



## CITY OF WILLIAMSTON

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda  
To be held in the Williamston City Hall Council Chambers located at  
161 E. Grand River Avenue, Williamston, MI 48895  
(517) 655-2774

**Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Approval of Agenda
5. Audience Participation – Maximum 5 minutes per presentation. Subject matter on non-agenda items only.
6. Approval of Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2023
7. Action Items
  - a.
  - b.
8. Discussion Items
  - a. Parks Plan Survey results
  - b. Parks Plan Goals and Objectives
  - c. Parks Plan process
  - d. Memorial Park Trail Grant
  - e. Urban Tree Grant
9. Staff Reports
  - a. City Manager
10. Audience Participation – Maximum 5 minutes per presentation. Subject matter on non-agenda items only.
11. Member Comments
12. Adjourn to the Call of the Chair

Outstanding Projects – Grist Wheel Turbine

In Accordance with Public Act 267 (Open Meetings Act) Posted and Copies Given to Newspapers  
Individuals with disabilities requiring special assistance who are planning to attend the meeting should contact the Office of the City Clerk for accommodations. This request must be made two (2) business days in advance of the meeting.

**The next regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission will be held  
Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers**

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pg 1

**CITY OF WILLIAMSTON  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Williamston City Hall Council Chambers by Chairman Earl Wolf and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3. Roll Call:**

Chairman Earl Wolf, Vice Chair Teri Nelson, Commissioners Terry Hansen, and Tammy Scott. Absent: John Magee, Byron Aldrink, and Kent Hall (arrived 7:08 pm).

Also present: City Manager John Hanifan, Deputy Clerk Barbara Burke, and Tammy Gilroy.

**4. Approval of Agenda:**

Motion by **Nelson**, second by **Hansen**, to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**5. Audience Participation:**

Chairman Wolf called for public comments at this time and there were none.

**6. Approval of Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of August 9, 2023:**

Motion by **Nelson**, second by **Scott**, to approve the Parks & Recreation Commission regular meeting minutes of August 9, 2023, as presented. **Motion passed by voice vote.**

**7. Action Items**

**8. Discussion Items**

**8a. & 8a (i) Parks Plan Update & Parks Plan Survey 2023:**

Manager Hanifan said City staff will update the Plan for the Commission to review and discuss. The expected timeline is to have the Commission adopt a draft in December and the final Parks Plan submitted by February 2024. The community parks survey has been live for approximately three weeks, and we have received just under 200 responses so far. The survey is live until September 27. He will have this feedback available at the next meeting.

Commissioner Hansen said the fence at Volunteers Community Park looks great and the resurfacing of the basketball courts was done quickly.

It was mentioned the island at Memorial Park should be named and acknowledged (perhaps Scout Island).

**8b. Grant Updates:**

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pg 2

Manager Hanifan discussed the walk through/site visit for the Memorial Park/Honor For All Trail grant by Ingham County, held on August 22.

*(Kent Hall arrived 7:08 pm.)*

**8c. Pavilion Update:**

Manager Hanifan said Council approved the bid for the construction of the pavilion. This will replace the older pavilion in McCormick Park. Construction will start around October 2 and should take about three weeks.

**8d. Red Cedar River Day Celebration, Sat., 9/30/2023**

Chairman Wolf distributed flyers and reviewed the events that will take place that day.

**9. Staff Reports**

**9a. City Manager:**

Manager Hanifan said he and Mayor Gilroy met with the Red Cedar Garden Club and had a very good discussion.

**10. Audience Participation:**

Chairman Wolf called for public comments at this time and there were none.

**11. Member Comments:**

Commissioner Scott said the Williamston Eagles will be starting euchre tournaments again.

Commissioner Nelson has heard good things about the Eagles parking lot availability for parents/students during the road construction.

Commissioner Hall said his friend Tom Mahany is from Royal Oak and loves our town of Williamston.

Commissioner Hansen said this is the only Commission that has a TV show named after it.

Chairman Wolf looks forward to the Red Cedar River Day Celebration. He mentioned an upcoming Veterans Day program.

**12. Adjournment:**

Chairman Wolf adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:47 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Barbara J. Burke, City Deputy Clerk**

**Date Approved:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Williamston, MI Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey 2023

Thursday, October 05, 2023

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8a  
pg 1

**218**

Total Responses

Date Created: Thursday, July 27, 2023

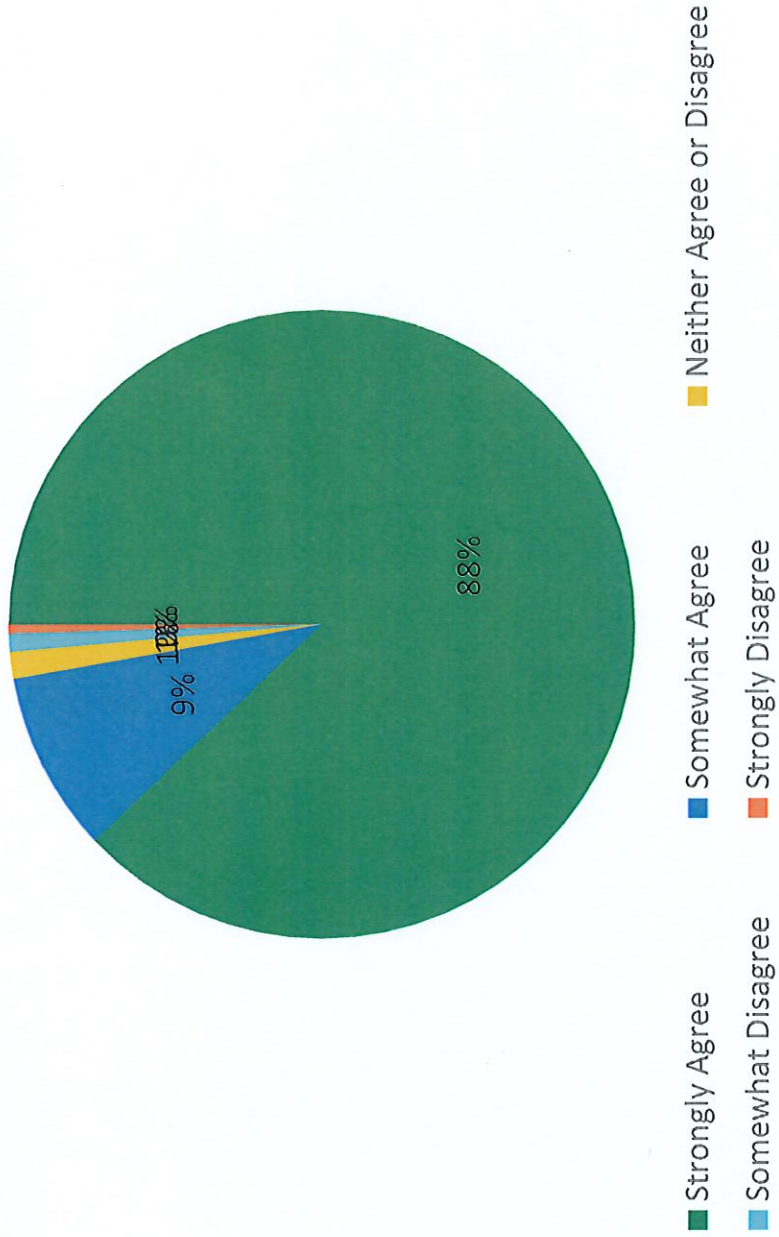
Complete Responses: 218

Powered by  SurveyMonkey

80  
pg 2

# Q1: I believe parks and recreational programs are vital to our community.

Answered: 216 Skipped: 2



# Q1: I believe parks and recreational programs are vital to our community.

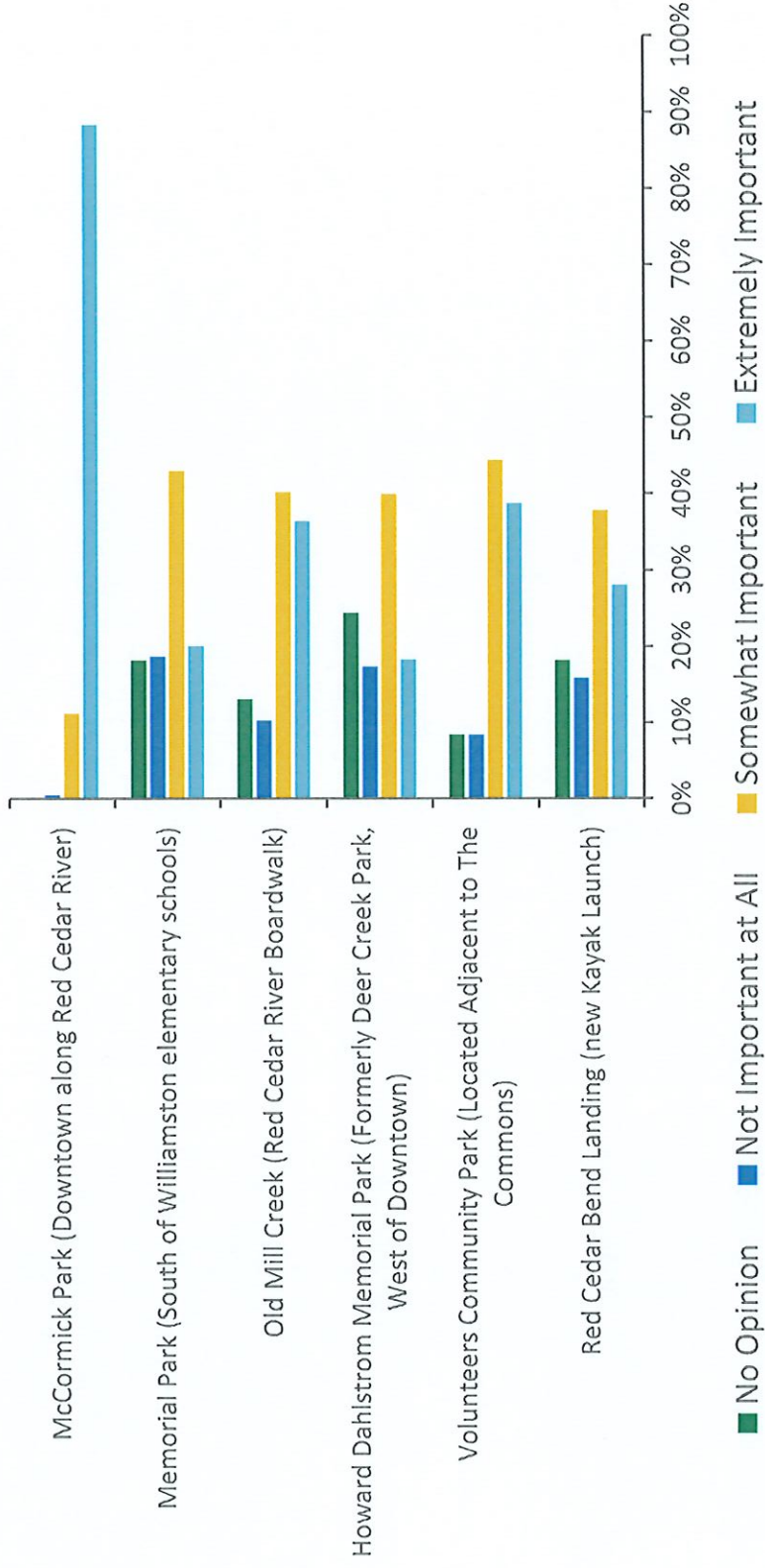
Answered: 216 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Strongly Agree	87.96% 190
Somewhat Agree	9.26% 20
Neither Agree or Disagree	1.39% 3
Somewhat Disagree	0.93% 2
Strongly Disagree	0.46% 1
TOTAL	216

8a  
pg4

## Q2: Please rate the following Williamston parks and recreational facilities in terms of their importance to you.

Answered: 214 Skipped: 4





## Q2: Please rate the following Williamston parks and recreational facilities in terms of their importance to you.

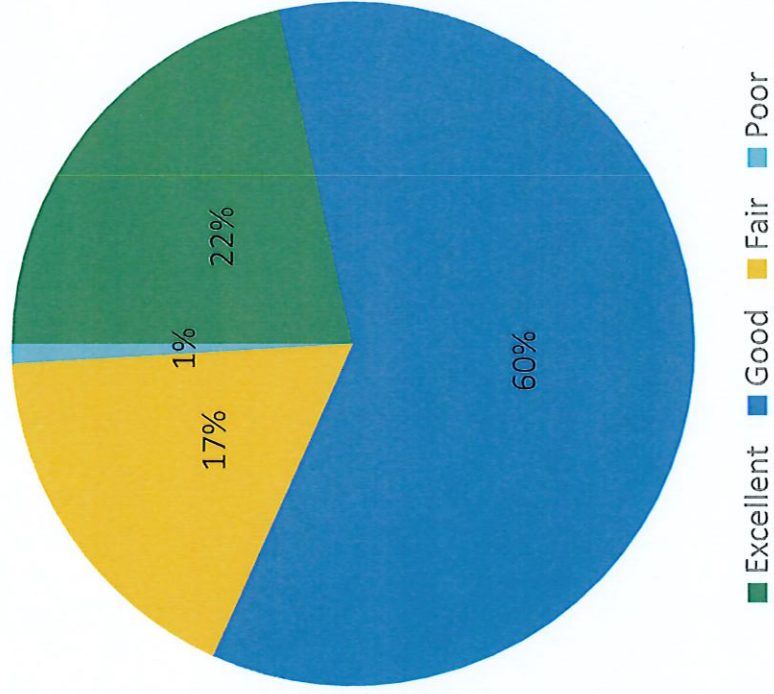
Answered: 214 Skipped: 4

	NO OPINION	NOT IMPORTANT	SOMEWHA T	EXTREMEL Y	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
McCormick Park (Downtown along Red Cedar River)	0%	0.47%	11.21%	88.32%	214	3.88
	0	1	24	189		
Memorial Park (South of Williamston elementary schools)	18.22%	18.69%	42.99%	20.09%	214	2.65
	39	40	92	43		
Old Mill Creek (Red Cedar River)	13.08%	10.28%	40.19%	36.45%	214	3
	28	22	86	78		

86  
page

### Q3: How would you rate the condition and maintenance of McCormick Park, located Downtown along the Red Cedar River?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 4



### Q3: How would you rate the condition and maintenance of McCormick Park, located Downtown along the Red Cedar River?

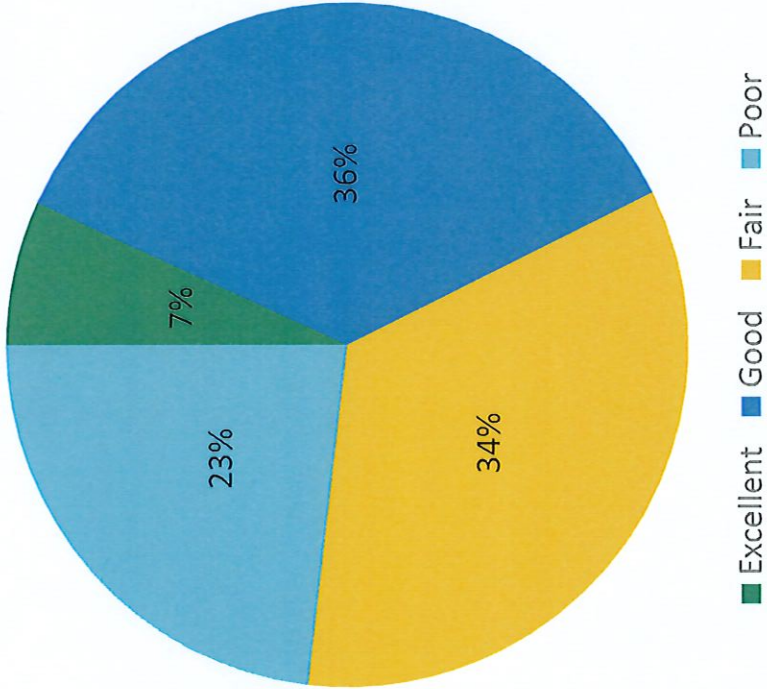
Answered: 214 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	46 21.50%
Good	129 60.28%
Fair	37 17.29%
Poor	2 0.93%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>

8a  
pg 8

# Q4: How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Memorial Park, located South of Williamston elementary schools?

Answered: 190 Skipped: 28



see pg 9

# Q4: How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Memorial Park, located South of Williamston elementary schools?

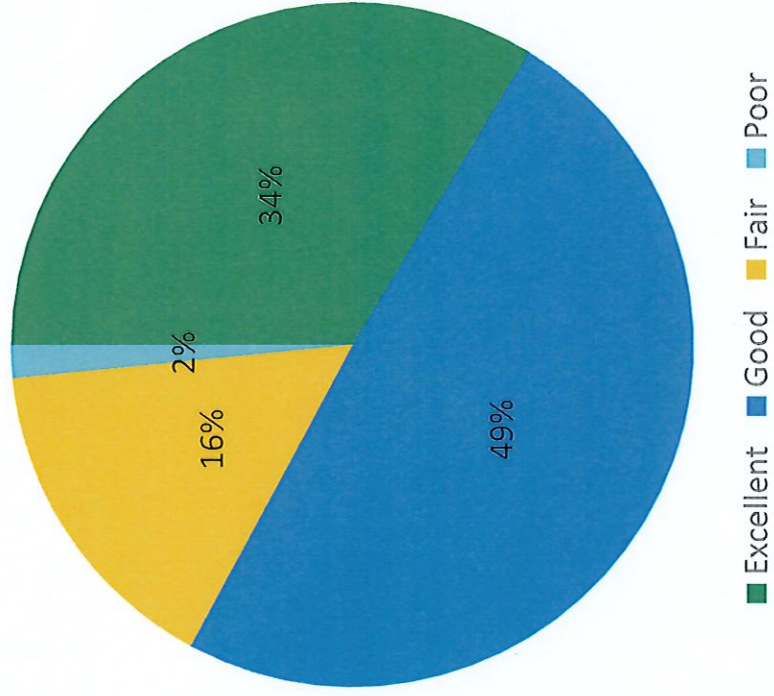
Answered: 190 Skipped: 28

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	13 6.84%
Good	68 35.79%
Fair	65 34.21%
Poor	44 23.16%
TOTAL	190

