



City of *Plainwell*

FIVE-YEAR RECREATION PLAN 2023-2027





city of
PLAINWELL
michigan

Five-Year Recreation Plan 2023-2027

For the City of Plainwell

Allegan County, Michigan

Plainwell City Council

Brad Keeler, Mayor

Lori Steele, Mayor Pro-Tem

Todd Overhuel, Councilmember

Roger Keeney, Councilmember

Randy Wisnaski, Councilmember

Parks and Trees Commission

Matthew Bradley, Chair

Bunny LaDuke, Vice Chair

Marsha Keeler, Board member

Shirley DeYoung, Board member

Cory Redder, Board member

Robert Nieuwenhuis, DPW Superintendent

Todd Overhuel, Board member/Council representative

City Staff

Denise Siegel, Community Development Director

Planning Consultant

williams&works

CONTENTS

Chapter 1. Community Description.....	1
Chapter 2. Administrative Structure	13
Chapter 3. Recreation Inventory	17
Chapter 4. Planning & Public Input Process	42
Chapter 5. Goals & Objectives.....	46
Chapter 6. Action Program	49

APPENDICES:

Appendix A. Open House Flyer & Engagement Report

Appendix B. Notice of the Draft Plan for 30 Days of Public Comment and Public Hearing

Appendix C. Public Hearing & Adoption Minutes

Appendix D. Adoption Resolution

Appendix E. Transmittal Letters to the County and Regional Planning Agencies

Appendix F. Post Completion Self-Certification Reports

1.

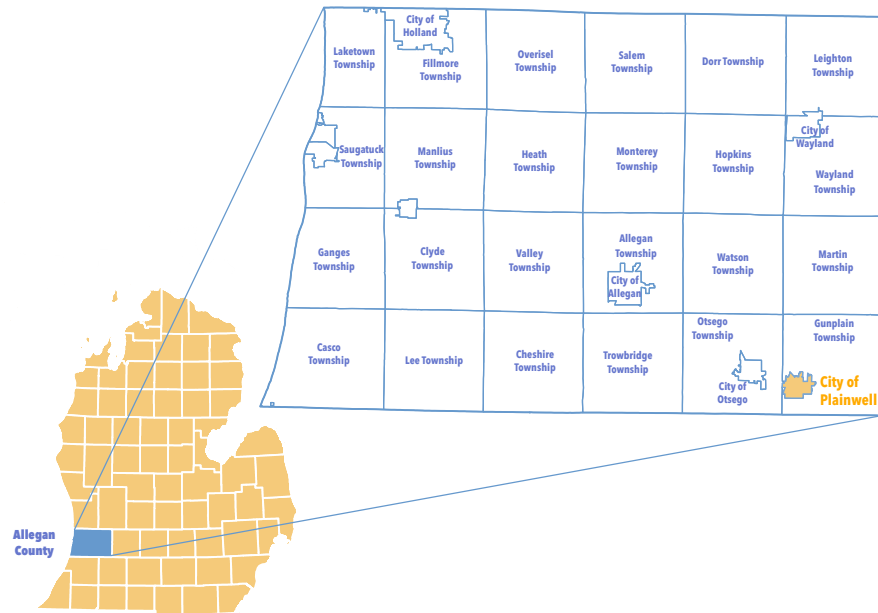
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION



Community Description

LOCATION

The City of Plainwell is located in the southeastern portion of Allegan County, Michigan. The city is 35 miles south of Grand Rapids and 15 miles north of Kalamazoo, and easily accessible via US-131. The City of Otsego, which is comparable in size to Plainwell, is immediately to the west of US-131. State Route M-89 (Allegan & Bridge Streets) runs east-west through this 2.2- square mile city. Main Street is the primary access route running north-south through town, with the heart of the city situated at the crossroads of Main Street and M-89. The city is almost entirely surrounded by the waters of the Kalamazoo River and its local tributary, the Mill Race. This "Island City", as it is commonly referred to, provides numerous recreational opportunities for the community.



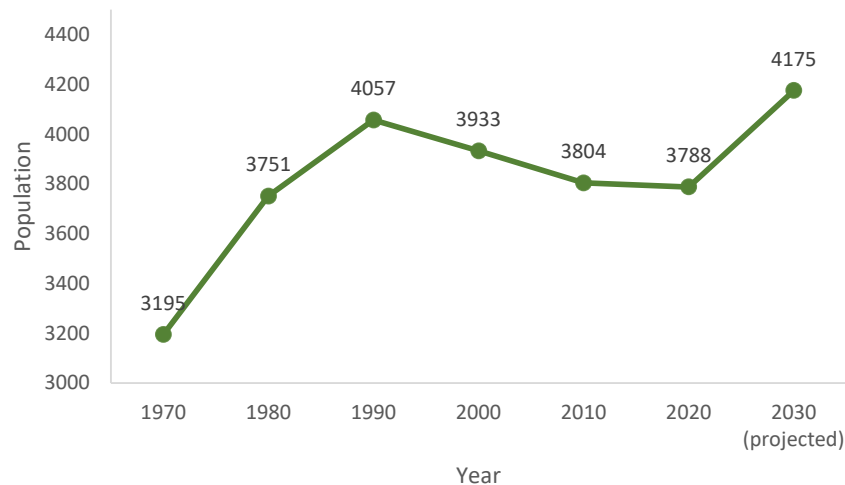
HISTORY

The City of Plainwell was incorporated as a village in 1869 and as a city in 1934. Approximately 3,800 residents call Plainwell home. The Mill Race channel was dug in 1856 in a natural depression of land along the Kalamazoo River. The Mill Race encouraged many new businesses and settlers to relocate to Plainwell. These new businesses included a grist mill built by Mr. Henry J. Cushman in 1858. The first sawmill was built by Mr. Brigham then G.B. Force and O.D. Dunham established a rake factory. In 1860, they also opened a planing mill. Soon thereafter, three steel bridges were erected to cross the Mill Race at Allegan (M-89), Bridge, and Main Street. In 1886, a group of local businessmen met, and soon thereafter, in 1890, the Michigan Paper Company opened on the site of the Lyons and Page Mill which was built in 1872 as a manufacturer of newsprint. In 2006 the City of Plainwell purchased the former paper mill and by 2014 City Hall relocated to a portion of the now historic building.

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

The following is a summary, of the social characteristics of the City of Plainwell from the 2020 Census and the 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, including, community population, employment trends, number and location of households, and population distribution.

Community Population

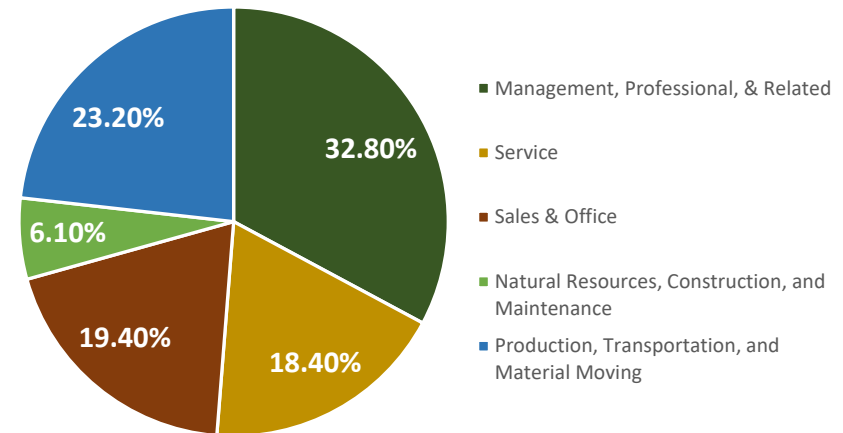


Employment Trends

Employment status	# of persons	% of total
Population 16 & Over	3,112	100
Labor Force	1,717	55.2
Civilian Labor Force	1,717	55.2
Employed	1,678	53.9
Unemployed	39	1.3
Armed Forces	0	0
Not in Labor Force	1,395	44.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Top Five Employment Occupations (16 & Over)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Number and Location of Households

The majority of households are located in the immediate area surrounding the Central Business District. A Concentration of families with young children is located near Thurl Cook Park.

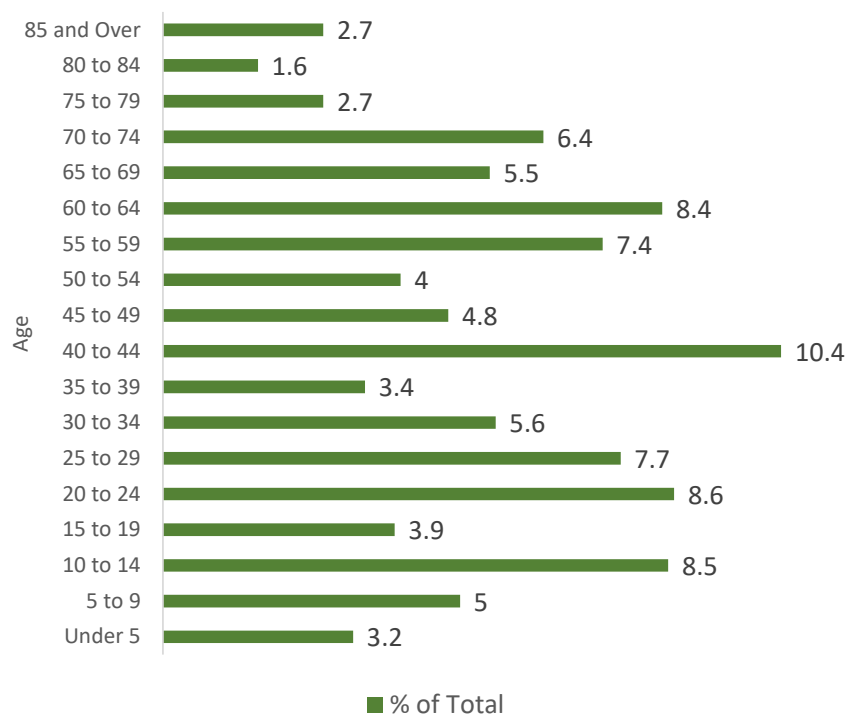
Housing Units	# of Houses	% of Total
Total Housing Units	1,659	100
Occupied Housing Units	1,595	96.1
Owner-occupied	1,121	70.3
Renter-occupied	474	29.7
Vacant Housing Units	64	3.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Population Trends

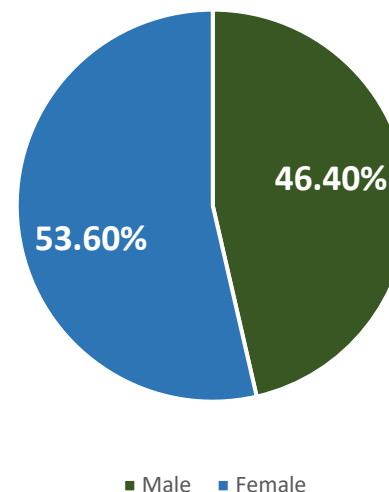
The population has remained relatively stable, with only a 0.4% decrease (-16 people) since 2010. Age distribution has changed between the 2010 and 2020 censuses. It indicates a significant increase in the city's senior population (65+) as well as a population decrease in teenagers to young adults (15-24), children below the age of 5, and adults between the ages of 35-39. The 40 to 44 age cohort represents the largest age group in the city at 10.4%.

Population Distribution (Age)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Population Distribution (Gender)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Population Distribution (Race)

Race	# of Persons	% of Total
White	3,394	89.6
Black or African American	47	1.2
American Indian & Alaska Native	22	0.6
Asian	19	0.5
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander	0	0
Some Other Race	56	1.5
Two or More Races	250	6.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Population Distribution (Income)

Income Cohort	% of Households
Less than \$10,000	6.9
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4.3
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7.2
\$25,000 to \$34,999	12.3
\$35,000 to \$49,999	10.1
\$50,000 to \$74,999	30.3
\$75,000 to \$99,999	16.3
\$100,000 to \$149,999	9.0
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2.9
\$200,000 or More	0.5
Median Household Income	\$58,776
Median Family Income	\$63,770

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Population with Unique Needs

The distribution of Plainwell's elderly and disabled is fairly even throughout the city. Barrier-free design laws require that all public spaces be accessible per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These guidelines must be closely followed to provide access for all. This requires an assessment of the accessibility of each park, identifying ADA compliant facilities and access routes that connect them. Based on the Census data provided regarding the number of residents with special needs, accessibility is a high priority.

Disability Status

Population	# of Persons	% of Total
5 to 17 Years	578	100
With a Disability	54	9.3
18 to 64 Years	2,348	100
With a Disability	322	13.7
65 Years & Over	634	100
With a Disability	248	39.1
Employed	292	46.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

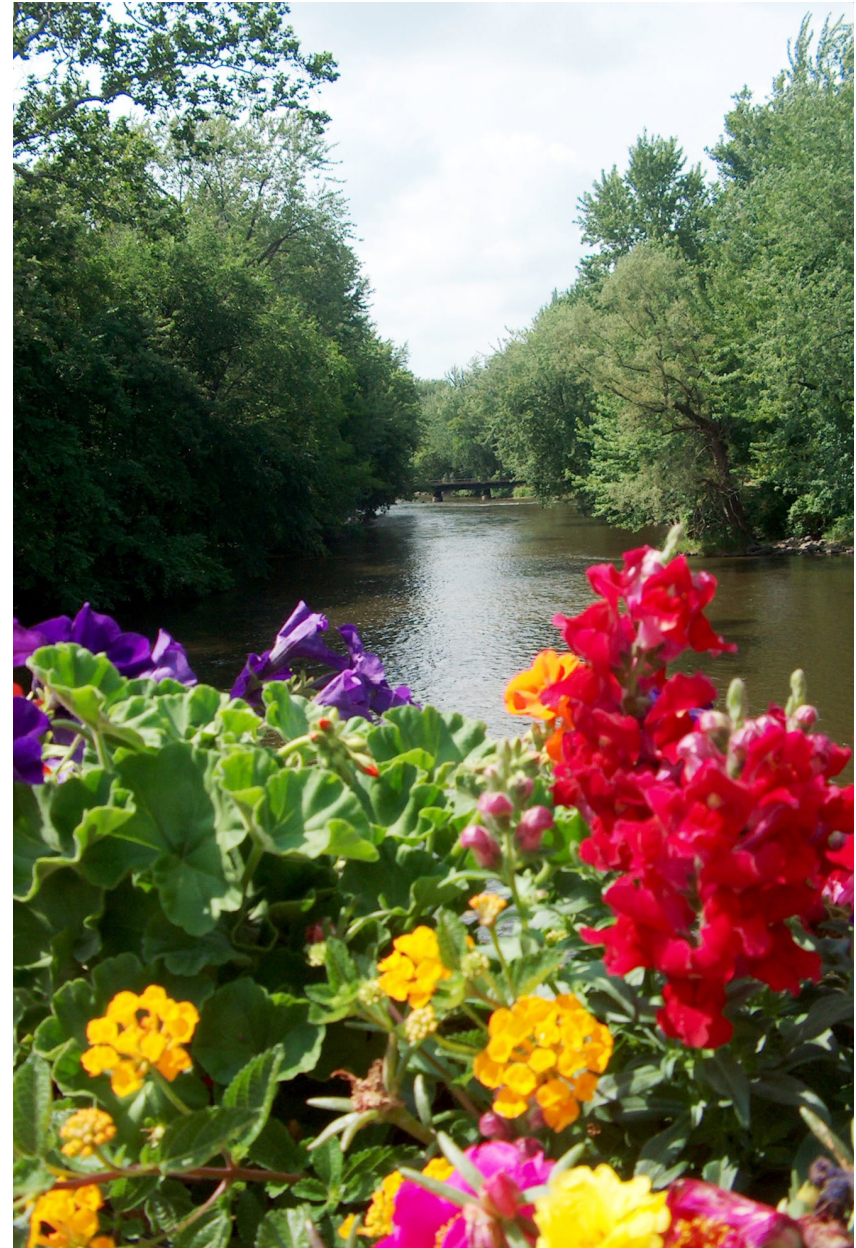
PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Land Use Patterns & Zoning

Plainwell consists of mostly Low and Medium Density Residential zones, Commercial, Industrial, and Open Space zones. The City of Plainwell has a downtown Central Business District as its core with primarily single-family residential housing in typical residential patterns proximal to the downtown. Medium- and high-density residential housing exists at a limited rate. Most of the industrial uses are located along the city's eastern boundary. The institutional land uses are dispersed throughout the city with the hospital and sewage treatment plant to the west near US-131, the schools to the south, and the library just east of the downtown. Additional Commercial use consisting of primarily strip development is occurring along Allegan Street, to the west toward Otsego and south towards Kalamazoo. Recreational land use is abundant and exists throughout the city and will be discussed in greater detail in the following chapters. Agricultural land use is predominately located outside the city limits.

