



Agenda

Committee of the Whole Meeting

City of Kalamazoo

Tuesday, January 2, 2024

5:00 PM

City Commission Chambers – 241 West South Street

A. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

B. COMMUNICATIONS

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

D. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS

E. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

F. WORK SESSION

1. Presentation of Draft 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan

G. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

H. ADJOURNMENT



KALAMAZOO PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

2024 - 2028

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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City Commission

David Anderson, Mayor

David Cooney, Vice Mayor

Jeanne Hess, Commissioner

Chris Praedel, Commissioner

Qianna Decker, Commissioner

Stephanie Hoffman, Commissioner

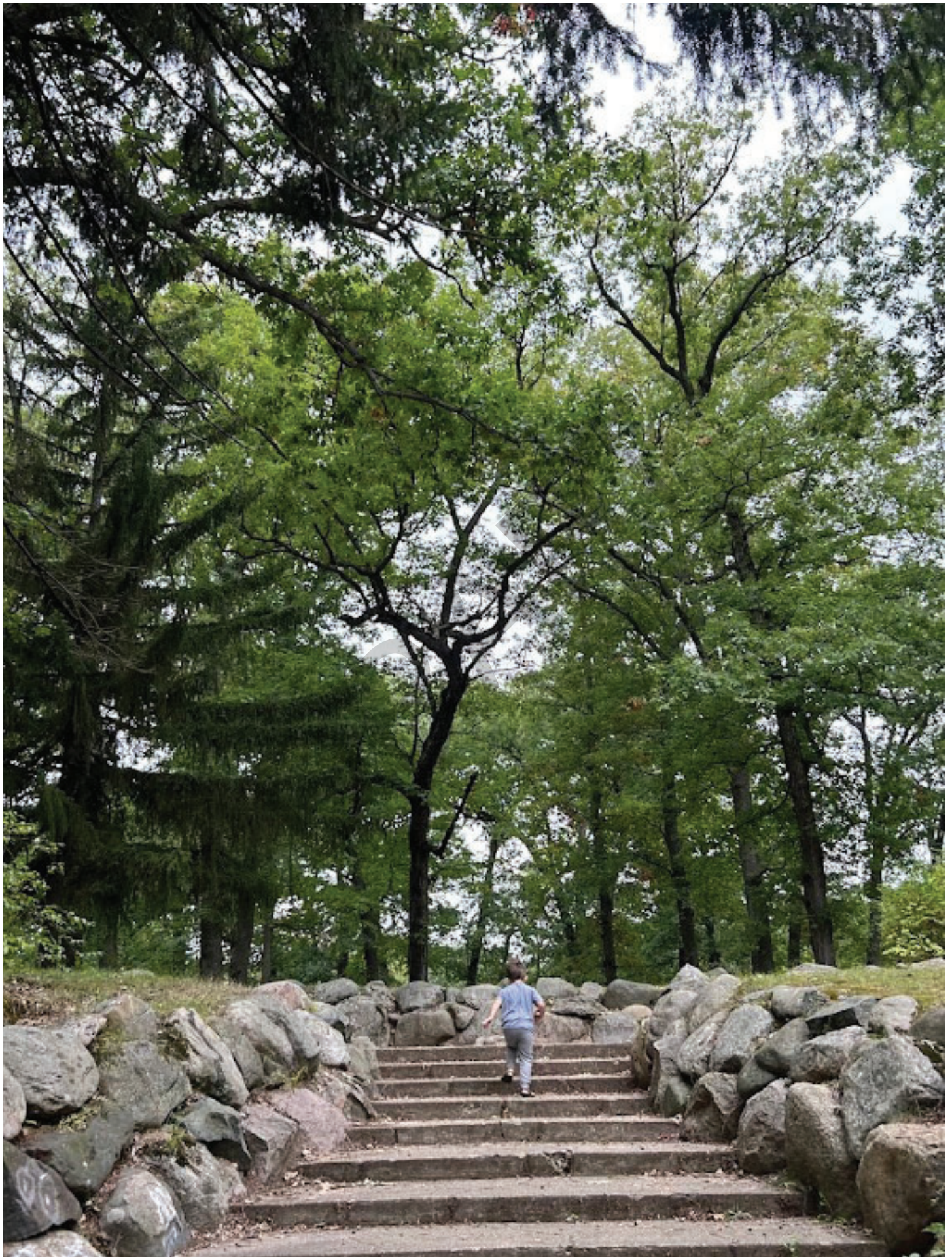
Esteven Juarez, Commissioner

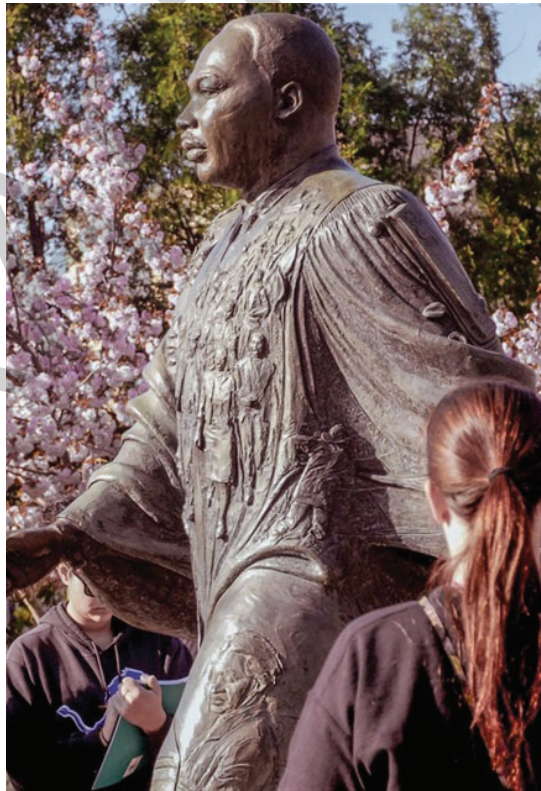
PREPARED FOR:



PREPARED BY:







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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Welcome to Kalamazoo's 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan reflects a vision for the City of Kalamazoo's parks and recreation facilities, their operations, maintenance, and enhancements for over the next five years. It serves as a roadmap for future recreation facilities and programs by considering existing parks and programs in and around the City, and the anticipated demand for additional or improved recreation facilities.

The plan also forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other agencies and foundations. The City of Kalamazoo's Plan was prepared in accordance with MDNR's Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans.

DRAFT

Accomplishments

Since the previous five-year planning process, the City of Kalamazoo has demonstrated a commitment to provide diverse facilities, preserve green space, improve accessibility, increase multi-modal connections, and support a high quality of life for Kalamazoo residents. The City of Kalamazoo has made strides in environmental remediation at Verberg Park, improvements to neighborhood parks such as Reed Street Park and LaCrone Park, and is incorporating universally accessible design elements into park projects. Another significant effort was the acquisition of Arcadia Creek Festival Place and the North Kalamazoo Mall from the Downtown Kalamazoo Partnership to be managed by the City of Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Department (Kzoo Parks). The Department also strives to provide parks and recreation facilities that respond to the needs of the community by incorporating emerging national trends, such as sand volleyball courts and pickleball courts as amenities. In addition, Kzoo Parks views its' spaces as essential to the development of active and healthy lifestyles, as well as a strong community.



Strategies

The Kalamazoo 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan recommendations were formed from six central goals:

- 1 **Accessibility:** Improve universal accessibility on-site and to each park
- 2 **Connectivity:** Create a network of parks and trails that is safe, comfortable, and accessible, foster connections to and within the parks
- 3 **Greening:** Prioritize less intensive maintenance practices (i.e., low- and no-mow areas and low irrigation) and fill tree canopy gaps where feasible and accepted by the community
- 4 **Organizational Capacity and Collaboration:** Ensure that staff levels meet the needs of the agency to keep parks maintained and programs operating
- 5 **Marketing and Communications:** Implement effective communication and marketing strategies to successfully connect residents, stakeholders, visitors, and employees with parks and recreation amenities and programming
- 6 **Beautification:** Establish a beautification program to plan aesthetic enhancements for the parks that reflect community identity and support a high quality of life

These citywide goals were developed through an existing conditions analysis of the parks, the identifications of gaps and opportunities for the future, and most importantly, through conversations with staff, stakeholders, and the public. Each goal is supported by a series of recommendations that will help to realize and measure their success over time. The goals reflect the community's love for their parks and recreation systems, their aspirations and concerns for its future, and the changing social, environmental, and economic context that informs the system's operations.

Implementation

A comprehensive evaluation was conducted on every City-owned park and recreation property to document the location and condition of amenities, including playgrounds and outdoor fitness equipment. The assessment encompassed factors such as park access, existing improvements, and neighborhood population characteristics, allowing for the identification of areas with the greatest need for enhancements. Guided by an equity-first approach, this plan prioritizes park access for all Kalamazoo residents, particularly those who are most vulnerable. While the creation of new parks may not be feasible, the strategies center on enhancing existing parks through universal design and versatile amenities to accommodate a variety of activities, thereby expanding park access citywide.

The plan encompasses both system-wide recommendations and over 100 park-specific proposals tailored to address the specific needs and preferences of the Kalamazoo community. Ten parks have been strategically chosen for concentrated improvement efforts and investments over the next five years. This focused approach aims to maximize the positive impact on the community and enhance the overall park experience for residents.

System-Wide Park Recommendations

- Implement general park design standards across neighborhoods.
- Clearly mark all park entrances with Kzoo Parks branded signage
- New amenities or upgrades must be in compliance with ADA accessibility standards.
- Restrooms should be located near recreation fields, children's play areas, and group picnic areas, if possible. Where applicable and where space allows, additional space for a multi-use flex room should be included in the restroom design. Restroom buildings should be aesthetically pleasing, well-maintained, and universally accessible. At least one restroom per park should meet ADA requirements.
- Develop standard location zone for park amenities in relation to the flood zones (1 year, 10 year, 50 year, and 100 year).
- Improve the capacity of recreational facilities to respond to existing community needs while supporting athletic tourism, leagues, and tournaments.
- Identify options for revenue generation at specific parks.
- Organize and document maintenance activities to prioritize maintenance efforts in high-use and high-visibility areas.
- Adapt maintenance practices for the winter use of parks.
- Replace park utility related systems with sustainable and cost-efficient technology (i.e., LED lighting).
- Implement a comprehensive wayfinding signage system to improve the overall use and accessibility of the system.
- Establish a maintenance plan for regular inspection, repair, and replacement of signage.
- Conduct a feasibility study for an indoor recreation facility.

Goal: Improve universal accessibility on-site and to each park.

Throughout the Kalamazoo parks system, there are parks that lack universal access and design, limiting the number of individuals who can use the amenities. This goal aims to update all Kalamazoo parks and recreation facilities to ensure all residents can easily visit the parks.

- Ensure that sidewalks and pathways connecting to parks meet ADA standards (at a minimum) and strive for universal accessibility wherever possible
- Interior pathways to amenities that meet ADA standards (at a minimum)
- Opportunities to incorporate adaptive structures and programming
- Enhance park entry point accessibility and aesthetics through enhancements to perimeter fencing, while maintaining safety standards.
- Coordinate with City and County staff to implement high-visibility crosswalks and signage where crossing improvements are needed
- Focus on parks without dedicated parking areas and near schools
- For parks without dedicated parking areas, commit to striping a minimum of 1 ADA space and providing a curb cut

Connectivity

Goal: Create a network of parks and trails that is safe, comfortable, and accessible, foster connections to and within the parks.

Many residents are looking for more non-motorized connectivity within and between the parks in Kalamazoo. Kzoo Parks should foster the development of trail connections within parks that help residents and visitors access the larger regional trail network.

- Support the development of trail connections to Portage through collaboration with Kalamazoo County Parks, Kalamazoo Department of Public Works, etc.
- Support the use of parks for trail connections
- Connect neighborhoods to the interior of parks wherever possible, with a particular focus on neighborhoods without sidewalks (where parks may be the only place to walk undisturbed without motor traffic)
- Add supportive features like bike racks, bike service stations, and benches with shade to parks near existing and planned non-motorized facilities
- Coordinate with Planning Department and others to support the development of non-motorized facilities

Organizational Capacity and Collaboration

Goal: Ensure that staff levels and collaboration efforts meet the needs of the agency to keep parks maintained and programs operating.

A successful parks department will be reliant on dedicated staff to ensure the proper maintenance and operations of the parks and the programming offerings. Kzoo Parks must continue to add staff capacity in ensure that the parks are safe, maintained, and able to operate seamlessly.

- Continue to improve coordination with schools, the Disability Network, the Foundation for Excellence, Kalamazoo County, arts and cultural partners, and others
- Create a strategy to address hiring gaps
- Create a formal policy to define partner and affiliate group partnerships
- Formalize field use with public and private sports organizations
- Clarify the field reservation and use process
- Gather program data and track program participation annually
- Establish metrics for measurement of departmental goals (program reach, new programs offered, program cancellation rate)
- Grow program partnerships in areas that are complementary to Department offerings by partnering with affiliate groups around Kalamazoo

Marketing and Communications

Goal: Implement effective communication and marketing strategies to successfully connect residents and visitors with parks and recreation amenities and programming.

A successful parks department will be reliant on dedicated staff to ensure the proper maintenance and operations of the parks and the programming offerings. Kzoo Parks must continue to add staff capacity in ensure that the parks are safe, maintained, and able to operate seamlessly.

- Verify park locations on Google Maps for easy searching and routing
- Update the parks website to include parking areas, ADA parking areas, to reflect the categories included in this Master Plan
- Establish a schedule for social media posting – month by month and seasonal events and activities
- Coordinate with City departments to develop an email newsletter template for regular distribution
- Develop survey for Kzoo Parks staff to audit parks before reaching out to community members on the improvements they'd like to see
- Develop marketing materials to share information about reservable/rentable facilities in the park system (picnic shelters, recreation fields, community room at Mayors' Riverfront Park, Station Five Community Center, etc.)

Goal: Establish a beautification program to plan aesthetic enhancements for the parks that reflect community identity and support a high quality of life.

Many people utilize parks as a way to experience the natural beauty of the surrounding area. With high quality and well maintained parks spaces, more residents may be encouraged to visit and engage with their local parks. Beautification also includes the opportunity to introduce new sustainable design practices that help maintain the parks aesthetics into the future.

- Establish a public art grant program with City Departments to encourage public art installations throughout the City, including parks and park structures
- Engage corporate sponsors in planting bulbs, annuals, perennials, and trees in their adopted parks
- Engage corporate sponsors in volunteer clean-ups and other beautification efforts in their adopted parks
- Increase resident engagement in park maintenance through Adopt-a-Park programs and volunteer days
- Promote corporate sponsorship program to adopt more parks
- Develop awards program to recognize outstanding efforts in beautification by corporate sponsors and neighborhood associations
- Create management practices appropriate to natural and active parks
- Encourage low-impact design and sustainable management practices in parks and capital improvement projects
- Increase the amount of drought-tolerant and native vegetation and trees in the park system
- Implement green stormwater infrastructure to address flooding and water quality issues

Priority Parks for Investment

- Blanche Hull Park
- Fairmount Park
- Farrell Park
- Knollwood Park
- Princeton Park
- Rockwell Park
- Sherwood Park
- Spring Valley Park
- Verberg Park
- Versluis/Dickinson Softball Complex

1

INTRODUCTION

IN THIS CHAPTER:

PLAN PURPOSE

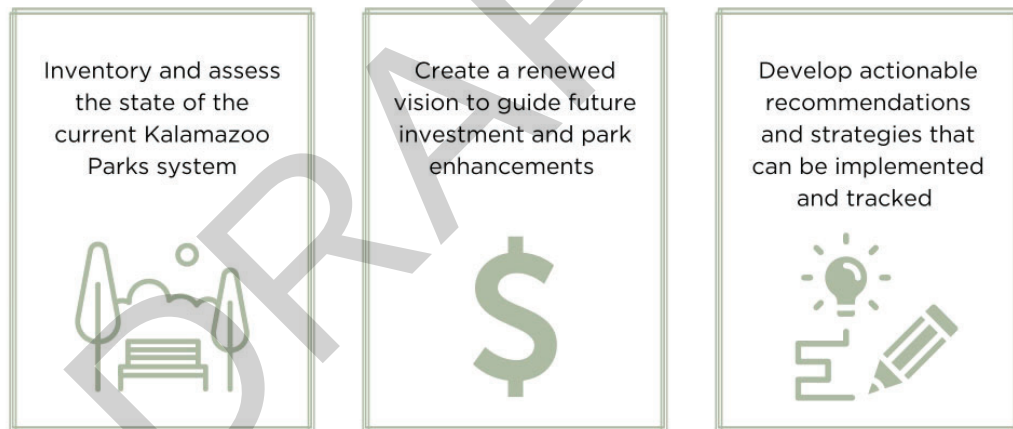
PARK PLANNING EFFORTS

PARK PLANNING PROCESS

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Why Plan for Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation?

With around 75,000 residents and 1,000 acres of parkland, Kalamazoo is a residential community and institutional hub in southwestern Michigan. The City and the people who call Kalamazoo home are increasingly diverse, and the park system must continuously evolve to meet the needs of the changing community. The City of Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Department (also known as Kzoo Parks) is committed to addressing the challenges of shifting demographics, climate change, and emerging national trends in parks and recreational facilities. The City's overarching goal is to foster racial equity, inclusivity, and environmental sustainability within its parks and trails. This commitment is an integral part of Kzoo Parks' mission to provide high-quality, safe, welcoming, and interconnected park and trail systems. At the heart of this endeavor is the Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the City's primary parks and recreation planning document. Its purpose is to:



In compliance with the State of Michigan's requirements, this plan is updated every five years. Kzoo Parks understands the important role of parks in supporting the health and wellbeing of Kalamazoo's residents. From large-scale athletic facilities like the Versluis/Dickinson Softball Complex, to natural resource areas such as Blanche Hull Park, to smaller neighborhood parks that serve as community hubs, such as Davis Street Park, the residents of Kalamazoo have many local options to choose from to fulfill their recreational needs. The 2024-2028 Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Master Plan seeks to coordinate resources to support the Department, create partnerships, provide safe connections to parks, enhance accessibility standards, and implement park improvements with a strong focus on equity. With this plan, Kzoo Parks aims to create a more vibrant and inclusive Kalamazoo, where parks and recreation are accessible, enjoyable, and central to community life.

Parks Planning Momentum and Collaboration

Adopted February 18, 2019, the City of Kalamazoo's current Parks and Recreation Master Plan provides a framework for assessing existing facilities and incorporating the goals of the Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 Plan (IK2025). Although the 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan does not depend on IK2025 as a basis for its recommendations, the plan is informed by many of the same ideas that were laid out in the previous parks plan. Numerous neighborhood and community planning efforts were developed independently following the current 2019 - 2023 Parks and Recreation Plan and IK2025. The 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan embraces the recommendations found in the following plans:

- Imagine Kalamazoo 2025 (2018)
- Imagine Vine Neighborhood Plan (2018)
- Northside Neighborhood Plan (2018)
- Oakwood Neighborhood Plan (2018)
- Imagine Eastside Neighborhood Plan (2019)
- Edison Neighborhood Plan (2019)
- Parkview Hills Neighborhood Plan (2020)
- Imagine Winchell (2020)
- Community Sustainability Plan (2022)



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Process

The development of the Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Master Plan was a six-month process, beginning in June 2023 and concluding in December 2023. The planning process was framed around extensive community engagement efforts to ensure the plan's recommendations accurately reflect the desires of Kalamazoo residents and staff. The plan process was structured around four phases:

Phase 1: Discovery and Engagement

The first phase consisted of gathering information and understanding Kalamazoo's unique parks and recreation system, the administrative structure, supporting community organizations, and the combined provision of programming. It included a review of the parks and recreation system and the distribution of parks and trails throughout Kalamazoo, in-depth conversations with stakeholders, a needs assessment, a statistically valid survey and an informal community survey. The goal of the Discovery phase was to identify changes and growth that occurred within the system and the community since 2019.

Simultaneously, broad and focused public outreach began during this phase. The first round of public engagement aimed to collect data on how a wide range Kalamazoo residents use and relate to green space. This engagement effort took place through a public meeting and an online survey. Focused public outreach included conversations with stakeholders to learn local context and identify patterns for improvements. A statistically significant survey was also distributed during this phase.

Phase 2: Plan Development

During this portion of the plan's development, plan priorities and action items were developed and tested through public and staff review and comment. Action items are presented as both system-wide recommendations and projects that are specific to certain parks. In-person observations, data analysis, and stakeholder conversations assessed the conditions of facilities, the state of accessibility, and opportunities for improvements related to the six plan goals. The Kalamazoo parks system was compared with the recently updated benchmarking tool, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Park Metrics. A citywide equity analysis used a quantitative approach to identify 10 park locations where community members may face barriers to accessing quality parks for a variety of factors. The equity analysis compared neighborhoods' vulnerable populations (minorities, youth, seniors, households below the poverty line, zero-car households, and households with someone with a disability), walking distance to parks, and the conditions of each park to prioritize improvements where community needs are greatest.

Phase 3: Draft Plan

The third phase of the planning process developed park improvement plans and implementation strategies and evaluated them through public and staff review and comment. A review of trail connectivity, investments, and maintenance was also completed. Cost estimates for the park improvement plans were developed to help Kzoo Parks refine their goals and budgetary needs for the next five years.

Phase 4: Final Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Plan

The final phase of the Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Master Plan included documentation, review, and approvals. Report content was reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on December 5, 2023 and their revisions were applied. The final draft was made available in December for a 30-day public comment period and was officially recommended for approval by the PRAB on January X, 2024. The plan was subsequently presented to the City Commission on January 2, 2024. Phase 4 resulted in the document being approved and adopted by the City Commission on January 15, 2024.



2

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

IN THIS CHAPTER:

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

KALAMAZOO DEMOGRAPHICS

NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHICS

PARK EQUITY ANALYSIS



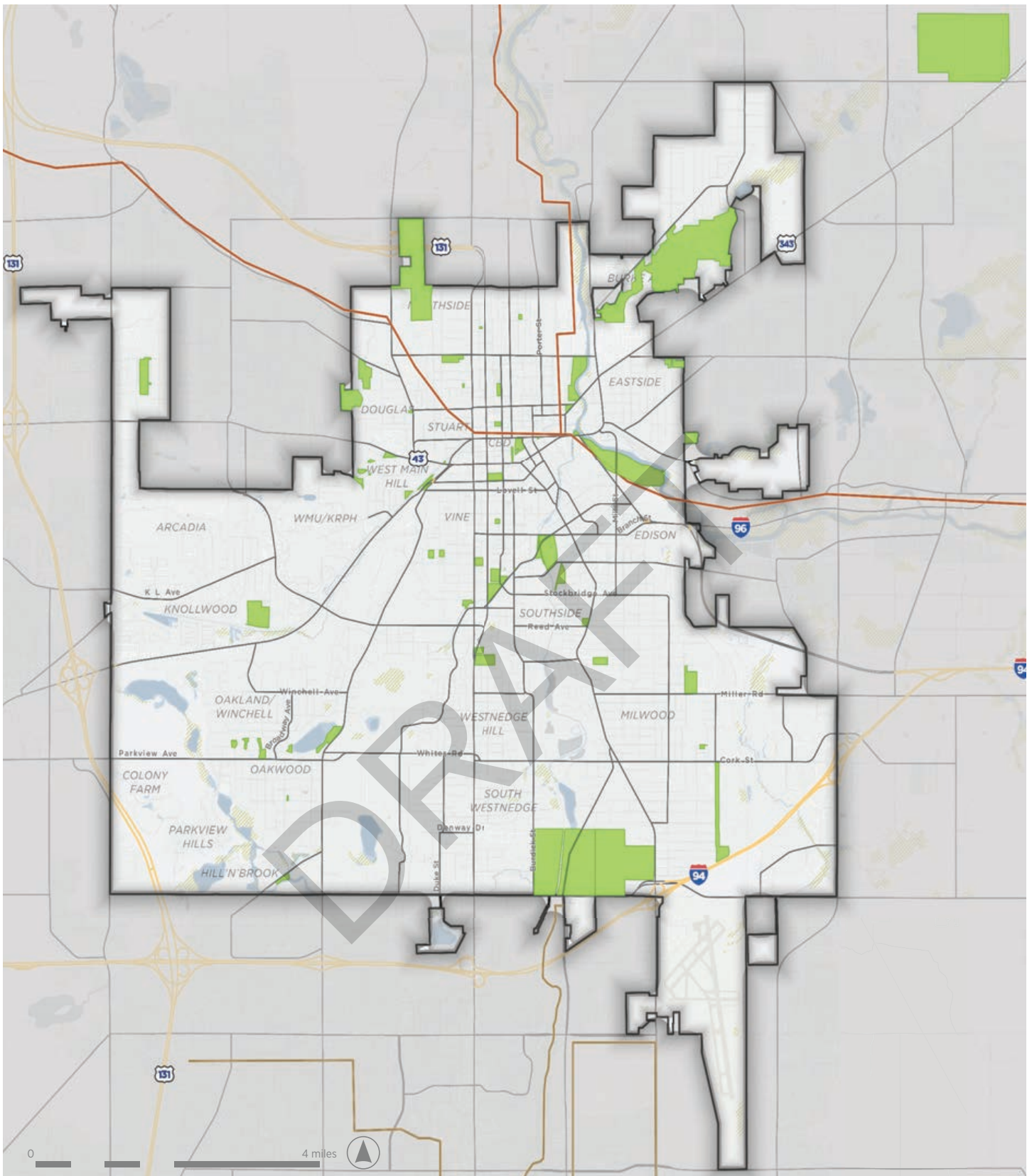
Community/Regional Setting

Kalamazoo was founded in 1831 and has evolved in many ways since its early days as a paper mill town. Located in Kalamazoo County, Michigan, the City of Kalamazoo is bordered by four communities: Kalamazoo Township, the City of Portage, Comstock Township, and Oshtemo Township.

Throughout Kalamazoo and its periphery is an expansive trail network that encourages regional tourism and recreation, including the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVV) and the Portage Creek Bicentennial Trail, among others.

Kalamazoo maintains its small town feel while offering the cultural, institutional, and recreational advantages of a much larger city. Kalamazoo's downtown is walkable with restaurants, coffee shops, hotels, conference centers, museums, retailers, and several park assets, including Bronson Park, Arcadia Creek Festival Place, and the North Kalamazoo Mall. Serving as the county seat, Kalamazoo is the core of local government, and houses regional institutions like Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and numerous other amenities and services.





Kalamazoo Citywide Parks Map | Legend

- Parks
- Wetlands
- Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVV)
- Kalamazoo-Portage Connector Trail
- City Boundary

City-wide Demographic Summary

Kalamazoo’s population is growing older and more diverse. By aligning Kalamazoo’s parks and recreational offerings with the evolving needs of the community, the plan will strive to create an inclusive and equitable environment that supports a high quality of life.

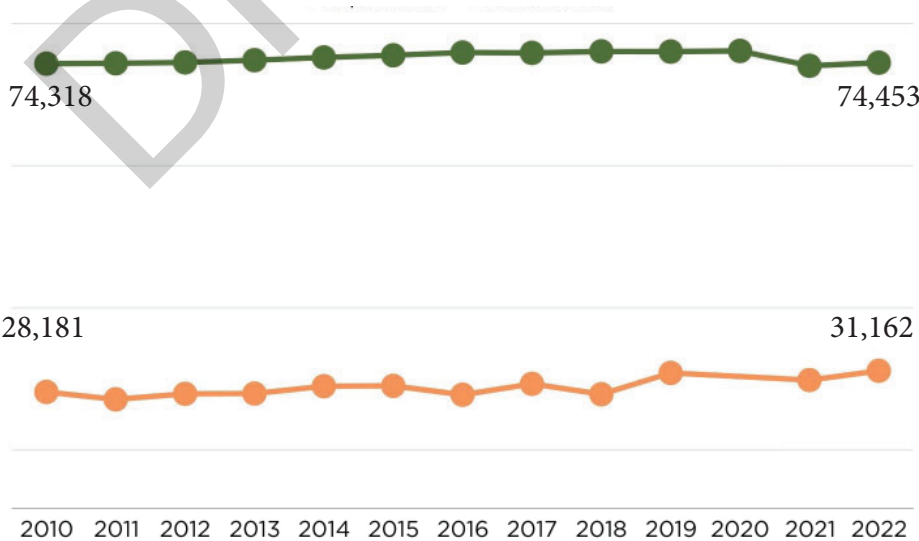
Population

According to the US Census ACS 2022 5-Year estimate, the most recent population estimate for Kalamazoo is 74,453, showing a slight increase since 2021. This suggests the potential for a stabilization or growth following the previous declining trend between 2020 and 2021. A steady population with a consistent level of demand allows for more precise long-term planning of parks and recreation infrastructure, budget allocations, and resource management.

Households

Household growth has a different impact on demand for recreational services than population growth. If the population is growing faster than the number of households, this suggests that more children are being born to existing households. If households are growing faster than the population, this suggests that more singles or couples are moving into Kalamazoo. Households in Kalamazoo have slightly increased since 2010 from 29,047 to 29,201 households . The steady rise in households and slight uptick in population (1.1%) suggests that Kalamazoo is attracting new residents and families, which implies a need to accommodate their diverse recreational preferences and requirements.

Figure 1: City of Kalamazoo Population and Households Change (2010 – 2022)

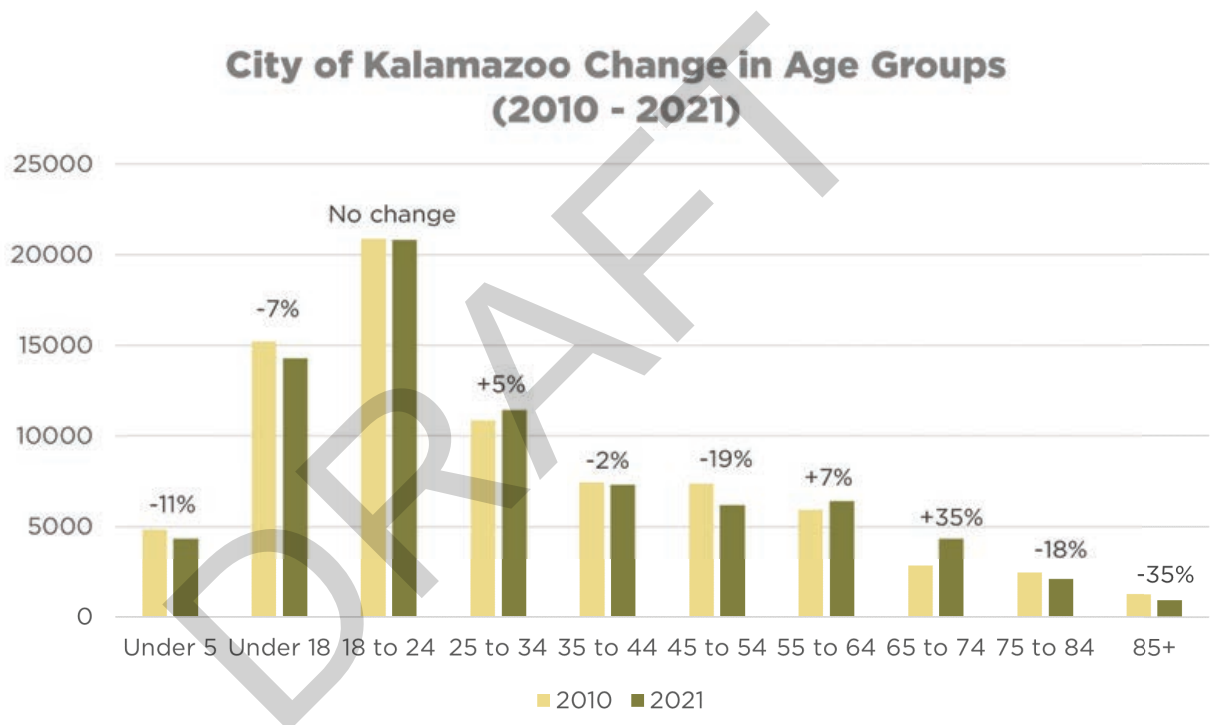


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates (2010 -2021), ACS 1-Year Estimate (2022)

Age

The median age of Kalamazoo residents is 28.5 years. Currently, the largest age group consists of individuals aged 18 to 24 years. The group entering the 65- to 74-year age cohort increased by 35%, aligning with the national trend of an aging population. An estimated 6% of Kalamazoo's total population is under the age of 5 and 19% of the total population is under the age of 18. However, both age groups have shown a declining trend since 2010. This is important as the youth market is a primary audience for Kzoo Parks.

