

# AGENDA

## Cemetery-Parks Commission Meeting

Wednesday, June 10, 2026 @ 5:00 PM

Zeeland City Hall, 21 S. Elm Street, Zeeland, MI 49464 / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Council Chambers

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### Commissioners:

- Mayor Pro Tem Sally Gruppen, City Council Representative
- John Query, Cemetery & Parks Commission Chair
- Susan Lucas, Commissioner
- Thom Parker, Commissioner
- Ashley Kiekintveld, Commissioner
- Lynette Lam, Commissioner
- Sabina Otteman, Commissioner

### Additional Attendees:

- Kevin Plockmeyer, Assistant City Manager & Finance Director
- Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant

1) Approval of March 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes

2) Parks Master Plan

3) Other Items

- a) Burial Report
- b) Public Concerns
  - i) Cemetery Residency Requirements

### Agenda Distribution:

City Clerk-Posting Copy  
Cemetery-Parks Commissioners  
City Council  
City Manager

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## MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**COMMISSION MEMBERS:** Sally Gruppen, Mayor Pro Tem  
John Query, Commission Chair  
Thom Parker, Commissioner  
Lynette Lam, Commissioner  
Ashley Kiekintveld, Commissioner  
Sue Lucas, Commissioner  
Sabina Otteman, Commissioner

**CITY STAFF:** Kevin Plockmeyer, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director  
Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant

**GUEST:** Melinda Whitten, MCSA Group

**I. Sabina Otteman – New Commission Member**

Commission Chair John Query welcomed Sabina Otteman to the Commission.

**II. Approval of December 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Sue Lucas

**Support:** Thom Parker

All in favor, minutes approved.

**III. Lawrence Park Playground Concept Design & Budget**

Melinda Whitten from MCSA Group presented preliminary concept designs of new playground equipment for Lawrence Park with an estimated total cost of \$1,080,892.30. As there are competing priorities for the next parks improvement project – this and the replacement of the Vande Luyster Gazebo – these plans are to provide information on what the new playground could look like and how much it could potentially cost and to get the commission's feedback.

**IV. Vande Luyster Gazebo Follow-Up**

Melinda Whitten also presented an updated design concept for the Vande Luyster Gazebo that included suggestions made by the commission at their last meeting. The updated estimated grand total for this project is now \$480,345.78. Commissioners were pleased with this as well as the Lawrence Park playground design plans.

**V. FY2027 Budget**

Kevin Plockmeyer reported that Hoogland Park is now complete (outside of some punch list items to be addressed this spring; staff were asked to make sure the dog waste receptacle was reinstalled). Staff are beginning the budget process for the next fiscal year (7/1/26-6/30/27). From an operational standpoint, he is not recommending significant changes, and this includes string trimming at the cemetery (another 3-year contract has been bid out for \$40,000); staff plan to maintain the level of service expected by the community. For parks capital improvement projects, there is approximately \$450K remaining in the City Park Improvement Fund. Staff are recommending focusing on setting aside funding for the replacement of the playground at Lawrence Park (it has far more use than the gazebo and is starting to show age/safety concerns) while planning to make significant repairs to the gazebo. Timeframe potentially fall 2027/summer 2028 for playground construction at LP. Gazebo repairs & maintenance would be covered from within the operating budget and could begin this fall/next spring. Commissioners agreed and staff will begin that process.

**V. Rates & Fees**

Kevin Plockmeyer walked through the cemetery rate fee changes staff are recommending along with a spreadsheet of other local municipal cemetery fees. The city is still on the lower side in comparison, and the following changes are recommended:

- Adult Grave (resident only): Increase from \$350 to \$450
- Adult Burial: Increase from \$450 to \$525 or \$550
- Cremains Burial: Increase by \$50 to \$125
- Saturday Burial Fee: Increase from \$200 to \$300
- Columbarium Purchase: Increase both resident & non-resident rates, currently \$550 & \$1,700, respectively.

Commissioners did not object to these recommendations, and staff will include them in the budgeting process.

**VI. 5-Year Recreation Plan Update**

Kevin Plockmeyer reported that the 5-Year Recreation Plan process will begin again with the assistance of MCSA Group. There will be more focus on community surveys instead of public open houses as these were not well attended last time. Melinda Whitten and Tiffany Smith (MCSA Group) will attend future meetings as well as the process kicks off & moves forward.

**VII. Cemetery Parks Ordinance Review Item – Domestic Animals**

The commission has been asked to consider banning dogs from the city's cemeteries in response to incidents of dog walkers failing to restrain/clean up after their dogs at a loved ones' grave site. While staff are sympathetic to this issue, they would not be able to enforce such a restriction. Commissioner Sabina Otteman noted that at Lincoln Cemetery, the dog waste receptacle is currently inaccessible due to construction. Commission was not in favor of a ban; staff will make receptacles more accessible and look at signage solutions.

**VIII. Burial Report:**

Burials: Lincoln: Resident – 3	Non-Resident – 9
Felch: Resident – 2	Non-Resident – 2
Sales: Lincoln: Resident – 0	Non-Resident – 3
Felch: Resident – 5	Non-Resident – 5
Sellbacks: 3 plots at Lincoln	
Transfers: 3 plots at Lincoln	

**Other Items:**

- **Church Street Construction Project:** Kevin Plockmeyer provided an update on this ongoing project that is currently being done in the Lincoln Cemetery area of the overall project scope.
- **Paw Paw Footbridge Park Vegetation Management:** City Council approved a contract to continue this project again in 2026. The Outdoor Discovery Center will be focusing on controlling sumac (it is a 3–5-year process to get that under control).
- **Burial Plot Question:** Mayor Pro Tem Sally Gruppen asked for clarification on how many burials are allowed in one cemetery plot. Kevin Plockmeyer will check with Cemetery Parks Supervisor Mike Bronkhorst. Staff will follow up with the commission on this.

The meeting was adjourned @ 6:20 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** Next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

RECORDED BY:

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Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant

DRAFT



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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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TO: Cemetery and Parks Commission  
FROM: Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance  
SUBJECT: Parks Master Plan  
DATE: June 10, 2026

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As discussed at our last meeting, the City's current Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan has expired and must be updated in order to maintain eligibility for several Michigan Department of Natural Resources grant programs. The updated plan will also provide the City with a strategic framework for planning, prioritizing, and funding future improvements to parks, trails, and open spaces.

At our last meeting, the Commission approved moving forward with the planning process as outlined, including working with MCSA Group to assist with the update. MCSA Group has assisted the City with previous recreation plans and will help evaluate the existing park system, review current recreation needs, and develop goals, objectives, and capital improvement priorities for the next five-year period.

Public engagement will be an important part of this process. Rather than hosting multiple public input meetings, the City will focus primarily on distributing an online community survey. This approach will allow residents to participate more conveniently and will help gather feedback from a broader cross section of the community regarding park use, recreation priorities, and desired improvements.

At Wednesday evening's meeting, representatives from MCSA Group will walk the Commission through sections of the attached plan and review the proposed community survey. This will be an opportunity for the Commission to provide feedback, ask questions, and help ensure the plan reflects the long-term vision for the City's parks and recreation system.

We look forward to the process and to the conversation on Wednesday evening.

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Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance

FEEL THE ZEEL



# 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan Community Survey

City of Zeeland

The City of Zeeland is updating its 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Your input will help guide future park improvements, trail development, accessibility upgrades, and future grant applications.

This survey should take approximately 10–15 minutes to complete.

## 1. Do you live within the City of Zeeland?

Yes

No (please specify your City, Village or Township)

## 2. How long have you lived in the Zeeland area?

- Less than 1 year
- 1-5 years
- 6-10 years
- More than 10 years
- Visitor/non-resident

## 3. How many people currently live in your household?

- 1
- 2-3
- 4-5
- 6-7
- 8+

4. Please indicate the age groups represented in your household.

- Less than 6 years old
- 6-17 years old
- 18-24 years old
- 25-44 years old
- 45-64 years old
- 65 years or older

5. Does anyone in your household have accessibility or mobility needs that affect park use?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

6. If yes, what barriers limit participation in parks activities?

- Lack of accessible playgrounds
- Lack of accessible restrooms
- Lack of accessible parking
- Limited trail accessibility
- Other (please specify)
- Transportation limitations
- Lack of seating/rest areas
- Safety concerns

### Park Usage Participation

7. Which Zeeland parks or facilities have you visited during the past 12 months? (Select all that apply)

- Elm Streek Park
- Hoogland Park
- Huizenga Park
- Lawrence Park
- Michigan Street Tot Lot
- Other:
- Nothside Pathway
- Paw Paw Footbridge
- Splash Pad Park
- Three Corner Park/Vande Luyster Square

8. How often do you visit Zeeland parks?

- Daily
- Several times per week
- Several times per month
- A few times a year
- Rarely
- Never

9. What are the primary reasons you visit parks? (Select up to 5)

- Walking/running
- Playground use
- Relaxation
- Organized sports
- Nature enjoyment
- Biking
- Family gatherings/picnics
- Other:
- Dog walking
- Splash pad/water activities
- Fitness/exercise
- Social events
- Fishing
- Winter recreation

10. Which organizations or facilities have you used during the past 12 months? (Select all that apply)

- City of Zeeland Parks
- County Parks
- Michigan State Parks
- Holland Charter Township Parks
- Other (please specify):
- Public Schools
- Churches
- Private Clubs
- Neighboring City Parks

Park Conditions & Priorities

11. How would you rate the overall maintenance and condition of the following parks?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Have Not Visited
Elm Street Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hoogland Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Huizenga Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lawrence Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Michigan Street Tot Lot	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Northside Pathway	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paw Paw Footbridge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Splash Pad Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Three Corners Park/Vande Luyster Square	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. Which parks should be the highest priority for future improvements?  
(Select up to 3)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elm Street Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Northside Pathway                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hoogland Park           | <input type="checkbox"/> Paw Paw Footbridge                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huizenga Park           | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash Pad Park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence Park           | <input type="checkbox"/> Three Corners Park/Vande Luyster Square |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan Street Tot Lot |  |

13. What types of improvements are most needed in Zeeland parks?

(Select up to 5)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground upgrades             | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelters             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restroom improvements           | <input type="checkbox"/> Benches/seating             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Additional shade structures     | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping/natural areas   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/running trails          | <input type="checkbox"/> Athletic field improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike paths/connectivity         | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash pad improvements     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lighting improvements           | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking improvements        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible playground equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Water access improvements   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Park safety/security            | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter amenities            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                          |  |

Future Needs

14. Which facilities would you most like to see expanded or added in Zeeland?

(Select up to 5)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baseball/softball fields  | <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic shelters                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basketball courts         | <input type="checkbox"/> Playgrounds                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike trails/pathways      | <input type="checkbox"/> Sand volleyball                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-country ski trails  | <input type="checkbox"/> Skate park                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing access            | <input type="checkbox"/> Soccer fields                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Football fields           | <input type="checkbox"/> Splash pad/water spray features |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ice skating               | <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming opportunities          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural areas/open space  | <input type="checkbox"/> Tennis courts                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor fitness equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Walking/running trails          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pickleball courts         | <input type="checkbox"/> Winter recreation opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                    |  |

15. How important is expanding trail and pathway connections throughout the City?

- Very Important                       Neutral  
 Important                                 Not Important

16. How important is preserving natural areas and open space within Zeeland?

- Very Important                       Neutral  
 Important                                 Not Important

17. How important is improving accessibility and inclusive opportunities in Zeeland parks?

- Very Important                       Neutral  
 Important                                 Not Important











18. How important are environmentally sustainable park improvements?

Examples may include native landscaping, tree planting, stormwater improvements, reduced energy use, and environmentally friendly materials.

