

A wide-angle photograph of a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a golden glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. The sky is filled with scattered, dark clouds. In the distance, a kite surfer is visible on the water. The foreground shows the sandy beach with some footprints. A thin orange horizontal line is visible just above the text area.

DRAFT
CITY OF BENTON HARBOR
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN
2024-2028



BENTON HARBOR

Port of Opportunities

Updated
Commissioner
Names

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Benton Harbor City Commission

Mayor Marcus Muhammad
Sharon Henderson - *1st Ward Commissioner*
SaTanna Warren- *2nd Ward Commissioner*
Juanita Henry - *3rd Ward Commissioner*
Ethel Clark-Griffin - *4th Ward Commissioner*
Edward Isom - *Commissioner-at-Large*
Ronald Singleton - *Commissioner-at-Large*
Emma Kinnard - *Commissioner-at-Large*
Duane Seats - *Commissioner-at-Large/Mayor Pro-Tem*

Benton Harbor City Staff

Ellis Mitchell, City Manager
Alex Little, Assistant City Manager
Tiffany Moore, City Clerk

Benton Harbor Team Solutions

McKenna Consultant Team

This plan was prepared with assistance from Abonmarche Consultants, Inc.



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INTRODUCTION

The City of Benton Harbor is blessed with a myriad of natural resources within its city limits. Water bodies such as Lake Michigan, the St. Joseph and Paw Paw Rivers and Ox Creek create unique ecosystems that support a vast array of plant and wildlife. A person can experience dunal landscapes, wetlands and wooded areas all within a walkable distance. This natural abundance offers a wealth of recreation and leisure opportunities for the area. As a well established community, area residents are also the beneficiaries of several neighborhood parks within walkable distance of homes.

Most people start out in life going to three essential places: 1) home, 2) school, and 3) parks. The impact that parks have on the daily lives of people is a stepping stone to other vital areas of a person's growth and well-being. The city's parks and recreation facilities are valuable assets. They provide places for individuals, neighbors, young people, families, and groups to gather, share life events, relax, exercise, socialize and develop community bonds. This strengthens neighborhoods, adds to property value and creates a desirable quality of life for people to live and raise families.

The City of Benton Harbor, like many places, has limited financial resources at its disposal. It must carefully evaluate and plan how its municipal funds should be spent. This document focuses on the existing recreation opportunities in the city and provides community feedback on what it would like to see happen with them. With this information, the city can plan for ways to implement community desires for its parks and recreation pursuits.

Funding is an important step for improvements. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) provides annual grant opportunities for community recreation funding. In order to seek the funding, the MDNR requires that a community creates a five year parks and recreation plan that includes specific content. The City of Benton Harbor is completing this plan in part to become eligible for MDNR grant funds. Its content includes the MDNR requirements of an inventory of existing recreation, identifying community needs and setting goals, objectives and actions to target for a future five-year period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028.



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Plan Jurisdiction

The City of Benton Harbor is a local unit of government created in accordance with state of Michigan Act 279 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended. It is divided into four Wards: First, Second, Third, Fourth. It is enabled to provide recreation under Michigan Legislative Act 1917 PA 156.

Plan Focus

The focus of the recreation plan is to review public recreation opportunities the City of Benton Harbor can provide to its community members within its city limits and to plan for development of future recreation opportunities the community desires.

History of Benton Harbor

The history of Benton Harbor began with the purchase of 160 acres of land by Eleazar Morton in a portion of Benton Township. In 1836, he moved his family into a log cabin on high ground west of Ox Creek. Morton and his son, Henry, planted orchards and prospered from the sale of fruit. In 1849, the Morton family moved into a new home that still stands at 501 Territorial Street as a proud reminder of the City's founder.

To establish a market for the convenience of farmers on the East side of the St. Joseph River, Sterne Brunson, along with Charles Hull and Henry Morton, undertook the building of a milelong canal through the wetland between the River and the future city of Benton Harbor. Because of this well-known resident's venture, the town was founded as Brunson Harbor in 1860.

Brunson Harbor became Benton Harbor in 1865. The new settlement grew rapidly and was incorporated as a village in 1866. By 1891, the time had come for incorporation as a city and a charter was granted by the state legislature (citation: Berrien County - History of Benton Harbor)

Further history shared in the 2023 draft City Master Plan by McKenna, pages 159-164, states, "Benton Harbor's position as a regional hub for shipping, manufacturing, and food processing made it a magnet for workers seeking better opportunities. Benton Harbor was a significant destination during the Great Migration, a mass exodus of African Americans fleeing persecution in the South to find a better life in northern states. In the pre-war era, Benton Harbor grew into a diverse community, with African Americans as well as Native Americans, Germans, Poles, Scandinavians, and Jewish Americans. Industry began to exit Benton Harbor from the late 1960s onward, reflecting a trend taking place across the Midwest. As jobs left, residents followed—the city's population shrunk by roughly 5,000 people between 1960 and 1985. By 1980, nearly half of city residents were under 20 years of age, and it was estimated that only one in three city residents were employed. Likewise, from 1970 to 1985, unemployment grew by 25% and poverty by 20%. The State of Michigan identified Benton Harbor as its "most distressed community" in 1982.

While the decline in population and income impacted the viability of longtime local businesses, the regional pattern of suburbanization also took a heavy toll. The Orchards Mall opened in Benton Township in 1979, drawing longtime businesses away from downtown Benton Harbor. The loss of businesses and residents through the 1980s meant that Benton Harbor faced the headwinds of declining infrastructure, the need to keep property taxes at a high level, and an aging building stock.

Additionally, a great deal of the housing stock was renter-occupied and poorly maintained by absentee landlords, and there was a great deal of overcrowding. Benton Harbor continued to struggle to attract significant job creation and the population continued to decline. Shortly after the year 2000, the City dipped below 10,000 residents.

In the 1990s and early 2000s, several improvements were made to the downtown district, and a small arts based community began to anchor a portion of the district. The creation of a Downtown Development Authority supported new business development and infrastructure improvements to attract new businesses."

The City is continuing to take steps to attract new businesses and developments and implement policies to respond to community needs that support growth and recovery.

Physical Characteristics of Community

The city limits of Benton Harbor encompass 4.68 square miles, which includes 4.43 land square miles and 0.25 square miles of water. The city is located in southwest lower Michigan, in Berrien County. It is 90 miles from Chicago, 30 miles from South Bend, Indiana, 50 miles from Kalamazoo and 90 miles from Grand Rapids. The city is part of the "Twin Cities" area which references the cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor respectively. The city limits of Benton Harbor encompass 4.68 square miles, which includes 4.43 land square miles and 0.25 square miles of water. Local major thoroughfares easily access the city, including Interstate 94, Interstate 196, M-63, M-139 and US -31. Downtown Benton Harbor is less than 1 mile east to west and roughly ¼ mile north to south. Downtown Benton Harbor has a block structure that is ideal for walkable development. Expressed in walking times, the downtown area is a 20-minute walk east to west and a 5-minute walk north to south.

The City's location on Lake Michigan, the St. Joseph River, and the Paw Paw River makes it an attractive destination for commerce, living, recreation activities. The airport, transit system, and close access to interstate highways and other thoroughfares provides easy transportation throughout the region.

Climate

Benton Harbor has a humid continental climate that has very warm summers for the type and also less cold winters than many climates of the classification. Due to lake-effect snow there is very high snowfall relative to precipitation in winter, but far lower than some locations that are farther north in the state. Summer high temperatures range from 77 to 83 °F from June to August. Winter highs range from 30 to 45 °F from December to March with lows from 17 to 28 °F.

Demographic Characteristics of Community

For consistency, the demographic information being reported in this section is identical to the information presented in the draft 2023 Master Plan by McKenna, currently being finalized.

In the 2020 Census, the population of Benton Harbor was 9,103 residents. While this is a reduction from previous years, the rate of population loss in the City has begun to stabilize after decades of outmigration.

Population (2010) 10,038

Population (2020) 9,103

Percent Change (2010-2020) -9.3%

Source: 2010 and 2020 Decennial Census

The number of households in Benton Harbor decreased at roughly the same rate as the number of residents of the City. This means the average household size remained about the same, at 2.73 people per household.

Benton Harbor's population peaked in 1960 with just over 19,000 residents. Benton Harbor's population decreased most sharply from 1960 to 1970. While shrinkage has continued, it has become more gradual over time. The rate of population loss has decreased each decade, which is a promising sign of stabilization.

Population History, 1950-2020

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
Benton Harbor	18,612	19,136	16,481	14,707	12,818	11,182	10,038	9,103

Age Groups

Age	Benton Harbor	
Pre-School Aged - Under 5	764	8.4%
School-Aged - 5 to 19	2,451	26.9%
Family Forming - 20 to 44	2,750	30.2%
Mature Families - 45 to 64	2,171	23.8%
Senior Citizens—65+	967	10.6%

Source: 2020 Decennial Census

As demonstrated above, children made up the largest percentage of Benton Harbor’s population. Children under 5 and residents under 20 made up a combined 35.3% of the population. Adults ages 20 to 44, the age group most likely to have younger children and to be starting families, were 30.2% of the City’s population. This group should also make up the majority of the City’s workforce and is a very important indicator of future growth potential. The other half of the workforce was Mature Adults, those age 45 to 60—these individuals represented 23.8% of the population. Senior Citizens made up 10.6% of the population. Given that in past decades, Benton Harbor has struggled with its balance between dependent and working-age residents, it is positive that the primary working age group of 20 to 64 years old now makes up more than 50% of the population.

RACIAL DEMOGRAPHICS

Since the mid-20th century, Benton Harbor has been a majority-African American community. In 2020, African Americans made up 83% of the City’s population. White residents made up the second-largest group, at 7.5% of the population. The remaining 10% were multi-racial, Asian, or identified as “other”. About 5% of the population was made up of Hispanics of any race.

Racial/Ethnic Composition of Benton Harbor

Race	Total	Percentage
African American	7,569	83.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	24	0.3%
Asian	13	0.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	5	0.1%
White	679	7.5%
Other Race	44	0.5%
Multiple Races	302	3.3%
Hispanic or Latino	467	5.1%
Total Population	9,103	--

Source: 2020 Decennial Census

HOUSEHOLD INCOME AND POVERTY LEVELS

The median household income is the midpoint of all incomes in Benton Harbor. The median household income for Benton Harbor in 2020 was just under \$22,000 per year. In other words, this means that there were just as many households making less than \$22,000 as there were making more than that amount. The median household income in Benton Harbor was the lowest of its neighbors. St. Joseph had the highest median household income in the metropolitan area, at about \$53,000 per year. The State of Michigan’s median household income in 2020 was \$59,000 per year. The St. Joseph—Benton Harbor area is dealing with below-standard income levels, an indication of significant challenge for the entire metro area. However, household incomes have risen more quickly than the rate of inflation, showing a positive trend moving forward.

the following table shows the percentage of the population living in poverty by age group. The poverty threshold (the maximum income per year that designates a household as being in poverty) is dependent on the number of adults, children, and seniors in a household. Generally speaking, in 2021 the Census uses a poverty threshold of \$13,788 for an individual adult and \$17,529 for two adults, with an additional \$1,375 for each child in the household. In Benton Harbor in 2021, more than 55.6% of children were living below the poverty level and about 40% of all adults.

2021 Poverty Statistics

% Living in Poverty	
% Children Below the Poverty Level	55.6%
% Adults Below the Poverty Level	38.7%
% Senior Citizens Below the Poverty Level	42.8%

Source: 2021 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

DISABILITY STATUS

Individuals with disabilities may need some unique accommodation or support to be able to go about their normal days. All cities should plan with people of all abilities in mind, and new construction must always comply with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The following table shows the number of people in Benton Harbor living with a disability or impairment of some kind in 2021. There is often an assumption that there are very few disabled people, so making accommodations for them is catering to a very small group. The table below shows that the number of people with disabilities may be much higher than the majority of the population is aware. Almost 15% of Benton Harbor residents were living with a disability in 2021. This is on par with the overall state population: 14% Michiganders were disabled in 2021. The largest group of individuals was living with an ambulatory, or walking, difficulty.

2021 Population with Disabilities

Type of Disability	Benton Harbor Residents	
Hearing Difficulty	149	1.6%
Vision Difficulty	197	2.2%
Cognitive Difficulty	519	5.7%
Ambulatory (Walking) Difficulty	938	10.3%
Self-Care Difficulty	401	4.4%
Independent Living Difficulty*	549	8.3%
Total with a disability**	1,328	14.6%

Source: 2021 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

*Percentage is of population over 18 years of age.

**Some individuals may have more than one difficulty which qualifies them as disabled, which is why the total is not a summation of all above numbers.

VEHICLE ACCESS

Vehicle access is important to show how many people will need alternative forms of transportation to get around. In Benton Harbor, 27% of households owned no vehicles. Comparatively, in the same year, 6.7% of St. Joseph, 6.3% of Berrien County, and 6.1% of Michigan households own no vehicle. Many residents rely on their friends and family for ride sharing when they can't take a bus or another mode of transportation to their daily activities. A high number of households without their own vehicles indicates a need for more alternative transportation options.

2021 Vehicle Access

Vehicles available	Number of Households	Percentage
No vehicles available	1090	27.0%
1 vehicle available	1974	48.8%
2 vehicles available	739	18.3%
3 or more vehicles available	238	5.9%

Source: 2021 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Under the City Charter, Benton Harbor is governed by a council-manager system that includes nine elected commissioners on the City Commission, and the expertise of an appointed city manager who runs daily administrative duties. The City Manager is responsible for implementing the City Commission's policies and programs through leading departments and coordinating delivery of services.

City Commission Members

Mayor Marcus Muhammad

Sharon Henderson - *1st Ward Commissioner*

SaTanna Warren- *2nd Ward Commissioner*

Juanita Henry - *3rd Ward Commissioner*

Ethel Clark-Griffin - *4th Ward Commissioner*

Edward Isom - *Commissioner-at-Large*

Ronald Singleton - *Commissioner-at-Large*

Emma Kinnard - *Commissioner-at-Large*

Duane Seats - *Commissioner-at-Large/Mayor Pro-Tem*

← Updated names

Roles of Commission and Committees

The City Commission and committees provide the opportunity for residents and administrators to collaborate on specific issues and topics to inform policy change and daily decision-making. The following Benton Harbor committees and boards support municipal activities:

- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- Cemetery Board
- Downtown Development Authority
- Planning Commission
- Legislative Committee
- Public Safety & Public Works Committee
- Personnel and Finance Committee
- Economic Development & Parks and Recreation Committee
- Communications/Public Relations Committee

← Updated committees

City of Benton Harbor Organization

The City currently employs 55 staff members across eleven departments.

City Departments

- City Clerk
- City Manager
- Code Compliance
- Community and Economic Development
- Human Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Property Tax/Assessment
- Public Safety
- Sanitation
- Utility Department
- Water Department

Recreation Department and Staff Description

The City has an Economic Development and Parks and Recreation Committee which meets the second Wednesday of each month. Its members currently include:

Chairperson - Commissioner-At-Large Ronald Singleton

Citizen Rep - Jerry Edwards

Citizen Rep - Deidre Fields

Citizen Rep - Vacant

City staff liaisons

The committee members have two year terms. People or organizations who wish to present activities or improvements at a park must bring them to the committee for discussion, review and approval. After consideration, the committee forwards a recommended project to City Commission for final approval.

The City has staff who track and schedule events at the parks. Staff makes sure park reservation sites are clean before and after events. They also observe park activities on weekends and patrol the paid parking lot at Jean Klock Park. Staff from the Department of Public Works maintain the parks. In the summer, temporary staff are added to assist with parks maintenance. The City has utilized its CDBG program in the past to fund these seasonal workers. The City has also worked with the local Michigan Works program to coordinate seasonal workers that assist with park maintenance.

City staff presents information on costs for park expenses or improvements to City Commission. City Commissioners approve expenditures. For grant funds, a Commission resolution is passed identifying persons authorized to accept and sign grant documents on behalf of the city. The City Manager is generally the designated authorized official.

Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming and Funding Sources

The Parks and Recreation 2023-2024 anticipated budget is \$57,832. Expenses include salaries, fringes, supplies and materials, outside contracted services, repairs and fees. Due to current City financial capacity, capital outlay is not projected for the 2023-24 budget.

Recreation expenses are funded through the General Fund. Revenue sources contributing toward the Parks and Recreation departmental expenses include user fees for Jean Klock Park and revenue sharing. Capital improvements for the City's Parks are often funded by the Personal Property Improvements (PPI) fund. Lawn mowing and upkeep of the City Parks during summers is supplemented by summer youth workers. City Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program funds assist with this program.

As the City considers ways to improve parks services, it is considering reactivating the Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Conservancy. If the conservancy is reactivated, the City's recreation department will become a coordinating unit that will still house some city responsibilities.

Updated text

**CITY OF BENTON HARBOR
DEPARTMENT 706 - PARKS & RECREATION
2022-23 BUDGET WORKSHEET**

INPUT
CALCULATION
INFLATION RATE

4.0%

	DESCRIPTION	Actual as of 6/30/2022	2022-23 ORIGINAL BUDGET	2023-24 REQUEST	DESCRIPTION	
Dept 706-PARKS & RECREATION						
SALARIES & WAGES						
101-706-702.000	SALARIES AND WAGES	18,669	51,480	20,592		
101-706-702.001	OVERTIME PAY	361	0			
SALARIES & WAGES		19,030	51,480	20,592		
FRINGE BENEFITS						
101-706-715.000	EMPLOYER FICA & MCARE	1,647	3,938	1,575	% OF SALARY	7.65%
101-706-719.000	MEDICAL INSURANCE	240	0			
101-706-721.000	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	14	15	4	22-23 annualized	0.02%
101-706-725.000	WORKERS COMPENSATION	162	129	130	% OF SALARY	
FRINGE BENEFITS		2,063	4,082	1,709		
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS						
101-706-740.000	OPERATING SUPPLIES	1,928	1,941	3,458	2023- ytd annualized + inflation	
101-706-775.000	REPAIR & MAINT SUPPL	0	0			
SUPPLIES & MATERIALS		1,928	1,941	3,458		
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES						
101-706-801.000	PROFESSIONAL SERV	51,242	11,797	13,373	2023- ytd annualized + inflation	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		51,242	11,797	13,373	plus blossomtime	
OTHER EXPENSES						
101-706-850.000	COMMUNICATIONS	435	1,800	300	2022-23- ytd annualized + inflation	
	UTILITIES	1,165	0	1,400	2022-23- ytd annualized + inflation	
101-706-930.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	19,451	5,000	11,500	2022-23- ytd annualized + inflation	
101-706-996-002	BANK FEES	5,200	6,647	5,500	2022-23- ytd annualized + inflation	
OTHER EXPENSES		26,251	13,447	18,700		
CAPITAL OUTLAY						
101-706-977.000	CAPITAL ASSETS	0	0			
CAPITAL OUTLAY		0	0	0		
Total Dept 706-PARKS & RECREATION		100,514	82,747	57,832		

Roles of Volunteers and Organizations

Many volunteer groups assist with upkeep of parks in the City. The plantings in the public space in the Arts District are regularly maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers. Whirlpool has had employee community events to assist with park cleanups and equipment revitalization such as recent projects for Union Park and Broadway Park. Benton Harbor Team Solutions organized a volunteer clean up event at Morton Park <https://bentonspiritnews.com/morton-park-cleanup-give-back-gets-big-turnout-p7547-93.htm> which included participants from Andrews University, Myanmar Adventist Ministries North America Division, Team Solutions and local residents.



Additionally, as part of the agreement with Harbor Shores for use of Jean Klock Park land for the Harbor Shores golf course, the City has an arrangement with Harbor Shores to cooperatively maintain Jean Klock Park. At Jean Klock Park, Harbor Shores is responsible for:

- Sand and dune maintenance
- Trash removal
- Cleaning of public restrooms
- Grass mowing and related landscaping trimming and maintenance
- Other customary park maintenance items

Relationships with School Districts and Other Public Agencies Involved in Recreation

The City engages with schools to communicate and coordinate recreation and parks information. Schools are able to reserve parks for school events.

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY

Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

Grant Site	Grant Type	Facilities Still Present?	Site Open to Public?	Conversion Present?
Jean Klock Park	LWCF – MNRTF – BF – CM	Yes	Yes	Yes
Broadway Park	LWCF	Yes	Yes	No
Union Park	LWCF - MNRTF	Yes	Yes	No

Jean Klock Park mitigation parcels - As part of a negotiated lease agreement between the City of Benton Harbor and Harbor Shores Community Redevelopment Inc. (Harbor Shores) portions of Jean Klock Park were leased to Harbor Shores for development of three holes of a golf course. Due to the National Park Service, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant funded improvements previously completed at the park, mitigation parcels had to be identified as replacements for Jean Klock Park public park land. The parcels need to remain public parkland in perpetuity to comply with DNR and NPS requirements.

The following map identifies these parcels.

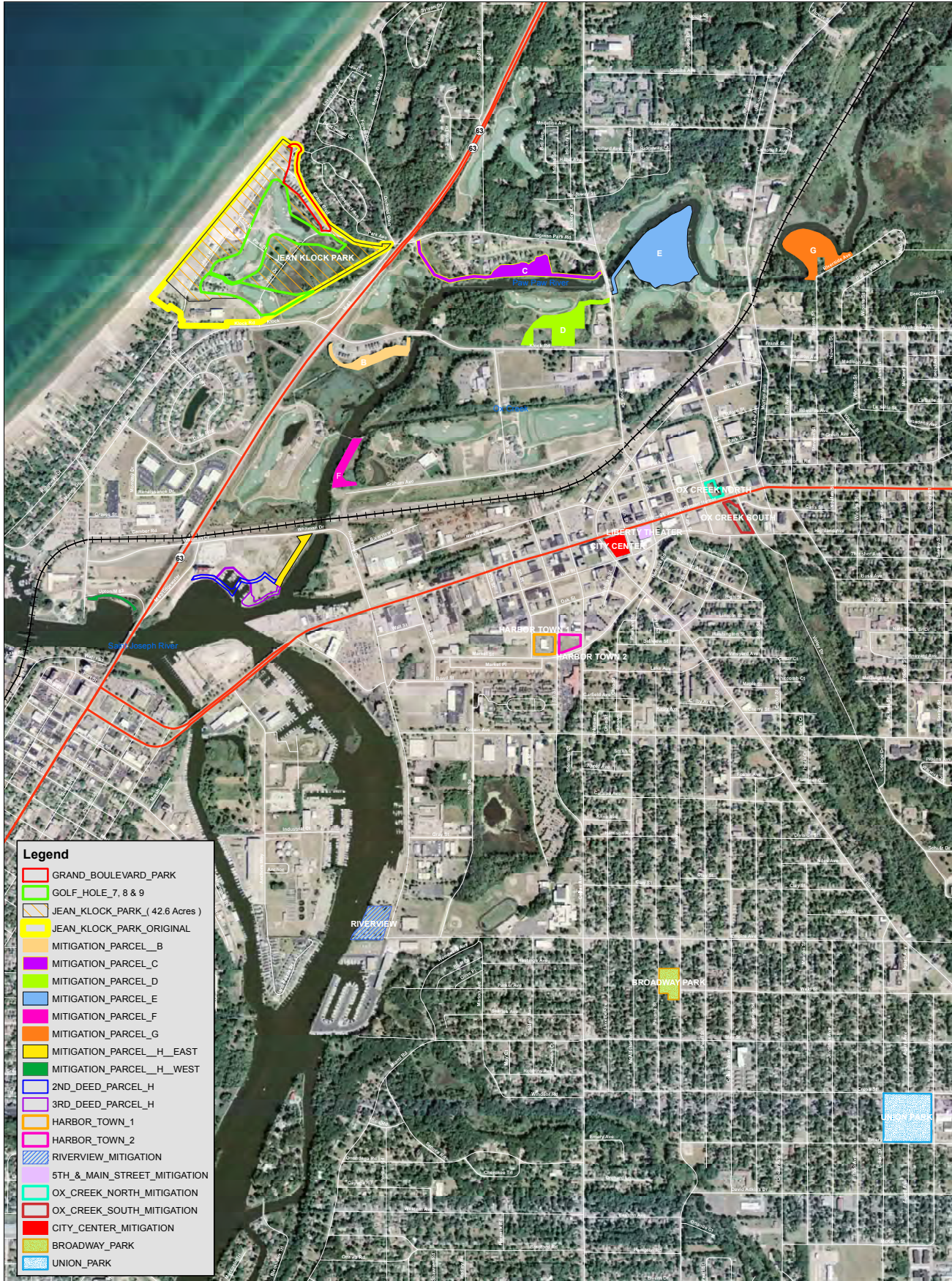
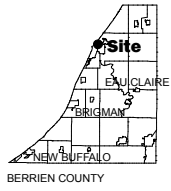
Updated text



One mitigation parcel at 338 Eighth Street was inadvertently sold for private development by the State appointed emergency manager. A Dialysis Center was built on the parcel in 2012. The City of Benton Harbor has reached out to the DNR about rectifying the conversion. The first step is identifying a replacement parcel that will be acceptable to the DNR. To date, several locations have been presented, but none have met the DNR criteria so far.

CITY OF BENTON HARBOR

DNR Grant Assisted Sites
 Project No. LWCF 26-00568 Jean Klock Park
 LWCF 26-01023 Jean Klock Park
 TF 89-114 Jean Klock Park
 BF 92-327 Jean Klock Park &
 CM 99-203 Jean Klock Park





GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

City of Benton Harbor - Berrien County

Project No. 26-00568 **Project County:** Berrien **Project Year:** 1975
Project title: Jean Klock Bathhouse
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$50,000.00

Scope Item

Project Description: develop 1 acre of land for site improvement, one bathhouse and a LWCF sign

Project No. 26-01023 D4 **Project County:** Berrien **Project Year:** 1977
Project title: Benton Harbor Riverview Park
Project Status: Withdrawn **Grant Amount:** \$16,917.00

Scope Item

Project Description: Landscaping, picnic equipment, playground equipment, storm sewer, LWCF plaque

Project No. 26-01023 L2 **Project County:** Berrien **Project Year:** 1977
Project title: Broadway-Union Parks
Project Status: Grant Closed **Grant Amount:** \$9,912.62

Scope Item

Project Description: Broadway Park - Develop park shelter, playground equipment and LWCF plaque.
Union Park - Develop berm, wood activity, playground equipment, landscaping and LWCF plaque.

Project No. 26-01439 **Project County:** Berrien **Project Year:** 1986
Project title: Urban Waterfront Mini Marina
Project Status: Withdrawn **Grant Amount:** \$150,607.00

Scope Item

Project Description: Marina consturction, remodel building for restroom/concession, landscaping, LWCF plaque.



GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

City of Benton Harbor - Berrien County

Project No. TF86-308	Project County: Berrien	Project Year: 1986
Project title: Ox Creek Park Development		
Project Status: Withdrawn		Grant Amount: \$30,000.00

Scope Item

Project Description: To acquire 14 acres along Ox Creek in Benton Harbor.

Project No. TF89-114	Project County: Berrien	Project Year: 1989
Project title: Jean Klock Park		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$375,000.00

Scope Item

- Access road
- Boardwalks & nat. trails
- Dune restoration
- Habitat restoration
- Interpretive center
- Observ. towers & platform
- Parking facilities
- Paths and trails
- Recreation boating beach
- Restroom facilities
- Security fencing
- Shelter, tables, grills
- Storage facilities
- Utility improvements
- Visitors center
- Warming shelter

Project Description: Development of beach front recreational facilities on Lake Michigan, preservation of fragile sand dunes and wetland wildlife habitats.



GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

City of Benton Harbor - Berrien County

Project No. BF92-327	Project County: Berrien	Project Year: 1992
Project title: Jean Klock Bathhouse		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$75,000.00

Scope Item

- Broadway Park
- Hall Park
- Jean Klock Park
- Morton Park
- Pipestone Park
- Rail/Trail (link)
- Roosevelt Park
- Union Park

Project Description: Continuation of improvements to Jean Klock Park rails-to-trails connection and upgrading of inner-city parks. Grant is to fund restroom renovation only.

Project No. CM99-203	Project County: Berrien	Project Year: 1999
Project title: Jean Klock Park Improvements		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$562,500.00

Scope Item

- Boardwalk
- Brick Common Area
- Concrete Sidewalks
- Concrete Theater
- Concrete Walls/Stairs at Pavilion
- Deck
- Electric/Light Fixtures
- Landscaping
- Pavilion Construction
- Retaining Wall
- Site Furniture (Grills, Boardwalk Benches)

Project Description: Improvements at this Lake Michigan park to include construction of a pavilion, boardwalk, deck and associated site amenities for new and enhanced recreation activities.



GRANT HISTORY

Grantee

City of Benton Harbor - Berrien County

Project No. TF13-046	Project County: Berrien	Project Year: 2013
Project title: Union Field Park Improvements		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$300,000.00

Scope Item

- Curb/surfacing/benches tot lot area
- Demo existing pressbox/remodel building
- Install new fencing
- Install tot lot playground equipment
- MNRTF sign
- New scoreboard
- Permit fees
- Remodel existing bathroom ADA accessible
- Remove/replace sidewalks ADA accessible
- Repair dugout/lighting/drinking fountain
- Replace bleachers
- Resurface three baseball infields

Project Description: Development to include improvements to Union Field Park, including ADA bathroom, resurface three baseball fields, fencing, bleachers, demolition of pressbox, replace sidewalks, tot lot playground equipment, lighting, drinking fountain and new scoreboard.

Total number of projects: 9

Total Amount of Grant Given \$1,569,936.62

RECREATION INVENTORY

City Parks

Currently, the City of Benton Harbor maintains 14 parks that offer varying levels of recreational activities for all ages, from passive recreation like picnicking and walking, to more active sports-related recreation and playgrounds.

