

Lowell Charter Township, Michigan

COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN



PREPARED FOR

Lowell Charter Township, Michigan
Parks & Recreation Department
2910 Alden Nash SE
Lowell, MI 49331

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

Secretary: Jennette Stevenson
Board Representative: Jerry Hale
Board Representative: Mark Anderson
Planning Commission Representative: Bill Genovich
Member: Hannah Wright

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Supervisor: Jerry Hale
Clerk: Monica Burt
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2026 Community Parks and Recreation Plan

Lowell Charter Township, Michigan

Prepared by:

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1 INTRODUCTION

Parks, Recreation and Open Space are important elements of all communities and reflect positively on the quality of life for residents. In recent years, a more holistic approach to recreational planning has been encouraged, stretching beyond the boundaries of traditional parks to include sidewalks, linear trails, greenways, town squares, plazas and other publicly and privately owned lands. A variety of indoor facilities also serve the recreational and social needs of the public. In addition to the human benefits of recreation and open space, there are also important environmental benefits; such as water resource protection, reduced vehicular traffic, and plant and wildlife protection.

PLAN PURPOSE

The 2026 Lowell Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan has been prepared as a guide for future decision making concerning recreational facilities and services. This Plan presents an evaluation of the township's recreation opportunities and needs. It considers the existing facilities in and around the township, the anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities over the upcoming five-year period.

The Lowell Charter Township regularly updates the Plan both to reflect the changed needs and goals of the community, and to meet the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's requirements for qualifying for Federal and State funding assistance. These funds are available for land acquisition and facility development and improvements to new and existing park lands. Eligibility under this 2026 Community Parks and Recreation Plan will be in effect for five years. It is recommended, however, that the Plan be reviewed and updated, as necessary,



every year to reflect the changing needs of the community. This will also help assure that the capital improvement schedule reflects the actual budget and grant funding schedule.

PLAN SCOPE

The scope of this plan includes the township's active and passive recreation facilities, undeveloped open space and linear "green" corridors. Recreational programming is also an important consideration. The area of the plan is essentially limited to the Township boundaries. However, consideration is also given to neighboring municipal facilities and regional facilities that influence use patterns. In terms of time, the Capital Improvement Schedule of this document covers development over the next five years. However, the Goals and Objectives developed to guide recreation planning may continue to be relevant for many more years to come.





2 COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Lowell Charter Township is located in the eastern portion of Kent County, and Kent County is located in the western portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Lowell Charter Township is 15 miles east of Grand Rapids, which is one of Michigan's major metropolitan areas. Other than Grand Rapids, the metropolitan area includes several communities: Kentwood, Wyoming, and East Grand Rapids. Lowell Charter Township is 50 miles southeast of Muskegon, 50 miles north of Kalamazoo, 50 miles west of Lansing, 140 miles west of Detroit, 190 miles northeast of Chicago and 210 miles south of the Mackinac Bridge. The Township of Lowell is adjacent to the northeastern portion of the Township and contributes to a sense of community for Township residents.

Before any recreation plan is adopted and enacted, it is first important to understand the needs of the community and its residents, what recreational opportunities already exist and what future projects and programs are relevant to the residents of the community. This is based on the age, ability, population, density and the availability of recreation in the surrounding communities. This input is a critical component for plan.

The new Recreation Plan is intended to guide Township officials on future recreational and parks projects within the Township. Specifically, the plan is developed in accordance with the guidelines for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). A five-year, MDNR approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the government entities to pursue MDNR-administered grants. The plan is written for the Township and it covers all aspects of park facilities and recreation within the community.



HISTORY

Lowell was founded as a trading post on the south bank of the Grand River in 1831 by Daniel Marsac. In 1847, he purchased land on the north side of the river and platted it as “Dansville”. In 1851, a post office was established there named “Lowell” after the Township. The community was replatted in 1854 and renamed after the post office. It incorporated as a village in 1861.





SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

POPULATION

The study of population growth trends and changing indicators such as age, education, income and employment are primarily to developing a basic understanding of the recreational needs for the Township. As of the 2023 US census there were 6,299 people, 2,391 households and 1,864 families residing in the Township and the population density was 193.4 per square mile.

MEDIAN AGE

In the Township the population was spread out with 29% under the age of 19, 12% from 20 to 29, 17% from 30 to 39, 11% from 40 to 49, and 30% who were 50 years of age or older. The median age was 35 years.

Table 2.2 Median Age (Source: Data USA)	
	2023
Lowell Charter Township	34.9
Kent County	36.5
Michigan	40.5



OVERVIEW

Lowell Charter Township, located in Kent County, Michigan, has a population of 6,299 residents. The community has a median household income of roughly \$101,700 and a per capita income near \$40,900, indicating a relatively strong local economy compared to the state average.

The median age is approximately 35 years, reflecting a balanced mix of young families and established residents. Demographically, the Township is predominantly White, with smaller populations of Hispanic or Latino, Black, Asian, and multiracial residents.

Overall, Lowell Charter Township offers a blend of rural and suburban living, characterized by family-oriented neighborhoods, steady population growth, and a relatively high standard of living within the Grand Rapids metropolitan area.





TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

Lowell Charter Township's transportation system is made up of main roads like Interstate 96 in the south and M-21 in the north, which connect the area to Grand Rapids and nearby towns. Alden Nash Avenue is the main north-south road, linking M-21 to I-96. Other important roads include Cascade Road, Grand River Drive, and Morse Lake Avenue. While many roads are paved, some are still gravel or designated as scenic "Natural Beauty Roads." The township does not have regular public transportation, but local volunteer programs offer rides for residents. There are also several walking and biking trails, including connections to the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails, with plans to expand the trail network in the future

LAND USE

Lowell Charter Township, located in Kent County, Michigan, covers about 33 square miles and features a mix of agricultural, residential, commercial, and industrial land uses. Much of the Township remains rural and agricultural, with farmland and natural areas being protected from urban expansion. Residential areas are concentrated near the City of Lowell and along major roads, while commercial and light industrial development is focused around the I-96 interchange, including the growing Covenant Business Park.

The Township's 2021 Master Plan emphasizes preserving open space, supporting managed growth, protecting the Grand River and environmentally sensitive lands, and expanding infrastructure such as wastewater services to guide future development.



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS & RESOURCE INVENTORY

TOPOGRAPHY

The terrain in the Township varies from primarily gently rolling in the southern portion to more rugged terrain and steeper slopes in the northern portion. The Grand River traverses the township in an east-west direction. The lowest elevation in the Township is 630 feet and occurs at the intersection of the Grand River and Timpson Roads. The highest point in the Township is 890 feet and occurs at the center line of cascade and Timpson road.

WATER RESOURCE

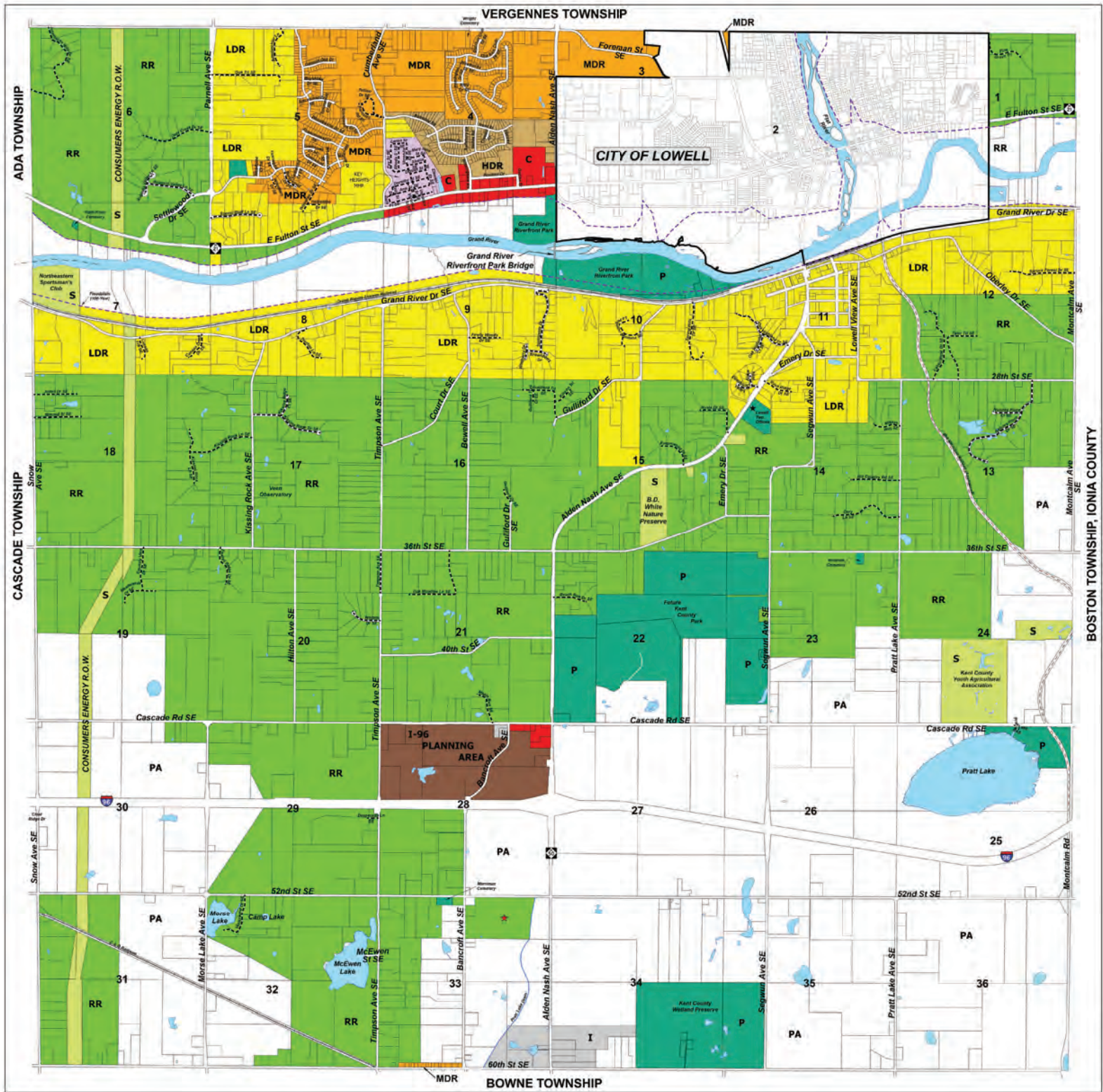
The major water resource in the area is the Grand River that traverses through the northern half of the Township between M-21 and Grand River Dr. There are three named lakes in the Township totaling approximately 220 acres. The largest lake, Pratt Lake, has an area of approximately 180 acres and is located directly north of 1-96 and provides public access for boating and fishing. The remaining two lakes are located in the south western portion of the township. McEwen Lake is approximately 25 acres in area and also provided public access. Morse Lake is approximately 12 acres in size and does not provide public access.

SOIL

The northern half of the Township is characterized by Chelsea Loams, Boyer Sandy Loams, and Oshtemo series of soils, all of which have low water retention qualities and good to fair percolation rates. The soils of the southern half of the Township are composed of predominantly capac, Marlette, and Parkhill Loams, which are noted for their slow percolation and ponding characteristics. The southern half of the Township is well suited to agricultural production.



FUTURE USE MAP



2022
LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MASTER PLAN
FUTURE LAND USE MAP

I hereby certify that the 2022 Master Plan and Future Land Use Map for Lowell Charter Township was duly adopted by the Lowell Charter Township Board on January 17, 2022.

Monica Burt, Clerk

Monica Burt, Clerk, Lowell Charter Township

PRIME AGRICULTURE
PA

The purpose of this category is the long-term preservation of farmland. Principal land uses are agriculture and agriculture support services which help to enhance and stabilize the farming industry. Prime Agriculture is analogous to the AG-1 Zoning District. Minimum lot size is two acres with 200 feet of road frontage. Support uses would include farm markets, hayrides, demonstration farms and petting farms.

RURAL RESIDENTIAL
RR

This classification is intended to provide for residential development in a rural setting adjacent to prime agricultural land use areas. Farming is a permitted use. The RR category is analogous to the AG-2 zoning district. In order to preserve the natural features of this area lot sizes in the RR areas are required to be a minimum of four acres with 200 feet of road frontage for single family dwellings.

LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
LDR

This future land use category is proposed for single family dwellings on lot sizes of at least two acres with 165 feet of road frontage. Duplexes would be a permitted use but only on lots with a minimum of four acres. Because of this large lot size, public water and sanitary sewer are not envisioned for LDR areas. The LDR category is analogous to the R-1 zoning district noted in the Lowell Township Zoning Ordinance. Farming is also permitted use.

MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
MDR

The Medium Density Residential classification is analogous to the R-2 zoning district. This category would permit single family dwellings without sanitary sewer to have minimum lot sizes of 40,000 square feet with 165 feet of road frontage. With sanitary sewer, lot sizes would be permitted to be a minimum of 14,000 square feet with 100 feet of road frontage for a density of 3.11 dwelling units per acre.

HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
HDR

The HDR classification corresponds to the R3 Zoning District. Single family dwellings with sanitary sewer are permitted in this area with 10,000 square feet minimum lot sizes and 80 feet of lot frontage. Multiple family dwellings are also permitted as a Special Land Use at a density of eight units per acre. Office uses are also permitted as Special Land Use.

MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY
MHC

This future land use category permits a manufactured housing community. The Plan recognizes the existing Key Heights mobile home park development on M-21 in Section 4. A mobile home park typically has a density of six to eight dwelling units per acre which is the same as a High-Density Residential land use.

COMMERCIAL
C

The Commercial designation corresponds to the GC, General Commercial Zoning District. This category is intended to allow generally recognized retail service and office uses to serve local residents and passing traffic. Commercial development is proposed to be located primarily along both sides of M-21 west of Alden Nash. The 2022 Plan also recommends commercial land use for the parcels on the south side of Cascade Road between Bancroft Avenue and Alden Nash.

--- FUTURE TRAILS
★ ENROLLED IN PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS PROGRAM

INDUSTRIAL
I

The 2022 Plan retains the recommendation of the 2008 and 2014 Plans which designates the lands on both sides of Alden Nash at the intersection with 60th Street for future industrial use. The total available acreage for industrial users is almost 80 acres which is deemed sufficient for this planning period. The Plan recognizes the existing industrial uses and industrial zoning on Grand River Drive at Jackson Street just south of the bridge crossing the Grand River.

I-96 PLANNING AREA

The 2022 (and 2014) Master Plans have designated the 257 acres located west of Alden Nash between Cascade Road and I-96 for industrial use with a limited portion for commercial and service uses. The 2022 Plan designation is the I-96 Planning Area given its highly visible and accessible location along the I-96 highway. Industrial uses should be of a type that would benefit from proximity to the I-96 interchange such as light manufacturing, warehouses and research and development. Industrial uses should be located to ensure that the buildings and other site improvements such as lighting and truck movements have minimal impact on residential uses to the north and west. Commercial uses should be positioned for visibility from I-96. Office uses are also appropriate for this site and should be located along the I-96 frontage.

PUBLIC
P

This future land use category recognizes those lands and facilities that are owned or operated by a government agency or are supported by public funds and include government buildings and parks, cemeteries and public schools. In Lowell Township these include the Lowell Charter Township Offices on Alden Nash, Grand River Riverfront Park North and South owned by Lowell Township; the approximately 518 acres of Kent County owned land in Sections 22 and 23 intended for public park use; the County wetland preserve in Sections 34 & 35; four Township cemeteries, and a public boat launch on Pratt Lake in Section 25.

SOCIAL / CULTURAL / INSTITUTIONAL
S

The land in this classification includes places and buildings which are used for private or non-profit recreation and religious purposes, such as the Christian Life Center on Alden Nash, the Evergreen Missionary Church on Settlemore, the Veterans Center on Alden Nash, the B.D. White Nature Preserve on 36th Street, the Northeastern Sportsman's Club on Grand River Drive at the west end of the Township and the Veen Observatory on Kassing Rock Avenue. This category also includes the Consumers Energy right of way which extends north to south close to the western border of Lowell Township. The Kent County Youth Agricultural Association (agrounds) is also designated on the Future Land Use map under this land use category.

FLOOD PLAIN
100-YEAR

This category illustrates the 100-year floodplain along the Grand River. According to the report entitled The Flood Insurance Study, Kent County, Michigan by the Federal Emergency Management Agency the limits of the 100-year floodplain within Lowell Charter Township range from an elevation of 724 at the east end of the Township to 732 at the west end. No future land use is planned for the flood plain.