- Very Important                       Neutral  
 Important                                 Not Important

### Funding & Investment Priorities

19. Please rank the following park funding priorities.  
1 = Highest Priority, 5 = Lowest Priority

		Improve existing parks and facilities
		Expand walking/biking trails
		Acquire land for future parks/open space
		Improve accessibility and ADA access
		Maintain existing park facilities

20. Would you support the City pursuing state and federal grant funding for park improvements and trail projects?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

21. Would you support a parks millage?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

22. What is your biggest concern regarding Zeeland parks facilities?

23. What is your highest priority for future park improvements in Zeeland?

24. Additional comments or suggestions:

Thank you for participating in this survey. We sincerely appreciate your time, feedback, and valuable insights.



# City of Zeeland 2027 Parks and Recreation Plan

Prepared By :



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# 01\_

# Introduction

Parks, recreation, and open space are important elements of all communities and contribute significantly to the quality of life enjoyed by residents. Recreational opportunities provide places for people of all ages to gather, interact, exercise, and participate in activities that strengthen both physical and social well-being. Youth within the community benefit from safe and constructive places to spend their leisure time through organized programs, sports, and outdoor activities that encourage healthy lifestyles and positive personal development. Families are provided with affordable and enjoyable opportunities to come together with friends and neighbors in ways that foster community pride, strengthen relationships, and create a positive image for the community as a whole. Senior citizens also benefit from parks and recreation programs by having access to opportunities that encourage active living, social engagement, and healthy, fulfilling retirement years.

A properly developed parks and recreation plan should represent the vision and desires of the community while balancing creativity with practicality. Effective planning reflects what residents want for their community, presents imaginative ideas for future improvements, and remains realistic in identifying what can reasonably be accomplished. Communities are constantly changing, and planning serves as an important tool for anticipating and managing that change in a thoughtful and organized manner. Successful recreation planning recognizes that communities are built for people and that flexibility, cooperation, and compromise are essential in addressing evolving recreational, environmental, and social needs.

In recent years, recreation planning has increasingly adopted a more comprehensive and holistic approach that extends beyond traditional park boundaries. Modern recreation systems now include not only neighborhood and community parks, but also sidewalks, nonmotorized pathways, linear trails, greenways, town squares, plazas, and other publicly and privately owned open spaces that contribute to the overall recreational network. Indoor recreation facilities, community centers, and shared-use public buildings also play an important role in meeting the recreational and social needs of residents throughout the year. This broader approach encourages greater connectivity between neighborhoods, promotes walkability, and enhances accessibility for residents of all ages and abilities.

Beyond the recreational and social benefits provided by parks and open space, there are also significant environmental and economic advantages associated with comprehensive recreation planning. Preserving open spaces and natural areas helps protect water resources, improve air quality, reduce stormwater runoff, preserve wildlife habitat, and maintain scenic character within the community. Expanded trail systems and pedestrian connections can reduce dependence on automobiles, lessen traffic congestion, and encourage healthier lifestyles through walking and bicycling. Coordinated recreation and open space planning can also improve environmental stewardship, strengthen public support for community investments, and create opportunities for partnerships that enhance recreational services and facilities for future generations.



## PLAN PURPOSE

The purpose of this Community Recreation Plan for the City of Zeeland is to provide a framework for guiding decisions related to parks, recreation facilities, open space, and recreational programming throughout the community. The Plan identifies current and future recreational needs and establishes goals, objectives, and an action program for meeting those needs over the next five years.

The City of Zeeland is committed to maintaining a high quality of life through accessible parks, trails, recreational facilities, and community gathering spaces that serve residents of all ages. This Plan supports that commitment by outlining priorities for park improvements, trail connectivity, accessibility, recreation programming, and environmental stewardship while coordinating recreation planning with broader community development efforts.

In addition to guiding future improvements, the Plan serves as an educational tool for residents and local officials by emphasizing the importance of a balanced and sustainable park and recreation system. Public input and community participation have played an important role in shaping the recommendations and priorities identified within the Plan.

The City of Zeeland last prepared a Community Park and Recreation Plan in 2022. This updated Plan reflects current community conditions, recreational trends, and future needs while continuing to meet the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for recreation planning and grant eligibility. Maintaining an approved plan allows the City to remain eligible for federal and state funding opportunities for park development, land acquisition, trail improvements, accessibility upgrades, and enhancements to existing recreational facilities.



## PLAN SCOPE

The scope of this Community Recreation Plan includes the City of Zeeland's parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, trails, and greenway corridors that contribute to the community's overall recreation system. The Plan addresses both active and passive recreation opportunities, including neighborhood parks, community gathering spaces, nonmotorized pathways, and natural open spaces that enhance quality of life for residents and visitors. In addition to outdoor recreation facilities, recreational programming provided through Zeeland Recreation offers a variety of athletic, enrichment, wellness, and community programs for residents of all ages. The City supports these programs through the continued maintenance and improvement of public recreation facilities and amenities.

The geographic focus of the Plan is primarily within the City of Zeeland boundaries; however, recreation use patterns and regional connections extending into neighboring communities are also considered. The Plan recognizes the importance of coordination with nearby municipal facilities, regional trail systems, schools, and other public recreation providers in order to improve accessibility, connectivity, and the efficient delivery of recreation opportunities.

The planning period for this document covers the next five years and includes a proposed action program and capital improvement schedule to guide future recreation investments and priorities. While the specific projects identified in the Plan are intended to address needs within the five-year timeframe, the broader goals and objectives established through the planning process are intended to provide long-term direction for the continued development, preservation, and enhancement of Zeeland's parks and recreation system.

# 02\_

# Community Description



## INTRODUCTION

Zeeland is a small city in West Michigan, located eight miles east of Lake Michigan; it was established in 1847 on land formerly occupied by the Odawa people. It was named after the province of Zeeland in the Netherlands, the home country of the immigrants who founded the town.

Today the city is populated by over 5,000 residents and is home to several world-renowned companies, including MillerKnoll, Mead Johnson, J.R. Automation, and Gentex.

## Social Characteristics

### HISTORY

The town of Zeeland, Michigan was founded in 1847 by Jannes Van de Luyster, Reverend Cornelius Vander Meulen, and approximately 450 other Dutch immigrants. They had emigrated from the Netherlands both to avoid religious persecution and escape a faltering economy. They followed in the footsteps of Albertus Van Raalte who had settled Holland, Michigan the previous year.

### POPULATION

The population of Zeeland, Michigan increased from 5,504 in 2010 to 5,719 in 2020, reflecting modest growth over the decade. Since 2020, the population has slightly declined to an estimated 5,637 in 2024, a decrease of 1.5% from the 2020 baseline. During the same period, population density rose from 1,839.5 to 1,912.1 people per square mile, while the land area remained constant at 2.99 square miles.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### SCHOOL DISTRICT POPULATION

Zeeland Public School district includes 2 high schools, 2 middle schools and six elementary schools. Additionally, the district houses a successful early childhood preschool program, a year-round K-8 multi-aged school, Spanish Immersion, elementary gifted and talented, and alternative high school and an online program. The district is 94 square miles, encompassing the City of Zeeland, a portion of the City of Holland and eight townships within Ottawa and Allegan Counties. The Fall 2025 student enrollment from K-12 was 5,618 students.

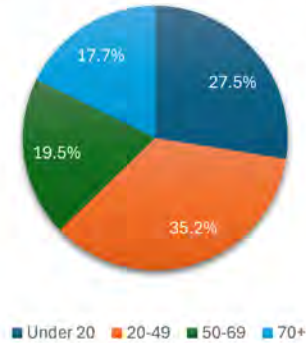
# POPULATION DISTRIBUTION

In Zeeland, Michigan, the median age is 37.1 with the age distribution showing the largest share of residents in the 30–39 age group (14.9%), followed by 20–29 (12.6%). Midlife groups are smaller, with 40–49 at 7.7% and 50–59 at 9.5%. Older adults make up a notable portion of the population, including 60–69 (10%), 70–79 (7.4%), and 80+ (10.3%). The population composition is 52.2% female and 47.8% male.

Sources: Data USA, U.S. Census Bureau, and Census Reporter

Median Age (Source: Data USA)	
	2024
City of Zeeland	37.1
Ottawa County	36.5
Michigan	40.2

Age Distribution (Source: Census Reporter)



# POPULATION BY RACE

The City of Zeeland's population is predominantly White (Non-Hispanic), comprising approximately 80.5% of residents. Individuals identifying as two or more races, including Hispanic ethnicity, represent 9.02% of the population, while White (Hispanic) residents account for 5.75%. Black or African American (Non-Hispanic) residents make up 2.14%. Smaller shares include Other (Hispanic) at 1.32%, two races excluding Hispanic at 0.92%, and two races including non-Hispanic at 0.35%.

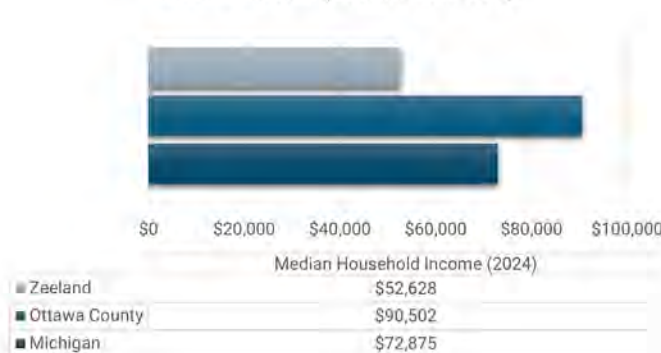
Source: Data USA

# OCCUPATION & HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The median household income in Zeeland is \$52,628, which is less than the median income of \$72,875 across the state of Michigan. From 2023 to 2024, employment in Zeeland, MI grew at a rate of 1.88%, from 2.71k employees to 2.76k employees. The occupational structure in Zeeland shows a diverse workforce with employment concentrated in office & administrative support, management, production, architecture & engineering, and education occupations in 2024. The City's workforce reflects a gradual shift toward more service and knowledge-based employment, with growth in management, education, and technical fields offset by declines in several support and production roles.

Source: Data USA - Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimate

Median Income (Source: Data USA)



# Physical Characteristics / Resource Inventory

## INTRODUCTION

Understanding the physical features and natural resources of the City helps to explain its historical development and guide future development to ensure important natural resources are preserved and protected for future generations.

## TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the area varies between flat and gently rolling. Grade changes are predominantly associated with rivers and drains, including the Macatawa ridge running northwest from the City of Zeeland into Olive Township. In general, the western areas show more elevation change, with the eastern area being essentially flat. There are no major lakes located within the area, which is characterized by numerous natural drains and associated wetlands.

## WATER RESOURCES

Nearly all the City of Zeeland is located within the Macatawa Watershed; portions of four sub watersheds exist within the City: Upper Macatawa River; Nordeloos Creek; Peters Creek; and South Branch Macatawa River. Of these watersheds, the Upper Macatawa River watershed occupies most of the land area.

## FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Both the Huizenga Park Pond and the Black River at Paw Paw Park are a popular fishing destinations. The water features support numerous small pan fish species. There is also a large Duck and Goose population at Huizenga Park Pond and both locations are home to a variety of bird, insect, and small mammal species.

## VEGETATIVE COVER

The City of Zeeland is a mature residential community and as such, many streets and yards contain mature vegetation. This includes both deciduous and coniferous trees, as well as large shrub masses. Lawrence Street, Huizenga, and Paw Paw Bridge Parks have well established shade trees and naturalized areas. The North Side Parkway non-motorized pathway runs through 1.2 miles of wooded areas, wetlands, and the waterway along the Boone Drain.



## SOILS

The soils within the City of Zeeland are primarily derived from glacial and lake plain deposits and are generally characterized by sandy loams, loamy sands, and moderately to poorly drained soils common throughout the Lake Michigan coastal region. Much of the community contains relatively flat terrain with soils that support a mix of urban development, recreation facilities, landscaped open spaces, and surrounding agricultural uses.

