



A COMMUNITY AT PLAY



Parks & Recreation Five-Year Plan

2025-2029

Thank you!

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The City of Marshall sits on the original homelands of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians.



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Overview

Introduction, Community Description, and Administrative Structure



Introduction

The City of Marshall is pleased to present its Parks & Recreation Five-Year Plan for 2025-2029. It is an exciting time for the City and this plan reflects the aspirations and enthusiasm of the community regarding its parks system. Parks are an essential component of the city's identity and critical to the wellbeing of its residents. This plan focuses on parks and recreation goals for the City of Marshall, with additional priorities outlined that are part of regional initiatives. The Parks & Recreation Five-Year Plan will serve as a guide for budgeting and policy decisions by staff, the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Board, and other relevant City commissions and boards. Further, with the adoption of this plan, the City of Marshall is eligible for grant funds through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Community Description

The City of Marshall is a community of roughly 6,800 residents located in central Calhoun County and serving as the County Seat. The city is approximately 6.2 square miles and is located along the interchange of interstate 94 and interstate 69. The city is approximately 50 miles south of Lansing and 40 miles east of Kalamazoo.

Founded in 1830, Marshall was in the running to be the state capital, but lost by several votes to Lansing. The city is home to the "Governor's Mansion" – constructed by the third Governor of Michigan, James Wright Gordan – as well as many other historic 19th century structures. In fact, Marshall's downtown is one of the nation's largest National Historic Landmark Districts.

Demographics

History is paramount in Marshall. The community's identity is tied to its unique history, from politics to railroads, to even the Underground Railroad. The Marshall Historical Society maintains excellent archives of the city's history and manages several historic museums in the city, including the Honolulu House and the Marshall Historical Museum.

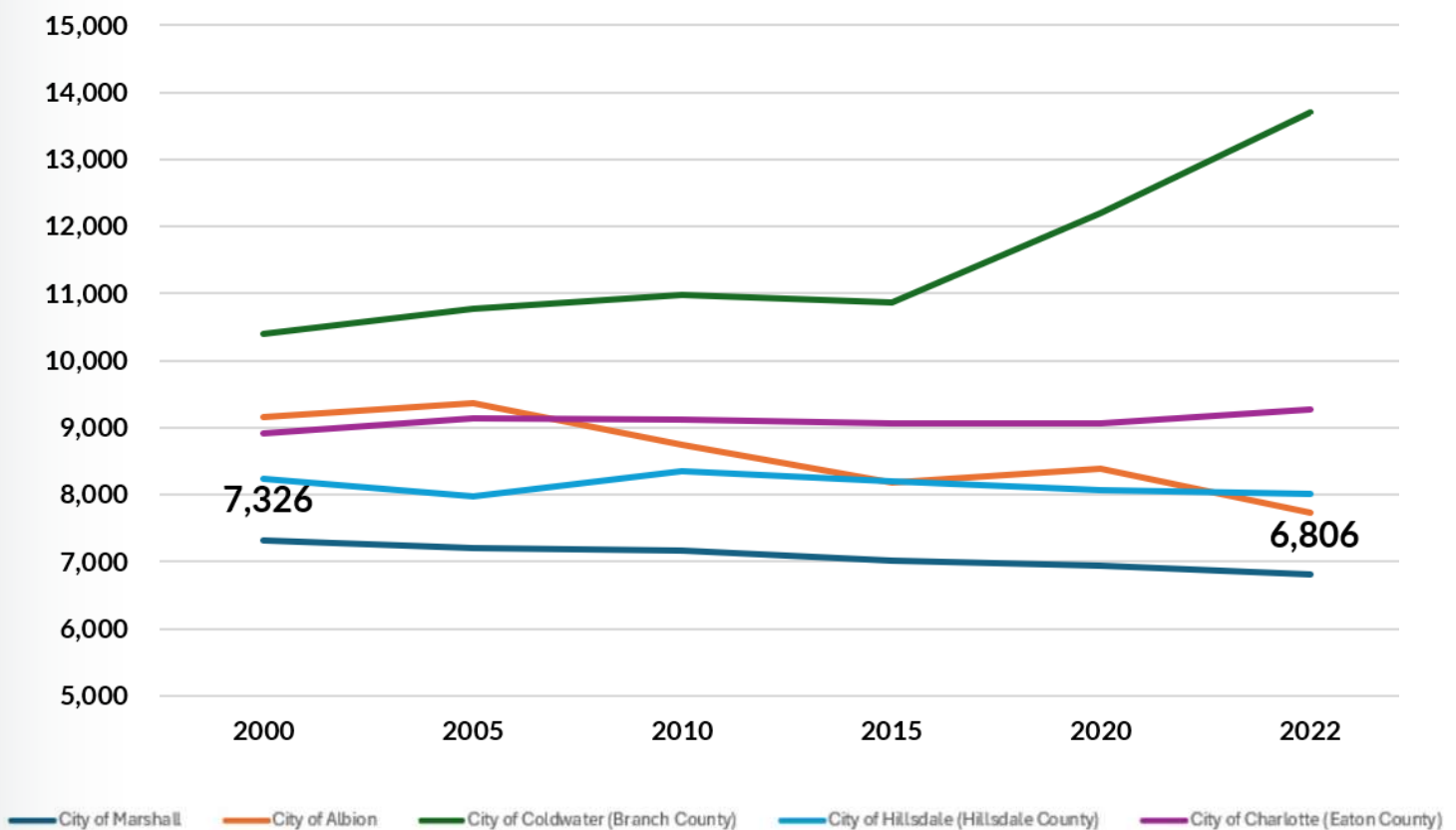
Visitors and residents appreciate Marshall for its preservation of history, but they also visit for splendid access to nature. Marshall is rich in natural amenities, the North Branch of the Kalamazoo River runs through town, as well as Rice Creek and Talmadge Creek. The City's parks such as Ketchum Park, Brooks Nature Area, and the Riverwalk attract hikers, bikers, and fishers. The unique natural features and location of Marshall have poised the city to link critical river and trail networks throughout Calhoun County and beyond.

When a community is thinking about parks and recreation, it is important to understand who will be using the parks and participating in the programs. Understanding these demographic trends is useful in planning parks and recreation improvements and programs. Is more playground equipment needed or more outdoor exercise equipment for older adults trying to stay active? What about amenities for those with mobility issues? Factors such as the number of seniors or the number of households with families or children at various age brackets play a role in designing park amenities.

In terms of overall population, Marshall has lost over 500 residents since 2000, decreasing from 7,326 residents in 2000 to 6,806 in 2022 (-7%). This is greater than Calhoun County's overall population decline (-3%) over the same period.

1 - U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2022 5-year.

Marshall Area Population Change (2000-2022)



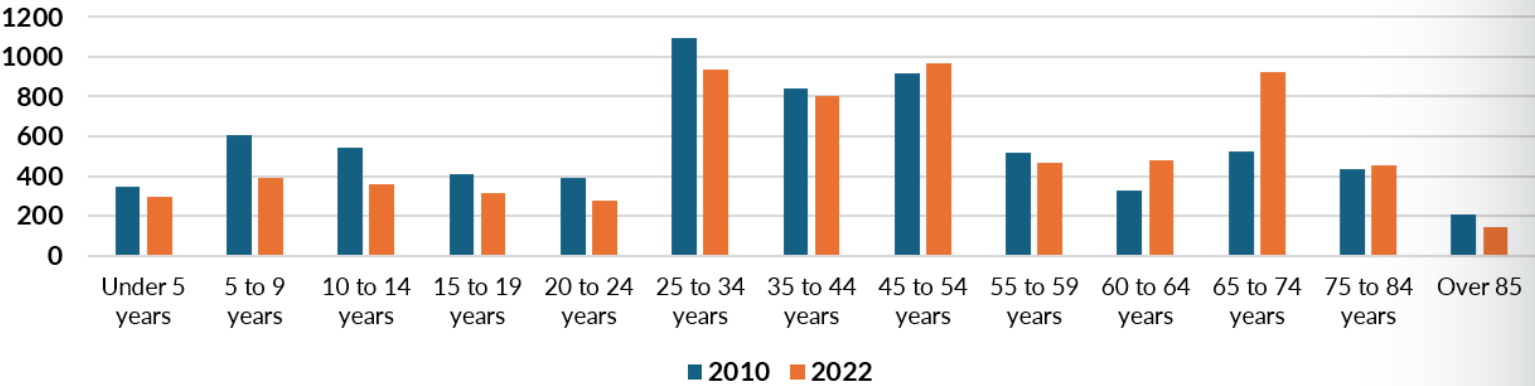
However, the number of households in Marshall has grown between 2010 and 2022, increasing from 2,999 households to 3,119. Growth in the number of households while population has declined can be attributed to the large number of Millennials who have come of age in this time period. Many have left a shared house with roommates or moved out of their parents' homes, adding to the number of total households. The size of these households are smaller, however; the average household size in 2010 was 2.39 people, compared to 2.14 people in 2022.

Households have also changed in their age composition. As is the case across the country, Marshall's population is aging. The number of young children, teenagers, and high schoolers in Marshall (those 19 years or younger) has declined by about 29% since 2010, decreasing from 1,904 people 19 or younger in 2010 to 1,355 in 2022. Only one out of five households in Marshall have children under 18.

The number of retirement-age residents in Marshall has increased by 31% in that same time period. By way of comparison, the number of retirement-age residents in the State of Michigan increased roughly 36% between 2010-2022.

Disability is another important consideration when it comes to planning parks and recreation facilities and programming. In Marshall, approximately 11.9% of people identify as having a disability, including 4.5% of children ages 17 and under. This is a lower level of overall disability when compared to Calhoun County and the state of Michigan, which both have approximately 14.3% of the population living with a disability. Marshall's percentage of children living with a disability is comparable to Michigan's (4.8%) but higher than Calhoun County (3.7%).

Marshall Age Cohorts, 2010-2022



Administrative Structure

Advisory Boards

Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Board

The Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Board is comprised of eight members, including one liaison to the City Council. Appointed by the Mayor, board members are comprised of City and/or Township residents, serving three-year terms. The Board acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council and staff, aiding in the formulation of rules, regulations, and policies. The Board informed the creation of the Parks & Recreation Plan by holding three meetings – one kick-off discussion, one meeting to review the draft plan, and one to recommend the plan for adoption by City Council.

Brooks Nature Area Advisory Board

The Brooks Nature Area Advisory Board is responsible for the promotion, protection, and development of the 189-acre nature preserve which was established as a city park in 2006. The Board is comprised of seven members which serve two-year terms. The Advisory Board recently updated the Five-Year Management Plan for Brooks Nature Area, found in Appendix J.

Marshall Area Farmers Market Advisory Board

This Advisory Board was established in 2014 to oversee the promotion and development of the Marshall Area Farmers Market, which has been in operation since 2002. The Board is comprised of 10 members plus a City Council Liaison and Staff Liaison.

Staff

Community Services, Parks Department, Recreation Department, and Department of Public Works

Three city departments are involved in the maintenance and programming of parks and recreation in the City of Marshall: the Parks Department, the Recreation Department, and the Department of Public Works (DPW). The Parks & Recreation Superintendent directs both the Parks Department and the Recreation Department, and reports to the Director of Community Services. While these departments are distinct operating units, a collaborative working environment allows for the sharing of staff, equipment, and expertise as needed.

The Parks Department currently has two employees and is financed through the General Fund. Over the past few fiscal years, the budget for the Parks Department has been between \$90,000 and \$130,000, with a five-year average of approximately \$105,000. The current adopted budget, historical expenditures, and requested budget for fiscal year 2025 have been included in Appendix A.

The Department of Public Works currently has eight full-time employees and seasonal part-time employees. All positions are financed through the General Fund. DPW is responsible for maintaining parks facilities and reports to the Director of Public Services.

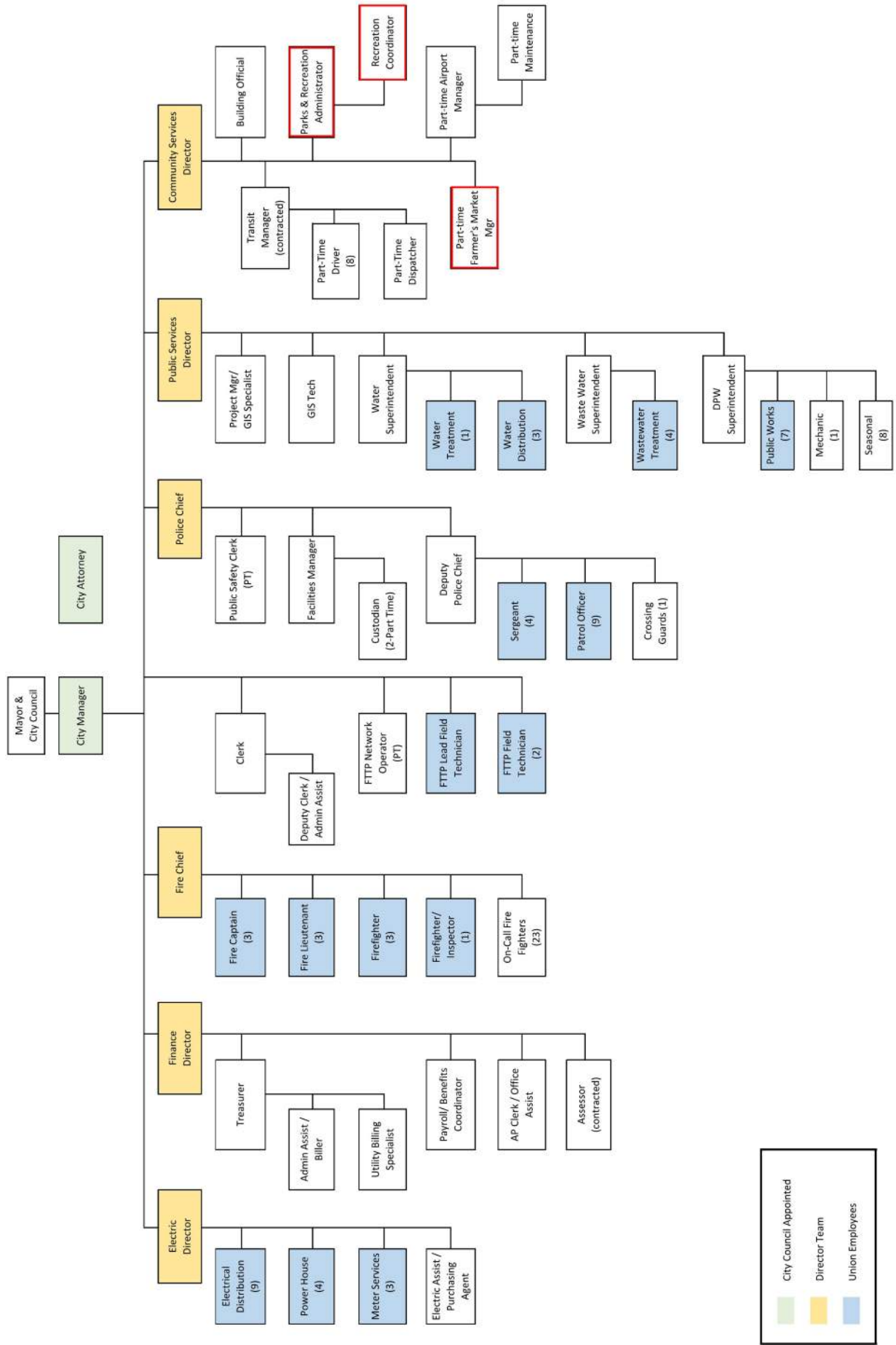
The Recreation Department currently has two full-time employees and eight seasonal employees. The Department also depends heavily on a strong volunteer base to meet program needs. Approximately 50 percent of the Department's operations are funded through a 0.9202 voter approved dedicated millage with the other 50 percent generated from user fees. The Recreation Department budget has fluctuated between \$327,000 and \$433,000 over the last five years, with an average of around \$395,000. The current adopted budget, historical expenditures, and requested budget for fiscal year 2025 have been included in Appendix B.



Figure 1. City of Marshall staff at a park clean-up day on May 24, 2024.

City of Marshall - Organization Chart

3.28.2024



Other Districts and Agencies

Marshall Public Schools

The City Recreation Departments relies heavily on Marshall Public Schools for facility use and marketing of the programs offered. The Recreation Department uses many different school-owned facilities throughout the year for both athletics and special events. These include tennis lessons at the tennis courts, youth and adult basketball leagues and lessons, floor hockey, dodgeball, volleyball leagues and clinics, whiffleball leagues, Tae Kwon Do, and special events such as the Daddy Daughter Date Night and Mother Son Activity nights.

One signature program offered by the Recreation Department is the Summer Fun Playground. This summer kids program is hosted at Hughes Elementary school for eight to ten weeks, Monday through Friday, from 10am-4pm. Marshall Public Schools also allows the Recreation Department to distribute flyers through their Friday folder in the elementary schools. This is an essential partnership for the continued success of the department.

Calhoun County

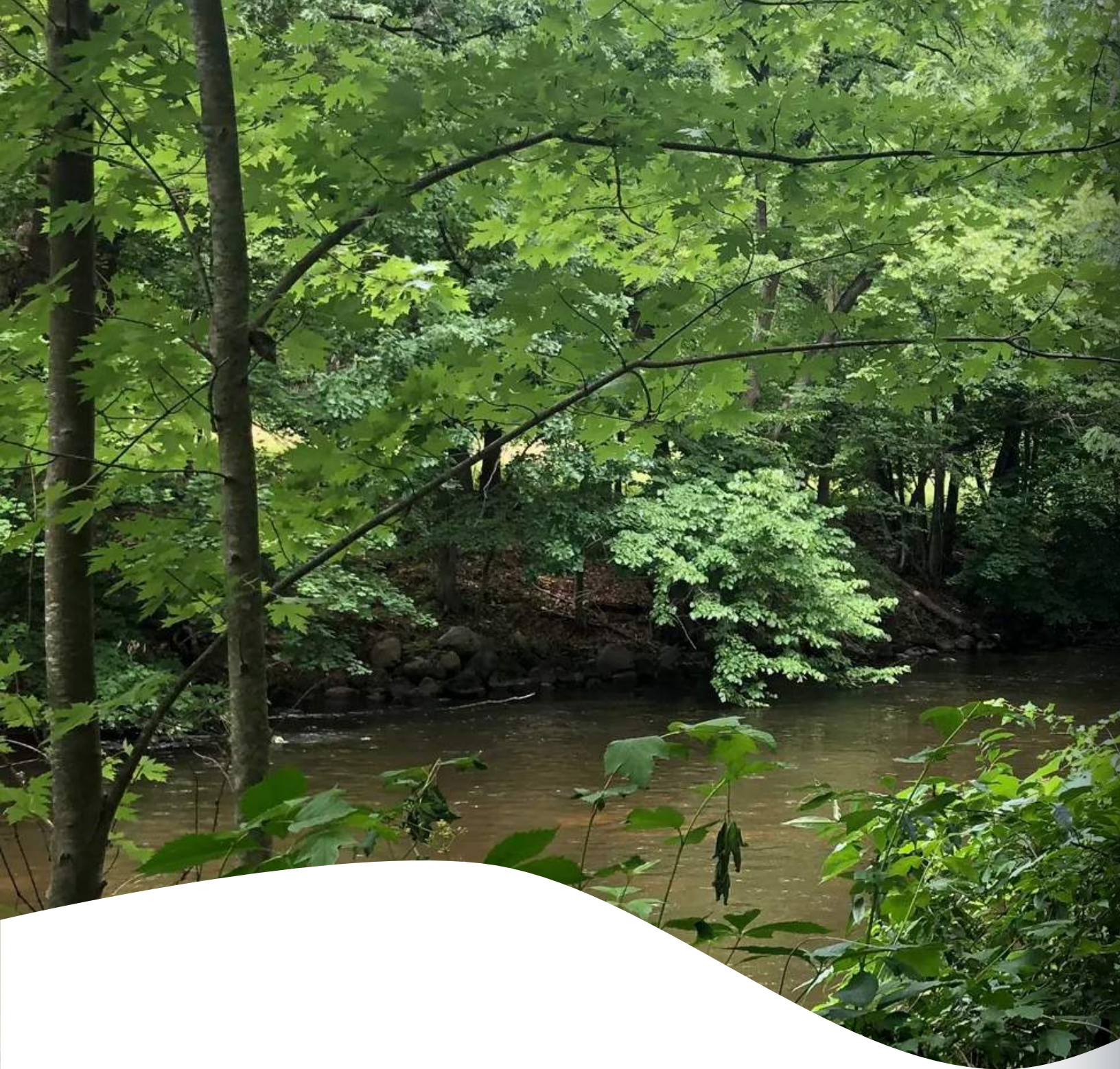
The City of Marshall has a strong working relationship with Calhoun County. The County has several regional parks, trails, and river projects planned for the coming years, and the City of Marshall is coordinating with the County to align on these initiatives. On August 6th, voters approved a Calhoun County millage for parks. Half of these monies go toward County parks initiatives while the other half are allocated to local units based on population size.

Volunteers

The Parks and Recreation Departments rely on the time of valued volunteers to conduct their activities. Volunteers assist with litter control, landscaping needs, routine maintenance, facility and equipment improvement, and other improvements that the groups are willing to sponsor. Groups commonly involved are the Marshall Rotary Club, Ketchum Park Advisory Committee, Boy and Girl Scouts troops, and more.



Figure 2. *Members of Marshall Rotary Club on the newly finished Ketchum Park Rotary Bridge. May 8, 2024.*





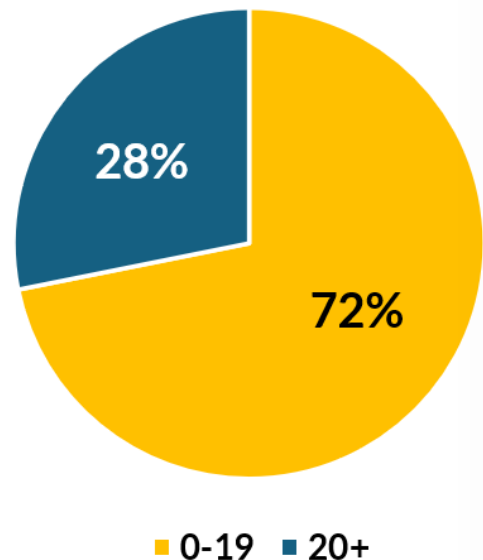
Parks and Recreation Programming and Inventory

Recreation Programming, Recreation Inventory, and Natural Resource Inventory

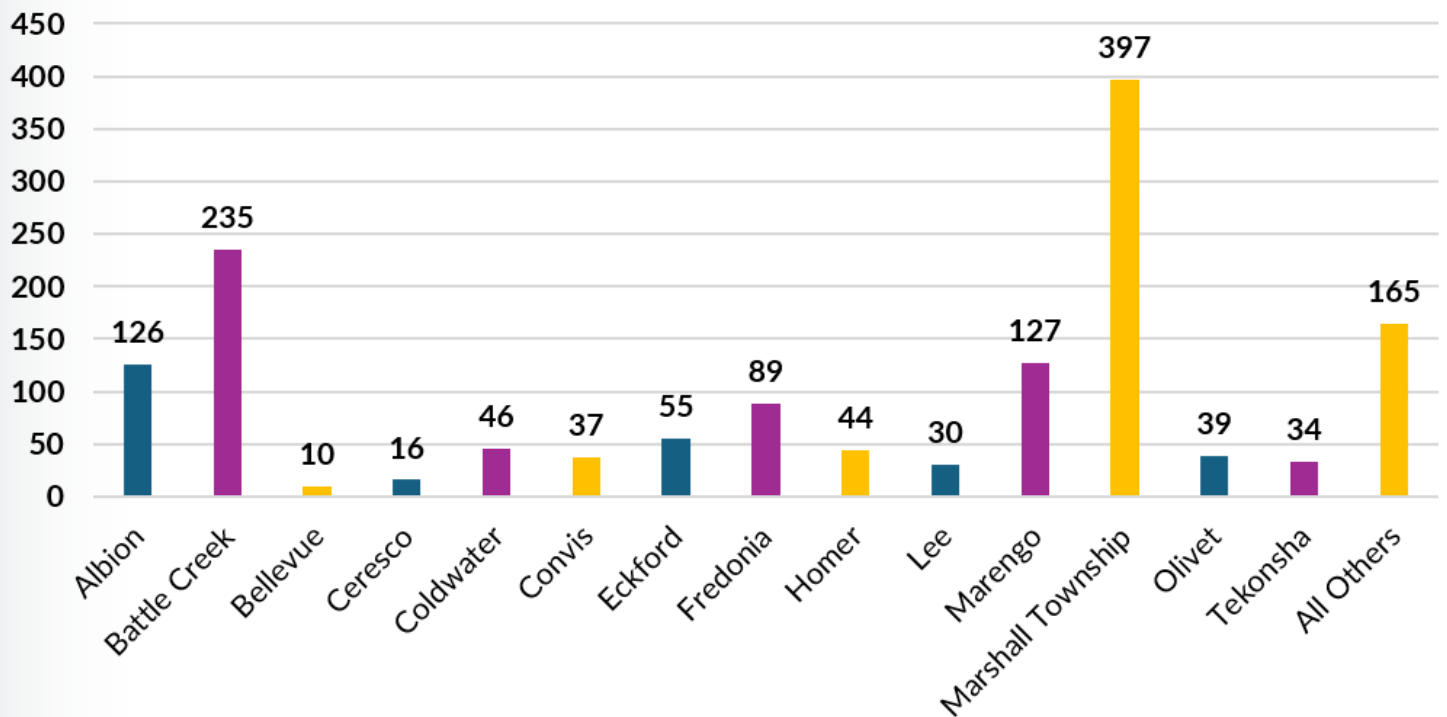
Recreation Programming

For a community of its size, Marshall has a robust portfolio of recreation programming, attracting attendees from across Calhoun County of all ages. In 2023, 3,053 people registered for programming through the Marshall Recreation Department. Of those, roughly 53 percent were residents and 47 percent were non-residents. Participants come from as far as Olivet and Coldwater to participate in Marshall's recreation programs and leagues. The following graphs tell the story of who attends Marshall's recreation programming.

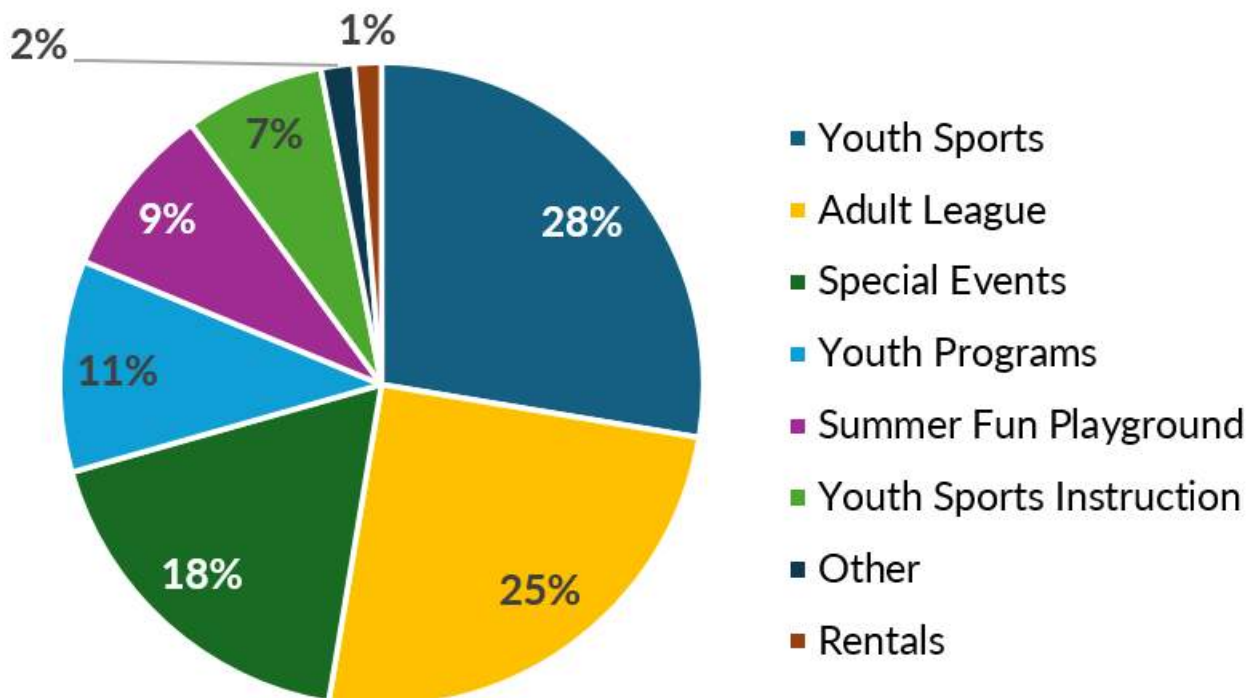
Age of Recreation Program Participants



Where do non-Marshall rec participants come from?



Type of Programming



Marshall is able to attract participants due to its innovative and expansive recreation offerings. The Marshall Recreation Department maintains

a separate website from the general City of Marshall website and keeps an active Facebook account with over 3,800 followers.