Topography

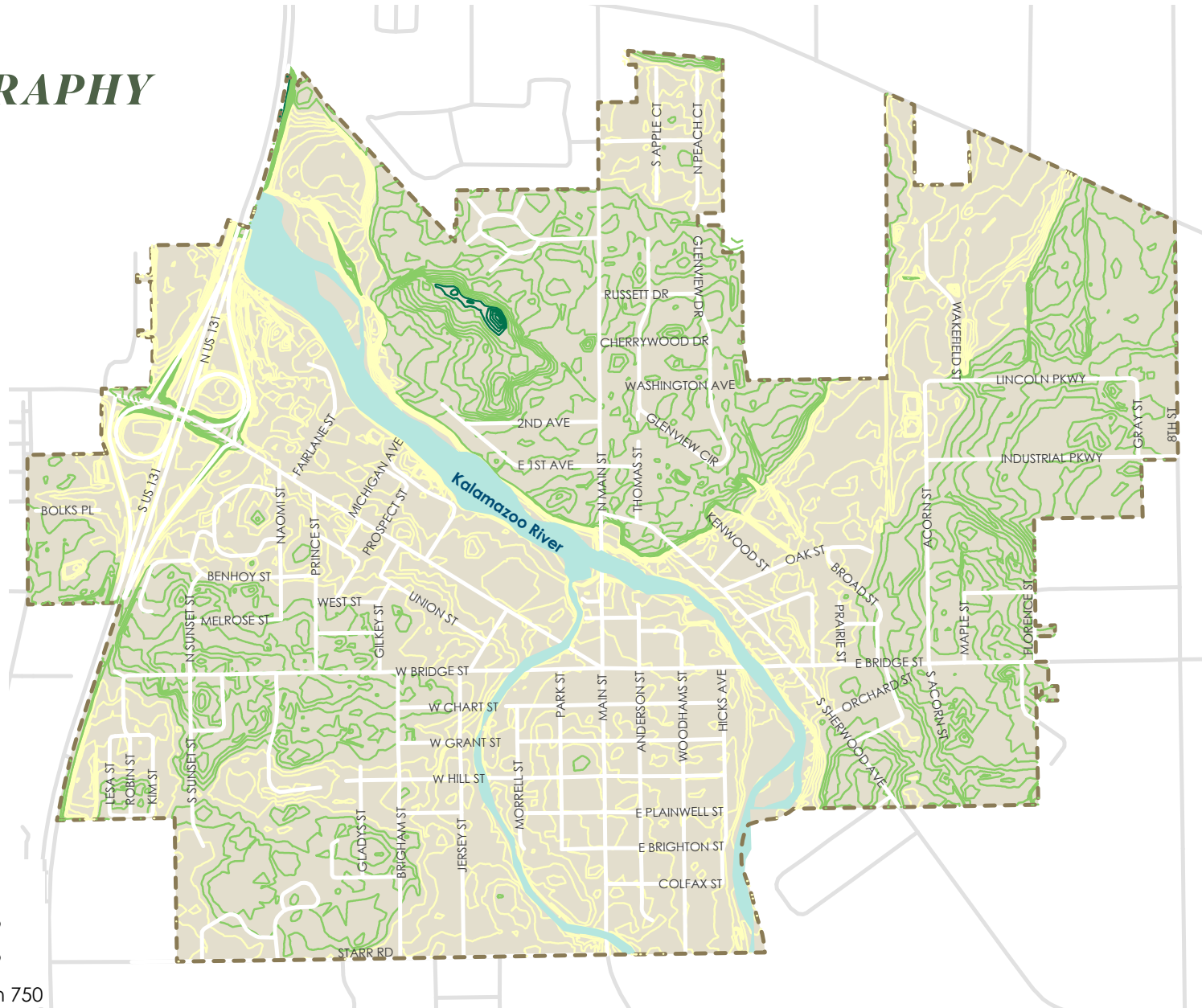
The City of Plainwell's topography ranges from level to slightly hilly with most of the grade differences occurring along the Mill Race and Kalamazoo River. The elevation varies by approximately 25 feet within the city limits. The predominant elevation above the mean sea level is 730 feet. At the eastern limit of the city, near the City's water tower, the elevation is approximately 740 feet above mean sea level.



Map 1. TOPOGRAPHY

ELEVATION

- 700 to 729
- 730 to 749
- More than 750



Water, Fish, and Wildlife Resources

The City of Plainwell is fortunate to be almost entirely surrounded by the waters of the Kalamazoo River and its local tributary - the Mill Race, which offers both aesthetic beauty as well as recreational opportunities. The Kalamazoo River provides habitat for many fish, aquatic reptiles, and amphibians such as salamanders, turtles, etc. Sport fishing is the predominant recreational activity. A fishing platform is located near the confluence of the Mill Race and Kalamazoo River at the base of the dam. Darrow Park - a linear roadside park along the bank of the Kalamazoo River is also heavily used for fishing access. Fish typical of river habitats are found here including flathead and channel catfish, largemouth, smallmouth and rock bass, freshwater drum, bluegill, perch, and in the spring and fall when the waters are cooler, steelhead and salmon.

Portions of the Kalamazoo River, most notably in Plainwell, have undergone extensive clean-up for PCB removal. Currently, most fishing is for sport only as it is not recommended to be consumed. However, the City is working with various stakeholders to fully restore the river. In recent years, the exploration of improvements to the Mill Race has fostered discussion about restoring the channel to a more naturalized state that would address bank erosion issues and allow for safer passage by migrating fish and kayakers through the waterway.



Soils and Vegetation

Soils in the area consist of the following:

- 2 - Glendora loamy sand
- 6 - Adrian muck
- 11B - Oshtemo-Chelsea complex (0-6% slope)
- 12B - Ockley loam (1-6% slope)
- 18 - Pits
- 19A - Brady sandy loam (0-3% slope)
- 27B - Meatea loamy fine sand (0-6% slope)
- 39 - Granby loamy sand
- 44B - Chelsea loamy fine sand (1-6% slope)
- 49A - Tedrow fine sand (0-4% slope)
- 50 - Aquents and Histosols, ponded
- 51A - Thetford fine sand (0-4% slope)
- 62 - Sloan silt loam
- 66 - Udipsamments, nearly level to gently sloping
- 72B - Urban land-Oakville complex (0-6% slope)
- 75B - Marlette-Capac loams (1-6% slope)
- W - Water

The majority of the region is comprised of 44B and 72B soils. 72B is a mixture of urban land and Oakville soils. The urban land is covered with streets, pavement, and buildings. Oakville is an excessively drained soil formed in sandy eolian deposits, usually on outwash plains and moraines. The Chelsea loamy fine sand soil is typically found in cultivated areas, woods, or pastures. The native vegetation is oak-hickory and the soil is excessively drained. The remaining area is an assortment of mixed hardwood woodlands, wetlands, herbaceous fields, and cultivated areas.



Transportation Systems

US 131 runs north-south along the western edge of Plainwell and provides direct access to Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. M-89/M-43 (Allegan Street) is the main arterial connection from US 131 to the Central Business District in downtown Plainwell. M-89/M-43 (E. Bridge Street) continues east towards Gun Plain Township. Other transportation systems include the Penn Central Railroad and Allegan County bus system with two routes near the eastern boundary of the city. One route runs north to south and the other northwest to southeast. Street layout is influenced by various factors, however, the blocks located to the south of Bridge Street and east and west of Main Street are aligned in a typical grid pattern of residential streets. The layout of the remaining streets is influenced by the Kalamazoo River and Mill Race which requires many of the routes to terminate. The railroad and other industrial uses also influence the street system within the city's 2.2-square-mile limit.

Climate

The climate is typical of many southwestern Michigan towns. Plainwell is warm during the summer when temperatures average in the 70s and very cold during the winter with temperatures in the 20s. The warmest month of the year is July with an average temperature of 86 degrees and January is usually the coldest month with temperatures as low as 16 degrees. Temperatures typically range from 86°-64° in July and from 31°-16° in January. Precipitation averages 39 inches on an annual basis. Rainfall is evenly distributed throughout the year; however, July was recorded as the wettest month in 2022, with 5 inches of precipitation.

Environmental Issues

The City of Plainwell has two regulated industrial sites including a former paper mill adjacent to the Central Business District and a disposal company site near Thurl Cook Park on the city's northeast side, called the A1 property. The former paper mill site underwent a clean-up in the summer of 2016 and the City received a Community Development Block Grant to assist in the final phase of blight elimination on the site. The A-1 property has been remediated and the City is awaiting the transfer of a portion of the property to the City. These sites are scheduled to undergo clean-up. The clean-up will follow requirements as specified by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. As previously mentioned, PCB's have been detected within the Kalamazoo River. The US Environmental Protection Agency and state partner Michigan Department of Environmental Quality oversaw the dredging of the Kalamazoo River to remove PCB - polychlorinated biphenyls in 2008. Plainwell has been established as the test location for further clean-up along the Kalamazoo River. A sizeable clean-up effort within the city has been completed and the focus is now turned downriver from Plainwell.

According to the National Wetland Inventory (US Fish and Wildlife Service), there are only three nationally inventoried wetlands present in the city. These wetlands are located near the Kalamazoo River, to the west of Main Street and consist of the following types:

- R2UBH-Riverine, Lower Perennial, Unconsolidated Bottom, Permanently Flooded; This system contains all wetlands in natural or artificial channels periodically or continuously containing flowing water The other two wetlands identified are:
- PSS1F -Palustrine, Scrub-Scrub, and Broad leaved Deciduous, and Semi permanently flooded and PSS1Cd-Palustrine, Scrub-Scrub, Broad leaved Deciduous, Seasonally Flooded, Partially drained/Ditched. These two systems are part of the palustrine which includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, emergent, mosses or lichens.



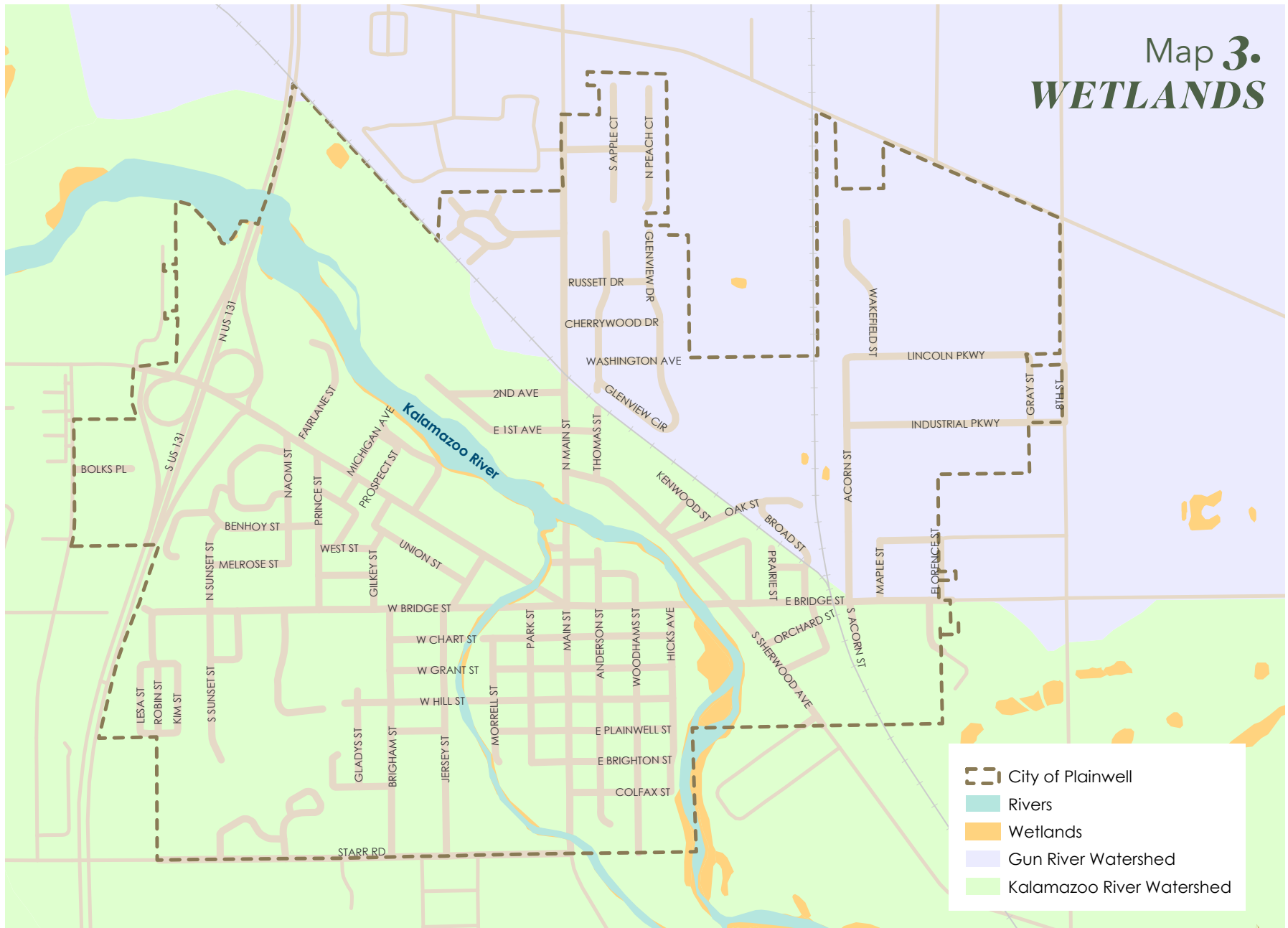
RECREATION PLAN FOCUS

The extent of this recreation plan includes all aspects of parks and recreational elements within the city. This includes, but is not limited to, property acquisition, development, and maintenance of trails (land and water), playgrounds, dog parks, sports facilities (athletic, fishing, hunting), passive recreation areas, outdoor gathering and event spaces, lands for conservation and habitat restoration, and all City-owned, publicly accessible outdoor resources.

Map 2. *TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS*



Map 3. WETLANDS



2.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

City Administrative Structure

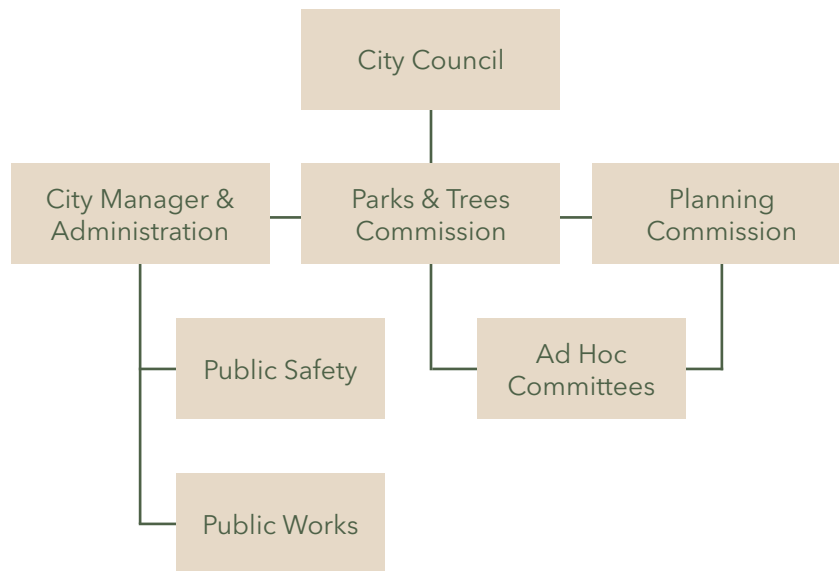
CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES

The City does not have an outside funding source for park improvements.

ANNUAL AND PROJECTED BUDGETS

The general fund covers the annual operation and maintenance costs of the parks and streets. All monies used for recreational facilities are channeled through the General Fund to the Parks Department. The allocation of monies for park improvements is further discussed in the sections to follow. See the following page for detailed park budget.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ROLE OF COUNCIL AND STAFF

The City Council is the sole authority for appropriating funds for the expansion and maintenance of the park system. The Parks Department is within the Department of Public Works and the Superintendent under the direction of the City Manager is responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the recreational facilities. The Parks and Trees Committee is involved in the review of park-related items and makes recommendations to the City Council. The Parks and Trees Commission makes recommendations related to City-owned public facilities. The City Manager acts as a liaison between the committees and the Council. Once the Council approves a recommendation, funds are distributed and the program/project is implemented. The Department of Public Safety provides security and law enforcement for all City parks including security checks. Recreational facilities located on school property are maintained and operated by school personnel.

The City Council meets every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers to discuss and approve various City related issues.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Being only 2.8 miles from the City of Otsego, the City has a close relationship with its neighbor, as well as, the Townships of Gun Plain and Otsego. Other nearby agencies include the City of Kalamazoo, the City of Allegan, Otsego/Plainwell Area Chamber of Commerce, Ransom District Library, Plainwell Public Schools, and Plainwell Arts Council.

PARKS AND RECREATION POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The City has policies and procedures in place appropriate for its population and staff size. Most of the park maintenance is done on a volunteer basis by members of the Parks and Trees Commission.

PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET TABLE

Description	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 (proposed)
Salaries, Wages, and Benefits	\$65,787	\$69,298	\$63,005	\$61,694
Supplies (Office, Operating, Uniforms, Printing & Publishing)	\$897	\$491	\$665	\$850
Repair and Maintenance Supplies	\$4,622	\$4,312	\$6,467	\$4,800
Utilities (Electric, Water, & Sewer)	\$22,684	\$23,423	\$22,631	\$26,000
Outside Services (Cell Phone, Computer Services, Etc.)	\$1,677	\$4,763	\$430	\$3,160
Equipment Rentals	\$39,473	\$40,654	\$28,100	\$36,000
Property Liability Insurance	\$1,676	\$1,937	\$2,102	\$2,312
Cook Park Expenses	\$3,162	\$12,958	\$348	-
Project Costs - Pell Park	\$350	\$593	\$4,007	\$15,000
Project Costs - Hicks Park	\$850	-	-	-
Project Costs - Kenyon Park	\$2	-	-	-
Project Costs - Sherwood Park	\$1,160	\$1,080	\$36	\$2,000
Project Costs - Christmas Decorations	\$3,269	\$4,071	\$2,548	\$5,000
Project Costs - Riverwalk Park	-	\$1,643	\$84	-
Total	\$145,609	\$165,223	\$130,423	\$156,816

This page intentionally left blank.

3.

RECREATION INVENTORY



Riverwalk Park



Kenyan Park



Fannie Pell Park

Recreation Inventory

PUBLIC PROPERTIES/FACILITIES

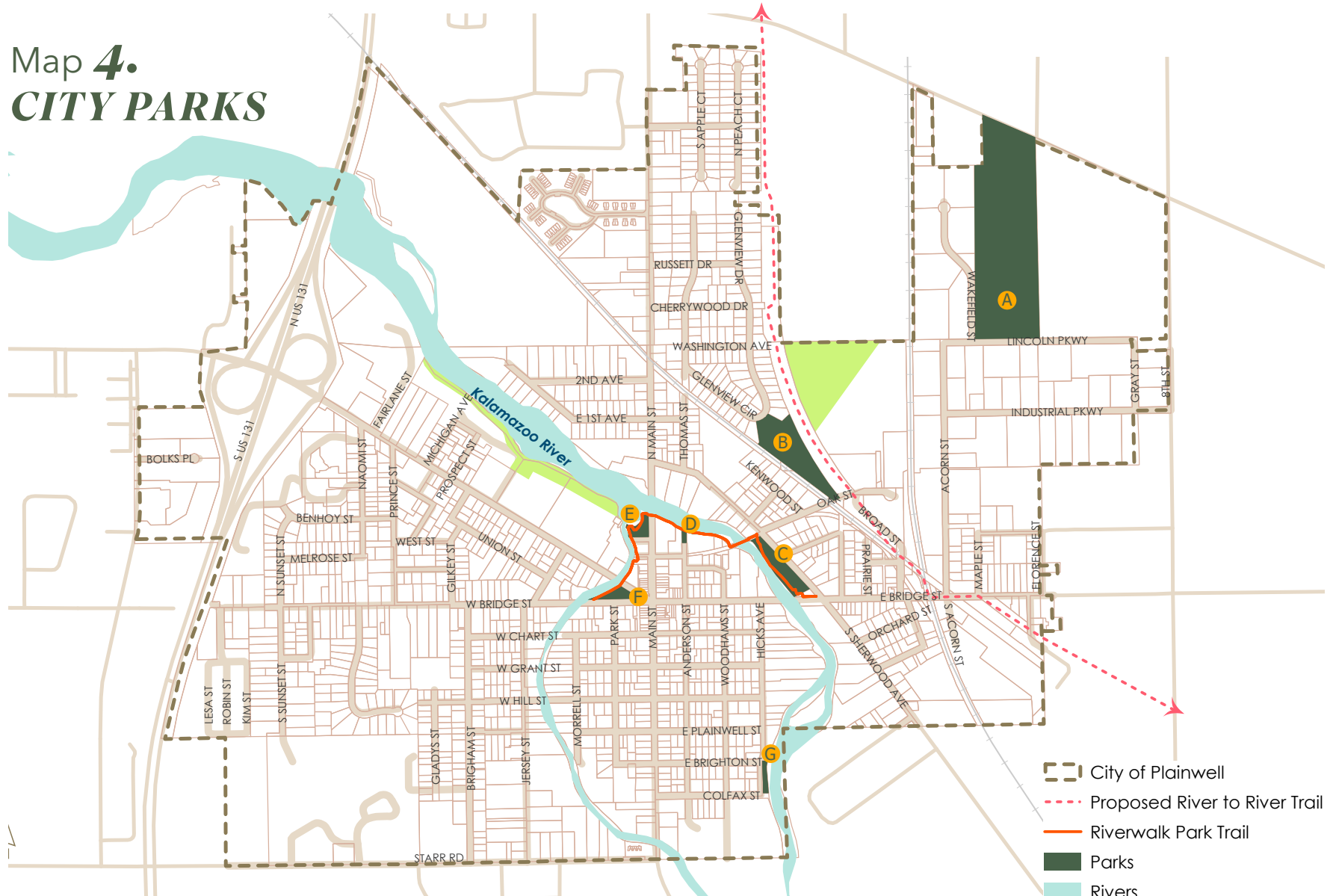
The City of Plainwell has 7 public parks ranging in size from a small roadside pull-off of less than an acre to over 31 acres. The National average acres for a medium size city are 12.9 acres per 1,000 residents, for Plainwell that equals 48.9 acres. Plainwell's overall park space encompasses 85 acres of land and 7.3% of the City's land use. Based on the DNR Publication entitled - A Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space and Trails, the majority of parks should be classified as mini-park to Neighborhood Park. However, the location of many of the parks and the activities provided serves the needs of the Community as well as the surrounding townships. Based on the general description of usage, we have modified the classification to better describe these parks. Each Park will be discussed in detail in the following section. The discussion should reinforce the classification upgrade based on use as opposed to location or size criteria only. An assessment of each park was completed to inventory existing conditions, site accessibility, and general site amenities.

ACCESSIBILITY GRADES

To clarify how the accessibility grade was determined for each park, please refer to the following description: The DNR Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans require an accessibility assessment of each park for people with disabilities. This assessment must consider the accessibility of the facilities as well as the access routes to them. The following ranking system has been developed:

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

Map 4. CITY PARKS



- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| A Kenyon Park | C Sherwood Park | E Fannie Pell Park | G Darrow Park |
| B Thurl Cook Park | D Bandshell Park | F Hicks Park | |

0 500 1,000 2,000
US Feet

PARK PLANNING METRICS

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) uses four park classifications based on site characteristics, size, and service area. The following tables summarize these classifications. Most of the City's parks are small in size but have been developed to meet the service areas needs. In the following park inventory, each park has been identified as one of these NRPA classifications, primarily focusing on use, characteristics, and service area over park size.

Mini Park	
Use/Characteristics	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens.
Service Area	Less than ¼ mile radius
Desirable Size	1 acre or less
Acres per 1,000 Population	0.25 to 0.5 acres per 1,000 population

Neighborhood Park	
Use/Characteristics	Area for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc. Easily accessible to neighborhood population geographically centered with safe walking and bike access.
Service Area	¼ to ½-mile radius to serve a population up to 5,000 (a neighborhood).
Desirable Size	15+ acres
Acres per 1,000 Population	1 to 2 acres per 1,000 population

Community Park	
Use/Characteristics	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes, large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need. May include natural features such as water bodies and areas suited for intense development.
Service Area	Several neighborhoods. 1-to-2-mile radius.
Desirable Size	25+ acres
Acres per 1,000 Population	5 to 8 acres per 1,000 population

Regional Park Preserve	
Use/Characteristics	Area of natural quality for nature-oriented outdoor recreation such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitat, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail uses. May include active play areas. Generally, 80% of the land is reserved for conservation and natural resource management with less than 20% used for recreation development.
Service Area	Several communities. 1 hour driving time.
Desirable Size	1,000+ acres; sufficient area to encompass the resource to be preserved and managed.
Acres per 1,000 Population	Variable



HICKS PARK

Hicks Park is the oldest park in the city dating back to 1903. It was obtained in a trade between the City of Plainwell and John Eesley. The Park was named after Joseph Hicks, Plainwell's first Mayor. This beautifully landscaped, 1-acre park is located in the Central Business District immediately adjacent to the Mill Race and Riverwalk. This public space hosts the City's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony, Egg Hunt, Pumpkins in the Park, and many other community gatherings.

The park contains accessible walkways with passive seating, picnic tables, grills, a children's play area, and a pedestrian/dog fountain

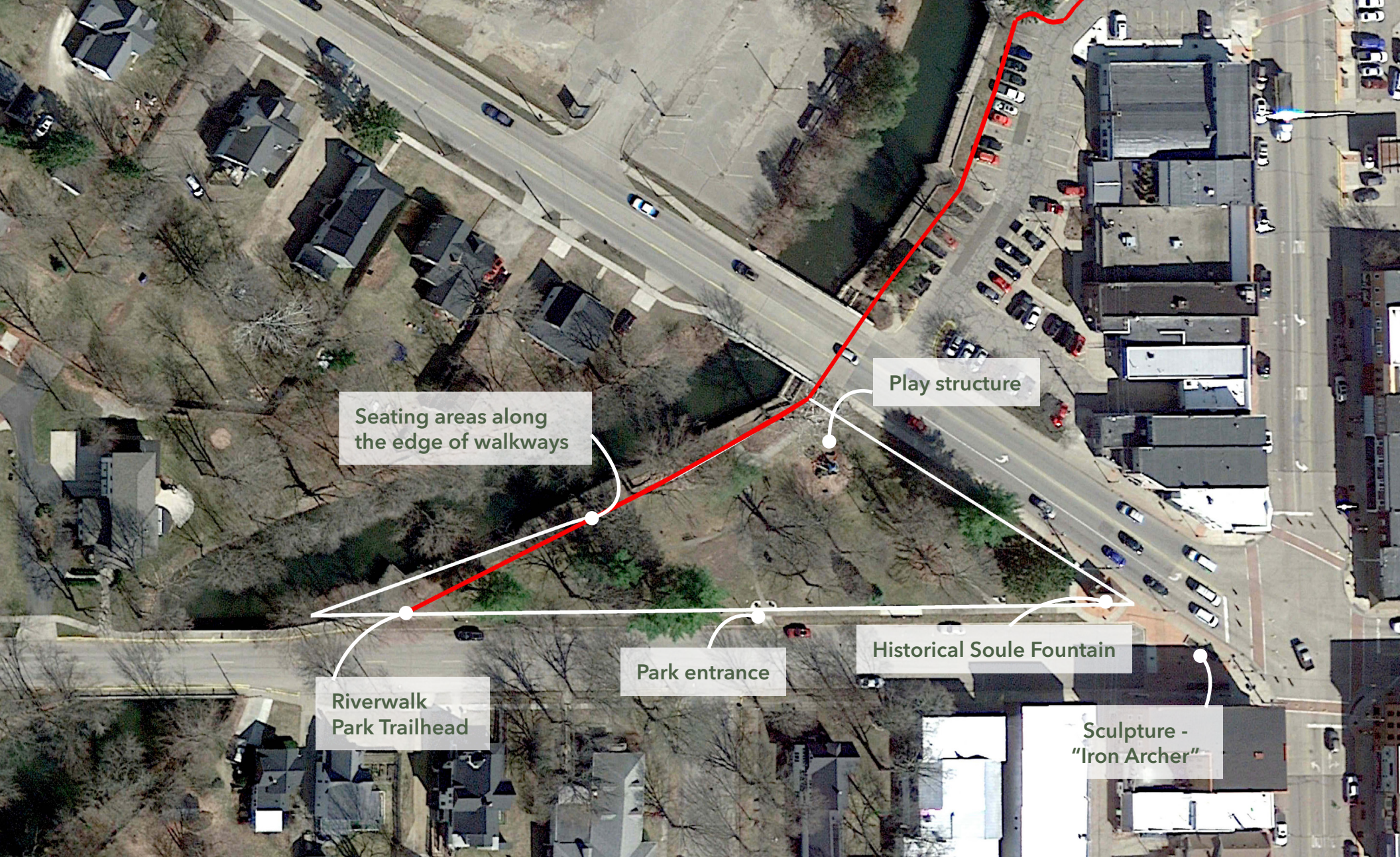
installed in the Soule Fountain. The historic benches and hitching posts blend in with the newer site amenities and remind the users of the site's historic importance. The property is heavily shaded and contains numerous, mature deciduous trees. The park is located along the main access route into the city and sets the tone for the City's image. The historic Soule Fountain is positioned at the eastern tip of the park which is replicated in the City's logo. This fountain was originally built in 1907 and willed to the City by a local banker, George Soule. The fountain was destroyed in a car collision in 1953 and a replica was built by the Jaycees in the 1970's. The City continues to maintain and preserve this historical replica.

Hicks Park is natural in appearance, with the Mill Race tributary of the Kalamazoo River bordering the park. The interface of the park with M-89 is of concern as the passive nature of the park and the movement of traffic on this main access route is not congruent. The proximity of the existing playground close to M-89 is also of concern for safety reasons. It is for this reason that the City maintains a natural barrier of planting and landscaping along M-89. Additionally, as part of the MDOT M-89 project W. Bridge St. was redesigned to eliminate through traffic and create a plaza connecting the Central business district and the Park. It has been suggested that this park remain in a more passive state.

The Riverwalk Park begins in Hicks and provides an accessible pedestrian route and linkage to other city parcels. With the addition of the Riverwalk trail which passes underneath M-89, vehicular/pedestrian conflicts have been eliminated. The existing paved pathways that bisect the park are narrow but do provide widened areas for wheelchair turnarounds and benches for respite. The park has limited parking on W. Bridge St., but immediately to the north is a City-owned lot with accessible parking. This parking lot can be reached via the Riverwalk trail. The area is well maintained with an abundance of landscaped beds and a healthy lawn. Light-post-mounted banner signage lines the river's edge and properly conveys the City's image and character of this park. In terms of the accessibility assessment, the children's play equipment does not have an accessible route to the play surface.

Accessibility Grade: 3

Park Classification: Neighborhood



Not to scale.

Map 5. *HICKS PARK*

FANNIE PELL PARK

211 N. Main St.

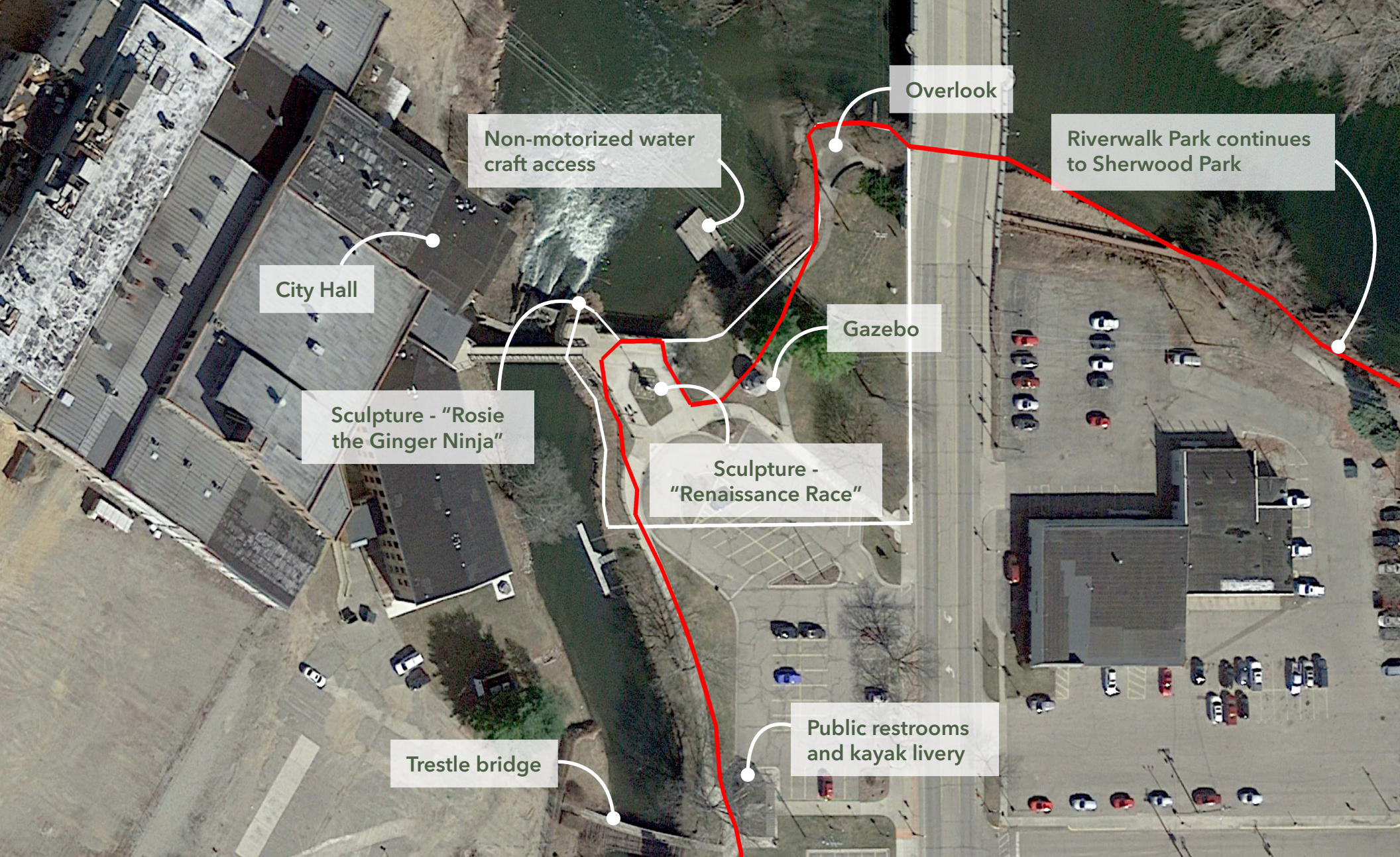
This 1-acre landscaped park is located at the convergence of the Mill Race and the Kalamazoo River. The park is at the northern end of the Central Business District on Main Street and serves the entire community and nearby townships. A public restroom/mechanical room and canoe/kayak livery were built on the southwest corner of the park and are connected through a series of accessible pathways. Movable and permanent picnic tables are dispersed throughout the open lawn areas that overlook the river but lack accessible routes to navigate to these amenities. Park improvements over the past ten years included the replacement of the sidewalk on N. Main, a new art sculpture, and the demolition of a mill accessory building allowing for an additional 25 parking spaces. Fannie Pell Park Gazebo is a scenic location that is the site for many ceremonies.

