

# CITY OF BAD AXE

## 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan

### 2026-2030

Adopted: (mo, day, yr)

**DRAFT: December 3, 2025**



**CITY OF BAD AXE**  
HOME OF THE HATCHETS

Huron County, Michigan

PREPARED FOR

# City of Bad Axe

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City Manager	Rebecca Bachman
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## Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

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Committee Member	Kathleen Particka
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## **APPENDIX**

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# INTRODUCTION

A comprehensive and sustainable parks and recreation system is vital not only to a community's health, but also for the preventive protection of its citizens, natural resources, and economics. Well-designed parks are known to act as crime and accident prevention. These designated portions of cities also serve environmental needs by enhancing stormwater management, increasing biodiversity and providing cleaner air. Parks are a driving force of economic opportunities. Sports and recreational facilities that attract visitors, team tournaments and tourists increase city tax revenues and ramp up economic vitality. New parks also make the city more attractive to businesses and increase property values.

Before any recreation plan is adopted and enacted, it is first important to understand the needs of the community and its residents, what recreational opportunities already exist and what future projects and programs are relevant to the residents of the city. This is based on age, ability, population, density and the availability of recreation in the surrounding communities. This input is a critical component of this plan, and the city has united to develop a recreation plan to enhance the quality of life for everyone in the city.

The foundation for the development of the Bad Axe Area Recreation Plan is based on the following goals:

- Involve the community in the process to develop a five-year Recreation Plan,
- Inventory and map existing Bad Axe recreational facilities,
- Build common ground among Bad Axe area stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs and priorities of the Community,
- Enable the City to be eligible for financial assistance based upon the Recreation Plan,
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreation goals, objectives, and actions,
- Consistency with and expansion upon goals and objectives set forth in existing planning documents that deal partially or wholly with recreation.

This plan begins with a community description to better understand the landscape and demographics of the City of Bad Axe. The administrative structure is then outlined which describes the governmental and jurisdictional methods by which future decisions will be made. This is followed by the existing recreation inventory which describes all existing City owned parks as well as other local and regional recreation opportunities. This section is followed by the natural resource inventory with any relevant land and water information. Then a description of the planning and public input process, public notifications, survey, and workshop which were used in determining where improvements are needed. This is followed by a series of goals and objectives that were established using recommended planning methods. The goals and objectives are followed by an action program describing recommended improvements and proposed projects in the form of narratives, charts, and maps. And lastly, the appendix holds the support documentation of the survey, public notices, and local adoption which includes minutes and resolutions by the approving bodies.

The newly revised Recreation Plan intended use is to guide the Bad Axe officials on all future recreational and parks projects within the City of Bad Axe. A five-year, MDNR-approved Recreation Plan is necessary for the government entities to pursue MDNR-administered grants. This plan is written for the City of Bad Axe, and it covers all aspects of park facilities and recreation within the community from January 2026 to December 31, 2030. It identifies attainable goals and objectives as well as an action plan that can then be used to focus on key areas for more specific design and budgetary purposes. It has been created under the guidelines established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management and in accordance with The Guidelines for Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

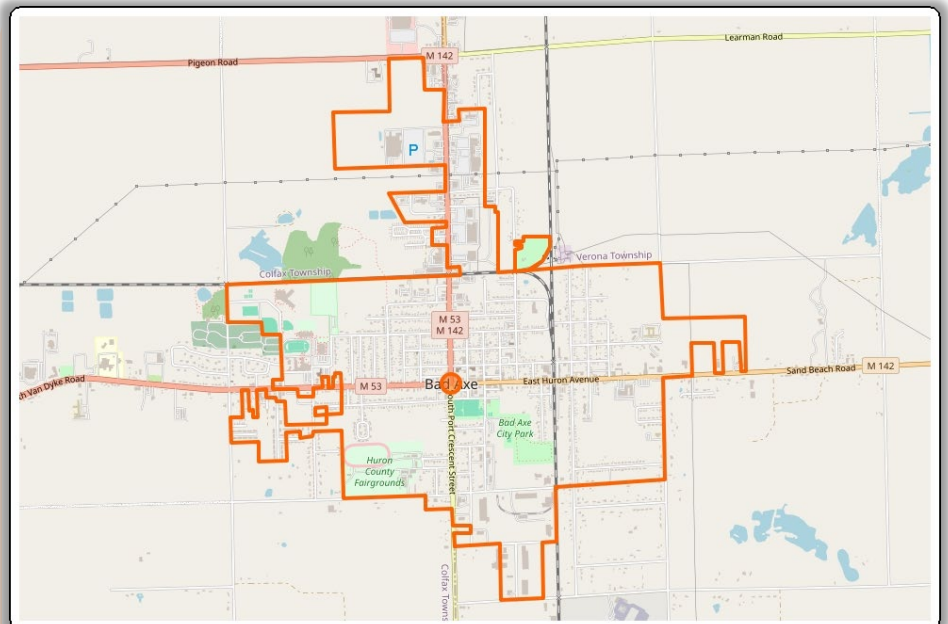
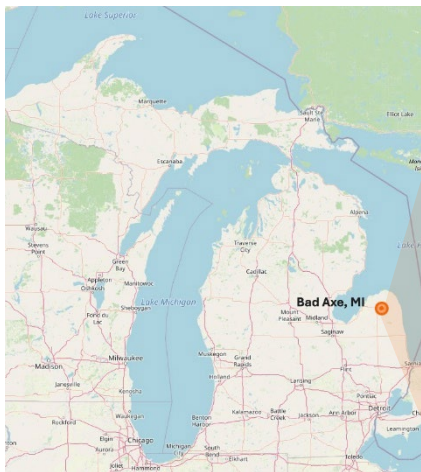


## Community Description

### Location & City History

The City of Bad Axe is situated in the middle of Huron County in the U.S. state of Michigan and serves as the county seat. Huron County is uniquely located at the tip of the “Thumb” of the mitten that represents Michigan’s lower peninsula. The “Thumb” is an eastern portion of the Central Michigan region that is geographically distinguished by the Saginaw Bay of Lake Huron. Therefore, with the expectation of its southern border, Huron County is surrounded by this Great Lake. An intersection between two Michigan highways, M-53 and M-142, occurs in the middle of the City of Bad Axe. These routes account for a large majority of traffic into and within the city. This city is approximately 100 miles north of Pontiac and 50 miles east of Bay City.

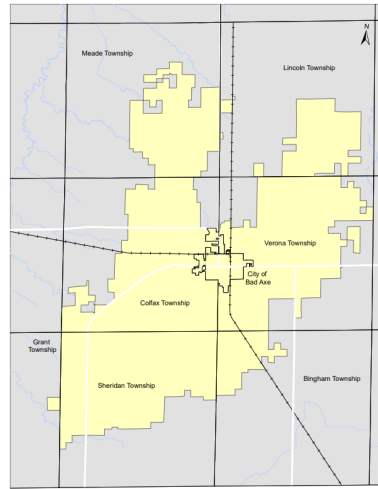
The region of present-day Huron County was previously home to the Wyandot people, also known as the Huron Tribe. Euro settlers then began to utilize the area for trapping and fishing. Bad Axe’s origins lead back to the 1860s when a military surveyor, Captain Rudolph Papst, coined "Bad Axe Camp" on his charts. This name is supposedly in reference to an old axe left in the camp by hunters. The area surrounding this camp was found to sustain rich, easily drainable soil, making it a favorable location for agriculture. As such the original “Bad Axe Camp” became a permanent community and multiple business endeavors such as lumber and mill operations grew the population. During an annual session of Huron County’s Board of Supervisors in October 1872, Bad Axe was declared the county-seat. On March 15, 1905, Bad Axe became independent from the jurisdiction of the two townships, Verona and Colfax, which it is located in. This full administrative autonomy distinguished Bad Axe as Huron County’s first city. (<https://genealogytrails.com/mich/huron/historybadaxe.html>)



Bad Axe Location & Map



In addition to the location map above, the following is a map of the area within the Bad Axe Public School District.



*Bad Axe Public School District*

## Social Characteristics

### Population

The current population of Bad Axe is 2,951, showing a decrease since 2010. The County (30,617) is experiencing a similar decrease. This compares to the state's increase of 3.18% giving them a current population of 10,197,600.

Table 2-1. Population, 2000-2025				
	2010	2020	2025 (5)	% Change 2000-2025
Bad Axe	3,129 (1)	3,021 (3)	2,951	-5.69%
Huron County	33,118 (1)	31,407 (3)	30,617	-7.55%
Michigan	9,883,640 (2)	10,077,331 (4)	10,197,600	3.18%

Sources:

- (1) 2010: DEC Redistricting Data
- (2) 2010: DEC 116th Congressional District Summary File
- (3) 2020: DEC Redistricting Data
- (4) 2020: DEC 118th Congressional District Summary File
- (5) 2025: worldpopulationreview.com

### Median Age

While the overall population is the most important consideration, there are other characteristics to consider when planning for a community's recreation. The age distribution of a community influences the types of facilities and programs needed. Table 2-2 shows that according to 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, the city's current median age (49.0) is slightly lower than the County (49.4). Both the city and the county average ages are significantly higher than the State of Michigan average (40.5). These higher averages suggest that this county has an older age base than the rest of the state. Of course, the city should not ignore the other age groups since they still comprise a large proportion of the overall population.





	Table 2-2. Median, 2010-2023		
	2010 (1)	2022 (2)	2023 (3)
Bad Axe	46.6	43.6	49.0
Huron County	45.7	49.3	49.4
Michigan	39.0	40.3	40.5

Sources:

(1) 2010: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

(2) 2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

(3) 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

### Younger Population, < 18 yrs old

The median age offers a glimpse into the age distribution of a specified population while other percentages can give more context. Understanding the younger population of a community is essential to developing a recreational plan. Due to physical and mental limitations, the younger population needs specialized infrastructure within a community.

The percentage of the younger population in Bad Axe reflects the trends found above in Table 2-2. The current percentage of younger population (15.7%) has significantly decreased between 2010-2023 (-21.89%). This downward trend also appears in Huron County and Michigan, however the percent change between 2010-2023 is less drastic (-9.43%) and (-14.57%) respectfully. These findings do not suggest that the city should neglect recreational infrastructure catered to this group.

	Table 2-3. Younger Population %, 2010-2023		
	2010 (1)	2022 (2)	2023 (3)
Bad Axe	20.1%	18.7%	15.7%
Huron County	21.2%	19.1%	19.2%
Michigan	24.7%	20.9%	21.1%

(1) 2010: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

(2) 2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

(3) 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

### Older Population, > 65 yrs old

The percentage of the older population, as explained above, also provides context to the city's median age. Community members who are 65 years old and older need extra consideration when developing a recreational plan. This group has a higher chance of needing specialized infrastructure to accommodate physical and mental limitations.

According to the 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Bad Axe's current percentage of older population (26.5%) closely resembles that of Huron County as a whole (26.6%). These percentages are notably higher than the state of Michigan's (19.3%). Bad Axe's percentage of older population also reflects the trend found in Table 2-2. Between 2010 and 2023 this percentage in Bad Axe has increased (7.29%). This trend is even more apparent in Huron County (25.47%) and Michigan (39.86%) between 2010-2023.

	Table 2-4. Older Population %, 2010-2023		
	2010 (1)	2022 (2)	2023 (3)
Bad Axe	24.7%	24.4%	26.5%
Huron County	21.2%	26.1%	26.6%
Michigan	13.8%	18.7%	19.3%

(1) 2010: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

(2) 2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables

(3) 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables



## Household Size

Another important portion of a community to consider is household size. This size offers insight into a city's familial connections and distribution of residential density.

In accordance with the data provided by 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, the city's current average household size (2.05) is lower than both Huron County (2.22) and the state (2.39). All three of the % Change between 2022 to 2023 for these regions are decreasing, with Bad Axe's being the highest rate of decrease (-5.53%).

Table 2-5. Average Household Size in City of Bad Axe, 2022-2023			
	2022 (1)	2023 (2)	% Change 2022-2023
Bad Axe	2.17	2.05	-5.53%
Huron County	2.27	2.22	-2.20%
Michigan	2.40	2.39	-0.42%

Sources:

- (1) 2022: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles
- (2) 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

## Income, Poverty and Employment

The data shown in Table 2-6 are economic factors for Bad Axe. These factors are essential for an appropriate recreational plan to be developed.

Table 2-6. Bad Axe Employment and Unemployment, 2023	
Median Income	\$ 47,535.00
Labor Force	1,322
Employment	1,251
Employment Rate	48.5%
Unemployment	71
Unemployment Rate	5.4%
Poverty Level Rate	16.3%

Source: 2023: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles

## Disabilities

Table 2-7. City of Bad Axe, Michigan, 2023						
Subject	Total		With a Disability		% With Disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population	2860	±15	566	±112	19.8%	±3.9
Sex						
Male	1274	±109	174	±65	13.7%	±4.7
Female	1586	±108	392	±101	24.7%	±6.1
Race And Hispanic or Latino Origin						



Table 2-7. City of Bad Axe, Michigan, 2023						
Subject	Total		With a Disability		% With Disability	
	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error	Estimate	Margin of Error
White Alone	2486	±149	537	±112	21.6%	±4.5
Black Or African American Alone	12	±23	3	±8	25.0%	±75.0
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	0	±11	0	±11	-	-
Asian Alone	54	±51	21	±27	38.9%	±23.9
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	0	±11	0	±11	-	-
Some Other Race Alone	150	±122	0	±11	0.0%	±16.7
Two Or More Races	158	±74	5	±8	3.2%	±5.8
White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	2467	±135	537	±112	21.8%	±4.5
Hispanic or Latino (Of Any Race)	255	±113	0	±11	0.0%	±10.2
Age						
Under 5 Years	100	±73	0	±11	0.0%	±23.7
5 To 17 Years	373	±98	44	±35	11.8%	±9.0
18 To 34 Years	524	±149	42	±38	8.0%	±6.7
35 To 64 Years	1162	±174	232	±83	20.0%	±6.3
65 To 74 Years	451	±117	98	±43	21.7%	±9.5
75 Years and Over	250	±101	150	±85	60.0%	±19.8

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

## Physical Characteristics

### Climate

Bad Axe's humid continental climate is closely related to its geographic relation to Lake Huron. Its winters are relatively mild with average temperatures of mid 20s Fahrenheit, with lows in the single digits in January. Winters, like most of Michigan, consist of common snowfall with a city average of 44 inches of snow per year. Spring and summer are prone to thunderstorms, contributing to the city's average 33 inches of rain. Throughout summers in Bad Axe, the temperatures average around mid-70s Fahrenheit. The highest temperatures occur during July, when temperatures reach mid-80s Fahrenheit.

This climate is very relevant considering how it impacts year-round activities in this city. During the wintertime community members can cross-country ski and snowshoe but are unable to do other outdoor sports like golf. In summer, activities like hiking and biking are common throughout the city.

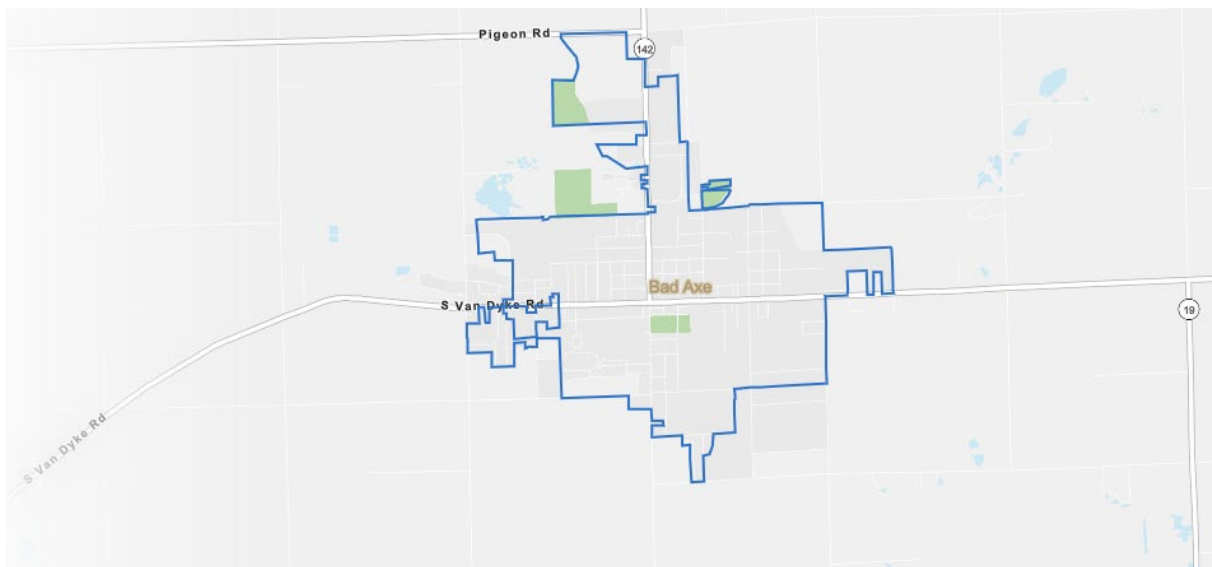


## Transportation Network

The City of Bad Axe has access to state highways such as M-142, M-19, and M-53, which allows for transportation within the city. These highways also serve as well as major routes to areas around and outside of the Thumb region. The city's residents may also use the Thumb Area Transit which offers door-to-door transportation around Huron County.

This city also hosts the Huron County Memorial Airport, which is near the southern border of the city. It is a public owned and used airport. This airport uses and maintains four runways, ranging from 1065' by 23' to 5000' by 75' in dimension. ([www.airnav.com/airport/KBAX](http://www.airnav.com/airport/KBAX))

The rest of the roads in the city not previously mentioned in this section are considered local roads that reach across the community.



## Utilities Services

### ***Electric Department***

The main electrical department for Bad Axe is operated by Maurer Electric, who specializes in residential electrical services. They have an office located in the western central portion of town, along M-53. They are not the only electric providers and community members are able to compare service rates to Consumers Energy and other local electric utility companies.

### ***Water Supply***

Since 2006, the City of Bad Axe gets its drinking water from the Huron Regional Water Authority (HRWA). This system will be described at greater length in the next section. The city also maintains a single 265' deep well that draws water from bedrock and Marshall Sandstone aquifers as an emergency back up to the HRWA water system.

The city is transparent to the community members about the testing done on these water supply systems. The city's water is routinely tested for over 80 contaminants, and the results are published in reports available to the public ([www.cityofbadaxe.com/images/PDFgen/DPW/Water-Report-2022.pdf](http://www.cityofbadaxe.com/images/PDFgen/DPW/Water-Report-2022.pdf)).



### ***Wastewater Treatment Facility***

In the 1990s, a joint effort between the Village of Port Austin and the City of Bad Axe developed the HRWA. The 10-year project developed a water treatment plant in Port Austin that treats surface water from Lake Huron. This plant and distribution system currently provides water to the municipalities of the City of East Tawas, City of Tawas City, Charter Township of Oscoda, Charter Township of AuSable and Township of Baldwin.

Between the plant and Bad Axe there is a major pipeline running north-south along M-53, with three pumping stations to overcome the elevation difference along the way. Other infrastructure that supports this distribution system includes a 500,000-gallon and a 300,000-gallon water tower as well as the city's water main. This system is operated by F&V Operations. Residents of Bad Axe contribute to the upkeep of this system in their utility bill.

### **Community Services**

#### ***Police Department***

The Bad Axe Police Department is located in the middle of the city at 110 S Hanselman St, Bad Axe, MI 48413. This location is open from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The department is responsible for the enforcement of law and order within the city. Community members are also able to assist in this effort through a Neighborhood Watch.

#### ***Fire Department***

The non-profit organization Bad Axe Area Fire Department is located at 420 S Hanselman St, Bad Axe, MI 48413. This group includes firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics that offer fire suppression, as well as rescue operations. They also serve the community by upholding fire prevention education services.

#### ***Ambulance Services***

The Central Huron Ambulance Service Association provides quality and timely emergency medical care and transportation throughout Huron County. They work closely with McLaren Thumb Region Hospital, Beach Hospital, Scheurer Hospital, and multiple surrounding EMS agencies to ensure all regions of Huron County are covered.

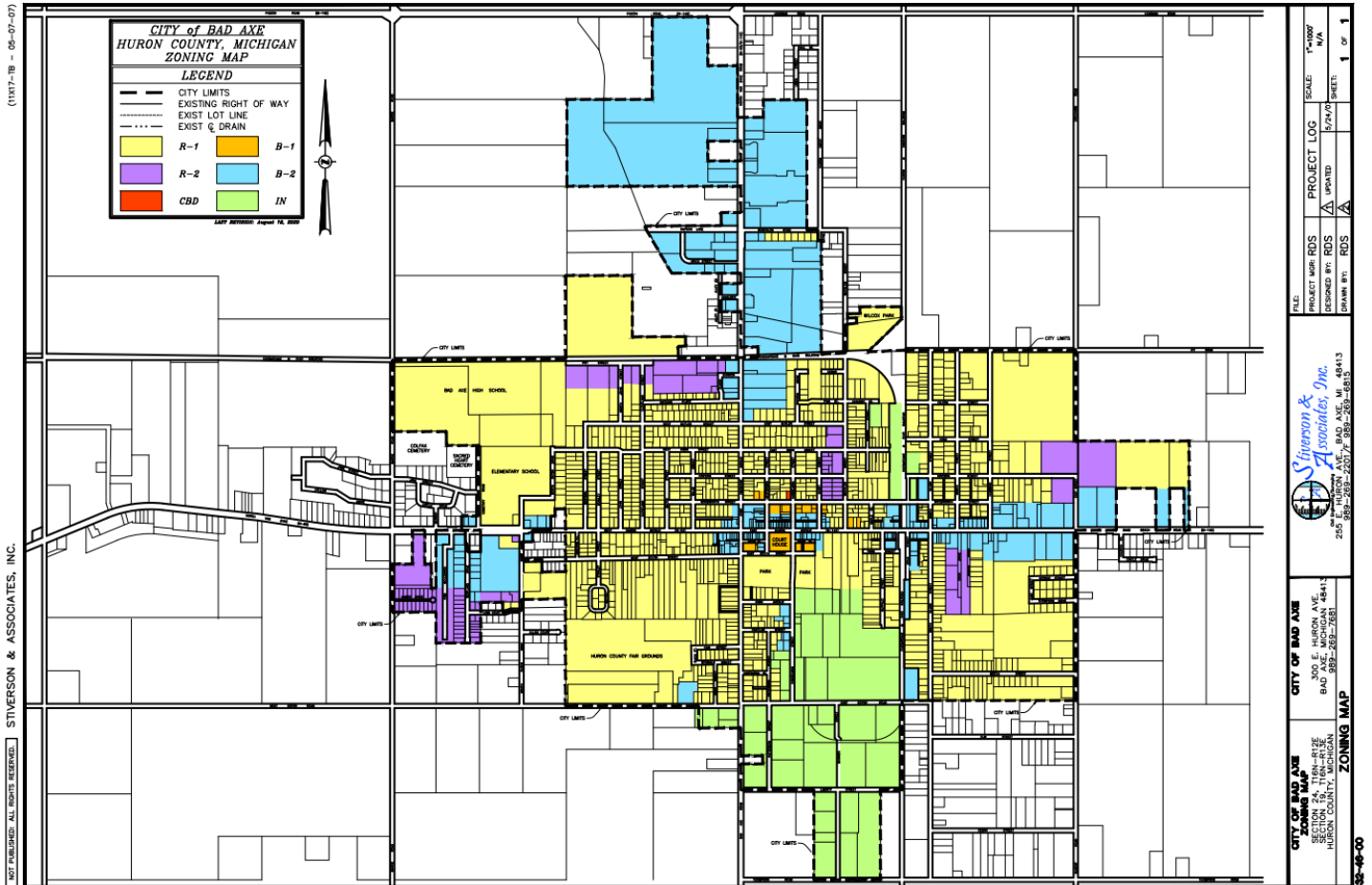
#### ***Public Library***

All community members of Bad Axe MI can utilize the Bad Axe Area District Library which consists of over 36,000 physical items, including books, magazines, audio books, video games, DVDs, and newspapers. They also offer a collection of 40,000 digital media options. This library is located at 200 South Hanselman Street Bad Axe, MI 48413. They are financially supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



## Land Use

The map below identifies the land use patterns within the city as part of the Zoning Ordinance. As seen below, the northern portion of the city is currently being used for neighborhood businesses and residential. The middle of the city is a conglomerate of uses while the southern portion of the city is designated to industrial use. The largest majority of the city is designated as residential.