8a  
pg 10

# Q5: How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Old Mill Park, the Red Cedar River boardwalk?

Answered: 193 Skipped: 25



8a  
pg 11

# Q5: How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Old Mill Park, the Red Cedar River boardwalk?

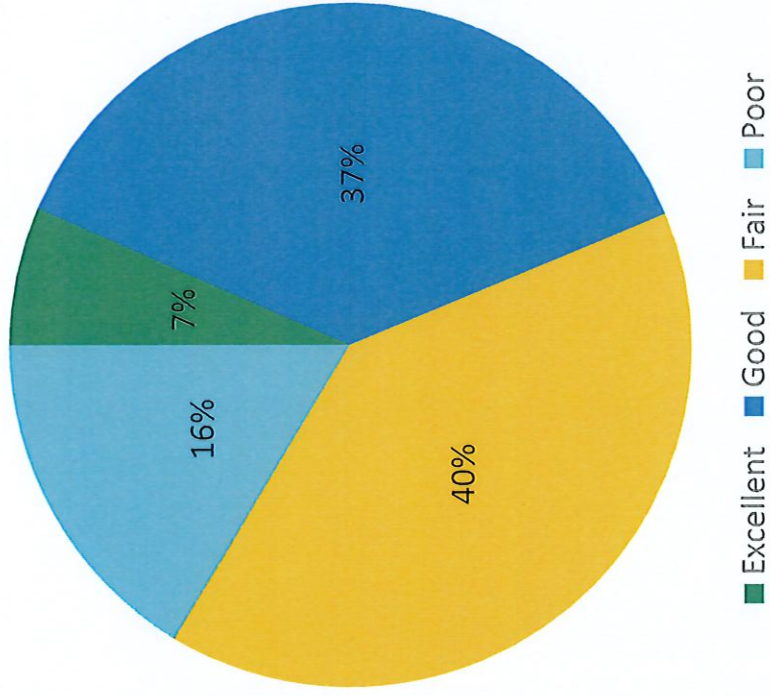
Answered: 193 Skipped: 25

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	33.68% 65
Good	49.22% 95
Fair	15.54% 30
Poor	1.55% 3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>193</b>

pg 12

# Dahlstrom Memorial Park, formerly Deer Creek Park and located West of Downtown?

Answered: 183 Skipped: 35





# Dahlstrom Memorial Park, formerly Deer Creek Park and located West of Downtown?

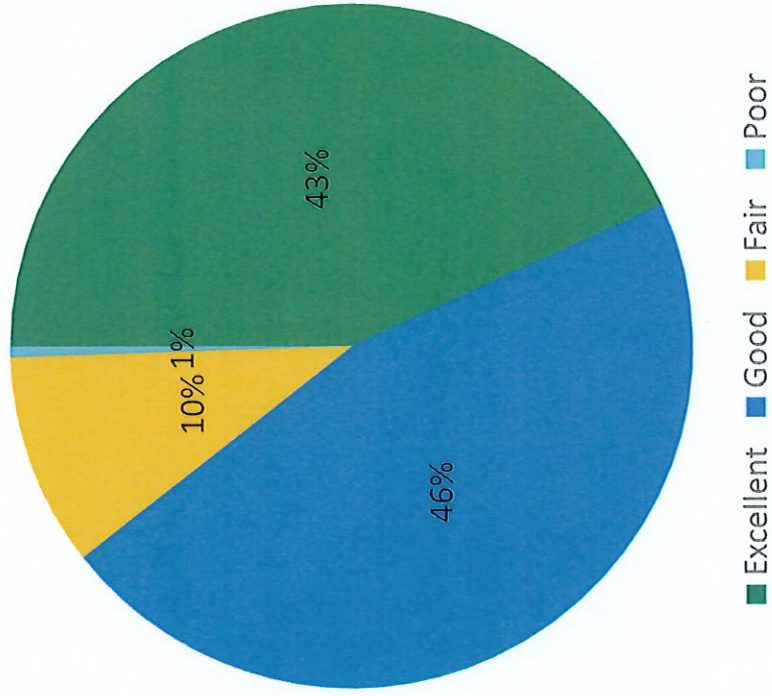
Answered: 183 Skipped: 35

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	6.56% 12
Good	37.16% 68
Fair	39.89% 73
Poor	16.39% 30
TOTAL	183

8a  
pg 14

# Q7: How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Volunteers Community Park, located adjacent to The Commons?

Answered: 199 Skipped: 19



pg 8a  
15/15

# Q7: How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Volunteers Community Park, located adjacent to The Commons?

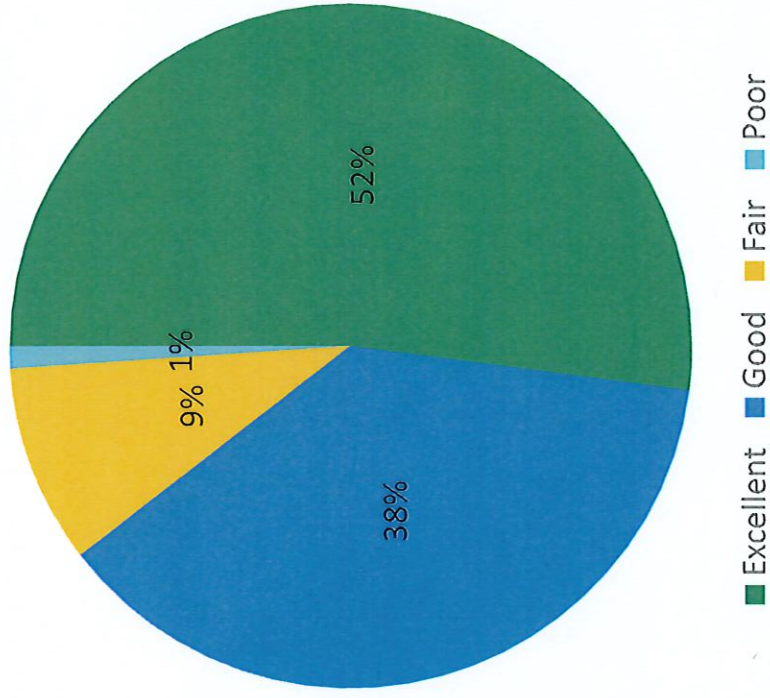
Answered: 199 Skipped: 19

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	43.22% 86
Good	46.23% 92
Fair	10.05% 20
Poor	0.50% 1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199</b>

8a  
pg 16

# Q8: How would you rate the condition of Red Cedar Bend Landing?

Answered: 192 Skipped: 26



# Q8: How would you rate the condition of Red Cedar Bend Landing?

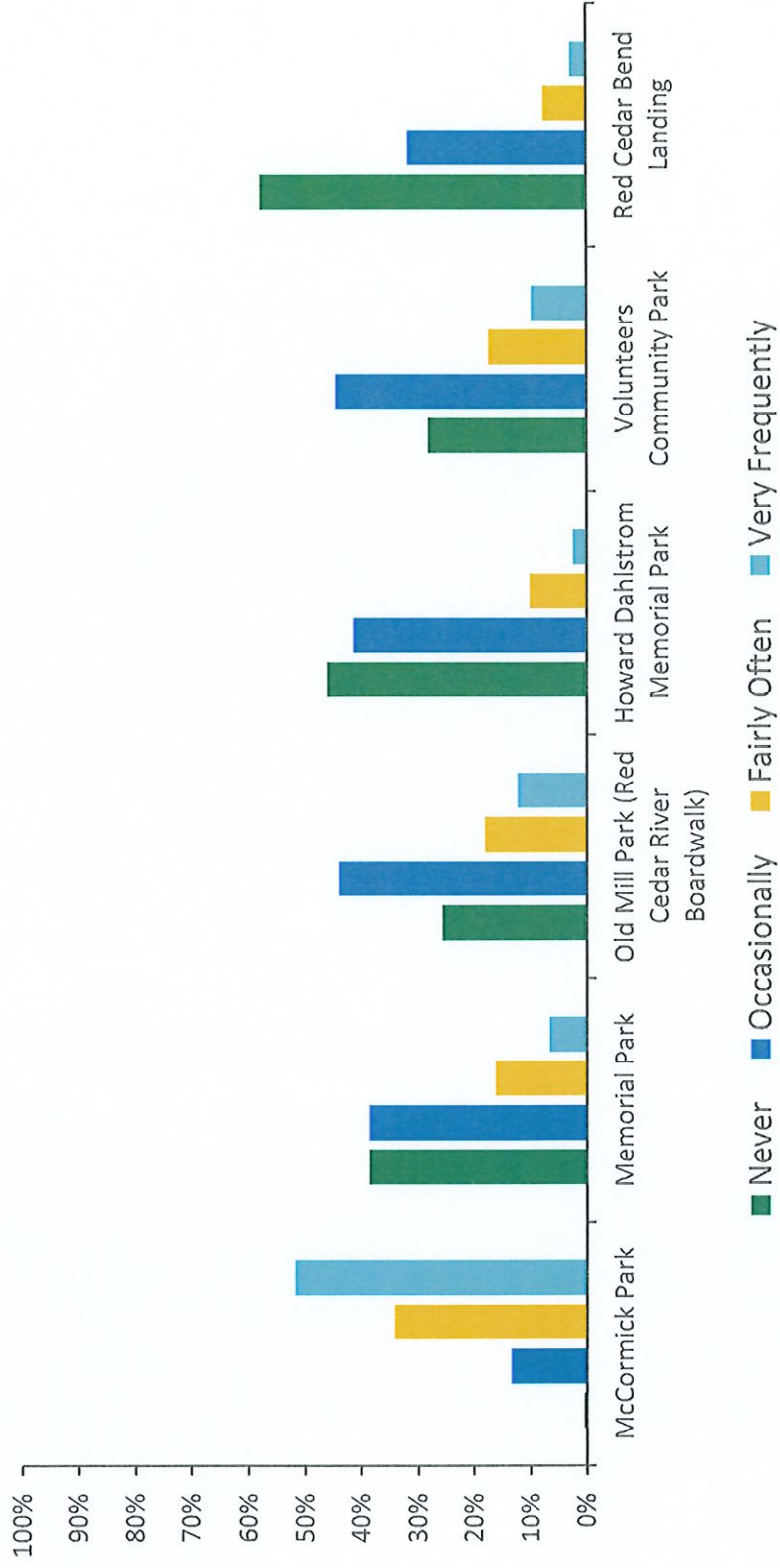
Answered: 192 Skipped: 26

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Excellent	52.08% 100
Good	37.50% 72
Fair	9.38% 18
Poor	1.04% 2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>192</b>

86  
Pg/8

# Q9: Which of the following parks and recreation facilities do you frequent? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 214 Skipped: 4



8a  
12/19

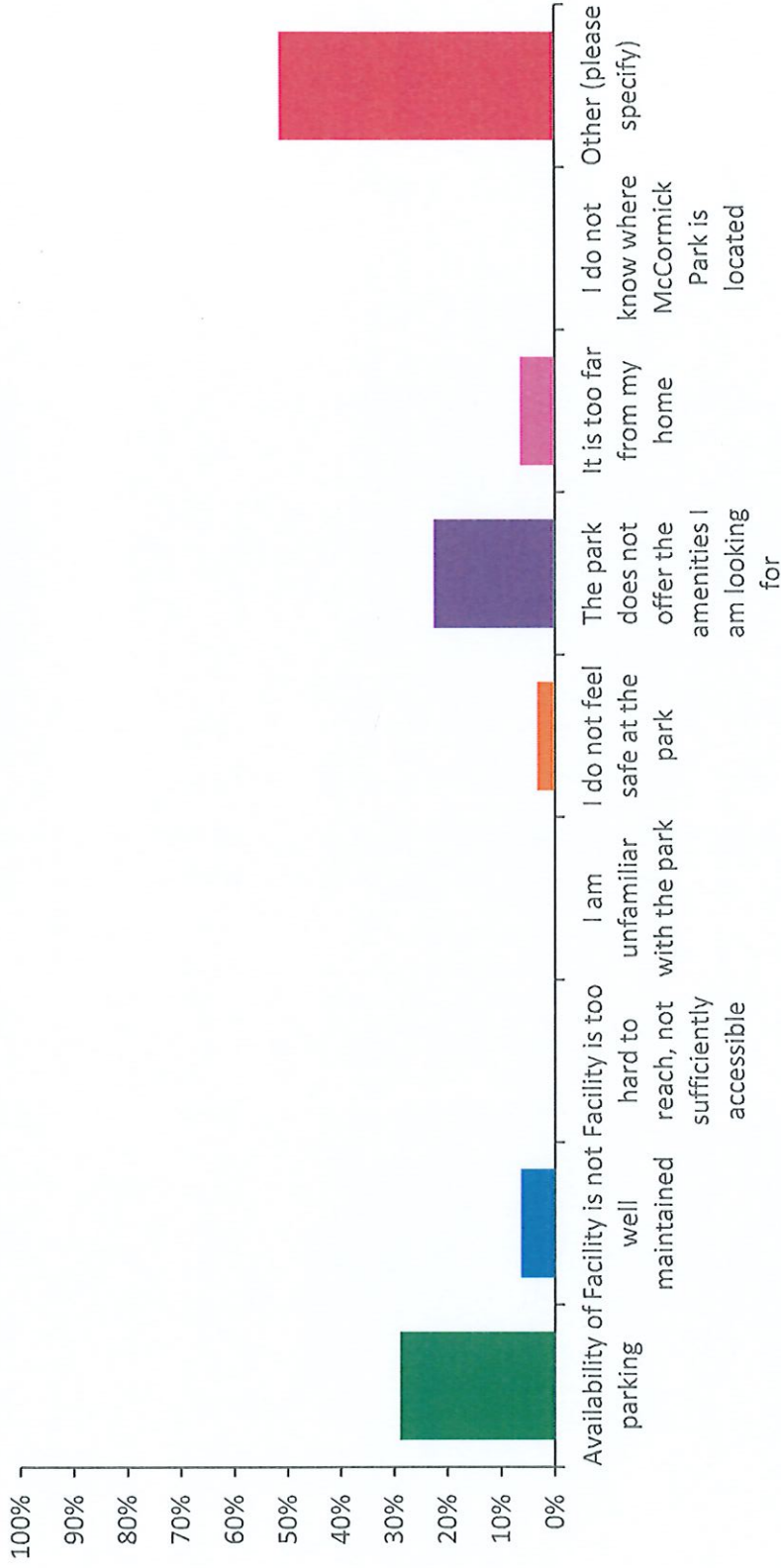
## Q9: Which of the following parks and recreation facilities do you frequent? (Select all that apply)

Answered: 214 Skipped: 4

	NEVER	OCCASION ALLY	FAIRLY OFTEN	VERY FREQUENT LY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
McCormick Park	0.47% 1	13.55% 29	34.11% 73	51.87% 111	214	3.37
Memorial Park	38.57% 81	38.57% 81	16.19% 34	6.67% 14	210	1.91
Old Mill Park (Red Cedar River Boardwalk)	25.59% 54	44.08% 93	18.01% 38	12.32% 26	211	2.17
Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park	46.15% 96	41.35% 86	10.10% 21	2.40% 5	208	1.69
Volunteers	28.17% 60	44.60% 95	17.37% 37	9.86% 21	213	2.09

# Q10: If you do not frequent McCormick Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 31 Skipped: 187



19/2/21



# Q10: If you do not frequent McCormick Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

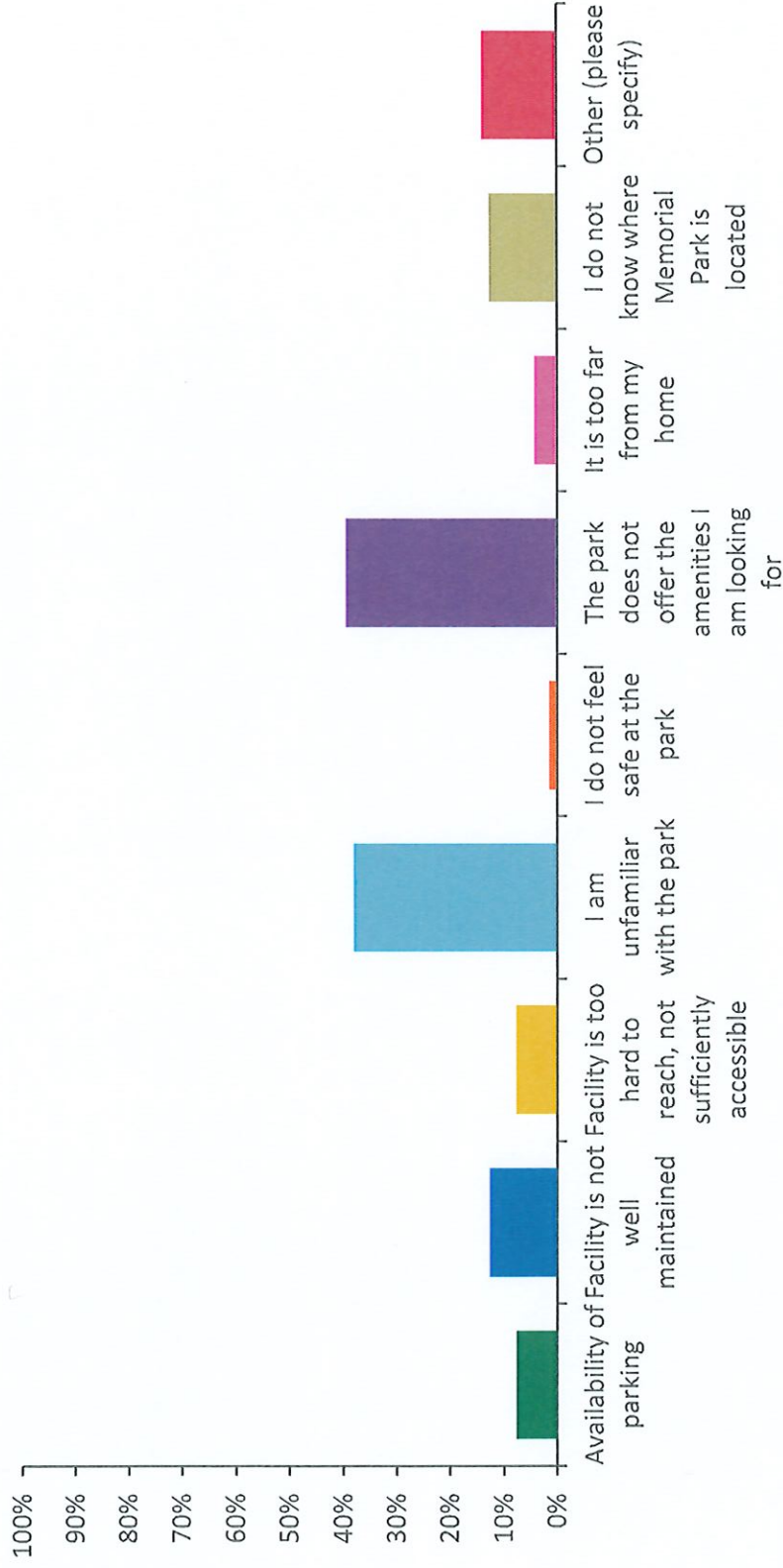
Answered: 31 Skipped: 187

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Availability of parking	29.03% 9
Facility is not well maintained	6.45% 2
Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible	0% 0
I am unfamiliar with the park	0% 0
I do not feel safe at the park	3.23% 1
The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for	22.58% 7
It is too far from my home	6.45% 2
I do not know where McCormick Park is located	0% 0
Other (please specify)	51.61% 16

8a  
pg 22

# Q11: If you do not frequent Memorial Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 142 Skipped: 76



Ja  
pg 2.3

# Q11: If you do not frequent Memorial Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 142 Skipped: 76

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Availability of parking	11 7.75%
Facility is not well maintained	18 12.68%
Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible	11 7.75%
I am unfamiliar with the park	54 38.03%
I do not feel safe at the park	2 1.41%
The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for	56 39.44%
It is too far from my home	6 4.23%
I do not know where Memorial Park is located	18 12.68%
Other (please specify)	20 14.08%