The Riverwalk Park trail is located along the water's edge and provides pedestrian connectivity and accessibility from Fannie Pell to other City-owned parks including Hicks and Sherwood. The park provides opportunities for non-motorized watercraft activities, as the canoe and kayak landing is a popular launch. The heated ADA bridge connection from Fannie Pell Park to the City Hall sits atop the Mill Race dam and is a popular spot for fishing. The adjacent City-owned parking facility provides ample staging for these watersport activities as well as additional parking for the downtown.

Accessibility Grade: 3

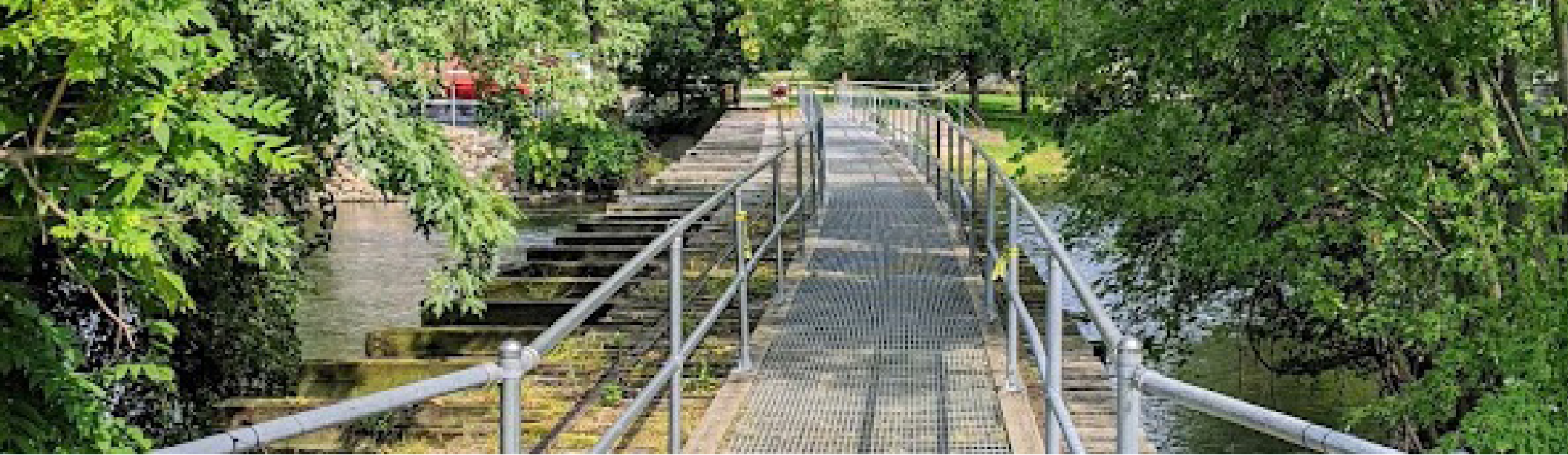
Park Classification: Neighborhood





Not to scale.

Map 6. *FANNIE PELL PARK*



RIVERWALK PARK

Connects Hicks Park and Sherwood Park

Riverwalk Park is a scenic, linear park that parallels the Mill Race and Kalamazoo River. This .62-mile park provides access from Hicks Park to Sherwood Park via a combination of wood boardwalks and concrete walkways that form a trail system. This system passes under two bridges and provides an almost entirely accessible route without vehicular conflicts. The park services the community as well as neighboring communities and townships.

The park contains two floating wood platforms located in the Kalamazoo River near the dam and the other in the Mill Race just before the dam. These platforms are used for fishing and canoe/kayak transport. The location of these two platforms in relation to the parking lot and slope differential make it a less desirable location for kayak removal. Some users exit further upstream along the river in Sherwood Park. The ramp leading to this platform does not contain railings. Railings are desirable for access but provide an obstacle for canoe and kayak transport. The ramp leading from the water to the land is fixed and the slope varies based on the water level. The ramp still requires the user to carry the watercraft up the bank to the nearby City-owned parking lot, but the distance is much shorter.

The Riverwalk trail passes behind Bandshell Park; the trail then continues behind the office/retail businesses along the “backdoor” of these establishments. This section of the trail was installed in 2007 with City funds and is fully accessible for all users. The trail then meets the existing trestle bridge to cross the Kalamazoo River. The bridge provides scenic views and is an attraction for locals and visitors alike. The bridge surface is an open steel grate and because of the size of the grate openings, can be difficult to walk on for pets and small children. In 2006, the Riverwalk Trail was extended from the Trestle Bridge to Sherwood Park. The trail parallels the bank of the Kalamazoo River.

As previously mentioned, some kayakers are exiting at this location since the bank is less steep and easier to carry watercraft to nearby parking. The trail terminates at the walkway at the south end of Sherwood Park near the Bridge Street Bridge.

Accessibility Grade: 3

Park Classification: Community



Not to scale.

Map 7. *RIVERWALK PARK*

BANDSHELL PARK

205 Anderson Street

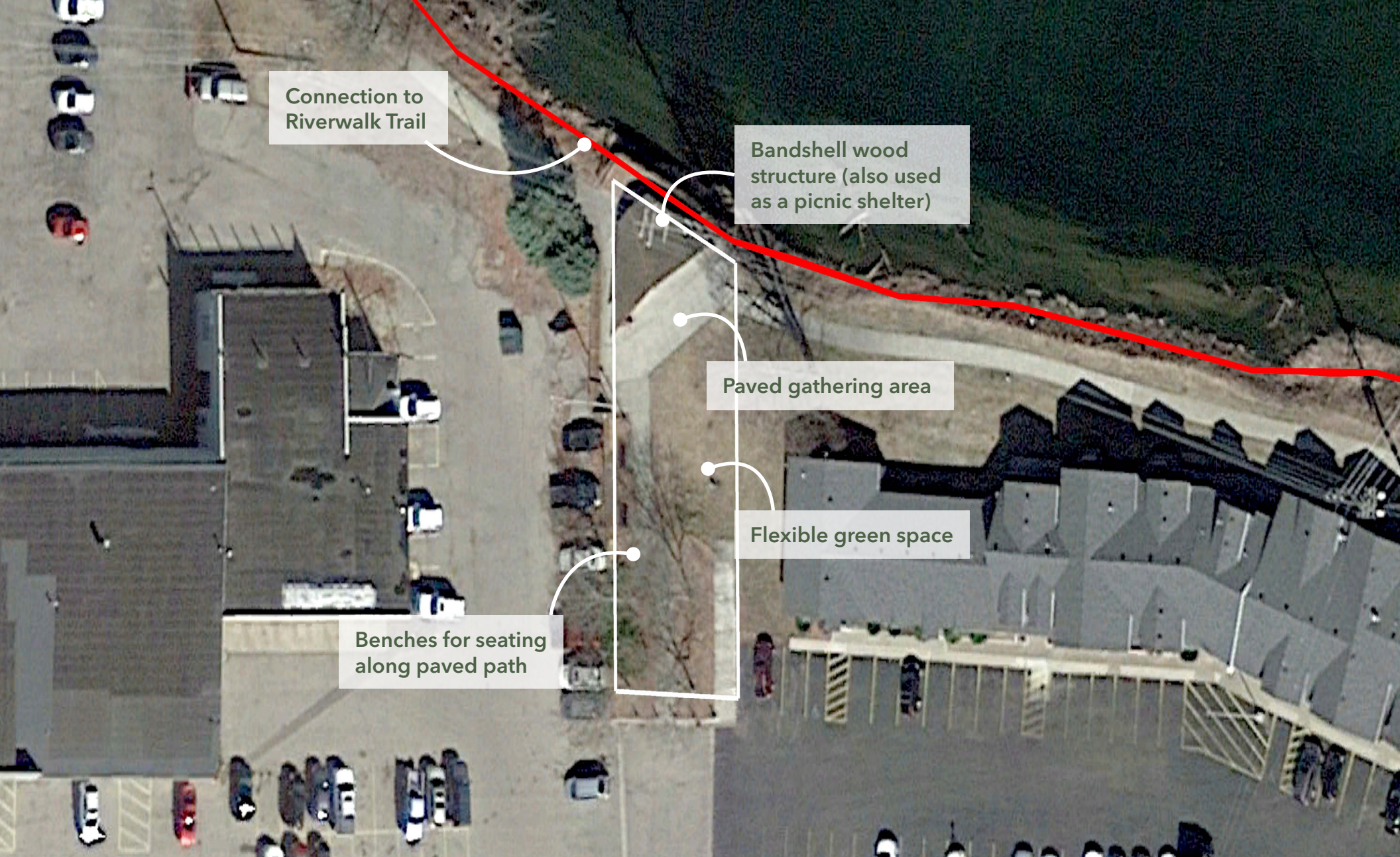
On the shores of the Kalamazoo River, Bandshell Park is used for summer concerts as well as other special events. The bandshell was built in the 1990's with DNR Trust Funds and is an attractive wood structure that is still in good condition today. Paved accessible pathways are lined with benches and connect the parking lot on adjacent properties to the venue space. A concrete pad sits in front of the bandshell and provides space for dancing and accessible seating. The stage opens up to an unprogrammed lawn. When not in use for performances, the at-grade bandshell is used as a shelter with movable picnic tables.

The park is bounded on the west by the Central Business District and parking. A fence and landscape buffer has been placed to block the view of the business parking lot. Immediately behind the bandshell are the Kalamazoo River and the Riverwalk trail, which provides a scenic backdrop. The event space is bounded to the south by the terminus of N. Anderson Street. Immediately to the east of the bandshell are office/retail and parking. The site is relatively small for the events desired at the park, and the restrictive nature of the site surroundings limits the size of performances.

Accessibility Grade: 4

Park Classification: Mini





Not to scale.

Map **8.**
BANDSHELL PARK



SHERWOOD PARK

121 N. Sherwood

Sherwood Park is a 3-acre park located along the east bank of the Kalamazoo River. The adjacent land uses are very compatible with this community park. These land uses include an ice cream shop to the north, the Ransom District Library to the south of Bridge Street, and a neighborhood to the east, making the park a popular public space. The park contains a play area with an accessible play structure and also a tire swing, track rider, seesaw, and merry-go-round. The playground has a seating area with tables, benches, and a drinking fountain, all fenced on the riverside. A Veterans Memorial is situated on the north end of the Park, featuring a memorial wall, flags, seating, and scenic views to the river.

The parking lot is located just east of the play area and has adequate parking for the number of users that would drive to this park and the handicapped space is signed. A new public restroom has been installed with accessible routes to the adjacent paved pathway. The park also contains two half-basketball courts as well as a full court that is lit for night use. A skating rink is installed over the basketball court during favorable weather. The lighting is on a timer that turns off when the park closes. The concrete surface of these courts is in good condition. There are also additional accessible picnic tables near the basketball courts. All park areas are linked via an accessible route.

Accessibility Grade: 4

Park Classification: Community



Not to scale.

Map **9.**
SHERWOOD PARK



THURL COOK PARK

Upper, 652 Glenview Circle; Lower, 201 Oak St.

Thurl Cook Park is a 5-acre neighborhood park located on the city's east side, between residential and industrial districts. Two points of access exist by car, as no sidewalks are present on the roads that bound the property. One park entry is located to the northwest off Glenview Circle and includes four unstriped parking spaces. The second entry is on the park's southeast side and is a gravel parking area that takes access from Oak Street. This gravel lot does not have an accessible route to park features but is connected by a gravel loop that encloses the new dog park, restroom building, and pavilion. Although no direct pedestrian connections to the site exist today, the proposed multi-modal River to River trail that will connect Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids is planned to run along Thurl Cook Park's northeastern property line.

In 2018, a new 28,000-square-foot dog park was constructed at Thurl Cook Park, replacing the obsolete baseball field. The project was funded by a crowdfunding campaign through Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The dog park area includes separate

fenced-in spaces for small and large dogs, four park benches, watering and waste stations, and six pieces of agility equipment. The dog park is entirely surfaced with lawn but does include a paved gathering space connecting the Oak Street parking area and the double-gated entry.

Northwest of the dog park sits an existing restroom building and pavilion. The restroom is surrounded by an adjacent concrete walkway. The restroom is only open during events and has had an ongoing problem with vandalism. The interior of the facility is not up to current ADA standards. The pavilion is surrounded by lawn and provides a sheltered space for picnicking and gathering. It does not have an accessible route or accessible parking.

The park also contains an asphalt basketball court that is in good condition. To the immediate west of the basketball court are five pickleball courts and practice area. The park is also home to a sledding hill, passive open space, and small playground.

Accessibility Grade: 1

Park Classification: Community



Not to scale.

Map **10.**
THURL COOK PARK



KENYON PARK

929 Lincoln Parkway

Kenyon Park is a 31.5-acre site located in the northeast portion of the City in an industrial park area. This regional park serves the recreational needs of the City of Plainwell and its neighboring cities and townships. Numerous sports teams utilize this facility.

The park is accessible by vehicle only as it is not proximal to residential areas or other city parcels. The main route into the park is an asphalt drive. Mature deciduous trees line the edge of the road and provide an aesthetic visual barrier to the adjacent industrial land use to the west. There is a gravel parking area to the south of the softball fields and additional gravel parking areas have been added adjacent to the asphalt drive. These gravel parking areas do not provide accessible parking or provide an accessible path to other park amenities.

The park is primarily lawn with a flower bed surrounding the park entry sign off Lincoln Parkway. The park has three softball fields with skinned (dirt) infields and bleachers for spectators. Open space at the north end of the property is frequently used for soccer. The open space is in good condition and very well maintained.

A picnic pavilion is situated to the east of the main asphalt drive in the southern portion of the park. In 2015, the Rotary Club upgraded the pavilion which has several picnic tables, playground equipment, and grills. A restroom facility is located just north of the pavilion. This restroom is very similar in appearance to the facility at Thurl Cook Park. The interior of the restroom does not meet current accessibility guidelines. There are no accessible routes connecting the pavilion, restroom, or play area to one another or other park amenities.

The City's water tower is located at the northern end of the athletic fields. The remainder of the park to the north is undeveloped and covered by forests. A portion of the property to the north is used primarily by the park department for soil stockpiling.

Accessibility Grade: 1

Park Classification: Regional



North

Not to scale.

Map **11.**
KENYON PARK

DARROW PARK

607 Hicks Street

This passive .37-acre park is located along the west bank of the Kalamazoo River south of East Bridge Street and 6 blocks to the southwest of Sherwood Park. The adjacent land use is primarily residential. The river defines the east edge of the park and Hicks Street bounds the west. The park boundary to the north is a residence.