Source: City of Bad Axe Zoning Ordinance Map





## Administrative Structure

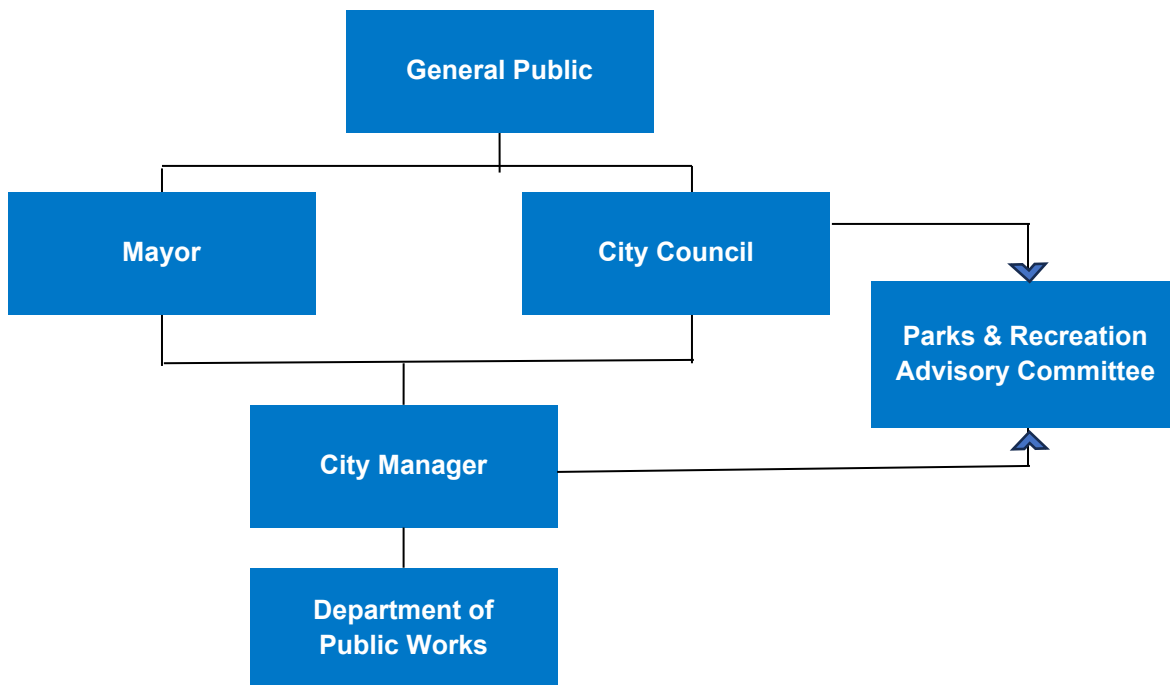
### City Administration

The City Council has 7 members including the Mayor and the Mayor Pro-Tem. They adopt and amend City Laws and ordinances, determine City policies and standards, and authorize the annual city budget. The Council also approves contracts and agreements, determines city tax millage rates, determines utility rates, and directs the City Manager. The City Manager is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the City and is the chief policy advisor to the City Council. They also handle the day-to-day administrative functions of parks and Recreation.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Committee are appointed by the City Council. They serve in an advisory capacity only for the council. There are currently 3 members on this committee. They serve 2-year terms and meet quarterly with the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem.

The seasonal DPW employee is the only full-time position in the Parks Department in Bad Axe. A seasonal maintenance person is hired for the summertime. Additional positions such as Director and summer day camp staff are also hired as seasonal and temporary.

The following chart illustrates the relationship among the various entities involved in recreation within the City. The administrative structure is as follows:



### Budgets

Sources of funding for parks and recreation functions in Bad Axe are from the City general fund, user fees, facility rentals, and local donations. Budgets for 2025-2026 are shown below in the Table.

The general fund budget for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is developed by the City Manager in association with the City Council for annual approval.



Parks and Recreation Budget	
	2025 - 2026
Repairs and Maintenance	\$5,000
Seasonal Salary	\$3,100
Capital Expenditures	\$0.00

## Collaboration

The City of Bad Axe has exceptional collaboration with both governmental and non-governmental entities in the community. These organizations include:

- Bad Axe Public School District
- Huron Community Fair Association
- Bad Axe Historical Society
- Rotary Club
- Lions Club
- Bad Axe Little League
- Huron County

## Relationships with School Districts and Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

The Bad Axe Public School District has adopted this recreation plan. In addition, the Committee works closely with the Bad Axe School District to share facilities or programming. The City uses the school football fields for its youth tackle football program and it uses the Junior High Gymnasium for its men's basketball league. The Parks and Recreation Department also works with the Bad Axe Historical Society to coordinate usage of the Log Cabin Village. Lastly, the City works with a group of volunteer parents that organize and run the summer youth baseball program. The City provides the fields for this league.

## Volunteers

The Parks and Recreation Department uses approximately 75-100 volunteers each year to assist with all events and programs. Many volunteers work at the Bad Axe Hatchet Festival, which is organized by the Bad Axe Chamber. Other volunteers serve as coaches and referees. Still others assist with maintenance, card nights, trips, community center activities, day camps, fund-raisers, and park clean-up.



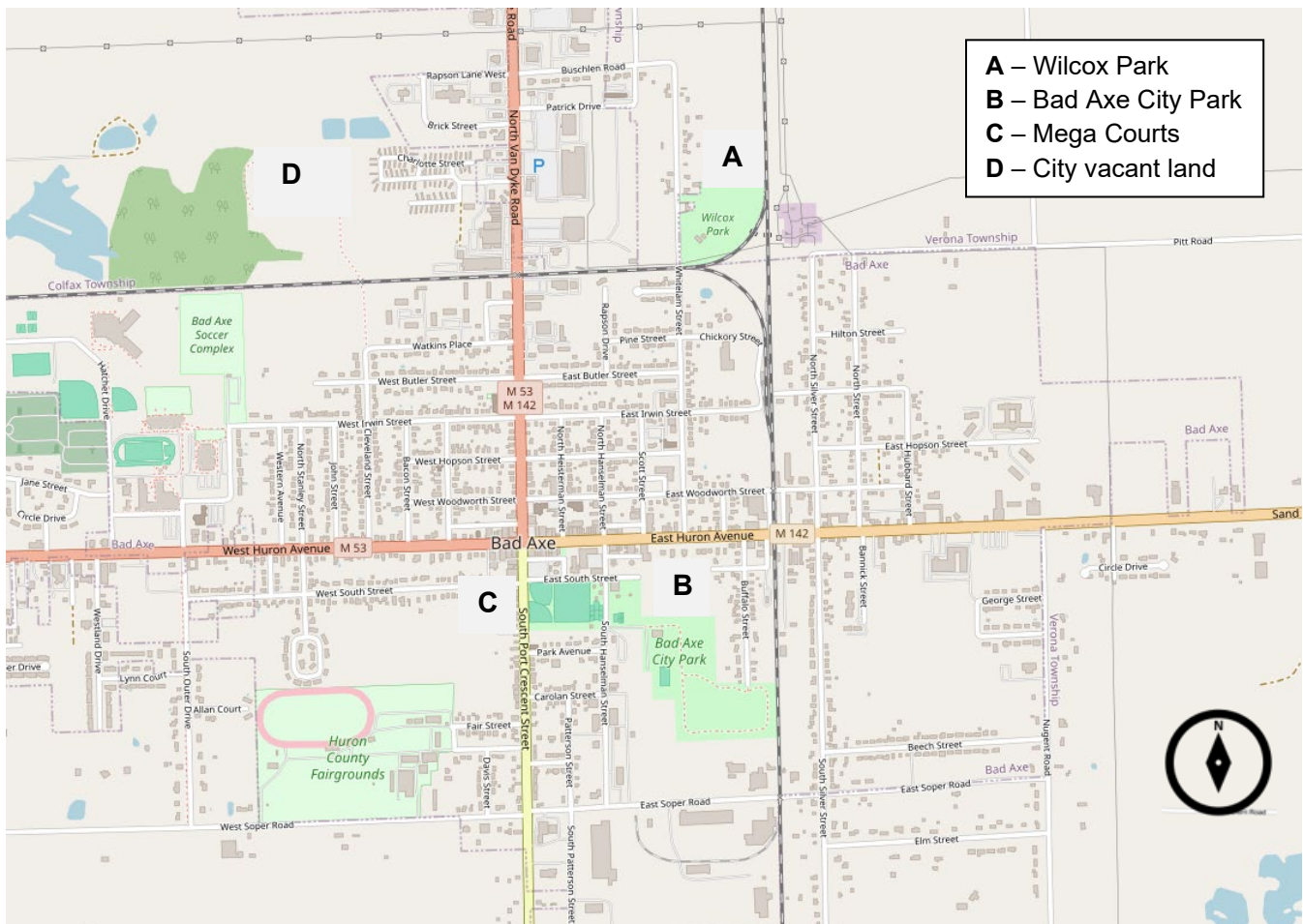
## Recreational Inventory

An essential element of a recreation plan is the inventory of local and regional, public and private recreation facilities that are available to a community's resident. Within the City of Bad Axe there are parks with many amenities such as playgrounds, ball diamonds, outdoor basketball courts, and picnic areas. This city also hosts facilities that support activities associated with 4-H, engagement events, and specialized sports. This inventory will encompass those parks to provide a basis from which a comparison can be made of existing recreation opportunities with the community's identified recreation needs.

This inventory process also identifies barrier-free facilities. This will ensure that citizens with disabilities will fully enjoy these facilities. Involving advocate organizations and utilizing the knowledge of the city staff will help facilitate this element of the inventory process. Further, this facility inventory establishes the foundation from which a recreational improvement program can be developed and implemented.

### City Recreational Facilities

The City of Bad Axe has numerous different recreational opportunities that include the three city owned parks that will be described below. The city upholds these parks for community members to benefit from so the purpose and condition of these current parks will be explored. A parcel of vacant land owned by the City is shown below as area "D". Recreational use is to be explored further.



Bad Axe Recreational Facilities				
	Bad Axe City Park	Mega Courts	Wilcox Park	Total:
Park Type*	CP	SU	CP	
Service Area**	EA	EA	NB	
Accessibility***	2	3	2	
Acres	25	8	8	41
Activity Rooms	-	-	1	1
Band Shell	-	-	-	-
Ball Diamond	-	6	-	6
Basketball	-	5	-	5
Tennis Court	2	-	-	2
Sand Pit	1	-	1	2
Drinking Fountain	-	-	-	-
Fishing Access	-	-	1	1
Grills	2	-	1	3
Gymnasium	-	-	-	-
Horse Arena	-	-	-	-
Ice Skating	1	-	-	1
Inline Skating	1	-	-	1
Multi-Purpose Field	-	-	-	-
Pavilion	1	-	1	2
Picnic Area	2	1	1	4
Playground	1	-	1	1
Pond/River	-	-	1	1
Splash Pad	1	-	-	1
Restroom	-	2	-	2
Porta Potty	2	1	1	4
Sand Volleyball	-	-	1	1
Sledding Hill	-	-	-	-
Trails/Paths	1	-	-	1
Waterfront Access	-	-	-	-

**Park Type\***

MP = Mini Park  
NP = Neighborhood Park  
CP = Community Park  
LP = Large Urban Park  
SU = Special Use Park  
TRA = Trailway  
NA = Not Applicable (undeveloped)

**Service Area\*\***

NB = Neighborhood (approx. ½ mile)  
EA = Entire Bad Axe Area  
NA = Not Applicable (undeveloped)

**Accessibility\*\***

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



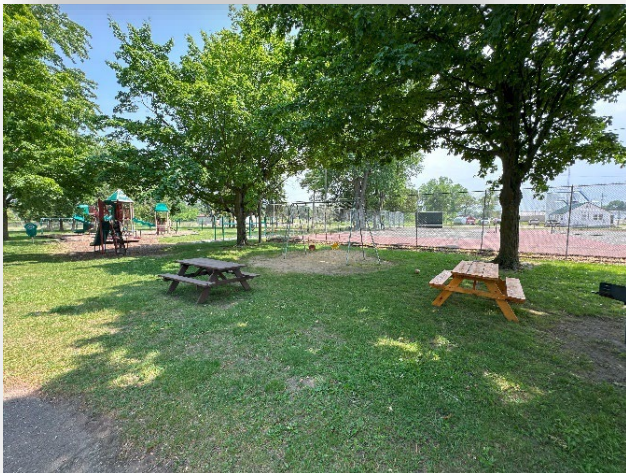


## **Bad Axe City Park**

This park, as seen in the map above, is located at the southeast region of the city. It is the largest city owned park, spanning 25 acres in total. The northern rectangle is a central hub within the park. It hosts the park's pavilion, picnic area, playground, and one of the porta potties, making it an area ideal for families and gatherings. Much of this park offers natural beauty from the floral landscaping and the many old trees that provide shade.

Bad Axe City Park has the following features:

- 1 pavilion
- 1 playground
- 2 tennis courts
- Walking Path
- Splash Pad
- Skate Park
- Multiuse Field



This northern portion of the park also includes the only parking spaces associated with the Bad Axe City Park. This strip of angled parking has 32 spots for visitors to utilize. Of the total parking spaces, four are marked and dimensioned as barrier free. Two of these parking spaces are located near the Bad Axe Area District Library which is located at the northwest corner of the park. These accessible spots are accompanied by ramps that allow for access to the park's asphalt and concrete sidewalks.







At the bottom of this north rectangle there are two tennis/racket ball courts. These courts have a lighting system to keep the site bright for players along with benches for resting.



The southern portion of the Bad Axe City Park is less dense but has unique infrastructure for community members. Within a large, mowed field there is a splash pad with a few water features and toys. This section strengthens this park's appeal to young families and pet owners. This field also has a skate park which serves as a gathering area for Bad Axe's youth and young adult population. At the far region of this field there is a path that connects to a 0.7-mile asphalt loop through a semi wooden portion of the city.







As explored above, the Bad Axe City Park has a range of different attractions for community members. Its location, features, and environment provided recreational opportunities for many different types of community members. This park is a great example of what community parks should provide for a city. However, there is always room for improvement. Activities such as repainting the parking stripes and playground mulch are good examples. Another possible improvement would be the addition of screening between the park and the industrial zone immediately adjacent.



### **Mega Courts**

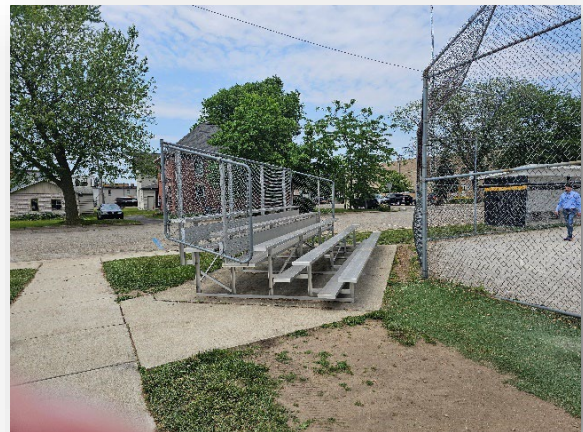
The Mage Courts and the Bad Axe City Park are adjacent to each other, as seen in the previous map and in many ways are a recreational unit. The two parks are separated by the S Hanselman St, with the city park and parking on the east side. This facility is categorized as a special use park due to its seasonal sporting focus. There are 6 **ball diamonds**, two are full sized and four that share outfields with each other. These diamonds are each accompanied by a set of stands, protective fencing, lighting, and two dugouts. There are two pitching enclosures and score boards that serve the diamonds during the community different baseball leagues.

Mega Courts has the following features:

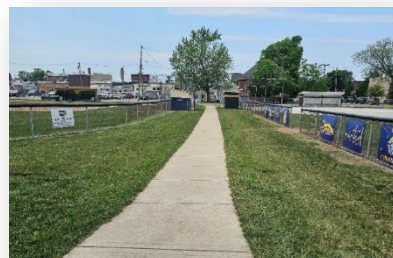
- 4 softball diamonds
- 2 baseball diamonds
- 10 basketball hoops
- Concession/Storage building
- Pioneer Log Village that includes a blacksmith shop, general store, country school, chapel, family home, and barn. The facility is owned and operated by the Bad Axe Historical Society.







The Mega Courts also have **5 basketball courts** for the community member of Bad Axe to utilize. These courts areas overlap each other in an effective manner shown in the images below. Each basketball court has two baskets, markings, and lighting. The basketball and baseball portion of this park are connected to each other, parking, and the road with concrete sidewalks.





This park attracts a large amount of people during the baseball and basketball seasons. To accommodate this the park has two different **restroom** buildings and at least one porta potty. The eastern restroom building is near the basketball courts, while the western restroom building is between the 6 baseball diamonds and has a **concession stand**.



**Pioneer Log Village** is located in the northeast corner of the park, adjacent to the basketball courts, and the softball diamonds. It includes a blacksmith shop, general store, country school, chapel, family home, and barn. The facility is owned and operated by the Bad Axe Historical Society.







This special use park is outfitted with many different features that support a community's desire for seasonal sporting events and other enjoyment. Its size suggests that the community of Bad Axe has considerable need for special use parks. The condition of this park similarly reflects this amount of use.





## **Wilcox Park**

This park is located in the northeast portion of the City of Bad Axe and it is situated near residential and industrial zones. This facility is boarded by the Bad Axe Creek to the north as seen in the previous map. Considering its proximity to neighborhoods and the diverse recreational infrastructure, Wilcox Park is categorized as the city's second community park. Within the park is the Wilcox **Community Center** that is an event center. The space is available to rent for small or large groups, providing access to the inside of the building on the property. This indoor activity space offers community members the option to use city owned spaces for reunions, parties, and other group events. Both the indoor and outdoor portions of the park utilize a parking lot with 36 parking spaces. It has 2 barrier-free parking spaces and a drop-off loop. The parking lot also has a porta potty available for visitors utilizing the outside areas.

Wilcox Park has the following features:

- Nature trail through the woods
- Picnic pavilion
- Horseshoes
- Playground
- Sand volleyball
- Community Center/Multi-purpose building



This park's outdoor public space has many different types of recreational opportunities. There is a large, mowed field behind the community center that hosts a large pavilion, picnic areas and playground equipment. This picnic area is equipped with grills, tables, and lighting. There is a good range of play equipment that is throughout the field.







Wilcox Park has a large enough field to include a sand pit and a sand volleyball court.



This park has appealing natural features such as large trees and the adjacent Bad Axe Creek. The trees provide some shade for benches placed throughout the field. There is also a pedestrian bridge that visitors can use to cross over the creek and back.







As presented, Wilcox Park plays a role in the recreation of the surrounding community. It has a private indoor event space as well as an engaging outdoor space. This location is ideal for the City of Bad Axe considering that it offers the northern residential areas closer recreational opportunities.

## School Recreational Facilities

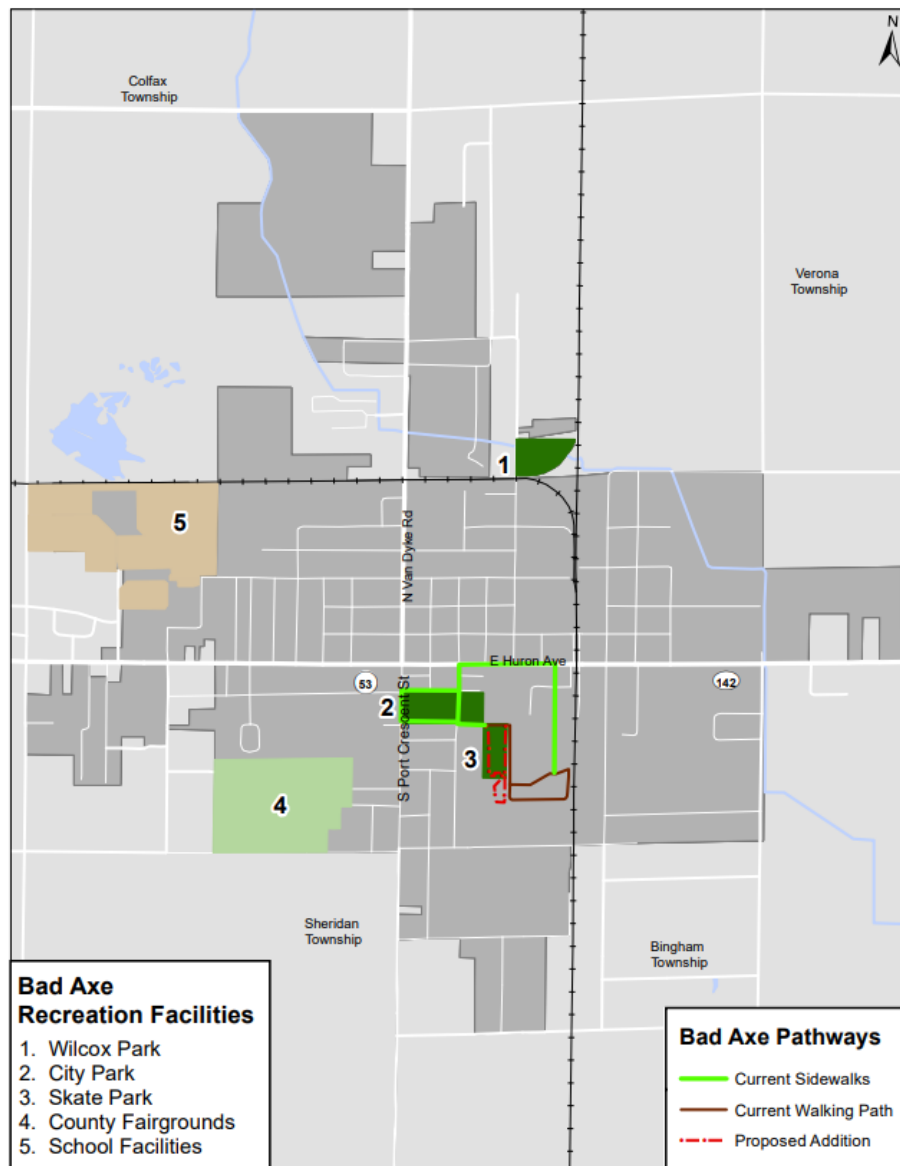
In addition to the City recreation facilities, there are public and private schools with recreation facilities located in and around the region. They are briefly described as follows.

