



2023 PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

A Place to Live, Work, and Grow



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Acknowledgments

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Introduction

Parks, Recreation, and Open Space are important elements of all communities and provide many recreational, social, and environmental benefits that contribute to a high quality of life. The city of Walker has recognized the importance of recreation planning and has chosen to take an active role in the delivery of recreational opportunities by updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Recreation planning is an exercise engaged by local governments to anticipate change, and to promote the development and expansion of recreational facilities and services for the benefit of its community. Parks and recreation facilities provide many benefits to the community and the natural environment. Parks provide people with a place to gather, be active, socialize, and connect with the environment and community. Green infrastructure also enhances the livability of a community by increasing property values and

connecting the community. Having the ability to recreate has also been shown to improve the quality of life by contributing to overall mental and physical health and reducing obesity brought on by inactivity. As the community continues to grow and change over time, the city continues to dedicate themselves to improving recreational offerings for its citizens. This Plan represents the culmination of the planning efforts of the community and local officials; and reflects the city's desire to blend the available recreational resources and activities with the environmental and cultural elements of the community.

PLAN PURPOSE

The 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a guide for the future of recreation facilities in Walker. It is an adaptive tool to help the Parks Department prioritize future park improvements in a way that elevates the role of the parks

and recreation system in the daily lives of all Walker residents in the years to come. Driven by community priorities and the mission of the Parks Department, the Master Plan will serve as a guiding document for policy decisions, prioritizing and balancing demands and opportunities, and providing a framework for evaluating future land acquisitions, park improvements, and recreation programs.

The Plan also provides recommendations for park facilities, programs, and services; maintenance operations; administration and management; and capital improvements. The city recognizes the significant role that recreation plays in providing a high quality of life and improved physical health of its citizens. This appreciation has been manifested in this effort to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan with the hopes of improving park systems and public trails, promoting the preservation of natural areas, and establishing a strong commitment to strengthening a sense of community. This Plan provides the data and direction to ensure that parks and recreation offerings are aligned with the community needs and values. The Plan addresses current recreation issues and identifies and prioritizes future needs of the community and the means for meeting those needs over the upcoming five-year period.

In addition, the Master Plan aligns with the statewide planning process. Every five years the city is required to submit a master plan to the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to become eligible for recreation grant funding. The planning process incorporated community feedback toward the development of all MDNR plan components and was submitted to the State in INSERT DATE.

PLAN SCOPE

The scope of this Plan includes suggestions for the management, improvement, and expansion of the recreation system within the city of Walker.



The Plan also considers recreational facilities within the county and neighboring townships, that are available to citizens of the Walker community. Key planning issues are identified, a clear set of goals and objectives are outlined, and specific implementation strategies are delineated.

The scope will include all of the city's recreation facilities, undeveloped open space, trail systems, and recreational programming. The scope of the planning effort is limited to the city boundaries. However, consideration is also made of regional facilities that influence use patterns. The use of city facilities by residents living in the surrounding communities, which may have limited recreation facilities of their own, is also a consideration of the planning process. In terms of an implementation time line, the Action Program section of this document covers development over the next five years.

CITYWIDE COORDINATION

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan comes during a time of other citywide planning efforts that invest in community health and equitable access to natural resources. Key ideas from the Plan build on and reinforce investment in connectivity improvements and preservation of natural areas. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan builds upon the following recent citywide planning efforts that have established a strong framework for the future of Walker's public realm:

Walker 2020 Master Plan

The city of Walker is a fast-growing and dynamic community that places a significant emphasis on the community planning process. The city has been in a continuous state of master plan review, evolution and sub plan implementation with multiple updates over the last 20-plus years. The most recent master plan was developed and adopted in 2020 and is envisioned to enhance, preserve, and improve the city over the next 20 years, out to a target date for full implementation in 2040. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be an informative tool that plugs into the greater Community Master Plan for how city leaders approach public green space in the future.

2020 Transportation Asset Management Plan

The city of Walker uses asset management principles to track the cost effective process of maintaining, preserving, upgrading, and operating physical assets in order to achieve established performance goals. The Transportation Asset Management Plan summarizes the condition of assets as well as strategies for upgrades to roads, bridges, stormwater, and traffic infrastructure. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan aligns with this plan with promoting safe roadway improvements, bike lanes, crosswalks, and enhancements to support connectivity throughout the city.

2017 Storm Water Asset Management Plan

The Storm Water Asset Management Plan defines the goals and guiding principles for managing the storm water system at its lowest life-cycle cost. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan aligns with this plan with promoting the protection of natural and sensitive environmental areas as well as preservation of green space to help minimize the impacts of storm water runoff, improve water quality, and contribute to an environmentally sensitive, efficient and cost-effective storm water system.

THRIVING PARK SYSTEM

The city's first recreation plan was prepared in 1975, and since then has been updated seven times. The last official update was adopted in 2004. In 2014, the city developed a draft recreation plan update but it was not fully completed nor formally adopted by the city.

The 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan considers aspects from the previous updates including physical assets and community needs within Walker. Some elements and goals from the previous plan may be relevant when considering improvements to today's park system. This updated plan maintains and expands upon these components from past plans where appropriate. The previous plan documented conditions and trends at the time and contained many ideas for improvements; some of which have been realized. However, the city has seen significant growth both in population and development over the last 25 years which continues to grow. In addition, recreational trends have evolved, in part due to the global pandemic which has shifted how we see and use public space. The 2023 plan builds on the previous plan but mainly looks forward to addressing the recreational needs of the growing community.



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Community Description

Plan Jurisdiction

This section is intended to describe the jurisdiction and focus of the plan, provide a brief overview of the community, and identify important community based factors that should be considered in parks and recreational planning. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan has been prepared to serve the city of Walker and is planned to focus on all aspects of the city's parks and recreation facilities and programs. Recreational facilities and programs that serve adjacent communities have also been considered and incorporated into this planning document. The plan is intended to contribute to the quality of life for the residents and visitors of the Walker community, but also provide recreational experiences to the residents in adjacent communities within the county.

Regional Setting

The city of Walker, containing approximately 26 square miles of land and water area, is located at the northwest corner of the Grand Rapids metropolitan area in Kent County. Walker is bordered by rural Alpine Township to the north, the city of Grand Rapids to the east, the city of Wyoming and city of Grandville to the south, and Tallmadge Township (Ottawa County) to the west. The location map on page 6 (Figure 2.1) shows the city's location in a regional context. Regional accessibility to the community is provided by several interchanges along the I-96, I-196, and US 131 expressways (Figure 2.2). Per the Walker 2020 Master Plan, the city is distinguished by multi-centric "neighborhood clusters", which define specific areas based on a common identity and culture. Refer to Figure 2.3 for the Neighborhood Cluster Sub-Area Map in relation to existing park facilities.

History

Walker began its proud history as a Township on December 30, 1837, with the passing of a public act by the Michigan State Legislature. The far-stretching boundaries at that time had Walker extending to the banks of the Grand River, and even included in its northern area all of what is now Alpine and Sparta Townships. Over the first 125 years, large parts of the original Township land were taken by land annexations from neighboring cities, or were lost when new townships were formed. Credit for the first settlers in Walker has been given to Samuel and Lydia White, who came to Kent County from Canada in the first days of 1837. With their team of six oxen, they cut the very first roads into the unsettled wilderness. The family purchased about 600 acres from the government and built the first log house within the Township, the first frame barn west of the Grand River, and the second saw mill on Indian Creek. The city of Walker was established from Walker Township by Charter in 1962 to prevent further annexation of the area into Grand Rapids.

Figure 2.1 - Location Map

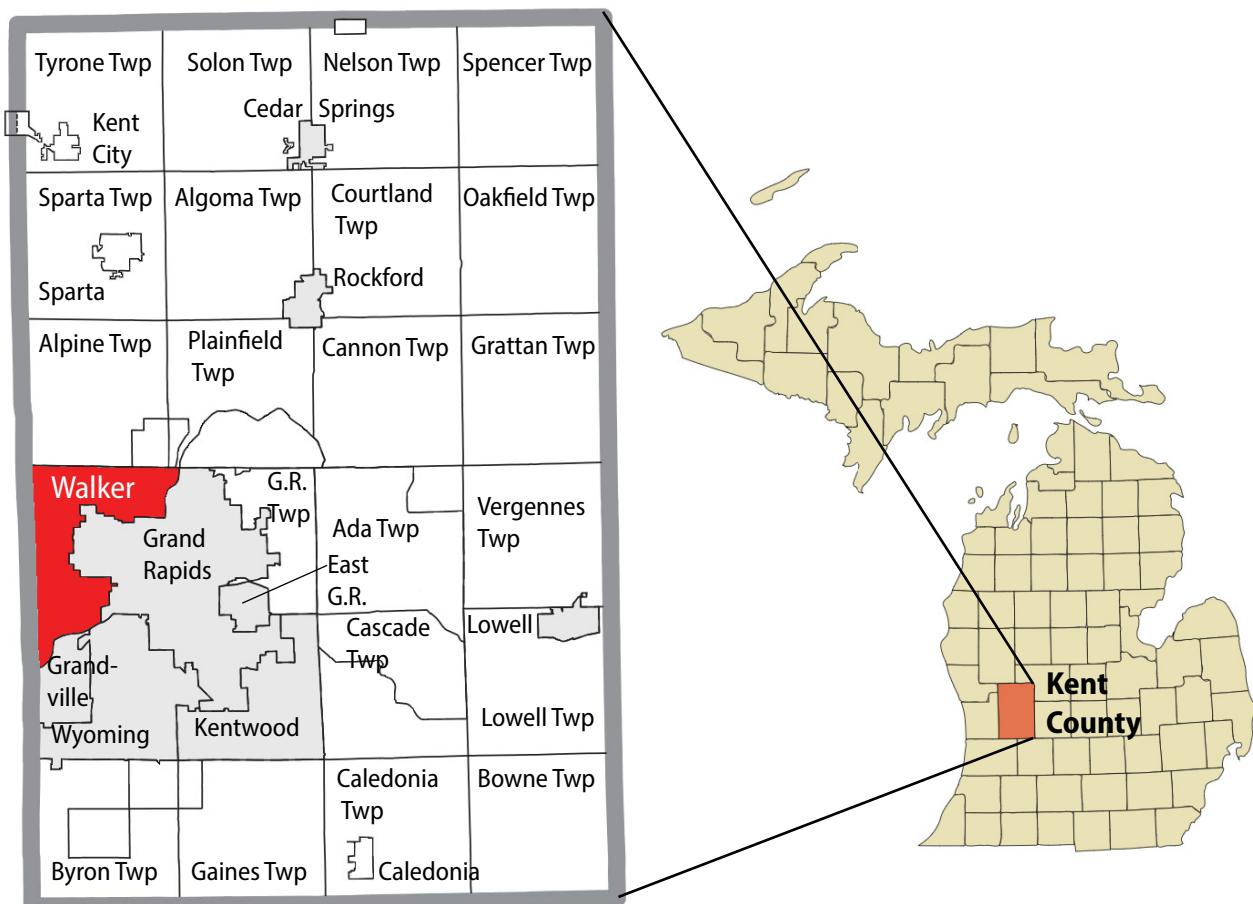
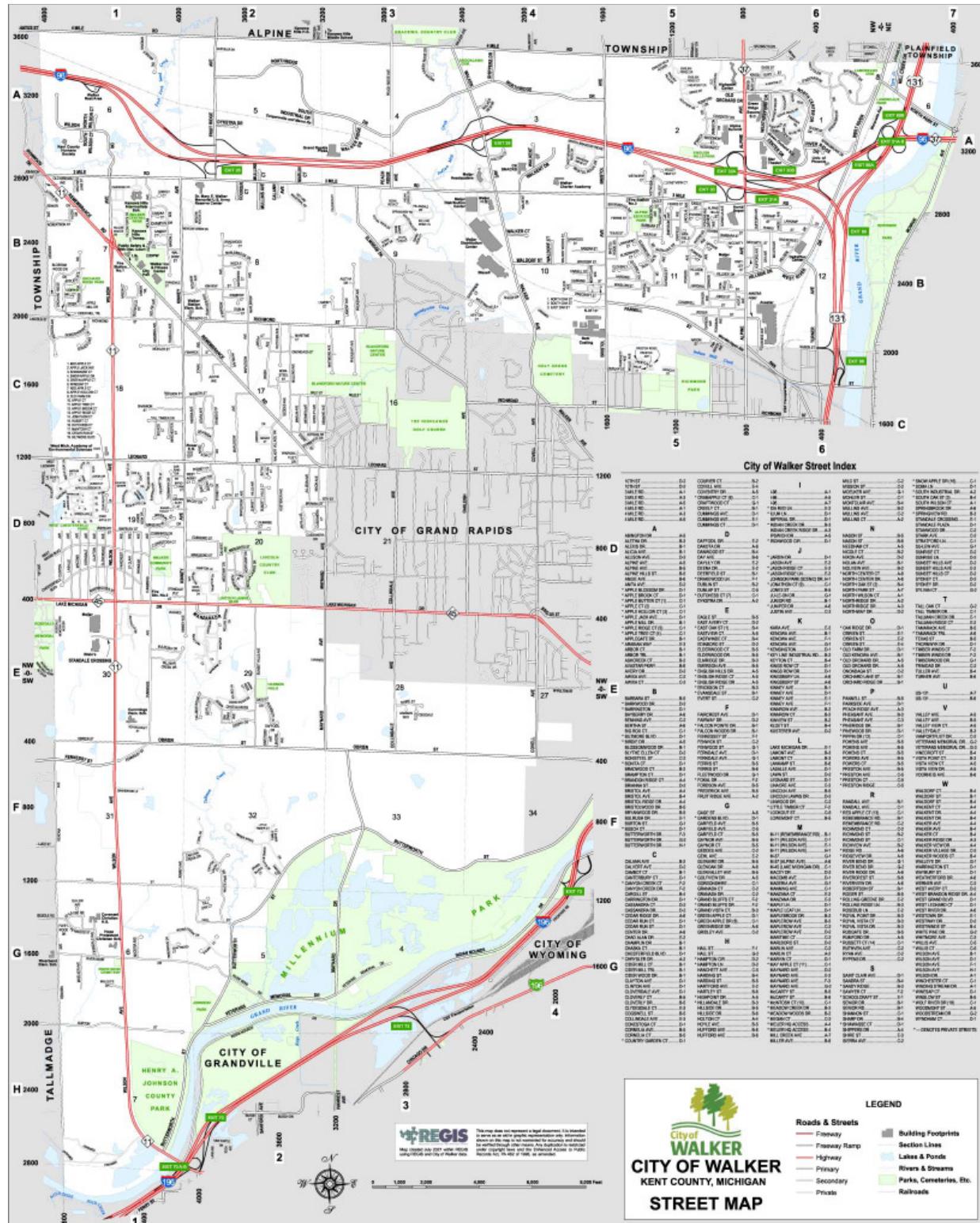


Figure 2.2 - Walker Street Map



Physical Characteristics

Walker spatially wraps around the northwest corner of the City of Grand Rapids in a crescent shape, and is generally not more than 2.5 miles wide by 8 miles long north to south.

The land encompassing Walker was formed during the last ice age by glacial meltwater traveling from the Huron Basin to Glacial Lake Chicago in the Lake Michigan Basin. The topography within the city of Walker varies between approximately 780 feet above sea level in the northern area to approximately 590 feet above sea level the low areas along the Grand River valley. Much of the existing topography is to a large extent the result of glaciation, which has helped define three different landform zones within the city. The northern portion of the city sits at the highest elevations and includes a broad, rolling, and well-drained area interspersed with waterways. The southern and eastern sections of the city are characterized by lower elevations with dry, sandy, and gravelly soils as the land rises abruptly from the Grand River valley and gradually levels off as it merges with the ground moraine to the north. The central and west portions of the city are defined by a broad, deep valley that spreads across the land, having been formed by the melting glaciers.

Climatology

Lake Michigan, which is about 30 miles west of Walker, has a significant influence on the climate of the region. The lake temperature, together with the prevailing westerly winds, moderates seasonal temperature extremes. The frequent and sometimes rapid changes caused by storms traveling across the lakes from the west and southwest are typical of a humid continental climate. Walker gets some kind of precipitation (snow, rain, sleet, hail), on average, 128 days per year and gets 37 inches of rain and 63 inches of snow, on average, per year. Walker is considered to have a low humid continental climate based on its seasonal precipitation and temperature

patterns (warm summers and cold winters). The average temperature in Walker is 47 degrees Fahrenheit with the average low of 18.7 degrees and the average high of 82 degrees.

Soils

The characteristics of the majority of soils within Walker impose minor constraints on development. In general, loam, sandy loam and loamy sand soils are most common (see figure 2.4). Loamy soils are found primarily in the western area of the city, sandy loam most commonly in the north and east quadrant and loamy sand soils predominately in the city's south section. There is also a small section of gravelly soils along the southern boundary of the city along the Grand River valley. These soils are, for the most part, well drained. Physical limitations to their development, when they do occur, exist because of excessive slopes.

Organic soils offer the greatest physical constraint to development within the City. These soils are generally poorly drained, occurring primarily in depression areas. Most often these soils coincide with the wetland and floodplain areas of the city. Severe limitations are attached to development on organic soils due to poor drainage, low bearing capacity and frost action commonly exhibited.

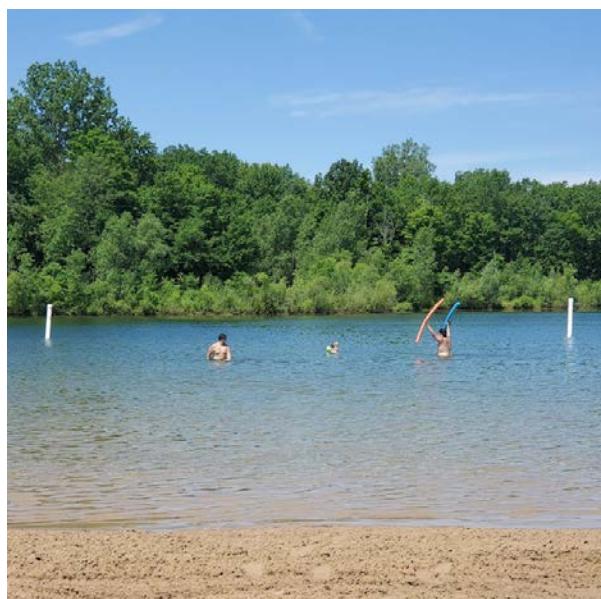


Figure 2.3 - Neighborhood Cluster Map

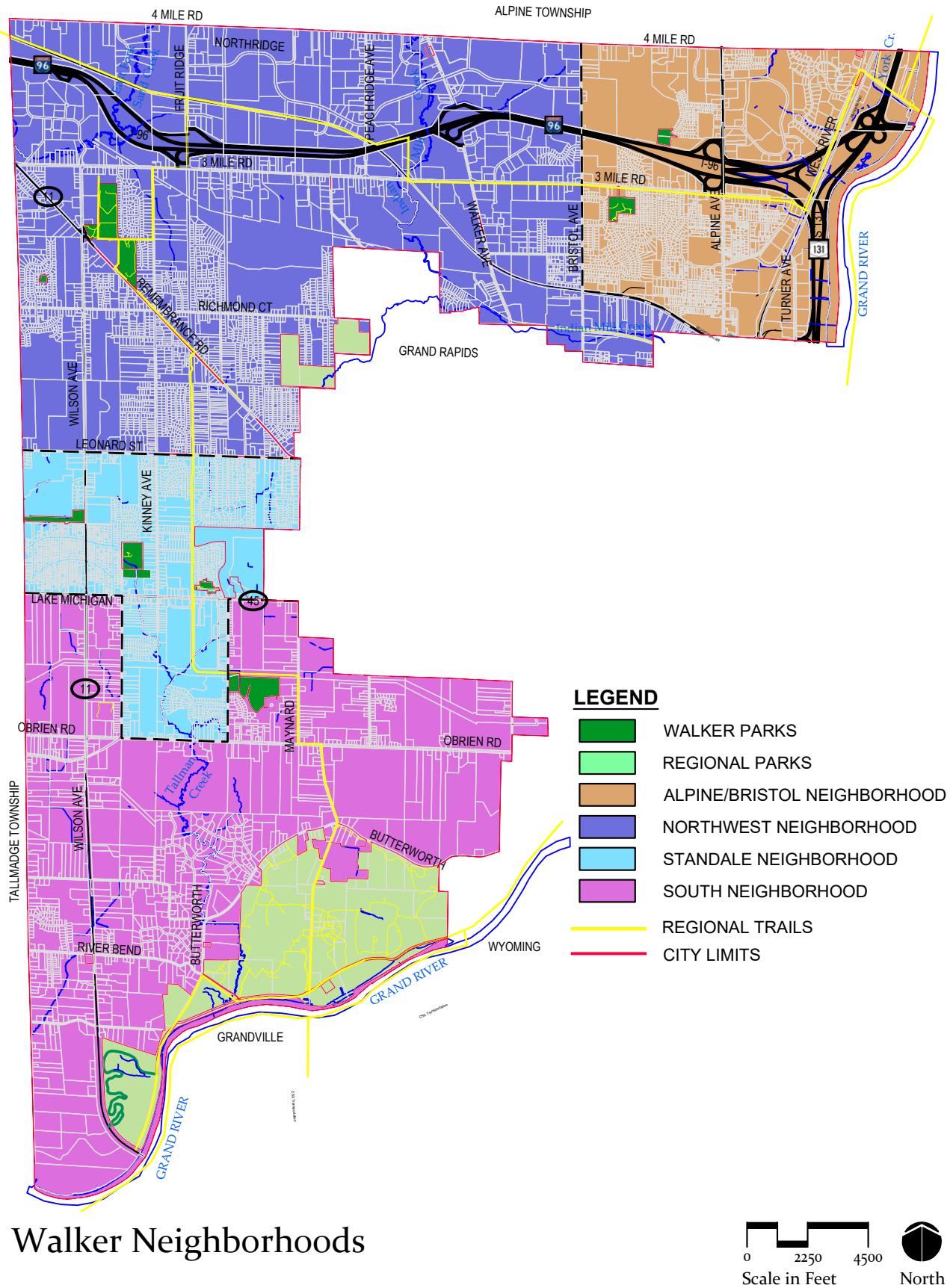


Figure 2.4 - Soils Map

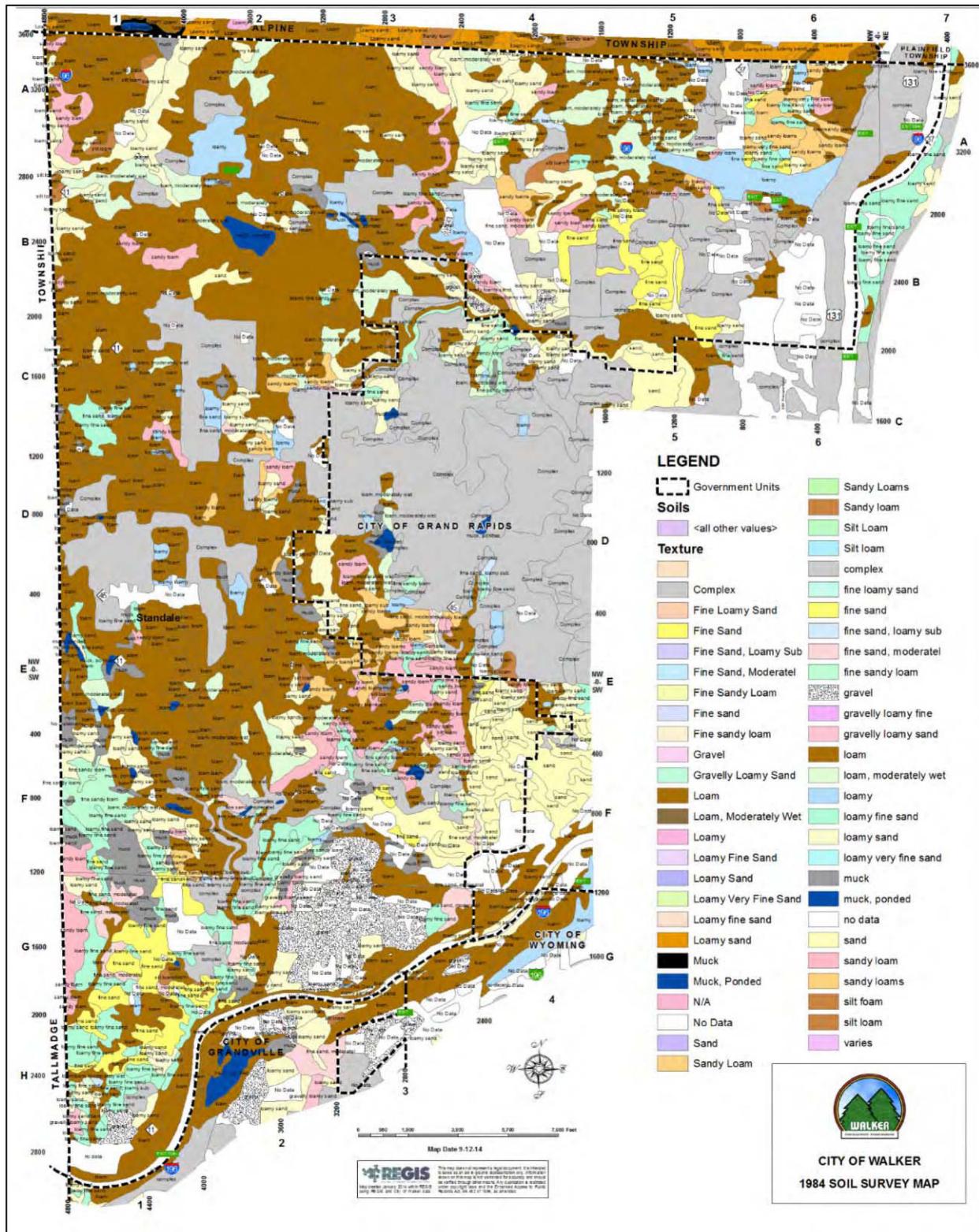
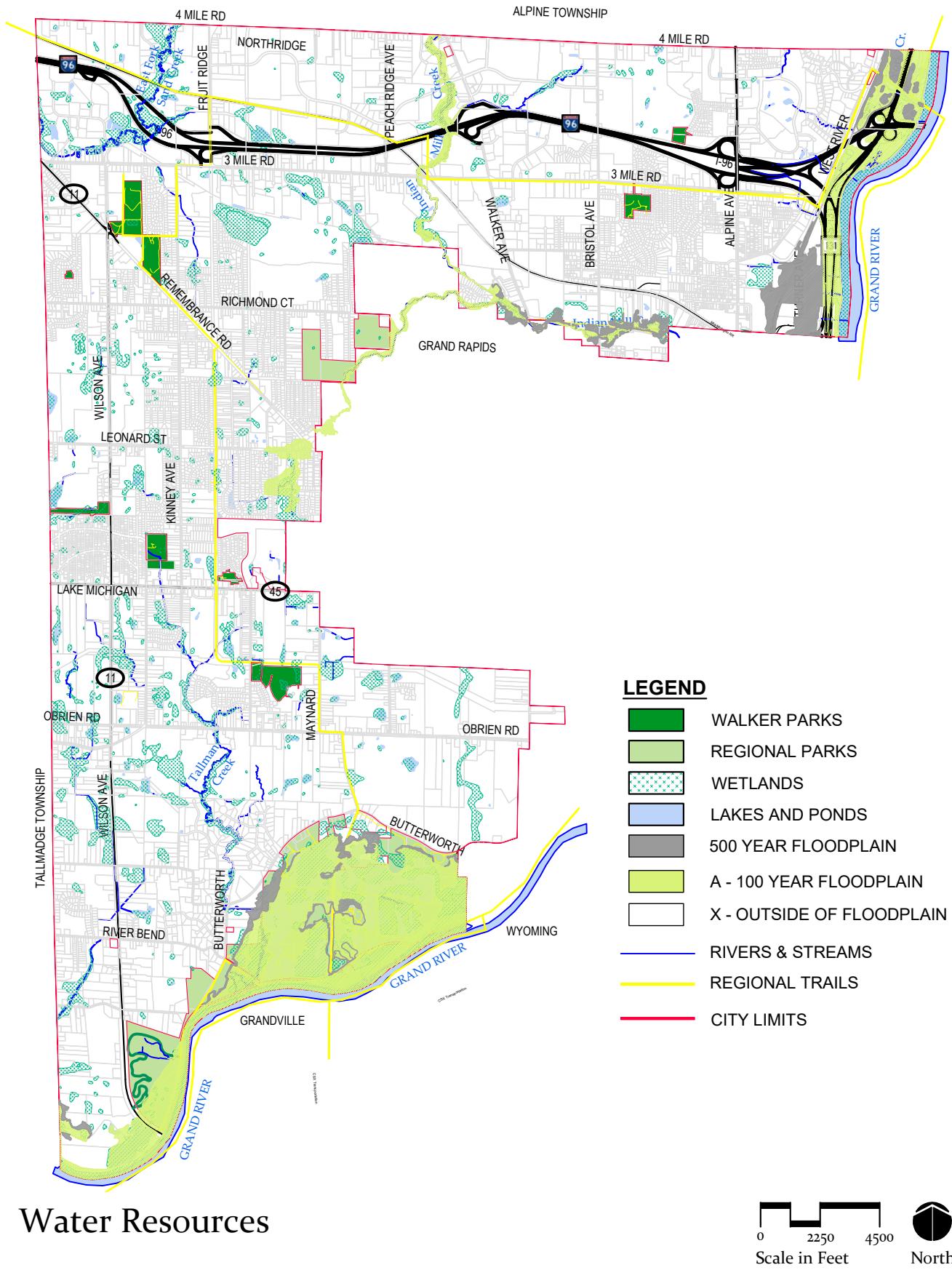


Figure 2.5 - Water Resources Map



Water Resources

The city of Walker falls within in the Lower Grand River Watershed and has over 400 acres of ponds, rivers and streams within its boundaries with the principal water feature being the Grand River (see figure 2.5) The Grand River occupies approximately 180 acres within the city and stretches just under a mile on the eastern and southern borders of the city. Other water features in the city include Indian Mill Creek, Sand Creek, and Tallman Creek which are all tributaries of the Grand River. The Grand River runs along the city limits to the east and then wraps around the southern city limits at Millennium Park. Indian Mill Creek cuts across the central northern portion of the city, Sand Creek nips the northwest corner of the city, and Tallman Creek bisects the central and southern portions of the city.

Grand River

The Grand River is the longest river in Michigan running 252 miles from its headwaters in Hillsdale County on the souther border north to Lansing and west to its mouth at Grand Haven on Lake Michigan. The Grand River is the largest body of water in Walker at approximately 180 acres within the city limits. The Grand River is one of three major tributaries of Lake Michigan and falls in elevation from 1,260 feet in the highlands of its headwaters to 577 feet at its mouth at Lake Michigan. Its watershed is the second largest in the state, draining an area of 5,572 square miles and contributing 13% of Lake Michigan's



drainage basin. The river's network of wetlands and marshes, lakes and bayous, gurgling streams, and powerful rivers support a wide range of wildlife which includes native fish species and numerous species of birds and mammals. In addition, the Grand River provides an enormous amount of recreational opportunities to the residents of Walker for a variety of water based activities.

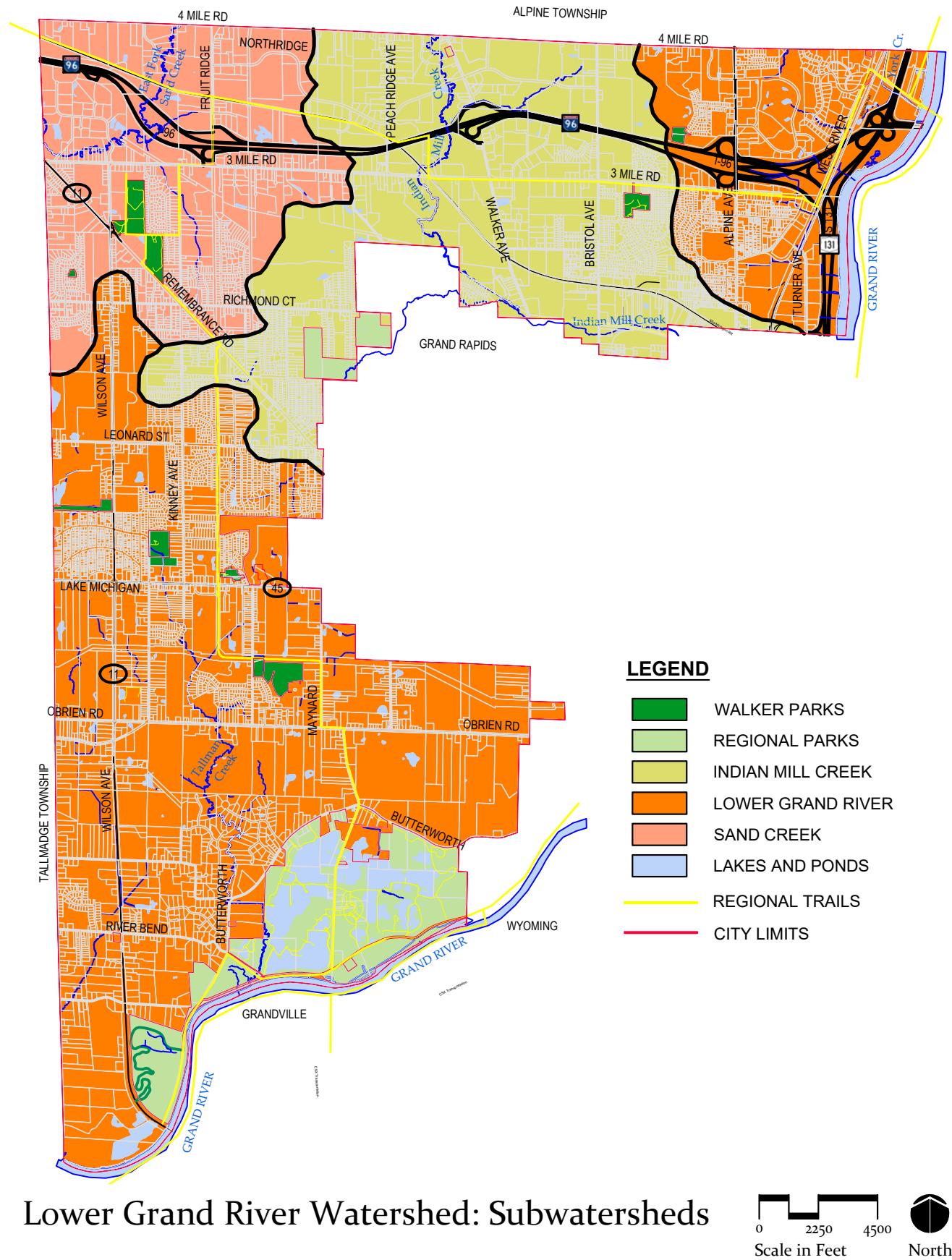
Lower Grand River Watershed

The city lies within the Grand River Watershed, which includes a large area covering nearly 3,000 square miles stretching from just west of Lansing to Lake Michigan, as far north as Newaygo County and as far south as Barry County. The watershed includes an extensive network of streams, creeks, drainage-ways, and inland lakes. The watershed offers opportunities for recreation like fishing, swimming, canoeing, and paddling, and provides vital habitat to plants and animals. There are three sub-watersheds within the city that are included in the Lower Grand River Watershed which include: Indian Mill Creek, Direct Drainage to the Lower Grand River, and Sand Creek (see figure 2.6).

The Indian Mill Creek sub-watershed includes 17 square miles (10,979 acres) of land that covers the north central area of the city. The land consists of 39% agriculture, 12% forest, 2% open land, 43% urban area, and 4% wetlands. It includes Indian Mill Creek which is an approximately 27-



Figure 2.6 - Sub-watershed Map



Lower Grand River Watershed: Subwatersheds

mile urban stream that flows to the Grand River. Brandy Wine Creek is a major tributary of Indian Mill Creek that starts in the city of Walker. Indian Mill Creek is listed as an impaired water-body due to its degraded fish community.

Sand Creek is a designated cold water stream, approximately 84.6 miles in length that flows through the northwest corner of Walker on its way to the Grand River. This is the main feature of the Sand Creek Sub-watershed that encompasses 55 square miles of land (35,085 acres). The watershed is mostly agricultural and includes a mix of forest, residential, and urban areas. Sand Creek is also on the state's list as having a poor fish community, which is mainly due to impacts from development runoff.



The sub-watershed that takes up the largest area of land within the city is the area of Direct Drainage to Lower Grand River. This is also the largest sub-watershed within the Lower Grand River Watershed covering 430 square miles (275,237 acres). The sub-watershed is considered a high priority area for restoration and includes the following land uses: 33% agricultural, 26% forest, 24% urban, 9% wetlands, 4% lakes, and 4% open land. It also includes 820 total stream miles that drain within the watershed.

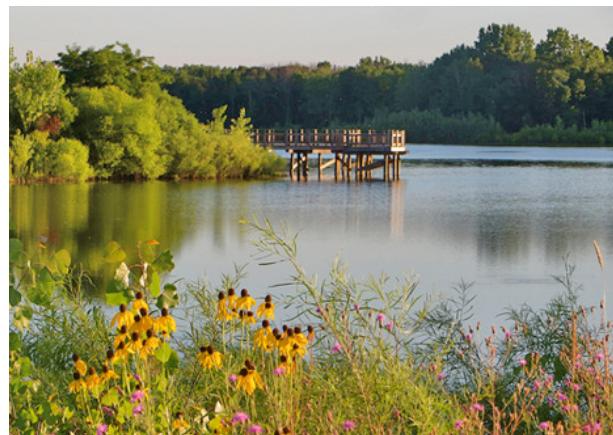
Wetlands

Wetlands are a critical component to water resource and watershed health, as they improve water quality by trapping pollutants and serving

as natural detention areas. Walker is home to approximately 1,500 acres of numerous types of wetlands, a majority of which are classified as palustrine by the National Wetland Inventory. Palustrine wetlands are associated with streams, creeks, swales, or are separate wetland features in the landscape. Other types of wetlands in the city are riverine, associated with river systems, and lacustrine, associated with or adjacent to lakes. Wetlands types range from forested wetlands with mature trees, to emergent vegetation such as cattail marshes. Many shrub -scrub wetlands are also present due to low areas that collect water. The natural features of these wetland complexes, some of which contain rare or threatened plant and animal species, are important to local groundwater recharge, as well as critical wildlife habitat.

Floodplain

Floodplains are important natural features that provide wildlife habitat, water storage and conveyance, protection of water quality, and recharge of groundwater. Walker contains approximately 1,280 acres of land designated by FEMA as "Zone A" which includes areas of the 100-year flood. Most of this land is along the Grand River at the south end of the city at Millennium Park, and along the northeastern border of the city. The floodplain is a riverine system which varies in steepness, width, and flow and is defined by the flood way. This type of floodplain typically floods in the spring, but is subject to periodic flooding due to extensive



rainfall and snowmelt. Riverine systems provide feeding and breeding habitats for a variety of fish, reptiles, vegetation, and fur-bearing wildlife.

Fish and Wildlife

The Grand River Watershed supports a varied array of wildlife. The Grand River is long and diverse, supporting trout and salmon for much of its length as well as attracting a great variety of bird species. A diversity of aquatic and terrestrial habitats can be found throughout the city that harbors various amphibian, reptile, avian, mammal, and fish species. Many of these species are important from a recreational and economical perspective. Many conservation organizations and outdoor sporting groups exist in the area to help protect and enhance habitat for animals such as whitetail deer, wild turkey, pheasants, and many species of fish. In addition, designated trout streams exist within the watershed and city including 5.4 miles of Indian Mill Creek, 19.4 miles of Sand Creek, and 73 miles of the Direct Drainage to the Lower Grand River.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

The review of trends in population growth is helpful in developing an understanding of the city's recreational needs. Also reviewing other demographic indicators such as age, education, income, and employment trends can assist in determining the type of recreational facilities that may be needed or desired and will allow facilities and programs to keep pace with demand.

Population Trends

Demographic information was gathered from the 2020 US Decennial Census. As of 2020, the city of Walker has a population of 25,132 which represents a 15% increase from the 2000 Census. The city has experienced a large increase in population since 1980 (66%) but a modest increase over the last two decades. Table 2.1 delineates population growth in the City over the last 40 years.

Table 2.1: Population Growth - Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Year	Population	# Change	% Change
1980	15,088	3,596	31.3%
1990	17,279	2,191	14.5%
2000	21,842	4,563	26.4%
2010	23,537	1,695	7.7%
2020	25,132	1,595	6.8%

To put the city's rate of growth into perspective, it is important to compare growth comparisons with other adjacent communities. This is useful in attempting to forecast areas of future growth in the area as well as future demands on the city's park system. Table 2.2 illustrates population growth comparisons with adjacent communities as well as the County and State. The table shows the growth rate in Walker over the last 10 years has been slower than Tallmadge Township and Kent County, but slightly stronger than the adjacent cities of Grand Rapids, Wyoming, and Grandville. As the population continues to grow in Walker, as well as in adjacent communities, the Parks Department is faced with the challenge of providing additional park facilities to keep up with the growth trends. Strategic acquisition of park land, continued enhancement of current parks and trails, and collaboration with Kent County Parks should continue to be a focus.

Table 2.2: Population Comparison- Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Community	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population	% Change 2010-2020
Alpine Twp	9,919	14,023	13,336	14,079	5.6%
Tallmadge Twp	6,331	6,891	7,582	8,802	16%
City of Grandville	15,619	16,316	15,378	16,083	4.6%
City of Wyoming	63,672	69,547	72,125	76,501	6.1%
City of Grand Rapids	189,673	197,973	188,040	198,917	5.8%
Kent County	500,631	574,335	602,622	657,974	9.2%
State of Michigan	9,295,297	9,938,444	9,883,640	10,077,331	1.9%

Age

The median age of Walker is 37.2, which is 5% older than Kent County as a whole (35.4) but 7% younger than the State of Michigan (39.8). In addition, the median age of Walker is 19% older than Grand Rapids (31.2), 11% older than Wyoming (33.6), and 4% older than Grandville (35.7). The median age represents the mid-point in the range of all ages within the city. This data indicates that a younger population desires the larger metropolitan city and the population starts to get older as you move out from Grand Rapids. Understanding the age demographics is useful in identifying the type of recreational facilities that may be needed, desired, or over provided. For example, a younger population may desire more active types of facilities while an aging population may desire more passive types of facilities. Table 2.3 illustrates the breakdown of population based on age (based on 2020 census).

Table 2.3 Population by Age - Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Age	Persons	Percentage
Male	11,586	46.1
Female	13,546	53.9
Under 18	5,479	21.8
18 and over	19,653	78.2
18-24	2,111	8.4
25-34	4,147	16.5
35-49	4,423	17.6
50-64	4,700	18.7
65 and over	4,272	17

A strong pattern for family oriented recreation is reflected in the age distribution with 34.1% of the population in the 25-49 range. Almost 22% of the population falls in the under 18 age group suggesting there may be a need for youth-oriented facilities. Conversely about 35.7% of the population is within the 50 and over age group suggesting the need for passive and senior based activities. The 18-24 group makes up the smallest portion of the population, likely due to the lack of higher education institutions located in Walker as well as the young professional jobs available in Grand Rapids. These results reflect a need for a well-balanced park and recreation system that provides facilities for young, active families, as well as accessible facilities for the aging population.

Persons with Disabilities

The proportion of the population with some type of disability should be considered when planning parks and recreational facilities and programs. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 mandates that all public services, including park facilities, be barrier-free. As the population ages, the proportion with one or more disabilities generally increases, and this trend is consistent for the city. Disabilities include vision, cognitive, auditory, ambulatory, self care, and living independently difficulties. According to the U.S. Census data, it is estimated that approximately 9% of City residents live with a disability, which is lower than the State of Michigan at 14.5% and lower than the national 26%. In Walker, approximately 37% of those individuals living with a disability are 65 years and older. These figures indicate that, while the City population is modest, there still exists an important contingent of residents who rely on more accessible places to recreate.

Income

A successful parks and recreation system includes providing affordable, equitable recreational opportunities to all members of the community. It is important to understand the availability of disposable income for recreation within the community as household incomes vary within the region. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the amount of people living at or below the poverty line in Walker is 6.9%, which is moderately lower than adjacent communities. In addition, the estimated median household income level for 2020 is \$63,878 for Walker, which is about a 27% increase from 2010 (\$50,335). The median household income in Walker is about 3% lower than Kent County (\$65,722) and about 8% higher than Michigan (\$59,234). Table 2.4 illustrates the median household income of the city, compared to other adjacent communities.

Table 2.4 Median Household Income - Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau

City of Walker	\$63,878
Alpine Township	\$56,881
City of Grandville	\$65,656
City of Wyoming	\$57,088
City of Grand Rapids	\$51,333
Kent County	\$65,722

Table 2.5 Per Capita Income - Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau

City of Walker	\$31,850
Alpine Township	\$28,790
City of Grandville	\$32,913
City of Wyoming	\$26,147
City of Grand Rapids	\$26,556
Kent County	\$33,629

Per capita income measures the average income earned per person in a given area in a specified year. Per capita income is used to determine the average per-person income for an area and to evaluate the standard of living and quality of life of the population. Table 2.5 illustrates the Per capita income of the city, compared to other adjacent communities. Based on the level of income in the city, it may be possible to secure certain types of grants, but may not support the concept of a park millage.

Employment

Approximately 69.9% of city residents over the age of 16 are employed in a range of employment categories. The most common employment sectors in Walker include: manufacturing, retail trade, health care and social assistance, educational services, and professional, scientific, and technical services. The most common occupation groups, by number of people living in Walker, are office and administrative support, sales and related occupations, and production occupations. Major employers in the area include Meijer, Corewell

Health, Amway, Steelcase, and Grand Valley State University. According to the U.S. Census the average commute time to work is approximately 19.1 minutes, which is lower than the national average of 25 minutes. The primary destination for employment for Walker workers is the city of Grand Rapids (33%). Approximately 25% of Walker residents are able to work in the city of Walker. Other destinations include Grandville, Wyoming, East Grand Rapids, Allendale, Northview, Jenison, and neighboring Townships.

According to the U.S. Census, about 93% of the workforce drive automobiles to work (83% alone and 10% carpool), and 4% work from home. The remaining 3% use public transit, walk, bicycle, or use other means of transportation to get to work. Given this data was collected for the 2020 census and pre-pandemic, the percentage of the workforce working from home is likely currently higher and on the rise. According to the U.S. Census, the estimated rate of unemployment in the city is 4.9%. The relative strength of the employment picture in the city suggests that the local economy is stable and that residents should be able to continue to fund the parks and recreation budget.

Households

The city of Walker provides a variety of different housing opportunities based on both age and density. According to the U.S. Census data there are a total of 10,169 households in the city and approximately 2.4 persons per household. Of these households, 66% are married couples, 16% are single male or female households, and 18% are non-family. According to the U.S. Census data there are a total of 10,558 housing units of which 96% are occupied, 61% is owner occupied and 39% is renter occupied. Single family structures make up 63% of the housing units in the city with 34% multi-family units and 3% mobile homes. The number of housing units has increased approximately 15% since 2000, which indicates that Walker has been steadily growing over the last 20 years and the need for additional park

land may be needed to keep up with the growing community.

Land Use

The land use distribution and development pattern of a community is important when considering the geographic distribution of parks and recreational facilities because they should be placed where there are concentrations of residents and the related places of public gathering. Numerous single-family neighborhoods are located throughout the city, with the largest concentrations located in the northeast area in the Alpine neighborhood cluster, and central quadrant between Remembrance Rd and O'Brien Rd. These areas seem to be the higher populated areas and therefore important to ensure equitable park space is provided. Most of the north and northwest areas of the city are agricultural, rural residential, and industrial along the I-96 corridor. The southern section of the city is predominately agricultural and rural residential, with some single family neighborhoods mixed in. This section of the city is served by two large county parks.