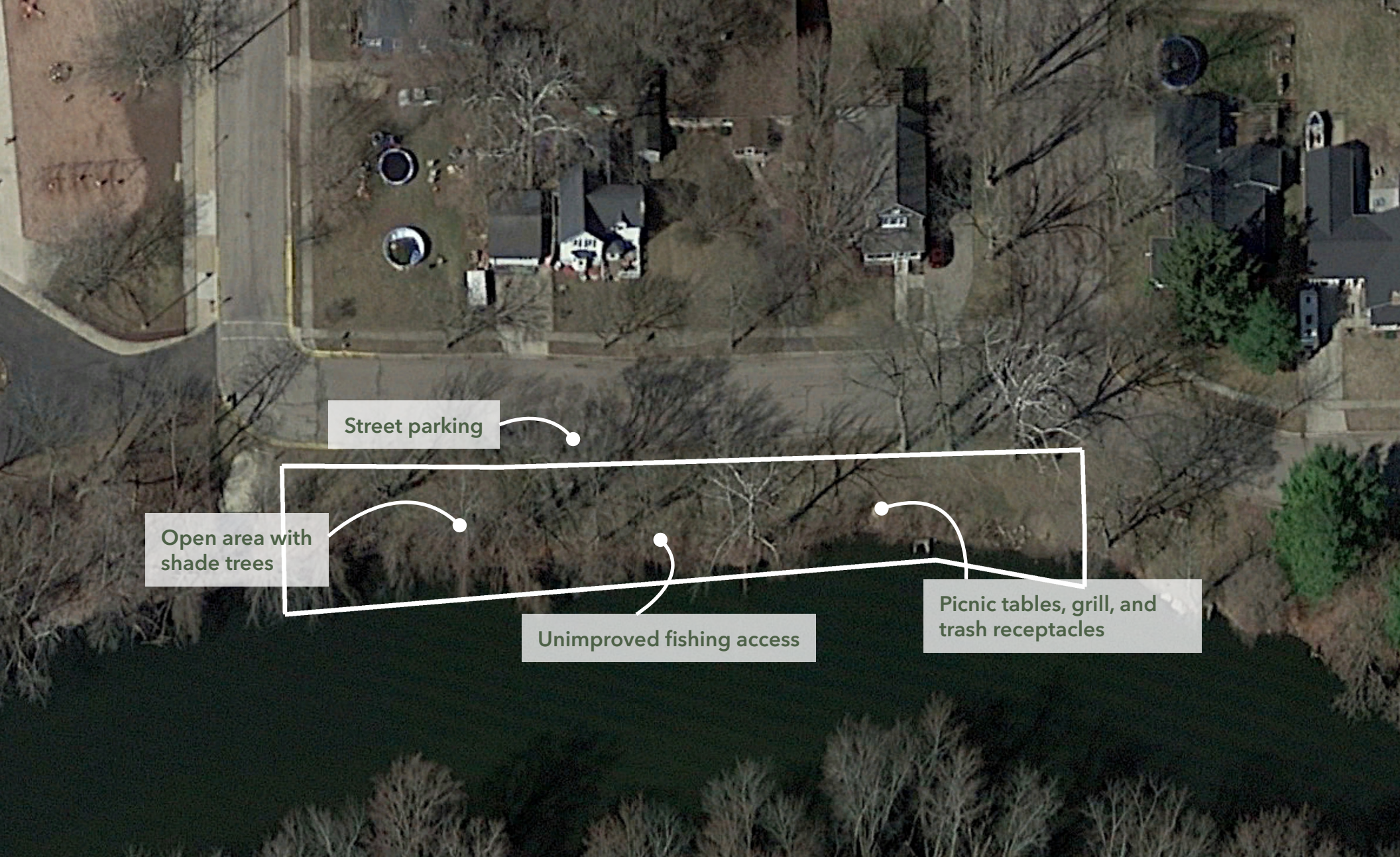
Darrow Park has on-street parking and lacks pedestrian connectivity to other City-owned parcels. The park is more of a “roadside” pull-off with permanent benches facing the river, picnic tables, and mature deciduous trees. This park provides a pleasant setting for picnicking. Darrow Park is also used for fishing access to the river, but the bank is not easily traversed to the water’s edge.

Gilkey Elementary School is immediately to the south. The school has an accessible play structure that is used by the neighborhood children and the Gilkey Elementary Environmental Lab and nature trail along the bank of the river. This trail is available for use by city residents.

Accessibility Grade: 1

Park Classification: Mini





North

Not to scale.

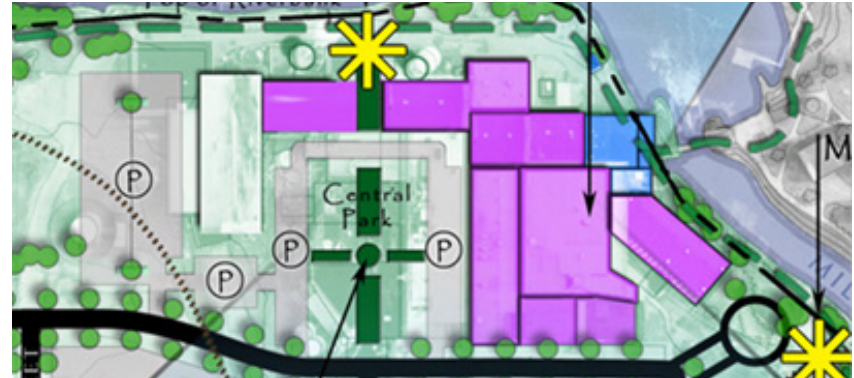
Map **12.**
DARROW PARK

RIVER TO RIVER TRAIL

Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids

The River to River trail plan was completed in 2018 and analyzes potential non-motorized trail routes from Kalamazoo to Grand Rapids. The segment of the River to River trail that will run through the City of Plainwell includes two sections for a total of 1.5 miles of 35 total miles of trail, primarily along property controlled by Consumers Energy. A small portion of the trail will parallel M-89. The trail extends from the west city line at Locust Street (south of M-89) and follows the route to the north/northwest to the northern border of the city just south of Miller Road.

Accessibility Grade: N/A - Future Potential Park



FORMER PAPER MILL (CENTRAL PARK)

200 W. Allegan Street

The former paper mill site is to the immediate west of the Mill Race, Fannie Pell, and Riverwalk Parks. This 36-acre site is a potential development parcel to expand public space within the downtown. Although not formally a City park, this publicly held property is anticipated to include a Central Park that will include recreational elements as part of any future reconstruction. The City has reserved land extending along the riverbank for the extension of the riverfront trail system and conceptual designs of the site provide a central gathering place with waterfront views internal to the site.

A successful partnership between the Paper Mill's former owner and City, State, and Federal agencies spanning two decades has resulted in the remediation of the paper mill site to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standard for residential development. In 2014, City Hall was relocated to the former paper mill, immediately to the west of the Mill Race. To foster the development of public space at this property, a heated ADA accessible pedestrian bridge was installed. The pedestrian bridge serves a dual purpose of providing access to City Hall, as well as, connecting to the future expansion of Riverwalk Park.

Accessibility Grade: N/A - Future Potential Park

The recreational facilities listed below are considered to be within the Plainwell area and easily reached within one hour or less, so we included them as part of the recreation inventory.

STATE OF MICHIGAN RECREATION FACILITIES

Fort Custer Recreation Area, Battle Creek

Camping, horseback riding, biking/hiking trails, dog sledding, fishing, boating, and swimming (3,033 Acres).

Allegan State Game Area, Allegan County

Camping, hiking trails, and horseback riding (50,000 Acres).

Yankee Springs Recreation Area, Barry County

Camping, biking/hiking trails, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice fishing, and horseback riding (5,200 Acres).

Kal-Haven Trail, Kalamazoo County

Trail for walking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

ALLEGAN COUNTY RECREATION FACILITIES

Gun Lake Park, Shelbyville

Lake access, boat launch, playground, a basketball court, picnic facilities, covered pavilion, and modern restroom (5 Acres).

Little John Lake Park, Allegan

Picnic facilities, swimming, fishing, walking and cross-country ski trails, ball diamonds, volleyball courts, a playground, and restrooms (113 Acres).

Silver Creek Park, Hamilton

Swimming, fishing, ball diamonds, horseback riding, walking and cross-country ski trails, camping, picnic facilities, and restrooms (320 Acres).

Dumont Lake Park, Allegan

Swimming, play equipment, picnic facilities, boat launch, fishing, and restrooms (18.6 Acres).

Bysterveld Park, Wayland

Fishing, walking and cross-country ski trails, picnic facilities, a playground, and a restroom facility (70 Acres).

Ely Lake Campground, Fennville

Swimming, camping, fishing, boat launch, walking and cross-country ski trails, picnic facilities, and horseback riding.

New Richmond Park, Fennville

Historic swing bridge, boat launch, fishing, walking and cross-country ski trails, and picnic facilities (20 Acres).

West Side Park, Fennville

Boardwalk, swimming, a playground, picnic facilities, covered pavilions, and a gazebo (11 Acres).





PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP RECREATION FACILITIES

Pine Lake

Prairieville Township Center Street Lake Access, boating, swimming, fishing, etc.

SCHOOL PROPERTIES/FACILITIES

The Public Schools within the Plainwell Community Schools School District include the following:

Gilkey Elementary School, 707 S. Woodhams Street

Starr Elementary School, 601 School Drive

Plainwell Middle School, 720 Brigham Street

Plainwell High School, 684 Starr Road

Renaissance High School, 798 E Bridge St, Plainwell

Collectively, the above mentioned facilities have sports courts (tennis, basketball, etc.), athletic fields, play equipment, meeting rooms, and a nature trail.

OTHER/PRIVATE PROPERTIES/FACILITIES

Downhill Skiing:

Timber Ridge Ski Lodge, Gobles

Bittersweet Ski Area, Otsego Township

Golf and Cross-Country Skiing:

Crestview Golf Course, Cooper

Lake Doster Golf Club, Gun Plain Township

Golf:

Lynx Golf Course, Otsego Township

Cheshire Hills Golf Course, Cheshire Township

Orchard Hills Golf Course and Banquet Center, Shelbyville

Hiking and Interpretive Center:

Kalamazoo Nature Center, Cooper Township

Soccer Fields:

AYSO Soccer Fields, Gun Plain Township

Force Soccer Fields, City of Plainwell

Recreational Flying:

Plainwell Municipal Airport

BARRIER FREE COMPLIANCE

The City of Plainwell has been responsive to the current barrier-free guidelines on building-related improvements. In 1999, the City used DNR Trust Fund Dollars and implemented an ADA accessible expansion of the Riverwalk trail to provide connectivity from Fannie Pell Park to Sherwood Park. Additional accessibility issues regarding crossing the Kalamazoo River near Sherwood Park need to be addressed to complete this ADA compliant connectivity. In 2012 the City received an MDOT enhancement Grant as part of the M89 reconstruction project. Improvements included ADA accessible ramps within the Central Business District. The existing park facilities as previously discussed do not meet all current guidelines but accessibility should be achieved with improvements made during the implementation of Capital Improvement Projects.

STATUS REPORT OF GRANT-ASSISTANCE

Below is a list of grants the City has received to complete recreation based projects throughout the community.

Cook Park 1978 Land and Water Conservation Fund

DNR Project Grant No. 26-01060 K4 included \$27,022.79 to build a shelter with washrooms and a warming room, 3 tennis courts, a basketball court, tot lot and play equipment, landscaping, picnic tables, LWCF sign. Status: closed.

Parks and Recreation Facilities 1985 Michigan DNR

DNR Project Grant No. 26-01414 subsidized 50% of a \$53,000 project to complete the first phase of a recreational development area. The project resulted in the successful conversion of once agricultural land to the development of a 28-acre recreation park known as Kenyon Park. The grant included the construction of 3 softball fields with six five-row bleachers, grading, seeding, and mulching of the perimeter area, installation of fencing and backstops, construction of driveways and parking areas, and payment of engineering fees. Status: closed.

Riverwalk 1997 Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund

DNR Project Grant No. TF97-040 in the amount of \$321,000 funded the construction of the Riverwalk and Bandshell. This included the construction of a 3,160' walkway adjacent to the Mill Race tributary and Kalamazoo River, connecting four public parks. Status: closed.

Sherwood Park Upgrades and Enhancements 2016 Recreation Passport

DNR Project Grant No. RP16-0075 provided funding for the development of a permanent restroom with an accessible walkway to the facility. Status: closed.

Allegan County Community Foundation (2005) for the repair of the fishing platform in the Kalamazoo River located on the north side of Fannie Pell Park and the installation of the floating non-motorized watercraft platform on the Mill Race along the Riverwalk west of Fannie Pell Park. The total amount funded was \$11,056.27. Result of this fund. Status: closed.

MDOT Transportation Enhancement Fund for Downtown Plainwell M-89 and Main Street Streetscape Project. Decorate lights, sidewalks; trees, landscaping; other accouterments. Job number 113363A in the amount of \$380,841.62 funded the Streetscape project. Status: closed.

Michigan CDBG Program

Project Grant No. MSC 2091136-CDI

This funding of \$638,941.00, resulted in the successful completion of the improvements to Fannie Pell Park, which included parking improvements, demolition of a City-owned storage building, installation of the pedestrian bridge, and non-motorized trail alignment and expansion. The grant was for \$638,941. Result of the fund. Status: closed.

Plainwell Arts Council provided a private donation of \$10,000 for the Renaissance Sculpture placed in Fannie Pell Park, an additional \$3,000 for the Iron Archer statue placed in the plaza by Hicks Park, and for the Rosie the Ginger Ninja in Fannie Pell Park.



4.

PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS



Planning & Public Input Process

PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The existing Community Recreation Plan was adopted in 2016 and provided a solid foundation for future parks and recreation investment in the City. In 2022, the City of Plainwell Parks and Trees Commission began the process of updating the Community Recreation Plan to guide the City over the next 5 years. There are several reasons for updating the City of Plainwell's Community Recreation Plan, including:

- To recognize the need for additional local park and recreation facilities to serve existing and future residents of the city.
- To refine the capital improvement and maintenance budget for the existing parks system.
- To submit an updated plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to maintain the city's eligibility to request MDNR Recreation Division grant assistance.
- To provide a plan of action for public review and acceptance as the City of Plainwell's future plan for park and recreation services and its residents.

This plan uses a hybrid of the comparison to park metrics and system planning approaches. Each park has been identified in the Recreation Inventory as either a Regional, Community, Neighborhood, or Mini Park based on NRPA classifications. Additionally, the City took inventory of park implementation over the past five years and used input gathered from the community to assess needs and prioritize future improvements.

SCOPE OF REVIEW

The Parks and Trees Commission's review included the following tasks:

- **Review of Previous Plans:** A joint meeting of the City Planning Commission and the Parks and Trees Commission was held on January 14, 2022 for the update of the City's Comprehensive Master Plan and the Recreation Plan. By completing these planning processes concurrently, the City intended to provide a more holistic approach to the use and management of public facilities. The Planning Commission and Parks and Trees Commission provided an assessment of the previous recreation plan, discussed priority issues to guide the public engagement efforts, and reviewed other supplemental recreation planning documents developed since the last Community Recreation Plan update.
- **Update Community Data and Inventory:** An update of the community description, including social characteristics (population trends and demographics) and physical characteristics (land use, natural resources, environmental issues, etc.) were made to meet the requirements of the DNR and to inform the public open house. The City's administrative structure and park inventory were also reviewed and adjusted to reflect changes over the last five years.
- **Public Open House:** With a clear understanding of the current conditions and priority recreation issues in Plainwell, the City solicited citizen input through a community open house on April 14, 2022.
- **Goals & Objectives Work Session:** Based on input received from the public, the Planning Commission, and City staff, the Parks and Trees Commission reviewed and refined the goal statements regarding the future state of parks and recreation in the community. This work session was held on September 8, 2022 during a publicly accessible meeting.

- **Action Program Work Session:** The tasks listed in the action program are based on the goals and objectives, as well as the results of the community input phase, and the existing facility inventory. With input from the Planning Commission and City staff, the Parks and Trees Commission reviewed and refined the action program. This work session was held on November 17, 2022 during a publicly accessible meeting.
- **30-Day Review:** A draft of the Community Recreation Plan was compiled, reviewed, and approved for draft submittal by the Parks and Trees Commission. Citizens were provided an adequate opportunity (at least 30 days) to review and comment on the Plan prior to the official recommendation by the Parks and Trees Commission and adoption by the Plainwell City Council.
- **Public Hearing and Adoption by City Council:** The Recreation Plan was adopted by the Plainwell City Council on January 9, 2023.
- **Transmittal to County and Regional Planning Commissions and MDNR:** The Recreation Plan was distributed to the Allegan County Planning Commission and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission in January 2023. The Recreation Plan was then transmitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for eligibility certification.



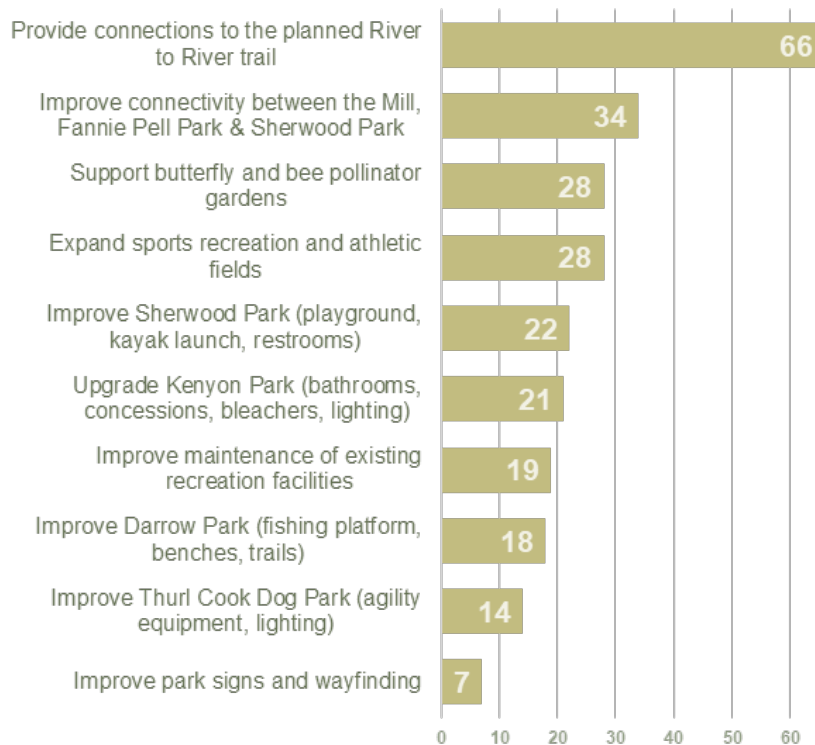
PUBLIC INPUT

The City of Plainwell utilized an open house to engage with community members and gain input regarding parks and recreation. The public open house was hosted on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at the Plainwell City Hall from 6 pm to 8 pm and was held in conjunction with planning outreach efforts for the City's Comprehensive Master Plan Update. This allowed the City to publicize a single, large event and potentially attract a broader group of participants.