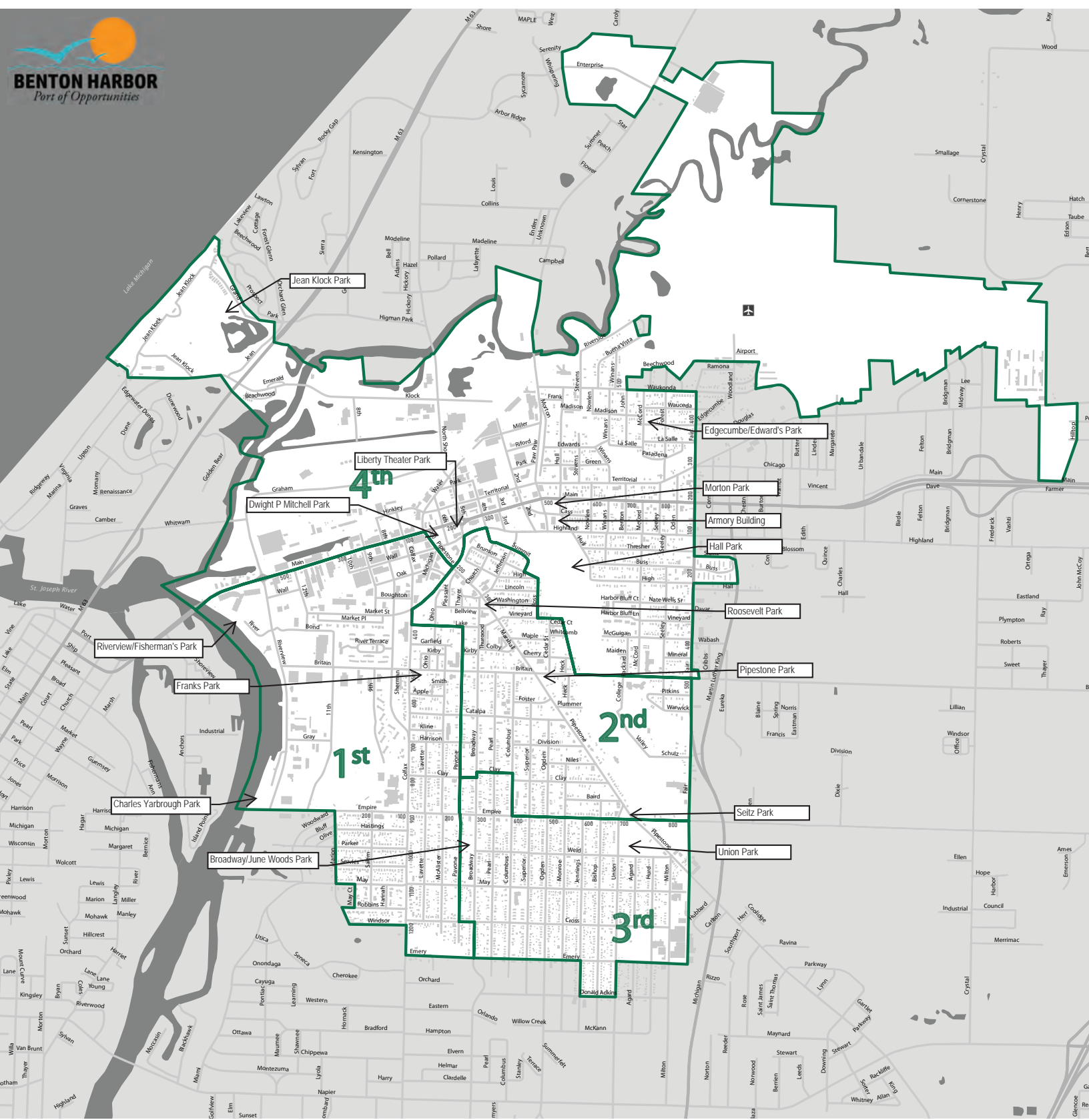
Due to the age of the city, many parks date back to the early 1900s. Many parks have aging infrastructure that the city has not had the financial capacity to update.

Descriptions of methods used to conduct the inventory

The City of Benton Harbor contracted with Abonmarche Consultants, Inc. to complete its recreation inventory. Utilizing information from previous years and City Park inventories, Kathy Burczak, professional Landscape Architect, visited each site to note park features, conditions and ADA accessibility. She provided her assessment of each park and recommendations for potential improvements.

The following accessibility rating was used in her review.

Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design



Jean Klock Park

Liberty Theater Park

Dwight P Mitchell Park

Riverview/Fisherman's Park

Franks Park

Charles Yarborough Park

Broadway/June Woods Park

Edgumbe/Edward's Park

Morton Park

Armory Building

Hall Park

Roosevelt Park

Pipestone Park

Seitz Park

Union Park

1st

4th

2nd

3rd

Park Name: Armory Community Center
Address: 472 Cass Street

Park Description: The City of Benton Harbor owns the former US Armory building located at 472 Cass Street in Benton Harbor. Built in 1926, it was owned by the US government until the City of Benton Harbor purchased it in the late 1990s to be used as a community center building. The Benton Harbor City Commission renamed the building the Bobo Brazil Community Center in 1998 to honor the professional wrestler with local ties who had recently died.

The building served as a community center for several years. It has multiple levels and over 25,000 square feet of use it offers to the public. It houses a full basketball court, a gymnasium, a boxing ring, a conference room, and several smaller rooms on the second floor and in the basement.

Another large room with an oversized garage door is located in the basement. It was a popular meeting place and used for weddings, banquets, basketball games, tournaments, and other community events and many residents have fond memories of it.

In October 2009, the City of Benton Harbor closed the building due to lack of funding to address heating problems that led to bills as high as \$8,000 in winter months. Left vacant, the building sustained damage in an April 2011 arson attempt and in 2014, burst water pipes in the building’s fire suppression system caused additional interior damage. The City has been seeking funding to assist with repairs to reopen the facility.

The building has green space to the north and east. Parking lots exist on the west and south side. The Armory is north of Hall Park and the Ox Creek corridor.

Accessibility Rating: 1

A ramp entrance is available at the main entrance. A non-functioning elevator provides access to the second floor. Clear passage from the front door to main level is present.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

The elevator needs to be repaired to provide second level access

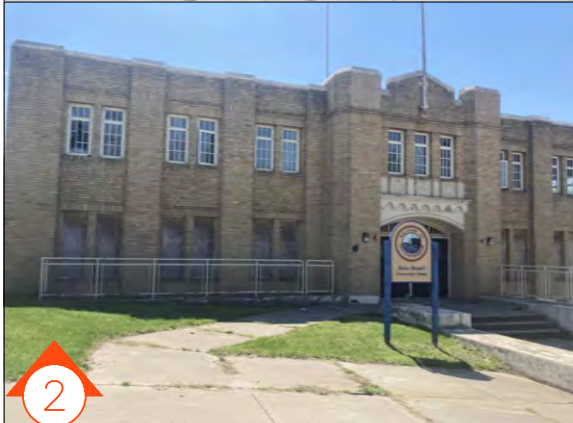
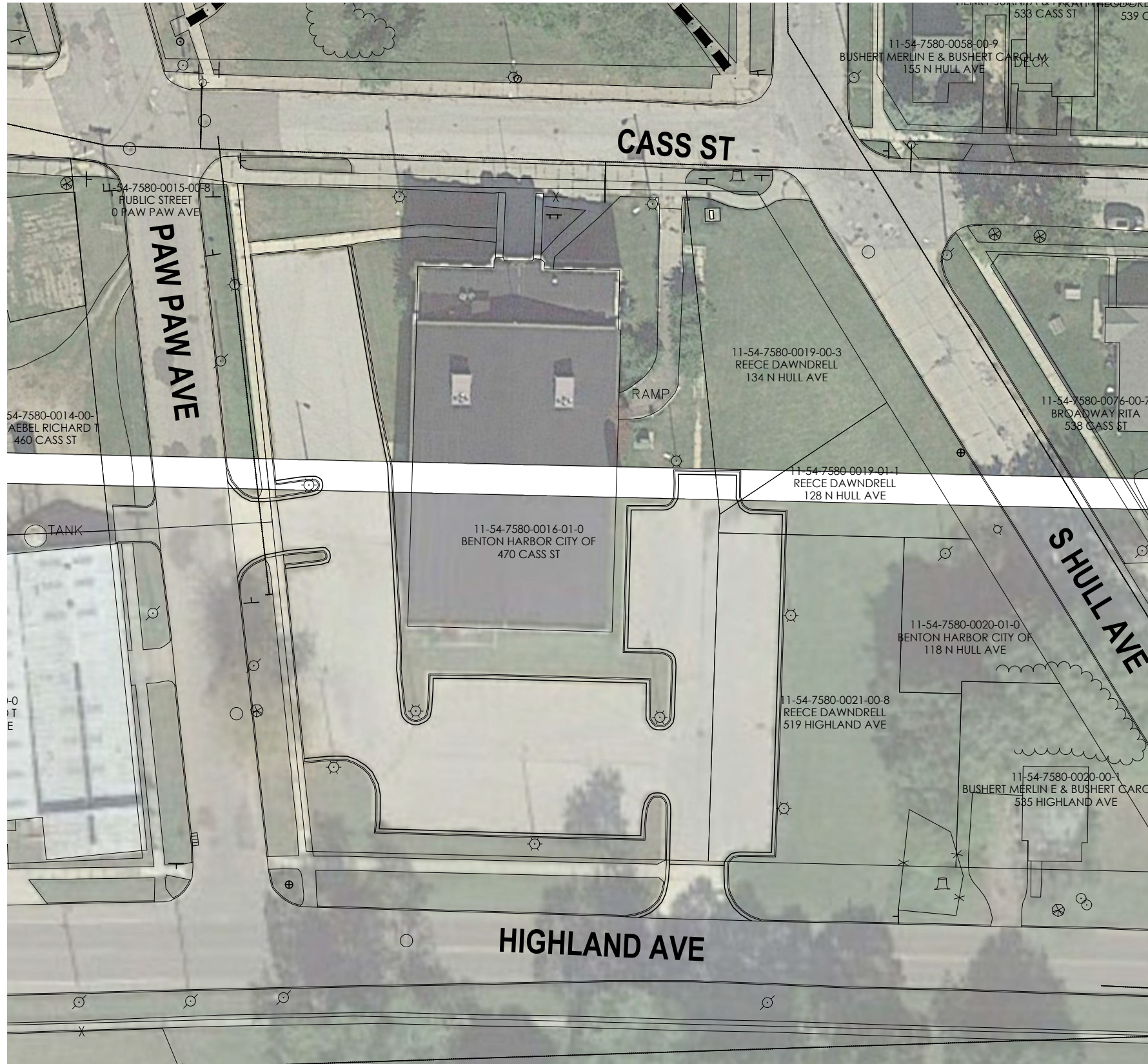
Restrooms need to be renovated and include ADA amenities

Provide ADA parking spaces



ARMORY COMMUNITY CENTER

472 CASS STREET
1.09 ACRES

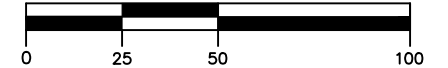


NOTE:

1. EXISTING COMMUNITY CENTER MAIN ENTRANCE – PAVEMENT POOR CONDITION
2. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE TO MAIN ENTRANCE
3. EXISTING PARKING AREA



SCALE: 1" = 50'



ABONMARCHE

Park Name: Broadway/June Woods Memorial Park
Address: 980 Broadway

Park Description: Broadway Park is one of the city's oldest parks. It is a historic site that has recently seen major improvements. A dedication ceremony in August 2023 changed its name to June Woods Park from Broadway Park. June Woods was a former slave who escaped from the South and made it to Benton Harbor, Michigan. He planted many trees in Benton Harbor, and was one of the first African-American business owners. The park offers basketball courts, a covered shelter with picnic tables, grills and benches. New play equipment with rubber mulch, a 40x50 turf field and sidewalks were recently installed by volunteers, including employee volunteers from the Whirlpool Corporation and Neighbors Organizing Against Racism.

Accessibility Rating: 2

There is an accessible route bisecting the park east and west with additional accessible routes leading to the play equipment, pavilion, and game tables.

The playgrounds are along an accessible route. The swing does not have an accessible route.

There are four paved basketball courts. The courts do not have an accessible route leading to them nor accessible player benches.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

Replace bay of swings with an all-inclusive swing. Add new belt swings to remaining bay.

Provide accessible route to all basketball courts and add player bench seating with accessible route and companion seating area.

Replace at least 20% of the picnic tables with ADA and allow 5' diameter clearance space.

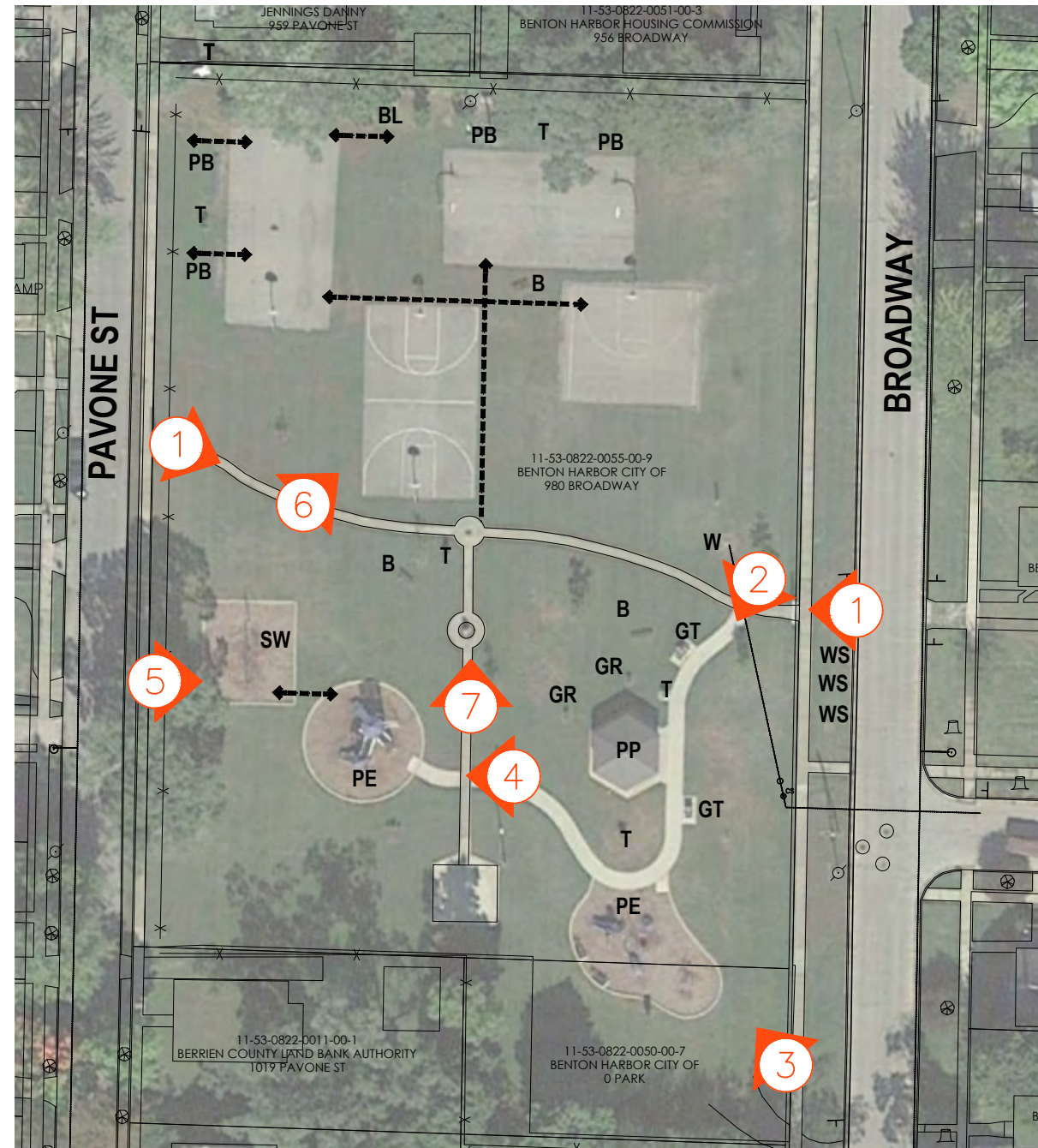
Provide accessible grill near pavilion.

Provide access to bleachers and companion seating area.



BROADWAY PARK

980 BROADWAY
1.89 ACRES



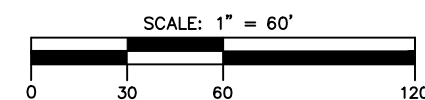
LEGEND

- B = BENCH
- BL = BLEACHER
- GR = GRILL
- GT = GAMETABLE
- PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT
- PP = PARK PAVILION
- PT = PICNIC TABLE
- PA = PICNIC TABLE, ACCESSIBLE
- PB = PLAYER BENCH

LEGEND CONT.

- SW = SWINGSET
- T = TRASH
- W = WATER SPIGOT
- WS = WATER SAMPLING STATION

--- PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE



NOTES CONTINUED:

6. EXISTING BASKETBALL COURTS ARE PAVED BUT NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE.
7. SIDEWALK FOR SECONDARY ACCESS TO 5-12 PLAY EQUIPMENT..



NOTE:

1. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE BISECTS PARK
2. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE TO PARK SHELTER, GAME TABLES AND 2-5 PLAY AREA.
3. 2-5 PLAY AREA NEEDS ACCESSIBLE SAFETY SURFACING AND SWING REPLACED.
4. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE WALK TO 5-12 PLAY AREA NEEDS ACCESSIBLE SAFETY SURFACING.
5. EXISTING SWINGS NEED ACCESSIBLE SAFETY SURFACING, ADD NEW ALL INCLUSIVE SWINGS AND ACCESSIBLE ROUTE.

ABONMARCHE

Park Name: Charles Yarbrough Park
Address: 880 Riverview Drive

Park Description: The park sits along the St. Joseph River and provides 404 feet of river shoreline public access through sidewalks and boardwalks. It is adjacent to the Michigan DNR public boat launch to the north. The park has a fishing platform with benches to support angler activity. The park has a picnic shelter with picnic tables, accessible pathways, play equipment, green space, grills, benches, trash receptacles and a parking lot. It is one of the busiest parks in the city.

Accessibility Rating: 3

There is a one-way loop parking lot at the west end of the park with designated ADA parking spaces. Access aisle and spaces pavement markings need to be repainted. The park has an accessible sidewalk along the St. Joseph River’s edge and an accessible route to a pavilion shelter with two picnic tables and a grill that do not appear to be ADA. The riverfront overlook has 4 benches and adequate room for companion seating. A portion of the sidewalk leading to the accessible overlook has sunk and limits accessibility. The playground has an accessible route leading to an accessible seating area with a shade structure and the play equipment has accessible safety surfacing and a transfer platform.

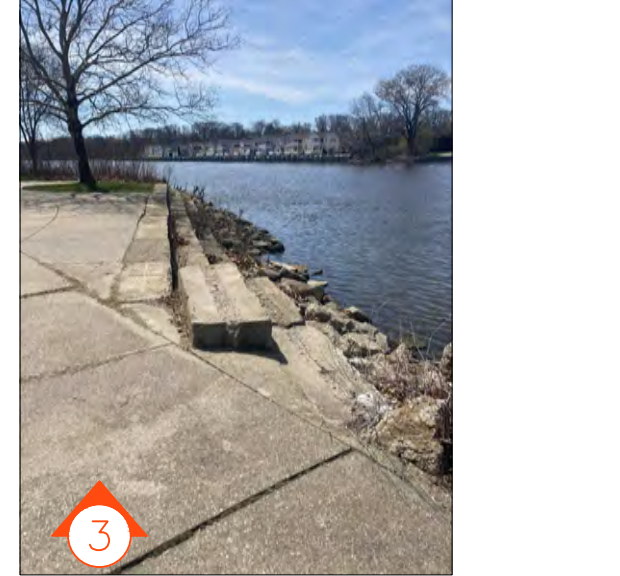
Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

Add pavement markings to define the ADA parking spaces and access aisle.
Add accessible picnic tables to the concrete paved area near the steppers along the riverfront and provide a minimum of at least 20% of the picnic tables with ADA and allow 5’ diameter clearance space.
Include accessible grills.



YARBROUGH PARK

3.08 ACRES



NOTES CONTINUED:

4. EXISTING CONCRETE WALK ACCESS TO RIVERFRONT SEATING OVERLOOK DECK - UNEVEN WALK PORTION NEEDS REPLACEMENT.
5. EXISTING PAVILION WITH PICNIC TABLES, GRILL AND TRASH (2)
6. EXISTING OVERLOOK DECK WITH BENCH SEATING AND ROOM FOR COMPANION.
7. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE CONCRETE SURFACE WITH ACCESSIBLE GRILL.

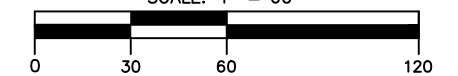
LEGEND

- B = BENCH**
- DR = DECK WITH RAILINGS**
- GR = GRILL**
- PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT**
- PP = PARK PAVILION**
- PT = PICNIC TABLE**
- T = TRASH**

NOTE:

1. EXISTING PARKING LOT
2. EXISTING PLAYSTRUCTURE WITH ACCESSIBLE ROUTE AND SAFETY SURFACING
3. EXISTING STEPPER ACCESS TO RIVER

SCALE: 1" = 60'



Park Name: Dwight P Mitchell City Center Park
Address: 146 E Main Street

Park Description: This park is located off main street in the center of downtown, near City Hall, the public library and several businesses. Two farmer’s market pavilions are present with connecting walkways. A drinking fountain, benches, greenspace and plantings are also at the site. It had been the site for the Coming Home, Coming Together Concert for over 10 years, the Senior PGA Community concert, and other music events. It is also the site for the Benton Harbor Farmers Market, Juneteenth Celebrations, Exercise in the Park, Music in the Park and Family and Class reunions. It will soon be the home of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. statue.

Added Juneteenth event at park 

Accessibility Rating: 3

There is an accessible route along the perimeter of the park on all four sides and an accessible route bisecting the park north and south. The newly constructed farmer’s market shelter at the northeast corner of the park is fully accessible and the existing seating area along East Main Street has benches with adequate space for companion seating and circulation.

The existing parking lot at the southeast corner appears to contain level space for accessible parking but the parking spaces are not designated.

The existing game table is accessible.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

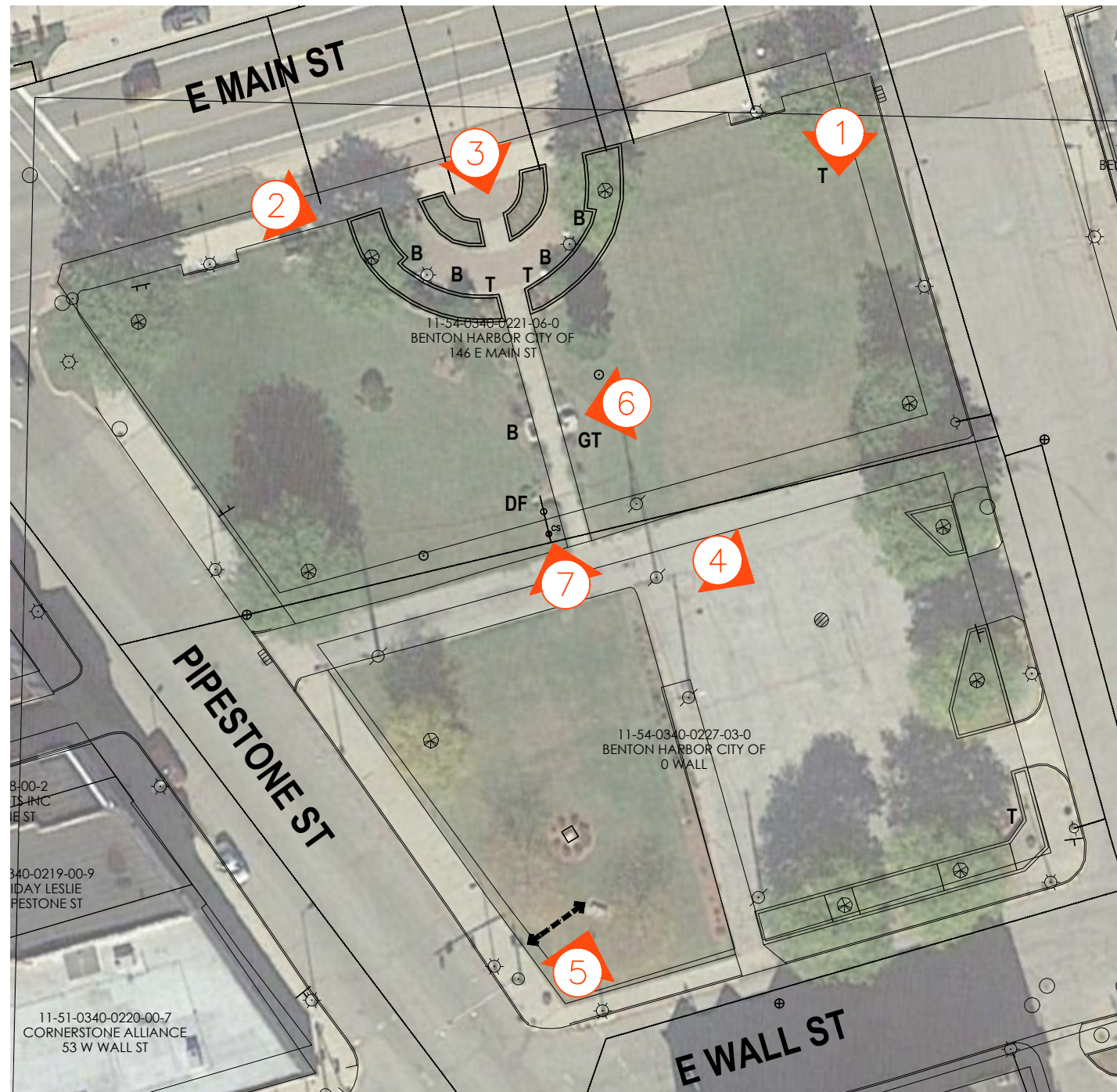
The required number of parking spaces should be properly designated for ADA parking with symbols and signage.

The existing game table is accessible but not properly located along the accessible route. The table should be turned 180 degrees for wheelchair accessibility to the table.



DWIGHT P. MITCHELL CITY CENTER PARK

146 E. MAIN STREET
1.27 ACRES



LEGEND

- T = TRASH
- B = BENCH
- BL = BLEACHER
- DF = DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- GT = GAMETABLE, ACCESSIBLE

◆◆◆◆ PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE



NOTE:

1. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE FARMER'S MARKET SHELTER
2. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE ALONG PARK PERIMETER.
3. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE WITH AMENITIES BISECTING THE PARK

NOTES CONTINUED:

4. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE PARKING LOT- DESIGNATE SPACES.
5. EXISTING DEDICATION BENCH - NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE.
6. EXISTING ADA GAME TABLE - NEEDS TO TURN 180 DEGREES SO ACCESSIBLE FROM MAIN WALK.
7. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE DRINKING FOUNTAIN.

SCALE: 1" = 50'

ABONMARCHE

Park Name: Edgecumbe Park
Address: 769 Edgecumbe Avenue

Park Description: This is a neighborhood park located in the 4th Ward at the corner of Edgecumbe Avenue and McCord Street. It has sidewalks, play equipment, and benches. A concrete slab remains from a structure that used to be on site but was demolished.

Accessibility Rating: 2

There is an accessible route along the perimeter of the park on two sides and a paved concrete sidewalk to the existing amenities. However, the condition of the existing sidewalk with uneven pavement and gaps with vegetation growing through does not provide an accessible surface. The existing benches are not on a paved surface and are in fair to poor condition. The existing playground equipment does not have accessible safety surfacing and two of the swings on the swingset are missing and one is broken.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

Consider the replacement of all sidewalks or provide a new layout for the park.

The playground equipment should be accessed by a certified playground inspector to determine if it is compliant and if so, then new accessible safety surfacing should be added for all playground components.