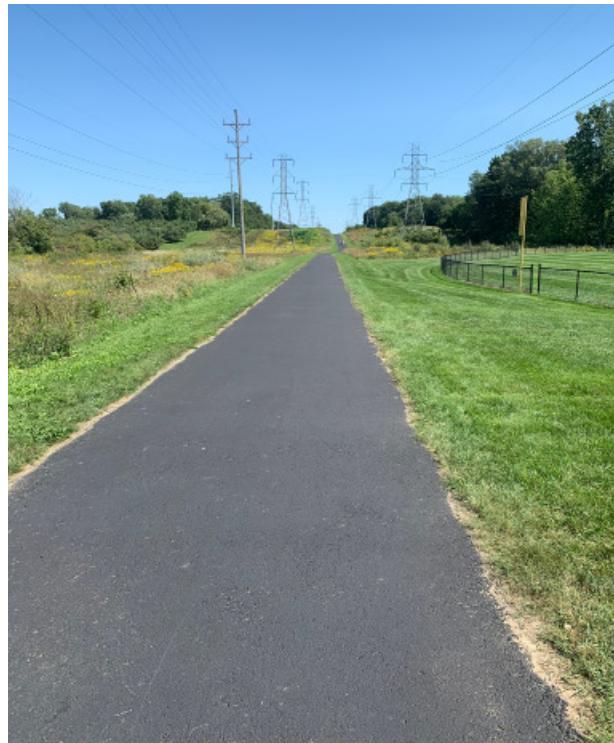
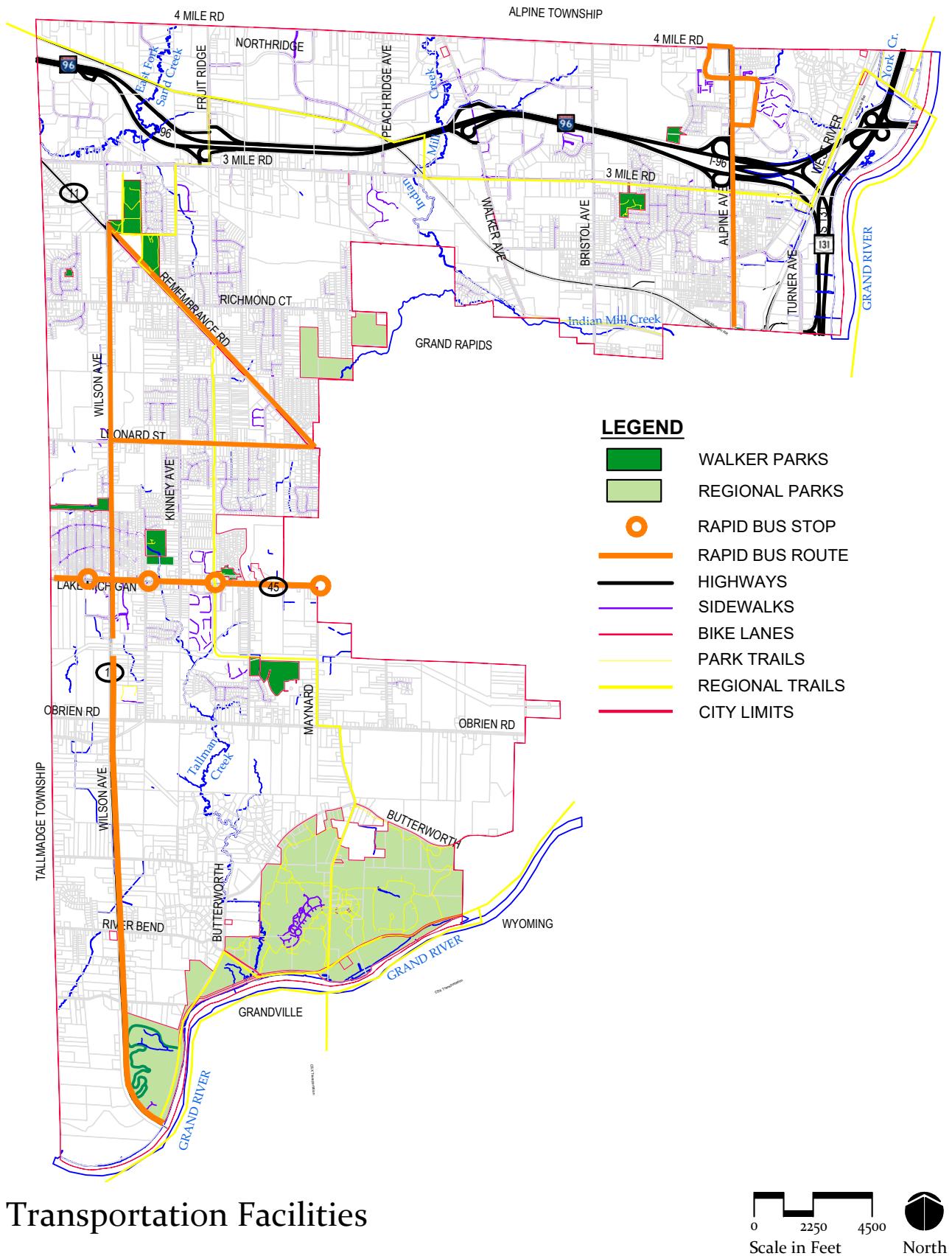


Figure 2.7 - Transportation Map



Transportation

The road network in Walker contains several major thoroughfares and transportation routes that are readily available to the residents of the city. Interstate 96 (I-96), which runs through northern Walker, links the city to Lansing to the east and to Grand Haven and Muskegon to the northwest. US-131, which runs through the eastern edge of the city links Walker to Kalamazoo to the south, and rural areas of Michigan to the north. Interstate 196 (I-196), which runs parallel to the southern edge of the city, is a direct route to Holland to the southwest and beyond to Chicago. Several of Walker's primary roads provide routes between these freeways and many lead directly toward Grand Rapids. The Walker road system consists of approximately 38.5 miles of major city streets and 70.1 miles of local city streets, for a total of 108.61 miles of paved roads.

There are two sets of active railroads in the city. The Coopersville Marne railroad crosses diagonally through the north and northwestern portions of the city. The Coopersville Marne railroad links the Grand Rapids metropolitan area with the city of Muskegon. The second railroad is the Grand Elk railroad and runs north-south along the east side of the city, generally parallel to US-131.

Public transit is also available to the residents of Walker. The Rapid, a public transit system operated by the Interurban Transit Partnership, provides service to the Grand Rapids metropolitan area and beyond. Access to The Rapid is available at several transit stops located on Remembrance Road. These transit stops are all located on The Rapid Bus Route 7, which connects to Rapid Bus Routes 12 and 50. These Bus Routes intersect at the Meijer located on Lake Michigan Drive. From there, bus service can be available to access Downtown Grand Rapids. Alpine Avenue is also served by Rapid Route 9, which loops through the apartment complexes and shopping centers to provide local access. The Laker Line Bus Rapid Transit line along Lake Michigan Drive provides express service from Grand Valley State University to Downtown Grand Rapids, with stops in Walker at Ferndale Avenue, Cummings Avenue, the Meijer Standale Trail, and Maynard Avenue. In the northern portion of the City, transit is available at various stops located near multi-family residential developments such as the Orchard Apartments and Greenridge Apartments as well as other points along the City's main commercial corridor such as Home Depot and Meijer.





Administrative Structure

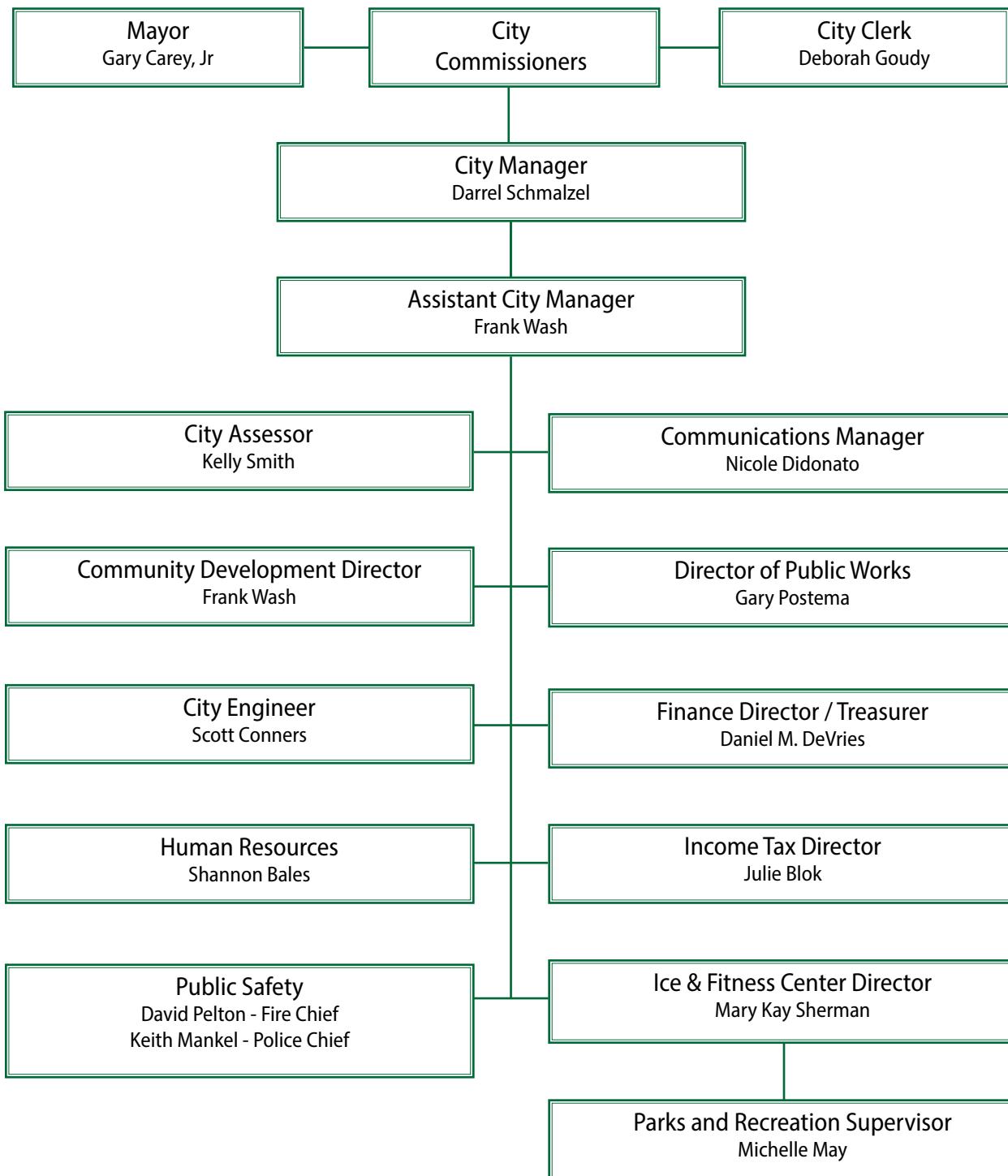
The city of Walker operates under the Commission/Manager form of government. The Commission/Manager Plan is a system of local government that combines the political leadership of an elected City Commission with the professional managerial experience of the City Manager. In order to understand how park and recreation functions are administered in the city, we must look at the administrative structure of the city (refer to Figure 3.1 for the City Organizational Chart).

City Commission

The Walker City Commission consists of a Mayor and six commissioners, two from each of the city's three wards, and all elected at-large. The Mayor serves a term of two years, while members of the Commission serve four year terms. The Commission is the legislative and policy making body of the city and is responsible for the performance of all obligations and duties imposed on the city by the State of Michigan.

City Manager

The City Manager serves as the chief administrative officer and is responsible to the City Commission for all administrative functions and business of the city. City employees are hired and discharged by the City Manager and are responsible to the City Manager in all aspects of job performance. The City Manager prepares and submits the annual budget proposal of the city. The City Manager acts as the chief purchasing agent of the City, seeks federal funds and represents the City in all contract and labor negotiations. The City Commission appoints the City Manager who is responsible for advising the Council on various matters facing the city and implementing the policies of the Commission. The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operation of all city services and programs.

Figure 3.1 - City Organizational Chart**City Management & Department Directors**

Departmental Organizational Structure

Under the direction of the City Manager, three (3) municipal departments are actively involved in the administration, planning, and maintenance of the City's parks, recreation, programs, and services.

- Ice and Fitness Center
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Community Development

Ice and Fitness Center

The Walker Ice and Fitness Center manages all parks and recreation facilities and programs in the City. For over 20 years the Ice and Fitness Center has been bringing the community together to promote healthy living through sports, fitness, and events. The Ice and Fitness Center is considered the recreation department in the city and oversees the Parks and Recreation Department. The facility features fitness equipment and full service amenities, as well as an NHL size ice rink. Figure 3.2 presents the current organization structure of the Ice and Fitness Center.

Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks & Recreation Department oversees 8 park sites located throughout the City of Walker and provides recreation programs for resident enjoyment.

Budgeting and Funding

Budgets for parks, programs, services and maintenance are located in the Appendix of this document. The budget includes Operation and Maintenance, Capital Improvements, and Programs and Services. The basic sources for funding to support the operating and capital improvements budgets of the Parks and Recreation department are the following: taxes, fees and charges, government grants and gifts or bequests.

Taxes – Consisting of city income tax and local real estate or property taxes; which are derived by assessing industrial or residential property within the borders of the municipality at a given rate.

Grants – Park development has benefited from a variety of grants as shown on the Park Development Grant Summary in Chapter 4.

Fees & Charges – Consisting of monies collected for program participation and facility rentals. Fees and charges are reviewed annually to assure an equitable system to offset departmental operating costs and provide value to program participants and facility users.

Gifts & Bequests – Included are gifts that come from private sources such as foundations, business firms or individuals. These are solicited when accompanying stipulations are such that the gift would be determined beneficial to City responsibilities for the provision of park and recreational services.

Rentals

The city offers park and facility rentals through the Parks and Recreation Department and Walker Ice and Fitness. Facilities may be rented for special events and/or large gathering events. Facilities that may be rented include pavilions, soccer and baseball fields, volleyball courts, basketball courts, meeting rooms, party rooms, and ice time. First priority is given to city run and/or sponsored programs and events. Second priority is given to Kenowa Hills Public Schools and next priority is given to groups or organizations with the most participants that live in Walker. Rental fees are not charged to public units of government, local school districts or the local libraries unless it is determined that fees are necessary to cover extraordinary expenses. Refer to Figure 3.3 for current rental fees.

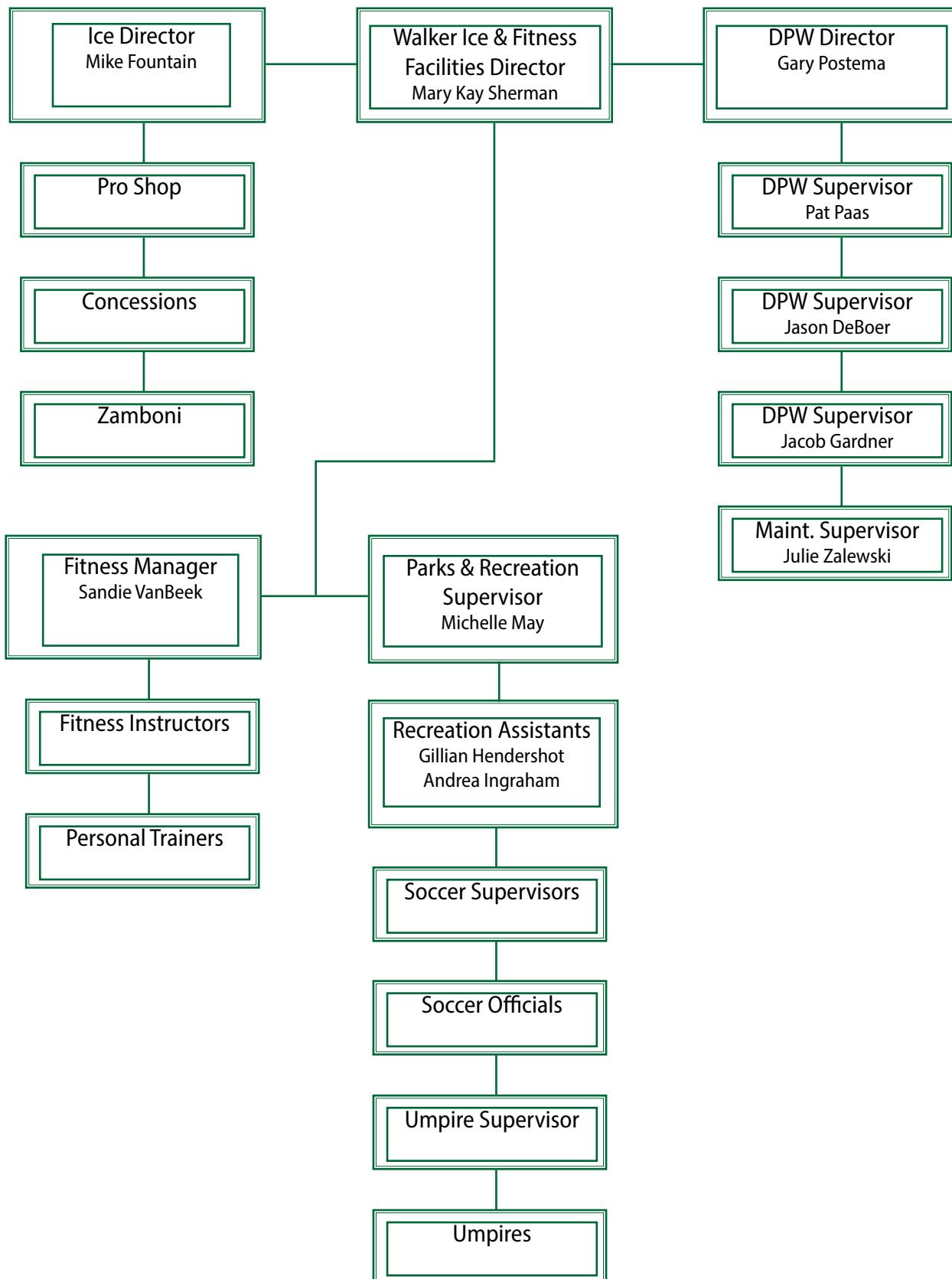
Figure 3.2 - Parks Organizational Chart

Figure 3.3 - Rentals

Facility	Resident Rate	Non-Resident Rate
Picnic Pavilions - Alpine & City Central Parks	\$50 (4 hours) for each additional hour	\$20 \$100 (4 hours) \$20 for each additional hour
Picnic Pavilions - Community Park	\$70 (4 hours) for each additional hour	\$20 \$120 (4 hours) \$20 for each additional hour
Inline Skating Rink	\$40 per hour	\$80 per hour
Soccer Fields	\$40 per hour	\$80 per hour
Softball Fields	\$40 per hour	\$80 per hour
Tennis Courts	\$40 per hour	\$80 per hour
Volleyball Courts	\$40 per hour	\$80 per hour
Special Permit (City sponsored event or non-profit fundraiser)	\$100	\$150
Large Gathering Permit (over 50 people)	\$150	\$200
Walker Ice and Fitness Room Rental	\$50 (2 hours) for each additional hour	\$20
Walker Ice and Fitness Party Room	Package 1 - \$12.50 per person Package 2 - \$15 per person	
Walker Ice and Fitness Ice Rental	\$315 per hour during prime time \$210 per hour non-prime time	

Recreational Programming

The Ice and Fitness Center, with review and recommendation of the City Manager and approval by City Commission, develops recreational programs and events in accordance with planning and financial operations. Recreation programming is directed under the supervision of the Ice and Fitness Center Program Director. These operations include the provision of a viable program of recreational activities and events for residents in the entire community. In order to meet the demand for these programs, the department utilizes city, school and private facilities. See Figure 3.4 for a list of programs and events offered by the city.

Department of Public Works

The DPW manages and executes maintenance duties for all park facilities in Walker including trails, park sites, cemeteries, and the City Hall Complex. In addition, the department is responsible for the maintenance of irrigation, landscaping, streetlights, leaf collection, pavement markings, signs, and snowplowing.

Community Development

The Community Development Department manages all the planning and zoning related policies, plan reviews, and ordinances within the city including the Parks Ordinance. In addition the department collaborates with other city departments regarding city-wide master plans, ordinance revisions, special studies, and other land use activities.

Figure 3.4 - Programs

<p>Sports</p> <p>Adult softball Fitness challenges Senior walking club Youth soccer - Fall Youth soccer - Spring</p> <p>Events</p> <p>Easter Egg Hunt Mayor's Cup Meijer State Games Memorial Day Parade National Night Out Neon New Year's Skate Parks & Rec Month Pumpkin Bash Scary Skate Senior Christmas Lunch Summer Concert Series Summer Splash Party Toys for Tots Collection Trevor Slot 5K Trevor Slot Golf Outing Veteran's Day Collection Weight Loss Challenge Winterfest</p>	<p>Fitness Classes</p> <p>Core Infusion Cross Conditioning Cycle Strength Intervals Gentle Stretch High Fitness Indoor Cycling Interval Low Cardio (Boom) Strength Martial Arts Met Con Personal Trainers Silver Sneakers - Circuit Silver Sneakers - Classic Upbeat Barre WERQ Dance Yoga Zumba</p> <p>Ice Rink</p> <p>Ice Rental Open Ice Skating Learn to Skate / Play Adult Hockey Leagues Cross Ice Hockey HAWK Hockey Mens Hockey Tournaments Hockey Camps Kenowa Hills Hockey</p>
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Committees and Commissions

The City relies on citizen participation on many committees and commissions to help serve the community. The citizens serving on the committees and commissions provide the talent and experience needed to meet the diverse challenges facing the community. The recommendations from these groups assist the City Commission and Administration in making decisions regarding parks and recreation. These groups include the following:

- Community Engagement Committee
- Historic Commission
- Parks and Recreation Committee
- Planning Commission

Community Engagement Committee

An advisory committee to create and promote greater engagement in local activities by residents and corporate citizens residing in the Community. Develops specific programs to promote increased involvement in Community relations by residents and corporate entities. Organizes and conducts various events and activities to promote interaction and relationships within the Community. Term of office for non-elected Committee members is three years. The Elected Official is appointed annually. The Committee meets on the first Thursday of every month, unless designated otherwise.

Historic Commission

Acts as an advisory committee in making recommendations to the City Commission for preserving historical materials, memorabilia, and other objects documenting the City's past, providing a place to enjoy those items, and promoting general interest in historical preservation among the community. The Committee meets the fourth Monday of each month, or as needed.

Parks and Recreation Committee

The original Walker Parks and Recreation Committee was assumedly formed under the enabling legislation of PA 156 of 1917 - The Recreation and Playgrounds Act. The Committee was originally created in 1969 to provide recommendations to the City Commission regarding the community's parks, facilities and recreation programs. The Committee was comprised of ten voting members and one non voting member. The voting members were one City Commissioner, six citizens from the City's wards, one citizen as an at-large representative, and two school representatives, one each from Grandville and Kenowa Hills Public Schools. Committee members were appointed by the City Commission to three year terms. The Committee was chaired by one of the citizen members.

The committee was disbanded in 2009 due to the recession, but has since reformed.

The mission of this committee is to create community through people, parks, and programs. The vision is to elevate the City of Walker as a destination place for active living that provides safe, welcoming, best-in-class parks, trails, and facilities through the City together with year-round diverse recreation and cultural opportunities for people of all ages to play, learn, and build community.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is authorized by Michigan statute and consists of nine members appointed by the Mayor with concurrence of the City Commission. The Planning Commission has as primary responsibilities the preparation and adoption of a Comprehensive Plan that guides decision-making related to future land use, community development and capital investments, and making recommendations and advising City Commission on land use, zoning and related development matters of importance in the community.



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Recreation Inventory

To understand the Walker park and recreation system, we first completed an inventory and analysis of existing park facilities. The intent of the analysis is to evaluate the character, performance, and accessibility of the diverse spaces in the park system, and provide a comprehensive perspective of the opportunities and challenges of the existing recreational facilities the city has to offer its citizens. The inventory is based on feedback provided by city staff and stakeholders, site inventories carried out by VIRIDIS Design Group, park accessibility review, and a review of the 2004 and 2014 plans.

Park and Recreation System Inventory

The park and recreation system inventory establishes a baseline understanding of the quantity, type, location, and quality of all park and recreation facilities in Walker. The project team visited each park facility and recorded its amenities, accessibility, and condition. The site inventory was supplemented by an aerial survey and verified against the city's GIS database. Overall, 8 parks and open spaces, as well as school sites were inventoried through this process.

Walker has a variety of park spaces and other public recreational trails and facilities. Numerous county, private and non-profit facilities are also found within the community and county and are highlighted as part of the inventory. The city controls and manages approximately **165.8 acres** of land which include developed parks, undeveloped land, natural areas, and trails (Refer to Figure 4.1).

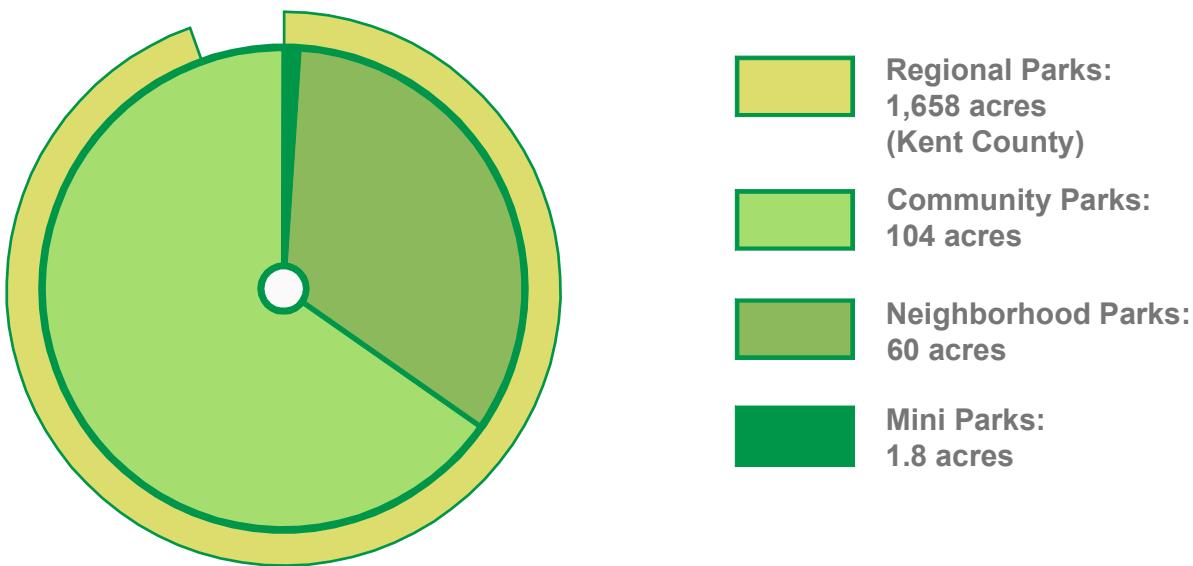
The NRPA has established generally recognized standards for classifying types of parkland based

on size and function which provide a means for determining the primary purpose or use of existing facilities in a community. These designations have been adopted by the MDNR; and provide one method of defining the purpose and use of facilities.

Typically, smaller open spaces address localized needs, while larger parks and open space draw users from farther away for destination activities. Mini Parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population of specific groups. Neighborhood parks are considered the most critical for local, walkable park access and community health as these types of parks provide a range of playground amenities and recreational opportunities for residents. Community parks are larger in size and often feature a greater concentration of sports fields and other recreation amenities to meet demand for a broader area. Regional parks or metropolitan parks include land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use or historic or cultural interest use.

When looking at Walker owned park land, approximately 60% is held in three community parks totaling 104 acres. Four neighborhood parks comprise 60 acres, and one mini park adds another 1.8 acres to the park system. The park system is spread out among the city's three wards with two parks totaling 25 acres in Ward 1, two parks totaling 61.8 acres in Ward 2, and four parks totaling 79 acres in Ward 3 (refer to Figure 4.1). In addition to Walker owned parks, two large regional county parks lie within the limits of the city. The regional county parks are located in Ward 3 of the city and total approximately 1,658 acres.

Per the NRPA guidelines, park and recreation categories include associated service areas for each park type that indicate a minimum standard for geographic balance and availability of each park type in the park system. Classifying parks ensures the entire community is served by a wide range of park and recreational activities. Service areas for park types are discussed in Chapter 5.



MINI PARK



- 1 Mini Park
- Under 1 acre
- Address unique, or specialized recreation needs
- Typically clustered in urban or dense areas
- Complement neighborhood parks in dense areas

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



- 4 Neighborhood Parks
- 1 -10 acres
- Located in neighborhoods with family activities
- Walkable for residents
- Can provide active and passive uses

COMMUNITY PARK



- 3 Community Parks
- 10-50 acres
- Meet broad community recreation needs
- May contain specialized recreation facilities
- Contribute to a connected system

REGIONAL PARK



- 2 Regional Parks (Kent County)
- 200+ acres
- Serve several communities within one-hour drive
- Focus on recreation, historic, or cultural uses
- May preserve natural or sensitive areas

Barrier Free Accessibility

Federal and State laws require all areas of public service to be accessible to all persons including those with limited sight, hearing, mobility, and comprehension. Developed park facilities must comply with barrier-free design standards. Park facilities in the city of Walker have been reviewed to understand the need for improvements relating to barrier-free accessibility. In addition, as park development is considered in the future, barrier-free accessibility is a significant priority item to help ensure that recreation can be enjoyed by all residents and visitors of the city. Following is a ranking system in accordance with MDNR standards:

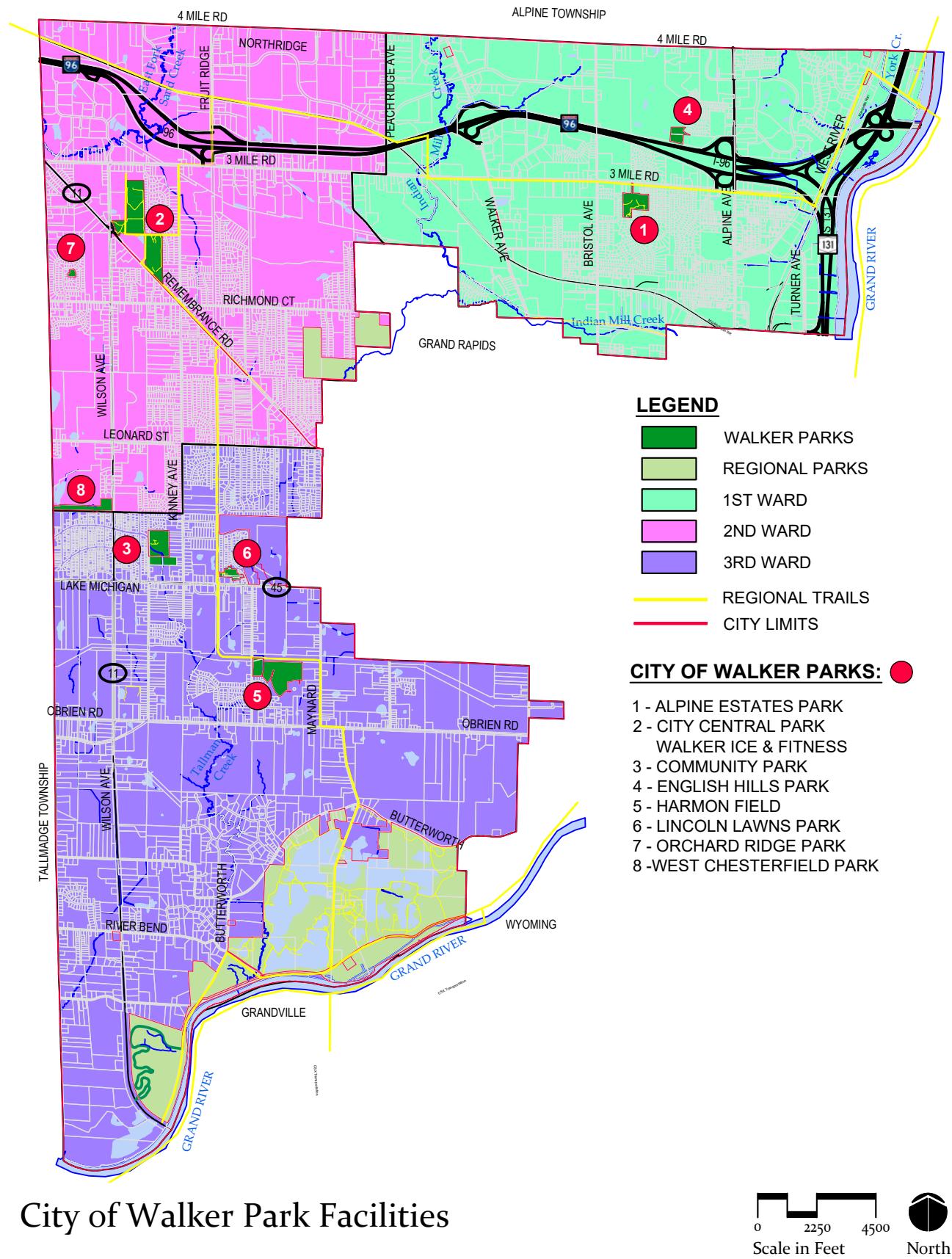
- 0 = Completely undeveloped, no paved surface, left in a natural state.
- 1 = None of the facilities in the park meet accessibility guidelines.
- 2 = Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
- 3 = Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
- 4 = All of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.
- 5 = Universal design guidelines were used to design the entire park.

Existing Parks

As part of the methodology of determining present-day and future needs of the Walker residents, the existing park facilities were examined. This combined with current trends, comparison to park standards, and community feedback (discussed later) will help the parks department anticipate and plan for future user needs. The design team visited each park to observe existing facilities to understand defining features, quality and condition of existing facilities, quantity of amenities, and level of accessibility. This field analysis was completed in September of 2022 (refer to table 4.1 for park amenity inventory).



Figure 4.1 - Recreation Areas and Facilities Map



City of Walker Park Facilities

Alpine Estates Park

Location: 1364 3 Mile Rd NW
 Ward: 1
 Size: 18.0 Ac

Accessibility: 2
 Park Type: Community
 Service Area: 2 miles

Description

Alpine Estates Park is nestled within the Alpine Estates neighborhood and is surrounded by single family homes. The park is a mature facility but has been maintained well and is in good condition. The park has a nice balance of active and passive uses and is connected by pathways to the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail and adjacent neighborhoods. The ballfield is home to the Pioneer Baseball League, girls recreational softball and adult softball.

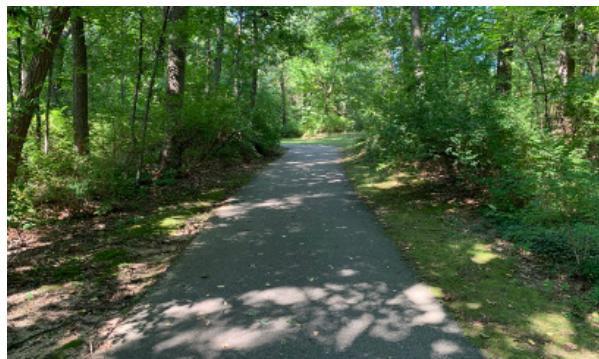
Site features include: baseball/softball field, restroom building, picnic pavilion, paved walking path, nature trails, parking, benches and picnic tables, playground structure for school-age, playground structure for toddlers, swing set for school-age, swing set for toddlers, gate controlled entrance, lighting, and natural area.

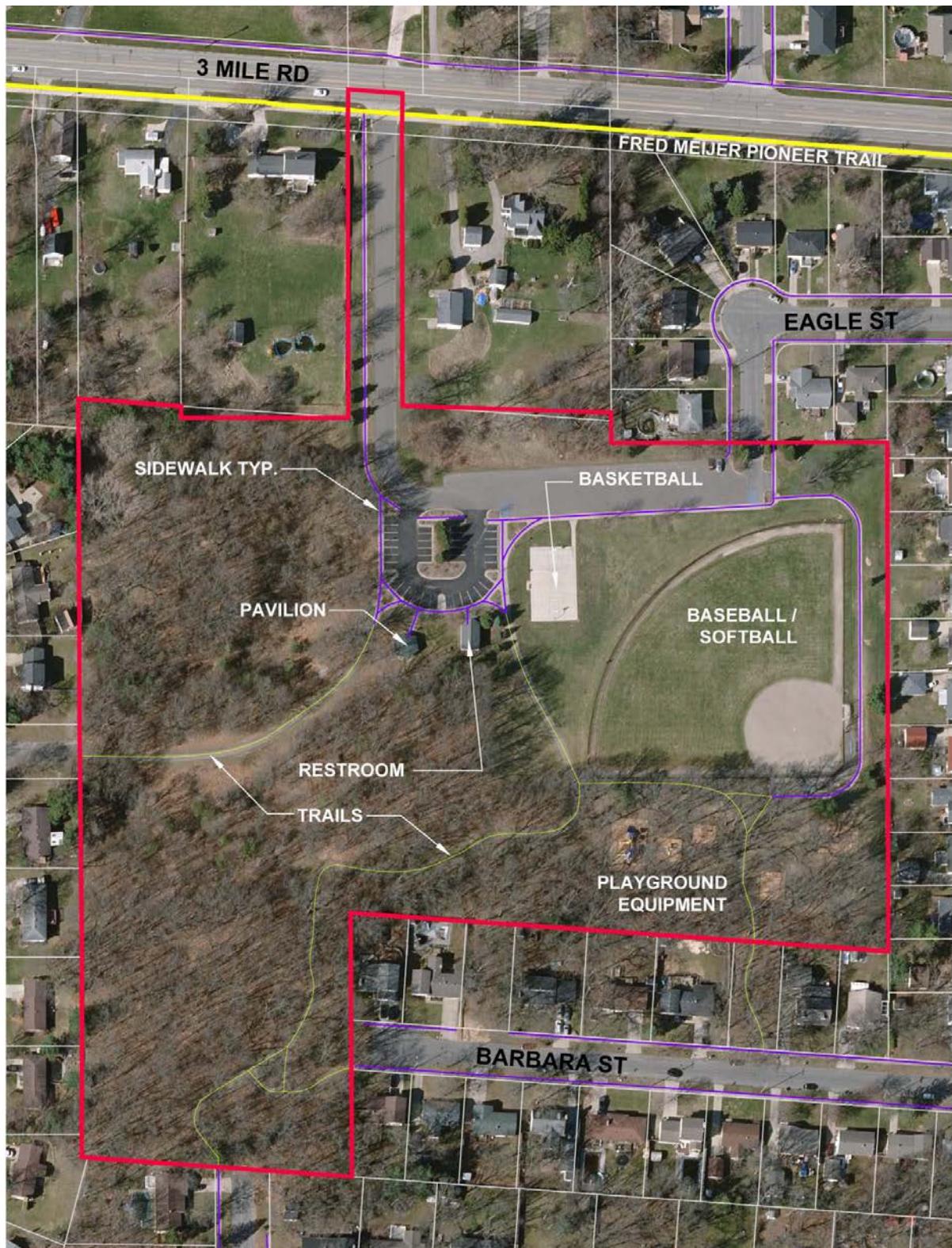
Opportunities

- Playground equipment is aging and should be updated.
- There are no accessible pathways to any of the playground areas.
- Playground surfacing needs replaced. Consider adding rubberized surface for universal accessibility.
- Paved surface around the ballfield bleachers and players bench would improve accessibility.
- Consider replacing picnic tables.

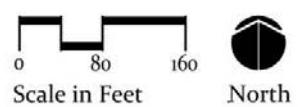
Grant History

- 1991: Trust Fund - land acquisition
- 2000: Clean Michigan Initiative - Site development including: paths, parking, restroom, pavilion, ballfield, utilities.





Alpine Estates Park



City Central Park

Location: 4151 Remembrance Rd NW
 Ward: 2
 Size: 16.0 Ac

Accessibility: 3
 Park Type: Community
 Service Area: 3 miles

Description

City Central Park is adjacent to the city hall campus and includes land that is leased from Kenowa Hills School District (99 years) to the north. The park is in good condition overall with some aging components that may need upgrades. This park is also home to Western Little League, girls and adult softball programs, and spring and fall soccer programs.

Park features include: soccer fields, softball/baseball fields, playgrounds with swing sets, parking, restrooms, concessions, paved trails, tennis courts, sand volleyball courts, basketball courts, in-line hockey rink, pavilion, fishing, overlook deck, picnic tables and benches.

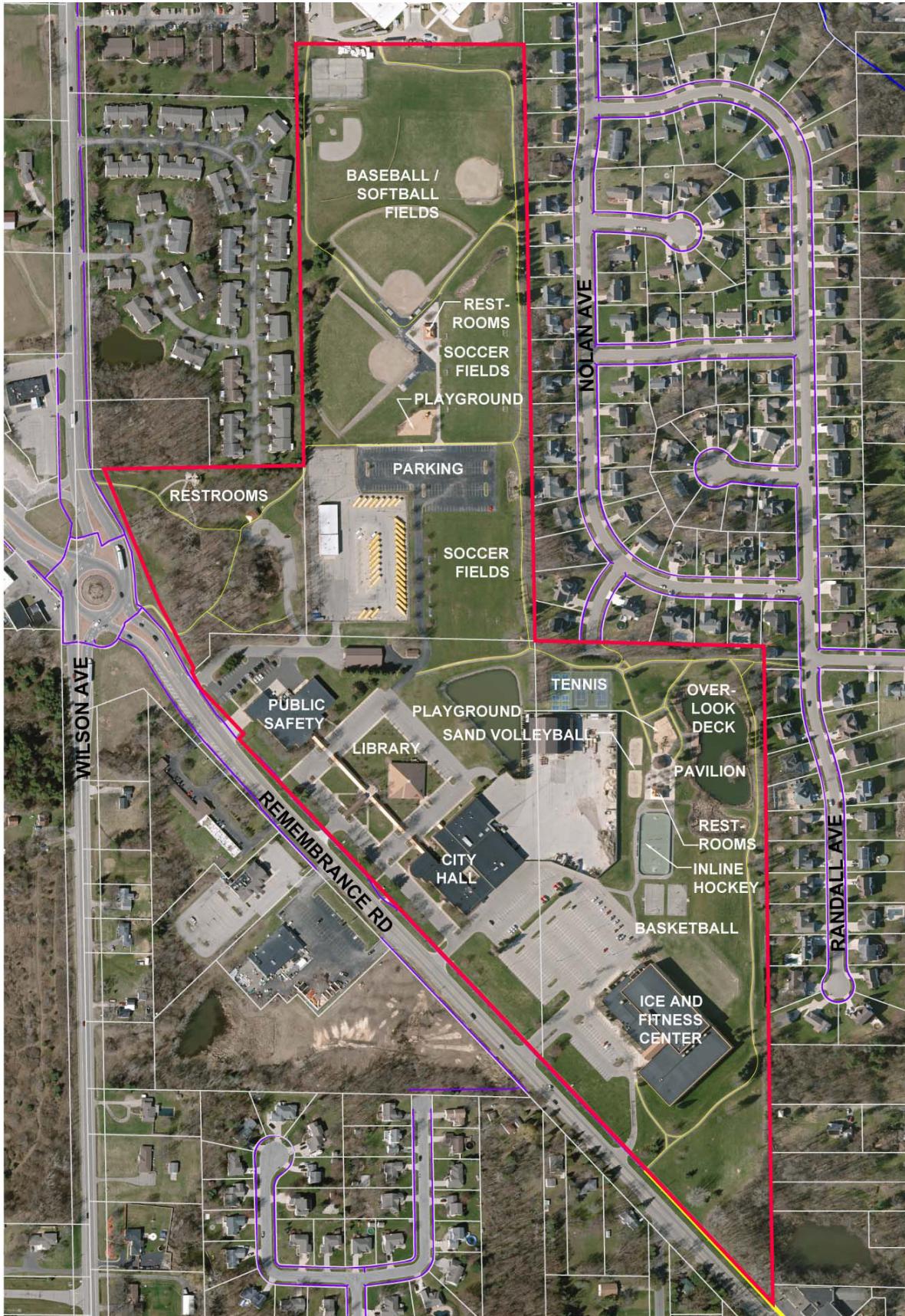
Opportunities

- Soccer fields have drainage issues and need regrading / stormwater improvements.
- Playground equipment and site furnishings are aging and could use upgrades.
- There are no accessible paths to the basketball and sand volleyball courts.
- Reorient ballfields to minimize glare and consider adding amenities for baseball fields such as pitching machines, bull pen, seating.
- The pathways includes benches along the paths that are not barrier free. Consider adding paved surface around the benches.
- Some asphalt paths/areas are aging and need resurfacing or replacement.
- South most soccer fields do not have an accessible path to the bleachers/fields.

Grant History

- 1975: Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Site improvements including: parking, lighting, ballfields, tennis courts, and tot lot.





City Central Park

0 200 400
Scale in Feet
North

Community Park

Location: 700 Cummings Ave NW
 Ward: 3
 Size: 26.0 Ac

Accessibility: 3
 Park Type: Community
 Service Area: 3 miles

Description

Community Park is a popular facility for summer concerts and programmed events. The facilities are in generally good condition with some aging equipment that may need maintenance. The park is home to adult softball programs and youth soccer program.

Site features include: soccer field, softball/baseball field, playground and swing set, restrooms, benches and picnic tables, parking, walking path, 2 tennis courts (with markings for pickle ball), basketball court, large picnic pavilion, sledding hill, amphitheater, and natural areas.



Opportunities

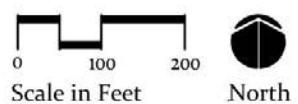
- The picnic pavilion is older and needs renovations or be replaced with a newer structure.
- The park includes undeveloped areas that could allow for park expansion.
- Interpretive signs, educational programming, and viewing decks could be added to the natural/drainage areas of the park.
- Tennis courts need resurfacing and the net posts are rusting and should be replaced.
- Parking lot pavement and asphalt paths show degradation and could be resurfaced.
- Adding a paved path to the soccer field with a paved seating/viewing space would improve accessibility.
- Paved surfaces around the baseball bleachers and player benches would enhance the site and improve accessibility.

Grant History

- None



Community Park



English Hills Park

Location: 3071 Ipswich Dr NW
 Ward: 1
 Size: 7.0 Ac

Accessibility: 2
 Park Type: Neighborhood
 Service Area: 1 mile

Description

English Hills Park is tucked between I-96 and the English Hills neighborhood and is an aging park that needs upgrades. Located at the end of a subdivision road, the park is hard to find and somewhat unknown by many in the community. The park has an opportunity to be redeveloped into a thriving neighborhood park with potential adjacent land acquisitions to the northwest and east; and future residential development of the old English Hills Golf Course to the west.

Site features include: baseball field, two basketball hoops in the parking lot, playground equipment, paved parking, natural areas, informal nature trails, and a port-a-john.



Opportunities

- The playground equipment is outdated and should be replaced.
- The baseball infield is in poor condition with erosion and weeds and needs to be regraded and new infield mix added.
- The fencing and gates around the ballfield are in poor condition and should be replaced.
- Asphalt pathways are deteriorating and need resurfaced or replaced.
- Baseball field lacks accessible surfaces around bleachers and player benches.
- Asphalt parking lot is cracking and needs repairs.
- Park lacks benches and picnic tables.



Grant History

- None



English Hills Park

0 100 200
Scale in Feet
North

Harmon Field Park

Location: 144 Sunset Hills Ave
Ward: 3
Size: 36.0 Ac

Accessibility: 3
Park Type: Neighborhood
Service Area: 1 mile

Description

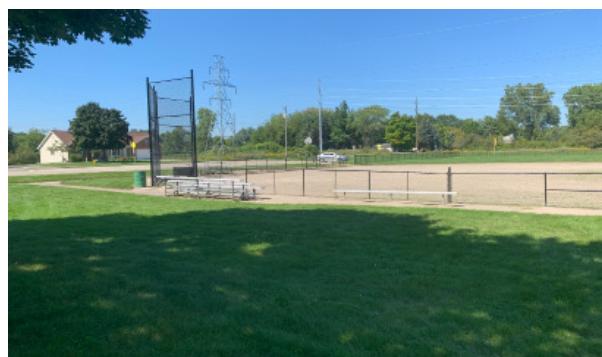
Harmon Field Park is located in the urbanized Standale-area and is in generally good condition with some opportunities for upgrades. The park is adjacent to the Fred Meijer Standale Trail and the ballfield is home to programmed softball leagues. The park has an opportunity to expand its facilities with the approximate 31 acres of undeveloped city-owned land to the east. The park is home to adult softball programs.

Site features include: baseball/softball field, playground with swings, benches and picnic areas, paved parking, walking paths, small gazebo, one basketball hoop in the parking lot, and a port-a-john.



Opportunities

- The asphalt parking lot and pathways in the park are showing signs of age and should be replaced or resurfaced.
- There is no accessible path to the swing set.
- Paved surface around the baseball field bleachers and player bench would improve accessibility and minimize maintenance.
- The small gazebo is aging and could use maintenance.
- Consider adding a paved connection to the Standale trail from within the park.
- Consider developing the 31 acres to add new facilities to the park.
- Adding a sidewalk adjacent to the parking lot would improve accessibility.



Grant History

- None



Harmon Field Park

0 100 200
Scale in Feet North

Lincoln Lawns Park

Location: 455 Westway Dr
Ward: 3
Size: 5.0 Ac

Accessibility: 3
Park Type: Neighborhood
Service Area: 1 mile

Description

Lincoln Lawns Park is located in the urbanized Standale-area and is in generally good condition with some opportunities for improvements. The park is adjacent to the Fred Meijer Standale Trail and the soccer field is heavily used for programmed events.

Site features include: soccer field, playground with swing set, benches and picnic tables, paved parking, concrete walking path, basketball court, trail connections to the Standale Trail, and a port-a-john.



Opportunities

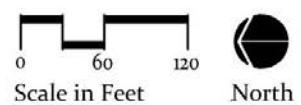
- The playground is outdated and could be replaced with newer equipment.
- The soccer field surface could be regraded to provide better drainage and the soccer goals could be replaced with newer equipment.
- A paved surface for viewing soccer games would improve accessibility.
- The site includes open space that could be used for expansion of facilities.
- The parking lot is small and could use expansion to accommodate future expansion.
- Adding sidewalks adjacent to the parking lot would improve accessibility.

Grant History

- 2007 Community Development Block Grant.



Lincoln Lawns Park



Orchard Ridge Park

Location: 2154 Applegate Dr
Ward: 2
Size: 1.8 Ac

Accessibility: 3
Park Type: Mini
Service Area: 0.5 mile

Description

Orchard Ridge Park is tucked in the Orchard Ridge subdivision and is surrounded on all sides by single family homes. The park is very open and in good condition and has opportunities for expansion of facilities that could benefit the neighborhood. There is no parking lot available for the park as most users likely walk from the adjacent neighborhood.