The following programs were offered in 2023-24:

<p>Youth Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Baseball and Softball • Junior Basketball • Lil' Sports Programs – 3-5yr olds • Floor Hockey • Archery • Flag Football – Spring and Fall Sessions • Summer Fun Playground Camp – 8 weeks • Nerf Wars • Indoor Soccer • After School Programs: • Adventure Club • Kids Night Out 	<p>Adult Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Volleyball • Adult Softball • Adult Basketball <p>Special Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Father / Daughter Date Night • Mother/ Son Activity Night <p>Rentals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayak, Canoe, and Tube Rentals • Park and Facility Rentals
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Recreation Inventory

Per the City of Marshall Code of Ordinances, Chapter 91. Parks and Recreation, there are eight properties designated as city parks in the City of Marshall:

- Carver Park
- Brooks Memorial Fountain Park
- Marshall Athletic Fields
- Ketchum Park
- Stuart Landing and Millpond Park
- The Brooks Nature Area
- Shearman Park
- Riverwalk

Additionally, the following locations serve as important parks and recreation spaces:

- Allcott Park
- Grand Street Park Peace Park
- Garvin Park
- Cook Property
- Marshall Area Farmer’s Market
- Calhoun County Fair Grounds

And lastly, the following school-owned facilities are places of recreation for the community:

- Gordon Elementary School
- Walters Elementary School
- Hughes Elementary School
- Marshall Middle School
- Marshall High School
- Marshall Academy
- Mar-Lee School

Parks and Open Space

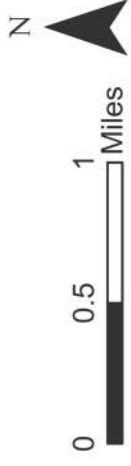
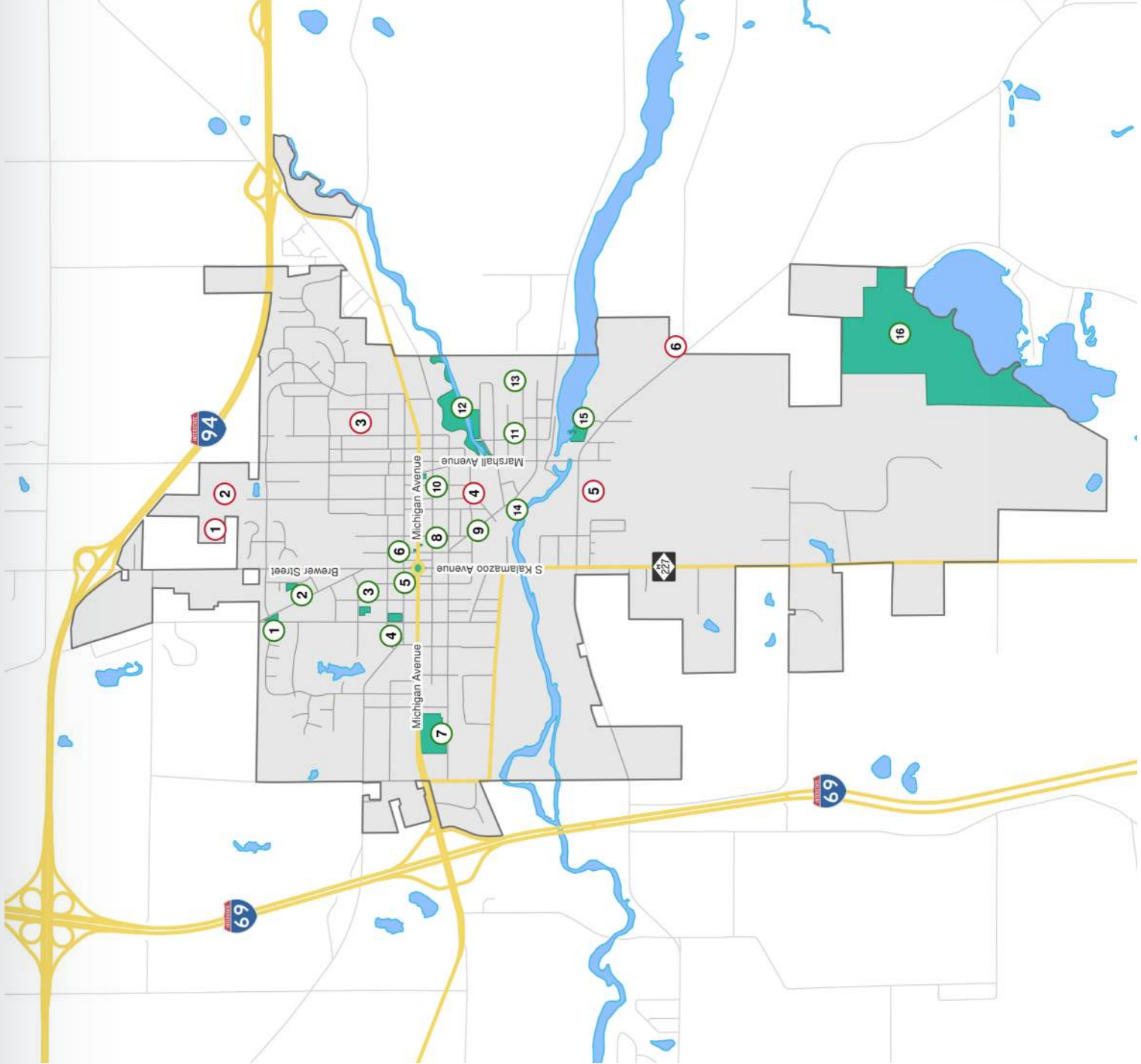
City of Marshall, MI

Parks and Open Space

- 1 Cook Park
- 2 Alcott Park
- 3 Garvin Park
- 4 Shearman Park
- 5 Brooks Memorial Fountain Park
- 6 Grand Street Park
- 7 Marshall Athletic Sports Complex
- 8 Peace Park
- 9 Farmer's Market (Summer)
- 10 Glen Carver Memorial Park
- 11 Farmer's Market (Winter)
- 12 Ketchum Park
- 13 Calhoun County Fairgrounds
- 14 Riverwalk
- 15 Stuart's Landing
- 16 Brooks Nature Area

Schools

- 1 Walters Elementary School
- 2 Marshall High School
- 3 Gordon Elementary School
- 4 Marshall Middle School
- 5 Hughes Elementary School
- 6 Marshall Academy



Data Source: City of Marshall, 2024. Michigan Geographic Data Library, 2024. Progressive Companies, 2024.

Accessibility Assessment

The inventory that follows details geographic and operational information for each park, along with an accessibility assessment based on the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. These standards address design elements such as the width and slope of walkways, the size of print and pictures in interpretive signage, the height of observation decks, and the presence of curb cuts and ramps that connect to pedestrian infrastructure.

Marshall's parks were rated based upon the ranking system below:

- 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





Carver Park

East Michigan Avenue and Exchange Street
0.3 Acres

Park Description

Carver Park, located near the intersection of East Michigan Avenue and Exchange Street, is the focal point of the east end of the Central Business District. The park is roughly a third of an acre and centers around a lighted fountain. Benches and landscaping frame the fountain in all directions. The park also features seasonal art exhibits and a drinking fountain. It is used for a number of activities and festivals and has been adopted by the Marshall Garden Club who maintains the plantings in the large flower gardens.





Accessibility Score:



Brooks Memorial Fountain Park

West Michigan Avenue and Kalamazoo Avenue Traffic Circle
1 Acre

Park Description

Brooks Memorial Fountain Park is located in the center of the traffic circle at West Michigan Avenue and Kalamazoo Avenue and serves as the gateway to downtown Marshall when coming from the west. The white pillared fountain at the center of the park was a gift from revered Mayor Harold C. Brooks (1925-1931) in memory of his father, Charles Esselstyn Brooks. Mayor Brooks dedicated the fountain on April 26, 1930.



According to the survey as part of this planning effort, Brooks Memorial Fountain is the most visited park in Marshall. Amenities include a lighted fountain, park benches, and trash receptacles. Beginning in the Summer of 2018, a local group, “The Youngish Professionals” began using this park for an outdoor concert series throughout the summer. The “Fridays at the Fountain” program is a highlight of the summer for residents and visitors of all ages in Marshall. Currently, the park is adopted by the Marshall Area Garden Club who plant and maintain the flower gardens that greet the community and visitors from all directions. Incorporated into the City’s seal, the Brooks Memorial Fountain is a cherished symbol of the community.



Accessibility Score:



Marshall Athletic Fields

West Michigan Avenue

13.2 Acres

Park Description

The Marshall Athletic Field Complex is a four-acre facility located on West Michigan Avenue. Amenities include four lighted baseball/softball diamonds with electronic scoreboards, three lighted sand volleyball courts with a covered pavilion, two basketball hoops, and a playground. A concessions building with restrooms is located at the northeast corner of the site. Paved, accessible pathways connect the many amenities of the complex to each other and to the 200-space asphalt parking lot.



Marshall Recreation Department programs such as men's softball, women's softball, co-ed softball, youth pitch baseball, girl's pitch softball, supervisor pitch baseball, coaches pitch baseball, coaches pitch girls' softball, and t-ball call the Athletic Field Complex home.

The Marshall Athletic Field Complex is also available for rent to outside sports leagues. The Recreation Department reports approximately 1,500 visitors from renting activity. The Athletic Field Complex is open from April through October.





Accessibility Score:



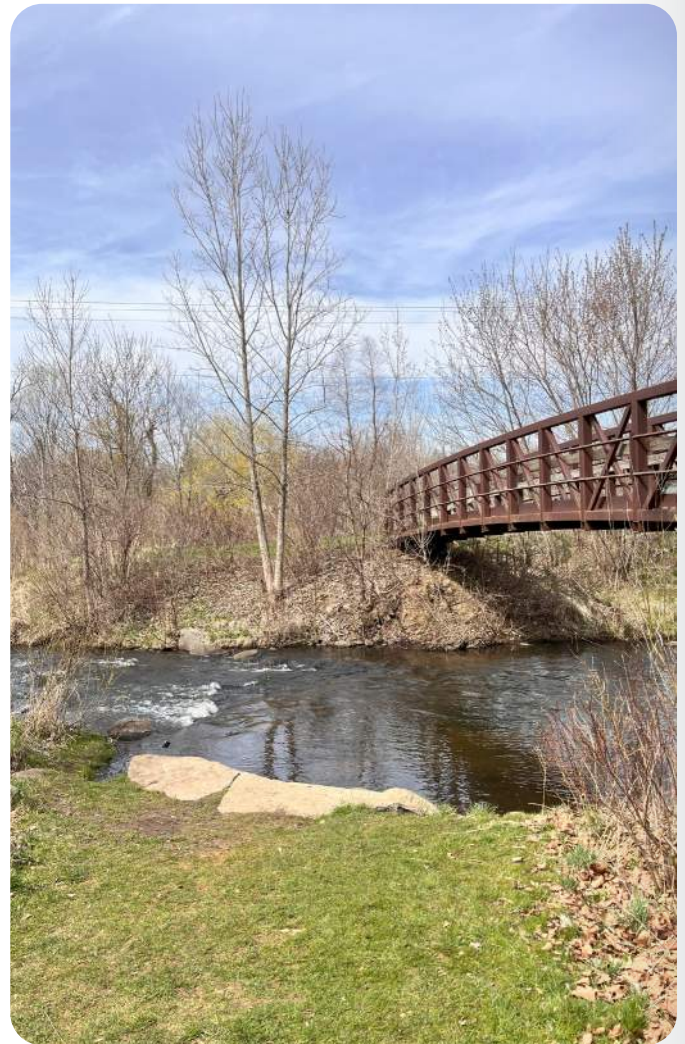
Ketchum Park

East Michigan Avenue and Exchange Street
25 Acres

Park Description

Ketchum Park is a 25-acre facility located on the north and south sides of Rice Creek, from South Marshall Avenue to the eastern City limits. The Mill Race divides the park into what is known as North and South Ketchum. The north and south sections are connected by a pedestrian bridge, donated by the Marshall Rotary Club. This park is a favorite spot in the community and is used extensively for family reunions, company outings, birthday parties, and even the occasional wedding.

North Ketchum includes a small picnic shelter, picnic tables, grills, restrooms, a play structure, and a 100' x 100' skate park. In December of 2011, the City of Marshall was awarded a grant in the inaugural year of the Passport Grant Program from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Funds were used for the installation of new doors and time locks on the restrooms, park signage, and paving of the north parking lot.



South Ketchum features a large pavilion, picnic tables, grills, a drinking fountain, the Kids Kingdom playground, and restrooms. Kids Kingdom was the result of a volunteer-led fundraising campaign which featured a design contest with local students. It was constructed in 2005. Most recently, in 2020, the Cronin Millrace Pavilion was constructed, in accordance with the 2018 Ketchum Park Master Plan. Located near the park entrance, the pavilion features a gas fireplace and picnic table seating.



Accessibility Score:



Stuart Landing and Millpond Park

**South side of the Kalamazoo River, near Homer Road
2 Acres**

Park Description

Stuart's Landing and Millpond Park are located on the south side of the Kalamazoo River, near Homer Road. This two-acre park includes paved parking, restrooms, picnic tables, grills, benches, fishing dock, boat launch, gazebo, and the Frances Stevens Stuart Band Shell. The park was originally developed and donated to the City of Marshall by the Stuart Family. Stuart's Landing is the eastern terminus of the Marshall Riverwalk. Plans for an enhanced canoe livery were developed in 2021. The full design can be found in Appendix H.





Accessibility Score:



The Brooks Nature Area

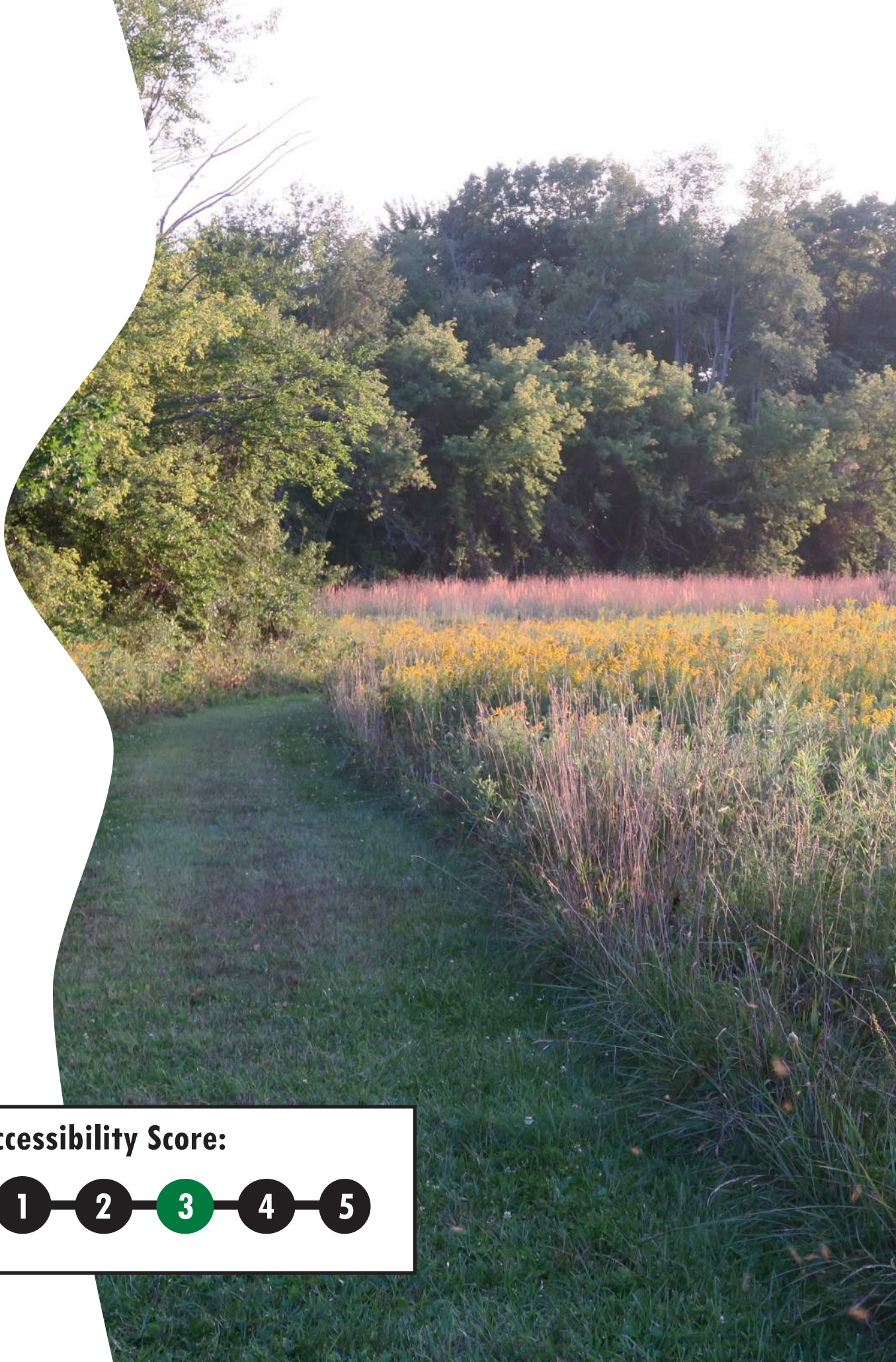
Stuart Lake Road
185 Acres

Park Description

The Brooks Nature Area (BNA) is located along the shores of Upper and Lower Brace Lakes. Established as a city park on April 17, 2006, the City has owned the property since 1969. Native prairie has been reestablished in an 88-acre section of the BNA through a partnership of the City of Marshall and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Wildlife food plots are planted annually in four one-acre sections. The remaining 97 acres in the park feature hedgerows, wetlands, and wooded areas, featuring picnic tables, scenic overlook benches, and bird houses. The Brooks Nature Area Advisory Board oversees the park and advises staff on improvements. Most recently, a scenic overlook on Brace Lake has been constructed to view numerous bird species throughout the year.

The BNA Advisory Board recently completed its Five-Year Management Plan for the park. See Appendix J.





Accessibility Score:



Shearman Park

Corner of W Mansion and N Linden
1.5 Acres

Park Description

Shearman Park is the newest park in the Marshall Parks system. Formally the site of Shearman School, the school was demolished in 2011 and redeveloped into a city park. The Shearman Neighborhood Committee was instrumental in the development of the park. The park currently houses a covered pavilion with picnic tables, a play area, and an ice-skating rink in the winter. Contributions from the Marshall Community Foundation made improvements to the park possible.





Accessibility Score:



Riverwalk

East Michigan Avenue and Exchange Street 1.5 Miles

Park Description

The Riverwalk is the second most visited park in Marshall, according to the community survey. The Riverwalk consists of 1.5 miles of elevated boardwalk, a paved pathway which includes five pedestrian bridges, boat and canoe launches, and scenic overlook areas. The Riverwalk follows both Rice Creek and the Kalamazoo River extending from Stuart's Landing to South Kalamazoo Avenue. The City of Marshall utilized Natural Resources Trust Fund Grants for this project. The Riverwalk is part of the North Country National Scenic Trail, Iron Belle Trail, and Great Lake to Lake Trail.



Despite the Marshall Riverwalk meeting 2010 ADA standards, due to maintenance issues, it is currently falling short of accessibility standards in some sections. Renovations to the Riverwalk are already allocated in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2024-2030 and construction is set to begin later this fiscal year. Plans for the extension of the Riverwalk in both directions are shared in the Goals and Objectives section of this Plan.



Accessibility Score:



Other Parks and Facilities

Grand Street Park

0.06 Acres

Grand Street Park is located in downtown Marshall on the north side of Michigan Avenue at Grand Street. The Park features two shaded tables and the iconic M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L mural. The Park is a small 2,613 sq. ft. but offers a place for respite in the bustling downtown.

Accessibility Score:



Peace Park

0.04 Acres

Peace Park or Sister City Park is another parklet located in downtown Marshall. Just 1,742 sq. ft., the park features a path, benches, and landscaping. A new series of murals was dedicated in 2019 by the Marshall Sister City Committee.

Accessibility Score:



Garvin Park

1.15 Acres

Garvin Park is a neighborhood park located on the south side of Union Street between Linden Street and Mulberry Street. The park features a few benches and interpretive signs.

Accessibility Score:



Allcott Park

0.9 Acres

Allcott Park is located on the north side of town, off of Allcott Avenue. Largely unimproved, this park has open green space and soccer nets.

Accessibility Score:



Cook Property

0.67 Acres

The Cook Property is an unofficial park in the City of Marshall on the northwest side of town. Triangular in shape, the property is largely an unimproved field. Given the lack of parks on the city's northwest side, improvements to this neighborhood park could be an equitable investment.

Accessibility Score:



Marshall Area Farmers' Market

1.1 Acres

The Marshall Area Farmers' Market has operated in downtown Marshall since 2002, bringing fresh produce, meat, baked goods, flowers, and beyond to Marshall's citizens and visitors. In the summer, the market operates from the parking lot at 125 W. Green St. The lot is improved with a small permanent shed and vendors set up throughout the lot. During the winter months, the market operates out of the B.E. Henry Building at 615 S. Marshall Ave. Market days are on Saturday.

Accessibility Score:



County Fairgrounds

45 Acres

As the county seat, Marshall is home to the Calhoun County Fairgrounds. The fairgrounds are located in the southeast section of the city and feature a 2,400-seat grandstand, stage, historic church, camping facilities, and a half mile horse track. The fairgrounds hold events throughout the year and boasts being Michigan's oldest fair, starting in 1839. While located in the City of Marshall, the Fairgrounds are owned and operated by a nonprofit organization, Calhoun County Agricultural & Industrial Society.

Accessibility Score:



School-Owned Facilities

Gordon Elementary School

Gordon Elementary School is eight acres and serves the northeast section of the City. The outdoor recreation area is used year-round, from playground activity in the summer to sledding in the winter. The north side of the school includes multiple climbers and play structures, swings, soccer and softball fields, and balancing challenges. The south side of the school includes two swing sets, a soccer field, and a school age play structure rated for kids 5-12 years. A fenced area geared for kindergarten students contains a geo-climber, swings, and a small play structure. Indoor areas used for recreation include a multi-purpose room and gymnasium.

Walters Elementary School

Walters Elementary School is roughly ten acres and located on the north side of the city adjacent to Marshall High School. The playground is located to the rear of the school and includes a small soccer field, paved track, a pre-school age play structure rated for 2-5 years, a garden area with benches, gaga pit, swings, geo-climber, basketball court, and a school age play structure rated for 5-12 years. Indoor areas used for recreation include a large cafeteria with stage, gymnasium with spectator seating, and a wrestling room. Located just outside the cafeteria is an area with several picnic tables.

Hughes Elementary School

Hughes Elementary School is a seven-acre site located on the south side of the City. To the east of the school building is a small, paved track, soccer field, and basketball court. The south side of the school features two large swing sets, a geo-climber, a "rocket" play structure, and a play structure rated for children 5-12 years. The east side of the school contains an additional large swing set, a basketball court,

and a small play structure. Indoor areas used for recreation include a multi-purpose room and a gymnasium with stage.

Marshall Middle School

Marshall Middle School is a seven-acre facility and is located one block south of the central business district. Outdoor areas used for recreation are located on the south side of the school and include a softball field, basketball courts with four hoops, gaga pit, and a large open space. Indoor areas used for recreation include a large cafeteria, auditorium, and a full-size gymnasium with spectator seating and balcony.

Marshall High School

Marshall High School is a 58-acre site located on the north side of the city. Several recreation leagues utilize the MHS facilities which include ten tennis courts with concessions and restrooms, a three-mile cross country course, an indoor swimming pool, a large cafeteria, and a gymnasium with spectator seating and balcony. Facilities used primarily for high school sports include Joe Cooper Baseball Field and Wise Fast-Pitch Field, and a soccer field, football field, weight room, and auditorium.

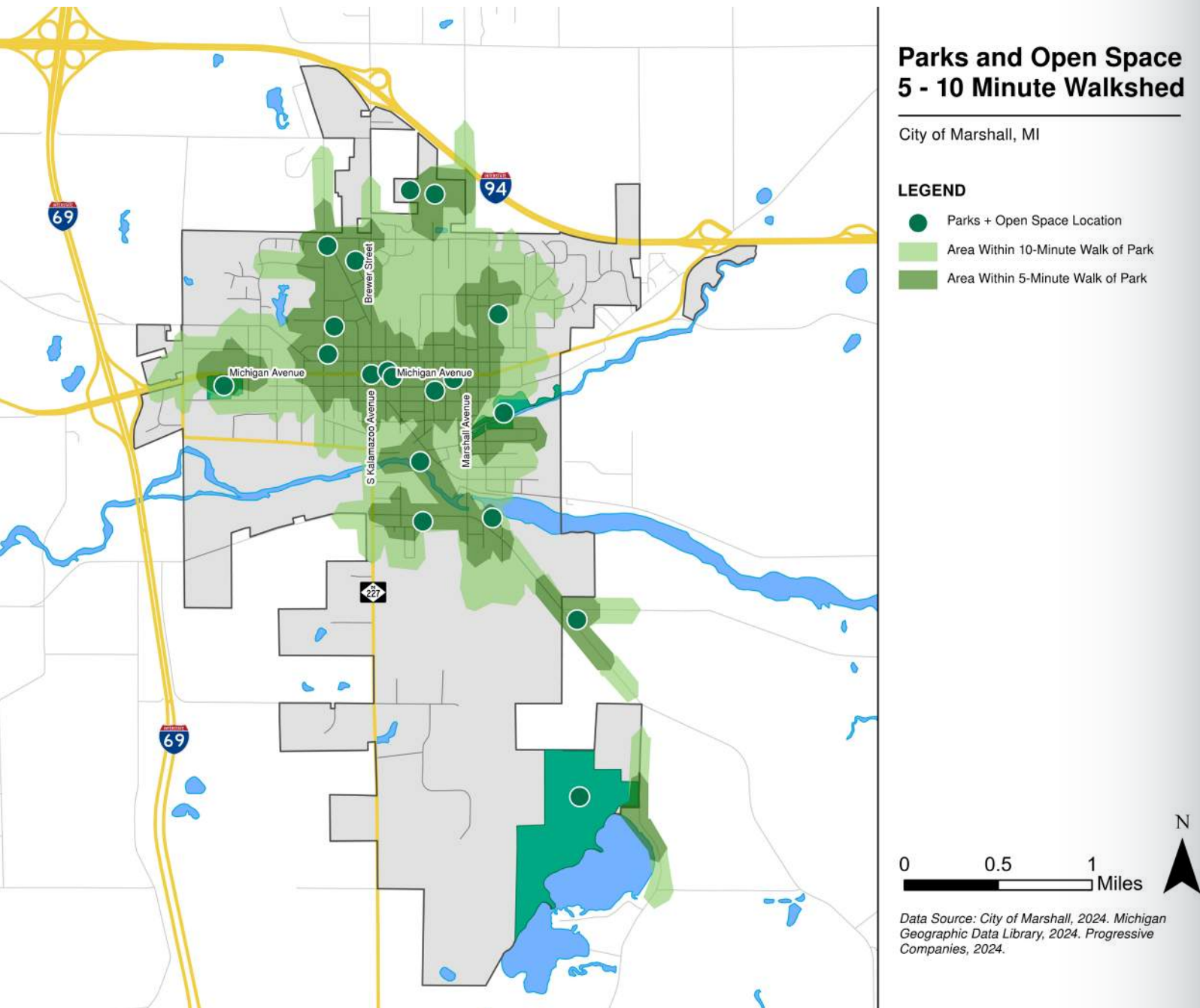
Marshall Academy

Marshall Academy is a K-12 tuition-free charter public school located southeast of Marshall on Homer Road. While not located within the city limits, the Academy does offer parks and recreation amenities used by the broader Marshall community. The facility is situated on 35 acres and includes open green space, a play structure, a geo-climber, basketball hoop, and a soccer/softball field. The school also has a full-size gymnasium.

Mar-Lee School

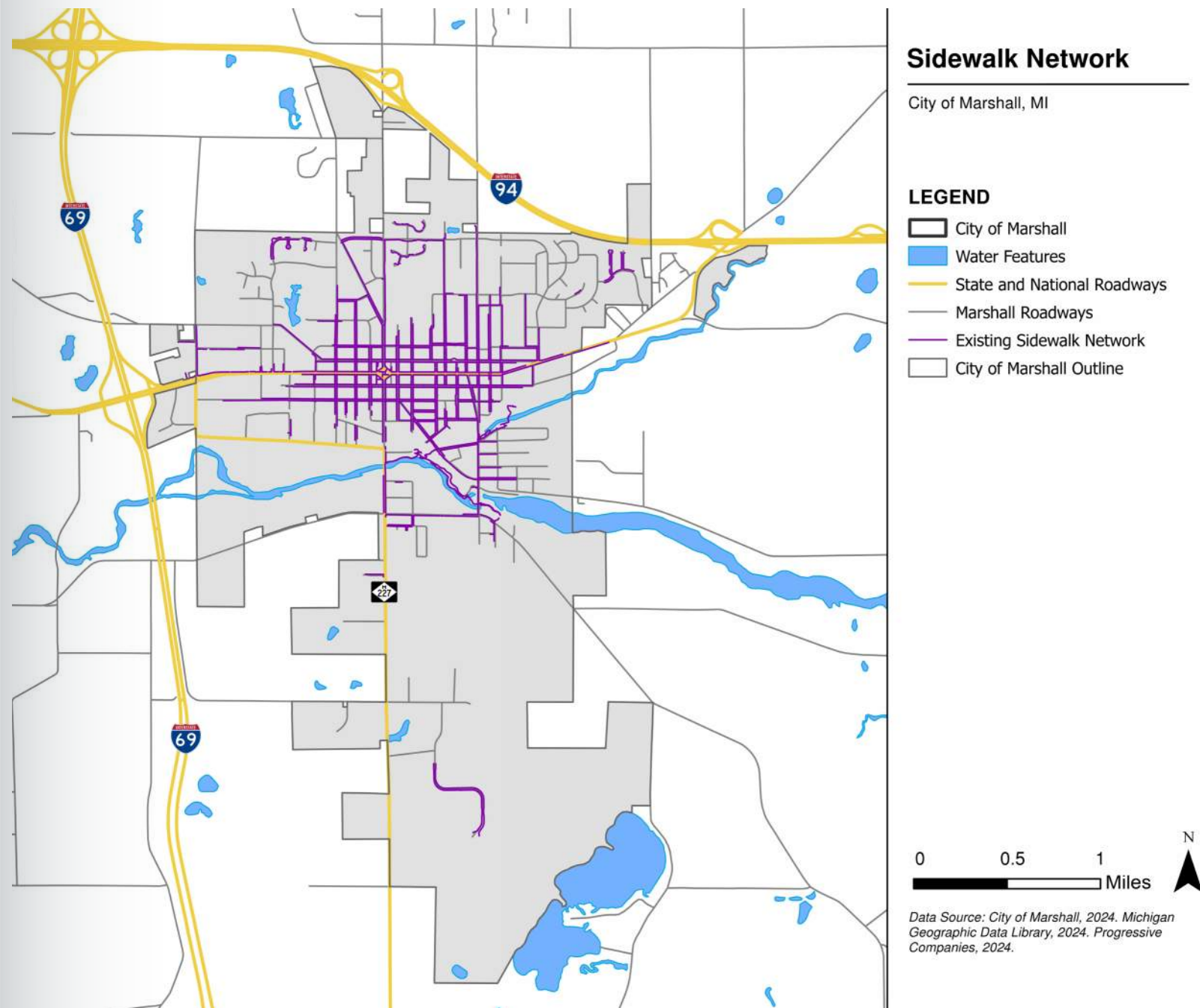
Mar-Lee School is a K-8 tuition free public school located northeast of Marshall on H Drive. The facility is situated on approximately ten acres and includes open green space, play structures and climbers, basketball hoops, a baseball field, and a paved track. Inside the facility is a full-size gymnasium.

Access to Parks



While Marshall is home to many parks for a city of its size, they are not distributed evenly throughout the city. The map above shows the areas that are within a five-minute and ten-minute walk from Marshall parks and natural areas. These times translate to roughly a quarter mile walk and a half-mile walk, respectively. Schools with playgrounds are also included in the map.

As the map shows, most of Marshall's residential areas are within walking distance of a neighborhood park or recreational access point. However, some of the community's most notable parks and recreation assets like Brooks Nature Area and Ketchum Park are relatively isolated from the core neighborhoods and downtown.