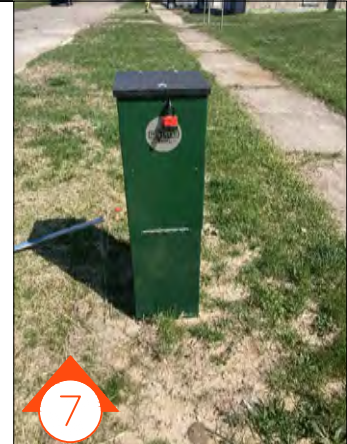
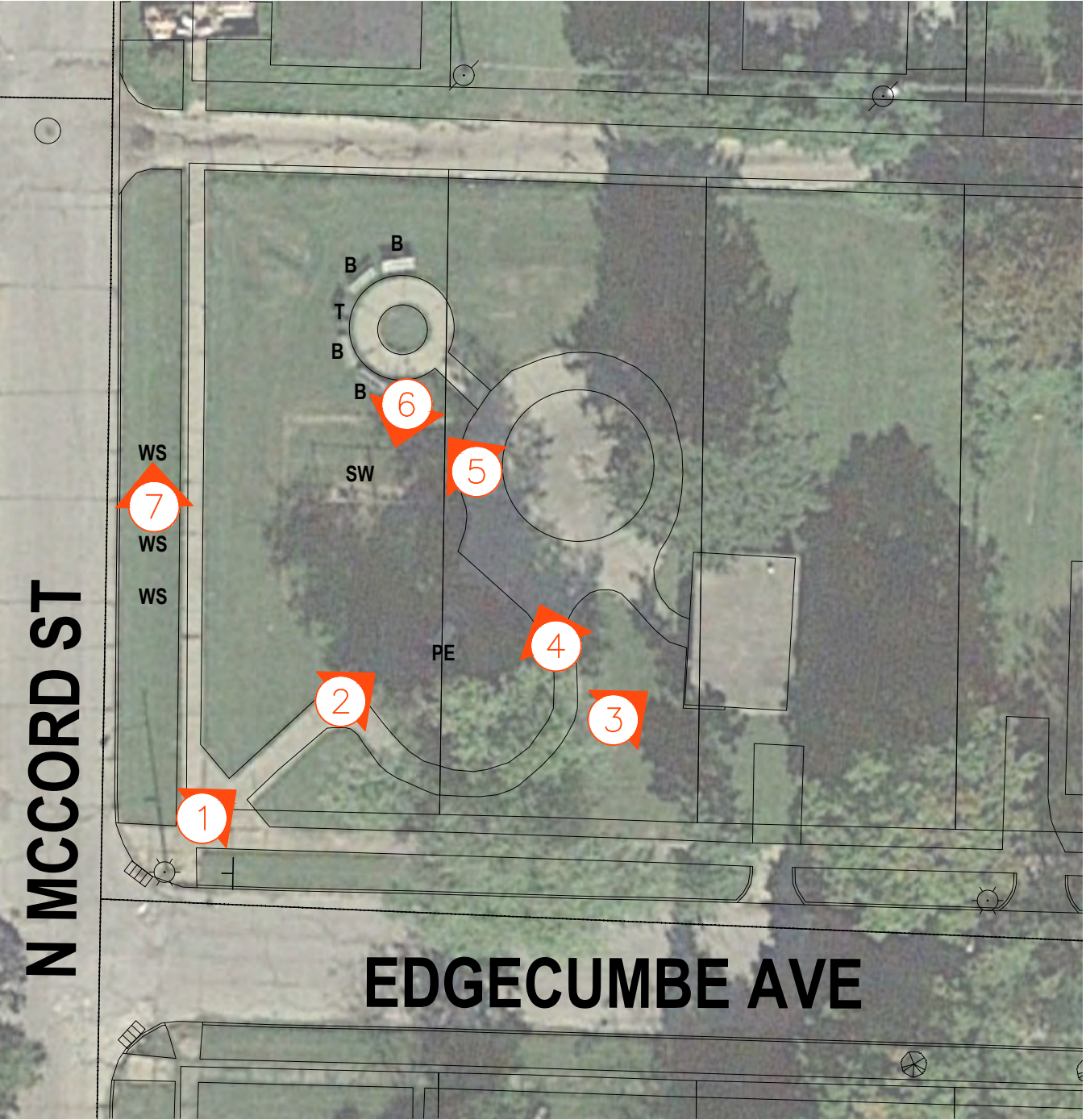
Replace bay of swings with an all-inclusive swing. Add new belt swings to the remaining bay or replace swing set completely with all inclusive.

Provide a new seating area with an accessible route and benches with companion seating options.



EDWARDS PARK

769 EDGE CUMBE AVE.
.43 ACRES

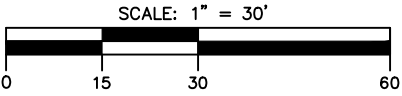


NOTES CONTINUED:
4. EXISTING CONCRETE WALK AND OLD SPLASH PAD AREA – POOR CONDITION.
5. EXISTING BENCH SEATING AREA – POOR CONDITION
6. EXISTING SWING – POOR CONDITION
7. EXISTING WATER SAMPLING STATION IN ADJACENT MCCORD ROW

LEGEND

- T = TRASH
- B = BENCH
- PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT
- SW = SWINGSET
- WS = WATER SAMPLING STATION

◄-----► PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE



NOTE:
1. EXISTING PARK ENTRANCE – PAVEMENT POOR CONDITION
2. EXISTING OLD PLAY STRUCTURE AND SLIDE – NO ACCESSIBLE SURFACING
3. EXISTING CONCRETE SLAB – POOR CONDITION



Park Name: Franks Park
Address: 130 East Britain Avenue

Park Description: This is a local neighborhood park in the 1st Ward. It has play equipment, benches, picnic tables, trash cans surrounded by grass and open green space.

Accessibility Rating: 1

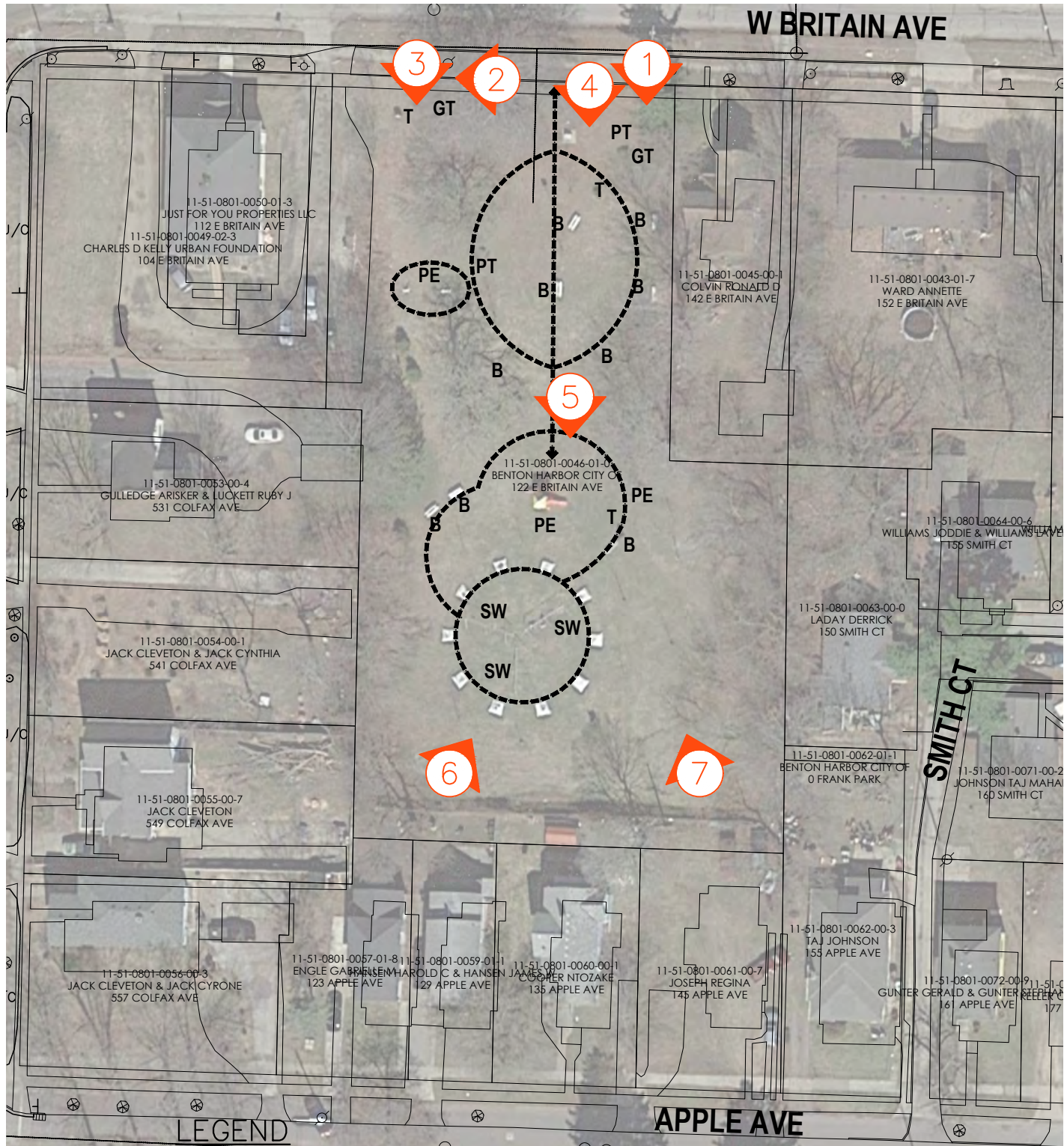
There is a sidewalk on two sides of the park but the sidewalk is in poor condition and does not meet accessibility standards. The park itself does not have any accessible surfaces. The existing playground equipment does not have safety surfacing.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

Consider adding an accessible route throughout the park. The playground equipment should be assessed by a certified playground inspector to determine if it is compliant and if so, then new accessible safety surfacing should be added for all playground components. Replace one bay of swings with an all-inclusive swing. Add new belt swings to the remaining bay or replace swing set completely and provide an accessible route to the swings and accessible safety surfacing. Provide a new seating area with an accessible route and benches with companion seating options.



FRANKS PARK
122 E. BRITAIN AVE.
1.18 ACRES



LEGEND
B = BENCH
BP = BOULDER WITH PLAQUE
GT = GAMETABLE
PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT
PT = PICNIC TABLE
SW = SWINGSSET
T = TRASH

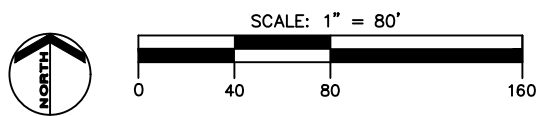
-----> PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE



NOTES CONTINUED:
 4. EXISTING MEMORIAL PLAQUE ON BOULDER – NO ACCESS ROUTE
 5. EXISTING BENCHES AND PLAY EQUIPMENT – NO ACCESS ROUTE, NO ACCESSIBLE SAFETY SURFACING
 6. EXISTING ELEVATED SWING SETS AREA – NO ACCESS ROUTE, NO ACCESSIBLE SAFETY SURFACING
 7. EXISTING AMENITIES AND TREE PLANTINGS.



NOTE:
 1. EXISTING PARK ENTRANCE –NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
 2. EXISTING SIDEWALK CONDITION ALONG W. BRITAIN AVE.
 3. EXISTING AMENITIES – NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE



ABONMARCHE

Park Name: Hall Park
Address: 440 Highland Avenue

Park Description: The park is the oldest park in the city and was built in the early 1900's. It is built into a hillside with severe grade changes that transition from the high ridgeline along Hull Avenue sloping west across the parcel with the western boundary being Ox Creek. The park is heavily wooded and contains old concrete walls and staircases. The park also has a basketball court and a ballfield located in the low lying area near Ox Creek. A comprehensive Ox Creek Corridor revitalization effort is currently underway with multiple local, State and Federal partners. There are numerous amenities including picnic tables, trash receptacles, grills, bleachers, a stage and play equipment. Many people over the age of 20 share fond memories of the park.

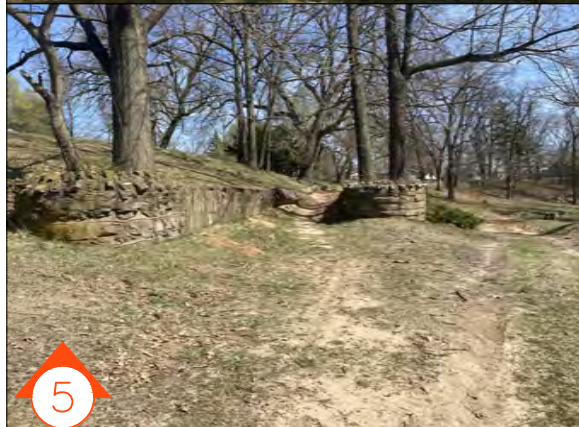
Accessibility Rating: 1

The park does not have any paved walkways or accessible routes and most of the park components are in fair to poor condition. There is a drinking fountain, not operational, and many of the picnicking amenities located near Highland Avenue are not accessible.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

The park should be redeveloped to provide accessibility while at the same time preserving the many trees and other historic characteristics of the park. All proposed amenities should include accessible picnic tables, benches with companion seating and an accessible route and new play equipment and swings with an all-inclusive swing included.



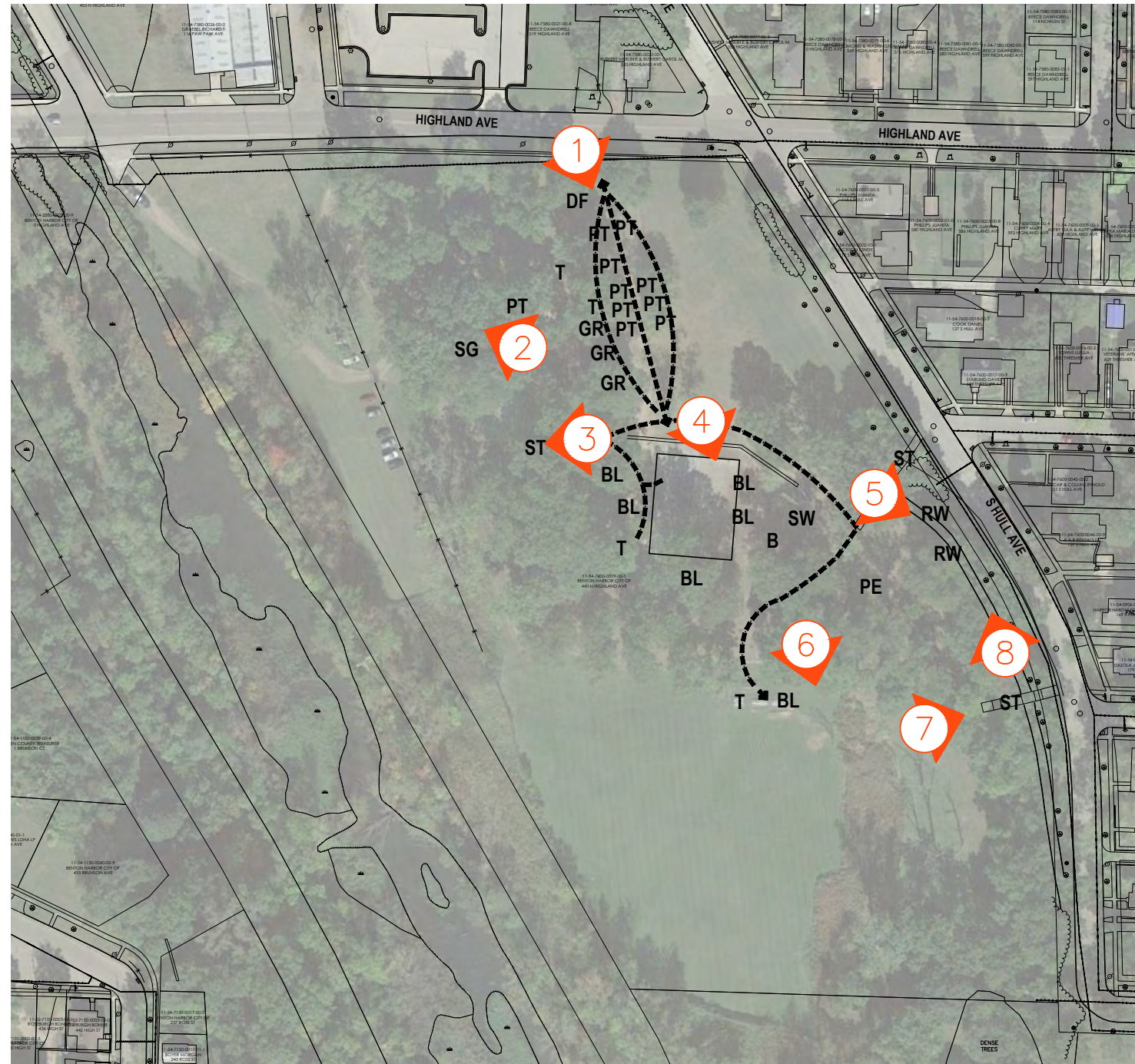


NOTES CONTINUED:

5. EXISTING PATH TRAVERSING STEEP SLOPE WITH CONCRETE RETAINING WALLS – POOR CONDITION
6. EXISTING BALLFIELD AREA – OVERGROWN AND IN POOR CONDITION AND NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
7. EXISTING CONCRETE STAIRS AND WALLS – FAIR CONDITION NO RAILING
8. EXISTING PATH TRAVERSING STEEP SLOPE WITH CONCRETE RETAINING WALLS IN POOR CONDITION.

HALL PARK

440 HIGHLAND AVE.
11.14 ACRES

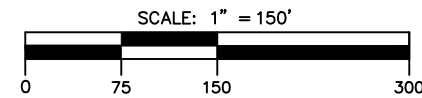


LEGEND

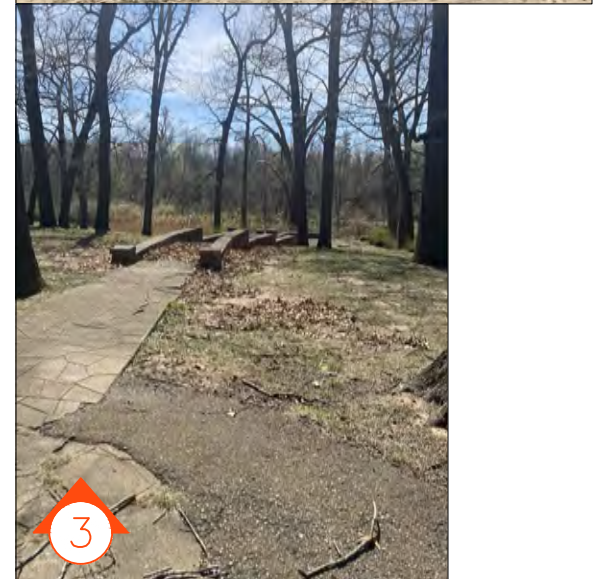
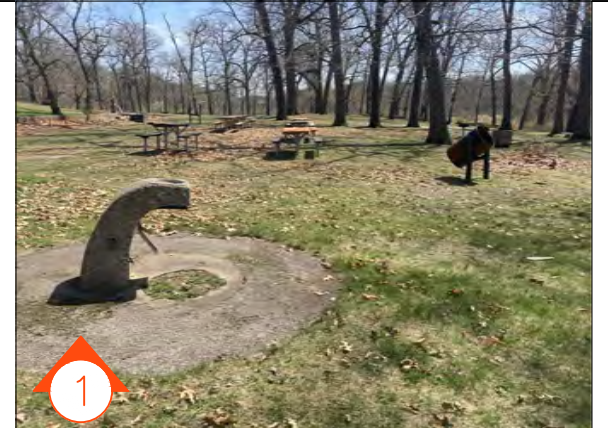
- B = BENCH**
- BL = BLEACHER**
- DF = DRINKING FOUNTAIN**
- GR = GRILL**
- PT = PICNIC TABLE**
- PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT**

LEGEND CONT.

- RW= RETAINING WALL**
- SG = STAGE**
- ST = STAIRS**
- SW = SWINGSET**
- T = TRASH**



←---→ PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE



NOTE:

1. EXISTING AMENITIES IN PARK—NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
2. EXISTING STAGE AREA, NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
3. SIDEWALK LEADING TO STAIRCASE – POOR CONDITION
4. EXISTING BASKETBALL COURT AREA – NO ACCESSIBILITY, POOR CONDITION



Park Name: Jean Klock Park
Address: 670 Klock Road

Park Description: This park is located along the shores of Lake Michigan and has 3,000 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. This is a popular destination for beach goers and the park also houses 3 of the golf holes for Harbor Shores. There are numerous trails and a loop trail that passes through the park and connects to over 10 miles of community trails. The site includes a public beach, parking, restroom/concession building, multiple pavilions, play equipment, picnic tables, benches, trash cans, grills, sidewalks, concrete plazas, boardwalks and natural dunal and wetland landscape. The park connects to the Lake Michigan Water Trail and supports canoe and kayak launching. The park is used for concerts, Exercise in the Park sessions, picnics, family and class reunions, triathlons, weddings, and other communal activities.

Accessibility Rating: 3

There are many amenities including a pavilion with benches, tables and grills along a limestone screenings inner loop trail to the east of the foredune and overlooks a large wetland area at the eastern border of the park. The dune highpoint area has an accessible birdhouse observation structure with benches to view to the east – the golf course and wetland and to the west, the beach, waterfront, parking, plaza and trail/boardwalk linear portion of the park that parallels the lakefront. There is also a restroom/concession stand building. The restroom building has outdoor showers, accessible toilets and changing room stalls. Most amenities are ADA accessible and there are accessible routes throughout the park.

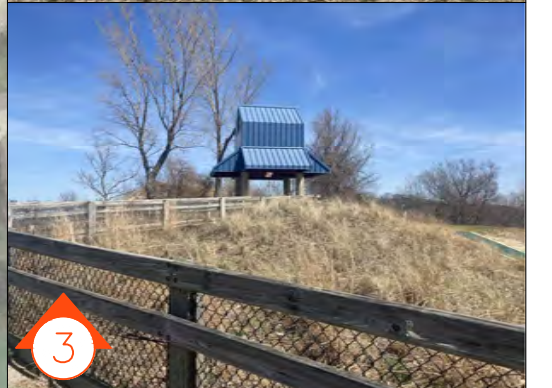
Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

- Add accessible safety surfacing for the playground and swing set areas.
- Replace bay of swings with an all-inclusive swing. Add new belt swings to replace damaged to remaining bay.
- Replace or add at least 20% of the picnic tables with ADA and allow 5’ diameter clearance space.
- Provide additional accessible connection to tables located along inner park loop trail and add accessible picnic tables.
- Add 20% accessible picnic tables to the tables located within the pavilion area along the inner loop trail.
- Clean sand off existing accessible surfaces to provide access to all existing amenities along the beach front.



JEAN KLOCK PARK

JEAN KLOCK DRIVE
88.10 ACRES



LEGEND

B = BENCH
BR = BIKE RACK
DF = DRINKING FOUNTAIN
GR = GRILL
PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT
PP = PARK PAVILION
PT = PICNIC TABLE

LEGEND CONT.

RC = RESTROOM CONCESSION
SH = OUTDOOR SHOWER
SW = SWINGSET
T = TRASH

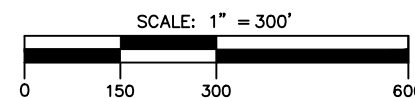
NOTES CONTINUED:

4. EXISTING PARKING WITH ACCESSIBLE ROUTE.
5. EXISTING STAGE WITH ACCESSIBLE SEATING.
6. EXISTING RESTROOMS CONCESSION WITH ACCESSIBLE PLAZA.
7. EXISTING PLAY EQUIPMENT NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE.
8. EXISTING PARKING AND ACCESSIBLE ROUTE WITH AMENITIES
9. EXISTING OVERLOOK DECK AND BOARDWALK – NEEDS SAND REMOVAL.

NOTE:

1. EXISTING PAVILION SHELTER, TRAILS AND AMENITIES WITH LIMESTONE SCREENINGS TRAIL FOR ACCESSIBILITY.
2. AMENITIES ALONG TRAIL.
3. EXISTING BIRDHOUSE OVERLOOK WITH RAMPS

ABONMARCHE



Park Name: Liberty Theater Park
Address: 224 E Main Street

Park Description: This park is located along the I-94 business route at Sixth Street, at the southwest corner of the roundabout. It is an open green space park in the 4th Ward with benches and trash receptacles. It is bordered by sidewalks. A decorative sculpture piece is present in the northeast corner of the park.

Accessibility Rating: 1

The park has sidewalks along the perimeter. It has one accessible bench with space for companion seating, and accessible trash receptacles.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements

Provide accessible bench seating with companion spaces to all benches in space.



Park Name: Morton Park
Address: 486 E Main Street

Park Description: This park is located along the I-94 business route at the east end of Benton Harbor and serves as a gateway to downtown. It is an open green space park with amenities that include a bench on each side of a non-functioning water fountain and a trash receptacle near two of the sidewalk connections. The water fountain used to have lights and was a major tourist attraction. It has been cleaned and maintained by Andrews University and Benton Harbor Team Solutions, which is seeking to adopt it.

Accessibility Rating: 1

The park has sidewalks along the perimeter on all 4 sides and half circular paths that meet in the middle at a fountain which is currently not operational. The paths within the park are narrow in width and are in poor condition and the large evergreen trees hang over them.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

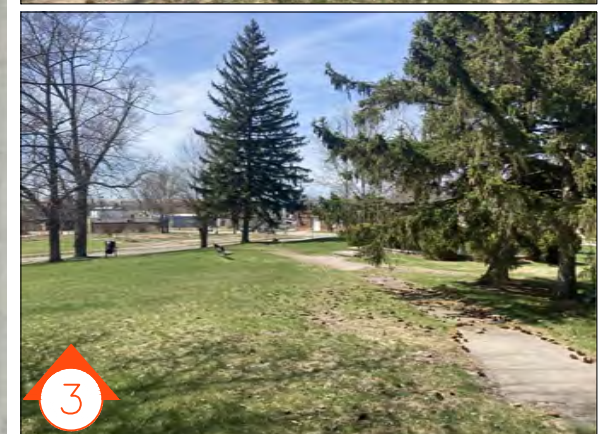
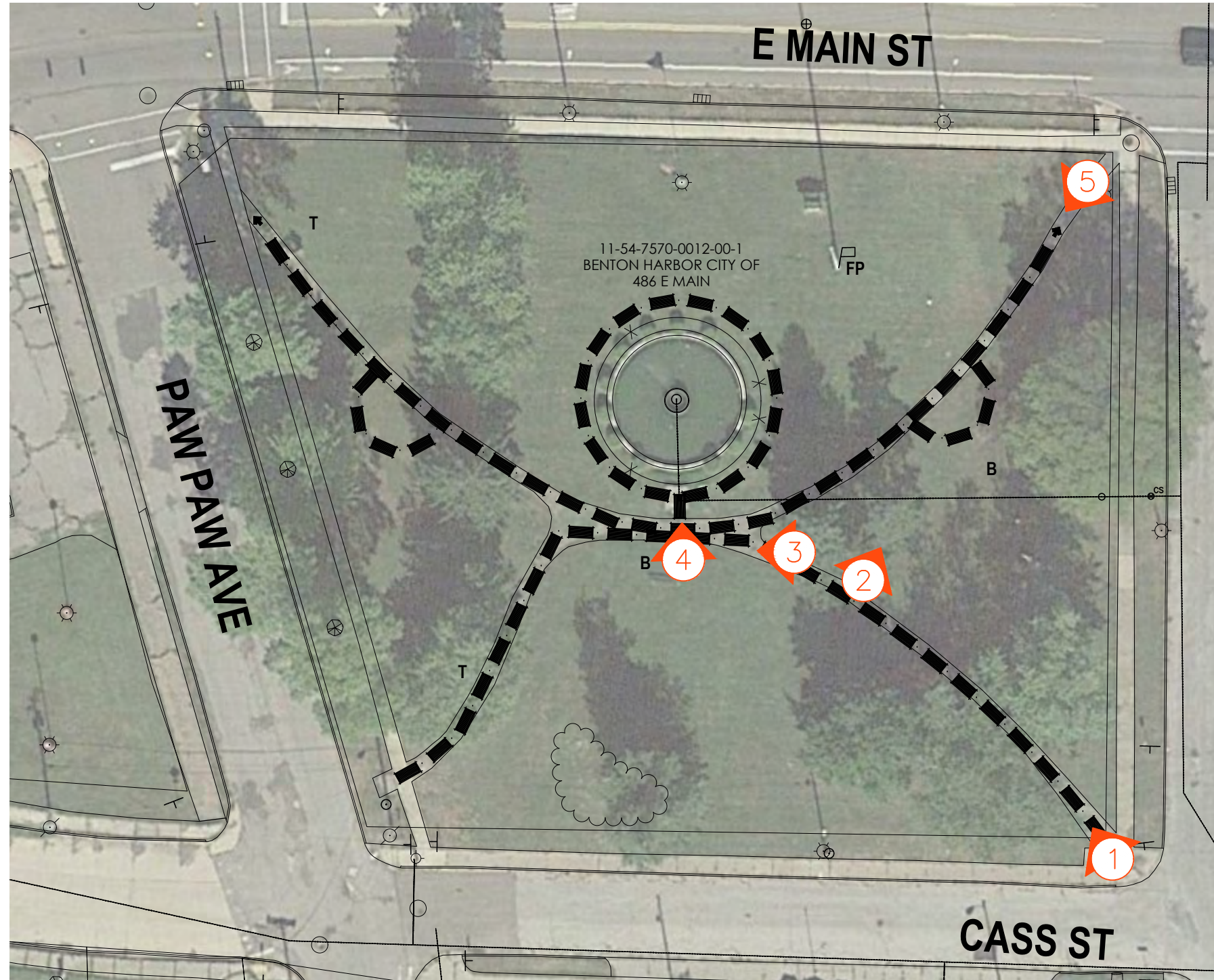
The fountain should be repaired and have an accessible route around it.

The paths should be replaced to provide an accessible route.

The existing evergreen trees should be limbed up where they overhang the path to provide clearance beneath. The benches and trash receptacles should be located along the edge of the path on an accessible surface and have room for companion seating.



MORTON PARK
486 E. MAIN STREET
1.25 ACRES



NOTES CONTINUED:

4. EXISTING FOUNTAIN – NOT OPERATIONAL – POOR TO FAIR CONDITION – NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
5. EXISTING PATH CONNECTION FROM PERIMETER WALK AT NE CORNER – POOR CONDITION.
6. EXISTING FLAGPOLE AND PARK SIGN WITH FOUNTAIN IN BACKGROUND.

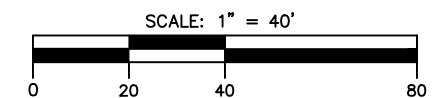
NOTE:

1. EXISTING SIDEWALK ALONG PERIMETER AND SOUTHEASTERN PATH – POOR CONDITION
2. VIEW FROM EXISTING SE PATH LOOKING TOWARD NORTHEAST PATH – POOR CONDITION
3. EXISTING SIDEWALK CONDITION LOOKING WEST

LEGEND

- B = BENCH
FP = FLAGPOLE
F = FOUNTAIN
T = TRASH

---> PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE



ABONMARCHE

Park Name: Pipestone Park
Address: 476 E Britain Avenue

Park Description: Pipestone Park is a neighborhood park in Ward 2. It has a fenced perimeter. The interior of the park has benches and connecting walkways. A play structure, swing set and story walk are also present.