Site features include: modular playground structure, swings, picnic table, benches, and sidewalk connection to the neighborhood sidewalk.



Opportunities

- The existing picnic tables and benches do not have accessible paths or paved surfaces around them.
- The site includes open space that could allow for expansion of facilities.
- Consider adding a shade structure or pavilion to the park, as well as additional accessible seating.
- The site could benefit from the addition of landscaping and trees to increase shade, screen adjacent homes, and improve aesthetics.

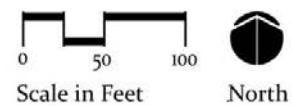


Grant History

- None



Orchard Ridge Park



Walker Ice and Fitness

Location:	4151 Remembrance Rd NW
Ward:	2
Size:	80,000 sqft

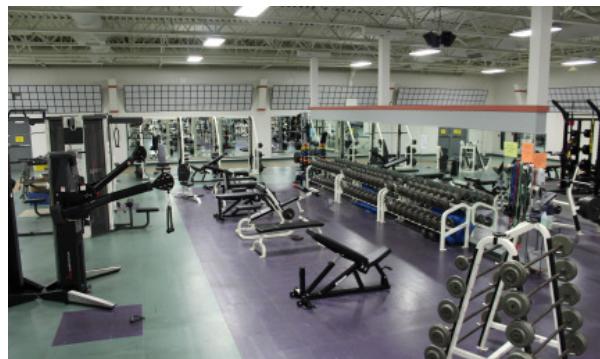
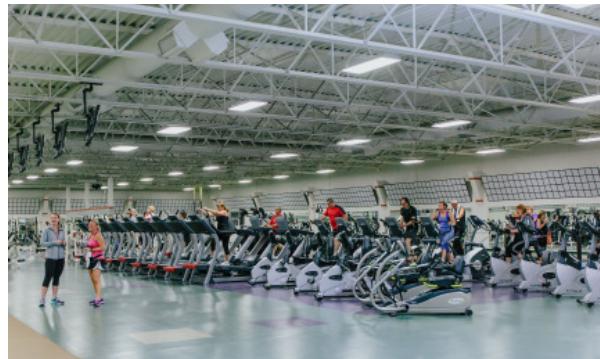
Accessibility:	4
Park Type:	n/a
Service Area:	1 hour drive

Description

The Walker Ice and Fitness Center is located on the southern end City Hall Complex, adjacent to City Central Park, and offers multiple recreational facilities and programs to the community. The facility was built in 1998 and is fully owned and operated by the city. The facility offers corporate memberships for groups of 10 or more, single, family, student, and senior memberships, as well as day passes. The current membership is approximately 2,300.

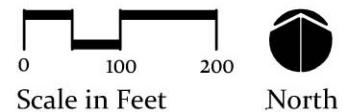
Facilities

- 20,000 sqft fitness facility
- 11.5 lap indoor track
- 1,200 sqft aerobics room
- Men's and women's locker rooms with steam rooms, saunas, individual showers, and changing areas and lockers
- Two tanning booths
- Cybex weight machines
- Cardiovascular equipment
- Free weights and dumbbells
- Heavy bag
- Other miscellaneous exercise equipment
- One sheet of ice: NHL size 85'x 200'
- Public skating sessions
- Hockey / skating programs
- Ice rental
- Five large, fully equipped dressing rooms
- Heated seating for 400
- Heated lobby viewing area
- Skate sharpening and rental service
- Skate mates
- Pro shop - full line skate / equipment dealer
- Concession services with atrium seating area
- Two meeting rooms available for rental





Walker Ice and Fitness Center



Walker Ice and Fitness

Single Membership	Cost
1 year, paid in advance	\$588
6 months, paid in advance	\$294+\$10
3 months, paid in advance	\$147+ \$10
Monthly Debit	\$49/mo+\$10
Family Membership	
Joining fee per family	\$10
Two members	\$78/mo
Three or more members	\$99/mo
Senior Membership	
Joining fee	\$10
1 senior member	\$39/mo
2 senior members	\$53/mo
Student Membership (26 & younger)	
Joining fee	\$10
Three month membership	\$99
Additional Services	
Small locker	\$3/mo
Large locker	\$5/mo
Personal training	\$25/half-hour
Day pass	\$10
Single fitness class	\$7
Single fitness class (seniors)	\$5
Fitness punch card (11 classes)	\$70
Fitness punch card (seniors)	\$40
Tanning - single visit	\$5+tax
Tanning - 10 visit punch card	\$40+tax
Corporate Membership	Call for info



Grant History

- None

Walker Ice and Fitness

WALKER ICE AND FITNESS CENTER



Equipment List

Cardio Equipment

- 13 Free Motion Incline Trainers
- 3 Free Motion Incline Trainers with personal TVs
- 5 Free Motion T 10.8 Treadmills
- 4 Nustep T4r Trainers
- 3 True Upright Bikes
- 4 Life Fitness Recumbent Bikes
- 5 Cybex 610 Arc Trainers
- 3 Precor EFX Trainers
- 1 SciFit Pro2 Total Body Arm Bike
- 5 Freemotion e 10.6 Ellipticals
- 2 Stairmaster Stepmill 8 Series
- 1 Life Fitness Powermill
- 2 Helix HLT 3500 DD Lateral Trainers
- 2 Stairmaster HIIT Rowers
- 18 Free Motion Indoor Cycling Bikes
- 1 Star Trac Spinning Bikes
- 1 Jacob's Ladder
- 1 Versa Climber
- 11.5 Lap/Mile Indoor Track



Walker Ice and Fitness



Equipment List

Weight Machines

- 1 Cybex Seated Leg Press
- 1 Eagle Glute
- 1 Cybex Prone Leg Curl
- 1 Cybex Leg Extension
- 1 Cybex Seated Leg Curl
- 1 Cybex Dual Row/Rear Delt
- 1 Cybex Dual Chest Press
- 1 Cybex Lateral
- 1 Ab Coaster
- 1 FreeMotion Torso Rotation
- 1 FreeMotion Ab Crunch
- 1 FreeMotion Back Extension
- 1 FreeMotion Pec Fly/Rear Delt



Weight Machines

- 1 Cybex Arm Extension
- 1 Cybex Arm Curl
- 1 Cybex Hip Adduction
- 1 Cybex Hip Abduction
- 1 Cybex Overhead Press
- 1 Cybex Dual Axis Pull Down
- 1 Cybex Galileo Low Row
- 1 Cybex Galileo Standing Calf
- 1 Eagle Abdominal
- 1 Cybex Back Extension
- 1 Cybex Rotary Calf
- 1 Cybex Modular Tricep Push Down
- Asst. Chin-up/dip
- Modular Lat Pulldown
- Tricep Extension
- Pull Up Bar with Cuffs

Walker Ice and Fitness



Equipment List

Free Weights & Strength Training

Equipment

- 2 Cybex Smith Fixed Bar
- 1 Cybex Plate Loaded 45 Degrees Calf Raise
- 1 Cybex Plate Loaded Hack Squat
- 1 Cybex Loaded Leg Press
- 1 Cybex Plate Loaded Squat Press
- 1 Plate Loaded Row
- 1 Cybex Tricep Press
- 1 Cybex Preacher Curl
- 2 Cybex Olympic Benches
- 2 Half Racks with Platforms
- 1 Rogue Deadlift Platform
- 1 Olympic Incline Bench
- 1 Olympic Decline Bench
- 8 Adjustable Benches
- Seated Calf Raise
- Free Motion Plate Loaded Shoulder Press
- 1 Heavy Bag
- Lebert Bars
- 1 Dynamic Fitness + Strength Edge Double Half Rack with 660 square ft ultra tile flooring
- 4 Flat Benches
- 2 Freemotion Dual Cable Cross
- 1 Cybex Roman Chair
- 1 Cybex Back Extension
- 11 TRX Suspension Trainers
- Assorted Chains and Bands
- 1 Rogue Reverse Hyper Extension
- Dumbbells (1-120 lbs)
- Barbells (20-110 lbs)
- EZ bars (20-110 lbs)
- Plyo Boxes
- Assorted Kettlebells
- Battle Rope
- Pilates Rings
- Medicine Balls
- 6 #10 Slam Balls
- Stability Balls
- 10 Bosus
- Exercise Bands
- Foam Rollers
- Ab Rollers
- 6 2.4lb Sandbag
- 3 large tractor tires

West Chesterfield Park

Location: 811 Wilson Ave
Ward: 3
Size: 12 Ac

Accessibility: 3
Park Type: Neighborhood
Service Area: 1 mile

Description

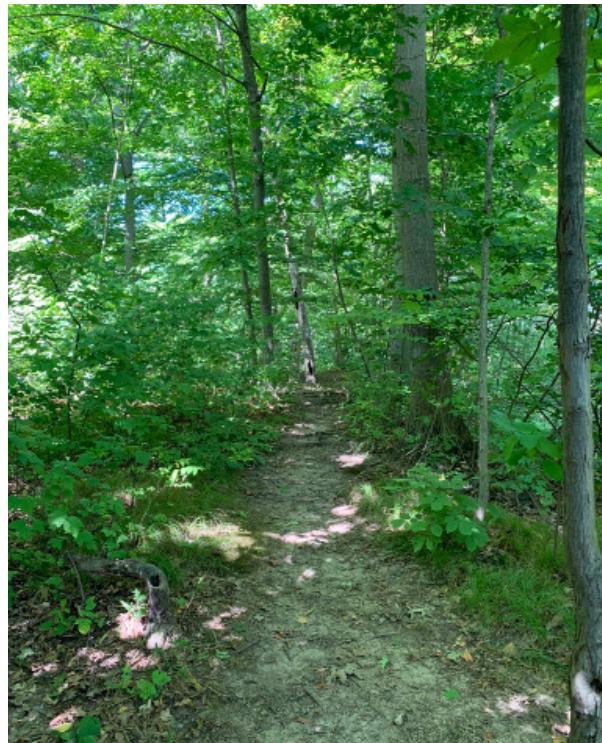
West Chesterfield Park occupies a mostly tree covered natural drainage area and sits between the Appletree Estates Manufactured Home Community to the northwest, and the Chesterfield Heights neighborhood to the south. The existing facilities are in good condition and are mostly used by the adjacent neighborhoods, as there is no parking lot available.

Site features include: modular playground structure, swings, spring riders, natural areas, and informal nature paths.



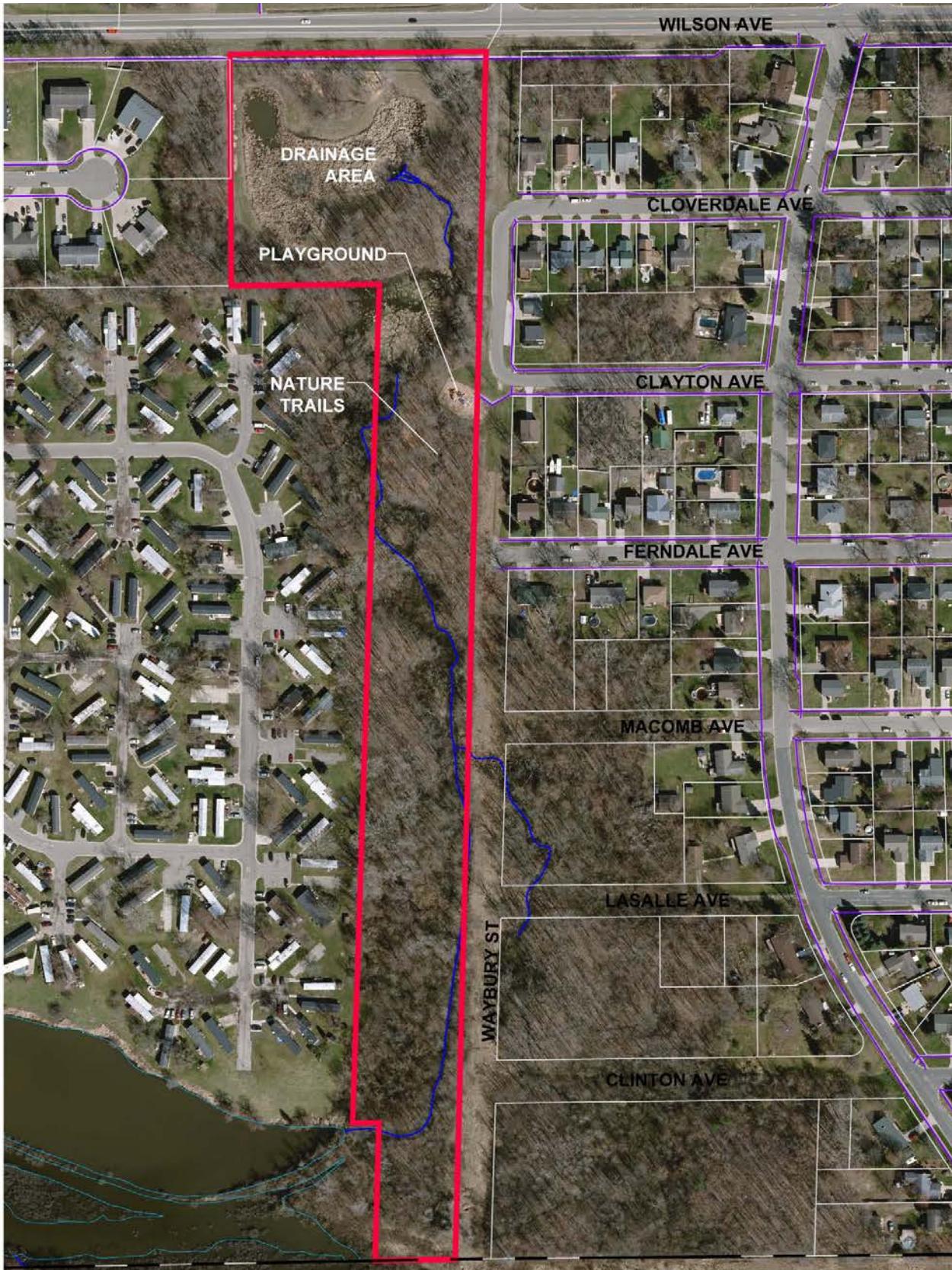
Opportunities

- The site includes some open green space that could be used to expand the playground facility or add a picnic pavilion.
- Existing natural areas provide opportunities for interpretive signage, education, and viewing platforms.
- Existing informal nature paths could be made more formal by widening and adding stone or mulch surface.
- Consider adding paved path connections to adjacent neighborhoods.

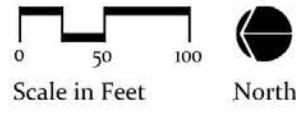


Grant History

- None



West Chesterfield Park



Inventory Summary Table

Table 4.1 summarizes the inventory of public-owned parks located within the City boundaries.

Alpine Estates Park	Central Park	Community Park	English Hills Park	Harmon Field Pak	Lincoln Lawns Park	Orchard Ridge Park	Walker Ice and Fitness	West Chesterfield Park		TOTAL	
18	60	26	7	36	5	1.8		12		165.8	Size (Ac)
1	2	3	1	3	3	2	2	3			Ward
2	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	3			Accessibility Rating
C	C	C	N	N	N	M		N			Category
1	2	1	2^	1^	1					8	Basketball
	3	2								5	Tennis
	1*	2*								3	Pickleball
1	4	1	1	1						8	Baseball/softball
1	1	1		1						4	Picnic Shelter
1	3	1								4	Restrooms
2	3	1	1	1	1	1		1		11	Play Equipment
	3	1			1					5	Soccer
	2									2	Sand Volleyball
	1						1			2	Concessions
X	X	X		X	X	X					Picnic Area/Tables
X	X	X		X	X	X		X			Benches
	X										Fishing
	1									1	Overlook Deck
X	X	X		X	X		X				Paved Trails
X	X	X	X	X				X			Nature Trails
	1									1	In-line Hockey
	1									1	Amphitheater
		1		1	1					3	Portable Restroom
		X	X	X	X	X		X			Undeveloped Land
		1								1	Sledding Hill
							X				Fitness Equipment
								1		1	Indoor Track
								1		1	Ice Rink
X	X	X	X	X	X		X			2	Meeting Rooms
											Parking

Mini Park (M), Neighborhood Park (N), Community Park (C)

* - Striped on tennis courts

^ - Not courts, hoops in parking lot

Non-Motorized Trails

Non-motorized transportation, with facilities designed primarily for pedestrians and bicyclists, is a critical element of an integrated parks and recreation system. A connected system of non-motorized facilities could help promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles, relieve traffic congestion, reduce air pollution and fuel consumption, and improve quality of life. Trails, greenways and park systems provide important, carbon-free transportation options and link residents to popular destinations and to one another.

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



The city of Walker is geographically positioned to access many of West Michigan's most popular regional trails and greenways. Access to the Fred Meijer Standale Trail, the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail, the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail, the Fred Meijer Millennium Trail Network, and Kent Trails is provided within the City. Additionally, the Musketawa Trail can be accessed just outside the City's limits.

There are approximately 19 miles of non-motorized trails within the city limits, with ownership spread among the city of Walker, Kent County Parks Department, and the Blandford Nature Center (see figure 4.2). In addition, there are many miles of paved trails within the city parks.

Central Park Trail

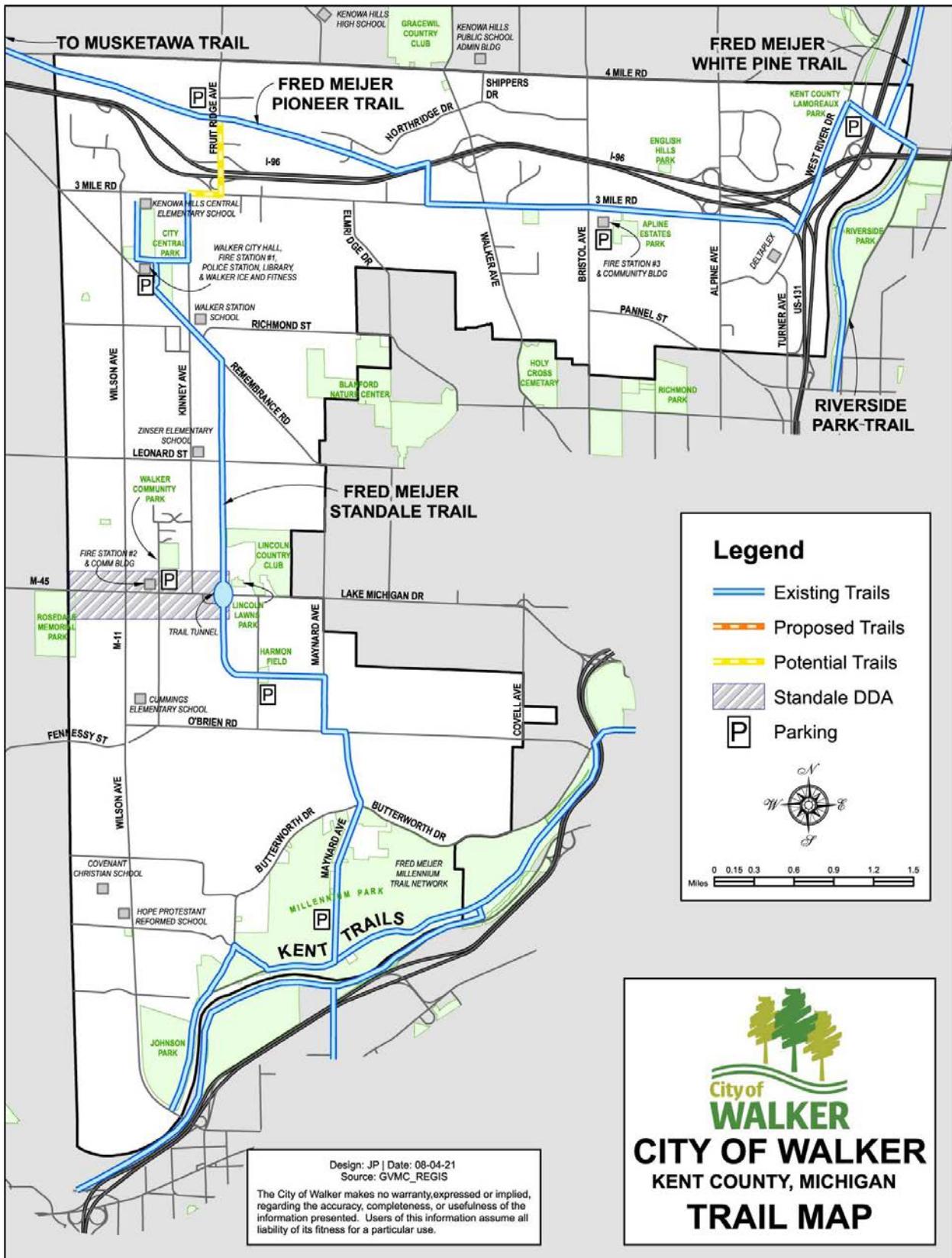
The Central Park Trail, which is located on the Walker City Hall campus, connects to the Fred Meijer Standale Trail. There are approximately 2 miles of paved trail here, which are owned and operated by the City of Walker.

Fred Meijer Millennium Trail Network

The Fred Meijer Millennium Trail Network is located within Millennium Park and provides



Figure 4.2 - Non-Motorized Trail Map



approximately 18 miles of paved and natural surface trails that wind throughout the park. At the north end of the park, the trails connect to the Fred Meijer Standale Trail. At the south end of the park, the trails connect to Kent Trails. The Fred Meijer Millennium Trail Network is maintained by the Kent County Parks Department.

Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail

The Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail provides an east/west route through the city and connects the Musketawa Trail to the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail. The Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail is maintained by the Kent County Parks Department.

Fred Meijer Standale Trail

The Fred Meijer Standale Trail provides a north/south route through the City. It runs from City Central Park to the north side of Millennium Park. The trail is approximately 5.5 miles long and has a paved surface, wood boardwalks, and a landmark pedestrian tunnel. The trail connects area neighborhoods to parks, schools, a library, the Walker Ice and Fitness Center, City Hall, and the downtown Standale Business District. Parking for the Fred Meijer Standale Trail is available at City Central Park, Lincoln Lawns Park, and Harmon Field. The Fred Meijer Standale Trail is maintained by the City of Walker



Fred Meijer White Pine Trail

The Fred Meijer White Pine Trail runs approximately 92 miles from Grand Rapids to Cadillac. It has both paved and natural surfaces. The trail enters the city at the northeast corner

and runs south to North Park St. From North Park St., the trail crosses the Grand River on the North Park St. bridge and connects to Riverside Park in the City of Grand Rapids. Parking for Fred Meijer White Pine Trail access in the city of Walker is available at Lamoreaux Park, which is located at the intersection of West River Dr. and North Park St. The Fred Meijer White Pine Trail is maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Friends of the White Pine Trail.

Kent Trails

Kent Trails is a regionally important, 15-mile long linear park which is owned and operated by the Kent County Parks Department. Kent Trails begins in Johnson Park and runs easterly on Veterans Memorial Drive into the City of Grand Rapids. A southerly leg crosses the Grand River into the City of Wyoming. Kent Trails also connects northerly into the Millennium Park trail system.

Musketawa Trail

The Musketawa Trail is a regionally-important four season recreational trail that links the city of Muskegon to the city of Walker. The trail connects to the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail in Ottawa County just outside the northwest city limits and travels north and west and connects to the Laketon Trail.



Cemeteries

Cemeteries were some of the first American parks and were designed as places for contemplation and the enjoyment of nature. Over time cemeteries changed from a park-like recreational

space to a more isolated memorial type space to mourn. However it is still important to recognize the fact that cemeteries still provide green space for the community and can still act as a retreat from the fastness of modern life.

There are three (3) cemeteries located in the city, two of which are maintained by the city and one that is privately owned. The two cemeteries maintained by the city include Mill Creek (Lamoreaux) Cemetery located at 4 Bertha St NW and Brooklawn Cemetery located at 3300 Walker Ave NW. River Bend Cemetery is located at the southwest corner of Wilson Ave at River Bend Drive NW and is privately owned by the Wells family and managed by the River Bend Cemetery Association.

Community Gardens

The city of Walker and the Community Engagement Committee have offered residents an opportunity to maintain a high-quality gardening experience with the development of a Community Garden. Remembrance Church has generously offered up land for the garden, which is located on property southeast of the church. Remembrance Church is located at 4575 Remembrance Road NW. The garden opens for planting around Memorial Day and continues through the summer until it closes in the fall.

School Facilities

Public school facilities, including playgrounds, sports fields and courts, can add tremendous recreational value to a community. The city of Walker is served by four public school districts including: Kenowa Hills, Comstock Park, Grandville, and Grand Rapids. Since these facilities are beyond the jurisdiction of the city of Walker, a detailed inventory of available facilities are not available. Elementary school sites typically act as neighborhood parks for access to playgrounds and fields/open space and are often used for community recreation. In addition, middle schools and high schools generally

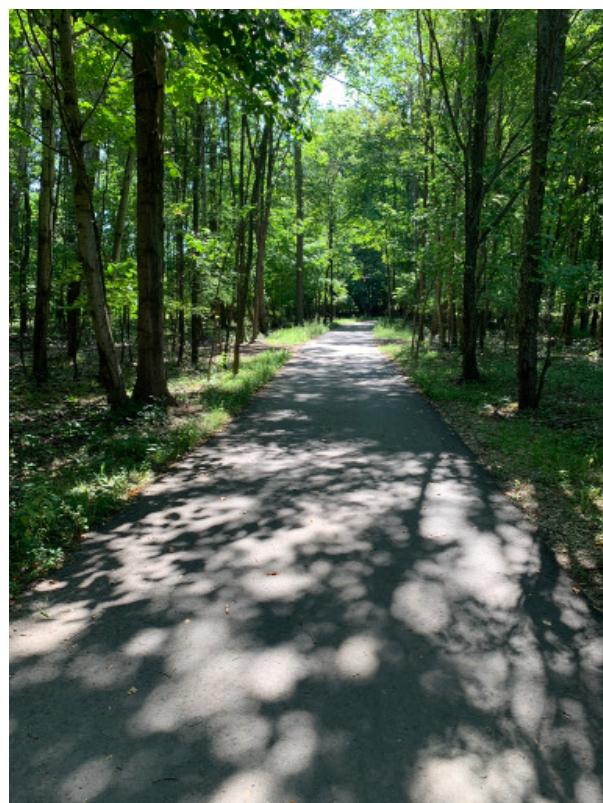
contain the following outdoor recreational facilities that are open to the public: basketball, tennis, baseball/softball, soccer, playgrounds, football, track, and volleyball.

Semi-Public Facilities

Some facilities exist that are available for public use but are not owned by the public. These facilities are owned through private-public partnerships or non-profit groups. The following are available to Walker residents:

Blandford Nature Center

Blandford Nature Center is a 264-acre nature and cultural center, of which approximately 88 acres are located within Walker, south of Richmond St. Blandford includes over 8 miles of trails for walking, hiking, bird watching, wildlife viewing, and general nature enjoyment. Blandford offers seasonal camps, educational programming, wildlife experiences, rental space, and volunteer opportunities. Blandford also offers community supported agriculture and farm programming on its 2.5 acre farm.



John Ball Park

The John Ball Zoo is a 103-acre park located just outside the city limits in the central east side of the city, and includes a 31-acre nationally recognized zoo, playground, picnic areas, band shell, ball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts. The zoo is also considered a renowned conservation center and premier education facility that attracts over 600,000 visitors annually. The zoo also provides summer camps, educational programs, and conservation programs.



Regional Facilities

Regional facilities may offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, observing wildlife habits, fishing, boating, swimming, hiking, and trail use. They may also include active play areas and organized recreation as well as historical or cultural interest uses. While these parks are not controlled by or used for formal programming by the city of Walker, they are public facilities that provide recreational opportunities for the residents of the city. Given the close proximity to Grand Rapids and other adjacent urban areas, there are numerous recreational opportunities that surround the city of Walker.

State Facilities

State parks provide diverse recreational opportunities to Walker residents and the region. These facilities provide activities including camping, picnicking, swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and horseback riding. State parks in close proximity to the city of Walker include:

- Allegan State Game Area - 51,355 acres
- Bass River State Recreation Area - 830 acres
- Barry State Game Area - 17,179 acres
- Blendon Twp State Game Area - 1801 acres
- Cannonsburg State Game Area - 1,363 acres
- Flat River State Game Area - 11,811 acres
- Grand Haven State Game Area - 2,208 acres
- Grand River State Game Area - 1,029 acres
- Middleville State Game Area - 4,583 acres
- Muskegon State Game Area - 15,733 acres
- Rogue River State Game Area - 6,200 acres
- Saranac-Lowell State Game Area- 2,334 acres

County Facilities

Kent County provides many public park spaces that include a variety of passive and active recreational amenities. These facilities are located in a close proximity to the city of Walker and provide city residents with an enormous amount of recreational opportunities. Two very large county parks are located within the city limits in ward three and are described below. Other Kent County Parks located outside of the city limits are also listed below.

Harry A. Johnson Park

More than half of Johnson Park consists of scenic woods covering hills, valleys, and lowlands. The park also offers 1.4 miles of frontage on the Grand River. The park features a 1.5-mile paved trail that winds through the scenic woods above the park's main recreation area. Park amenities include: fishing, hiking, biking, playgrounds, sledding hill, disc golf, ball diamonds, picnic areas, pavilion, boat launch, restrooms, exercise station, winter sports, and shelter house.

Millennium Park

Millennium Park is an expansive park stretching over 1,400 acres and provides multiple recreational opportunities including 17.5 miles of trails, over 350 acres of extensive lakes and wetlands, six miles of Grand River shoreline, and restored natural areas. The park includes the following facilities: swimming beach and beach house, splash pad, boat rentals, multi-use trails, fishing, open shelters, picnicking, playgrounds, restrooms, sand volleyball, basketball, and lawn amphitheater. The park also boasts an impressive network of paved and natural surfaced trails, which are collectively referred to as the Fred Meijer Millennium Trail Network.



Kent County	Acres
12 Mile Conservation Area	21.5
Bettes Memorial	3.1
Brewer	95.6
Caledonia Lakeside	62.3
Chief Hazy Cloud	267.6
Coldwater River	6.0
Cooper Creek and Spencer Forest	481.7
Creekside	32.1
Donald J. Lamoreaux	263.0
Douglas Walker	81.0
Dutton Shadyside	18.1
Dwight Lydell	38.9
Fallasburg	592.2
Fisk Knob	4.0
Gordon	28.0
Knapp Valley Forest	87.3
Kroes Parkland	30.9
Lamoreaux Memorial	2.4
Lepard Nature Preserve	51.7
Long Lake	230.8
Lowell Regional	405.8
Luton	264.0
Myers Lake	10.4
Palmer Park	334.7
Paris	73.7
Pickerel Lake	310.4
Provin Trails	46.0
Rogue River	110.8
Ruehs	6.2
Siedman	435.5
Thornapple Riverbend	207.9
Townsend	144.0
Two Rivers	261.3
Wabasis Lake Park	103.6
Wahfield	283.3
White Pine	60.0
Total	5,455.8

Recreational Boating Facilities

Kent County Parks manages a number of boat launches at some of their park sites. These facilities are open to the public and provide Walker residents with opportunities for water based recreation.

- Chief Hazy Cloud Park Boat Launch
- Coldwater River Park Boat Launch
- Fallasburgh Park Bot Launch
- Johnson Park Boat Launch
- Long Lake Park Boat Launch
- Ruehs Park River Access Site
- Wabasis Lake Park Boat Launch



Other Local Facilities

Other municipalities adjacent to and in close proximity to the city provide many park amenities and recreational experiences that serve Walker residents. These facilities are listed below.

Alpine Township	Acres
Alpine Sports Park	20.0
Community Building	3.0
Westgate Park	7.6
Total	30.6

East Grand Rapids	Acres
Beechwood	7.7
Griffiths Lake Park	3.5
Hodenpyl Woods	43.0
John Collins Park	2.7
Manhattan Recreation Area	41.0
Remington Park	16.0
San Lu Rae Triangle Park	2.0
Schroeder Property	2.0
Waterfront Park	18.0
Total	132.9

Grand Rapids	Acres
The city maintains an extensive park system, including 85 parks and open spaces encompassing 2,030 acres as well as joint school-park sites totaling 244 acres. Details can be found in the city of Grand Rapids Park and Recreation Master Plan.	
Total	2,274

Grandville	Acres
Calvin Crest Park	9.0
Grand River Waterfront	15.0
Heritage Park	19.0
Lee Street Park	1.0
Little League Baseball Complex	13.0
Mill Race Park	23.0
Peck Street Park	2.0
Wedgwood Park	14.0
Total	96.0

Kentwood	Acres
Bowen Station	2.0
Burgis Park	0.6
Cross Winds Park	2.0
East Paris Nature Park	25.5
East West Trail	4.0
Hampton Meadows	10.0
Home Acres	3.4
Jaycee Park	20.7
Kellogg Woods Park	25.3
Lamberts Park	60.0
Meadowbrook Park	4.0
Muusu Park	2.0
Northeast Park	52.7
Old Farm	16.8
Pinewood Park	16.6
Piper Woods Park	2.5
Rondo Street Station	1.3
Stanaback Park	51.0
Stauffer Station	1.1
Summerwood Park	0.4
Undeveloped Park Land	13.0
Veteran's Memorial Park	14.4
Wing Station	0.5
Total	329.8

Wyoming	Acres
40th Street Park	5.1
Battjes Park	0.6
Buck Creek Nature Preserve	40.2
Ferrand Park	2.4
Frog Hollow	2.2
George P. Tilma Nature Preserve	34.0
Gezon Park	73.6
Hillcroft Park	12.5
Ideal Park	41.9
Jackson Park	23.0
Kelloggsville Park	8.9
Kimble Stadium	9.9
Lamar Park	81.4
Lemery Park	79.9
Lions Park	8.0
Marquette Park	27.8
Oriole Park	12.5
Prairie Park	32.5
Palmer Park Field	2.0
Pinery Park	62.3
Southlawn Park	1.8
Veteran's Memorial Park	1.5
Wyoming Senior Center	4.2
Total	632.4

Ottawa County (closest parks)	Acres
Bend Area	421.0
Grand River Open Space	279.0
Grand River Park	162.0
Grand River Ravines	202.0
Grose Park	40.0
Hager Park	104.0
Total	1,208.0

Tallmadge Township	Acres
Tallmadge Township Park	27.0
Total	27.0

Grant Status

Walker has been successful in obtaining grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the past. All grant assisted facilities are still present and open to the public. Below is a summary:

Figure 4.3 - Parks Grant Summary

Year	Project No.	Project Name	Funding Source	Grant Amount	Status
1975	26-00633	Walker Park	Land and Water Conservation Fund	\$35,919	Closed
1991	TF91-230	Alpine Estates	Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund	\$60,000	Closed
2000	CM00-332	Alpine Estates	Clean Michigan Initiative	\$280,422	Closed
			Total	\$376,341	

Private Recreation Facilities

Several privately-owned recreation facilities located in the area complement the public parks system. Although these facilities are privately operated and often charge a use fee or require membership, they are considered because they offer specific recreation needs. A list of other local private facilities is provided below:

Bowling

AMF Eastbrook Lanes
Aurora Bowl
Clique Lanes
Hillcrest Lanes
Hudsonville Lanes
Northfield Bowling and Cocktails
Paragon Bowling Center
Park Center Lanes
Rockford Lanes
Spectrum Entertainment
Wengers Bowling Center
Westgate Bowl
Woodrows Duckpin Bowling

Camps

Base Camp
Breakthrough Basketball Camp
Camp Blodgett

Dymo Camp

Salvation Army Kroc Center
Tillman Elite Basketball Camp
Van Andel Education Institute
YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids

Campgrounds

Adventure Point
Bazan Baldwin Oaks Family Campground
Jackson Island
Indian Trails Camp
Steamboat Park Campground
Woodchip Campground

Golf Courses

Alpine Golf Club
Boulder Creek Golf Club
Cascade Hills Country Club
Gracewil Country Club
Indian Trails Golf Course
Ironwood Golf Course
Kaufman Golf Course
Kent Country Club
Mines Golf Club
Quail Ridge Golf Club
Scott Lake Golf
Stone Water Country Club
The Pines Golf Course

Thornapple Pointe
Thousand Oaks Golf Club
Wallinwood Springs Golf Club
Watermark Country Club
X-Golf Grand Rapids

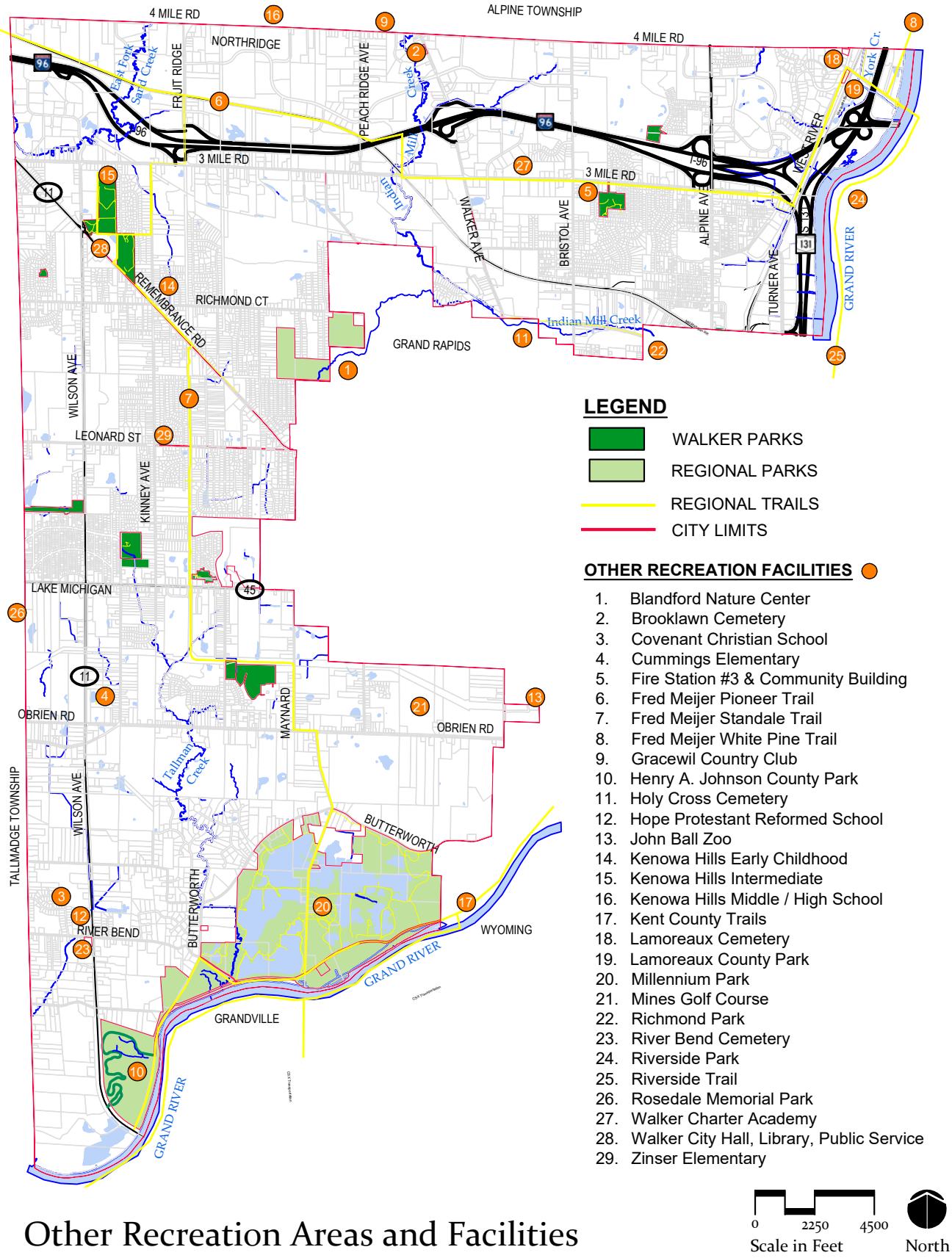
Gymnastics / Dance / Athletics
8th Day Gym
DanceSpire
EAU Dance
Empowered Athletics
For the Kidz Gymnastics
Grand Rapids City Gym
Grand Rapids Gymnastics
Grand Raids School of Dance
Grand Rapids Trampoline Academy
Gymco
Haus of Glass Dance
Hearts in Motion Dance
HIS Dance Academy
Hit Fore Athletics
Imprint Dance Co.
K Elite Dance Academy
Kids Unlimited Activity Center
Michigan Cheer Company
Newton Aerial Academy
Over the Top Academy of Dance
R-Athletics
RAD Kids of Grand Rapids
Rising Starz Gymnastics
Social Dance Studio

Museums

Byron Center Historical Society
Center Art Gallery
Frederik Meijer Gardens
Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum
Grand Rapids African American Museum
Grand Rapids Art Museum
Grand Rapids Children's Museum
Grand Rapids Public Museum
Van Andel Museum Center
Voigt House Victorian Museum
Wyoming History Room

Performance Venues / Theater
Aquinas Performing Arts Center
Ambrosia Theater
Broadway Grand Rapids
Children's Creations Theater
Circle Theater
DeVos Performance Hall
East Grand Rapids Performing Arts Center
Forest Hills Fine Arts Center
GLC Live at 20 Monroe
Grand Rapids Ballet
Grand Rapids Civic Theater
Jewish Theater Grand Rapids
Master Arts Theater
Matthews Performing Arts Center
Murder Mystery Company
Peter Martin Wege Theater
Spectrum Theater
The Intersection
Van Andel Arena
Wealthy Theater

Figure 4.4- Other Recreation Areas & Facilities



Other Recreation Areas and Facilities

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Description of the Planning Process

During the early phase of the planning process background data was gathered from site investigations and available reports in order to develop a current snapshot of the city and a comprehensive understanding of the needs of the community. This chapter looks to assess community need for parks and recreation facilities against facility availability and program offerings. There are a variety of methods for accessing community need for recreation services. This Plan uses the combination of the following methods to identify the recreational needs of the city:

1. Location and distribution of park space throughout the city
2. Quantity of park acreage and amenities
3. Analysis of demographic trends

Level of Service Analysis

Level of Service Standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population that support investment decisions related to parks, facilities, and amenities. Standards may change over time as demographics, program life-cycles, and needs of the community change. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) maintains a database of park system data in the U.S. which, combined with a yearly agency performance review report, has taken the place of outdated park standards. VIRIDIS used information from the NRPA Park Metrics database as well as the 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review to understand national trends and metrics in park and recreation elements and to benchmark Walker with comparable communities. The NRPA Park Metrics and Agency Performance Review help

inform conversations and policies about the role of parks and recreation planning, land acquisition, and development of park, recreation and open space property at the local level.

Building on data from the park and recreation system inventory, Walker was compared to similar systems (cities in the range of 20,000 – 49,999 people) in the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)'s park metrics database. The NRPA database contains self-reported information from parks and recreation departments across the country. This comparison allows the project team to benchmark the level of service in terms of park acreage and amenities per capita between Walker and mid-sized peer cities nationally to evaluate the relative adequacy or inadequacy of the city's recreation system. It should be noted that these comparisons are to be used as a guide and should be interpreted according to local needs, trends, and current situations. The purpose of recreation planning is to address the specific needs of the community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences/demands so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation.

Service Area Analysis

NRPA guidelines classify parks, open space, and greenways in accordance with their size and the role they play in the overall park system. They include associated service areas for each park type that indicate a minimum standard for geographic balance and availability of each park type in the community. Classifying parks in the system ensures the entire community is served by a wide range of park and recreational facilities. Figure 5.1 delineates the service area for each park in the City of Walker. Service areas for the parks types include:

Mini Parks: 1/4 miles or less
Neighborhood Parks: 1/4 to 1/2 miles
Community Parks: 1/2 to 3 miles

Evaluation

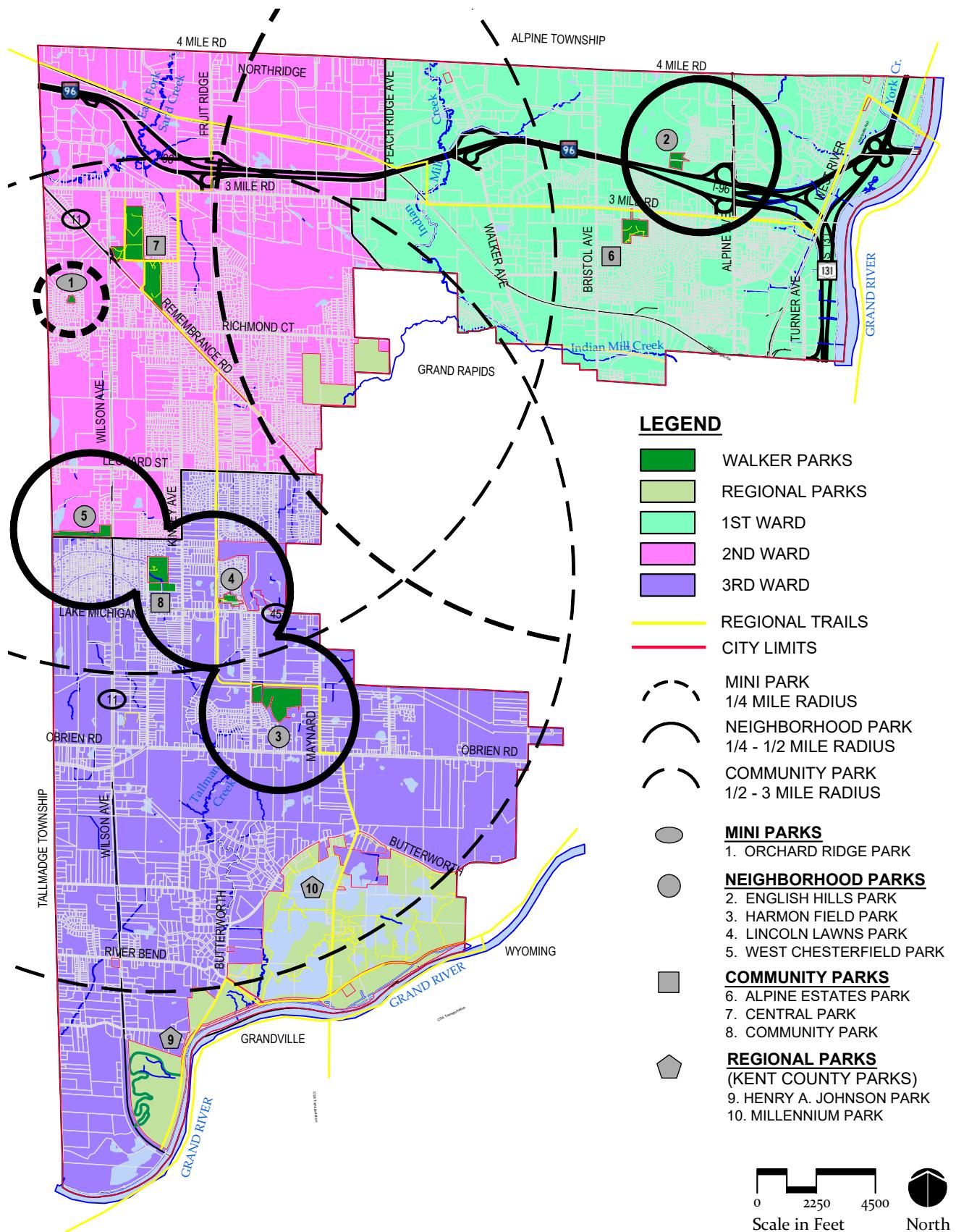
Analysis of the geographic distribution of park facilities throughout the city reveal that while overall park coverage is good, the city should consider addressing the following:

- Each city ward contains a community park which provides coverage to most neighborhoods.
- Neighborhood parks are clustered in the lower central area of the city, and lacking to the north.
- The city is lacking mini parks to service the neighborhoods especially in Ward 1.
- Ward 1 is lacking equitable park coverage, compared to other wards, with only two smaller parks.
- The lower half of Ward 2 has good coverage with access to neighborhood and community parks.
- Ward 3 has good coverage to the north and south but lacking mini parks for the neighborhoods.
- Ward 3 includes two large county parks that provide an enormous amount of recreational areas.
- Neighborhood parks are not evenly spread out within the city.

Needs

- Addition of mini parks in the higher dense neighborhoods throughout the city in all wards.
- Addition of neighborhood parks on the north and east side of Ward 2 and the east side of Ward 3.
- Addition of a community park and a neighborhod park in Ward 1.
- Consider adding natural resource areas through land acquisition.
- Consider land acquisition opportunities in Ward 1 to expand park facilities.

Figure 5.1 - Park Service Areas



Park and Open Space Acreage

A basic measure of the level of service is the amount of park and open space acreage available per resident. In this Master Plan, the analysis begins by considering “accessible”, usable acreage, which excludes golf courses, cemeteries, undeveloped land, school sites, and county parks. **The analysis showed that “accessible” park acreage per capita in Walker is below comparable cities (see figure 5.2).** The NRPA database demonstrated a median of 10.6 acres per 1,000 residents in similarly sized cities, and 10.4 acres per 1,000 residents in all cities. Walker measures at 4.5 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 residents, and 6.6 acres of all parkland per 1,000 residents (including undeveloped city-owned park land). However, we must take into consideration that there are two very large regional county parks located within the City that provide an enormous amount of recreational facilities to the community. Therefore, **if you include the county park acreage in the calculation, then Walker would boast 72.6 acres per 1,000 residents** which is seven times the acreage of all communities. In addition, there are many City of Grand Rapids parks adjacent to and within close proximity to the city thus providing additional park acreage that is available to Walker residents.

