

AGENDA

Cemetery-Parks Commission Meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 @ 5:00 PM

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

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 June 10, 2026, Meeting Minutes

2) Parks Master Plan – Section Reviews

- a) Goals and Objectives
- b) Capital Improvement Schedule
- c) Community Survey

3) Plaque / BBQ Pit at Lawrence Park

4) Other Items

- a) Burial Report
- b) Public Concerns

Agenda Distribution:

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

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

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

ABSENT: John Query, Commission Chair

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

GUEST: Tiffany Smith, MCSA Group
Melinda Whitten, MCSA Group

I. Approval of March 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Motion: Thom Parker

Support: Sabina Otteman

All in favor, minutes approved.

II. 5-Year Master Plan

Tiffany Smith & Melinda Whitten from MCSA Group presented the first draft of a new 5-Year Master Plan for the city's park system. This plan is needed for the city to be eligible for grants from the State of Michigan. It also helps guide staff in determining future capital improvement projects and gauge public opinion, etc. MCSA Group is planning to focus on an online public survey (to go live in July and run through most of that month) rather than open houses. Staff will work with MCSA Group to get survey comments to commissioners prior to their August meeting. Staff will provide a link to commissioners of the current master plan and Kevin Plockmeyer requested that they review the goals and objectives in the plan to determine if that is still the direction the commission wants to pursue. He also encouraged everyone to re-visit the city's parks. Next steps: review survey results at August meeting-incorporate any feedback from commissioners and get into goals & objectives; at September meeting create an action program and capital improvement schedule based on the goals and objectives. Complete plan would then go out for the public to review and then submission of the final plan to the DNR by the last week in January (2027).

III. Public Input Item

The commission has been asked to review the qualifications in the current Cemetery Rules & Regulations to meet city resident status when purchasing a cemetery plot. Kevin Plockmeyer provided some history as to how those requirements were determined back in 2021. Commissioners did not wish to change the requirements.

VIII. Burial Report:

Burials: Lincoln: Resident – 2	Non-Resident – 8
Felch: Resident – 1	Non-Resident – 2
Sales: Lincoln: Resident – 0	Non-Resident – 0
Felch: Resident – 8	Non-Resident – 5
Sellbacks: 1	
Transfers: 5	

Other Items:

- **Church Street Project:** Kevin Plockmeyer updated the commission on this project. It is a little behind schedule and that is why restoration hasn't been able to be completed yet in the cemetery.
- **Hoogland Park Fence/Gate:** Staff have received some feedback earlier this year regarding fencing in the park and that there is not a gate at the corner of Maple & Rich. Some want gate access there however, 1) the city wants the park to feel open & accessible and 2) placing a gate there would create a false sense of security (i.e., that the gate would always be shut) – do not want to start installing gates at one park but not at others. There hasn't been any more feedback since early April. Commissioner Lam asked about traffic on Maple and children crossing-possibility of a lighted crosswalk sign. Kevin Plockmeyer responded that the playground signs were put back up and that there are strict guidelines for installing rapid flashing beakers (would have to meet certain traffic & pedestrian crossing counts, and that area likely would not meet those). When Maple is milled & resurfaced staff will likely look at things like bump outs and other traffic calming devices.

The meeting was adjourned @ 6:20 PM.

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

RECORDED BY:

Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant



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

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Cemetery and Parks Commission
FROM: Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance
SUBJECT: Parks Master Plan
DATE: August 5, 2026

At our meeting Wednesday evening, we will continue our work on the City's five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. At our last meeting, we reviewed an overview of the community and discussed the existing conditions of each of the City's parks.

Wednesday's discussion will focus on several of the most important components of the master plan, including reviewing and updating the plan's goals and objectives and establishing priorities for the capital improvement schedule. The goals and objectives are intended to provide long-range direction for the City's park and recreation system, while remaining flexible enough to respond to changing community needs and future opportunities.

To assist the Commission with this process, Brett Geertsma from Zeeland Recreation will be joining us to share information regarding current recreation programs, participation trends, facility needs, and the experiences Zeeland Recreation is seeing within the community. His perspective will help us consider how the City's parks and facilities can continue to support both organized recreation and informal community use.

We will also review the results of the community survey. The survey provides helpful insight into how residents currently use the park system and where they believe future investments should be directed. Among the more notable results, Lawrence Park was identified as the highest priority for future improvements, while playground upgrades, restroom improvements, shade, trails, and pathway connections also received significant support. The survey also indicates strong community interest in expanding trail and pathway connections and preserving natural areas and open space.

Attached for the Commission's review are the following materials:

- Goals and objectives from the 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- Capital improvement schedule from the 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan
- A synopsis of the survey results prepared by MCSA Group
- Complete community survey results

FEEL THE ZEEL



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The capital improvement schedule included in the previous plan was intended to identify and prioritize projects while allowing flexibility as funding and other opportunities became available. Wednesday's discussion will provide the Commission with an opportunity to evaluate what has been accomplished, determine which priorities remain relevant, and identify the projects and initiatives that should guide the City's park investments over the next five years.

We look forward to a productive discussion and to continuing this important planning process on Wednesday evening.

Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance

Goals and Objectives

INTRODUCTION

The City of Zeeland has developed the following goals and objectives for park and recreation facilities and programs. These goals and objectives are based upon input from citizens, elected and appointed city officials, and city staff. The goals are long-range in nature and intended to be broad in scope and flexible enough to accommodate future change. The objectives are intended to direct specific program and development decisions to be made within the next five years. Both the goals and objectives are intended to guide actions but flexible enough to reflect changing attitudes and opportunities as may present themselves. Time and attitude changes can impact on specific options and it is essential for the City of Zeeland to be responsive to its citizens.

GOAL #1

PROVIDE A BALANCED SYSTEM OF PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN THE ZEELAND AREA WITH OPPORTUNITIES AND PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.

GOAL #2

CONTINUE TO PROVIDE NATURAL, SCENIC OR ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS FOR APPROPRIATE PUBLIC USE AND ENJOYMENT AND HABITAT PROTECTION.

OBJECTIVES

- Continue to maintain the high quality of existing parks.
- Acquire and develop land for parks to serve existing and future residents.
- Plan and develop park areas to offer passive as well as active opportunities.
- Renovate and improve existing park sites to meet and exceed all safety and accessibility regulations.
- Continue to provide quality programs that will allow recreation to be a fulfilling experience and promote healthy lifestyles for all residents, regardless of race, religion, income, and ability.

OBJECTIVES

- Acquire environmentally sensitive land such as riverfront, waterfront and wetland property as it becomes available.
- Manage and enhance environmental areas to protect water quality and natural habitat.
- Design parks to encourage appropriate public use and to minimize impact to important natural features.
- Provide environmental and historical education opportunities as appropriate.
- Provide accessible opportunities at existing scenic and environmentally sensitive areas.

GOAL #3

EXPAND THE DIVERSITY OF RECREATION FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO OFFER YEAR-ROUND OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE DEMAND.

OBJECTIVES

- Meet the demand for active sports facilities to support the need in the community.
- Expand opportunities for year-round recreation activities.
- Expand opportunities for passive recreation and unprogrammed activities, such as picnic facilities, walking trails, fishing and wildlife viewing.

GOAL #4

STRIVE TO CONNECT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO SCHOOLS, RESIDENTIAL AREAS, AND TO ONE ANOTHER WITH NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS THAT PROVIDE SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCES.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop trail systems within existing park lands.
- Maintain and continue to expand existing bike path and sidewalk system.
- Construct additional bike path segments from existing system to all future acquisitions.
- Connect recreation facilities to schools, residential areas, and to one another with multipurpose paved trails.

GOAL #5

FOCUS ON PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR FURTHER EXPANSION OF THE PARK SYSTEM THROUGH CONTINUED ACQUISITION.

OBJECTIVES

- Secure land for recreational use in areas of residential growth.
- Strive to maintain and improve the quality and character of valuable natural resources for current and future generations through land acquisition.
- Acquire land adjacent to existing park properties to further increase the recreational facilities offered.

GOAL #6

PROMOTE AND MAINTAIN STRONG WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BASED ON COORDINATION AND SUPPORT WITH THE SCHOOLS, SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND BODIES OF GOVERNMENT, AND PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.

OBJECTIVES

- Work with all community, school system and municipal groups, organizations, and agencies to promote and expand recreation opportunities and programs in an efficient and coordinated manner.
- Work cooperatively with adjacent communities to provide joint facilities and connections between park systems.
- Mutually utilize recreation facilities and resources to minimize deficiencies.
- Encourage philanthropic and other non-tax financial support for parks and recreation facilities.



SECTION 8 ACTION PROGRAM AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule for the City of Zeelands' Community Park and Recreation Plan states the proposed course of development or improvement that will be taken over the next five years. The Goals and Objectives, from the previous section, serve as guidelines for the development of the Action Program. The Capital Improvement Schedule which follows will focus on the needs identified in the Action Program and will project potential expenditures for the five-year action period on a year-by-year basis. The five-year period will begin in 2022 and extend through 2026. This period will not be sufficient to accomplish all the goals and objectives but begins to prioritize those projects that may be achievable within the initial five years.

The Action Program focuses on reduction of deficiencies and expansion and improvements of facilities in a manner that not only meets current needs, but also diversifies the type and quality of recreational opportunities within the City. The Community Park and Recreation Plan identifies these needs in general terms in the Recreation Needs and Deficiencies section; the Action Plan describes specific actions to be taken to address these needs; and the Capital Improvement Schedule specifically itemizes those projects which will be most feasible during the next five years. The proposed schedule will allow for flexibility as funds become available and as opportunities are presented.

The following actions are comprehensive and will require more than five years to complete. Master Plans illustrating the proposed improvements are included for each park.

Lawrence Street Park

The improvements will be in two phases. The first phase will include removal and replacement of the playground and improvements to the access to the restrooms. Phase Two improvements will include improvements to the parking, improved accessibility at the ballfields, a walking trail and replacement of the multipurpose courts.



Hoogland Park

Extensive renovations a Hoogland Park will extend the park east to S Maple Street. Improvements include a new playground, restroom improvements, parking improvements a bocce ball court and new shelter

Paw Paw Park

Improvements to this park include replacement of the accessible route to the Macatawa Greenway Trail, and a Timber Viewing Platform

Huizenga Park

This Park has had many improvements over years. Phase three improvements will include the addition of four more pickleball courts, pathway connections, fishing access improvements, shade for the new playground, removal and replacement of the basketball court and skate park.

Vande Luyster Square Park

Phase one improvements at this park will include the removal and replacement of the gazebo with one that matches the architectural character but is lower maintenance. Phase Two improvements include entry columns, a drinking fountain and improvements to the brick pavers

Michigan Street Tot Lot Park

Improvements to this park include a new shelter, new playground equipment, entrance improvements and a new drinking fountain.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

As stated in the Action Program, improvements and development will occur as funds and opportunities evolve. Assistance will be solicited from all available sources and will include both physical and financial support.

The City will take maximum advantage of any job training and related work programs to assist in clean-ups and basic miscellaneous construction and general recreation facility maintenance projects. The City will also seek funding assistance from all available sources such as trusts, charitable foundations, private contributions, and all Federal and State funding programs.

The following schedule is a breakdown of the anticipated projects and projected funding for the next five years. Projections are based upon order-of-magnitude 2021 costs and will be detailed with refined programs and plans. Changes in the program may occur if projected funding levels increase or decrease but it is anticipated that the changes would be related more to adjustments in the time schedule rather than specific projects themselves. Refer to the following site concept plans for more site-specific information.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE

The following projects have been identified for improvements and will occur as funds are identified and ARE listed in order of priority.

Project	City	Other Funds*	Total Project Costs	Year
<u>Huizenga Pickleball Courts</u> Pickleball Courts	\$200,000		\$200,000	2022
<u>Hoogland Park</u> New Playground Restroom Improvements Parking Improvements Bocce Ball Court Shelter	\$643,000	Land and Water \$500,000	\$1,143,000	2023
<u>Lawrence Street Park Phase One</u> New Playground Concrete Walkways Improved Restroom Access	\$380,000	Land and Water \$500,000	\$760,000	2025
<u>Vande Luyster Square Park</u> <u>Gazebo Replacement</u> Remove and Replace Gazebo			\$120,000	2025
<u>Huizenga Phase 3</u> Pathway and Fishing Access	\$202,500	Trust Fund \$202,500	\$405,000	2026
<u>Huizenga Phase 3</u> Shade at Playground			\$40,000	2026
<u>Michigan Street Tot Lot</u> New Shelter New Playground Equipment Drinking Fountain			\$527,033	2027
<u>Paw Paw Park</u> Accessible Trail Replacement Timber Viewing Platform	\$217,478	Trust Fund \$217,478	\$434,956	2029
<u>Huizenga Phase 3</u> Skatepark			\$250,000	2030



<u>Vande Luyster Square Park</u> Entry Column Brick Pavers Drinking Fountain			\$400,000	2032
<u>Huizenga Phase 3</u> Basketball Court			\$65,000	2032

*Other funds include Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Passport to Recreation; Michigan Land and Water Conservation Fund; other State or Federal funding sources; Foundation Grants; Private Contributions; School District; and others.

CITY OF ZEELAND 2026 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN Community Survey Synopsis

The community survey generated approximately **129 responses** from residents and park users, with the majority of respondents being long-term Zeeland residents. Nearly **59% have lived in the community for more than 10 years**, providing feedback rooted in extensive experience with the park system. Respondents also represented a broad range of households, with families comprising the largest demographic.