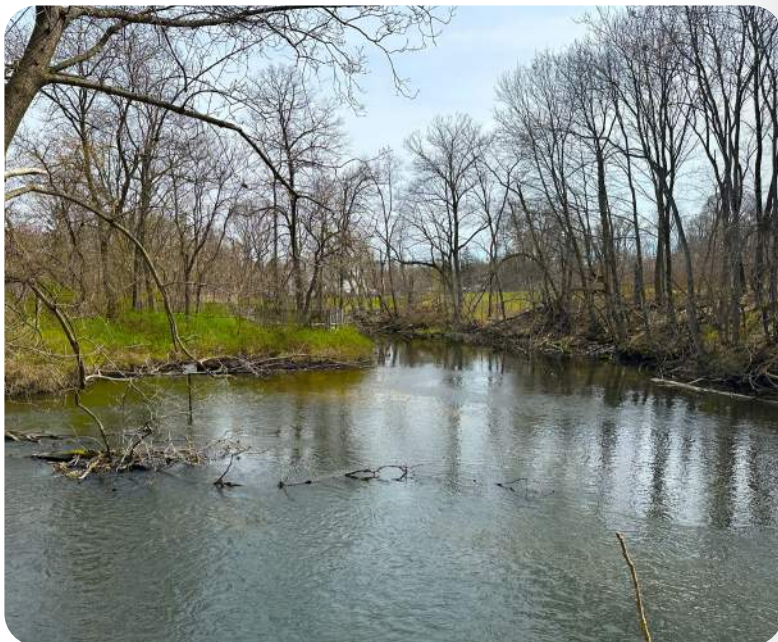
While sidewalk connectivity in Marshall is generally strong, there are significant gaps in the system. Some parks and recreational assets are located in areas where a simple sidewalk is not enough to create safe, comfortable access. Improvements to the non-motorized connections to parks and other assets in the community is a priority of the non-motorized transportation plan that will be incorporated into the city's 2025 Master Plan update.

Natural Resource Inventory

Waterways

Kalamazoo River

The Kalamazoo River runs east to west through the southern portion of the city. The river is used by residents and visitors alike for canoeing, kayaking, swimming, fishing, and more. There are two public launches located in the City of Marshall, one at Stuart's Landing and one at the Riverwalk, near the Public Services Building. Saylor's Landing is another popular launch located just outside the city limits to the west in Marshall Township. The Kalamazoo Watershed Council is a nonprofit entity that works to coordinate governmental units and others in the community to restore and protect the Kalamazoo River.



Rice Creek

Rice Creek flows from northeast corner of Marshall through Ketchum Park and empties into the Kalamazoo River near the Riverwalk. Rice Creek is a designated trout stream and sees fly fishing throughout the year.



Upper and Lower Brace (Stuart) Lakes

Upper and Lower Brace Lakes are located in the southeast portion of Marshall. Upper Brace Lake is roughly 70 acres and features a boat launch on its eastern shore. Lower Brace Lake is approximately 115 acres and 35 ft at its deepest point. Brooks Nature Area is located to the north of Upper Brace Lake. The lakes see swimming, boating, fishing, hunting, and more throughout the year.



Talmadge Creek

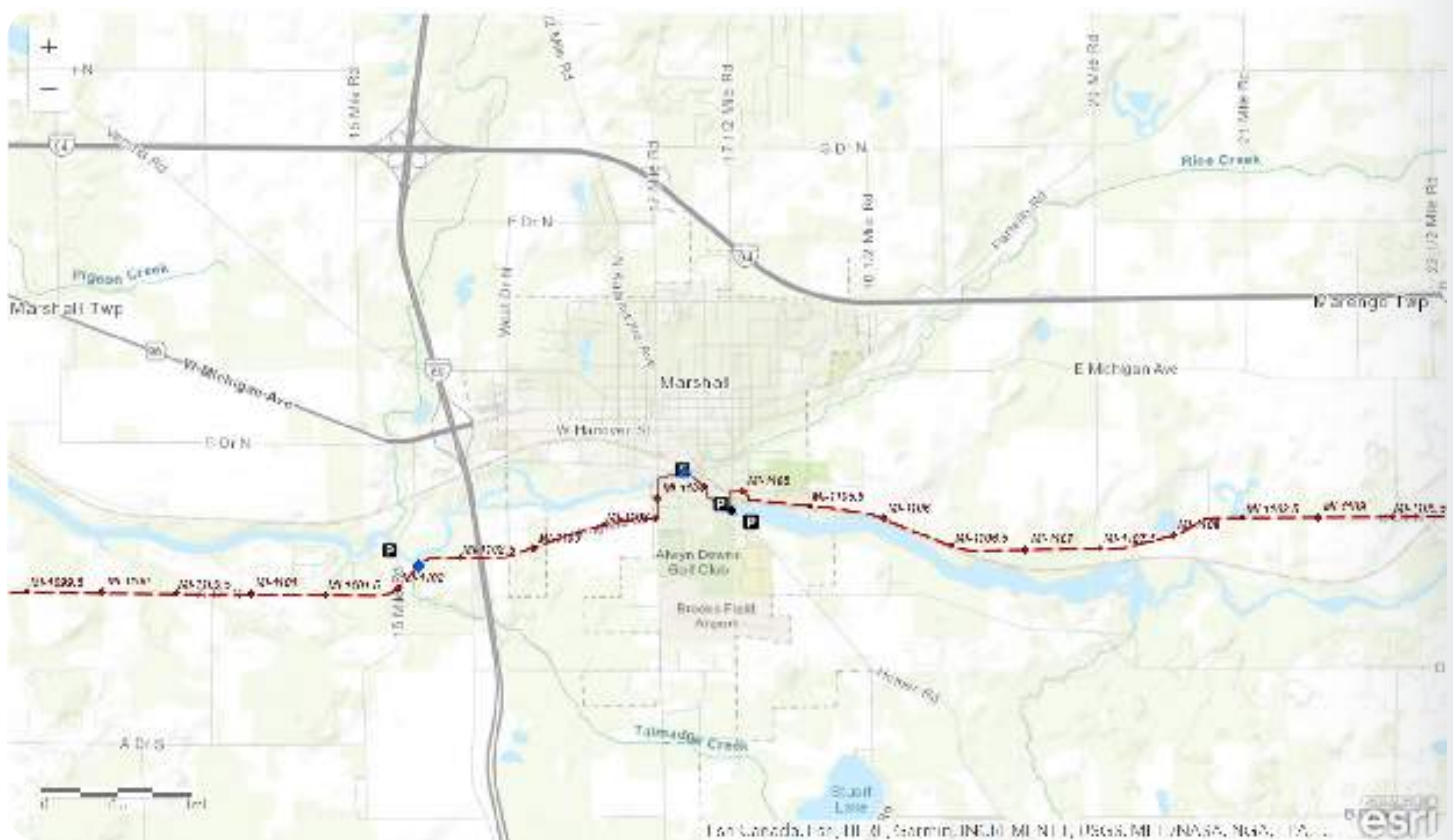
A tributary of the Kalamazoo River, Talmadge Creek flows through the southern portion of the city. The site of a devastating oil spill in 2010, the Creek recently received the prestigious Certified Wildlife Habitat from the National Wildlife Federation after considerable remediation efforts.



Trails

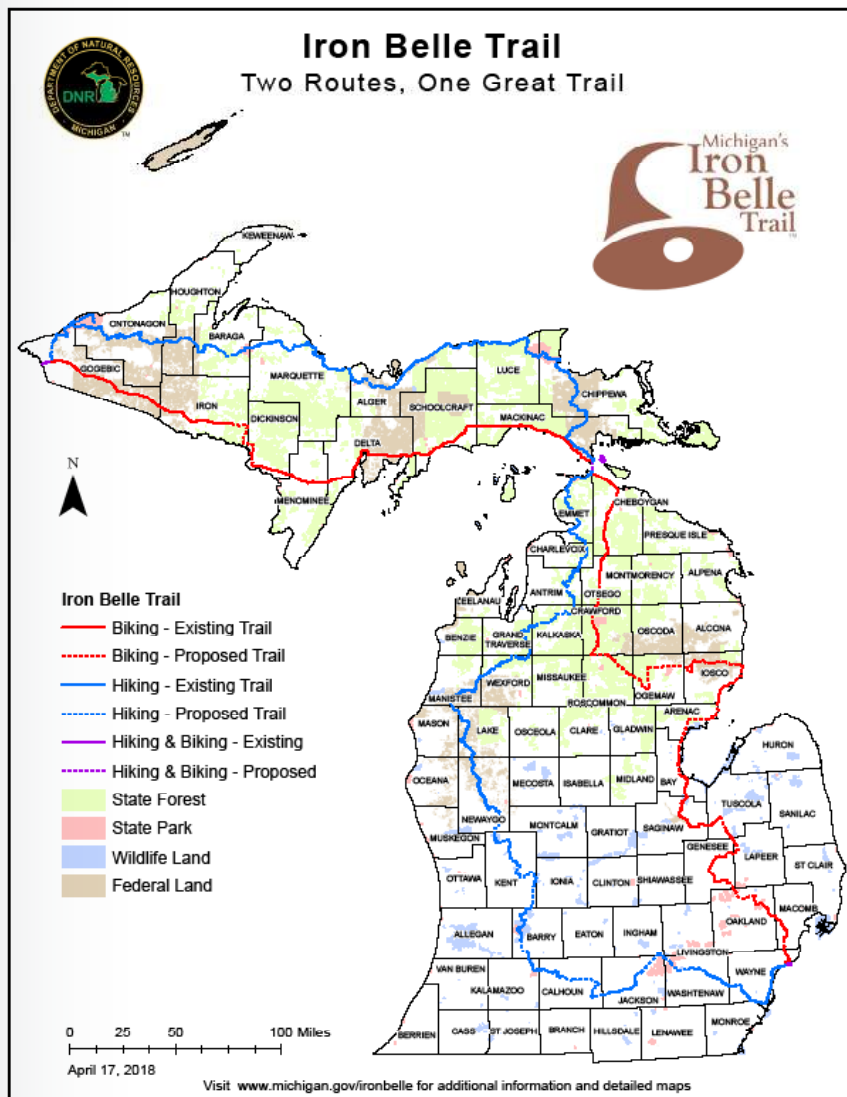
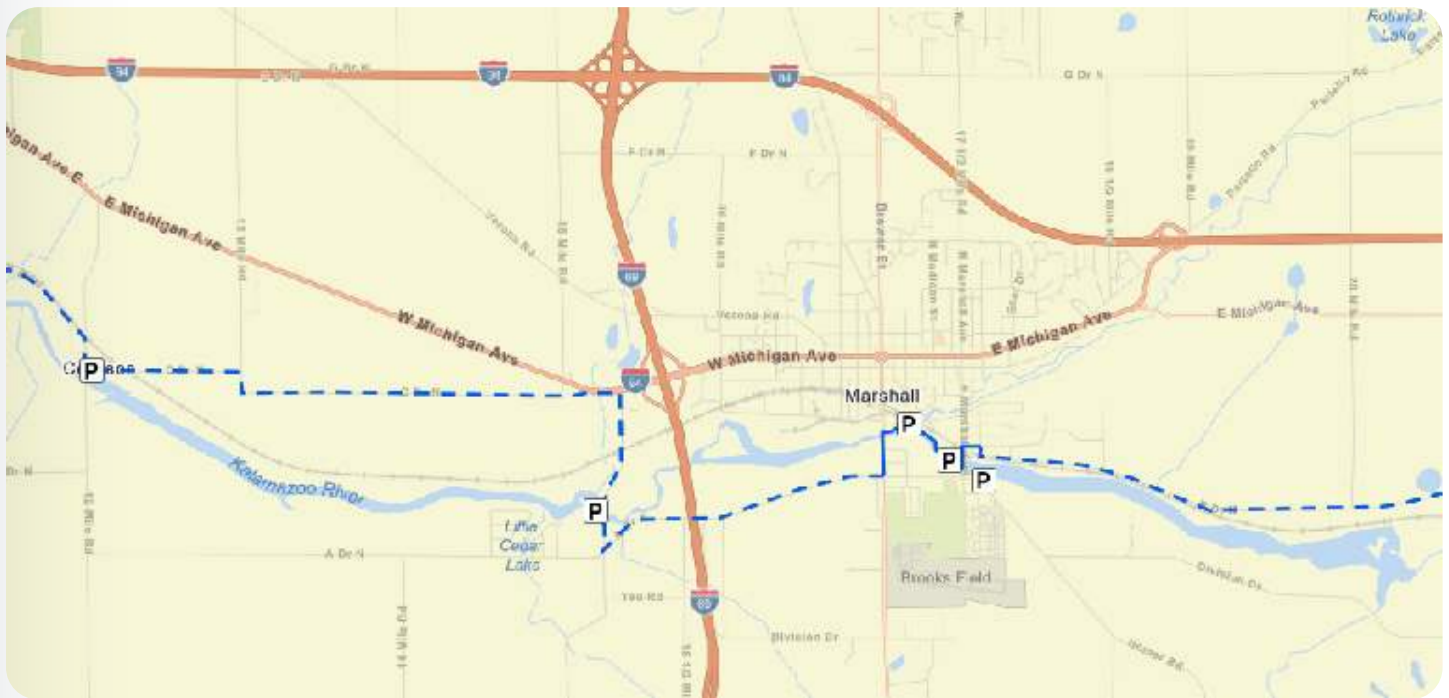
Three major state and national trails run through the heart of Marshall: the North Country Trail, Iron Belle Trail, and the Great Lake to Lake Trail. Details that follow explain the planned routes for the three trails. In the goals and objectives section of this Plan, a vision for optimizing the route of these trails through Marshall is shared.

North County Trail



The North Country Trail (NCT) stretches approximately 4,800 miles from Vermont to North Dakota, making it the longest National Scenic Trail in America. Michigan hosts the most North Country National Scenic Trail miles of all eight states at 1,180 miles. The NCT stretches across Calhoun County and routes right through Marshall, running along the Kalamazoo River as part of the Riverwalk. The full segment of the NCT is not yet constructed. Given the development of the Blue Oval Plant / MAJOR site, the NCT may be routed further north than originally conceived into the conservation easement planned to run to the south of the MAJOR campus site.

Iron Belle Trail



The Iron Belle Trail is a dual trail being developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Using existing trail networks and new connections, the Iron Belle Trail will extend more than 2,000 miles from the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit. The hiking route crosses through Marshall, south of downtown. Given the development of the MAJOR campus site and the creation of a conservation easement, plans are to re-route the hiking section further south into this easement. The trail is currently 71 percent completed.

Great Lake to Lake Trail - Route 1



The Great Lake to Lake Trail system is a group of five biking trails that traverse the state of Michigan. Each route connects two of the Great Lakes. Route 1 runs from Port Huron in the east to South Haven in the west and is routed through Marshall. While the trail is routed north of downtown at present, the City of Marshall plans to work with partners such as Calhoun County, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Trails Alliance to route the trail south of the MAJOR site, through the conservation easement.







Planning and Public Input Process



The planning process for the Parks and Recreation Plan update began in early April 2024. Staff from Progressive Companies and key stakeholders within the City of Marshall met to discuss parks and recreation priorities and to conduct a walking tour of existing parks facilities. A series of focus groups with Marshall area business leaders was held in May 2024 to further explore opportunities and challenges in Marshall as the planning process for the master plan, non-motorized transportation plan, economic development plan, and parks and recreation plan kicked off. The public was engaged on the parks and recreation plan at a series of in-person pop-ups at community events and via an online survey.

Pop-Ups









The planning team held two pop-ups focused on the Parks & Recreation Plan update in July 2024. The first was at a Fridays at the Fountain concert on July 12th, in collaboration with the Youngish Professionals Network of Marshall. A second pop-up was held at the Marshall Area Farmer's Market on July 13th.

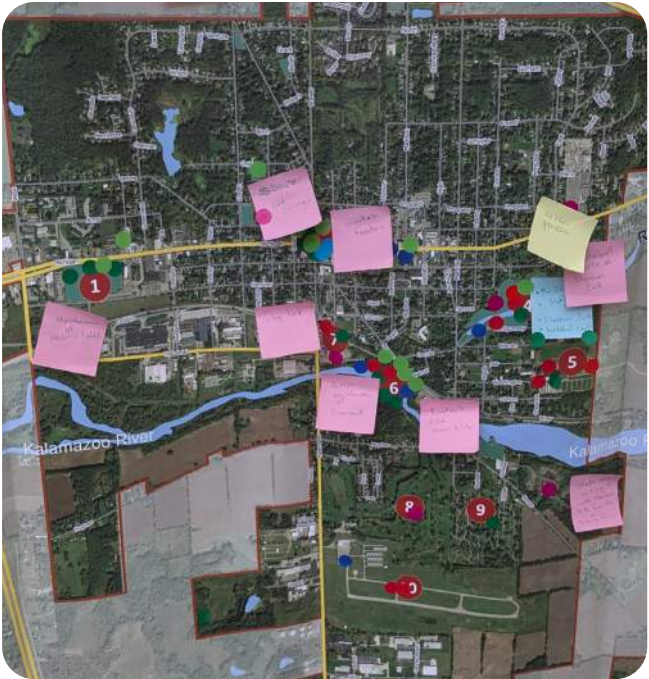
Attendees were asked to spend \$50 in "Marshall Money," allocating their dollars to the parks priorities they cared about most. Eight priorities were identified based on initial survey results and findings from in-person conversations with staff and other stakeholders.

Total spending at both pop-ups totaled \$7,060 dollars, meaning around 141 people cast their votes! The top three choices when considering both pop-ups were (1) Riverwalk enhancements and extension, (2) Trails and bike paths, and (3) Indoor recreation facility. Full results are shown on the board used at the event to the right. Participants were also asked to place colored dots on a large, billboard map of Marshall indicating the places they wanted to maintain and change, and which locations they considered to be quintessential destinations in Marshall. Sticky notes were available so participants could share other thoughts on their choices or ask questions.

What Do You Want To See in Marshall's Parks?

You have \$50 in Marshall Money! Spend it on the park features and improvements that are most important to you. If there is a feature you don't see, please write it on a sticky note and place it in the "Other" box.

<p>Trails and Bike Paths</p>  <p>2 \$1,190</p>	<p>Accessibility Improvements</p>  <p>7 \$690</p>	<p>Indoor Recreation Facility</p>  <p>3 \$810</p>
<p>Dog Park</p>  <p>4 \$770</p>	<p>Canoe + Kayak Livery</p>  <p>5 \$750</p>	<p>Updated Playground Equipment</p>  <p>6 \$700</p>
<p>Landscaping and Maintenance</p>  <p>9 \$380</p>	<p>Riverwalk Enhancements + Extension</p>  <p>1 \$1,320</p>	<p>Other</p> <p>Write desired park amenity on a sticky note and place it in the "Other" box!</p> <p>8 \$450</p>



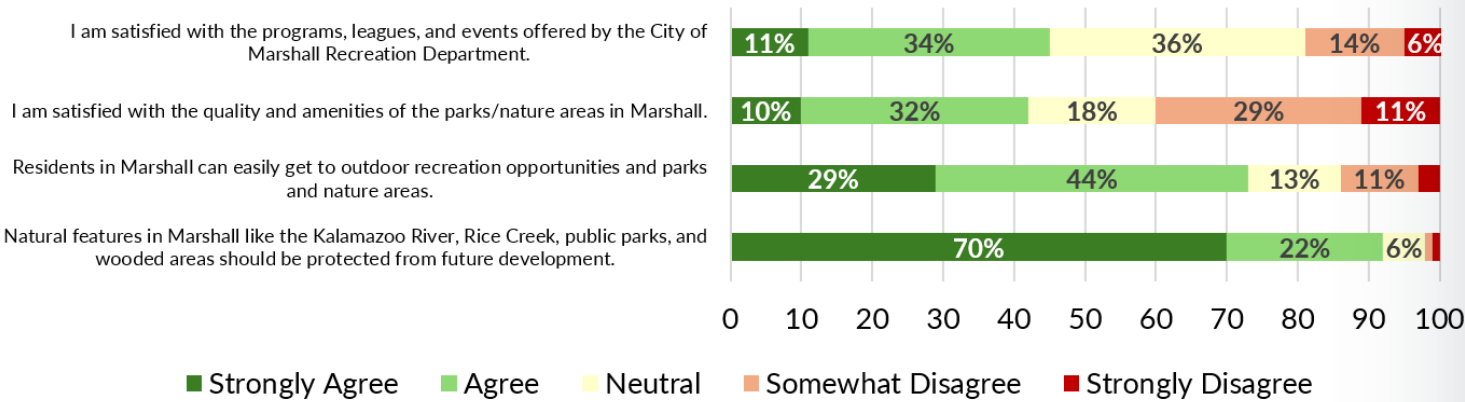
Online Survey

The other key method of public engagement was an online survey running from late June to late September 2024. The online survey featured 19 questions on a host of topics such as housing, transportation, and parks. The survey was advertised on the City of Marshall and Parks Department websites and social media pages. Flyers with a QR code to take the survey were distributed at community events in the summer such as Bluesfest. Additionally, yard signs with the QR code link to the survey were posted at all city parks to help get the word out.

As of writing, almost 550 people have responded. Questions on parks, recreation, and sustainability priorities were asked, in addition to other questions relevant to the concurrent planning processes for the Master Plan, Non-Motorized Transportation Plan, and Economic Development Plan.



Environment, Parks, and Recreation

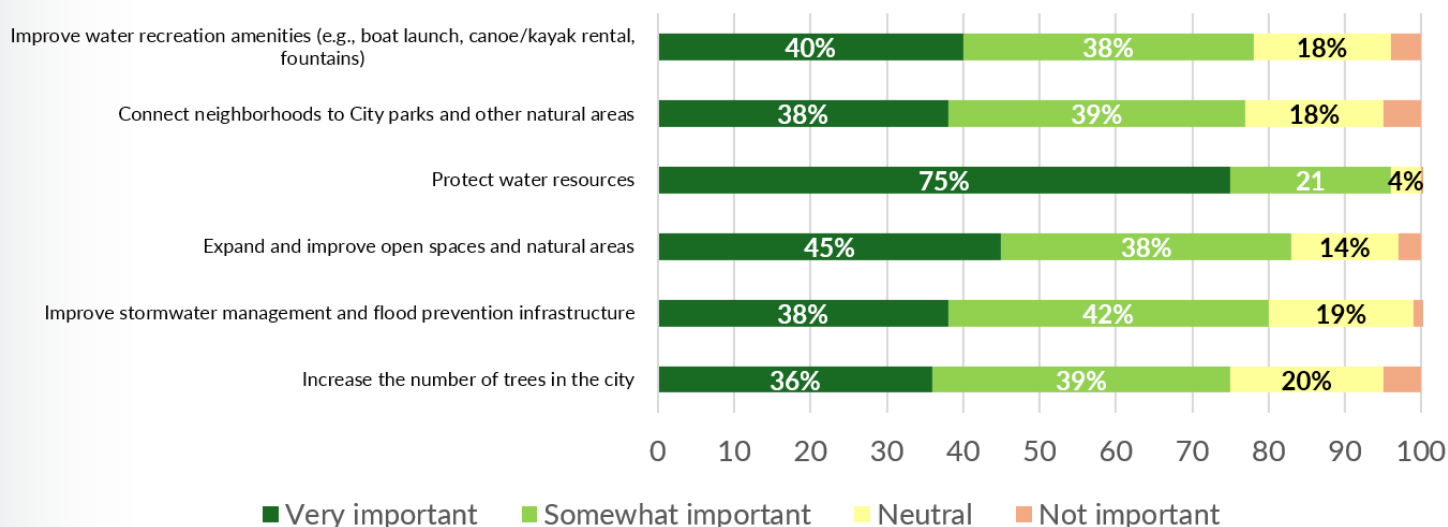


Respondents to the survey strongly support the preservation of natural features in Marshall. 82 percent of survey takers agreed or strongly agreed with a statement with that sentiment. In terms of access to parks, the majority of respondents indicated that Marshall residents can easily access outdoor recreation. 72 percent of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed.

When judging the quality of parks facilities and recreation programming, responses were a bit

milder. Only 44 percent of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that Marshall recreation programs were satisfactory and only 43 percent of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that they are satisfied with the quality and amenities of Marshall’s parks and nature areas. Specific criticisms and suggestions for parks and recreation will be shared later in this section, and were critical in shaping the Goals and Objectives for the Parks and Recreation Plan featured later in this report.

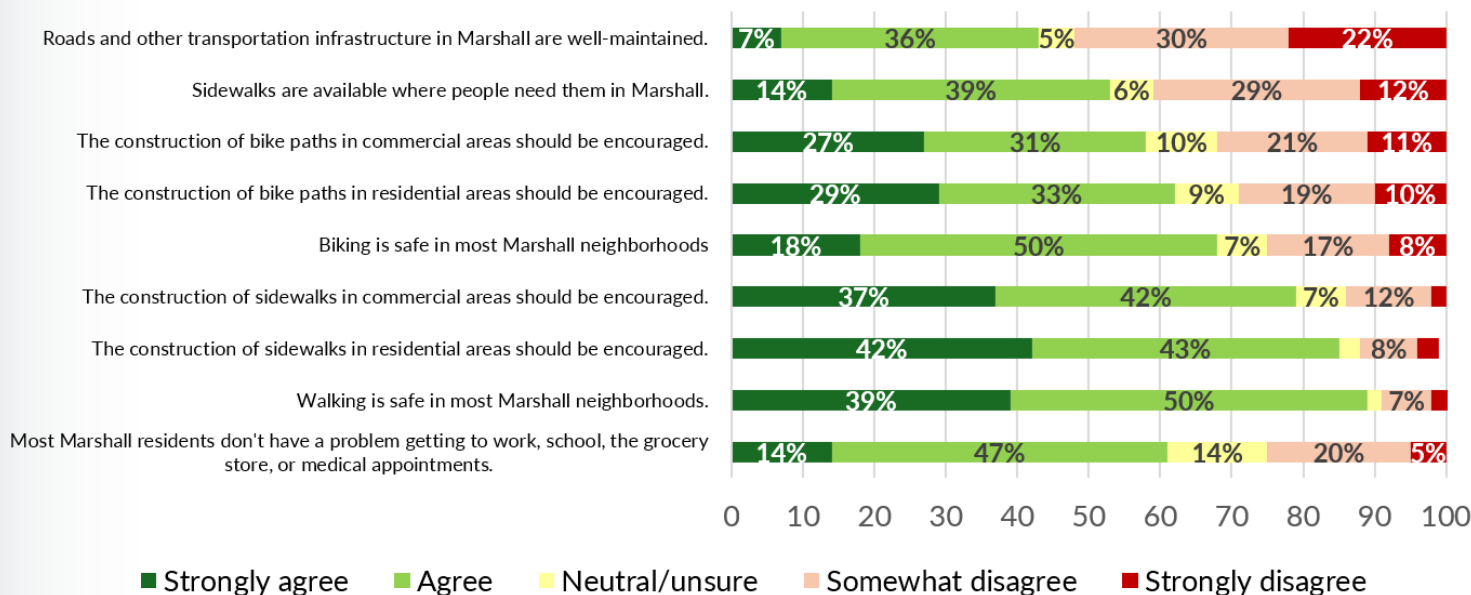
Natural Resources Initiatives



The top natural resources priority for survey respondents was to protect water resources. 96 percent of those surveyed indicated that it was important or very important.

The other five priorities all have strong support, with between 75 and 83 percent support.

Transportation



While much of the detailed transportation and mobility analysis will be contained in the forthcoming Non-Motorized Plan, the connection between parks and trails is an important one to incorporate. Based on survey results, the majority of respondents feel walking is safe in most Marshall neighborhoods, at 89 percent.

However, just half of respondents, 53 percent, believe sidewalks are available where people need them in Marshall, and less than two-thirds (61 percent) believe most residents can get to the places they need to go, such as work and school.

When deciding where to locate new sidewalk infrastructure, there was a slight preference for residential areas over commercial. 85 percent of respondents feel sidewalks should be located in residential areas, while 79 percent believe they should be located in commercial areas. A majority of respondents also believe bike paths should be constructed in Marshall, but the preference is less than for sidewalk construction. 62 percent of respondents agree that bike paths should be constructed in residential areas while 58 percent believe they should be constructed in commercial areas. 68 percent of respondents also reported that biking is safe in most Marshall neighborhoods.

One point of contention that arose in the survey data is on the topic of maintenance. Over half of respondents, 52 percent, do not believe roads and other transportation infrastructure in Marshall are well-maintained.

The issue of maintenance emerges again when respondents were asked to discuss park improvements. Park and facility maintenance is the number one priority that emerged in the survey. The word cloud below shows the frequency of topics in survey responses related to parks improvements.



Maintenance was mentioned 96 times out of the 187 respondents who answered the question on park improvements, or in over half of all responses (51 percent). Of these, 43 people mentioned the riverwalk as a park in need of improvement. The top five park improvements reported in the community planning survey are listed in the graphic below.



Maintenance
96



Riverwalk Repair
43



Trails, walking/bike
paths, connectivity
23



Upgraded playground
equipment
20



Pool, water park,
splash pad
19

Interestingly, although landscaping and maintenance came in last place during the “Marshall Money” exercise at the community pop-ups, it was the top priority identified in the survey. This dichotomy may reflect the conflict that exists within the Parks Department today. Maintaining what already exists is less exciting than a new splash pad or dog park, but maintenance is critical in the image Marshall puts forward to visitors and residents alike. Taking good care of the existing parks system is a top priority in the Goals and Objectives shared later in this report.

Another useful metric ascertained by the online survey was parks usage. The table below shows the frequency with which survey respondents visited Marshall’s official city parks and other associated recreation spaces.