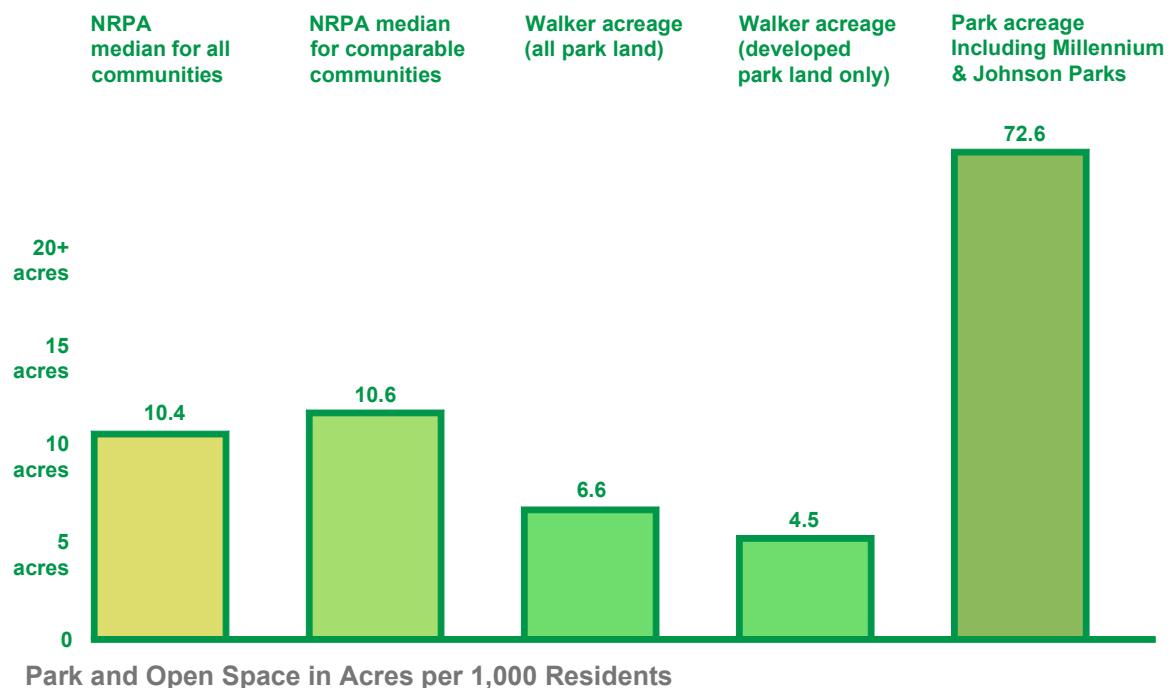
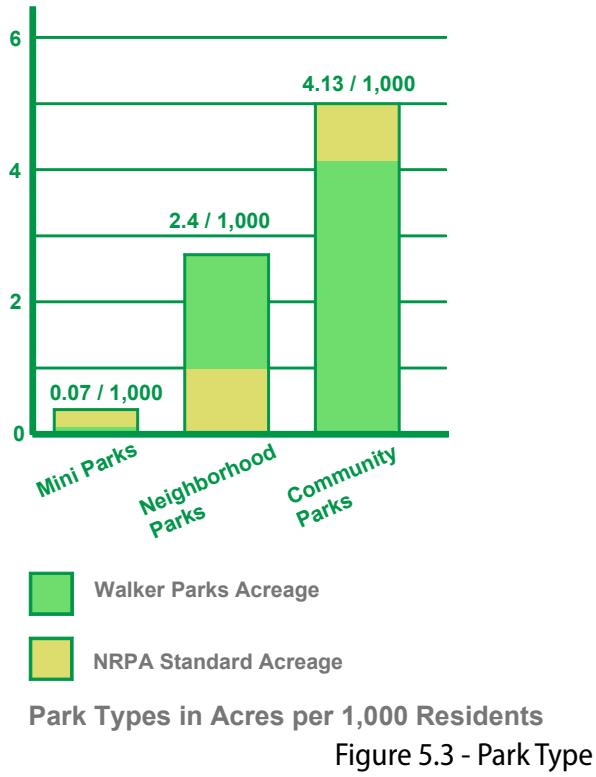


Figure 5.2 - Park Acreage

Although having large county parks within the city positions Walker well with capacity for additional population growth, the city should consider increasing its own accessible park acreage with mini parks and neighborhood parks to service its local neighborhoods, and to not have to rely on other municipal park services. This also demonstrates an opportunity to expand park facilities within the City’s own holdings, upgrade existing facilities, and improve general park maintenance.

In addition to overall acreage, NRPA metrics recommend a certain number of park acres per units of population for different types of park classifications. NRPA standards state that per 1,000 residents, 0.25 acres of mini parks, 1 acre of neighborhood parks, and 5 acres for community and regional parks is needed to meet the needs of the community. Walker is below the standard for the mini park and community park types, but exceeds the standard for neighborhood parks (see figure 5.3). It should

be noted that these standards are to be used as a guide and interpreted according to local needs, character, trends, and current Department capacity, and the demand may be greater or less than the national standard.



Park Amenities

Park amenities are the built elements within Walkers' parks that support various forms of recreation. Passive recreation and active recreation are the primary types of recreational uses. Passive recreation includes less intense activities that are more quiet and non-exertive for a limited numbers of users. Active recreation requires space and facilities capable of accommodating exertive activities. Examples include: sports fields, play apparatus areas, open areas, special facilities, such as pools and court areas, and areas for organized activities.

Recreation areas must provide for both types of use and preferably include a variety of opportunities for each to respond adequately to a wide range of interests and age groups. For many users these are crucial components that

help them feel welcome and safe. It is critical that Walkers' parks supply the right number and types of amenities to meet the needs of their users. As the demographics of Walker changes over time (race, age, population, etc.) park amenities need to be assessed for their relevance to the changing user groups.

To understand gaps and surpluses among amenities in Walker, Level of Service metrics from the NRPA benchmarking database were used. The analysis showed that in Walker's "basic" park amenities per capita, in categories with comparable NRPA benchmarks, are on par with comparable cities, without major gaps in service by number or by geography. Still, amenities that should serve a walkable population, such as playgrounds and basketball courts, are fairly equitably-distributed across the city.

While the NRPA benchmarking analysis is limited by the availability of amenity categories in the database, discussions during the engagement process, revealed community interest in more specialized amenities such as a farmers market, splash pad, pickle ball, and nature based activities.

The combination of the benchmark analysis and public input give clear direction for the city. The city has done a good job of providing basic park amenities across the community. There is a desire however, for new, innovative and specialized



Figure 5.4: Park and Recreation Facilities - Population per Facility

Facility	NRPA median for similar population	NRPA median for all agencies	Walker
Tennis	5,000	5,608	5,026
Playground	3,111	3,750	2,284
Baseball	4,858	7,000	3,142
Softball	8,509	11,339	3,142
Basketball (outdoor)	6,839	7,403	3,142
Volleyball	14,807	18,232	12,566
Soccer	5,011	7,382	5,026
Football	19,351	26,493	-
Dog Park	28,000	48,586	-
Recreation Center	24,601	31,239	25,132
Swimming Pool	31,230	53,025	-
Community Center	26,668	29,036	25,132
Auditorium	30,745	68,181	-
Pickle ball	8,143	14,714	8,377
Skate Park	32,335	53,708	-
Outdoor Ice Rink	13,123	16,887	-

amenities to add diversity to the system. At the same time, the community has demonstrated need for more trails, access to natural areas, and gathering spaces. Focusing on walking and biking trails within the system would provide the greatest benefit for the largest number of residents within the city of Walker. Respondents indicated they were very supportive of expanding walking and biking trails and the community has also voiced that restrooms and outdoor facilities for fitness and sports are high priorities for the future. (Additional detail on public engagement is discussed within the following chapter).

Trends Analysis

A number of recent reports and surveys exist regarding parks and recreation participation patterns within the United States. Inferences can be made about the city parks and recreation program and service needs by cross referencing the research data with Walker population demographics.

The numbers show that during the pandemic in 2020, over 260 million people visited a local park or recreational facility. Additionally, 70% of us either maintained or increased park, trail, and public space usage, with about 50% being parents, active adults, and those 25 and under. This trend is likely to continue as we come out of the pandemic and outdoor recreation options remain popular.

According to the *Outdoor Participation Topline Report 2022*, by the Outdoor Foundation, 54% of the U.S. population, ages 6 and over, participated in outdoor recreation in 2021, which in Walker would equate to 13,571 people. In addition, the report states that the Midwestern region of the US, which includes Michigan, has the second highest rate of outdoor participation in the country. Of those who

participate in outdoor recreation nationally it is split 53.5% males and 46.5% female (Walker is the opposite). This report also found the following trends:

- Since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020, the number of new outdoor recreation participants has increased by 26%.
- The most popular outdoor activities by participation rate include hiking, camping, fishing, running, and biking.
- The number of participants 65 years and older increased more than 16.8% since 2019 and those between 55 to 64 increased by 11.7%.
- More families are participating in outdoor recreation activities than ever with the participation rate for households with children at 61% vs. households with no children at 46.4%.
- Local neighborhood parks, playgrounds, and city parks are the most popular venues for outdoor outings, and the closer-to-home the venue is the more frequent the visit is.
- America's youth are spending more time outdoors, as just over 70% of kids aged 6-17 are participating in outdoor recreation, with the younger ages (6-12) being more active.
- The number 1 reason for participating in outdoor recreation was to be physically active.

According to the 2022 *Participation Report* by the Physical Activity Council, 76% of the U.S. population ages 6 and over are active on some level which in Walker would equate to 18,849 active people. The Participation Report also found:

- Interest in outdoor recreation is on the rise due to people wanting to experience nature, join fitness classes, and participate in team sports.
- Fitness sports (67%), outdoor sports (54%), and individual sports (42%) show the highest participation rates.
- Team sports (22%), racket sports (14%), water

sports (14%), and winter sports (8%) show lower participation rates.

- Participation in fitness sports and outdoor sports are trending up over the last 5 years.
- Participation in individual sports are seeing declining rates over the last 5 years.
- Participation in team sports, racket sports, winter sports, and water sports has remained even over the last 5 years.



According to the 2022 NRPA Americans' Engagement with Parks Report 62% of survey respondents visit a park at least once per month, 40% visit a park once per week, and 83% visited a park at least once in the last year. The report also indicates that 62% of respondents visit parks to be with family and friends while 54% visited parks for exercise. Other key findings include:

- 84% of adults seek high-quality parks and recreation facilities when choosing a place to live.
- Nearly 3 in 4 U.S. residents have at least one park, playground, open space, or recreation center within walking distance to their homes.
- Nearly 3 in 4 adults agree that equity should be an extremely important goal for local parks and recreation.
- About 9 in 10 people agree that parks and recreation is an important service provided by local government.

Taking these use patterns and transferring them to Walker, the following activities would

capitalize on trends as they relate to outdoor recreation and population in Walker:

- Look for non-motorized/walking trail opportunities to connect parks. This aligns with desires noted in the on-line survey.
- Consider adding fitness equipment in parks.
- Consider expanding team sport activities.
- Consider providing camping and fishing activities.
- Consider developing adventure sports such as BMX biking and cross-country skiing.

Age also plays an important role in recreation as it relates to activity and participation. According to the *2022 Participation Report* by the Physical Activity Council, the most active group (82%) is those 18 and under, followed by those 18-34 (76%), those 35-49 (72%), and those 50 and older (67%). The report also found the following:

- Outdoor sports and team sports have the highest participation rates for those 18 and under.
- Fitness sports and outdoor sports have the highest participation rates for those 18-34 and 35-49, however the younger group is more likely to participate in water sports.
- Those 50 and older prefer fitness activities, particularly low impact activities such as walking, cycling, or aquatics.
- The 18 and under group are growing up in the age of technology. Nationally, the use of technology while engaging in outdoor recreation is high in this age group. Recreation participants in this group are more likely to use smart phones and other devices to engage in outdoor recreation.
- The top three factors that motivate youth/ families to participate in outdoor activities and visit recreational facilities are to be with family and friends (61%), participate in organized team sports (59%), and to experience excitement/adventure (46%).
- The top three factors that hamper youth/ families from participating in outdoor recreation are lack of time (38%), lack of

interest in available activities (20%), and safety concerns (17%).

- Most participants under the age of 18 are visiting parks with parents/families, and relying on family to get to park facilities.
- Those in the middle aged group are more likely to visit parks to be closer to nature and for fitness exercises.
- Those in the 23-43 age group are more likely to visit parks to experience excitement and adventure. Family oriented recreational facilities will also be important to these groups.



The largest population group in the City is the 50 and older group (39.7%). The second largest group is the 18 and under group (21.8%), followed by the 35-49 group at 17.6% and the 25-34 group at 16.5%. These three groups make up most of the population.

The following activities would capitalize on trends as they relate to these age groups:

- Develop programs and facilities that support adventure recreation.
- Continue to develop youth sports programs.
- Offer technology focused activities as an integral component to recreation programs and facilities.
- Offer family oriented programming and park amenities including team sports.
- Provide opportunities to experience and enjoy nature by providing nature trails, interpretive signage, boardwalks, and other passive based recreation.



Description of the Public Input Process

The city of Walker encourages its residents to take an active role in planning for their community's recreational opportunities. The city appreciates the fact that recreation planning plays an important role in maintaining the quality of life in a community and therefore tries to be responsive to citizen needs and desires for parks and recreation. Community outreach is one way of obtaining a perspective on the needs and desires of the community and engaging in a process that includes; developing realistic alternatives; formulating goals, policies, and recommendations for public and private decisions; developing criteria to measure change; and involving people in the planning, design and decision processes.

In order to ensure that the city's parks and recreation offerings are aligned with the needs of the community, and to understand the community perception of the level of service being provided, the city engaged in a public input process.

Community Outreach

The community outreach process included the following: an on-line survey, a public input open house, a public input opportunity at a city event, a 30-day public review period, and open public hearings. In addition, numerous Park Committee meetings were held to discuss the plan, which are open to the public. The input and opinions received through this community outreach helped the administration and facilitator provide the basis for revising the goals and objectives from the previous plan.

On-Line Survey

In September of 2022 the city developed an on-line survey to solicit input and ideas from its residents regarding current use and future needs of the city's parks, recreational programs, services, maintenance, and facilities. The survey was conducted over a 60-day period using an on-line survey tool (Survey Monkey).

The survey was promoted to the community using a number of methods including: city newsletters and publications, posting at City Hall, standard press release notification, distribution to local businesses, and through social media platforms including the city website and Facebook page, both of which receives heavy user engagement.

Two-hundred eighty-two (282) individuals elected to fully complete the survey. Respondents were 78% female and 20% male (2% chose not to answer or identified as other). Eighty-three (83) percent of the respondents were city residents with approx. 13% from Ward 1, approx. 21% from Ward 2, and 13% from Ward 3 (40% were unsure). Most of the survey respondents were between 25-64 years old with 21% in the 25-34

age group, 39% in the 35-49 age group, and 27% in the 50-64 age group. Interestingly, about 40% of respondents indicated they visited parks more frequently than pre-pandemic, 45% use parks at the same frequency, and 15% visit parks less frequently. See Figures 6.1 through 6.3 for more detailed results of selected categories. The Appendix contains the full survey results.

Public Input Workshop

The city understands the importance of meaningful citizen input and is committed to using this input to assist in evaluating trends and forming goals and actions. Prior to development of the plan, the city solicited input and participation from the residents of Walker by hosting a public input open house. The open house was intended to develop a general consensus among the participants as to the current issues, needs, desires, and deficiencies regarding parks and recreation in the city.

VIRIDIS Design Group provided meeting materials and facilitated the discussions. The workshop took place on September 15th, 2022 at 5:30 pm at Alpine Estates Park, with approximately 15 citizens participating. The meeting followed

Figure 6.1: On-Line Survey Results - Demographics of Survey Respondents

Gender	Survey Respondents
Male	20%
Female	78%

Resident of the City	Survey Respondents
Yes	83%
No	17%

Persons in Household	Survey Respondents
1	7.47%
2	34.16%
3	18.51%
4	23.13%
4+	16.73%

Age	Survey Respondents
0-17	0.71%
18-24	2.14%
25-34	20.28%
35-49	39.15%
50-64	27.4%
65+	10.68%

Under 17 in Household	Survey Respondents
0	51.60%
1	14.23%
2	20.28%
3	12.46%
4+	1.42%

a typical format to ensure a productive outcome, but encouraged an open and informal atmosphere. Attendees were encouraged to engage in the process to provide perspective and to think about the big picture, in other words the attendees were asked to dream big.

The public workshop was set up as an open house format which allowed participants to come and go during the allotted time and spend as much or as little time as they needed to provide input. Upon checking into the meeting, each participant was provided with a packet of information that included the purpose of the meeting, polling dots, comment cards, post-it note pads, and a questionnaire that asked for information about the park system.

Three interactive stations were set up and

participants were able to move through the meeting at their own pace. Park Committee members, city staff, and VIRIDIS facilitated the stations. The first station included a map of the city showing the existing park system and participants were asked to provide feedback regarding the current park system. Questions such as "what is the city doing well" or "what could be done better" were posed to participants. Feedback was written on post-it notes and stuck to the map. Station 2 included the dot polling station, where images of park amenities, programs, and activities were displayed and participants were asked to place dots on their top priorities. The third station was a mapping exercise where participants were shown aerial photo maps of the four parks that are planned for new master plans and were asked to provide

Figure 6.2: On-Line Survey Results - Patterns of Park Use

Top Facilities with Most Importance	Survey Respondents
Walking/Jogging	64%
Nature Trail	62%
Playground	50%
Biking	40%
Pickle ball	33%

Top Ranked Needed Facilities	Survey Respondents
Farmer's Market	66%
Walking/Nature Trails	57%
Splash pad	48%
Bike Path/Trails	40%
Pool	40%

Highest Program Participation	Survey Respondents
Summer Concerts	48%
Memorial Day Parade	44%
Pumpkin Bash	29%
Easter Egg Hunt	29%
Winterfest	23%

Top Ranked Needed Programs	Survey Respondents
Fitness Classes	52%
Holiday Events	34%
Nature Based	31%
Water Fitness	28%
Youth Swim Lessons	28%

Park Visits	Survey Respondents
Daily	9.22%
Weekly	42.20%
Monthly	29.43%
<Every 6 Months	8.51%
Every 6 Months	10.64%

Reason Preventing Park Use	Survey Respondents
Program not Offered	48%
Lack Awareness	44%
Use parks in other municipalities	17%
Lack quality programs	15%
Fees	15%

Figure 6.3: On-Line Survey Results - Satisfaction Levels

Benefits of parks	Survey Respondents	Top Maintenance issues	Survey Respondents
Quality of Life	81%	Lighting	42%
Preserve Open Space	81%	Clean Restrooms	41%
Improve Health	76%	Clean Facilities	36%
Reduce Stress	73%	Park Safety	33%
Reduce Crime	71%	Beach/Waterfront	28%
What to focus on for next 5-years	Survey Respondents	Overall Appearance of Parks	Survey Respondents
Farmer's Market	57%	Excellent	11%
Land Acquisition	33%	Good	30%
Youth Programs	32%	Fair	7%
Non-Motorized Trails	31%	Poor	2%
Safety	24%	Parks not Visited	50%
Quality of Recreation Programs	Survey Respondents	Top Non-City Park Usage	Survey Respondents
Excellent	20%	Millennium Park	83%
Good	45%	Blandford Nature	61%
Fair	10%	Grand Rapids Parks	60%
Poor	1%	State/Federal Parks	39%
Did not Participate	24%	Neighboring Twps	38%



feedback on what they would like to see developed, added, removed, and what was most important to them. Refer to Figure 6.4 for a brief summary of dot polling results and refer to the appendix for all public feedback results.

Pumpkin Bash Input

In addition to the public input open house, the city also sought and received input during its annual Pumpkin Bash fall event which is very well attended and provided an opportunity for many families to provide feedback. The event took place on Saturday, October 1, 2022 was attended by approximately 2,000 people. VIRIDIS set up a table at the event that included dot polling and an idea board. The dot polling included images related to park amenities, programs, and activities and attendees were asked to place dots on their top priorities for each. Interestingly, the dot polling results at this event were similar to the results from the open house meeting. Refer



Figure 6.4: Open House Dot Polling

Top recreation facilities from dot polling
Splash Pad
Nature Based Play
Fishing
Shared Use Non-Motorized Trails
Tied: Athletic Fields and Nature Trails

Top desired programming ideas
Farmer's Market
Outdoor Music
Winter Activities
Kayaking / Paddle Board Rentals
Tied: Fitness Classes & Holiday Celebrations

Top desired amenities
Dog Park
Habitat Restoration
Water Access
Restroom Facilities
Wildlife Viewing Platforms

Figure 6.5: Pumpkin Bash Dot Polling

Top recreation facilities from dot polling
Splash Pad
Nature Based Play
Nature Trails
Accessible Boat Launch
Shared Use Non-Motorized Trails

Top desired programming ideas
Kayaking / Paddle Board Rentals
Outdoor Concerts / Music
Designated Beach/Swimming
Farmer's Market
Holiday Celebrations

Top desired amenities
Water Access
Restroom
Dog Park
Picnic Pavilion
Tied: Habitat Restoration & Wildlife Viewing

to Figure 6.5 for a brief summary of dot polling results from this event.

In addition, the map of the City park system was presented and attendees were asked for an idea to be added to the idea board. The idea could be an improvement to current facilities, an idea for new facilities, or any other suggestion related to the improvement of the park system. **The top five ideas included: Splash pad, accessible playgrounds, restrooms, trails, and outdoor concerts and festivals.** Refer to the appendix for all feedback results from this event.

30-Day Public Review

Once the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was complete, citizens were provided with a 30-day period to review and comment on the plan. A copy of the plan was made available at Walker City Hall, the District Library, and on the city's website for review by the public on December 20, 2022. To notify the residents that a draft of the plan was available for review, a notice was published on the city website and social media, posted at the City Hall, and noticed in the local newspaper, describing the purpose of the 30-day review period. A copy of the notice that was published/posted is included in the Appendix.

Public Hearings and Meetings

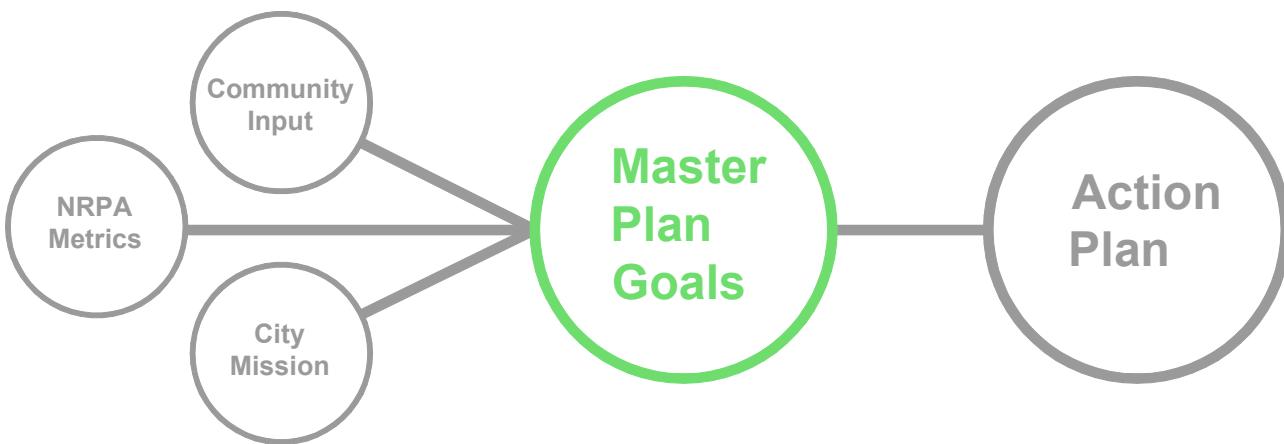
On February 13, 2023, the City Commission held a public hearing to review the plan and accepted input at its regularly scheduled meeting prior to adoption. This meeting was noticed and open to the public and presented the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the plan and make recommendations. Meeting minutes, meeting notices, and recommendations can be found in the Appendix.





Goals and Objectives

As a result of the recreation inventory, public input, survey results, and trends, the city of Walker has developed the following goals and objectives in order to guide the management and development of recreation opportunities for the next 5 years. Goals and objectives are meant to guide the intent of the actions to be taken, but flexible enough to reflect changing attitudes and opportunities. A degree of flexibility is essential for the city to be responsive to its citizens. The goals are long-range in nature and intended to be broad in scope to accommodate future change. The objectives are short-range in nature and intended to direct specific program and development decisions to be made in the next five years. The goals are listed in no particular order.



GOAL 1



Enhance existing recreation facilities to provide a high quality, accessible, year-round, and safe recreational experience at all city parks and facilities.

- Provide access to all users by meeting or exceeding barrier-free standards.
- Update existing playgrounds to meet current safety and ADA guidelines.
- Evaluate security measures such as emergency call boxes, security systems, lighting, and park visibility.
- Work with enforcement agencies and community organizations to provide a safe environment for park users.
- Maintain park facilities by providing adequate staff, equipment, and response systems.
- Incorporate low maintenance products and equipment that save energy, reduce wear, reduce environmental impact, and reduce demands on staff.

GOAL 2



Preserve, protect, and improve historic, natural, scenic, and environmentally sensitive areas for appropriate public use and enjoyment and habitat protection.

- Develop management / maintenance strategies for natural areas including eradication of invasive species, enhancement of natural areas, and protection of water quality.
- Identify land acquisition opportunities to preserve environmentally sensitive areas.
- Provide programs and interpretive facilities that educate the public about the environment.
- Provide programs and facilities that support the conservation, protection, and preservation of the natural environment.
- Explore opportunities for, and incorporate certifications within new and existing infrastructure such as LEED certification.

GOAL 3



Expand the diversity of recreation facilities available at new or existing recreation facilities to offer year-round opportunities for individuals of all ages and abilities in order to meet current and future demands.

- Identify new innovative equipment and/or facilities.
- Provide playground equipment for all ages.
- Integrate technology into parks and public spaces.
- Provide wide range of active and passive recreation facilities and programs with four season activities for all ages.
- Acquire property as it becomes available to ensure recreational opportunities keep pace with the needs of the community.
- Promote healthy and active lifestyles through fitness programs, four season recreation, and activities that encourage healthy habits.

GOAL 4



Encourage community partnerships and joint ventures with groups and organizations that have a supportive relationship.

- Identify organizations with similar goals that can be collaborative and share costs for activities and events.
- Collaborate with local agencies, adjacent municipalities, and other public organizations.
- Coordinate with local school district and non-profit organizations to identify synergistic programs and activities.
- Explore opportunities to partner with private organizations to encourage philanthropic investment in city park and recreation facilities.
- Facilitate partnerships that support venues for cultural, sports, and recreational activities.

GOAL 5



Provide non-motorized and way finding connections between parks, neighborhoods and community facilities, and municipalities.

- Identify potential opportunities for regional non-motorized trail connections to adjacent communities.
- Provide non-motorized connections to connect users with facilities throughout the community.
- Develop a way finding system to assist users locate facilities more easily and locate their proximity within the park system.
- Explore opportunities for easement acquisition for future trail connections.
- Explore opportunities to connect trail systems to local businesses.
- Develop a funding mechanism for long term trail maintenance.

GOAL 6



Acquire property as it becomes available to ensure recreational opportunities keep pace with the needs of the community.

- Plan for long-range needs to develop existing city owned land, expansion of existing park facilities, and acquire new park property.
- Provide a geographically balanced park system throughout the city.
- Encourage new residential projects to include parkland and/or open spaces to serve future residents.

GOAL 7



Increase community awareness of available park facilities and programs through communication, promotion, and branding.

- Promote volunteer opportunities and other methods of citizen support for programs and parks.
- Encourage public engagement in park facility development and programs through community out reach projects, stewardship programs, and interpretive programs.
- Continue to publicize park events, facilities and programs through social media, newsletters, press releases, web site, promotional events, and other media outlets.
- Increase resident awareness of the City's park goals, events, and accomplishments to get the community involved in programs and increase use of park facilities.

GOAL 8



Promote healthy and active lifestyles through park and recreation facilities and programs.

- Promote awareness of fitness programs that support healthy lifestyles.
- Provide four season recreation opportunities.
- Provide recreation facilities that encourage healthy habits.
- Target programs for specific age groups based on current trends.

GOAL 9

Explore sustainable funding opportunities for future park development and maintenance.



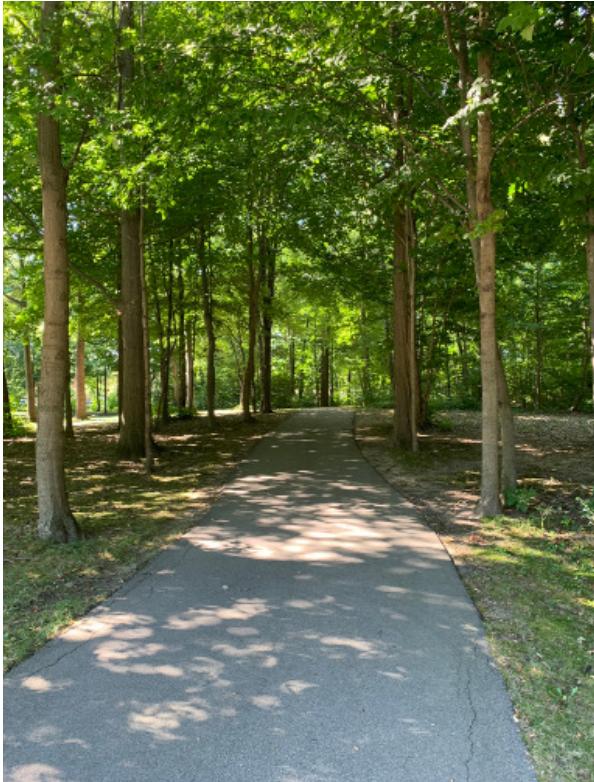
- Explore partnerships with local corporations.
- Develop a fundraising arm or friends group for trail maintenance.
- Continue to seek funding opportunities from grants, foundations, millages, and donations.

GOAL 10

Identify opportunities for place making and public space development



- Integrate technology into parks and public spaces.
- Provide space for public art display.
- Provide for the display/use of sustainable technologies in public spaces.
- Use public space to promote the branding and identity of the park system.





Action Plan

While the Master Plan sets out an ambitious vision for the future of Walkers' parks and recreation system, realizing this vision will require a carefully considered implementation plan with clear, actionable steps. The Action Plan and Capital Improvement Plan of the Walker Parks and Recreation Master Plan states the proposed course of development or improvement that will be taken over the next five years. The Goals and Objectives, from the previous section, serve as guidelines for the development of the Action Plan. The Capital Improvement Plan, which follows, will focus on the needs identified in the Action Plan and will project potential expenditures for the five-year action period on a park by park and project by project basis. The five-year period will begin in 2023 and extend through 2027. This time period will not be sufficient to accomplish all of the goals and objectives, but begins to prioritize those projects that may be achievable within the initial five years.

The Action Plan focuses on reduction of deficiencies, and expansion and improvements of facilities in a manner that not only meets current needs, but also diversifies the type and quality of recreational opportunities within the city. These needs were recorded during the public input process and were identified during the review and comparison of park standards and demographic/population trends.

The Action Plan describes specific priorities to be taken to address these needs; and the Capital Improvement Plan specifically itemizes those projects which will be most feasible during the next five years. The proposed schedule will allow for flexibility as funds become available and as opportunities are presented.

The priorities and action plan items for the 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan are as follows (not listed in particular order):

Action A: Expansion of non-motorized trails

The development of non-motorized facilities including sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and off-road pathways were strongly supported by the results of the community outreach process. Projects that include transportation/recreation trail planning and development are a priority including projects that enhance greenway corridors, connect parks and lakes, support existing trail extensions, eliminate barriers, and enhance the overall trail system.

Non-Motorized Transportation / Walkability

The city will look for and capitalize on opportunities to implement non-motorized trail facilities to connect parks, schools, residential areas, and commercial hubs to each other and to neighboring communities. In addition, the city will encourage the development of pathways within existing parks to facilitate universal accessibility and promote a healthy lifestyle.

- Collaborate with Kent County, local school districts, and other stakeholders to identify opportunities to add new non-motorized facilities that can connect to existing trails.
- Consider the development of a city-wide Non-Motorized Transportation Master Plan.
- Look for opportunities for trail heads at existing park sites.
- Provide safe pedestrian crossing facilities where existing trails cross roadways.
- Connection between Standale Trail and Pioneer Trail.
- Make new bike lanes and signage part of future roadway reconstruction projects.
- Consider establishing a city complete streets policy.
- Consider trail or bike lane connections to major points of interest such as Blandford Nature Center and the City Hall Campus.

Action B: Improvements to existing facilities

The most efficient use of city resources is to focus on projects that improve existing facilities and maximize the potential of city owned property. Projects that renovate or re-use existing facilities are considered a high priority. This may include improvements that eliminate barriers to increase accessibility for all users, renovations and upgrades to existing equipment and features to ensure modern and clean facilities, and redevelopment or expansion of existing parks to eliminate redundancy and maximize the potential of the site.

Alpine Estates Park

Proposed improvements for this urban core park include renovations to the playground equipment to include thematic and newer equipment, providing an accessible pathway to connect the playground area, additional park pathways, path mileage and wayfinding signs, new picnic tables, and electrical outlets at the pavilion.

City Central Park

This park is mostly developed however there are opportunities for improvements such as playground equipment renovations, regrading of existing soccer fields to improve drainage and usability, reorientation of baseball fields to minimize sun glare, repairs to aging pathway pavements, addition of barrier free benches along the pathways, installation of wayfinding signage and trail mileage signs,

and the addition of new facilities such as a splash pad. A new master plan has been developed for this park as part of the planning process which delineates proposed improvements and well as new facilities, refer to figure 8.5.

Community Park

This highly used community park has opportunities for improvements to existing facilities as well as the addition of new facilities to increase use further. A master plan for this park was developed many years ago and some items have been implemented from that plan (see figure 8.6). The city may consider implementation of additional items from the plan. Improvements to existing facilities may include renovation of playground equipment, replacement of aging asphalt pavements, renovation or replacement of aging picnic pavilion, resurfacing of existing tennis courts and replacement of nets and posts, the addition of an accessible path with seating areas for the soccer field, and the addition of pathways and interpretive / educational signs in and around the natural / stormwater management areas. In addition, the city may consider restoration improvements to the undeveloped land to the south which is mostly used for drainage and natural areas.

English Hills Park

This neighborhood park provides recreational opportunities to the adjacent residential areas and is in need of improvements. There are opportunities for the city to expand the property with land acquisitions to the east and northwest which would provide more opportunities to expand recreational offerings. Improvements to the park may include renovations to the playground equipment to include thematic and newer features, renovation/replacement of the existing ballfield, addition of permanent restrooms, removing basketball hoops from the parking lot and provide dedicated basketball courts, and provide internal walking pathways. A new master plan has been developed for this park as part of the planning process which delineates proposed improvements and well as new facilities, refer to figure 8.7.

Harmon Field Park

The existing site is mostly developed but there are opportunities for renovations to existing facilities as well as the development of the 30+ acres to the east. Proposed improvements may include renovation of the playground equipment to include thematic and newer equipment, providing an accessible pathway to the playground, resurface aging asphalt paving, addition of a trail head and connection to the adjacent Standale Trail, and adding sidewalks along the parking lot. A new master plan has been developed for this park as part of the planning process which delineates proposed improvements and well as new facilities, refer to figure 8.8.

Lincoln Lawns

Proposed development for this neighborhood park may include renovation of the playground equipment to include thematic and newer equipment, facilities such as bleachers and benches for the soccer field, addition of a permanent restroom, addition of a formal trailhead for the adjacent Standale Trail with signage, benches, and waste receptacles, expansion of parking lot, and additional sidewalk connections. A new master plan has been developed for this park as part of the planning process which delineates proposed improvements and well as new facilities, refer to figure 8.9.

Orchard Ridge Park

Proposed improvements to this park may include expansion of playground to include thematic or new innovative equipment, addition of a shade structure or pavilion, addition of community gardens, new walking paths within the park, and the addition of landscaping to create separation from adjacent residences, minimize noise, and improve views and aesthetics from adjacent homes.

Walker Ice and Fitness

Proposed additions to the highly used community facility may include: expand locker facilities, outdoor training space, indoor training field, expand and modernize the gym, track, wellness and fitness areas, expand programs and services including those for children and seniors, and fut-sol court.

West Chesterfield Park

Proposed improvements to this park may include: updating and/or expanding the playground to include thematic or new innovative equipment, addition of a paved trail with exercise stations, trail connections to adjacent neighborhoods, formal nature trails with interpretive signs, and addition of picnic pavilion and accessible picnic tables.

Action C: Reduce or minimize operating costs

With budgets getting tighter and grants becoming more competitive, projects that can help reduce operating costs are a priority. Examples include: projects that increase efficiency in operations and reduce maintenance, removal or replacement of equipment or features that are costly or inefficient to maintain, projects that consider the use of alternative energy sources and use of recycled materials, and projects that could generate revenue.

Action D: Conserve, preserve, and enhance natural features and environmentally sensitive areas.

During the community outreach process, the community expressed a strong desire to further utilize and protect the city's extensive natural areas and features, and to implement environmentally sustainable maintenance practices. This includes invasive species management, nature programming, additional trails including soft trails, use of native species, interpretive signage, using recycled materials and alternative sources of energy, and employing environmentally sustainable design and maintenance practices; which includes a reduction of manicured lawn areas and consideration of an environmentally-friendly system of turf management.

Action E: Planning for future parks and recreational needs

As the community continues to grow and change over time, the city continues to dedicate themselves to improving recreational offerings for the community. The city understands that in order to continue to ensure that park and recreation offerings adapt to and meet the needs of the growing community, they must be willing to continually invest in and look for new opportunities in parks and recreation programs, facilities, and services. This makes planning for future parks and recreation facilities a high priority. This is reflected in projects that spark or are a part of economic development, projects that seek opportunities for land acquisition, and the pursuit of additional funding mechanisms. The following are examples of projects the city is considering to meet this focus:

Land Acquisition

The city will look for opportunities to purchase additional land for recreational or preservation purposes as it becomes available within the or adjacent to the city limits. Future land acquisitions are planned to grow current parks and trails for neighborhood connections to recreation and natural areas and increase park land in Ward 1 which is currently underserved. The following areas are potential acquisition targets for the city: approximate 11-acre parcel east of English Hills Park, an approximate 0.45-acre parcel at the southeast corner of Ferris St NW and Miller Ave. NW (see figure 8.1), and approximately 47.1 acres along North Center Drive NW that includes three parcels surrounded by neighborhoods (see figure 8.2). Other opportunity land acquisitions may include easements for trail development, environmentally sensitive areas, or other land adjacent to existing parks.

Figure 8.1 - Potential Land Acquisition 1



Figure 8.2 - Potential Land Acquisition 2



Figure 8.3 - Potential Land Acquisition 3



Farmers Market

Results from the community outreach process indicated a strong desire for a dedicated City Farmer's Market space. Development of a market would include a dynamic space for food vendors, food trucks, and farmers with farm vehicle access to stalls. The market could include a section that can be enclosed in the colder months for small retail venues for more permanent market vendors. On off days when not used for the farmer's market the area could be used as a festival site.

Winter Recreation

The public feedback indicated that winter recreation is a high priority for programs to add to the city park system. Such activities include cross-country skiing, sledding, ice skating, and snowmobiling.

Pickle ball

It was conveyed during the public engagement process that there is a need for developing pickle ball courts, with an emphasis on courts dedicated to pickle ball (not line markings on tennis courts). Pickle ball is typically an activity associated with the older population of which the city has a high number.

Action F: Develop diverse, balanced, and innovative park facilities

Given that the City's park system is a mostly mature system, developing diverse park facilities and incorporating new innovative park features is a high priority for the city. In addition, during the community engagement process, it was conveyed that the residents desire a balanced park system with newer features. The following are examples of projects the city may consider in response to resident needs:

Mountain Bike Trails

As an addition to the outdoor experiences found in the Walker parks system, a mountain bike trail could be developed that will appeal to bikers of all levels from gentle grades through a peaceful forest setting to trails for the more adrenaline charged. This area may include programs on bicycle safety and building cycling skills.

Outdoor Gym

An Outdoor Gym could be developed and feature fitness equipment available all year for adult, children and the disabled. Fitness areas may also be set within a forested area and encourage stretching and strength exercises to accompany walking and biking experiences.

Kayak/ Canoe Rentals

During the public engagement process, many residents indicated a desire for the city to provide kayaking and canoeing opportunities. Currently the city does not own land that could allow for this activity and would require land acquisition. This activity is also available currently at the county owned Millennium Park.

Community Gardens / Edible Trail

Creating edible forest landscapes of fruit and nut trees, berry bushes, and more along existing trails to encourage stops along the route to pause and enjoy nature, while enjoying some of what nature provides. An Edible Trail project could provide learning opportunities on nurturing the ecosystem while increasing access to local, sustainable food. In addition, providing space for community gardens

can provide many benefits to the community including stress relief, promotion of healthy lifestyle and wellness, education, environmental stewardship, and landscape beautification.

Disc Golf Course

Development of an 18-hole Disc Golf course will enhance Walker's attractiveness to hold large tournaments and attract professional players from a wider area. Disc Golf is also growing as sports programs increase in area schools.

Other Items

The following items listed below were mentioned as being desirable concepts worth further exploration during the public engagement process:

- Splash pad / ice rink combo
- Dog Park
- Swimming pool
- Wifi in parks
- Increase park marketing and awareness
- Interpretive signs for historic, cultural, and environmental education
- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
- Habitat Restoration
- Wildlife viewing platforms
- Nature based activities

Action G: Continue to provide a diverse slate of programs for all ages and seasons

In addition to providing cutting edge park facilities, it is equally important to provide exciting programs and activities. This need was discussed during the community outreach process and the city recognizes the need for diverse programs that cover all ages and seasons.

Capital Improvement Plan

As stated in the Action Program, improvements and development will occur as funds and opportunities evolve. Assistance will be solicited from all available sources and will include both physical and financial support. Local businesses, service organizations, land developers, and governmental agencies will be solicited for monetary and material support. The city will also seek funding assistance from all available sources such as trusts, charitable foundations, and all Federal and State funding programs. The Capital Improvement Plan shows a breakdown of the anticipated projects, priorities, estimated costs, and projected funding sources for the next five years. All projections are based upon year 2022 costs and will be refined as the program progresses. It should be noted that changes in the program may occur if projected funding levels increase or decrease, but it is anticipated that the changes would be related more to adjustments in the time schedule rather than specific projects..

Figure 8.4 - Action Plan - Potential Future Projects

City of Walker Parks and Recreation Master Plan				
2023 - 2027 Action Program - Potential Future Projects				
	Project	Estimated Cost	Relates to	
			Action	Goal
PARKS				
Alpine Estates	Replace playground equipment and safety surface, add accessible path and benches, replace picnic tables and add electric outlets to existing pavilion	\$620,000	B	1, 2, 3
City Central	Regrade south soccer fields, add landscaping, accessible bleachers, accessible benches and accessible path from parking lot	\$300,000	B, C	1
	Reorientation of south two ball fields, paving, trails	\$600,000	B, C	1
	Add parking, landscaping, and farmers market	\$1,500,000	B, E, F	1, 2, 3
	Add splash pad, accessible paths	\$500,000	B, E, F	1, 2, 3
Community Park	Resurface tennis courts, new nets and posts, markings for pickle ball	\$150,000	B	1
	Resurface asphalt parking lot and asphalt paths	\$300,000	B	1
	Pave area around baseball field backstop/bleachers, extend accessible path to soccer field and add bleachers	\$150,000	B	1
English Hills	Replace playground equipment and safety surface	\$500,000	B	1, 2, 3
	Baseball field improvements: fence, turf, infield, seating	\$300,000	B, C	1
	Add a new restroom building and picnic pavilion	\$600,000	B, F	1, 2, 3
	Expand internal pathway network including nature trails	\$200,000	A, B, D	1, 2, 3, 5, 8
	Add 4 pickle ball courts and 2 basketball courts	\$500,000	B, E	1, 3
Harmon Field	Replace playground equipment, safety surface, and add restrooms, pickle ball courts, basketball courts, & pavilion	\$2,000,000	B, F	1, 2, 3
	Develop disc golf course, mountain bike course, and parking on undeveloped 31-acres	\$150,000	B, D, F	1, 2, 3, 8
	Expand internal pathway network including nature trails and landscaping	\$200,000	A, B, D	1, 2, 3, 5, 8
	Resurface parking lot, asphalt paths, area behind backstop	\$200,000	B	1
Lincoln Lawns	Expand parking, add restrooms, add dog park	\$500,000	B, F	1, 2, 3
	Paved area for accessible bleachers at soccer field, exercise stations	\$100,000	B, F	1, 2, 3
	Replace playground equipment and safety surface	\$500,000	B	1, 2, 3
Orchard Ridge	New picnic shelter, signage, garden plots, landscaping	\$150,000	B	1, 2, 3
	Accessible benches, paths, and restroom	\$200,000	B	1
West Chesterfield	New picnic shelter, signage, accessible paths	\$150,000	B	1, 2, 3
	Replace small playground equipment, add nature trails through wooded areas, police call box	\$150,000	B, D	1, 2
All Parks	Modernize waste management systems, related educational signage	\$100,000	B, D, F	1, 2, 7
LAND ACQUISITION				
Ward 1	0.5-acre parcel at corner of Miller St / Ferris St	TBD	E	3, 6
Ward 1	47 acres (3 parcels) east of Green Ridge Apartments	TBD	E	2, 6
English Hills	Adjacent 11 acre parcel to the east	TBD	E	2, 6
City-wide	Seek opportunities to add new "Mini Parks" with an emphasis on Ward 1	TBD	E, F	3, 6
TRAILS				
Standale Trail	Connection west to Community Park via Lake Michigan Dr	\$500,000	A	1, 5, 8
Standale Trail	Connection east to John Ball Zoo via O'Brien Rd	\$500,000	A	1, 5, 8
Standale Trail	Refugee island crossings where trail system crosses public streets	\$400,000	A	1, 5
Bikeway Improvements	Various locations, signage, air fill and bike repair stations	\$150,000	A	1, 5
Bike Lanes	Richmond St east to Blandford, including signs/markings	\$200,000	A	1, 5, 8
New Trail	Richmond St north along power lines to railroad bed east to Elmridge, north to Pioneer Trail	\$1,500,000	A	1, 4, 5, 8
Trail Heads	Lincoln Lawns, Harmon Field, Alpine Estates	\$600,000	A	1, 5

Figure 8.5 - City Central Park Master Plan



Figure 8.6 - Community Park Master Plan



Figure 8.7 - English Hills Park Master Plan



Figure 8.8 - Harmon Field Park Master Plan



Figure 8.9 - Lincoln Lawns Park Master Plan



Potential Funding Sources / Resource Partners

A variety of funding sources and resource partners may exist to assist with the implementation of proposed recreation projects. A summary of the primary sources are listed below:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

The MNRTF can provide assistance for the City's outdoor recreation projects, including land acquisition and physical development of park facilities. This assistance is intended to bolster existing facilities, protect critical natural resources and establish new parkland. Development project grants may range between \$15,000 and \$300,000; there is no limit to acquisition requests. The minimum required local match is 25%.

Michigan Natural Resources Passport Grant

The Passport grant fund program is primarily focused on renovating and improving existing parks, however the development of new parks is considered eligible. The Minimum grant request is \$7,500 and the maximum grant request is \$150,000. The minimum required local match is 25%.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The LWCF is similar to the Trust Fund grant described above, in that it is meant to help fund land acquisition and park development. The minimum grant request amount is \$30,000 and the maximum grant request amount is \$300,000. The minimum required local match is 50%. Natural feature preservation has historically been the primary award criteria; and as such, this opportunity should especially be taken into account when planning for new passive recreation facilities. In addition, the LWCF now places emphasis on trails, "green" technology in outdoor recreation, universal design and coordination among recreation providers.

MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The TAP fund is a grant program that funds non-motorized paths and streetscapes that enhance the community's inter-modal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. The program uses federal funds to promote walkability, alternative transportation options, and place based economic development to improve the quality of life for communities. The minimum required local match is 20%.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Funding

The State and Community Highway Safety Grant Program supports State highway safety programs designed to reduce traffic crashes and resulting deaths, injuries, and property damage. Grant funds are provided to states, the Indian Nations, and Territories each year according to a statutory formula based on population and road mileage. Funds may be used for a wide variety of highway safety activities and programs including those that improve pedestrian and bicycle safety. The minimum required local match is 20%.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ)

The Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program assists areas designated as non-attainment or maintenance under the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to achieve and maintain healthful levels of air quality by funding transportation projects and programs. Projects funded under the CMAQ program must be located in areas that were designated as a non-attainment area.

Construction of bicycle and pedestrian facilities; non-construction projects related to safe bicycle use; and the establishment and funding of state bicycle/pedestrian coordinator positions, as established by ISTEA, for promoting and facilitating the increased use of non-motorized modes of transportation. The minimum required local match is 20%.

