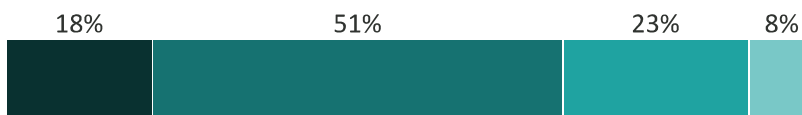
Visiting parks for walking, running, hiking, or biking



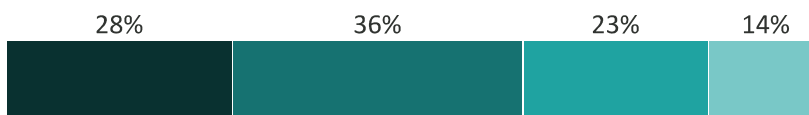
Enjoying nature and open spaces



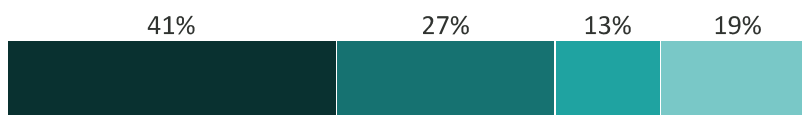
Picnics



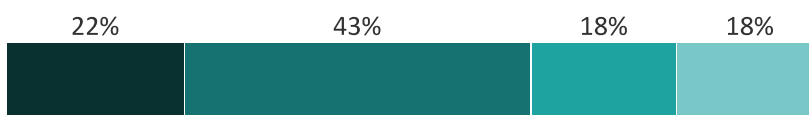
Specialty activities (gardening, golf, disc golf, dog park)



Visiting playgrounds



Visiting community centers for activities or educational opportunities





Please rate the level of importance of the following items:

Question	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	I'm not sure
Build new parks and recreation facilities	41%	36%	19%	4%
Focus on neighborhood-based programming	39%	44%	9%	8%
Improve access to recreation programs and services for all people	60%	29%	9%	2%
Maintain and improve existing parks and recreation facilities	87%	11%	0%	1%
Offer centralized programs at larger recreation facilities (like Bailey Park and Full Blast)	35%	42%	14%	9%
Give information on proper nutrition as part of all programs and services	24%	36%	34%	7%

[Expand all](#) / [Collapse all](#)

Very important	Somewhat important	Not important	I'm not sure
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Build new parks and recreation facilities

41% 36% 19%



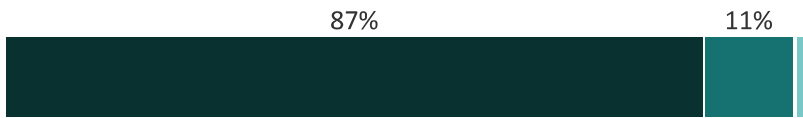
Focus on neighborhood-based programming



Improve access to recreation programs and services for all people



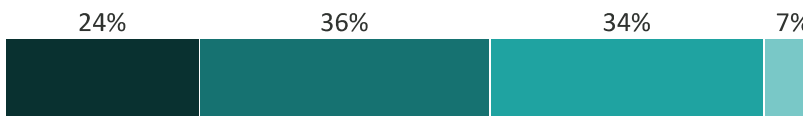
Maintain and improve existing parks and recreation facilities



Offer centralized programs at larger recreation facilities (like Bailey Park and Full Blast)