The open house featured several interactive stations designed to educate and solicit input from the community through multiple activities specific to parks and recreation. Attendees were given the opportunity to engage in any of the activities as they pleased and further discuss specific items of personal importance with City officials and planning consultants. The open house received around 30-40 attendees and was publicized through online methods such as emails and social media announcements. Other forms of advertising were also used.

An informational presentation board and table with existing planning documents greeted attendees, followed by three stations for the parks and recreation-focused activities. These stations included (1) a voting exercise, (2) a facilities improvements mapping activity, and (3) comment cards.

Station 1 Highlights: A voting exercise was provided to gauge the importance of improving green spaces in Plainwell. For this activity, participants were told to imagine they were in charge of directing investments for a variety of parks and recreation-related improvement topics. Topics for voting were developed with the Parks and Trees Commission and were based on information from previous recreation planning efforts. The spread of votes for these topics are illustrated in the following table.



Station 2 Highlights: Attendees were asked to use color-coded sticky notes to identify recreationally underserved areas, places for new park facilities or amenities, and parks in need of repair or maintenance. They were encouraged to write their ideas on sticky notes and place them on a recreation map of the city. Underserved areas and populations included the need for a dog park on the west side of the city, moving northwest little league to Kenyon Park, and the lack of recreational opportunities for teenagers. Attendees listed extending the riverwalk towards the west side of the city, a large kid-focused playground, and implementing safety measures like lighting, fences, cameras around parks, and adding restrooms and signs as some of the new facilities or amenities that might be beneficial to the Plainwell community.

Station 3 Highlights: Comment cards inquired about park usage and provided participants with a place to elaborate on additional recreation needs. Respondents indicated visiting Riverwalk Park, Sherwood Park, and Fannie Pell Park the most and Keyon Park the least. Walking, running, biking, kayaking, exercising (humans and dogs), spending time with family, enjoying the river, and attending music events were described as the most common reasons for visiting local parks. Additional thoughts included suggestions for park development, programming, and maintenance, such as improved walkways, lighting, and playground surfacing, establishing public event space at the mill property, organized baseball leagues, and promoting healthy food options surrounding parks.

An engagement report was assembled and shared with the Parks and Trees Commission. It provided a summary of findings and a discussion of the methods used to solicit feedback, which can be found in Appendix A. Based on all the information obtained, the Parks and Trees Commission was able to update the Recreation Plan to align with the needs and desires of the community.

5.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Goals & Objectives

After evaluating community demographics, existing recreation facilities, community input, and previous planning priorities, the Parks and Trees Commission compiled the following goals and objectives:

PARKS & RECREATION MAINTENANCE & IMPROVEMENTS

Goal 1: The City of Plainwell's role in parks and recreation is to provide safe, comprehensive recreation facilities, amenities, and outdoor spaces for all ages and abilities.

- Objective 1.1: Routinely identify recreation facility and programming deficiencies throughout the city.
- Objective 1.2: Design facilities in compliance with ADA requirements and strive to achieve universal design.
- Objective 1.3: Ensure the safety of parks and recreation facilities by routinely evaluating amenities for wear and tear.
- Objective 1.4: Repair, remove, or replace damaged, worn, or obsolete facilities and amenities.



PARKS & RECREATION FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Goal 2: The City of Plainwell will balance need and desire for parks and recreation facilities with a responsible financial approach that considers available resources and long-term maintenance.

- Objective 2.1: Explore funding opportunities for park development, including the DNR Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation fund, Recreation Passport Grant program, and area foundations.
- Objective 2.2: Establish and compare long-term maintenance costs when making decisions to repair, replace, or add new recreation amenities.



KALAMAZOO RIVER

Goal 3: The City of Plainwell recognizes the Kalamazoo River as a recreational and placemaking asset.

- Objective 3.1: Improve access to the River through enhanced and maintained launch amenities, wading areas, and fishing platforms.
- Objective 3.2: Maintain public access to the river as a priority through the acquisition of riverfront property.
- Objective 3.3: Remove dams where appropriate to improve the river, reduce maintenance costs, enhance safety, and improve fish migration.
- Objective 3.4: Work with neighboring communities and the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council in the development of the Kalamazoo Heritage Water Trail.
- Objective 3.5: Continue to maintain, enhance, and expand existing Riverwalk.

NON-MOTORIZED FACILITIES

Goal 4: The City of Plainwell will enable safe, accessible, and convenient non-motorized trails and trail connections for use by all ages and abilities.

- Objective 4.1: Provide non-motorized connections between the planned River to River (Interurban) Trail and destinations in the city such as parks and downtown.
- Objective 4.2: Ensure that off-street non-motorized connections are designed and built to be ADA accessible, when possible, and strive for universal design.
- Objective 4.3: Coordinate with the Michigan Department of Transportation to encourage accommodation of non-motorized users on M-89/M-43.



CENTRAL PARK & PAPER MILL SITE

Goal 4: The City of Plainwell identifies the Historic Plainwell Paper Company site as a redevelopment opportunity, including the addition of a “central park” in the city.

- Objective 5.1: Work with future developers to identify park location and boundaries to ensure inclusion in any redevelopment plan.
- Objective 5.2: Create a “central park” master plan and identify amenities and park facilities.



6.

ACTION PROGRAM

Action Program

Action Program recommendations are derived based on the wants and needs of the community as well as current code requirements. With goals and objectives established, the City of Plainwell developed a 5-year action program to implement the vision, policies, and improvements outlined in the Plan. Potential capital improvements described in this Plan have been established not only to provide a framework for decision-makers, but also to enable the City to apply for grant funding for those proposed projects. Due to recent volatility in pricing, estimates of probable cost have not been provided and will be determined at the time of implementation.

The project list is not a fixed element and it is neither all-inclusive or exclusive. The schedule reflects the results of the input received from the open house, City staff, and Parks and Trees Commission.

Future circumstances, especially the availability of funding and cost, may change priorities or require the reprioritization of items. The responsibility of implementing this Action Program falls on the Plainwell City Council, Parks and Trees Commission, and City staff. However, partners and local stakeholders will also play an important role in ensuring that the Action Program is implemented.

While not specifically identified in the following matrix, this Action Program supports a variety of programming in all park facilities. Park programming may be an extension of current programming activities or may include new events that have not yet been created. The City is open to league use of its softball fields and the addition of new athletic fields. As such, programming year-to-year may change depending on interest and demand for facilities. The City is also supportive of providing pollinator habitat in all City parks, and will strive to do so when applicable and appropriate.

PROPOSED PARK AMENITIES

Amenities	Hicks Park	Fannie Pell Park	Riverwalk Park	Sherwood Park	Thurl Cook Park	Kenyon Park	Darrow Park	Paper Mill Site (Central Park)
ADA Accessibility	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Non-Motorized Path Improvements	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Dog Park Improvements					•			
Playground Improvements	•			•	•	•		
Pedestrian & Trestle Bridge Improvements			•	•				•
Restroom: Renovations/New	•					•		•
Fishing Platform: Renovations/New		•		•			•	•
Park Identity	•		•		•	•	•	
Pedestrian Access Route			•		•			•
Parking Improvements					•	•		
Riverwalk Expansion			•					•
Farmers' Market								•
Splash Pad								•
Non-Motorized Watercraft Launch		•	•	•			•	•

PHASING OF PROJECTS

The following pages provide a more detailed overview of anticipated site element improvements for each individual park. This includes a description of the proposed element and phasing to help the City prioritize improvements. The phasing categories are provided below for reference:

- **Phase I:** 1 to 2 years
- **Phase II:** 2 to 3 years
- **Phase III:** 3 to 5 years

Hicks Park

Existing amenities in Hicks Park are generally in good condition so the improvements for this facility will be primarily based on accessibility and park identity. It is recommended that the historic features of this park be preserved, including the fountain, benches, hitching posts, and mature trees. A historic marker with information regarding the park's history should be added. Accessible parking spaces should be added as close to the park entrance as possible and an accessible route to the site amenities should be installed. Other additions could include benches by the playground area, swings, and possibly a restroom. Erosion control is needed at various locations along the Mill Race. As per all City parks, it is recommended that uniform informational/directional signage be installed that properly conveys the City image and provides wayfinding components.

Fannie Pell Park

Improvements to Fannie Pell Park, other than basic repairs/maintenance and accessibility should be considered as part of the future development of the Paper Mill site (Central Park). This park will act as the "gateway" to the downtown. It is essential that the relationship between these parcels be interwoven and connectivity and accessibility are the highest priority.

Additional items include the repair of pedestrian bridge surfaces and railings to provide accessible crossings over the Mill Race once the site is developed. Continue to explore other recreational uses for the

HICKS PARK

Site Elements	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Remove and replace narrow walkway, include bench pad	•		
Playground (access route, edge restraint, and surfacing)	•		
Benches, trash/recycling, bike rack, and swings			•

FANNIE PELL PARK

Site Elements	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Kayak/canoe launch platform and improvements		•	

park building that has been used as a Kayak Outpost Facility. Also, enhancement of the existing landscaping to soften views of parked cars along Main Street.



The park also contains a non-motorized watercraft platform on the Mill Race. Access to this platform is difficult due to the slope differential. This platform may function better in another location where the slope is not so severe. The floating platform is also used for non-motorized watercraft and fishing. The condition of the existing platform may warrant replacement. Composite low-maintenance decking should be researched as an alternative for the boardwalk and watercraft platform. Other improvements for Riverwalk Park should include the replacement of the Kalamazoo River and Mill Race Trestle bridge surface.

Riverwalk Park

Riverwalk Park should be extended along the river, through the former paper mill site, and to the adjacent municipalities. A foundation crack in the spillway wall will need to be fixed as part of this expansion. There are areas within Riverwalk Park that are experiencing erosion control problems. City staff has remedied some of those areas but efforts should be continued. It is desired that this linear park trail also be expanded to the Ransom District Library and existing parks. This park should receive directional and informational signage at various locations to provide wayfinding to other city amenities.

The existing wood boardwalk and railing sections of the path require ongoing maintenance and can be slippery under wet conditions. It is recommended that efforts to install hand railings on the sloped sections of the wood boardwalk be continued. The long-term maintenance of the wood should be considered when future replacement is needed.

RIVERWALK PARK

Site Elements	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Erosion issues along Hicks Park, City Hall, and Sherwood Park			•
Crack in W Mill Race dam wall			•
Accessible route to watercraft platform	•		
New fishing platform, railings, accessible route, landscaping, and site amenities			•
Extend accessible route under the bridge to the library			•
Directional and informational signage		•	
Mill/Kalamazoo River trestle bridge improvements		•	•
Kayak/canoe launch improvements		•	

Sherwood Park

Sherwood Park is very accessible with connected picnic areas, a large play structure, a new restroom building, sport-courts, a veterans memorial, and accessible routes to the majority of park amenities. Minimal accessibility improvements will need to be made.

Many use this park as an exit point for their canoes or kayaks. Users currently exit along the bank and a more appropriate location for a watercraft access point should be considered in this park. This Park is heavily utilized because of the easy access between the parking lot and the river. The river bank is less steep than the bank along the Mill Race and is more inviting to more users.

Thurl Cook Park

Thurl Cook lacks connectivity and visibility. Pedestrian connections from Thurl Cook Park to Sherwood and Riverwalk Parks should be made. The Penn Central Railroad Track underpass, located on the west side of the park, exists as a barrier for connectivity but could be explored for future pedestrian access.

Existing amenities should be improved and new facilities added to make this park more of a destination. The creation of a dog park in recent years has begun to do this, but additional improvements to this area are needed. The existing restrooms should be renovated and the interior upgraded to meet current ADA and code compliance. Accessible parking spaces and an accessible route through the park linking to the restroom and pavilion should be installed. The existing parking lot should also be paved.

The narrow asphalt path that connects the northern portion of the park to the southern should be improved to increase accessibility. Additional accessible play equipment and surfacing should be added to the play area. The small parking area at the north end of the park near the residential area should be re-stripped and signed to meet ADA standards and a formal accessible route should be added.

SHERWOOD PARK

Site Elements	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Playground improvements, surfacing, etc.		•	
Pedestrian walkway enhancements	•		
Improve watercraft landing and install kayak/canoe launch			•

THURL COOK PARK

Site Elements	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Accessible play structure and new surfacing		•	
Accessible route (5' wide)	•		
Restroom improvements			•
New paved ADA parking area and access drives		•	
Pave existing parking lot		•	
Misc. drainage improvements			•
Enhance rail crossing			•
POTENTIAL PARK SPACE ACQUISITION - Former A-1 Property			
Non-motorized trail (10' wide)			•
Benches, trash/recycling, bike rack, and drinking fountain			•
Disc-golf course			•

Former A-1 Property: The former A-1 property has been identified as potential park space and may serve as an expansion of Thurl Cook. Potential amenities include a non-motorized trail and disc golf course.

Kenyon Park

The park is generally in excellent condition and well-maintained. ADA parking and an accessible route should be installed near the restroom and pavilion. The restroom interior should be upgraded to meet current ADA standards and all code compliances. The flexible lawn to the north of the softball field is currently used for soccer/football. As trends change, there may be more of a demand for soccer, football, or lacrosse and less use for softball. As user groups change, their needs should be studied and further improvements made.

During the fall approximately 270 youth participate in Rocket Football utilizing every available space within this park. The City currently owns additional wooded land to the north of the water tower. This space could be utilized to provide additional recreational facilities.

KENYON PARK

Site Elements	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Brush/clearing of the 8-acres of underdeveloped park land			•
New paved ADA parking area and access drives	•		
Benches, trash and recycling, and bike racks			•
Playground improvements, additional equipment, surfacing, etc.			•
Explore sports complex uses/expand sports recreation and athletic fields			•

DARROW PARK

Site Elements	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Watercraft (canoe/kayak) and pedestrian platform		•	
Benches, trash and recycling, and bike racks			•

Darrow Park

Darrow Park lacks connectivity to other City parks. Because of its location along a residential side street, many visitors struggle to locate the park entirely. To increase the awareness of the location of this park, wayfinding signage should be located on Bridge Street and an assessable route should connect Darrow to other City parcels including the library, Riverwalk Park, and Sherwood Park. This linkage along with informational signage will help increase awareness and usage. Improvements to the park itself should focus on access to the river, improved amenities, such as grills, picnic tables, and trash receptacles.

The Gilkey School playground and the Mory Ismond Environmental lab to the south are used by residents. The viability of continuing the Riverwalk Park to tie into this nature trail should be pursued. If the extension of the Riverwalk continues to the Ransom District Library, then Darrow Park could easily be connected to the Riverwalk via existing walkways by adding a short extension of the walkway to Darrow Park.

Paper Mill Site (Central Park)

The former paper mill property is a 36-acre development site adjacent to the Central Business District. The site includes plans for the creation of a new park (Central Park), expansion of the Riverwalk Park, additional parking within the downtown, and connection to other non-motorized trails into other municipalities. A Farmers Market is housed on the site and suggestions for a Market Pavilion have been made along M-89, in a vacant gravel lot. The existing Mill Race trestle bridge provides an accessible pedestrian route across the tributary and a direct linkage to Fannie Pell Park, Riverwalk Park, and the Central Business District. Although design of the Paper Mill site is ongoing, this parcel has been included in the Park and Recreation Plan because development of this parcel is anticipated to occur prior to the expiration of this document.



- A. Connection to existing streets
- B. Townhome/brownstone
- C. Multi-story lofts

- D. Central Park
- E. Traditional detached houses
- G. Existing overhead utilities

- F. Tree-lined Riverside Drive and riverfront trail extension

FUNDING SOURCES

The City of Plainwell has received grants for funding various park improvement projects as previously discussed in this report. The City plans to apply for similar grants in the future to fund additional projects as listed in the Action Plan portion of this document. To follow is a list of grants that the City anticipates applying for to fund the above mentioned improvements.