### Public Schools

The Bad Axe Public Schools provide public education to the residents of Bad Axe. This system has 3 schools with a total enrollment in 2022 of 887 students. These three schools are all on a 77-acre plot in the northwestern region of the City of Bad Axe. The schools share recreational facilities such as the ones listed below.

School	Address	Grades	Enrollment	Facilities
Bad Axe Elementary School	404 Hatchet Dr, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Kindergarten-2 <sup>nd</sup>	204	sport fields, playground equipment, multi-purpose, and soccer field (all three share facilities)
Bad Axe Middle School	750 S Van Dyke Rd, Bad Axe, MI 48413	3 <sup>rd</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup>	224	^
Bad Axe Highschool	200 N Barrie Rd, Bad Axe, MI 48413	7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	459	^





## Private Schools

In addition to the Bad Axe Public School system, there are two private pre-schools in the city.

School	Address	Grades	Facilities
Little Minds Learning Academy	65 Patrick Dr Suite A, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Preschool	Play equipment
Nemcsa Head Start	791 S Van Dyke Rd, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Preschool	



## Private Recreational Facilities

Public recreational facilities are not the only way residents of Bad Axe are able to utilize. While access is limited, there are private facilities that add to the recreational opportunities of the City.

Name	Address	Facilities
Bad Axe Club Fitness	123 N Port Crescent St, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Indoor gym equipment like treadmills, weights, and a racquetball court.
Maximum Effort Training Compound	1148 N Van Dyke Rd, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Indoor gym equipment focused on weightlifting.
Rock Steady Boxing Huron County	316 S Hanselman St, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Indoor space for non-contact boxing fitness.
Thumb Pilates	111 N Hanselman St, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Indoor space for Pilates based fitness.
Cosens Martial Arts Bad Axe LLC	854 N Van Dyke Rd Suite A, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Indoor space for Martial Arts based fitness.
Centered By Sound: Sound Healing, Yoga, Meditation & Reiki	203 E Huron Ave, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Indoor spaces for sound wellness.

## Regional Recreational Facilities

The following facilities are located within Huron County, the region surrounding the City of Bad Axe. This county has a significant number of recreational facilities. This is, in part, due to Huron County's extensive shoreline.

### Huron Community Fairgrounds (within 10-mile radius of Bad Axe)

Due to this city serving as county seat, the regional county fair association is in the southwest region of Bad Axe. This regional committee is sponsored by businesses and runs the 50 acre fairgrounds. These fairgrounds are used in regional engagement events. These events generally reflect the region's culture, such as having agricultural and family-friendly themes.

### Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park (within 10-mile radius of Bad Axe)

This historic park is nearly 10 miles outside of Bad Axe. It is an educational and recreational opportunity for Bad Axe and Huron County residents. This park serves to preserve and interpret Michigan's largest known collection of early Native American teachings carved in stone. This park has hiking trails connecting the carvings as well as the north branch of the Cass River.

The following chart includes the two facilities mentioned directly above, along with other recreational facilities in the region. Along with the facility's address, it lists the amenities of each along with its association, if applicable.



Name	Address	Amenities	Association
Huron Community Fair Grounds	501 Fair St, Bad Axe, MI 48413	Trails, multi-use buildings, track.	Huron Community Fair Association
Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic State Park	8251 Germania Rd, Cass City, MI 48726	Trails and a bridge.	State of Michigan
Sebewaing County Park	759 Union St, Sebewaing, MI 48759	Trails, fishing access, and a bridge.	
Brown Roadside Park	341 Unionville Rd #333, Bay Port, MI 48720	Trails and picnic areas.	State of Michigan
Sand Point Nature Preserve	8076 M-25, Sand Point, MI 48755	Trails and boardwalks.	Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy
Caseville County Park	6400 Main St, Caseville, MI 48725	Picnic areas, playground, and beach access.	
Philp County Park	4640 Port Austin Rd, Caseville, MI 48725	Beach access.	
Huron County Nature Center	3336 Loosemore Rd, Port Austin, MI 48467	Trails and boardwalk.	
McGraw County Park	3030 Port Austin Rd, Port Austin, MI 48467	Beach access.	
Port Crescent State Park	1775 Port Austin Rd, Port Austin, MI 48467	Picnic areas, boardwalks, trails, and beach access.	State of Michigan
Jenks Roadside Park	M-25, Port Austin, MI 48467	Trails and beach access.	
Bird Creek Park	8746-8774, Lake St, Port Austin, MI 48467	Picnic areas, trails, and beach access.	
Eagle Bay Public Access	9282-9298 Wallace Rd, Port Austin, MI 48467	Trails and beach access.	
Lighthouse County Park	7320 Lighthouse Rd, Port Hope, MI 48468	Trails, picnic areas, and beach access.	
Kernan Memorial Nature Sanctuary	of Pochert Rd, Port Hope, MI 48468	Trails and beach access.	Michigan Nature Association
Pavilion at Stafford County Park	Port Hope, MI 48468	Picnic areas, playground, and beach access.	
Harbor Beach Lighthouse	1 Ritchie Dr, Harbor Beach, MI 48441	Picnic areas and beach access.	
White Rock Roadside Park	M-25, Harbor Beach, MI 48441	Picnic areas and beach access. .	State of Michigan

\*Note: The table above excludes village parks and memorial parks.



## Barrier Free Evaluation & Universal Design

The ultimate goal is to provide recreation opportunities that include everyone. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), all areas of public service and accommodation are subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs. This planning process should include methods to ensure that the City park and recreation system is accessible to people with disabilities. The City completed an evaluation of existing facilities in 2010 to determine if they are barrier-free.

When looking at areas to determine their accessibility to all people, we started by asking these simple questions:

*Can a person who has a sight or hearing disability, uses a wheelchair, uses a walking aid such as crutches or braces, has a mental disability that affects learning and understanding, safely and independently:*

- *Get from the arrival place to the activity area?*
- *How can this barrier be removed?*
- *Do what others do in the area?*
- *If not, what is getting in the way?*
- *Move around the area?*

### Universal Access

Another often overlooked category is Universal Access. This practice goes way beyond typical Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations to practice “common and equal experiences for all.” The goal of universal access is, throughout concept and design phases, to incorporate technology, materials and other considerations that promote equal opportunities for people of varied abilities. The appendix provides universal access design considerations for different types of recreational facilities. These concepts should be kept in the forefront as a prime consideration in the 5-year Master Plan and individual parks or projects as they develop and progress.

Common components that need to be looked at to answer these basic questions include parking, paths of travel from parking, street or sidewalk to activity areas, the activity areas themselves, signage, support facilities such as restrooms, surfacing, and communications required for recreation programs and general use of a facility or area. The existing parks were evaluated on the following criteria and scored 1-5.

- 5 – Facility is fully accessible. Features and facilities meet and exceed the Uniform Building Code and take into consideration Universal Design principles. Main elements such as the washrooms, entrances, parking, and amenities are barrier free.
- 4 – Majority of the facility is accessible; however, there are some accessibility barriers. Some improvements are needed to make the facility fully accessible.
- 3 – Facility is partially accessible. Barriers exist to fully accessing the facility and an alternate facility may be necessary.
- 2 – Facility has limited accessibility. Multiple barriers exist to fully accessing the facility and an alternate facility may be necessary.
- 1 – Facility has poor accessibility. Accessibility barriers may exist at entranceway, recreation area

Each City Park is given their respective accessibility ranking on the previous chart on page 12.



## Recreational Programs

### Bad Axe Programs

- Summer day camp – a seven-week program (City Park/Rotary Park)

### Private Programs

- Bad Axe Little League: baseball, softball, and basketball.
- Huron Youth Center
- Bad Axe Soccer Association
- Bad Axe Flag Football
- Thumb Allied Skate

### Bad Axe Events

- Family Fun Festival (City Park / Rotary Park in September)
- Fall Frenzy (City Park / Rotary Park in September)

## Past Grant Status

The City of Bad Axe has not received any grant funding from the MDNR, however in the past the City has applied for two Trust Fund grants but have subsequently withdrawn both applications. The grants were for the years 1992 and 1996. The 1992 acquisition grant was withdrawn because the landowner donated the property to the City. The 1996 grant was withdrawn because of turnover on the City Council.





## Natural Resource Inventory

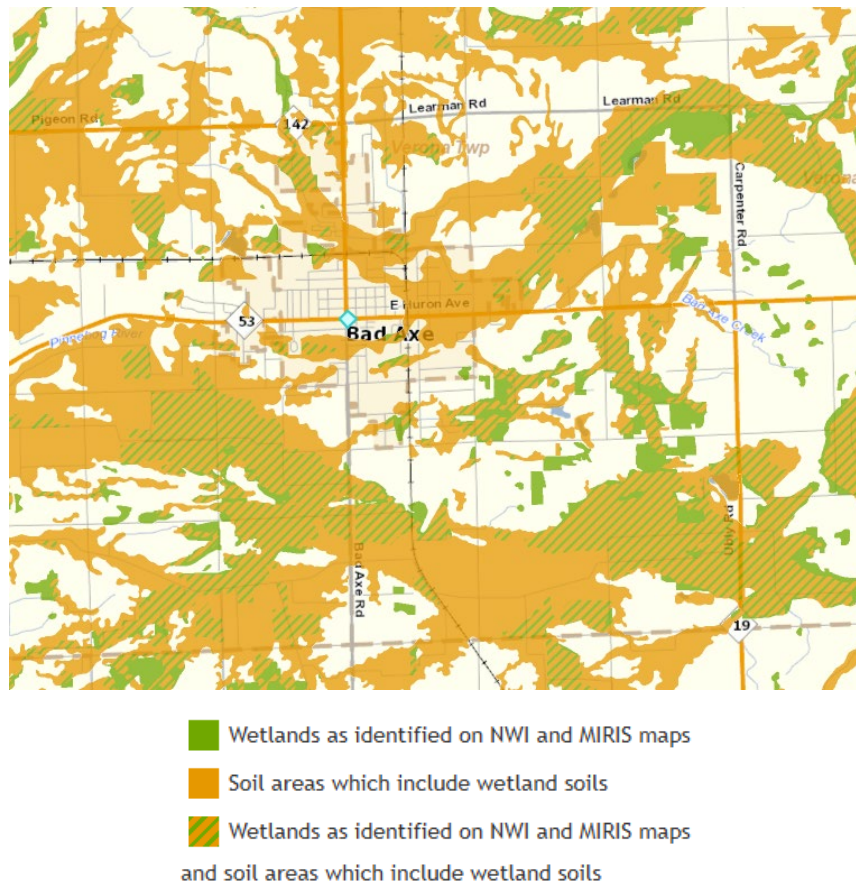
When studying parks and recreation resources in a community, it can be worthwhile examining significant natural resources that may be in need of conservation or protection. The map below illustrates the woodlands, wetlands, and waterways in the City of Bad Axe.

### Woodlands & Wetlands

The most significant natural resources in Bad Axe are the pockets of woodlands and wetlands scattered across the city.

These natural areas are dispersed throughout Bad Axe; however, the largest stands are located in the southern half and the northernmost section of the City. Several of these areas are a mixture of both wetlands and woodlands. These are areas that may provide recreational opportunities in the future. An example of woodlands that are worthy of conservation is the stand located in Wilcox Park. This provides park visitors with more recreation opportunities, wildlife viewing, and walking areas.

Wetlands are vital to the ecological health of a region as they host critical habitat for fish and waterfowl. According to EGLE wetlands map, Huron county currently has a total of 31,972 acres of wetland. This makes up about 6% of the county's total acreage. This map allows for closer examination of Bad Axe itself, which shows a lack of wetlands within the city limit. However, there is a considerable band of wetlands south of the city's borders, according to both the NWI and MIRIS maps.

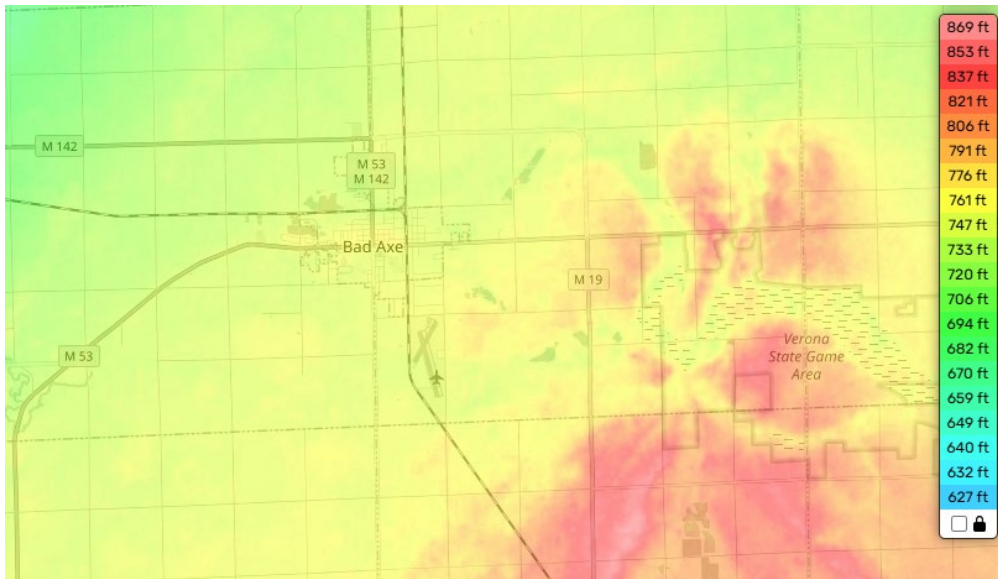


Source: EGLE Wetlands Map Viewer



## Topography & Landforms

The slope of land plays an important role in determining the suitable use and development of property. Moderate slopes (10% - 25%) and areas of extreme slope (25% or more) may limit higher density developments from occurring. These limitations include a heightened risk of erosion and the difficulty in installing private septic systems. However, areas consisting of moderate and extreme slopes are very sparse within the city. It consists of fairly level terrain which presents little to no restrictions for future development.



Source: topographic-map.com

Prior to park & recreation development, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) should be consulted to review the results of a wetlands determination. The impacts of development within wetland areas should be carefully considered, and a permit from the MDNR should always be obtained if regulated wetlands are to be impacted.

## Soils

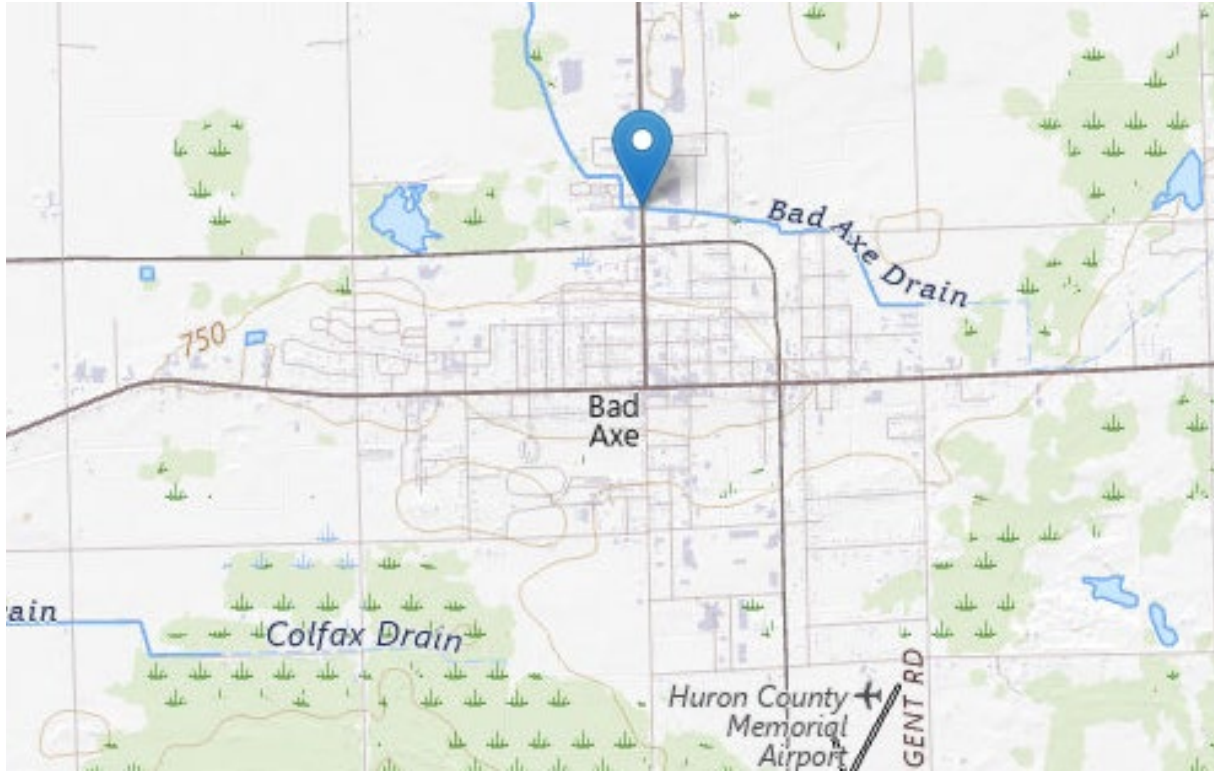
Soil exploration can offer key insights into a region's geological characteristics such as soil properties and distributions. This data relates closely to the region's agricultural productivity. According to Bad Axe's USDA custom soil resource report, this region of Michigan has a diverse distribution of loamy soils. This is to be expected considering the state's glacial history, with much of the lower peninsula maintaining a surface mix of sand, silt, and clay surface. Three types of loamy soil each make up 12-13% of Bad Axe's total soil distribution, Kilmanagh, Belleville, and Shebeon. Loam is so prevalent that it is earliest to identify a few outliers such as 3 types of muck and 5 types of sand.

Ultimately these results suggest that Bad Axe is a community with high agricultural potential due to its abundance of loamy soils. These types of soil are known to have favorable conditions for crops such as air circulation, moisture retention, and non-dense textures.



## Water Resources & Drainage

Bad Axe is surrounded by beautiful lakes, rivers, and reservoirs. In addition, small portions of the Bad Axe Drain run across the northern portion of the city, providing a water feature for the community. This is shown on the map above.



Source: [waterdata.usgs.gov](http://waterdata.usgs.gov)

## Floodplains

The only noted floodplain in the area is associated with the Bad Axe drain. See the map below.



Source: [msc.fema.gov](http://msc.fema.gov)





## Description of Planning and Public Input Process

### Planning Methods

Community recreational facilities cannot be effectively provided without some basis from which the type, quantity, location, need, and priority for that facility has been determined. Several methods for determining a community's recreation needs and priorities have been identified. These include observed use levels for existing facilities, comparisons of recreational facilities between similar communities, unique opportunities for certain types of facilities, guidelines or standards based on quantity per population, and projected population growth, to identify a few methods.

Existing recreation opportunities can be compared to recreation standards to determine deficiencies. However, great care must be taken to apply common sense and knowledge of the community. These standards will be used only in conjunction with other methods to determine recreation deficiencies and priorities.

The foundation for the development of the City of Bad Axe Parks and Recreation Plan was based on the following goals:

- Involve the community in the process to develop a Five-Year Recreation Master Plan.
- Inventory and map existing Bad Axe recreational facilities.
- Build a strong foundation of Bad Axe area stakeholders in addressing the future Recreational needs and priorities of the Community.
- Enable the City of Bad Axe to be eligible for financial assistance based upon the Recreation Plan.
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreation goals objectives and actions.
- Continue to support and implement improvements for barrier-free Universal Access to Bad Axe area parks.
- Consistency with and expansion upon goals and objectives set forth in existing planning documents that deal partially or wholly with recreation.

### Public Input

Citizens' opinions on recreation priorities is a key consideration in plan development. It is important to involve the public early in the process, through public meetings, surveys, or other means. Early citizen involvement not only helps in defining needs and priorities, but it also keeps the public informed about what is going on. This in turn helps to build support and to avoid unnecessary controversy as well as eliminating unnecessary or poorly planned expenditures.

For this recreation plan the Commission offered many opportunities for public participation prior to adoption of this plan, and in a variety of ways. First, a public survey was developed that consisted of (24) questions related to current parks, improvements, and new facilities. Second, a public engagement event was held on June 12, 2025, to inform the public and gather their comments by way of planning activities. Third, the draft plan was presented at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council on January 5, 2025 during a public hearing . The public was also notified of the 30-day review period in which they could review the plan and make comments prior to adoption. A copy of the draft plan was also posted on the City's website, and a paper copy was available at City Hall. Lastly, the final plan was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission and to the City Council for final adoption on January 19, 2025.



## Survey Questionnaire

A survey questionnaire was developed to gain the public's thoughts related to current recreation facilities and improvements they would like to see. The survey also included questions related to where they live in the community, what type of activities they participate in, and what type of new facilities they would like. The commission reviewed and commented on the questionnaire before making it available to the public. The survey was created in electronic format for ease of tabulation and distributed by way of social media. A link to the survey was posted on the City's website and City Hall. It was available to the public from June 1, 2025, to October 1, 2025. Paper copies of the survey were also available at City Hall, at the public workshop, and the QR code for the survey was printed on Postcards, that were also available at the public workshop and placed in the lobby of City Hall. Results of the survey are discussed in the Action Program section and provided in Appendix B.

