

2024-  
2028

# Grand Traverse County Parks Recreation Plan



Grand Traverse County Parks and  
Recreation Commission  
2024-2028

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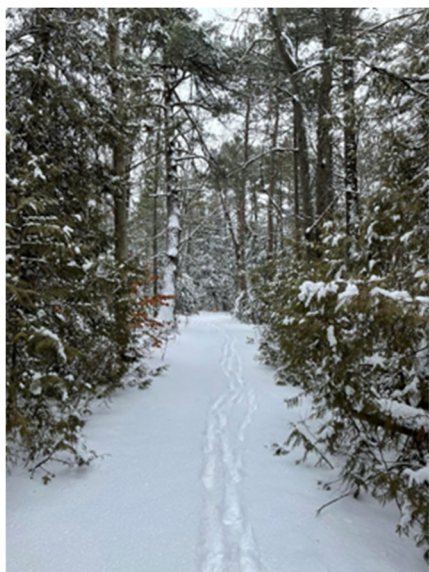
## Community Description

The purpose of the *2024-2028 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Plan* is to guide future decisions about recreational facilities, parkland, and properties of Grand Traverse County, Michigan. This plan focuses on all aspects of parks and recreation within the County, from land and trail acquisitions, infrastructure development, and facilities improvements.

Grand Traverse County occupies approximately 601 square miles in the northwest corner of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Of this, 464 square miles is land, and 137 square miles is water. Its landscapes features rolling and hilly forest uplands, extensive wetlands and low areas, numerous inland lakes and streams, and the shorelines of East and West Grand Traverse Bay. The Boardman River, considered one of the top trout streams in Michigan, bisects the County as its outlets into the Bay. The influence of glacial activity is clear in the outwash plains and steep gravel and clay slopes that make up most of the southern two-thirds of the County. With a high point of 1,214 feet in land elevation and 620 feet in depth in Grand Traverse Bay, these geographies lend special character to the County – lofty vistas of the bay, deep and cold lakes, and farmlands, and deep wooded valleys.



*Civic Center - Howe Arena and Easling Pool*



*Maple Bay Preserve and Natural Area in winter*

Grand Traverse County residents and visitors enjoy some of the most beautiful countryside in the Midwest. The citizens of the County take advantage of a generally healthy economy and a quality of life that offers the amenities of a modern urban environment that is near the unspoiled natural resources of the region. The various jurisdictions within the County have proven more than willing to cooperate with the County Parks and Recreation Commission to develop and operate park facilities to the benefit of all who live in and visit the region.

The benefits and natural amenities of life in Grand Traverse County have not gone unnoticed. The community is among the fastest growing in the state.

Grand Traverse County, Michigan is the 22nd largest of Michigan's 83 counties. The county's population grew from 86,986 in 2010 to 93,952 in 2020, a gain of 6,602 (8%), making it the third fastest growing county during the period. Growth continues with the 2023 estimated population reaching 97,713. As a result, many of the unique features, the natural resources, and the quality of life

in the County are at risk. The community desires a balance of growth by protecting the area's unique resources but wants to assure all its citizens that the economic and cultural advantages of life in the County are within their reach.

While there are many opportunities for passive recreation throughout the County, there is a growing demand for active recreational opportunities for both families and the senior community. Higher concentrations of the senior population live at the northern end of the County, and higher numbers of families with young children tend to live at the southern end of the County.

Grand Traverse County, nestled in the heart of Northern Michigan, is undeniably a picturesque and sought-after place to call home. With its breathtaking landscapes, vibrant communities, and access to the stunning shores of Lake Michigan, it's no wonder that many are drawn to this region. However, beneath its natural beauty lies an array of pressing challenges that demand attention and action.



*Fall harvest at Maple Bay Preserve and Natural Area*

One of the growing issues facing Grand Traverse County is the growing disparity between wages and cost of living increases regionally. As a tourism dependent region, the wages paid by those jobs are often not sufficient to meet the local housing and general cost of living in the area. According to the US Census Bureau, the poverty rate in the county stands at 8.8%, lower than the state average of 13.1% but the percentage continues to grow. Poverty isn't merely an economic struggle; it's a multifaceted problem linked to poor health, limited access to education, and an increased risk of crime. As the county continues to evolve, addressing the needs of its economically disadvantaged residents becomes paramount.

Homelessness is another formidable challenge confronting the county, with approximately 200 homeless individuals estimated to be residing within its borders, with the majority being concentrated in Traverse City. Homelessness amplifies the difficulties of securing employment, acquiring an education, and maintaining good health. In such a prosperous region, finding sustainable solutions to this issue is a moral and social imperative.

Substance use disorder and mental health concerns add to the complexity of the largely rural county's challenges. High rates of opioid addiction have led to overdose deaths and an increase in crime. Mental health issues, including a higher-than-average suicide rate, impact individuals' personal lives and hinder their participation in the workforce and educational pursuits. A comprehensive approach to substance abuse and mental health support is vital to help residents regain stability and wellbeing.

Traffic congestion is a growing problem in Grand Traverse County, a reflection of its increasing popularity and population growth. The strain on roads not only makes it challenging to navigate the area but also contributes to air pollution, which affects the environment and public health. Furthermore, climate change exacerbates the region's difficulties with extreme weather events, rising Great Lakes, and other environmental challenges.

In addition to these challenges, Grand Traverse County grapples with affordable housing shortages, aging infrastructure, competition for economic development opportunities, and the delicate balance between tourism and environmental preservation. Despite these issues, the county's commitment to



addressing its challenges and preserving its natural splendor is evident. While the path forward is complex, the community's resilience and determination offer hope that Grand Traverse County will continue to evolve as a thriving and sustainable region that benefits all its residents.

## **Administrative Structure**

This section describes how park and recreation management, and operations are carried out in Grand Traverse County. Included in this section are descriptions of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Department, partnerships and collaborations related to the management and operations of public recreation areas, and budget information.

### **Grand Traverse County**

In 1977, Grand Traverse County established the Parks and Recreation Commission, which operates under and in compliance with state law, Act 261 of the Public Acts of 1965, as amended. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a public body of the existing local government, ultimately subject to the supervision of the County Board and all applicable laws. Legal advice is provided by third-party civil counsel.

### **Parks and Recreation Commission**

Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation is a department overseen and supervised by a commission of nine members, with staggered terms. Members are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners. The Parks and Recreation Commission monitors the activities of the Department Director and associated personnel, makes decisions about the nine properties it stewards. The mission of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to “enhance community and quality of life through people, parks and programs.”

### **Parks and Recreation Department**

Appointed by the County Administrator, the Director of Parks and Recreation is charged with the task of overseeing and directing the Parks and Recreation Department and to carry out the goals and objectives established by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission’s directives are outlined in its current Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, and in this *2024-2028 Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Master Plan*.

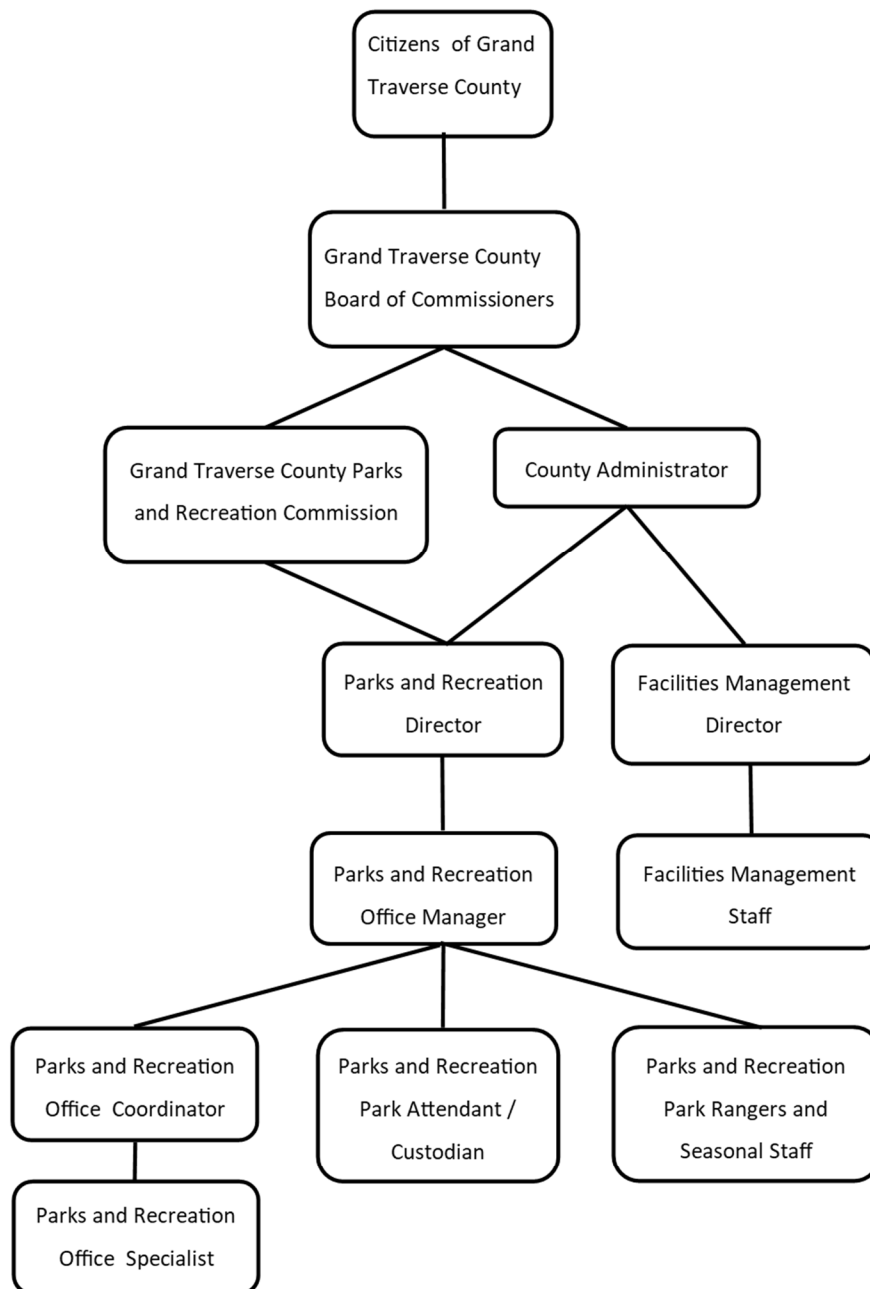
In addition to the Director, the department is staffed by three additional full-time, one permanent part-time, and several seasonal part-time team members. The administrative office is housed in the County’s Civic Center Building.

### **Facilities Management Department**

The Director of Facilities Management is charged with overseeing the County’s Facilities Management Department. Although this is a department separate from Parks and Recreation, with a separate budget, its staff works closely with Parks and Recreation to ensure that its parks and facilities are clean and well-maintained. Facilities Management staff are also responsible for the maintenance duties related to all the County’s facilities. The department has 8 skilled employees, including electricians, carpenters, groundskeepers, plumbers, welders, and HVAC technicians who provided services to the Parks and Recreation Department. Today, Facilities Management subcontracts many of its services as a strategy to maintain cost control and existing staff can use their unique talents. The Facilities Management Director works in conjunction with the Director of Parks and Recreation and is supervised by the County Administrator.

## Parks and Recreation - Organizational Chart

The following organizational chart shows the relationships and flow of information among named County departments and governing bodies.



*Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Organization Chart*

## **Parks and Recreation Funding Overview**

The Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners is responsible for the overall supervision and budgetary support of the Parks and Recreation Department. Accounting for the department is provided by the County's Finance Department.

Parks and Recreation operates on a combination of revenue generated from park facility short and long-term rentals and an annual allocation from both the Grand Traverse County's General Fund and Capital Improvement Fund. These sources are used to support operations and maintain and improve parks and facilities. During the past five years, the amount of General Fund dollars transferred to Parks and Recreation has fluctuated between \$328,422 at the lowest, and \$538,422 at the highest.

Parks and Recreation has been developing relationships with numerous partners for recurring facility rentals and on-property tenancy to benefit park users. These partnerships grow park revenues and reduce reliance on General Fund dollars to fund park operations.

Parks and Recreation also actively seeks grants and private donations to fund park improvements. Grant awards have ranged from \$0 in 2022 to \$1,034,299 in 2023.

The Facilities Management Department's budget, separate from that of Parks and Recreation, includes line items for parks maintenance and utilities. This budget includes staff labor and contractual agreements to support property and building maintenance.

The department consistently measures performance by reviewing the allocated budget vs. actuals and projections to ensure proper stewardship of the assets under management. Further, comparisons are drawn between departmental operating statistics and national benchmarks to gauge performance relative to peer agencies. Self-funding percentage, defined as the amount of total departmental operating revenue generated from park operations excluding grants, reached 36% in FY 2022. The national median self-funding percentage for county park agencies for 2022 was 19%.

Table 1 below includes:

- Parks and Recreation budget (actual revenue and expenditures) between fiscal years 2019 and 2022 and the approved 2023 budget.
- Actual expenditures between 2019 and 2022 by Facilities Management for park maintenance and the department's approved budget expenditures for 2023.
- Capital expenditure allocations to support park properties. Funding for these expenditures has historically come from a combination of park operating funds and the County's Capital Improvement Fund.



Table 1: Park and Recreation Budget and Capital Expenditures 2019-2023

<b>Parks and Recreation</b>	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2022 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2023 Approved</b>
<b>Revenues</b>	\$865,578.00	\$ 564,923.00	\$556,643.00	\$696,008.00	\$852,722.00
<b>Expenditures</b>	\$864,006.00	\$545,114.00	\$617,084.00	\$707,383.00	\$852,722.00
<b>General fund allocation</b>	\$340,183.00	\$ 328,422.00	\$328,422.00	\$442,422.00	\$538,422.00

<b>Facilities Management</b>	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2022 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2023 Approved</b>
<b>Expenditures for park maintenance</b>	\$296,287.00	\$273,266.00	\$338,171.00	\$317,045.00	\$325,470.00

<b>Capital Improvements by funding source</b>	<b>FY 2019 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2020 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2021 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2022 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2023 Approved</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund</b>	\$0.00	\$76,670.00	\$23,465.00	\$162,890.00	\$180,000.00
<b>Park operations</b>	\$251,601.00	\$26,230.00	\$9,150.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00

## Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grant History

Following is a history of MDNR grants that funded park projects.

Project Number: 26-00500

Year: 1973

Title: Civic Center Park (formerly Grand Traverse Recreation Center)

Amount: \$150,000

Scope: Baseball/football field lighting

Fencing

General lighting

Parking lot

Playground equipment

Restroom building

Roadway

Water service to building

Description: Develop 40 acres to include construction of a new access road, parking for 300 cars, lighting, restroom building, 5 ballfields with fencing, backstops, and lighting, picnic area, site preparation, demolition, lawn sprinkler, wiring, sanitary sewer etc.

Project Number: 26-01023 X1

Year: 1977

Title: Nature Education Reserve Bridge

Amount: \$16,300

Scope: Wooden foot bridge

Description: Wooden bridge across the Boardman River in the Grand Traverse County Nature Education Reserve.

Project Number: BF89-398

Year: 1989

Title: Civic Center Pool Renovations

Amount: \$60,000

Scope: Water and heating plumbing

Description: Civic Center Pool renovation.

Project Number: BF89-628

Year: 1989

Title: Civic Center Jogging Path

Amount: \$62,250

Scope: Lighting for path

Description: Install lighting for existing one mile jogging/walking path which circles the Civic Center property.

Project Number: BF90-349

Year: 1990

Title: Bartlett Road Park

Amount: \$94,600

Scope: 2 Baseball fields  
3 Parking lots  
Electric  
Gravel Road  
Restroom Building  
Retention pond areas  
Septic  
Tennis courts  
Well 4"

Description: Develop 2 ball diamonds, 2 tennis courts, trails, picnic facilities.

Project Number: TF90-310

Year: 1990

Title: VASA Trail Project

Amount: \$95,500

Scope: 10K Trail loop

Maintenance building

Parking and road improvements

Description: Development of road improvements and parking, maintenance building and trail improvements.

Project Number: TF93-405

Year: 1993

Title: Boardman Property Acquisition

Amount: \$321,000

Scope:

Description: Acquisition of two parcels, a unique 45-acre conifer swamp with over 3,000 feet of shoreline and a 24.8 acres open rangeland with over 2,000 feet on the Boardman River. (45-acre parcel deleted from project.)

Project Number: TF00-356

Year: 2000

Title: Meyer Addition to Nature Education Reserve

Amount: \$786,509

Scope:

Description: Acquisition in fee simple of 94 acres of land with 1,950 feet of frontage on Sabin Pond that will be added to the 420-acre Nature Education Reserve. The additional acres would be used as an addition to the current active recreation area.

Project Number: TF01-227

Year: 2001

Title: Maple Bay and Natural Area

Amount: \$6,816,920

Scope:

Description: Acquisition of 400 acres, including 2,583 feet of Great Lakes Shoreline as a County park/natural area. Property is adjacent to Petobego SGA and protects dunes, wetlands, wildlife habitat and provides new access for hunting and other recreational activities.

Project Number: TF17-0095

Year: 2018

Title: Boardman Lake Loop Trail Medalie Park

Amount: \$300,000

Scope: Pedestrian Bridge

- Access Pathway 6 Feet Wide or More

- Lighting

- Landscaping

- Bench

- Signage

- Seawall or Shoreline Stabilization

Description: Development to construct pedestrian bridges in Medalie Park at the south end of Boardman Lake to cross the Boardman River, connecting the east and west segments of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail. Boardman Lake Loop Trail connects to the Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trail, which continues to other regional trails in the same area, including the VASA Pathway and beyond to the North Country Trail and Leelanau Trail.

Project Number: TF17-0096

Year: 2018

Title: Boardman Lake Loop Trail

Amount: \$300,000

Scope: Trail 6 Feet Wide or More

- Boardwalk

- Overlook or Observation Deck

- Fence

- Landscaping

- Lighting

- Seawall or shoreline Stabilization

- Signage

- Bench

- Bike Rack

- Trash Bin(s)

Description: Development to construct over 1.5-mile segment of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail along Boardman Lake from Logan's Landing commercial area through Northwestern Michigan College University Center to 14<sup>th</sup> Street, where it will connect to the Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation (TART) Trail. TART Trail continues to other regional trails in the area, including the VASA Pathway and beyond, to the North Country Trail and Leelanau Trail.

Project Number: ARPA-0228 **(Pending Execution of Agreement with MDNR)**

Year: 2023

Title: Civic Center Walking Pathway Improvements

Amount: \$998,800

Scope: Replace surface of 10' wide asphalt pathway

- Replace existing pedestrian bridge

- Add fitness stations along walking pathway

- Pave dirt parking lot serving the pathway, pavilion, and amphitheater



Description: The project will involve pulverizing the existing surface for use as a base and laying a fresh 2" layer of asphalt. The path currently includes a steel and concrete bridge spanning the West Civic Center Drive entrance to the property which has reached end-of-life and will be replaced during the project. Seven outdoor fitness stations will also be added along the pathway.

# Inventory of Existing Parks, Natural Areas, and Recreation Facilities

## Introduction

Grand Traverse County has thirteen organized townships, one city, and two villages, each with varying amounts of land available and developed for recreational purposes. The Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission has a long and continued relationship with many of these agencies.

A significant number of the park sites within Grand Traverse County are maintained or managed by the State of Michigan, Grand Traverse County, the City of Traverse City, various townships, two recreation authorities, the public school systems, and the villages of Kingsley and Fife Lake. Grand Traverse County itself provides recreational opportunities at its nine County park properties. Each of the County's park facilities were evaluated as part of this planning process, and the evaluations are presented in this section.

The City of Traverse City maintains a Parks and Recreation Division which operates 34 parks and facilities and provides an active recreation program for city residents as well as County, regional, and tourist visitors.

The County Parks and Recreation Department has developed, published, and currently maintains appropriate rules and regulations to protect County park resources and the community's long-term enjoyment of the lands and facilities. The Traverse City Police Department, the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office and its Marine Patrol, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement Division, help enforce the rules and regulations of the parks and recreation areas/facilities.



*Boardman River Nature Center at the Natural Education Reserve*

Grand Traverse County also collaborates with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy. The federal government has also shown support for the provision of recreation opportunities within the County. All three of the above-mentioned agencies have proven to be instrumental factors in the past purchases of County Park lands with the support of federal grants. Maple Bay Park is an example of a land purchase that was

made possible through contributions from multiple agencies.

The State of Michigan is also a major provider of recreational opportunities within Grand Traverse County with an estimated 25% of the County falling under state ownership. The Forest Management Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages most of the State's recreational lands within the County; this land is part of the Pere Marquette State Forest. Additionally, the State of Michigan also owns and operates two state parks in Grand Traverse County: Traverse City State Park and Interlochen State Park. The abundance of recreational opportunities depending on state-owned land and state access points annually attracts tens of thousands of tourists to Grand Traverse County.

## State Facilities

The State of Michigan maintains 55 contributing recreation and park facilities in Grand Traverse County, including much of the 66,000 acres of land enrolled in the Pere Marquette State Forest. Many of the state facilities provide access to streams and lakes, including:

Arbutus Lake	Bass Lake	Cedar Lake	Elk Lake
Duck Lake	Fife Lake	Fish Lake	Grand Traverse Bay
Green Lake	Mud Lake	Silver Lake	Rennie Lake
Spider Lake			

Additionally, state park campgrounds and state forest campgrounds are located at:

Interlochen State Park	Traverse City State Park	Arbutus Lake	Fork's Campground
Scheck's Place	Spring Lake	Lake Dubonnet	

State forest acreage features a developed trail system, which provides miles of trails for both non-motorized and motorized ORV use. Grand Traverse County enjoys a close working relationship with the DNR Forest Management Division and local DNR Field Office staff by sharing information, publicly promoting each other's facilities, and working cooperatively on development projects.

## Local Facilities

There are nearly 200 park and recreational facilities within Grand Traverse County. Local units of government contribute many of these facilities in Grand Traverse County. The City of Traverse City, villages of Fife Lake and Kingsley, many of the thirteen local townships, two joint recreation authorities, and various school districts contribute to the region's recreational facility inventory. Within the various local branches of government are a wide variety of parks and recreational interests and different levels of developed parks and recreational facilities.



*Fly fishing on the Boardman River at the City of Traverse City owned Brown Bridge Quiet Area*

One of the more highly developed park and recreation systems in the County belongs to the City of Traverse City. Traverse City owns and operates nearly 1,600 acres of parkland on 34 different sites. On the other end of the spectrum is Union Township, which owns no local parkland, yet over 90 percent of the township's property is part of the Pere Marquette State Forest.

Most of the parkland owned by the City of Traverse City can be found at the 1,300-acre Brown Bridge Quiet Area that runs along the Boardman River. Hickory Hills, the City-owned and operated ski hill, and areas of the Grand Traverse Commons that are city-owned, compose approximately 250 acres of parkland, combined. The remaining city-owned parks range from "pocket" parks in city neighborhoods to parks that provide thousands of feet of shoreline, including: the "Open Space," Clinch Park Marina, West End Beach, Sunset Park, and Senior Center Beach. It is the goal of the City to continue to acquire highly sought-after waterfront property and preserve it for public use. With this property, the City has the

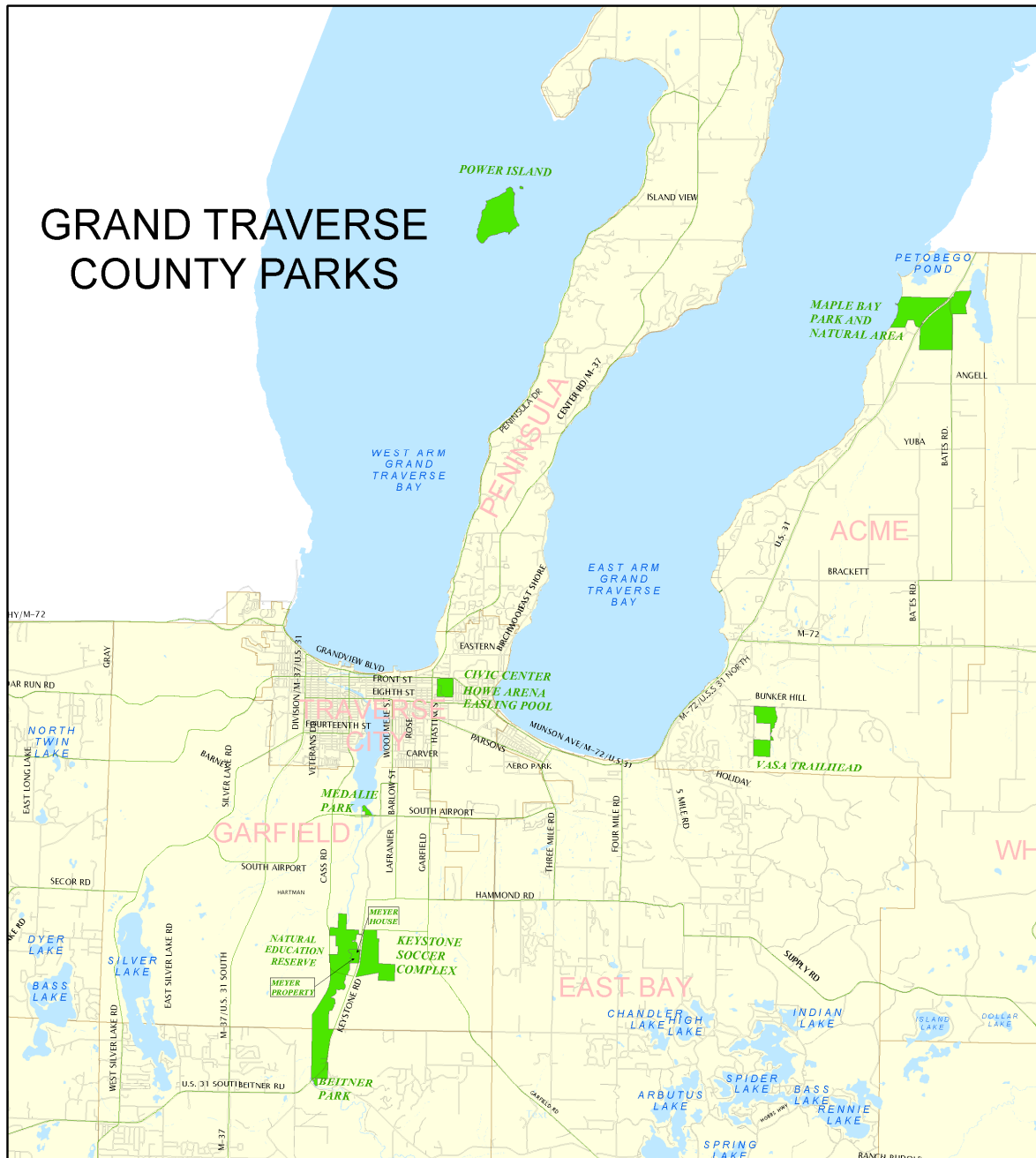
pleasure of hosting City, County, and State residents, and national and international visitors.

**Park and Property Inventory**

Appendix A provides a list of park and recreational facilities in Grand Traverse County. The table provides parks and facilities that are provided by the County, state, and local governments, and private recreation providers in the County. Included on the table is a breakdown of the recreational amenities for each of the various locations within the County. The table also identifies the owner of each site, address, and jurisdiction under which the park or facility falls. This data was compiled by County Parks and Recreation staff via site visits, local knowledge of recreational facilities, discussions with partners, and through communications with local units of government.



## Description and evaluation of County Park Properties and Facilities



0 0.5 1 2 3 Miles



Grand Traverse County GIS Department  
 August 2023  
 Data Sources: GTC/GIS Data files  
 GTC Parks and Recreation, Recreation Inventory  
 BLAIRTOWNSHIP.ORG, GARFIELD-TWP.COM,  
 EASTBAYTWP.ORG., LONGLAKE TOWNSHIP.COM  
 PARADISE TWP.ORG., CI.TRAVERSE-CITY.MI.US

This map is based on digital databases prepared by Grand Traverse County. Grand Traverse County does not warrant expressly or impliedly, or accept any responsibility for any errors or omissions, or that the information contained in the map or the digital databases is currently or positionally accurate

## Grand Traverse County Parks: Descriptions and Physical Evaluations of Properties and Facilities

The Director of Parks and Recreation inspected all County parks to review conditions, including recreational facilities, access and parking, shelters, restrooms, and other features, depending on the park. The grading scale presented in this section ranges from features requiring renovation or replacement to good condition, or identifying features that need to be developed.



*Grand Traverse County Civic Center Park*

### **Civic Center Park**

Civic Center Park attracts an estimated 700,000 to one million visitors each year. There is something for everyone to enjoy at the Civic Center, a multi-use facility that offers swimming at the indoor Easling Pool and workouts at Central Y's fitness center, youth cycling programs through Nortel Youth Cycling's clubhouse, shows and expos in Howe Arena during spring and summer, play for two-to-12-year-olds at the 10,000-square-foot Campbell Community Playground, use of the skate park from spring through fall, baseball and softball games, tournaments, and leagues from spring through fall on the ball fields, hockey and ice skating in Howe Arena through the winter months, the Native American Marker Tree destination, and a mile-long walking path.

The Civic Center is located within the city limits of Traverse City, where it first served as the County's fairgrounds when it was purchased by Grand Traverse County in 1912. In 1972, the County Board of Commissioners decided to move the fairgrounds to another location and to start developing the Civic Center into its current configuration.

A Master Site Plan for Civic Center Park was completed in 2020 and is included as Appendix B.

Address: 1213 West Civic Center Drive, Traverse City

Size: 45 acres

Uses: Athletic fields with multiple uses, one-mile walking path, destination playground, skate park, basketball courts, picnic shelter, wooded area and amphitheater for outdoor shows.

Capital Renovation History: Between 1973 and 1975, fairgrounds changed to Civic Center Park. First ball fields built over 50 years ago; bubble (inflatable dome) ice arena built in 1980; Howe Arena built in 1989; ball field fencing replaced in 1994; Kids Kove playground and basketball courts built in 1996; bridge path for walking rebuilt in 1998; parking lot expanded and rebuilt in 1999; skate park built in 2000; Kids Kove closed in 2014 and removed in 2015; Native American Marker Tree placemaking project started in 2016; Campbell Community Playground constructed in 2017; amphitheater upgraded to include ADA accessible ramps and mounting pads for a saddle span tent

Description: Nearly 45-acre multi-use complex with indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

## Condition

### **Grading Scale**

- 1 = Not appropriate for this site*
- 2 = Needs complete renovation or replacement*
- 3 = Needs major repairs or some replacement*
- 4 = Needs minor repairs or aesthetic improvements*
- 5 = In good condition*
- 6 = Develop*

Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Parking lots: 5  
Access road: 4  
Picnic Shelter: 5  
Old playground equipment on east side of S. Civic Center Drive: 4  
New Campbell Community Playground: 5  
Pathway: 5  
Pathway bridge: 3

Restrooms: 4  
North building ("Norte Wheelhouse"): 2  
Maintenance facility: 5  
Open space/athletic fields: 4  
Perimeter fencing: 5  
Basketball courts: 4  
General beautification and landscaping: 3  
Amphitheater: 2  
Native American Marker Tree: 5  
South Building ("Norte Clubhouse"): 4

### **Civic Center Park: *Easling Pool and Fitness Center***

Easling Pool is the only publicly owned pool in Grand Traverse County and the surrounding area. The pool is a six-lane, 25-yard, "L"-shaped pool with an 18-foot x 25-foot shallow teaching area and a dry sauna on deck.



*Traverse City West Titans Swim Team at Easling Pool*

Operated and managed by Grand Traverse Bay YMCA since 2016, Easling Pool is home to the High School Girls' Swim Team and serves user groups such as the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City rescue swimmers, Traverse City Area Public Schools' Special Olympics and children with special needs, water exercisers, Northwest Education Services, and more. In addition to the various public swimming opportunities, swim lessons are offered year-round and taught to ages as young as eighteen months up to adults of all abilities. The Fitness Center, also operated by the YMCA as part of Central Y, inhabits the Civic Center building, and features a variety of cardio and strength equipment and personal training.

Size: Building is 20,118 square feet, including all support facilities; pool is 25 yards and six lanes.

Construction: 1970

Capital Renovation and History: Locker rooms remodeled in 1989; plumbing remodeled in 1991; pool air circulation system installed in 1991; locker room air handlers installed in 2000;

wireless Internet added in 2011; limited plumbing replacement in 2012; meeting room electrical upgrades in 2016 to accommodate transformation into fitness room as part of "Central Y" membership package (access to Easling Pool and fitness center); one of three boilers replaced in 2017; two boilers

upgraded in 2017; Replaced air handling equipment, re-piped mechanical room, installed UV sanitizer, replaced filtration system, replaced pool liner, replaced decking, painted natatorium and locker rooms, replaced lighting in 2018

## Condition

### ***Grading Scale***

- 1 = Not appropriate for this site*
- 2 = Needs complete renovation or replacement*
- 3 = Needs major repairs or some replacement*
- 4 = Needs minor repairs or aesthetic improvements*
- 5 = In good condition*
- 6 = Develop*

Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Restrooms: 4

Locker Rooms: 4

Storage space: 3

Mechanical/equipment room: 4

Pool Deck: 4

Entrance doors: 5

Fitness Room: 5

## **Civic Center Park: *Howe Arena***

Named after hockey legend Gordie Howe, Howe Arena is a multi-use facility attached to the Civic Center structure that houses Easling Pool and the Parks and Recreation Department Offices.



*Howe Arena at Civic Center Park*

Between March and September each year, the arena is used as an exhibition hall for a variety of shows and events. Between August and March, the arena becomes an ice rink, managed and operated by Centre I.C.E., offering skating and hockey opportunities to the public.

Some of the events held annually at Howe Arena include the Traverse City boat show, Cottage and Lakefront Living Expo, MARVAC Northwest Camper and RV Show, Mi Career Fair, and the Bayshore Marathon expo and packet pick-up. The arena also is home each year to Traverse City Area Public Schools' high school hockey teams and Traverse City Roller Derby. In previous years, the arena has hosted many charitable organizations that organize walk-a-thons at Civic Center Park, including the March of Dimes, Relay for Life, and the American Cancer Society. Civic Center Park is a

designated stop each summer on the Shoreline Bike Tour, bringing several hundred cyclists to the property for overnight stays. These groups use the arena as a home base for meals, showers, meetings, and for recharging electronics.



Size: 25,000 square feet

Construction: 1989

Capital Renovation and History: Air conditioning installed in 1991; dehumidification installed in 1994; replaced front doors (ADA) in 2001; wireless Internet installed in 2011. Bleacher replacement in 2020

## Condition

### ***Grading Scale***

- 1 = Not appropriate for this site*
- 2 = Needs complete renovation or replacement*
- 3 = Needs major repairs or some replacement*
- 4 = Needs minor repairs or aesthetic improvements*
- 5 = In good condition*
- 6 = Develop*

Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Restrooms: 4

Storage Space: 6

Maintenance Facility/Custodial Room: 5

Locker/Shower Rooms: 4

Lighting: 5

Bleachers: 2

Entrance Door: 5

## **Maple Bay Park and Natural Area**

Nature area; open space; 2,583 feet of frontage on East Grand Traverse Bay; trail network, hunting opportunities

Maple Bay Park and Natural Area has a tremendously diverse landscape with significant natural and scenic resources, including: 2,583 feet of Great Lakes shoreline, sand dunes, wetlands, and farmland. There are no remaining undeveloped private parcels of land in the Grand Traverse region with its characteristics and size. The park provides a habitat for several rare and endangered bird and plant species. From the pristine shoreline on the west, the property extends one mile east to the Petobego Marsh and State Game Area. A development plan for this park is critical to maintain wildlife habitats, provide hunting and fishing opportunities, and to protect the integrity of the regionally important coastal wetlands. The same is true for the nearby Petobego watershed.



*Nearly 1/2 mile of Lake Michigan beach frontage at Maple Bay Preserve and Natural Area*

U.S. Highway 31 North splits the property in two distinct portions. The western portion includes the pristine lakeshore and coastal area, with sand and cobble beaches, open dunes, and undisturbed forested dune-swale complex. The landscape is scattered with white pine, red pine, juniper, small-bush blueberry, and dune grass. The diverse coastal zone is home to several Michigan and federally

threatened and endangered plant species, such as Pitcher's Thistle, Lake Huron Tansy, and Clustered Brome Rape. Several biologists have indicated that the site's high quality could provide nesting habitat for the endangered Piping Plover. The forested dunes include native species, such as white pine, hemlock, maple, beach, red oak, white ash, and balsam fir. The inter-dunal swales are wetlands which include Northern white cedar, paper birch, red maple, sedges, March marigold, dogwood, and irises.

The dense lowland conifer habitat in the eastern and northern sections of the property is recognized by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as providing important winter thermal cover for white-tailed deer, which are abundant on the property and throughout the Petobego watershed corridor. The proximity of the upland deciduous forest to the wetland areas suggests that there is habitat for the state-threatened Red-shouldered Hawk. Bald eagles have nested in the Petobego watershed in the past, and breeding pairs nearby continue to use the area for feeding throughout the year.

East of U.S. Highway 31, the property features agricultural lands and a stream corridor, resulting from springs that flow eastward into the Petobego Marsh through a wetland corridor. This area is a crucial link in the wildlife corridor that extends from East Grand Traverse Bay inland to the Petobego watershed and is extremely important for the incredible diversity of wildlife in the area.

Through its property ownership, Grand Traverse County is protecting the site from water quality diminution, loss of hunting opportunities, fragmentation, and erosion, and is enhancing the state's investment in the Petobego State Game Area.

Maple Bay Park is open to the public for recreational activities, including swimming, kayaking, parasailing, paddle boarding, canoeing, hiking, hunting, observing wildlife, snowshoeing and skiing in winter, and nature education, year-round.

Parks and Recreation's primary goals are to:

- Preserve the natural features of the property
- Provide public access to Grand Traverse Bay
- Maintain and enhance the value of the property for the wildlife of the Petobego watershed corridor
- Use the property as a source for environmental education
- Provide additional opportunities for hunting

Historically, both before and during its tenure as public parkland, the Maple Bay property has been farmed. The Send Brothers have farmed the property under an agreement with the County parks commission for many years. Starting in 2022, efforts began to enlarge the boundaries around the wetland zones designated by the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plan. This effort was started after it was determined that farming practices had the potential to encroach on the boundaries protecting those zones. The Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy manages the property for Grand Traverse County under a Resources Management Agreement. As part of this agreement, GTRLC staff worked with NRCS and Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation to develop a plan where portions of historically farmed land would be removed from agricultural production to increase the buffer zones and better protect the wetlands areas. These tracts are systematically being restored to native wildflower habitat over the course of several years with the intent of attracting pollinators and other wildlife species to the area.

Address: 10849 U.S. 31 North, Acme Township  
Size: 450 acres; 4,200-square-foot pole barn; 5,000-square-foot barn  
Purchase: Property purchased May 2002  
Capital Renovation and History: Pole barn enclosed November 2002; Barn boarded and sealed off in 2017

## Condition

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- 1 = Not appropriate for this site*
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- 4 = Needs minor repairs or aesthetic improvements*
- 5 = In good condition*
- 6 = Develop*

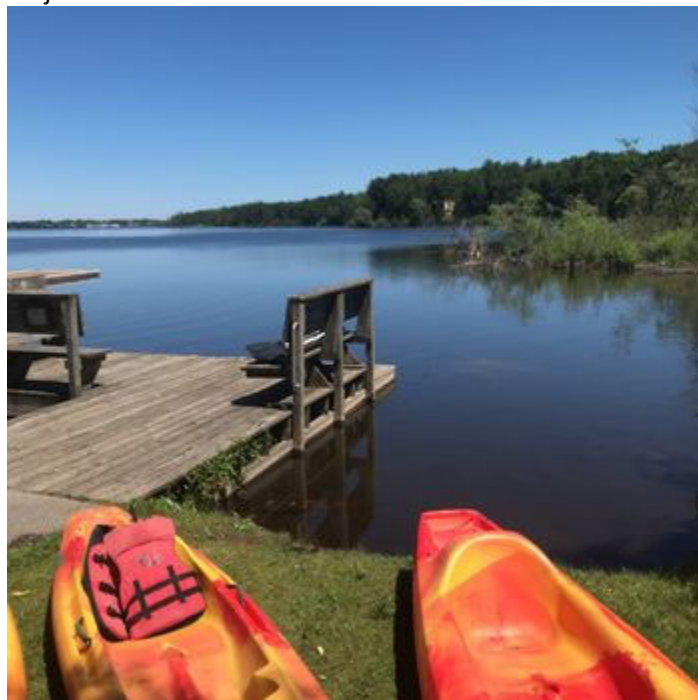
Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Parking lots: 5  
Road: 4  
Picnic Shelter: 2  
Playground Structure: 1  
Trails/Walkways: 5

Restrooms(s): 6  
Storage Space: 5  
Maintenance Facility (Pole Barn): 5  
Original Barn: 2

## Medalie Park

Medalie “Roadside” Park is located on the south end of Boardman Lake. The park has a 50-person picnic shelter, indoor restrooms, 1,000 feet of paved walking path, three overlooks/fishing platforms along the Boardman River, and one canoe launch site accessing the Boardman River and Boardman Lake. The major use of Medalie Park is as the Southern trailhead for the Boardman Lake Loop Trail, a 4-mile paved



*Kayaking is one of the most popular activities at Medalie Park*

pathway circling the Boardman Lake. This extremely popular trailway opened to the public in July 2022. The trail has brought a 500% increase in average daily visitors to the park. In addition to serving as the trailhead, the park is very popular as a passive recreation site, attracting artists and birdwatchers to view the abundant species nesting or stopping over on the lake. The Boardman River and Boardman Lake continue to be popular among paddlers. County Parks and Recreation has had an agreement with a canoe, kayak, standup paddleboard, bicycle livery service located on-property since 2016.

Address: 1910 S. Airport Road, Garfield Township  
Size: 15 acres  
Purchase: Acquired from the County Road Commission in 1990

Capital Renovation and History: Restrooms, walking trail, and wooden overlooks developed in 1992; East and West bridges, through trail, and parking lot replacement in 2022  
Description: Roadside park with picnic shelter and modern restrooms, paved walking trail, wooden overlooks to the Boardman River

## Condition

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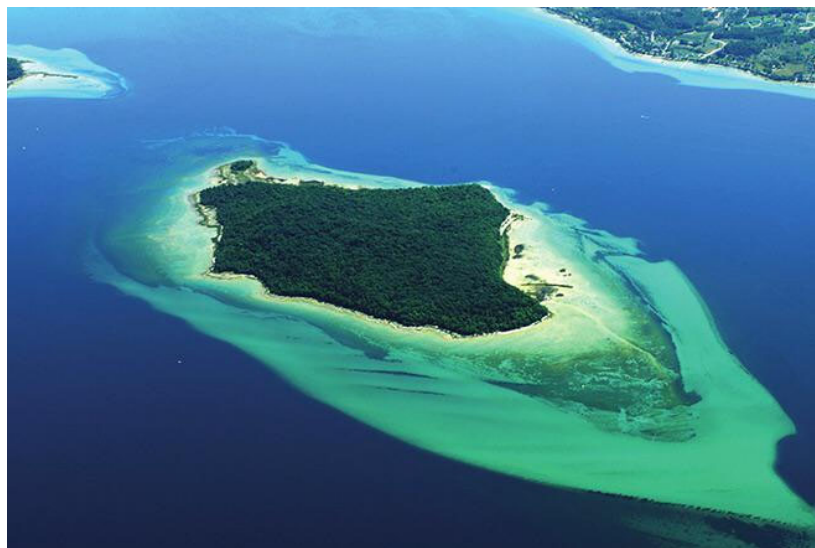
Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Parking Lots: 5  
Road: 4  
Picnic Shelter: 4

Trail/Walkway: 4  
Restrooms: 4  
Overlooks: 3

## Power and Bassett Islands

Considered the crown jewel of West Grand Traverse Bay, the 202-acre island complex composed of Power and Bassett Islands beckons visitors from points all throughout the bay area. The island complex is dedicated as a nature preserve and houses several picnic sites, a 15-site campground, trails, public beach, well, and vaulted toilets.



*Power and Bassett Islands*

Connected by an isthmus, Power and Bassett Islands, often collectively referred to as “Power Island,” are located in the west arm of Grand Traverse Bay, approximately six miles north of downtown Traverse City, and three miles from the nearest public launch site at Bowers Harbor, northeast of the island. The main island, Power Island, is visible from nearly all of Traverse City’s shoreline, providing a scenic

backdrop when looking north. There are over five miles of hiking trails and several picnic tables for guests to enjoy. The islands are undeveloped natural areas, home to a wide variety of wild plants and animals.

Power Island hosts ten primate campsites and two-acre Bassett Island has five primitive campsites. Each site has its own picnic table, cooking grill, and campfire circle. There are maintained restroom privies serving both islands. The nearest source of potable water to Bassett Island is a hand-pump located approximately one mile by walking trail, on Power Island. In 2015, a larger well was drilled to accommodate more campers.

The County maintains a public dock and vault style toilets that are located at several locations around the island complex. A ranger stays on the island from May to October to maintain facilities, to be a public relations person for the County, and to provide security for the park.

Address: Grand Traverse Bay, Peninsula Township

Size: 202 acres

Purchase: 1975

Capital Renovation and History: Dock, trail, and restroom renovations, plus ADA power cart purchase made in 2000; infiltration septic system installed in 2012; new, larger well installed in 2015; five campsites added in 2016; five campsites added in 2020; EGLE permit upgraded to allow use of all 15 sites simultaneously in 2022

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*5 = In good condition*

*6 = Develop*

Last Inspection: September 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Roads: 1

Trails/Walkways: 4

Restrooms: 4

Storage Space: 4

Docks: 5

Campgrounds: 5

Signage: 4

Residence/Cabin: 5

Boat: 2

ADA Accessible Cart: 4

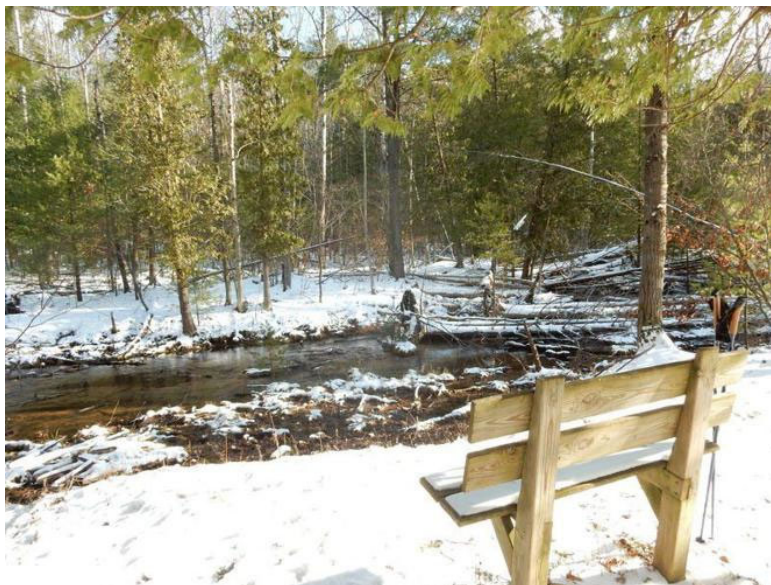
## **VASA Trailhead Property**

The VASA Pathway offers 34 kilometers of non-motorized trail located within the Pere Marquette State Forest. Grand Traverse County owns approximately 40 acres that serves as the trailhead with a parking lot, restroom facilities, and warming house. The trailhead for the VASA trail is located along Bartlett Road in Acme Township.