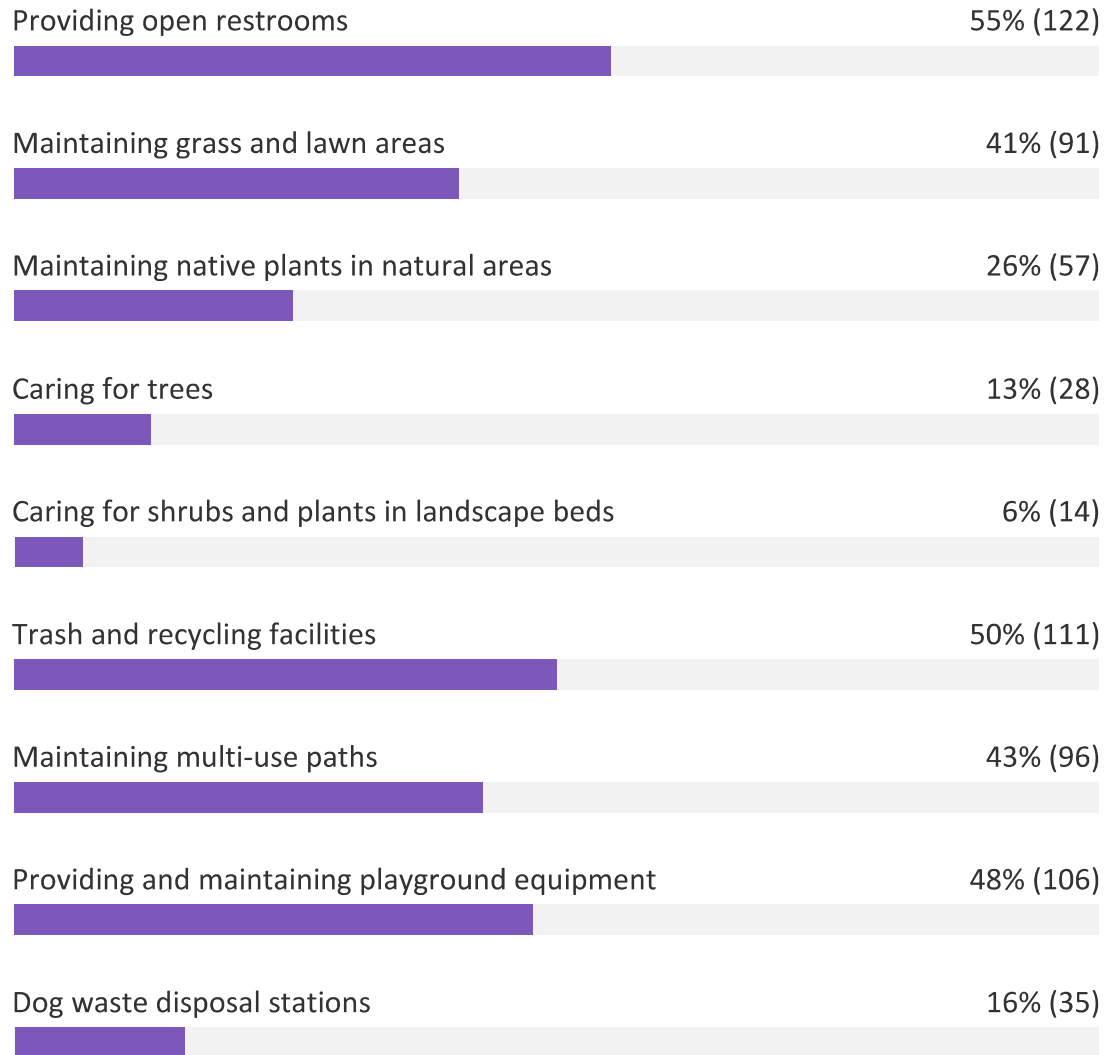


Give information on proper nutrition as part of all programs and services

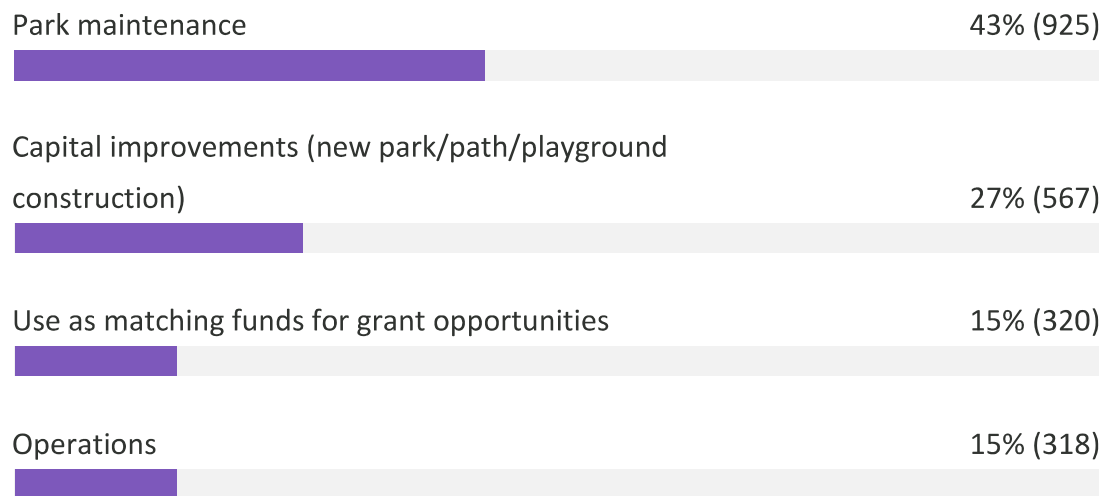




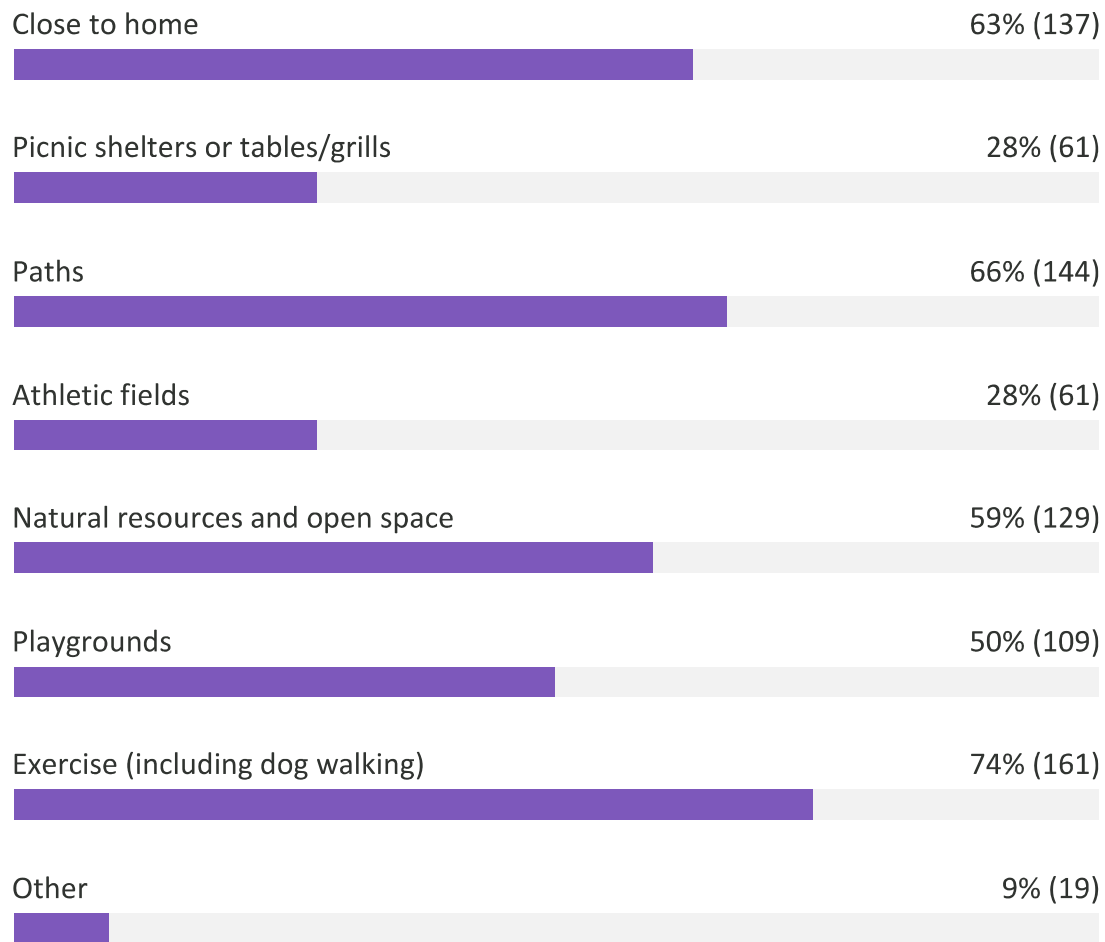
Choose up to three park maintenance activities you think are most important.