*RESOURCE INFORMATION:
Imagery: ESRI IMAGERY BASEMAP
Roads: MICHIGAN GIS OPEN DATA PORTAL
Parcels: COUNTY EQUALIZATION DEPT.
Names: ESRI WORLD BOUNDARIES & PLACES
Hydrography: MICHIGAN GIS OPEN DATA PORTAL
Elevation: USGS THE NATIONAL MAP - 2017 LIDAR
Boundaries: ESRI WORLD BOUNDARIES & PLACES
Public Land Survey System: MICHIGAN GIS OPEN DATA PORTAL
Wetlands: FWS NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY - 2005

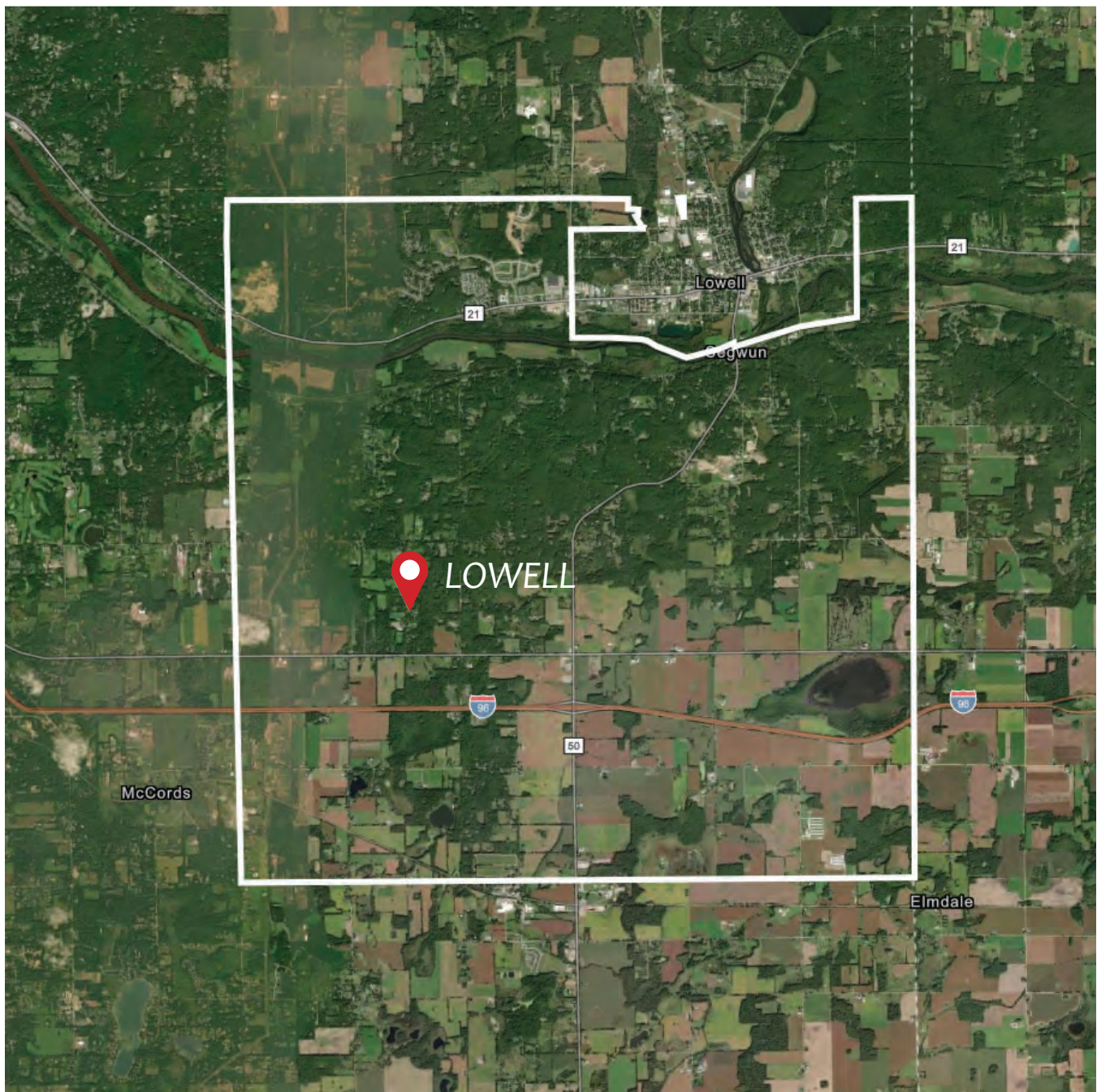


NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM (NAVD 88)
NAD 1983 (2011) STATEPLANE MICHIGAN SOUTH FIPS 2113 (INTL. FEET)

LRE LOWELL RECREATION ENTERPRISES	PROJECT: 20-062
	DRAWN BY: TRM
	DATE: 17-JAN-2022
	DADC: MFB

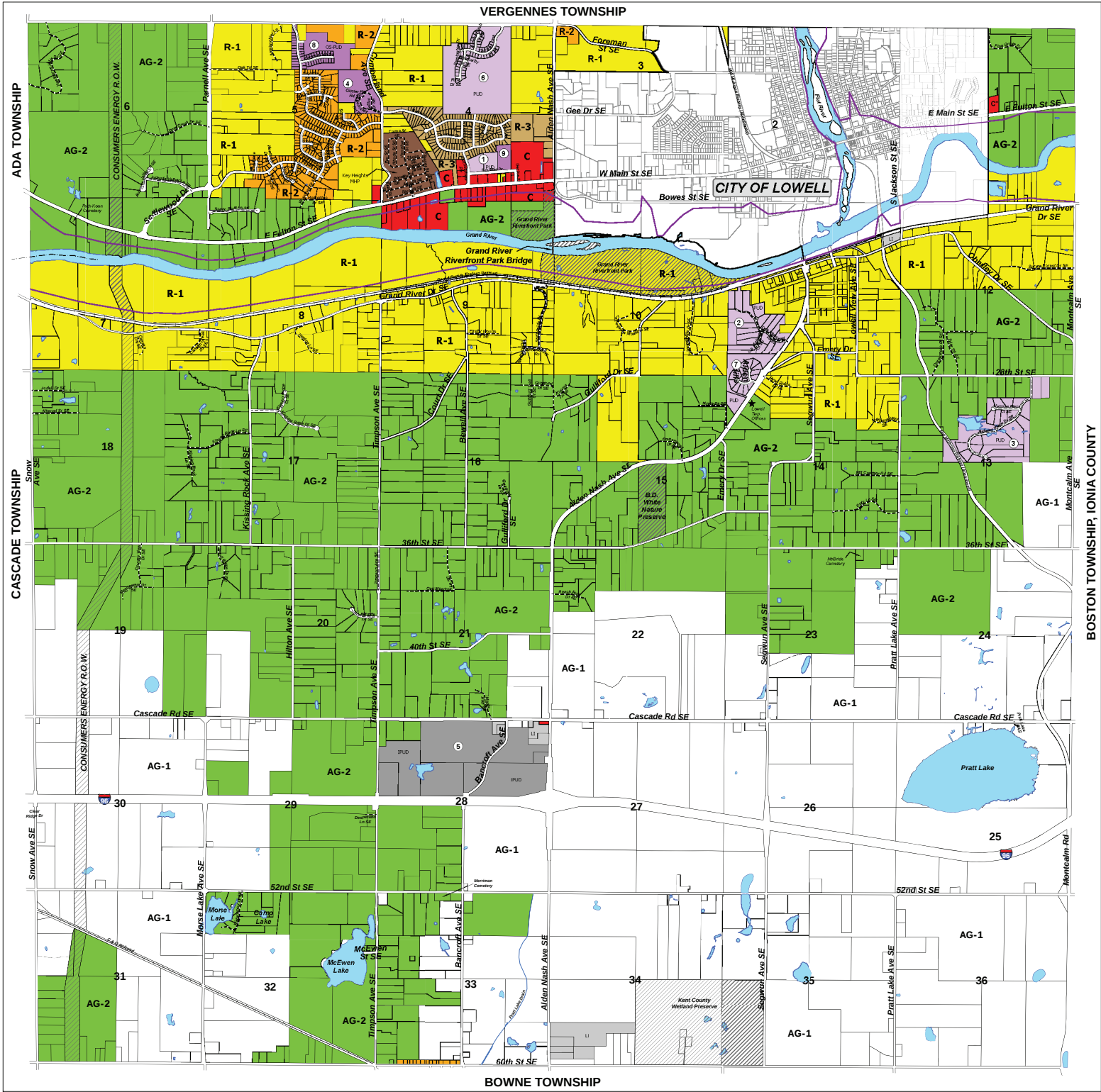


LOCATION MAP





ZONING MAP



OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF
LOWELL TOWNSHIP

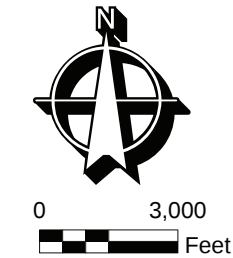
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN

T 6 N, R 9 W

Latest Revision: July 2019

- ZONING DISTRICTS**
- AG-1, PRIME AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
 - AG-2, RURAL AGRICULTURAL
 - R-1, RURAL LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
 - R-2, MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
 - R-3, HIGH DENSITY MULTIPLE FAMILY
 - MH, HIGH DENSITY MOBILE HOME PARK
 - C, GENERAL COMMERCIAL
 - LI, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
 - OS-PUD, OPEN SPACE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT
 - IPUD, INDUSTRIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT
 - PUD, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT
 - FH, FLOOD HAZARD (100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN)
 - PRIVATE ROADS
- ★ CONDITIONAL ZONING ORDINANCE 2017 - 02Z
14043 FULTON STREET SE

- Planned Unit Developments:**
- 1 Stone Ridge Apartments PUD
 - 2 Oak Hill Estates Site Condominium
 - 3 Nature's Place Site Condominium
 - 4 Cumberland Ridge Condominiums
 - 5 Grooters Industrial PUD
 - 6 Stony Bluff OS-PUD
 - 7 Alden Ridge OS-PUD
 - 8 Twin Oaks OS-PUD
 - 9 Townhomes at Two Rivers OS-PUD

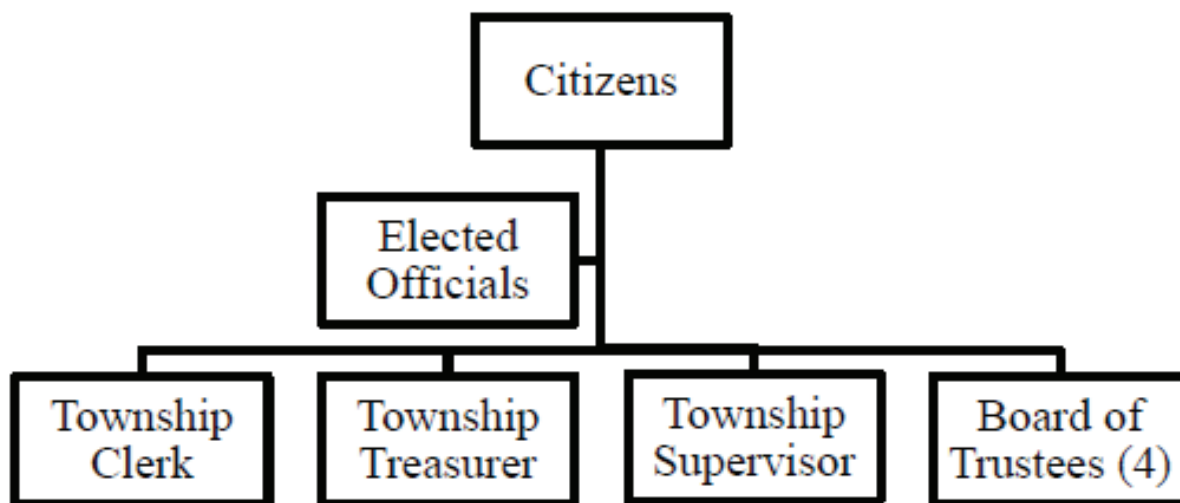


LRE ENGINEERING & SURVEYING	2121 S Main Rd. N.W. Grand Rapids, MI 49504 Ph: 616-521-7888 www.lreinc.com	PROJECT: 18-026
		DRAWN BY: TRM
		DATE: 07-12-2019
		QA/QC: MPB



ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE 3

Recreation planning is a method for anticipating and arranging recreational improvements so that they may be implemented on a reasonable schedule and without an adverse effect on a community's administrative and financial structure. An effective recreation plan will recognize the practical relationship between a community's administrative structure and its ability to follow through on a recommended recreational improvement program. Lowell Charter Township Organizational Chart is as follows:





PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

The five-member Parks & Recreation Commission recommends and oversees programs for parks, playgrounds and recreational areas of the township. The Parks & Recreation Commission meets monthly as needed. Members serve for three-year terms. Current members were previously identified in the plan.

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Lowell Township currently has the following recreational areas: North Riverfront Park, South Riverfront Park, North County Trail, Bike Trail, and Bradford Nature Preserve. Township facilities include a park pavilion, fields and Township hall. There are also the following Township cemeteries: Roth/Coons Cemetery, Wright Cemetery, Mc Bride Cemetery and Merriman Cemetery.

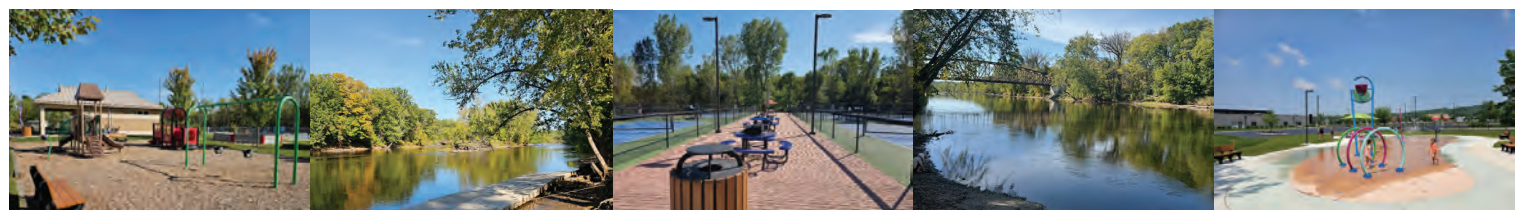
The City of Lowell operates the following parks: Recreation Park (30 acres), Richards Park (1.86 acres), Creekside Park (22.18 acres), McMahon Park (2.17 acres), Washington Street Property/Boy Scout Cabin (27.3 acres), Stoney Lakeside Park (53 acres and 27 acre lake), Rogers Field/Moose Properties (19.5 acres) and Upper Bridge Property (19.86 acres).

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Annual clean up event in the fall held at the fairgrounds in Lowell with the City of Lowell and Vergennes Township.

ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers take care of the volleyball pits. In addition, a group of volunteers conduct everyday maintenance of the pickleball courts. A local church helps with some of the park projects once every year.



PARK AND RECREATION BUDGET

For the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the total allocated budget for park operations and maintenance amounts to \$250,100.





4 RECREATION INVENTORY

EXISTING RECREATION INVENTORY

In order to determine the recreational needs for Lowell Charter Township, an analysis of the existing facilities was undertaken. The intent of the analysis is to provide a clear evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing recreational opportunities the Township has to offer its citizens. The inventory is based on information provided by Township staff and site inspections carried out by MCSA Group as part of the planning process.

TOWNSHIP PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

The Lowell Township provides a range of passive and active recreation opportunities for residents. There is one Township park that has existing recreational facilities on approximately 107.26 acres of public land in Lowell Township. The 70-acre parcel adjacent to the Grand River was purchased in 1991 and the development of phase one began in 1998. The remaining 37.27 acres is directly across the river to the north. This portion of the park was recently completed. Both the acquisition and development of the South Riverfront Park were funded by the Michigan DNR through a grant from the MDNR Trust Fund. North Riverfront Park has additional information regarding this grant can be found in the Post Grant Certification Checklist. The Township property is classified as a community park. This classification is adapted from “Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines,” J.D. Mertes and J.R. Hall, 1995, as recommended by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. A more detailed description and photographic inventory of each site follows. An Existing Recreation Facilities map at the end of this section illustrates the location of the park within the Township, and an Existing Recreation Facilities matrix provides a summary of the facilities provided at each location.



Accessibility

An accessibility assessment of each facility was undertaken using the following ranking system for the site elements based upon the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design:

- 1 - NONE
- 2 - SOME
- 3 - MOST
- 4 - ALL
- 5 - THE FACILITY MEETS THE PRINCIPALS OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN:

Equitable Design, Flexibility in Use, Simple and Intuitive Use, Perceptible Information and Tolerance for Error, Low Physical Effort and Size and Space for Approach and Use

MINI-PARKS

Mini-parks serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group, such as families with very young children or senior citizens, as determined by the distance that can be easily traveled by the local user. The facilities that are provided in these types of parks are generally specialized, such as play equipment or green space with benches for passive activities. The area served by a mini-park is generally considered to be less than one quarter 1/4- mile radius in size. This will vary slightly depending on ease or difficulty of access and the character of the facility. Nationally accepted standards for mini-parks recommend 0.25 to 0.5 an acre with one (1) acre as a desirable size.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of neighborhoods. This type of park typically serves a ¼- to ½-mile distance and is uninterrupted by nonresidential roads and other physical barriers. A size of 5-10 acres is considered optimal for this type of park.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS CONTINUED

The focus is on informal active and passive recreational activities, such as walking, field games, court games, playground equipment, and picnicking. The Township has 0 neighborhood parks.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community-wide parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks and provide a range of facilities and areas capable of supporting structured and unstructured community participation. These areas are typically between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve two or more neighborhoods within a half to three-mile distance. Facilities may include wooded or natural areas, picnic shelters and grills, bike or hiking trails and other semi-active and passive uses for large groups of people. They may also contain specialized recreational facilities such as swimming pools, community centers and lighted ball diamonds. Community parks should be easily accessible from throughout their service area. Currently there is 1 Township park classified within this category.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

Natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, and open space. These sites are typically unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential and can support recreational activities at a level that preserves the integrity of the natural resource. The location and size of these parks are largely governed by availability. There are 0 Township parks classified within this category.



SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

The Special Use classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use. Special uses generally fall into three categories:

- **Historic/Cultural/Social Sites:** Unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities. Examples include historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, public buildings, and amphitheaters.
- **Recreation Facilities:** Specialized or single purpose facilities. Examples include community centers, senior centers, community theaters, hockey arenas, marinas, golf courses, and aquatic parks.
- **Outdoor Recreation Facilities:** Examples include tennis centers, softball complexes, sports stadiums.

Recreation needs, community interests, the type of facility, and land availability are the primary factors influencing location. Special use facilities should be viewed as strategically located community-wide facilities rather than as serving well-defined neighborhoods or areas. Where feasible, a geographically central site is optimal. The site should be easily accessible from arterial and collector streets, where feasible. Facility space requirements are the primary determinants of site size. As an example, a golf course may require 150 acres, whereas a community center with parking may fit on 10 or 15 acres. The Township has 1 facility that fits into this classification, which is the township's community center.



North Riverfront Park



COMMUNITY PARK
31.15 ACRES

11998 Fulton ST SE

The pavilion has picnic tables, trash cans, and electric. This small park is located near the northern end of the Paul Henry Trail. The park features picnic tables and a picnic shelter, restrooms, a playground, and easy access to the trail. Also, features a splash pad, disc golf, pickleball, and gaga ball.

Accessibility Rating: 3

There is no route to playground equipment and the planting area near the historical building is not accessible. There are significant cracks on the pickleball courts that need to be refilled and recoated. The disc golf throwing platforms are in need of repair.

Accessibility Improvements:

There are significant cracks on the pickleball courts that need to be refilled and recoated.

Condition:





South Riverfront Park



COMMUNITY PARK
76.44 ACRES

12025 Grand River DR
SE

The park features a restroom/ concession building, two shelters, full size soccer field, beach volleyball courts, playground, and fishing. There is a connector trail from the East/ West trail. This park was improved in 2022.