Figure 2: City of Kalamazoo Change in Age Groups (2010 – 2021)

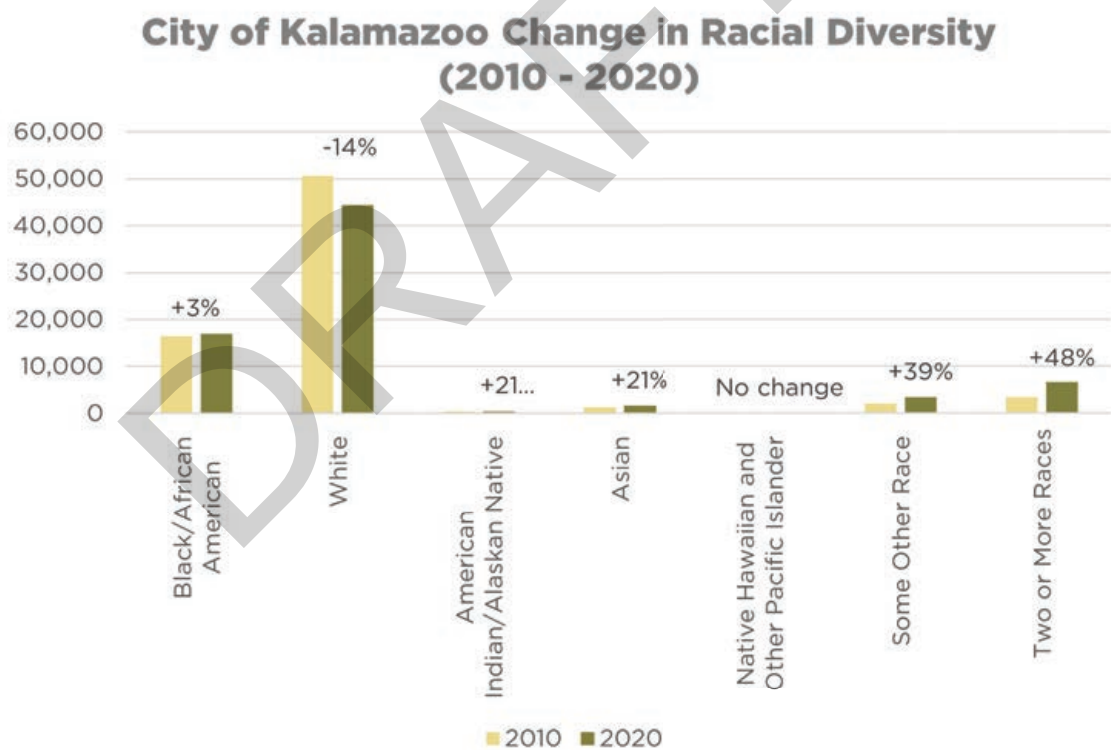


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2010

Race

Analyzing racial demographics in parks and recreation planning is crucial for promoting equity and inclusivity. By understanding the racial composition of the community, disparities can be identified. Kzoo Parks is committed to focusing resources to underserved areas, ensuring that all members of the community have equal access to recreational opportunities. These data also help design tailored programs and culturally relevant spaces that cater to the diverse interests and preferences of different racial and ethnic groups, fostering a sense of belonging and participation among all residents. In addition to Kalamazoo's population growth, the population is also growing more diverse. Currently, an estimated 60% of the population is white, however, this amount proportion is expected to decrease as Asian, American Native, Hispanic, and Black populations continue to trend upward.

Figure 3: City of Kalamazoo Change in Racial Diversity (2010 – 2020)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census

Key Findings

The changing population in Kalamazoo creates new demands on the parks and recreation system. To better understand the community's needs, demographics were also analyzed at the neighborhood level. The analysis showed that the availability and quality of parks and recreation facilities vary throughout Kalamazoo. Positioning Kzoo Parks to serve the changing population and offer diverse recreational amenities is a crucial part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

There is significant diversity in age groups from across neighborhoods, which may influence the types of recreational facilities and amenities that are preferred by residents. Neighborhoods with a higher proportion of families with children, like Milwood, Douglas, and Southside, might require playgrounds, splash pads, and sports fields. There is also the opportunity to position parks and recreation services to the college population located near Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo College. Areas with a larger senior population, such as Colony Farm, Hill N' Brook, and Parkview Hills may benefit from walking trails, fitness equipment, and programming to support socialization and quality of life for older adults. Tailoring programs to specific age groups will ensure that residents of all ages find activities that appeal to them, promoting an active and social lifestyle.

In addition to growing in size, Kalamazoo is also becoming more diverse. Understanding racial demographics at the neighborhood level helps monitor social and civic progress and adapt strategies over time to effectively address changing community needs. The cultural representation of prevalent groups should be considered in parks and recreation planning, particularly regarding community identity, cultural features, and cultural events and celebrations.



3

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE & FUNDING

IN THIS CHAPTER:

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

BUDGET

PARTNERS

GRANT HISTORY

Administrative Structure

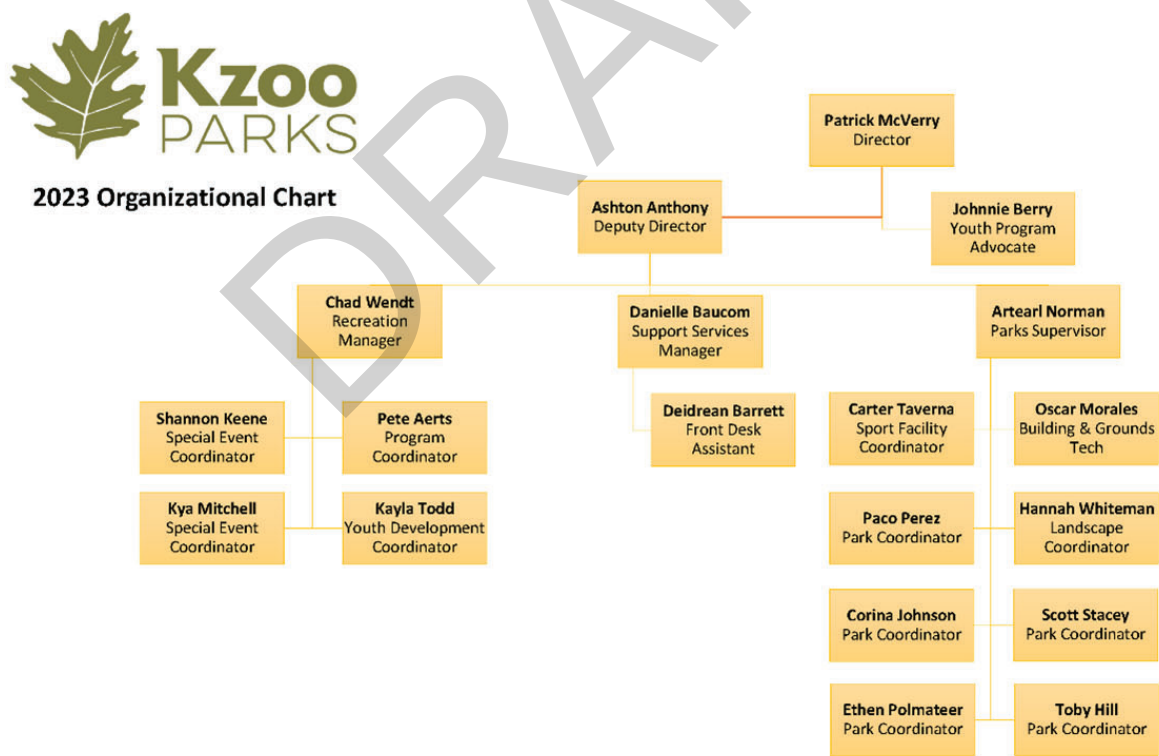
City Administration

The Kalamazoo City Charter was first adopted in 1918, defining the legislative role and administrative functions of the City Commission and City Manager. The City Commission appoints the City Manager to be the administrative head of municipal government under the direction and supervision of the Commission. Commissioners serve four-year terms and elect from their own members each year a Mayor who is a voting member of the Commission. The budget for recreation facilities and programs is adopted annually by the City Commission, as part of the total annual budget.

Parks and Recreation Department

The Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Department has grown since the 2019 Master Plan with the addition of four permanent positions as represented on the Organizational Chart, below. The Department is organized into three primary areas: Parks and Facilities, Recreation Services, and Support Services.

Figure 4: Administrative Structure



Administrative Structure

Parks and Facilities

Staff in the Parks and Facilities Division are responsible for the physical development and maintenance of park spaces owned and operated by the City. This includes routine and preventative maintenance and inspections, improvement projects, and emergency repairs. Any of these tasks may include contract management and the oversight of work performed. Additionally, this Division is responsible for providing site support for programs and events.

Recreation Services

The Recreation Services Division oversees the development and facilitation of programs and events at the many parks and facilities managed by the City. Staff in this Division work with vendors and partners to implement these programs, and they are also responsible for overseeing park space rentals and event permitting.

Boards and Commissions

Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) is an appointed citizen board responsible for making recommendations to city leadership about the physical parks and facilities as well as programming. The PRAB consists of seven members and two youth representative positions. The Director of the Parks and Recreation Department attends their monthly meetings as the staff liaison.



Parks and Recreation Budget

The Parks and Recreation Department is supported primarily through the City's General Fund. Fees for services comprise the bulk of the Department's revenues. On the expenses side, wages and benefits fall under personnel services, which comprise the bulk of the annual cost to run the Department. Since 2021, the cost for personnel, other services, and capital projects has increased annually. Simultaneously, the department's revenues have decreased significantly.

Table 1. Parks and Recreation Department Budget

	2021 (Amended)	2022 (Amended)	2023 (Amended)
Revenues			
Charges for services	\$337,797	\$377,492	\$332,686
Other revenue	\$96,826	\$57,500	\$500
Expenses			
Personnel services	\$1,744,774	\$1,877,656	\$1,877,498
Other services	\$564,191	\$571,512	\$825,234
Supplies	\$234,714	\$155,516	\$158,553
Capital outlay	\$28,425	\$45,361	\$30,000

The City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) lists specific Parks and Recreation Department projects through 2027, including improvements to the Farmer's Market event building, Milham Park, Verburg Park, and Emerald Drive Park, among others. These projects are funded through municipal bonds, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the State of Michigan, and private sources.

Table 2. Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects Adopted Budgets (2018-2023)

	2018 Adopted Budget	2019 Adopted Budget	2020 Adopted Budget	2021 Adopted Budget	2022 Adopted Budget	2023 Adopted Budget
HENDERSON TOT LOT IMPROVEMENTS	325,907					
BRONSON PARK IMPROVEMENTS	1,220,000					
FARMERS MARKET REDEVELOPMENT	250,000			1,800,000	1,000,000	
CRANE PARK REDEVELOPMENT	585,000					

Table 2. Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Projects Adopted Budgets (2018-2023)

	2018 Adopted Budget	2019 Adopted Budget	2020 Adopted Budget	2021 Adopted Budget	2022 Adopted Budget	2023 Adopted Budget
ROCKWELL PARK IMPROVEMENTS		375,000				
FARRELL PARK SPLASH PAD	300,000		585,000			
HOMER STRYKER FIELD VIDEOBOARD	300,000					
MAINTENANCE STORAGE BARN	25,000					
REED STREET PARK REDEVELOPMENT		400,000				
VERBURG PARK IMPROVEMENTS		12,000	488,000			225,000
MILHAM PARK IMPROVEMENTS						200,000
MILHAM PARK DAM REMOVAL		50,000	450,000			
UPJOHN PARK RESURFACING		150,000				
EMERALD PARK IMPROVEMENTS						250,000
KIK POOL; POOL REPAIR & BLDG IMPROVEMENT			150,000			
PARKS AND RECREATION EQUIPMENT				128,000		
KIK POOL BUILDING PLUMBING					200,000	
FARMERS MARKET EVENT BUILDING - PHASE II						2,000,000
STATION 5 PARKING LOT PAVING						50,000
TOTAL	3,005,907	987,000	1,673,000	1,928,000	1,200,000	2,725,000

Partners

As with many other parks departments across the country, revenues generated from user fees and program registrations do not equal the expenses associated with maintaining a robust municipal park system. Local partner organizations help to support the Parks and Recreation Department in a variety of ways.

Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation (KFOR)

KFOR is a nonprofit organization that supports Kalamazoo residents through financial assistance for program registration. Additionally, KFOR helps to fund small park projects identified by Department staff through what is called the Park Project Program. The Deputy Director of the Parks and Recreation Department sits on the KFOR Board of Directors, among other Parks and Recreation staff.

Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence (FFE)

Among other projects in Kalamazoo, the Foundation for Excellence (FFE) has supported the Parks and Recreation Department in several ways. FFE has provided funding for implementing youth programs and for staff salaries to support those programs. Additionally, FFE has recently contributed significant funding for improvements at the Farmer's Market, Upjohn Park, Rockwell Park, Crane Park, and others.

Kalamazoo Municipal Golf Association

INSERT TEXT



Other Partners

Understanding the programs and events offered by other entities within Kalamazoo help identify gaps, duplicate efforts, and opportunities for collaboration.

Organization Name	Purpose
The YMCA of Greater Kalamazoo	The YMCA offers many programs and activities for all ages. Membership is required. Some of the classes and activities offered include: Youth development (i.e. youth leagues, summer camps, and youth programs), Adult fitness and recreation (i.e. badminton, piano, wellness, and healthy aging), Aquatics (i.e. open swim, lap swim, swimming lessons for all ages and lifeguard certification programs)
Kalamazoo Amateur Athletic Federation	Sponsors softball tournaments.
Kalamazoo Police Athletic League (PAL)	Football, sewing class, and summer camp for youth 5 - 12 years old.
People's Food Co-Op	Operates and programs the Kalamazoo Farmer's Market from May through November
Crane Park Beautification Program	Plant and maintain flower beds in Kalamazoo and Portage.
Kalamazoo in Bloom	

Grant History

The City of Kalamazoo has received several grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to fund the renovation or development of parkland and natural areas. These funds include the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust (formerly known as the Michigan Land Trust Fund).

Table 3. Parks and Recreation Grant History

Project Year / Project Number	Park Name / Project Name	Grant Amount	Project Description
1976 / 26-00773	Verburg Park	\$25,194.37	Picnic area, boat ramp, docks
1978 / 26-01060 V1	Blanche Hull Park	\$20,148.00	Footbridges, boardwalk, trails. Grant application was withdrawn.
1978 / 26-01060 U1	Milham Park	\$30,207.00	Shelter, play equipment
1978 / 26-01060 W1	Southside Park	\$40,296.00	Bathrooms, ice rink, tot lot.
Grant application was withdrawn.			
1978 / 26-00990	Upjohn Park	\$20,146.00	Playground, picnic area, trail
1987 / TF87-200	Arcadia Creek	\$500,000.00	Acquisition of Arcadia Creek.
Grant application was withdrawn.			
1987 / 26-01477	Frays Park	\$126,369.00	Jogging track, picnic area, tennis courts. Improvements are in good condition and well-utilized.
1989 / BF89-633	Kik Pool (Upjohn Park)	\$248,098.00	Pool renovations
1990 / BF90-161	Versluis/Dickinson Softball Complex	\$268,678.00	Concessions, restrooms, benches/grandstands, lighting
1994 / TF94-033	Vine Neighborhood	\$37,500	Acquire 0.2 acres of land in the Vine neighborhood. Land acquired and developed.
1996 / BF96-135	Versluis/Dickinson Softball Complex	\$500,000	Concessions, restrooms, benches/grandstands, lighting
2000 / CM00-394	Spring Valley Park	\$705,000	Playgrounds, trails, restrooms

Table 3. Parks and Recreation Grant History

Project Year / Project Number	Park Name / Project Name	Grant Amount	Project Description
2005 / 26-01649	Upjohn Park	\$370,000	Skate park, tennis, basketball, sports fields, walkways
2010 / 26-01703	LaCrone Park	\$100,000	Restrooms, parking, trails, basketball
2010 / TF10-039	Woods Lake Park	\$363,200	Grading, clearing, playground, furnishings
2015 / 14-0194	KRVT Portage Creek Trail	\$300,000	Development
2018 / 17-0011	Improvements to Historic Bronson Park	\$300,000	Development
2019 / 18-0226	KRVT Development	\$300,000	Development

In addition, Kzoo Parks has received funding from the Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence to fund parks and recreation projects.

Table 4. Foundation for Excellence Funding

Projects	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crane Park	510,000.00				
Davis St. Park	150,000.00				
Davis St. Park Private Donations	5,000.00				
Southside Park (Urgent Repairs)					11,343.00
Rockwell Park		394,055.00			
Henderson Tot Lot		55,807.00			
Fray's Park		26,803.00			
Reed St Park		145,000.00			
Upjohn Park			253,110.00		
Farmer's Market			2,000,000.00		
Splash Pad			75,000.00		
Total	\$665,000.00	\$621,665.00	\$2,328,110.00	\$ -	\$11,343.00



4

OUR PARKS: RECREATION INVENTORY

IN THIS CHAPTER:

PARKS INVENTORY

PARKS CLASSIFICATION

BARRIER FREE ASSESSMENT

REGIONAL AMENITIES

City Wide Parks Inventory

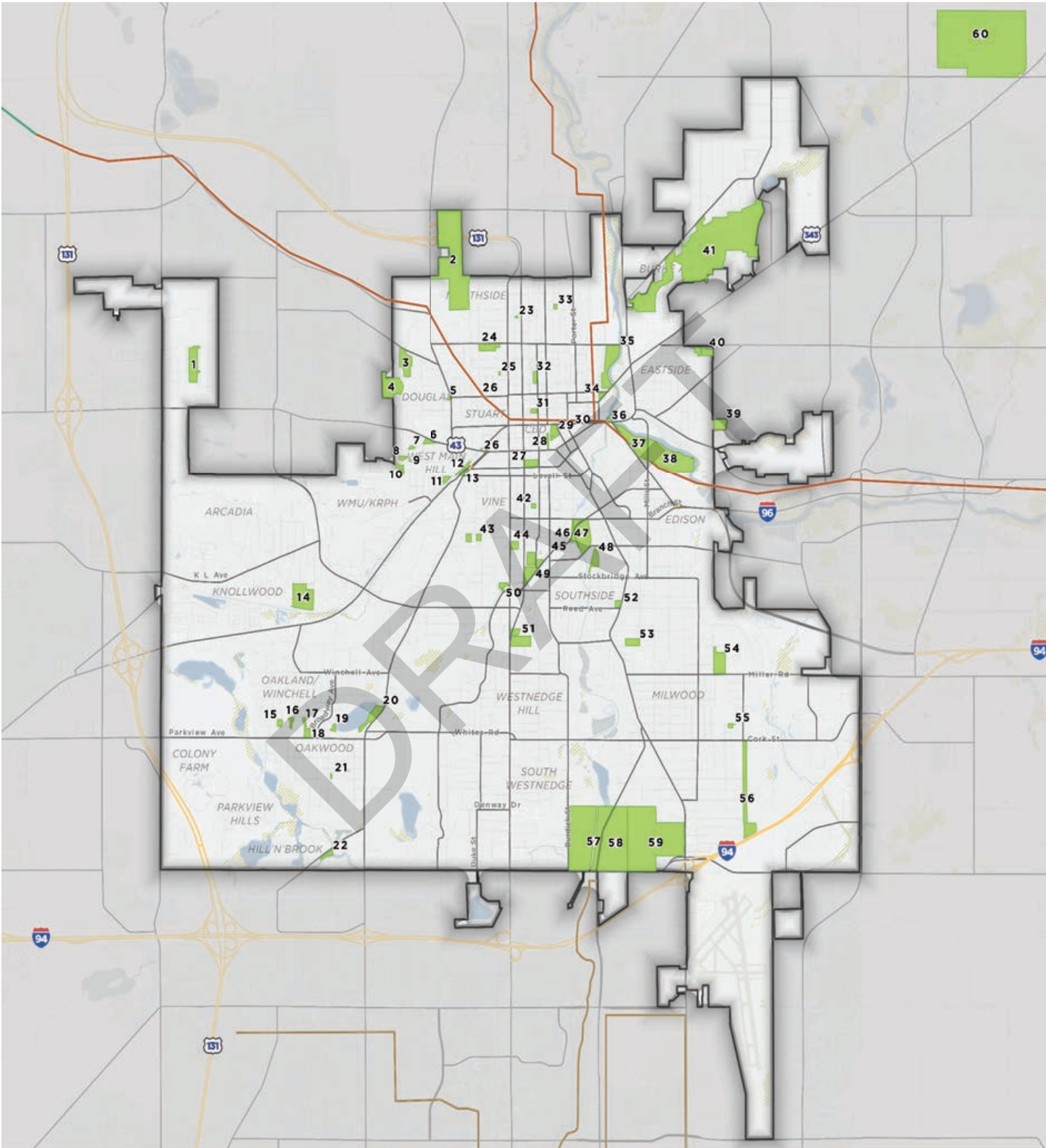
The Kalamazoo parks and recreation facilities inventory includes all parks, natural areas, public spaces, and recreation facilities owned and managed by the City of Kalamazoo. The parks and recreation facilities inventory update relied upon information gathered from several different sources: the 2019 Imagine Fun! Kzoo Parks Master Plan, the Kzoo Parks website, a tour of parks and recreation facilities, and information from stakeholders, City staff, and the community. The amenity inventory and accessibility assessment were supplemented by aerial desktop survey and the City’s GIS database. Overall, 1,025 acres in Kalamazoo are dedicated to parks and recreation facilities, which include developed parks, undeveloped land, natural areas, golf courses, and two facilities for youth development and after-school care.

At a Glance

- 60** parks and recreation facilities
- 1,025** total acres of park land
- 8.92** acres of park land per 1,000 residents
- 77%** live within a 10-minute walking distance to a park



Map 2: Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Facilities



KALAMAZOO CITYWIDE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES | MAP LEGEND

1	FRAYS PARK	21	SPRINGMONT PARK	41	SPRING VALLEY PARK
2	VERSLUIS/DICKINSON PARK	22	ANGLING PARK	42	DUTTON STREET PARK
3	FAIRMOUNT DOG PARK	23	PRINCETON PARK	43	DAVIS STREET PARK
4	W. DOUGLAS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	24	LACRONE PLAYGROUND	44	SOUTH WESTNEDGE PARK
5	STATION FIVE COMMUNITY CENTER	25	FLORENCE SPRAY PARK	45	SOUTH GATEWAY
6	HENDERSON GREEN	26	WEST MAIN PARK	46	YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER
7	HENDERSON PARK	27	BRONSON PARK	47	UPJOHN PARK
8	HENDERSON TOT LOT	28	NORTH KALAMAZOO MALL	48	KALAMAZOO FARMERS MARKET
9	ACADEMY GREEN	29	ARCADIA FESTIVAL PLACE	49	CROSSTOWN PKWY. PONDS
10	JONES PARK	30	EAST GATEWAY	50	AXTELL CREEK PARK
11	LOVELL PARK	31	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK	51	CRANE PARK
12	COLLEGE PARK	32	FARRELL PARK	52	REED STREET PARK
13	WEST GATEWAY PARK	33	KROM & PROUTY	53	SOUTHSIDE PLAYGROUND
14	KNOLLWOOD PARK	34	HARRISON PARK	54	HAYS PARK
15	HILLSIDE PARK	35	VERBURG PARK	55	NELBERT PARK
16	CANYON PARK	36	ROSE PARK VETERAN'S MEMORIAL	56	EMERALD DRIVE PARK
17	GLEN PARK NORTH	37	RED ARROW POST ATHLETIC FIELD	57	BLANCHE HULL PARK
18	GLEN PARK SOUTH	38	MAYORS' RIVERFRONT PARK	58	MILHAM PARK
19	LAKE/KENSINGTON PARK	39	SHERWOOD PARK	59	MILHAM PARK GOLF COURSE
20	WOODS LAKE BEACH	40	ROCKWELL PLAYGROUND	60	EASTERN HILLS GOLF COURSE

Parks Classification

Park classifications provide context to understand how parks meet the diverse needs of Kalamazoo residents. Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Facilities are organized into eight classifications based on their size, amenities, and radius of service. The following system uses standards from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), evaluating park classification by size, the area the park services within a community, as well as the type of facilities within the park. Special attention is paid to the operational characteristics that encourage increased use and activity levels. The 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan set a goal of providing public green space within a 10-minute walk from every resident, which justified reclassifying almost half of mini parks to green space areas based on their existing amenities.



Green Space

Green spaces are open, publicly accessible areas with natural vegetation, including grass, trees, and other plants. While they may be considered mini parks, green spaces have no recorded amenities and are rarely equipped with walking paths. There are 14 green spaces in Kalamazoo, accounting for 39.19 acres total in the park system.



Mini Park

Mini parks are small, typically around 1 acre in size, serving residents within a 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius with varying elements. While compact, mini parks offer greenery for passive recreation and active recreation elements that address the specific needs of the immediate neighborhood. There are 9 mini parks in Kalamazoo, occupying a total of 5.68 acres in the park system.



Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood parks generally range in size from 1 – 15 acres and are designed to serve residents within a 1/2 – 1 mile radius. Neighborhood parks in Kalamazoo range from as small as 1.1 acres to 19 acres and typically offer multi-purpose facilities for active recreation, such as field games, court games, playgrounds, and areas for passive recreation, such as pavilions, seating, tables, and grills. There are 15 neighborhood parks in Kalamazoo, totaling 107.98 acres in the park system.



Community Park

Community parks range in size from 16 – 99 acres and serve multiple neighborhoods within a 1 – 3-mile radius. To meet the diverse needs of this population, community parks offer a broader range of recreational opportunities compared to neighborhood or mini parks. Amenities often include facilities for competitive sports, such as swimming pools and athletic fields, with designated space for off-street parking and natural resource areas. There are 4 community parks in Kalamazoo, covering 100.64 acres total in the park system.



Regional Park

Regional parks exceed 100 acres and serve the entire City of Kalamazoo and several other communities within the region. The service area standards for regional parks vary based on specific site characteristics and available natural resources. Regional parks offer areas for a variety of outdoor recreation activities including ball fields, playgrounds, boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking areas, and trail systems. Spring Valley Park is Kalamazoo's only regional park and the largest park in the City, occupying 181.19 acres.



Natural Resource Area

Natural resource areas preserve and manage the natural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective, such as viewing and studying nature and wildlife habitat. The size and service area of natural resource areas depend on the availability of the resource, such as direct connections to the Kalamazoo River or other water bodies. Blanche Hull Park preserves 69.64 acres of natural resource area offering access to walking trails, Portage Creek, and Monarch Millpond.



Special Use

Special use areas are characterized by gateway features, historic amenities, monuments and memorials, plazas, or community squares. Among these special use areas, Bronson Park and Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park stand out as outliers, offering park amenities, programming, and events in addition to their distinctive monuments and plazas. Others, such as the Gateway parks, prioritize gateway structures and landscaping over park amenities beyond lighting, a pathway, and occasionally benches. There are 8 special use areas in Kalamazoo, accounting for 10.91 total acres in the park system.



Sports Complex

Sports complexes serve Kalamazoo and its surrounding communities with consolidated, programmed athletic fields and associated facilities. The size and service area of these sports complexes are tailored to meet demand. Versluis/Dickinson Softball Complex serves as the primary baseball and softball field facility for tournaments in Kalamazoo and surrounding communities. Versluis/Dickinson Park is the second largest park in Kalamazoo at 116.6 acres. Following the use of Homer Stryker Field for a collegiate summer baseball league, the primary use of Mayors' Riverfront Park are its soccer fields, with less priority given to the basketball courts and a playground in the park.



Golf Course

Kzoo Parks owns three golf course properties, which are managed by the Kalamazoo Municipal Golf Association and account for 363.33 total acres in the park system. Facilities vary across the three courses, offering at minimum 18 holes, terrain for all playing abilities, parking, paths, driving ranges, and pro shops. The golf courses range in size from 17 acres to over 200 acres. Kalamazoo's golf courses fulfill specific recreational needs of residents and adjacent communities at a cost to enter and are limited in public spaces or amenities.



Community Center

A community center is a non-residential, multi-use building that serves as an activity center for the surrounding neighborhoods or a specific population, such as youth or senior adults. In line with the standards set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), community centers are expected to offer a wide range of recreational opportunities and serve as inclusive spaces for community members. In Kalamazoo, the community centers have a primary focus on serving the immediate neighborhoods and providing dedicated programs and activities for the youth. They do not currently operate a community center with indoor athletic facilities for year-round programming.

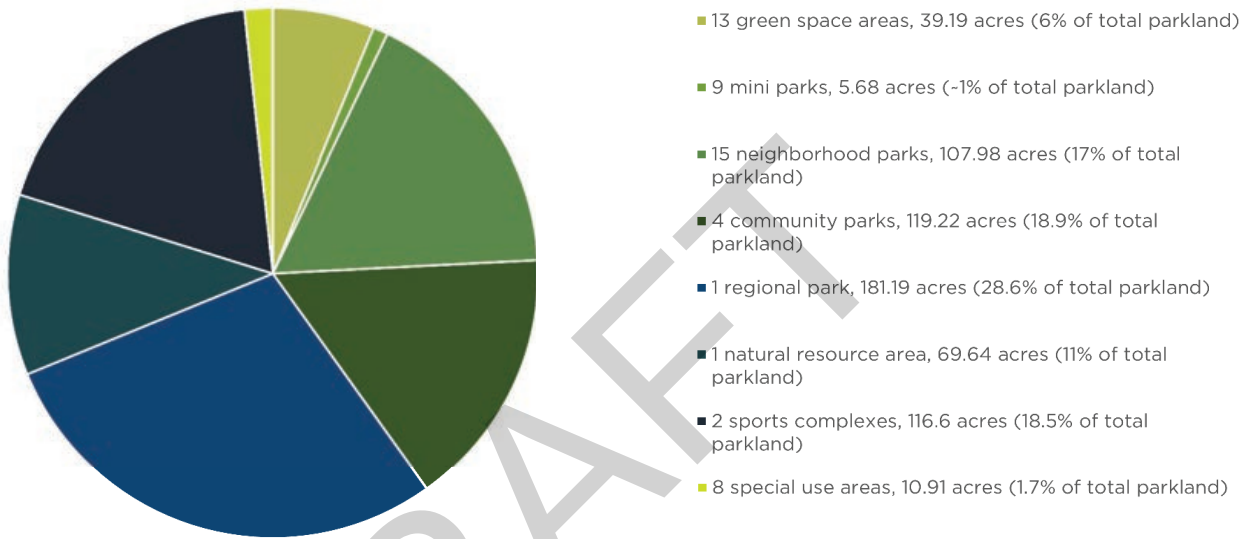


Parkland Distribution by Classification

Figure 5: Parkland Distribution by Classification

2019 Park Classification	2023 Park Classification
	13 green space areas
32 mini parks	9 mini parks
11 neighborhood parks	15 neighborhood parks
4 community parks	54 community parks
1 large urban park	
1 natural resource area	1 natural resource area
1 regional park	1 regional park
1 linear park	
1 sports complex	2 sports complexes
1 private and special use facility	8 special use areas
	3 golf courses
	2 community centers

Figure 6: Distribution of Parkland by Classification (excluding golf courses)



Kalamazoo's park system offerings are diverse, with varying facilities located in the City's 23 neighborhoods. The parks and recreation facilities inventory communicates facilities found at the park, the parks' neighborhood geographies, as well as the condition of the amenities present.