Accessibility Rating: 2

The park entrance is accessible and existing bench seating has room for companion seating. Accessible walkways travel through the park.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

- Add accessible safety surfacing to play equipment.
- Separate baby and belt swing sets.
- Place story boards on accessible surface.



PIPESTONE PARK
501-523 PIPESTONE STREET
.485 ACRES



LEGEND

- B = BENCH**
- DR = DECK WITH RAILINGS**
- GR = GRILL**
- PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT**
- PP = PARK PAVILION**
- PT = PICNIC TABLE**
- T = TRASH**



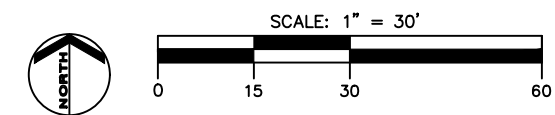
NOTES CONTINUED:

4. EXISTING BENCH SEATING AREA – ALSO SHOWING 2 BAY OF SWINGS WITH BROKEN SWINGS BABY AND BELT SWINGS SHOULD NOT BE IN SAME BAY.
5. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE ALONG SOUTH END OF PARK WITH CONNECTION TO PLAYGROUND AND SEATING AREAS.
6. STORY BOARDS – NOT ON ACCESSIBLE SURFACE
7. STORY BOARD



NOTE:

1. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE PARK ENTRANCE.
2. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE SEATING AREA WITH ROOM FOR COMPANION SEATING.
3. EXISTING PLAYSTRUCTURE AND SWINGS– ACCESSIBLE SAFETY SURFACING IS MISSING.



ABONMARCHE

Park Name: Riverview/Fisherman’s Park
Address: 390 Riverview Drive

Park Description: The park is located on the northeast side of the St. Joseph River and has a paved path that meanders along the riverfront with amenities including newer benches, trash receptacles, and bike racks. Wooden boardwalks line the river’s edge. A play structure with mulch surfacing, grills and picnic tables are also present. A parking lot with van accessible ADA parking spaces supports the park.

Accessibility Rating: 2

There are existing wood decks with built in bench seating with a connection to the accessible route. The condition of the decks is fair to poor and most need repairs to make them accessible since several have missing boards or areas where erosion has washed away the grade.

The playground area has two benches along the path but the other amenities including a picnic table, grill and bench are located in the lawn and are not accessible. The structure itself has a transfer platform but there is no access to the playground since there is no safety surfacing and the area is sunken from the adjoining grades.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

The playground equipment should be assessed by a certified playground inspector to determine if it is compliant and if so, then new accessible safety surfacing should be installed.

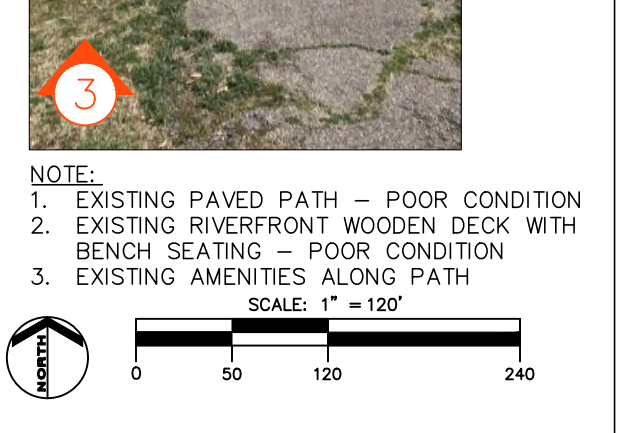
Provide companion seating areas adjacent to the existing benches and install a minimum of 20% accessible picnic tables and grills.

Improve the condition of the deck surfaces and connectivity to the main path.

Crack seal and seal coat portions of the paved path or replace segments beyond repair to create an accessible route throughout the park.



RIVERVIEW PARK
700 RIVERVIEW DRIVE
2.23 ACRES

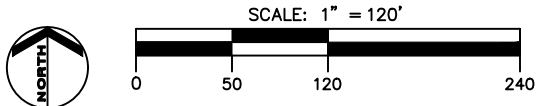


- NOTES CONTINUED:
4. EXISTING SIGNAGE AND VIEW ACROSS RIVER.
 5. EXISTING PAVED PATH – POOR CONDITION WITH AMENITIES.
 6. PATH WITH AMENITIES – NOT ON ACCESSIBLE SURFACE
 7. EXISTING PLAYGROUND – NO ACCESS ROUTE OR SAFETY SURFACING

LEGEND

- B = BENCH
- BR = BIKE RACK
- DR = DECK WITH RAILINGS
- GR = GRILL
- PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT
- PT = PICNIC TABLE
- S = SIGN
- T = TRASH

- NOTE:
1. EXISTING PAVED PATH – POOR CONDITION
 2. EXISTING RIVERFRONT WOODEN DECK WITH BENCH SEATING – POOR CONDITION
 3. EXISTING AMENITIES ALONG PATH



Park Name: Roosevelt Park
Address: 300 Pipestone Street

Park Description: This park is public green space in the 2nd Ward at the intersections of Broadway, Bellview and Pipestone Street. It includes a statue of Theodore Roosevelt and a monument dedicated to . The park has a sidewalk perimeter and concrete path connecting the perimeter sidewalks.

Accessibility Rating: 2
Existing amenities do not have an accessible route.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:
Provide accessible routes to existing amenities.



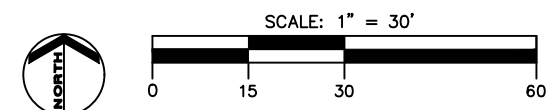


ROOSEVELT PARK
 300 PIPESTONE STREET
 .18 ACRES



- LEGEND**
 BP = BOULDER WITH PLAQUE
 FP = FLAGPOLE
 P = PLANTER
 ST = STATUE
 T = TRASH
 TR = NEW TREE

- NOTE:**
 1. EXISTING PARK ENTRANCE –NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE
 2. EXISTING SIDEWALK CONDITION ALONG W. BRITAIN AVE.
 3. EXISTING AMENITIES – NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE



Park Name: Seitz Park
Address: 888 Pipestone Street

Park Description: This is a green space park in the 3rd Ward bordered by Pipestone Street, Union Street and E. Empire Avenue. The park is surrounded by a sidewalk along the perimeter on all three sides. It includes trash containers and a bench.

Accessibility Rating: 1

The perimeter sidewalk on all three sides provides accessibility along the boundary. However, the park itself does not contain any accessible routes.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

Consider adding an accessible route within the park with accessible seating areas and benches with companion seating.

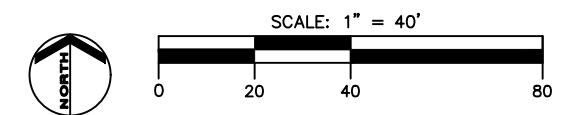


SELTZ PARK
 888 PIPESTONE STREET
 .34 ACRES



LEGEND
 B = BENCH
 P = PLANTER
 T = TRASH
 W = WATER SPIGOT

- NOTE:**
1. EXISTING AMENITIES: TRASH, PLANTERS, WATER SPIGOTS, BENCH (NO ACCESSIBLE ROUTE) – ALL POOR CONDITION
 2. EXISTING OPEN SPACE WITH TREES.
 3. EXISTING SIDEWALKS ALONG PERIMETER.
 4. EXISTING SIDEWALK LOOKING SOUTH NEAR PREVIOUS BUS STOP (SHELTER REMOVED).



ABONMARCHE

Park Name: Union Park
Address: 1253 Union Avenue

Park Description: The park has sidewalks bisecting east and west and north and south that come together in the center of the park. There is an accessible restroom and concession building located in the center of the park with an accessible playground area adjacent. Three ballfields include dugouts, press box, bleachers and fencing. The park also has a newly paved 4 court basketball area. The park has numerous amenities including picnic tables, trash receptacles, benches and bleachers. It has been the location of the annual Easter Egg hunt.

Accessibility Rating: 3

The park has accessible sidewalks bisecting east and west and north and south that come together in the center of the park. Limestone screenings have been installed under the bleachers and in the dugout areas of the ballfields. A new accessible playground was installed along the northwest section of the park recently and the playground has accessible safety surfacing but there is no access route to the playground. The 4 court basketball area does not have an accessible route to access it. Most of the park amenities do not have an accessible route.

Recommended Accessibility Improvements:

- Provide accessible route to the basketball courts.
- Replace at least 20% of the picnic tables with ADA and allow 5' diameter clearance space.
- Provide accessible route to player bench/dugout area for all ballfield locations.
- Provide access route to bleachers and add companion seating area.





NOTES CONTINUED:
 4. EXISTING DUGOUT AND BLEACHERS AT NE BALLFIELD.
 5. EXISTING NEW ACCESSIBLE PLAYGROUND WITH SAFETY SURFACING BUT NO ACCESS ROUTE.
 6. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE.
 7. EXISTING SIDEWALK ALONG PERIMETER OF PARK AND EXISTING SW BALLFIELD WITH PRESSBOX.

UNION PARK
 1250 UNION AVENUE
 8.96 ACRES



LEGEND

- B = BENCH
- BL = BLEACHER
- BR = BIKE RACK
- DF = DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- PE = PLAY EQUIPMENT
- PA = PICNIC TABLE, ACCESSIBLE
- PB = PLAYER BENCH/DUGOUT
- RC = RESTROOM/CONCESSION

LEGEND CONT.

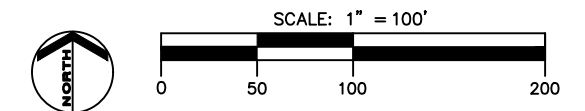
- SC = SCOREBOARD
- SW = SWINGSET
- T = TRASH
- W = WATER SPIGOT
- WS = WATER SAMPLING STATION

←---→ PROPOSED ACCESSIBLE



NOTE:

1. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE BISECTS PARK
2. EXISTING SE BALLFIELD WITH PLAYER BENCH DUGOUT AREA AND BLEACHER SEATING
3. EXISTING ACCESSIBLE ROUTE BISECTS PARK SOUTH TO NORTH WITH ACCESS TO RESTROOM/CONCESSION AND PLAY AREA WITH SAFETY SURFACING



ABONMARCHE

OTHER PUBLIC SPACES

Arts District Park/Green Space - The “Arts District” is a downtown area just north of Main Street, between 5th Avenue and Pipestone Street. The City of Benton Harbor has two public green spaces along Water Street in the Arts District, at 139 Territorial Road and 219 Water Street. The green spaces have many beautiful plantings, benches, bike racks, picnic tables and art pieces. The public space is surrounded by sidewalks and decorative brick paths. A concrete plaza provides ADA access to benches, trash cans and picnic tables.

Edwards Park - East Edwards Park – Ravine Area- This is a wooded ravine area in the 4th Ward. No recreation amenities are present.

Hillside Park – Grove Lot – 201 Paw Paw Avenue – this city public land is a long, narrow tree corridor between Paw Paw and Morton Avenues. No recreation amenities are present.

RIVER AND WATER TRAIL ACCESS SITES

Graham Avenue Park/Paw Paw River Access – located at 383 Graham Avenue, this public site provides canoe, kayak and motorized boat access to the Paw Paw River. The public park provides a hard surface ramp, skid pier, boat trailer parking, a porta-john, picnic tables, grills, trash cans and benches. The length of Paw Paw River access is approximately 50 yards. It is the final access site on the Paw Paw River Water Trail which begins approximately 68 miles upstream in the Village of Paw Paw. Paddlers can connect to the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan water trails from this site.

A visitor can connect to over 10 miles of walking trails at the site as well.

Stevens Street Paw Paw River Access - located at the intersection of Riverside Avenue and Stevens Street on the Paw Paw. This public access point provides Paw Paw River access for canoes and kayaks. It is supported by a small parking area. It is a trail point on the Paw Paw River Water Trail.

Water Taxi - Through the support of multiple sponsors, free Water Taxi rides on the St. Joseph River are available every weekend throughout the summer months. Water Taxi riders can board at the dock near Bread + Bar restaurant on Riverview Drive. The taxi makes four stops along the St. Joseph River shoreline – The River Tavern, the Inn at Harbor Shores, Bread + Bar and the Margaret B. Upton Arboretum.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

The City of Benton Harbor has a large non-motorized trail network that provides an opportunity for safe walking and biking to many local natural resources and outdoor recreation activities: Jean Klock Park and Beach, the St. Joseph River, the Paw Paw River, and area wetlands. Harbor Shores has been actively involved in providing public trails along its golf course properties. Efforts are being made to cohesively connect the trail network so the high density residential areas can connect safely with high quality natural lands and outdoor recreation pursuits such as fishing, swimming, boating, and bird watching.

Cyclists can utilize bike lanes on BL-94/Main Street and Colfax Avenue. M-63 is a designated Bike Route 35 corridor.



Community Trail Plan

Benton Harbor, Benton Township, & St. Joseph

City Limits

Whirlpool Campuses

- Global Headquarters
- Riverview Campus
- St. Joseph Tech Center
- Multimedia Comm. Center
- Benton Harbor Tech Center
- Paw Paw River Tech Center

Proposed

- Trailhead
- Crossing
- Proposed Trail
 - Phase 2
 - 3B
 - 3C
 - 3D
 - 4
- Proposed Offroad Trail
 - Phase 1C
 - 3A

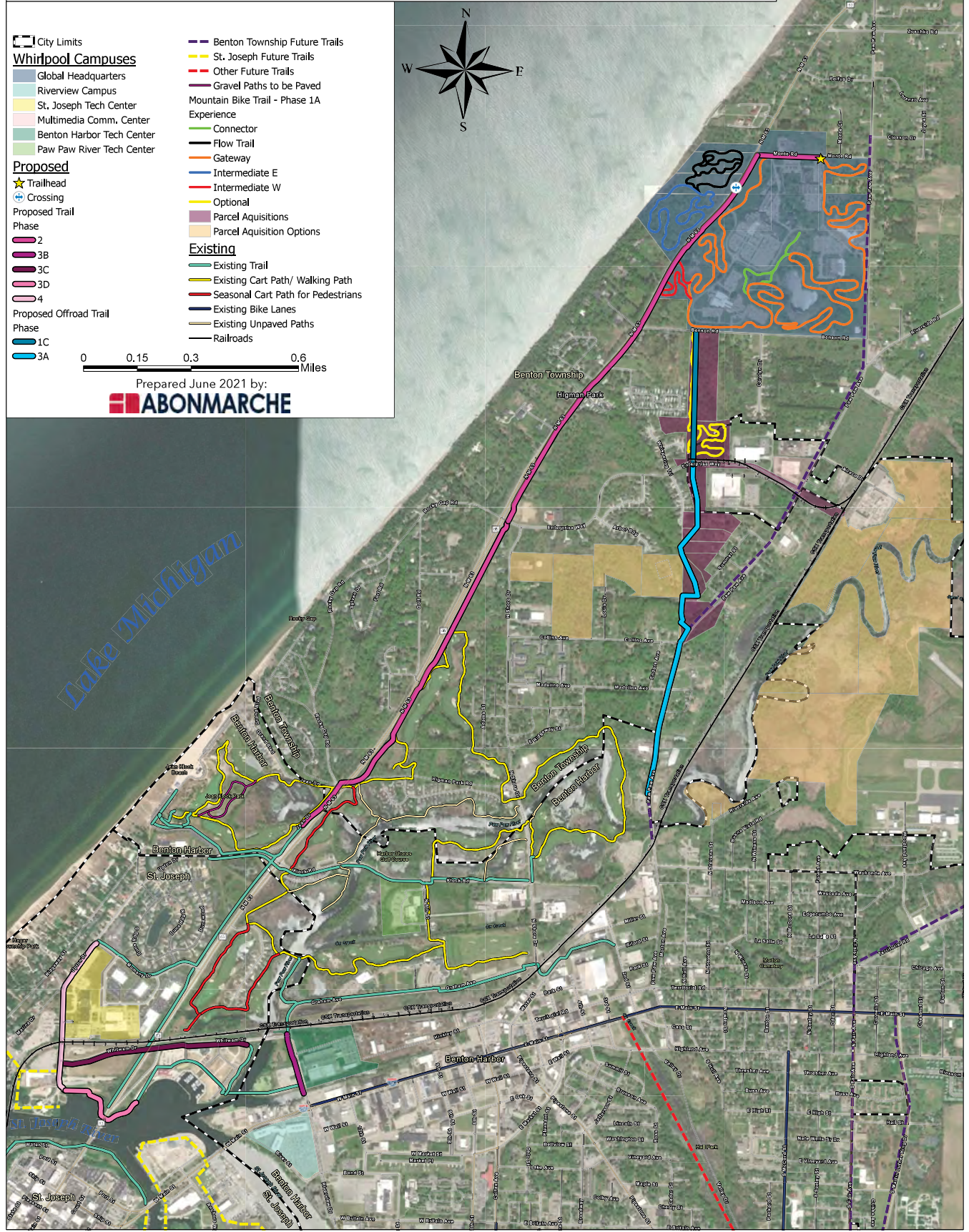
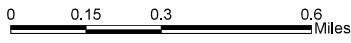
Existing

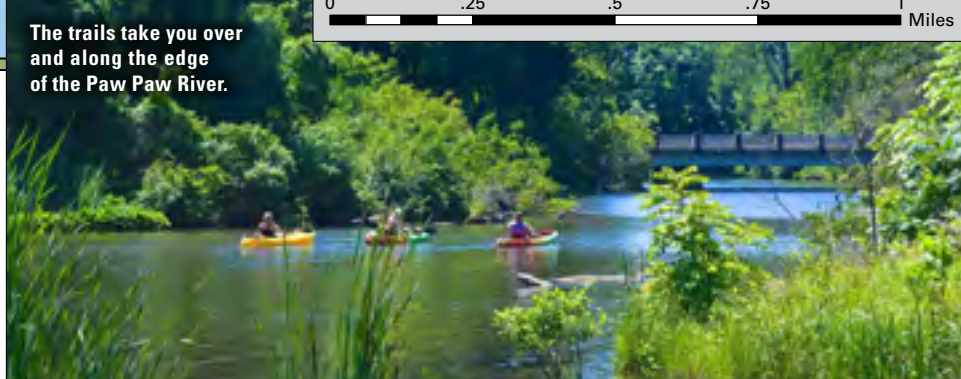
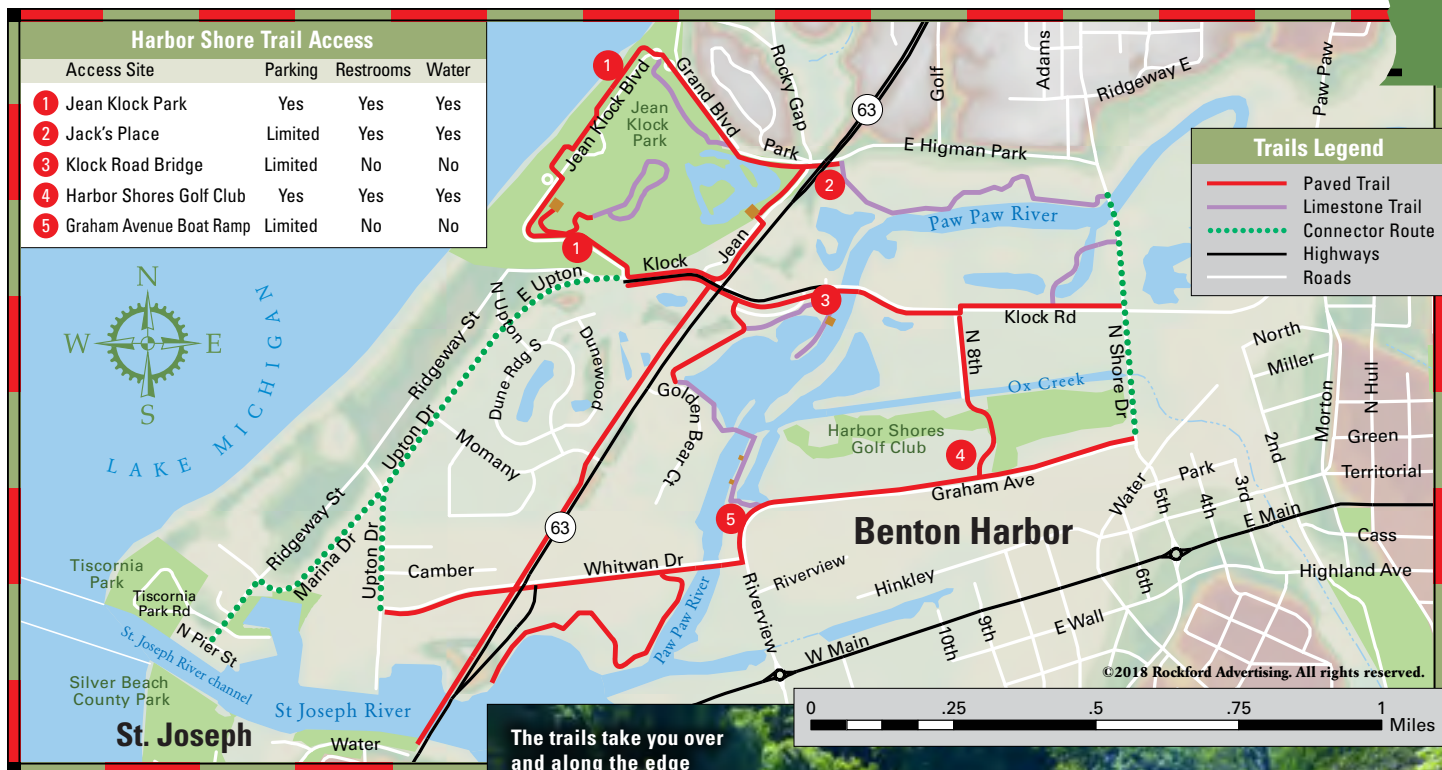
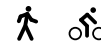
- Existing Trail
- Existing Cart Path/ Walking Path
- Seasonal Cart Path for Pedestrians
- Existing Bike Lanes
- Existing Unpaved Paths
- Railroads

Benton Township Future Trails

- St. Joseph Future Trails
- Other Future Trails
- Gravel Paths to be Paved
- Mountain Bike Trail - Phase 1A Experience
- Connector
- Flow Trail
- Gateway
- Intermediate E
- Intermediate W
- Optional
- Parcel Acquisitions
- Parcel Acquisition Options

Prepared June 2021 by:





The trails take you over and along the edge of the Paw Paw River.

Harbor Shores Trails

Explore nearly 10 miles of scenic biking and hiking trails in Harbor Shores along Lake Michigan and the Paw Paw and St. Joseph rivers. Harbor Shores is a multi-use recreation and residential community nestled among the dunes, marshes, bayous and beaches in the Paw Paw River delta. This recreation destination includes Jean Klock Park (with its dunes and sugar sand beach on Lake Michigan), the Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course (a public course and home of the Senior PGA Championship), several neighborhoods with quaint cottages, and a trail system that connects it all.

Harbor Shores Trails is a network of paved and unpaved trails, with the unpaved trails surfaced with finely screened and compacted limestone. It includes several bridges and boardwalks crossing the marshes, bayous and Paw Paw River. Most of the trails travel along or over these water features. Some stretches of the paved trails

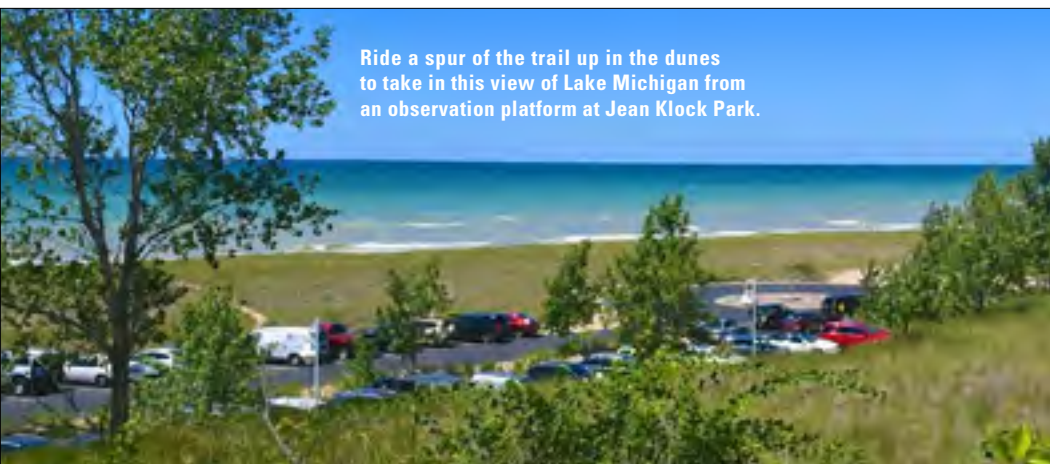
share use with the golf cart paths. Make sure to observe signage along the trails to make sure you stay on the right path.

We suggest starting your ride at the north end of the beach at Jean Klock Park. After you ride past a series of cottages on Grand Boulevard, you will see the entrance to the shared use trail on your right. Follow the paved path under the M-63 overpass to a trailhead next to Jack's Place and head south on the limestone path that travels east along the river. At North Shore Drive head south and cross the bridge over the Paw Paw River to find another limestone path that takes you

to the paved trail going west along Klock Road. Follow the designated trail south and then west along Graham Avenue and Whitwan Drive to Upton Drive. Ride north on Upton Drive to the paved trail at the park entrance to complete the loop back to the beach.

There are several other routes you can take, including a short loop around Jean Klock Park and a trail along M-63 that takes you to downtown St. Joseph. You can also ride south on Marina Drive and Ridgeway Street to Tiscornia Park where you can walk out on the north pier of the St. Joseph River channel to see the lighthouse.

Trail access and free parking is available at any of the designated parking areas noted on the map. There is, however, an \$8 parking fee to enter Jean Klock Park. The park offers a large parking area with a nice beach house, restrooms and a beautiful beach to enjoy for the day. There's a large dune area behind the beach with hiking paths and observation platforms overlooking Lake Michigan. Kayak rentals on the Paw Paw River are available at the Graham Avenue boat ramp.



Ride a spur of the trail up in the dunes to take in this view of Lake Michigan from an observation platform at Jean Klock Park.

Natural Resources in the City

Benton Harbor has abundant natural resources within its city limits. It has access to water bodies such as Lake Michigan, the Paw Paw and St. Joseph Rivers, and the Ox Creek corridor. Many wetlands areas are near the Paw Paw and St. Joseph Rivers. The Lake Michigan shoreline provides abundant dunal landscape. These natural features support a wide variety of plant and animal species.



Other Recreation Spaces

The following is a list of lands and facilities that are owned by another governmental unit or private entity that provide recreation opportunities for the community.

School Facilities in City		
School	Location	Recreation Type
Benton Harbor High School	870 Colfax, Ave, BH	Baseball and football fields, indoor basketball courts
Marting Luther King Jr. Elementary School	750 E Britain Ave, BH	Play Structure
Fair Plain East Elementary School	1998 Union Ave, BH	Swings, Basketball hoops
Fair Plain Middle School	120 E Napier Ave, BH	Play structure, swings
Discovery Enrichment Center	465 S. McCord St, BH	Playground with play structures
CAPE Center	648 Pipestone Street, BH	Green space

Berrien County Park and Recreation Facilities		
Park Name	Location	Recreation Type
Love Creek County Park	Berrien Center, MI	Natural area with trails

Madeline Betrand County Park	Niles, MI	Trails, playground, picnic shelters
Silver Beach County Park	City of St. Joseph	Beach, playground, pavilion
Rocky Gap County Park	Benton Charter Twp	Beach and overlook
Galien River County Park	New Buffalo, MI	Wetlands with trails and boardwalks
Paw Paw River County Park	Watervliet, MI	Natural area with Paw Paw River access
Historic Courthouse Square County Park	Berrien Springs, MI	Historic courthouse building

City of St. Joseph Parks and Recreation Facilities

Dickinson Park	2499 Stadium Drive	Baseball diamonds, green space
Howard Family Path	801 Highland Street	Bike/walking path
Kiwanis Park	1350 Pearl Street	Dog park, skate park, playground, baseball field, basketball, pickleball
Lake Bluff Park	500 Port Street	Green space with amenities
Lions Park	1701 Lions Park Drive	Beach, playground
Lookout Park	3424 Lakeshore Drive	Overlook with amenities
Milton Park	1524 Niles Avenue	Playground, walking path, amphitheater
Old SJ Neighborhood Park	600 State Street	Mini park with amenities, gardens and walkways
Point Park	1300 Lake Blvd	Mini park with fountain, benches and walkways
Riverview Park	2927 Niles Road	Baseball diamonds, boat launch, biking/walking paths, shelters
Tiny Tots Park	1300 Botham Avenue	Mini park with playground
Tiscornia Park	80 Ridgeway Street	Beach, trails
Upton Arboretum	410 Water Street	Riverfront green space with trails and amenities
Whirlpool Centennial Park	200 Broad Street	Play fountain, paths and amenities
Whittlesey Park	2414 Willa Drive	Ice skating pavilion, small dog park

St. Joseph Charter Township Parks and Recreation Facilities

Ann Park	2242 Ann Drive	Playground
Carronde Park	2650-2698 Riverbend Drive, BH	Softball fields, tennis, walking trails, fishing platforms, boat launch
Eaton Park	3475 Lincoln Avenue	Baseball, basketball, playground, trails, Rocket football
Hickory Creek Park & Open Space	3080 S. Cleveland Avenue	Natural area with creek access and amenities
Kedzie Park	3480 Kedzie Street	Playground
Knauf Park	1165 Vineland Avenue	Nature trails with pavilion
Maiden Lane Park	1051 Maiden Lane	Soccer, playground, cricket pitch, trails, pavilion
McLin Park	3111 McLin Road	Playground with amenities
Napier Park	470 Montezuma Road, BH	Playground
Sandra Terrace Park	2785 Sandra Terrace	Playground
Tall Grass Prairie Park	3475 Lincoln Avenue	Nature trail
Wissing Lane Park	3275 Wissing Lane	Natural area

Benton Charter Township Parks and Recreation Facilities		
Benton Charter Township Park	451 Zollar Drive	Disc golf, boat launch, green space
Eden Springs Park	793 M-139	Former House of David site, train

Other Private or Non-profit Recreation Facilities in/near City		
Space	Location	Recreation Type
Sarett Nature Center	Benton Harbor	Natural area
West Basin Marina	City of St. Joseph	Marina
Harbor Shores Marina	Benton Harbor	Marina
Pier 1000 Marina	City of Benton Harbor	Marina
Eagle Pointe Harbor	St. Joseph Township	Marina
South Shore Health and Racquet Club	St. Joseph Township	Indoor Tennis Courts, Racquetball Courts, Indoor swimming pool
Renaissance Athletic Club	City of Benton Harbor	Swimming, volleyball, paths, soccer
MDNR Riverview Boat Launch	City of Benton Harbor	Boating access site for St. Joseph River.
St. Joseph High School	City of St Joseph	Indoor pool, baseball fields, tennis courts, indoor track, football field, indoor basketball courts

Description of the Planning Process

The planning method utilized for the park and recreation plans was based on a comparison to park metrics. Existing parks were evaluated for condition, including an ADA review of accessibility within the park. An approach to gathering public input was devised, which included an online public survey and in person outreach through various venues and events. After the survey results and in person input were received, the city reviewed comments to identify goals and actions to target for the next five years. These goals were presented at the parks and recreation committee meeting on November 8, 2023. Public comment was incorporated into the goals.