Sandy and well-drained soils located throughout portions of the City are generally suitable for recreational development, trail construction, and urban uses. However, some areas contain poorly drained and hydric soils associated with wetlands, drainage corridors, and low-lying areas. These soils may present limitations for development due to seasonal wetness, high groundwater, or erosion potential, but they also provide important environmental benefits such as stormwater storage, groundwater recharge, and wildlife habitat protection.

Overall, soil conditions within Zeeland influence land use patterns, stormwater management practices, and future recreation planning efforts. Consideration of soil characteristics remains important when planning for park improvements, trail development, open space preservation, and other public infrastructure investments to ensure long-term sustainability and environmental protection.

## CLIMATE

The influence of Lake Michigan on the climate of West Michigan is quite strong throughout most of the year. Westerly winds combined with water temperature create “lake effects”. In Zeeland, the summers are warm and partly cloudy, and the winters are freezing, windy, and mostly cloudy. Over the course of the year, the temperature typically varies from 19°F to 82°F and is rarely below 5°F or above 89°F.

## LAND USE

The service area of this Plan is centered on the City of Zeeland and reflects a mature urban community within the broader Holland-Zeeland region. While surrounding communities and portions of Zeeland Charter Township have continued to experience residential and commercial growth, the City of Zeeland has experienced a slight decline in population in recent years. As a result, future planning efforts within the City are expected to focus less on outward expansion and more on reinvestment, redevelopment, neighborhood stability, and maintaining a high quality of life for existing residents.

The City of Zeeland is largely developed and characterized by established residential neighborhoods, downtown commercial areas, industrial employment centers, institutional uses, and public parks and recreation facilities. Although population trends have remained relatively stable or slightly declined, demand continues for accessible recreation opportunities, trail connectivity, community gathering spaces, and improvements to existing public amenities. Redevelopment, infill development, and continued investment in infrastructure and recreational facilities are expected to remain important components of future land use planning.

The surrounding area continues to include agricultural lands, open spaces, woodlands, wetlands, and natural drainage corridors that contribute to the environmental character of the region. These natural features provide important opportunities for recreation, greenway development, environmental protection, and stormwater management. As land use patterns continue to evolve throughout the Zeeland area, it remains important to balance redevelopment and economic investment with the preservation of open space, natural resources, and recreational amenities that support the community’s overall quality of life.

## TRANSPORTATION

Access to the service area from other areas along the shoreline or inland is from U.S. 31 and I-196, respectively. These limited accesses: high-speed expressways provide easy access to the neighboring metropolitan areas of Grand Rapids, Grand Haven and Muskegon. U.S. 31 provides north/south transportation along the Lake Michigan shoreline and provides numerous access points to the plan service area north of Lakewood Boulevard. I-196 runs from Grand Rapids southwest along the Lake Michigan shoreline connecting to I-94, the primary route between Detroit and Chicago. State highways serving the area include M-121 (Chicago Drive) in the south of the service area and M-45 (Lake Michigan Drive) in the north.

The Macatawa Area Express (MAX) is the public transit system for the greater Holland/Zeeland area, with fixed route buses serving the City of Holland, City of Zeeland, and Holland Charter Township. MAX also offers Reserve-A-MAX curb-to-curb service for persons with disabilities, seniors, and those whose origins and destinations are farther than ¼ mile of a bus stop. All MAX vehicles are wheelchair accessible and larger buses are equipped with bike racks to enable passengers to take advantage of the area's bike path system.

## LOCATION MAP





# 03\_

# Administrative Structure

## CITY MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The City of Zeeland operates within a council-manager form of government. The city manager serves as the city's chief administrator. He supervises the implementation of policy and procedures as directed by the city council through coordination and supervision of operations in all city departments. The city manager advises the city council on all matters relating to the planning, development, and operating status of city departments.

## CITY SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Parks and Cemetery Supervisor is responsible for the overall supervision of the day-to-day operations. The Supervisor is responsible for managing three full-time Parks/Cemetery Maintenance Workers and up to five seasonal employees. These employees are responsible for the maintenance and care of the City Parks, Cemeteries, and Downtown District including lawn/sprinkler maintenance, playground maintenance, and winter snow removal. The Supervisor reports to the Assistant City Manager, City Manager, Cemetery and Parks Commission, and the City Council.

## CEMETERY AND PARKS COMMISSION

The Cemetery and Parks Commission assists the Cemetery and Parks Department in developing policies and procedures. The Commission includes seven (7) members. The seven-member board advises City Council on long-range plans and needs for the City's cemeteries.

## CEMETERY AND PARKS COMMISSION MEMBERS

John Query, Commission Chair	Term Expires May 6, 2029
Major Pro Tem Sally Gruppen (City Council Representative)	
Susan Lucas	Term Expires May 1, 2027
Thom Parker	Term Expires May 4, 2030
Ashley Kiekintveld	Term Expires May 7, 2028
Lynette Lam	Term Expires May 3, 2026
Sabrina Otterman	Term Expires May 6, 2029

## ZEELAND RECREATION

There is not a formal definition on how the City of Zeeland and Zeeland Recreation work together, however, The City has a formal lease agreement with Zeeland Recreation to use some City facilities.



# CEMETERY AND PARKS BUDGET

The current source of funding for the Cemetery and Parks Budget comes from the General Fund which is heavily funded by property taxes. From year to year, the budget expenditures vary reflecting changing needs. Below are the 2026-2027 budgets for the Parks and City Park Improvements Fund.

## Parks Budget

(Source: City of Zeeland 2026-2027 Annual Budget)

	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 25-26	FY 26-27	% Change
Financial Summary	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget	From FY 25-26
Personnel Services	\$ 256,533	\$ 307,021	\$ 262,920	\$ 289,403	
Operating Costs	209,614	255,724	247,123	280,896	
Capital Outlay	39,000	45,000	65,000	105,000	
Total	\$ 505,147	\$ 607,745	\$ 575,043	\$ 675,299	11.12%
<b>Personnel Summary</b>					
		<b>Budget</b>		<b>Budget</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Full-Time Equivalents		2.37		2.15	
Part Time Positions		1.08		1.06	
Total Positions		3.45		3.21	-6.96%

## City Park Improvement Fund

(Source: City of Zeeland 2026-2027 Annual Budget)

	FY 24-25	FY 25-26	FY 25-26	FY 26-27
Financial Summary	Actual	Budget	Projected	Budget
Operating Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Outlay	283,338	900,000	1,100,000	-
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 283,338	\$ 900,000	\$ 1,100,000	\$ -

# ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers play an important role in supporting Zeeland parks through cleanup projects, trail maintenance, beautification efforts, and environmental stewardship. Specialized volunteer days give community members opportunities to participate in activities such as tree planting, native habitat restoration, and invasive species removal.

A key partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) helps strengthen these efforts. Through organized stewardship events, volunteers work alongside conservation professionals to remove invasive species such as garlic mustard and buckthorn, helping restore healthy native ecosystems in local parks and natural areas. The partnership also provides education and hands-on learning opportunities that encourage environmental awareness and community involvement.

Through volunteer service and regional partnerships, Zeeland parks continue to benefit from improved natural spaces, stronger community connections, and long-term environmental sustainability.

# Recreation Inventory

## INTRODUCTION

In order to determine the recreational needs for the City of Zeeland, an analysis of the existing facilities was undertaken. The intent of the analysis is to provide a clear evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing recreational opportunities the City has to offer its citizens. The inventory is based on information provided by City staff and site inspections carried out by MCSA Group as part of the planning process.

## CITY PARK & OPEN SPACE FACILITIES

The City of Zeeland provides a range of passive and active recreation opportunities for residents within its City Parks. There are ten (10) City parks and trails and five (5) public school sites that have existing recreational facilities on approximately 33.8 acres of public or quasi-public land in the City of Zeeland. The City properties can be classified as follows: two neighborhood parks, one community park, and six mini parks. This classification is adapted from "Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines," J. D. Mertes and J. R. Hall, 1995, as recommended by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. A more detailed description and photographic inventory of each site follows. An Existing Recreation Facilities map at the end of this section illustrates the location of public park/recreation areas within the City, and an Existing Recreation Facilities matrix provides a summary of the facilities provided at each location.





## MINI PARKS

Mini-parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. The service area of a mini-park is less than a ¼ mile radius and the park size is typically less than 1 acre. The City of Zeeland has six mini-parks.



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks remain a basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. This park typically serves a ¼- to ½-mile distance and is uninterrupted by nonresidential roads and other physical barriers. A size of 5-10 acres is considered optimal for this type of park. The focus is on informal active and passive recreational activities, such as walking, field games, court games, playground equipment, and picnicking. The City has two neighborhood parks.



## COMMUNITY PARKS

Community wide parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks and provide a range of facilities and areas capable of supporting structured and unstructured community participation. These areas are typically between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve two or more neighborhoods and a ½ to 3-mile distance. Facilities may include wooded or natural areas, picnic shelters and grills, bike or hiking trails, and other semi-active and passive uses for large groups of people. They may also contain specialized recreational facilities such as swimming pools, community centers, and lighted ball diamonds. The City has one community park.

## ACCESSIBILITY

An Accessibility Assessment of each facility was undertaken using the following ranking system for the site elements based upon the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design:

1. NONE
2. SOME
3. MOST
4. ALL
5. THE FACILITY MEETS THE PRINCIPALS OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN (Equitable Design, Flexibility in Use, Simple and Intuitive Use, Perceptible Information and Tolerance for Error, Low Physical Effort and Size and Space for Approach and Use)



# HUIZENGA PARK



## DESCRIPTION

The City's largest park is located south of Business I-196. This community park features a range of facilities including a skate park, five (5) small picnic shelters, a basketball court, a sand volleyball court, two (2) horseshoe pits, two (2) little league ball fields, a restroom building, walking trails, and several paved parking areas. A new playground was installed in 2018 replacing the Timber Towns Structure installed in 1994. The ball fields were renovated in 2021. Pickleball courts were added to the north side of the park in 2019. At that time, the restroom building was replaced with a newer building and an additional parking area was added. The restroom building near the little league fields has been improved and made fully accessible. The park also features a fishing pond with boardwalks.

## CLASSIFICATION :

Community Park

## LOCATION:

350 Royal Park Dr.

## SIZE:

25.4 acres

## ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 4

This park has had many improvements over the last few years, all of which meet the Principals of Universal Design.

Accessibility Improvements: When the remaining items of the park are replaced, they should be made accessible.

## CONDITION:

This popular park is well maintained and in good condition.



**KEY**

**ACTIVE RECREATION**

- 1** PICKLEBALL COURTS (8)
- 2** PLAYGROUND
- 3** BASKETBALL COURT (1)
- 4** SKATE PARK
- 5** SAND VOLLEYBALL (1)
- 6** LITTLE LEAGUE BALL FIELDS (2)
- 7** HORSE SHOE PITS (2)

**PASSIVE RECREATION**

- 8** SHADE SHELTER (5)
- 9** PAVED TRAIL
- 10** BOARDWALK / FISHING PIER
- 11** OPEN LAWN

**PARK INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 12** PARKING LOT
- 13** PARK SIGN
- 14** FOOTBRIDGE
- 15** RESTROOM BUILDING (2)
- 16** MAINTENANCE BUILDING

**PARK AREA: 25.4 ACRES**



**5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN**  
**HUIZENGA PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN**  
**350 ROYAL PARK DR.**

DATE  
4.29.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283



# HOOGLAND PARK



## DESCRIPTION

This park is located East of the Zeeland Cemetery, in a residential neighborhood, south of downtown Zeeland and north of the I-196 Business Loop. The site was updated in 2025 and features a new restroom building, playground areas, small picnic shelter, and paved parking area.



## CLASSIFICATION :

Neighborhood Park

## LOCATION:

350 E Rich Ave.

## SIZE:

0.87 acres

## ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 4

Ramp at playground meets ADA but not universal guidelines.

Accessibility Improvements:  
None at this time.

## CONDITION:

This park was recently renovated.