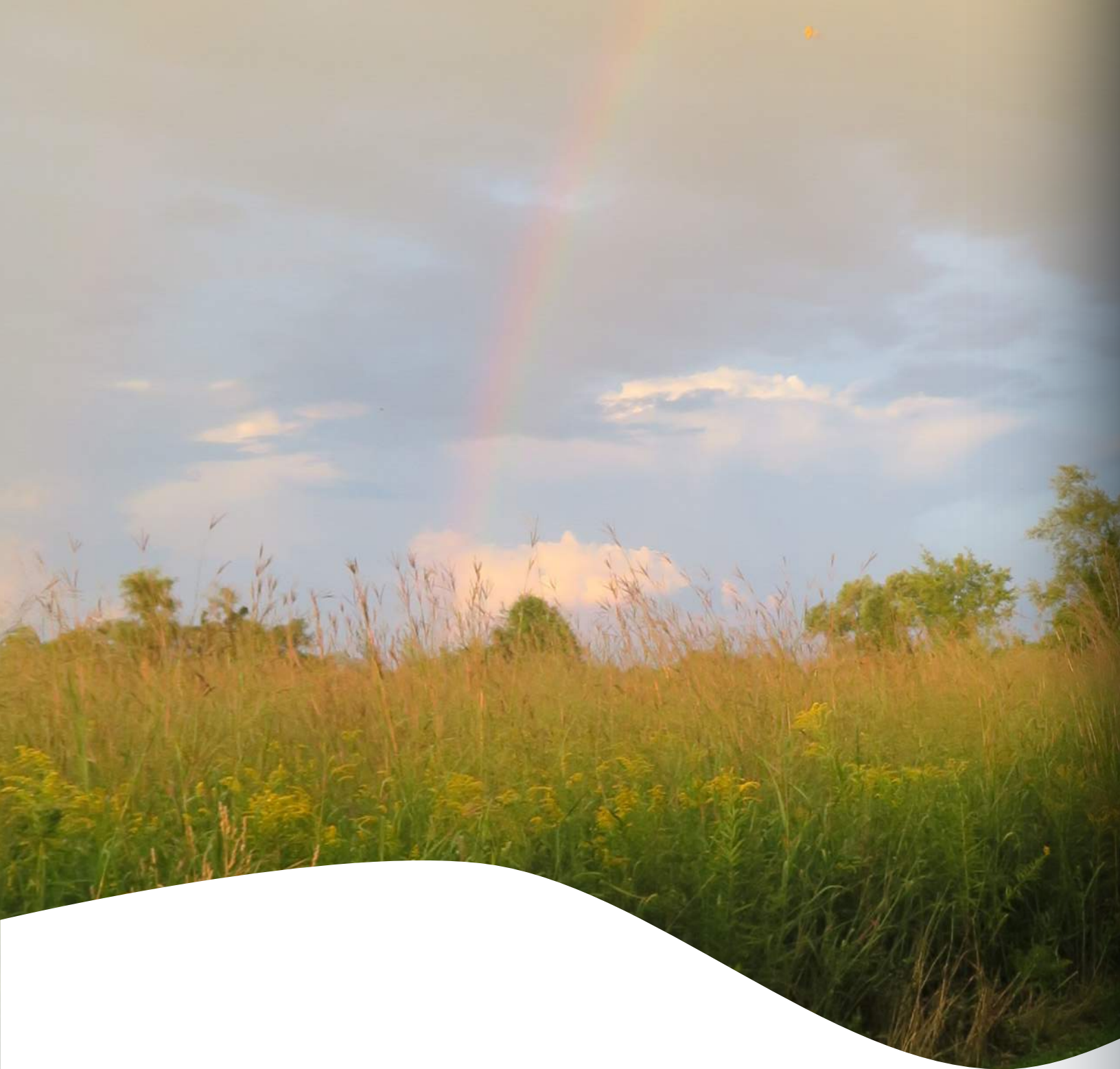
Park	Weekly +	Monthly	A few times	Never	Not sure
Marshall Area Farmers Market	27%	30%	27%	14%	2%
Brooks Memorial Fountain Park	26%	26%	39%	8%	1%
Riverwalk	22%	24%	36%	16%	2%
Ketchum Park	21%	25%	40%	13%	2%
Stuart Landing and Millpond Park	14%	23%	40%	22%	2%
Calhoun County Fairgrounds	6%	19%	59%	13%	2%
The Brooks Nature Area	9%	15%	35%	36%	5%
Marshall Athletic Fields	10%	10%	32%	46%	2%
Shearman Park	5%	10%	22%	53%	11%
Carver Park	6%	6%	33%	44%	11%
Grand Street Park	3%	8%	21%	54%	13%
Allcott Park	2%	5%	16%	59%	18%
Cook Park	1%	4%	12%	61%	21%
Garvin Park	1%	4%	13%	61%	22%

The complete survey with all responses can be found in Appendix E.

Summary of Engagement Timeline

The City of Marshall followed a schedule allowing community members to review and provide input throughout the planning process. The timeline of engagement was as follows:

- April 10 – Kickoff meeting
- May 6 – Focus groups
- June 22 – Public survey opens
- June 25 – Parks, Recreation & Cemetery (PRC) Board meeting; discussion of plan principles
- July 30 – Marshall Master Plan Steering Committee meeting with presentation of Parks and Recreation Plan community input received to date and draft goals
- August 27 – PRC Board review of rough draft
- September 20 – Final date for public survey input for Parks & Rec Plan
- September 24 – PRC recommendation of final draft
- October 7-November 8 – 30-day public comment period
- November 18– City Council adoption of Plan





Goals, Objectives, and Implementation



The goals and objectives that follow were derived from an analysis of existing conditions, review of past Parks and Recreation Plans, feedback from the City of Marshall staff and other partners, and input from the community during the engagement process.

Goal 1:

Maintain and enhance existing parks and facilities.



- a.** Build in maintenance funds for all new park projects.
- b.** Implement a maintenance plan for landscaping, including tree trimming, weed removal, and invasive species control.
- c.** Hire staff to manage maintenance efforts.

- d.** Utilize volunteers to maintain existing park facilities.
 - i.** Create and maintain page on Parks & Recreation website with current volunteer needs and opportunities for easy coordination.
 - ii.** Work with local Girl and Boy Scout Troops, Marshall Rotary Club, Marshall Area Garden Club, Marshall Community Foundation Youth Advisory Council, Marshall District Library, and others to identify appropriate volunteer opportunities.
- e.** Identify opportunities for corporate sponsorship that can help fund park maintenance and improvements.
- f.** Complete repairs and renovations to existing facilities, as called for in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2024-2030.
 - i.** Riverwalk
 - ii.** Kids Kingdom
 - iii.** Skate Park
 - iv.** Athletic Fields
- g.** Make accessibility upgrades to existing parks.
 - i.** Add ADA accessible playground equipment to parks.
 - ii.** Add senior exercise equipment to Shearman Park.
- h.** Implement measures to improve park safety.

Goal 2:

Increase connectivity within and beyond Marshall by closing gaps in the sidewalk, trail, and waterway network.



- a.** Expand the Riverwalk to the east and west, helping to link the uncompleted sections of the North Country Trail, Iron Belle Trail, and Great Lake to Lake Trail.

- b.** Complete unfinished sections of the North Country Trail, Iron Belle Trail, and Great Lake to Lake Trail.
- i. Reroute trails to conservation easement to the south of the MAJOR site.
 - ii. Construct pedestrian/bike crossing at I-69 and Michigan Avenue in collaboration with Calhoun County and MDOT.
 - iii. Acquire land and construct trail to connect Riverwalk and Michigan Avenue, east of Ketchum Park.
- c.** Improve public access to the river.
- i. Implement Stuart's Landing Plan improvements.
 - ii. Add/enhance canoe/kayak launch and livery near Public Services building.
 - iii. Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions, Calhoun County, the State of Michigan, and nonprofits such as the Kalamazoo Watershed Council, to facilitate and fund river improvements.
- d.** Add bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to connect Marshall's neighborhoods to parks.
- i. Develop a network of sidewalks and linear paths to connect all parks and all neighborhoods.

Goal 3:

Market parks and recreation facilities and programming more broadly and effectively.



- a.** Develop and install signage at all city parks with consistent and clear branding.
- b.** Market Marshall's local parks, regional trail connections, and recreation programming.
 - i.** Integrate parks and recreation programming and facilities more fully into the "Choose Marshall" messaging and brand.
 - ii.** Utilize downtown display board or signage.
 - iii.** Develop Visitor's Center marketing materials.

- c.** Partner with the Marshall Historical Society to develop historical self-guided/interpretive tours in city parks to highlight unique moments and places in Marshall's history and more fully integrate parks into tourism efforts. Example: Oakridge Cemetery.
- d.** Explore opportunities to highlight the city's Native American history with the Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe.
- e.** Apply for the Trail Town designation through the Dept. of Natural Resources.

Goal 4:

Continue to innovate and provide high quality recreation programming and meet facility and amenity needs throughout the park system.



- a.** Develop new parks and recreation facilities to meet community needs. The following facilities have been identified as priorities by the community.

- i. City of Marshall facilities
 - Dog Park
 - Eaton Park (splash pad and pickleball courts)
 - Ketchum Park (implement Ketchum Park Master Plan)
 - Farmers Market Pavilion

- ii. Partner facilities with City of Marshall support
 - Indoor Recreation Center (in partnership with Marshall Public Schools)
 - Bear Creek Museum & Nature Center (MAEDA-led initiative)

- b.** Collaborate with community partners to develop and engage youths and teens.

- i. Support Kalamazoo River Youth Experience.
- ii. Continue to partner with the Marshall Library on programming such as an outdoor gear rental system or nature/health focused events.
- iii. Create more outdoor recreation programs using local parks and waterways.
- iv. Use input from the 2024 Community Planning survey to create programs for the City and surrounding communities.

Goal 5:

Improve climate resilience, flood prevention, and health of local natural resources.



- a.** Promote environmental stewardship through planting native species, pollinators, and hosting annual or bi-annual river cleanups.
 - i. Rice Creek clean up
 - ii. Kalamazoo River clean up
- b.** Incorporate green infrastructure into new parks projects.
- c.** Expand the planting of trees to maintain and improve the street tree stock.

Implementation Matrix

The following matrix serves as a guide for the execution of the goals and objectives contained in this Plan. The timeline for action items is categorized into Short (within the next two years), Medium (2-5 years), Long (5+ years), and Ongoing.

This matrix is designed to complement and inform the Capital Improvement Plan and both documents should be considered concurrently.

Objective	Champion	Funding Source(s)	Timeline
Goal #1. Maintain and enhance existing parks and facilities.			
1A. Build in maintenance funds for all new park projects	Community Services	Grants, Calhoun County Millage, General Fund	Short
1B. Maintenance plan for landscaping, etc.	Parks, DPW	General Fund, Sponsorships	Short
1C. Hire maintenance staff	Parks, DPW	General Fund	Medium
1D. Utilize volunteers for park maintenance	Parks, DPW	N/A	Short
1E. Identify sponsorship opportunities	Community Services, City Manager	N/A	Medium
1F. Repairs and renovations to existing facilities	Parks, DPW	General Fund, Sponsorships	Medium
1G. Accessibility upgrades to existing parks	Parks, DPW	General Fund, Sponsorships	Medium
1H. Implement measures to improve park safety	Parks, DPW	General Fund, Sponsorships	Medium
Goal #2. Increase connectivity within and beyond Marshall by closing gaps in the sidewalk, trail, and waterway network.			
2A. Expand Riverwalk to east and west	Community Services	Grants (MDNR, Foundation)	Medium
2B. Complete unfinished sections of NCT, Iron Belle Trail, Lake to Lake Trail	Community Services	Grants (MDNR, Foundation), Calhoun County	Medium
2C. Improve public access to river	Parks, DPW	Grants (MDNR, Foundation), Calhoun County	Short
2D. Add bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to connect parks and neighborhoods	Community Services, DPW	Grants, City Capital Fund	Ongoing
Goal #3. Market parks and recreation facilities and programming more broadly and effectively.			
3A. Develop and install signage at city parks	Parks, Community Services	Sponsorships	Short
3B. Market local parks, regional trail connections, and programming	Parks, Recreation, MAEDA, DDA	General Fund, DDA, MAEDA	Short
3C. Partner with Marshall Historical Society on interpretive signage/tours	Parks, Recreation, Marshall Historical Society	Partnership	Short
3D. Explore opportunities to highlight the city's Native American history with the Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe	Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Board	Grants	Medium
3E. Apply for Trail Town designation	Parks, Community Services	N/A	Short

Goal #4. Continue to innovate and provide high quality recreation programming and meet facility and amenity needs throughout the park system.			
4A. Develop new parks and recreation facilities	Parks, City Manager	Grants, Bonds/Mill-ages	Long
4B. Collaborate with community partners to engage youth/teens	Community Services, Recreation	N/A	Short
Goal #5. Improve climate resilience, flood prevention, and health of local natural resources.			
5A. Host clean-up days of parks and rivers	Recreation, Community Services, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council	Partnership	Short
5B. Incorporate green infrastructure into new parks projects	Parks, DPW	Various	Long
5C. Expand planting of trees	DPW, Parks, Community Services	Various	Ongoing

Historic and Potential Funding Sources

DNR Recreation Grant History

The City of Marshall has been fortunate to be awarded recreation grants from the DNR to fund critical parks improvements throughout its history. A total of seven grants have been awarded for roughly \$868K. Appendix D summarizes the City's DNR recreation grant history in more detail, but general details are provided below.

Year	Project	Grant Type	Amount
1980	Ketchum Park Improvements		\$20,000
1993	Athletic Field Renovation		\$81,500
1994	Waterfront Trail Development	MNRTF	\$157,500
1998	Riverfront Trail Land Acquisition	MNRTF	\$29,203
1998	Riverfront Trail Development	MNRTF	\$358,000
2000	Riverwalk Development	MNRTF	\$191,444
2011	Ketchum Park Improvements	Recreation Passport	\$30,000

Funding Sources

The following are a list of funding sources the City of Marshall could explore pursuing to achieve its parks and recreation goals.

State

- Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MDNR)
- Recreation Passport Grant Program (MDNR)
- Spark Grants (MDNR)
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (MDNR)
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC)

Local

- Marshall Benja Men
- Marshall Area Rotary Club
- Kalamazoo Watershed Council
- MAEDA
- Calhoun County

National / Other Philanthropic

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- NOAA/American Rivers
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- AARP Community Challenge
- Outdoor Foundation Grants
- Nature Michigan Grant Program (Michigan Environmental Council)





Appendices

Appendix A. Parks Department Budget

Expenditure	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Adopted	FY 2025 Proposed
Payroll	8,371	9,733	20,355	23,888	19,702
Other Fringe Benefits-Taxable	141				375
Payroll - Rubbish/Garbage	1,075	714	560	755	
Payroll - Mowing/Trimming	353	83			
Payroll - Trees/Forestry	2,003	418	553	266	
Payroll - Fountain	789	421	689	855	
Part-Time Salaries	16,875	13,861	14,313	17,485	21,610
Part-Time - Rubbish/Garbage		806	36		
Part-Time - Mowing/Trimming		84			
Part-Time - Trees/Forestry			2,340		
Part-Time - Fountain		21			
Overtime Salaries	539	1,129	131	273	
Overtime - Mowing/Trimming	72				
Overtime - Trees/Forestry	143	42	191	171	
Workers Compensation	324	360		386	398
Social Security	2,409	2,097	2,906	3,229	1,536
Hospitalization	8	2,844	6,862	6,036	6,665
Life Insurance	7	15	40	42	41
Retirement - D/B		1,283	1,547	1,697	1,858
Retirement - D/C	261	128	156	173	1,284
Operating Supplies	6,557	1,953	1,852	10,323	5,100
Miscellaneous Supplies	854	241	898	7,496	5,000
Repair & Maintenance Supplies	3,619	7,873	12,207	11,398	3,000
Minor Tools And Equipment	238	680	117		
Professional Services		47			
Dues & Memberships			375	670	700
Contracted Services	4,144	12,669	13,660	5,794	4,000
Insurance	4,863	2,740	3,129	3,462	3,600
Transportation & Travel		390	364	455	
Advertising	71	56			
Utilities - Gas	3,724	2,162	3,563	4,824	3,000
Utilities - Electric, Water, Sewer	11,845	16,213	13,946	13,254	15,000
Cable			1,600	2,180	1,600
Equipment Maintenance			249		
Contracted Maintenance	150	950	3,210	2,408	2,500
Rentals	1,160	2,407	2,030	1,570	329
Motor Pool Vehicle Rental	19,750	16,000	2,511	5,736	1,600
Technology Internal Service Charge	166	179	825	825	689
Motor Pool Replacement Charge			1,030	1,030	1,251
Motor Pool Operating Charge			2,319	2,111	3,235
Vehicle Rental Credit				(70)	
Education & Training		300			
Parks - Expenditures Total	\$90,511	\$98,899	\$128,722	\$107,193.00	\$104,073.00

Appendix B. Recreation Department Budget

Expenditure/Revenue Stream	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Adopted	FY 2025 Proposed
Current property taxes	191,007.37	197,132.95	203,912.00	216,315.00	234,986.00
Delinquent personal property taxes	36.04	73.85	100.00	0.00	0.00
Penalties and interest on taxes	416.71	353.03	400.00	0.00	0.00
Local community stabilization tax	23,334.88	24,260.04	8,402.00	8,402.00	8,000.00
Local recreation grants	48,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Contributions from local units	17,597.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Use fees	46,466.55	176,420.00	194,846.00	188,936.00	187,606.00
Interest	369.84	637.18	50.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Unrealized gain/loss on investments	0.00	(5,429.04)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Miscellaneous revenue	175.60	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recreation – Revenues Total	327,404.76	393,948.01	407,710.00	416,653.00	433,592.00
Payroll	77,617.85	92,104.86	83,703.00	100,262.00	102,046.00
Other Fringe Benefits-taxable	1,786.25	1,500.00	1,125.00	1,265.00	2,625.00
Part-time Salaries	4,581.86	15,323.63	28,915.00	28,915.00	26,760.00
PT Salaries - exempt	1,390.42	6,587.43	8,404.00	9,019.00	0.00
Overtime salaries	0.00	4.94	0.00	0.00	0.00
Workers compensation	2,548.45	4,441.78	4,442.00	1,760.00	1,945.00
Social security	5,954.56	7,985.82	8,701.00	7,231.00	8,007.00
Hospitalization	24,734.98	31,748.57	27,765.00	21,938.00	19,996.00
Life insurance	174.25	184.93	141.00	159.00	171.00
Retirement - d/b	32,052.20	36,756.92	41,069.00	39,356.00	44,230.00
Retiree health insurance	23,325.41	24,025.12	31,835.00	12,211.00	27,073.00
Retirement - d/c	1,227.43	3,123.38	3,892.00	4,108.00	4,026.00
Office supplies	0.00	62.10	0.00	0.00	500.00
Operating supplies	7,993.58	61,993.90	71,000.00	89,000.00	75,000.00
Miscellaneous supplies	507.45	156.97	1,000.00	5,000.00	2,000.00
Fuels & lubricants	0.00	0.00	341.00	0.00	800.00
Building maintenance supplies	651.90	0.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
Professional services	502.71	285.00	0.00	4,500.00	20,400.00
Dues & memberships	500.00	515.00	600.00	750.00	750.00
Contracted services	34,046.97	22,314.85	24,000.00	24,000.00	24,000.00
Contracted services - pt staffing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,506.00
Insurance	296.52	1,868.87	1,900.00	2,300.00	2,400.00
Communications	903.52	589.16	1,200.00	0.00	0.00
Transportation & travel	0.00	387.95	400.00	600.00	600.00
Advertising	138.66	55.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Utilities-elec, water, sewer	2,433.24	3,908.50	2,700.00	2,700.00	2,700.00
Rentals	11,260.00	9,280.00	7,146.00	7,371.00	8,756.00
Motor pool vehicle rental	5,138.04	6,455.41	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Technology internal service charge	7,437.96	5,267.04	6,361.00	6,376.00	6,582.00
Motor pool replacement charge	0.00	0.00	2,381.00	2,802.00	2,802.00
Motor pool operating charge	0.00	0.00	6,332.00	6,699.00	9,705.00
Vehicle rental credit	0.00	0.00	(15,000.00)	0.00	0.00
Cost allocation	0.00	0.00	7,318.00	7,684.00	8,068.00
Education & training	314.61	345.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Refund or Rebates	8,067.61	93.63	100.00	0.00	0.00
Contingency	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,328.00	0.00
Capital outlay	58,829.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Transfers to other funds	25,953.00	43,550.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
Recreation – Expenditures Total	340,368.50	380,917.18	364,271.00	394,834.00	413,948.00
Excess of Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	(12,963.74)	13,030.83	43,439.00	21,819.00	19,644.00

Appendix C. Capital Improvement Plan 2024-30

The projects below are from the City of Marshall Capital Improvement Plan for 2024-30 relative to parks and recreation projects only.

Parks and Recreation Projects

Project	Amount	Funding Source(s)	Year(s)	Priority
Athletic Fields Batting Cages	\$ 30,000	Recreation Fund	2026-27	2
Athletic Fields Lights	\$ 300,000	Recreation Fund	2027-28	3
Athletic Fields Parking Lot	\$ 100,000	Recreation Fund	2024-25; 2029-30	4
Athletic Fields Renovation	\$ 175,000	General Fund	2025-26	2
Brooks Fountain Repairs	\$ 750,000	General Fund	2024-25	1
Carver Fountain Replacement and Repair	\$ 40,000	General Fund	2024-25	2
Eaton Park (Splash Pad, Pickleball)	\$ 3,000,000	Grants & Other	2024-25	2
Farmers' Market Pavilion	\$ 1,000,000	Grants & Other	2026-27	3
Ketchum Park Great Lawn	\$ 1,290,000	Grants & Other	2029-30	2
Ketchum Park Parking Lot	\$ 35,000	General Fund	2027-28	4
Kids Kingdom Renovation	\$ 1,000,000	Grants & Other	2027-28	2
Recreation Athletic Facility	\$ 6,000,000	General Fund	2028-29	4
Riverwalk Extension	\$ 3,500,000	Grants & Other	2029-30	3
Riverwalk Repairs Phase 1	\$ 350,000	General Fund	2024-25	1
Riverwalk Repairs Phase 1B	\$ 350,000	General Fund - \$200K Grants & Other - \$150K	2025-26	1
Riverwalk Repairs Phase 2	\$ 350,000	General Fund - \$200K Grants & Other - \$150K	2026-27	2
Riverwalk Repairs Phase 2B	\$ 500,000	General Fund	2027-28	2
Riverwalk Repairs Phase 3	\$ 500,000	General Fund	2028-29	3
Riverwalk Repairs Phase 3B	\$ 500,000	General Fund	2029-30	3
S. Kalamazoo Pathway – River District	\$ 465,000	General Fund	2024-25	2
Sand Volleyball Court Renovation	\$ 200,000	General Fund	2025-26	2
Skate Park Equipment	\$ 200,000	General Fund	2024-25	2
Stuart's Landing Improvements	\$ 910,000	Grants & Other	2026-27	3
TOTAL	\$ 21,545,000			

Project Descriptions

Athletic Fields Batting Cages

Install two batting cages, 35x70 ft.

Athletic Fields Lights

The current lights on diamond #1 & #2 are approaching the end of their expected life. The entire system should be replaced.

Athletic Fields Parking Lot

Seal coating of parking lot and pathways.
Considered routine maintenance.

Athletic Fields Renovations

Athletic Field resurfacing, clay replacement for pitching areas and batters boxes, level outfield with sand, replace all base pegs, new bases for all fields, fencing repairs.

Brooks Fountain Repairs

Structural repairs to Brooks Fountain.

Carver Park Fountain Replacement and Repair

Carver Park Fountain has been deteriorating for several years. After a review of the fountain and discussions with Council the decision was made to utilize the fountain until the end of its useful life and then execute a complete replacement.

Eaton Park

Construction of a new park facility that would provide pickle ball courts, splash pad, bathroom facility, playground, parking lots, and a basketball court. Work would also include ADA improvements for accessing the athletic fields from the south.

Farmers' Market Pavilion

The pavilion will include a covered area for the market. The space design will consider supporting a winter market, event space (in conjunction with social district), and maintaining parking.

Ketchum Park Great Lawn

Work related to the establishment of the lower lawn commons, drainage system, and its perimeter pedestrian walkway. Also included is the main path between parking on Montgomery Street and the Rotary Bridge. Named the "Lower Ketchum Commons and Promenade."

Kids Kingdom Renovation

Replace dilapidated equipment with new equipment. Kingdom. Update with state-of-the-art play structure with accessible equipment for all.

Recreation Athletic Facility

Construction of an indoor recreation center that would include basketball courts, community rooms, etc.

Riverwalk Extension

Extend Riverwalk west of Kalamazoo towards Historic Bridge Park, partnering with Calhoun County.

Riverwalk Repairs

Replace structural beams along riverwalk. Fix and replace fencing and deck boards. Trim and remove trees throughout the riverwalk. Segmented into six phases to span the full six-year time period of the Capital Improvement Plan.

S. Kalamazoo Pathway – River District

10-foot-wide pathway along the east side of Kalamazoo Ave to create a stronger connection between the Downtown and the River District. Amenities would match our downtown benches and trash cans. The concept would also include similar lighting to the downtown, although that is not part of the estimate provided by the consultant. The plan also incorporates completing the sidewalk gaps along the west side, but at a standard width used throughout the City.

Sand Volleyball Court Renovation

Replace all fencing at Volleyball courts, remove current sand and equipment. Replace with sugar sand. Replace post with new. Replace nets.

Skate Park Equipment

Adding modern and safe skateboard equipment to existing skatepark.

Stuart's Landing Improvements

Rehabilitation of Stuart's Landing including the following updates: replace canoe/kayak launch, a new shelter, a linear path around the site, improved shoreline and river access, and related improvements.

Appendix D. Recreation Grant History



Grants Management
Michigan Department of Natural Resources

Friday, November 1, 2019

Grant History

Grantee

City of Marshall - Calhoun County

Project No. 26-01104 J

Project County: Calhoun

Project Year: 1980

Project Title: Ketchum Park

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$20,000.00

Project Description: restroom/utility building including sewer and electrical, picnic shelter, shuffleboard courts, with fencing, horseshoe pits, benches and picnic equipment, playscape, parking lot, LWCF sign

Project No. BF93-155

Project County: Calhoun

Project Year: 1993

Project Title: Athletic Field Renovation

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$81,500.00

Scope Item:

3 New 5-Row Bleachers

4 Drinking Fountains

8 Player Benches

Backstop

Construct New Field

Fence - New Field

Improve Drain

Playscape

Replace Bleacher Boards

Replace Fence

Restroom/Concession

Project Description: Construct restroom/concession storage facility, replace fencing, improve drainage, replace/repair bleachers, replace playscape, construct new field, relocate transformer, install four drinking fountains.

Project No. TF94-078

Project County: Calhoun

Project Year: 1994

Project Title: Waterfront Trail Development

Project Status: Grant Closed

Grant Amount: \$157,500.00

Scope Item:

2 Pedestrian Bridges

Boat Launch Improvements

Construct Boardwalk

Parking

Restroom Building

S. Marshall Avenue Access

Signage, Etc.

Trail

Project Description: Develop bike/pedestrian trail on Kalamazoo River east of Marshall Avenue. Construct a flush restroom facility at Stuart's Landing on the Mill Pond. Improve Mill Pond boat launch. Provide parking at launch and at trail access points.

Project No. TF98-027	Project County: Calhoun	Project Year: 1998
Project Title: Marshall Riverfront Trail-Stage III		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$29,203.00

Project Description: Acquire three Kalamazoo River frontage properties (.83 acres) to help secure future development of the Marshall trail, and promote interaction with the river's habitat.

Project No. TF98-040	Project County: Calhoun	Project Year: 1998
Project Title: Riverfront Trail		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$358,000.00

Scope Item:
 Barrier-Free Ramp
 Boardwalk Construction
 Concrete Walks
 Landscaping
 Parking Areas
 Paved Walkway
 Site Amenities
 Site Preparation
 Topographic Survey

Project Description: Development of a barrier-free pedestrian trail along the Kalamazoo River, including parking areas, boardwalks, paved walkways, barrier-free ramp and overlook decks.

Project No. TF00-139	Project County: Calhoun	Project Year: 2000
Project Title: Riverwalk Development		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$191,444.00

Scope Item:
 Boardwalk
 Fishing/Viewing Decks
 Landscaping and Restoration
 Parking Area
 Paved Walkways
 Site Amenities (Benches/Signs/Waste Recept.)
 Site Lighting and Electrical
 Site Preparation

Project Description: Development of barrier-free boardwalk and paved trails along 1,100 feet of the Kalamazoo River between Monroe Street and Kalamazoo Avenue; construct parking area, ramp and overlook decks to promote access to the Kalamazoo River.

Project No. RP11-412	Project County: Calhoun	Project Year: 2011
Project Title: Ketchum Park Improvements		
Project Status: Grant Closed		Grant Amount: \$30,000.00

Scope Item:
 2 restroom doors with time locks
 28-car asphalt parking lot
 Park identification sign

Project Description: Development to include parking lot, restroom doors and park identification sign.

Total Number of Projects:	7
Total Amount of Grant Given:	\$867,647.00

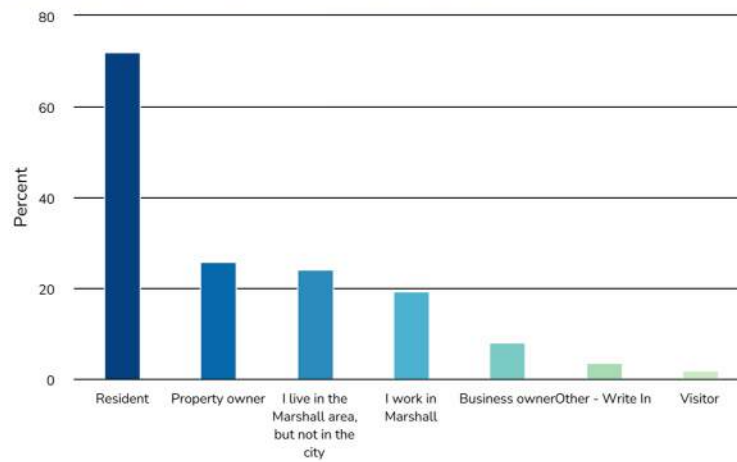
Appendix E. Complete Survey Responses

Due to timeline constraints, community survey responses incorporated into the Parks & Recreation Five-Year Plan ended in mid-September.