Voters approved a Calhoun County parks millage in 2020, and half of the funds collected are distributed to municipalities for use in their parks, through 2025. For example, Battle Creek received just over \$130,000 in 2021, which we used for Linear Park path improvements. We can use the county funds for park facility improvements, as a way to seek more funds from grants, for operations, and for park maintenance. How would you prioritize these tasks with our millage money? Assign the most points to your top activities.



## What are the reasons you use parks in the City of Battle Creek?



Please explain your answer of "Other" in Question 9.

Police Presence as there is much criminal activity at most parks these days.

Dog park

Spirituality

Just overall being outside, within nature and it's immense beauty!!!

Nature Journaling, bird watching, tree and plant identification.

Take pictures at Lila Arboretum

Kayaking!

Parties, local events

I like to golf

Bike rides not near a road as to not get run over.

To gather people together for events

Disc golf at Irving park and Leila arboretum.

Nice place to sit and read.

No other choice than to use these facilities

Bicycling

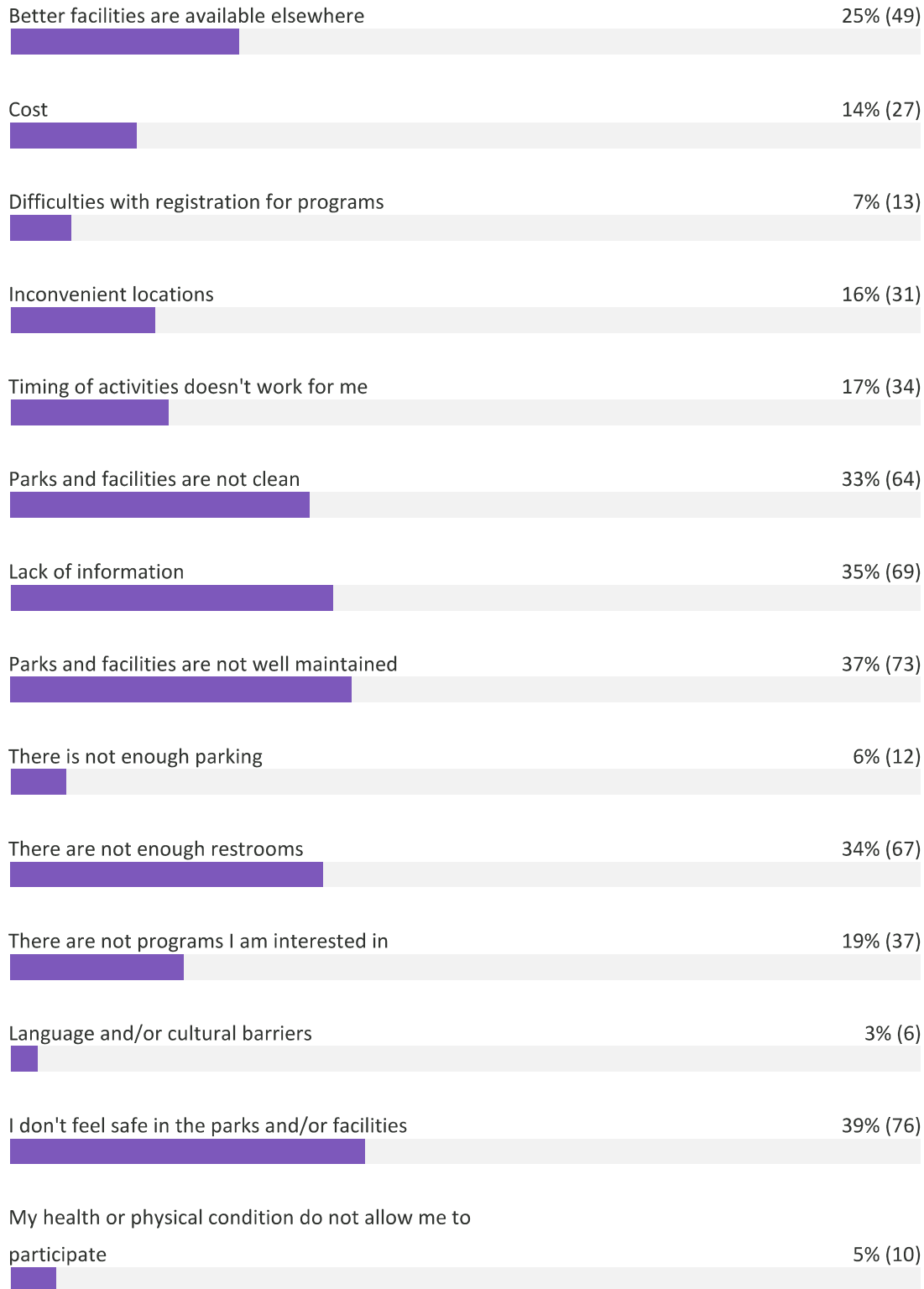
Playing music

Peaceful quiet time. Reading or just enjoying nature.

Pokemon Go

Access to the river for kayaking

Choose any of these reasons that stop you from participating in parks and recreation programs, or visiting parks or recreation facilities.





What would you like to see the City of Battle Creek provide, related to parks and recreation? Consider facilities, programs, and services.

Free public indoor pool with swim lessons and various aqua aerobics

More bicycle paths

Maintained, clean, and safe.