Accessibility Rating: 3

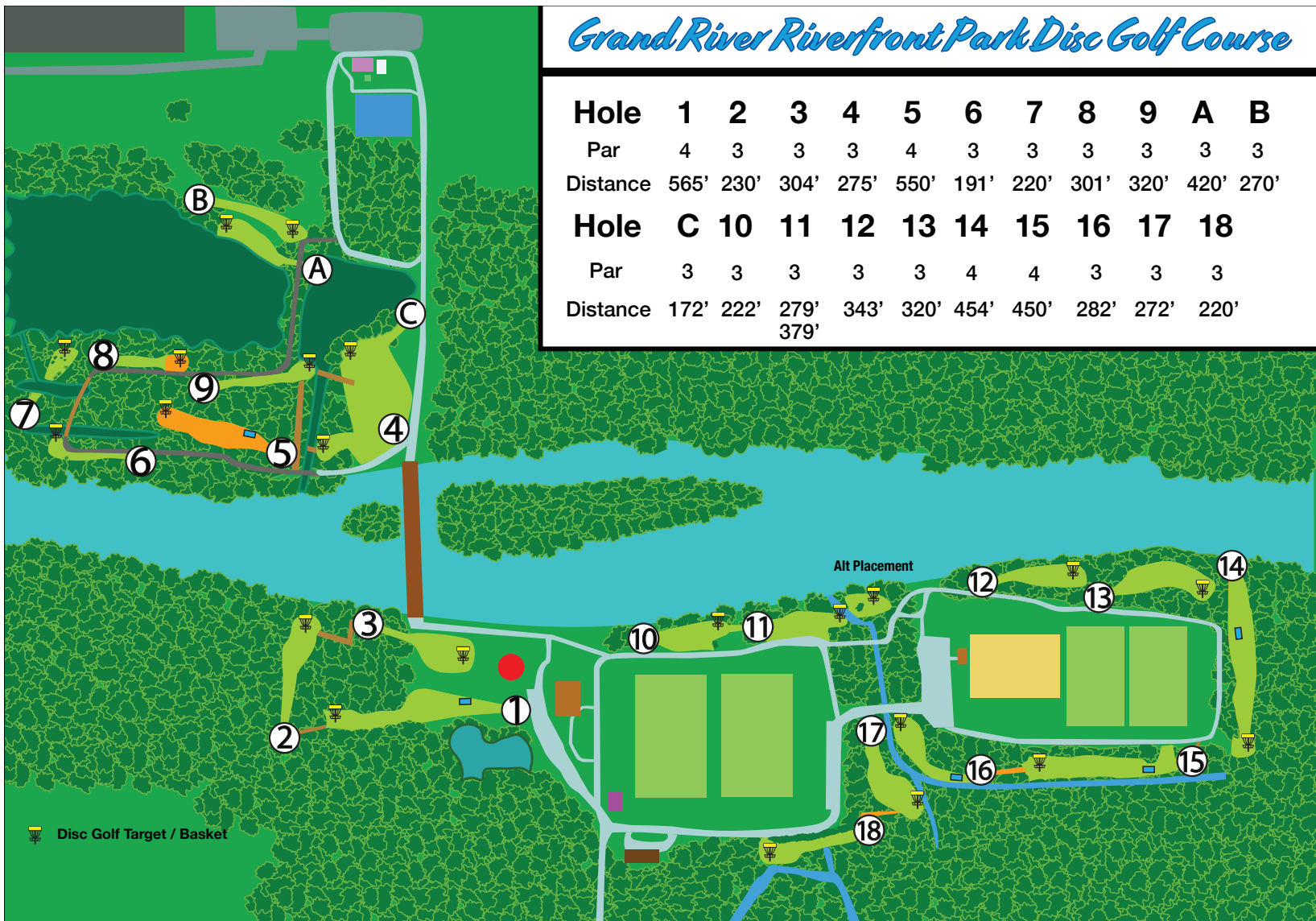
There is no ADA accessible route to the restroom building and the playground. There are accessible restrooms in the maintenance building.

Accessibility Improvements:

ADA accesible routes to destinations to be added. Add signage to direct to the near by accessible restrooms.

Condition:



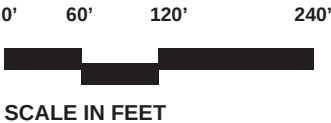




VICINITY MAP

RIVERFRONT PARKS

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN



DATE
09.29.2025
PROJECT NO.
2266





EXISTING CONDITIONS
NORTH RIVERFRONT PARK
LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN



DATE
09.29.2025
PROJECT NO.
2266



LOWELL TIMBER
FOOTBRIDGE
FLOATING DOCK
DISC GOLF
RESTROOM
BUILDING
SOCCER FIELDS
PARKING LOT

PLAYGROUND

SHELTER

MAINTENANCE
BUILDING

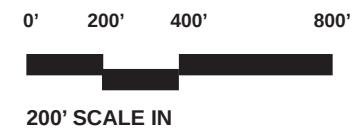
TRAILS
BITUMINOUS
PAVING

SHELTER
VOLLEYBALL
COURTS
SOCCER FIELDS
PARKING LOT

PARKING LOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS
SOUTH RIVERFRONT PARK
LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN



DATE
09.29.2025
PROJECT NO.
2266



[illegible]



PRIVATE PROPERTIES/FACILITIES AND INDOOR RECREATION

The Township contains limited private recreational facilities within its borders. It contains Heidi's Corn Maze, located at the intersection of Cascade road and Alden Nash, offers recreational opportunities.

The Township is also home to the Bradford Dickinson White Nature Preserve, which is maintained by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. This preserve contains a trailhead and parking area located along 36th Street, about 1/2 mile from Alden Nash.

The Township also contains two lakes with public fishing access areas and boat launches, located on Pratt Lake and McEwen Lake.

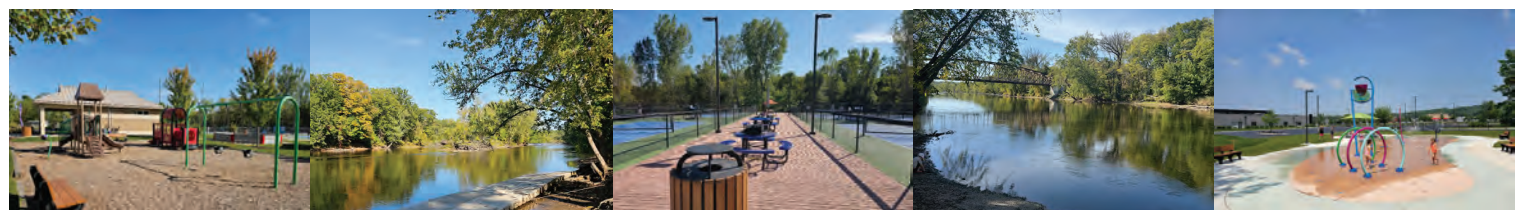
The Township also is home to the Kent County Youth Fair that provides education about agriculture to young kids.

REGIONAL FACILITIES

The location of Lowell Township Charter means that its population has easy access to recreational facilities offered by the township of Lowell. Notable facilities of a regional nature include the Kent Trail System, White Pine Trail and Millennium Park, a 1,500 acre multi-purpose County Park.

TRAILS

There is the North Country trail that is part of a larger trail system that will span across the country by 4,600 miles when it's complete. The trail enters Lowell Township in the southeast corner and follows several county roads along with an abandoned railroad right of way north through the Township to the City of Lowell. The Lowell Area Trailway is planned to be a multi-use recreation trail linking Lowell with Vergennes Township.



RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY

An itemized Recreation Grant History can be found in the Appendices.





5 PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

RECREATION PLANNING

Recreation planning plays an important role in maintaining the quality of life in a community. If a community is to provide effective recreational opportunities, it needs a way of identifying and solving current problems and anticipating future needs. Recreation planning is one means of obtaining a perspective on these problems; developing realistic alternatives; formulating goals, policies, and recommendations for public and private decisions; developing criteria to measure change; and involving people in the planning, design and decision processes.

This Parks and Recreation plan presents an evaluation of the township's recreational needs and opportunities. It considers the existing amenities in the Township, the current and anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities.

This plan is to serve as a guideline for directing the township in the operation and maintenance of existing and future facilities and programs to meet the recreational needs of its citizen's. The plan summarizes long-term recommendations intended to guide the development of recreation opportunities and describes an action and capital improvement program for implementation over the next five years.



PLAN PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT

This 2026 Community Parks and Recreation Plan was developed by the township, with the assistance of MCSA Group, Inc, a park and recreation planning consultant. Staff met regularly with representatives of MCSA Group, between 10/1/2025 and 11/14/2025 for the development of this plan.

Criteria considered and evaluated for plan development evolved from the examination of goals and recreation standards determined through a wide variety of input sources. This information was collected from the inventory and review of existing facilities; the identification of recreation needs and deficiencies; public opinion; current statewide recreation issues and priorities; and future expectations.

Public input was sought throughout a survey held to solicit public desires and concerns regarding parks and recreation. The survey was advertised via email, the township website and social media. The survey was available on the internet via Survey Monkey. A total of 000 surveys were completed. The survey was well received and indicated a high level of satisfaction with the township’s Parks and Recreation system. Comments from the survey were incorporated into a final draft of the Plan. The public input schedule was as follows.

Plan Process Timeline	
Release/Distribute Public Survey	October 27, 2025
Survey Return Deadline	November 14, 2025
Public Review <i>Draft of Final Plan available for 30-day Public Review as required by the DNR</i>	
Public Hearing <i>Public Hearing & Adoption of Plan by Township Board of Trustees</i>	
Plan Completion and DNR Submittal	



PLAN PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT CONTINUED

The survey found that the residents are satisfied with the park system overall and that most amenities are provided. They rated the overall facilities as...

The Lowell Charter Township Parks and Recreation Survey indicates strong resident use of Township parks, particularly the North and South Grand River Riverfront Parks, as well as nearby county and state park systems. Overall satisfaction with park maintenance and facilities is high, with most ratings falling between good and excellent.

Respondents expressed a clear preference for maintaining and improving existing parks, along with expanding trails and pathways, rather than prioritizing new park development. Desired facility improvements include walking trails, paved pathways, pickleball courts, natural areas, playgrounds, and picnic facilities. Interest was also shown in potential additions such as natural areas, dog parks, sports complexes, and neighborhood parks.

Popular activities include walking, visiting parks, pickleball, nature trail walks, attending special events, and water-based recreation. There is identified demand for expanded programming for youth, particularly ages 2–12 and teens. Some residents reported limited participation in programs due to lack of awareness or use of alternative recreational opportunities.

Environmental sustainability is an important theme, with strong support for native plantings, wildflower areas, energy-efficient technologies, recycling, and reduced mowed lawn areas. Overall, parks and recreation are viewed as making a significant contribution to community health, quality of life, sense of place, and environmental sustainability within Lowell Charter Township.



RECREATION NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES 6

This section of the plan identifies recreation deficiencies determined through a variety of means. Study methods include comparison to recreational standards for acreage and facilities, geographic distribution of existing facilities, direct input from the township staff and representatives, and public input and participation. While each of these methods has its limitations, using a combination of methods will yield a more accurate assessment of recreational needs and deficiencies. The following is a brief description of each of the methods used.

RECREATION STANDARDS

While only a guide, recreation standards provide a benchmark for evaluating the relative adequacy or inadequacy of the township's recreation system. This plan has used as a guide the 1983 Recreation, Park, and Open Space, Standards and Guidelines and 1995 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines published by the National Recreation and Park Association.

Typical recreation standards establish a certain number of activity-specific recreational facilities per 1,000 of population (e.g. 1 tennis court per 2,000 persons). Other standards establish a certain number of acres per 1,000 of population for different types of park facilities, such as neighborhood, community and regional parks. These standards are adapted to reflect the township's character and compared with the existing and projected population. This plan will combine both approaches to ascertain deficiencies in recreational facilities and acreage. The 2023 U.S. Census Bureau population estimate was used for the purposes of this study.



There are two basic types of recreational experiences: “active” and “passive.” “Active” recreation requires space and facilities capable of accommodating exertive activities. Such facilities include: sports fields, play apparatus areas, open areas, special facilities, such as pools and court areas, and areas for organized activities. On the other hand, “passive” recreation requires little more than space and furniture for quiet, non-exertive activities for limited numbers of users. Recreation areas must provide for both types of use and preferably include a variety of opportunities for each to respond adequately to a wide range of interests and age groups.

Parks are generally classified by purpose and area per population served. They range in type from mini-playlots and green areas to large regional and national parks.

The categories used for this plan will be as follows:

1. Neighborhood Parks and Schools
2. Community Parks
3. Natural Resource Areas
4. Trails

RECREATION STANDARDS FOR ACREAGE

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND SCHOOLS

Description

Neighborhood parks serve individual neighborhood populations as determined by the distance that can easily be traveled by local users for relatively short periods of recreation. Facilities provided in these parks are generally active in nature and include multipurpose open play areas for pick-up games, play apparatus, court areas, landscaping, site furnishings and possibly a shelter. Special areas for bike riding or specific court games may also be provided. Activities for all seasons should also be included.



Service Areas

The area served by neighborhood parks is generally considered to be a one quarter (1/4) mile to one half (1/2) mile radius in size and should be uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers.

Neighborhood Park Acreage Standards

Nationally accepted standards for neighborhood parks recommend one or two (1-2) acres per 1,000 of population with five (5) acres as a minimum size and five to ten (5-10) acres optimal. It is recommended that the minimum of two (2) acres per 1,000 population be used as a guide for site selection.

Existing Neighborhood Recreation Acreage

Lowell Township currently has 0 parks that would fit into the neighborhood park definition. For analysis purposes, neighborhood parks and mini parks shall be combined, as they serve a similar purpose.



Needs and Deficiencies:

The table below compares the 2023 Township population to the recreation standard of two (2) acres per 1,000 persons.

For the 2023 population, there is a deficiency of 12.5 acres for neighborhood recreation in accordance with the recreational standards.

2023 Population	Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Required	Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Available	Deficiency/Surplus
6,299	12.5	0	-12.5

COMMUNITY PARKS

Description

Community-wide parks provide a range of facilities and areas capable of supporting organized community participation programs that would not be appropriate in neighborhood parks because of their average size or traffic volume generated. Facilities should be Centrally located, diverse enough to accommodate all age groups for both active and passive experiences and organized so that compatible uses relate to one another. Adequate parking and vehicular circulation is also important, since park users will generally arrive at these parks by vehicle. Lighted use areas significantly increase the recreational value of parks of this type. Typical facilities recommended for community parks include ball fields, open use areas, tennis courts, picnic areas, play apparatus areas, restrooms and shelters. Additional special facilities could include band shells, amphitheaters, swimming and wading pools, community-meeting buildings, skating facilities, bicycle courses and nature study areas.

As with neighborhood parks, it is often beneficial to develop community parks in conjunction with junior or senior high schools where practical because of the athletic fields and courts potentially available for public use. This arrangement assures the maximum level of use as well as the most practical expenditure of development funds.



Service Area

The area served by community-wide parks varies significantly from one municipality to another because of the distribution of population and related factors. However, a community park usually serves two or more neighborhoods in a half to three-mile radius.

Community Park Acreage Standards

The size of a community park varies according to the desired uses but is usually between 30 and 50 acres. It is recommended that a range of five (5) to eight (8) acres per 1,000 population be used as a standard basis for development.

Existing Community Recreation Acreage

The township has 5 facilities which would fall within the Community Park classification.

North Grand River Riverfront Park	31.15 acres
South Grand River Riverfront Park	76.44 acres
Total	107.59 acres

Needs and Deficiencies:

The following table compares the 2023 township population to the recreation standard of eight (8) acres per 1,000 persons.

For the 2023 population, there is a surplus of 57.19 acres for community recreation in accordance with the recreational standards.

2023 Population	Community Rec. Acreage Required	Community Rec. Acreage Available	Deficiency/Surplus
6,299	50.40	107.59	+57.19



Description

Natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual/aesthetic buffering. These sites are typically unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential and can support recreational activities at a level that preserves the integrity of the natural resource. The location and size of these parks are largely governed by availability.

Needs and Deficiencies:

There are no recognized acreage standards for natural resource areas and the township is fortunate to have a significant amount of natural resource acreage within the Lowell Charter Township limits.



TRAILS

Description

There are a number of different types of trails that can provide both transportation and recreation opportunities. Trails may be located within parks, on an independent right-of-way, or within the road right-of-way. Connector Trails are defined as “multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the Community” (J.D. Mertes and J.R. Hall, Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, 1995). These trails are generally located within the road right-of-way and can be divided into two types. Type I has separate paths for different user types, such as pedestrians and bicyclists. Type II has mixed uses and is suited to lighter use patterns.

TRAIL INFORMATION

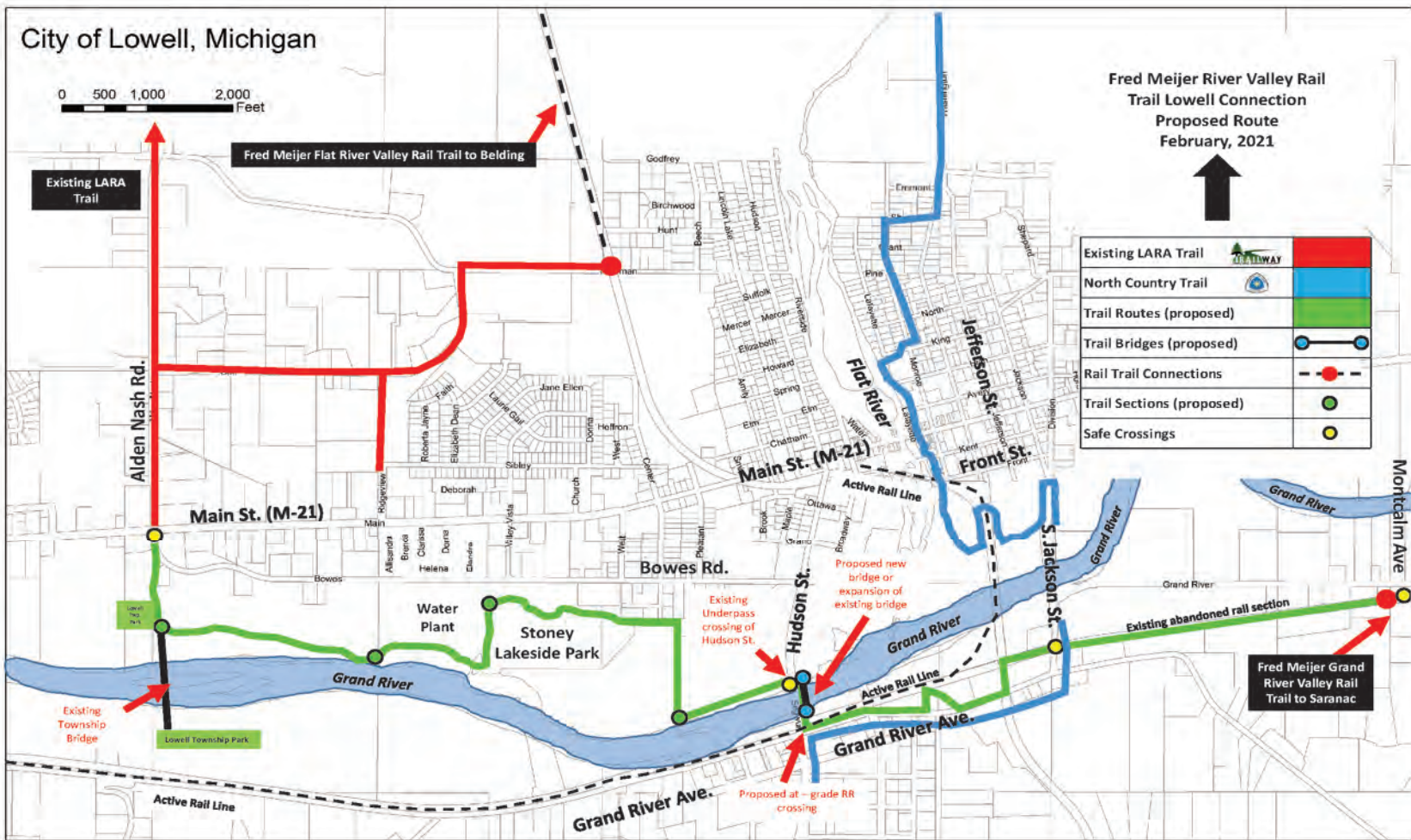
The township has two well defined trail systems. The North Country Trail, a large trail network connecting nearly 4,600 miles from Vermont to North Dakota, enters Lowell Township in the southeast corner and follows several county roads along with an abandoned railroad right-of-way north through the township and into the City of Lowell. From there, the North Country Trail extends north through the Lowell State Game Area.