Report for Marshall 2024 Community Planning Survey



1. What is your relationship to Marshall? (Please check all that apply.)



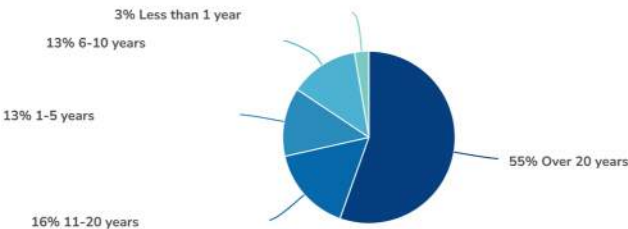
Value	Percent	Responses
Resident	72.2%	397
Property owner	26.0%	143
I live in the Marshall area, but not in the city	24.2%	133
I work in Marshall	19.5%	107
Business owner	8.2%	45
Other - Write In	3.8%	21
Visitor	2.0%	11

Statistics

Total Responses	550
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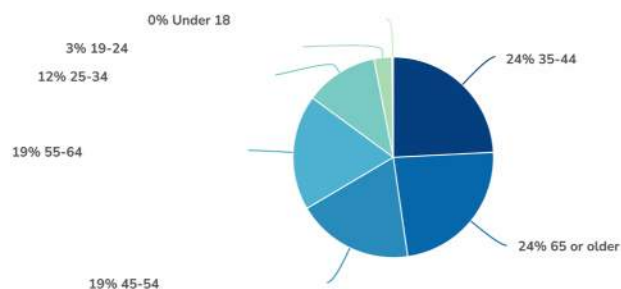
Other - Write In	Count
Former resident	2
Church in Marshall	1
Do business in Marshall	1
Former resident of over 50 yrs	1
Former resident, property owner	1
Fredonia Township	1
Life long resident	1
Live in Marshall Township now but owned property and lived in the City for many years	1
Marshall Township	1
Marshall Township Resident	1
Marshall Twp homeowner	1
Marshall Twp.	1
Marshall township	1
Marshall zip code	1
Most of my family lives in Marshall	1
Own Commercial Property	1
Renter	1
Used to work in Marshall	1
Work from home in Marshall (not sure if that's the same as just working in Marshall).	1
recent business owner (bookstore)	1
Totals	21

2. How long have you lived/worked/visited/owned a business in Marshall?



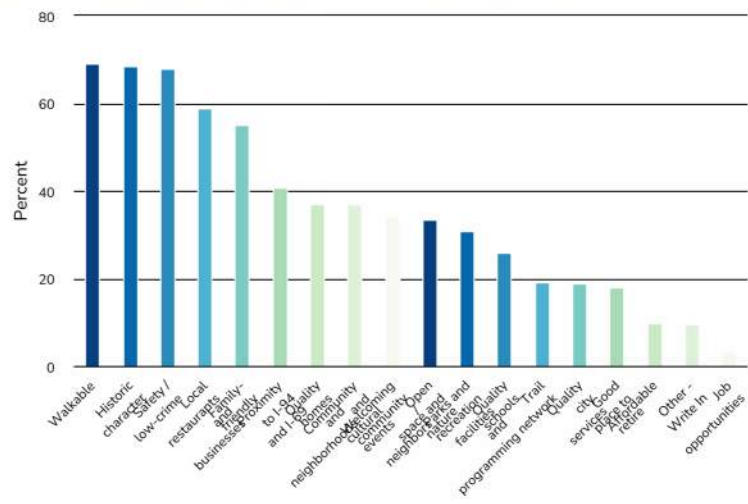
Value	Percent	Responses
Over 20 years	55.4%	304
11-20 years	16.0%	88
1-5 years	12.9%	71
6-10 years	12.9%	71
Less than 1 year	2.7%	15
Totals: 549		

3. How old are you?



Value	Percent	Responses
35-44	24.2% <div><div></div></div>	133
65 or older	23.5% <div><div></div></div>	129
45-54	18.8% <div><div></div></div>	103
55-64	18.6% <div><div></div></div>	102
25-34	11.8% <div><div></div></div>	65
19-24	2.9% <div><div></div></div>	16
Under 18	0.2% <div><div></div></div>	1
		Totals: 549

4. What do you like the most about Marshall? (Please check all that apply).



Value	Percent	Responses
Walkable	69.2% 	380
Historic character	68.7% 	377
Safety / low-crime	67.9% 	373
Local restaurants and businesses	59.0% 	324
Family-friendly	55.2% 	303
Proximity to I-94 and I-69	40.8% 	224
Quality homes and neighborhoods	37.2% 	204
Community and cultural events	37.2% 	204
Welcoming community / neighbors	34.2% 	188
Open space and nature	33.5% 	184
Parks and recreation facilities and programming	31.0% 	170
Quality schools	26.0% 	143
Trail network	19.3% 	106
Quality city services	19.1% 	105
Good place to retire	18.2% 	100
Affordable	10.0% 	55
Other - Write In	9.7% 	53
Job opportunities	3.5% 	19

8. Economic Development. Please rate your level of agreement with the following statements: "I would support the City dedicating more time and resources to..."

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral / not sure	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Responses
Actively recruiting new businesses. Count Row %	109 20.5%	204 38.4%	120 22.6%	65 12.2%	33 6.2%	531
Having strong policies to maintain environmental quality. Count Row %	259 48.5%	187 35.0%	66 12.4%	12 2.2%	10 1.9%	534
Helping retain and expand existing businesses. Count Row %	176 33.3%	252 47.6%	72 13.6%	16 3.0%	13 2.5%	529
Partnering with surrounding cities, townships, and counties for regional economic development. Count Row %	84 15.8%	189 35.5%	144 27.1%	64 12.0%	51 9.6%	532
Attracting remote workers to move to Marshall. Count Row %	70 13.2%	149 28.1%	172 32.4%	85 16.0%	55 10.4%	531
Enhancing downtown beautification, aesthetics, and historic preservation. Count Row %	222 41.9%	200 37.7%	70 13.2%	26 4.9%	12 2.3%	530
Developing large warehouse or industrial park sites. Count Row %	38 7.1%	78 14.6%	136 25.5%	95 17.8%	186 34.9%	533
Growing and/or attracting advanced manufacturing companies. Count Row %	53 10.0%	118 22.3%	124 23.5%	82 15.5%	151 28.6%	528
Developing cohesive branding to market the city. Count Row %	78 14.8%	161 30.6%	191 36.3%	57 10.8%	39 7.4%	526
Totals Total Responses						534

9. Environment, Parks, and Recreation. Please select an option that best describes your opinion regarding the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral / not sure	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Responses
Natural features in Marshall like the Kalamazoo River, Rice Creek, public parks, and wooded areas should be protected from future development. Count Row %	372 69.7%	117 21.9%	32 6.0%	8 1.5%	5 0.9%	534
Residents in Marshall can easily get to outdoor recreation opportunities and parks and nature areas. Count Row %	157 29.3%	236 44.1%	67 12.5%	57 10.7%	18 3.4%	535
I am satisfied with the quality and amenities of the parks/nature areas in Marshall. Count Row %	55 10.2%	173 32.2%	98 18.2%	154 28.7%	57 10.6%	537
I am satisfied with the programs, leagues, and events offered by the City of Marshall Recreation Department. Count Row %	56 10.6%	180 34.0%	190 35.8%	73 13.8%	31 5.8%	530
Totals Total Responses						537

10. Please rate how you prioritize the following natural resource initiatives.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neutral / unsure	Not important	Responses
Increase the number of trees in the city Count Row %	192 36.2%	205 38.7%	106 20.0%	27 5.1%	530
Improve stormwater management and flood prevention infrastructure Count Row %	201 38.0%	222 42.0%	98 18.5%	8 1.5%	529
Expand and improve open spaces and natural areas Count Row %	237 44.6%	204 38.4%	73 13.7%	17 3.2%	531
Protect water resources Count Row %	394 74.8%	111 21.1%	19 3.6%	3 0.6%	527
Connect neighborhoods to City parks and other natural areas Count Row %	199 38.0%	204 39.0%	92 17.6%	28 5.4%	523
Improve water recreation amenities (e.g., boat launch, canoe/kayak rental, fountains) Count Row %	212 40.0%	202 38.1%	93 17.5%	23 4.3%	530
Totals Total Responses					531

11. How often have you visited the following parks in the last year?

	Once or more per week	Once per month	A few times	Not at all	Not sure	Responses
Carver Park						
Count	30	30	166	224	58	508
Row %	5.9%	5.9%	32.7%	44.1%	11.4%	
Brooks Memorial Fountain Park						
Count	138	138	205	40	5	526
Row %	26.2%	26.2%	39.0%	7.6%	1.0%	
Marshall Athletic Fields						
Count	52	52	166	240	12	522
Row %	10.0%	10.0%	31.8%	46.0%	2.3%	
Ketchum Park						
Count	109	133	210	69	9	530
Row %	20.6%	25.1%	39.6%	13.0%	1.7%	
Stuart Landing and Millpond Park						
Count	71	119	208	113	13	524
Row %	13.5%	22.7%	39.7%	21.6%	2.5%	
The Brooks Nature Area						
Count	47	79	186	189	26	527
Row %	8.9%	15.0%	35.3%	35.9%	4.9%	
Shearman Park						
Count	26	53	112	273	55	519
Row %	5.0%	10.2%	21.6%	52.6%	10.6%	
Riverwalk						
Count	120	127	193	83	12	535
Row %	22.4%	23.7%	36.1%	15.5%	2.2%	
Grand Street Park						
Count	17	41	111	281	68	518
Row %	3.3%	7.9%	21.4%	54.2%	13.1%	
Allcott Park						
Count	8	28	82	306	92	516
Row %	1.6%	5.4%	15.9%	59.3%	17.8%	
Garvin Park						
Count	3	19	65	309	113	509
Row %	0.6%	3.7%	12.8%	60.7%	22.2%	
Cook Park						
Count	7	20	61	307	108	503
Row %	1.4%	4.0%	12.1%	61.0%	21.5%	
Marshall Area Farmer's Market						
Count	142	161	144	76	9	532
Row %	26.7%	30.3%	27.1%	14.3%	1.7%	
Calhoun County Fair Grounds						
Count	34	103	315	71	8	531
Row %	6.4%	19.4%	59.3%	13.4%	1.5%	
Totals						
Total Responses						535

12. Are there specific improvements you would like to see in City Parks? What are they?



ResponseID	Response
24	More maintenance and cleaning and replacement of play sets
25	I would like to see the parks better maintained. The RiverWalk was in dire need to maintenance last summer-broken boards, trees down, graffiti...
26	The Brooks fountain is poorly maintained and the city should be ashamed of their mismanagement. It is a symbol the city uses for all of their vehicles, marketing, brochures and website, yet they leave it to rot
30	More family friendly spaces such as parks and safe walking paths. I was bummed to see the splash pad downsized for pickle ball courts.
32	Maintaining current amenities- repairs and upkeep especially to the riverwalk
33	Parks are somewhat maintained Riverwalk and boat launches are not maintained AT ALL - Extremely poor and often VERY dangerous
34	We are over parked. We have enough.
35	Updated sign at Ketchum Park. Better grounds maintenance of landscaping/beds at parks.Above and beyond mowing
37	Work on flooding on north side of ketchum park.... And the skate park is a joke.. tare it down and replace it with an up to date cement one.
39	More regular upkeep and repairs/security
45	Splash pad
47	Openness on " EVERYTHING" in elected officials to voters who trusted them .
50	More things for our young people to do. There is NOTHING except for small kids. Nothing in this town for teens
54	things we will ACTUALLY use (not pickleball courts). Dog parks, splash pads (in the works), basketball courts!! basketball courts would be really nice for all ages.
55	Repairs/enhancement to River Walk would be great! Would love more bike lanes to access all parks and downtown.
56	The riverwalk needs to be maintained better before we add additional parks.
57	Maintain them they should be a jewel to the city. The parks are a disgraceful ☹
73	I would like to see some more walking trails
75	Upgraded seating and bathroom facilities. Handicap accessible. Upgraded lanscaping.

ResponseID Response

76	More up to date equipment and beautification. More trails or paved paths for hiking, walking, biking, running. Better connectivity to surrounding areas and trail systems.
78	The river walks need improved. Another full playground in the city and or maintain Ketchum Park. More green space/woods for fitness/nature walks, etc.
83	bike lanes or paths
84	Please fix the Riverwalk.
87	Restoration/improvements to Riverwalk—such an important feature for residents & tourists too.
88	The skatepark needs to be fixed badly. If done right, it would attract people from surrounding towns who will spend money in Marshall. It will also give kids something to do. A basketball court a Ketchum Park would be pretty cool too.
90	Picnic areas among trees with nearby playground equipment area. Walking/biking paths.
92	We have a lot of great parks and opportunities but they are not kept up. The riverwalk, especially, is in very rough shape. The trees and plants/weeds surrounding it are incredibly overgrown as well. I love having opportunities for nature time with my kids but the parks are not up to standards i would expect for what is offered and the taxes we pay.
94	The sections of boardwalks and handrails that are unsafe/broken or that have holes in them should be replaced.
98	Focus on river. Budgeted ongoing maintenance. Diverse sports courts. Tennis, basketball, other things besides just pickleball.
104	Splash pad, public pool, more interactive history in parks, similar to Holland Park in Albion.
108	It would be nice if there were more parks like Shearman with a playground, benches, and shelter-house(s) scattered around the city; it would make the city feel more walkable and family friendly.
109	A dog park.
115	The Riverwalk needs basic safety features repaired. Handrails and safety fence for elevated areas is missing. Boards and supports on the walk are deteriorating. Basically, all major sections need repairs. Wants would be to add bathroom facilities at Pearl Street parking lot.
117	Things for kids & seniors will disabilities (mobility issues). Kayak locations improved to put the kayaks in the river
119	Maintenance of river walk is number one. it has been let go too long. Hire someone who understands landscape maintenance. Parks need to be maintained to wow the tourists and for residents to be proud
121	Upkeep at the riverwalk. Safety on pathways. We need additional park space. A metro park like Hudson mills, where you won't pick up ticks going for a hike. We also need a community center for indoor recreation in bad weather.
125	River walk and the splash pad/ pickleball courts
128	No
135	Upgrades to playground equipment & pavilions.
136	River walk fencing and boards
138	Repairing the BNA parking lot Repairing the Riverwalk Repairing Ketchum Park Maintaining landscape by removing weeds at Grand Street Park Removing 2 dead trees at Shearman Park
140	The skate park needs a lot of attention
142	Kept up. Mantain
145	I think it's bullshit there is different prices for residents and nonresidents. I hate it enough to avoid signing my children up for events.
148	Fix up the Riverwalk! We miss how safe and beautiful it was.

ResponseID Response

151	Cameras to make them safer.
155	Easier access
156	Athletic facilities (basketball, baseball courts & open fields for football, soccer, open play)
158	General upkeep at the parks especially kids kingdom
161	None
162	Better signage (haven't heard of most of the parks listed), tick spraying at Brooks Nature Area (favorite nature trail park in former city I lived in did this), Riverwalk needs to be a higher priority. The riverwalk used to bring in people from surrounding communities (we used to eat dinner or brunch then walk before we moved here). Now it doesn't seem safe or appreciated. Everyone I know won't go there anymore. Would like to see some kind of bollards around Brooks Fountain Park (since it's in the middle of a state highway) and flashing lights at the pedestrian crossings. Would be even better if m-89 could be rerouted like it will be west of town. I've always been concerned about a vehicle driving onto the lawn by accident or malice, especially during Fridays at the Fountain or childrens' library programs.
166	Newer playground equipment
169	Better upkeep of the riverwalk. Additional playgrounds, splash pad, and dog park.
171	A dedicated dog park would be a good addition to the city.
173	More public restrooms and seating.
177	Preservation from business development and large scale modernization
178	Maintain nature, eliminate solar farms. Family friendly play and eating areas.
182	Weeds in sidewalk cracks removed
188	The boardwalk needs many maintenance improvements. I know some repairs have been done, but many more need to be done. Many guard rails are missing. Over hanging grass and trees. Why add more when you cannot maintain what we have.
190	Better restroom facilities.
193	N/A
194	Trim the trees and brush way back at Ketchum. You can't even hardly see the river anymore. Same as the boardwalk.
195	More availability for everyone.
197	Dog park. New and improve picnic pavilions at Ketchum. Repair river walk bike path to Brooks Nature Area
200	Pickleball courts and bike paths.
203	A dog park would be nice if it is conveniently located.
204	More accessibility for those in wheelchairs. Wheelchair users can not navigate Marshall on their own.
205	Regular maintenance
208	My kids are grown so we don't spend much time in them anymore.
211	I definitely think that a splash pad for the community would be a wonderful addition maybe even a community pool. Biking trails and restrooms
215	The river walk is horrible -we use to love to walk it-now it's overgrown, an eye sore and extremely unsafe-so many tree limbs all down the pathway.
216	Dog park

ResponseID Response

217	Safety. Lighting/security etc.. Allow vendors and or food trucks at the Brooks Fountain. Hotdogs, snowcones etc...
218	What I would truly like to see is regular maintenance of the existing parks and the structures therein. That should be a part of their yearly budget. Just like a good homeowner.
221	Actually maintaining so it dosent continue to fall into deterioration.
224	N/A
227	The parks are NOT maintained. Especially the Riverwalk!
232	Just nice quiet trails.
234	The spaces we have are nice enough, just too small to really do anything in other than sit. Kids can't run around allowing adults to relax and visit, and they are too small for events so not really sure what else they can be used for.
238	Need a dog park!
241	Marshall doesn't allot money for upkeep and improvements. When I go to other cities our size, they seem to have more and higher quality facilities. Take care of what we have!
246	The river walk is literally falling apart! This should be a safe walkway for families and older folks, this is absolutely horrific- keep up what you have.
247	Fix the river boardwalk
250	Officially recognize and embrace the mountain bike trail. Volunteers already maintain it.
257	Make a bike/walk/run park on the outer ring of Marshall. a 10k loop. 90% of the loop is in place. if you take Kalamazoo N to F Dr you will get killed on 27 make a path from the end of F Dr at old 27 that goes E to the back side of the High School. also find a way to cross Rice Creek at the far east end of Green St, so you can take the path that leads into Ketchum Park.
260	Keep them in good shape
261	Boardwalk needs a lot of repair work. More hours for kayak rental. Community pool and splash pad. More flowers every where.
262	Weight loss help, more programs for teenagers, a youth center so kids have a fun safe place to hang out with friends and get help with school work, more things for teens to do that don't cost an arm an leg, streets repaired.
268	The Riverwalk needs s lot of maintenance - brush trimming, boardwalk and fence repair, etc
269	More activities for bigger kids, ages 13 and up. The idea of a small splash pad going along a decently busy road next to a pickleball court instead of on the land by Ketchum park where it could be bigger, safer and draw from the river makers no sense.
271	Pickle ball courts. More options for younger kids
283	Bike rental would be fun
287	I wish that the parks were maintained regularly, not just fixed after people bitch on facebook.
295	More upkeep of the parks we have and improving outdoor family spaces to bring families to the community.
298	Trees
309	Fountain upkeep; more trees.
314	Updated playground equipment with more variety, water features,
316	Pollinator plants

ResponseID Response

321	Replacing trees that are diseased, and dying. Adding more trees of the appropriate size and type Fix and extend the River Walk to connect with the North Country Trail at 15 Mile Rd. Fixing kids kingdom in Ketchum Park and adding a children's playground there. Add a dog park. Add a Frisbee Golf Course at a park. Fix skate park at Ketchum Park. Add a larger park with trails, meadows, mountain bike trail, natural outdoor amphitheater by the river, playgrounds, picnic pavilions, water park, etc. This would be a good use for part of the land acquired for the megasite. This park could be developed with assistance with Firekeeper's Casino and the State of Michigan.
322	I would love a dog park!! Please!
325	Informative, historical, and educational experiences
327	Rest rooms.
328	A lot of things. What did we have? It's so old. Some of them already broke, never repair.
337	Can we please have a dog park?
338	I would like to see more playground equipment added to Sherman park, in particular. A splash pad would be a fun feature. Maintenance on the pavilion at Stuart's Landing. The brush tends to take over. Ketchum Park updates have been awesome. Community Policing programs would be a great thing to add as well as ideal age ranges for the equipment clearly marked. Cameras at the parks as well. Reasoning: my family called down some teenage boys from slamming down the slides at Ketchum Park. Maintenance on the Riverwalk is badly needed. A lot of the boards on the boardwalk are damaged. It is much appreciated that the Riverwalk from Marshall Ave to Stuart's Landing is being fixed. Updates and adding sidewalks throughout the city to make sure that people can safely walk throughout the city and utilize the parks that we have. It would be nice for those who work in the industrial park area on the south side of the city to be able to safely walk up to town. Updates to the icon fountain are needed.
346	There needs to be a budget line item for maintenance on the playground equipment at our parks. The fact that any of that stuff was even allowed to go in without a maintenance plan is asinine.
355	need more gym space for our youth teams to practice and to hold tournaments and activities
358	Maintain the street cleaning and storm sewers weekly. Rental properties not maintained and upkeep enforced. Enforce the ordinance of trash receptacle left at curb 24/7.
359	The Riverwalk is wonderful but needs to be maintained and could be improved.
363	Splash pad, more inclusive playground
368	Sidewalks on north side of West Hughes, traffic light at West Hughes and Kalamazoo
372	I would like to see our existing City Parks be self-sustaining and better funded.
373	Maintenance plans in place to quickly address vandalism and other damage and aesthetic concerns.
378	More native plant and invasive removal initiatives.
389	Skate park, water park, walking trails, river picnic parks. Dog park. Art or sculpture attraction. Anything for kids ages 12-18
390	Better play structures such as inclusive playgrounds.
399	Would like to see a women's or coed soccer league within marshall rec department
403	Just upkeep with our current parks. All of them have issues that could be addressed.
412	Maintenance! Cleaning! needs to happen more. Not let things get delapidated before you do something.
424	Add dog park
434	Better regular maintenance- for example trees have been down across the river walk for weeks, guardrails and boards on the paths have been missing for months
436	Water fountains and clean restrooms. The river walk is embarrassing with the graffiti and broken or missing walkway boards.

ResponseID Response

444	Maintained equipment for the safety of the children
453	Lawn care and upkeep, Weed control, maintenance of fountain structure, picnic tables available
457	Heard teenagers were at Ketchum Park swearing at others and acting ridiculous, so families had to leave. Patrolling more often?
461	Improved maintenance efforts. In particular, the Riverwalk and Stuart's Landing have become fairly run down due to storm damage.
466	Designate someone to mow the disc golf course in Ketchum Park.
468	Would like to see more of the fairgrounds be available to the public for use.
470	Dog park. Working ckean bathrooms.
472	Dog park more dog waste areas
480	Dog park
484	Drinking fountains, bathrooms, and maintenance of infrastructure including removing dangerous down or dangling limbs from the walkways quickly. Great job with the bridge at Ketchum! It would be great if there was a way to rent kayaks outside of business hours.
490	Skate Park at Ketchum Park. It's a shame that back in 2020, the community tried stepping up and fixing what they could for the city, because the city constantly ignores the skate park. They said it would take about \$16,000 to make all necessary repairs on their end, but left it up to the community. The community wasn't able to raise enough money on their own, and Marshall knee this. They acted like they knew nothing about a pickle ball court, but now somehow magically have over \$2 million dollars to put into the athletic fields and they're adding A PICKLE BALL COURT! Yet, you still have NO PLANS for the skate park community. Shame on you, Marshall, for lying to the community in 2020.
491	Kids water park
497	Just continue to update what's already there. The skate park area definitely needs some work in Ketchum park.
498	No, as I don't use them much
502	Senior access and programs
503	Yes, updated play structures for the children or adding play structures in the neighborhood parks. Maintaining the play structures and parks (possibly having a volunteer day every spring and fall to help with the mainentance).
508	NO. You all are RUINING Marshall.
513	Cleaner parks
516	Swings
519	A sign-up for volunteers to help maintain the parks, have local kids make new tiles for Ketchum Park (and help pull weeds, etc... it's a playground for them and would help teach respect and responsibility), a porta potty for Sherman park, fix the River Walk- it's dangerous!!! (Create a volunteer sign-up and donation fund to help maintain it). We pay a decent amount in taxes but the parks and river walk are always run down looking! The Brooks memorial fountain looks terrible, too! Quit waiting until everything is a disaster to ask for taxpayers opinions!!!
520	Shearman Park needs to be renovated to be an actual playground park. Virtually useless as it stands, Splash pads would be great at any park.
521	For you guys to actually take care of them would be an improvement.
524	The kids playground at Ketchum park is not kept up or very impressive.
526	Expand riverwalk/trail to connect with MAJOR conservation/recreation area
527	More ADA accessibility.

ResponseID Response

532	More walking trails and upgrade what we have. Splash pad for kids. Cross country ski/ snow shoe trails. Fishing ponds that are easily accessed. Bike paths
534	I personally don't feel the parks are protected from vandalism. We have something beautiful, fun or useful yet fools damage or deface. Sad
537	More parking at Saylor's landing
541	More recreation for kids like a new skate park. We need more activities for teens in the parks so they can keep out of trouble.
547	Maintenance at Ketchum Park specifically would be appreciated. My dad volunteers there regularly and has to deal with the negative reactions.
553	A dog park..
554	Ketchum park maintenance in cleanliness Splash pad!
555	Riverwalk needs some repair and foliage cut back Happy to see Fountain fixed at East end park.
561	Ketchum park needs some fixing up. It's definitely seen better days.
568	More updated playground equipment.
570	The boardwalk needs huge improvements for safety and accessibility for all citizens. Some of the boards or fencing is missing, while other parts feel as if they could fall out from under you at any moment. Also, it seems like the city has a hard time maintaining our parks but prioritizes beautification projects downtown. We need to keep our parks safe for everyone and well maintained!
571	Our parks are beautiful and well kept.
573	maintenance, maintenance, maintenancel and removing invasive species
586	Just would like to see things get fixed up and general maintenance to be kept up on. From things I have observed over my lifetime, nice things get put in but the maintenance lacks and it doesn't stay nice for long. If things were maintained properly, they wouldn't need to be fixed up or completely replaced as often and enjoyed for longer
589	City pool, splash pad for kids, pavilion areas, bike paths
592	Protection against vandalism and destruction; regular maintenance and safety inspections; public restrooms and water stations at each site.
607	A nice take out at the W. end of the mill pond, what we have there is unsafe and unacceptable! It should be accessible by car! Why is access to the take out locked?
611	Public restrooms, dog waste bags & garbages
614	Update to park equipment for kids. Painting, planting trees and flowers. Update river walk. Up date fair grounds.
621	Better maintenance of wooded trails in the Brooks Nature Area. Downed trees make it difficult walking, mainly the North woods.
630	Improve skate park and disc golf course
631	Pickleball courts
633	OTHER COMMENTS: Not all "job opportunities" are equal, to those who get to do the jobs or to the surrounding community. We should actively recruit *small* businesses but NOT *big* ones. On trees, it's not so much a matter of increasing quantity as of protecting quality.
634	1) Clean (litter free, penalize those who litter) 2) Maintained (repair damage, even cosmetic) 3) More Native Plants! Milkweed for Monarchs!
636	All parks with playgrounds need to include ADA approved swings and toddler swings, not just a climbing structure. Babies and toddlers can't use other equipment, but they can use swings.

ResponseID	Response
639	Dog park please!
640	More work with native plant and wildlife experts to increase the health of the ecosystems so that all creatures, waters, etc. are thriving and healthy, working together and supporting one another.
642	Signage with name of park & map of other parks. I am unaware of some of the parks listed here. If there was signage at each park location with name of park & also map of other named parks it would be very convenient & helpful information.
643	Fixing up Ketchum Park (ropes are broken, hole with climbing tire used to be). Ketchum is the largest park for children in the Marshall Area yet is very sad to use currently. I think the historic features of kids kingdom should be kept, but it would also be wonderful for Marshall to get a new and updated playground (perhaps on the skate park side of Ketchum) that it ADA accessible, offering fun for all children.
646	I feel that all the local parks could use an upgrade. The Brooks Memorial Fountain looks hideous! I was up there the other day and some people that were visiting from out of town made that comment. Is this how we want people to see our city?
651	I'd like to see budgeting for maintaining the parks so they don't fall into disrepair
652	Picnic tables, gardens, shade areas, pavilions, trails and paths, labels on trees and flowers, water features, miniature golf, a fitness station park, public restrooms, walking track
660	Restrooms need improvement at Stuart Landing. The current state of them aren't great. unkept
665	Pickleball court
668	Playground equipment
675	The stuart landing river walk the boards need to be fixed and better walk though and the brooks fountain needs to be repainted
678	The city planners love to come up with a project to "improve" a park and then ask for donations. Then get their picture in the paper saying look what we did with your money. Then they move on and the park is not taken care of the way it should be. Take care of what you have and then, if money and time allows add to it. Examples are many years of Ketchum Park "improvements" but it has never really been taken care of well. Board walk. We were promised that after millions spent to build it, there would be at least a full time position made to care for it all 12 months of the year. The condition of that walk has deteriorated for many years and the lack of maintenance and care is very apparent. So now what is planned? Extending it all the way to Blue Oval and once again, it will not be a priority after a while. I've seen it over and over as I've lived here my entire life. There is always a new plan or vision it seems for the town. Why does the city promote drinking booze and allowing open carry in the social district? Why do we always want to be like other cities. To feel we're hip or something? This is not Las Vegas and who needs to sit out in a parking lot in the winter with heaters so they can drink? What a waste of needed parking spots and tax dollars.
680	More sophisticated playground equipment in Sherman Park. Something for the older kids. Would like to see the Brooks fountain have the elaborate color display that it had when it originally opened.
682	Bike trail outside of town
683	More picnic tables
686	Shearman park- take down the recently installed tripping hazard. It is not being used for what it was designed to do. It's improperly installed. Get projects finished- where is our splash pad? Improved overall maintenance of ALL parks- not just mowing the grass and emptying the trash. Remove dead limbs and branches, RAKE and dispose of leaves, add things to interest ALL ages- public Garden areas? Yes for growing vegetables. Add Fruit trees.
687	Restrooms in Sherman park
690	Improved picnic tables, Bathrooms and water bottle stations at Ketchum Park North & South, Stuart Landing. New sign at Ketchum Park. Small identifier signs at Cook, Alcott. Beautification at Chapman. A unified approach to signage across all the parks would be an improvement for aesthetics and identification. Brooks Fountain and Carver Park are fine as is in this regard.
693	More walking paths
694	Improve and better maintain the riverwalk/boardwalk.
697	The Boardwalk desperately needs repair. Much time has passed since repairs were needed, and this is a site that attracts both residents and tourists.

ResponseID Response

701	More "hang out" infrastructure. More chairs, benches, umbrellas, TRASH CANS, more opportunities to sit and enjoy the park and not just stroll through
703	Having posted regular maintenance and improvement schedules would be great. It was super helpful for the road resurfacing and waterman project, to know when and where work would be done. And having them posted prominently around affected areas was helpful, so we didn't have to try and go find it on a web page three menus deep on the city site.
707	Swing set for toddlers at the park on Mansion Street!
708	More tables and shaded areas and swing sets!
710	Traffic flow out of the athletic fields on Michigan Ave...I think it is very unsaf
714	Adding more playground equipment to the skatepark side of Ketchum Park. Adding multiple splash pads in town!
716	FYI: The parks I've marked as not sure in the list above are parks whose names I don't recognize and whose locations I am unsure of. I understand the Riverwalk east of South Marshall will be undergoing improvements, but the stretch west from South Marshall to South Kalamazoo has sustained a lot of damage over the years and really needs help. A lot of people use the Riverwalk.
722	Pickleball courts
723	Better location for the Farmers Market. It's makes Green Street very congested on Saturday mornings. As the season goes on it becomes harder to find parking and get to other locations like the Library.
724	Fixing the river walk.
726	Pay more attention to the up keep and maintaince of the river walk
727	Improved upkeep of city parks, specifically Ketchum park, Cook park, and Marshall athletic fields. Cutting down and removing invasive species including Chinese sumac.
731	always have need a difference entrance/exit to the athletic fields. that hill going up, while coming out, has always been a catastrophe. Recent accident there proves it again.
737	More seating to set down
739	Actually maintaining them and not letting fall into disastrous levels of break down.
740	We need a dog park
743	I didn't know some of these parks existed
744	The crosswalks at the fountain for more safety. Most don't know what to do. More open hours downtown
746	City needs to think safety - especially with pedestrians crossing to get the fountain circle. We need pedestrian crossing lites.
747	Safer pedestrian traffic around the fountain! Flashing yellow lights are warranted.
751	Finish the old Eaton parking lot with the project that started. It looks awful.
753	I hate how projects get funded, but maintenance is never budgeted into the spending. Something looks nice for a few months, but there is a lack of monitoring, up keeping, and sometime repairs aren't even logical. The idea of Kids Kingdom is great, but any time something breaks, it's not a piece or part that can be ordered. Everything is custom made and fitted and has to be handcrafted to repair. It's nice to be different, but I feel the logical part is missing on many projects.
754	Wheelchair accessible.
760	The Riverwalk is in severe need of having the overgrowth removed and repair to the walk way. I rarely walk there or photograph there anymore because of its condition.