## Visioning/Public Workshops

An announcement of the community event was posted on the city website (see appendix for public notice announcements). It was on June 12, 2025, from 5-7pm at Bad Axe City Park, behind City Hall. It was held at the Main Pavilion.

Informational display boards were set up, and a presentation was made to inform the attendees of the purpose for this project, and the process involved. There were three planning activities as follows to engage public participation.



### Activity 1 – Elements

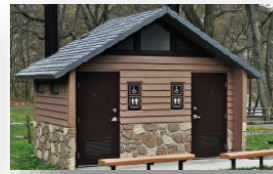
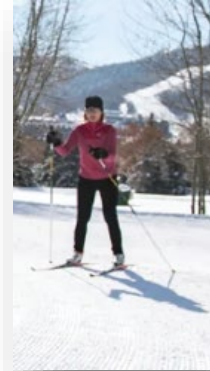
- Prioritizing the recreational uses and activities that are currently offered. Attendees were shown (3) display boards, one board for each park. They showed the parks' current amenities. Participants were asked to select their favorite feature from each of the City's three parks. The following were the top three.
  - Baseball/Softball at Megaparks
  - Pavilion at Wilcox Park
  - Playground at City Park



### Activity 2 – Amenities and Activities

- Attendees were shown (3) additional display boards with eight different visioning categories for the park amenities, each having different options. Participants were asked to select their favorites from the options shown. Results of this exercise showed the six highest potential amenities as follows, listed highest to lowest.

- Sports Activities:
  - Pickleball
  - Frisbee Golf
  - Cross Country Skiing.
- Recreational Features:
  - Playgrounds
  - Dog park
  - Boardwalks/trails.
- Park Amenities:
  - Pedestrian level site lighting
  - Traditional benches and seating opportunities
  - Fire pits/campfire areas
  - Traditional/rustic style pavilions and restroom facilities
  - Simple shade sails over play and picnic areas



A natural, relaxed discussion occurred between the participants as they were evaluating the display boards and contemplating their choices. From the two activities mentioned above, an actions list was created to then be implemented into the Goals and Objectives section of this plan. These actions are the specific steps that can be taken towards the goals that the community has established.

Lastly, participants were given a paper copy of the survey to complete, if they hadn't already participated online. There was also a QR code on a card to take home, if they wished to complete it later.





## Other Public Engagement

To gain additional input from the community, the display boards were placed inside the lobby at City of Bad Axe City Hall located at 300 E. Huron, Bad Axe, MI 48413, to continue to get input 8 am – 4 pm, Monday thru Friday. These were available to the public until October 1, 2025.



## Goals and Objectives

In defining the action program, the formulation of community goals and objectives for the provision of recreation is a vital component. The goals and objectives represent the purposes for a community's role in providing recreation to its residents as well as outlining the direction that the community's effort should take in the long term. Goals are the general targets for which a community aims for while objectives are the specific steps that can be taken towards reaching that goal. A recreation plan identifies those actions that can be undertaken to implement the objectives and fulfill the community's goals.

The goals and objectives for the City in meeting the recreation needs of residents are outlined below.

### Goal 1

**Continue to provide and improve recreational and support facilities that inspire community pride and are functional for a variety of uses and ages.**

The citizens are proud of their existing park facilities. The City wishes to continue to maintain and improve these facilities so as to improve the quality of life for residents.

#### Objectives

1. Explore partnerships, grants, foundations and other funding opportunities.
2. Continue to add amenities to Bad Axe park facilities based upon community input and need.
3. Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
4. Ensure that improvements and upgrades to park facilities are handicapped-accessible, where feasible.
5. Look at new amenities to satisfy various age groups.
6. Identify the best location for future dog park.
7. Ensure public parks are safe and secure.

### Goal 2

**Provide quality leisure time activities with special consideration given to activities improving health and fitness.**

Health and wellbeing are an important component of one's quality of life. Bad Axe can use its parks and recreation facilities and staff resources to offer activities and programs that will improve the health and fitness of its citizens.

#### Objectives

1. Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population.
2. Continue to work with existing recreation partners in the community to provide programs, leagues, and special events. Explore options for new and expanded partnerships to provide additional recreational opportunities.

### Goal 3

**Provide non-motorized pathways and bicycle routes for recreational and transportation use.**



Pathways and bike routes are important for the residents of the City of Bad Axe. They were mentioned frequently by survey respondents as an improvement they would like added to the City. This is a component of a parks system that can be used by people of all ages and abilities. The City plans to look into ways to extend the existing walkway and path system.

### **Objectives**

1. Develop a biking network throughout the City.
2. Extend and add walking and multi-use paths within existing parks.
3. Improve path surfaces when appropriate.

## **Goal 4**

### **Retain public land and conserve natural resources for future generations.**

The citizens of Bad Axe wish to see their current parks maintained and kept for the future. Additional parkland may be needed in the future to accommodate the recreational needs of the community.

### **Objectives**

1. Retain existing parkland and acquire new public lands to meet the recreational needs of the community.
2. Preserve and protect open space and other important natural features in Bad Axe.

## **Goal 5**

### **Create community awareness of Bad Axe recreational opportunities and promote them to citizens and visitors.**

Communicating with the public is an important component of any municipal parks and recreation organization. As our population increasingly relies on the Internet for information, the City needs to take advantage of online opportunities to communicate and interact with citizens.

### **Objectives**

1. Work with local arts and culture organizations to provide unique programming opportunities at the City's recreational sites and other venues.
2. Work on Facebook, Snapchat, web site, and develop other online opportunities to communicate with the public about Bad Axe Park facilities and events.

## **Goal 6**

### **Develop a system of park facilities that promotes four-season use.**

### **Objectives**

Provide residents with opportunities for recreation that provide multiple seasons of use within the City and the respective park facilities.

### **Potential Actions**

- Construct compatible yet diverse uses within the parks that promote spring, summer, fall and winter uses.
- Explore options for all-season facilities such as warming shelters and restrooms in the parks as appropriate.
- Review options for winter ice skating area.



## Goal 7

**Continue the improvement and development of Universal Design Concepts at any and all city park locations in accordance with the park's development master plan.**

### **Objectives:**

Develop new and expanded facilities and programs at the park including new restrooms, picnic facilities, paved parking, walking paths, new play equipment and lighting.

### **Potential Actions**

- Improve restroom facilities.
- Provide for universally accessible play areas, picnic facilities and shelters
- Provide paved parking areas and trails to provide barrier-free access to all areas.
- Provide additional non-motorized trails to better connect community destinations and areas.
- Improve signage for any visually or physically impaired park users

## Goal 8

**Create new partnerships and collaboration.**

### **Objectives**

As Michigan continues to struggle it is important to take advantage of collaborations and partnerships as a cost-effective way to offer recreational programs in the community.

### **Potential Actions**

- Encourage the cooperation and participation of adjacent communities in the formation of a regional recreational advisory board in an effort to combine resources and avoid duplication of facilities and services.
- Utilize public and private sector cooperation in the promotion of recreation and the improvement of recreational opportunities.
- Encourage the participation of volunteers in the development of recreational facilities.



## Action Program

A variety of factors, including community characteristics, population trends, existing recreation facilities, and identified recreation needs, contribute to the formulation of specific recommendations for plan implementation. These specific recommendations represent the actions that can be undertaken to achieve the objectives that have been directed towards a community's recreation goals. These recommended actions also represent the substance and purpose of a recreation plan - the development of a strategy for effectively closing the gap between existing recreation opportunities and recreation needs.

### Recommended Actions

The community input sessions identified in the description of the planning process as well as feedback from the community on-line survey offered many insights into the priorities for recreation development. Results from the survey identified several clear thoughts and perceptions about the existing City park's structure. These results help shape the recommendations for the Action Program for future improvement and development. A complete copy of the survey results and public input sessions are included in the appendix of this plan. A summary of highlights is as follows:

- Most parkgoers agreed that they liked the overall character of the parks, but as a whole new uses and amenities need to be developed to meet the changing recreational needs of the community
- Both active and passive recreational opportunities were important to address parkgoers' desires and needs, and most overwhelmingly agreed that the park's overall conditions were only fair to good.
- While City Park was the most utilized, Wilcox Park fell short of its potential use.
- From the tallied results, the number one desired amenity is a formal skate park to be developed at City Park.
- Second most desired improvement is a more robust program of non-recreational events in the parks, such as music events, festivals, movie nights, etc.
- The third most important improvement would be the provision of newer play equipment at both City and Wilcox parks, with special attention paid to younger children.

Specific recommendations for each of the City's three major parks are as follows.

#### City Park

- 2026 scheduled improvements include new pickleball courts and trail extension through the park.
- New, formal concrete skate park with lighting and cameras
- New restroom facilities
- Improved maintenance program and ADA accessibility improvements.
- Younger children/toddler friendly play equipment.

#### Wilcox Park

- Improved and new play equipment
- Formal nature trails with amenities such as benches, interpretive signage, focal points.
- New restroom facilities





## Mega Courts

- Court resurfacing, new nets and hoops
- Improved maintenance

In instances of emerging areas of recreational needs, such as the development of non-motorized trails, it is logical to expect that the project limits will need to be established by the identification of key connection points that should not be excluded or limited by geo-political boundaries.

The following recommendation and capital improvement schedule outlines and assigns relative priorities to activities and projects that can be implemented in both the short-term and long-range future to improve recreational opportunities in the City. Those activities and projects that can be undertaken during the five-year planning period (2026-2030) have been summarized in a Capital Improvement Program Schedule. This schedule includes cost estimates as well as possible funding sources for each suggested project.

While these projects are recommended for implementation during the planning period, they are highly dependent upon financial and administrative feasibility. It is also suggested that the City take advantage of any unscheduled opportunities that may arise. Such opportunities can be evaluated and included in this plan as an amendment to the schedule.

## Capital Improvement Schedule

Capital Improvement Schedule				
Year	Project	Est. Cost	Goal	Funding
2026	<b>City Park</b> – pickleball courts, trail connection; new restrooms, maintenance; non-recreational programs, and ADA improvements <b>Wilcox Park</b> – new restroom facilities.	\$500,000	Goals 1,2,3,5,6,7,8	\$300,000 MNRTF \$100,000 Local Match \$50,000 DDA \$50,000 Patronage, Donations/Foundations
2027	<b>Mega Courts</b> – Court resurfacing; maintenance. <b>Wilcox Park</b> – Play equipment and trails; ADA improvements	\$300,000	Goals 1-8	\$200,000 MNRRP \$50,000 Local Match \$25,000 Patronage, Donations/Foundations
2028	<b>City Park</b> – Skate park, lighting and cameras	\$1,500,000	Goals 1,2,5,6,7,8	\$500,000 LWCF \$250,000 Local Match \$750,000 Patronage, Donations/Foundations
2029	<b>City Park</b> – new play equipment	\$250,000	Goals 1,2,5,6,7	\$175,000 MNRTF or MNRRP Program \$75,000 Local Match
2030	Recreation Plan Update	\$15,000	Goal 1-8	\$15,000 Local funds

### Abbreviations

MDNR - Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
LWCF - Land and Water Conservation Fund  
TAP -Transportation Alternatives Program

MDOT – Michigan Department of Transportation  
MNRTF- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
MNRRP – Michigan Natural Resources Recreation Passport Fund



## Financing

To accomplish the above goals, financing is imperative! The City's general fund has been the primary source of funds for operating and maintaining its current facilities. Future site improvements, acquisition, and development will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds, as will the continued operation and maintenance of these facilities unless other means are found for the funding of these items.

There are a variety of ways to pursue funding of parks and recreation projects. They include the community's general funds, donations and gifts, Multi-Jurisdictional Funding, Non-Local Financial Assistance (programs through state and federal), and millages. All of these options are discussed in more detail in the Appendix Section of this plan, labeled 'Financing Mechanisms' in Appendix A.



## **Appendix A**

### **Supplemental Information**

- Universal Design
- Financing Mechanisms

## Universal & Accessibility Guidelines

The goal of universal access is, throughout concept and design phases, to incorporate technology, materials and other considerations that promote equal opportunities for people of varied abilities. The following table provides universal access design considerations for different types of recreational facilities. These concepts should be kept in the forefront as a prime consideration in the 5-year Master Plan and individual parks or projects as they develop and progress.

The main difference between the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and universal design is that the ADA is a legal framework that sets specific accessibility standards, while universal design is a design philosophy aimed at creating environments usable by everyone, regardless of ability.

### Understanding the ADA

- **Legislation:** The ADA is a federal law enacted in 1990 that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities. It establishes specific requirements for accessibility in public spaces, workplaces, and transportation.
- **Minimum Standards:** The ADA outlines minimum accessibility standards, such as the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, which must be met by public accommodations and commercial facilities. However, it does not apply to private residences.
- **Focus on Rights:** The ADA focuses on protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities, ensuring they have equal access to public services and facilities.

### Understanding Universal Design

- **Design Philosophy:** Universal design is a broader concept that aims to create products, environments, and services that are usable by the widest range of people, regardless of age, ability, or status.
- **Inclusive Approach:** Unlike the ADA, which may allow for segregated solutions (e.g., separate facilities for people with disabilities), universal design seeks to eliminate barriers for all users without the need for specialized adaptations.
- **Application:** Universal design principles can be applied to various domains, including architecture, product design, and digital interfaces, making them more user-friendly for everyone.
- **Universal Design:** Evolved from accessible design to address needs not covered by the ADA, recognizes a wider spectrum of abilities to create things that are easier for everyone to use, and includes the full spectrum of human motion.

## Key Takeaways

- **Scope:** The ADA is a legal requirement focused on civil rights and accessibility standards, while universal design is a proactive approach to design that benefits all users.
- **Intent:** The ADA addresses specific needs of individuals with disabilities, whereas universal design aims to create inclusive solutions that enhance usability for everyone, including those with disabilities and the elderly.

In summary, while both the ADA and universal design aim to improve accessibility, they do so from different perspectives—one through legal mandates and the other through inclusive design principles.

Type of Recreation	Universal Access Design Considerations
Archery range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All stations</li><li>▪ Route to retrieval area for each target</li><li>▪ Targets also useable with crossbows</li><li>▪ Arrow back stop to limit retrieval distance</li><li>▪ Larger maneuvering spaces to accommodate archers with shooting assistants</li></ul>
Beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Routes over the beach and into the water can be portable/temporary matting if it needs to be taken in and out for beach cleaning/dragging or in the off season</li><li>▪ Wide enough for side-by-side walking/passing</li><li>▪ At beach route end have an accessible area at the water's edge large enough to park multiple chairs while the owners are in the water</li><li>▪ With a transfer system at the water's edge so people can get down to the ground level and into the water</li></ul>
Boardwalk wetland and water access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 6 feet minimum width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass</li><li>▪ Edge treatment to prevent roll/step off</li><li>▪ If side rails are used, <b>more than 25%</b> must lower for easy viewing in various places along the boardwalk</li><li>▪ Interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.</li></ul>
Campgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ All sites and amenities</li><li>▪ Accessible surface on all sites, including rustic sites</li><li>▪ Larger spaces to accommodate side lifts on campers and vehicles</li></ul>



Type of Recreation	Universal Access Design Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accessible tables, grills (15 “ minimum, 34 “ maximum height), and fire rings on all sites</li> <li>▪ Centrally located restrooms on easy routes from each site</li> </ul>
Camping Cabins and Yurts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Larger clear space and maneuvering spaces in between all furnishings, including when all are in use (beds, tables/chairs with people seated at the table, shelves within lowered reach ranges, lowered wall hooks, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Larger clear space thoughtfully located for typical portable items such as coolers, luggage, equipment/food bins/tubs, etc.</li> </ul>
Canoe/kayak/boat launch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wider route so someone can hand wheel boat on dolly to launch pulling boat next to them if they are in a wheelchair or two person carry down</li> <li>▪ Accessible surface to water’s edge and into water at launch</li> <li>▪ More gentle slopes for easier entry and exit when hand wheeling a boat</li> <li>▪ Some type of “rack” to stabilize boat at a transferable height then some type of mechanism/roller system to move, while seated in the boat, into the water Some means of transfer assistance such as overhead bars</li> <li>▪ Some type of wench system to help pull boat out of water back into the rack to exit/transfer out.</li> <li>▪ If there is a dock provide a transfer system on the dock so a person can be seated on the dock to transfer over to a boat in the water that is in some type of a stabilizer rack</li> <li>▪ Adaptive kayaks available for use</li> <li>▪ Shore station with a platform (instead of “V” rack) with a transfer system on the deck of the shore station, located next to a dock so someone could roll/get on the platform and lower it to the right level to transfer into a boat</li> </ul>
Fishing dock/pier and observation/ viewing decks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More than 25% of the rails are lowered in various locations or no rails at all with only an edge treatment to prevent roll off</li> <li>▪ Sitting benches (all with backs and arm rests) scattered about so anglers can choose to sit or stand to fish</li> <li>▪ Tackle box stands next to one bench end (not both) leaving one end clear space for sitting side by side with someone in a wheelchair</li> </ul>

Type of Recreation	Universal Access Design Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A variety of fish landing cutaways strategically placed</li> <li>▪ Variety of accessible opportunities—over-water fishing, shore fishing, in-water fishing, etc.</li> <li>▪ Transition plates between access route and deck/pier</li> </ul>
Nature center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All interpretive information in a variety of alternative formats such as auditory, large print, Braille, pictures, etc.</li> <li>▪ Creative use of technology such as mp3 players for auditory descriptions (this gives the info. directly to the individual) closed loop assistive listening devices and closed-circuit captioning of all interpretive presentations</li> <li>▪ All displays at lowered heights for sitting or standing viewing</li> <li>▪ All operating mechanisms that are operable with one hand and do not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate</li> </ul>
Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More than minimum number of accessible spots</li> <li>▪ Each connected directly to an accessible route to the park elements and NOT into the traffic flow</li> <li>▪ Thoughtfully located nearest the activity entrance, which might require multiple lots (some near the beach, some near the playground, some near the bathhouse, etc.)</li> </ul>
Picnic areas and elements: Pavilions, picnic tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All located on accessible routes</li> <li>▪ all tables, grills, fire rings, water pumps, etc. accessible</li> <li>▪ Level routes onto pavilions with no changes of level from path to pavilion surface</li> <li>▪ Wider routes and clear space with firm surface around all elements so someone with mobility limits can easily move around the element (table, grill, etc.)</li> <li>▪ A variety of table styles, some with clear sitting space on the side, some with extended tabletops on the end</li> <li>▪ Some fixed tables to ensure they remain accessible (not moved off into a grassy or sandy area, etc.)</li> <li>▪ Clear space all around each element so people can approach and use the grill, fire ring, etc. from the front, back and either side</li> <li>▪ Grills you can lower/raise the cooking surface with one hand</li> <li>▪ Raised fire building surfaces so you can place wood without leaning too far over from a standing or seated position</li> </ul>

Type of Recreation	Universal Access Design Considerations
Playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ramps and transfers</li> <li>▪ Has both ramp and transfer access to all play components</li> <li>▪ Ramps to every “getting on spot” or “sit/stand &amp; do it spot” of every play component</li> <li>▪ Transfer system from the ground up to the main deck located near the exits of slides and climbers furthest from the ramp onto the structure</li> <li>▪ Only unitary safety surface such as poured-in-place or rubber tiles NOT any loose fill materials likes shredded rubber, wood chips, engineered wood fiber, or any other non-unitary surface material</li> <li>▪ On deck transfer platform at the entry point of every slide</li> <li>▪ On deck transfer platform with one open transfer side and one side with transfer steps to every entry/exit point of every climber, so kids climbing up can get down to the deck to move to another component, as they may have left an assistive device at the ground</li> <li>▪ A good variety of things to manipulate that make noise or music, have high contrast/bright colors, games that two kids can play (to foster social interaction), Braille and sign language panels to teach awareness, easy to operate with just one hand with a whole fist (does not require tight/pinch/grasp/wrist twist to operate)</li> <li>▪ Different high contrast colors for decks versus transfers so kids with low vision can perceive a change in level</li> <li>▪ Play panels are located at heights so they can be used from a seated position or standing</li> </ul>
Restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More than the minimum number of accessible units</li> <li>▪ Multiple unisex/single user toilet rooms/units so opposite sex care givers can assist; also good for parents of young children of the opposite sex so kids aren’t sent alone into the multi-user restroom</li> <li>▪ Thoughtfully located near areas of activity such as play areas, beaches, fishing piers, etc.</li> <li>▪ Accessible door pulls and water faucet handles - all accessible port-a-johns, again big enough for individual use or care giver/parental assistance.</li> </ul>

Type of Recreation	Universal Access Design Considerations
Skiing/sledding hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accessible route to top (no steps), possibly using a “magic carpet” lift</li> <li>▪ Level surface for sled mounting at hilltop</li> <li>▪ If staffed, provide ATV transport or have policy that allows personal ATV use</li> </ul> <p>Transfer at hill bottom to help transfer</p>
<p>Sports fields/courts</p> <p>Fields: soccer, football, baseball, etc.</p> <p>Courts: tennis, basketball, bocce, horseshoes, etc.</p> <p>Other: skate parks, frisbee golf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Routes to both sides of all fields and courts, not just end zones</li> <li>▪ Accessible seating spaces, both ground level and elevated if risers/bleachers are provided</li> <li>▪ Accessible seating spaces scattered throughout all viewing areas and levels with companion seating on both sides of the space</li> <li>▪ All lowered service windows at all concession areas</li> <li>▪ Wider gate openings into court areas (tennis, bocce, basketball) and skate parks to accommodate wider sports wheelchairs</li> <li>▪ Routes to both horseshoe pits and along both sides of the route between pits</li> <li>▪ Level routes onto bocce courts with sitting benches at both ends</li> </ul>
Trail: nature trail, walkway, pathway, etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Multi-use trail - 8 feet, with slopes under 2%, wider width so two people can walk side by side or people can pass</li> <li>▪ Walkways within a site – at least 6 feet wide and have slopes under 2%</li> <li>▪ Regional trail system - at least 10 feet wide, with 1-foot buffers on either side, with slopes under 2%</li> <li>▪ Unitary surface like concrete, boardwalk or asphalt, crushed aggregate/screenings that have been “stabilized” or natural soils enhanced with soil stabilizers</li> <li>▪ Transition plates between trail and pedestrian bridges, decks, etc.</li> </ul>



Type of Recreation	Universal Access Design Considerations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contrasting color treatment of the surface and textured surface treatments such as brushed concrete at intersections or interpretive stations to cue people who have vision impairments that there is something to pay attention to at that spot</li> <li>▪ Close to level cross slopes (side to side) and very gentle running slopes, no steep sections, larger (greater than 60" X 60") level areas at all turns and intersections</li> <li>▪ Thoughtfully laid out on the site to maximize the experience with minimal difficulty</li> <li>▪ Accessible amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, etc.</li> </ul>

## Financing Mechanisms

The following paragraphs briefly outline existing sources of funds for financing the future recreational improvements in the City.