19986  
1924

# Q12: If you do not frequent Old Mill Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 97 Skipped: 121



82  
139251

# Q12: If you do not frequent Old Mill Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

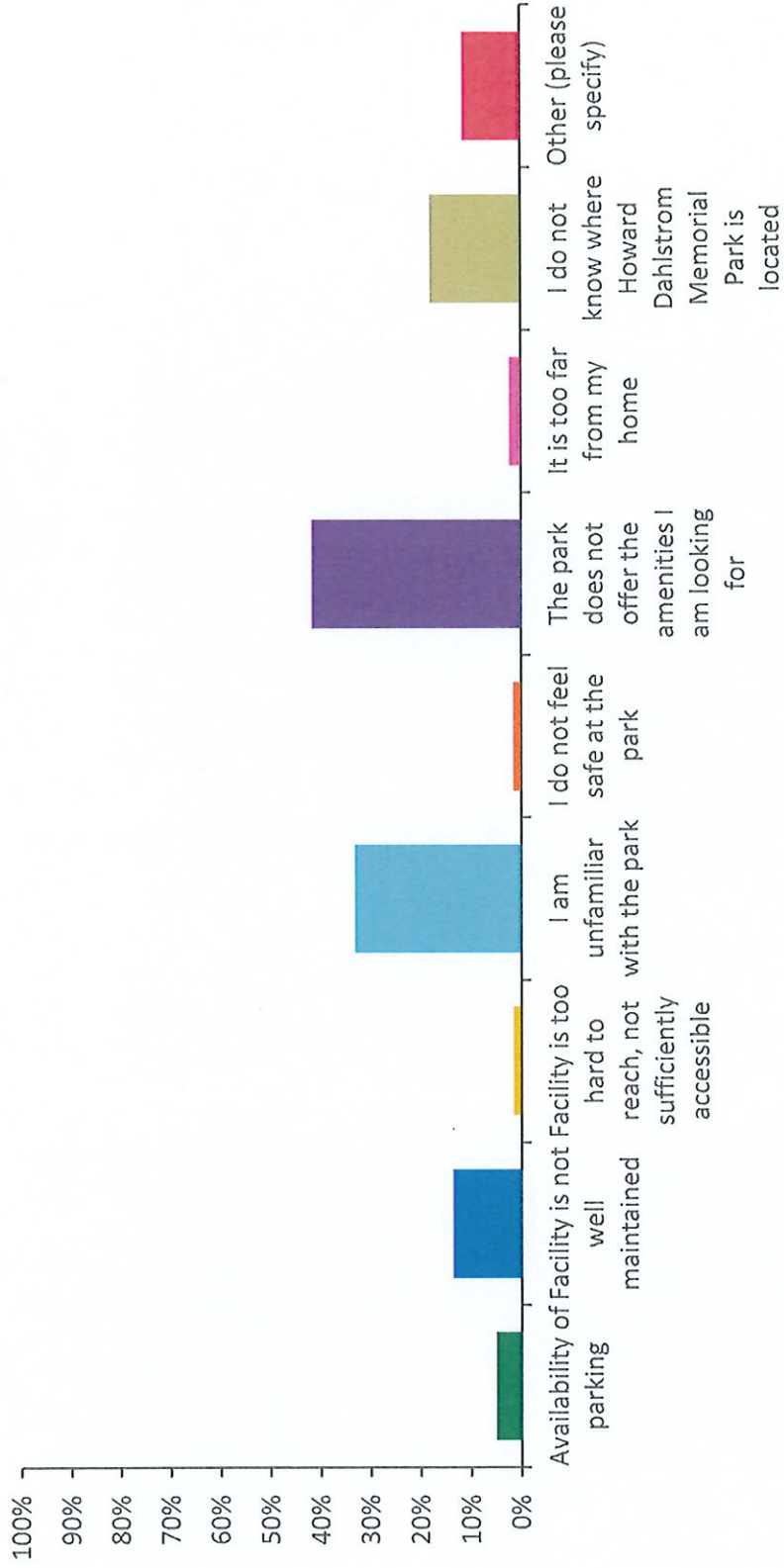
Answered: 97 Skipped: 121

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Availability of parking	1 1.03%
Facility is not well maintained	1 1.03%
Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible	1 1.03%
I am unfamiliar with the park	36 37.11%
I do not feel safe at the park	1 1.03%
The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for	40 41.24%
It is too far from my home	3 3.09%
I do not know where Old Mill Park is located	18 18.56%
Other (please specify)	9 9.28%

8a  
pg 26

# Q13: If you do not frequent Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 139 Skipped: 79



80  
1927

# Q13: If you do not frequent Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 139 Skipped: 79

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Availability of parking	5.04% 7
Facility is not well maintained	13.67% 19
Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible	1.44% 2
I am unfamiliar with the park	33.09% 46
I do not feel safe at the park	1.44% 2
The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for	41.73% 58
It is too far from my home	2.16% 3
I do not know where Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park is	17.99% 25

See pg 28

# Q14: If you do not frequent Volunteers Community Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 83 Skipped: 135





# Q14: If you do not frequent Volunteers Community Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 83 Skipped: 135

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Availability of parking	12.05% 10
Facility is not well maintained	1.20% 1
Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible	1.20% 1
I am unfamiliar with the park	13.25% 11
I do not feel safe at the park	1.20% 1
The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for	39.76% 33
It is too far from my home	14.46% 12
I do not know where Volunteers Community Park is located	9.64% 8
Other (please specify)	20.48% 17

# Q15: If you do not frequent Red Cedar Bend Landing, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

Answered: 100 Skipped: 118



# Q15: If you do not frequent Red Cedar Bend Landing, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

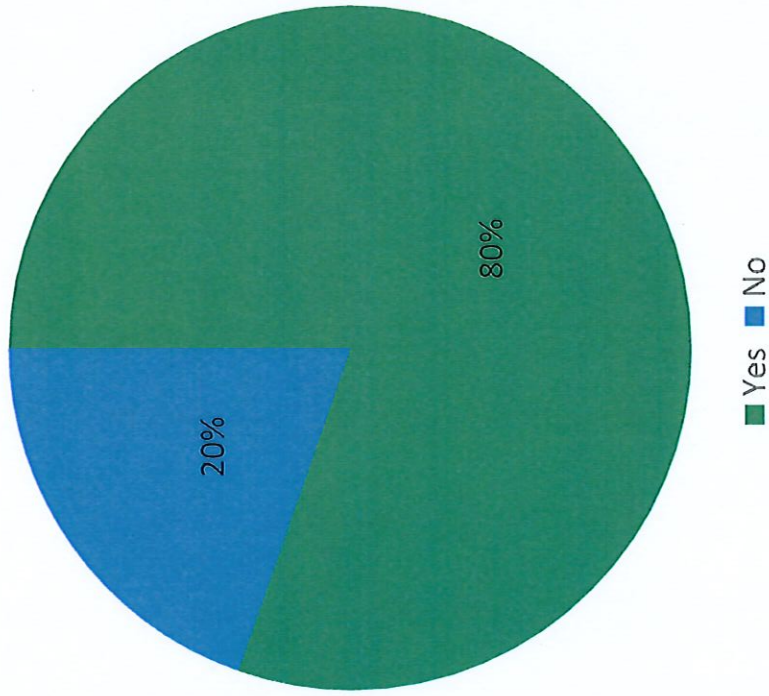
Answered: 100 Skipped: 118

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Availability of parking	1 1.00%
Facility is not well maintained	0 0%
Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible	0 0%
I am unfamiliar with the park	19 19.00%
I do not feel safe at the park	0 0%
The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for	51 51.00%
It is too far from my home	1 1.00%
I do not know where Volunteers Community Park is located	5 5.00%
Other (please specify)	28 28.00%

pg 3a  
8a

# Q16: Are you satisfied with the number and types of parks available in the City of Williamston?

Answered: 204 Skipped: 14



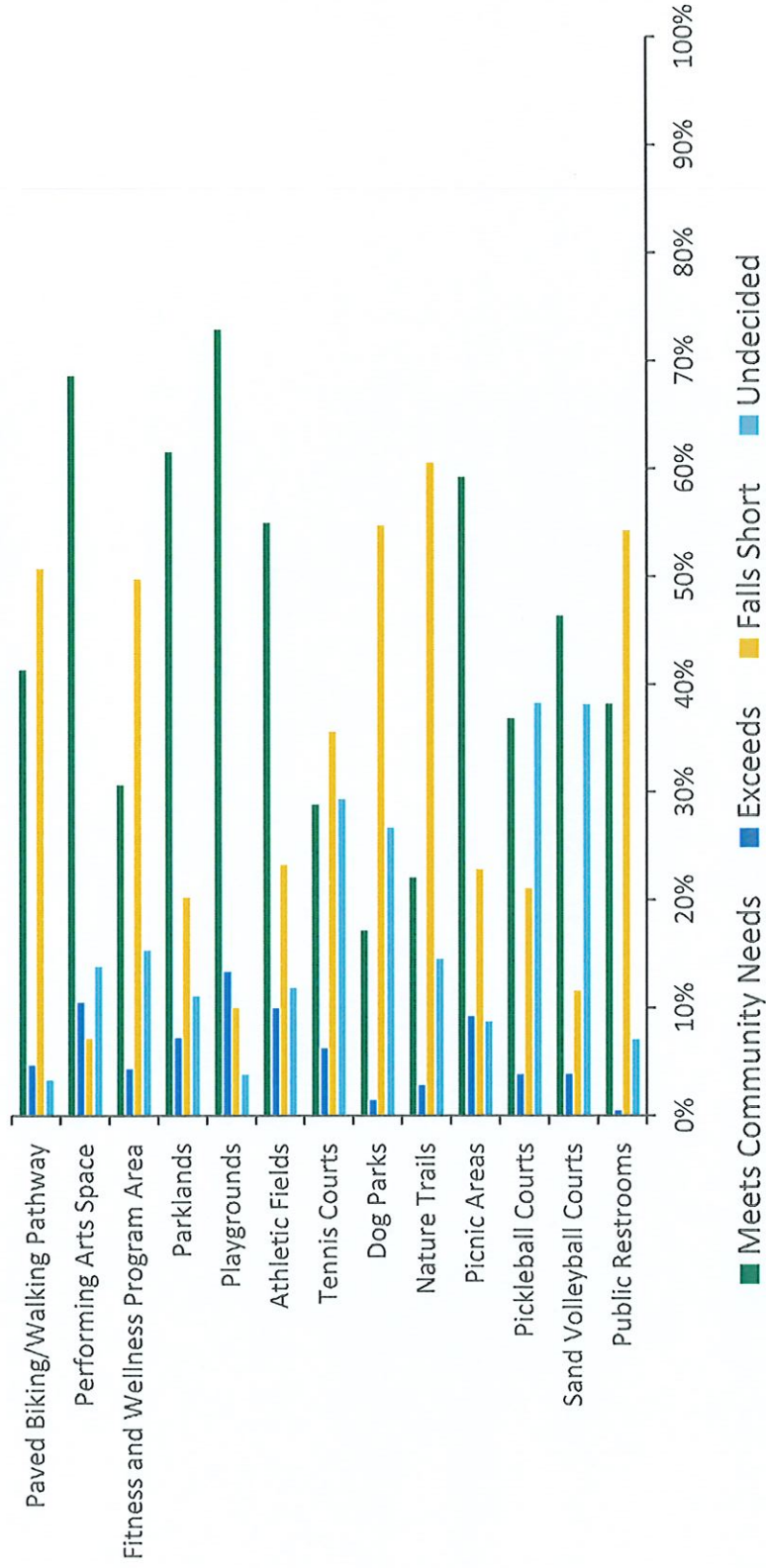
# Q16: Are you satisfied with the number and types of parks available in the City of Williamston?

Answered: 204 Skipped: 14

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	80.39% 164
No	19.61% 40
TOTAL	204

# the community, exceed what is needed, or fall short of meeting those needs?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 3



19 35 82

# the community, exceed what is needed, or fall short of meeting those needs?

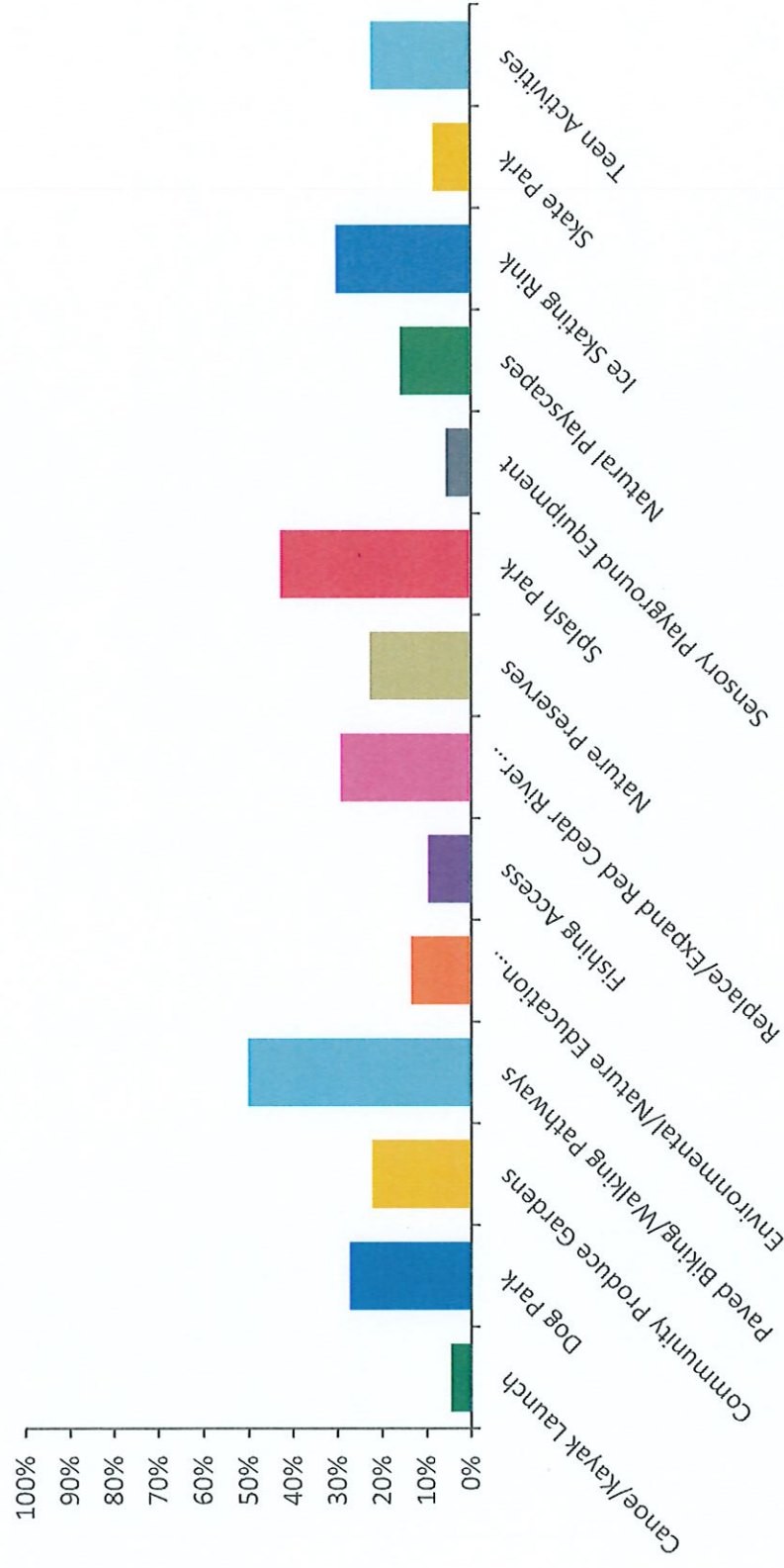
Answered: 215 Skipped: 3

	MEETS COMMUNITY NEEDS	EXCEEDS	FALLS SHORT	UNDECIDE D	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Paved Biking/Walking Pathway	41.31% 88	4.69% 10	50.70% 108	3.29% 7	213	2.16
Performing Arts Space	68.57% 144	10.48% 22	7.14% 15	13.81% 29	210	1.66
Fitness and Wellness Program Area	30.62% 64	4.31% 9	49.76% 104	15.31% 32	209	2.50
Parklands	61.54% 128	7.21% 15	20.19% 42	11.06% 23	208	1.81
Playgrounds	72.86% 153	13.33% 28	10.0% 21	3.81% 8	210	1.45
	54.98%	9.95%	23.22%	11.85%	211	1.92

pg 36

**Q18: Select the top three types of recreation of facilities you would most like to see implemented or increased in the City of Williamston.**

Answered: 215 Skipped: 3





# Q18: Select the top three types of recreation of facilities you would most like to see implemented or increased in the City of Williamston.

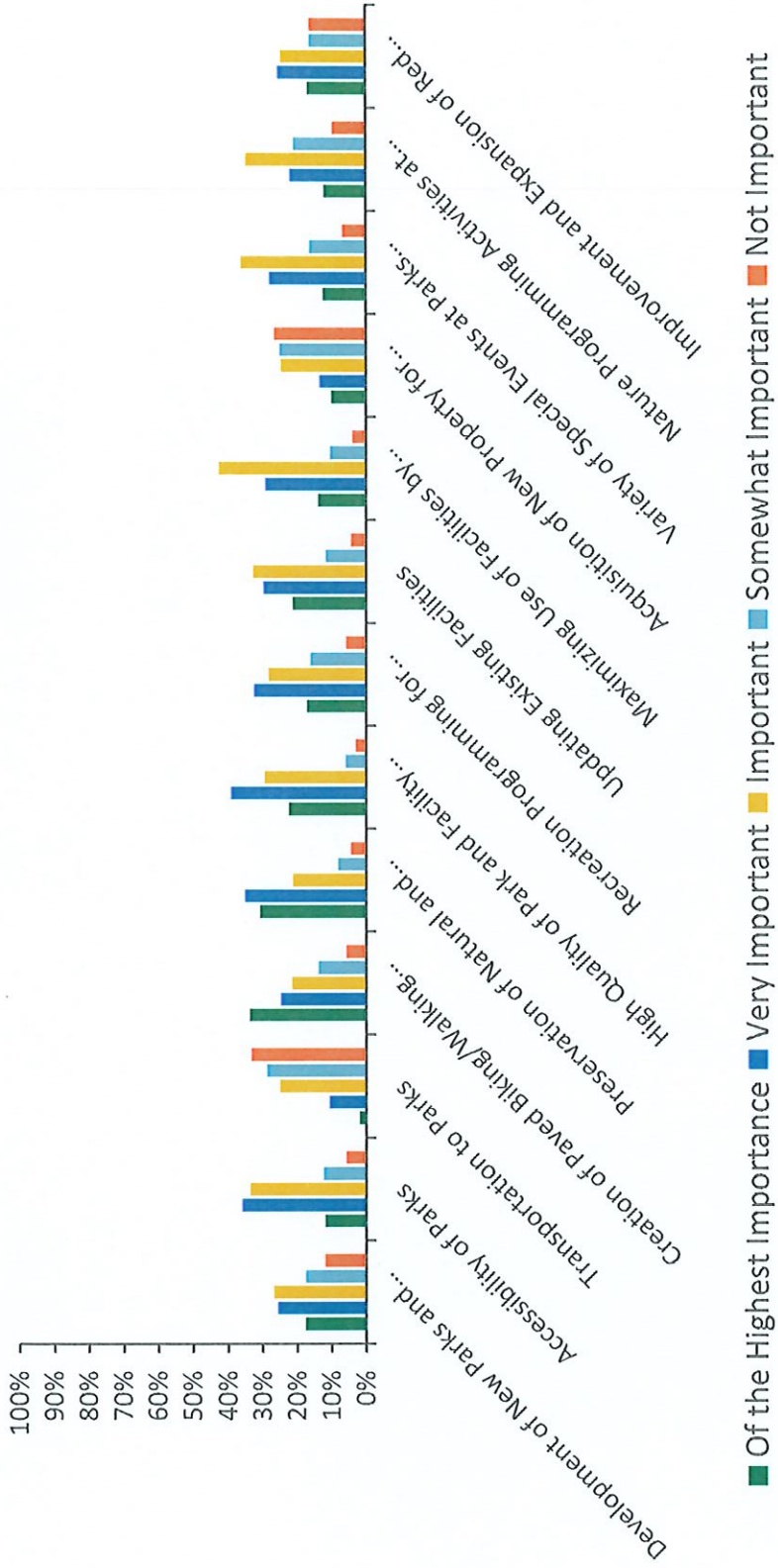
Answered: 215 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Canoe/Kayak Launch	4.65%	10
Dog Park	27.44%	59
Community Produce Gardens	22.33%	48
Paved Biking/Walking Pathways	50.23%	108
Environmental/Nature Education Programs	13.49%	29
Fishing Access	9.77%	21
Replace/Expand Red Cedar River Boardwalk	29.30%	63
Nature Preserves	22.79%	49
	42.79%	92