Lowell Charter Township also works closely with The Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) to develop, acquire, construct, and maintain various trail systems throughout the area that service residents of both the township as well as the City of Lowell. This relationship is an important part of improving recreation opportunities for all residents, and the township supports these efforts.

Needs and Deficiencies:

There have been no deficiencies determined for this category and needs vary depending on the community. However, any future development will only enhance the existing trail systems present in the township.

PARKS AND TRAILS MAP





RECREATION STANDARDS FOR ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES

A comparison of activity-specific recreational facilities within the Lowell Charter Township to recreation standards indicates that the township contains many of the recreational facilities desirable for the current population.

The table on the following page compares the recommended number of facilities per population for the township(6,299 as of 2023) with the existing facilities available and illustrates any current or projected deficiencies.

While standards for comparison address the quantity of facilities desirable for a particular number of persons, they do not address quality or location concerns. Consequently, any community that has the appropriate numbers of facilities may not have facilities of a useful or desirable quality or may not have facilities located where they would be most accessible to residents.



2026 RECREATION STANDARDS AND DEFICIENCIES LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

FACILITY	STANDARD	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES	EXISTING FACILITIES	FACILITY DEFICIENCIES
Softball Field	1:5,000	1	12	OK
Baseball Field	1:5,000	1	7	OK
Soccer Field	1:10,000	1	10	OK
Football Field	1:20,000	1	3	OK
Basketball Court (Outdoor)	1:5,000	1	1	OK
Tennis/Pickleball Court	1:2,000	3	18	OK
Volleyball Court	1:5,000	1	2	OK
Running Track	1:20,000	1	2	OK
Swimming Pool (Indoor)	1:20,000	1	0	-1
Playground Equipment	1:3,000	2	12	OK
Picnic Shelter	1:2,000	3	10	OK
Mixed Use Field	As available	--	13	OK
Sledding Area	As available	--	0	OK
Trail System	1 per region	--	14	OK

RECREATION FACILITIES SUMMARY

Lowell Township takes pride in its park and recreation facilities and demonstrates good stewardship of its natural resources. While substantial improvements have been achieved over the last 10 years, a variety of improvements are recommended to fully utilize the Lowell Township's recreational land and improve accessibility for all users.



GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 7

In order to stay on a logical, programmed course of action during the next five years, Lowell Township has developed the following goals and objectives. These goals and objectives are based upon the recreation inventory and needs assessment, and direct input from citizens, Township officials and staff. The goals are long-range in nature and intended to be broad in scope and flexible enough to accommodate future change. The objectives are short-range in nature and intended to direct specific program and development decisions to be made in the next five years. Goals and objectives are meant to guide the intent of the actions to be taken but be flexible enough to reflect changing attitudes and opportunities as may present themselves for Lowell Township to be responsive to its citizens.

GOAL 1:

Recreational opportunities at the Riverfront Park will be increased and improved through the work of Lowell Charter Township.

Objectives:

- Expand on educational opportunities at Riverfront Park.
- Expand the range of activities and facilities offered for use at Riverfront Park.
- Add a boat launch for small watercraft at Riverfront Park.



GOAL 2:

Lowell Charter Township will actively cooperate and participate in the development of non-motorized trail networks in the Township.

Objectives:

- Participate in discussions with the North Country Trail regarding the potential use of an abandoned railroad right-of-way in the eastern portion of the Township. Expand the range of activities and facilities offered for use at Grand River Park.
- Provide continued support to the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) in developing trails and connections in the greater Lowell region, including Lowell Township.
- Cooperate with and support neighboring jurisdictions in the development of a rail-trail between Lowell, Greenville, and Ionia.

GOAL 3:

Residents of the Township will be provided with a variety of recreational facilities and activities.

Objectives:

- Encourage or require developers to create pocket parks or natural areas in future residential developments in higher density areas of the Township.
- Develop a plan for using the Township Hall property for recreational use.

GOAL 4:

The Township will ensure that recreational facilities are available to all residents and visitors.

Objectives:

- Add an ADA accessible fishing pier or other ADA accessible facilities to Grand River Park.
- Pursure senior activities and exercise opportunities at Riverfront Park.



GOAL 5:

The Township will actively work to increase the number of visitors to Riverfront Park.

Objectives:

- Construct basketball and/or tennis courts in Riverfront Park.
- Develop the barked trail around the perimeter of Riverfront Park for cross-country skiing.

GOAL 6:

Lowell Charter Township will facilitate in the developement of additional recreational properties within the Township.

Objectives:

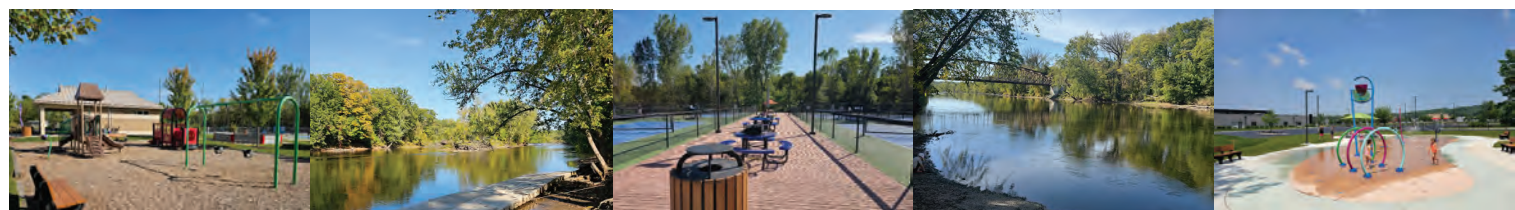
- Explore feasibility of purchasing additional acreage at Riverfront Park.
- Explore feasible methods, such as trails and bridges, to connect the various recreational facilities to the Township and surrounding communities.

GOAL 7:

Lowell Charter Township will acquire properties within the 100-year floodplain along the Grand River for recreational use.

Objectives:

- Acquire additional property along the north side of the Grand River across from the western portion of Riverfront Park.
- Acquire property along the south side of the Grand River for recreational uses.



GOAL 8:

Lowell Charter Township will continue and expand cooperative efforts with neighboring communities to improve and expand recreational opportunities for residents of the larger Lowell community.

Objectives:

- Explore feasible approaches to developing and maintaining a competition swimming pool.
- Explore joint approaches to meet recreational needs of the area/aging population.





ACTION PROGRAM & 8 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule for Lowell Charter Township community park and recreation plan states the proposed course of development or improvement that will be taken over the next five years. The Goals and Objectives, from the previous section, serve as guidelines for the development of the Action Program. The Capital Improvement Schedule which follows will focus on the needs identified in the Action Program and will project potential expenditures for the five-year action period on a year-by-year basis. The five-year period will begin in 2026 and extend through 2031. This time period will not be sufficient to accomplish all of the goals and objectives but begins to prioritize those projects that may be achievable within the initial five years.

The Action Program focuses on reduction of deficiencies and expansion and improvements of facilities in a manner that not only meets current needs, but also diversifies the type and quality of recreational opportunities within the Township. The Community Park and Recreation Plan identifies these needs in general terms in the Recreation Needs and Deficiencies section; the Action Plan describes specific actions to be taken to address these needs; and the Capital Improvement Schedule specifically itemizes those projects which will be most feasible during the next five years. The proposed schedule will allow for flexibility as funds become available and as opportunities are presented.

The following actions are comprehensive and will require more than five years to complete. Concept Plans illustrating the proposed improvements are included for each of the major park properties.



North Riverfront Park:

Park shall receive new paving for the pickleball courts, an accessible route to the playground.

South Riverfront Park:

Park shall receive a new accessible route to the restroom building, new accessible route to playground, and new playground.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

As stated in the Action Program, improvements and development will occur as funds and opportunities evolve. Assistance will be solicited from all available sources and will include both physical and financial support.

The Township will take maximum advantage of any job training and related work programs to assist in clean-ups and basic miscellaneous construction and general recreation facility maintenance projects. The Township will also seek funding assistance from all available sources such as trusts, charitable foundations, private contributions, and all Federal and State funding programs.

The following schedule is a breakdown of the anticipated projects and projected funding for the next five years. Projections are based upon order-of-magnitude 2025 costs and will be detailed with refined programs and plans. Changes in the program may occur if projected funding levels increase or decrease but it is anticipated that the changes would be related more to adjustments in the time schedule rather than specific projects themselves. Refer to the following site concept plans for more site-specific information.

These actions address those programs and opportunities which have potential for implementation within the next ten years. These actions do not address every element within the goals and objectives section of this Master Plan, but address those which have high priority and potentials for improvement. As the plan progresses, opportunities may present themselves which will revise and refine these actions based upon funding opportunities, as well as community opinion, consensus, and direction.

The following projects have been identified for improvements and will occur as funds are identified and ARE NOT listed in order of priority.



Project:	City	Other Funds	Total Project Cost
<u>Riverfront Park</u> Master plan of entire park			
<u>Riverfront Park</u> Grant application for splashpad (North)			
<u>Riverfront Park</u> 18 hole disc golf course (South)			
<u>Riverfront Park</u> Splashpad and playground accessibility (North)			
<u>Riverfront Park</u> Grant application for playground improvements (South)			
<u>Riverfront Park</u> Playground improvements (South)			
<u>Riverfront Plan</u> South amenities Benches, picnic tables, interpretive signage, security lighting, and cameras			
<u>Riverfront Park</u> Parking and walk improvements (South)			
<u>Riverfront Park</u> Acquisition of additional park properties			

*Other funds include: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF); Michigan Land and Water Conservation Fund; Michigan Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant; other State or Federal funding sources; foundation grants; private contributions and others.



9 LOCAL ADOPTION AND CERTIFICATION PLAN

CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

RESOLUTION(S) OF ADOPTION

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Public Notice for Plan Review

A draft of the new Lowell Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan will be available for public review and comment for a period of one month. A public hearing will take place during the **January 19, 2026 Board meeting**. Click the link below to view the draft plan. The Parks and Recreation Plan provides guidance for park and recreation development over the next 5 years. For additional information, contact Jerry Hale at 616.897.7600 or info@lowelltwp.org.

[Draft 2026 Lowell Charter Township Parks and Recreation Plan](#)

- [Recreation Plan 2021](#)
- [Township Park Rules](#)
- [Township Parks](#)
- [North River Park Camera Action](#)



Landscape Architecture
Park & Recreation Planning
Architecture • Urban Design
Sports Facility Planning

January 14, 2026

Mr. Dave Bee
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
1345 Monroe Ave NEW Suite 255
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

Dear Mr. Bee:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Township of Lowell 2026 Community Parks and Recreation Plan adopted by the Township Commission on January 19, 2026. We are submitting this Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' guidelines for preparing a community recreation plan.

If you have any comments or need additional information, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Smith
Landscape Architect

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Jerry Hale, Supervisor



Landscape Architecture
Park & Recreation Planning
Architecture • Urban Design
Sports Facility Planning

January 14, 2026

Mr. Brian Mulligan
Kent County Parks Department
1700 Butterworth St. SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49534

Dear Mr. Mulligan:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Lowell Township 2026 Community Parks and Recreation Plan adopted by the Township Commission on January 19, 2026. We are submitting this Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' guidelines for preparing a community recreation plan.

If you have any comments or need additional information, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Smith
Landscape Architect

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Jerry Hale, Supervisor



10 APPENDICES

PLANNING ADVERTISEMENTS

COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

DNR RECREATION GRANT HISTORY

POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORTS

EXISTING CONDITIONS MAPS

PUBLIC MEETING SIGN IN SHEETS

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN

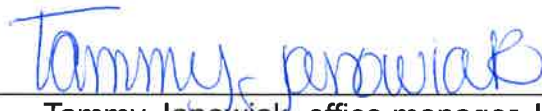
IN THE MATTER OF

Lowell Charter Township, Public Notice, Parks and Recreation Plan Public Input Meeting

State of Michigan)
County of Kent)

I, Tammy Janowiak, being first duly sworn, says that I am the office manager, of the Lowell Ledger, a paper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order, taken from said newspaper, in which this order was published.

November 5, 2025



Tammy Janowiak, office manager, Lowell Ledger

**LOWELL
CHARTER
TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC NOTICE
PARKS AND RECREATION
PLAN PUBLIC INPUT
MEETING**

Lowell Township and MCSA Group, Inc. will hold a Public Input meeting on November 11, 2025, from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. to review the Draft Parks and Recreation Plan.

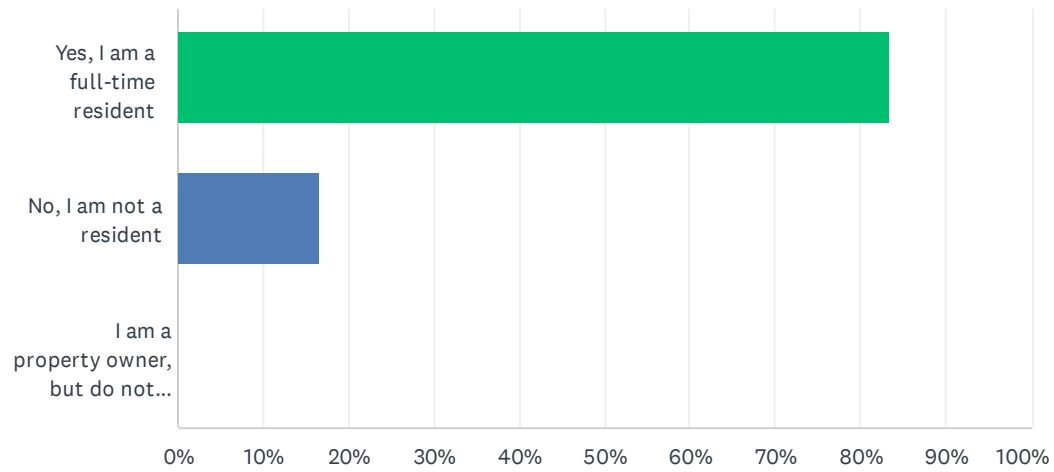
The Public Input meeting will be held at the Lowell Township Hall located at 2910 Alden Nash Ave SE, Lowell.

ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THIS NOTICE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO JERRY HALE AT 616-897-7600, OR EMAIL AT supervisor@lowelltp.org

A DRAFT COPY OF THIS PLAN IS AVAILABLE ON THE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE (lowelltp.org)

Q1 Do you live in Lowell Charter Township?

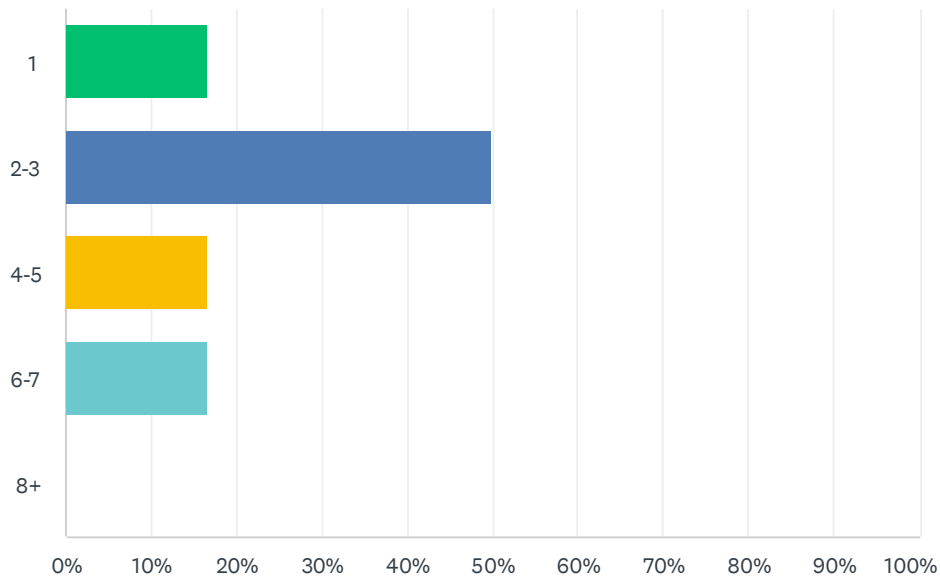
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I am a full-time resident	83.33%	5
No, I am not a resident	16.67%	1
I am a property owner, but do not reside here	0.00%	0
TOTAL		6

Q2 How many people currently live in your household?

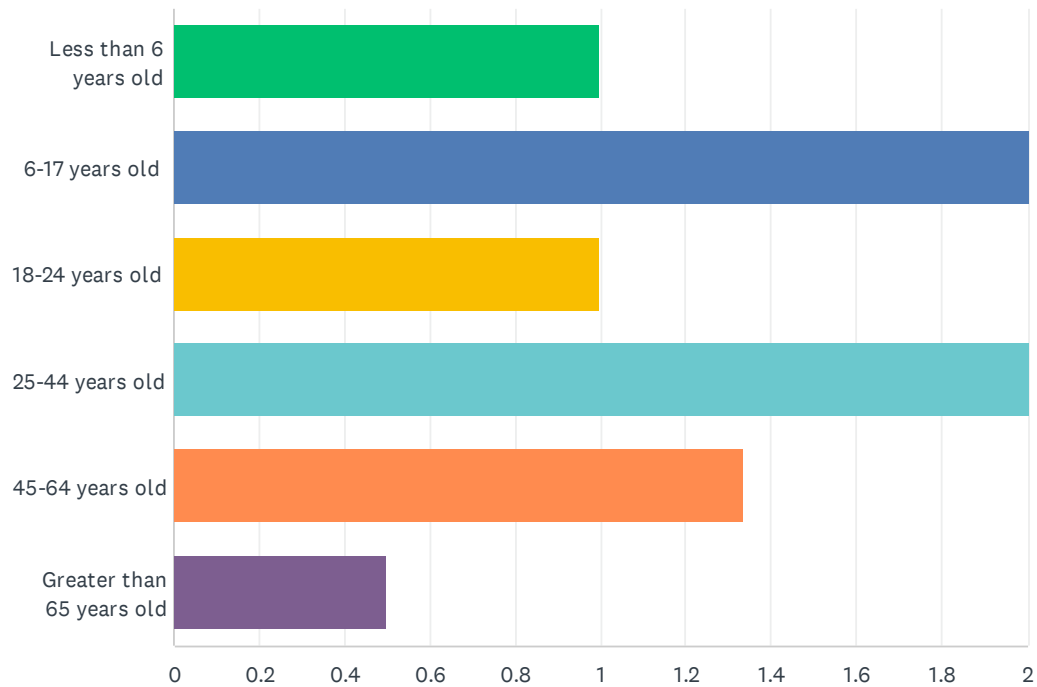
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	16.67%	1
2-3	50.00%	3
4-5	16.67%	1
6-7	16.67%	1
8+	0.00%	0
TOTAL		6

Q3 How many people in your household are:

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



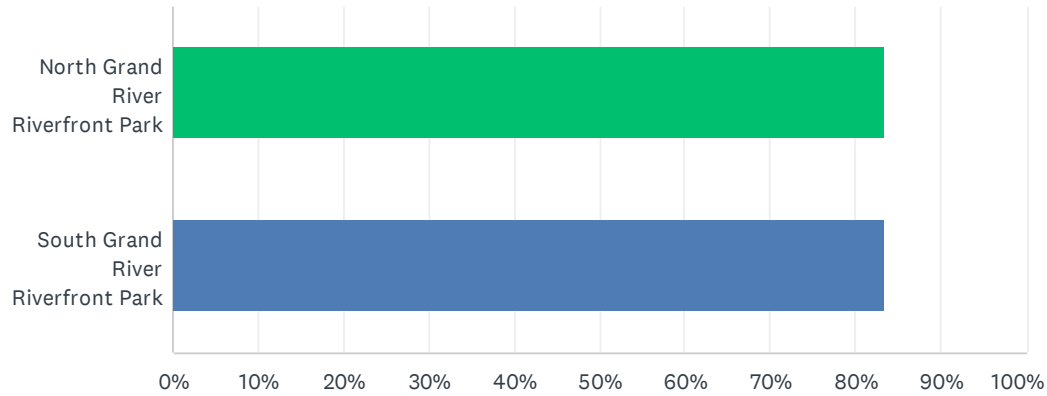
ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Less than 6 years old	1	1	1
6-17 years old	2	4	2
18-24 years old	1	2	2
25-44 years old	2	2	1
45-64 years old	1	8	6
Greater than 65 years old	1	1	2
Total Respondents: 6			

#	LESS THAN 6 YEARS OLD	DATE
1	1	1/14/2026 12:30 PM
#	6-17 YEARS OLD	DATE
1	3	1/14/2026 12:30 PM
2	1	1/14/2026 10:40 AM
#	18-24 YEARS OLD	DATE
1	0	1/14/2026 12:30 PM
2	2	1/14/2026 10:46 AM
#	25-44 YEARS OLD	DATE

1	2	1/14/2026 12:30 PM
#	45-64 YEARS OLD	DATE
1	1	1/14/2026 12:57 PM
2	0	1/14/2026 12:30 PM
3	2	1/14/2026 10:46 AM
4	2	1/14/2026 10:40 AM
5	1	1/13/2026 6:35 PM
6	2	1/7/2026 4:22 PM
#	GREATER THAN 65 YEARS OLD	DATE
1	0	1/14/2026 12:30 PM
2	1	1/13/2026 6:35 PM

Q4 Which of the Lowell Township's parks and facilities have you or members of your household utilized in the last 12 months?