**KEY**

*ACTIVE RECREATION*

- 1 PLAYGROUND

*PASSIVE RECREATION*

- 2 SHADE SHELTER
- 3 PAVED WALKWAY
- 4 BENCH
- 5 OPEN LAWN

*PARK INFRASTRUCTURE*

- 6 PARKING LOT
- 7 RESTROOM BUILDING
- 8 SEAT WALL
- 9 MEMORIAL COLUMN
- 10 PARK SIGN
- 11 BIKE RACKS
- 12 FENCE AROUND SITE

**PARK AREA: 0.87 ACRES**



**5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN**  
**HOOGLAND PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN**  
**350 E RICH AVE.**

DATE  
4.29.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283



# LAWRENCE PARK

## DESCRIPTION

This park is located in a mixed-use area in the south-central part of the City. Active recreation facilities include a ball field, tennis/pickleball/basketball courts, and a playground. The park also features an outdoor amphitheater with stage area, known as the “bowl”, which is the scene for a summer concert series and other community events. There is also a large group picnic shelter with attached bathrooms, a community room, and a large group grill area. Open grass areas with mature trees contain additional picnic tables and grills. A stairway links the park to Crestwood Village.



### CLASSIFICATION :

Neighborhood Park

### LOCATION:

100 W Lawrence Ave.

### SIZE:

4.4 acres

### ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

There are several areas of the park that could use accessibility upgrades.

#### Accessibility Improvements:

The site amenities (drinking fountains, benches, grill) and playground equipment should be made accessible. An accessible path along the east side of the park and a direct connection from the barrier-free parking space would improve access and usability. Additional barrier-free improvements are needed at the amphitheater ramp and seating areas.

### CONDITION:

This park is well maintained and has seen recent improvements, but the parking areas, playground equipment, and concrete under the shelter should be replaced. Adding a walking path throughout the park would also improve accessibility.



**KEY**

*ACTIVE RECREATION*

- 1** BALL FIELD (1)
- 2** PICKLEBALL COURT (1)
- 3** TENNIS COURT (1)
- 4** BASKETBALL COURTS (2)
- 5** PLAYGROUND
- 6** AMPHITHEATER

*PASSIVE RECREATION*

- 7** PAVILION
- 8** BBQ PIT
- 9** GRILLS
- 10** OPEN LAWN

*PARK INFRASTRUCTURE*

- 11** PARKING LOT
- 12** PARK SIGN
- 13** DRINKING FOUNTAIN
- 14** RESTROOM, CONCESSION, AND STORAGE BUILDING

**PARK AREA: 4.4 ACRES**

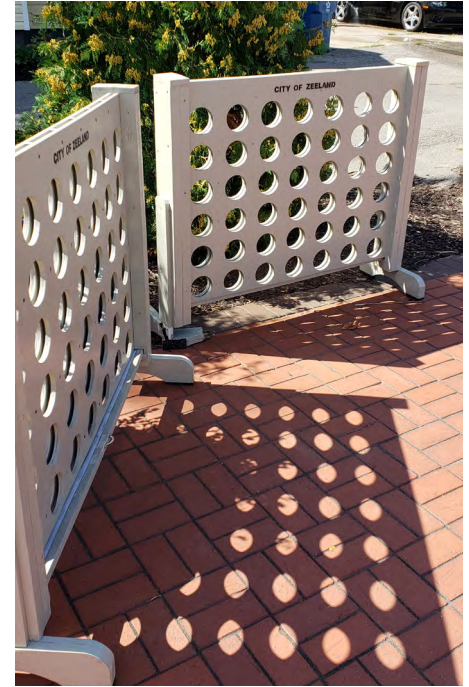


**5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN**  
**LAWRENCE PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN**  
**100 W LAWRENCE AVE.**

DATE  
4.29.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283



# ELM STREET PARK



## DESCRIPTION

This park is located at the corner of Elm and Cherry St. This mini park has seating and lawn games in the summer and community events throughout the seasons including a farmers market.



### CLASSIFICATION :

Mini Park

### LOCATION:

28 S Elm St.

### SIZE:

0.12 acres

### ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 5

The park, as well as the adjacent streets, all meet Universal Design Standards.

Accessibility Improvements:  
None required at this time.

### CONDITION:

The facility is in excellent condition.

# SPLASH PAD PARK

## DESCRIPTION

This park is in the previous location of Heritage Square at the intersection of Main and Elm bordered by City Hall. There is a paved plaza with an outdoor fireplace, splash pad with shade shelters, seating, a drinking fountain, and a plaque on Zeeland's Dutch Heritage. It also has an elevated stage that periodically hosts live music.



---

### CLASSIFICATION :

Mini Park

---

### LOCATION:

100 E Main Ave.

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### SIZE:

0.26 acres

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### ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 4

Ramp at elevated stage meets ADA but not universal guidelines.

Accessibility Improvements:  
None required at this time.

---

### CONDITION:

The facility is in excellent condition.



**KEY**

**ACTIVE RECREATION**

- 1** SPLASH PAD
- 2** STAGE
- 3** FARMERS MARKET, EVENT SPACE, AND YARD GAMES

**PASSIVE RECREATION**

- 4** ENTRY PLAZA
- 5** SHADE CANOPY
- 6** GRASS LAWN

**PARK INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 7** CLOCK TOWER
- 8** FIREPLACE
- 9** RESTROOM BUILDING
- 10** PARKING LOT

**PARK AREA: 0.38 ACRES**



**5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN**  
**ELM STREET PARK / SPLASH PAD PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN**  
 28 S ELM ST. / 100 E MAIN AVE.

DATE  
4.29.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283



# MICHIGAN ST. TOT LOT

## DESCRIPTION

This park is located in a residential neighborhood. The playground features older play equipment with a surrounding concrete pathway and a small picnic shelter with tables and benches.



## CLASSIFICATION :

Mini Park

## LOCATION:

376 N Michigan St.

## SIZE:

0.30 acres

## ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 3

This park has paved walkway connections to most of the facilities.

### Accessibility Improvements:

A barrier free connection to the shelter and ramps into the playground should be added. Companion spaces should be added to bench areas.

## CONDITION:

The park is very well maintained. Considerations should be made to replace all play equipment as they are at the end of their life expectancy. Shelter roof could be replaced and frames painted.



**KEY**

**ACTIVE RECREATION**

- 1** SPLASH PAD
- 2** STAGE
- 3** FARMERS MARKET, EVENT SPACE, AND YARD GAMES

**PASSIVE RECREATION**

- 4** ENTRY PLAZA
- 5** SHADE CANOPY
- 6** GRASS LAWN

**PARK INFRASTRUCTURE**

- 7** CLOCK TOWER
- 8** FIREPLACE
- 9** RESTROOM BUILDING
- 10** PARKING LOT

**PARK AREA: 0.38 ACRES**



**5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN**  
**ELM STREET PARK / SPLASH PAD PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN**  
**28 S ELM ST. / 100 E MAIN AVE.**

DATE  
4.29.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283



# PAW PAW FOOTBRIDGE

## DESCRIPTION

This park is located at the west City limits. It has a winding bike path and a footbridge spanning the Macatawa River. A shelter with a grill and picnic tables are also provided.



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### CLASSIFICATION :

Mini Park

---

### LOCATION:

10309 Paw Paw Dr.

---

### SIZE:

1.03 acres

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### ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

Most of the walks do not meet barrier free requirements.

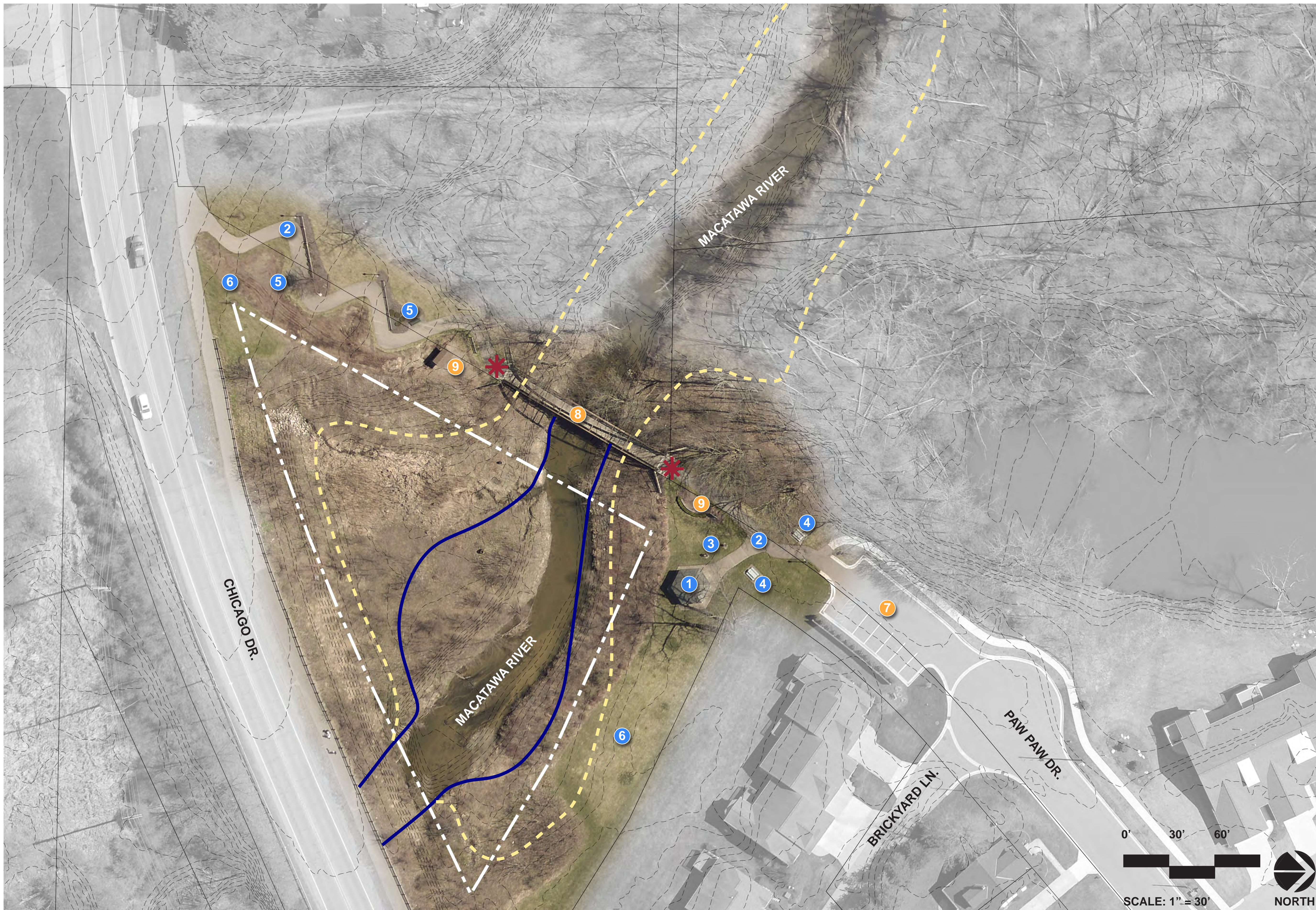
#### Accessibility Improvements:

All existing pathways should be removed and replaced with those that are ADA accessible. Paved access to the Macatawa Greenway Interpretive signage should be added.

---

### CONDITION:

The park is well maintained. Shelter and Bridge are in good shape.