Overall Community Sentiment

Overall, residents expressed strong satisfaction with Zeeland's park system while emphasizing the importance of maintaining and modernizing existing facilities before pursuing significant expansion. Respondents consistently described the parks as an important community asset and appreciated the City's commitment to seeking public input. At the same time, many noted that several facilities—particularly Lawrence Park—have aged and no longer meet current community needs.

Park Usage

The survey demonstrates that Zeeland parks are heavily used.

- Nearly **73%** of respondents visit parks **several times per week or several times per month**.
- The most frequently visited parks are:
 - Lawrence Park (82%)
 - Huizenga Park (77%)
 - Hoogland Park (70%)
 - Splash Pad Park (62%)

Residents primarily visit parks for:

- Playground use (70%)
- Walking and running (53%)
- Nature enjoyment (49%)
- Splash pad activities (45%)
- Social gatherings and community events (31%)

Highest Priority Parks

When asked which parks should receive the highest priority for future investment, one location stood out overwhelmingly:

- **Lawrence Park – 81%**
- Three Corners Park/Vande Luyster Square – 26%
- Huizenga Park – 22%
- Michigan Street Tot Lot – 21%
- Elm Street Park – 19%

Open-ended comments repeatedly identified Lawrence Park as outdated, heavily used, and deserving of comprehensive modernization.



Landscape Architecture
Park & Recreation Planning
Architecture • Urban Design
Sports Facility Planning

Desired Improvements

Residents clearly favored improving the quality and comfort of existing parks. The highest priorities included:

- Playground upgrades (60%)
- Restroom improvements (60%)
- Additional shade structures (43%)
- Walking/running trails (38%)
- Benches and seating (30%)
- Bike path connectivity (29%)
- Landscaping and natural areas (24%)

Many written comments also requested:

- Cleaner, more accessible restrooms
- Modern playground equipment
- Safer pedestrian crossings near parks
- Native landscaping and pollinator habitat
- Swimming pool or aquatic facilities
- Skate park opportunities

Future Amenities

Residents expressed interest in expanding recreation opportunities while maintaining Zeeland's small-town character. The most requested new facilities included:

- Bike trails and pathways
- Additional playgrounds
- Splash pad or water features
- Natural areas and open space
- Pickleball courts
- Fishing access
- Outdoor fitness

Open-ended responses also frequently mentioned:

- Dog park
- Outdoor community pool
- Winter recreation opportunities
- Downtown playground
- Expanded walking and biking connectivity
- Walking track

Accessibility and Sustainability

The survey shows broad support for making parks more inclusive and environmentally responsible.

- **71%** rated accessibility and inclusive park opportunities as either Important or Very Important.
- **91%** rated preserving natural areas as Important or Very Important.
- **75%** supported environmentally sustainable improvements such as native landscaping, tree planting, and stormwater management.

Comments frequently encouraged greater use of native plants, improved habitat restoration, and preservation of mature trees.



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Sports Facility Planning

Funding Priorities

When ranking future investment priorities, respondents generally favored reinvesting in existing assets over expanding the system. The highest priorities were:

- Improving accessibility and ADA access
- Acquiring and preserving open space
- Maintaining existing facilities
- Expanding trail connections
- Improving existing parks

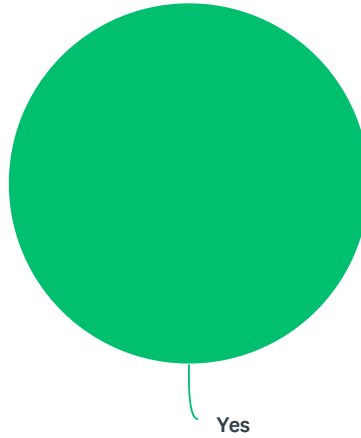
Regarding funding, **48% indicated support for a parks millage**, while **33% were unsure** and **19% opposed** additional taxation, suggesting support exists but will depend on clearly communicating project benefits.

Summary

The survey indicates a strong community appreciation for Zeeland's parks and a clear desire to invest in the existing system. Residents overwhelmingly support renovating aging facilities—especially Lawrence Park—while enhancing playgrounds, restrooms, shade, accessibility, trails, and connections between parks. Future improvements should balance modernization with preservation of Zeeland's small-town identity, emphasizing sustainability, safety, and amenities that serve families of all ages.

Q1 107 responses

Do you live within the City of Zeeland?

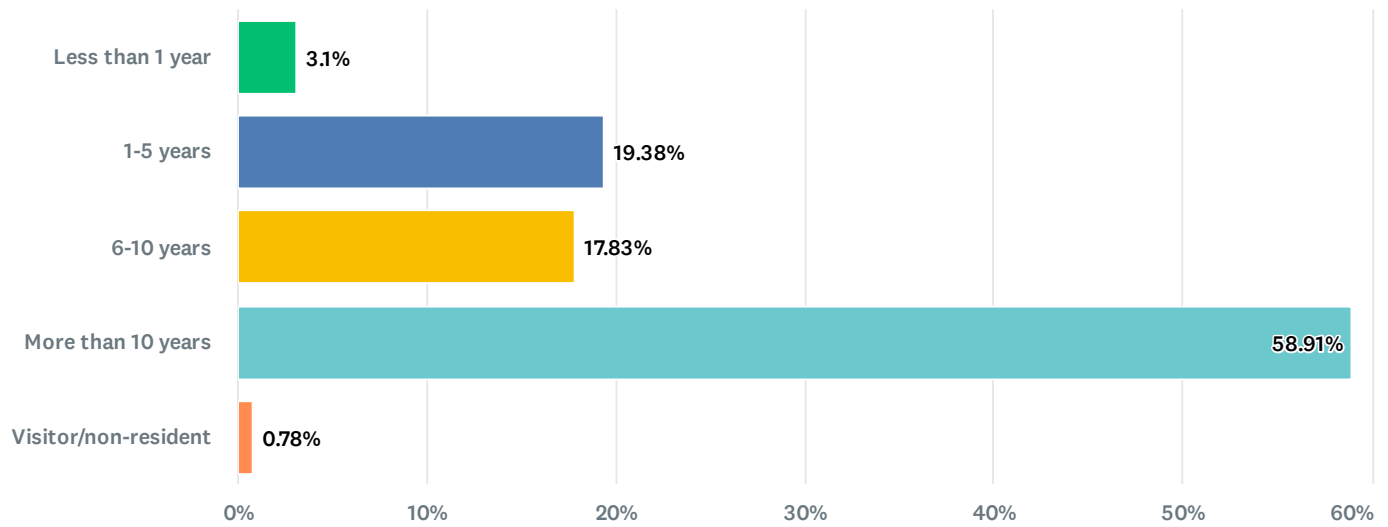


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Yes	100.00%	107
Total		107

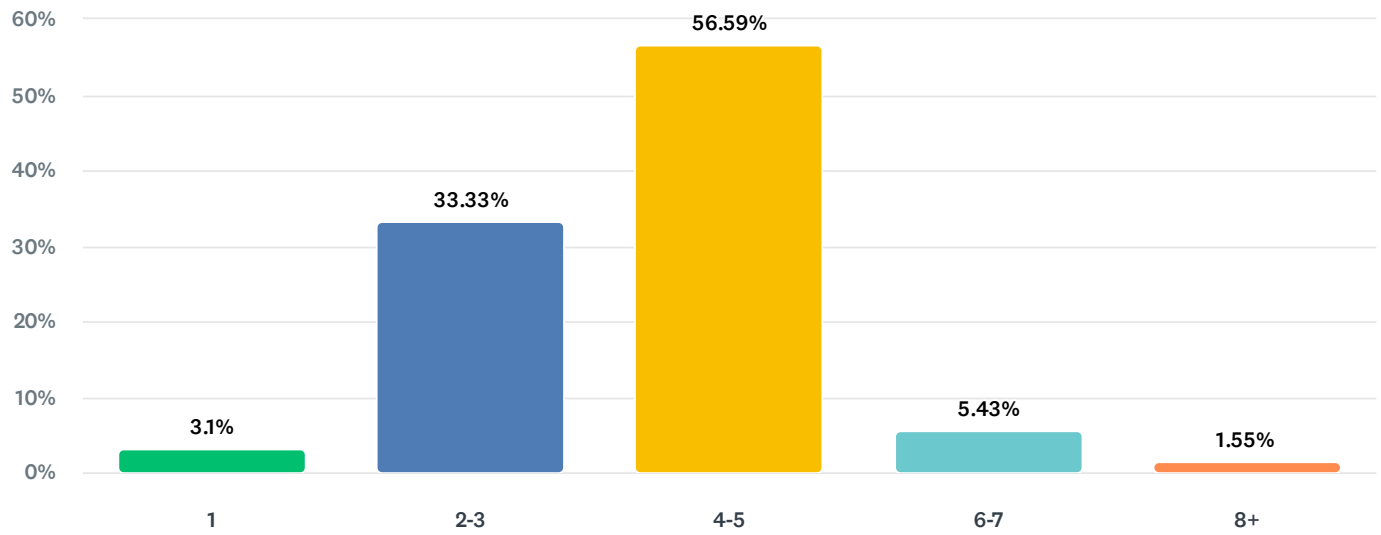
#	NO (PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR CITY, VILLAGE OR TOWNSHIP)	DATE
1	Holland township	7/9/2026 9:27 PM
2	Zeeland charter township	7/9/2026 4:15 PM
3	Township	7/9/2026 4:09 PM
4	Zeeland Township	7/9/2026 4:05 PM
5	Holland Township, Zeeland Zip Code	7/9/2026 3:29 PM
6	Holland township	7/6/2026 2:07 PM
7	Zeeland Township	6/28/2026 1:53 PM
8	Zeeland Township	6/28/2026 8:32 AM
9	Zeeland, holland charter twsp	6/26/2026 1:08 PM
10	Borculo	6/26/2026 9:51 AM
11	Zeeland township	6/25/2026 10:42 PM
12	Zeeland township	6/25/2026 8:44 PM
13	Ottogan mobile home park	6/25/2026 8:20 PM
14	Blendon township	6/25/2026 5:25 PM
15	Zeeland	6/25/2026 4:33 PM

16	Borculo	6/25/2026 10:36 AM
17	Coloma - we visit Zeeland often	6/25/2026 10:29 AM
18	Zeeland Charter Township	6/25/2026 9:58 AM
19	Holland TWP	6/25/2026 5:26 AM
20	Holland Township	6/24/2026 6:54 PM
21	Zeeland Township	6/24/2026 5:59 PM
22	Zeeland Township	6/24/2026 5:25 PM
23	Zeeland charter township	6/24/2026 5:19 PM
24	Zeeland township	6/24/2026 4:27 PM

Q2 129 responses

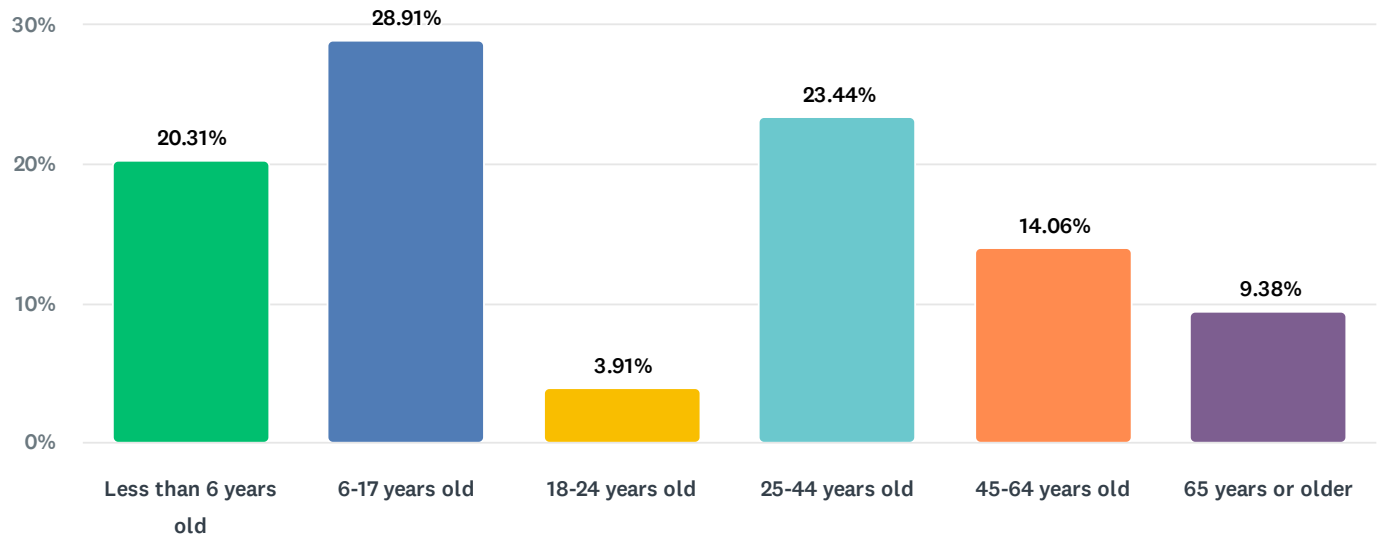
How long have you lived in the Zeeland area?

Q3 129 responses

How many people currently live in your household?