Table 5: Parks and Recreation Inventory

MAP ID	PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE	CLASSIFICATION	Multi-use building (rec center)	Branded Kzoo Parks Sign	Restrooms	Multi-purpose room	Parking lot
9	ACADEMY GREEN	West Main Hill	0.08	Green Space					
22	ANGLING PARK	Hill'N' Brook	1.77	Green Space					
29	ARCADIA FESTIVAL PLACE	Central Business District	3.65	Special Use					X
50	AXTELL CREEK PARK	Vine	1.88	Neighborhood Park					
57	BLANCHE HULL PARK	South Westnedge	85.63	Natural Resource Area					X
27	BRONSON PARK	Central Business District	3.71	Special Use					X
16	CANYON PARK	Oakland/Winchell	1.20	Green Space					
12	COLLEGE PARK	West Main Hill	1.36	Mini Park					
51	CRANE PARK	Westnedge Hill	9.83	Community Park					
49	CROSSTOWN PKWY. PONDS	Vine	10.98	Green Space		X			
43	DAVIS STREET PARK	Vine	1.16	Neighborhood Park		X			
42	DUTTON STREET PARK	Vine	0.73	Mini Park		X			
30	EAST GATEWAY	Central Business District	0.06	Special Use					
60	EASTERN HILLS GOLF COURSE		230.78	Golf Course					
56	EMERALD DRIVE PARK	Milwood	16.96	Neighborhood Park					
3	FAIRMOUNT DOG PARK	Douglas	10.04	Community Park		X			X
32	FARRELL PARK	Northside	1.61	Neighborhood Park		X	X		

ADA Parking	Bicycle Parking	Play area	Paved walking paths	Natural area	Community garden	Skate Park	Pool	Splash pad	Lake, river, or creek	Canoe/kayak launch	Fishing	Beach	Amphitheater/ stage	Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVTr) Connection	Fitness equipment	Basketball courts	Disc golf course	Ball diamonds	Soccer	Table Tennis	Tennis	Pickleball	GaGa Pit	Volleyball
PARK FEATURES															ATHLETIC FACILITIES									
					X																			
X			X							X				X										
		X	X	X						X														
				X						X														
X	X		X											X										
			X																					
X			X		X					X		X												
	X	X	X			X																		
	X	X	X		X																			
			X																					
X	X		X																					
	X	X	X						X															

MAP ID	PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE	CLASSIFICATION	Grills	Pavilion	Picnic tables	Electric	Concession stand	Drinking fountain	Summer Cinema	Employee Appreciation
					PICNIC FACILITIES							
9	ACADEMY GREEN	West Main Hill	0.08	Green Space								
22	ANGLING PARK	Hill'N' Brook	1.77	Green Space								
29	ARCADIA FESTIVAL PLACE	Central Business District	3.65	Special Use						X		
50	AXTELL CREEK PARK	Vine	1.88	Neighborhood Park			X					
57	BLANCHE HULL PARK	South Westnedge	85.63	Natural Resource Area			X					
27	BRONSON PARK	Central Business District	3.71	Special Use			X	X		X		
16	CANYON PARK	Oakland/Winchell	1.20	Green Space								
12	COLLEGE PARK	West Main Hill	1.36	Mini Park								
51	CRANE PARK	Westnedge Hill	9.83	Community Park			X	X		X		
49	CROSSTOWN PKWY. PONDS	Vine	10.98	Green Space								
43	DAVIS STREET PARK	Vine	1.16	Neighborhood Park	X	X	X			X		
42	DUTTON STREET PARK	Vine	0.73	Mini Park								
30	EAST GATEWAY	Central Business District	0.06	Special Use								
60	EASTERN HILLS GOLF COURSE		230.78	Golf Course								
56	EMERALD DRIVE PARK	Milwood	16.96	Neighborhood Park								
3	FAIRMOUNT DOG PARK	Douglas	10.04	Community Park	X	X	X			X	X	
32	FARRELL PARK	Northside	1.61	Neighborhood Park	X	X	X			X		

MAP ID	PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE	CLASSIFICATION	Multi-use building (rec center)	Branded Kzoo Parks Sign	Restrooms	Multi-purpose room	Parking lot
25	FLORENCE SPRAY PARK	Northside	0.20	Mini Park					
1	FRAYS PARK	Westwood	11.90	Neighborhood Park		X			
17	GLEN PARK NORTH	Oakland/Winchell	0.87	Green Space					
18	GLEN PARK SOUTH	Oakland/Winchell	2.13	Green Space					
34	HARRISON PARK	Northside	0.98	Green Space					
54	HAYS PARK	Edison	10.38	Neighborhood Park					
6	HENDERSON GREEN	West Main Hill	1.46	Green Space					
7	HENDERSON PARK	West Main Hill	0.50	Green Space					
8	HENDERSON TOT LOT	West Main Hill	1.10	Mini Park		X			
15	HILLSIDE PARK	Oakland/Winchell	1.31	Green Space					
10	JONES PARK	West Main Hill	1.42	Green Space					
48	KALAMAZOO FARMERS MARKET	Edison	4.44	Special Use		X	X		X
14	KNOLLWOOD PARK	Knollwood	19.12	Neighborhood Park					
33	KROM & PROUTY	Northside	0.56	Mini Park					
24	LACRONE PARK	Northside	5.06	Neighborhood Park		X	X	X	X
19	LAKE/KENSINGTON PARK	Oakland/Winchell	0.96	Green Space					
11	LOVELL PARK	West Main Hill	1.21	Mini Park					
31	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK	Northside	0.92	Special Use					
38	MAYORS' RIVERFRONT PARK	Edison	36.86	Sports Complex	X	X	X	X	X

ADA Parking	Bicycle Parking	Play area	Paved walking paths	Natural area	Community garden	Skate Park	Pool	Splash pad	Lake, river, or creek	Canoe/kayak launch	Fishing	Beach	Amphitheater/ stage	Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRV) Connection	Fitness equipment	Basketball courts	Disc golf course	Ball diamonds	Soccer	Table Tennis	Tennis	Pickleball	GaGa Pit	Volleyball
PARK FEATURES															ATHLETIC FACILITIES									
	X	X	X																					
	X	X	X																					
					X																			
X	X	X	X	X																				
X	X		X	X										X	X									
					X																			
		X																						
X	X	X	X						X															
										X		X												
			X																					
			X		X																			

MAP ID	PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE	CLASSIFICATION	Grills	Pavilion	Picnic tables	Electric	Concession stand	Drinking fountain	Summer Cinema	Employee Appreciation
					PICNIC FACILITIES							
25	FLORENCE SPRAY PARK	Northside	0.20	Mini Park			X					
1	FRAYS PARK	Westwood	11.90	Neighborhood Park	X		X			X	X	
17	GLEN PARK NORTH	Oakland/Winchell	0.87	Green Space								
18	GLEN PARK SOUTH	Oakland/Winchell	2.13	Green Space								
34	HARRISON PARK	Northside	0.98	Green Space			X					
54	HAYS PARK	Edison	10.38	Neighborhood Park								
6	HENDERSON GREEN	West Main Hill	1.46	Green Space								
7	HENDERSON PARK	West Main Hill	0.50	Green Space		X	X					
8	HENDERSON TOT LOT	West Main Hill	1.10	Mini Park								
15	HILLSIDE PARK	Oakland/Winchell	1.31	Green Space								
10	JONES PARK	West Main Hill	1.42	Green Space			X	X	X	X		
48	KALAMAZOO FARMERS MARKET	Edison	4.44	Special Use							X	
14	KNOLLWOOD PARK	Knollwood	19.12	Neighborhood Park	X		X					
33	KROM & PROUTY	Northside	0.56	Mini Park	X		X	X		X		
24	LACRONE PARK	Northside	5.06	Neighborhood Park								
19	LAKE/KENSINGTON PARK	Oakland/Winchell	0.96	Green Space								
11	LOVELL PARK	West Main Hill	1.21	Mini Park			X	X		X		
31	MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PARK	Northside	0.92	Special Use	X	X	X	X	X	X		
38	MAYORS' RIVERFRONT PARK	Edison	36.86	Sports Complex								X

MAP ID	PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE	CLASSIFICATION	Multi-use building (rec center)	Branded Kzoo Parks Sign	Restrooms	Multi-purpose room	Parking lot
58	MILHAM PARK	Milwood	63.62	Community Park			X		X
59	MILHAM GOLF COURSE	Milwood	115.59	Golf Course					
55	NELBERT PARK	Milwood	0.73	Green Space					
28	North Kalamazoo Mall	Central Business District	0.81	Special Use					
23	PRINCETON PARK	Northside	0.19	Mini Park					
37	RED ARROW GOLF COURSE	Edison	16.96	Golf Course					
52	REED STREET PARK	Edison	1.53	Neighborhood Park		X			
40	ROCKWELL PARK	Eastside	4.70	Neighborhood Park		X	X		X
36	ROSE PARK VETERAN'S MEMORIAL	Central Business District	0.53	Special Use					
39	SHERWOOD PARK	Eastside	4.94	Neighborhood Park		X			X
45	SOUTH GATEWAY	Edison	0.04	Special Use					
44	SOUTH WESTNEDGE PARK	Vine	2.29	Neighborhood Park					
53	SOUTHSIDE PARK	Edison	3.88	Neighborhood Park					
41	SPRING VALLEY PARK	Burke Acres	182.5	Regional Park		X	X		X
21	SPRINGMONT PARK	Oakwood	0.25	Mini Park					
5	STATION FIVE COMMUNITY CENTER	Douglas	0.25	Community Center	X		X		X
47	UPJOHN PARK	Edison	17.15	Community Park		X	X		X

ADA Parking	Bicycle Parking	Play area	Paved walking paths	Natural area	Community garden	Skate Park	Pool	Splash pad	Lake, river, or creek	Canoe/kayak launch	Fishing	Beach	Amphitheater/ stage	Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRV) Connection	Fitness equipment	Basketball courts	Disc golf course	Ball diamonds	Soccer	Table Tennis	Tennis	Pickleball	GaGa Pit	Volleyball
PARK FEATURES															ATHLETIC FACILITIES									
		X	X	X						X														
		X																						
	X		X							X														
		X																						
	X	X	X													X								
	X	X	X													X	X					X		
			X							X	X				X									
	X	X		X																				
			X																					
			X																					
X		X	X														X		X	X				
		X	X	X						X	X	X						X	X	X		X		
		X																						
X	X																							
X	X	X	X	X		X		X							X	X	X		X	X		X		

MAP ID	PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE	CLASSIFICATION	Grills	Pavilion	Picnic tables	Electric	Concession stand	Drinking fountain	Summer Cinema	Employee Appreciation
					PICNIC FACILITIES							
58	MILHAM PARK	Milwood	63.62	Community Park	X	X	X	X		X		
59	MILHAM GOLF COURSE	Milwood	115.59	Golf Course								
55	NELBERT PARK	Milwood	0.73	Green Space			X					
28	North Kalamazoo Mall	Central Business District	0.81	Special Use			X	X				
23	PRINCETON PARK	Northside	0.19	Mini Park								
37	RED ARROW GOLF COURSE	Edison	16.96	Golf Course								
52	REED STREET PARK	Edison	1.53	Neighborhood Park	X	X	X					
40	ROCKWELL PARK	Eastside	4.70	Neighborhood Park	X		X	X		X		
36	ROSE PARK VETERAN'S MEMORIAL	Central Business District	0.53	Special Use								
39	SHERWOOD PARK	Eastside	4.94	Neighborhood Park	X		X					
45	SOUTH GATEWAY	Edison	0.04	Special Use								
44	SOUTH WESTNEDGE PARK	Vine	2.29	Neighborhood Park							X	
53	SOUTHSIDE PARK	Edison	3.88	Neighborhood Park	X	X	X			X		
41	SPRING VALLEY PARK	Burke Acres	182.5	Regional Park	X		X	X		X	X	
21	SPRINGMONT PARK	Oakwood	0.25	Mini Park			X					
5	STATION FIVE COMMUNITY CENTER	Douglas	0.25	Community Center						X		
47	UPJOHN PARK	Edison	17.15	Community Park	X	X	X	X	X	X		

[illegible]

MAP ID	PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE	CLASSIFICATION	Multi-use building (rec center)	Branded Kzoo Parks Sign	Restrooms	Multi-purpose room	Parking lot
35	VERBURG PARK	Northside	15.48	Neighborhood Park		X			
2	VERSLUIS/DICKINSON SOFTBALL COMPLEX	Northside	87.48	Sports Complex		X	X		X
4	W. DOUGLAS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Douglas	14.80	Green Space					
13	WEST GATEWAY	West Main Hill	0.43	Special Use					
26	WEST MAIN PARK	Stuart	0.08	Mini Park					
20	WOODS LAKE PARK	Oakland/Winchell	7.09	Neighborhood Park			X		X
46	YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER	Edison	1.38	Community Center	X	X	X		X
Total acreage			1025.48						

ADA Parking	Bicycle Parking	Play area	Paved walking paths	Natural area	Community garden	Skate Park	Pool	Splash pad	Lake, river, or creek	Canoe/kayak launch	Fishing	Beach	Amphitheater/ stage	Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVTr) Connection	Fitness equipment	Basketball courts	Disc golf course	Ball diamonds	Soccer	Table Tennis	Tennis	Pickleball	GaGa Pit	Volleyball
PARK FEATURES															ATHLETIC FACILITIES									
			X	X						X	X	X			X									
X			X																X	X				
			X																					
					X					X														
X	X	X	X	X						X	X	X	X											
X	X				X					X														

MAP ID	PARK	NEIGHBORHOOD	ACREAGE	CLASSIFICATION	Grills	Pavilion	Picnic tables	Electric	Concession stand	Drinking fountain	Summer Cinema	Employee Appreciation
					PICNIC FACILITIES							
35	VERBURG PARK	Northside	15.48	Neighborhood Park								
2	VERSLUIS/DICKINSON SOFTBALL COMPLEX	Northside	87.48	Sports Complex				X	X	X		
4	W. DOUGLAS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK	Douglas	14.80	Green Space								
13	WEST GATEWAY	West Main Hill	0.43	Special Use								
26	WEST MAIN PARK	Stuart	0.08	Mini Park						X		
20	WOODS LAKE PARK	Oakland/Winchell	7.09	Neighborhood Park	X	X	X	X		X		
46	YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER	Edison	1.38	Community Center						X		

Winter Golf Classic	A Flurry of Fun	Scavenger Hunt	Egg Hunt	Bike Rodeo	Karaoke Night	Lunchtime Live!	Dive into Summer	A December to Remember	Tree Lighting Ceremony	Halloween Forest	Youth Entrepreneur Fair	Youth and Teen Workshop	PAL Jr. MLB Home Run Derby	Youth and Teen Talent Show	Just Move Fitness and More	KAAF	Kalamazoo Disc Golf	Best Damn Sport and Social Club	Kalamazoo Experiential Learning Center	People's Food Co-op	Kalamazoo Growlers
KZOO PROGRAMMING															PARTNER PROGRAMMING						
										X											
																X		X			
	X																				

Barrier Free Assessment

While the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified “accessible park design” as a goal, specific action items were not developed to incorporate accessible features in future park improvements. The 2024-2028 Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Master Plan accessibility assessment provides an update to the accessibility evaluation, incorporating accessibility improvements and several sites that were not included in the 2019 Master Plan, such as the Kalamazoo Farmer’s Market. An accessibility assessment was conducted by the project team using the New England ADA Center checklist during several park tours and desktop analysis.

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. In 2010, the ADA Standards for Accessible Design set minimum requirements – both scoping and technical – for newly designed and constructed or altered State and local government facilities, public accommodations, and commercial facilities to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. In accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) standards, facilities are evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited eyesight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system is used to rank each facility’s accessibility. The system is described below:

Level 1. The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little few paved areas, and the facilities (such as play equipment or picnic areas) are not easily accessible.

Level 2. The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

Level 3. The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities (such as play equipment or picnic areas) are accessible, but may not be completely barrier-free.

Level 4. The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities (such as play equipment or picnic areas) are easily accessible.

Level 5. The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.

The MDNR's guidelines are used as a baseline to evaluate accessibility, but there is the opportunity for Kzoo Parks to go above and beyond simply meeting these criteria when improving park accessibility. Most parks are not accessible year-round due to the maintenance that would be required to clear snow in the winter. Further, most parks do not have designated parking areas, ADA parking spots, or accessible access routes from the parking area or sidewalk to the park's facilities. The 2023 accessibility assessment identifies some of these deficiencies, as well as improvements, which results in a changed accessibility grade across the parks and recreation facilities inventory.



An accessible picnic table, grill, and trash receptacle at Axtell Creek Park.



Accessible parking spots are striped and signed correctly at Henderson Tot Lot, but this is not the standard treatment system wide.



The neighborhood park assets at Mayors' Riverfront Park – the pavilion, picnic tables, and play equipment – are not easily accessible.



Accessible parking spots are signed but not striped correctly at the Milham Park Golf Course clubhouse.

Table 6: Barrier-Free Assessment

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Academy Green	1520 Academy Street	West Main Hill	1	There is a sidewalk running adjacent to the park on Academy St, but there isn't an accessible curb cut at Academy St and Henderson Dr. There is a sidewalk on the opposite side of Henderson Dr, but no curb cuts or crosswalks to ensure safe crossing.
Angling Park	2501 Angling Road	Hill'N'Brook	1	There are no sidewalks to Angling Park, or on-street parking areas.
Arcadia Creek Festival Place	145 E. Water Street	Central Business District	4	The plaza's amenities are all connected by paved or poured surfaces that make them easy to access. Each entrance has a curb cut, but not all have truncated domes or painted crosswalks for pedestrian safety. There is opportunity to convert a portion of Eleanor St to a pedestrian-only "open street". Handicap parking is available in nearby street parking.
Axtell Creek Park	530 W. Crosstown Parkway	Vine	2	There are sidewalks connecting to two entrances to Axtell Creek Park off of Pioneer Street and Crosstown Parkway. There is on-street parking available on Pioneer Street, but no designated curb cut to enter the park from the street. The picnic table and grills are fully accessible. Benches, throughout, do not have companion spaces. The playground and benches are connected to the path but not fully accessible (wood chip ground covering). There is opportunity to build a direct connection to the neighboring Crosstown Parkway Apartments (senior housing).
Blanche Hull Park	4225 S. Burdick Street	South Westnedge	1	There is a parking area available off S Burdick St, but no accessible curb cuts or connections to the walking trails within the park.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Bronson Park	200 W. South Street	Central Business District	4	On-street parking is provided, with a number of handicap parking spots available. From January through the spring, snow isn't cleared from the interior of the park. The sidewalks at the outer edges of the park are cleared year-round. Benches, trash cans, and picnic tables are connected by pathways. There are crossings without truncated domes on W South St, and opportunity to create clearer crossings across Academy St for pedestrian safety.
Canyon Park	2915 Wellington Road	Oakland/Winchell	1	There are no sidewalks to Canyon Park and no accessible connections to the interior of the park.
College Park	840 W. Michigan Avenue	West Main Hill	4	There are accessible connections to the exterior of the park and amenities at the interior of the park. Concrete pads could be extended to add a companion area next to benches.
Crane Park	2001 S. Westnedge Avenue	Westnedge Hill	3	There are accessible connections to the exterior of the park and amenities at the interior of the park. Concrete pads could be extended to add a companion area next to benches and picnic tables. The accessible parking spaces are hidden at the southeastern edge of the park within the neighborhood, and need restriping.
Crosstown Parkway Ponds	1141 S. Rose Street	West Main Hill	1	There are sidewalks and crossings connecting to the west pond and the south pond. There is opportunity to provide more accessible pathways directly to the ponds and potential fishing piers or docks, if desired.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Davis Street Park	901 Davis Street	Vine	4	The skate park, pavilion, playground, and ga-ga pit are connected by accessible pathways. There is opportunity to add companion space next to benches and picnic tables at the pavilion.
Dutton Street Park	224 W. Dutton Street	Vine	4	On-street parking is available, but the only curb cuts provided to access the park are private driveways neighboring the park. The interior of the park is accessible by a half circle path. Companion space could be added alongside benches and any picnic tables added to the site.
East Gateway Park	309. E Water Street	Central Business District	1	There are no crossing connections, curb cuts, paths, or amenities at this location.
Emerald Drive Park	3200 Emerald Drive	Milwood	2	The northern part of the park offers a linear paved pathway for walking and biking, but the southern part, where the soccer field and ball diamond are located, is not as accessible. There is opportunity to add connections from the interior of the park to the neighboring side streets, as well as accessible parking areas.
Fairmount Park	1108 Prairie Avenue	Douglas	4	There are accessible connections to the exterior of the park and amenities at the interior of the park. The single accessible parking spot is not striped correctly. Multiple accessible picnic tables are available at the park, but the only grill is not accessible.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Farrell Park	809 N. Rose Street	Northside	4	The playground, pavilion, bathrooms, benches, and bike parking are connected by an accessible path. There are sidewalks connecting to the entrances of the park on Frank St and Rose St. There is opportunity to paint crosswalks on Rose St to improve pedestrian safety and add companion space beside benches and picnic tables.
Florence Spray Park	534 Florence Street	Northside	4	There are sidewalks and curb cuts to access the park. The park amenities are completely accessible. On-street parking is available on the north side of the street adjacent to the park. Accessible picnic tables and water fountains should be considered for future improvements.
Fray's Park	4400 Canterbury Avenue	Westwood	3	The park is accessible from connections on Canterbury Ave and Stafford Road. The playground and benches are connected by paved pathways and the playground has an accessible surface (in need of replacement). The picnic tables, tennis and pickleball courts, and the sand volleyball courts are not connected by accessible paths.
Glen Park North	2731 Wellington Road	Oakland/Winchell	1	There are no accessible connections on the exterior of the park or to the interior of the park.
Glen Park South	2700 Parkview Avenue	Oakland/Winchell	1	There are no accessible connections on the exterior of the park or to the interior of the park.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Harrison Park	620 Harrison Street	Northside	1	Pedestrian path extensions, dedicated street parking, painted crosswalks, truncated domes, and pedestrian islands have been added to improve Harrison Park's accessibility. The memorials are located near a pathway extension. It will be necessary to add connections to any amenities chosen for the interior of the park.
Hays Park	2001 Miller Road	Edison	4	Accessibility improvements to the park added a paved loop that reaches the playscape, with companion space added to picnic tables and benches. There is opportunity to add accessible connections to reach the park from Factory St and Miller Rd.
Henderson Green	1300 Grand Avenue	West Main Hill	1	Curb cuts and a sidewalk along Monroe St allow access to the park, however there are no connections to the interior of the park.
Henderson Park	1500 Grand Avenue	West Main Hill	1	There are no exterior or interior connections to the park or the community garden located within the park.
Henderson Tot Lot	1601 Henderson Court	West Main Hill	4	Recent improvements added ADA parking spaces, curb cuts, and paved pathways to most of the park's amenities. There are areas of the playground that are not accessible. Companion space could be added alongside benches and picnic tables in the future.
Hillside Park	2920 Brooklyn Boulevard	Oakland/Winchell	1	There are no accessible connections on the exterior of the park or to the interior of the park.
Jones Park	1601 Academy Street	West Main Hill	1	There are no exterior or interior connections to the park.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Kalamazoo Farmer's Market	1204 Bank Street	Edison	4	Curb cuts and wide sidewalks provide easy access from most directions. There are no curbs within the farmer's market pavilions that would pose as accessibility barriers. Picnic tables and bathrooms are also accessible.
Knollwood Park	1500 Greenwood	Knollwood	1	There are no accessible connections on the exterior of the park or to the interior of the park. On-street parking is available, but there are no ADA parking spaces.
Krom & Prouty	1602 Krom Street	Northside	1	There are sidewalks adjacent to the park on two sides, but no interior connections to its amenities. On-street parking is available, but there are no curb cuts other than at the corner of Krom St and Prouty St for easy access.
La Crone Park	535 W. Paterson Street	Northside	4	The bathrooms, tennis courts, basketball courts, playground, splash pad, and seating are all accessible by paved surfaces. Picnic benches located around the splash pad and playground offer companion space, but have no shade structures. Benches located around the walking loop don't offer companion space. Picnic tables located along the walking loop could also offer companion space in the future. High-visibility crossing areas could be added across W Paterson St at Cobb Ave to increase pedestrian safety from the school and neighborhood across the street.
Lake/Kensington Park	2345 Kensington Drive	Oakland/Winchell	1	There are no paved surfaces in the parking area, or paved connections to access the fishing pier or lakefront.
Lovell Street Park	1101 W. Lovell Street	West Main Hill	1	An unimproved curb cut at the railroad tracks and W. Lovell St is the only curb cut present to the paths around the exterior of the park. On-street parking is available.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park	507 N. Rose Street	Northside	3	Benches and trash cans at the park are accessible by pathways. The park is accessible by sidewalks on either side, but the driveway to W Harkins Ct off of N Rose Street and N Church St offers the only curb cut - otherwise, users have to cross at the next block. The Amtrak rails just north of the park also pose connectivity challenges.
Mayors' Riverfront Park	251 Mills Street	Edison	3	The Homer Stryker Field and amenities are barrier-free. There is a connection to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail that is also barrier-free with a small parking area. Handicap parking should be signed and striped according to ADA standards. There is a small pavilion that is accessible by a paved path, but the playscape and basketball courts could use pathway improvements. The soccer stadium has both paved and gravel paths that could be improved.
Milham Park	400 E. Kilgore Road	Milwood	3	There is a sidewalk connection on the east side of Lovers Lane to access the golf course, trails, and the parking lot and play areas located off of Kilgore Road. The parking areas are not visibly striped and there are no dedicated accessible parking spots.
Nelbert Park	3002 Nelbert	Milwood	1	Located behind Milwood Middle School, there are no connections or amenities at the park.
North Kalamazoo Mall		Central Business District	4	Amenities are accessible by paver pathways. There could be clearer marking of crosswalks for pedestrian safety.
Princeton Park	1508 Princeton Avenue	Northside	2	On-street parking is available, but there aren't curb cuts nearby to access the sidewalk. The play structure is not connected to the sidewalk by an accessible path.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Reed Street Park	1700 Portage Street	Edison	3	Recent improvements added accessible pathways, a pavilion, and playground equipment. Benches and picnic tables are accessible, but companion space could be added in the near future. There are sidewalks and curb cuts to approach the park from three directions. There is no available on-street parking offered.
Rockwell Park	1106 Trimble Avenue	Eastside	3	The playground, exercise equipment, and bathrooms are connected by accessible pathways. There is an accessible pathway to the basketball court but not the tennis courts. Trimble Ave approaching the park on either side does not have sidewalks. There is not an accessible path from Albert Ave connecting to the back of the playground area.
Rose Park Veteran's Memorial	645 E. Michigan Avenue	Central Business District	2	There is designated parking area for this park, parking is only available next to private buildings off of Harrison St, where a visitor can use the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail to access the park. Approaching from Michigan Ave, there are curb cuts but a person with disabilities may have a difficult time crossing such a large street to access the park. The benches and memorials at the park are accessible by paved surfaces, but companion space could be added adjacent to benches.
Sherwood Park	300 Wallace Avenue	Eastside	2	There are not accessible sidewalks approaching Sherwood Park in either direction on Wallace Ave. The playground and a bench are connected to an accessible pathway, but the bike racks, grill, and picnic tables are not.
South Gateway Park	Crosstown Parkway/Burdick Street	Edison	4	The park has crosswalks and curb cuts at all street intersections with connect to the interior paved pathway.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
South Westnedge Park	1101 S. Westnedge Avenue	Vine	3	The park has sidewalks along the perimeter and paved pathways throughout its interior. The only curb cuts are located in the park's southeast corner at S Westnedge Ave and Park Pl. There is an opportunity to connect pathways to the neighborhood in the northeast off Osborn St and enhance crosswalks for pedestrian safety. Companion space could also be added adjacent to benches.
Southside Park	2100 Race Street	Edison	3	The parking lot offers two ADA spaces and curb cuts to access the park, but has poor connections from Palmer Ave and Alcott St. The park has an accessible interior path, picnic shelter, and playground. There are additional picnic tables that could be made accessible with a companion space, in addition to path improvements to reach the basketball courts and the soccer field.
Spring Valley Park	2600 Mt. Olivet Road	Burke Acres	3	Park is not plowed in the winter. Paved trails throughout its interior. Pavilion, most playgrounds, tennis courts, and benches are located with accessible pathways. The disc golf course and the retro swing set are not connected by accessible pathways. There is gate access to the park from neighboring apartments but no dedicated accessible pathways.
Springmont Park	2416 Springmont Avenue	Oakwood	2	There is a sidewalk on Springmont Ave, but no curb cuts to access the park from on-street parking. The amenities of the park aren't accessible because there are no paved pathways.
Station Five Community Center	619 Douglas Ave	Douglas	3	The first floor of the community center is accessible, but the second floor is not.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
Upjohn Park	1000 Walter Street	Edison	4	Upjohn Park offers an ADA accessible playscape and a paved path to both parking lots, the tennis courts, basketball courts, skate park, pool, picnic shelter, and bathrooms. The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail connection adjacent to the park is also paved. There is a need to correctly stripe and sign handicap parking spots, a need for shade along the pathways, and the opportunity to add companion space at all benches and picnic tables.
Verburg Park	669 Gull Road	Northside	4	EPA remediation ongoing - expected to be re-opened by Labor Day 2023. The park offers a direct connection to the Kalamazoo Valley River Trail (paved) and the Kalamazoo River. Following remediation, the off-street parking area should be re-striped with an appropriate amount handicap spots. In re-developing this park, universal accessibility should be applied to the site.
Versluis/Dickinson Softball Complex	1924 Douglas Avenue	Northside	3	Parking areas directly off the interior roads and close to the ball fields allow those with mobility challenges to park close by, however, the parking spots could be striped/signed and designated handicap parking made available. The paths to the fields are paved or gravel with little to no shade.
West Douglas Park	1720 W. North Street	Douglas	1	There are no accessible connections on the exterior of the park or to the interior of the park.
West Gateway Park	Stadium Drive / Lovell Street	West Main Hill	3	There are no true park amenities to connect to, but there are crosswalks, curb cuts, and hard surfaces which connect to the paved interior path.

Park	Location	Neighborhood	Accessibility Score	Accessibility Notes
West Main Park	800 W. Main Street	Stuart	2	There are curb cuts to the sidewalks along both Elm St and W Main St. The park's only bench is located in the back of the park and isn't accessible by paved pathways. The bench could be moved closer to the sidewalk and completed with a companion space and a shade structure.
Woods Lake Park	2900 Oakland Drive	Oakland/Winchell	4	There is a parking area for handicap vehicles below the grade of the main parking area. Woods Lake Park is otherwise accessed by concrete stairs. Signage to communicate there is an accessible parking lot other than the main parking area would be helpful. The pavilion, restrooms, and boardwalk are accessible, but the playground is not fully accessible.
Youth Development Center	230 E. Crosstown Parkway	Edison		There are accessible connections to access the parking lot and the building. There is one dedicated accessible parking spot that is signed but not correctly striped.

How Do We Compare?

In October 2019, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) announced a shift in their approach to determining park and recreation facilities' level of service (LOS). NRPA departed from the previous "national standard" benchmarking system in pursuit of centering metrics on community characteristics. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review presents responses from 1,000 park and recreation agencies organized into the lower quartile (representing the lowest 25 percent), median, and highest quartile (representing the highest 25 percent) across seven components: park facilities, programming, responsibilities of park and recreation agencies, staffing, budget, agency funding, and policies. This resource is a tool for Kzoo Parks to conduct a comprehensive comparative analysis of their inventory, operations, and services against those of other agencies. Through this process, Kzoo Parks can discern their strengths, establish growth targets, and make informed decisions in the future.

By aligning Kzoo Parks' offerings with the metrics provided by NRPA, the analysis shows areas where the City meets and exceeds the community's needs. Simultaneously, it highlights opportunities for additional park and recreation facilities to be strategically considered. The 2024-2028 Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Master Plan not only quantifies park facilities but also includes observations about quality.

The following park and recreation facility LOS analysis looks beyond park classification and acreage and compares Kzoo Parks' offerings with the medians reported in the 2023 NRPA metrics report. For the tables that follow, the park agency characteristics reported for communities with a population between 50,000 and 99,999 are compared with the Kalamazoo population served by specific facilities. The number of facilities in Kalamazoo was calculated by taking the 2022 population estimate (74,453) and dividing it by the number of facilities in the City to arrive at the population served per facility. The system-wide park acreage number used in calculations (663.69) does not include golf course acreages.

