

BOOK 4

EXCEPTIONAL PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES

MT. PLEASANT MASTER PLAN 2050

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Introduction

This book sets forth a vision for Mt. Pleasant's parks and recreation facilities: their operations, maintenance, and enhancements for the next several years. It serves as a roadmap for future recreation facilities and programs by considering existing parks and programs in and around the City and the anticipated demand for additional or improved recreation facilities.

The Plan also forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other agencies and foundations. Mt. Pleasant's Plan was prepared in accordance with MDNR's Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans. Most importantly, this document will act as Mt. Pleasant's playbook for community building as it relates to parks, trails and recreation over the next five plus years.

MT. PLEASANT PARKS AND RECREATION PHILOSOPHY

The mission of the City of Mt. Pleasant's Parks and Recreation department is to improve the character of life by providing and maintaining open space and quality indoor/outdoor recreational opportunities and facilities for the enjoyment and well-being of all area residents and visitors.

Planning Process

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Plan was prepared with technical assistance from McKenna, a planning and design consulting firm, and with the active involvement of the City. Citizen input, through an online survey, week long public charrette, presentations at public meetings and a public hearing, played a critical role in the development of the Plan. See Book 5 for further details and highlights of the community engagement process and results. As a result, recommendations described within this Action Plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use and enjoy Mt. Pleasant's many parks, open space, and recreation facilities. The Plan process included six tasks, which are discussed below:

TASK 1

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The first task was to obtain a description of Mt. Pleasant's physical and social features. These features include location, land use, environmental and natural features, as well as population demographics including age distribution, people with physical disabilities, types of households, employment, and income.

Additionally, it was critical to obtain and review the administrative structure of the Parks and Recreation Departments. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures, as well as Mt. Pleasant's recreation grant history.

TASK 2

PARKS, RECREATION AND FACILITY INVENTORY

The parks, recreation, and facility inventory included site visits, mapping, and written descriptions of all recreation facilities within the City. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation amenities and equipment, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the parks. A list of neighboring communities' facilities, state parks, county parks, and local parks is also included. The City's programs are discussed in the section as well.

TASK 3

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An online survey, week long public charrette and presentations at public meetings were designed to hear comments from the public regarding specific parks and recreation needs. The plan was also available for public comment for over 30 days.

TASK 4

ANALYSIS

Based on the data collected from tasks one through three, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the City and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

TASK 5

ACTION PLAN

Completion of the analysis led to the creation of the five-year plan, which offers a detailed checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources. Long range community-wide strategies and projects are also discussed.

TASK 6

PLAN COMPLETION AND ADOPTION

Once consensus was reached among the Parks and Recreation Commission and the City, the City Commission held a public hearing on x, 2019 to hear comments on the plan and to solicit public input prior to adoption. This Plan was adopted by the City Commission on x, 2020.

Demographic Takeaways

Mt. Pleasant takes great pride in being a community that provides a high quality of life for its residents and offers a diversity of recreational experiences. All of the components of the community profile (as detailed in Book 5) are important to understanding Mt. Pleasant and the data provides valuable insight into determining future facility development and programming needs for the community.

Listed below are some key findings from the community analysis that are particularly important for understand parks and recreation needs:

- » Although Mt. Pleasant has experienced a declining population in recent years, the decline overall has slowed, especially since 2010. Estimates now show modest City increases in population in the coming decades. Additionally, regional population, including that in Isabella County, increased from 2010 to 2017. The City has put forth considerable effort to attract and maintain their population base, including city-wide and neighborhood planning to encourage residents to be active members of the parks planning process and invested in the future of their community. This Plan seeks to build upon those efforts.
- » The City of Mt. Pleasant has a total of 8,027 households, per the 2017 U.S. Census, with a household size of approximately 2.38 persons. The availability of parks and open space for the social value they add to the community is thus increasingly important. Parks offer the opportunity for solitude, as well as occasion for social interaction.
- » Since parks are used by members of the community and area visitors across ages, races, ethnicities and income classes, Mt. Pleasant's recreational facilities are an ideal space to bring together the diversity of the community, including children, college students, visitors, and long-time residents.
- » Youth (ages 0-19) accounts for a sizable portion (31%) of the population (per the 2017 ACS), which is approximately 8,053 individuals. If all the youth in Mt. Pleasant was enjoying a recreational facility at the same given time, there would be approximately 805 individuals at each of Mt. Pleasant's parks!
- » The percentage of disabled individuals in the community has remained relatively constant over the years, with the largest age group impacted being those 65 and older. Additional programming and accessible facility features help ensure persons with disabilities are provided the same access to Mt. Pleasant parks as the rest of the community.



The success of parks, trails and open spaces are important because such places build a sense of community—which adds to the long-term value of the Mt. Pleasant community.



Administrative Structure and Funding History

History of Parks and Recreation Services in Mt. Pleasant

The State of Michigan and the City of Mt. Pleasant authorize how recreational activities and resources are governed within the public sector. Public Act 56 of 1917 (Local Government Operate System of Public Recreation) authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds. Section I of this act states that any city, village, county or township may:

- » Operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds;
- » Acquire equipment and maintain land, buildings, or other recreational facilities;
- » Employ a professional staff and assistants; and
- » Vote to expend funds for the operation of such a system.

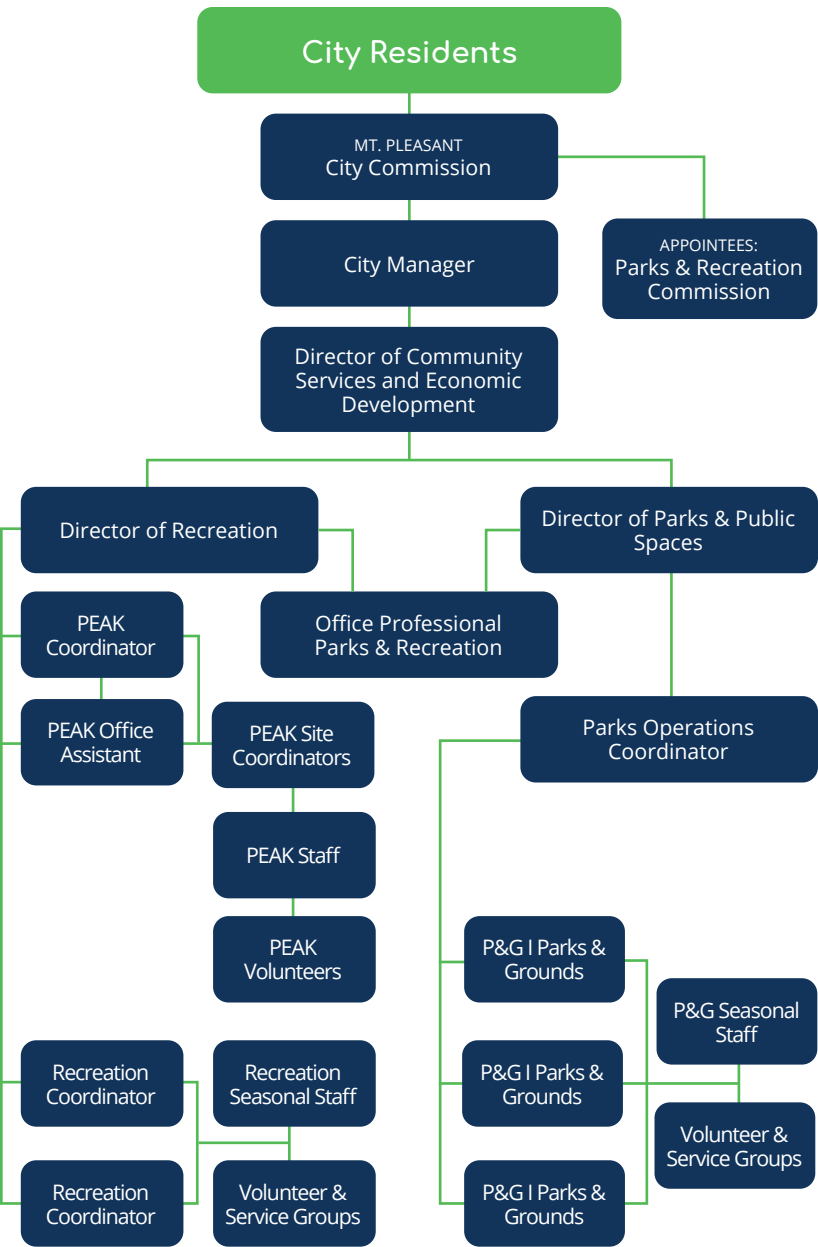
The Mt. Pleasant City Commission first approved a parks ordinance in 1958. The City Commission receives input and recommendations concerning parks and recreation from the Parks and Recreation Commission (see figure 4.1 for administrative structure details). Additionally, in 1971, a Parks and Recreation Department was created by action of the Mt. Pleasant City Commission.

Current Administrative Functions

The Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission is a citizen advisory board made up of seven city residents who advise the City Commission on leisure time needs of the community and the strategic plan for development of park facilities and recreation programs. Board members are appointed by the City Commission and serve a three-year term.

The Parks and Recreation Departments are served by eleven full-time staff members and a number of part-time employees who are responsible for managing Mt. Pleasant’s parks and providing a range of recreation programs and services.

Figure 4.1: Parks and Recreation Administrative Structure



VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Mt. Pleasant has been very fortunate to have a great group of volunteers dedicated to the community. Without their participation, recreational opportunities within the City would not be the same. Additionally, the Parks and Recreation Departments work in partnership with numerous local organizations and businesses to provide recreation and leisure services. Examples of current partnerships include, but are not limited to:

- » Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation
- » Morey Courts
- » Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
- » Riverwood Golf and Bowling
- » Isabella County Commission on Aging
- » Mt. Pleasant Shuffle Boarders
- » Community Ice Arena
- » Girls Youth Softball
- » Mt. Pleasant Little League
- » Mt. Pleasant Baseball Association
- » Chippewa River District Library
- » WCZY Radio and WCFX Radio
- » The Golf Center
- » Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe
- » Central Michigan University
- » Friends of the Dog Park
- » Chippewa River Watershed Alliance
- » Chippewa Watershed Conservancy

Parks and Recreation Budget

Funds for parks and recreation come from two primary sources: the City's general fund and the special revenue fund.

- » The general fund supports the administration of the parks and recreation functions including professional staff positions, park operations and maintenance of park structures, land improvements, capital acquisitions, and cemeteries.
- » The special revenue fund consists of revenues from programs that are expected to recover their direct expenses.

Surplus revenue in the special revenue funds have been used to fund capital expenditures.

Table 4.1: Mt. Pleasant Park and Recreation Revenues and Expenditures

Revenues	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Budgeted 2019	Budgeted 2020
Grants and Donations	\$328,405	\$218,013	\$285,184	\$416,800	\$153,200
PEAK Fees	\$403,841	\$386,049	\$420,941	\$422,150	\$422,150
Program Fees	\$298,772	\$231,466	\$346,543	\$394,270	\$277,200
Facility Rentals	\$13,060	\$16,990	\$16,116	\$16,000	\$16,000
Total Parks and Recreation Revenue	\$1,044,078	\$852,518	\$1,068,784	\$1,249,220	\$868,550

Expenditures	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Budgeted 2019	Budgeted 2020
Parks and Grounds Administration	\$156,240	\$162,035	\$167,236	\$179,110	\$170,750
Parks Maintenance	\$487,458	\$627,055	\$660,348	\$565,150	\$625,480
Cemeteries	\$63,562	\$61,315	\$58,940	\$66,570	\$69,160
Capital Improvements	\$672,997	\$291,536	\$382,168	\$730,290	\$235,000
Recreation Administrations	\$213,428	\$279,811	\$324,716	\$317,000	\$324,570
PEAK Program	\$512,803	\$555,097	\$605,423	\$668,960	\$666,640
Recreation Activities/ Programs	\$482,946	\$209,753	\$241,210	\$283,470	\$225,230
Events Held Downtown	—	—	—	—	\$75,900
Total Parks and Recreation Expenditures	\$2,589,434	\$2,186,602	\$2,440,041	\$2,810,550	\$2,392,730

Source: City of Mt. Pleasant, 2019



Related Initiatives

There are several recreational related initiatives that are significant in terms of their relevance to the provision of parks and recreation within Mt. Pleasant. Each initiative is described in further detail below:

Access to Recreation: In 2007, in cooperation with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, the City shared in a \$760,000 grant from Kellogg Foundations “Access to Recreation Initiative” to develop an accessible adventure trail at Chipp-A-Waters Park. The trail links to the existing Riverwalk Trail and features a uniquely designed pedestrian bridge crossing the Chippewa River, interpretive signage highlighting the area’s natural resources and history, and navigational aids along the trail.

PEAK After School Program: In 2001, the City of Mt. Pleasant and Mt. Pleasant Public Schools partnered to initiate the Partners Empowering All Kids (PEAK) Program. PEAK provides after school and summer programs for youth in the Mt. Pleasant area. The PEAK program was initiated through the United States Department of Education 21st Century Learning Centers program, which provided a \$5.1 million grant, funding the program until the spring of 2005. Once the funding expired, the City of Mt. Pleasant took over operations of the PEAK Program. PEAK is now funded through a combination of user fees and contributions from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe. Of the \$650,000 annual elementary and secondary PEAK program operating budgets, approximately 50% comes from user fees, while the remainder comes from the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe’s 2% grant funds.

Recreation Grant History

The City of Mt. Pleasant has received State funding, including grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), Land and Water Conservation Fund, Clean Michigan Initiative, and Recreation Passport Programs, for several projects since 1972, as noted in Table 4.2 below:

Table 4.2: Mt. Pleasant Recreation Grant History, 1972-Present

Grant Number	Year	Project	Grant Award	Purpose
26-00259	1972	Indian Pines	\$28,447	Acquisition
26-00303	1972	Leonard Woods (Mission Creek Park)	\$65,380	Acquisition and Development
TF607	1982	Mill Pond Park	\$337,500	Acquisition
26-01441	1985	Mill Pond Park	\$101,780	Development
TF88-059	1988	Mill Pond Park	\$168,000	Development
CM99-428	1999	Riverwalk Trail	\$750,000	Development
TF01-187	2001	Chippewa River Restoration Project	\$500,000	Development
RP11-416	2011	Mill Pond Park Trail Improvements	\$30,000	Development
RP17-0093	2017	Island Park Arts Pavilion	\$75,000	Development
TF17-0182	2017	Island Park Bridge and Trail Project	\$153,000	Development
Total Grant Assistance, 1972-Present			\$2,209,107	

Source: City of Mt. Pleasant, 2019



Mt. Pleasant Parks, Trails and Recreation

This section details the diverse and wide spectrum of parks, natural features, trails, and recreation programming within Mt. Pleasant. Developing a complete inventory of the Mt. Pleasant parks, trails and recreation facilities is an essential component of a five-year Master Plan, as it provides a base of information to use in developing the Action Plan.

Understanding what parks and recreation facilities and programs are available to the City residents will assist decision making in the future. The methods of conducting the inventory included site visits to parks and evaluation of available amenities, discussions with City staff and residents regarding the state of parks, and a comparative analysis to state and national standards.

THIS SECTION COVERS THE FOLLOWING KEY COMPONENTS:

- » Mt. Pleasant Blueways and Natural Resources
- » City Parks and Recreation Facilities
- » Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
- » Barrier Free Accessibility Rating
- » City Recreation Programs
- » Trails
- » State of Michigan Parkland and Facilities
- » Regional and County Parks and Recreation Offerings
- » Quasi-Public and Private Recreational Facilities and Programs



Parks Inventory

City Parks and Recreation Facilities - A Regional Asset

The City of Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department operates eleven properties totaling nearly 400 acres of land! Each of the City's parks and recreation areas are detailed on the following pages, with associated park classifications and accessibility rankings.

Mt. Pleasant's parks, open spaces, trails and recreational services extend beyond its residents. The City's exceptional facilities are host to a variety of private organizations and residents of neighboring communities who rely on the recreational facilities for their programming needs. Similarly, Mt. Pleasant parks, trails and programmed events have become regional destinations.

PARK CLASSIFICATION OVERVIEW

For planning and management purposes, recreation professionals classify parks and recreation facilities based on the type of facility and expected usage. Frequently, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) classification system is used.

The following recreation classifications apply to Mt. Pleasant parks, open space and recreation areas:

MINI-PARK

Mini-parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Mini-parks usually serve people within a 1/4 mile radius.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Neighborhood parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that provide more active recreation activities, such as field / court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks typically serve up to 5,000 residents located within a 1/4- to 1/2-mile radius.

COMMUNITY PARK

Community parks generally contain a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from many neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools. These parks usually contain other facilities not commonly found in neighborhood parks such as nature areas, picnic pavilions, lighted ball fields, and concession facilities. Community parks serve a 1/2- to 3-mile radius.

LARGE URBAN PARK

Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the area. The primary focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique natural features. Large urban parks serve a wide area, usually a 3- to 5-mile radius.

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

This category includes lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics and/or buffering.



Barrier Free Accessibility

The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Mt. Pleasant parks and recreation facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- » Has limited sight or is blind
- » Uses a wheelchair
- » Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- » Uses a walking aid
- » Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility's accessibility. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings are detailed in the inventory on the following pages.

LEVEL

1

The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

LEVEL

2

The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.

LEVEL

3

The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may not be completely barrier-free.

LEVEL

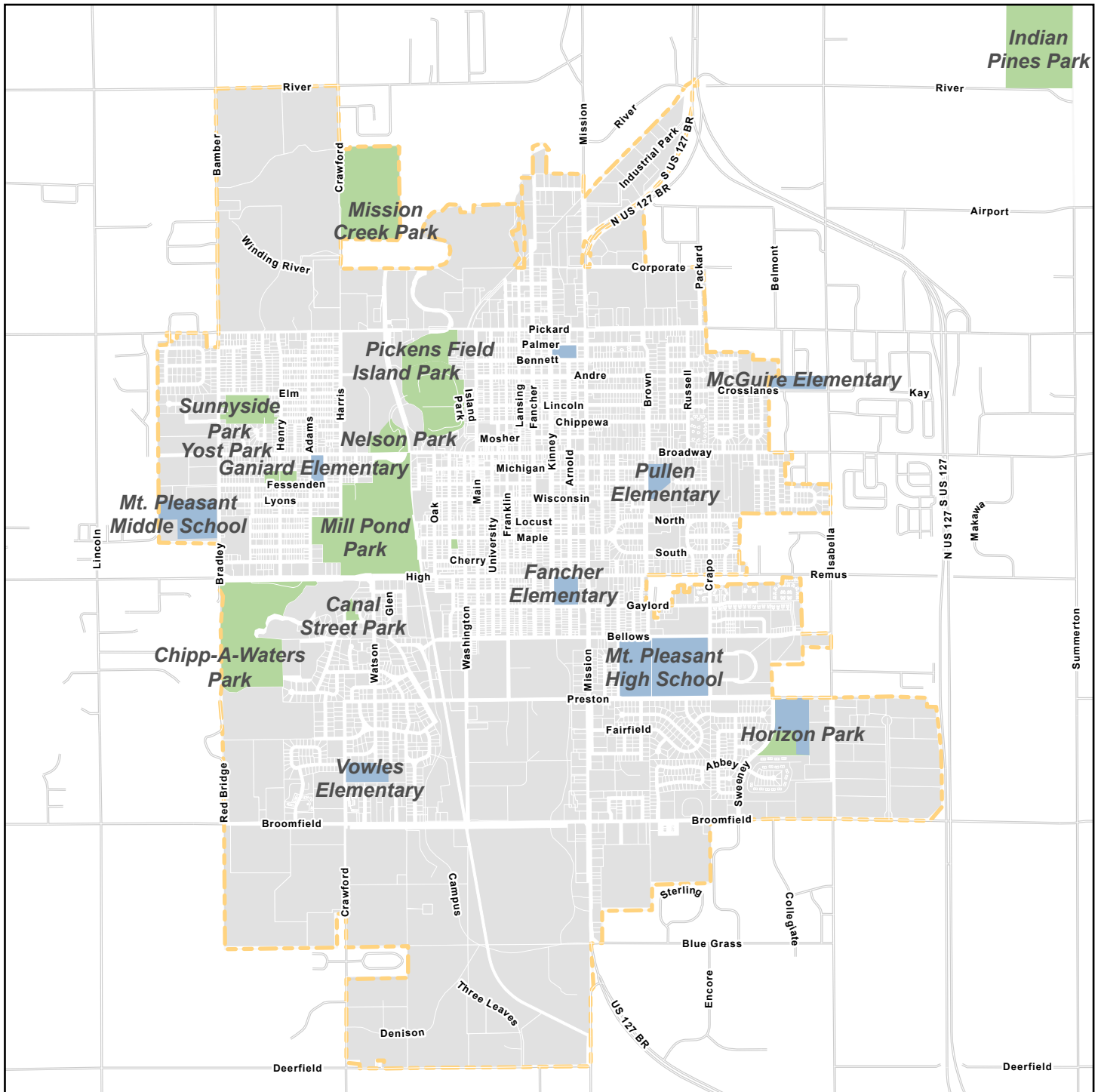
4

The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways are paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are easily accessible.

LEVEL

5

The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.



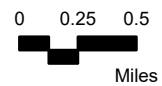
City Parks and Schools

City of Mt. Pleasant

November 4, 2020

LEGEND

- Mt. Pleasant Boundary
- School Facilities
- City Parks
- City Parcels



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a. Data Source: Mt. Pleasant 2016, McKenna 2019. Aerial Source: ESRI 2019.



SIZE:

1 Acre

(1 acre maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Mini-Park

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE: FACILITIES

1

ROUTES

n/a

Canal Street Park

902 CANAL STREET

Amenities: Located just south of the Chippewa River and within the heart of an established neighborhood, Canal Street Park is an undeveloped 1-acre park that fronts on the Chippewa River.

Barrier Free Assessment: As an undeveloped space, there are no dedicated parking spaces or accessible pathways to the interior of the park at this time.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Mindfully develop the site as a park for the immediate neighborhood
- » Install signage to signal this is a public park for enjoyment
- » Increase viewsheds to the Chippewa River
- » Improved green infrastructure

Action Plan Summary

2020	Develop a Master Park Plan Install park signage
2021	Install new playground and swing set
2022	Increase viewsheds of the Chippewa River
2023	Install green infrastructure



SIZE:

5 Acres

(5 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Neighborhood
Park

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE: FACILITIES

3

ROUTES

4

Nelson Park

714 W. BROADWAY STREET

Amenities: Situated between Island Park and Mill Pond Park, Nelson Park is centrally located in the City which makes it an ideal starting point to visit neighboring parks and other destinations through the Riverwalk Nature Trail.

Nelson Park features a canoe landing, picnic tables, grills, fishing deck, gazebo, stone fountain water feature, and modern, ADA accessible restrooms. Programmed activities include run/walk events in the summer and an obstacle course in the winter.

Barrier Free Assessment: Paved pathways provide access to the interior of the park, including an accessible gazebo, fishing deck, canoe landing and centennial gardens.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Create additional ADA companion seating
- » Road and pathway lighting
- » Additional Riverbank protection measures
- » Tree and green canopy additions
- » Butterfly or sound garden features
- » Keep the park passive in nature

Action Plan Summary

2021	Improvements to the shop Replace fishing deck
2025	Replace restroom roof
2026	Mill and repave trail



SIZE:

8 Acres

(8 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Neighborhood
Park

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:
FACILITIES

2

ROUTES

3

Yost Park

206 S. HENRY STREET

Amenities: Yost Park includes active play areas such as upgraded ball fields, a picnic shelter, a modern, ADA accessible restroom, and a newly paved parking addition. Henry Street bisects the park, dividing it into two areas: east and west. In 2016, the City partnered with Mercantile Bank and several volunteers to construct a community-built playground.

Barrier Free Assessment: The interior paved pathways provide connections to the pavilion, play area, and the ballfields across Henry Street. However accessible spectator seating should be provided near the field.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Provide additional shaded seating for spectators
- » Accessible spectator seating
- » Add additional tree plantings

Action Plan Summary	
2023	Install additional shaded, ADA accessible spectator seating



SIZE:

15 Acres

(15 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Community Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:
FACILITIES**

3

ROUTES

2

Pickens Field

309 W. PICKARD AVENUE

Amenities: Located along the Chippewa River, this park serves as the existing North Trailhead for nearly four miles of the paved Riverwalk Nature Trail. It also contains two little league fields, two softball fields and playground equipment.

Barrier Free Assessment: Accessible paths are provided to the restrooms, concession stand, and bleachers at two of the four baseball fields in the park.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Add additional Tree Plantings
- » Replace Playground Equipment
- » Repave Pathway connection

Action Plan Summary

2026

Replace satellite play components
Replace restroom roof



SIZE:

17 Acres
(17 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Community Park

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:
FACILITIES

3

ROUTES

3

Sunnyside Park

1511 ELM STREET

Amenities: Sunnyside Park is an active recreation destination that features six soccer fields, a pavilion, modern, ADA accessible restrooms, a basketball court and play structures. Summer camp programs are hosted here with performances and a portable stage.

Barrier Free Assessment: Ample accessible parking is provided adjacent to the soccer fields, with pathways to the pavilion and play structures. However, the park lacks accessible connections to the basketball court and interior soccer fields.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Replace playground equipment
- » Add paved connections to all sports facilities
- » Add additional Tree Plantings

Action Plan Summary	
2020	Replace playground structure
2024	Repave parking lot



SIZE:

23 Acres

(23 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Large Urban Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:
FACILITIES**

3

ROUTES

3

Horizon Park

1535 SWEENEY STREET

Amenities: Horizon Park is an active recreation park located on the east side of Mt. Pleasant that shares space with the High School soccer field. The City and the School District maintain a 50/50 partnership for the site. Park facilities include a softball diamond, playground, ¼ mile track, tennis court, concession stand, and basketball court. In 2015, a picnic shelter was added, and in 2018, extensive improvements were made in accessibility and restroom upgrades and tree plantings from a local grant.

Barrier Free Assessment: Accessible routes are provided from the parking lot and neighborhood housing development to the east to the restroom and pavilion area, playground, track, and soccer fields. However, there still remains a lack of connections to the ball field, basketball and tennis courts.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Provide paved connections to all park amenities
- » Improve tennis court
- » Add pickleball courts
- » Add additional Tree Plantings

Action Plan Summary

2021	Repair tennis court and add pickleball complex
2026	Update parking lot



SIZE:

35 Acres
(35 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Community Park

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:
FACILITIES

4

ROUTES

4

Action Plan Summary	
2020	Ball field improvements
	Install 1-mile trail loop
	Install a fitness area
	Replace bridge
2021	Replace fishing deck
	Install additional lighting in high traffic areas
	Modernize and update the south restroom
2025	Replace north restroom roof
2026	Spray park updates
	Universal access and update play components
	Mill and repave trails

Island Park

331 MAIN STREET

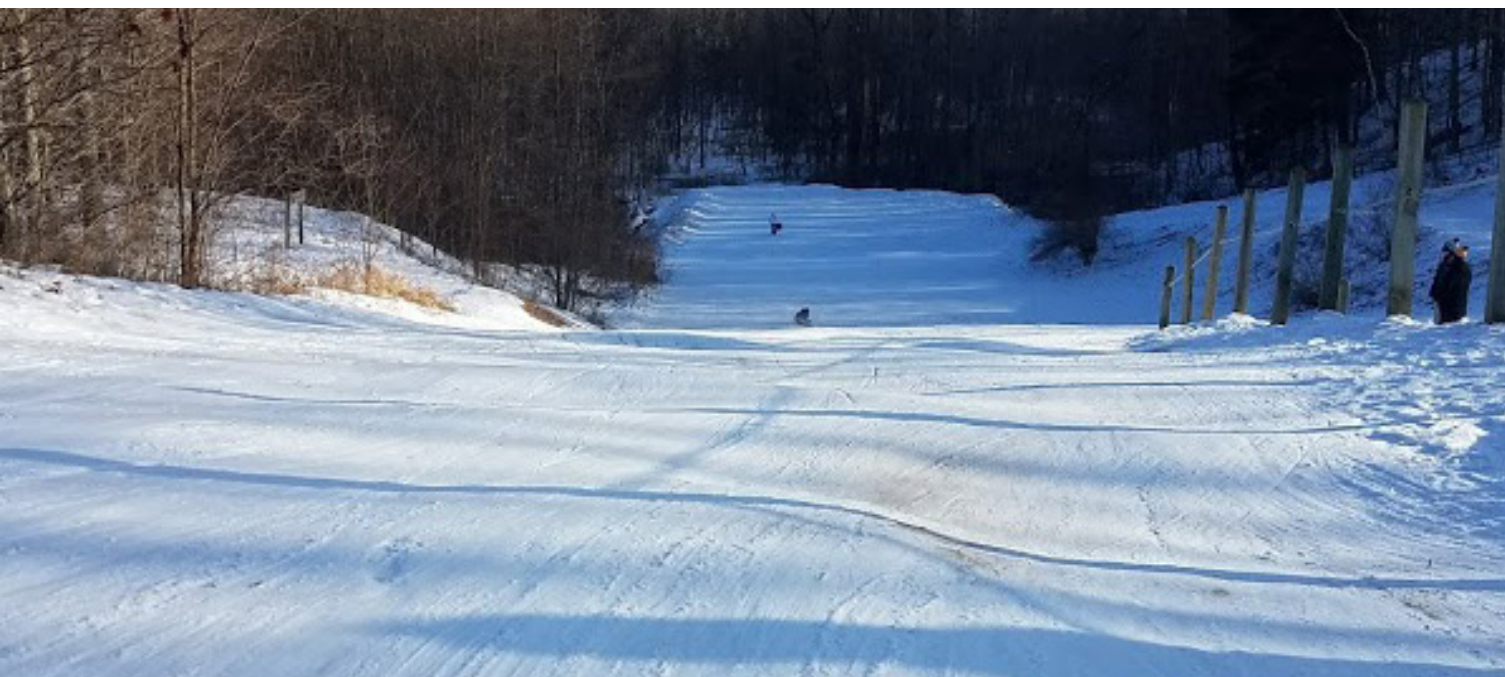
Amenities: Located directly behind City Hall, Island Park is completely surrounded by the Chippewa River (hence its name) and it is the most active and programmed park in Mt. Pleasant. The park is connected via foot bridges and the Riverwalk Pathway to two adjacent City parks: Pickens Field to the north and Nelson Park to the west.

Island Park is also the home of the Michigan Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Isabella County Iraqi Freedom memorial, the Character Counts Gazebo, the Mt. Pleasant Skate Park, and the community playscape. The park also includes a community arts pavilion, premier sand volleyball courts, as well as picnic shelters, modern ADA accessible restrooms, softball diamonds, tennis/pickleball courts, horseshoes, shuffleboard, a spray park and access to the Chippewa River. Programmed activities include softball tournaments, youth and adult sports league programming, walk/run events and the seasonal Farmers Market.

Barrier Free Assessment: Island Park is highly accessible with multiple parking lots adjacent to the sports fields, skate park, and memorials. Paved pathways traverse throughout the park and provide direct access to nearly every amenity.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Create a fitness area, including a measurable, marked walking loop within the park
- » Provide additional evening safety measures (ex: park ranger presence, lighting, etc.)
- » Add additional tree plantings
- » Upgrade south restrooms, adding family changing area for spray park



SIZE:

60 Acres

(25 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Natural Resource Area

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:
FACILITIES**

2

ROUTES

2

Mission Creek Woodland Park

1458 N. HARRIS STREET

Amenities: Located on the north end of town, Mission Creek Park is a 60-acre wooded, natural features area devoted to mostly passive uses during the summer. However, recent additions such as the modern, ADA accessible restrooms and concession stand have made this site more active. Park users are utilizing the hiking trails and small shelter more.

Winter activities include sledding and trail use for snowshoeing and cross country skiing. In 2015, the Hannah's Bark Park (dog park) was added, in partnership with Union Charter Township, covering 3.6 acres.

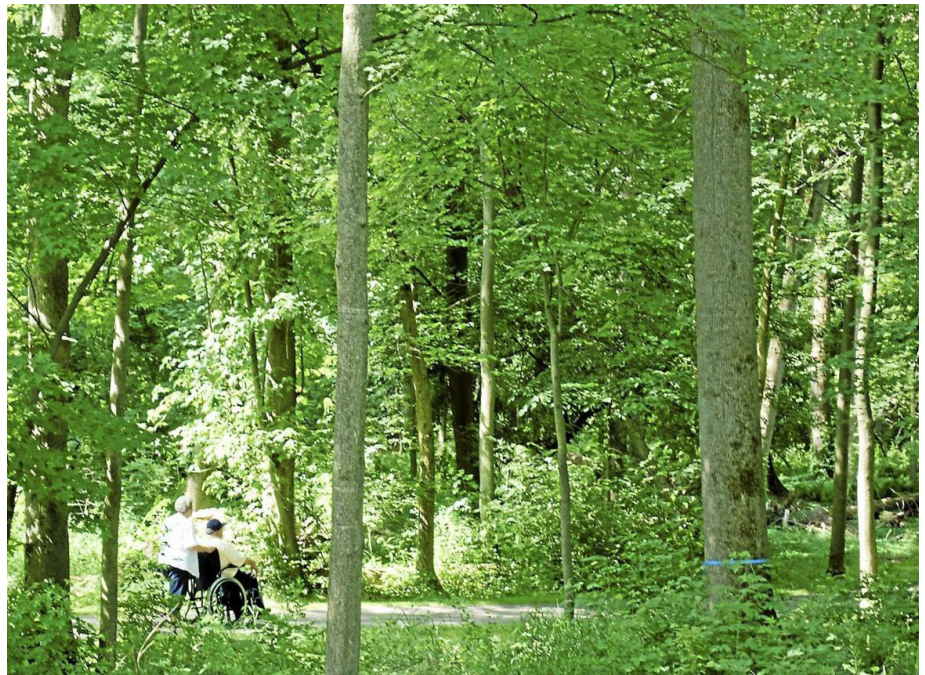
Barrier Free Assessment: Paved ADA parking spaces are available adjacent to Hannah's Bark Park and the restroom facility. However, there are no paved connections to the interior of the park or a paved parking lot.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Create a disc golf course
- » Opportunity for sled / winter equipment rentals
- » Create a marked trail connection to Nelson, Island, or Pickens Parks
- » Offer additional programming and entertainment
- » Provide additional paved parking facilities
- » Provide additional evening safety measures (ex: park ranger presence, lighting, etc.)

Action Plan Summary

2022	Make trail repairs and improvements to mitigate future flooding
2024	Install a paved parking lot Update the master park plan Install additional lighting in high traffic areas
2026	Install playground unit



SIZE:

60 Acres

(25 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Large Urban Park

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

FACILITIES:

3

ROUTES:

4

Chipp-A-Waters Park

1403 HIGH STREET

Amenities: Chipp-A-Waters Park is a large, 60-acre park located on the Chippewa River. In 2005, the park doubled in size with the addition of a 30-acre parcel annexed via a donation to the City with an accompanying conservation easement.

The Park has undergone major universal access improvements with the direct assistance of the Access Recreation Trail Grant Project. As a result of the grant, the park was enhanced with additional trails and a uniquely designed 8-foot wide by 125-foot long bridge with handrails and viewing platforms that spans the Chippewa River. The park addition now serves as the City's southern trailhead for the Riverwalk Nature Trail.

Other recreation park amenities include a modern, ADA accessible restroom, pavilion, playground structure, access road with canoe launch and adjoining parking area, and an observation deck at the river's edge. This park is also home to the Heart of Michigan Girl Scout Cabin.

Barrier Free Assessment: With parking directly adjacent to the pavilion, the park is very accessible. Paved pathways provide connections to the various amenities throughout the park.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Provide additional water access
- » Create swimming areas and/or a beach that is safe for youth swimming
- » Improve the cleanliness / water quality of the Chippewa River
- » Add accessible route to playground equipment

Action Plan Summary

2024	Repair/replace roof and concrete improvements at pavilion
2025	Repair playground equipment and create universal access



SIZE:

90 Acres

(25 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Large Urban Park

**ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:
FACILITIES**

3

ROUTES

4

Mill Pond Park

607 S. ADAMS STREET

Amenities: Mill Pond Park is located on the Chippewa River and features several trails, pedestrian bridges and various amenities. Recent enhancements to the park include an addition to the Riverwalk Natural Trail on the south side of the park. In 2003, a significant river restoration project took place and included dam removal, construction of five stone weirs (to control existing water elevations) and the creation of a small whitewater course for canoes and kayaks. Riverbed reconstruction and bank restoration were also major aspects of the project.

Mill Pond Park also includes the City's largest wetland area with numerous viewing opportunities, pavilion, modern, ADA accessible restrooms, Nature Center, and play structure.

Barrier Free Assessment: Mill Pond Park is highly accessible with paved pathways throughout, and amenities (fishing, lookouts, play areas) located off these pathways. The Park offers connections across High Street to the pathway to the south. However, there are still some seating areas that are not accessible.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Opportunity for seasonal ice skate rentals
- » Reestablish a beach area and additional water access
- » Provide more pedestrian friendly trails
- » Create greater visibility and add benches to existing and planned segments
- » Improve the cleanliness / water quality of the Chippewa River
- » Provide additional evening safety measures (ex: park ranger presence, lighting, etc.)

Action Plan Summary

2020	Replace fishing decks
2021	Install additional lighting in high traffic areas
2022	Develop engineering plans for dam reconstruction DNR Grant
2023	Reconstruct Dam Replace restroom and shelter roof



SIZE:

80 Acres

(5 acres maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Natural Resource Area

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

FACILITIES:

1

ROUTES:

1

Indian Pines Preserve

6000 E. VALLEY RD

Amenities: Indian Pines is a large, partially wooded and scenic natural area located outside the City limits, just north of the Mt. Pleasant Municipal Airport. The Chippewa River runs along this preserve with informal fishing opportunities.

Barrier Free Assessment: As an undeveloped and natural area, public access, especially for those with barrier free considerations, is very challenging.

Public Input / Aspirations:

- » Develop park master plan for the facility
- » Construct walking trail system
- » Open the south side of the park (improving public access)
- » Create a disc golf course
- » Develop multi-use trails with a focus on Mountain Biking design

Action Plan Summary

2022	Develop a master park plan for the site
------	---



SIZE:

1 Acre

(1 acre maintained)

CLASSIFICATION:

Mini-Park

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

FACILITIES:

4

ROUTES:

2

Potter Playground

225 W. MAPLE STREET

Amenities: Potter playground is a mini-park located at the corner of Maple and Pine Streets. The park provides several amenities, including a small baseball field, basketball courts, a pavilion, and a playground.

Barrier Free Assessment: The Maple and Pine Street sidewalks provide access routes to the park. Being a mini-park, there are no internal circulation paths or parking.

Public Input / Aspirations:



Mt. Pleasant Public School Facilities

Mt. Pleasant Public Schools operates six elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. All public schools are within the City boundaries (with the exception of Mary McGuire Elementary which is located just outside the eastern boundary of the City in Union Charter Township). The elementary and middle school properties have various activity areas for outdoor recreation including multi-purpose fields, hard surfaced sport courts, and playground equipment. School sites are classified as neighborhood parks and are also shown on the Parks and Recreation Map.

The Mt. Pleasant High School site provides outdoor recreation facilities often used by the public for recreation and sports including tennis courts, baseball and softball diamonds, football fields, and running tracks. The high school also has soccer fields located adjacent to Horizon Park. Potter Playground is also owned by Mt. Pleasant Public Schools and is a one-acre parcel on the corner of Maple and Pine Streets.

“Mt. Pleasant will become a premier livable city. It will have excellent drinking water, public parks, pedestrian and cyclist throughways, and a vibrant culture of recreation, music and the arts.”



Recreation Amenities Summary

Table 4.3 below details the wealth of publicly owned parks and recreational amenities available to the Mt. Pleasant community.

Table 4.3: Summary of Mt. Pleasant Park Facilities and Amenities Inventory, 2019

Site	Baseball / Softball	Soccer Field	Multi-use Field	Volleyball Court	Basketball (Outdoor)	Winter Sled Hill	Tennis / Pickleball Court	Playground	Parking Area	Pavilion	Natural Features Area	Restroom	Horseshoes	Water Access	Trail / Paved Pathways	1/4 Mile Track	Splash Pad	Skate Park	Total Acres
Canal Street Park											●			Yes					1 ac
Potter Playground*	1				1			1		1					Yes				1 ac
Nelson Park									●	1	●	1		Yes	Yes				5 ac
Yost Park	1		1					1	●	1		1							8 ac
Downtown Green Space / Public Buildings*									●						1				9 ac
Pickens Field	4							1	●		●	1		Yes	Yes				15 ac
Sunnyside Park		6			1			1	●	1		1							17 ac
Horizon Park	1	6	1		1		1	1	●	1		1				1			23 ac
Island Park	3			2	2		4	2	●	1	●	2	8	Yes	Yes		1	1	35 ac
Riverside Cemetery*									●		●			Yes					37 ac
Mission Creek Woodlands Park						1			●		●	1		Yes	Yes				60 ac
Chipp-A-Waters Park								1	●	1	●	1		Yes	Yes				60 ac
Indian Pines Preserve											●			Yes					80 ac
Mill Pond Park								1	●	1	●	1		Yes	Yes				90 ac
Total	10	12	2	2	5	1	5	9		8		10	8			1	1	1	441 ac

* Indicates a public open space within the Mt. Pleasant Community, for a total of 47 acres.
Source: City of Mt. Pleasant and McKenna Inventory, 2019



Mt. Pleasant has an array of environmentally significant features, including:

- » open spaces
- » viewsheds
- » woodlands
- » waterbodies,
- » and wetlands, including: 305.01 acres of regulated wetlands,
- » 222+ acres of areas with a tree canopy of over 75% several miles of shoreline.

Blueways and Natural Features

Understanding Mt. Pleasant's environmental setting is critical when planning for recreation facilities and the connections between them. The location, topography, and existing environmental features all influence the types of facilities, amenities, and programs that are best suited for implementation. In addition, environmental quality significantly affects the quality of life in a community. Visual aesthetics, clean air, and clean water and soil all enhance the public health and economy. Therefore, a thorough plan requires that the condition of the environment be considered in future decisions and promote best practices for the stewardship of the land.

Improvements to existing and new water access facilities for the Chippewa River should be universally designed to allow for the enjoyment of such resources by:

- » All people of all abilities
- » All ages
- » All skill levels
- » Independent use
- » Safety
- » Intuitive
- » Easier to use by everyone together

The Chippewa Water trail should include all of the following elements:

1. Open to no-motorized watercraft;
2. Public access sites that are universally designed;
3. Information and trail data that is up-to-date and publicly available (ex: maps, guides, signage, etc.);
4. Be actively supported and routinely maintained by the City.

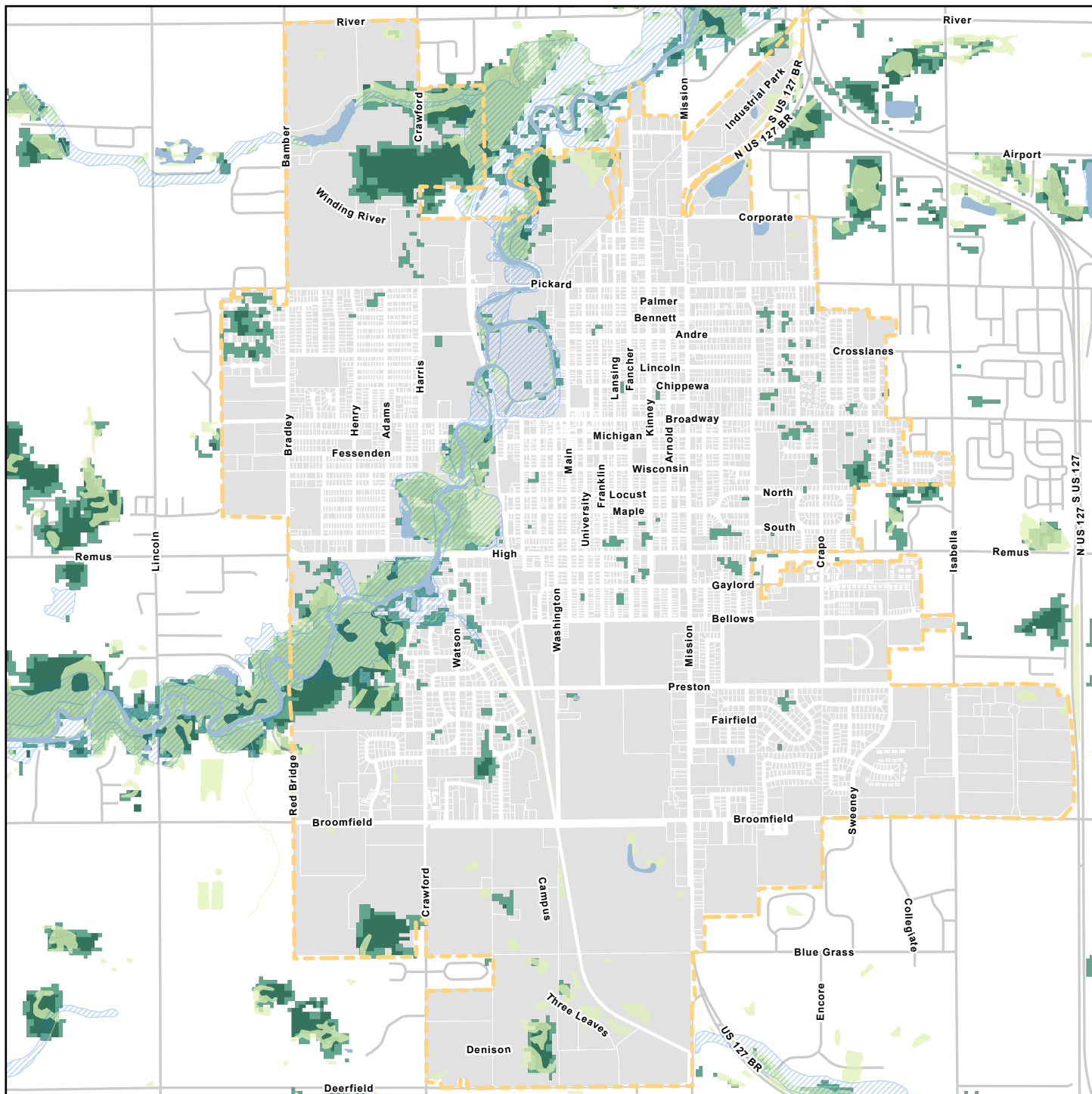
The foremost natural feature and single greatest natural resource in the City is the Chippewa River. Public access to the Chippewa River is ensured by the preservation of public space along the river bank, including five City parks that are directly adjacent to the river. Mt. Pleasant provides a number of river access opportunities including:

- » Canoe landings at Nelson Park, Mill Pond Park, Island Park, and Chipp-A-Waters Park;
- » Fishing decks at Chipp-A-Waters Park, Island Park, Mill Pond Park, and Nelson Park; and
- » A white-water course at Mill Pond Park.

Several canoe, kayak, and tube liveries in the Mt. Pleasant community provide rental equipment and transportation to those wishing to actively enjoy the river.

In addition, the Chippewa River flows past two undeveloped pieces of City property: the Canal Street Park and the Indian Pines properties, which may provide additional river access points in the future. The City supports a regional partnership to create a Chippewa River Watershed Plan.

The public engagement process supported efforts to secure official Pure Michigan and MDNR water trail status to enhance regional partnership and create additional funding opportunities.



Natural Features

City of Mt. Pleasant

November 4, 2020

LEGEND

- Lakes, Rivers, and Streams
- Flood Hazard Zones
- Regulated Wetlands
- 50-75% Forest Canopy
- More than 75% Forest Canopy
- City Parcels
- Mt. Pleasant Boundary



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a. Data Source: Mt. Pleasant 2016
McKenna 2019, FEMA NFHL 2019.



Local and Regional Trails

The Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department manages the GKB (Gregory K. Baderschneider) Riverwalk Trail/Access Adventure Trail: a four mile paved trail following the Chippewa River and linking five City parks. The trail provides opportunities for biking, jogging, walking, and access to natural areas and the Chippewa River. The central location of the trail in the City provides optimal access to a large proportion of the community. All City trails are plowed and kept clear of snow in the winter months.

In addition, the CMU trail system includes a combination of paved trails, bicycle lanes, and marked sidewalk trails through the CMU campus.



In terms of creating connections to regional trails that are in proximity to the City of Mt. Pleasant, the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway Group was created by area community leaders to develop a non-motorized pathway connecting the Pere-Marquette Trail with the Fred Meijer Trail through the communities of Clare, Rosebush, Mt. Pleasant, Shepherd, Alma, St. Louis, and Ithaca. In the 2014, the group was awarded a \$35,000 grant from the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network to develop the first phase of a planned 40-mile long non-motorized pathway. Overall, the non-motorized pathway is intended to connect the Pere Marquette and Fred Meijer Pathways in Clare and Alma, then eventually connect to the Clinton-Ionia -Shiawassee Pathway in St. Johns. So far, two sections of pathway have been completed. The first 6.5 mile section was constructed between Ithaca and the Alma/St. Louis area along the east side of U.S.-127. The second 6.6 mile section was just completed between Shepherd and Mt. Pleasant along Blanchard and Mission Roads. The pathway group is currently working with stakeholders to construct a pedestrian bridge over U.S.-127 in the Mt. Pleasant area to link the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe with Mt. Pleasant and Union Township.

“More bike trails. More walkways. Continue the good work that has already been done to make the town more attractive.”

REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

A regional gem, Mt. Pleasant residents can access the Pere Marquette Rail Trail just fifteen miles north in Clare. The Pere Marquette Rail Trail is a 30 mile paved trail linking Midland and Clare, Michigan with continuing development west to Evart, Michigan.

Additionally, the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail is only 15 miles south in Gratiot County. The Fred Meijer Heartland Trail is a 41 mile trail, partially paved, that runs from Elwell in Gratiot County ending just north of Greenville.



City Recreation Programs

One of the goals of the City's Parks and Recreation Departments is to provide a variety of programs for all age groups and interests. The City of Mt. Pleasant is the largest provider of recreation programs in the County. The Department offers outstanding youth and adult (both team and individual) sports opportunities and special events to City residents and to non-residents. The City also partners with a number of community organizations and agencies to further recreational opportunities for residents. Table 4.4 on the following page details the City's current sponsored recreation programs and services.

Recognizing that other organizations in the community provide opportunities for higher level sports play and competition, the Parks and Recreation Departments sports programs primarily focus on introductory sports programs in the community. Introductory programs are designed to introduce children and adults to new sport skills, provide basic instruction, create opportunities for recreational participation, learn sportsmanship, and encourage individuals to develop an interest in sports and healthy recreation activities.

In addition to recreational sports programs, the Departments operates and/or participates in a number of other programs and services designed to meet specific needs in the community. The PEAK After School and Summer Program, teen programs, and Schools Out day camps are designed to provide supervised recreation and educational enrichment for school aged youth.

The Department also sponsors a number of community events annually; the most popular of which is the Daddy-Daughter Date Night program. The Farmers Market, which takes place at Island Park, is one of the most popular community attractions during the summer and fall. Additional Downtown programming sponsored by the Department include: Christmas Celebration, Pumpkin Promenade, Thrilling Thursdays, movies by moonlight, and others.

Table 4.4: City of Mt. Pleasant Programming Inventory

Program Offerings	Youth Based	Adult Based	Active Older Adult / Senior Based
Basketball	● (grades K-6)		
Dodgeball	● (grades K-6)		
Flag Football	● (grades K-6)		
Golf	● (ages 5-7)		
PEAK After School and Summer Program	● (grades K-8)		
Sand Volleyball		●	
Schools Out Day Campus	●		
Soccer	● (ages 5-13)		
Softball		●	
» Start Smart Parent and Youth Programs			
» Basketball			
» Flag Football	●		
» Golf			
» Soccer			
» T-Ball			
T-Ball	● (ages 4-7)		
Teen Programs	●		
Tennis	●		
Volleyball	●	●	
Walking		●	●
Special Event and Service Offerings	Youth Based	Adult Based	Active Older Adult / Senior Based
Candy Cane Lane	●		
Christmas Celebration	●	●	●
Daddy-Daughter Date Night	●	●	
Easter Egg Scramble	●	●	●
Farmers Market (in season)	●	●	●
Glow in the Park	●	●	●
Man vs. Mountain 5k	●	●	●
Movies by Moonlight	●	●	●
Princess and Superhero Party	●		
Pumpkin Promenade	●	●	●
Teen Flashlight Egghunt	●		
Thrilling Thursdays	●	●	●
Under the Big Top	●		
Winters Kids Expo	●		

“A vital park system that includes educational opportunities and programs to learn about wildlife, [and] the environment. There are a lot of great things going on here and I would love to see that continue. My out-of-state relatives have commented that we seem to have fun opportunities here: Free concerts downtown, Art Reach activities, annual parades, great park system, etc. I think that our park system is one of the crown jewels of our town. Anything we can do to build on that increases participation in activities and use of the parks.”



Regional and State Recreation Areas

Regional parks typically offer unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, fishing, boating, hiking and trail use. Many also include active play areas such as ball fields or courts that provide active and passive recreational opportunities.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) operates a number of recreational areas in and around the Mt. Pleasant area, namely the counties immediately surrounding Isabella County including two state parks, seven state forest campgrounds, and four state pathways, as shown on the Regional Recreation Facilities Map and detailed further in this section.

Further, within Isabella County there are numerous opportunities for year-round recreation. The Isabella County Parks Department operates seven county parks and also maintains an eight-mile section of the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail in the northeast corner of the county. There is also access to portions of the AuSable State Forest and the Edmore State Game Area within the county. MDNR also maintains boat ramps on Stephenson Lake in Vernon Township, Six Lakes in Sherman Township, and Littlefield Lake in Gilmore Township.













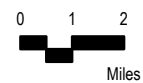
Isabella County Parks

City of Mt. Pleasant, MI

January 17, 2020

LEGEND

-  Forest Pathway
-  Isabella County Parks
-  State Forest / Campground
-  Isabella County
-  Villages
-  Mt. Pleasant
-  Rivers, streams, and lakes
-  Railroads
-  Roads
-  City and Township boundaries



SOURCES
 Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
 Data Source: City of Mt. Pleasant, McKenna 2019.





Table 4.5: State Park Inventory

Site	Baseball / Softball	Soccer	Multi-use field	Volleyball	Basketball (Outdoor)	Basketball (Indoor)	Tennis / Pickleball Court	Playground	Restrooms	Horseshoes	Water Access	Trails	Pavilions	1/4 Mile Track	Pool / Splash Pad	Skate Park	Acres
Edmore State Game Area												Yes					200
Stevenson Lake Access											Yes						1
Central Michigan University	4	5	Yes				10		1			Yes			1		

Table 4.6: Isabella County Park Inventory

Site	Baseball / Softball	Soccer	Multi-use field	Volleyball	Basketball (Outdoor)	Basketball (Indoor)	Tennis / Pickleball Court	Playground	Restrooms	Horseshoes	Water Access	Trails	Pavilions	1/4 Mile Track	Pool / Splash Pad	Skate Park	Acres
Coldwater Lake Park	1			3				1	3		Yes	Yes	3				28
Deerfield Nature Park				3					5			Yes	5				591
Gilmore Park									1		Yes	Yes					7
Herrick Recreation Area				3				2	2	2	Yes		2				113
McDonald Recreation Area																	11
Majeske Landing											Yes						3
Meridian County Park									1		Yes	Yes					152
Six Lake Access											Yes	Yes					1
Pere Marquette Rail Trail								1	1			Yes					100

Private and Other Recreation Resources

Table 4.7: Mt. Pleasant Recreational Amenities (Private Listing)

Private and Other Listings	Address	Amenities
McDonald Park, Union Charter Township	2010 S Lincoln Road	Baseball, Softball, Playgrounds, Trails, Pavillions
Jameson Park, Union Charter Township	Bud Street between Pickard Road and Isabella Road	Softball, Community Meeting Rooms, Playgrounds
Morey Courts	5175 E Remus Rd	Basketball, Volleyball, Racquetball
University Recreation	1200 S Franklin St	Basketball, Volleyball, Racquetball, Bowling, Swimming
Riverwood Lanes	1313 E Broomfield Rd	Bowling
Outdoor Adventures Resort	340 N Loomis Rd	Campgrounds
Saginaw Chippewa Tribe	7070 E. Broadway St	Campgrounds
Mt. Pleasant School of Dance	1235 N Mission St	Dance
Off Broadway Performing Arts Studio	118 S Washington	Dance
CMU Athletics	360 E Broomfield Rd	Gymnastics, Sports Camps
Jump Station	2422 E Broomfield Rd	Fitness/entertainment
Mountain Town Fitness	1420 S Mission St	Fitness
MP Fit Club	1639 E Broomfield Rd	Fitness
Planet Fitness	2135 S Mission St	Fitness
The Pines	1022 Clubhouse Dr	Golf course
Bucks Run	1559 Chippewa St	Golf course
Pleasant Hills	4452 E Millbrook Rd	Golf course
Pohlcat	6595 E Airport Rd	Golf course
Riverwood Resort	1313 E Broomfield Rd	Golf course
Waaboos Run	5665 E Pickard	Golf course
Buckley's Mountainside Canoes	4700 W Remus Rd	Kayak and Canoe rental
Chippewa River Outfitters	3763 S Lincoln Rd	Kayak, Canoe and Tube rental
Floater's Tubing	714 W Broadway St	Tube rental
Mt. Pleasant Speedway	4658 E River Rd	Racing
I.C.E. Arena	5165 E Remus Rd	Skating
Hansen's Arena	1241 N Mission Rd	Skating (Roller)
Ombodies	210 W Pickard Ave	Yoga
Red Bloom Yoga	206 W Michigan St	Yoga
Yoga on Main	115 S Main St	Yoga
Chippewa Watershed Conservancy	306 S University Ave	Land Conservancy

ISABELLA COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

The Commission on Aging Activity Center, located at 2200 S. Lincoln Road adjacent to McDonald Park in Union Township and is the “Community Focal Point” for Older Adult programs and services for Isabella County. The center provides a friendly social atmosphere, in which participants can enjoy a wide variety of recreational, social, cultural, nutritional and educational opportunities. Some of the leisure opportunities for seniors include:

- » Exercise programs Tai Chi
- » Yoga classes
- » Several weekly types of card playing
- » Informational seminars on medical issues
- » Travel shows
- » A craft bazaar
- » Legal aid assistance
- » Caregiver, ostomy and Parkinson support groups
- » Tax assistance
- » Delicious nutritional dining
- » Quilting
- » Clown training
- » Line dancing
- » Square dancing
- » Health screenings
- » Retiree group meetings
- » Needle crafters
- » Singers
- » Art classes
- » Bingo
- » Special events
- » Movies

In addition, the Commission on Aging operates a travel program providing the opportunities for individuals to take trips all over the country. There are day trips as well as extended excursions. Most trips are provided by motor coach.

ISABELLA COUNTY EVENTS (ICE) ARENA

The Ice Arena operates a daily schedule of ice events throughout the year from late May through mid-April. Adult hockey Leagues, Adult Drop-in Hockey and daily Public Skating have long been a mainstay of the ICE Arena’s operations. Popular “hockey hour” (stick-and-puck) and figure skating “freestyle” sessions frequent the calendar. The ICE Arena is home to the CMU Club Hockey team, the Mt. Pleasant High School Hockey Team and the Mt. Pleasant Figure Skating Club. In addition to operating one sheet of ice, the ICE arena also offers meeting space for community organizations. The ICE arena also is home to the Amateur Hockey Association of Mt. Pleasant which operates competitive hockey programs in the community. The partnership with between Mt. Pleasant parks and recreation, the Amateur Hockey Association, the Figure Skating Club, and the ICE arena was formed in 2004.

WELLNESS CENTRAL

The Wellness Central building, located at 2600 Three Leaves Drive, offers health and wellness activities, is a gym and physical fitness center that offers physical therapy and classes. Also called the McLaren Wellness Center, the organization frequently collaborates with Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department to provide quality resident services.

MOREY COURTS

Morey Courts, opened in 2008, is a not-for-profit, membership-based recreation center. Morey Courts offers a wide range of facilities that appeal to many recreation and fitness interests. Morey Courts offers eight indoor basketball/volleyball courts, two indoor tennis courts, three racquetball courts, a fitness center, an Exergame room featuring interactive fitness and exercise games, aerobics room, and walking track.

Programs and services offered at Morey Courts include:

- » Basketball – youth and adult, leagues, camps and tournaments.
- » Volleyball – youth and adult, leagues, camps and tournaments.
- » Fitness classes and personal training.
- » Sport skills training for golf, tennis, basketball, volleyball, baseball, softball and football.
- » Martial Arts and self-defense classes.

The Parks and Recreation Department has regularly partnered with Morey Courts since it opened. Morey Courts has provided space for the parks and recreation department to initiate a number of new programs in the community including school break day camps, a Princess and Super Hero Party, Turkey Shoot Out, and Teen Lock-in. Youth volleyball, dodge ball, and open gym times for teens also use Morey Courts. Morey Courts provides an excellent venue for players and participants alike. In addition, the PEAK After School program has made use of Morey Courts on a number of occasions.



TRIBAL RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The recreational facilities of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe primarily serve the Tribal population of approximately 2,400 people. Recreational facilities operated by the Tribe include:

- » Nimkee Fitness Center;
- » Gymnasium with various workout equipment and programs;
- » Hill Campground;
- » Ogemaw Park contains a basketball court, playground equipment, a pavilion, and a grill;
- » The HUD Ball Diamond/Play Area includes a play area, volleyball, and basketball courts; and
- » The Zibiwing Cultural Center.

NEW TRIBAL DEVELOPMENTS

In 2009, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe announced plans to construct a new resort hotel property with an indoor water park. This facility, the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel, was built on the site of the Soaring Eagle Inn and Conference Center (formerly the Holiday Inn) on East Pickard Rd. In addition, the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe announced plans to build a new recreational vehicle (RV) park near Grewes Lake south of the airport in eastern Union Township, and in 2012, the Tribe opened the Soaring Eagle Hideaway RV Park. This facility includes 67 RV lots, each with water, sewer, and electricity hook-ups, concrete pads, fire pits, picnic tables, and free internet Wi-Fi access. The RV park is situated on the 25-acre Grewes Lake and includes a clubhouse, walking trails, laundry facilities, and a playground. Situated between the Soaring Eagle Hideaway RV Park and the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel is the 18-hole Waabooz Run Golf Course, which features 11 par-3 holes and seven par-4 holes. Just east of the Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel facility is the Green Suites hotel which offers one, two, and three-bedroom suites. People who stay at the Green Suites hotel receive discounts for the Waabooz run golf course and complimentary shuttle to Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort.

Suites at the hotel offer a full-size kitchen, living and dining space, and a patio or deck. These attractions along the east M-20 corridor will greatly enhance Mt. Pleasant as a destination for tourism in the state. Although Tribal amenities will provide recreational opportunities for the local community, Tribal operations are commercial in nature and will only be available to those able to pay. Those Tribal recreation developments that are not commercial in nature are primarily developed to serve Tribal members and not the community at large.



Central Michigan University

Central Michigan University (CMU), located in Mt. Pleasant, offers numerous recreation and leisure opportunities to the student body, faculty, staff and the larger community. University Recreation, or U-REC, provides a wide range sports, health, and recreation opportunities for students, faculty/staff, and community members. U-REC manages the Student Activity Center (SAC) as well as the intramural sports fields.

STUDENT ACTIVITY CENTER (SAC)

A recreational, intramural and fitness complex, CMU's URec provides space for numerous recreational activities including:

- » 25-meter competitive pool
- » Courts for basketball/volleyball
- » Saunas and spa
- » Aerobic dance studio
- » Spinning studio
- » Free weight room
- » Machine weight room
- » Indoor running track
- » Racquetball courts
- » eSports Venue
- » Cardiovascular fitness equipment

OUTDOOR SPORTS COMPLEX

The U-REC Outdoor Sports Complex consists of four lighted softball fields and five lighted football/soccer fields, club sport fields, and a modern restroom facility. The Outdoor Sport Complex is primarily used for intramural sports programs. URec is also responsible for managing the tennis courts located at the Rose Arena and an 18-hole disc golf course.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

University Recreation offers a year-round program of team and individual, men's, women's and co-recreational competitive sports programs to meet the needs of students for sport participation.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

In addition to membership opportunities, URec offers a number of recreation and sport programs that serve the non-university community including Summer Activity Camp, a swimming instructional program, a wide variety of fitness classes, and personal trainers.

ACCESS TO CMU FACILITIES

Although CMU makes a significant contribution to the recreation facility inventory in the community, use of these facilities by the public for recreation is limited. There are membership plans available for use of the SAC facilities. In addition, the SAC facilities are available for outside groups on a rental basis. The outdoor recreational sports facilities are available for non-university use on a fee basis. Recreational facilities on CMU Campus open for public use include the outdoor tennis courts, disc golf course and over 25 miles of paved sidewalks and multi-use pathways.

COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Central Michigan University is a NCAA Division I athletic program offering a wide range of intercollegiate sport to suit almost any competitive interest. CMU sponsors five men's and ten women's sports teams that compete in the Mid-American Conference. During any week of the year several opportunities exist to view collegiate sports at CMU. In addition to intercollegiate sports, the Athletics Department offers numerous youth sport camps during the summer months.

CMU CULTURAL ARTS

Central Michigan University offers a wide range of graphic and performing arts, cultural arts and events, libraries and collections. Many of these opportunities are open to the public at no charge.

- » North Art Studio
- » University Theater
- » Clarke Historical Library
- » Concerts and Entertainment
- » University Speaker Series
- » Brooks Astronomical Observatory
- » Museum of Cultural and Natural History
- » University Art Gallery





Facilities and Parkland Analysis

As required by the MDNR, City of Mt. Pleasant parkland and facilities were compared to the minimum guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA, 1983, 1995). Although the NRPA's updated guidelines were set more than 20 years ago, the MDNR still recommends their use as standards to establish minimum community needs in terms of land area and number of facilities.

Caution must be exercised in the interpretation of these results given that these guidelines were set over two decades ago and may not represent current popular activities and trends. Each community, based on its own particular resources and resident preferences and demands, is encouraged to establish its needs and requirements so that the plan best suits the community's desires for recreation.



“More community-oriented gathering places with a focus on the Chippewa River. Walkability is important in this.”

Acreage Analysis

Table 4.8 and the following discussion compares the amount of parkland as it relates to the conditions of the City and the MDNR standards based on the 2017 US Census population of 25,711 individuals.

Table 4.8: Mt. Pleasant Parkland Acreage Analysis

Park Classification	NRPA Guideline Acres / 1,000 Residents	City Recommended Acreage	Existing Acreage	Surplus / Deficiency
Mini Parks	0.25 - 0.50 acres	0.64 – 1.28 acres	1 acre	+0.36 acres
Neighborhood Parks	1.0 - 2.0 acres	2.57 – 5.14 acres	13 acres	+10.43 acres
Community Parks	5.0 – 8.0 acres	128.5 – 205.6 acres	126 acres	-2.5 to -79.6 acres
Regional Park / Natural Resource Area	10 acres	257 acres	290 acres	+33 acres
Total	—		430 acres	—

¹ Source: Lancaster, R. A., Ed. *Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1983.; Mertes, J.D. and J. R. Hall. *Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines*. Alexandria, VA: NRPA, 1995; *Minimum Acres/1,000 Residents*

² Based on the 2017 ACS population of 25,711.

³ Based on the NRPA guidelines.

Facilities Analysis

In addition to park land, existing facilities were compared against the recommended guidelines set by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and MDNR to determine if they are adequate to meet the needs of residents based on national averages. The analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and existing conditions in Mt. Pleasant, information obtained during the public input opportunities, programming needs, site conditions, as well as national averages. To make plans for the future, we need to look at what we have and where we should go. A comparison of national standards and Mt. Pleasant current facilities was completed; the results are shown in Table 4.9.

Table 4.9: Mt. Pleasant Park Facility Analysis

	MDNR Standard	Recommended Facilities	Existing Facilities	Surplus / Deficiency
Badminton	1 per 5,000	5	0	-5
Ball Fields	1 per 5,000	5	10	+5
Basketball Court (Indoor)	1 per 5,000	5	4	-1
Beach Areas	Varies	—	—	—
Football Field	1 per 20,000	1	0	-1
Golf-Driving Range	1 per 50,000	1	0	-1
Golf Course (9-hole Standard)	1 Per 25,000	1	0	-1
Handball (3-4 Wall)	1 per 20,000	1	0	-1
Ice Hockey (Indoor)	1 per 100,000.	1	0	-1
Multi-Purpose Athletic Field	1 per 10,000	2	3	+1
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	2	12	+10
Swimming Pool	1 per 20,000	2	0	-2
Tennis Court	1 court per 2000	12	5	-7
Trails	1 system per region	1	2	+1
Volleyball Court	1 court per 5000	5	10	+5
Running Track	1 per 20,000	1	1	0

“More fun for families. Carnivals, parades, someplace to go swimming like a beach, even man made! Give us a reason to stay in town for the summer.”

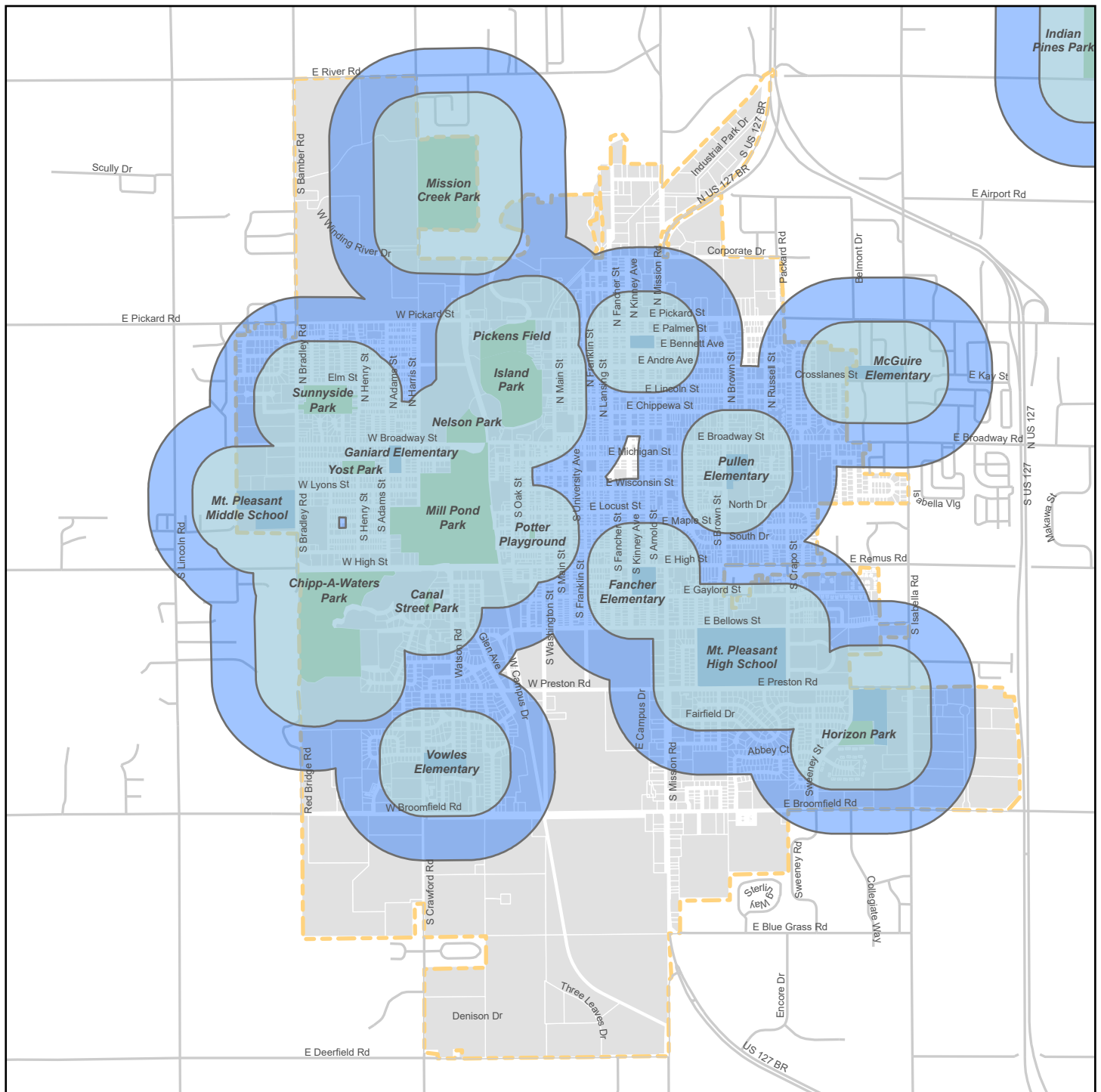


Service Areas - A Park Worth Walking To

Although it is important to consider the overall amount of park land in the City, it is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement throughout the community. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas it is important to closely consider where the residents in the City live.

As illustrated on the Service Area Map, the “10-minute walk” concept illustrates how the health and vibrancy of a neighborhood can be determined based on the amenities availability within a 10-minute walk. A 10 minute walk typically consists of 1/4 mile. A 1/2 mile, typically a reasonable distance for biking, is also shown on the map. As cities have grown and more reliance was placed on the automobile, alternative modes of transportation were utilized less, including walking. However, there has been a resurgence of residents of all ages and abilities seeking opportunities to improve access to the amenities in their neighborhood through non-motorized transportation.

“Mt. Pleasant needs to become a more walkable city, especially near campus. There is so much traffic because the city is largely unwalkable, especially during the winter months.”



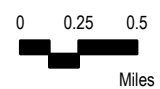
City Parks Service Radii

City of Mt. Pleasant, MI

January 30, 2020

LEGEND

- 1/4 Mile Service Radii
- 1/2 Mile Service Map
- Roads
- Mt. Pleasant Boundary
- School Facilities
- City Parks
- City Parcels



SOURCES
 Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
 Data Source: City of Mt. Pleasant. McKenna 2019.





Basis for Action Plan

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community. The needs serve as a basis for the development of the action plan. This task is accomplished using a compilation of several methods, including comparing the community to national recreation guidelines for the size of the community, information gathered during the public input process, consultation with the City and Parks and Recreation Department, and by reviewing current offerings and programming.

System-Wide Recommendations

In addition to capital investments into programs and facilities, the City should also evaluate the current system and review long-range options for providing parks and recreation. The following are system-wide recommendations that should be evaluated annually and used in the long-range planning of parks and recreation:

PARK DESIGN IMPROVEMENTS

As the park system evolves and each park undergoes its own degree of improvements, it is important to clearly mark park entrances and visually unify the parks so residents are aware that facilities they use are part of Mt. Pleasant's park system. This can be accomplished by a uniform set of design themes that symbolize Mt. Pleasant parks and are used in the design of lighting, benches, signs, waste receptacles, bike racks, and other amenities. Tree transplanting and improvements is a community focus for all public areas.

NON-MOTORIZED CONNECTIVITY

Mt. Pleasant should continue to seek opportunities for planning, land acquisition, access easements, and non-motorized trail development to assist this effort within the community.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

As opportunities become available the Department should analyze any critical natural areas in the community through inventories and appropriate studies. This information is critical to prioritizing resources for the acquisition, protection, and management of park natural areas.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department is only one of several sources of recreation programming for community residents. Volunteer youth sports organizations, private businesses and institutions, and other groups offer leagues, services and programs. To complement these other resources, the Department should partner with these programs when appropriate.

AGING IN PLACE

The Parks and Recreation Department should continue efforts to improve the system for access and use by senior and aging residents. This population has specific needs and preferences to consider. Pickleball, pools, and fitness programming are examples of successful efforts made by the City to address the needs of seniors.

PARK PROMOTION

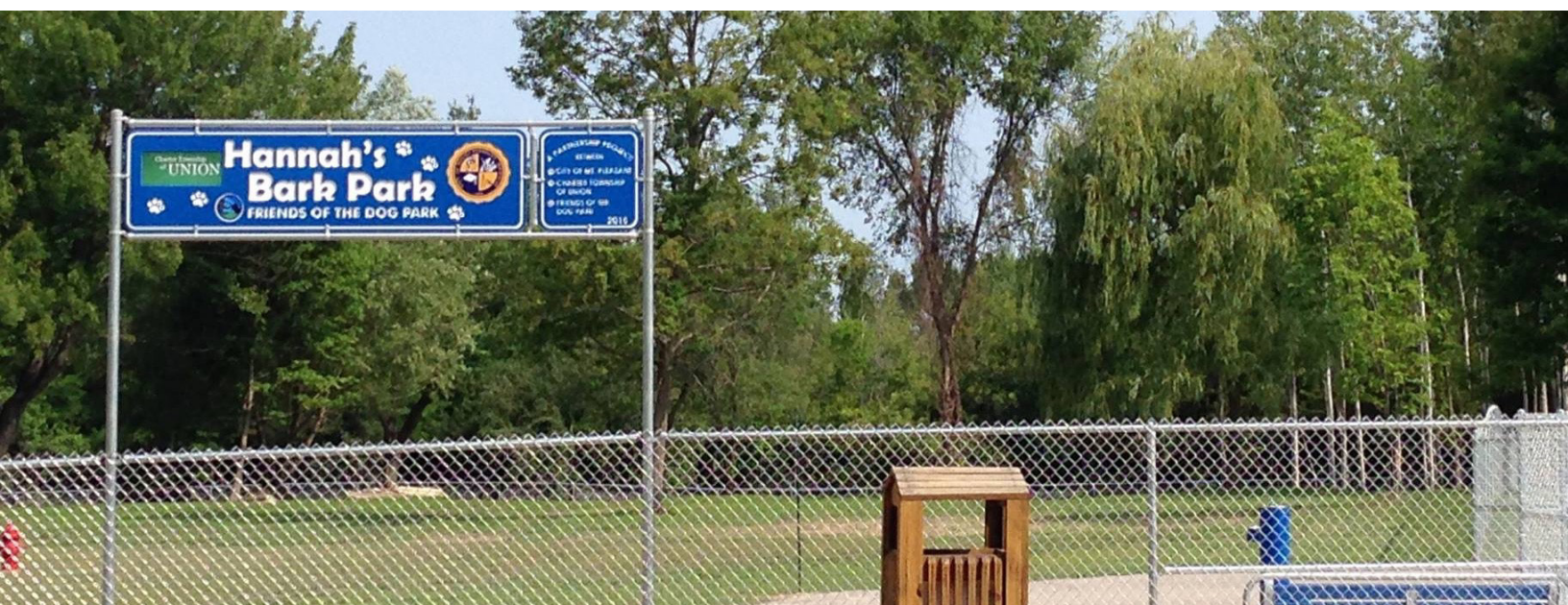
The Parks and Recreation Department should use creative promotional approaches to increase awareness of the features available at the various parks. Promotional ideas could include: park maps and park events. Increased awareness of the parks will increase appreciation and support for the park system and could also generate a spirit of volunteerism with maintenance, development and fundraising projects.

FUNDRAISING

Develop new and creative ways to raise funds for park improvements, such as events, service projects and local fundraising. These park improvements could be as small scale as fundraising for benches, trees and other amenities.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to solicit residents' suggestions on planning, use, and improvement of parks and programming. This can be accomplished with public meetings, surveys, or through resident feedback solicited at special events.



Five-Year ADA Transition and Capital Improvement Plans

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. Table 4.10 incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years for planning purposes.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2019 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

Key:		
Funding Sources		Priority
CI	Capital Improvement Fund	High
DO	Donation	Medium
G	Grants	Low
RF	Recreation Fund	As Needed
GF	General Fund	Ongoing

Table 4.10: Mt. Pleasant Capital Improvements Schedule, 2020-2025

	Project Location	Task Brief	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	Supports Objective	Priority
2020	Chippewa River	Create a program for the continue improvement of the cleanliness and water quality with Partners	\$20,000 annual	CI, G	4.7	Ongoing
	Chippewa River	Replace various bridge decks	\$50,000	CI	4.7	High
	Island Park	Ball field improvements (field irrigation, dugout repair)	\$25,000	CI, DO	4.1	Medium
	Island Park	Install 1-mile, marked trail loop	\$300,000	CI, G, DO	4.3	High
	Island Park	Install a fitness area	\$25,000	CI, G, DO	4.1	Medium
	Island Park	Install a new bridge	\$75,000	CI, G, DO	4.2	High
	Mill Pond Park	Replace fishing deck	\$50,000	CI	4.4	High
	Riverside Cemetery	Replace the roof of the mausoleum	\$25,000	CI	4.4	Low
	Sunnyside Park	Replace playground structure	\$85,000	CI, G, DO	4.1	High
2021	GKB Trail	Develop a design plan to connect Island Park to Mission Creek	\$48,000	CI, G, DO	4.2	High
	Horizon Park	Repair Tennis Court and add pickleball complex	\$85,000	CI, G, DO	4.8	High
	Island Park	Replace fishing deck	\$40,000	CI	4.4	High
	Island Park	Modernize and update the south restroom	\$160,000	CI	4.1	High
	Nelson Park	Improvements to the shop	\$110,000	CI	4.4	High
	Nelson Park	Replace fishing deck	\$40,000	CI	4.4	High
2022	GKB Trail	Implement design plan to connect Island Park to Mission Creek	\$475,000	CI, G, DO	4.3	High
	Indian Pines Preserve	Develop a Master Park Plan for the site	\$25,000	CI	4.1	High
	Mill Pond Park	Develop engineering plans for dam reconstruction	\$48,000	CI, G, DO	4.7	Medium
	Mission Creek Park	Make trail repairs and improvements to mitigate future flooding	\$45,000	CI	4.4	High
2023	GKB Trail	Wayfinding in parks	\$70,000	CI, G, DO	4.2	High
	Mill Pond Park	Replace the roof of the pavilion	\$50,000	CI	4.4	High
	Mill Pond Park	Implement dam reconstruction	\$475,000	CI, G, DO	4.7	High
	Yost Park	Install additional shaded, ADA accessible spectator seating	\$20,000	CI, G	4.1	Medium
2024	Chipp-A-Waters Park	Repair / replace roof and concrete improvements at pavilion	\$55,000	CI	4.4	High
	Chippewa River	Implement pedestrian bridge abutment protection program	\$100,000	CI, G, DO	4.4	Medium
	East Side of City	Install outdoor fitness equipment	\$45,000	CI, G, DO	4.8	High
	GKB Trail	Develop a design plan to connect to the Mid-Michigan Trail and prepare grant application	\$45,000	CI, G, DO	4.2, 4.6	High
	Mission Creek Park	Install a paved parking lot	\$200,000	CI	4.4	High
	Mission Creek Park	Update the Master Park Plan with pro-forma data	\$25,000	CI	4.1	Medium
	Sunnyside Park	Repave parking lot	\$80,000	CI	4.4	High
	Various Locations	Repair pavement (trails, parking lot, etc.)	\$30,000	CI	4.4	As needed
2025	Chipp-A-Waters Park	Repair playground equipment and create universal access	\$35,000	CI	4.4	High
	Chippewa River	Implement riverbank erosion protection program	\$115,000	CI, G, DO	4.7	High
	GKB Trail	Implement design plan to connect to the Mid-Michigan Trail	\$500,000	CI, G, DO	4.2	High
	Island Park	Replace north restroom roof	\$25,000	CI	4.4	High
	Nelson Park	Replace restroom roof	\$25,000	CI	4.4	High
2026	Chippewa River	Riverbank erosion protection	\$115,000	CI, G, DO	4.7	High
	Horizon Park	Update parking lot	\$35,000	CI, DO	4.4	High
	Island Park	Spray park updates	\$45,000	CI, DO	4.1	Medium
	Island Park, Nelson Park	Repave trails	\$200,000	CI, G, DO	4.3	Medium
	Island Park, Pickens Park	Replace satellite play components in the parks	\$65,000	CI	4.4	Low
	Mission Creek	New playground	\$95,000	CI, G, DO	4.1	Medium
	Pickens Park	Replace restroom roof	\$35,000	CI	4.4	High

	Project Location	Task Brief	Cost Estimate	Potential Funding Sources	Supports Objective	Priority
	Town Center	Develop and activate civic space in downtown for recreational activities and special events. Provide connection to Island Park and trail system	TBD	TBD	3.7, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 5.7	High
2020-2026 and Future	Mill Pond Park	Add east trail connector loop	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.3	Low
	Trail Development and Connections	Partner with surrounding jurisdictions to develop and connect trails	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.2, 4.6	High
	Nelson Park	Add street lighting to roadway loop	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.4	High
	Chipp-A-Waters Park Chippewa River	Repair Chippewa riverbank erosion at south side of river with partners	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.6, 4.7	High
	Island Park with other park locations	Storywalk project install at parks with partners	\$10,000	GF, CI, G, DO	4.1, 4.6	Low
	Location TBD	Community aquatics facility development with partners	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.5, 4.6	High
	City's Regional Center Property	Support park, trail, and pedestrian bridge development	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.2, 4.9	Low
	Location TBD	Investigate installation of more bike trails with partners	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.2	Medium
	Pickard Street	Support trail development and crossings with MDOT	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.3	Medium
	Location TBD	Investigate installation of disc golf facility with partners	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.5	Medium
	Various trail locations	Add pedestrian lighting to park trails	TBD	GF, CI, G, DO	4.4	High
	Land Acquisition					
	Chipp-A-Waters east of Park	Wetland preservation	TBD	CI, G, DO	4.1	Medium

Table 4.11: Mt. Pleasant ADA Transition Plan, 2020-2025

Park Name	Project Brief	Proposed Timeline	Cost Estimate	Priority
Chipp-A-Waters Park	Accessible Route to Playground	2022	\$10,000	Medium
GKB Riverwalk Trail	Update Vets Bridge Island Park to Pickens Field	2020	\$75,000	High
	Island Park add North and South Trail loop routes for safety and accessibility	2020	\$300,000	High
	Connect Island/Nelson Park trail NE to Harris Road to Mission Creek park	2022	\$475,000	Medium
	Mill Pond Park develop paved path around wetland area	2026	\$350,000	Low
Horizon Park	Improve route to playground including swings and bench, update playground edging	2021	\$15,000	Medium
	Add an accessible route to the ballfields and all park amenities	2026	\$30,000	Medium
Island Park	Update South Restroom Facility to exceed ADA Standards add family RR	2021	\$160,000	High
	Update the Bridge on the north side of the park for accessibility	2020	\$75,000	High
	Add North and South Trail Loop routes for Safety and accessibility	2020	See Riverwalk above	High
	Replace existing Fishing/observation Decks with updated ADA Decks	2021	\$40,000	High
	Add accessible routes to park amenities	2023	\$20,000	High
	Add accessible routes to the existing swings (three areas) and Slideland Area	2024	\$16,000	High
Mill Pond Park	Replace aging fishing/observation decks with updated accessible decks	2021	\$50,000	High
	Develop a path around the wetland area	2026	\$350,000	Low
Mission Creek Park	Develop an accessible playground	2026	\$150,000	High
	Pave existing gravel parking lot and delineate accessible parking spaces	2024	\$150,000	High
	Add a shelter that is accessible	2026	\$175,000	High
	Connect the park to the Local and Regional Path System	2025	See Riverwalk above	Low

Park Name	Project Brief	Proposed Timeline	Cost Estimate	Priority
Nelson Park	Create additional ADA companion seating	2020	\$10,000	High
	Make upgrades to existing shop area to improve accessibility	2021	\$110,000	High
	Replace existing fishing/observation decks with updated ADA decks	2021	\$40,000	High
	Provide accessible routes to the existing picnic tables, benches and grills	Ongoing	Operational	High
	Provide and accessible route to existing rock climber	2026	\$7,500	Low
Pickens Field	Add an accessible route to dugouts	2025	\$7,500	Medium
	Add an accessible route to playground	2026	\$25,000	Low
	Add an accessible route to batting cages	2025	\$5,000	Low
Sunnyside Park	Replace existing playstructure with update ADA unit	2020	\$85,000	High
	Add an accessible route to basketball court and all sports facilities	2025	\$5,000	Medium
	Add an accessible route to basketball court	2024	\$10,000	Low
Yost Park	Add accessible spectator seating near the ballfield	2023	\$5,000	High

SYSTEM-WIDE BARRIER FREE ACCESSIBILITY

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has established guidelines to provide barrier free accessibility at public facilities. It is important to provide access to the Mt. Pleasant facilities according to these guidelines so that all residents can enjoy the facilities. As parks and facilities are improved or developed, a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve barrier free accessibility with improvements to proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that provides universal access. The following are general ADA improvements that should be ongoing as soon as resources permit:

- » Provide accessible picnic tables at all sites, with accessible routes to them;
- » Provide safety surfacing at all playgrounds;
- » Add system-wide park wayfinding to assist with navigation and accessibility;
- » Provide accessible routes to benches, grills and trash receptacles; and
- » Provide detectable warnings (ADA transition plates) at path connections to warn pedestrians of vehicle routes.

Implementation Strategies

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. Current funding falls well short of the projected expenses involved in the proposed project implementation. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended in order to proceed as planned:

I. INCREASE REVENUES AND PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

By taking a close look at the expenses involved in providing programs and facilities to the park users, the fee schedule could be revised in order to more accurately reflect actual costs. The user fees paid for shelter rentals could be a model for additional fee-based usage.

II. APPLY FOR STATE FUNDING OR OTHER GRANT MONIES

There are a variety of funding sources available to local governments for park land acquisition and development. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Division administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF—requires 50% local match) and the Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF—requires 25% local match). Other funding may be available through other programs at the State and Federal levels, such as the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, the Inland Fisheries Grant Program, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Federal funding through the National Parks Service is available under the Rivers and Trails Program and includes the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery. In addition, transportation funding through the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) under Section 1122 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) surface transportation program is available for the development of non-motorized pathways within MDOT rights-of-way. There are a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways or greenway-related facilities such as Bikes Belong Coalition, Dalmac Fund Grant by the Tri County Bicycle Association, Michigander Grant Program by the Rails to Trail Conservancy, and the Conservation Fund by Kodak American Greenways Awards Program.

III. CREATE A FRIENDS ORGANIZATION

An organized friends group could take on a role in fundraising for specific projects and developing an endowment to provide support park projects.

IV. PURSUE PARTNERSHIPS WITH AREA ORGANIZATIONS

Building on areas of shared need, collaborate with other governmental units, and the Tribe, to address common recreation priorities. Work with community organizations to support specific recreation development projects whenever the opportunity arises.

V. SEEK OTHER SOURCES OF FUNDING

The Parks and Recreation Department should continue to investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund raising events, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that have worked in other communities to raise funding for parks and park improvements. One of the biggest challenges is maintaining existing improvements. New funding sources should prioritize maintenance and operations funding for the existing system.