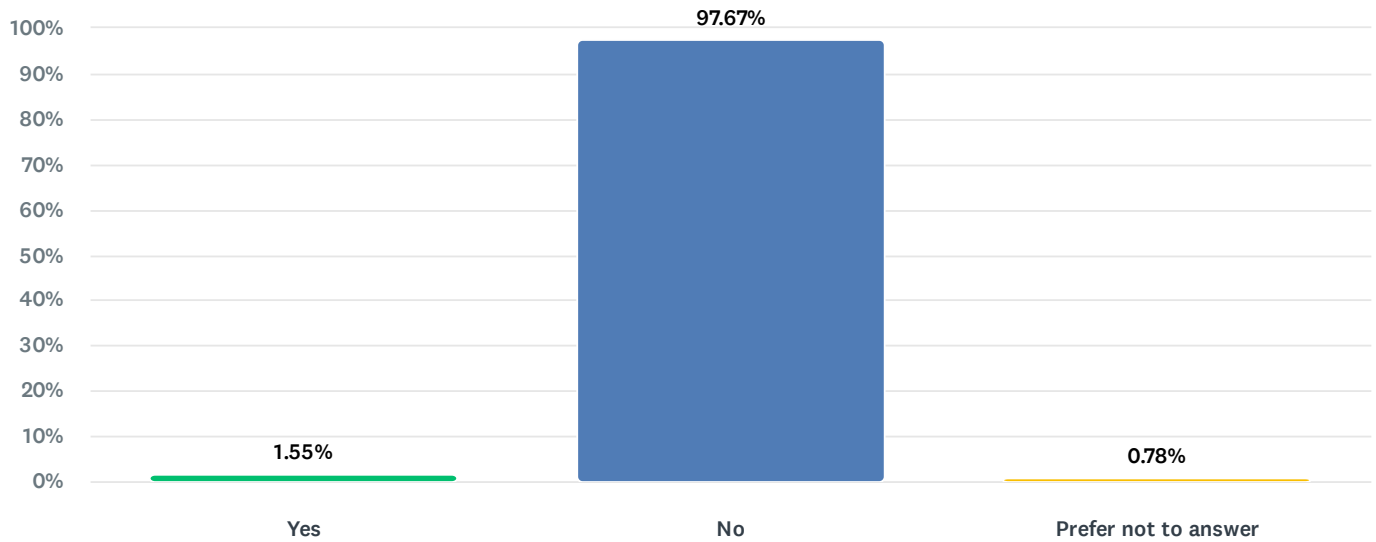
Q4 128 responses

Please indicate the age groups represented in your household.



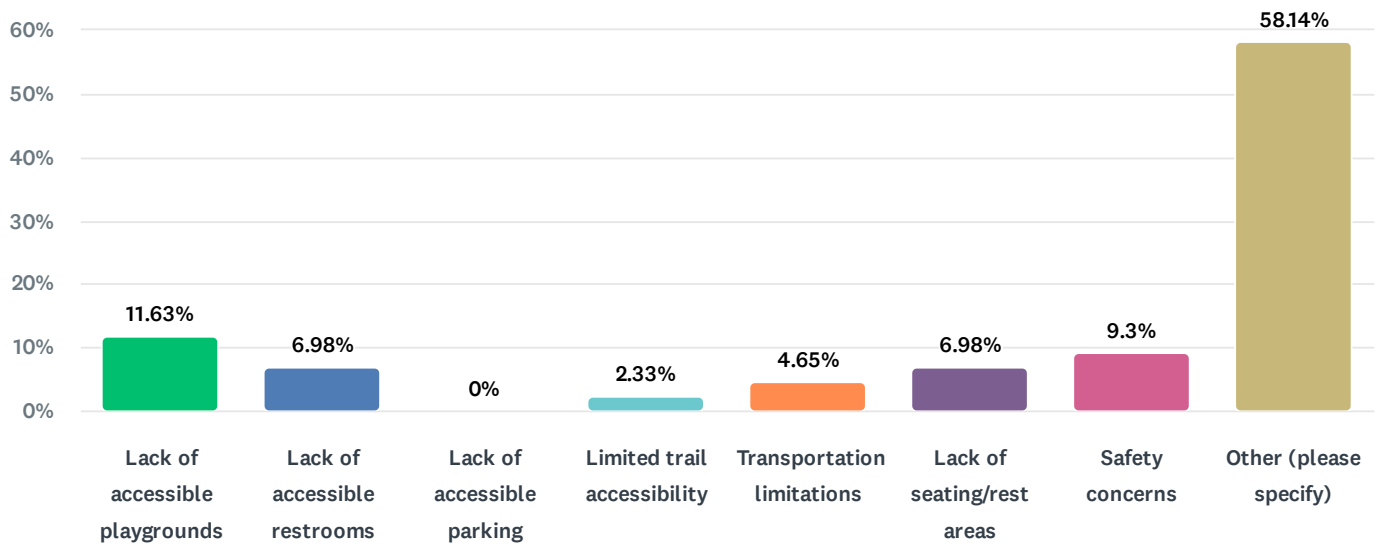
Q5 129 responses

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



Q6 43 responses

If yes, what barriers limit participation in parks activities?



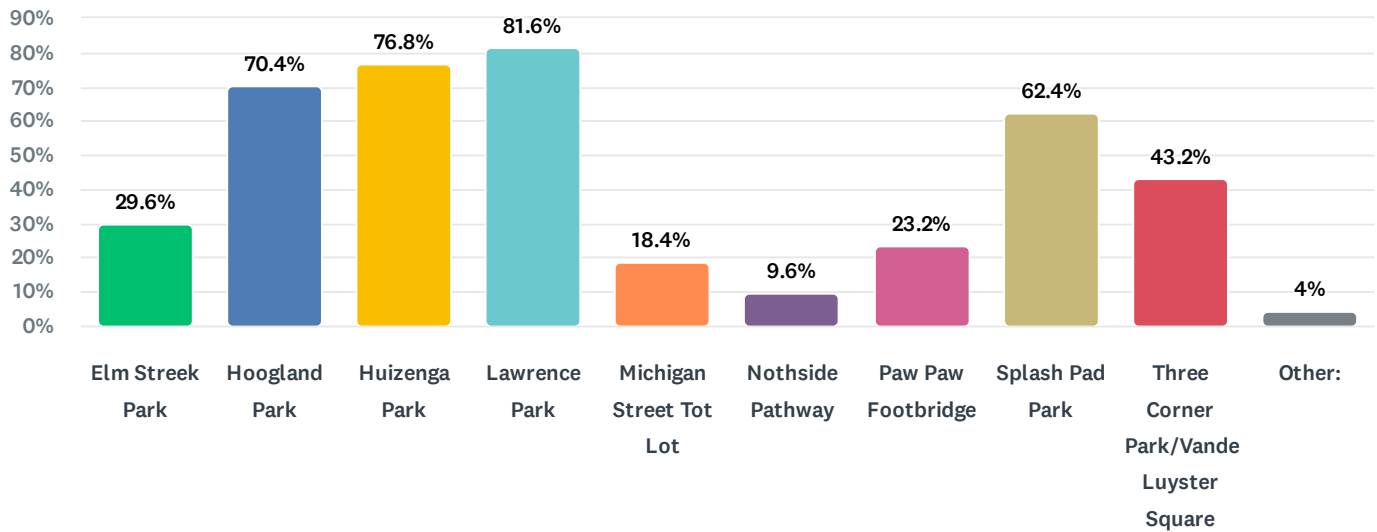
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Lack of accessible playgrounds	11.63%	5
● Lack of accessible restrooms	6.98%	3
● Lack of accessible parking	0%	0
● Limited trail accessibility	2.33%	1
● Transportation limitations	4.65%	2
● Lack of seating/rest areas	6.98%	3
● Safety concerns	9.30%	4
● Other (please specify)	58.14%	25
Total		43

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	None	7/20/2026 6:25 PM
2	N/a	7/18/2026 11:50 AM
3	None	7/9/2026 4:41 PM
4	None	7/9/2026 4:05 PM
5	NA	7/9/2026 3:50 PM

6	Shade!	7/9/2026 3:29 PM
7	None	6/28/2026 3:33 PM
8	N/A -	6/28/2026 1:53 PM
9	None	6/28/2026 1:05 PM
10	None	6/28/2026 1:26 AM
11	None	6/27/2026 2:04 PM
12	N/A	6/27/2026 12:25 PM
13	N/A	6/26/2026 1:08 PM
14	None	6/26/2026 9:51 AM
15	N/a	6/25/2026 8:44 PM
16	Na	6/25/2026 5:13 PM
17	N/a	6/25/2026 4:31 PM
18	N/a	6/25/2026 4:26 PM
19	Na	6/25/2026 2:06 PM
20	None	6/25/2026 1:47 PM
21	N/A	6/25/2026 10:29 AM
22	None	6/25/2026 8:06 AM
23	Na	6/25/2026 7:48 AM
24	Lack of accessible swings for older children/adults with disabilities - simply a regular swing that's higher off the ground. Every playground in Zeeland has the swings way low to the ground.	6/24/2026 4:04 PM
25	None	6/24/2026 3:58 PM

Q7 125 responses

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



Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Elm Streek Park	29.60%	37
● Hoogland Park	70.40%	88
● Huizenga Park	76.80%	96
● Lawrence Park	81.60%	102
● Michigan Street Tot Lot	18.40%	23
● Nothside Pathway	9.60%	12
● Paw Paw Footbridge	23.20%	29
● Splash Pad Park	62.40%	78
● Three Corner Park/Vande Luyster Square	43.20%	54
● Other:	4.00%	5
Total		524

#

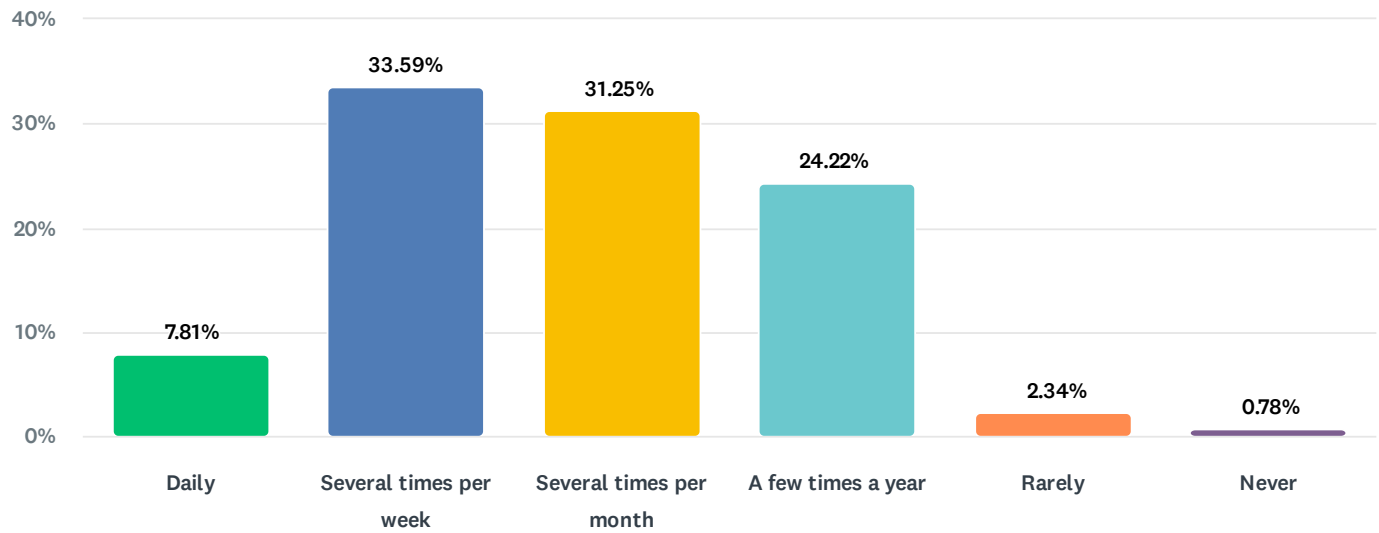
OTHER:

DATE

1	Elm Street Park - check spelling	7/9/2026 9:24 PM
2	Paw paw disc golf	7/7/2026 7:42 AM
3	Helder Park	6/27/2026 12:25 PM
4	Bethel church park	6/25/2026 1:52 PM
5	Zeeland Christian playground	6/24/2026 4:26 PM