Grand Traverse County also purchased 64 acres known as the “Bartlett Road Property” at the corner of Bunker Hill and Bartlett Roads. This property includes the 3k Meadows Trail and otherwise remains an open space. The property is tied to the VASA trailhead by a 150-foot-wide, by 1,000-foot-long public easement over private property.

#### Bike park

The Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association developed approximately two miles of single-track trails and a series of skills loops on the property. These amenities added significantly to the draw of the park, increasing its importance as a year-round destination.



*VASA Trailhead Park is the starting point for 34km of ski and bike trails*

Address: 4444 Bartlett Road, Acme Township

Size: 40 acres; warming house, 1,384 square feet

Purchase: Transferred from State to County in 1991

Capital Renovation and History: Parking lot built in 1991; restroom building built in 1991, added warming room to restroom building in 1998; interior and exterior paint and floor refinishing in 2023

#### Condition

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Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Parking Lot: 4

Road: 5

Trails/Walkways: 5

Restrooms: 5

Storage Space: 5

Maintenance Facility: 5



### Keystone Soccer Complex

Address: Corner of Keystone and Birmley Roads, Garfield Township, Traverse City

Size: Fields, 115 acres

Purchase: 1996

Capital Renovation and History: Eight soccer fields, parking area, and roads, all developed between 1996 and 1998; additional soccer fields developed after 1998; 38-acre North parcel (AKA Birmley property) developed to fields in 2022-2023, expected to be ready for tournament play in 2024

Description: Soccer fields and undeveloped parcel

The Keystone Soccer Complex is a 115-acre parcel of land with soccer fields and is the regional home for soccer enthusiasts in the Traverse Bay Area. TBAYS (Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer) leases the complex under an operating agreement with the Parks Commission. Under this agreement, they enjoy exclusive access to the park and are solely responsible for infrastructure development and maintenance on the property. TBAYS is a volunteer organization that provides quality soccer programs and facilities for all youth at all levels. TBAYS' programs promote positive physical, mental, and emotional development through its three divisions: TBAYS Juniors, ages 4 through 7; TBAYS Youth, ages 8 through 12; and TBAYS Club, ages 13 and higher. A fourth division, TBAYS North Storm, engages select boys and girls, in more competitive soccer.



*Keystone Soccer Complex is home to TBAYS and the heart of the Grand Traverse area soccer program*

### Condition

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Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Parking Lots: 5

Roads: 5

Picnic Shelters: 5

Playground Structure: 5

Restrooms: 5

Storage Space: 5

Maintenance Facility: 5

Soccer Fields: 5

### Natural Education Reserve and Boardman River Nature Center

Address: 1450 Cass Road, Garfield Township

Size: 505 acres

Purchase: Acreage donated in 1975; Acreage transferred from County Road Commission in 1990; Acreage acquired with DNR grant in 1995  
Capital Renovation and History: Trail and parking lot improved with RC&D Council grant, 1987-1989; Coastal Zone Management grant in 1996  
Description: Nature area along the Boardman-Ottaway River with over seven miles of trails, a half-mile of paved trail, and picnic sites.

The Natural Education Reserve (NER) was dedicated on July 4, 1976, as a “natural environment



*The Boardman River winds through the Natural Education Reserve*

*The restored Boardman River flows through and is the central feature of the Natural Education Reserve*

classroom for area youth.” This 505-acre property is located along the shores of the Boardman River and is home to the Boardman River Nature Center. The NER is a linear park featuring over seven miles of trails, fishing platforms, scenic overlooks, picnic areas, and direct water access. Nearly every cover type in Michigan can be found within the property’s boundaries, bog, marshland, true swamp, level terrain, upland forest, pine forest, creek, river, and pond. Considered an important sanctuary and north-south travel corridor for wildlife, a large variety of plants and animals call the NER “home”.

The Boardman River, a state-designated “Blue Ribbon” trout stream and Natural River, is the central feature of the NER. The river was the subject of the largest dam removal project in Michigan’s history, involving the removal of three earthen dams. Brown Bridge Dam was removed in 2012 from the City of Traverse City’s Brown Bridge Quiet Area (located furthest upstream). Two dams, Boardman and Sabin, were located on County property within the NER. A fourth dam, located downstream in Traverse City, will be modified, but not removed. A fifth dam called “Keystone” was also located on the NER’s property. It washed out in 1961, leaving remnants evident along the hiking trails located upstream from Oleson Bridge on the NER property.

In 2017, Boardman Dam was deconstructed from NER property, exposing approximately 90 acres of fragile bottomlands and a relic river channel. In 2018, the County-owned Sabin Dam was removed and exposed approximately 40 more acres of bottomlands in need of restoration measures. The final stage of the dam removal project entails modifying Traverse City’s Union Street Dam to allow for the selective passage of Great Lakes fish and is expected to be complete within the next five years.

After nearly a century of impeded waters, the Boardman River once again runs free upstream of Boardman Lake, thereby facilitating the passage of wildlife and aquatic organisms, the distribution of sediments and nutrients, and a reconnection of its floodplain. Amid the former impoundments, restoration efforts along newly exposed river stretches are underway to stabilize riverbanks, improve in-stream habitat, and to promote wildlife. It is vital that restoration efforts and invasive species control continue as the river rebounds and adjusts to its new and relic alignment.



From Beitner Road downstream is where the river is most dramatic, as it cascades through a series of rapids where the former Keystone Dam was located. Remnants of the Keystone Dam that washed out in 1961 are still visible. The old berm wall and spillway are just now being reclaimed by the forest, since the riverbanks have reverted to their natural and original flora.

Paddlers looking for adventure often seek a stretch of whitewater through the Keystone Rapids, which rivals some of the swiftest stretches of navigable water in Michigan's Lower Peninsula. With the removal of the dams from the property, a near three-mile stretch of river from Beitner Road to present-day Sabin Dam maintains a fast flow. As was the case after the Brown Bridge Dam was removed, an influx of canoe and kayak-use, post dam removal, has occurred. To accommodate this increased river traffic, universally accessible watercraft landings with appropriately sized and accommodating restrooms and parking areas will be necessary for paddlers to have a safe place to exit and enter the river and for protection of the property's delicate natural resources.

To expand river access, the Jack's Landing put-in was restored following the 2017 dam removal and expanded in 2019. This put-in site is actively used for canoe and kayak pit-in and take-out, angler access, and serves as a trailhead for the trail network on the East side of the Boardman River. This location features a large gravel parking lot, drive-to water's edge boat drop/pick up circle, and outhouse.

In the wake of dam removal, established trails throughout the NER have seen increased use. The trails are well-maintained and receive consistent attention from Grand Traverse Conservation District staff. The trails also need regular improvement and expansion to promote safe and sustainable routes for users to fully appreciate the natural wonders of the park, and beyond. Fostering non-motorized trail connections to other local parks and facilities remains a high priority. The multi-use Boardman River Trail that transects the park from north to south links Traverse City 24 miles upstream to the North Country Trail near Scheck's State Campground. The recent completion of the Boardman Lake Loop Trail and its southern trailhead at Medalie Park created an ideal connection point to join the city to the NER's trail network. Further work is underway in the community to create a safer and more effective connection to promote greater use of this broader network.

The construction of footbridges at the former Sabin Dam location and at the end of the universally accessible Lone Pine Trail will provide loop trail opportunities and foster connections from the NER and Boardman River Nature Center to the County's Meyer and Keystone Soccer Complex properties.

### **Boardman River Nature Center**

In August 2008, the Grand Traverse Conservation District opened the Boardman River Nature Center at the NER, located off Cass Road on a bluff overlooking the Boardman River. Created to help foster the exploration, appreciation, and conservation of the natural world, and to enhance the park's purpose as a "natural environment classroom for area youth," the center includes an exhibit gallery with interactive activities for families. Since opening, the nature center has become a very popular park amenity with 53% of respondents to our community survey indicating they visit at least once annually. In addition to indoor classroom space and a multi-use community room/rental space with a full kitchen, the center is surrounded by native plant gardens, a demonstration wetland, nature playscape, and a pavilion/outdoor classroom with attached restrooms. The center also houses the Grand Traverse Conservation District's office, which supports from 15 to 20 staff. A popular fly fishing area is located just 100 yards away on the Boardman River. The Nature Center offers an ideal access point to the seven-mile trail system within the 505-acre NER and the adjacent Boardman Valley Nature Preserve.

The Natural Education Reserve is managed by the Grand Traverse Conservation District. The district's mission is to lead, facilitate, and inspire exploration, appreciation, conservation and restoration of our natural world. Programs and services include parklands management, Boardman-Ottaway river stewardship, environmental education, farmland sustainability, and invasive species management.

## Condition

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Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Parking Lots: 4  
Roads: 4  
Picnic Shelters: 5  
Playground Structures: 1

Trails/Walkways: 3  
Restrooms: 6  
Storage Space: 5  
Maintenance Facility: 1

## Beitner Park

Address: 2651 Beitner Road, Garfield Township

Size: 5 acres

Purchase: From County Road Commission in 1990

Capital Renovation and History: Paved parking area and restrooms, 1995; canoe launch, 1999; bathrooms upgraded (painted, pumped, cleaned), 2017

Description: Parking area and canoe launch on north side of Keystone Road; picnic sites and DNR-style vault toilets on south side of Keystone Road



*Beitner Park overlooks the Boardman River*

Five-acre Beitner Park is located at the southernmost edge of the Nature Education Reserve, off Beitner Road at the intersection with the Boardman River. With a parking lot, river access, picnic area, and a restroom facility, this park is heavily used as a paddle craft put-in/take-out along the Boardman River. Most paddlers take out at this location to avoid paddling through the more difficult Keystone Rapids, located downstream of the park. With the removal downstream of Boardman and Sabin Dams, paddler use of the park grew considerably to access to tackle the rapids and the new section of the river.

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Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

North Parking Lot: 4  
South Parking Lot: 5  
Roads: 1  
Picnic Shelters: 6  
Playground Structures: 1  
Trails/Walkways: 5  
Restrooms: 5  
Storage Space: 1  
Maintenance Facility: 1  
Docks Along River: 5

## Nature Education Reserve: *Meyer Property*

Address: 1091 Keystone Road, Garfield Township

Size: 15 acres

Purchase: Home renovations, 2008; asbestos abatement and additional home renovations, 2012; new septic field and system, 2017; farming infrastructure improvements 2023

Description: Farmland with residential home, five outbuildings, and hiking path connector

The Meyer Property, a farm, was purchased in 2002 as part of several acquisitions that evolved into the overall Keystone Soccer Complex and Birmley-Keystone Property holdings.



*The Meyer Property is home to the Great Lakes Incubator Farm*

Located on the west side of Keystone Road, across from the soccer complex and adjacent to the Nature Education Reserve, the property has five barns and one residence, the “Meyer House.”

Meyer farmhouse has been partially renovated and from 2016 to 2022 served as a residential rental property, based on the wishes of the former owners, who requested that an individual occupy the home to watch over the property. The Grand Traverse Conservation District entered into an agreement with the Parks Commission in 2022 to lease the property for use as the Great Lakes Incubator Farm (GLIF). This project is intended to create an opportunity for individuals new to farming in sustainable agricultural practices and provide them with the skills and abilities to

farm other properties in the future. The program began with its first cohort of five farmers in 2023.

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Last Inspection: October 2023 by John Chase, Director of Parks and Recreation

Parking Lots: 5

Driveway: 5

Picnic Shelters: 6

Playground Structures: 1

Trails/Walkways: 4

Restrooms: 6

Storage Space: 5

Maintenance Facility: 4

## Grand Traverse County Parks: Park Primary Service Area and Accessibility Evaluation

The following table identifies each park owned by Grand Traverse County with an accompanying accessibility rating for each facility. County park facilities include a combination of buildings and trail/open space. Assessed in Fall 2023 by John Chase, Director, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation, most of the County's building facilities largely meet accessibility guidelines while trail/open space properties do not, according to the scoring system generally in accordance with MDNR standards, as summarized below.

**Level 1:** None of the facilities in the park meet accessibility guidelines. Little pavement is provided, and routes to facilities are not easily accessible.

**Level 2:** Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines, but many of the facilities or routes are not easily accessible.

**Level 3:** Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Parking areas and walkways are paved. While most facilities are generally accessible, some barriers may exist for certain individuals, because of age, ability, or situation.

**Level 4:** All facilities meet accessibility guidelines. Park is accessible, and routes to facilities within the park are accessible, with some play or other equipment not designed for everyone.

**Level 5:** Universal design guidelines were used to design the entire park.

Park	Size	Amenities	Classification	Service Area	Accessibility
Beitner Park	5 acres	Trails; picnic areas; parking; restroom facilities; canoe launch	Community park	20 to 40 minutes' drive time	Level 2
Civic Center Park	45 acres	Athletic fields, one-mile-long walking path, playground, skate park, basketball courts, picnic shelter, amphitheater, marker tree, restroom facilities	Large urban park	Walking to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 3
Civic Center Park: <i>Easling Pool</i>	20,118 square feet	Six-lane, 25-yard "L"-shaped pool with shallow teaching area and dry sauna on deck; locker rooms	Recreation facility	Walking to 75 minutes' drive time; only "publicly owned" pool within 45-mile radius	Level 3
Civic Center Park: <i>Howe Arena</i>	25,000 square feet	Ice rink and dry land exhibition hall	Special-use facility	Walking to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 3

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>
Keystone Soccer Complex	115 acres	Soccer Fields	Sports complex	15 to 45 minutes' drive time	Level 2
Maple Bay Park and Natural Area	450 acres	Nature area, two miles of hiking trails, 2,500 feet of frontage on East Grand Traverse Bay; hunting opportunities	Natural resource area	20 to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 1
Medalie Park	11 acres	"Roadside" park with picnic shelter, modern restroom facilities, paved walking trail, wooden overlooks along Boardman River and Lake	Community park	Five to 30 minutes' drive time	Level 3
Meyer Property	15 acres  Farmhouse: 1,400 square feet	Farmland, half-mile walking path, residential home, outbuildings	Farming education center; Natural resource area	15 to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 2
Nature Education Reserve	505 acres	Over seven miles of trails with half-mile paved. Includes picnic sites, pavilion, gardening shed, and Boardman River Nature Center	Natural resource area	15 to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 2
Power and Bassett Islands	202 acres	Nature preserve, picnic sites, well, fifteen-site campground, public beach, docks, restrooms	Natural resource area	Three-mile water route west from Old Mission Peninsula; six-mile water route north from downtown Traverse City	Level 1
VASA Trailhead	40 acres; warming hut, 1,000 square feet;	Trailhead for VASA Pathway, warming hut including modern restrooms;	Sports complex	Walking to 60 minutes' drive time	Level 2

<b>Park</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Amenities</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Accessibility</b>
	open space of 64 acres	undeveloped open space adjacent to trailhead			

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service, including parks and recreational facilities and areas, are subject to barrier-free requirements. While several of the Grand Traverse County parks and recreational facilities have been altered and renovated to ensure ease of mobility in compliance with the ADA, County fiscal and budgetary constraints must be considered when determining the extent to which the County can continue making its parks and facilities accessible. When improvements to parks and facilities are funded and able to be made, creating barrier-free facilities is a top priority.

Parks and Recreation staff is working with representatives of the Disability Network and Michigan Rehabilitation Services to assess all County parks and to develop a long-range plan for improving accessibility throughout the park system.

## Parks and Recreation Partnerships and Collaborations

Non-profit volunteer and for-profit organizations are active in providing parks and recreation services in the County. Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation leases park properties and facilities, while the many volunteer organizations act as lessees and recreational program providers in those park properties and facilities. The efforts of these organizations greatly enhance the ability of the Parks and Recreation Commission and provide quality services to residents.

### Organizational Partners

**Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians:** The Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians consistently supports County Parks and Recreation projects in its parks with two-percent grant awards. Since 2007, Parks and Recreation has received more than \$150,000 for park improvements. Grants have been awarded for:

- Scholarships for swim lessons in Easling Pool at the Civic Center
- Native American Marker Tree Improvement Project at the Civic Center
- Civic Center Park surveillance camera system upgrades and additions
- Electrical upgrades to accommodate a Central YMCA fitness center at the Civic Center
- Upgrades to the restroom in the lower level of Gilbert Lodge at Twin Lakes Park to make it ADA accessible.
- Construction engineering costs for Medalie Park to serve as a trailhead for the completed Boardman Lake Loop Trail
- Nature Education Reserve (NER) trail maintenance and signage necessary during the dam removal project
- Restroom improvements at Civic Center Park
- Equipment and supplies to develop a CPR training program for County staff and partners.



*Grand Traverse Conservation District staff members celebrating a Fall day*

**Grand Traverse Conservation District:** Since 1993, the Conservation District has managed the Nature Education Reserve (NER) on behalf of Grand Traverse County through its “Cooperative Parkland Program.” The Cooperative Parkland Program started with a grant through Rotary Charities in partnership with the City of Traverse City. Today, the Conservation District manages over 3,000 acres of public parkland in Grand Traverse County, including the NER. Under a current three-year agreement with Parks and Recreation, the Conservation District provides professional resource management assistance at the NER and offers professional guidance to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Conservation District’s duties include:

- Developing and implementing an annual property work plan
- Coordinating routine inspections and maintenance of structures and trails
- Providing management services for exposed bottomlands on the property
- Monitoring public's activities within the NER corridor and Medalie Park



- Coordinating paid and volunteer labor to maintain and improve parkland.
- Providing administrative and clerical support

**Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy:** The Conservancy manages Maple Bay Park and Natural Area on behalf of Grand Traverse County under a current, two-year Memo of Understanding. The Conservancy's services include:

- Trail maintenance
- Invasive species management
- Land restoration
- Farmland use agreement oversight.
- Signage development, production, and installation
- Sugar bush use
- Compliance with funding entity requirements and agreements

The Conservancy has worked with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a conservation plan for the farmland at Maple Bay to provide recommendations for better farming practices, with the goal of improving soil health and productivity and enhancing wildlife habitat, long-term. In 2022, the Conservancy started a multi-year project to restore approximately 90 acres of the property from agricultural use to native habitat. The intention of this project is to further beautify the property, better protect the wetland boundaries from farming practices, and provide additional wildlife habitat. The Conservancy works closely with Parks and Recreation to enforce the terms of the Natural Resources Trust Fund agreement for the park, and to comply with the terms of other funding entities, such as the Coastal Zone Management Program and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



*TART trails are enjoyed throughout the Grand Traverse region*

**Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails (TART), Inc.:** Since 1998, Grand Traverse County and Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation have partnered with TART Trails, whose mission is to “enrich the Traverse area by providing a network of trails, bikeways and pedestrian ways; and encouraging their use.” The partnership is based on shared geography and the desire to continue to connect with the community and provide recreational opportunities. The “TART-in-Town” designated trail intersects the Grand Traverse County Civic Center Park. TART was the driving force behind the Boardman Lake Loop Trail (completed in

2022) which includes Medalie park as the south trailhead. TART helps Parks and Recreation and the Conservation District plan and maintain the trails at the Nature Education Reserve and TART and County Parks and Recreation and Facilities Management help maintain the 40-acre VASA Pathway Trailhead along with approximately five miles of trail between Traverse City and Acme. TART has also contributed to renovation and maintenance of the warming hut at the VASA Trailhead and has commissioned a landscape design study to improve the VASA Trailhead property.

## Programming Partners

**American Legion Baseball:** American Legion helped build the original fields at Civic Center Park, where Parks and Recreation has partnered to offer American Legion Junior Baseball for nearly 50 years.

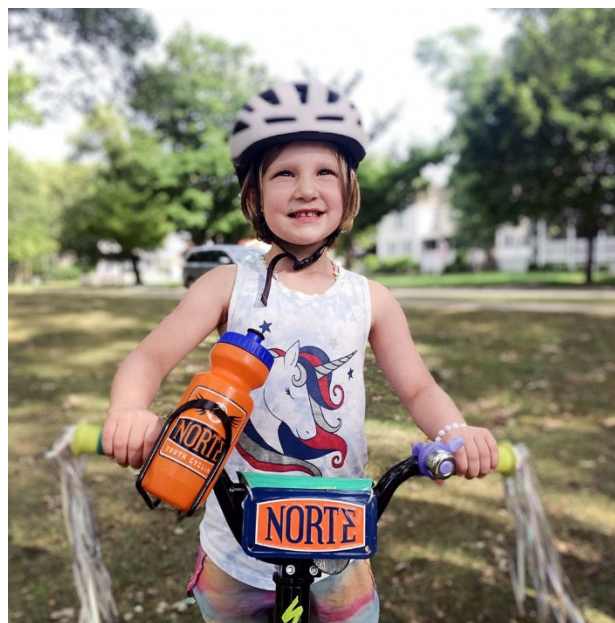
**Grand Traverse Bay YMCA:** Parks and Recreation has had a lengthy relationship with the YMCA, which has used the Civic Center Park ballfields and multipurpose field for softball and flag football programs for at least 25 years. In 2016, the partnership grew as Parks and Recreation entered into an agreement with the YMCA to manage operations of Easling Pool, located at Civic Center Park, and to take over all programming for and management of that facility. This collaboration resulted in enhanced recreational opportunities offered at the new “Central Y,” located at the Civic Center, with a new fitness center and robust pool programming. Parks and Recreation and YMCA staff share space at the Civic Center, with Parks and Recreation offices located there, and a Y Central Kiosk for customers.

**Interested Citizens Enterprises (Centre I.C.E.):** Grand Traverse has had an agreement with Centre I.C.E. for nearly 20 years to manage Howe Arena at Civic Center Park from August through March of each year. During those months, Centre I.C.E. offers youth, adult, and community ice skating and hockey programs, serving the TCAPS School District and public at large.

**North American VASA:** Under the stewardship of Parks and Recreation, the VASA Trailhead is the gateway to the 34-kilometer VASA Pathway in Pere Marquette Forest, which hosts the annual North American VASA Race. Parks and Recreation works with the VASA Board of Directors and TART Trails staff to comply with state requirements and to ensure that the VASA Trailhead and Pathway continue to meet the safety and recreational needs of hikers, skiers, and bikers.

**Norte Youth Cycling:** Norte is a tenant and program provider at Civic Center Park, where its clubhouse and bike shop are located. Norte provides summer and after-school camp, bike safety educational, and bike repair programming for youth, ages three through 17 to fulfill its mission to “keep people moving and connected to the community.” Norte also partners with and leads the City of Traverse City, Traverse City Area Public Schools, Grant Traverse Area Catholic Schools, and County Parks and Recreation to administer Safe Routes to School and Safe Routes to Parks programs and regional infrastructure improvements.

**Traverse Bay Area Youth Soccer (TBAYS):** TBAYS holds an agreement with Parks and Recreation to lease the 115-acre Keystone Soccer Complex on Keystone Road through March 2040. Executed in 2002, the lease agreement allows TBAYS to use its funds to develop, use, and manage the premises solely for the purpose of recreation amateur soccer.



*Norte riders are always smiling!*

Today, the 115-acres complex has more than 20 fields and TBAYS provides most of the soccer programming in the region.



*Traverse City Roller Derby bouts at Howe Arena*

**Traverse City Roller Derby:** Since January 2017, Traverse City Roller Derby (TCRD) has called Howe Arena at Civic Center Park its home. TCRD holds several bouts and weekly practices in the arena between May and August each year, drawing spectators of all ages.

**The River Outfitters:** Since 2016, The River Outfitters has maintained a kayak, paddleboard, and bicycle rental operation at Medalie Park. In addition to renting to on-site guests, the operation also shuttles guests to the Jack's Landing location in the Natural Education Reserve to paddle the Boardman River back to Medalie Park. The operation was sold to Paddle TC in 2023 and is now

part of a network of four rental locations, including traverse City's Clinch Park, the Delamar Hotel, and the Traverse City State Park beachfront location. This network allows renters at any of the locations to combine bike and paddle trips and pick up or drop equipment at different locations. This capability is expected to increase business at all locations and grow usership of Medalie Park.

**Grand Traverse Social Sports:** Grand Traverse Social Sports (GTSS) operates adult co-ed leagues for soccer, softball, volleyball, and kickball at Civic Center Park. With an emphasis on the social aspect, GTSS has grown considerably since its inception in 2017 to the point where they are seeking locations in addition to the Civic Center to serve their customer base. Their presence at the park has created an excellent opportunity for adult recreation.

**Bayfront Scooters:** Joining the roster of partners offering programming at Civic Center in 2022, Bayfront Scooters occupies a building next to the property's skate park. Bayfront offers scooter, skateboard, and bicycle sales and repair services along with accessories. They also manage the concession stand at the ballfields as well as selling packaged concessions from their building. The addition of Bayfront's presence at one of the most visited amenities at the park has been a positive influence on park users.



*Traverse City Tritons Rowing on Boardman Lake*

**Tritons Rowing:** Operating from Medalie Park since 2018, Tritons Rowing supports high school and middle school athletes. The program has steadily grown to become a force in the state and national rowing community. Tritons maintains a fenced enclosure with boats and equipment along with two motorized support craft.

## **Planning and Public Input Process**

### **Description of Planning and Public Input Process**

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community, as they serve as a basis for the development of an action plan. While creating this plan, department staff and the Parks and Recreation Commission facilitated various means of gathering information and data – including community input efforts, in-person public input session, and the collection of institutional knowledge from stakeholders – to review current conditions and identify opportunities for improvement of parks and facilities. Information gained from public involvement efforts, in conjunction with park evaluations and guidelines, helped to shape the goals and objectives element of this plan.

### **Recreation Planning Contributions**

Parks and Recreation has key strategic partnerships in place which support land management, programming, and operations at County Parks. In taking a collaborative approach to the development of this plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission and staff consulted with representatives from those local recreation and conservation-related organizations based on their firsthand knowledge and experience working with and in specific County parks.

Contributors included:

- Chris Kushman, Planning and Management Director, TART Trails
- Chris Garrock, Director of Stewardship, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Glen Chown, Executive Director, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Matt McDonough, Executive Director, Rotary Camps and Services
- Bob Johnson, Volunteer, American Legion Baseball
- Roy Montney, Treasurer/Coach, TBAYS
- Vic Lane, Senior Conservation Project Manager, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Steve Largent, Conservation Team Coordinator, Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Tom Vitale, Parklands Steward, Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Jill Sill, Executive Director, Norte Youth Cycling
- Andy Page, President and CEO, GT Bay YMCA
- Jeff Bensley, Owner, The River Outfitters
- Joe Berry, Director of Facilities Management, Grand Traverse County
- Rob Sabo, Grounds Staff, Grand Traverse County
- Bob Smith, Grounds Staff, Grand Traverse County
- Chris Forsyth, Deputy Administrator, Grand Traverse County
- Ariel Perreault, Office Specialist, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department
- Katelynn Brown, Office Coordinator, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department
- Ryan Walsh, Office Manager, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department (all parks)
- John Chase, Director, Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department

### **Parks and Recreation Commission Oversight**

The Parks and Recreation Commission primarily oversaw the public input process. Members of the commission participated firsthand in community input sessions to hear from citizens and to engage in dialogue about the future direction of and opportunities for the parks. The Parks and Recreation Commissioners are:

- Citizen Appointees: Rodney Kivell, Grace Edinger, Jalen Provo, Jessica Brutzman, Rodetta Harrand, John Sohacki
- County Road Commission Representative: Joe Underwood
- County Drain Commissioner: Andy Smits
- County Commissioner Representative: Brian McAllister

### **Community Input Sessions**

Parks and Recreation conducted four in-person public input sessions at various locations throughout Grand Traverse County. In an open house format intended to make dialogue engagement easy for attendees, each session started with a parks presentation and overview. Attendees then visited “listening stations” to provide feedback on County park facilities, proposed upgrades, and programs, while Parks and Recreation Commissioners and Planning Team members acted as hosts and “listeners” at each station. Approximately 20 residents attended the four sessions.

Session dates and locations included:

- October 4, Grand Traverse County Civic Center Pavilion, 5:30 pm
- October 9, Boardman River Nature Center, 5:30 pm
- October 17, Kingsley Public Library Branch, 5:30 pm
- October 19, Interlochen Public Library Branch, 5:30 pm

An extensive media campaign was used to promote the public input sessions, with coverage by the Traverse Ticker, Record-Eagle, TV 7&4, 9&10 News, WTCM AM, WTCM FM, and WKLT FM. Facebook events were created and shared widely through the Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page, County Facebook page, and local hosting sites. The Parks and Recreation Department also publicized the events through its quarterly print newsletter, freely distributed through approximately 60 retail locations through Grand Traverse County.

### **On-line Survey**

In addition to the community input sessions, public input was sought via an on-line survey during August 2023. The survey consists of multiple questions and was prominently displayed on the Parks and Recreation website homepage, the County web page, and on the department and County’s Facebook page. An extensive media campaign was also used to promote the survey, with coverage by the Traverse Ticker, Record-Eagle, TV 7&4, 9&10 News, WTCM AM, WTCM FM, WKLT FM, and WQON FM. Staff also used targeted Facebook advertising to reach specific areas of the County to gain participation. A total of 387 individuals participated in the on-line survey. Complete details of the responses received from the survey are included in Appendix C.

Following are highlights from the survey:

### **Respondent Demographics**

- 33% of respondents live in Traverse City
- 51% of respondents live in five townships: Garfield Charter Township (19%), East Bay Charter Township (11%), Long Lake Charter Township (8%), Peninsula Township (7%), and Blair Township (6%)
- At least one respondent from each township, city, and village in Grand Traverse County, except Grant Township
- The 60-69 age group generated the highest percentage of respondents (26%) followed by ages 70-79 (21%) and 16% for both ages 50-59 and 30-39.
- 70% of respondents have no children under the age of 18 in the household.
- 34% of respondents identified as male while 60% identified as female. US Census reports Grand Traverse County as 50% reporting as female or male.
- 89% describe themselves as white or Caucasian vs. 94.9% reporting the same via US Census.
- 16% responded as having an adult in the household with mobility restrictions and 1% reported a child under 18 with mobility restrictions.

### **Parks and Activities**

- Civic Center is the most frequently visited park with 34% of respondents visiting weekly followed by 12% visiting VASA Trailhead and 11% Medalie Park weekly.
- 53% of visitors indicated that they went to the Boardman River Nature Center at least annually.
- Keystone Soccer Complex was the least visited with 69% stating they have never visited. Power Island was the second least visited park with 67% stating that had never visited.
- Beitner Park has the least awareness with 29% of respondents never hearing of the park. 23% have never heard of the Natural Education Reserve.
- The most popular amenities included natural and paved trails with 48% and 46% respectively stating that their needs are fully met for these types of trails.
- 93% of respondents and their families are currently participating in walking or hiking for enjoyment. Bicycling (69%), swimming (64%), picnicking (59%), and paddle sports (55%) rounded out the top five.
- 48% of respondents are not currently participating but indicated a future interest in pickleball, 43% would like to begin attending music/theater performances, 32% plan to try snowshoeing, and 31% would like to take up archery. Ice skating, paddle sports, geocaching, cross country skiing, disc golf, camping, climbing, fishing, and orienteering all received future interest scores at 25% or higher.
- Respondents' favorite aspect of our parks included free access, variety of activities available, the quantity of parks available, and that they were well-maintained and welcoming.

### **Park Improvements**

The following are the most notable responses to various park infrastructure.



- 59% reported the condition of the parks as good and 21% reported them as fair while 2% indicated poor condition.
- Improved and an increased number of restrooms ranked highest among items visitors would most like to see changed. Improved landscape maintenance, interconnected trails between parks, better and more signage, and more parks in the outlying areas of the County were also frequently requested.

### **Benefit of Parks**

- 90% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that parks improved their household's physical fitness.
- 91% agreed or strongly agreed that parks contribute positively to environmental conservation.
- 93% agree or strongly agree that parks enhance social connections among residents.
- 93% agree or strongly agree that parks contribute positively to property values and neighborhood desirability.

### **Park Visitation**

- 26% of respondents would visit a park more often if the location to their home was more convenient. Freeform comments frequently mentioned the lack of park availability in outlying areas.
- 16% would visit a park more often if they had better information about the locations and amenities available.
- 16% indicated that not knowing the location of facilities prevented further use of County parks.
- 9% indicated a lack of parking at facilities as a barrier to park usage.

### **New or Expanded Facilities**

Improved and more restrooms led the comments when asked what residents would most like to see changed in Grand Traverse County parks. The remaining top recommendations included:

- Retaining properties for continued enjoyment as County parks.
- Expanded park space in outlying areas of the County outside Traverse City.
- Improved general maintenance throughout the parks with emphasis on landscaping.
- Improved trail surface and general maintenance of the Civic Center walking track.
- Improved trail connectivity among parks.
- Better and more effective wayfinding signage.
- Addition of pickleball courts.
- Improved park accessibility.
- More effective rule enforcement, especially regarding off-leash dogs.

Other findings of interest included:

- 64% of respondents would support a new millage to finance park operations.
- 58% would support parks through attendance at paid programs and 38% would rent park facilities. Respondents also provide examples of alternate means to support parks, including endowment funding, hotel/motel tax, and expanded use of general fund appropriation for investment in parks.

- 43% are likely or very likely to participate in volunteer programs or community initiatives related to parks and recreation.

### **Planning and Public Input Conclusions**

The public input received as part of this process reinforces several of the conclusions drawn from previous planning processes within our community in recent years. The Grand Traverse region is known nationally as an excellent place for a high quality of life, predominantly due to the wealth and diversity of our natural resources available for year-round recreation. Our community is asking for a continued investment in our current parks and the addition of park property in areas outside Traverse City.

Consistent with previous surveys, respondents were frequently unaware of the difference between County, City, and Township parks. Several responses were received requesting improvements to various non-County park properties. This indicates an opportunity for more effective marketing and branding for County park properties and their amenities. Several comments also indicated a need to provide more effective public awareness of park locations and amenities.

The responses and discussions that took place throughout the process are valuable in guiding the direction of Parks and Recreation. The County has established the necessary partnerships and networks within our community to address many of the community's expressed needs within the next five years. Positive progress is being seen in grant awards, public support, and project development within park properties.

Residents were pleased to be asked their opinion and were generous with their feedback. We appreciate the time that each person gave to help us ensure that our park properties meet and exceed their expectations.



## **Objectives and Goals**

### **Introduction**

The mission of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department is to “enhance community and quality of life through people parks and programs.” The foundation of that mission and the philosophy of the Parks and Recreation Commission is to make its parks and parks programming safe and accessible to all. The Parks and Recreation Commission also strives to promote and bring as many users as possible to its unique parks. Building usership and providing the programming and services that attract users of all ages is a priority when identifying projects for each County park.

The goals and objectives presented in this section are based on public input received as part of this planning process, actions outlined in the Civic Center Master Site Plan, research on park service and amenity trends, a review of local non-County park assets, observation of the condition of County park properties, and input from stakeholders and staff.

## **Goals and Objectives**

### **Development of goals and objectives**

Development and park and recreation properties and programming is guided by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission. The department’s planning process considers the following when determining goals, objectives, and tactics:

- Department mission.
- Physical resources and characteristics of the County.
- Demographics of the County.
- Evaluation of existing County park assets and amenities.
- Regional availability of recreation resources.
- Impact on the environment.
- Financial capacity and projections.
- Local and national trends affecting parks and recreation.
- Input from residents, park visitors, commission members, staff, and partners.

### **Goals and objectives**

#### **1. Deliver a comprehensive park and recreation system throughout the County**

- a. Continue to improve park amenities to serve users (such as bathrooms, parking, lighting, park benches, picnic tables).
- b. Manage and develop park amenities to meet the current and future needs of users.
- c. Deliver value-added programming to residents of Grand Traverse County.
- d. Assess and develop a plan to increase accessibility to County parks.
- e. Maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for all users.

## **2. Protect and preserve park resources**

- a. Maintain and manage park properties to showcase their natural and historic beauty while providing a blend of passive and active recreation opportunities for visitors.
- b. Develop forestry management, conservation, and invasive species plans for all parks.
- c. Strategically acquire property for use as future parkland.

## **3. Develop and value the relationships and contributions of park users, staff, and partners**

- a. Consistently and openly seek feedback with a focus on continuous improvement.
- b. Solidify and expand partnerships and collaborations to improve and maintain parks.
- c. Collaborate with local municipalities to provide park and recreation services throughout the County.
- d. Invest in staff development to grow capabilities and capacity.
- e. Continue to partner with TART Trails, Grand Traverse Conservation District, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and other entities to provide further County-wide connectivity through non-motorized and multi-modal trails.
- f. Celebrate successes.

## **4. Increase operational efficiency and financial sustainability**

- a. Promote all parks and reservation facilities to increase revenue and build usership.
- b. Strengthen financial sustainability of Parks and Recreation.
- c. Develop a cost recovery model.
- d. Establish and build a Parks and Recreation capital fund.
- e. Develop a multi-year budgeting process.
- f. Develop and manage a comprehensive capital asset inventory and management plan.
- g. Leverage general fund and private contributions to grow grant revenue and support park improvement and acquisition.
- h. Create operational efficiencies.

## Action Plan

Grand Traverse County Parks seeks to adapt and evolve its park system and offerings as the community needs change. Careful attention needs to be placed on providing appropriate development while also maintaining the rural heritage of our community. Demand continues to grow for better facilities to support both growing families and aging park users. As outlying townships grow and expand services, the County park system also needs to seek opportunities to serve those populations. Looking toward the future and preserving open space for future generations is also a prime consideration in the department's actions.

The action plan in Appendix D outlines priorities for the next five years. It is important to note that these plans will change during the period as community needs change, financial opportunities change, and opportunities arise. These priorities were assembled using significant input from community residents, staff, partners, and others who support Grand Traverse County Park goals.

Priority items have been categorized as follows:

- Communication
- All parks
- Individual parks
- Operations
- People and partnerships
- Planning
- Programming

Appendix A: Recreation inventory

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Size	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Horse trails	Paddlecraft launch	Boat Launch	Swim/Beach	Splash pad	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Pickleball	Volleyball	Disc golf	Dog park	Picnic	Sledding hill	Ball Fields	Ice rink	Biking	YC sking/snowshoeing	Fishing	Hunting	Camping	
Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation																														
Bartlett Park/VASA Trailhead, 4444 Bartlett Road, Acme	80	Y	Y				Y																		Y	Y				
Beitner Park, 2651 Beitner Road, Traverse City	5	Y	Y				Y		Y												Y						Y			
Civic Center, 1213 W. Civic Center Drive, Traverse City	45	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y						Y	Y	Y						Y		Y		Y					
Keystone Soccer Complex , W. Keystone Road N., Traverse City	170	Y	Y	Y	Y								Y																	
Maple Bay Park and Natural Area, 10849 U.S. 31 North, Traverse City	452	Y	Y				Y		Y		Y																	Y		
Medalie Park, 1910 S. Airport Road, Traverse City	8	Y	Y		Y		Y		Y													Y			Y		Y			
Meyer Property, 1901 W. Keystone Road N., Traverse City	10						Y																							
Nature Education Reserve, 1450 Cass Road, Traverse City	505	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y												Y						Y			
Power Island, West Bay, Peninsula Township	202	Y					Y				Y										Y								Y	
TART Trails, Various Portions: 1 Mi. in TC; 10 Mi. West in County	NA		Y				Y																		Y					
Twin Lakes Park, 6800 N. Long Lake Road, Long Lake Township	175	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y		Y		Y	Y	Y			Y			Y									
Acme Township																														
Bayside Park, Shores Beach Lane	14.7	Y	Y		Y						Y							Y			Y									
Bunker Hill Rd. Boat Access	0.3								Y																					
Deepwater Point Natural Area, Shore Road	14.9		Y				Y																							
Saylor Park, Yuba Road	22	Y	Y	Y	Y					Y	Y				Y			Y			Y						Y			
Yuba Creek, U.S. 31 North, Yuba Road	413		Y				Y																					Y		
Blair Township																														
Blair Township Park, 2121 County Road 633	25	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					Y			Y	Y		Y			Y		Y							
East Bay Township																														
Arbutus Lake No. 5 Park, E. Arbutus Lake Road	2	Y	Y	Y					Y		Y										Y						Y			
Gens Park, US 31 North	0.62	Y	Y								Y										Y									
Grace Macdonald Park, E. Arbutus Lake Road	42	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				Y	Y	Y							
Kelly Park, Point View Road	0.1																													
Killingsworth Park, Chandler Road	50	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y											Y					Y				
Pines Park, Eikey Road	80																													
Pinegrove Park, Hemlock Street	0.5				Y										Y						Y									
Garfield Township																														
Boardman Lake Loop Trail	NA		Y				Y																							
Boardman Valley Nature Preserve	125.1		Y				Y				Y					Y		Y												
Grand Traverse Commons Natural Area	185		Y				Y																							
Hughes Drive Natural Area	8.7																													
Kids Creek Park	20.6						Y																							
Miller Creek Nature Reserve	93.9																													
River East Recreation Area	70.9	Y	Y		Y															Y										
Silver Lake Recreation Area	84.8	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y								Y	Y							Y							
Green Lake Township																														
Green Lake Access, Diamond Park Road			Y							Y																				
Green Lake Township Memorial Park, Karlin Road		Y	Y	Y	Y								Y		Y			Y			Y		Y							
Bicentennial Park, Third Street																														
Kingsley Village																														
Grove Park	2		Y				Y																							
Civic Center South, Clark Street	40	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y						Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y						
Brownson Memorial Park, S. Brownson Avenue	2.4	Y	Y	Y	Y						Y										Y									
Long Lake Township																														
Cedar Run Creek Natural Area	316	Y	Y				Y														Y					Y	Y	Y	Y	



Owner/Facility Name/Address	Size	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Horse trails	Paddlecraft launch	Boat Launch	Swim/Beach	Splash pad	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Pickleball	Volleyball	Disc golf	Dog park	Picnic	Sledding hill	Ball fields	Ice rink	Biking	XC skiing/snowshoeing	Fishing	Hunting	Camping
J. Smith Walkway, E. Front Street	0.06																												
Sunrise Peace Park, Birchwood Ave	0.1																												
Sunset Park, E. Front Street	2.22			Y																									
Union Street Dam Park, Union Street	0.93																										Y		
Volleyball Court Area, Grandview Parkway	2.79		Y															Y										Y	
Wellington Street Plaza, E. Front Street	0.07																											Y	
West End Beach, Grandview Parkway	4.06	Y	Y				Y				Y							Y			Y								
Whitewater Township																													
Whitewater Township Park, Park Road	117	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y			Y	Y							Y			Y					Y	Y		Y
Hi Pray Park, Elk Lake Road	12	Y	Y	Y	Y										Y	Y	Y				Y		Y						
Lossie Road Nature Trail, Cook Road	1		Y				Y														Y								
Petobego Natural Area, Angell Road	250		Y				Y																				Y	Y	
Battle Creek Natural Area, Skegemog Point Road	255		Y				Y																			Y		Y	
Fife Lake Township																													
Memorial Park, State and Merritt Streets	0.13																												
Fife Lake Area Park, State/Bates	9	Y	Y	Y	Y										Y	Y	Y				Y		Y						
Sandy Beach	0.1										Y																		
Pierce Street Park	6.5	Y	Y																Y			Y							
Lakeside Park	0.5		Y				Y			Y	Y										Y								
Grand Traverse County Road Commission																													
East Bay Access, Dock Road, Acme	0.1		Y							Y																			
East Bay Access, Four Mile Road, East Bay	0.1		Y							Y																			
State of Michigan																													
Shore to Shore Riding and Hiking Trail							Y																						
Boardman Valley Snowmobile Trail							Y																						
North Country Trail							Y																						
State of Michigan: Acme Township																													
Petobego State Game Area							Y																						
East Bay Access, Bunker Hill Road			Y																										
State of Michigan: Blair Township																													
Boardman River Access, Shumsky Road										Y																			
Boardman River Access, River Road										Y																			
State of Michigan: East Bay Township																													
Keith J. Charters Traverse City State Park, U.S. 31 North	47	Y	Y	Y							Y										Y						Y		Y
Scheck's Place Campground, Brown Bridge Road			Y					Y																			Y	Y	Y
Arbutus Lake No. 4 Access, N. Arbutus Lake Road										Y																			
Arbutus Lake No. 4 Campground, N. Arbutus Lake Road			Y																								Y	Y	Y
VASA Singletrack Trail, Supply Road		Y	Y				Y																		Y				
Spider Lake Access, Grace Road										Y																			
State of Michigan: Fife Lake Township																													
Fife Lake Access, State Street	2.4									Y																			
Fife Lake Roadside park	10	Y																			Y								
Spring Lake State Forest Campground, U.S. 131			Y							Y																			Y
State of Michigan: Grant Township																													
Green Lake Access, Betsie River Road										Y																			
State of Michigan: Green Lake Township																													
Interlochen State Park	187	Y	Y	Y			Y			Y	Y										Y						Y		Y
Lake Dubonnet State Forest Campground		Y	Y				Y			Y	Y																Y		Y
Lost Lake Pathway			Y				Y																		Y			Y	

Owner/Facility Name/Address	Size	Restrooms	Parking Spaces	Playground	Pavilion	Gym	Trail	Horse trails	Paddlecraft launch	Boat Launch	Swim/Beach	Splash pad	Soccer	Football	Basketball	Tennis	Pickleball	Volleyball	Disc golf	Dog park	Picnic	Sledding hill	Ball Fields	Ice rink	Biking	XC skiing/snowshoeing	Fishing	Hunting	Camping	
Cedar Hedge Lake Access, Gonder Road										Y																				
Ellis Lake Access, Ellis Lake Road										Y																				
Bass Lake Access, Betsie River Road										Y																				
State of Michigan: Long Lake Township																														
Cedar Lake Access										Y																				
Bass Lake Access										Y																				
State of Michigan: Mayfield Township																														
Fish Lake Access, County Road 633										Y																				
State of Michigan: Peninsula Township																														
East Bay Access, Center Road			Y							Y																				
Bowers Harbor Access, Ne Ah Ta Wanta Road		Y	Y							Y																				
State of Michigan: Union Township																														
Fork's Place Campground, Brown Bridge Road		Y	Y						Y																				Y	
Muncie Lake Pathway, S. Muncie Lake Road			Y				Y																							
State of Michigan: Whitewater Township																														
Sand Lakes Quiet Area, Broomhead Road	2775		Y				Y																		Y					
Lake Skegemog Access, Lakeside Trail										Y																				
Private Facilities																														
East Bay Harbor Marina, U.S. 31 North, Acme Township		Y	Y							Y																				
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme Township		Y	Y								Y					Y	Y													
Traverse Bay RV Park, Acme Township		Y	Y	Y			Y																						Y	
Holiday Park Campground, U.S. 31 South, Blair Township		Y	Y	Y																									Y	
Centre Ice, East Bay Township			Y	Y																					Y					
Mt. Holiday, Holiday Road, East Bay Township		Y	Y	Y			Y															Y				Y				
Reffitt Nature Reserve, East Bay Township			Y				Y																							
Timber Ridge Campground, East Bay Township		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y				Y															Y	Y		Y	
Fox Run Family Campground, Fife Lake Township		Y	Y	Y																										
Mitchell Creek Nature Preserve, Garfield Township			Y				Y																							
Grand Traverse Bay South YMCA, Garfield Township		Y	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y		Y				Y	Y	Y													
Great Wolf Lodge and Water Park, Garfield Township		Y	Y	Y							Y	Y																		
Carter-Strong Bird Sanctuary, Long Lake Township			Y				Y																							
Ranch Rudolf, Union Township		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	Y												Y					Y	Y	Y		Y





# GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY

## Civic Center Park Site Master Plan



November 2020

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# Acknowledgments

## COUNTY COMMISSION

Ron Clous, Vice Chair  
Rob Hentschel, Chair  
Bryce Hundley  
Addison "Sonny" Wheelock, Jr.  
Gordie LaPointe  
Betsy Coffia  
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Ryan Walsh

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# 1 Introduction

Civic Center Park is a county-owned 45-acre park with an assortment of recreational amenities and uses. The park is a central hub located within the City of Traverse City. Civic Center Park is a destination for residents and visitors from across the region. This multi-use park offers a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational facilities for people of all ages and abilities, including but not limited to:

- » Indoor Pool, Ice Rink / Indoor Multi-use Space
- » 7 Baseball/Softball Fields
- » Skatepark
- » One Mile Walking Path
- » Amphitheater
- » Exhibition Space
- » Sledding Hill
- » Pavilion
- » Community Playground

The County collaborates with numerous organizations to offer programs and special events for all generations.