8a  
pg 38

# Q19: Please rate the following goals for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Answered: 213 Skipped: 5



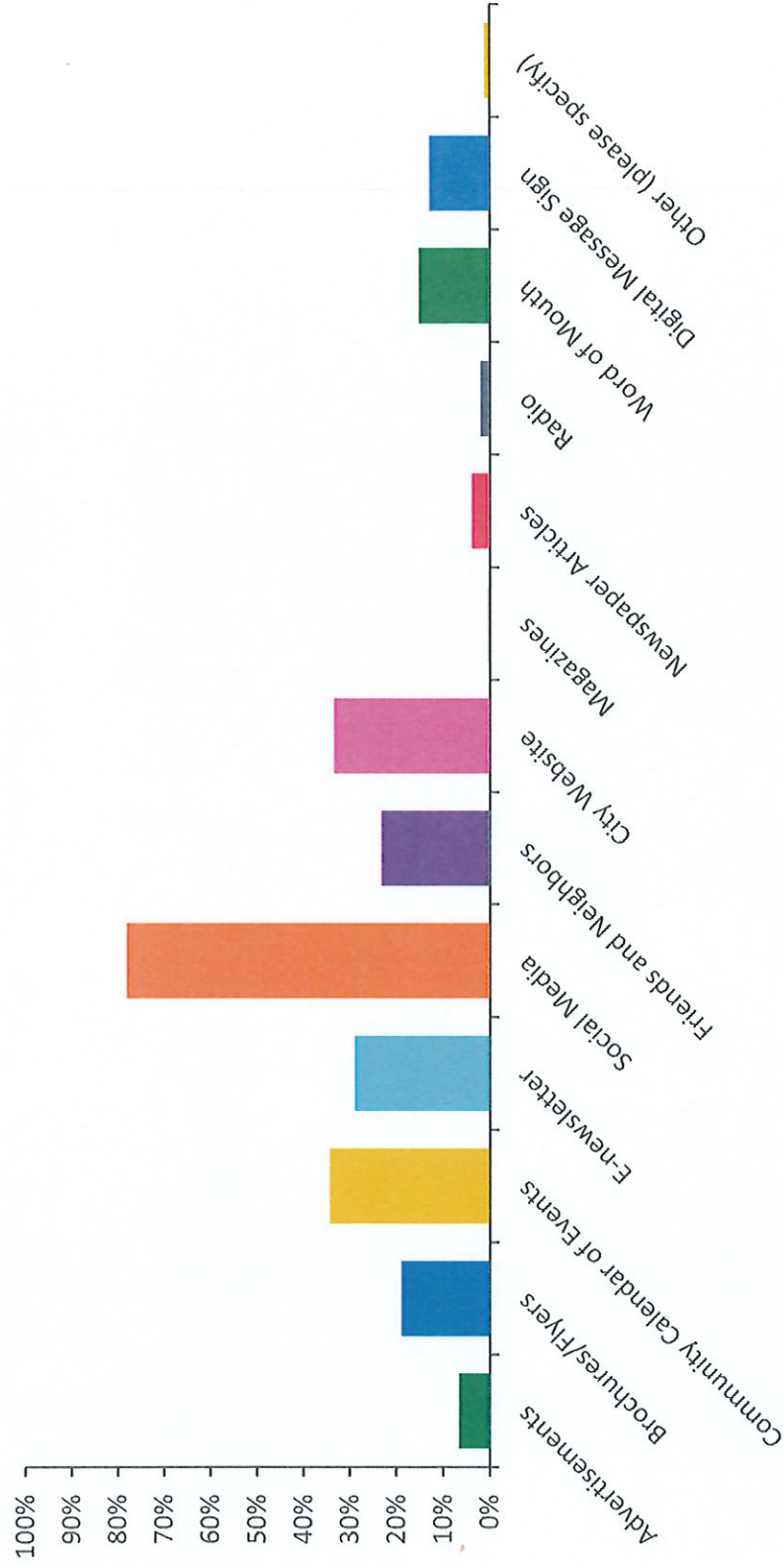
# Q19: Please rate the following goals for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Answered: 213 Skipped: 5

	OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE	VERY IMPORTANCE	IMPARTANCE	SOMEWHAT IMPARTANCE	NOT IMPARTANCE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Development of New Parks and Recreation Facilities	17.70% 37	25.84% 54	26.79% 56	17.70% 37	11.96% 25	209	2.80
Accessibility of Parks	12.02% 25	36.06% 75	33.65% 70	12.50% 26	5.77% 12	208	2.64
Transportation to Parks	1.96% 4	10.78% 22	25.00% 51	28.92% 59	33.33% 68	204	3.81
Creation of Paved	33.97% 71	24.88% 52	21.53% 45	13.88% 29	5.74% 12	209	2.33

# Q20: By which methods do you prefer to learn about Williamston's parks, facilities, recreation programs, and special events?

Answered: 210 Skipped: 8



# Q20: By which methods do you prefer to learn about Williamston's parks, facilities, recreation programs, and special events?

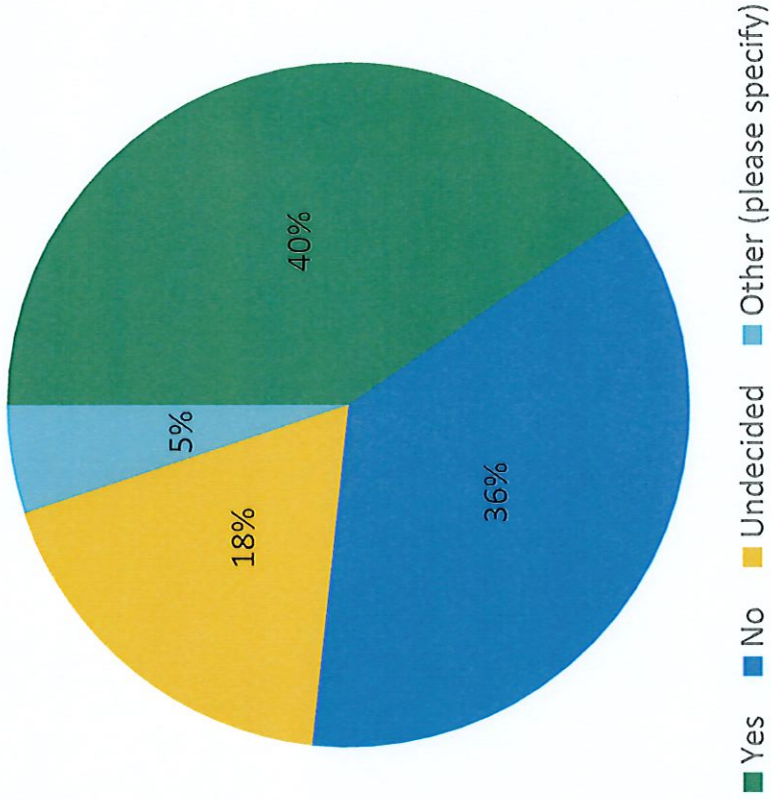
Answered: 210 Skipped: 8

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Advertisements	14 6.67%
Brochures/Flyers	40 19.05%
Community Calendar of Events	72 34.29%
E-newsletter	61 29.05%
Social Media	164 78.10%
Friends and Neighbors	49 23.33%
City Website	70 33.33%
Magazines	1 0.48%
Newspaper Articles	8 3.81%

8a  
1942

# first-served basis. Should the City of Williamston permit the rental of pavilions for a small fee?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 3



# first-served basis. Should the City of Williamston permit the rental of pavilions for a small fee?

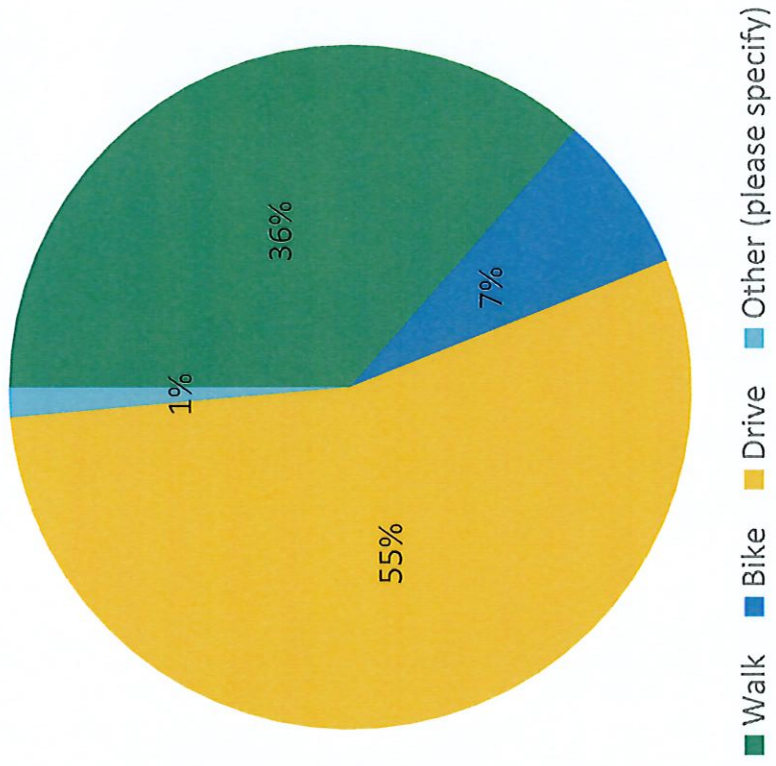
Answered: 215 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	40.47% 87
No	36.28% 78
Undecided	18.14% 39
Other (please specify)	5.12% 11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>215</b>

pg 44  
8a

## Q22: How do you usually get to the parks or facilities?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 4





## Q22: How do you usually get to the parks or facilities?

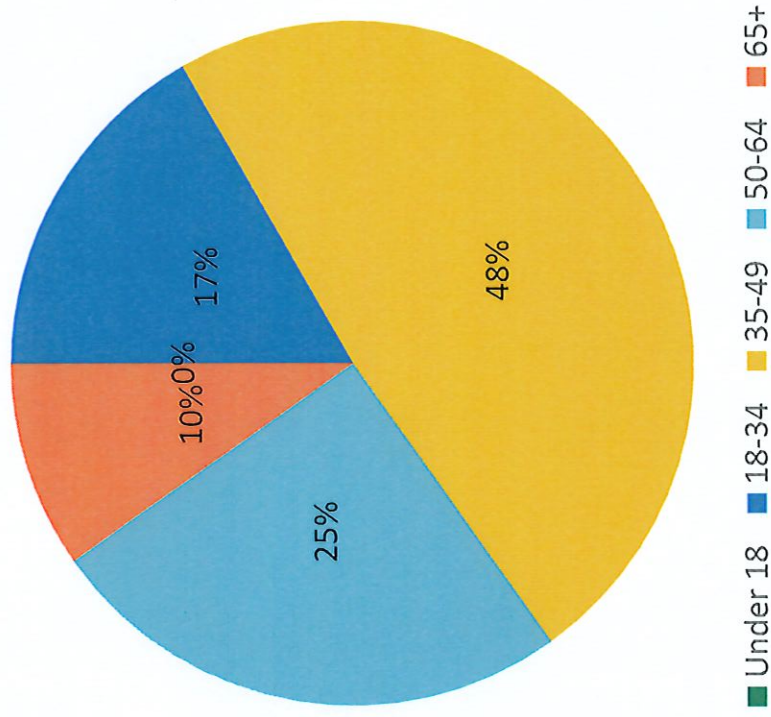
Answered: 214 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Walk	36.45% 78
Bike	7.48% 16
Drive	54.67% 117
Other (please specify)	1.40% 3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>214</b>

8a  
pg 46

## Q23: What is your age range?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 3



## Q23: What is your age range?

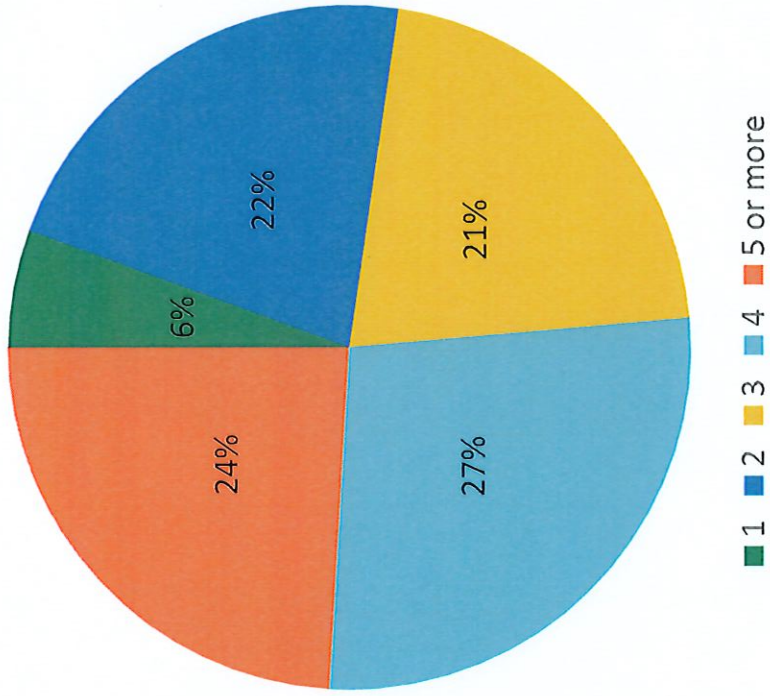
Answered: 215 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18	0
18-34	16.74%
35-49	48.37%
50-64	25.12%
65+	9.77%
TOTAL	215

8a  
pg 48

# Q24: Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

Answered: 216 Skipped: 2



8a  
1949

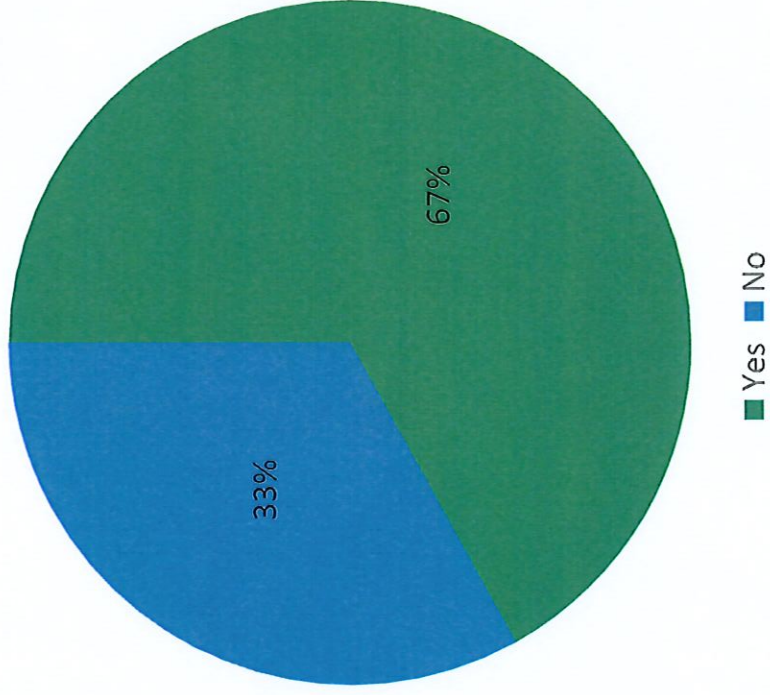
## Q24: Including yourself, how many people live in your household?

Answered: 216 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1	5.56% 12
2	21.76% 47
3	21.30% 46
4	27.31% 59
5 or more	24.07% 52
TOTAL	216

## Q25: Do you live in the City of Williamston?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 3



## Q25: Do you live in the City of Williamston?

Answered: 215 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	66.98% 144
No	33.02% 71
TOTAL	215

8a  
pg 52

8a  
pg 53

# Williamston, MI Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey 2023

Add collaborators

SUMMARY → DESIGN SURVEY → PREVIEW & SCORE → COLLECT RESPONSES → ANALYZE RESULTS → PRESENT RESULTS

Preview survey

Page Logic More Actions

**BUILD** ⓘ

- Build
- Multiple Choice
- Style
- Checkboxes
- Logic
- Star Rating
- Options
- Dropdown
- Matrix / Rating Scale
- Question Bank
- Best Worst Scale
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## Williamston, MI Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey 2023

The City of Williamston is seeking public input as we update our Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

We are eager to hear your opinions and ideas about the programs, services, and facilities that Williamston offers. The survey is anonymous and will only take a few minutes to complete. The survey can be filled out online or returned to Williamston City Hall, either in person or by mail, to 161 E. Grand River Ave., Williamston, MI, 48895.

1. I believe parks and recreational programs are vital to our community. 🗣️ 0

- Strongly Agree
- Somewhat Agree
- Neither Agree or Disagree
- Somewhat Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

2. Please rate the following Williamston parks and recreational facilities in terms of their importance to you. 🗣️ 0

	No Opinion	Not Important at All	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important
McCormick Park (Downtown Red Cedar River)	-	-	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memorial (South of Williamston elementary schools)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Old Mill Creek (Red Cedar River Boardwalk)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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	No Opinion	Not Important at All	Somewhat Important	Extremely Important
Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park (Formerly Deer Creek Park, West of Downtown)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Volunteers Community Park (Located Adjacent to The Commons)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Red Cedar Bend Landing (new Kayak Launch)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. How would you rate the condition and maintenance of McCormick Park, located Downtown along the Red Cedar River? 🗨️ 0

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

4. How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Memorial Park, located South of Williamston elementary schools? 🗨️ 0

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

5. How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Old Mill Park, the Red Cedar River boardwalk? 🗨️ 0

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Saving changes...

8a  
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6. How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park, formerly Deer Creek Park and located West of Downtown? 🗣 0

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

7. How would you rate the condition and maintenance of Volunteers Community Park, located adjacent to The Commons? 🗣 0

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

8. How would you rate the condition of Red Cedar Bend Landing? 🗣 0

- Excellent
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

9. Which of the following parks and recreation facilities do you frequent? (Select all that apply) 🗣 0

	Never	Occasionally	Fairly Often	Very Frequently
McCormick Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Memorial Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Old Mill Park (Red Cedar River Boardwalk)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park	<input type="radio"/>			<input type="radio"/>
		Saving changes...		
Volunteers Community Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Red Cedar Bend Landing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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10. If you do not frequent McCormick Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

0

- Availability of parking
- Facility is not well maintained
- Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible
- I am unfamiliar with the park
- I do not feel safe at the park
- The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for
- It is too far from my home
- I do not know where McCormick Park is located
- Other (please specify)

11. If you do not frequent Memorial Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

0

- Availability of parking
- Facility is not well maintained
- Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible
- I am unfamiliar with the park
- I do not feel safe at the park
- The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for
- It is too far from my home
- I do not know where Memorial Park is located
- Other (please specify)

12. If you do not frequent Old Mill Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply)

0

- Availability of parking
- Facility is not well maintained
- Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible
- I am unfamiliar with the park
- I do not feel safe at the park

Saving changes...