None

Maintenace, cleanliness, and safety

Better communication and education of this organization for the cities young adult population.

Better patrolling of parks and paths by law enforcement officers

Better Police Presence

You didn't list Woodland park. There are people there all the time. Maintain and improve the bridges.

More paths and park areas they are wheelchair accessible!!!

More community garden plots/allotments

More Historic markers along the linear path

Nothing if it increases property taxes!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I would like to see workout equipment in some of the safer parks. I think you guys need to have bigger playground equipment for kids. I lived in California and they have some pretty big ones bigger than Bailey Park. I would put in rubber material in every park. Maybe security posted up bc kids can't go play without something happening in this town.

More information!

General maintenance (clean up, repairs) on a frequent basis.

Improve Fell Park with lights, fund another dog park, tell community how recreation millage is being used

More programs for kids 10-18! Centers for kids filled with activies and programs just for young adults 10-18

take care of what you have, make it safer

Take care of Riverside Park. The parking lot is HORRIBLE and rarely maintained and the athletic fields could be a great resource for tournaments if they were brought up to game-useable condition. I've been given the excuse that Lakeview School Dist owns the property, so the City can't do anything with it, but LSD says it's not their responsibility either. Work together! That is a prime location for soccer tournaments that is totally under-utilized.

More paved paths throughout the entire city. Through neighborhoods, etc. In Colorado communities, they have these types of paths built into their infrastructure. You should partner with the townships to have paths connect.

Stop removing, baseball area, really only a home plate is enough to play ball. Get real.

Maintain existing

Updated facilities

Pickle ball, tennis

I would like each park to have a wheelchair swing And handicap facilities and play equipment

Update full blast pool areas



More playgrounds. Safety/supervision at parks

How to Garden, Earthcare, Education on Native Ecosystems

Walking paths

Updated facilities, better kept lawn maintenance

Improvements on the couple city dog parks we already have. Plus adding 1 or 2 more throughout the city within the next few years!!! A lot more permanent, and well-kept restrooms would be AMAZING as well!!!

At Kolb Park, we need to protect the spring lakes and plants/trees around it. Leave some of the deadwood for birds, but plant new trees, take care of the spring and path. Perhaps use some tree markers depicting the type of trees there and maybe some of the birds. We even have a sandhill crane nesting there. Don't let it fall to ruin and just keep chopping the vegetation out.

restrooms

Transportation to and/or from recreational teams and activities so more kids/families could participate.

Lila Arboretum - have a Huge Christmas lights & Nativity scene with displays all throughout. This would draw people from Everywhere to see this Beautiful Yearly Event!. And car loads of people driving through to see it all! I've seen this in Florida!

I would love to see more information on the programs that are available. I moved here 2 years ago and have never seen anything on different programs Park and Recs offer Plus adult enlightenment classes like new styles in cooking, or gardening and canning would be great. If the Community College could combine classes with the Rec and Parks division, that would be an awesome partnership.

FELL PARK: better lighting at dusk; swings ; maintain the rubber mulch around the playground equipment; soccer field

Lighting on the Linear Path for nighttime walking

More youth/minority programming

Safety! There are too many violent people preying on innocent people.

Not sure

Restrooms and workout equipment

Make summer camp affordable especially when you have to pay the same amount for a four day week and a five day week.

Move Bailey Park from Northside to Southside along I-94 corridor

Fishing access

New programs, better run programs, better staffing, maintain the parks

Parking area at piper Park not in street

I think there is opportunity to partner with Kellogg Community College and/or other educational institutions to create even more attractive paths. Including more perennial, native flowering plants with perhaps an informational plaque could both beautify the parks, and, provide learning opportunities for uses. These spaces could be maintained by science or biology students etc.

Upkeep and/or replacement of the kids area of Flash Flood, revamp Quaker Park, 8 or 9 foot basketball hoops available somewhere, better online access to sports information (specifically,

Jr. Pistons info existed in what appeared to be a separate Google Site that was very difficult to locate). Continue to invest in Claude Evans Park - that spot is a gem for a parent with 3 kids under 9.

Cleaner parks and Rec areas where needles are not commonly found

More facilities in the outer areas of BC not focusing so much on the inner city

I would like to see the city invest in the outdoor water park at full blast, and have a key focus on increasing opportunities for children and adolescents. It would also be nice to have areas at parks where kids could ride bikes or motorized toys, and a track at some parks like Washington Heights that aren't in wooded areas like the linear path. I would also love to see more fitness park equipment.

Unsure.

I would like more announcements on programs and a much easier registration process

Maintain current

Clean and safe environments for all. Fun events such as concerts with variety of music at low cost. I think BC does a great job and is really improving the downtown. Willard Beach has improved so much. Love the walking track at Full Blast. Very reasonable cost

Tournament soccer fields with BC Fire

Better transportation for different areas.

Beautify our existing parks. Mow to a level that keeps them looking neat as we would want our homeowners to do as well. Treat for weeds for the same reason. Remove dead trees, shrubs, and limbs. Plant new shrubs and trees as part of a broad based landscaping PLAN. And maintain paths so people can safely run, walk, bike, rollerblade, and walk their children in strollers (very large cracks make this a challenge).

ENTERTAINMENT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR !

I like to golf. I started golfing when I lived in Lansing, and they had some great public courses that offered a selection of golf experiences. Some were short and were not exquisitely maintained but they were low cost; this made it easy for parents with children to go golfing and spend time together. Lansing also had some longer public courses that suited the needs of other golfers. Kalamazoo has more than one public course and again the courses are different. They have Red Arrow which has disc golf and regular golf yet is short with no carts, walking only. The price is great though and this makes golf accessible to children, retirees, and families and anyone else on a budget. Red Arrow is short enough to give everyone a chance to get exercise without being too hard of a walk. Battle Creek has Binder, and it is a very nice course. It offers lessons and programs; however, I do not think it is that accessible. Yes, there are 27 holes and a mini-3-hole warmup course, but it is all located away from the main part of Battle Creek. This makes public golf exclusive to only those with the means to get there and makes public golf in battle Creek exclusive to those comfortable with going out there. Then there is the price. Sycamore golf course in Lansing and Red Arrow in Kalamazoo offer the option to play golf for people with families that need to watch a budget. these shorter courses aren't that busy which makes it easy for walkers and beginners that play slower. Retirees and also everyone else need exercise and walking on a golf course is a great way to get some exercise but when the only options are longer courses that attract experienced golfers people start

using golf carts and thus spend more money and if it costs more they golf less or quit the game. Lansing Community College offered group lessons when I lived in Lansing. This was a great way for me to learn as a young person trying to get my start in life when I couldn't afford the price of private lessons. It would be nice if Battle Creek could offer a way for its citizens to enjoy golf in a way that wasn't catering to only a certain demographic. I would like to see a public course that was easier for walkers to feel comfortable. being pushed by people in carts when the course is long, and you are a retiree, or a family or beginner can make the experience uncomfortable. Yes, there are shorter courses around, some aren't family friendly. I was disappointed to see Springbrook close because it offered golf at a good price and the course was playable for more than just an athletic man that can spend extra money on carts. I think if you look at going forward with any planning, questioning if the improvements will make things more accessible and if the improvements will bring the community together rather than exclude the different parts of the community from each other.

I know there are plans for Claude Evans, but having an amazing playground there and an amazing water feature does not make it safe still. Police that are driving around, each should drive past a park on their route. Thank you for fixing the playground at Piper park! Maybe some soccer goals at Bailey and or Piper. At least posts, maybe not with nets if they can't be maintained.

Make parks more natural with native plantings to improve habitat quality.

Less pavement.

More land preserves, dog parks that you can reserve a spot, parks for riding my bike on a path.

More programming that has parent-child interaction or grandparent child and better advertisement of activities.

We need an outdoor skate park. There is a committee already formed that is already formed under the BCCF that has done some of the leg work. We would like to start to gain some support in the development of the park. Jeff Breedlove, Whitney Wardell, Pastor Joe Hooper, Matt Ramiller (Battle Ground), Corp. Brad Gentry, John Hart.

The linear path's lack of updates and maintenance cause me to chose to bike and run elsewhere but I'm generally pleased with the remainder of facilities. I wish there was more parking at Kimball Pines though

A real bathroom at Baileys Park.

Update Ardmoor Park in Orchard Park

Maintain and improve what we have first before building new. The linear path is in a state of disrepair, it could be such an amazing asset to the community if maintained and "connected" to key places and destinations across the city. With the linear path, we really need to better connect it to other parks and make it accessible from all parts of the city. It doesn't quite connect to fort Custer, for example. Signage and marketing need major improvement.

Improve what exists. Solicit community cleanu up days.

Disc golf league

Security at all facilities...especially outdoor...

Better care and maintenance of the parks.

#### More dog parks please

There needs to be more policing and cleaning up the parks, particularly Linear Park. Lots of homeless people have set up encampments in the woods along the trail, leaving their trash and personal belongings everywhere especially by the riverfront by Williamsburg Apartments. Lots of trashy graffiti and vandalism of some of the boardwalks. The surrounding areas are also not safe to walk around because of crime.

try maintaining the parks on the northside of town. The linear path from Downtown west to Helmer/Bedford rd is a disgrace. Overgrown brush/trash and no way to access the riverbank. Lower the cost to Full Blast and Willard Beach.

#### More frequent and better lawn mowing

Reduce the amount of parking in Willard Beach park in order to create more green space. Do a tree survey in WBP to identify and protect native species. Finish the WBP improvement plan approved by the city 20 years ago but never fully implemented.

Cleaner parks and rivers. Littering is such a problem.

More facilities for winter activities.

An actual roller skating rink.

Programmed activities for those who use the park.

Park with outdoor concerts

the addition of a skate park

Open a splash pad in a nice area for the kids.

Pay the workers a better wage. Some park jobs start at \$12/hr part time.

Actual restrooms in Bailey Park, rather than portable toilets. The ones by Anybodies Playground are disgusting. Also, a changing table would be great for families going to the park.

Partnerships with other organizations working with children

More programs for kids and adults.

Our children need to be the priority. There are phenomenal program directors at the Battle Creek Rec that pour into our kids and deserve the recognition. The Full blast facility needs updates all around the building and grounds. Playgrounds need to be updated throughout the city to keep the kids safe from injuries.

Im fairly happy with what is available overall.

Better maintained pathways. They often have downed trees/branches across them and the paths are overgrown or breaking apart. Also just making parts of Linear park feel safer. Not sure how to go about doing that, but some parts go through rough areas of town and it doesn't feel safe especially as a woman.

More native plants and educational resources about native plants and habitats

Something for the whole family that doesn't cost an arm and a leg. Even the YMCA is expensive for most families.

Mobile Skating and a roller skating rink

Toddler playgrounds for children under 5

Adult programs that are not sports ie. Hiking, orienteering

More Playground equipment downtown, maintenance of the linear path trails, lighting at dusk/night to be on the linear path