Clean Michigan Initiative Local Recreation Grants

The program provides funding for the development and renovation of indoor or outdoor public recreation facilities and infrastructure. The goal of the program is to enhance or develop recreational opportunities by improving or replacing an existing public facility, by meeting the recreational needs of the local residents, or by attracting tourists. Grants are awarded for non-acquisition projects in amounts between \$15,000 to \$750,000, based on the need for the project, capability of the local community to operate and maintain the improvement, and quality of the site and project design.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

HSIP funds can be used for pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements. States may obligate funds under the HSIP to carry out any highway safety improvement project on any public road or publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail; or Safety projects, as provided under the Flexible Funding for States With a Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Michigan Natural Resources Tree Planting Grants

Through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), there are two tree planting grant programs that will assist in funding park landscape enhancements and reforestation projects. Applicants must provide at least 50% of the total project cost.

- Arbor Day Mini-Grants. This mini-grant program is designed to provide information and technical assistance to municipal governments and volunteer groups for urban and community forest activities related to Arbor Day. Applications are due in July with maximum grant request of \$20,000.
- Urban Community Forestry Program. This program provides the same services as above plus management plans, inventories and maintenance activities. These activities do not have to be related to Arbor Day. Applications are due in July with maximum grant requests of \$20,000.

Wetland Program Development

The goals of the Environmental Protection Agency's wetland program and the Clean Water Action Plan are to increase the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conservation and increasing wetland acreage, and improving wetland health. State, tribal, and local governmental agencies, interstate, intertribal, and local government associations are eligible to receive grant funds. Applications are due in the fall with a required 25% minimum local match. For more information, visit their website at: www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grant guidelines.

Community Development Block Grant

The Kent County Community Development Department implements the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program in all Kent County communities except Grand Rapids, Cedar Springs, and Wyoming. Funds are distributed from the federal government to the County on a formula basis. The formula considers extent of poverty, population, housing overcrowding, age of housing, and population growth lag in relation to other metropolitan areas. The funded activity must meet one of the CDBG national objectives (i.e., benefits low and moderate income persons,

prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community).

Baseball Tomorrow Fund

This fund, which is provided through a joint partnership between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association, awards annual grants to projects aimed at increasing the number of youth participating in and improving the quality of baseball and softball programs. The program is specifically aimed at children ages 10 to 16, and to those using innovative approaches or providing opportunities to minorities and women. Tax exempt and 501(c)3 organizations are eligible, and Baseball Tomorrow strongly encourages at least 50% matching funds.

People for Bikes

The People for Bikes Grants Program strives to put more people on bicycles more often by funding projects that leverage federal funding and build momentum for bicycling. They seek to assist local organizations, agencies, and citizens in developing bicycle facilities projects. Bikes Belong Coalition accepts applications for grants quarterly for up to \$10,000 each, and will consider successor grants for continuing projects.

West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition

The West Michigan Trails & Greenways Coalition (WMT&GC) is a non-profit group of donors, organizations and volunteers dedicated to developing non-motorized trails and greenways into a linked system connecting wilderness areas, parks, historic landmarks and cultural sites throughout West Michigan. Their vision is to develop a regional trails and greenways network to connect communities with each other and to the natural areas, parks, historic landmarks, cultural venues, and civic destinations throughout the region.

American Hiking Society National Trails Fund

The National Trails Fund, sponsored by the American Hiking Society, provides support to grass-root non-profit organizations working toward establishing, protecting, and maintaining foot trails in America. Grants help give local organizations the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools, and materials to protect America's public trails. Support is provided for projects that increase trail lands, including the cost associated with the acquisition of trails, trail corridors, and conservation easements.

Local Fundraising

The Walker community is full of active, community-minded residents. Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Foundations

A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors according to a predetermined plan.

City Funds

The general fund, a special millage, the parks budget, bonds, and the parks capital improvement account are possibilities to help fund new and improved facilities in the city.

Park Millage

A special millage can help the city generate funds for development, acquire park land, or to use as leverage for grant applications.

Special Assessment

A special assessment is a special kind of tax on a subset of a community. Special assessments are placed on those adjacent land owners who will receive the greatest benefit from a project to be funded using a special assessment. Special assessments are a common way cities fund sidewalk construction and improvements.



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Appendix

- Parks Budget
- Documents from Public Hearings and Public Meetings
- On-Line Community Survey Results

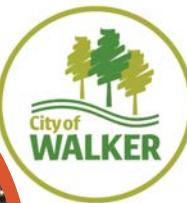
Parks Budget

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2022-23		YTD BALANCE		AVAILABLE	
		ORIGINAL BUDGET	AMENDED BUDGET	2022-23	NORMAL (ABNORMAL)	NORMAL	BALANCE (ABNORMAL)
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND							
Expenditures							
Dept 680 - PARKS							
Unclassified							
101-680-704.000	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS PARKS SALARY	7,900.00	7,900.00	1,794.14	6,105.86	22.71	
101-680-705.000	PARK STAFF SALARIES	93,000.00	93,000.00	15,726.27	77,273.73	16.91	
101-680-706.000	SEASONAL WAGES	18,000.00	18,000.00	10,765.50	7,234.50	59.81	
101-680-707.680	PARKS & REC COMMITTEE WAGES	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	
101-680-712.000	CONTRACTED MOWING	30,000.00	30,000.00	10,062.00	19,938.00	33.54	
101-680-715.000	FICA EXPENSE - PAYROLL TAX	9,096.00	9,096.00	2,307.35	6,788.65	25.37	
101-680-716.000	EMPLOYEE INSURANCE-HEALTH/DENTL/LIFE/DIS	25,000.00	25,000.00	6,729.68	18,270.32	26.92	
101-680-716.100	RETIREMENT HEALTH SAVINGS CONTRIBUTION	1,900.00	1,900.00	207.66	1,692.34	10.93	
101-680-719.000	PENSION EXP-401A DEFINED CONTRIBUTION	9,300.00	9,300.00	1,310.57	7,989.43	14.09	
101-680-720.000	WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE	500.00	500.00	687.00	(187.00)	137.40	
101-680-740.000	PARK SUPPLIES	14,000.00	14,000.00	4,103.59	9,896.41	29.31	
101-680-802.710	PARKS & REC MASTER PLAN	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	
101-680-920.000	UTILITIES	20,000.00	20,000.00	2,390.92	17,609.08	11.95	
101-680-940.000	RENTAL FEES-CITY VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT	147,000.00	147,000.00	36,750.00	110,250.00	25.00	
101-680-970.000	CONSUMERS POWER LICENSE AGREEMENTS	3,500.00	3,500.00	229.22	3,270.78	6.55	
101-680-971.000	PARK REPAIRS & EQUIPMENT (MINOR)	55,000.00	55,000.00	8,256.40	46,743.60	15.01	
101-680-973.000	TRAIL MAINTENANCE	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	
101-680-985.000	PARK CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	
Unclassified		565,196.00	565,196.00	101,320.30	463,875.70	17.93	
Total Dept 680 - PARKS		565,196.00	565,196.00	101,320.30	463,875.70	17.93	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		565,196.00	565,196.00	101,320.30	463,875.70	17.93	
Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND:							
TOTAL REVENUES		0.00					
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		565,196.00	565,196.00	101,320.30	463,875.70	17.93	
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES		(565,196.00)	(565,196.00)	(101,320.30)	(463,875.70)	17.93	

Documents from Public Hearings and Public Meetings

JOIN US! The City of Walker Parks & Recreation Department is updating the 5-Year Master Plan vision for the Walker park system, and we want to hear from you! Come help us identify community needs and offer suggestions for future improvements to our public green spaces.

Drop in to our open house anytime between 5:30-7:30pm to be a part of this community-driven, participatory design process.



COMMUNITY INPUT SESSION

September 15

OPEN HOUSE 5:30-7:30PM
ALPINE ESTATES PARK

1364 3 Mile Rd NW
Walker, MI 49544

Want to contribute but can't
make the input session?
Take our online survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QB2HHVQ>



Survey available
online through
October 31, 2022

WELCOME!

Your feedback is important. As we envision the future of Walker public parks and natural areas, your participation and input will inform the vision and improvement priorities for the park system. Please use this sheet to tell us what you are excited and concerned about. After you visit each station, return your notes to check-in.

Please check the top 3 recreational activities you would like the Parks Department to invest in:

<input type="checkbox"/> Walking/Nature Trails 5 votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Park 4 votes
<input type="checkbox"/> Bike Trails/Paths 4 votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Court Games (tennis, basketball, pickleball) 2 votes
<input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds 1 vote	<input type="checkbox"/> Art Exhibitions / Sculpture 1 vote
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Shelters 1 vote	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Performance Space/Amphitheater 2 votes
<input type="checkbox"/> Sports Fields	<input type="checkbox"/> Historical/Cultural Exhibits
<input type="checkbox"/> Water access (swimming, boating, fishing, etc.) 1 vote	<input type="checkbox"/> Splash Pad 2 votes
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter activities (sledding, ice skating, cross country skiing) 1 vote	<input type="checkbox"/> Nature Based Activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Restroom facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe)

What excites you the most about future improvements to City parks? What's your biggest concern?

Add splash pad

Farmers market

Outdoor music

Restrooms open year-round

Plow walking paths in winter

Concerned about the amount of green space in Ward 1

Let's dream big! What is important to you in terms of long-term, system-wide improvements to our parks and natural spaces? Check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Redevelop/upgrade existing parks to support a broader range of activities 4 votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide additional recreational programs and activities 1 vote
<input type="checkbox"/> Acquire land for future parks and open space 4 votes	<input type="checkbox"/> No additional parks or changes to current facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Focus effort on better maintenance of existing facilities 3 votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please describe)
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop additional non-motorized trails 3 votes	

Please use this space to share additional feedback and comments. To complete our full online survey, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QB2HHVQ>



On September 15, 2022 the City of Walker hosted a public input open house from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Alpine Park to receive feedback regarding the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Three interactive stations were set up to allow participants to provide feedback at their own pace. Participants were provided with poling dots, post-it notes, comment cards, and pens to use at the stations. The interactive stations were facilitated by VIRIDIS and Park Committee members. In addition, each participant was provided with a handout questionnaire and were asked to fill it out and leave behind (those results are on a separate summary sheet). The following is a summary of feedback received at the input session.

Station 1 - Existing Park System

A map of the City showing all of the current recreation facilities was shown and participants were asked to answer the following questions (with responses listed):

What is the City doing well?

- Great seasonal events
- Concerts at Community Park
- Many diverse activities at parks
- Trails are great

What could be better?

- Plow trails for winter use
- Keep restrooms open in winter
- Awareness of parks - unaware of some City parks
- More green space in Ward 1
- More comfortable benches / seating areas
- Park cleanliness - consider community clean up day
- More shade for playground areas (for adults watching)

What should be added?

- More trails
- Wildlife Rehab Center - at English Hills?
- Off-leash dog runs / dog park
- Nature trails
- Trash receptacles along trails
- Recycling bins at parks
- Fitness stations along trails
- Drinking fountains for dogs, water filling stations along trails
- Farmers market
- Connect Kinney St path to Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail
- Pickle ball courts
- Splash pad

Station 2 - Dot Poling

Participants were provided three visioning boards with park images related to recreation activities, programming, and park amenities, and were asked to place dots on their top three priorities for each board (three dots per board, nine total). The top five priorities for each are noted below:

Recreation Priorities

1. Splash pad
2. Nature based play
3. Fishing
4. Shared-use non-motorized trails
5. Tied for fifth place - Athletic fields and nature trails

Programming Priorities

1. Farmer's market
2. Outdoor music
3. Winter activities
4. Kayaking / paddle board rentals
5. Tied for fifth place - Holiday celebrations and fitness classes

Park Amenities

1. Dog park
2. Habitat restoration
3. Water access
4. Restroom facilities
5. Wild life viewing platforms

Station 3 - Mapping Exercise

Participants were shown aerial photo maps of the four parks that are planned for new master plans and were asked to provide feedback on what they would like to see developed, added, removed, and what is important to them. The following feedback was received:

Lincoln Lawns Park

Trails

Exercise stations

Dog park

Restrooms

Trees / shade

Expand parking

*Note - some participants did not know about this park

Hamond Field

Trails

Restrooms

Splash pad

*Note - some participants did not know about this park

English Hills Park

Pickle ball courts

Remove hoops in parking lot and add courts

Dog park

Splash pad

Restrooms

Picnic shelter

Paved trails

Concerned about vandalism

Remove ball field

Restripe parking

*Note - some participants did not know about this park

Central Park

Softball field orientation not good based on sun (east/west)

Drainage issues with soccer field

Bring outdoor concerts back to this park

Bring back Walker festival to this park

Sand volleyball not used much

Bring pickle ball back

Splash pad

On October 1, 2022 the City of Walker hosted a public input table from approximately 1:00pm-3:15pm at the Pumpkin Bash event to receive feedback regarding the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The input table was located among other local vendor tables and along the “trick-or-treat” line that saw heavy crowds of community members including high percentage of families. Individuals were presented with dot poling boards as well as a map of the City showing all of the parks. Individuals were asked to place dots on images and provide feedback that the facilitator wrote on post-it notes and stuck on the map. The following is a summary of feedback received at this event:

Existing Park System

A map of the city showing all of the current recreation facilities was shown and participants were asked to provide feedback on what was important to them regarding parks and recreation. Participants were also asked what kind of park facilities they would like to see added, what they thought was needed, and what they thought of overall park system. The following includes responses received with the number of times mentioned in parenthesis (x):

- Splash pad (12)
- Playgrounds including accessibility (8)
- Restrooms (7)
- Trails (5)
- Outdoor concerts / festivals (5)
- Cleaner restrooms and open year-round (4)
- Pool / water slides (4)
- Kayaking / canoeing rentals / access (4)
- Beach / swimming (3)
- Pickle ball (3)
- Nature based activities, playground (3)
- Skate park (3)
- Improve barrier free accessibility to all parks and facilities (3)
- Farmer's market (2)
- Hiking trails (2)
- Nature trails (2)
- Fishing including accessible areas (2)
- Outdoor fitness stations / classes (2)
- Water access / water based activities/programs other than swimming (2)
- Diversity of activities for all ages (2)
- Bounce park
- Replace benches with more comfortable seating
- Beer sales
- Bring concerts back to Central park
- Improve safety (lighting, replace equipment)
- Gaga pits

Basketball
Playground slides are too steep and too curvy
Activities such as Pokemon action
Native plantings
Fireworks
Family science events
More seating for adults
Concessions or food options at parks
Tot lots
Bike track
Improve overall maintenance
Maze
More grills
More benches
Add seating along trails
Improve overall cleanliness
Story walks
Bird watching
Outdoor ice skating
Keep swings up in winter
Disc golf
Space for historic reenactments
Earth friendly education
Recycling bins at parks / recycling education
Shade for playgrounds
Coffee shop / sales at parks
Access to pathways in parks
Develop more of Community Park
Change nothing

Dot Poling

Participants were provided three visioning boards with park images related to recreation activities, programming, and park amenities, and were asked to place dots on their top three priorities for each board (three dots per board, nine total). Note that not everyone placed dots and some placed multiple dots and others just one or two. The top five priorities for each are noted below:

Recreation Priorities

1. Splash pad
2. Nature based play
3. Nature trails
4. Accessible boat launch

5. Shared-use non-motorized trails

Programming Priorities

1. Kayaking / paddle board rentals
2. Outdoor concerts / music
3. Designated beach / swimming
4. Farmer's market
5. Holiday Celebrations

Park Amenities

1. Water access
2. Restrooms
3. Dog park
4. Picnic pavilion
5. Tie - Habitat restoration and Wild life viewing

City of Walker – 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Notice of Plan Availability for Public Review and Comment

A draft of the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update for the City of Walker will be available for public review and comment for 30 days starting on December 20th, 2022 at 9:00 AM. Anyone interested may review the plan and provide comments.

Written comments may be sent to City of Walker Parks and Recreation Department, Walker City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd. NW, Walker, MI 49534.

Email comments may be sent to fwash@walker.city

Copies of the draft plan are on file in the Walker Community Development Department, which is located within Walker City Hall at 4243 Remembrance Road NW. Walker, MI. 49534.

The draft plan is also available for viewing at: www.walker.city

For more information contact:

Frank Wash, AICP, SHRM-CP
Walker Assistant City Manager
616-791-6850

Walker Parks Master Plan

Public Hearing Info

Verbatim posted to social media and walkermi.gov

City of Walker's 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

Notice of Plan Availability for Public Review and Comment

A draft of the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update for the City of Walker is now available for public review and comment for 30 days, beginning December 20th, 2022 at 9:00 AM. Anyone interested may review the plan and provide comments.

Click here to view the plan: <https://bit.ly/3PHVRPF>

✉ Written comments may be sent to City of Walker Parks and Recreation Department, Walker City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd. NW, Walker, MI 49534.

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Posted to City of Walker's social media pages on December 20, 2022



Post Reach-1,311
Engagement - 66



Impressions -71
Engagement - 6



Impressions -72
Engagement - 3



*Currently posted at
<https://walker.city/612/Walker-Parks-Master-Plan>*

**City of Walker
Notice of Public Hearing and Meeting
2023 Parks and Recreation Plan Update**

The Walker City Commission will conduct a public hearing as part of the regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 PM on Monday, February 13th, 2023 in the Commission Chambers located at City Hall 4243 Remembrance Rd NW, Walker, Michigan 49534.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments regarding the 2023 City of Walker Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Written comments may be sent to City of Walker Parks and Recreation Department, Walker City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd. NW, Walker, MI 49534.

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Frank Wash, AICP, SHRM-CP
Walker Assistant City Manager
616-791-6850



Grand Rapids Press

LEGAL AFFIDAVIT

AD# 0010575324

Total

\$136.00

State of Michigan,) ss

County of Kent and County of Ottawa)

Nancy Block being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of MLive Media Group; that Grand Rapids Press is a public newspaper published in the city of Grand Rapids, with general circulation in Kent and Ottawa county, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

Grand Rapids Press 02/09/2023

Nancy Block

Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of February 2023

Teasha R Payne

Notary Public

TEASHA R. PAYNE
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI
COUNTY OF MECOSTA
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026
ACTING IN COUNTY OF Kent



City of WALKER

City of Walker
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2023 Parks and Recreation Plan Update

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For more information contact:
Frank Wash, AICP, SHRM-CP
Walker Assistant City Manager
616-791-6850

10575324-01

Public Hearing

City of Walker Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Posted to City's social media on Wednesday, February 1



Posted to website Wednesday, February 1

Posted on: February 1, 2023

We Want to Hear From You!

Notice of Public Hearing and Meeting - 2023 Parks and Recreation Plan Update

The Walker City Commission will hold a public hearing as part of the regularly scheduled City Commission meeting on Monday, February 13th, at 7 pm. The meeting will be in the Commission Chambers located at City Hall 4243 Remembrance Rd NW, Walker, Michigan 49534.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive public comments regarding the 2023 City of Walker Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Written comments may be sent to City of Walker Parks and Recreation Department, Walker City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Rd. NW, Walker, MI 49534.

You may also [email](#) your comments to Assistant City Manager, Frank Wash.

Hard copies of the draft plan are on file in the Walker Parks and Recreation Department, which is located within the Walker Ice & Fitness Center at 4151 Remembrance Road NW, Walker, MI. 49534. You can also find the [online version on our website](#).

For more information, contact:
Frank Wash, AICP, SHRM-CP
Walker Assistant City Manager
(616) 791-6850

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Email](#)



**CITY COMMISSION AGENDA
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
4243 REMEMBRANCE RD. NW
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

6:30 PM

Committee of the Whole Meeting

- a) Discussion on Consent Agenda Items
- b) Parks and Recreation Committee Presentation on the new Parks and Recreation Master Plan

7:00 PM

Regular Commission Meeting

3. **Invocation** - Commissioner Gilbert

4. **Pledge of Allegiance**

5. **Roll Call** - Present: Mayor Gary Carey Jr., Commissioners Steven Gilbert, Thom Burke, Roxanne Deschaine, Jessica Babcock, Melanie Grooters and Elaina Huizenga-Chase

6. **Approval of Excused Absence**

Commissioner Grooters' Absence

7. **Approval of Minutes**

a) 1-23-2023 Commission Meeting Minutes

City Commission - 23 Jan 2023 - Minutes - Pdf

8.

Public Hearing

a) Parks and Recreation Master Plan

9.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

(5 minute limit per person)

10.

Consent Agenda

(All items under this section are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion with no discussion. If discussion is desired by a Commission member, that member may request removal of an item from the Consent Agenda.)

a) Expenditures in the amount of \$1,861,297.67

Check Disbursement Report 02-07-2023

b) Center Drive and Weatherford Drive Easement Agreements

Center Dr. and Weatherford Dr. Easements

c) Engineering Services Agreement for the Standale Downtown Development Authority Street Lighting Project

Engineering Services Agreement-DDA Lighting

11. **Resolutions**

- a) RES 23-660 Approval of New Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Walker 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Revised page 95 of the 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
RES 23-660 Adoption of the 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- b) RES 23-661 Appointment of Commissioner Steven Gilbert to the Emergency Planning Committee
RES 23-661 Appointment of Commissioner Steven Gilbert to the Emergency Planning Committee

12. **Other Public Comment**

13. **Commissioner and City Manager Comments**

14. **Adjournment**

15. **Meeting Schedule**

February 20, 2023 Commission Work Session at 6:30 PM

February 27, 2023 Commission Meeting at 6:30 PM

**CITY OF WALKER
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION 23-660

Resolution adopting the 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

At a regular meeting of the City Commission of the City of Walker, Michigan, held in the City Commission Chambers at Walker City Hall, 4243 Remembrance Road NW, Walker, Michigan, on Monday, the 13th day of February 2023 at 7:00 p.m., there were:

Present: Mayor Carey, Commissioners Gilbert, Babcock, Huizenga-Chase, Deschaine, and Burke

Absent: Commissioner Grooters

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Burke and supported by Commissioner Deschaine.

WHEREAS, the City of Walker has undertaken the development of a five (5) year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (the “Plan”), which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2023 and 2027; and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Walker were provided with well-advertised opportunities during the development of the draft Plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft of the Plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, the City of Walker has developed the Plan for the benefit of the entire community and desires to adopt the Plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held at the regularly scheduled City Commission meeting on February 13th at 7:00 PM to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Plan, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Walker City Commission hereby adopts the City of Walker 2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving recreation opportunities for the residents of the City of Walker.

Upon vote for the adoption of Resolution 23-660, the vote was:

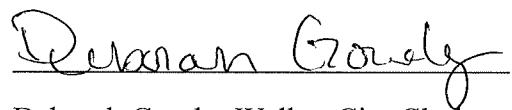
YEAS: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 1

The Resolution was thereupon declared adopted.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution 23-660 was adopted by the City of Walker City Commission at a regular meeting held on February 13th, 2023.



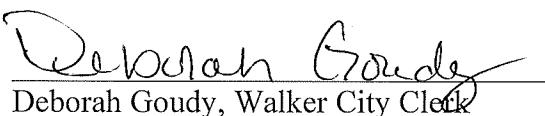
Deborah Goudy, Walker City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, being the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Walker, Kent County, Michigan, hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Walker at a regular meeting held this 13th day of February 2023, at which meeting a quorum was present and remained throughout, and that the resolution has not been amended or rescinded and that the original resolution is on file in the records of the City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, of the official signature of the Clerk and the seal of the City of Walker are hereunto affixed this 15th day of February 2023.

Dated: February 15, 2023



Deborah Goudy, Walker City Clerk



**CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
COMMISSION CHAMBERS
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2023
6:30 PM**

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, Erin Nowak, gave a presentation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan that they are submitting for the commission's approval. She went over the time line of how the committee arrived at their decision. The decision to hire Viridis as the consultant was made in August 2022 and the plan was accepted by the Parks and Recreation committee on January 24, 2023.

Parks and Recreation Committee member, Libby Bigelow, presented the highlights of the plan to the commission. She stated that they are presenting a 5 year plan with potential projects.

Assistant City Manager, Frank Wash gave feed back about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and summarized the priority list with the commission. He recommended to the commission that improvements for drainage to the soccer fields at City Central Park be made using funds from the 2023/2024 fiscal year budget. He also suggested the city look into a possible sinking fund for land acquisitions.

Discussion was held.

Regular Commission Meeting

Invocation by Commissioner Gilbert followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Mayor Gary Carey Jr., Commissioners Steven Gilbert, Thom Burke, Roxanne Deschaine, Jessica Babcock, and Elaina Huizenga-Chase

Approval of Excused Absence

Commissioner Grooter's Absence

Motion by Elaina A. Huizenga-Chase, seconded by Roxanne Deschaine to approve the absence of Commissioner Grooters. Motion Carried.

Approval of Minutes

1-23-2023 Commission Meeting Minutes

Motion by Elaina A. Huizenga-Chase, seconded by Thom Burke to approve the meeting minutes from the 1-23-2023 City Commission Meeting. Motion Carried.

Public Hearing

Opening of the public hearing for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Motion by Steven Gilbert, seconded by Thom Burke to approve opening the public hearing. Motion Carried.

Public Hearing Comments

Resident and Grand Rapids Pickleball Club member Susan Schmieder asked the Parks and Recreation committee and commission how many pickleball courts residents should expect. She suggested that the committee speak to an expert on pickleball before beginning construction on the courts.

Resident James Sterken brought up the proposed land acquisitions, primarily parcel 3; Greenridge, located in Ward 1. He suggested the city look into a leverage conservation easement and went on to explain how this could benefit the city.

Closing of the public hearing for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Motion by Elaina A. Huizenga-Chase, seconded by Roxanne Deschaine to approve closing the public hearing. Motion Carried.

Public Comment on Agenda Items - None

Consent Agenda

Expenditures in the amount of \$1,861,297.67, Center Drive and Weatherford Drive Easement Agreements, and Engineering Services Agreement for the Standale Downtown Development Authority Street Lighting Project.

Motion by Steven Gilbert, seconded by Jessica Babcock to approve the consent agenda. Motion Carried.

Resolutions

RES 23-660 Approval of New Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Motion by Thom Burke, seconded by Roxanne Deschaine to approve RES 23-660. Motion Carried.

RES 23-661 Appointment of Commissioner Steven Gilbert to the Emergency Planning Committee

Motion by Jessica Babcock, seconded by Elaina A. Huizenga-Chase to approve RES 23-661. Motion Carried.

Other Public Comment - None

Commissioner and City Manager Comments -

City Manager Schmalzel thanked the Finance Committee for their work on the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget and reminded the commission that City Hall will be closed Monday, February 20th in observance of President's day.

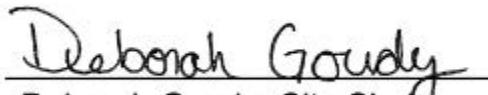
Assistant City Manager Wash referenced the upcoming Planning Commission meeting and thanked everyone that was involved with the Parks Master Plan.

Commissioner Gilbert toured the County Waste Energy Facility. He stated that the Planning Commission tabled the River Ridge PASP proposal on February 1st.

City Clerk Goudy told the commission that the City will be holding a May 2nd election for Comstock Park and Grandville School Districts.

Mayor Carey told the commission that the dispatch tour has been moved to March 20th at 5:00 pm. He attended Grand Rapids Chambers State of the Business annual address, an Economy Club meeting and a Kent County housing needs assessment.

Adjourned at 7:37 PM

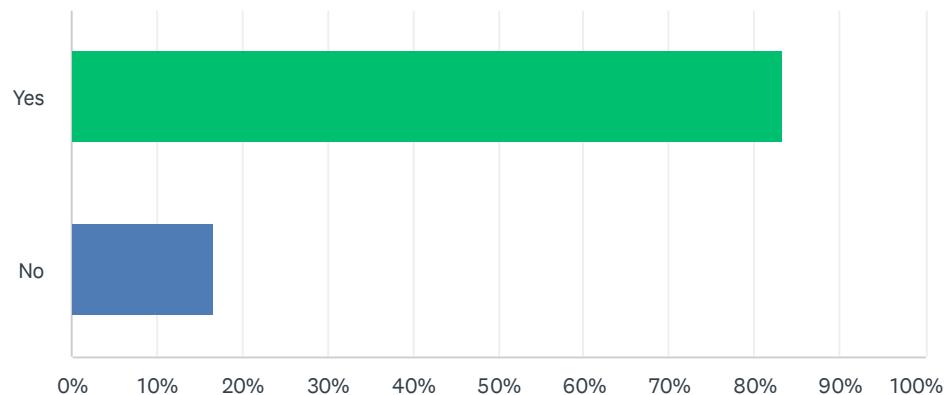


Deborah Goudy, City Clerk

On-Line Community Survey Results

Q1 Are you a resident of the City of Walker?

Answered: 282 Skipped: 0



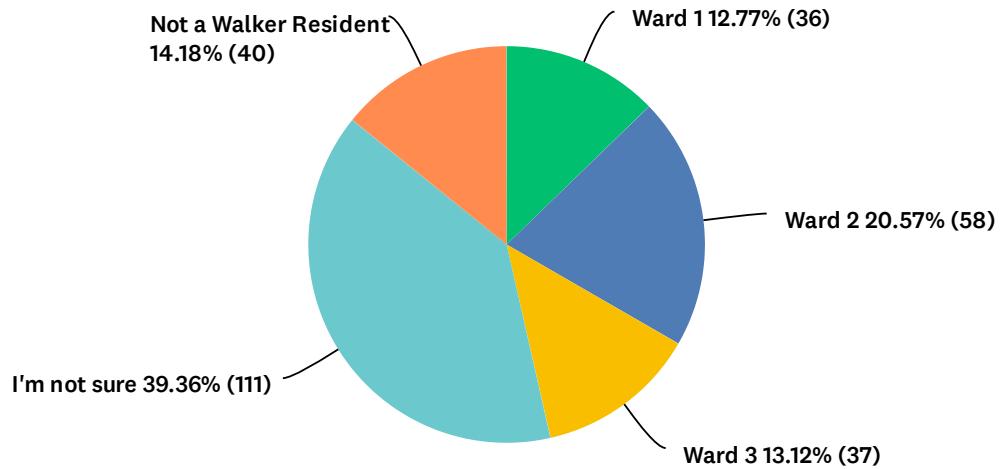
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		83.33%	235
No		16.67%	47
TOTAL			282

#	IF NO, WHERE DO YOU RESIDE?	DATE
1	Alpine Estates neighborhood	10/31/2022 6:58 AM
2	Comstock park	10/14/2022 3:07 PM
3	Tallmadge township	10/13/2022 4:35 PM
4	Westside grand Rapids	10/13/2022 11:41 AM
5	Grand Rapids	10/13/2022 11:06 AM
6	Elmridge estates	10/13/2022 9:09 AM
7	Grand Rapids northwest side	10/13/2022 8:57 AM
8	Maynard ave	10/13/2022 8:26 AM
9	Marne	10/13/2022 6:47 AM
10	Leonard and Oakleigh	10/12/2022 8:03 PM
11	NW GR, but husband is a WFD FF. We do a lot of business in Walker	10/12/2022 6:42 PM
12	Grand Rapids	10/12/2022 2:43 PM
13	Tallmadge	10/12/2022 1:57 PM
14	Grand Rapids	10/12/2022 1:54 PM
15	Nolan	10/12/2022 1:38 PM
16	Tallmadge. Work in Walker.	10/12/2022 1:33 PM
17	NW Grand Rapids	10/12/2022 1:24 PM
18	NW GR, a couple streets down from Walker limits	10/12/2022 1:13 PM

19	Grand Rapids NW	10/12/2022 1:01 PM
20	Grand Rapids	10/12/2022 12:14 PM
21	grand rapids	10/12/2022 11:55 AM
22	Tallmadge Township	10/12/2022 11:51 AM
23	Grand Rapids	10/12/2022 11:27 AM
24	Coopersville	10/12/2022 10:10 AM
25	Alpine	10/12/2022 9:06 AM
26	Out of town	10/12/2022 8:57 AM
27	2241 Orchard Ridge Dr	9/16/2022 12:33 PM
28	Ada	9/13/2022 12:09 AM
29	NW Grand Rapids	9/12/2022 5:31 PM
30	Alpine	9/11/2022 12:19 PM
31	Grand Rapids	9/10/2022 10:58 AM
32	Alpine Township	9/10/2022 10:53 AM
33	GR border to Walker	9/10/2022 9:03 AM
34	Grand Rapids Township, own a business in Walker	9/10/2022 8:55 AM
35	Near Covell and Leonard NW	9/10/2022 7:44 AM
36	Comstock Park	9/10/2022 6:35 AM
37	Allendale	9/9/2022 11:17 PM
38	Leonard and Oakleigh neighborhood	9/9/2022 10:40 PM
39	Grandville	9/9/2022 9:24 PM
40	Marne	9/9/2022 8:45 PM
41	NW Grand Rapids	9/9/2022 8:36 PM
42	Country lane, very close	9/9/2022 8:26 PM
43	Comstock Park	9/9/2022 7:24 PM
44	Newaygo	9/9/2022 8:44 AM
45	Grand Rapids, very close to Walker city lines	9/9/2022 8:32 AM
46	Grand Rapids	9/8/2022 1:26 PM
47	Marne	9/8/2022 12:06 PM
48	GRand Rapids	9/7/2022 1:23 PM

Q2 Which City Ward to do you reside in?

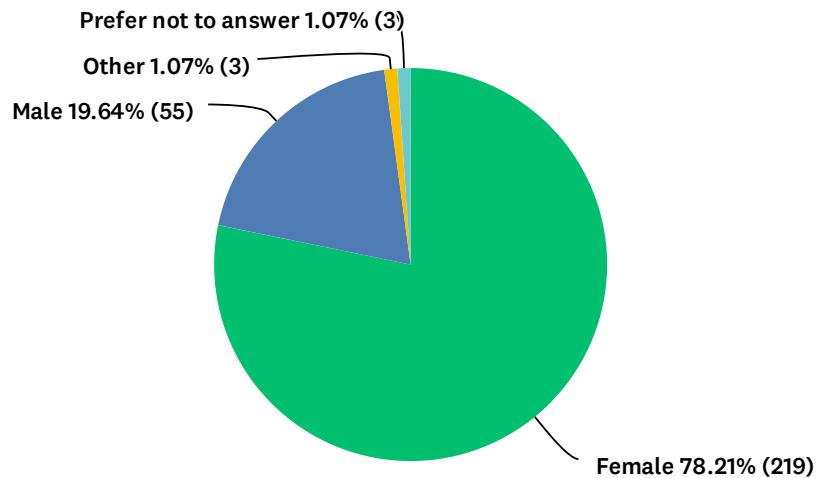
Answered: 282 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Ward 1	12.77%	36
Ward 2	20.57%	58
Ward 3	13.12%	37
I'm not sure	39.36%	111
Not a Walker Resident	14.18%	40
TOTAL		282

Q3 What gender do you identify with?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 2

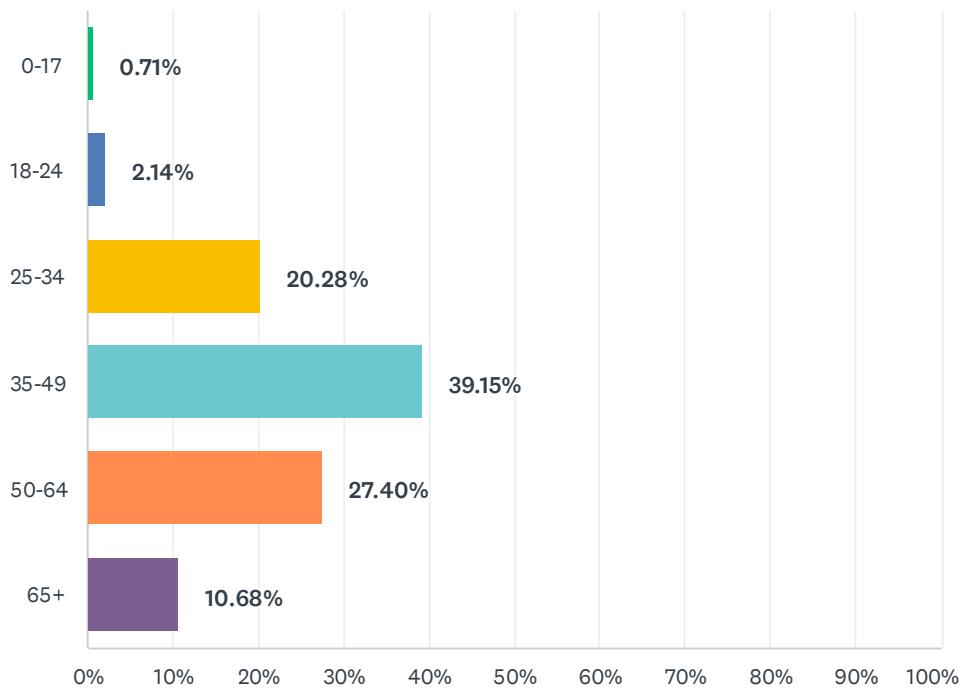


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Female	78.21%	219
Male	19.64%	55
Other	1.07%	3
Prefer not to answer	1.07%	3
TOTAL		280

#	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER	DATE
1	N/a	10/12/2022 1:31 PM
2	NA	10/10/2022 3:58 AM
3	0	9/14/2022 2:46 PM

Q4 What is your age?

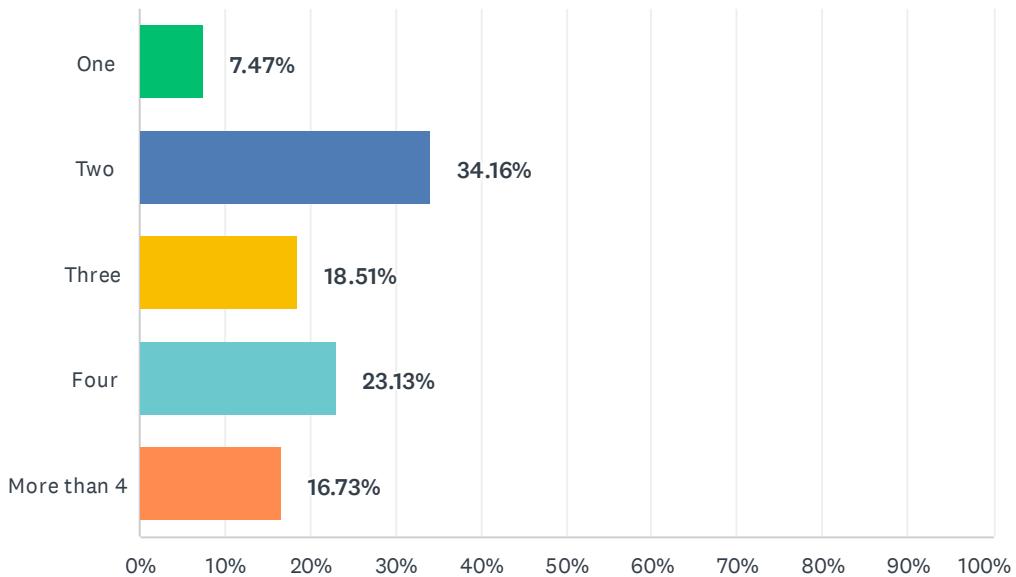
Answered: 281 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
0-17	0.71%
18-24	2.14%
25-34	20.28%
35-49	39.15%
50-64	27.40%
65+	10.68%
Total Respondents: 281	

Q5 How many persons are in your household?

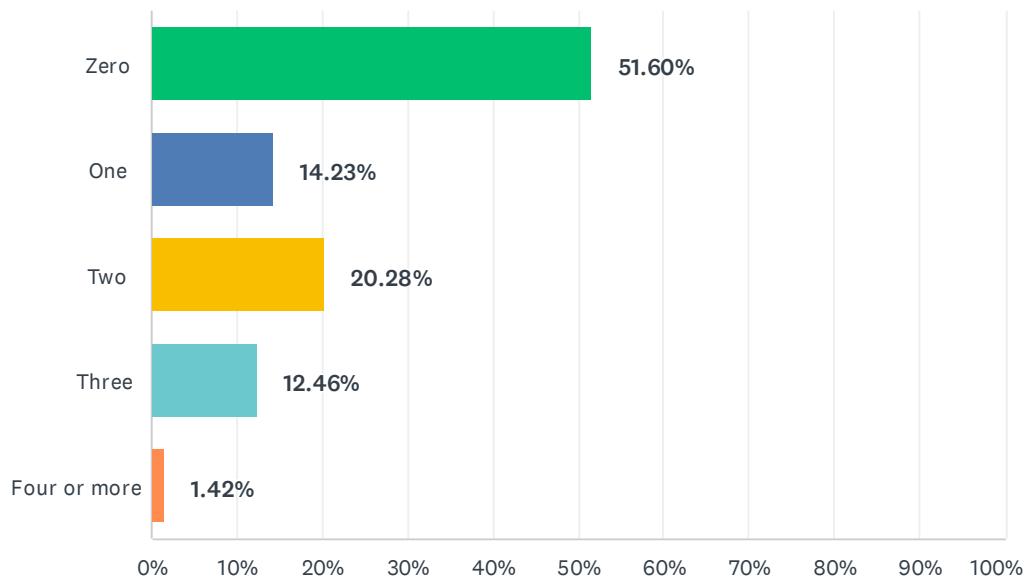
Answered: 281 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
One	7.47%	21
Two	34.16%	96
Three	18.51%	52
Four	23.13%	65
More than 4	16.73%	47
TOTAL		281

Q6 How many persons in your household are under the age of 17?

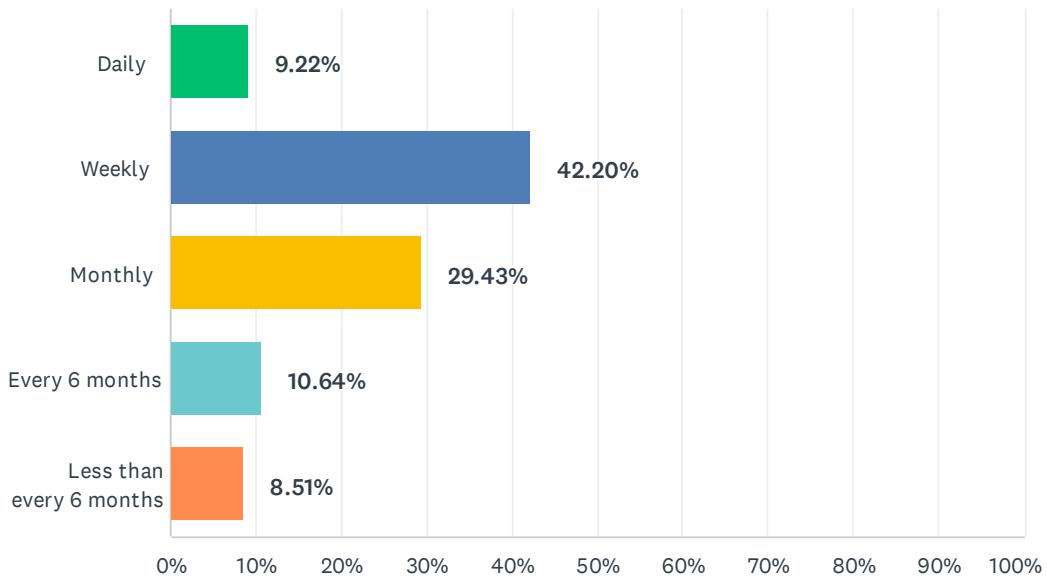
Answered: 281 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Zero	51.60%
One	14.23%
Two	20.28%
Three	12.46%
Four or more	1.42%
TOTAL	281

Q7 How often do you or your family members visit a park in the City of Walker?

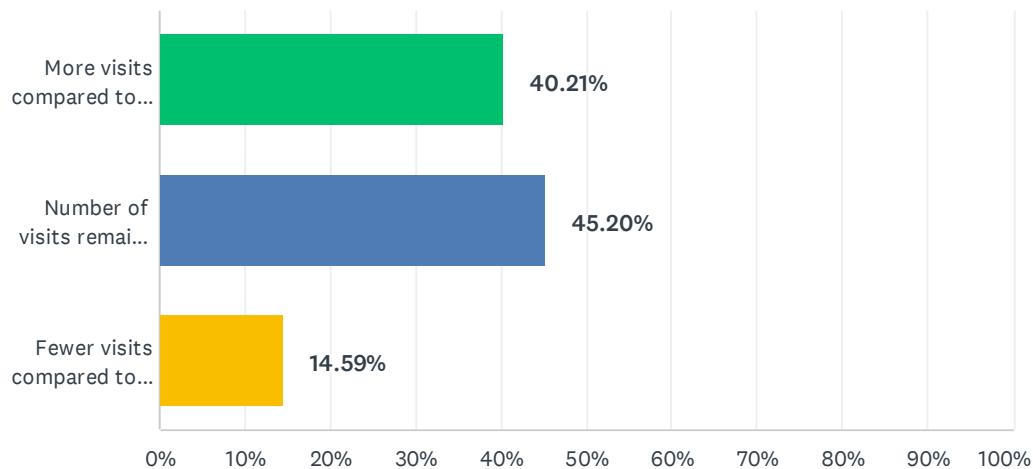
Answered: 282 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Daily	9.22%
Weekly	42.20%
Monthly	29.43%
Every 6 months	10.64%
Less than every 6 months	8.51%
TOTAL	282

Q8 How would you rate your frequency of park visits during the pandemic?

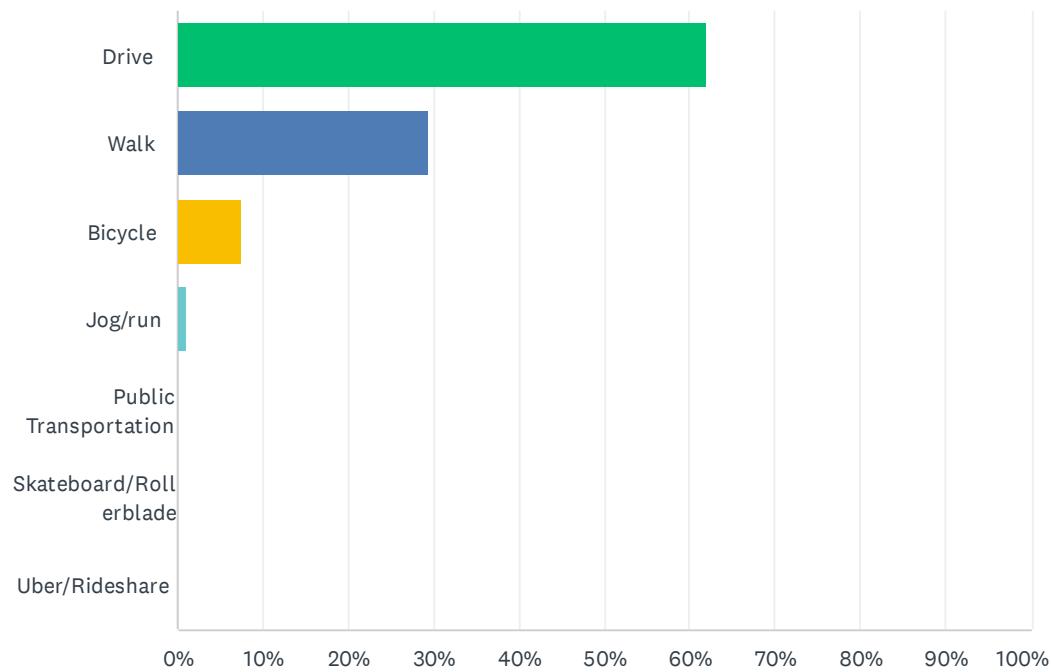
Answered: 281 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
More visits compared to pre-pandemic	40.21% 113
Number of visits remained the same	45.20% 127
Fewer visits compared to pre-pandemic	14.59% 41
TOTAL	281

Q9 What is your primary way of getting to a park?