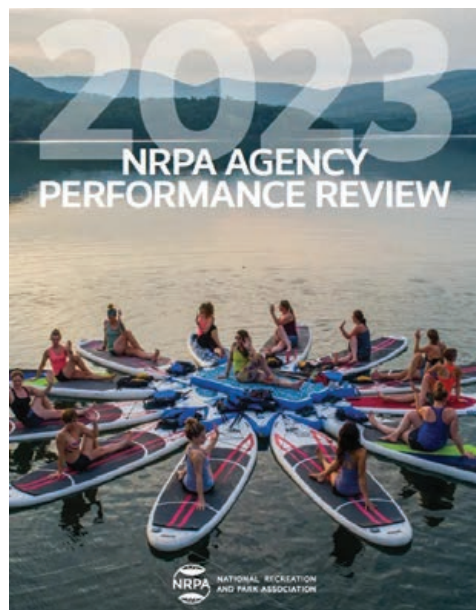


Table 7: Kalamazoo Parks Agency Performance Review Metrics

2022 NRPA metrics for a jurisdiction population of 50,000 to 99,999		2023 Kalamazoo
Park Facilities		
Residents per park	2,240	1,306
Acres of Parkland per 1,000 residents	11.2	8.92
Budget		
Annual operating expenditures	\$8,005,757	-
Budget	\$9108 per acre of park	-
Distribution of Operating Expenditures	55% for staffing costs, 38% for operating expenses, 5% for capital expenses not in the CIP, 2% other	73% for personnel services, 32% for other services and charges, 6% for supplies, 1% for capital expenses not in the CIP
Sources of Operating Expenditures	61% from general tax fund support	-
Park and Recreation Revenues per Capita	\$32.91 annually for each resident	-
Operating expenditures dedicated to parks or recreation	46% parks, 41% recreation, 13% other	-
5-year capital budget spending	\$16,815,000	\$11,518,907
Staffing		
Full-time employees (FTEs)	75.8	24

Acreage of parkland per 1,000 people is a common technique of expressing equal opportunity, even though park conditions and needs vary greatly between neighborhoods. On average, Kalamazoo residents have access to 8.92 acres per 1,000 people based on the 2022 estimated population. This figure falls between the median value (11.2 acres per 1,000 people) and the lower quartile (5 acres per 1,000 people).

The 2023 NRPA report also provides metrics on the variety and quantity of outdoor recreation facilities provided by park and recreation agencies.

Table 8: Kzoo Parks Outdoor Facilities Level of Service

Outdoor Facilities			
	Median residents per facility	Kalamazoo parks with feature	Kalamazoo residents per facility
Playgrounds	1/3,779	22	1/3,384
Basketball courts	1/8,790	6	1/12,408
Tennis courts	1/5,577	6	1/12,408
Rectangular fields: multi purpose	1/13,244	5	1/14,980
Dog parks	1/78,526	1	1/74,453
Diamond fields: softball	1/12,716	8	1/9,306
Diamond fields: baseball	1/27,566	8	1/9,306
Swimming pools (outdoor)	1/43,100	1	1/74,453
Community gardens	1/52,906	6	1/12,408
Volleyball courts	1/23,735	4	1/18,613
Tot lots	1/11,641	2	1/37,226
Skate parks	1/62,927	2	1/37,226
Regulation 18-hole courses	1/69,374	3	1/28,817
Driving range stations	1/9,267	3	1/28,817
Ice rinks	1/28,000	0	-
Pickleball courts (outdoor)	1/11,150	2	1/37,226
Miles of Trail	19	2.56 (within park boundaries)	-

Kalamazoo's facilities align with the NRPA median for playgrounds and multi-purpose fields. Kalamazoo has gained recognition as a destination for softball and baseball tournaments, which is reflected in its level of service. Kzoo Parks excels at providing amenities such as golf courses, volleyball courts, community gardens, and skate parks. However, the City could offer more pickleball and tennis courts, with special attention first to the courts in need of surface improvements. Addressing the shortage of age-appropriate play equipment for younger children, or tot lots, is another area where Kalamazoo could make positive changes to better meet the needs of its community.

Table 9: Kzoo Parks Indoor Facilities Level of Service

Indoor Facilities			
	Median residents per facility	Kalamazoo parks with feature	Kalamazoo residents per facility
Recreation centers (including gyms)	38,018	1	1/3,384
Community centers	53,331	1	1/12,408
Senior centers	67,139	0	1/12,408
Performance amphitheaters	60,495	0	1/14,980
Nature centers	71,360	1	1/74,453
Stadiums	64,150	2	1/9,306
Teen centers	58,174	1	1/9,306

Kzoo Parks manages and oversees three significant buildings: the Youth Development Center, Station Five Community Center, and the Lois Jackson Parks and Recreation Office Complex. Homer Stryker Field and the Soisson-Rapacz-Clason Field at Mayors' Riverfront Park are two distinct stadiums that host the collegiate baseball league and the semi-professional football club, among other leagues. While Kzoo Parks provides multi-purpose (general program) space at a few of its parks, there is generally a shortage of City-managed indoor facilities. It is also worth noting there are several recreation-adjacent organizations in Kalamazoo whose facilities may fill the gaps in the Department's indoor facilities' level of service.

Programming is another key component of Kzoo Parks' services. Table 10 illustrates the percent of agencies with a population between 50,000 and 99,999 offering targeted programs for children, seniors, and people with disabilities. The programs highlighted in orange are programs currently offered by Kzoo Parks. There is opportunity to partner with recreation-adjacent organizations in Kalamazoo to expand program offerings to be more inclusive of these groups. Figure 7 reflects the programs that may be considered essential for Kzoo Parks to provide the community.

Table 10: NRPA Review of Agency Programming Audiences

Targeted programs for children, seniors, and people with disabilities	
	Percent of agencies offering targeted programs
Summer camps	93%
Specific senior programs	88%
Specific teen programs	77%
Programs for people with disabilities	75%
Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs	66%
After-school programs	52%
Preschool	43%
Before-school programs	22%
Full daycare	12%

Figure 7: Programming offered by park and recreation agencies (percent of agencies)

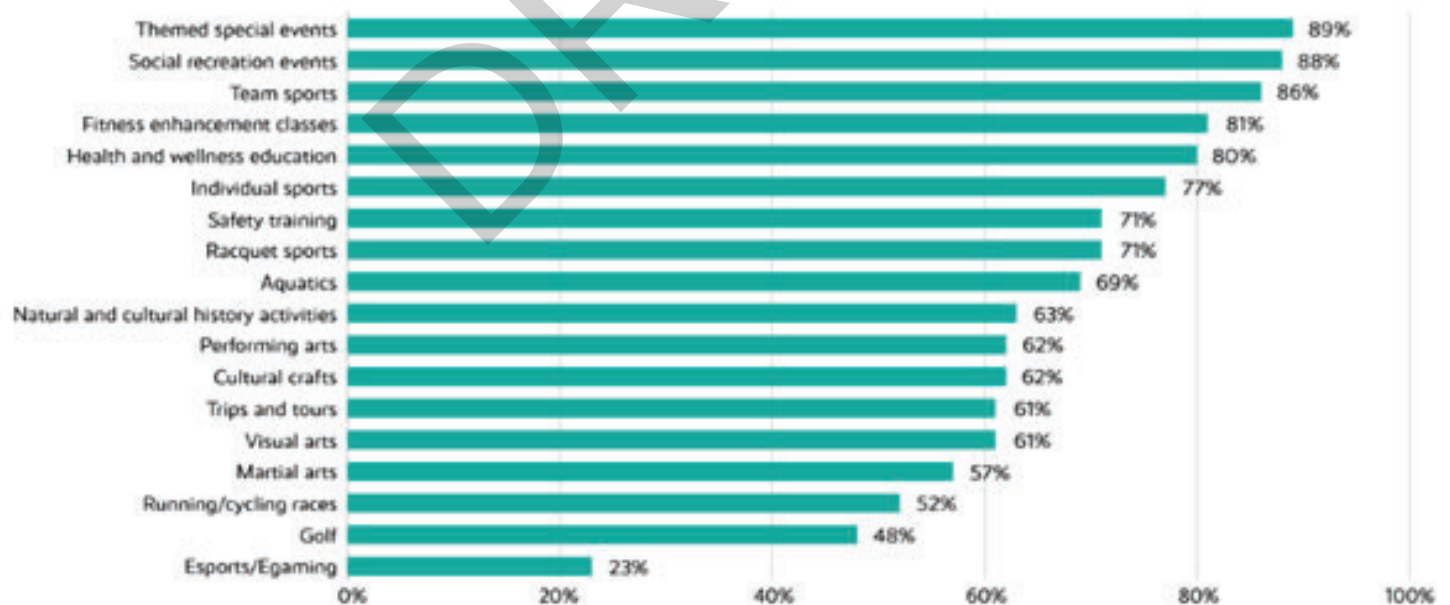


Figure 8: Key responsibilities of park and recreation agencies (percent of agencies)

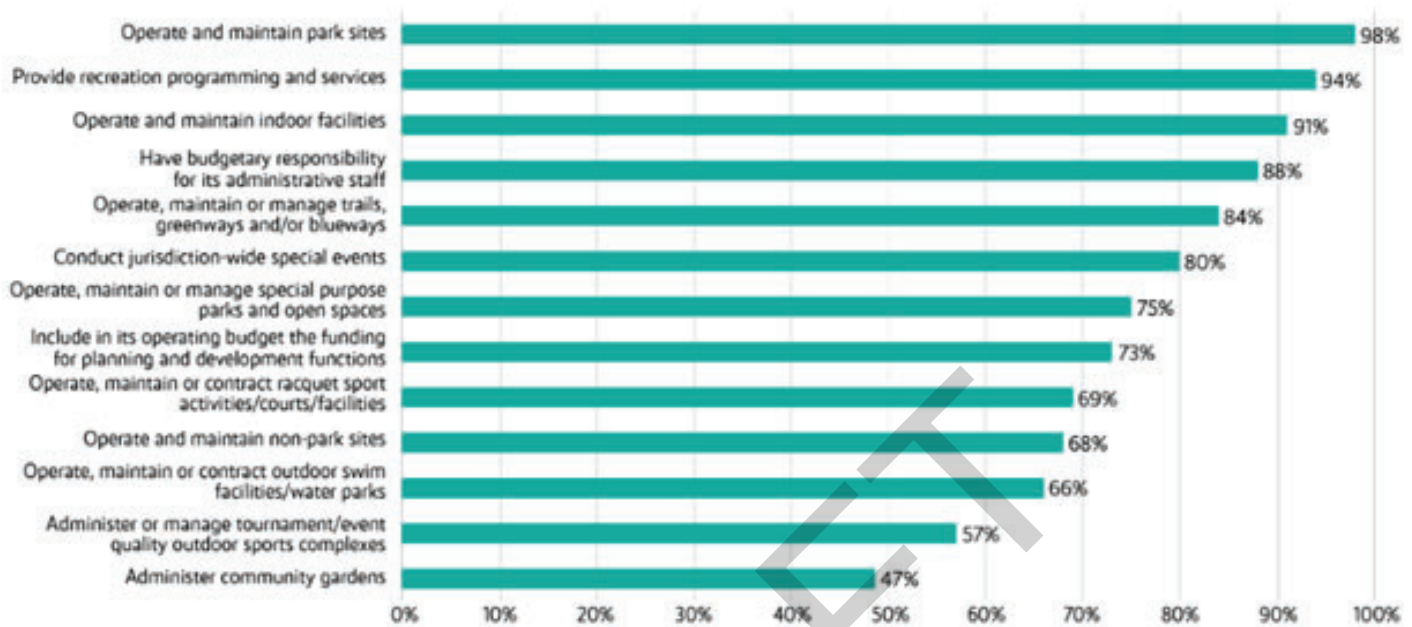


Figure 7 further defines the key responsibilities of park and recreation agencies serving populations between 50,000 and 99,999. Other responsibilities relevant to Kzoo Parks are maintaining a large outdoor performance amphitheater (37%), such as the ones found at Bronson Park and Arcadia Creek Festival Place; operating, maintaining, or contracting golf courses (35%); and administering or managing farmers markets (22%).

Regional Amenities

There are many additional amenities located in the surrounding region and available to Kalamazoo residents but not operated by Kzoo Parks.

State Recreational Amenities

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Fulton State Game Area	Fulton, MI 49052	Hunting
Gourdneck State Game Area	Portage, MI 49024	Nature Preserve
Long Lake Boating Access	4599 Long Lake Drive, Portage, MI 49002	Boating Access

County Recreational Amenities

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Cold Brook County Park	14467 E MN Ave, Climax, MI 49034	Park
Kalamazoo Country Day School	4221 E Milham Ave, Portage, MI 49002	Day Care Center
Prairie View County Park	899 E U Ave, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Park
River Oaks County Park	9202 E Michigan Ave, Galesburg, MI 49053	Park
Scotts Mill Park	8451 S 35th St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007	Park

Public Recreational Amenities

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Alamo Elementary School	8184 N 6th St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	School
Alamo Little League	8590 W De Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Baseball Field
Markin Glen Park	5300 N Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49004	Park
Al Sabo Land Bridge	Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Park
Amberly Elementary School	6637 Amberly St, Portage, MI 49024	School
Angling Road Elementary School	5340 Angling Rd, Portage, MI 49024	School
Aquaview Lift Station	496 E Eagle Lake Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Lift Station

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Asylum Lake Preserve	3836 S Drake Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49008	Nature Preserve
Barton Lake Boat Launch	1299 Fishermans Ln, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Boat Launch
Bishop's Bog Preserve	9920 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, MI 49024	Nature Preserve
Central Park	7800 Shaver Rd, Portage, MI 49024	Park
Central Middle School	8305 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, MI 49002	School
Chipman Preserve	8395 E Main St, Galesburg, MI 49053	Preserves
Climax-Scotts Elementary School	11250 E Q R Ave, Scotts, MI 49088	Elementary School
Climax-Scotts Jr./Sr. High School	372 S Main St, Climax, MI 49034	School
Comstock Community Center	6330 King Hwy, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	Community Center
Cooper's Island, Big Island Woods	131 W Eliza St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	Park
Crum Park Farm	3500 N 37th St, Galesburg, MI 49053	Park
Davis Field	1903 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008	Park
Flesher Field	3664 S 9th St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Park
Fort Custer State Recreation Area	5163 Fort Custer Dr, Augusta, MI 49012	Park
Greater Kalamazoo Skating Association	5076 Sports Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Ice Skating
City of Kalamazoo Recreation	234 W Cedar St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007	Park
Lillian Anderson Arboretum	W Main St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Arboretum
Galesburg-Augusta Middle School	750 W Van Buren St, Augusta, MI 49012	School
Green Meadow Elementary School	6171 E Mn Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	School
Greenwood Elementary School	3501 Moreland St, Kalamazoo, MI 49001	School
Gull Lake Public Access Hickory Corners	MI 49060	Park
Hackett Catholic Prep High School	1000 W Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49008	School

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Harbor West Parks	3458 Summersong Path, Portage, MI 49024	Park
Haverhill Elementary School	6633 Haverhill Ave, Portage, MI 49024	School
Haverhill Park	6577 Hampton St, Portage, MI 49024	Park
Hicks Park	107-145 W Allegan St, Plainwell, MI 49080	Park
Indian Lake Elementary School	11901 S 30th St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	School
Kellogg Bird Sanctuary	12685 E C Ave, Augusta, MI 49012	Bird Sanctuary
Kalamazoo River Valley Trail	1009 S 35th St, Galesburg, MI 49053	Trail
Kalamazoo Valley Community College	6767 W O Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	College / Sports Facilities
Kazoo School	1401 Cherry St, Kalamazoo, MI 49008	School
Kenyon Park	891 Lincoln Pkwy, Plainwell, MI 49080	Park
Kleinstuck Preserve/Nature Trail	2100 Stearns Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008	Preserve
Lake Center Elementary	10011 Portage Rd, Portage, MI 49002	School
Lakeview Parks	9345 Portage Rd, Portage, MI 49002	Parks
Leo J. Burch Park	442 N Grand St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	Park
Liberty Park	7585 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, MI 49024	Park
Lory Norrix High School	606 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49001	School
Oakland Drive Park	7650 Oakland Dr, Portage, MI 49024	Park
Palmer Memorial Nature Sanctuary	10720 Paw Paw Lake Dr, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	Nature Sanctuary
Paw Paw Prairie Fen Preserve	68032 Van Kal Ave, Mattawan, MI 49071 Nature Preserve	Nature Preserve
Portage Northern High School	1000 Idaho Ave, Portage, MI 49024	School
Portage Creek Bicentennial Park	910 E Milham Ave, Portage, MI 49024	Park
Portage Creek Bicentennial Park (Celery Flats)	7335 Garden Ln, Portage, MI 49002	Park

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Portage Central High School	8135 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, MI 49002	School
Red Arrow Golf Course	1041 King Hwy, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	Golf Course
River Villa & Jan Schau Wildflower Walk	E Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49048 Trail	Trail
Lexington Green Park	4750 Pittsford Ave, Portage, MI 49002	Park
McLinden Nature Trails	7405 E H Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	Trail
Meadow Run Dog Park	Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Park
Milham Park	400 E Kilgore Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49001	Park
Milwood Elementary School	3400 Lovers Ln, Kalamazoo, MI 49001	School
Nature's Way Preschool	4442 Oakland Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49008	School
Oshtemo Township Park	7275 W Main St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Park
Prairieville Township Gull Lake Park	15475 M-43, Hickory Corners, MI 49060	Park
Rector Community Park & Trails	8271 W De Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Park
Richland Township Park	7401 N 32nd St, Richland, MI 49083	Park
Sand Creek Preserve	N 2nd St, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Preserve
Schoolcraft High School	551 E Lyons St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	School
Schoolcraft Ladies Library	163 N Hayward St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	Library
Schoolcraft Little League	13661 S 18th St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	Field
Scotts Community Center	8450 36th St S, Scotts, MI 49088	Community Center
Sherwood Park	201-277 N Sherwood Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080	Park
States Golf Course	20 E W Ave, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Golf Course
Swan Park	50 V W Ave E, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Park
Sunset Lake Elementary School	201 N Boulevard St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	School

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Sunset Lake Park	350 Page St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Park
Sutherland Park	251 Mills St, Kalamazoo, MI 49001	Baseball field
Thurl Cook Park	615-, 659 Glenview Cir, Plainwell, MI 49080	Park
Tobey Elementary School	8551 E Long Lake Dr, Scotts, MI 49088	School
Urban Nature Park - Kalamazoo Nature Center	426 E Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49007	Urban Park
Vicksburg Little League	300 N 4th St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Field
Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center	101 E Prairie St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Arts Center
Vicksburg Middle School	348 E Prairie St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	School
Wilkie Memorial Sanctuary	10500 Paw Paw Lake Dr, Mattawan, MI 49071	Nature Preserve
West Lake Nature Preserve	420 S Shore Dr, Portage, MI 49002	Nature Preserve
Wedel's Garden Center	5085 S 34th St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	Garden Center
Western Michigan University	1903 Western Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49008	University
Westfield Park	4500 W Milham Ave, Portage, MI 49024	Park
West Portage Little League	6669 S 12th St, Portage, MI 49024	Baseball Field
Woodland Elementary School	1401 Woodland Dr, Portage, MI 49024	School
Wolf Tree Nature Trails	8829 W Kl Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Nature Trail

Private Recreational Amenities

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Adventure Centre	9123 W Q Ave, Mattawan, MI 49071	Adventure Center
Angels Crossing Golf Club	3600 E W Ave, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Golf Course
A Sportsman Dream Taxiderm	11511 S Sprinkle Rd, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Hunting
Bark Park Dog Park and Dog Day Care	6604 Lovers Ln, Portage, MI 49002	Dog Park
Battle Creek Farmers Market	14302 E O P Ave, Climax, MI 49034	Farmers Market
Bowling Alley	1946 E U Ave, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Bowling Alley
Celery Flats	7328 Garden Ln, Portage, MI 49002	Park
Crestview Golf Club	900 D Ave W, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Golf Club
Eastern Hills Golf Course	6075 E G Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49004 Golf Club	Golf Club
Golf Performance Academy	8536 Shaver Rd, Portage, MI 49024	Golf
Hayloft Theatre	7340 Garden Ln, Portage, MI 49002	Theater
Hickory Ridge Golf Course & Driving Range	65 N 30th St, Galesburg, MI 49053	Golf Course
Indian Run Golf Club	6359 Rs Ave E, Scotts, MI 4908	Golf Club
Jg Marine Recreational	6603 E U V Ave, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Boating
Jungle Joe's Family Fun Center	7255 S Sprinkle Rd, Portage, MI 49002	Bounce House
Kalamazoo College Athletic Complex	1600 W Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008	Athletic Complex
Kal Val Saddle Club	9853 S 34th St, Scotts, MI 49088	Horse Back Riding
Key Blooms Country Gardens	11304 S Sprinkle Rd, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Plant Sales
Kingdom Sports	8151 Merchant Pl, Portage, MI 49002	Soccer Field
Krichke Training Center	11695 S Sprinkle Rd, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Horse Training
Landmark Farm	7903 E N Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	Horse Back Riding

NAME	ADDRESS	USE
Long Lake Roller Rink	4525 S Long Lake Dr, Portage, MI 49002	Roller Skating
Maple Hill Golf Course	16344 E C Ave, Augusta, MI 49012	Golf Course
Nazarene Camp Dining Hall	7926 Central St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Camp
Oak Shores Resort Campground	13496 S 28th St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Campground
Olde Mill Golf Club	6101 W X Y Ave, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	Golf Club
Portage Skatepark	9010 S Westnedge Ave, Portage, MI 49024	Skate Park
Portage Soccer Club Practice Facility	8421 Coss Dr, Portage, MI 49002	Practice Facilities
Portage Soccer Complex	4422 Bishop Ave, Portage, MI 49002	Soccer Field
Ramona Park Softball Fields	Portage, MI 49002	Sports Field
Reformed Heritage Christian School	700 N Fletcher Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49006	School
Rollerworld	7491 Stadium Dr, Kalamazoo, MI 49009	Roller Skating
Schoolcraft United Methodist Church	342 N Grand St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	Church
Schultz Western Trail Riding	13890 S 32nd St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Trail Riding
South County Players	501 E Hwy St, Vicksburg, MI 49097	Performing Arts Players
Sky Zone Trampoline Park	5103 Portage Rd, Kalamazoo, MI 49002	Trampoline Park
Stonehedge Golf Club	15530 M-89, Augusta, MI 49012	Golf Course
Timber Ridge	07500 23 1/2 St, Gobles, MI 49055 Ski /	Winter Sports
Tomlin Son Racing LLC	13740 S 8th St, Schoolcraft, MI 49087	Racing Track
Ugly Rhino Orchard	5321 S 31st St, Kalamazoo, MI 49048	Orchard
Vicksburg Outdoor Education	15510 Portage Rd, Vicksburg, MI 4909	School

Key Findings

Strengths

- Vast parks and recreation system of 1,025 acres for a population of 74,000, offering basic and specialized park amenities throughout.
- Access to natural features that include forests, lakes, and rivers for a blue-green economy.
- Regional parks and sports complexes help the City generate tourism and sports revenue.
- The Kalamazoo Farmers' Market drives traffic to Upjohn Park and the Kik Pool, raising awareness of these assets.
- Strong parks system brand presence and website providing parks information and promotion for events and projects.
- Dedicated Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) group and Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation (KFOR) nonprofit group.

Weaknesses

- Substantial deferred maintenance in some large parks with great potential, such as Arcadia Creek Festival Place, Bronson Park, Milham Park, Upjohn Park, and Spring Valley Park.
- High distribution of smaller parks which often requires more upkeep and maintenance hours.
- Parks in the southeastern part of the City with the densest populations, particularly in Edison, South Westnedge and Milwood, are in need of improvements and updating.
- Lack of community gathering spaces to allow for the expansion of recreation, senior and youth programs, and cultural activities.
- Parking areas are not guaranteed at parks and recreation facilities. The Kzoo Parks web map does not reflect parking availability and locations.
- The Department's 18 full-time staff has over 60 facilities to maintain and program. It relies on a college park ranger program to open and close parks due to a lack of staff availability.
- Several individual park profiles are missing from the Kzoo Parks website from the parks and recreation facility inventory.

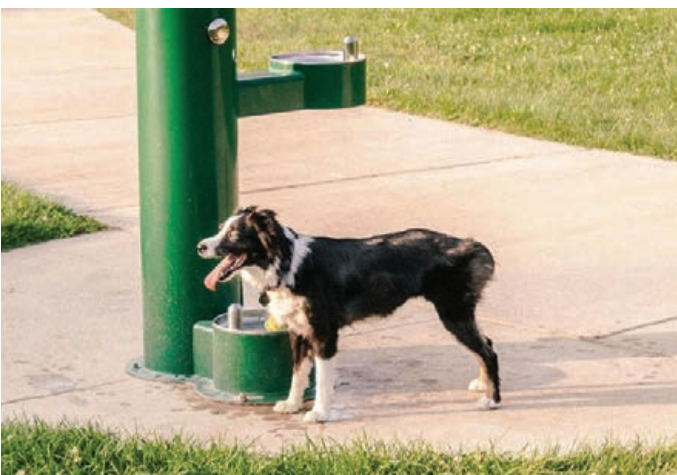


Opportunities

- A need to create safe connections to parks and between parks; improve parks system presence with better wayfinding signage; and visually unify parks with that signage.
- Opportunity to place a high priority on improvements and upgrades that improve barrier free accessibility not only within parks, but also the external access points to parks.
- Update parks with sports complexes to be more attractive to regional and national sporting events, boosting the economy in the process.
- Full-time marketing staff could be hired to continue growing the system's social media presence, started in 2015, and marketing collateral.
- 33 acres of undeveloped green space areas within the City limits can be preserved for climate resilience or habitat and support environmental education.
- Downtown parks and park amenities can be leveraged to increase the draw to living, working, dining, and shopping downtown.
- Form partnerships with other existing other recreational programs and expand the Department's core program categories, where appropriate.

Challenges

- Balancing available funding with staffing needs, maintaining parks, upgrading parks with innovative and interactive amenities, and growing program and event attendance as well as offerings.
- No City indoor fitness or wellness facilities. This high priority would require significant City investment.
- No millage funding parks improvements, so the Department relies on CIP funding and alternative funding sources for operations, maintenance, and projects. Changes in the City General fund have direct effects on the parks budget.
- Gaps in service due to a shortage of staff to meet demand (i.e., lifeguards, maintenance)
- Parks have been the locations of low occurrences of serious conflict.
- The City is lacks a fully connected trail system inside its boundaries, between the City of Portage, and other area attractions.



5

PUBLIC INPUT

IN THIS CHAPTER:

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY SURVEYS

PUBLIC COMMENTS &
PUBLIC HEARING SUMMARY



Public Notification and Involvement

Several channels were established to conduct engagement events and gather community input throughout the planning process. Participants included Kalamazoo residents, specific parks and recreation stakeholders, neighborhood associations, and City of Kalamazoo staff and elected officials. Additional information on the marketing materials used to drive the community input process are provided. In total, there were four methods used to result in robust and meaningful community input:

Statistically Significant Survey

A statistically valid survey was distributed to a random sample of households across the City of Kalamazoo during the summer of 2023. This tool provided an important data set that represented a user group with similar demographic characteristics to the City as a whole and offered a balanced resident perspective across the City. The survey was also made available to complete online. Results were based on 354 total surveys providing a 95% confidence level. Full results of the survey can be found in Appendix X.

Online Engagement

An online survey was launched in coordination with marketing materials advertising Public Meeting 1. Links to the survey were made available on the Kzoo Parks website and social media and shared in online local news articles. The survey was available from July 14 to August 7, 2023. The first section of the survey asked respondents about their usage of Kalamazoo's parks and recreation facilities. The second section asked participants to identify principles and values that would be most meaningful to guide the future of Kalamazoo's Parks and Recreation facilities. The final section collected demographic data voluntarily from respondents.

Stakeholder Interviews

With the support of the Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation team, OHM Advisors scheduled and facilitated ten Stakeholder Interviews over a month-long period from June 28 to July 19. The invitation and interview questions were formalized with the Kalamazoo Parks team prior to contacting each group. Each interview used these interview questions as a guide to inspire conversation about Kalamazoo's parks and recreation facilities with each group. Conducting stakeholder interviews early in the planning process ensured that representatives from each group could provide feedback about the Kalamazoo parks and recreation system and their organization's perceived parks and recreation needs.

Public Meetings

Both in-person engagement opportunities used an open house format rather than a traditional presentation and Q&A format to maximize interaction and opportunities for feedback. Throughout the public input period, an estimated 700+ individuals participated and over 100 comments were recorded.

Public Hearing

Section forthcoming

Community Surveys

Statistically Significant Community Survey

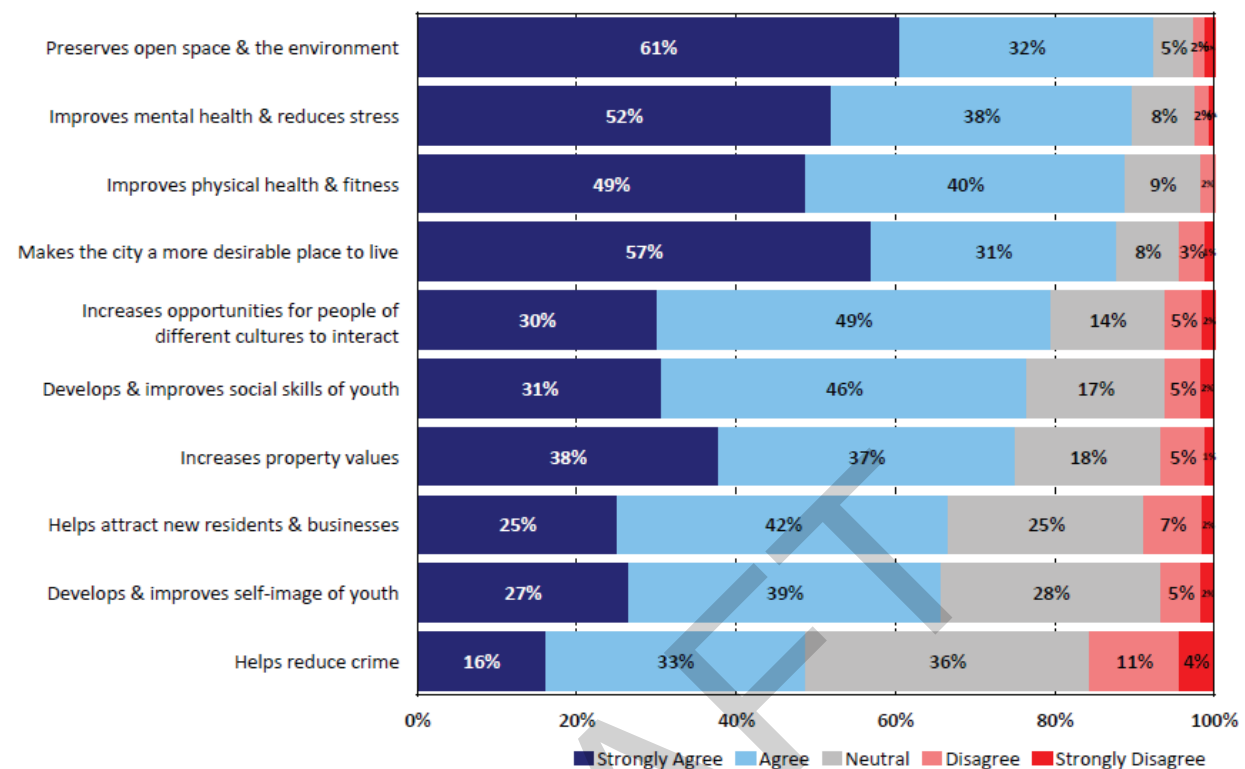
Starting in the summer of 2023, a city-wide community survey was developed and distributed to a random sample of Kalamazoo residents and asked specific questions about the City's parks, recreation programming, and amenities. The goal of the survey was to establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services within the community.