Allegan County Community Foundation Grant

- Priority projects for funding include:
 - Environment and Conservation
 - Economic Development and Placemaking

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

- Recreational Improvement Fund
- Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Land and Water Conservation Fund
- Michigan Spark Grant

Michigan Economic Development Corporation

- Community Development Block Grants (ADA Improvements)

Michigan Department of Transportation

- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)
 - Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, including traffic calming and other safety improvements
 - Safe routes to school
 - Historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities

State Historic Preservation Office

Michigan Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program

Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Programs



Appendix A

OPEN HOUSE FLYER & ENGAGEMENT REPORT

OPEN HOUSE

Master Plan + Parks and Recreation Plan Update

The City of Plainwell needs your help making the City a better place to live, work, and play! Please join us in our effort to update the City Master Plan & Parks and Recreation Plan by stopping in and providing your input. You will have the opportunity to share your vision for the City regarding planning topics such as development, land use, streets, and parks.

When

Thursday, April 14th
6 - 8 PM (*stop in anytime*)

Where

Plainwell City Hall
211 N. Main Street
Plainwell, MI 49080

Contact

Denise Siegel,
Community Development Manager
(269) 685-6821





Community Recreation Plan Engagement Report

CITY OF PLAINWELL – PARKS AND TREES COMMISSION
WILLIAMS & WORKS

Community Recreation Plan Engagement Report

Introduction

The existing Community Recreation Plan was adopted in 2016 and was written to guide future parks and recreation investment in the City. In 2022, the City of Plainwell Parks and Trees Commission began the process of updating the Community Recreation Plan to guide the City over the next 5 years. As part of the update, the City of Plainwell utilized an open house to engage with community members and gain input regarding parks and recreation. The open house was utilized for both the Master Plan and Community Recreation Plan update. This report presents the findings of this outreach effort. It includes a summary of findings and a discussion of the methods used to solicit feedback.

Public Open House

The public open house was held on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at the Plainwell City Hall from 6 pm to 8 pm. The open house featured several interactive stations designed to solicit input from the community through engaging activities. The general purpose of each activity was to prompt the public regarding topics related to parks and recreation. The public was tasked with providing feedback regarding parks and recreation facilities and programming. Attendees were given the opportunity to engage in any of the activities as they pleased and further discuss specific items of personal importance with city officials and planning consultants.

The open house received around 30-40 attendees. The event was publicized through online methods such as emails and social media announcements. Other forms of advertising were also used. Results from each of the activities are presented on the following pages, along with conclusions and next steps.

Welcome Board

An informative welcome board was present at the planning event that provided context about the Plan and encouraged participants to take part in the available activities. The board included educational text regarding three questions: (1) What is a Community Recreation Plan? (2) Why do we need a Community Recreation Plan? and (3) Why are we here today?

Station 1. Penny Jars

A voting exercise was provided during both events to gauge the importance of improving green spaces in Plainwell. For this activity, participants were told to imagine they were in charge of directing investments for a variety of parks and recreation-related improvement initiatives. Each participant was given 10 pennies representing their tax dollars. They were instructed to distribute their pennies into jars labeled with the different statements concerning the parks and recreation areas, according to their preference for investment.

A total of 237 pennies were collected at the open house. The top three statements were: provide connections to the planned River to River trail, improve connectivity between the mill, Fannie Pell & Sherwood Park, and support butterfly and bee pollinator gardens. The figure below provides information on how many pennies were awarded to each statement.

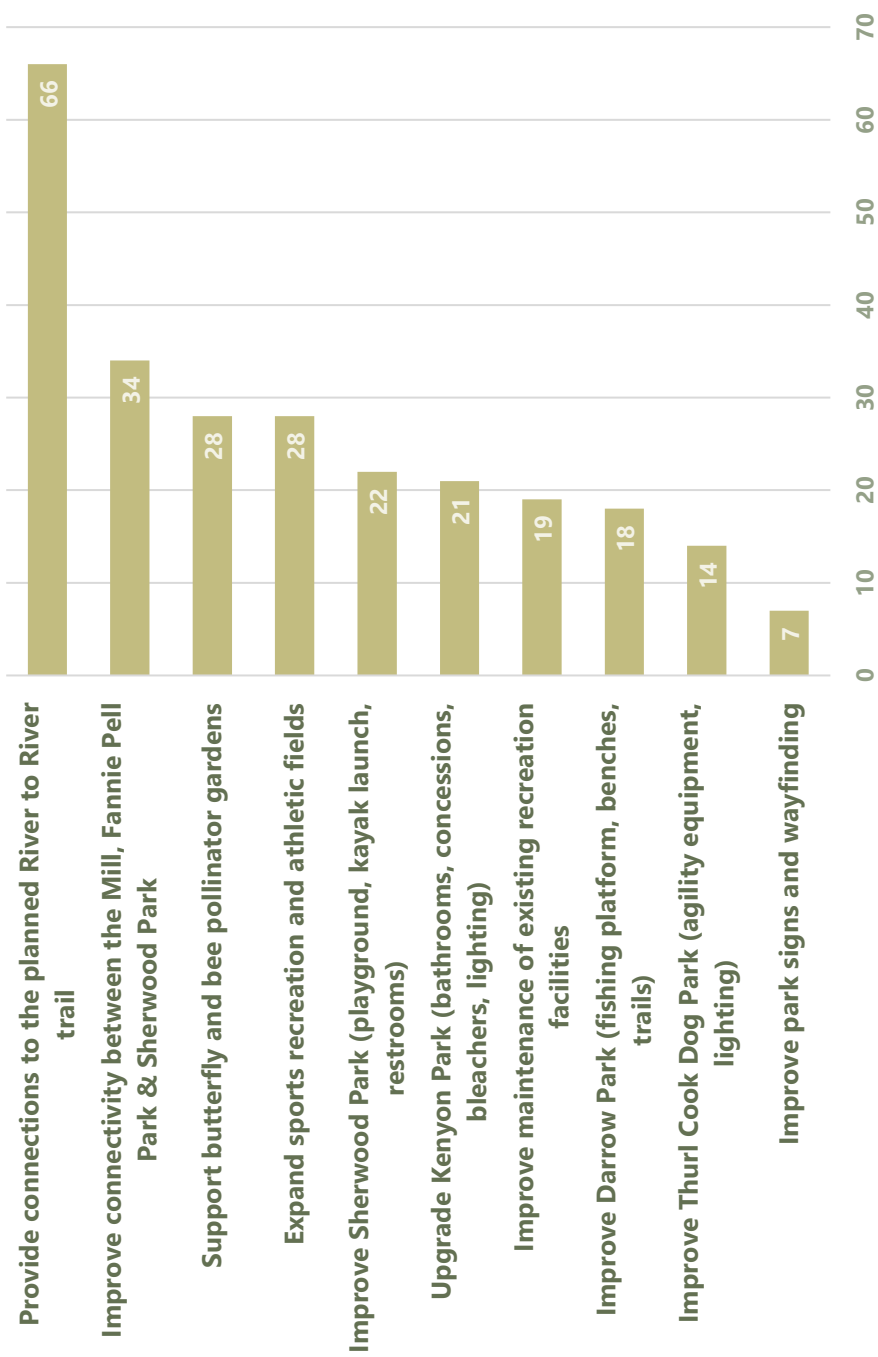


Figure 1. Penny Jar Results

Station 2. Facilities Improvements

At Station 2, attendees were asked to provide their comments regarding parks and public facility improvements and place them on the map provided. The sticky notes in red indicate underserved areas. These underserved areas are places in which the attendees feel there is a lack of public facilities, parks, or amenities. Sticky notes in blue indicate new facilities or amenities, and sticky notes in green are for repair maintenance. The comments from the sticky notes are transcribed in Table 1 below. Comments from the underserved areas sticky notes included the need for a dog park on the west side of the City, moving northwest little league to Kenyon Park, and the lack of recreational opportunities for teenagers. Attendees listed extending the riverwalk towards the west side of the city, a large kid-focused playground, and implementing safety measures like lighting, fences, cameras around parks, and adding restrooms and signs as some of the new facilities or amenities that might be beneficial to the Plainwell community.

Red (Underserved Areas)	Blue (New facilities or Amenities)	Green (Repair and Maintenance)
Dog park closer to the west side of town	Longer riverwalk going west from the town	Save the iconic water tower
Move northwest little league to Kenyon Park	Large, kid-focused playground/park on riverwalk with splash pad	Expand riverwalk or trail along the river down to DPW/Sweetwater's
Teens complain there is "nothing to do" in Plainwell	Put a fence up by the highway at Hicks Park for safety	Gazebo repairs
	Cameras outside of bathrooms for security so we can keep them open	Trestle bridge improvements
	Brooks plaza sign	
	Restroom at Hicks Park	

Table 1. Transcribed Facilities Improvements

Station 3. Comment Cards

Comment cards were available during the event to gather open-ended feedback from the participants. The attendees were asked to provide input on how frequently they visited parks in the City of Plainwell. The input from this question is provided in Figure 2. Riverwalk Park, Sherwood Park, and Fannie Pell Park were the top three most visited parks in the City. The respondents visited Keyon Park least frequently of all parks in the City of Plainwell. The cards also asked for the participant's additional thoughts or ideas regarding the City of Plainwell's Master Plan update. A total of eighteen comment cards were completed and their content has been transcribed in Table 2. The attendees were asked to describe the reason why they most frequently visit the local parks and any additional thoughts they had regarding parks and recreation in the City of Plainwell.

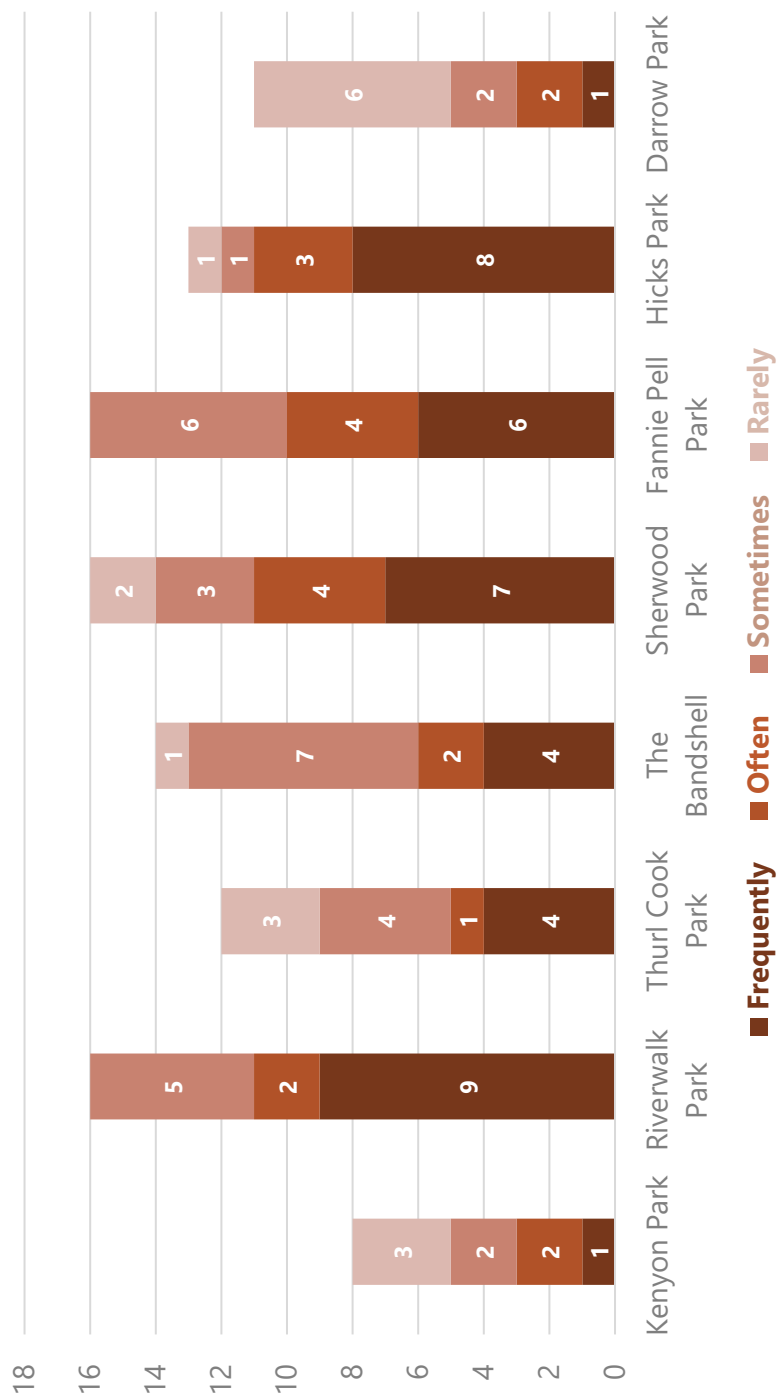


Figure 2. City of Plainwell Parks Visits by Frequency

Why do you most frequently visit local parks?	Additional Thoughts
Walking, biking and running	Walkways through Thurl Cook need more TLC and more lighting. Also, more lighting through parks is needed. Especially through walkways along river through Sherwood Park.
Walking with my wife	
Walking/exercising. Also enjoy walking along the river alone or with friends or with grandchildren.	Developing an event space on the old mill property near public safety would be great
I utilize the paths for running several times per week	It would be great to bring little league and travel tourneys back to Plainwell
Walking, read by the river, summer concerts and dog park	There needs to be a sidewalk running N/S on west side of Brigham St 700 block
Parks linked to safe walking "paths" are often used	We need a sidewalk on Brigham St. All the way to 102 or star rd. People are walking on the road
Sherwood Park is within walking distance from where I live	We visited parks in Florida that are natural landscape parks, no woodchips! Astro turfs with slides built into hills, maybe a spot to grab a healthy bite to eat like some bento boxes from bridge street deli and a coffee/smoothie stand.
For walks. Playing with grandchildren on the playground. Taking the dog to the dog park.	
Because of location	
Where I live	
We live right downtown and have 2 young kids, try to outside as much as possible (weather permitting)	
I bicycle around town and go by all the parks. Louie used to love the dog park, and now we have grand dogs who visit :)	
Bandshell for music performances, Sherwood when we go to dean's, Fannie Pell for kayak business.	
Kayaking, walking, music	

Table 2. Transcribed Comment Cards

Conclusion

Based on the results above, the City Parks and Trees Commission may wish to consider the following as it updates the goals, objectives, and action items contained in the Community Recreation Plan:

Recommendations

- Providing a connection to the Planned River to River trail was voted as the most important in terms of updating green spaces in the City of Plainwell, followed by improving connectivity between the Mill, Fannie Pell Park & Sherwood Park. The Parks and Trees Commission may consider prioritizing these desires when programming the Community Recreation Plan and exploring ways to more effectively share updates on these projects as they move forward.
- When asked to provide feedback on new facilities and amenities that will be beneficial to the community, respondents listed, a large kid-focused playground with a splash pad, extending the riverwalk, restrooms, and increasing safety through cameras and fences. Repair and Maintenance comments focused on preserving the water tower, trestle bridge improvements, and gazebo repairs. Furthermore, the Parks and Trees Commission should also consider providing recreational opportunities for teenagers.
- Attendees at the open house also provided open-ended feedback responses which largely focused on maintenance and repairs of the existing park infrastructure, adding amenities like splash pads, updating and adding sidewalks to underserved areas, etc. The Parks and Trees Commission should take these comments into account when updating the Community Recreation Plan.

Next Steps

The City of Plainwell Parks and Trees Commission should review and discuss the open house results contained in this report at their next meeting, and future meetings if necessary.



Appendix B

NOTICE OF THE DRAFT PLAN FOR 30 DAYS OF PUBLIC COMMENT & PUBLIC HEARING



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Michigan
County of Allegan

Matt Gliwa, being duly sworn says he is one of the principal clerks of the Union Enterprise, a weekly newspaper published and circulated in said county. The annexed is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date(s), to wit:

December 1, 2002

Matt Gliwa

Matt Gliwa

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

7th day of December A.D. 2002

Julie B. Hotchkiss

Julie Hotchkiss

Notary Public, Allegan County, Michigan.
Acting In Allegan County, Michigan

My commission expires 03/15/2023

KACHELE PUBLICATIONS, INC.

The Allegan County News - The Union Enterprise
The Commercial Record
P.O. Box 189, Allegan, MI 49010 - (269) 673-5534 -
Fax (269) 673-5535

City of Plainwell

City Council Notice of Public Hearing

Please take notice that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, the 9th day of January, 2003, at 7:00 PM, local time, at the Plainwell City Hall, 211 N. Main Street, Plainwell, Michigan.

The Plainwell City Council will consider adoption of the City of Plainwell's recreation plan. The public is invited to review the plan in advance of the meeting by viewing on the city website at www.plainwell.org or by obtaining a copy at City Hall, 211 N. Main St., Plainwell, Michigan 49080.

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to express their views on the proposed plan prior to action being taken. Written comments or questions may be directed to Margaret Fenger, City Clerk at Plainwell City Hall, 211 N Main St, Plainwell, MI 49080-1370.