Description of the Public Input Process

The City coordinated public input and outreach with local organization Benton Harbor Team Solutions. From June to November 2023, Team Solutions engaged the public in multiple ways. Team Solutions started the I Love Benton Harbor: Parks campaign, with “I Love Benton Harbor” videos that were shared on social media and also via text messaging. They also asked residents what they wanted to see happen in their parks through a survey that they could fill out.

There were several ways people could participate in the City of Benton Harbor Parks Survey.

1. Hard Copy Survey
2. Online Survey

The hard copy survey was printed on a bright orange sheet, allowing people to write their statement on the future of Benton Harbor Parks. This was beneficial for people without access to a computer/Internet. A QR code was created and flyers to lead people to the online survey.

Information was disseminated via radio, newspaper, flyers, and were distributed to:

- Community Events: Morton Park Cleanup & Giveback Events (July, September), June Woods Park Dedication (August), Union Park, Back to School Community Event (August).
- Benton Harbor Farmers Market: Every Wednesday, from 10 am. - 3 p.m. from June to September, at Dwight P. Mitchell City Park, Benton Harbor.
- Benton Harbor Arts District.

- Flyers were hung at City Hall, restaurants, laundromats, libraries, businesses, apartment buildings, office buildings, grocery stores.
- City of Benton Harbor municipal meetings and events (Resource Fair, City of Benton Harbor Leadership Training Workshop (Sept-Oct), etc.
- Area Schools: Benton Harbor Area Schools, Benton Harbor Charter School, Mildred C. Wells Academy, Benton Harbor Girls Academy, Readiness Center.
- Local Churches: Brotherhood of All Nations, Great Community, Refreshing Fountain COGIC, New Bethel Baptist Church, Benton Harbor Church, First Presbyterian Church, Progressive Baptist Church, Pilgrim Rest
- Media: WVBH 105.3 FM Radio and the Benton Spirit Community Newspaper, which distributes its FREE newspaper to apartment complexes, senior citizen centers and complexes, churches, schools, businesses, gas stations, grocery stores, banks, and restaurants.
- As an incentive for residents to fill out surveys, we purchased a spinning wheel (Wheel of Fortune style) for which residents would win prizes upon earning spins for survey completions.

There were 94 online responses submitted and 154 hard copy responses from in person events. The survey results are included in this document.

Additionally, extensive outreach was completed for the City’s 2023 Master Plan by McKenna. The plan includes concepts and approaches to consider for land use in the city, including parks, green space, bike lanes, building locations and parking. Multiple workshops were held to gather public input, which included thoughts on waterways and parks. An online survey was available to the public for those who could not participate in the workshops.

A draft copy of the plan was posted for 30 days starting November 15, 2023. The plan was posted on the City website and a hard copy was available for review at City Hall. Notice of posting was given through a posting in the Herald Palladium and posting at City Hall. Comments on the plan were submitted to the City Clerk.

A public hearing for comments on the plan was held on January 10, 2024. Notice of the public hearing was provided on the City website and through the Herald Palladium. Comments received are detailed in the meeting minutes and reflected in the plan. ← updated info

The City is located among multiple jurisdictions that each operate and maintain parks and recreation services. In order to prevent the duplication of recreation offerings the City shared its recreation plan with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (Berrien County, Lincoln Township, City of St. Joseph, Royalton Township, and Benton Township) before final adoption of the plan.

The plan was adopted by City Commission on _____.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLAN

As a result of the recreation inventory assessment, public survey feedback, known upcoming capital improvements, and discussions with City staff, the City has devised the following Goals and Action Plan to work toward recreation goals.

These goals and actions will aid the city in meeting community desires. This is a current outlook action plan, however, and the City recognizes that new opportunities, funding sources, and developments can affect the timing or priority of these plans. Additional projects will likely be presented that the City will take action on, guided by the overall Goals it has established.

 edited text

Due to the City's financial constraints, taking action on the desired goals will likely require supplemental funding sources such as grants, donations or volunteer action. The City intends to seek and utilize all available resources to support the parks to meet desired programming, maintenance and development goals.

The following is a list of Goals and Actions the City has identified as part of its review process.


Goal 1: Provide updated equipment at parks

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Update/add swings, slides, see saws, merry go-rounds at parks
- b. Add basketball hoops, volleyball nets
- c. Update play structures
- d. Add water activities such as a pool or splash pad

Goal 2: Add more ways to passively enjoy parks

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Add more benches
- b. Add equipment like checkers or chess tables
- c. Add grills, gazebos, picnic areas
- d. Add concessions/vending machines
- e. Add bathrooms, hot and cold water sources to parks  added hot water
- f. Add water fountains at parks

Goal 3: Add events or programs at parks

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Provide year round options for park enjoyment
- b. Provide programs for different age groups – toddlers, elementary level, high school, adults, seniors
- c. Add little league sports at parks
- d. Create social events at parks with music/food
- e. Add a performance stage at parks

Goal 4: Enhance Ox Creek corridor

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Add improvements to Hall Park
- b. Continue to develop plans and actions for clean up to maximize use of the corridor

Goal 5: Add safety and security measures at parks

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Add security cameras
- b. Add fences

- c. Add police patrols
- d. Improve lighting at parks

Goal 6: Maintain parks

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Remove graffiti
- b. Prevent dumping of trash or leaves
- c. Seek community volunteer groups to assist with maintenance
- d. Repair items at Jean Klock Park ← added

Goal 7: Provide more ADA accessible elements in parks

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Add ADA parking
- b. Add sidewalks and ramps
- c. Add more benches

Goal 8: Add more ways to enjoy the river and lake

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Enhance fishing opportunities
 - i. Create a restricted boating area on the St. Joseph River to support anglers
- b. Add more canoe/kayak options

Goal 9: Find ways to link parks to residents through trails or sidewalks

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Add more trails or bike lanes

Goal 10: Explore funding sources for park improvements and maintenance including applying for grants and seeking donors/sponsors.

Goal 11: Increase awareness of park locations and add more public spaces

Actions to achieve the goal:

- a. Add wayfinding signage to parks
- b. Acquire public spaces through grants/donors/sponsors



Yarbrough Park

POST COMPLETION SELF CERTIFICATION REPORTS



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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

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

GRANTEE: City of Benton Harbor

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-00568

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Jean Klock Bathhouse

PROJECT SCOPE: develop 1 acre of land for site improvement, one bathhouse and a LWCF sign

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 2 columns: Agency Information, Contact Person, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: City of Benton Harbor, Ellis Mitchell, City Manager, 200 E Wall Street, 269-927-8457, Benton Harbor MI 49022, emitchell@bhcity.us

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Part of Jean Klock Park has been leased to Harbor Shores for golf course use. Mitigation parcels were set up as part of this arrangement.

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [x] No

SITE QUALITY

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

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [x] Yes [] No

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

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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

Yes No

GENERAL

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

Yes No N/A

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

Yes No

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

Yes No

Access to the park is free. A parking fee is assessed for beach parking from May 1 to Oct 30

Residents can get an annual pass that allows for free parking.

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

The park is open year round 7am to 10pm

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

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

Please print

Grantee Authorized Signature

Date

Please print

Witness Signature

Date

Please be sure to upload the completed Post Completion Report and plaque photographs to the 5-Year Recreation Plan in MiGrants.



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
Post-Completion Self-Certification Report

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

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

GRANTEE: City of Benton Harbor

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01023 L2

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Broadway-Union Parks

PROJECT SCOPE: Broadway - playground, shelter, Union - berm, wood activity, playground, landscaping

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with contact information for City of Benton Harbor, including Name of Agency, Contact Person (Ellis Mitchell), Title (City Manager), Address (200 E Wall Street), Telephone (269-927-8457), City, State, ZIP (Benton Harbor MI 49022), and Email (emitchell@bhcity.us).

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [x] No

SITE QUALITY

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

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [x] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [x] No
There have been some past occurrences of vandalism at Union Park. Cameras have been added and police patrols are in place to monitor the park

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

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

The park is open year round 8am to 10pm

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

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

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Date

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Witness Signature

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PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

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

GRANTEE: City of Benton Harbor

PROJECT NUMBER: BF92-327

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Jean Klock Bathhouse

PROJECT SCOPE: Restroom renovation

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 2 columns: Agency Information (Name, Address, City, State, ZIP) and Contact Information (Contact Person, Title, Telephone, Email). Values include City of Benton Harbor, Ellis Mitchell, City Manager, 200 E Wall Street, Benton Harbor MI 49022, and emitchell@bhcity.us.

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Part of Jean Klock Park has been leased to Harbor Shores for golf course use. Mitigation parcels were set up as part of this arrangement.

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [x] No

SITE QUALITY

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

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [x] Yes [] No

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

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

Access to the park is free. A parking fee is assessed for beach parking from May 1 to Oct 30
Residents can get an annual pass that allows for free parking.

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

The park is open year round 7am to 10pm

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

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

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PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
Post-Completion Self-Certification Report

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

GRANTEE: City of Benton Harbor

PROJECT NUMBER: CM99-203

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Jean Klock Park Improvements

PROJECT SCOPE: construction of a pavilion, boardwalk, deck and associated site amenities

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 2 columns: Agency/Address/State/ZIP and Contact Person/Telephone/Email. Row 1: City of Benton Harbor, Ellis Mitchell, City Manager, 200 E Wall Street, 269-927-8457, Benton Harbor MI 49022, emitchell@bhcity.us

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Part of Jean Klock Park has been leased to Harbor Shores for golf course use. Mitigation parcels were set up as part of this arrangement.

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [x] No

SITE QUALITY

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

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [x] Yes [] No

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

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

Access to the park is free. A parking fee is assessed for beach parking from May 1 to Oct 30
Residents can get an annual pass that allows for free parking.

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

The park is open year round 7am to 10pm

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

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PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
Post-Completion Self-Certification Report

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

GRANTEE: City of Benton Harbor

PROJECT NUMBER: TF13-046

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Union Park

PROJECT SCOPE: ADA bathroom, resurface three baseball fields, fencing, bleachers, demolition of pressbox, replace sidewalks, tot lot playground equipment, lighting, drinking fountain and new scoreboard.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with contact information for City of Benton Harbor, including Name of Agency, Contact Person (Ellis Mitchell), Title (City Manager), Address (200 E Wall Street), Telephone (269-927-8457), City, State, ZIP (Benton Harbor MI 49022), and Email (emitchell@bhcity.us).

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

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

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [X] Yes [] No
There have been some past occurrences of vandalism. Cameras have been added and police patrols are in place to monitor the park

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

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

The park is open year round 8am to 10pm

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

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Grantee Authorized Signature

Date

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Witness Signature

Date

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PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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

GRANTEE: City of Benton Harbor

PROJECT NUMBER: TF89-114

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Jean Klock Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Development of beach front recreational facilities on Lake Michigan, preservation of fragile sand dunes and wetland wildlife habitats.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with contact information for City of Benton Harbor, including Name of Agency, Contact Person (Ellis Mitchell), Title (City Manager), Address (200 E Wall Street), Telephone (269-927-8457), City, State, ZIP (Benton Harbor MI 49022), and Email (emitchell@bhcity.us).

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

Parking has been reconfigured

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

Part of Jean Klock Park has been leased to Harbor Shores for golf course use. Mitigation parcels were set up as part of this arrangement.

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

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

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

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

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

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

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No

Access to the park is free. A parking fee is assessed for beach parking from May 1 to Oct 30
Residents can get an annual pass that allows for free parking.

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

The park is open year round 7am to 10pm

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

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Please print

Grantee Authorized Signature

Date

Please print

Witness Signature

Date

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PUBLIC SURVEY



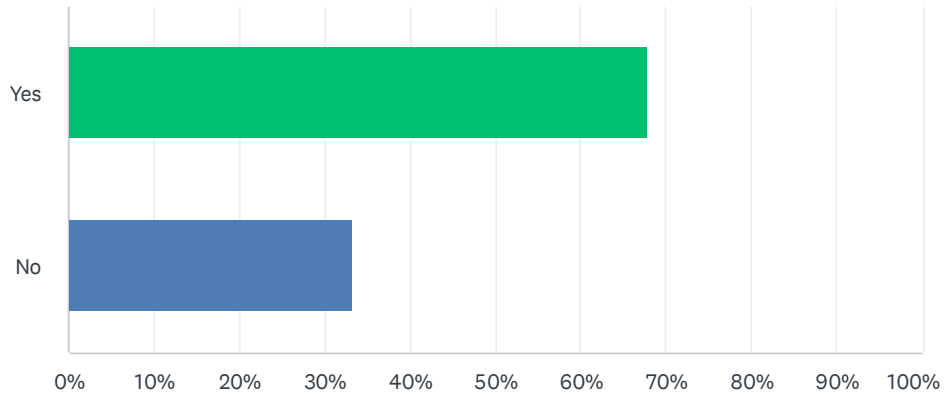
BENTON HARBOR
Port of Opportunities

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

**Welcome to the City of Benton Harbor Parks and
Recreation survey! We want to hear from YOU about our
parks! Please share your thoughts and thank you so much!**

Q1 Do you live in the City of Benton Harbor?

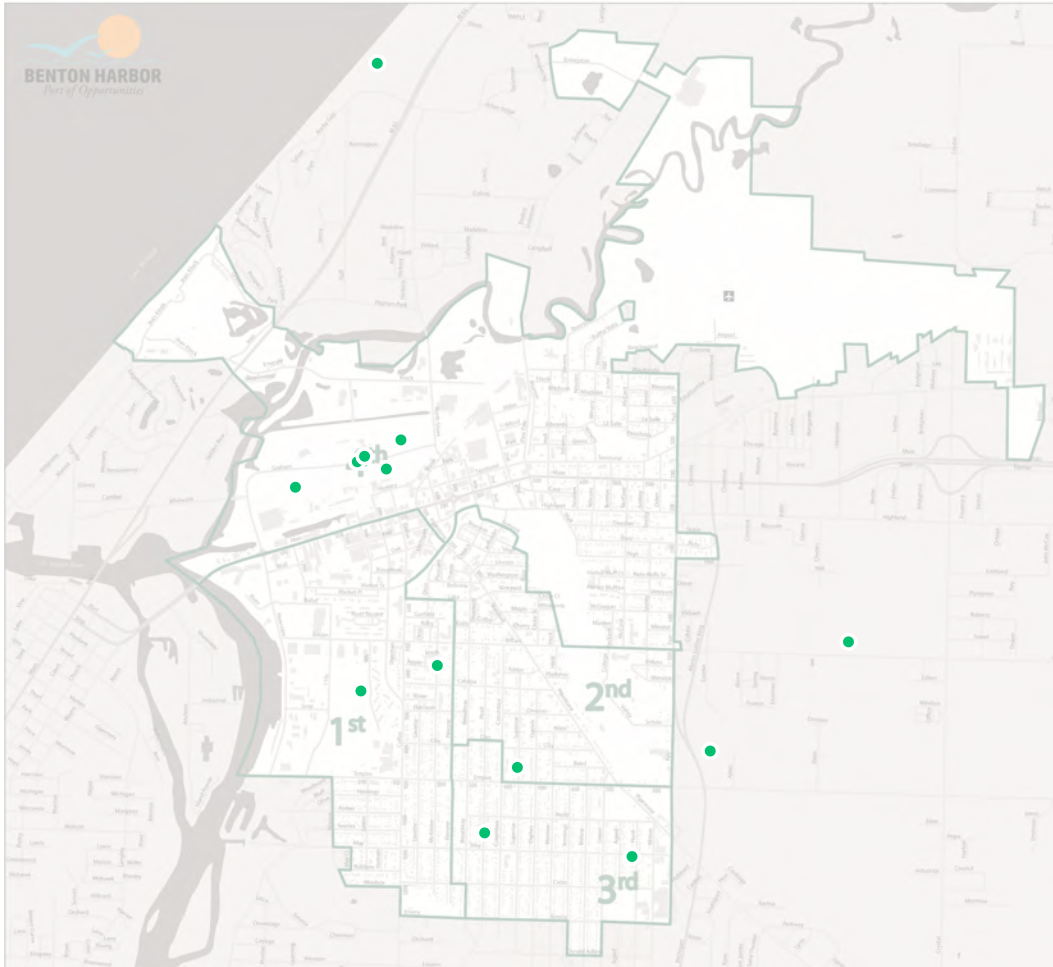
Answered: 90 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	67.78%	61
No	33.33%	30
Total Respondents: 90		

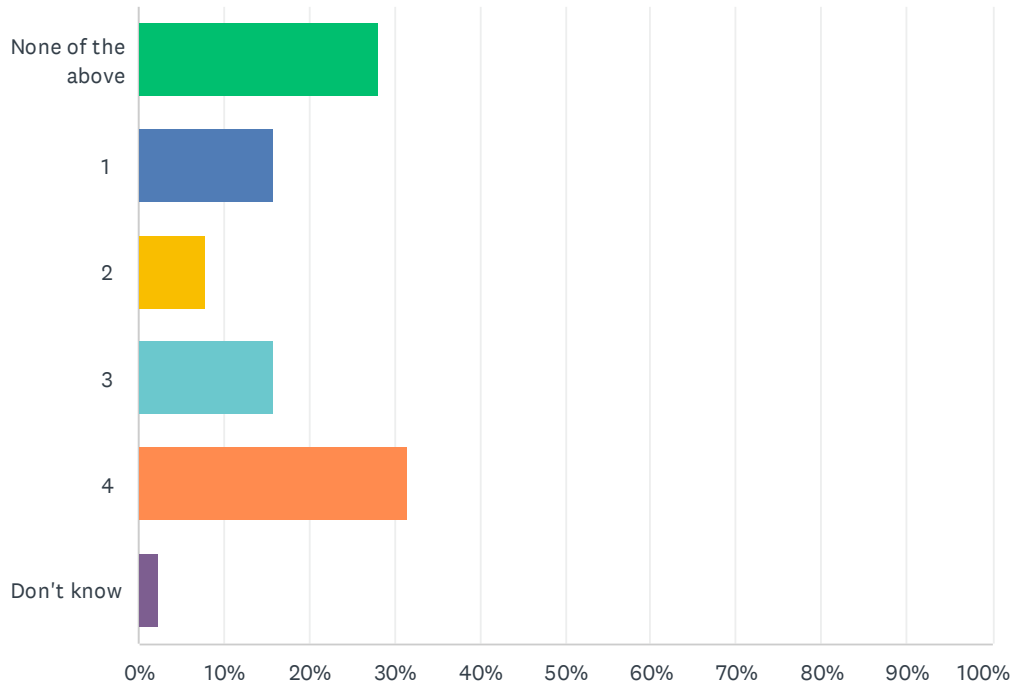
Q2 Benton Harbor Ward Map

Answered: 14 Skipped: 80



Q3 What ward do you live in?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None of the above	28.09%	25
1	15.73%	14
2	7.87%	7
3	15.73%	14
4	31.46%	28
Don't know	2.25%	2
Total Respondents: 89		

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Q3 What ward do you live in?

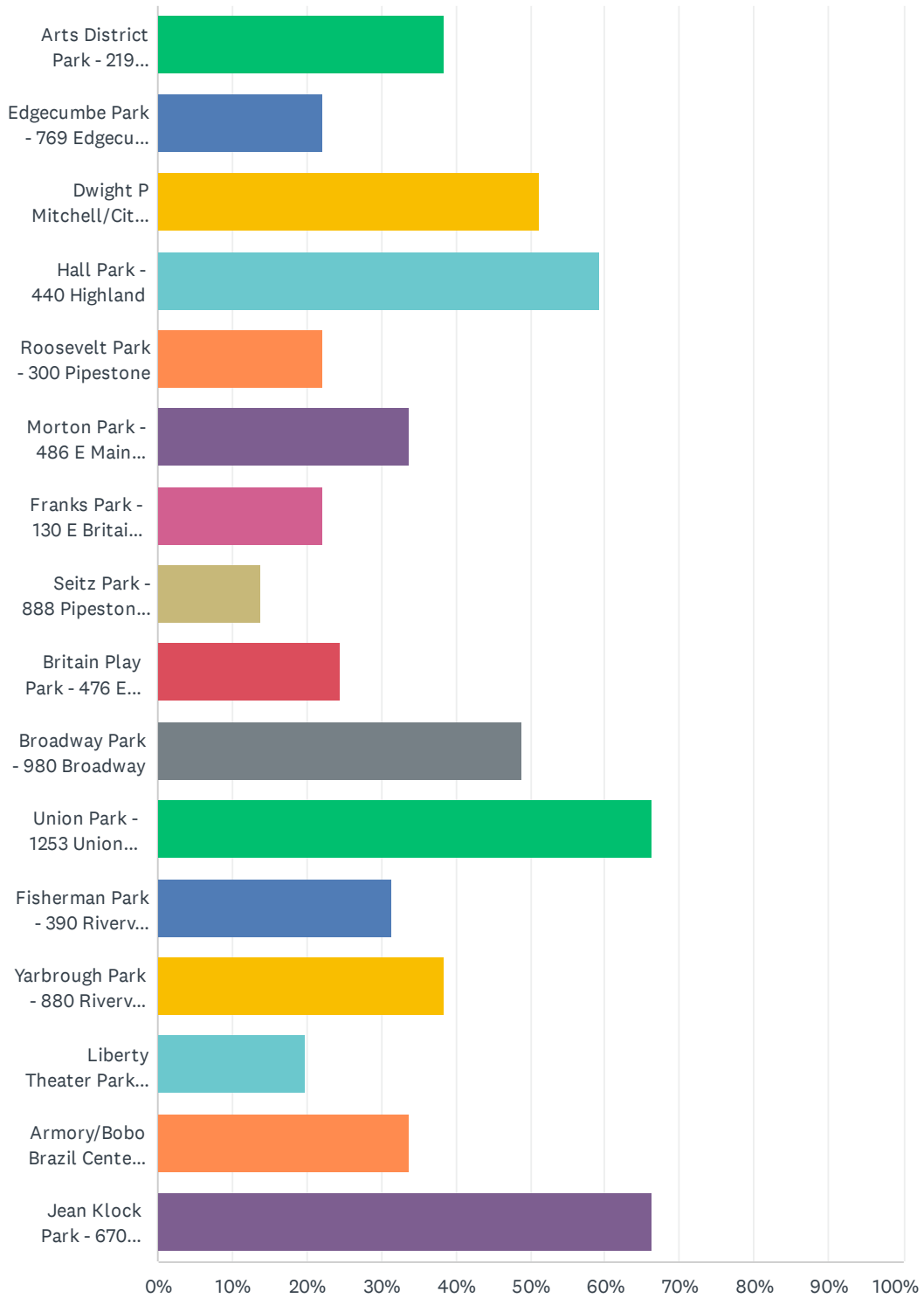
DON'T KNOW RESPONSES	DATE
I do not live in benton harboe..then I am 55 yrs old been and Benton Harbor visiting many years on and off on and off and I still go there but it's scary and it's very dangerous too many shootings too many robberies people walking up to you at gas stations and jerking money out of your hand one guy a lady was going to give him a couple dollars but instead he reached and stitched the rest of the money out of her other hand it's just not safe there anymore especially for white people	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
Township	9/30/2023 12:19 AM

Q4 Optional - Please provide your name and a way to contact you.

Answered: 39 Skipped: 55

Q5 Which City parks have you ever used?

Answered: 86 Skipped: 8

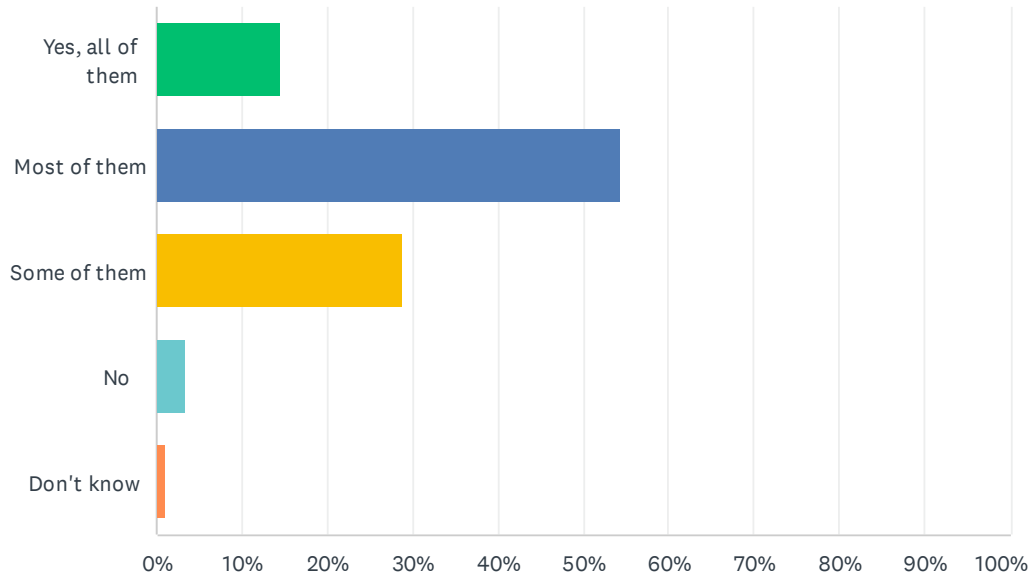


City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Arts District Park - 219 Water Street	38.37%	33
Edgecumbe Park - 769 Edgecumbe Avenue	22.09%	19
Dwight P Mitchell/City Center Park - 146 E Main Street	51.16%	44
Hall Park - 440 Highland	59.30%	51
Roosevelt Park - 300 Pipestone	22.09%	19
Morton Park - 486 E Main Street	33.72%	29
Franks Park - 130 E Britain Avenue	22.09%	19
Seitz Park - 888 Pipestone St	13.95%	12
Britain Play Park - 476 E Britain Avenue	24.42%	21
Broadway Park - 980 Broadway	48.84%	42
Union Park - 1253 Union Avenue	66.28%	57
Fisherman Park - 390 Riverview Dr	31.40%	27
Yarbrough Park - 880 Riverview Dr	38.37%	33
Liberty Theater Park - 224 E Main Street	19.77%	17
Armory/Bobo Brazil Center - 88 Paw Paw Avenue	33.72%	29
Jean Klock Park - 670 Klock Road	66.28%	57
Total Respondents: 86		

Q6 I know where City of Benton Harbor parks are

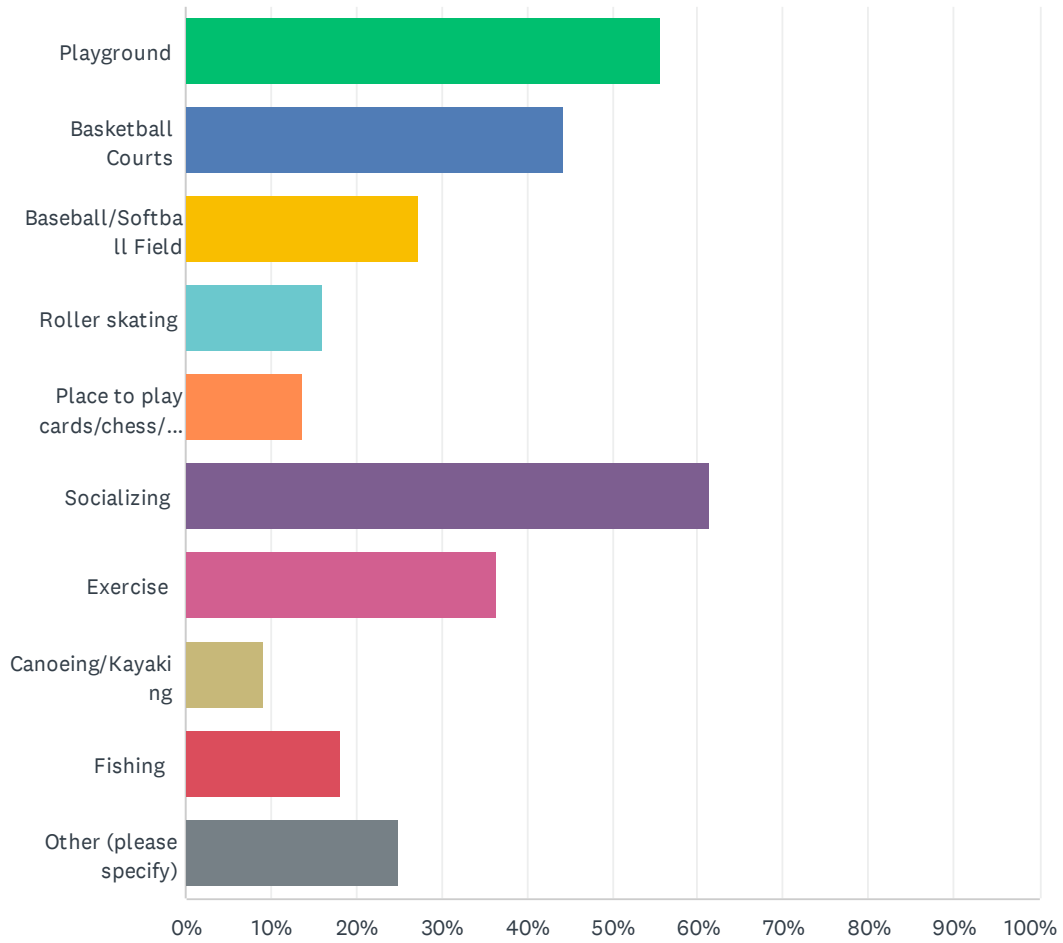
Answered: 90 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, all of them	14.44%	13
Most of them	54.44%	49
Some of them	28.89%	26
No	3.33%	3
Don't know	1.11%	1
Total Respondents: 90		

Q7 What do you use parks for?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 6



City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Playground	55.68%	49
Basketball Courts	44.32%	39
Baseball/Softball Field	27.27%	24
Roller skating	15.91%	14
Place to play cards/chess/games	13.64%	12
Socializing	61.36%	54
Exercise	36.36%	32
Canoeing/Kayaking	9.09%	8
Fishing	18.18%	16
Other (please specify)	25.00%	22
Total Respondents: 88		

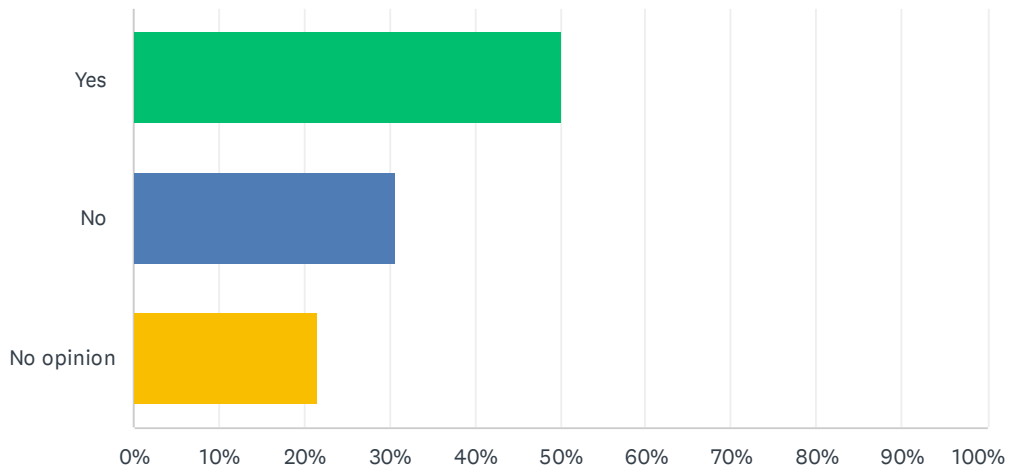
City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Q7 What do you use parks for?