### 1. General Funds

The City's general fund is usually the primary source of funds for operating and maintaining their current facilities. Future site improvements, acquisition, and development will remain dependent on these tax-supported funds, as will the continued operation and maintenance of these facilities. Consequently, recreation planning has to be coordinated with the yearly budgeting process for the City's general funds.

### 2. Donations and Gifts

The availability of donated land, labor, equipment, and funds from individuals and organizations is an attractive and effective way to improve recreational opportunities in The City. Over the past few years, several groups and individuals have contributed significantly. Such support should be encouraged to continue.

### 3. Multi-jurisdictional Funding

One of the primary goals of establishing a trail authority comprised of adjacent townships would be to establish a joint source of funding for acquisition, development and maintenance of multi-jurisdictional trail projects. It is too premature to discuss levels or formulas for financial participation/contribution, but by forming such a coalition, the individual townships will collectively be in a stronger position in seeking future matching grants than if pursuing projects individually.

### 4. Non-Local Financial Assistance

Many communities seek outside sources of funds to supplement their local sources when providing recreational improvements. There are several programs administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) that can provide some financial assistance to local recreation projects. Funding amounts available to communities vary from year to year depending on Federal support and State legislative agendas.

The **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** is a competitive grant program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation that funds projects such as nonmotorized paths, streetscapes, and historic preservation of transportation facilities that enhance Michigan's intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. These investments support place-based economic development

by offering transportation choices, promoting walkability and improving the quality of life. The program uses Federal Transportation Funds designated by Congress for these types of activities. Some key information on the TA program is as follows:

- Funding will be reduced from the current \$23 million a year to \$14-16 million a year. Project funding will be more competitive than previously with the average per capita award in the \$44-50 per person range.
- Minimum match is still 20% however historic average is 34% and the 2011 average was 44% local match to grant. Any project request for over \$2,000,000 total project cost must be 50%-50%. The most favorable grant request will likely be in the \$500,000 range.
- Regional Trails will still be a priority, as will urban area streetscapes. Museums and historic preservation projects will be phased out for funding consideration.
- Preliminary grant application review with regional staff is encouraged to determine competitive nature of project and gather suggestions from TE staff. Project narratives should focus on intermodal transportation opportunities as they relate to the larger picture in the community, traffic calming, improving safety and improving water quality through best management practices.

The **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** is administered by the MDNR. The MNRTF program utilizes the royalties from oil, gas, and other mineral developments on state-owned lands to help finance the acquisition and the development of outdoor recreation facilities. The CMI program is the result of the passage of Proposal C of 1998.

Any unit of government, including school districts, may apply for grants to develop or acquire land(s) for public recreation or resource protection purposes. Application forms are available on February 1 of each year. The application deadlines are April 1 and September 1, of each year. The MDNR submits a list of recommended projects to the legislature the following January and funds are available after legislative appropriation, usually the following fall.

All local units of government must provide a local match of at least 25 percent of total project costs. For **MNRTF** development projects, the minimum funding request is \$15,000, and the maximum is \$300,000. Proposals must be for outdoor recreation or resource protection purposes. Outdoor recreation support buildings and other facilities are eligible for development funding, as is the renovation of existing recreation facilities.

All applicants must have a current DNR-approved community recreation plan, documenting the need for project proposal.

In addition, any private individual may nominate land for public acquisition under this program. All nominations are reviewed by the MDNR for possible acquisition and the landowner is not required to be the person nominating a parcel of land for public acquisition. Nomination forms are available at any time from the DNR Recreation Division and may be submitted to the Department year-round.

The Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (**LWCF**) program makes money available to the States for land acquisition and development of outdoor recreation facilities. From 1965 to 1996, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) received over \$100 million in LWCF assistance for more than 1,500 projects, over 1,100 of which have been grants to local governments. The objective is to provide grants to local units of government and to the State to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation.

Applications are evaluated on established criteria including project need, capability of applicant, and site and project quality. At least 50 percent match on either acquisition or development projects is required from local government applicants with a \$30,000 minimum and \$100,000 maximum funding limit. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) makes recommendations to the National Park Service (NPS), which grants final approval. Criteria are spelled out in the "Recreation Grants Selection Process" booklet given to all applicants.

PA 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the **Recreation Passport** which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) — or window sticker — for state park entrance. The passport will be required for entry to state parks, recreation areas and boating access sites. Ten percent of remaining revenue will be used to fund the **Recreation Passport local grant program**. A 25% minimum local match is required for the Passport grant program with a maximum grant amount of \$150,000 and a minimum of \$7,500.

The grant program may only be used for local development projects. The program is focused on renovating and improving existing parks, but the development of new parks is eligible. In addition, projects must fulfill the following requirements in order to be eligible:

- Current annual capital improvement plan (CIP) – plan must include the proposed project. If your community does not have a CIP, you must have a current approved recreation plan on file with the DNR.



Organizations with an interest in developing fishing conditions in their areas may be able to get financial assistance from a program established through the ***State Game and Fish Protection Fund***.

This fishing development grant is offered through the MDNR and can be as much as \$200,000 annually, in cash or in-kind services. Projects eligible for funding include: culvert modifications for improved stream flow; livestock or sheet erosion control projects; the development of spawning riffles, fish cover structures, or spawning reefs; and the construction of fishing piers and rough fish barriers.

The MDNR accepts grant proposals from organized fishing groups and local units of government. In all cases, projects are able to approach other sources such as the federal government for additional matching funds.

The ***Historic Preservation Grant Program*** is administered by the Department of State with funds made available through the National Park Service of the Department of Interior. The intent of the program is to conduct surveys of architectural, engineering, archaeological, and historic resources, to identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and to plan for the protection of those cultural/recreational resources.

The funds for this program are apportioned by the National Park Service directly to the State, which, in turn, allocates funds on a project-by-project basis to local governments, organizations, and individuals.

In Michigan the Historic Preservation Grant program is administered by the Michigan Department of State. The amount of assistance is up to 50% of the project expenses. Grantees are reimbursed at the completion of the project for work done within the days of a contract between the Department of State and the grantee. EXPENSES INCURRED PRIOR TO THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT ARE NOT ALLOWABLE PROJECT COSTS AND WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED.

The ***Inland Fisheries Grant Program*** offers grants up to \$30,000 for projects that enhance the state's aquatic resources. This program may be applicable to the scenic overlook fishing platforms and educational kiosks.

The City is committed to reviewing all available funding sources and preparing the necessary plans, reports, cost estimates, and funding applications, to achieve the goals of this recreation plan.

**Waterways Program Grants** are funded through the Michigan State Waterways Fund from state marine fuel tax and watercraft registrations. By law, administration of the Waterways Program is through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and overseen by the Department's Parks and Recreation Division.

Grants provide funding assistance for design/engineering and construction of public recreational harbor/marina and boating access site/launch facilities throughout the state. Only local units of government (city, village, township, or county) and public universities are eligible. Applicants may cooperate with community/sports organizations in the implementation of projects. On-site investigation by DNR, Parks and Recreation Division staff may be required to determine suitability of proposed work. Applicant may also be required to document area boating demand. Greater priority may be given to projects for which a local applicant documents match capabilities equal to or greater than the percentage of project cost they are required to provide. The local match can include in-kind expenses as long as they are well-documented.

Applications, and all required information, must be received by 5:00 p.m., **April 1st**. If April 1st falls on a weekend, the deadline would be the last State working day prior to April 1st. The application review and funding process for projects is from April 1st until an appropriation is approved by the Legislature. This can take up to 18 to 24 months. Notification of approval for engineering and smaller sized construction projects may occur within six months after completed application form and proper documentation are received. Funding for construction is not released until permits are secured.

Communities, non-profits, and municipalities can submit projects by applying for a **Patronicity Crowdgranting Campaign**. Crowdgranting is the effort of leveraging broad based crowdfunding against a sponsor's matching grant to improve communities.

Public Spaces Community Places projects include:

- Public Plaza & Green Space Development
- Access to Public Amenities
- Farmer's Markets, Community Kitchens, Pop-Up Retail/Incubator Space
- Alley Rehabilitation
- Any other place based (or public space improvement) project

The Public Spaces, Community Places program is a public placemaking initiative created by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Projects that meet the program's

parameters and successfully crowdfund their goal will receive a matching grant from the MEDC of up to \$50,000.

## 5. Millage

In an effort to raise matching funds or fund projects with local money, many community leaders have placed ballot proposals before their residents for a dedicated increase in their existing mill property tax to fund park maintenance and repair, including care for new parks and newly acquired parks, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as well as safety and security improvements. Establishment of a Park Improvement/Development, Maintenance and Repair Millage will ensure that parks and facilities will be maintained at the level of quality expected by park users and that new parkland will have adequate amenities.

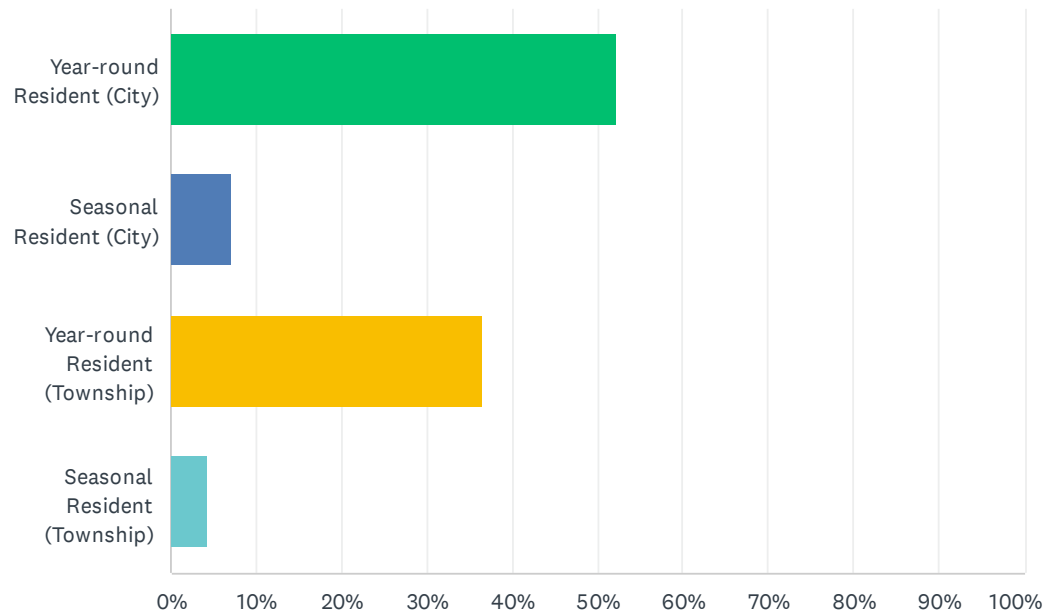
## **Appendix B**

### **Survey / Summary of Survey Results**



# Q1 Where do you reside?

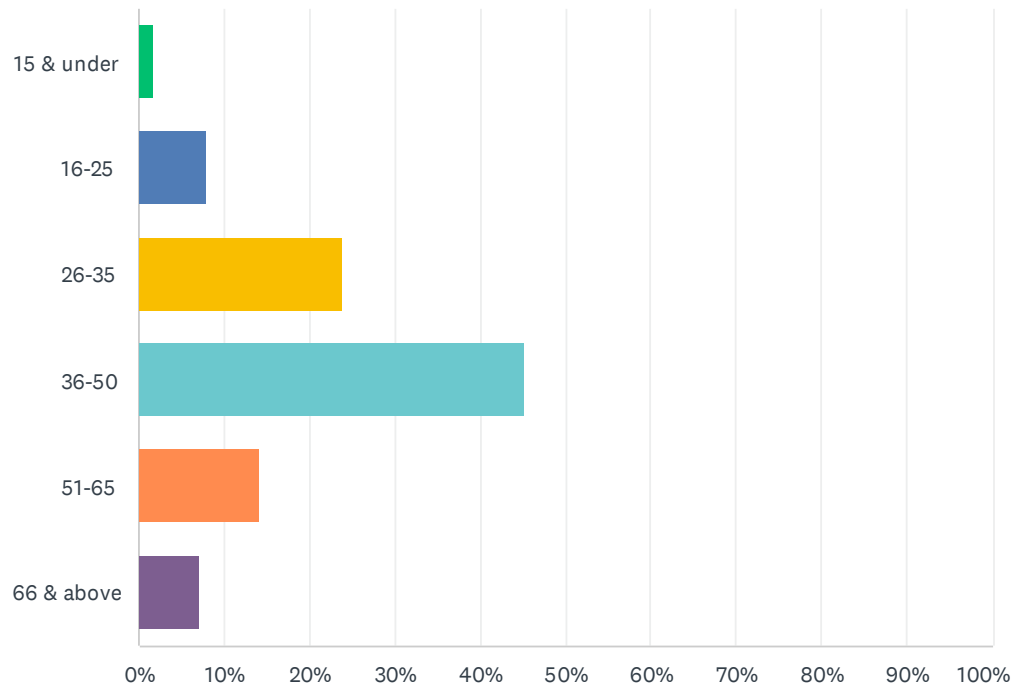
Answered: 115    Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Year-round Resident (City)		52.17%	60
Seasonal Resident (City)		6.96%	8
Year-round Resident (Township)		36.52%	42
Seasonal Resident (Township)		4.35%	5
TOTAL			115

## Q2 Please identify your age group.

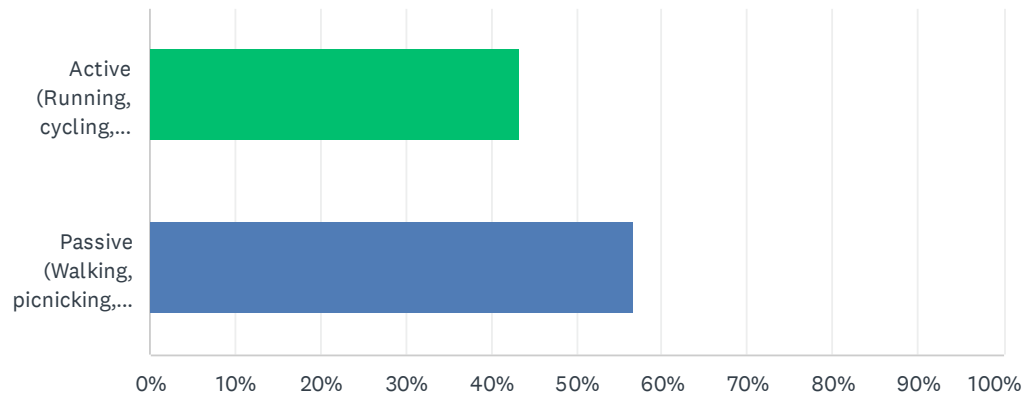
Answered: 113 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
15 & under	1.77%	2
16-25	7.96%	9
26-35	23.89%	27
36-50	45.13%	51
51-65	14.16%	16
66 & above	7.08%	8
TOTAL		113

Q3 Are your primary recreational activities passive or active?

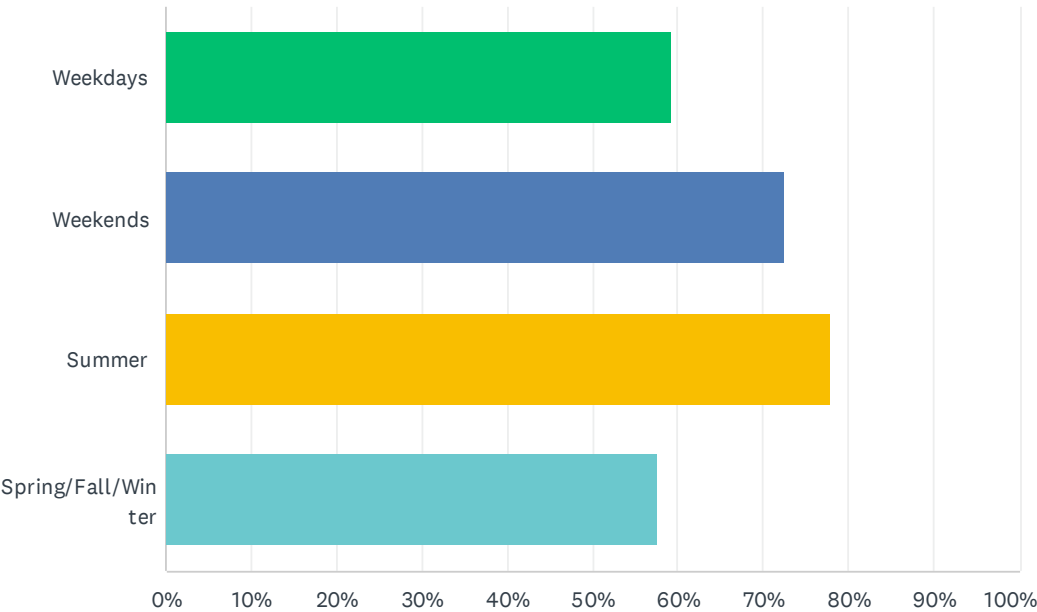
Answered: 113    Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Active (Running, cycling, swimming, tennis, etc.)	43.36%	49
Passive (Walking, picnicking, nature/bird watching, etc.)	56.64%	64
TOTAL		113

Q4 Generally, when would you use recreational facilities?

Answered: 113    Skipped: 3

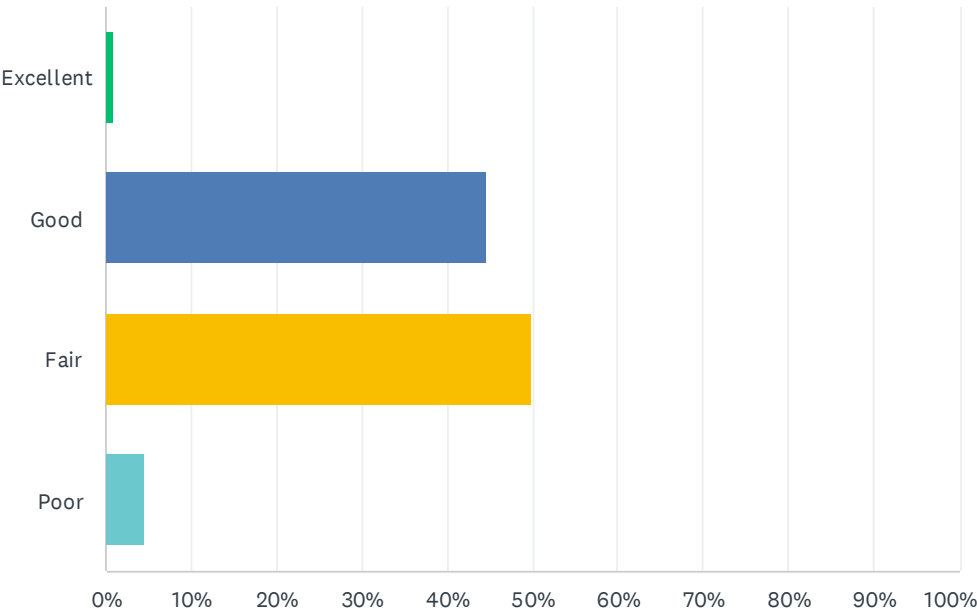


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Weekdays	59.29%	67
Weekends	72.57%	82
Summer	77.88%	88
Spring/Fall/Winter	57.52%	65
Total Respondents: 113		



Q5 What would you rate the overall condition of the parks in the City?

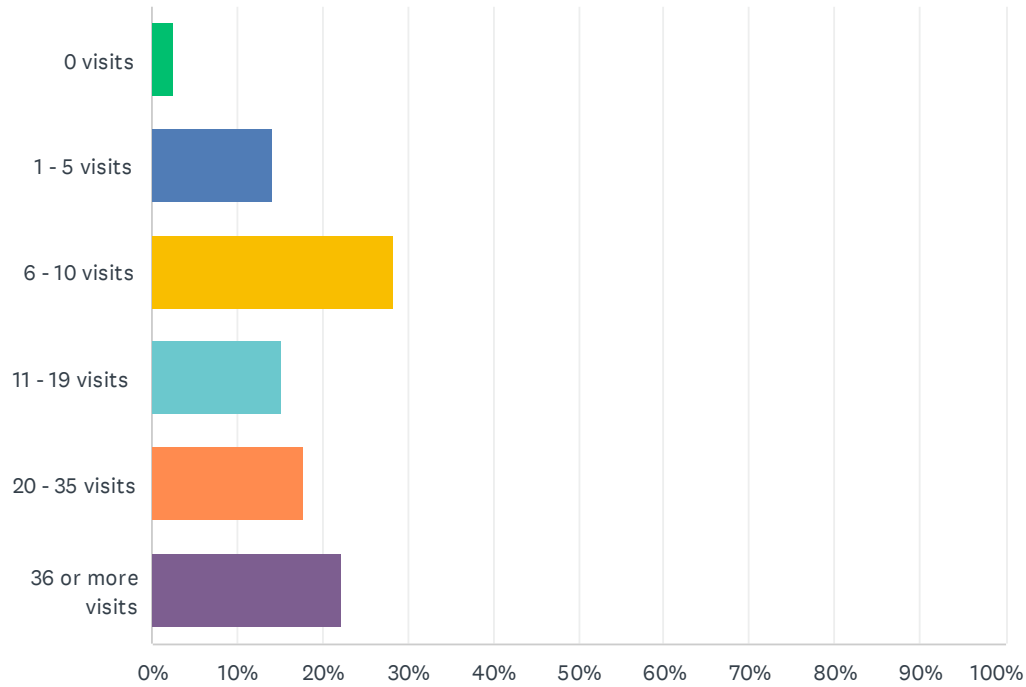
Answered: 110    Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	0.91%	1
Good	44.55%	49
Fair	50.00%	55
Poor	4.55%	5
TOTAL		110

## Q6 How often did you utilize the various parks/facilities in the City in the past 12 months?

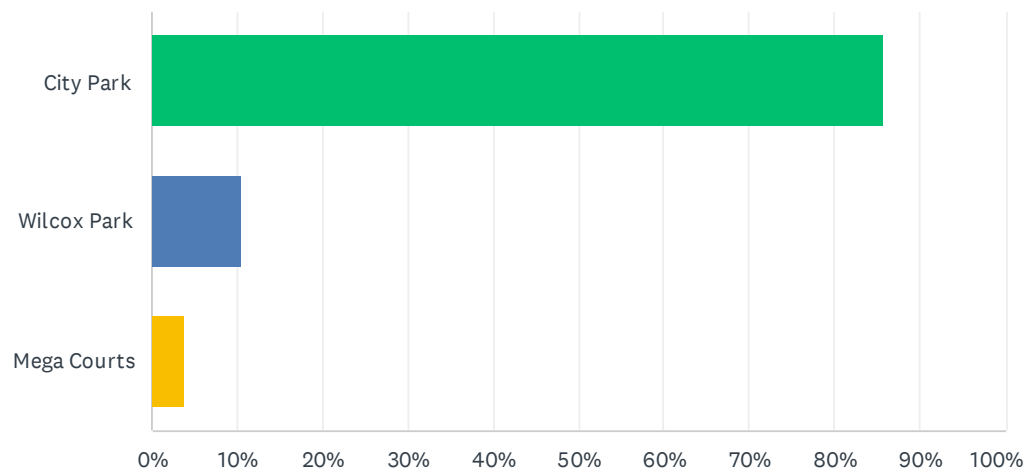
Answered: 113   Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 visits	2.65%	3
1 - 5 visits	14.16%	16
6 - 10 visits	28.32%	32
11 - 19 visits	15.04%	17
20 - 35 visits	17.70%	20
36 or more visits	22.12%	25
TOTAL		113

Q7 In order of 1st highest use, which park did you attend the most?