The goal was to collect a minimum of 325 completed surveys from residents. The goal was met with 354 completed surveys collected. The overall results for the sample of 909 households have a precision of at least ± 5.2 at the 95% level of confidence. The full survey findings report can be found in Appendix A.

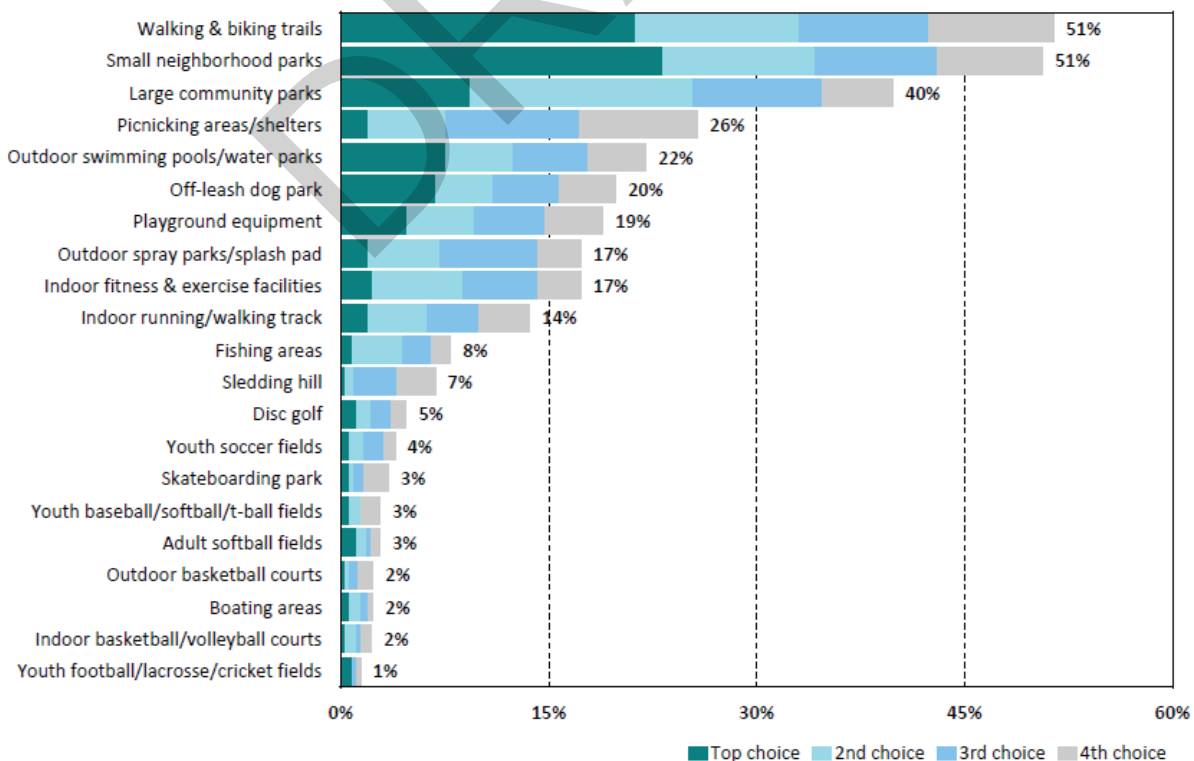
The major findings of the survey are summarized below:

- **Use of Parks** - Ninety two percent (92%) of respondents indicated they or other members of their household had visited City of Kalamazoo parks during the past year.
- **Condition of Parks** - When asked about the physical condition of the parks they had visited, 79% who had an opinion gave ratings of "excellent" (17%) or "good" (62%).
- **Additions to Parks** - When residents were asked what kind of additions they would most like to their neighborhood park 61% answered "restrooms." Other additions include natural areas (50%), shade structures (45%), and trails (43%).
- **Participation Overview** - Twenty four percent (24%) of respondents indicated they or their household participated in youth/adult/family programs or special events offered by the City of Kalamazoo during the past 12 months.
- **Rating Programs** - When asked how they would rate the quality of recreation programs, 91% who had an opinion rated them as "excellent" (27%) or "good" (64%).
- **Barriers to Use** - Respondents said their biggest barriers to use of parks and programs use was not knowing what was offered (51%), insufficient security (34%), and not knowing the locations of facilities (31%).
- **Communication Methods**. When asked how they have learned about City of Kalamazoo programs and activities, 76% of respondents indicated it was from social media, 50% said friends and neighbors, and 31% visited the Kalamazoo Parks website. Respondents most prefer communications via social media (69%), the Kalamazoo Parks website (35%), or a Kalamazoo Parks postcard mailing (31%).

Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following potential benefits being provided by parks, trails, recreation facilities, and programs of the City of Kalamazoo.



Which FOUR of the facilities from the list below are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?



Community Engagement Survey

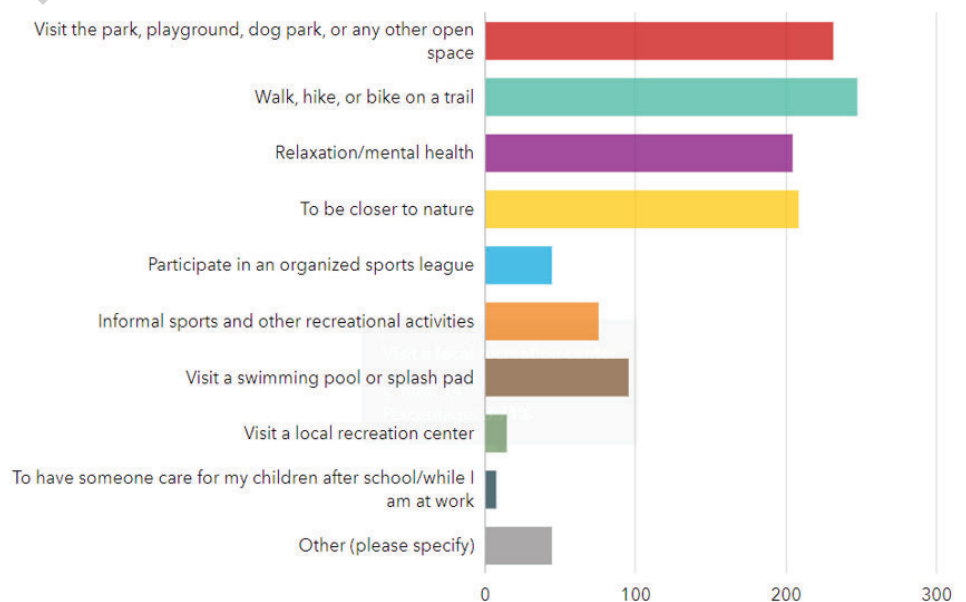
An additional community survey was developed to ask more targeted questions about the future of parks and recreation services in the City of Kalamazoo. This survey was also available for all residents to take part in, expanding the reach of the randomly distributed statistically significant survey. The community survey was launched July 14th, 2023 and ended on August 7th, 2023 and was open the week before and week after the 1st community meeting.

The community survey focused on how residents currently use Kalamazoo's parks facilities and recreation programs, as well as their vision for the future of the parks system. Nearly 380 people participated in the survey. Most respondents were more likely use the parks than take part in recreation programs and most individuals were interested in seeing walking and biking amenities, splash pads and pools, and nature preserves added to the parks around the city.

The other major findings from this survey are summarized below:

- Nearly 65% of respondents indicated that they visit a Kalamazoo park or recreation facility at least once per week.
- The most common reasons respondents visit parks is to use the amenities at the park such as playgrounds, dog parks, and open space (61%), walk or bike along a trail (65%), to be closer to nature (55%), and for relaxation or mental health (54%).
- The most common recreation amenity that respondents use are walking and biking trails (81%), nature preserves and conservation areas (69%), and playgrounds (44%).
- Respondents were most interested in seeing improvement to the walking and biking trails (51%), followed by nature preserves (50%) and the splash pads/swimming pools (40%).
- Walking and biking trails were the most requested amenity to be added to the parks (38%), followed by splash pads/pools (33%), and natural areas (32%).
- The top barriers to respondents utilizing Kalamazoo's parks and recreation offerings more are concerns around safety (29%), lack of information on park amenities (28%), and the lack of quality facilities near their home (25%).
- Over 85% of respondents would like to see a greater focus on sustainability in the parks, specifically around green stormwater infrastructure (56%), energy efficient park buildings (51%), and focusing on reducing water use.

Q: What are the primary reasons you visit parks or recreation facilities?



Key Findings

Based on the public engagement and feedback received from members of the community, common themes and desires for the parks system began to arise. Overall, most residents are happy with the parks system and tend to utilize their neighborhood park on a regular basis, however, many felt like safety, maintenance, and accessibility could be improved at all of the parks in Kalamazoo. Additionally, respondents felt there was a lack of information available to easily understand the breadth of programs that Kzoo Parks has to offer. As many residents are getting their information about events and amenities from social media, Kzoo Parks may need to do a better job at controlling the messaging that goes out on platforms like Facebook and Instagram.

The community's desires for improvements to the park system can be organized around a few major themes. The most common feedback was around the desire for more walking and biking pathways both inside the parks and connecting to other parks. Residents are interested in being able to ride their bikes between parks and connect to the other trail systems in the region. Additionally, residents are interested in improving the sustainability of the parks system through the use of eco-friendly and energy efficient building materials, more naturalized areas, and green stormwater infrastructure. Many residents responded with a desire for more water features, such as splash pads, fountains, and pools at neighborhood parks to stay cool in the summer.

Finally, a large portion of the community expressed interest in an indoor community fitness and recreation center that would include a gym, sport courts, and community space for use by all residents. This is a likely to be a longer term goal for the City and Kzoo Parks, but would provide a large benefit to community.



6

SYSTEM WIDE GOALS

IN THIS CHAPTER:

PARK IMPROVEMENT GOALS

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

PRIORITY PARKS



Goals for Park Improvements

The goals for the Kalamazoo parks system were informed both by the findings from the existing conditions analysis, feedback from stakeholder focus groups, and input from the community during the planning process. These goals have guided the development of both larger system-wide recommendations for all parks in the system, as well as for the individual priority parks that the department should focus on over the next five years. The goals and priority statements listed below address the needs for improved connectivity and access to parks, more impactful messaging around park amenities and programs, and to ensure a vibrant park system well into the future.

Accessibility

Improve universal accessibility on-site and to each park.

Connectivity

Create a network of parks and trails that is safe, comfortable, and accessible, foster connections to and within the parks

Organizational Capacity and Collaboration

Ensure that staff levels meet the needs of the agency to keep parks maintained and programs operating.

Marketing and Communications

Implement effective communication strategies to successfully connect residents and visitors with parks and recreation amenities and programming.

Beautification

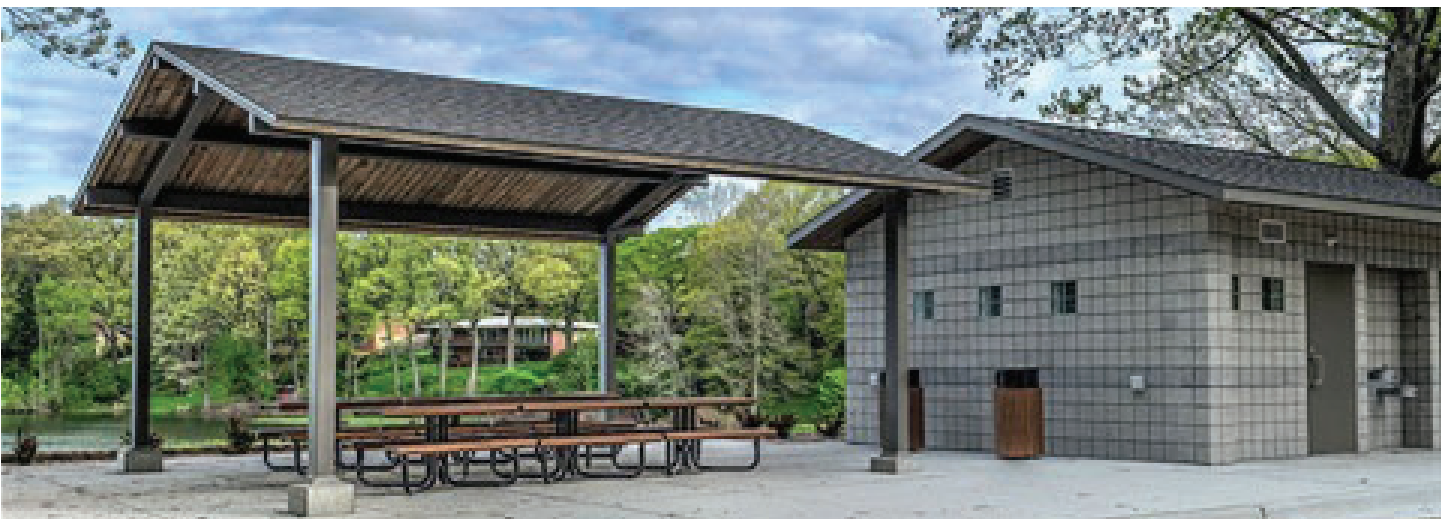
Establish a beautification program to plan aesthetic enhancements for the parks that reflect community identity and support a high quality of life.

System-Wide Park Recommendations

System-wide, Kalamazoo's parks will benefit from a standardized framework that is intended to be applied to all new park improvements. The recommendations listed below will ensure that the parks and recreation facilities meet the same standard for quality, maintenance, design, and sustainability so that regardless of where a park is located in Kalamazoo, they all look and feel consistent.

Additionally, many of the system-wide recommendations intend to improve the long-term viability of the parks from a sustainability standpoint, increase the efficient use of the parks, bring new revenue generating activities to Kzoo Parks, and, ultimately, ensure that the parks system remains a highly valued community amenity within Kalamazoo.

- Implement general park design standards across neighborhoods.
- Clearly mark all park entrances with Kzoo Parks branded signage
- New amenities or upgrades must be in compliance with ADA accessibility standards.
- Restrooms should be located near recreation fields, children's play areas, and group picnic areas, if possible. Where applicable and where space allows, additional space for a multi-use flex room should be included in the restroom design. Restroom buildings should be aesthetically pleasing, well-maintained, and universally accessible. At least one restroom per park should meet ADA requirements.
- Develop standard location zone for park amenities in relation to the flood zones (1 year, 10 year, 50 year, and 100 year).
- Improve the capacity of recreational facilities to respond to existing community needs while supporting athletic tourism, leagues, and tournaments.
- Identify options for revenue generation at specific parks.
- Organize and document maintenance activities to prioritize maintenance efforts in high-use and high-visibility areas.
- Adapt maintenance practices for the winter use of parks.
- Replace park utility related systems with sustainable and cost-efficient technology (i.e., LED lighting).
- Implement a comprehensive wayfinding signage system to improve the overall use and accessibility of the system.
- Establish a maintenance plan for regular inspection, repair, and replacement of signage.
- Conduct a feasibility study for an indoor recreation facility.



Goal: Improve universal accessibility on-site and to each park.

Throughout the Kalamazoo parks system, there are parks that lack universal access and design, limiting the number of individuals who can use the amenities. This goal aims to update all Kalamazoo parks and recreation facilities to ensure all residents can easily visit the parks.

- Ensure that sidewalks and pathways connecting to parks meet ADA standards (at a minimum) and strive for universal accessibility wherever possible
- Interior pathways to amenities that meet ADA standards (at a minimum)
- Opportunities to incorporate adaptive structures and programming
- Enhance park entry point accessibility and aesthetics through enhancements to perimeter fencing, while maintaining safety standards.
- Coordinate with City and County staff to implement high-visibility crosswalks and signage where crossing improvements are needed
- Focus on parks without dedicated parking areas and near schools
- For parks without dedicated parking areas, commit to striping a minimum of 1 ADA space and providing a curb cut

Connectivity

Goal: Create a network of parks and trails that is safe, comfortable, and accessible, foster connections to and within the parks.

Many residents are looking for more non-motorized connectivity within and between the parks in Kalamazoo. Kzoo Parks should foster the development of trail connections within parks that help residents and visitors access the larger regional trail network.

- Support the development of trail connections to Portage through collaboration with Kalamazoo County Parks, Kalamazoo Department of Public Works, etc.
- Support the use of parks for trail connections
- Connect neighborhoods to the interior of parks wherever possible, with a particular focus on neighborhoods without sidewalks (where parks may be the only place to walk undisturbed without motor traffic)
- Add supportive features like bike racks, bike service stations, and benches with shade to parks near existing and planned non-motorized facilities
- Coordinate with Planning Department and others to support the development of non-motorized facilities

Organizational Capacity and Collaboration

Goal: Ensure that staff levels and collaboration efforts meet the needs of the agency to keep parks maintained and programs operating.

A successful parks department will be reliant on dedicated staff to ensure the proper maintenance and operations of the parks and the programming offerings. Kzoo Parks must continue to add staff capacity in ensure that the parks are safe, maintained, and able to operate seamlessly.

- Continue to improve coordination with schools, the Disability Network, the Foundation for Excellence, Kalamazoo County, arts and cultural partners, and others
- Create a strategy to address hiring gaps
- Create a formal policy to define partner and affiliate group partnerships
- Formalize field use with public and private sports organizations
- Clarify the field reservation and use process
- Gather program data and track program participation annually
- Establish metrics for measurement of departmental goals (program reach, new programs offered, program cancellation rate)
- Grow program partnerships in areas that are complementary to Department offerings by partnering with affiliate groups around Kalamazoo

Marketing and Communications

Goal: Implement effective communication and marketing strategies to successfully connect residents and visitors with parks and recreation amenities and programming.

A successful parks department will be reliant on dedicated staff to ensure the proper maintenance and operations of the parks and the programming offerings. Kzoo Parks must continue to add staff capacity in ensure that the parks are safe, maintained, and able to operate seamlessly.

- Verify park locations on Google Maps for easy searching and routing
- Update the parks website to include parking areas, ADA parking areas, to reflect the categories included in this Master Plan.
- Establish a schedule for social media posting – month by month and seasonal events and activities
- Coordinate with City departments to develop an email newsletter template for regular distribution
- Develop survey for Kzoo Parks staff to audit parks before reaching out to community members on the improvements they'd like to see
- Develop marketing materials to share information about reservable/rentable facilities in the park system (picnic shelters, recreation fields, community room at Mayors' Riverfront Park, Station Five Community Center, etc.)

Goal: Establish a beautification program to plan aesthetic enhancements for the parks that reflect community identity and support a high quality of life.

Many people utilize parks as a way to experience the natural beauty of the surrounding area. With high quality and well maintained parks spaces, more residents may be encouraged to visit and engage with their local parks. Beautification also includes the opportunity to introduce new sustainable design practices that help maintain the parks aesthetics into the future.

- Establish a public art grant program with City Departments to encourage public art installations throughout the City, including parks and park structures
- Engage corporate sponsors in planting bulbs, annuals, perennials, and trees in their adopted parks
- Engage corporate sponsors in volunteer clean-ups and other beautification efforts in their adopted parks
- Increase resident engagement in park maintenance through Adopt-a-Park programs and volunteer days
- Promote corporate sponsorship program to adopt more parks
- Develop awards program to recognize outstanding efforts in beautification by corporate sponsors and neighborhood associations
- Create management practices appropriate to natural and active parks
- Encourage low-impact design and sustainable management practices in parks and capital improvement projects
- Increase the amount of drought-tolerant and native vegetation and trees in the park system
- Implement green stormwater infrastructure to address flooding and water quality issues



Priority Parks for Investment

A Park Equity Analysis was completed to understand the distribution of vulnerable populations (minorities, lower-income households, the elderly, households with children, households with someone with a disability, and zero-car households) in relation to park access. A 10-minute walkshed analysis revealed that most (77%) Kalamazoo residents have access to a park in their neighborhood, but the quality of the park and its amenities must also be considered. Further analysis scored the parks based on recent investment, the present amenities, the condition of the amenities, and the presence of universal design elements. Geographically, the areas where residents have limited accessibility to parks and also have a high concentration of vulnerable population are mostly the neighborhoods north and east of the Central Business District. Using this assessment, the Master Plan seeks to incorporate equity into its recommendations, with a special focus on the parks and neighborhoods scoring highest in the Park Equity Analysis.

The methodology for selecting parks for improvements was centered on equity, ensuring that park improvements are located in neighborhoods with more vulnerable populations. To do this, neighborhood demographic data was sorted into upper, middle, and lower quartiles based on the presence of these populations. The quartiles were assigned a score and added together to create a neighborhood score. Parks were then evaluated based on multiple criteria to determine their suitability for improvements. The neighborhood score and the park score were combined, and the parks with the top 10 highest scores were selected for comprehensive improvements. This multi-faceted approach aimed to prioritize parks that were not only in need of impactful and inclusive enhancements, but also those with the potential to better serve the diverse needs of their respective communities.



Top 10 Priority Parks

- Blanche Hull Park
- Fairmount Park
- Farrell Park
- Knollwood Park
- Princeton Park
- Rockwell Park
- Sherwood Park
- Spring Valley Park
- Verberg Park (\$225,000 in improvements budgeted for 2023)
- Versluis/Dickinson Softball Complex

Other Park Improvement Plans:

- Milham Park (\$200,000 in improvements budgeted for 2023)
- Emerald Drive Park (\$250,000 in improvements budgeted for 2023)



7

ACTION PLAN

IN THIS CHAPTER:

ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

PARK IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Overview

The Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Plan includes recommendations for specific parks within the parks network. In addition, ten priority parks were identified through the parks equity analysis to determine which are in the greatest need for capital improvements, ensure the neighborhoods with the greatest need receive park improvements, and identify a feasible set of park projects that can be addressed with the anticipated capital improvement program.

The follow section contains pages dedicated to each park in the Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation system. A map of the park, the existing amenities, the results of the equity analysis, and a summary of the park and improvements are included for each park in the system. The parks with greater needs and more opportunity for improvements may have additional pages dedicated to proposed park improvements and example projects from other parks around the State and Region.



PRIORITY PARKS

The following are the ten priority parks for Kalamazoo Parks to focus efforts on over the next five years:

- Blanche Hull Park
- Fairmount Dog Park
- Farrell Park
- Knollwood Park
- Princeton Park
- Rockwell Park
- Sherwood Park
- Spring Valley Park
- Verburg Park
- Versluis/Dickinson Softball Complex

ACADEMY GREEN

ADDRESS: 1520 ACADEMY STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL
SIZE: 0.08 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES

- A Community gardens

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○○ 8 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○○ 1 / 5
Park Features	Good condition
Programs and Activities	Programmed by neighborhood association
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Academy Green is located in a residential neighborhood and acts as a shared community space. The neighborhood association maintains the native perennial beds and flowers found in the park.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain as green space.
- Add to Kzoo Parks' website with a link to the City's community gardens guidelines.

ANGLING PARK

ADDRESS: 2501 ANGLING ROAD
NEIGHBORHOOD: HILL'N'BROOK
SIZE: 1.77 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES

No existing features.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○○ 9 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○○ 1 / 5
Park Features	No amenities
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	Address shoreline erosion and mitigate flooding

SUMMARY

Angling Park is the only park in the Hill'N'Brook neighborhood. Ongoing lawn maintenance is required, but some lawn could be replaced with rain gardens, bioswales, and native plantings to reduce impacts to water quality and add stormwater management beside the creek. The park could be connected to the city bicycle path using an improved shoulder.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain as green space.

ARCADIA CREEK FESTIVAL PLACE

ADDRESS: 145 E. WATER STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

SIZE: 3.65 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE

EXISTING FEATURES

- (A) Band shell
- (B) Former playground
- (C) Pavilion
- (D) Bike path





Arcadia Creek runs through the site.



The bandshell is the focal point of the park, with open space allowing for tents and seating.



The location of the former playground.



The pavilion.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics ●●●●○ 11 / 15

Park Accessibility Score ●●●○○ 3 / 5

Park Features Fair Condition

Programs and Activities No

Connection to Trail System No

Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs Address shoreline erosion and mitigate flooding

SUMMARY

Arcadia Creek Festival Place (ACFP) is a large multi-use site located right in downtown Kalamazoo. The Arcadia Creek Festival Place is both a public open space and a special event venue.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain site and prepare for improvements recommended by the City Manager's Office.

AXTELL CREEK PARK

ADDRESS: 530 W. CROSSTOWN PARKWAY

NEIGHBORHOOD: VINE

SIZE: 1.88 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- (A) Playground
- (B) Picnic table
- (C) Bench

EXISTING AMENITIES



There is a paved path and bridges along Axtell Creek to observe nature and wildlife.



Bench seating found along the nature pathway.



The play equipment and picnic table are in good condition.



The park sign is in good condition, but not consistent with the Kzoo Parks brand.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 10 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●○○○ 2 / 5
Park Features	Good condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	Address shoreline erosion and mitigate flooding

SUMMARY

Axtell Creek Park is a 3.54 neighborhood park offering both recreational and non-recreational activities to the community.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add Kzoo Parks branded sign.

BLANCHE HULL PARK



PRIORITY PARK

ADDRESS: 4225 S. BURDICK STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: SOUTH WESTNEDGE

SIZE: 85.63 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: NATURAL RESOURCE AREA



EXISTING FEATURES

- A** Parking area
- B** Open space
- C** Nature area and trails

EXISTING AMENITIES



The open space area adjacent to the parking lot at Burdick Street.



The park sign is not consistent with the Kzoo Parks brand.



Rustic trails connect visitors to Portage Creek to observe nature and wildlife.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics ●●●●○ 12 / 15

Park Accessibility Score ●○○○○ 1 / 5

Park Features In need of repair

Programs and Activities No

Connection to Trail System Yes - planned connection Celery Flats Kilgore Trailhead

Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs Yes - address erosion and mitigate flooding from Portage Creek

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>A Branded Kzoo Parks Sign</p> <p>B Parking lot improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stripe and sign accessible parking spaces • Add accessible curb cut and pathway to the dog park | <p>C Dog park</p> <p>D Double vault CXT restroom</p> <p>E 3 disc golf holes</p> |
|--|--|

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Blanche Hull Park features a dense natural area with mature trees. The only supportive amenities are a few picnic tables. The parking lot is in need of improvements. While there are walking paths within the park, pedestrian accessibility is limited by adjacent roads without sidewalks and a freight rail line dividing the park into two.

Blanche Hull Park is located in a neighborhood where less than 18.75% of the population is within a 10-minute walk to a park. In addition, the areas has a significant population of youth, adults over 65, and households with a disabled person.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Kzoo Parks branded sign
- Parking lot improvements
- 3-hole disc golf course
- Add bathroom near parking area
- Fenced dog run with paved walking loop, dog play amenities, benches and pavilion, and a watering station
- KVRT planned connection
- Pedestrian crossing on Lovers Lane to Milham Park

BRONSON PARK

ADDRESS: 200 W. SOUTH STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

SIZE: 3.71 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE



EXISTING FEATURES

- A** Band shell
- B** Seating and table tennis
- C** Bronson Park earth mound
- D** Former fountain feature

EXISTING AMENITIES



Bronson Park is recognized for its ornamental landscaping.



There is abundant seating, lighting, and trash receptacles at Bronson Park. However, shade and winter maintenance could be improved.



Excluding events, Bronson Park is mostly passive, with light recreation amenities like table tennis.

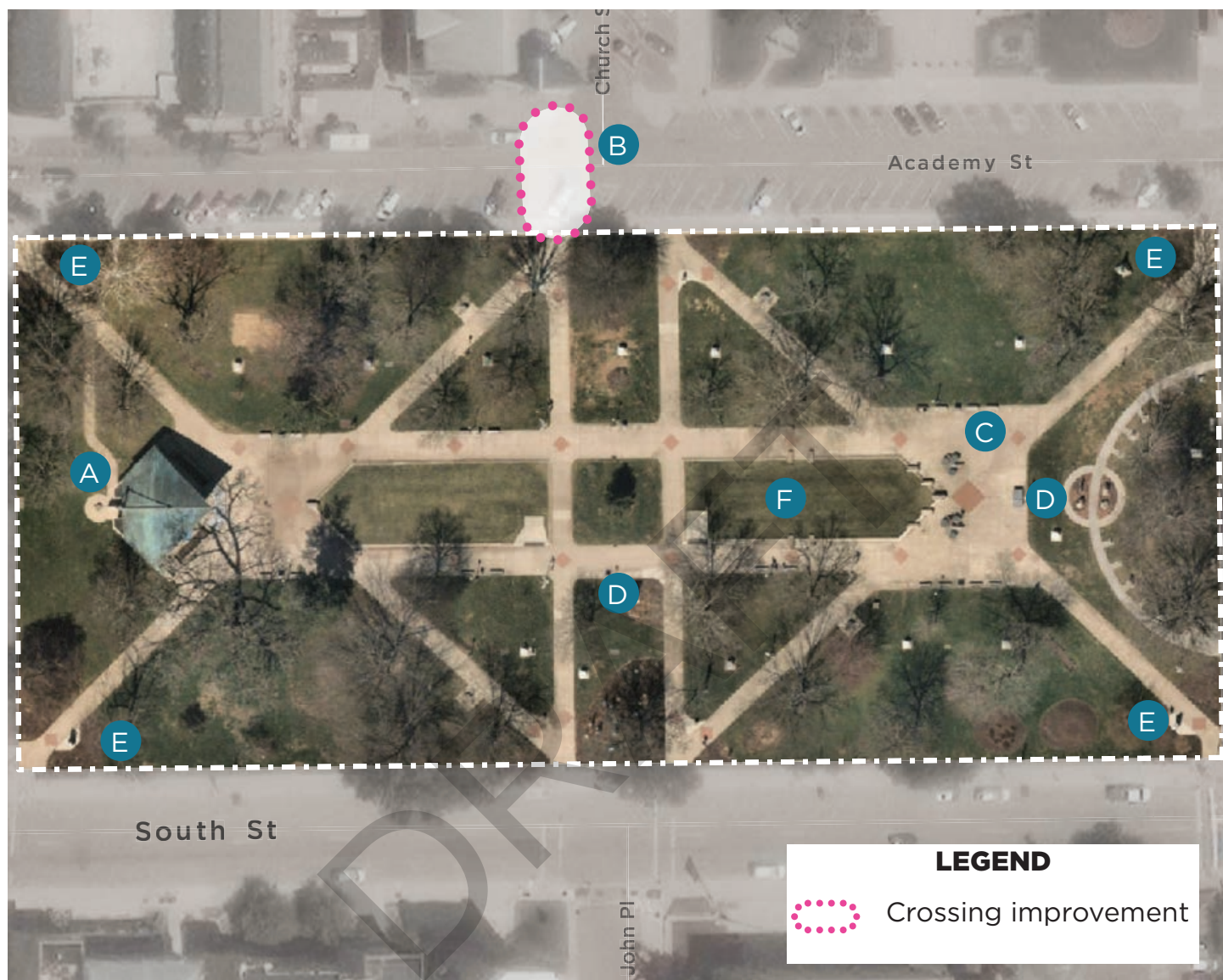


The Bronson Park Mound is a cultural and ritual asset for the related Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Pottawatomie Tribes living in the region today. Stereograph photo by Schuyler C. Baldwin, c. 1869.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 12 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4 / 5
Park Features	Good condition
Programs and Activities	Lunchtime Live, holiday tree lighting ceremony, and youth programs
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** Restrooms
- B** Crosswalk at Academy St
- C** Shade Structures
- D** Wayfinding Signage
- E** Kzoo Parks Branded Sign
- F** Cafe or Snack Bar
- G** Central water feature with splash pad or spray pad area

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Bronson Park is Downtown Kalamazoo's main park space and is the city's oldest park. Its location downtown makes it a great gathering space for all city residents and is home to many events throughout the year, including Lunchtime Live and the holiday the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Bronson Park includes high quality and aesthetically pleasing plants and shrubs around the park.