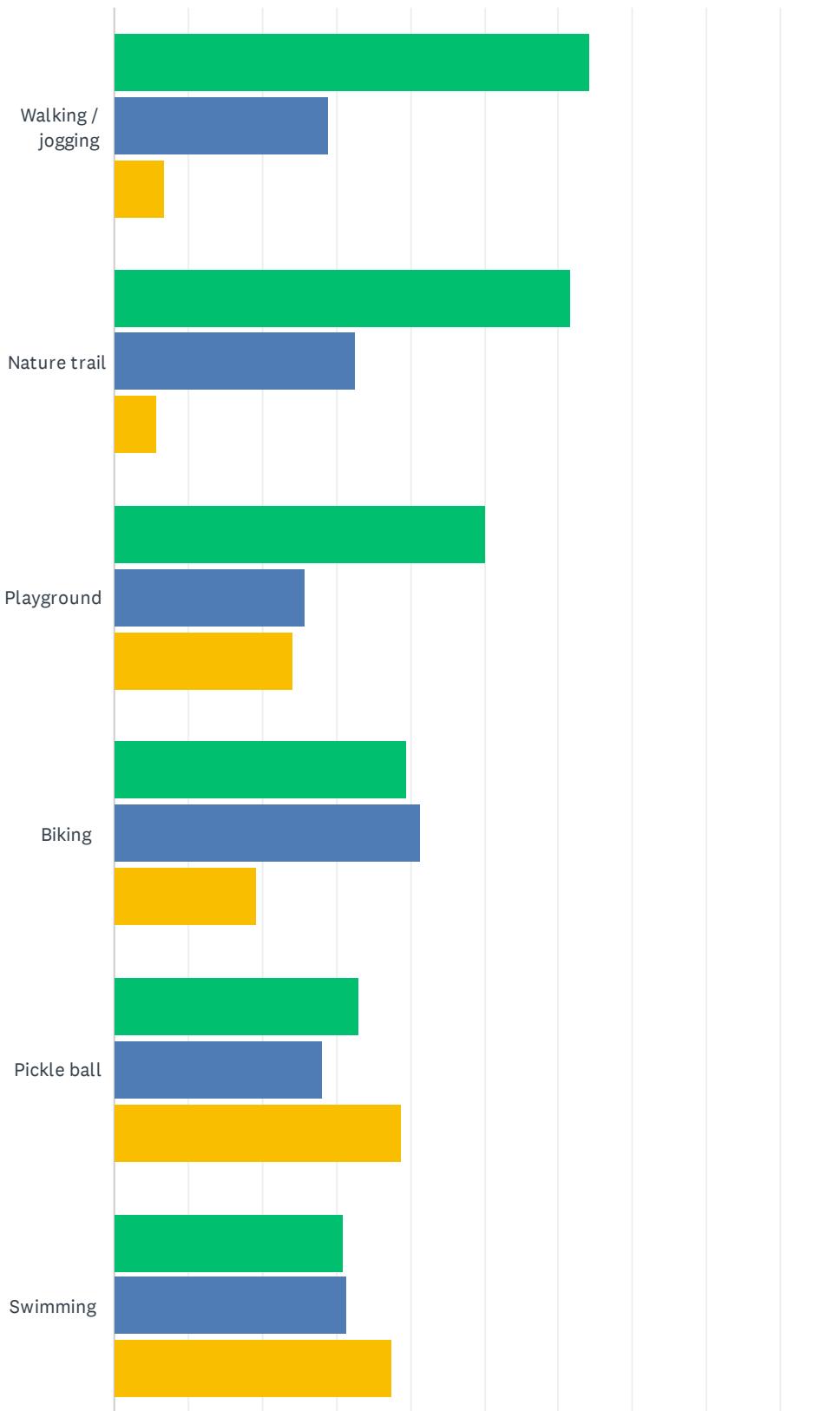
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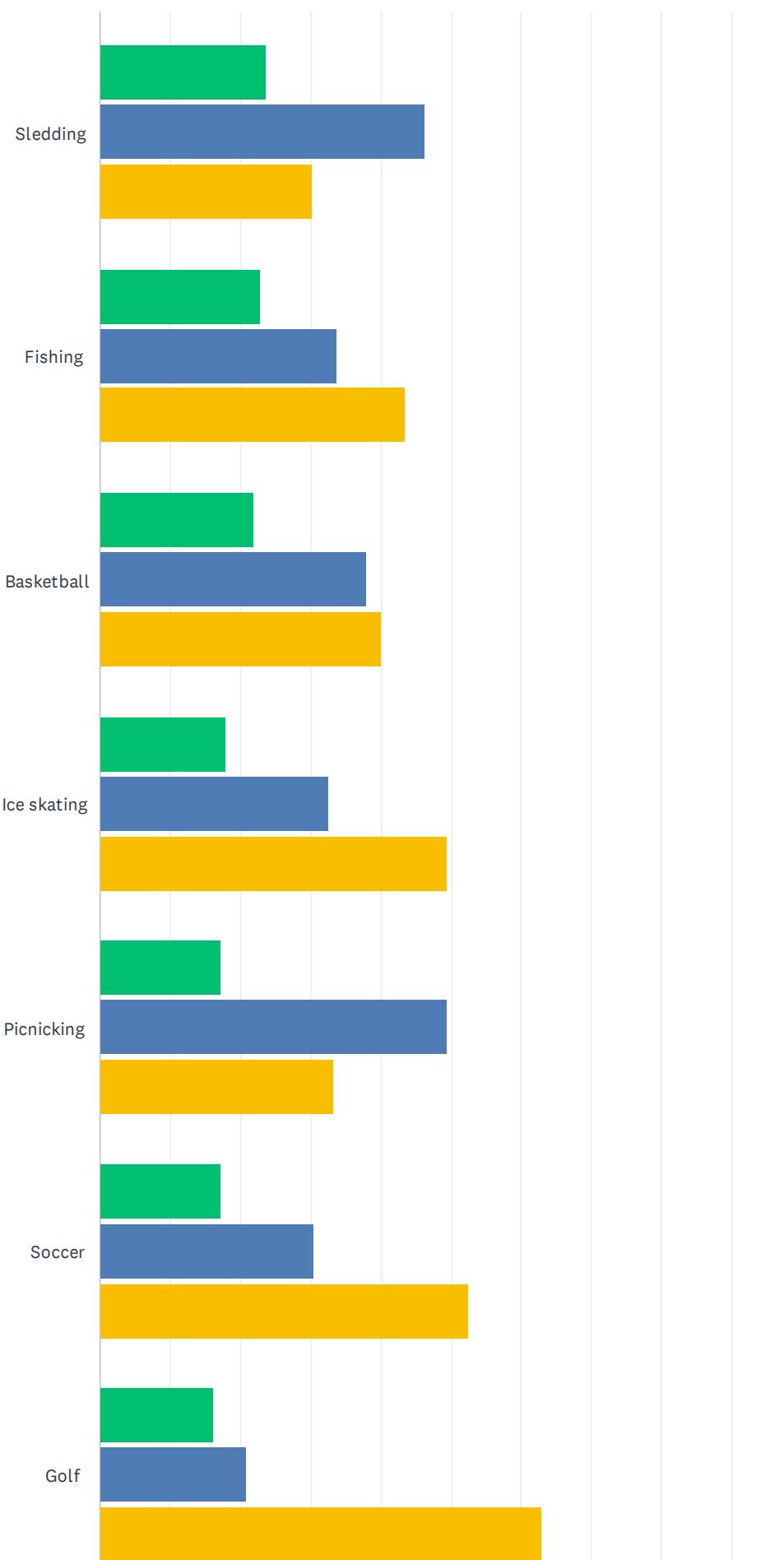


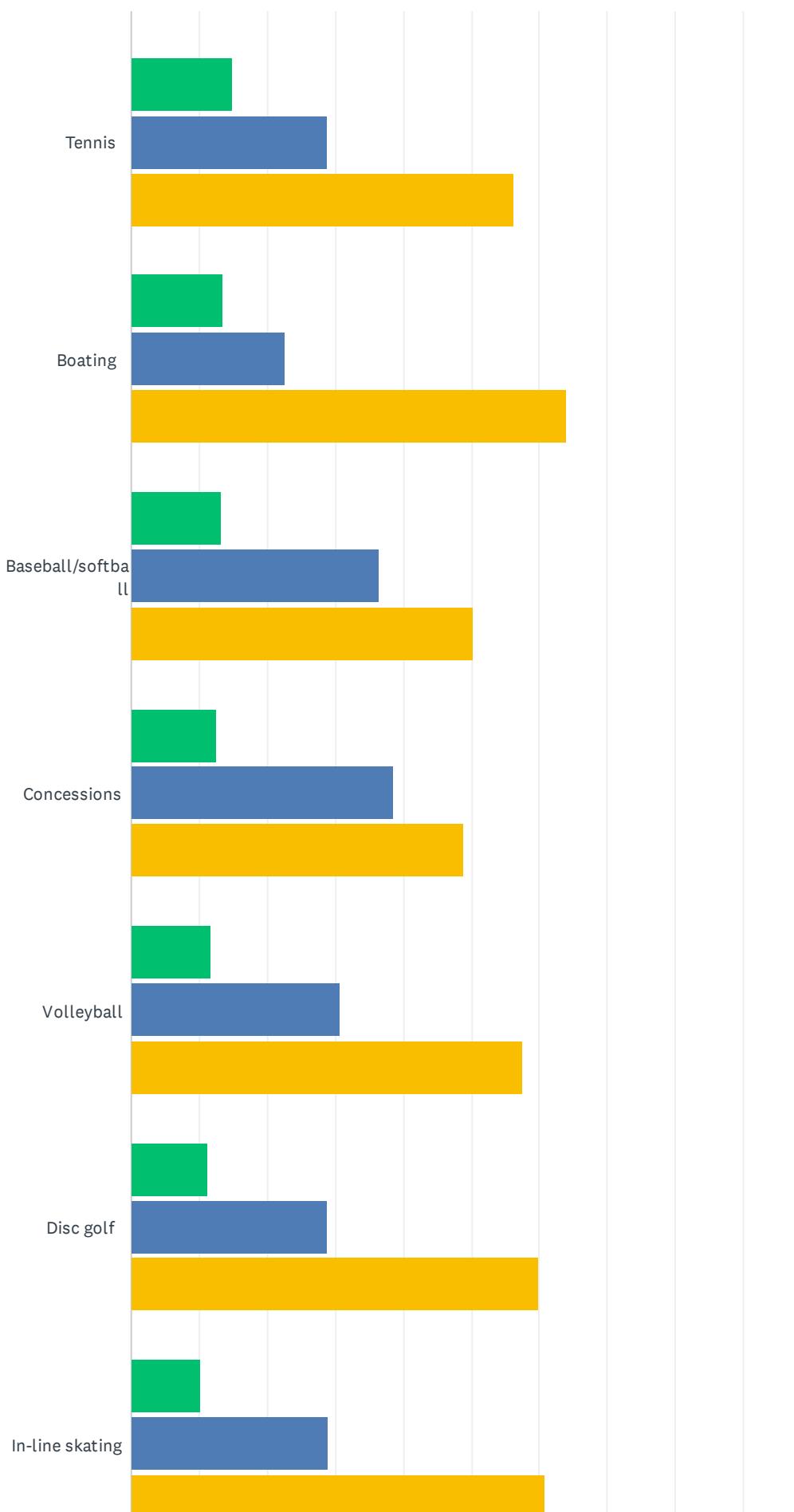
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Drive	62.06% 175
Walk	29.43% 83
Bicycle	7.45% 21
Jog/run	1.06% 3
Public Transportation	0.00% 0
Skateboard/Rollerblade	0.00% 0
Uber/Rideshare	0.00% 0
TOTAL	282

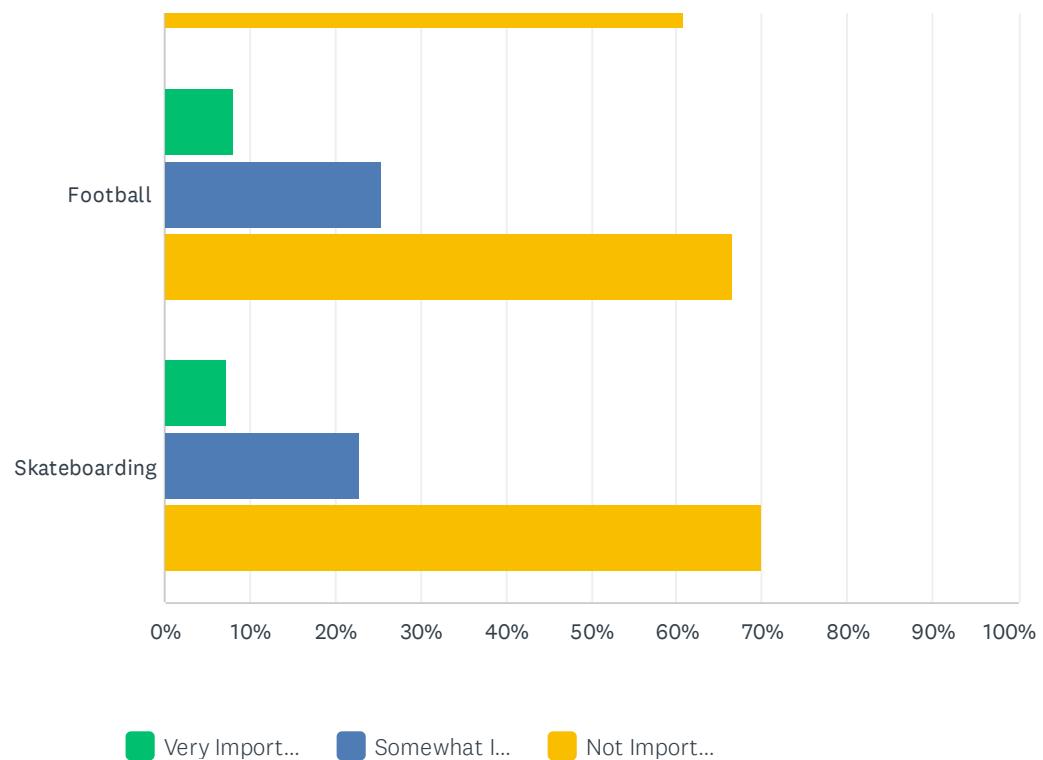
Q10 How important are each of the following recreational facilities to you or members of your household?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 2









	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Walking / jogging	64.16% 179	29.03% 81	6.81% 19	279	2.57
Nature trail	61.59% 170	32.61% 90	5.80% 16	276	2.56
Playground	50.18% 138	25.82% 71	24.00% 66	275	2.26
Biking	39.49% 109	41.30% 114	19.20% 53	276	2.20
Pickle ball	33.09% 92	28.06% 78	38.85% 108	278	1.94
Swimming	31.02% 85	31.39% 86	37.59% 103	274	1.93
Sledding	23.64% 65	46.18% 127	30.18% 83	275	1.93
Fishing	22.71% 62	33.70% 92	43.59% 119	273	1.79
Basketball	22.06% 60	37.87% 103	40.07% 109	272	1.82
Ice skating	17.82% 49	32.73% 90	49.45% 136	275	1.68
Picnicking	17.22% 47	49.45% 135	33.33% 91	273	1.84
Soccer	17.22% 47	30.40% 83	52.38% 143	273	1.65
Golf	16.18% 44	20.96% 57	62.87% 171	272	1.53
Tennis	14.96% 41	28.83% 79	56.20% 154	274	1.59
Boating	13.45% 37	22.55% 62	64.00% 176	275	1.49
Baseball/softball	13.14% 36	36.50% 100	50.36% 138	274	1.63
Concessions	12.50% 34	38.60% 105	48.90% 133	272	1.64
Volleyball	11.68% 32	30.66% 84	57.66% 158	274	1.54
Disc golf	11.31% 31	28.83% 79	59.85% 164	274	1.51
In-line skating	10.26% 28	28.94% 79	60.81% 166	273	1.49
Football	8.00% 22	25.45% 70	66.55% 183	275	1.41
Skateboarding	7.33% 20	22.71% 62	69.96% 191	273	1.37

#

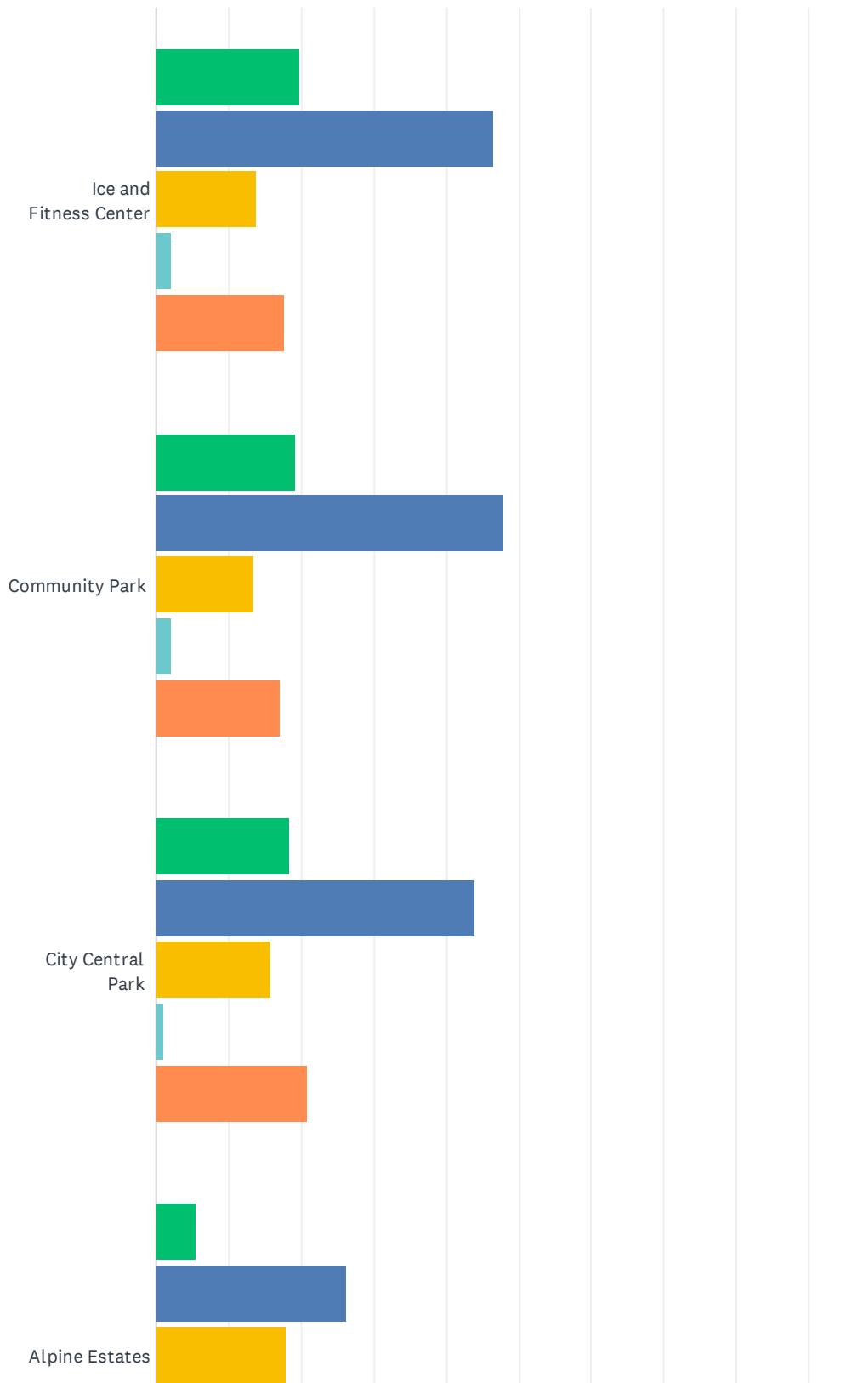
OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)

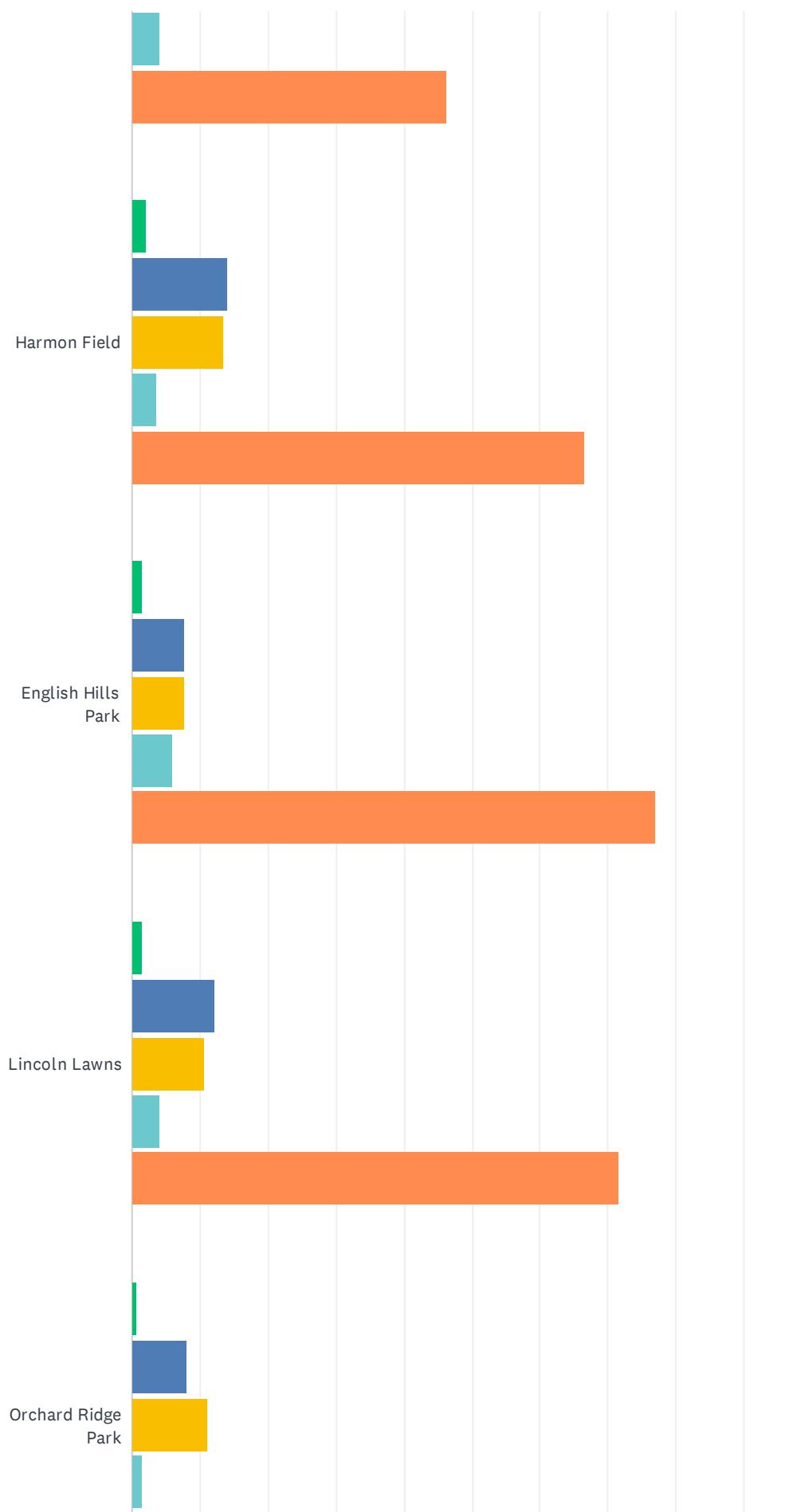
DATE

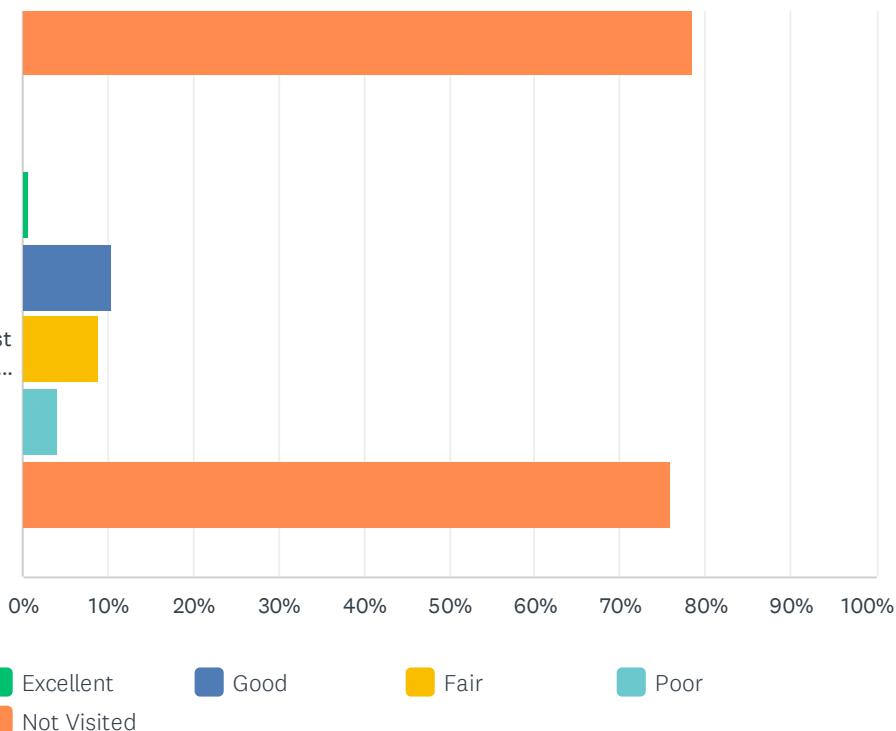
1	Pickleball is VERY important for health of our geriatric individuals! We need it in Walker	10/31/2022 7:51 PM
2	Splash pad!!!!	10/31/2022 6:58 AM
3	Wild spaces. Cross country skiing	10/26/2022 6:54 PM
4	Concert Area-Very Important	10/19/2022 1:35 AM
5	Restroom facilities, not porta-johns	10/17/2022 3:51 PM
6	Real pickle ball courts and nets like other communities have established	10/16/2022 11:07 PM
7	Programming to go along with the sports and facilities (nature walks, family sledding day, fishing derby, mile markers for a walking path, etc.)	10/13/2022 11:16 AM
8	Lacrosse fields would be nice	10/13/2022 9:09 AM
9	Shaded play areas - very important!	10/13/2022 8:54 AM
10	Some fruit trees would be awesome or some type of gardens. Even a wild flower garden. Something that gives back	10/13/2022 8:26 AM
11	Dog park	10/12/2022 3:32 PM
12	Natural playscapes	10/12/2022 2:01 PM
13	Outside fitness gym	10/12/2022 1:30 PM
14	Nature/wildlife experiences: very important!	10/12/2022 1:24 PM
15	Splash pad pleaseeeeeee :)	10/12/2022 11:59 AM
16	Dog walking	10/12/2022 11:51 AM
17	Hockey rinks please!!!	10/12/2022 11:02 AM
18	Splash pad	10/12/2022 10:04 AM
19	Bathrooms - very important	9/25/2022 9:12 AM
20	Splash park	9/17/2022 2:06 PM
21	Splashpads!	9/14/2022 10:11 PM
22	Loved the fact that I had PB courts to play my fav sport but were sadly taken away. Now I have to travel to other lucky parks to play.	9/10/2022 9:38 AM
23	WE NEED PICKLEBALL COURTS!!	9/9/2022 8:45 PM
24	A splash pad for the kids on the NW side of Walker (@Walker City Central Park or Walker Community Park) would be awesome!	9/9/2022 11:34 AM
25	Wildlife	9/9/2022 9:53 AM
26	Bathroom	9/9/2022 8:59 AM
27	Bird watching, wildlife, native plants/gardens	9/9/2022 8:32 AM
28	Splashpad	9/8/2022 12:06 PM

Q11 How would you rate the overall quality of existing park facilities in terms of amenities provided (restrooms, playgrounds, etc.)?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 2



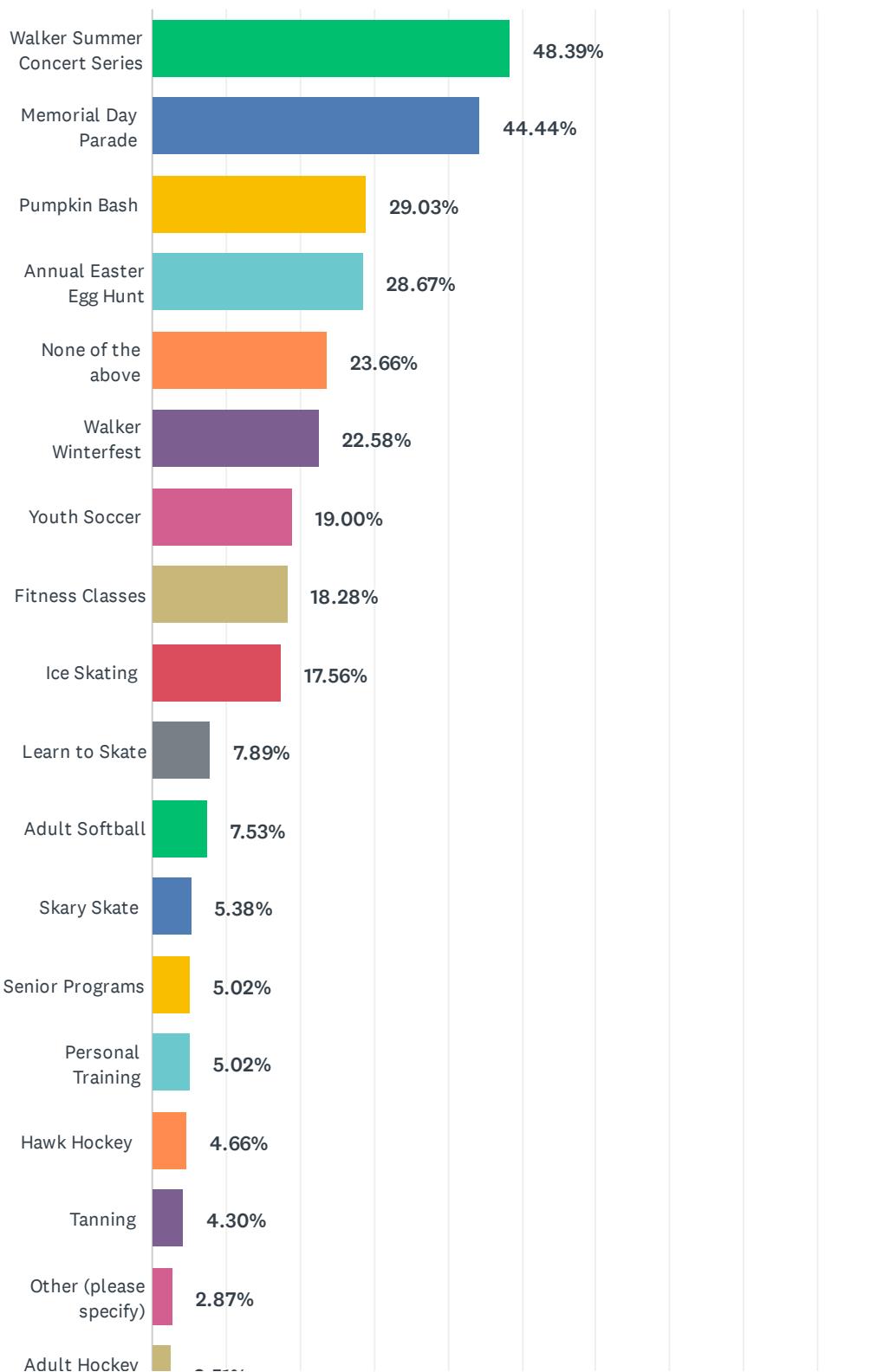


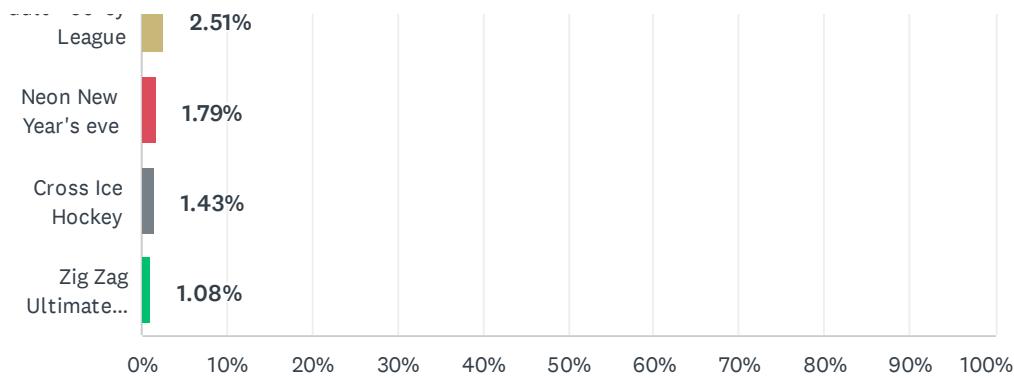


	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	NOT VISITED	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Ice and Fitness Center	19.93% 55	46.38% 128	13.77% 38	2.17% 6	17.75% 49	276	3.49
Community Park	19.27% 53	48.00% 132	13.45% 37	2.18% 6	17.09% 47	275	3.50
City Central Park	18.32% 50	43.96% 120	15.75% 43	1.10% 3	20.88% 57	273	3.38
Alpine Estates	5.47% 15	26.28% 72	17.88% 49	4.01% 11	46.35% 127	274	2.41
Harmon Field	2.23% 6	14.13% 38	13.38% 36	3.72% 10	66.54% 179	269	1.82
English Hills Park	1.48% 4	7.78% 21	7.78% 21	5.93% 16	77.04% 208	270	1.51
Lincoln Lawns	1.48% 4	12.18% 33	10.70% 29	4.06% 11	71.59% 194	271	1.68
Orchard Ridge Park	0.74% 2	8.15% 22	11.11% 30	1.48% 4	78.52% 212	270	1.51
West Chesterfield Park	0.74% 2	10.37% 28	8.89% 24	4.07% 11	75.93% 205	270	1.56

Q12 In which recreational events and programs offered by the City of Walker have you or members of your household participated during the last 12 months (select all that apply)?

Answered: 279 Skipped: 3





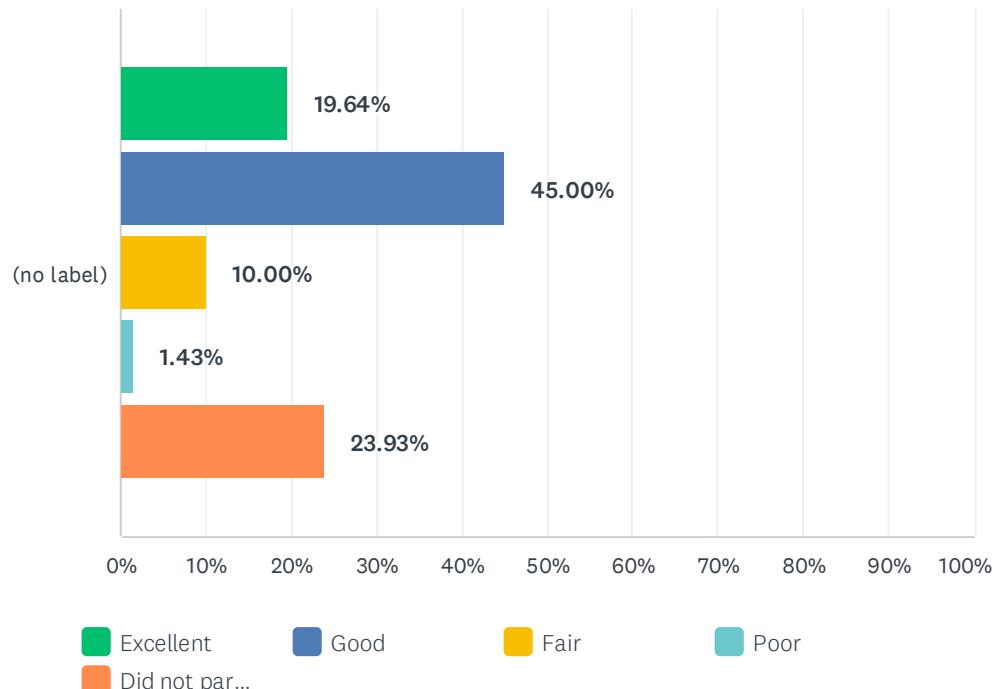
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Walker Summer Concert Series	48.39%
Memorial Day Parade	44.44%
Pumpkin Bash	29.03%
Annual Easter Egg Hunt	28.67%
None of the above	23.66%
Walker Winterfest	22.58%
Youth Soccer	19.00%
Fitness Classes	18.28%
Ice Skating	17.56%
Learn to Skate	7.89%
Adult Softball	7.53%
Skary Skate	5.38%
Senior Programs	5.02%
Personal Training	5.02%
Hawk Hockey	4.66%
Tanning	4.30%
Other (please specify)	2.87%
Adult Hockey League	2.51%
Neon New Year's eve	1.79%
Cross Ice Hockey	1.43%
Zig Zag Ultimate Frisbee	1.08%
Total Respondents: 279	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Pickle ball. Wish for more courts at community park and better maintained courts.	10/18/2022 8:08 AM

2	Tennis court usage but to play Pickleball since you ripped out the real pickle ball courts at Central Park	10/16/2022 11:07 PM
3	Soccer	10/13/2022 6:45 AM
4	WFD related open houses and events	10/12/2022 6:42 PM
5	Just moved here two months about but hope to participate in many of these!	10/12/2022 1:31 PM
6	Just moved here	10/12/2022 11:02 AM
7	Little League Baseball	9/9/2022 11:34 AM
8	Open the pickleball courts please!	9/8/2022 4:14 PM

Q13 How would you rate the overall quality of the recreation programs in which you or members of your household participated?

Answered: 280 Skipped: 2

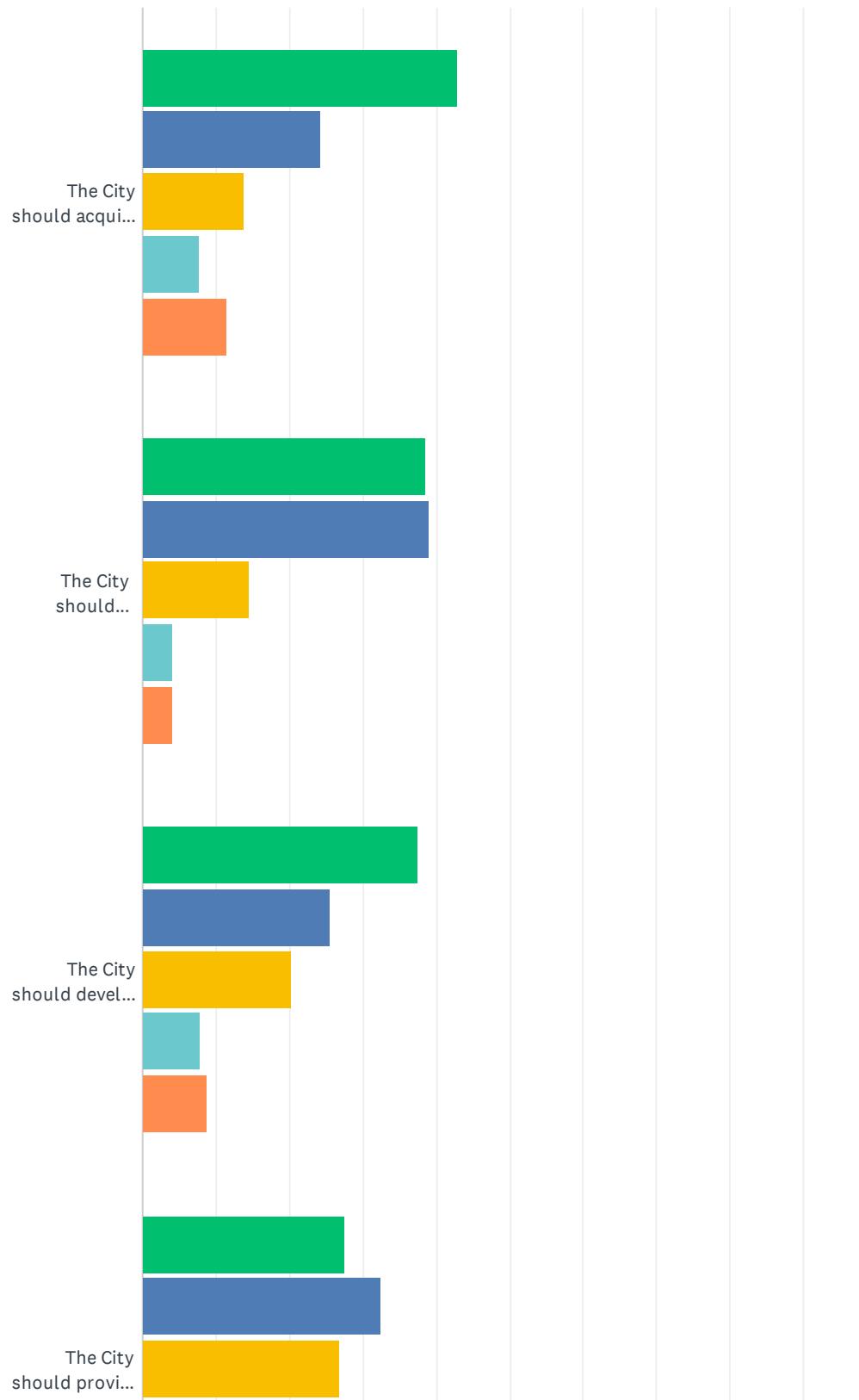


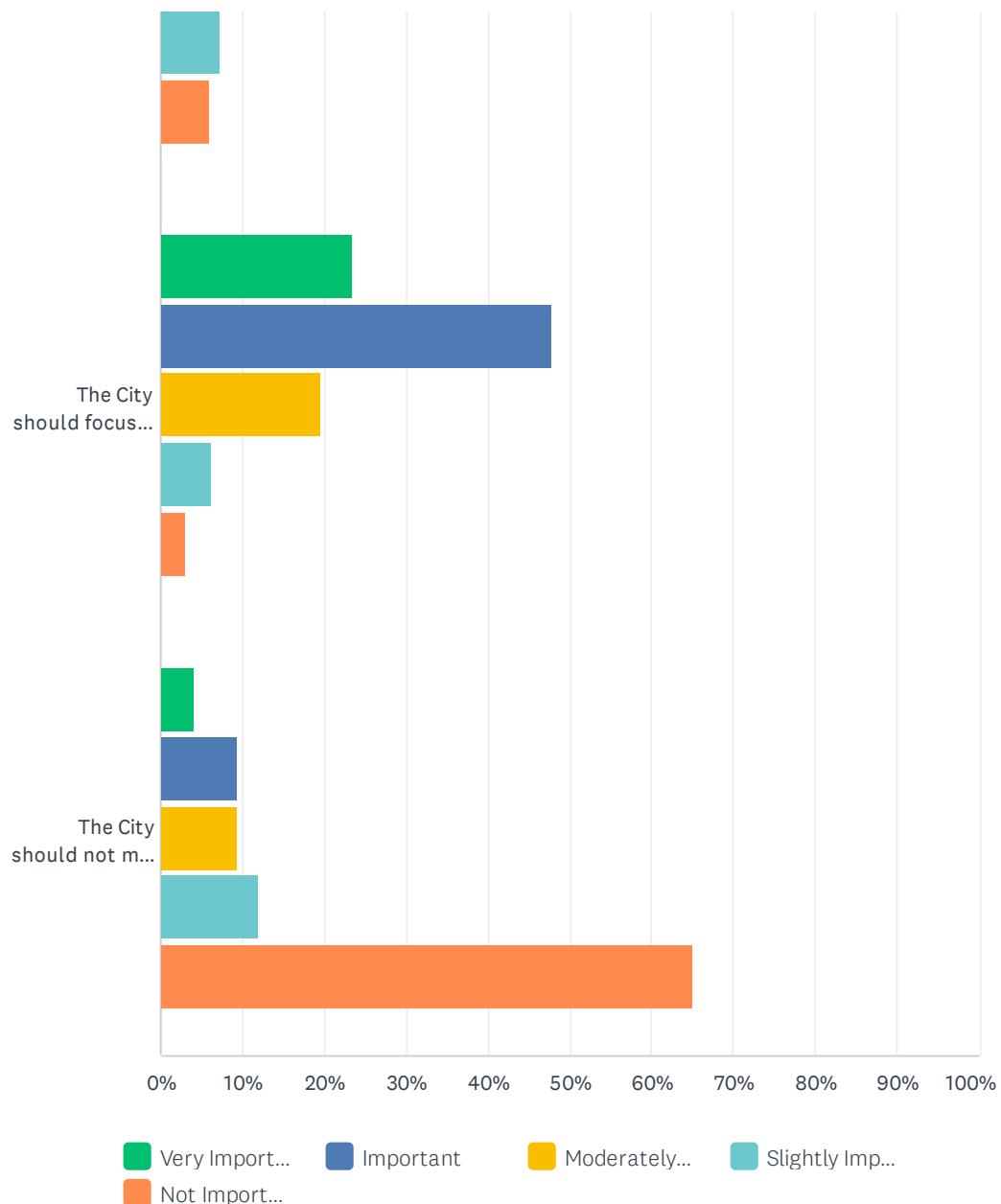
	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	DID NOT PARTICIPATE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	19.64% 55	45.00% 126	10.00% 28	1.43% 4	23.93% 67	280	2.65

#	PLEASE DESCRIBE REASON IF POOR RATING PROVIDED	DATE
1	Before the pandemic there was drop in hockey during the day, it has not been started up again	10/17/2022 12:34 PM
2	our kids are older but we LOVED all the sports and extra programming available through the walker rec dept. Would love more opportunities for empty nesters/adults!	10/13/2022 11:16 AM
3	Western LL needs help	9/14/2022 10:58 PM
4	Food trucks along parade route would be fun to have	9/14/2022 10:11 PM
5	No good pickleball courts!!	9/10/2022 9:32 AM
6	We are pickleball enthusiasts and there are not designated courts in Walker	9/9/2022 6:53 PM
7	No pickleball	9/8/2022 9:24 PM
8	Was not able to play pickleball in Walker because the courts are not open. Used nature trails outside of Walker because they are much nicer. It is sad that we pay Walker taxes and use other township/city facilities.	9/8/2022 4:14 PM

Q14 Indicate your opinion with the following to improve the Walker park system.