Hand washing stations
More skating
I want to see Horseshoe Park cleaned up and the drug use issues there addressed.
More splash pads in safer neighborhoods
Offer adult leagues and participate in the community gardens
Bailey park improved so people actually want to play sport there again Do something at full blast for more water play besides the 2 slides
Continue youth programming
Turf Bailey Park
Additional splash pads
Concession at Willard
Clean the parks and better communication to the public. Improve the parks safety, as some are not well patrolled. More bathroom options.
Clean the trash regularly, not just once a year! Provide police or MH patrols.
Provide bathrooms! Publicize information in print in public areas.
Safety... police who do their job. Don't allow pot smoking.
n/a
Continued maintenance to the Linear Park System
More fenced in playgrounds with toddler areas
I would like to see the city put more effort into upkeep in the parks we currently have. Too many times have I seen our local parks or playgrounds littered with graffiti, wildlife feces, trash, etc. It would also be nice to have some local activities or programs in the parks to encourage interest, and not just for kids. Clean bathrooms are also a must for every park! No bathroom or a gross bathroom stops us from visiting altogether.
Children programs and indoor water park back at full blast.
There are not many parks good for very young children 5 and younger. Almost all the parks I have been to are too big for my daughter to safely use. The only park somewhat near me is not a safe place.
Community gardens
Host more specialty events to bring excitement to the areas. But feeling safe in a clean public park has to come first.
Mother and child programs, ways to make new friends and connections in our community, continued upkeep of the beautiful parks we have here. Free services to promote parks and help our community. Better pay for city workers. Trash cleanup volunteer groups.
Local history programs
Pickle ball courts at Riverside Park
More family style recreational facilities at the neighborhood parks. Grills, pavilions, better picnic tables, more garbage receptacles and dog stations, bathrooms with running water.
additional/improved restrooms
BETTER MAINTAINENCE OF PATHS/PARKS AND THE BUILDINGS ON THEM.



Drinking fountains at parks with exercise paths and playgrounds. Bathrooms with hot water available to wash your hands. A couple places that have canoe/kayak rental and livery service would be nice

#### Outside exercise equipment

I live at 74 23rd s. There are lots of kids & teens here that would benefit from cra projects, gardening & I think it would be awesome to get a bunch of plastic kayaks so city kids can go out on the river..also fishing lessons! And, have you thought of using the SW junior high building on territorial as a community cra / woodshop/ maker space/ gym etc building ? The city of chicago has park districts that have those activities & the city of Portland Oregon used a middle school to do something similar.

#### Cleaner Parks

At the All City Baseball & So ball Tournament, we noticed both baseball fields had broken scoreboards. Spectators were charged gate fees and scoreboards don't function properly. If City plans to host money making tournaments, repairs need to be prioritized in the budget.

#### Maintained playground equipment & mulch beds.

I would like for mechem park to get an upgrade. And the Southside also doesnt have a splash pad. Some kids dont have the opportunity to go to the beach or play in sprinklers. Mechem park is outdated and nasty. It's like our only park since the schools no longer exist.

Updated playgrounds, more sports and arts programs, more activities for high schoolers, water related activities.

A paved nature trail would be awesome for walking and biking that could connect several neighborhoods

#### More walking paths, swings, and information on trails

A dog park in Lakeview that is as nice as the one by Bailey Park.

#### Summer camp type programs for kids; cra programs for all ages

Maximizing use of native plant species for park lawns, and maintaining a biodiverse habitat for wildlife

Riverside Park needs more rest benches on the walking path for older & young walkers and bikers to stop at. Plus 2 more shelters would be a huge improvement seeing that it's probably the most used part in the system...safe, clean, plenty of parking.

Make them more accessible for people with physical disabilities / power wheelchair users/ manual wheelchair users,.

I think that the DNR officers that Goguac Lake could use some help

I think that the DNR officers that Goguac Lake could use some help

Wish there was a little more maintenance to the river for fishing access and kayaking. Battle Creek river from McAllister to Bailey park used to be a nice float but a er all the trees came down you can't get through.

affordable use of outdoor pool at full blast

#### More use of rivers and brooks

Add a safe bike lane to Watkins Road and improve the paths at Woodland

#### Park

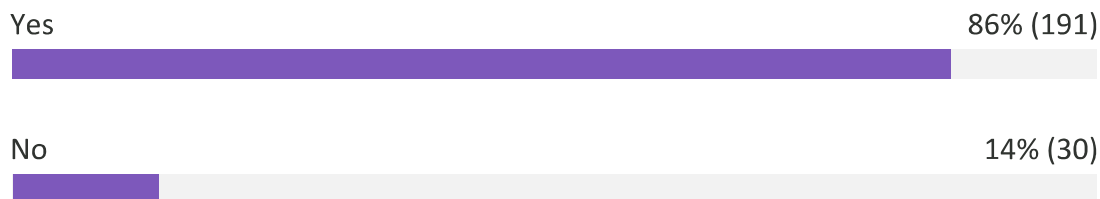
Workout stations with workout equipment at the parks

Capital Improvements At Leila Arboretum: install children’s play equipment, stripe the drive all the way around for walkers to walk 1 mile safely- make cars only one way around. Also more tree stump art-it draws people. Linear trail-love it! Thanks for all the maintenance. It’d be nice to paint arrows at key points similar to traverse city TART.