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- The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for
- It is too far from my home
- I do not know where Old Mill Park is located
- Other (please specify)

13. If you do not frequent Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply) ↻ 0

- Availability of parking
- Facility is not well maintained
- Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible
- I am unfamiliar with the park
- I do not feel safe at the park
- The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for
- It is too far from my home
- I do not know where Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park is located
- Other (please specify)

14. If you do not frequent Volunteers Community Park, please tell us why. (Select all that apply) ↻ 0

- Availability of parking
- Facility is not well maintained
- Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible
- I am unfamiliar with the park
- I do not feel safe at the park
- The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for
- It is too far from my home
- I do not know where Volunteers Community Park is located
- Other (please specify)

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15. If you do not frequent Red Cedar Bend Landing, please tell us why. (Select all that apply) ☺ 0

- Availability of parking
- Facility is not well maintained
- Facility is too hard to reach, not sufficiently accessible
- I am unfamiliar with the park
- I do not feel safe at the park
- The park does not offer the amenities I am looking for
- It is too far from my home
- I do not know where Volunteers Community Park is located
- Other (please specify)

16. Are you satisfied with the number and types of parks available in the City of Williamston? ☺ 0

- Yes
- No

17. Do the facilities currently available in Williamston meet the needs of the community, exceed what is needed, or fall short of meeting those needs? ☺ 0

	Meets Community Needs	Exceeds	Falls Short	Undecided
Paved Biking/Walking Pathway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performing Arts Space	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fitness and Wellness Program Area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parklands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	-	-	<input type="radio"/>
Athletic Fields	<input type="radio"/>	Saving changes...		<input type="radio"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pickleball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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	Meets Community Needs	Exceeds	Falls Short	Undecided
Sand Volleyball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public Restrooms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

18. Select the top three types of recreation of facilities you would most like to see implemented or increased in the City of Williamston. ☺ 0



- Canoe/Kayak Launch
- Dog Park
- Community Produce Gardens
- Paved Biking/Walking Pathways
- Environmental/Nature Education Programs
- Fishing Access
- Replace/Expand Red Cedar River Boardwalk
- Nature Preserves
- Splash Park
- Sensory Playground Equipment
- Natural Playscapes
- Ice Skating Rink
- Skate Park
- Teen Activities

19. Please rate the following goals for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. ☺ 0

	Of the Highest Importance	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Development of New Parks and Recreation Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Accessibility of Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation to Parks	<input type="radio"/>	Saving changes...			<input type="radio"/>
Creation of Paved Biking/Walking Pathways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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	Of the Highest Importance	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
High Quality of Park and Facility Design	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recreation Programming for Residents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Updating Existing Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maximizing Use of Facilities by both Active and Passive Users	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Acquisition of New Property for Parkland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Variety of Special Events at Parks and Recreation Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature Programming Activities at Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improvement and Expansion of Red Cedar River Boardwalk	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

20. By which methods do you prefer to learn about Williamston's parks, facilities, recreation programs, and special events?  



- Advertisements
- Brochures/Flyers
- Community Calendar of Events
- E-newsletter
- Social Media
- Friends and Neighbors
- City Website
- Magazines
- Newspaper Articles
- Radio
- Word of Mouth
- Digital Message Sign
- Other (please specify)

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
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21. Pavilions at McCormick Park are currently used on a first-come, first-served basis. Should the City of Williamston permit the rental of pavilions for a small fee?  



- Yes
- No
- Undecided
- Other (please specify)

22. How do you usually get to the parks or facilities?  

- Walk
- Bike
- Drive
- Other (please specify)

23. What is your age range?  

- Under 18
- 18-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+

24. Including yourself, how many people live in your household?  

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

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25. Do you live in the City of Williamston? 🗨 0

Yes

No

26. If you do not live in the City of Williamston, where do you live? 🗨 0

27. Thank you for participating in the Williamston Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey! Please provide any additional comments you have for the Parks and Recreation Plan. 🗨 0

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The 2024 – 2028 City of Williamston Parks and Recreation Plan was prepared in 2023 by the Parks and Recreation Commission and City staff. It was adopted by the City Council on \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgments**

The City of Williamston wishes to thank the organizations and residents who provided valuable input throughout the planning process. The City further thanks the Parks and Recreation Commission members for their time and dedication to the planning process for this plan update and their efforts throughout the year to ensure the success of Williamston’s parks system.

**Williamston City Council**

- Tammy Gilroy, Mayor
- Brandon Lanyon, Mayor Pro-tem
- Terry Hansen, Council Member
- Tom Pratt, Council Member
- Daniel Rhines, Council Member
- Steve Jenkins, Council Member
- Scott Vanallsburg, Council Member

**Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission**

- Earl Wolf, Chair
- Teri Nelson, Vice-Chair
- Amie Brown, Commissioner
- Byron Aldrink, Commissioner
- Tammy Scott, Commissioner
- John Magee, Planning Commission Representative
- Terry Hansen, Council Representative
- Daniel Rhines, Council Alternate

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the 2024 – 2028 City of Williamston Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to set the direction for Williamston over the next five years in the acquisition, development, renovation, and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. The plan builds upon the recommendations of the prior plan that covered years 2018 – 2023, while featuring new input received from residents through a 2023 community survey and input from the citizen-led Parks and Recreation Commission.

Ultimately, this updated plan will act as an outline for enhancing parks and recreation opportunities in Williamston, while maintaining eligibility for certain funding sources. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires an updated park and recreation plan to be submitted for approval every five years to be eligible for state and federal park and recreation grants, such as those from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

### **Plan Preparation**

The 2024 – 2028 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Williamston was prepared by the City of Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission with assistance from the staff of the City of Williamston.

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pg 4

## II. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### Size and Location

The City of Williamston is a small town located in the north central area of Ingham County in mid-Michigan. Incorporated as a village in 1877 and then as a city in 1944, Williamston today encompasses 2.56 square miles and has a population of nearly 4,000, according to the 2010 U.S. Census.

Williamston has the feel of a small, urban town with its unique downtown and dense neighborhoods within the City's core. Yet one will find a strong agricultural tradition within a stone's throw of the City limits, giving the Williamston area a rural sensibility.

The main route in and out of town is M-43, or Grand River Avenue, a busy state trunkline that connects Williamston's downtown corridor to Livingston County to the east and the East Lansing - Lansing metropolitan area to the west. Williamston is a 20-minute drive to the capital city of Lansing, and just 15 minutes from East Lansing, home to Michigan State University.



The I-96 expressway is another major route connected to the City of Williamston. Williamston's southern border extends to the interchange (exit 117) of this interstate highway. This connection provides another link to the Lansing metropolitan area, as well as an expressway route to large employment and population centers like Ann Arbor and Detroit.

### Natural Features

#### Topography

The topography in Williamston has little relief, but the Red Cedar River and its tributaries do have a defined floodplain. This lack of topographic change minimizes concerns about water erosion due to slope. However, it also makes areas of higher elevation especially valuable, such as the sledding hill in Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park.

#### Water Resources

The principal water resource in Williamston is the Red Cedar River. It is fed by a number of tributaries, including Deer Creek, which is the most extensive tributary in the City, flowing from the southwestern part of the City (adjacent to the City well field property) northward through Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park. McCormick Park provides the

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pg. 5

principal public access to the Red Cedar River in Williamston. Wetlands are found in the Red Cedar River floodplain and in the southern part of the City near Linn Road, both east and west of Williamston Road. The Tobias-Linn Drain (an Ingham County Drain) also traverses the southern part of the City of Williamston.

*Soils*

The Soil Survey of Ingham County indicates that three predominate types of soil (Marlette, Oshtemo and Capac) are found in Williamston. The Marlette and Oshtemo soils are found in the well-drained areas, and the Capac soils are found in the more poorly drained areas especially in the floodplain and wetland areas.

*Climate*

The Michigan State Climatologist reports that Williamston's climate is sub-humid temperate. In January, the typical daily temperature is 20.1 degrees and in July the typical daily temperature is 70.5 degrees. The total annual precipitation is 29.7 inches with most falling between April and September in the form of rain. The average seasonal snowfall is 40.2 inches. Williamston's four distinct seasons provide the opportunity for many recreational activities, including sledding in the winter.

*Vegetation*

The vegetation in Williamston is typical of south-central Michigan, dominated by deciduous trees where other land uses (e.g. agriculture, turf, development, etc.) do not preclude the typical forest species. This is especially apparent in the Red Cedar River floodplain where silver maple, American elm, cottonwood and green ash are common. There are many street trees in Williamston, and they provide valued shade in the spring and summer, vibrant fall color, and habitat for birds and other wildlife year round. Key street tree species are sugar and Norway maple, red and white oak, white ash and honey locust. A key vegetation concern is the emerald ash borer, which dooms all green, white or exotic ash (e.g., mountain ash), regardless of size unless expensive insecticide treatments are regularly applied. Except for large specimen trees, the City should continue to identify and remove ash from the landscape. In public park areas, dead and dying ash trees could present a safety hazard. As a result of the 2007 tornado, 39 trees (including many ash trees) were removed from McCormick Park.

*Wildlife*

The Red Cedar River floodplain provides some of the most valuable wildlife habitat in the City. Mammals found there include whitetail deer, gray and fox squirrel, raccoon, coyote, red fox, muskrat and mink. A wide variety of birds also use the floodplain, highlighted by waterfowl. Fish species in the Red Cedar River include rock bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike and bluegills, as well as catfish, carp and suckers. Turtles include the common map turtle, musk turtle, Blanding's turtle, and eastern painted turtle and spiny softshell. The floodplain is important habitat for reptiles and amphibians including northern water snake, eastern garter snake, and blue racer.

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pg 6e

## **Socioeconomic Characteristics**

All socioeconomic characteristics cited are based on data provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

### *Population*

There were 3,760 people residing in Williamston in 2023. This is a 1.55% decrease from the 2010 census population of 3,820, influenced by a slowing housing market, aging population and constrained Williamston City limit.

The City of Williamston is bordered by Williamstown Township, Wheatfield Township, Leroy Township, and Locke Township. Residents of these townships use the City of Williamston as the hub for goods, services, and education. It is also reasonable to suggest they use City parks, which along with the Williamston Community Schools (also in the City limits) provide the venue for youth and adult sports leagues. With the exception of Williamstown Township, the other adjacent townships also lack a park and recreation infrastructure. In total, almost 12,000 people were reported in the adjacent townships in the 2010 Census. Coupled with Williamston's 3,760 residents, it is reasonable to picture Williamston's park and recreation infrastructure and programs serving more than 15,000 potential users.

### *Education and Economics*

The population of Williamston is well-educated according to the State of Michigan statistics, with 67.50 percent of adults 25 and over having attended college. Of these, over half have earned a bachelor's or graduate college degree. The median household income in 2021 for City households was \$65,129, above the median of \$63,498 for households in Michigan.

### *Demographics*

The age distribution of Williamston's population is gradually getting older with the single greatest population increase in the 45-64 age groups over the past two decades. Somewhat surprisingly, the proportion of elementary and middle school aged residents has stayed relatively constant. The largest decline continues in the 25-34-year-old group, likely reflecting people who relocate for employment reasons.

Females comprise the majority of Williamston residents with 54 percent, compared to 46 percent for males. The racial make-up of the City is predominately Caucasian with 91 percent reporting their race as white to the U.S. Bureau of the Census in 2020. In summary, every age category and men and women are well represented across the population. Hence, the City needs to take into account the full range of residents in their provision of outdoor recreational opportunities. The City does not have enclaves of population with disproportionately high levels of persons with disabilities, seniors, those with lower incomes or specific ethnic identities.

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### **III. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

#### **City Council**

The Williamston City Council consists of seven elected members, of which one serves as Mayor, and one serves as Mayor Pro-Tem. The City Council is responsible for establishing the policies, laws, and spending authority for the community, including parks and recreation services and projects. This elected body has the sole authority to commit funds for parks and recreation, accept grants, and purchase land on behalf of the community. The City of Williamston operates under a Council/Manager form of government, whereby the City Council appoints a City Manager to manage the day-to-day operations of the City government.

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

The Parks and Recreation Commission is an advisory committee for the City Council, which is specific to parks and recreation services. The Commission consists of seven members, including one Council representative and one representative from the Planning Commission. This board can also have up to one representative from the neighboring townships. As a body, the Parks and Recreation Commission offers advice and makes recommendations to the City Council.

#### **City Staff**

The administration, maintenance, and operation of the parks and recreation services are carried out by the staff of the City of Williamston. The City Manager is responsible for the overall administration of the community and serves as the staff link to the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Department of Public Works (DPW) carries out the maintenance and operation of the parks system. The DPW consists of five full-time employees and up to two seasonal staff members in the summer months. City Hall staff coordinates activities in the parks, such as rental of park lands or facilities.

#### **Role of Volunteers and Other Private Entities**

The Williamston parks system has benefitted greatly from volunteers over the years. The community is served by many civic organizations and non-profit entities. These groups provide programming such as concerts in the park or a week-long town celebration at the parks. They have also coordinated everything from beautification efforts like the maintenance of flower beds to complete renovations of playground equipment to installation of new amenities such as sand volleyball courts. The Williamston Area Beautification Fund (WABF) is a non-profit that originally raised funds to construct the band shell. It continues to raise funds annually to organize the Williamston Summer Concert series. Another non-profit group called the Friends of Williamston Parks (FOWP) recently formed, which is dedicated to raising funds for significant improvement projects throughout the parks system.

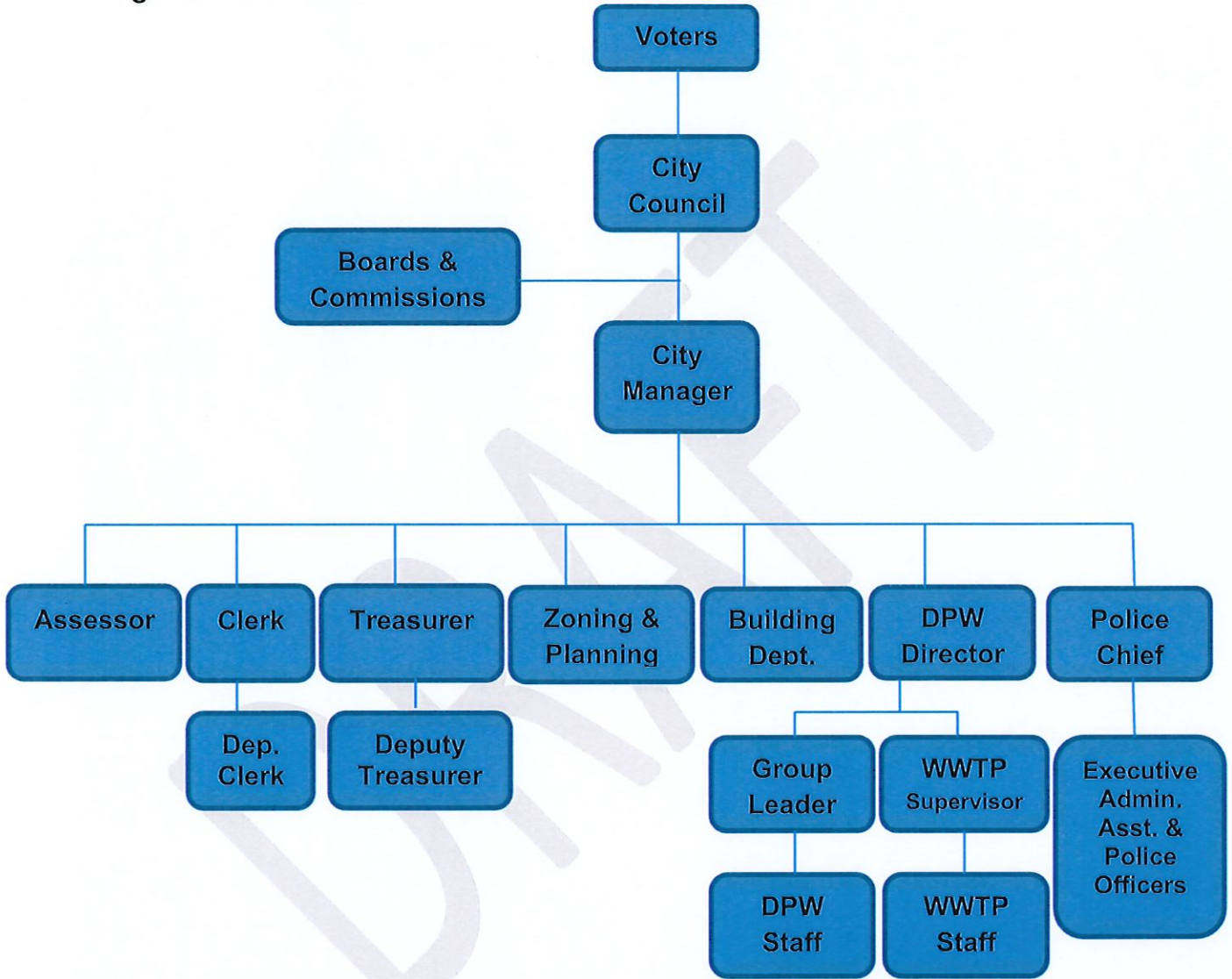


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### Relationships with Other Public Entities

The City maintains a formal relationship with the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department. Through a contract, Meridian Township provides youth sports opportunities such as baseball and basketball to the Williamston community.

### Organizational Chart



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### **Funding and Budgets**

The parks and recreation budget is funded annually through the General Fund. The current annual budget is approximately \$200,000. This amount represents about six percent of all General Fund expenditures. A detailed copy of the parks and recreation budget is included in the Appendix section.

### **Capital Improvements**

In order to fund capital expenditures, the City of Williamston relies on a combination of General Fund dollars, grant funds, and donations from local citizens and organizations. The City has been fortunate that the community has done extensive fundraising over the years to pay for both new construction and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. To continue to earn the trust of donors, the City must keep the facilities safe and well-maintained.