OTHER	DATE
Gatherings of people to hear speakers and enjoy musical events	10/29/2023 11:27 PM
I don't go to the park.	10/29/2023 10:30 PM
Go to events, concerts, farmers market	10/29/2023 09:53 PM
Just to sit outside and relax	10/29/2023 04:52 PM
Chance to relax -- walk, sit and read, people watch -- and get away from it all.	10/19/2023 03:05 AM
Events	10/17/2023 02:00 PM
No longer safe	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
Gone to events/music/arthops/sales	10/12/2023 05:18 PM
Walking	10/10/2023 10:37 AM
Family Gatherings	10/4/2023 02:50 PM
Photography	10/3/2023 07:39 PM
To attend events	10/3/2023 12:38 PM
Everything	10/1/2023 09:28 AM
Work related activities	9/30/2023 11:28 AM
Eat lunch	9/29/2023 09:24 AM
Dog walking	9/28/2023 12:45 PM
Events	9/26/2023 08:49 PM
Family picnic	9/26/2023 01:35 PM
Reunions community events, tutoring with children	9/19/2023 07:55 PM
Attend events in the parks	9/13/2023 12:48 PM
Events	9/10/2023 05:19 PM
Family time	8/22/2023 05:32 PM

Q8 I can get to parks easily by sidewalks.

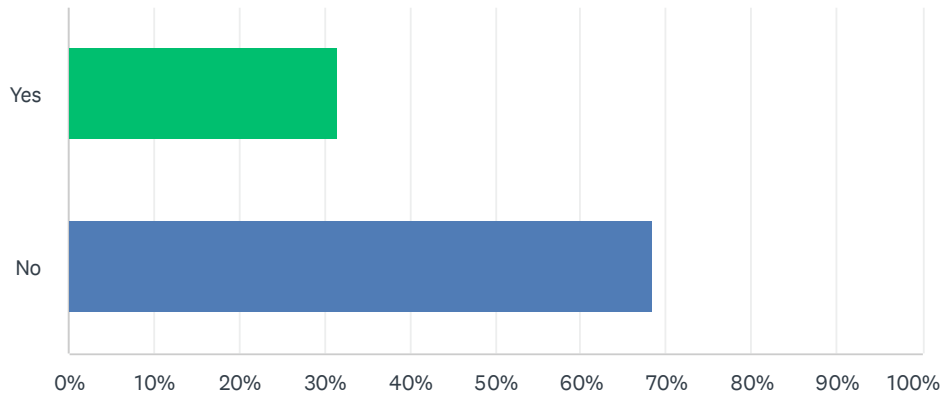
Answered: 88 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	50.00% 44
No	30.68% 27
No opinion	21.59% 19
Total Respondents: 88	

Q9 Does anyone in your household have mobility restrictions (i.e. walker, cane, wheelchair, blind, hip/knee replacement, tire easily and need to rest often)

Answered: 89 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	31.46%	28
No	68.54%	61
Total Respondents: 89		

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Q9 Does anyone in your household have mobility restrictions (i.e. walker, cane, wheelchair, blind, hip/knee replacement, tire easily and need to rest often)

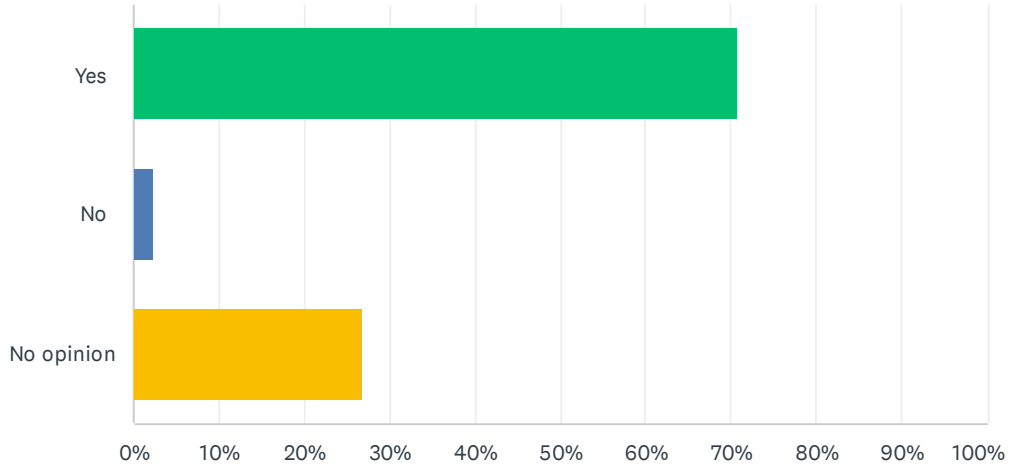
COMMENTS	DATE
Sidewalks and benches are definitely a good feature. Anything that makes getting around and enjoying the park easier.	10/29/2023 11:27 PM
I no longer, go to the park.	10/29/2023 10:30 PM
Ability to use wheelchairs and scooters	10/29/2023 09:53 PM
Flat surfaces-sidewalks	10/29/2023 04:52 PM
My wife requires a walker to aid in her mobility, so I can say that she would appreciate sidewalk improvements that would allow her to access key features of any park, without having to hoist it over uneven/broken concrete surfaces, for example. Flat surfaces work best in those situations. Also, lots of benches or places to sit, because walking long distances is tiring for her.	10/19/2023 03:05 AM
I have had my left knee totally replaced after having three other Scopes done on the meniscus ankle surgery top of the left foot surgery left ankle right knee is going to be replaced has had only one scope on it all together I've had a total of 10 surgeries about to have my 11th surgery in November my total knee replacement arthroplasty I'm a right knee but that's not the problem the problem is not my stability of walking or using hope blocker or none of that it's if it's the the drugs the drug dealers the drug users the prostitutes the shootings the rapists the overdoses I mean there's a lot goes on at you ain't even putting in this little advertisement did you ever want to call me and talk to me I can tell you a lot of things and about all the bad areas	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
High up enough benches, flat surfaces to walk on, good side walks.	10/12/2023 05:18 PM
Ramps Jobs for the youth to assist.	10/10/2023 10:37 AM
More benches and sidewalks	10/5/2023 05:10 PM
flat surfaces	10/4/2023 09:03 PM
They all are lacking something they need to be redone and have maintenance because people make a mess and there not safe. My child got his face bashed in and I never allowed him again to go to union Park again	9/29/2023 09:24 AM
sidewalks, flat surfaces.	9/28/2023 10:08 AM
Sidewalks, benches	9/26/2023 09:42 PM
benches, ramps, etc	9/26/2023 08:35 PM

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Smooth sidewalks, frequent benches, accessible parking and restroom facilities	9/13/2023 12:48 PM
Sidewalks	8/22/2023 06:46 PM
Benches	8/17/2023 06:21 PM

Q10 I would like additional play equipment added to a Benton Harbor City park.

Answered: 89 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.79%	63
No	2.25%	2
No opinion	26.97%	24
Total Respondents: 89		

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Q10 I would like additional play equipment added to a Benton Harbor City park.

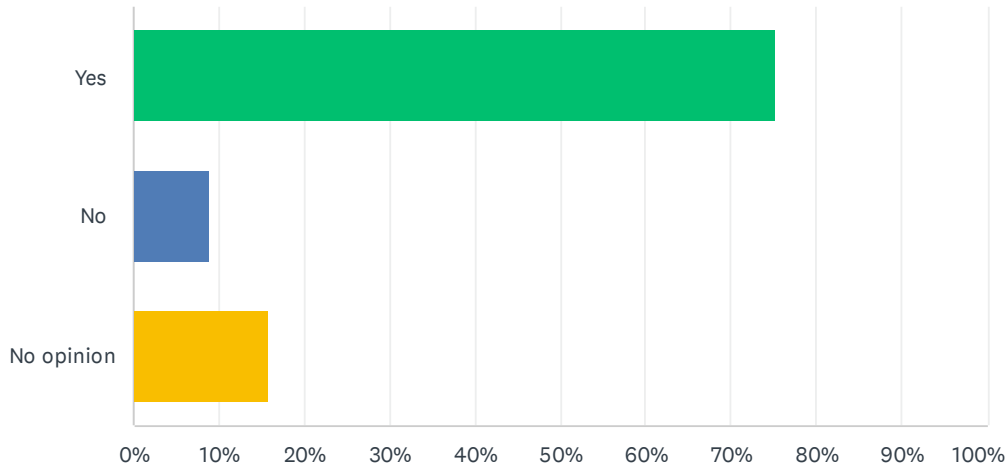
COMMENTS	DATE
Swimming pool at hull park	11/2/2023 04:17 PM
I think play equipment needs to be in the parks that are more easily accessible and safe for children to walk to. If you add play equipment to City Center Park, how would that impact it as a musical venue and the Farmer's Market?	10/29/2023 11:27 PM
More slides and playgrounds and they should primarily be in the middle and y'all should get a gaga ball rings	10/29/2023 06:26 PM
Whichever ones need it. Children need to be able to have things to do outside and away from devices.	10/29/2023 04:52 PM
Well, some of those improvements are already underway at Union Park, to name one example, but I think that some of the City's smaller parks would benefit from that, too -- like Morton, for example, which is a relatively flat, open area.	10/19/2023 03:05 AM
Padded ground for children and more playground equipment	10/17/2023 02:03 PM
Swings	10/17/2023 02:00 PM
Tennis courts, volley ball nets. water .	10/10/2023 10:37 AM
I would like more boncese stuff	10/6/2023 01:04 PM
for playing now shose	10/6/2023 01:03 PM
tavlog	10/6/2023 01:02 PM
Hall park	10/5/2023 05:10 PM
all of them	10/5/2023 09:59 AM
more play options	10/4/2023 09:03 PM
Hull Park	10/3/2023 07:37 PM
Workout bars	9/30/2023 01:08 PM
Safe playground equipment	9/30/2023 11:28 AM
Lots of the parks	9/30/2023 12:19 AM
Tables with Braque. Grills and covering, handicap assistance restrooms, Kerry go rounds, swings, slides and climbing ropes . Like coloma parks	9/29/2023 09:24 AM
Hall park. It needs everything.	9/27/2023 10:42 PM
I live closer to hull park and I would like to see more playground equipment there for the kids to play on	9/27/2023 09:12 PM
More for children to play on	9/26/2023 09:42 PM

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

see saw and EdgeCumbe Park	9/26/2023 08:49 PM
all over benton harbor parks (broadway park)	9/26/2023 08:35 PM
Thurgood homes abandoned park	9/26/2023 01:38 PM
Jean Klock like they have at Siver Beach	9/19/2023 07:55 PM
Infant playground at at least 1 park.	8/15/2023 03:26 PM
Hall park..	8/14/2023 06:57 PM

Q11 I would like more passive recreation options where I can just sit and chill, play chess, socialize, people watch, etc.

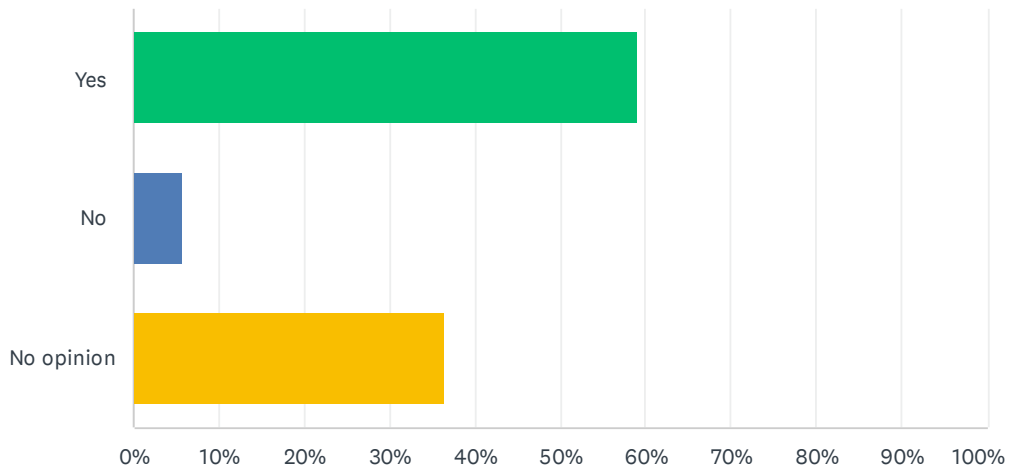
Answered: 89 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.28%	67
No	8.99%	8
No opinion	15.73%	14
Total Respondents: 89		

Q12 I would like to have more ways to recreate along the creeks and rivers

Answered: 88 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	59.09%	52
No	5.68%	5
No opinion	36.36%	32
Total Respondents: 88		

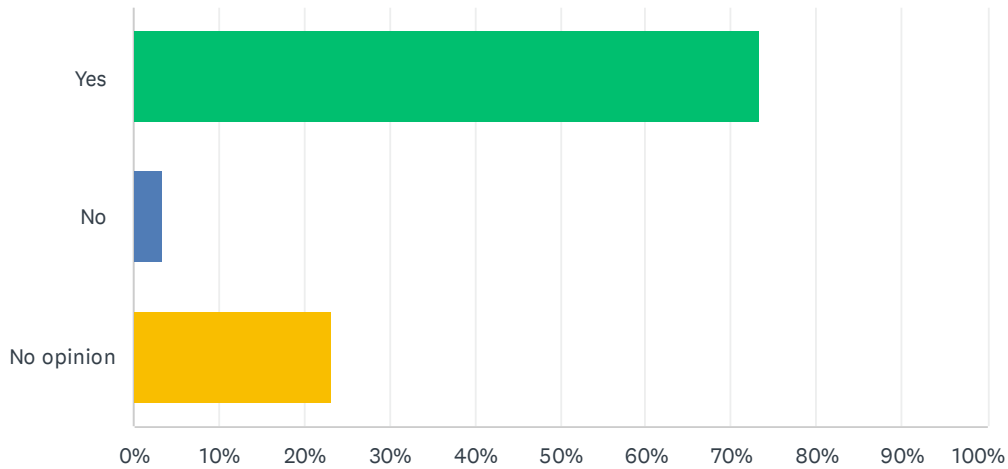
City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Q12 I would like to have more ways to recreate along the creeks and rivers

COMMENTS	DATE
Fish and/or boardwalk	11/2/2023 04:17 PM
I would like to see more safe hiking and biking trails along the rivers and creeks that are well lit and easily accessible. I know that they are talking about doing this along Ox Creek and I'm excited about those plans. I would also like to see more easy access for kayaking to the Paw Paw River. The Steven's Street access is horrible, always a mess and definitely not a safe place to leave a car while paddling on the river.	10/29/2023 11:27 PM
You can't even do anything around there no more people are either panhandling asking for drugs trying to buy drugs doing drugs or shooting people there's no reason for us to go to any of the parks anymore especially us white people but then again it doesn't matter the blacks are shooting in the blacks nowadays too	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
Keep it cleaner of bird waste. Walking trail tables and benches. flowers.	10/10/2023 10:37 AM
I would like more recreational areas in Benton Harbor City	10/3/2023 08:54 PM
Long bike and walk paths	10/3/2023 08:22 PM
Fishing Docks	10/3/2023 07:39 PM
To enjoy the outside and fish	9/29/2023 09:24 AM
create a pier	9/26/2023 08:35 PM
Canoeing, pedal boating	9/26/2023 01:16 PM
Canoeing and kayaking	9/20/2023 07:17 PM
I enjoy paddling on the Paw Paw River. Having more opportunities to put in and out my kayak would be a good addition.	9/13/2023 12:48 PM
Benches and picnic tables	9/10/2023 05:19 PM
Hall Park...Edwards park	8/14/2023 06:57 PM

Q13 I would be interested in more signage about the natural resources or history at a park – wildflowers, watershed, river, creek, animals, insects, etc.

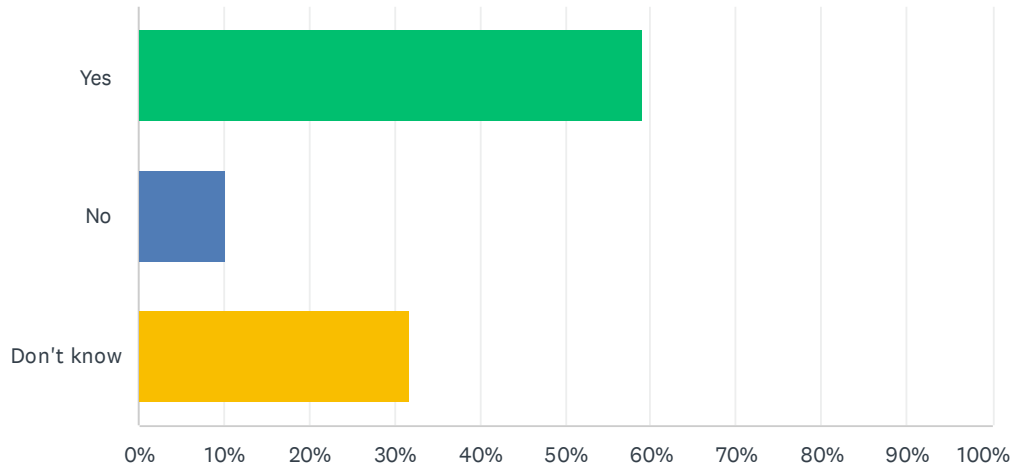
Answered: 90 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	73.33%	66
No	3.33%	3
No opinion	23.33%	21
Total Respondents: 90		

Q14 Are there any sports/recreation activities we need to add to City parks?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	59.09%	52
No	10.23%	9
Don't know	31.82%	28
Total Respondents: 88		

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Q14 Are there any sports/recreation activities we need to add to City parks?

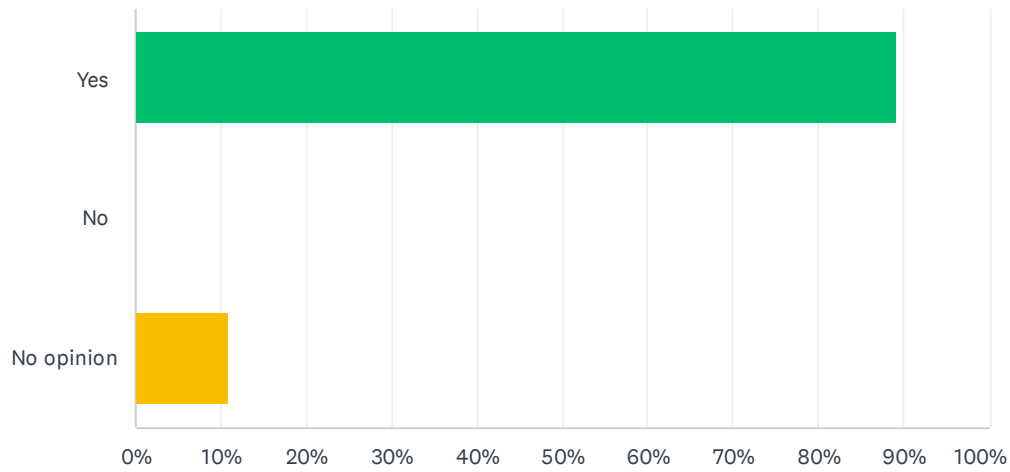
COMMENTS	DATE
Baseball diamond at hull park and nature trail	11/2/2023 04:17 PM
Do we need Pickleball Courts? That's popular with some members of the population. What about designated locations for Cornhole matches or tournaments? I would like to see some natural areas that may be inviting for artists to set up and paint or draw. Kayaking access and safe bike trails making it easier to go from one park to another. Is there a park that might be good to develop a skateboard course/section?	10/29/2023 11:27 PM
Gaga ball	10/29/2023 06:26 PM
I'm of two minds on this, because sports is a big draw, especially for youth. But I think more study needs to be done, since the smaller parks may not be the most ideal venue -- and it's worth finding out what types of activities will get community support. On the rec side of things, I'd suggest concerts, expos, festivals, workshops -- Dwight Mitchell Park has been a great venue for the Farmer's Market. Other types of activities could definitely do well there, depending on how deftly the City markets and prioritizes them.	10/19/2023 03:05 AM
There's nothing that's going to change that City that city has only progressively gotten worse I am 55 years old when I was 15 16 17 years old I used to ride my bicycle all the way to Benton Heights riding my bicycle down Colfax Avenue used to hang out at the 595 Colfax Avenue years ago years ago when I was a kid they're shootings and drugs and stuff then but now it's even worse I can't ride a bicycle in Benton Harbor ever again	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
Tennis, miniture golf, go carts, volleyball hulla hoop, jacks. Youth employment to assist with these events. With federal and state funds.	10/10/2023 10:37 AM
Benton harbor	10/6/2023 01:03 PM
Baseball, volleyball	10/5/2023 05:10 PM
all sports	10/5/2023 09:59 AM
tennis, soccer	10/4/2023 09:03 PM
Draw the lines on concrete so children can play 4 square, hopscotch and places where kids can use salwalk chalk.	10/4/2023 02:50 PM
Playground equipment with lid bridges, more swings	10/3/2023 07:45 PM
Paddleboats	10/3/2023 07:39 PM
Baseball tennis volleyball	10/3/2023 07:37 PM
Intramural sports for youth and adults. Things like kick ball, softball, corn hole, flag football, etc.	9/30/2023 11:28 AM

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Skate boarding, bowling, skAting, pool area	9/29/2023 09:24 AM
Everything. There is nothing in most of the parks.	9/28/2023 08:43 PM
The city needs a park like Kalamazoo has where it has a playground, skate park and a pool for the community.	9/27/2023 09:12 PM
Maybe roller skating Basketball tournaments, tee ball double Dutch and soccer	9/26/2023 09:48 PM 9/26/2023 09:42 PM
Basketball and baseball	9/26/2023 08:49 PM
Tennis Pickle Ball	9/26/2023 01:16 PM
Track and field	9/20/2023 07:17 PM
Basketball	9/20/2023 07:12 PM
We need a pavilion at many of our parks for dancing, exercising, etc	9/19/2023 07:55 PM
Pickleball is becoming quite popular. Public pools can be great places for kids to exercise/learn to swim before taking on dangerous Lake Michigan. Or swim classes could be held at Jean Klock.	9/13/2023 12:48 PM
Tennis, basket ball	9/10/2023 05:19 PM
Those with basketball courts, add organized games	8/17/2023 06:21 PM
Splash pad	8/15/2023 03:26 PM
Ice skating	8/14/2023 06:57 PM

Q15 It is important to me to have free public recreation options

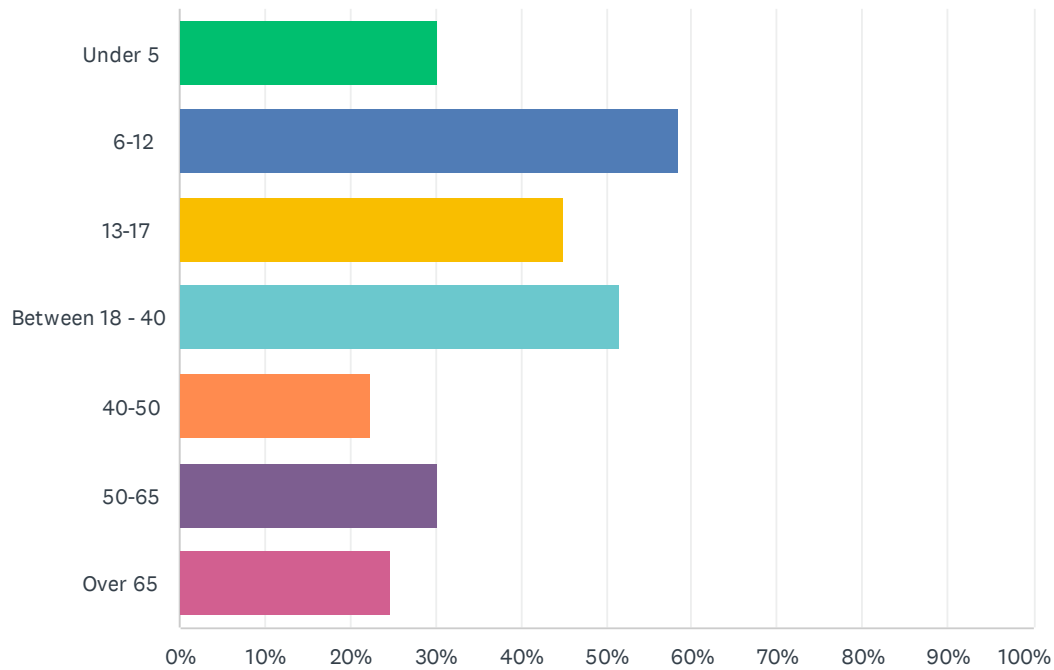
Answered: 92 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	89.13%	82
No	0.00%	0
No opinion	10.87%	10
Total Respondents: 92		

Q16 What age ranges in your family use the parks? (Select all that apply)

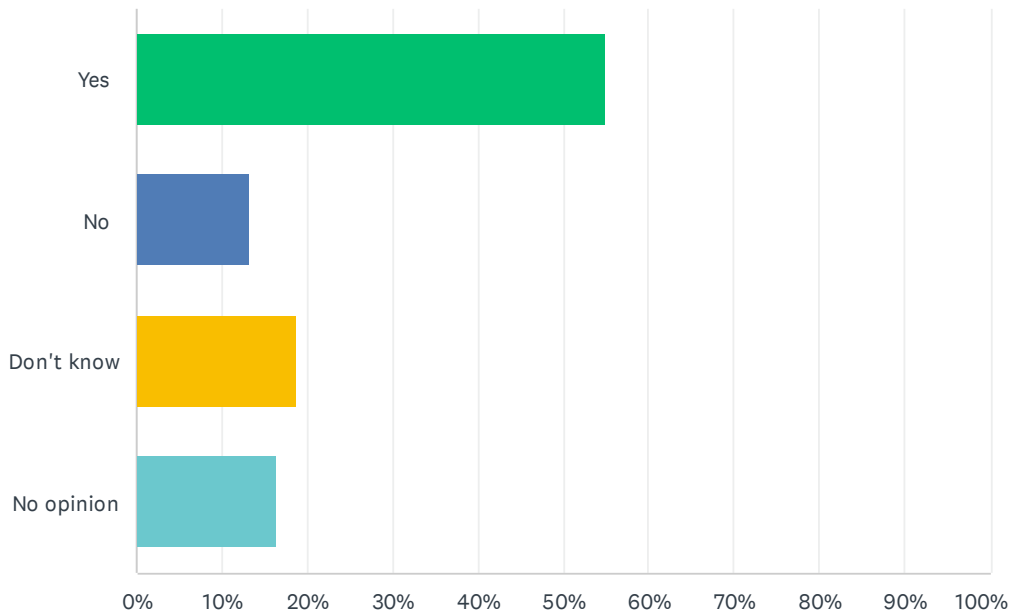
Answered: 89 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 5	30.34%	27
6-12	58.43%	52
13-17	44.94%	40
Between 18 - 40	51.69%	46
40-50	22.47%	20
50-65	30.34%	27
Over 65	24.72%	22
Total Respondents: 89		

Q17 I think the City needs to acquire more public recreation/park areas.