ResponseID Response

764	More trails and areas for walking and BIKING. Marshall offered very very safe areas for cyclists. Drivers complain about us on the roads and we have nowhere else to be. A paved, several mile loop around Marshall for biking would be amazing for exercise, walking, transportation, etc. like Battle Creek's north country trail system. Except Battle Creek isn't safe like Marshall is. PLEASE CONSIDER A BIKE TRAIL.
765	Work on and expand the mountain bike trail you already have.
766	Discreet pedestrian cross walk lights (located on the right side of the street- across from the fountain on all 4 sides) that you can turn on if crossing the street at the fountain for safety!
767	Keeping them clean and going after those who are doing graffiti
768	Updated and maintained
771	Having more activities for young adults 18-25.
776	Improved playgrounds. Marshall's playground amenities and maintenance pale in comparison to Albion and Battle Creek. There are not great options for small children. There is limited bathroom access.
778	Ketchum park - better park with basketball, better grounds, added fencing by bridge on Marshall. New bridge on Marshall Ave for Ketchum park as well as another walking bridge as there was before and better parking.
783	Regular trash clean up
788	Walking and biking trails Public amenities like water features, a walking path around local lakes like Lyon lake. Boating facilities, nature center celebrating local history, family hiking and exercise activities. Healthy Community Activities that celebrate the family not just the local drinkers in the bars. More park lands surrounding town. Natural spaces. Trees to help protect the quality of air. We would much rather be surrounded by parks than nasty industrial lands.
792	More use of native plants
795	Maintenance and ongoing support. The Riverwalk is unusable. Ketchum park is always filthy and transient types hang out there. Kids Kingdom is very run down. It's almost unusable. Would be great to see some free exercise/yoga classes weekly at the park and free outdoor exercise equipment installed. Would like to see dedicated bike lanes and paved walking/running paths in town.
801	Rehab the river walk and extend it. Splash pad, dedicated trails to walk, ride bikes or rollerblade.
805	I would love to see more nature preservation, maybe in the form of more native plants around town, and more resources for planting trees and caring for them, to replace the hundred year old trees that were recently cut down. Nothing is more historic than the natural landscape. I would also love to see higher regulations for landlords, I see a lot of properties around town that are not properly maintained, but since there's such a high need for housing right now, people suffer through it just to have a place to live, and landlords are not being held accountable. I think by doing this, we could have safer homes for families, and if the standards are not met, fine them, and if they can't afford the fines then maybe they should sell a house or 2 and a family that would actually take care of it would buy it.
810	Safer, updated equipment (maintained, somehow kept from vandalism, etc). Walking and biking paths to get around town and to connect to locations throughout town. When we visit other locations we're fond of, it's the paths and parks really stand out to me and invite people. It probably has a lot to do with parents/caregivers being able to access area parks for a variety of available activities: walking, biking, playground et al, courts/spaces for particular sports, picnic and gathering areas. Families gravitate there. In town, we mostly visit Ketchum and Sherman, and they've just been "the same" our whole lives/memories.
817	Saylors landing needs more parking and picnic areas fairgrounds more benches on walkways ketchem park concrete patios under all shelters and picnic tables. Riverwalk kept up better.
823	Complete the pickleball court project!
831	KEEP OUR RIVER CLEAN AND SAFE AND INDUSTRIAL PARKS OUT AND OFF OUR MAIN RIVER!!!! NO MEGA SITE!!!!!!
832	PICKLEBALL
836	The river walk needs some fixing. I would love to put a real nice drop in for kayaks
841	The river walk needs repairs and the fountain

ResponseID Response

843	Maintain them, police presence, stop destruction.
844	More walking/biking paths
846	Bathroom facilities. Battle Creek has port a potties by all of their playground equipment and downtown. I used to walk the riverwalk everyday. Now I cannot, as there is no bathroom option. I do not know where Garvin and Cook park are.
848	I would love to see better caretaking of the athletic fields with the possibility of operational score boards for a field or two. The weeds were overtaking the bleachers this year and the bugs were awful. The infields didn't seem very well maintained either as they were always dry and dusty on game days and full of weeds.
849	Improved/more accessible River walk/trails
852	Improve Ketchum Park, Riverwalk and connect trails or walking route in the city.
857	There is nothing for small toddlers
859	Dog park
861	I don't go to the parks because they are not maintained. The river walk is dangerous. Kid's Kingdom is left to rot away and dangerous for the children. Scary people hang around, also. Sidewalks are all also dangerous and create trip/fall hazards. I enjoy the fountain park but crossing the street to get to it is VERY dangerous. I am enthusiastic about parks, trails and public use spaces but the City constantly has a "lack of money"" to maintain them. They routinely say, please be patient, we just don't have the money. Don't put in what you can't maintain. Who wants to relocate or stay in a city that constantly has this attitude and voice when taxes are very high and produce this response?
865	PLEASE increase the maintenance that needs to be done. I can't think of any right now, but in the past, it took weeks to get tree limbs out of Ketchum Park.
869	We need paved trails that offer mixed use like walk/run/bike. So tired of being run off the roads by aggressive drivers or using the crooked unsafe sidewalks throughout downtown streets.
875	March-November public restrooms open. Steel toilets and sinks for disinfection and durability. More frequent cleaning and maintenance
879	Areas for use by people with pets.
880	More local parks, such as a small kids playground park at the Old State Farm site. Also on High Street there is a park that could use a Kids playground it's just north of Prospect Street. And I'm sure there's other areas we could do small playground parks for kids.
882	More cleaning during the summer months.
883	Ketchum and the river walk are not kept up. River walk was unusable a few weeks ago for grandkids. Very disappointing
884	Make a linear park around the city.
888	More athletic fields to draw tournaments in the area
890	I just wanted to let you know I appreciate the installation of the bathrooms at Ketchum and Brooks. We go to those the most.
891	Expand the Riverwalk to the otherside of Old 27. Connect Stuart Landing to Brooks Nature trail with a bike path.
894	More maintenance on our riverwalk and Ketchum park. More natural play structures and equipment at the smaller parks. A few natural play spaces would be AMAZING!

13. Transportation. Please select an option that best describes your opinion regarding the following statements.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Neutral or not sure	Responses
Most Marshall residents don't have a problem getting to work, school, the grocery store, or medical appointments. Count Row %	76 14.4%	248 46.9%	108 20.4%	25 4.7%	72 13.6%	529
Walking is safe in most Marshall neighborhoods. Count Row %	209 39.1%	267 49.9%	35 6.5%	14 2.6%	10 1.9%	535
The construction of sidewalks in residential areas should be encouraged. Count Row %	223 42.1%	229 43.2%	45 8.5%	15 2.8%	18 3.4%	530
The construction of sidewalks in commercial areas should be encouraged. Count Row %	194 36.7%	222 42.0%	65 12.3%	12 2.3%	36 6.8%	529
Biking is safe in most Marshall neighborhoods Count Row %	98 18.4%	265 49.7%	89 16.7%	42 7.9%	39 7.3%	533
The construction of bike paths in residential areas should be encouraged. Count Row %	153 28.7%	176 33.0%	100 18.7%	55 10.3%	50 9.4%	534
The construction of bike paths in commercial areas should be encouraged. Count Row %	141 26.7%	166 31.4%	110 20.8%	56 10.6%	55 10.4%	528
Sidewalks are available where people need them in Marshall. Count Row %	72 13.5%	210 39.5%	154 28.9%	65 12.2%	31 5.8%	532
Roads and other transportation infrastructure in Marshall are well-maintained. Count Row %	37 6.9%	195 36.2%	160 29.7%	117 21.7%	29 5.4%	538
Totals Total Responses						538

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Appendix F. Bear Creek Museum and Nature Center Concept Plan



Bear Creek Museum and Nature Center

Strategic Plan: Concept and Partnerships



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INTRODUCTION

Marshall has always been on the cutting edge, forging a path for others to follow. Michigan pioneer settlements often centered around agriculture, but Marshall was a town founded mostly by doctors, lawyers, politicians, and businessmen.

During its early years as a village, Marshall residents Isaac Crary and Rev. John Pierce drafted a plan for a public school system that was voted into Michigan's 1835 Constitution. This plan (in some form) was later adopted by most states across the nation. Marshall was also home to Michigan's first senators and representatives, and its third governor, but its enterprising reputation is not all rooted in politics and public policy.

At its beginning, Marshall was a central hub for the stagecoach and railroad routes between Chicago and Detroit and, somewhat due to its central location, became a manufacturing hot spot for everything from Roy Roger's cap guns to windmills (an early form of green energy). Ford Motor Company's BlueOval Battery Park (BOBP) will continue this tradition as a national innovator in electric vehicle (EV) technology. The BOBP is situated within the Marshall Area Jobs Opportunities and Recreation (MAJOR) Campus, with the Bear Creek Complex along its eastern border.

With that history of educational reform, innovation, and preservation in mind, Marshall has a unique opportunity to bring together the past, present and future with a living museum, community gathering place and nature center. This area of Michigan needs a place to tell its unique stories, educate our youth and visitors about the land and the people, and to celebrate the past as we look to our future. This center will incorporate these activities in a location steeped in history, beauty, and nature.



BEAR CREEK COMPLEX

This concept plan has three parts: the Building Complex, the Trailhead, and the River Trail next to the Kalamazoo River. This property has always been held in private ownership, so only a select few have visited the grounds. In its past it has been a farm, a B&B, a photography studio, and the home of a community of like-minded families. This complex will allow locals and visitors to experience the beauty that Bear Creek offers and give Marshall another venue to explore nature, gather for events, and to have educational opportunities.

BUILDING COMPLEX The Bear Creek farm site includes three homes, two barns, a chicken coop, and certified organic gardens. The aerial view (see map) shows the Bear Creek property layout in detail.

Buildings are undergoing analysis to determine the load capacity of each. Once that is complete, final plans can be made for what each building will contain. The initial plan calls for the **Main House** to contain a Heritage Museum, the Marshall Historical Society archives and museum offices.

The **Carriage House** could provide space for educational and community activities, and a restaurant or community kitchen.

The **Old Farmhouse** could become a museum showcasing 19th century farm life, and the barns will hold agricultural and transportation history along with community organization exhibits.



The **grounds** will be open to the public to enjoy the beautiful scenery, hold social gatherings and educational programs, access the North Country Trail, and more. An open-air stage would provide opportunities for wellness activities, concerts, and festivals. Programming for Bear Creek could include folk arts, fine arts, nature, fishing and conservation, day retreats, scout camps, community presentations, community gardens, and plant sales.

This property will become infused in the fabric of Marshall and will create lasting memories and new histories that will last into the next generations of citizens and visitors.

PARKING Parking lots will be located on the west side of the houses/barns and will not be visible from the main road, preserving the views of nature visitors will experience within the grounds.

THE PROPERTY MAP



The Bear Creek property, consisting of two parcels, contains 13.5 acres on either side of the Bear Creek. This property will grow to 36 acres and connect to the 218 acre conservation easement that runs along the Kalamazoo River to the south.

THE MAIN HOUSE



The **ground level floor** of the Main House (the building seen from the road) could serve as the **Heritage Museum**. This museum could include the history of the property, and local and regional history exhibits.

The **upstairs** of the Heritage Museum may contain the Marshall Historical Society archives (historic papers). The structural stability of the building is being assessed to see if that floor can safely hold the necessary weight. This floor will also hold museum administrative offices and a research workroom.

The **basement** of the Main House may house the Marshall Historical Society artifacts (historic objects).

All spaces containing archives, artifacts, and exhibits would be moisture and temperature controlled and contain the appropriate fire suppression system for the materials being housed. ADA accommodations will be made, including outside ramps and indoor lifts.

THE CARRIAGE HOUSE

The **ground level floor** of the Carriage House could house a special exhibit space for area museums to display artifacts.

The **top floor** of the Carriage House could house an **artist-in-residence program** to attract artists, musicians, writers, and researchers who will enjoy access to the archives. These guests would create work while staying on the property for a period of time, entertaining visitors with their skills while taking inspiration from the beautiful surroundings and historic artifacts. In payment for accommodations and access, artists will hold a performance, a reception, a reading, or a lecture based on their research.

The **basement** of the Carriage House was most recently a full commercial kitchen. This area could remain a commercial kitchen for use by Marshall-area chefs and caterers or be used as a restaurant with both indoor and outdoor seating. This space could also be used as additional space for events.



THE OLD FARMHOUSE and LARGE BARN



The **Old Farmhouse** dates from ca.1905 and has been unused for many years, and has a foundation created from whole trees. The foundation must be repaired to make it stable enough to become a museum building, but eventually this structure could become a replica of a traditional 19th century farm house.



There are two barns on the property. Exhibits in the large barn could showcase the history of transportation in Marshall. This history may entail **modes of manufactured transportation** found in the Marshall area, including horse-drawn carriages and wagons, bicycles, and motorcycles.

This transportation-focused exhibit could showcase Ford Motor Company innovations, evolving from Model T to more energy efficient engines, and finally to the new electric vehicles. An exhibit on the science behind EV battery technology could educate the public about the BlueOval Battery Park, located right next door, and may attract science and engineering students wanting to learn about future careers in this industry.

This barn may also tell Marshall's **aviation history**, including Brooks Airfield as one of the first airports in Michigan. This space could also include a large model train exhibit to tell Marshall's railroad history in a unique way, and highlighting the Interurban, an electric railroad that once ran down the center of Michigan Avenue and eventually connected Ann Arbor to Kalamazoo. A goal for the complex is to bring history to life with activities, re-enactors, and entertainment.

THE SMALL BARN and CHICKEN COOP



The smaller barn could be an event space/ learning center or it could display **historic agricultural machines**, like the Maes Milking Machine that was invented on this very farm. This could be a dedicated place that **highlights farming, farm technology and engineering** to tell the great American farming story. Exhibits could include everything from seed technology to the importance of bees and butterflies. Small garden patches could be added during the growing season to show the actual planting and growth process.



THE TRAILHEAD

Many visitors will come to see the Bear Creek museums, but many will also come for the outdoor landscape. Accessed from the south parking lot, the Trailhead leads to two trails that follow along each side of the Bear Creek.

FAST PATH This paved, straight path, leads to 15 Mile Road, allowing for faster traffic like runners, rollerbladers, and cyclists.

SLOW PATH This path is a walking trail with proposed signage relaying nature facts, indigenous/cultural stories, and/or general history of the property.

Both paths will eventually meet up with the conservation easement and River Trail that runs along the north side of the Kalamazoo River, on the south side of the MAJOR Campus. With additional funding and support, this trail also could possibly connect to the City of Marshall's Riverwalk and River District.



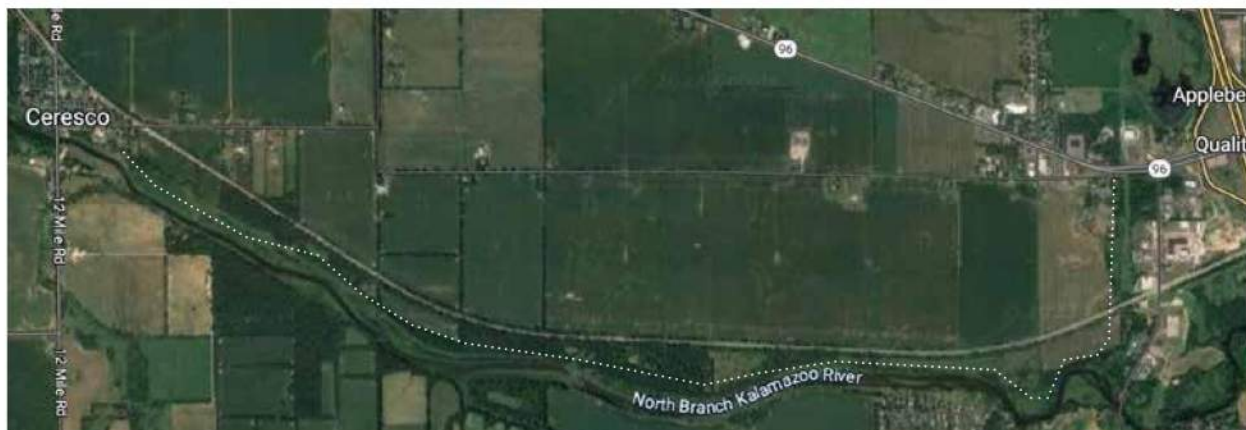
MICHIGAN TRAILS



While trail creation is a separate project from the Bear Creek Museum, its importance to the area cannot be overstated. The current unfinished trail through Calhoun County will become a section of three major Michigan trails: the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT), the Great Lake to Lake Trail (GLTL), and the Iron Belle Walking Trail.

The map above shows the North Country National Scenic Trail, a footpath that stretches over 4,800 miles across eight states, from Vermont to North Dakota. This is the longest of the eleven National Scenic Trails authorized by Congress. As of early 2019 there were 3,129 completed trail miles, leaving 1,671 miles left to build. The current trail temporarily follows the dotted line above (along a road), between the solid lines at each end that represent the Battle Creek Linear Path to the west and the Marshall Riverwalk to the east.

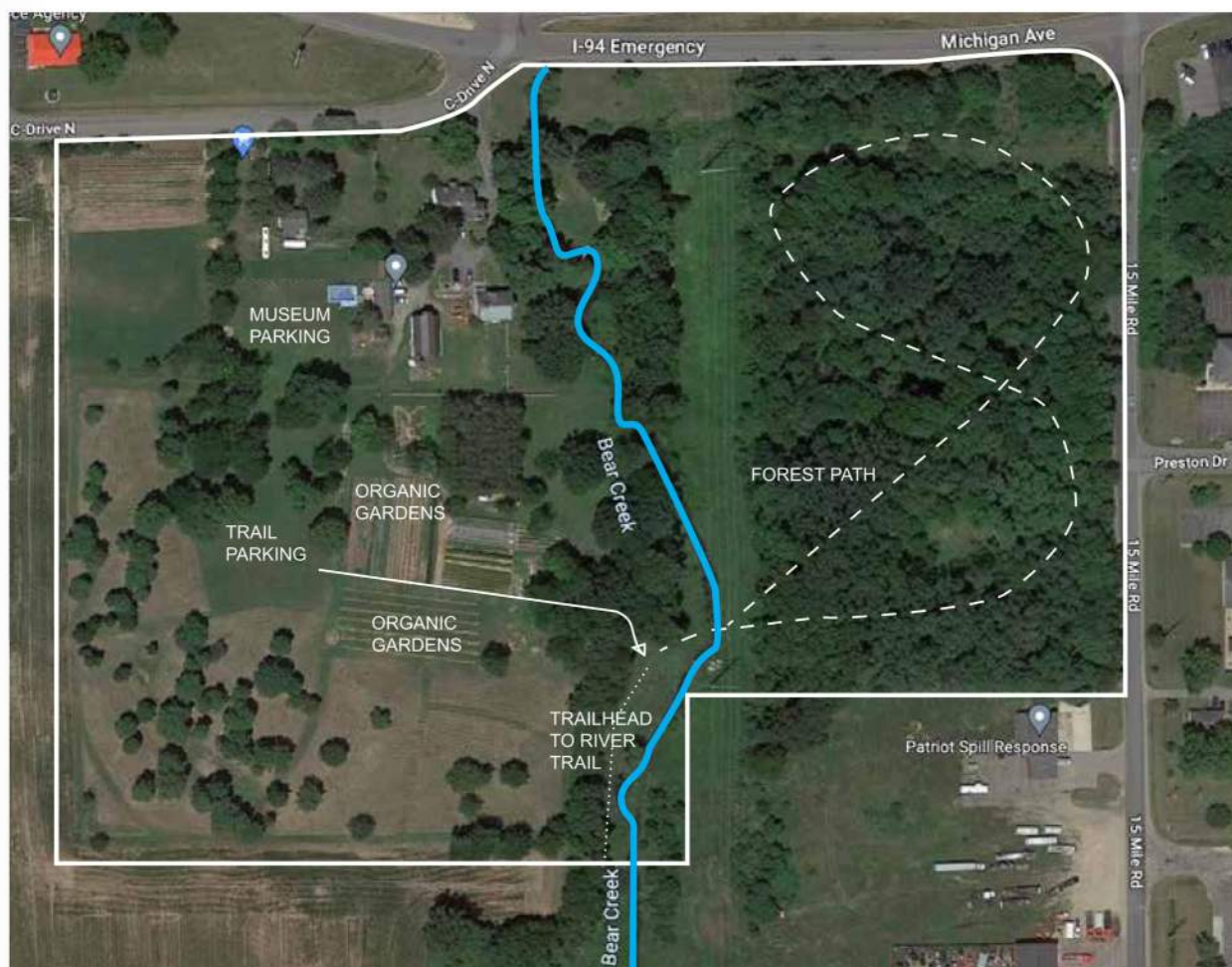
Almost all trails to the west of the state are complete. With the addition of this Bear Creek Trail section, only a small portion would need to be completed to **connect Marshall to Lake Michigan along the GLTL trail, and to the Upper Peninsula** along the other two Michigan trails (which turn north in Kalamazoo).



FOREST, COMMUNITY SPACE, GARDENS, and THE BEAR CREEK

FOREST The forest path would be open and free to the public, and the addition of an easily accessed forest path close to the BlueOval Battery Park site will encourage workers to visit nature during their breaks. Benches placed at intervals would allow for rest and reflection.

COMMUNITY SPACE In addition to visitors walking the trails, the grounds would be open for various events. Scout troops could camp in the grove of pine trees; photographers and artists could gain inspiration from its beautiful gardens; educational events could be held; and school groups and/or bus tours could visit the grounds and museums to learn about local history. This space will quickly become a major community asset.



FOREST, COMMUNITY SPACE, GARDENS, and THE BEAR CREEK

GARDENS The gardens at Bear Creek are certified organic and every effort will be made to retain this designation. The spaces could be used to plant herbs, edible flowers, native plants, pollinator gardens, to host workshops, and more.



THE BEAR CREEK We are dedicated to preserving the health of the creek and the wildlife while also providing educational opportunities.



COST CONSIDERATIONS

Due to the numerous considerations of developing the Bear Creek Complex, a current, accurate budget is still being determined. However, prospective budget items are listed below.

1. Extensive renovations are necessary on the buildings including roofs, painting, windows, etc.
2. One or two parking lots and a 2-track entrance corridor.
3. Outdoor signage to guide guests to the correct parking lot, way-finding signs to guide them around the property, forest path signs, and interpretive signs along the Trailhead.
4. Conversion of the chicken coop, or building a new structure, for an admissions center and public restrooms.
5. Erection of fences to delineate the museum grounds from the free trail and path areas.
6. Security, especially for the museum buildings within the fenced-in area.
7. Exhibit preparations including cases, signs, and lighting.
8. Acquisition, transportation, and maintenance costs for loaned artifacts.
9. Installation of moisture and temperature controlled environments and fire suppression systems.
10. Two different paths, one for fast traffic and one for slow, along the trailhead leading to the river trail.
11. Office furniture and equipment, Wi-Fi, and other utilities.
12. Marketing materials - brochures, website, etc.
13. Museum staff.
14. ADA-compliant ramps and restrooms, and the creation of sensory packs and other materials to make the museums accessible to everyone.

A more detailed plan with phases, time frames, and budgets is being developed.



APPENDIX - PROPERTY DETAILS

Property tax records retrieved from BS&A Software for Marshall Township include the following information about the buildings on the property.

Main House3,133 sq ft.....Garage Area: 576 sq ft Year Built: 1946

Carriage House.....2,985 sq ft.....Garage Area: 57 6sq ft. Year Built: 1925

Old Farmhouse.....1,050sqft.....NoGarage Year Built: 1900

General Purpose Barn 11,344 sq ft

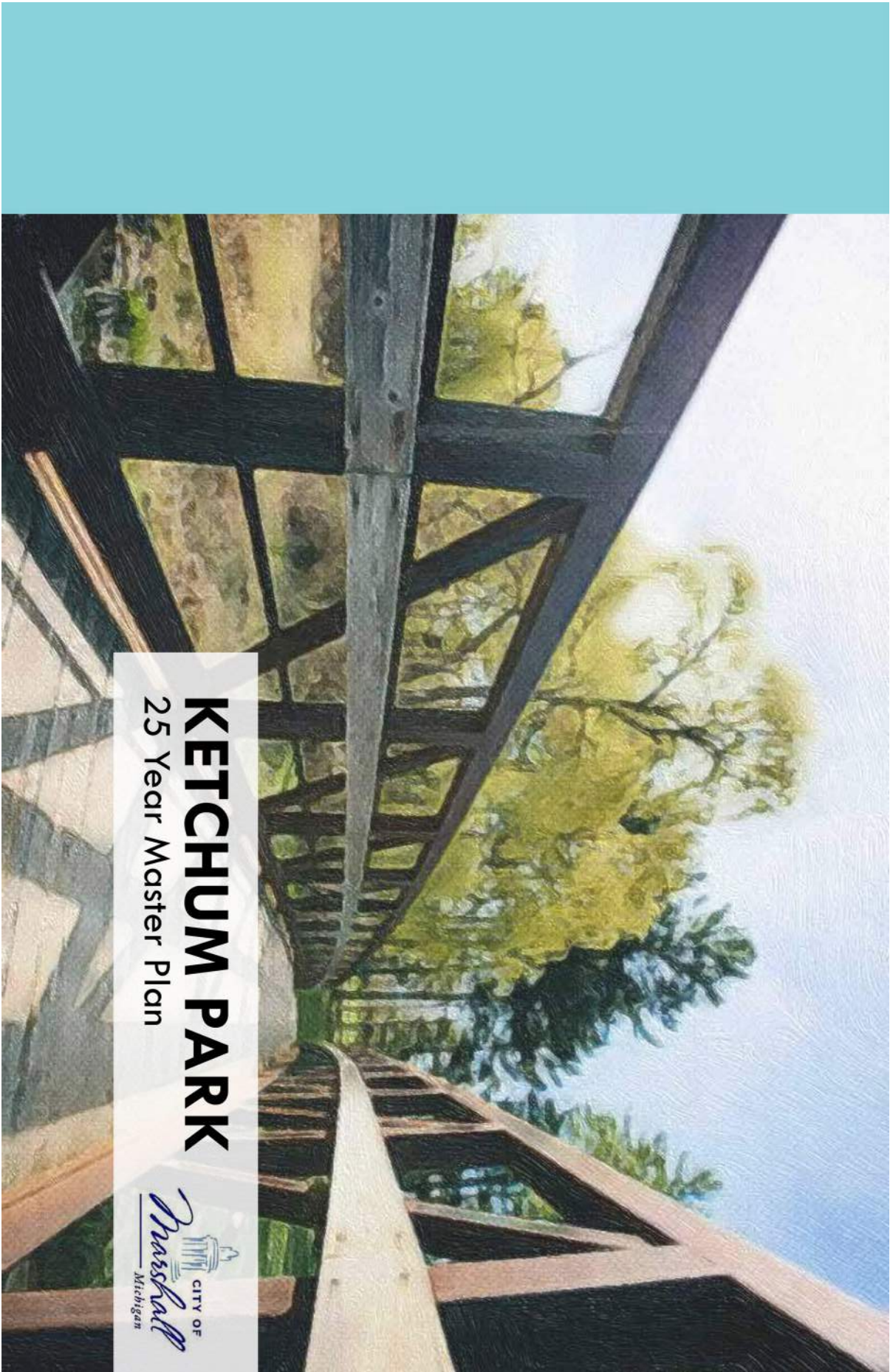
Commodity Barn (Storage Shed).....160 sq ft

Cylindrical Silo615 sq ft

General Purpose Barn 21,276 sq ft



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KETCHUM PARK
25 Year Master Plan





Executive Summary + Introduction

PURPOSE OF THE MASTER PLAN

Ketchum Park is a well-loved community recreational asset and an important riparian corridor within the Kalamazoo Watershed. It also stands at a crossroads, in need of a new direction that embraces the ecological, industrial and cultural richness inherent to the site. The Master Plan describes a vision and framework for review, discussion and decision making. It is a living document where recommendations are not fixed or final but stand as a primary filter in the decision-making process as funding becomes available over the next 20 years. Along with a vision for Ketchum Park shared by the community, a set of principles were developed to serve as a guide when changes, uses, activities, or introductions are considered:

- Use the **foundational features** of the park's landscape as the basis for its design, such that the stream, the race, and recreation form its core patterns
- Embrace the **natural and industrial history** of the site as cues in creating spaces to support its social and recreational future
- Create spaces that encourage a **range of recreation activities and users**, but not in ways that allow those spaces to be dedicated for a singular activity
- **Protect the park's natural resources** by limiting the expanse of activities that pose a potential to downgrade the park's landscape, especially the riparian corridor
- Provide opportunities for **incremental evolution and implementation** of the park's improvements

Executive Summary + Introduction

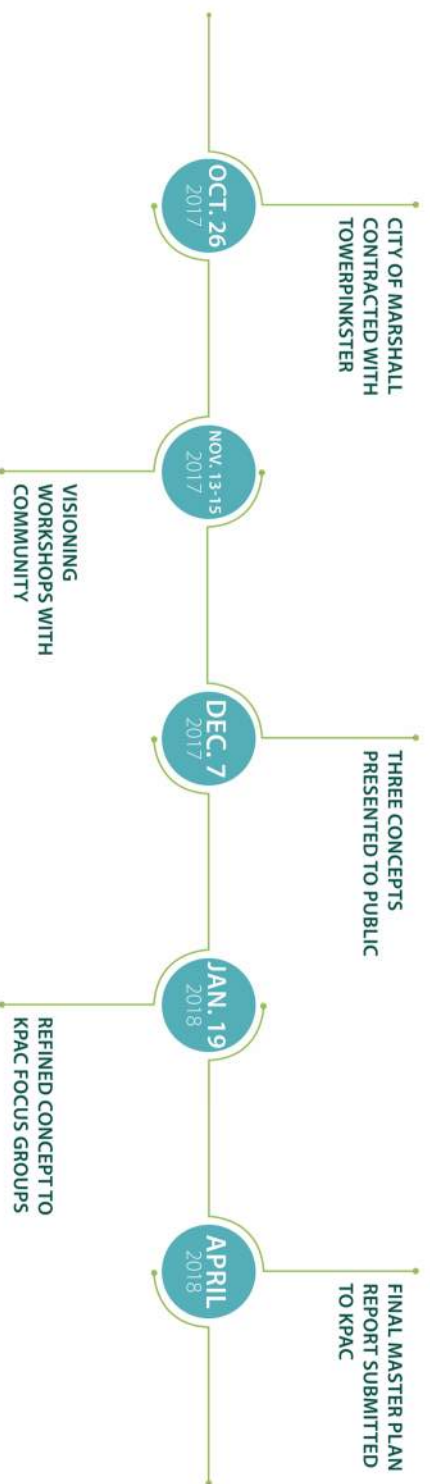
THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

On October 26, 2017, the City of Marshall contracted with TowerPinkster, a regional architectural and engineering design and planning firm, to produce a forward-looking Master Plan for Ketchum Park. Complementing the park's existing assets, the Master Plan sets expectations, direction and development goals that will enable the city to step knowledgeably and responsibly into the park's future.