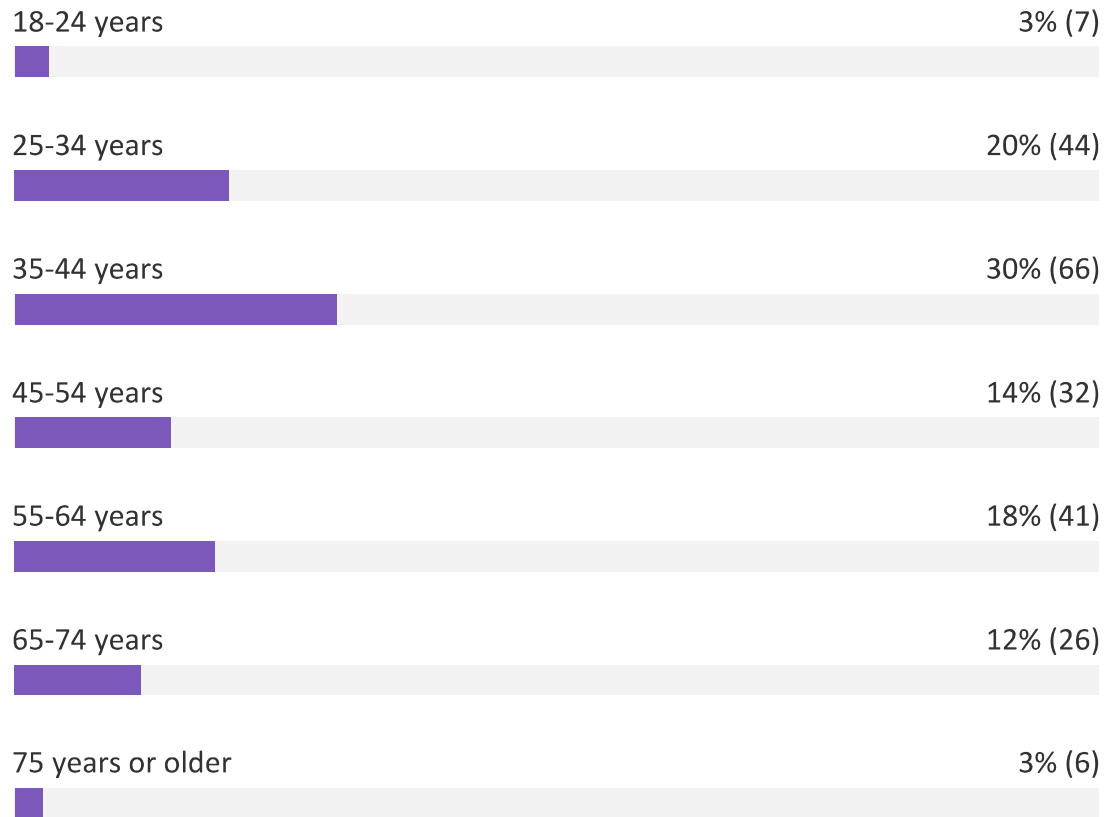
Keep existing parks clean and safe

More access. Recreation stuff is hard to access.... or when we're notified it's too late/ close to start of program. Get non traditional activities (lacrosse, etc). Police presence at school playground to maintain new facilities. More bike paths and sidewalks for walking etc in the city is crucial. Our bus system is awful.

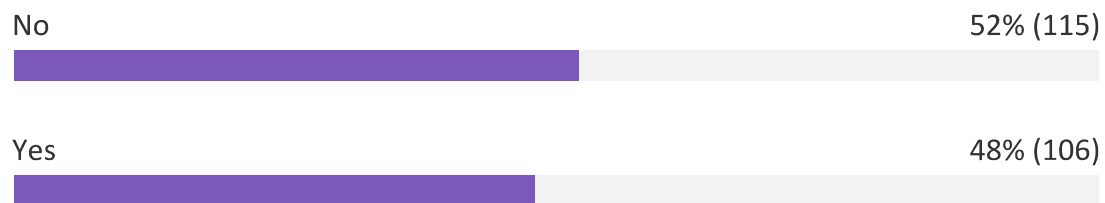
Do you live in the City of Battle Creek?



In which category is your age?



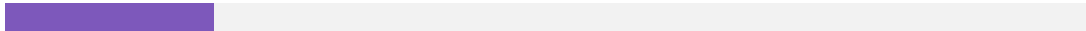
Do any children 17 or under live in your household?



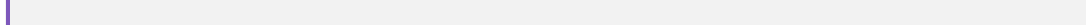


Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?

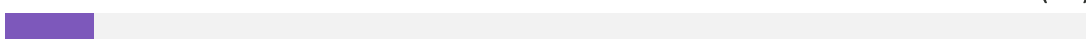
No 81% (177)  

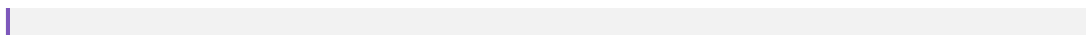

Yes 19% (42)  


What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be.)

American Indian or Alaska Native 0% (1)  


Asian 1% (3)  


Black or African American 8% (18)  


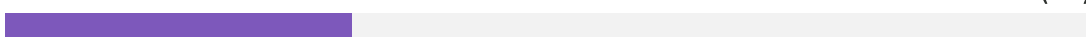
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 0% (1)  


White 89% (193)  


A race not listed 7% (16)  

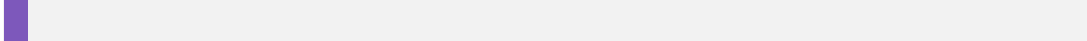

What is your gender?

Woman 66% (144)  


Man 32% (70)  





Identify in another way 2% (5)



Are you of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin?

No, not of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin 94% (201)



Yes, I consider myself to be of Hispanic, Latino/a/x, or Spanish origin 6% (13)

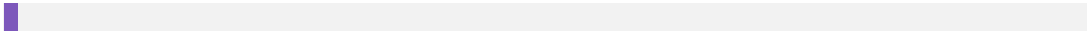


What is your sexual orientation?

Heterosexual 87% (186)



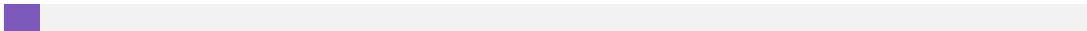
Lesbian 1% (3)



Gay 2% (4)



Bisexual 3% (7)



Identify in another way 6% (13)





**CITY OF BATTLE CREEK****OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER – COMMUNICATIONS**

April 27, 2023

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information contact: Duska Brumm, Recreation Director, 269-966-3431

*Neighbors invited to give opinions about city parks and recreation facilities*

BATTLE CREEK, Mich. — City leaders want to hear what neighbors think about our parks, recreation facilities, and more!

The city's Recreation Department is working on its next master plan – a guide in providing recreation programs and services for the community, as well as local park maintenance and services. The plan includes an inventory of programs and services; consideration of the structure of the department's staff, budget, and collaborations in the community; and an action plan for the next five years.

**We want to hear input from the community during this process**, so we have a short survey about parks and recreation in the City of Battle Creek. It is estimated to take five to six minutes. Find the survey in three languages, at these links:

English - <https://polco.us/sdtu2>

Burmese - <https://polco.us/srhag2>

Español - <https://polco.us/szmr9f>

You can see the current, 2019-2023 Recreation Master Plan here:

<http://battlecreekmi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5396/Recreation-Master-Plan-2019-2023>

All of these links are available together through the city website's home page. Visit [battlecreekmi.gov](http://battlecreekmi.gov) and scroll to City Spotlights.

Stay tuned for more news and information throughout this process, including a draft plan for public review, and open houses where you can see the draft plan and learn more from the staff who provide our parks and recreation services.

###

Battle Creek SHOPPER NEWS, Delivered Free to Nearly 50,000 Area Homes – May 18, 2023 – Page 17

## City seeks input on parks and rec facilities

City of Battle Creek leaders want to hear what residents think about local parks, recreation facilities and more, says city spokesperson Jessica L. Vanderkolk.

The city's Recreation Department is working on its next master plan, which is a guide in providing recreation programs and services for the community, as well as local park maintenance and services.

The plan includes an inventory of programs and services; consideration of

the structure of the department's staff, budget and collaborations in the community; and an action plan for the next five years.

"We want to hear input from the community during this process, so we have a short survey about parks and recreation in the City of Battle Creek," said Vanderkolk. "It is estimated to take 5-6 minutes."

People can find the survey in three languages at the following links: English -- <https://polco.us/sdtmu2>; in

the Burmese language at <https://polco.us/srhag2>; and also in Español at <https://polco.us/szmr9f>.

Residents can also see the city's current 2019-2023 Recreation Master Plan at [battlecreekmi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5396/Recreation-Master-Plan-2019-2023](https://battlecreekmi.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5396/Recreation-Master-Plan-2019-2023).

All of these links are available through the city website's home page at [battlecreekmi.gov](https://battlecreekmi.gov) under "City Spotlights."

## **Appendix B: Neighborhood Planning Council**

### Meeting Summary

Overview: Five meetings were attended with the various Neighborhood Planning Councils in order to facilitate dialog regarding the information they felt was important to their neighborhoods in regards to the master plan. The purpose and process of the master plan was reviewed with those in attendance and then comments and discussion ensued.

### Parks and Recreation Master Plan Purpose and Process

Mission: To provide recreation programs and services that improve the physical health and wellbeing of the individual and community.

#### Purpose of Plan:

- Strategic guide that dictates programs and services
- Required to access DNR funds

#### Key Components of Plan:

- Planning Process: process of developing plan
- Recreation Inventory: breakdown of programs and/or services provided by Parks and Rec, schools, and private businesses
- Community Description
- Administrative Structure: staffing, budget, and partnerships
- Action Plan: goals and objectives, action steps, and evaluation including performance measurements and capital expenditures

#### Planning Process

- Public Input: NPC meetings, needs assessment survey
- Draft Plan: open one month for review and comment; open houses
- Public Hearing
- City Commission
- Submit to DNR



Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
Comment/Sharing Information Sessions

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ NPC: \_\_\_\_\_

1. In regards to the important issues facing Battle Creek, how can parks and recreation programs/services affect these issues?
2. How do the Parks and Recreation department affect you currently?
3. How would you like Parks and Recreation to affect you? How can Parks and Recreation improve your quality of life?

4. What would you like to see Battle Creek Parks and Recreation provide in terms of:  
Facilities:

Programs:

Services:

Please return to Duska Brumm at 35 Hamblin Avenue, Battle Creek 49017 or email at [dabrumm@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:dabrumm@battlecreekmi.gov)

Thank you for taking the time to provide us with your input. We greatly appreciate your involvement.

Meeting Input and Results

**NPC 1 – April 6<sup>th</sup>– 7 people in attendance; public input included:**

- \* More enforcement of cleaning up after dogs at dog park
- \*Playgrounds and parks need upkeep
- \*Have more walkable community
- \*Post Park and Hamilton Park are not safe
- \*Homeless encampment at Hamilton Park
- \*Monitor neighborhood parks as they are quite messy
- \*Add security cameras in parks and lighting
- \*Have designated activities at city parks
- \*Need a park in the Franklin Community area

**NPC 2 – April 10<sup>th</sup>– 11 people in attendance; public input included:**

- \*Discussion of adding parking lot and logistics
- \*Concerns with trash dumping on Wilds Avenue
- \*More lighting on Graves Street

**NPC 3 – March 9<sup>th</sup>– 7 people in attendance; public input included:**

- \*Strong parks and recreation can draw people to the city and improves quality of life
- \*Builds relationships and opportunity for healthy life styles
- \*More programs for kids and older adults are needed as well as family events
- \*Would like more pickle ball courts, lighting in parks, and more basketball courts
- \*Riverside Park is a great place and safe
- \*Need to replace sidewalk slabs that are in bad shape
- \*Need more benches and pavilions at Riverside Park along with dog waste stands

- \*Meacham Park needs updated playground equipment

**NPC 4 – March 15<sup>th</sup> – 12 people in attendance; public input included:**

- \* Would like more walking paths and walking clubs at parks
- \*Sports programs for middle school ages
- \*Add a parkour course
- \*Clean the bike and walking paths
- \*Trim the trees back along the walking paths
- \*Put restrooms or outhouses at parks that do not have them
- \*Offer anti-gang programs; learn to fish; open fire houses
- \*More advertising; use Next Door app

**NPC 5 – March 13<sup>th</sup> – 19 people in attendance; public input included:**

- \* Fell Park needs more lighting; fence around ball field; more swings; a gate to deter driving on open fields
- \*Concerned with homeless population in parks
- \*Parks need to be cleaned up; volunteer groups organized to keep clean
- \*Offer programming in Fell Park for youth
- \*More programming for seniors
- \*Affordable programming for children
- \*I love all the parks; more people need to know about them
- \*Keep all of the Linear Trail well-kept and safe; have it patrolled by police
- \*More events at neighborhood parks - food trucks; pop-up events; music in the parks
- \*Need more picnic tables and to plant more trees