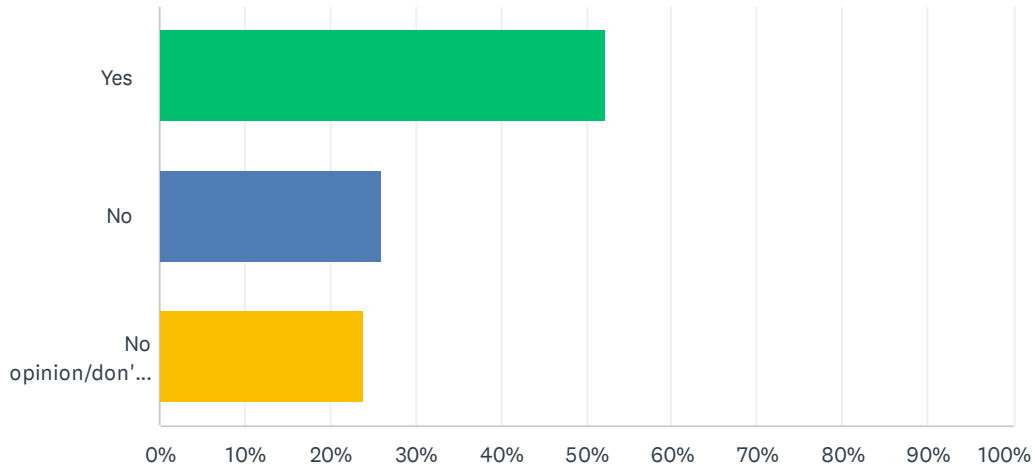
Answered: 91 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.95%	50
No	13.19%	12
Don't know	18.68%	17
No opinion	16.48%	15
Total Respondents: 91		

Q18 I think there is adequate parking at City Parks

Answered: 92 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	52.17%	48
No	26.09%	24
No opinion/don't know	23.91%	22
Total Respondents: 92		

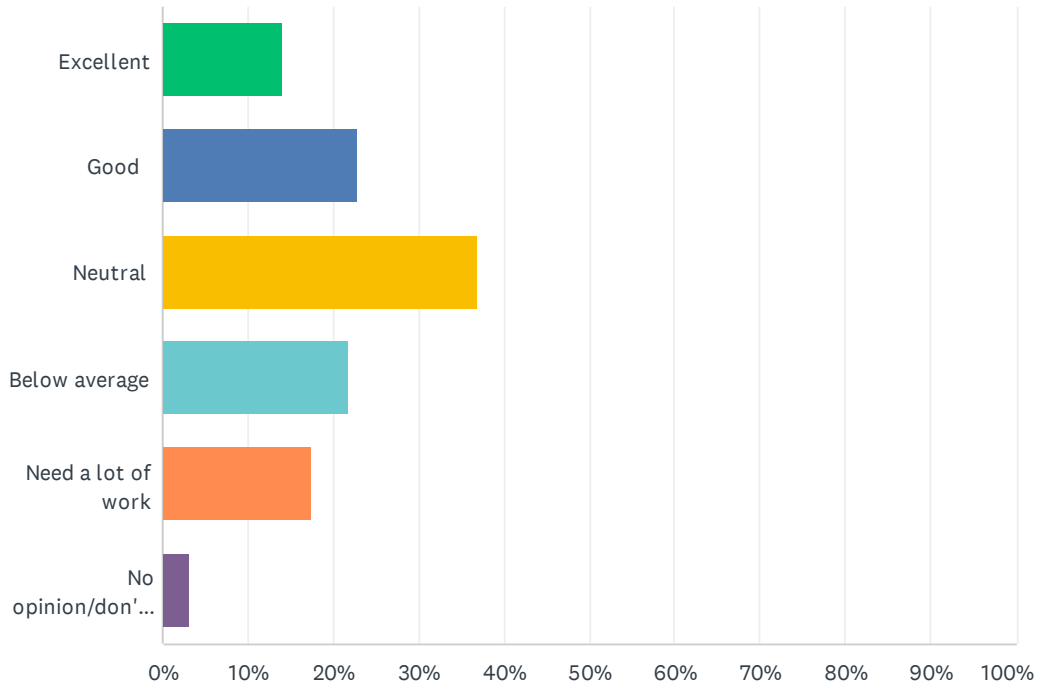
City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Q18 I think there is adequate parking at City Parks

COMMENTS	DATE
I honestly can't recall a time when I've seriously struggled to park anywhere at a City park or recreation space -- the closest correlation might well be the Arts District Park, where events happen on a fairly regular basis, but even there, I don't remember any major hassles.	10/19/2023 03:05 AM
It don't matter if you ride a bicycle motorcycle truck or car or even a horse I wouldn't park a vehicle or anything in there not safe everything is broken into anymore people are stealing left and right Benton Harbor is not a safe City neither is Benton Heights Benton Township	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
parking on the streets can be dangerous and parking in the grass will ruin the land	10/4/2023 09:03 PM
Some are better kept than others	10/4/2023 02:50 PM
No parking at Broadway Park.	10/3/2023 12:38 PM
You need to have a certain park in each ward that is really nice and shut the other ones down	9/29/2023 09:24 AM
There is no parking other than on the street	9/28/2023 08:43 PM
Some parks you have to park on the street and then walk to the park	9/27/2023 09:12 PM
WE.NEED BARRIERS TO PROHIBIT CARS FROM DRIVING INTO UNION PARK.	9/26/2023 01:16 PM
You have to park on street which is limited in many parks	9/19/2023 07:55 PM
Some yes....others no	8/14/2023 06:57 PM

Q19 What is your impression of overall City of Benton Harbor park maintenance or conditions?

Answered: 92 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	14.13%	13
Good	22.83%	21
Neutral	36.96%	34
Below average	21.74%	20
Need a lot of work	17.39%	16
No opinion/don't know	3.26%	3
Total Respondents: 92		

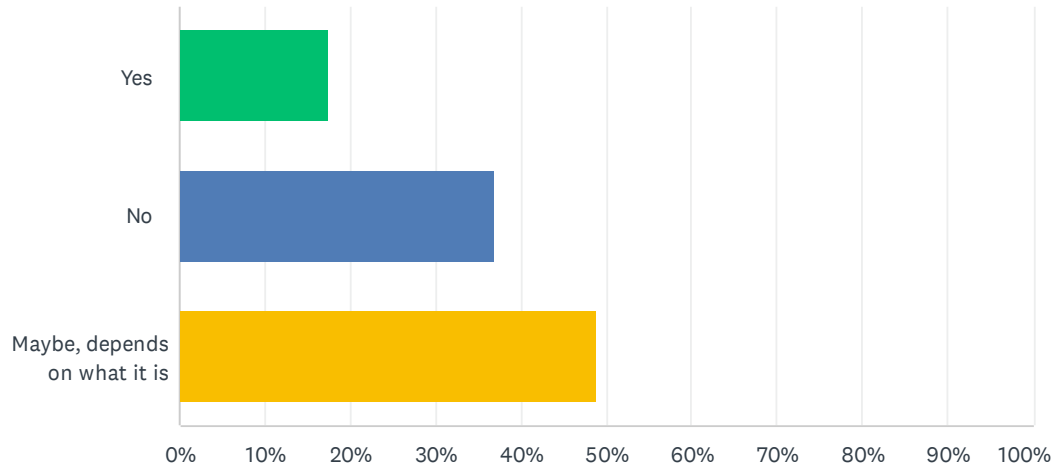
City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

Q19 What is your impression of overall City of Benton Harbor park maintenance or conditions?

COMMENTS	DATE
Many of the parks look trashy. They do not appear safe. There is a lot of unsavory activity going on nights at Jean Klock Park i.e. drag racing. That certainly does not contribute to a safe and inviting park. I want to be able to access all of the parks and feel safe. I also do not choose to go to parks that are not well maintained and have trash and old tires lying around as witnessed frequently at Hall Park.	10/29/2023 11:27 PM
From what I've seen, I'd say that City Staff are doing the best they can, considering the funding and manpower issues that they're having to deal with. Staff members are extremely dedicated, and there's no question how much they love their city. The major issue is finding a way to give them the resources they need, such as hiring more public works employees, which would go a long way. With 14 parks in the system, I suspect that there is a constant sense of playing catchup.	10/19/2023 03:05 AM
Once again too many drugs too many shootings not safe	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
Some parks seem better managed than others.	10/12/2023 05:18 PM
neighborhood pride groups to help maintain them.	10/4/2023 02:50 PM
Look at St. Joe parks and looks at Benton Harbor parks.	10/3/2023 10:38 PM
They not keeping them up	9/29/2023 09:24 AM
Getting better but improvement still needed.	9/26/2023 01:16 PM
Some of the equipment needs to be repaired, trash needs constant care, grass needs to be mowed in a regular.	9/19/2023 07:55 PM

Q20 I would contribute financially to a parks improvement project (donation/fundraiser).

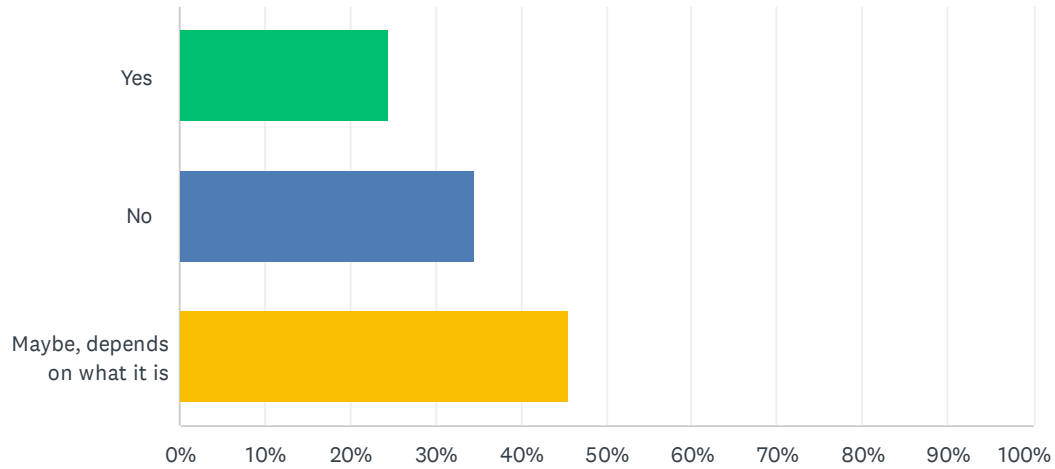
Answered: 92 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	17.39%	16
No	36.96%	34
Maybe, depends on what it is	48.91%	45
Total Respondents: 92		

Q21 I would contribute my time/volunteer for a parks improvement or maintenance project.

Answered: 90 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	24.44%	22
No	34.44%	31
Maybe, depends on what it is	45.56%	41
Total Respondents: 90		

Q22 What action could the City take to increase your family's use of parks?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 48

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Swing pool at hull park	11/2/2023 4:17 PM
2	Make them spaces that are inviting and enjoyable to spend time at. Places where people can be active if they choose but also where people can relax and enjoy nature if they choose.	10/29/2023 11:27 PM
3	N/A	10/29/2023 10:30 PM
4	More accessible for handicap	10/29/2023 9:53 PM
5	Better playgrounds and activities	10/29/2023 6:26 PM
6	Just making sure they are accessible (for handicapped)	10/29/2023 4:52 PM
7	I'd say more continual and systematic marketing/promotion is needed -- most people, in my experience, are aware of the major parks, like Dwight Mitchell, but not so much their smaller counterparts (like Britain Play Park, for example). Most people are equally surprised when I mention that there are 14 parks in the City, as well. These campaigns could be tailored around a particular event, or series of events, like the bus tours that have been discussed, for example. Similarly, something like the walking tours that the Morton House Museum has used to promote itself could certainly be expanded, and cross-promoted with other types of events, to get the biggest bang for your proverbial buck. Two sayings spring to mind here: "Activity breeds activity," and, "No one can tell your story better than you." Those are sayings that the City should keep top of mind in any outreach activities that it pursues.	10/19/2023 3:05 AM
8	Safety	10/17/2023 2:00 PM
9	I don't know	10/17/2023 11:35 AM
10	Close the parks down and open more parks that are not in Benton Harbor	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
11	Apply for federal and state grants. Employ seniors, youth., young people on college breaks Increase safety from drugs and gangs. More security be it police or paid security, Motor cycle. horse etc paid patrol. (grants)	10/10/2023 10:37 AM
12	free money for playing at it	10/6/2023 1:04 PM
13	fun thengs	10/6/2023 1:03 PM
14	scheduled family public events	10/5/2023 9:59 AM
15	block fun park parties	10/4/2023 9:03 PM
16	add walking trails and walking tracks, bike trails.	10/4/2023 2:50 PM
17	clean the parks up, put trash cans out, and when there are full empty them out. But no Benton Harbor will let them overflow for weeks.	10/3/2023 10:38 PM
18	N/a	10/3/2023 8:27 PM
19	Clean and safe places	10/3/2023 8:22 PM
20	More parking space	10/3/2023 7:45 PM
21	Safety and fun things to do	10/3/2023 7:37 PM
22	N/A	10/1/2023 9:02 PM
23	If anything, you need more job more work there	10/1/2023 9:28 AM
24	Communication	9/30/2023 1:08 PM

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

25	A lot stuff one can be more games and reach out to the	9/30/2023 11:58 AM
26	Improve infrastructure	9/30/2023 11:28 AM
27	Being better parks and being safe not all this fighting and gambling and drinking and smoking plus have a doggie park	9/29/2023 9:24 AM
28	Better playground for the children and seating for the adults	9/27/2023 9:12 PM
29	More acknowledgment As to what can or cannot be done at Various location.	9/26/2023 9:48 PM
30	More activities for the kids to do	9/26/2023 9:42 PM
31	Put restrooms, playground equipment and Pavilion	9/26/2023 8:49 PM
32	More parks	9/26/2023 8:35 PM
33	Clean and fix them.	9/26/2023 1:38 PM
34	Good upkeep	9/26/2023 1:16 PM
35	Cleaning , and more equipment for smaller children to play on	9/21/2023 8:14 AM
36	Parking	9/20/2023 7:23 PM
37	Make parks safer	9/20/2023 7:17 PM
38	Just clean up and make the park better	9/20/2023 7:12 PM
39	Better boat launches.	9/20/2023 7:11 PM
40	if they were better people would go more	9/20/2023 7:11 PM
41	Make more activities in parks by nonprofit organizations and get the word out. Also, \$300 to rent the park out is ridiculous. In other areas residents pay \$150 and non residents pay \$300.	9/19/2023 7:55 PM
42	Keeping them clean and safe.	9/13/2023 12:48 PM
43	Clean and safe	9/10/2023 5:19 PM
44	Better safety	8/15/2023 3:26 PM
45	Just make more fun than they use to be	8/15/2023 11:19 AM
46	Outreach from private and non profit organizations and public library	8/14/2023 6:57 PM

Q23 Please share your thoughts about a specific park you use

Answered: 30 Skipped: 64

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I was very unhappy to see the collapsed roof on the Bath House at Jean Klock Park! Part of the agreement for Harbor Shores to take part of the park (which was donated for the children of Benton Harbor in perpetuity) was to pay for and maintain the beach park for public use. If that building had been properly maintained, that roof never would have collapsed. I'm still angry that there are rules posted that are not enforced like people bringing their dogs to the park and driving all over the beach with their golf carts. The trash from fireworks that is left on the beach every year is disgusting. I've been involved with beach cleanups there and the number of cigarette butts, pieces of plastic, dirty diapers and other trash that we pick up every year is disgusting along with pieces of the orange fence that the city leaves behind every year. For a park that was very generously donated to the people of Benton Harbor, at times it does not look like the city values this jewel of a gift.	10/29/2023 11:27 PM
2	I don't go to any park.	10/29/2023 10:30 PM
3	I enjoy Jean klock because of the beach and concerts	10/29/2023 9:53 PM
4	Like broadway or the one across from family dollars they could use bigger and better equipment	10/29/2023 6:26 PM
5	I particularly enjoy the Arts District and Dwight Mitchell parks. Both are attractive and spacious areas, in prime locations, that offer a relaxing and comforting vibe. Same for Fisherman's Park, where my wife and I have sometimes parked, and eaten a takeout meal, while we sit by the river, and watch the world go by. Benton Harbor's parks are one of its best asserts, whose features could be further maximized -- with a little bit of strategic marketing and study, as I've suggested above, and community outreach tools like this particularly. There's a lot of potential here that can be strengthened and bolstered for future generations to enjoy.	10/19/2023 3:05 AM
6	Grew up going to jean clock park	10/17/2023 2:00 PM
7	It's a great park	10/17/2023 11:35 AM
8	Once again..I am white and itnis not safe ag the parks anymore I would not g ou to hang out in a park in benton harbor if u paid me	10/15/2023 11:12 PM
9	Read above items. Donations shoukdn't have to be made by the residents. Use taxes and all business 2 to 3% taxes for all parks.	10/10/2023 10:37 AM
10	i like we like it	10/6/2023 1:04 PM
11	plasis	10/6/2023 1:03 PM
12	All of them are just sad, if it wasn't for the few people that take their own time and money and clean them up, they wouldn't look like they do now. shit just sad.	10/3/2023 10:38 PM
13	I like Jean klock park	10/3/2023 8:22 PM
14	Jean Klock Park	10/3/2023 7:45 PM
15	June Woods was really nice.	10/3/2023 12:38 PM
16	Britain and Pipestone needs to be kept up	9/29/2023 9:24 AM
17	Hall park is in a very bad condition and would be nice if street lights lit the area up, more play equipment and picnic tables, trash bins, gazebos for when it rain or to be out the sun like Kiwanis park.	9/27/2023 10:42 PM
18	I really haven't gone to a park in Benton harbor because there isn't much to offer the kids to play with	9/27/2023 9:12 PM
19	Union & Broadway and hull basketball tournament	9/26/2023 9:42 PM

City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Survey

20	I absolutely love EdgeCumbe Park. It's near my house and all my sons played there growing up.	9/26/2023 8:49 PM
21	I love Jean Klock, great park	9/26/2023 8:35 PM
22	They all need work so we go to st joe	9/26/2023 1:38 PM
23	I like the upgrade of Union. now, the problem of cars in the park play areas and on the basketball courts is a new issues (sadly).	9/26/2023 1:16 PM
24	Pipestone park corner of Britain and Pipestone was very clean, quite and had just enough equipment for my grands to play on	9/20/2023 7:23 PM
25	Township Park 451 Zollar Dr Should have better blacktop and backboards with single rims	9/20/2023 7:17 PM
26	Township park is alright I guess it's not the worst but not the best	9/20/2023 7:12 PM
27	i dont have any thoughts	9/20/2023 7:11 PM
28	I just believe we need working cameras to enforce the upkeep of parks. Park rules should be posted and enforced.	9/19/2023 7:55 PM
29	Like union it used to be so fun	8/15/2023 11:19 AM
30	Roosevelt Park is directly in from where I live...I walk my dog there daily...I pick up the trash there daily...I even planted flowers in the park and I try to decorate it to bring a little holiday cheer to my city	8/14/2023 6:57 PM

In Person Park Event Survey Responses

CITY OF BENTON HARBOR PARK SURVEY 2023

UNION PARK: 8/15/223	DATE	PARK (if applicable)	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	WHAT THEY LIKE	ENHANCEMENTS
	08/15/23	Union Park	Rhonda		I like they they have different activities for the kids, and back-to-school activities. I wish they had more.	More swings and different things for the children
	08/15/23	Union Park	Tanuna		very nice equipment for the kids.	N/A
	08/15/23	Union Park	K	Henderson		Access to public bathrooms.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Kesh			Cleaner
	08/15/23	Union Park				Access to public bathrooms.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Carmeka	Triplett	It's a great park!	More youth events, more equipment for the kids. Water activities.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Phyllis	Patton	I love this park!	Pet activities, volleyball nets, and more events for the kids
	08/15/23	Union Park	Batista		I really like Union Park. It's fun and safe for the kids!	A soccer field would be nice.
	08/15/23	All Parks	J. Laverne			summer youth programs, security cameras, more lighting, trees for shade, ponds, flowers, drinking fountains, benches, grills, picnic tables, child friendly playground equip. skate board, concession stands.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Brittany	Ford		More swings, monkey bars, jump ropes, scale courses.
	08/15/23	Union Park				Swings, merry-go-rounds
	08/15/23	Union Park	Carmeka	Tripplett		Community pool, handicap rails on playground equipment for disabled kids. Water Parks.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Abisayo	Muhammad		Swimming Pool, More lights, access to restrooms, Staff to maintain park.
	08/15/23	Union Park			Love this park, cause kids can play and be safe.	I would like to see more people clean up.
	08/15/23	Union Park			This park is a good park.	Would like to see a better baseball field.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Cheryl	Autry		Volleyball
	08/15/23	Union Park				Volleyball Court
	08/15/23	Union Park	Lakisha	Travis	I Love this park!	Needs a volleyball area!
	08/15/23	Union Park				Volleyball would be nice to have in the parks
	08/15/23	Union Park				More oportunites for younger youth, like the Boy Scouts.
	08/15/23	Union Park				More safety awareness, police, ambulance, circus, amusment park activites.
	08/15/23	Union Park				better cleaning houses, kinds swings and games, more parks around schools.
	08/15/23	Union Park			I think the park is dirty, but it's still a fun place to play.	
	08/15/23	Union Park			Bathrooms should be open, and water fountains.	More activities for kids.
	08/15/23	Union Park				Baby swings, dog park, more picnic tables.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Destiny	Davis	I think it's a pretty nice park. I don't think anything should change.	
	08/15/23	Union Park	Janea			New basketball rims and more swings
	08/15/23	Union Park				More water fountains, gate the basketball courts.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Shakayla	Purnell		Water parks, Jungle gym, toddler playground, sandbox.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Debra Smith			More activities, more swings, New basketball rims.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Antonio	Sanders		More activies for the kids, and a swimming pool.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Sharon	Fayno	The park has came a long way.	Better activities for kids, playground, I would like to see more baseball and basketball tournaments.
	08/15/23	Union Park	Jade			Water slide, and more swings
	08/15/23	Union Park	Debra	Davis		Safer enviornment for the kids, no rough play
	08/15/23	Union Park	Iatielyn			More stuff to do for the kids, more picnic tables.
	08/15/23	All Parks	Rita	Harden		Sprinklers or pool, more swings, new baskeball rims, monkey bars, merry-go-round, sandbox
	08/15/23	June Woods	J			New swings, and cleaner park
	08/15/23	June Woods	Tozajanue			Vending machine, Skate park
	08/15/23	June Woods			I love the basketball court and the park itself.	
	08/15/23	June Woods	Delmyah		I love this park.	More swings
	08/15/23	June Woods			I love this park because it has swings	Add monkey bars
	08/15/23	June Woods			Very clean, always fun	
	08/15/23	June Woods	Destiny			More park lighting
	08/15/23	June Woods	Maliah			Keep the park more clean, get more swings
	08/15/23	June Woods	Dionna		It's nice, it's fun, it's a lot of things to do.	
	08/15/23	June Woods	Chanelle		The park is fun.	More slides
	08/15/23	June Woods	Dianghony			Gates around the basketball courts
	08/15/23	June Woods	Za'mariah		The park is fun, there are a lot of activites, and it's always clean, and we can win prizes.	

08/15/23	June Woods				Parks should have a cleanup crew and volunteer cleaning crews.
08/15/23	All Parks				All parks should have better slides and swings, merry-go-rounds, also need shaded area for parents.
08/15/23	June Woods	Ta'laya	Young		More drinking fountains.
08/15/23	June Woods				Better lights at night
08/15/23	June Woods	Zariah	Atkins		Trampoline, Pool
08/15/23	June Woods	Mike	Gross		Tree house playground, more trees
08/15/23	June Woods	Ali			Water slides, more stuff to give away, more sporting games, like basketball and soccer.
08/15/23	June Woods	Christine	Razor		More water activities, Little League sport games, family functions for the youth.
08/15/23	June Woods			It's a nice park.	
08/15/23	June Woods	Tamiya			Water park or sprinklers, a community pool.
08/15/23	June Woods	Dr. Carl			Get some kids and parents to teach around.
08/15/23	June Woods				less littering, more games to play, sturdier equip.
08/15/23	June Woods	Victoria	Williams		Splash pad, indoor pool connected by the park, skating rink, laser tag facility, vending machine
08/15/23	June Woods	Faith	Franklin		More events, more swings, better cleaned
08/15/23	June Woods	Jalayah	Garrett		Sandboxes, new/more events, more swings
08/15/23	June Woods	Temieka	Turner		Splash Pad, water fountains
08/15/23	June Woods	Sophia	Miller	Great job getting it together.	
08/15/23	June Woods			very fun and well taken care of.	
08/15/23	June Woods	Carmen	Paige		More benches and lighting
08/15/23	June Woods	Khamelle			More bathroom access, cameras, water fountains
08/15/23	June Woods				A bigger slide and more swings
08/15/23	June Woods			It's nice	
08/15/23	June Woods	Litty Hinn			Water parks, pool areas
08/15/23	June Woods	Toshima		It's a fun park	
08/15/23	June Woods			I like the way the park looks and I love being here.	
08/15/23	June Woods	Jayla		I like the park look, I'm glad they are fixing it up.	
08/15/23	June Woods	Tamaree		It's Fun	
08/15/23	June Woods	Da'myia		It's fun, and the park has food.	
08/15/23	June Woods	Emani			Bigger slides, more monkey parks
08/15/23	June Woods	Omarion			having security guards patrol from (2:30 pm - 10 pm) doing this will protect our kids.
08/15/23	June Woods	Sheila Atchee			Splash pads, more gymnastics, monkey bars, more swings sandboxes, races, music and games
08/15/23	June Woods	Mariah	B		Add more fun stuff for the kids.
08/15/23	June Woods	Bella		This park is fun.	
08/15/23	June Woods				More activites for the kids, more fun days like today, to get the people out, to get together and have fun.
08/15/23	All Parks				More fun things for kids to do.
08/15/23	June Woods/Union Park	Cam		Delighted to see the current improvements.	wading pool for kids, water park sprinklers, Additional gazebo, More flowers, more lights, speakers in the park for celebrations (Bluetooth), Movies in the park.
08/15/23	June Woods			Good condition, clean and nice park tents/basketball court.	Would like to see movie nights and more park activities.
08/15/23	June Woods	Jaida		The park is clean	I would like to see more activites.
08/15/23	June Woods	Hope	Franklin		More events, upgrade the park for the kids, more things to do that ill bring people together.
08/15/23	June Woods	Bryant	Jennings	I currently enjoy all of the activities that go on at the park.	More activites, playset or water park
08/15/23	June Woods				Have more activities for the kids and more games.
08/15/23	June Woods				Better, well-kept baseball field
08/15/23	June Woods			Awesome for the community. A place where childern can go have fun and play. The park is clean. Overall, I love the changes that are being made to the park, It could help stop violence.	I think there should be more things for the kids to play on.
(8) unable to read or said exact same thing					
08/26/23	Hall Park	Sameuel			Water slides for the kids in the summer and picnic tables.
	Edgecumbe Park	Commissioner Ethel Clark			I would like to see a bathroom, playground equipment and flowers.
	Any Parks/ All parks	Darshonda, TJ, Ty			Babies want bubbles and more infant and toddler activites for the kids and parents.
	All parks	Jamie			Volleyball nets, dog parks, skate parks
	Hall Park	Latisha	Glass		Anything to help out childeren with a whole heart. Jump ropes. a pool for the summer , board games, luches with snacks.
	Union Park	Dinah	Gray		More activites for small children
	All Parks	Debbie			Swings, Marry go rounds
	All Parks	Comm. Edward Isom			Walking paths, grills, flowers and plants, signage
	All Parks				A track, and skating ring all year round.
	Township	Kenny	Lewis		More basketball rims and repaire older rims
	Township	K	Hartman		Basketball newts back up
	All Parks	tyisha			New equipment for the parks, fence around parks.
	Hall Park	Miguel	Clark		Please fix basketball court

	Edgecumbe Park	Diane	Clark		Bathrooms and more swings.
	All Parks				Kept clean, no one hanging out drinking where people feel safe to go.
	All Parks				Art activities
	Union Park			like the expansion and updates.	less rawinging on the courts amd equipment
		angel	burgeson		Needs big clean up, update playground equipment, skateboard park.
	union park			I think the city could do a better job with park mantiance, keeping them clean and maintained and beter landscaping.	
	hull park				basketball, playground equipment, bathrooms
	All Parks	Laura	Trevino		Art, bathrooms
	Union park	Shaquille			Needs to be cleaned, security, lawn matinacce, more thigs to do for our children
	All Parks				Swings, slides, see saw, bathrooms
	Union park	Margaret			More parking, bathrooms open more, trash cans throught the park
	All parks	philander	martin	All the parks looks nice a beautiful	just keep them maintanced.
	All Parks				Bathrooms
	edecumbe				functionable for all kids.
	All parks	Ta'laya			skating rink, skate park area
	All parks	Brenton			Needs to be fixed up
	Edge Cumbe Park	Commissioner Ethal Clark Griffin			Pavilion, Restroom, New playground equipments and flowers. Lunch programs, family activities and youth programs. The memories of me and my 3 sons participating in park programs. My sons grew up going to park programs in this park.
	Creek Ravine	Crystal	Springs		Though presently not a park but once was a recognized garden and nature trail. I have been researching the layout this year and I hope that it would be included in the ox creek restrpation, would be happy to discuss any aspect of this area. could possibly be used with small groups to work. to restore this area.
	Hall park-broadway park	Samuel	burriss		summer job clean up for student. using our water in summer months on some form of play equipment that children can use to stay cool.
	All parks	Mary alic	adams		a climbing rockwall, waterslide type of playground equipment as we deal with global warming.
	Edwards park	danethel	whitfield		clean it up remove all debris in and around park. put up no dumping signs, cameras for employment. all new playground equipment and ground protective material, put in new pavillion, bbq grills, bathrooms in the buildings, plant grass and water foundations, baseball diamond, and lightning. Winter- Ice Skating rink. Develop grants, fundraising, volunteers put in the parks, and recreation departments.
	all parks	elizemper			family events and getting the community together more.
	Jean clark park and union park	joan	young		needs to be clean more often
	all parks	maryann	clark		more swings and slides and mary go rounds and more events for kids in the summer
	all parks	richard	irons	love to take kids to the park	needs more swings
	city parks				keep it clean, landscaping with flowers
	hall parks	carletta	spenser		needs to be cleaned up, more tables and grills, swings, baseball fields,
	edge cumbe Park	commissioner ethal	griffin		pavillion, playground, equipment, bathroom, and flowers
	All parks	anna			love to see the farmers market visable from the main road
	all parks city	todamic			better equipment and upkeep, accessible equipment for handicapped, and soft padded ground for smaller children.
	all parks	willie mae	hill		more swings
	union park/broadway park	danielle	love		union park could we do a challenge with things, let them learn how to do learning challenges to help with the upper body, one on one basketball with the girls vs boys or parents play games both park jumbo bingo, connect four. Wish it could be something for little girls to learn how o do hair, makeup, and painting canvas. let them draw how they feel about life.
	union park	lou	martin		bring back the mary go round
	all parks	yavone	moftit		I would like to see more activities for the kids to play on and more benches
	Jean clark park and union park	miquel	clark		a park should have 4 basics of a pocket ball and they are: seatings fixed benches and bleachers, movemnets, and each activity should be easy to get.
	union park	williams	whitfield		a splash pad or wading pool for the youth
	hall park	core counseling llc			volunteers to come and talk to youth about abuse.
	hall park	oalliyah	hornes		an activity that teaches art.

	hall park	earla	reyonalds		all parks need access to clean dinking water
	hall park	deb	panozzo		a volunteer crew that can clean up the parksweekly
	hall park	chole	gray		I wish the park had a volleyball net
	hall park	sasha	H		I want to see more sprinklers
	hall park				more activities for the youth
	all parks city				colorful community, installations. colorful painted tigers
	hall park				hall park to be like a fair park
	all parks			the parks has nice friendly people in my opinion	
	napier park	jett	newton		im glad theres a nice little community gathering spot right next to my dads house. all the families in the neighborhood are guaranteed to be there on a simple day.
	All parks				skating in parks, space for everyone to have room to ride their bike, day of the week scavenger hunts with family and friends. side walk with chalk and some art work. Jump rope and dance competition. once a month everyone come together allover the community have fun playing games with music and food.
	crystal springs/hall park	kathryn	jillson		amount of littering needs to be handled especially around the basketball court. I would like to see stonework repaired. the view thereof the processed walkway/bike trail along ox creek is priceless.
	all parks	elizemper			family events and getting the community more together.