The purpose of the site master plan for the Civic Center Park is to create a comprehensive plan for future development and to assist in seeking funding opportunities. The new site master plan incorporates an intuitive, cohesive flow within the site, tying together current and proposed amenities. Beckett & Raeder, Inc. took a thoughtful approach to design the park to draw people in with the proposed new entrance plazas, a promenade, lighting, and cultural art structures.



Entrance sign.





*Civic Center ball fields.*



*Building landscaping.*



# 2 Planning Process

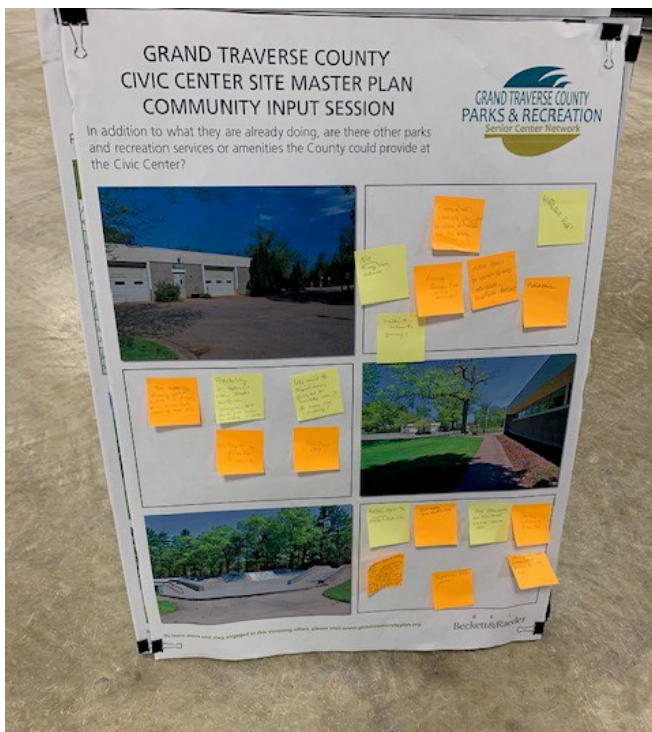
The planning process included an array of public engagement activities. Four online surveys were developed to gather feedback from the public, multiple focus groups, and children under 18 years old. The community survey was extremely successful with 1,592 responses. A total of five focus groups were targeted to complete surveys directed at each group's concentration. Focus group interviews also took place in person to seek input from a selected audience that uses the park on a regular basis. Finally, a youth survey was conducted to get a children's perspective of how they see and use the park. A total of 103 youth surveys were returned. A full summary of the survey results can be found in the appendix of this report.

A public input meeting was held on June 22, 2020 to gather feedback from the community on what

they would like to see incorporated into the design of the Civic Center Park. The community feedback further directed the design process.

Two preliminary conceptual site master plans were developed and displayed at a public input session on September 9, 2020 to gather the community's feedback once again. The public made comments on each plan and described the amenities and features they liked for each concept. The two concept plans were posted on the project website and a survey was made available to obtain more feedback from the community to narrow down the direction of the final plan.

BRI compiled all the public input and put the desired park elements and amenities into one final design plan.



Public input poster.

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY CIVIC CENTER SITE MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION			
Please rate the overall importance of the following items.			
	Very Important	Important	Unimportant
Adding small aesthetic improvements would enhance the park's appeal.	●●●●	●●	●
Improve parking and pedestrian/vehicle traffic.		●	
Adding safety features such as lighting, cameras, emergency phones, and defibrillators.	●●		
Adding pickleball courts.	●		
Improve/maintain the existing facilities before adding new facilities.	●●●●●	●	
Improve Americans with Disabilities Act standards to all facilities.	●		

Importance of items at public input meeting.





*Public input meeting.*

# 3 Needs Assessment

The needs assessment included collecting information from the public regarding their recreational needs and desires. The online survey served as the main avenue to gather feedback from the community. The public input sessions also allowed the public to provide their vision for the Civic Center Park.

The purpose of collecting all the public input was to garner feedback about the frequency of use, recreational program interests and park facility needs. The survey responses relayed a significant amount of information regarding the needs for Civic Center Park.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) highlights the benefits of parks and recreation services. The top benefits include health and wellness, improving quality of life, building strong communities, improve economic impact,

and increase property values. All these factors are important to incorporate into the planning process. National park and recreation trends were researched to develop a strategy for the site master plan.

Some of the trends that are incorporated in the Civic Center Park site master plan include the following:

- » Develop multigenerational infrastructure for people of all ages.
- » Create multi-use facilities for maximum utilization.
- » Incorporate revenue generating spaces to ensure sustainability.
- » Create facilities that support structured activities and spontaneous activities.
- » Develop a site to accommodate the community both physically and financially.



*Playground at the Civic Center.*





*Civic Center entrance sign.*



*Skate park.*

The survey results were helpful in determining the vision of the community at large, explaining the need for the types of projects in priority order. According to the community survey, the most important elements were improving access and circulation in the park by sidewalks, connections with neighborhoods, and parking areas. Facility upgrades, security measures and aesthetic improvements were also important to expand the park's appeal.

The community leaders and park donors/investors rated the park amenities in a separate survey. The top priority was to replace and widen the walking/jogging path. Improving access and expanding facilities were also important aspects.

User groups and programming partners also responded to a survey. These groups would like to see the parking and circulation improved, the facilities management department moved to another location off site, and add pickleball courts.

Children under the age of 18 completed a survey to describe their vision for the Civic Center Park.

The top three reasons the children go to the park is to have fun, the park is cool, and to use the skate park. The favorite activities to participate in are the skatepark, scootering, and bike activities. The best attributes are the skatepark, people, and the playground. The children would visit the park more often if the skatepark was improved, and if the park were maintained better. Amenities that would improve their experience at the Civic Center Park would be a bigger and better skatepark, a new pump track, and an outdoor pool.

Planning for parks and recreation systems during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed and will continue to change indefinitely. The need for community parks is vital at this time. The community members need a place to get outside in nature to exercise, relax, and socialize. Parks are crucial to providing people with an opportunity to improve their overall health and wellness. The National Recreation and Park Association has documented numerous initiatives to improve the nations' health and wellness through parks and recreation services.

# 4 Site Inventory & Analysis

During the inventory and analysis process, the project site was visited numerous times to gain information regarding current conditions, uses and potential use conflicts, pedestrian and vehicular circulation, safety, and maintenance challenges. Specifically, park inventory focused on the following:

- » Park Facilities: Type, Size, Materials, Capacity, Condition, Accessibility and User Group
- » Circulation Patterns, Accessibility, Safety and Convenience
- » Aesthetics of Project Site

BRI focused on analysis of site inventory as follows:

- » Identification of facilities in need of repair or replacement
- » Improvements required to facilitate a more inclusive, safer, and more efficient accessible pedestrian circulation system that provides a level of options
- » Identification of use intensities for park facilities, and opportunities to enhance and increase use
- » Potential opportunities to introduce new facilities to increase park use

BRI presented its inventory and analysis findings in verbal and graphic form to the public.

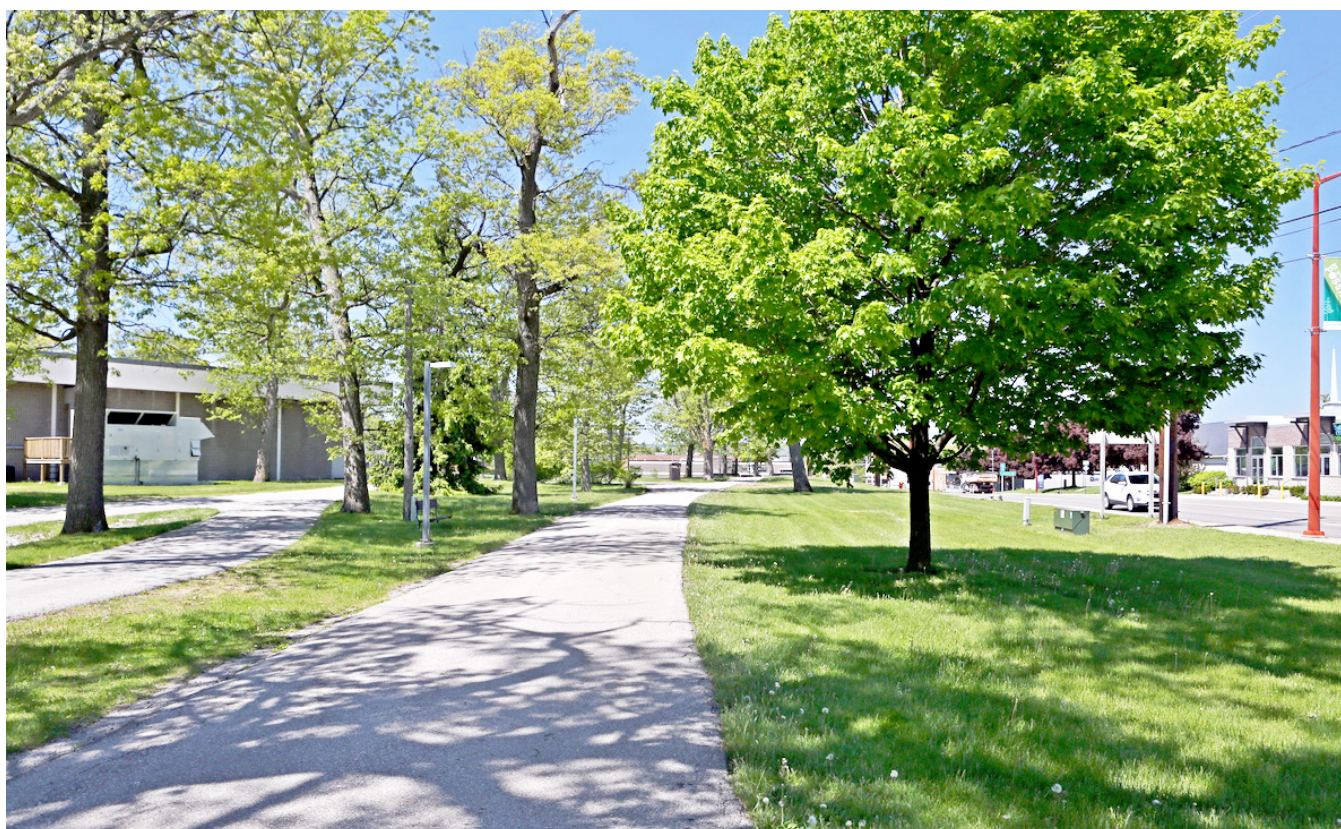


*Civic Center Stage.*





*Pavilion and swingset.*



*Looking west along US 31 from the Civic Center.*



# 5 Preliminary Concept Plans

The Grand Traverse County demographics, recreational trends, and community engagement were all considered during the conceptual site design phase. Using this information combined with the inventory and analysis described above, BRI consulted with the Parks and Recreation Department with Grand Traverse County to establish basic plan objectives. BRI compiled the feedback regarding site organization, safety and circulation improvements and options, use intensities and opportunities to increase recreational use. BRI prepared two preliminary concept plans that featured differing degrees of development and options. To summarize, both concepts attempted to improve upon park condition, use, circulation, recreational opportunities, and aesthetics but with differing

degrees of proposed development. The plans were presented as separate sets of options from which a final set of options would ideally be composed.

A survey was set up and distributed to gather more feedback on the two preliminary site concept plans. The two options were posted for the public to give their opinion regarding their preferences.

BRI presented the plans for input at two separate Parks and Recreation Commission meetings to gather feedback from the community, County representatives and stakeholders. The plans were presented as separate sets of options from which a final set of options would ideally be composed.



*Civic Center entrance looking from the Civic Center building.*





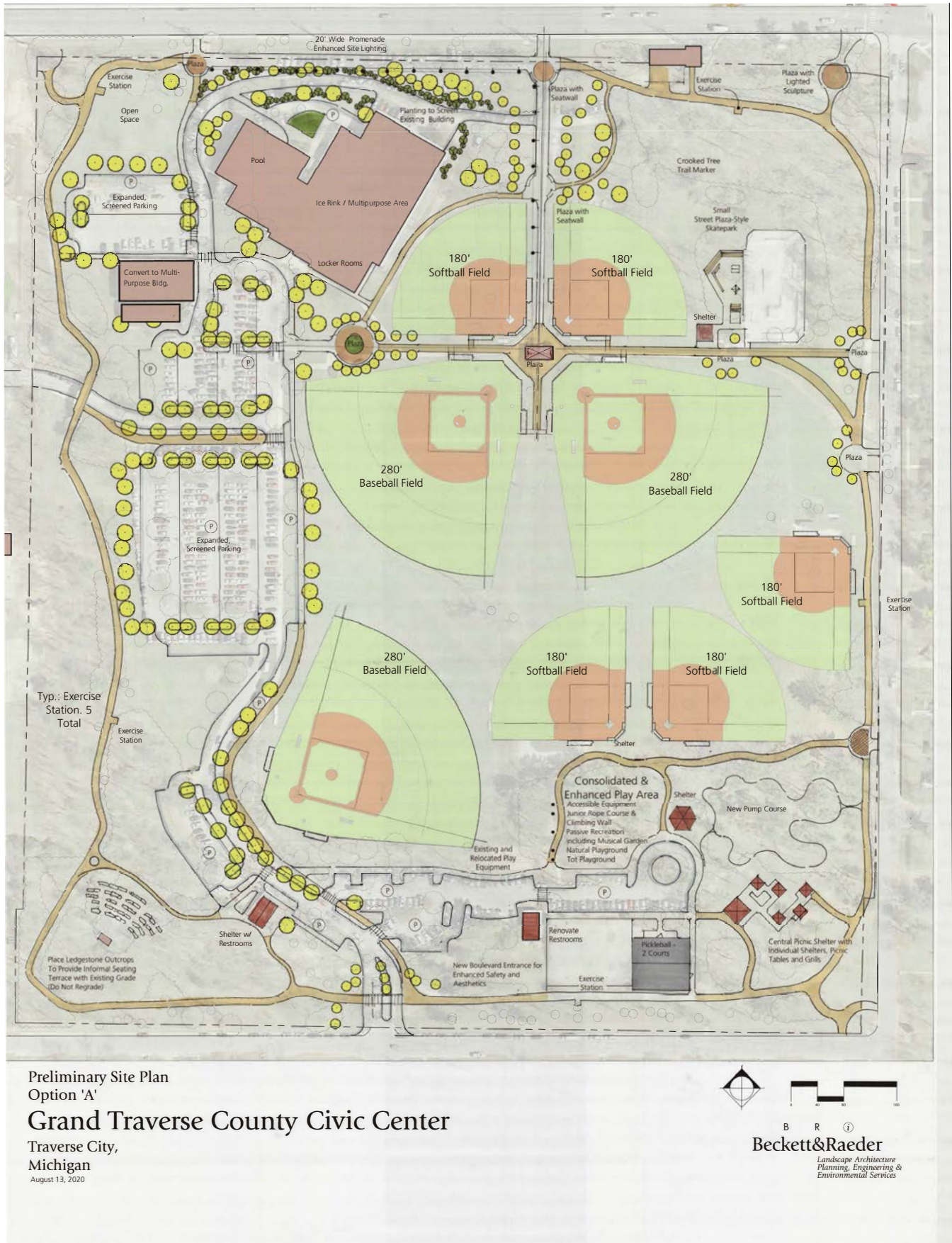
*Trail bridge.*



*Material storage.*



Figure 1: Preliminary Site Plan Option A









# 6 Final Design Plan

The Civic Center Park final design plan was completed based on feedback received from the community, County representatives and stakeholders during the input opportunities described previously. Additionally, County representatives were consulted separately regarding function and maintenance of the proposed improvements shown in the preliminary plans. Some of the features of the final design plan include:

- » Replacement of the walking path at a true, 1-mile length, 10' wide width, with 3' wide cinder running path and 7 exercise stations
- » Consolidation of bicycle facilities to the southeast corner of the park, to develop a bicycle education center
- » Ice Rink / Multi-Purpose Indoor Facility Addition
- » Playground consolidation, renovation and improvement that focuses on improved accessibility and safety, increased opportunities for very young children and less intensive play, and challenging play elements for older children
- » Skatepark expansion
- » Garfield Street entrance enhancement to a 2-way road with 10' wide accessible non-motorized pedestrian path
- » Improvement of an addition to internal accessible pedestrian circulation system
- » Commitment of the northeast corner of the park for commemoration of the Native American Marker Tree
- » Aesthetic improvements with additional focus on Front Street frontage

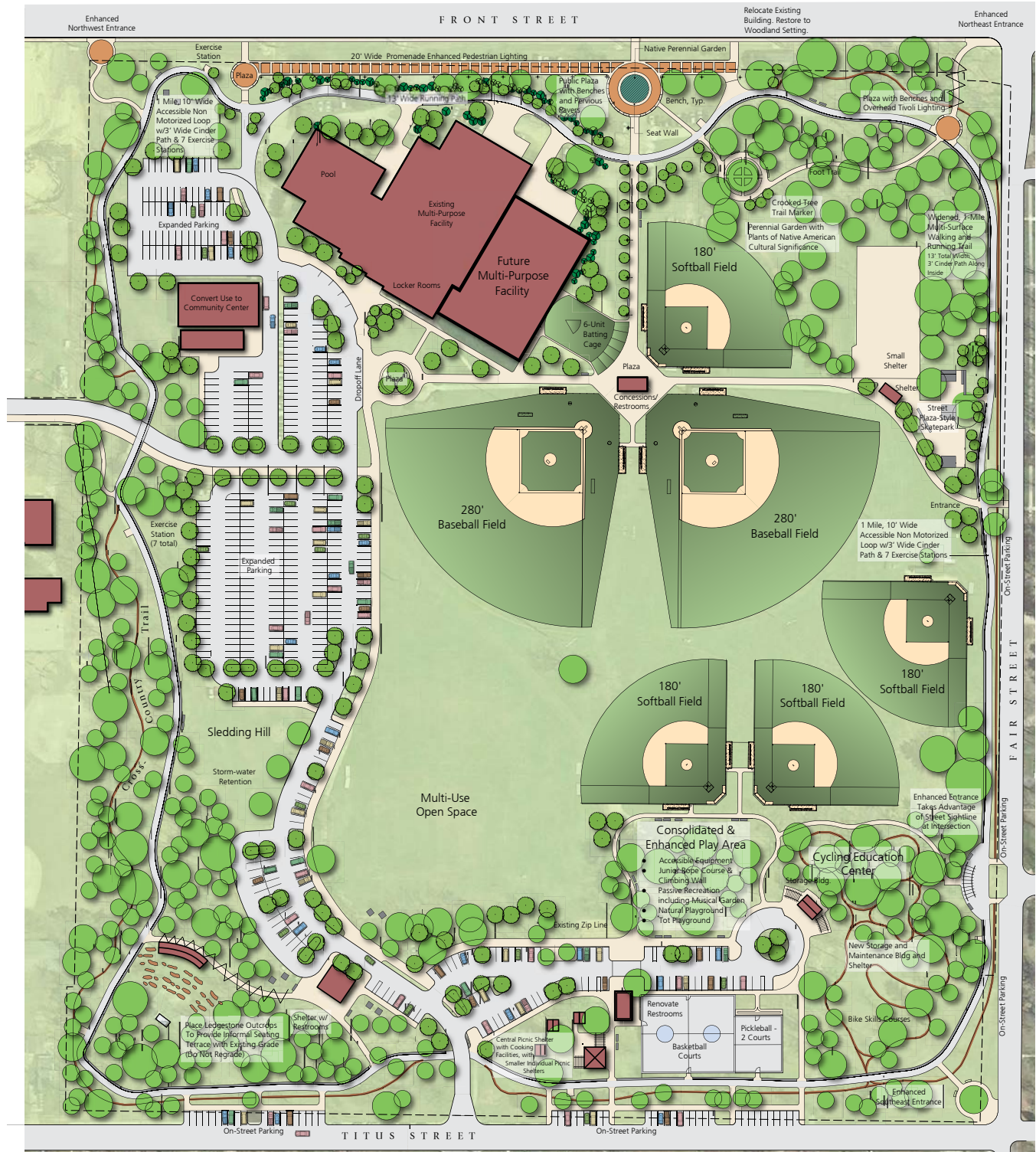
BRI presented the final design plan for approval to the County during a regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. After approval, BRI prepared a preliminary opinion of construction cost, with a set of phasing options that can be used to implement the improvements over a period of time.



*Southeast corner of the Civic Center.*



Figure 3: Final Design Plan

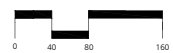


Draft Final Site Plan - Preview Copy

## Grand Traverse County Civic Center

Traverse City,  
Michigan

October 2, 2020





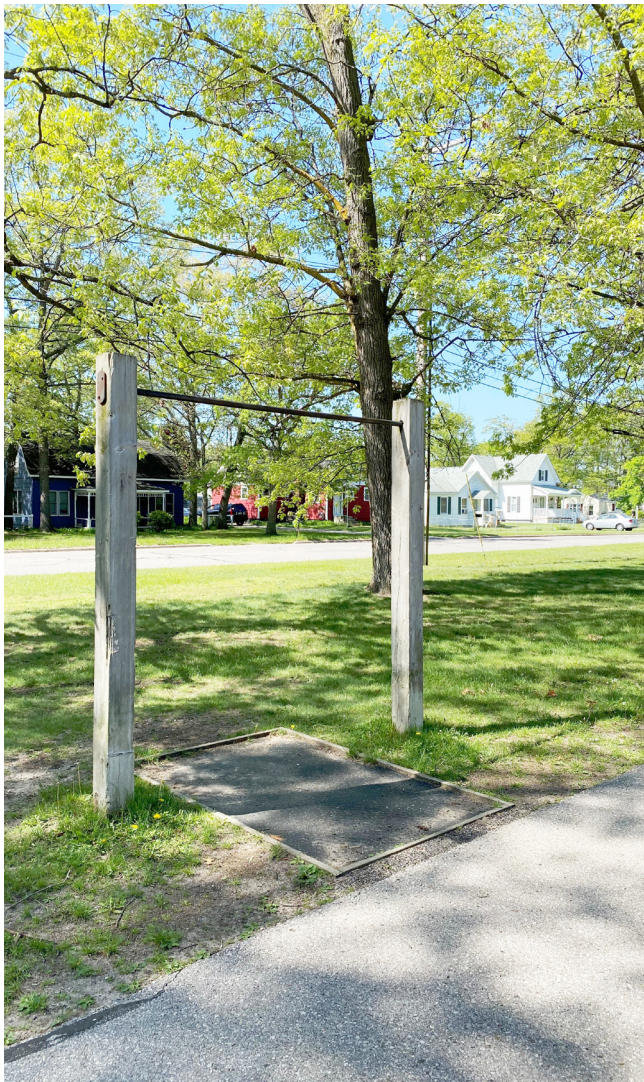
## POTENTIAL PROJECT PHASES AND PRELIMINARY OPINION OF CONSTRUCTION COST

Using the approved final design plan, and current cost information to the degree possible, BRI prepared the following set of project phases and accompanying costs. While it may be most efficient for the phases to be completed in the sequence identified, the proposed phasing is not sequence dependent. Additionally, phasing may be further expended to realize smaller projects to fit development budgets and potential funding opportunities.

**A word about cost estimates:** BRI prepares opinions of preliminary construction cost (OPCC)

based on current construction cost information to the degree possible. Also included in OPCCs are additional project costs including contingencies for final design and engineering, construction contingencies, and contractor general conditions, in an effort to present cost information inclusive of construction budgets at the time of the OPCC. Once a phase or proposed project becomes closer to implementation, we recommend the OPCC be revisited and construction costs updated using present-time cost information as necessary.

Following are short summaries of project phasing and associated costs. A phasing key and detailed cost information by phase is included in the appendix of this report.



*Exercise equipment.*



*Sidewalk between ball fields.*

## PHASE 1 PROGRAM

Walking path replacement to 1-mile length with cinder running path and exercise stations, NE, NW and SE entrance improvements, and associated connector walks and site furnishings.

OPCC: \$869,500

## PHASE 2 PROGRAM

Marker Tree Garden development and landscape restoration.

OPCC: \$869,500

## PHASE 3 PROGRAM

Southeast corner improvements including consolidated and improved playground, bicycle education center development, pickleball courts, picnic area, and associated interior parking area and walks.

OPCC: \$1,818,500

## PHASE 4 PROGRAM

Southwest corner improvements including removal and replacement of pavilion, amphitheater improvements, associated parking, drives and walks.

OPCC: \$723,000

## PHASE 5 PROGRAM

Street-plaza style skatepark addition, Fair Street entry improvements, and associated walks.

OPCC: \$352,000

## PHASE 6 PROGRAM

New Rink / Multi-purpose Building\*, ballfield renovation, fields 1-3; ballfield reconstruction, fields 3-6, new 5-place automatic batting cage, north, east and west ballfield walks, and landscaping between walking path and Civic Center buildings.

OPCC: \$2,548,00\*

\*Cost for New Rink / Multi-purpose Building not included in this cost.

## PHASE 7 PROGRAM

South roads, drives and walks as indicated.

OPCC: \$871,000

## PHASE 8 PROGRAM

North roads, drives and walks as indicated.

OPCC: \$979,500

## PHASE 9 PROGRAM

Front Street promenade: Front Street frontage improvements as indicated.

OPCC: \$500,500

## PHASE 10 PROGRAM

Titus Street parking and walks as indicated.

OPCC: \$181,500

## PHASE 11 PROGRAM

Garfield Street entry drives and walks as indicated.

OPCC: \$220,500



# 7 Funding Sources

There are variety of possible funding sources to develop or renovate parks and recreation facilities and amenities. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has a variety of grants that are made available through state and federal funding. Table 1: MDNR Grant Opportunities highlights the grants that would apply to the Civic Center Park.

Funding created through a millage would increase the opportunities for capital improvement projects, maintenance, and a sustainable future. The Table 2: Example of Potential Millage Rates details the rate of funding a millage could create for Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation. A millage would need to be placed on a ballot and voted on by the people.

The National Recreation and Park Association research has come up with key findings that people show strong support for Park and Recreation funding. Two-thirds of U.S. adults want their local government to dedicate funds through revenues, taxes and levies that directly support parks and

recreation. Dedicated park and recreation funding is essential to the parks, programs, and services that help build healthy, strong and vibrant communities nationwide.<sup>1</sup>

A current trend in funding parks and recreation systems has included Agency-Foundation relationships.<sup>2</sup> Agencies across the United States have partnered with foundations to advocate and raise funds to sustain parks and operations. Some communities have developed “friends groups” to provide services to the park and recreation agency in the way of labor, fundraising, and in-kind services. Now more than ever, parks and recreation agencies need assistance in developing sustainable funding to maintain parks and operations. During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, foundations can be key to help offset costs for maintenance and operations of park systems.

1 National Recreation and Park Association, Park Pulse

2 National Recreation and Park Association, Park and Recreation Agency-Foundation Relationships 2020

**Table 1: MDNR Grant Opportunities**

Grant	Eligible Projects	Match Requirements	Grant Request Amount
Trust Fund	Development for public outdoor recreation such as: trails, campgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts and restrooms	Minimum 25%	\$15,000 - \$300,000
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Development for public outdoor recreation such as: trails, picnic areas, beaches, campgrounds, boating access and fishing areas.	Minimum 50%	\$30,000 - \$300,000
Recreation Passport	Development for public outdoor and indoor recreation such as: trails, picnic areas, beaches, campgrounds, boating access and fishing areas. Renovation of existing facilities is emphasized.	Minimum 25%	\$7,500 - \$150,000

Table 2: Example of Potential Millage Rates

Grand Traverse County	
Taxable Valuation 2020	\$5,375,341,574.00
Millage Rates	Funding
1/8 (.1250)	\$671,918
1/4 (.2500)	\$1,343,835
1/2 (.5000)	\$2,687,671
3/4 (.7500)	\$4,031,506
1 (1.000)	\$5,375,342



Howe Arena



Basketball court, fountain, and bike racks.

# Appendix

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Preliminary Opinion of Probable Construction Cost	47



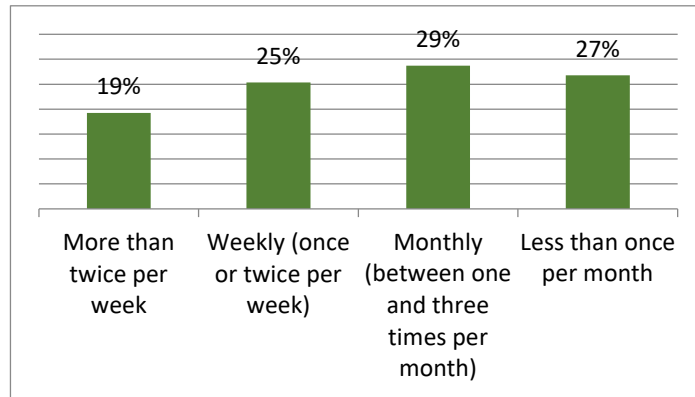
## CIVIC CENTER PARK COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

### Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Civic Center Park Community Survey Results Summary

As part of the Civic Center Park site master planning process, the County Parks and Recreation Department distributed an online survey. Community engagement allows people to respond honestly to collect candid feedback. The response was outstanding with 1,592 completed surveys. Below is a summary of the results and open responses.

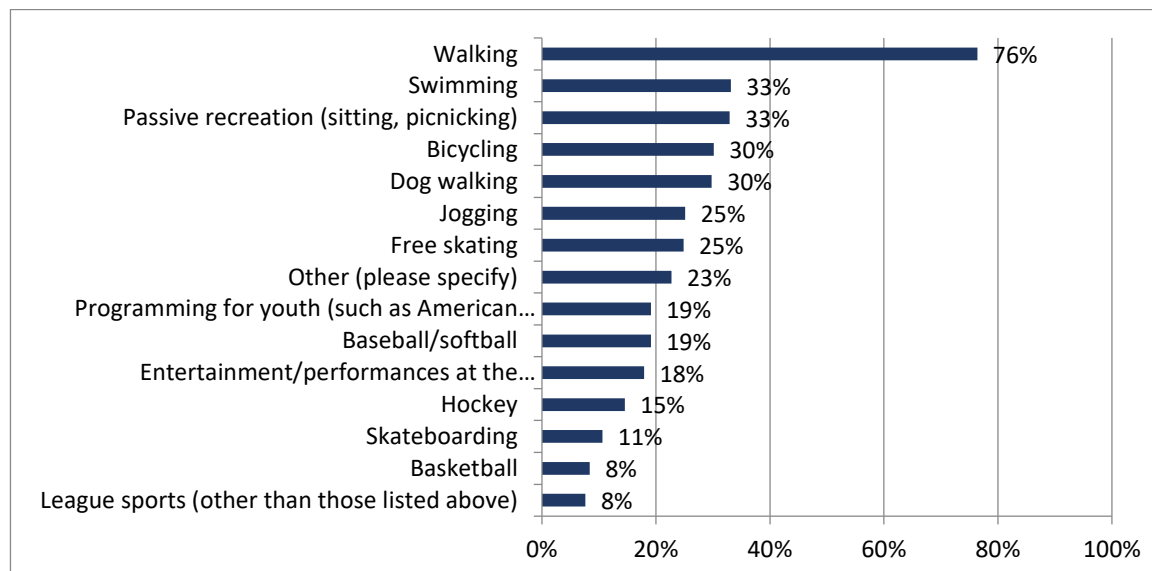
#### Question 1

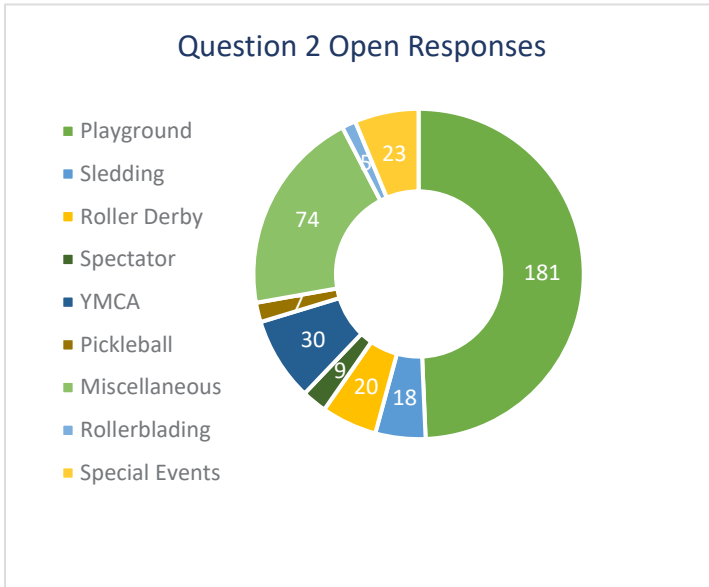
The survey asked the respondents how often they visit the Civic Center throughout the year. Listed below are the results highlighting the attendance at the park. 44% of the people visit the park weekly or more than twice per week.



#### Question 2

The survey asked people to check all the activities they like to participate in at the Civic Center. The chart below highlights the most popular activities. 76% of the people said walking was by far the most common activity they participate in at the Civic Center.

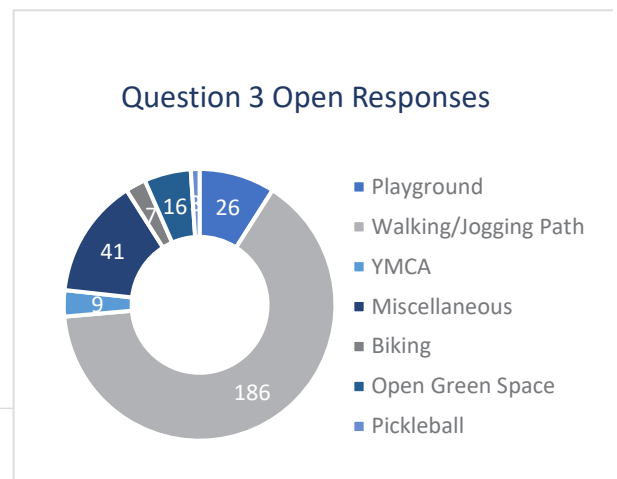
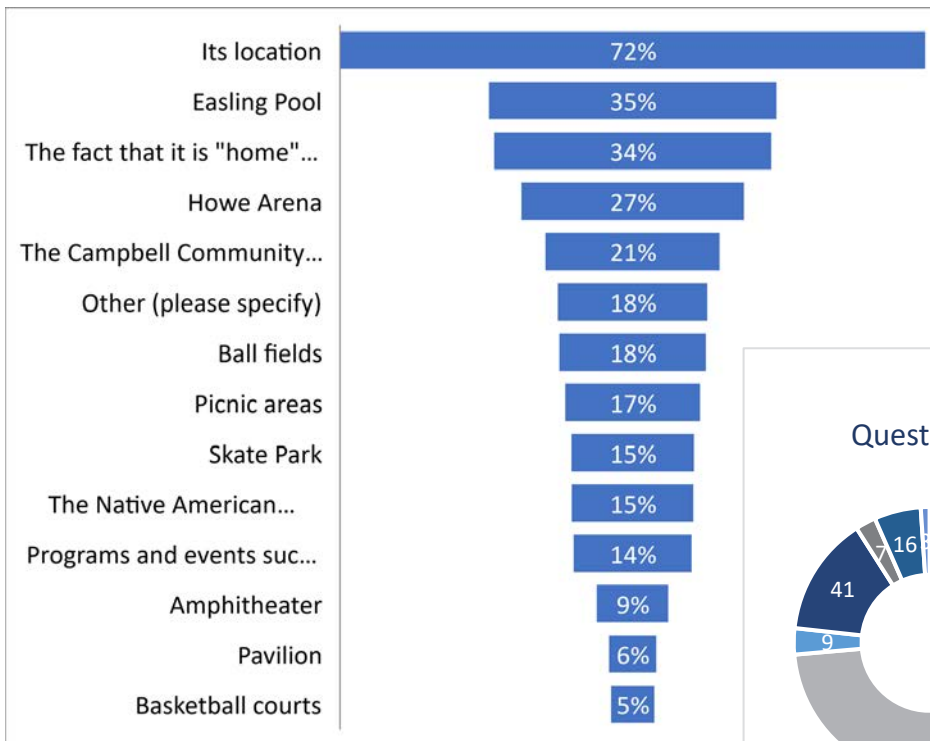




Survey respondents wrote in their own answers. The chart to the left highlights the activities people enjoy at the park. Playground was the most popular answer.

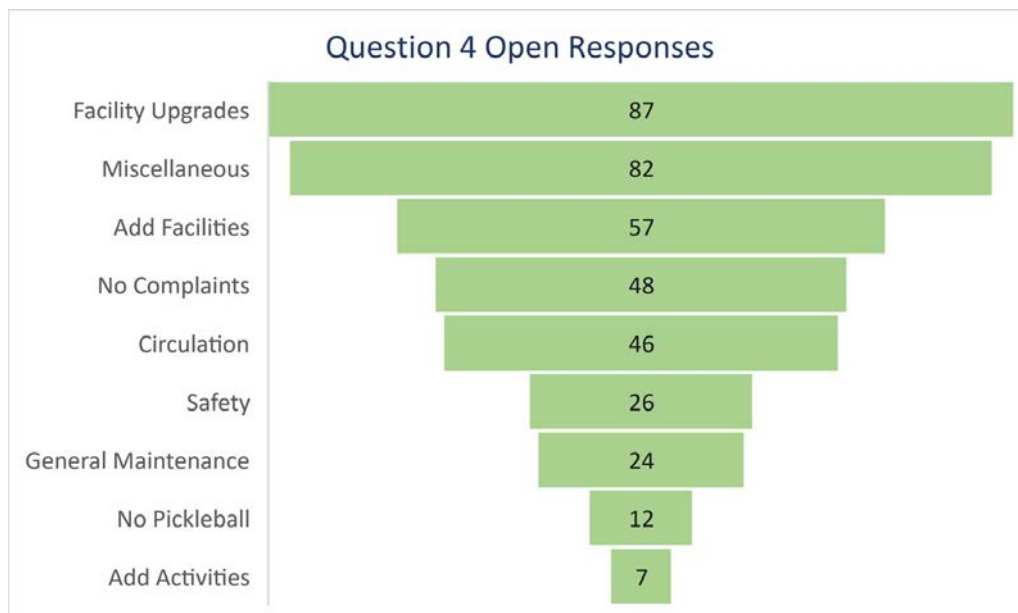
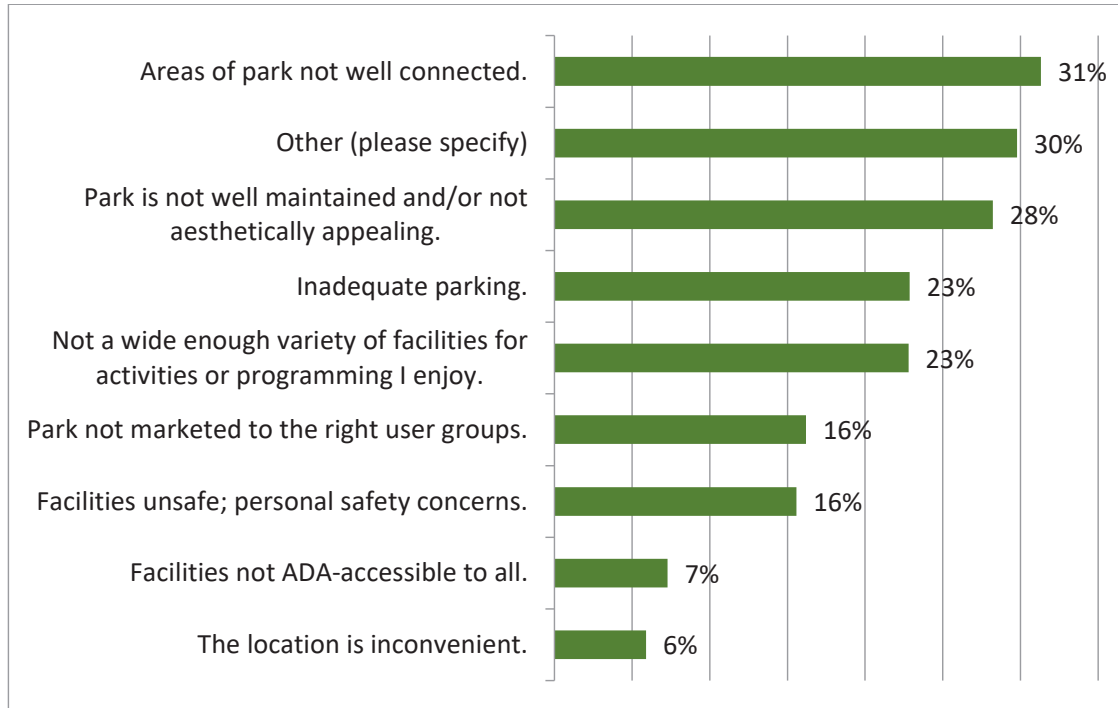
### Q3

The best features of the Civic Center were rated by the survey respondents. The location was ranked the highest at 72%. Other popular features include the Easling pool, Howe Arena and the fact that it's home to many recreation partners.



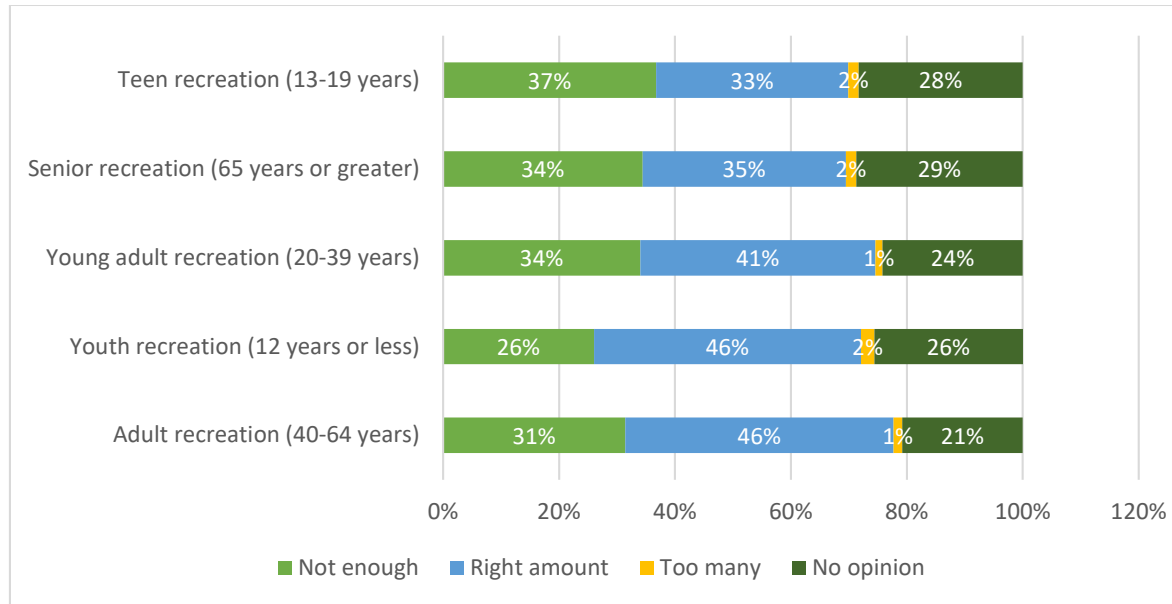
### Question 4

Respondents were asked to choose factors that may inhibit greater use of the Civic Center. The number one answer was the areas of the park are not well connected. Nearly one-third of people wrote in their own answers. Among the open responses, the top answer was facility upgrades.



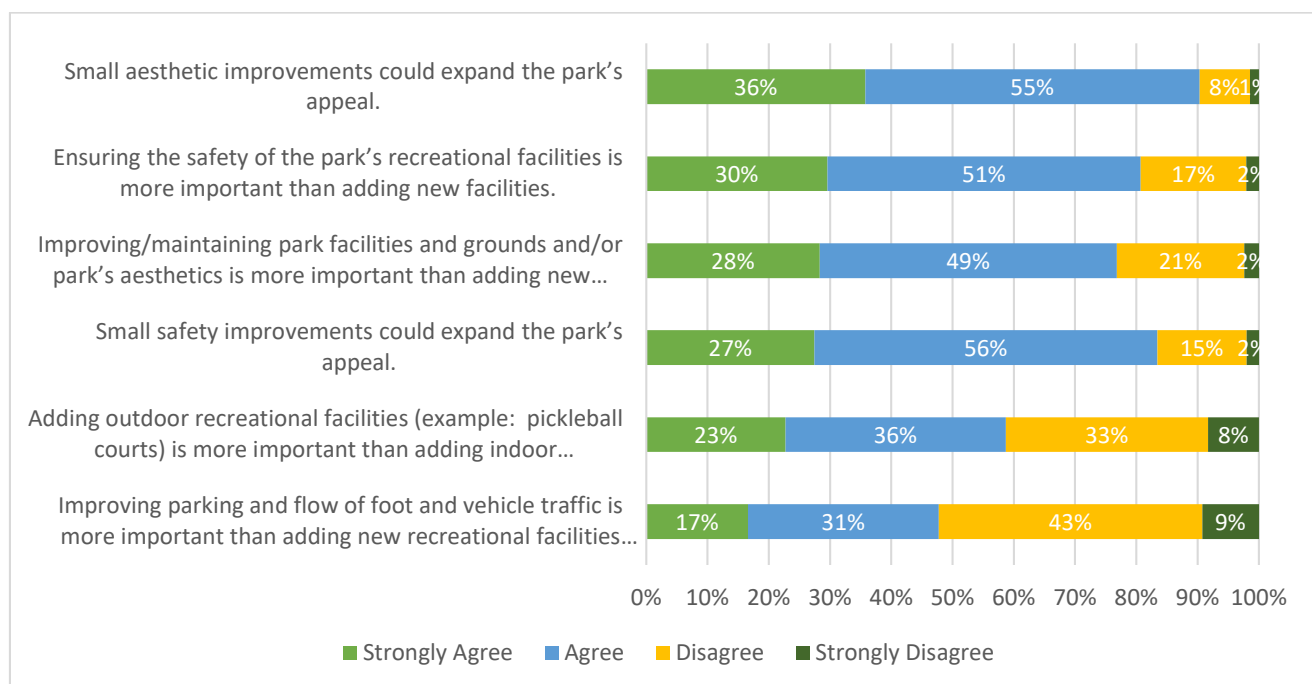
## Question 5

The survey asked people to rate the adequacy of the availability/existence of recreational facilities in the Grand Traverse County region for the following age groups. The chart below highlights the percentage of each category.



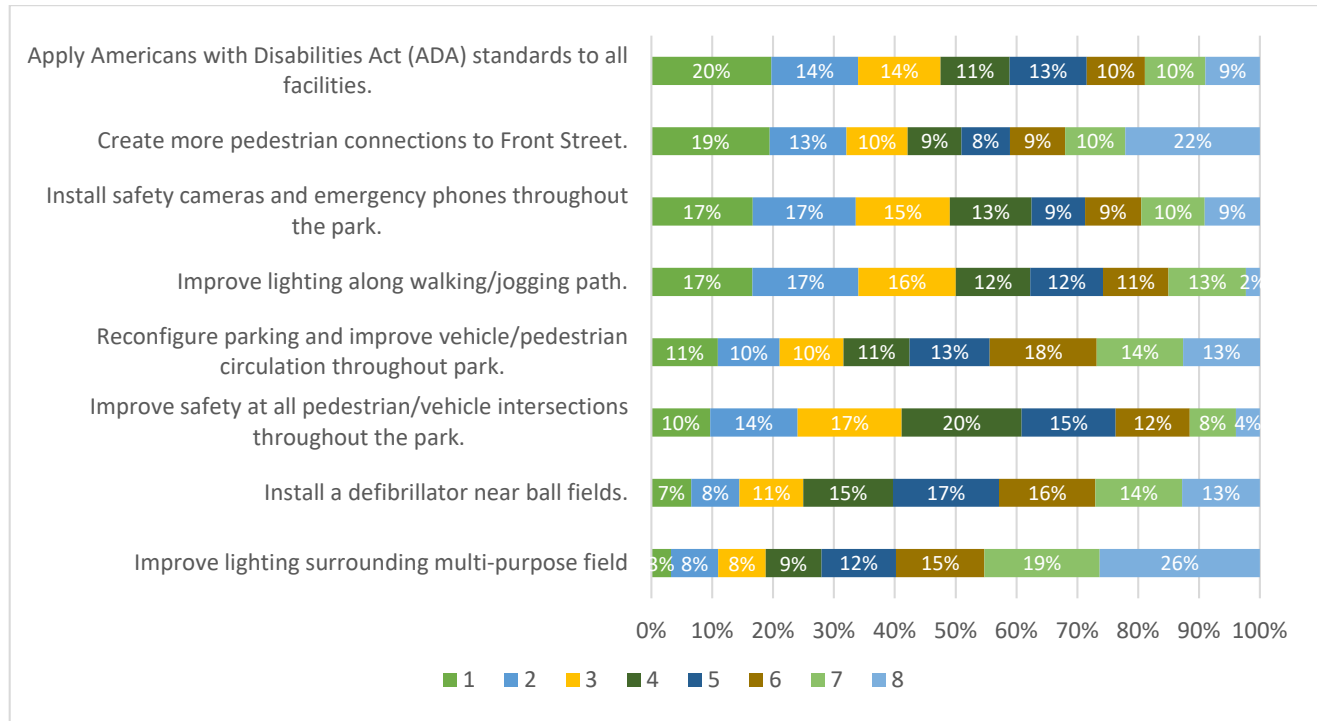
## Question 6

Respondents rated their level of agreement with the following statements about the Civic Center. The majority of people chose strongly agree and agree for aesthetic improvements could expand the park's appeal.



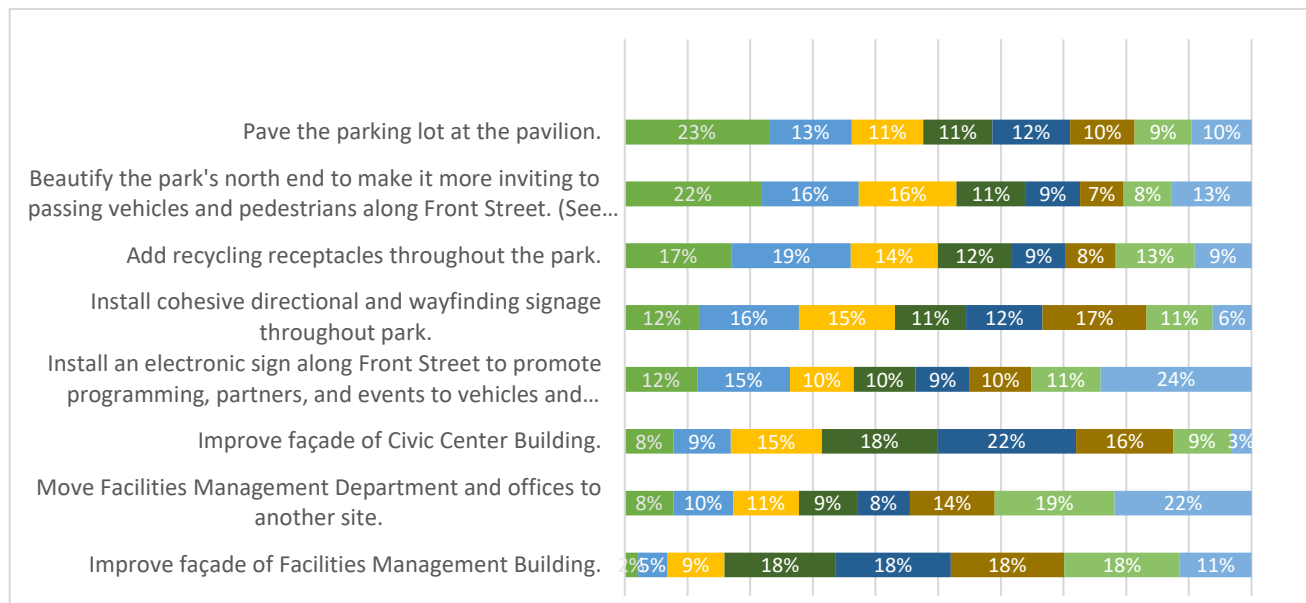
### Question 7

The following projects have been proposed to improve access to and safety of the Civic Center. The respondents ranked what they consider to be most important. Number 1 is considered the most important.



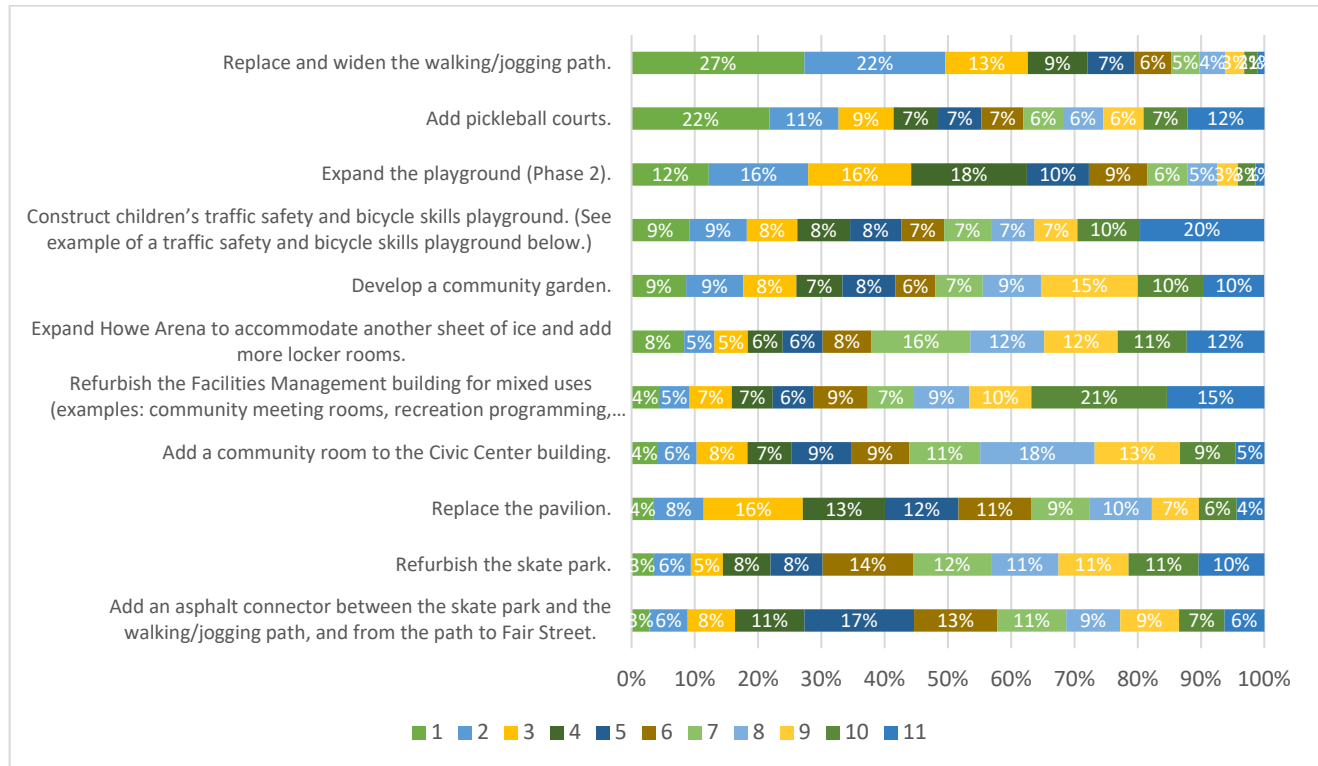
### Question 8

The following projects have been proposed to improve the aesthetics at the Civic Center. The respondents ranked what they consider to be most important. Number 1 is considered the most important. Beautifying the park's north end and paving the parking lot at the pavilion were ranked the highest.



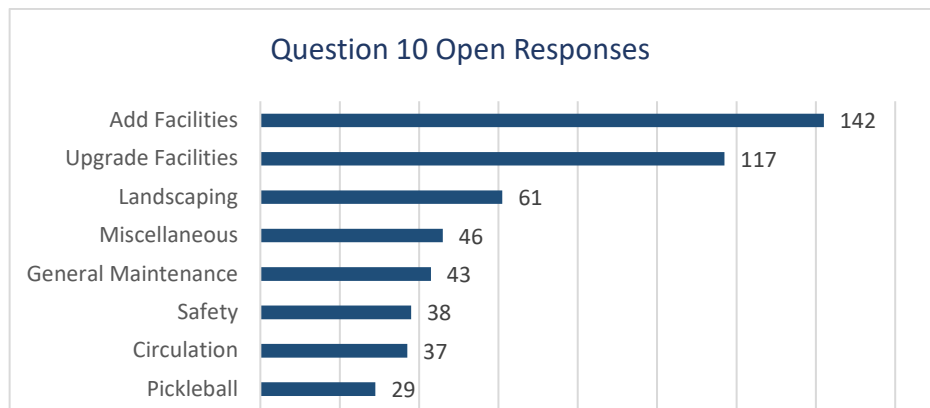
## Question 9

The following projects have been proposed to expand the Civic Center's recreational amenities. The respondents ranked what they consider to be most important. Number 1 is considered the most important. Replace and widen the walking/jogging path was rated as the highest priority followed by adding pickleball courts.

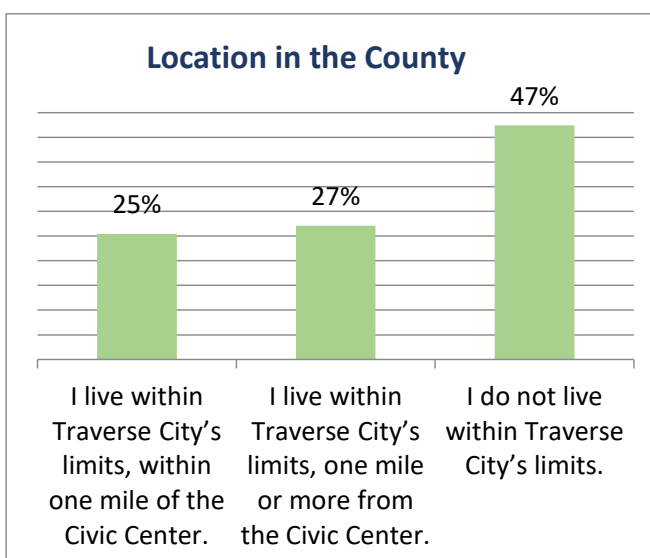
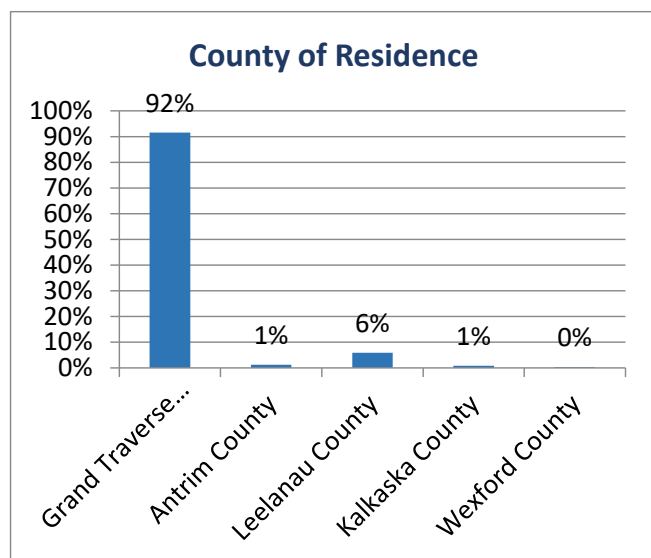
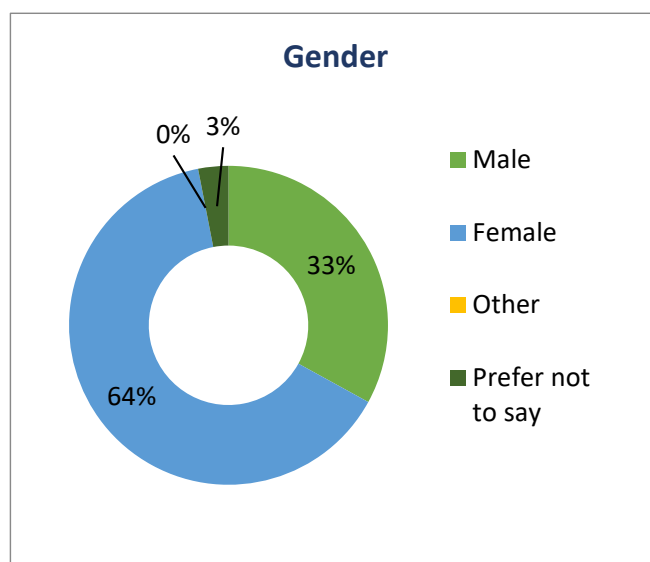
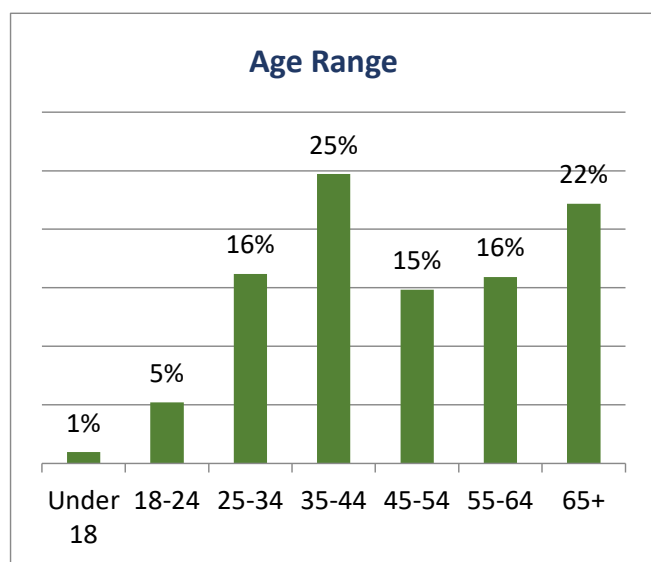


## Question 10

The survey asked people to provide any suggested improvements to or comments regarding the Civic Center. People suggested adding facilities and upgrading existing facilities and landscaping as their top three priorities.



## Question 11-14 Demographics



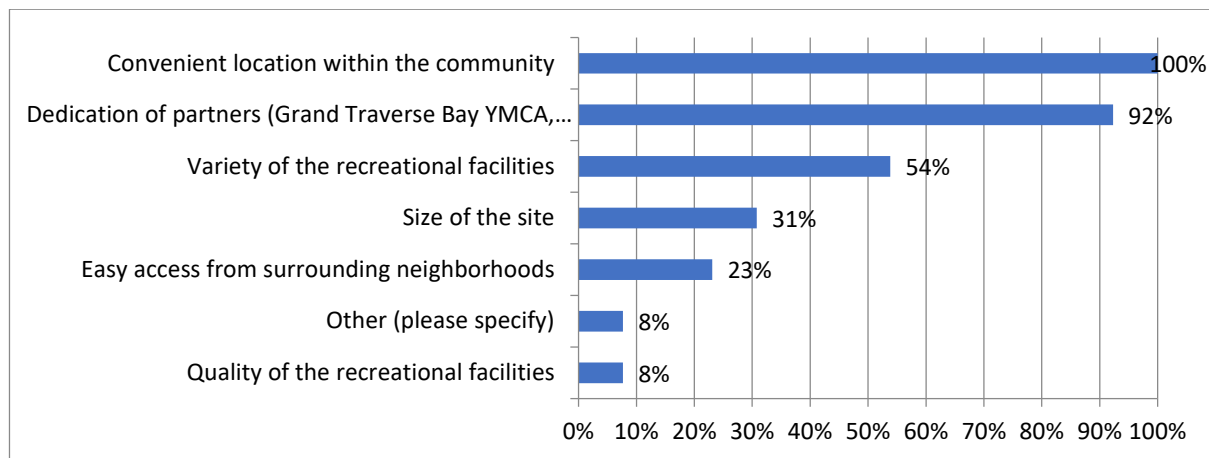
## COMMUNITY LEADERS AND PARK DONORS/INVESTORS SURVEY SUMMARY

### Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Civic Center Park Community Leaders and Park Donors/Investors Survey Summary

As part of the Civic Center Park site master planning process, the County Parks and Recreation Department distributed an online survey. Specific community leaders and park donors/investors were targeted to take the survey. A total of 32 surveys were distributed and there were 13 responses received.

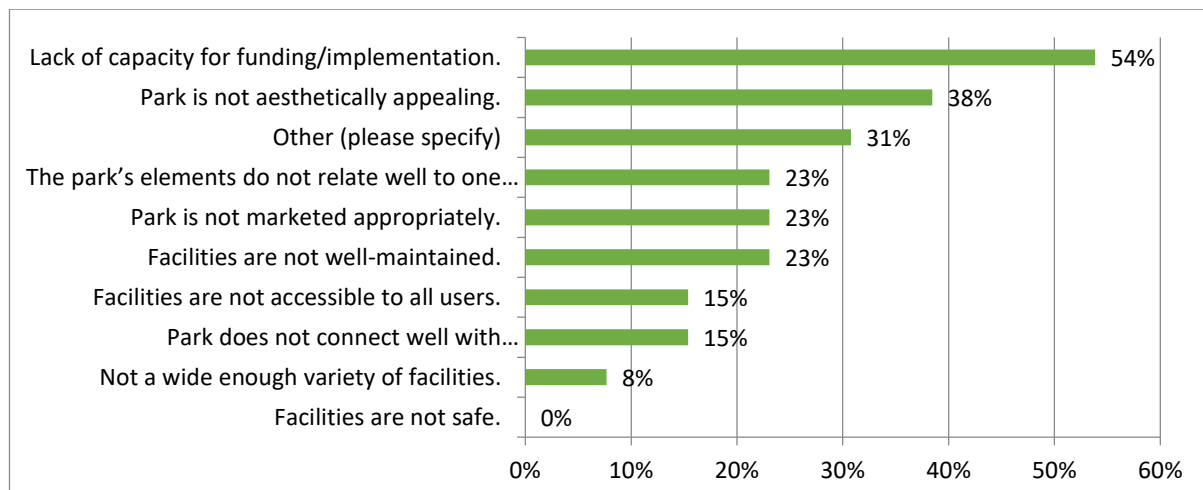
#### Question 1

The survey asked people what the Civic Center's greatest assets are. The top answer was the location of the park followed closely by the dedication of the partners of the Park.



#### Question 2

The greatest challenges were rated for the Civic Center. The top challenge that people listed was the lack of capacity of funding and implementation.





## Open Responses

- No room to grow.
- Poor parking availability.
- Chronic underfunding and inadequate staff.
- Parking, the civic center has lost out on some big events due to parking.

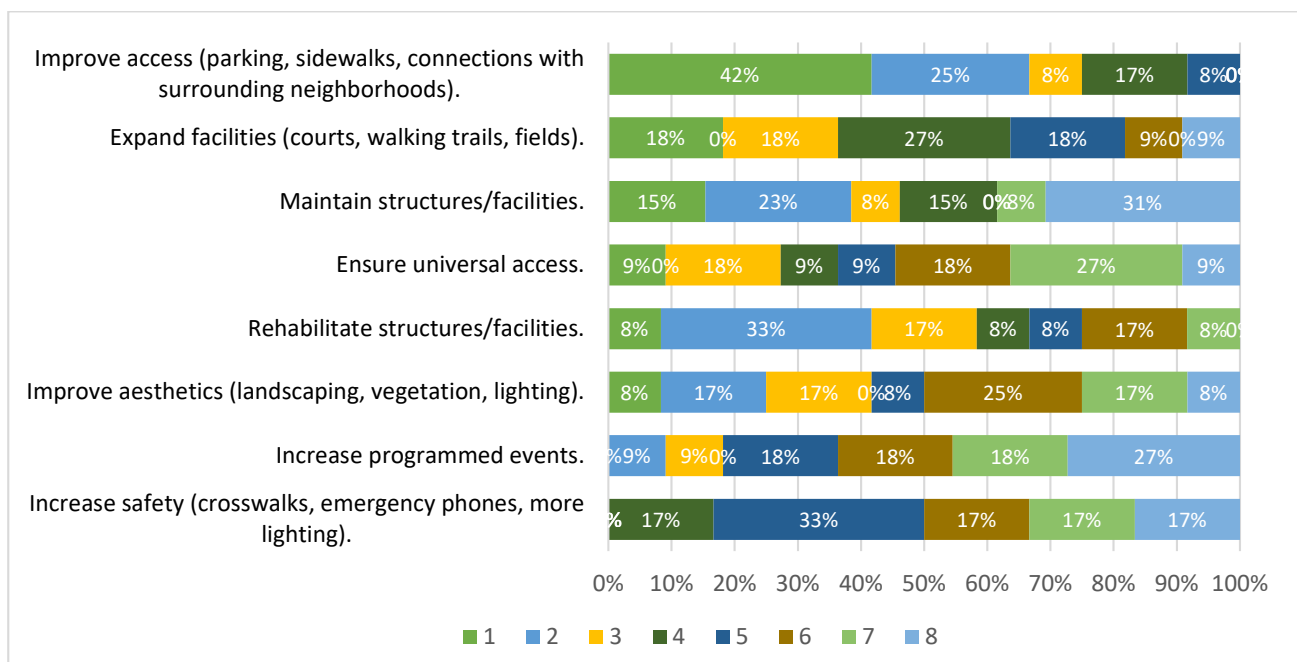
## Question 3

The survey asked if the Civic Center's use could be expanded to other recreational user groups. This question was formatted for an open response. The items are listed below.

- Certainly. The civic center has the potential to be appealing to leisure as well as recreation, including picnics in the park, movies on an inflatable screen, outdoor markets, or other activities that aren't necessarily focused on working out in some way.
- Depends on the type of use.
- It depends on the feasibility of the existing demographics.
- Not until more parking is available.
- It already is, e.g., YMCA, American Legion, Norte, Parallel 45 theater, roller derby, etc.
- Yes, it could have more of a coordinated and better-marketed appeal to different user groups.
- Yes.
- I think every effort should be made to make the park universally accessible to all. I'd love to see a safe indoor track for running in inclement weather.
- Yes. I think there is always room for more partners and opportunities.
- Pickleball.
- Yes.
- I suppose.

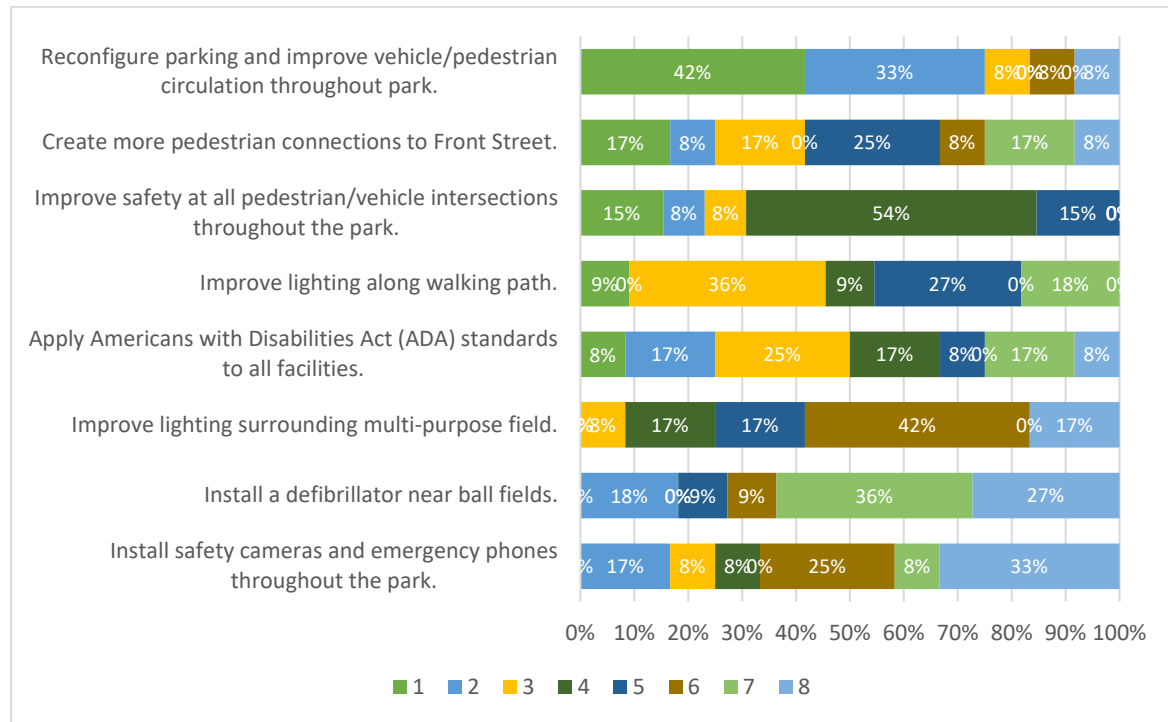
## Question 4

The priority of the types of projects for the next five years were rated. Numbers 1 through 8 were used, with 1 being the most important. Improving access among the parking, sidewalks, connections with neighborhoods was rated as the top 1 and 2 answers.



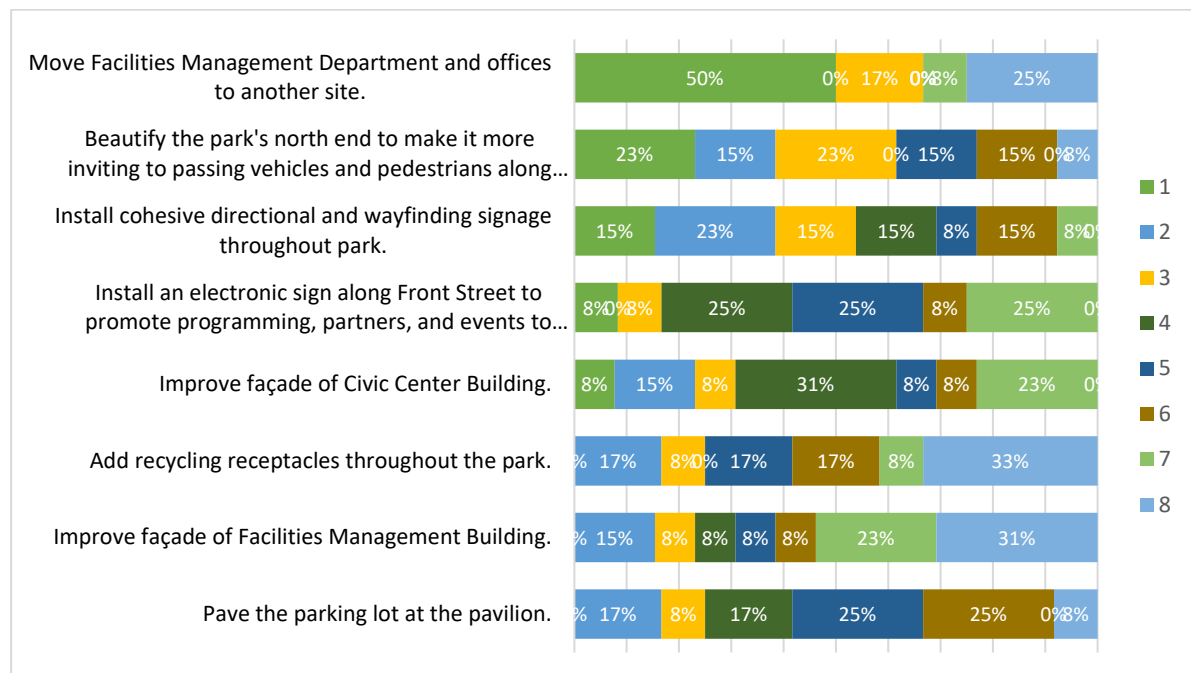
## Question 5

The following projects have been proposed to improve the access to and safety of the Civic Center. Respondents rated the answers using numbers 1 through 8, with 1 being the most important. The top two answers were reconfiguring parking and improving vehicle/pedestrian circulation throughout the park.



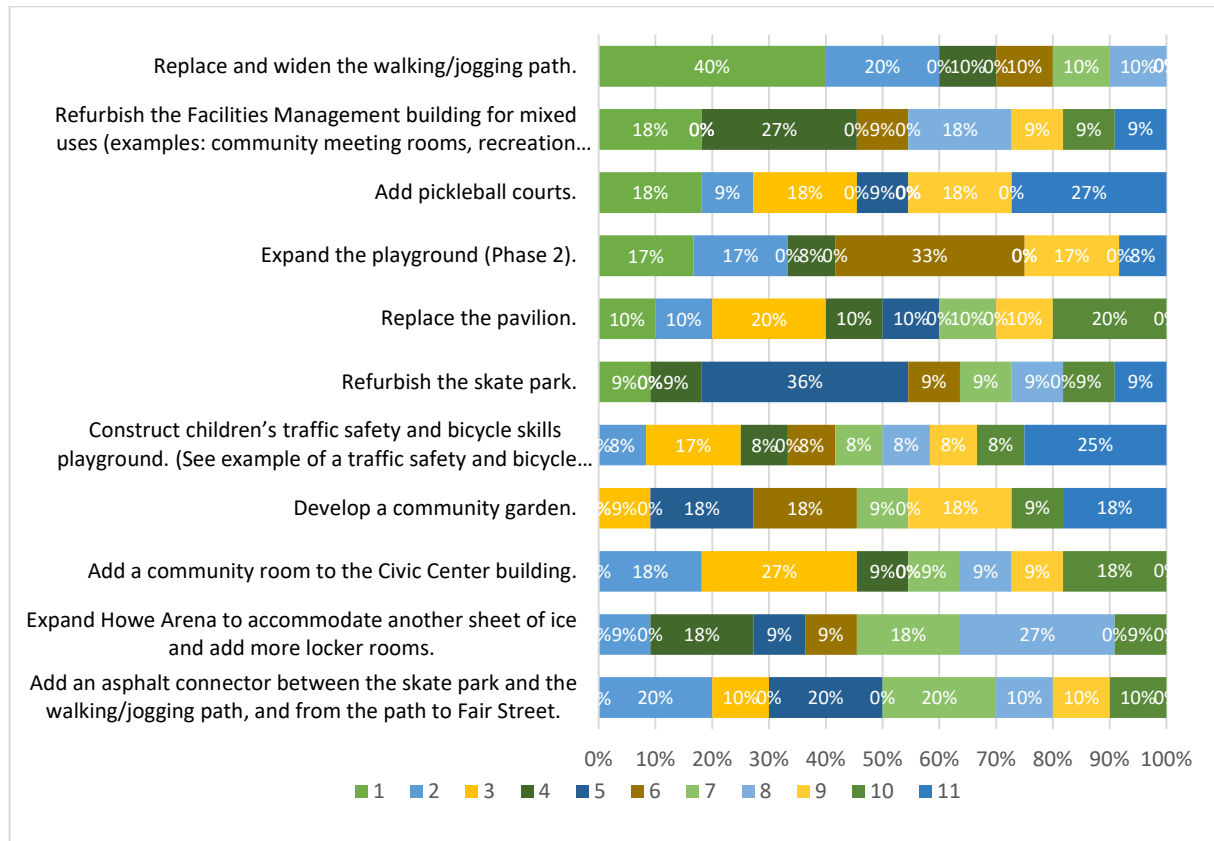
## Question 6

The following projects have been proposed to improve the aesthetics of the Civic Center. The participants rated the responses using numbers 1 through 8, with 1 being most important. 50% of the people would like to see the Facilities Management Department and offices relocated.



### Question 7

The following projects have been proposed to expand the Civic Center's recreational amenities. Please rank what you consider to be most important. Use numbers 1 through 11, with 1 being the most important. Replacing and widening the walking/jogging path was the number one priority. Adding pickleball courts and constructing a children's traffic safety and bicycle playground were rated the lowest.



### Question 8

The following community groups and organizations were listed as the most likely to help support and implement priority projects at the Civic Center.

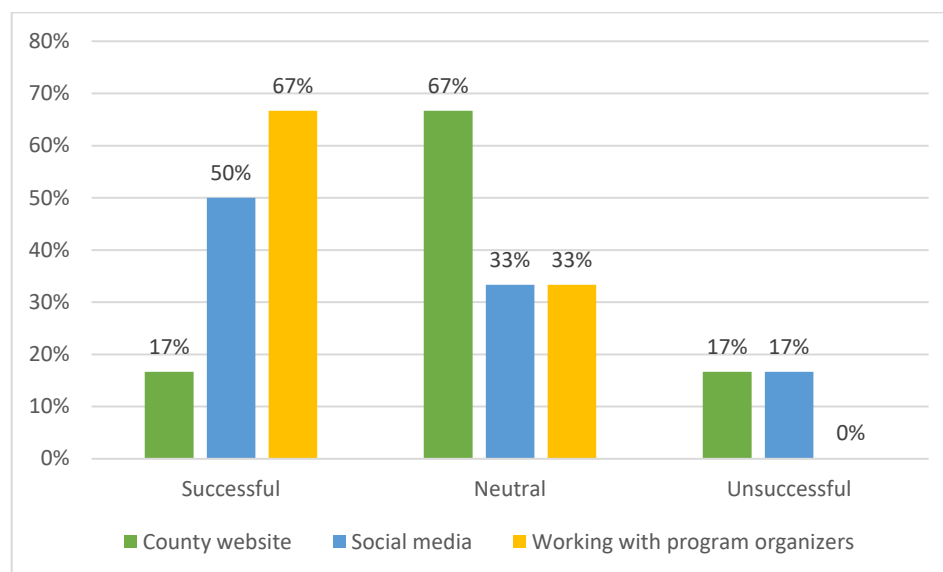
- Locally: General public fundraiser, Hagerty insurance, ymca, rotary, Kiwanis, elks club, tcff, Meijer.
- Rotary/Norte.
- YMCA.
- Rotary Club.
- YMCA, baseball leagues, TCAPs, Rotary, Tribes, Traverse City Tourism.
- Local family foundations, NMC, new user groups.
- I wish the survey would have talked more about what the partners dream about at the site - what are Norte, The Y, Parallel 45 hoping for? These are all great, diverse partners that make the site come alive like never before. What about the other partners, like Centre Ice, youth baseball, skatepark, etc.? Is the youth voice being included in this? Consider a youth advisory group to help you design! I'm not sure where the pavilion is? It would have been

to include a photo. It's difficult to rate some the items, like a new sheet of ice at Howe - is that clearly needed? It's a great idea, but I wasn't sure how to rank that, not knowing if it is needed. The same can be said for the skate park. Sorry, I just needed more context to complete this survey.

- I think we need to open up to new partnerships and different opportunities than we already have.
- Senior Center.
- Same group that raised funds for Easling Pool.
- City of TC, NMC, philanthropy, program partners (Norte, YMCA, etc.).

### Question 9

The survey asked how the Civic Center has been marketed using the County website, social media and working with program organizers. The top answer listed as the most successful was the partnership with program organizers, followed by social media.



### Question 10

The survey asked people to describe their vision for the Civic Center Park. Listed below are the open responses.

- Abl center for leisure, recreation, and community events that is continuously in use by all types of user groups. One that appeals to families, young adults, children, seniors, and those who are looking for something to do. A location that is at the heart of activity in the city while still being a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere. One that allows community partners to provide all types of programming and one that encourages visitors from throughout the county.
- Active, safe, enjoyable and diverse recreational experience.
- Expanded, safer and more user friendly.
- Central Park for Traverse City.
- A diverse and well-maintained recreational facility.
- The civic center currently is a hodge podge of uses that do not connect, nor have signage to make it welcoming for new users. Let's take down the fences to access the park and bring more greenery and interconnectedness of the various users. Having facilities that engage individual and group activities, as well as our youngest and oldest community members.
- Remain stable

- Overall, I would hope the civic center can become a beautiful community hub where people can experience and contribute to their health and well-being. It is so wonderful to have a resource that is available to everyone in our community - I would shoot for universal access (not just ADA compliant) It's an equitable place where everyone feels they belong. Keep partnering! It is upped the game at the civic center!
- Cohesive. Inviting. Used by all ages and skills.
- Increase activity for older adults. Everything is focused on kids.
- The skate park does, at times, become an eyesore when the users of the skate park get loud, foul language, etc... when that happens it makes it no family friendly.
- A beautiful, well maintained central park that is an attraction to everyone while serving as an activity hub for certain activities.

### Question 11

Name of the organization represented.

- GTCP&R
- Grand Traverse Conservation District
- Grand Traverse Bay YMCA
- Former County Planning Commissioner & P&R Commissioner, current BDT member
- Rotary Charities of Traverse County
- Individual
- Rotary Charities
- Grand Traverse County
- Grand Traverse County Senior Center Network
- BOC
- Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation

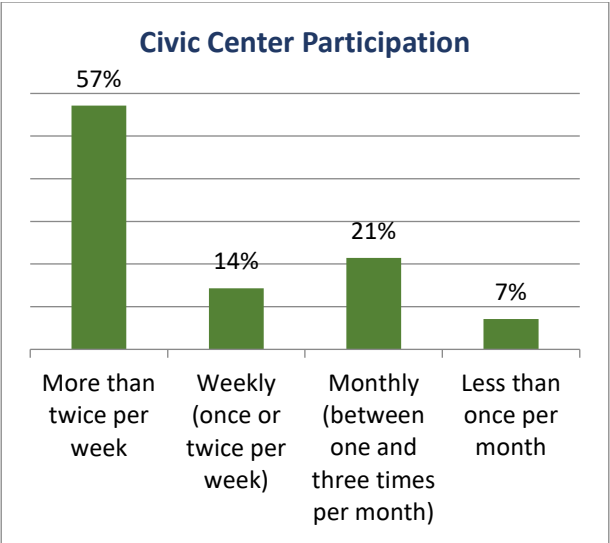
# USER GROUPS AND PROGRAMMING PARTNERS SURVEY SUMMARY

## Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Civic Center Park

### User Groups and Programming Partners Survey Summary

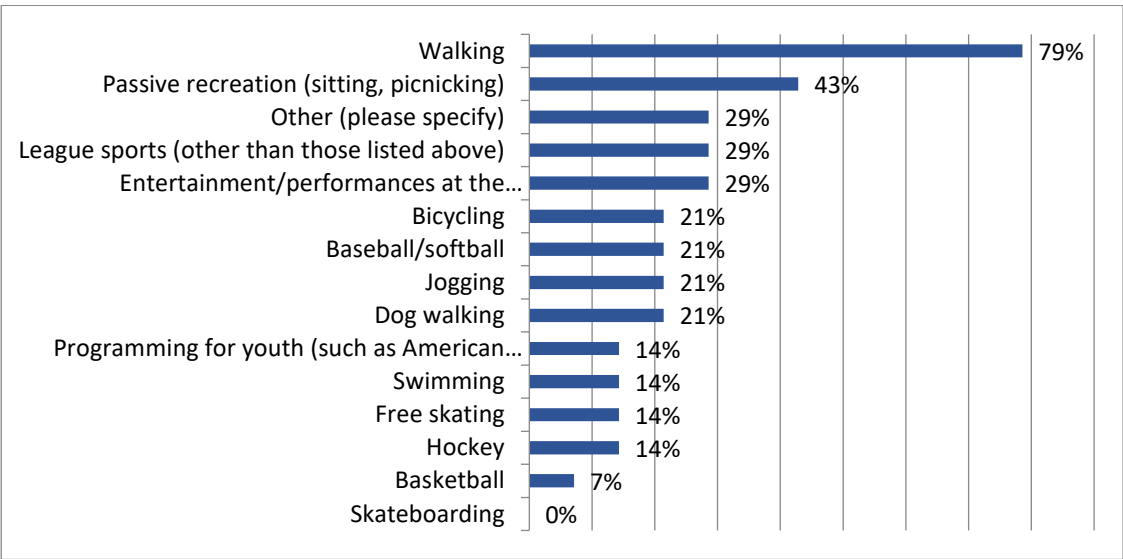
As part of the Civic Center Park site master planning process, the County Parks and Recreation Department distributed an online survey. Specific user group and programming partners were targeted to take the survey. A total of 26 surveys were distributed and there were 14 responses received.

#### Question 1



#### Question 2

The survey asked the participants what activities they enjoy participating in at the Civic Center. Walking was the top answer at 79%. Passive Recreation was chosen as the second top answer at 43%.



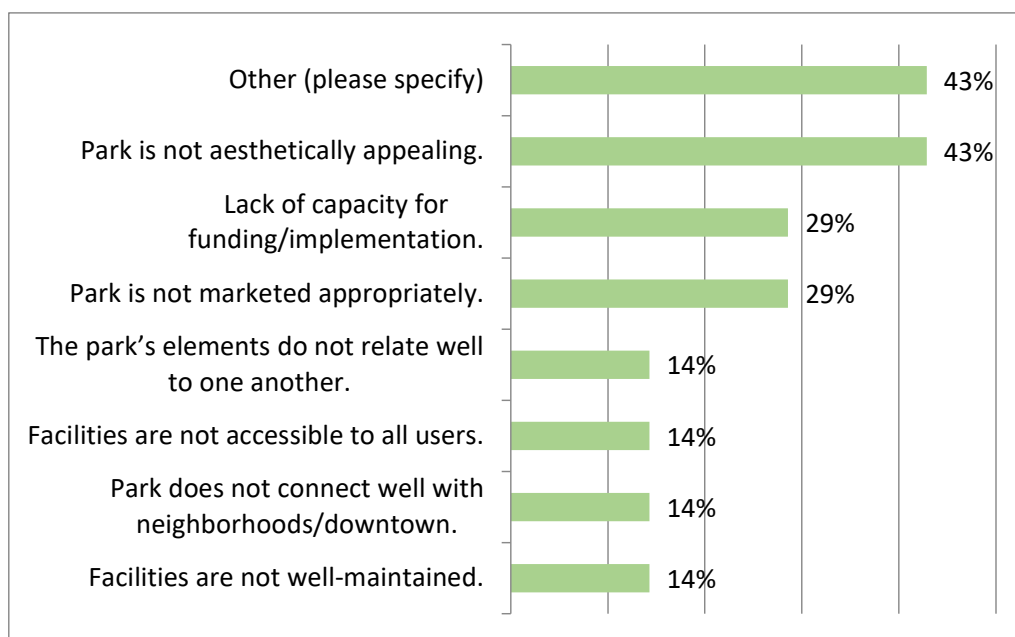
### Question 3

The survey asked participants to use one word or phrase to describe their experience when using Civic Center Park. The table below show their responses.

Open Responses		
Engaged	Pleasant	Great
Decent	Recreation	Pleasant
Lovely	Lucky	Low numbers of staff to maintain
Potential	Accessible	
Pleasant! A great space right in the heart of the community.	TC's central hub for the athletic millennial with a growing family	Good facility and grounds for large groups. Excellent staff.

### Question 4

The survey asked what the greatest challenges are at the Civic Center. 43% of people wrote in their own answers, while another 43% listed the park as not aesthetically appealing.



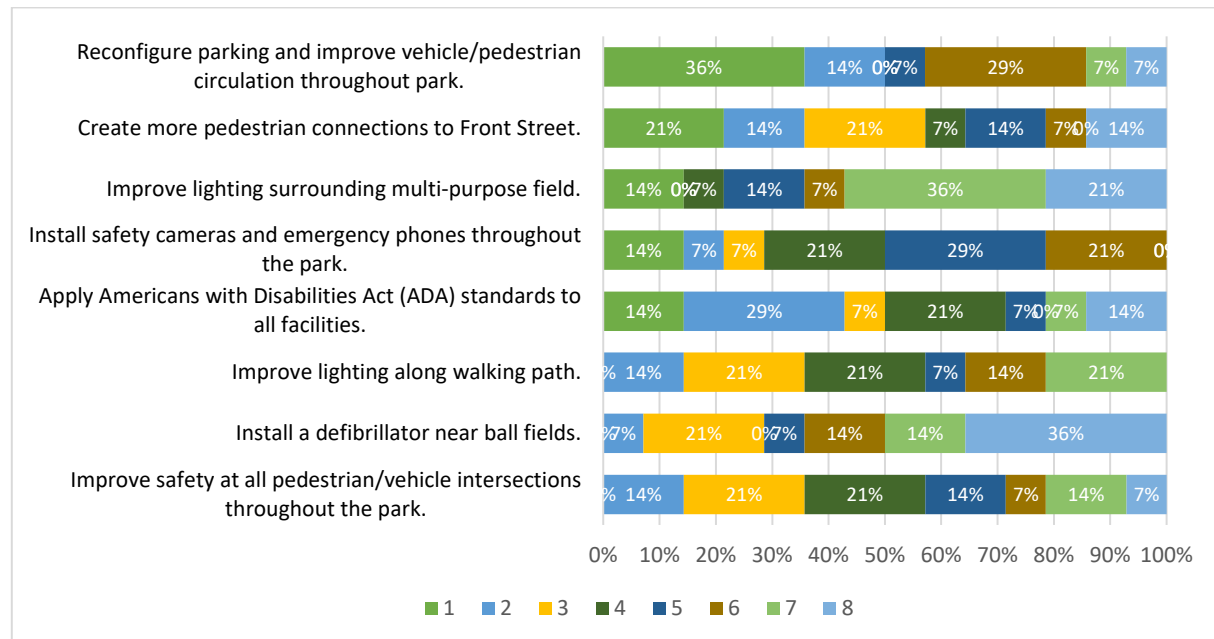
### Open Responses

- Improve bathrooms.
- Lack of parking spaces.
- Maximizing space for large field activities.
- Underutilized.
- Would be nice to have more restrooms and access to water on the south side of the property.
- A flatter multipurpose field for a more even playing field experience. also covering the sprinkler heads.



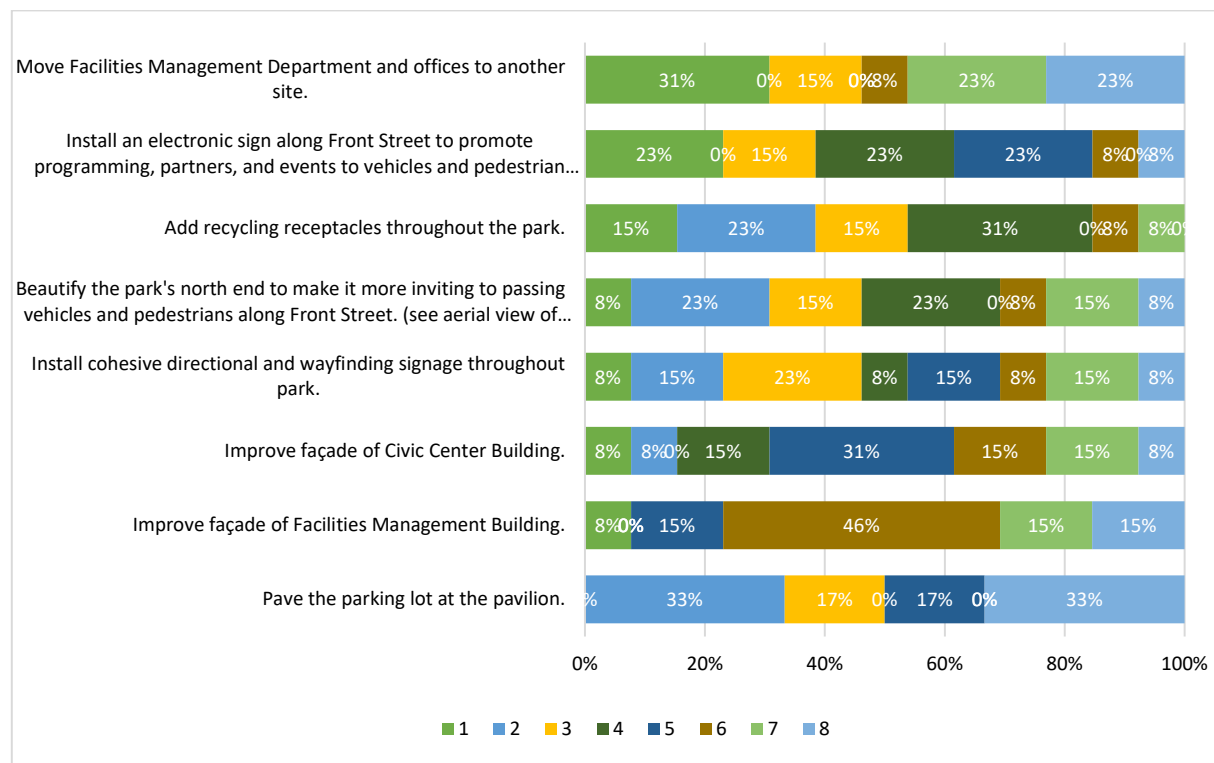
## Question 5

The following projects have been proposed to improve the access to and safety of the Civic Center. The survey respondents rated the projects 1 through 8, with 1 being the most important.



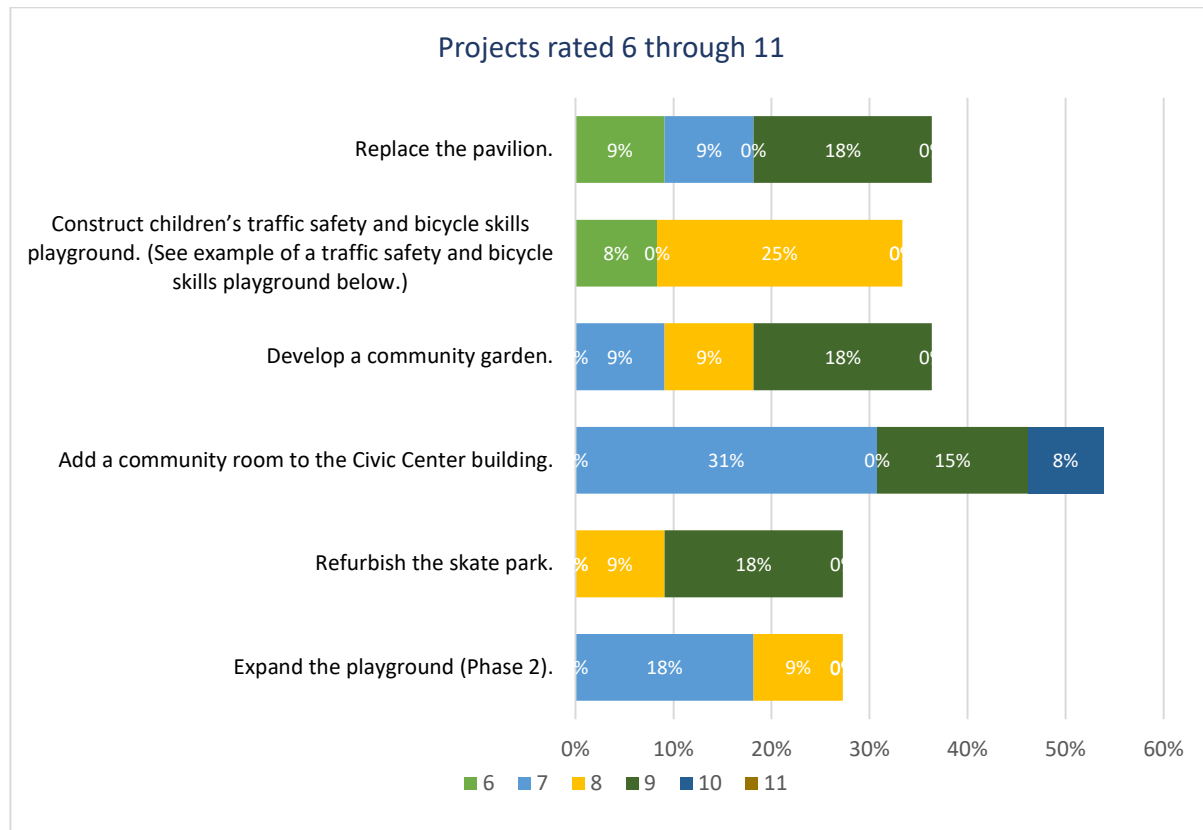
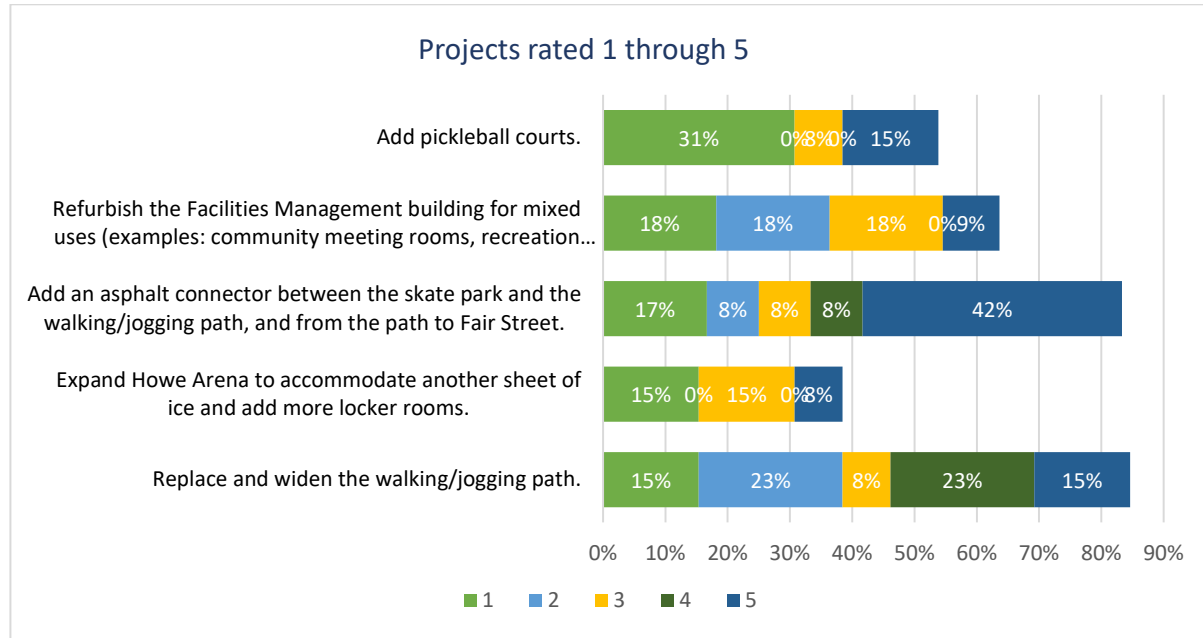
## Question 6

The following projects have been proposed to improve the aesthetics of the Civic Center. The survey respondents rated the projects 1 through 8, with 1 being the most important.



### Question 7

The following projects have been proposed to expand the Civic Center's recreational amenities. Please rank what you consider to be most important. Use numbers 1 through 11, with 1 being the most important. There were 31% of people rated adding pickleball courts as their top choice.



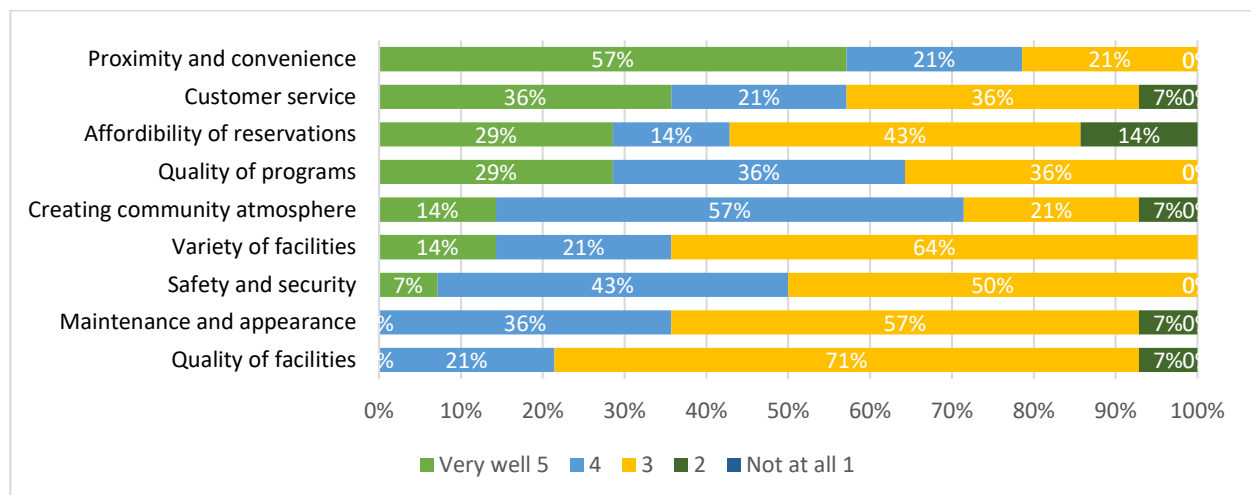
## Question 8

Listed below are a series of open responses listed as the survey participant's vision for the next five years.

- A hub where members of our diverse community can walk, run, play and wheel around.
- Universal design everywhere! A multi-purpose turf field.
- A world class park for all.
- Additional restrooms near amphitheater. Park signage that advertises partner organizations housed there as well as current programming/events. Pave the parking lot at the amphitheater and rebuild/refurbish the pavilion. Add water at the pavilion/amphitheater.
- Improve ball fields conditions and make all backstops safer and designed for baseball. Permanent home run fence on field #8.
- Valuable asset of the community, more recreation opportunities.
- Multi-purpose facility that all can access and benefit from.
- There is a lot of unused space we could be taking advantage of to significantly increase the size of the multipurpose fields and the types of events that can be used for this space. The space should welcome drivers from Front Street as a focal point of the community for locals and out of town tourists. This space should drive community members to it for use and expanded/systematic parking should be considered to accommodate growth in traffic. This space should be mixed use to attract all generations and the growing community for gathering spaces, athletic activity, and significant community events. This is the heart of our town and should be a shining jewel to maximize its use and the community's expanded benefit of its existence.
- Improve the ball fields to keep them in line with facility standards.
- Fences, infields, safety.
- Add pickleball courts.
- Easy access community space- recreation, meeting, educational spaces.
- A regrading of the multipurpose field to level it out. Added lighting to take advantage of later evening times. Add a wiffleball field.

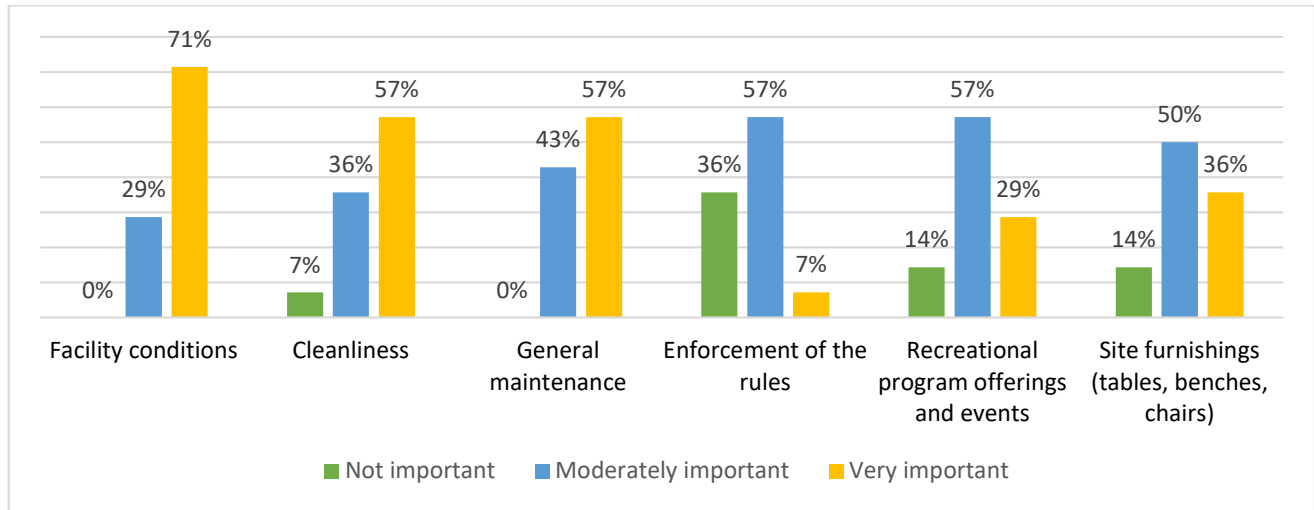
## Question 9

The Parks and Recreation Department has done well to meet expectations relative to the facilities and amenities at the Civic Center. Listed below is a chart highlighting that people rated the items high with a majority of 5's and 4's. There were a large number of neutral participants as well.

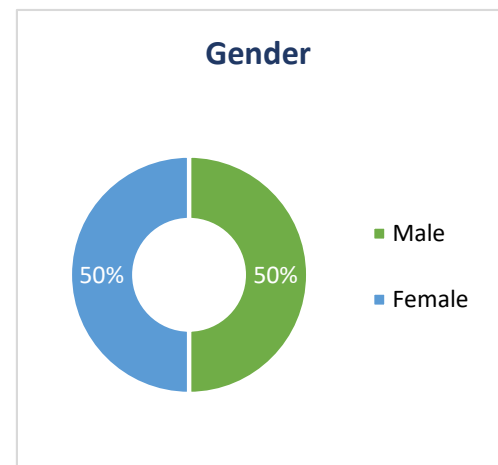
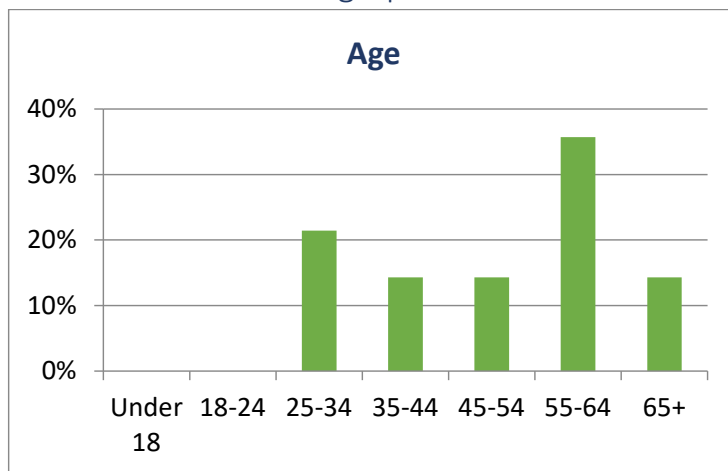


### Question 10

The list of improvements were rated as “Very Important”, “Moderately Important”, and “Not Important”. Facility conditions were rated the top “Very Important” item.



### Question 11-13 Demographics



Organization		
TCTC	Blue Water Promotions	Crooked Tree Arts Center
Norte	Networks Northwest	LMB
The Dream Team of Traverse City	Grand Traverse Social Sports	Grand Traverse Social Sports
Parallel 45 Theatre	TCRD	Ymca
Legion Baseball		

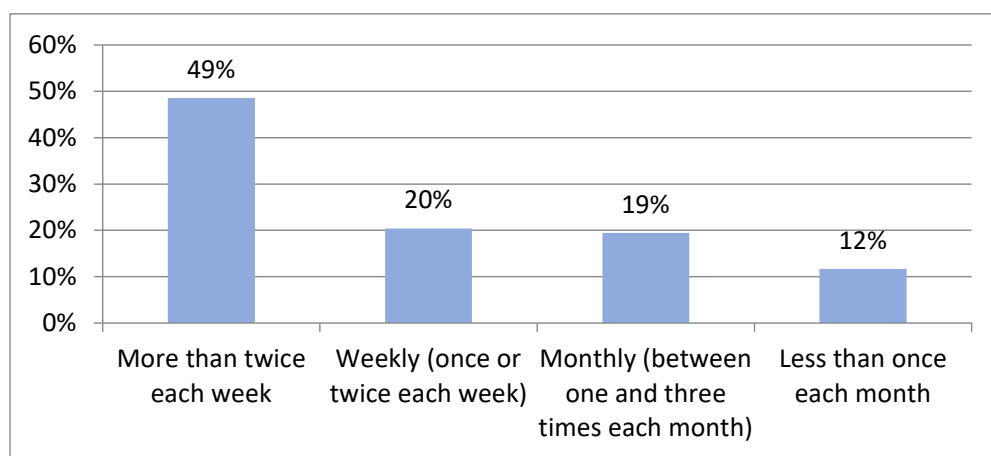
# Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation

## Civic Center Park YOUTH Survey Results Summary

As part of the Civic Center Park site master planning process, the County Parks and Recreation Department distributed an online survey geared towards youth under 18 years of age. A total of 103 youth survey responses were received. Below is a summary of the results and open responses.

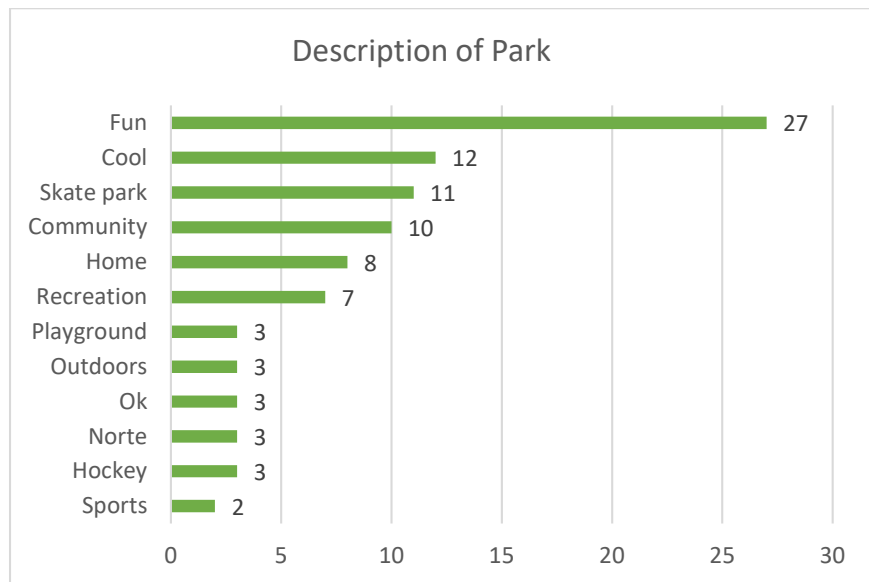
### Question 1

The survey asked how often people visited the park. 49% of the youth responded that they use the park more than twice per week



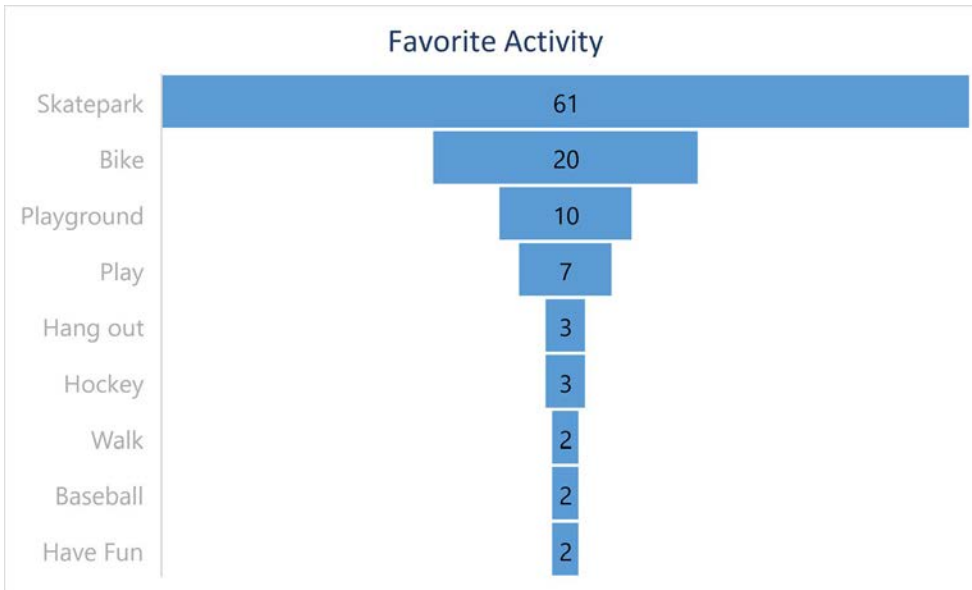
### Question 2

The survey asked how people portray the park. There were a variety of descriptions. Each description was given a label and broken down and the top 12 answers were recorded.



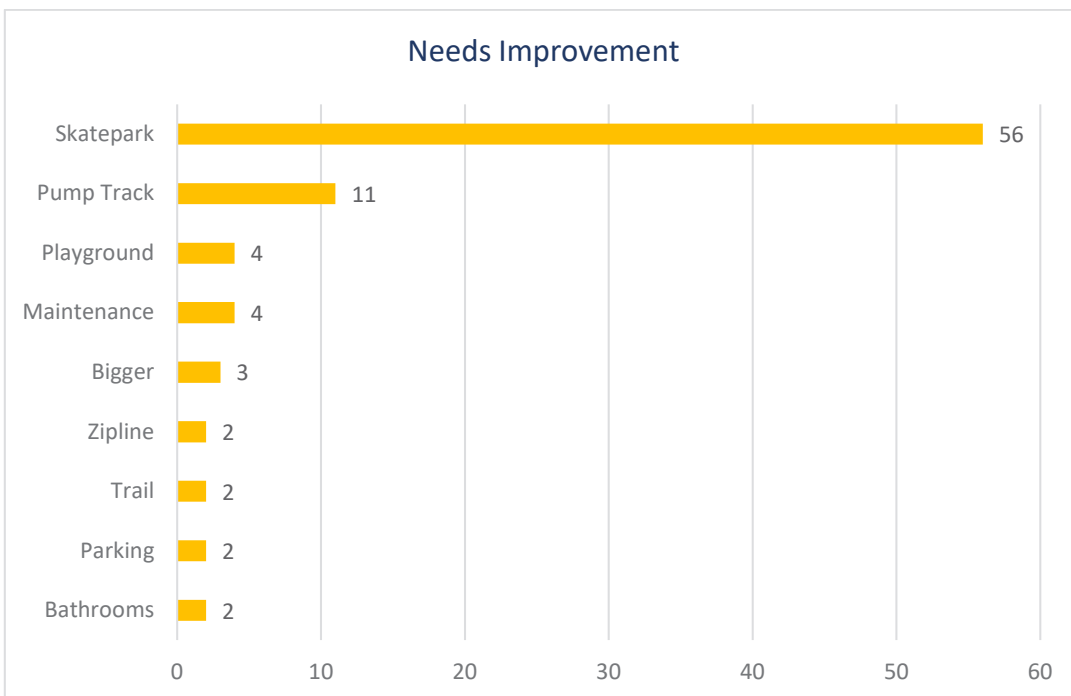
### Question 3

The survey respondents were asked to list what they enjoy doing in their free time at the Civic Center or outside of the Civic Center. A list of the favorite activities is listed.



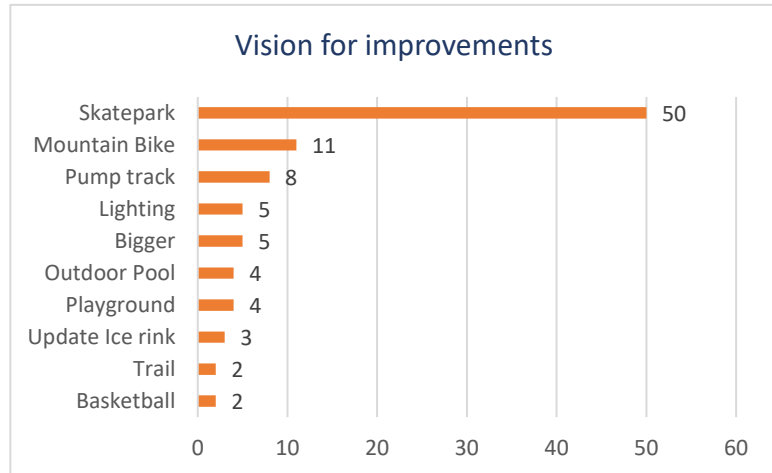
### Question 4

The youth were asked to list what they would like to see improved in the park. The most popular answer was the skatepark.



### Question 5

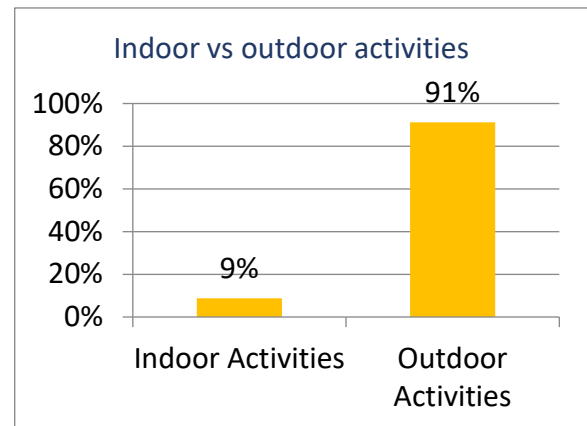
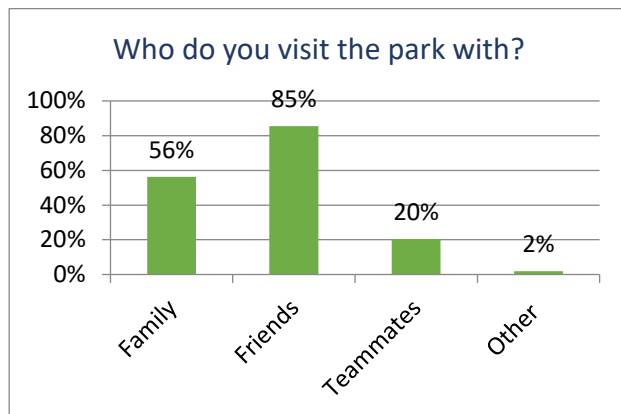
If the youth of Grand Traverse County could wave a magic wand and improve the park, the first priority would be the skatepark. The skatepark was ranked the highest for 50 of the 103 survey respondents.



### Question 6-14

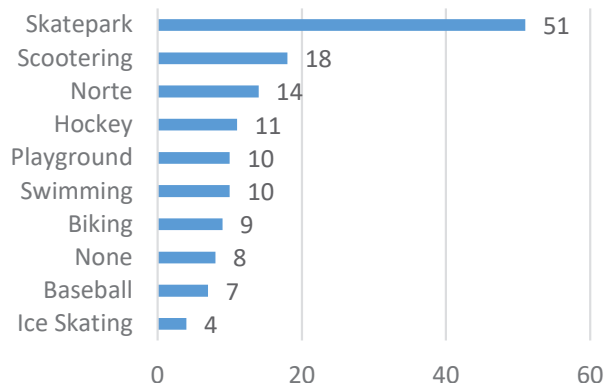
#### Use of the Park

The children that took the survey reported visiting the park mainly with their friends and family. The park is largely used for outdoor activities over indoor activities. The survey asked participants to list the activities that they currently participate in at the Civic Center. The top answers were skateboarding and scooting at the skatepark. Over 76% of the participants visit the park on a daily or weekly basis to partake in their favorite activities. The best attributes of the park were listed as the Skatepark, followed by the people that go to the park. The least favorite attributes of the park include the small size of the skatepark, maintenance, and the restrooms. These three elements were listed as needing improvements. Most of the survey respondents utilize the park during the summer months, while some use the park throughout the year.

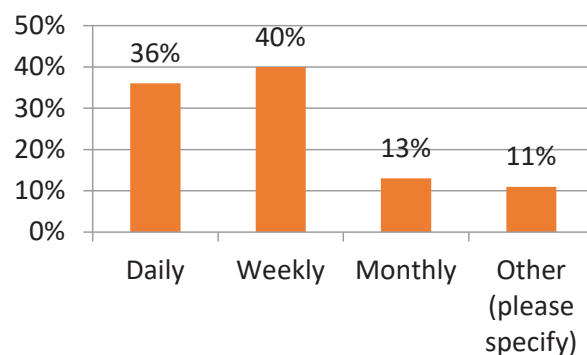




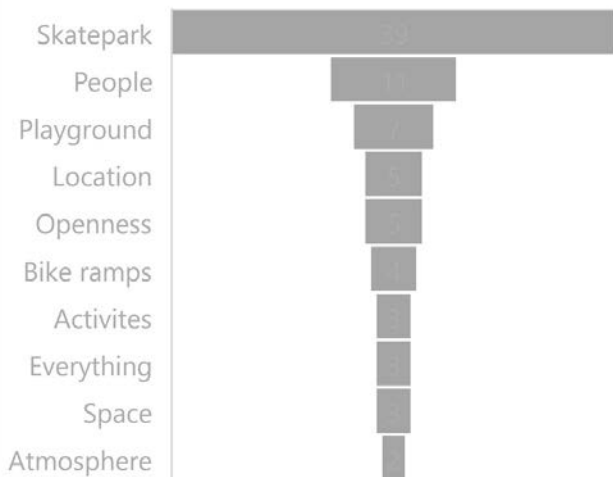
List of favorite activities



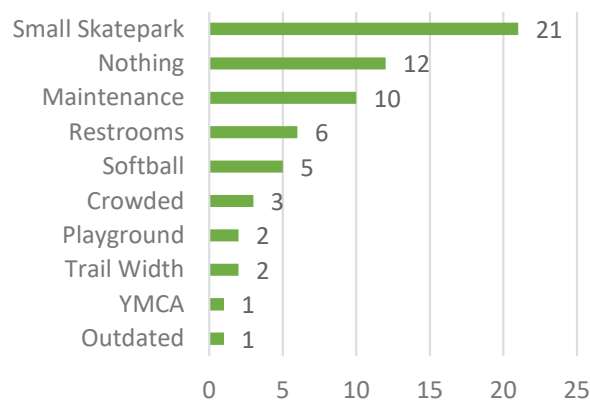
Visits to the Civic Center for favorite activities



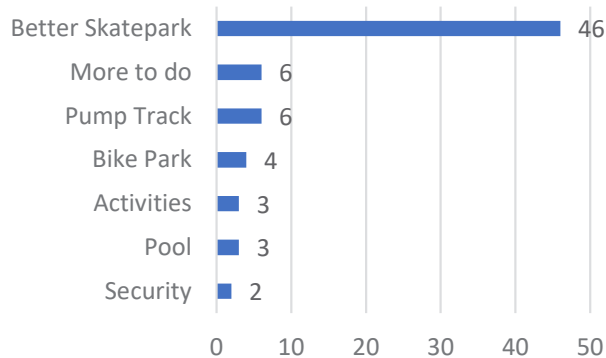
Best attributes



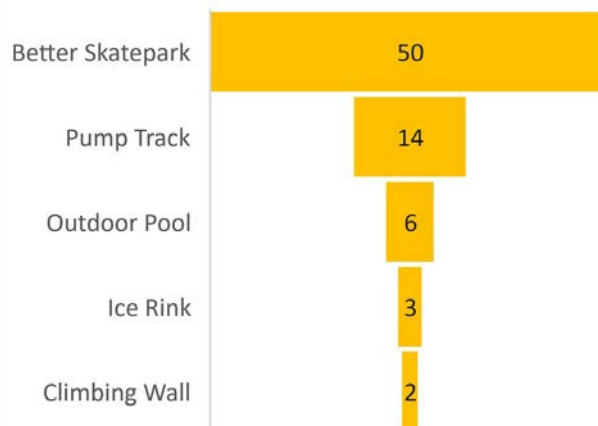
Attributes that need improvement



Increase park visits with improvements

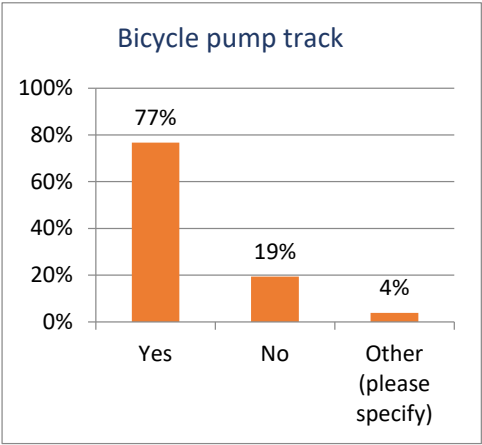
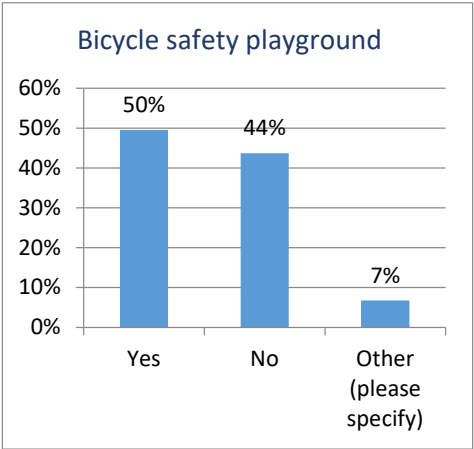


Items to make the Civic Center better



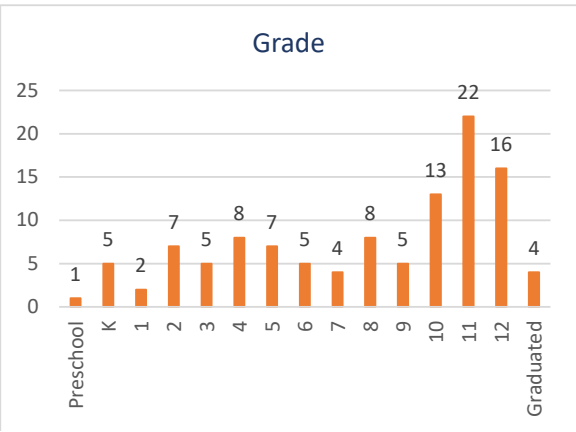
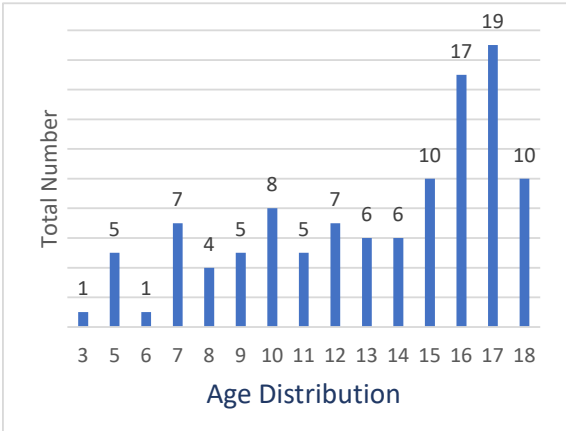
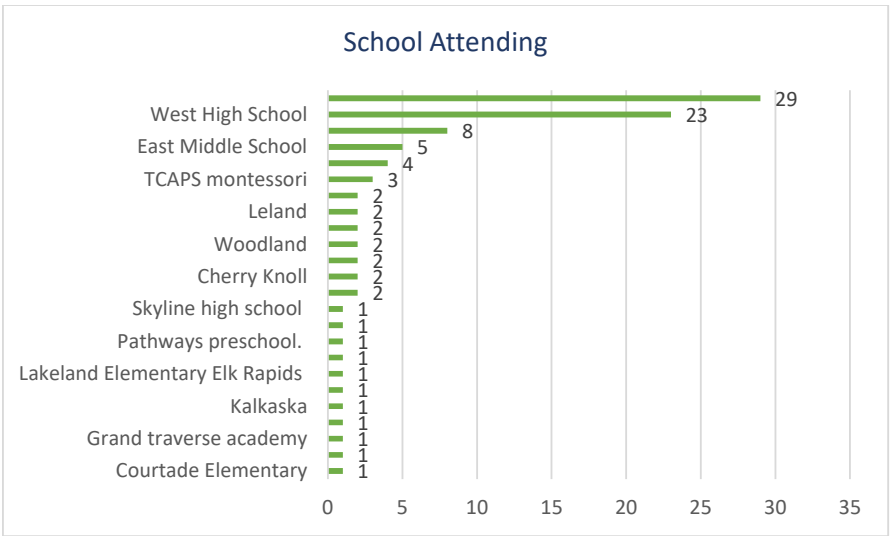
Question 15

Participants were asked if they would use a bicycle safety playground or a pump track if they were built. The Pump Track was an overwhelming “yes” and half of the participants said they would like the Bicycle Safety Playground.



Demographics

The survey respondents represented a variety of schools in the Traverse City area. A majority of the participants ranged from 15 to 18 years old.



# PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST

Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST



## PHASE 1:

- A. REMOVE AND REPLACE 10' WIDE WALKING PATH WITH 10' WIDE, 1 MILE-LONG WALKING PATH WITH 3' WIDE CURBED CINDER PATH
- B. 7 TRAIL EXERCISE STATIONS
- C. ENHANCED NW, NE AND SE PARK ENTRANCES

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	2650	lf	\$3.50	\$9,275.00	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	5	ea	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	1816	sy	\$3.50	\$6,356.00	
Tree Removal, 12" - 24"	3	ea	\$750.00	\$2,250.00	
Remove Curb and Gutter	50	lf	\$6.00	\$300.00	
Remove Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	5933	sy	\$5.50	\$32,631.50	
Remove Concrete Sidewalk inc. Base	375	sf	\$3.50	\$1,312.50	
					\$55,825.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
5" Conc. Sidewalk Inc. Base	9292	sf	\$6.00	\$55,752.00	
Pervious Paver System	1800	sf	\$16.00	\$28,800.00	
Concrete Curb & Gutter	50	lf	\$24.00	\$1,200.00	
Bituminous Pavement Inc. Base (10' Wide Asphalt Trail)	5866	sy	\$42.00	\$246,372.00	
Pavement Striping	10560	lf	\$1.20	\$12,672.00	
3' Wide x 3" Thick Cinder Running Trail Surface	150	cy	\$60.00	\$9,000.00	
3' Wide x 3" Thick Aggregate Running Trail Base	100	cy	\$45.00	\$4,500.00	
3" Cinder Running Trail Edging	5000	lf	\$15.00	\$75,000.00	
Poured in Place Rubber Safety Surfacing	1792	sf	\$18.50	\$33,152.00	
Fair St. Entry Pergola	1	ls	\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00	
					\$483,948.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Benches (Entries and Trail)	11	ea	\$3,200.00	\$35,200.00	
Trash and Recycling Receptacles (entries)	8	ea	\$1,200.00	\$9,600.00	
Tivoli Overhead String Lights (NE Entry)	1	ls	\$8,500.00	\$8,500.00	
Playworld Systems Lifetrail 7 Pc Exercise Set (Materials)	1	ea	\$55,000.00	\$55,000.00	
Playworld Systems Lifetrail 7 Pc Exercise Set (Labor)	1	ls	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	
					\$123,300.00
<b>SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	185	cy	\$20.00	\$3,700.00	
Lawn Seeding	3520	sy	\$5.00	\$17,600.00	
					\$21,300.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$684,373.00
5% General Conditions					\$34,218.65
Subtotal					\$718,591.65
10% Design Contingency					\$71,859.17
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$790,450.82
10% Construction Contingency					\$79,045.08
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$869,495.90

Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST



PHASE 2:  
MARKER TREE GARDEN

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	550	lf	\$3.50	\$1,925.00	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	0	ea	\$500.00	\$0.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	635	sy	\$3.50	\$2,222.50	
Tree Removal, 12" - 24"	2	ea	\$750.00	\$1,500.00	
					\$6,847.50
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
6' Wide, 5" Conc. Footpath Inc. Base	1860	sf	\$6.00	\$11,160.00	
Pervious Paver System	2039	sf	\$16.00	\$32,624.00	
Crushed Limestone Surfacing	1279	sf	\$3.50	\$4,476.50	
					\$48,260.50
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Benches (Entries and Trail)	6	ea	\$3,200.00	\$19,200.00	
Interpretive Signage	1	ea	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
					\$22,700.00
<b>LANDSCAPING AND SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Perennials, 2 Gal Pot	1856	ea	\$27.00	\$50,112.00	
24" Shrubs	150	ea	\$65.00	\$9,750.00	
Understory Trees	6	ea	\$350.00	\$2,100.00	
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	45	cy	\$20.00	\$900.00	
Mulch	45	cy	\$45.00	\$2,025.00	
Lawn Seeding	3520	sy	\$5.00	\$17,600.00	
					\$82,487.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$160,295.00
5% General Conditions					\$8,014.75
Subtotal					\$168,309.75
10% Design Contingency					\$16,830.98
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$185,140.73
10% Construction Contingency					\$18,514.07
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$203,654.80

Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST



- PHASE 3: SOUTHEAST CORNER IMPROVEMENTS:  
A. NEW AND RELOCATED PLAYGROUND  
B. BICYCLE EDUCATION CENTER  
C. PICKLEBALL COURTS  
D. PICNIC AREA  
E. ASSOCIATED PARKING AND WALKS

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	950	lf	\$3.50	\$3,325.00	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	3	ea	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	1816	sy	\$3.50	\$6,356.00	
Tree Removal, 12" - 24"	5	ea	\$750.00	\$3,750.00	
Remove Curb and Gutter	50	lf	\$6.00	\$300.00	
Remove Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	5933	sy	\$5.50	\$32,631.50	
Remove Concrete Sidewalk inc. Base	530	sf	\$3.50	\$1,855.00	
Remove Bldg. on Front St. at Milliken St.	1	ea	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	
Remove North Pump Course	1	ea	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Salvage Play Equipment (Arch Climber and See Saw)	1	ls	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Remove Swingset	1	ls	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
					\$61,917.50
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	1475	cy	\$12.00	\$17,700.00	
					\$17,700.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
5" Conc. Sidewalk w/Integral Curb Inc. Base	27660	sf	\$6.00	\$165,960.00	
Bituminous Pavement Inc. Base	3595	sy	\$42.00	\$150,990.00	
Pavement Striping	1360	lf	\$1.20	\$1,632.00	
3' Wide Dirt Pump Course	1980	lf	\$4.00	\$7,920.00	
					\$326,502.00
<b>PICKLEBALL COURTS (2)</b>					
Remove Concrete BB Half Court	1500	sf	\$3.50	\$5,250.00	
Fenced Pickleball Court (court surfacing over asphalt) with nets	2	ea	\$65,000.00	\$130,000.00	
					\$135,250.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Benches (Entries and Trail)	13	ea	\$3,200.00	\$41,600.00	
Trash and Recycling Receptacles (entries)	6	ea	\$1,200.00	\$7,200.00	
Picnic Tables	15	ea	\$4,500.00	\$67,500.00	
					\$116,300.00
<b>PLAYGROUND</b>					
Small Ropes Course	1	ea	\$14,500.00	\$14,500.00	
Climbing Wall	1	ea	\$21,500.00	\$21,500.00	
Large Rope Tower Climber	1	ea	\$36,500.00	\$36,500.00	
Musical Play Component	5	ea	\$2,750.00	\$13,750.00	
Tot Swings (3) with Accessible Chairs (2)	1	ea	\$13,500.00	\$13,500.00	
Tot Rope Climber	1	ea	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	
Concrete Pavement	7750	sf	\$6.00	\$46,500.00	
Safety Surfacing	7750	sf	\$18.50	\$143,375.00	
Relocated Arch Climber	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Relocated See Saw	1	ea	\$600.00	\$600.00	
					\$303,425.00
<b>SITE STRUCTURES</b>					
Cycling Education Storage Bldg. and Entry Pergola	1	ls	\$115,000.00	\$115,000.00	
25' Square Picnic Shelter with Pergolas and Grill	1	ls	\$185,000.00	\$185,000.00	
15' Square Picnic Shelters	3	ea	\$37,500.00	\$112,500.00	
					\$412,500.00
<b>SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	505	cy	\$20.00	\$10,100.00	
Lawn Seeding	9500	sy	\$5.00	\$47,500.00	
					\$57,600.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$1,431,194.50
5% General Conditions					\$71,559.73
Subtotal					\$1,502,754.23
10% Design Contingency					\$150,275.42
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$1,653,029.65
10% Construction Contingency					\$165,302.96
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$1,818,332.61



Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST



- PHASE 4: SOUTHWEST CORNER IMPROVEMENTS:  
A. REPLACE PICNIC PAVILION, PAVE PARKING  
B. AMPHITHEATER IMPROVEMENTS  
C. ASSOCIATED WALKS, LIGHTING AND FURNISHINGS

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	450	lf	\$3.50	\$1,575.00	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	2	ea	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	1060	sy	\$3.50	\$3,710.00	
Tree Removal, 12" - 24"	2	ea	\$750.00	\$1,500.00	
Remove Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	1106	sy	\$5.50	\$6,083.00	
Remove Large Pavilion	1	ls	\$17,500.00	\$17,500.00	
					\$32,568.00
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	575	cy	\$12.00	\$6,900.00	
					\$6,900.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
5" Conc. Sidewalk w/Integral Curb Inc. Base	9478	sf	\$6.00	\$56,868.00	
Bituminous Pavement Inc. Base	2389	sy	\$42.00	\$100,338.00	
Pavement Striping	860	lf	\$1.20	\$1,032.00	
2'x2'x3' Quarried Limestone Pieces (Seating)	30	ea	\$550.00	\$16,500.00	
					\$174,738.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Trash and Recycling Receptacles (entries)	4	ea	\$1,200.00	\$4,800.00	
Picnic Tables	10	ea	\$4,500.00	\$45,000.00	
Tivoli Overhead String Lights	1	ls	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	
					\$62,300.00
<b>SITE STRUCTURES</b>					
30' Square Picnic Shelter with Fireplace	1	ea	\$225,000.00	\$225,000.00	
15' x 60' Shelter for Amphitheater Seats	1	ea	\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00	
					\$257,500.00
<b>SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	125	cy	\$20.00	\$2,500.00	
Lawn Seeding	6500	sy	\$5.00	\$32,500.00	
					\$35,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$569,006.00
5% General Conditions					\$28,450.30
Subtotal					\$597,456.30
10% Design Contingency					\$59,745.63
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$657,201.93
10% Construction Contingency					\$65,720.19
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$722,922.12

Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST



PHASE 5: PLAZA-STYLE SKATE PARK INCLUDING ASSOCIATED WALKS AND FAIR ST. PARK ENTRANCE:

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	550	lf	\$3.50	\$1,925.00	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	1540	sy	\$3.50	\$5,390.00	
Tree Removal, 12" - 24"	2	ea	\$750.00	\$1,500.00	
Remove Curb and Gutter	74	lf	\$6.00	\$444.00	
					\$10,459.00
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	250	cy	\$12.00	\$3,000.00	
					\$3,000.00
<b>6,000 SF STREET PLAZA-STYLE SKATE PARK*</b>					
Concrete pavement with Permanent Components	1	ls	\$225,000.00	\$225,000.00	
Bituminous Pavement Inc. Base (Adjacent Walk)	625	sy	\$42.00	\$26,250.00	
					\$251,250.00
<b>LANDSCAPING AND SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	65	cy	\$20.00	\$1,300.00	
Understory Trees	6	ea	\$350.00	\$2,100.00	
48" Shrubs	12	ea	\$100.00	\$1,200.00	
Lawn Seeding	1500	sy	\$5.00	\$7,500.00	
					\$12,100.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$276,809.00
5% General Conditions					\$13,840.45
Subtotal					\$290,649.45
10% Design Contingency					\$29,064.95
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$319,714.40
10% Construction Contingency					\$31,971.44
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$351,685.83

Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
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PHASE 6: NEW RINK/MULTI-PURPOSE BLDG, BALLFIELD CONSTRUCTION / RENOVATION

- A. NEW RINK/MULTI-PURPOSE BLDG (N/I)
- B. BALLFIELD RENOVATION, FIELDS 1-3
- C. NEW BALLFIELD CONSTRUCTION, 4-6
- D. BATTING CAGE AREA
- E. NORTH, EAST AND WEST BALLFIELD SIDEWALKS
- F. LANDSCAPING, BETWEEN PATH AND CIVIC CENTER BLDGS.

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	950	lf	\$3.50	\$3,325.00	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	3	ea	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	1816	sy	\$3.50	\$6,356.00	
Tree Removal, 12" - 24"	5	ea	\$750.00	\$3,750.00	
Remove Curb and Gutter	50	lf	\$6.00	\$300.00	
Remove Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	5933	sy	\$5.50	\$32,631.50	
Remove Concrete Sidewalk inc. Base	530	sf	\$3.50	\$1,855.00	
Remove Bldg. on Front St. at Milliken St.	1	ea	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	
Remove North Pump Course	1	ea	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Salvage Play Equipment (Arch Climber and See Saw)	1	ls	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Remove Swingset	1	ls	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
					\$61,917.50
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	1475	cy	\$12.00	\$17,700.00	
					\$17,700.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
5" Conc. Sidewalk (South Ballfields Walks)	700	sf	\$6.00	\$4,200.00	
Bituminous Pavement Inc. Base (North Ballfields Walks)	986	sy	\$42.00	\$41,412.00	
					\$45,612.00
<b>BALLFIELD RENOVATION AND REPLACEMENT</b>					
Renovate Existing Ballfields*	3	ea	\$175,000.00	\$525,000.00	
Replace Existing Ballfields*	3	ea	\$350,000.00	\$1,050,000.00	
					\$1,575,000.00
<b>BATTING CAGE</b>					
Pitching Machines and Loaders	5	ea	\$6,000.00	\$30,000.00	
5" Concrete Pavement	6610	sf	\$6.00	\$39,660.00	
6' Chain Link Fencing	675	lf	\$70.00	\$47,250.00	
6' x 3' Single Swing Gate	5	ea	\$1,500.00	\$7,500.00	
8'x8' Chain Link Double Gate	1	ea	\$6,500.00	\$6,500.00	
8' Chain Link Fencing	240	lf	\$95.00	\$22,800.00	
Net Canopy system	1	ls	\$32,500.00	\$32,500.00	
					\$186,210.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
18' Ornamental Light Poles with Banners	6	ea	\$12,500.00	\$75,000.00	
Benches	8	ea	\$3,200.00	\$25,600.00	
Trash and Recycling Receptacles (1 set per field)	12	ea	\$1,200.00	\$14,400.00	
					\$115,000.00
<b>LANDSCAPING AND SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	32	cy	\$20.00	\$640.00	
Lawn Seeding	650	sy	\$5.00	\$3,250.00	
2" Cal. Ornamental Trees	12	ea	\$350.00	\$4,200.00	
2.5" Cal. Canopy Trees	18	ea	\$500.00	\$9,000.00	
8'-10' Evergreen Trees	23	ea	\$300.00	\$6,900.00	
12'-14" Evergreen Trees	14	ea	\$600.00	\$8,400.00	
					\$3,890.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$2,005,329.50
5% General Conditions				\$100,266.48	
Subtotal				\$2,105,595.98	
10% Design Contingency				\$210,559.60	
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$2,316,155.57
10% Construction Contingency				\$231,615.56	
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$2,547,771.13

Grand Traverse County  
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PHASE 7: SOUTH ROADS, DRIVES, PARKING AND WALKS AS INDICATED

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	2450	lf	\$3.50	\$8,575.00	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	7	ea	\$500.00	\$3,500.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	1950	sy	\$3.50	\$6,825.00	
Remove Curb and Gutter	1242	lf	\$6.00	\$7,452.00	
Remove Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	16203	sy	\$5.50	\$89,116.50	
Remove Concrete Sidewalk inc. Base	21964	sf	\$3.50	\$76,874.00	
					\$193,542.50
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	650	cy	\$12.00	\$7,800.00	
					\$7,800.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
5" Conc. Sidewalk	10511	sf	\$6.00	\$63,066.00	
Bituminous Pavement Inc. Base	8545	sy	\$42.00	\$358,890.00	
Concrete Curb and Gutter	1900	lf	\$6.00	\$11,400.00	
Pavement Striping	4340	lf	\$1.20	\$5,208.00	
					\$438,564.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Traffic and Parking Signs	10	ea	\$500.00	\$5,000.00	
					\$5,000.00
<b>SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	275	cy	\$20.00	\$5,500.00	
Lawn Seeding	3775	sy	\$5.00	\$18,875.00	
2.5" Cal. Canopy Trees	32	ea	\$500.00	\$16,000.00	
					\$40,375.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$685,281.50
5% General Conditions				\$34,264.08	
Subtotal				\$719,545.58	
10% Design Contingency				\$71,954.56	
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$791,500.13
10% Construction Contingency				\$79,150.01	
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$870,650.15

PHASE 8: NORTH ROADS, DRIVES, PARKING AND WALKS AS INDICATED

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	2450	lf	\$3.50	\$8,575.00	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	7	ea	\$500.00	\$3,500.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	3225	sy	\$3.50	\$11,287.50	
Remove Curb and Gutter	1908	lf	\$6.00	\$11,448.00	
Remove Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	8358	sy	\$5.50	\$45,969.00	
Remove Concrete Sidewalk inc. Base	14106	sf	\$3.50	\$49,371.00	
					\$131,350.50
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	775	cy	\$12.00	\$9,300.00	
					\$9,300.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
5" Conc. Sidewalk	25070	sf	\$6.00	\$150,420.00	
Bituminous Pavement Inc. Base	9050	sy	\$42.00	\$380,100.00	
Concrete Curb and Gutter	2350	lf	\$6.00	\$14,100.00	
Pavement Striping	3450	lf	\$1.20	\$4,140.00	
Concrete Seatwall at West Ballfields Entry	450	sff	\$65.00	\$29,250.00	
					\$578,010.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Traffic and Parking Signs	13	ea	\$500.00	\$6,500.00	
					\$6,500.00
<b>LANDSCAPING AND SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	200	cy	\$20.00	\$4,000.00	
Lawn Seeding	3250	sy	\$5.00	\$16,250.00	
24"-36" Shrubs	75	ea	\$65.00	\$4,875.00	
2" Cal. Ornamental Trees	8	ea	\$350.00	\$2,800.00	
2.5" Cal. Canopy Trees	35		\$500.00	\$17,500.00	
					\$45,425.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$770,585.50
5% General Conditions					\$38,529.28
Subtotal					\$809,114.78
10% Design Contingency					\$80,911.48
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$890,026.25
10% Construction Contingency					\$89,002.63
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$979,028.88



Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST



PHASE 9: FRONT STREET PROMENADE

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	575	lf	\$3.50	\$2,012.50	
Gravel Construction Entry	1	ea	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	3	ea	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	
Tree Removal, 12" - 24"	7	ea	\$750.00	\$5,250.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	2551	sy	\$3.50	\$8,928.50	
					\$18,891.00
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	550	cy	\$12.00	\$6,600.00	
					\$6,600.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
5" Conc. Sidewalk	10511	sf	\$6.00	\$63,066.00	
Pervious Paver System	9175	sf	\$16.00	\$146,800.00	
Circular Concrete Seatwall	450	sff	\$65.00	\$29,250.00	
					\$239,116.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Benches (Entries and Trail)	12	ea	\$3,200.00	\$38,400.00	
Trash and Recycling Receptacles (entries)	6	ea	\$1,200.00	\$7,200.00	
12' Tall Pedestrian Lights with Banners	14	ea	\$3,500.00	\$49,000.00	
					\$94,600.00
<b>SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	75	cy	\$20.00	\$1,500.00	
Lawn Seeding	1200	sy	\$5.00	\$6,000.00	
2" Cal. Ornamental Trees	22	ea	\$350.00	\$7,700.00	
2.5" Cal. Canopy Trees	5	ea	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	
8'-10' Evergreen Trees	28	ea	\$300.00	\$8,400.00	
12'-14" Evergreen Trees	14	ea	\$600.00	\$8,400.00	
					\$34,500.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$393,707.00
5% General Conditions					\$19,685.35
Subtotal					\$413,392.35
10% Design Contingency					\$41,339.24
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$454,731.59
10% Construction Contingency					\$45,473.16
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$500,204.74

Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
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PHASE 10: TITUS STREET PARKING

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	675	lf	\$3.50	\$2,362.50	
Inlet Filter Protection	3	ea	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	4750	sy	\$3.50	\$16,625.00	
Remove Curb and Gutter	585	lf	\$6.00	\$3,510.00	
Remove Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	195	sy	\$5.50	\$1,072.50	
					\$25,070.00
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	55	cy	\$12.00	\$660.00	
					\$660.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
5" Conc. Sidewalk	5990	sf	\$6.00	\$35,940.00	
Bituminous Pavement Inc. Base	1558	sy	\$42.00	\$65,436.00	
Concrete Curb and Gutter	805	lf	\$6.00	\$4,830.00	
Pavement Striping	900	lf	\$1.20	\$1,080.00	
					\$107,286.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Traffic and Parking Signs	6	ea	\$500.00	\$3,000.00	
					\$3,000.00
<b>LANDSCAPING AND SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	50	cy	\$20.00	\$1,000.00	
Lawn Seeding	1125	sy	\$5.00	\$5,625.00	
					\$6,625.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$142,641.00
5% General Conditions				\$7,132.05	
Subtotal					\$149,773.05
10% Design Contingency					\$14,977.31
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$164,750.36
10% Construction Contingency				\$16,475.04	
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$181,225.39

Grand Traverse County  
CIVIC CENTER MASTER PLAN  
PRELIMINARY OPINION OF PROBABLE CONSTRUCTION COST



PHASE 11: GARFIELD STREET ENTRANCE

28-Oct-20

DESCRIPTION	QTY.	UNIT	UNIT COST	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
<b>SITE PREPARATION</b>					
Filter Fabric Fence	800	lf	\$3.50	\$2,800.00	
Inlet Filter Protection	3	ea	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	
Tree Removal, 12" - 24"	2	ea	\$750.00	\$1,500.00	
Relocate Utility Pole	2	ea	\$7,500.00	\$15,000.00	
Relocate Fire Hydrant	1	ea	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
Strip Lawn & Stockpile Topsoil	170	sy	\$3.50	\$595.00	
Remove Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	1061	sy	\$5.50	\$5,835.50	
Remove Concrete Pavement inc. Base	610	sf	\$3.50	\$2,135.00	
Remove 8' Chain Link Fence	375	lf	\$25.00	\$9,375.00	
					\$42,240.50
<b>EARTHWORK</b>					
Earthwork and Grading	250	cy	\$12.00	\$3,000.00	
					\$3,000.00
<b>SITE IMPROVEMENTS</b>					
8" Concrete Drive Opening	610	sf	\$10.00	\$6,100.00	
5" Conc. Sidewalk	3650	sf	\$6.00	\$21,900.00	
Bituminous Pavement inc. Base	1230	sy	\$42.00	\$51,660.00	
8' Tall Decorative Fence	375	lf	\$125.00	\$46,875.00	
					\$120,435.00
<b>SITE FURNISHINGS</b>					
Traffic and Parking Signs	4	ea	\$500.00	\$2,000.00	
Entrance Sign	1	ea	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	
					\$5,500.00
<b>LANDSCAPING AND SITE RESTORATION</b>					
Spread 1"-2" Topsoil	25	cy	\$20.00	\$500.00	
Lawn Seeding	300	sy	\$5.00	\$1,500.00	
					\$2,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>					\$173,175.50
5% General Conditions					\$8,658.78
Subtotal					\$181,834.28
10% Design Contingency					\$18,183.43
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED BID</b>					\$200,017.70
10% Construction Contingency					\$20,001.77
<b>TOTAL ANTICIPATED PROJECT COST</b>					\$220,019.47





# Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Community Needs Assessment Survey

Survey Results  
FINAL

08/29/2023

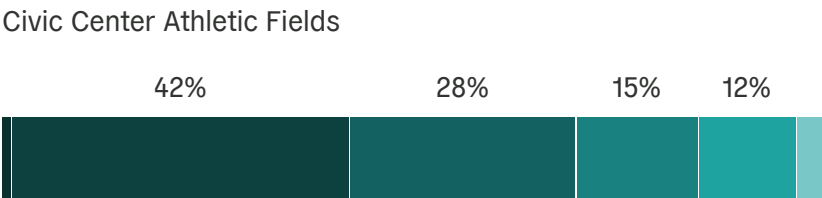
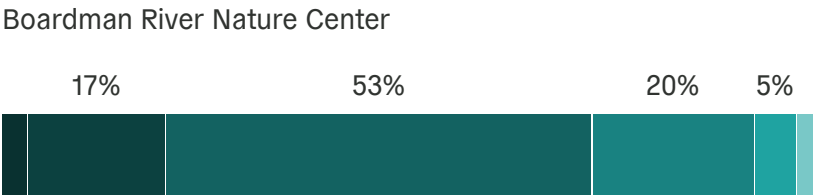
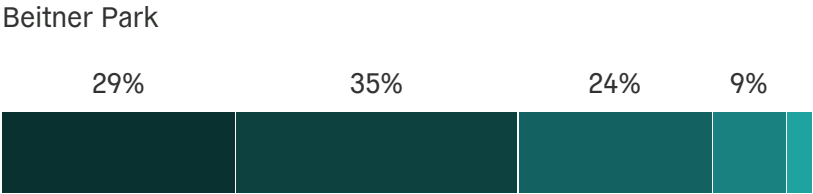


Please tell us about your use of these recreational sites.

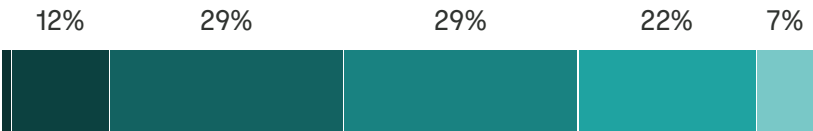
Question	Don't know it	Never visit	Visit yearly	Visit monthly	Visit weekly	Visit daily
Beitner Park	29%	35%	24%	9%	3%	0%
Boardman River Nature Center	3%	17%	53%	20%	5%	2%
Civic Center Athletic Fields	1%	42%	28%	15%	12%	3%
Civic Center Grounds	1%	12%	29%	29%	22%	7%
Easling Pool	14%	60%	15%	4%	6%	2%
Howe Arena	5%	46%	37%	7%	4%	0%
Keystone Soccer Complex	4%	69%	15%	6%	5%	0%
Maple Bay Park and Natural Area	16%	24%	34%	21%	5%	0%
Medalie Park	15%	24%	27%	21%	11%	2%
Natural Education Reserve	23%	30%	29%	12%	5%	1%
Power Island	3%	67%	26%	3%	1%	0%
Twin Lakes Park	8%	43%	36%	10%	3%	0%
VASA Trailhead	2%	39%	28%	16%	12%	2%

Expand all / Collapse all

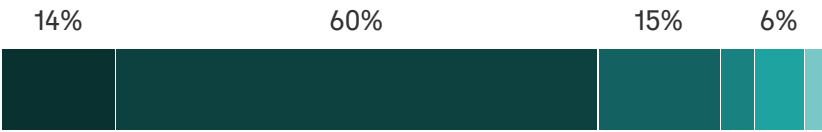
Don't know it	Never visit	Visit yearly	Visit monthly	Visit weekly	Visit daily
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Civic Center Grounds



Easling Pool



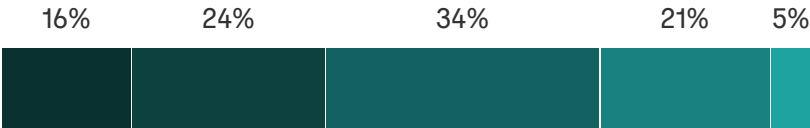
Howe Arena



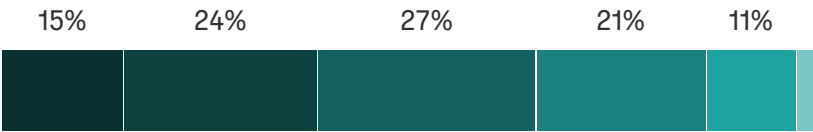
Keystone Soccer Complex



Maple Bay Park and Natural Area



Medalie Park



Natural Education Reserve



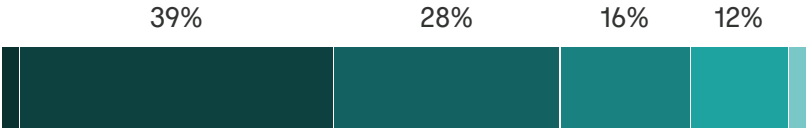
Power Island



Twin Lakes Park



VASA Trailhead

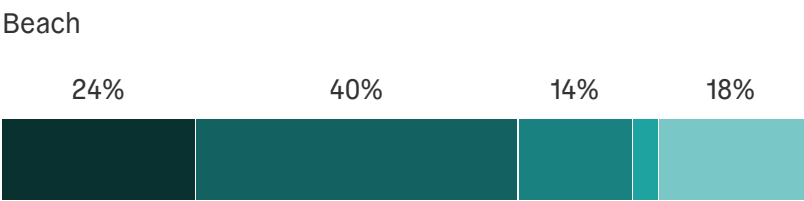
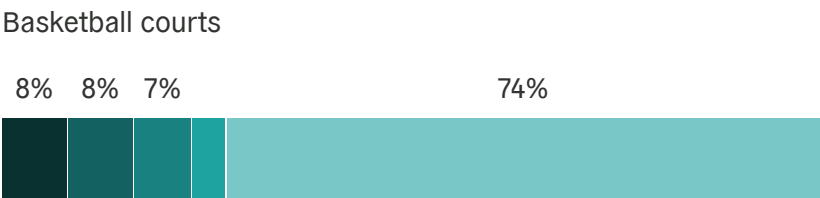




How well are your recreation needs being met by the following Grand Traverse County Park facilities?

Question	Fully met	Mostly met	Partly met	Not met	I do not use
Amphitheater	6%	10%	10%	8%	66%
Baseball/softball fields	10%	14%	4%	3%	69%
Basketball courts	8%	8%	7%	4%	74%
Beach	24%	40%	14%	3%	18%
Kayak/paddleboard or bike rental	13%	13%	6%	3%	64%
Kayak/canoe/paddleboard launch	18%	19%	15%	3%	44%
Multi-purpose fields	11%	16%	12%	2%	59%
Natural trails	30%	48%	14%	1%	7%
Paved trails	24%	46%	19%	4%	7%
Pavilion/shelter	13%	30%	16%	3%	37%
Picnic areas	19%	33%	16%	3%	29%
Playground	14%	24%	12%	4%	46%
Skate park	7%	10%	5%	3%	75%
Soccer fields	12%	11%	6%	1%	71%

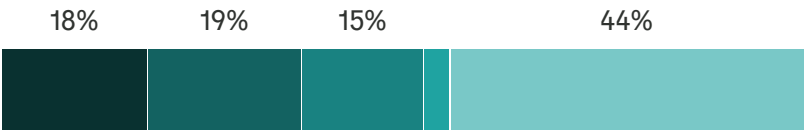
Expand all / Collapse all



Kayak/paddleboard or bike rental



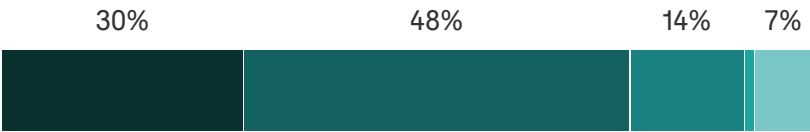
Kayak/canoe/paddleboard launch



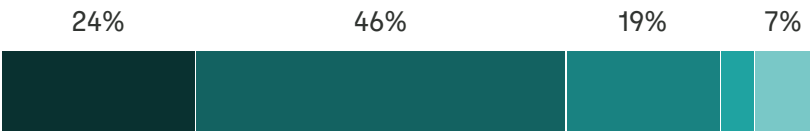
Multi-purpose fields



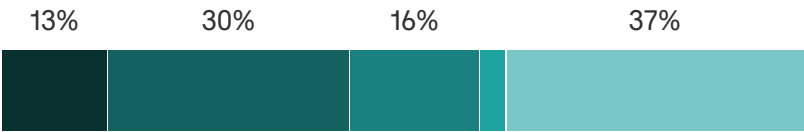
Natural trails



Paved trails



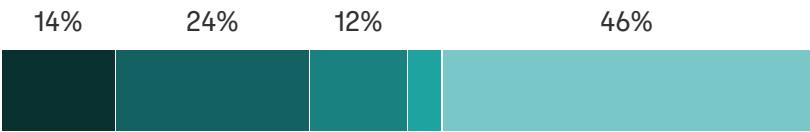
Pavilion/shelter



Picnic areas



Playground



Skate park



Soccer fields







The following list contains several specific types of recreational activities. Please mark the answer that most accurately describes you and/or your family's participation.

Question	Currently participate	Future interest in participating	Not interested
Walking or hiking	93%	5%	2%
Running	28%	11%	61%
Bicycling	69%	20%	11%
Camping	35%	25%	40%
Disc golf	13%	25%	62%
Cross county skiing	37%	27%	36%
Snowshoeing	41%	32%	27%
Kayaking/Canoeing/paddleboarding	55%	30%	15%
Ice skating	21%	30%	49%
Ice hockey	8%	10%	82%
In-line hockey	1%	8%	91%
Field hockey/lacrosse	1%	12%	87%
Skateboarding/skateboard park	7%	10%	84%
Soccer	13%	11%	77%
Golf	21%	15%	64%
Rollerblading	7%	18%	75%
Tennis	13%	24%	64%
Pickleball	18%	48%	34%
Baseball	11%	10%	79%
Softball	8%	13%	79%
Football	4%	6%	90%
Basketball	9%	15%	76%
Volleyball	7%	17%	76%
Geocaching	8%	29%	62%
Orienteering	2%	25%	74%
Picnicing	59%	23%	18%
Swimming	64%	18%	18%
Attending a music/theater performance	45%	43%	12%
Shooting range	12%	21%	67%
Archery range	6%	31%	63%

Question	Currently participate	Future interest in participating	Not interested
Fishing	36%	25%	40%
Hunting	19%	9%	72%
Climbing	12%	30%	58%

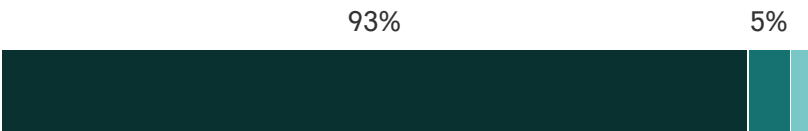
Expand all / Collapse all

Currently participate

Future interest in participating

Not interested

Walking or hiking



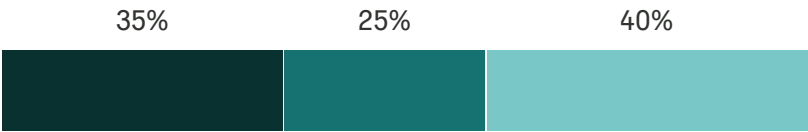
Running



Bicycling



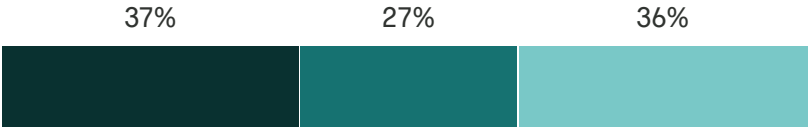
Camping



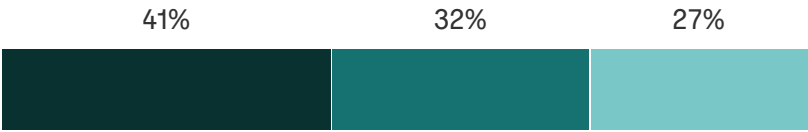
Disc golf



Cross county skiing

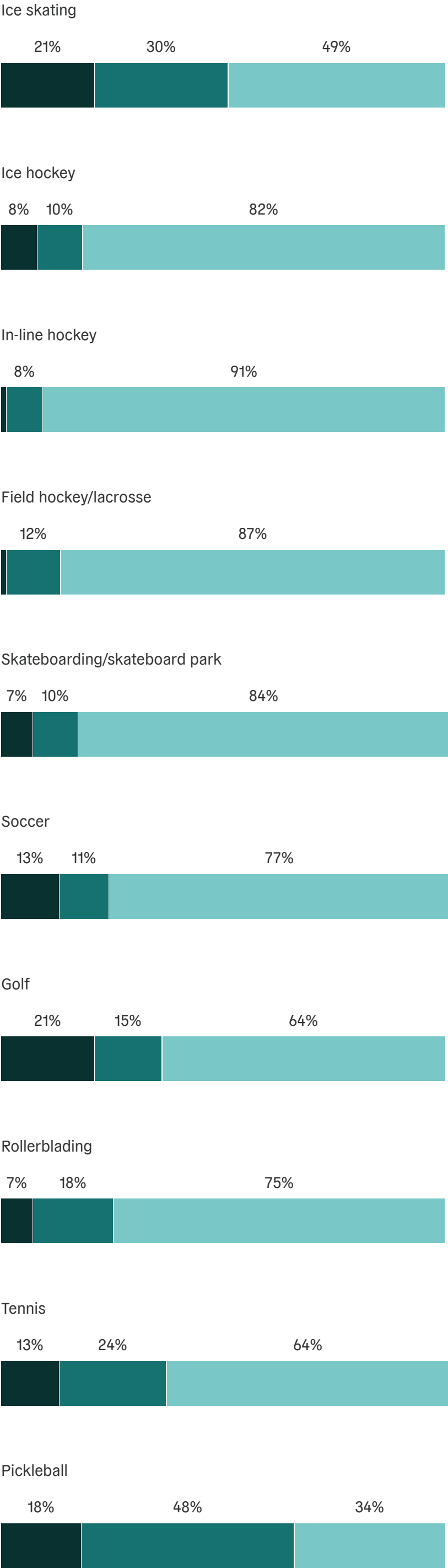


Snowshoeing



Kayaking/Canoeing/paddleboarding





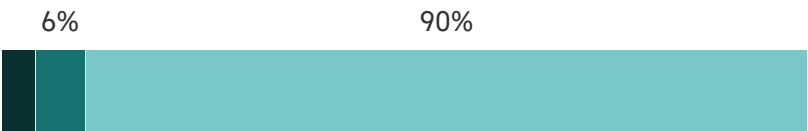
Baseball



Softball



Football



Basketball



Volleyball



Geocaching



Orienteering



Picnicing



Swimming



Attending a music/theater performance





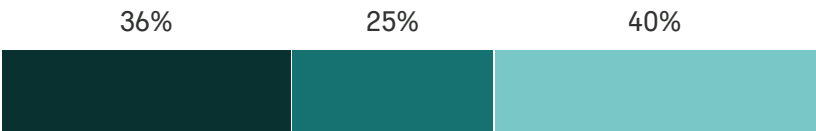
Shooting range



Archery range



Fishing



Hunting



Climbing



Is there an activity not included in the above question that we should consider making available in Grand Traverse County parks?

Bike flow track

Space for running races, triathlons (non-motorized events) etc.

Outdoor Education, Dog Park

Horseback riding and dog parks

Mountain Biking!

mountain biking on modern designed trails

Dog parks (I think they are sufficient but it's good to ask)

No

Dog Park in East Bay Township

Shuffleboaed

Volksmarches.

Indoor racket sports (squash)

Not at this time

More pickle board

Pickeball

N/A

I think there should be a park within walking or biking distance of every child in the county. There should be lots of stuff for them to do that is NOT adult-controlled. There should be summer programs for kids to do crafts, to learn individual games or pick-up games, to run around in small gangs of kids and play their own games. If there are adults (as in a summer program) they should be there to help kids get along with each, to learn good sportsmanship, to learn rules of games, and be allowed to play them without being controlled by adults.

Group meeting areas

Dog park, more parks outside of Traverse City

Outdoor yoga, pilates, excercise class

Need more trash receptacles on County paved trails!

Linear connectivity of County parks to nearby places of interest and other trails. Outdoor ping pong tables, bike skills course”pump track”

Dog park available

none

No

A historical small working farm

Indoor walking

Outdoor peace and quiet areas

more natural playgrounds like the nature center's!

Downhill Skiing- Mt. Holiday

Mountain Biking

Kickball leagues, golf, rowing.

N/A

Programs on nature, conservation

flying kites

Not that I can think of.

No

More swimming pool access

an indoor play area for young children would be wonderful.

cornhole areas

Paved bike trail in the long lake area

Baseball fields for multiple ages above the current levels.

N/A

Indoor skating rink

Outdoor pool

Pier fishing

N/A

No

A bicycle pump track and bicycle safety learning garden at the NW corner of the Civic Center. Additionally, a consolidated home for Norte Youth Cycling. We have been park partners and tenants since 2016 and bring increased visibility and users of all ages and abilities to the Civic Center.

outdoor yoga, dog park!!!

no

horseback riding, dog park

No

Would love to see a place like Whiting Forest at Dow Gardens in Midland in our county. The tree canopy walk combined with the Childrens activities (nature based playground and Childrens garden) are unmatched.

Civic Center South is my most used park.

No

Horseback riding

Fenced in area for dogs to run. Dosent need water just safe containment to run

Walking or hiking

No

?

Permanent ping pong tables. People would need to bring own balls and paddles.

No

Dancing outdoors on a wooden floor, a beach open to people and pets

Rugby and splash pads

Animal Tracking

Horseback riding

Dog parks

Outdoor workout areas.

Quiet areas

More paved or boardwalk trails for easier access for elderly. Places to sit as needed.

Community Garden

No

No

no

dog park

Dog walking/hiking (although in most places done where people walk)

Ropes/bridges agility course

Birdwatching

wheel chair rolling
Accessible camping
No
nothing that i can think of
Trim the trees. Plant some flowers. Mow. More trash cans. Looks at Midland Parks and Recreation for a model.
Sledding
Ninja course preferably in civic center south!
Nature lectures, guided walks, bird watching, plant identification, history and geology of the park
BMX biking
Kickball leagues.
Roller skating
I really think our skate park needs to be expanded for our youth.
All needs are met!
N/A
More swimming pools please that are open to the public
pump track for bikes and skate boards
disability friendly parks
Water polo
in-line hockey rink
True community center (not just for seniors), outdoor pool and water park features, outdoor ice skating ribbon, more seating spaces at all parks similar to Clinch park
Access to Power Island.
n/a
no
outdoor pool
NA
Hammocking spots. Either metal posts or protective sleeves for the trees so people don't damage more trees using portable hammocks.
No
Bocci ball courts
Dog park or off leash dog trail areas
Outdoor fitness equipment like the park in Blair Township
Biking
meditating, reading, movies
It is good to see the rowing on Boardman Lake
Small parks added within city neighborhoods
N/A
Toboggan or bob sled
No
No
Mountain biking
NO
dog park, splash pad
outdoor ice rink as well as additional indoor ice rink
Indian Woods Park jungle gym and slide

Platform tennis
splash pads
Mountain Biking (not just bicycling)
Monitored dog parks
Sledding at Civic Center is great for families & neighborhood...could be enhanced a bit
Our area does not offer enough recreation opportunities for our youth at an affordable price other than LEAP. We need to help our schools enhance their programs with a wide variety of recreation options and offer better and safer facilities for recreation for these programs to take place.
Outdoor Workout Equipment
Bring back twin lakes for events
Guided hikes on trails
None
Outdoor fitness gym equipment
Hot tub
Bmx track / RC track / RC airplane field/ real bathroom facilities at keystone field...
Pet parks
N/A
no
Disc golf
No
Band shell for local music groups
More skateboarding opportunities—a new east side park, refurbish the Civic Center Park and put in a pump track
Access to bathroom facilities at all parks



What is one thing you like most about Grand Traverse County Parks?

Easily accessible and well-maintained (for the most part)

Ease of access

The number and range of parks and associated activities is fantastic

People of all ages feel encouraged to get outside and be active throughout the year.

how many there are and the condition

Ease of access

Variety of activities

I run several times a week at the civic center in the early morning, and appreciate the path is always clear of snow and well lit.

Quantity and quality

Well maintained

Easy access to different amenities

Well, i like mountain biking on hiking trails. Which is not fun for either user.

there are many

How many there are and the variety of uses they offer.

Silence, except natural sounds.

There is a nice variety of things to do at each park. There are also quite a few parks!

Many options

Many geographic options

Well Maintained

Number of park spaces

close to town. well maintained

Diversity

They're located in such beautiful areas

The natural trails

I like having county parks that belong to everyone in the county and that everyone can use.

Maintained bathrooms. Prefer ones with indoor plumbing.

Cleanliness. Convenient.

Convenience and cleanliness. Variety of activities available, depending on interests

boardman river access

Open space, nature, relatively easy access, parking.

Marked well

Wide variety

I like all the different types of trail surfaces available

Nature walking

Being able to use them without an additional fee

Variety

They are reasonably well maintained.

They provide access to activities for families.

The range of different facilities/ day use. Something for everyone

There are lots of venues available

Accessible high quality

I like that there is a variety of them. Of course as an adult, I can get pretty much wherever I want to get.

They exist. Citizen owned. Variety.

Free and easy to access

There is something for almost everyone to do in a variety of park environments..

The parks seem generally well cared for and the trail markers are helpful.

Good parking and trails!

that they are run by our Parks & Recs

Generally they are in good condition.

They are well maintained.

Hiking trails along Boardman River

accessibility

Knowing they are there and maintained for public use

access

Having them.

variety

I walk at the Civic Center 2-3 times/week. I love that it is a specific distance, I enjoy seeing the activity at the skate park, on the fields and in the play area.

Access to water and trails

numerous

There are numerous parks and many avenues for a variety of recreation and enjoyment.

Nature and natural beauty

Diversity

The availabilty of trails for biking, walking, skiing.

Contribution to Community ambiance and connection to the natural world.

Serveral locations

same as above when I can find it

It is just great to be able to get a little taste of nature so close to home

Diversity and close to home.

Close to many things

Great opportunities to get outdoors.

Bikeable connections to parks in the Traverse City Area

So many opportunities and safety of trails to stay off roads

Brown Bridge city parkland

They easily accessible and maintained for the most part. I like to kayak and some of the launches could be upgraded for accessibility.

Great green space instead of concrete everywhere. Many options.

Free to use.Cleaning up landscape better.

The pricing

FREE!!!!

The diversity of parks and how they are managed and upkeep.

The Natural Education Reserve

They are everywhere! And they are clean and well-maintained. We consider ourselves to be very fortunate to live in a place with so many parks and recreational activities.

Variety

The staff is friendly and truly care about parks.

The natural beauty

clean and beautiful

There are plenty of them.

There seems to be a lot of them

Bike trails

Well maintained.

That you haven't released them all away.

Mostly clean

Close and affordable to all

Availability and large spaces

Walking trails

Accessibility

Locations

Being able to be outdoors

There are many! They aren't overly crowded.

A wide range of amenities and many locations

The variety of types of activities and opportunities. Also, the hiking trails.

I love the recreation options available to me in Grand Traverse County. Parks are well maintained and can be enjoyed by all.

The diversity of users and activities.

well kept, safe

They bring people together - rich and poor, live in town and out in the country, and everyone comes together in the parks. Love it.

They're free and beautiful!

Availability

Playgrounds on the beach!

nature

Generally clean

VARIETY ALL OVER.

they are free!

Civic Center South is the best and should be supported.

Everythin

Disc Golf

Availability of hiking trails

NA

Wilderness

Civic center complex

Well kept

Wide availability

I like the civic center running trail. Pool and ice rink.

Clean ,attractive,welcoming

Variety

Upkeep is high

I live close enough to them to use. Can't beat the bay being in town.

I like variety in children's play equipment. You have that from Park to park.

Cleanliness and safety
The walking trails
Pavilions near playgrounds
The accessibility and abundance
Everything they offer, including all I was unaware of
Twin Lakes and Gilbert Lodge
The cleanliness
That we have them!!
Well kept spaces.
There is a lot of variety for the community
Trails
The variety
Lots of trails
The well maintained grounds. Clean and easy to access.
Locations. Nice mix of natural with a nice urban (Madalie) park.
Accessibility - easy to get to due to online/GPS presence
I like how close they are to me basically anywhere I go
Pickleball courts
GTCO sold Twin Lakes Park to Long Lake Township which will eventually led to more public visits/use from this gem.
Availability and diverse range
Undeveloped woodland
Diversity and beauty
Bike park at Vasa Trailhead
Keeping clean.
A variety of activities and locations are available.
Civic center is accessible. More so now without the fence.
Generally kept clean.
good locations
Woods/water
They exist
I love the designated walking and biking trails. I never use my car in town.
Availability and location, especially Civic Center and Commons
Trails and open space
open to all- no permits needed
Some if them have wooded, natural settings
Convenient access
fairly well maintained
Place to exercise in nature
That we have them
Locations near water
The abundance of them
Diversity of offerings
Well maintained...beautiful settings
Ease of entry

Beautiful natural scenery
Accessibility
Beauty of area - connection with TART.
bicycle trails
The accessibility for all interests
People using the parks
Easy access
Readily accessible.
Wooded
I love the loop at the Civic Center but it needs some work and all of the improvements with the Boardman Lake Trail at Medalie Park
Covid center path but it needs to be wide for both pedestrians and cyclists
Well maintained
accessibility/abundance of locations
Variety of properties, diversity of assets
We especially like the Boardman Loop Trail and use it 6 out of 7 days a week. We visit other parks as well and enjoy the flora, fauna, and people with the exception of RUDE bicycle riders.
Always looking to improve and stay current with residents interests
General variety of activities for others.
they are maintained
Availability, location, natural beauty
Locations
Clean
Clean and public (Free to use)
Accessibility
The abundance of recreation available! This is a big reason why we moved here!
I love the boardman river corridor. I fish, run, hike, walk, and watch wildlife. Maple bay is similar. Please keep providing nearby refuges for wildlife and a peace of mind for those of us who enjoy them!
Access to natural resources
Ease of access and variety of activities for different ages and abilities
The hiking
The Grand Traverse County Parks are safe, and clean, and the grounds are well maintained.
many options for all
cleanliness
The Nature Education Reserve
Something for all ages available
The variety of options
Wondering if heavy users (businesses with kayak and other rental companies) pay a user fee for the higher usage of the parks? They should be paying something to support them.
There are so many!
Place for people meet to have a picnic or family gatherings
The nature trails and park cleanliness
Diverse activities and full family participation available!
Variety of uses
convenience to get to

Accessibility, range of offerings,
Can see/appreciate the efforts made to keep clean and available
natural areas
Variety
the paved trails; trail maps; access to trails
Mostly clean and well-kept. Keep bathroom facilities clean and trash emptied.
How quiet and non busy some of them are
Accessibility and ease of access are a big plus. However, many parks need to have their pavement repaved for those who longboard/rollerblade.
N/A
Proximity to neighborhoods and where people live
bicycle unpaved and paved trails
Adult Rec Sports
Hiking trails
Good locations to appreciate the area.
They are beautiful and natural
Lots of hiking trails
variety and accessibility
Easy to access
The many location options
The improvements to the hiking trails
Well maintained
Parking good
Variety
Safe cycling trails
Great playgrounds, access to water, well kept, mostly feel safe
Hiking paths
Location and accessibility.
Providing space for youth/adaptive cycling programs (Norte)
easy access
Access to grand traverse bay
Access to sport fields
Let's of hiking/walking opportunity
Big, diverse
How accessible and how many unique opportunities are at each one.
Trails
The variety of uses
Accessibility
They are free and welcome all ages and abilities. We often see people doing their rehab exercises at the Civic Center.
Ample parking, variety of sites
Accessibility
Beauty, convenience
They are Free
Access to Grand Traverse Bay and the beach at Maple Bay



## Accessibility

accessibility

Availability, nearby access

Cleanliness

They are well maintained. I like the playground at the Civic Center. The baseball and softball fields are in good shape.

Plenty of Green space. Let's keep it green

Variety of activities offered

The one thing I like the most about Grand Traverse County Parks is just the amount of them available to citizens. Enough parkland to offer diversity of choices- playgrounds, nature trails, athletic fields.

Different amenities/activities available at each park

trees and privacy

They are well maintained.

Beach access. Civic center (NORTE features, skatepark, jungle gym).

Safety

Diversity of choice

Trails for things like Onewheels and ebikes

Clean & enough variety that they are not all crowded

I appreciate that the Grand Traverse County Parks has plans in place for upgrading parks such as the Civic Center and Medalie and that there is an opportunity for public input. I also appreciate that Grand Traverse County Parks work to keep our natural lands natural such as Maple Bay, Natural Education Reserve, and Power Island. There is recognition of where the hub of activity should be and where things should be left alone and at peace that Grand Traverse County Parks has to offer.

The fact that they exist and are easy to access.

They are clean.

Bathrooms are always well maintained.

The wide variety of activities and the locations are spread out throughout the county not just in one centralized location

Well maintained, great trails, easy to travel to

Swimming pool

Proximity

The sheer number of them

Preserves land naturally

Tart Trails

Available free

nature

Hiking

Well kept

Large, friendly, natural, easy to bike and walk

Usually pretty clean

They are mostly clean

Variety

Feeling safe

There are so many and they are well-maintained

Easy and free parking

covering wide range of options/activities/sites

free and available

Access to the water

Well kept

Clean!

Many available

Accessibility

Variety of activities available.

The accessibility and ease to get to, park within (thinking of the civic center). Also the shaded tree areas are great for playground areas and picnic areas for young kids. I love the green areas.

They are free

## What is one thing you would most like to see changed in Grand Traverse County Parks?

Let's have more parks in the townships rather than clustered around Traverse City.

Upgrade of bathrooms particularly at the civic center

Improve restrooms and add playground to Hull Park

Keep expanding as opportunities come up as the number of people is rapidly growing.

bathrooms, more of them

more participation at the southern end of the county

More dog parks

Create parks near me in the southeast corner of the county (near Fife Lake), provide a paved trail suitable for bicycling in the same area, work with other counties to create road bicycling opportunities between Cadillac (White Pine Trail) and Fife Lake and beyond.

Improve conditions and invest in trails and other infrastructure

We need dedicated mountain bike trails and lacrosse fields.

update all - most are overgrown and the bathrooms are old/gross

Updated playground equipment where needed. Add better shade to playgrounds. Wider trails on some hiking paths. Poison ivy management if that's a thing!

P&R officer enforcement of rules.

Truly safe trails the connect and provide to access the beach by bike and walking.

Infrastructure at Keystone soccer fields. Performance areas (outdoor amphitheatre) with a strong sense of place. More trail connectivity from south of Airport to Boardman loop/TART. Programming- nature, sports, orienteering, whatever.

More shaded areas

Cleaner beach at Gen's Park

Bike trails

twin lakes should remain as county park

Your doing good. Maybe a ferry to power island a few days a week.

More river crossings

More restrooms, the planned bridge in the nature conservancy

I would like to see Twin Lakes Park go back to GT County. I think it is wrong to give our county parks to the townships.

More handicap accessible and more indoor plumbing/ bathrooms, swings at every park with regular greasing to lessen the squeaking

access to power island. need a power boat to get there so its unusable my the majority of county residents.

More of them. Plant more trees.

Accessiblity

Improved maintenance

I would like to see a real Amphitheater put in somewhere downtown for performances

Looking forward to revamped Civic center path.

More toilet facilities.

Better signage

Make the kayak launches fully functional.

Retain Twin Lakes

As I said above, more within walking/biking distance of more children.

Twin Lakes sale a mistake. More care.

Bathroom facility at Maple Bay

More activities for kids, better general upkeep, many need improvements

Reclaim Twin lakes. Better advertising of park programs

It would be nice to have more of them.

Better ice mitigation on all paved trails!!

That they all stay as Grand Traverse Parks.

More pickleball courts.

A dog park(s) on the East side and/or more dog parks

keep them open

more amenities - like better bathrooms, playground equipment, picnic/gathering facilities

Improve

Easier handicapped and senior access.

Better snow removal on the walking trail.

Consider more areas forr preservation rather than over-developing

The sale of Maple Bay for affordable housing away from the water and the beach front kept for public use.

Keep motorized vehicles out

More parks. Aggressively seek opportunities to preserve more land for public use. Also protect current parks (no overpass).

The amount of loitering and presence of those that are not there to recreate; Better interpretive signage, not just directional (flora, fauna, history etc)

Cleanliness and updating of equipment and buildings.

The lack of biking infrastructure connecting parks outside of Traverse City, particularly in Garfield Township.

Connections to a complete trail system

See above regarding kayak launches.

Nothing.,

Cleaning up of landscaping better

I had no idea some existed and I am a native--promote them!

more current info - just as a pamphlet -insert in RE

I would like to see less yellow dog bags scattered throughout the park.

Updated informational and navigational signs

Twin lakes building need some tlc

The parks are in desperate need of updating. The mentality of limiting financial resources for improving the parks needs to change. Most everyone who choose to live in the area, live here because of the natural resources. I think a millage would be overwhelmingly supported by the voters.

Not changed just more expansion of paved trails-Tart Trails- as traffic increases, walking or biking on roads is dangerous. Please put more monies into making more paths and trails for pedestrians/ bicyclists.

cornhole pitch pads

I think that more kayak launches would be a good thing.

More paved bike trails. From Long Lake area into the tart trail

Baseball fields for older kids

Don't release any parks to other entities outside of gt county jurisdiction. Shows you value them less than the average person.



I don't know.

Improving accessibility

Additional public art

More attention given to the upkeep. Many are run down and bathrooms usually are not clean

More paved walking paths

Civic center ball fields are very poor condition compared to every place we travel too

Updated bathrooms

The area is severely lacking in a good playground. Like the ones found downstate. The Glen lake school is a good example of what is needed. Parks can be completely built from private donation. Other parks put plaques all over the playscape noting who payed for that piece. I think TC really needs to help fund large projects like this.

More/cleaner bathrooms. More garbage/recycling cans. Less smoking where children/families are (beach).

N/A

Park and trail upkeep and improvements

I bike often, and more water fountains around town would be fantastic!

Updated restroom facilities.

addition of a dog park somewhere....Civic Center?

Facilities need better upkeep. The bathrooms at the civic center, for example, can be quite bad.

The maps suck

More trash receptacles, dog poop bag stations, better upkeep of the parks

Public bathroom/changing room access

cleanliness

Permanent bathrooms

OUR COMMUNITY ROADS OFF MAIN ROADS NEED DESPARATE REPAIR. TWP STATES ALL MONIES GO TO PARKS. TAXPAYER FUNDING SHOULD GO TO REPAIR OUR ROADS TO OUR HOMES AS WELL. I THINK THIS NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED

I wish there were more bike paths along main roads outside the city.

updates overall, staying nature-based, protect the trees and wildlife

Support Civic Center South more. It should be on your map. It's a gem.

Nothing

More Pickleball courts

Horseback riding addeded

More forest dirt trails

In May, before Memorial Day, there was no water available in Medalie Park. Difficult to train for Bayshore with no water

More pickleball

Civic center needs new running path, sprucing up and attention to the homeless situation.

Something closer to fife lake

?

More benches

I would like to see more smaller neighborhood parks outside of T.C., in the townships, for exposure to nature within walking distance.

More pavilions at parks for events and more splash pads

More gravel bike paths ...also speed limits on bike paths

More support from county commissioners

A bigger skate park or maybe a separate scooter park or a separate beginner's park.

More nature

Wifi would be great!

Safety

More natural areas with a less developed look. We all live (and the tourists visit) TC for its natural beauty. If we (and they) wanted urban and sleek and metal, we'd all be down state. Keep TC beautiful. Avoid sprawl. Keystone soccer complex was nice, but now it's getting obscene and ruining the natural beauty of that area. Instead of a pretty soccer park tucked into a lovely forested hill, it's starting to look like more of an urban complex. Yuck. I used to love visiting because it had a small town feel. Now it's just like any other multiplex park down state. No thank you. So keep the new or proposed public areas small and tidy and tuck them in naturally.

More playgrounds

More of them :)

See the civic center used for farm markets, outdoor music, food picnicking

More

Expansion of beach access if possible - beaches are so crowded

Better and more restrooms

More pickleball courts.

Less youth sports oriented-expenditures and more on what an aging population needs to age in place.

County commissioners stop using parks and Rec for politics

Amphitheater for arts / nice outdoor skating

Improved access to mountain bike trails

Increased mountain bike trails and connectors between parks

Bike trail connections

More amenities/conveniences within some of the parks.

every day maintenance is poor

Trail maps with good signage

Maybe save ELMBROOK golf course - there are no golf courses that allow walking in the traverse area.

Proper lighting at Civic Center for sports playing in the evening

More pickleball courts

consistent signage

Eliminate use charges for residents who already pay county taxes.

we definitely need more areas where dogs can run off leash; designated dog park areas; and we could use more paved designated biking trails - particularly one connecting Old Mission Peninsula with TC

Increased access/connectivity via paved trail

I can't think of anything

Separate cycling (mountain bikes) and hiking trails

More kayak launches on Boardman River. Upgrade the eyesore of the eroded parking area at west grand traverse bay.

Rule enforcement (dogs on leashes only, no fires, littering, etc.)

Attention to the Civic Center path...needs to be widened as there are so many more bikes on the path now...dangerous for walkers.

Too many structures and defined activities... leave nature alone

snow plowing in winter

NA

Better upkeep and maintenance. They look tired.



I'd like to see the water turned back on at the volleyball beach parking. This the second year in a row that I've not been able to get the sand off my feet after swimming.

improvements to the Easling pool along with more open swim times.

Not sure how you can increase parking at the Civic Center

More pickleball courts

Bryant park

We have had the opportunity to visit several softball fields around the state since our granddaughters are on traveling softball teams out of the southern half of Michigan. After seeing those facilities, it is clear to see that our fields are sorely lacking. The fences, the backstops, the fields themselves, as well as the dugouts, are in need of serious updating. It would be great if visiting teams could go home saying what a terrific facility, we have here in Traverse City.

Bathrooms that are available not just during summer.

More meeting areas for small groups

The asphalt trail at the Civic Center could use an upgrade

Traverse Heights needs a park. Underserved children in the area deserve some attention. Make the grounds look nicer. So many dead branches. No flowers. More playground equipment. Take a field trip to Midland Parks and Recreation for a model

More non-motorized paths throughout the county leading to county parks

Signage.... very outdated.

Rules posted demanding that bicyclists use bells and slow down before they kill someone

Expanded options in the south

A pedestrian lane for those on food, including dog walkers (I don't have a dog,) another lane for bicyclists, roller blades, and skate borders, and other non-walking movement.

more parks

Some areas are run down, especially at places frequented by locals, such as the Civic Center. It sometimes feels that the most focus/funding is placed on improving aesthetics for tourism, not quality of life for residents.

Connectivity

Homeless not loitering

More events, easier for non profits to host events in parks, more work on skate park.

More public art and clean restrooms near playgrounds.

More frequent trash and recycling options to keep things clean. Also, rug runners and/or wheelchair beach scooters out to the beach for folks in wheelchairs would be great!

I would love to see a better connection along River Road between the beitner access and brown bridge quiet area.

More recreational areas spread throughout more of the county, geographically

Keep up the good work and asking about resident (not tourist) needs. Free ways to be activities and build community is vital.

More swimming options

new concrete skatepark, something beginner friendly

disability friendly parks

improved bathroom facilities throughout

Keep county parks owned by the county - not given away to townships. Twin Lakes would have made a nice West side community center

Provide access to Power Island for those who don't own a large boat. Power Island is basically a private island subsidized by taxpayers. I would love to go hike there, enjoy the beaches, too.

At the Civic Center--- a trail for biking and one for walking..... no motor vehicles

Universal accessibility

More family friendly pickleball options and indoor options for winter

reconditioning of softball fields i.e. better infield surfacing, much much needed better lighting.

better bathroom facilities

Keep Civic Center walking trail (entire loop) cleared during winter months for daily walking.

Tackle the invasive species problem before it's too late/costly.

a dog park on/near the East side of downtown Traverse City ; more trash receptacles on trails/trailheads

Can't think of anything.

Keeping the parks updated and banning electric bikes on the TART Trail and most parks.

Civic Center building/Howe Arena needs upgrades or addition; locker rooms, etc

More dirt trails for running and biking

more bathrooms

I would like to see more field maintenance at the civic center. As a participant it can be difficult with the hills and sunk in sprinkler heads

Open former Boy Scouts Camp area for hiking and xcountry skiing.

Better trail maintenance.

Better leash enforcement, but also more opportunities for dogs at beaches

Groomed cross country ski trails

Better marked trails

More atv/off road trailheads

Continue to improve hiking trails

dog parks

Hmmm? Not sure

More Pickleball courts, more safety features added

security

public transportation/multi-use trails to connect GTC parks, including ferry service to Power Island (I've never been because I don't have a way to get there)

Ashton Park by Willow Hill Elementary school is a nightmare. There are more fallen trees than standing trees. It is dangerous and an eyesore. The park doesn't even have a garbage can. It would be so nice to see this park cleaned up so children could play without fallen tree barriers. A nice park bench and updated equipment for play would be nice. If the city would bring chainsaws the Slabtown neighbors would probably be happy to help with cleanup.

less homeless hanging out and no smoking

Bathrooms - they're filthy

A park supported by the county in the south part of the county

Addition of more landscaping and trees, construct restrooms and add bottle fillers at the Keystone Soccer Complex, add more bleachers or benches at the Civic Center and Keystone Soccer Complex

Have more places that dogs off these are allowed

Enforcement of laws regarding off leash dogs.

More hiking trsils

More hunting opportunity along the Boardman River

Updated facilities at trails and civic center

More Pickleball

I would like to see the bikers and the walkers in separate lanes. Some of the bikers ride way too fast and come from behind. If you are walking near the road you cannot hear them approaching.

Less grass

More hiking/biking interconnections

Parks are great! Thanks. One thing would be more dog friendly beaches.

More published info on what's available and when.

Updated skatepark, eliminate unused basketball and tennis courts and repurpose

Stop illegal beach fires at Maple Bay

Add more indoor opportunities for winter months

bathroom facilities, universally accessible trails, additional sport courts

Water for drinking-people and dogs

Accessibility for reasonably priced outdoor weddings

Better bathroom facilities at some of the parks. Upgrades to power island- better picnic tables, bathrooms.

A farmers market in Civic Center grounds

Better signage

Continuation of Buffalo Ridge Trail south along Silver Lake Rd to Silver Lake Recreation Area.

Bathrooms cleaned more often

more to do

Pump track for strider bikes and adults. Mountain bike trails (at Hickory?)

More toilet facilities

Outdoor community swimming pool. E coli and other issues make it difficult to swim in lakes only.

Better maintenance of wooden structures

Better communication about locations & how to use activities there. Maybe throw a few come/play educational events or a tour day...?

I want to see our Parks and Recreation funded properly. Looking at the statistics on the performance measures provided on the parks page, our parks are operating at a lower than the lowest quartile in the parks in the nation. In some areas, parks are recognized as public health. I have not found any evidence that our community as a whole does not support parks and in fact, the opposite. Also, I want to see better protection of our parklands. What kind of checks and balances are in place that could allow four lousy commissioners who have no business in parks to transfer a park (Twin Lakes Park) to a lower-level entity without public consent? Change this. I want more county parks in more areas of the county. Start buying parklands and quit giving them away.

Perhaps better parking arrangements for above-average-use days

Put soap in the bathrooms.

More art!

Greater protection for the parks so they cannot be put on the chopping block during budget time. Even if it isn't a money maker the intrinsic value to the taxpayers of Grand Traverse County is priceless

Playground near Medalie Park//Boardman Lake

Better snow and ice removal on Civic Center walking track

Better communication about the parks - locations, things to do, etc

Need a Bike Trail from M72/M31 Intersection to Bunker Hill Road

Nothing

Improve senior center activities

Better and more extensive playgrounds , better restroom facilities, charging facilities for electric vehicles

People continually ignore leash laws, and I've noticed there are not always signs about leashing pets on trails, especially the Boardman trails. My dog has been attacked dozens of times by off-leash dogs there.

I'd like to see a kayak launch area that allows access to Power Island. Partner with Peninsula Twp and use interior parking area and a drop off spot for kayaks/canoes/SUP

Cleanliness

Welcome horseback riding



I would like to see Twin Lakes return to GTC parks!

Upgrade landscaping & signage

Add recycling bins

n/a

Following the dog on leash law. Not enforced at all!

Nothing at the moment

Nothing!

-

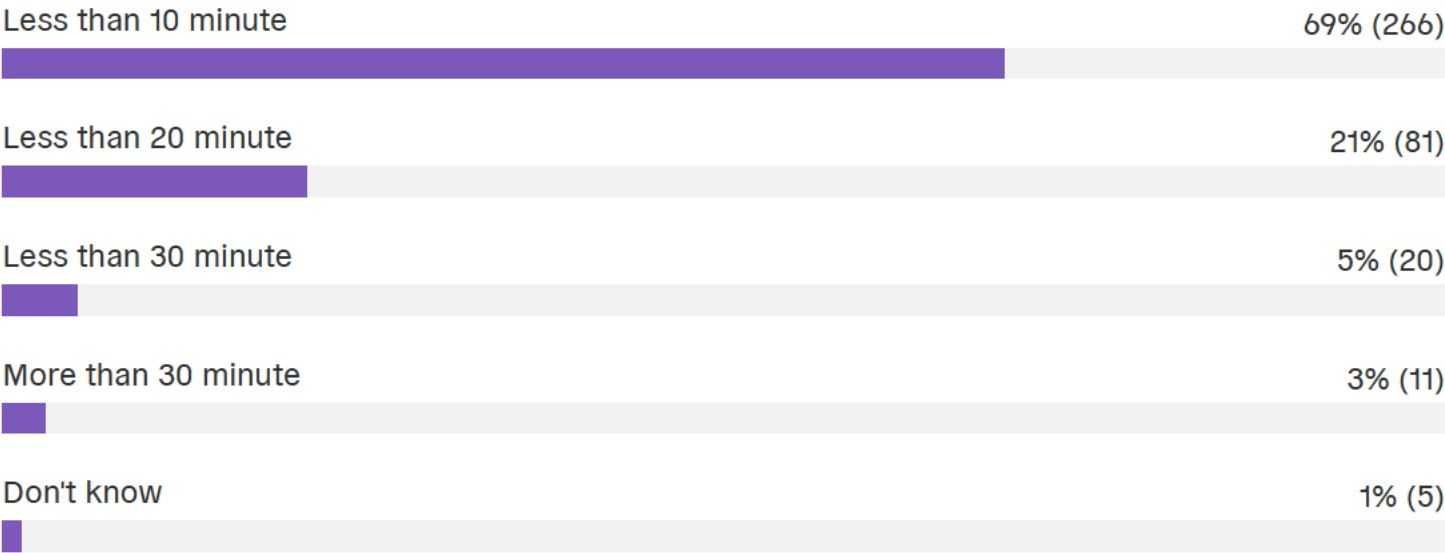
Too many athletic fields sitting empty while the skatepark is always busy.

More pickleball courts

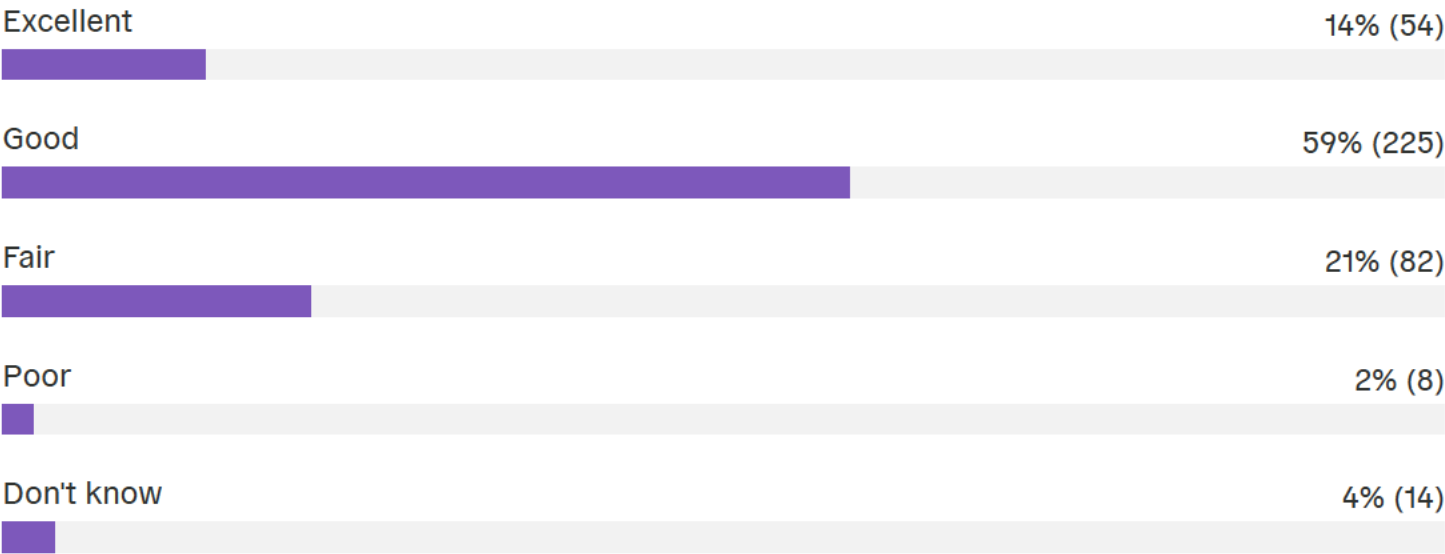
Develop more parks and partner with townships & non-profits for more parks

Have bathrooms available in the winter

The closest County-owned park is within a \_\_\_\_\_ walk or drive of my home



How would you rate the physical condition of Grand Traverse County Parks?



Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements:

Question	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Parks improve my household's physical fitness	60%	30%	8%	1%	1%
Parks enhance the academic performance of students	39%	34%	25%	3%	0%
Parks contribute positively to environmental conservation	62%	29%	8%	1%	0%
Parks help reduce crime by providing fun recreation opportunities and open spaces	37%	39%	19%	5%	0%
Parks enhance social connections among residents	52%	41%	6%	1%	0%
Parks contribute positively to property values and neighborhood desirability	67%	26%	6%	0%	0%

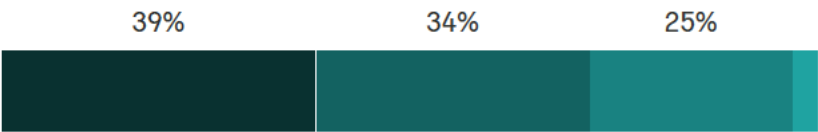
Expand all / Collapse all



Parks improve my household's physical fitness



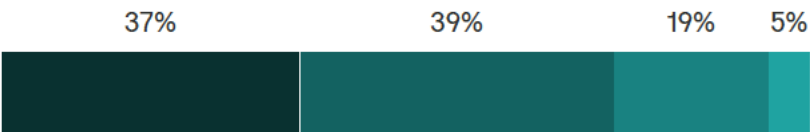
Parks enhance the academic performance of students



Parks contribute positively to environmental conservation



Parks help reduce crime by providing fun recreation opportunities and open spaces



Parks enhance social connections among residents



Parks contribute positively to property values and neighborhood desirability

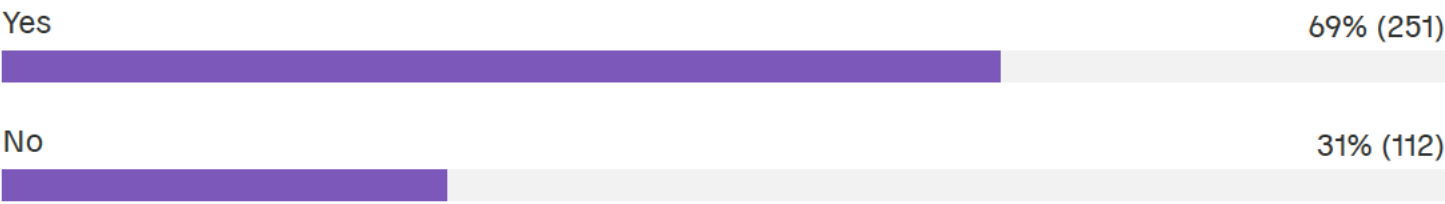


**Please select all that apply from the list below that prevent you or a member of your household from using facilities operated by Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation more often**

Location is not convenient	26% (94)
Not interested in the facilities offered	25% (90)
Facilities are poorly maintained	11% (39)
I don't feel safe	7% (25)
Already use facilities of other organizations	17% (62)
Costs/fees are too high	5% (17)
Facilities do not accommodate my/our disability	5% (17)
Registration/rental process is difficult	3% (10)
Lack of parking at facilities	9% (34)
Lack of transportation	2% (9)
I don't know the locations of facilities	16% (58)
No time to visit parks	9% (33)
I don't visit parks of any kind	1% (2)
None of the above apply to me or a member of my household	31% (112)



**Should Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation consider offering recreation programs?**



## What recreational programs would you like to see Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation offer?

Arts and Crafts, skateboarding, bike safety

Sports camps or competition that have interested participants

group hikes with information about the area and natural features

Instructional classes on different sports

Programs for children of all ages

Outdoor Education

Lessons for kids!

Fishing and golf

snowboarding/ skiing for youths

Fitness/workout groups. Recreational sports for adults.

Guided nature walks

Musical Offerings, Guided hikes, youth programs

As above, but really any. Four season optics would be great.

Summer and school vacation activities and camps for youth

Adult Sailing lessons ,

Volksmarches, snorkeling areas.

Any

Youth or summer camp

I would love to have an evening water aerobics class at Eastling Pool. There are classes in the morning, but people who work during the day can't attend.

Sustainability and climate change info — what to do

Clubs

pickleball

Pickleball

summer camps for children

Yoga, kids camp.,

Group activities, including biking, walking, playing sports

Kids' day camps in summer

Plant identification walks

kayak lessons

Organized summer recreation programs for kids

Tennis/pickle ball equipment rental. Check out basketballs or other team sports paraphernalia?

Teach all of the things parks are used for...archery, etc.

They need to fill unmet gaps by non profits and have a stronger say in how non-profits use public facilities and the fees they charge for youth sports and activities.

Summer camp, activities for kids, educational activities

Outdoor exercise in summer/fall. no cost kid programs in partnership with area schools

Programs that would attract young people and provide families with a low cost opportunity to participate. The new playground at the civic center seems to always have families enjoying that experience.

Swimming, boating, basketball courts

Swimming lessons, nature walks

Kids summer camps

Summer programs for youth

Senior activities

As demaded

lessons for tennis and golf and a variety of camps for kids

Youth

ecological education - ways the public can help preserve the environment

I think softball leagues are currently offered. For the people that are involved, it is a great opportunity. Maybe more structured and varied opportunities for youth.

Guided hikes/paddles

Currently the Aquacise and exercise opportunities at the Civic Center Easling Pool and building meet my interests and time availability.

Senior Center

swimming lessons

Group hikes and nature walks.

Collaborative programs with area conservation and education organizations/programs. Don't reinvent the wheel!

Outdoors Fitness area's,

adult sport leagues

Leagues, day camps,

Follow the Social League format.

Hunting, fishing, camping programs.

Narure or conaervation, historical, beginner kayak-snowshoe-crosscountry ski-geocache-orienteer

pickle ball lesson , indoor skating for older people (over 50) ,flying kites sessions

It would be really cool to see some adult drop-in rec sports! I don't know if that already exists--if it does, this may speak to just needing better advertisement. I also don't know if the current community demand would support it or if the YMCA is already offering enough.

Sport introduction camps, something in partnerships with schools, swim lessons/instruction (not impressed with what's currently offered by other entities.

Swimming, Yoga

cornhole

Pickle ball lessons

Pickle Ball, adult music programs, drum circles,

Kids day camp. Playground at Gilbert Park

More adult sports or sports for kids that can't make the high school teams.

Pickle ball leagues. Shuffleboard leagues. Youth and adult kayak training.

Table games like chess, music/art

Team up with Art and Connection in ER for art in the park

Baseball and softball for kids after middle school who don't want to play travel sports

Adult recreation community center especially winter activity indoors

Hikes

Lacrosse, soccer

Swim lessons, adult Rec sports..

I am not quite sure but I feel like there are so many individual organizations providing programs that having a centralized parks department would create greater brand awareness for the parks and increase the connection between activities and the place they are held. Youth programming will always be a need.

more fitness / strength training at the Civic Center.

birding, hiking, swimming lessons

Adult rec league sports

any of value to the community

Activities for special needs kids and adults

more Childrens programming (elementary/ middle/ high school)

Summer programs for students.

Closer park/ area for dogs to run and play

Pickleball

Swimming lessons

Outdoor activities for kids

Hiking, nature education

School age children summer programs

Outdoor dance or movement lessons or events.

Paddling and safe water practices, boater safety classes, Bird/animal identification classes, native plant identification, edible plant identification, bicycle safety for children (also separate classes to introduce elders who want to take up the sport).

Pickle ball, more swimming including lessons

Pickleball

Tai Chi , outdoor weight training

Team sport league for adults

Sailing, rowing, surfing, sea kayaking, paddle boarding, horseback riding, bird watching, dark sky watching/star gazing/astronomy, wilderness/survival courses, community garden/beautification/clean-up projects, etc

Programs geared toward teens/young adults

Crew/rowing classes.

Evening educational/active programs (guided hikes, etc.)

for kids

Sports leagues for adults and childre

Day camp, child care, community center

Both youth and adult arts and sports

Opportunities for young people to participate in hiking, biking, etc.

Birding clinics, kayak/SUP clinics, art/performances

Any

summer youth

Biking and ice skating

Anything. To my knowledge the county does not offer any programs. The parks just seem to exist.

Non competitive biking tours, XC ski events

any that help people get outdoors

More summer programs for families

Summer youth programs

Kids programs, baseball,soccer, running

I don't have understanding of what activities ARE currently offered by the organization. Only outdoor activities? More pickleball court locations. Indoor pickleball.

Leave No Trace, Birdwatching, Pickleball, Paddling safety, open water swim lessons

walking yoga etc



Guided hiking tours

softball, baseball, soccer

Yoga, camping & drumming classes

Find out programs that people in the community is interested in.

Kids athletics

Gymnastics for kids

Concerts. Craft shows. Movie nights. Food fairs

Summer day camps for kids under 10. Something in combination with MIDNR centered around environmental education.

Workshops for seniors

Ninja course training Skateboard safety training Skating ( ice and roller blade) safety and advanced moves/techniques Dog obedience course intro

Guided bird watching, plant identification, local history, and other lectures/helpful learning activities, such as invasive plant removal.

Fun sports leagues (there are plenty of highly competitive & expensive options), clubs or groups for paddle boarding, kayaking, biking, etc. for adults that don't meet during business hours

Golf, kickball, flag football, pickleball leagues and open recreation gatherings. Shuffleboard is up and coming too. Need a public golf course run by county if only 9 holes.

Arts and crafts for kids

Summer camp (Childcare)

Summer programs for children

Summer camp, dance, & gymnastics.

any

Swimming and pickleball

Environmental and recreational safety education.

Roller Hockey, Tennis

Non-competitive sports leagues for middle and high school kids.

More recreation / outings led for the increasing senior population, perhaps in coordination with Commission on Aging and Senior Center? Special outings for county residents to visit and enjoy Power Island spring, summer and fall.

Fitness, drop in sports for kids

Fitness classes like yoga, pilates, or kickboxing. Intro classes for snowshoeing, cross-county skiing, forest bathing, etc.

More pickleball and kid/family/coed options

More educational programs to learn about the environment of the parks, particularly on the Boardman River, Hickory

summer crafts, games, sporting events for kids

Programs for adults who want to learn a new sport~

roller derby

social sports or events

Hiking information on nearby native birds, wildlife, and environmental education.

Nature walks, gardening, kids classes, yoga and tai chi in the parks

kayak or canoe guided tours that supply the boats

A variety of outdoor activities for all ages

Hiking groups, hiking with dogs

Sports, hunting and fishing

Outdoor fitness classes



Tennis, pickle,

Exercise classes, educational classes for children, community family events

Softball

Birding/hiking/nature walk + awareness

guided tours exploring what they offer,

programs run by outside nonprofit groups who could use the parkland space but not have the need for a county paid person to run the program

Swimming lessons for kids

Hunter safety classes

Cycling in conjunction with Norte/TART

Pickleball lessons and tournaments

I would like to see the band shell at the Civic Center used during the summer for free concerts. When the plays are not happening it sits empty. It's a shame to see such a beautiful space unused the majority of the time.

Orienteering, nature hiked

Lacrosse, self defense

Winter indoor rec activities - basketball, football, soccer, baseball, lacrosse, etc...

youth sports

Summer programs for K-12

Yoga, pickle ball

sports teams

Whatever the community needs which hasn't been met.

Water/swimming lessons and safety, boating safety,

As many as possible! There are too many businesses or event "non-profits" that overprice these programs. Give us affordable options.

My answer is actually maybe, as there seems to be a plethora of sports programs available for youth. However, I am a senior. I participate in programs from the Senior Center. There are many people who are unable to get to those programs. Having optional outdoor programs or swimming programs may be helpful.

Community focused fitness classes

Bring back activities at Twin Lakes

Kids camps

Group exercise

Not sure

swimming lessons, bike safety,

Hot tub, ping pong, kayaking

Sports clinics, access to large indoor rec area , nature presentations

more skateboarding

Youth and senior programs for both exercise and learning about the great outdoors. Appreciate your surroundings

Outdoor Life Skills.

All offered P/R county activities, free for all county families (if not in effect all ready). If millage - reasonable !

youth programs, swimming, tennis, etc.

School age summer programs . Teaching swimming

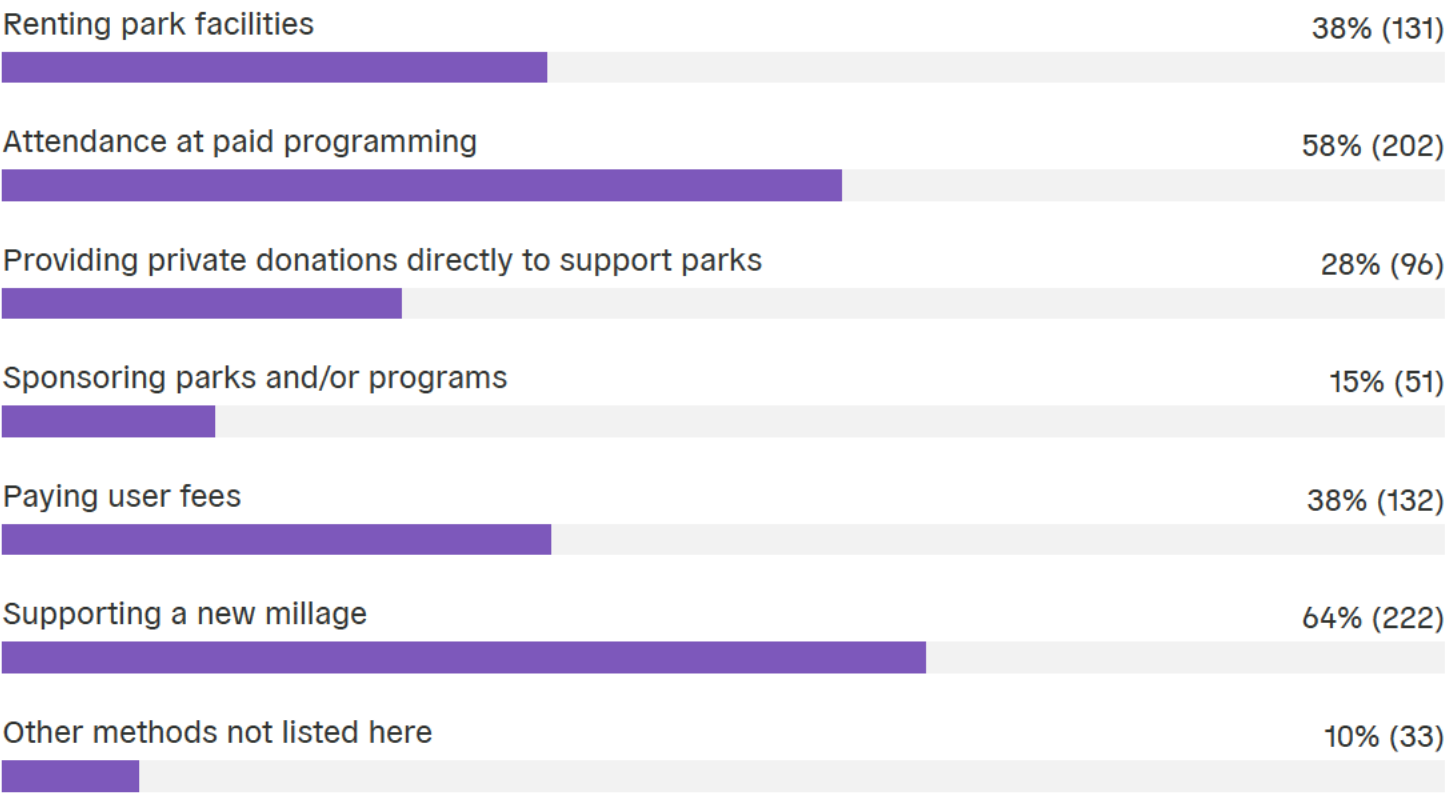
Outdoor activities that get children running and moving . Like sack races , balloon chasing, tag or hide and seek . Simple but kid friendly. Soon as they are teens they head to tablets phones . So get them young .

I'm open to ideas!

Kid's programs for sports or nature activities

camps for kids - after school, summer

**In what ways would you personally be willing to support financing park operations?**



## What other method(s) would you personally use to support financing park operations?

NA

Support investments in grant writing

Fundraising

Charge for parking. Yearly park pass with gated scan card.

my taxes already go to support same

Perhaps there are funds currently being used elsewhere that could be better used on parks.

Move more general fund dollars to park operations. More grant seeking for park improvements.

Grants, money from other departments that are funded more than they should be (ie don't buy tanks and spend money on our kids)

I don't particularly favor another millage but I am willing to pay for services through my taxes. Don't get me started on the fact that citizens of Traverse city pay county taxes but see little investment in the city by the county.

Volunteering

Grants

Endowment funding

Make better budget decisions at the county level and stop funding unnecessary purchases.

Special tax for vacation homeowners/corporations who aren't here year round to support the community and leave us in a housing crisis otherwise.

Civic center-Farm markets and music vendors food trucks pay fee in which in turn they make profit from sales earned for family day there

Not sure

reprioritize county budgets in favor of parks and recreation ... sell the Bearcat to start.

More from county general fund

Concessions

Grants

Funding from Natural Resources Trust fund grants and foundations and organizations, maybe small millage.

Club use

Traverse Area Pickleball Association

Hotel/Motel room county tax that would create additional funding for various county departments including parks and recreation.

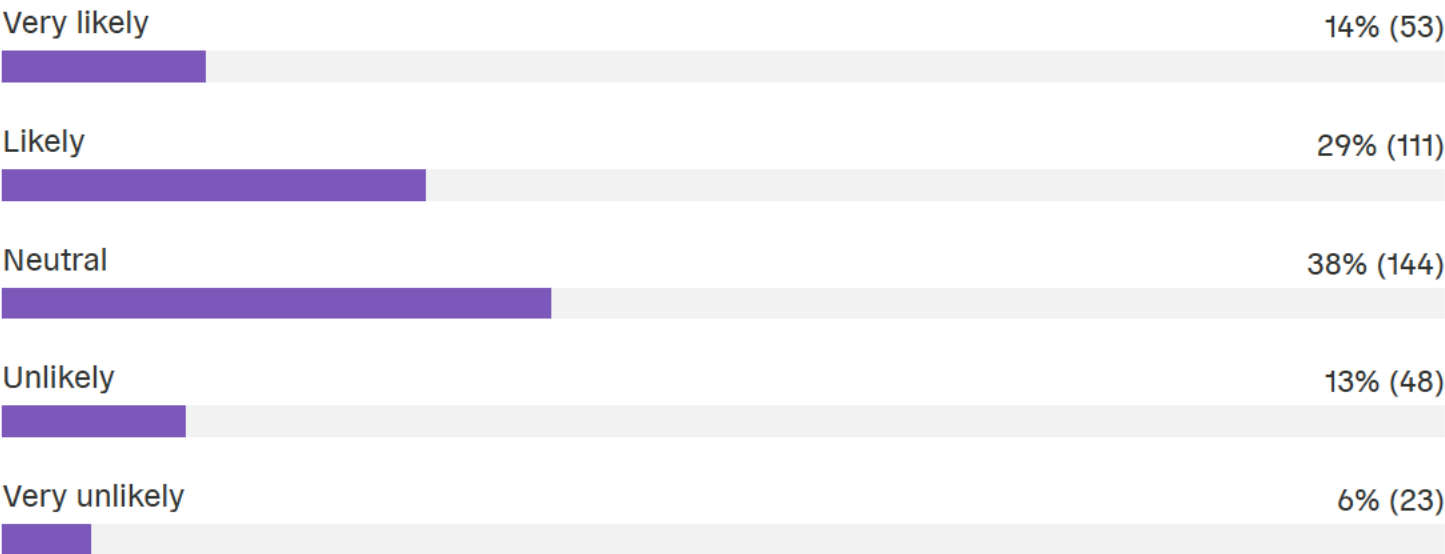
Give me ideas! I'd be happy to help where I can.

none, taxes should be enough

Brick side walk improvements engraved with donor's family name and a community fundraiser

Assistance in planning and bringing forward best practices when designing.

How likely are you to participate in volunteer programs or community initiatives related to parks and recreation?



A horizontal bar chart consisting of 30 rows. Each row features a solid black bar of varying length, followed by a light gray background bar that extends to the right edge of the chart area. The black bars are arranged in a non-sequential order of length, with some being very long (nearly spanning the width of the chart) and others being very short (less than 10% of the width).



N/A



**How do you receive communication about Grand Traverse County Parks?**

Radio	13% (46)
TV	12% (43)
Email	25% (89)
Newsletter	17% (62)
Facebook	34% (123)
Word of mouth	55% (198)
Website ( <a href="http://www.gtcountymi.gov/parks">http://www.gtcountymi.gov/parks</a> )	29% (104)
Other	18% (64)

## What other ways do you receive communication about Grand Traverse County Parks?

Record Eagle

The Record Eagle newspaper!

Record Eagle

Record Eagle

Record Eagle

Traverse Ticker

Local TV news website.

Brother-in-law, Ryan Walsh

Record Eagle notices

I don't receive communication at all

Record-Eagle

Newspaper

Going there. Making phone calls.

Record Eagle

Record Eagle

I read the Record Eagle, digitally

Traverse Record Eagle

I do not receive communications

Ticker, Record-Eagle

Record-Eagle

I don't receive any communications about the parks

I dont

Senior Center when there used to be more collaboration

Don't hear much. Sometimes in the Ticker

Record eagle newspaper

Ticker website

TCRE, Ticker

The Ticker

email Ticker

the Ticker

Instagram. Check out Midland Mi Instagram page. Entertaining as well as informative

The Ticker, and the Newcomer's website

News

the ticker

I became aware of this survey from the Traverse Ticker online news. It would be helpful to provide public announcements on Interlochen Public Radio, as well as public television. Some people never listen to commercial radio or tv, and do not participate on facebook or other social media sites.

The Ticker

Articles on The Ticker or Up North Live

newspaper

newspaper

Instagram

In Northern Express paper and TC Ticker newsletter

News

Local online news

I do t get news about the parks

Newspaper

Traverse City Ticker

newspaper

TC record eagle

Newspaper

The Ticker

Record Eagle

i dont typically

Record-Eagle; Northern Express; Ticker

Events listed on The Ticker or in The Express

My Google news feed

r/traversecity

Print media, membership

Newspaper

newspapers

Newspaper

## Is there anything we may have missed that you would like to tell us about Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation?

I particularly enjoy the Civic Center and would like to see its facilities and grounds enhanced.

Good work, keep it going. I care about parks being accessible to all, so, even if I don't use a park or a type of recreation, it doesn't mean I don't want others to enjoy it and have it available.

Thank you for them all

civic center needs love - tree and bush trimming, realigned of eth streets (current setup can be dangerous for my daughter and I to bike through there ). The skatepark is the most heavily used amenity there and it desperately needs an expansion /update - lets help the kids and make a skatepark/ pumptrack the TC area can be proud of!

Thank you for all you do to make our parks fantastic!

I moved here from Florida and am just so appreciative of the outdoor recreation opportunities I have access to. It's very exciting to see community options continue to grow and blossom.

Parks are always in good condition, except the beach at Gen's Park. Need more dog parks and swimming areas.

More parks in East and southeast part of the county

Unsure of the rational for transferring Twin Lakes to the Township of Long Lake.

Please add swings to all parks, all parks need an indoor toilet, or at least a well maintained outhouse, all parks need to be handicap accessible

too few and none up on OMP

Publicize what's going on. I have no awareness of parks run by the county

More people will use parks there are organized activities. Group activities help maintain community interest and reduce conflict.

I know that the Civic Center pool is operated by the YMCA, but recently I was surprised by the \$20/ visit fee, which I find prohibitively expensive at this time.

Can't think of it right now!

More benefits for locals...kids especially

Civic Center's Howe Arena needs updates/expansion. Also we no longer use athletic fields but our children did extensively and we did before injuries forced me to give up most team sports other than pickle ball.

Staff are doing a great job with the limited resources they are allocated. It's unfortunate that our BOC does not fully appreciate the necessity for parks and recreation in increasing health, safety, and educational opportunities.

Develope more partnerships with community organizations, schools, Townships and city.

No, thanks!

I'm in my 70's now. Not nearly as active and involved as I was. However, I fully value the parks and recreation system as a comnent of the COMMUNITY. I also understand that good services incur cost. I pay taxes and, depending on the activity, I'm willing to pay for specific services. Thanks!

Keep all ideology out.

n/a

My answers have incorporated my attendance at my children's and grandchildren's activities. My son won't take the time to answer a survey.

Thank you!

Do not consider a millage for P&R. You need to know how much it piss's me off to see you catering to those who can't come to grips that they are either male or female. I identify as retired from working hard white male.

no

Place to take grandchildren



Even the park facilities that I do not use are important to me. They contribute to our community.

Vital community asset

Our parks make our community a better place to live. Thank you to all who maintain and support these spaces.

More bathrooms would be great!

The strong commitment this region makes to conserving natural spaces for public enjoyment is one of our favorite aspects of living here.

Lighting at the softball fields should be modified. Fields need to be overhauled across all fields at Civic Center.

N/A

just increase the visibility of these resources

Negative.

No

We winter in Florida. I have been impressed with the park systems there. I'm not sure I can pick out one thing that they do that applies here, except for variety. Do you have gym facilities for basketball ?

County Parks and Rec should be the example for park systems in northern michigan. I want to see more of my tax dollars used for parks. It is the best way to find out how much local government cares about its citizens.

N/A

I guess we do not know what is offered and where or how to go about it. I do not get a local apart nor do I watch the news. Maybe I need to find the GTCR Facebook page to see what is available.

The exclusive use for baseball with American legion is hindering baseball as a whole in traverse city. Little league and other programs could benefit from the use of those fields as well.

I'm surprised you don't count any of the beaches as parks.

No

Civic center softball/baseball fields need modernization and safety measures for players and spectators

Keep Promoting Good Parks

Thank you to your board and staff!

Nope!

The County Parks are a gift to our region. Thank you for your efforts to be inclusive, and accessible, and to improve the current facilities.

I think the Keystone Soccer Complex is way too big (and it just got bigger!) for the amount that it's used. Is there a way to make it usable for more than just the soccer and lacrosse matches? Can there be hiking or disc golf or ice skating or ???

Really need better care of the park behind the library, Boardman Lake. So many homeless people there. I live there and do not feel safe most evenings trying to walk my dog there. My neighbors feel the same. Also lots of people leave dog poop. We need more Poop bag stations! Look at the parks and trails in Petoskey. They are amazingly well kept, have lots of trash receptacles and many, many poop bag stations.

again, our tax money supports these parks and locations. love our parks but we need to have tax funds that we pay to also focus on our township roads. our road is falling apart!! TERRIBLE!! We have a road that connects two main arteries into town. Our road is awful. they just put a bandaid by throwing on some fill into the holes, there are a few places that it is not holes, it is a crumbling mess, no fix unless it is repaved. Twp stated if we want it fixed, it has to be done on our own and a majority of sub needs to approve as it would be additonal tax money. It is shameful. :(

thank you

Nothing

More trails that are dirt.

?

Love the Vasa trail and Maple Bay!

No

Perhaps the county could encourage the township boards to consider more green spaces in neighborhoods, especially low-income neighborhoods.

Bathrooms at parks are poorly maintained or non-existent

When designing new parks, it is imperative to include adjacent neighbors' input! (Specifically speaking of new Brownbridge addition of Spring Lake!)

Would like to return to more partnering with Senior Center

More restrooms!

Love the intentionality to make parks ecologically sound

Besides Maple Bay and Twin Lakes Parks, there is not much to offer the non-TCM rural GTCO resident. Expand out into the whole County.

Bike trail connections are more important than surface parking

No new taxes!!

No

We need a bike path on west side of town and mt biking trails. Always have to travel across town or to Arcadia or Palmer woods to mt bike.

No

Upgrade dog park pickleball courts and other courts.

It has been under-valued and under-funded for years. Need better care and maintenance of these community-owned assets!

As a community we need more dog-friendly areas for people to allow their dogs to run off leash. I would utilize GTC parks more if there were a safe way to bike in from OMP to TC. I mainly utilize the OMP township parks and the TART trails; occasionally the Civic Center and Boardman Lake trails.

It would be so great to have another natural area like Maple Bay but closer to town

The trail around Boardman Lake is incredible...for years so many worked hard on the planning and development. Great job, too, on the fence removal and grading/grass seeding at the Civic Center. Years ago, when encouraging an older friend to walk there with me, there were no benches...we suggested some be added and four benches were installed...now there are more...and they are used. I know there is more maintenance needing to be done than manpower to do it, but there are several big, dead branches on the west side of the trail that need attention when there's time. It's a wonderful, safe place to walk....Hickory Hills and the Commons are incredible.

Knock off the gender identity stuff...

no

I think partnering with other non-profits to provide services is the best way to go and it's working - TART and YMCA come to mind.

It's a great system but you could consider partnering with other park systems around the area.

Question 13 did not list physical/age limitations that would prohibit someone from enjoying the parks.

Your staff does an incredible job of keeping the areas clean safe and beautiful

Upgrade bathrooms. Add more playground equipment. Please plant some flowers and cut the grass so they are attractive places to visit.

There are some parks which are more likely to have vagrants/homeless. This can be a challenge for park users to enjoy if there is disruptive behavior, littering etc going on.

More signs about park use and courtesy on the part of dog owners, bicyclists, and the importance of leaving vegetation and flowers for all to enjoy.

Please leaves as many trees and other vegetation as possible. Not everyone wants sports activities, team fields, and children's equipment alone!

No



I would reach out to Evergreen community group. They do a lot of events in your parks like walk and talks. I'm new to the area and they introduced me to your website and a lot of the parks.

The homeless camp across from the YMCA near Logan's Landing makes me feel unsafe at times. I have heard people screaming while enjoying the river there.

N/A

Thank you

Please consider more indoor and outdoor swimming in a pool

skatepark is dated and could use a refresh. more skateparks throughout the county. smaller sized like frankfort.

More benches for parents

It would be nice if it were more clear who operated each park, and have communications with those agencies more centralized, or at least some sort of centralized portal listing all parks in the area and linking to the individual organizations that operate each one. Only a few of the parks I frequent are GT Co. parks.

Twin Lakes Park is being or has been transferred to the Charter Township of Long Lake, and will not be or is no longer a county park.

My note about the location not being convenient is that I wish my neighborhood was connected to walking distance parks. It is not and so we must drive to parks, which is not ideal.

Not sure of connection between County and TART trails, but I also use TART trails for walking and biking. Would seem the snow removal methods used by the TART trail organization could be used at the Civic Center trail, since the path bridge no longer can handle the weight of a County truck to clear it in the winter. Have always appreciated that the Civic Center walking path was ad free, but now the Pet Supplies folks have their pet waste containers boldly marked. If that is the direction being taken, then would be nice if the same boldness was used to advertise the leash rules. Also appreciate that the Civic Center amphitheater area no longer has fencing.

NA

Continued maintenance, upkeep and improvements at existing parks is paramount.

I've lived in traverse city most of my life and never heard of some of these parks, please advertise more

More accurate info about educational programs in e-newsletters

No

I would like the park system to be part of a plan to enhance the well-being of native flora and fauna in the region: wildlife corridors, removing invasive plants, adding native plants

Where do my city tax dollars go?

no

Bathroom cleanliness and safety at our parks is embarrassingly lacking. Trash collection is also poor. Whatever development you may consider, you need to ensure adequate long term budget to support ongoing management and maintenance.

Consider adding more parks that are convenient to downtown or west of downtown (Long Lake/Silver Lake Area); add more sculptures, art or murals to parks; add basketball court to Twin Lakes Park

I love everything about the parks here. My only concern is there's a lot of individuals who don't abide by rules and make going out dangerous for everyone. The past several times on the TART trail I'll be passed by someone on an ebike sprinting through going 30 mph. And I've been going to parks near me nearly 3 times a week and there's almost always an off leash dog running around causing chaos to other people / other dogs.

If you do allow camping (other than on Power Island) do not allow a loophole that allows the homeless to "camp" and trash public land like they have done in the Pines.

Allow creation of single track trails by NMMBA certified builders. More access = more healthy people

For many people the Civic Center is their form of socializing. There are many single, elderly residents who have met friends just walking their dogs everyday. It's one of the little hubs of the

community and a wonderful resource for the city. Anything that encourages its use will only be more positive.

Please plant more trees

Thanks for all you do!

Need more progressive ideas from your committee

No

no

Don't know which parks are county parks, use GTRLC spaces mostly

A chess/checker table(s) in East Bay or Indian Woods. I'll buy

Have been awaiting any sign of life regarding the continuation of the Buffalo Ridge Trail south along Silver Lake Rd, to S. Airport Rd., perhaps to the Silver Lake Recreation Area someday. Traffic on Silver Lake Rd., with its small shoulder and curve south of the YMCA, continues to increase, threatening the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. Have witnessed no action on this subject.

no

Getting info from website is too passive a form of communication from county. So many new people here don't know the parks, including us. Working full time since moving back 9 years ago. Need an app to tell people how to get to different parks for what activities! Partner with the city on this & maybe other townships!

I'd like to have modern opportunities to receive communication about Grand Traverse County Parks. I do not listen to the local radio, watch public TV, or waste paper by signing up for a paper newsletter. Let us know on your website if there is an e-newsletter we can learn more from. I also do not use Facebook due to all the opinionated mess, what about an active Instagram page? Friends of Grand Rapids has one that's pretty active. Maybe we need a friends group! I also love following the National Parks pages because of the beautiful photography they have to offer.

I am very appreciative of the variety of parks available. My main visits are to the Civic Center. Sometimes, it seems the playground area rest rooms are not as clean as they could be. The improvements at the Civic Center are much appreciated. The Boardman Nature Center and the related trails along the river are a real gem

Keep up the good work, don't get rid of any more parks

No

Senior center should be available in evenings. Seniors should be more involved in activity decision making

Keystone soccer field is sorely lacking real restroom facilities. Also the playground there is lackluster at best. There is also opportunity at keystone to build an indoor lounge area that could double as a food service place or be rented out for team parties etc. Civic center is dated. Is YMCA affiliated with the county? I would love swimming pool access but \$100+ month is expensive for family access. Why does our county not have a large state of the art indoor rec area. Pool, track, weight room, basketball court, pool table, ping pong after school clubs etc. During winter almost all of the park activities come to a stand still. I would be shocked if the county as a majority would not approve of something like this.

What were you thinking when you gave away Twin Lakes? Why should I have any confidence in the P&R when the county board give away 200+ acres and revenue to a municipality without a plan for the property? Pathetic

I'm an elder so that explains a lot of my answers. Not very active anymore.

N/A

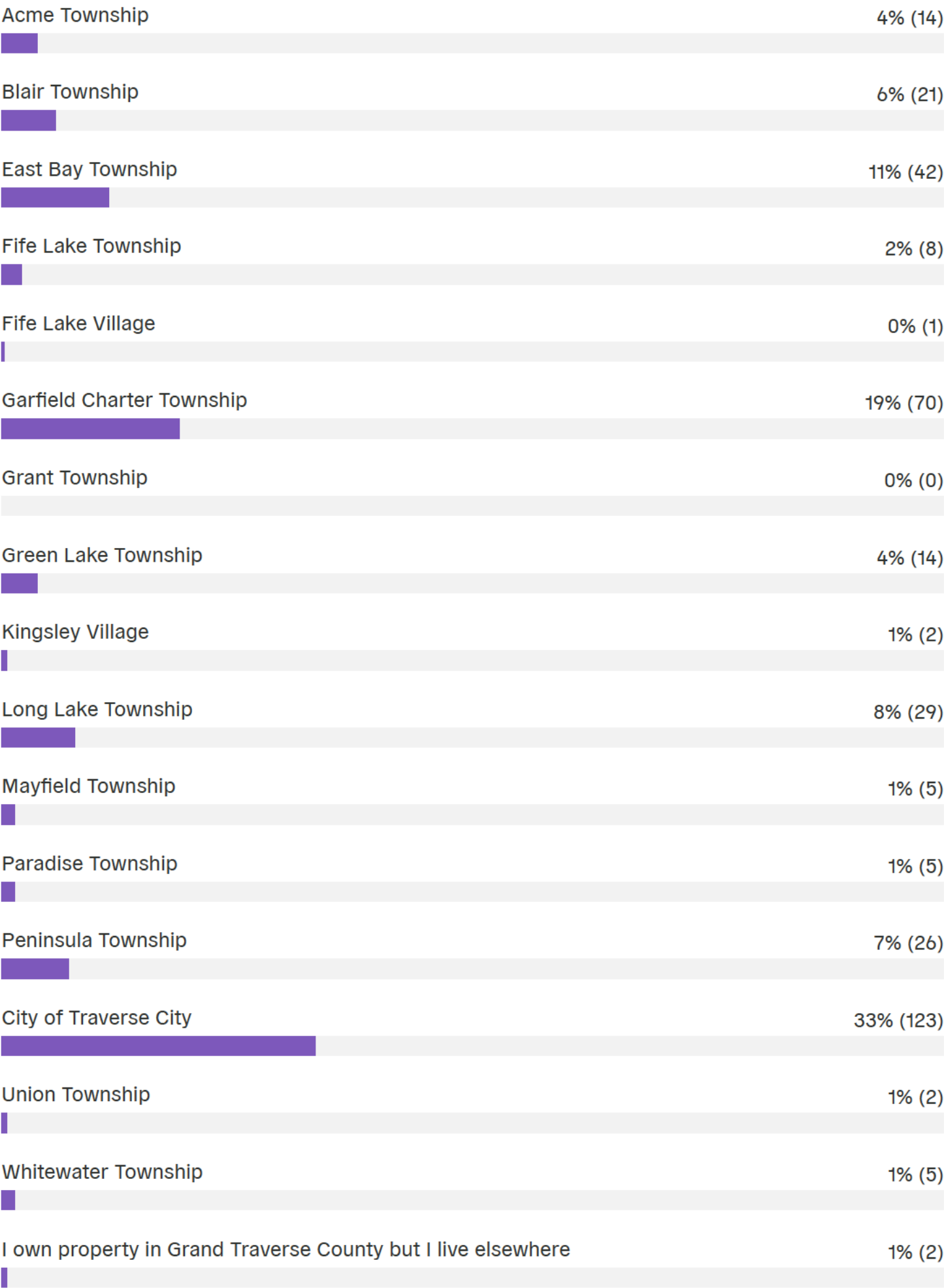
no

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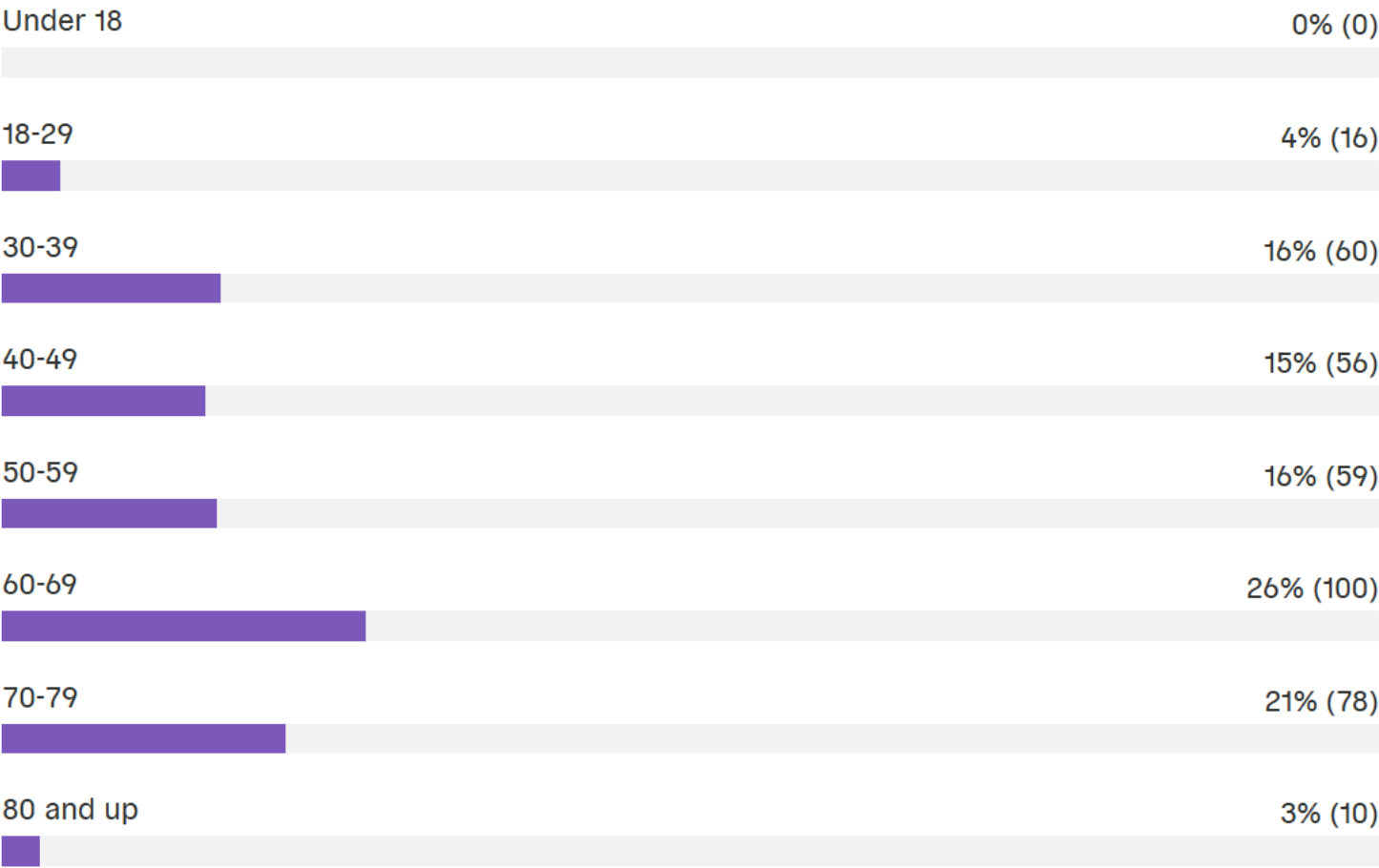
With the number of youth coming up whom are participating in "action sports" such as skateboarding, BMX, freestyle scootering, etc. it's imperative that we improve the existing skatepark, consider adding a second park and/or pump track that is suitable for both bicycles and skateboards.

We need more bike trails so we can ride to the parks and the Tart trail-( along Garfield rd and Airport rd)

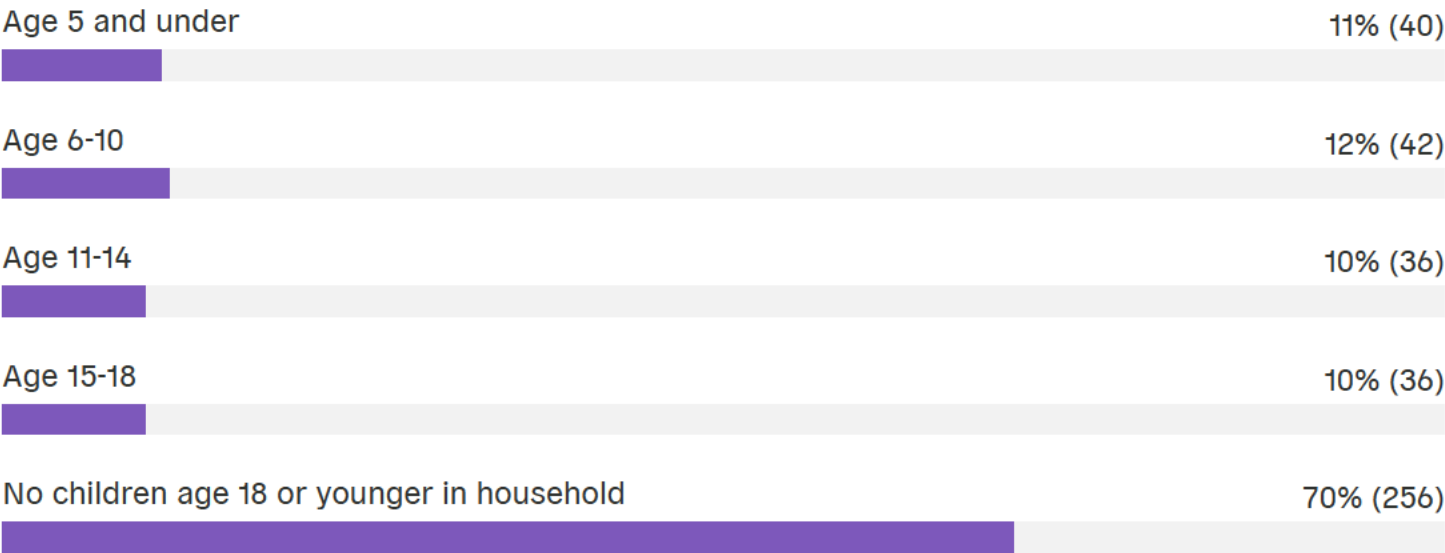
Please select the city/village/township in which you reside



What is your age range?

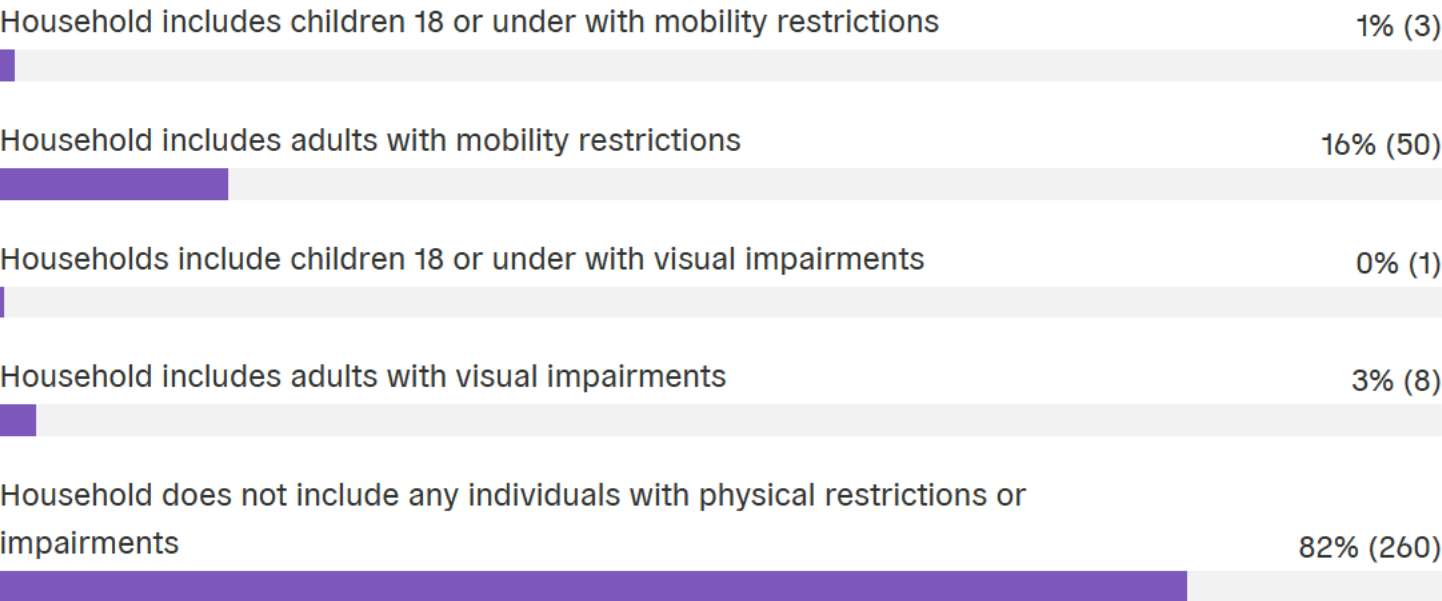


Please let us know if you have children in the following age ranges in your household

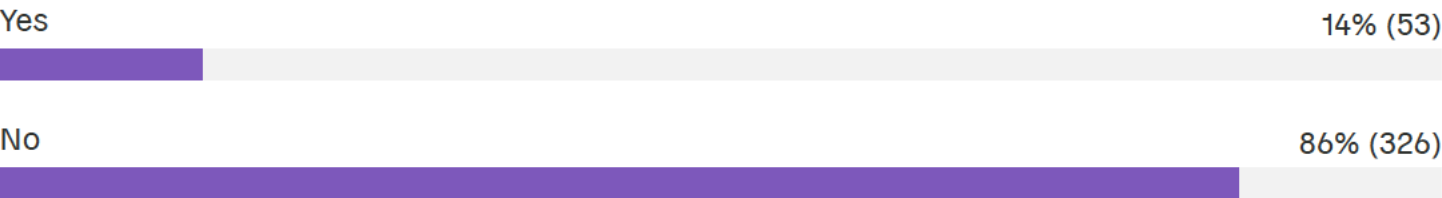




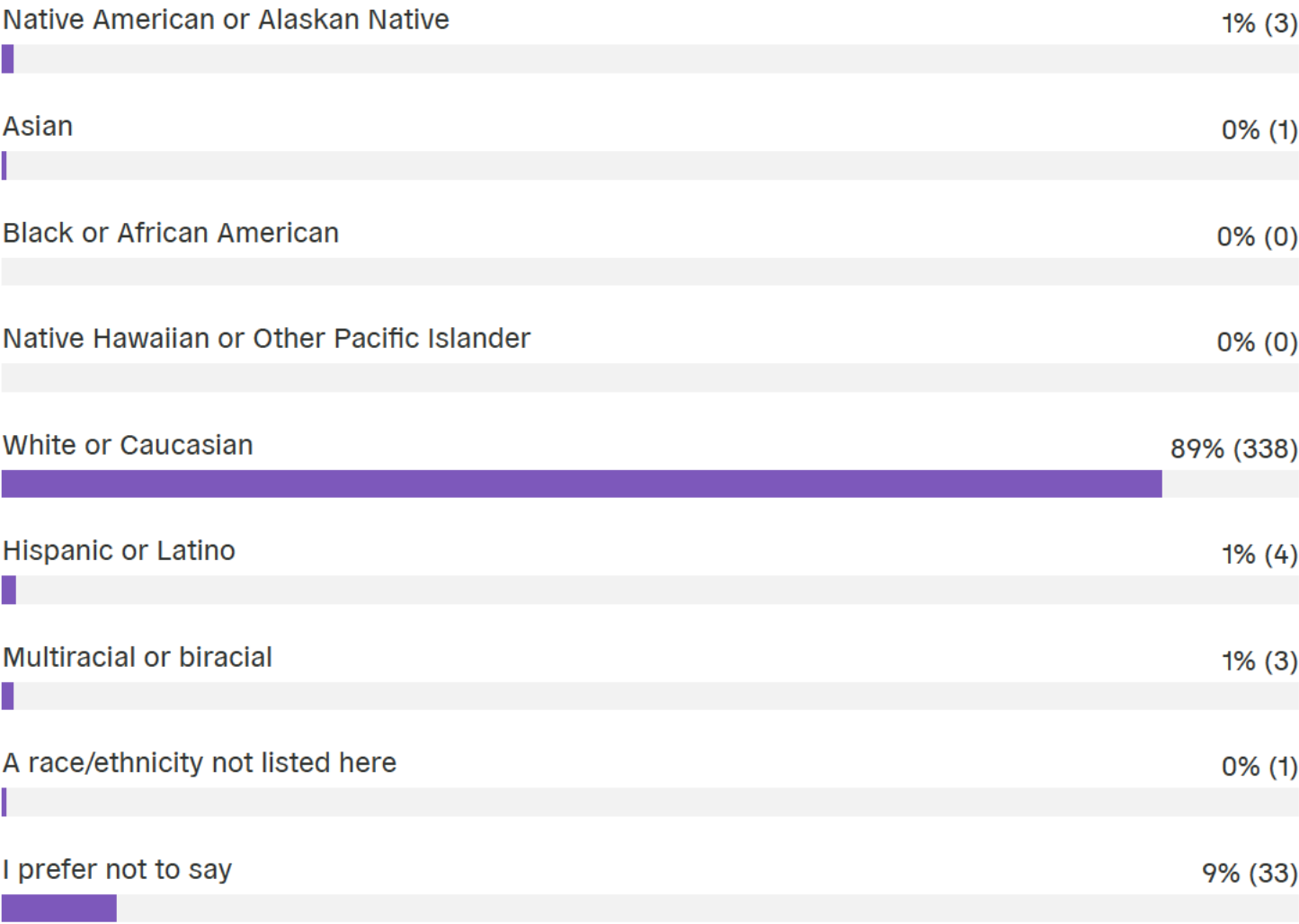
Does anyone in your household have physical restrictions or impairments?



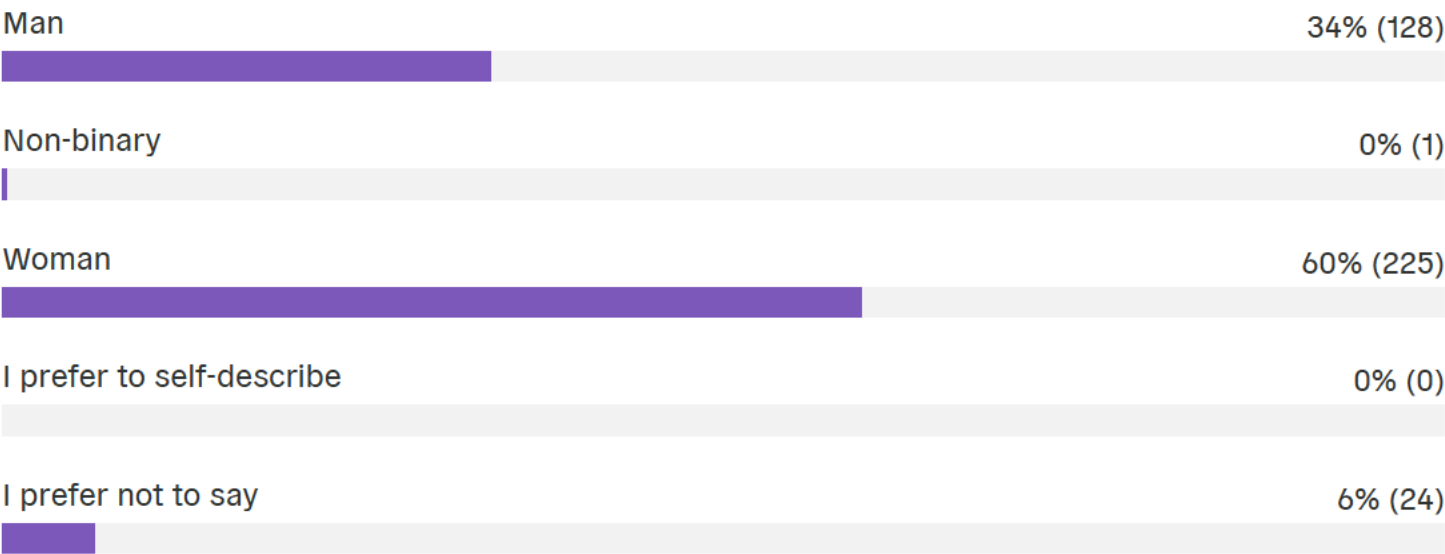
Are you or anyone in your household currently serving in or have you previously served in any branch or division of the military?



Which of the following best describes you?



Gender: How do you identify?



How would you prefer to identify?



## Appendix D: Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Action Plan

Tactic	Goals and objectives	Performance measure
<b>Communication</b>		
Publish a public performance dashboard displaying key statistics measuring park operations	3a, 3f, 4b	Measurements identified and dashboard is in place
Develop parks and recreation annual report	3a, 3f, 4a, 4b	Annual report format is developed and delivered by the end of the first quarter of the following year annually
Seek speaking engagements to promote park awareness and activities	3a, 4a	Minimum of one speaking opportunity accepted per quarter
Work with local municipalities to create a list of local dog parks and publicize	1a, 3c, 4a	List is created and publication plan is in action
Develop and implement plan to communicate and enforce leash laws	1b, 1e	Plan is developed and action plans are in place and implemented
<b>Financial</b>		
Assess and prepare for maintenance and future replacement of park assets	1a, 1b, 2a, 4b, 4d, 4e, 4f, 4g	Capital Asset Replacement Plan is developed and implemented for Parks and a funding mechanism is defined and implemented
Develop a cost recovery philosophy and model	4b, 4c	Cost recovery model is developed and reviewed and adopted by board
Review fee schedules to ensure alignment with the market and cost recovery philosophy	4b	Fee schedule has been reviewed and is consistent with market and cost recovery philosophy
Seek opportunities to provide fee-based park management services to local municipalities	1c, 4a, 4b	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
Identify and apply for grants that align with park goals to allow the greatest leverage of financial assets	4b, 4g	Minimum of 6 grant applications are submitted annually
Use private funding to match public grants	4g	Minimum of two public grants submitted annually where private funds can be used as a match

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Goals and objectives</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>
Create strong vendor partner relationships for a predictable stream of revenue and reduce reliance on County general fund	1c, 3b, 4b	Increase self-funding to 50% of operating expenditures
Conduct monthly reviews of expenses and identify areas of interest and opportunities for change	4b	Review completed and included in board packet
Identify combination of leading and lagging indicators to demonstrate the health of park operations	3a, 3f, 4b	Measurements identified and dashboard is in place. Staff is trained on data interpretation
Develop comprehensive capital asset management plan	4f	Plan is developed and action plans are in place and implemented
Develop capital funding plan	4d, 4f, 4g	Plan is developed and action plans are in place and implemented
Investigate the feasibility of seeking a millage for park funding	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2b, 2c, 4b, 4e, 4f	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
<b>Operations</b>		
Conduct user surveys following rentals	3a	User survey tool is in place; surveys are received and data tabulated for use
Create and agree upon annual workplan	1a, 1b, 1c, 1e, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4g, 4h	Workplans are in place to manage strategic activity
Develop park standard of care checklists to eliminate performance gaps	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 4h	Standard of care checklist is in place and in use
<b>Park: All</b>		
Contract with vendor to produce new signs	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a	Vendor has been selected and contracted to produce signs
Identify partnerships that add value to the property and park visitors without negatively impacting user experience	1c, 2b, 3b, 3c, 3e	Three new partnerships are in place across the park system
Conduct comprehensive ADA audit of properties	1d, 1e, 2a, 3a, 3b	Audit is complete and action plan in place
Identify strategic property acquisitions for use as future parkland, with particular emphasis on areas outlying from Traverse City	2c	Properties are identified and acted upon where appropriate

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Goals and objectives</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>
Work with TART to identify opportunities to better connect parks through non-motorized trails	1b, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2e	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
Investigate opportunities to work with Traverse City Arts Commission to install public art projects	1a, 2a, 3b, 3c	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
Work with BATA to increase public transportation to parks	1d, 1e, 3b, 3c, 3e	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
<b>Park: Beitner Park</b>		
Reconfigure entrance and parking to improve visitor safety	1a, 1e	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
Evaluate condition and potential re-routing of trail network to improve visitor safety and ensure trail sustainability	1a, 1d, 1e, 2b, 3a	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
<b>Park: Civic Center Park</b>		
Modify and implement Civic Center Master Site Plan	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a	Master Site Plan is updated with current project expectations and estimated project pricing
Repave the walking pathway	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a, 1e	New walking pathway surface is in place
Install fitness stations along the walking trail	1a, 1c, 2a	Fitness stations are in place
Pave the amphitheater parking lot	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2b, 4a, 4b	Amphitheater parking lot is paved with appropriate storm water management
Develop Native American Marker tree gardens	1a, 2a, 2b	Marker tree gardens are developed and installed with a maintenance plan in place
Repair existing skate park concrete	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a	Existing park is repaired
Expand skate park to include a plaza style addition	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 4a	New plaza style addition is completed
Resurface sport courts	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a	Sport courts are resurfaced
Repurpose existing half-court sport courts to pickleball courts	1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 4a	Half courts are converted to pickleball
Repurpose the Facilities building to a park use	1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4e	Building is serving a direct public benefit
Develop marketing plan for Howe Arena	1c, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3c, 4a	Marketing plan is in place and activated



<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Goals and objectives</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>
Sell ads in outfield and on scoreboards	3b, 4a, 4b, 4d	Ad sales process is in place and 10 or more ads have been sold
Erect digital sign along Front Street	1c, 4a, 4b, 4d	Digital sign and rental process is in place
Create a Friends of Civic Center Park group	3a, 4a, 4g	Group is created, members identified, and charter created
Renovate ballfield restrooms	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e	Ballfield restrooms are renovated and accessible
Renovate South building restrooms	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e	South building restrooms are renovated and accessible
Replace dugouts on fields 2 and 3 with universally accessible structures	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a, 3b, 4a	Dugouts, field fencing, and connecting pathways are installed
Add outfield fencing to ballfields	1a, 1b, 1c, 1e, 2a	Outfield fencing is installed
Convert single use restroom and changing room to combined family changing room with restroom and shower facility	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e	Single use spaces are converted to full-service family changing/restroom
Repair pavilion roof	1a, 1e, 2a, 4a	Roof is repaired
Implement memorial bench program	1a, 1d, 1e, 2a, 4a, 4b, 4d	Program is in place
Investigate feasibility of multiuse structure at South end of the park to include restrooms and two-bay equipment storage facility	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e	Investigation completed and decision made
Replace pavilion playground	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a	Playground has been replaced
Develop and implement a tree canopy plan	1e, 2b	Plan has been created and placed into action
Develop landscape plan to beautify park	1e, 2b	Plan has been created and placed into action
Replace concrete and pavers on octagon seating plaza near ballfields	1a, 1d, 1e	Concrete and pavers have been replaced and area contains no trip hazards
Develop marketing plan for amphitheater	1c, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4e	Plan has been created and placed into action
Secure long-term tenant for amphitheater	1c, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4e	Tenant has been selected and contracted to occupy the amphitheater space
Secure long-term tenant for ancillary building next to current Facilities building	1c, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4e	Tenant has been selected and contracted to occupy the space

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Goals and objectives</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>
Install path lighting between multipurpose field and South parking lot	1a, 1d, 1e, 2a	Lighting is in place
Develop hill between main and amphitheater parking lots for sledding	1a, 1c, 1e, 2a	Safety plan and signage is in place
Replace picnic tables	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a, 4a	Picnic tables have been replaced
Conduct HVAC and lighting assessments	1a, 1b, 1e, 4b, 4f	Identify efficiency improvements and demonstrate cost savings
Develop garden plan for the property	1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b	Plan is developed and action plans are in place and implemented
Relocate bulk material storage	1e, 2a	Bulk storage is relocated to a less public facing space in the park
Paint dugouts	1a, 1e, 2a	Dugouts are painted
Paint light poles around walking track	1a, 1e, 2a	Light poles are painted
Install bollards on service drive entrance next to Civic Center building	1d, 1e	Bollards are installed
Work with Norte to construct a pump track on site	1b, 1c, 2a, 3b, 3e, 4a	Location identified and track installed
Work with Norte to construct a traffic garden on site	1b, 1c, 2a, 3b, 3e, 4a	Location identified and traffic garden is installed
Investigate feasibility of bringing pool operation in-house	1b, 1c, 1e, 2a, 4a, 4b, 4c, 4e	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
<b>Park: Keystone Soccer Complex</b>		
Work with TBAYS to investigate feasibility to install restrooms on property	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
Work with TBAYS to replace existing playground structure	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e	Playground is replaced and in compliance with industry guidelines
<b>Park: Maple Bay</b>		
Restore defined portions of farmland to natural habitat	2b	Wetland buffers and signage is in place; restored land is planted
Work with TART to designate Maple Bay as a trailhead for the Nakwema Trailway	1b, 1e, 2a, 3e, 4a	Park is in the trailway plan and a park usage plan is developed
Install vault toilet in parking area	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a	Vault toilet is installed
Expand parking area for beach access	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a, 3e	Parking lot is developed and available for use
Install dune fencing to protect sensitive back dune area	2a, 2b, 3b	Fencing and interpretive signage are in place

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Goals and objectives</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>
Work with local environmental group to develop a plan for water control structure use	1b, 1e, 2a, 2b	Group identified, plan is developed and action plans are in place and implemented
Investigate feasibility of renovating and repurposing the barn for public program/event use	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2b, 4a	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
Monitor NRCS conservation plan as required	2a, 2b, 3c	Plan monitoring is occurring and in compliance
Identify long-term farming tenant for property	1e, 2a, 2b, 3b, 3e, 4b, 4d, 4e	Tenant is identified and agreement in place
<b>Park: Medalie Park</b>		
Renovate restrooms	1a, 1d, 1e	Restrooms are renovated
Add trees to soak up water in low lying areas	1a, 1e, 2a, 2b, 3b	Trees have been purchased and planted
Replace existing kayak structure	1a, 2a, 3b, 4a, 4b	New kayak rental building is in place
Maintain shoreline natural area to open sight lines	1a, 1e, 2a, 2b, 3b	Shoreline is aesthetically pleasing and mostly free of invasive species
Replace shingles on pavilion roof	1a, 1e, 2a, 4a	Roof has been re-shingled
Paint pavilion	1a, 1e, 2a, 4a	Pavilion has been repainted
Replace picnic tables	1a, 1e, 2a, 4a	Picnic tables have been replaced
Implement memorial bench program	1a, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 4a, 4b, 4d	Program is in place
Install universally accessible kayak launch	1a, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 4a	Launch structure is in place
Develop marketing plan for pavilion	4a, 4b	Plan is developed and action plans are in place and implemented
<b>Park: Natural Education reserve</b>		
Conduct inspection of bridges and overlooks	1a, 1e	Engineer is selected, contracted, and reviews are complete prior to budgeting cycle
Replace Boy Scout boardwalk	1a, 1b, 1e, 2a	Boy Scout boardwalk is replaced
Replace Discovery boardwalk	1a, 1b, 1e, 2a	Discovery boardwalk is replaced
<b>Park: Power Island</b>		
Replace dock	1a, 1b, 1e, 2a, 4a, 4b	Dock is replaced and visitors can access the island
Build 2-3 Adirondack shelters on campsites to use as rentals	1a, 1b, 2a, 4a, 4b	Shelters have been built and included in rental system
Investigate feasibility of implementing or partnering with existing shuttle service for Power Island	1d, 1e, 4a	Investigation occurs and recommendation made

<b>Tactic</b>	<b>Goals and objectives</b>	<b>Performance measure</b>
<b>Park: VASA Trailhead</b>		
Develop master site plan	1a, 1b, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2b, 3b, 3e, 4a	Master site plan is developed
Pave entrance drive	1a, 1d, 1e, 2a	Entrance drive is repaved
Pave parking lot	1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 2a, 2b, 3b, 3e, 4a	Parking lot is repaved with appropriate storm water control measures in place
Expand development of bike park trail system	1a, 1b, 1e, 2a, 2b, 3b, 3e, 4a	Bike park trail network is expanded per plan
<b>People and partnerships</b>		
Implement CPR training program for staff and park partners	1e, 3d	CPR training program place is implemented and all park staff are trained; training has been offered to park partners
Develop emergency action plans	1e	Emergency action plans are in place and staff is trained
Re-establish the Parks and Recreation Network	1c, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b	Group has met and established a meaningful charter and action plans
Create volunteer program	1c, 1e, 2b, 3a, 3b, 4b	Volunteer program with job descriptions, management and incentives is in place
Conduct quarterly or semi-annual park partner meetings	3a, 3b, 4b	Meetings are scheduled and held
Create internship program to expand capacity	1c, 3d, 4b	Internship program defined and marketed to schools; space identified to house intern
Grow opportunities to develop staff in their careers	3d	Each staff member is offered the opportunity to attend at least one training program annually to develop their career
Develop succession plan to enable staff to grow through the organization and ensure business continuity	3d, 4b	Plan is in place and available to staff
Develop a park visit incentive program for public users	1c, 3a, 3b, 3d, 4a	Program developed, launched, and 50 people have joined
<b>Programming</b>		
Develop plan to implement free community programming in parks. Sample programs: Trunk or Treat, Food truck Friday, Earth Day event, cultural affairs programming	1c, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a	Minimum of four programs scheduled annually

Tactic	Goals and objectives	Performance measure
Develop plan to implement fee-based community programs in parks. Sample programs include: Easter Egg Hunt, Summer music in the park series, Freaky Fun Friday, Pie Run, Barkie's 3k, Candy Cane Hunt	1c, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 4a, 4b	Minimum of four programs scheduled annually
Investigate feasibility of partnering with City to jointly produce programming	1c, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4h	Investigation occurs and recommendation made
Investigate opportunities to provide outdoor recreation and education programs	1c, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4h	Program opportunities and delivery methods are identified and recommendations made
Work with existing partners to better promote existing programming offerings	1c, 2a, 3a, 3b, 3d, 4a, 4b, 4h	Plan is developed and action plans are in place and implemented

## Appendix E: Citations

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[business/commissions-boards/suicide-prevention-commission](https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/doing-business/commissions-boards/suicide-prevention-commission)



## Appendix F: Community Input Session Notices and Results

We need your feedback! Please give us 10 minutes of your time to complete our Community Needs Assessment. Your answers will help us best understand how visitors ar...



Do you live in Grand Traverse County? If so, we would like to hear from you! Kindly dedicate 10 minutes of your time to participate in our Community Needs...

[Learn more](#)



August 2, 2023 – WQON Q100 Radio Interview (John Chase)

August 8, 2023 – 7&4 News Interview (John Chase)

<https://upnorthlive.com/news/local/grand-traverse-county-seeks-public-input-for-park-and-recreation-plan-to-secure-future-grant-funding#>



August 22, 2023 - Traverse Ticker story


<https://www.traverseticker.com/news/input-wanted-on-county-parks-and-recreation-plan/>




August 22, 2023 – 9&10 News Interview (John Chase)

<https://www.9and10news.com/2023/08/22/grand-traverse-county-parks-are-seeing-many-changes-and-improvements/>

October 4, 2023 – WTCM AM Radio Interview – Vic McCarty Show (John Chase)

GTC Parks and Recreation created an event.  
September 13 · 🌐



JOIN US

**YOUR INPUT NEEDED!**

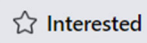
Help shape the future of your Grand Traverse County Parks


WED, OCT 4


**Public input session - Identifying priorities**


Traverse City


You've checked in to Civic Center Park before



 Listen

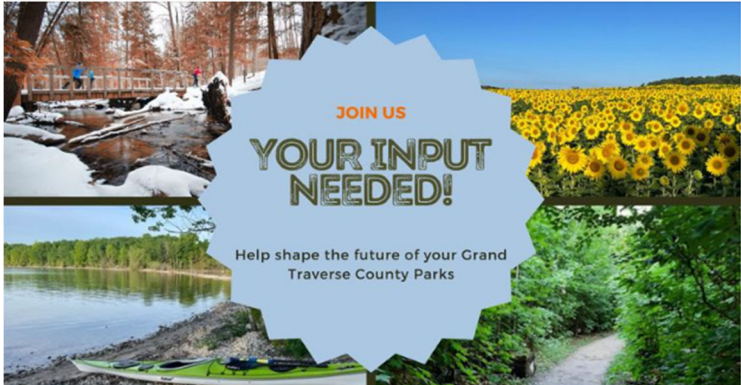
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GTC Parks and Recreation created an event.  
Published by John Chase · September 13 ·



JOIN US  
**YOUR INPUT  
NEEDED!**

Help shape the future of your Grand  
Traverse County Parks

MON, OCT 9

**Public input session – Identifying priorities**

Traverse City  
2 Went · 10 Interested



1



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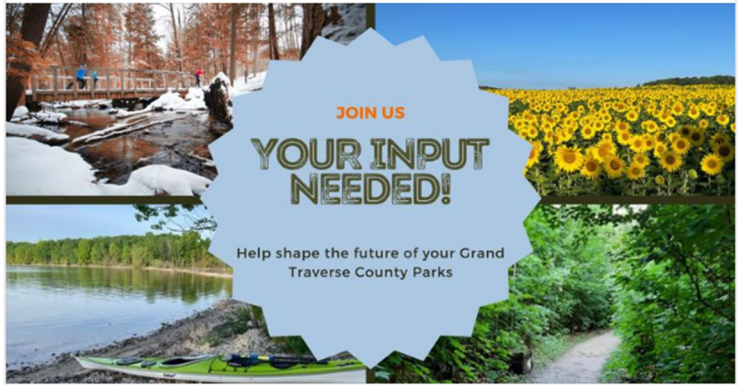
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Help shape the future of your Grand  
Traverse County Parks

TUE, OCT 17

**Public input session – Identifying priorities**

207 S Brownson Ave, Kingsley, MI 49649-5104, United States  
2 Went · 17 Interested



2



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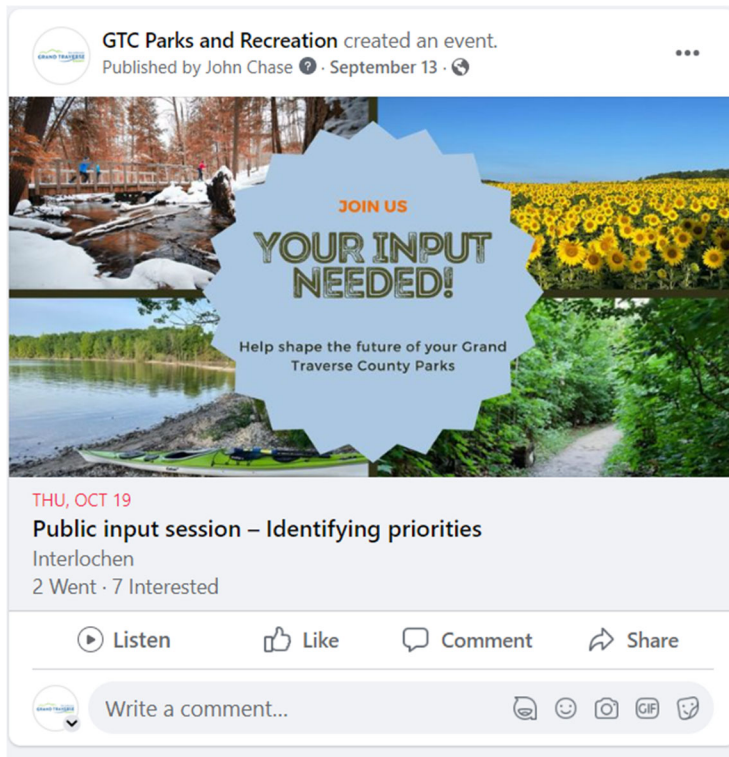


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October 3, 2023 – 9&10 News Interview (John Chase

<https://www.9and10news.com/2023/10/03/grand-traverse-county-parks-seeks-public-input-for-future-plans/>