City of Plainwell
City Council

By: Margaret Fenger, City Clerk



Appendix C

PUBLIC HEARING & ADOPTION MINUTES



MINUTES
Plainwell City Council
January 9, 2023

1. Mayor Keeler called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers.
2. The invocation was given by Dan Martin of Lighthouse Baptist Church.
3. Pledge of Allegiance was given by all present.
4. Roll Call: Present: Mayor Keeler, Mayor Pro Tem Steele, Councilmember Overhuel, Councilmember Keeney and Councilmember Wisnaski. Absent: None.
5. Approval of Minutes:
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the Council Minutes of the 12/27/2022 regular meeting. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
6. Public Comment: None.
7. County Commissioner Report: None.
8. Agenda Amendments: None.
9. Mayor's Report: None.
10. Recommendations and Reports:
 - A. Dan Veldhuizen, Siegfried Crandall PC, presented the audited financial statements. He noted that out of 120 government clients, only 2, including Plainwell, had Finance Directors that were capable of preparing certain reports which saved the City time and money. He reported that the City was in a good position based on these reports, and recommended that it might be beneficial to set aside more money for Other Postemployment Liabilities (OPEB).
A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the audited financial statements. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.
 - B. **A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to open the public hearing at 7:15pm to hear comments on Ordinance 393 regarding proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.**

Community Development Manager Siegel detailed the amendments and noted that a variance application had been submitted for the same project, however it was denied based on the recommendations of the City Planner.

Nathaniel Mehmed, Williams & Works, noted that a variance has certain circumstances that must be met for approval, and if the circumstances don't apply, the variance shouldn't be approved. He also noted that approving variances does weaken the ordinance, which is why he recommended amending the ordinance instead.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

Manager Wilson reported that the proposed ordinance amendment would increase the allowed height only in the commercial district along the US Route 131 corridor, not the central business district. He also noted that the proposed amendment would apply to every site within the designated district, and was not specific to one site like a variance would be.

No public comment.

A motion by Steele, seconded Overhuel, to close the public hearing at 7:21pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to approve Ordinance 393 Zoning Amendment. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

C. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to open the public hearing at 7:23pm to hear comments on the proposed Recreation Plan. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed. Community Development Manager Siegel detailed the process for updating the 5 year Recreation Plan, which included working with Superintendent Nieuwenhuis, Nathaniel Mehmed of Williams & Works, the Parks & Trees Commission, and the community as a whole. Cory Redder, Parks & Trees Commission, noted that this was his first time working on the Recreation Plan as a newly appointed Commission member, and he appreciated the opportunity.

A motion by Steele, seconded Overhuel, to close the public hearing at 7:27pm. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to adopt Resolution 2023-06 A Resolution Adopting the City of Plainwell Five Year Recreational Plan 2023 Thru 2027. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

D. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that the DPW building had several windows, a door, and some siding that needed to be repaired. He recommended adding a sliding window for customer service purposes as well, which could easily be included in the repair project. DPW employees would perform the work with materials purchased from Wood Works Specialties. Superintendent Nieuwenhuis estimated the cost of building materials would be \$5,200.00.

Director Callahan noted that this improvement would improve safety at the building.

Manager Wilson noted that protective film could be added to the window at the same time as the doors at City Hall.

A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to approve a purchase of building materials from Wood Works Specialties in the amount of \$5,200.00 and approve protective film on the window and the City Hall door in an amount not to exceed \$1,000.00. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

11. Communications:

A. A motion by Steele, seconded by Overhuel, to accept and place on file the December 2022 DPS Report, the December 2022 Investment and Fund Balance reports, and the draft 12/15/2022 Parks & Trees

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

meeting minutes. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

12. Accounts Payable:

A motion by Keeney, seconded by Wisnaski, that the bills be allowed and orders drawn in the amount of \$748,360.42 for payment of same. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

13. Public Comments: None.

14. Staff Comments:

Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley reported working on the budget & policies.

Community Development Manager Siegel reported 2 new businesses had opened downtown: Arcadia Occupational Therapy and 143 Tattoo. She noted with Old Plank closing, this brought the total number of businesses downtown to 64. She noted that there would be a merchant meeting Thursday at 8:30am with herself, Superintendent Nieuwenhuis, Director Callahan, and Manager Wilson attending, and invited the Councilmembers to attend.

Superintendent Pond reported that work was in progress on the previously approved boiler project.

Director Callahan reported there had been an uptick of vehicle break-ins in Allegan County, with a couple isolated incidents in the City's parks. He reminded everyone to lock their vehicles and never leave valuables in a vehicle. He also noted that today was National Law Enforcement Officer Appreciation Day, and stated that he appreciated every law enforcement officer working.

Clerk Fenger reported working on prepping for 2023 by moving all 2022 records to storage and organizing the election paperwork and equipment.

Manager Wilson reported showing the Mill property to 3 prospective businesses, and noted that all approved electrical work had been initiated, with parts ordered and work expected to begin soon.

Superintendent Nieuwenhuis reported that Otsego Township has their well pump house built, however all instruments still need to be installed. He estimated it would take another 2 months of work to complete, during which time the township would still need to purchase water from the city.

15. Council Comments:

Councilmember Wisnaski said hats off to Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley for another outstanding audit. He also thanked Community Development Manager Siegel for coming in on a Saturday for the open house at 143 Tattoo.

Councilmember Keeney wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilmember Steele thanked Community Development Manager Siegel, and noted that 143 Tattoo was really nice inside. She also thanked Councilmember Wisnaski for coming to the open house. She thanked Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley for being embarrassed during the audit presentation, and noted that the auditor clearly thought the world of him, so he shouldn't be embarrassed about the praise. She also thanked all law enforcement officers.

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity employer and provider

Councilmember Overhuel told Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley good job on the audit, and noted that he wasn't surprised one bit by the auditor's praise of Treasurer/Finance Director Kelley. He noted that Community Development Manager Siegel, Superintendent Nieuwenhuis and Cory Redder along with the other Parks & Trees Commission members had put in a lot of effort on the Recreation Plan and thanked them for their hard work.

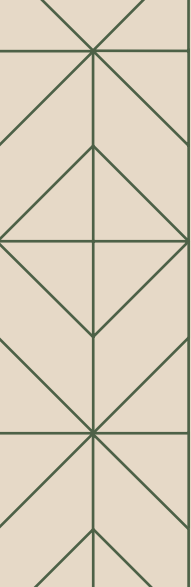
16. Adjournment:

A motion by Steele, seconded by Wisnaski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. On a voice vote, all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully
Submitted by,
Margaret Fengler
City Clerk

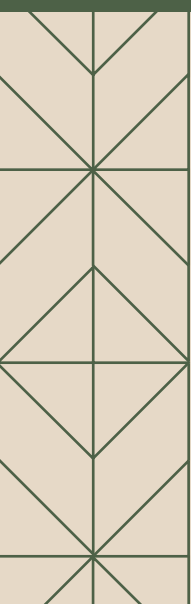
MINUTES APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL
January 23, 2023

Margaret Fengler, City Clerk



Appendix D

ADOPTION RESOLUTION



Resolution 2023-06
City of Plainwell
Allegan County, Michigan

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF PLAINWELL FIVE YEAR RECREATIONAL PLAN 2023 THRU 2028

At a regular meeting of the Plainwell City Council, Allegan County Michigan, held in the Plainwell City Hall, 211 North Main Street, Plainwell, MI on the 9th day of January 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Steele, Overhuel, Keeney, Wisnaski, Keeler.

Absent: None.

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Steele and was supported by Councilmember Overhuel.

WHEREAS, the Plainwell City Council has determined a need to revise the existing Recreational Plan for the provision of recreational and open space opportunities for its residents; and

WHEREAS, Williams & Works, the City Planner for the City of Plainwell was directed to prepare a Five Year Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, a Public input meeting was held on April 14, 2022; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held at 7:00 PM on January 9, 2023 to receive public comments on the proposed plan as required; and

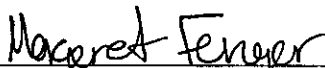
WHEREAS, Williams & Works has completed preparation of such a plan and has recommended its adoption by the Plainwell City Council; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Plainwell City Council hereby adopts the attached Five Year Recreational Plan dated January 9, 2023 and does hereby authorize that said plan be transmitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Allegan County Parks Commission and the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

YES: Steele, Overhuel, Keeney, Wisnaski, Keeler.

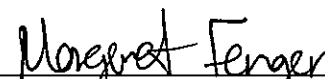
NO: None.

ABSENT: None.


Margaret Fenger, City Clerk

DATED: January 9, 2023

I, Margaret Fenger, City Clerk of the City of Plainwell, Allegan County Michigan, do hereby certify that I have completed the foregoing Resolution relating to the adoption of the Five Year Recreational Plan and that further, the original is on file in my office and that this is a true and correct copy.


Margaret Fenger, City Clerk



Appendix E

TRANSMITTAL LETTERS TO THE COUNTY AND REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCIES



City of Plainwell



"The Island City"

Brad Keeler, Mayor
Lori Steele, Mayor Pro Tem
Todd Overhuel, Council Member
Roger Keeney, Council Member
Randy Wisnaski, Council Member

Department of Administration Services
211 N. Main Street
Plainwell, Michigan 49080
Phone: 269-685-6821
Fax: 269-685-7282
Web Page Address: www.plainwell.org

January 2023

Allegan County Parks and Recreation
3283 122nd Avenue
Allegan, MI 49010

Re: City of Plainwell Five-Year Recreation Plan

Dear Allegan County Parks and Recreation:

On the City's website please find the 2023-2027 Five-Year Recreation Plan for the City of Plainwell: <https://www.plainwell.org/>. The Plan was prepared and approved by the City Parks and Trees Commission and adopted by the Plainwell City Council. Additionally, copies of the Plan have been submitted to the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Please contact me with any questions, suggestions, or comments on our new Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

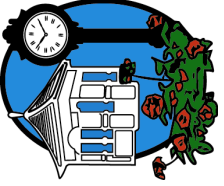
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Denise Siegel".

Denise Siegel, Community Development Manager

City of Plainwell

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity provider and employer

City of Plainwell



“The Island City”

Brad Keeler, Mayor
Lori Steele, Mayor Pro Tem
Todd Overhuel, Council Member
Roger Keeney, Council Member
Randy Wisnaski, Council Member

Department of Administration Services
211 N. Main Street
Plainwell, Michigan 49080
Phone: 269-685-6821
Fax: 269-685-7282
Web Page Address: www.plainwell.org

January 23, 2023

West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
ATTN: Dave Bee
1345 Monroe Avenue NW
Suite 255
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

Re: City of Plainwell Five-Year Recreation Plan

Dear Dave Bee:

On the City's website please find the 2023-2027 Five-Year Recreation Plan for the City of Plainwell: <https://www.plainwell.org/>. The Plan was prepared and approved by the City Parks and Trees Commission and adopted by the Plainwell City Council. Additionally, copies of the Plan have been submitted to the Allegan County Parks and Recreation Department and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Please contact me with any questions, suggestions, or comments on our new Recreation Plan.

Sincerely,

Denise Siegel

*Denise Siegel,
Community Development Manager
City of Plainwell*

The City of Plainwell is an equal opportunity provider and employer



Appendix F

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORTS





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☐ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☒ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Plainwell

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01060 K4 PROJECT TYPE: _____

PROJECT TITLE: Cook Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Restroom, tennis courts, basketball court, tot lot, landscaping etc.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of Plainwell	Contact Person Denise Siegel	Title Community Development M
Address 211 N. Main St.	Telephone 269-685-6821	
City, State, ZIP Plainwell, MI 49080	Email dsiegel@plainwell.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s).

☒ Yes ☐ No

The tennis courts have been converted over to pickleball courts

A Dog Park has been added

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

☐ Yes ☒ No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No
Clean Park bathrooms twice a week. Bathrooms opened and closed with timed locks.

general maintenance of park and restrooms.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☐ Yes ☒ No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Thurl Cook Park is open daily from dawn to dusk

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

The Pavillon in Thurl Cook is a highly sought-after facility for holding gatherings. We charge a small rental fee for anyone who wishes to reserve the Pavillon for a group to help keep up with maintenance costs.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Denise Siegel

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

01/11/2023

Date

Robert Nieuwenhuis

Please print



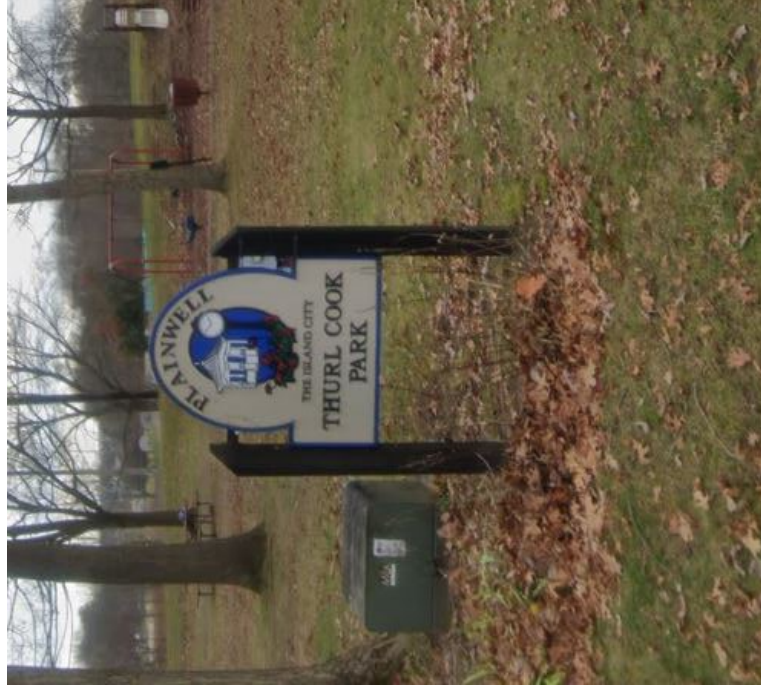
Witness Signature

01/11/2023

Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☐ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☒ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Plainwell

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01414 **PROJECT TYPE:** Land and Water Conservation

PROJECT TITLE: Plainwell Recreation Park

PROJECT SCOPE: 3 softball fields; site improvements, new bleachers

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of Plainwell	Contact Person Denise Siegel	Title Community Development M
Address 211 N. Main St.	Telephone 269-685-6821	
City, State, ZIP Plainwell, MI 49080	Email dsiegel@plainwell.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☐ Yes ☒ No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No
Clean Park bathrooms twice a week. Bathrooms opened and closed with timed locks.

Maintain restroom, lawncare, general maintenance of the park,

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☒ Yes ☐ No
we charge a small rental fee for the pavilion and a small rental fee for use of the fields for any organized group; club or private rental

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Kenyon Park is open from dawn to dusk

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Several local organizations such as softball leagues, rocket football, and soccer leagues utilize the park for practice and games. To keep up with the cost of maintenance we started charging a small rental fee to these groups.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Denise Siegel

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

01/11/2023

Date

Robert Nieuwenhuis

Please print



Witness Signature

01/11/2023

Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Plainwell

PROJECT NUMBER: TF97-040 **PROJECT TYPE:** Trust Fund

PROJECT TITLE: Riverwalk

PROJECT SCOPE: 3,160' of accessible walkway connecting 4 parks

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
City of Plainwell	Denise Siegel	Community Development M
Address	Telephone	
211 N. Main St.	269-685-6821	
City, State, ZIP	Email	
Plainwell, MI 49080	dsiegel@plainwell.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). ☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☐ Yes ☒ No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No
General maintenance on the walkway, plus painting, lighting etc.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☐ Yes ☒ No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

The Riverwalk is open 24 hours a day year-round

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

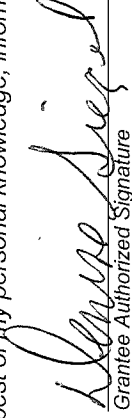
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Denise Siegel

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

01/11/2023

Date

Robert Nieuwenhuis

Please print



Witness Signature

01/11/2023

Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925





**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.*

GRANT TYPE: ☐ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☒ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Plainwell

PROJECT NUMBER: RP16-0075 PROJECT TYPE: Recreation Passport

PROJECT TITLE: Sherwood Park Restroom

PROJECT SCOPE: Provide a permanent year round restroom with an accessible walkway

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) City of Plainwell	Contact Person Denise Siegel	Title Community Development M
Address 211 N. Main St.	Telephone 269-685-6821	
City, State, ZIP Plainwell, MI 49080	Email dsiegel@plainwell.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s).

☐ Yes ☒ No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.)

☐ Yes ☒ No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain.

☐ Yes ☒ No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain.

☒ Yes ☐ No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism.

☐ Yes ☒ No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒ Yes ☐ No
Clean Park bathrooms twice a week. Bathrooms opened and closed with timed locks.

Maintain buildings, parking lot and lighting in the Park

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐ Yes ☒ No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☐ Yes ☒ No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Sherwood Park is open year round from dusk to dawn.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Denise Siegel

Please print


Grantee Authorized Signature

12/5/2022

Date

Eric J. Wilson

Please print


Witness Signature

12-8-2022

Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925



City of ***Plainwell***
Five-year Recreation Plan
2023-2027