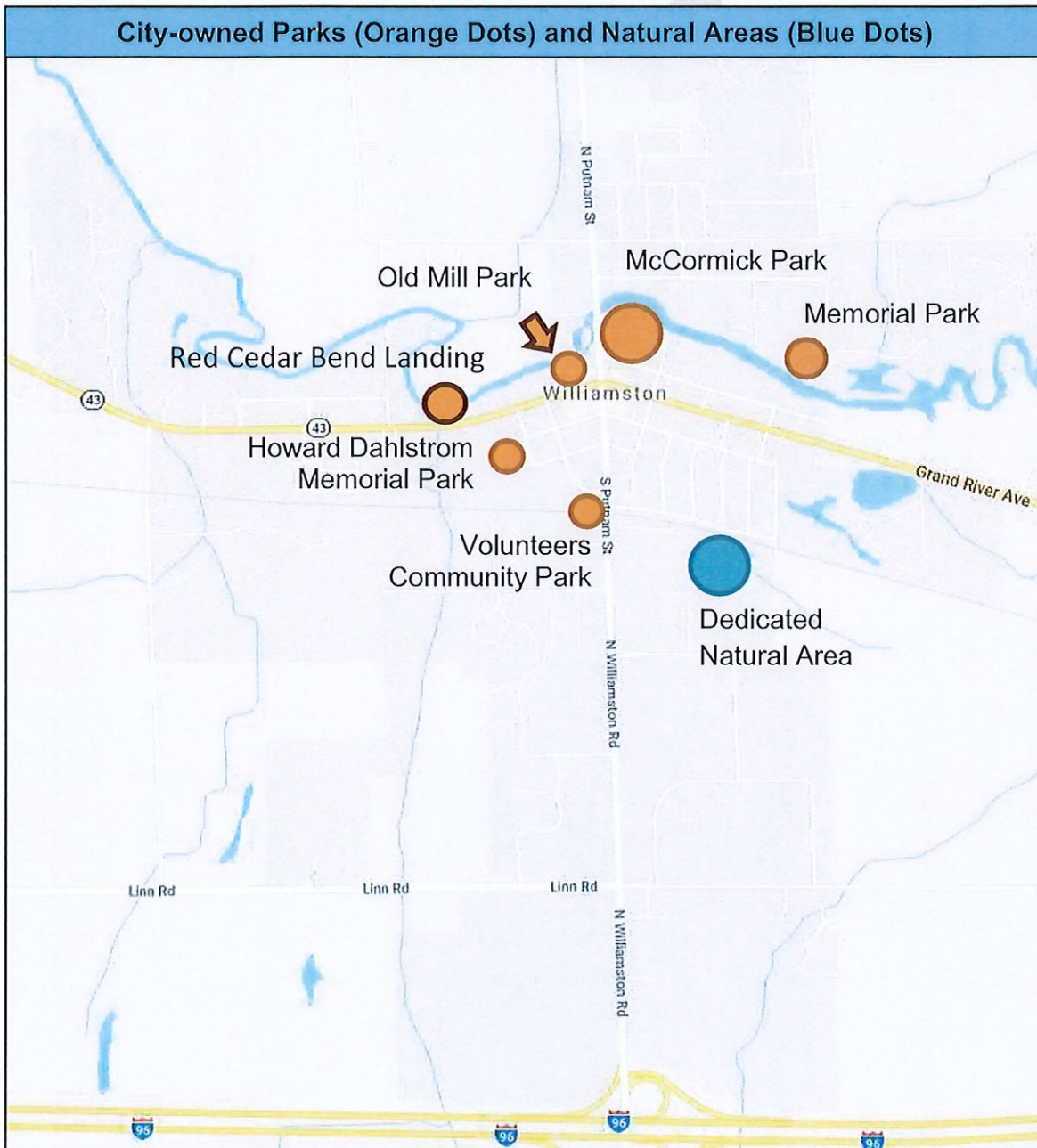
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pg 10

#### IV. INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS, NATURAL AREAS, AND FACILITIES

The City of Williamston is a primary provider of recreation opportunities in the Williamston area. The City offers over 37 acres of park land and natural areas. This acreage is spread out over five parks with amenities and several other natural areas owned by the City. These areas are discussed in more detail in the following inventory listing. The method used to conduct the inventory was a review of existing descriptions, property files, and visual inspection.

A location map of the City-owned parks and natural areas shown below:



**McCormick Park**

McCormick Park is a 7.21 acre park that is centrally located within the City of Williamston on North Putnam Street. It is one block removed from the downtown corridor along Grand River Avenue and within walking distance to most neighborhood streets. It also features frontage along the Red Cedar River. McCormick Park is Williamston's most utilized park, as it is regularly frequented by residents of the City and neighboring townships. The park provides both active and passive recreation opportunities.

Recreational Facilities:

- Playground structures (2)
- Pickleball courts (2)
- Sand volleyball courts (2)
- Tetherball
- Open green space
- Paved pathway
- Recreational sporting field
- Unimproved water access location for canoe and kayaks

Support Facilities:

- Band shell
- Concessions building
- Restrooms (2)
- Pavilions (2)
- Historic gazebo
- Outdoor grills
- Picnic tables and benches
- Trash receptacles
- Bicycle racks
- Public parking areas
- Lighting

Accessibility Ranking:

3 – some of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design



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pg 12

### **Memorial Park**

Memorial Park consists of about 9.8 acres of park land, which is located on Highland Street next to the Williamston Elementary School. It features almost a quarter-mile of frontage on the Red Cedar River. The park terminates at a pedestrian bridge that crosses over the river to connect to the south side of the City. The park largely consists of passive recreation opportunities along the river, including an unpaved trail with minor site improvements throughout. The park serves the entire community, as it is accessible from neighborhoods north and south of the river via the pedestrian bridge.

#### Recreational Facilities:

Baseball field (1)  
Tennis courts  
Unpaved pathway

#### Support Facilities:

Benches

#### Accessibility Ranking:

1 – none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design



### **Old Mill Park**

Old Mill Park features just under an acre of park land. The park is bounded by a public parking lot serving the downtown district to the south and the banks of the Red Cedar River to the north. Its primary use is for passive recreation by use of the boardwalk along the river. The park primarily serves visitors to Williamston's downtown corridor. The Red Cedar rapids are located within the Red Cedar River adjacent to this park. The History Plaza features the mill stone of the original grist mill from the 1800s and interpretive signage on the story of the mill and Putnam Street Bridge.

#### Recreational Facilities:

Wooden boardwalk

#### Support Facilities:

Benches

Butterfly garden

Gazebo

History Plaza

#### Accessibility Ranking:

2 – some of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design



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### **Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park**

Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park contains about 1.4 acres of park land, located on Mechanic Street to the west of the City's downtown corridor. The park is adjacent to a football field and track that is owned by the school district. This park serves the community at large, as it is primarily used as a support facility for the school football field and track and for community events such as the annual Red Cedar Jubilee.

#### Recreational Facilities:

Lighted sledding hill  
Multi-use open space

#### Support Facilities:

Picnic shelter

#### Accessibility Ranking:

3 – most of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

### **Volunteers Community Park**

Volunteers Community Park is approximately an acre in size. It is located at the southwest corner of Putnam Street and School Street, adjacent to The Commons, a private enterprise that was once a former community center and school. This park is envisioned as a neighborhood-level park that primarily serves the newer developed subdivisions to the south of the railroad tracks and the historic neighborhoods to the immediate north. It features primarily active recreation opportunities.

#### Recreational Facilities:

Basketball courts (2)  
Open green space

#### Accessibility Ranking:

2 – some of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

### **Dedicated Natural Area**

The Dedicated Natural Area is not an official park, but rather a natural area owned and dedicated to such use by the City of Williamston. The 17-acre parcel is located to the east of the Department of Public Works campus on the eastern edge of the City limits. It is accessible from Industrial Park Drive. There are currently no recreational or support facilities at this area. This site was dedicated as such in 2015, when the City undertook a grant conversion process for the former Community Center building. The former Community Center had received a Recreation Bond grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in 1991, when it was still owned by Williamston Community Schools. The MDNR allowed the City to transfer the grant restrictions from the Community Center property to another City-owned site, specifically, the public/wetlands area in the Industrial Park, through an Amendment to the Project Agreement, calling for a conversion of the grant-assisted site, when the Community Center building was sold to another party.

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## **Red Cedar Bend Landing**

Red Cedar Bend Landing is a new kayak landing on the Red Cedar River with a parking facility, bench and interpretive sign. Completed in 2022, the park was conceptualized in the previous parks plan update (2019 – 2023).

### Recreation Facilities

Kayak Launch/Landing

### Support Facilities

Bench

### Accessibility Ranking

3 – most of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

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### Other Recreation Providers and Resources

#### *Williamston Community Schools Recreation Resources*

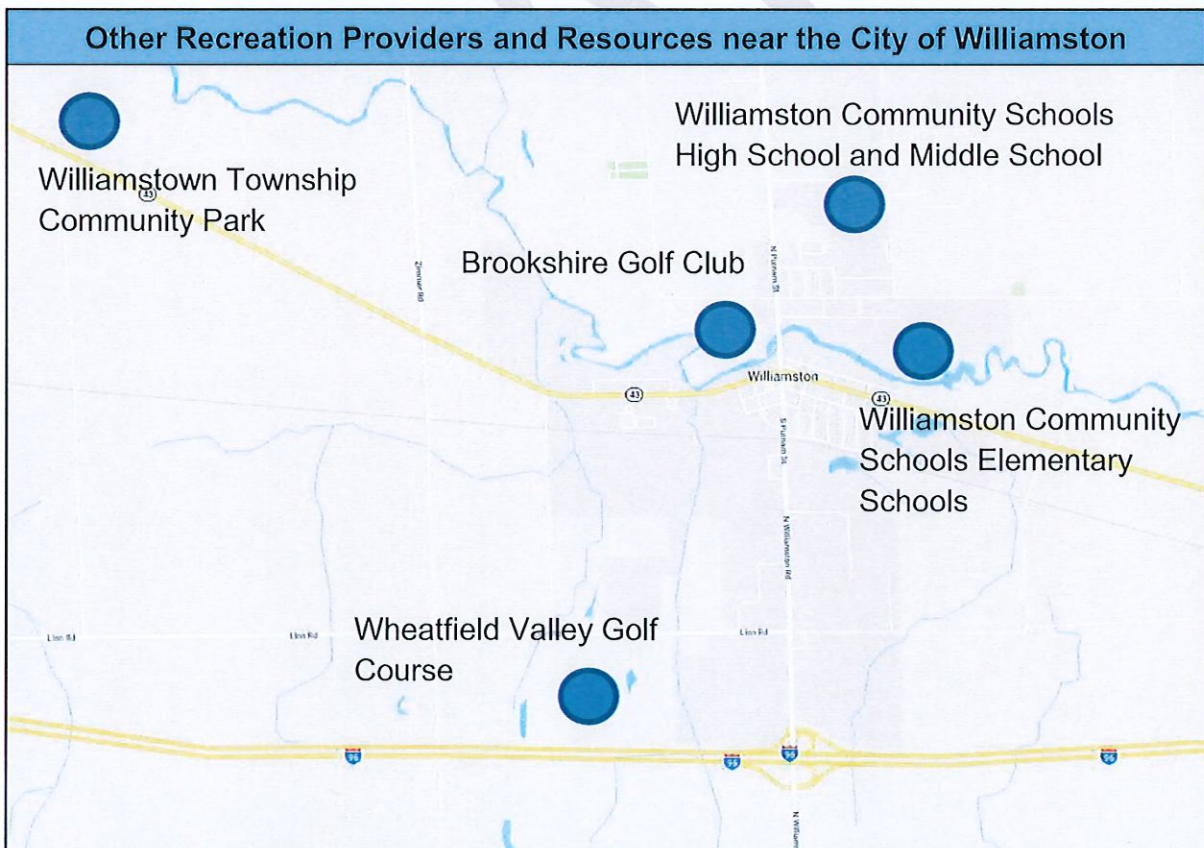
Williamston Community Schools operates two elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. All of these schools are located within the City of Williamston. These school sites are designed primarily to meet the needs of the students, but they do provide extensive recreation facilities and opportunities for school district residents. The schools have indoor and outdoor recreational facilities such as gymnasiums, basketball courts, baseball diamonds, football fields, a track, a pool, and soccer fields. School facilities are used by community members on many occasions when not in use for school functions.

#### *Williamstown Township Community Park*

Williamstown Township Community Park was built in 1996 and consists of 132-acres located approximately three miles west of downtown Williamston off Grand River Avenue. The park lies on the banks of the Red Cedar River and currently has a sledding hill, nature trails, wildflower prairie, two soccer fields, a baseball field, dog walk, an open turf area for various activities, an informational kiosk, and a parking area (includes port-o-john facility.)

#### *Private Golf Courses*

There are two privately-owned and operated golf courses that are near the City limits: the Brookshire Golf Club and the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course.



### Accessibility Evaluation

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The following summaries address the accessibility of the City's parks and recreation facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Universal Design. Facilities were ranked according to a visual inspection by staff utilizing the following ranking system and based on a review of standards from the New England ADA Center.

- 1 = none of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2 = some of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 3 = most of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 4 = all of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 5 = the facility meets the Principles of Universal Design

McCormick Park (Ranking: 3)

McCormick Park is a diverse park with many elements scattered throughout its more than seven acres of park land. Thanks to a 2008 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant, it is also the most accessible of Williamston's parks. The 2008 grant created a paved pathway throughout the park, which provides multiple means of access from the City's sidewalk network and the parking areas dedicated to McCormick Park. The wide pathway meanders through the park, creating an accessible path to every one of the park's amenities. The paved pathway is lighted at night. The grant also paid for the construction of a concessions building that features accessible restrooms.

As the community moves forward with park design and implementation of improvements, future site amenities should be connected to the existing pathway. Attention should also be paid to the type of surfaces used for playground equipment to ensure universal access to new or improved features.

Memorial Park (Ranking: 1)

Memorial Park is largely a passive recreation destination, with an unpaved trail along the Red Cedar River. The baseball field and tennis courts are outdated and are not connected to a paved parking area. As such, none of the site elements meet the standards for accessible design.

As this park moves forward, most of the attention has been focused on the trail concept. The trail should be made of accessible material, with a pathway along the river's edge connecting to a parking lot that features accessible parking spaces and connections to local school property. Eventually, the paved trail system would connect to the pedestrian bridge over the Red Cedar River, which may require its own upgrades to ensure universal access.

Old Mill Park (Ranking: 3)

Old Mill Park primarily consists of a brand-new ADA compliant boardwalk that connects from the City's sidewalk network and along the Red Cedar River to a terminating point on the west end of the property. The boardwalk itself is accessible from the sidewalks and from the paved parking lot that connects to the park with viewing platforms with picnic tables extending from the boardwalk.

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Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park (Ranking: 3)

Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park consists of a paved parking lot with sidewalk access to a small pavilion. The remainder of the park is a sledding hill, which is not universally accessible at this time.

Volunteers Community Park (Ranking: 2)

Volunteers Community Park features basketball courts as its one and only recreational amenity. The basketball courts consist of a flat surface surrounded by City sidewalks. There is not a dedicated parking lot with accessible parking spaces at this park. As this park develops, consideration should be given to linking the basketball courts directly to the sidewalks or a future parking area. The vision for this park includes the creation of a playground amenity adjacent to the basketball courts. Care should be taken to ensure the playground amenity features universal design considerations for access.

**Site Development Plans and Other Plans**

There are no definitive site development plans for the current parks in the Williamston parks system. There is a conceptual City-wide trail plan that has been proposed. A copy of the City-wide trail plan is included in the Appendix section.

**Recreation Grant History**

Funding Source/Project Number	Project Year/Name	Grant Amount	Project Results
LWCF – 26-00305	1972 – McCormick Park Improvement	\$1,106.17	Lighted croquet court, horseshoe and shuffleboard area, picnic storage, conversion of pool into play area, play equipment, LWCF sign
LWCF – 26-00314	1972 – Memorial Park Improvement	\$41,289.92	Renovation of existing swimming pool, improvement ball field, tennis court, lighting, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe courts, winterize warming house, site improvement, picnic area, boat livery and footbridges, LWCF sign
MNRTF – TF616	1982 – Williamston Recreation Corridor	\$105,000	Acquisition of 3 parcels totaling 2.53 acres
MNRTF – TF95-121	1995 – Red Cedar River Rapids	\$342,700	Develop artificial rapids course in the Red Cedar River for recreation and to control water levels
MNRTF – TF08-081	2008 – McCormick Park Improvements	\$391,100	Paved pathway system, parking, canoe/kayak launch, fishing/observation structures, landscaping, and lighted pathway, concession/accessible restroom

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## **V. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

The goals, objectives, and action program outlined in the forthcoming pages are based on a variety of planning documents and public input. City staff consulted the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2018-2022 to ensure that the Williamston action plan will help to address the key state priorities of resource conservation, collaboration, awareness, accessibility of recreation, quality experiences, and health benefits. Staff also consulted local plans such as the Red Cedar River Corridor Trail Plan and the Ingham County Trails & Parks Comprehensive Report.

In the past, National Recreation and Park Association standards prescribing a minimum level of recreation land or infrastructure (e.g. 10 acres of locally owned public parkland per 1,000 residents) were used in a prescriptive approach to define community recreation needs. While these standards were consulted, this approach is not outlined in this plan. Rather, a more modern level of service (LOS) approach is adopted. In LOS, the community is fully engaged in the process. Acquisition and development are tailored to meet community identified needs and link with recreation opportunities provided in neighboring jurisdictions. For example, the older standards approach would not take into account that the City of Williamston is defined by more than political boundaries. It is a community, public school, and recreational hub for 15,000 people, only 3,854 of which live in the City.

### **Public Input Process**

Planning for the public input process for this plan began with initial discussion by the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission reviewed various options for involving the wider public in the planning process. Ultimately, the Commission recommended that the City of Williamston distribute a survey to the community to receive input to be used in developing the plan. The City contracted with planning consultant firm McKenna to design and administer the survey to ensure the survey was designed in a professional manner.

### **Survey Process**

City staff developed a survey instrument for the City staff and Parks and Recreation Commission to review prior to distribution. The survey attempts to gauge the community's priorities regarding parks and recreation in the City of Williamston, while soliciting specific feedback regarding park facilities, programming, and improvement areas. The survey also provided an opportunity for open-ended answers.

The final survey was delivered to the community utilizing SurveyMonkey.com. The survey link was shared across multiple online platforms, including the City's website and social media pages. The link on Facebook was shared dozens of times by other community organizations and residents. To reach the entire community, the City also delivered printed surveys to areas where the community gathers, including the Williamston Senior Center, the Williamston branch of the Capital Area District Library, and City Hall. Signs with a QR code link to the survey were placed at City Hall and other public areas. This multi-pronged approach ensured that the survey was available to the entire community.



### Survey Results

A copy of the survey and the detailed results are included in the Appendix section. There were over 200 responses submitted by the deadline. A summary of the survey results is discussed below.

The overwhelming majority of residents value the parks and recreation system and believe that they are vital to the community, with McCormick Park ranking as extremely important among all parks. All other City-owned parks were ranked as somewhat important.

The majority of respondents (73 percent) stated they are satisfied with the number and types of parks available in the City of Williamston. Respondents noted that they visit McCormick Park very frequently. However, all other City parks were occasionally or rarely visited. Those who frequented each park have noted the good to fair condition of each park, as follows:

- McCormick Park: Good-Excellent at 82 percent
- Memorial Park: Fair-Good at 74 percent
- Howard Dahlstrom Memorial Park: Fair-Good at 85 percent
- Old Mill Park Good – Excellent at 84%
- Volunteers Community Park: Good – Excellent at 90 percent
- Red Cedar Bend Landing: Good - Excellent at 90 percent

Respondents who did not frequent City parks noted the main reasons as the availability of parking, lack of familiarity with the park, not knowing where the park is located, and lack of desired amenities.

When asked if the current park amenities exceed or fall short of meeting the needs of the community, respondents stated eight of the 13 amenities meet the City's needs, while five of the 13 fall short. The majority of respondents didn't think that the current amenities exceeded the City's needs.

Respondents noted that they would like to see an increase in the following amenities:

- Paved biking/walking pathways: 50 percent
- Splash park: 43 percent
- Ice Skating Rink 30 percent
- Dog Park : 27 percent

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Responses were spread evenly among the desired goals of the master plan. The creation of paved biking/walking pathways held the highest importance, while the expansion of the Red Cedar River Boardwalk was ranked as important.

It was clear in reading the results that the City and its supporters can improve its communication methods regarding park projects and programming. Residents were asked to provide their preferred method for receiving such information. Social media and the City's website were among the highest ranked.

Finally, the survey asked respondents to report the jurisdiction in which they live, if not the City of Williamston. A significant number of the responses came from neighboring townships like Williamstown and Wheatfield, showing that the Williamston parks system does indeed reach a wider user base than just those within the City limits.

### **Incorporating Survey Feedback into the Plan**

Once the survey results were received, the Parks and Recreation Commission met to review the results. The Commission set up a subcommittee to further dive into the results and guide the development of goals. This feedback was ultimately incorporated into the plan.

### **Draft Plan Publication**

The draft plan was posted on the City of Williamston's website and at City Hall for citizen review and comment for a period of 30 days. The notice of availability of the draft plan was published in the *Williamston Enterprise* periodical. Two written comments were submitted to the City. The Parks and Recreation Commission met on January 9, 2019, to review the feedback.

### **Public Hearing**

Following the review and comment period of the draft plan, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to recommend adoption of the plan to the City Council. A formal public hearing date was set and advertised in the *Williamston Enterprise* periodical. This hearing was to be held at the City Council meeting on January 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. However, due to extreme winter weather the day of January 28, 2019, the meeting was cancelled. The City of Williamston received permission from the State of Michigan to postpone its public hearing and planned vote on adoption until its next regular meeting on February 11, 2019. The revised public hearing date was advertised in the *Williamston Enterprise* periodical. The public hearing was then held on February 11, 2019.

### **Plan Adoption**

Following the public hearing process, the City Council formally adopted the plan by passing a resolution on *insert date when complete*

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## VI. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the recreation planning process. Goals are described as a desired state of affairs for the community in the future. Goals are broad, public purposes toward which objectives and implementation strategies are directed. Objectives are steps designed to achieve goals. These are more narrowly defined statements of public purpose to clarify and identify appropriate implementation measures to achieve the goal.

The overall goal of the City of Williamston's parks function is to provide recreation opportunities for the community and broader region around Williamston. Specific goals are based on the demographics and characteristics of the community. The objectives that flow from the goals were developed based on broad community input in the form of surveys. The goals and objectives were further refined by the Parks and Recreation Commission.



### **Goal 1: Provide recreation opportunities and parks facilities that are safe, well-maintained, and accessible to people of all ages and abilities.**

- Objective 1: Continue to replace, upgrade, and add amenities to the parks based on community input and recreational trends and available funding.
- Objective 2: Better communicate opportunities provided by the parks and recreation facilities to the public to ensure they are aware of the value of the parks system.
- Objective 3: Ensure that improvements and upgrades to park facilities comply with accessibility standards outlined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Objective 4: Explore diverse park facilities that will create opportunities to enjoy the park facilities and lands by people of all ages and abilities.

### **Goal 2: Encourage an active, year -round lifestyle including walking, biking, and river activities.**

- Objective 1: Continue to develop a network of paved pathways and trails that will remove accessibility as a barrier to maintain an active lifestyle.
- Objective 2: Provide linkages between the City's sidewalk network and paved pathway and trail network to provide a walkable community.
- Objective 3: Explore creation of water-based recreation activities.
- Objective 4: Explore creation of ice-skating rink and other winter activities

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**Goal 3: Build a strong community through social interactions within parks and natural areas.**

- Objective 1: Expand recreation opportunities for children and families to continue to utilize the parks system and foster interaction.
- Objective 2: Explore recreation experiences for youth during summer months.
- Objective 3: Increase universal access to parks to ensure the parks are accessible to all stakeholders.
- Objective 4: Better advertise the availability of park facilities and programs, utilizing methods of communication most identified in survey results (e.g. social media).
- Objective 5: Continue to encourage use of parks for public events and gatherings such as the Red Cedar Jubilee, Summer Concert Series, and National Night Out.

**Goal 4: Pursue grants and enhance partnerships with community members and organizations to help with park improvement and development needs.**

- Objective 1: Explore linkages between City of Williamston park lands and other public lands such as school-owned lands.
- Objective 2: Establish a list of desired projects that could be funded and built by civic organizations and clubs or carried out by volunteers such as National Honor Society students.
- Objective 3: Collaborate with the Downtown Development Authority of Williamston to determine areas of shared goals and improvements.
- Objective 4: Work with parks-oriented organizations like the Friends of Williamston Parks to plan and coordinate improvement projects.
- Objective 5: Develop distinct park donation policies to establish clear guidelines for donations and long-term donation maintenance.
- Objective 6: Actively seek grant funds for needed park improvements and upgrades by maintaining a Five-Year Recreation Plan in accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources standards.

**Goal 5: Provide environmental education opportunities**

- Objective 1: Develop identity for the Dedicated Natural Area in the Industrial Park near the Department of Public Works campus.
- Objective 2: Enhance appreciation of the Red Cedar River by encouraging preservation of the riverfront areas and recreational access to the river.
- Objective 3: Provide education through interpretative signage and partnerships with other community groups and schools.



**VII. ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Program is the section of the plan where the City of Williamston identifies how it intends to work toward meeting its goals and objectives over the next five years and beyond. The program presents a variety of proposed projects, estimated costs, and connection to goals and objectives to continue to improve parks and recreation facilities and programming from 2024 – 2028. Decisions regarding the projects included in the Action Program were based on recreational trends, national standards, community input and opinion, and demographic trends of the town and region.



In lieu of specifying an exact year that projects will be considered, the Action Program presents projects on a short-term, mid-term, and long-term basis. Short-term projects are those that should be considered in the first year or two of the five-year period. Mid-term projects are those that should be considered during the next five years. Long-term projects are those that may require significant planning and coordination that could begin in the five-year period, but would likely not be constructed until after the five-year time horizon.

Projects are first presented in a capital improvement and programming table, followed by a discussion and rationale for each item listed. The following schedules are not fixed and represent the best ideas generated at the time the plan was developed. The projects listed are not meant to be all inclusive or exclusive.

Capital Improvement and Program Planning Table			
Horizon	Project	Estimated Cost	Connection to Goals
Short-Term	Develop list of priority projects needing funding	Time	4.2
	Develop better communication methods for information regarding parks and recreation	Time	1.2, 3.4, 3.5
	Add signage to parks that do not have signs	\$2,000	1.2, 5.1, 5.3
	Tree replacement and preservation	\$2,000/yr	1.1
	Continuation of riverfront/rain garden WildType maintenance plan	\$2,000/yr	1.1, 5.2
	Resurface Basketball Courts at Volunteers Community Park	\$10,000	1.1

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Capital Improvement and Program Planning Table (continued)			
Horizon	Project	Estimated Cost	Connection to Goals
Mid-Term	Pursue funding to complete the Honor For All Trail within Memorial Park; enhance public parking opportunities by removing tennis courts	\$1,000,000	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 4.1
	Connection from Grand River Avenue to High Street/Pedestrian Bridge through City-owned 835 Grand River Avenue	\$10,000	1.1, 1.3
	Replace supporting infrastructure at parks such as picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles as needed	\$5,000/yr	1.1, 1.3
	Develop identity and long-term plan for Dedicated Natural Area, including access via pathways connecting to neighborhoods	TBD	1.4, 5.1
Horizon	Project	Estimated Cost	Connection to Goals
Long-Term	Pursue easements along the south side of the Red Cedar River behind commercially zoned properties for creation of paved pathway along river on the Grand River Avenue corridor	TBD	2.1, 2.2
	Explore ice skating rink	TBD	2.3, 4.3
	Explore water-based recreation activities for the parks system	TBD	2.4
	Update Five-Year Recreation Plan	Time	4.6
	Acquire additional park land, if necessary	TBD	1.4, 4.6

### Funding the Action Program

It is generally assumed that any of the above projects or programs would need to rely on a combination of General Fund dollars, donations from civic and business organizations, fundraising from the community, and grant applications to be completed. These funding sources and other funding options are discussed in greater detail in the pages that follow.

### Action Program Rationale

The rationale for each item referenced in the capital improvement and program planning table is briefly discussed.

### Short-Term Items

- **Develop list of priority projects needing funding:** Municipalities are increasingly relying on outside funding to complete park improvement projects. It is important to be proactive about the types of projects and improvements needed.

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Generating a list of priority projects for fundraising would be the first step in planning for the completion of the mid-term projects.

- **Develop better communication methods for information regarding parks and recreation:** It was clear in reading the survey results that the City can do a better job of communicating parks and recreation opportunities and programming. Many residents were unaware of the existence of certain parks facilities and opportunities. The survey asked residents to list their preferred ways to receive information about the parks. The City should use this feedback to improve communication with the public.
- **Add signage to parks that do not have signs:** Several parks either have no signage or outdated signage. The City should explore cost-effective ways to provide an identifying sign for these park areas.
- **Continuation of riverfront/rain garden WildType maintenance plan:** The City annually contracts for the preservation and maintenance of the riverfront at McCormick Park and Old Mill Park, as well as rain gardens in McCormick Park. These actions help to preserve these important natural resources and provide an opportunity for environmental education.
- **Resurface basketball courts at Volunteers Community Park:** The City allocates funds to resurface these basketball courts on a regular schedule to ensure they are safe and well-maintained.

#### Mid-Term Items

- **Pursue funding to complete the Honor For All Trail within Memorial Park; enhance public parking opportunities by removing tennis courts:** A plan has been developed to path the undeveloped trail within Memorial Park. The path would ultimately connect to a pedestrian bridge that crosses over the Red Cedar River to connect to the southern side of town. The trail would meander through Memorial Park's riverfront area before traveling north to a potential parking area on the current site of the underutilized tennis courts. This ambitious project will require significant outside resources to complete but would create a critical pathway linkage from the City's south side to the north side and to the schools, while creating an amenity at the little-used Memorial Park.
- **Connection from Grand River Avenue to High Street/Pedestrian Bridge through City-owned 835 Grand River Avenue:** The City owns 835 Grand River Avenue, which is bordered by Grand River Avenue on the south and High Street on the north side of the parcel. This parcel connects to the dead-end side of High Street, near the existing entrance for the pedestrian bridge over the Red Cedar River. Creating a connection through the City-owned property, even if just crushed millings, would provide a link from the main route in town to the riverfront.
- **Replace supporting infrastructure at parks such as picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles as needed:** These items should be evaluated annually to continue to present a positive image at all parks.
- **Develop identity and long-term plan for Dedicated Natural Area:** This area comprises over 17 acres near the City's Department of Public Works campus. It was dedicated in recent years to remain as a natural area. The land contains a

large wetlands area and wooded areas. The City should develop an identity for this area, along with an access plan that would connect it to neighborhoods.

### Long-Term Items

- **Pursue easements along the south side of the Red Cedar River behind commercially-zoned properties for creation of paved pathway along river on the Grand River Avenue corridor:** The City does not have property control over several properties that would potentially link Old Mill Park to the former car wash site on the western edge of downtown owned by Williamston's Downtown Development Authority. Control is necessary to effectuate the goal of providing a river trail along this corridor. Several steps have been taken toward achieving this eventual goal, including surveys and appraisals of the easement areas.
- **Explore water-based recreation activities for the parks system:** Several survey respondents liked the idea of creating a water-based recreation activity like a splash pad. The City should further explore this concept based on survey feedback.
- **Explore ice skating rink to enhance year-round activities:** Adding an ice skating rink would enhance the winter outdoor recreation experience.
- **Update Five-Year Recreation Plan:** This plan must be updated every five years to remain eligible for most grant awards.
- **Acquire additional park land, if necessary:** The City has ample room to accommodate new or improved amenities within its existing parks. That said, it is important to think long-term, and additional park land may one day be needed to accomplish certain goals, or to link areas within the City limits together. Real estate transactions and opportunities are difficult to predict. The City should engage or at least be willing to listen to land owners for possible donations or dedication of land to the park system.

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## Funding Sources

- **General Fund:** This fund provides the entirety of the maintenance and operations budget for City parks. Due to stagnating revenues and rising costs, this fund will continue to struggle to invest in large capital improvements on its own.
- **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Grants:** MDNR annually offers grant opportunities to fund recreation improvements. The City has been successful in applying for such grants in the past, but it is difficult to get an award every year, and most grants require at least some local matching dollars.
- **Fundraising/Donations:** The City will need to rely on fundraising and donations to complete needed improvements and maintenance of City park facilities.
- **Partnerships:** In lieu of a direct donation, organizations may be asked to take on a project in an area of their expertise within the parks system.

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## APPENDIX

The appendix section contains the following information:

- A. Post-completion self-certification reports
- B. Parks and recreation line-item budget information
- C. City-wide sidewalk and trail network plans
- D. Parks Survey
- E. Complete survey response summaries
- F. Copy of the notice of the availability of the draft plan for public review and comment
- G. Copy of the notice for the public meeting held after the one-month public review period and before the plan's adoption by the governing body
- H. Copy of the minutes from the public meeting
- I. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body
- J. Transmittal letters
- K. DNR Checklist

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Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

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

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

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

GRANTEE: City of WilliamstonPROJECT NUMBER: LWCF-26-00305PROJECT TYPE: Park ImprovementPROJECT TITLE: 1972 McCormick Park ImprovementPROJECT SCOPE: Lighted croquet court, horseshoe and shuffleboard area, picnic storage**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of Williamston	Contact Person Corey Schmidt	Title City Manager
Address 161 E. Grand River Ave.	Telephone 517-655-2774	
City, State, ZIP Williamston, MI 48895	Email manager@williamston-mi.us	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

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

McCormick Park's amenities have changed since 1972 when these improvements were added.

Most of the listed project results are no longer park amenities in 2018, 46 years later.

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

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

Croquet, horseshoe and shuffleboard have been replaced by pickleball, tetherball, and volleyball.

**SITE QUALITY**

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

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

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

Vandalism has been a problem at the "band shell." A roll-up door was recently added to the opening in the band shell, which should curtail the vandalism.

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pg 31**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
 Maintenance is done on a daily basis in the spring, summer, and fall, and as needed in the winter.

**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  
 The City charges for use of the band shell and concessions building.  
 Fee scheduled provided below.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
 All-season. Dusk to dawn.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)****Bandshell fees:**

11 am - 3 pm: No charge for Mon-Thur; \$50 for Fri; \$50 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

5 pm - sunset: \$25 for Mon-Thur; \$100 for Fri; \$100 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

11 am - sunset: \$25 for Mon-Thur; \$150 for Fri; \$150 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

**Concessions building:**

11 am - 3 pm: \$10 for Mon-Thur; \$10 for Fri; \$10 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

5 pm - sunset: \$20 for Mon-Thur; \$20 for Fri; \$20 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

11 am - sunset: \$30 for Mon-Thur; \$30 for Fri; \$30 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.



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pg 32

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.*

Corey Schmidt		11-30-2018
Please print	Grantee Authorized Signature	Date

Barb Burke		11-30-2018
Please print	Witness Signature	Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
 GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
 PO BOX 30425  
 LANSING MI 48909-7925



## McCormick Park Renovation 2009 - 2011

*Major Funding:*

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Trust Fund Grant

City of Williamston

*Major Contributions:*

American Legion Post 296

Discovery Elementary School

Red Cedar Garden Club

Williamston Sunrise Rotary Club

Williamston Area Beautification Fund

Williamston Kiwanis Club

*Project Managers:*

C2AB • Laux Construction

*City of Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission:*

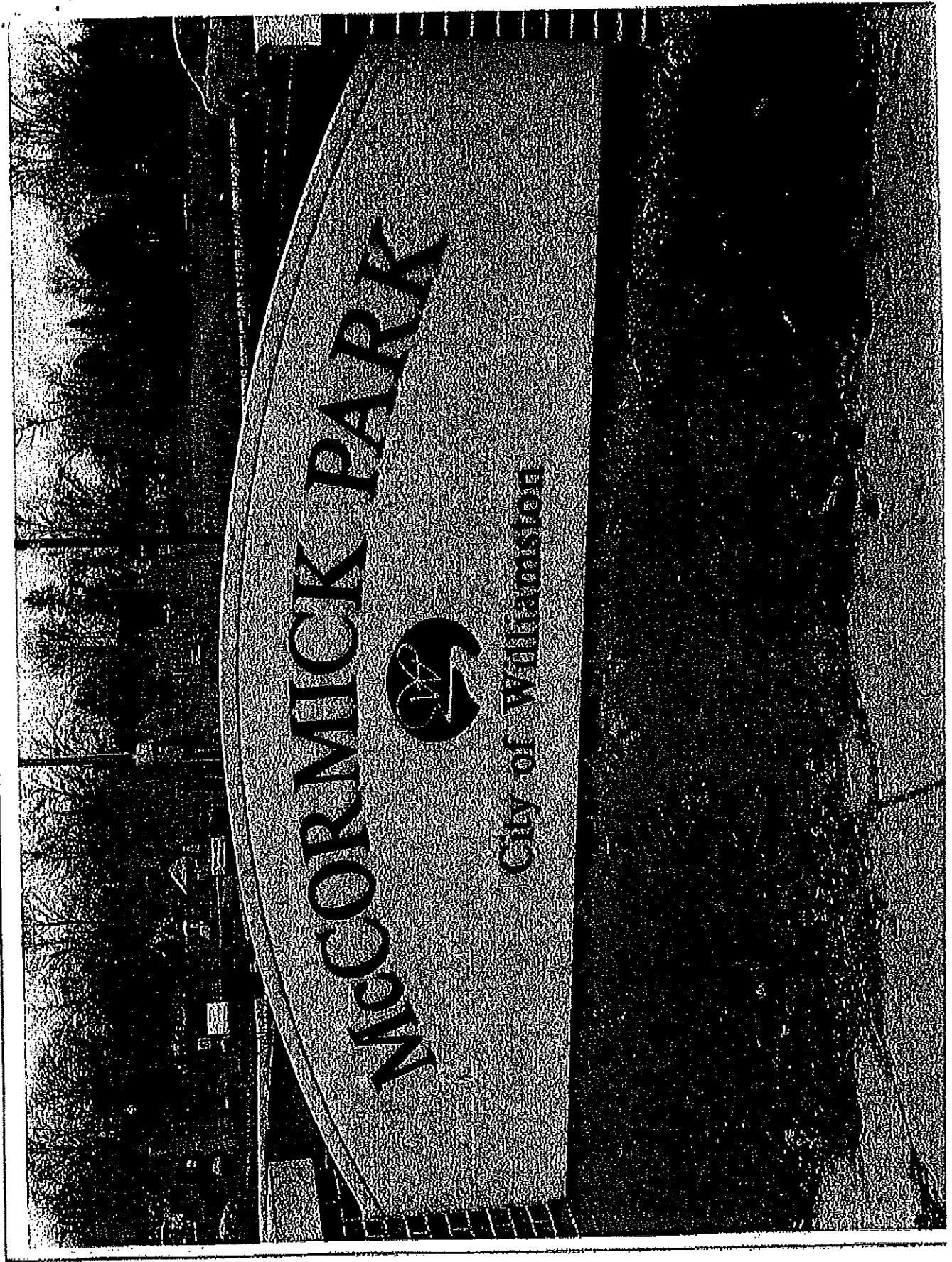
Phillis Chirico • Gwen Hulbert • John Pratt

Ryan Sweeder • Carmen Sigiliano • Earl Wolf

Williamston City Council



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8b-d  
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Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

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

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

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

GRANTEE: City of WilliamstonPROJECT NUMBER: LWCF-26-00314PROJECT TYPE: Park ImprovementPROJECT TITLE: 1972 Memorial Park ImprovementPROJECT SCOPE: Renovated swimming pool, ballfield, tennis court, lighting, shuffleboard**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of Williamston	Contact Person Corey Schmidt	Title City Manager
Address 161 E. Grand River Ave.	Telephone 517-655-2774	
City, State, ZIP Williamston, MI 48895	Email manager@williamston-mi.us	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

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

Pool and tennis courts were abandoned in the mid-to-late 1990s. Ball field is still active.