To best represent the views of the park's numerous stakeholders and to provide timely and strategic feedback to the planning team, the Ketchum Park Advisory Committee (KPAC) and the City of Marshall assembled existing documents and data on community outreach, historical site documentation, existing site conditions, wetland delineation mapping, and Parks Maintenance plans to inform the Master Plan process.

A two-night Visioning Workshop was held at City Hall on November 13 and 15, 2017, with KPAC members and selected community representatives providing information and insight into current conditions, as well as hopes and aspirations. The community feedback, in conjunction with the existing site and data analysis, informed goals and objectives for the park over the next 25 years. This framework was used to direct the design team through the planning process and to determine programmatic needs and desired site improvements.

Subsequent stages of the master planning included the creation of three concept alternatives that were guided by five park goals determined from community feedback: Connectivity, recreation and play, sustainability, community engagement, and education and outreach. The concepts were presented to KPAC for feedback and discussion at City Hall. After gathering input from community members, a refined Master Plan was created by the design team and reviewed by the KPAC Focus Group. This report conveys and expands on the directions that were established during the Master Plan process.



Executive Summary + Introduction



“Recreation for a Lifetime”

City of Marshall Recreation Department

The City's motto reflects the community's commitment to engage all users and abilities in meaningful experiences that celebrate the area's natural and cultural resources for generations to come.

DESIGN DIRECTION

Through an iterative process, the design team isolated significant elements to consider in the 25 Year Master Plan. Diversity of park experiences and connection to the community were regarded as very important components to include, and were an underlying theme throughout the process. Many people expressed the importance of telling the industrial and cultural history of the site, while emphasizing and protecting the park's natural beauty and native ecosystems. Large, open green space was identified as a priority, as many people expressed interest in a flexible space that could accommodate large and small-scale events and activities. Additionally, active spaces were analyzed to determine if they were essential, properly located, or in need of renovation. By eliminating underutilized park elements and addressing major drainage issues, the community agreed that space should be allocated for passive, non-programmed use in addition to newly designed active areas.

Defining Features: STREAM | RACE | RECREATION

Three eras of natural and human history intertwine in Ketchum Park: A time when the stream carved its course through an unmarked landscape, a time when the power of the stream was harnessed for local industry, and a time when streets and homes reached outward from the historic center of Marshall. Today, the focus of the land has turned to recreation for the dedicated community. These patterns, all visible today, become the forces shaping an experience in Ketchum Park, an experience that weaves the natural environment into a people-centered time. In the master plan we see:

- Restoration of the stream, creating a space for appreciation of the great banks.
- A race, once used to build the city, now a place for activity and entertainment.
- Recreation created with the highest regard for nature and the greater Rice Creek, organized for gathering, play, and learning.

Until now, these patterns have been separated, and often unrecognized. The Master Plan reconciles the stream, the mill race, and recreation to create a series of spaces and activities resonating with one another. The stream is made better by interacting with people, the race reconnects with stream and people, and recreation is balanced between nature, history, health, and social interaction.

Project Vision + Goals

BIG MOVES

STREAM RESTORATION | RECOGNITION OF RACE | SPACES FOR COMMUNITY

The diagram suggests several big moves, each based largely on one or more foundational features of the Park. Where some can be achieved as a single project, others might be more incrementally accomplished or require continuing effort.

- Restore the stream bed and banks. Create protected natural areas for habitat that harbor intentional opportunities for human interaction with the stream
- Acknowledge the abandoned millrace. Recognize the race as a formative element of the park and its current use, and represent as an abstract from within the landscape
- Create spaces for people. Provide spaces for large and small scale social gatherings that interact with and celebrate the park's natural features
- Allow for spontaneity. Introduce universal, unprogrammed activities that relieve the park of having to conform to recreational standards that might be at odds with its character-defining features

THE STREAM

- A dominant feature in park's landscape, the stream forms a foundational element of design.
- Recognizing the shape of the stream as it flows around the park offers clues on where emphasis might be placed for human use.
- Places of confluence deserve special attention and can become places where stream, race, and people mix.
- Orientation of spaces in the park should recognize the stream so that its presence informs experiences people will have in the park.

THE RACE

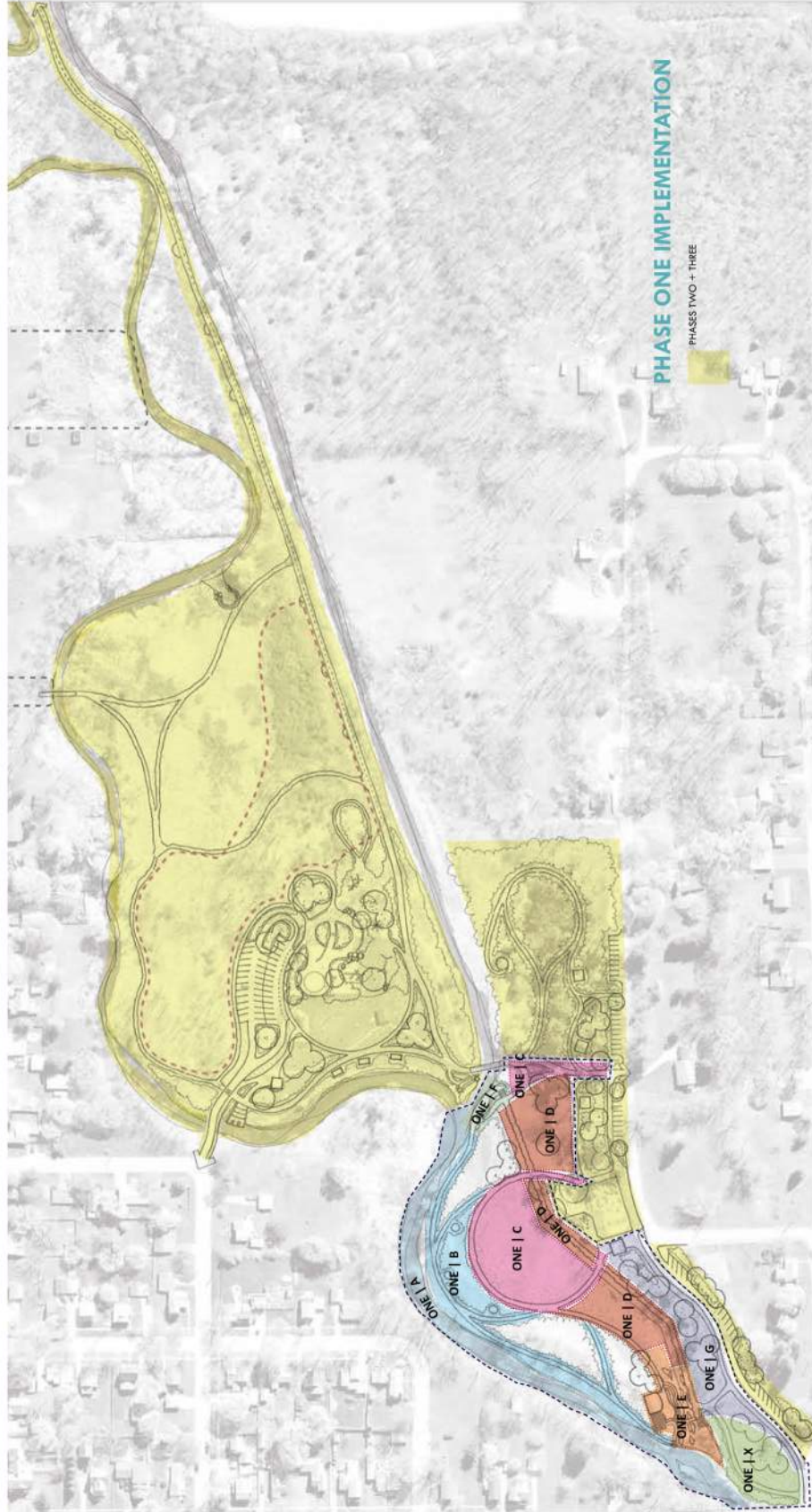
- The lost industrial feature of the park has a compelling narrative that can be revealed by seeing where the race is today and where it once stood.
- Remnant features of the race can add to the unique experience of the park.
- Reinforcing the orientation of the park to the race is a reminder of the park's evolution.

RECREATION

- Consideration for the park's natural features and stream must be made when new activities are added to the park.
- Gathering, at a range of scales, supports a key recreational function of the park.
- At key locations, interpretive signage and features can tell important stories of the park's cultural, ecological, and industrial heritage.



Phasing + Implementation



Phasing + Implementation

PHASE ONE DESCRIPTION + COST ESTIMATE

Phase One includes improvements to those portions of Ketchum Park and Rice Creek at the lower half of the park, south and west of the Rotary Bridge.

ONE | A LOWER STREAM ECOLOGY

In-stream work performed by Trout Unlimited. To align with Ketchum Park improvements, this work is best directed to the portions of Rice Creek below the confluence of the stream and the mill race.

Construction Cost: \$10,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$13,000

ONE | B LOWER STREAM RAMBLE

The establishment of pedestrian paths along the banks of the stream, and perches providing stream overlooks and opportunities for small-scale gatherings.

Construction Cost: \$32,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$41,600

ONE | C LOWER KETCHUM COMMONS AND PROMENADE

Work related to the establishment of the lower town commons, drainage system, and its perimeter pedestrian walkway. Also included is the main path between parking on Montgomery Street and the Rotary Bridge.

Construction Cost: \$143,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$185,900

ONE | D MILL RACE PATH AND SHADOW

The creation of a pedestrian pathway aligned, generally, with the southerly edge of the former mill race. Mill Race Shadow includes the installation of native grasses adjacent to the pedestrian pathway.

Construction Cost: \$136,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$176,800

ONE | E CONFLUENCE GARDEN AND MILLRACE PAVILION

The creation of a formal gathering space and garden that overlooks the former spillway.

*Construction Cost: \$548,138

*Construction and Soft Costs: \$673,752

*Cost not prepared by TowerPinkster

ONE | F MILLRACE TERRACES AND STREAM IMPROVEMENTS

Establishment of a terraced water access gathering space on the south side of the Rotary Bridge. In-stream improvements to manage the flow of water. Coordinate funding with Trout Unlimited.

Construction Cost: \$50,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$65,000

ONE | G MONTGOMERY PASSAGE PEDESTRIAN PATH

The improved pedestrian path and connection to the Mill Pavilion along Montgomery Street. Design and function with emphasis on the pedestrian scale.

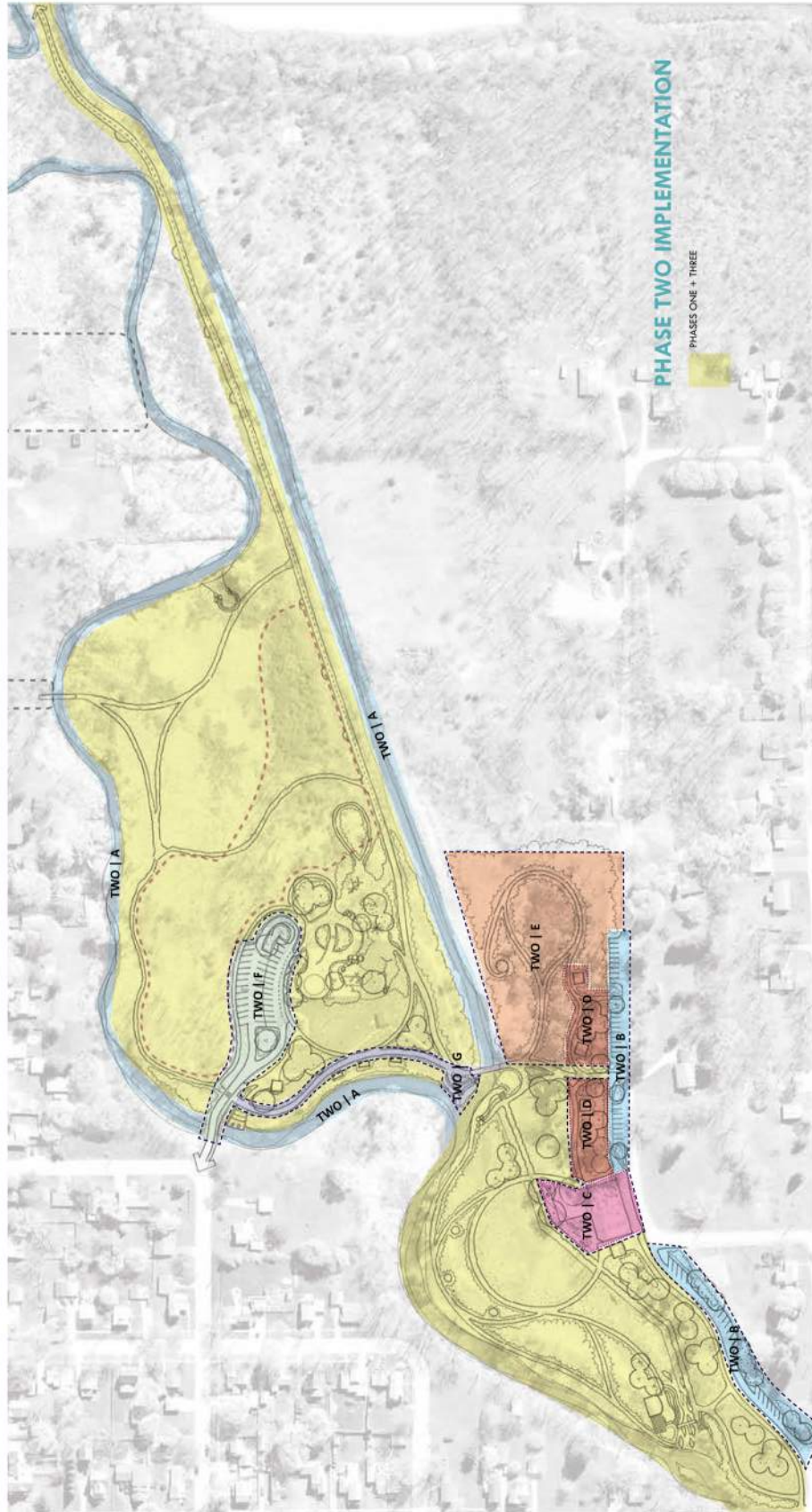
Construction Cost: \$60,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$78,000

ONE | X *SLOPE RESTORATION AND STABILIZATION

The restoration and stabilization of the slope between the old spillway and the South Marshall Avenue Bridge. Further investigation is needed to determine the scale and scope of retaining wall replacement and improvements. Potential designs may include a terraced wall system with native plantings.

*This stage not included in the cost estimate - further investigation required

Phasing + Implementation



Phasing + Implementation

PHASE TWO DESCRIPTION + COST ESTIMATE

Phase Two includes improvements in the upper and lower portions of Ketchum Park, and Rice Creek from the old dam location to the Rotary Bridge.

TWO|A UPPER STREAM ECOLOGY

In-stream work performed by Trout Unlimited. To align with Ketchum Park improvements, this work is best directed to the mill race and the portion of Rice Creek above the Rotary Bridge.

Construction Cost: \$108,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$140,400

TWO|B MONTGOMERY PASSAGE

The realignment of Montgomery Street, to be redefined as a one-way road shared by pedestrians and vehicles. Design and function with emphasis on the pedestrian scale. This stage also includes parking expansion and improvements south of the Rotary Bridge, along Montgomery Street.

Construction Cost: \$113,400
Construction and Soft Costs: \$147,400

TWO|C KIDS' KINGDOM IMPROVEMENTS

Maintenance improvements made to the existing play structures and expansion of the play area, with emphasis on inclusive play.

Construction Cost: \$140,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$182,000

TWO|D WOODLAND PICNIC SHELTERS

The creation of three picnic shelters and their corresponding pathways. This stage also includes the installation of set-in-place barbecue grills and native planting beautification improvements.

Construction Cost: \$140,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$182,000

TWO|E PINE DISCOVERY TRAIL

Restoration of the pine woodland natural area and the establishment of a nature trail. This stage also includes the creation of an elevated, inclusive tree house.

Construction Cost: \$120,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$156,000

TWO|F UPPER KETCHUM ARRIVAL

The reconfiguration of a paved entry drive and parking lot (44 spaces), crosswalk and traffic table. Also included is a secondary pedestrian bridge adjacent to the existing vehicular bridge, and sidewalks surrounding the lot.

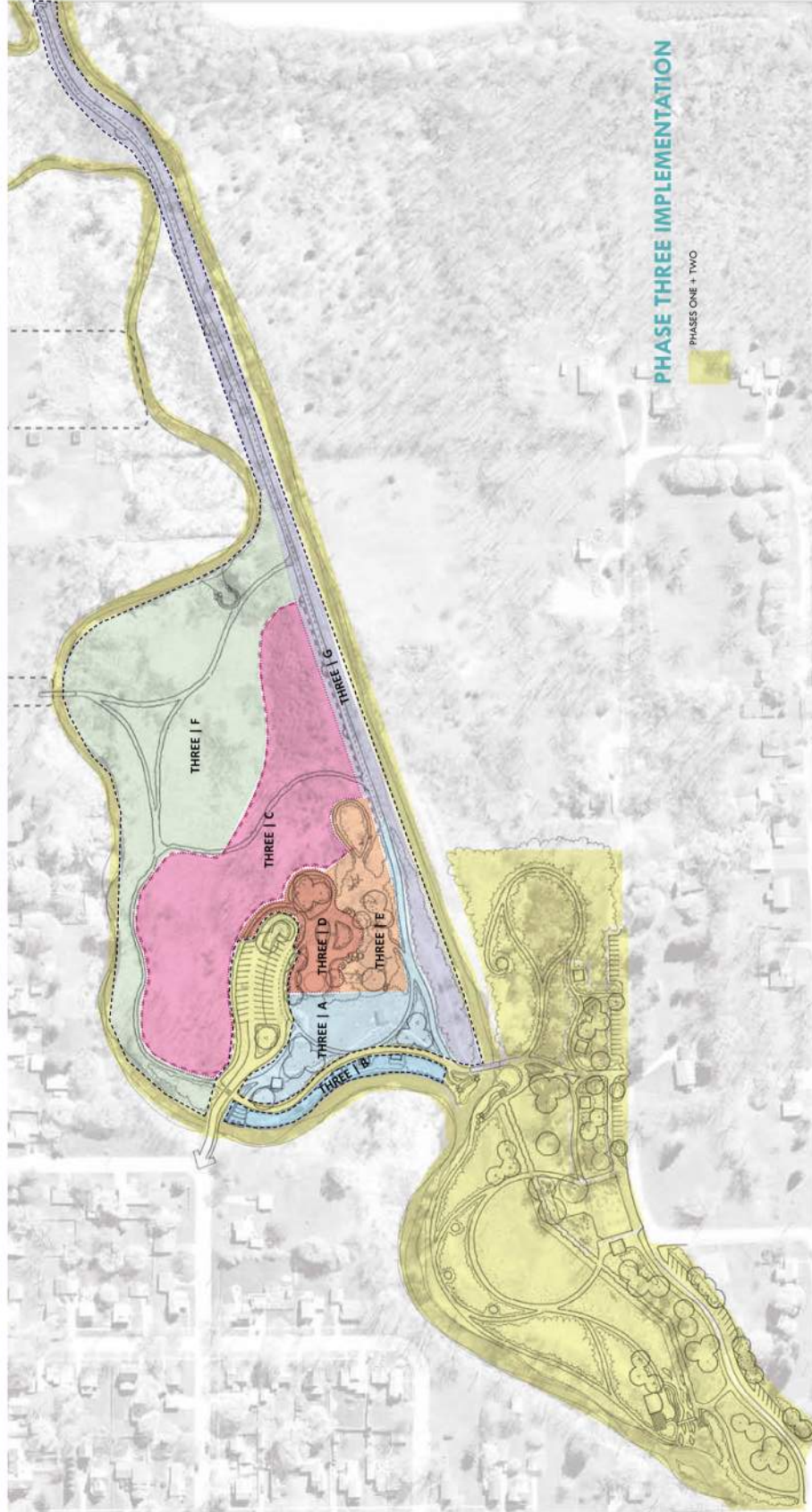
Construction Cost: \$289,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$375,700

TWO|G MILLRACE TERRACES AND PEDESTRIAN PATH

The creation of a terraced gathering space with water access, north of the Rotary Bridge. In-stream improvements to manage the flow of water. Coordinate funding with Trout Unlimited.

Construction Cost: \$42,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$54,600

Phasing + Implementation



Phasing + Implementation

PHASE THREE DESCRIPTION + COST ESTIMATE

Phase Three includes improvements to upper Ketchum Park, and a paved pedestrian bike path that extends to the far east peninsula.

THREE | A UPPER KETCHUM COMMONS AND RESTROOMS RENOVATION

Work related to the establishment of the Upper Commons lawn and drainage system, and its supporting pedestrian walkways. This stage also includes the renovation of the existing north restrooms.

Construction Cost: \$87,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$113,100

THREE | B UPPER STREAM OVERLOOK AND WATER ACCESS

The creation of three interpretive shelters and removal of invasive plant species allowing for the expansion of native wild rice plantings. This stage also includes the implementation of a formal boat launch south of the upper park entrance bridge.

Construction Cost: \$167,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$217,100

THREE | C DISC GOLF EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS

The expansion and reconfiguration of the existing disc golf course, into a 9-hole course. Includes removal of invasive plant species and overgrown plant material, removal of concrete fill where applicable, and the implementation of a disc golf nature trail.

Construction Cost: \$37,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$48,100

THREE | D SKATE PARK

The creation of a new skate park, skate trail, and connecting pathways.

Construction Cost: \$165,200
Construction and Soft Costs: \$214,800

THREE | E WATERSHED NATURE PLAYGROUND

Creation of a nature-based playground, discovery nature trail, wildflower and native garden, and connecting pathways.

Construction Cost: \$70,800
Construction and Soft Costs: \$92,100

THREE | F NATURE TRAILS

The establishment of a nature trail and boardwalk system through upper Ketchum's wetland and natural areas. This stage includes the removal of invasive plant species, and the creation of an outdoor classroom along Rice Creek.

Construction Cost: \$167,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$217,100

THREE | G SHARED PEDESTRIAN BIKE PATH AND BANK RESTORATION

The creation of a paved non-motorized bike path and interpretive stations that extend to the Park's eastern peninsula. This stage includes the removal of invasive plant species, and slope stabilization along the stream and millrace. Coordinate funding for race and stream with Trout Unlimited.

Construction Cost: \$143,000
Construction and Soft Costs: \$185,900

Phasing + Implementation

OPERATIONS + MAINTENANCE

A clear and organized maintenance plan will help set the park up for success. A well-maintained park increases the longevity of features and structures, and inspires community members to be active participants in its welfare. Below are general guidelines for maintaining a clean and safe environment at Ketchum Park.

NATURAL LANDSCAPE/CONTROLLED LANDSCAPES

Natural spaces will require various levels of upkeep depending on the space. Unchanged woodlands may require minor attention to address safety and unsightly concerns such as dead tree limbs, trash removal, etc. Rain gardens should ideally require more attention during establishment, and less frequent as time goes on. Watering, weeding, and slope protection will be critical for the first year, lessening to mostly weed removal after establishment.

Controlled (more manicured) spaces may need more frequent attention to manage decorative plant growth, lawn issues, biological spills/cleanups, graffiti, and more.

HARDSCAPES/PARKING

Portions of the various hardscapes will require debris removal, occasional power-washing, vandalism repair, and other issues due to weather and users' activities. De-icing salt use in parking lots may be desired for safety reasons, and occasional street sweeping of the lots to keep them clean.

NATURE PATHS

Trails through the various types of natural areas will generally need less attention, but regular path mowing, weed control, and debris removal will help keep these routes looking great and functioning well. Occasional monitoring of the more remote areas by security will be essential to ensure visitors feel safe traversing the harder-to-see portions. Refer to the next paragraph for additional, shared concerns along these pathways.

PLATFORMS/OVERLOOKS/BRIDGES

These more-expensive park features will require special attention to keep up their safety, looks, and longevity. Usually a small subset of users will attempt publicly-undesirable activities, and so these features will need a little more policing to ensure the appropriate enjoyment of the park can be had by the vast majority of users. Quarterly monitoring of structural members, supports, foundations, and connections will be important for load-bearing and/or elevated crossing features such as bridges, in particular. Vandalism such as graffiti, carvings, paint, burning, etc. will need to be addressed very quickly once known, especially those creating unexpected hazards.

PLAYGROUNDS/SKATE PARKS

High-liability zones like these will also require close daily/weekly attention to make sure safety is the number one addressed concern. Well-maintained surfacing is a must to help remove hazardous conditions that will arise frequently due to human use, and nature-borne concerns of various types. Keeping drainage functioning well will need to be a priority so as to avoid flooding/erosion damage that threaten play zones. Loose and movable play features such as logs, branches, rocks will need re-situating, and somewhat frequent inspection and replacement due to normal use.

UTILITIES: STORMWATER, ELECTRIC, SANITARY, GAS

These necessary utilities each present their own set of upkeep challenges best handled by tradesmen skilled in their servicing. Storm water structures/features will need monthly monitoring and occasional clean out as environmental and weather conditions warrant. Accessible power to various venues of the site will be especially susceptible to vandalism at times, including light bulbs, outlets, and breaker panels. Sanitary concerns should be minimal from the system perspective, but refer to "Buildings" portion for additional needs. Gas-powered fireplace issues will also need to be frequently monitored at their valves, and to ensure that safety shut-off functions and lockable panels are working to prevent tampering and/or uncontrolled fire situations.

EQUIPMENT: SHELTERS, SIGNAGE, PLANTERS, SITE FURNISHINGS

Similar to "Platforms and overlooks", these various types of constructed/installed site amenities may require weekly inspection to ensure graffiti/vandalism issues aren't cropping up. Shelters will need occasional attention to remove insect-made features, and touch up paint for framing members that get chipped/damaged. Both wayfinding and interpretive signs may need monthly inspection looking for bent/broken features, sun-fade, graffiti, and even theft. Planters will need occasional debris clearing, mulching and infrequent plant replacement due to environmental or man-made stresses. Site furniture such as benches, picnic tables, litter receptacles, bollards, and so forth, will likewise need care similar to "Shelters", but litter will require almost daily attention to help avoid fauna issues in the park. Bent/broken parts may need monthly repair and replacement efforts to address normal use, accidents, and vandalism.

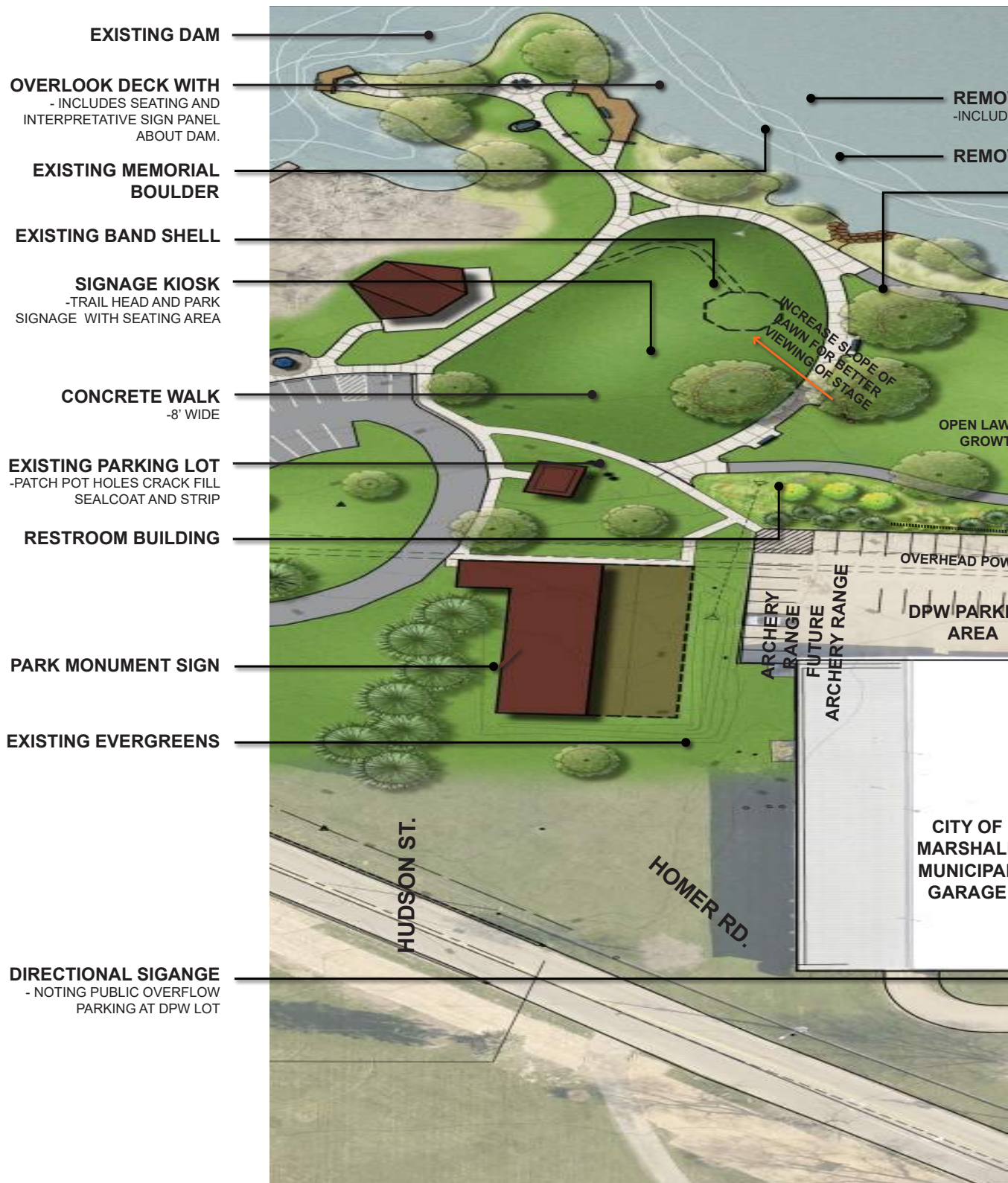
IRRIGATION

If and where present, underground irrigation systems will need their normal bi-annual spring start-up and fall blow-out efforts. Mower or other human damage to spray heads will require occasional nozzle care, spray pattern adjustment, and even head replacement from time to time. Control panel with electric power concerns will need lockable, secure access maintained with remote control capabilities to aid in emergency shut-off and seasonal programming.