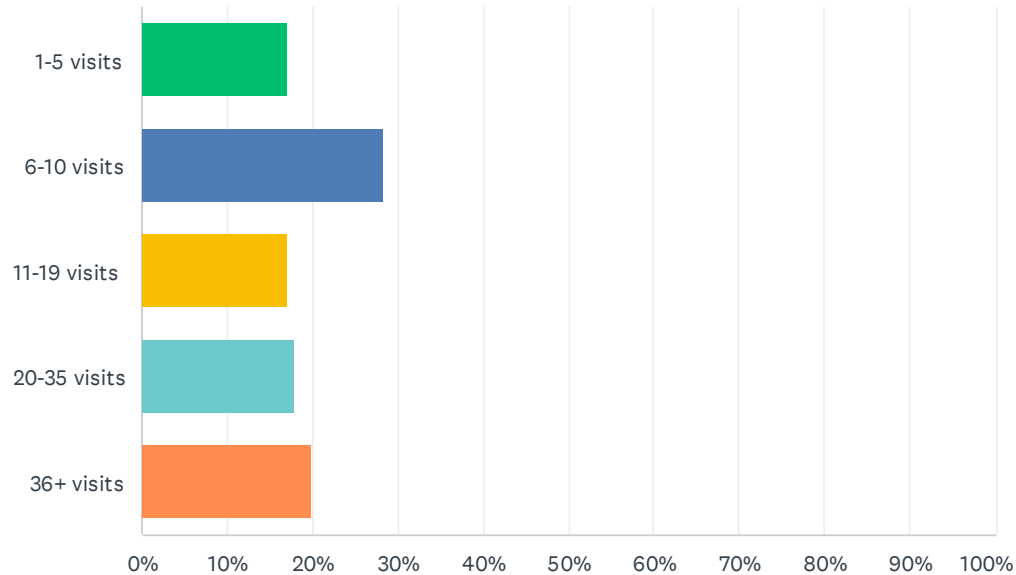
Answered: 105    Skipped: 11



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City Park	85.71%	90
Wilcox Park	10.48%	11
Mega Courts	3.81%	4
TOTAL		105

## Q8 How many times did you visit the park you used most in the City in the past 12 months?

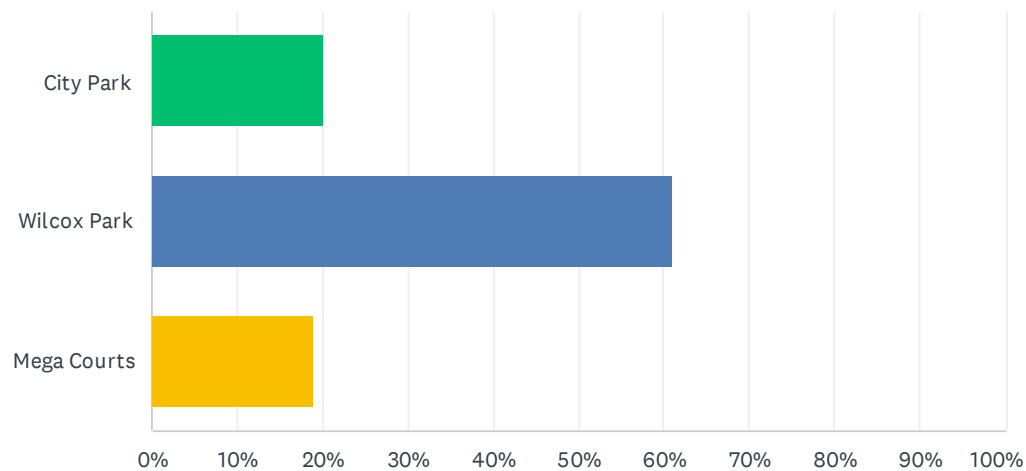
Answered: 106 Skipped: 10



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-5 visits	16.98%	18
6-10 visits	28.30%	30
11-19 visits	16.98%	18
20-35 visits	17.92%	19
36+ visits	19.81%	21
TOTAL		106

Q9 In order of 2nd highest use, which park did you attend the 2nd most?

Answered: 105    Skipped: 11

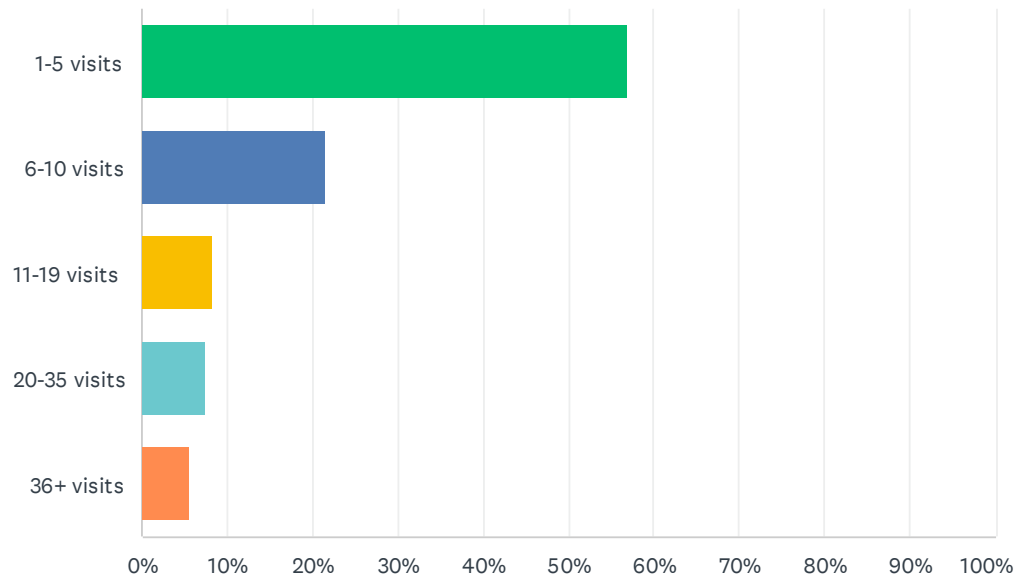


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City Park	20.00%	21
Wilcox Park	60.95%	64
Mega Courts	19.05%	20
TOTAL		105



## Q10 How many times did you visit the park/facility you attended the 2nd most?

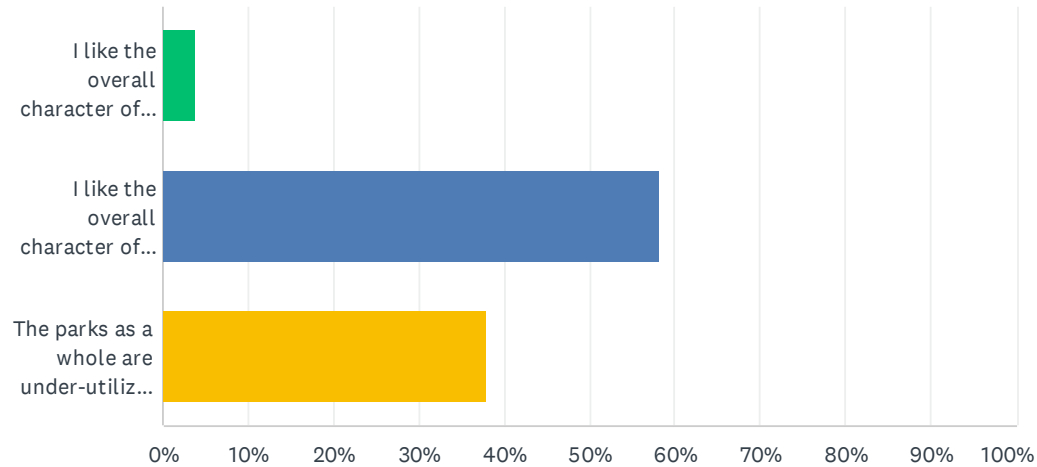
Answered: 107 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1-5 visits	57.01%	61
6-10 visits	21.50%	23
11-19 visits	8.41%	9
20-35 visits	7.48%	8
36+ visits	5.61%	6
TOTAL		107

## Q11 Which statement most closely reflects your opinion on the park & recreation facilities in the City?

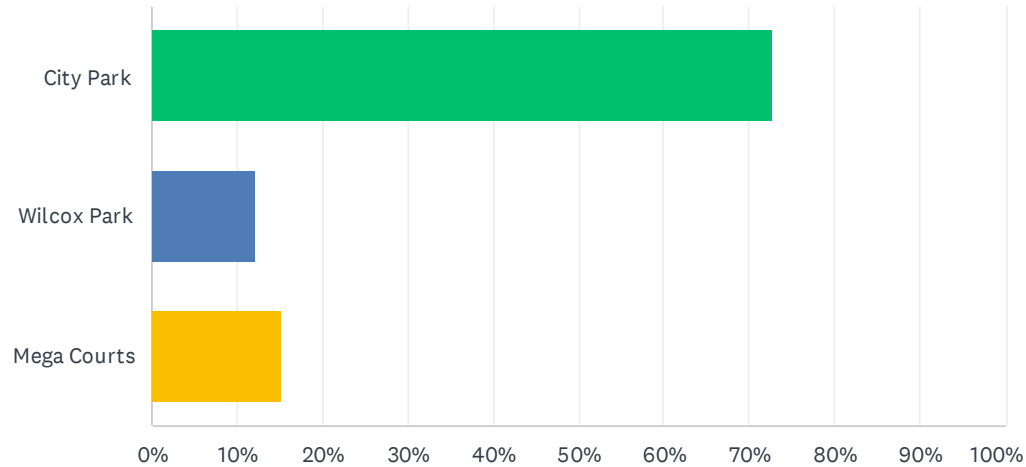
Answered: 103 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I like the overall character of the parks as a whole and no major improvements are necessary beyond general maintenance.	3.88%	4
I like the overall character of the parks as a whole but new uses and amenities need to be developed to meet the changing recreational needs of the community.	58.25%	60
The parks as a whole are under-utilized for the most part and new uses and activities need to be explored and encouraged for those spaces.	37.86%	39
TOTAL		103

## Q12 Based on your observations, which park is the best utilized to its fullest potential?

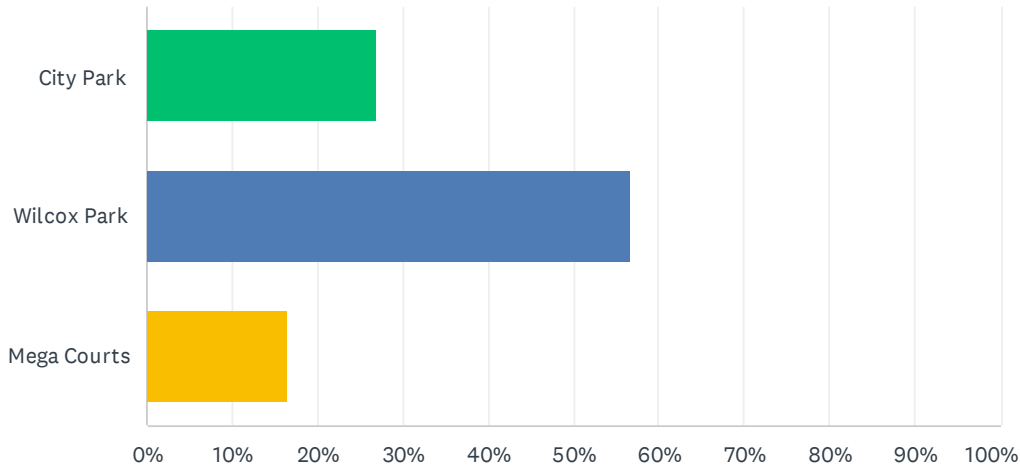
Answered: 99   Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City Park	72.73%	72
Wilcox Park	12.12%	12
Mega Courts	15.15%	15
TOTAL		99

Q13 Based on your observations, which park is the most under-utilized and falling short of its potential?

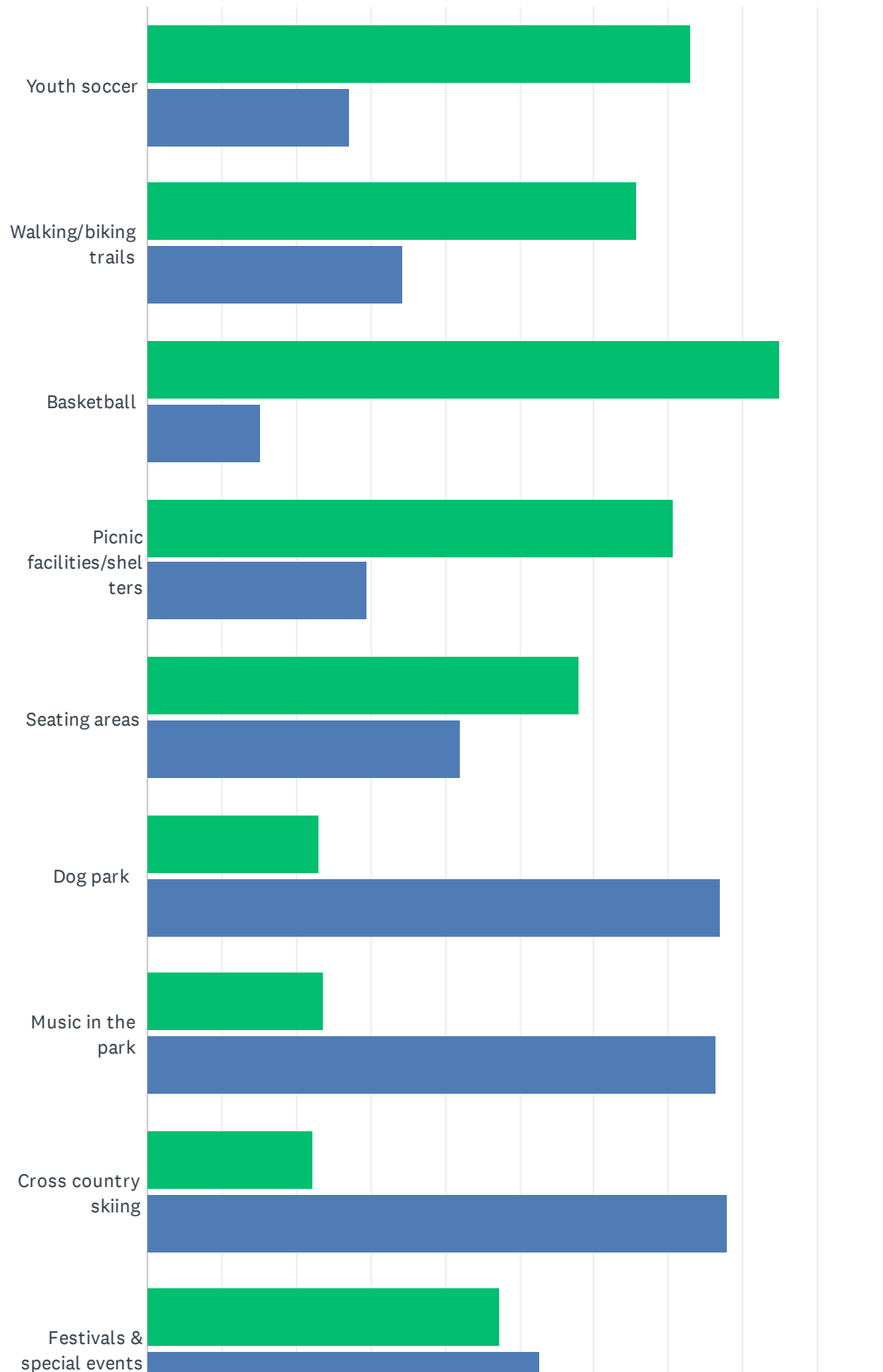
Answered: 104 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City Park	26.92%	28
Wilcox Park	56.73%	59
Mega Courts	16.35%	17
TOTAL		104

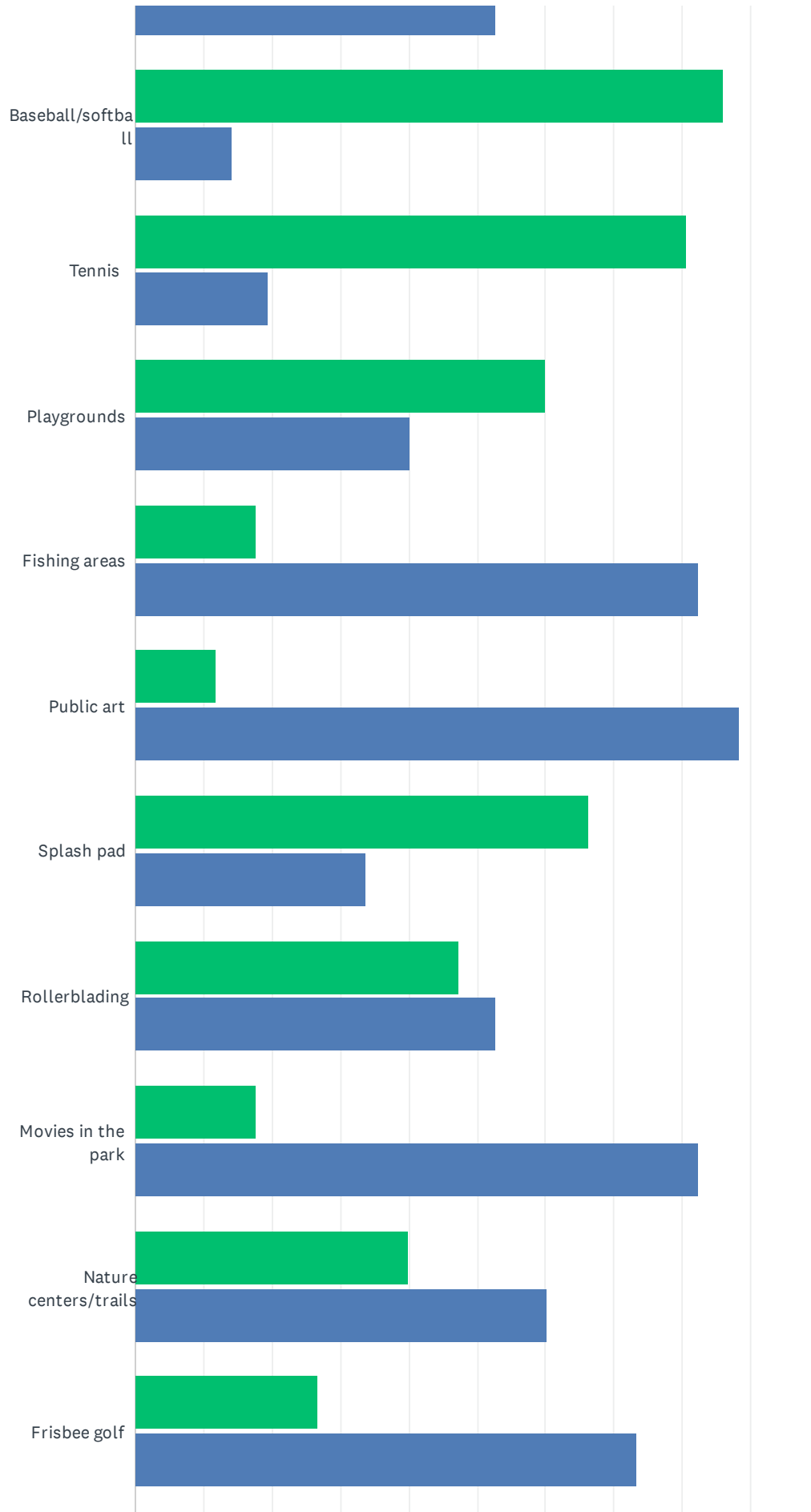
# Q14 Please indicate if you believe the community's needs are currently met by each of the parks and recreational facilities or activities listed below.