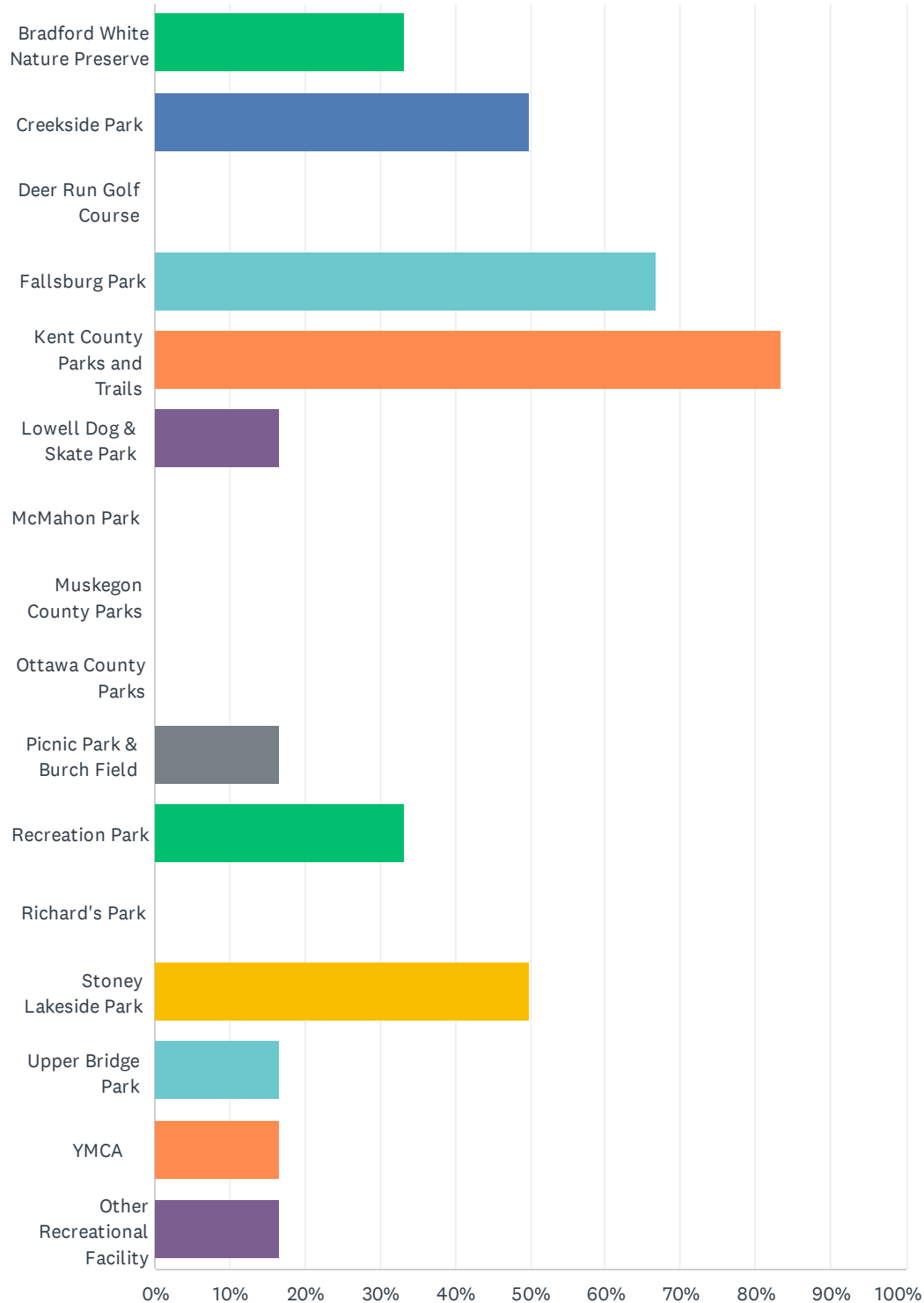
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
North Grand River Riverfront Park	83.33%	5
South Grand River Riverfront Park	83.33%	5
Total Respondents: 6		

Q5 Check any of these Parks and Recreation Facilities you or members of your household have utilized in the last 12 months.

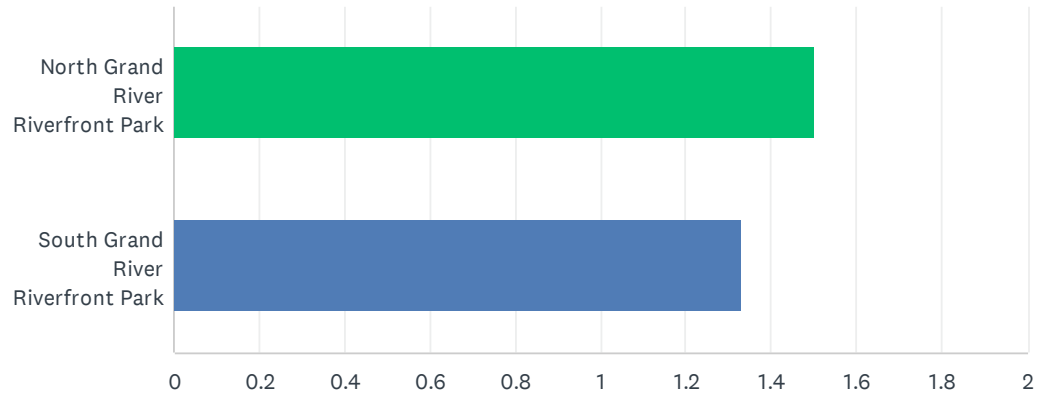
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bradford White Nature Preserve	33.33%	2
Creekside Park	50.00%	3
Deer Run Golf Course	0.00%	0
Fallsburg Park	66.67%	4
Kent County Parks and Trails	83.33%	5
Lowell Dog & Skate Park	16.67%	1
McMahon Park	0.00%	0
Muskegon County Parks	0.00%	0
Ottawa County Parks	0.00%	0
Picnic Park & Burch Field	16.67%	1
Recreation Park	33.33%	2
Richard's Park	0.00%	0
Stoney Lakeside Park	50.00%	3
Upper Bridge Park	16.67%	1
YMCA	16.67%	1
Other Recreational Facility	16.67%	1
Total Respondents: 6		

Q6 Please rank the Township's facilities you would like to see improved or expanded. 1=High Priority, 18=Low Priority

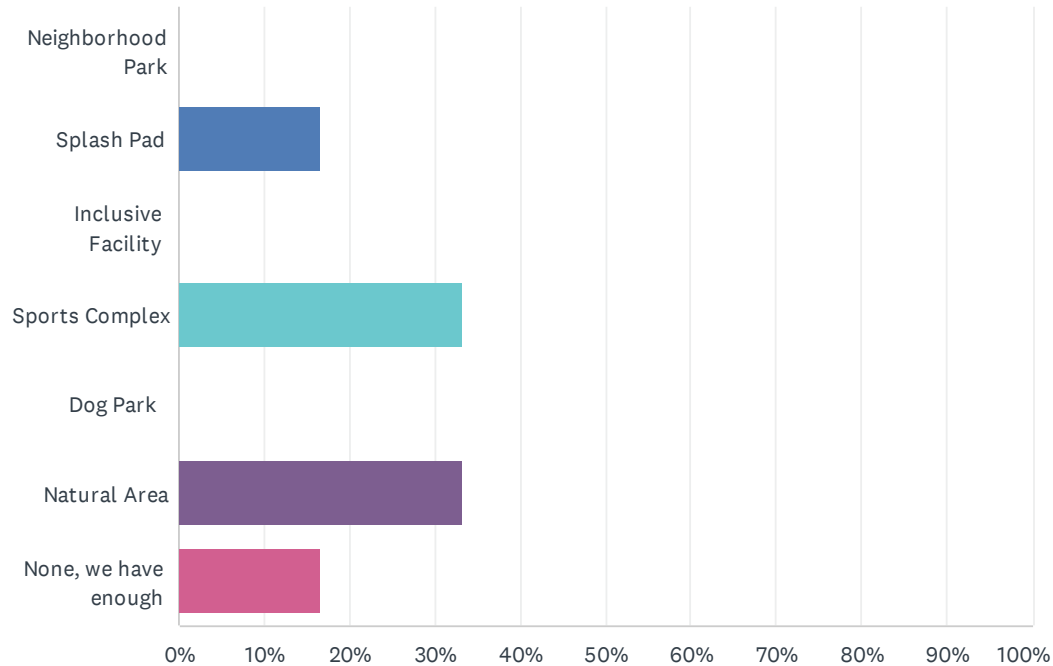
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



	1	2	TOTAL	SCORE
North Grand River Riverfront Park	50.00% 1	50.00% 1	2	1.50
South Grand River Riverfront Park	33.33% 2	66.67% 4	6	1.33

Q7 What additional types of new parks would you most like to see in the Township?

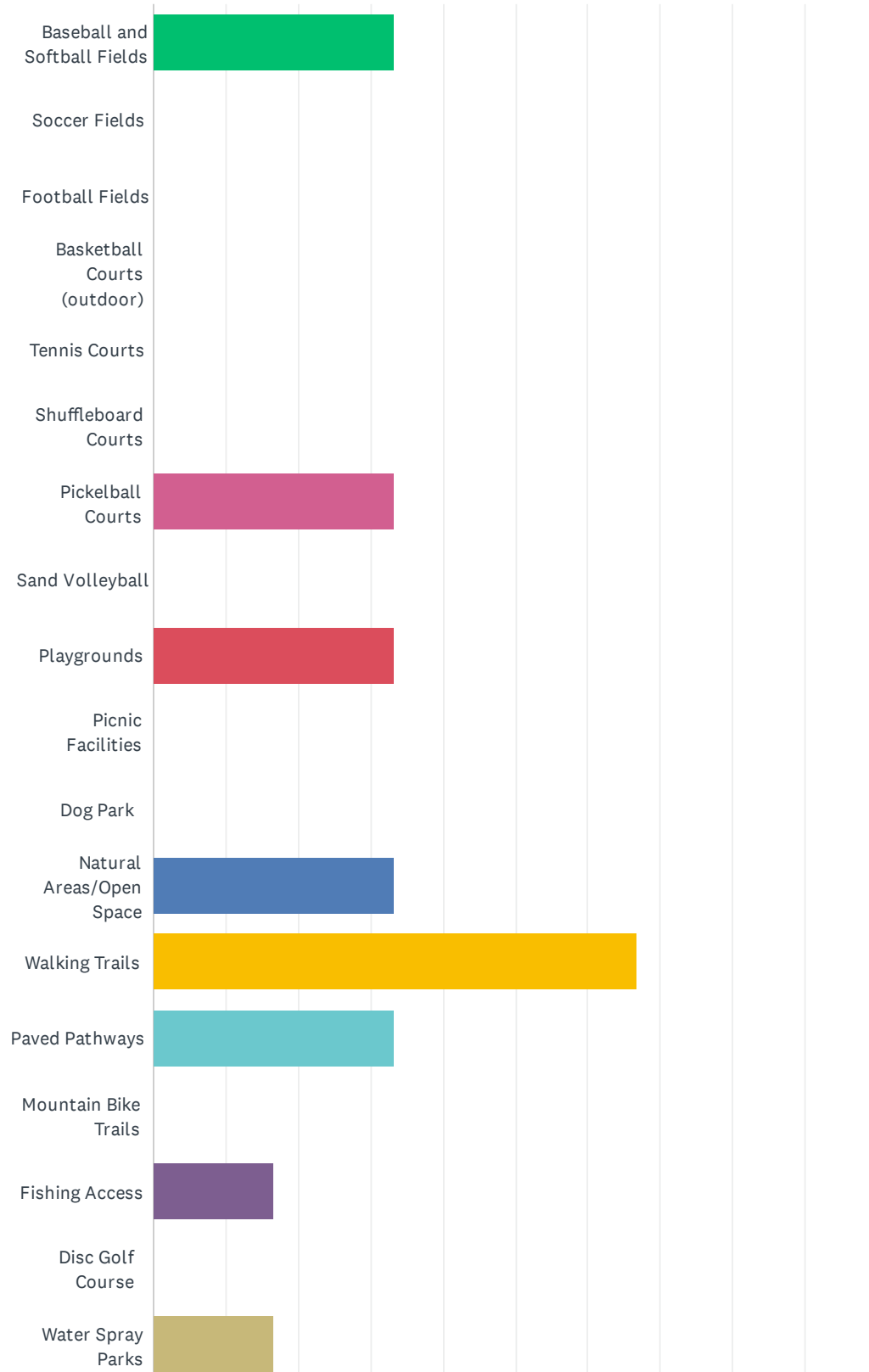
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

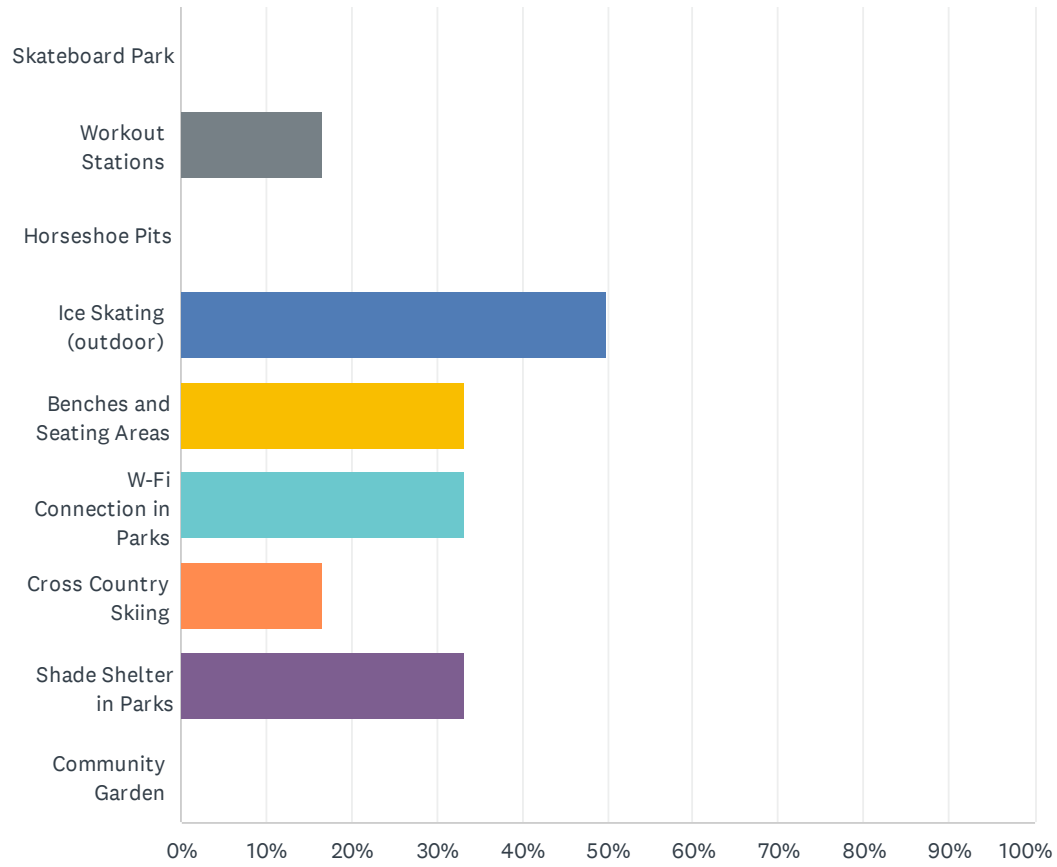


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Neighborhood Park	0.00%	0
Splash Pad	16.67%	1
Inclusive Facility	0.00%	0
Sports Complex	33.33%	2
Dog Park	0.00%	0
Natural Area	33.33%	2
None, we have enough	16.67%	1
TOTAL		6

Q8 Which of the following activities/facilities would you most like to see expanded or added in the Township?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

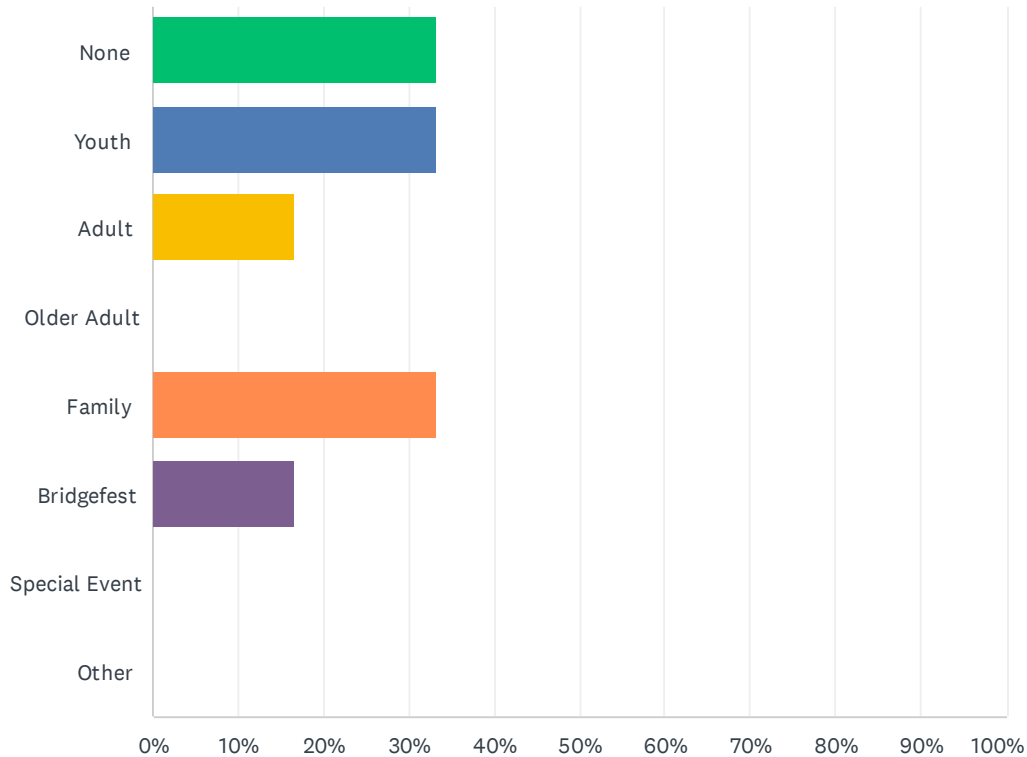




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball and Softball Fields	33.33%	2
Soccer Fields	0.00%	0
Football Fields	0.00%	0
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	0.00%	0
Tennis Courts	0.00%	0
Shuffleboard Courts	0.00%	0
Pickelball Courts	33.33%	2
Sand Volleyball	0.00%	0
Playgrounds	33.33%	2
Picnic Facilities	0.00%	0
Dog Park	0.00%	0
Natural Areas/Open Space	33.33%	2
Walking Trails	66.67%	4
Paved Pathways	33.33%	2
Mountain Bike Trails	0.00%	0
Fishing Access	16.67%	1
Disc Golf Course	0.00%	0
Water Spray Parks	16.67%	1
Skateboard Park	0.00%	0
Workout Stations	16.67%	1
Horseshoe Pits	0.00%	0
Ice Skating (outdoor)	50.00%	3
Benches and Seating Areas	33.33%	2
W-Fi Connection in Parks	33.33%	2
Cross Country Skiing	16.67%	1
Shade Shelter in Parks	33.33%	2
Community Garden	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q9 In what recreation programming offered by the Township have you or your family participated in the last year?

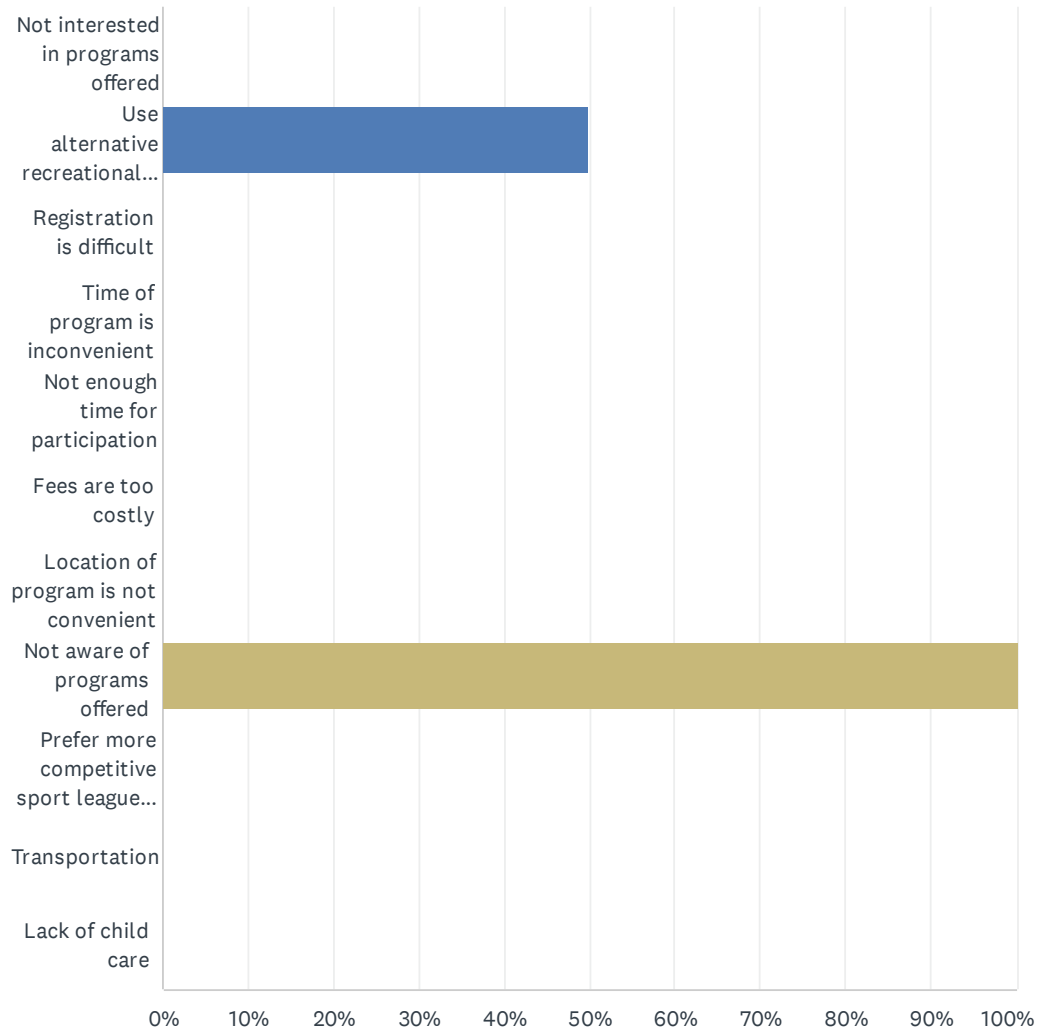
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	33.33%	2
Youth	33.33%	2
Adult	16.67%	1
Older Adult	0.00%	0
Family	33.33%	2
Bridgefest	16.67%	1
Special Event	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q10 If you answered "none" to Question 12 above, please indicate your reason for non-participation.

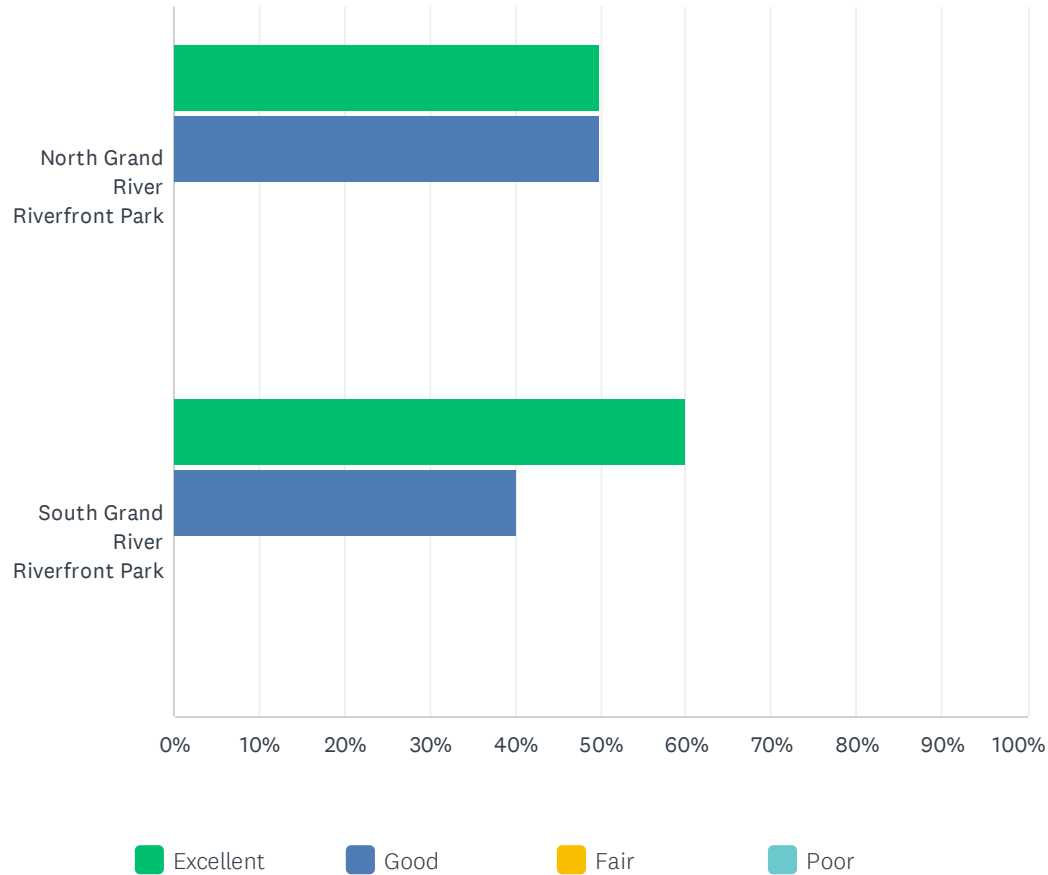
Answered: 2 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Not interested in programs offered	0.00%	0
Use alternative recreational programming	50.00%	1
Registration is difficult	0.00%	0
Time of program is inconvenient	0.00%	0
Not enough time for participation	0.00%	0
Fees are too costly	0.00%	0
Location of program is not convenient	0.00%	0
Not aware of programs offered	100.00%	2
Prefer more competitive sport leagues for my child	0.00%	0
Transportation	0.00%	0
Lack of child care	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 2		

Q11 How would you rate the maintenance of the Township parks you have visited?

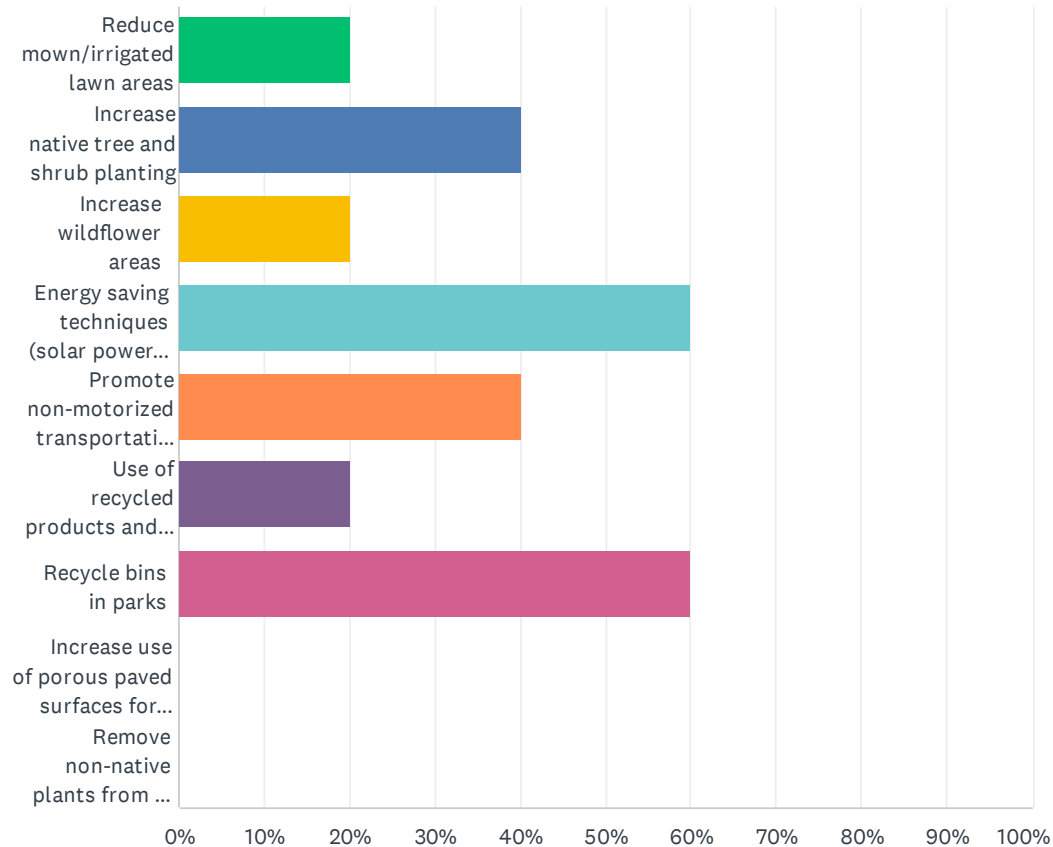
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
North Grand River Riverfront Park	50.00% 3	50.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	1.50
South Grand River Riverfront Park	60.00% 3	40.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	5	1.40

Q12 Please indicate which green initiatives you think would be most effective.

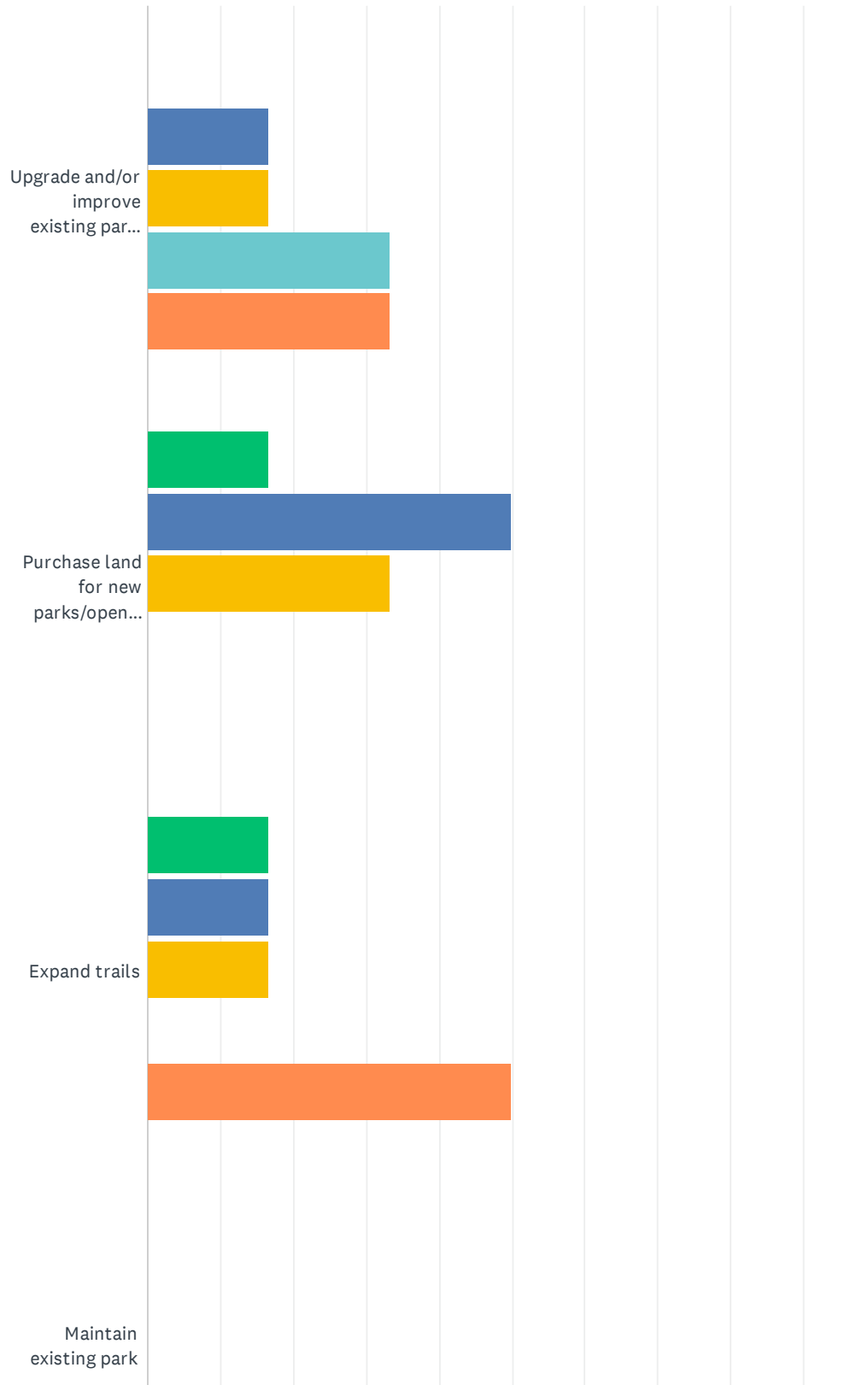
Answered: 5 Skipped: 1

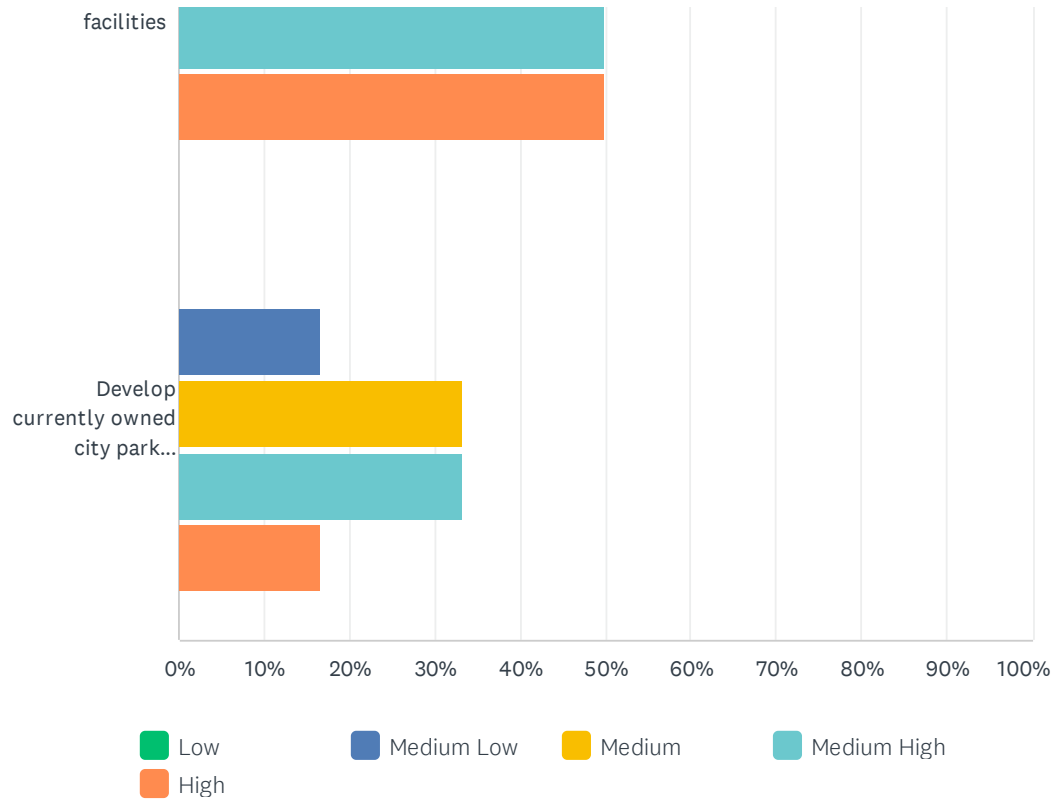


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Reduce mown/irrigated lawn areas	20.00%	1
Increase native tree and shrub planting	40.00%	2
Increase wildflower areas	20.00%	1
Energy saving techniques (solar power, LED lights, timers, etc)	60.00%	3
Promote non-motorized transportation to parks	40.00%	2
Use of recycled products and materials	20.00%	1
Recycle bins in parks	60.00%	3
Increase use of porous paved surfaces for natural drainage (parking areas)	0.00%	0
Remove non-native plants from our natural areas located in our parks	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 5		

Q13 Please rate, in order of priority, how you feel park and recreation funding should be spent.

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

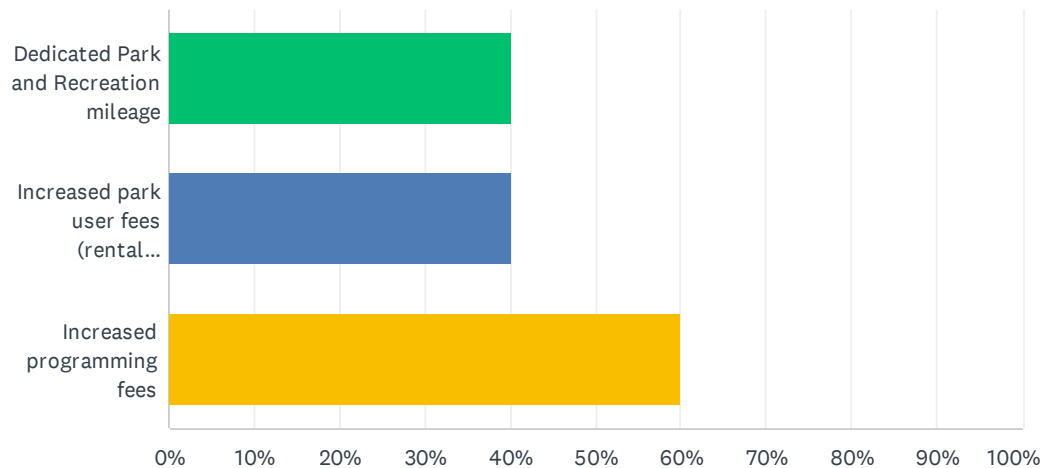




	LOW	MEDIUM LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM HIGH	HIGH	TOTAL
Upgrade and/or improve existing park facilities	0.00% 0	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	6
Purchase land for new parks/open space when available	16.67% 1	50.00% 3	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6
Expand trails	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	50.00% 3	6
Maintain existing park facilities	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 3	50.00% 3	6
Develop currently owned city park natural areas with trails	0.00% 0	16.67% 1	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	16.67% 1	6

Q14 The Township will continue to solicit state and federal grant funding and private donations/fund raising for recreation facility development and improvements. What other funding options should be considered?

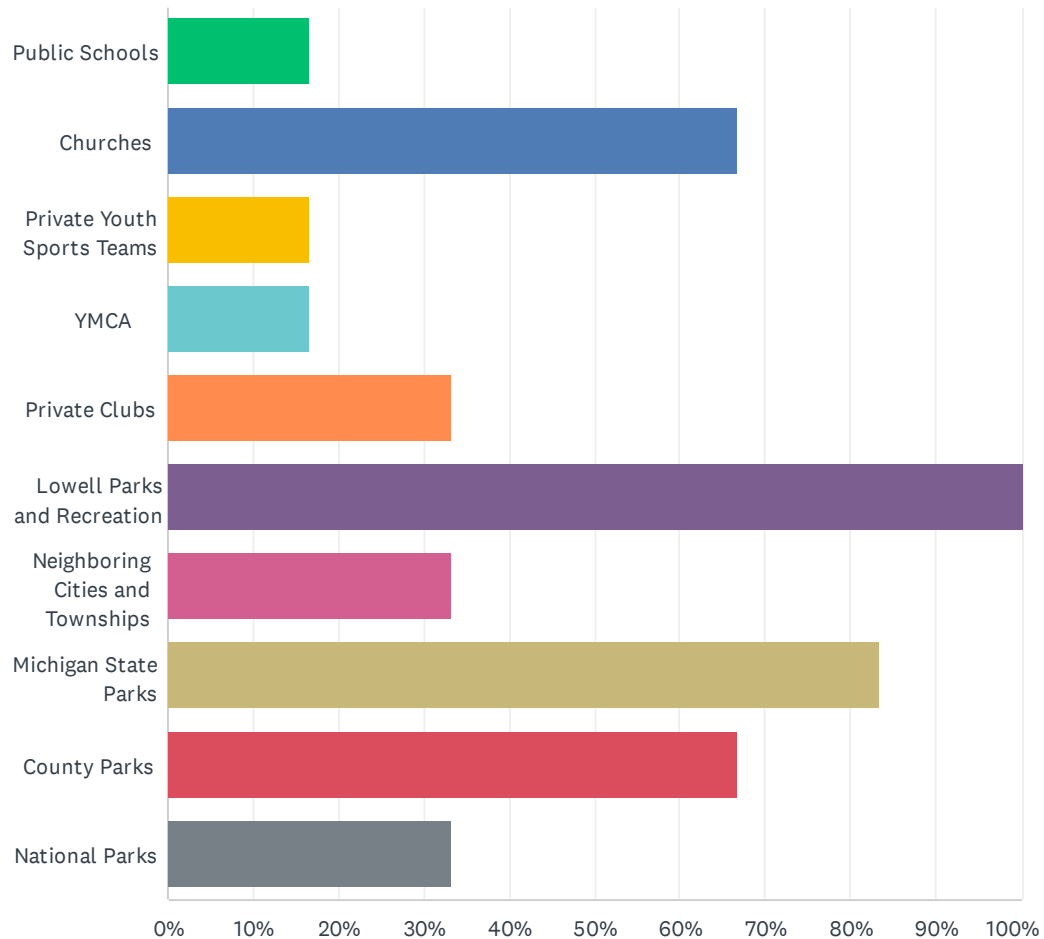
Answered: 5 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Dedicated Park and Recreation mileage	40.00%	2
Increased park user fees (rental facilities, etc.)	40.00%	2
Increased programming fees	60.00%	3
Total Respondents: 5		

Q15 Check all of the organizations that you or members of your household have used for indoor and outdoor recreation activities during the last 12 months.

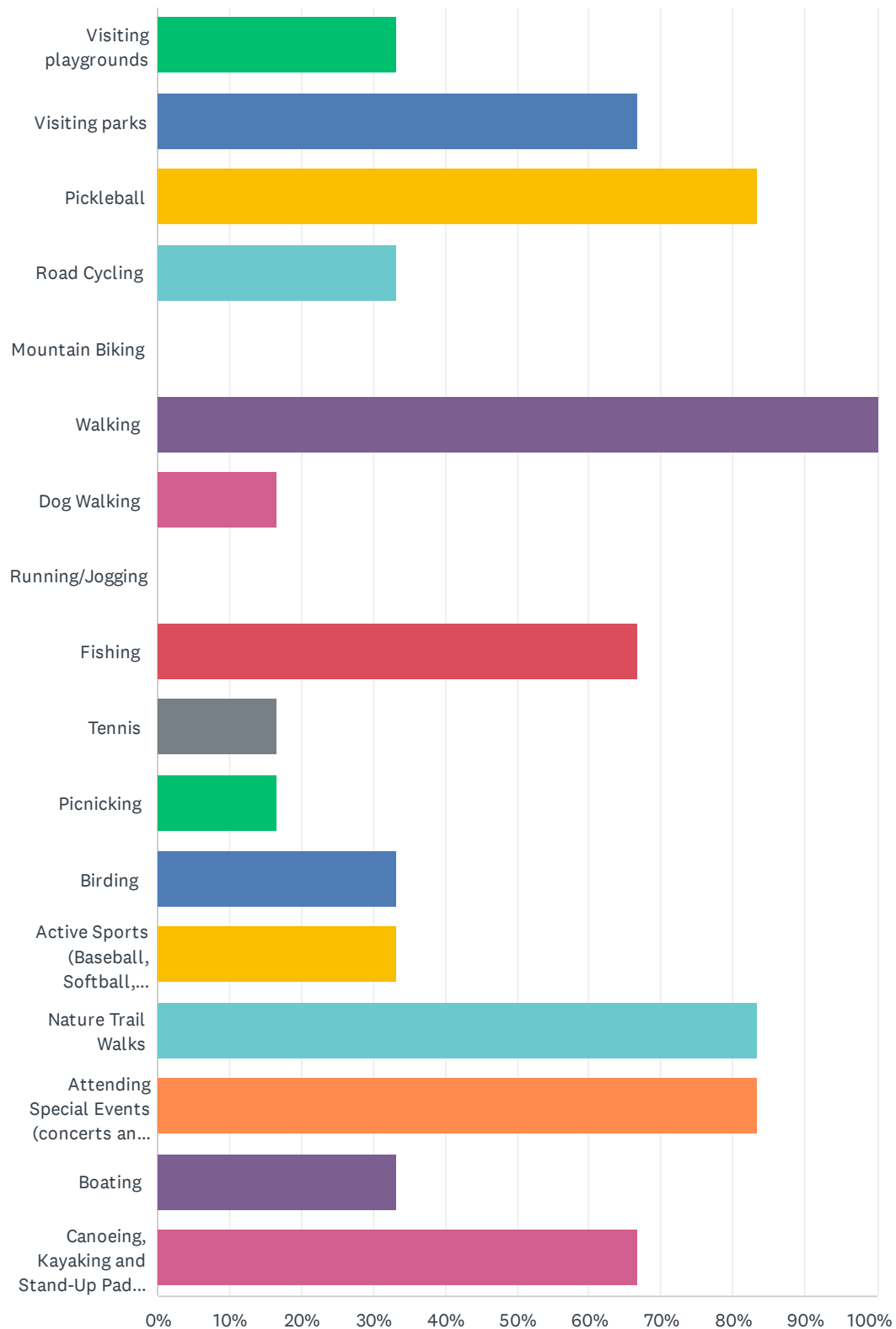
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Public Schools	16.67%	1
Churches	66.67%	4
Private Youth Sports Teams	16.67%	1
YMCA	16.67%	1
Private Clubs	33.33%	2
Lowell Parks and Recreation	100.00%	6
Neighboring Cities and Townships	33.33%	2
Michigan State Parks	83.33%	5
County Parks	66.67%	4
National Parks	33.33%	2
Total Respondents: 6		

Q16 Please indicate activities you and/or members of your household enjoy:

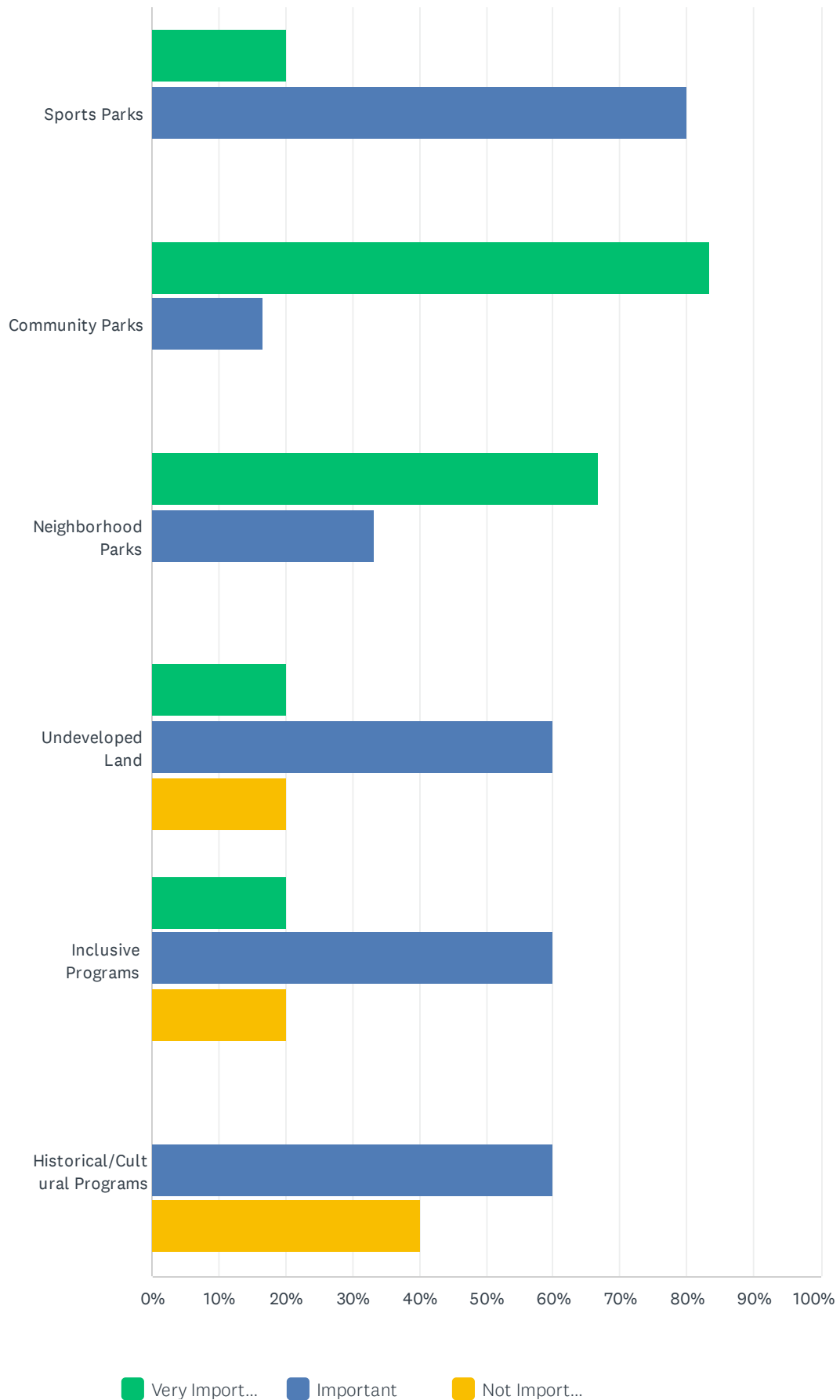
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Visiting playgrounds	33.33%	2
Visiting parks	66.67%	4
Pickleball	83.33%	5
Road Cycling	33.33%	2
Mountain Biking	0.00%	0
Walking	100.00%	6
Dog Walking	16.67%	1
Running/Jogging	0.00%	0
Fishing	66.67%	4
Tennis	16.67%	1
Picnicking	16.67%	1
Birding	33.33%	2
Active Sports (Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Soccer, Football, etc.)	33.33%	2
Nature Trail Walks	83.33%	5
Attending Special Events (concerts and movies, etc.)	83.33%	5
Boating	33.33%	2
Canoeing, Kayaking and Stand-Up Paddle Boarding	66.67%	4
Total Respondents: 6		

Q17 How important is it to have the following in Lowell Township?

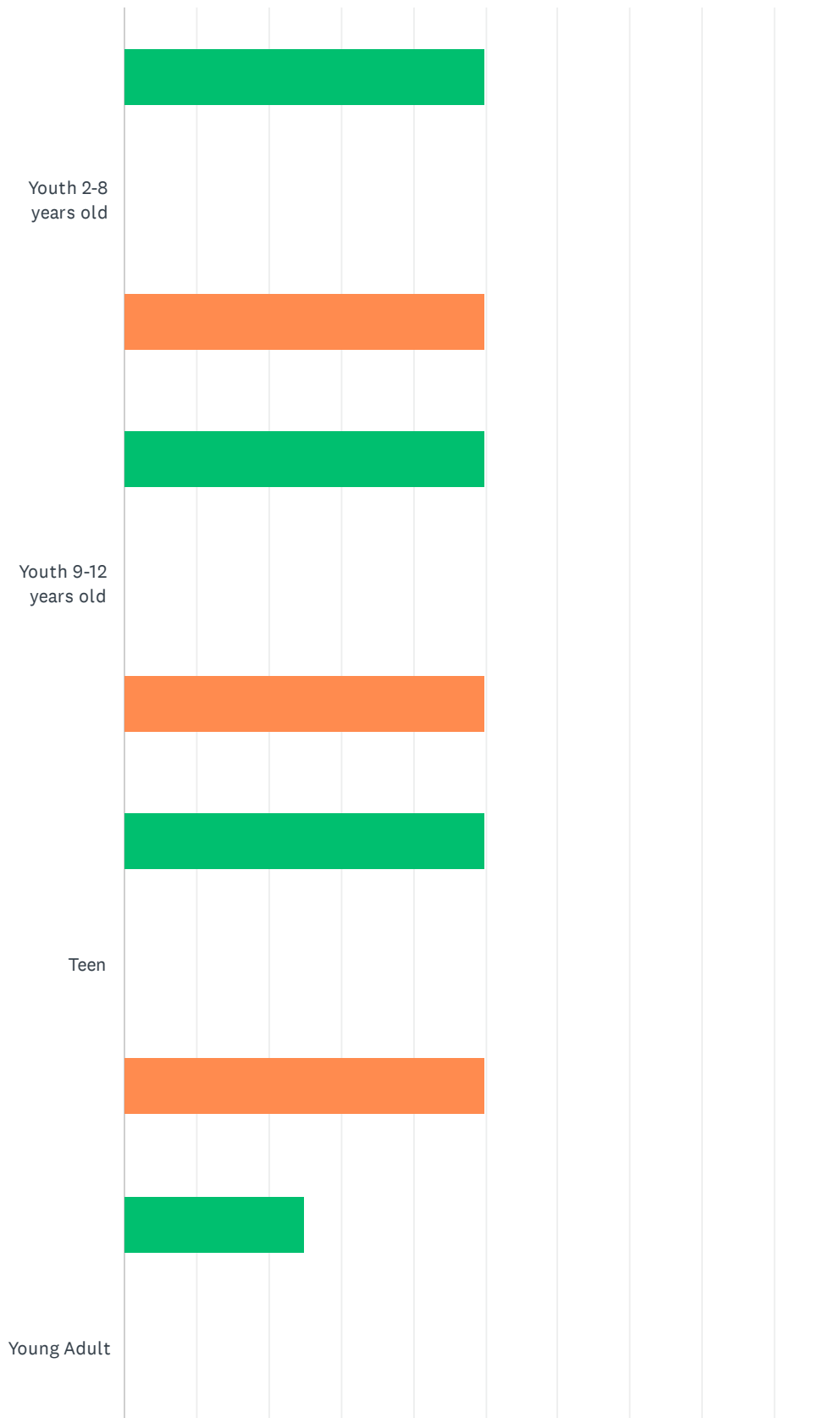
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