Bronson Park has to serve a wide range of residents due to its location in the Central Business District, catering to workers, residents, and visitors alike.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Kzoo Parks branded signs and wayfinding signage
- All-season restrooms
- Economic activation - cafe service and seating area
- Water feature
- Crosswalk to connect north side
- Shade structures

CANYON PARK

ADDRESS: 2915 WELLINGTON ROAD
NEIGHBORHOOD: OAKLAND/WINCHELL
SIZE: 1.20 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES	No existing features.	
PROPOSED FEATURES	No proposed features.	
ASSESSMENT		
Nearby Neighborhood Characteristics		9 / 15
Park Accessibility Score		4/ 5
Park Features	N/A	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	No	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	Invasive species management	

SUMMARY

Canyon Park is a 1.2 acre mini-park that serves as a wooded green space with no amenities.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add to Kzoo Parks’ website. Maintain as green space.

COLLEGE PARK

ADDRESS: 840 W. MICHIGAN AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL
SIZE: 1.36 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT

B Pavilion

EXISTING FEATURES

A Public art

ASSESSMENT

Nearhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 8 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	Fair Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

College Park is a 1.01 acre mini-park that has paved paths and limited seating throughout.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add pavilion as a new amenity to the park.
- Add to Kzoo Parks' website.

CRANE PARK

ADDRESS: 2001 S. WESTNEDGE AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: WESTNEDGE HILL
SIZE: 10.43 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: COMMUNITY PARK



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 10 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●○○ 3/ 5
Park Features	Fair Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Crane Park is a 10-acre garden park that is host to many large-scale events throughout the summer. This park includes 700 feet of pathways though the gardens that are continuously cared for by community volunteer gardeners. Crane Park also includes pickleball and tennis courts.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

CROSTOWN PARKWAY PONDS

ADDRESS: 1141 S. ROSE STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL
SIZE: 10.98ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES	No existing features.
PROPOSED FEATURES	No proposed features.
ASSESSMENT	
Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 10 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4 / 5
Park Features	Good Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Crosstown Parkway Ponds is a cluster of ponds adjacent to Axtell Creek Park, east of South Park Street. This area serves as a prime location for recreational fishing.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add to Kzoo Parks' website.

DAVIS STREET PARK

ADDRESS: 901 DAVIS STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: VINE
SIZE: 1.16 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- A Skate park
- B Ga-ga ball court
- C Play area
- D Pavilion
- E Picnic tables

PROPOSED FEATURES

No proposed features.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 10 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1 / 5
Park Features	Poor Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

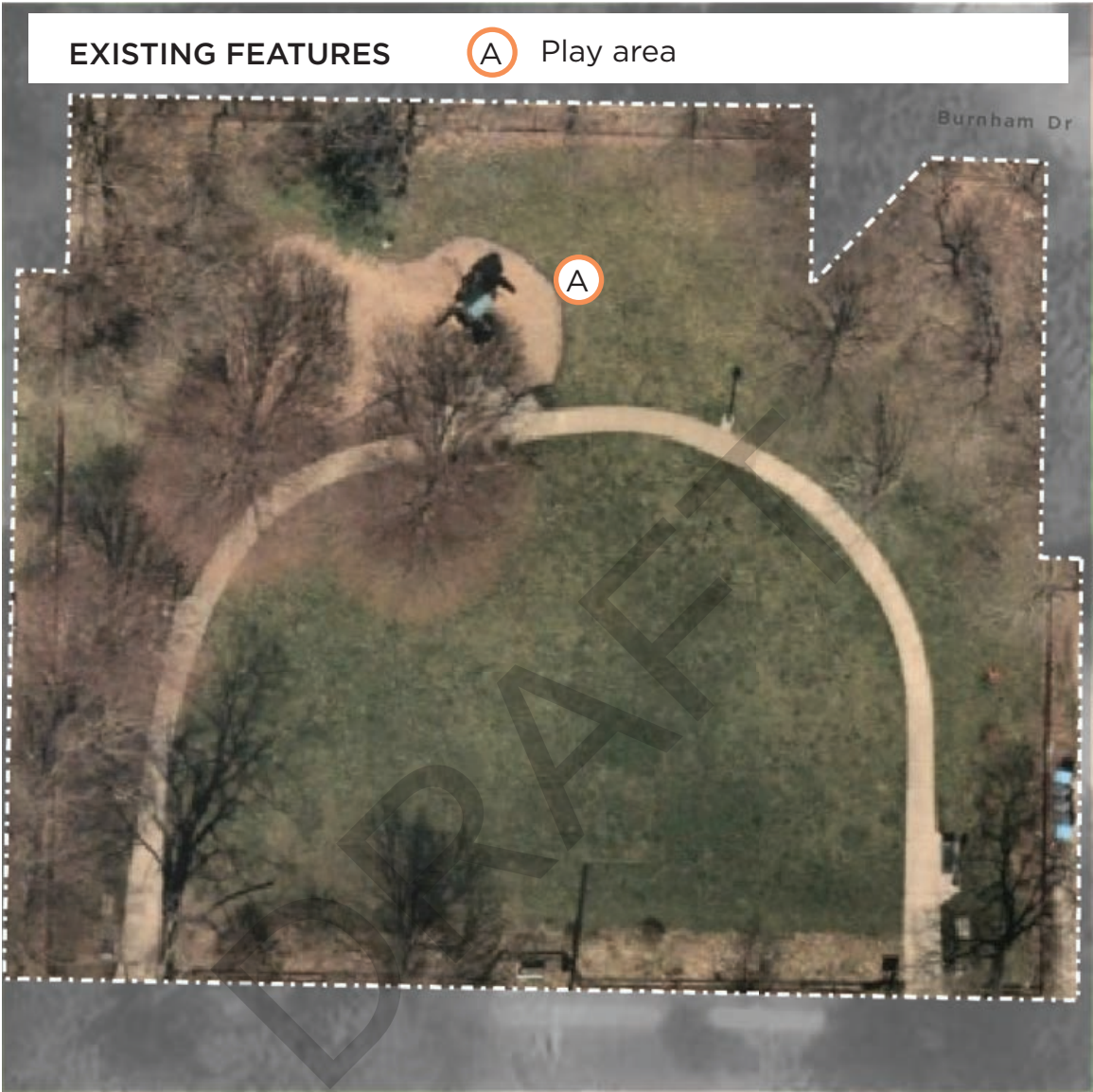
Davis Street Park is a 1.05 mini-park that offers a variety of both recreational and non-recreational amenities.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

DUTTON STREET PARK

ADDRESS: 224 W. DUTTON STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: VINE
SIZE: 0.73 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 10 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1 / 5
Park Features	Good Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Dutton Street Park is a 0.69 neighborhood park that offers open green space, play equipment, and benches.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

EAST GATEWAY

ADDRESS: 309 E. WATER STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

SIZE: 0.06 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE



SUMMARY

Special use feature - park equity assessment not completed.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

EASTERN HILLS GOLF COURSE

ADDRESS: 6075 E. G AVENUE

NEIGHBORHOOD: MILWOOD

SIZE: 230.78 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: GOLF COURSE



SUMMARY

Eastern Hills Golf Club is a well-maintained 27-hole layout northeast of Kalamazoo, on a 220-acre parcel at G Avenue and 27th Street. Facilities include a complete pro shop, full-service bar, power golf cars and practice facilities. The course features three distinct nines and regularly hosts city and county tournaments, as well as league play.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

EMERALD DRIVE PARK

ADDRESS: 3200 EMERALD DRIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD: MILWOOD
SIZE: 16.96 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



EXISTING AMENITIES



ASSESSMENT

Nearby Amenities	●●●●●○ 11 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●○○ 3/ 5
Park Features	Good Condition
Programs and Activities	Soccer games and practices
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure Needs	No

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Emerald Drive Park covers almost 17 acres in the Milwood neighborhood. It consists of a nearly 0.5-mile walking path, abundant green space, and an active soccer field used for practice and games. There is an inactive ball field adjacent to the soccer field where temporary bathroom facilities are located. Informal parking is available near the soccer fields or on nearby streets in the neighborhood. Emerald Drive Park has immense potential to offer numerous passive and active recreation amenities for the residents of the adjacent Milwood neighborhood. The improvements will transform Emerald Drive Park into the community's backyard and a neighborhood asset.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add Kzoo Parks' branded signs and wayfinding signage
- Pavilions, grills, and picnic areas
- Pocket park play equipment and micro-activation such as bocce courts and baggo boards
- Extend the main pathway and add direct pathway connections to the adjacent neighborhood's sidewalks
- Formalize the parking area
- Add improved CXT restrooms or a permanent picnic and restroom structure

FAIRMOUNT DOG PARK



PRIORITY PARK

ADDRESS: 1108 PRAIRIE AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: DOUGLAS
SIZE: 10.04 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: COMMUNITY PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- (A) Parking
- (B) Dog park
- (C) Grill and benches

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	● ● ● ● ● 15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	● ● ● ● ● 4/ 5
Park Features	Fair Condition
Programs and Activities	Summer Cinema
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

This 12-acre dog park features a fenced area for dogs off-leash, a watering hole, and a separate small dog area. Benches, picnic tables and a small pavilion are available for humans.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add pavilion and additional grill capacity

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- A Pavilion
- B Additional Grills



FARRELL PARK



ADDRESS: 809 N. ROSE STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 1.61 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

EXISTING FEATURES

- (A) Bathrooms
- (B) Pavilion
- (C) Passive sports field
- (D) Playground
- (E) City-owned parcel



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●● 15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4 / 5
Park Features	Fair condition
Programs and Activities	Playground, Restrooms, Walking Loop, Pavilion
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

PROPOSED FEATURES

- A Crosswalk
- B Pathway connection to Lincoln International School



SUMMARY

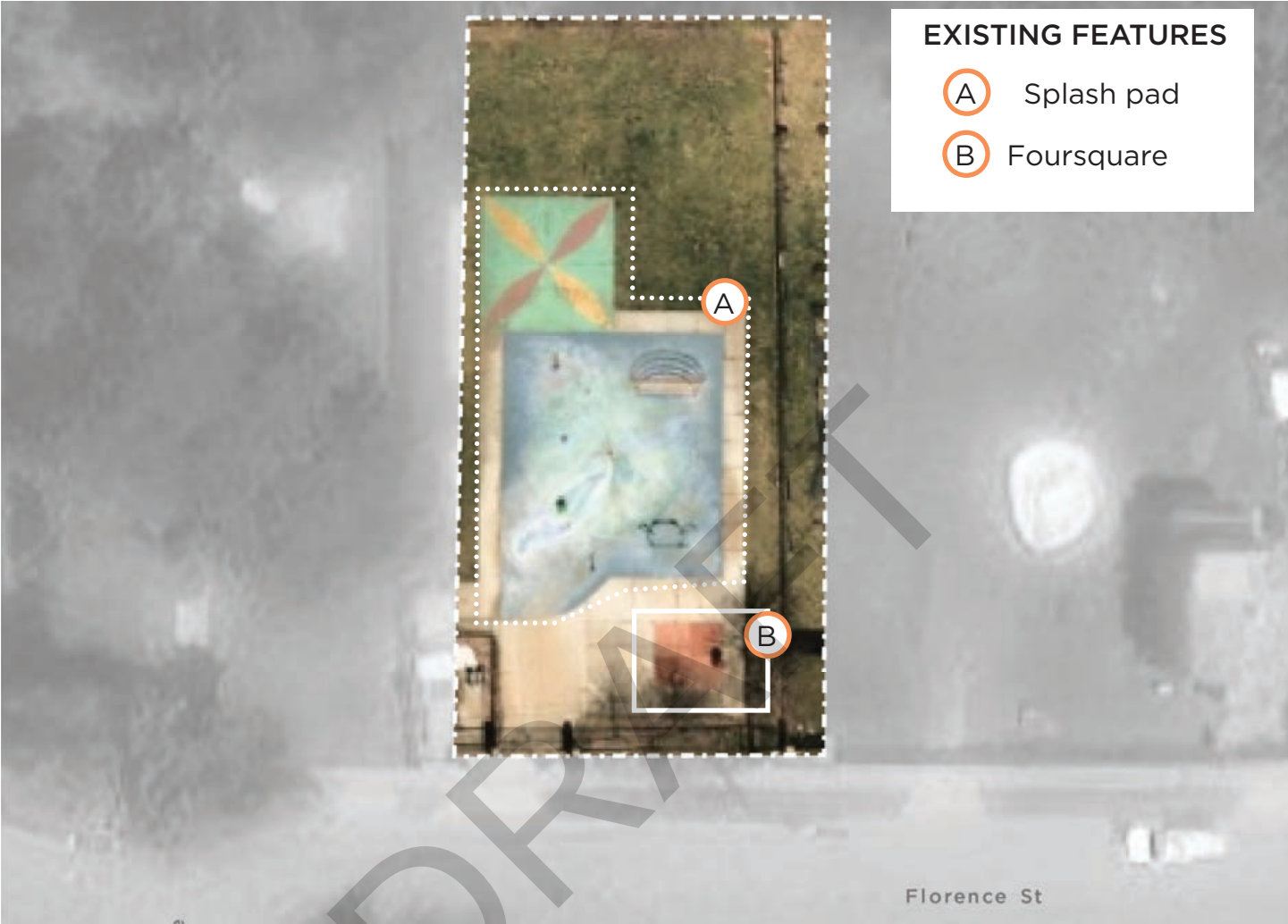
Farrell Park is a 1.5 acre neighborhood park located in the Northside neighborhood with a variety of amenities targeted toward neighborhood residents. Farrell Park includes a reservable pavilion for gathering, paved pathways, restrooms, and a playground. The park is marketed as an event space for up to 60 people.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Crosswalk across Rose St
- Paved pathway connecting to Lincoln International School on City-owned lot
- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years

FLORENCE SPRAY PARK

ADDRESS: 534 FLORENCE STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 0.2 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- A** Splash pad
- B** Foursquare

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●● 15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●● 4/ 5
Park Features	Fair Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

The Florence Spray Park is a small water park located in the Northside Neighborhood. It has a variety of water features that can be turned on with the press of a button during park hours. The park's picnic table is a great place to have a summer lunch or take a break from the water.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Picnic tables
- Shade structures
- Add Kzoo Parks' branded sign

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



FRAYS PARK

ADDRESS: 4400 CANTERBURY AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: WESTWOOD
SIZE: 11.9 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

EXISTING FEATURES

- A Playground
- B Walking loop
- C Tennis court (1)
Pickleball courts (2)
- D Volleyball court (1)



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 11 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●○○○ 2/ 5
Park Features	Fair condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Frays Park is an 11-acre community park that offers a variety of family-friendly activities.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add pavilion
- Playground resurfacing

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** Playground Resurfacing
- B** Pavilion



GLEN PARK NORTH

ADDRESS: 2731 WELLINGTON ROAD
NEIGHBORHOOD: OAKLAND/WINCHELL
SIZE: 0.87 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES	No existing features.
PROPOSED FEATURES	No proposed features.
ASSESSMENT	
Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 9/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	N/A
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

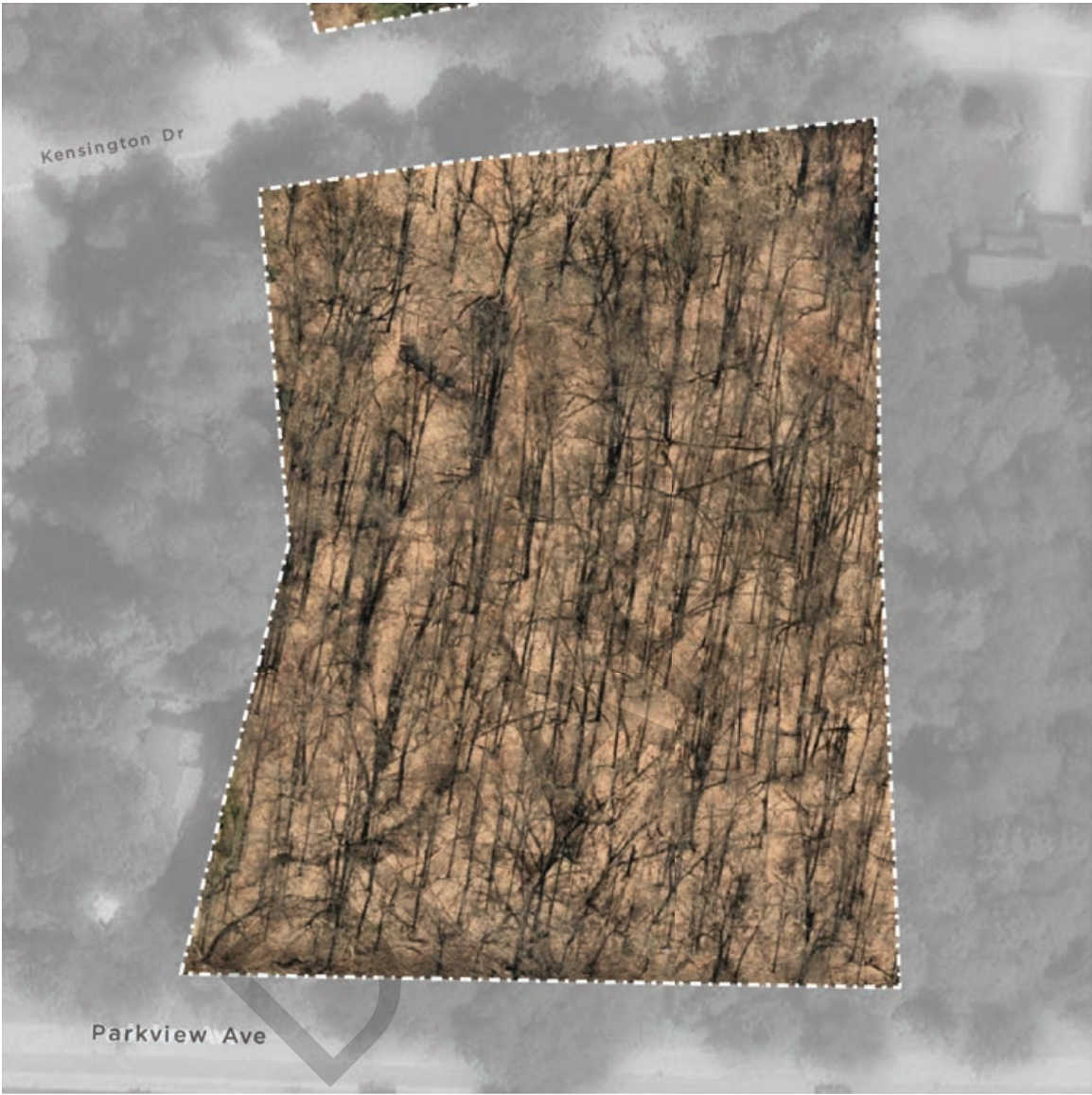
Glen Park South is a wooded green space in the Oakland/Winchell Neighborhood with no amenities present.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain as green space.

GLEN PARK SOUTH

ADDRESS: 2700 PARKVIEW AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: OAKLAND/WINCHELL
SIZE: 2.13 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES	No existing features.
PROPOSED FEATURES	No proposed features.
ASSESSMENT	
Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 9/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	N/A
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

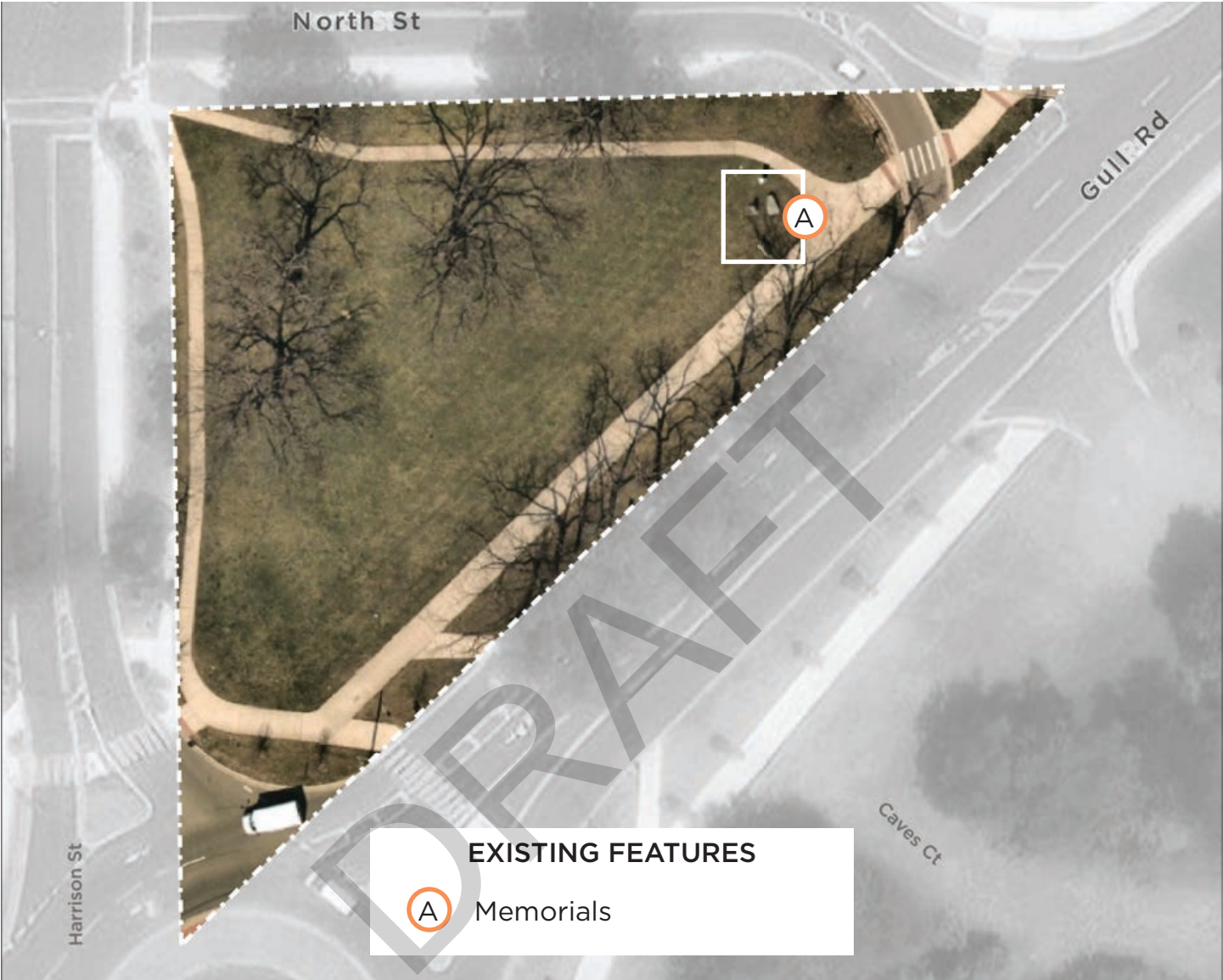
Glen Park South is a wooded green space in the Oakland/ Winchell Neighborhood just south of Glen Park North with no amenities present.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain as green space.

HARRISON PARK

ADDRESS: 620 HARRISON STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 0.98 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●●	15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○	1 / 5
Park Features	Good condition	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	Yes	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No	

SUMMARY

Harrison Park is a primarily passive space in the West Main Hill neighborhood that includes a memorial, shade trees, and community garden.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Kzoo Parks branded sign
- Formal gathering space
- Mini dog park

HAYS PARK

ADDRESS: 2001 MILLER ROAD
NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON
SIZE: 10.38 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- A Interpretive play area (2)
- B Walking loop
- C Passive recreation field

PROPOSED FEATURES

No proposed features.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 12/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	Fair Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Hays Park offers residents 10 acres of park area with recreational and non-recreational activities.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

HENDERSON GREEN

ADDRESS: 1300 GRAND AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL
SIZE: 1.46 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 8/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	N/A
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Henderson Green is a green space with shade trees in the West Main Hill Neighborhood.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add Kzoo Parks’ branded sign.
- Maintain as green space.

HENDERSON PARK

ADDRESS: 2001 MILLER ROAD
NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL
SIZE: 0.5 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES

A

Community gardens

PROPOSED FEATURES

No proposed features.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 8/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	Good Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

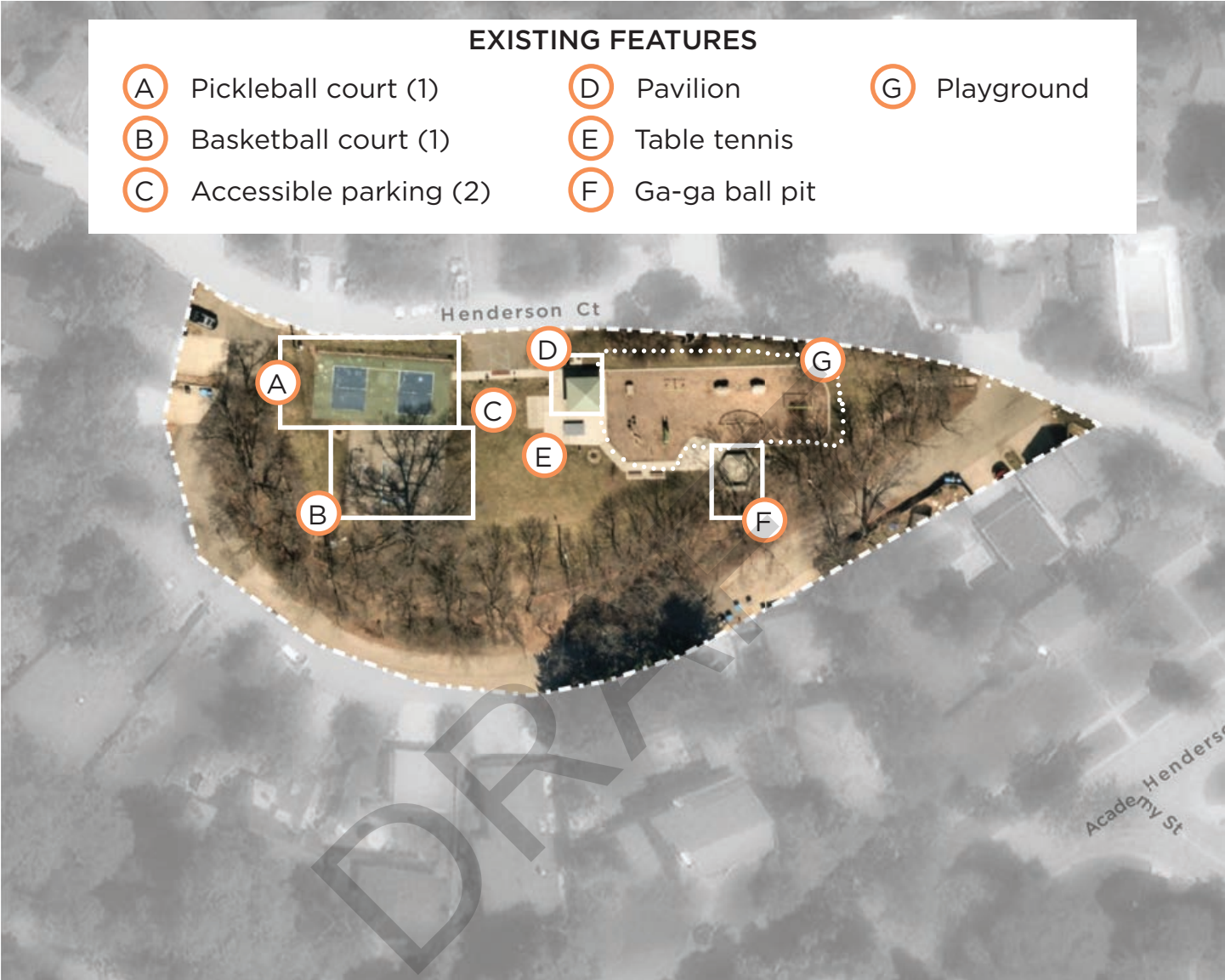
Henderson Park is a triangular park in the West Main Hill Neighborhood that serves as a green space with a community garden, pollinator garden, and shade trees throughout.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Support expansion of community garden.
- Add Kzoo Parks’ branded sign.
- Maintain as green space.

HENDERSON TOT LOT

ADDRESS: 1601 HENDERSON COURT
NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL
SIZE: 1.1 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 8/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4/ 5
Park Features	Fair Condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

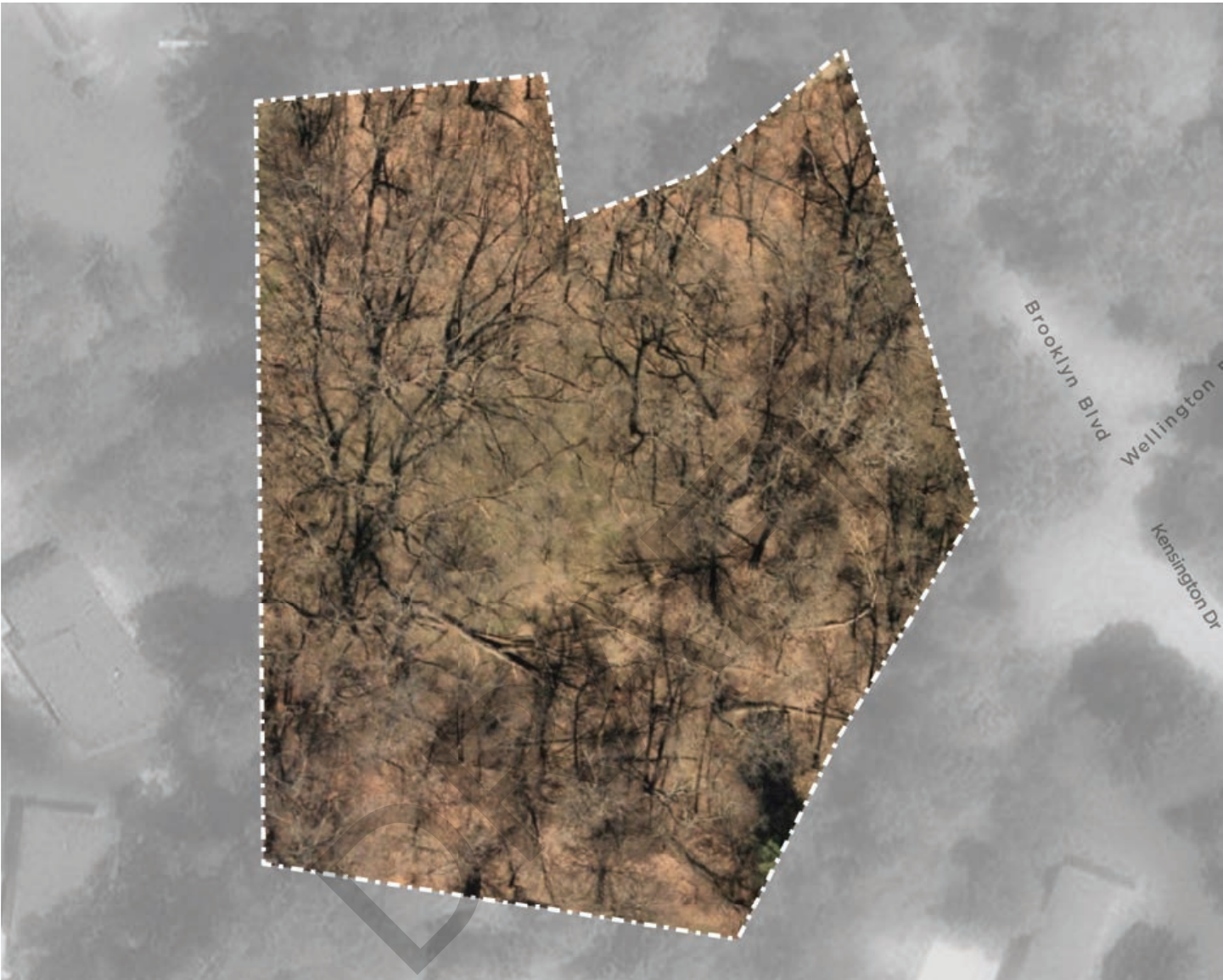
Henderson Tot Lot is a one-acre community park in the West Main Hill neighborhood. The park features brand new amenities such as new playgrounds for both 2-5- and 5-12-year-olds, a resurfaced basketball court, a new pickle ball court, an outdoor ping pong table, a new picnic shelter, an ADA accessible entrance, and a gaga pit.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

HILLSIDE PARK

ADDRESS: 2920 BROOKLYN BOULEVARD
NEIGHBORHOOD: OAKLAND/WINCHELL
SIZE: 1.31 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES	No existing features.
PROPOSED FEATURES	No proposed features.
ASSESSMENT	
Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 9/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	N/A
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Hillside Park is a wooded green space with no amenities present.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain as green space.