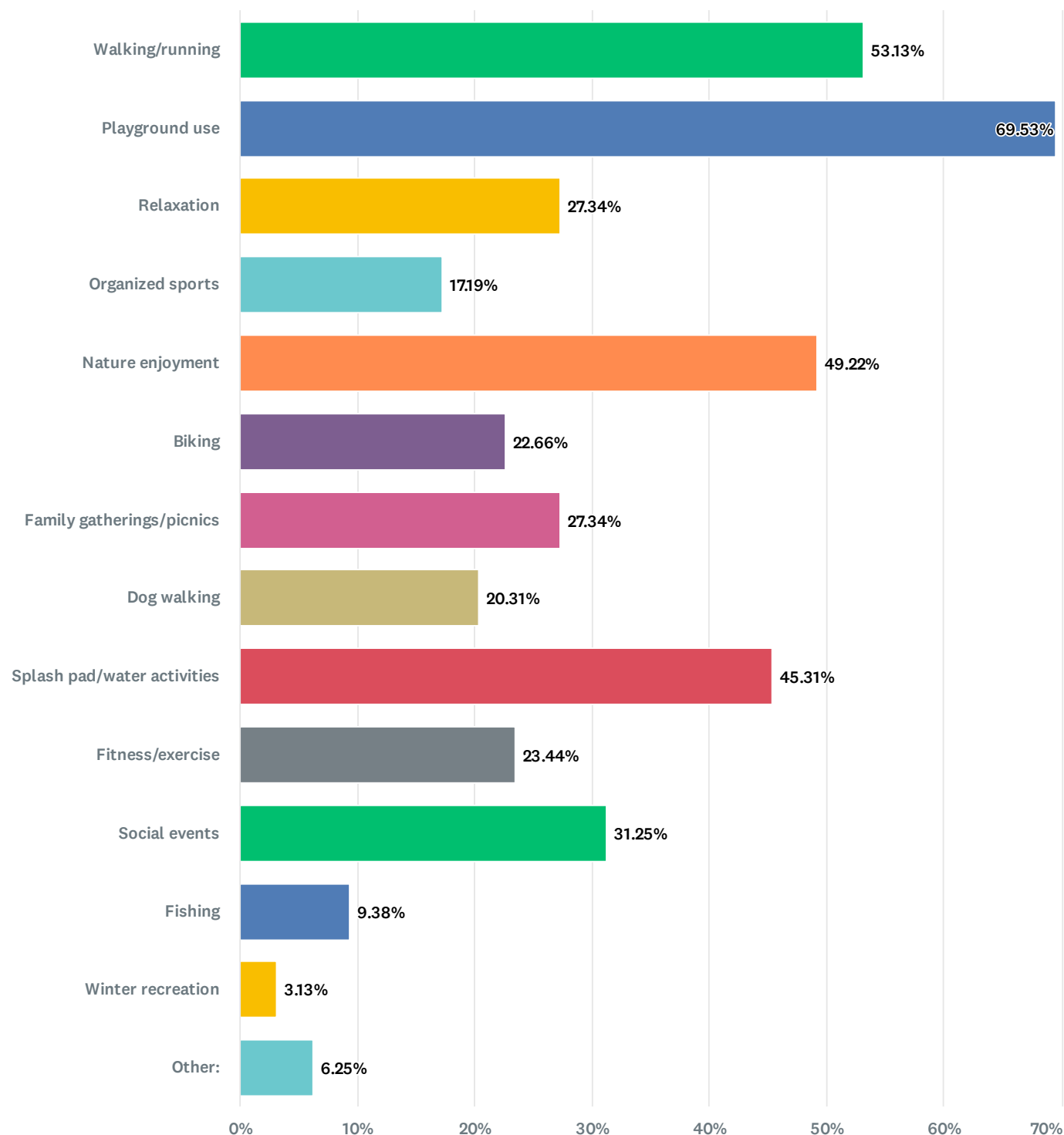
Q8 128 responses

How often do you visit Zeeland parks?



Q9 128 responses

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



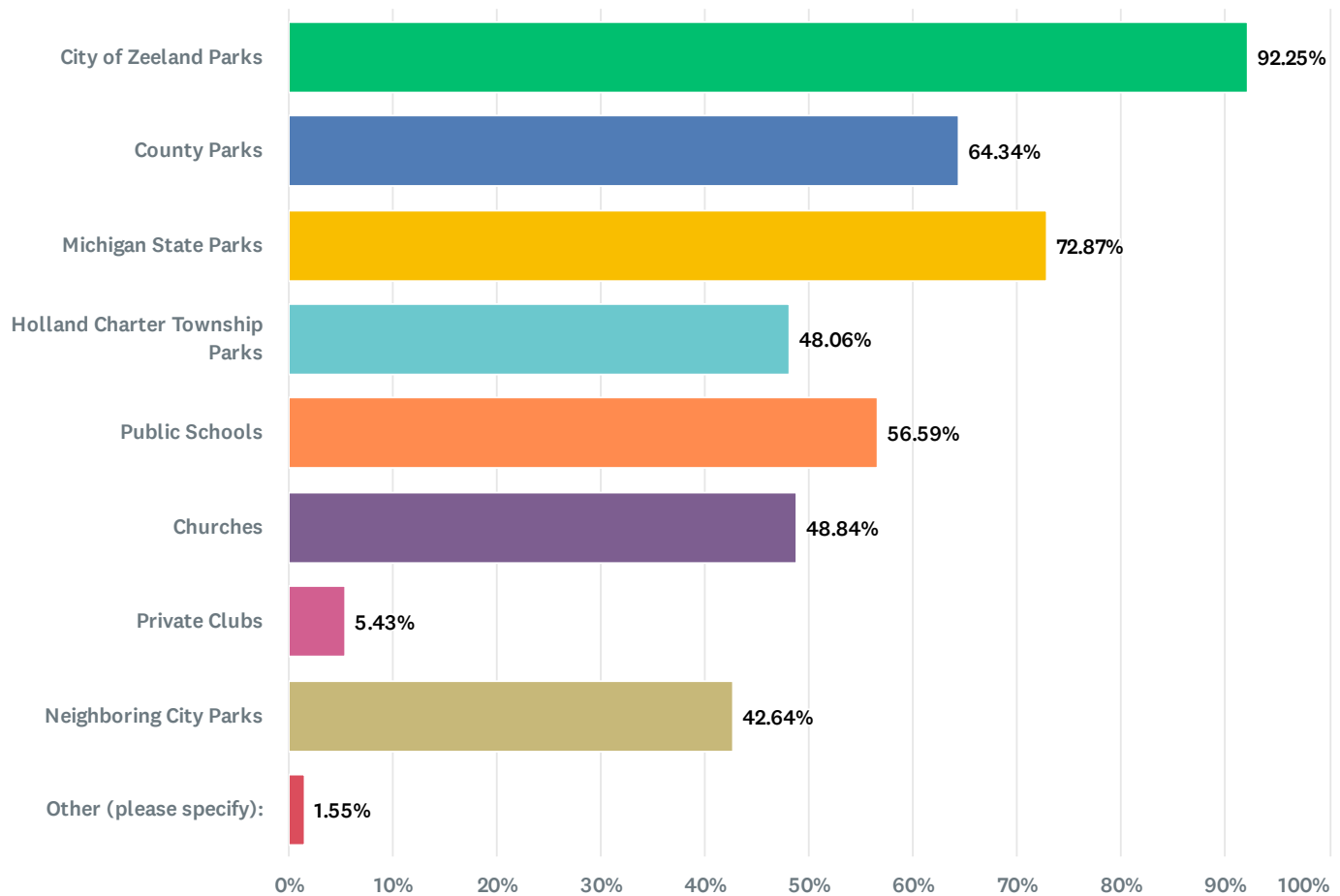
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
Total		519

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
 Walking/running	53.13%	68
 Playground use	69.53%	89
 Relaxation	27.34%	35
 Organized sports	17.19%	22
 Nature enjoyment	49.22%	63
 Biking	22.66%	29
 Family gatherings/picnics	27.34%	35
 Dog walking	20.31%	26
 Splash pad/water activities	45.31%	58
 Fitness/exercise	23.44%	30
 Social events	31.25%	40
 Fishing	9.38%	12
 Winter recreation	3.13%	4
 Other:	6.25%	8
Total		519

#	OTHER:	DATE
1	Pickleball	7/13/2026 1:42 PM
2	Disc golf	7/7/2026 7:42 AM
3	Pickleball	6/28/2026 8:32 AM
4	Hammocking	6/27/2026 12:25 PM
5	Basketball hoop	6/25/2026 8:44 PM
6	Take our grandson often	6/25/2026 1:52 PM
7	Pickleball, parties at shelter at Lawrence	6/25/2026 9:58 AM
8	Bathroom	6/25/2026 5:26 AM

Q10 129 responses

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



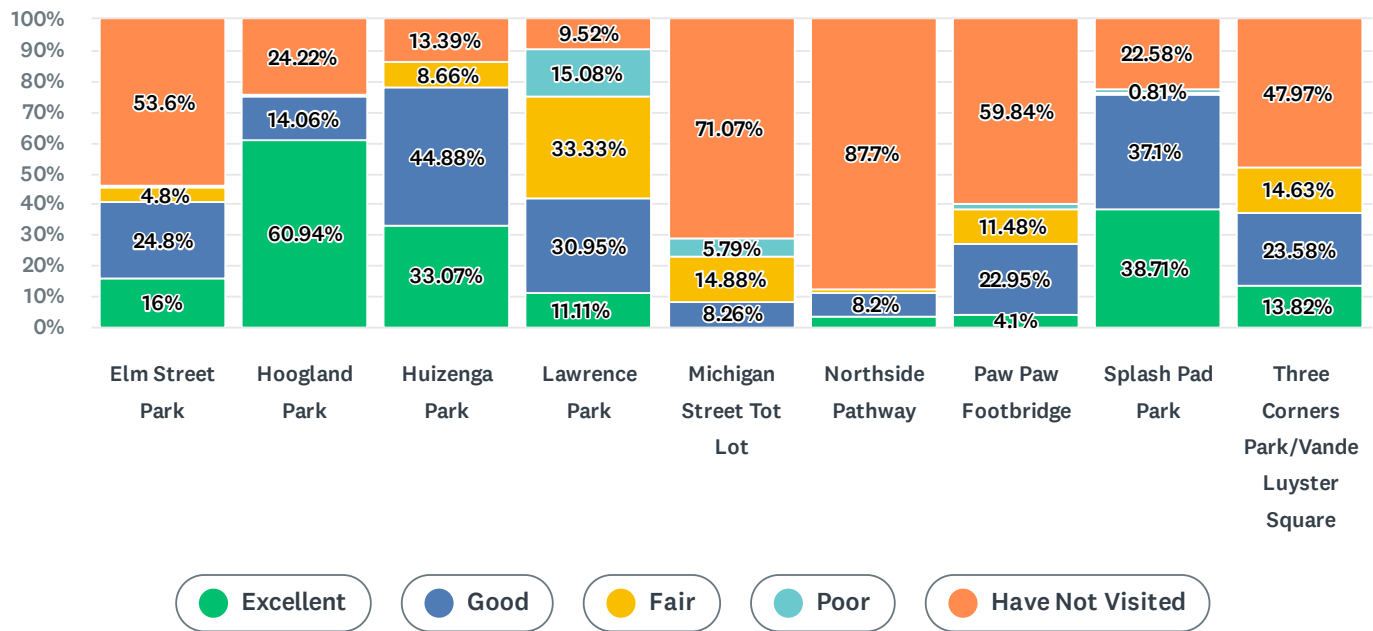
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● City of Zeeland Parks	92.25%	119
● County Parks	64.34%	83
● Michigan State Parks	72.87%	94
● Holland Charter Township Parks	48.06%	62
● Public Schools	56.59%	73
● Churches	48.84%	63
● Private Clubs	5.43%	7
● Neighboring City Parks	42.64%	55
● Other (please specify):	1.55%	2
Total		558

Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
 Private Clubs	5.43%	7
 Neighboring City Parks	42.64%	55
 Other (please specify):	1.55%	2
Total		558

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY):	DATE
1	National parks	6/25/2026 10:07 PM
2	Zeeland Township parks	6/25/2026 9:58 AM

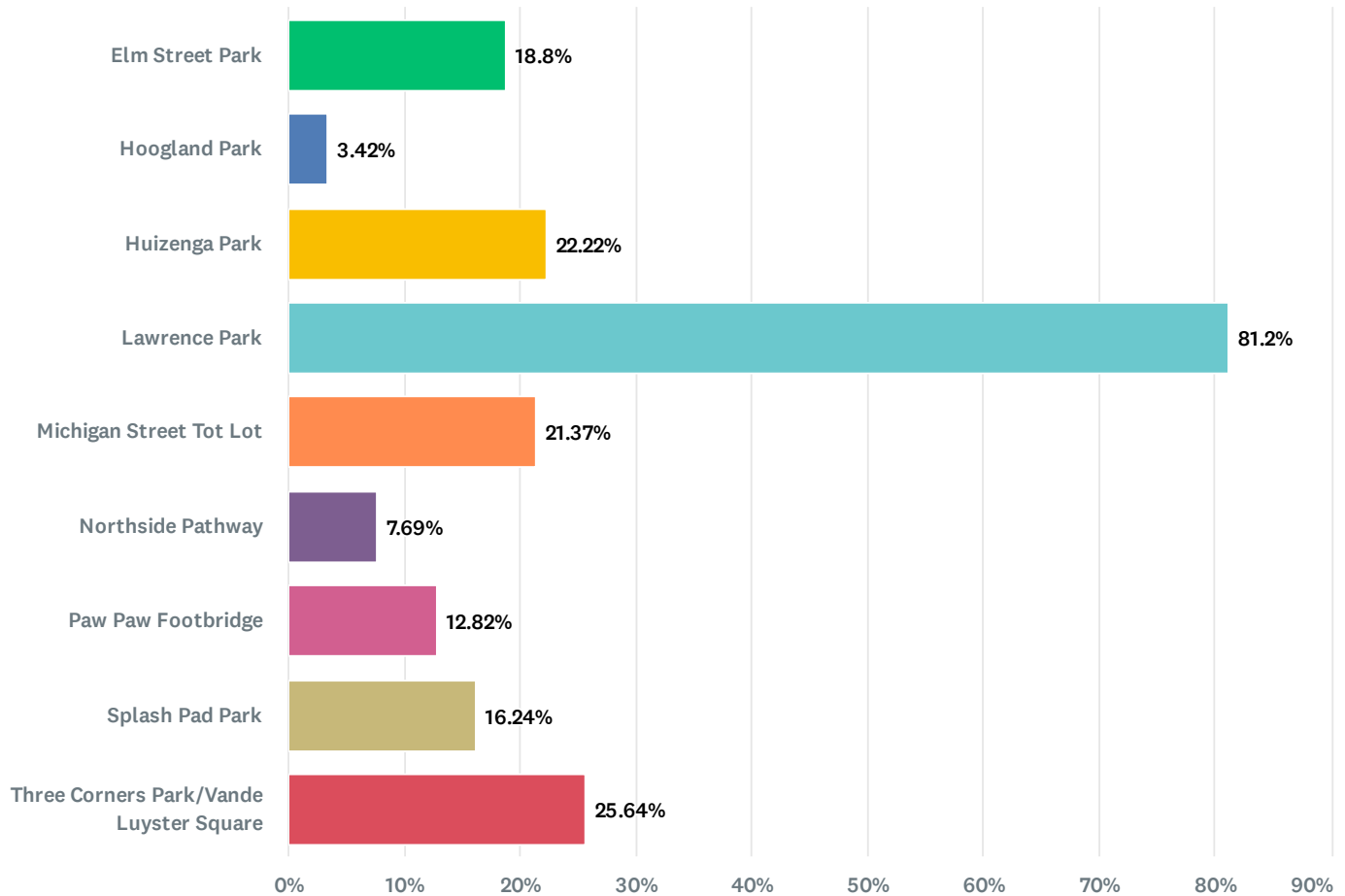
Q11 129 responses

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



Q12 117 responses

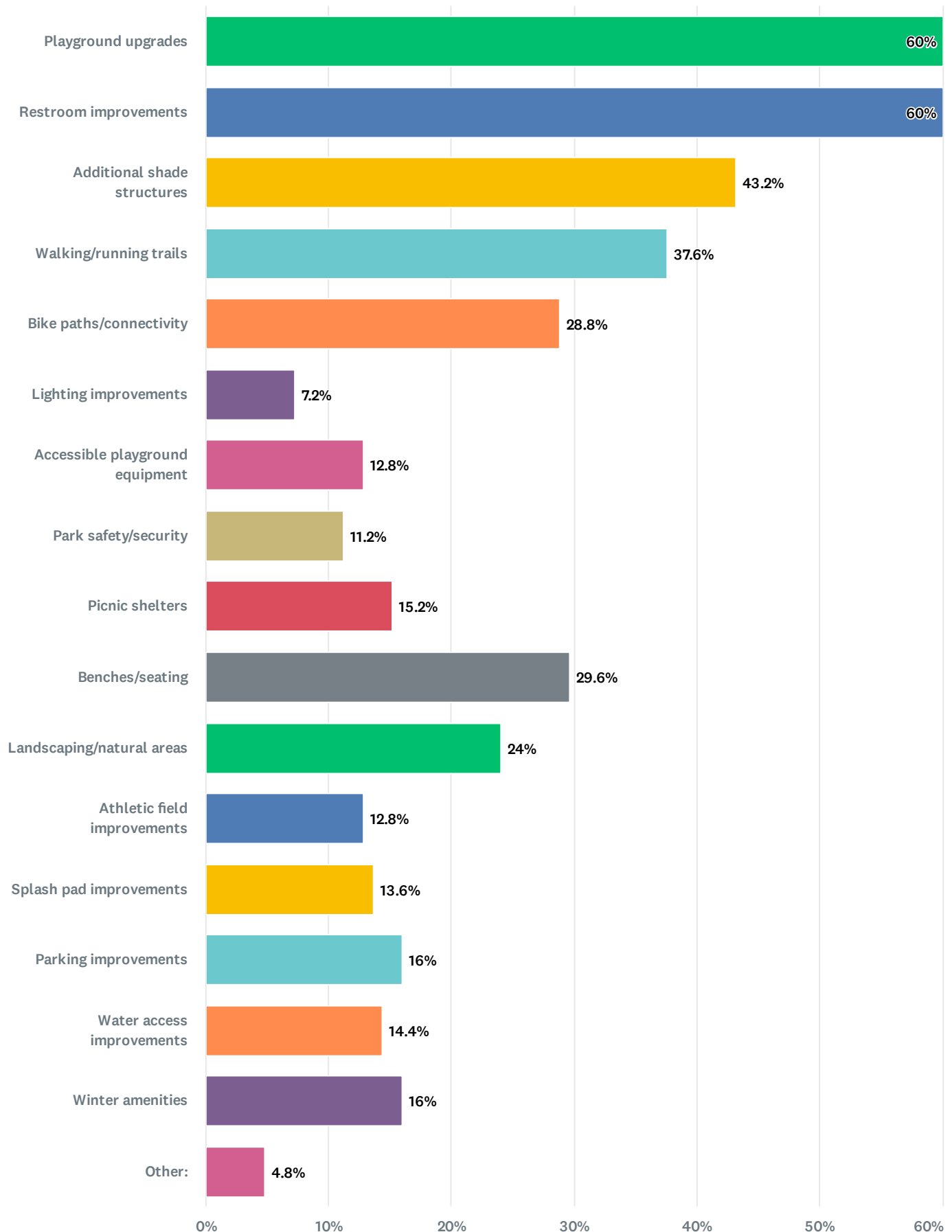
Which parks should be the highest priority for future improvements? (Select up to 3)



Q13

125 responses

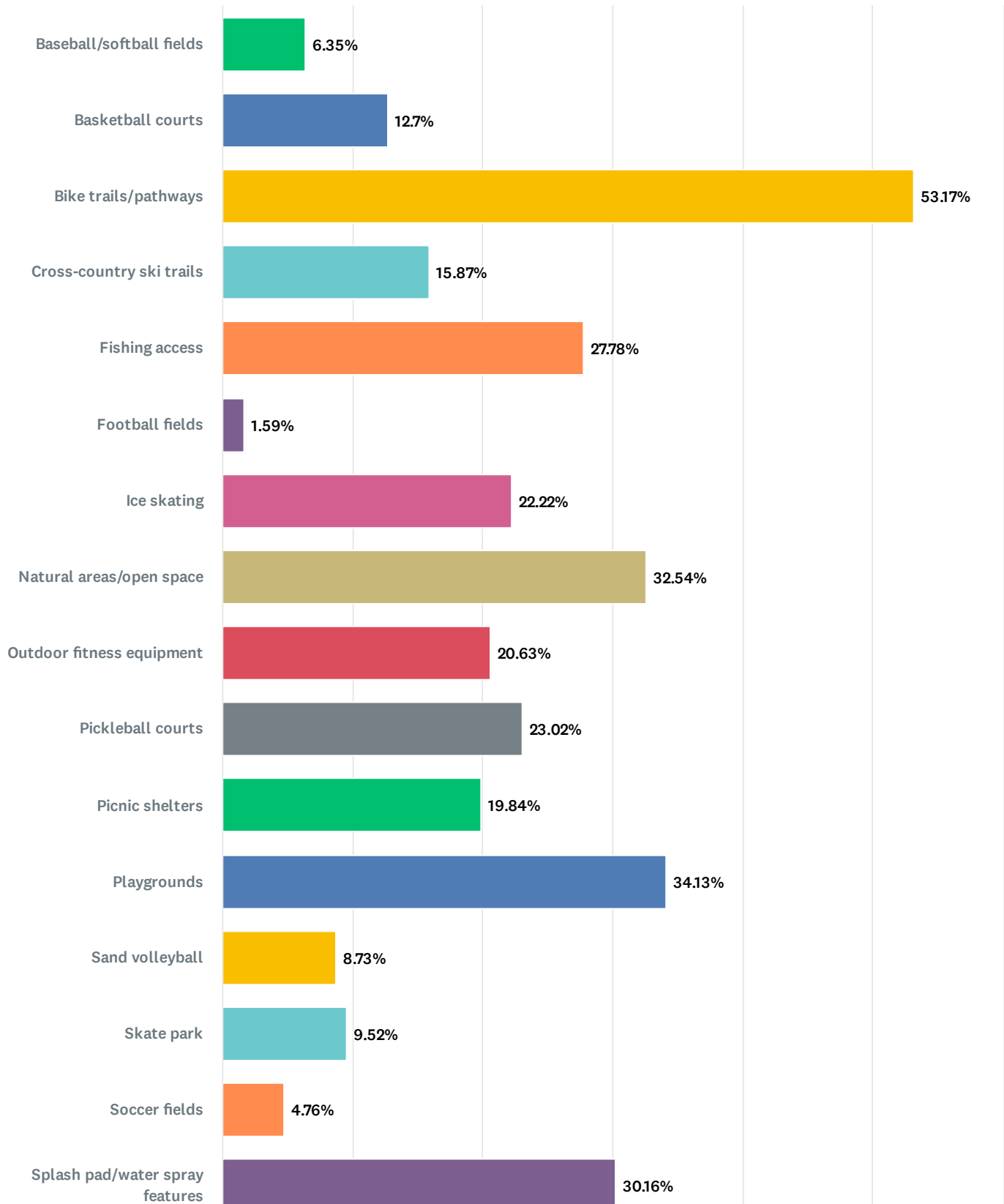
What types of improvements are most needed in Zeeland parks? (Select up to 5)

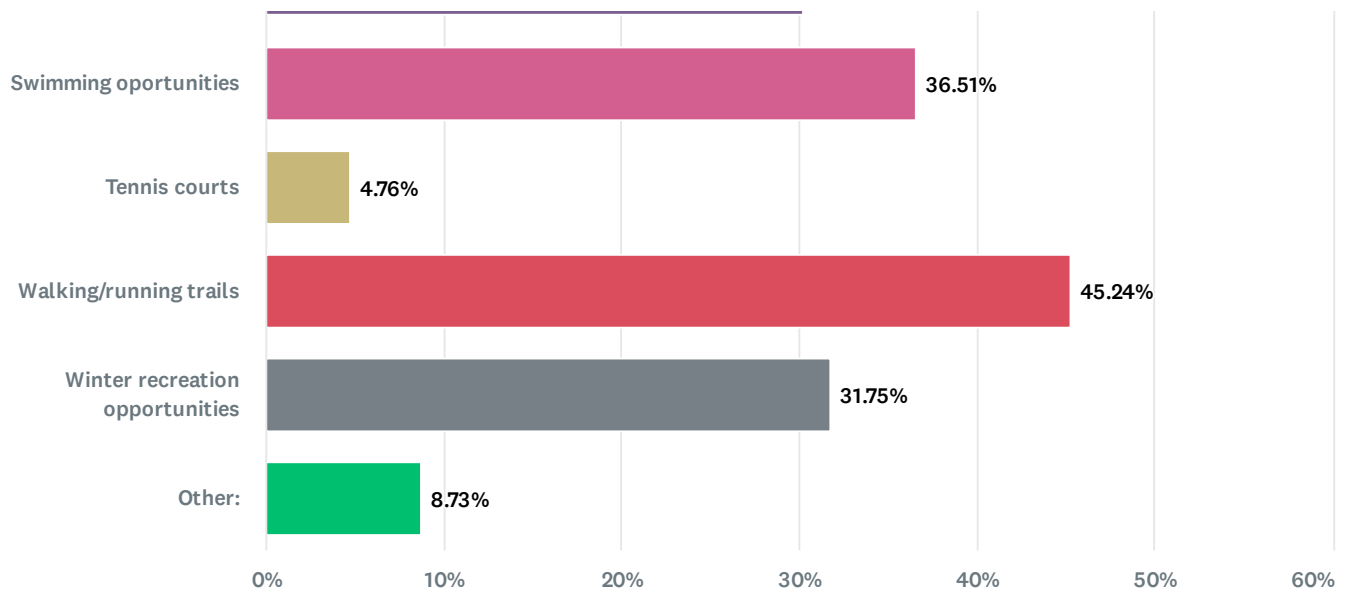


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
 Playground upgrades	60.00%	75
 Restroom improvements	60.00%	75
 Additional shade structures	43.20%	54
 Walking/running trails	37.60%	47
 Bike paths/connectivity	28.80%	36
 Lighting improvements	7.20%	9
 Accessible playground equipment	12.80%	16
 Park safety/security	11.20%	14
 Picnic shelters	15.20%	19
 Benches/seating	29.60%	37
 Landscaping/natural areas	24.00%	30
 Athletic field improvements	12.80%	16
 Splash pad improvements	13.60%	17
 Parking improvements	16.00%	20
 Water access improvements	14.40%	18
 Winter amenities	16.00%	20
 Other:	4.80%	6
Total		509

#	OTHER:	DATE
1	Need 24 hour restroom facilities	7/9/2026 9:27 PM
2	Paver restoration	7/9/2026 7:17 PM
3	Safety of kiddos crossing streets. More stop signs! Reduced speed limits. I have seen too many close calls with speeding cars not seeing kids.	7/9/2026 3:50 PM
4	Swimming pool	7/6/2026 2:07 PM
5	Bathrooms at Huizenga park (close to playground)	6/27/2026 8:49 PM
6	Use of (actual) Native trees and landscaping to support local ecosystems	6/25/2026 7:31 AM

Q14 126 responses

Which facilities would you most like to see expanded or added in Zeeland?(Select up to 5)

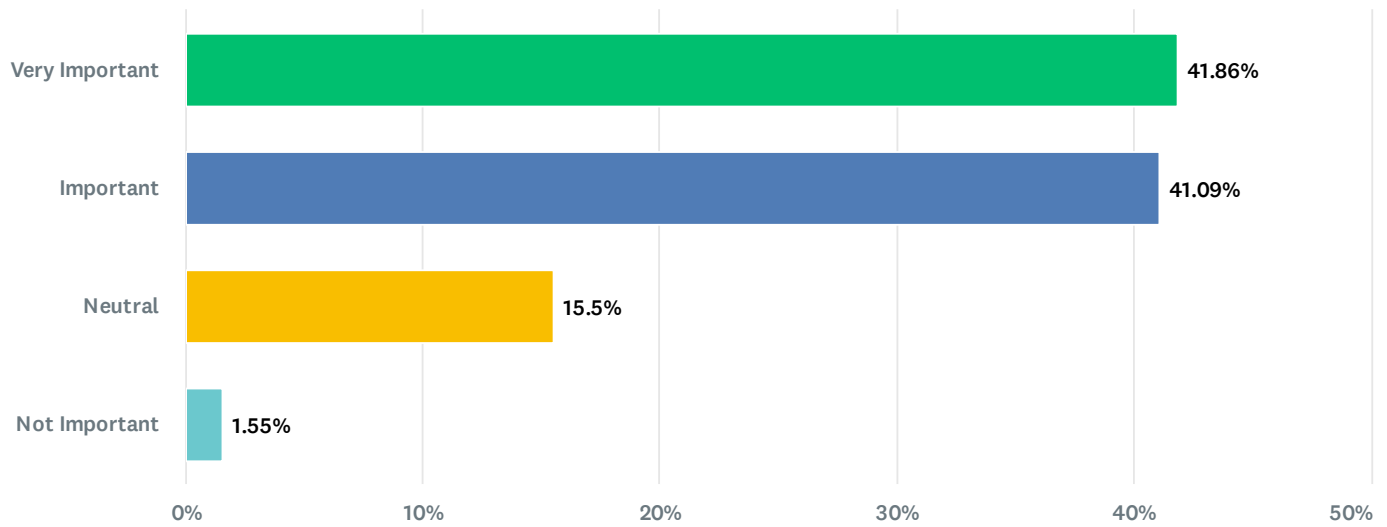


Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
● Baseball/softball fields	6.35%	8
● Basketball courts	12.70%	16
● Bike trails/pathways	53.17%	67
● Cross-country ski trails	15.87%	20
● Fishing access	27.78%	35
● Football fields	1.59%	2
● Ice skating	22.22%	28
● Natural areas/open space	32.54%	41
● Outdoor fitness equipment	20.63%	26
● Pickleball courts	23.02%	29
● Picnic shelters	19.84%	25
● Playgrounds	34.13%	43
● Sand volleyball	8.73%	11
● Skate park	9.52%	12
Total		567

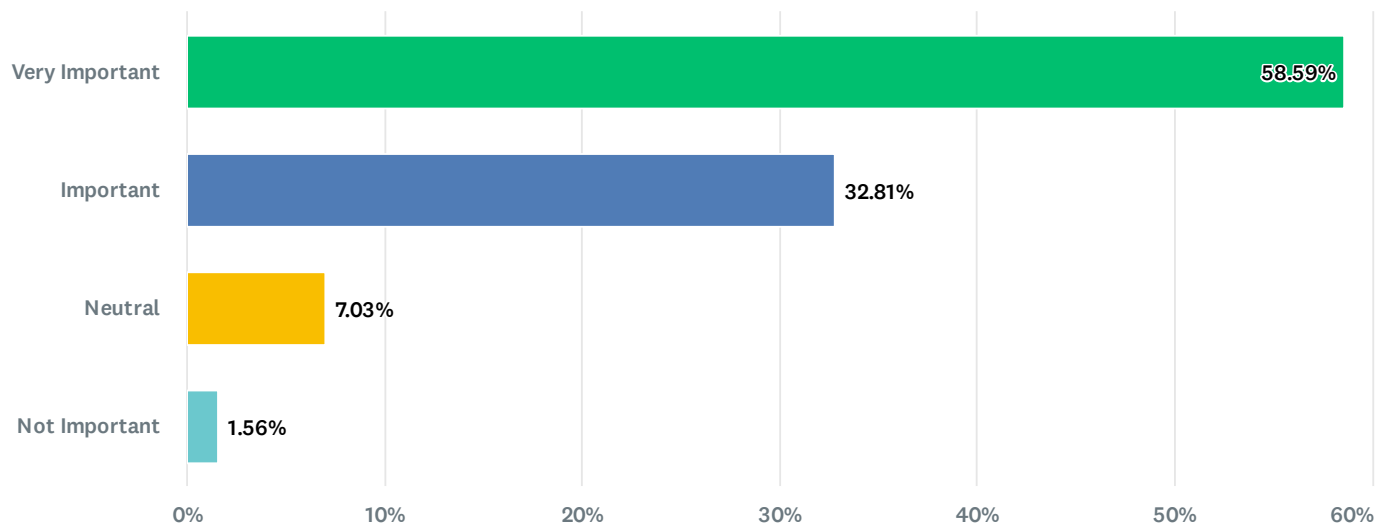
Answer Choices	Percentage	Responses
 Soccer fields	4.76%	6
 Splash pad/water spray features	30.16%	38
 Swimming oportunities	36.51%	46
 Tennis courts	4.76%	6
 Walking/running trails	45.24%	57
 Winter recreation opportunities	31.75%	40
 Other:	8.73%	11
Total		567

#	OTHER:	DATE
1	"Senior Playground" - the undeveloped area behind Mediloge (possibly owned by them?) and adjacent to Haven Huis Apartments (for low-income seniors) would be ideal for this, for residents of both (as only something this close could be used by many of them), as well as others in the community. Adding some children's equipment would encourage families to visit older relatives in the shared space. It could include a community garden, water features, sensory plants, etc. For more ideas on this call Linda Veenstra 813-843-3440.	7/13/2026 1:42 PM
2	24 hour restrooms	7/9/2026 9:27 PM
3	Walking track	7/9/2026 9:24 PM
4	Pickleball - needs to have lights for night play!!Thats why belknap in GR and the airport in holland get the most players!!	7/7/2026 7:42 AM
5	Dog Park	6/28/2026 6:55 PM
6	Dog Park	6/28/2026 3:00 PM
7	Indoor playground	6/27/2026 8:49 PM
8	Odc type play structure	6/25/2026 2:06 PM
9	A track the community can use.	6/25/2026 1:24 PM
10	Dog park	6/25/2026 1:22 PM
11	RC car park/jumps	6/24/2026 4:27 PM

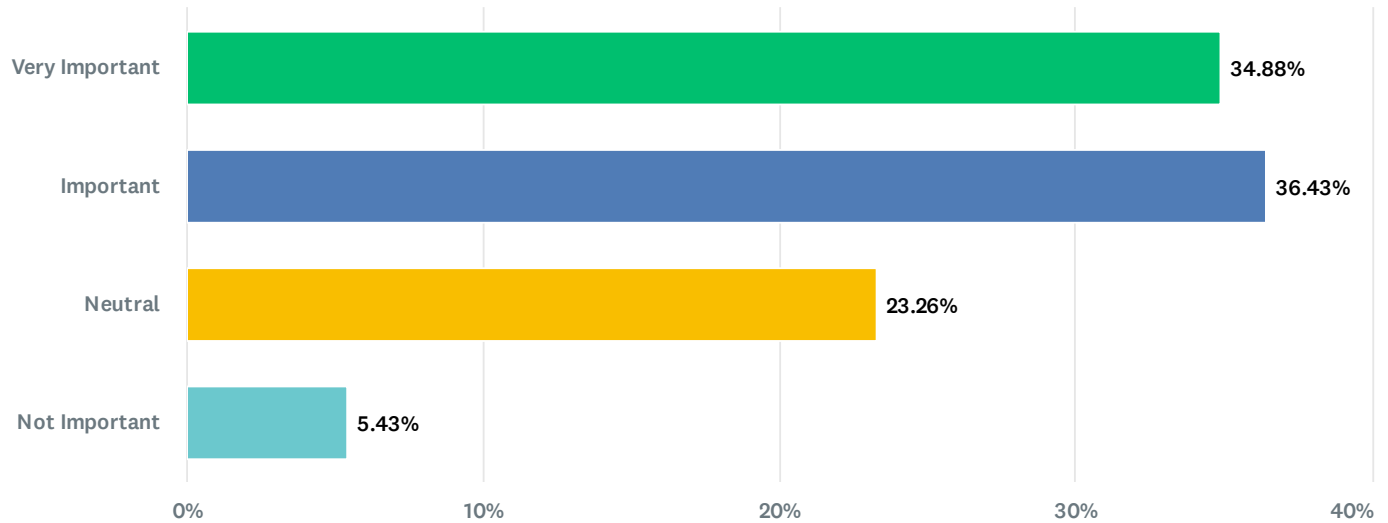
Q15 129 responses

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

Q16 128 responses

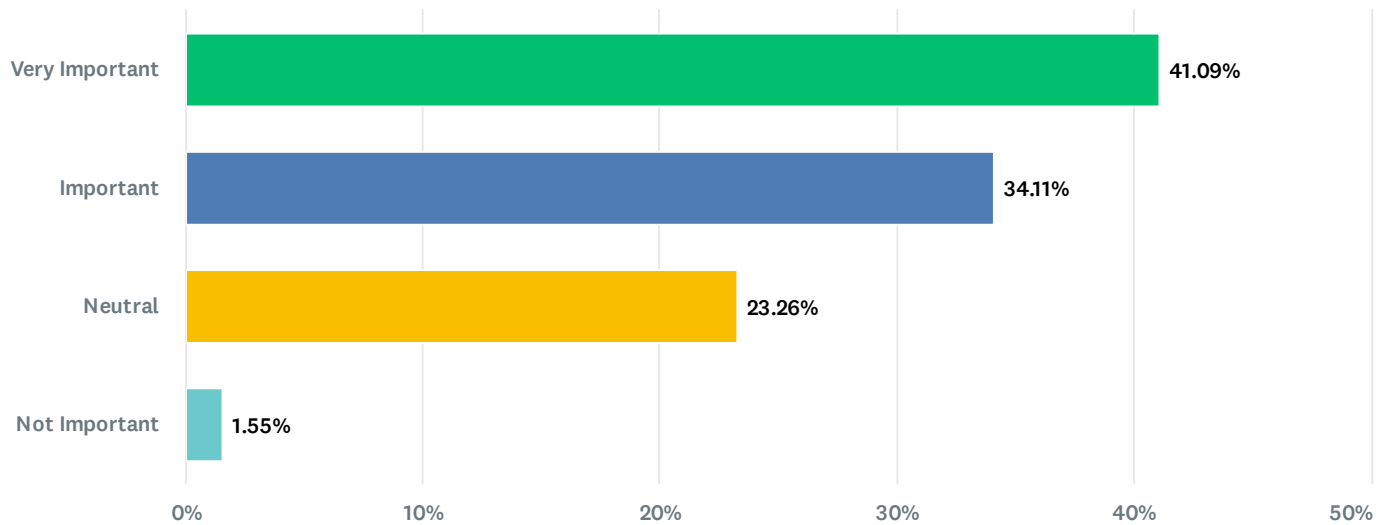
How important is preserving natural areas and open space within Zeeland?

Q17 129 responses

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

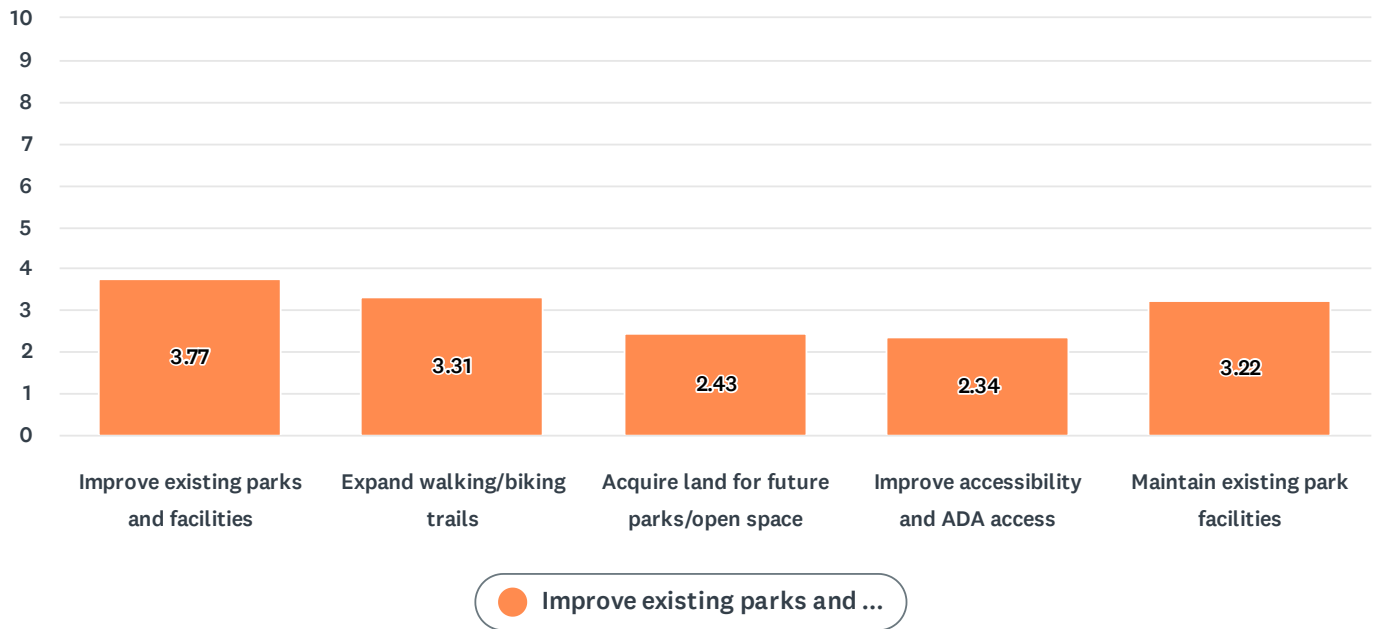
Q18 129 responses

How important are environmentally sustainable park improvements? Examples may include native landscaping, tree planting, stormwater improvements, reduced energy use, and environmentally friendly materials.



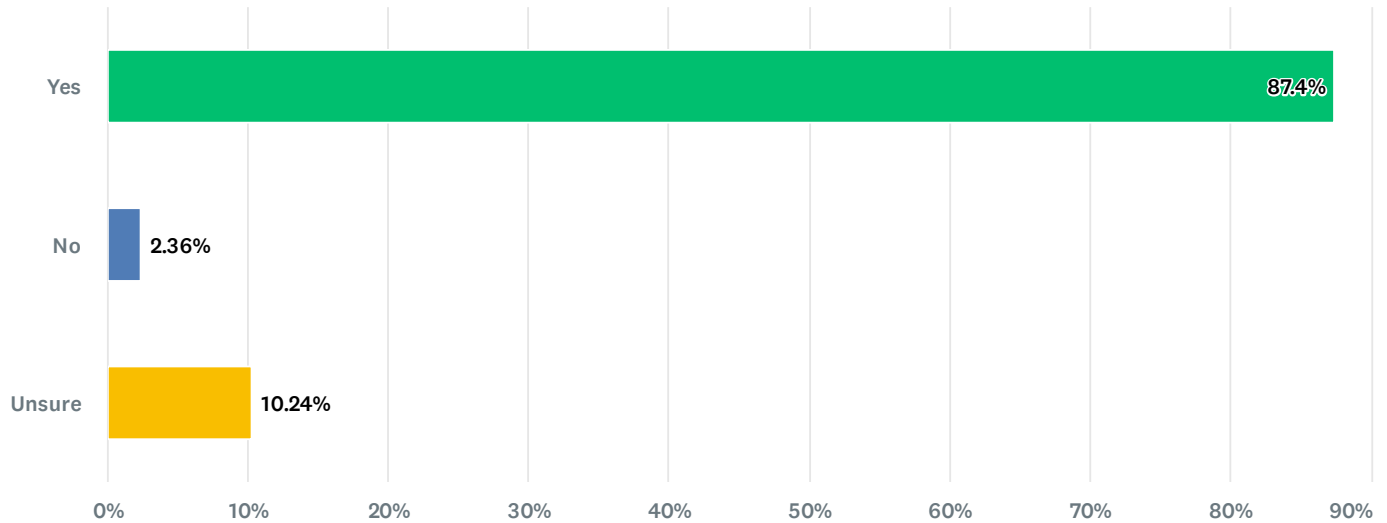
Q19 128 responses

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

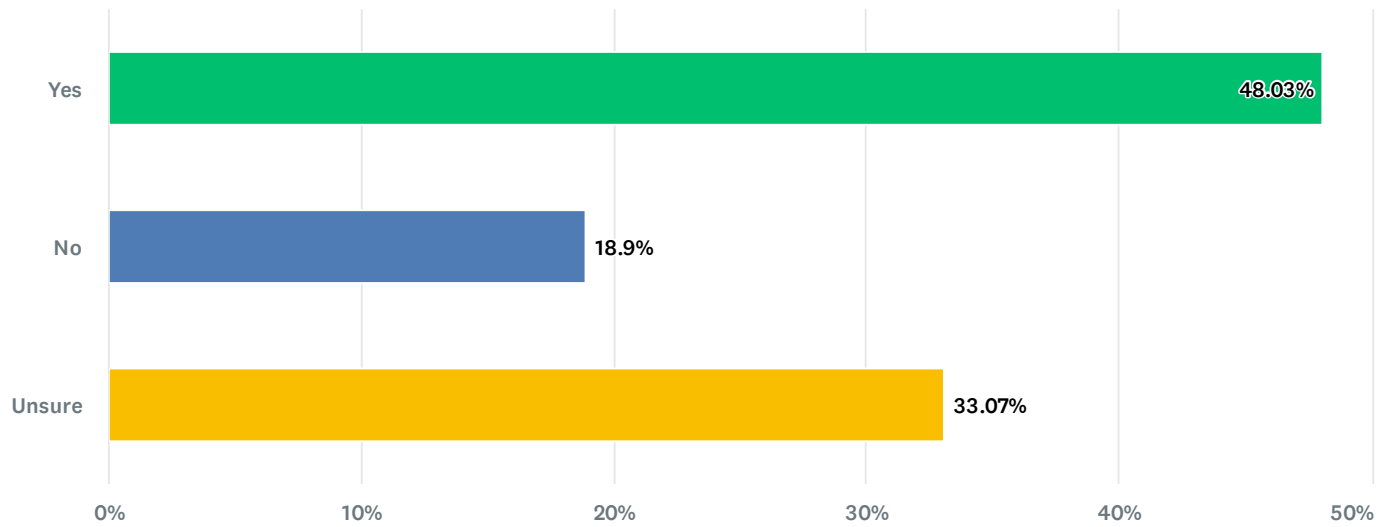


Q20 127 responses

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



Q21 127 responses

Would you support a parks millage?

Q22 What is your biggest concern regarding Zeeland parks facilities?

Answered: 77 Skipped: 52

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Maintenance of pathways	7/20/2026 6:25 PM
2	Bugs	7/18/2026 11:50 AM
3	Upkeep	7/16/2026 9:15 AM
4	People mistreating them and not picking up after themselves. Safety.	7/15/2026 3:10 PM
5	General upkeep and added connectivity to other trails	7/14/2026 12:56 PM
6	Safety	7/12/2026 8:59 PM
7	Improving Lawrence park	7/12/2026 8:50 PM
8	Lawrence Street Park has such good potential it needs a large modernization effort. Can some of the city on a hill parking lot property be purchased and used to expand?	7/11/2026 1:16 PM
9	My biggest concern is the need for maintenance with some walking trails, primarily thinking of Paw Paw.	7/11/2026 11:50 AM
10	None	7/10/2026 3:13 PM
11	Lighting	7/9/2026 9:24 PM
12	Thoughtful landscape design and accessibility	7/9/2026 7:17 PM
13	Playground equipment design - a lot of the new stuff is more like "art-work". Kids don't know how to play on it. Condition of existing equipment at some parks is damaged and unsafe, or just weird to use (Slides that aren't slippery aren't fun), trails to run, creeks to play in, stuff to climb and run on is best!	7/9/2026 4:41 PM
14	Not enough variety for kids	7/9/2026 4:05 PM
15	Keep our town "small". We do not want to become an attraction or tourist town. Also, kids safety biking around town. We need more stop signs or a reduced speed limit. Encourage traffic out of town.	7/9/2026 3:50 PM
16	Some of the equipment is rusted out and for example Lawrence park not very accessible for bathrooms if families needs to use them.	7/9/2026 3:48 PM
17	Making them accessible to everyone	7/9/2026 3:37 PM
18	NA	7/7/2026 6:28 PM
19	More options for out side use, more opportunities for growth in parks	7/6/2026 2:07 PM
20	Lawrence street parks facilities are very dated and showing there age. Could be modernized and utilized better for future activities.	7/4/2026 2:13 PM
21	Restrooms need to be there, clean, and open.	6/30/2026 11:25 PM
22	Shade& we need a skate park!!	6/30/2026 7:12 PM
23	Upkeep	6/30/2026 2:43 PM
24	Overpass over Chicago Drive to connect to bike trails	6/29/2026 8:35 PM
25	About 5 years ago, my family met with some parks improvement staff in the lower level of the library. We expressed concern that invasive plants were taking over the unkept grounds of the Paw Paw foot bridge. Several years ago the majority of the trees there got a disease and died. Since then, the area has become wild and invasive. We left the meeting encouraged that action would be taken, yet there has been no improvements in those five years. Please	6/28/2026 3:33 PM

	consider transitioning to sustainable native plants in that overgrown and wild area. Specifically, we would LOVE to see a registered monarch waystation and pollinator friendly plants.	
26	Clean bathrooms	6/28/2026 1:53 PM
27	Biking trails	6/28/2026 1:05 PM
28	Playground structures	6/28/2026 11:53 AM
29	Lack of trails for walking, flooding on Lawrence street basketball and pickleball courts	6/28/2026 9:51 AM
30	Would love a dog park.	6/28/2026 9:42 AM
31	Good design (new ideas, unique, efficient) that will make things more enjoyable and more likely to be used.	6/27/2026 8:49 PM
32	I would love an outdoor public pool! Lawrence street park needs improvements as it has become run down and somewhat unsafe for young kids	6/27/2026 2:04 PM
33	N/A	6/27/2026 12:25 PM
34	Parking	6/26/2026 7:01 PM
35	I would love a playground closer to downtown. The splash pad is great, but a playground down there would be amazing. Also, tying onto the Macatawa Greenway trail would be even better!	6/26/2026 1:08 PM
36	Update	6/26/2026 9:51 AM
37	Concrete ground at the splash pad and the concrete stairs in the splash pad. Accidents are waiting to happen. My 3 year old son actually just got knocked over by a big kid at the splash pad and fell back and hit his head on the concrete. Thank God he is okay, but we haven't visited since and likely won't.	6/26/2026 7:12 AM
38	Tax payer dollars	6/25/2026 10:42 PM
39	Accessibility	6/25/2026 10:07 PM
40	Maintaining/improving what we have.	6/25/2026 9:10 PM
41	Few walking trails	6/25/2026 8:44 PM
42	Accessibility, upgrading facilities, bathrooms, and using more space at Lawrence street park to add pickleball courts. Big dream- would love an outdoor community pool in Zeeland	6/25/2026 8:42 PM
43	Accessibility and inclusion	6/25/2026 8:20 PM
44	Do not increase taxes! Please fence in parks.	6/25/2026 6:10 PM
45	Keeping natural landscaping	6/25/2026 5:44 PM
46	Lawrence street park is soooo beautiful please upgrade the equipment and it would be amazing	6/25/2026 5:13 PM
47	For its size, Zeeland has a good amount of park space. How that space is utilized is debatable. For example, Lawrence Park has a lot of green space. I rarely see it used.	6/25/2026 4:53 PM
48	Safety regarding proximity to traffic	6/25/2026 4:31 PM
49	N/a	6/25/2026 4:26 PM
50	I don't really have any concerns- I love Zeeland and I feel like the town does a wonderful job	6/25/2026 4:22 PM
51	Lawrence Street is unsafe and out dated and highly used.	6/25/2026 3:16 PM
52	Shade and natural play	6/25/2026 2:06 PM
53	Out dated	6/25/2026 1:53 PM
54	Loss of Bethel Park and replacing with factory Updates needed at Lawrence St Park	6/25/2026 1:52 PM
55	Playground structures need to be updated for safety of kids. There should also be adequate seating for families picnic tables and benches.	6/25/2026 1:47 PM
56	N/a	6/25/2026 10:29 AM

57	Regular maintenance of playground equipment, facilities and paths for safety.	6/25/2026 9:58 AM
58	Dog friendly	6/25/2026 9:32 AM
59	No clie	6/25/2026 8:06 AM
60	The new ground surfaces at huizenga/hoogland park are not sustainable. Huizenga park ground surface is already in need of repair.	6/25/2026 7:48 AM
61	Let's improve what we have. Better facilities, including restrooms, are important. Low maintenance landscaping , especially using native trees and plants, helps keep costs down.	6/25/2026 7:31 AM
62	Safety for children and accessible for everyone	6/25/2026 7:20 AM
63	Maintenance	6/25/2026 5:26 AM
64	Maintenance	6/24/2026 9:41 PM
65	That the ones we have and any future ones are maintained well	6/24/2026 6:33 PM
66	Run down	6/24/2026 6:10 PM
67	Nothing at this time	6/24/2026 5:59 PM
68	Some are aging and seem unsafe. The splash pad is also incredibly hard to find seating in as well as having enough space for children to not run into each other.	6/24/2026 5:25 PM
69	We love using our Zeeland playgrounds! We live close to Hoogland and love the new space, however we have very young children and the bigger structure is quite dangerous for them. Lots of very tall open spaces for them to fall off, and the slides are extremely steep and fast (I've even seen older kids surprised by this). I'm sure it's all been approved and tested by the company that provided it, but it feels unsafe. We also have a newborn and love finding spaces we can use that are shady in the summer heat- we recently went to Lawrence Street Park for this reason and most of the structures are mildewy/rusty with sharp edges in many areas. The setting is perfect but we would love to be able to enjoy the play structures more.	6/24/2026 4:39 PM
70	The lack of improvements on Michigan Street Tor lot which is a high residential area.	6/24/2026 4:34 PM
71	Focus on improving what you already have.	6/24/2026 4:29 PM
72	Lawrence St is my biggest concern. It is in the heart of town and so used and loved by the community but it desperately needs improvements.	6/24/2026 4:29 PM
73	Huizinga needs a closer bathroom to the park and more shade. Hoogland needs more shade and seating.	6/24/2026 4:27 PM
74	All of these ideas sound great but they usually take a long time to actually see something happen. My kids are at the age where they like parks but if these improvements take years to do they will be older and no longer interested in them. I'd love to see things for older children put in place not just little kids.	6/24/2026 4:26 PM
75	Maintenance and accessibility	6/24/2026 4:04 PM
76	There ever being a lack of usage one sis dig access	6/24/2026 3:58 PM
77	Cut taxes	6/24/2026 3:56 PM

Q23 What is your highest priority for future park improvements in Zeeland?

Answered: 79 Skipped: 50

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Swimming area	7/18/2026 11:50 AM
2	Lawrence street park equipment upgrade and safety for all parks	7/15/2026 3:10 PM
3	Connected biking trails that are safe for all ages, but have challenging features for growth and improvement	7/14/2026 12:56 PM
4	Creating a Senior Playground	7/13/2026 1:42 PM
5	More activity space for older children	7/12/2026 8:59 PM
6	Lawrence	7/12/2026 8:50 PM
7	Lawrence street park needs improvement and updates, keep the mature trees. Add more semi permanent shade things downtown Zeeland for events.	7/11/2026 1:16 PM
8	My highest priority for future park improvements is continued maintenance.	7/11/2026 11:50 AM
9	Making sure they are kept maintained	7/10/2026 3:13 PM
10	Maintain and existing parks. Add a walking track	7/9/2026 9:24 PM
11	More trails and paths for walking	7/9/2026 7:17 PM
12	Bike paths, running/jogging trails - keep it simple, don't spend a ton on weird playground stuff that get's too hot and no one uses. Playgrounds are empty most of the time. SplashPad is packed on the hot days... nowhere for parents to sit and too crowded	7/9/2026 4:41 PM
13	Maintenance and keeping the parks looking nice and inviting as well as keeping playground equipment in working order	7/9/2026 4:05 PM
14	Updates to current parks. Split the middle school and Zeeland rec.	7/9/2026 3:50 PM
15	Updated equipment but with the same aesthetic feel Zeeland brings/ bathrooms	7/9/2026 3:48 PM
16	Accessibilty	7/9/2026 3:37 PM
17	Accessibility for the disabled and equipment that is suitable for various age range of kiddos	7/7/2026 6:28 PM
18	Pool	7/6/2026 2:07 PM
19	Lawrence street park facilities need to be modernized. All equipment is showing its age.	7/4/2026 2:13 PM
20	Restrooms need to be there, clean, and open.	6/30/2026 11:25 PM
21	Accessibility	6/30/2026 7:12 PM
22	Update equipment	6/30/2026 2:43 PM
23	Overpass and bike trails	6/29/2026 8:35 PM
24	Paw Paw footbridge has wonderful potential! Many people use this area for a variety of purposes- foot traffic, lunch breaks, and it is a very popular photography location. It is the first park that welcomes people into Zeeland. There have been improvements to the plantings along the hill, however, the natural area is overgrown, ignored, and wild. Imagine the potential with purposeful and thought out plants and color! This area is well-loved but neglected. It can be our little gem to greet visitors to Zeeland! Please consider a focus on Paw Paw footbridge!	6/28/2026 3:33 PM
25	Dog Park	6/28/2026 3:00 PM
26	Biking paths	6/28/2026 1:53 PM
27	Biking trails - mountain and paved	6/28/2026 1:05 PM

28	Another splash pad at a existing park	6/28/2026 11:53 AM
29	Fishing, hiking, green space	6/28/2026 9:51 AM
30	Trails to walk, or a dog park	6/28/2026 9:42 AM
31	Unsure	6/28/2026 1:26 AM
32	Good/efficient/useful/unique design	6/27/2026 8:49 PM
33	Lawrence street park	6/27/2026 2:04 PM
34	Winter activities	6/27/2026 12:25 PM
35	Grills added	6/26/2026 7:01 PM
36	Unknown	6/26/2026 1:08 PM
37	More sports fields accessible for recreation uses and games	6/26/2026 9:51 AM
38	Lawrence St. Park	6/26/2026 7:12 AM
39	Bathroom at Michigan tot lot	6/25/2026 10:42 PM
40	Accessibility	6/25/2026 10:07 PM
41	Lawrence St Park hasn't been updated in decades. It desperately needs to be improved and updated.	6/25/2026 9:21 PM
42	Native plants, natural play areas	6/25/2026 8:44 PM
43	Updating Lawrence street park	6/25/2026 8:42 PM
44	Accessibility	6/25/2026 8:20 PM
45	Do not increase taxes	6/25/2026 6:10 PM
46	More play structures and shade and water accessibility	6/25/2026 5:13 PM
47	Creating spaces the people of Zeeland will use.	6/25/2026 4:53 PM
48	Same as above	6/25/2026 4:31 PM
49	More items to play on	6/25/2026 4:26 PM
50	Probably to just keep a good thing going!	6/25/2026 4:22 PM
51	Lawrence street park	6/25/2026 3:16 PM
52	Shade!!	6/25/2026 2:06 PM
53	More playgrounds and improved playground equipment	6/25/2026 1:53 PM
54	To be accessible for handicapped, plenty of shade and seating, water available	6/25/2026 1:52 PM
55	Lawrence Street Park and something winter related.	6/25/2026 1:47 PM
56	Lawrence street playground very outdated.	6/25/2026 1:42 PM
57	Walking trails and maintaining trails	6/25/2026 10:29 AM
58	Make sure there is something for all ages.	6/25/2026 9:58 AM
59	Family friendly but also that adults can use.	6/25/2026 9:32 AM
60	We have a lot to do in the summers, but some more winter activities would be great. An outdoor pool would also be amazing	6/25/2026 8:06 AM
61	Biking trails to connect across 196.	6/25/2026 7:48 AM
62	Fixing what we have in a sustainable way.	6/25/2026 7:31 AM
63	New swings at the minimum would be so nice at the MI St. tot lot. One of those that parents swing with their little child would be amazing! We go to this park almost daily. I'd love to see some upgrades!	6/25/2026 7:20 AM

64	Keep them looking fresh and welcoming	6/25/2026 7:20 AM
65	Lawrence Street	6/25/2026 5:26 AM
66	Lawrence street park playground upgrade.	6/24/2026 10:46 PM
67	We have a basketball court, tennis court, and pickleball court all on one space. I'd like to see a separate area for each activity.	6/24/2026 9:41 PM
68	Accessibility and multi age range equipment	6/24/2026 6:33 PM
69	Playgrounds	6/24/2026 6:10 PM
70	Maintain clean areas	6/24/2026 5:59 PM
71	Safe equipment with lots of choices for children.	6/24/2026 5:25 PM
72	Lawrence Street!	6/24/2026 4:39 PM
73	Improving Michigan Street Tot lot updating playground structures	6/24/2026 4:34 PM
74	Lawrence street park needs to be priority. The playground is outdated and dangerous.	6/24/2026 4:29 PM
75	Fences with gates.	6/24/2026 4:27 PM
76	Seeing some of these ideas done in a timely manner.	6/24/2026 4:26 PM
77	Accessibility	6/24/2026 4:04 PM
78	Keeping them open and operational	6/24/2026 3:58 PM
79	Do t increase taxes to do it.	6/24/2026 3:56 PM

Q24 Additional comments or suggestions:

Answered: 38 Skipped: 91

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	None	7/18/2026 11:50 AM
2	We love the parts and use them constantly with our four and six-year-old children. The taught light could use some love but overall we're incredibly blessed and thankful.	7/14/2026 12:56 PM
3	None	7/12/2026 8:59 PM
4	Non	7/12/2026 8:50 PM
5	A natural swimming pond in the Lawrence street park would be amazing.	7/11/2026 1:16 PM
6	None	7/10/2026 3:13 PM
7	Thanks for asking us for feedback!	7/9/2026 9:24 PM
8	We love Zeeland and overall have no complaints! Keep up the great job!	7/9/2026 4:41 PM
9	N/A	7/9/2026 4:05 PM
10	Love Zeeland as is! People move here for the small town feel. We do not want to grow. Random thought: downtown not for profit ice cream shop. Support high school jobs, those in need. Connect it with all the festivals.	7/9/2026 3:50 PM
11	Pool at Lawrence st park	7/6/2026 2:07 PM
12	The more parks the better.	6/30/2026 11:25 PM
13	Please add a skate park	6/30/2026 7:12 PM
14	NA	6/30/2026 2:43 PM
15	We appreciate you seeking public input. Thanks for all you do in helping keep Zeeland beautiful!	6/28/2026 3:33 PM
16	Dog Park	6/28/2026 3:00 PM
17	Overall Zeeland maintains the park system very well and addresses to the best of their ability any issues brought to their attention.	6/28/2026 11:53 AM
18	A playground right downtown, or an indoor public playground would be awesome! Unique spaces and designs vs run of the mill will always encourage more excitement and use.	6/27/2026 8:49 PM
19	N/a	6/27/2026 12:25 PM
20	Please add grill to hoogland park! I would love to have my kids bday party there!	6/26/2026 7:01 PM
21	We need a field house for winter sports too	6/26/2026 9:51 AM
22	None	6/25/2026 10:42 PM
23	None	6/25/2026 8:44 PM
24	.	6/25/2026 8:42 PM
25	Warmer water in splash pad please	6/25/2026 5:16 PM
26	Maintain what we have	6/25/2026 5:13 PM
27	N/a	6/25/2026 4:31 PM
28	N/a	6/25/2026 4:26 PM
29	Overall we have been happy with Zeeland Parks for the the 30+ years we've used them	6/25/2026 1:52 PM

30	N/a	6/25/2026 10:29 AM
31	No	6/25/2026 9:32 AM
32	No	6/25/2026 8:06 AM
33	No	6/25/2026 7:20 AM
34	Thanks for all you do!	6/24/2026 10:46 PM
35	None	6/24/2026 5:59 PM
36	Warmer water at the splash pad	6/24/2026 5:57 PM
37	The water at the splash pad is absolutely frigid - I'm so sad that my child doesn't want to go anymore for that reason.	6/24/2026 4:04 PM
38	Please don't increase our taxes. Us retirees can't afford it.	6/24/2026 3:56 PM



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

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Cemetery and Parks Commission
FROM: Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance
SUBJECT: Lawrence Park Memorial Grill
DATE: August 5, 2026

During our review of Lawrence Park as part of the City's five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan update, staff evaluated the condition and current use of the large masonry grill located near the amphitheater. The grill has not been used in recent memory and according to Mike Bronkhorst has not been used in the past five years.

The structure and metal components are in need of repair. The masonry shows cracking and deterioration, and the interior metal panels and supports are significantly rusted. Restoring the grill for safe and functional public use would require an investment in a facility for which there is no demonstrated recent demand.

Based on its condition and lack of use, staff would like to discuss removing the grill and restoring the site to green space. Removal would eliminate a deteriorating structure, reduce future maintenance obligations, and provide a cleaner and more flexible area within the park. Staff would coordinate the work to minimize disturbance to the surrounding trees, lawn, sidewalks, and nearby park amenities.

The Commission may have additional historical knowledge regarding the grill. Based on a conversation with a local resident, it appears the grill may have been donated by the Geerlings family in connection with chicken barbecues that were formerly held at Lawrence Park. The memorial plaque reads, "In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Geerlings."

Staff believes a remaining member of the Geerlings family may be known locally. Before any removal occurs, our intention would be to contact the family, explain the proposed work, and offer the memorial plaque to them. If the family does not wish to receive the plaque, staff would return to the Commission for direction regarding an appropriate alternative, such as preservation in the Zeeland Historical Society's collection or another commemorative use.

Staff is seeking the Commission's input on the history of the grill and concurrence with the proposed approach. If the Commission is comfortable proceeding, staff would confirm family contact, document the structure before removal, determine the most practical removal method and cost, and restore the area with topsoil and turf.

FEEL THE ZEEL



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For the Commission reference, below are pictures of the existing conditions of the grill.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KP".

Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance

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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Cemetery and Parks Commission
FROM: Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance
SUBJECT: Other Items Agenda
DATE: August 5, 2026

A. Burial Report since June 3, 2026

- a. Burials
 - i. 13 at Lincoln – 1 Residents and 12 Non-Residents
 - ii. 2 at Felch – 2 Residents and 0 Non-Residents
- b. Sales
 - i. 1 at Lincoln – 1 Resident and 0 Non-Residents
 - ii. 1 at Felch – 0 Residents and 1 Non-Residents
 - iii. Columbarium – 0 Residents and 2 Non-Residents
- c. Transfers – 2 (Lincoln to Felch)
- d. Sale Back to City – 1 at Felch

- B. Public Input – Not from the public, but an update on the irrigation at the Lincoln Cemetery. As a result of the construction project through Lincoln Cemetery, we do not currently have irrigation west of the access drive. This means we are unable to sprinkle the Veterans section and the area around the flowered cross. Because of this, the grass has gone dormant in these areas as we experience warm temperatures and a lack of rain. Additionally, we are unable to maintain the flowers in the cross well, so we removed them and transitioned the bed to mulch for the remainder of this year. We are planning to reinstitute flowers next growing season.

Kevin Plockmeyer, ACM of City Services/Infrastructure and Finance

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