Answered: 279 Skipped: 3

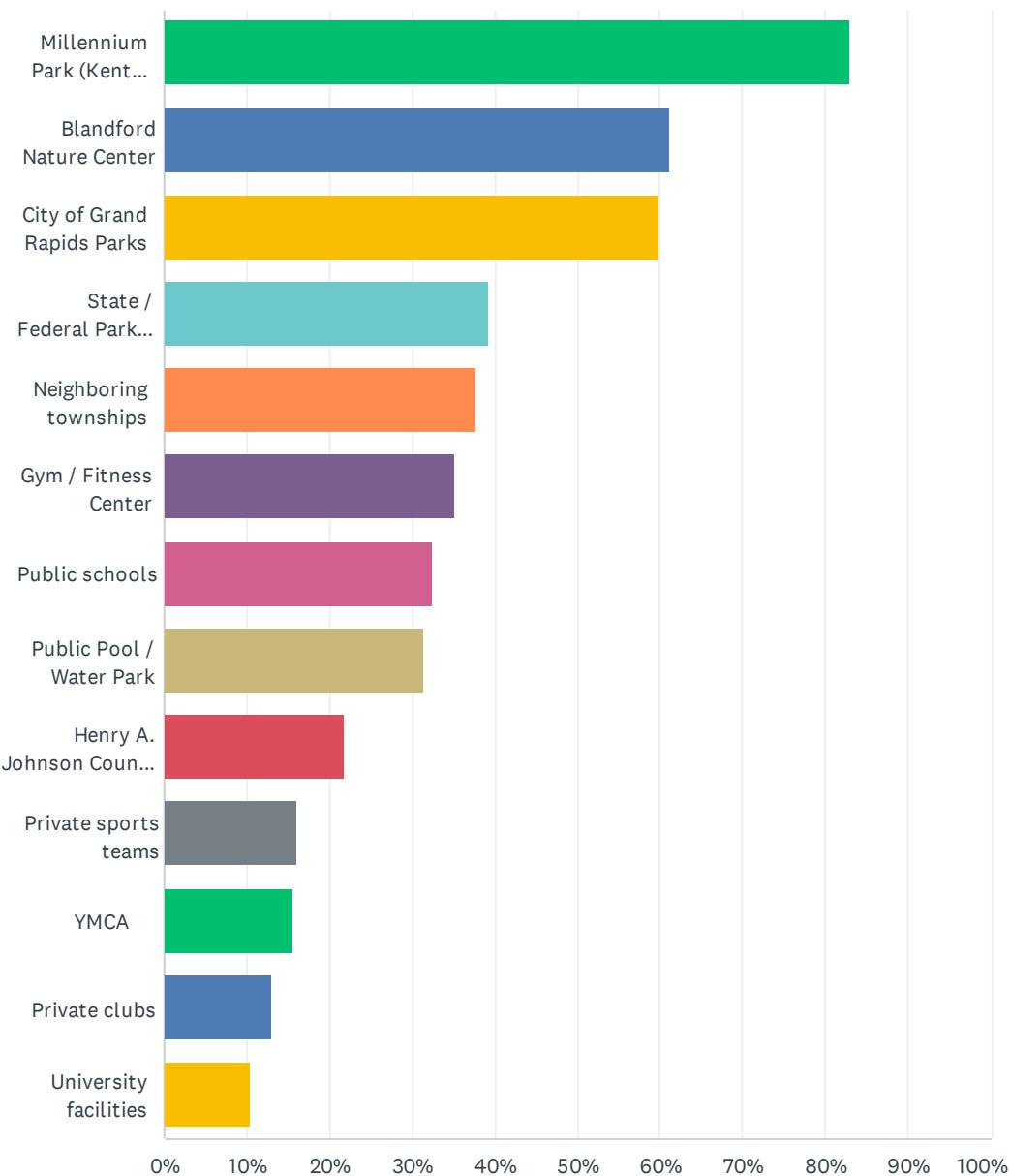




	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	MODERATELY IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
The City should acquire land for future parks and open space	42.75% 118	24.28% 67	13.77% 38	7.61% 21	11.59% 32	276	3.79
The City should redevelop/upgrade existing parks to support a broader range of activities	38.63% 107	38.99% 108	14.44% 40	3.97% 11	3.97% 11	277	4.04
The City should develop additional non-motorized trails	37.55% 104	25.63% 71	20.22% 56	7.94% 22	8.66% 24	277	3.75
The City should provide additional recreational programs and activities	27.57% 75	32.35% 88	26.84% 73	7.35% 20	5.88% 16	272	3.68
The City should focus effort on better maintenance of existing facilities	23.55% 65	47.83% 132	19.57% 54	6.16% 17	2.90% 8	276	3.83
The City should not make additional parks or changes to current facilities	4.14% 11	9.40% 25	9.40% 25	12.03% 32	65.04% 173	266	1.76

**Q15 What public/private recreational facilities outside of the city of Walker have you or members of your household used during the last 12 months?
(select all that apply)**

Answered: 275 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Millennium Park (Kent County)	82.91% 228
Blandford Nature Center	61.09% 168
City of Grand Rapids Parks	60.00% 165
State / Federal Park Land	39.27% 108
Neighboring townships	37.82% 104
Gym / Fitness Center	35.27% 97
Public schools	32.36% 89
Public Pool / Water Park	31.27% 86
Henry A. Johnson County Park	21.82% 60
Private sports teams	16.00% 44
YMCA	15.64% 43
Private clubs	13.09% 36
University facilities	10.55% 29
Total Respondents: 275	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Different softball fields in west Michigan	10/26/2022 11:27 AM
2	O	10/22/2022 1:17 AM
3	Tallmage park	10/18/2022 8:08 AM
4	Long Lake Park	10/15/2022 6:30 PM
5	Fred Meijer Gardens	10/12/2022 6:19 PM
6	Jenison and Georgetown parks are the best in the city. Would love to see ours look like theirs.	10/12/2022 3:07 PM
7	Camping at wabasis	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
8	Wedgewood park, Heritage park, Hagar park, Hughes park, Soccer Bowl	10/12/2022 1:54 PM
9	White Pine Trail	10/12/2022 1:38 PM
10	Library	10/12/2022 1:33 PM
11	Swim lessons!	10/12/2022 1:31 PM
12	None	10/12/2022 12:17 PM
13	Dog parks in Grand Rapids	10/12/2022 11:51 AM
14	Bike trails	9/11/2022 12:19 PM
15	Belknap Park - Pickleball!!	9/10/2022 8:55 AM
16	Belknap Pickleball courts daily	9/9/2022 9:24 PM
17	GRCC POOL	9/9/2022 8:36 PM
18	Belknap Pickleball Courts, Courtland TWP Pickleball courts, Cascade Pickleball courts	9/9/2022 6:53 PM
19	Pickleball courts	9/9/2022 2:35 PM
20	Pickleball courts in Byron Center, Talmadge Township, Belknap GR	9/8/2022 4:18 PM

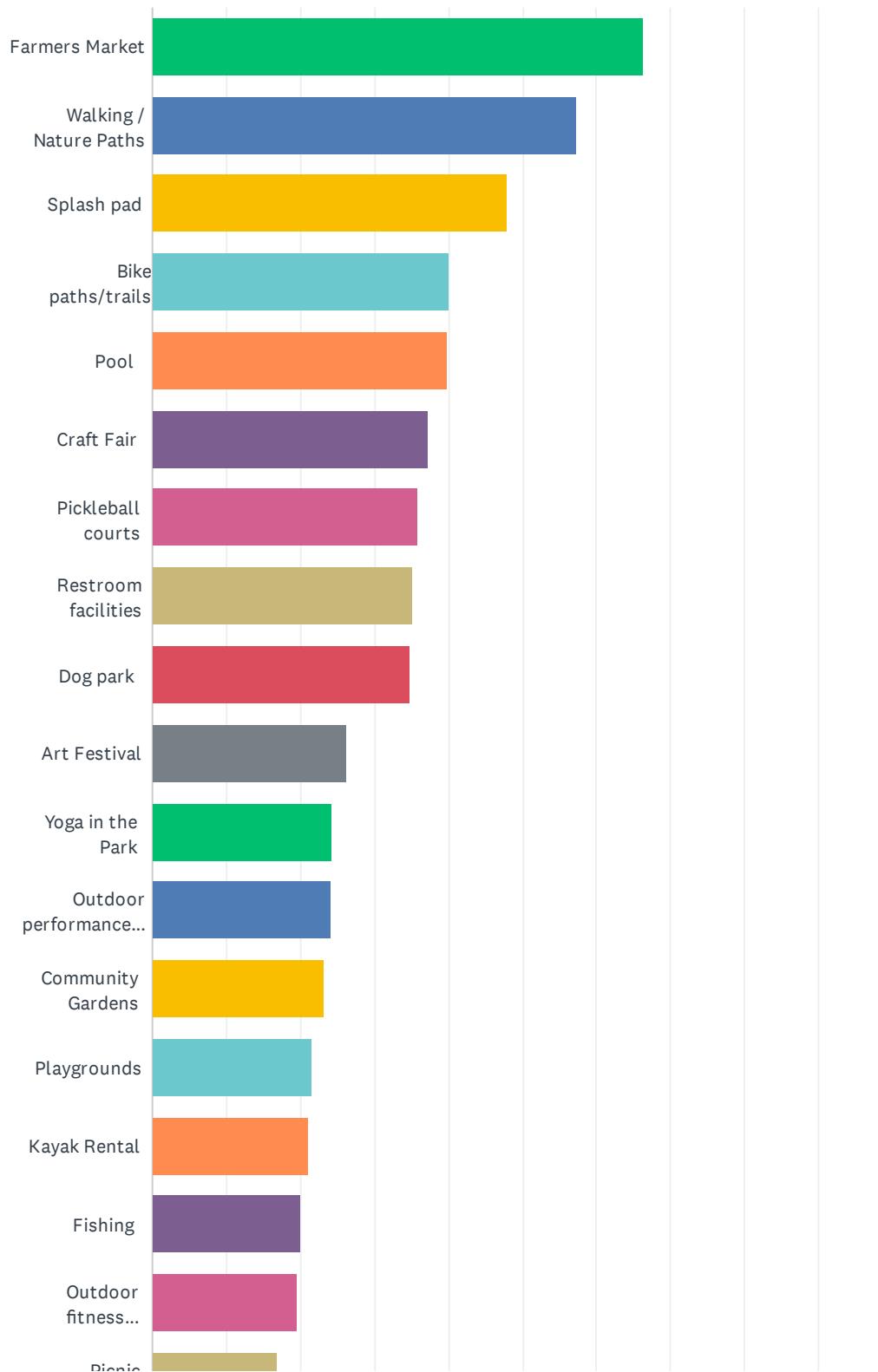
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Aman park

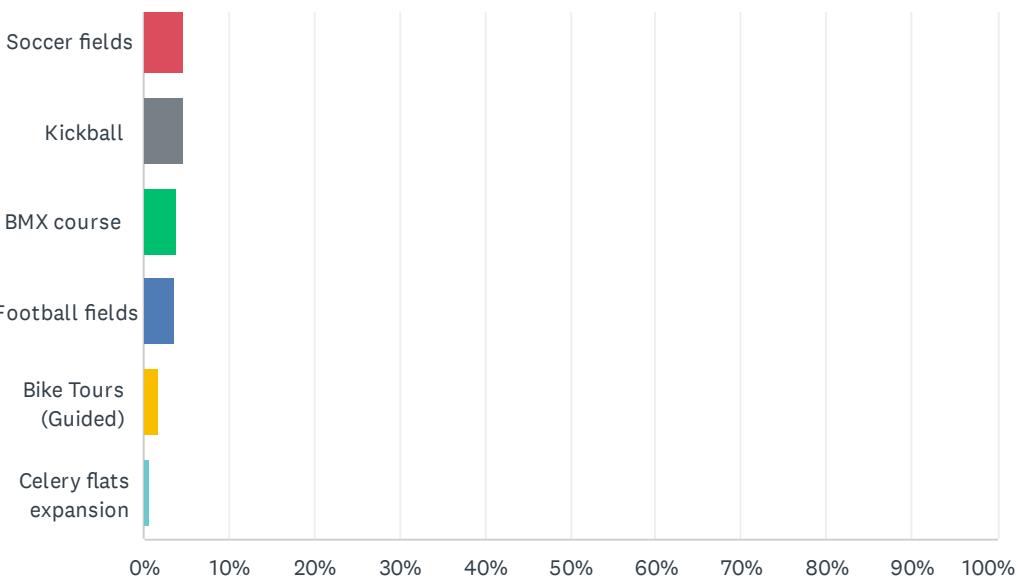
9/8/2022 4:10 PM

Q16 What are recreation facilities you would MOST LIKE TO SEE more of or added in the city to meet the needs of the members of your household? (select all that apply)

Answered: 279 Skipped: 3







ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Farmers Market	66.31% 185
Walking / Nature Paths	57.35% 160
Splash pad	48.03% 134
Bike paths/trails	40.14% 112
Pool	39.78% 111
Craft Fair	37.28% 104
Pickleball courts	35.84% 100
Restroom facilities	35.13% 98
Dog park	34.77% 97
Art Festival	26.16% 73
Yoga in the Park	24.37% 68
Outdoor performance space / amphitheater	24.01% 67
Community Gardens	23.30% 65
Playgrounds	21.51% 60
Kayak Rental	21.15% 59
Fishing	20.07% 56
Outdoor fitness facilities	19.71% 55
Picnic facilities	16.85% 47
Botanical garden with sculpture park	16.85% 47
Ice Skating	15.41% 43
Mountain Bike trail	15.05% 42
Sculpture garden / art in the park	14.70% 41
Camping (tent and RV)	14.34% 40
Disc golf	13.62% 38
Public Murals / Sculptures	12.90% 36
Concessions	12.19% 34
Outdoor Table Game Area	11.47% 32
Archery Park	10.75% 30
Historical museums/exhibits	10.04% 28
Food / Business Start-Up Classes	10.04% 28
Skate park	9.32% 26
Bike Tours (Self-Guided)	9.32% 26

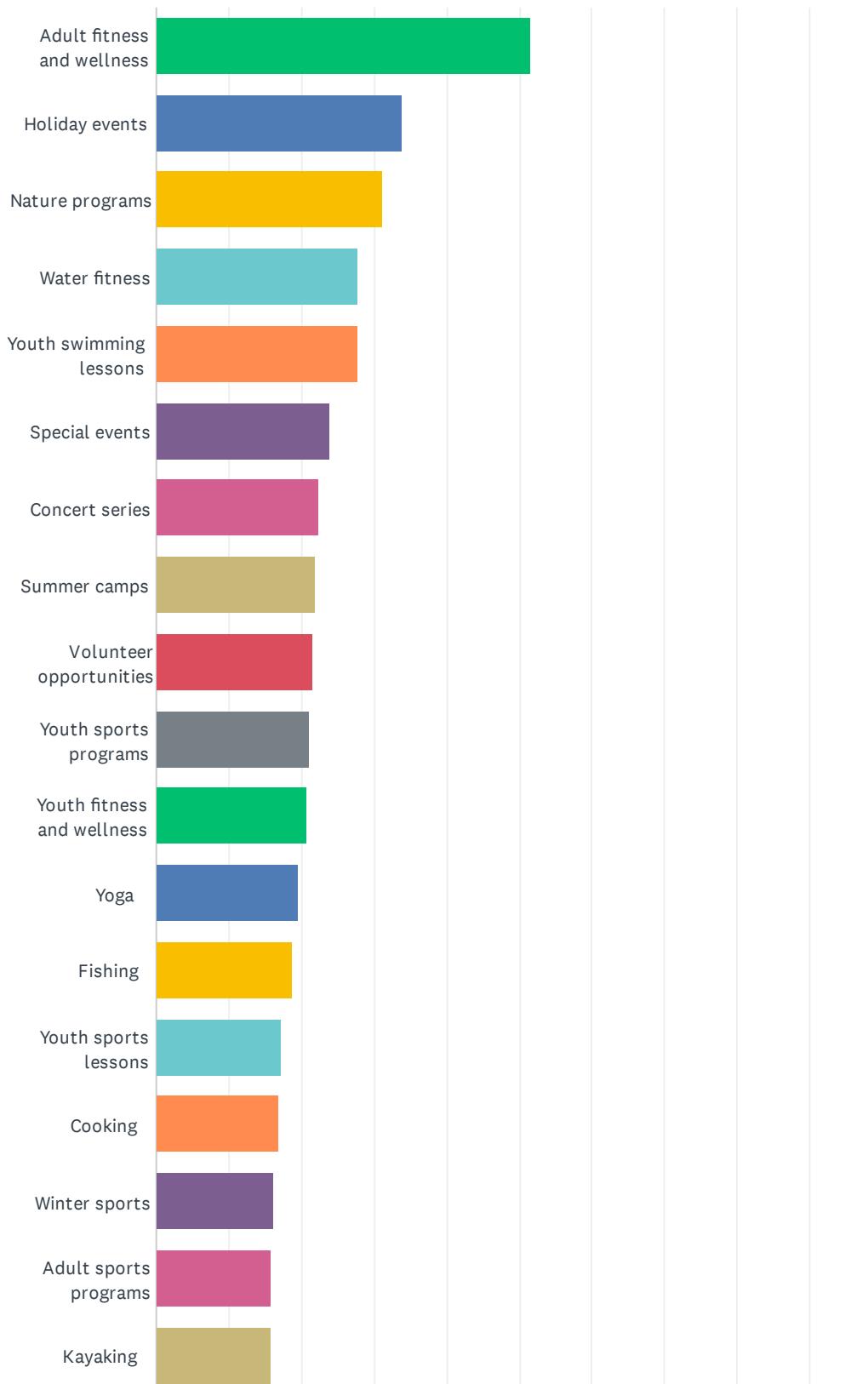
Baseball/softball fields	7.89%	22
Tennis courts	7.89%	22
Basketball courts	7.89%	22
Bike Rental	7.17%	20
Volleyball courts	6.81%	19
Art center exhibitions	6.81%	19
Soccer fields	4.66%	13
Kickball	4.66%	13
BMX course	3.94%	11
Football fields	3.58%	10
Bike Tours (Guided)	1.79%	5
Celery flats expansion	0.72%	2
Total Respondents: 279		

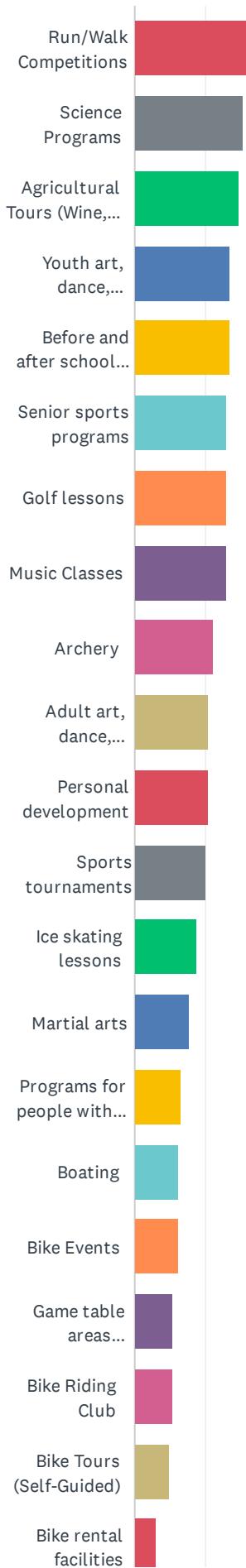
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Free splash pad next to a playground. Like the one in Sparta	10/20/2022 1:39 PM
2	Wildlife Center	10/13/2022 9:10 AM
3	Shade sails over current playgrounds	10/13/2022 8:54 AM
4	WIFC needs a second sheet of ice.	10/13/2022 8:04 AM
5	Playground in the style of the Matthew Koepke nature play playground at John Ball Zoo	10/12/2022 11:34 PM
6	Outdoor fitness center / equipment would be amazing.	10/12/2022 8:16 PM
7	Another ice rink. Could then have more tournaments. This would help the area's merchants, restaurants and hotels.	10/12/2022 4:25 PM
8	specifically toddler sized play equipment	10/12/2022 3:48 PM
9	Running club	10/12/2022 3:10 PM
10	Second sheet of ice	10/12/2022 2:04 PM
11	Outdoor ice skating rink	10/12/2022 1:47 PM
12	More community Ed offering. Work more to utilize and improv the library.	10/12/2022 1:33 PM
13	Swim lessons for kids!	10/12/2022 1:31 PM
14	Wildlife Rehab Center	10/12/2022 1:24 PM
15	Hockey!	10/12/2022 11:02 AM
16	A community pool with a splash pad, nature center and event room could have been beautifully done on Lincoln Golf Course without having to buy the whole piece of property. Standale is Walker's downtown and this area would have been right there. I believe some apts. and homes could have gone up and then the rest could have been a beautiful community area. This would have been an amazing compromise for all and also helped with the terrible traffic issues.	9/12/2022 1:06 PM
17	Roads w high runner traffic should have a running lane ie Butterworth. And more connections to millennium park from butterwoth	9/11/2022 2:41 PM
18	Pickleball league for seniors	9/11/2022 1:47 AM
19	Pickleball courts!! Many of them!!	9/10/2022 9:32 AM

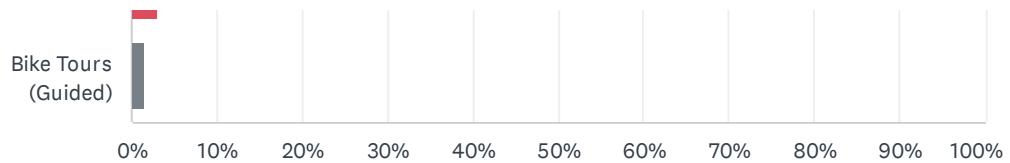
20	Native plants/ gardens!	9/9/2022 8:32 AM
21	We would really love and utilize a splash pad, and we already ice skate but skating time is limited due to the size of the facility so it would be nice to see another sheet of ice put in.	9/8/2022 1:26 PM

Q17 What recreation programs does your household have a NEED for? (select all that apply)

Answered: 260 Skipped: 22







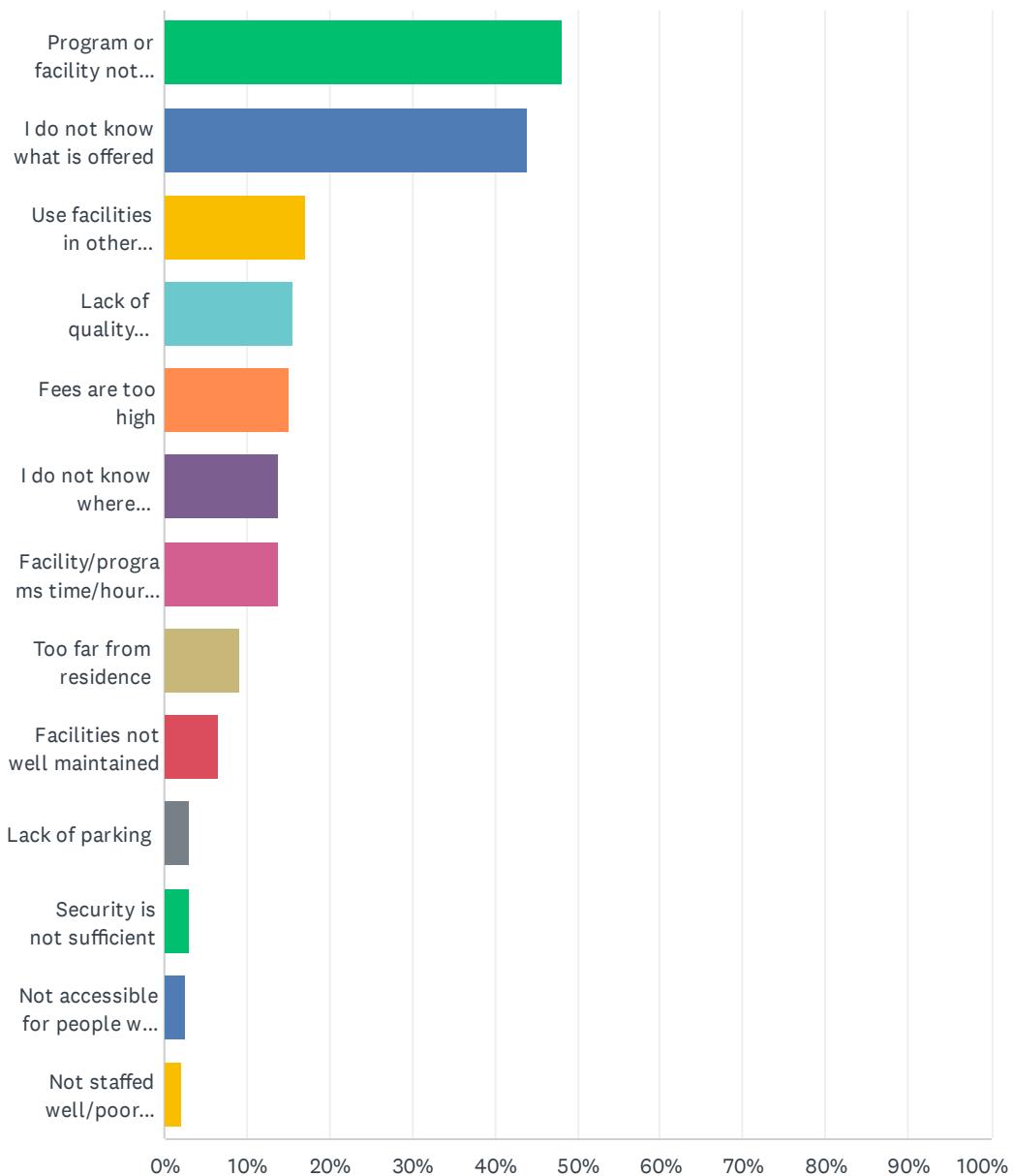
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Adult fitness and wellness	51.54% 134
Holiday events	33.85% 88
Nature programs	31.15% 81
Water fitness	27.69% 72
Youth swimming lessons	27.69% 72
Special events	23.85% 62
Concert series	22.31% 58
Summer camps	21.92% 57
Volunteer opportunities	21.54% 56
Youth sports programs	21.15% 55
Youth fitness and wellness	20.77% 54
Yoga	19.62% 51
Fishing	18.85% 49
Youth sports lessons	17.31% 45
Cooking	16.92% 44
Winter sports	16.15% 42
Adult sports programs	15.77% 41
Kayaking	15.77% 41
Run/Walk Competitions	15.77% 41
Science Programs	15.38% 40
Agricultural Tours (Wine, U-Pick Farms)	14.62% 38
Youth art, dance, performing arts	13.46% 35
Before and after school programs	13.46% 35
Senior sports programs	13.08% 34
Golf lessons	13.08% 34
Music Classes	13.08% 34
Archery	11.15% 29
Adult art, dance, performing arts	10.38% 27
Personal development	10.38% 27
Sports tournaments	10.00% 26
Ice skating lessons	8.85% 23
Martial arts	7.69% 20

Programs for people with disabilities	6.54%	17
Boating	6.15%	16
Bike Events	6.15%	16
Game table areas (chess/checkers)	5.38%	14
Bike Riding Club	5.38%	14
Bike Tours (Self-Guided)	5.00%	13
Bike rental facilities	3.08%	8
Bike Tours (Guided)	1.54%	4
Total Respondents: 260		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Figure skating!	10/20/2022 7:26 PM
2	Please bring back daytime drop in hockey	10/17/2022 12:34 PM
3	Farmer's market	10/13/2022 6:07 PM
4	Farmers market	10/13/2022 4:35 PM
5	Groomed XC ski trails	10/12/2022 6:46 PM
6	More non sport offering for families and kids.	10/12/2022 1:33 PM
7	Pickleball courts	9/15/2022 12:04 PM
8	Bathrooms and water fountains along bike path	9/14/2022 1:56 PM
9	Water aerobics for all those needing rehabilitation and swim lessons and water safety for all ages. Plus this could have helped Kenow Hills who has no pool and there could have been income from them to be allowed to use for not only swimming but water polo, diving etc. It could have been a win win for all. We don't need more apts. right now. The traffic on Lake Michigan Drive and Wilson is awful.	9/12/2022 1:06 PM
10	Pickleball courts	9/10/2022 10:22 AM
11	Pickleball	9/10/2022 9:45 AM
12	Pickleball courts!!	9/10/2022 9:32 AM
13	Pickleball courts	9/9/2022 9:24 PM
14	Pickleball courts	9/9/2022 8:45 PM
15	Pickleball club with multiple courts	9/9/2022 2:35 PM
16	Farmers market. We miss the farmers that used to sell at the location where Chick FIL A is now.	9/9/2022 8:32 AM
17	I wouldn't consider any of these NEEDS	9/9/2022 6:11 AM
18	N/A - none are a NEED.	9/7/2022 11:44 AM

Q18 What are reasons preventing you or members of your household from using parks, recreational facilities or programs more often? (select all that apply)

Answered: 239 Skipped: 43



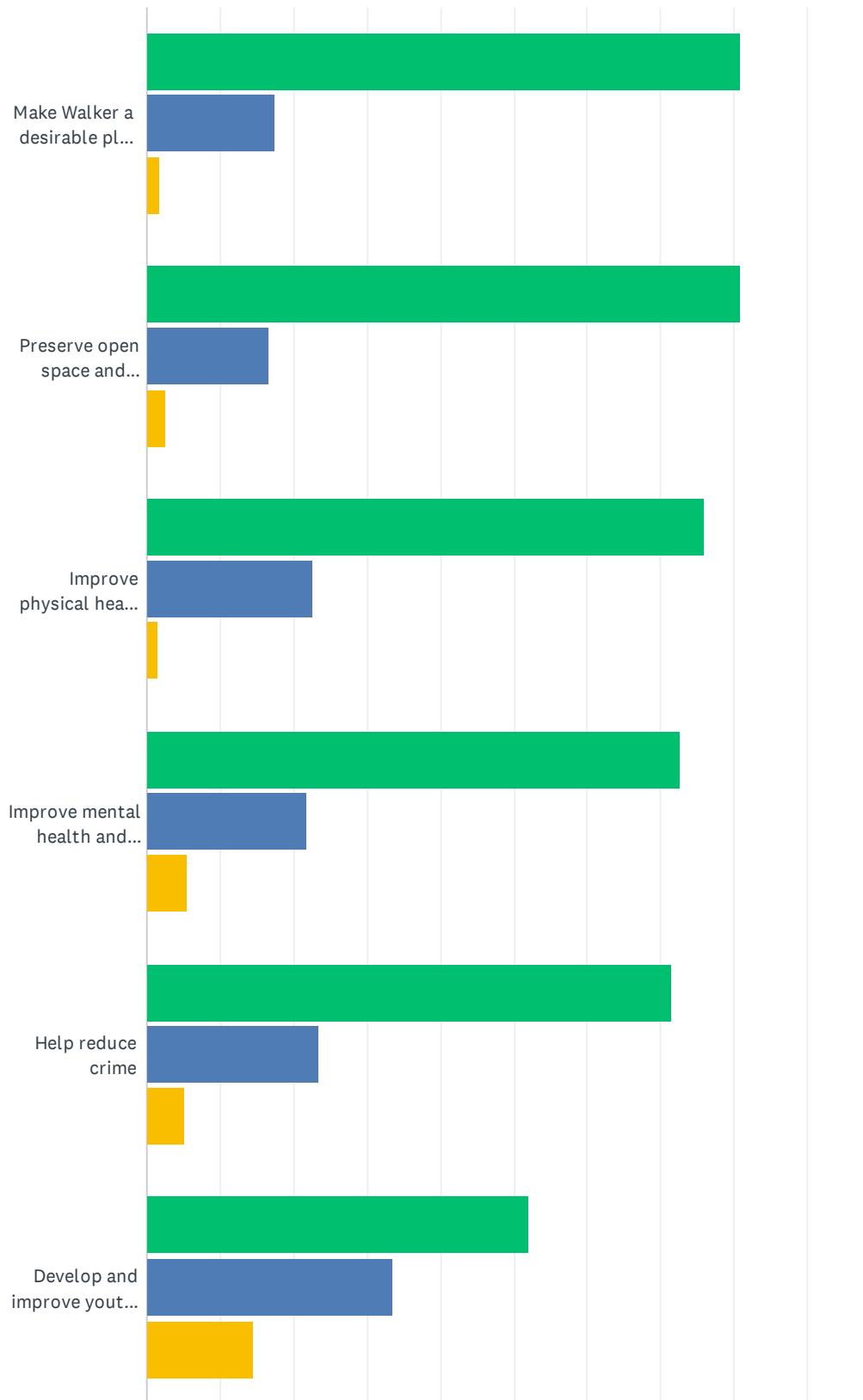
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Program or facility not offered	48.12% 115
I do not know what is offered	43.93% 105
Use facilities in other municipalities	17.15% 41
Lack of quality programs	15.48% 37
Fees are too high	15.06% 36
I do not know where facilities are	13.81% 33
Facility/programs time/hours of operation not convenient	13.81% 33
Too far from residence	9.21% 22
Facilities not well maintained	6.69% 16
Lack of parking	2.93% 7
Security is not sufficient	2.93% 7
Not accessible for people with disabilities	2.51% 6
Not staffed well/poor service	2.09% 5
Total Respondents: 239	

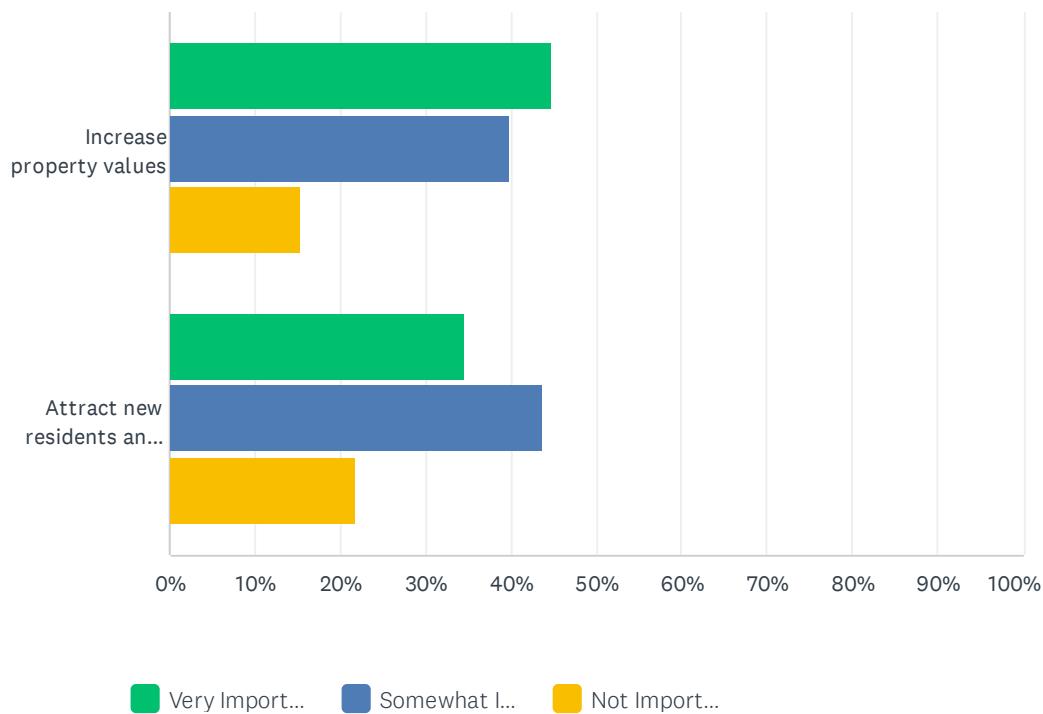
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	No indoor basketball	10/26/2022 11:27 AM
2	So busy with kids' activities already! But use the baseball fields often!	10/18/2022 8:19 AM
3	Pickleball courts	10/18/2022 8:08 AM
4	No longer offering drop in hockey	10/17/2022 12:34 PM
5	Personal time to do so	10/13/2022 12:02 PM
6	Most playgrounds are for younger kids not 8,9,10,11.	10/13/2022 8:26 AM
7	No indoor pool in our area!	10/12/2022 9:04 PM
8	No nearby pool to swim laps.	10/12/2022 6:20 PM
9	Better access to hiking biking trails in my neighborhood— too dangerous to walk or bike down O'Brien and CollinDale to access	10/12/2022 5:56 PM
10	Ice and fitness is too expensive for our family. Would love to be members	10/12/2022 1:02 PM
11	Timing of some events does not work for napping kids.	10/12/2022 12:40 PM
12	Still learning the area and where to go for info	10/12/2022 11:02 AM
13	Very busy	9/16/2022 2:03 PM
14	Pickleball court in community park is not maintained, lines are not markedwell and surface is not duality. Only one court for the largest growing sport in the country.	9/15/2022 12:22 PM
15	Pickleball court at community park in bad shape	9/15/2022 12:04 PM
16	Youth tennis lessons please!!!	9/14/2022 10:11 PM
17	Not enough time	9/14/2022 6:04 PM
18	Lack of pickleball courts	9/11/2022 1:47 AM
19	Travel three times a week to surrounding areas to play pickleball.	9/10/2022 11:43 AM

20	No good pickleball courts!	9/10/2022 9:32 AM
21	Need pickleball courts in Walker!!	9/10/2022 8:55 AM
22	Not enough pickleball courts	9/9/2022 11:17 PM
23	Pickleball courts taken away	9/9/2022 10:56 PM
24	Central Parks pickleball/tennis courts are in bad shape.	9/9/2022 8:45 PM
25	N/A	9/9/2022 6:11 AM
26	No pickleball courts	9/8/2022 4:18 PM
27	NA	9/7/2022 11:44 AM

Q19 Rank the benefits of parks, trails, and programs that are important to your household.

Answered: 279 Skipped: 3





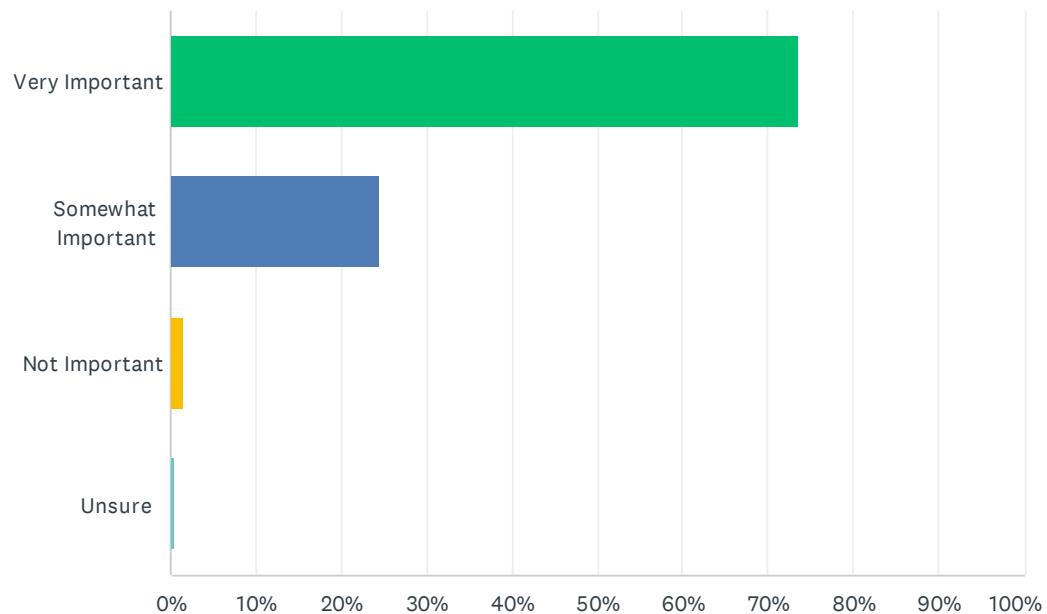
Very Important Somewhat Important Not Important

	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Make Walker a desirable place to live	80.80% 223	17.39% 48	1.81% 5	276	2.79
Preserve open space and environmental features	80.73% 222	16.73% 46	2.55% 7	275	2.78
Improve physical health and fitness	76.00% 209	22.55% 62	1.45% 4	275	2.75
Improve mental health and reduce stress	72.73% 200	21.82% 60	5.45% 15	275	2.67
Help reduce crime	71.43% 195	23.44% 64	5.13% 14	273	2.66
Develop and improve youth social skills and self-image	52.04% 140	33.46% 90	14.50% 39	269	2.38
Increase property values	44.69% 122	39.93% 109	15.38% 42	273	2.29
Attract new residents and businesses	34.56% 94	43.75% 119	21.69% 59	272	2.13

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Reduce industrial growth and maintain agricultural around 3 mile, Bristol, 4 mile, fruit ridge area	10/31/2022 6:58 AM
2	Develop community and meet new neighbors/people.	10/16/2022 5:14 PM
3	More single family nice homes. NO MORE APARTMENTS OR CONDOS!!	10/12/2022 1:57 PM
4	Preserve more land for nature and to enjoy wildlife, encourage people to get outside	10/10/2022 3:58 AM
5	Add more Pickleball courts	9/15/2022 12:04 PM
6	We need pickleball	9/9/2022 8:45 PM

Q20 How important is it to you that the city provide quality recreation programs, events and services to citizens?

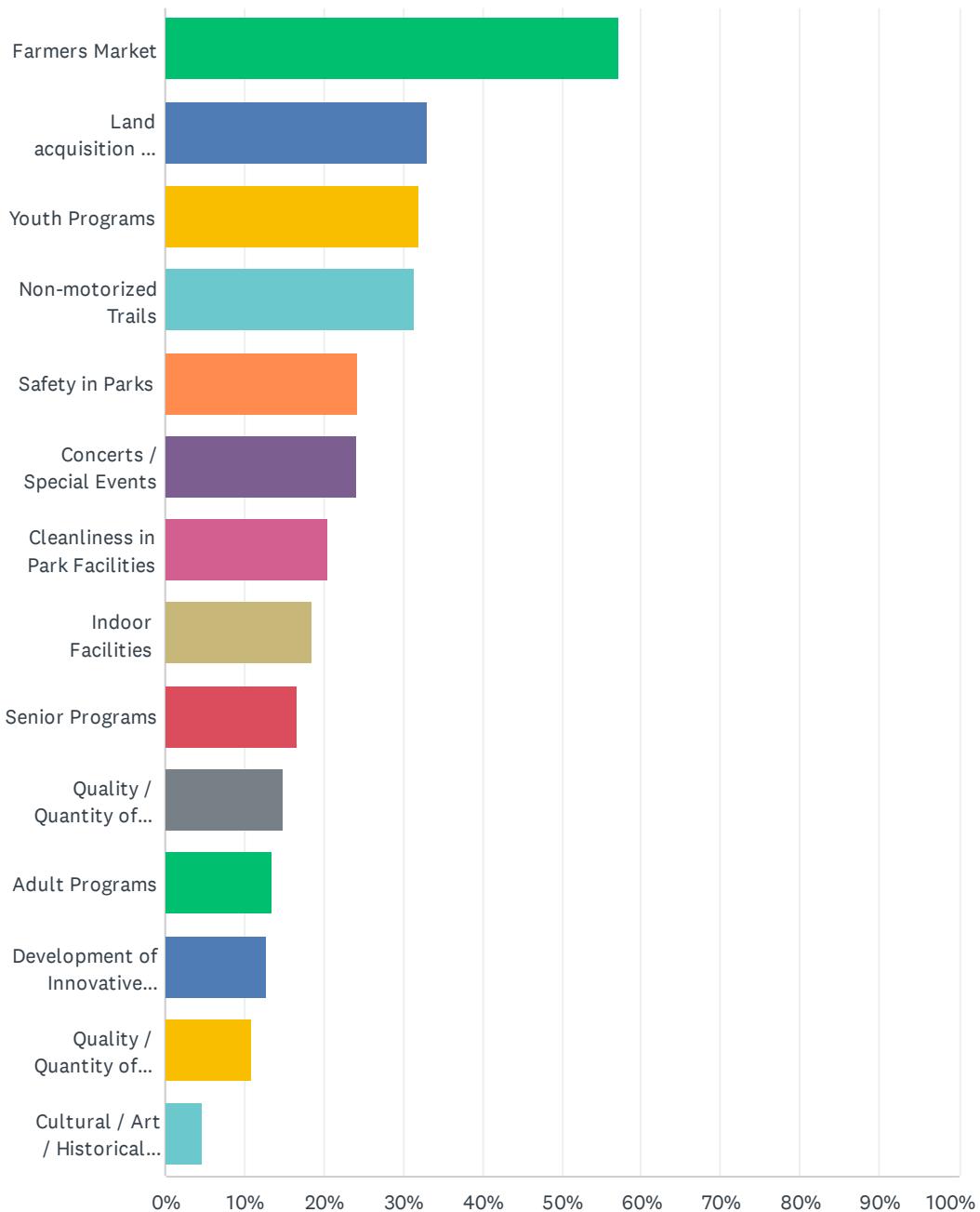
Answered: 281 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Important	73.67%	207
Somewhat Important	24.56%	69
Not Important	1.42%	4
Unsure	0.36%	1
TOTAL		281

Q21 Choose the top three items below in which you believe the city should invest in during the next five (5) years (select only three).

Answered: 275 Skipped: 7



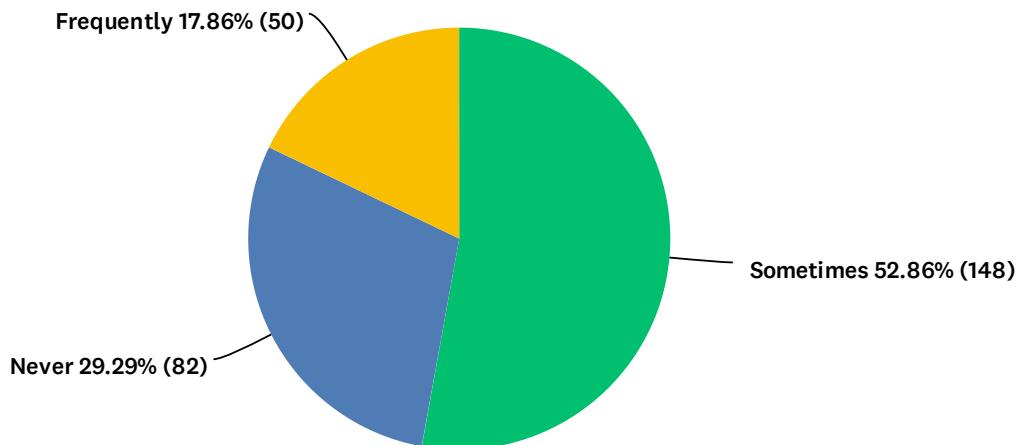
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Farmers Market	57.09% 157
Land acquisition / Park expansion	33.09% 91
Youth Programs	32.00% 88
Non-motorized Trails	31.27% 86
Safety in Parks	24.36% 67
Concerts / Special Events	24.00% 66
Cleanliness in Park Facilities	20.36% 56
Indoor Facilities	18.55% 51
Senior Programs	16.73% 46
Quality / Quantity of Court Facilities	14.91% 41
Adult Programs	13.45% 37
Development of Innovative Facilities	12.73% 35
Quality / Quantity of Athletic Fields	10.91% 30
Cultural / Art / Historical Facilities	4.73% 13
Total Respondents: 275	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Indoor basketball	10/26/2022 11:27 AM
2	Pool and more ice for skating	10/20/2022 3:12 PM
3	Restrooms in all parks. Not porta-johns	10/17/2022 3:51 PM
4	Pool	10/14/2022 6:53 PM
5	Splash pad!!	10/14/2022 3:07 PM
6	Outdoor Pool	10/13/2022 11:16 AM
7	Indoor pool	10/12/2022 9:04 PM
8	Indoor and Outdoor Pools - for leisure and exercise (lap pools)	10/12/2022 6:20 PM
9	Safer travel for walkers and bike riders to access to hiking trails and parks – especially on O'Brien and Collindale	10/12/2022 5:56 PM
10	Pool	10/12/2022 5:33 PM
11	Dog park	10/12/2022 3:32 PM
12	Nature trails near streams	10/12/2022 2:43 PM
13	Second sheet of ice	10/12/2022 2:04 PM
14	Library expansion and partnership with the library will help enhance many offering listed above.	10/12/2022 1:33 PM
15	Pools	10/12/2022 1:08 PM
16	Acquire land so it can be enjoyed by residents and wildlife	10/10/2022 3:58 AM
17	Additional Ice Sheet at WIFC	9/19/2022 10:36 AM
18	Splash pad	9/17/2022 8:31 PM

19	Farmers market if I could choose one more item	9/15/2022 9:28 PM
20	Pickleball courts	9/15/2022 12:04 PM
21	Quality community events	9/14/2022 5:57 PM
22	Bathroom and water fountains at parks and along bike path	9/14/2022 1:56 PM
23	Pickleball	9/13/2022 12:09 AM
24	Community pool with splash pad-all ages would benefit from this-lessons, water safety, rehabilitation, water aerobics and fitness classes,, Kenowa Hills using for sim meets and other water sports and most importantly a family being able to enjoy time in the water together. Yes, this would probably need to be an indoor facility or indoor/outdoor but it could be an incredible addition to our community. Thank you.	9/12/2022 1:06 PM
25	Pickleball Courts	9/10/2022 10:22 AM
26	Pickleball	9/10/2022 9:45 AM
27	Pickleball courts. Could add an indoor space where extra ice sheet was going to go. Charge a yrly membership fee and \$5 a day to play. Would get well used esp during rain and all winter long like we do now at MSA fieldhouses.	9/10/2022 9:38 AM
28	Pickleball Courts!!	9/10/2022 9:32 AM
29	Pickleball Courts	9/10/2022 8:55 AM
30	Indoor pickleball courts	9/9/2022 11:17 PM
31	Pickleball courts	9/9/2022 10:56 PM
32	Nice Pickleball courts	9/9/2022 9:24 PM
33	Indoor pickleball	9/9/2022 8:45 PM
34	Designated pickleball courts	9/9/2022 6:53 PM
35	Dedicated pickleball courts (at least 8 courts)	9/9/2022 2:35 PM
36	Splash pad &/or Pool	9/9/2022 11:34 AM
37	Indoor and outdoor pickleball.	9/8/2022 4:14 PM

Q22 How frequently do you bring food to park facilities?

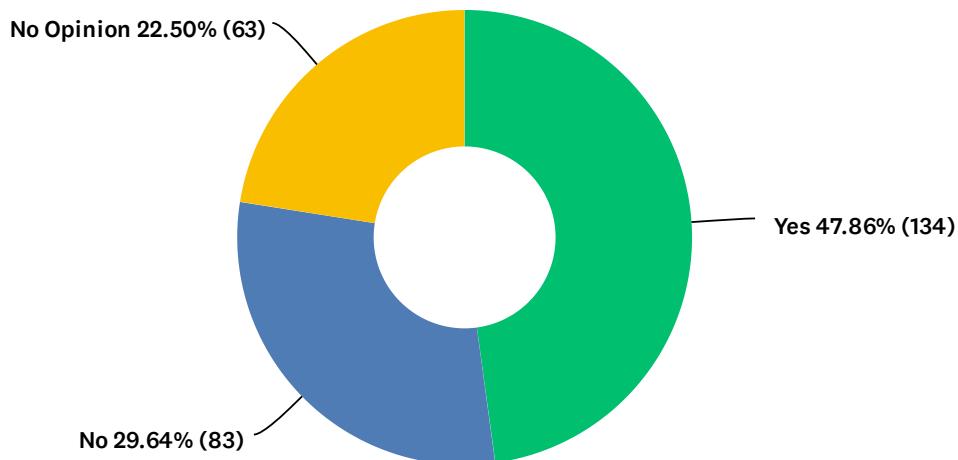
Answered: 280 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sometimes	52.86%	148
Never	29.29%	82
Frequently	17.86%	50
TOTAL	280	

Q23 Would you visit a park more frequently if coffee / breakfast or lunch in a cafe setting was available?