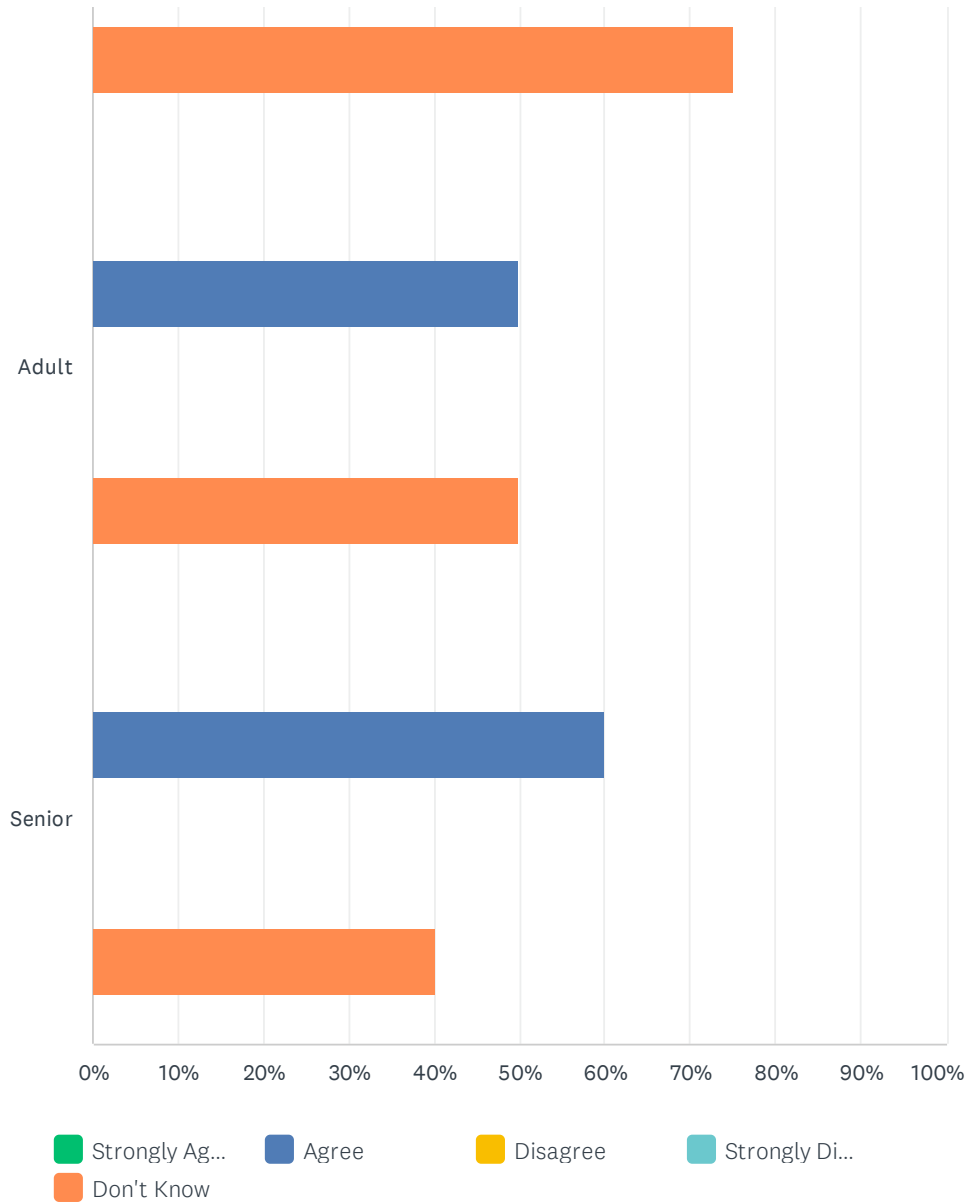


	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Sports Parks	20.00% 1	80.00% 4	0.00% 0	5	1.80
Community Parks	83.33% 5	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	6	1.17
Neighborhood Parks	66.67% 4	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	6	1.33
Undeveloped Land	20.00% 1	60.00% 3	20.00% 1	5	2.00
Inclusive Programs	20.00% 1	60.00% 3	20.00% 1	5	2.00
Historical/Cultural Programs	0.00% 0	60.00% 3	40.00% 2	5	2.40

Q18 There is a need for more programs for the following ages:

Answered: 5 Skipped: 1

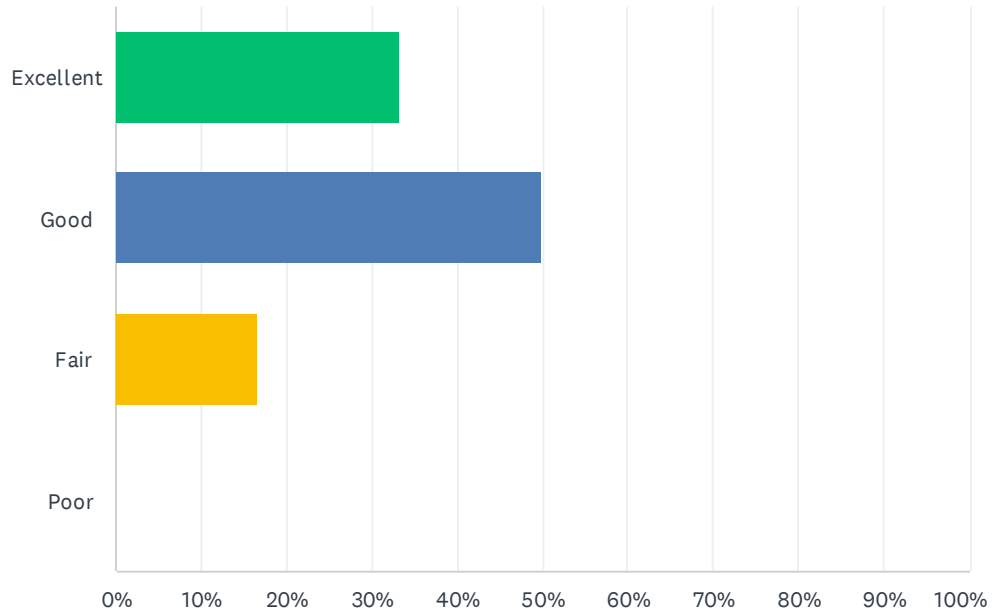




	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Youth 2-8 years old	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	4	3.00
Youth 9-12 years old	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	4	3.00
Teen	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	4	3.00
Young Adult	25.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	75.00% 3	4	4.00
Adult	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	4	3.50
Senior	0.00% 0	60.00% 3	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	40.00% 2	5	3.20

Q19 How would you rate the overall Parks and Recreation Facilities provided by Lowell Township?

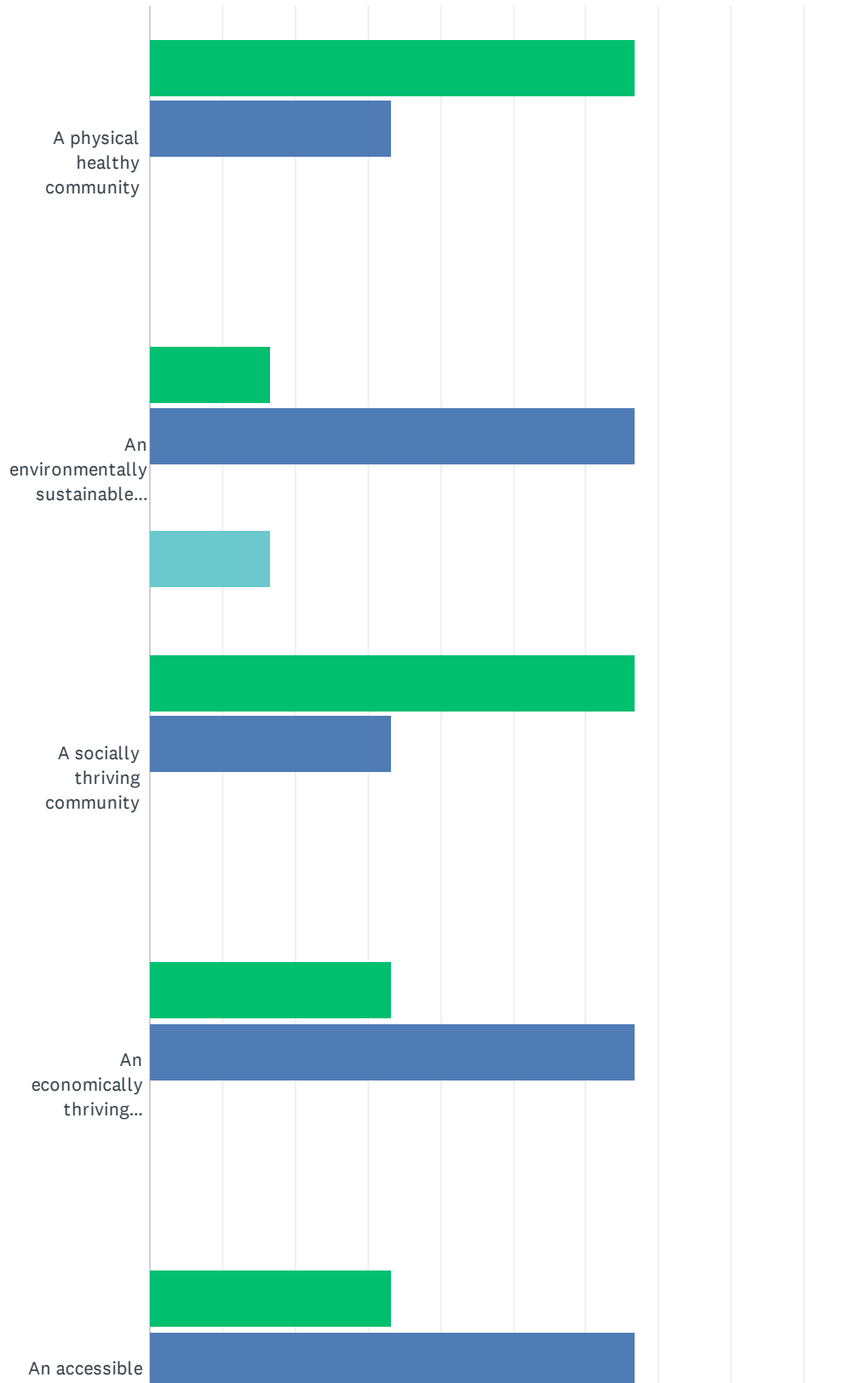
Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

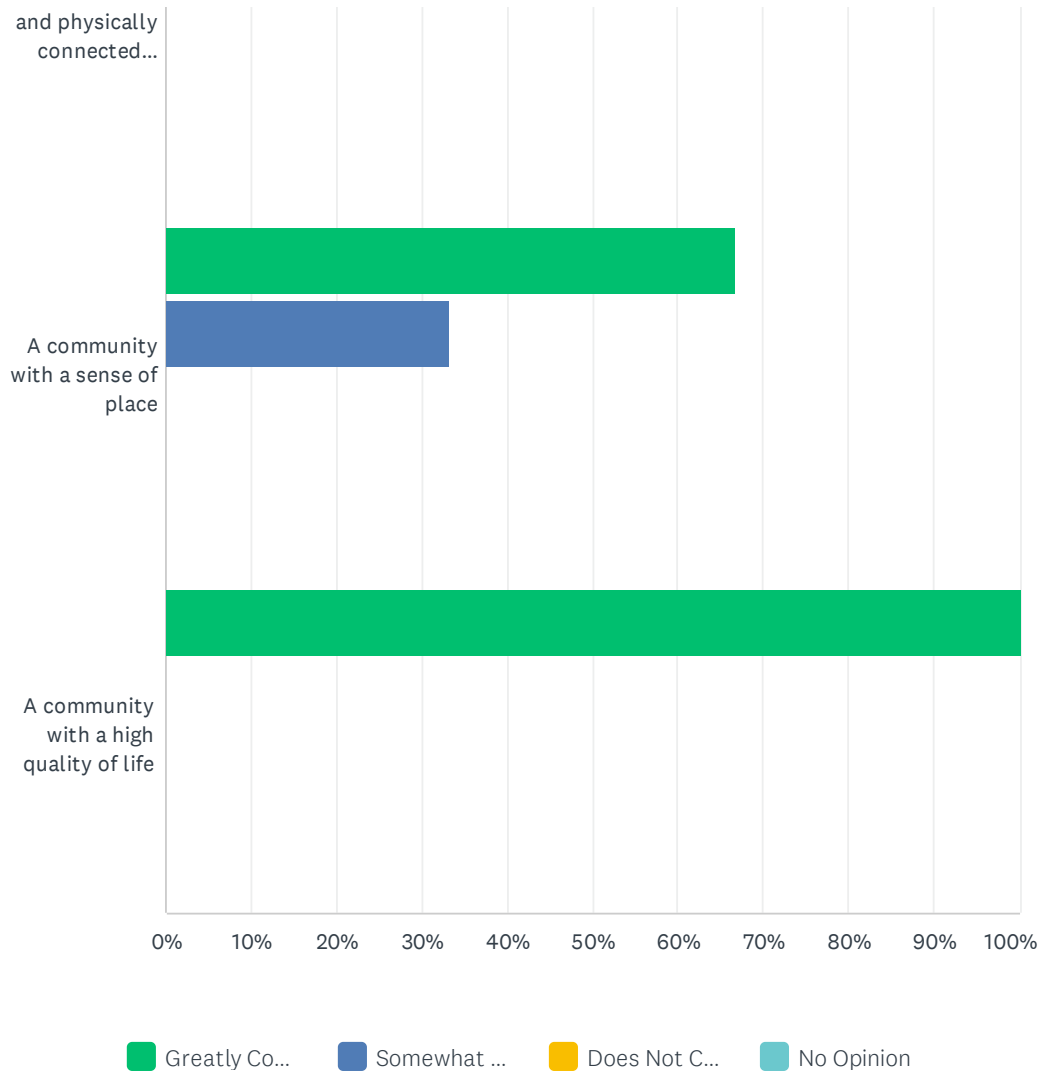


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	33.33%	2
Good	50.00%	3
Fair	16.67%	1
Poor	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 6		

Q20 To what degree do you think Parks and Recreation contribute to Lowell Township being....

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0





	GREATLY CONTRIBUTES	SOMEWHAT CONTRIBUTES	DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE	NO OPINION	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
A physical healthy community	66.67% 4	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	1.33
An environmentally sustainable community	16.67% 1	66.67% 4	0.00% 0	16.67% 1	6	2.17
A socially thriving community	66.67% 4	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	1.33
An economically thriving community	33.33% 2	66.67% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	1.67
An accessible and physically connected community	33.33% 2	66.67% 4	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	1.67
A community with a sense of place	66.67% 4	33.33% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	1.33
A community with a high quality of life	100.00% 6	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	6	1.00

Q21 Do you have suggestions for the parks?

Answered: 6 Skipped: 0

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	updates/ information about them included int the e-newsletter the township sometimes sends out.	1/14/2026 12:57 PM
2	A swimming pool would be really nice. Teenagers need things to do.	1/14/2026 12:30 PM
3	Thanks for doing the survey.	1/14/2026 10:46 AM
4	Water fountain by pickleball courts/park	1/14/2026 10:40 AM
5	Communicate opportunities to volunteer.	1/13/2026 6:35 PM
6	Donations	1/7/2026 4:22 PM



GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

Lowell Charter Township - Kent County

Project No. TF91-227 **Project County:** Kent **Project Year:** 1991
Project title: Grand River Riverfront Park
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$49,500.00

Scope Item

Project Description: Acquisition of 70 acres of land along the Grand River Floodplain for future development of a community park for passive and active recreation. The site includes 2,150 feet of Grand River frontage.

Project No. TF98-248 **Project County:** Kent **Project Year:** 1998
Project title: Lowell Charter Township Park
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$142,335.00

Scope Item

- 2 Soccer Fields
- 8 Picnic Tables
- Access Road
- Canoe Access Area
- Fence (western boundary of park)
- Gravel Parking Lot
- Interpretive Signs
- Landscaping
- Nature Trail
- Park Sign
- Picnic Shelter
- Well-Irrigation and Drinking Water

Project Description: Development of a multi-purpose park on the Grand River to include picnic facilities, trails, game fields, a canoe landing, playground equipment and fishing access.

Project No. CM00-175 **Project County:** Kent **Project Year:** 2000
Project title: Lowell Charter Township Park Development
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$199,655.00

Scope Item



GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

Lowell Charter Township - Kent County

Electrical Service
grills
Playground
Restroom/picnic shelter with Septic System
Running/Cross-Country Ski Trail-1 mile-
paved

Project Description: Development of the Township Park to include a combined restroom/picnic shelter, children's playground, one-mile barrier free running/cross-country ski trail.

Project No. Kent-5 Year-Lowell Charter Township-01395 **Project Year:** 2014
Project County:

Project title:
Project Status: Plan Expired **Grant Amount:**

Scope Item

Project Description:

Project No. RP22-0029 **Project County:** Kent **Project Year:** 2022
Project title: Grand River Park Splashpad
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:**
\$150,000.00

Scope Item

Access Pathway 6' wide or more
Bench(es)
Fence
Landscaping
Lighting
Picnic Table(s)
Recycle Bin(s)
Shelter
Splash Park
Trash Bin(s)
Utilities

Project Description: Development of a new Splashpad at Grand River Riverfront North Park. The splash pad ties in with the existing playgrounds, buildings, and existing walkways. The site is conveniently located near walking trails that lead visitors to the rest of the North Park or across the pedestrian bridge over the Grand River to the South Park.



GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

Lowell Charter Township - Kent County

Total number of projects:	5
Total Amount of Grant Given	\$541,490.00



**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☐ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☒ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Lowell Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: RP22-0029

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Lowell Charter Township Park

PROJECT SCOPE: splash park, shelter, benches, fence, landscaping, lighting

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) Lowell Charter Township	Contact Person Jerry Hale	Title Supervisor
Address 2910 Alden Nash	Telephone 616-897-7600	
City, State, ZIP Lowell Michigan 49331	Email supervisor@lowelltp.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). ☒ Yes ☐ No

Yes, new layout with splash pad

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☐ Yes ☒ No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

regular maintenance is performed by Township maintenance staff

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

☐ Yes ☒ No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

8am to 8pm

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)



POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Please print

Grantee Authorized Signature

Date

Please print

Witness Signature

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Lowell Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF98-248

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Lowell Charter Township Park

PROJECT SCOPE: picnic facilities, trails, game fields, canoe landing, trail, signs

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) Lowell Charter Township	Contact Person Jerry Hale	Title Supervisor
Address 2910 Alden Nash	Telephone 616-897-7600	
City, State, ZIP Lowell Michigan 49331	Email supervisor@lowelltp.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

☐ Yes ☒ No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

regular maintenance is performed by Township maintenance staff

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

☐ Yes ☒ No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

8am to 8pm.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)



POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Please print

Grantee Authorized Signature

Date

Please print

Witness Signature

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN PUBLIC INPUT MEETING

NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Public Meeting Sign-In:

Name / Address

Phone

e-mail