Answered: 96 Skipped: 20

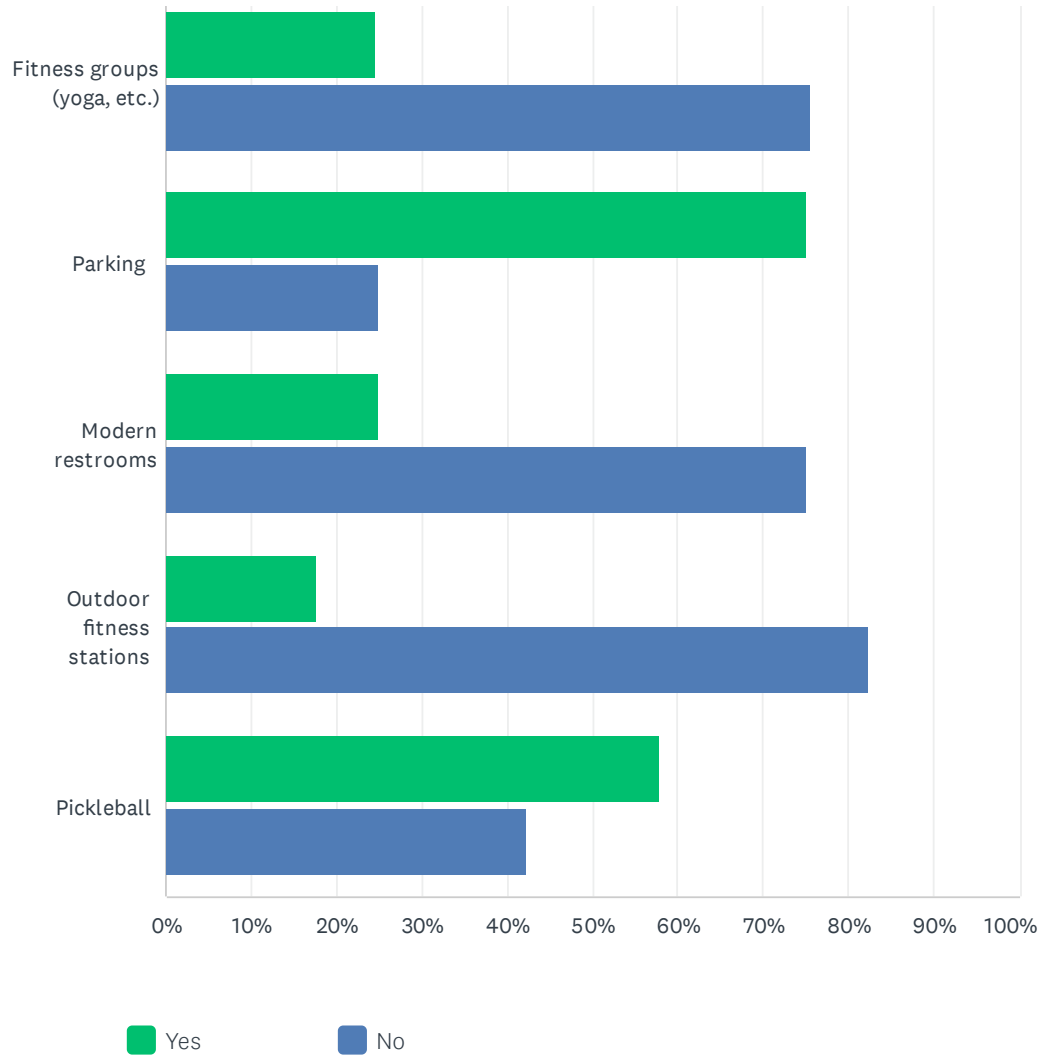




## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning



## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning



# Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

	YES	NO	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Youth soccer	72.83% 67	27.17% 25	92	1.27
Walking/biking trails	65.63% 63	34.38% 33	96	1.34
Basketball	84.95% 79	15.05% 14	93	1.15
Picnic facilities/shelters	70.53% 67	29.47% 28	95	1.29
Seating areas	57.89% 55	42.11% 40	95	1.42
Dog park	23.08% 21	76.92% 70	91	1.77
Music in the park	23.66% 22	76.34% 71	93	1.76
Cross country skiing	22.22% 20	77.78% 70	90	1.78
Festivals & special events	47.37% 45	52.63% 50	95	1.53
Baseball/softball	86.02% 80	13.98% 13	93	1.14
Tennis	80.65% 75	19.35% 18	93	1.19
Playgrounds	60.00% 57	40.00% 38	95	1.40
Fishing areas	17.78% 16	82.22% 74	90	1.82
Public art	11.83% 11	88.17% 82	93	1.88
Splash pad	66.30% 61	33.70% 31	92	1.34
Rollerblading	47.25% 43	52.75% 48	91	1.53
Movies in the park	17.78% 16	82.22% 74	90	1.82
Nature centers/trails	39.78% 37	60.22% 56	93	1.60
Frisbee golf	26.67% 24	73.33% 66	90	1.73
Fitness groups (yoga, etc.)	24.44% 22	75.56% 68	90	1.76
Parking	75.00% 69	25.00% 23	92	1.25
Modern restrooms	25.00% 23	75.00% 69	92	1.75
Outdoor fitness stations	17.78% 16	82.22% 74	90	1.82
Pickleball	57.78%	42.22%		

# Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

52

38

90

1.42

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	We need a dog park!!! We also need a playground for smaller kids too. The playground is not safe for younger kids.	8/6/2025 2:42 AM
2	swimming pool	7/22/2025 1:05 PM
3	I think there needs to be more shade offered at the splash pad and more things for the kids than there are along with the removal of the 2 slippery water features that have witnessed several injuries on. I think the Wilcox park needs to be updated to a kid friendly non metal playground set and the city park needs more play equipment geared toward smaller kids as the set is rated for 7 plus and most family's have kids ranging from toddler to teen	7/17/2025 9:59 PM
4	Replace wood skateboard ramps with a concrete skatepark or skate plaza	7/16/2025 9:30 PM
5	Need more skate parks and ramps at existing skate parks	7/16/2025 7:11 PM
6	I would like to see more non traditional programs available. I think the skate park is off to a good start but needs more funding along with other alternative programs. If we keep our kids productively occupied they are less likely to cause trouble.	6/14/2025 10:20 PM
7	ice Arena	6/12/2025 6:50 PM
8	Skate board	6/12/2025 6:19 PM
9	Invest in the skatepark. Cameras, lights, new ramps, etc	6/12/2025 2:53 PM
10	It would be amazing to see small improvements on the skatepark. There are gaps in the ramps that make it a danger to skaters. Previously the roller hockey court was underutilized and now I see people using the skatepark	6/12/2025 10:39 AM
11	Skate Park	6/12/2025 10:35 AM
12	Skate park	6/12/2025 9:53 AM
13	The needs for skating are also met. No more resources need to be allocated to the skate park	6/12/2025 6:45 AM
14	Skateboarding	6/11/2025 11:25 PM
15	Here's what we want at The Bad Axe Skate Park!!! 1. Cameras installed 2. Repairs made to ramps the city purchased in 2022 3. Park Improvements made i.e. cleaning the surface of dirt, new park features installed, create some shade, stadium lights on at dark till midnight 4. A new concrete skate park	6/11/2025 11:14 PM
16	L	6/11/2025 10:46 PM
17	Skatepark. Are mega courts the soccer fields? Never heard of anything being called that.	6/11/2025 9:50 PM
18	Skate Park	6/11/2025 6:09 PM
19	Skate park lighting	6/10/2025 8:55 PM
20	Please update the badaxe skatepark!	6/10/2025 10:47 AM
21	Skate Park	6/10/2025 8:29 AM
22	Skate park additions	6/9/2025 9:58 PM
23	Bad Axe Skate Park	6/9/2025 9:55 PM
24	FUND Bad Axe Skate Park	6/9/2025 7:37 PM
25	Hockey	6/8/2025 1:15 AM
26	Replace wood skate ramps with a concert skatepark or small skate plaza.concert will last longer than wood	6/7/2025 2:34 PM
27	I would like to see more benches closer together - I'm a senior citizen and can't walk a long distance without stopping for a break.	6/6/2025 2:41 PM

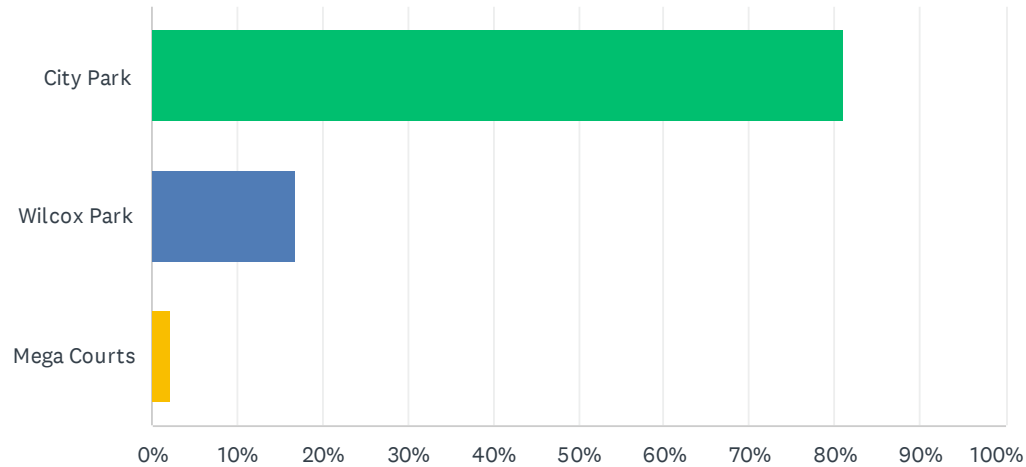
## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

28	Quit wasting our money and FIX THE STREETS	6/6/2025 12:00 PM
29	UPDATE THE SKATE PARK. PUT SOME MONEY INTO IT	6/6/2025 12:54 AM
30	Skatepark needs repair	6/5/2025 4:45 PM
31	Skate park needs improvement	6/4/2025 4:37 PM



## Q15 Which park would you prefer as a venue for special events like music in the park?

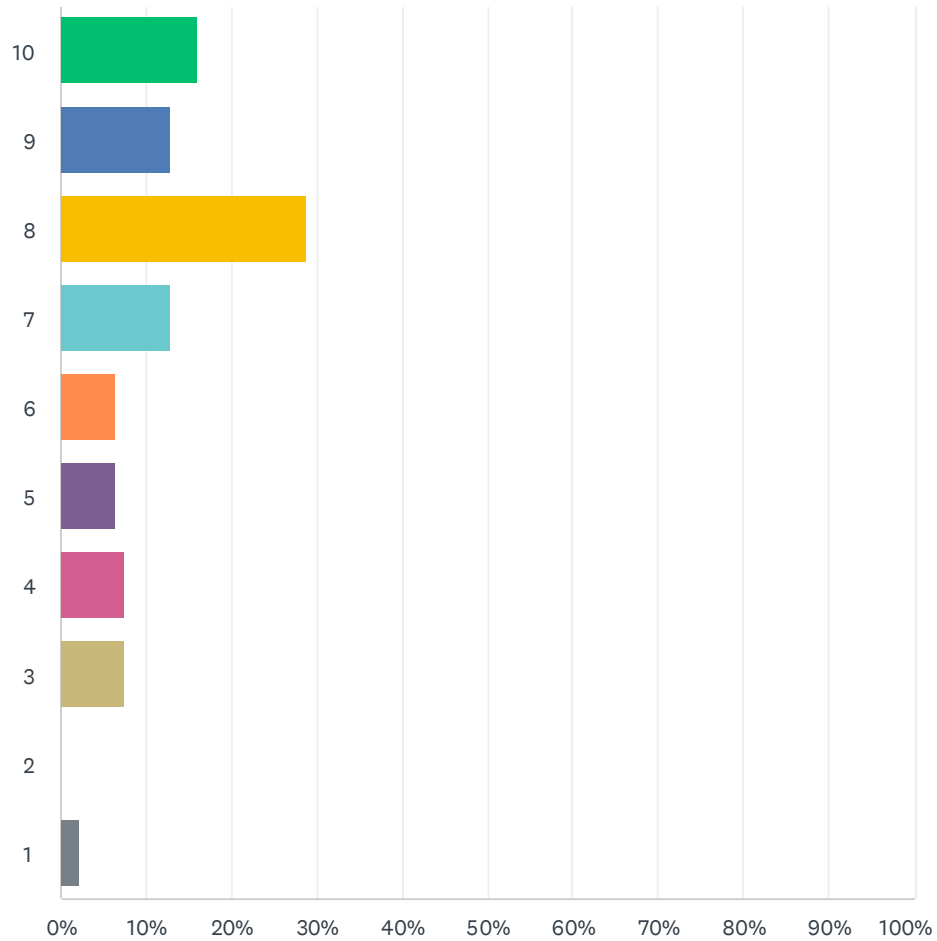
Answered: 95   Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City Park	81.05%	77
Wilcox Park	16.84%	16
Mega Courts	2.11%	2
TOTAL		95

## Q16 What would you rate the overall security/safety of the parks with 10 being very safe to 1 Not safe?

Answered: 94 Skipped: 22

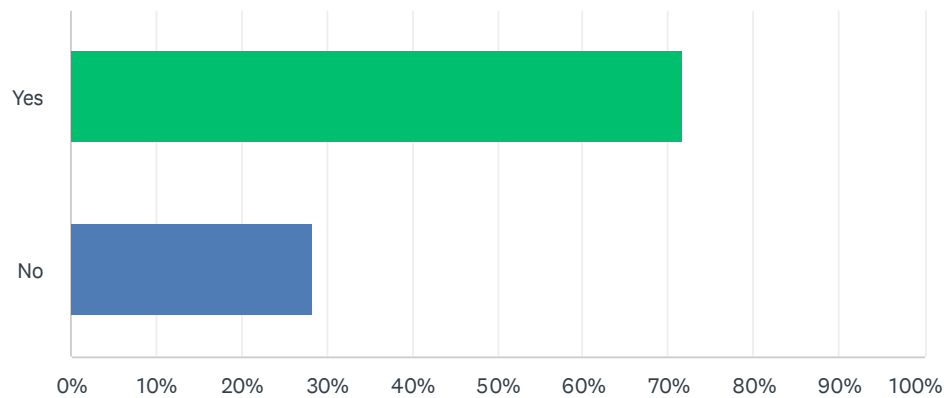


## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
10	15.96%	15
9	12.77%	12
8	28.72%	27
7	12.77%	12
6	6.38%	6
5	6.38%	6
4	7.45%	7
3	7.45%	7
2	0.00%	0
1	2.13%	2
TOTAL		94

Q17 Do you feel that there are adequate park facilities that you can walk, or bicycle to and not drive?

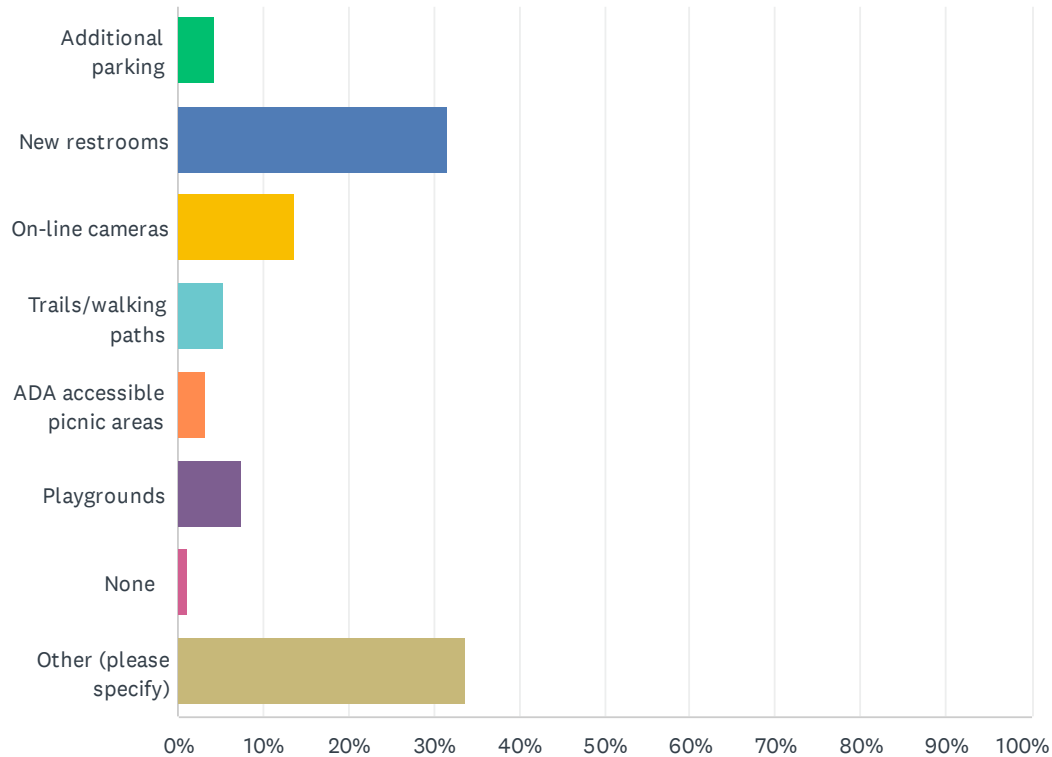
Answered: 95 Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	71.58%	68
No	28.42%	27
TOTAL		95

## Q18 For City Park, which of the following improvements should be considered?

Answered: 95   Skipped: 21



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Additional parking	4.21% 4
New restrooms	31.58% 30
On-line cameras	13.68% 13
Trails/walking paths	5.26% 5
ADA accessible picnic areas	3.16% 3
Playgrounds	7.37% 7
None	1.05% 1
Other (please specify)	33.68% 32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	New restrooms, on-line cameras, ADA accessible picnic areas	8/19/2025 9:56 AM
2	Additional parking, new restrooms, on-line cameras, ADA accessible picnic areas, playgrounds	8/19/2025 9:46 AM
3	Dog park. More playgrounds,more activities like other cities have. Make something safe for	8/6/2025 2:42 AM

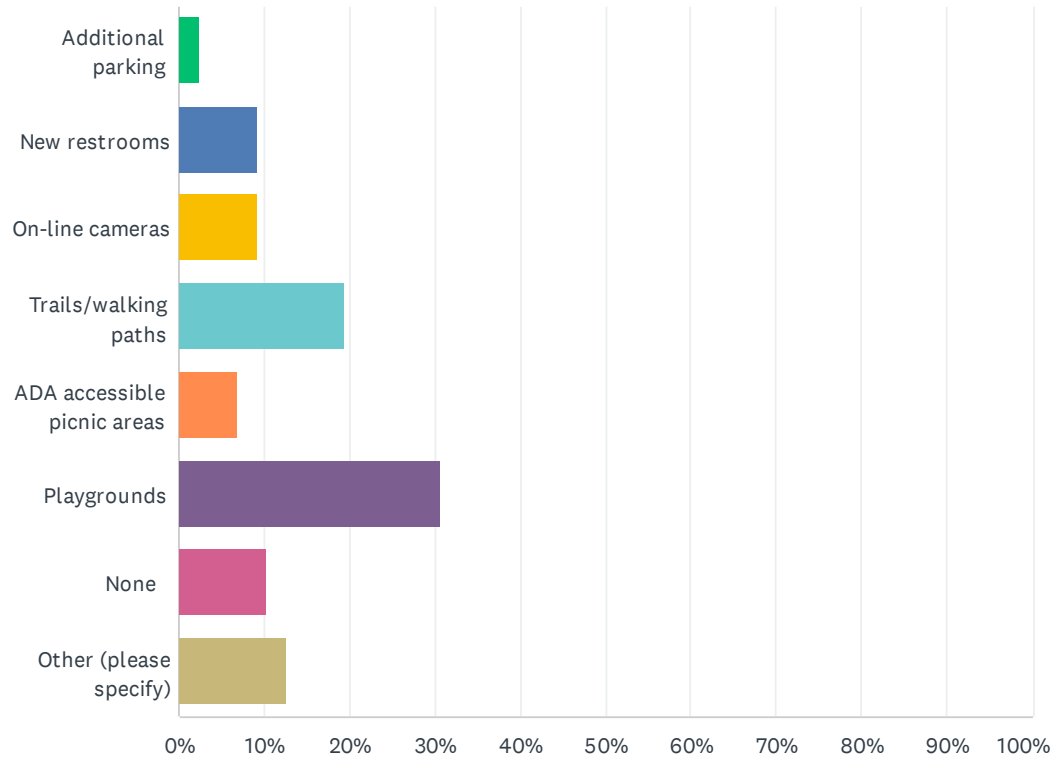
## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

	kids under 5.	
4	Toddler friendly playground	7/17/2025 1:15 PM
5	Everything needs updated/painted	7/16/2025 10:42 PM
6	Restrooms, more trails, playground upkeep	6/26/2025 12:37 PM
7	Also playground & pavilion updating n maintenance	6/18/2025 8:33 AM
8	Here's what we want at The Bad Axe Skate Park!!! ! 1. Cameras installed 2. Repairs made to ramps the city purchased in 2022 3. Park Improvements made i.e. cleaning the surface of dirt, new park features installed, create some shade, stadium lights on at dark till midnight 4. A new concrete skate park.	6/12/2025 6:41 PM
9	Skateboarding	6/12/2025 6:19 PM
10	Slate Park	6/12/2025 6:02 PM
11	New Restrooms and ADA	6/12/2025 5:18 PM
12	Invest in the skatepark! Cameras, lights, more ramps, fill in cracks in pavement, etc	6/12/2025 2:53 PM
13	Skating stuff	6/12/2025 1:27 PM
14	Skatepark improvement and upgrades	6/12/2025 10:39 AM
15	Skate park cameras and more care directed toward them	6/12/2025 10:18 AM
16	Skate park	6/11/2025 11:25 PM
17	Here's what we want at The Bad Axe Skate Park!!! ! 1. Cameras installed 2. Repairs made to ramps the city purchased in 2022 3. Park Improvements made i.e. cleaning the surface of dirt, new park features installed, create some shade, stadium lights on at dark till midnight 4. A new concrete skate park	6/11/2025 11:14 PM
18	splash pad is a waste. Caro has an amazing one.	6/11/2025 9:50 PM
19	Skatepark Improvements 1. Cameras installed 2. Repairs made to ramps the city purchased in 2022 3. Park Improvements made i.e. cleaning the surface of dirt, new park features installed, create some shade, stadium lights on at dark until midnight 4. A new concrete skate park	6/11/2025 8:39 PM
20	Skate Park improvements	6/11/2025 6:09 PM
21	Skate Park upgrades	6/10/2025 8:29 AM
22	More lighting	6/9/2025 10:13 PM
23	The park needs bigger splash pad, membership based dog park, more nature setting trails, basketball courts redone and maybe repurpose some into pickleball or tennis courts to expand and lastly skate park improvements.	6/9/2025 9:58 PM
24	Skate park improvements	6/7/2025 10:13 PM
25	updated playscape with exercise stations as well.	6/7/2025 6:06 PM
26	more benches closer together- senior citizens can't walk a long distance with out stopping for a break	6/6/2025 2:41 PM
27	Improvements to the skate park	6/6/2025 11:54 AM
28	All above	6/6/2025 7:43 AM
29	UPDATE THE SKATE PARK. PUT SOME MONEY INTO IT!!!!	6/6/2025 12:54 AM
30	More skatepark ramps	6/5/2025 4:45 PM
31	Toddler friendly playground equipment	6/5/2025 3:54 PM
32	All to be considered	6/4/2025 4:37 PM



## Q19 For Wilcox Park, which of the following improvements should be considered?

Answered: 88 Skipped: 28



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Additional parking	2.27% 2
New restrooms	9.09% 8
On-line cameras	9.09% 8
Trails/walking paths	19.32% 17
ADA accessible picnic areas	6.82% 6
Playgrounds	30.68% 27
None	10.23% 9
Other (please specify)	12.50% 11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88</b>

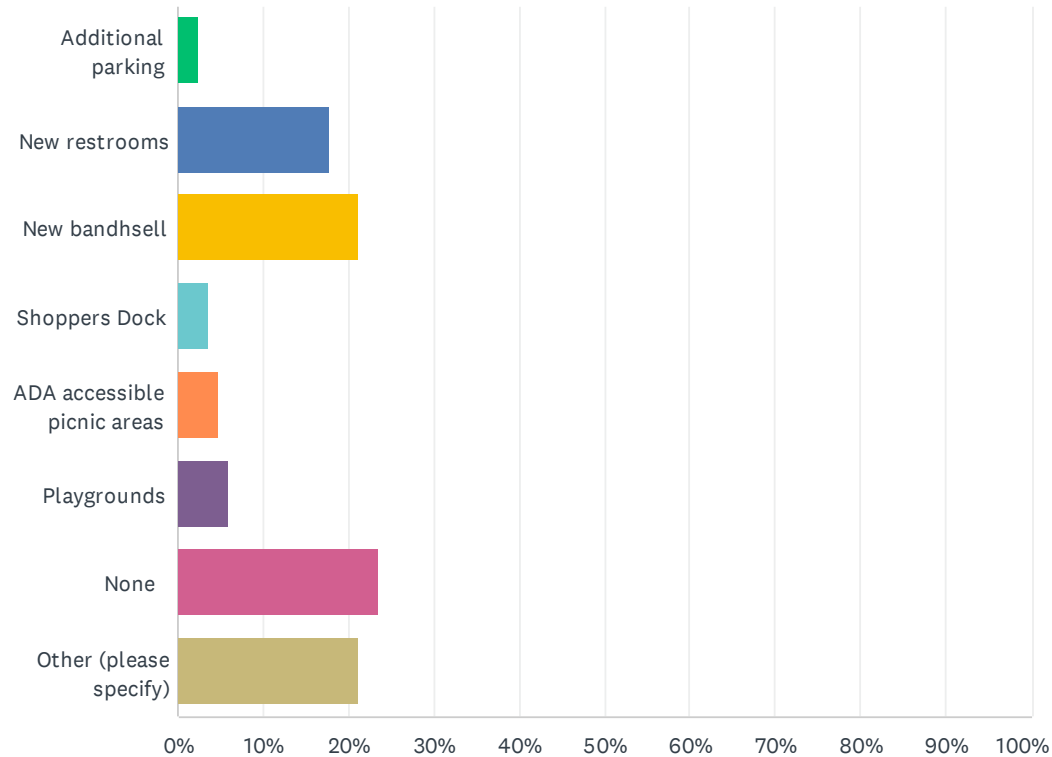
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	New restrooms, trails/walking paths, ADA accessible picnic areas, add to playground	8/19/2025 9:56 AM
2	New restrooms, trails/walking paths, ADA accessible picnic areas, playgrounds	8/19/2025 9:46 AM
3	Playgrounds for sure,Wilcox is hard to use because you dont know if someone is having an	8/6/2025 2:42 AM

## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

	event or not. Dog park also.	
4	General Upgrade, New Equipment	7/28/2025 12:03 PM
5	More Equipment could be added, modern restrooms	7/16/2025 10:42 PM
6	This park needs to have a specific purpose. Feels like an after thought.	6/11/2025 9:50 PM
7	Fishing pond would be nice	6/9/2025 9:58 PM
8	nature trail with focus points. Bird houses. Wildlife identification references. Utilize the stream under the bridge and along the stream.	6/7/2025 6:06 PM
9	All above	6/6/2025 7:43 AM
10	I feel Wilcox needs a face lift! both a new playground and public restroom.	6/5/2025 7:43 PM
11	All to be considered	6/4/2025 4:37 PM

## Q20 For Mega Courts, which of the following improvements should be considered?

Answered: 85   Skipped: 31



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Additional parking	2.35%	2
New restrooms	17.65%	15
New bandhsell	21.18%	18
Shoppers Dock	3.53%	3
ADA accessible picnic areas	4.71%	4
Playgrounds	5.88%	5
None	23.53%	20
Other (please specify)	21.18%	18
TOTAL		85

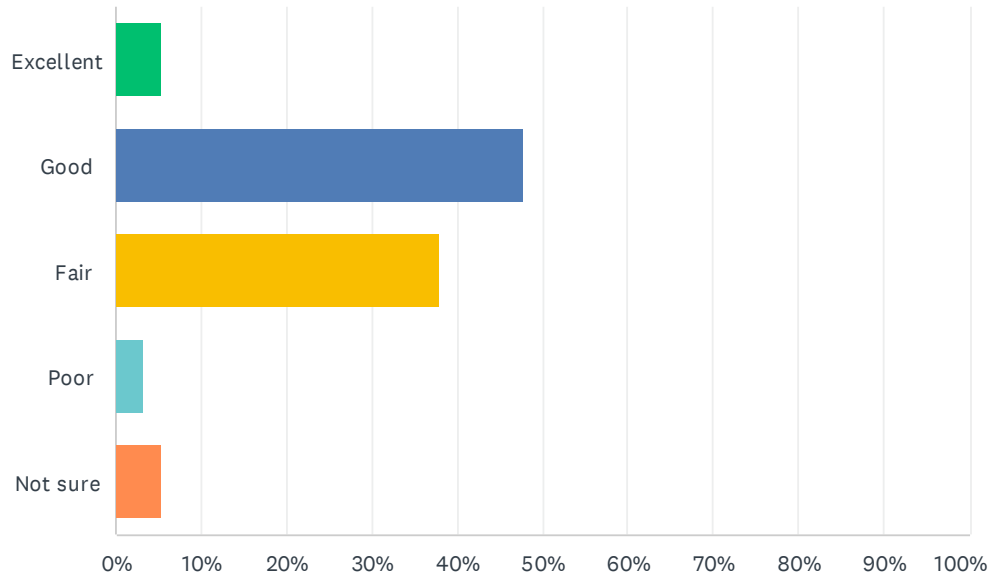
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Additional parking, new bandshell, ADA accessible picnic areas	8/19/2025 9:56 AM
2	Additional parking, new restrooms, new bandshell, ADA accessible picnic areas	8/19/2025 9:46 AM
3	Is this the tennis court? Mega courts i dont know what it is. The skatepark? They shouldnt	8/6/2025 2:42 AM

## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

	have took away all the hockey for it.	
4	Better kept, freshly painted courts, higher standard for keeping grounds	7/28/2025 12:03 PM
5	Never heard of mega courts	7/24/2025 10:37 PM
6	Everything..Nets are in bad condition	7/16/2025 10:42 PM
7	The courts just need resurfaced. They are consistently used by the community almost daily. Temporary structures for festivals are fine but don't remove the courts	6/12/2025 6:45 AM
8	Resurface it. The concrete is uneven and there's grass growing.	6/11/2025 11:14 PM
9	Not sure what exactly mega courts are	6/11/2025 9:50 PM
10	Resurface cement	6/11/2025 8:39 PM
11	Security cams	6/9/2025 7:37 PM
12	I'm not sure what the survey means by "Mega Courts" the soccer fields by the schools? the baseball fields by BACP? the tennis courts? All of the above? Whoever made this survey made this name up I tried "Googling it" and not even the internet knows what it is!	6/9/2025 5:53 AM
13	New hoops, resurfacing ground	6/8/2025 1:15 AM
14	I feel these are largely unused, and the space has SO much potential for other activities.	6/6/2025 2:52 PM
15	All above	6/6/2025 7:43 AM
16	Are you guys kidding? Resurface the courts. There's grass growing.	6/6/2025 12:54 AM
17	All to be considered	6/4/2025 4:37 PM
18	Resurface courts to make them more usable for multiple sports — volleyball, etc	5/30/2025 9:24 AM

## Q21 What is your overall opinion of the barrier-free accessibility at the City parks?

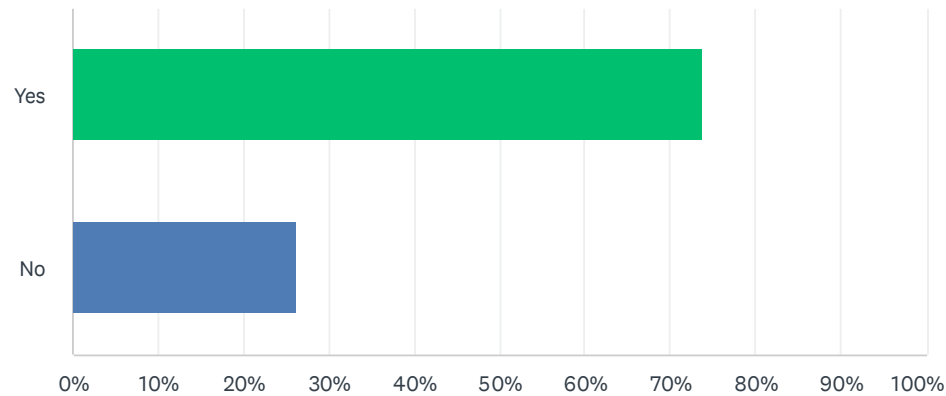
Answered: 92   Skipped: 24



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	5.43%	5
Good	47.83%	44
Fair	38.04%	35
Poor	3.26%	3
Not sure	5.43%	5
TOTAL		92

Q22 Do the parks meet your needs for ADA accessibility?

Answered: 84    Skipped: 32

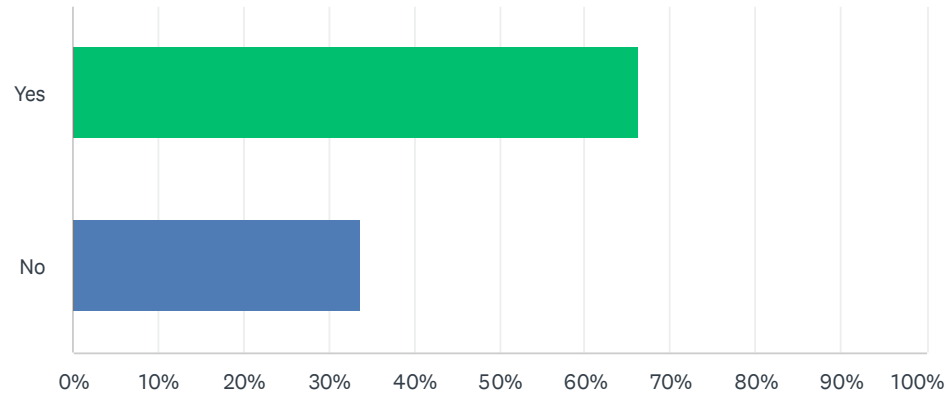


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	73.81%	62
No	26.19%	22
TOTAL		84



Q23 Should the City consider acquisition of additional park property for activities not already provided in another park location?

Answered: 89    Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.29%	59
No	33.71%	30
TOTAL		89

## Q24 List your Top 3 priorities in park & recreation improvements or areas of need:

Answered: 76   Skipped: 40

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Maintenance, bathrooms, longer walking trail	8/26/2025 11:20 AM
2	1. Add to splash pad 2. Music in the park 3. Open air market	8/19/2025 9:58 AM
3	1. Bigger splash pad 2. Music in the park 3. Markets	8/19/2025 9:48 AM
4	Bandshell, accessibility, walking path	8/6/2025 6:43 AM
5	More fun things for kids,more safe playgrounds but also things bigger kids can play on,unique equipment,dog parks,there are so many things. Sometimes Wilcox park seems kind of creepy with the kind of people in cars.	8/6/2025 2:44 AM
6	restrooms, upkeep, events	7/28/2025 12:03 PM
7	I would love to see art in the park and a better balance of family activities and adults only activities. It can be hard for adults to meet new people, activities specifically for that might be well received.	7/27/2025 2:15 PM
8	Adding activities to draw people to our community.	7/25/2025 4:01 PM
9	Bathroom - more seating by playgrounds- safety	7/24/2025 10:37 PM
10	Improving the ground. Uneven.	7/24/2025 1:28 AM
11	1. 2 3	7/21/2025 11:42 PM
12	Shade for the splash pad area, playground equipment for younger children at both city and Wilcox park along with paths to access equipment	7/17/2025 9:59 PM
13	New restrooms events in the park build a concrete skatepark less mantiance compare to wood have the ramps out of the ice rink in there own area .the current skateboard park is hidden can't see it in the rink.ramps by the splash pad will be better more visible to let people know we have ramps	7/16/2025 9:30 PM
14	Shade for skatepark, rest room for skate parks/splash pad more ramps for the skatepark	7/16/2025 7:11 PM
15	Playground upkeep, we like to use walking trails-year round upkeep, repainted lines on courts would be nice too	6/26/2025 12:45 PM
16	Full time park/rec director, all season gabazo (like HB's) security cameras and lighting	6/23/2025 7:16 AM
17	Maintenance: wood chips, pavilion in rough shape. bathrooms in city park. Extend the walking trail and/ or biking trail into a natural setting with trees or woods, etc.	6/18/2025 8:36 AM
18	Upgrade playground at city park, expand walking trails, nicer pavilion at city park	6/17/2025 2:45 PM
19	Restrooms, playground, and sporting fields.	6/14/2025 9:44 AM
20	Restrooms Trails & Walkability features Lighting	6/13/2025 2:51 PM
21	Longer Biking trails, restrooms instead of portable toilets, dog park would be nice for the community	6/13/2025 10:01 AM
22	More trails (biking) Restrooms Dog park	6/13/2025 9:49 AM
23	Playgrounds, restrooms, dog park	6/12/2025 8:52 PM
24	I wish the park were bigger .	6/12/2025 8:31 PM
25	Fitness family activities, ice Arena	6/12/2025 6:51 PM

## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

26	Here's what we want at The Bad Axe Skate Park!!! ! 1. Cameras installed 2. Repairs made to ramps the city purchased in 2022 3. Park Improvements made i.e. cleaning the surface of dirt, new park features installed, create some shade, stadium lights on at dark till midnight 4. A new concrete skate park	6/12/2025 6:42 PM
27	Skateboarding	6/12/2025 6:20 PM
28	Skate Park Improvements: lighting,cameras,additional ramps	6/12/2025 6:03 PM
29	ADA, Refresh of playground, and water fountain/ Drinking station	6/12/2025 5:20 PM
30	1. More ramps/equipment for skatepark. 2. Cameras for skatepark. 3. Lighting and fixing the pavement of the skatepark	6/12/2025 2:56 PM
31	1. Skating stuff 2. Restrooms 3. Better play ground	6/12/2025 1:28 PM
32	Skatepark, music venue, facility/location to showcase art	6/12/2025 10:40 AM
33	The Skate park. It needs to be resurface the ramps needs to be taking care of and also their needs to be camera up so people stop putting graphic pics of penis on the ranks	6/12/2025 10:37 AM
34	More care directed toward the skatepark to continue to grow and improve it as a community offering	6/12/2025 10:19 AM
35	Better utilization of the parks — events hosted that are not festivals to get people to the parks (music, art, fitness, etc) Utilizing city space for recreation not parking General facelift and update of the look of the parks - they feel dated	6/12/2025 6:47 AM
36	Additions to the skate park Walking trails New restrooms	6/11/2025 11:25 PM
37	Here's what we want at The Bad Axe Skate Park!!! ! 1. Cameras installed 2. Repairs made to ramps the city purchased in 2022 3. Park Improvements made i.e. cleaning the surface of dirt, new park features installed, create some shade, stadium lights on at dark till midnight 4. A new concrete skate park	6/11/2025 11:14 PM
38	Lighting and cameras at the skate park exercise equipment and addition to splash pad	6/11/2025 10:49 PM
39	Either do something specific for Wilcox park or get rid of it. Barely utilized. The splash pad was a huge disappointment. Everyone was excited for the idea of it but was shocked how small it was. Plus no bathrooms nearby - wasn't planned out properly. Caro has a great park and splash pad that should have been researched. Cass City has a huge wooden play land. We travel to other towns to use their parks more than our own town	6/11/2025 9:56 PM
40	Improvements to skate park, cameras for safety and security around areas, more group activities organized or published with proper marketing if there is groups	6/11/2025 9:35 PM
41	Skate park Restrooms Seating	6/11/2025 9:26 PM
42	Skatepark Improvements 1. Cameras installed 2. Repairs made to ramps the city purchased in 2022 3. Park Improvements made i.e. cleaning the surface of dirt, new park features installed, create some shade, stadium lights on at dark until midnight 4. A new concrete skate park	6/11/2025 8:41 PM
43	Skate Park Improvements	6/11/2025 6:09 PM
44	The skatepark needs updated Cameras, more lighting for evening, funding	6/10/2025 10:48 AM
45	That splash pad is the saddest splash pad I'd ever seen	6/9/2025 10:40 PM
46	Lighting, cameras, skate area improved, basketball courts improved	6/9/2025 10:14 PM
47	Art, Restrooms, Yoga	6/9/2025 10:03 PM
48	Cameras around the skatepark, updates to the skatepark	6/9/2025 10:01 PM
49	Expanding on user activity	6/9/2025 9:59 PM
50	Handicap accessible Public Restrooms More hiking paths, besides walking path alone	6/9/2025 9:52 PM
51	Fund Bad Axe Skate Park Support Bad Axe Skate Park Put Security Cameras Up at Bad Axe Skate Park	6/9/2025 7:38 PM
52	I LOVE and visit BACP a lot and have really considered these points. Please Please consider	6/9/2025 5:53 AM

## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

them as they aren't huge, but would REALLY be game changers to my favorite spot in Bad Axe #1 NEW AND MORE TRASH BINS - The trash bins the parks have are tacky and cheap and makes the beautiful city park have a white trash flavor. Also, BACP and the walking trail is notorious for dog poop being left on the ground. I'm not mad at the dog owners because there is NO trash bins even close to the walking trail! UNHEARD of in literally every walking trail I've been to across the state! They usually have at least one in the beginning of the trail and one in the middle or end of the trail(if not more). There isn't even a trash bin close to the parking lots of the splash pad or library/park area. All of this leads to a very littered park! I'm not sure if there needs to be a sign saying "Please leave nothing but great memories" but MANY people who enjoy BACP also TRASH it with TRASH. It is always littered in the summer, ESPECIALLY after the "Summer Rec" program. I feel the program should at least teach the kids not to leave their trash in a public as a basic life skill. Maybe a city employee should walk around the park once a day to make sure it is presentable? Either way the trash situation is downright disgraceful with such a common sense improvement for an otherwise wonderful park. #2 TRAILS NEED IMPROVEMENT AND SIGNS - You would be very surprised how many people do not know there are walking trails in BA! BACP Problems: Unwelcoming - sidewalk from library to walking trail dingy and narrow. Only if you are in the know would you expect a walking trail around the corner. Unpaved area by a shed feels like just a storage place for the city that has "you are trespassing" vibes, not a splash pad with an otherwise great little trail. Couldn't there be some pavement improvements and a few signs at the park and/or visible by the road welcoming everyone to the trail? I only know about it from a tiny write up in the local news I chanced to see. Most people have no clue it exists(I've asked around). Wilcox Park Trail: BA's dirty little secret! A cute bridge and a great wooded area no one but young love birds and sledders knows about! I always thought I was trespassing on private property until the new bridge was installed. Why can't there be a sign? "So and so's Nature Trail" or a sign by the building or parking lot "Nature Trail" with an arrow pointing north. Why can't there be a sidewalk leading to the bridge? The dreamy and beautiful nature trail itself is most of the time unusable it is simply too muddy! Could something please be done? #3 BACP could use better benches by the play area. The one and only bench by the swings is a joke. No one sits on it. I see a lot of parents awkwardly sitting on picnic tables far away from their kids because that is the only place to sit. This limits places for other picnickers to enjoy the park as they have to then sit under the picnic table crowded pavilion. Maybe use more thought in placement of picnic tables? More scattered throughout the park not all under the pavilion? Either way, please consider better and more benches at least for the parent's sake. You don't even need to get new ones, there are plenty of benches on the walking trail that I've never ever seen used.

53	There is no community recreation or activities. The park's walking trail is not maintained regularly, there is no landscaping at any of the parks, There is one out house on the walking trail. We spend a lot to fund the library but what is going on with our parks? Maybe some of that money could be diverted from the Library? How many employees are working in there BTW?!	6/8/2025 10:25 AM
54	Hockey arena , more outdoor opportunities, expanded splash pad	6/8/2025 1:18 AM
55	Skate park expansion and improvements.	6/7/2025 10:13 PM
56	relaxing shady parks. Nice well kept grass and vegetation. Natural nature setting surrounding the play grounds and picnic areas. That old fashion country town feel. With events and food trucks and venders, an old fashion country family fun.	6/7/2025 6:08 PM
57	Improve skate ramps from wood to concert Add events at the park Add security cameras	6/7/2025 2:36 PM
58	Updated playground facilities. Updated restrooms at parks with highest use areas.	6/6/2025 2:52 PM
59	more benches to sit and take a break on. Senior citizens need to walk more but can't walk a long distance without taking a break for a couple of minutes.	6/6/2025 2:42 PM
60	FIX THE STREETS	6/6/2025 12:00 PM
61	Resurfacing of ramps and sweeping of the cement for BMX and skating, look into building a cement park for less up keep	6/6/2025 11:56 AM
62	Parking(city park), walking and biking , dog park	6/6/2025 7:44 AM
63	They all need modern bathrooms, playground equipment needs updating, more activities need to be planned for the community	6/6/2025 7:10 AM
64	The skate park needs work. Cameras installed, surface power washed, remove the	6/6/2025 12:56 AM

## Bad Axe User Input Survey for Park & Recreation Planning

scoreboard. BUILD A CONCRETE SKATE PARK

65	1. Fix skatepark ramps 2. Build a shade area and restrooms for skatepark splash pad area 3. More skatepark ramps	6/5/2025 4:47 PM
66	Area for toddlers to play. The park is very much focused on 10 & up Safer surface for the playground area More frequent cleaning of the park	6/5/2025 3:55 PM
67	Need a good dog park with lots of trees and room that enclosed for dogs to socially interact with other dogs and people.	6/5/2025 12:35 PM
68	More walking paths, movies in the park, more free events	6/5/2025 10:41 AM
69	Skatepark, outdoor fitness, restrooms/water stations	6/4/2025 4:39 PM
70	1. Bathrooms and facilities 2. Walking paths and bike trails 3. Safety and security	6/4/2025 3:36 PM
71	More toddler-friendly playscapes, handicap swings, more community focused planned activities	6/3/2025 9:13 PM
72	More restrooms that aren't portable toilets, area(s) for more activities like movies in the park or band performances or even volleyball nets, and more ADA compatible equipment.	6/3/2025 9:03 PM
73	Ease of use and transversing the ground in the city park - rough sod. Increasing passive enjoyment activities such as concerts in a bandshell. Actual restrooms instead of portable toilets.	6/3/2025 8:40 PM
74	Additional walking paths Additional investment in activation of the park (events, workshops, etc) No more wasted space on parking	5/30/2025 9:25 AM
75	Ground at the city park is terrible. Uneven. I feel like it needs to be leveled. Playground equipment needs improvements. Basketball courts need resurfacing.	5/22/2025 5:33 PM
76	New bathrooms More festivals New equipment	5/22/2025 5:25 PM

## **Appendix C**

### **Public Notices/Articles, Public Review of Draft Recreation Plan**



## **Appendix D**

### **Meeting Minutes**

## **Appendix E**

### **Resolution of Plan Adoption**

## **Appendix F**

### **Transmittal of Plan to County and Regional Planning Agencies**