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

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

Pool, tennis courts, shuffleboard courts.

**SITE QUALITY**

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

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

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

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pg 36

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
Maintenance is done on a daily basis in the spring, summer, and fall, and as needed in the winter.

**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?  
All-season. Dusk to dawn.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

[Empty box for comments]

86-d  
pg 37

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.*

Corey Schmidt  
Please print

*Corey Schmidt*  
Grantee Authorized Signature

11-30-2018  
Date

Barb Burke  
Please print

*Barbara J. Burke*  
Witness Signature

11-30-2018  
Date

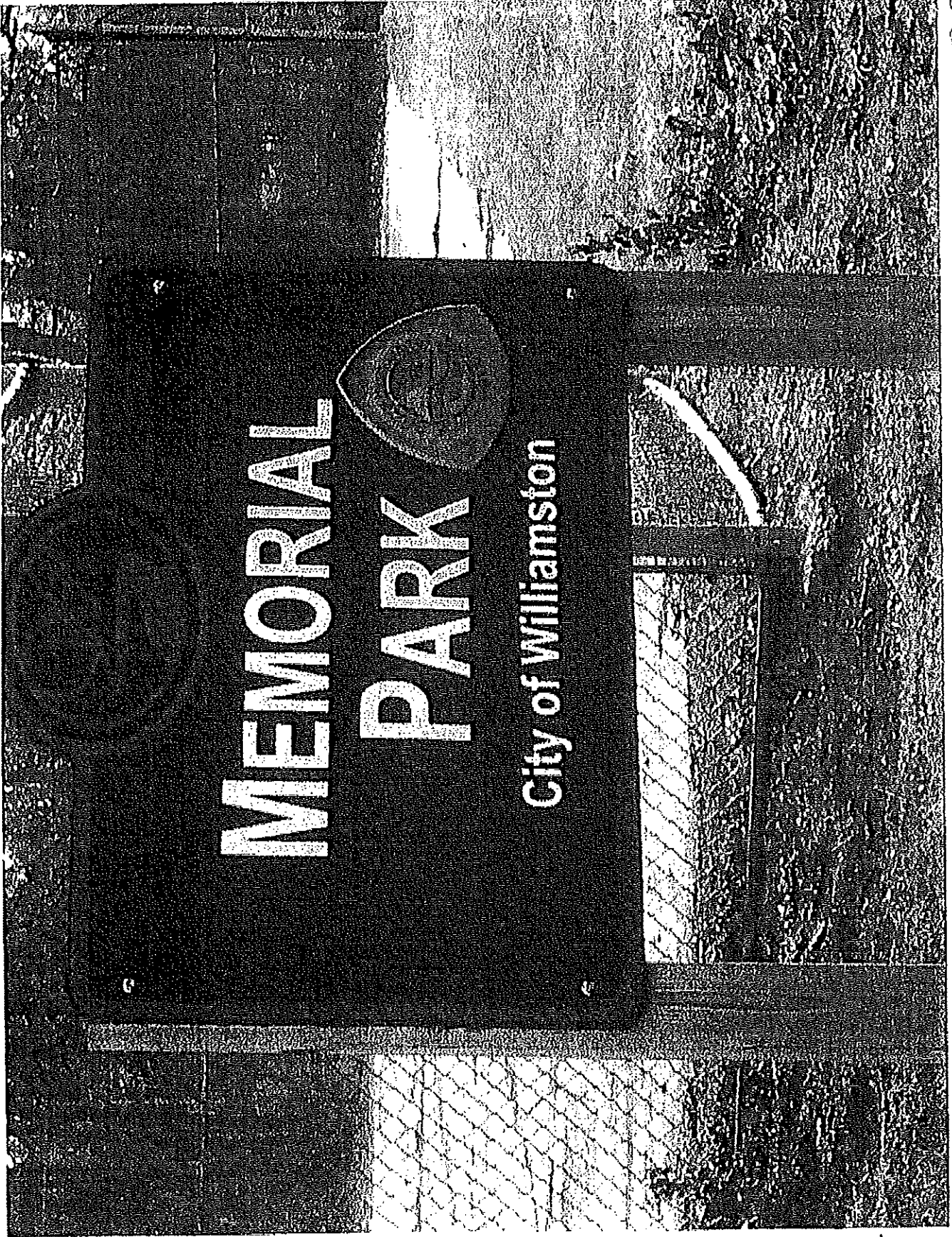
Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925

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# MEMORIAL PARK



City of Williamston



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pg 39



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

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

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

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

GRANTEE: City of Williamston

PROJECT NUMBER: MNRTF - TF616

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: 1982 Williamston Recreation Corridor

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquire three acres, including dam and mill pond, on Red Cedar River

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of Williamston	Contact Person Corey Schmidt	Title City Manager
Address 161 E. Grand River Ave.	Telephone 517-655-2774	
City, State, ZIP Williamston, MI 48895	Email manager@williamston-mi.us	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s).  Yes  No  
1995 development of artificial river rapids in the Red Cedar River to provide a regional recreational opportunity for boaters.

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

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

**SITE QUALITY**

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
This area just recently received an identity as Old Mill Park. The intent is to place a sign in the next year.

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

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



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**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
Maintenance is done on an as needed basis.

**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?  
All-season. Dusk to dawn.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

[Empty space for comments]

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pg 41

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.

Corey Schmidt  
Please print

*Corey Schmidt*  
Grantee Authorized Signature

11-30-2018  
Date

Barb Burke  
Please print

*Barbara J Burke*  
Witness Signature

11-30-2018  
Date

Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925

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Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

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

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

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

GRANTEE: City of Williamston

PROJECT NUMBER: MNRTEF - TF95-121

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: 1995 Red Cedar River Rapids

PROJECT SCOPE: Develop artificial rapids to provide regional recreation for boaters

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of Williamston	Contact Person Corey Schmidt	Title City Manager
Address 161 E. Grand River Ave.	Telephone 517-655-2774	
City, State, ZIP Williamston, MI 48895	Email manager@williamston-mi.us	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

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

**SITE QUALITY**

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

Since this improvement is part of the river, there is not a dedicated sign. This area is being referred to as Old Mill Park, and the intent is to place a sign in the next year.

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

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



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pg 44

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.

Corey Schmidt

Please print

*Corey Schmidt*  
Grantee Authorized Signature

11-30-2018

Date

Barb Burke

Please print

*Barbara J. Burke*  
Witness Signature

11-30-2018

Date

Send completed report to:

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

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Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

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

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

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

GRANTEE: City of Williamston

PROJECT NUMBER: MNRTF - T08-081

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: 2008 McCormick Park Improvements

PROJECT SCOPE: Activity area, canoe/kayak launch, fishing pier, lighted pathway

**TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)**

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of Williamston	Contact Person Corey Schmidt	Title City Manager
Address 161 E. Grand River Ave.	Telephone 517-655-2774	
City, State, ZIP Williamston, MI 48895	Email manager@williamston-mi.us	

**SITE DEVELOPMENT**

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?  
If yes, please describe change(s).  Yes  No  
Pickleball, tetherball, and sand volleyball added in 2014.

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

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

**SITE QUALITY**

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

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

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.  Yes  No  
Vandalism has been a problem at the "band shell." A roll-up door was recently added to the opening in the band shell, which should curtail the vandalism.

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**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  Yes  No  
Maintenance is done on a daily basis in the spring, summer, and fall, and as needed  
in the winter.

**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

The City charges for use of the band shell and concessions building.

Fee scheduled provided below.

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

All-season, Dusk to dawn.

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**

**Bandshell fees:**

11 am - 3 pm: No charge for Mon-Thur; \$50 for Fri; \$50 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

5 pm - sunset: \$25 for Mon-Thur; \$100 for Fri; \$100 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

11 am - sunset: \$25 for Mon-Thur; \$150 for Fri; \$150 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

**Concessions building:**

11 am - 3 pm: \$10 for Mon-Thur; \$10 for Fri; \$10 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

5 pm - sunset: \$20 for Mon-Thur; \$20 for Fri; \$20 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.


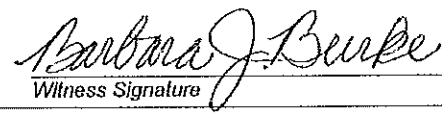
11 am - sunset: \$30 for Mon-Thur; \$30 for Fri; \$30 for Sat-Sun-Holiday.

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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.*

Corey Schmidt		11-30-2018
Please print	Grantee Authorized Signature	Date
Barb Burke		11-30-2018
Please print	Witness Signature	Date

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



Pickleball Courts  
Thank You Williamston  
Pickleball Players and  
Sunrise Rotary



2014



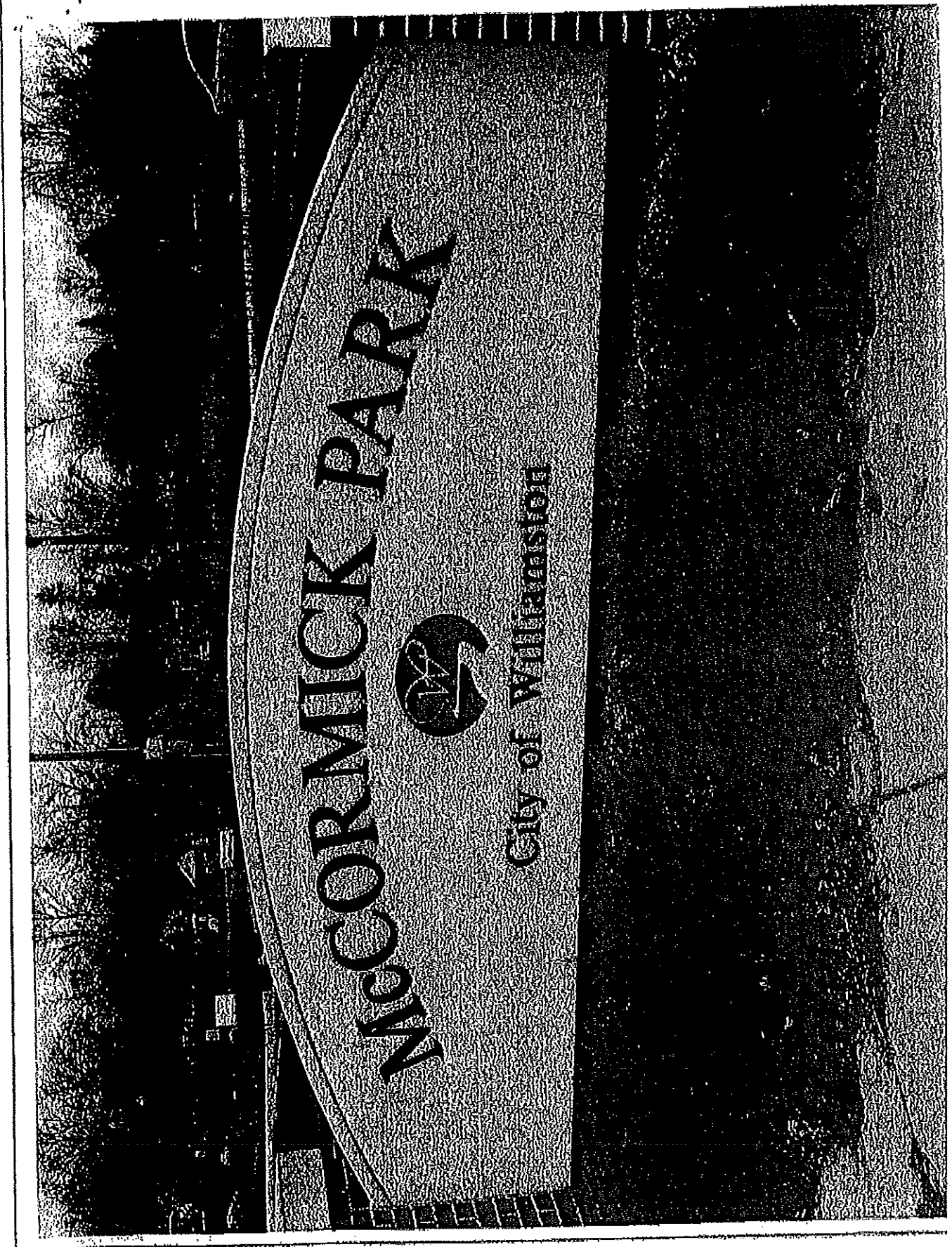
Revenue derived from oil, gas and mineral  
production from state-owned lands provided  
funding for this public recreation site.

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

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund



RE



# APPENDIX B

## 2023 –2024 Fiscal Year Approved Budget

Dept 751 - Parks And Recreation						
101-751-702.00	Salaries & Wages	26,851	23,045	30,953	31,000	31,500
101-751-704.00	Wages-Part Time	4,266	7,425	4,352	7,700	7,500
101-751-709.00	FICA	2,379	2,730	2,688	3,000	2,900
101-751-710.00	Unemployment	3	10	50	10	10
101-751-712.00	Payment In Lieu Of Insurance	127	215		250	250
101-751-718.00	Insurance Premiums	2,998	4,100	3,170	3,200	3,500
101-751-718.01	NSA Contribution	379	375	481	600	650
101-751-724.00	Disability Premiums	106	105	129	125	125
101-751-725.00	Retirement	4,705	4,660	5,852	5,750	5,750
101-751-726.00	Workers Compensation	404	305	213	475	400
101-751-740.00	Operating Supplies	5,178	1,500	2,442	5,000	3,000
101-751-802.00	Contractual Services	40,236	60,000	34,882	37,500	50,000
101-751-803.05	WASC Agreement	26,795	27,250	28,642	28,000	28,000
101-751-820.01	Insurance - Liab. / Prop.	419	430	333	450	500
101-751-880.05	Art Festival					15,000

BUDGET REPORT FOR CITY OF WILLIAMSTON

Fund: 101 General Fund

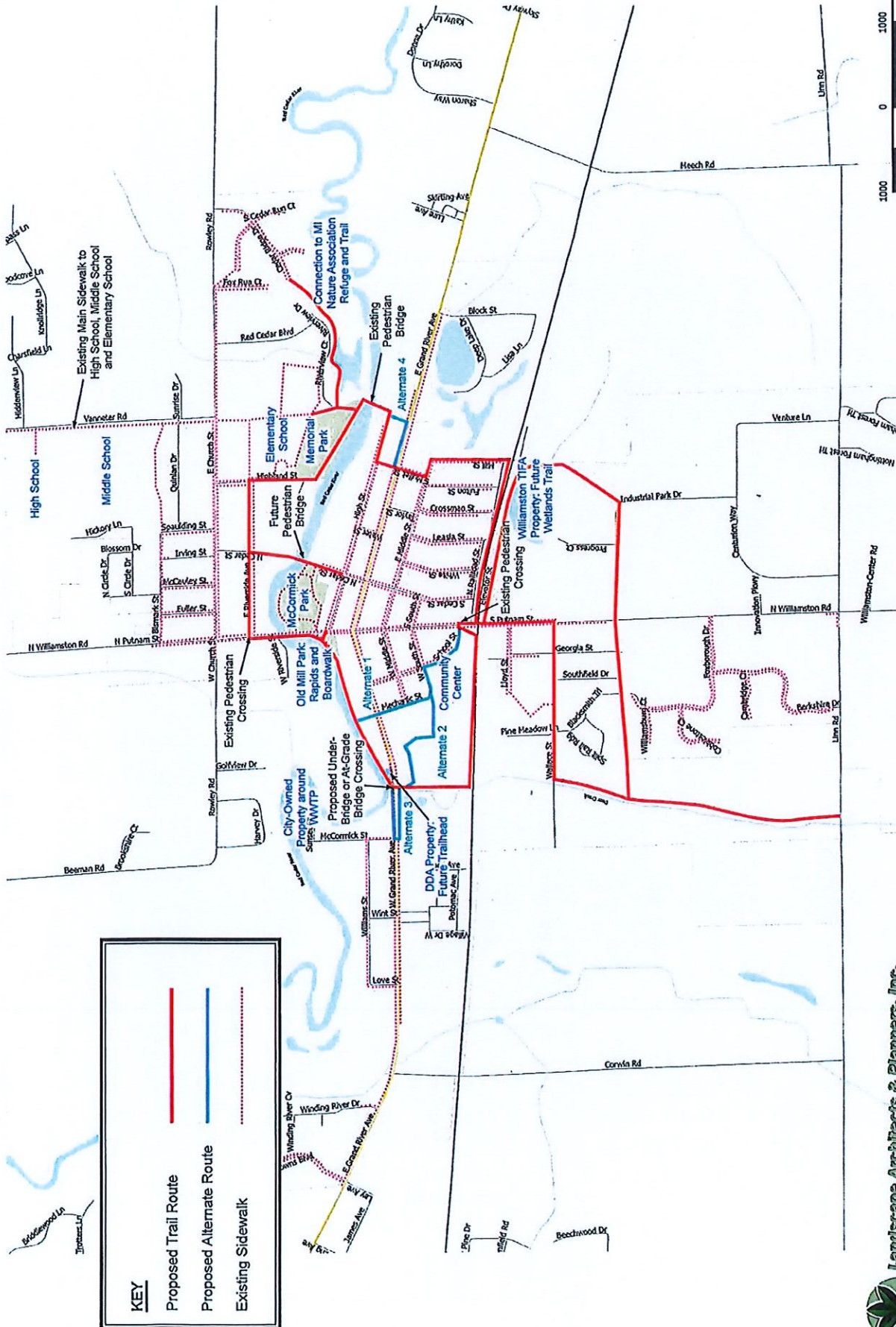
DEPARTMENT HEAD BUDGET WORKSHEET

Calculations as of 06/30/2023

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2021-22	2021-22	2022-23	2022-23	2023-24
		ACTIVITY	AMENDED BUDGET	ACTIVITY THRU 06/30/23	AMENDED BUDGET	BOARD APPR. BUDGET
Dept 751 - Parks And Recreation						
101-751-921.00	Utilities	4,614	5,500	6,403	5,000	6,000
101-751-930.01	Repairs & Maintenance Building	12,315	12,000	10,817	12,000	18,000
101-751-940.00	Equipment Rental	20,990	25,000	17,757	27,000	28,000
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - 751 - Parks And Recre.		(152,765)	(174,650)	(149,164)	(167,060)	(201,085)



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**KEY**

- Proposed Trail Route
- Proposed Alternate Route
- Existing Sidewalk

# WILLIAMSTON TRAILS: RED CEDAR SECTION

WILLIAMSTON, MICHIGAN



CONCEPTUAL PLAN



Appendix C (2 of 3)



LAP + CREATIVE  
Landscape Architects and Planners

86-d  
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