JONES PARK

ADDRESS: 1601 ACADEMY STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL
SIZE: 1.42 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE

EXISTING FEATURES

No existing features.

PROPOSED FEATURES

No proposed features.



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 8/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	N/A
Programs and Activities	Programmed by the neighborhood association
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Jones Park is a green space with minimal amenities present.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain as green space.

KALAMAZOO FARMER'S MARKET

ADDRESS: 1204 BANK STREET

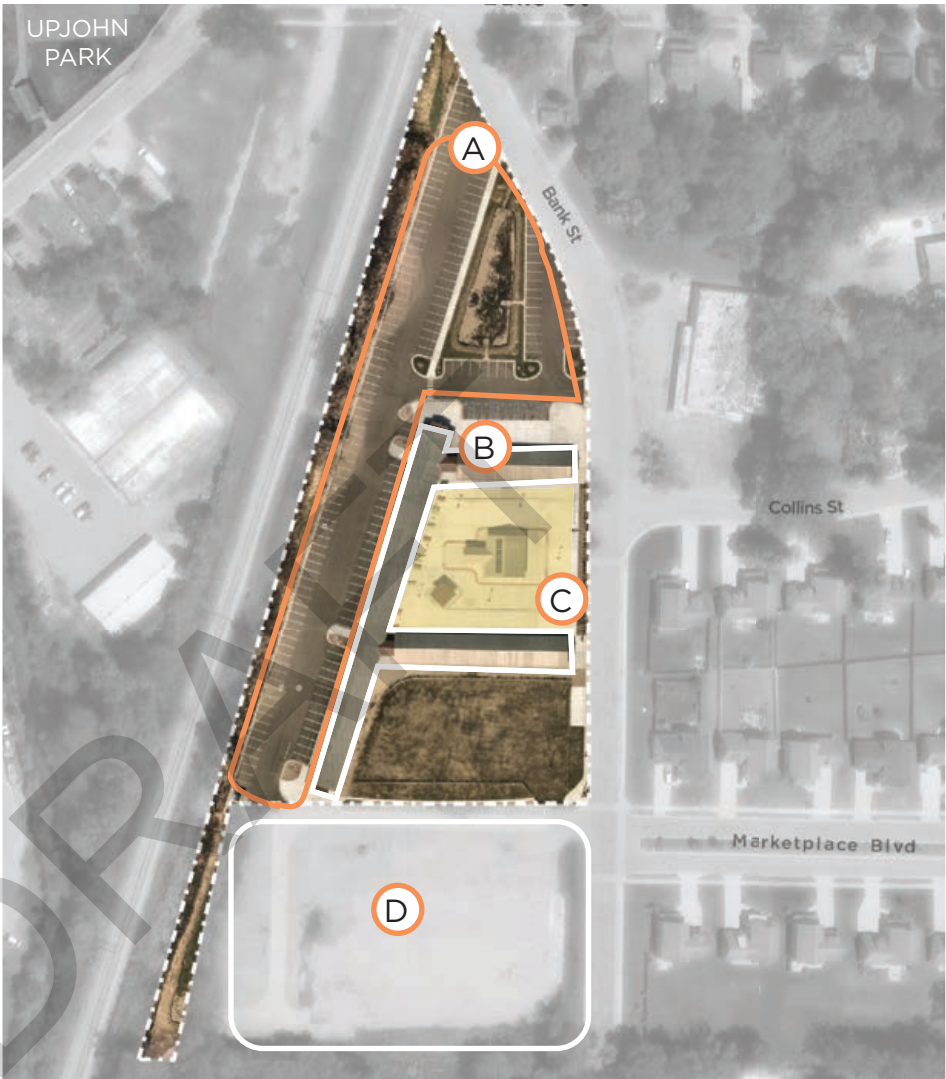
NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON

SIZE: 4.44 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE

EXISTING FEATURES

- A Parking
- B Market sheds
- C Plaza, stage, and bathrooms
- D Phase II construction



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 12/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●● 5/ 5
Park Features	Like New
Programs and Activities	Summer Cinema, Farmers Market
Connection to Trail System	Yes
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

The Kalamazoo Farmer's Market connects the community with more than 100 vendors including local Growers, Producers, Artisans and Retailers every week.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

KNOLLWOOD PARK



PRIORITY PARK

ADDRESS: 1500 GREENWOOD

NEIGHBORHOOD: KNOLLWOOD

SIZE: 19.12 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- (A)** Disc golf course (9 holes)
- (B)** Former structure
- (C)** Recreation field

EXISTING AMENITIES



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 11/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	Good Condition
Programs and Activities	Summer Cinema, Kalamazoo Disc Golf
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** Kzoo Parks branded sign
- B** Pavilion, grills, and picnic area
- C** Restrooms
- D** Pathway extension
- E** Disc golf course improvements

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Knollwood Park is a neighborhood park located just west of the Western Michigan University campus, and adjacent to primarily student housing. Knollwood Park offers a free 18-hole disc golf course situated in a peaceful wooded setting. Just east of the disc golf course is a large grassy area with potential for passive and active recreation improvements. Parking is available on-street on Lafayette Ave and at a designated parking lot off of Westbrook St.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Pavilion, grills, and picnic area
- Restrooms with water fountain
- Paved pathway connections to disc golf course and new amenities
- Add Kzoo Parks branded signs at both entrances
- Update disc golf course signage and infrastructure as needed

KROM & PROUTY PARK

ADDRESS: 1602 KROM STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 0.56 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



EXISTING FEATURES	A Playground
PROPOSED FEATURES	No proposed features.
ASSESSMENT	
Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●● 15/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	N/A
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Krom & Prouty Park is a half-acre park located on a corner lot with a small play structure, swing set, grill, and picnic table.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

LACRONE PARK

ADDRESS: 535 W. PATERSON STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 5.06 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK





PROPOSED FEATURES

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○○ 9/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○○ 1/ 5
Park Features	N/A
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Lake/Kensington Park is a lakefront green space that includes a look-out pier, which is an optimal location for recreational fishing.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Pavilion
- Kzoo Parks branded sign
- Add to Kzoo Parks’ webpage
- Kayak launch
- Green stormwater infrastructure
- Water quality study for Woods Lake

LOVELL PARK

ADDRESS: 1101 W. LOVELL STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL
SIZE: 1.21 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



EXISTING FEATURES No existing features.

PROPOSED FEATURES

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○○	8 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○	4 / 5
Park Features	Fair condition	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	No	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	Neighborhood scale rain gardens	

SUMMARY

Lovell Park is a 1.27 triangular park that features green space, picnic benches and shade trees.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Picnic tables
- Kzoo Parks branded sign
- Add to Kzoo Parks' webpage

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARK

ADDRESS: 507 N. ROSE STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 0.92 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE



EXISTING FEATURES

- A** Entry Plaza
- B** Seating Areas
- C** MLK Memorial

PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** Alley Activation
- B** Railroad Buffer
- C** Kzoo Parks Branded Sign

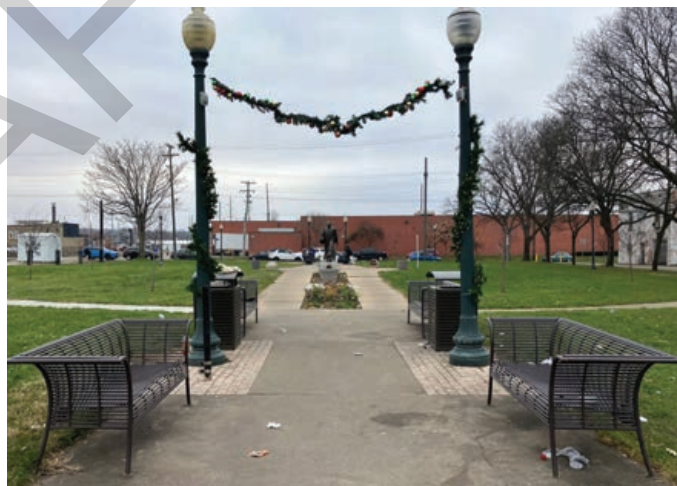
SUMMARY

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park is a small passive park space commemorating Dr. King’s visit to Kalamazoo in 1963. The park includes a statue of Dr. King and was been adopted by the Kalamazoo Junior Girls in 1987.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Alley activation
- Railroad buffer
- Kzoo Parks branded sign

EXISTING AMENITIES



ASSESSMENT

Nearby Amenities	15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	3 / 5
Park Features	Fair condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	Yes, Adjacent
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

MAYORS' RIVERFRONT PARK

ADDRESS: 251 MILLS STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON

SIZE: 36.86 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: SPORTS COMPLEX



EXISTING FEATURES

— Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

- A** Parking area
- B** Soccer stadium
- C** Basketball court
- D** Playground and pavilion
- E** Kalamazoo Parks and Rec office
- F** Overflow parking

EXISTING AMENITIES



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 12 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 3 / 5
Park Features	Fair condition
Programs and Activities	Employee Appreciation, Bike Rodeo, Karaoke Night, Youth Entrepreneur Night, PAL Baseball, Kalamazoo Growlers
Connection to Trail System	Yes, Adjacent
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

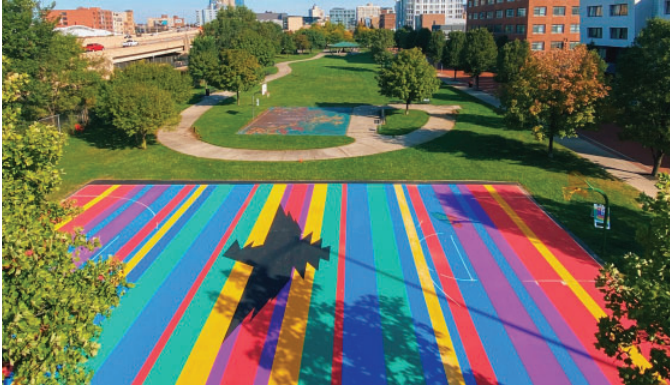
RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** Basketball court improvements
- B** Accessible pathway and formalize or remove parking area
- C** Play equipment upgrades
- D** Pump track
- E** Green stormwater infrastructure

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Mayors' Riverfront Park is a 36-acre destination park with three recreational community cornerstones: Homer Stryker Field, the Soisson-Rapacz-Clason Field, and the Kalamazoo Parks and Recreation Office Complex. The athletic fields host local athletic teams' events, such as the Kalamazoo Growlers and the local football club, and other events. With a picnic area, grill, KVRT connection, playground, and six-hoop basketball court, Mayors' Riverfront is an ideal place to be active, or relax, surrounded by all that nature has to offer.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Basketball court improvements - benches, shade structures, resurfacing, court mural
- Accessible kayak launch and (potential) rental livery
- Accessible and bold play equipment upgrades
- Accessible pathways and formalized parking area
- Pump track
- Green stormwater infrastructure

MILHAM PARK

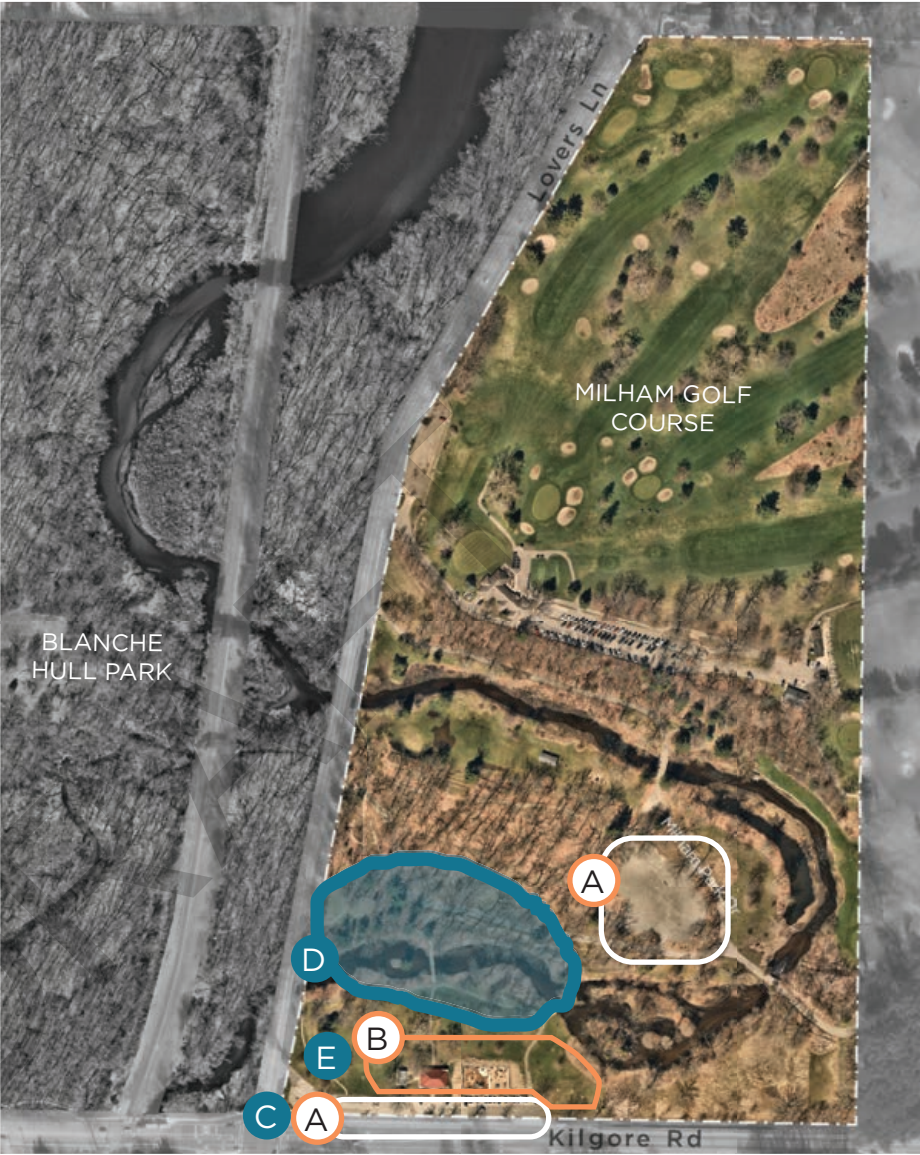
ADDRESS: 400 E. KILGORE ROAD
NEIGHBORHOOD: MILWOOD
SIZE: 66.83 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: COMMUNITY PARK

EXISTING FEATURES

- (A) Parking area
- (B) Active area - play area, restrooms, pavilion

PROPOSED FEATURES

- (C) Kzoo Parks branded sign
- (D) 3-hole disc golf course
- (E) Restroom improvements



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●●○ 11 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●●○ 4 / 5
Park Features	Good condition
Programs and Activities	Halloween Forest
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

EXISTING AMENITIES



SUMMARY

Milham Park is a historic, 49-acre park located in the southwest part of the city. Portage Creek runs through the park, crossed by three bridges and a network of natural paths that wind beneath hundreds of mature trees. Four different playgrounds are located throughout the park offering different levels of play for children. Milham Park also offers grills, restrooms, and drinking fountains, making a popular destination for family picnics and other gatherings.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Extend Blanche Hull disc golf course into Milham Park - additional 3 holes
- Restroom improvements
- Kzoo Parks branded sign at the main entrance and parking area

MILHAM PARK GOLF COURSE

ADDRESS: 4200 LOVERS LANE

NEIGHBORHOOD: MILWOOD

SIZE: 115.59 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: GOLF COURSE



SUMMARY

Milham Park Golf Course is an 18-hole, par 72 layout located on 130 acres adjacent to Milham Park. Facilities include a large pro shop, snack bar, power golf cars, and practice facilities.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

NELBERT PARK

ADDRESS: 3002 NELBERT
NEIGHBORHOOD: MILWOOD
SIZE: 0.72 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES No existing features.
PROPOSED FEATURES No proposed features.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 11 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4 / 5
Park Features	N/A
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	Yes, Adjacent
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Nelbert Park is a 3/4 acre mini-park just south of Milwood Middle Park.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain as green space. No-mow or pollinator meadow. Add community gardens.

NORTH KALAMAZOO MALL

ADDRESS: 230 N. ROSE STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
SIZE: 0.81 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○	12 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●●	5 / 5
Park Features	Fair condition	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	Yes, KVRT	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	Yes	

SUMMARY

The North Kalamazoo Mall is a linear, pedestrian-only public space connecting to the more shopping oriented segment to the south. The Mall contains seating areas, planters, and pathways for passive use.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

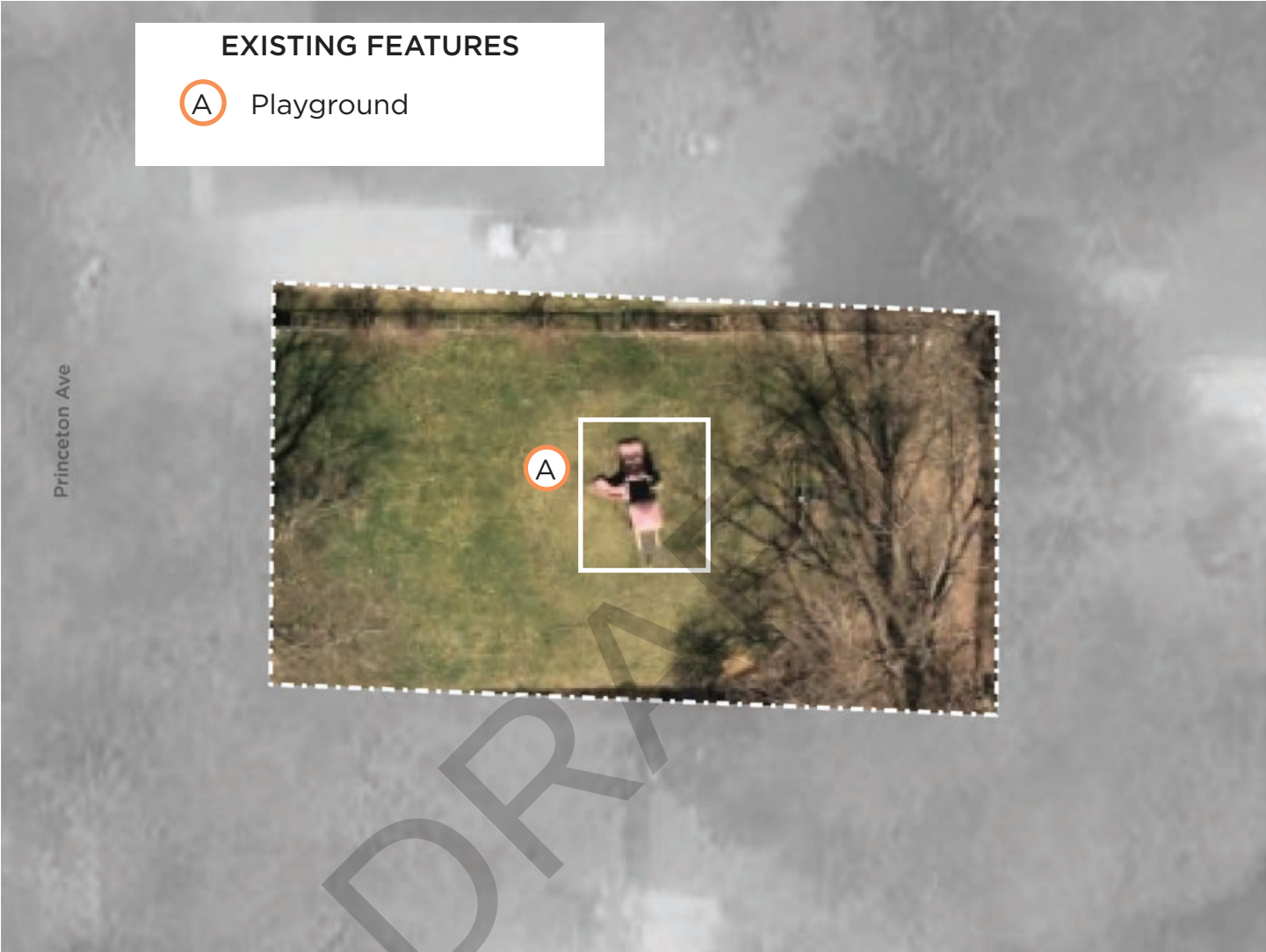
- Overhead lighting
- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity.



PRINCETON PARK



ADDRESS: 1508 PRINCETON AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 0.19 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



ASSESSMENT

Nearby Amenities	●●●●●●	15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●○○○	3 / 5
Park Features	Good condition	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	No	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No	

SUMMARY

Princeton Park is a mini-park located in the Northside neighborhood, with a small playground. This park is targeted toward nearby residents.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Pathway
- Benches
- Shade structures
- Natural play equipment

EXISTING AMENITIES



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



RED ARROW GOLF COURSE

ADDRESS: 1041 KING HIGHWAY
NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON
SIZE: 16.96 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GOLF COURSE



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○	12 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	○○○○○	N/A
Park Features	N/A	
Programs and Activities	Yes	
Connection to Trail System	No	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	Yes	

SUMMARY

Red Arrow is a one-mile walking course that provides low-cost, high-value golf as a community service.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

REED STREET PARK

ADDRESS: 1700 PORTAGE STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON
SIZE: 1.53 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 12 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●○○○ 2 / 5
Park Features	Good condition
Programs and Activities	Yes
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

EXISTING FEATURES

- Ⓐ Walking loop
- Ⓑ Pavilion
- Ⓒ Play equipment
- Ⓓ Basketball court

SUMMARY

Reed Street Park is a 1.5 acre park that provides recently added recreational activities to the community.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

ROCKWELL PARK



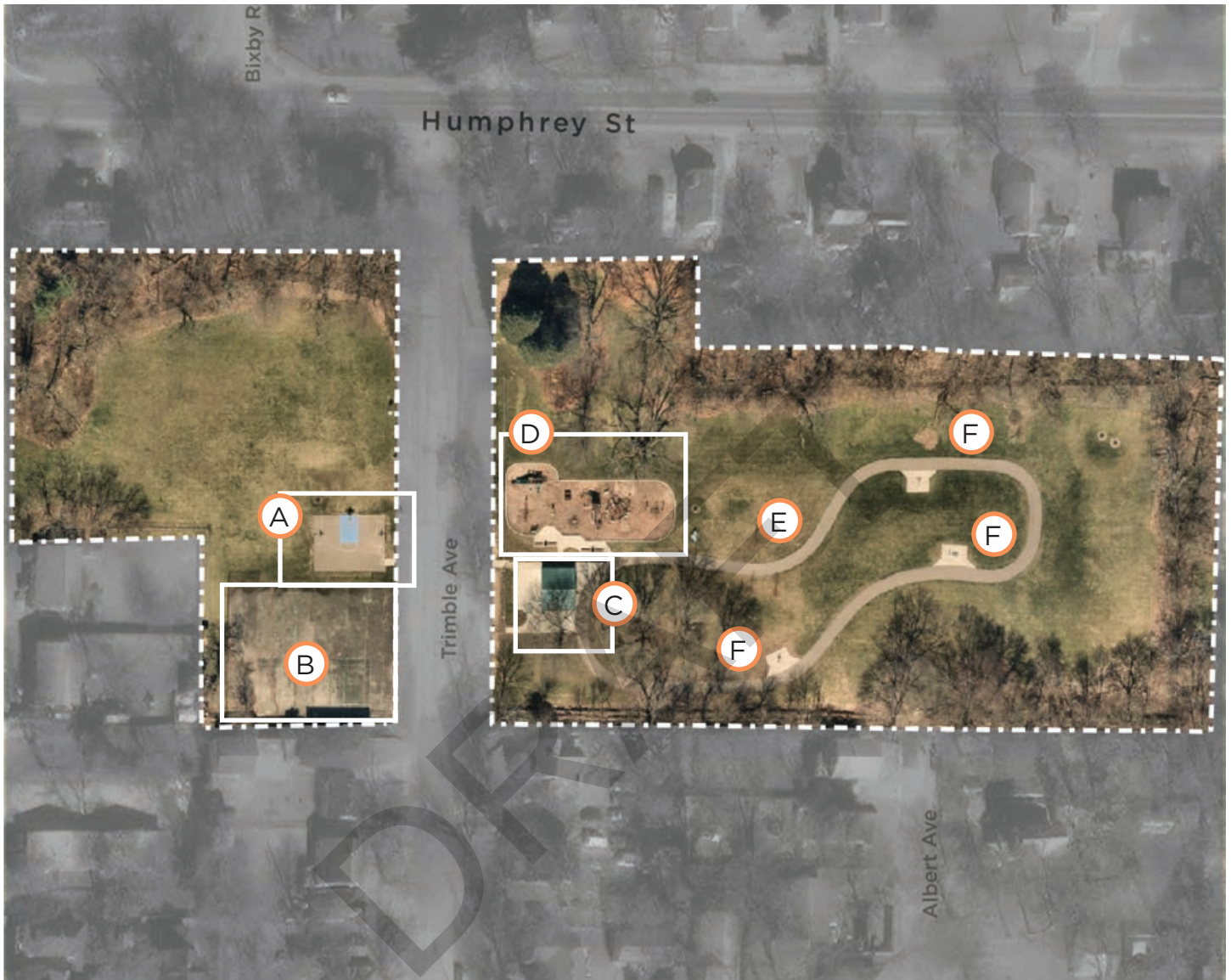
PRIORITY PARK

ADDRESS: 1106 TRIMBLE AVENUE

NEIGHBORHOOD: EASTSIDE

SIZE: 4.7 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- (A) Basketball court (1)
- (B) Tennis courts (2)
- (C) Restrooms
- (D) Playground
- (E) Walking loop
- (F) Fitness equipment

EXISTING AMENITIES



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 13 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4 / 5
Park Features	Good condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** High Visibility Crosswalk
- B** Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon
- C** Accessible Pathway
- D** Pickleball Courts

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Rockwell Park is a neighborhood park located in the Eastside Neighborhood and recieved improvements in 2018 on the east side of the park. The west side of the park includes a basketball court, an old tennis court, and a field that could be upgraded in the future. Given the park stretches across Trimble Avenue, there is need for safe crossing infrastructure between the two sides.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- High visibility crossing and safety improvements
- Pickleball courts
- Accessible pathway

ROSE PARK VETERAN’S MEMORIAL

ADDRESS: 645 E. MICHIGAN AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
SIZE: 0.53 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 12/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4/ 5
Park Features	Fair condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	Yes
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Robert L. Cook Veterans Memorial Plaza at Rose Park is memorial dedicated to veterans at the East Gateway to the city. Rose Park is located on the Kalamazoo River and the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVT). The Rotary Club led efforts to construct the memorial and beautify the park, bringing the Park to life on Veterans Day, November 11, 2001.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Develop interpretive signage for the memorial, the trail, and the river.



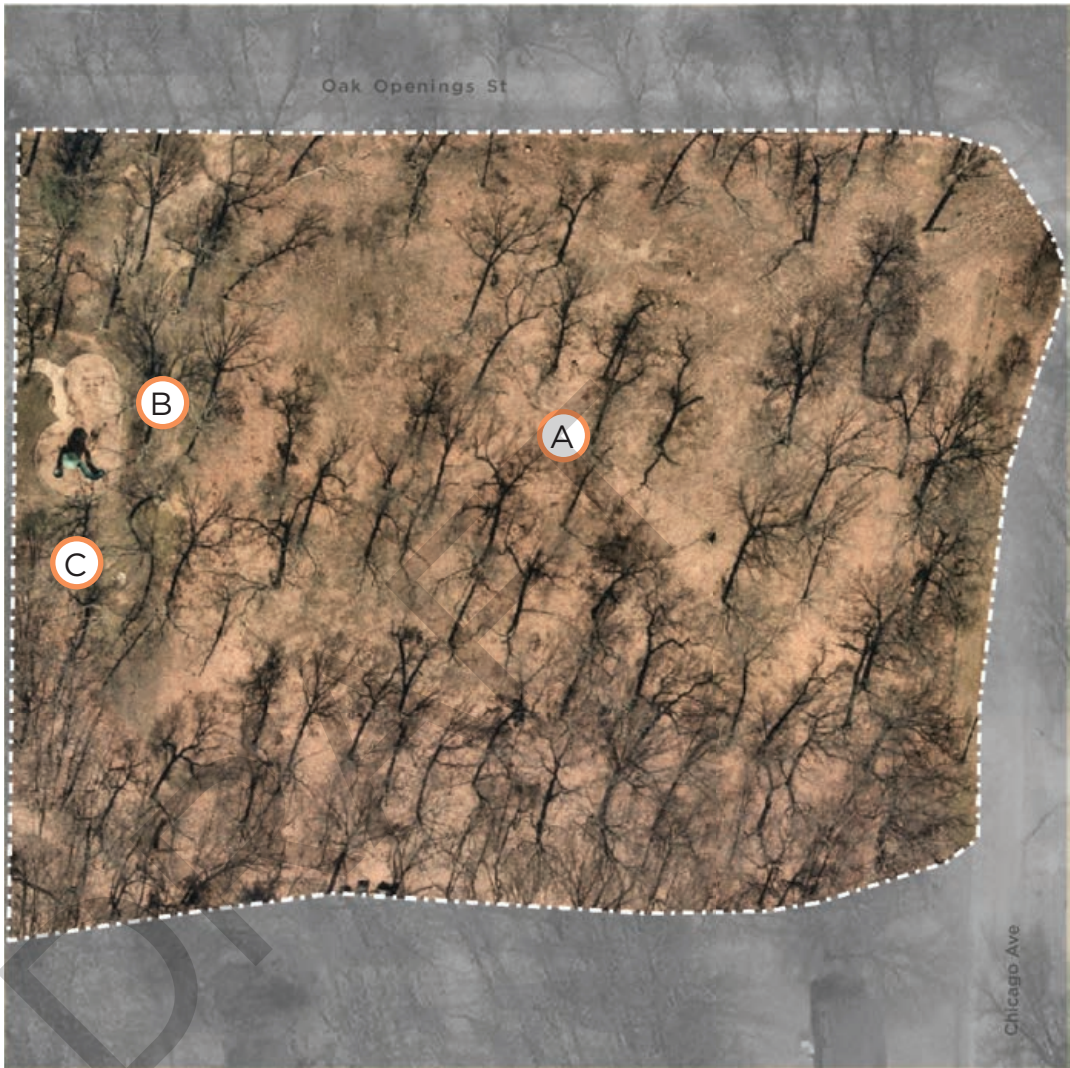
SHERWOOD PARK



ADDRESS: 300 WALLACE AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: EASTSIDE
SIZE: 4.94 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

EXISTING FEATURES

- (A) Oak forest
- (B) Playground
- (C) Picnic area



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 13 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●○○ 4 / 5
Park Features	Poor condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Sherwood Park is a mostly wooded park with large playground for children. The rolling hills and oak forest make for a great natural space for hiking and wildlife watching.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Replace grill
- Accessible paths to picnic features

