



2016 – 2020



Parks and Recreation Master Plan

City of Mt. Pleasant



City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Master Plan

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Introduction

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for decision making regarding parks and recreation development in Mt. Pleasant through December 2020. In addition, the plan will meet the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*, published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management office. This plan will provide a rationale and priorities for capital budgeting by the city as well as for external funding opportunities. This plan represents a five year update to the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Planning Process

The process used to develop the Parks and Recreation Master Plan follows the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*. Information gathered at each stage of input was synthesized into an action plan. This triangulated approach to planning takes advantage of the perspectives held by various stakeholder groups to arrive at a plan that recognizes the diversity of opinion as well as identifies areas of shared interest and need. For a chronology of the planning process see Appendix A.

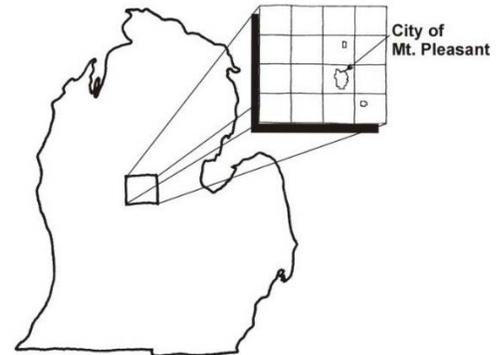
Figure 1: The Planning Process

Community Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location • Community Characteristics • Administrative Structure • Budget
Facility Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation areas and facilities • Recreation programs and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility • Standards
Public Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and Recreation Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Survey • Open House
Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goals and Objectives • Capital Improvement Plan

Chapter 1: The Community

The City of Mt. Pleasant

The City of Mt. Pleasant is located in the center of the lower peninsula of Michigan along the Chippewa River. The City is located at the intersection of highways US-127 and M-20. Mt. Pleasant serves as the county seat for Isabella County. The home of Central Michigan University (CMU), Mt. Pleasant consists of traditional neighborhoods, student residential areas, and a historic downtown. Each reflects the City's long and rich history. The Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribal Center is located just two miles east of Mt. Pleasant on M-20. The City is centered in one of the prime agricultural areas in Michigan and is in close proximity to many popular recreational areas located in Northern Michigan.



History

The City of Mt. Pleasant was incorporated as a city in 1889 on land that had been cleared of timber by David Ward, a land and timber speculator. Recognizing the location along the Chippewa River as a good town site, Mr. Ward surveyed the site into lots and named the place the village of Mt. Pleasant.

Other events continued to shape the Mt. Pleasant community. In 1855, following a treaty between the U.S. government and Indian tribes, the Isabella Indian Reservation was created becoming home to the Saginaw-Chippewa Tribe. The passage of the Homestead Act of 1862 brought new residents to the fertile agricultural area around Mt. Pleasant further increasing the demand for merchants in the new village. Central Michigan Normal School and Business Institute began operation in Mt. Pleasant as a private school in 1892; to become a State College in 1895, ultimately renamed Central Michigan University. Oil was discovered in Isabella County in 1928, quickly transforming Mt. Pleasant into a “boom” town.

The history and spirit of the Mt. Pleasant community are embodied in the four emblems comprising the city seal: Native American heritage and culture; agriculture; education; and the discovery and production of oil. Their profound effect in shaping our community is evident yet today¹.



Regional Context

Mt. Pleasant is also influenced by what is occurring outside of the City. The following is a description of the demographic characteristics of the City, including related data from the region, specifically comparisons to Union Charter Township and Isabella County.

¹ <http://www.mt-pleasant.org/Info/history.htm>

Social Characteristics

Population Trends and Projections

Mt. Pleasant’s 2010 population of 26,016 people represents a modest increase over the 2000 population. It continues the general trend of increasing population in the City. Mt. Pleasant continues to be the population center of Isabella County, but did experience a smaller rate of growth than surrounding Union Township. This trend is reflective of the limited land available in the City for additional growth, and suburbanization trends seen elsewhere. While Mt. Pleasant’s population has remained relatively stable in recent years (see Table 1), more rapid growth in the surrounding township will continue to place greater pressure on city parks and recreation resources. Table 2 shows anticipated population trends in Mt. Pleasant, Union Township, and Isabella County through 2040.

Table 1. Historical Population Data, 1970-2010

Location	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	% Increase 1970-2010	% Increase 2000-2010
<i>Mt. Pleasant</i>	20,524	23,746	23,285	25,946	26,016	27%	0.3%
Union Township	4,611	5,306	5,139	7,615	12,927	280%	69.8%
Isabella County	44,600	54,110	54,616	63,351	70,311	58%	11.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table 2. Population Projections: Mt. Pleasant & Environs

	2010 Census	2020	2030	2040	% Change 2010-2040
<i>Mt. Pleasant</i>	26,016	26,385	27,679	28,443	9%
Union Township	12,927	14,371	16,321	17,977	39%
Isabella County	70,311	72,590	77,419	80,782	15%

Sources: 2010 U.S. Census and EMCOG

Population Density

Mt. Pleasant has a total population of 26,016 and a total land area of 7.8 square miles. The population density for the City of Mt. Pleasant is 3,335 people per square mile. This density is high when compared to Union Township, Isabella County, and the state of Michigan (as shown in Table 3). This density is an indicator that a significant amount of the land in the City is occupied. This presents a challenge from a parks and recreation standpoint. With a high proportion of the landscape occupied by human development patterns of residential and commercial use, it is important to maximize the open space available to the people who live in the City.

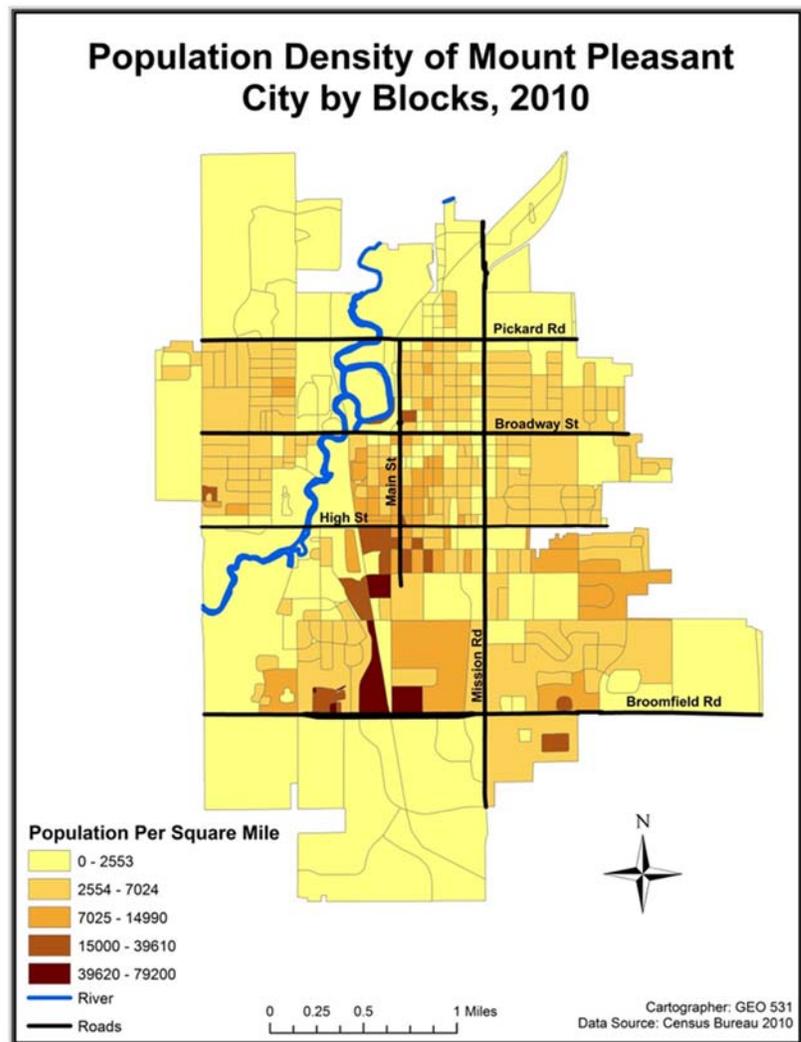
Table 3. Population, Area, and Density, 2010

Location	Total Population	Area (sq. mi.)	Population Density (people/sq. mi.)
<i>Mt. Pleasant</i>	26,016	7.8	3,335
Union Township	12,927	28.60	452
Isabella County	70,311	577.75	122
Michigan	9,883,640	96,716	102

Source: 2010 U.S. Census

The population density map of the City of Mt. Pleasant shows the density of the City by people per square mile in each City block. The map, Figure 2, shows the population distribution throughout the City. The blocks that have darker shading are areas of higher densities and the blocks that have lighter shading are areas that have a lower density. Many of the darker shaded areas are located either near or within the Campus of Central Michigan University. The blocks that have lighter shading tend to be located on the outer edges of the City; these are generally areas of non-residential development (commercial, office and industrial). Areas near the river are also lower in population density.

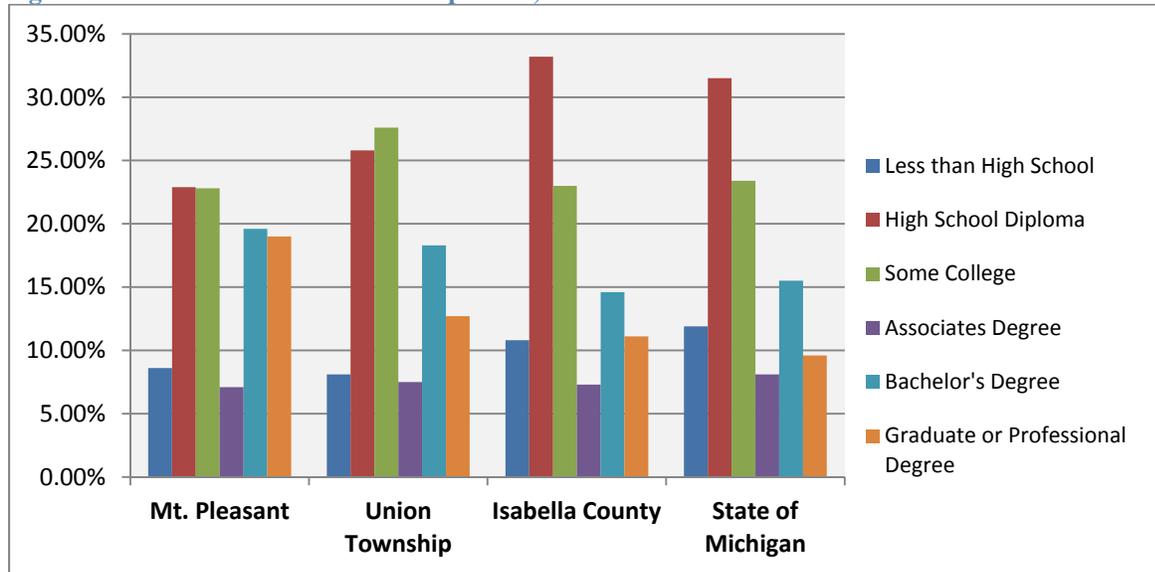
Figure 2. Population Density of Mt. Pleasant, 2010



Education

As a university town, Mt. Pleasant is home to a very well educated population. Of the City’s adult population (25 years and older), 39% are college graduates (bachelor’s degree or higher). 19% of the population has a graduate or professional degree. See Figure 3 below. In comparison, the percentage of people with a bachelor’s degree or higher is greater than that for Union Township (31%), the County (26%), or the State (25%).

Figure 3. Educational Attainment Comparison, 2010



Source: American Community Survey

Distribution of Population

Population is distributed unevenly in the County with the majority of the population concentrated in the south-east section around Mt. Pleasant. According to the 2010 Census, the City of Mt. Pleasant accounts for 37% of the County population. Union Township and the City account for over half (55%) of the County population. As a major population center, the City of Mt. Pleasant serves as an important source of recreational lands used by surrounding communities.

Age of Population

2010 Census figures show what the City has been aware of for a long time: The percentages of people ages 15 to 19 and 20 to 24 is much higher in Mt. Pleasant and Union Township than in the County and State. See Figure 4 for a display of population pyramids based on the 2010 Census (the population of males is illustrated in blue and females in red). Mt. Pleasant has such a high percentage in the group 15 to 19 because freshmen and sophomores attending CMU often live on campus in the dorms and residence halls, which are inside the City limits. Upper class off-campus housing is located in both the City and in Union Township and is reflected in the 20 to 24 age groups in both communities. Isabella County has a fairly high

percentage of people aged between 15 and 24, reflecting the strong influence of the University’s population all the way to the County level. Michigan on the other hand, has a fairly uniform population make-up, a pyramid that is very common in many non-university towns throughout the State and country.

The relative dominance of younger age groups is also suggested by the number of family- versus non-family households in the City. Family and non-family household data provides specific information about the relationships within households. Family households are those where the people living in the housing unit are related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Such an example would be a married couple, brother and sister, or any children. In contrast, a non-family household is a housing unit containing people living together who are not related by blood, marriage, or adoption. Within Mt. Pleasant, non-family households are often composed of college roommates who share no relation. In 2010, the City of Mt. Pleasant had 5,276 (63%) non-family households as compared with 3,100 (37%) family households. Similarly, Union Township had 3,271 non-family (62%) and 1,964 (38%) family households in 2010. See Figure 5.

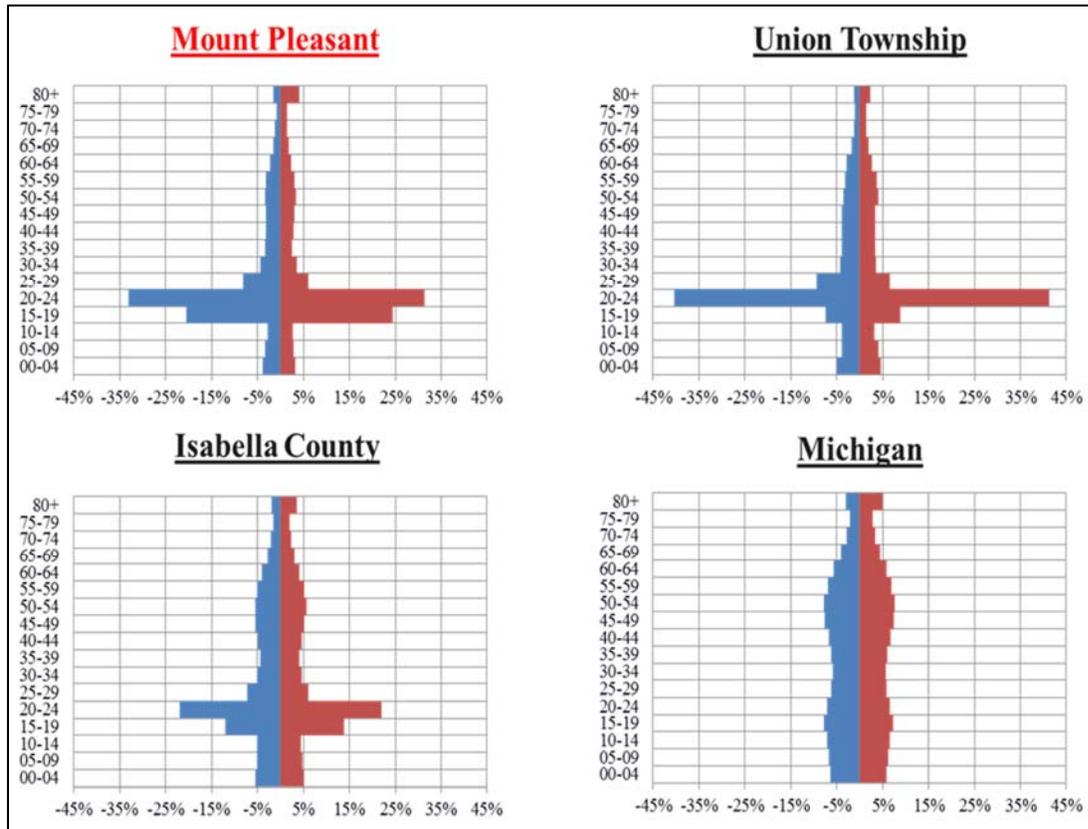
Analyzing these factors, one can see that Mt. Pleasant and the area surrounding it is relatively “young”, having a larger percentage of children (and families with children) and young adults as well as a smaller percentage of older residents than Michigan as a whole. The presence of Central Michigan University within the city of Mt. Pleasant and the amount of rental housing located in Union Township that accommodate students skews the population of the City, Township, and County.

Children, youth, and young adults create demand for active recreation. The City provides active recreation opportunities at many of its parks and recreational facilities. These will be discussed further in the *Resource and Recreation Inventory* section. Several entities beyond these public facilities provide active recreation opportunities as well. The University, through University Recreation (URec) and other student services, attempts to provide leisure and fitness facilities and programs to meet the demand by students. In addition, a number of apartment complexes have pools, fitness centers, and club houses to serve their residents.



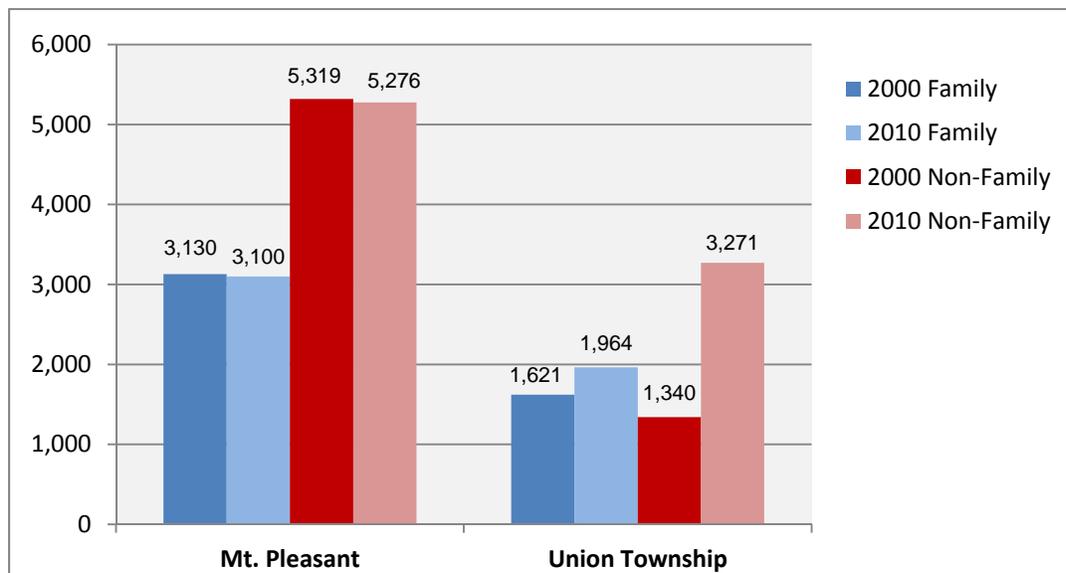
Mt. Pleasant’s Adult Coed Kickball Team

Figure 4. Population Pyramids, 2010 (Males are indicated in blue on the left, females in red on the right.)



Source: 2010 U.S. Census

Figure 5. Family and Non-Family Households, 2000-2010

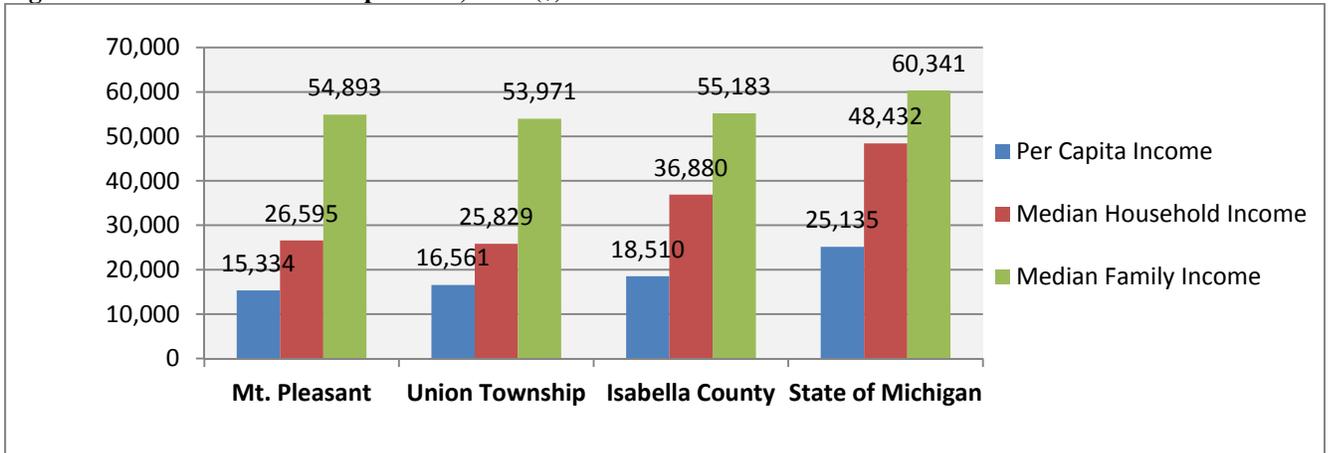


Source: 2000 U.S. Census Demographic Profile, 2010 U.S. Census Demographic Profile

Income and Poverty

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the American Community Survey data, both the median family income and the median household income for Mt. Pleasant increased between 2000 and 2010. For the City of Mt. Pleasant, at \$26,595, median household income remained well behind median family income of \$54,893. This difference is attributable to the large number of students living in non-family households, typically earning little or no income. See Figure 6.

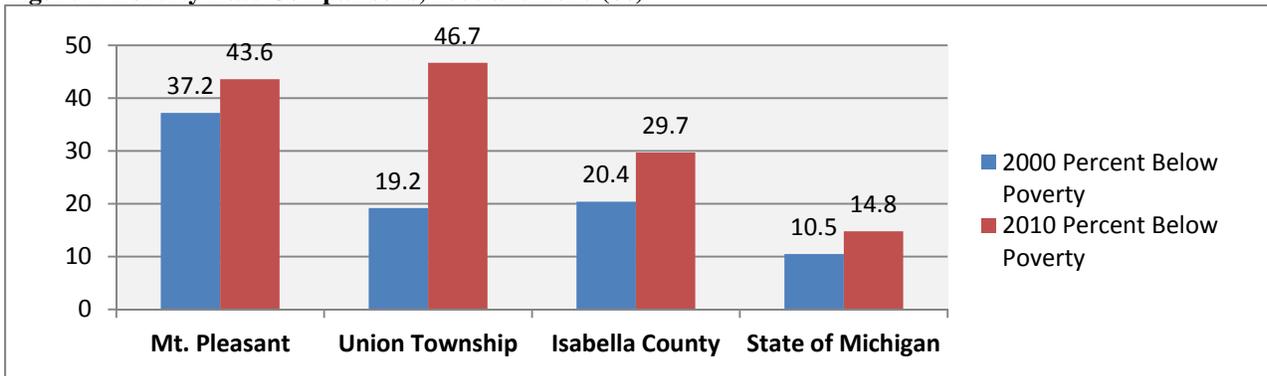
Figure 6. Personal Income Comparisons, 2010 (\$)



Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year estimates 2006-2010

The percentage of people living in poverty in the City increased by 5% during the last 10 years to 43.6%. The percentage of persons living below the poverty level in Mt. Pleasant in 2010 was below that in Union Township (46.7%), but is substantially above the County (29.7%) and State (14.8%). The high individual poverty rate in the City is also at least partially attributable to the number of students earning little or no income. See Figure 7.

Figure 7. Poverty Rate Comparisons, 2000 and 2010 (%)



Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year estimates 2006-2010

Occupation and Employment

Recent Census estimates from 2013 indicate a large number of occupations in Mt. Pleasant in the education and social service industries that is consistent with what has been seen in years past. According to 2013 Census estimates, those employed in the educational services, and health care and social assistance account for more than one in three of the jobs held by Mt. Pleasant residents over the age of 16 (Table 4). These education, health, and social assistance industry jobs, along with those in arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services and retail trade account for almost two-thirds (62%) of all jobs in Mt. Pleasant. See Table 4 below. Some of the largest employers in the Mt. Pleasant area include:

- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- Central Michigan University
- McLaren Central Michigan Hospital
- The Delfield Company
- McBride Quality Care
- Meijer Corporation
- Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
- Morbark
- STT Security
- Walmart
- Bandit Industries
- Pace International
- Unified Brands
- American Mitsuba
- Isabella Bank

Table 4: Industries – The Kind of Business Conducted by an Employer

Industry	Employed	Pct.
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	11,960	100.0%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	90	0.8%
Construction	218	1.8%
Manufacturing	454	3.8%
Wholesale trade	135	1.1%
Retail trade	1,583	13.2%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	164	1.4%
Information	267	2.2%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	428	3.6%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and	551	4.6%
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	4,096	34.2%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food	3,279	27.4%
Other services, except public administration	480	4.0%
Public administration	215	1.8%

Source: American Community Survey, 5-Year estimates 2009-2013

Chapter 2: Administration of Parks and Recreation

The Mt. Pleasant City Commission first approved a parks ordinance in 1958. Parks and Recreation is authorized under MCL 1917 PA 165: An Act authorizing cities, villages, counties, townships and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. In 1971 the Parks and Recreation Department was created by action of Mt. Pleasant City Commission.

The Commission consists of seven citizens elected at large for staggered three-year terms. The City Commission receives input and recommendations concerning parks and recreation from the Parks & Recreation Commission.

The Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Commission is a citizen advisory board made up of seven city residents who advise the City Commission on leisure time needs of the community, as well as plan for development of park facilities and recreation programs. Board members are appointed by the City Commission and serve a three-year term.

The Parks & Recreation Department is served by eight full-time staff members and a number of part-time employees who are responsible for managing Mt. Pleasants parks and providing a range of recreation programs and services (Table 5).

Table 5: Parks and Recreation Full-Time Staff

Christopher Bundy	<i>Director of Parks & Public Spaces</i>
Ryan Longoria	<i>Director of Recreation & Sports</i>
Craig Brune	<i>Parks & Grounds Coordinator</i>
Currently Vacant	<i>PEAK Director</i>
Carol Moody	<i>Recreation & Special Events Coordinator</i>
Steve Hufer	<i>Recreation & Athletic Coordinator</i>
Jason VanLiew	<i>Parks, Grounds, & Public Spaces II</i>
Josh Wozniak	<i>Parks, Grounds, & Public Spaces I</i>
Lisa Way	<i>Office Professional II</i>



**Bronze Bear
and Fountain
Nelson Park**

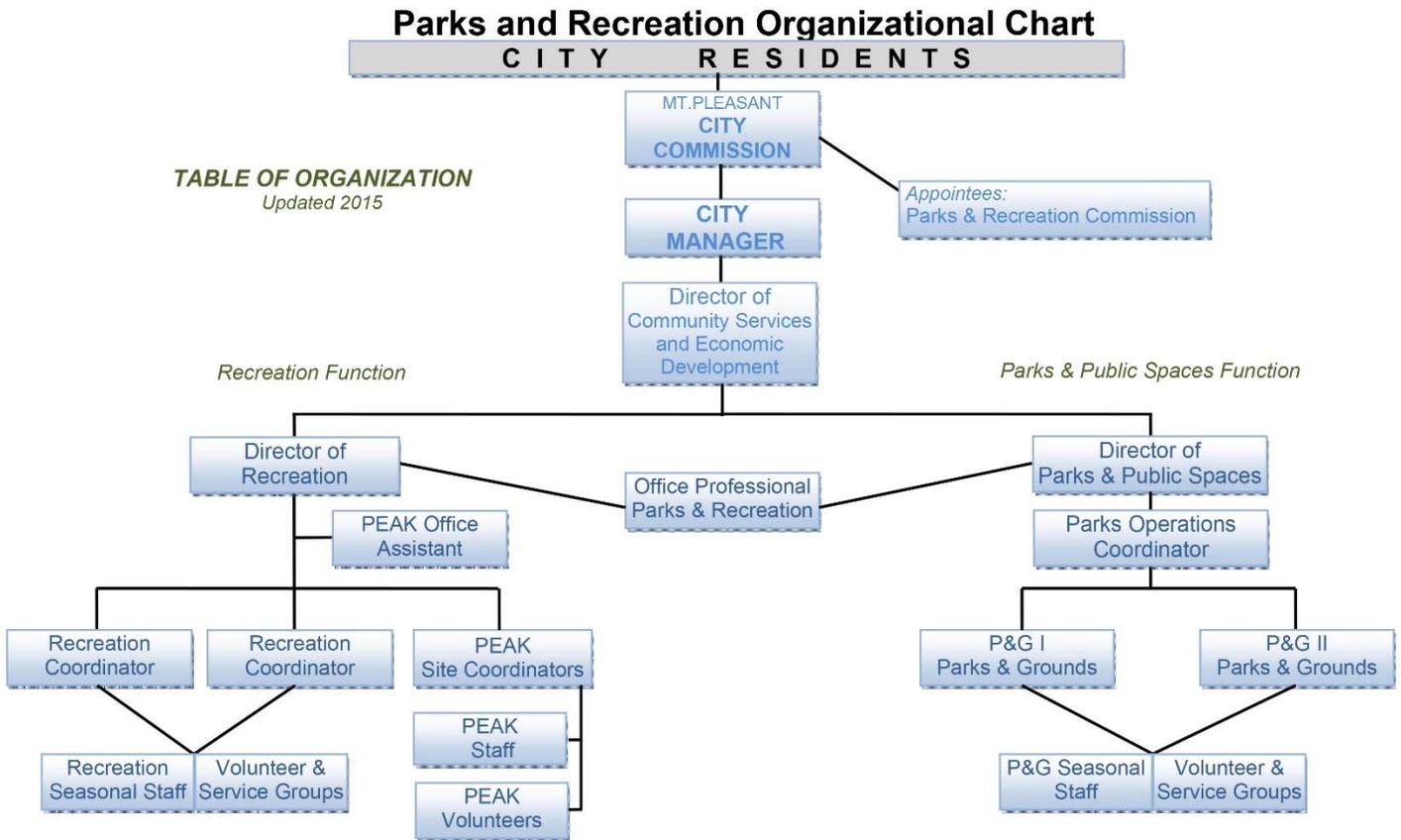


Figure 8. Parks and Recreation Organizational Chart

Parks and Recreation Budget

Funds for parks and recreation come from two primary sources; the general fund and the special revenue fund (Table 6). The general fund supports the administration of the parks and recreation functions including professional staff positions, park operations and maintenance of park structures, land improvements, capital acquisitions, and cemeteries. The special revenue fund consists of revenues from programs that are expected to recover their direct expenses. Surplus revenue in the special revenue funds have been used to fund capital expenditures.

Table 6: Parks and Recreation Budget

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>Actual</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2014</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>2015</u>
Grants and Donations	\$ 368,321	\$ 283,111	\$ 278,148	\$ 284,000
PEAK Fees	\$ 315,244	\$ 326,008	\$ 320,000	\$ 330,000
Program Fees	\$ 194,646	\$ 206,781	\$ 244,470	\$ 293,520
Facility Rentals	\$ 16,972	\$ 15,873	\$ 16,000	\$ 16,000
Other	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000
Total Parks & Rec Revenue	\$ 910,183	\$ 846,773	\$ 873,618	\$ 938,520

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Parks and grounds administration	\$ 140,038	\$ 139,701	\$ 159,000	\$ 146,680
Parks maintenance	\$ 346,631	\$ 368,802	\$ 445,650	\$ 446,000
Cemeteries	\$ 58,641	\$ 59,928	\$ 62,810	\$ 62,610
Capital Improvements	\$ 129,678	\$ 242,446	\$ 687,910	\$ 521,000
Recreation administration	\$ 202,635	\$ 193,003	\$ 242,620	\$ 242,700
PEAK Program	\$ 541,664	\$ 549,294	\$ 593,150	\$ 600,810
Recreation Activities/Programs	\$ 201,430	\$ 242,807	\$ 311,820	\$ 360,470
Total Parks & Rec Expenditures	\$ 1,620,717	\$ 1,795,981	\$ 2,502,960	\$ 2,380,270

Grants

The City of Mt. Pleasant received funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for a number of projects, see Table 7. Appendix B has the details of Mt. Pleasant’s recreation grant history.



Table 7: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants Received

<u>Grant Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
26-00259	1972	Indian Pines	\$ 28,447	Acquisition
26-00303	1972	Leonard Woods (Mission Creek Park)	\$ 65,380	Acquisition & Development
TF607	1982	Mill Pond Park	\$ 337,500	Acquisition
26-01441	1985	Mill Pond Park	\$ 101,780	Development
TF88-059	1988	Mill Pond Park	\$ 168,000	Development
CM99-428	1999	Riverwalk Trail	\$ 750,000	Development
TF01-187	2001	Chippewa River Restoration Project	\$ 500,000	Development
RP11-416	2011	Mill Pond Park Trail Improvements	\$ 30,000	Development



Access to Recreation: In 2007 cooperating with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation the city also shared in a \$760,000 grant from Kellogg Foundations “Access to Recreation Initiative” to develop an accessible adventure trail at Chipp-A-Waters Park. The trail links to the existing 4 mile Riverwalk Trail and features a uniquely designed pedestrian bridge crossing the Chippewa River, interpretive signage highlighting the area’s natural resources and history, and navigational aids along the trail.

PEAK After School Program: In 2001, the City of Mt. Pleasant and Mt. Pleasant Public Schools partnered in a grant funded program called Partners Empowering All Kids which provides after school and summer programs for youth in the Mt. Pleasant area. The United States Department of Education Community Learning Centers funded a \$5.1 million grant which paid for the program until the spring of 2005. Once the funding expired, the City of Mt. Pleasant took over operations of the PEAK Program. PEAK is now funded through a combination of user fees and contributions from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Of the \$650,000 annual elementary and secondary PEAK program operating budgets, approximately 50% comes from user fees, while the remainder comes from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe’s 2% grant funds.

Chapter 3: Inventory of Recreation Areas and Facilities

Recreation Inventory Process

The recreation inventory was completed utilizing a variety of methods and resources. The Isabella County 2012 master plan⁷ and the City of Mt. Pleasant 2014 community master plan⁸ provided helpful information for compiling the recreation inventory. Like public parks, public schools sites provide many outdoor areas and facilities that support local recreation activities. In addition to reviewing existing planning documents, site visits were conducted to verify and update printed inventory information.

Regional Recreation Areas

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) operates a number of recreational areas in and around the Mt. Pleasant area that are available to all residents (See Figure 9). The DNR property located in the counties immediately surrounding Isabella County includes two state parks, seven state forest campgrounds, and four state pathways⁹.

County Recreation Areas

Within Isabella County numerous opportunities exist for outdoor recreation (See Figure 10). The Isabella County Parks Department operates seven county parks. In addition, Isabella County Parks is also responsible for maintaining an eight mile section of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail in the northeast corner of the county. There is also access to portions of the AuSable State Forest and the Edmore State Game Area within the county. DNR also maintains boat ramps on Stephenson Lake in Vernon Township, Six Lakes in Sherman Township, and Littlefield Lake in Gilmore Township.



**Soft Shell Turtle at
Island Park**

⁷ Isabella County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan: 2012.

⁸ City of Mt. Pleasant Master Plan: 2014.

⁹ Source: <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/images/parknav/isabellaarea.htm>

Figure 9. Regional Recreational Facilities

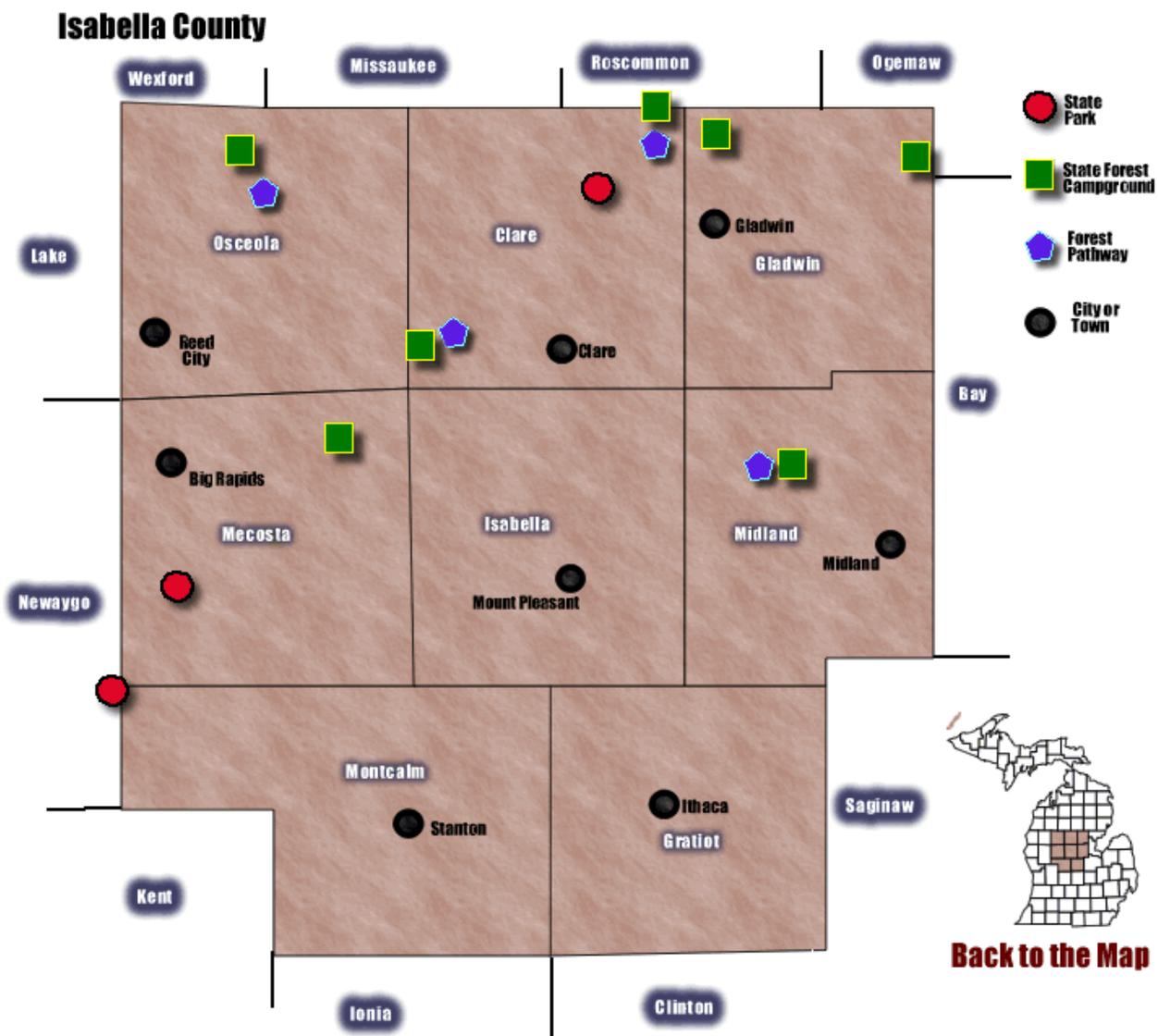
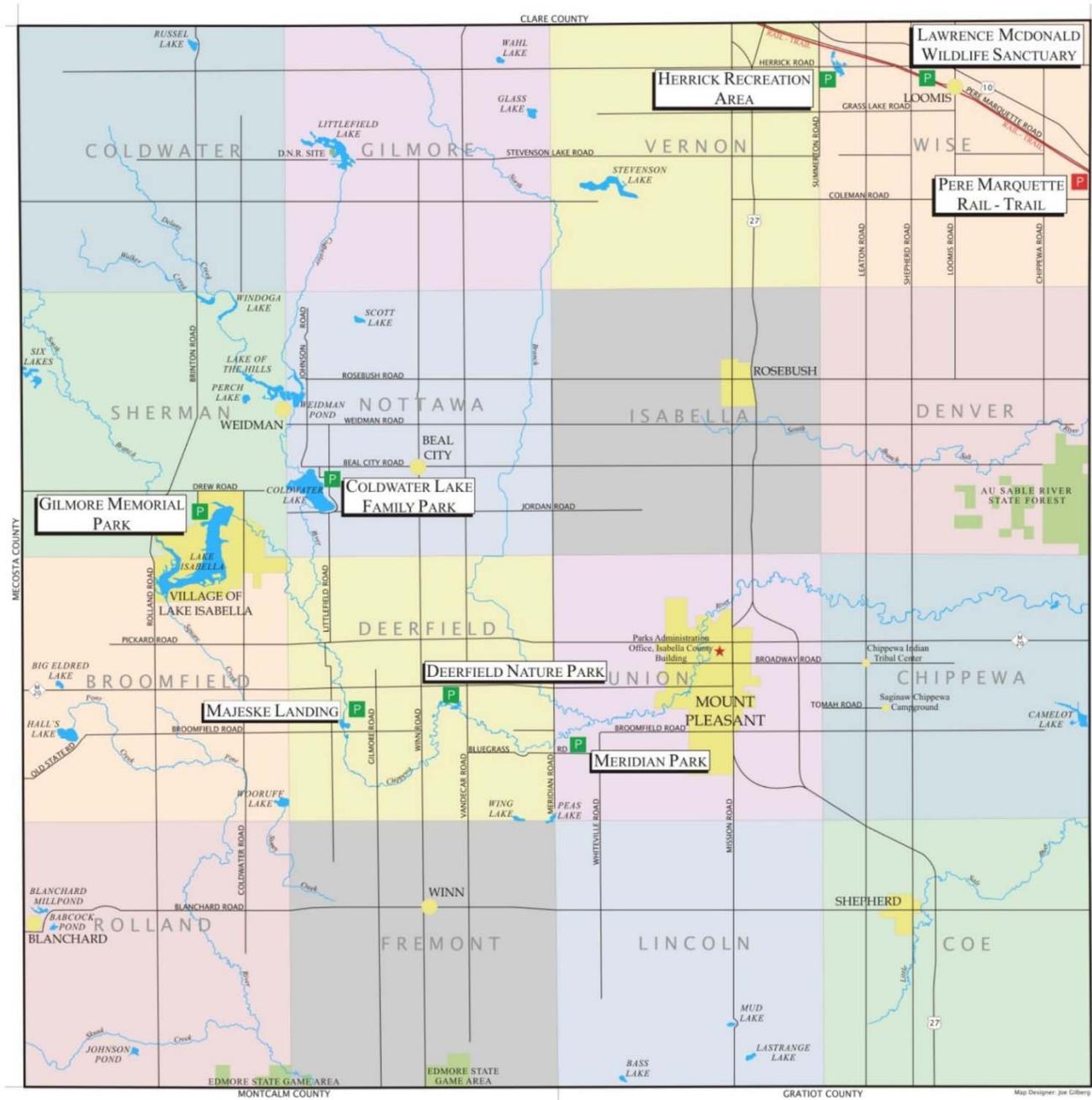


Figure 10. Isabella County Parks



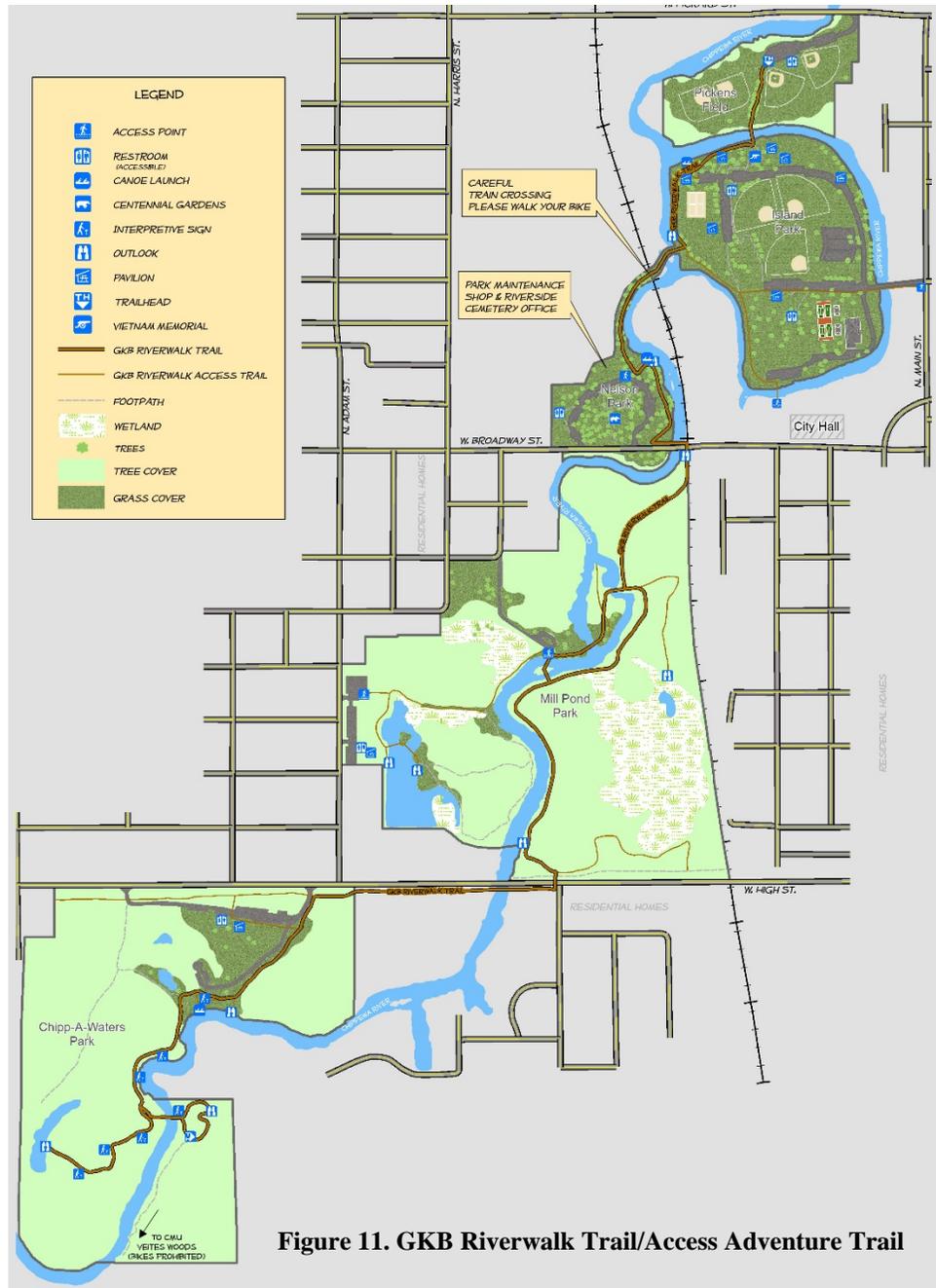
Trails

The Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department manages the GKB Riverwalk Trail/Access Adventure Trail; a four mile paved trail linking five city parks and following the Chippewa River. The trail provides opportunities for biking, jogging and walking, and river and nature access. The location of the trail in the center of the community provides ready access to a large proportion of the community.

The CMU trail system, see Figure 12, includes a combination of paved trails, bicycle lanes, and marked sidewalk trails through the CMU campus.

In terms of creating connections to regional

trails that are in proximity to the City of Mt. Pleasant, the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway Group was created by area community leaders to develop a non-motorized pathway connecting the Pere-Marquette Trail with the Fred Meijer Trail through the communities of Clare, Rosebush, the City of Mt. Pleasant, Shepherd, Alma, St. Louis, and Ithaca. In the 2014, the group was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network to develop the first phase of a planned 40-mile long non-motorized pathway. Overall, the non-motorized pathway is intended to connect the Pere Marquette and Fred Meijer Pathways in Clare and Alma, then eventually connect to the Clinton-Ionia -Shiawassee Pathway in St. Johns.



The Greater Mt. Pleasant Area Non-motorized Plan

The City of Mt. Pleasant adopted its most recent Master Plan on November 24, 2014, which incorporated the *Greater Mt. Pleasant Area Non-motorized Plan*. See pages 116 through 119 of the Master Plan for an overview and summary of non-motorized transportation planning in the City, and pages 228 through 566 in Appendix F of the Master Plan for the full 338-page version of the *Greater Mt. Pleasant Area Non-motorized Plan*.

The *Non-motorized Plan* describes a comprehensive series of recommendations regarding ways the City of Mt. Pleasant, including other adjacent communities and agencies, could improve their non-motorized connections as well as creating links to surrounding communities and regional trail resources in Isabella County. The *Non-motorized Plan* looked at “how these communities may transform their streets into outstanding attractive public spaces that are friendly to bicyclist, pedestrians, and transit users while continuing to serve the needs of motorized traffic.” The majority of the recommendations involve improvements and the associated commitment of financial resources within the City of Mt. Pleasant. By incorporating the *Greater Mt. Pleasant Area Non-motorized Plan*, the Master Plan therefore furthers the four broadly stated goals of the Non-motorized Plan, specifically:

- Provide better non-motorized connectivity,
- Advance community health,
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, and
- Institute changes that lead to a bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly community.

Key objectives to these goals identify parks as playing an important role in implementation, including provisions for non-motorized links between destinations such as parks, and establishing family friendly non-motorized facilities to parks.

In terms of planning for parks and recreation, the *Non-motorized Plan* includes an inventory of existing non-motorized facilities in the City (see “Off-Road Trail” in Figures 3.1B and 3.3D) as well as facilities proposed for the City, such as the “Proposed Off-Road Trails” and “Proposed Regional Trails” in Figure 4.1K, and the “Proposed Regional

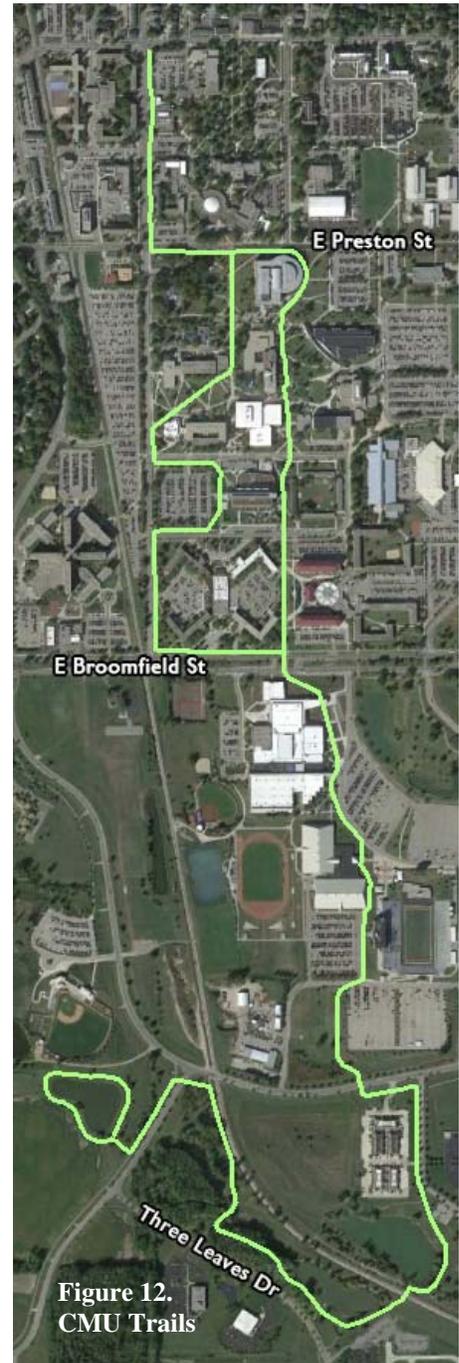


Figure 12.
CMU Trails

Bike Routes” in Figure 4.1P. The implementation portion of the *Non-motorized Plan* identifies the City’s parks as key attractions for the Circle Tour project (Figure 5.1B).

Given the detailed scope and breadth of the *Non-motorized Plan*, the Master Plan describes in detail how it can be used as a resource guide to advise City staff and decision makers on how to treat the construction or reconstruction of roadways. Projects that contemplate construction or reconstruction activities affecting City streets or non-motorized connectors should be compared with the recommendations contained in the *Non-motorized Plan*, but evaluated on a case by case basis as to the applicability of the recommendation for that location as weighed against the practical application of implementing that recommendation with the City. Factors such as cost, timing, public input and support, safety, long range plans, and other factors need to be considered along with the recommendations of the *Non-motorized Plan* in any specific location.

Pere Marquette Rail Trail



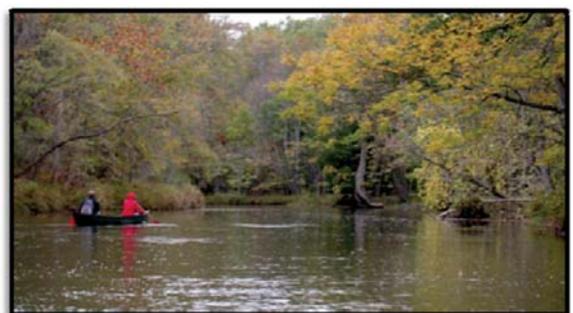
In addition to local trails, Mt. Pleasant residents can access the Pere Marquette Rail Trail fifteen miles north in Clare, and the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail fifteen miles south in Gratiot County. The Pere Marquette Rail Trail is a 30 mile paved trail linking Midland and Clare, Michigan. The Fred Meijer Heartland Trail is a forty-one mile trail, partially paved, that runs from Elwell in Gratiot County ending just north of Greenville.

Natural Features

The Chippewa River represents the most significant natural feature in the City of Mt. Pleasant. Public access to the Chippewa River is ensured by the preservation of public space along the river. Five developed city parks are located adjacent to the river. City parks provide a number of river access opportunities including:

- Canoe landings at Nelson Park, Mill Pond Park, Island Park, and Chipp-A-Waters Park.
- Fishing decks at Chipp-A-Waters Park, Island Park, Mill Pond Park, and Nelson Park.
- A white water course at Mill Pond Park
- In addition, the Chippewa River flows past two undeveloped pieces of city property. The Canal Street Park and the Indian Pines properties, provide additional river access points.

Several canoe, kayak, and tube liveries in the Mt. Pleasant community provide rental equipment and transportation to those wishing to use the river.



City of Mt. Pleasant Parks

The City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department operates eleven properties totaling nearly 400 acres of land (Table 8). Site plans of the City's parks are provided in Appendix E.

Chipp-A-Waters Park is now a 60-acre park located on the Chippewa River with the addition of a 30 acre parcel annexed in 2005 via a donation to the city with an accompanying conservation easement. The Park has undergone major universal access improvements including addition the of The Access Recreation Trail Grant Project which added additional trails and a uniquely designed 8' wide by 125' long bridge with handrails and viewing platforms spanning the Chippewa River. This park addition now serves as the city's southern trailhead for the Riverwalk trail. These improvements join existing park amenities including an updated restroom and pavilion, playground structure, access road with canoe launch and adjoining parking area, as well as an observation deck, at the river's edge. This park is also home to the Heart of Michigan Girl Scout Cabin.



Island Park is a 35-acre park completely surrounded by the Chippewa River and it is the most active park in the Mt. Pleasant inventory. The park is connected via foot bridges and the Riverwalk Pathway with two adjacent City parks; Pickens field to the north and Nelson Park to the west. Island Park is also the home of the Michigan Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Isabella County Iraqi Freedom memorial, The Character Counts Gazebo, the Mt. Pleasant Skate Park, and the community playscape. The park also includes premier sand volleyball courts as well as picnic shelters, improved restrooms, softball diamonds and full access to the river.

Mill Pond Park, is a 90-acre park located on the river and offers several trails, pedestrian bridges and various amenities. Recent additions to the park include an addition to the Riverwalk trail on the south side of the park. A significant river restoration project took place in 2003. The project included dam removal and construction of five stone weirs to control existing water elevations and create a small whitewater course for canoes and kayaks. Riverbed reconstruction and bank restoration were major aspects of the project. The park also includes the City's largest wetland areas with numerous viewing opportunities, a pavilion, restrooms, and play structure.



Bridge at Mill Pond Park

Pickens Field is a 15-acre park along the Chippewa River. This park also serves as the existing North trailhead for the nearly four miles of paved Riverwalk Trail.

Nelson Park is a 5-acre park and is the fifth park located on the Riverwalk system. Recent improvements include a Bronze Bear centennial fountain and garden, restroom facility as well as fishing and observation deck, canoe launch, and improved access roads and parking.

Mission Creek Park is located on the north end of town. It is a 60 acre wooded, natural area devoted to mostly passive uses during the summer. Winter activities include sledding and winter trail use. In 2015, a dog park will be added to Mission Creek Park.

Canal Street Park, is a 1-acre undeveloped mini-park located on the river.

Sunnyside Park, is a 16 acre active recreation park featuring six soccer fields, pavilion, restrooms, and basketball court.

Horizon Park is a 23 acre active recreation park located on the east side of Mt. Pleasant that shares space with the High School soccer field. Park facilities include a softball diamond, playground, ¼ mile track, tennis court, and basketball court. In 2015, a picnic shelter will be added.

Yost Park is a an 8 acre park that includes active play areas such as upgraded ball fields, picnic shelter, restroom facilities, and a newly paved parking addition.

Finally, Indian Pines Preserve is a 80-acre partially wooded natural area located outside the city limits just north of the airport.

Park	Total Acres	Maintained Acres
Canal Street Park (undeveloped)	1	1
Chipp-A-Waters Park	60	25
Horizon Park	23	23
Indian Pines Preserve (undeveloped)	80	5
Island Park	35	35
Mill Pond Park	90	25
Mission Creek Park	60	25
Nelson Park	5	5
Pickens Field	15	15
Sunnyside Park	17	17
Yost Park	8	8
Total	394	184

Table 8. City Park Total and Maintained Acreage

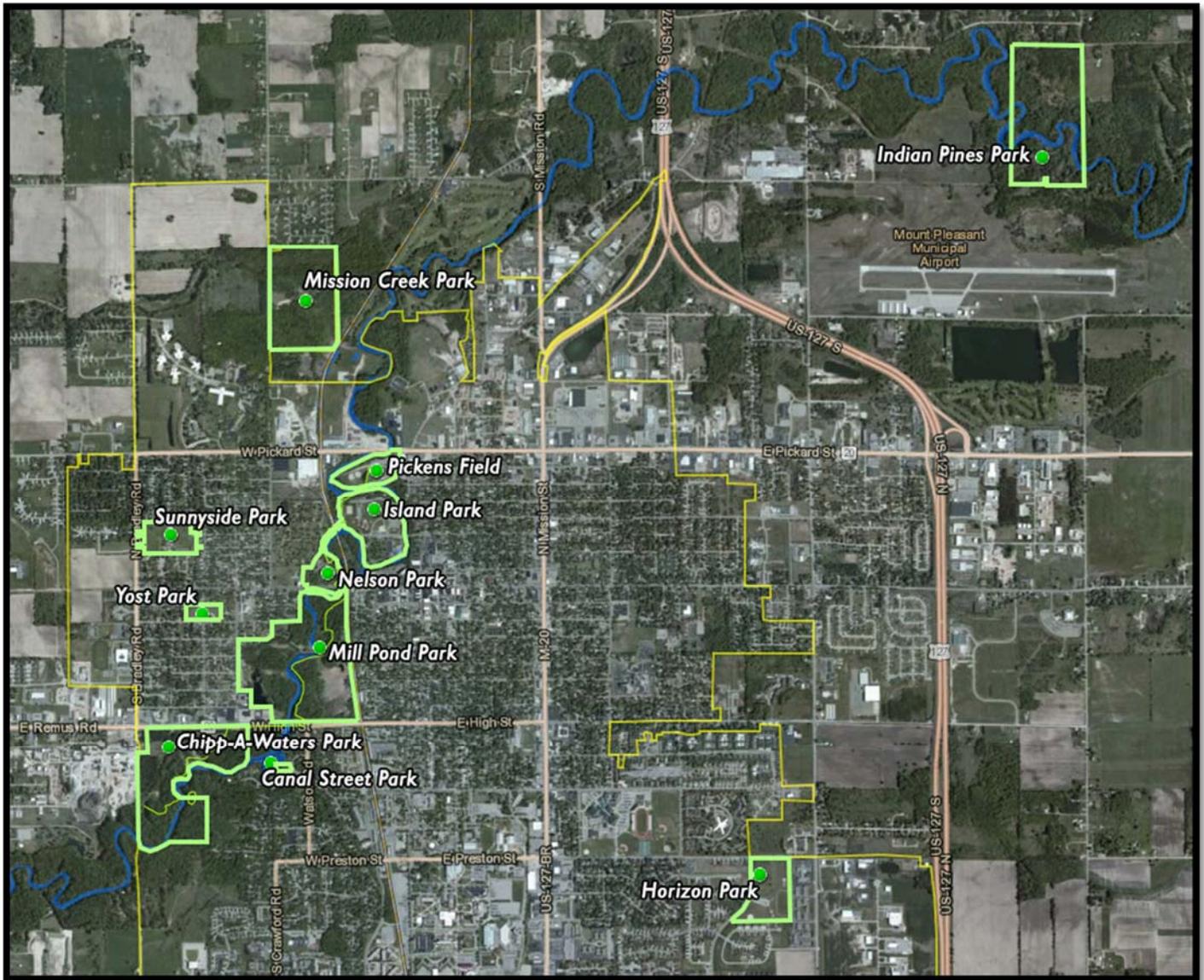


Figure 13. Mt. Pleasant City Parks

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools

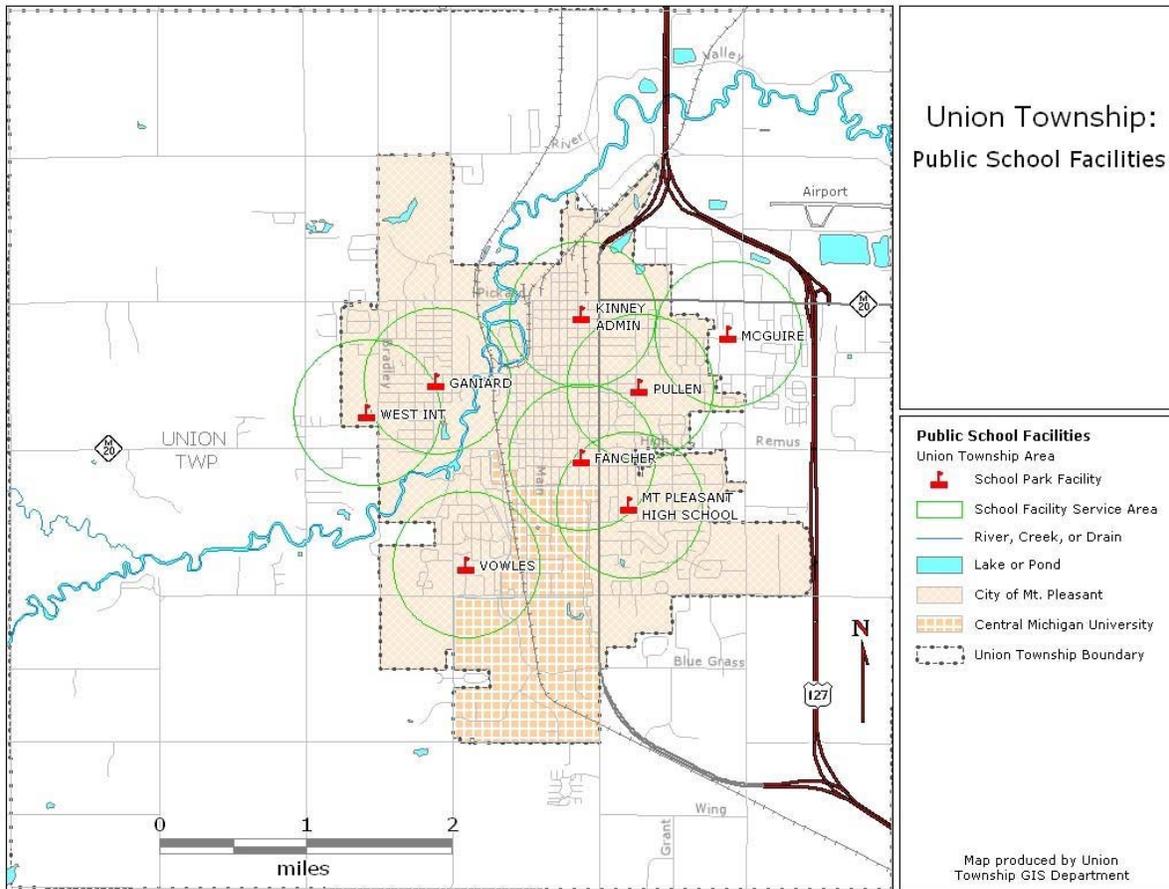
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools operates six elementary, one middle school, and one high school. All public schools are within the city boundaries with the exception of Mary McGuire Elementary which is located just outside the eastern boundary of the city in Union Charter Township.

Elementary and Middle schools properties have activity areas for outdoor recreation including multi-purpose field space, hard surfaced sport courts, and playground equipment. School sites are classified as neighborhood parks.

The Mt. Pleasant High School site provides outdoor recreation facilities often used by the public for recreation and sports including tennis courts, baseball and softball diamonds, and football fields, and running tracks. The high school also has soccer fields located adjacent to Horizon Park.

Potter Playground is also owned by Mt. Pleasant Schools and is a one acre parcel on the corner of Maple and Pine Streets in Mt. Pleasant. In 2015, the plan is to have the City lease and maintain this parcel with an eye toward future development.

Figure 14: Mt. Pleasant Public Schools¹¹



¹¹ Map used with permission of Union Charter Township GIS

Standards referred to in this section are based on: Lancaster, R.A. (Ed.). (1990). Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Ashburn, VA: National Recreation and Park Association.

Figure 15: Park Type Legend

	Classification	Size	Service Area	
1	Mini-Park	2,500 S.F. to 1 Acre	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential settings	.025 to .5 ac./1,000
2	Neighborhood Park	1 to 15 Acres	One neighborhood to ¼ to ½ mile radius	1.0 to 2.0 ac./1,000
3	Community Park	16 – 99 Acres	Several neighborhoods to 2 mile radius	5.0 to 8.0 ac./1,000
NA	Metropolitan Park	100 – 499 Acres	Several communities within 1 hours drive	5.0 to 10.0 ac./1,000
5	Regional Park	500+ Acres	Several communities within 1 hours drive	Variable
6	Special Use Areas	Varies depending on size	No applicable standard	Variable
7	Linear Park/Linkages	Sufficient width to protect resources and provide maximum usage	No applicable standard	Variable

NA: Park Type not applicable to Mt. Pleasant

Table 9: Inventory of Recreation Areas

Site	Park Type	Baseball	Softball	Football/Soccer	*Multi-use field space	Volleyball	Basketball (Indoor Courts)	Basketball (Outdoor Goals)	Tennis Courts	Playground	Restrooms	Horseshoes	Water access (Fishing/Boating)	Trails/access	Disc Golf Course	1/4 Mile Track	Beach	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	Pool/spray park	Skateboard Park	Campsites/Cabins	Acres	Ownership
Canal Street Park	6												Y										1	Mt. Pleasant
Chipp-A-Waters Park	3								1	1			Y	Y				Y	1				60	Mt. Pleasant
Horizon Park	3		1		Y		2	1	1	1						1							23	Mt. Pleasant
Indian Pines Preserve													Y										80	Mt. Pleasant
Island Park	3		3			4	4	4	3	2	8		Y	Y				Y	6	1	1		35	Mt. Pleasant
Mill Pond Park	3								1	1			Y	Y			1	Y	1				90	Mt. Pleasant
Mission Creek Park	3													Y				Y	1				60	Mt. Pleasant

Site	Park Type	Baseball	Softball	Football/Soccer	*Multi-use field space	Volleyball	Basketball (Indoor Courts)	Basketball (Outdoor Goals)	Tennis Courts	Playground	Restrooms	Horseshoes	Water access (Fishing/Boating)	Trails/access	Disc Golf Course	1/4 Mile Track	Beach	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	Pool/spray park	Skateboard Park	Campsites/Cabins	Acres	Ownership	
Riverwalk Trail	7												Y	Y											Mt. Pleasant
Nelson Park	3										1		Y	Y				Y					5		Mt. Pleasant
Pickens Field	3	2	2							1	1			Y				Y					15		Mt. Pleasant
Yost Park	2	1	1								1												8		Mt. Pleasant
Sunnyside Park	2			6			2		1	1								Y					17		Mt. Pleasant
Coldwater Lake Park	5		1			3				1	3	5	Y	Y			1	Y	3			95/5	28		Isabella County
Deerfield Nature Park	5					3					5	2		Y			1	Y	5			10/0	591		Isabella County
Gilmore Park	5										1		Y	Y									7		Isabella County
Herrick Recreation Area	5					3				2	2	3	Y				1	Y	2			73/5	113		Isabella County
Lawrence A. McDonald Wildlife Area	5																						11		Isabella County
Majeske Landing	5												Y										3		Isabella County
Meridian County Park	5										1		Y	Y			1	Y					152		Isabella County
Pere Marquette Rail Trail	7									1	1			Y				Y					100		Isabella County
Six Lakes Access	5												Y										1		Isabella County
Fancher Elem.	2				Y		1	4		2							1						6		Mt. Pleasant Schools
Ganiard Elem.	2				Y		1	2		2								Y					3		Mt. Pleasant Schools
Kinney/Central Office	2	4			Y		1	3		1													3		Mt. Pleasant Schools
McGuire Elem.	2	2			Y		1	2		1													10		Mt. Pleasant Schools
Mt. Pleasant High School	3	3	2	4	Y		3		8							1							60		Mt. Pleasant Schools

Site	Park Type	Baseball	Softball	Football/Soccer	*Multi-use field space	Volleyball	Basketball (Indoor Courts)	Basketball (Outdoor Goals)	Tennis Courts	Playground	Restrooms	Horseshoes	Water access (Fishing/Boating)	Trails/access	Disc Golf Course	1/4 Mile Track	Beach	Picnic Tables	Picnic Shelters/Pavilions	Pool/spray park	Skateboard Park	Campsites/Cabins	Acres	Ownership	
Potter Park	1								1										1				1	Mt. Pleasant Schools	
Pullen Elem.	2	2			Y		1	3		1													12	Mt. Pleasant Schools	
Rosebush	3	1			Y	1	1			1								Y					17	Mt. Pleasant Schools	
School Forest	6												Y										240	Mt. Pleasant Schools	
Vowles Elem.	2	2			Y		1	3		1													13	Mt. Pleasant Schools	
West Intermediate.	2				Y		1	4	4							1							6	Mt. Pleasant Schools	
Memorial Forest Recreation Area	3	1								1								Y	1				15	Mt. Pleasant Schools	
Edmore State Game Area	5																						200	State	
Stevenson Lake Access	5												Y										1	State	
Central Michigan University	NA		4	5	Y				10		1			Y	1					2					State
Jameson Park	2		1			1				1	1							Y	1				5.5	Union Twp	
McDonald Park	3	3	2					3		1	2	2		Y				Y	2				15	Union Twp	
SUMMARY OF PARK AREAS AND FEATURES BY OWNERSHIP																									
Isabella County Parks		0	1	0		9	0	0	0	4	13	10			0	0	4		10	0	0		1,006	County	
Mt. Pleasant Parks		3	7	6		4	0	8	5	8	10	8	7	7	0	1	1		9	1	1		394	City	
Mt. Pleasant Public Schools		15	2	4		1	11	21	12	11	0	0			0	3	0		2	0	0		386	Schools	
State of Michigan Land		0	4	5		0	0	0	10	0	1	0			1	0	0		0	2	0		201	State	
Union Township Park		3	3	0		1	0	3	0	2	3	2			0	0	0		3	0	0		20.5	Township	
		21	17	15		15	11	32	27	25	26	20			1	4	5		24	3	1		2,028	TOTAL	

*Open field areas not maintained for a particular sport activity

Accessibility of City Parks

In receiving a \$760,000 Kellogg Foundation Access to Recreation grant, the Mt. Pleasant City Commission, in partnership with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, declared its commitment to the principles of universal design in all park facilities and programs¹². Overall, park structures such as restrooms, pavilions, the fishing deck and canoe landing meet ADA guidelines. Other park features such as playgrounds also meet ADA guidelines, however, they lack an accessible route of travel to the equipment. Grills (and, by association, picnic sites) are generally not located along an accessible route of travel. Access to some active recreation areas is limited including access to sport courts and ball fields. Table 10 provides an overview of the accessibility characteristics of the developed parks.

Accessibility Scale

- 1 = None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 = Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 = Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 = The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 = The entire park was developed /renovated using the principals of universal design.

Table 10. Accessibility of City Parks

Park	Facilities	Routes	Comments
Horizon Park	3	2	Paved parking, designated parking, curb cuts, and sidewalk access to restroom building and to playground area. Lacks an accessible route of travel to playground equipment, softball field, tennis court, basketball court, or walking track.
Island Park	3	2	Paved parking, designated parking, curb cuts, and sidewalk access to restroom building and pavilions. Accessible recreational features include the canoe landing, Timbertown playground, an accessible fishing deck, and the new spray park. There is also access to Riverwalk Trail. Lacks accessible route of travel to some playground equipment, fixed picnic tables, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball fields, horseshoe pits. More barrier free picnic tables needed.
Mill Pond Park	3	3	Paved parking, designated parking, curb cuts, and sidewalks to restroom building, pavilion, and playground area. Access to Riverwalk trail. Lacks accessible route of travel to playground equipment, some picnic tables/grills.
Mission Creek Park	1	1	Lacks designated accessible parking, accessible restroom facility, an accessible route to pavilion or sled hill.
Riverwalk Trail	3	3	Numerous access points to the trail include accessible parking, trail access to parks and restroom buildings.
Nelson Park	3	3	Paved parking, designated parking, curb cuts, and sidewalks to restroom building. Accessible recreation features include a fishing deck and canoe landing. Access to Riverwalk trail. Some picnic tables/grills not accessible. More barrier free picnic tables needed.
Pickens Field	3	2	Paved parking and sidewalks to restroom building. Access to Riverwalk Trail. No accessible route of travel to ball fields or spectator seating.
Yost Park	1	1	Park is accessible by sidewalk, has paved parking. No accessible route of travel to ball fields or spectator seating.
Sunnyside Park	3	2	Paved parking, designated parking, curb cuts, and sidewalks to restroom building. Grills not accessible, inadequate number of barrier free picnic tables. No accessible route of travel to playground equipment.

¹² Mt. Pleasant City Council Resolution, April 23, 2007

To supplement the accessibility evaluation of each park listed in Table 10, a more detailed evaluation was conducted in early 2015 to identify specific areas in parks currently not in compliance with ADA. While Table 10 provides the baseline information in order to comply with the DNR'S required parks accessibility evaluation as described in the Guidelines for the *Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans*, Mt. Pleasant took additional steps to identify specific projects to highlight the City's status with overall barrier-free compliance in its park system. Table 11 lists the projects identified in early 2015 by Spicer Group's registered landscape architect and certified playground safety inspector that need to be completed in order for its parks to become compliant with ADA. Each project on Table 11 also has an associated cost estimate, prioritization, and a timeline for implementation. While Table 11 does indicate that many areas will require improvements, this is common for most communities and can be attributed to the historically complicated implementation of ADA requirements.



Table 11:
Specific
Parks
Projects to
Attain ADA
Compliance

Park Name/Project	Proposed Timeline	Estimated Cost	Priority
Chipp-A-Waters Park			
1 Curb Ramp Replacement near Restroom	2019	\$1,000.00	HIGH
2 Accessible Route to Playground	2022	\$10,000.00	MEDIUM
3 Accessible Route to Grills near Pavilion	2022	\$5,000.00	MEDIUM
GKB Riverwalk Trail			
1 Mill and resurface paved trail (Adams Street to Leaton Street)	2016	\$75,000.00	HIGH
2 Update Vets Bridge Island Park to Pickens Field	2018	\$150,000.00	HIGH
3 Island Park add North and South Trail loop routes for safety and accessibility	2018	\$153,000.00	HIGH
4 Connect Island/Nelson Park trail NE to Harris Road to Mission Creek Park	2025	\$350,000.00	LOW
5 Mill Pond Park develop paved path around wetland area	2025	\$350,000.00	LOW
Horizon Park			
1 Replenish the Engineered Wood Fiber Surfacing	2015	Operational	HIGH
2 Add Accessible Pavilion attached to the Existing Restroom Building	2015	\$70,000.00	HIGH
3 Improve route to Playground including Swings & Bench, eliminate edging lip	2021	\$15,000.00	MEDIUM
4 Add an accessible route to the Ballfields	2023	\$25,000.00	MEDIUM
5 Add an accessible route to the Soccer Fields	2024	\$25,000.00	LOW
Island Park			
1 Add Universally Accessible patio feature to Farmers Market Pavilion	2015	\$40,000.00	HIGH
2 Add an accessible route to the Ballfields/Dugouts/Bleachers	2015	\$20,000.00	HIGH
3 Sign/Stripe Parking for accessible spaces	2016	Operational	HIGH
4 Update South Restroom Facility to exceed ADA Standards add family RR	2017	\$130,000.00	HIGH
5 Add accessible routes to Tennis, Basketball, Volleyball Courts, & Horseshoe Pits	2017	\$20,000.00	HIGH
6 Add accessible routes to the existing swings (3 areas) and Slideland Area	2017	\$16,000.00	HIGH
7 Update the Bridge on the north side of the park for accessibility	2018	\$150,000.00	HIGH
8 Add North and South Trail Loop routes for Safety and accessibility	2018	<i>see Riverwalk above</i>	HIGH
9 Replace existing Fishing/observation Decks with updated ADA Decks	2020	\$40,000.00	HIGH
Mill Pond Park			
1 Mill and resurface paved trail (Adams Street to Leaton Street)	2016	\$75,000.00	HIGH
2 Replace aging fishing/observation decks with updated accessible decks	2017	\$50,000.00	HIGH
3 Develop a path around the wetland area	2025	\$350,000.00	LOW
Mission Creek Park			
1 Develop a dog park with an accessible route	2015	\$75,000.00	HIGH
2 Add a restroom building with accessible restrooms	2017	\$319,200.00	HIGH
3 Develop an accessible playground	2018	\$150,000.00	HIGH
4 Pave existing gravel parking lot and delineate accessible parking spaces	2019	\$150,000.00	HIGH
5 Add a shelter that is accessible	2020	\$175,000.00	HIGH
6 Connect the Park to the Local and Regional Path System	2025	<i>see Riverwalk above</i>	LOW
Nelson Park			
1 Add accessible gazebo with seating	2016	\$75,000.00	HIGH
2 Repair/Upgrade accessible route to the Upper Pond Area	2017	\$14,000.00	HIGH
3 Add an accessible route and seating to the Lower Pond Area	2017	\$18,500.00	HIGH
4 Make Upgrades to existing Shop area to improve accessibility	2019	\$75,000.00	HIGH
5 Replace existing Fishing/observation Decks with updated ADA Decks	2020	\$40,000.00	HIGH
6 Provide accessible routes to the existing Picnic Tables, Benches and Grills	Ongoing	Operational	HIGH
7 Provide and accessible route to existing Rock Climber	2021	\$7,500.00	MEDIUM
Pickens Field			
1 Add an accessible route to dugouts	2021	\$7,500.00	MEDIUM
2 Add an accessible route to Playground	2026	\$25,000.00	LOW
3 Add an accessible route to Batting Cages	2026	\$5,000.00	LOW
4 Make the Lower Ballfields accessible	2026	\$25,000.00	LOW
Sunnyside Park			
1 Replace existing playstructure with update ADA unit	2020	\$85,000.00	HIGH
2 Add an accessible route to Basketball Court	2024	\$5,000.00	LOW
Yost Park			
1 Develop an accessible playground with accessible route	2016	\$82,000.00	HIGH
2 Add an accessible route to Ballfields (across S. Henry St.)	2019	\$5,000.00	HIGH
3 Add accessible spectator seating near the ballfield	2019	\$5,000.00	HIGH
4 Develop a Splash Play Area with an accessible route	2022	\$225,000.00	LOW
General ADA Improvements for Every Site			
1 Provide accessible picnic tables at all sites, with accessible routes to them	Ongoing	Operational	HIGH
2 Replenish the Engineered Wood Fiber Safety Surfacing at all Playgrounds	Ongoing	Operational	HIGH
3 Add system-wide park Wayfinding to assist with navigation and accessibility	2017 & 2018	\$120,000.00	HIGH
4 Provide accessible routes to Benches, Grills & Trash Receptacles	2019	\$1,500/unit	HIGH
5 Provide Detectable Warnings (ADA Transition Plates) in paths to warn pedestrians of vehicle routes	2019	\$1,500/unit	HIGH

Recreation Standards

Standards applied in this section are based on the Suggested Facility Development Standards that are part of the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenways Plans*, published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

Table 12. Recreation Activity Area Standards

Feature	Standard	City Operated		City, Schools, CMU	
		Inventory	Evaluation	Inventory	Evaluation
Indoor Basketball courts	1 per 5,000	0	Not Met	11	Exceeded
Tennis courts	1 per 2,000	5	Not Met	27	Exceeded
Baseball – Official	1 per 5,000	0	Not Met	3	Not Met
Baseball – Little League	1 per 30,000 (lighted fields)	3	Exceeded	3	Exceeded
Soccer	1 per 10,000	6	Exceeded	13	Exceeded
Football	1 per 20,000	0	Not Met	2	Met
Running Track	1 per 20,000	0	Not Met	4	Met
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000 or 15-30 min travel time	0	Not Met	2	Met
Softball fields	1 per 5,000	7	Met	13	Exceeded
Trails	1 system per region	1	Met	2	Met
Golf Courses	1 per 25,000 or 30 min travel.	0	Not Met	5	Exceeded
Ice Hockey – Indoor	1 per 100,000 or ½ to 1 hour travel.	0	Not Met	1	Met

#numerous multipurpose fields in the community

Although the above table demonstrates that there are a sufficient number of some facilities to meet a standard, caution should be exercised in interpreting the information. For instance, although there may be 13 soccer fields in the community, 5 are controlled by CMU and must be rented for public use, and 3 belong to the schools leaving only six operated by the city which operates the largest soccer program serving a population area greater than just the city.

Park Land Standards

The Park Land Standard is a recommend basic level of developed space for parks and recreation in a community (Table 13). Regardless of the purpose for which it is developed, the Park Land Standard measures only the gross acreage of space that has been developed for recreational use. Mt. Pleasant currently meets the standard for developed park land for the city population.

Table 13. NRPA Park Land Standards

Recommended Standard* 6.25 to 10.50 acres of <u>developed</u> open space per 1,000 population	Total Acres	Maintained Acres
Total Acres of Developed Park Land	394	184
2010 City Population	26,016	26,016
Acre/1,000 Persons	15.1	7
Evaluation	Exceeded	Met

* National Recreation and Park Association, 1995

Although the City meets the recommended standard for developed (maintained) park land, the central location of Mt. Pleasant within Union Township makes access to city parks convenient for nonresidents. Mt. Pleasant parks do not just serve city residents. Increasing population growth outside the city will place greater demand on city parks and may result in crowding and resource deterioration.

Other Local Recreation Resources

Isabella County Commission on Aging



The Commission on Aging Activity Center, located at 2200 S. Lincoln Rd. adjacent to McDonald Township Park is the “Community Focal Point” for Older Adult programs and services for Isabella County. The center provides a friendly social atmosphere, in which participants can enjoy a wide variety of recreational, social, cultural, nutritional and educational opportunities. Some of the leisure opportunities for seniors include;

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| Exercise programs tai chi | Quilting |
| Yoga classes | Clown training |
| Several weekly types of card playing | Line dancing |
| Informational seminars on medical issues | Square dancing |
| Travel shows | Health screenings |
| A craft bazaar | Retiree group meetings |
| Legal aid assistance | Needle crafters |
| Caregiver, ostomy and Parkinson support groups | Singers |
| Tax assistance | Art classes |
| Delicious nutritional dining | Bingo |
| | Special events |
| | Movies |

In addition, the Commission on Aging operates a travel program providing the opportunities for individuals to take trips all over the country. There are day trips as well as extended excursions. Most trips are provided by motor coach.



Isabella County Events Arena

5165 E. Remus Rd.
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858
(989) 772-9623

Isabella County Events (ICE) Arena

The Ice Arena operates a daily schedule of ice events throughout the year from late May through mid-April. Adult hockey Leagues, Adult Drop-in Hockey and daily Public Skating have long been a mainstay of the ICE Arena's operations. Popular "hockey hour" (stick-and-puck) and figure skating "freestyle" sessions frequent the calendar. The ICE Arena is home to the CMU Club Hockey team, the Mt. Pleasant High School Hockey Team and the Mt. Pleasant Figure Skating Club. In addition to operating one sheet of ice, the ICE arena also offers meeting space for community organizations. The ICE arena also is home to the Amateur Hockey Association of Mt. Pleasant which operates competitive hockey programs in the community. The partnership with between Mt. Pleasant parks and recreation, the Amateur Hockey Association, the Figure Skating Club, and the ICE arena was formed in 2004.



Morey Courts

Morey Courts, opened in 2008, is a not-for-profit, membership-based recreation center. Morey Courts offers a wide range of facilities that appeal to many recreation and fitness interests. Morey Courts offers eight indoor basketball/volleyball courts, two indoor tennis courts, three racquetball courts, a fitness center, an Exergame room featuring interactive fitness and exercise games, aerobics room, and walking track.

Programs and services offered at Morey Courts include:

- Basketball – youth and adult, leagues, camps and tournaments.
- Volleyball – youth and adult, leagues, camps and tournaments.
- Fitness classes and personal training.
- Sport skills training for golf, tennis, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball and football.
- Martial Arts and self-defense classes

The Parks and Recreation Department has regularly partnered with Morey Courts since it opened. Morey Courts has provided space for the parks and recreation department to initiate a number of new programs in the community including school break day camps, a Princess and Super Hero Party, Turkey Shoot Out, and Teen Lock-in. Youth volleyball, dodge ball, and open gym times for teens also use Morey Courts. Morey Courts provides an excellent venue for players and participants alike. In addition, the PEAK After School program has made use of Morey Courts on a number of occasions.



Tribal Recreation Facilities

The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe is a separate entity from all other governmental units in Isabella County. Nonetheless, their influence and, in particular, that of the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort merit discussion.

Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort:

The Soaring Eagle is the largest casino between Atlantic City and Las Vegas. The addition of a world-class hotel adds to the prominence of the resort with its many eateries, health spa and quality atmosphere. The casino offers gambling 24 hours a day, with more than 4,900 Slots. More than a dozen golf courses are located in close proximity, including the Pohlcat Golf Course which is less than a mile from the Soaring Eagle. In addition, entertainers perform frequently at the Soaring Eagle. Undoubtedly the casino and resort serve as strong contributors to tourism in mid-Michigan.

Tribal Recreational Facilities:

The recreational facilities of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe primarily serve the Tribal population of approximately 2,400 people. Recreational facilities operated by the Tribe include:

- Nimkee Fitness Center
- Gymnasium with various workout equipment and programs.
- Hill Campground
- Ogemaw Park contains a basketball court, playground equipment, a pavilion, and a grill.
- The HUD Ball Diamond/Play Area includes a play area, volleyball, and basketball courts.
- The Zibiwing Center is a cultural center.

New Tribal Developments:

In 2009, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe announced plans to construct a new resort hotel property with an indoor water park. This facility, the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, was built on the site of the Soaring Eagle Inn and Conference Center (formerly the Holiday Inn) on East Pickard Rd.



In addition, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe announced plans to build a new recreational vehicle (RV) park near Grewes Lake south of the airport in eastern Union Township, and in 2012, the Tribe opened the Soaring Eagle Hideaway RV Park. This facility includes 67 RV lots, each with water, sewer, and electricity hook-ups, concrete pads, fire pits, picnic tables, and free internet Wi-Fi access. The RV park is situated on the 25-acre Grewes Lake and includes a clubhouse, walking trails, laundry facilities, and a playground.

Situated between the Soaring Eagle Hideaway RV Park and the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel is the 18-hole Waabooz Run Golf Course, which features 11 par-3 holes and 7 par-4 holes.

Just east of the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel facility is the Green Suites hotel which offers one, two, and three bedroom suites. People who stay at the Green Suites hotel receive discounts for the Waabooz run golf course and complimentary shuttle to Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort. Suites at the hotel offer a full size kitchen, living and dining space, and a patio or deck.

These attractions along the east M-20 corridor will greatly enhance Mt. Pleasant as a destination for tourism in the state. Although Tribal amenities will provide recreational opportunities for the local community, Tribal operations are commercial in nature and will only be available to those able to pay. Those Tribal recreation developments that are not commercial in nature are primarily developed to serve Tribal members and not the community at large.

Central Michigan University

Central Michigan University, located in Mt. Pleasant offers numerous recreation and leisure opportunities to student body, faculty and staff.

University Recreation

URec

University Recreation, or U-REC, provides a wide range sports, health, and recreation opportunities for students, faculty/staff, and community members. U-REC manages the Student Activity Center (SAC) as well as the intramural sports fields.

Student Activity Center (SAC)

A recreational, intramural and fitness complex, CMU's URec provides space for numerous recreational activities including:

- 25 meter competitive pool
- Courts for basketball/volleyball
- Saunas and spa
- Aerobic dance studio
- Spinning studio
- Free weight room
- Machine weigh room
- Indoor running track
- Racquetball courts
- Bowling center
- Cardiovascular fitness equipment room

Outdoor Sports Complex

The U-REC Outdoor Sports Complex consists of four lighted softball fields and five lighted football/soccer fields, club sport fields, and a modern restroom facility. The Outdoor Sport Complex is primarily used for intramural sports programs. URec is also responsible for managing the tennis courts located at the Rose Arena and an 18-hole Frisbee golf course.

Intramural Sports

University Recreation offers a year round program of team and individual, men's, women's and co-recreational competitive sports programs to meet the needs of students for sport participation.

Club Sports

Currently there are over thirty student-lead club sport groups on campus.

Community events and programs

In addition to membership opportunities, URec offers a number of recreation and sport programs that serve the non-university community including Summer Activity Camp, a swimming instructional program, a wide variety of fitness classes, and personal trainers

Limitations to use of CMU facilities:

Although CMU makes a significant contribution to the recreation facility inventory in the community, use these facilities by the public for recreation is limited. There are membership plans available for use of the SAC facilities, however there are limitations on the hours the public can use the SAC. In addition, the SAC facilities are available for outside groups on a rental basis which sometimes reduces availability for community membership holders. The outdoor recreational sports facilities are available for non-university use on a fee basis only. The only truly "walk on" recreation facilities the community may use without fee is the disc golf course and outdoor tennis courts.

Collegiate Athletics

Central Michigan University is a NCAA Division I athletic program offering a wide range of intercollegiate sport to suit almost any competitive interest. CMU sponsors six men's and eight women's sports teams that compete in the Mid American Conference. During any week of the year several opportunities exist to view collegiate sports at CMU.

In addition to intercollegiate sports, the Athletics Department offers numerous youth sport camps during the summer months.

CMU Cultural Arts

Central Michigan University offers a wide range of graphic and performing arts, cultural arts and events, libraries and collections. Many of these opportunities are open to the public at no charge.

- University Speaker Series
- Brooks Astronomical Observatory
- Museum of Cultural & Natural History
- University Art Gallery
- North Art Studio
- University Theater
- Clarke Historical Library
- Concerts & Entertainment



Private (open to the public) Recreation Facilities in the Community

The Mt. Pleasant area offers a variety of private, commercial leisure service businesses to meet a variety of needs and interests. These leisure businesses operate for profit and, therefore, charge fees for their services which may limit access to some residents.

Basketball, Volleyball, Racquetball:

Morey Courts
University Recreation

Bowling:

University Recreation Center
Chippewa Lanes
Riverwood Lanes

Campgrounds:

Shardi's Hide Away
Saginaw Chippewa Tribe

Dance:

Rochelle Bertsch School of Ballet
Toni Dance Studio
Vision Studio of Performing Arts

Fitness:

McLaren Hospital – Wellness
Central Fitness
MP Fit Club
Morey Courts
Curves
Contours Express
MyGym LLC

Gambling:

Soaring Eagle Casino

Golf courses – public:

Bucks Run
Pohlcat Pleasant
Hills Riverwood
Resort Holiday
Greens The Golf
Center

Gymnastics:

TumbITrak
Mt. Pleasant Gymnastics Center

Kayak, Canoe and Tube rental:

Buckley's Canoe Livery
Chippewa River Outfitters
Floaters Tubing
Cracker Barrel
Chippewa River Outfitters

Racing:

Mt. Pleasant Speedway – motor
sport racing
Mt. Pleasant Meadows – Horse
racing, county fairground.

Skating:

Ice - Isabella County Event Center
(ICE Arena)
Roller Skating - Spinning Wheels.

Sky Diving:

Central Michigan Skydivers

Sport Camps:

Central Michigan University

Inventory of Recreation Programs and Services

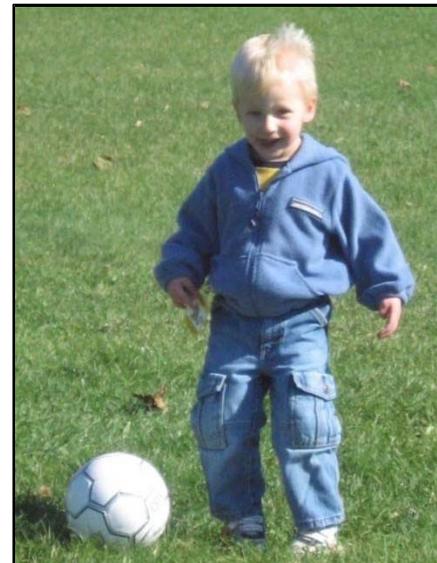
Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Programs and Services

The City of Mt. Pleasant is the largest provider of recreation programs in the County. The Department offers outstanding youth and adult team and individual sports opportunities and special events to City residents and to non-residents. See Tables 14 & 15 for a list of sponsored recreation programs and services.

Recognizing that other organizations in the community provide opportunities for higher level sports play and competition, the Parks and Recreation Department sports programs focus on introductory sports programs in the community. Introductory programs are primarily designed to introduce children and adults to new sport skills, provide basic instruction in sport skills, create opportunities for recreational participation, learn sportsmanship, and develop an interest in sports.

Table 14: Mt. Pleasant Sports Programs

<u>Adult Sports</u>
Tennis Instruction
Softball
Volleyball
Golf Instruction
Sand Volleyball
<u>Youth Sports and Programs</u>
Start Smart Parent and Youth Programs (ages 3 - 7):
▪ T-Ball
▪ Soccer
▪ Golf
▪ Basketball
▪ Flag Football
Golf (ages 5 - 7)
T-Ball (ages 4 - 7)
Soccer (ages 5 - 13)
Basketball (grades K - 6)
Dodgeball (grades K - 6)
Tennis
Volleyball
Flag Football



In addition to recreational sports programs, the department operates or participates in a number of other programs and services designed to meet specific needs in the community. The PEAK After School and Summer Program, teen programs, and Schools Out day camps are designed to provide supervised recreation and educational enrichment for school aged youth. The department sponsors a number of community events annually; the most popular of which is the Daddy-Daughter Date Night program. The Farmers Market, which takes place in Island Park and Downtown is one of the most popular attractions during the summer and fall.

Table 15: Mt. Pleasant Recreation Programs

<u>Youth Programs</u>
PEAK After School and Summer Program (K - 8)
Teen Programs
Schools Out day camps
<u>Adult Programs</u>
Walking
<u>Community Special Events</u>
Daddy-Daughter Date Night
Mother-Son Event
Easter Egg Scramble
Under the Big Top
Candy Cane Lane
Man vs. Mountain 5k
Princess and Superhero Party
Winters Kids Expo
<u>Farmers Market</u>
Thursday and Saturday in season



**Sledding Hill at
Mission Creek Woodland Park**

Other Recreation Programs, Services, and Providers

In addition to running many of its own programs, the city also partners with a variety of community organizations and agencies to further recreational opportunities for residents (Table 16).

Table 16: Other Community Recreation Organizations and Providers

Rocket Football Program	Amateur Hockey Association of Mt. Pleasant
Girls Youth Softball Program	AAU Basketball
Mt. Pleasant Little and Farm League	Central Michigan University
Union Township Little and Farm League	Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
Mt. Pleasant Baseball Association	Morey Courts
Mt. Pleasant Pacers Swim Program	Riverwood Golf Course
Mt. Pleasant Striders Running Club	Community Ice Arena
Mt. Pleasant Soccer Club	Spinning Wheels
Mt. Pleasant Figure Skating Club	Veterans Memorial Library
4-H	Midland Tennis Center
Boy Scouts	Central Michigan Healthcare’s Wellness Central
Girl Scouts	Isabella County Commission on Aging
Broadway Theatre	Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce

Community Partnerships and Collaborations

The Parks and Recreation Department works in partnership with numerous local organizations and businesses to provide recreation and leisure services. Examples of current partnerships include:

- Midland Tennis Center
- Morey Courts
- The PEAK After School program
- Riverwood Golf and Bowling
- The Tour de Mt. Pleasant
- Mt. Pleasant Summer Festival
- The Isabella County Commission on Aging for senior picnics in the parks
- Mt. Pleasant Shuffle Boarders for improving facilities and programs
- Community Ice Arena
- Girls Youth Softball
- Mt. Pleasant Little and Farm League
- Mt. Pleasant Baseball Association
- Chippewa River District Library
- WCZY Radio
- WCFX Radio
- The Golf Center

Chapter 4: Public Input

Overview

Citizen input is the core of any planning effort. In order for the goals of a plan to be achievable, general consensus regarding issues and concerns of the community must be reached. In this manner, and to comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans*, the City of Mt. Pleasant offered several types of public input opportunities along with a 30-day period for review and comment on the draft of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan. A compilation of all of the input received is contained in Appendix C. A summary of the various methods of input and feedback received follows. At the outset of the development of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan, a press release was sent out to the local media to publicize the opportunities for the public to provide their input via an online input survey and a community input open house. After the completion of those input-gathering methods, the City hosted two separate public hearings prior to adoption of this Parks & Recreation Master Plan, one on April 9, 2015, with the Planning Commission, and the other on April 21, 2015 with the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Online Survey

An online survey was made available from February 12 through March 10, 2015, complete with 18 questions (see Appendix C). The intent of the survey was to establish an easy means of communication where residents and stakeholders of Mt. Pleasant could provide input about parks and recreation in the City. A total of 402 responses were received. The survey received a good cross section of responses in terms of age, residency, and length of residency. Half of the completed surveys were from City of Mt. Pleasant residents.

Question #1 asked which City parks and recreational facilities that respondents visited in the past year. The most popular parks in Mt. Pleasant are Island Park, Nelson Park, and Chipp-A-Waters Park.

Question #2 asked which City parks and recreational facilities respondents visit the most. By far, the most visited is Island Park.

Question #3 wanted to know why respondents visited the City's parks. Respondents mainly use the parks to enjoy nature, to go for walks, to maintain health and fitness, to participate in activities with family and friends, and to use the playgrounds.

In regards to the various aspects of natural features and general recreational facilities in the City, Question #4 asked respondents to provide their insights into what thought was most important. Of utmost importance is the preservation and protection of the Chippewa River and enhancement of natural resources along the river. Another important activity for Mt. Pleasant is the inclusion of non-motorized pathways and trails in the parks. An overwhelming majority of respondents agreed that the preservation of natural areas and water resources has a positive effect on quality of life.



In terms of prioritizing parks and recreational activities in the City, responses to Question 5 indicate that the maintenance of existing parks should be the top priority. Other important activities include upgrades and addition of amenities to existing parks, and seeking a dedicated funding source for parks and recreation in the City.

Question 6 asked respondents to provide specific recommendations for improving access to the Chippewa River. The main ideas included:

- Need improved access points and trails along the river
- Provide improved launches for canoe and kayaks
- Improvements needs to be respectful of the river, associated habitats, and maintain riparian qualities
- Ensure water quality of the river – comments identified issues with *E. Coli*
- Improved parking areas
- Bathroom improvements

Question 7 asked respondents to share ideas about their dream park. Ideas included:

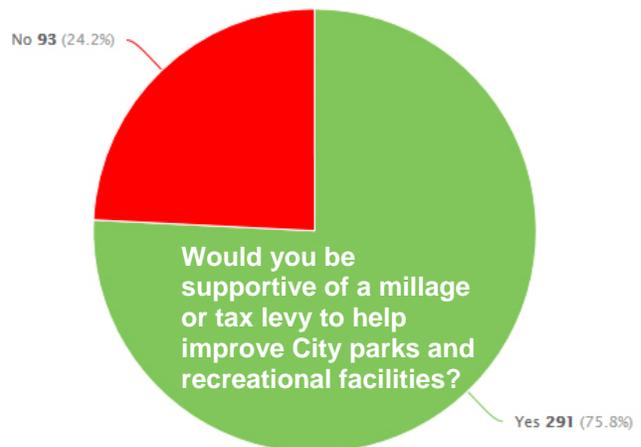
- Swimming pool
- Biking trails
- Ice skating
- Water slide
- Disc golf course
- Toddler-friendly areas
- Basketball court
- More ADA accessible areas
- More picnic areas
- Expanded splash pad
- More pathways to enjoy nature

The online survey also asked about which additional facilities or amenities respondents would like to see added to Mt. Pleasant's parks. Respondents supported many ideas, but the following list presents the main suggestions:

- Recreational pathways for walking and biking
- Wooded natural areas
- Ice rink
- More restrooms
- Accessible kayak or canoe launch
- Outdoor pool

When asked if respondents would be supportive of a millage or tax levy to help improve City parks and recreational facilities, over 75% said yes.

Regarding ways to make City parks more user-friendly for those with a disability, respondents thought the greatest need was accessible restrooms and paved trails.



When asked what they liked best about parks and recreation in the City, respondents mentioned the following the most:

- Activities for children
- Many events
- Parks are clean and well-maintained
- Parks are close by
- Access to natural areas
- Parks are interconnected with paths and trails
- Opportunities for biking
- Many parks and locations



When asked about the one thing they would do to improve parks and recreation in the City, respondents provided the following:

- Improve access to the river
- Add a swimming pool
- More trails
- Upgrade restroom facilities
- More activities
- Update children's play structures

When asked which new programs should be added to parks and recreation in the City, respondents suggested:

- Art programs
- Summer programs
- Adult programs
- Youth programs
- Senior programs
- Dance
- Walking
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Organized runs
- Shuffle board

Respondents showed a wide variety of opinions to the survey questions, however, it appears that most agree that natural areas and the Chippewa River are critical assets to the success of parks and recreation in the City of Mt. Pleasant. People love to be outside and enjoy the City's pathways and trails. Most agree that more connections on the pathways to natural areas are needed, as well as additional access points to the Chippewa River. In terms of new amenities desired to be added to the parks, the common suggestions across the survey included a swimming pool, more trails and pathways, and more access to natural areas.

Community Input Open House

The City hosted a community input open house from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm and then from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 320 W. Broadway. The event was open to the public and was publicized in advance via social media and a press release. Residents were encouraged to stop by for 10 to 15 minutes to learn about the City's parks, view maps, and share ideas. City staff, officials, and facilitators were there to discuss recreation and meet with residents.



Five stations were set up to seek input from the following five subject areas that are important to the Parks & Recreation Department:

- Chippewa River
- Trails
- Universal Access
- Programs/Events/Farmers Market
- General Park Facilities

Comments about the **Chippewa River** focused on collaboration with other agencies and governmental units to create more connections with accessible launches and to continue work on developing the Chippewa River Water Trail.

Discussion about **trails** was mostly focused on making more connections, not only connections to area sites and destinations, but also regionally to find ways to connect to nearby regional pathways such as the Pere Marquette Rail Trail.

There was broad support of the City's efforts to continue implementation of parks facilities that are **universally accessible**. People suggested to look at how other communities have designed universally accessible facilities at waterways for wheelchairs. Other comments encouraged the City to install more signs to indicate access points on the Chippewa River.

Regarding **programs, events, and the Farmers Market**, there were wide-ranging comments. People would like to see an ice rink, more music festivals, a pool, more events, and expansion of the Farmers Market. Discussion about **general park facilities** was similar. In addition, generally speaking, people would like to see more picnic tables, improved tennis courts, an amphitheater, more beach areas, improvements related to recreation at the Mt. Pleasant Center property, and an indoor sports complex.

By and large, many who attended the open house offered positive comments and suggestions regarding the parks and recreation facilities in Mt. Pleasant. Approximately 20 citizens showed up to provide their input.

Parks and Recreation Commission Needs Identification

As part of the master planning and capital improvement planning, the Parks and Recreation Commission toured city parks and compiled a list of projects and improvements for consideration. Because of their intimate association with the parks, the commission members input in the planning is also relevant to the planning process. Commission priorities are generally more global in scope and represent less visible aspects of park operations and management, but necessary just the same.

- Continue to pursue the concepts of universal access in all park and recreation development projects.
- Develop an aggressive program to address the infestation of emerald ash borer on park property.
- Continue to upgrade park infrastructure.
- Continue active support and development of the Chippewa River Water Trail.

Regional Priorities and Opportunities for Intergovernmental Cooperation

In 2010, Union Charter Township also developed a Master Plan for Parks and Recreation, joining Mt. Pleasant and Isabella County in undertaking this planning process. In addition, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe has been engaged in a planning process that addresses recreation features and facilities. Although undertaken independently, and at different times, there is a remarkable similarity between the three governmental agencies and the Tribe as to specific priorities. These commonalities provide a basis for intergovernmental cooperation and cooperative planning toward these goals.

<u>Common Priorities</u>	<u>Trails</u>	<u>River</u>	<u>Cooperative Planning</u>	<u>Community Center/Pool</u>
City of Mt. Pleasant Master Plan (2014)	Goal on page 75 to develop a City-wide bike/hike/path system with strategies to make connections to various sites within the City; The non-motorized plan (Appendix F) proposes various trail and neighborhood connectors, see page 64 for map.	Strategy for Community Economic Vitality on page 78 to expand marketing for the Chippewa River; The creation of a Chippewa River Overlay Zone in the zoning ordinance is proposed on page 124.	Goal on page 72 to strengthen cooperation between the City and other communities and organizations.	Goal on page 75 to support the development a family recreation center.
Isabella County Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan (2012)	Goal on page 58 to collaborate with other area agencies and organizations to promote the development of non-motorized connections to and within County Parks; linking parks to communities, parks, schools, other area destinations and regional connections.	Objective on page 59 to work closely with municipalities to provide access to the Chippewa River.	Goal on page 59 to work closely with units of government, the Tribe, and interest groups to achieve objectives consistent with the mission of the Isabella County Parks and Recreation Commission and that contribute to the overall quality of life in Isabella County.	Goals and objectives on pages 57 to 59 do not mention community center/pool.

Table 17
Regional
Recreation
Priorities

<u>Common Priorities</u>	<u>Trails</u>	<u>River</u>	<u>Cooperative Planning</u>	<u>Community Center/Pool</u>
Union Charter Township Master Plan (2011)	Objective on page 122 to plan motorized and non-motorized transportation with all area agencies; Goal on page 122 to establish and promote non-motorized transportation.	Objective on page 66 to revise zoning ordinance to require vegetated buffers from all wetlands, streams, lakes and rivers to protect water quality.	Chapter 8, pages 105 through 118, is called "Collaboration Opportunities" and provides a stated goal on page 116 (and 122) to promote collaborative efforts among municipalities and agencies.	In various charts throughout Chapter 6, a community swimming pool is noted as a low priority. Plan does not mention a community center.
Saginaw Chippewa Tribe	From the 2010 Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Master Plan, "Currently working with Union Township and MDOT on a non-motorized pathway throughout the entire community."			From the 2010 Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Master Plan, "2007, conducted feasibility study for a Reservation Activity Center to include gyms, swimming pool, exercise areas, meeting space, and other indoor recreation facilities."



Implications for Park and Recreation Planning

The Community

- The City of Mt. Pleasant provides a disproportionate percentage of the area-wide recreational programs.
- Projected population growth surrounding Mt. Pleasant will place increased pressure on city parks resulting in increased crowding and user impact on existing facilities.
- The relative “youth” of Mt. Pleasant will continue to drive demand for “active” recreation areas for families and young adults.
- A highly educated and transient population has more diverse leisure interests fueling demand for more diverse leisure opportunities found in other communities.
- Parks and recreation facilities and programs in Mt. Pleasant should respond to the needs of special populations.

Inventory of Recreation Areas and Facilities

- The City of Mt. Pleasant has a unique recreation resource in the Chippewa River. The location of city parks along the river make parks an attractive destination to area park users.
- The City of Mt. Pleasant has a wide range of recreation areas, facilities and services to meet a wide array of leisure interests.
- Numerous private and non-profit organizations in the community provide a range of leisure services and opportunities.
- Although contributing significantly to the local recreation inventory, CMU facilities are available at limited times for use by the public and community members or must be rented for organized use.
- Coordinated planning of recreation programs and services will result in cost efficiencies and partnership building. This could include a consolidated information source for all recreation programs and services offered in the community.
- The addition of a community swimming pool would be the next logical major recreation facility.

Public Input

- Natural areas and the Chippewa River are critical assets to the success of parks and recreation in the City of Mt. Pleasant.
- People love to be outside and enjoy the City’s pathways and trails.
- There appears to be broad-based agreement that more connections on the pathways to natural areas are needed, as well as additional access points to the Chippewa River.
- One of the most highly desired new amenities that could be added to the City’s parks system includes a swimming pool.

Chapter 5: Action Plan

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been identified for the 2016-2020 planning cycle.

Partnerships

Goal 1: Develop Partnerships with County, Township(s), Tribe, CMU, and Other Community Organizations.

- The key to accomplishing many of the recommendations contained in this master plan is to partner with organizations that share common goals and objectives. The County, Township(s), Tribe, University, Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, Mid-Michigan Pathway organization, and Chippewa River District Library share several areas of interest upon which a partnership for facility or program development could be based. Areas of interest may include:
 - Trail and pathway development and connections.
 - River use management and river trail destination.
 - Joint Recreation and Leisure Programming.
- Support development of a community-wide calendar of events for area organizations.
- Have a visible presence at events sponsored by community groups and organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and business groups.
- Work with other units of government, Tribe, and Chippewa Watershed Conservancy to develop a management plan for the Chippewa River and users.
- Work with other units of government and the Tribe to develop a trails, pathways and water trail plan for the area.
- Work with other units of government and the Tribe to develop a community aquatic facility.
- Develop a *Friends of the Parks Foundation* to support park maintenance and the development through fundraising.

Maintenance & Development

Goal 2: Continue Park Development, Improvements, and Maintenance.

- Continue to support park facilities with the City wide millage for Capital Projects including funds for development and infrastructure improvements. This has been a unique and key factor in the development and sustainability of the vibrant Mt. Pleasant Park system.
- Focus on infrastructure needs of the Park system as playgrounds, paved trails, pedestrian bridges, decks, overlooks, pavilions, buildings, and restrooms continue to age these infrastructure upgrades will need to be a focus.
- Identify property for acquisition for future park development.
- Work with area officials to insure that recreation needs are considered in the planning process and to encourage developers to set aside space for development of pathways parks and play areas. A particular area of focus is the Mt. Pleasant Center property which could include paved trail access and park overlook associated with the wetland and Mission Creek corridor supporting and enhancing the City development goals.

- Focus on open space and green space in parks and continue to address the tree canopy with plantings and removals which continue to keep the Park tree canopy healthy and vibrant.
- Work to protect parks from emerald ash borer infestation.
- Focus on maintenance of park parking lots in high use areas including crack sealing and pavement makings to preserve the life of these assets and keep them visible for park users.

Trails/Pathways/River Corridor

Goal 3: Continue support and expansion of Area-Wide Bike/Hike Path System.

- Expand the pathway system linking parks, community facilities, school property, business areas, regional trails and neighborhoods.
- Connect the Riverwalk Trail System linking to Mission Creek Woodland Park.
- Replace footbridge at North Island Park with updated accessible bridge to assure future universal access on trails between Pickens and Island Park.
- Work with partners to address the goals of the area-wide non-motorized transportation plan.
- Support the efforts of trail groups to connect Mt. Pleasant to other communities
- Work closely with the Tribe, Union Township, MDOT, and the Mid-Michigan Regional Pathway organization to coordinate trail/bike path planning.

Goal 4: Improve the Chippewa River Corridor and its tributaries.

- Support the development of the Chippewa River Water Trail and designation as a Pure Michigan designated water trail.
- Work with partners to improve access points and trails along the Chippewa River.
- Focus on river bank erosion protection and restoration in areas that flow through the City parks.
- Replace the aging dam structure at Mill Pond Park
- Support the efforts of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and Chippewa Watershed Conservancy on improving the water quality of the Chippewa River and its tributaries.

Facility Development & Accessibility

Goal 5: Develop Recreation Facilities in Response to Public Demand and Universal Accessibility.

- Preserve a portion of the Mt. Pleasant Center property for passive recreational purposes.
- Focus on fulfilling projects listed on the ADA transition plan with development focused towards achieving the goals of universally accessible design.
- Continue partnership with Union Township, Isabella County, and Friends of the Dog Park on maintenance and upkeep of the off-leash dog park.
- Work with Mt. Pleasant Public Schools and Neighborhood group to develop Potter playground.
- Develop an outdoor performing arts venue in the downtown area.
- Install playground equipment at Mission Creek Woodland Park and Yost Park.
- Continue to maintain the City Park Tree canopy
- Develop Mission Creek Woodland Park into a winter fun park.
- Redevelop Mill Pond Nature Center to house local nature programs

Recreation Programs and Services

Goal 6: Maintain and Improve Recreation Programs.

- Partner with other recreation service providers including units of government and private recreation providers to offer new and unique programs to city residents.
- Continue to support the PEAK after school program in conjunction with the public schools with a focus on sustainability.
- Investigate nature programming satellite location in cooperation with the Midland Nature Center.

Enjoying the Spray Park



2016-2020 Capital Improvements Schedule

The following table presents the actions recommended for the 2016-2020 planning cycle. Individual projects are listed along with the specific task to be accomplished, the time frame for implementation, cost estimates, potential funding sources, and priority if a capital improvement expenditure. Key to potential funding sources CI = Capital Improvement Fund, DO = Donation, RF= Recreation Fund.

	Project / Location	Task	Cost Estimates	Potential Funding Sources	Goal	Priority
2016	Park Partnership Program	To be determined with Partner	\$10,000	CI, DO	1	HIGH
	Chipp-A-Waters	Restroom Septic Repair	TBD	CI	2	HIGH
	Island Park	Roof Replacements South and West Pavilions	\$75,000	CI, DO	2	HIGH
	Yost Park	Add Playground Component Structure	\$82,000	CI, DO, Grant	5	HIGH
	Nelson Park	Universally accessible gazebo & walkway Phase I	\$72,000	CI, DO, Grant	5	HIGH
	Mill Pond Park – Riverwalk Trail	Mill & Repave Mill Pond Trail Adams to Leaton Streets	\$75,000	CI, DO, Grant	2	HIGH
	Riverside Cemetery	Replace Mausoleum Roof	\$25,000	GF	2	HIGH
	Potter Playground	Potter Playground Renovation	TBD	GF, DO, Grant	2	HIGH
	Various Park Areas	Parking lot Crack sealing and pavement markings	Operational	GF	2	HIGH
		Tree Removals and new Planting program	Operational	GF, DO, Grant	2	HIGH
Total			\$339,000			
	Project / Location	Task	Cost Estimates	Proposed Funding Sources	Goal	Priority
2017	Park Partnership Program	To be determined with Partner	\$10,000	CI, DO	1	HIGH
	Mill Pond Park	Replace fishing/observation decks	\$50,000	CI, DO, Grant	4	HIGH
	Chippewa River Protection Program	Mill Pond/Nelson Riverbank erosion protection Project	\$175,000	CI, DO, Grant	4	HIGH
	Nelson Park	Universally accessible gazebo & walkway phase II	\$28,000	CI, DO, Grant	5	HIGH

	Island Park	Softball Field Enhancements	\$25,000	CI, DO, RF, Grant	2	MED
		Universal Access to park amenities	\$35,000	CI, DO, Grant	5	HIGH
		South Restroom Improvements	\$130,000	CI, DO, Grant	2	HIGH
	Mission Creek Park	Construct Universally Accessible Restroom Facility	\$319,200	CI, DO, Grant	5	HIGH
	Parks Wayfinding	Wayfinding signage in Parks Phase I	\$75,000	CI, DO, Grant	2	HIGH
	Various Park Areas	Parking lot Crack sealing and pavement markings	Operational	GF	2	HIGH
		Tree Removals and new Planting program	Operational	GF, DO, Grant	2	HIGH
Total			\$847,200			
	Project / Location	Task	Cost Estimates	Potential Funding Sources	Goal	Priority
2018	Park Partnership Program	To be determined with Partner	\$10,000	CI, DO	1	HIGH
	Island Park	Fitness Trail	\$153,000	CI, DO, Grant	3	MED
		Veterans Memorial Bridge Replacement	\$150,000	CI, DO, Grant	2	MED
	Island Park and Pickens Field	Replacement of satellite Play equipment	\$65,000	CI, DO, Grant	2	HIGH
	Chippewa River Protection Program	Island/Nelson Park Riverbank erosion protection Project	\$175,000	CI	4	LOW
	Mission Creek Park	Development of Park Site plan, pro-forma, and grant package	\$25,000	GF	5	MED
	Parks Wayfinding	Wayfinding signage in Parks Phase II	\$45,000	CI, DO, Grant	2	HIGH
	Various Park Areas	Parking lot Crack sealing and pavement markings	Operational	GF	2	HIGH
Tree Removals and new Planting program		Operational	GF, DO, Grant	2		
Total			\$623,000			

	Project / Location	Task	Cost Estimates	Potential Funding Sources	Goal	Priority
2019	Park Partnership Program	To be determined with Partner	\$10,000	CI, DO	1	HIGH
	Mission Creek Park	Playground Component Structure	\$85,000	CI, DO, Grant	2	MED
	Riverside Cemetery	Columbarium	\$80,000	CI	2	MED
	Mill Pond Park	Dam reconstruction planning phase	\$48,000	CI	4	HIGH
	Various Park Areas	Pavement Repairs	\$25,000	CI	2	MED
		Parking lot Crack sealing and pavement markings	Operational	GF	2	HIGH
		Tree Removals and new Planting program	Operational	GF, DO, Grant	2	
Total			\$248,000			

	Project /Location	Task	Cost Estimates	Proposed Funding Sources	Goal	Priority
2020	Park Partnership Program	To be determined with Partner	\$10,000	CI, DO	1	HIGH
	Sunnyside Park	Replace Playground Structure	\$85,000	CI, DO Grant	2	HIGH
	Mill Pond Park	Nature Center Redevelopment	\$20,000	CI, DO, Grant	5	
	Mill Pond Park	Dam reconstruction	\$400,000	CI, DO Grant	4	HIGH
	Mission Creek Park	Design Improvements	TBD	CI, DO, Grant	2	MED
	Island and Nelson Parks	Replace Fishing Decks	\$80,000	CI, DO, Grant	4	HIGH
	Various Park Areas	Parking lot Crack sealing and pavement markings	Operational	GF	2	HIGH
Tree Removals and new Planting program		Operational	GF, DO, Grant	2		
Total			595,000			

	Project / Location	Task	Cost Estimates	Proposed Funding Sources	Goal	Priority
2016-2020 and Future	Island to Mission Creek Trail Connect	Create trail Connection from Island Park to Mission Creek	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	3, 4	HIGH
	Millpond Park	Add East Trail Connector Loop	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	3	LOW
	Trail Development and Connections	Partner with surrounding jurisdictions to develop and connect trails using existing area wide non-motorized plan	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	3	MED
	Nelson Park	Add Street Lighting to roadway loop	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	2	LOW
	North DPW property or Mt. Pleasant Center area	Develop Softball/Baseball diamond Complex	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	5	LOW
	Indian Pines	Develop overall master plan for park site.	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	2	MED
	Locations to be determined	Community Pool Development with partners	To be determined	GF,DO, Grant	5	LOW
		Historical Signage to Parks	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	2	LOW
		Develop Concert/performing pavilion with seating	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	5, 6	MED
		Develop mountain biking trails	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	3	LOW
		Add solar lighting to park trails	To be determined	GF, DO, Grant	2	LOW
	Land Acquisition					
	Project / Location	Task	Cost Estimates	Proposed Funding Sources	Goal	Priority
2016-2020	Chipp-A-Waters East of Park	Wetland preservation	TBD	CI, Grant, Donation	4	MED
	Elliot Property	Nelson Park expansion	TBD	CI, Grant, Donations	2	MED

Implementation Strategies

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. Current funding falls well short of the projected expenses involved in the proposed project implementation. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended in order to proceed as planned:

Increase Revenues and Parks and Recreation Budget

By taking a close look at the expenses involved in providing programs and facilities to the park users, the fee schedule could be revised in order to more accurately reflect actual costs.

Apply for State Funding or Other Grant Moneys

There are a variety of funding sources available to local governments for park land acquisition and development. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Division administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF – requires 50% local match) and the Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF – requires 25% local match).

Other funding may be available through other programs at the State and Federal levels, such as the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, the Inland Fisheries Grant Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Detroit Edison Tree Planting. Federal funding through the National Parks Service is available under the Rivers & Trails Program and includes the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery.

In addition, transportation funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) under Section 1122 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) surface transportation program is available for the development of non-motorized pathways within MDOT right-of-ways.

There are a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways or greenway related facilities such as Bikes Belong Coalition, Dalmac Fund Grant by the Tri County Bicycle Association, Michigander Grant Program by the Rails to Trail Conservancy, and the Conservation Fund by Kodak American Greenways Awards Program.



Investigate Other Local Financial Opportunities

Support for a parks millage may be crucial in determining the level of services the City Parks and Recreation will be able to maintain in the future. A specific project millage could also be sought over a limited period of time for particular projects such as the development of a community pool facility.

Create a Friends Organization

A friends group could take on a role in fundraising for specific projects and developing an endowment to provide support park projects.

Pursue Partnerships with Area Organizations

Building on areas of shared need, collaborate with other governmental units, and the Tribe, to address common recreation priorities.

Work with community organizations to support specific recreation development projects whenever the opportunity arises.

Seek Other Sources of Funding

The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund raising events, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that have worked in other communities to raise funding for parks and park improvements.

Continue the Development of the Chippewa River Water Trail

In 2012, a local group promoting the Chippewa River developed Water Trail map. Available at http://www.mt-pleasant.org/departments/division_of_community_services/parks_and_recreation/parks/, there are links for an interactive web-based map, and a link for a colorful printable PDF map of the Chippewa River. A copy of the map is provided in Appendix D.

The Chippewa River Water Trail map depicts the river from Barryton (Mecosta County), through Isabella County, and ending in Midland County, showing launching points, safety issues, historical points and riverside amenities. River etiquette signs area already installed at the primary launch points, and signs are installed at every road crossing, visible from the water, to aid river users in determining their progress as well as help first responders locate users in need of help.

This group of conservation professionals, collectively called the Chippewa River Watershed Planning Group, meets periodically to discuss items of mutual interest regarding the Chippewa River Watershed, including water quality, erosion control, recreational opportunities, promotion of the river as an economic resource, and conservation of riparian land. The group, including representatives from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Isabella Soil Conservation District, Isabella County Departments of Parks and Recreation and Community Development, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Department and the Chippewa Watershed Conservancy, has conducted roundtable type meetings to explore ways to fund various activities, such as preparation of a watershed management plan, pollution remediation, and recreation.

Funding support for the Chippewa River Water Trail project has come from:

- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan
- Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN)
- Bay Area Community Foundation
- Isabella County Parks & Recreation Department
- Mt. Pleasant Parks Department
- Chippewa Watershed Conservancy

Additional partners include:

- Chippewa Nature Center
- Midland County Parks
- Barryton Township
- Charter Township of Union
- Buckley's Mountainside Canoes
- Chippewa River Outfitters
- The Little Forks Conservancy



A goal of the Chippewa River Watershed Planning Group and the City of Mt. Pleasant is to receive official designation of the Chippewa River Water Trail as a Pure Michigan Water Trail. To achieve that goal, the following steps must be taken.

Background

In 2014, the DNR published a “State Trails Implementation Plan” in an effort to promote the State of Michigan to be known as “the Trail State.” The Plan fulfills a requirement of Public Act 45 of 2010 with preparation of a comprehensive trails plan including equestrian, snowmobile, off-road vehicles, and non-motorized biking and water trails. Public Act 45 of 2010 amended Part 721 of PA 451 of 1994 (Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act: Michigan Trailways, also known as the “Michigan Trailways Act”) and defines a “Water Trail” as a designated route on a body of water.

Generally, a water trail is a designated route on a navigable waterway such as a river, lake, or canal that is designed and implemented to foster educational and recreational experiences. Water trails provide safe access to, and information about these waterways, while also providing connections to cultural, historical, natural, and other attractions. Water trails are intended for non-motorized uses such as kayaks, canoes, and other human-powered craft, along with wind-powered activities. Other users depend on the character and conditions of the individual water trail, and may include surfing, wind surfing, kite boarding, parasailing, snorkeling, scuba diving, hang gliding, sailing, fishing, and swimming. Water trails are considered positive contributors to local communities by providing economic stimulus and protecting resources that are important to quality of life.



Soon after the DNR published its State Trails Implementation Plan in early 2014, Governor Rick Snyder signed legislation establishing the Pure Michigan Trail Network to enhance Michigan’s reputation as the Trail State. The bills became Public Acts 210-215 of 2014 and amended the Michigan Trailways Act to provide a definition for a “Pure Michigan Water Trail.” The approval process for these designations is now made easier than under previous law by allowing the DNR Director, rather than the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), designate authority, while still giving the NRC the opportunity to hold hearings on the designations and make recommendations to the Director. A "Pure Michigan Water Trail" means a water trail designated as a "Pure Michigan Water Trail" under section 72103 Michigan Trailways Act.

Opportunity with DNR Grants Programs

Based on the recommendations in the State Trails Implementation Plan and subsequent amendments to the Michigan Trailways Act, water trails were added as one of the priority projects for the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board. This means that recreation grants submitted to the DNR that emphasize water trails could receive higher scores, and thus, might have a greater possibility of receiving funding.

Steps to Follow to Receive a Pure Michigan Water Trail Designation

To become a Pure Michigan Water Trail, the DNR director may designate a water trail as a "Pure Michigan Water Trail". A person may request that the director designate a trail as a Pure Michigan Water Trail. The director shall not designate a trail as a Pure Michigan Water Trail unless it meets, or will meet when completed, all of the following requirements:

- The trail and its access points are open to public use and are designed, constructed, and maintained according to best management practices
- The trail is located on a contiguous waterway or a series of waterways that are contiguous or are connected by portages.
- The trail is consistent with applicable land use plans and environmental laws.
- The trail is a model trail for its designated uses and the designation of the trail as a Pure Michigan Trail contributes to a statewide trail network that promotes healthy lifestyles, economic development, recreation, and conservation of the natural and cultural resources of this state.
- The design and maintenance of the trail and its related facilities meet generally accepted standards of public safety.
- The trail meets appropriate standards for its designated recreation uses.
- The trail is available for designated recreation uses on a nondiscriminatory basis.
- The trail is, or has potential to be, a segment of a statewide network of trails, or it attracts a substantial share of its users from beyond the local area.
- The trail is marked with an official Pure Michigan Trail sign and logo at major access points.
- Where feasible, the trail offers adequate support facilities for the public, including parking, sanitary facilities, and emergency telephones, that are accessible to people with disabilities and are at reasonable frequency along the trail.
- Potential negative impacts of trail development on owners or residents of adjacent property are minimized through all of the following:
 - Adequate enforcement of trail rules and regulations.
 - Other means as considered appropriate by the director.
- Other conditions required by the director.
- A trademark license is obtained by the department from the Michigan economic development corporation for use of the words "Pure Michigan".

Prior to designating a Pure Michigan Water Trail, the director shall refer the proposed designation to the natural resources commission, which shall hold a public hearing on the proposed designation. Within 90 days after receiving the referral under this subsection, the natural resources commission shall provide the director with its recommendation regarding the designation.

Appendix A

Master Planning Schedule

2016 – 2020 Parks and Recreation

Master Plan Timeline

Parks & Recreation Commission
Planning Commission
City Commission

Date(s)	Activity	Time(s)	Notes
February 12, 2015	Web Input Begins (Survey)		Pushed out on social Media, E-Newsletter
February 24, 2015	Public Open House & Stake Holders Meetings	2:30-4:30 & 6:30-8:30	City Hall
February 24, 2015	P&R Commission sets public hearing for April 21 @ Parks & Recreation Commission meeting (Moved up to 4/21 from 4/28).	Meeting Later start 8:30 p.m.	Regular Meeting date later start time
March 5, 2015	Planning Commission sets public hearing for 4/2 Planning Commission meeting	7pm	Regular Meeting
March 9, 2015	City Commission set public hearing for 4/27	7pm	Regular Meeting
March 17, 2015	Send out Public Hearing notices to news outlets for P&R Commission, Planning Commission, & City Commission public hearings & draft plan availability. Needs to be published by 3/21	AM	DNR suggests public notice to be made 30 days before P&R public hearing to allow review & comment by public
March 20, 2015	Draft Plan complete & posted on City website for public review. Hard copies also available for public review @ Library & City Hall.	PM	Draft plan available for 30-day review.
March 21, 2015	Newspaper publishes 30 day public notice of draft plan availability.		
April 9, 2015	Planning Commission Public Hearing on Draft plan; adopt resolution to recommend adoption by the City Commission	7pm	Staff to recommend adoption after Public hearing
April 7, 2015	Send out Public Hearing notices to news outlets for Park & Recreation Commission & City Commission public hearings. Needs to be published by 4/21	AM	DNR requires public notice to be published 7 days before the P&R public hearing
April 11, 2015	Newspaper publishes 7 day public notice (Saturday)		
April 21, 2015	Parks & Recreation Commission Public Hearing on Draft plan (moved up a week from 4/28); adopt resolution to recommend adoption by the City Commission	Scheduled Meeting 7pm	Staff to recommend adoption after Public hearing
April 27, 2015	City Commission Public Hearing on Draft plan; Final approval; Adoption via resolution	Scheduled Meeting 7pm	City Commission Approval on final plan, CC adopts resolution
April 30, 2015	Final approved plan uploaded to DNR website		

Appendix B

Recreation Grant History



Recreation Grant History

Applicant

City of Mt. Pleasant

Project No. 26-00259

Project Year: 1972

Project Title: Indian Pines

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$29,625.00

Element

acquisition of approx 80 acres of land

Project Description: Acquire 80 acres of land for outdoor recreation. 6(f) at site - mitigated.

Project No. 26-00303

Project Year: 1972

Project Title: Leonard Woods Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$65,380.00

Project Description: Acquire 60 acres and develop into picnic area with equipment, skating area, warming/restroom, hiking trails, foot bridges, roads parking well and water system, landscaping, grading, electrical, a dn group shelter, farm fencing, with gate.

Project No. TF607

Project Year: 1982

Project Title: Mill Pond Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$337,500.00

Project Description: To acquire approximately 92 acres of land in the center of Mount Pleasant.

Project No. 26-01441

Project Year: 1985

Project Title: Mill Pond Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$101,780.00

Element

Element

Clearing, seeding

Landscaping

Paving

Path railing

Picnic area

Gravel drive

Play equipment

Railing, platforms at dam stations

Canoe launch

Observation decks

Paved parking, drives

Project Description: PICNIC AREAS, TRAILS, CAONE LAUNCH, PARKING, ROADS, PALY AREA, LANDSCAPING AND OBSERVATION DECKS



Recreation Grant History

Applicant

City of Mt. Pleasant

Project No. TF88-059

Project Year: 1988

Project Title: Mill Pond Park

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$168,000.00

Project Description: Development of two ponds, swimming beach, fishing dock, boat dock, hiking trail and picnic area.

Project No. CM99-428

Project Year: 1999

Project Title: Mt. Pleasant Riverwalk Trail

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$750,000.00

Element

Element

3 Fishing Decks

2 Wetland Construction/Pond

Trail

Excavation

Road/Parking Construction and
Improvements

Signage and Lighting

Gazebo

2 Observation Decks

5 Canoe Launches

10 Benches/20 Trash Receptacles

4 Bridges

Project Description: Park and trail improvements to include a hard surface trail along the Chippewa River, connecting five City parks; renovation of park roads and parking areas; and construction of a new wetland area and revitalization of an existing wetland.

Project No. TF01-187

Project Year: 2001

Project Title: Chippewa River Restoration Project

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$500,000.00

Element

Install stone weirs to control water
levels

Remove existing dam structure

Install pedestrian bridge

Bank stabilization and renovation

Project Description: Project is to install in-channel structures and a pedestrian bridge on the Chippewa River in Mt. Pleasant. The project will provide for improved canoeing and kayaking as well as improved fisheries habitat.



Recreation Grant History

Applicant

City of Mt. Pleasant

Project No. RP11-416

Project Year: 2011

Project Title: Mill Pond Park Trail Improvements

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$30,000.00

Element

Remove existing path

Repave existing path

Fencing

Site restoration

Permit fees

Project Description: Development to include repavement of 1,100 feet of pathway and 500 feet of fence replacement.

Appendix C

Public Input Documentation

APPENDIX I. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION		
Name of Plan:		
List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
City of Mt. Pleasant	Isabella	April 2015

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Current Funding Sources <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Role of Volunteers <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><u>Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities <input type="checkbox"/> Articles of Incorporation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. RECREATION INVENTORY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice March 27, 2015

Type of Notice Newspaper

Plan Location City Hall, city website, local library

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 31 days

Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice March 29, 2015

Name of Newspaper The Morning Sun

Date of Meeting City website, city hall

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting (public hearing and meeting where the plan was adopted)

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: April 27, 2015
- 2. Official resolution of the Parks & Recreation Commission Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: April 21, 2015
- 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: May 22, 2015
- 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: May 22, 2015

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for
the City of Mt. Pleasant
(Local Unit of Government)
above and as set forth by the DNR.

Christopher J. Brady includes the required content, as indicated
6-23-15
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

PR1924-1 (Rev. 12/26/2012)

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN

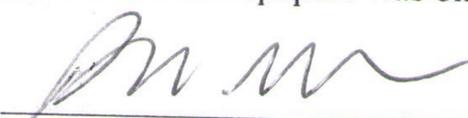
County of Isabella

County of Gratiot

County of Clare

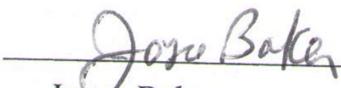
}
} **SS.**

Rick Mills being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is Executive Editor and Online Editor of the MORNING SUN, a public newspaper printed and published by Morning Star Publishing Company, in the Cities of Mt. Pleasant (Isabella County), Clare (Clare County) and Alma (Gratiot County) in said counties and circulated in said cities and counties, that the annexed printed notice was duly printed and published in said newspaper at least 1 in each week for 1 successive week(s), and that the first publication of said notice in said newspapers was on the 27th day of March, 2015 and that last publication of said notice in said newspapers was on the 27th day of March, 2015.



Rick Mills

Subscribed and sworn to before me the 6 day of April 2015.



Joyce Baker

Notary Public

Joyce Baker
Notary Public of Michigan
Isabella County
Expires 6/15/2019

My commission expires _____

**City of Mt. Pleasant
Notice of Publication**

Draft 2016-2020 Park and Recreation Master Plan

The City of Mt. Pleasant is in the process of completing its Parks and Recreation 5-Year Master Plan document. After substantial planning and public input the draft plan is currently available for public review and comment. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is designed to guide recreation planning and development in the City of Mt. Pleasant through the year 2020.

The draft plan can be reviewed beginning March 20, 2015 on the City's website at www.mt-pleasant.org/parksmasterplan or in hard copy format at Mt. Pleasant City Hall, 320 W. Broadway or at Veterans Memorial Library, 301 S. University.

You may submit your input on the draft plan in person at City Hall at the address shown above or via email at parks-rec@mt-pleasant.org or by attending one of the upcoming public hearings listed below:

- Thursday, April 9 – Planning Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 21 – Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.
- Monday, April 27 – City Commission Meeting, City Hall 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact the Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department at 989-779-5331.

Date: March 25, 2015
Christopher Bundy,
Director of Parks and Public Spaces

All interested persons may attend and participate. Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate may call the Human Resources office at (989) 779-5314. Persons requiring speech or hearing assistance may contact the City through the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777. A 48-hour advance notice is necessary for accommodation.

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN

County of Isabella
County of Gratiot
County of Clare

}
} SS.

Rick Mills being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is Executive Editor and Online Editor of the MORNING SUN, a public newspaper printed and published by Morning Star Publishing Company, in the Cities of Mt. Pleasant (Isabella County), Clare (Clare County) and Alma (Gratiot County) in said counties and circulated in said cities and counties, that the annexed printed notice was duly printed and published in said newspaper at least 1 in each week for 1 successive week(s), and that the first publication of said notice in said newspapers was on the 29th day of March, 2015 and that last publication of said notice in said newspapers was on the 29th day of March, 2015.

Rick Mills

Rick Mills

Subscribed and sworn to before me the 15 day of April, 2015.

Joyce Baker

Joyce Baker

Notary Public

Joyce Baker
Notary Public of Michigan
Isabella County
Expires 6/15/2019

My commission expires _____

CITY OF MT. PLEASANT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Parks & Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing to consider your views on the current draft of the 2016-2020 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Copies of the Draft Master Plan are available online at: www.mt-pleasant.org/parksmasterplan.

The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 320 W. Broadway Street, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

All interested persons may attend and participate. Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate may call the Human Resources office at (989) 779-5314. Persons requiring speech or hearing assistance may contact the City through the Michigan Relay Center at 1-800-649-3777. A 48-hour advance notice is necessary for accommodation.

Dated: March 24, 2015

Jeremy Howard, City Clerk

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held Monday, April 27, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Commission Room.

Mayor Holton called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Holton and Vice Mayor Rautanen; Commissioners Joslin, Kulick and Sous

Commissioners Absent: Commissioners Ling and Verleger

Others Present: City Manager Ridley, City Clerk Howard and City Attorney Smith

Proclamations and Presentations

City Manager Ridley introduced Recreation and Sports Director Ryan Longoria.

Police Captain Paul Lauria gave a presentation on in-car video systems in use in the patrol vehicles.

Discussion ensued.

Mayor Holton read and presented the 2015 William Brehm Tourism Award to Mt. Pleasant's Director of Parks and Public Spaces and Interim Recreation Department PEAK Coordinator Spencer McKellar who accepted on behalf of the Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department.

Receipt of Petitions and Communications

Received the following petitions and communications:

1. Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission Minutes (March)
2. Historic District Commission Minutes (December)
3. 2014 Annual Report
4. First Quarter Investment Report
5. Notice of Temporary Traffic Control Order T5-2015
6. Communication from Brandon McQueen regarding potential ballot initiative regarding legalization of marihuana

Item #18 "Consider resolution to approve amended language of Article XIV, Section 5 of the City Charter and submit for placement on the November ballot." was removed from the Consent Calendar.

Moved by Commissioner Joslin and supported by Commissioner Kulick to approve the following items on the Consent Calendar:

1. Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held April 13, 2015.
2. Bid of Compass Minerals American, Inc. of Overland, KS as part of the State of Michigan's MiDeal Extended Purchasing Program in the amount of \$64.68 per ton, for a total amount of \$32,340 for road salt.
3. Set public hearing for May 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers on the CDBG Jockey Alley (Parking Lot #2) grant close-out.
4. Amend Sidewalk License Policy as presented. (CC Exh. 3-2015)
5. Authorize the assignment of land contract for the remaining sites in Eastpointe IV from the Mt. Pleasant Public Schools to Gratiot Isabella RESD.
6. Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Central Michigan University on Preston Street Lighting.
7. Standard Commercial Property Utility Service and Franchise Agreement as presented and authorize the City Attorney to make minor adjustment as needed based on the Township Board input.
8. Payrolls dated April 10, 2015 and warrants dated April 8 and 16, 2015 all totaling \$701,124.70.

Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Spicer Group Representative Alan Bean gave a brief presentation on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There being no public comment or communications, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Vice Mayor Rautanen to approve the following Resolution adopting the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as presented:

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Pleasant has undertaken a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities and programs during the period between January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020 and,

WHEREAS, an online input survey was made available to the public from February 12 to March 10, 2015, and

WHEREAS, a community input open house was held on February 24, 2015, from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm and then from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at City Hall, 320 W. Broadway to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was made available for review and public comment from March 20, 2015, to April 21, 2015, on line and in print form at Mt. Pleasant City Hall and Veterans Memorial Library, and

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting held on April 9, 2015 at 7:00 pm at City Hall, the City of Mt. Pleasant Planning Commission, after a public hearing, recommended adoption of said Parks and Recreation Master Plan by the City Commission, and

WHEREAS, at a regular meeting held on April 21, 2015 at 7:00 pm at City Hall, the City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission, after a public hearing, recommended adoption of said Parks and Recreation Master Plan by the City Commission, and

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Pleasant has developed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to use the plan as a document to assist in meeting the parks and recreation needs of the community,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this day that the City of Mt. Pleasant adopts said Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for the residents of the City of Mt. Pleasant.

Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Commissioner Sous to approve the Sidewalk Licenses for Market on Main, Rubbles and Crème de la Crème. Motion unanimously adopted

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Commissioner Sous to approve the Sidewalk License for Midori.

AYES: Commissioners Kulick, Rautanen and Sous

NAYS: Commissioners Holton and Joslin

ABSENT: Commissioners Ling and Verleger

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Vice Mayor Rautanen to approve the Residential Trash and Recycling Pickup Exception Policy as presented. (CC Exh. 4-2015)

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Kulick, Rautanen and Sous

NAYS: Commissioner Joslin

ABSENT: Commissioners Ling and Verleger

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Joslin and supported by Commissioner Kulick to adopt a resolution approving amended language of Article XIV, Section 5 of the City Charter and submit for placement on the November ballot.

Moved by Commissioner Joslin and supported by Vice Mayor Rautanen to postpone action on consideration of resolution to approve amended language of Article XIV, Section 5 of the City Charter and submit for placement on the November ballot until the next City Commission regular meeting scheduled for May 11, 2015. Motion unanimously adopted.

Received and discussed recommended agenda template change. No action was taken at this time.

Moved by Vice Mayor Rautanen and supported by Commissioner Kulick to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Joslin, Kulick, Rautanen and Sous
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Commissioners Ling and Verleger
 Motion carried.

Announcements on City-Related Issues and Concerns

Commissioner Kulick announced that fences are being installed at the dog park and work is progressing. He reminded dog owners to be cautious taking dogs to the park as temperament and records are unknown.

Commissioner Sous announced that key fobs for dog park will help control problem dogs at the park. He commented that the overnight parking policy on the website is confusing to people. City Manager Ridley clarified that changes in enforcement were not made official on the website as it was done on a trial basis for this year.

Mayor Holton announced that Randi Shaffer (Morning Sun Staff Reporter) is leaving for a new job in Chicago; he congratulated her and wished her good luck.

WORK SESSION – 2016 – 2020 Capital Improvement Plan

City Manager Ridley gave a presentation on the proposed 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Plan.

Discussion ensued.

The Commission recessed at 8:28 p.m. and went into a closed session at 8:31 p.m. A separate set of minutes was taken for the closed session. The Commission went back into open session at 8:48 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Vice Mayor Rautanen to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion unanimously adopted.



 Jim Holton, Mayor



 Jeremy Howard, City Clerk

At a regular meeting of the City Commission held Monday, April 27, 2015 at 7:00 p.m., in the City Commission Room the following action was taken:

A public hearing was held on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Spicer Group Representative Alan Bean gave a brief presentation on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There being no public comment or communications, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Vice Mayor Rautanen to approve the following Resolution adopting the Parks and Recreation Master Plan as presented:

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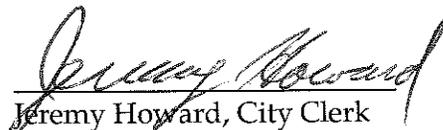
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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this day that the City of Mt. Pleasant adopts said Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving parks and recreation for the residents of the City of Mt. Pleasant.

Motion unanimously adopted.

I, Jeremy Howard, Clerk for the City of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of action taken by the City Commission at a regular meeting held April 27, 2015.

Dated: April 30, 2015


Jeremy Howard, City Clerk

**Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission
Excerpt from Minutes from Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 21, 2015**

- I. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II. **CALL TO ORDER** - Meeting called to order at 7:04 by Chair Weaver.
- III. **ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM**
- A. Commission Members: Boyle, Busch, Hansen, Weaver, Winslow
- B. Parks and Recreation Staff: Bundy, Hofer, McKellar, Way
- C. Guests: None
- D. Public Attendance: None
- IV. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES & COMMISSION BUSINESS**
- A. Changes/Approval of Agenda – No changes and agenda approved as presented.
- B. Approval of Minutes — A motion was made by Comm. Hansen, second by Comm. Busch to approve the minutes of Tuesday, March 24, 2015. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- V. **WELCOME RECREATION DIRECTOR RYAN LONGORIA**
- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - There were no public comments.
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARING – PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN** – Public Hearing opened by Chair Weaver; no public attendance. Public Hearing Closed. Director Bundy gave a presentation with the overall review of plan and process. A motion was made by Comm. Winslow, second by Comm. Busch to recommend approval of 2016-2020 Parks & Recreation Master Plan and support final approval and adoption by the City Comm. **MOTION CARRIED.**

At a regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission held Tuesday, April 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Comm. Chambers the following action was taken:

Moved by Comm. Winslow and supported by Comm. Busch to approve the 2016-2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

AYES: Comm. Boyle, Hansen, Weaver

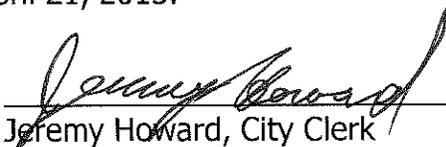
NAYS: None

ABSENT: Comm. Nagler, Batcheller

Motion Carried.

I, Jeremy Howard, Clerk for the City of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of action taken by the Parks & Recreation Commission at a regular meeting held April 21, 2015.

Dated: April 23, 2015



Jeremy Howard, City Clerk

May 22, 2015

Isabella County
Community Development – Isabella County Building
200 N. Main Street, Room 105
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

RE: City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Plan 2016-2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a copy of the recently adopted five-year Parks and Recreation Plan for the City of Mt. Pleasant. Note the resolution of adoption states that the plan is in effect for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the plan feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Alan Bean, AICP
Project Planner

SPICER GROUP, INC.

May 22, 2015

East Michigan Council of Governments
3144 Davenport Avenue, Suite 200
Saginaw, MI 48602

RE: City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Plan 2016-2020

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a copy of the recently adopted five-year Parks and Recreation Plan for the City of Mt. Pleasant. Note the resolution of adoption states that the plan is in effect for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the plan feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Alan Bean, AICP
Project Planner

SPICER GROUP, INC.

May 22, 2015

Peter Gallinat
Planner
Charter Township of Union
2010 S Lincoln Road
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858

RE: City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Plan 2016-2020

Peter,

Please find enclosed a copy of the recently adopted five-year Parks and Recreation Plan for the City of Mt. Pleasant. Note the resolution of adoption states that the plan is in effect for the period of January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the plan feel free to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Alan Bean, AICP
Project Planner

SPICER GROUP, INC.

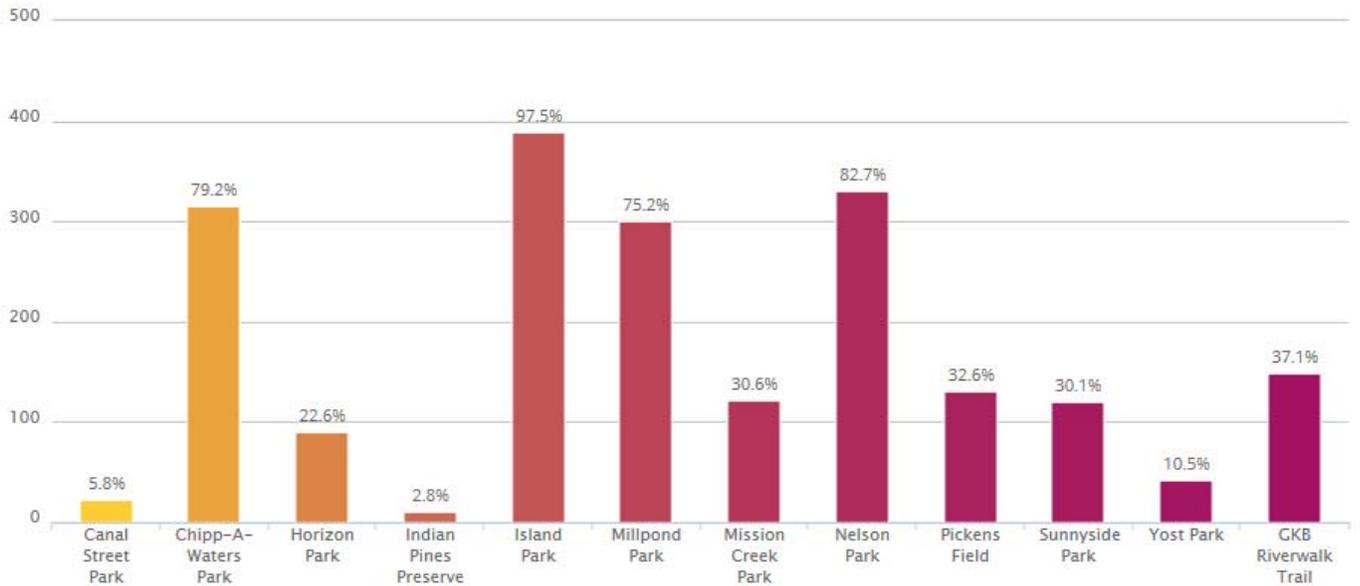
Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Summary of Online Survey Results

402 responses

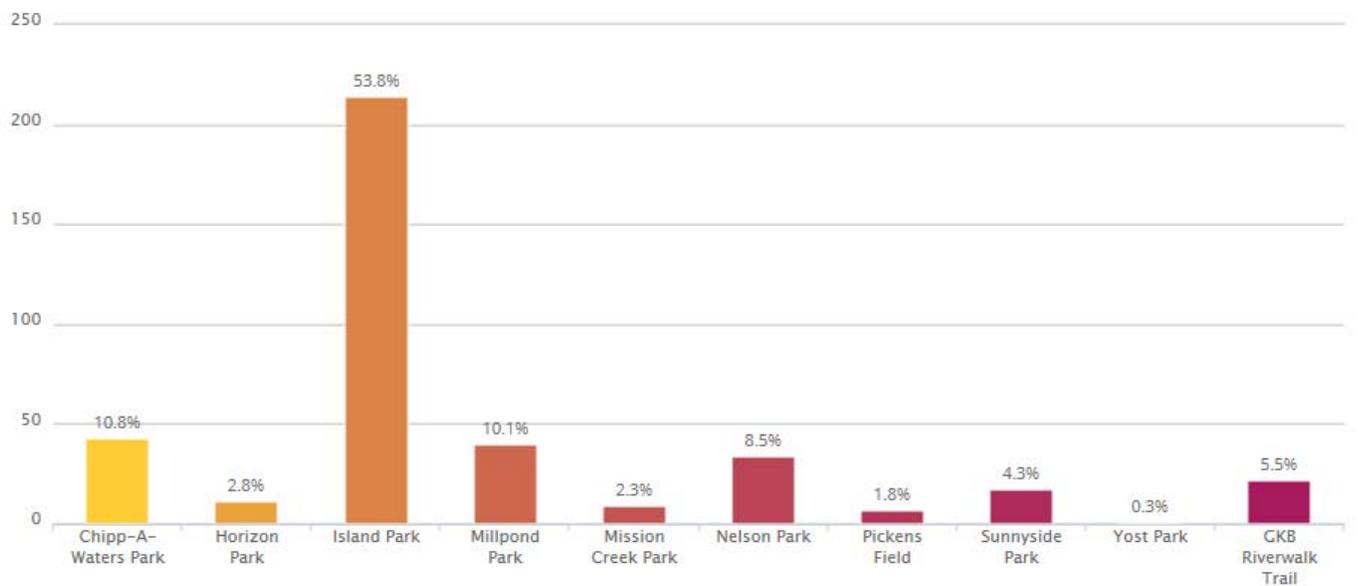
http://www.mt-pleasant.org/our_city/parks_recreation_master_plan/default.asp

<http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/leettema/mt-pleasant-rec-plan-2015-2019/>

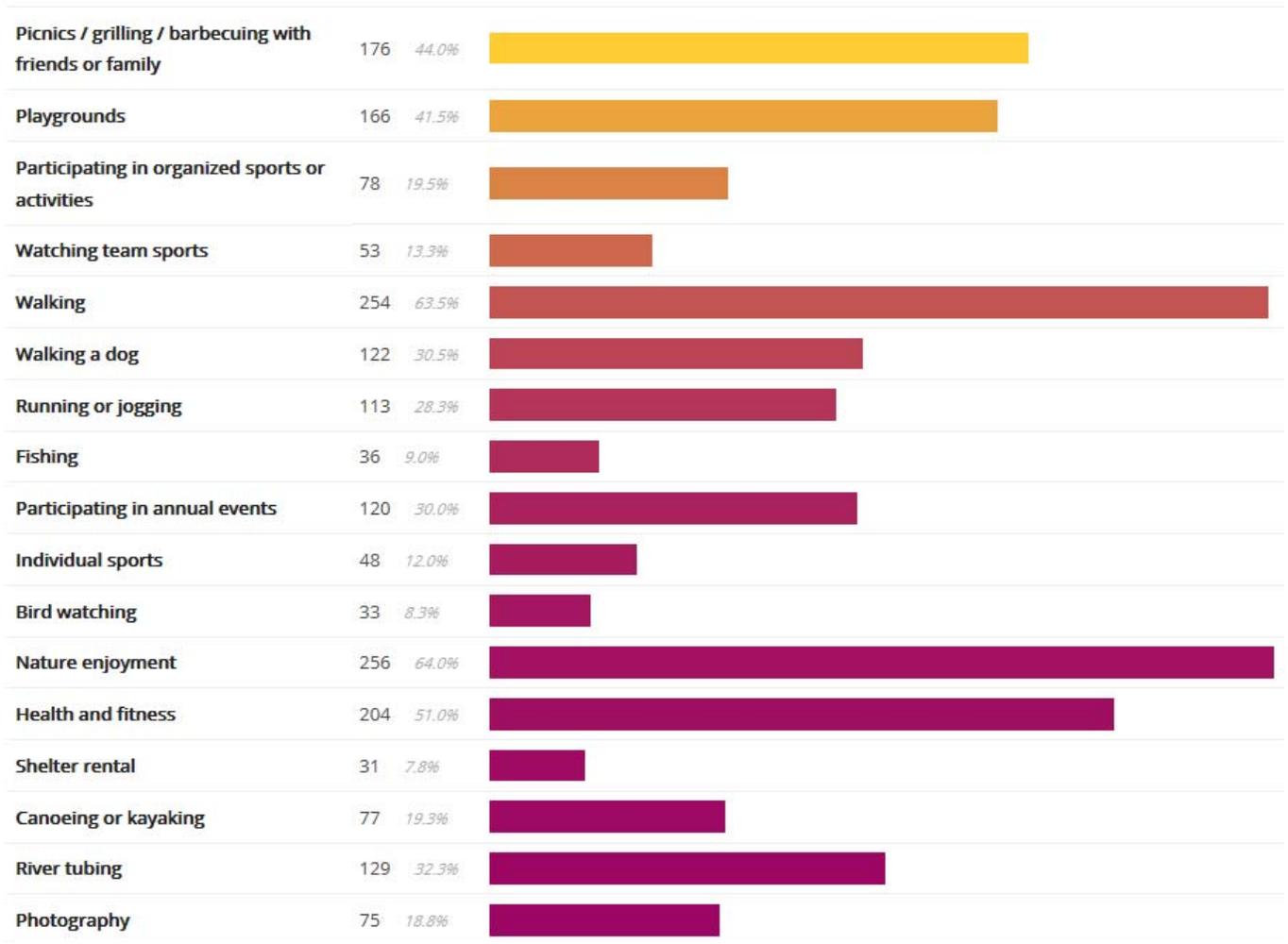
Question 1: Which of the Mt. Pleasant parks and recreational facilities have you visited in the past year? (Check all that apply.)



Question 2: Of the parks and facilities listed in Question 1, which have you visited the most?



Question 3: Why do you visit Mt. Pleasant's parks and recreational facilities? (Check all that apply.)

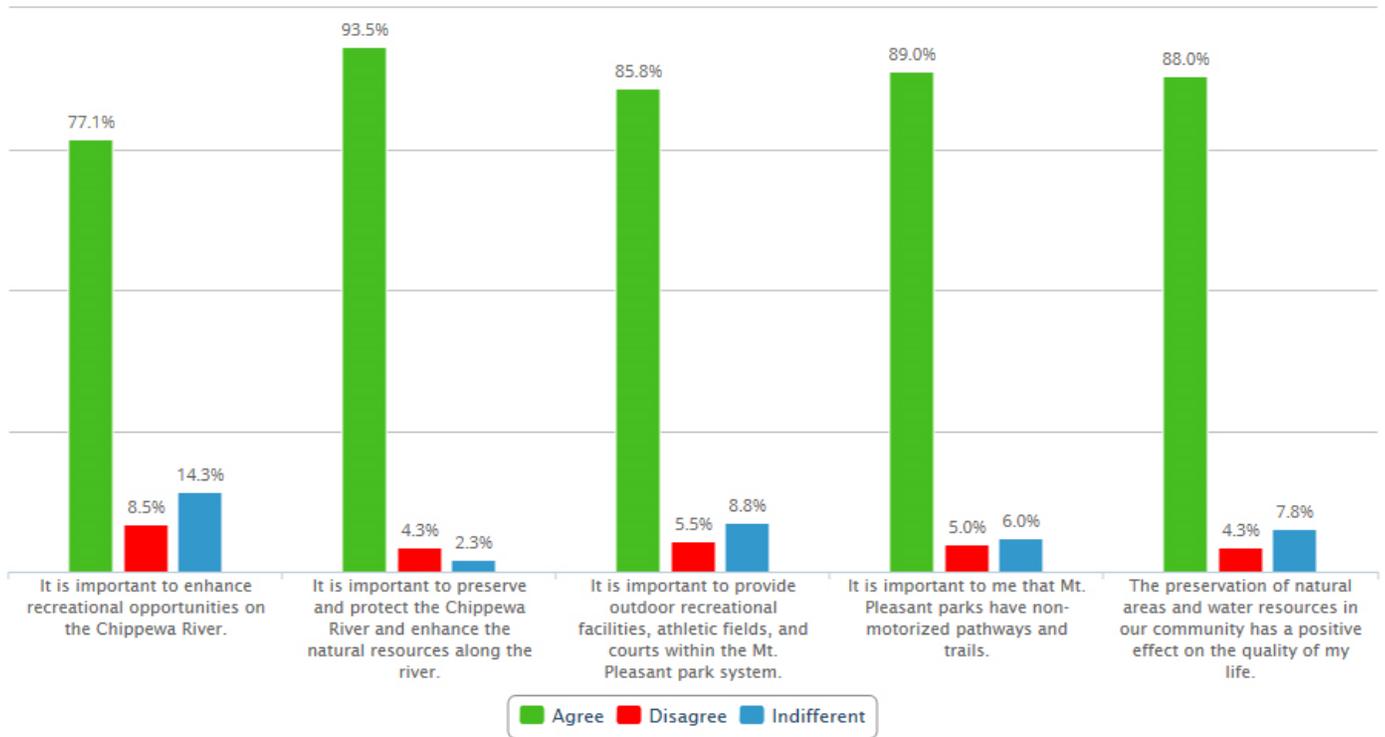


Other (please specify): 53 responses (13.3%)

Main Ideas: Bike riding, farmers market, to relax, visit Vietnam Memorial, use the splash park, and attend events.

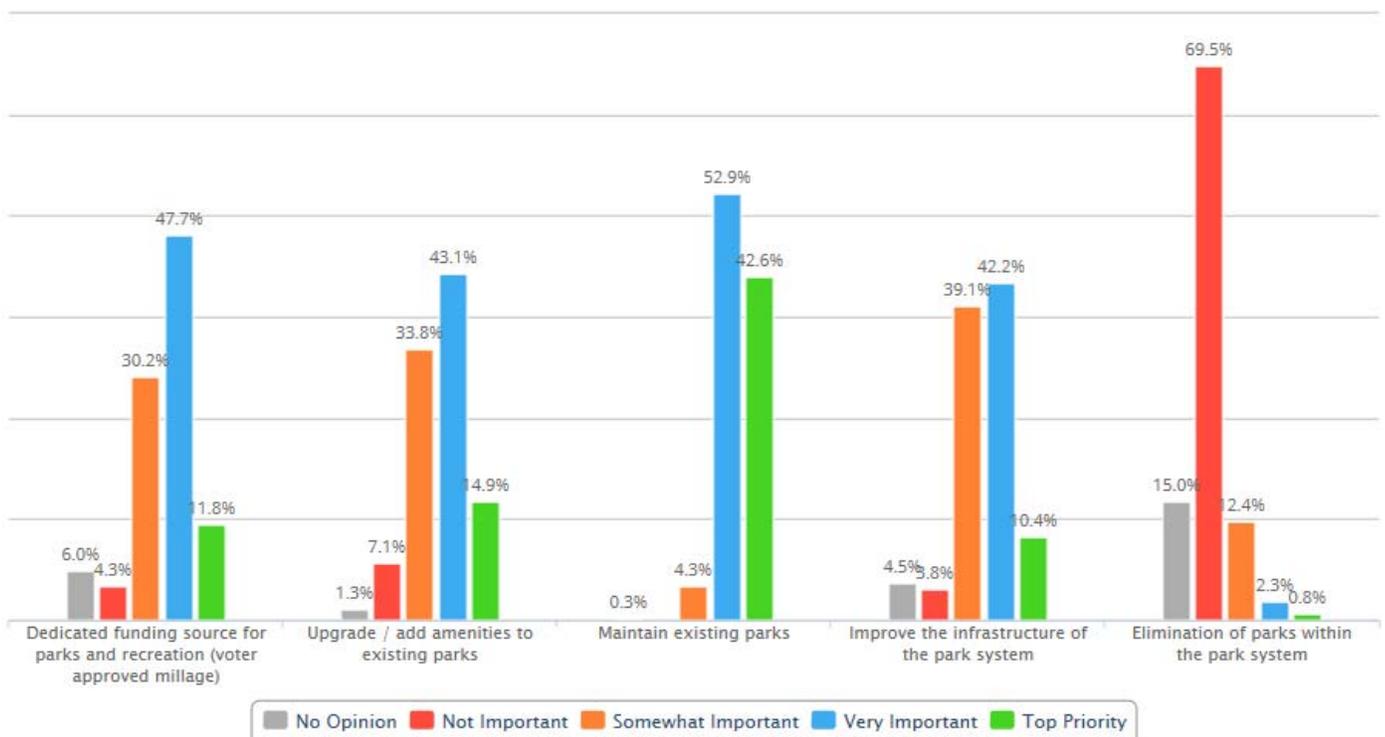
Detail: Farmers Market; Biking; Bike Ridding; Farmers Market; Farmers market; Market; Biking; Spray Park; Biking; farmer's market; meditation; cross country skiing; finding petoskey stones; Scootering; Splash Park; Farmers' market; Drawing; Vietnam Memorial; Reading under a tree by the river; seeing animals; Weddings; farmers market; Farmer's Market; Biking; basketball; Farmers market; going to Farmers Market, or event for Cubscouts; Bike riding; Riding bike; Library activities; Stroller with baby; Biking; geocaching; date; i live out of town, so if I have to stay in town after work for an event or appointment, I usually hang out at a park with my boys to waste time; Biking; Farmers market; Farmers market; Walking; lived accosted the street of yost park; free fun things to do with my kiddos; Biking; farmers market; To relax; Biking; Biking; Biking; take a knap; meeting friends and hanging out; tennis; Vietnam Memorial; farmers market; bicycling.

Question 4: It is important to...



Notes: Responses for *Strongly Agree* and *Agree* were combined to create the “Agree” category, and responses for *Strongly Disagree* and *Disagree* were added together to create the “Disagree” category. Due to rounding, totals may not exactly equal 100.0%.

Question 5: How would you prioritize the following activities for the City of Mt. Pleasant over the next five years?



Question 6: Do you have any specific recommendations for improving access to the Chippewa River? Please mention them here:

92 responses

Main Ideas: Need improved access points and trails along the river: Provide improved launches for canoe and kayaks; Improvements needs to be respectful of the river, associated habitats, and maintain riparian qualities; Ensure water quality of the river – comments identified issues with *E. Coli*; Improved parking areas; and Bathroom improvements.

Detail:

- It is a terrific park system.
- Walking through the parks at night or visiting the park after specific hours concerns me. I appreciate the presence of the Park Ranger and Police on bike patrol.
- The access area near the dams is a lovely location, however it is not always a location I would suggest bringing young children due to the type of people that spend time there. Bad language, drinking, smoking, obnoxious behavior are seem to be the norm. I don't have a solution as to how to improve the situation, but I avoid this area because of those things.
- Develop a more expansive bike path.
- no improvement suggestions
- A better tie-in from the paved trail system across M-20 to Chipp-A-Waters would be nice.
- I would like to see more access points to the river. I know in Millpond Park there are a few where the river is calm. I would like to see an improved sandy area there. I have small dogs who love to walk in water, so the more easier access areas the better for them :)
- I would also like to see improvement on the tennis courts. I enjoy playing and would rather spend my time at a park but I go to other locations because they are more up to date.
- My recommendation would be to preserve the eco systems for indigenous species and natural beauty of the Chippewa river. Pollutants including chemical and items left by human consumption should be severely limited.
- I live on the river now. This is a fine line because the more use, the more trash. In improving access it is also important to increase awareness of keeping the river clean. Provide options for recycling and trash.
- Find ways to improve water quality and to encourage those that use the river and parks to keep them clean and take care of their trash. It would also be nice to have recycling containers available throughout the parks, not just trash cans.
- Tubers are a problem at Chip-a-waters Park with trash, parking, overcrowding! a public access on Lincoln Rd. with safe parking and access should be added for use.
- Add a football field
- Clearing falling trees in the river
- Allow overnight parking so a vehicle can be staged for long overnight canoe /kayak trips terminating at city parks. Maybe a window pass that is obtained in advance so that the vehicle isn't ticketed overnight.
- Allow parking along one side of Lincoln road so that families can enjoy short tubing trips without paying an outfitter. A huge inexpensive way for families to enjoy the river was lost when the parking on Lincoln road was prohibited .
- Develop a place for parking and easier access to the river itself just for that purpose. A good place would be near the bridge on Lincoln Road.A
- clean up mill pond for swimming again
- Need steps to get in
- I always enjoy tubing on the chip river with my girlfriend, no maintenance really needs to be done unless something can be done about the high levels of ecoli that arise near the end of the summer. Maybe some clean up would be good too since many people don't respect the waters
- I think we need to focus on maintaining the river - Educating about keeping it clean, packing out what you brought in, and river clean ups.
- Kayak/canoe launch sites like Midland parks have
- Cleaning the river more.
- Access needs to be done in a respectful manner as does the actual use of the river. Too many times an outing is spoiled by rude, inappropriate drunks.
- Handrails would be nice at entryways. We only have concrete slabs, and they become very slippery. Also, signs along the river giving directions to the other points is by important, and lacking, in my opinion.
- add little docks for easy access in and out.
- Canoe livery access (drop off and pick up) within city limits.
- if there could be bigger easements with parking to get to the river initially, along with small stops along the way and dedicated places for getting out easily, that would be nice.
- Volunteer days for cleanup organized 4 times a yr

- A crossing light at Chipp-a-waters Park and Adams St, to make crossing M20 safer
- Well kept and groomed Sand lot beach access points to the river. No glass debris or "No glass bottles" signage posted at these points.
- I think access is very good at this point in the development of our parks system.
- Stop letting E-coli into the river.
- Kayak launches. Make sure shorelines are not eroding.
- Work with the County to install accessible canoe launch
- Adding walkways and small bridges would improve the parks and enhance their natural beauty. Adding a restroom or drinking fountain and trash cans could be great too! Having a safe way to really explore the river / having perhaps designated fishing areas could enhance the Mount Pleasant experience. More courts and pools don't seem to be of that importance. Island park has a lot of those qualities already.
- Better launch points for kayaks canoes tubes
- Dedicated launch sights for tuber. Keep the drunk college kids from ruining family picnics and events.
- stop cutting the trees
- I was excited to see a beach area by the river in Nelson Park for kids to play and swim. I took my daughter there several times before learning about the high e-coli levels reported in the Morning Sun. I'm afraid to take her back and disappointed because this was a great recreational opportunity for young children. I encourage you to keep working with outside entities to figure out what was causing this and eliminate the cause of contamination. Thank you!!!
- I'd like more lighted paths around the parks and paths along the river -- I can only walk my dog at night around Nelson park to feel like I always have access to a reasonably-well lit path that isn't secluded. Being near the river rather than downtown is so much more fun/friendly/peaceful.
- Remove parking restrictions from known kayak and tubing launch sites that require residents to hire an outfitter for an activity they can complete themselves. It adds an unnecessary expense that does not benefit the parks and adds a barrier to residents enjoying the parks and Chippewa River.
- Make it more clean
- Soap in the restrooms would be nice
- It would be nice to be able to drop in at Lincoln rd again.
- Make the ins and outs less mucky.
- Making sure the water is safe to be because the e coli levels have been to high
- River rentals for tubes, kayaks, canoes, etc.
- There needs to be a parking area for people trying to access the river off of Lincoln Road.
- Make it more handicap accessible. Update the bathrooms. Make them match Ada guidelines. Provide sports that special O athletes can participate in.
- Open fishing in all parks not just some. More platforms along Island park.
- There should be outreach to tubers and people that often misuse the river as to the environmental unique aspects and caring for our river (at the river level-- that tubers can read-- if they want). MORE access of the river should also consider the importance of riparian buffers, and the influence of additional access to the river.
- Put money into island park and the wooden playground!
- Remove all signs and policies on Lincoln preventing people from putting in there for tubing/ kayaking/ canoeing/ water activities.
- More cleaning of the surrounding areas and cleaning up the park equipment.
- I think specifically designated areas for people to get in and out of the river to tube in would be good.
- I feel like the river is easily accessible from many points along adjacent trails, but accessibility could be improved with more specific, designated, and/or identifiable areas.
- I know some parks I have been to have dangerous conditions, need a face lift, upgraded equipment and more accessible for people with disabilities in some
- Add and accessible canoe/kayak launch, like an EZ-Launch system
- the park would have a public pool
- More police and park rangers to keep the use of alcohol on the waterways to a minimum.
- There is enough access already. Tubers throw garbage in the river and have no respect for the environment.
- Continue to support walkable and bike able pathways in the city...bicycling is a growing sport in Mt. Pleasant and deserves support and attention. Love the markings on Broadway supporting cyclists.
- Marketing the approved river access points to prevent individuals from entering the river from private or unsafe locations.

- Diminish the bank destruction in Veit's Woods. CMU's maintenance of this natural area is faulty. The tubing businesses should be held responsible for trash, even though their use is not exclusively responsible. It is private resource from which their business derives income.
- Visual access to the river should be enhanced by regular removal of brush and clipping vegetation which impedes view. Would youth groups be of practical use here? Similar removal could afford more views into the woods.
- Can a fine sand or gravel path be extended on the northish bank in Chippewaters to the west?
- Do nothing that requires taxpayer dollars
- All parks on the Chippewa should have groomed entry points for wading,tubing,canoeing.
- Some type of safe way to provide a parking lot for people to park and tub down the river rather than the side of the road
- Maybe the end of the river, around island park, to have easier an easier exit if possible. Maybe a beach type area
- Adequate parking must be made available for the safety of those using the river since lincoln street has been posted it is made it very difficult to use the river there's not enough parking at chippewa parks there is no good place to get out of the river at island park and load or unload your gear. 55 gallon drum trash cans should be placed at each entry place along the river for pop cans and 4 trash.
- Fallen trees and debris in the Chippewa river need to be removed. I read once that trees that have fallen are often not removed to help maintain a more natural environment. That seems like a completely wrong attitude. If we want people to enjoy the rivers and parks, keep them clear and easy to use. Additionally, fallen trees collect trash, with would be great if it were picked up, but it's not.
- We could clear access paths or strips and form small boat landind/launching areas that sever as points for swimming for small children where water is not to deep and where boater and tubers can launch as well if they are placed every 1mile or so apart with walking tails connecting them it would help to improve access to the Chippewa River.
- Clean up the River area.
- Clean. The. River. More. Get rid of down. Trees. like. To see , more things for children. And adults. Camp grounds. Better. Maytaned. Better handicap. As
- Accessible bathrooms. We've had the bathrooms locked during the day and as early as 4pm. More bike patrols. Just seeing them slows down the riff raff.
- we have enough now
- Access to the river for those who canoe so they aren't putting others or themselves at risk parking on the roadways~
- Have take-out spots on city property at Indian Pines and/or at the waste water plant.
- I think once a year a group should clean the river of all debris.
- More parking that can be used by non-tubers. Maybe time limit on parking?
- At Nelson Park:
- where the deer pen used to be located, I would like to see that area turned into a wildflower garden. Once wildflower seeds are planted hey need very little care,it creates habait for bee's butterfly's and song birds, which will enhance Nelson park with it's water falls and the rive close by. If the wildflowers are left over winter it's more habait for small critters. Then in the spring the wildflower patch just needs to be mowed, and the process starts all over again. Sweeney Seed Co, has expertise in this area.
- Steps and an over the river deck would be great.
- A parking lot to the back of the walking trail closer to the bridge would be nice from Glen Street, there is no way my physically handicapped friends can negotiate it from that trail.
- I would like to see more park rangers
- Access areas to the River, when well maintained are sufficient. I have no disabilities, (physical) and I hope people who have such challenges can also get where they want to go.
- If things are broken, we need to repair them and keep the parks maintained. It is not necessary to add frills to natural settings.
- I feel that it is important to continue the addition of running trails further upstream. I love the expansion in Chipp-a-waters a few years ago.
- I just wish people were more respectful of the river and not throw the bottles, cans, and trash in or along side the river.
- No recommendations at this time.
- This would be very expensive and a massive engineering but, I would love to see a trail that runs from Chip-a-waters to Deerfield park, along the river as much as possible with access points dotted along the way. I feel Mount Pleasants bicycling system is very limited compared to the Pere Marquette and the trail that runs through Alma (don't know the name) or if we could intersect those trails through our city would be amazing. Or I can settle on a designated path that connects Pickens Field to Mission Creek Park w/o having to use Crawford, even if it is through an industrial site.
- Please replace the small pavilions that were torn down in Island Park.

Question 7: What would be your dream park for the City of Mt. Pleasant?

171 responses

Main Ideas: Swimming pool, biking trails, ice skating, water slide, disc golf course, toddler-friendly areas, basketball court, more ADA accessible areas, more picnic areas, expanded splash pad, more pathways to enjoy nature.

Detail:

- Dog park with agility or other dog playground type equipment, plus running water for dog drinks.
- One with substantial topography.
- The corridor created by the non-motorized trail is my ideal park. The only thing that could improve it is public safety at night.
- A rail to trail bike system that could possibly connect to Alma and/or Clare.
- I realize this would be expensive, but you said "dream park"...I think I would be really cool to have a sculpture park, even if it was just on a very small scale. I would also love to see more trails for biking.
- Lighting on trees for nighttime ambiance, concert venue, pickleball court
- develop Horizon more!
- addition of splash pad to Yost and more parking at Yost
- A fully connected system with all parks linked via paved trail.
- A lot of swings, regular and tire. A maze.
- I wish the spray park had more elements to it.
- Inside dome type facility
- lot of trees, flowing water, places to have picnics and participate in sports
- Mt. Pleasant Center would make a great park with rolling hills, and forest natural running trails.
- Mount Pleasant has several very nice parks however one that is vastly lacking in restroom accommodations and play structure is Sunnyside and is also one of the busiest parks soccer, tee ball, flag football. The grass needs to be maintained during those activities as it is hard to play and teach both of these sports when the grass is so long it is tripping the kids. The restrooms are too small especially when you have a hundred kids and their siblings there all at once. Same for the play structure as it is small and very inadequate.
- Add another spray park. The current one gets overcrowded. Also, a park where smoking is prohibited. I hate going to the parks with my kids and having to deal with second hand smoke... nearly all the time. Can you do a smoke free park and/or a smoking zone that is far away from the playgrounds.
- Free food
- Swimming pools
- Tennis courts
- Basketball courts
- Football fields
- Trampolines
- Things for families to do, pool, play equipment, picnic areas, Pavillion! Bathroom facilities
- Entertainment venue
- A park where there is more places to go swimming maybe a community pool
- Bring back a bigger water park for kids and enforce the age level
- More of a wood area trail.
- the dog park is already in progress. :)
- A beautiful meditation park where yoga and Chi Tai could take place as well as sitting and enjoying the peace and quiet. Even a sculpture garden would be nice. Also include a labyrinth for a walking meditation. Would draw not only seniors but also a number of people who practice these activities for health reasons not to mention visitors to our city as well.
- We have good parks now, I would like to see more rangers enforcing safety and cleanliness. Mainly the number of people drinking and smoking in family areas.
- Ice Skating once again at Island Park...for starters...then bring back our swimming pool! The kids of today are getting a raw deal.....no wonder they all stay inside and play on the internet....GET OUTSIDE & DO SOMETHING!
- Ice rink in winter. Pool in summer
- Cedar point
- Out door pool free access and water slides
- I really enjoy Island park.
- Something with a community pool!!

- Dreaming: Botanical Gardens with walking paths, labeled species, roses, hedges, homes for birds, fountains, and gazebos. Midland has Dahlia Hill near Northwoods University. Lansing has Francis Park on the west side of the city.
- I think a smaller Mt. Pleasant park such as Potter Park on Pine Street would be a great location for something like this. It would tie in beautifully with the landscaping already done by the Episcopalian Church.
- Dreaming, part II: A swimming pool. A large scale, Olympic-sized *outdoor* pool with high-dives and life guards, a concession stand, a water slide, kiddie-pools, places for families to eat and people to lay out in the sun.
- People who didn't let their dogs run loose
- A larger natural area. No sports areas, no playgrounds. Just nature and some pathways.
- One with natural (i.e. unpaved) trails.
- We enjoy them now.
- A dream park would be to install a band-shell at Nelson Park to have outdoor concerts and other artistic activities (plays, art, lectures) during the pleasant months of the year.
- dog park
- One with access for all abilities.
- Return to public indoor and outdoor pool complex as well as an increase in outdoor winter recreational venues - toboggan run and skating rinks for figure and hockey. The river is not a safe place for children to learn to swim!
- I would love to see a more wooded park with a waterfall or some natural attraction like that. Would love to have a community pool back in Mt Pleasant
- Bring back the bear
- Swimming pool in and out door ice skating in winter. Dog run area fenced in.
- Island Park is wonderful, would be nice to have a community pool again. Keep up the good work of clearing paths in the winter for us runners.
- An agreement with CMU for the use of Veit Woods
- Inclosed dog park areas, and soft play areas for toddlers
- Add a multi-Culrural market area. Add a stage/amphitheater for outdoor shows and concerts.
- water park with water slide
- Outdoor pool with beautiful landscaping.
- Island park and add food gardens, add/improve swimming/wading areas, control trash - add recycling bins next to trash cans and list what can or can't be recycled.
- One that includes a pool facility. It shocks me that a community our size does not provide an aquatic facility for it's residents to utilize for both recreational and therapeutic offerings in a year round setting.
- In the cold winter months my dream park would include an outdoor ice skating rink. In the summer and spring months my dream park would include a stage for bands that could host swing dancing like Grand Rapids or other types of bands could perform, as well or could be rented for an outdoor wedding reception. In my dream park for all times of the year there would be plants and animals and resources that are cared for and respected. People and children in the community could be close and learn more about nature and find peace and harmony.
- Swimming pool, indoor outdoor!
- Dog Park
- The parks we have now are fine
- The City's Viet's woods parcel. It is literally the most eroded bank in the Saginaw bay watershed and if we took it under our management, we could improve access for everyone while also preventing further sedimentation of our river and Saginaw bay.
- Use part of the Mt. Pleasant Center for trails and keep is natural as possible. Understand that tax base is needed but don't give it all away for tax base keep the tunnel of trees untouched on north Harris.
- A pet friendly naturally enhanced place to visit and feel comfortable to be there all day. A picnic table or two. Trees to hammock. Maybe a disc golf course Or nature trail. A restroom would be great too. It would be kind of neat to make a scavenger hunt/educational nature trail inviting people to participate in the nature of Mount Pleasant...for example, there could be a map and have ten items / things to find.
- Extensive walking, hiking and biking trails through the woods and along the Chippewa River
- a park that is closer to CMUs campus that connects to all the other parks
- Large amount of walking trails and bridges all along the river, similar to what exists, just expanded.
- Riverside with areas for recreation such as basketball courts, baseball/soccer fields, picnic areas, tennis courts marked, accessible, trails, and usable restroom facilities. Canoe and kayak rental to utilize the river. Fishing docks. A main stage for shows. Bike rentals. A parking lot for accessibility.
- A place that all ages can enjoy.
- The dream park would have nice basketball courts many even enclosed basketball and tennis

- Rollercoaster, adult water park
- Cross fit/tough mudder/warrior fitness park with obstacles.
- Linking them all together for the best walk ever.
- nature
- More disc golf!
- Expansion of the spray park. Love this but it needs to be larger to accommodate all the children visiting.
- More toddler friendly structures. Wading pool.
- Mill Pond Park is basically my dream park during the day time. I LOVE IT! It just needs additional lighting for more evening walks/runs. Also, maybe a few blue-light emergency posts...sometimes it feels quite secluded (and when you can smell beer at a trash can it starts to feel sketchy).
- a nature park
- One with a community pool.
- I would love to see a more toddler friendly park. Most of the parks have very high climbers and it would be great to have a park that 1-3 year olds can play on without worrying about falls.
- One with a pool, water park, and splash park with *heated* water. An ice skating pond for winter with a warming hut that serves hot chocolate. Another warming hut at the park with the sledding hill. Better maintenance of the parks' lawns: they are dry and weed-filled instead of lush and green. Soap and working hand dryers in all restrooms and better maintained (paint, cleaning, repairs) restrooms.
- Dog park with dogs allowed off leash in a confined area.
- A DOG park! I can't believe we don't have one.
- Dog park but I know it is coming.
- I would like to see a dog park
- Longer trails through the woods
- Roller hockey rink
- Outdoor music stage. Jazz in the park stuff, etc.
- I nice safe beach area or a pool would be nice
- I would LOOOOOVE to see an outdoor performance space for concerts!
- Island park already is!
- It would have an area for fitness.
- A city pool.
- Completely accessible 100% including a playground for wheelchairs. Fully accessible bathrooms and wheelchair access to the river. Adapted canoe/kayaks and snow shoe sports would be awesome. Ada bathrooms. Add mor disk golfing! And allow tent camping. All of this in all of the parks!
- A large dog park
- My dream park would have lots of natural hiking, trails that are safe for trail running, and near the river. You have that.
- Island park only with new bathrooms and no weeds. Also a new play structure.
- Continuation of green/trails for many miles that link CMU main campus (not just Viets woods) and seeing students/landowners using this for commuting. Can you imagine how amazing that would be-- to see everyone biking/walking/skiing to CMU and to downtown for meals instead of struggling for parking spot?!
- Also, many of our citizens don't know how to swim despite the fact that we are surrounded by the Great Lakes. Mt. Pleasant should be embarrassed that they rely on CMU (and Mt. Pleasant Country Club) for teaching our children to swim. There should be a public pool-- that is reasonably priced for everyone.
- Together it would be nice to have more nature information , posted, available at the parks and on the trails.
- Something with a large running trail system, I really enjoy Deerfield park. Connectivity to residential areas would be a bonus
- I think it would be great for our kids to have an outdoor pool in Mt. Pleasant.
- Water park for all ages.
- A disc golf park.
- Pool
- Disc Golf Course with natural nature trails (not paved)
- A dog park!!
- I love island park the way it is! !!
- Skate park
- Trails, pavilion, soccer field, baseball field, concession building.
- I would defnitley love even more trails along the river. I also would love f they connected more...they might and I just don't realize it. Maps would also be helpful as well as drinking fountains along paths

- Swimming pool. Accessible.
- A park where not half of the children's play equipment is ran down. I would also like to see a community pool make a come back. The skate park is a great addition to island park.
- The way they are now, plus maybe a pool.
- A dream park would have a dog park also so my dog can enjoy some of leash time too. Our closest park is Midland way too far for me to go with my dog
- a bunch of kids toys like a wooden one with thousands of things to do
- Pool for kids, it will be not only good for the city, but it can also be used for school, jobs for teens in the summer and more funding for parks and recreation.
- I would like to see more open, grassy areas--room for Frisbee, catch, kicking a soccer ball around, etc.
- Roller rink that could be froze, pool, playground, seating options, shade spots, lots of sport choices and running paths.
- For their to be not only child play and picnic areas and parties but for more events. Like a day of family fun with little prizes and games etc. I was for the city to give back to the community and have the community work with the city to organize these events and make them possible.
- Sething that is usable in late fall and early spring. (Cooler weather)
- Bring back the bear and the deer!!! That was one of the coolest things growing up
- A natural park with extensive multi-use pathways and river access
- A larger play area that is covered. In addition to the splash pad a zero entry wading pool area that is a few inches deep.
- Outdoor ice rink.
- More bike trails that loop instead of dead ends.
- 2 outdoor ice rinks. One with a roof and chiller system for 4 months of ice, with ice rental, and a schedule for events, open skate, etc. The other with no roof, no schedule, come and skate for free, play pickup hockey, etc.
- A public swimming pool in Island Park.
- One that included a pool for close by swimming opportunities for the young and old and was within the reach of low income families
- A very kid friendly park with a big DOG PARK.
- one that isn't paved over. When I first moved to Mt.P, Chippawater was wonderful. Now it is paved, and you have to be careful of traffic near the river.
- Accessible pathways and picnic areas. Accessible pool.
- one that has a communal pool and an ice skating park for winter.
- my dream park would be more bicycling trails for mountain biking like county has at Deerfield Park. These are great for cycling, walking and hiking.
- A dog park.
- Have a pool bad at island park and the ice rink. Wonderful childhood memories wish my kids could have
- Dog park
- Providing an area for outdoor theater productions
- An actual dog park with things dogs can run on to have fun with, bot just an open space at yost. Also an outdoor ice rink would be perfect, i love ice skating but never have the money to do the indoor stuff at morey.
- Millpond is outstanding, but needs a walkway beneath the railroad and a loop on the west bank to the south and west to connect with the bridge. Extension of millpond willl have to wait for the next glaciation. I am sorry it does not have a bank of tamaracks on the south or east banks.
- nothing no swimming pool
- Water slide, Ferris wheel, go carts, and Mini golf
- Clean beaches along the river.
- A water park (spray park) that anyone can come to and use and u don't need kids. A public swimming pool like we use to have yes their would be a small fee to use all of this but there isn't much for ppl or family's to do in this town
- Island Park - a park that has a little of everything and that is spacious
- An outdoor public pool! I think a pool would be great for the mount pleasant community. A community pool would bring a lot of money in since their isn't really an outdoor pool for swim lessons or just public recreation. The spray park is great but I think the area needs a pool
- Longer trails for bike rides also
- Island Park is the nicest park what they put the picnic tables up too soon in the fall and there should be someone accessible to get the equipment for the tennis and the horseshoe areas to make sure that the bathrooms are stocked and that could make emergency calls should someone be hurt or need help.tables near the millpond where the children swim for parents to watch or near the entrance to the river at Chippewa park. the city needs to be more concerned about our homeless so they don't feel they need to use our parks for shelter.