**LEGEND**

- APPROXIMATE REGULATORY FLOODWAY\*
  - - - APPROXIMATE FLOOD HAZARD AREA\*
  - ✱ WALKWAY EXCEEDS 10% SLOPE
- \*Based on FEMA Map Imagery

**KEY**

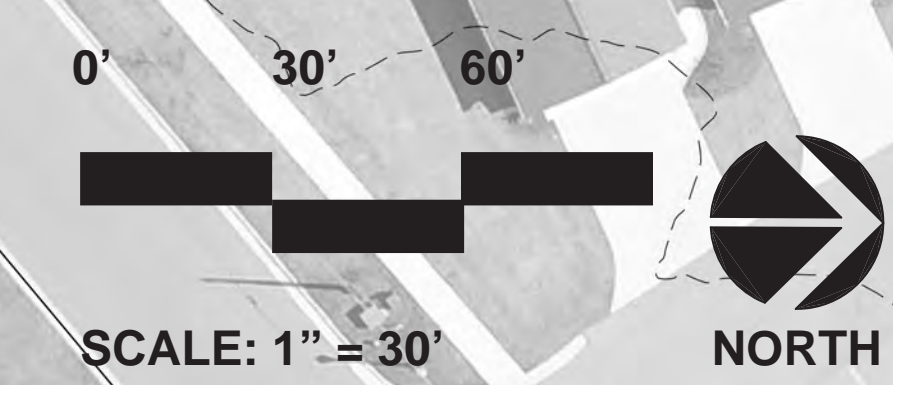
*PASSIVE RECREATION*

- 1 SHADE SHELTER
- 2 PAVED WALKWAY (SLOPED)
- 3 GRILL
- 4 PICNIC TABLE
- 5 BENCH
- 6 OPEN LAWN

*PARK INFRASTRUCTURE*

- 7 PARKING LOT
- 8 FOOTBRIDGE
- 9 INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE

**PARK AREA: 1.03 ACRES**



**5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN**  
**PAW PAW FOOTBRIDGE - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN**  
 10309 PAW PAW DR.

DATE  
4.29.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283



# THREE CORNER / VANDE LUYSTER SQUARE



## DESCRIPTION

This park is located at the intersection of Central Avenue and Church. It has fountains, memorials, walkways, interpretive signage, and benches set amongst mature trees with a memorial dedicated to Jannes Vande Luyster, founder of Zeeland. Features include a small gazebo and a time capsule installed in 1976 and due to be opened in 2076. There are paved walkways through each part of the park linking to the City sidewalk system.



### CLASSIFICATION :

Mini Park

### LOCATION:

148 E Central Ave.

### SIZE:

0.84 acres

### ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 4

There are a few brick walks that need repair to be flush.

#### Accessibility Improvements:

Provide paved companion spaces at some of the benches.

### CONDITION:

The park is very well maintained. The pavilion is showing signs of age and should be repaired or replaced.



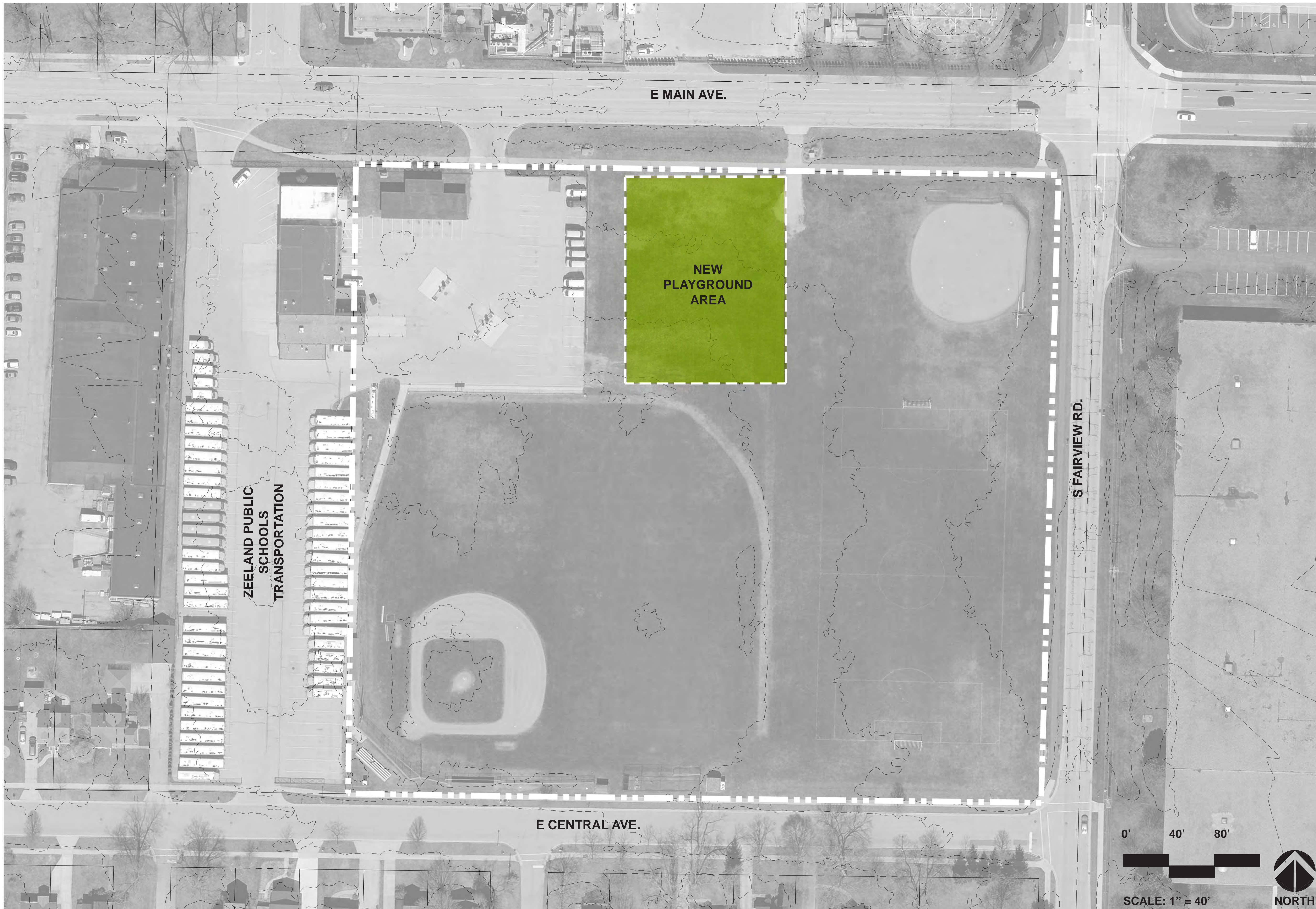
- KEY**
- PASSIVE RECREATION*
- 1 GAZEBO
  - 2 PAVED WALKWAY
  - 3 BENCH
  - 4 OPEN LAWN
  - 5 FOUNTAIN
- PARK INFRASTRUCTURE*
- 6 MONUMENT
  - 7 MICHIGAN HISTORIC SITE MARKER
  - 8 INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE
- PARK AREA: 0.84 ACRES**



**5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN**  
**THREE CORNER / VANDE LUYSTER SQUARE - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN**  
**148 E. CENTRAL AVE.**

DATE  
4.29.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283





**5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN**  
**BETHEL CHURCH PLAYGROUND**  
**730 E MAIN AVE.**

DATE  
 4.29.2026  
 PROJECT NO.  
 2283



## TRAILS

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

### EASTSIDE PATHWAY

1.5 Mile pathway that runs along Washington Avenue, from Fairview Road through the hospital complex to 84th Avenue, then south along 84th from Felch Street to Chicago Drive (M-121), then southwest on Chicago Drive to Main Avenue and then west on Main to in front of the Herman Miller Inc. headquarters.

### NORTHSIDE PATHWAY

1.5-mile non-motorized pathway that runs from State Street/96th Avenue to Fairview Avenue. The path travels along the Boone Drain, which offers views of natural waterways, wetlands, and woodlands. The path is lighted and bike and wheelchair accessible. A gazebo and benches are provided.

### SHARED USE PATHWAYS

These are located throughout the City linking residential areas with schools and recreation facilities. The central area of the City has a good network of sidewalks, with bike paths leading from the City north to Riley Street and south to Perry Street, linking with Zeeland and Holland Charter Township bike paths. A map illustrating the existing sidewalk and bike path system is included in this plan section.



## INDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Zeeland Community Recreation Center is operated by Zeeland Recreation (Zeeland Public Schools). Zeeland Recreation provides a comprehensive program of activities including youth, adult, and senior activities, as well as aquatic programs and special events.



## REGIONAL FACILITIES

The regional recreational resources located in close proximity to the City of Zeeland are described below.

**Hemlock Crossings/Pine Bend (Ottawa County)** is 239 acres of woods and wetlands along the Pigeon River in Port Sheldon Township just west of US 31. Facilities include two small picnic shelters, a kayak/canoe launch, over a mile of paved trail, and over 6 miles of trails for hiking and cross-country skiing. A pedestrian bridge and numerous overlooks offer scenic views of the river corridor, wetlands, natural springs, and woods. Pine Bend is a secondary access on the west end of the property that offers parking and a trailhead. Future plans include the development of a Nature Center at this site.

**Holland State Park (State of Michigan)** is located eight miles west of Holland. It offers an expansive sandy beach along Lake Michigan and 342 modern campground sites. The park is divided into two separate units: one along Lake Michigan and the other along Lake Macatawa. A day-use area has picnic facilities, playground equipment, restrooms, and a beach shelter and concession. The beach day use area of the park is open year-round.

**Kirk Park (Ottawa County)** consists of 68 acres of sandy beach, high bluffs, and wooded dunes on the Lake Michigan shoreline in Grand Haven Township. This park offers a lodge and picnic shelter, swimming beach, limited play equipment, and natural trails with a lake overlook deck. Dogs are allowed on the beach at Kirk Park which draws a lot of users.

**Saugatuck Dunes State Park (State of Michigan)** in Allegan County is a day use park along Lake Michigan, offering 1,000 acres of land with two- and one-half miles of shoreline. In addition, the park has fresh water coastal dunes that are over 200' tall. The park is relatively undeveloped, with a picnic area, swimming beach, and hiking trails. In the winter there are 13 miles of ungroomed cross-country ski trails.

**Silver Creek Park (Allegan County)** is primarily a horseman's park with day use facilities, primitive camping, equestrian trails, and fishing opportunities on 450 feet of Silver Creek, a spring fed trout stream. The 320 acres of wooded land on 134th Avenue is open year-round.

**Spring Grove Park (Ottawa County)** has 16 acres in Jamestown Township that offers picnic facilities, including a fully enclosed picnic building, a flowing spring and small natural area, and a trellis designed for outdoor weddings and other ceremonies.

**Tunnel Park (Ottawa County)** is a 22-acre park situated on the shores of Lake Michigan in Park Township. In addition to the unique tunnel through a dune, this park has a children's playground, a dune climb, a dune stairway with scenic views of Lake Michigan, swimming, and picnicking opportunities.

Other State land in the vicinity includes the **Allegan State Game Area**. This covers 50,000 acres of public land providing hunting, fishing, rustic and group camping, hiking, equestrian, snow-mobile, and cross-country ski trails.

The surrounding urban areas of Holland, Grand Rapids and Grand Haven, also offer significant regional facilities to area residents.

## DNR RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY

The City of Zeeland has not received any grants in recent years. The City had received two grants administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. One was a development grant for Huizenga Community Park (BF89-526) in the amount of \$94,325.00 for a fishing pond viewing deck, 2 fishing boardwalks, 2 tennis courts, a playground, 2 restrooms, a pavilion, a volleyball court, soccer/sports field, and passive areas. The second grant (TF15-0065) was for the expansion of the existing splash pad in 2015 that included a shade sail and additional site amenities.



## CITY OF ZEELAND SCHOOLS

There are five (5) schools on 45.32 acres in the City of Zeeland. A number of these properties provide venues for both outdoor and indoor programs offered by Zeeland Recreation.

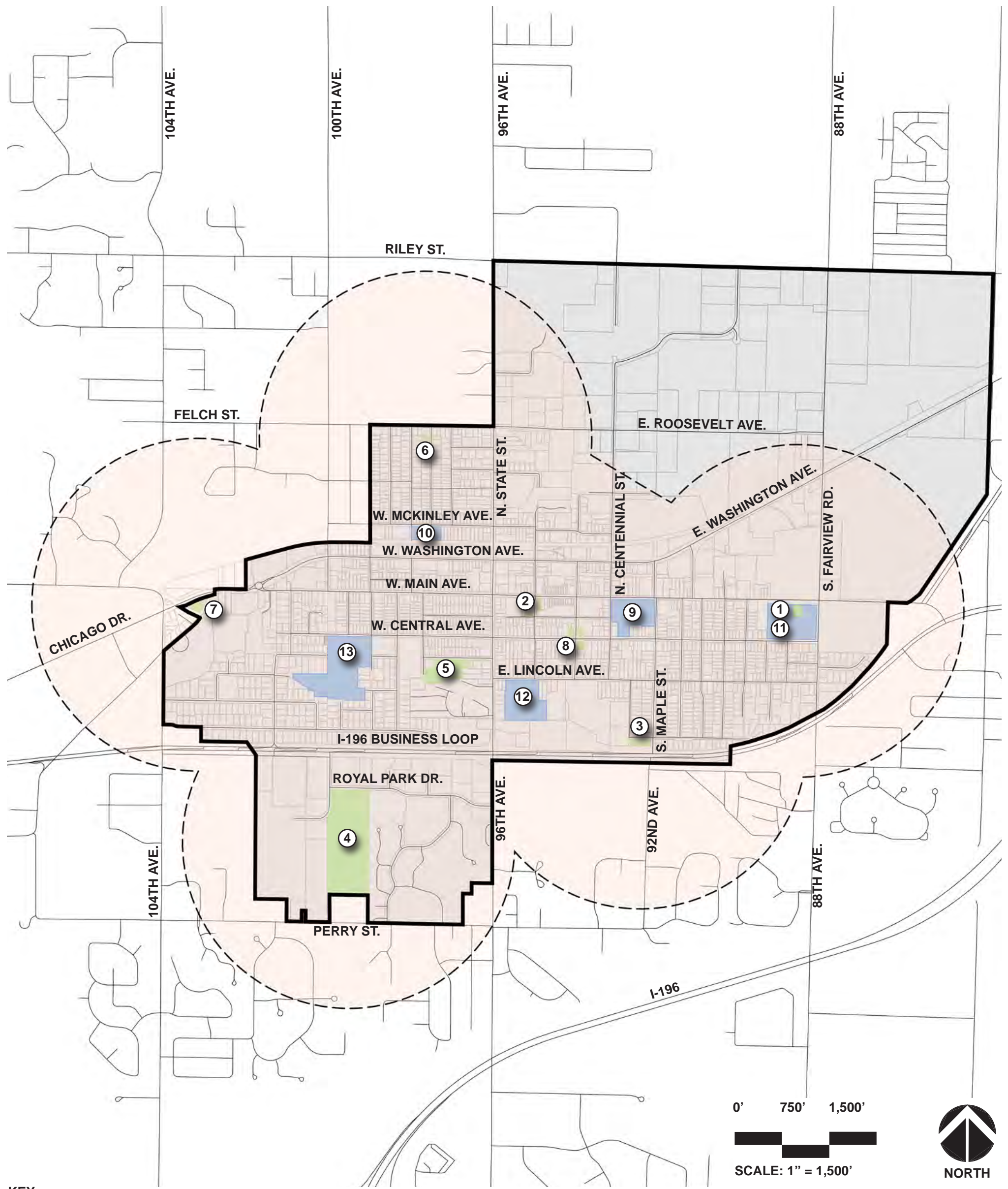
**Cityside Middle School** is located on the east side of Downtown Zeeland. It has no significant outdoor recreation facilities, with outdoor recreation space provided by the recreation area at Legends Field. However, there are a range of indoor facilities, including the Zeeland Community Recreation Center that offers a community pool, auditorium, cardio-fitness center, and activity rooms.

**Early Childhood Center** is located on McKinley in the west of the City of Zeeland. The limited outdoor space includes a playground with some paved pathways between structures. Some of the equipment needs updating.

**Legends Field** is a 10-acre site in the east side of the City at Main and Fairview. The site is used as the outdoor recreation space for Cityside Middle School and other programmed activities. Facilities include one softball field, one baseball field, one soccer field, and limited parking. The west end of the site houses Zeeland Public Schools bus garage.

**Lincoln Elementary School** is in a residential area in the south-central part of the City of Zeeland. This 9-acre site includes playground areas, a basketball court, soccer fields, and ball fields. There is also some paved recreation space adjacent to the school. The condition of the facilities varies considerably, but in general there is good variety of play and recreation opportunities.

**Zeeland Christian School** is in a residential area in the south of the City of Zeeland. There is some older play equipment and exercise stations with pea-stone surfacing, a basketball court, a paved play surface with a ball wall and a shade shelter with picnic tables, and a restroom/concession/storage building on the upper area adjacent to the school building. The lower area features a large open playing field, a baseball field, three small soccer fields and one full-size field, all of which are irrigated. The grassy slope between the two levels is used informally as a sledding hill.



**KEY**

**PARKS**

- 1 BETHEL CHURCH PLAYGROUND
- 2 ELM STREET PARK / SPLASH PAD PARK
- 3 HOOGLAND PARK
- 4 HUIZENGA PARK
- 5 LAWRENCE PARK
- 6 MICHIGAN TOT LOT
- 7 PAW PAW FOOTBRIDGE
- 8 THREE CORNER PARK

**SCHOOLS**

- 9 CITYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL
- 10 EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
- 11 LEGENDS FIELD
- 12 LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- 13 ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

0' 750' 1,500'



SCALE: 1" = 1,500'



NORTH

**LEGEND**

- PARKS
- SCHOOLS
- 1/2 MILE WALKABILITY BUFFER
- CITY OF ZEELAND
- CITY BOUNDARY



**5-YEAR PARK AND RECREATION PLAN  
RECREATION FACILITIES WALKABILITY MAP  
CITY OF ZEELAND**

DATE  
6.10.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283



**2026 EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES  
CITY OF ZEELAND**

		BETHEL PLAYGROUND	ELM STREET PARK	HOOGLAND PARK	HUIZENGA PARK	LAWRENCE PARK	MICHIGAN STREET TOT LOT	PAW PAW FOOTBRIDGE	SPLASH PAD PARK	THREE CORNER PARK	CITYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL	EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER	LEGENDS FIELD	LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL	TOTAL
<b>Acres</b>		0.58	0.12	0.87	25.4	4.4	0.3	1.03	0.26	0.84	1.1	0.8	6.5	5.2	9.5	<b>56.9</b>
<b>Active Recreation</b>	Softball Diamond				2	1							1	2		6
	Baseball Diamond												1		1	2
	Soccer Field												1	2	4	7
	Basketball Court				1	1								1	1	4
	Football Field															0
	Tennis Court					1										1
	Pickleball Court				8	1										9
	Playground	1		1	1	1	1					1		1	1	8
	Volleyball Court				1											1
	Open Playfield													1	1	2
<b>Passive Recreation</b>	Shade Shelter / Gazebo		1	1	5	1	1	1	2	1		1			1	15
	Picnic Tables			3	20	20	2	3	2							50
	Grills				3	5		1								9
	Benches		3	2	15	3	4	2	8	12						49
	Open Lawn			•	•	•		•	•	•	•					
<b>Amenities</b>	Parking Lot			1	3	1		1	1		1	1		1	1	11
	Restroom Building			1	2	1			1						1	6
	Footbridge				1			1								2
<b>Trails/Natural Area</b>	Natural Area				•			•								
	Natural Trail															
	Paved Multi-Purpose Trail				•			•								
	Boardwalk				•											
<b>Notes</b>		Yard Games		Skate Park, Horseshoe Pits, Fishing Piers	Amphitheater, Sledding Hill, BBQ Pit			Splash Pad, Stage						Sledding Hill	Sledding Hill	

# 05\_

# Planning and Public Input Process

## RECREATION PLANNING

Recreation planning plays an important role in maintaining the quality of life in a community. If a community is to provide effective recreational opportunities, it needs a way of identifying and solving current problems and anticipating future needs. Recreation planning is one means of obtaining a perspective on these problems; developing realistic alternatives; formulating goals, policies, and recommendations for public and private decisions; developing criteria to measure change; and involving people in the planning, design, and decision processes.

This Parks and Recreation Plan presents an evaluation of the City's recreational needs and opportunities. It considers the existing amenities in the City, the current and anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities.

This plan is to serve as a guideline for directing the City in the operation and maintenance of existing and future facilities and programs to meet the recreational needs of its citizen's. The plan summarizes long-term recommendations intended to guide the development of recreation opportunities and describes an action and capital improvement program for implementation over the next five years.

## PLAN PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT

This 2026 Parks and Recreation Plan was developed by the City of Zeeland, with the assistance of MCSA Group, Inc, a park and recreation planning consultant. City staff met regularly with representatives of MCSA Group, between April 2026 and February 2027 for the development of this Plan.

Criteria considered and evaluated for plan development evolved from the examination of goals and recreation standards determined through a wide variety of input sources. This information was collected from the inventory and review of existing facilities, the identification of recreation needs and deficiencies, public opinion, current statewide recreation issues and priorities, and future expectations.

Public input was sought throughout the process by means of a series of open public meetings held to solicit public desires and concerns regarding parks and recreation. The meetings were held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meetings of the Cemetery & Parks Commission. They were advertised via email, on the City's website, social media and in the local media. The meeting schedule was as follows. A summary of the comments and discussion items can be found in the appendices of this report.

## SCHEDULE

### **START-UP MEETING WITH CITY STAFF:** April 2026

- Background Information Required from City
- Project Schedule and Meetings
- Current Recreation Facilities Inventory
- Review of Previous Parks and Recreation Plan

### **SITE INVENTORY/PROGRESS MEETING WITH CITY STAFF:** May 2026

- Site Review and ADA analysis
- Recreation Inventory
- Needs and Deficiencies

### **1ST PUBLIC MEETING WITH CEMETERY & PARKS**

#### **COMMISSION:** June 2026

- Review Inventory/Analysis, Needs/Deficiencies, and Draft Survey

### **PUBLIC SURVEY:** July 2026

### **2ND PUBLIC MEETING WITH CEMETERY & PARKS**

#### **COMMISSION:** August 2026

- Review Survey Responses and Goals/Objectives

### **3RD PUBLIC MEETING WITH CEMETERY & PARKS**

#### **COMMISSION:** September 2026

- Review Action Program, Capital Improvement Schedule, and Draft of Complete Plan

### **PUBLIC REVIEW:** October 2026

- Draft of Final Plan available for 30-day Public Review as required by the DNR

### **PUBLIC HEARING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING:**

December/January 2026

- Public Hearing & Adoption of Plan

### **PLAN COMPLETION AND DNR SUBMITTAL:**

February 2027

## PLAN PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT

In addition, the City undertook a survey of City residents. The survey was available on the internet via Survey Monkey, as well as printed copies at the Recreation Department, Library and City Hall. A copy of the survey and a summary of the results are included at the end of this section.

Another important part of the planning process was the development of concept plans for each of the major park properties. These were presented at the public meetings and were made available for viewing on the City's website. The plans were generally well received. The City responded to comments made and refined the plans, as necessary.

Comments from the public meetings and surveys were incorporated into a final draft of the Plan, which was made available to the public for one month commencing on October 2026 to solicit further comments prior to a public hearing and plan adoption.

Following the one-month review period, the final plan was presented during a public hearing to the City Council on December 2026. The Resolution to formally adopt this plan can be found in Section 10.



# 06\_

# Recreation Needs and Deficiencies

## INTRODUCTION

This section of the Plan identifies recreation deficiencies determined through a variety of means. Study methods include comparison to recreational standards for acreage and facilities, geographic distribution of existing facilities, direct input from City staff and representatives, and public input and participation. While each of these methods has its limitations, using a combination of methods will yield a more accurate assessment of recreational needs and deficiencies. The following is a brief description of each of the methods used.

## RECREATION STANDARDS

While only a guide, recreation standards provide a benchmark for evaluating the relative adequacy or inadequacy of the City's recreation system. This Plan has used as a guide the 1983 Recreation, Park, and Open Space, Standards and Guidelines and 1995 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines published by the National Recreation and Park Association.

Typical recreation standards establish a certain number of activity-specific recreational facilities per 1,000 of population (e.g. 1 tennis court per 2,000 persons). Other standards establish a certain number of acres per 1,000 of population for different types of park facilities, such as neighborhood, community and regional parks. These standards are adapted to reflect the City's character and compared with the City's existing and projected population. This Plan will combine both approaches to ascertain deficiencies in recreational facilities and acreage. The 2024 U.S. Census Bureau population estimate was used for the purposes of this study.

There are two basic types of recreational experiences: active and passive. Active recreation requires space and facilities capable of accommodating exertive activities. Such facilities include: sports fields, play apparatus areas, open areas, special facilities, such as pools and court areas, and areas for organized activities. On the other hand, passive recreation requires less space and furniture for quiet, leisurely activities for limited numbers of users. Recreation areas must provide for both types of use and preferably include a variety of opportunities for each to respond adequately to a wide range of interests and age groups.



# RECREATION STANDARDS FOR ACREAGE

Parks are generally classified by purpose and area per population served. They range in type from mini-parks and green areas to large regional and national parks.

The categories used for this plan will be as follows:

1. Neighborhood Parks and Schools
2. Community Parks
3. Natural Resource Areas
4. Trails

## 1. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS AND SCHOOLS

### DESCRIPTION

Neighborhood parks serve individual neighborhood populations as determined by the distance that can easily be traveled by local users for relatively short periods of recreation. Facilities provided in these parks are generally active in nature and include multipurpose open play areas for pick-up games, play apparatus, court areas, landscaping, site furnishings and possibly a shelter. Special areas for bike riding or specific court games may also be provided. Activities for all seasons should also be included.

### SERVICE AREAS

The area served by neighborhood parks is generally considered to be a one quarter (1/4) mile to one half (1/2) mile radius in size and should be uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers.

### ACREAGE STANDARDS

Nationally accepted standards for neighborhood parks recommend one to two (1-2) acres per 1,000 of population with five (5) acres as a minimum size and five to ten (5-10) acres optimal. It is recommended that the minimum of two (2) acres per 1,000 population be used as a guide for site selection.

It is also recommended that neighborhood facilities be combined with elementary schools. In such cases, the minimum site size should be five to seven (5-7) acres.



## EXISTING RECREATION ACREAGE

The City of Zeeland currently has eight (8) parks that would fit into the neighborhood park definition.

	Existing Site Acreage
Bethel Playground	0.58
Elm Street Park	0.12
Hoogland Park	0.87
Lawrence Park	4.40
Michigan St. Tot Lot	0.30
Paw Paw Foot Bridge	1.03
Splash Pad Park	0.26
Vande Luyster Square	0.84
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.40</b>

The City has five (5) school sites which provide neighborhood recreational areas and opportunities.

	Acreage	Recreation*
Cityside Middle School	7.13	15% - 1.1 acres
Early Childhood Center	2.28	36% - 0.8 acres
Legends Field	9.97	65% - 6.5 acres
Lincoln Elementary School	8.67	60% - 5.2 acres
Zeeland Christian School	17.27	55% - 9.5 acres
<b>Total at Schools</b>		<b>23.1 acres</b>
<b>Available Total</b>		<b>31.5 acres</b>

\*Based on visual analysis and measurement of open space and site facilities on each school property that can be considered usable for community recreational purposes.

## NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

The table below compares the 2024 City population to the recreation standard of two (2) acres per 1,000 persons.

2024 Population	Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Required	Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Available	Deficiency / Surplus
5,637	11.3	31.5	20.2

For the 2024 population, there is an excess of 20.2 acres for neighborhood recreation in accordance with the recreational standards. This neighborhood recreation space is comprised almost entirely of school properties. The school sites generally provide a range of recreational facilities.. However, improvements are needed to improve accessibility and to update the facilities offered.

The use of the acreage standard must be coupled with a review of the location and accessibility of the existing recreation areas. Ideally, they should be centrally located and parks and schools should be adjacent to each other to provide the fullest complement of neighborhood recreation developments. Additionally, the recreational acreage should be accessible on foot without having to cross busy streets or negotiate physical barriers.

Most of the City is adequately served by neighborhood parks when considering the utilization of school sites. Although, the northeast side of the City appears to have a deficiency in neighborhood parks.

# 2. COMMUNITY PARKS

## DESCRIPTION

Community-wide parks provide a range of facilities and areas capable of supporting organized community participation programs that would not be appropriate in neighborhood parks because of their average size or traffic volume generated. Facilities should be centrally located, diverse enough to accommodate all age groups for both active and passive experiences and organized so that compatible uses relate to one another. Adequate parking and vehicular circulation is also important, since park users will generally arrive at these parks by vehicle. Lighted use areas significantly increase the recreational value of parks of this type. Typical facilities recommended for community parks include ball fields, open use areas, tennis courts, picnic areas, play apparatus areas, restrooms and shelters. Additional special facilities could include band shells, amphitheaters, swimming and wading pools, community-meeting buildings, skating facilities, bicycle courses and nature study areas.

As with neighborhood parks, it is often beneficial to develop community parks in conjunction with junior or senior high schools where practical because of the athletic fields and courts potentially available for public use. This arrangement assures the maximum level of use as well as the most practical expenditure of development funds.

## SERVICE AREAS

The area served by community-wide parks varies significantly from one municipality to another because of the distribution of population and related factors. However, a community park usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.

## ACREAGE STANDARDS

The size of a community park varies according to the desired uses but is usually between 30 and 50 acres. It is recommended that a range of five (5) to eight (8) acres per 1,000 population be used as a standard basis for development.

## EXISTING RECREATION ACREAGE

The City of Zeeland has one (1) facilities which would fall within the City-Wide Community Park classification.

	Existing Site Acreage
Huizenga Park	25.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>25.4</b>



## NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

The following table compares the 2024 City population to the recreation standard of eight (8) acres per 1,000 persons.

2024 Population	Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Required	Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Available	Deficiency / Surplus
5,637	45.1	25.4	-19.7

The City-Wide Community Park developed acreage of 25.4 acres is deficient by 19.7 acres from the considered national standard for a typical community of this size based upon 2024 population.

# 3. NATURAL RESOURCE AREAS

## DESCRIPTION

Natural Resource Areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual/aesthetic buffering. These sites are typically unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential and can support recreational activities at a level that preserves the integrity of the natural resource. The location and size of these parks are largely governed by availability.

## EXISTING NATURAL RESOURCE AREA ACREAGE

There are currently no natural resource areas in the City of Zeeland.

## NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

There are no recognized acreage standards for natural resource areas.

# 4. TRAILS

## DESCRIPTION

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

In park trail systems within the City of Zeeland are limited, with the most developed systems provided at the larger County owned facilities. However, the one non-motorized path and a network of shared use pathways helps provide the community with trail use options.

## NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

There have been no deficiencies determined for this category and needs vary depending on the community. Any future trail improvements should be integrated with other regional trail networks to create an interconnected trail system where possible.



## RECREATION STANDARDS FOR ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES

A comparison of activity-specific recreational facilities within the City of Zeeland to recreation standards indicates that the City contains many of the recreational facilities desirable for the current population.

The following table compares the recommended number of facilities per population for the City of Zeeland with the existing facilities available, including facilities within the City that are open to all residents (schools), and illustrates any current or projected deficiencies.

Tennis and volleyball courts show the biggest need with only one (1) of the recommended three (3) tennis courts and one (1) of the recommended two (2) volleyball courts provided in the City.

While standards for comparison address the quantity of facilities desirable for a particular number of persons, they do not address quality or location concerns. Consequently, any community that has the appropriate numbers of facilities may not have facilities of a useful or desirable quality or may not have facilities located where they would be most accessible to residents.

2026 RECREATION NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES				
City of Zeeland				
2024 Population: 5,637				
FACILITY	STANDARD	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES	EXISTING FACILITIES	FACILITY DEFICIENCIES
Softball	1:5,000	2	6	OK
Baseball	1:5,000	2	2	OK
Soccer	1:10,000	1	7	OK
Basketball	1:5,000	2	4	OK
Football	1:20,000	1	0	OK
Tennis	1:2,000	3	1	-2
Pickleball	1:2,000	3	9	OK
Playground Equipment	1:3,000	2	8	OK
Volleyball	1:5,000	2	1	-1
Swimming Pool (Indoor)	1:20,000	1	1	OK
Picnic Shelter	1:2,000	3	15	OK
Sledding Area	1:20,000	1	3	OK
Walking/Ski Trails	1 system per region	1 system	1 system	OK

## RECREATION FACILITIES SUMMARY

The City of Zeeland takes pride in its park and recreation facilities and demonstrates good stewardship of its natural resources. While substantial improvements have been achieved over the last 10 years, a variety of improvements are recommended to fully utilize the City's recreational land and improve accessibility for all users.

09\_

# Park Plans

The following pages have:

- Park Master Plans





# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## LAWRENCE PARK - MASTER PLAN

CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

0' 20' 40'



SCALE: 1" = 20'



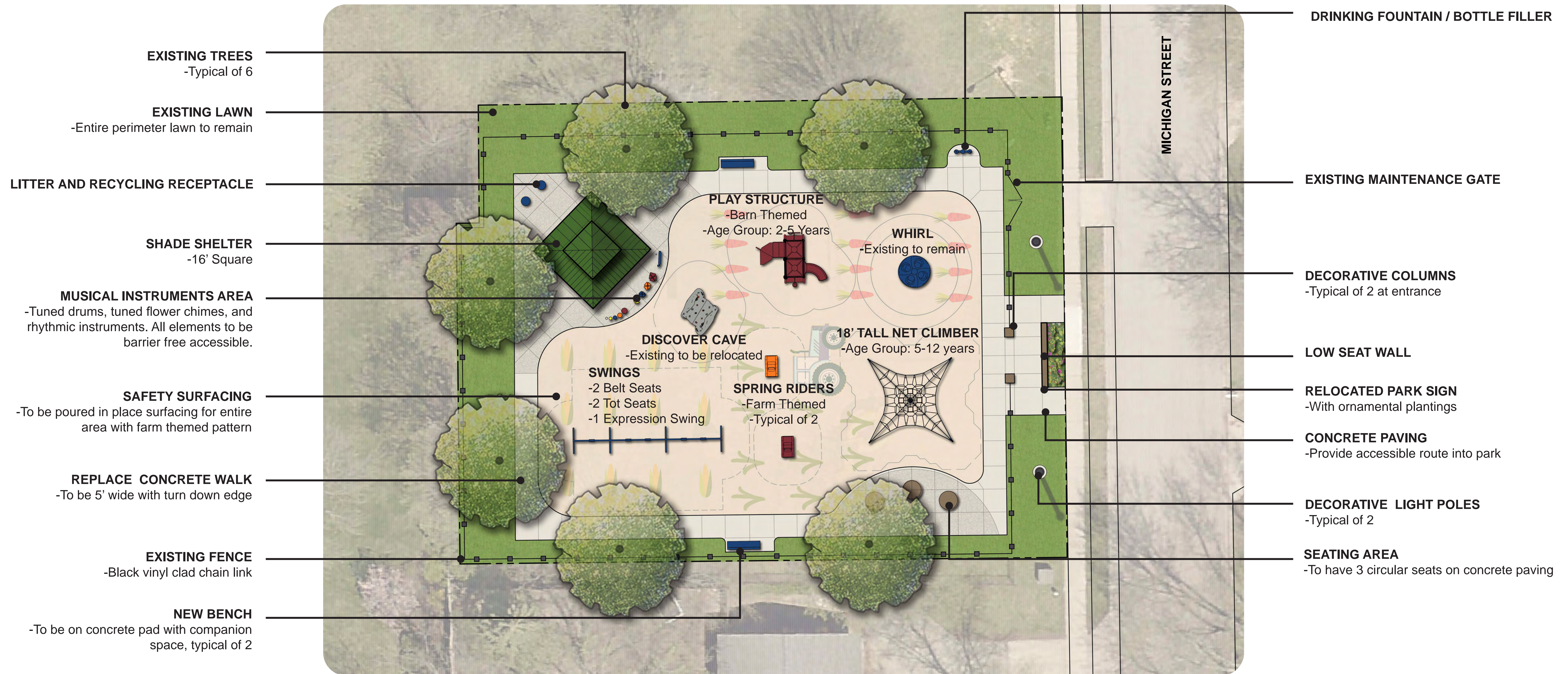
NORTH

DATE  
6.10.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283



**MCSA**  
GROUP, Inc.

Landscape Architects and Architects  
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN



# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## MICHIGAN STREET TOT LOT - MASTER PLAN

### CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

0' 10' 20'



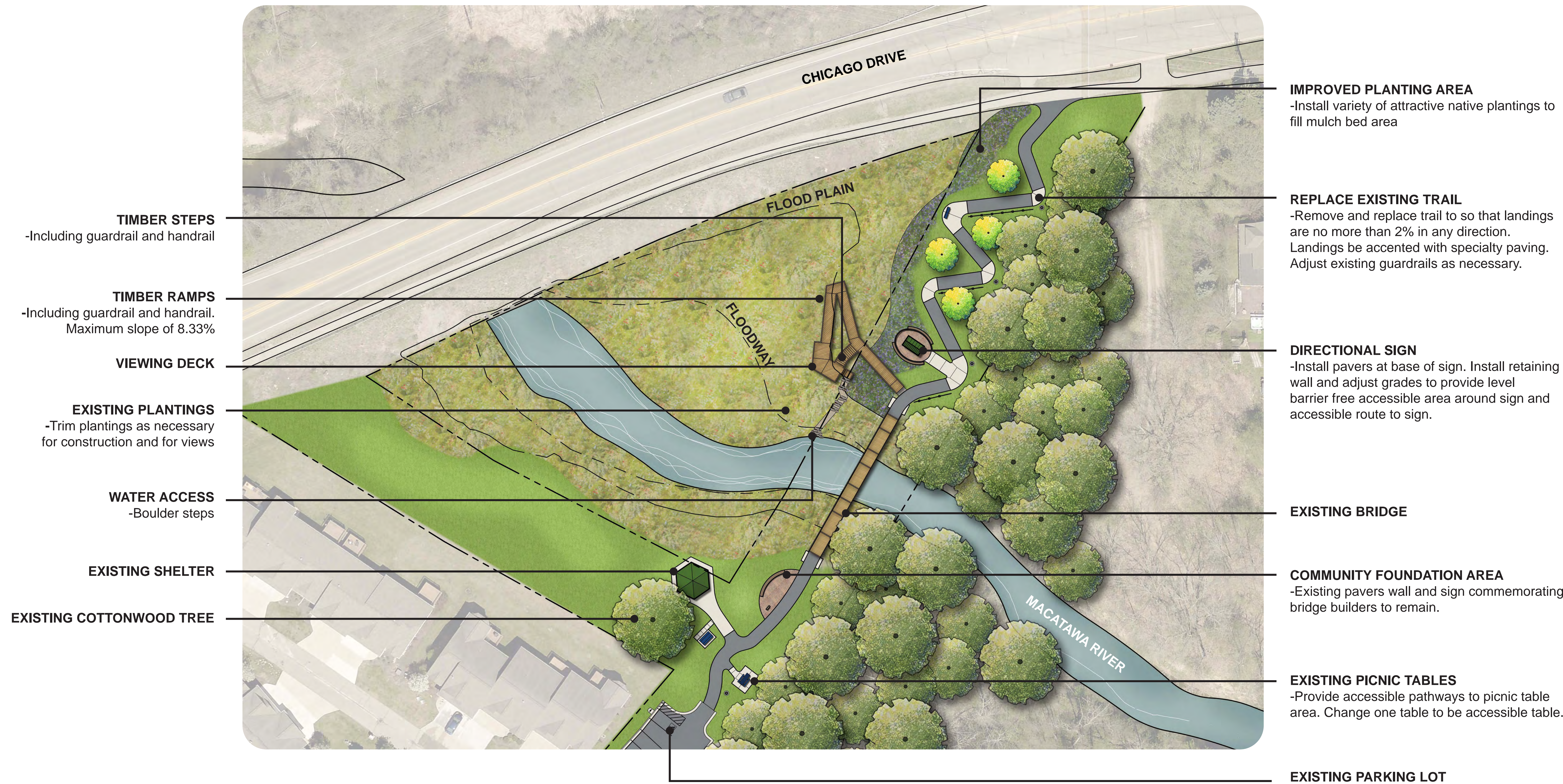
SCALE: 1" = 10'



NORTH

DATE  
6.10.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283





# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## PAW PAW FOOTBRIDGE - MASTER PLAN

CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN



DATE  
6.10.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283

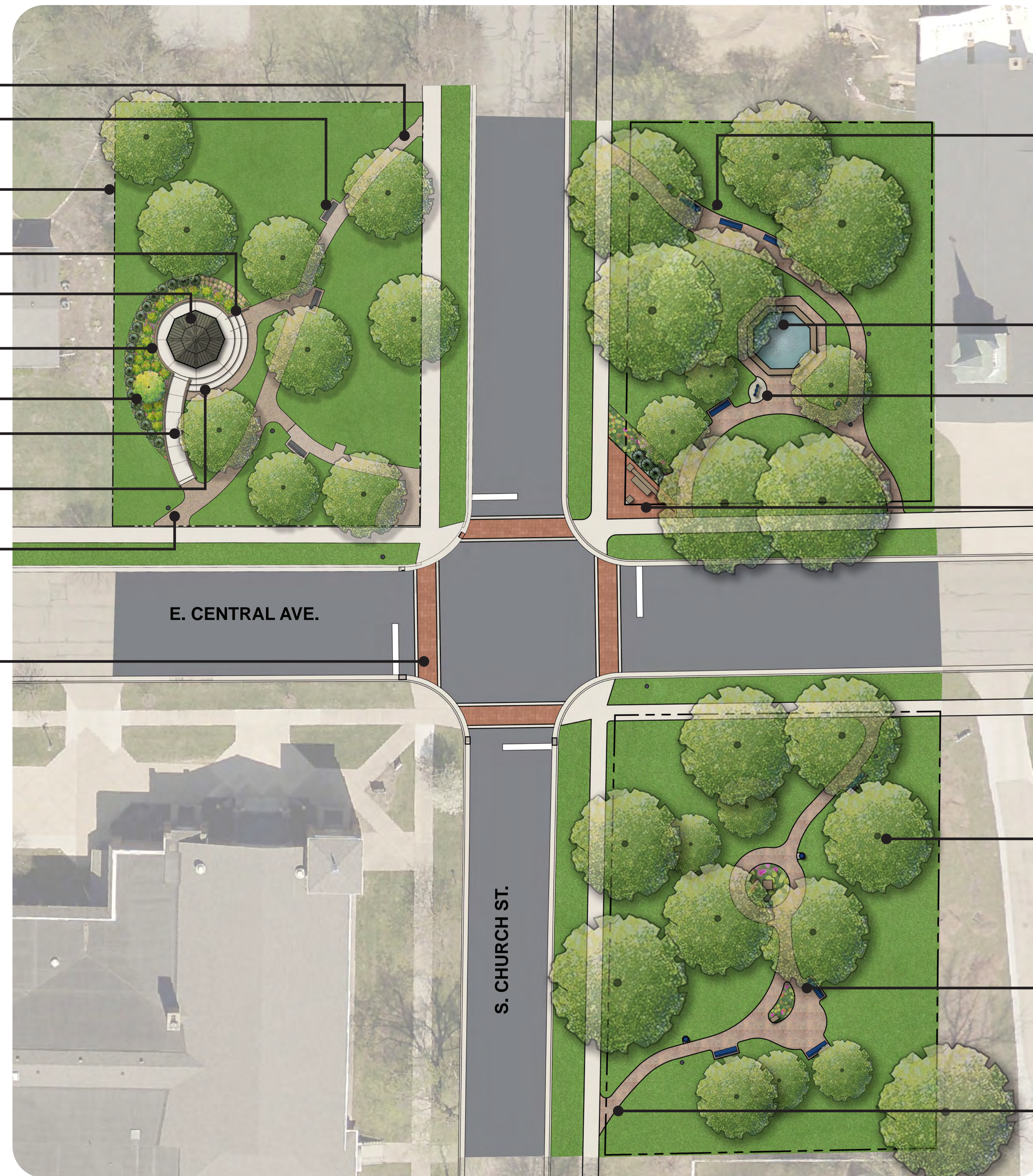


- EXISTING PATHWAY TO REMAIN**
- NEW BENCHES**  
-To match City standard
- EXISTING FENCE**  
-At property line to remain
- HANDRAIL AT STEPS**
- 18' DIA. CARMEL OCTAGON GAZEBO**  
-With picnic table and lighting, and decorative railing
- RETAINING WALL**  
-24" tall
- LANDSCAPE BED**
- ACCESSIBLE RAMP**  
-With railing at 6.6% slope
- MONUMENTAL STEPS**  
-2' wide
- REMOVE AND REPLACE PAVERS**

- SITE LIGHTING**  
-Update lights to be 'dark sky' compliant and energy efficient, typical throughout park
- EXISTING WATER FEATURE**
- DRINKING FOUNTAIN**  
-To include bottle filler and dog bowl
- CORNER IMPROVEMENTS**  
-Update area to include fieldstone seatwall, signage column, and landscaping

**CROSSWALKS WITH BRICK PAVERS**  
-To be similar to Elm Street

- EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN, TYPICAL**
- EXISTING SITE FURNITURE**  
-Update all benches and trash receptacles
- REPAIR EXISTING BRICK PAVERS**  
-Remove and replace pavers as necessary to correct tripping hazards



# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## THREE CORNER PARK - MASTER PLAN

CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN



DATE  
6.10.2026  
PROJECT NO.  
2283





21 South Elm Street • Zeeland, Michigan 49464 • (616) 772-6400 • FAX (616) 772-5352

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

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TO: Cemetery and Parks Commission  
FROM: Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance  
SUBJECT: Other Items Agenda  
DATE: June 10, 2026

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A. Burial Report since March 5, 2026

- a. Burials
  - i. 10 at Lincoln – 2 Residents and 8 Non-Residents
  - ii. 3 at Felch – 1 Residents and 2 Non-Residents
- b. Sales
  - i. 0 at Lincoln – 0 Resident and 0 Non-Residents
  - ii. 13 at Felch – 8 Residents and 5 Non-Residents
- c. Transfers – 5
- d. Sale Back to City – 1

B. Public Input

- a. Cemetery Residency Requirement - The City recently received a complaint regarding the residency requirements for cemetery pricing. The individual involved was a business owner who has been highly involved in the community but did not meet the current definition of a resident under the Cemetery Rules and Regulations. Section R-302 defines City residency based on a person's "domicile," with evidence of domicile determined by ownership of a residential dwelling place, rental of an apartment inside the City limits of Zeeland, Michigan, or the address listed on the decedent's tax return at the time of death. This language was reviewed and approved by City Council in 2021, including discussion at that time about whether business owners should be eligible for the resident rate. Ultimately, the language was left unchanged based on concerns about how such a provision could be applied in practice. Given the recent complaint, staff wanted to bring this item back for discussion to see if there is any interest in revisiting the current language.

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Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance

FEEL THE ZEEL