EXISTING AMENITIES



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SOUTH GATEWAY

ADDRESS: INTERSECTION OF CROSTOWN PARKWAY
AND BURDICK STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON

SIZE: 0.04 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE



SUMMARY

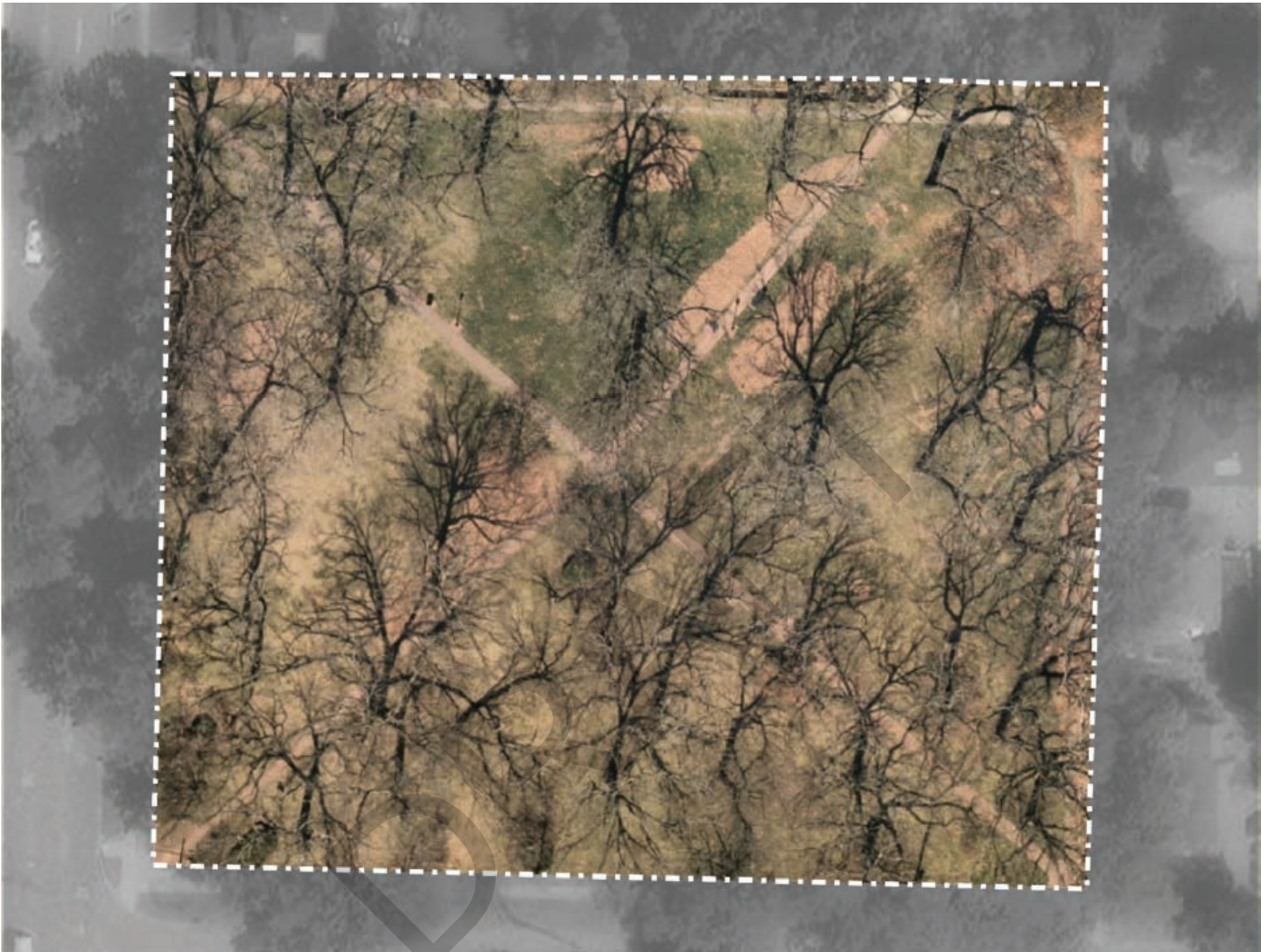
The South Gateway is a small traffic island that is landscaped and contains a neighborhood identity sign for the Southtown area. This space functions as a comfortable pedestrian refuge area for crossing the street.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

SOUTH WESTNEDGE PARK

ADDRESS: 1101 S. WESTNEDGE AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: VINE
SIZE: 2.29 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 10 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●○○○ 2 / 5
Park Features	Fair condition
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

South Westnedge Park is a 2.31 acre community park and a registered historic site in Michigan.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

SOUTHSIDE PARK

ADDRESS: 2100 RACE STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON

SIZE: 2.88 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- (A) Recreation field
- (B) Walking loop
- (C) Basketball court
- (D) Playground
- (E) Pavilion

EXISTING AMENITIES



ASSESSMENT

Nearby Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○	12 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○	2 / 5
Park Features	Fair condition	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	No	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No	

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** Restrooms with flexible programming space, electricity, and Wi-Fi
- B** Playground improvements - poured-in-place rubber surfacing, play equipment upgrades, playground expansion, benches, shade structures
- C** Accessible Pathway
- D** Recreation field and court improvements - goal posts, soccer nets, benches, shade structures

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Southside Park is a neighborhood park offering a pavilion, a grill, a water fountain, and playground. There is also a paved trail around the park, a half basketball court, and a full soccer field.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and evaluate pavilion infrastructure in the next five years
- Add benches along walking loop
- Playground improvements
- Add multi-purpose building with restrooms and flexible programming space
- Connect basketball court to the walking loop with an accessible pathway
- Add supportive features - benches, shade structures, goal posts and soccer nets - to recreation field and athletic courts

SPRING VALLEY PARK



PRIORITY PARK

ADDRESS: 2600 MT. OLIVET STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: BURKE ACRES

SIZE: 182.5 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: REGIONAL PARK



EXISTING FEATURES

- (A)** Non-Motorized Trail
- (B)** Playground
- (C)** Skating Rink
- (D)** Canoe/Kayak Launch
- (E)** Disc Golf
- (F)** Rentable Pavilion
- (G)** Soccer Field

EXISTING AMENITIES



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●● 14 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4 / 5
Park Features	Good condition
Programs and Activities	Summer Cinema, A Flurry of Fun, Kalamazoo Disc Golf
Connection to Trail System	Yes
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	Yes

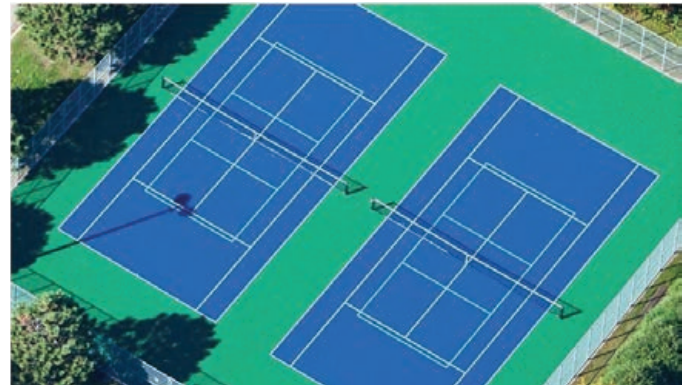
RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** Pavilion and Grills
- B** Updated Play Equipment
- C** Repaved Non-Motorized Trails
- D** Combination Tennis/Pickleball Court
- E** Updated Disc Golf Course
- F** Park Wayfinding Signage
- G** Accessible Parking Areas

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Spring Valley Park is one of Kalamazoo's largest parks, incorporating natural areas, playgrounds, sports amenities, and gathering spaces. The park also connects to the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail and includes three miles of walking and biking paths. Spring Valley is in need of general updates, maintenance, and some new amenities to attract more residents. There is an untapped potential that exists within Spring Valley Park to become the signature park in Kalamazoo.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- New/Updated Pavilions and Grills
- Updated Playground Equipment
- Repaved Non-Motorized Trails
- Combination Tennis Court/Pickleball Courts
- Signature Disc Golf Course
- Wayfinding Signage for Park Amenities
- Accessible Parking Areas

STATION FIVE COMMUNITY CENTER

ADDRESS: 619 DOUGLAS
NEIGHBORHOOD: DOUGLAS
SIZE: 0.25 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: COMMUNITY CENTER



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●●	15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○	4 / 5
Park Features	Good condition	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	No	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No	

SUMMARY

Station Five is a former fire station turned community center. The center has games and activities for children and is programmed by the Parks and Rec Department.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Parking lot repairs
- Addition to Kzoo Parks webpage



UPJOHN PARK

ADDRESS: 1000 WALTER STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON
SIZE: 17.15 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: COMMUNITY PARK



EXISTING AMENITIES



EXISTING FEATURES

- A

Parking area
- B

Tennis court (1)
- C

Non-motorized trail
- D

Athletic field
- E

Basketball court (1 full, 2 half)
- F

Skate park
- G

Fitness equipment
- H

Kik Pool
- I

Accessible playground
- J

Pavilion
- K

Ball field
- L

Restrooms

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics

12 / 15

Park Accessibility Score

5 / 5

Park Features

Poor condition

Programs and Activities

Dive into Summer, Just Move Fitness and More

Connection to Trail System

Yes, Kalamazoo Valley River Trail

Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs

No

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



PROPOSED FEATURES

- A** Tennis court resurfacing and pickleball court striping
- B** Basketball court improvements
- C** Green stormwater infrastructure
- D** Multi-purpose building with restrooms and programming space

SUMMARY

Upjohn Park is home to Kik Pool, the only 50-meter outdoor swimming pool in the Kalamazoo area. The park also has a “Boundless Playground”, skate park, multi-use field, basketball courts, tennis courts, grills, and a picnic shelter with tables. The KRV T connects Upjohn Park to other neighborhoods and amenities, like the nearby Kalamazoo Farmer’s Market. A fitness court was added in 2022 in collaboration with Priority Health and the National Fitness Campaign.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Multi-purpose building with restrooms, flexible programming space, and pavilion with seating
- Shade structures and trees along pathways
- Address flooding with green stormwater infrastructure
- Wayfinding and interpretive signage
- Resurface tennis courts and add striping for pickleball courts
- Basketball court improvements - resurfacing, benches, and shade structures
- Maintain and evaluate infrastructure of other amenities in 5 years

VERBERG PARK



PRIORITY PARK

ADDRESS: 669 GULL ROAD
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 15.48 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Verburg Park is located along the Kalamazoo River just north of Downtown Kalamazoo. This 10 acre park has access to the river via canoe and kayak launch, fishing opportunities, and is part of the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail. Accessible parking is available on the north end of the park. Verburg Park is currently undergoing an environmental remediation effort to remove PCB contaminated soils from a previous use. The park is intended to reopen in December of 2023.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Fishing Pier
- Canoe and Kayak Rental Station
- Reservable Pavilions
- Wayfinding Signage
- Upgraded Play Equipment
- Multi-Sport Field
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure
- Dog Park

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	5 / 5
Park Features	Good condition (After completion of construction)
Programs and Activities	No
Connection to Trail System	Yes
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	Yes

VERSLUIS/DICKINSON SOFTBALL COMPLEX



PRIORITY PARK

ADDRESS: 1924 DOUGLAS AVENUE
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTHSIDE
SIZE: 87.48 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: SPORTS COMPLEX



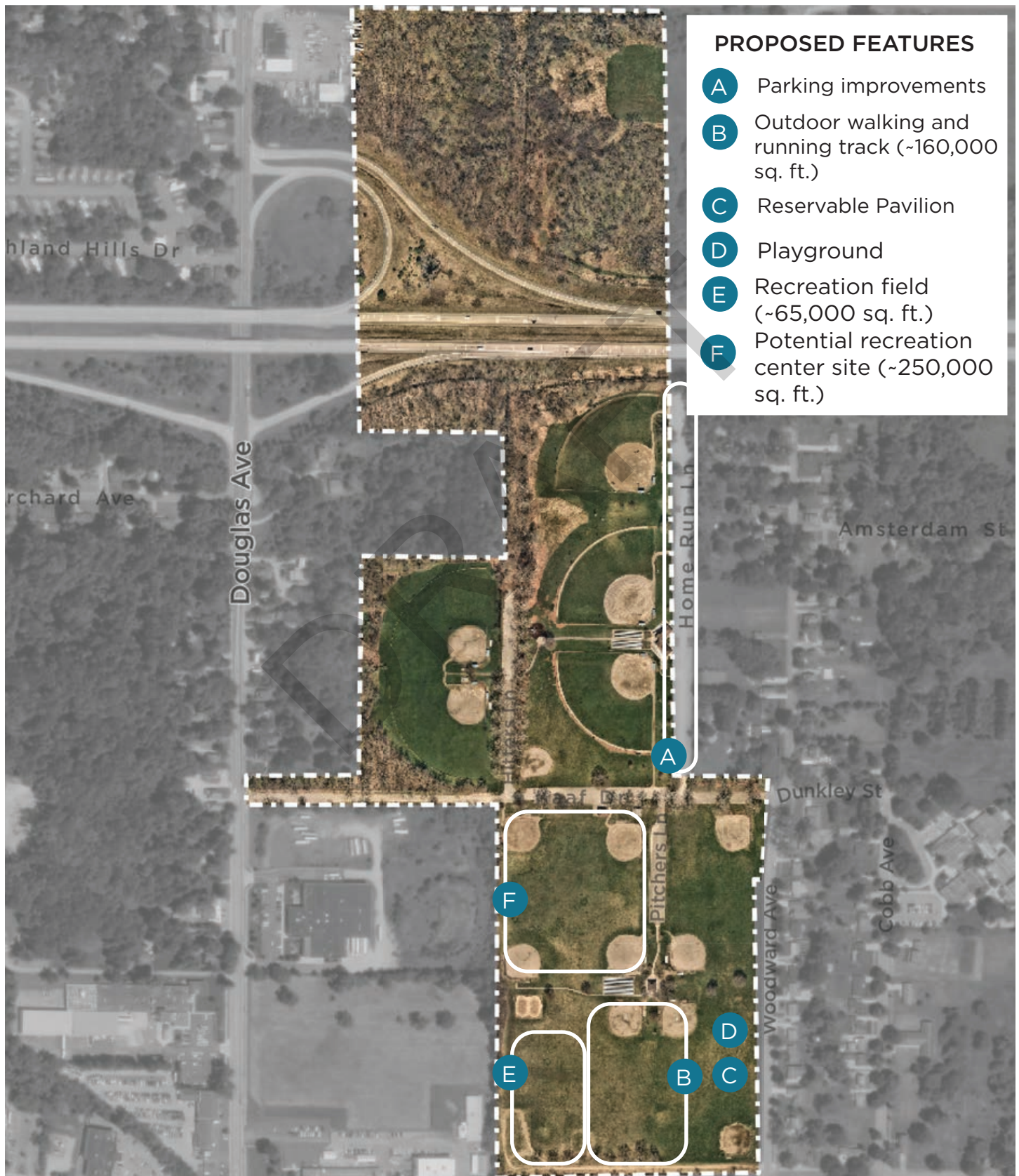
EXISTING AMENITIES



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●● 15 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●○ 4 / 5
Park Features	Poor condition
Programs and Activities	KAAF, Best Damn Sport and Social Club
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS



SUMMARY

Versluis & Dickinson Softball Complex is home to the City's softball and teeball fields. The complex also has a multi-use field, playground, concessions buildings, and two sand volleyball courts.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Parking striping, signage, and shade trees
- Feasibility study for the addition of a 250,000 square foot recreation facility with locker rooms
- Outdoor walking and running track
- Play equipment and pavilion
- Recreation field with supportive features for soccer and football

WEST DOUGLAS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

ADDRESS: 1720 W. NORTH STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: DOUGLAS
SIZE: 14.8 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: GREEN SPACE



EXISTING FEATURES No existing features.
PROPOSED FEATURES No proposed features.

ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●●	15/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●○○○○	1/ 5
Park Features	N/A	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	No	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No	

SUMMARY

West Douglas Neighborhood Park is a forested green space with no amenities present.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain as green space.

WEST GATEWAY

ADDRESS: INTERSECTION OF STADIUM DRIVE
AND LOVELL STREET

NEIGHBORHOOD: WEST MAIN HILL

SIZE: 0.43 ACRES

CLASSIFICATION: SPECIAL USE



SUMMARY

Special use feature - park equity assessment not completed.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

WEST MAIN PARK

ADDRESS: 800 W. MAIN STREET
NEIGHBORHOOD: STUART
SIZE: 0.8 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: MINI PARK



ASSESSMENT

Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○○	8 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●○○○	3 / 5
Park Features	Fair condition	
Programs and Activities	No	
Connection to Trail System	No	
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No	

SUMMARY

West Main Park is an urban pocket park that is 0.11 acres in size. Arcadia Creek also runs through the park.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Add Kzoo Parks branded sign

WOODS LAKE PARK

ADDRESS: 2900 OAKLAND DRIVE
NEIGHBORHOOD: OAKLAND/WINCHELL
SIZE: 7.09 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

- EXISTING FEATURES
- A

 Parking
- B

 Restrooms
- C

 Pavilion
- D

 Playground
- E

 Beach

PROPOSED FEATURES

No proposed features.



ASSESSMENT	
Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●○○ 9/ 15
Park Accessibility Score	●●●●● 5/ 5
Park Features	Fair condition
Programs and Activities	Winter Golf Classic
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Woods Lake Park is centrally located in Kalamazoo and offers a beach, swimming area, fishing, and a playground. A rentable pavilion is also available for mid-size gatherings.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Maintain and re-evaluate infrastructure integrity in the next 5 years.

Youth Development Center

ADDRESS: 230 E. CROSSTOWN PARKWAY
NEIGHBORHOOD: EDISON
SIZE: 1.38 ACRES
CLASSIFICATION: COMMUNITY CENTER



ASSESSMENT

Nearby Neighborhood Characteristics	●●●●○ 12 / 15
Park Accessibility Score	N/A
Park Features	Fair condition
Programs and Activities	After-school program
Connection to Trail System	No
Green Infrastructure and Environmental Needs	No

SUMMARY

Youth Development Center hosts the after-school program and is one the Summer Kamp Kzoo sites. The center is located between the Edison and Vine neighborhoods near central Kalamazoo.

RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS

- Slated for demolition.



Capital Improvement Plan

Through the 2024-2028 Parks and Recreation Plan process, Kzoo Parks underwent a fiscal planning process to develop a Capital Improvement Plan for the next five years. The following table details future spending at Kzoo Parks' facilities and is considered its Action Plan for the next five years.

Table 11: Capital Improvement Plan

	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
ACADEMY GREEN				
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications	-	Developed in-house at no cost	-
ANGLING PARK				
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications	-	Developed in-house at no cost	-
ARCADIA FESTIVAL PLACE				
AXTELL CREEK PARK				
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation \$1,300	\$1,300
★ BLANCHE HULL PARK				
Disc golf course	New amenity	3	\$25,000 per hole	\$75,000
CXT bathroom shelter	New amenity	1	Per structure	\$150,000
Water fountain (with dog water station)	New amenity	1	Per structure	\$6,000
Dog park (fencing, paved loop, park amenities, shade structure)	New amenity		\$75 / linear foot	\$250,000
Benches	New amenity	4	\$2,500 installed	\$10,000
Trail connection to Celery Flats (approx. 0.5 miles, 10' path)	New amenity	1,000 ft	\$14 / square foot	\$150,000
Parking lot improvements: striping, curb cuts	Improvement	-	-	\$2,500
High-visibility crosswalk on Lovers Lane with pedestrian crossing sign	Improvement	1	\$4 / square foot	\$1,600
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$646,400

	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
BRONSON PARK				
Activation	New amenity	-	-	\$150,000
Water feature that functions as splash pad/spray park	New amenity	1	\$60/square foot	\$300,000
Crosswalk to connect north side (requires removal of 3 parking spots)	Infrastructure	1	\$4 / square foot	\$2,500
Shade sail structures	Improvement	2	Per structure \$6,000	\$12,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$465,800
CANYON PARK				
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications	-	Developed in-house at no cost	-
COLLEGE PARK				
Pavilion - 15' x 20' wood structure, with concrete footings and a 4" concrete pad, including aggregate base	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$25,000
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications	-	Developed in-house at no cost	-
CRANE PARK				
CROSSTOWN PKWY. PONDS				
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications	-	Developed in-house at no cost	-
DAVIS STREET PARK				
DUTTON STREET PARK				
EAST GATEWAY				

	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
EMERALD DRIVE PARK				
Parking lot (approx. 10,000 sq. ft. or 30 parking spaces)	Infrastructure	1	\$15 / sq. ft. \$80 / parking space	\$150,000
Parking lot lighting	Infrastructure	2	\$18,000 each	\$26,000
Pocket parks and activation - pump track, volleyball courts, Baggo boards, chess, table tennis, etc.	New amenity	1	-	\$300,000
Water fountain (with dog water station)	New amenity	1	Per structure	\$6,000
Bike repair station	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$1,500
Pavilion - 15' x 20' wood structure, with concrete footings and a 4" concrete pad, including aggregate base	New amenity	2	Structure + installation	\$50,000
Grills	New amenity	2	Grill + installation \$1,000	\$2,000
CXT bathroom shelter	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$150,000
Wayfinding signage and lighting	New amenity			\$15,000
Benches (along path and adjacent to soccer field)	New amenity	6	\$2,500 installed	\$15,000
Connections to Emerald Drive pathway (10' paths)	Improvement	1,250 ft	Asphalt \$14/sq. ft. Concrete \$17/sq. ft.	\$175,000 - \$225,000
Trash receptacles	Improvement	6	\$1,500 each	\$9,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$900,800 - \$950,800
★ FAIRMOUNT DOG PARK				
Pavilion 15' x 20' wood structure, with concrete footings and a 4" concrete pad, including aggregate base	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$25,000



	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
FARRELL PARK				
Connection to school (10' path)	New amenity	350 ft	Asphalt \$14/sq. ft. Concrete \$17/sq. ft.	\$50,000 - \$60,000
Crosswalk	Infrastructure	1	\$4 / square foot	\$2,500
TOTAL				\$52,500 - \$62,500
FLORENCE SPRAY PARK				
Picnic tables	New amenity	3	\$1,500 each, installed	\$5,000
Shade sail structures	Improvement	1	\$6,000 each	\$6,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$12,300
FRAYS PARK				
Playground resurfacing (poured in place rubber)	Maintenance	1	\$25 / square foot	\$45,000
Pavilion - 15' x 20' wood structure, with concrete footings and a 4" concrete pad, including aggregate base	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$25,000
TOTAL				\$70,000
GLEN PARK NORTH				
GLEN PARK SOUTH				
HARRISON PARK				
Economic activation	New amenity	1	-	TBD
Dog park (fencing, park amenities)	New amenity	1 acre	\$75 / linear foot of fence	\$80,000
HAYS PARK				
HENDERSON GREEN				
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300



	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
HENDERSON PARK				
Expand community garden	Improvement	1	-	\$3,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$4,300
HENDERSON TOT LOT				
HILLSIDE PARK				
JONES PARK				
KALAMAZOO FARMERS MARKET				
★ KNOLLWOOD PARK				
Pavilion - 15' x 20' wood structure, with concrete footings and a 4" concrete pad, including aggregate base	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$25,000
Activation - grill, surface mounted	New amenity	2	Grill + installation \$1,000	\$2,000
Trash receptacles	New amenity	4	\$1,500 each	\$6,000
CXT bathroom shelter	New amenity	1	Per structure	\$150,000
Water fountain	New amenity	1	Per structure	\$6,000
Pathways	Improvement	150 ft	Asphalt \$14/sq. ft. Concrete \$17/sq. ft.	\$20,000 - \$25,500
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	2	Sign + installation	\$2,600
TOTAL				\$61,100
KROM & PROUTY				
Potential to spin off for housing	Development	-	-	TBD
LACRONE PARK				
Pickleball court striping on tennis court	New amenity	1	-	\$50,000
Play equipment updates	Improvement	1	-	\$200,000
Fencing (4' height, aluminum)	Improvement	1,600 ft	\$75 / linear foot	\$125,000
TOTAL				\$375,000

	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
LAKE/KENSINGTON PARK				
Pavilion - 15' x 20' wood structure, with concrete footings and a 4" concrete pad, including aggregate base	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$25,000
Accessible kayak launch	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$35,000
Pathway	New amenity	715 ft	Asphalt \$14/sq. ft. Concrete \$17/sq. ft.	\$10,000 - \$12,000
Pier maintenance	Maintenance	1	-	\$10,000
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications	-	Developed in-house at no cost	-
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$81,300 - \$83,300
LOVELL PARK				
Picnic tables	New amenity	2	\$1,500 each, installed	\$3,000
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications	-	Developed in-house at no cost	-
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING MEMORIAL PARK				
Alley activation - Chess tables, cafe seating	New amenity	2	Structure + installation \$2,500	\$5,000
Railroad buffering (175')	Improvement	-	\$35 / square foot	\$10,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$16,300

	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
MAYORS' RIVERFRONT PARK				
Play equipment upgrades	Improvement	1		\$200,000
Pathways	Improvement	3,000 ft	Asphalt \$14/sq. ft. Concrete \$17/sq. ft.	\$42,000 - \$50,000
Accessible kayak launch	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$35,000
Pump track (1.5 acres)	New amenity	1	Design + installation	\$200,000
Basketball court resurfacing (poured in place rubber)	Improvement	2	\$10 - \$15 / square foot	\$40,000 - \$60,000
Wayfinding signage	Communications	-	-	\$15,000
Green stormwater infrastructure	Infrastructure	TBD	Materials + installation	\$100,000
TOTAL				\$532,000 - \$552,000
MILHAM PARK				
Restroom improvements	Improvement	1	-	\$75,000
Disc golf course	New amenity	3	\$25,000 per hole	\$75,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$151,300
NELBERT PARK				
NORTH KALAMAZOO MALL				
Overhead LED festoon string lighting, with cable support	Improvement	285 ft	\$70 / linear foot	\$20,000
PRINCETON PARK				
Play equipment upgrades	Improvement	1	Structure + installation	\$150,000

	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
Pathway	Improvement	35 ft	Asphalt \$14/sq. ft. Concrete \$17/sq. ft.	\$5,000
Benches	New amenity	2	\$2,500 installed	\$5,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$161,300
REED STREET PARK				
★ ROCKWELL PARK				
Restrooms with programming flex space, electric, Wi-Fi	Improvement	1	-	\$300,000
Basketball court resurfacing (poured in place rubber)	Improvement	1	\$10 - \$15 / square foot	\$20,000
Tennis court resurfacing and pickleball court striping	Improvement	1	-	\$50,000
Pathway connection to neighborhood	Improvement	150 ft	Asphalt \$14/sq. ft. Concrete \$17/sq. ft.	\$15,000
TOTAL				\$385,000
ROSE PARK VETERAN'S MEMORIAL				
Interpretive signage	Communications	1	-	\$15,000
★ SHERWOOD PARK				
Replace grill	Maintenance	1	Grill + installation	\$1,000
Accessibility improvements	Improvement	-	-	\$5,000
TOTAL				\$
SOUTH GATEWAY				
SOUTH WESTNEDGE PARK				
SOUTHSIDE PARK				
Restrooms with programming flex space, electric, Wi-Fi	New amenity	1	-	\$300,000
Benches	New amenity	2	\$2,500 installed	\$5,000
Play equipment upgrades	Improvement	1	-	\$150,000
Recreation field goal posts, soccer nets	Improvement	1	-	\$20,000



	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
Basketball court resurfacing (poured in place rubber)	Improvement	1	\$10 - \$15 / square foot	\$20,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
TOTAL				\$500,000
SPRING VALLEY PARK				
Pavilion - 15' x 20' wood structure, with concrete footings and a 4" concrete pad, including aggregate base	New amenity	3	Structure + installation \$25,000	\$75,000
Grills	New amenity	5	Grill + installation \$1,000	\$5,000
CXT bathroom shelter	New amenity	1	Per structure	\$150,000
Tennis court resurfacing and pickleball striping	Maintenance	1	-	\$50,000
Disc golf course	Maintenance	1	-	\$25,000
Play equipment upgrades	Improvement	1	-	\$200,000
Wayfinding signage	Improvement	1	-	\$15,000
Parking lot improvements	Improvement	1	\$15/square foot	\$100,000
TOTAL				\$620,000
SPRINGMONT PARK				
STATION FIVE COMMUNITY CENTER				
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications	-	Developed in-house at no cost	-
UPJOHN PARK				
Tennis court resurfacing and pickleball striping	Maintenance	1	-	\$50,000
Pavilion - 15' x 20' wood structure, with concrete footings and a 4" concrete pad, including aggregate base	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$25,000
Restrooms with programming flex space, electric, Wi-Fi	Improvement	1	-	\$300,000
Benches	New amenity	1	-	\$2,500
Shade structures	Improvement	1	-	\$25,000
Wayfinding and interpretive signage	Improvement	1	-	\$15,000



	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
Trees	Infrastructure	TBD	\$850/tree	TBD
Green stormwater infrastructure	Infrastructure	TBD	Materials + installation	\$100,000
TOTAL				\$3,410,000
VERBERG PARK				
Fishing pier	New amenity	1	\$60 / square foot	\$25,000
Recreation field goal posts, soccer nets	Improvement	1	-	\$20,000
Reservable pavilion	New amenity	1	Structure + installation	\$25,000
Accessible Boat/kayak launch	New amenity	1	-	\$35,000
Benches	New amenity	6	\$2,500 each	\$15,000
Dog park (fencing, paved loop, park amenities, shade structure)	New amenity	1	\$75 / linear foot	\$250,000
Play equipment upgrades	Improvement	1	-	\$200,000
Paved parking area - including lighting	New amenity	1	\$15 / square foot	\$270,000
Wayfinding and interpretive signage	New amenity	2	-	\$15,000
Green stormwater infrastructure	Infrastructure	2	Materials + installation	\$100,000
TOTAL				\$3,410,000
VERSLUIS/DICKINSON SOFTBALL COMPLEX				
Recreation center w/ Locker Rooms	New Amenity	1	-	\$5M+
Recreation field	Maintenance	1	-	\$20,000
Walking/running track (outdoor)	New amenity	1	\$25 / square foot	\$330,000
Play equipment and pavilion	Improvement	1	-	\$200,000
Pathways	Improvement	6,000 ft	\$14 / square foot	\$250,000
Scoreboards	Improvement	TBD	Per Scoreboard	\$15,000
Shade structures	Improvement	1	-	\$25,000
Wayfinding signage	Improvement	1	-	\$15,000
TOTAL				\$6,055,000+



	Improvement Type	Quantity	Unit Cost (\$)	Total Cost (\$)
W. DOUGLAS NEIGHBORHOOD PARK				
Kzoo Parks webpage	Communications		Developed in-house at no cost	-
WEST GATEWAY				
WEST MAIN PARK				
WOODS LAKE PARK				
Address hillside erosion issues with retaining wall	Infrastructure	-	-	TBD
Kayak launch, kayak programming	Programming	1	-	\$35,000
Kzoo Parks branded sign	Marketing	1	Sign + installation	\$1,300
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTER				
Demolition	Improvement	-	-	TBD

Funding Sources

There are several options to help fund the development of parks and trails. Depending on the funding source, the primary applicant may need to be either a government agency or a nonprofit organization. Options for both categories are described below. When local government agencies and nonprofit organizations collaborate, they might be able to leverage one another's funding efforts, leading to greater opportunities for parks and recreation facility improvements.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

Grant Amount: \$30,000-\$500,000

Match Amount: Minimum 50% of the project cost

Funds: Property acquisition or design and construction

Considerations: Applications due annually on April 1. Must have a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan approved by the DNR by February 1 of the year applying. Funds must be spent in 2 years, and properties on which the trail is constructed are encumbered for public recreation in perpetuity.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

Grant Amount: \$15,000-\$300,000

Match Amount: Minimum 25% of the project cost

Funds: Property acquisition or design and construction

Considerations: Applications due annually on April 1. Must have a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan approved by the DNR by February 1 of the year applying. Properties acquired or developed with MNRTF grants are encumbered for public recreation in perpetuity. There are no minimum or maximum funding restrictions on property acquisition grants.



GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Recreation Passport Grant Program

Grant Amount: \$

Match Amount:

Funds:

Considerations:

Michigan Spark Grants

Grant Amount: \$

Match Amount:

Funds:

Considerations:

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

National Recreation and Park Association Grants

Grant Amount:

Match Amount:

Funds:

Considerations:

Michigan Environmental Council

Grant Amount: Varies

Match Amount: Not specified

Funds: Planning, design, engineering, acquisition, and construction of non-motorized, regional trail projects

Considerations: Funding comes from private resources and distributed to local agencies to implement trail connections

FOUNDATION GRANTS

Kalamazoo Foundation for Excellence

Grant Amount: \$

Match Amount:

Funds:

Considerations:

PRIVATE SOURCES

Michigan Economic Development Corporation

Grant Amount: \$

Match Amount:

Funds:

Considerations:

PetSafe Bark for Your Park Grants

Grant Amount: \$

Match Amount:

Funds:

Considerations: