# AGENDA

## Cemetery-Parks Commission Meeting

**Monday, October 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, Interim City Manager
- Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant

**1)** Approval of September 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes

**2)** Parks Master Plan Review

**3)** Bus Tour Follow-up

**4)** Other Items

a) Burial Report

| | |
|---|---|
| **Burials** | |
| Felch | 0 Resident / 2 Non-resident |
| Lincoln | 2 Resident / 3 Non-resident |
| Columbarium | 0 Resident / 0 Non-resident |
| **Sales** | |
| Felch | 5 Resident / 1 Non-resident |
| Lincoln | 0 Resident / 0 Non-resident |
| Columbarium | 0 Resident / 0 Non-resident |
| **Other** | |
| Sellbacks | 1 (2 plots at Lincoln) |

b) Public Concerns – Nothing Noteworthy

**Agenda Distribution:**
City Clerk-Posting Copy
Cemetery-Parks Commissioners
City Council
City Manager

## MEETING MINUTES

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 9, 2026

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

**ABSENT:** Ashley Kiekintveld, Commissioner
Thom Parker, Commissioner

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

**GUEST:** Melinda Whitten, MCSA Group

**I. City Park Bus Tour**

Commissioners, staff and Melinda Whitten from MCSA Group took a bus tour of all city parks as they continue to work to finalize the new Master Plan and determine Capital Improvement Project priorities. (Kevin Plockmeyer informed the commission during this tour that $800,000 in funding has been secured for the improvements at Lawrence Park and they should expect that process to begin soon as the commission's next big project.)

**Commission Business (after returning from the tour):**

**Parks Master Plan Update**

After returning from the bus tour, commissioners were asked to forward any additional items they would like added to the current CIP schedule list to staff in the next week or so. MCSA Group will then create a survey that the commission can use to rank their priorities for the new master plan. Kevin Plockmeyer will reach out to the Outdoor Discovery Center about Paw Paw Footbridge Park mitigation efforts. MCSA Group will have a complete draft at the next meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Gruppen asked if the commission had ever talked about a dog park? Yes, however, existing parks did not have the space needed for such a park. If there is now a fondness to pursue one, this is an opportunity to add that to the list for consideration.

**II. Approval of August 12, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Lynette Lam
**Support:** Sabina Otteman
All in favor, minutes approved.

**VIII. Burial Report:** (from packet since 8/6/2026)

Burials
Felch – 0 Resident and 0 Non-Resident
Lincoln – 1 Resident and 2 Non-Resident
Columbarium – 0 Resident / 0 Non-Resident
Sales
Felch – 1 Resident and 1 Non-Resident
Lincoln – 1 Resident and 1 Non-Resident
No columbarium sales, transfers or sellbacks during this time.

DRAFT

**Other Items:**

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** Next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

RECORDED BY:

_____

Susan Moore, Administrative Assistant

DRAFT

The items above represent the author's recollection of meeting conversations and decisions made. If there are any items that require revision or items that have been omitted, please respond within 6 days of receiving this document.

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

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Cemetery and Parks Commission

FROM: Kevin Plockmeyer, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan

DATE: October 9, 2026

Over the past several meetings, the Commission has reviewed the overall planning process, the existing conditions of the City's parks, the goals and objectives from the previous plan, and the results of the community survey. The Commission also participated in a bus tour of the City's parks, which provided an opportunity to view several of the proposed project areas in person and discuss potential future improvements within the context of each park.

A draft copy of the full Parks and Recreation Plan has also been provided for the Commission's review. This draft brings together the background information, community survey results, goals and objectives, action program, and capital improvement schedule into one document. The Commission's review and feedback will be important as MCSA Group and staff continue refining the plan before it is made available for public review.

Following the bus tour and discussion, members of the Commission were asked to rank potential projects for inclusion in the updated plan. The results of that ranking were as follows:

1. Vande Luyster Square – New gazebo, entry column, brick pavers, and related improvements
2. Paw Paw Footbridge – Accessible trail replacement and timber viewing platform
3. Huizenga Park – Pathway and fishing access
4. Michigan Street Tot Lot – New shelter, new playground equipment, and drinking fountain
5. Huizenga Park – Shade at playground
6. Huizenga Park – Pickleball court lighting
7. Lawrence Park – Basketball/court renovations
8. Huizenga Park – Skatepark/basketball court development
9. Huizenga Park – Sand volleyball courts, 2–4 courts
10. Addition of a small dog park – Park location to be determined
11. Addition of outdoor fitness areas – Park location to be determined
12. Acquisition of additional green space/park property
13. Addition of pump track – Park location to be determined

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

These rankings are intended to help guide the Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule for the updated plan. As with prior plans, the schedule is not intended to complete every desired park improvement within the next five years. Rather, it is intended to identify the projects that appear most achievable during the planning period, while maintaining flexibility as funding, grants, partnerships, and other opportunities become available.

One item staff would like to discuss further with the Commission is Vande Luyster Square. The ranking identified Vande Luyster Square as the highest-priority item, but staff would like to verify whether the Commission's intent was to prioritize full implementation of the long-term vision for the park, including the new gazebo, entry columns, brick pavers, and related improvements, as opposed to only the currently planned gazebo repair/remodel work. Clarifying this distinction will be important as the project is described and sequenced in the updated plan.

The next step in the process will be to present the draft plan to City Council for review, which will likely occur at the November 2 City Council meeting. Following City Council's review, the plan will be posted for the required public comment period, which is anticipated to occur during the month of November and into December. After the public comment period, a public hearing will be scheduled at a City Council meeting, likely in late December or early January, before the plan is considered for final adoption.

At Monday's meeting, the Commission will be asked to review the draft plan, discuss the project rankings, clarify the Vande Luyster Square item, and provide any final feedback on the Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule. This discussion will generally conclude the Commission's work on the updated Parks and Recreation Plan before the plan moves on to City Council review and the public comment process. Staff would like to thank the Commission for its time, feedback, and thoughtful discussion throughout this process. Your work has been important in helping shape the priorities that will guide the City's park and recreation investments over the next five years.



_____

Kevin Plockmeyer, Interim City Manager

FEEL THE ZEEL

# City of Zeeland

# 2027 Parks and Recreation Plan

Prepared By :

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS · MICHIGAN



# Table of Contents


## 1. Introduction — Page 1

Introduction
Plan Purpose
Plan Scope

## 2. Community Description — Page 3

Social Characteristics
Physical Characteristics / Resource Inventory
Location Map
Zoning Map

## 3. Administrative Structure — Page 9

City Management and Staff
City Services and Infrastructure
City of Zeeland Organizational Chart
Cemetery and Parks Commission
Zeeland Recreation
Cemetery and Parks Organizational Chart
Cemetery and Parks Budget
Role of Volunteers

## 4. Recreation Inventory — Page 12

City of Zeeland Park and Open Space Facilities
Indoor Recreation Facilities
Regional Facilities
DNR Recreation Grant Inventory
City of Zeeland Public Schools
Recreation Facilities Walkability Map
Existing Recreation Facilities Matrix

## 5. Planning and Public Input Process — Page 25

Recreation Planning
Plan Process and Development
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Community Survey Responses

## 6. Recreation Needs and Deficiencies Page 27

Recreation Standards
Recreation Standards for Acreage
Recreation Standards for Activities / Facilities
Recreation Needs and Deficiencies Table
Recreation Facilities Summary

## 7. Goals and Objectives Page 33

## 8. Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule Page 35

## 9. Park Plans Page 38

Park Master Plans

## 10. Local Adoption and Certification Plan Page 39

Certification Checklist
Cemetery and Parks and Commission Resolution of Adoption
City Commission Resolution of Adoption
Public Hearing Notice
Minutes of Public Hearing
Regional Planning Agency Transmittal Letter
County Planning Agency Transmittal Letter

## 11. Appendices Page 40

Public Hearing Notes
Public Notices
Cemetery and Parks Ordinance




# 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, non-motorized 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, non-motorized 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

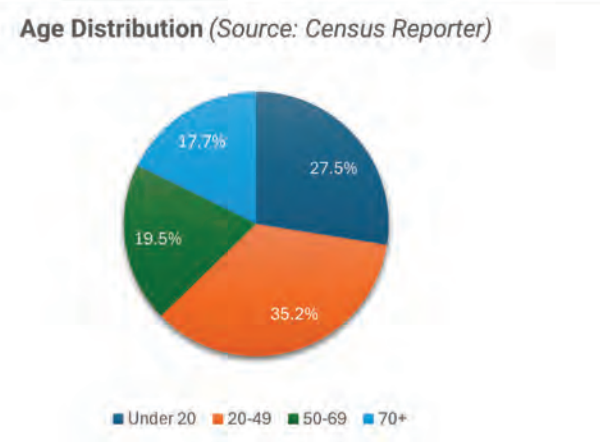
Zeeland Public School district includes 2 high schools, 2 middle schools and six elementary schools. Additionally, the district houses a successful early childhood preschool program, a year-round K-8 multi-aged school, Spanish Immersion, elementary gifted and talented, and alternative high school and 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 |




## POPULATION BY RACE

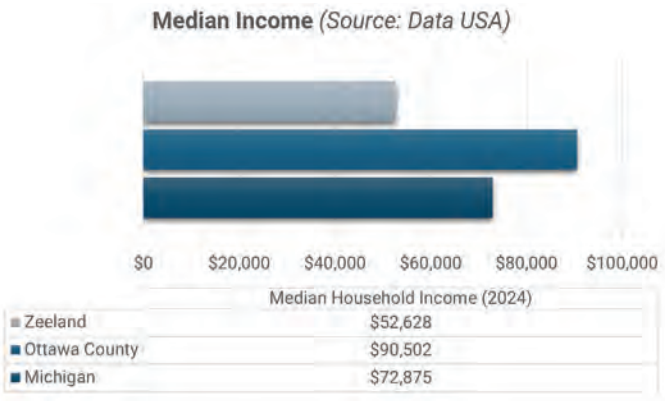
The City of Zeeland's population is predominantly White (Non-Hispanic), comprising approximately 80.5% of residents. Individuals identifying as two or more races, including Hispanic ethnicity, represent 9.02% of the population, while White (Hispanic) residents account for 5.75%. Black or African American (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



# Physical Characteristics / Resource Inventory

## INTRODUCTION

Understanding the physical features and natural resources of the City helps to explain its historical development and guide future develop 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

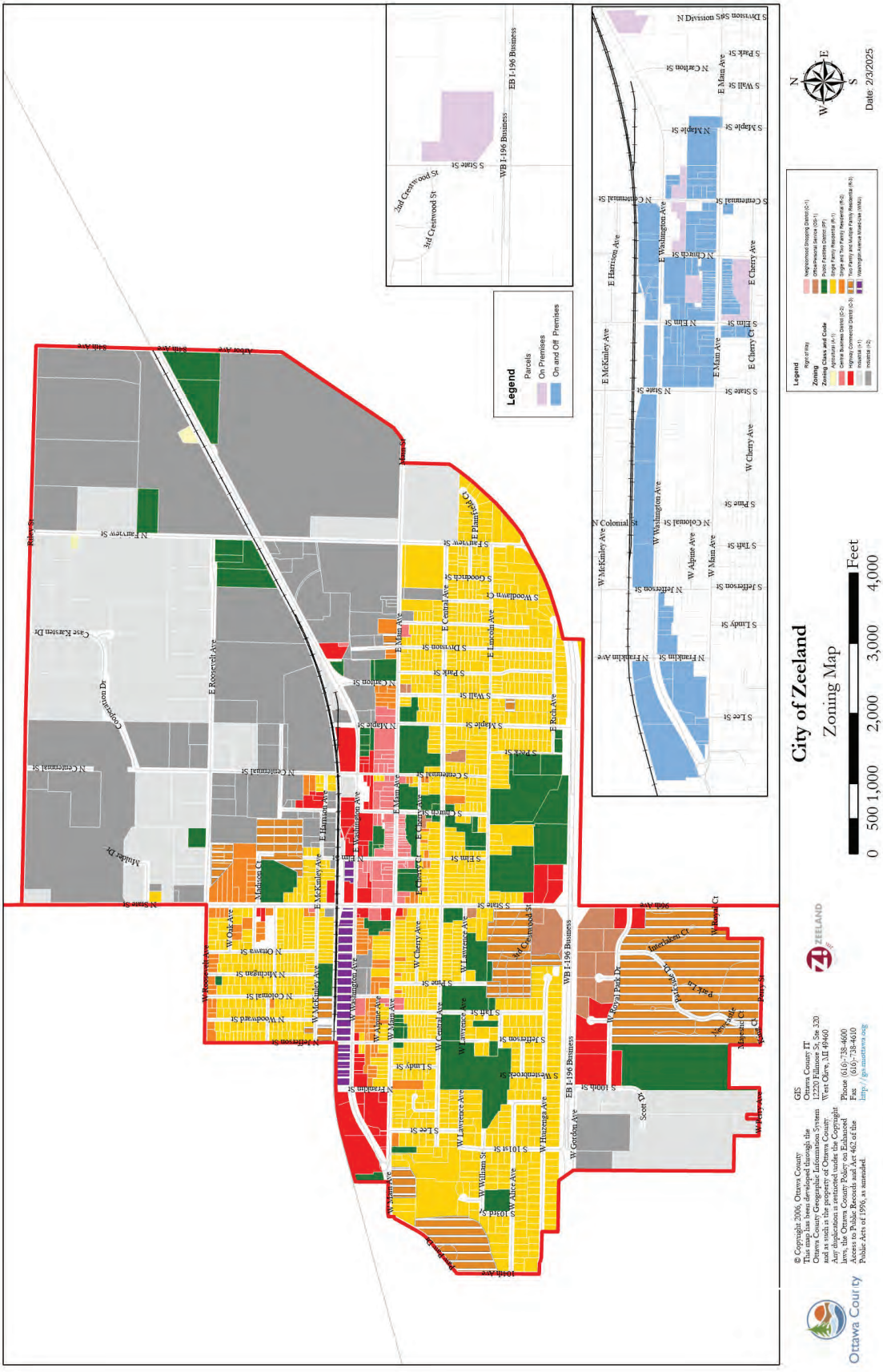
Access to the service area from other areas along the shoreline or inland is from U.S. 31 and I-196, respectively. These limited accesses: high-speed expressways provide easy access to the neighboring metropolitan areas of Grand Rapids, Grand Haven and Muskegon. U.S. 31 provides north/south transportation 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



# ZONING MAP


City of Zeeland
Zoning Map
0 500 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000
Feet
Date: 2/3/2025
Legend
Parcels
On Premises
On and Off Premises
Ottawa County

# 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

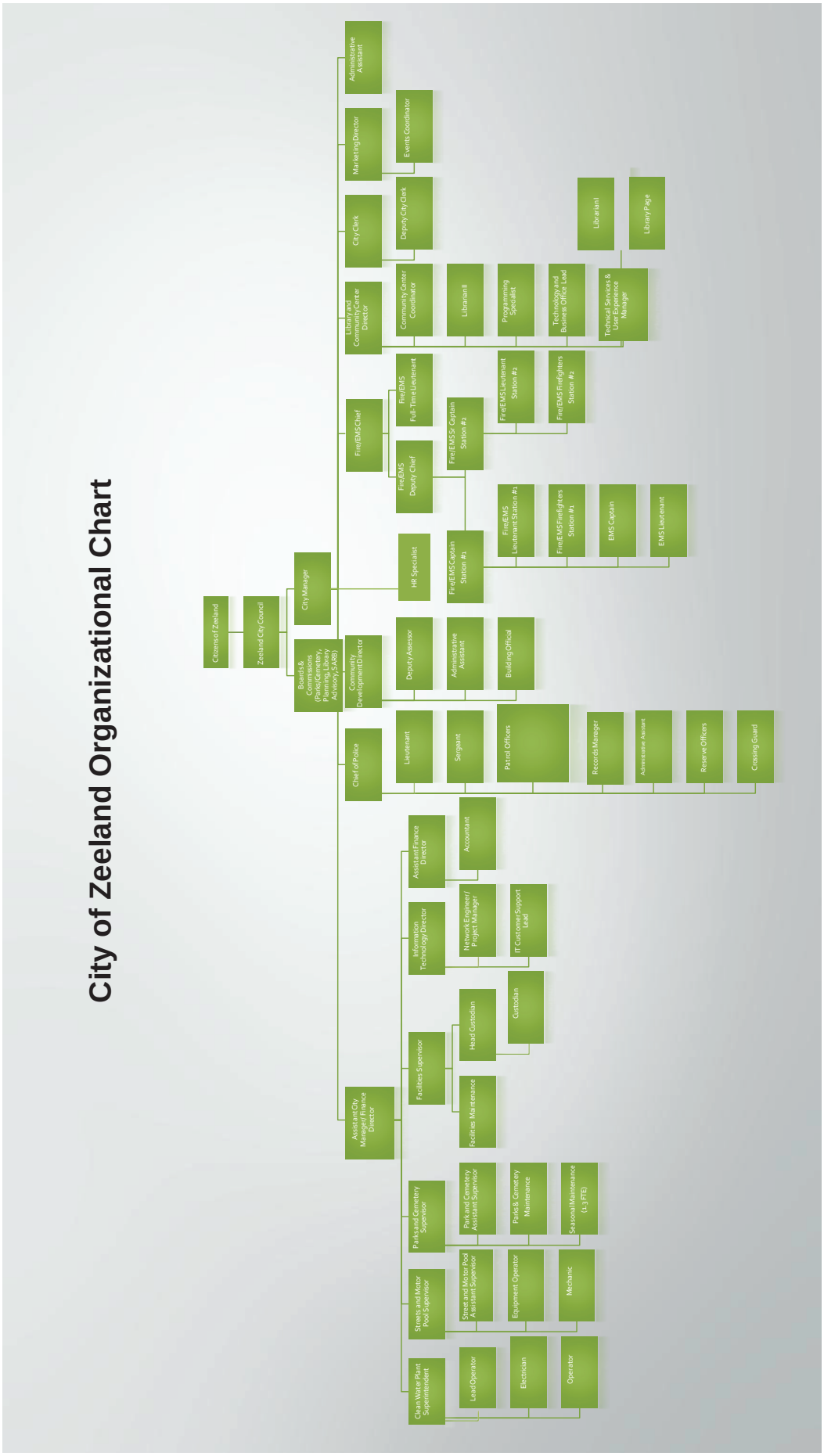
The Cemetery and Parks Commission assists the Cemetery and Parks Department in developing policies and procedures.  The Commission includes seven (7) members. The seven-member board advises City Council on long-range plans and needs for the City's cemeteries.

## 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, 2031 |
| Sabina 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, he City has a formal lease agreement with Zeeland Recreation to use some City facilities.


City of Zeeland Organizational Chart
Citizens of Zeeland
Zeeland City Council
Boards & Commissions (Parks & Cemetery, Planning, Library Advisory, ZABB)
City Manager
Administrative Assistant
Marketing Director
Events Coordinator
City Clerk
Deputy City Clerk
Library and Community Center Director
Community Center Coordinator
Librarian II
Programming Specialist
Technology and Business Office Lead
Technical Services & User Experience Manager
Librarian I
Library Page
Fire/EMS Chief
Fire/EMS Full-Time Lieutenant
Fire/EMS Deputy Chief
Fire/EMS Sr Captain Station #2
Fire/EMS Lieutenant Station #2
Fire/EMS Firefighters Station #2
HR Specialist
Fire/EMS Captain Station #1
Fire/EMS Lieutenant Station #1
Fire/EMS Firefighters Station #1
EMS Captain
EMS Lieutenant
Community Development Director
Deputy Assessor
Administrative Assistant
Building Offical
Chief of Police
Lieutenant
Sergeant
Patrol Officers
Records Manager
Administrative Assistant
Reserve Officers
Crossing Guard
Assistant City Manager/Finance Director
Assistant Finance Director
Accountant
Information Technology Director
Network Engineer/ Project Manager
IT Customer Support Lead
Facilities Supervisor
Head Custodian
Custodian
Facilities Maintenance
Parks and Cemetery Supervisor
Park and Cemetery Assistant Supervisor
Parks & Cemetery Maintenance
Seasonal Maintenance (1.3 FTE)
Streets and Motor Pool Supervisor
Street and Motor Pool Assistant Supervisor
Equipment Operator
Mechanic
Clean Water Plant Superintendent
Lead Operator
Electrician
Operator

# 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)*

| Financial Summary | FY 24-25 Actual | FY 25-26 Budget | FY 25-26 Projected | FY 26-27 Budget | % Change 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% |
| | | | | | |
| **Personnel Summary** | | **Budget** | | **Budget** | **% Change** |
| 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)*

| Financial Summary | FY 24-25 Actual | FY 25-26 Budget | FY 25-26 Projected | FY 26-27 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.

# 04_
# 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 Town Structure installed in 1994. The ball fields were renovated in 2021 and are currently maintained by Zeeland Recreation. 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. However, the existing skate park and basketball court are near the end of their lifespan and should be considered for replacement.




**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**

FEEL THE ZEEL

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## HUIZENGA PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

### 350 ROYAL PARK DR.

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN

# 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. Since these improvements were completed, the park has grown in popularity.



### 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**

FEEL THE ZEEL

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## HOOGLAND PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

### 350 E RICH AVE.

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN

# 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. Zeeland Recreation programs the ball field for tee ball and is also responsible for its maintenance. 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 to the bowl, but the parking areas, playground equipment, and concrete under the shelter should be replaced.




**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**

FEEL THE ZEEL

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## LAWRENCE PARK - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

### 100 W LAWRENCE AVE.

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS · MICHIGAN

# 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. Recent maintenance improvements included resetting uneven pavers to enhance safety and accessibility and repainting the fencing to refresh its appearance.







### CLASSIFICATION :

Mini Park

### LOCATION:

100 E Main Ave.

### SIZE:

0.26 acres

### 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
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN

# 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. A paved connection should also be added between the sidewalk within the right-of-way and the park's internal pathway.

### 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. PLAY STRUCTURE
2. TRACK RIDE
3. WHIRL RIDE
4. SPRING RIDER
5. SWINGS
6. CLIMBERS

*PASSIVE RECREATION*

7. SHADE SHELTER
8. PAVED WALKWAY AROUND SITE
9. BENCH

*PARK INFRASTRUCTURE*

10. PARK SIGN
11. CHAIN LINK FENCE AROUND SITE

**PARK AREA: 0.30 ACRES**

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## MICHIGAN ST. TOT LOT - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

### 376 N MICHIGAN ST.

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS · MICHIGAN

# 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. The City partners with the Outdoor Discovery Center to maintain the river shoreline.





### CLASSIFICATION :

Mini Park

### LOCATION:

10309 Paw Paw Dr.

### SIZE:

1.03 acres

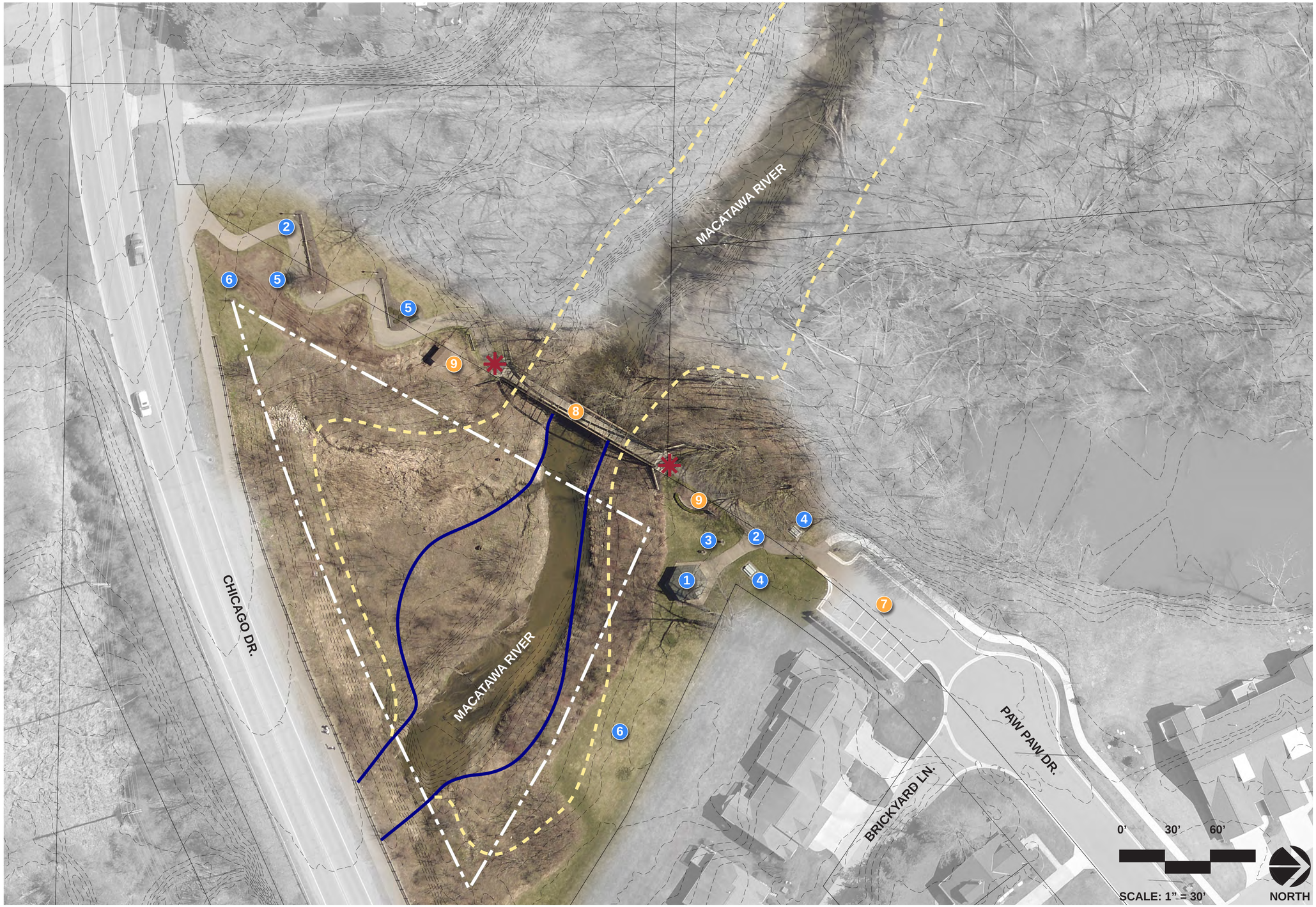
### ACCESSIBILITY RATING: 2

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. Vegetation along the river has become overgrown; selective pruning is recommended to open up views of the river.




**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**

FEEL THE ZEEL

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## PAW PAW FOOTBRIDGE - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

### 10309 PAW PAW DR.

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS · MICHIGAN

# 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. The City recently invested in park improvements, including trimming trees and sidewalk replacement.



### 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**

FEEL THE ZEEL

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## VANDE LUYSTER SQUARE - EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

### 148 E. CENTRAL AVE.

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN

## 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.

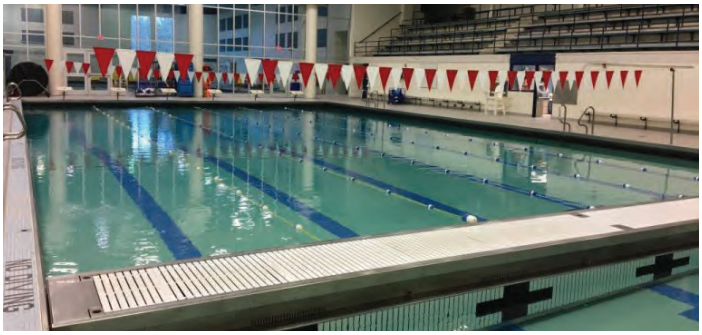
## SHARED USE PATHWAYS

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.

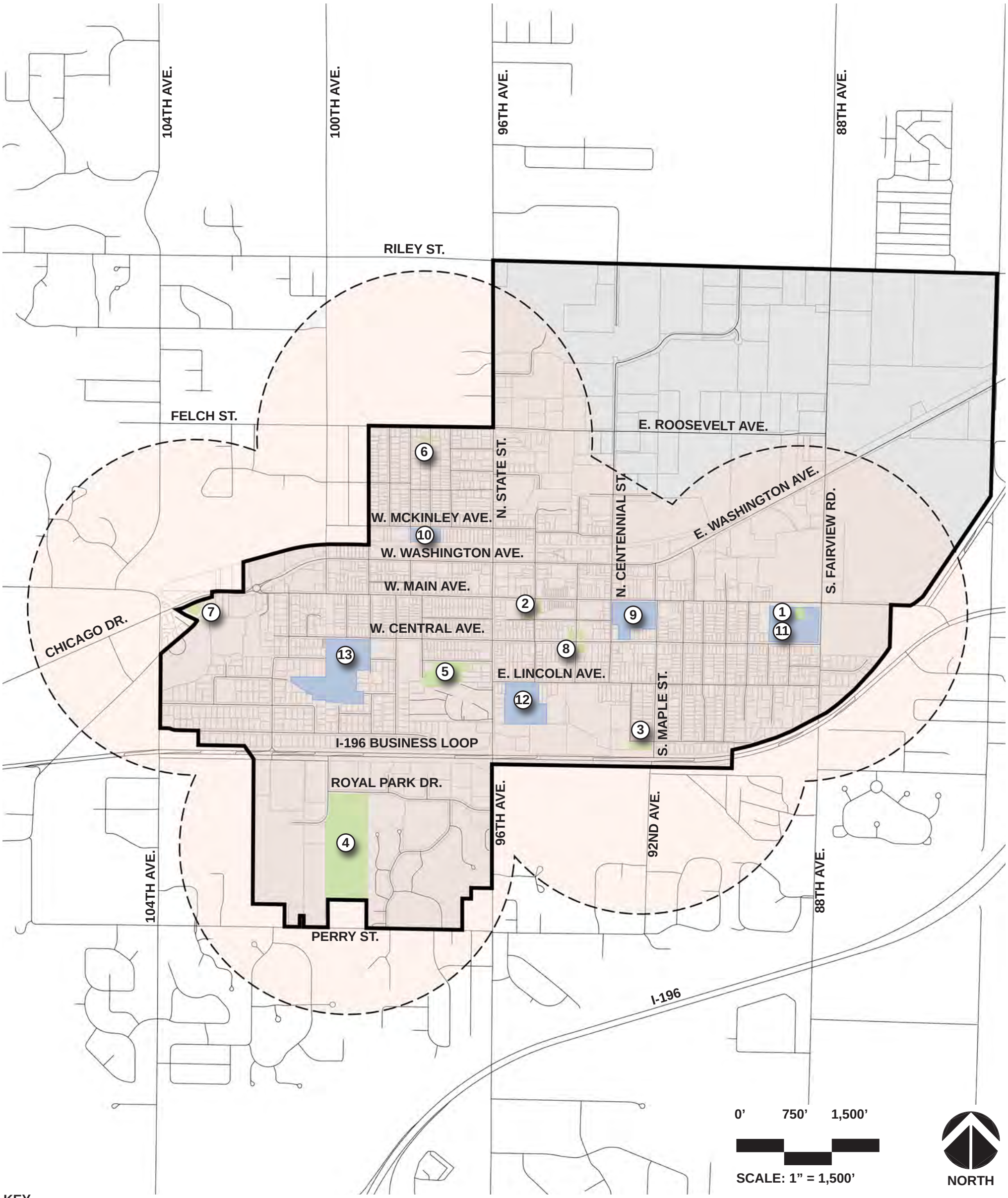
**Cityside Middle School** is located on the east side of Downtown Zeeland. It has no significant outdoor recreation facilities, with outdoor recreation space provided by the recreation area at Legends Field. However, there are a range of indoor facilities, including the Zeeland Community Recreation 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 VANDE LUYSTER SQUARE

*SCHOOLS*

9 CITYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

10 EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

11 LEGENDS FIELD

12 LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

13 ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**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
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN

# 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 | VANDE LUYSTER SQUARE | CITYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL | EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER | LEGENDS FIELD | LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | ZEELAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL | TOTAL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Acres** | | 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 | **56.9** |
| **Active Recreation** | 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** |
| **Passive Recreation** | 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 | | | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | | | | | |
| **Amenities** | Parking Lot | | | 1 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | **11** |
| | Restroom Building | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | **6** |
| | Footbridge | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | **2** |
| **Trails/Natural Area** | Natural Area | | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | | |
| | Natural Trail | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Paved Multi-Purpose Trail | | | | • | | | • | | | | | | | | |
| | Boardwalk | | | | • | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Notes** | | | 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 29, 2026

**SITE INVENTORY/ADA ANALYSIS**: May 8, 2026

**PROGRESS MEETING WITH CITY STAFF**: May 27, 2026
- Site Review and ADA Analysis
- Review Recreation Inventory, Needs and Deficiencies, Draft Survey, and Huizenga Park Master Plan

**1ST PUBLIC MEETING WITH CEMETERY & PARKS COMMISSION**: June 10, 2026
- Review Inventory/Analysis, Needs/Deficiencies, Draft Survey, and Old Master Plans

**PUBLIC SURVEY**: July 2026

**2ND PUBLIC MEETING WITH CEMETERY & PARKS COMMISSION**: August 12, 2026
- Review Survey Responses and Goals/Objectives

**3RD PUBLIC MEETING WITH CEMETERY & PARKS COMMISSION**: September 9, 2026
- Visit Each Park Location
- Review Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule

**4TH PUBLIC MEETING WITH CEMETERY & PARKS COMMISSION**: October 14, 2026
- Review Draft of Complete Plan

**PROGRESS MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL**: November 2, 2026

**PUBLIC REVIEW**: December 2026
- Draft of Final Plan available for 30-day Public Review as required by the DNR

**PUBLIC HEARING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING**: January 2027
- 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.

The survey received approximately 129 responses and revealed strong appreciation for the park system, with nearly 73% of respondents visiting parks several times per week or month. Respondents favored maintaining and modernizing existing facilities, identifying Lawrence Park as the highest investment priority (81%). Key improvements included upgraded playgrounds and restrooms, additional shade and seating, improved accessibility, and expanded walking and biking connections. Residents also expressed interest in aquatic facilities, pickleball courts, dog parks, and winter recreation while emphasizing preservation of natural areas, mature trees, and Zeeland's small-town character.

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 December 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 January 2027. 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 |
| **Total** | **8.40** |

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 |
| Total at Schools | | 23.1 acres |
| **Available Total** | | **31.5 acres** |

*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 |
| **Total** | **25.4** |



## 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.

07_

# 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.

### OBJECTIVES

- Continue to maintain the high quality of existing parks.
- Acquire and develop land for parks and expand the trail network 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.

### GOAL #2

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

### OBJECTIVES

- 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

- 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.

08_

# Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule

## ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule for the City of Zeeland's' 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 2027 and extend through 2032. 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.

# ACTION PROGRAM

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.

**Paw Paw Footbridge**
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 the years. Future phases may include the addition of pathway connections, fishing access improvements, shade for the new playground, removal and replacement of the basketball court and skate park, and pickleball lights.

**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 2026 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 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **PROJECT** | **CITY** | **OTHER FUNDS*** | **TOTAL PROJECT COSTS** | **YEAR** |
| **Vande Luyster Square Park Gazebo Repairs** | | | $80,000 | 2027 |
| **Lawrence Park Phase One**<br>New Playground<br>Concrete Walkways | | | $1,080,892 | 2028 |
| **Vande Luyster Square**<br>New Gazebo<br>Entry Column<br>Brick Pavers<br>Drinking Fountain | | | $480,346 | |
| **Paw Paw Footbridge**<br>Accessible Trail Replacement<br>Timber Viewing Platform | | | $434,956 | |
| **Huizenga Park**<br>Pathway and Fishing Access | | | $525,000 | |
| **Michigan Street Tot Lot**<br>New Shelter<br>New Playground Equipment<br>Drinking Fountain | | | $527,033 | |
| **Huizenga Park**<br>Shade at Playground | | | $55,000 | |
| **Huizenga Park**<br>Pickleball Court Lighting | | | $80,000 | |
| **Lawrence Park**<br>Basketball/Court Renovations | | | $25,000 | |
| **Huizenga Park**<br>Skatepark/Basketball Court Development | | | $450,000 | |
| **Huizenga Park**<br>Sand Volleyball Courts (2-4 courts) | | | $12,000 - $24,000 | |
| **Addition of a Small Dog Park**<br>Park Location TBD | | | $350,000 | |
| **Addition of Outdoor Fitness Areas**<br>Park Location TBD | | | $35,000 | |
| **Acquistion of Additional Green Space/Park Property** | | | VARIES | |
| **Addition of Pump Track**<br>Park Location TBD | | | $200,000 - $500,000 | |

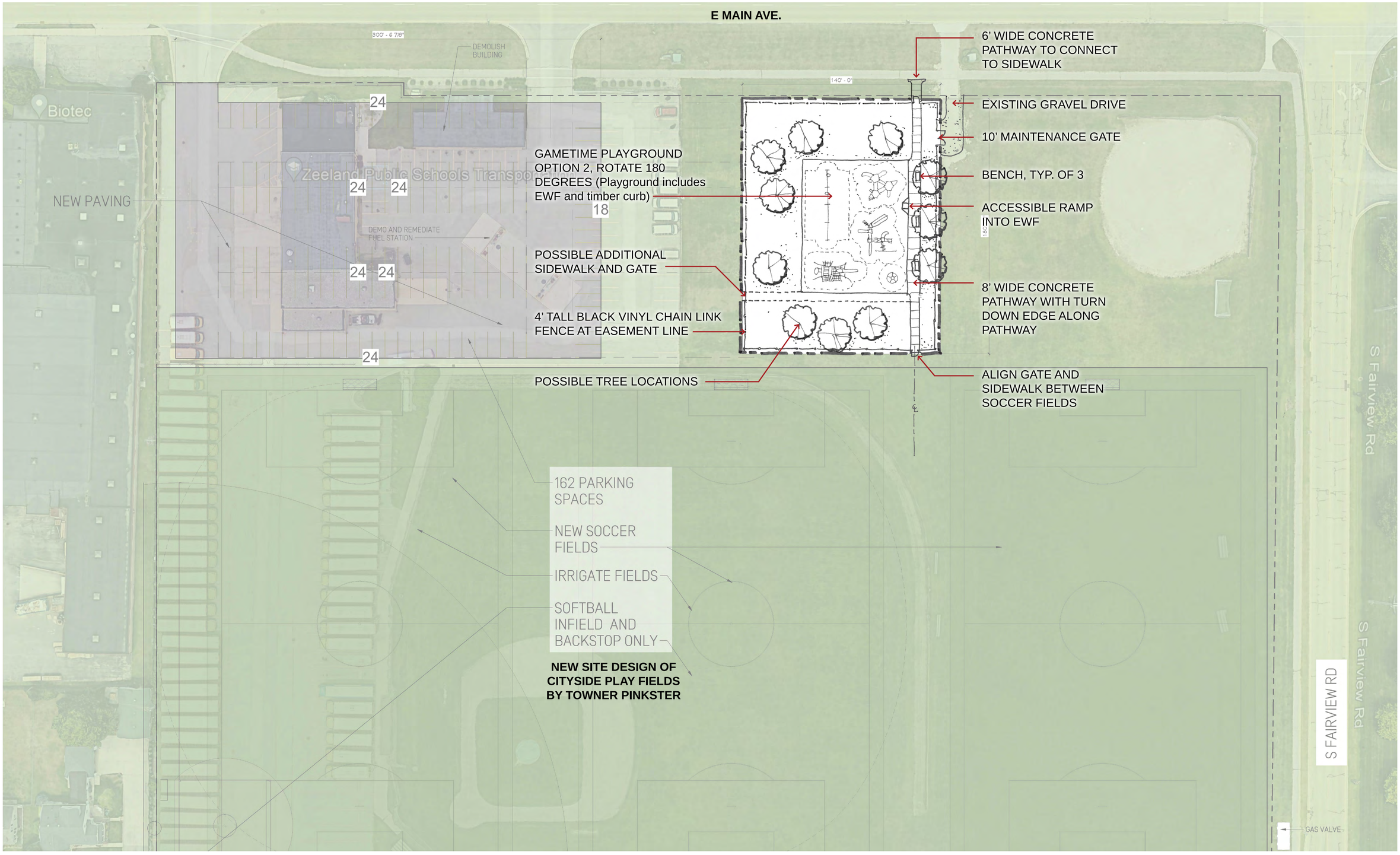
*Other funds include Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Passport to Recreation; Michigan Land and Water Conservation Fund; other State or Federal funding sources; Foundation Grants; Private Contributions; School District; and others.

09_

# Park Plans

The following pages have:

- Park Master Plans




**NEW SITE DESIGN OF CITYSIDE PLAY FIELDS BY TOWNER PINKSTER**

# Site Plan

## BETHEL CHURCH PLAYGROUND

### 730 E MAIN AVE.

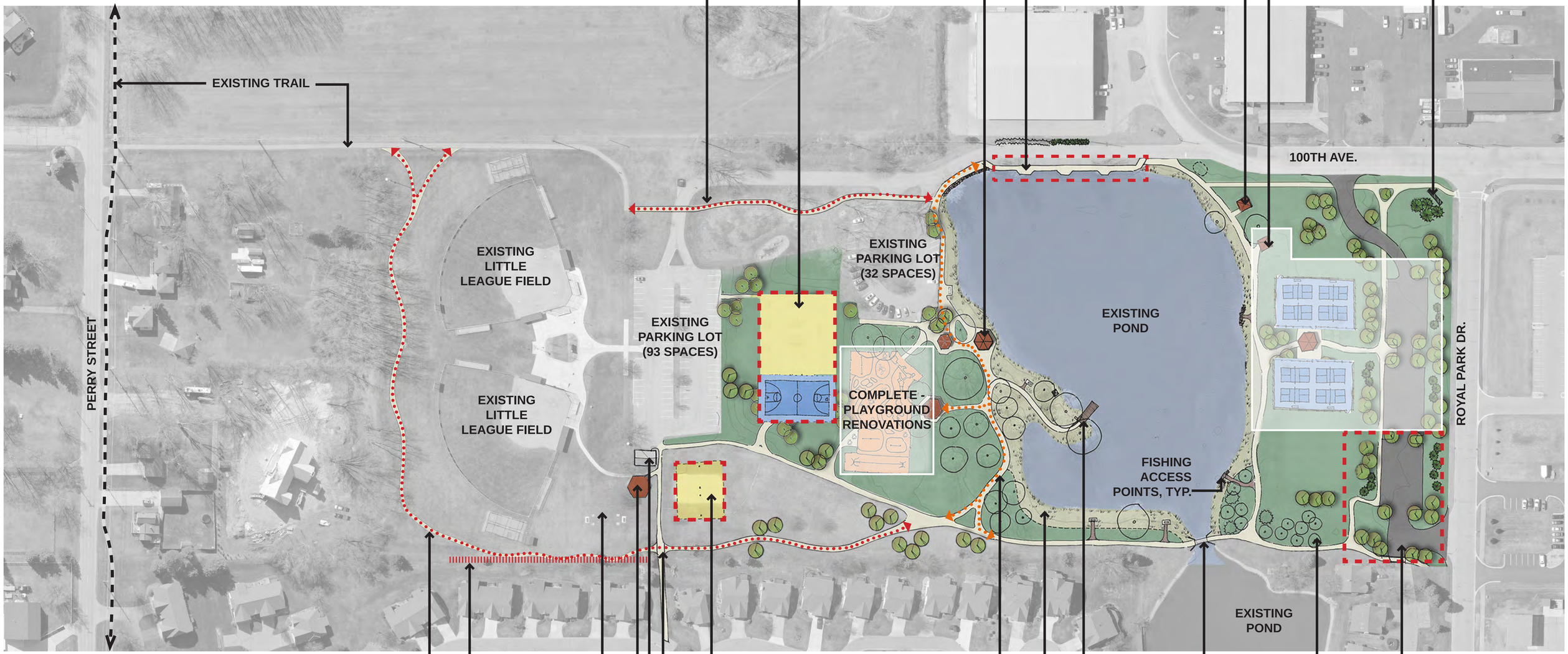
0' 30' 60'

SCALE: 1" = 30'

NORTH

DATE
08.31.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS · MICHIGAN




# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## HUIZENGA PARK - MASTER PLAN

### CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

0’ 70’ 140’

SCALE: 1” = 70’

NORTH

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN




# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## LAWRENCE PARK - MASTER PLAN

### CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

FEEL THE ZEEL

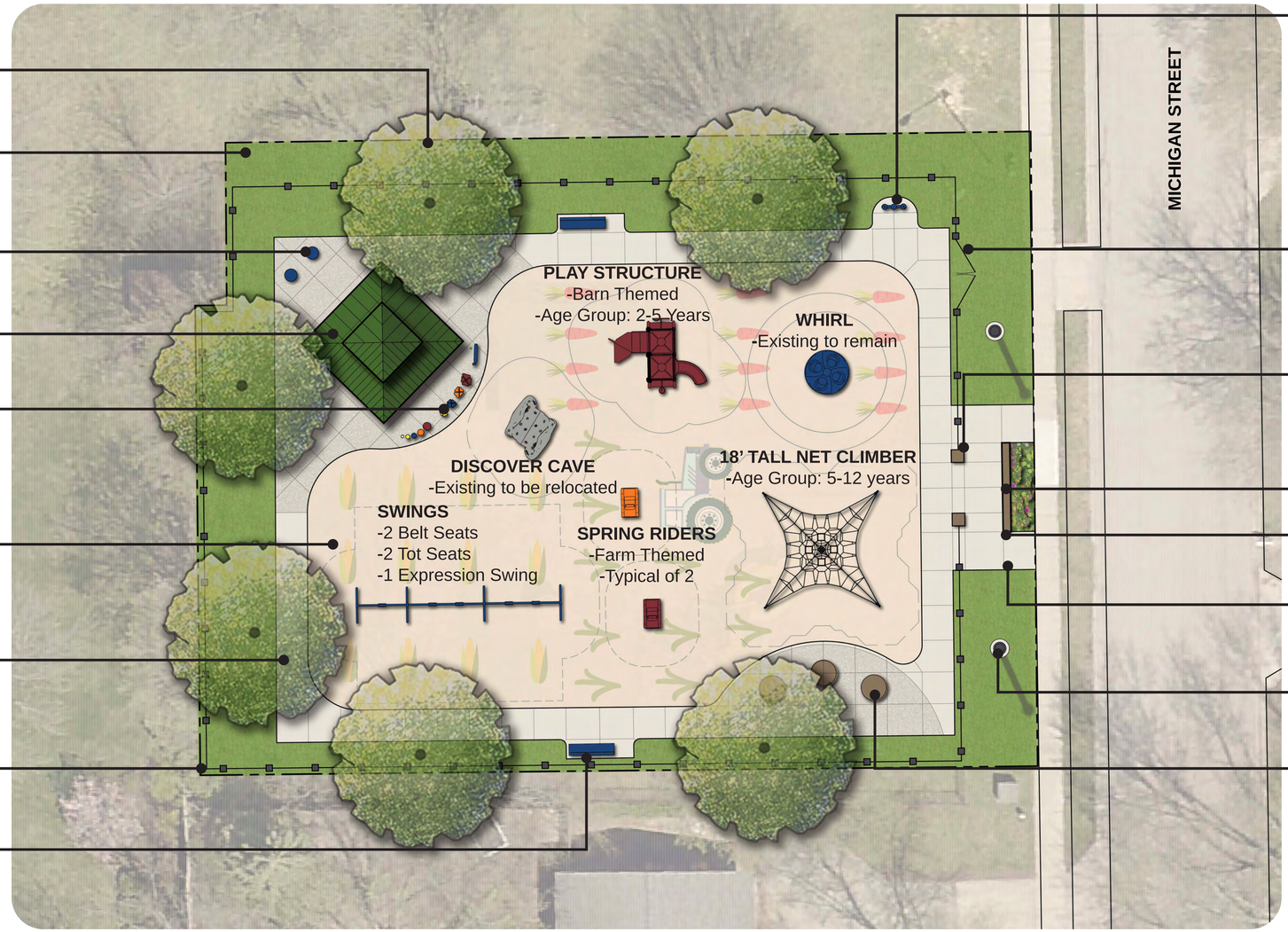
0’ 20’ 40’

SCALE: 1” = 20’

NORTH

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN




**EXISTING TREES**
-Typical of 6

**EXISTING LAWN**
-Entire perimeter lawn to remain

**LITTER AND RECYCLING RECEPTACLE**

**SHADE SHELTER**
-16' Square

**MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AREA**
-Tuned drums, tuned flower chimes, and rhythmic instruments. All elements to be barrier free accessible.

**SAFETY SURFACING**
-To be poured in place surfacing for entire area with farm themed pattern

**REPLACE CONCRETE WALK**
-To be 5' wide with turn down edge

**EXISTING FENCE**
-Black vinyl clad chain link

**NEW BENCH**
-To be on concrete pad with companion space, typical of 2

**DRINKING FOUNTAIN / BOTTLE FILLER**

**EXISTING MAINTENANCE GATE**

**DECORATIVE COLUMNS**
-Typical of 2 at entrance

**LOW SEAT WALL**

**RELOCATED PARK SIGN**
-With ornamental plantings

**CONCRETE PAVING**
-Provide accessible route into park

**DECORATIVE LIGHT POLES**
-Typical of 2

**SEATING AREA**
-To have 3 circular seats on concrete paving

FEEL THE ZEEL

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN
## MICHIGAN STREET TOT LOT - MASTER PLAN
### CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

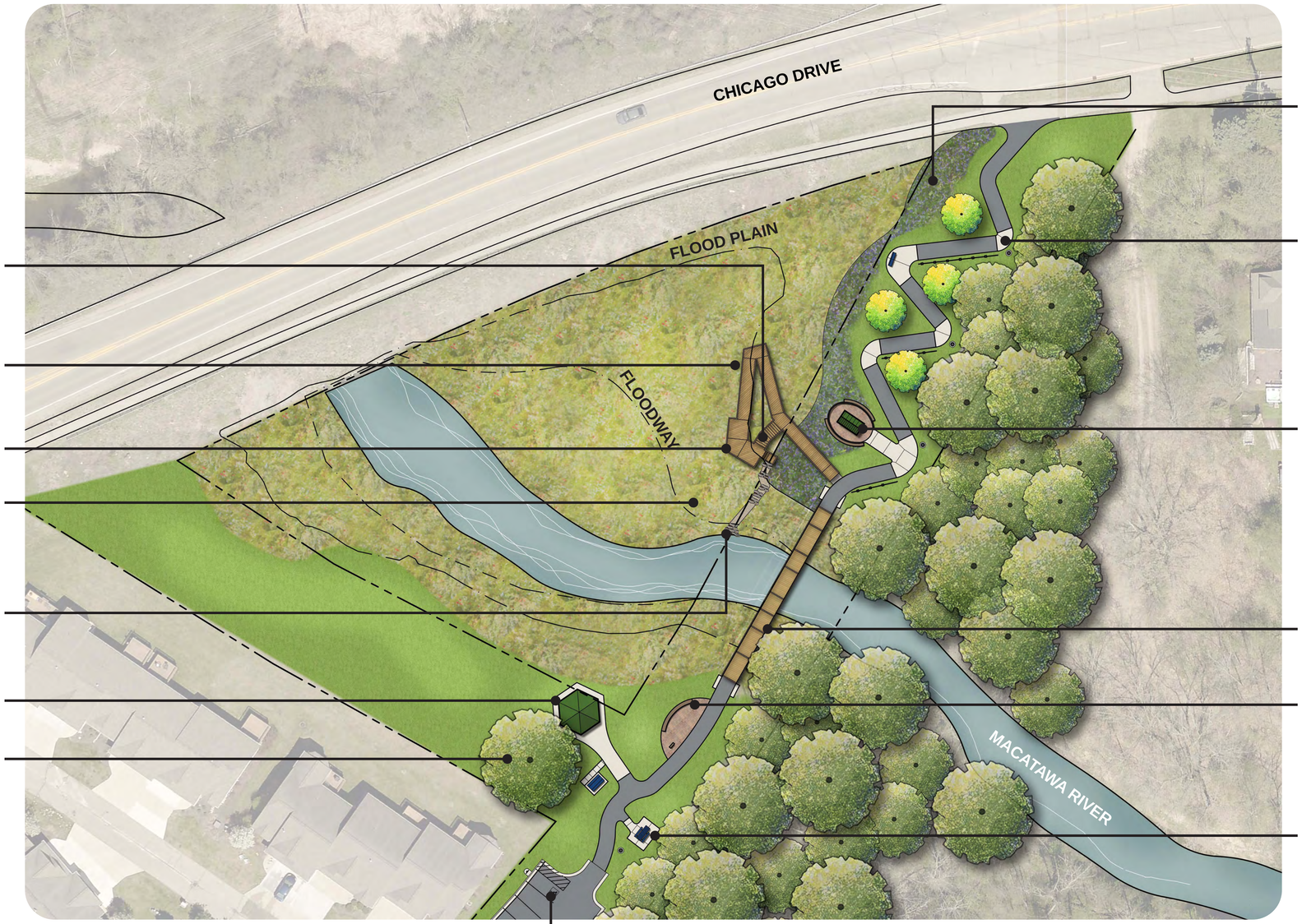
0' 10' 20'

SCALE: 1" = 10'

NORTH

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN




**TIMBER STEPS**
-Including guardrail and handrail

**TIMBER RAMPS**
-Including guardrail and handrail. Maximum slope of 8.33%

**VIEWING DECK**

**EXISTING PLANTINGS**
-Trim plantings as necessary for construction and for views

**WATER ACCESS**
-Boulder steps

**EXISTING SHELTER**

**EXISTING COTTONWOOD TREE**

**IMPROVED PLANTING AREA**
-Install variety of attractive native plantings to fill mulch bed area

**REPLACE EXISTING TRAIL**
-Remove and replace trail to so that landings are no more than 2% in any direction. Landings be accented with specialty paving. Adjust existing guardrails as necessary.

**DIRECTIONAL SIGN**
-Install pavers at base of sign. Install retaining wall and adjust grades to provide level barrier free accessible area around sign and accessible route to sign.

**EXISTING BRIDGE**

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AREA**
-Existing pavers wall and sign commemorating bridge builders to remain.

**EXISTING PICNIC TABLES**
-Provide accessible pathways to picnic table area. Change one table to be accessible table.

**EXISTING PARKING LOT**

FEEL THE ZEEL

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN

## PAW PAW FOOTBRIDGE - MASTER PLAN

### CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

0’ 30’ 60’

SCALE: 1” = 30’

NORTH

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN

**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

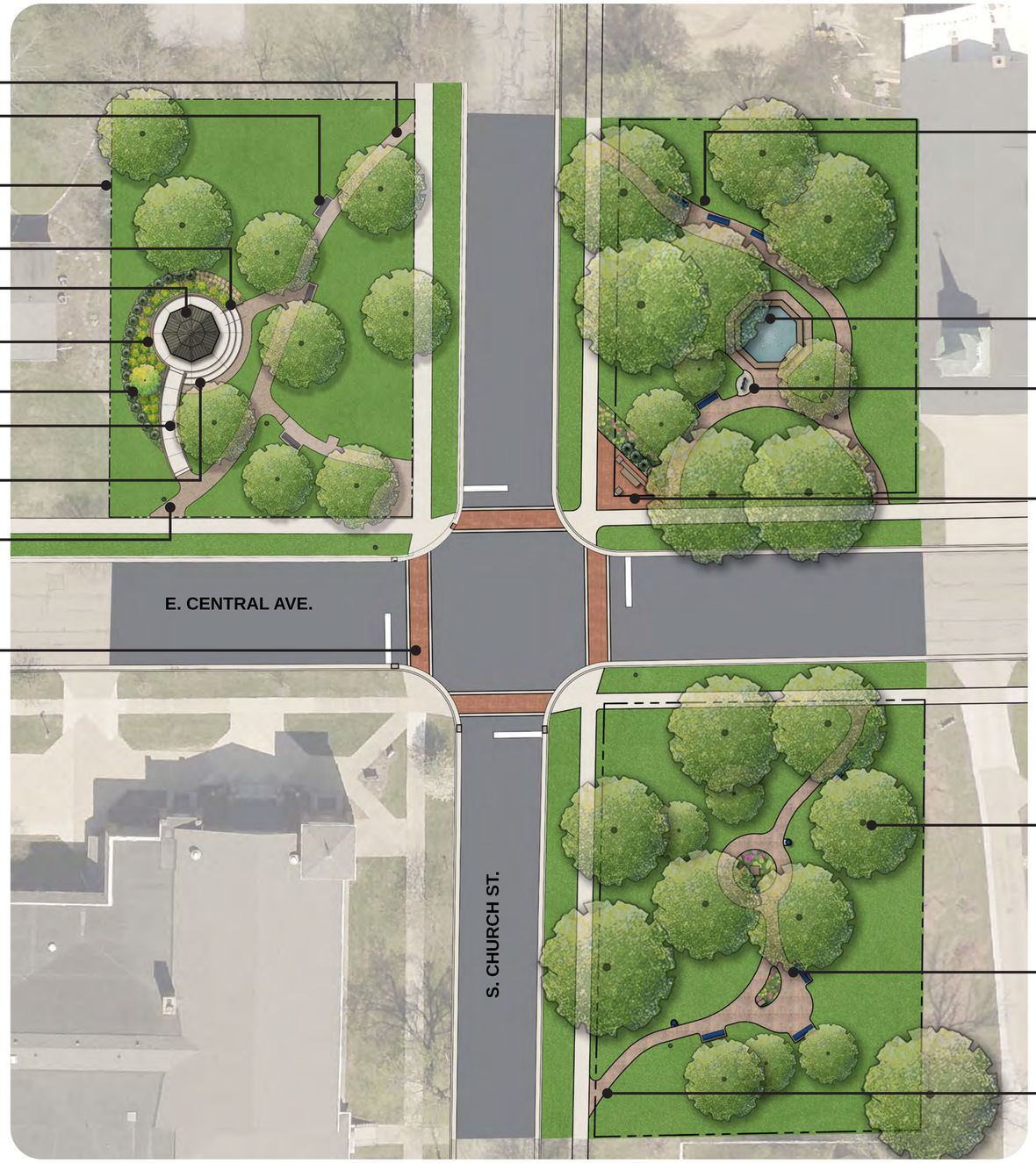
**LANDSCAPE BED**

**ACCESSIBLE RAMP**
-With railing at 6.6% slope

**MONUMENTAL STEPS**
-2’ wide

**REMOVE AND REPLACE PAVERS**

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




**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

**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

FEEL THE ZEEL

# 5-YEAR PARK & RECREATION PLAN
## VANDE LUYSTER SQUARE - MASTER PLAN
### CITY OF ZEELAND, MICHIGAN

0’ 20’ 40’

SCALE: 1” = 20’

NORTH

DATE
10.14.2026
PROJECT NO.
2283

MCSA GROUP, Inc.
Landscape Architects and Architects
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN

10_

# Local Adoption and Certification Plan

The following pages have:

- Certification Checklist
- Cemetery and Parks and Commission Resolution of Adoption
- City Commission Resolution of Adoption
- Public Hearing Notice
- Minutes of Public Hearing
- Regional Planning Agency Transmittal Letter
- County Planning Agency Transmittal Letter

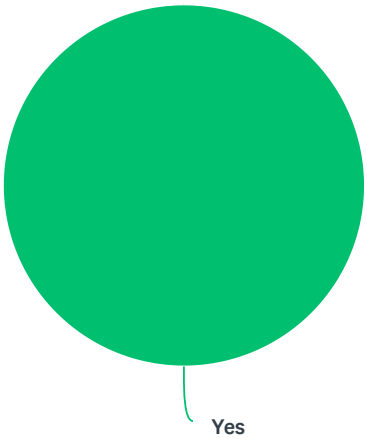
# 11_
# Appendices

The following pages have:

- Public Hearing Notes
- Public Notices
- Cemetery and Parks Ordinance

Q1 107 responses

## Do you live within the City of Zeeland?



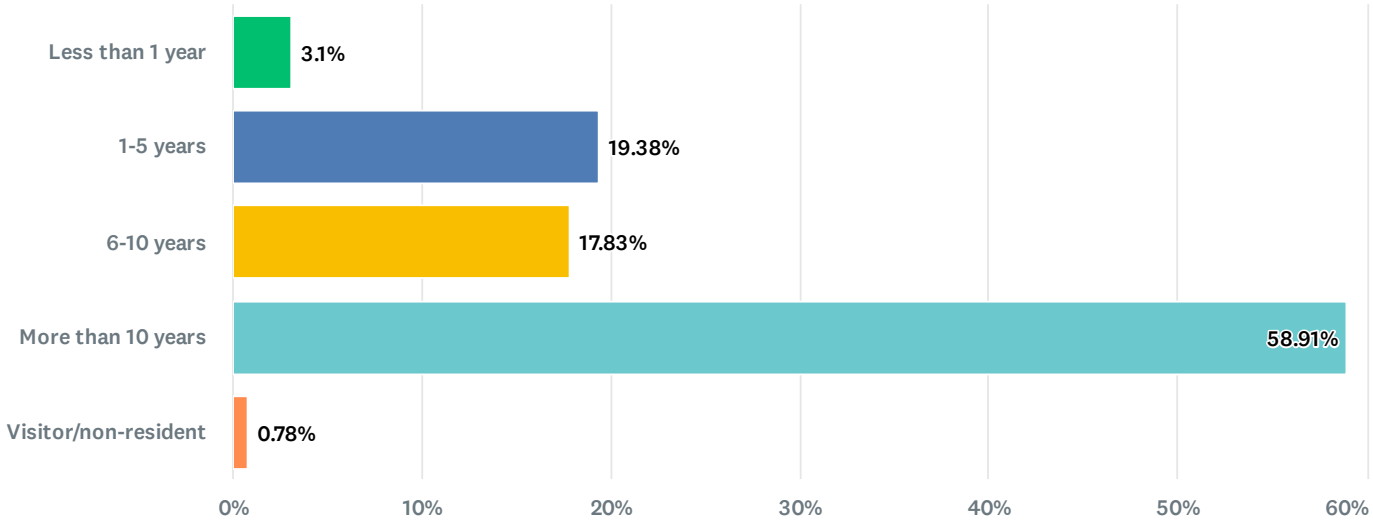

| Answer Choices | Percentage | Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Yes | 100.00% | 107 |
| **Total** | | **107** |

| # | 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 |

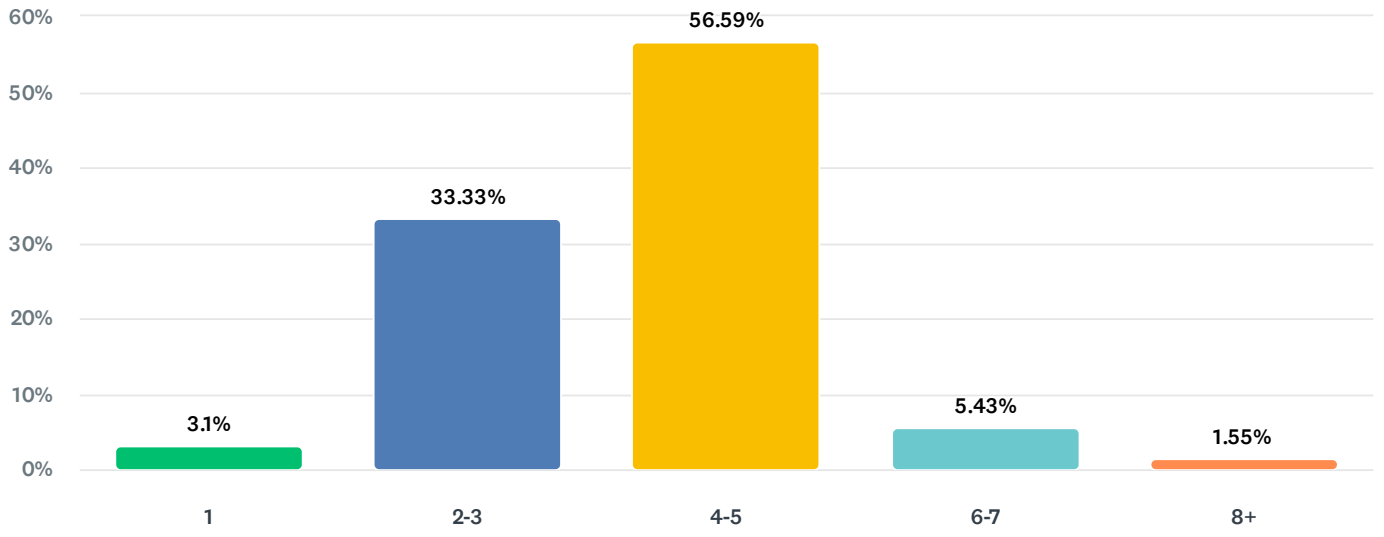
Q2 129 responses

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



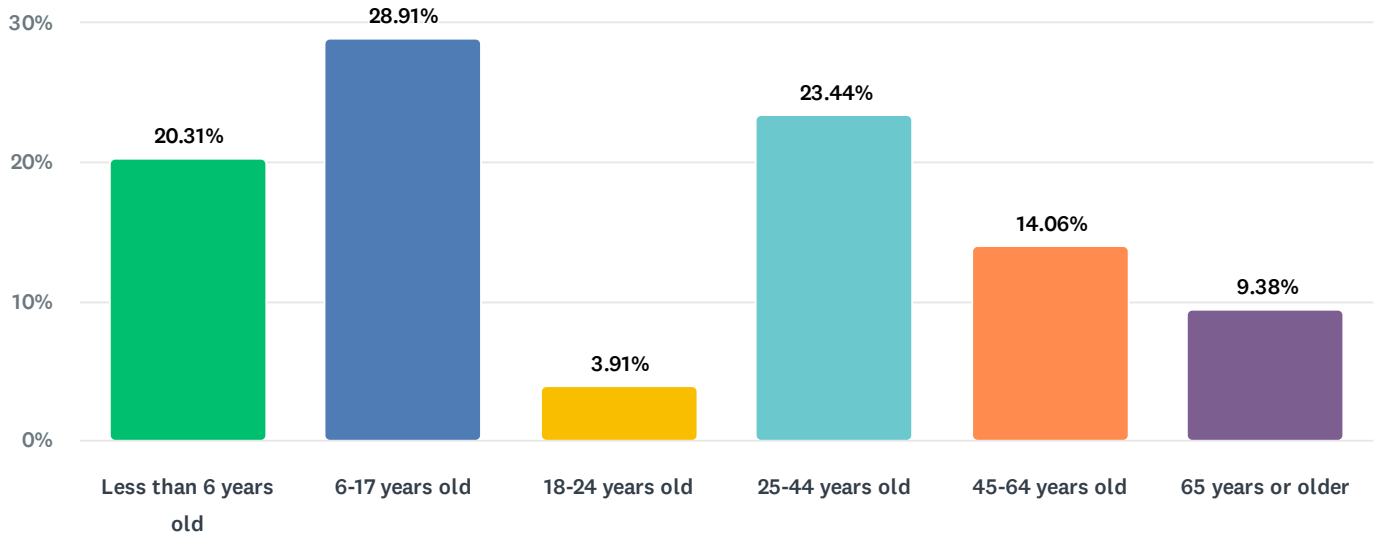
Q3 129 responses

## How many people currently live in your household?



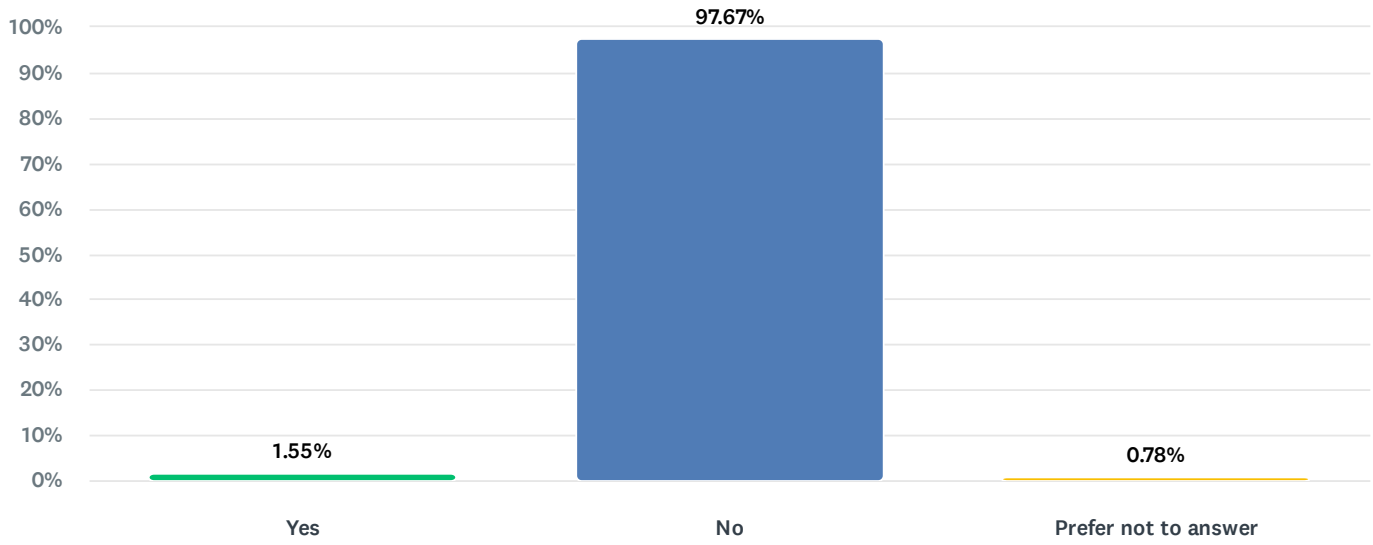
Q4 128 responses

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



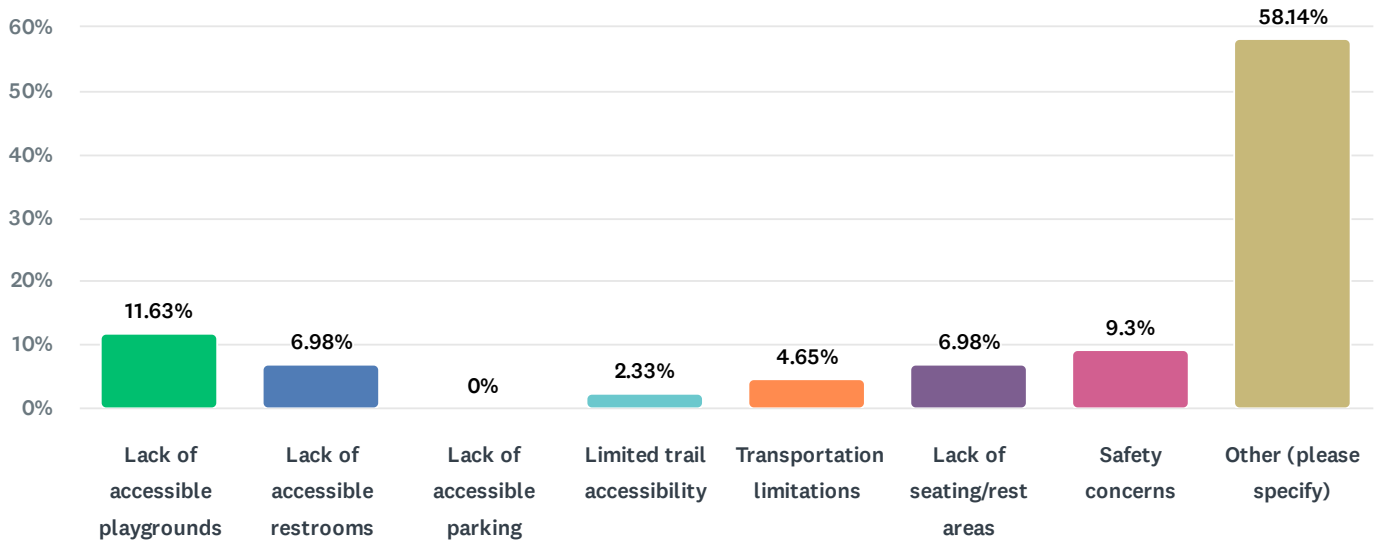
Q5 129 responses

## 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?



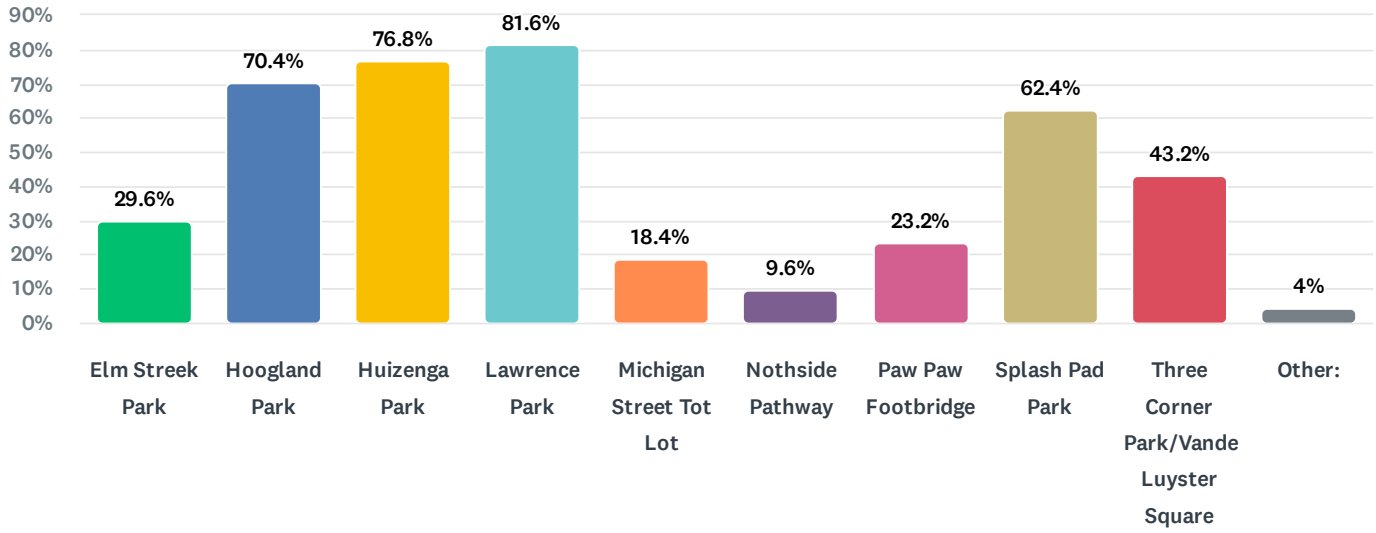

| Answer Choices | Percentage | Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Lack of accessible playgrounds | 11.63% | 5 |
| Lack of accessible restrooms | 6.98% | 3 |
| Lack of accessible parking | 0% | 0 |
| Limited trail accessibility | 2.33% | 1 |
| Transportation limitations | 4.65% | 2 |
| Lack of seating/rest 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)



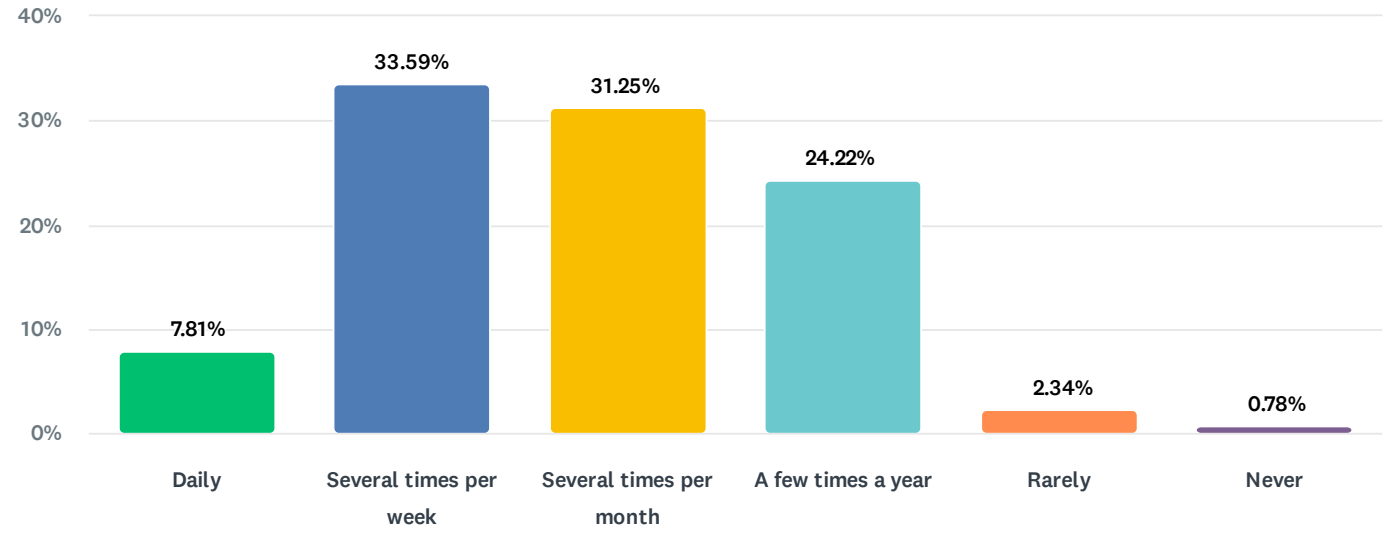

| Answer Choices | Percentage | Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Elm Streek Park | 29.60% | 37 |
| Hoogland Park | 70.40% | 88 |
| Huizenga Park | 76.80% | 96 |
| Lawrence Park | 81.60% | 102 |
| Michigan Street Tot Lot | 18.40% | 23 |
| Nothside Pathway | 9.60% | 12 |
| Paw Paw Footbridge | 23.20% | 29 |
| 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 |

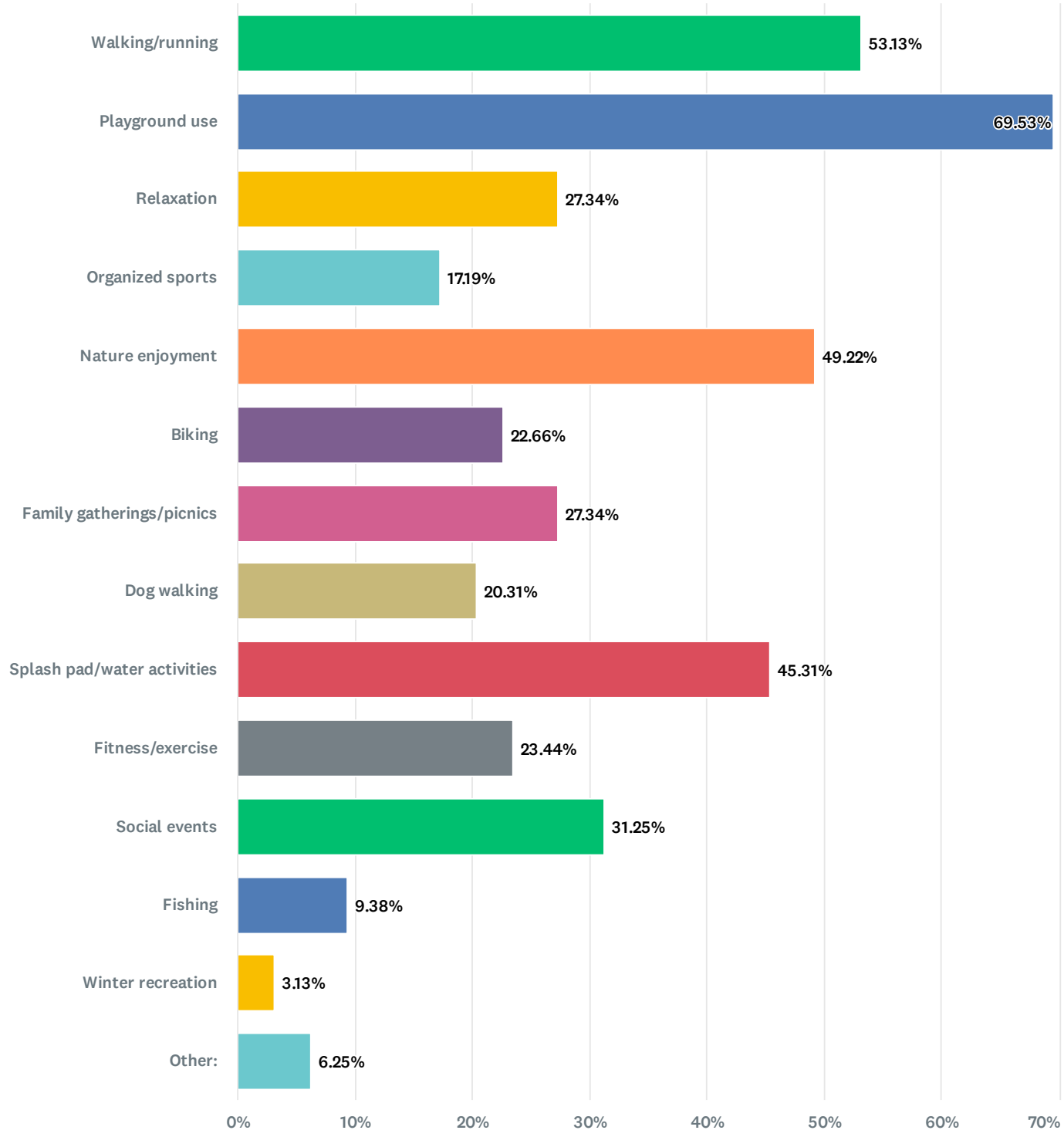
Q8 128 responses

## How often do you visit Zeeland parks?



Q9 128 responses

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



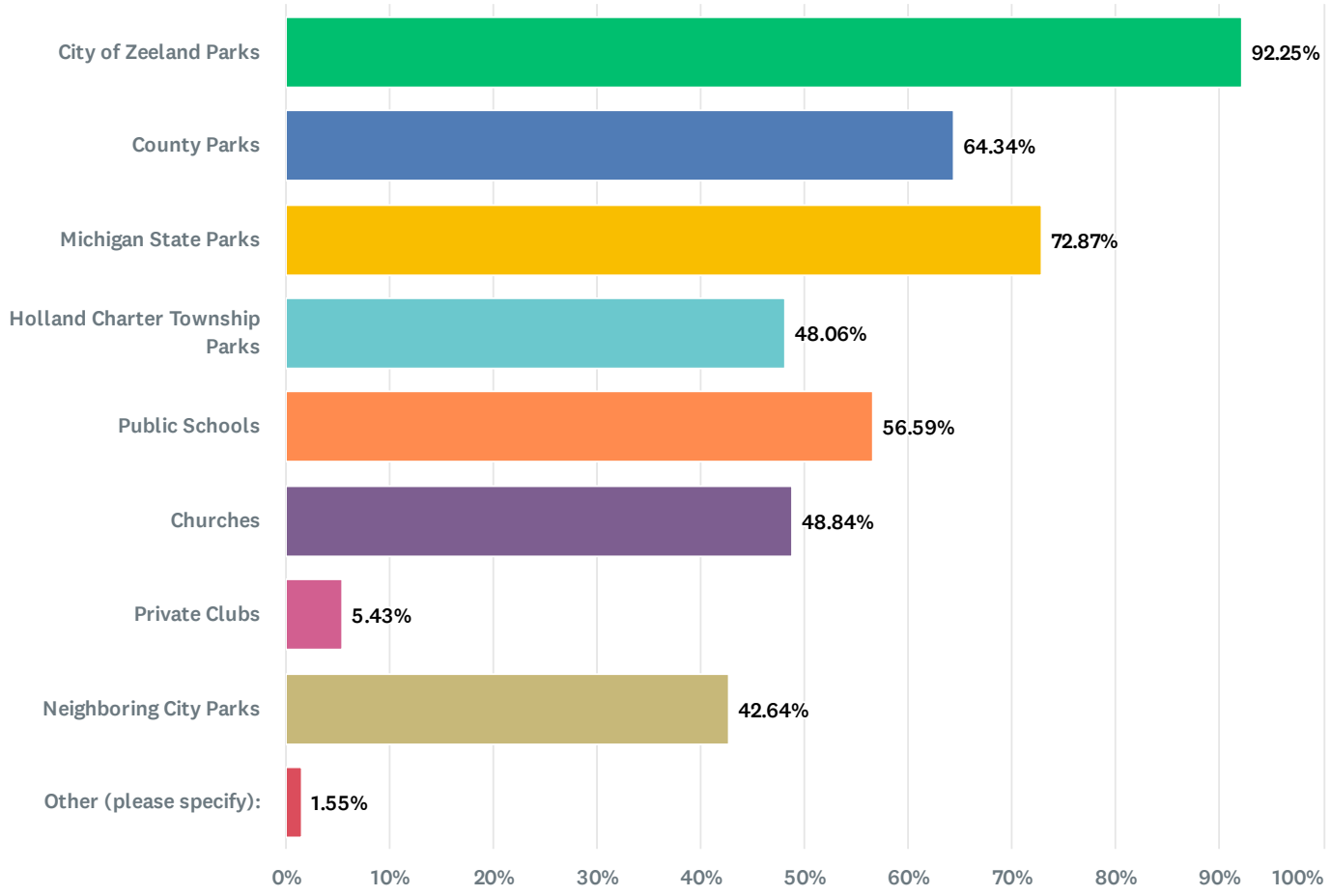

| Answer Choices | Percentage | Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Total | | 519 |

| 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)



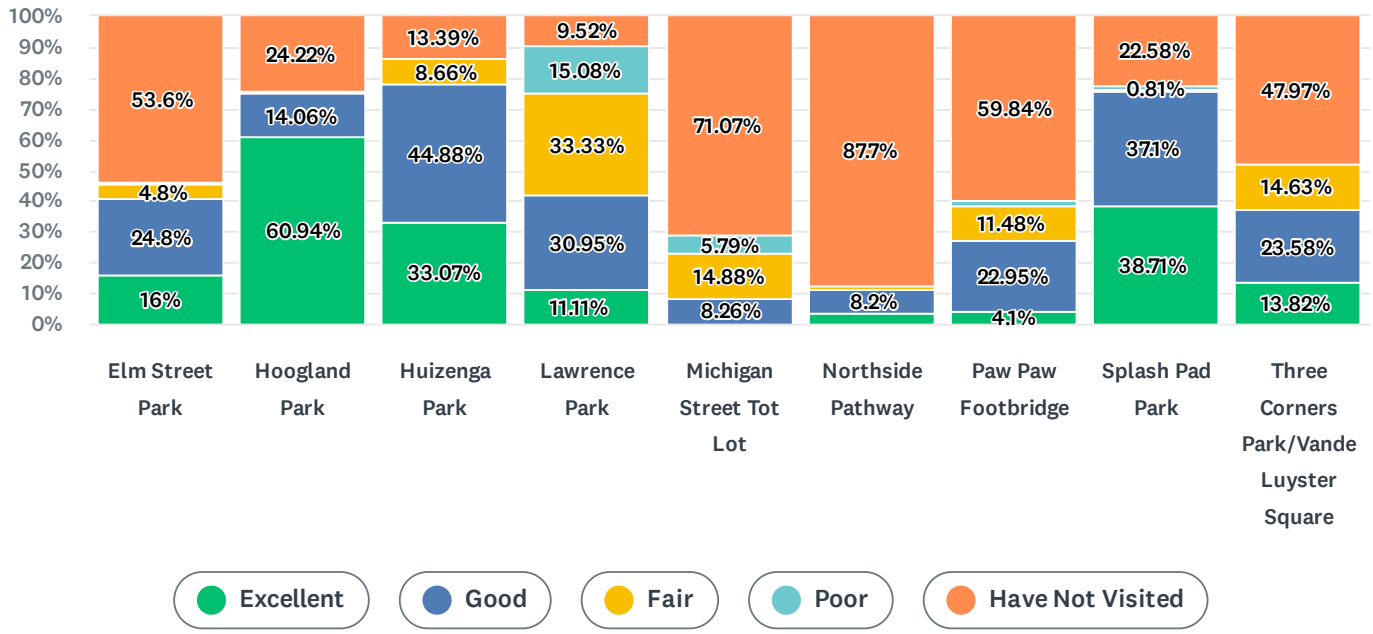

| Answer Choices | Percentage | Responses |
|---|---|---|
| City of Zeeland Parks | 92.25% | 119 |
| County Parks | 64.34% | 83 |
| Michigan State Parks | 72.87% | 94 |
| Holland Charter Township Parks | 48.06% | 62 |
| Public Schools | 56.59% | 73 |
| Churches | 48.84% | 63 |
| **Total** | | **558** |

| 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 |

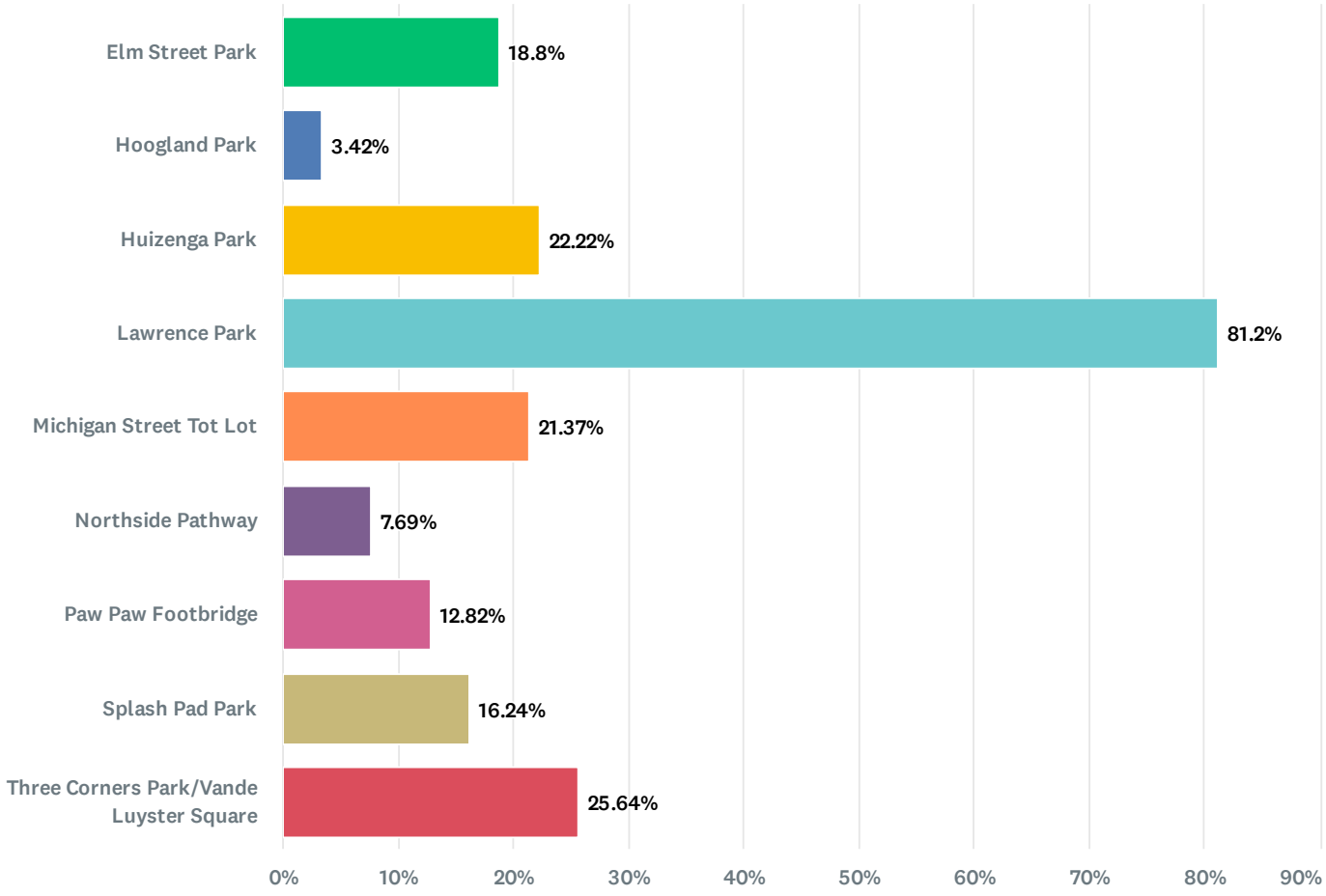
Q11 129 responses

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



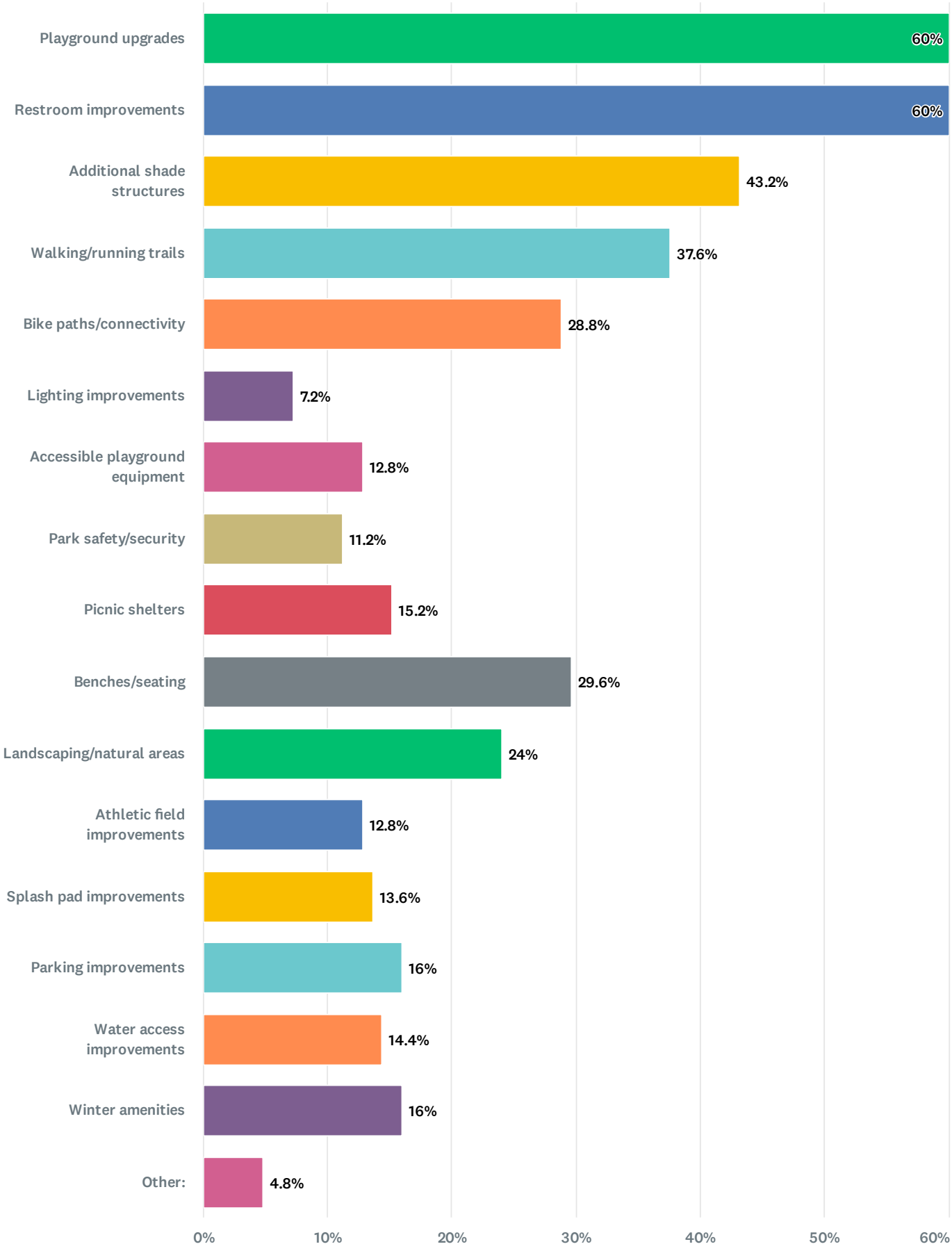
Q12 117 responses

## 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)

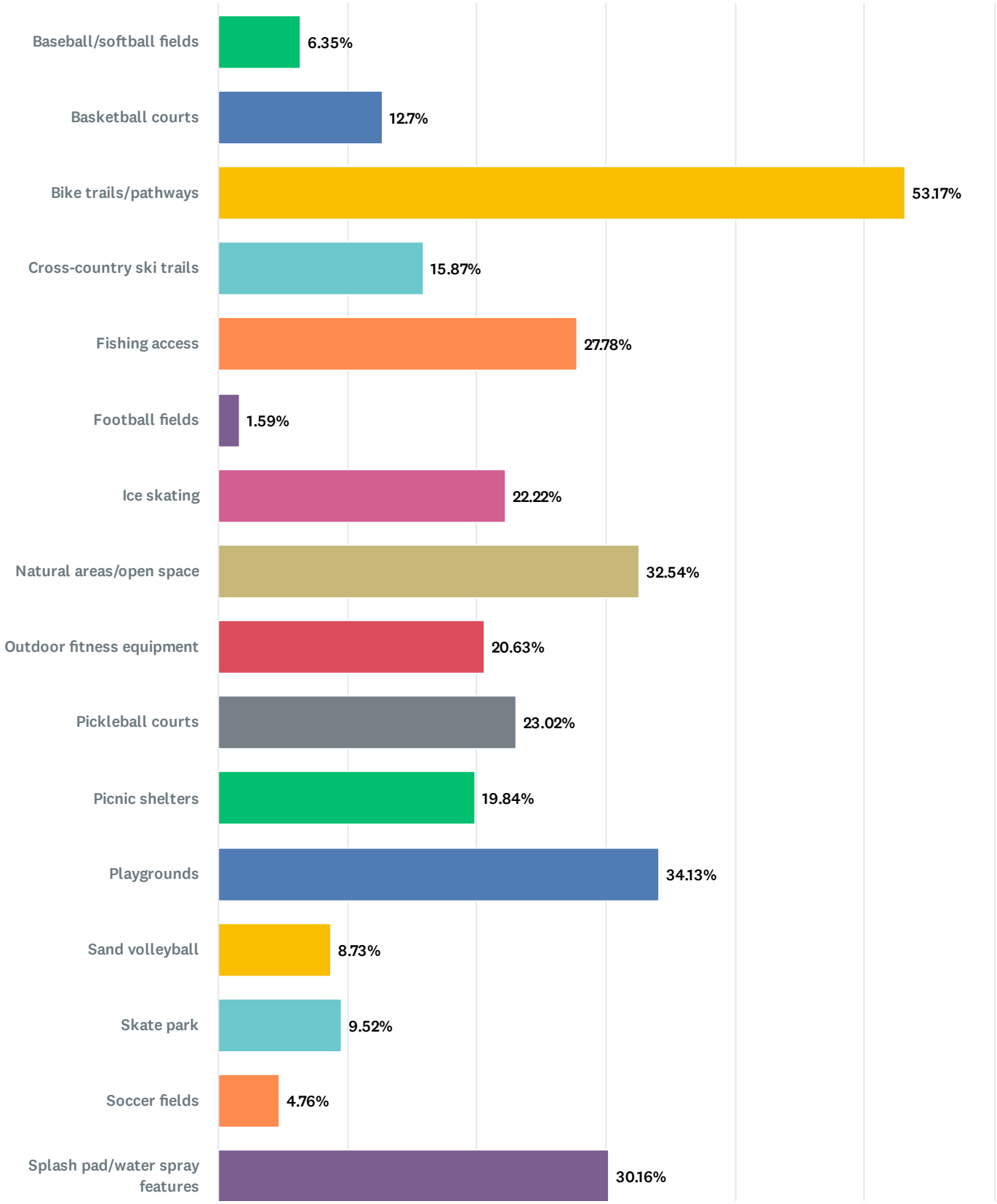

Playground upgrades
60%
Restroom improvements
60%
Additional shade structures
43.2%
Walking/running trails
37.6%
Bike paths/connectivity
28.8%
Lighting improvements
7.2%
Accessible playground equipment
12.8%
Park safety/security
11.2%
Picnic shelters
15.2%
Benches/seating
29.6%
Landscaping/natural areas
24%
Athletic field improvements
12.8%
Splash pad improvements
13.6%
Parking improvements
16%
Water access improvements
14.4%
Winter amenities
16%
Other:
4.8%
0%
10%
20%
30%
40%
50%
60%

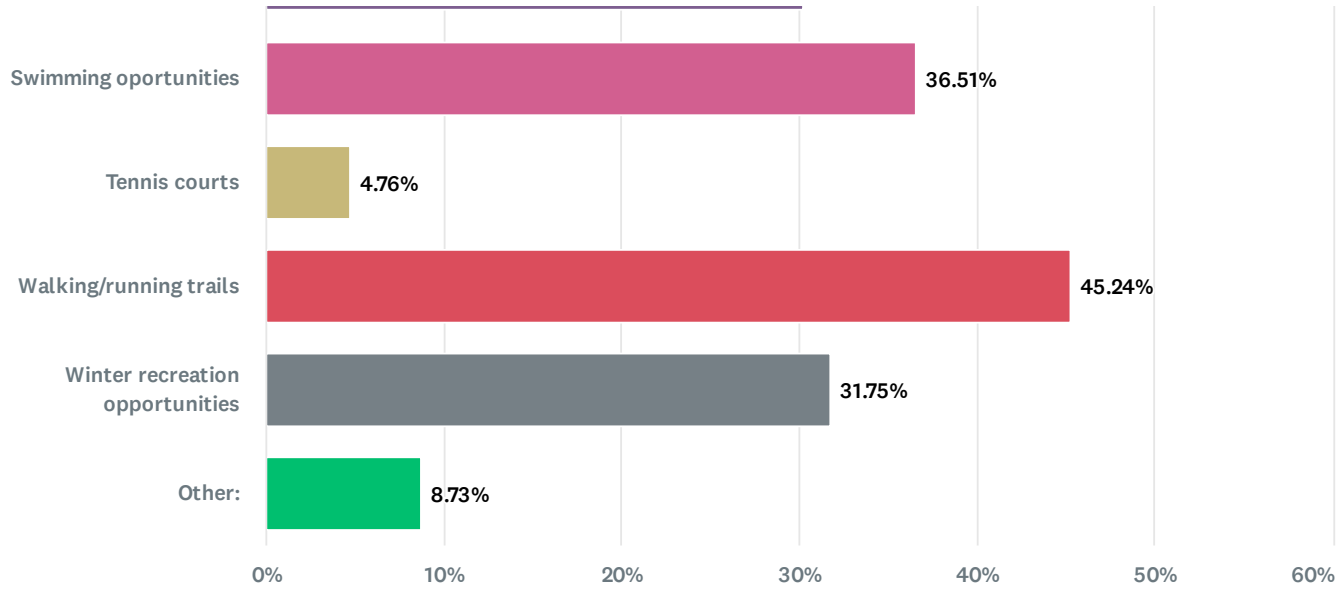
| Answer Choices | Percentage | Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Playground upgrades | 60.00% | 75 |
| Restroom improvements | 60.00% | 75 |
| Additional shade structures | 43.20% | 54 |
| Walking/running trails | 37.60% | 47 |
| Bike paths/connectivity | 28.80% | 36 |
| Lighting improvements | 7.20% | 9 |
| 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)





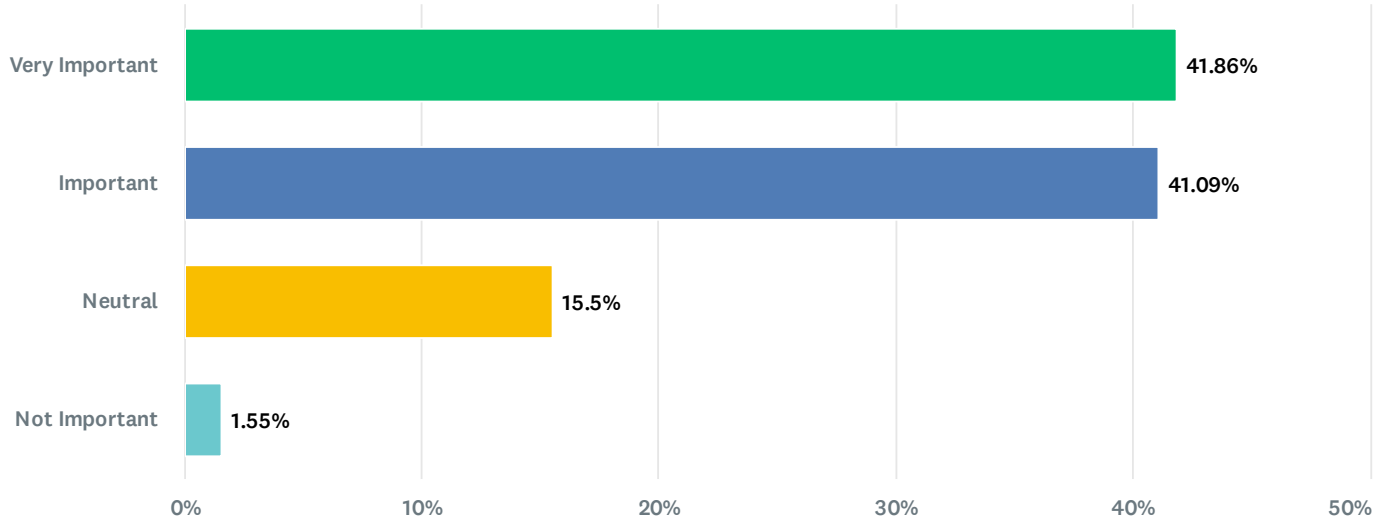

| Answer Choices | Percentage | Responses |
|---|---|---|
| Baseball/softball fields | 6.35% | 8 |
| Basketball courts | 12.70% | 16 |
| Bike trails/pathways | 53.17% | 67 |
| Cross-country ski trails | 15.87% | 20 |
| Fishing access | 27.78% | 35 |
| Football fields | 1.59% | 2 |
| Ice skating | 22.22% | 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 |

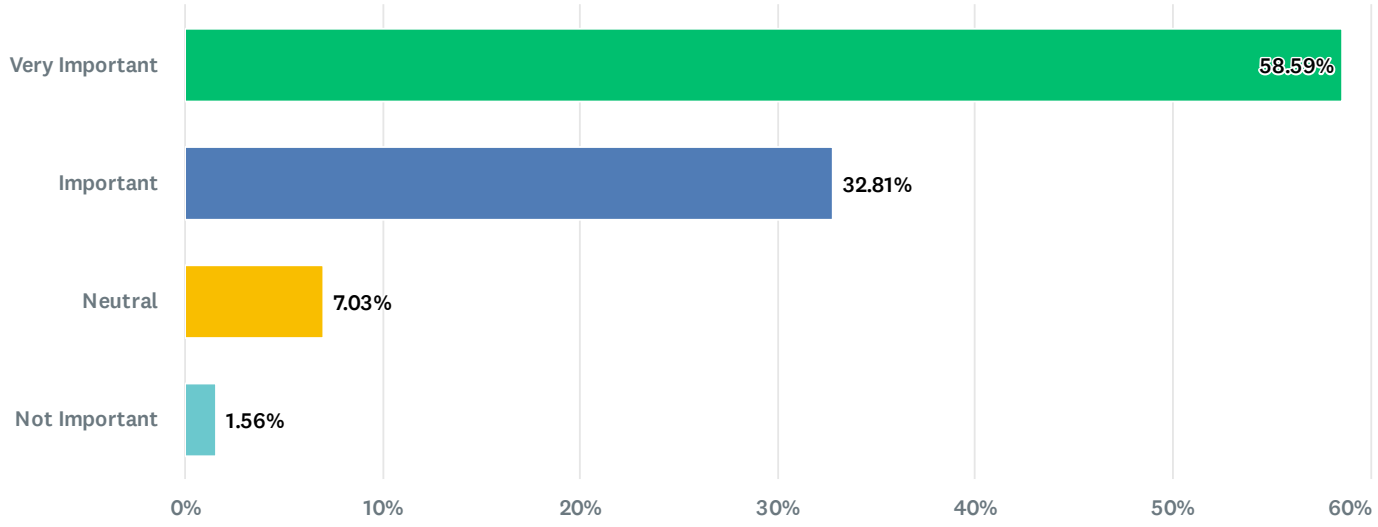
Q15 129 responses

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



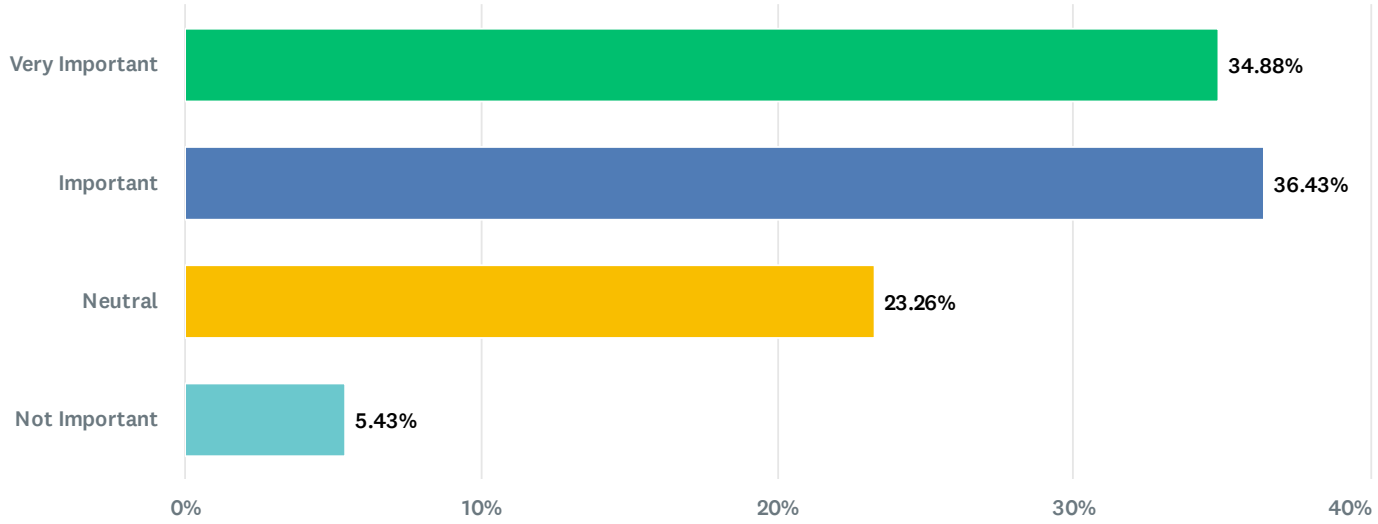
Q16 128 responses

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



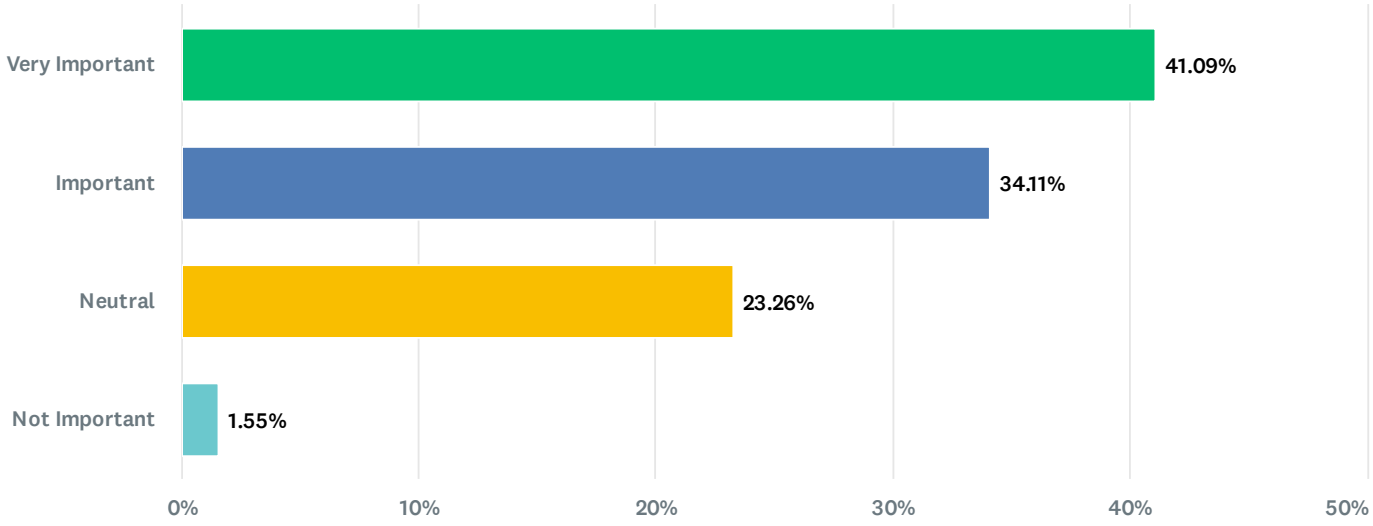
Q17 129 responses

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



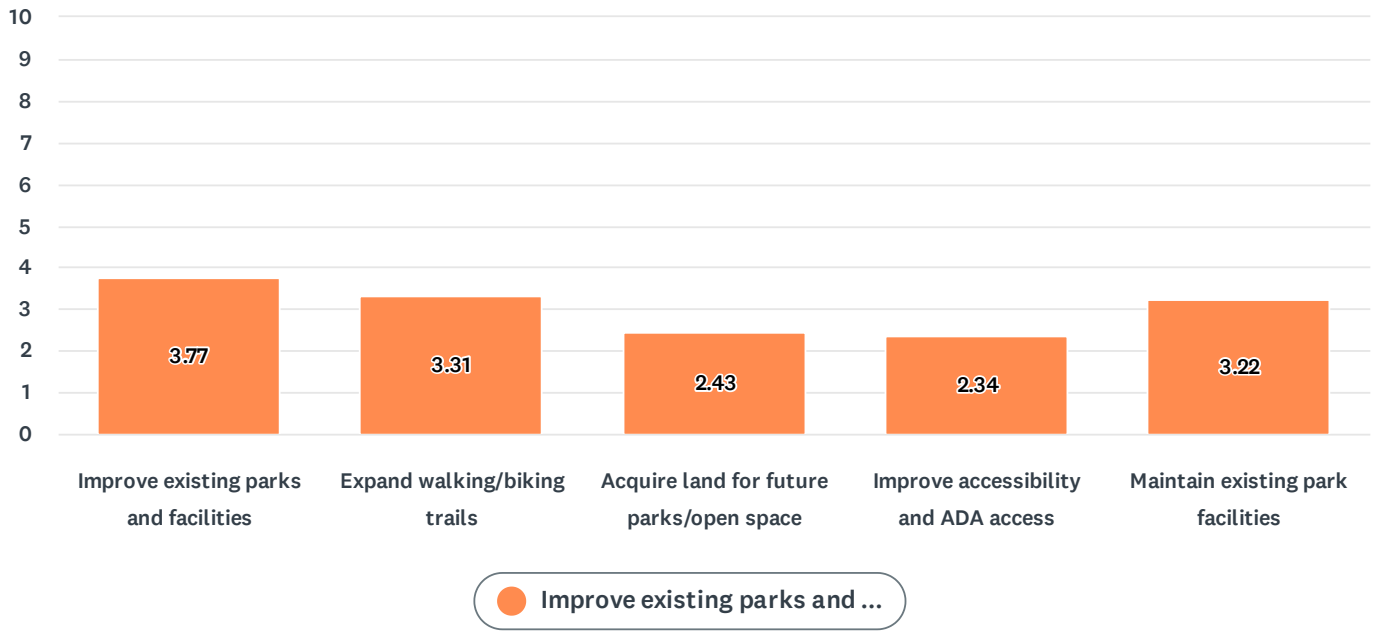
Q18 129 responses

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



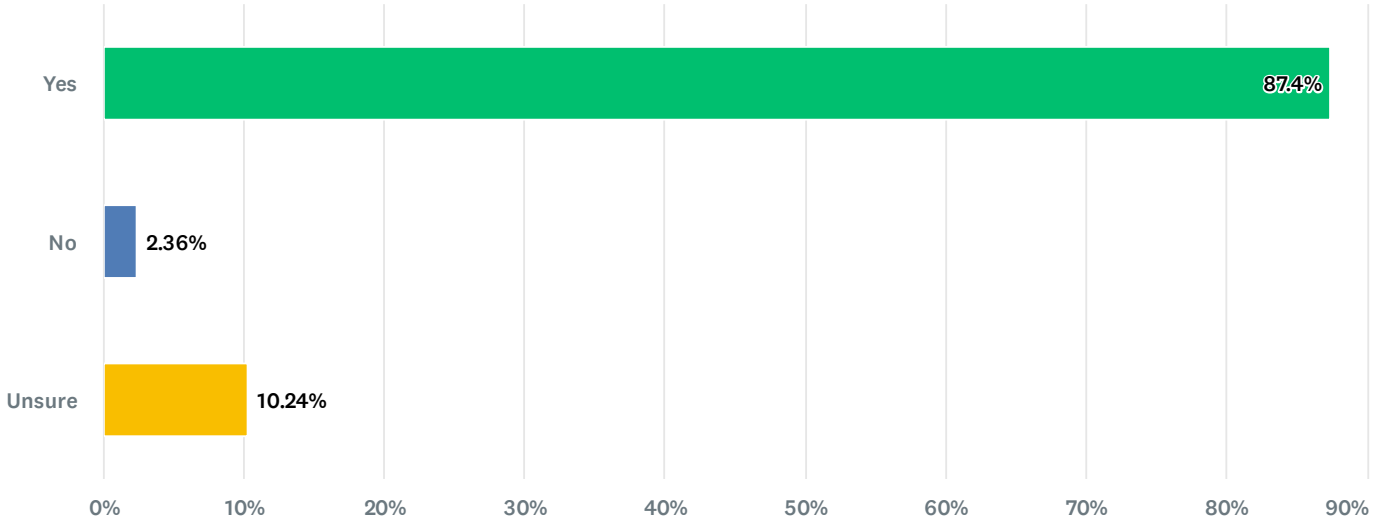
Q19 128 responses

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



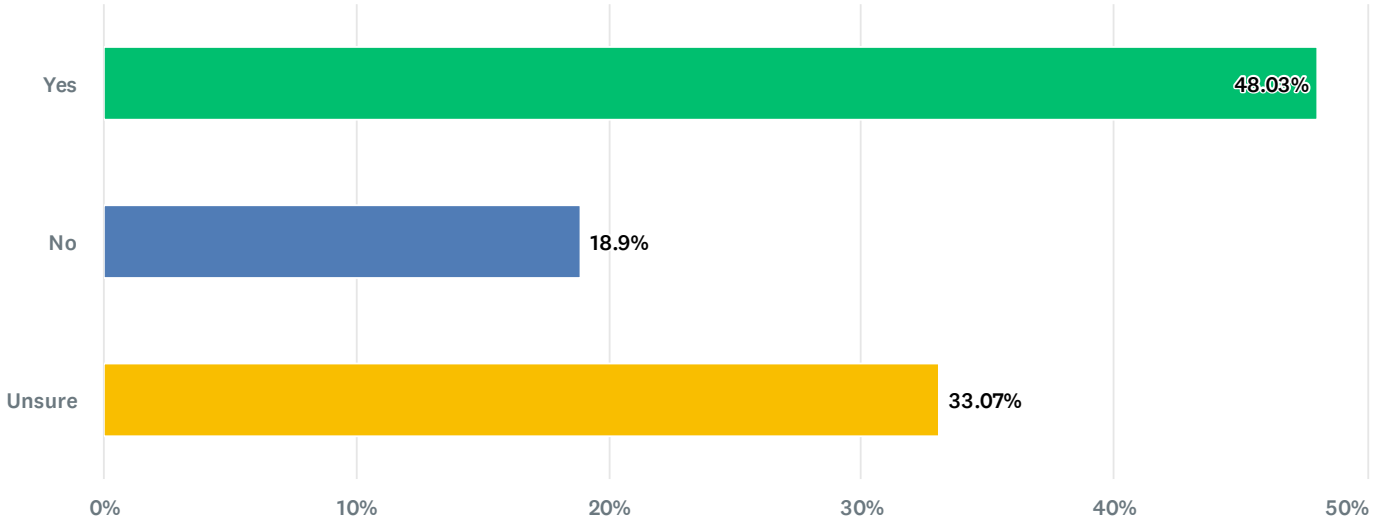
Q20 127 responses

## 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 Lawerence 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 Lawerence 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 | Lawerence | 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 equpiment | 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 | Lawerence 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 | Lawerence 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, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: Bus Tour Follow-up

DATE: October 9, 2026

At our last meeting, we took the Commission on a tour of our various parks, and several questions arose during the tour. Below is a follow-up to those questions:

Michigan Tot Lot – Members of the Commission inquired whether the City had removed a home to construct the Michigan Tot Lot. According to our Deputy Assessor, the City purchased the property in 1975, and the lot was vacant at the time. Therefore, no homes were removed to construct the park.

Paw Paw Park Vegetation Management – Members of the Commission expressed a desire for more aggressive vegetation management at the park. In particular, Commission members were concerned about the inability to see the pedestrian bridge from the road. Mike Bronkhorst and I met with representatives from the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) on October 5 to discuss these concerns. As a result of the meeting, ODC agreed to develop a proposal that would focus on more aggressive management of the understory vegetation while preserving some of the larger trees. We hope to have this proposed vegetation management plan available for the Commission's consideration at your next meeting.

Grills at Lawrence Park – The question was raised as to whether the grills located at the base of the hill in Lawrence Park are used on a regular basis. According to Mike Bronkhorst, the grills are rarely used. Given their limited use, ongoing maintenance requirements, and the fact that they present an obstacle within the greenspace, Mike would recommend their removal.



_____

Kevin Plockmeyer, Interim City Manager