NOTICE OF THE DRAFT PLAN FOR 30 DAYS PUBLIC COMMENT

AFFP
Notice of Draft City of BH

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MI }
COUNTY OF BERRIEN } SS

Notice of Draft City of Benton Harbor Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan available for public comment

The City of Benton Harbor is currently developing a five year Parks and Recreation Plan. A copy of the draft plan is available for review at City Hall, 200 E Wall Street, Benton Harbor, and on the city's website www.bhcity.us.

Julie Duschek, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Accounting Clerk of the Herald Palladium, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in St. Joseph, Berrien County, MI; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

Written comments can be sent by mail to City of Benton Harbor, 200 E Wall Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, dropped off, or emailed to the City Clerk at tmoore@bhcity.us.

November 15, 2023

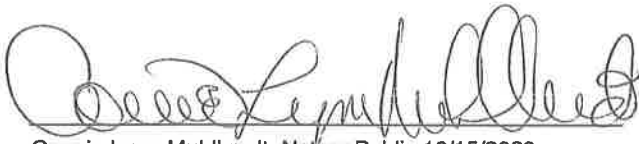
Publication Fees: \$ 79.50

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



Subscribed to and sworn to me this 15th day of November 2023.



Connie Lynn Muhlbradt, Notary Public 10/15/2029

CONNIE LYNN MUHLBRADT
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
My Commission Expires October 15, 2029
Acting in the County of _____

00008573 70824734

Accounts Payable
ABONMARCHE 180
95 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 9am-2pm EST



0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Miscellaneous
 Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off Entire Purchase. 10% Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-866-696-1709

Miscellaneous
 Replace your roof with the best looking and longest lasting material steel from Erie Metal Roof! Three styles and multiple colors available. Guaranteed to last a lifetime! Limited Time Offer 50% off installation + Additional 10% off install (for military, health workers & 1st responders.) Call Erie Metal Roofs: 1-866-718-3124

Miscellaneous
 The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149/month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-877-957-1264

0200 EMPLOYMENT

Director of Technology Services
 River Valley School District
 Employment Information at: www.rivervalley.schools.org
 Deadline: Oct. 31, 2023

M/HS P.E./Health Teacher Level II Cook
 River Valley School District
 Employment Information at: www.rivervalley.schools.org
 Deadline: December 1, 2023

The City of St. Joseph is currently accepting applications for the position of a full-time Laborer in the Parks and Cemetery Division. Applicants are required to have a valid Michigan Driver's license with a safe driving record, a Class B CDL or ability to obtain one within 6 months from the date of employment and a valid Michigan Category 6 pesticide applicators certification. The position starts at \$22.44. In addition to a competitive hourly rate, the City provides a generous benefits package that includes a defined benefit retirement plan. To apply, please submit a resume to the City of St. Joseph Personnel Department, 700 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI 49085, or imoree@sjcity.com. A full job description is available at www.sjcity.com. The first review of applications will begin November 15, 2023 and applications by this date are encouraged; however, the position is open until filled.

The City of St. Joseph is seeking a Utility Billing Specialist to join our team! The Utility Billing Specialist's primary tasks are the maintenance of the utility billing system and the general support of the Finance Department. Applicants must have excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Proficiency with Microsoft Excel is required, and familiarity with accounting

0200 EMPLOYMENT

systems and BS&A Software is a plus. The successful candidate will be mathematical, organized, and enjoy working with complex systems. They should also be skilled at meeting deadlines and balancing priorities, with the ability to work cooperatively as well as independently. Starting pay is \$21.11/hour. In addition to a competitive compensation package, the City of St. Joseph has a defined benefit plan for its retirement benefits, and offers great medical, dental and vision benefits and more! Application and complete job description are available online at www.sjcity.com. To apply please submit cover letter and resume to Personnel Department, 700 Broad St., St. Joseph, MI 49085 or to imoree@sjcity.com. The first review of applications will begin November 17, 2023 and applications by this date are encouraged; however, the position is open until filled.

0500 MERCHANDISE

Benton Harbor, MI Moving? Downsizing? 3 Pillars Music is looking to buy record albums from the late 1960s to present, (rock, jazz, R&B & soul), Guitars & stringed instruments.
 Please contact Tom at 269-313-7001 or 3pillarsmusic@gmail.com.

Benton Harbor Car Sale
 4 Pcs Coffee-Sofa Table \$225 & Server Side Board \$200 Excellent Condition
 Contact (269) 926-1934

0500 MERCHANDISE

WANTED OLD CARS "DEAD OR ALIVE"
 69's - 70's - 80's \$5 CASH \$\$

 CALL 630-660-0571
 FREE PICK UPS!

For Sale!
 - Snow Blower Troy Built #2921 \$500
 - Generator Troy Built 7,000 Running Watts Battery Start \$500
 - Tiller Troy Built 10" \$25
 - Weber Gas Grill with Cover \$100
 - Weber Smoker with Cover \$25
 Contact (269) 252-9647

0500 MERCHANDISE

For Sale!
 In North Shore Memorial Garden 2 Lots in the garden of love \$2,490 for both
 269-340-2460 or 269-479-8037

0500 MERCHANDISE

For Sale!
 Queen Sofa-Sleeper
 Good condition, can deliver.
 \$400 obo Call 269-428-3980 and leave message.

For Sale!
 2 Plots in North Shore Memory Gardens located in Garden of Peace. \$2400 for both.
 Call 269-325-2981 for more information.

WE BUY RIDING & COMMERCIAL MOWERS, TRACTORS, ATVs, GOLF CARTS, SCOOTERS, 4X4s, VEHICLES & ALL LAWN EQUIPMENT.



630-660-0571

MOTORCYCLES & SCOOTERS WANTED \$5 CASH PAID \$\$ ALL MAKES AND MODELS



630-660-0571

0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Benton Harbor, MI Area
 Nice newly remodeled 2 bedroom Homes for Rent Section 8 Ready
 Call or Text (269) 449-2362



Great Three (3) Bedroom Ranch on Maiden Lane in Saint Joseph.
 Recently Remodeled. St. Joseph Schools (across the street from Upton Middle School). Available immediately!
 Call Now (704) 858-2885 or (269) 921-6276. Rental Rate \$1800 A Month.
 Amenities include: High End Stainless Appliances, Washer & Dryer, Lovely and Huge fenced in Backyard with Large Patio, Two Car Attached Garage

0900 LEGALS

Notice of Draft City of Benton Harbor Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan available for public comment
 The City of Benton Harbor is currently developing a five year Parks and Recreation Plan. A copy of the draft plan is available for review at City Hall, 200 E Wall Street, Benton Harbor, and on the city's website www.bhcity.us.
 Written comments can be sent by mail to City of Benton Harbor, 200 E Wall Street, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, dropped off, or emailed to the City Clerk at improse@bhcity.us.

0900 LEGALS

STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT BERRIEN COUNTY NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate
 CASE NO. 97-0407-DE
 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085
 Court Address 863-862-7111
 Court telephone no.
 Estate of LOTTY A. VANDERBOEGH
 Date of birth: 07/10/1912
 TO ALL CREDITORS: **

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, LOTTY A. VANDERBOEGH, died 02/20/1997. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Binou L. Vanderboegh, 409 Edgewater Drive, Paw, St. Joseph, MI 49085, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085 and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice of publication of this notice.
 Date: November 9, 2023

Attorney: Malcolm J. Tiesley Bar no. P24791 1116 Law 1112 212 E. LaSalle Ave., Suite 100 South Bend, IN 46617 (574) 293-3538

Personal representative: Binou L. Vanderboegh 409 Edgewater Drive, Paw, St. Joseph, MI 49085 269-863-7111
 St. Joseph Charter Township Board of Trustees Regular Meeting November 6, 2023

SYNOPSIS

- Approved Consent Agenda
- Approved Rescess for Public Hearing
- Approved Rescove to Regular Meeting
- Approved Budget Adjustments
- Approved Police Collective Bargaining Contract
- Approved Resolution 2023-22 – General Appropriations
- Approved Resolution 2023-23 Local Governing Body Resolution for Charitable Gaming License - SJS&A
- Approved Resolution 2023-24 Opposition to Local Preemption on Utility-Scale Renewable Energy Facilities

REGULAR MEETINGS: 1st Monday of every month at 8:00 pm at the Township Hall, located at 3000 Washington Avenue.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS: 1st Monday of every month at 12:00 noon at the Township Hall.
 Patrice Rose, Clerk

Complete Tree Service - Senior & Veterans Discounts -



Willie Nearn Jr.
 and Associates
269-532-8156
 Making things happen by getting things done
FREE QUOTES & TREE INSPECTIONS

The City of South Haven is seeking qualified candidates for a City Engineer. Manages special projects, including complex engineering projects, from project conception through completion to ensure overall quality control and that the City's vision is realized, and its interests protected. Plays a prominent role in capital improvement, public works, Downtown District Authority, Board of Public Utilities, South Haven Area Water & Sewer Authority and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority projects.
 Must have a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, business/public administration or a related field and five or more years of experience in project management, civil engineering or a related field. Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of MI. Must have a current/valid State of MI driver's license and good driving record.
 Candidates may apply online at www.southhavenmi.gov. The City of South Haven is an Equal Opportunity Employer who places a high value on diversity, equity and inclusion.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED CHANGE TO CORN MARKETING PROGRAM OF MICHIGAN CORN GROWERS

Held by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development in accordance with the Agriculture Commodities Marketing Act 1965 PA 232
 Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 9:00 am
 In-person: MDOT Aeronautics Auditorium 2700 Port Lansing Road, Lansing, MI 48906
 Virtual: Microsoft TEAMS: +1 248-509-0316, 324243307#
 Pontiac Phone Conference ID: 324 243 307#

Written Comments: Send written comments by 5pm, Friday, December 1, 2023, to: Bradley Deacon, Hearings Officer, MDARD, PO Box 30017, Lansing, MI 48909, or email to guardiola1@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Director has received a request to consider an amendment to the Corn Marketing Program of Michigan to allow collection of an additional \$0.01 per bushel of Michigan corn sold. The additional funding would be invested in research, marketing, promotion, and education to increase the profitability of Michigan's corn producers. The current Program and proposed amendment are available at www.michigan.gov/mdard or by calling 517.284.5730. This hearing is to determine whether there is sufficient support for this proposal to send it to a vote of all corn producers.

Persons needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact Jamie Guardiola at (517) 284-5730, a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

RESERVE THIS SPACE TODAY!



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NOTICE AND MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

AFFP
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MI }
COUNTY OF BERRIEN } SS

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF BENTON HARBOR
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Julia Duschek, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Accounting Clerk of the Herald Palladium, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in St. Joseph, Berrien County, MI; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

December 02, 2023

A PUBLIC HEARING has been set for January 10, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. local time during the Public Safety and Parks Committee meeting, at the City of Benton Harbor Commission Chambers for the purpose of receiving public comment on the draft 2024-2028 City of Benton Harbor Parks and Recreation Plan.


The City will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, upon request with at least 3 days-notice to the City of Benton Harbor Clerk. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the City of Benton Harbor Clerk by calling the following: 269-927-8408.

Tiffany Moore
Clerk, City of Benton Harbor

Publication Fees: \$ 113.25

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

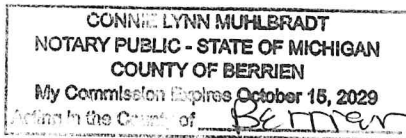
SIGNED:



Subscribed to and sworn to me this 2nd day of December 2023.



Connie Lynn Muhlbradt, Notary Public 10/15/2029



00008573 70826996

Accounts Payable
ABONMARCHE 180
95 West Main Street
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

The Herald-Palladium

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-800-356-4262 Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm, Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am

0200 EMPLOYMENT

!!! Employment Opportunity !!!
 Evening Janitor \$15/hr Bridgman
 Sun - Th 6PM - 2:30AM
 Please call 269-983-3050 for details

M/ HS P.E./ Health Teacher/ Level II Cook/ IT Support Technician
 River Valley School District
 Employment Information at: www.rivervalleyschools.org
 Deadline: December 1, 2023

0400 FARM

Hartford Area Farmers!!
 Loosing soybean yield to SDS?
 We can help.
 Call Gary at 517-930-5370

0500 MERCHANDISE

!!! For Sale !!!
 American Girl Doll
 Long Blonde Hair
 With Green Eyes
 \$60.00 Call 269-429-8712 for more information.

0500 MERCHANDISE

!!! For Sale !!!
 Two lots at North Shore Memorial Gardens
 \$1200 OBO for both
 call William at 269-621-3324 for more information

Benton Harbor, MI
 Moving? Downsizing?
3 Pillars Music is looking to buy record albums from the late 1960s to present, (rock, jazz, R&B & soul), Guitars & stringed instruments.
 Please contact Tom at 269-313-7001 or 3pillarsmusic@gmail.com.

Benton Harbor For Sale:
 4 Pcs Coffee-Sofa Table \$200 & Server Side Board \$175
 Excellent Condition
 Contact (269) 926-1934

Classifieds Make a Cash Connection!


0500 MERCHANDISE

WANTED OLD CARS "DEAD OR ALIVE"
 60's - 70's - 80's
 \$\$ CASH \$\$



CALL 630-660-0571 FREE PICK UPS!

MOTORCYCLES & SCOOTERS WANTED
 \$\$ CASH PAID \$\$
 ALL MAKES AND MODELS



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0800 TRANSPORTATION

2010 Silver Chrysler Sebring Convertible
 Factory installed motor with 46,000 miles (odo 134,600)
 Very good condition.
 Located in St Joseph. \$5258
 Call or text Joe @269-208-9010

0900 LEGALS

LEGAL NOTICE
 CITY OF BENTON HARBOR
 BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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Tiffany Moore
 Clerk, City of Benton Harbor

RESERVE THIS SPACE TODAY!

BENTON CHARTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PLANNING COMMISSION

TO: **Property owners of Benton Charter Township, Berrien County, Michigan, and other interested parties.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Benton Charter Township Planning Commission, Berrien County Michigan, will hold a Public Hearing (during a special meeting of the Planning Commission) on Monday, December 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. located at the Benton Charter Township Hall, 1725 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, to consider the following agenda items:

- 1. Stephen W Smith of Foster Swift PC Attorneys on behalf of McManus Properties 2013, LLC of 3825 E Britain Ave., BH 49022 is seeking a special use permit at parcel on E Napier (part of property ID#: 11-03-0026-0011-06-0) for use as a private burial ground... subject to and in compliance with county and state governmental approvals as described by Michigan statute (public hearing).**
- 2. Bruce Binger (Milburg Equipment Co), owner, 1171 Milton St, Benton Harbor, MI 49022 is seeking a special land use permit to build vacation cabins on the property located at 4545 Territorial as shown on his submitted site plan (property ID#: 11-03-0013-0032-03-5; 11-03-0013-0031-04-7; 11-03-0013-018-08-3) (public hearing).**

PLEASE BE NOTIFIED that you are invited to attend the hearing and present your opinions or position relative to the subject of this hearing. If you are unable to attend the hearing, you may send a letter stating your opinions or positions to the Planning Commission, Benton Charter Township, 1725 Territorial Road, Benton Harbor, MI 49022. Attention: Zoning Administrator. You may also send that correspondence to the Zoning Administrator electronically via email to cfuchs@bentonchartertownship-mi.gov. Written comments are to be received no later than 12pm (noon) November 10, 2023.

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN that until the close of the public hearing or any adjournment thereof, the proposed ordinance, applications, and supporting documents may be inspected and examined at Township Hall Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. during normal business hours. Individuals requesting reasonable accommodations for impairments or disabilities should contact the Township no later than five (5) days prior to the public hearing.

Chris Fuchs, Building Official and Zoning Administrator

DATED: November 29, 2023
 PUBLISHED: December 2, 2023

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 and Associates

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**CITY OF BENTON HARBOR
PUBLIC SAFETY & RECREATION COMMITTEE
LULA LEE COMMISSION CHAMBERS
JANUARY 10, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Commissioner Singleton, Chairperson. Also present were: Commissioner Isom, Co-Chair, Representative Fields, Representative Gunter, Building Inspector Bennett, Fire Marshall Kazmierzak, Public Safety Director McGinnis, Public Works Supervisor Meeks, Director of Community & Economic Development/Assistant, City Manager Little, Clerk Moore, and members of the audience.

DECEMBER 13, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

There were no questions regarding the minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2024-2028 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Chair Singleton opened the Public Hearing at 5:31pm

Manager Mitchel stated this plan is critical for the City to have a Parks and Recreation Plan so that we'll be able to go for funding and it's also a part of the Master Plan.

Joelle Regovich with Abonmarche stated she has been part of the process to help develop the Parks and Recreation Plan for the City in order to comply with DNR requirements, they have certain steps that are required and one of them is to have a Public Hearing to get Public Comment on the plan, it has been available for the public to review and comment on since November 15th. Comments were to be sent to the City Clerk and there haven't been any received. This is the last time for people to weigh in on the plan and share any comments to be incorporated into the plan before it's accepted by Commission. She went through some of the highlights of the plan and main goals listed in the plan.

Director Little stated the plan addresses all parks, Hall Park, which is associated with the Ox Creek Redevelopment and other components that expected to be added would be a part of this. Most importantly, without a 5 year Recreation Plan, the City is not eligible to receive a lot of the recreation money that's available through DNR. The City hasn't received it in several years, one of the reasons that's being worked on is eliminating a problem developed with Emergency Manager when they did a mediation plan that provided several sites in the downtown area to supposedly offset land that was being used where funding had been provided from the federal and state government. In Jean Klock Park one of those sites happened to be right where the building was put for the dialysis and by doing that we violated that mediation agreement and until we can satisfy the feds and state with that we're not eligible. This plan is the other component.

Representative Fields asked if a bathroom or water access was included and Yarbrough Park. Joelle stated it was kept broad and was stated just in general to add bathrooms to parks so there was more flexibility in the grant application to pick and park to add bathrooms.

Representative Gunter asked if there was a timeline. Joelle stated that the plan has to be submitted by February 1st, if the city want to apply for grants this year those due dates are April 1st, and decisions are made in December to start projects next year if awarded.

Fields asked if there would be more engagement in regards to what in particular would be done. Joelle stated if applying for a certain project there would be another layer of community engagement to get feedback on that particular project. This plan is just an overall guideline identifying some things we would like to work on and tackle each project one by one, find funding, get it implemented and move on to the next.

Co-Chair Isom asked if there was a plan for maintenance for each park. Joelle stated that is a goal. Isom asked about the Priority Health exercise center. Joelle stated that was one of the broad things incorporated into the goals. Manager Mitchell stated we would have to find a new location.

Commissioner Henry asked the difference in the Community Block Grant Parks and Rec plan compared to this one and how much is Ox Creek included in this plan. Director Little stated the important thing to understand is that we outline and design the scope of interest that the community has in various recreation activities, goals,

and objectives and it may not all get done, parts may occur at different time and order and a lot of it depends on the availability of funding or doing certain things. He stated that Community Block Grant right now doesn't have a Parks and Rec plan. Joelle stated one of the goals listed is to develop the Ox Creek Corridor.

Henry stated a good job was done documenting who was spoken to but the amount of residents was very low. Commissioner Clark-Griffin would like to see bathrooms or porta in all parks. As far as the Armory, she only see elevators and bathrooms, she would like to see a Teen Center, family evens, senior event, it was a community center for years. She would like to see all new equipment in Edgcomb Park, ADA accessible, picnic tables, grills, bathroom, pavilion, flowers. She didn't see Juneteenth listed under Pete Mitchell Park. , it's the 5th year and shows disrespect to not include that, especially considering 83.1% of Benton harbor is African American and it is a celebration.

Richard Rabbers suggests a review of the names of the Parks to make sure they are accurate.

James Ducan would like hot running water at all the parks, drinking water at the river 1st, then a fish cleaning station.

Clark-Griffin stated that the bathrooms at Jean Klock Park are atrocious, there were grants approved and the pavilions need fixed and there are cracks in the walkway.

Joelle stated the Armory grant awards haven't been released yet. The Spark Grant was awarded to Hall Park and the City is applying for another Spark Grant for Jean Klock Park.

Representative Gunter asked if feedback could be provided even after February 1st. Joelle stated feedback is always welcome.

Representative Fields stated that surveys were done at the High School as well as every event in the City to gather comments and feedback.

Chair Singleton Closed the Public Hearing at 5:58pm

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Director McGinnis reported there has been an increase in both policy and fire calls and even with a diminished staff those are still being met.

Fire Marshal Kazmierzak explained the importance of the City's ISO rating, which governs insurance rates, specifically for commercial properties. The City went from a 6 to almost a 2, barely a 3, which is almost unheard of to jump that many places in one rating session.

McGinnis presented the Reorganization of Code Compliance and how they are trying to add administrative structure to be more efficient. Moving forward Kazmierzak will be the Deputy Director of Fire doing administrative work over the Building Department and Code Enforcement. Officer Bruce will be the Chief Code Investigator. 2 full time firefighters/code officers will be added. The rational is to increase personnel and the number of inspections. He mentioned this is a reorganization and is already budgeted. He introduced a new model absorbing the Code Compliance Department in to Fire. This will increase enforcement to 7 days a week and increase the life safety for residents and be more efficient in coordination with Community & Economic Development and bring more efficiency to meet goals and standards of the Commission and community. He went over the Divisions and Responsibilities where he will be focusing on Ordinances updates, fee schedules and best practices. Kazmierzak will head policies, procedures, and deployment strategies. The Building Department will focus on permits, new construction, electrical and mechanical inspectors, zoning administration and coordination with Planning Commission. The Code department will focus on rental and commercial inspections, code violation enforcement, Marijuana compliance, environmental investigations and assist with income tax compliance. He went through some of the enforcement priorities.

Director Little stated that enforcement of rules help keep the City in shape, the City is a business and needs money.

Commissioner Henry stated this is an avenue for the newsletter to let residents know.

Commissioner Kinnard mentioned erosion in Hall park.

James Duncan mentioned the driveway at City hall being a mess.

PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

Manager Mitchell explained the complaint log where the majority goes to Public Works. Garbage pick up is new within the last 2 years and there are only 10 employees in the department.

Supervisor Meeks stated having 4 employees in garbage daily, that only leave 4-5 other employees for day to day duties. Jason Marquardt with Abonmarche spoke on the many duties of Public Works.

Chair Singleton stated he is aware of the challenges and the goal is to help get the job done.

Commissioner Kinnard asked if there was a daily log kept. Meeks responded there are daily assignment sheets and schedules and 80% of the department are doing trash.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Henry asked when contracts are signed if they pay income taxes. The answer was everyone who lives or works in the City is subject to income tax payments.

Commissioner Kinnard stated the residents on Columbus are upset that the road is tore up. Supervisor Meeks stated it will be finished in the Spring.

James Duncan asked for the drain to be quieted in front of his house for months and was told it would be taken care of. Jason Marquardt stated that they tried before Christmas to put something there to soften it, the other option is to change the bolted cover.

Commissioner Clark-Griffin spoke on the low amount of income taxes being paid and stated that something has to give if we are only collecting 10% at best.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2024-2028 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

Commissioner Henry asked if any changes can be shown in Red.

Consensus of the Committee to forward to the City Commission for consideration.

RESOLUTION APPROVING 118TH BLOSSOMTIME FESTIVAL PARADE AND RUN FOR THE BUDS

Consensus of the Committee to forward to the City Commission for consideration.

BUILDING OFFICIAL CONTRACT

Director McGinnis stated there was no consistency in the Building Official position, which is the foundation of the department. He introduced Todd & Lisa Herter who he has met with several times and they have spent time with Inspector Bennet in the City and are ready to start.

Todd & Lisa Herter introduced themselves and their background and the services that they will provide to the City.

For clarification, Co-Chair Isom stated as part of the agreement that the City would provide a vehicle, the initial contract would be for 90 days at \$45 per hour for the Official and \$30 per hour for the Administrator, office hours of Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 9am to 3pm.

Director McGinnis stated this would be a special circumstance contract for 90 days, the goal would be for the pay to be based off a percentage of the permit fees.

Consensus of the Committee to forward to the City Commission for consideration.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR GREEN & EDWARDS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Jason Marquardt with Abonmarche presented the project for Green & Edwards reconstruction from Morton to Winans. The work includes installation of water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, catch basins, storm manholes, and hydrants. He provided alternative bids for concrete instead of asphalt and although the longevity of concrete is longer, it is harder to maintain, takes longer to install and cost more. B and Z was low on both bids. The contractor provided good faith efforts with B and Z to hire 5 local residents, they already have 3 local minority employees.

Consensus of the Committee to forward to the City Commission for consideration, using asphalt for the project.

CONTRACT AWARD FOR MAY & MONROE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Jason Marquardt with Abonmarche presented the project for May & Monroe reconstruction on May from Broadway to Hurd and on Monroe from Emery to May. The work includes installation of water main, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, catch basins, storm manholes and hydrants. He provided alternative bids for concrete instead of asphalt, with Northern Construction being low on the base asphalt bid and B and Z being low on the alternative concrete bid. Northern Construction solicited Meeks Construction, who has approximately 8 residents employed.

Consensus of the Committee to forward to the City Commission for consideration the award to Northern Construction, using asphalt.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Chair Singleton at 7:58pm

Tiffany Moore, City Clerk

MINUTES FROM MEETING TO PASS A RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLAN

TRANSMITTAL LETTERS TO THE COUNTY AND REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES