

CITY OF IONIA

FIVE-YEAR PARKS + RECREATION PLAN



Adopted 12.06.2023

CITY OF IONIA FIVE-YEAR PARKS + RECREATION PLAN 2024-2028

Mayor

Daniel A. Balice

City Council Members

Tim Lee

Ryan Videtich

Tom Millard

Richard Starr III

John Milewski II

Jeff Winters

Troy Waterman

Janice Gustafson

City Staff

Precia Garland – City Manager

Jonathan Bowman – Assistant to the City Manager

Matt Painter – Parks & Recreation Director

Planning Commission

Michael Donaldson

Boomer Hoppough

Keturah Kelley

Tim Lee

Judy Schwartz

Logan Bailey

Ryan Gregory

Prepared by

williams&works



CONTENTS

- CHAPTER 1: Introduction + Community Profile 5
- CHAPTER 2: Recreation Inventory + Accessibility..... 11
- CHAPTER 3: Recreation Grant Inventory.....49
- CHAPTER 4: Public Engagement.....55
- CHAPTER 5: Goals + Objectives..... 59

- APPENDICES 68**
 - Appendix A - Community Survey..... 69
 - Appendix B - Parks & Recreation Funds..... 115
 - Appendix C - Resolution of Adoption..... 131
 - Appendix D - Meeting Agendas..... 135

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION + COMMUNITY PROFILE



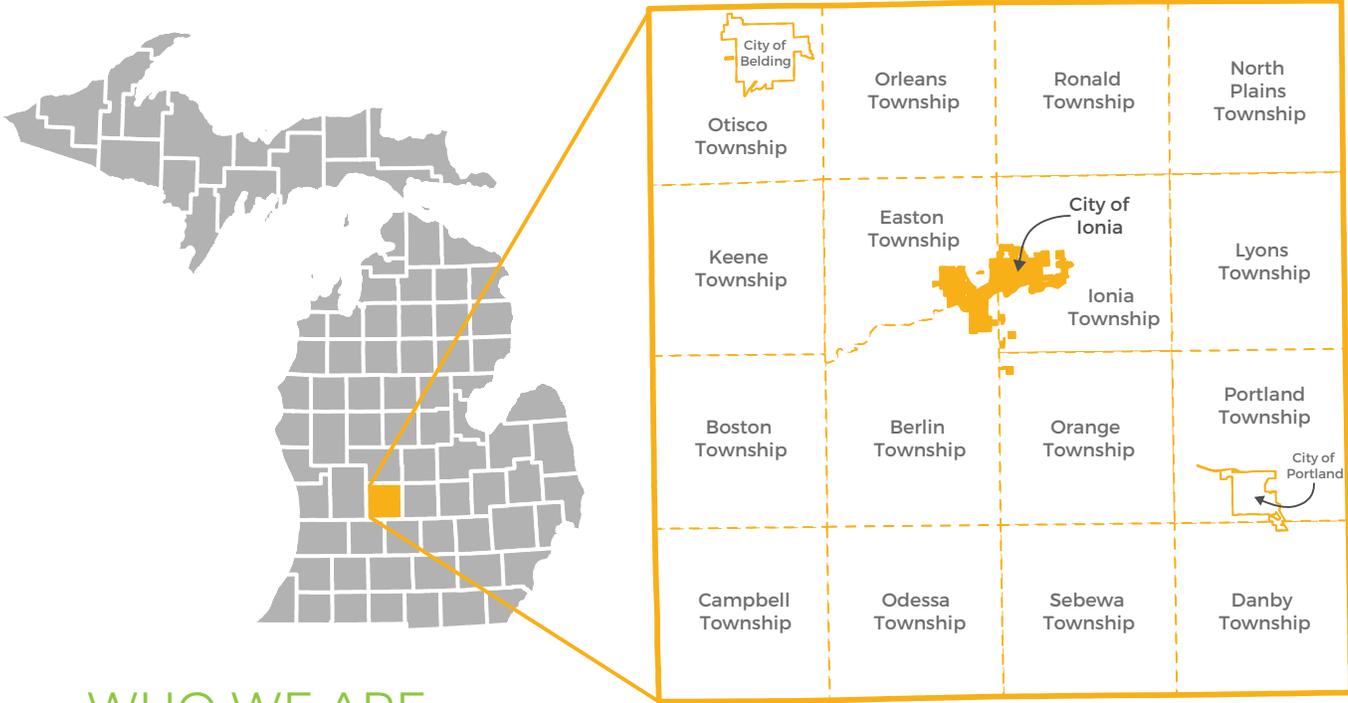


PURPOSE OF PLAN

The 2024-2028 5-Year City of Ionia Community Parks & Recreation Plan is an update to the 2019-2023 5-Year Community Parks & Recreation Plan. The purpose of this plan is to enable the City of Ionia to improve the quality of life for its residents through increased access to, and management of, parks and recreation options throughout the City. A parks and recreation plan represents the foundation policy statement about what a community is, what its residents value, and what those residents hope the community will become in connection with their parks and recreation facilities and services.

This plan has been prepared according to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Grants Management Division Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans. To access grant funding, the MDNR requires that recreation plans be reviewed and updated every five years to keep them current. Therefore, this plan is created to determine and prioritize future improvements and establish eligibility of the City to apply for certain grant funds to assist in implementing the Plan's goals and recommendations.

Ionia County



WHO WE ARE

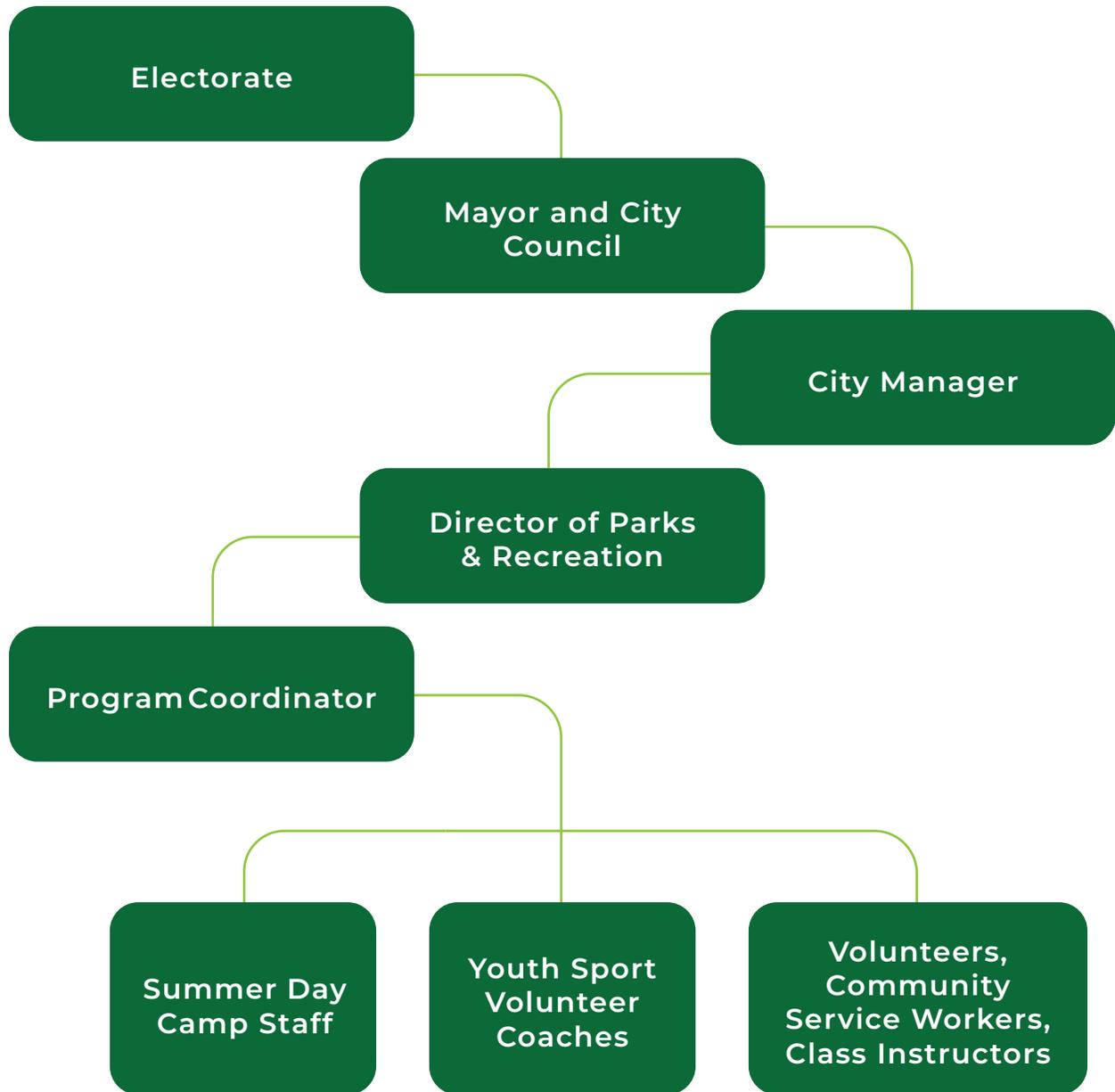
The City of Ionia, is centrally located in Ionia County, Michigan and serves as the County Seat. The City is surrounded by Ionia Township, while Easton Township and Berlin Township border the City on the west and southwest respectively. Sparrow Ionia Hospital is conditionally transferred to the City from Orange Township as part of a PA 425 Agreement. State highway M-21 (Lincoln Avenue) runs east and west through the City, while state highway M-66 (N. State Street and S. Dexter Street) runs north and south through the City. Interstate 96 is located approximately six and a half miles south of the City limits and the City lies between Grand Rapids (30 miles west) and Lansing (32 miles southeast). Prairie Creek runs along much of the eastern boundary of the City and the Grand River, the City’s largest naturally defining feature, runs along much of the City’s southern border.

According to the 2021 U.S. Census American Community Survey, the population of the City of Ionia is 11,665 persons, which includes approximately 4,115 residents in three Michigan Department of Corrections Facilities. Therefore, the actual population of the City outside the correctional facilities is roughly 7,550 persons.

The 2024-2028 Community Parks & Recreation Plan has been developed by the Parks & Recreation Department of the City of Ionia, and addresses all aspects of both programming and facilities development within the City’s boundaries. While the City of Ionia is the municipal jurisdiction for which the Plan has been prepared, both the recreation programs and facilities provided by the City serve citizens in approximately sixteen townships within Ionia County. It should also be noted that some recreation services are provided at non-city owned facilities, such as youth baseball and soccer, along with adult softball.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The administrative structure of the City of Ionia Parks & Recreation Department is shown on the organization chart below. The Program Coordinator, who handles day camp staff, volunteer coaches, and community service workers, and class instructors is accountable to the Director of Parks & Recreation, who is directly accountable to the City Manager. The City Manager is accountable to the Mayor and City Council who are elected by the citizens of the City of Ionia.



FUNDING

The five-year Parks & Recreation Department budget for capital improvements can be found in Appendix A, it should be noted that this also includes the Ionia Theater Fund, which is administered by the City and is included as a recreational facility in this document. The primary funding source for these expenditures is the City of Ionia General Fund. The City currently levies one mill for parks and recreation facility improvements. The complete Budget Report of the City of Ionia Recreation Department for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 can also be found in Appendix B. The complete budget reflects all revenues received in addition to the appropriations from the General Fund such as fees for youth and adult activities, special events revenues, Armory leasing fees, donations, and other sources of revenue. The budget reflects all department expenditures including salaries, services, maintenance, special events, youth and adult activities, and all other expenses for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

VOLUNTEERS/PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Ionia maintains strong relationships with a variety of private organizations. Many of the coaching positions are filled by community volunteers; the Knights of Columbus organize the popular Breakfast with Santa; Ionia County Community Mental Health provides leaders, directors, and clients who assist with facilitation, park clean-up and other projects; The Rotary Club organizes the annual Easter Egg Hunt; and many other Ionia community members volunteer time in a variety of recreation activities. The City's Recreation Department also coordinates with the Greater Ionia Youth League, which provides baseball and softball for 6–14-year-olds. The City of Ionia Recreation Department offers T-ball for ages 3-6. Coordination also occurs with the Red Cedar Basketball League, which offers travel basketball to fourth through sixth graders, while the Recreation Department offers basketball up to fourth grade.

IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The City's Parks & Recreation Department maintains a strong relationship with Ionia Public Schools. The City may contract with the schools for use of facilities such as gyms, the track, and athletic fields for practice and play. Men's basketball run by the Recreation Department utilizes school gyms. The Recreation Department also has a relationship with the Ionia Football Boosters, and is permitted use of the concession stand for fundraising purposes during games.



CHAPTER 2

RECREATION INVENTORY + ACCESSIBILITY





PARKS & RECREATION INVENTORY

The recreation inventory describes all the parks, natural areas, and recreation facilities owned and/or operated by the City of Ionia. The locations of all parks and recreation facilities are shown on the City of Ionia Parks & Recreation Location Map found at the end of the Recreation Inventory section.

Accessibility evaluations of each park and recreational facility is a requirement of the State of Michigan Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks & Recreation Plans. Each park and recreation facility in the City of Ionia was evaluated through field visits and ranked using the following ranking system provided by the State of Michigan, which is based on the ADA Standards for Accessible Design:

GRADE	DEFINITION
1	No elements meet the standards for accessible design
2	Some elements meet the standards for accessible design
3	Most of the elements meet the standards for accessible design
4	All the site elements meet the standards for accessible design
5	The entire facility meets the principles and standards of Universal Design

City of Ionia Parks



BALICE PARK

Located at 211 E. Adams Street, Balice Park offers swings, play structures, and a picnic area. While the Park does not offer any physical connection to the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trail, it is directly adjacent to the trail. No parking is at the park itself, street parking and nearby parking at the Ionia County Health Department are available. Hard surface access is only available from the public sidewalk along Adams Street.



BALICE PARK FEATURES:

hard surface pathway with a transfer ramp into the play area

picnic area

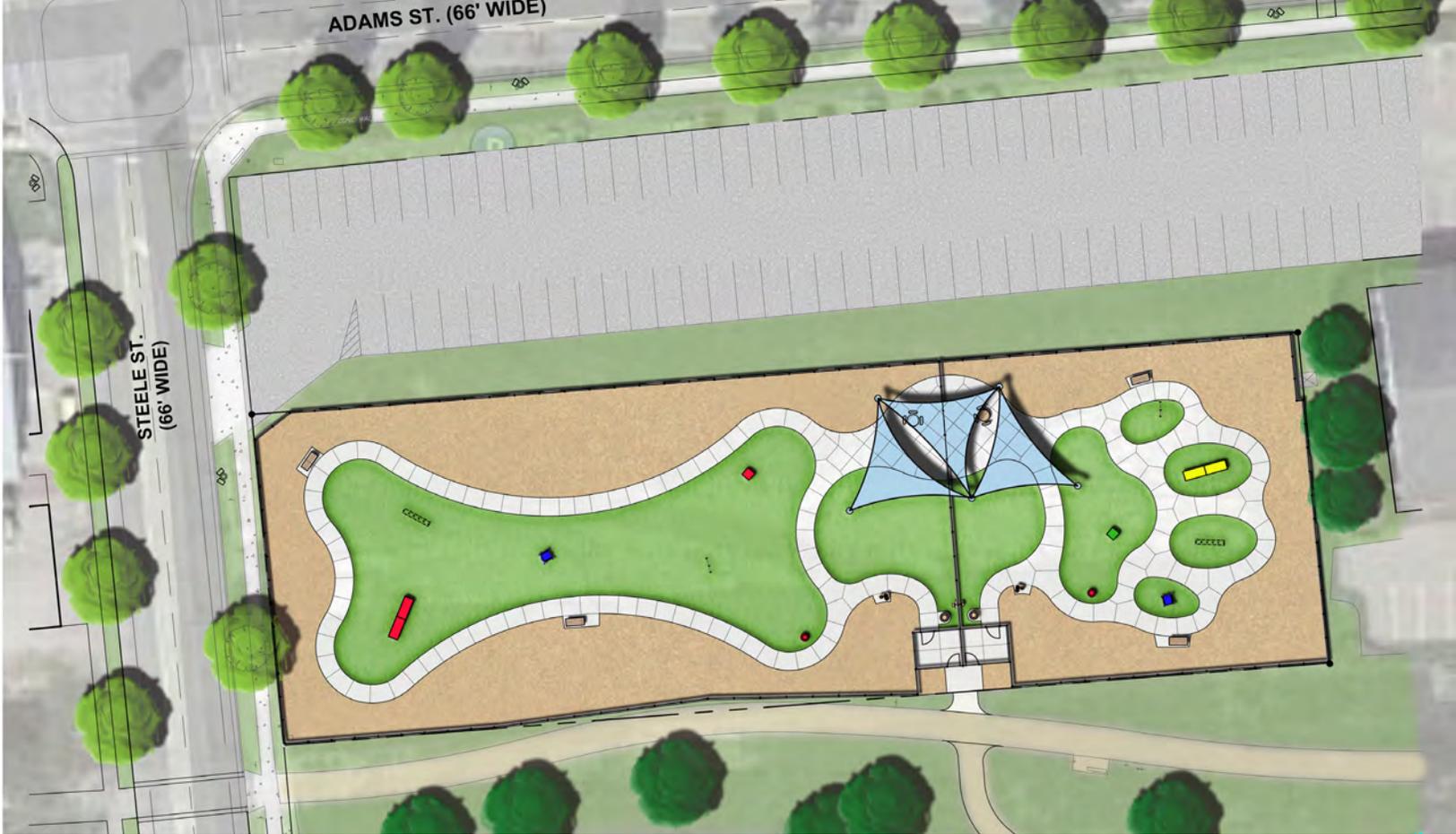
swings

play area

Accessibility Score:

2





DOG PARK (IN-PROGRESS)

The City of Ionia has received funding from a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to construct a dog park downtown near the corner of Adams and Steele Streets. The dog park will cost \$375,000 with 80% of the funds provided by the grant. Construction is planned to begin in 2024.

Park Features will Include:

- Enclosed large and small dog play areas with improved surface materials
- Specially design play structures in the park for visiting dogs
- A covered seating area for visiting dog owners
- Drinking fountains
- Barrier Free access



GATEWAY PLAZA (FUTURE)

The DDA has planned a Gateway Plaza for the northeast corner of Dexter Street (M-66) and Main Street. The site is currently a green, vacant lot consisting of approximately .28 acres. Improvements will include a brick and concrete plaza, public art, lawn area, a walkway, and landscaping.



FRED W. GREEN PARK (GOVERNOR GREEN PARK)

This park is located at 2545-2807 E. Main Street, adjacent to the Ventra Manufacturing Facility and perched among the trees along Prairie Creek. Amenities include play equipment and a pavilion.

Though the Park sits just outside of City boundaries, it is owned and operated by the City of Ionia. It is also the former location of the 21st Michigan Infantry Camping Ground that was operated during the Civil War. A plaque in the Park dedicates the space to the men of the Infantry. The park contains no hard surface pathways, and no paved parking is available.



FRED W. GREEN PARK FEATURES:



play area

pavillion with picnic area

swings

gravel parking lot

Accessibility Score:

1

A graphic for the Accessibility Score. It features a large green number '1' on the left. To the right is a stylized green tree with a white lamp post in the center. The background is white.



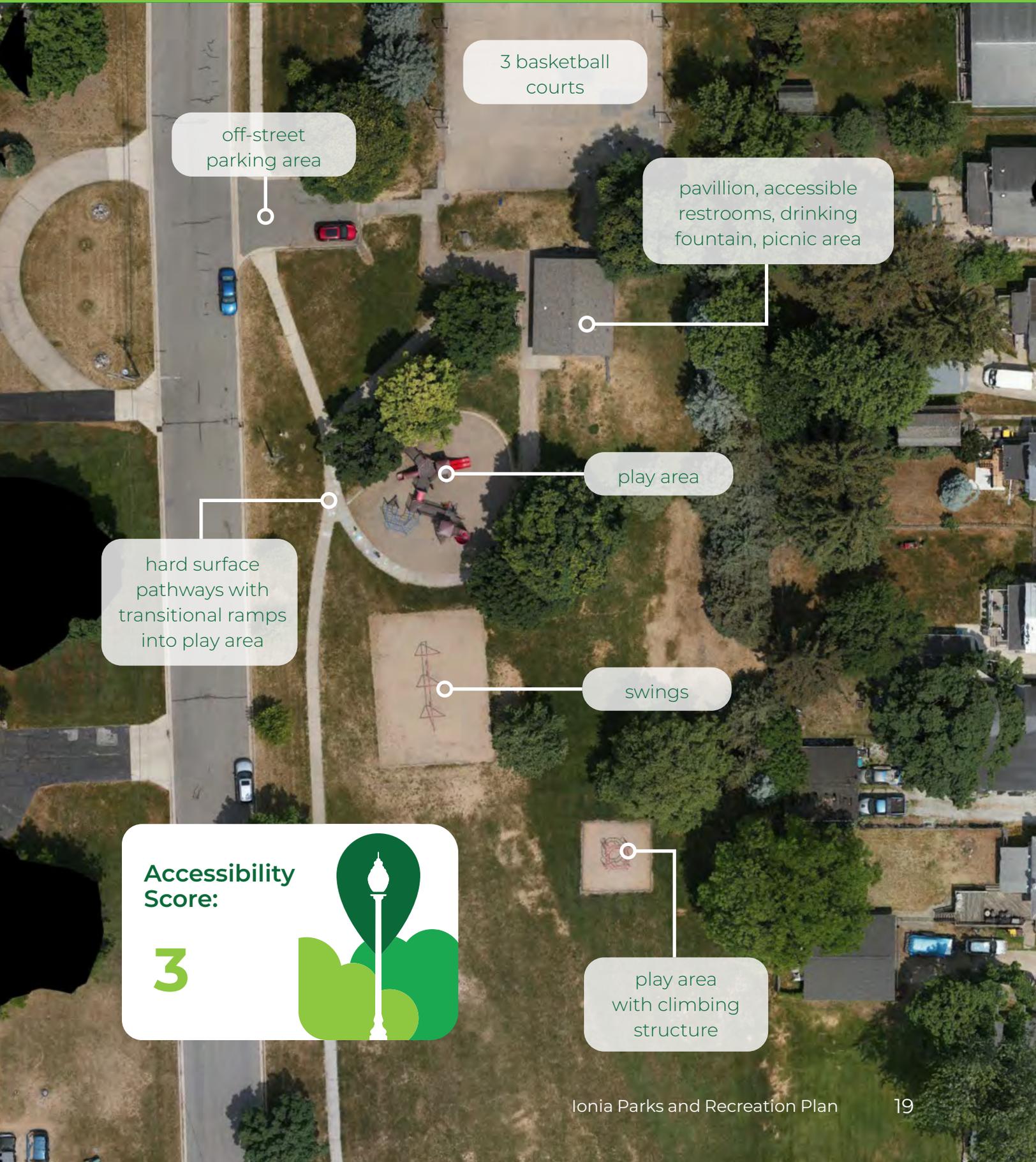
HALE PARK

The park is located at 562 Division Street at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Division Street and contains a hard-surfaced driveway and small paved parking area. Cars that enter must back out onto Division Street when leaving.

This parking area contains three parking spaces, one of which is ADA accessible. An accessible paved pathway is connected between the parking area and the park's features. This leads to a small pavilion that contains picnic tables, grills, and restrooms.



HALE PARK FEATURES:



off-street parking area

3 basketball courts

pavillion, accessible restrooms, drinking fountain, picnic area

play area

hard surface pathways with transitional ramps into play area

swings

Accessibility Score:

3



play area with climbing structure



HARPER PARK

Harper Park is located at 641 Bayard Street just west of Cleveland Street. It contains a large paved parking lot containing van accessible barrier free parking. This City park has direct paved access to the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail. The pavilion is rentable for events through the Ionia Parks & Recreation department.



HARPER PARK FEATURES:



pavillion with picnic area

barrier-free parking

outdoor temporary toilets

ball field

picnic area

play area

hard surface pathways with transitional ramps into play area

Fred Thwaites Trail trailhead and hard surface pathway access

Accessibility Score:

3





IONIA FREE FAIR GROUNDS

The fairground is partially owned by the City of Ionia, but leased to and operated by the Ionia County Free Fair Association. The Free Fair and Riverside Park are located on 160 acres adjacent to the Grand River in the southwestern portion of the City. During Free Fair week, up to 500,000 visitors may be present at various events. The fairgrounds are available for rental for other events, which have included horse shows, concerts, weddings, and other special events. Facilities at the grounds include a large grand stands, multiple barns, public restrooms, and a campground.

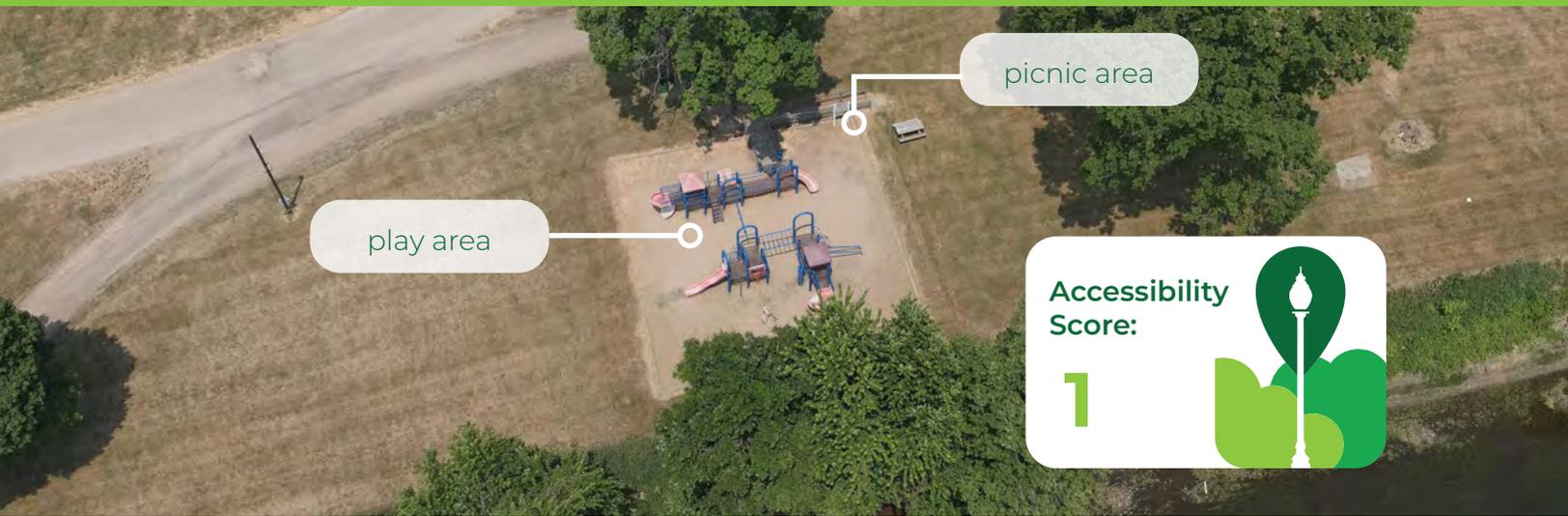
The site contains a boat launch, which was constructed by the State of Michigan in 1972 on City property. The launch is owned by the State of Michigan but is operated and maintained by the City. Riverside Park and the Meijer Skatepark are located within the Fair Grounds. The Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail meanders through the park the along the Grand River.



RIVERSIDE PARK

Riverside Park is located off Dexter Street (M-66) on the south side of the fairgrounds near the north bank of the Grand River. This location is scenic, and provides optimum view of the Grand River, the historical Floral Building and the steel pedestrian bridge that crosses the Grand River nearby. The park does not have very easy access and is not visible to the community in general. One must drive through the fairgrounds, around the grand stand and arena to access the park. It contains no dedicated parking and the ad-hoc parking area is not paved or barrier free. Besides visibility and ease of access, this park is prone to flooding periodically.

RIVERSIDE PARK FEATURES:



SKATE PARK

The Skate Park is located within the fairgrounds, and maintained by the parks department. The skate park is not supervised, and users are responsible for safe conduct and behavior. The park has received corporate sponsorship from Meijer. No barrier free parking exists, and no hard surface pathway connects the parking area to the skate park enclosure. All features are movable and not constructed into the surface materials. The equipment surface materials are unknown but most likely plywood or Masonite, the surfaces show significant water damage from flooding.

SKATE PARK FEATURES:





McCANN PARK

This park is located at the corner of Rice and Hackett Streets, and provides swings, a play structure, and a picnic area. This is an example of a neighborhood park. On street parking is available only.



McCANN PARK FEATURES:



swings

play area

hard surface pathway

picnic area

Accessibility Score:

2





McCONNELL PARK (FUN FOREST)

McConnell Park is located on East Washington Street. It is a large and very popular community park and contains the largest playground facility in the City. The parking lot is not paved and rather small, only capable of parking four or five vehicles. The remainder of available parking is on street only.

A hard surface pathway connects the parking lot and a wooden ramp into the playground area. There is also a paved walkway connecting the pavilion with East Washington



McCONNELL PARK FEATURES:



- parking lot
- bicycle parking
- play area
- drinking fountains
- portable toilet enclosure
- swings
- pavilion with picnic area



Accessibility
Score:

2





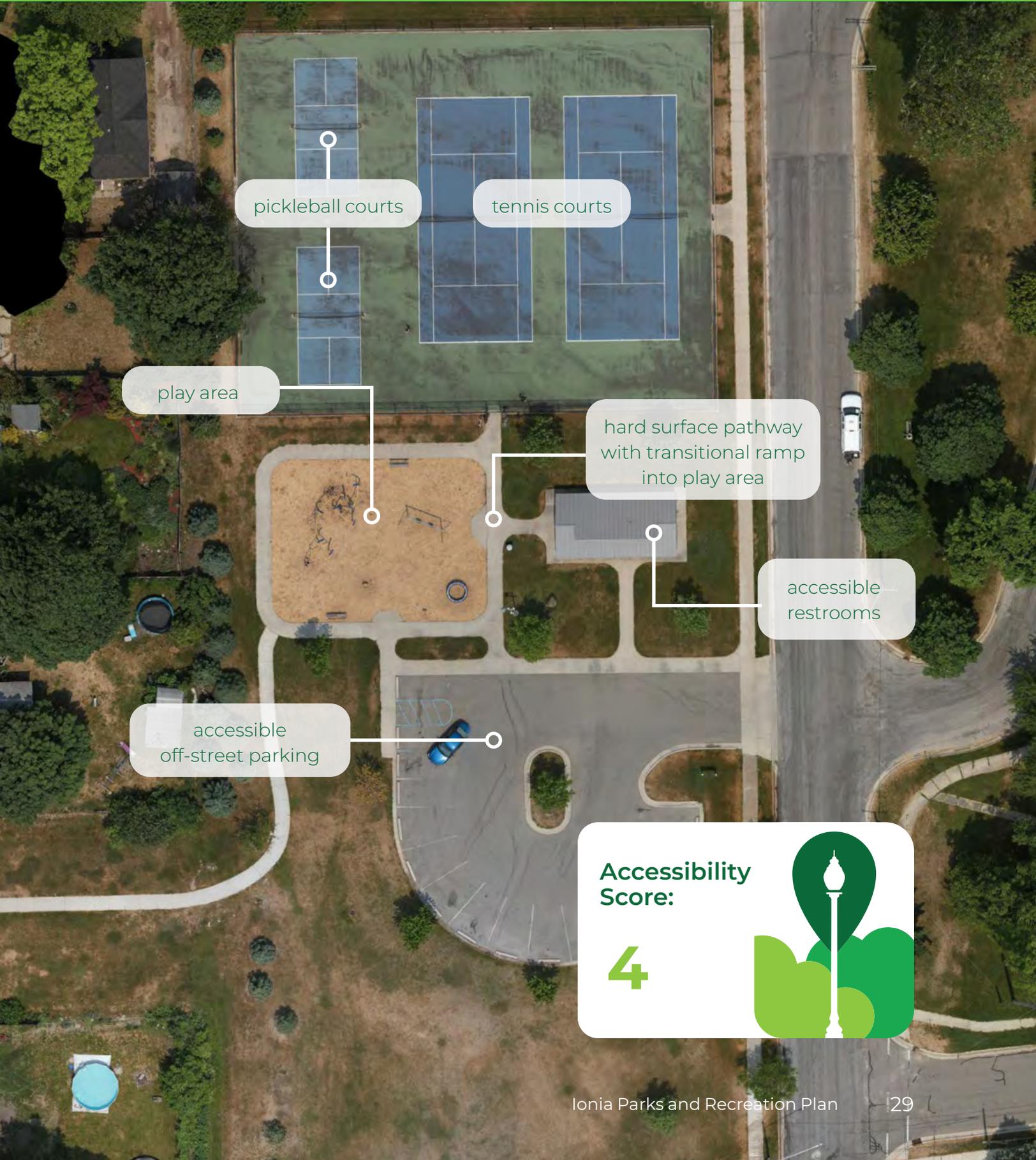
Street.

PERRY PARK

Perry Park is located at 423 N. Jackson Street at the corner of Jackson Street and Lincoln Avenue (M-21). The park contains 2.5 acres of land and future expansion is planned. The park underwent its most recent expansion in 2013, which updated the parking facilities, bathroom facilities, play structures, and courts. This park honors Gerrard F. Perry. There is a large amount of unused open space located in this park, and the proposed expansion anticipates using some of this space.



PERRY PARK FEATURES:



pickleball courts

tennis courts

play area

hard surface pathway with transitional ramp into play area

accessible restrooms

accessible off-street parking

Accessibility Score:

4



ROBINSON PARK

This park is located at 710 Forest Street, North of M-21 on State Street/M-66 and Chapman Street and was a recipient of a Michigan DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. This grant award funded improvements to the playground structures, a new pavilion and bathroom facilities, and barrier free accessibility features to the park. This park is a neighborhood park and relies on on-street parking for visitors. The park itself is well designed for easy accessibility and movement between the surrounding neighborhood and its park facilities.



Funding is made possible through a grant provided by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered by the MDNR



ROBINSON PARK FEATURES:



pavilion with picnic area, grills, and accessible restrooms

play area

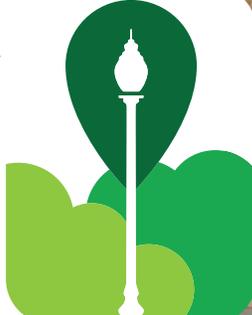
hard surface pathway with transitional ramp into play area

benches

basketball court

Accessibility Score:

4





SHATTUCK PARK

This small neighborhood park is located at 316 Colby Street and was a recipient of a Michigan DNR Recreation Passport Grant. The grant provided funding to provide new playground equipment, benches, a basketball court, drinking fountains, and accessible pathways. This park utilizes on street parking only.



This recreation site was funded, in part, by citizens who purchased Michigan's Recreation Passport



SHATTUCK PARK FEATURES:



hard surface pathway with transitional ramp into play area

play area

benches

picnic area

basketball court

benches

bicycle parking

picnic area with grills

Accessibility Score:

4

A graphic for the Accessibility Score, featuring a stylized green tree with a white lamp post integrated into its trunk, set against a white background with green circular accents.



Funding is made possible through a grant provided by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Revenue derived from oil, gas and mineral production from state-owned lands provided funding for this public recreation site.

Funding is made possible through a grant provided to the citizens of the State of Michigan by the:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

TRAILHEAD PARK

Trailhead Park is located at 206 S. Dexter Street at the corner of Adams Street and Dexter Street (M-66). This is one of the City's most popular parks. It is also the location of the City of Ionia Splash Pad and was a recipient of a Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant. The Frederick Meijer Grand River Valley Trail is adjacent to this park.

TRAILHEAD PARK FEATURES:



accessible parking lot with van-accessible barrier-free spaces

pavilion with picnic area and accessible restroom facilities

hard surface pathway with transitional ramp into play area

splash pad

Grand River Valley Trail access

benches

play area

Accessibility Score:

4

A graphic showing the number '4' in a large green font. To the right is a stylized green tree with a white lamp post integrated into its trunk. The background is white.



VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

Veterans Memorial Park is a small pocket park located on the west side of the Armory Community Center that serves as a downtown green space and location for the community's Veterans' Memorials. It is passive park space that also provides Main Street beautification, a centralized location for community memorials,, and public benches.

VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK FEATURES:



hard surface pathway

memorials

benches

Accessibility Score:

3

A green graphic consisting of a stylized lamp post with a flame-like top, surrounded by several overlapping green circles of varying sizes, resembling leaves or petals.

City of Ionia Recreation



Accessibility
Score:

2



ARMORY COMMUNITY CENTER

The Armory Community Center is located within the downtown business district and was formerly the National Guard Armory. In 1998, the City acquired the Armory for use as a Community Center. The 20,000 square foot facility has undergone extensive renovations to make needed repairs, increase ADA accessibility, and renovate the interior spaces to provide better recreation services.

Facilities within the building include the Parks & Recreation Department offices, the Chamber of Commerce offices, three meeting rooms, a kitchen area (without cooking facilities), and a gymnasium with a stage available for programming as well as seating for 250 persons; the gymnasium is available for rental as an event venue.

The armory includes a studio for tumbling and dance classes, which is also available to rent for birthday parties.



IONIA THEATRE

Located in downtown Ionia, the historic Ionia Theatre is operated and managed by the City of Ionia Downtown Development Authority and the City of Ionia. Employees include a director and several part-time staff members. Regularly scheduled volunteers contribute to the success of the Theater operation. The Theatre has been renovated and provides movies, live theater, and a variety of music and cultural performances. The Theatre is also available for event rentals



Accessibility
Score:

1

**HARWOOD BALL FIELDS
(IONIA ISD BALL FIELDS)**

The Harwood Ball Fields are a series of baseball and softball diamonds located 2191 Harwood Road on the Ionia County Intermediate School District Campus. This is the location where the Ionia Little League organizations play. The City Parks & Recreation Department provides t-ball programs for elementary age groups before the children are old enough to begin organized Little League play. The lease contract for two of the ball fields at the ISD has been discontinued. One field is presently being removed to make way for further expansion by the ISD; the other field space is likely to be used for future ISD building space within the next five years.





IONIA PUBLIC SCHOOL FIELDS

The Ionia Public School District cooperates with the City of Ionia to provide field space for the Parks & Recreation Departments children's soccer leagues. League play is late spring/early summer and is located at 250 East Tuttle Road in front of the High School Complex. The facility contains space for two small soccer fields, two mid-sized soccer fields, and one larger field for various age groups. On-site parking is provided.

Regional Parks



image source: ioniacounty.org

BERTHA BROCK PARK

Bertha Brock Park is a 186-acre park located in Ionia County two miles west of the City of Ionia on M-21. Founded in 1931, it is a regional park that serves Ionia County and surrounding areas. Bertha Brock Park offers rustic campsites, the historic Palmer Lodge; covered pavilions available to rent for events; a gazebo; tennis courts; softball fields; playgrounds; a trout stream (Bellamy Creek); picnic areas; hiking and cross-country skiing trails; sledding hill; and various family oriented recreational activities.

MID-MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY IONIA NATURAL AREA

The Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy operates a 130-acre parcel located in the southeast portion of the City, adjacent to the Grand River. The natural area consists of woodlands and grasslands. The parcel includes a half-mile of frontage on the Grand River, and contains an island. The Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail runs along the northern boundary of the property, and the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail runs through the southern portion of the property, affording scenic views of the Grand River.

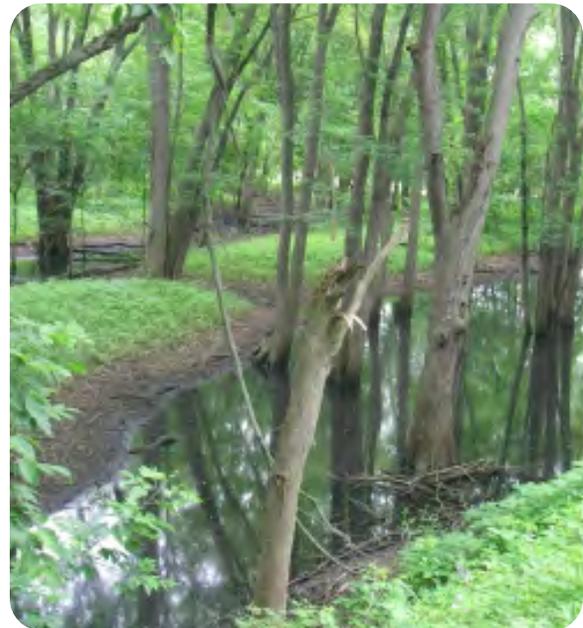


image source: midmilandcons.org



imagesource:www2.dnr.state.mi.us/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=461&type=SPRK

IONIA STATE RECREATION AREA

This recreation area is located at 2880 West David Highway, southeast of the City of Ionia. The area consists of 4,500 acres and offers a large range of recreational activities including camping (149 sites); a swimming beach and fishing on Sessions Lake; hunting; 3.5 miles of hiking trails; nine miles of designated mountain bike trails; 15 miles of equestrian trails; three trail loops for cross-country skiing (10.5 miles) and snowmobiling; dog field trial area; and metal detecting area. The recreation area is adjacent to the Grand River and the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail.

Trail Systems



FRED MEIJER GRAND RIVER VALLEY RAIL TRAIL

A segment of the Fred Meijer Trail is located along that portion of the former Central Michigan Railroad that runs east to west through the southern portion of the City. The 17.5-mile trail is planned to consist of 125 miles between the City of Owosso and the City of Lowell. The trail includes a pedestrian bridge constructed in 2015 that provides safe passage over M-66. The City-owned Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail is proposed to tie into the Fred Meijer Trail with a link over the former railroad right of way from Mill Street to just west of Jackson Street.



image source: fmvrt.org - Ron Gunderson



FRED THWAITES GRAND RIVER TRAIL

The Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail is located primarily along the Grand River and begins at Quarry Road (south of the Grand River) located in Ionia Township to the east of the City boundaries. The trail, which is 2.7 miles in length, crosses to the north side of the river and runs to the western edge of the Ionia Free Fair Grounds. The Trail is a 10-foot-wide paved pathway and includes a 200-foot-long trestle bridge over the Grand River, fishing docks, a boat launch, picnic area, benches, and a parking lot located at the Quarry Road trailhead.

The Trail also provides connection to the commercial district, several neighborhoods, Riverside Park, the Ionia Free Fair Grounds, and a second non-motorized bridge over the Grand River located within the Fair Grounds. The trail may also be reserved for group use. This trail has received grant funding for renovations and expansion and construction is planned to begin in 2024 for renovations to parking areas, signage, and trail improvements, which were completed in 2023.

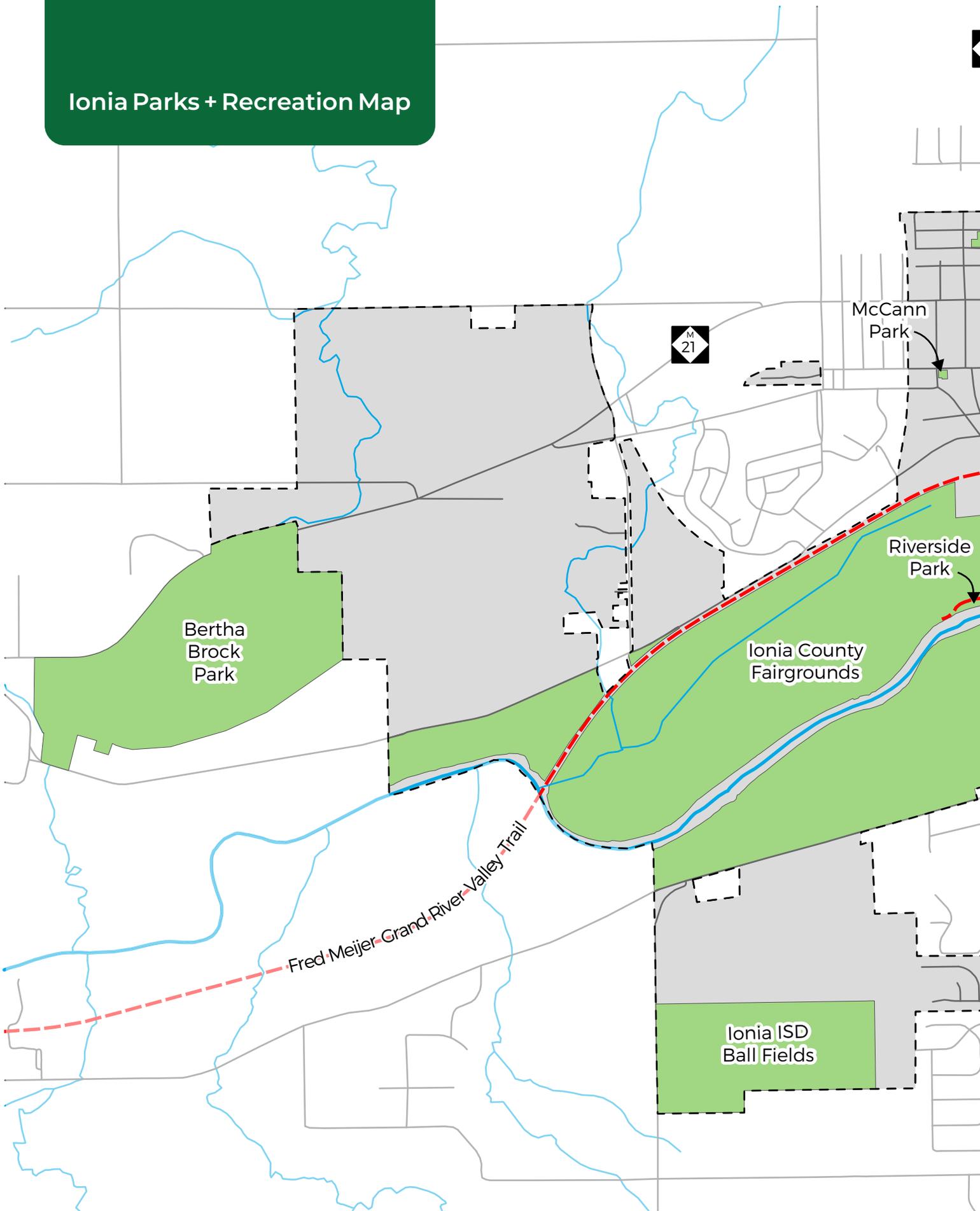


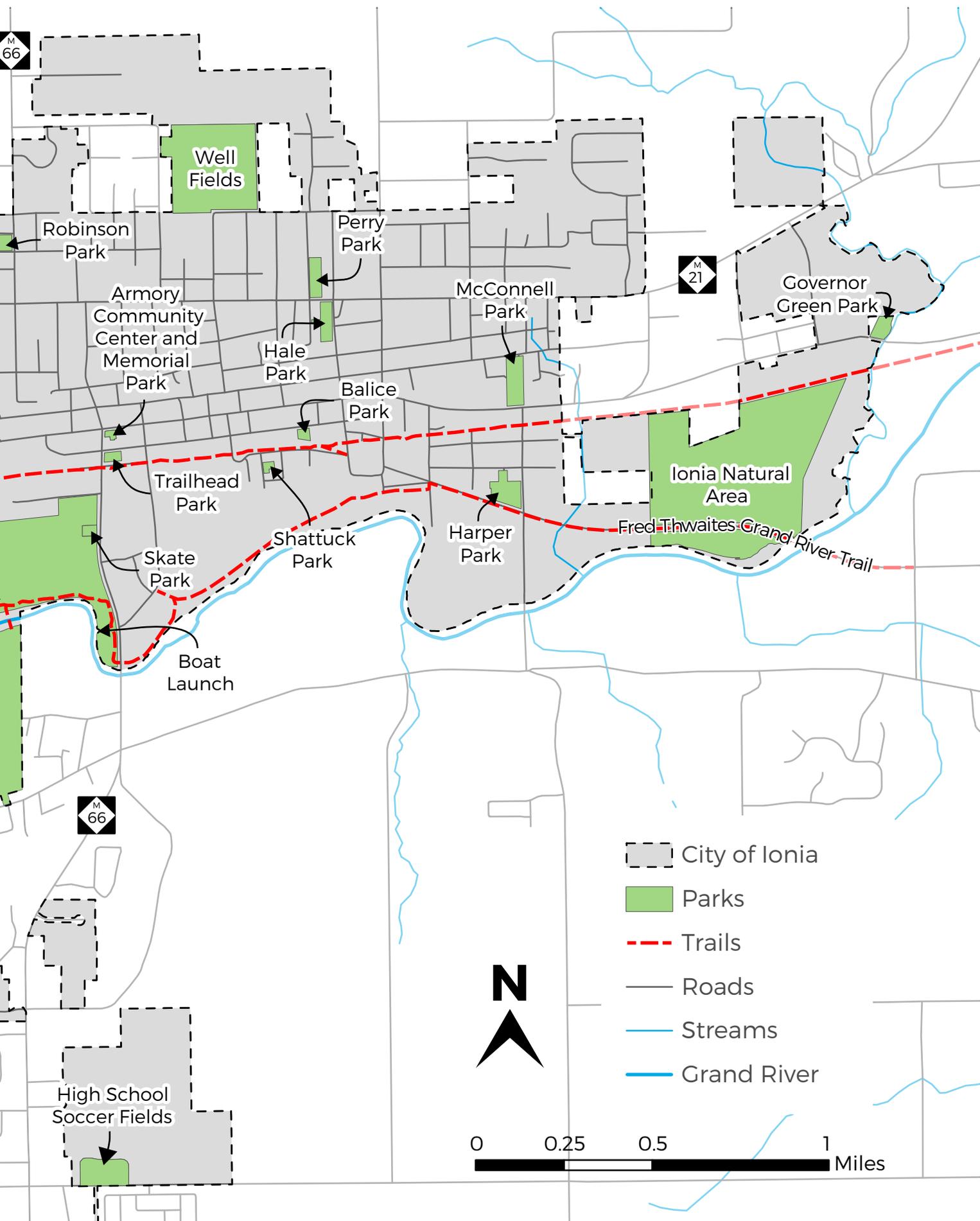
ROTARY CLUB TRAIL (WELL FIELDS)

This 41-acre recreation area on the north side of Fargo Street serves dual purposes as a recreation area, and as the site of the City of Ionia's municipal water wells. Facilities located on the site for public use include open green space and a trail with exercise stations.



Ionia Parks + Recreation Map





CHAPTER 3

RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY



INVENTORY OF RECREATION GRANTS

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS:



1. 2016:

Project Number: LW16-0038 (26-01779)

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$74,300 for improving Robinson Park. Improvements funded include the construction of a restroom/park shelter building, landscaping and site amenities.

RECREATION PASSPORT GRANTS:



1. 2015:

Project Number: RP15-0070

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$43,000 for improving Shattuck Park. Improvements funded include new play equipment, a basketball court, landscaping, and site amenities.

NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANTS:

1. 1993:

Project Number: TF93-363

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$37,500 to acquire the rail corridor and trestle to accommodate construction of the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail.

2. 1997:

Project Number: TF97-026

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$269,350 to assist with construction of the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail.

3. 2016:

Project Number: TF16-0104

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$221,800 to develop Trailhead Park along the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail, which included a universally designed splash pad, restroom building, picnic shelter, parking, playground, rain garden, and native meadow area with interpretive signs.

4. 2021:

Project Number: TF21-0038

Award: \$300,000 to develop and renovate 3.2 miles of the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail from the Ionia Free Fair Grounds to Quarry Road, improving the Cleveland Street trailhead including a paved parking lot, benches, picnic tables, kiosk, and a portable restroom enclosure.

OTHER GRANTS FUNDED:

1. 1992:

Project Number: BF92-170

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$127,500 to upgrade Adams (Shattuck) Park, Hale Park, Harper Park, McCann Park, and State Street Park with new playground equipment and construct one basketball court (Adams Park).

2. 1999:

Project Number: CM99-136

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$206,500 to renovate the old Ionia Armory building into the new City Community Center including installation of a three-level elevator, improvements to a gymnasium, and other improvements to provide barrier-free access and use of the building.

3. 2009:

Project Number: RIF09-36-06

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$65,000 MDNR RIF (Recreation Improvement Fund) grant to survey, design and, engineer the trail segment between Ionia and Saranac.

4. 2010:

Project Number: RTP10-47-01

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$8,500 MDNR RTP grant to perform an engineering evaluation and cost estimate for the bridges on the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail.

5. 2010:

Project Number: Recreation Trails Program

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$50,000 MDNR RTP grant to assist in acquiring property for a trailhead planned at Dexter Street and Adams Street.

6. 2012:

Project Number: RTP10-47-03

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$200,000 MDNR RTP toward construction of 10 miles of rail trail surface improvements including decking and railing of several railroad bridges. This money served as a match to an Ionia County MDNR Trust Fund grant of \$300,000 and a grant to the City of \$950,000 from the MDOT Transportation Enhancement Activities Fund for the Ionia to Saranac Trail.

7. 2015:

Project Number: RTP 2015-06-01

Status: Grant closed

Award: \$85,000 MDNR RTP trailhead development in Ionia to serve the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail that traverses the City.

8. 2022:

Project Number: 26-01882

Status: PA Executed

Award: \$382,000 for development at Harper Park toward a pavilion with tables and grills, walkway around the perimeter of the park, a renovated building and basketball courts. Renovation of the existing play equipment included new safety surfacing and new inclusive play elements.

This page is intentionally left blank.

CHAPTER 4

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



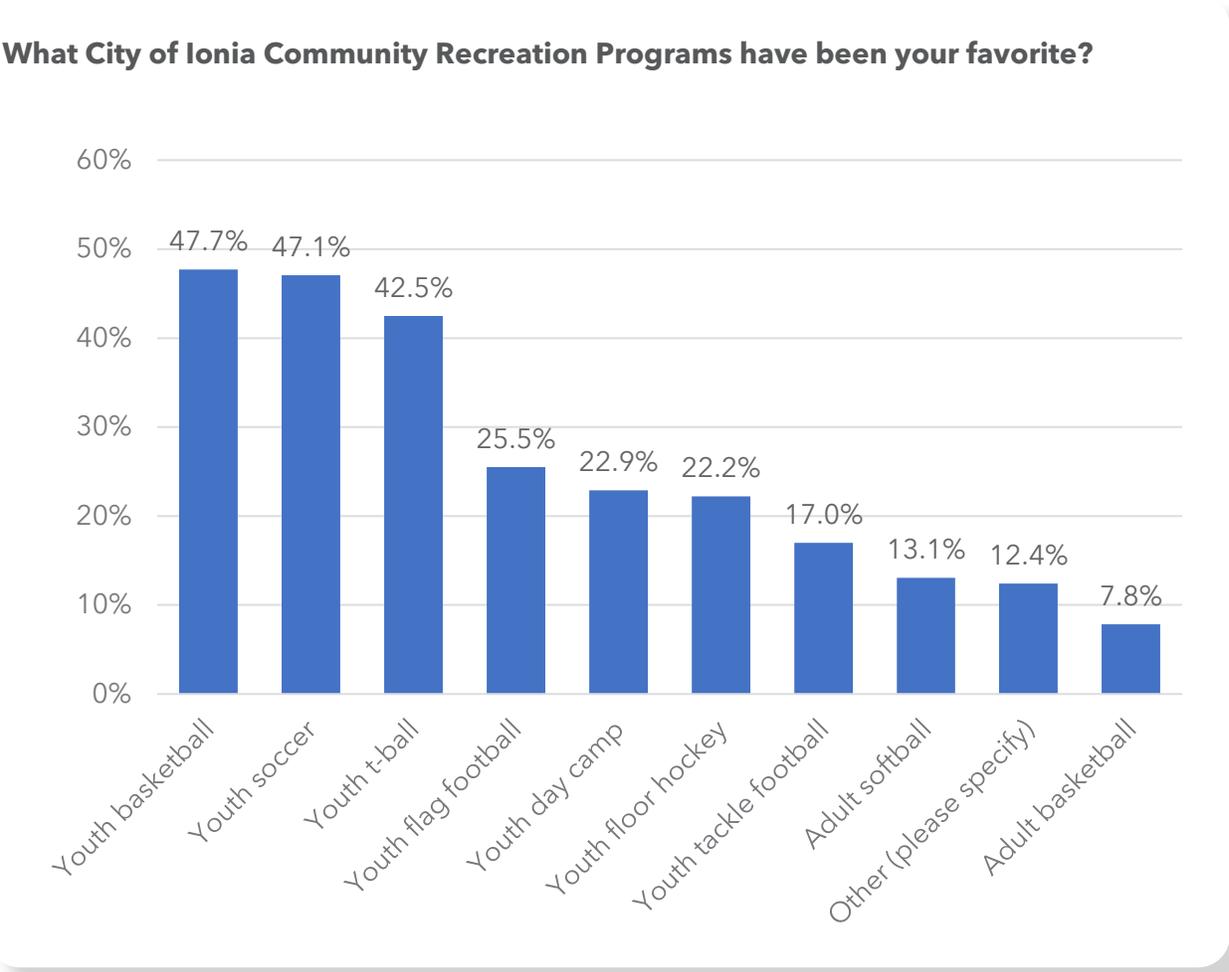


DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PLANNING PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The process in preparing the 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan began in early 2023. All aspects of preparation of the plan were coordinated with the City of Ionia Planning Commission, the City Parks & Recreation Department, and other City of Ionia staff. An online community public survey was conducted via the online survey by [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com) between April and August of 2023 gathering input asking survey takers about the local parks, park facilities, park programming, and their future desires and suggestions. A total of 249 people responded to the survey. A copy of the complete survey and the community's responses are included at the end of this document in the Appendix A.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Residents of the City of Ionia were given 30 days to review and comment on the proposed 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan. Publication of notice was provided in the IDaily News and posted to the City website. A print copy of the draft plan was available for public review at City Hall. Two public hearings were noticed, the first held on October 11, 2023 at the regular monthly Planning Commission meeting, which occurred during the 30-day public review period. The second public hearing, was conducted at City Council on December 6, 2023 as a separate agenda item prior to the adoption. Following the public hearing City Council unanimously adopted by Resolution (attached) the proposed 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan, certifying the process and preparing for DNR submittal.



Sample question from survey. See Appendix for complete survey .

RESULTS OF THE PUBLIC INPUT SURVEY

As previously mentioned, the survey received a total of 249 responses. The results of this survey along with a workshop conducted by the Planning Commission held on July 12, 2023, and input from the City’s Parks & Recreation Department were used to create the goals and objectives of this Plan. The following descriptions provide a summary of the survey results:

- A brief background of the survey takers was asked with the majority of respondents stating they are residents of the City of Ionia. A good number of non-residents also participated, most from surrounding townships. While responses were submitted from a wide array of age groups, the largest group of survey takers were aged between 25 and 45 years old and had elementary school aged children. Many of these children were enrolled or had been enrolled in City Parks & Recreation programming.
- Youth basketball, soccer, and t-ball were noted as the most popular programs provided by the Parks & Recreation Department, along with many other youth athletic and non-athletic programs. Adult team sports are now less popular recently than in the past, and many survey takers suggested weekend tournament-style competitions instead of weekday evening games.
- There were many requests for other athletic programs or activities such as organized 5k runs, yoga and wellness programs for seniors, pickleball instruction, cornhole, etc.
- The majority of respondents feel that the City is doing a great job with both the parks and the programming and consider the City’s parks to be an important part of their community and a factor in their quality of living in the City of Ionia.
- The public didn’t express desire to add more parks beyond those in existence or planned, but did note they would love to see expansion of features at the City’s parks and the Parks & Recreation Department offering additional programming options.

CHAPTER 5

GOALS + OBJECTIVES



GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION PROGRAM

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Planning Commission with public input from the community survey in addition to input from staff at the Parks & Recreation Department. The accompanying actions to these goals and objectives lay out steps the City may take to further accomplish these identified goals and the rationale behind these strategies, supported by community input received.

GOAL:



Continue to maintain and make improvements to the City’s parks and recreation facilities and community gathering options.

OBJECTIVE	FACILITY	PROGRAMMING
1	Improve the City Parks playground equipment at McCann Park, McConnell Park, Balice Park, Governor Green Park, and Riverside Park.	
2	Continue to evaluate the conditions of the playground equipment at Hale Park, Perry Park, Robinson Park, Harper Park, Shattuck Park, and Trailhead Park.	
3	Improve the pavilions at McConnell Park and Governor Green Park.	Provide further opportunities for pavilion rentals by community members.
4	Continue to evaluate the needs and opportunities for improvements at the Armory Community Center.	Continue to expand the possibilities of new community events shared with other local organizations such as the library.
5	Install lighting and security cameras at City parks and the Armory Community Center.	
6	Continue to renovate City parks to be universally designed for all ages and abilities	

ACTION ITEMS

Hale Park received a DNR grant and will be under construction for complete renovation in 2024. Upgrading the facilities at McConnell Park with items such as new playground equipment, hard surface accessible pathways, bathroom facilities, and accessible parking will be the next big challenge for the City. Balice Park also has a renovation plan from 2021 that still has desirability with the City. Governor Green, Riverside, and McCann Parks are less of a priority in the near term, however, new features such as playground equipment, pavilions, picnic areas, benches, etc. are desirable to rejuvenate these public spaces. These actionable items may include:

MCCONNELL PARK – FUN FOREST (E. WASHINGTON STREET)

- New playground equipment and play area surfaces
- New accessible restroom facilities
- New bike racks
- Universally designed hard surface pathways
- Expansion of the parking area
- Upgrading the expanded parking area as a universally designed space
- Install more grills and picnic areas
- Add more benches

BALICE PARK (E. ADAMS STREET)

- Consider the existing proposed design plans for a park redevelopment
- New bike racks
- New accessible restroom facilities
- Add universally design hard surface pathways
- Improve the playground area surface
- New picnic areas and benches

MCCANN PARK (CORNER OF RICE AND HACKETT STREETS)

- New playground equipment and play area surfaces
- New bike racks
- Universally designed hard surface pathways
- Install more grills, picnic areas, and benches

GOVERNOR GREEN PARK (E. MAIN STREET)

- New playground equipment and play area surfaces
- New accessible restroom facilities
- New bike racks
- Paved and universally designed parking surfaces with better connection to sidewalks on Main Street.
- Install more grills and improve the picnic area
- Paint and improve the pavilion

RIVERSIDE PARK (FAIRGROUNDS)

- New playground equipment and play area surfaces
- Dedicated parking
- Universally designed parking
- Add picnic areas and benches
- Add universally designed hard surface pathways

JUSTIFICATION:

These action items are driven from input received by the City Parks & Recreation Department, the City's Capital Improvements Plan, and public input received from the survey in both the open comment sections of the survey and questions 19 – 23. Maintenance and improvements are essential to the continued success of the parks and growth of the Parks & Recreation Department.

GOAL:



Develop an outdoor city performance venue.

OBJECTIVE	FACILITY	PROGRAMMING
1	Evaluate potential locations for a new public venue.	
2	Coordinate this space with the City's Master Plan.	This venue could be used to develop future performance series for community enrichment.
3	Perform a feasibility analysis for development of such a space after a potential location is identified.	

ACTION ITEMS

Desire for some sort of performance venue has existed for many years in the community. A facility such as a band shell or performance gazebo was originally proposed in the Steele Street Corridor Plan identified in the previous 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan. However, the overall concept for the Steele Street Corridor Plan has changed and progressed over time. The City presently owns property just south of the future (2024) dog park. This could be the best location for such a facility if the City could structure an off-street parking agreement with Matcor Automotive, which lies directly across Steele Street from the future park property. As the new design for this phase of the park develops, a feasibility study should be performed by the City to consider if this is a viable option. These actionable items include:

- Review if addition of such a venue would remove too much of the proposed Steele Street park.
- If the space is a feasible and supported item, update the Steele Street Park proposed design.
- Seek out grant funding opportunities to construct this facility as a component of the proposed Steele Street park.

- Meet with Matcor Automotive and discuss if the City could structure a shared use during event times for such a public space.
- If a shared parking agreement cannot be organized, consider alternatives via a feasibility analysis of potential sites.

JUSTIFICATION:

City resident's comment throughout the survey asked the City to invest in a performance venue, for outdoor plays, gatherings, concerts, etc. for community enjoyment. The proposed Steele Street Park could fill that community need for more facility and community space.

GOAL:



Invest in the renovation or re-design of Meijer Skate Park.

OBJECTIVE	FACILITY	PROGRAMMING
1	Evaluate further how the skate park space should be used, should it be updated with new equipment or undergo a complete renovation and redesign.	

ACTION ITEMS

The Parks & Recreation Department should perform a needs analysis for the skate park. The park was sponsored by Meijer for its initial development. Inquire as to if Meijer would continue to sponsor the park by donating towards renovation or if there is another entity or entities that would consider sponsoring renovation and reinvestment.

JUSTIFICATION:

Elected officials and some City staff members have commented that they would like to see improvements made to the skate park. Residents commented in the survey that they would use this park if it were maintained or was better serviced, offering more access options.

GOAL:



Continue to promote existing and expand future youth (grade school to pre-teen) programming options.

OBJECTIVE	FACILITY	PROGRAMMING
1	Develop ball fields at the proposed Steel Street Park for programming use.	Use new ball diamonds for youth t-ball league play.
2	Redevelop the ball field at Harper Park for t-ball or adult play.	Use a redeveloped Harper Park ball diamond for youth t-ball league play.
3	Continue to improve accessibility options at the Armory Community Center for programs such as youth basketball.	Evaluate to see if the Armory gymnasium can be improved further for youth basketball league play.
4		Continue the relationship with the Ionia Public Schools to provide outdoor play field space for youth soccer and other programs.
5		Run pilot programs for new youth options for both camps, enrichment, and athletic options.

ACTION ITEMS

The Parks & Recreation Department should continue to provide popular youth athletic programs such as basketball, t-ball, and soccer while also seeking further opportunities for additional seasonal programming options.

- Improve the ballfield at Harper Park
- Continue to propose and seek grant funding for Steele Street Park
- Continue relationships with the Ionia School District and ISD

JUSTIFICATION:

These action items are driven from input received by the City Parks & Recreation Department, the City's Capital Improvements Plan, and public input received from the survey in both the open comment sections of the survey and questions 19 – 23. Maintenance and improvements are essential to the continued success of the parks and growth of the Parks & Recreation Department.

GOAL:



Expand adult programming options to allow for more tournament applications while still promoting traditional options.

OBJECTIVE	FACILITY	PROGRAMMING
1	Replace the ISD ballfield with new option(s) at the proposed Steele Street Park.	Expand adult softball league tournaments at the existing and new ball fields.
2		Evaluate possibilities for other tournament options such as basketball, golf, pickleball, cornhole, kickball, and many more.
3	New outdoor volleyball courts, possibly at the proposed Steele Street Park.	Expand possibility of outdoor beach or grass volleyball tournaments or leagues.

ACTION ITEMS

The Parks & Recreation Department should study the viability for athletic and activity style weekend tournament play options in addition to traditional weekly programming.

- Improve the ballfield at Harper Park
- Develop adult scaled ballfield option(s) at the proposed Steele Street Park.
- Evaluate existing facilities to determine needs for expanding successful adult and senior programming options.

JUSTIFICATION:

Tournament options were mentioned throughout the public survey and staff has mentioned that current program participants have asked for future weekend tournament options.

GOAL:



Continue adult and senior enrichment programming options while also developing new programming options for future scheduling.

OBJECTIVE	FACILITY	PROGRAMMING
1	Evaluate department facilities to determine needs for continuing successful courses.	Continue to promote enrichment programming options such as cooking, yoga, and art.
2	Evaluate facilities or future cooperation with the schools or other organizations for additional facilities for specific events or classes.	Seek out opportunities for new enrichment programming such as crafting classes, shows, events on the river, more themed events in cooperation with organizations like the library, the Rotary Club, etc.

ACTION ITEMS

The Parks & Recreation Department should evaluate the need for expanded enrichment course options in addition to current programming options.

- Make future upgrades for multi-use events at the Armory Community Center.
- Evaluate programs that may be able to utilize the new pavilions that have been constructed at many of the neighborhood parks for programs such as painting classes, gardening classes, etc.
- Consider expanding cooperation with the ISD, Ionia Public Schools, and others to use classroom space for certain courses or camps in the future.
- Release small community surveys in department seasonal program flyers or on social media to seek more information from community participants about new options and evaluate suggestions for future programming.

JUSTIFICATION:

The public survey open comment section provided a lot of evidence that residents love their parks and recreation options for non-athletic programs and would like to see more classes, camps, special events, etc.

This page is intentionally left blank.

APPENDIX A

COMMUNITY SURVEY



Community Survey

Introductions

From April to August of 2023, The City of Ionia posted an opinion survey open to gather public input on parks, trails, recreation, and non-motorized transportation infrastructure programs. The survey responses provided a considerable amount of quantifiable data to help set policy for the City. The results are listed below, followed by a summary of trends and planning implications.

Methodology

The survey questions were developed with the assistance of the consultant team from Williams & Works and was organized to gather responses from residents of the City and other park users. A total of 23 questions were asked in the online survey. The survey was conducted via the online survey tool Survey Monkey. A total of 249 responses were received by the deadline with a 67% completion rate.

The survey was successful in that it collected objective quantifiable information from a large number of people compared to typical participation in other forms of public input like community open houses, or visioning meetings. The survey enabled respondents to provide anonymous replies using a “check-the-box” format to expedite completion of the online form and maximize the rate of response. Some questions allowed the respondents to leave other comments that may not have been covered with multiple-choice options. Spelling and grammar mistakes were corrected in the open-ended responses otherwise, all responses were kept as written by the respondent.

Data

The online survey tool Survey Monkey presented respondents with a standardized set of questions from which they could choose responses. Some questions only permitted one answer while some permitted multiple-choice answers along with space for individual comments. This method restricted acceptable entries to those required by the survey form, providing a standardized method by which analysis could be conducted.

Three scoring scales were used to report the data received: Nominal, Ordinal, and Ratio scales. A nominal scale merely counts responses by particular classification (e.g., permanent residents or seasonal residents). This scale is useful to separate responses into working groups or to evaluate the overall sample to determine whether it represents the larger population. Questions 1, 3-6, 8-10, 14-16, 18, and 20 were designed on a nominal scale.

An ordinal scale is more useful in gaining insight into respondent beliefs because it includes the characteristics of rank order. One item is greater or lesser than another item or it has more or less of a particular quality, based on a commonly understood standard. An ordinal scale enables some greater judgment about the relative strength or weakness of a particular response (e.g., “somewhat concerned,” “too quickly,” etc.). However, it does not include a quantifiable or consistent interval between the various points in the scale. Questions 13, 17, 19, and 22 were designed with an ordinal scale.

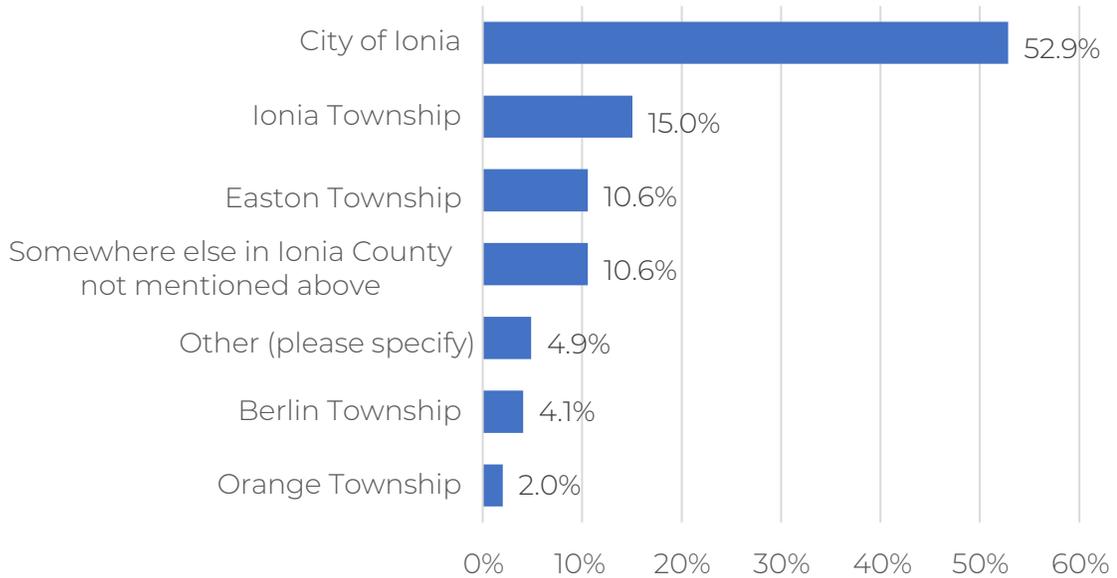
A ratio scale was used for questions 2 and 7 as respondents were asked to indicate a range of items that applied to them such as age. Items 11, 12, 21, and 23 featured an open-ended, write-in response for participants to list their answers.

Response data for each question is provided, as follows.

Results

QUESTION 1

Where do you live?



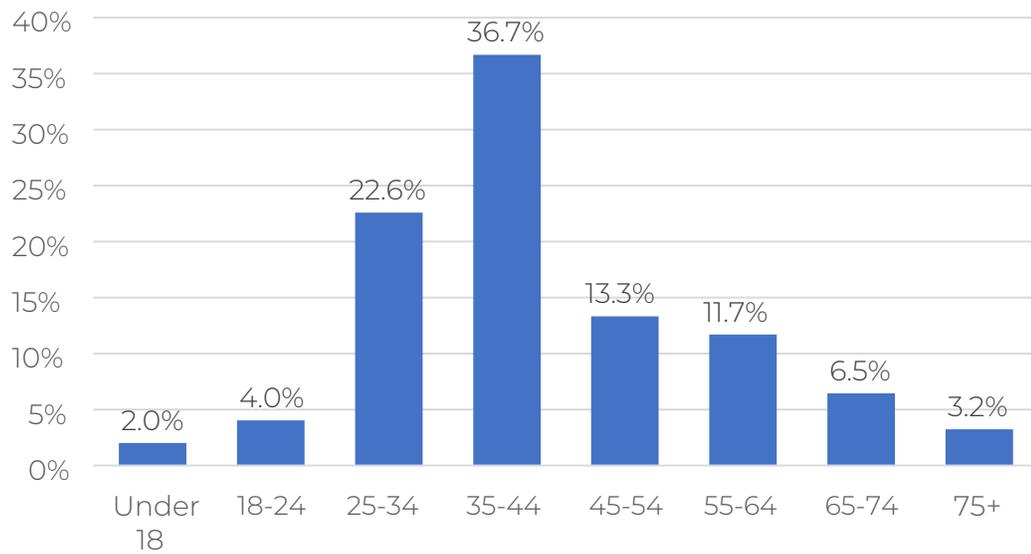
Answer Choices	Responses	
City of Ionia	52.85%	130
Ionia Township	15.04%	37
Easton Township	10.57%	26
Berlin Township	4.07%	10
Orange Township	2.03%	5
Somewhere else in Ionia County not mentioned above	10.57%	26
Other (please specify)	4.88%	12
	Answered	246
	Skipped	3

Other Responses:

1. Kent
2. Lyons Village
3. Grand Rapids
4. Orleans
5. Montcalm County
6. Eaton County
6. Montcalm
7. Kent but used to live in Ionia
8. Lyons
9. Ronald Township
10. Lyons Township
11. Lyons, Michigan

QUESTION 2

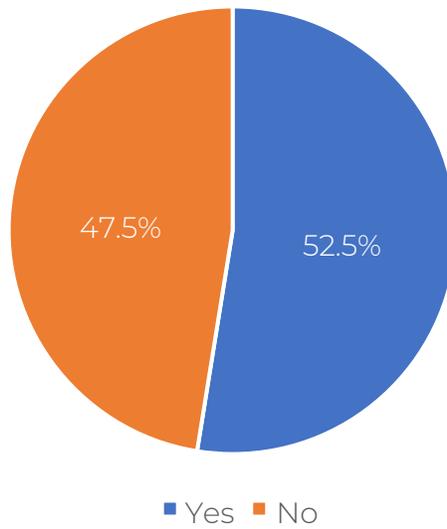
How old are you?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	2.02%	5
18-24	4.03%	10
25-34	22.58%	56
35-44	36.69%	91
45-54	13.31%	33
55-64	11.69%	29
65-74	6.45%	16
75+	3.23%	8
	Answered	248
	Skipped	1

QUESTION 3

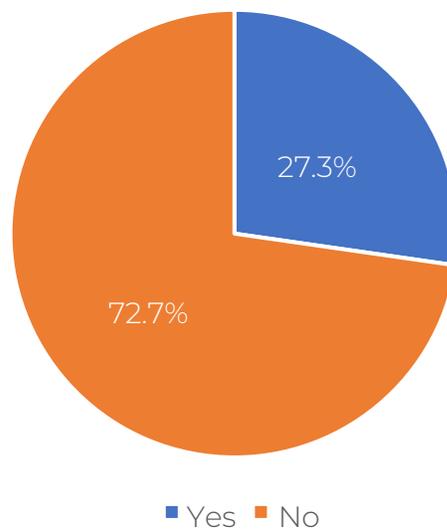
Do you have any grade school (kindergarten – 5th grade) children in your household?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	52.54%	124
No	47.46%	112
	Answered	236
	Skipped	13

QUESTION 4

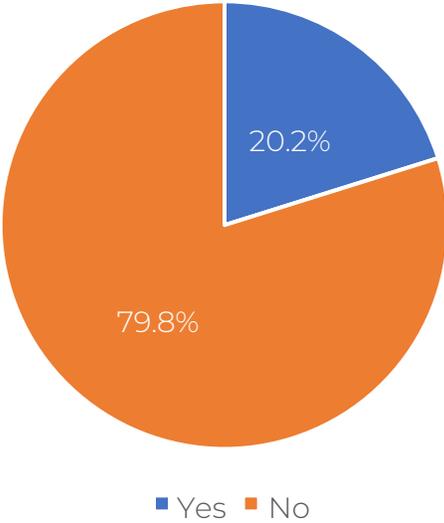
Do you have any middle school (6th – 8th grade) children in your household?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	27.27%	66
No	72.73%	176
	Answered	242
	Skipped	7

QUESTION 5

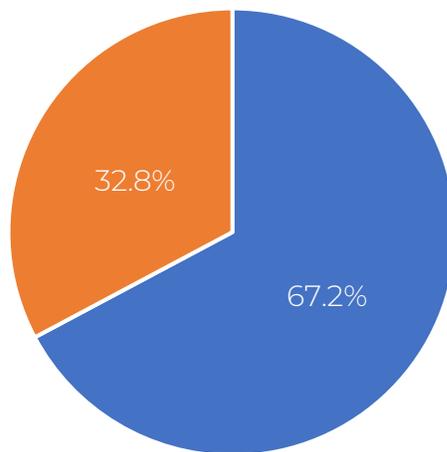
Do you have high school (9th - 12th) children in your household?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	20.16%	49
No	79.84%	194
	Answered	243
	Skipped	6

QUESTION 6

Have you enrolled or participated in the City of Ionia Community Recreation Programs in the past?

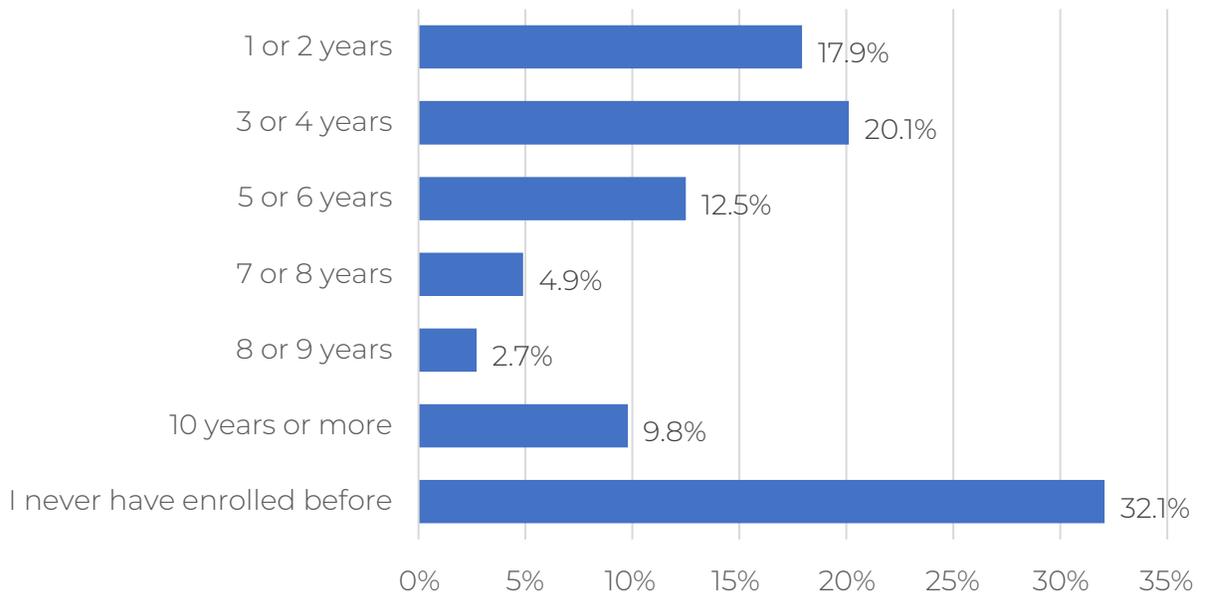


■ Yes ■ No

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	67.21%	123
No	32.79%	60
	Answered	183
	Skipped	66

QUESTION 7

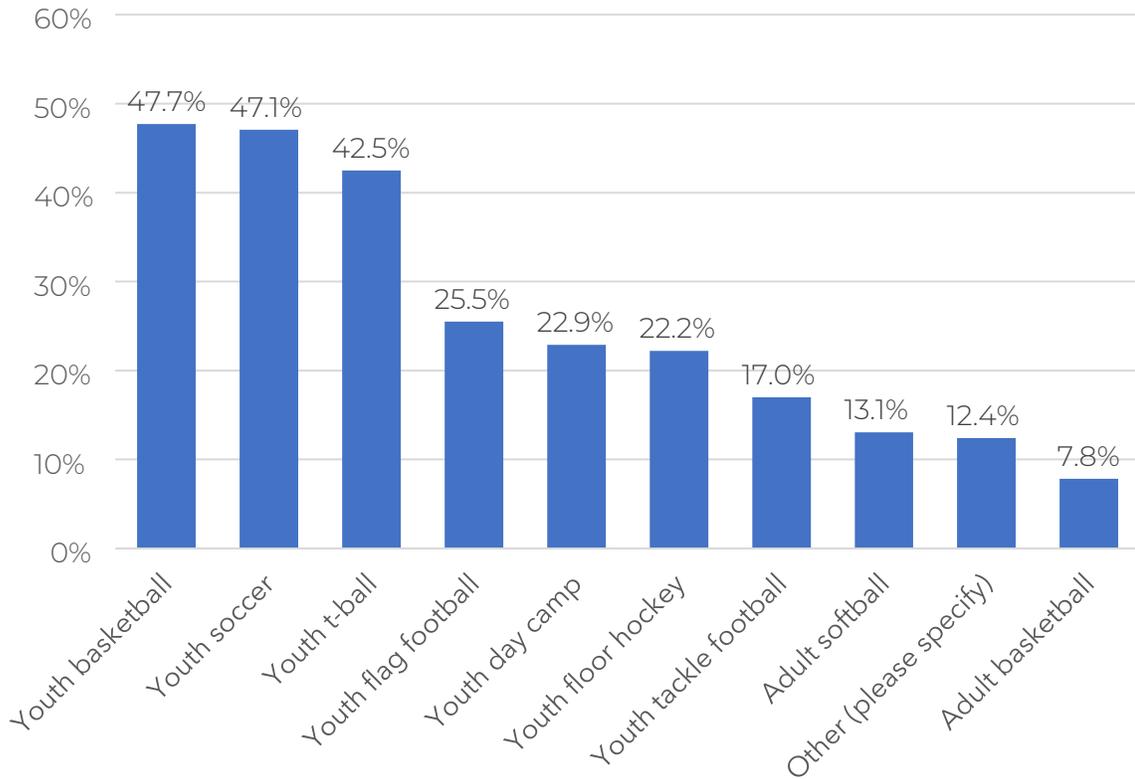
How many years have you enrolled in an Ionia Parks & Recreation programs?



Answer Choices	Responses	
1 or 2 years	17.93%	33
3 or 4 years	20.11%	37
5 or 6 years	12.50%	23
7 or 8 years	4.89%	9
8 or 9 years	2.72%	5
10 years or more	9.78%	18
I never have enrolled before	32.07%	59
	Answered	184
	Skipped	65

QUESTION 8

What City of Ionia Community Recreation Programs have been your favorite?



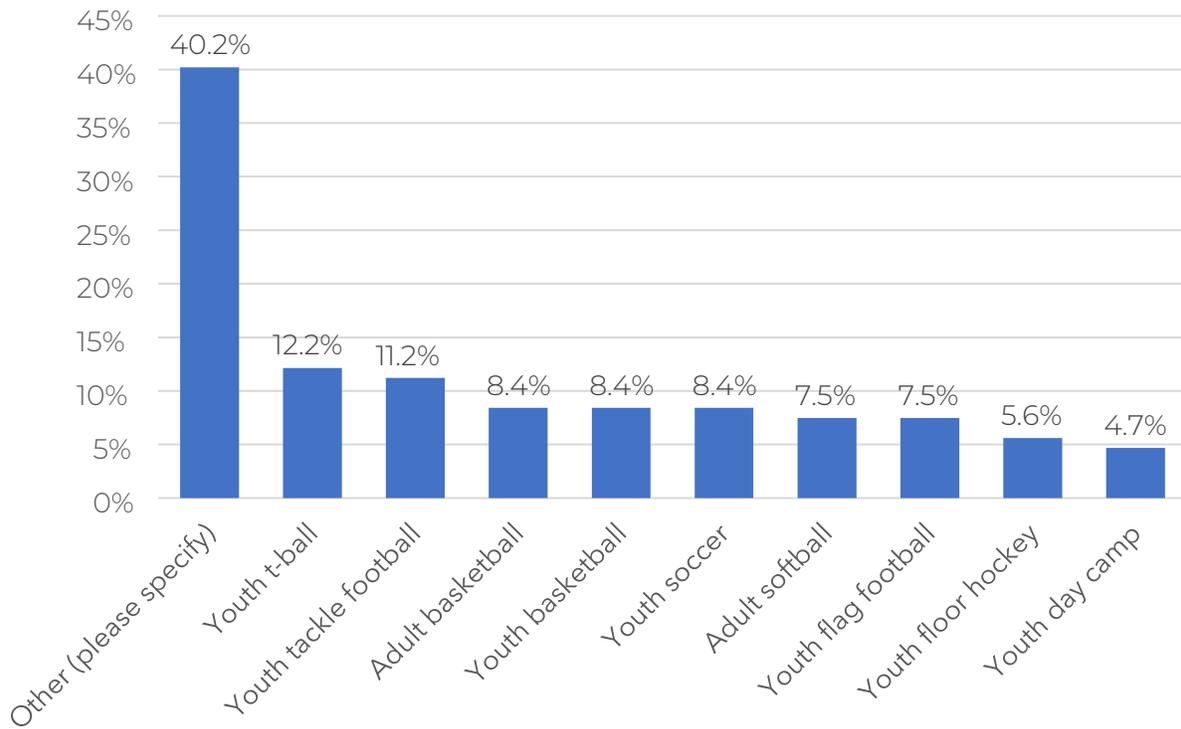
Answer Choices	Responses	
Youth basketball	47.71%	73
Youth soccer	47.06%	72
Youth t-ball	42.48%	65
Youth day camp	22.88%	35
Youth tackle football	16.99%	26
Youth flag football	25.49%	39
Youth floor hockey	22.22%	34
Adult basketball	7.84%	12
Adult softball	13.07%	20
Other (please specify)	12.42%	19
	Answered	153
	Skipped	96

Other Responses:

1. N/A
2. N/A
3. Summer Camp
4. Gymnastics
5. Youth gymnastics by Marisa
6. None
7. Tae kwon do
8. None
9. N/A
10. None
11. None
12. None
13. None
14. Never been
15. Youth baseball
16. Need a camping or canoe club
17. Not necessarily favorites. But all I have been involved in personally and with children
18. Unsure
19. Tumble bumble bees

QUESTION 9

What City of Ionia Community Recreation Programs have been your least favorite?



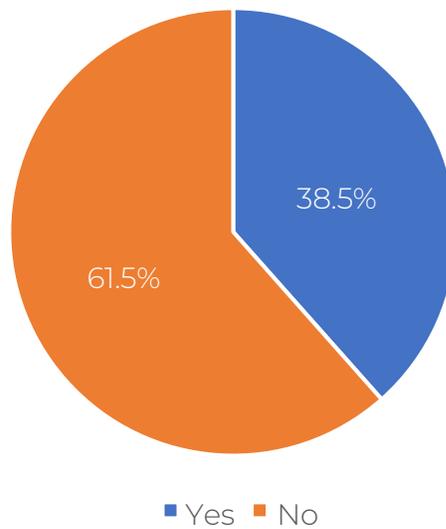
Answer Choices	Responses	
Youth basketball	8.41%	9
Youth soccer	8.41%	9
Youth t-ball	12.15%	13
Youth day camp	4.67%	5
Youth tackle football	11.21%	12
Youth flag football	7.48%	8
Youth floor hockey	5.61%	6
Adult basketball	8.41%	9
Adult softball	7.48%	8
Other (please specify)	40.19%	43
	Answered	107
	Skipped	142

Other Responses:

1. None
2. None
3. N/A
4. None
5. We have enjoyed them all
6. Liked all that we participated in
7. N/A
8. N/A
9. None all are good
10. None
11. I don't have one
12. Disrespectful parents and coaches arguing
13. The one in charge of the t-ball fields threatening to not allow children to participate in any sport due to the actions of others and not the parents or children
14. None
15. None
16. All were good
17. None
18. All great
19. None
20. None
21. Pleased with all of our experiences
22. None
23. None
24. None
25. None were our least favorite
26. Does not apply
27. We liked every one we participated in
28. None
29. N/A
30. None
31. None
32. N/A
33. None
34. None
35. None
36. N/A
37. No least favorite.
38. None
39. Gymnastics
40. not having a camping or canoe club
41. No opinion on least favorite
42. Unsure
43. Not sure

QUESTION 10

Are you planning on enrolling, or have you already participated in any City of Ionia Community Recreation Programs this year (2023)?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	38.46%	70
No	61.54%	112
	Answered	182
	Skipped	67

QUESTION 11

What kind of new adult recreation programs would you like to see the Ionia Parks & Recreation Department offer?

1. Pickleball
2. Crafting club
3. Roller/ice hockey
4. Running club
5. Four Square
6. Adult football
7. Yoga and other wellness activities for seniors!!!
8. Tennis, swimming, biking, maybe not necessarily competition- based. More for making friends and connecting with like-minded adults.
9. Shuffleboard
10. Adult volleyball
11. Dance
12. Volleyball, Pickleball, Adult fitness classes.
13. Tennis and pickle ball
14. Basketball
15. Older adult programs
16. Tackle football
17. Any type of enrichment classes such as art, cooking, etc. More partnerships with other organizations in the community to offer these types of things monthly for adults.
18. Pickleball
19. Yoga, dance or movement classes
20. Pickleball leagues
21. Ice Hockey
22. I would love to give a class on hula hooping. I'm a certified hoop instructor.
23. Pickle ball
24. Kayaking
25. Walking groups
26. Disc golf
27. Pickleball courts. Shuffle board. Open grassy areas for us to bring/play our own games and/or rent out a space to host parties.
28. Dog park
29. Ice Rink Hockey
30. Ice Hockey
31. Anything hockey related. Floor hockey, street hockey, roller hockey, etc
32. Pickleball
33. Rowing, naturalist classes
34. Not sure
35. Something people with disabilities may be able to participate in
36. Volleyball
37. Pickleball clinics and tournaments for adults
38. Exercise equipment along a walking trail.
39. Pickle ball
40. Dodge ball. Volleyball, Frisbee golf
41. Yoga
42. Exercise in the park. Walking clubs.
43. Adult fitness
44. Something involving running or cycling.
45. Pickleball
46. Pickle ball
47. Not sure
48. N/A
49. 0
50. Not sure

51. Basketball
52. Yoga, workout classes
53. Related to dogs
54. Evening water aerobics for adults.
55. Soccer
56. Nothing
57. Fitness, baking, cooking
58. AC is a big issue, so I don't plan on attending anything in the summer in that sweat box of a community center (aka armory).
59. Dog obedience training
60. Bowling, A fitness group
61. Yoga
62. N/A
63. Exercise classes yoga
64. Pickleball
65. Pickleball
66. Skate Park
67. Pickleball Leagues
68. I wish they offered basketball programs outside of the school basketball programs.
69. ?
70. N/A
71. Volleyball, tennis, adult soccer
72. Volleyball for adults would be nice. Maybe an exercise class or dance class.
73. Family days on the weekend
74. Volleyball
75. Summer Golf Camp, Weekend basketball free throw contest, Additional 5k races, 3 on 3 basketball tournament
76. Work out classes, volleyball
77. Same. Just put some time and money into the programs so it will draw more interest.
78. Pickleball
79. A football league
80. Adult volleyball
81. Art classes.
82. N/A
83. Pickleball
84. Adult exercise and fitness programs outdoors. Examples include yoga, tai chi, nature walks, educational programs, and pickleball.
85. Cornhole, disc golf, pickleball,
86. Aerobics, yoga, 5k events,
87. A group exercise class of some sort would be nice
88. Open Gym at the armory for families to practice basketball during winter months. I would even pay to fee to use it on times that it wasn't being used.
89. Volleyball
90. Basketball, baseball
91. City cornhole league, golf league, city yard game league (horseshoes, washers, etc)
92. Idk
93. Volleyball league, indoor or out door
94. Not Sure
95. Idk rn I got Covid sorry
96. Camping and canoes are fun
97. Workout classes a few days a week in the evening. Zumba, dance fit, boot camp etc
98. Unsure
99. Tennis
100. Maybe one evening a week: Pickleball, Trailwalking, Fairground walking, yoga/tai chi/meditation on the lawn (fairgrounds/library/courthouse).
101. No answer
102. Adult volleyball
103. Skateboarding
104. Adult running and walking events
105. None. Cancel adult programs. Focus on the youth.

- 106. None, why do adults need help finding something to do?
- 107. Kickball?
- 108. N/A
- 109. Personal enrichment classes. Activities outside of sports.

- 110. Non-sport programs as well. Many towns have huge varieties like various sports, baking, cpr, hobby clubs, etc
- 111. Soccer, Swim Team, Square Dancing Lessons
- 112. N/A

QUESTION 12

Are there new types of special event programming options that you would like to see (e.g., cornhole tournaments, sand volleyball tournaments, 5k run/walk)?

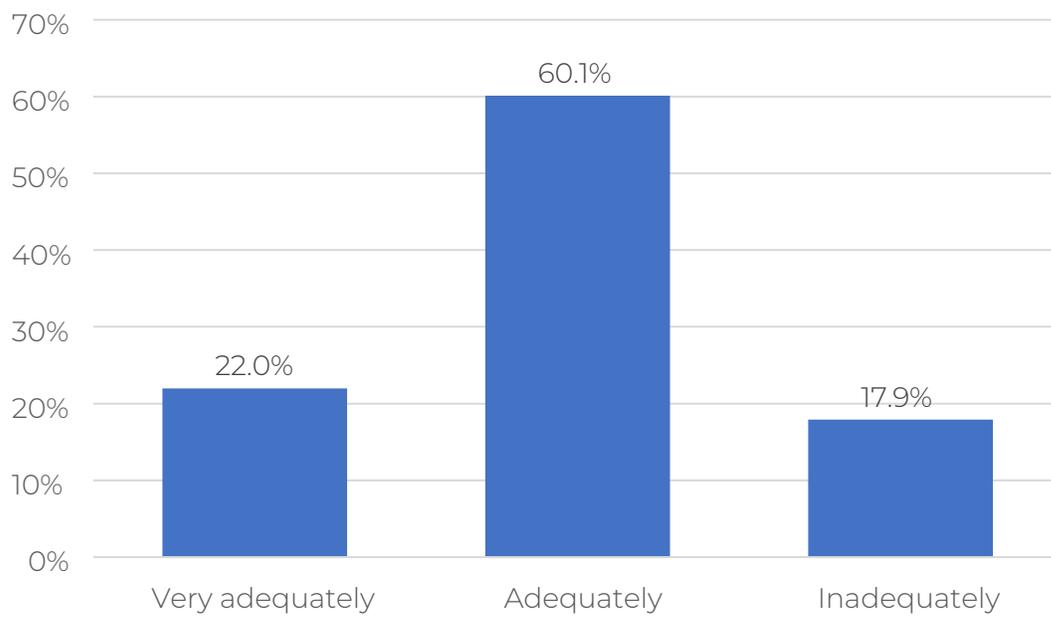
1. 3 v 3 youth soccer tournaments / 3 v 3 youth basketball tournaments
2. N/A
3. 5k run/walk
4. Corn hole
5. Yes, all of those examples would be fantastic!
6. Washer Toss tournament
7. 2k walk/run, something adults and children can do together as a family. Baseball/ kids pitch adults run bases, something that combines all aspects of family.
8. 5k run/ walk
9. Pickleball tournaments and bike races
10. Sand volleyball
11. Cornhole, Pickleball, Volleyball.
12. exercise or yoga classes for seniors, 5k walks
13. Yes!
14. Cornhole or horseshoe
15. Cornhole would be cool
16. Parent/Kid type events such as dances or tournaments
17. Cornhole and 5k
18. 5k run/walk
19. Cornhole tournaments, sand volleyball tournaments, 5k events, talent shows
20. Youth baseball/softball tournaments
21. Ice Hockey
22. Hula hooping, it's for all ages
23. No
24. No
25. 5k walk, cornhole
26. Washer toss
27. Ionia definitely needs a 5K! That's such a fun and healthy way to get people involved! Cornhole tournament, absolutely. An Ionia Macker would be really really great. So many young athletes play in Gus Mackers.
28. Adult flag football
29. Ice Rink Hockey
30. Cornhole
31. All of the above
32. Beer tent, boxing, raft race or raft parade.
33. Not sure
34. More 5k fun run/walks; cornhole would be cool! More festivals; scavenger hunts would be awesome too!
35. I think new programs for all ages should constantly be tried. The Recreation Dept in Ionia has been stagnant for many years.
36. New equipment that any age person can use. Adults love to swing and climb just like kids do. Cornhole, Croquet, disc golf, horseshoes, mini golf, or other types of tournaments. Maybe even set some parks up with things like that to do.
37. Yoga
38. Volleyball, 5k run, bike ride through town's historic district.

- 39. Cornhole
- 40. 5K, cornhole tournament
- 41. Cornhole tournaments
- 42. Youth sport samples in summer
- 43. NO
- 44. Walk
- 45. 0
- 46. Not sure
- 47. Frisbee golf
- 48. 5k run/ walk
- 49. Volleyball tournaments would be cool.
- 50. No
- 51. None
- 52. All of the suggested
- 53. Nothing
- 54. None
- 55. 5k
- 56. N/A
- 57. Beer Olympics, scavenger hunts, maybe something geared towards the elderly. A program for kids with special needs and kids with sensory needs (autism) would be a first I believe. We have a huge autism population as well as lot of kids with special needs. There isn't much in the county at all to serve those needs. Freedom Acres has an amazing principal as well as an adaptive pe teacher (with a masters degree) who would be more than willing to brainstorm. Angela miller principal, Emily Armentrout adaptive pe teacher. It would be amazing for those parents to be able to experience their child participating in a sport or event, getting the pics and all that goes with it.
- 58. Cornhole, badminton, family activity walking trail
- 59. Skate Park
- 60. Cornhole
- 61. Gymnastics, Tennis
- 62. Park clean up
- 63. Cornhole, beach volleyball, zombie walk
- 64. More community-involved events, fundraisers like Crop Walk or something. Work with the library to offer space for their programs
- 65. Volleyball
- 66. Yes, all the above.
- 67. Cornhole, volleyball, bike rides, races
- 68. Corn hole

69. Pickleball
70. No
71. Volleyball tournaments, 5k
72. Bike races
73. NA
74. Cornhole
75. Yoga, community art show, tai chi, nature walks and educational programs.
76. Cornhole tourneys, volleyball, disc golf,
77. Cornhole, 5k, color run, skeet shooting, archery classes, nature or science kid events
78. Youth bowling, Youth volleyball
79. Volleyball
80. Mini golf or Frisbee golf. One day events where kids can play parents sporting events (basketball, soccer ect)
81. Exercise courses (cardio drumming, yoga, etc.) bingo nights, ninja classes for kids,
82. Cornhole would be great! A 5k too!
83. 5k run/walk - pet friendly
84. Craft shows, craft nights, book clubs
85. Volleyball
86. Cornhole
87. All of the above
88. 5k's!!
89. Yer
90. camping and canoes
91. Cornhole tournament
92. Golf, water parks, corn hole tournaments, 5k run/walk, volunteer cleaning up trash and wastes
93. Unsure
94. Autism inclusive sports, walks for purpose (autism awareness, breast cancer etc.,)
95. Monthly 5k/walk-a-thons - everyone loves a fun t-shirt and supporting a cause. Maybe partner with the animal shelter, police/fire/911/prison, library, fair, hospital, and other heart of Ionia groups for themes? Maybe a monthly music in the park type event?
96. Bring back movie in the park
97. Cornhole would be awesome but i would love to see open gym time for kids more
98. Volleyball tournaments
99. Skateboarding
100. All of the above!
- 101.No
102. 5k for the city would be nice
103. Skateboarding
104. Sand volleyball would be awesome!
105. Activities outside of sports. Classes such as gardening, cooking, beekeeping, cpr training are just a few.
106. Anything new but I'd rather see the existing enhanced and better organized/advertised before new comes along.
107. Walk/Runs, Bike Rides, Geocaching Day or Week, Bowling League/Tournament
108. Cornhole Tournaments, 5k run/walk

QUESTION 13

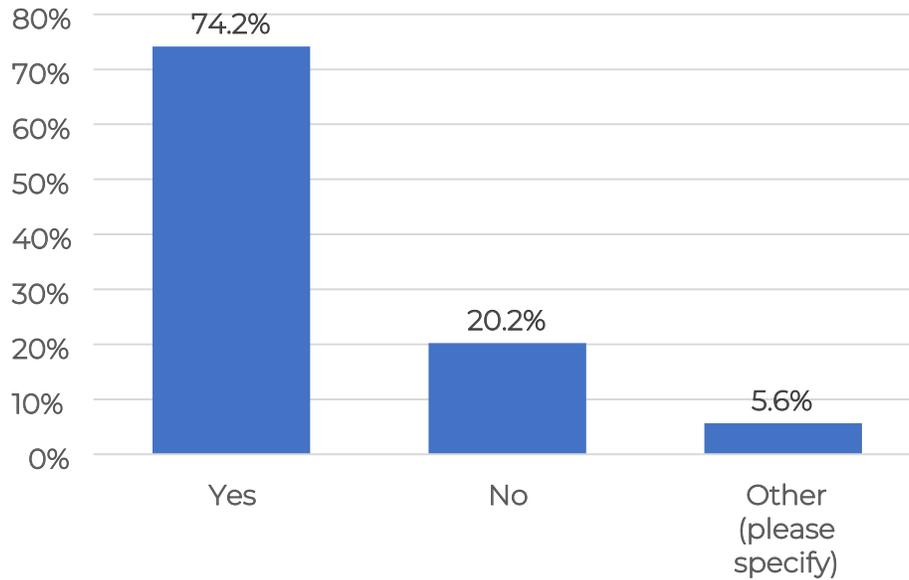
How adequately do you feel City residents are served by area recreation programming?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very adequately	21.97%	38
Adequately	60.12%	104
Inadequately	17.92%	31
	Answered	173
	Skipped	76

QUESTION 14

How adequately do you feel City residents are served by area recreation programming?



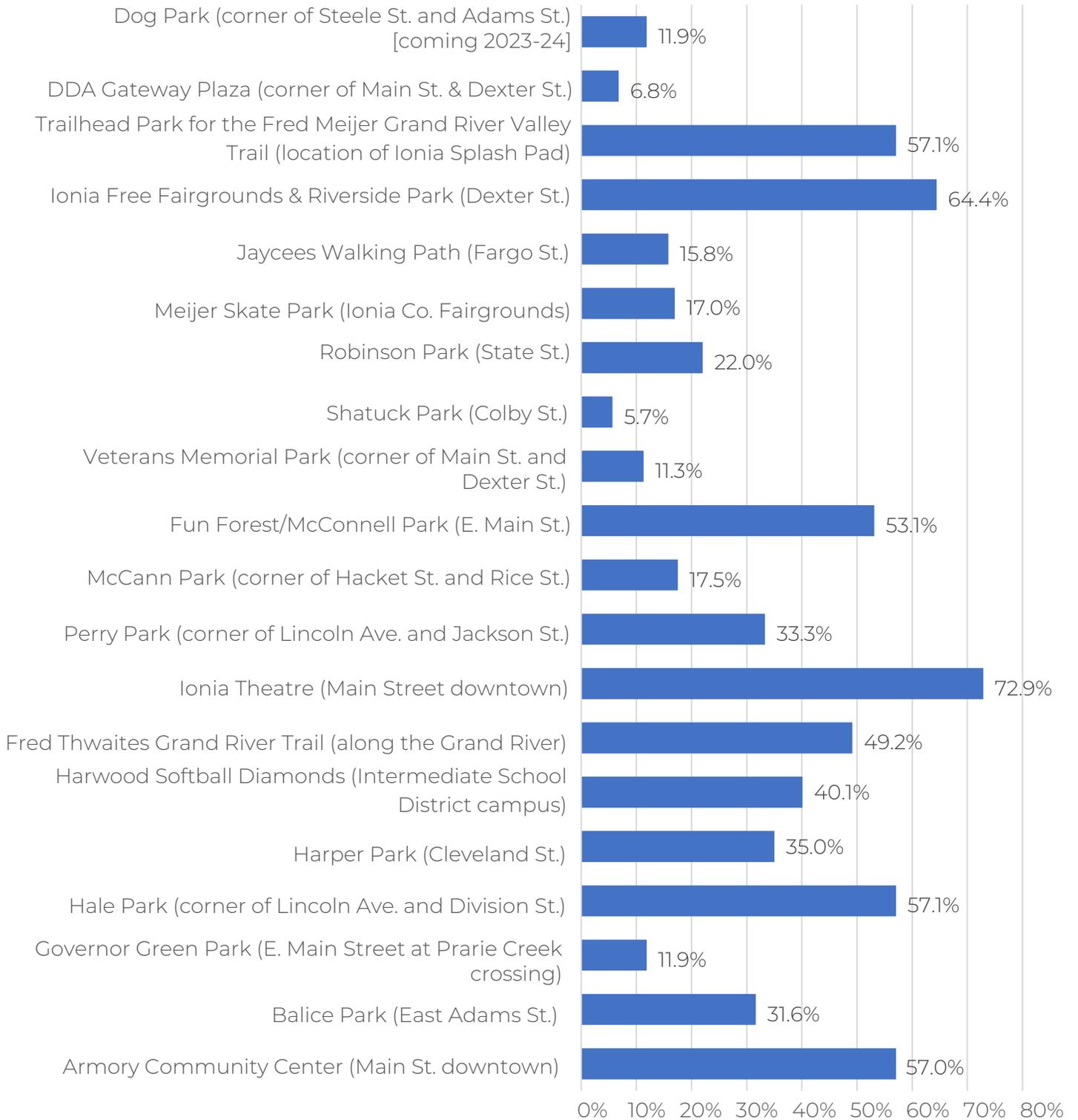
Answer Choices	Responses	
	Yes	74.16%
No	20.22%	36
Other (please specify)	5.62%	10
	Answered	178
	Skipped	71

Other Responses

1. Just moved here
2. River Trail
3. Bertha Brock and the trails by the wellfields
4. As often as time allows
5. I am trying to get to one or two every week this summer. I have been to Bertha Brock only.
6. Not anymore, to many homeless are allowed to flop anywhere around our kids. Parks, splash pads are not the place for them. Their meant for our KIDS.
7. With grandkids
8. River Trail
9. I used to, not anymore!!!
10. 3 to 4 attend

QUESTION 15

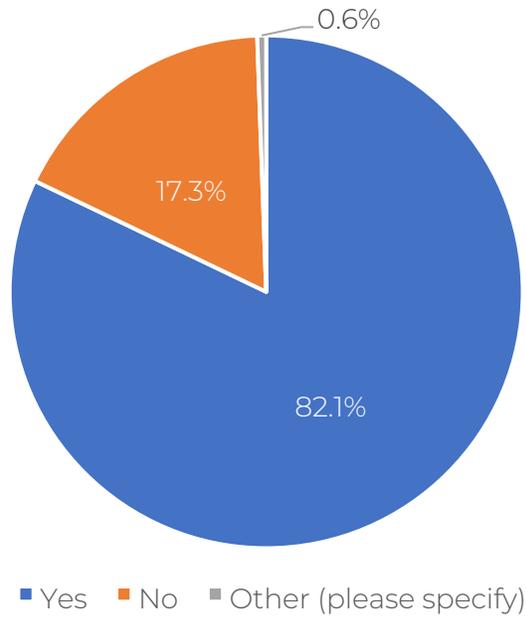
What parks or recreation facilities have you used before?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Armory Community Center (Main Street downtown)	57.06%	101
Balice Park (East Adams Street)	31.64%	56
Governor Green Park (E. Main Street at Prarie Creek crossing)	11.86%	21
Hale Park (corner of Lincoln Avenue and Division Street)	57.06%	101
Harper Park (Cleveland Street)	35.03%	62
Harwood Softball Diamonds (Intermediate School District campus)	40.11%	71
Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail (along the Grand River)	49.15%	87
Ionia Theatre (Main Street downtown)	72.88%	129
Perry Park (corner of Lincoln Avenue and Jackson Street)	33.33%	59
McCann Park (corner of Hacket Street and Rice Street)	17.51%	31
Fun Forest/McConnell Park (E. Main Street)	53.11%	94
Veterans Memorial Park (corner of Main St. and Dexter St.)	11.30%	20
Shatuck Park (Colby Street)	5.65%	10
Robinson Park (State Street)	22.03%	39
Meijer Skate Park (Ionia Co. Fairgrounds)	16.95%	30
Jaycees Walking Path (Fargo Street)	15.82%	28
Ionia Free Fairgrounds and Riverside Park (Dexter Street)	64.41%	114
Trailhead Park for the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trail (location of Ionia Splash Pad) (corner Dexter St. and Adams St.)	57.06%	101
DDA Gateway Plaza (corner of Main Street and Dexter Street)	6.78%	12
Dog Park (corner of Steele Street and Adams Street) [coming 2023-24]	11.86%	21
	Answered	177
	Skipped	72

QUESTION 16

Have you ever used the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Trail?



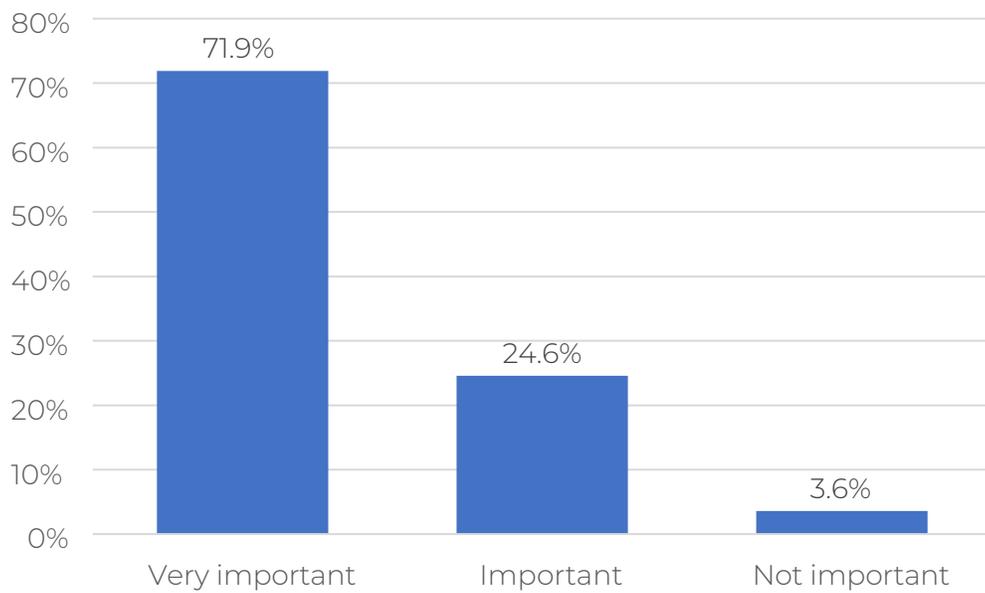
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	82.12%	147
No	17.32%	31
Other (please specify)	0.56%	1
	Answered	179
	Skipped	70

Other Responses

1. Just moved here but will use it definitely!

QUESTION 17

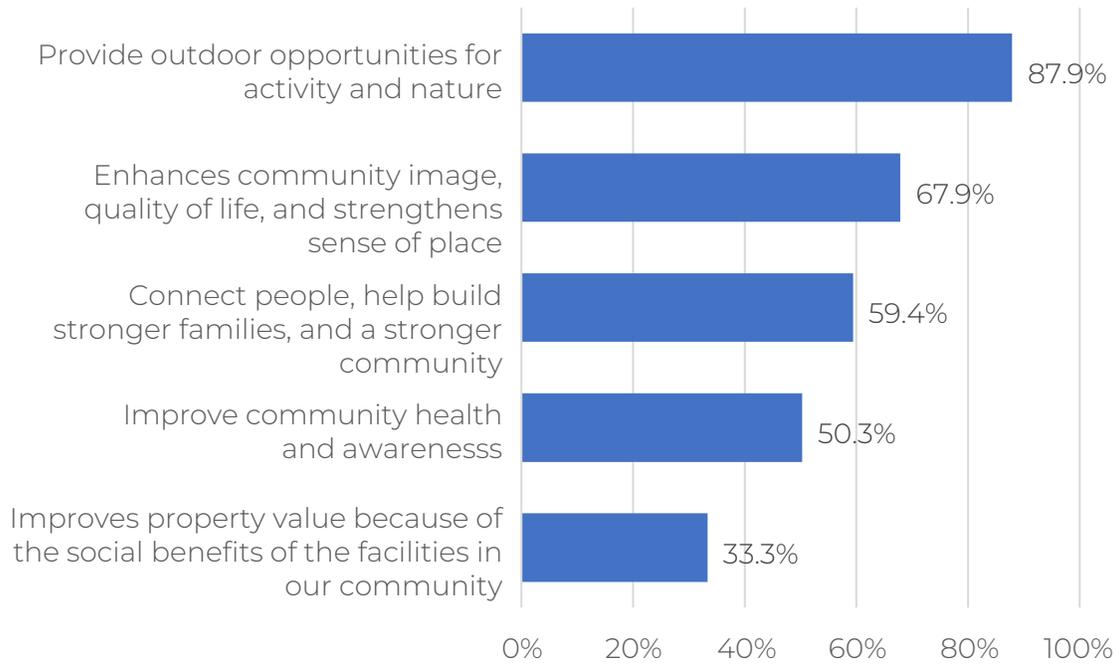
How important are parks, trails, recreations facilities, and open spaces to you and/or your household's quality of life experiences in the City of Ionia?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Very important	71.86%	120
Important	24.55%	41
Not important	3.59%	6
	Answered	167
	Skipped	82

QUESTION 18

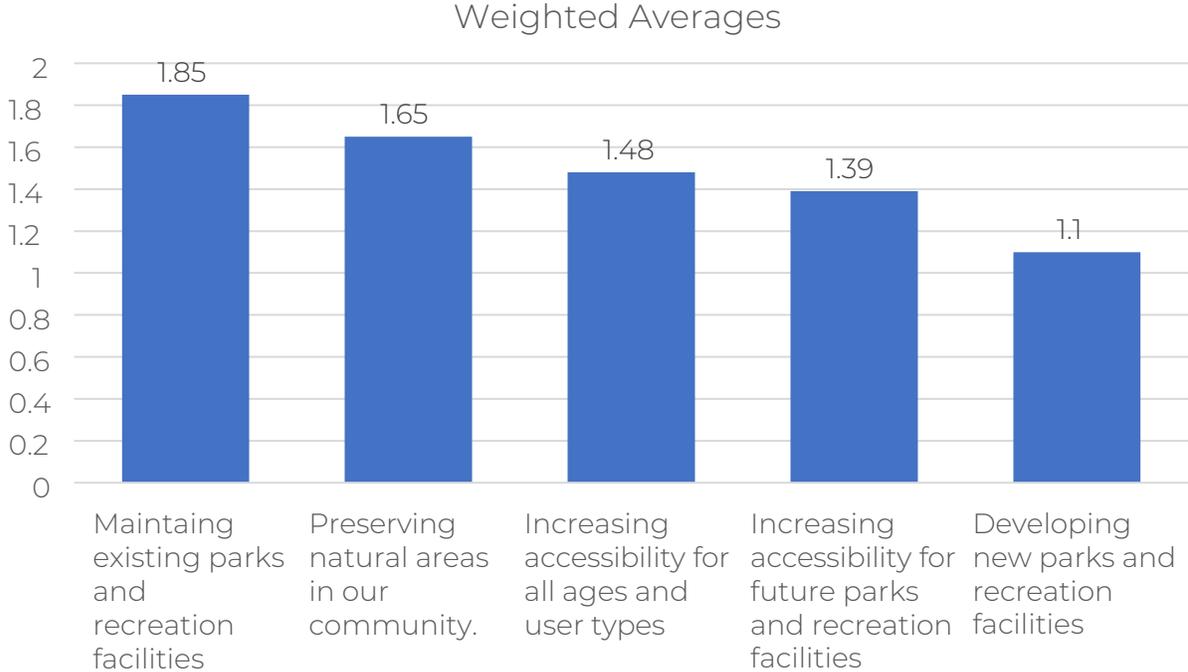
Most people believe parks and recreation facilities provide benefits to the community. Which benefits are most important to you? Please select three reasons.



Answer Choices	Responses	
Provide outdoor opportunities for activity and nature	87.88%	145
Improve community health and awareness	50.30%	83
Connect people, help build stronger families, and a stronger community	59.39%	98
Enhances community image, quality of life, and strengthens sense of place	67.88%	112
Improves property value because of the social benefits of the facilities in our community	33.33%	55
	Answered	165
	Skipped	84

QUESTION 19

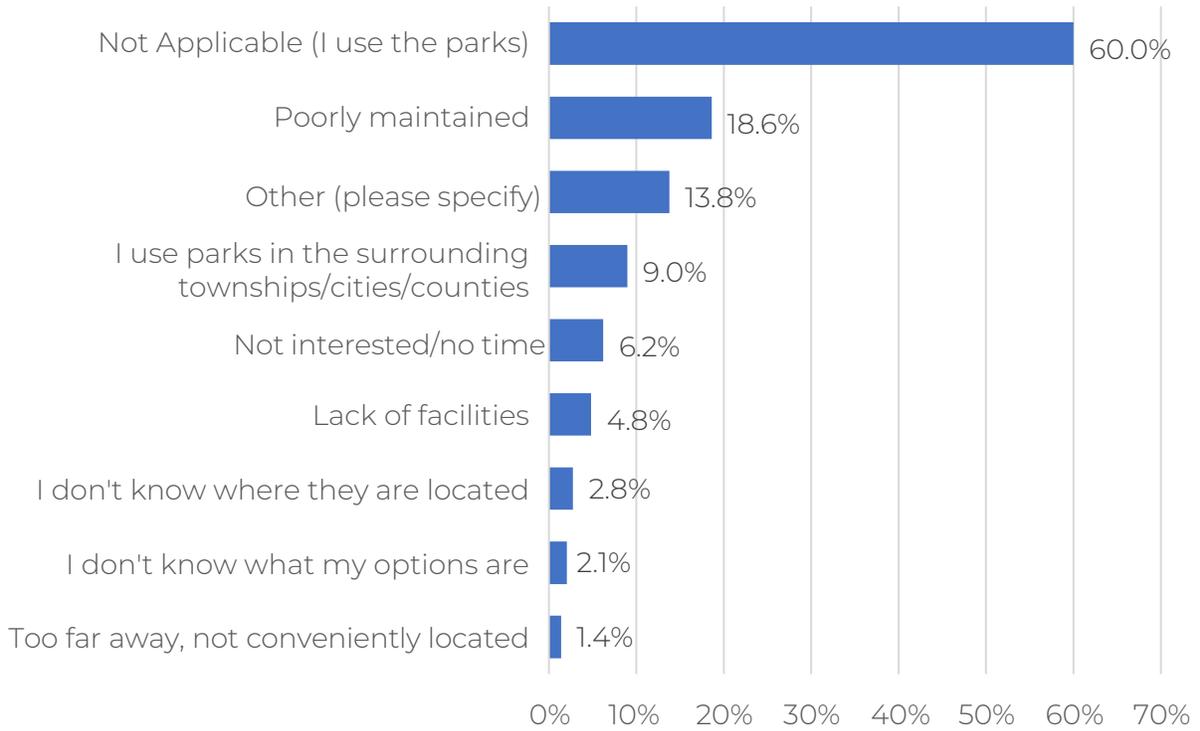
How important are the following in improving parks and recreation facilities in the City of Ionia?



	Very Important		Important		Not Important		Total	Weighted Average
Developing new parks and recreation facilities	37.58%	62	34.55%	57	27.88%	46	165	1.1
Maintaining existing parks and recreation facilities	85.54%	142	13.86%	23	0.60%	1	166	1.85
Increasing accessibility for future parks and recreation facilities	50.60%	84	37.35%	62	12.05%	20	166	1.39
Increasing accessibility for all ages and user types	56.29%	94	35.33%	59	8.38%	14	167	1.48
Preserving natural areas in our community.	67.66%	113	29.34%	49	2.99%	5	167	1.65
							Answered	167
							Skipped	82

QUESTION 20

If you currently do not use the parks or recreation facilities in the City of Ionia, what is the reason?



Answer Choices	Responses	
Not interested/no time	6.21%	9
Lack of facilities	4.83%	7
Poorly maintained	18.62%	27
Too far away, not conveniently located	1.38%	2
I use parks in the surrounding townships/cities counties	8.97%	13
I can't access them because I can't get there	0.00%	0
I don't know where they are located	2.76%	4
I don't know what my options are	2.07%	3
Not Applicable (I use the parks)	60.00%	87
Other (please specify)	13.79%	20
	Answered	145
	Skipped	104

Other Resonances

1. Some don't have restroom facilities or they are permanently locked.
2. Haven't had a need to lately
3. Safety
4. Again, homeless have been allowed to overtake the parks and walking path areas
5. No desire to hang out with junkies or play with their needles
6. Scared of the Homeless people
7. Will not be using to the splash pad anymore do to the homeless taking it over and bathing in it
8. We have used some parks sparingly, but they have a lot of trash and debris when we've been there
9. The splash pad has no hours of operation and desperately needs no smoking signs under the pavilion. There is nothing like watching you kids play and other people with no kids under the pavilion smoking joints. :-/
10. Email updates would be nice- not just Facebook or my water/sewer bill
11. N/A
12. Don't feel safe walking alone on the trails
13. The parks closest to our house are always full of unsupervised children that are misbehaving.
14. It's difficult finding a pathway for wheelchairs and strollers which we typically have with us.
15. Most parks not toddler friendly/ trash debris
16. Fear of needles, drugs, trash, bad actors
17. I primarily run the trails
18. You guys let people rent the parks for parties and they destroy them! Leave garbage everywhere and they occupy the entire park, no one else can play there. When they have cars parked up both sides of the street, you can't find parking for your own HOME!
19. The grounds are maintained fairly well but the buildings have not. I used the restroom at hail park last year and saw that it didn't have a toilet paper holder, soap and paper towel dispenser.
20. City needs more sidewalks to make access easier

QUESTION 21

What improvements would you like to see in the parks?

1. Cleanliness
2. Bathrooms and drinking fountains opened earlier in the season
3. Keep the parks cleaner, less graffiti
4. Bathrooms.
5. Updated facilities - unlock bathrooms longer
6. More and varied playground equipment.
7. Fixed broken play structures (Hale park). Maintain bees at fun forest and Hale park. Updated age friendly park. Play equipment for younger age children (2-4 years old).
8. Available restrooms, grills, better/more comfortable picnic tables, lots of shade trees and benches.
9. Maintaining the play equipment, trash cans regularly emptied
10. More organized special events
11. Clean up the parks
12. Signage re: the details of each park to help younger residents learn the city's history. When the park was established, info on namesake, etc.
13. Waiting for dog park.
14. Better maps connecting trails with parking locations
14. Park across from tennis courts get a ninja ware style play set. There is one in GR where the kids go in a circle working through the obstacles. Absolutely amazing kids want to get off their devices and practice elements individually or as a circuit and parents have fun too. I would love to workout alongside the kids if there was even parts for an adult. Parks ADA accessible (sponge mat, and one or 2 items for those individuals to be able to use) at least the ones by the tennis courts and across the street, and trail head splash pad with a bucket that dumps water, something for babies to play on
15. Dog park with obstacles like a big cement drain to run through, a tree to pee on, a bench for parents to sit on, a mini splash pad for dogs, a bin for toys to be kept in/ donated check out Alpena, MI dog park for reference
16. Add some adult workout stations
17. Better play equipment for younger children under age 5
18. Swings at Harper Park. Surveillance cameras for security

18. We are excited for the dog park and would love a community garden. The playground equipment at most parks needs to be updated and accessible. Most parks need significant help with being kept clean, especially the one down E Washington. The skate park is in need of an update to facilitate use. Would love to see more basketball courts at the current parks.
19. A proper restroom at each
20. Upkeep and maintain. New equipment. Beautifying. Clean bathroom options.
21. I would like to see more walking/running trails.
22. Better maintenance. Better facilities, courts, fields, etc...
23. More baseball fields, outdoor batting cage and soccer fields. The porta potty for the soccer field is too far away and not enough
24. I would like to see less natural spaces being mowed and paved over. If you're going to make a park, don't plant the most useless crop in the world, a lawn. Please don't develop more natural areas. Oh, and don't even get me started on HOW WE DIDN'T NEED A PETCO. We need some place where people can hang out that isn't a restaurant or a bar. An outdoor climbing wall. They did it in GR. Step up, Ionia.
25. N/A
26. Covered pavilions for picnics, Community Bandshell for performing
27. Bathrooms/ drinking fountain
28. No graffiti
29. McConnell Park needs to be updated and fixed.
30. Ice Hockey Rink
31. Parks are constantly messy. Vandalized. Homeless people using them. Overflowing trash. Security cameras are needed.
32. Camera system
33. Stop having people in charge threatening to punish children to not be able to play
34. More options for the Summer youth camp. 2-3 day option. Either extend the hours or have before/ after care for parents who work.
35. Baseball fields
36. I would like the smaller parks that are not as visible in neighborhoods to be taken care of the same way the big ones that can be seen from the street are. Neighborhood families need them and the opportunities they provide. I would also like the tennis and Pickleball courts cleaned and maintained.
37. More benches, picnic tables, shaded or covered areas.
38. Fix broken play structures. No sand in play areas. Bigger, newer play structures.
39. Safety. The pavilion by the splashpad often looks more like a homeless shelter. Our family doesn't go there very often because of all the people who hang around without kids. Also, upkeep of the equipment, especially the large wooded park on E. Washington.

40. Bathrooms ,drinking fountains, shade, well kept and feels safe, bike repair “towers” at trailheads, additional splash pad by hale park.
41. Weed control. Lots of dandelions in the lawns at the parks. Power wash or repaint Perry Park tennis courts. Better interior painting/cleaning of restroom facilities.
42. Better access for kayaks on the Grand River. Signs on bike trail/crossroads to know what business can be found downtown at that crossroad. Restaurants, ice cream, etc.
43. Maybe adjustable swings
44. For the homeless to find other PROPER places to hang and shower. Not where our children are supposed to safely play!
45. lock up the dopeheads
46. Not allowing the homeless people to sit at the water park or hang out around the kids and family's
47. Stop the homeless from using the water park across from Domino's as their personal showers and bathrooms.
48. A stop from pocket change encouraging homeless to bathe in the new splash pad
49. Regular cleaning and maintenance
50. Graffiti covered up in wooden park, repairs made to bouncy bridge at wooden park. Repair park by fair grounds. Hazardous and a bummer for the kids when things are broken.
51. All the parks to have bathrooms and accompanying facilities, not just the brand new one that's on 66 everyone sees. Also, why don't some parks have flood lights on all night?
52. Less graffiti, new equipment (paint is chipping)
53. More amenities-playscapes etc. Expanded splash pad/additional splash pad. Improved cleanliness
54. Usage stop of pesticides and herbicides.
55. Inclusive and wide age range development of play equipment. The park at freedom acres is a wonderful example.
56. Maintenance and clean
57. Better care of landscaping. Insect control. Refinishing of play structures. Maintaining condition of swingsets.
58. I would love to see them maintained everyday. With cameras. You have a ton of needles being found at multiple areas. I personally go to the playground out on Harwood at freedom acres. They have special swings and the ground is soft.
59. Posted signs for hours/rules. No smoking areas.
60. None

61. More regular cleaning/ sanitizing, possibly some sort of discouragement of drug/alcohol use on the grounds. Every time I've brought my daughter to a local park/rec area there have been discarded needles/beer cans that I've had to throw away. Just regular monitoring might lessen incidents.
62. Communication other than Facebook or with the quarterly sewer bill. Email notifications would be ideal. Or texts for sign-ups.
63. I quit going to fun Forrest because it was really gross with litter. That was years ago. I would say cleanliness and graffiti removal.
64. They are already great
65. Clean restrooms
66. More usable
67. More frequent cleanup of trash and graffiti
68. Modern updates that make sense
69. I would like to see parks that are maintained and not vandalized. I also think we need parks that suit all age groups.
Maybe another splash pad geared towards older kids so there is one for younger kids and older kids
70. Needs to be cleaner, last year we found blood by equipment and poop on the porta potty all over and dirty diapers, so many of them need to be built back up not any new ones, the one by the walk-in needs updates on almost every part and there's always so many bees and the sand flies that parents can't take the kids halfway thru summer by July/august the sand is covered in them
71. Trash pic- up and portal for people
72. Na
73. No graffiti
74. Bee remove
75. More benches for grandparents to sit.
76. Continued upgrades and additions throughout the City as a whole. The last 5-10 years have been great. The community appreciates the efforts.
77. New equipment, landscaping, naturescapes for playing
78. Updated equipment all around.
79. New, modern equipment at the parks. Went to awesome park up north that had ninja course for older kids. Equipment is the same in all the parks. Change it up. Intermediate school has some cool things to do. Need baby swings back in parks too.
80. Maintained better. Checks for wasps nest on playground equipment
81. Maintained.
No litter.

81. NA
82. Security
83. Outdoor stage/performance area, security cameras, interpretive signage, community garden space, pickleball courts,
84. 9-hole disc golf course in town
85. Drinking fountains and bathrooms at bigger parks. Monitoring of graffiti, proper lighting in the evening at parks.
86. None
87. Replace mulch and gravel, bring in some new sand. For example, Perry Park has lost a lot of its mulch and is down to the bare ground in some places. A lot of the sand at the parks is full of debris. The sand for the swing set and monkey bars at Hale Park is infested with ground bees during warmer weather.
88. more safety and security measures
89. Fun Forest to be updated, cleaned, and maintained regularly. My kids always want to go to that one but I usually have to make an excuse to pick a different one, the last few times we've been there it was littered with nasty things. Drug needles was a shocker and a reason alone not to return. Dirty wet underwear in of tunnels, huge bee hives, basic litter like Styrofoam cups. It's so sad.
90. It would be nice to have a fishing dock at the river. Possibly off of the river trail or at the fairgrounds. We see the one in saranac and would like an area or two in ionia also.
91. Accessibility for ALL would be wonderful for our community.
92. No broken or rusted or sharp parts that are dangerous. Park cleanups (trash, graffiti) updated equipment like the new park at the ISD
93. More toddler friendly, cleaner, basketball courts/ tennis courts/baseball/ kickball with donated equipment available
94. More restrooms and vending
95. Maintaining the parks that are already in Ionia.
96. Improvements to the equipment. A lot of them are older. More easily accessible for everyone.
97. A cleaning schedule for ALL parks and increased patrolling for people causing damage to the parks.
98. I would like to see them cleaned more regularly. It's been more than 1 year since I've noticed how filthy the park on Adams is, and have not seen a change or attempt to clean it as of yet. We even tried to clean it ourselves but had no luck (needs to be power washed I think). I would also GREATLY enjoy the basketball hoops to be replaced at Hale as well as lines painted for better basketball playing.
99. Balice needs shade. A large tree was removed and nothing put in its place. Balice is large, could use more playground equipment and picnic tables. The baby swing broke and nothing has replaced it so

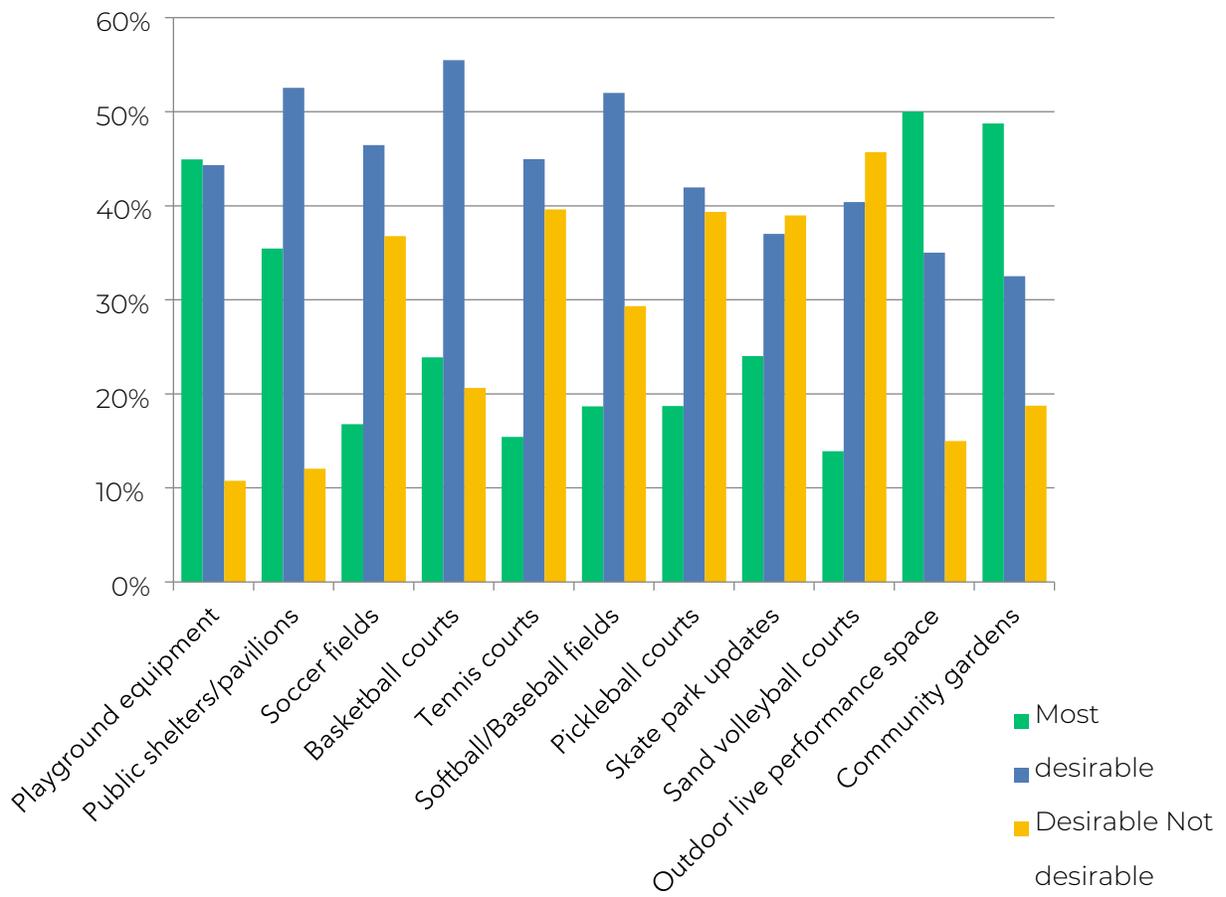
there's only three swings now.
Thank you.

100. More toddler friendly
101. To be able to have outdoor fun with large family and have places to sit and play games. Only option now is Cleveland Park
102. The ball fields need more maintenance. They are very rough and are going to cause a serious injury (tripping/ball taking a bad hop)
103. hiring young kids to clean, and learn basic maintenance skills
104. Somehow, parking. Nor really sure how, but Colby st gets very busy, and people park on both sides of the road (parking only allowed on one side).
105. Many of the parks need more maintenance- bees, trash, graffiti. They all have nice equipment but the grounds look messy. I know kids play and it can't look perfect all the time. Also, parks with drinking fountains and bathrooms would be great.
106. Wastes picked up, surveillances, supervision. more activities, more water parks, ice cream trucks! Kayaking, fishing parks
107. Clean, upgrade
108. Better care of the parks.
109. Snow plowing in the winter on the trails, at least in the city and maybe from Cleveland St to the Quarry. I know they can get icy, but they are not walkable after it snows and freezes. If the city could just plow once after it snows, maybe they would stay clear enough for winter walking. Hope this makes sense.
110. They need to be cleaned up & maintain equipment better
111. The coming dog park is amazing but I would love to see things like movies in the park and improvements to the skate park
112. Cleanliness
113. Newer playground equipment
114. A community garden would be amazing
115. Better maintenance.
116. I would love to see the city actually take care of their facilities! Letting people rent out the parks and facilities but not making sure that they clean up after themselves is irresponsible! You guys forget about the people who live in the neighborhoods surrounding the parks! Sometimes we can't find a place to park our car in the street because there are so many people having a party at the park. It is ridiculous!! They park on both sides of Chapman and Forest Street and it makes it very difficult to drive down the road!
117. I would like to see more safe and updated equipment to use at the skate park

118. More lighting including the trails in city limits.
119. A new disc golf course within walking distance from downtown! Maybe at the fairgrounds? Or near the grand river trail? Also, an automated complaint website for when problems are encountered at the parks i.e., broken glass. Modern bathroom facilities at more park locations. Clean up of prairie creek to make it usable again for kayakers and tubers!!!! TOP PRIORITY! Thank you for asking for our input.
120. My son is a skate boarder and I would like to see safer updated equipment at the skate park
121. Video surveillance. Water well trail needs the jay-cee equipment to be removed. Remove the ugly sign at 66 and main turn it into parking because that sign and fence is a joke. Outdoor entertainment areas.
122. We have many nice parks in Ionia. However, the Jaycees trail hasn't been properly maintained in well over a decade. The equipment has been in pieces and rotting for years. The stairway needs a lot of work. The shale/sharp stone pathway is uncomfortable to walk on- preferred it natural. Please do not replace with that same product again. Love the secluded feel of the trail, however. Appreciate that the city has kept the beautiful trees and brush. I'd like more adult recreation options at the parks. Would love shade trees on the Fred Meijer trail between Steele and Jefferson- it gets insanely hot in that stretch during summer months.
123. Ninja warrior style parks. A pay to rent balls with a refund when returned (like Aldi carts).
124. Sidewalks in adjacent neighborhoods because some streets (Forest Street for example) are narrow and hard for kids and dogs to walk on. Drivers have poor visibility due to hills and pedestrians have nowhere to get out of the way. Would send kids to park more if there were good sidewalks
125. Upgrade!! Add dog park, baseball fields, and soccer fields

QUESTION 22

How important are parks, trails, recreations facilities, and open spaces to you and/or your household's quality of life experiences in the City of Ionia?



	Most desirable		Desirable		Not desirable		Total
Playground equipment	44.94%	71	44.30%	70	10.76%	17	158
Public shelters/pavilions	35.44%	56	52.53%	83	12.03%	19	158
Soccer fields	16.77%	26	46.45%	72	36.77%	57	155
Basketball courts	23.87%	37	55.48%	86	20.65%	32	155
Tennis courts	15.44%	23	44.97%	67	39.60%	59	149
Softball/ Baseball fields	18.67%	28	52.00%	78	29.33%	44	150
Pickleball courts	18.71%	29	41.94%	65	39.35%	61	155
Skate park updates	24.03%	37	37.01%	57	38.96%	60	154
Sand volleyball courts	13.91%	21	40.40%	61	45.70%	69	151
Outdoor live performance space	50.00%	80	35.00%	56	15.00%	24	160
Community gardens	48.75%	78	32.50%	52	18.75%	30	160
						Answered	165
						Skipped	84

QUESTION 23

What is missing from our current park system that you would use if it could be reasonably added?

1. Watered and well-maintained soccer fields.
2. Not sure
3. Ice rink for skating and ice hockey. Facilities for roller hockey.
4. love the community gardens and tennis courts ideas!
5. Baseball and soccer fields
6. New playground equipment
7. Age friendly playground. I have started driving 30-40 minutes just to bring my kids to a park that they can all play together. Ionia has lots of parks that are amazing for older age kids but nothing for young kids or safe for young kids. I spend a lot of my time at the park with my kids and a lot more families would bring kids to the park if we had a safe playground that 2-year-olds and up could play on.
8. Grilling/picnic facilities, available restrooms, lighting for evening/early morning hikes and walking.
9. A way better skate park
10. Shuffleboard
11. Community gardens
12. A plan
13. community garden. Waiting on dog park
14. Ninja warrior type equipment
15. Community garden?
16. Activities for adults
17. Equipment for younger children
18. Gaga ball pit (look it up) Haynor School has one.
19. A community garden would be amazing but I feel like the thing that is missing most is in regard to keeping what we currently have maintained and clean.
20. Community garden
21. Dirt Walking/Running trails.
22. Outdoor live performance space
23. Ice Hockey
24. See answers to 21
25. An outdoor rock climbing/ bouldering wall. Please make it happen
26. Public pool
27. Outdoor band shell/ entertainment area
28. Community garden
29. New basketball court
30. Bike Rental System. For Example, the MoGo Bike system in Detroit.
31. Ice Hockey Rink

32. Ice rink. Even if it is seasonal so kids can learn to skate and play hockey in the winter. Even if it's just an overhang that keeps the snow off the ice. Ionia is located 45 minutes from an ice rink in all directions. We are in "no man's land" when it comes to hockey /skating opportunities for our youth. Same could be said for a roller hockey rink.
33. Indoor ice arena
34. More summer camp options for kids. Different weekly camp options throughout the summer vs signing up for 6 weeks. Hours that work better for working parents.
35. Baseball fields
36. More clean and updated Pickleball courts.
37. Bike paths and exercise/play equipment.
38. Community garden, sand volleyball, PARK NEXT TO LIBRARY
39. More groups for seniors

40. Just clean up the parks we do have. Make them look appealing and add some clean outhouses or something and we'd be fine.
41. Not sure
42. Security
43. Kids, mostly due to the druggies hanging out
44. Younger children's equipment
45. Not sure
46. Would love to see something like the Paul Hubbertson (may have spelled that incorrectly) park
47. Better bathroom facilities and shelter, community garden
48. More splash pad areas in a safer and less busy location
49. Waiting on dog park
50. Splash pad at more parks and bathrooms
51. More activities
52. Not all parks are inclusive or have a variety of age range equipment available.
53. The trash and gang markings gone. Treat for ticks and mosquitoes
54. Benches and shaded areas
55. Gardens, community compost, gardening classes
56. None
57. Better way to sign up and be notified. I do not rely on Facebook for communication notifications. I have been late for sign-ups due to not seeing a Facebook post.
58. A dog wash station.
A marked trail system around the little lake/pond at the gravel pits. Where the river trail ends at quarry rd. That paths are already there just unmarked. It's maybe a mile or so loop. Seems great for families and dogs. It's a meth factory, but maybe more traffic would weed them out. That would be great for the city.
59. Better restrooms
60. Pickleball leagues
61. Outdoor exercise equipment for adults
62. Disc Golf

63. Use more space at skate park and make it safe
64. Swimming pool/larger water park, disc golf
65. Sand Volleyball Courts
66. Basketball hoops that are taken care of at every park.
Parking should be used only for people utilizing the parks.
67. Bathrooms, more benches
68. Sand pit, another water park
69. Storywalk, definitely the dog park will be nice. More events held at the parks themselves, like a kickball game, or pickup basketball game outside.
70. Community garden
71. Nature playscapes
72. N/A
73. Seating or picnic tables.
74. looking forward to dog park.
75. Way to involve low-income kids in the camp low/no cost short i.e. one day activities (indoor & outdoor) for kids of various ages
76. Better playground equipment for all ages. Basketball hops for the young kids.
77. N/A
78. Benches
79. Gathering place for groups/ shelters
80. Community Vegetable Gardens, More Middle school and HS events
81. None
82. Community gardens
83. Nice landscaping, maybe flower pots or even plants that are super-easy to maintain and very hardy like hostas
84. Fishing docks at the river, dog park, bigger farmer's market, live music area, food truck lot.
85. Accessibility walkway, special needs swings, and bathrooms with changing tables (not stations)
86. Larger park or age based skate park for roller blades/skates, bikes, scooters. Soccer field
87. Music pavilion
88. More hiking trails, more play equipment
89. Another splash pad, the 1 in Ionia is not enough.
90. The dog park is a good start. Community gardens would be a great addition. An outdoor live performance space would be good, as long as it does not compete with the Free Fair.
91. Community gardens, more seating at all of the parks (most only have at the most one picnic table), better basketball court at Hale, more regular cleanings of not just the grounds - but the actual equipment as it is usually extremely dirty and covered with writing, adding a little free library to Hale or one of the parks, more dog waste stations along the trail and some at the parks too, the dog park, update the wooden park to be more aesthetically pleasing like the one in Carson City

91. Dog park
92. More restrooms, shaded areas...
93. Safe play for young kids
94. Batting cages.
95. better maintenance and more trash pick up
96. We loved movies in the park! Hoping they will come back.
97. Adult and kid activities, golfing. water parks, corn hole, putt-putt golf, men's homeless shelters, family shelters, not just a domestic for women because men have the same trauma as well, a public pool, animal parks
98. Walking trail that meanders in several acres as opposed to a straight trail that goes on for miles. Similar to the walking trail in Saranac by the river. And clean parks. Really don't like taking my kid to playgrounds only to find used needles. So we just don't go anymore. Maybe security cameras so people find other places to shoot up.
99. Sensory friendly park. Indoor park for winter months.
100. I would love a few more options for 3 mile paved walking routes, but love what we have now. Would love to see more trail maintenance care in winter, for those who can make it outside to enjoy the fresh air.
101. No answer
102. Bigger play structures
103. More places upon the trail to dispose of trash. I think this would help with people picking up after their dogs and children. It's never fun to walk a couple miles with a bag of dog poop in your hand.
104. Township residents paying more for our system.
105. More tennis courts. As far as I know you only own and operate the once set of courts over by division and hale park.
106. Better skate park
107. Public restrooms.
108. Same as above: A new disc golf course within walking distance from downtown! Maybe at the fairgrounds? Or near the grand river trail? Also, an automated complaint website for when problems are encountered at the parks i.e., broken glass. Modern bathroom facilities at more park locations. Clean up of prairie creek to make it usable again for kayakers and tubers!!!! TOP PRIORITY! Thank you for asking for our input.
109. I look forward to the dog park and would love to see a public space for music performances and entertainment
110. Outdoor entertainment area. Green space that isn't filled with things.
111. Outdoor entertainment area. A pavilion or amphitheater for outdoor plays/ music/ gatherings
112. A circular path around the playground for parents to walk while kids play.
113. Dog park (glad one is finally coming!!!), food forest park
114. Baseball and soccer fields

This page is intentionally left blank.

APPENDIX B

PARKS + RECREATION FUND

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024



RECREATION DEPARTMENT FUND

Revenues: Revenues are expected to total \$486,860 this fiscal year. The largest source of revenue for the Recreation Fund continues to be the transfer from the General Fund. This is proposed at \$375,000, a \$50,000 increase from the prior year. With an increase in staffing last fiscal year (from 1.6 FTEs to 2.0 FTEs), plans are underway to increase revenue derived from programming to help offset the required increase in General Fund support of the Recreation Department Fund.

Expenditures: Expenditures are proposed at \$497,000 for FY23-24, resulting in a funding gap of \$10,140, which will be covered by available fund balance. It is critical to note that fund balance will likely be exhausted at the end of FY23-24, necessitating an increase in revenues or decrease in expenditures for ensuing fiscal years. Given the discussion noted regarding the healthy operating status of the Solid Waste Fund, capacity exists to reduce the Solid Waste Fund special millage from 2.0 mills to 1.8 mills. The available 0.2 mills could then be reassigned as special millage to the Recreation Department Fund. Since one mill currently generates approximately \$125,000, 0.2 mills would result in \$25,000.

The largest expenditures in the Recreation Fund relate to staffing and parks maintenance. As noted, staffing increased part-way through FY 22-23 from 1.6 to 2.0 FTEs due to significant understaffing. The department remains understaffed by all normal industry standards. Equipment rental expenses increased by \$40,000 in FY21-22 when the subsidy provided by the Central Garage Fund for park mowing operations was discontinued.

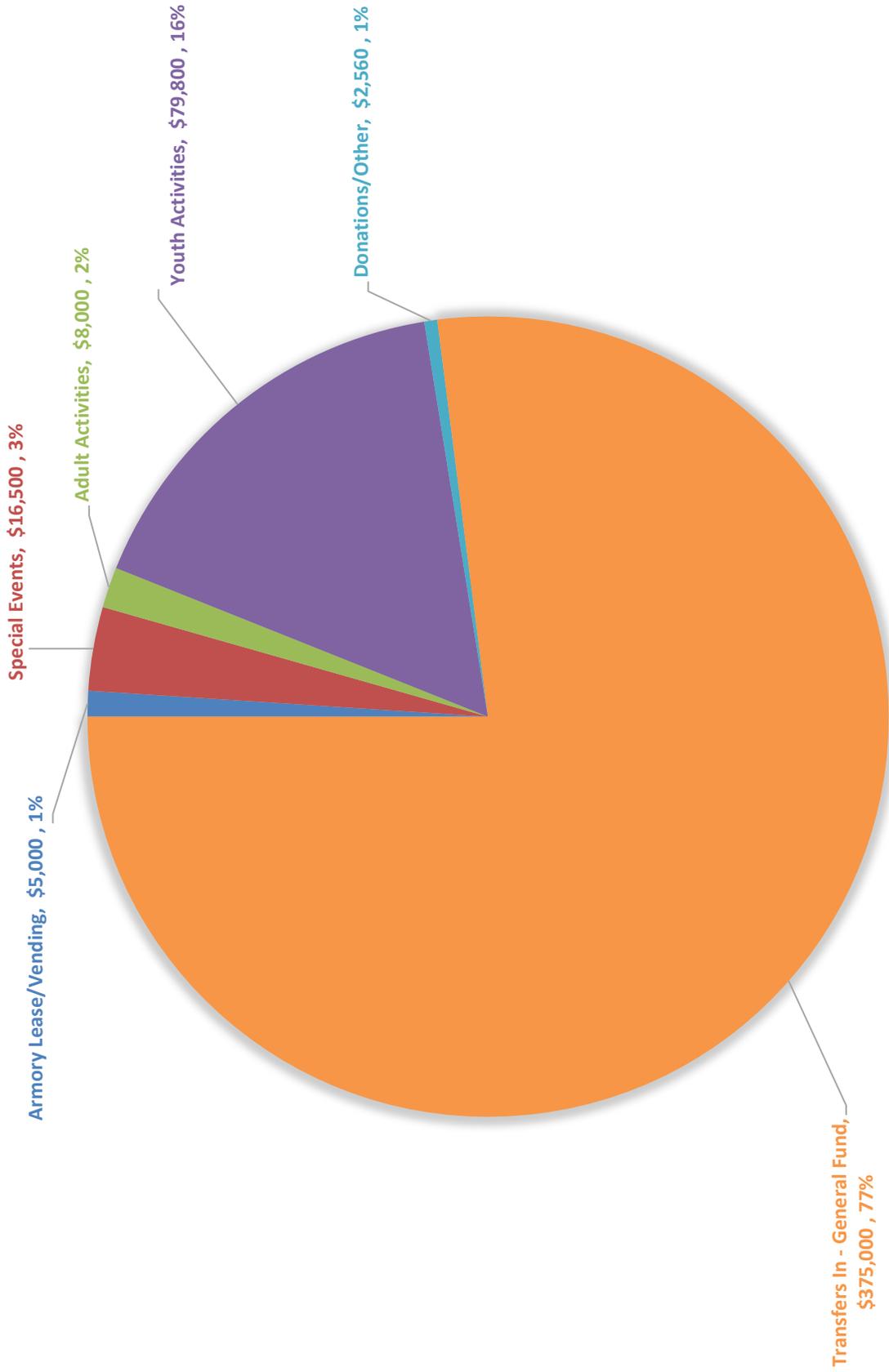
Debt/Financing: No debt is proposed to support Recreation Fund activities during this fiscal year.

THEATRE FUND:

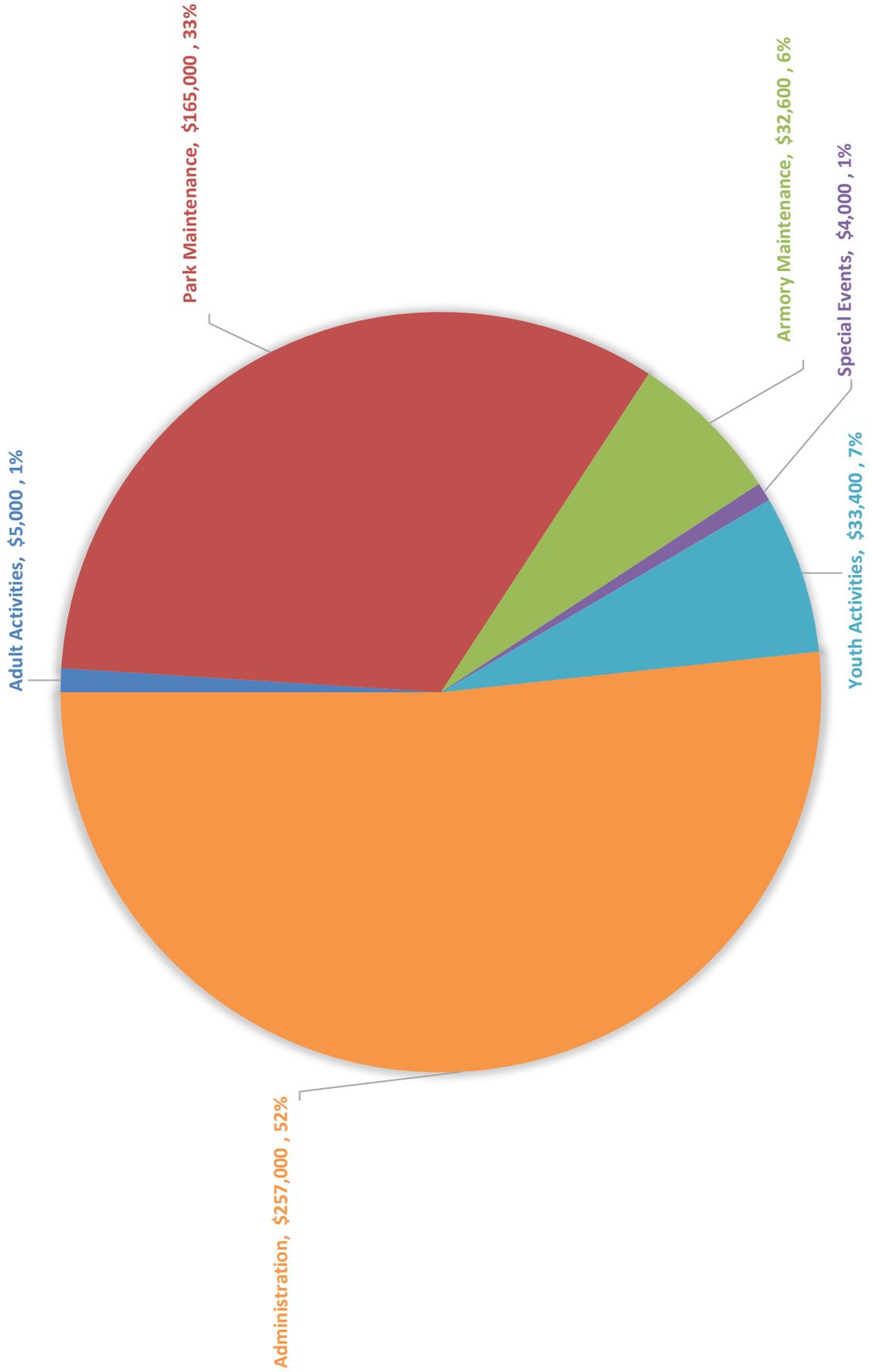
As mentioned in last year's budget transmittal letter, sustainability of the Theatre Fund is a growing concern that must be addressed. The FY23-24 Theatre Fund budget proposes revenues totaling \$196,600 and expenditures totaling \$283,200, resulting in an operating gap of \$86,600. This operating gap is expected to nearly exhaust available fund balance by year end. Currently, the City levies a special millage of one mill for theatre capital projects. As previously noted, one mill generates approximately \$125,000.

The Capital Improvement Plan currently includes \$550,000 in theatre projects over the next six years with \$401,000 of that derived from millage and the balance of \$149,000 from fundraising and/or grants. Over the next six years, one mill will generate \$750,000. If \$400,000 was retained from the millage for capital projects, that frees \$350,000, or approximately \$58,000 (0.45 mills) per year for operating purposes. This scenario theoretically balances the budget but assumes little to no growth in operating expenses and an aggressive fundraising operation. It goes without saying that every effort must also be taken to expand revenue-generating opportunities.

RECREATION REVENUES 2023-2024: \$486,860



**RECREATION EXPENDITURES
2023-2024: \$497,000**



GL Number	Description	20-21 Activity	21-22 Activity	22-23 Amended Budget	23-24 Recommended Budget
Fund: 249 RECREATION DEPARTMENT					
Estimated Revenues					
249-000.000-647.000	ADULT ACTIVITIES	5,295	7,380	12,000	8,000
249-000.000-648.000	YOUTH ACTIVITIES	28,316	50,365	65,000	75,000
249-000.000-648.100	YOUTH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION	-	4,823	4,800	4,800
249-000.000-652.000	SPECIAL EVENTS	2,183	6,104	18,500	16,500
249-000.000-665.000	INTEREST	92	20	60	60
249-000.000-674.000	ARMORY-LEASES:ROOMS,FLOORS	4,922	4,546	4,000	5,000
249-000.000-675.000	GIFTS DONATIONS	1,000	-	1,000	1,000
249-000.000-688.000	OTHER REVENUE	622	2,686	1,500	1,500
249-000.000-699.101	CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GENERAL FUN	250,000	335,000	340,000	375,000
Estimated Revenues		292,430	410,924	446,860	486,860
Appropriations					
Department: ADMINISTRATION					
249-536.000-702.000	SALARY & WAGES	98,067	101,026	128,000	133,500
249-536.000-702.009	SALARY & WAGES - SEASONAL	-	4,211	7,000	9,000
249-536.000-710.000	PAYROLL TAXES & FRINGE BENEFIT	61,616	59,739	85,000	92,000
249-536.000-727.000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	127	363	750	750
249-536.000-727.100	COPY MACHINE LEASE	896	873	1,000	1,000
249-536.000-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	8,830	7,850	8,000	8,000
249-536.000-850.000	COMMUNICATIONS	3,251	3,637	3,700	3,700
249-536.000-860.000	TRANSPORTATION AND TRAINING	213	495	750	750
249-536.000-861.000	MEMBERSHIP AND DUES	360	500	800	800
249-536.000-900.000	PUBLISHING	215	-	400	400
249-536.000-954.000	INSURANCE	6,310	6,638	6,700	6,700
249-536.000-956.001	SALES TAX	-	273	400	400
Total Department ADMINISTRATION:		179,884	185,606	242,500	257,000
Department: OPERATIONS					
249-560.000-751.000	SPECIAL EVENT ACTIVITIES	1,293	4,371	3,000	4,000
249-560.000-752.000	ADULT ACTIVITIES	4,148	4,400	6,500	5,000
249-560.000-753.000	YOUTH ACTIVITIES	21,097	28,063	28,000	30,000
249-560.000-762.313	YOUTH FOOTBALL ADVISORY BOARD	-	-	3,400	3,400
Total Department OPERATIONS:		26,539	36,834	40,900	42,400
Department: ARMORY					
249-755.000-702.000	SALARY & WAGES	1,099	749	1,500	1,500
249-755.000-707.000	CENTRAL GARAGE ALLOCATION	56	230	500	500
249-755.000-710.000	PAYROLL TAXES & FRINGE BENEFIT	612	566	1,000	1,000
249-755.000-775.000	REPAIR & MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	912	1,948	3,000	3,000

GL Number	Description	20-21 Activity	21-22 Activity	22-23 Amended Budget	23-24 Recommended Budget
249-755.000-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	5,018	4,710	5,000	5,000
249-755.000-920.000	PUBLIC UTILITIES	14,982	15,584	15,000	14,000
249-755.000-931.000	BUILDING REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	3,204	12,591	6,000	7,500
249-755.000-940.000	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	-	34	100	100
Total Department ARMORY:		25,883	36,412	32,100	32,600
Department: PARK MAINTENANCE					
249-770.000-707.000	CENTRAL GARAGE ALLOCATION	41,579	50,560	48,000	48,000
249-770.000-710.000	PAYROLL TAXES & FRINGE BENEFIT	26,291	36,382	29,000	29,000
249-770.000-740.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	3,855	3,054	3,000	3,500
Department: PARK MAINTENANCE					
249-770.000-801.000	CONTRACTUAL & PROFESSIONAL SEV	2,287	4,177	8,500	8,000
249-770.000-920.000	PUBLIC UTILITIES	6,568	6,107	6,500	6,500
249-770.000-940.000	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	26,737	66,762	70,000	70,000
Total Department PARK MAINTENANCE:		107,317	167,042	165,000	165,000
Appropriations		339,623	425,894	480,500	497,000
Fund 249 - RECREATION DEPARTMENT:					
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		292,430	410,924	446,860	486,860
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		339,623	425,894	480,500	497,000
NET OF REVENUES & APPROPRIATIONS:		(47,193)	(14,970)	(33,640)	(10,140)
BEG. FUND BALANCE		101,378	54,185	39,215	39,215
END FUND BALANCE		54,185	39,215	5,575	29,075

CITY OF IONIA
Fiscal Year 2023-2024
Budget Document

RECREATION FUND
Revenues

Line Item: Adult Activities
Line Item Number: 249-000-000-647.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$12,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$8,000
Description: Revenues received from adult programming. Revenue sources anticipated include adult summer softball, adult fall softball, City league basketball, and for adult open gym.

Line Item: Youth Activities
Line Item Number: 249-000-000-648.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$65,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$75,000
Description: Revenues received from youth programming. Revenues are expected from a variety of youth programs including soccer, t-ball, tackle football, summer day camp, Lil'Hoppers, flag football and revenues from other programs offered by the Department.

Line Item: Youth Football Association
Line Item Number: 249-000-000-648.100
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$4,800
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$4,800
Description: Revenues received from the Football Association through fundraising activities such as concessions and 50/50 ticket sales.

Line Item: Special Event Programs
Line Item Number: 249-000-000-652.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$18,500
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$16,500
Description: Revenues received from special events programming. Special events revenues include Zumba, Tae Kwan Do, the 5K race, and revenue from the corporate sponsorship program and other miscellaneous revenues.

Line Item: Interest Income
Line Item Number: 249-000-000-665.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$60
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$60
Description: Revenues received in the form of interest income reserves held by the Recreation Fund.

Line Item: Armory – Lease
Line Item Number: 249-000-000-674.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$4,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$5,000
Description: Revenues received from the rental of space at the Armory. This includes rental from the Marines and other miscellaneous rentals.

Line Item: Other Revenue
Line Item Number: 249-000-000-688.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$1,500
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$1,500
Description: Revenues received from park rentals.

Line Item: Contribution – General Fund
Line Item Number: 249-000-000-699.101
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$340,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$375,000
Description: Revenues received from the General Fund to offset Recreation Fund operations.

CITY OF IONIA
Fiscal Year 2023-2024
Budget Document

RECREATION FUND
Expenditures

ADMINISTRATION

Line Item: Salary and Wages
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-702.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$128,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$133,500

Description: Funds to cover the cost of wages and longevity payments for the Recreation Director and wages for Recreation Department employees.

Line Item: Salary and Wages - Seasonal
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-702.009
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$7,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$9,000

Description: Funds to cover the cost of part-time seasonal employees hired to assist with summer day camp (counselors).

Line Item: Payroll & Fringe Benefits
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-710.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$85,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$92,000

Description: Funds to cover the Social Security, health and dental insurance, life insurance, retirement, workers' compensation and unemployment insurance expenses for positions funded from this budget.

Line Item: Office Supplies
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-727.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$750
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$750
Description: Funds to cover the expenses associated with office supplies for the Recreation Department.

Line Item: Copy Machine Maintenance
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-727.100
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$1,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$1,000
Description: Funds to cover the quarterly maintenance contract expense for the copy machine used by the Recreation Department.

Line Item: Contractual and Professional Services
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-801.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$8,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$8,000
Description: Funds used to cover the Recreation Department's portion of the annual audit and other professional fees.

Line Item: Communications
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-850.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$3,700
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$3,700
Description: Funds used to cover the expenses associated with phone services at the Armory.

Line Item: Transportation and Training
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-860.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$750
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$750
Description: Funds used to cover expenses associated with staff training, including registration fees and associated travel expenses, if applicable.

Line Item: Membership and Dues
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-861.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$800
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$800
Description: Funds used to cover the membership expenses for Michigan Recreation and Parks Association, National Recreation and Parks Association, NAEIR.

Line Item: Publishing
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-900.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$400
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$400
Description: Funds to cover advertising expenses for the Recreation Department.

Line Item: Insurance
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-954.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$6,700
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$6,700
Description: Funds used to cover the annual insurance premium paid to the Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool.

Line Item: Sales Tax
Line Item Number: 249-536-000-956.001
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$400
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$400
Description: Funds used to cover the cost of sales tax associated with the concession items sold as part of the football program.

OPERATIONS

Line Item: Special Event Activities
Line Item Number: 249-560-000-751.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$3,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$4,000
Description: Funds to cover the cost of special events and activities such as Tae Kwon Do, Zumba, and other activities.

Line Item: Adult Activities
Line Item Number: 249-560-000-752.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$6,500
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$5,000
Description: Funds to cover the cost of adult activities

Line Item: Youth Activities
Line Item Number: 249-560-000-753.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$28,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$30,000
Description: Funds to cover the cost of youth activities.

Line Item: Youth Football Advisory Board
Line Item Number: 249-560-000-762.313
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$3,400
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$3,400
Description: Funds to cover expenses associated with the youth football program.

ARMORY

Line Item: Salary & Wages
Line Item Number: 249-755-000-702.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$1,500
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$1,500
Description: Funds to cover the cost of DPU staff providing maintenance and repair services for the Armory boiler.

Line Item: Central Garage Allocation
Line Item Number: 249-755-000-707.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$500
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$500
Description: Funds paid to the Central Garage Fund and utility funds to cover the cost of Public Works Department/Public Utilities Department employees performing maintenance at the Armory.

Line Item: Payroll Taxes & Fringe Benefits
Line Item Number: 249-755-000-710.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$1,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$1,000
Description: Funds to cover the cost of payroll taxes and fringe benefits for DPU staff providing maintenance and repair services for the Armory boiler.

Line Item: Repair and Maintenance
Line Item Number: 249-755-000-775.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$3,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$3,000
Description: Funds to cover the cost of cleaning and other supplies for the on-going maintenance of the Armory.

Line Item: Contractual and Professional Services
Line Item Number: 249-755-000-801.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$5,500
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$5,000
Description: Funds to cover the contractual service expenses associated with the maintenance of the Armory. This includes the annual service contract on the elevator, annual expense for pest control and trash service expense.

Line Item: Public Utilities
Line Item Number: 249-755-000-920.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$15,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$14,000
Description: Funds to cover the natural gas and electricity expenses associated with operating the Armory.

Line Item: Building Repair and Maintenance
Line Item Number: 249-755-000-931.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$6,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$7,500
Description: Funds to cover basic repair costs at the Armory.

PARKS MAINTENANCE

Line Item: Central Garage Allocation

Line Item Number: 249-770-000-707.000

Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$48,000

New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$48,000

Description: Funds to cover the cost of having Public Works Department staff complete repair and maintenance work to the parks system, including the cutting of grass.

Line Item: Payroll Taxes & Fringe Benefits

Line Item Number: 249-770-000-710.000

Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$29,000

New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$29,000

Description: Funds used to cover the fringe benefits expenses associated with the Public Works Department staff that work in the parks.

Line Item: Operating Supplies

Line Item Number: 249-770-000-740.000

Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$3,000

New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$3,500

Description: Funds to cover the operating supply expenses associated with parks system.

Line Item: Contractual and Professional Services

Line Item Number: 249-770-000-801.000

Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$8,500

New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$8,000

Description: Funds to cover the cost of fertilizer and herbicide applications at certain parks.

Line Item: Public Utilities

Line Item Number: 249-770-000-920.000

Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$6,500

New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$6,500

Description: Funds to cover the electricity costs at certain parks, this includes Harwood fields, Hale Park, Perry Park, McCann Park and McConnell Park.

Line Item: Equipment Rental
Line Item Number: 249-770-000-940.000
Current Fiscal Year Adopted: \$70,000
New Fiscal Year Recommended: \$70,000
Description: Funds to cover the cost leasing the Gator and two mowers from John Deere, porta potty rental for the parks and funds for renting equipment from the Central Garage for parks maintenance.

APPENDIX C

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION





COUNTY OF IONIA, MICHIGAN

At a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Ionia, held at the Ionia City Hall, 114 North Kidd Street, Ionia, Michigan, on the 6th day of December 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Waterman, Gustafson, Millard, Lee, Videtich, Winters, Milewski, and Balice.

ABSENT: Starr.

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Councilmember Gustafson and seconded by Councilmember Millard.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2024 – 2028 CITY OF IONIA
PARKS & RECREATION PLAN”**

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia recently undertook a process to comprehensively update its Parks & Recreation Plan covering a five-year period from 2024 through 2028, in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Ionia and surrounding areas were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the public was further given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft plan for a period of at least 30 days; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held by the City of Ionia Planning Commission on October 11, 2023, followed by a public hearing on December 6, 2023 at the regular Ionia City Council meeting to provide opportunity for all residents and interested parties to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the 2024 – 2028 City of Ionia Parks & Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan was developed as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation throughout the City of Ionia; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the City Council of the City of Ionia voted to adopt said 2024 – 2028 City of Ionia Parks & Recreation Plan;

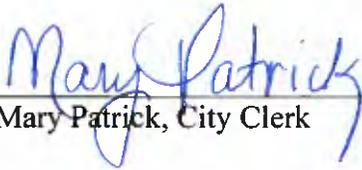
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of the City of Ionia hereby adopts the 2024 – 2028 City of Ionia Parks & Recreation Plan.

Upon a call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Waterman, Gustafson, Millard, Lee, Videtich, Winters, Milewski, and Balice.
NAYS: None.

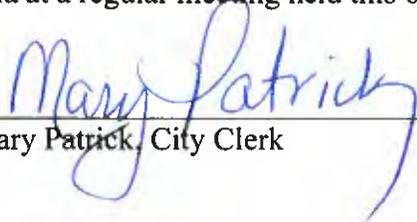
ABSENT: Starr.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.



Mary Patrick, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION: I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Ionia at a regular meeting held this 6th day of December, 2023.



Mary Patrick, City Clerk



This page is intentionally left blank.

APPENDIX D

MEETING AGENDAS





**CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
7:00 PM, Wednesday – December 6, 2023
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ROLL CALL**

I. Approval of Agenda

II. Approval of Minutes November 1, 2023 – Regular Meeting

III. Proclamations – None

IV. Public Comments – Section 3.02 of the City Council’s Rules of Order and Conduct for City Council Meetings provides opportunity for the public to address Council during the Public Comment section identified on the agenda. Your opportunity to speak occurs after you have been recognized by the Mayor. When addressing Council please state your name and address. Comments are limited to 5 minutes unless additional time (up to 10 minutes) is granted by the Mayor.

V. Public Hearings and Associated Action

1. Public Hearing to receive comments on the proposed 2024-2028 Parks & Recreation Plan.
Action Required– Decision to approve or reject Resolution 2023-21, a Resolution to Adopt 2024 – 2028 City of Ionia Parks & Recreation Plan.

VI. Communications

1. Presentation of the City of Ionia Financial Statements for the year ended June 30, 2023 by Peter Haefner, CPA of Vredeveld Haefner LLC

VII. City Manager’s Report

1. *Action Required* - Conduct first reading and set public hearing to receive comments on Ordinance No. 579 – An ordinance to amend Part 16, Chapter 1612 – Entitled “Reimbursement Fund for Fire Response,” specifically Sections 1612.01 through 1612.09, inclusive, of said Codified Ordinances of the City of Ionia.
2. *Action Required* – Dog Park Project
3. *Action Required* – WWTP Asset Management Plan Update
4. *Action Required* – License Agreement – 340 W Main Street
5. *Action Required* – Assessing Policies Updates - Policies 6-006 and 6-007
6. *Action Required* – Finance Policy Addition – Policy 2-015 User Fees & Fines
7. *Action Required* – 2024 Combined Meeting Schedule



CITY OF IONIA

**PARKS + RECREATION
PLAN 2023**