- Small tourist attraction store to bring in extra revenue into the city open during the the summer months. Pictures of the different concerts, activities, and attractions in and around Mt. Pleasant from the past years and events yet to come. Items to purchase while they visit, etc.
- Movies in the park every week with invites to food trucks.
- Our dream park would have a rink for roller/ice hockey. That would be so fantastic, as the ice arena is closed during the summer. Extra ice in the winter for skating and a rink for roller hockey in the summer would keep kids (and grown-ups) skating year round. There is nowhere in Mount Pleasant for this currently, and it seems like it would be fairly inexpensive and easy to maintain. Please??
- Dog park
- Family friendly. It is sad to see Timber Town run down...my children would love to play there, however I do not think it is safe enough.
- A safe playground for younger and older kids alike (seems most parks are for kids 3 and up... but my daughter loved going outside at a young age. We live in a condo and so I had to take her to parks, but they were "too old" for her) with good visibility for parents and seating (Island Park has that "castle" which is fun but too easy for a child to be lost so I feel I have to follow her, and most parks don't have a comfortable location to sit where I can see my kids easily). A coffee cart and snack bar would be nice:) And play areas with shade of some sort to protect from the sun. Clean restrooms with running water close by.
- Honestly my dream park would be Island park!
- A zoo
- One that has a very large building equipped with a very large pool!
- We need a dog park, its unbelievable that a town of this size has no where safe for our fur babies to play and socialize, which by the way is good for their people too!
- Pool
- Pathways connecting existing parks
- I would like to see an outdoor community pool.
- Children's playground with food/drink service. Something nice - outdoor patio seating.
- A well kept dog park.
- A dog park within the current park system, so you don't have to DRIVE to a different park to let your dog run.
- A pool with lap lanes and offer swimming lessons.
- The annexation of the land behind the former Regional Center. Re-establishment of the dam on the creek. Trails dedicated for XC skiing in the winter, running and cycling in the summer. Ideally these would be lighted.
- Adding a park system on East side of town, perhaps the wooded area by Mary McGuire school, that would have a jogging/running trail and place for kids to play.
- The dog park
- Dog Park. Very large Dog Park with low cost to maintain. Not a fancy park, just a nice one in some woods. Not just in the middle of a field.
- Add water features in parks without one, fix the swimming hole at Millpond, make available an outdoor ice rink at Millpond and Island park with warming houses. The end of the Millpond Park pavilion used to have an indoor get out of the elements room at the end towards the river and it made the park way more fun; longer into all seasons.
- The damns would be nice to have a dedicated swimming area with some kind of bouy system to grab onto in the currents.
- The parks should have their own tubal rental and pick up and drop off system, people walking from parks drunk are more then dangerous. I have seen it all coming out of Nelson park river way and then they realize they got out at the wrong park and they walk across Broadway or back to Island Park and it's not good. Color Coded exits that match their tubes or bracelets that are handed out when dropped off would help them figure where to exit correctly. The drunk half-dressed water-logged tubers walking anywhere outside the parks is kinda bad.
- A bottle return can that the \$ can be given back to the Parks would be smart too. A check out area for tennis rackets and balls, basket balls , soccer balls and volley balls and a weekly make it and take it activity for kids at a different park each time would be great.
- Swimming pool
- To have a nice, big, deep, spring fed lake for swimming and fishing (shore/docks) , a no wake zone for boaters/other water vehicles. Picnic areas around the lake with tables and grills.
- Unfortunately, it would probably take a pretty good sized natural disaster to create such a body of water. Oh well, you said dream park right? :)
- A kayak adventure park much like ones used at Olympic venues.
- A Community Center with Pool.

- One that allows walking without dogs
- Adding on to the spray park and have the water be a little warmer. Add more water features for the little tykes (1 & 2 yrs old).
- Upgrading the bathroom facilities at Island Park.
- Security for if park is open after dark and late hours.
- A pool please where all can swim at a reasonable price.
- Expansion of the children's spray park at Island Park.
- island park with outdoor ice skating.
- More trees and nature, not so manicured. It's very unfortunate that all the trees were cleared between City Hall and Mount Town. More biking trails, a rock wall would be cool.
- Park with ice rink and swimming pool.

Question 8: Do you have any other comments regarding parks and recreation in Mt. Pleasant?

106 responses

Detail:

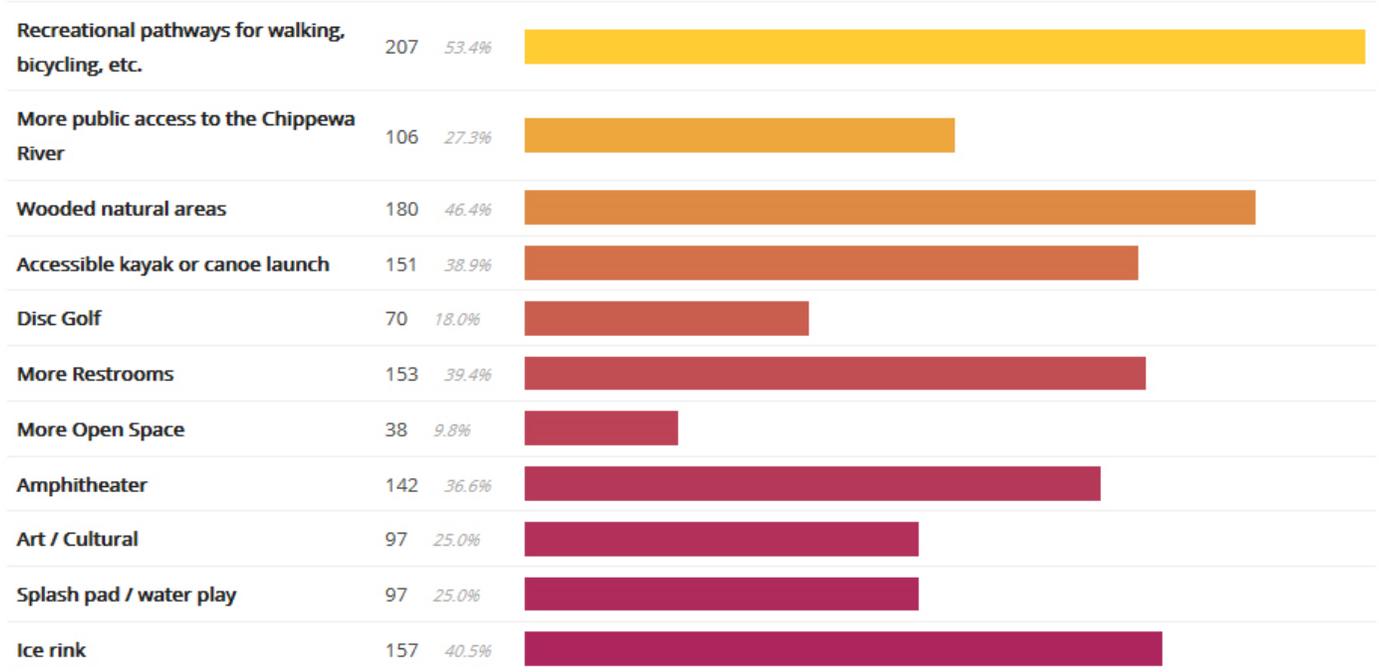
- I'd love to see more concerts and other arts events in the parks.
- We have a great Parks and Recreation Program. It is one of the main reasons I continue to live in Mt. Pleasant.
- Restrooms at Horizon park could be maintained better.
- Continue programs that expose the parks like Man vs. Mountain and draw in community members and visitors.
- We love walking our dog on the trails. More doggy bag posts would be nice.
- I enjoy all of the events Parks and Recreation does. I think they are an excellent way for people to come to the parks if they wouldn't normally.
- We have wonderful parks! Great job, Mt. Pleasant!
- keep the parks alive and well
- Love the access and walking trails that connect most parks through the city. I always feel safe at all the parks.
- The city has done an excellent job in preserving green space within the city. Visitors always comment on the accessibility of walking/running trails. I have seldom walked through the parks without seeing someone else enjoying the trail, regardless of time of day or year or weather. I would hope not too much prettifying is done. I like the natural look along the trail and seeing the changes over time.
- Connection to rail trail, natural trail area with more tree canopy. Connect the new the Dog Park with the trail system.
- Connect the park system to one of the rails for trail systems so that families can enjoy riding bikes with their kids.
- The P.E.A.K program rocks!
- user friendly
- We are lucky to live in such a community with accessible parks
- As people grow older and our city grows it becomes important to enhance the opportunities for all ages to be able to get out of doors to enjoy nature in many different capacities thus this will mean offering a park that can be wheel chair accessible or activities that allows for individual differences in physicalities.
- A small picnic area off the Leaton Street parking area at Millpond would be nice. A trash receptacle out near the PacMan pond at Millpond would be nice. I have picked up a lot of trash out there.
- It would be nice if the Splash Park had a gate across the opening so kids can't just run out.
- I think it would be great to have a public swimming pool that could also be used by Mt Pleasant Pacers to practice. It is more affordable for my family to drive to Midland and use Plymouth Pool, than to go to the SAC and pay to swim there.
- leave things the way they are
- We need a community pool.
- Even with the ice and snow and dread of winter, our park trails are kept remarkably free and clear to run on. Thank you for the extra time it takes to keep them that way. I know it's not possible to do this in the more wooded areas, but Island Park has always been incredibly useable no matter the season.
- So excited, too, about the dog park. This is a great development.
- Bathrooms open year round
- Easier access across Mission
- Fitness stations where you walk and stop at stations to do crossfit style exercises
- outdoor concerts
- outdoor ice rink
- Christmas light park (drive-thru Christmas lights at Chipp-a-waters park)

- The parks in Mt. Pleasant are some of the best around, thanks to the City of Mt. Pleasant (and Isabella county for Deerfield) for making sure that we have access to wonderful outdoor spaces.
- The upkeep.
- One reason I love living in Mt. Pleasant is the park system and Chippewa River walk paths. I've heard this said by others beside myself who have lived elsewhere. I think the parks, both city and county, are key to this community's ongoing development, sustainability, and prosperity.
- currently our parks are very well maintained and policed. great job!
- Would be nice to have a restroom open at Island Park in the winter for those of us who run the Millpond/Nelson/and Island park trails.
- We have a lovely park system, and it is well-maintained, but I'd like to see more utilization of some parks, and specifically safety upgrades at Mission Creek Park.
- Great work thus far! I love the parks!
- Proud of our connected trails.
- Would really like to see recycling as well as trash control.
- I cannot begin to express the gratitude and appreciation that I feel as a resident of the city regarding our parks and recreation department and all the care and vision they attain and maintain regarding our facilities and programs.
- Thank you.
- A splash park at Horizon Park. (There needs to be more for that end of town).
- Keep up the excellent work. This makes our community. It helps to attract young professionals who then purchase homes and raise families. We need to connect more with CMU students interested in nature. It is an opportunity to attract folks to stay in this area. We have the assets, advertising to the target market remains a challenge.
- I like the farmers market. I would like to see a trail from the existing system connect to Mission Creek and the new dog park! Nature programming would be nice.
- In think there are opportunities to expand services within the existing parks, particularly Island, Nelson, and perhaps Chipawater. The city could, for example, rent out sports equipment like kayaks & bikes, maybe jogging strollers, etc. run concession stands when the spray park is open (& then use that money to heat the water just a little bit! Lol.) I love the city park system but as MP grows, it would be nice to see the parks grow and develop more amenities/services.
- The parks in the City of Mount Pleasant are by far my favorite thing about the city. They are among my favorite places to spend time in, and they hold some of my fondest memories. Maintaining these parks for everyone to enjoy and be with nature should be of utmost importance.
- Comments from Facebook Mt. Pleasant Townie Talk, come join us <https://www.facebook.com/groups/127185910780880/?fref=nf>
- Chuck Grisdale Well, I can only share with you that at the age of 10, I lost my father. I recall spending nearly every day at the Pullen School Summer Recreation Program playing softball and opening that big green wooden box to pull out various games to play. Little League was helpful, too. No tee-ball in those days!
- Most importantly, the Recreation program had two employees who served as activity directors(?). I remember the name of Mr. Mike Sweeney(sp), who was outstanding as a person and lightened up the day for many kids in the area. I don't recall the name of his associate, but she was very caring and helpful to the kids, too.
- If you can duplicate that model----go for it!
- Suzanne Wolf What Chuck Grisdale said, I second it! The Parks and Rec program was so much fun! It gave college students, who were the "coaches", a chance to work with kids. Kids were given an opportunity to enjoy some organized events in the neighborhood. The police came every year and did bicycle safety. While it wasn't meant to be a babysitting service parents knew where their kids were during the day. Those are the memories that stand out for me.
- As for the present, I spent two weeks in Mt. Pleasant in the fall and went biking every morning through the trails at Millpond Park, Island Park, and Chipp-a-Waters. I went early in the morning and saw lots of people there using the trails to run or walk on. I was so impressed with the condition of the trails and enjoyed the information boards at Chipp-a-Waters. I hope that the schools and youth groups go out on these trails and learn the beauty of the river and its surroundings. The Chippewa is more than something to tube down!
- More trails for running. And more community running/jog/walk events.
- Deerfield park is the best!
- I've seen kids riding their bikes in the spray parks while parents looked on and laughed. So dangerous for the other children. Maybe a no bikes allowed sign? Seems obvious yet some people aren't getting it. Also, more seating in the spray park itself. Some seating added to the nearby slide park for parent use.
- Keep up the good work! I just moved here about a year ago, and I'm incredibly impressed by the parks & rec opportunities here.
- We were pleased to find such wonderful parks in MP when we moved here two years ago. The interconnection is wonderful. Accessibility for all is important. Thank you.

- Bathroom access is very important. Bathrooms need to be opened earlier in the season and kept open later in the fall. Also, there needs to be soap in the bathrooms.
- Many of the baby swings were broken last summer. I would love to see these fixed so they are safe.
- Keeping the Chippewa river clean of trash.
- We are grateful for the wonderful parks we have!
- They're Beautiful! But no one pays attention to that silly nature walk you installed where we scan things and listen to them.
- Thank you!
- Park staff do a great job but seem like they are understaffed for the sizes of the parks.
- ** The fact that there is no swimming pool facility suggested in Question 9 either relates to liability issues that Mt. Pleasant should live up to for the safety and training of their citizens or that really they are not out at the new splashpad or river seeing how excited our citizens are about water-- they should have a public place where they can swim without having to worry about E-coli/safety*
- I absolutely thrive on running and biking through the parks -- it's a great way to be outside. I would love more activities to do at the parks.
- The parks are very important for providing options to entertain youth. Without the parks, we have nothing to provide entertainment for those that can't afford to go elsewhere.
- Disc golf
- Disc Golf Course
- Making it difficult for people to tube, etc. independently of the tubing outfitters is negative and should be reversed.
- when I was young I remember when you could swim at millpond park. It would be nice to get that back.
- I would like to see the spray park limited to just the younger kids during the summer. As a mother of a young child there was one to many times that the older kids, pushed and shoved their way through the younger kids to get around the water park. That being said I had to remove my child in fear of him being knocked down.
- The City of Mt. Pleasant has invested heavily in parks infrastructure since the 1800's. I think this has enhanced the city and sets Mt. Pleasant apart as a community that cares about quality of life for its citizens. Keep up the good work!
- It would be nice to have a designated dog park in Mt. Pleasant.
- The park system is a vital asset for attracting talent to the region. It's difficult to quantify this but the parks along the river combined with the kids sports programs that use the parks were a big part of my decision to move my family here last year. Also, we are recruiting new faculty to our department (CMU) and we make a point to highlight the parks when we're interviewing candidates. Parks and open spaces improve quality of life in real ways!
- I hope the citizens are aware of the wonderful park options.
- Our riverwalk is a true gem
- WE NEED A BIG DOG PARK. Really wish we didn't have to drive to Midland to find one..
- Too much emphasis on organized sports, not enough on nature.
- The parks are beautiful and well maintained. Please keep them that way....we love them.
- I wish the bathrooms at Sunnyside Park had baby changing tables.
- update the wood play structure at island park. One of the toys down there is not family friendly. The toy in which you turn blocks to spell words has the word "sex" in it... Very discouraging to take my six year old to play there.
- We need a dog park.
- Better police patrolling of skate park for kids doing drugs.
- I wish there was better parking at Sunnyside Park. It can get pretty dicey there, especially when there are both soccer and t-ball games occurring.
- As I have pointed out, until another plan is developed for the State Home land, there should be light development of bicycle, walking, running and cross-country ski and "nature" trails there.
- We need a pool.
- Build something that everyone can come and use like a community center something like (YMCA) and make it cheap enough so ppl would come and use it
- The city does a great job at maintaining the parks - things like walkways, grass, and overall cleanliness
- More relations with the RPL department at Central
- I think the parks are one of the strongest points we have in Mount Pleasant I have used them for photography bringing people in from out of town we've used for group meetings and family wedding receptions I've used them to take children for entertainment walk the parks for health reasons we have not been able to take part in the weekly walks however I feel more communication with the community would raise more interest and more use of our parks the Chippewa is what makes this community and these parks so beautiful an important they drop this and send for the farmers market and the businesses in town

- Possibly on the nature trails, there could be informative plaques about the types of wildlife that reside there and what their habits are and environments are like and a picture of the animal/birds in the area.
- I've witnessed employees trimming smaller trees in the park system simply by breaking off small branches and not cutting them. I don't need to be an arborist to know that is not good for the tree. It would probably take less time and be much healthier for the tree to use an appropriate saw. I know the individuals were park/city employees as they were driving around in a city gator.
- No. I love the park system here.
- Bathrooms are usually dirty and not kept up.
- like to see more. Stuff. In parks
- fWe have enjoyed the parks and watched them grow for 77 years. Thanks.
- Dog park please....
- Need to take better care of the Veterans areas in the spring when it comes time to honor them at the park. Some years the weeds are a foot high on that Memorial day while people are trying to partake and can't because of the weeds and dampness they hold onto.
- Look into collaborating more with CMU and Morey Courts regarding facilities usage.
- The parks are lovely but the lack of soap dispensers in the restrooms in an era of ecoli, ebola and all sorts of other gross diseases is unbelievable. It's doubly disgusting when one realizes the farmers at the Farmer's Market and everyone consuming foods from the concession stands who have used the bathrooms prior, likely have not been able to wash properly before handling food.
- I really think that hours of 7 to 10 make more sense than 8 to 11
- Dog Park!!!
- Our Parks are beautiful and they have been better but some improvements have been very impressive like the spray park thats just cool! The bathrooms sometimes are just plain scary and should be checked on daily.
- Thank you so much for all that has already been done. I appreciate what the parks add to the community. The parks are a huge determining factor of the community for me. Keep up the good work and keep thinking outside the box.
- For the most part I think they are well kept and offer many activities for the city.
- There should be containers for recyclable materials. Downtown should have them also.
- Stop paving nature with pathways
- I think that the annual activities ran by the Mt.Pleasant Parks and Recreation are vital for the community and healthy for the entire family. The existence of these activities should continue no matter what.
- I would like to see more entertainment in the main pavilion, say instead of the Max and Emily's concert in the streets where it gets hot and the sun is shining in the artist eyes. Or move the famers market to the pavilion instead of the parking lot (seems a wee ghetto). It feels like it doesn't get used to its' full potential.
- If weather gets warmer earlier than usual, please try to have bathrooms open and picnic tables out of storage.

Question 9: What additional facilities or amenities would you like to see added to Mt. Pleasant's parks? Please check all that apply?

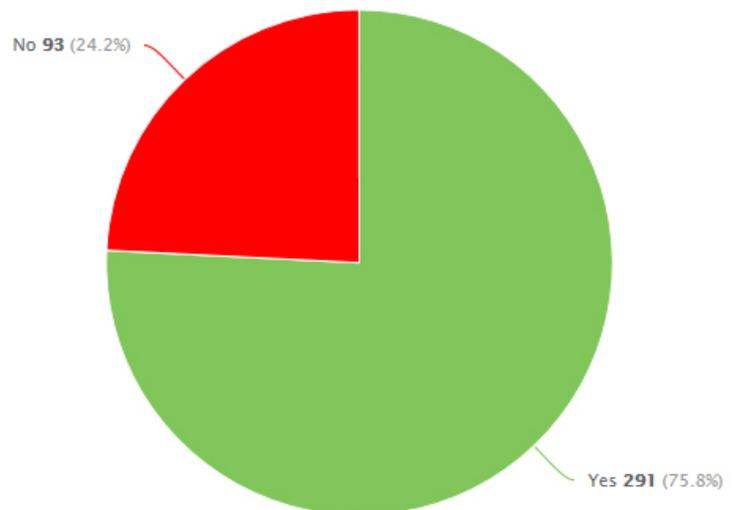


Other (please specify): 72 responses (18.6%)

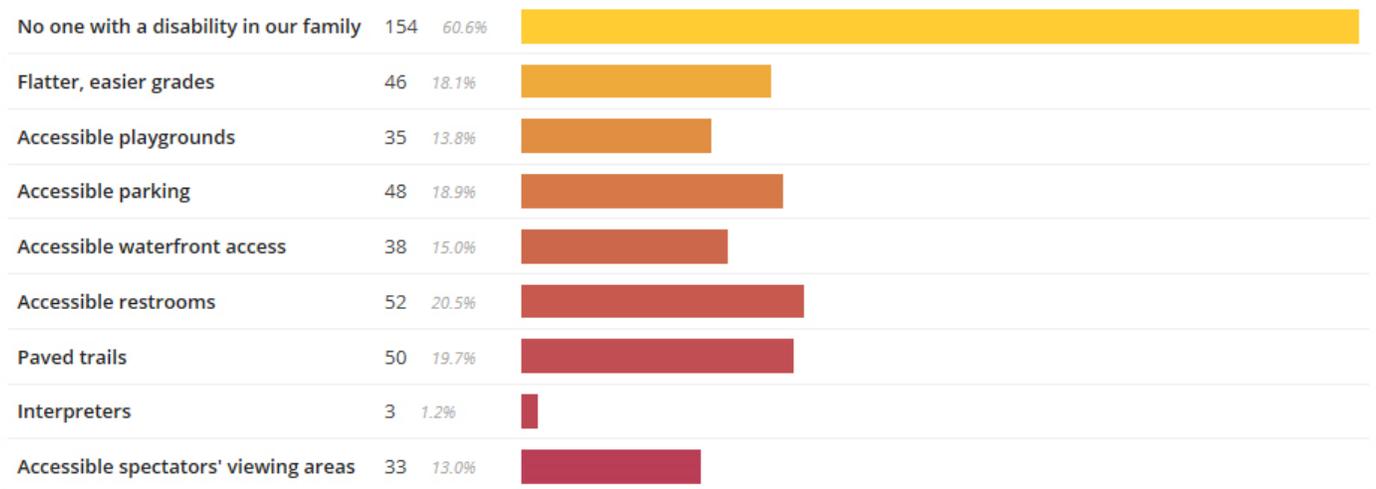
Main Ideas: Outdoor pool, community center, restrooms.

Detail: More soccer fields and/or indoor turf facility; Free public swimming pool; Picnic Areas; Morning yoga or meditation along the riverfront; Swimming pool; Gazebo at Nelson Park for weddings; Well developed Cross Country Course for HS/Collegiate Competitions; swimming pool; open space for individual or class grouping for meditation, yoga, tai chi and a labrythin for walking; swimming area; Pool; Pool; yes, more restrooms and drinking fountains. I'm saying it twice; dog parks; Maybe bike rental services at Island Park; Toboggan runs and indoor/outdoor pools. Young children need a place to learn to swim that is affordable. The river is not a safe place for young children to experience the water; outdoor pool; access to recycling receptacles; Pool; Dog Park; Public Pool; cheap community indoor basketball; More lighting; Dog park; Community pool; Toddler play area; dog park; changing areas/showers; Mosquito Abatement; Pool; Large dog park; swimming pool; Community pool; I miss the swimming pool; Pool; Pool; skate park; swimming pool; Pool? Telescope?; dog park; Public Pool; Exercise area for group exercise; public pool; swimming; not a splash bad, but a real pool; At chip a water; Pool; swimming pool; 24 hour restrooms. Or have them unlocked at 5 AM; dog park; Outdoor swimming pool; Pool; community center; Pool; I think gardening clubs are to be encouraged to work in our parks; safe playground equipment for kids under 3; Pool; Pool; handicap; were good; Dog park; Pool; Add restroom at Mission Creek; Nordic trails; Dog Park; safer sledding hill and tubers use; Swimming pool; restrooms open; A Community Pool for recreation and lap swimming; Parking to accomodate additions; Pool; Community center.

Question 10: Would you be supportive of a millage or tax levy to help improve City parks and recreational facilities?



Question 11: If there is a person with a disability in your family, please indicate which of the following would make Mount Pleasant parks more user friendly for you and your family member. (Check all that apply.)



Other (please specify): 9 responses (3.5%)

Detail: Frequent seating along the paths; Mt. Pleasant does a pretty good job with accessibility at parks; Fenced in play area; sensory friendly playground; In general city does a very fine job of addressing the needs of those with a disability; Pool; no problems; Good question!; bicycle paths

Question 12: What do you like best about parks and recreation in Mt. Pleasant?

171 responses

Main Ideas: Activities for children, many events, they are clean, they are well-maintained, they are close by, access to natural areas, they are interconnected with paths and trails, can go biking, many locations.

Detail:

- Quantity & quality
- The trail along the river. The natural scenic areas. The successful maintenance. The variety of activities offered.
- I love that there is such a large area within the city that is as beautiful as the parks system. I also enjoy the fact that the Parks & Rec Dept will open their facilities to other events.
- I like that it's a quiet place to stroll around. I never feel like it's overly crowded because there is plenty of space for everyone to enjoy.
- Access to all parks, walkable, winding through Chippewa River areas, sporting events, good relationship with community.
- The connected trails.
- I like the events that Parks and Recreation have grown to have.
- Beautiful parks. Nice walking trails. Several fun playgrounds to visit.
- I love the fact that there are so many within the city limits which makes it easy for people to spend time outdoors/in the woods, etc.
- the river and the trees and walking down the paths paved and unpaved
- They are free.
- I like the pathways for biking and walking.
- Clean and safe
- The beauty
- The natural beauty that has been retained or enhanced.
- The river walk trail which connects the major parks and which offers many different activities as well as the opportunity to observe nature in the woods and river.
- I really like that the (parks staff especially) has a clear dedication to keeping our local parks beautifully maintained. They seem to have a clear vision for the future of our city parks, they are beautiful and I am glad to have them. I live downtown and I use the parks daily. As far as the recreation department, I know that they often partner with other

community institutions like the public library to pool resources to make for more enjoyable programming for members of our community. I am all for it!

- The time I get to spend with my family.
- signage
- Play equipment
- accessibility, proximity to all areas of town - very easy to get to.
- Where we can hike then play in the water or the splash pad. Kids can just have fun
- Walking trails and access to the river
- Natural settings
- Generally are safe.
- I like that I can take a walk in many of the parks and see many kinds of birds and wildlife. I have seen animals and birds in the city parks that I have not seen before.
- I can go from one end of town to the other with barley having to leave the parks
- it is a place to have fun family time
- Free.....
- We love Island Park because our son has so many different option of slides and equipment to play on. He likes to run back and forth from the Splash Park to the slides.
- I like that there are a number of options for varied interests.
- Nature trails connecting parks
- Ease of access
- The variety of parks, open access to everyone, no fees,
- Summer fest
- They are very peaceful and open.
- They are kept pretty clean.
- The trails connecting the parks.
- There is a lot available to do. Between scheduled activities and organized events, and more free-form recreational opportunities, we have an incredible park system. It's a pleasure when family visits because we always have something to do, somewhere to go and it's easy to access the parks to keep the children active. I love taking full-advantage of all the parks have to offer. Although there are things missing as suggested, that does not in any way mean we are displeased. Mount Pleasant's park system is well-maintained and very thoughtful for all participants regardless of age or ability (or species...our dogs love it too.)
- When I have the park to myself
- I like the trails that connect all the parks.
- How they are interconnected around the City
- Parks are beautiful and natural.
- That most right in town are all connected
- A variety of events offered.
- Natural surroundings. Plenty of shade to protect from sun exposure. Playgrounds and walk paths.
- I like the youth sports however I know that coaches are volunteers but unfortunately it is a crap shoot to get a good worthwhile coach.
- Many nice parks in the area, very scenic and the city of MP does a good job of keeping the parks clean and kept up.
- Most parks are accessible for me as a person with limited mobility.
- Water areas
- Sports programs
- how they interconnect. The playgrounds
- Support for affordable youth sports.
- Clean, kept up parks and trails.
- Everything
- Our trails system in it's length and quality; traversing most of the length of the city.
- That they improve people's lives. That people are seeing more of nature and being physically active. Can have a place to have be with family and friends.
- Clean, the staff does a great job, making them beautiful.
- Forests
- natural beauty
- The river. Its our greatest community asset.
- Unique parks and the river going through them they are a community jewel!

- PEAK, PEAK, and PEAK!!!! It is an excellent program that links the schools and the MP community, while providing quality childcare/enrichment for kids. I have friends/family in other cities that don't have after-school programs. It enriches our community in so many economic, cultural, community-building, educational, and entertaining ways. I feel very fortunate to have PEAK in this community.
- Many connect but also they have their own perks and personalities
- The parks provide respite in a little piece of nature right in the heart of the city.
- Well kept
- The wonderful bike trails that are accessible
- Cleanliness
- The total amount
- That you can almost walk thru all of them.
- Disc golf at Deerfield park
- Kids activities, spray park, slide park, Timbertown
- Variety of locations. The swings are great.
- I LOVE the paths, their layout, how many of the parks connect so easily, and how the paths are wide/open enough to comfortably run in a group and/or pass people. They're friendly, welcoming, and interesting. I love all of the bridges and crossovers on the river too. Plenty of parking options. Total convenience. I also love that the trails are not salted so that they are friendly for puppy paws. Also, I appreciate the encouragement for people to clean up after their dogs and that you offer bags; while not everyone does it, you certainly have better results with this than the city I moved here from. Thank you!
- It's free to all and enhances the quality of life in our community.
- Accessing the river.
- easy access from one park to the next
- Walking paths
- The many different parks available throughout the area!
- I love that there are many different options to choose from.
- That they are interconnected and beautiful.
- Very well maintained and easy access.
- how most are connected by trails
- The way some are strung together to get a nice long walk in.
- The river and paths
- Nature
- The scenery, the cleanliness
- There is a variety of play ground equipment.
- Enjoying nature
- Usually not crowded, connected together, wide range of activities and resouces
- It feels safe
- All of the walking trails and the variety of play equipment.
- The beautiful scenery and the paths that lead you to other parks.
- the well preserved nature
- the activities for children
- Amount of parks, each is unique.
- Trails through Millpond parks.
- How close some are to each other so you can hit more in one session out!
- Beautiful, safe places to walk, jog and spend time with family
- Free access to nature and place to play. Great for everyone!
- The variety and number of parks. There is always a quiet place to go.
- The nature.
- The trails and playground
- All connected
- I love all the nature as well as the bridges and the river
- The range of activities and programs offered.
- The wild life and railroad tracks, also timber town
- I love that it's a piece of nature my kids can enjoy even in the middle of town.
- I enjoy the natural environment, the variety of parks to choose from and that they are pet friendly.
- The extensiveness of the bike/walking trails and its interconnectivity among parks

- The quiet time in some and in others the ability for my kids let loose
- River access, walking trails
- Each of the city parks are connected, creating a network of places to explore within walking distance of downtown.
- Activities for children
- I like the natural areas that are left just at way. For example one can walk off the beaten path at Mill Pond Park.
- Mixture of different amenities.
- Access to the river.
- Being able to run/walk a 5-mile loop from Viets Woods to Island Park on paths through the woods and along the river. For a town as small as ours, this is really awesome. I'm not sure about the relationship or agreement between the city and CMU regarding the Viets woods connection but I would suggest that this connection is maintained/protected/enhanced as necessary. This connection is heavily used and is a real asset to the community.
- lots of trails
- Nature trails
- The accessible trails and walks
- Usually well maintained.
- Perfect place for my family of five to have activities for wide age ranges.
- they are kept clean.
- Well maintained. ...make sure they are bike able or create new biking pathways in other areas around Mt. Pleasant.
- All the parking and nature the parks have
- Splash pad
- The water for fishing
- For mos they are all connected so I can go from one park to another and really enjoy that. I also like the summer festivals and would hope to see more planned for this year! :)
- I appreciate all of the opportunities for children in our area.
- The beauty of the outdoors.
- Easily accessible, and beautiful natural areas!
- wooded paths for running along river
- They are along the river.
- How well they are maintained and kept clean
- Very easy to access nature
- the wide variety of things that are available at Veterans Park and the programs however I think they should be more publicized even to a mailing
- The locations, the functionality, the natural environments, and the beauty of all the flowering plants, trees and gardening areas.
- The paved trails.
- The array of different walking trails.
- how many of the, are connected by the paved trail.
- The bike paths that connect all the different parks. You can spend an entire day biking and playing in park after park.
- Open space, lots of activity in the warm seasons
- I have a place to take my kids and get them out of the house. I live in a condo and we can't have play equipment in the yard.
- They are beautiful and connect.
- That its so clean
- Nice trails and timber town.
- Beautiful locations for photo ops.
- every thing
- Accessibility. Parking
- I am pretty impressed with the upkeep of our parks as well as their beauty. This is a pretty small town, and I think our parks are already pretty great. Mission Creek park is gross, though. That's a cruising spot, and while I'm sure local authorities know this, it really feels unsafe to go there. I would never go there by myself as a female, and nor do I think parents should take their children to that park.
- location
- Each park is unique and has something different to do.
- They are pretty good as is, but there is more that could be done.

- We enjoy walking in the woods where it's paved, so my dog can wear down his nails naturally and we both get access to a healthy walk/run. Love that there are baggies available and many trash barrels to dispose of his duties. Just wish we could give out tickets to those who do NOT use them~
- VERY clean and well kept park system; the trails along the river and the chance to observe wildlife just a few blocks from home.
- I like the largeness of the space and being able to get away from the noise and people by just walking to the dams. It's also wonderful to have the parks all connected so one can take a long walk without worrying about crossing many busy streets or having to travel very far to exercise.
- I think the parks of Mt. Pleasant are one of its finest features. I walk in one or more of them every day. I especially love the quiet wooded areas of Mission Creek. I do wish the steps down to the stream and the paths along the stream could be upgraded slightly - simple bridges across the wet areas and new chips put down.
- There is no cost to enter parks.
- The AMOUNT OF CITY PARKS IS UNUSUAL. Mt. Pleasant is blessed. I think Nelson park should be the jewel park of the system
- Quantity and choices. Island park is my favorite with the gazebo close to the river and the VET Memorial areas and statues.
- That you can walk from one park to another on paved trails
- The cleanliness is outstanding
- The ability to walk throughout the community in a connected park system. Very accessible to all individuals, and well maintained. Something to be proud of, as a community.
- Easy access, variety, fun river, fishing opportunities. They are free to use.
- The running/walking paths that get you up close and personal with nature.
- The way the parks are connected.
- Pavillions, Water splash, Fort, Playground, Vietnam Memorial
- I like that the paths are cleared of snow.
- Open to all. Many options.
- The activities and events put together by Mt.Pleasant Parks and Recreation. I'm a local in my third year at Central Michigan University. I've got a three-year-old daughter and I major in Public Relations. I'm so grateful and pleased with Mt.Pleasant Parks and Rec that I'd be interested in working for the city regarding the planning of our events.
- I like that you can get to many of the parks through the trails, but because so few are connected through safe pathways they tend to get over crowded.
- There connection to each other.

Question 13: What is one thing you would do to improve parks and recreation in Mt. Pleasant?

138 responses

Main Ideas: Improve access to the river, add a swimming pool, more trails, upgrade restroom facilities, more activities, update children's play structures.

Detail:

- Continue and expand partnerships with the local libraries and arts organizations.
- Pedestrian & bike underpass @ Broadway at south Nelson park
- Provide waste receptacles close to the river for tubers and kayakers to properly dispose of waste.
- More community events in the parks.
- Restrooms
- Running trails that connect Horizon to the other side of Mt P rather than having to run on streets!
- Offer multiple access points/trails leading to the park system trails.
- I would improve the promotions of Parks and Recreation activities. I feel they are limited and I wish I heard more of what was going on. I feel I hear of activities vaguely on the radio and in newsletters, but I would like to see more.
- Do not formalize them too much.
- clean the garbage
- Add recycling bins in addition to trash containers
- I think the rec dept. should bring back the haunted forest :) and they should bring back the fireworks for the summer festival!
- Smoke free zones.
- Swimming pools

- more events
- More affordable sports for kids
- We need a good and safe swimming area for children.
- Gardens
- clean rest rooms and watering stations
- More/better parking and more restrooms.
- Seek a stable funding source and keep up maintenance of the parks.
- More toddler friendly activities
- clean up mill pond for swimming
- More drinking fountains etc.
- Handicap accessible playground equipment so those that need it.
- At this time, the only thing that inhibits our enjoyment of the parks is when people come off the river from tubing or canoeing and are intoxicated. I'm not sure what the city can do about this, but it is a real problem for my child to be exposed to some of the behaviors we have seen in these situations.
- add a disc golf course
- Maintain the river
- Add community pool.
- The connected trails cross two very busy streets in the city: Broadway and (gasp!) High Street. I would like to see these two crosswalks become highly illuminated, painted boldly and have added signage.
- diversity of plants. Or a kids garden. Attract more wildlife
- Maybe add a dog park.
- Easier access from East side of Mission -- a walkway across or something. We like to ride our parks downtown, but are always nervous crossing Mission with our children. More sidewalks on east side of town such as down Isabella Rd, although that's really Union township.
- Maybe offer some outdoor art classes for adults (painting, pottery, collage etc.) in the parks during the summer months.
- A restroom at Mission Creek would be nice -- I think it is included in the dog park plan -- if not, definitely a restroom at Mission Creek - even if port-a-potty would be great.
- The trail that MPHS uses across the street from Mission Creek for Cross Country meets would make a great walking trail for the city. I'd like to see that added as a possibility.
- Make them bigger
- The patrolling of the parks used to be much better. There was one young redheaded park ranger who would often stop and play shuffle board with the seniors thus making contacts within the community. There didn't used to be such a bunch of problem people, making one uncomfortable to be in the park.
- Ban college students. LOL
- Upgrade all restroom facilities to include soap and warm water as well as modern fixtures.
- Warmer water for the splash park at Island Park
- Get the community involved! Make people aware of our great parks, and encourage people to use them in exciting new ways.
- toddler play areas
- I would participate in any coalition groups that support park improvement and fundraising groups.
- Bring back a community outdoor pool but in an attractive and appealing setting.
- Add recycling receptacles
- Create another connector for the trail between Nelson and Island Park, so that it branches west through the cemetery, then north along Harris St. to join the trail system with Mission Creek Park. This would be fantastic considering the development and construction of the Bark Park at Mission Creek, those residents who would like to take their furry friend there could just walk!! Also, in the future if you were to enhance the parks system by generating more nature and woodland (trail) opportunities in the newly acquired Regional Center property; then a connection from Mission Creek to that park land would already exist for additional access for all city residents.
- Make it more natural and emphasize the beauty and respect of nature while also reserving special spaces for people to enjoy different activities such as sports and recreation. Good balance.
- Share it with more people within our community who are not familiar.
- Access at the Mt. Pleasant Center trails. Even if it has to be developed for tax base would like some to remain natural and have trails along the creek.
- access to the river
- More wooded trails

- diversity
- A place to rollerblade. Even if it's a large circle to rollerblade around. The current trails are too hilly for rollerblading.
- More supervision around hang outs
- Drive in movie
- Eliminate drunk college kids
- Additional special activities for kids
- More lighting -- even if the lights only stay on until 9 or 10, rather than all night -- but lighting for people who would like to utilize the park's offerings after work (after 5pm) in the winter months.
- Keep up safety patrols to ensure homeless encampments don't cause issues.
- More access to the river at a wider variety of sites.
- Soap in the bathrooms
- More bathrooms and a community pool.
- Fix up the restrooms and improve the grass (water, overseed, spray for weeds). The lawns are in such bad shape.
- Make sure there isn't a bunch of illegal activity or gang types hanging around making younger children and people uncomfortable
- The playground equipment in some spaces is in disrepair, bordering on dangerous (Timber Town). Maintaining the existing items seems most prudent.
- Advertise them more and have more events at the parks.
- Better cleaner restrooms
- Do something about the horse flies and mosquitos
- Add more shaded climbing structures and ones that use some of the new designs to engage older kids. (Check out the tribal park off of Broadway.)
- Truly rework (not just touch up) Timber town.
- More accessibility!!!
- Clean up graffiti
- An indoor sports facility with adult team sports.
- Increase funding.
- Repair damages in a timely manner (play structures/swings).
- More community events held there
- Build a better park on the east side of town.
- Disc golf course.
- Add a dog park
- add more paths that connect with maps
- Make it possible for individuals to put in on the river independently of the tubing outfitters.
- Maintaining the play structures better.
- Clean up, and leave any artwork or graffiti alone, it makes everything beautiful.
- It seems local events or public activities aren't publicized, at least not to the campus population. I understand budget may not allow for targeting specific demographics, but perhaps there is a way to reach a broader audience. Maybe there are programs that would cater to the college-age more that could be implemented.
- More adult options
- Don't know how to learn about all the options
- Landscaping. Sure there are some flower areas but as a photographer I would love to see some rustic, elegant and even playful natural things. Like for example. A 5 foot long picket fence with flowers, watering can (secured to deter thieves) etc. There are not many options. You have rocks and trees that's about it
- Bathrooms
- Invest in upgrading all restroom facilities
- more restrooms
- More launch sites
- A missing piece of park/open space infrastructure in Mt. Pleasant is a safe bicycle network among the parks, downtown, and CMU campus. Dedicated, well-striped bike lanes may be a low-cost way to increase bicycle use around town. Bicycle infrastructure also sends a tangible signal to residents, visitors, and folks looking to move to Mt. Pleasant that we are serious about health and well-being. Bicycle infrastructure is celebrated by progressive towns around the country and the investment is fairly modest.
- add a public pool
- Public swimming pool
- Build a pool

- Better fishing spots & a dog park!
- Spider, bee and graffiti removal inside structures
- Install lockers through the park would be nice. Have someone on duty to keep an eye on the dog owners and make sure dogs are on leashes.
- make splash pad bigger or build another one
- More advertising. I've never heard of most of these events!
- Get a dog park.
- More fishing docks
- Have more public events at the park for entertainment or education to make awareness to the other parks in the area.
- I would love to have some of the same opportunities for adults. More adult leagues/groups/lessons would be awesome!
- I also wish they had a cheap PEAK-type program in the summer for kids. When I was a kid we went to a summer rec program here in MP that only cost my parents a fraction of the cost that it does now. My kids don't need it as a daycare, but it would be nice if there was someplace with organized running around that wouldn't break the bank.
- The outdoor pool would be best built with the inclusion of the tax base from the township. I would like its location in flat land northeast of the girl scouts' cabin because of easy road accessibility and something on the west side. The gravel plant is a problem; in any case, barrier trees should be planted extensively to the west.
- Mt. Pleasant should look into the possibility of honoring native american aspect of its heritage and the park system with its environmental natural splendor would be a good place for that. "Chico" Miele notes that Coleman has a statue in a park there which is good. Because of the negative aspects of the "school", I do not think that near it would be appropriate, but it is time that this generation sets another conciliatory and appreciative attitude in place.
- more paths
- Access to the water.
- Do more adult activities like a dodge ball league a kickball league a house shoe league
- More signs about walkways and paths - make it easy for people who have never walked the path to know where they are going
- Longer trails
- I think more flowers and landscaping with the help of volunteer groups for each group's gardening groups and set not everything has to cost money there should be thought given to how we can make our parks more beautiful and not necessarily add a lot more to the budget the other thing would be to make sure the RRestrooms are stocked with toilet paper and soap for sanitation and in working order
- Some lights to allow for evening or night walks or excursions.
- Add an ice rink!!
- More events, like a concert at island park in a new amphitheater.
- coffee and snack bars:)
- Clean up the riverbanks.
- Clean the bathrooms, have them unlocked all her around
- More cost friendly kids sports programs and the inclusion of Union Township in your cheaper fares.
- Dog park, ruff :)
- Connect them with paved pathways
- see question 14. there are enough things to do know. If people are bored they have been in town too long.
- provide a dog park.....
- Cleaner, better bathrooms with soap and toilet paper.
- Access from Island park to a dog park.
- I feel the dog park is the one improvement the park system needed.
- Improve the sledding hill area and consider a skating pond/rink at Island Park
- Remodel the Little League Concession stand, that thing is a pit and an eyesore.
- Actually, if that were turned into a healthy snack/food store that was opened all summer long (not having anything to do with baseball) it could be a fun addition to the City.
- Or have set times when Food Trucks come to the parks as a fun date night treat.
- See above. Also I would be careful not to over develop them.
- Dog Park!
- I will vote and promote a YES vote if there is a proper plan in place with proof of action to implement such plans.
- Horizon Park has no shade areas need more trees.
- Sunnyside needs shade also with additional seating, small tables with seating and canopy covering around outer sides of soccer fields and closer to the kids playground equipment.

- Fix Millpond park to what it once was.
- Monitor tubing activity. There is too much drinking, vulgar language, and partying
- I like the idea of a dog park out at Mission Creek but I wish there was a walkway out there. We can walk to most all the other parks ,but that one is a little dangerous to walk to.
- More park rangers/police presence around the skate park.
- Restrooms more available.
- I thought, some years ago, that the tennis courts at the highschool, were funded partially by park/recreation funds.....and, also the restrooms there. If that is true, then the restrooms should be regarded as part of park property, and kept open during the day when tennis courts are being used!
- Extend the running/walking path system and add a community center with pool.
- Add more picnic areas.
- Check for bees and wasps nest around the playground more often. Provide a curfew for teens and children past an agreed upon hour.
- Add recycling containers.
- Make decisions for all...not just a few. Leaders too quick to pave.
- Maintenance and grounds-keeping to the current facilities. There are many areas for recreational usage that currently exist, but from my experience, they could use some regular grounds-keeping. For instance, during the summer-time, the bathrooms may be missing toilet paper, have an exceptionally dirty floor, and may have a bad odor.
- LONGER BIKING TRAILS.

Question 14: Which of the following events or activities have you or a family member attended during the past year (choose all that apply)?



Question 15: What new programs would you like Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation to offer?

88 responses

Main Ideas: Art programs, summer programs, adult programs, youth programs, senior programs, dance, walking, basketball, tennis, organized runs, shuffle board.

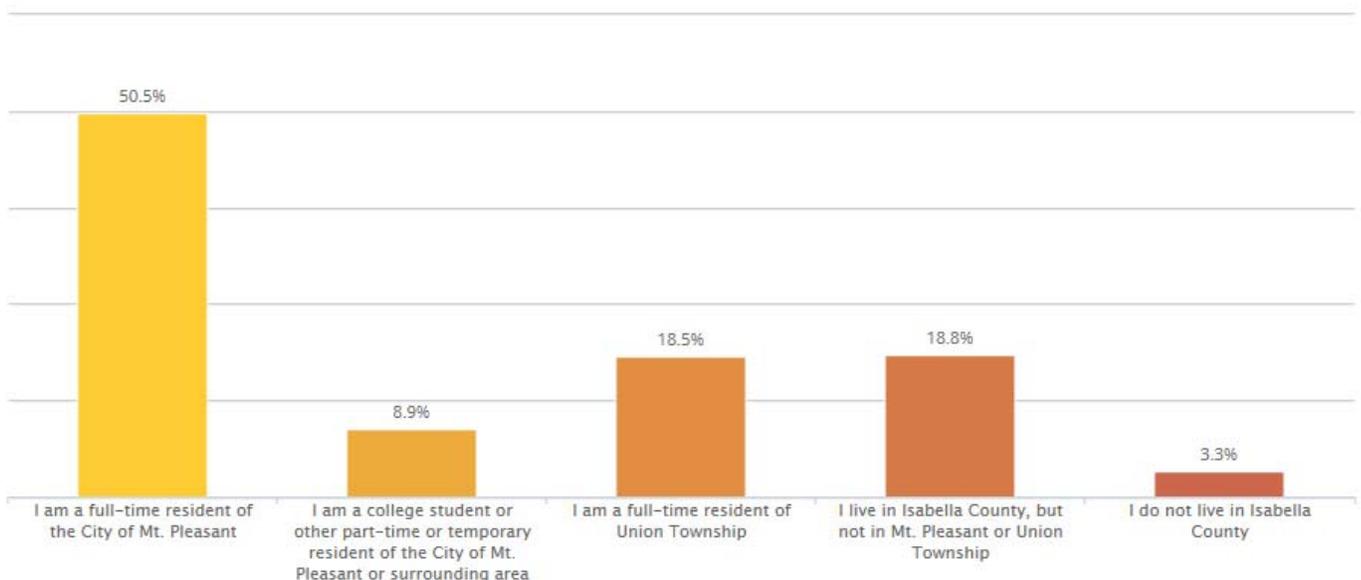
Detail:

- I think the programs are great.
- Would like to see an event organized utilizing the Chippewa River.
- Not necessarily a new program, but I would love to see the Farmers' Market grow to a new level to include local artisans and their crafts/skills. Let's make it an event everyone wants to go to each week with music, food, and art!
- I have participated in some craft classes, cooking classes, and some other indoor programs in other communities where I have lived (in other states). How fun it would be to have a crocheting class under a gazebo outdoors on a beautiful summer day in one of our parks (i.e. Island Park)
- I would like to see more of the rec dept. partnering with other community resources that programming because this provides more quality programs while saving the taxpayer's money.
- Summer jobs for teens
- Yoga, Tai Chi, bird watching, nature walks.
- Nature programs possibly coordinating with Chippewa Audubon or Chippewa Watershed Conservancy. A nature day camp for kids would be cool!
- Swimming lessons...
- Tennis leagues
- Men's sports 18 and up football with pads basketball baseball for men
- Swimming.
- ha - well now having said all I did about the park system and then reading that list above which includes most things I had zero idea were part of parks & rec, I think I'd better explore even more. Obviously the organized events must not be a high priority on my list but I truly am appreciative that they are available to us. Some of the things I never thought of as Parks & Rec: Daddy-Daughter Date Night, PEAK, the Superhero Party, the Lock-in. I don't even know what Candy Cane Lane is. Many of these are very geared for children and teens which is wonderful. We just generally look for things for adults.
- How about more running events: 5Ks, Triathalons, Marathons.
- Man v Mt is a fun event but I want a more straight-forward race.
- No opinion
- Family leagues for sports? Canoe/kayak trips like Chippewa Nature Center offers; geocaching
- See my answer for #13
- 5 k in the summer time
- Kayak lessons
- Wish I had been aware of the old ones. Is there a Facebook page that is posted in frequently that I could like?
- yoga in the parks?
- More worthwhile youth programs.
- gymnastics, more 5K/10K/Marathon races, PEAK program for 1/2 days of school/early dismissals, community fun runs
- Disability programs, inclusive builds, and integrated learning.
- derby car race
- Painting , sketching, or photography classes in he park.
- Concerts in a park.
- Cross country skiing fun event-
- I enjoy all the programs that the recreation department does in partnership with the Chippewa River District Library System; I look forward to see what new programs they will do together.
- Dance night like swing dancing.
- Dog Park
- Beer run!
- Year round farmers market would be great!!! Like the atmosphere and energy at the market I take visitors down whenever I can.
- You can't really have enough nature and educational programs. So more of those. Maybe for different age groups.
- A summer program, see comments above.
- Re: my residential status. I was born and raised in Mt. Pleasant and come back once a year to visit.
- Co ed basketball , co ed flag football

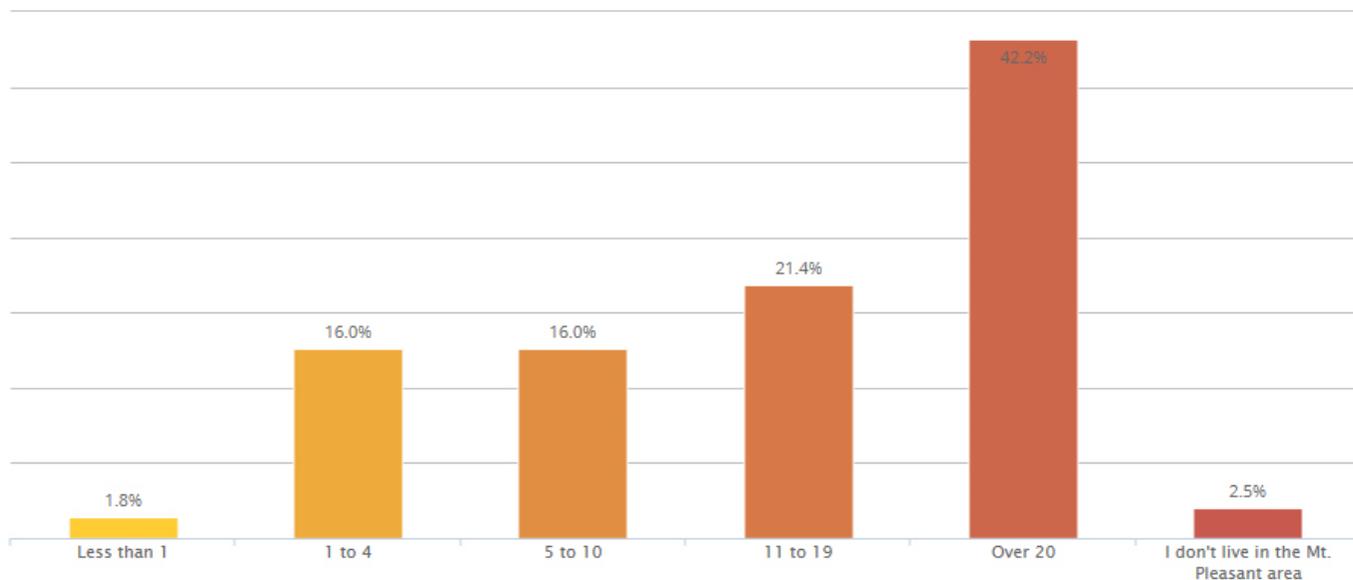
- Nature classes for kids
- Organized runs -- there is a huge running community here. Offering organized runs through the parks, a new-to-running couch to 5k program, and an increased number of 5k/10k races (at least 1/month) would be a benefit to the community AND increase the number of people using the parks. Runners store already has some organized runs, but they go on the sidewalks rather than through our awesome parks; perhaps a partnership could be made.
- None at this time.
- Unsure right now.
- Swimming lessons -- but we need a community pool!
- None. We use them for walking.
- Ice skating w/ a shelter to go in a warm up and have some coffee and hot coco
- More art programs, dance days or cultural events!
- Youth Lacrosse
- Kids' Running Club
- Adapted sports or wheelchair sports.
- More outdoor yoga. Maybe an adult tai chi or self defense group. And the big one...improve your Saturday Farmer's Market. It is currently terrible. Not everyone can make it on Thursdays, especially with the limited hours. Mount Pleasant can draw the sellers on Saturdays and should.
- Men's basketball
- Walk and jog groups
- More summer sports programs.
- Disc golf course.
- Dance classes like Zumba for exercise. There was an instructor that did Zumba in the sand at island park during the summer.
- An adult soccer league
- Access to shuffle board daily
- Dance lessons
- 1.Snowman contest, 2.Ice carving contest, 3.BBQ cook off. With different categories, 4.Craft shows with decent priced spots, 5.A business fair. There are so many local businesses in Isabella county. Why not let the businesses rent a space provided to set up on a nice summer day and they can give out free services, discounts, samples, etc right there. The best part is, if it's during the summer or close to a big event in Mt pleasant they can advertise to all the out of towners and people who don't know about their business but live in Isabella county. Support of local business is important, 6. Men's fishing exopt. Men love to fish why not having something detected to that, 7. Hobby exopt. A show detected to hobbies that people have, 8. Kids craft day, 9. Flea market, 10. Swat meet, These are just a few ideas I have. I have a ton of them. I could really do well with a job that involves events in the community.
- Outdoor concerts or plays in the summer. More lunch options at the farmer's market.
- I can't speak to this yet given that we've lived in town for just 6 months.
- This is not new, but a more robust (i.e. more vendors) Saturday Farmer's Market.
- None, eliminate a lot of the above
- More outdoor movies.
- Work with the Mid Michigan Cycling Club to develop neighborhood and community safe bicycling classes for kids. So many kids do not wear helmets, ride on the wrong side of the street and ignore safe traffic rules (such as not stopping for stop signs). Th e club could work with city to develop some of these programs...maybe with PEAK. ..to start.
- Education on keeping the river and parks clean as well as the memorials too.
- Something to do with dogs.
- A summer obstacle race would be fun for those of us not brave enough to run in the winter!
- no swimming pool
- Indoor swimming pool available to host competitive swim.
- Art fairs, wine festivals, small concerts, dances, fairs.
- More adult leagues with a bit more organization
- More runs, like 5k's
- Senior programs especially timed with the farmers market. Walking bingo crafts bird watching or community picnic teen. family activies things to interest the teens. Radio control car or plane contest concerts.
- There is a pretty good offering, I have no suggestions.
- La crosse would be a good addition. This sport is available at CMU, but for kids, we have to go to Midland.
- Tennis league

- Possible fair? Bbq fest/rib fest, chili cook off? A way to get people involved and draw traffic to promote the city and possibly it's small businesses.
- I don't know, I didn't even know they offered all above!!!
- Dances for adults 50+ years.
- Things for older people. To do.
- Dog park
- again see question 14
- planting a tree annual event.....
- Dog training at the park, so those who maybe Can not afford the classes could get their information on how to protect and train their animals so they are good with kids/animals and in the parks.
- I participated in a nighttime 5K and the Zombie Run a couple years ago and those were really fun events. I'm not in the best of shape, but it felt like recess for grown ups, and that's a pretty rare and beautiful thing. How about Summertime Recess when at certain time on a certain day every week there is a fun, free (or minimal cost) event at a park. One week it is a bike ride, another a kick ball tournament, volleyball games, etc. Some things would need more co-ordination than others, (like a zombie run or something of that sort) but it could be for all ages and fitness levels. After a while it would become something people automatically put on their calendars like Farmer's Market Thursdays.
- A Chess area of tables and a Chess Club, Youth shuffle Board teams, a LARGE outdoor checker/chess board, selfie cameras like in the mall you can push a button take a parks pic and it will upload to the Parks social media sites or photo booths with our parks as the cool preset backgrounds, music area options where impromptu jam sessions could happen and would be encouraged.
- More obstacle/5ks
- Senior citizen activities...shuffle board, etc.
- More things for kids on an ongoing basis. Teach. Reach. Inspire.
- No recommendations at this time.
- To be honest and fair, I don't support the dog park or the spray park because it's expensive and you segment out a lot of the population. (I don't have a dog nor is my son in the age group that is interested in a spray park.) Considering Michigan is in the snow belt I have more problems finding an available gym to shoot hoops at with my kid. Right now we drive to Midland's West Family Center. Morey Courts is NOT a community center by any stretch of the imagination. They don't have sidewalks that safely lead to their establishment which is inconveniently located outside of a residential area (not sure if it 's in Mt. Pleasant or Union Township.) They charge \$7 for a day pass but realistically I only need an hour, so it cost my family \$21-\$28 to shoot ball for an hour. That's B.S. Plus, Morey seems more concerned about setting up tournaments for other city residents then meeting the needs of our own. The SAC is great for students, I would feel like a perve going to use their facilities. I'm not and alumni, employee nor a student and would feel VERY uncomfortable. So what are the rest of us supposed to do for 6 months out of the year?
- Senior volleyball

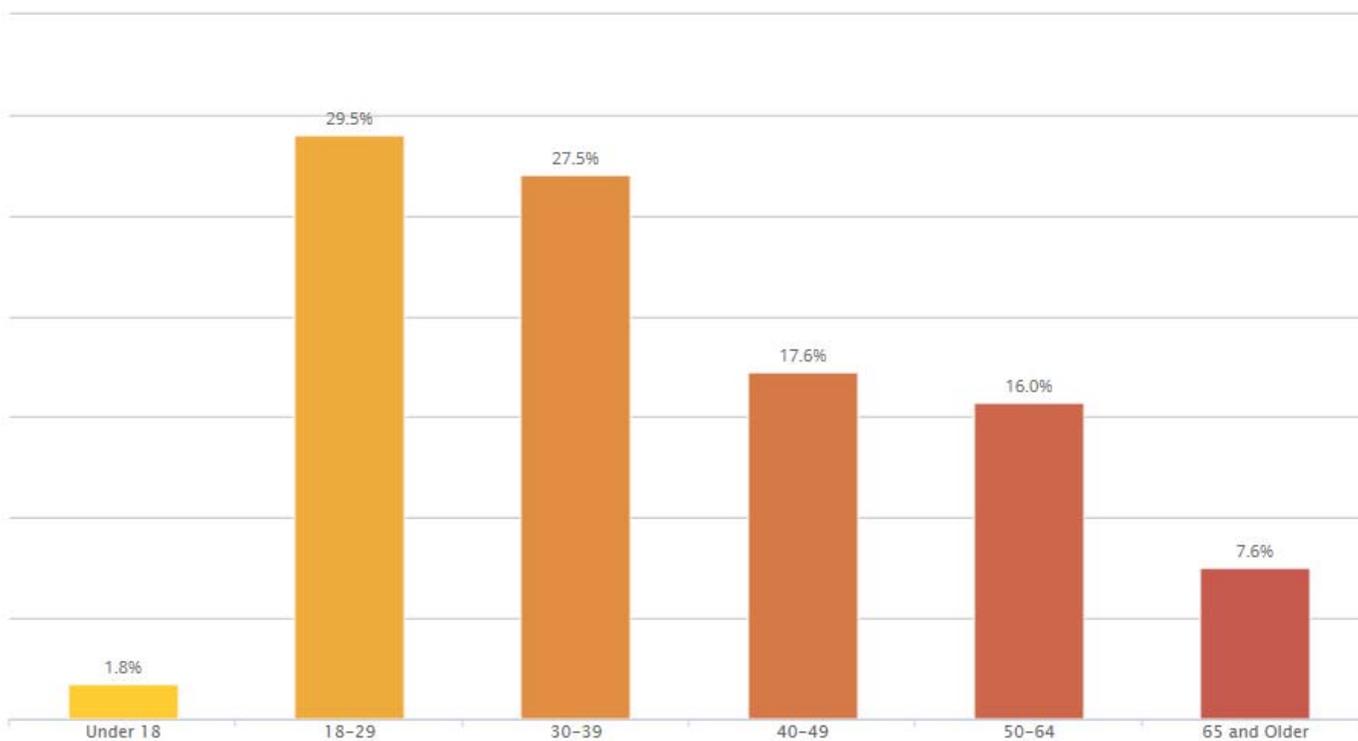
Question 16: What describes your residential status?



Question 17: How many years have you lived in the Mt. Pleasant area?



Question 18: What is your age?



Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Master Plan: Summary of Open House Input

The City hosted a community input open house from 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm and from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, in Council Chambers at City Hall, 320 W. Broadway. The event was open to the public, publicized via social media and a press release. Residents were encouraged to stop by for 10 to 15 minutes to learn about the City's parks, view maps, and share ideas. City staff, officials and facilitators were there to discuss recreation and meet with residents.

Trails:

Mt. Pleasant needs to be connected to the regional trail system.

Need to connect to CMU Campus, use downtown connection to Main Street.

Connect to Clare (Pere Marquette Rail Trail) and south to Alma.

We need to connect current trail system to new Dog Park.

Audio tour along full GKB trail (must be in Steve Hofer's voice).

Lighting on the trails.

Spot lights on bases of trees (up lighting).

Seasonal trails identified:

- Garden clubbers put on garden tour.

- Tie in garden club to park system.

- Recreation program: junior garden club.

- Tie indigenous tribe to programs involved with nature.

- Chippewa Indian Trail identification.

- Native American monument.

- Extension of trails from reservation to where old Indian school used to be.

- Extend signage on trails into Indian language (phonetically).

- The dedication with Mt. Pleasant and Native American Indian.

- Tie in trails i.e. Chippewa where Native Americans identify trails from the reservation.

- History of Native Americans.

Mt. Pleasant Center property cross country ski trails.

BMX – Mt. Pleasant Center property:

- Bike trails (a lot of people bike Veit's-Dow Woodland and are not supposed to).

- Running trails.

Fitness trails, measured distances.

Universal Access:

Look at Spring Lake or Ferrisburg wheelchairs that have big wheels for sand travel.

EZ launch river access.

Great river access.

Sand build up at Nelson Park which may make wheelchair usage difficult.

Trash cans more close to river although already near, many people just leave by River.

Fabulous park system.

Plant petunias and marigolds in raised flower beds (Vietnam Vets Memorial).

More signage pointing out (millpond) access points because we have a lot of points.

Programs/Events/Farmers Market:

Ice Rink.

Would like to see music festivals.

Concerts in the park.

More creature 5 Ks

Community Center – Pool.

Expand Farmers Market (own facility).

Man vs. River: Canoe and kayak or tubing marathon.

Merge with downtown events.

Afternoon Farmers Market (in conjunction with downtown event).

Adult soccer league.

Chippewa River:

County and City should create a River connection from Meridian/Deerfield Parks to City Parks with an accessible launch system.

City launches are great!

River trails.

General Park Facilities:

Great park system.

Well-maintained.

Need a tree replacement program, consider volunteers and donations.

Walkways are well maintained – Snow is removed, leaves are cleaned up.

Need more picnic tables.

Concern about arrangement of picnic tables after events; they need to be more spread out.

Add more permanent picnic tables.

Improved tennis courts:

Seating.

Sides.

Ice Rink in winter.

Amphitheater.

Community garden.

More beach areas.

Gazebos (with cupolas).

Bathrooms at Mission Creek.

Development of Indian Pines.

Would like to see an amphitheater, sited at Mt. Pleasant Center property.

Mt. Pleasant Center ideas:

Cycle Cross (fitness) trail/mountain bike trail and connect to Mission Creek Park.

More Native American culture/history.

Music events.

Native American themed amphitheater.

More collaboration with Children's Museum.

Need a trail system at the Mt. Pleasant Center property, and these need to be connected to the other trails already in the City.

Improve connections culturally in the Mt. Pleasant Center property.

Need sign for Canal Street Park so citizens know it's a park.

Lighting at Mission Creek sled hill for night use.
Indoor sports complex/turf.

End of Open House Recap:

People note the trash that collects along riverbanks.

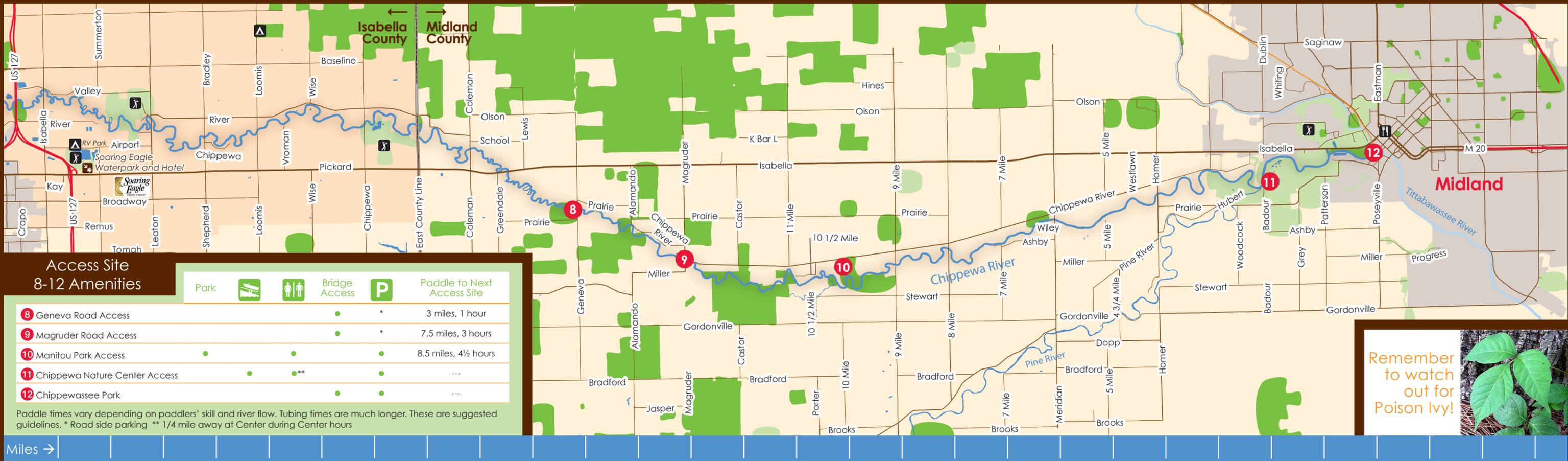
City can regulate the tubing companies; they have been cooperative.

Ranger phone number is the same as central dispatch (for problems); can put this number on stickers inside restrooms, etc.; non-emergency number in newsletter.

Mt. Pleasant Center property should have a recreational component – Biking, cross country skiing, trails.

Appendix D

Map of the Chippewa River Water Trail



**Access Site
8-12 Amenities**

	Park	Boat Launch	Restrooms	Bridge Access	P	Paddle to Next Access Site
8 Geneva Road Access				●	*	3 miles, 1 hour
9 Magruder Road Access				●	*	7.5 miles, 3 hours
10 Manitou Park Access	●		●		●	8.5 miles, 4½ hours
11 Chippewa Nature Center Access		●	●**		●	---
12 Chippewassee Park				●	●	---

Paddle times vary depending on paddlers' skill and river flow. Tubing times are much longer. These are suggested guidelines. * Road side parking ** 1/4 mile away at Center during Center hours



Please use the river wisely

- Leave No Trace**
Glass, Styrofoam, fishing line, and other trash pose hazards to wildlife and other users of the watershed. When paddling, tie loose items into the boat or tubes to keep gear and trash from floating away. Join or organize a river clean-up day.
- Respect Private Property**
Much of the land within the watershed is privately held. Unless an area is designated for public use, keep paddling.
- Enjoy and Respect Wildlife**
The watershed sustains abundant wildlife. Take time to notice its variety and keep all wildlife at a respectful distance. Look up. You may see an eagle or osprey.
- Value Vegetation**
The many plants, grasses, mosses, trees, and shrubs of the watershed serve the entire ecosystem in many ways. Tread lightly; avoid picking plants and flowers, and use stairs and trails to prevent erosion.
- Think Safety**
Wear a personal flotation device when on the water. Avoid parking on busy roads with narrow shoulders. Tell someone of your paddling plans and when you expect to return. Call 911 if you or someone else is in need of emergency assistance.

- A Multi-Use Waterway**
Within a small portion of the watershed you may find canoeists, kayakers, tubers, anglers in motorized boats, and swimmers, as well as hikers, anglers, and bird watchers along its banks. Avoid paddling over fishing lines, motoring too close to swimmers and smaller boats, and frightening wildlife. Avoid loud and inappropriate language. Respect everyone's right to enjoy the watershed.
 - Preserve and Protect**
Give back to the watershed. Consider joining a conservancy and be a part of protecting in perpetuity the resource you love. If you own land within the watershed and want to see it preserved for generations to come, consider donation options, or a conservation easement.
- Chippewa Watershed Conservancy**
www.ChippewaWatershedConservancy.org
- The Little Forks Conservancy**
www.LittleForks.org

Want to know how high or fast the water is flowing?
Find out online at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt> and select the Chippewa River, MI

Contact Numbers:

EMERGENCY - 911

Chippewa Nature Center	989-631-0830
Isabella County Central Dispatch	989-773-1000
Isabella County Parks & Recreation	989-772-0911 x340
Mecosta County Central Dispatch	231-796-4811
Midland County Central Dispatch	989-839-6464
Midland County Parks & Recreation	989-832-6874
Midland Parks and Recreation	989-837-6930
Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation	989-779-5328

Safety Disclaimer:

Paddling poses significant potential hazards including risk of injury or death and each person participating in this activity needs to understand the risks involved, obtain the necessary training and take all needed precautions. Users must proceed with care as many of the sections of the river remain isolated and undeveloped. Paddling between Sherman City and Wyman Roads, Isabella and Leaton Roads, and M-20 and Geneva Road is often challenging due to downed trees and infrequent use. This map is a guide. None of the partner organizations or individuals associated with this project makes any representation and specifically disallows any reliance on any statement contained herein, nor assumes any responsibility or liability for property damage, injury, loss, or death resulting directly or indirectly from the use of this guide, websites, links or paddling in the area.

Project Partners:

- Bay Area Community Foundation
- Central Michigan University
- Chippewa Nature Center
- Chippewa Watershed Conservancy
- Isabella County Community Development Department
- Isabella County Parks & Recreation Department
- Mt. Pleasant Parks & Recreation Department
- Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network
- Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- The Little Forks Conservancy
- Union Charter Township
- University of Michigan-Flint

Historical Points of Interest

- Drew Dam**
A sawmill was located here according to the 1879 plat map. Much of this rock dam remains, although some rocks have been removed in the center. The water flows rapidly and it should be portaged (left).
- (Former) Gilmore Road Bridge**
Said to have been destroyed in the wreck of a runaway milk truck in the 1950's, it was never replaced. Evidence of the old bridge remains visible on both sides of the river bank.
- Mt. Pleasant Mill Pond**
The site of several sawmills from the 1850's-1870's (including the Harris sawmill). Much of the original mill pond disappeared via siltation over the years. The dam was removed in 2002.
- (Former) Isabella City Dam and Indian Mills**
A sawmill, a gristmill, a blacksmith shop, and the Council House of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe formed the heart of the original settlement from 1858-1888. This site served as the county seat until July 12, 1860.



Appendix E

Site Plans of the City's Parks



Pickens Field

309 W. PICKARD AVENUE
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
(15 ACRES)

W. PICKARD STREET

LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| | BASEBALL | | TREES |
| | RESTROOM
(ACCESSIBLE) | | GRASS COVER |
| | CONSESSIONS | | TREE COVER |
| | FOOTBRIDGE | | FOOTPATH |
| | HISTORICAL MARKER | | TRAIL |
| | PARKING | | |
| | PLAYGROUND | | |
| | TRAILHEAD | | |



PARK ENTRANCE
N43° 36.707' W84° 46.703'

PARK LOCATION



MAP CREATED BY:
ISABELLA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
200 NORTH MAIN STREET
MOUNT PLEASANT, MI 48858
(989) 772-0911 EXT. 283





Island Park

331 MAIN STREET
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
(50 ACRES)

LEGEND

- BASEBALL
- BASKETBALL
- CANOE LAUNCH
- FOOTBRIDGE
- HORSESHOES
- MEMORIAL
- OUTLOOK
- PARKING
- PAVILION
- PLAYGROUND
- RESTROOM (ACCESSIBLE)
- SHUFFLEBOARD
- SKATING
- SPRAY PARK
- TENNIS
- VOLLEYBALL
- TREES
- GRASS COVER
- FOOTPATH
- GKB RIVERWALK ACCESS TRAIL
- GKB RIVERWALK TRAIL



TRAILS	
GKB RIVERWALK TRAIL	0.2 MI.
PICKENS TO NELSON	
GKB LINCOLN ST. ACCESS	.04 MI.
TO GKB RIVERWALK TRAIL	
GKB OAK ST. ACCESS TO	0.3 MI.
GKB RIVERWALK TRAIL	



MAP CREATED BY:
ISABELLA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
200 NORTH MAIN STREET
MOUNT PLEASANT, MI 48858
(989) 772-0911 EXT. 283



W BROADWAY ST



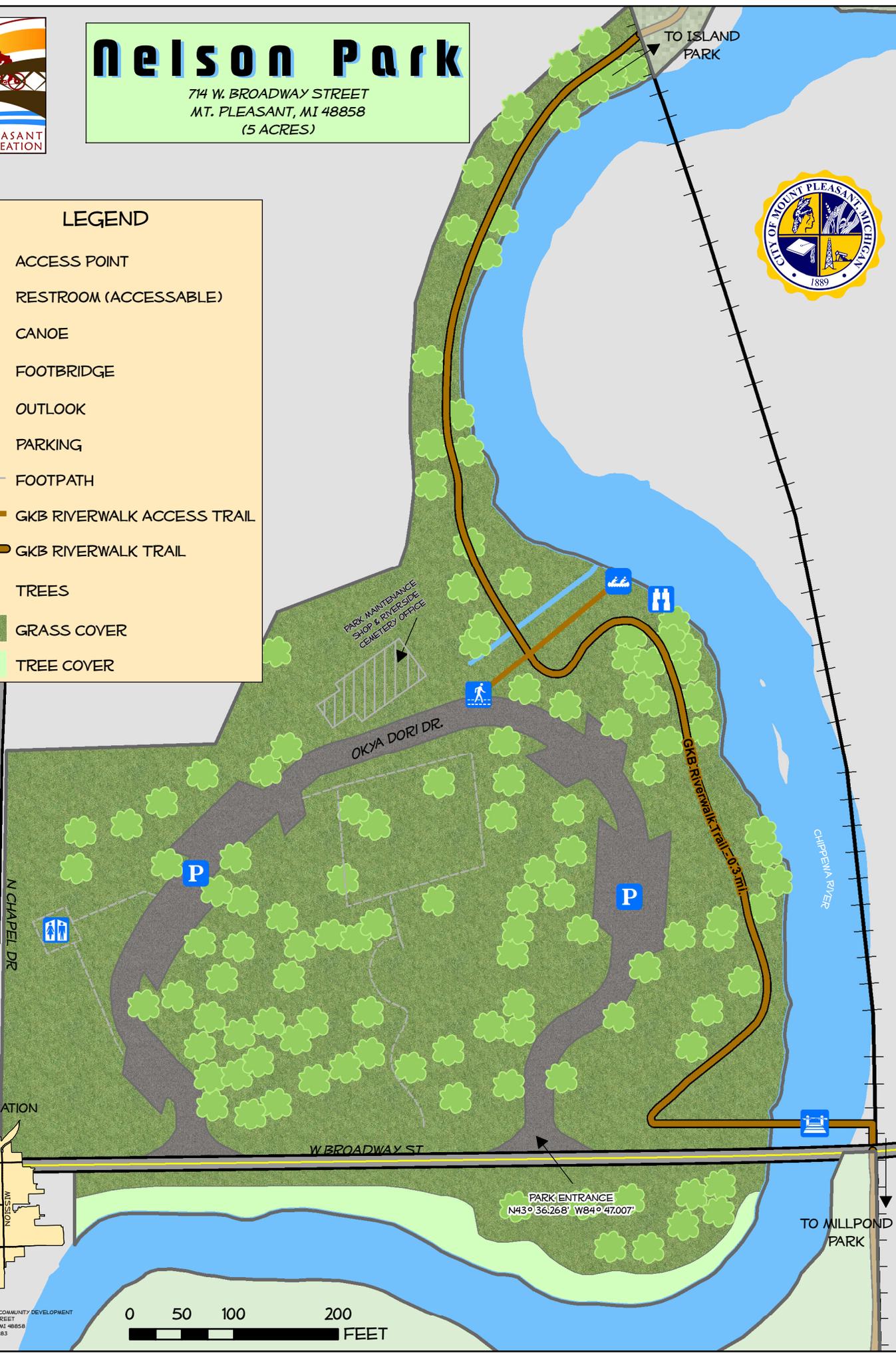
Nelson Park

714 W. BROADWAY STREET
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
(5 ACRES)



LEGEND

- ACCESS POINT
- RESTROOM (ACCESSABLE)
- CANOE
- FOOTBRIDGE
- OUTLOOK
- PARKING
- FOOTPATH
- GKB RIVERWALK ACCESS TRAIL
- GKB RIVERWALK TRAIL
- TREES
- GRASS COVER
- TREE COVER



MAP CREATED BY:
ISABELLA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
200 NORTH MAIN STREET
MOUNT PLEASANT, MI 48856
(989) 772-0911 EXT. 283





RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Yost Field

206 S. HENRY
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858

RESIDENTIAL HOMES



RESIDENTIAL HOMES

RESIDENTIAL HOMES



MAP CREATED BY:
ISABELLA COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
210 NORTH MAIN STREET
MOUNT PLEASANT, MI 48858
(989) 772-0911 EXT. 283



LEGEND			
	PAVILION		GRASS COVER
	RESTROOM (ACCESSIBLE)		BASEBALL FIELD
	PARKING LOT		

FESSENDEN AVE

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

RESIDENTIAL HOMES





Sunnyside Park

1511 ELM ST
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
(17 ACRES)

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

ELM ST

ELM STREET
PARK ENTRANCE
N43° 36.472' W84° 47.718'

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

BRUCE ST

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

N BRADLEY ST

HENRY ST

COOLEY STREET
PARK ENTRANCE
N43° 36.386' W84° 47.652'

PARK LOCATION



RESIDENTIAL HOMES



LEGEND	
	RESTROOM (ACCESSIBLE)
	BASKETBALL COURT
	PARKING LOT (PAVED)
	PLAYGROUND
	PAVILION
	SOCCER FIELD
	TREES
	GRASS COVER

COOLEY ST
TO W BROADWAY ST

RESIDENTIAL HOMES



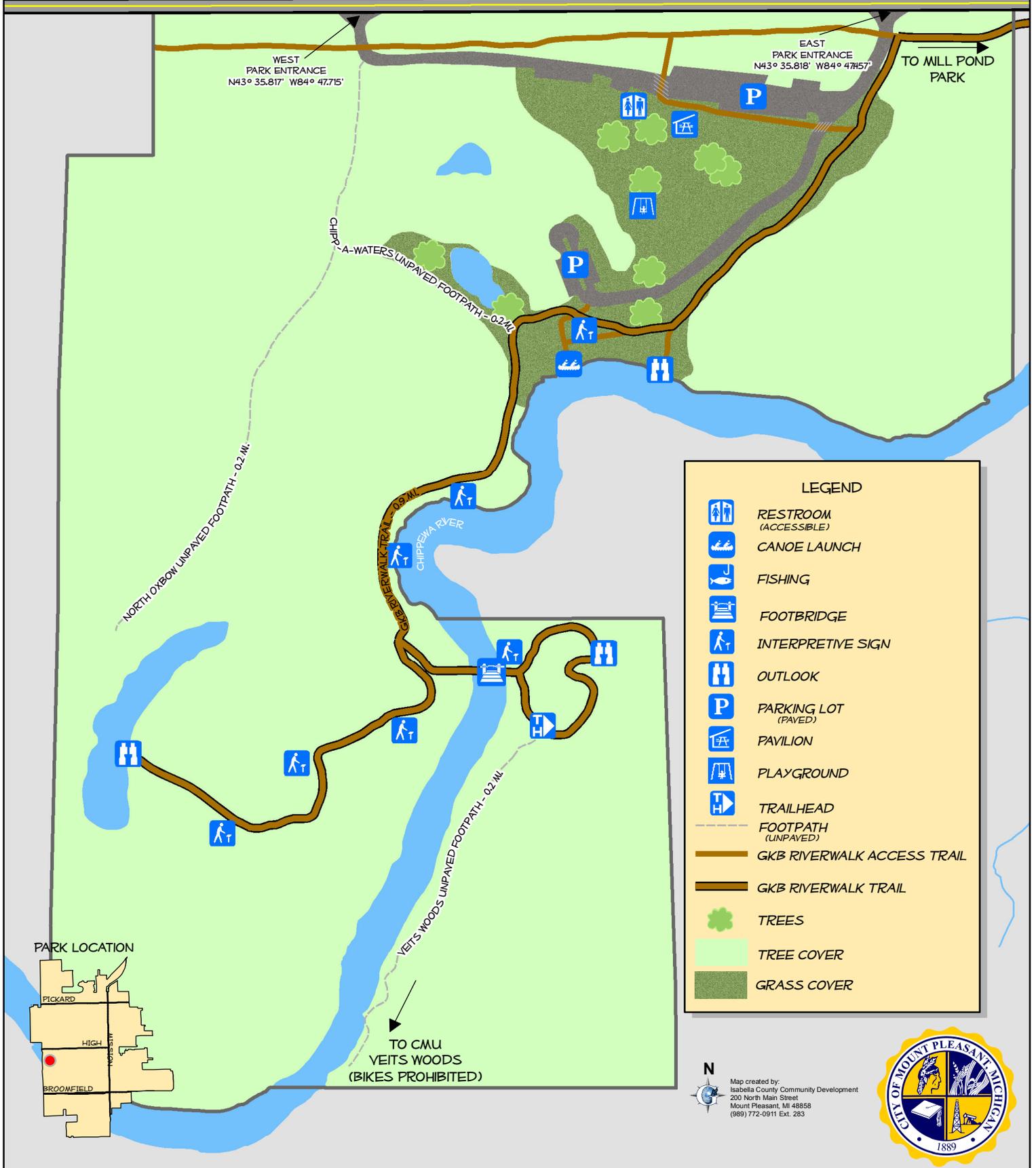
Map created by:
Isabella County Community Development
200 North Main Street
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858



Chipp-A-Waters Park

1403 W. HIGH STREET
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
(30 ACRES)

W. HIGH ST



LEGEND

- RESTROOM (ACCESSIBLE)
- CANOE LAUNCH
- FISHING
- FOOTBRIDGE
- INTERPRETIVE SIGN
- OUTLOOK
- PARKING LOT (PAVED)
- PAVILION
- PLAYGROUND
- TRAILHEAD
- FOOTPATH (UNPAVED)
- GKB RIVERWALK ACCESS TRAIL
- GKB RIVERWALK TRAIL
- TREES
- TREE COVER
- GRASS COVER

PARK LOCATION



N
Map created by:
Isabella County Community Development
200 North Main Street
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
(989) 772-0911 Ext. 283



Mission Creek Woodland Park

1458 N. HARRIS STREET
 MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
 (60 ACRES)

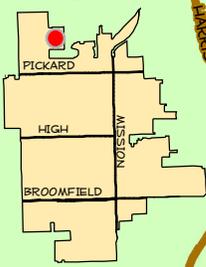


TRAIL LOOPS	
HARRIS - OVERLOOK LOOP	0.5 MI.
CENTER - SHELTER LOOP	0.4 MI.
CREEK - UPLAND LOOP	0.5 MI.
CREEK - LOWLAND LOOP	0.5 MI.

LEGEND	
	PARKING LOT (UNPAVED)
	PAVILION
	SLEDDING HILL
	FOOTBRIDGE
	TRAIL (UNPAVED)
	FOOTPATH
	TREE COVER
	GRASS COVER

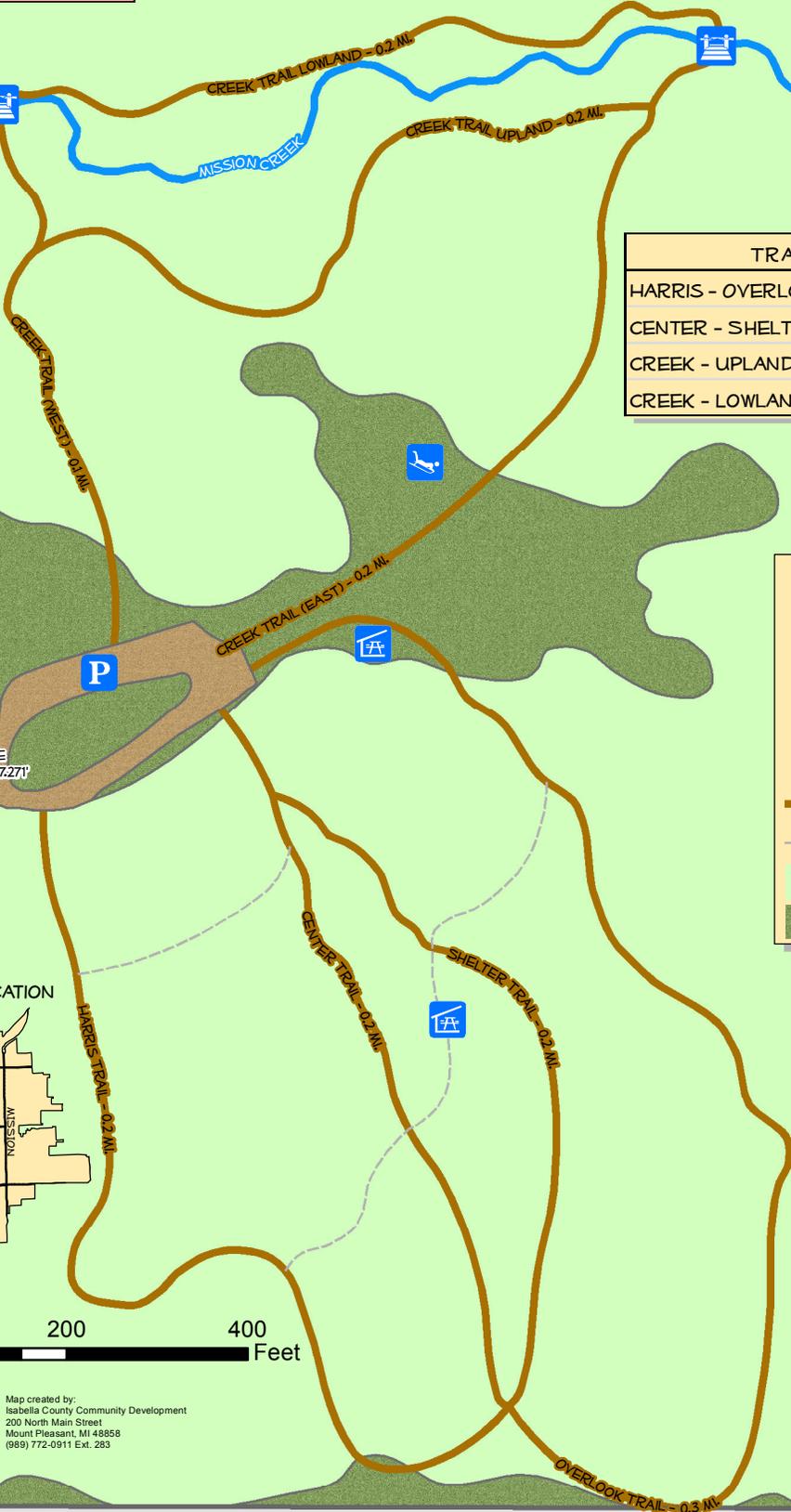
PARK ENTRANCE
 N43° 37.157' W84° 47.271'

PARK LOCATION



N
 Map created by:
 Isabella County Community Development
 200 North Main Street
 Mount Pleasant, MI 48858
 (989) 772-0911 Ext. 283

N. HARRIS STREET





RESIDENTIAL HOMES

Horizon Park

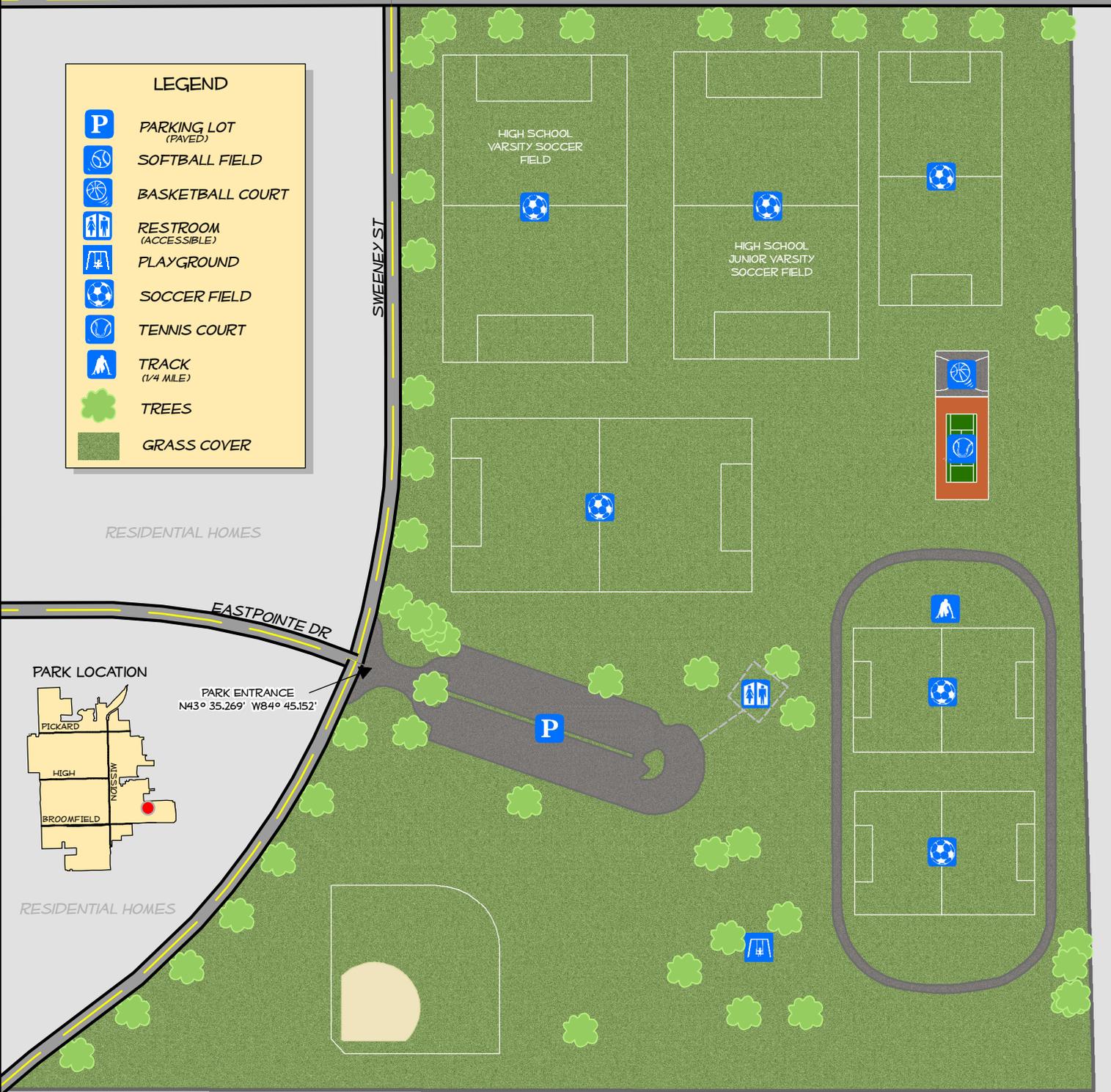
1535 SWEENEY STREET
MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
(22.5 ACRES)

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

E PRESTON ST

LEGEND

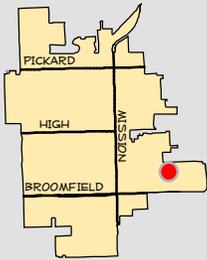
- PARKING LOT (PAVED)
- SOFTBALL FIELD
- BASKETBALL COURT
- RESTROOM (ACCESSIBLE)
- PLAYGROUND
- SOCCER FIELD
- TENNIS COURT
- TRACK (1/4 MILE)
- TREES
- GRASS COVER



RESIDENTIAL HOMES

EASTPOINTE DR

PARK LOCATION



PARK ENTRANCE
N43° 35.269' W84° 45.152'

RESIDENTIAL HOMES

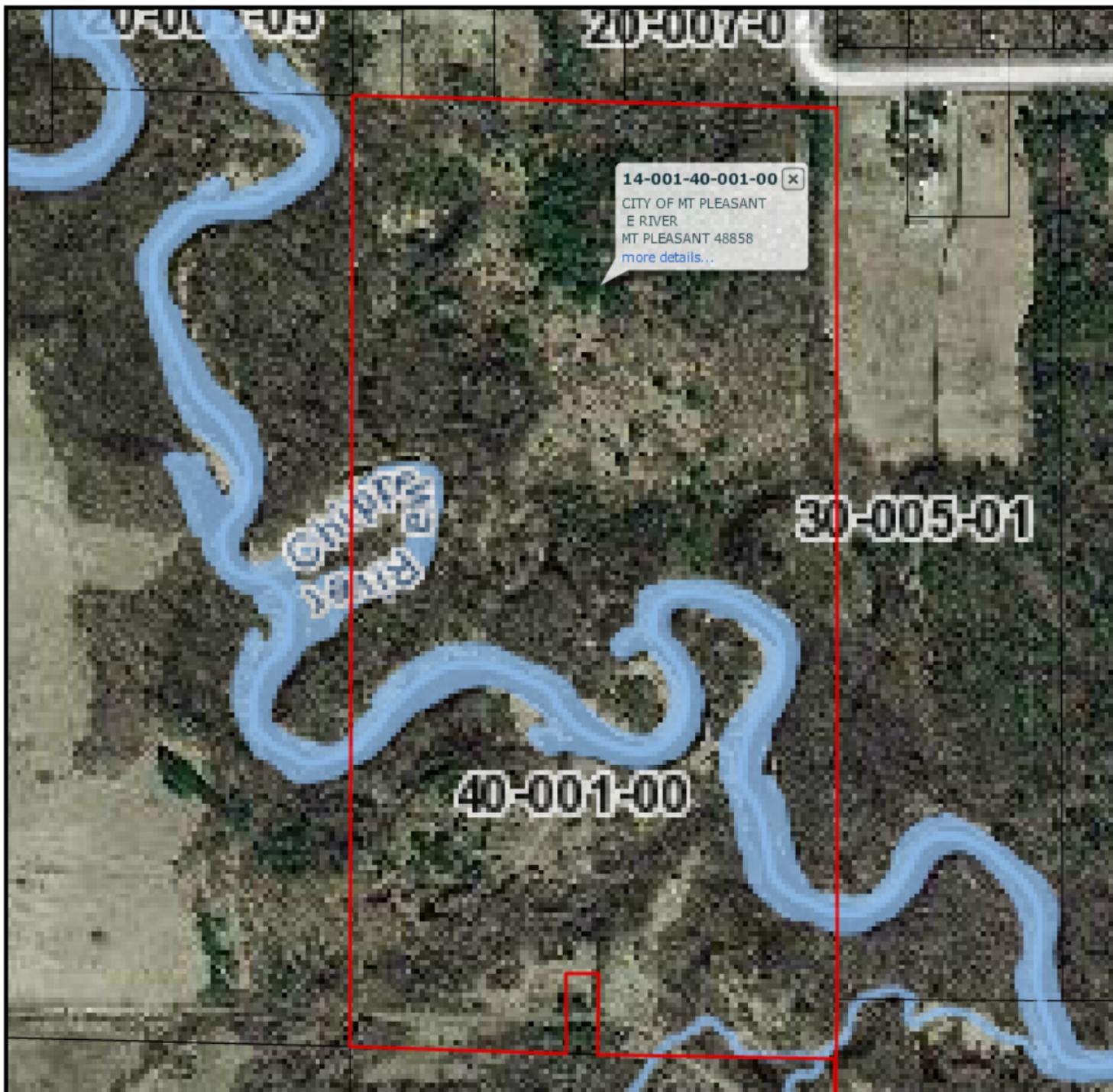
RESIDENTIAL HOMES



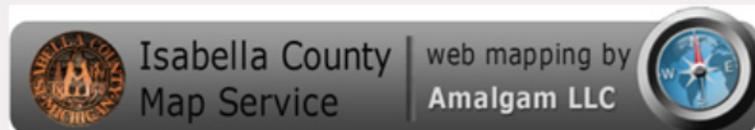
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RESIDENTIAL HOMES





Indian Pines Park



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1:6500

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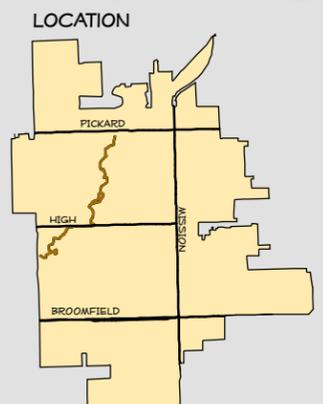
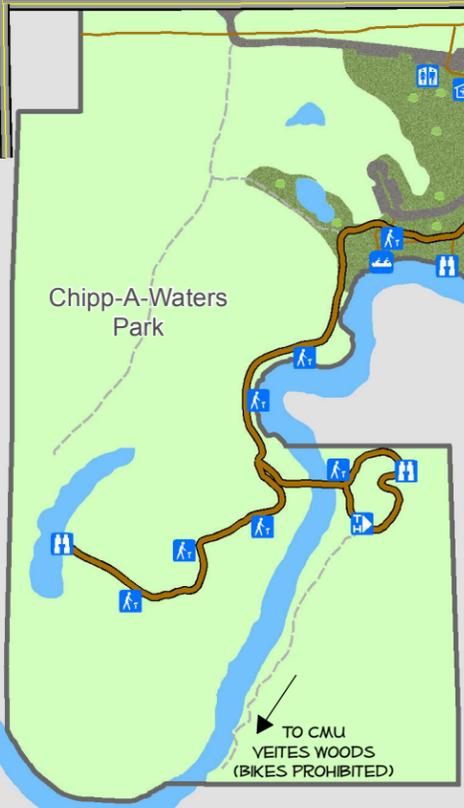
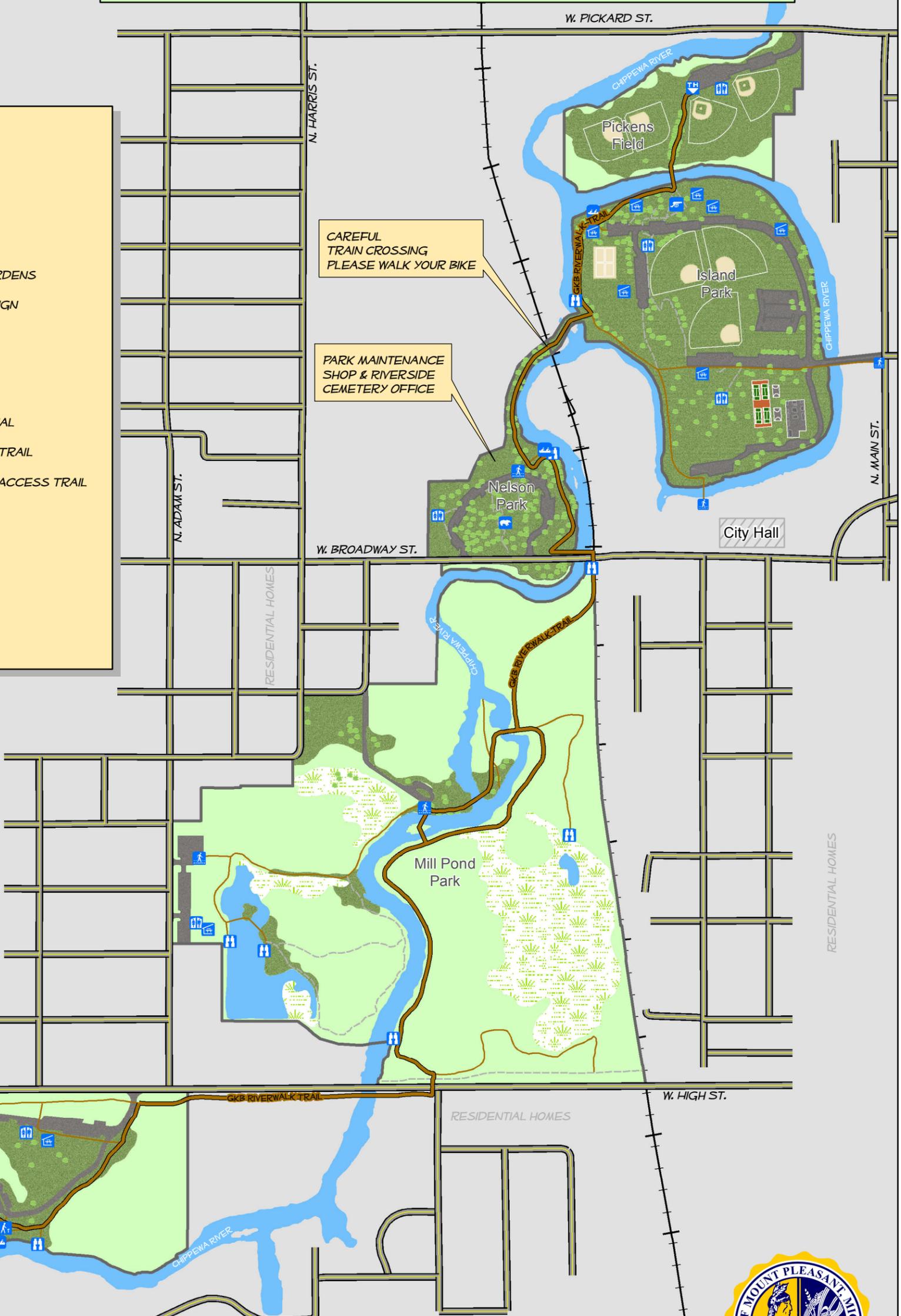
GKB Riverwalk Trail

TRAILHEAD LOCATIONS

PICKENS FIELD **CHIPP-A-WATERS PARK**
 309 W. PICKARD AVENUE 1403 W. HIGH STREET
 MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858 MT. PLEASANT, MI 48858
 (TOTAL DISTANCE OF THE GKB RIVERWALK TRAIL - 1.8 MI.)

LEGEND

- ACCESS POINT
- RESTROOM (ACCESSIBLE)
- CANOE LAUNCH
- CENTENNIAL GARDENS
- INTERPRETIVE SIGN
- OUTLOOK
- PAVILION
- TRAILHEAD
- VIETNAM MEMORIAL
- GKB RIVERWALK TRAIL
- GKB RIVERWALK ACCESS TRAIL
- FOOTPATH
- WETLAND
- TREES
- TREE COVER
- GRASS COVER



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