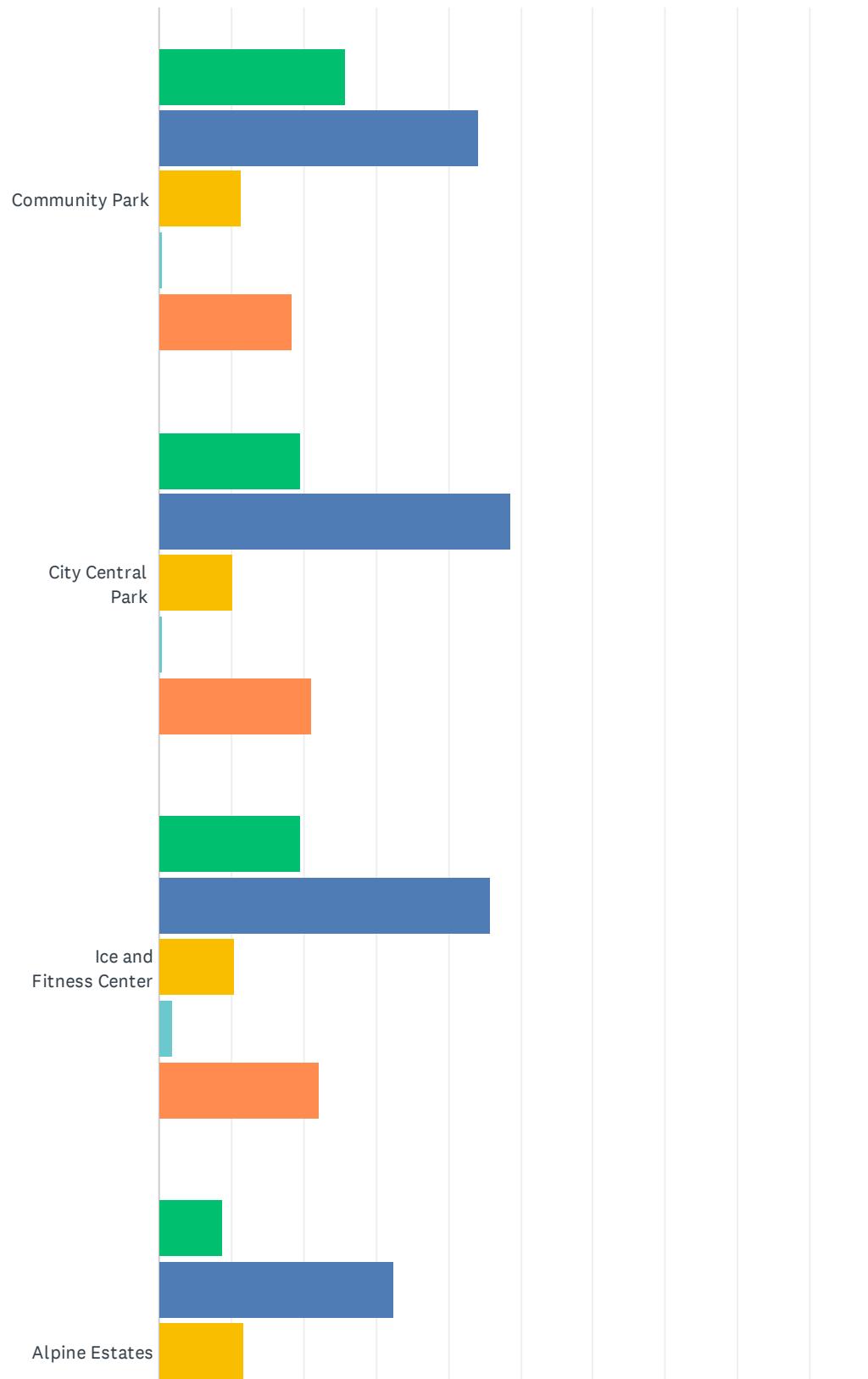
Answered: 280 Skipped: 2

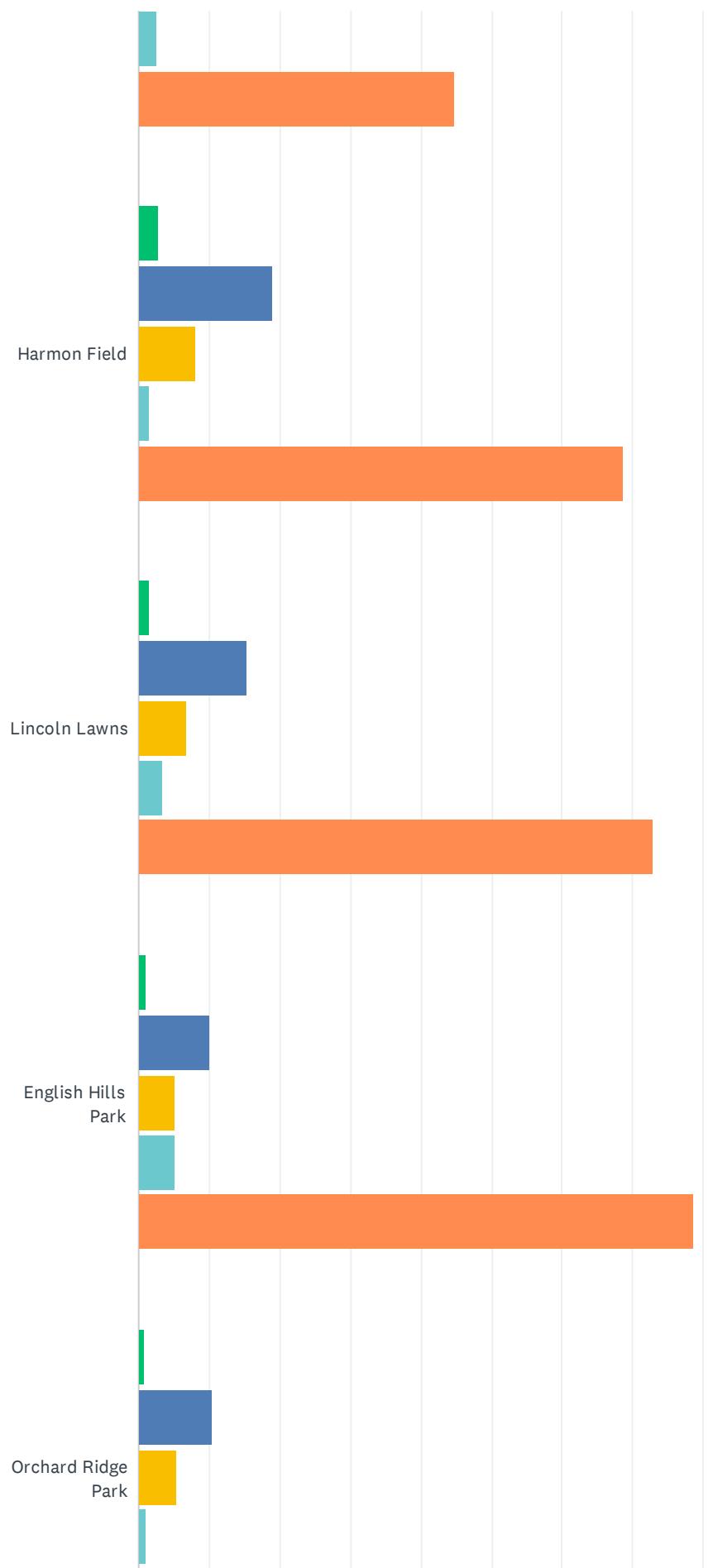


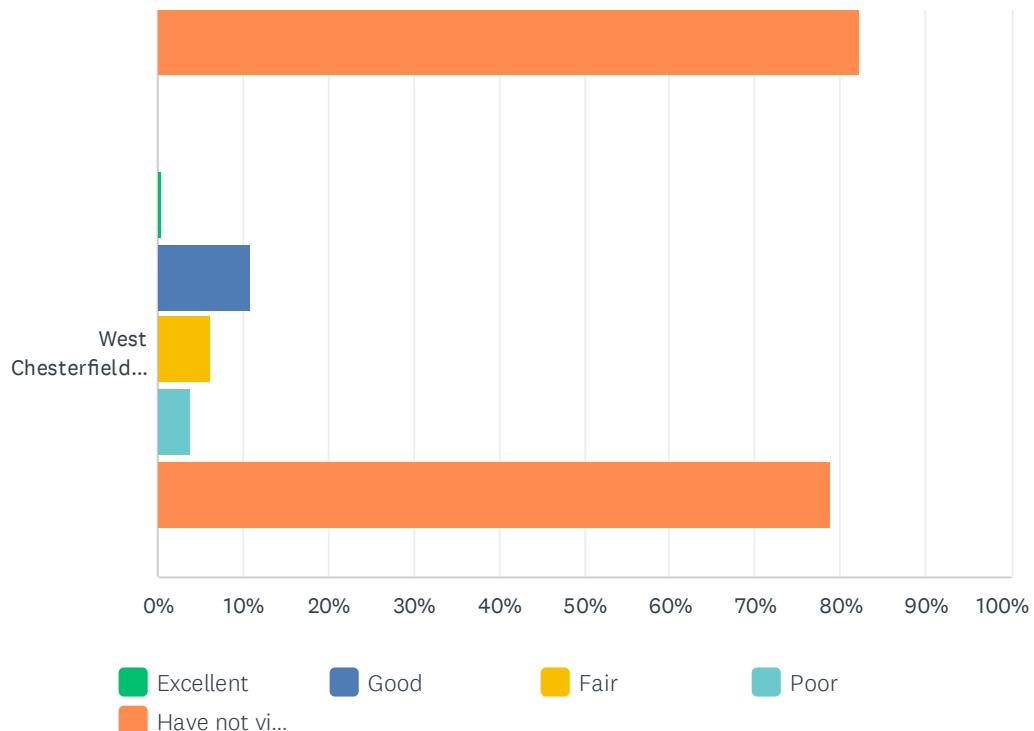
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	47.86%	134
No	29.64%	83
No Opinion	22.50%	63
TOTAL		280

Q24 How would you rank the appearance, maintenance and cleanliness of existing Walker park facilities?

Answered: 276 Skipped: 6



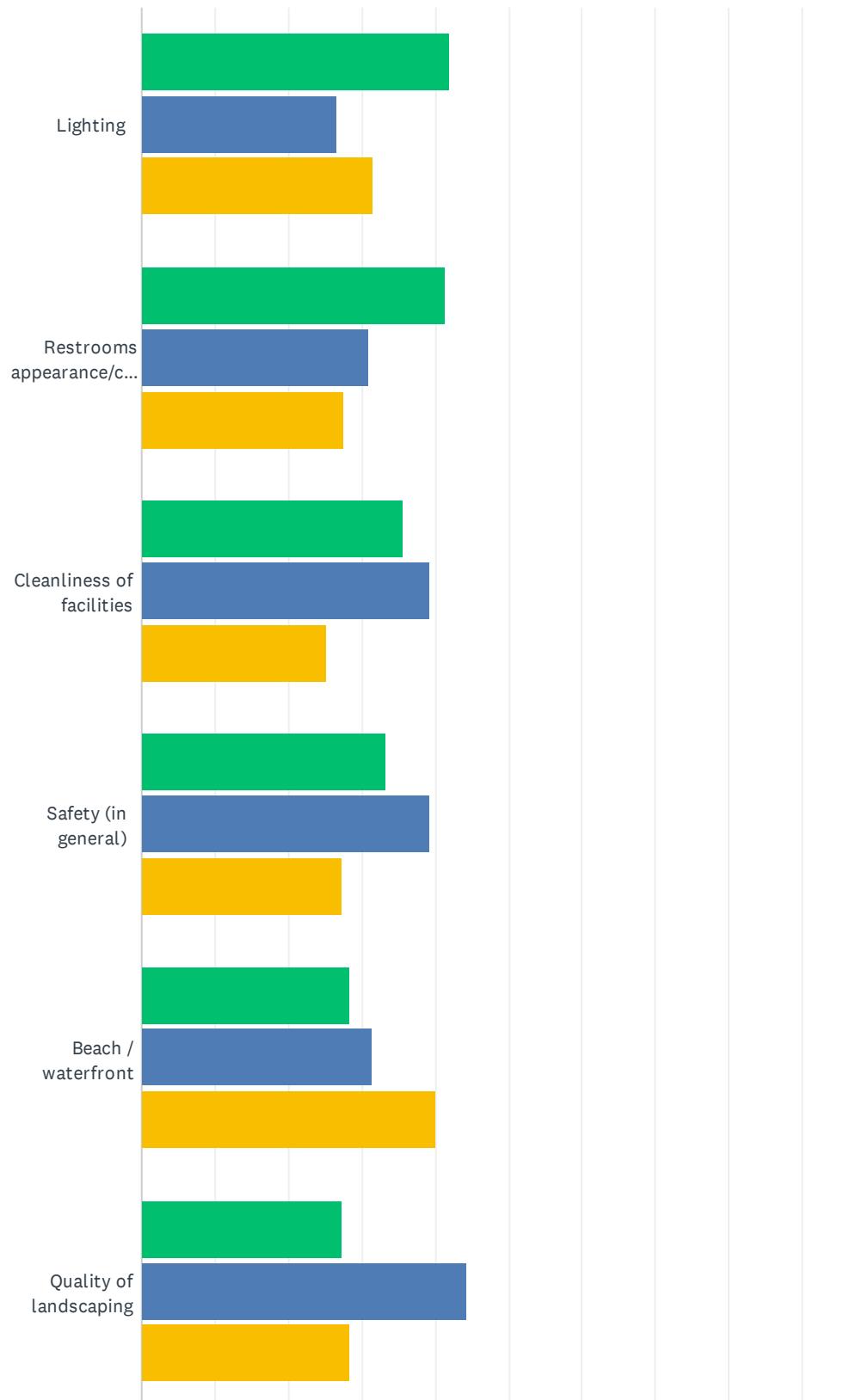


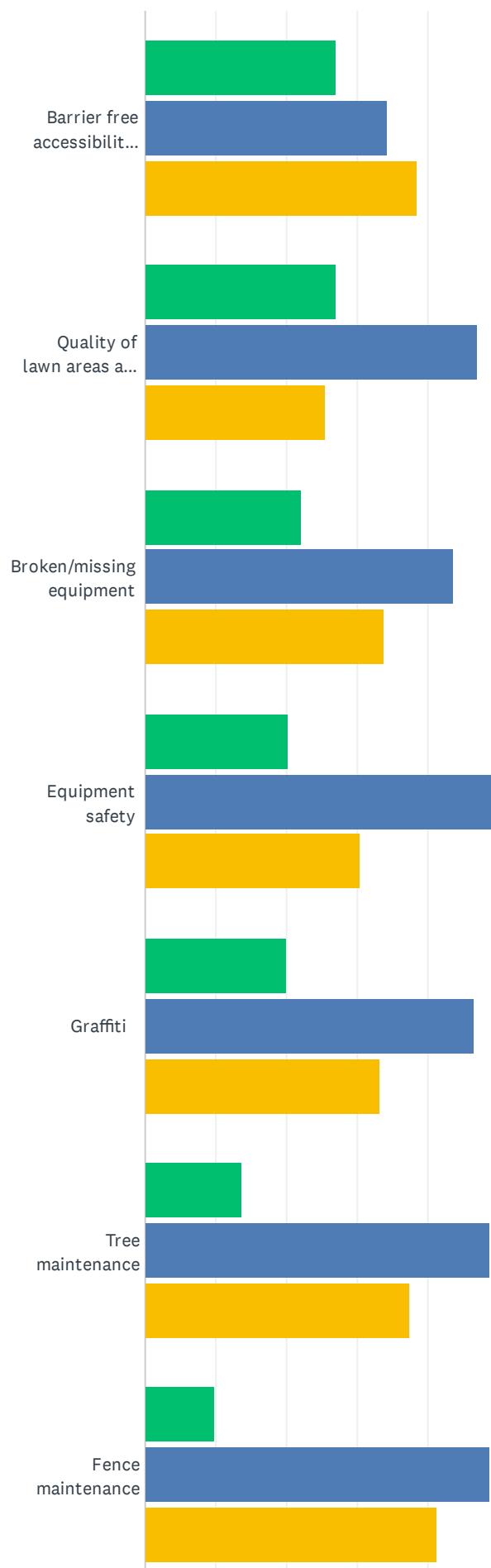


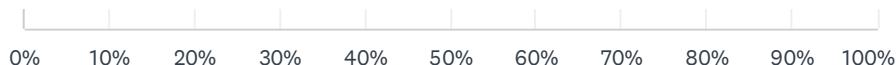
	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	HAVE NOT VISITED THIS PARK	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Community Park	25.84% 69	44.19% 118	11.24% 30	0.37% 1	18.35% 49	267	2.59
City Central Park	19.62% 52	48.68% 129	10.19% 27	0.38% 1	21.13% 56	265	2.45
Ice and Fitness Center	19.55% 52	45.86% 122	10.53% 28	1.88% 5	22.18% 59	266	2.39
Alpine Estates	8.65% 23	32.33% 86	11.65% 31	2.63% 7	44.74% 119	266	1.58
Harmon Field	2.70% 7	18.92% 49	8.11% 21	1.54% 4	68.73% 178	259	0.85
Lincoln Lawns	1.53% 4	15.27% 40	6.87% 18	3.44% 9	72.90% 191	262	0.69
English Hills Park	1.16% 3	10.04% 26	5.02% 13	5.02% 13	78.76% 204	259	0.50
Orchard Ridge Park	0.77% 2	10.34% 27	5.36% 14	1.15% 3	82.38% 215	261	0.46
West Chesterfield Park	0.38% 1	10.77% 28	6.15% 16	3.85% 10	78.85% 205	260	0.50

Q25 Do you think improvements are needed in any of the following areas regarding Walker park facility maintenance?

Answered: 273 Skipped: 9







Yes

No

No Opinion

	YES	NO	NO OPINION	TOTAL
Lighting	41.95% 112	26.59% 71	31.46% 84	267
Restrooms appearance/cleanliness	41.42% 111	30.97% 83	27.61% 74	268
Cleanliness of facilities	35.58% 95	39.33% 105	25.09% 67	267
Safety (in general)	33.33% 89	39.33% 105	27.34% 73	267
Beach / waterfront	28.41% 75	31.44% 83	40.15% 106	264
Quality of landscaping	27.24% 73	44.40% 119	28.36% 76	268
Barrier free accessibility (parking/paths)	27.17% 72	34.34% 91	38.49% 102	265
Quality of lawn areas and green space	27.17% 72	47.17% 125	25.66% 68	265
Broken/missing equipment	22.26% 59	43.77% 116	33.96% 90	265
Equipment safety	20.30% 54	49.25% 131	30.45% 81	266
Graffiti	20.08% 53	46.59% 123	33.33% 88	264
Tree maintenance	13.64% 36	48.86% 129	37.50% 99	264
Fence maintenance	9.85% 26	48.86% 129	41.29% 109	264

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Playground equipment behind the walker city hall is in need of maintenance or replacement. Part of equipment is rusting.	10/20/2022 1:39 PM
2	pickle-ball courts.	10/16/2022 5:14 PM
3	Needs more benches along the trails	10/12/2022 5:56 PM
4	Monitor for homeless	10/12/2022 1:18 PM
5	More natural spaces with native plants/trees	10/12/2022 12:32 PM
6	Lights for late soccer practices and officers driving through parking lots during busy times	10/12/2022 12:16 PM
7	Some of the playground equipment is getting old or falling apart	10/12/2022 11:59 AM
8	We need restrooms at each park, especially since Covid no one is going to use a porta potty. They are filthy.	9/12/2022 1:06 PM
9	na	9/11/2022 1:47 AM

10	Parking at Central Park needs to be expanded	9/9/2022 8:45 PM
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Q26 What type of community events, programs, and festivals would you like to see in Walker?

Answered: 198 Skipped: 84

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Pickleball courts!	10/31/2022 7:51 PM
2	Crafts or historical events	10/31/2022 3:32 PM
3	A carnival would be fun again, farmers market, bigger concerts and more movies in the park	10/31/2022 6:58 AM
4	Concert series, youth programs (athletics, nature, summer clubs)	10/28/2022 7:34 PM
5	More wild space. More art. More history	10/26/2022 6:54 PM
6	community pool	10/24/2022 3:09 PM
7	Nothing specific	10/24/2022 9:08 AM
8	Farmer's market	10/23/2022 10:03 PM
9	Farmers market, safety in general	10/23/2022 9:26 PM
10	Really enjoy what's available, thanks!	10/22/2022 10:54 PM
11	More concerts. More kid sports - martial arts, baseball, kids yoga, kids run clubs, and swimming for all ages.	10/22/2022 10:00 AM
12	Art festival Mixed music including folk music Enjoying nature for less active seniors.	10/21/2022 10:13 PM
13	Farmer's Market, Concerts, nature programs for kids, yoga in the park	10/21/2022 5:54 PM
14	Any free community events with music and dancing	10/21/2022 2:47 PM
15	Blues bands	10/21/2022 11:22 AM
16	Farmers market, art festival, chocolate stroll, street fair	10/20/2022 9:40 PM
17	Food trucks in the park, family picnics with activities, art projects in a park, classes like gardening	10/20/2022 9:05 PM
18	Farmer's Market	10/20/2022 6:56 PM
19	Farmers market	10/20/2022 6:22 PM
20	Something like downtown Rockford days	10/20/2022 5:59 PM
21	pool	10/20/2022 5:02 PM
22	Disc golf and volleyball leagues	10/20/2022 3:34 PM
23	Community pool, archery field	10/20/2022 3:12 PM
24	Farmers market, craft shows, a walker festival (fall and Christmas) outdoor seating areas,	10/20/2022 2:34 PM
25	Festival of Lights parade during Christmas season.	10/20/2022 1:39 PM
26	I would like to see more craft shows. More festivals of any kind. Murals especially one that says Walker and one that says Standale. Like the old post card style that Sparta has. A Community Building for indoor events all year long. Could have Friday movie nights. Play board games etc. If there is one, I am not aware of where it is located.	10/19/2022 1:35 AM
27	Ongoing festivals and family friendly activities	10/18/2022 8:19 AM
28	Annual classic car shows combined with oldies concerts .	10/17/2022 3:51 PM
29	Drop in hockey for adults. they use to have a daytime slot twice a week before covid but now	10/17/2022 12:34 PM

	its gone.	
30	More senior events	10/16/2022 11:07 PM
31	A Walker field day - with games and activities for all ages. Tournaments.	10/16/2022 5:14 PM
32	Farmers markets	10/16/2022 2:30 PM
33	Not sure	10/15/2022 6:30 PM
34	More music festivals/concerts	10/14/2022 6:53 PM
35	Kids sports, science classes etc, splash pad/outdoor rec options, kids festival, music	10/14/2022 3:07 PM
36	fall festival,	10/14/2022 5:54 AM
37	Family stuff	10/13/2022 7:08 PM
38	Farmer's Market would be amazing for the community. More concerts, art market	10/13/2022 6:07 PM
39	Farmers market Art festival Yoga in park	10/13/2022 5:29 PM
40	More free concerts. Would love to see an inside pool	10/13/2022 4:46 PM
41	Farmers market. Larger variety of fitness classes.	10/13/2022 4:35 PM
42	I feel current offerings are all good but grateful you are taking input from residents for what others may enjoy having added. Walker is the best place our family has ever lived!	10/13/2022 1:12 PM
43	Farmers market	10/13/2022 12:45 PM
44	Would love to see more farmer's market in the area	10/13/2022 12:02 PM
45	Festivals, youth events, art programs	10/13/2022 11:41 AM
46	More adult ed classes: art, activity, wellness, cooking, make-and-takes, speakers, etc. Opportunities to engage with our neighbors in our neighborhoods.	10/13/2022 11:16 AM
47	People with disabilities. More inclusion.	10/13/2022 10:57 AM
48	Na	10/13/2022 10:08 AM
49	Farmers Market, Wildlife Viewing/Rehab, Dog Parks	10/13/2022 9:10 AM
50	Farmers market, pickleball	10/13/2022 9:09 AM
51	Farmers market	10/13/2022 8:57 AM
52	Love the events/programs currently offered. Would like to see an adult soccer league.	10/13/2022 8:54 AM
53	a childrens "gym" we attend the ymca in winters and 99% of everything is for adults. I would love to see a winter community center for kids , and adults can join in and show them how to do it. I have an 8, and 9 year old. Too old for daycare but too young for working out, but they take interest in a elliptical, just as much as they did jungle gym. And liability prevents them from using the equipment. Which is strange as they could get hurt climbing 20 ft in the air on a playset or falling off the edge of a slide at a park. A Track,basket ball, exercise equipment, weights, racquet ball, etc. Every gym has a policy of NO KIDS UNDER 18 can use the treadmill or equipment. I feel this is the opposite of what I want to teach my 9 year old. Get on the treadmill, check it out, do some stair stepping, do the rower, this creates a positive encouragement for them later. And they really enjoy it. They feel like part of the workouts, happily burning calories, or lofting some weights. Its amazing how happy they are in this setting. But everytime they pickup a small dumbell they get scolded, or when my 8 year old practices her cartwheels on the track, they cant do that, or when my children want to "have some muscles too" we get approached saying no kids aloud on excercise equipment. So a gym, a children's, adult gym. Teaching them proper use, safety, and healthy behaviors. Shoot through in a shake bar and I will happily pay for this membership!	10/13/2022 8:26 AM
54	Unsure of current events to comment on adding more	10/13/2022 8:04 AM
55	What walker does is sufficient	10/13/2022 7:34 AM
56	NA	10/13/2022 6:45 AM

57	Loved walker fest years ago with the fireworks was sad to see it go.	10/13/2022 6:32 AM
58	More if the same	10/13/2022 6:02 AM
59	Farmers market, fitness classless, youth sports	10/13/2022 1:13 AM
60	Bicycle events like the gran fondo	10/12/2022 10:36 PM
61	I would LOVE a farmers market closer to home, that resembles Fulton st. A carnival could be fun, but I know that can invite undesirable guests. Festivals, fairs, anything! More outdoor concerts, and movies in the park. Let's create our own weekend like red flannel festival in cedar springs - parade, events, a beer tent! We need more events in our area!	10/12/2022 10:35 PM
62	Music and food	10/12/2022 10:19 PM
63	Art music food trucks and splash pad	10/12/2022 10:07 PM
64	More concerts and performances, farmers markets, food truck festivals, flea market/craft fair, yard games, movie nights, parades, etc	10/12/2022 9:35 PM
65	Summer activities daily in the park. Splash pads. Craft shows. Yoga or exercise in the parks	10/12/2022 9:10 PM
66	Parades, family holiday events	10/12/2022 9:05 PM
67	Farmers Market, Art/Craft Fairs, Pickleball Courts	10/12/2022 9:04 PM
68	Farm market	10/12/2022 8:03 PM
69	More diverse and inclusive events.	10/12/2022 7:36 PM
70	We enjoy what is offered now. Would like a Farmers Market or something similar (community garden?) to improve the health of the community	10/12/2022 6:42 PM
71	Farmers Market, Craft Fairs, Community Garage Sales, Concerts	10/12/2022 6:20 PM
72	None. Please add bathroom and drinking fountain to park on sunset hills.	10/12/2022 6:19 PM
73	Farmers market would be great!	10/12/2022 6:18 PM
74	Fireworks	10/12/2022 5:52 PM
75	Better holiday programs that appeal to not just very young kids. My two girls are growing up and we frequently attend Grandville's events because I feel like they have more things for all ages.	10/12/2022 5:33 PM
76	Farmers Market	10/12/2022 4:49 PM
77	Farmers markets	10/12/2022 4:48 PM
78	More music, movies, craft fairs, more youth sports	10/12/2022 4:25 PM
79	Concerts are nice. More events involving other city departments	10/12/2022 4:17 PM
80	Farmers market, a pool, additional sheet of ice at Walker Ice and Fitness Center. More concerts in the park.	10/12/2022 4:07 PM
81	Summer concerts at city park (ice rink). Lots of parking there. Miss the fireworks too.	10/12/2022 3:59 PM
82	youth swimming classes, outdoor yoga events (or yoga studio in Standale), more holiday events	10/12/2022 3:48 PM
83	Summer concert series, winter fest, food truck rally's and art fairs	10/12/2022 3:45 PM
84	Dog park meet ups, walking groups	10/12/2022 3:32 PM
85	None	10/12/2022 3:20 PM
86	Running club. Boxing	10/12/2022 3:10 PM
87	Farmers markets, more family friendly events.	10/12/2022 3:07 PM
88	More food truck events	10/12/2022 3:05 PM
89	Love the concerts. Food trucks	10/12/2022 2:54 PM

90	I would love a weekly farmer's market.	10/12/2022 2:50 PM
91	More nature events like tree planting and invasive species removal.	10/12/2022 2:43 PM
92	Roller hockey tournament, learn to play on the roller rink, farmers market	10/12/2022 2:09 PM
93	Food festivals, more concerts, free outdoor summer fitness classes (like GR holds), beer tent/festival, events for young kids. Events with music, food, drinks, etc. (chili cook off, block party, corn hole tournaments, etc.)	10/12/2022 2:04 PM
94	Farmers Markets, food truck rallies, gardening classes	10/12/2022 1:57 PM
95	Farmers Market, Craft Shows	10/12/2022 1:54 PM
96	Craft show, farmers market,	10/12/2022 1:54 PM
97	Outdoor skating rink, craft fair	10/12/2022 1:47 PM
98	N/a	10/12/2022 1:46 PM
99	Farmers Market, Pet Friendly Events	10/12/2022 1:40 PM
100	Farmer market	10/12/2022 1:38 PM
101	Farmers Market near library using the existing covered walkway	10/12/2022 1:38 PM
102	More opportunities for local small businesses to have the opportunity to network. More space for programming and activities for the community that are not sport related.	10/12/2022 1:33 PM
103	Farmers Market Walker Run/Walk Holiday event More volunteer opportunities/ volunteer fair?	10/12/2022 1:32 PM
104	Art/music festivals, BBQ festival	10/12/2022 1:31 PM
105	Health related farmers market.	10/12/2022 1:31 PM
106	More hiking trails, bike trails, dog trails. Outside fitness gym and activities for adults between the age of 25-55.	10/12/2022 1:30 PM
107	Youth event and concert series are what we attend the most.	10/12/2022 1:29 PM
108	A bimonthly farmer's market would be great. There are so many farms nearby.	10/12/2022 1:27 PM
109	Wildlife education, nature trails	10/12/2022 1:24 PM
110	Car show, carnival, food festival	10/12/2022 1:14 PM
111	Art and craft fairs, family fitness for kids and adults	10/12/2022 1:13 PM
112	Farmers market	10/12/2022 1:12 PM
113	Farmers markets	10/12/2022 1:03 PM
114	Bring pickle ball back.	10/12/2022 1:02 PM
115	Community enrichment classes, more cultural activities and indoor pool for fitness	10/12/2022 12:48 PM
116	Farm Market!	10/12/2022 12:41 PM
117	Music, art, food trucks, and more holiday events.	10/12/2022 12:40 PM
118	Farmers market and outdoor yoga in the park	10/12/2022 12:40 PM
119	Inclusive, Pride	10/12/2022 12:38 PM
120	More youth sports, drama, art, music etc. More educational programs. Indoor baseball space, pool with swimming lessons, childcare at gym.	10/12/2022 12:32 PM
121	Craft shows, music, beer/wine festival, kids art activities...my sister lives in Sparta MI and that town has an event almost every weekend. I'd love to see Walker become more like that.	10/12/2022 12:32 PM
122	Would like to see a dog park in the city	10/12/2022 12:17 PM
123	Broom ball	10/12/2022 12:16 PM
124	Farmers Market, Artisan Market	10/12/2022 12:14 PM

125	Farmers market, Craft shows.	10/12/2022 12:13 PM
126	Youth swimming lessons	10/12/2022 11:59 AM
127	farmers market, a fair or festival of some type.	10/12/2022 11:55 AM
128	Farmers Market weekly or monthly. The concerts are great!	10/12/2022 11:51 AM
129	Concerts, kids events, kids board game night, petting zoo	10/12/2022 11:36 AM
130	Food! Summer kids programs. Community service opportunities.	10/12/2022 11:27 AM
131	Yoga, walks/runs, biking events, adult sports programs/meetups	10/12/2022 11:02 AM
132	Community volunteer events, maybe more events for scouts.	10/12/2022 10:10 AM
133	Farmers market, fall festival, flower festival, swim lessons	10/12/2022 10:04 AM
134	Beer festival	10/12/2022 8:57 AM
135	The walking paths that go through the neighborhoods at the Alpine park would be nice to make a large path that would circle though so walkers bikers ect. could actually stay in the woods.	9/27/2022 12:30 PM
136	farmers market	9/27/2022 9:18 AM
137	Street/craft fair	9/25/2022 9:12 AM
138	More recreational programs, such as additional programs and camps for kids in the summer and throughout the year.	9/19/2022 10:36 AM
139	I would love to see a return of fireworks at some point during the year!	9/17/2022 8:31 PM
140	Idk	9/16/2022 2:04 PM
141	Farmers market	9/16/2022 2:03 PM
142	Heritage Festivals, Christmas festival or early year winter fest	9/16/2022 1:58 PM
143	Farmers market, makers market, concert series, not just in the summer	9/15/2022 9:28 PM
144	Farmers market, open air concerts, craft fair, food / beer festivals.	9/15/2022 6:07 PM
145	Possibly summer festivals or block parties. Revamp some of the current fall and holiday festival other than kid crafts and donuts and cider.	9/15/2022 10:15 AM
146	No opinion	9/15/2022 7:31 AM
147	Pickleball tournaments	9/15/2022 6:46 AM
148	Youth sports programs, especially for girls! Tennis & softball, especially. Western Little League is a hot mess and full of dads playing favorites and working their own personal agenda. A community team opportunity would be amazing. We currently drive to Grandville for youth tennis lessons but would love to keep it local! Farmers market at city hall would be really cool and great for community comraderie.	9/14/2022 10:11 PM
149	National night out events, more events for neighborhoods to meet neighbors, neighborhood cornhole tournaments, food trucks at city hall parking lots, another parade besides memorial day , events to get people out and meeting with each other	9/14/2022 5:57 PM
150	Really would love Pickleball!!!	9/14/2022 5:11 PM
151	Common gatherings	9/14/2022 3:06 PM
152	Pickleball	9/13/2022 12:09 AM
153	Arts and crafts, farmer's market, an open space building that is available for all ages to come and play board games, have chess tournaments, watch movies etc.-especially in the winter when older people are lonely and live to be around the younger generations. Maybe there could even be a space there for tutoring or book clubs or individuals that need help learning to read. This could be an all inclusive building where everyone is welcome and feels a sense of our community and that they are not alone and don't need to feel alone. THE BENEFITS COULD BE OUT OF THIS WORLD!!♡	9/12/2022 1:06 PM

154	Farmers market	9/11/2022 5:18 PM
155	Art	9/11/2022 2:41 PM
156	Bike	9/11/2022 12:19 PM
157	Pickelball opportunities.	9/11/2022 1:47 AM
158	Pickleball!!!!	9/10/2022 9:02 PM
159	This community needs pickleball courts. It is a sport which all ages can participate in. It is an embarrassment for this community when every surrounding community has furnished them for their residents.	9/10/2022 11:43 AM
160	The Pickleball Community is rapidly growing. There is a need for at least 4 courts in Walker. People drive many miles to play pickleball.	9/10/2022 10:58 AM
161	Farmers market	9/10/2022 10:53 AM
162	Pickleball	9/10/2022 9:45 AM
163	Music and pickleball courts	9/10/2022 9:38 AM
164	Pickleball courts!!	9/10/2022 9:32 AM
165	Pickleball	9/10/2022 9:03 AM
166	Pickleball Tournament	9/10/2022 8:55 AM
167	Seasonal , concerts	9/10/2022 8:03 AM
168	Pickle ball	9/10/2022 7:44 AM
169	Carnival, free adult exercise classes, concert series with national acts	9/10/2022 6:54 AM
170	Pickleball	9/9/2022 11:22 PM
171	Indoor and outdoor pickleball drop in.	9/9/2022 11:17 PM
172	Pickleball	9/9/2022 10:56 PM
173	More concerts and variety of genres	9/9/2022 10:40 PM
174	Music festivals	9/9/2022 9:48 PM
175	Pickleball courts	9/9/2022 9:35 PM
176	Pickleball courts. More concerts More events for seniors	9/9/2022 9:24 PM
177	After stopping the Pickleball on your courts you need to get new ones somewhere else as was promised.	9/9/2022 9:24 PM
178	Adult programs along side children's programs so we can all do something. Maybe programs involving everyone.	9/9/2022 8:48 PM
179	Splash pad for children Pickleball courts (I play pickleball 5 times a week) nowhere to play in Walker	9/9/2022 8:45 PM
180	Ethnic, music	9/9/2022 8:36 PM
181	Pickleball in Walker	9/9/2022 8:26 PM
182	Craft show, pickleball tournaments	9/9/2022 2:35 PM
183	Art festival, harvest festival, farmer's market.	9/9/2022 1:45 PM
184	Concerts, youth events, summer day camps, craft / art shows / flea markets,	9/9/2022 11:34 AM
185	I would love to see the walking trails get snow removal in the winter. People still use them regardless and they get pretty treacherous. I am sure plowing is an issue for the pavement type but could they be snow blown? Please also bring back concerts at the park behind city hall. In my opinion it was easier access/parking for large crowds.	9/9/2022 9:58 AM
186	Craft market, farmers market, craft shows, classes for adults to gain skills	9/9/2022 9:53 AM

187	More cultural events that I put on by non-city members more youth activities, such as movie nights, water fight type events, Farmer markets, food trucks possibly, pickle ball, and other public liked events.	9/9/2022 8:59 AM
188	Don't know	9/9/2022 8:44 AM
189	Nature based (i.e.classes on composting, native plants, forest bathing) , art classes, yoga, car shows, anything that supports local businesses/ farmers, local art festival	9/9/2022 8:32 AM
190	Events, programs, and festivals should be secondary to maintaining and acquiring more green space in Walker. Less business development, more green space!	9/9/2022 6:11 AM
191	Farmers Market	9/8/2022 10:12 PM
192	Food trucks	9/8/2022 9:24 PM
193	Art, crafts, music...food trucks!	9/8/2022 4:40 PM
194	Pickleball courts	9/8/2022 4:18 PM
195	pickleball tournaments	9/8/2022 4:14 PM
196	Farmers market	9/8/2022 12:06 PM
197	More fitness classes, yoga in the park. A Farmer's market would be great. A community pool would be wonderful and a big draw for residents. More community gatherings. The ones i have been to are always a big draw.	9/8/2022 10:45 AM
198	What does this have to do with the quality of the parks? Most beautiful f this survey was poorly written, sorry. A 26 question survey that could've been 15 questions max.	9/7/2022 11:44 AM

Q27 Please add any additional comments below.

Answered: 91 Skipped: 191

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Could we please get the pickleball courts back? It will benefit the community.	10/31/2022 7:51 PM
2	Please get a splash pad!	10/31/2022 6:58 AM
3	Would like to belong to WIF again, fees are just too high. I know many ppl are exempt from these fees- that is just not right. Perhaps if everybody had to pay regardless of position they hold or who their spouse is the fees could be lowered for everybody, even if just marginally so.	10/29/2022 5:00 PM
4	Alpine Estates Park is within walking distance but we always drive elsewhere (usually to a Grand Rapids township park) to a better playground. There aren't often that many kids at Alpine Estates Park because it's notoriously less fun than other parks—the playground really needs an update!	10/28/2022 7:34 PM
5	Less focus on sports. Less focus on cultivating wasteful and expensive turf grass. More wild spaces	10/26/2022 6:54 PM
6	N/A	10/23/2022 10:03 PM
7	We love Walker! We also use Millennium Park often. It would be nice to have a splash pad. Community access to a year round pool would be awesome!	10/22/2022 10:00 AM
8	Our neighborhood Cambridge Grove is isolated from the city due to lack of safe crossing at Wilson. This is a large residential area that is expanding. We have to drive to everything because Wilson is too dangerous to cross at Richmond especially for kids. Property tax rates are high and we have to pay income tax on top of that. Need to connect more neighborhoods to the city through walking/biking access.	10/21/2022 9:01 AM
9	NO DOG PARK!	10/20/2022 5:59 PM
10		10/20/2022 3:34 PM
11	We definitely need a splash pad at the community park!	10/20/2022 2:36 PM
12	I would like to see senior volunteer opportunities. Many would like to do something with their time vs sitting home alone all the time. Offer transportation for those that can not drive anymore.	10/19/2022 1:35 AM
13	None	10/18/2022 8:19 AM
14	Please add more pickleball courts as promised after closing down the courts. Improve the condition of the one court at Community Park	10/18/2022 8:08 AM
15	Walker should not have removed the pickle ball courts just because of a few complaints. There are sound proof products to keep the noise contained. Maybe indoor pickle ball could be part of WIFC.	10/17/2022 3:51 PM
16	Let's facilitate building community by means of having a strong park system. Get people out, having fun, off screens, and more invested in the health, safety, and development of Walker.	10/16/2022 5:14 PM
17	We love Walker!	10/15/2022 6:30 PM
18	We really need a pool!!	10/14/2022 6:53 PM
19	Personally, I would love to see a designated off-leash dog area of some type at City Central Park. I use this park multiple times a week with and without our dogs. It feels the majority of other park users when I am there have their dogs. This would be a wonderful addition. I also strongly advocate for a multipurpose community center connected to an expanded library and/or WIFC (which I also support continued growth for).	10/13/2022 1:12 PM
20	Would love a mountain bike skills course to compliment Wahlfield!!	10/13/2022 12:02 PM

21	We love walker and can't wait to see how our parks may be improved in the future.	10/13/2022 11:16 AM
22	N/A	10/13/2022 10:57 AM
23	NS	10/13/2022 10:08 AM
24	Please please please add a dog park	10/13/2022 9:09 AM
25	Shade over playgrounds needed!	10/13/2022 8:54 AM
26	Would love to see a splash pad added in Alpine Estates park!	10/13/2022 8:04 AM
27	.	10/13/2022 7:34 AM
28	NA	10/13/2022 6:45 AM
29	We spend hours a week in the ice rink and it could really use an upgrade. We go to other facilities and they look so nice then we come back to our home rink and step back to 1996. Some of the concessions items I've never even seen used and the store is never full stocked maybe think about adding more and advertising it as a nearby hockey store. Also your gym membership prices are ridiculously high.	10/13/2022 6:32 AM
30	We love the Walker parks! Would love to get the standale trail link up to the macatawa trail as well.	10/13/2022 1:13 AM
31	Imagine how non motorized trails could connect neighborhoods and shopping area, providing quality of life while lessening car traffic. With an expansion of linear parks and network of trails, this town can be more Walker friendly. (Bicycle friendly, too.)	10/12/2022 10:36 PM
32	We need an indoor pool in the area!	10/12/2022 9:04 PM
33	While not your area per se, we need a new Fruit Ridge bridge over I-96 similar to Walker Ave in order to move bicyclists and runners unto to the Pioneer trail, it's to dangerous now. I understand it's millions of \$\$\$ but I didn't see it in the master plan	10/12/2022 6:46 PM
34	Thank you!	10/12/2022 6:42 PM
35	A pool at City Central Park would be great! A pool that has lap lanes.	10/12/2022 6:20 PM
36	Please add bathroom and drinking fountain to the park on Sunset Hills.	10/12/2022 6:19 PM
37	A band shell at city park would be nice.	10/12/2022 3:59 PM
38	I used to attend fitness classes at the fire station at 3 mile, wish those classes were offered again	10/12/2022 3:32 PM
39	Less apartments!	10/12/2022 3:10 PM
40	A splash pad would be amazing!!!! So many families with young kids would use this.	10/12/2022 3:07 PM
41	We need more natural paths through forest and near streams in Walker. Existing parks have a lot of mowed grass-native plantings promote pollinators and reduce required maintenance. They also help cool surrounding areas.	10/12/2022 2:43 PM
42	A second sheet of ice is desperately needed. That is the most used public space in Walker and too many teams and activities are constantly in need of the ice without enough time, doubling up, etc.	10/12/2022 2:04 PM
43	Pickleball is growing fast	10/12/2022 1:38 PM
44	Stop all the fast food. Increase activities. Have proper tennis courts. Putting a net on a pad of concert is not a tennis court, on fact it is not safe to play tennis on. Safety I'm park's, less graffiti, more swings. Making people take care of their property so it doesn't block the sidewalk (chesterfield park, I called the city, over 40,000 was spent to make a side walk that is impassable and nothing has been done. It is over grown and kids must cross the street 2x to get to the park).	10/12/2022 1:31 PM
45	NA	10/12/2022 1:29 PM
46	I would love to see a permanent home given to Wildlife Rehab Center in Walker - it would provide excellent outdoor experiences and learning/volunteer opportunities.	10/12/2022 1:24 PM

47	There are several areas in walker where sidewalks disappear. We need more sidewalks along dangerous streets.	10/12/2022 12:32 PM
48	Would like the restrooms to remain open year round and the parks paths cleared in the winter.	10/12/2022 12:17 PM
49	I was very disappointed with the Easter egg hunt last year. Adults were told to not go into the roped off area. Hundreds proceeded to do so and my toddler almost got trampled and was terrified because he could not see me due to so many adults. He picked up one piece of candy then stood there terrified	10/12/2022 12:16 PM
50	Splash pad at walker ice and fitness and or a few others would be so nice! Last year millennium park got so busy we couldn't get in.	10/12/2022 11:59 AM
51	Our staff is awesome!	10/12/2022 8:57 AM
52	Would be nice to see a change at the Alpine ball park, it hardly get used and also the paths of the wooded area would have paths that goes around the woods.	9/30/2022 3:25 PM
53	having additional ice facilities is a must, either an additional sheet of ice at WIFC and/or an outdoor rink for winter usage/events.	9/19/2022 10:36 AM
54	Idk	9/16/2022 2:04 PM
55	The 'thin blue line' flag at the WIFC makes the less inclusive for marginalized populations.	9/16/2022 2:03 PM
56	The major promised to look into the addition of more pickleball courts but has failed to communicate with the public on what the city has accomplished. The court in Community Park is worn and outdated.	9/15/2022 12:22 PM
57	Add Pickleball courts and resurface the one at the community park	9/15/2022 12:04 PM
58	Please install some sort of pool or water facility. Kenowa Schools do not have pools the fitness center has no pool-there is plenty of space there for a pool. Indoor or outdoor I don't care. It's so very odd Walker has no pool. I understand insurance an Maintenace is a factor. The fitness center would be much more resourceful having a pool. Going to GR and the Y isn't always convenient.	9/15/2022 10:15 AM
59	None	9/15/2022 7:31 AM
60	Walker parks we visit are very nice, from experience Harmon really needs a boost. Softball field is in need of work, and restroom facilities should be added. A splashpad near city hall is a must-have! Also a swimming pool for those hot days and for youth swimming lessons so we don't have to go to the YMCA... would love to keep all of this local and support our city!	9/14/2022 10:11 PM
61	Add a splash pad that is free for the community to use.	9/14/2022 2:46 PM
62	As a frequent runner in the area, running during the summertime is quite difficult in the Walker area. The lack of accessible water fountains make it difficult to have a successful run during the hot summer days, especially without much shade in the area. More bathroom facilities could also be placed around the bike path as it currently has none, which can be quite unpleasant in an emergency situation.	9/14/2022 1:56 PM
63	We heard Walker really needed a senior living community that offered all levels of care from independent living through nursing and hospice and instead we are building upon building of apts. We need to focus and think of ALL generations. Thank you.	9/12/2022 1:06 PM
64	None.	9/11/2022 1:47 AM
65	Pickleball was I. Walker only taken away with the promise they would find another location. That was 2 1/2 years ago. The city of Walker needs to step up and find a new location so is residents do not need to travel to other communities to enjoy this growing sport for all.	9/10/2022 11:43 AM
66	I do enjoy your Summer concert series and pickleball courts would be a nice edition to the Community.	9/10/2022 10:58 AM
67	Need a good pickleball facility	9/10/2022 9:45 AM
68	Please put in PB courts so I can play in my own community like every other community around GR has done. Also if you would consider indoor space to play PB and charged a yearly membership fee and \$5 per day to play like MSA facilities do for rainy, hot or super windy days and winter time I guarantee it would get used. PB is huge now all over the world!	9/10/2022 9:38 AM

69	Pickleball courts!! Many of them. Great sport for all ages, and creates good community!!	9/10/2022 9:32 AM
70	Walker has excellent space to house Pickleball courts. Given it is the number 1 growing sport in America it should be offered more widely in the City.	9/10/2022 9:03 AM
71	Love working in Walker. Would love to play pickleball there as well!	9/10/2022 8:55 AM
72	Please get the Pickleball courts back!	9/10/2022 8:03 AM
73	Thanks!	9/10/2022 7:44 AM
74	The Walker ice and fitness center should offer a resident discount or offer free classes to those residing in the Walker area.	9/10/2022 6:54 AM
75	Love to have pickleball in alpine estates park	9/9/2022 11:22 PM
76	I play pickleball and it's hard to find any indoor pickle ball. Also the courts are packed every night. It would be nice to have some more courts.	9/9/2022 11:17 PM
77	Add pickleball courts!	9/9/2022 10:40 PM
78	PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE put Pickleball courts in at Alpine Estates!!	9/9/2022 9:35 PM
79	Please get us some new good Pickleball courts. The ones behind the school are a poor excuse for courts.	9/9/2022 9:24 PM
80	Splash pad and pickleball courts are needed.	9/9/2022 8:45 PM
81	A splash pad for the kids on the NW side of Walker (@Walker City Central Park or Walker Community Park) would be awesome!	9/9/2022 11:34 AM
82	The parks department is awesome, we are very proud of our parks.	9/9/2022 9:58 AM
83	I am exhausted after this long survey!	9/9/2022 8:44 AM
84	I was disappointed Walker didn't take the opportunity to use the Lincoln Lawns golf club as a park, trails, and farmers market location. This would have been a wonderful addition and location to preserve much like is being done at the Highlands. In an area that is heavily congested with traffic, preserving this vs residential/ apartment development would have been excellent for Walker residents mental and physical health. We've lived here for over ten years and our impression so far is that Walker is focused on bringing in fast food chains and urban development which has been very disappointing. I appreciate the opportunity to fill out this survey and hope you will consider my suggestions.	9/9/2022 8:32 AM
85	Improving the current soccer fields should be a priority. Games and practices are always either canceled or moved because there is standing water on the fields. This affects nearly 1000 of our youth per year. Please fix the fields!	9/9/2022 6:11 AM
86	Open the pickleball courts and make some inside pickleball courts.	9/8/2022 4:14 PM
87	None	9/8/2022 4:10 PM
88	I think Walker does a very good job with cleanliness of facilities and up-keep. It would be nice to see them invest in the areas we already have. The soccer fields need better drainage, we've had to reschedule a lot of games because of field wetness. We would also love a splash pad. We have one not far from our home and use it regularly, however, we also spend a lot of time on this side of town and would use one here even more. Another ice surface would also really benefit our community and provide more options for public skate/be able to get more people involved. I also feel that more programs could be offered through our parks and rec department. The programs that are offered are spectacular, however, it seems limited for the size of the city.	9/8/2022 1:26 PM
89	Splashpad in city Central Park would be so fun. Pickle ball courts are a must too!	9/8/2022 12:06 PM
90	Please consider a community pool. This would be so great to have. Many other communities have this and it is such a nice offering for residents!	9/8/2022 10:45 AM
91	See above comments	9/7/2022 11:44 AM