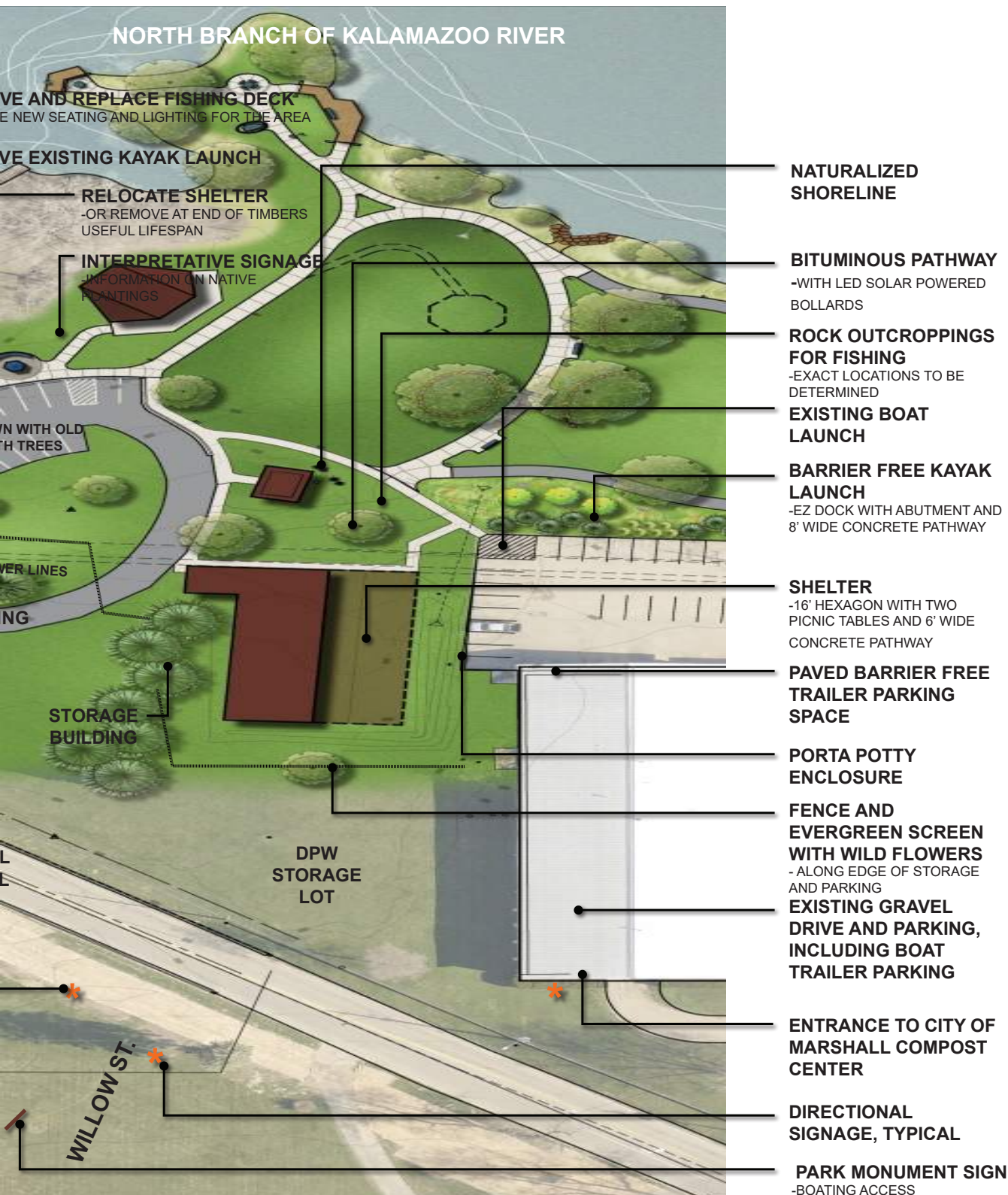
BUILDINGS

Seasonal opening and closing of building functions are the basis, but ongoing daily trash removal and bathroom cleanup are essential. Unexpected biological cleanups will occur, and require varying levels of both cleanup and response speed by trained staff. Any somewhat-fragile components of structures (E.G. Glass, hardware, water service lines) will need frequent monitoring and attention to address vandalism or misuse especially. Security cameras, and staff presence are recommended where and when appropriate to keep building users both honest, and feeling secure. Supplies, monitoring, and daily upkeep are essential.

Appendix H. Stuart's Landing Plan



MASTER PLAN STUARTS LANDING MASTER PLAN CITY OF MARSHALL, MICHIGAN



0' 20' 40' 80'



SCALE IN FEET: 1" = 40'

DATE
04.12.2021
PROJECT NO.
2110





FISHING DECK



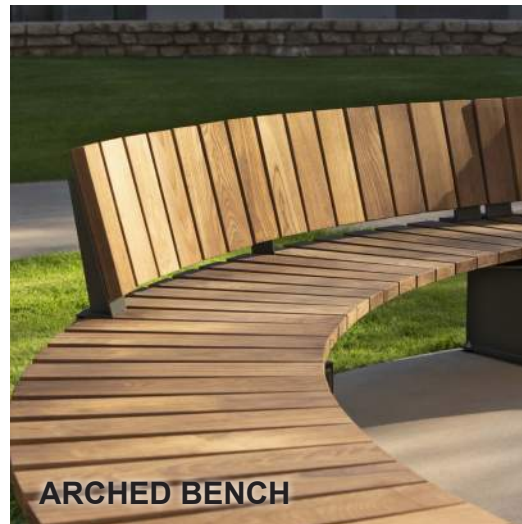
PICNIC TABLE



BENCH



BARRIER-FREE KAYAK LAUNCH



ARCHED BENCH



SIGN KIOSK



WILD FLOWERS



SHORELINE PLANTING



INTERPRETATIVE SIGN

DESIGN VOCABULARY
STUARTS LANDING MASTER PLAN
 CITY OF MARSHALL, MICHIGAN



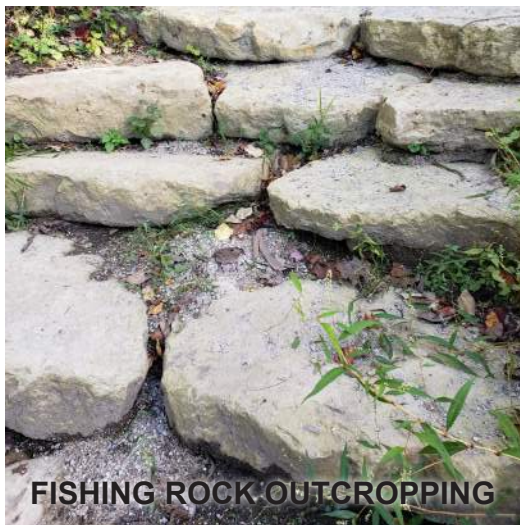
PATHWAY BOLLARDS



SHELTER EXAMPLE



INFORMATIVE SIGN



FISHING ROCK OUTCROPPING

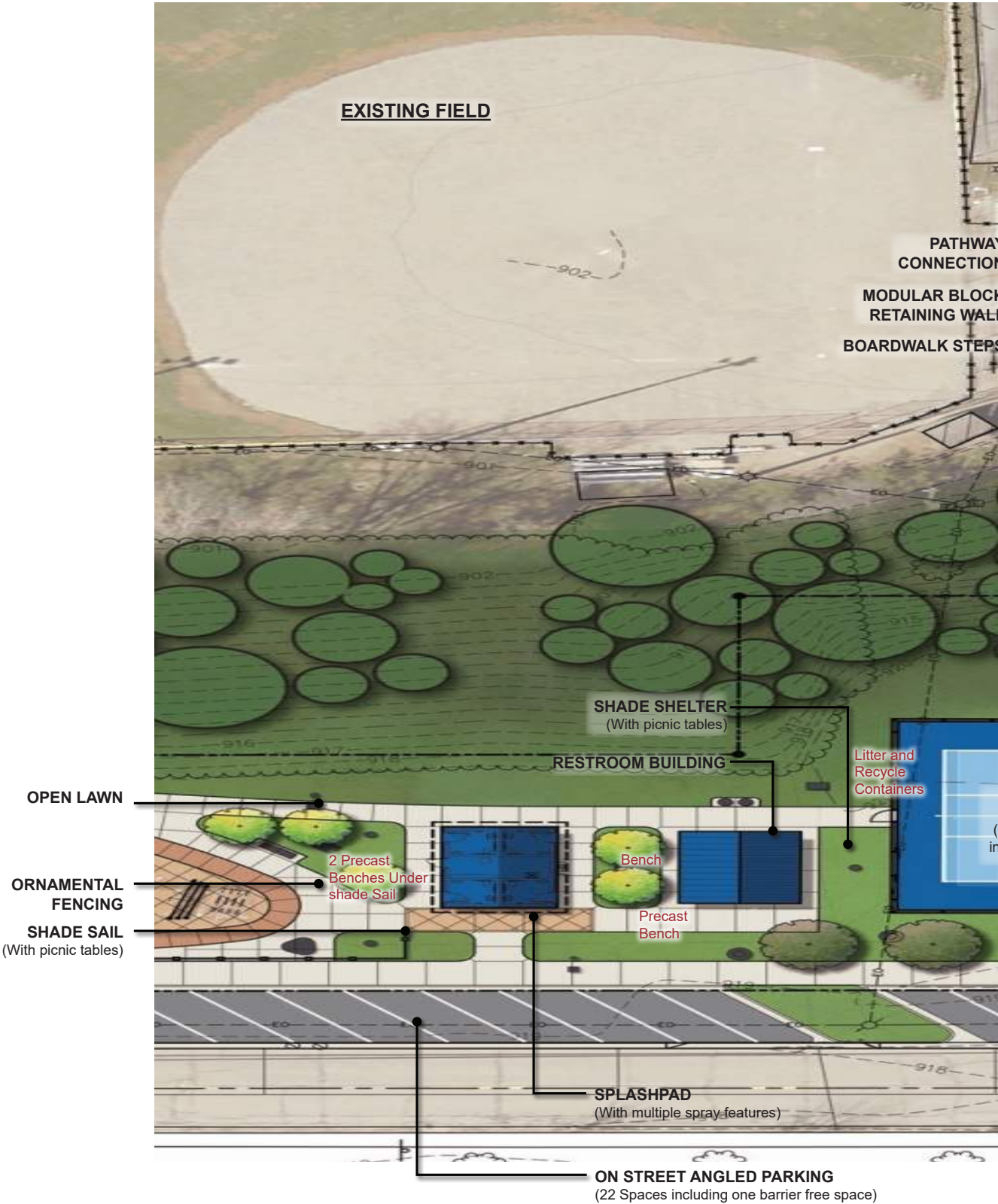


BOULDER RETAINING WALL

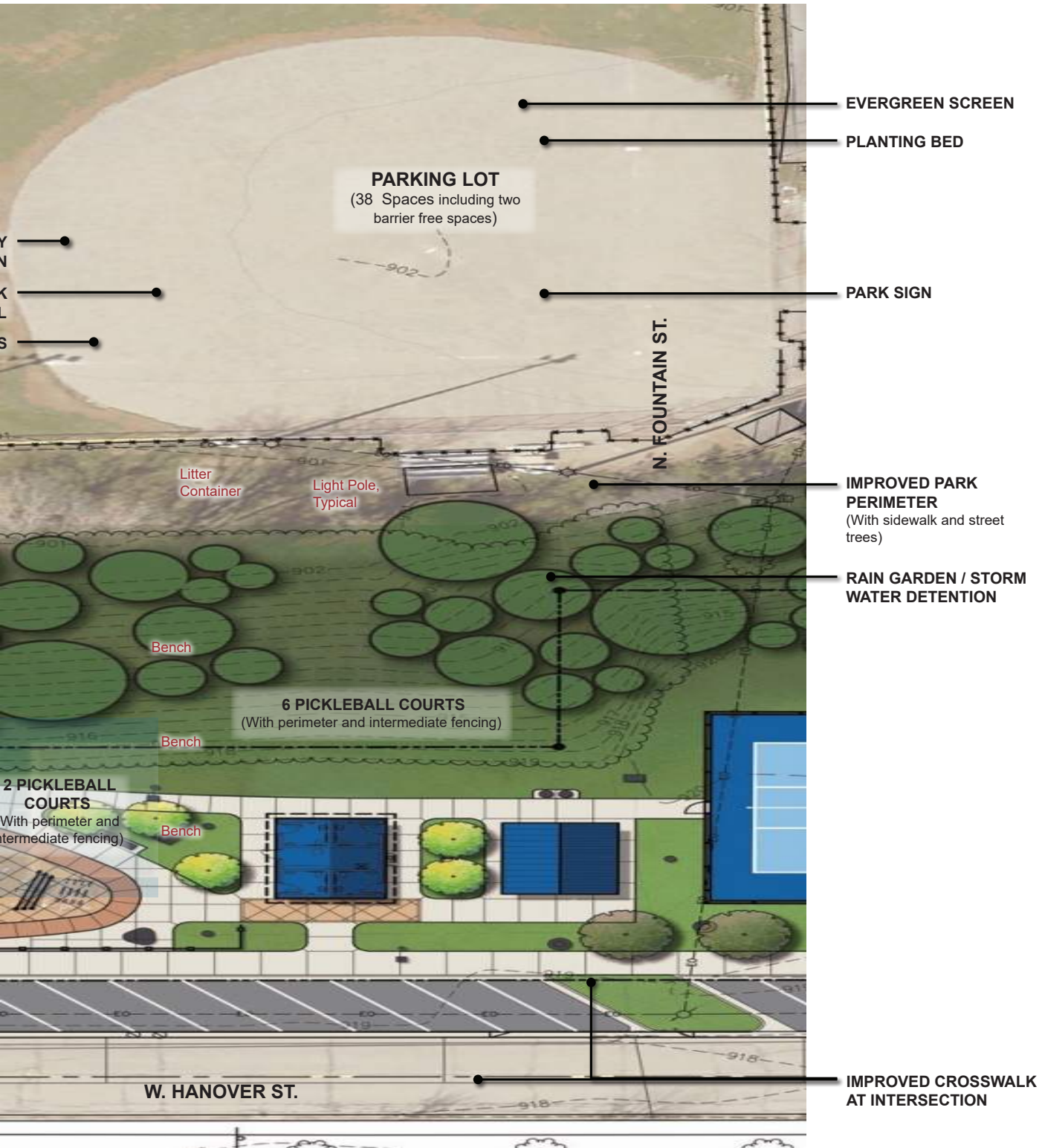
DATE
04.12.2021
PROJECT NO.
2110



Appendix I. Eaton Park Plan



EATON PARK
CITY OF MARSHALL, MICHIGAN



DATE
11.21.2023
PROJECT NO.
2169



Brooks Nature Area Management Plan

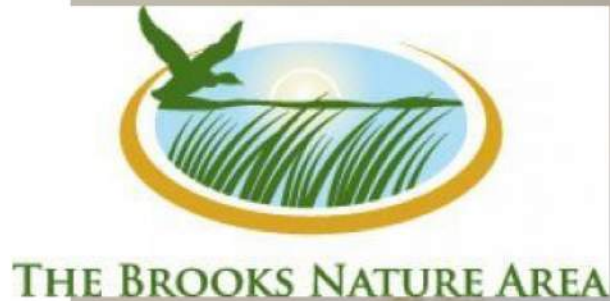


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Executive Summary

The City of Marshall is pleased to present the 2025-2030 Brooks Nature Area (BNA) Management Plan. This management plan provides a road map that staff, elected officials, and the Brooks Nature Area Advisory Group will use to guide Brooks Nature Area management decisions for the next five years. A basic history of the park, the park's management authority and vision for the property are presented. The park's natural assets, facilities and other infrastructure are itemized with estimated maintenance schedules and related costs to assist the city and the BNA Advisory Board with scheduling and prioritizing management needs.

The City of Marshall is fortunate to have the Brooks Nature Area. Building on a long tradition of conserving important natural and cultural resources, the City of Marshall has become a leader in conserving and managing natural areas that are open to the public for a wide variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. The motto of the City's Parks & Recreation Program is "recreation for a lifetime" and reflects the community's commitment to caring for the natural and cultural resources of its natural area system while providing high-quality, sustainable outdoor experiences.

Introduction

The Brooks Nature Area was established as a Marshall city park on April 17, 2006. The City originally acquired this property in 1969, along with the land which later became the Brooks Industrial Park, from L. Alta Brooks, widow of Louis Brooks. Alta Brooks had a wish that this property might someday become a park for the residents of Marshall to experience and enjoy nature (Ben Lark, personal communication). The BNA is a realization of Alta's wish.

Prior to 2006, approximately 80 acres of the 189-acre area had been farmed. Records indicate that this land had been farmed as early as 1832. Farmers removed a substance called marl, a combination of clay and calcium carbonate, from certain areas of Upper Brace and Brace Lakes for use as fertilizer on the adjacent farm fields. The adjacent lake was originally known as Lune Lake in 1837 and was later changed to Brace Lake in honor of Horace N. Brace, who owned the lakeshore property. In 1921, a request was presented to the city to change the lake name to Stuart Lake in honor of F.A. Stuart who "expended much to beautify the lake and its surroundings" (Marshall Chronicle, 1921). Based on plat maps and text dated 1873, Stuart and Brace Lakes once formed a single lake estimated to be approximately one and a half by two miles in area. Drainage has resulted in the formation of two separate lakes.

An 88-acre area of the BNA was taken out of farm production after the park's establishment in 2006. The city partnered with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to reestablish this area in native prairie. The remaining unplanted acres in the park are wetlands, wooded areas, meadows, and hedgerows. From 2006-2016, the BNA was enrolled in the US Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). This enabled the City of Marshall to receive annual payments to keep the 88-acres out of farm production and in native prairie habitat. The BNA is no longer eligible for this program due to a change in CRP requirements. More information on the BNA history is available in Appendix A.

Authority

The Brooks Nature Area Advisory Board oversees the park, conducts management activities, coordinates improvement projects and concurs with city staff on park management. The Advisory Board is a seven-member group of volunteers that are residents of the City of Marshall and have been approved by the Marshall City Council. Board member terms are three years. The Parks and Recreation Superintendent is the staff liaison to the Advisory Board. Management activities conducted by individuals or groups other than the City of Marshall staff, or the BNA Advisory Board, must be approved through the Advisory Board. The city maintains a Parks & Recreation Master Plan which also covers the BNA. However, this plan is being developed as a separate management tool for this impressive and important piece of park property.

Charter

The Brooks Nature Area was established as a Marshall city park on April 17, 2006 to maintain the area in a natural state for wildlife and the enjoyment of residents and visitors of Marshall. The City of Marshall maintains ownership of the property with the Brooks Nature Area Advisory Board overseeing park management needs. The BNA has a set of established and enforceable rules (see Appendix B).

Vision

Management decisions for the Brooks Nature Area are based on the concept of maintaining and enhancing the living landscape, including its diversity of plants, animals, and natural communities. Emphasis is placed on supporting habitat values that sustain the function, connectivity, and the spirit of the ecological system and its inhabitants while providing a diversity of high-quality, low environmental impact visitor experiences.

This vision includes:

- Continuing management practices that are compatible with conservation goals.
- Safeguarding healthy habitats for floral and faunal communities.
- Enhancing visitors' understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural resources of the area through education and interpretation.
- Providing opportunities for passive recreation for visitors to enjoy nature and wildlife.
- Serving as an educational resource and tool for the community as well as future generations.

This plan will address two key aspects to achieve the management vision of the Brooks Nature Area.

- A. *Nature Area Management* – The Brooks Nature Area requires purposeful management to maintain its integrity and guarantee its long-term preservation of wildlife habitat and native species diversity.
- B. *Public Enjoyment* – The Brooks Nature Area provides opportunities for visitors to learn about and experience their environment, but access needs to be planned and carefully managed to protect the resources of the natural area.

As specific projects or programs in these categories are implemented at the BNA, results will be monitored and reviewed. Using the paradigm of “adaptive management,” monitoring allows actions to be modified (“adapted”) as needed to better achieve desired goals and outcomes.

Maintenance & Management

The BNA requires periodic maintenance of both habitat/natural features as well as the built infrastructure established for park visitors. Some maintenance is on a cyclical basis while others are less frequent.

Cyclical Management Actions (weekly, seasonally, annually)

Infrastructure

- Weekly/Bi-weekly
 - Clean bathroom
 - Mow trails (weekly during growing season)
 - Weed whip (every 2 weeks)
 - Parking area
 - Benches
 - Lakeshore Loop
- Annual
 - Clean/repair bird houses
 - Refinish picnic tables
 - Refinish benches
 - Check/clean pavilion (bird/hornet nests, etc.)
 - Refinish parking area sign
 - Refresh three sign boards in park
 - Label trees (as funds become available)

Episodic Management Actions (greater than annually)

Ecological

- Prairie burns (each field every 3-5 years)
- Seed trails w/clover
- Invasive species treatments, as needed
- Physical removal of shrubs near lakeshore, as needed
- Downed tree removals, as needed
- Remove tree cages, as needed

Infrastructure

- Trail maintenance/mulching, annual
- Parking lot maintenance (gravel fill, etc.)
- Reroof/repair pavilion
- Reroof/repair observation deck

General Management Plan - Brooks Nature Area

Resource Inventory

The Brooks Nature Area is a 189 acre parcel of land located in the southeast portion of the City of Marshall. The park is home to a number of assets – both natural and human-made. This section provides a brief inventory of the resources found at the BNA.

Natural Communities

The park is home to diverse natural communities including prairie, marsh, forests, meadows, vernal pools and hedgerows. There is also a fen, a rare wetland type dependent on groundwater, adjacent to the BNA on City of Marshall property. Additional information on the BNA habitats can be found in Appendix C.

Prairie

There are currently 89 acres of warm season grass prairie at the BNA. In 2006, cropland fields were converted into native prairie habitat with funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. There are five fields ranging from 8 to 22 acres at the park. The prairies are maintained by controlled burns on a rotational basis. Each field is burned on a 3–5 year schedule (as funding and environmental conditions allow). The prairies provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife at the park and the opportunity for visitors to enjoy this once-abundant natural resource. Additional information on the BNA prairie can be found in Appendix C.



General Management Plan - Brooks Nature Area

Marsh

There are currently 0.8 miles of cattail marsh located along the northern shore of Stuart Lake where the lake borders the BNA property. The marsh provides outstanding habitat for frogs, turtles, snakes, fish, waterfowl, deer, fox and coyote. This area also serves to protect the shoreline against erosion, filters runoff from the upland area before entering the lake and provides safe passage for those species that utilize both aquatic and terrestrial habitats.



Forests

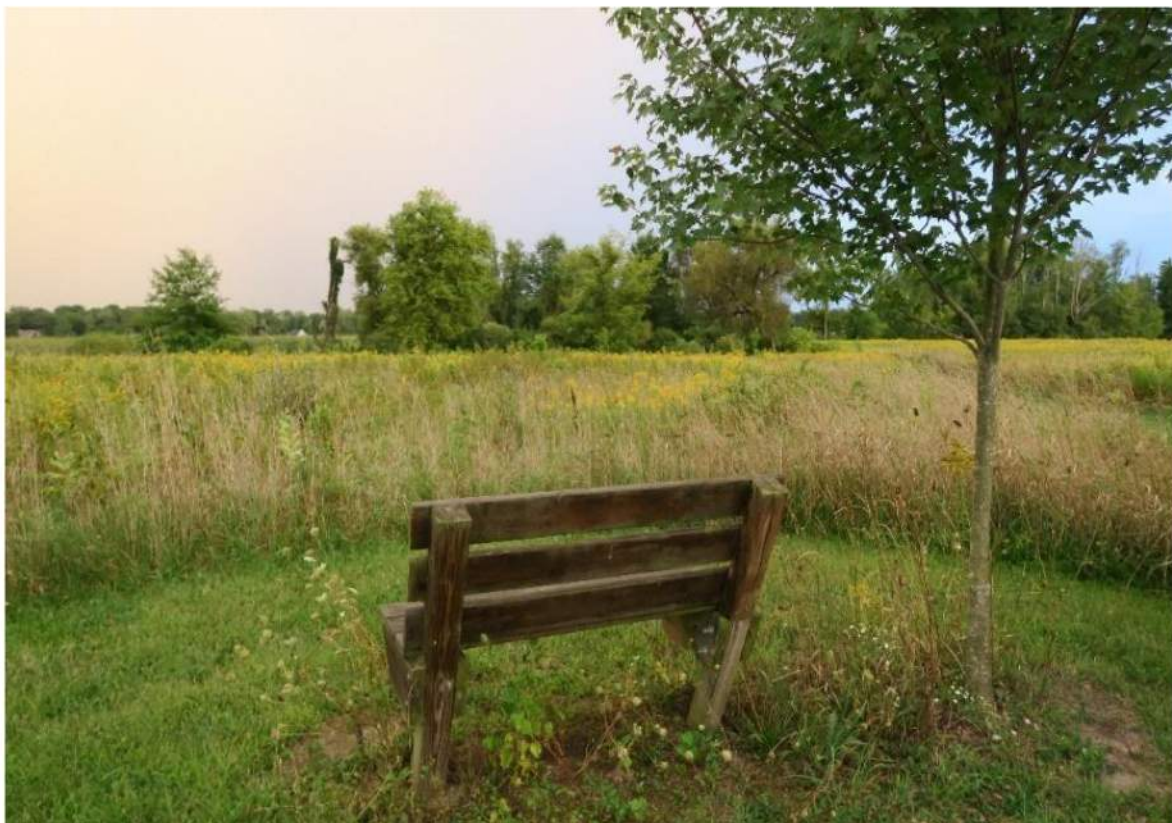
The two dominant types of forest established at the BNA are mesic hardwood forest and lowland forest. The mesic (moist) forest is dominated by black cherry, red oak, white oak, black oak and white ash. The lowland forest at the BNA often has standing water for at least part of the year. This forest is dominated by red maple, silver maple, black willow, American elm, swamp white oak, white ash, cottonwood and box elder.



General Management Plan - Brooks Nature Area

Open Meadows

Open meadows dominated by cool season grasses are found at the BNA along the hedgerows and between Stuart Lake and the prairie fields. Approximately 88 acres of open meadows are found at the BNA. Cool season grasses actively grow in the spring and fall, while the warm season grasses grow primarily in the summer. Common species of the open meadows at the BNA are quackgrass, timothy, orchard grass, brome grass, tall fescue, bluegrass and rye grasses. A variety of wildlife such as snakes, turtles, songbirds, waterfowl, hawks, sandhill cranes, mice, woodchucks, skunks, raccoons, rabbits, foxes and deer benefit from this habitat. In the late fall when migrates from the north join our local area, 600-800 sandhill cranes roost along the shoreline. The presence of abundant milkweed constitutes the BNA as a Certified Monarch Destination.



Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are small wetlands that are typically filled with water in the spring but usually dry up during the summer. Because they regularly dry up and are usually isolated from other wetlands and waterbodies, vernal pools cannot support permanent fish populations. Due to the lack of fish predators, vernal pools provide critical habitat for certain animal species that rely on these fishless habitats for their survival and/or reproduction. These include a number of invertebrate and amphibian species, such as fairy shrimp, wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and blue-spotted salamanders. There are a few small pockets of wooded areas along the south shore of Stuart Lake that support vernal pools at the BNA.



Hedgerows

Prior to the establishment of the Brooks Nature Area as a city park, the property was farmed in annual crops of corn, soybeans and wheat. These fields constituted most of the area that is now the BNA. The fields were separated by hedgerows so the farmers would have manageably sized fields with small roadways to access each field. The farm fields at the BNA have been converted to prairie, but the hedgerows remain and provide the route for much of the trail network in the park. While the hedgerows are comprised of invasive species, they provide important refuge and habitat for BNA wildlife. There is a great opportunity to improve these hedgerow habitats to provide additional wildlife benefits at the park.



Human-made Assets

The Brooks Nature Area has several structures and other human-made assets incorporated into the park for visitor enjoyment. Most of these items have been donated to the BNA and the City of Marshall.

Trails

Three miles of mowed and mulched trails (2006 to present).



Seating

Ten benches along the trails donated as Scout projects or memorials (2006 to present).



General Management Plan - Brooks Nature Area

Bird Houses

Thirty eight birdhouses and nesting boxes donated by Scouts, organizations and individuals (2006 to present).

Parking Lot

Gravel lot for twenty cars.

Fencing and Gates

Surrounding the parking lot area.

Observation Deck

Overlook on Stuart Lake – funded with grants from: Enbridge, Marshall Community Foundation, Cronin Foundation, Marshall Area Garden Club, Stuart Lake and individuals (2013).

**Picnic Pavilion**

Adjacent to parking lot and an Eagle Scout project (2016).

**Picnic Tables**

Eagle Scout project (2016).

General Management Plan - Brooks Nature Area

Vault toilet

Eagle Scout project (2017).



20 Composite trail signs

Star and Life Scout projects (2022).



Tools

Donated by Eckford Township with park millage funds (2024).

Tool shed

Donated by Fredonia Township with park millage funds (2024).

Boot scraper

Invasive species prevention at parking lot. Eagle Scout project (2024).

Signboards

Two signs donated as an Eagle Scout project (2010). One sign donated from the Calhoun Conservation District (2016). One sign donated from the Marshall Garden Club (2016).



Tree tags

60 donated by Eckford Township with parks millage funds (2023 and 2024).



General Management Plan - Brooks Nature Area

Five Year Plan

Ecological Goals

Maintain habitat for native flora and fauna

- Maintain prairies w/cyclic burns (Contract) **2023: \$3,650; 2024: \$3,375**
- Manage invasives with a combination of herbicide/manual treatments (Contract) **\$3,000/yr as needed**
- Clean, repair nest boxes (Volunteer)
No charge
- Add supplemental plantings, as needed, to improve diversity and habitat (Volunteer, municipal)
- Seed trails and trail edges with low-growing clover species (Volunteer, municipal)
\$150/yr as needed
- Organize volunteer work groups for maintenance activities (Volunteer)

Public Use Goals

Maintain park amenities to allow passive recreation, enjoyment of natural communities, wildlife viewing and interpretive learning

- Mow trails weekly during growing season (Municipal)
\$1,800 yr
- Maintain picnic pavilion (Volunteer, Municipal)
- Maintain picnic tables (Volunteer)
- Maintain benches (Volunteer)
- Maintain observation deck (Volunteer, Municipal)
- Maintain signage and cut vegetation near signs (Volunteer, Municipal)
- Maintain sign boards and keep information updated and relevant (Volunteer)
- Maintain parking area (Municipal)
2024: \$350
- Maintain vault toilet (Municipal)
- Maintain woodland trails (remove downed trees, mulch, weed whip) (Volunteer, Municipal)
No charge
- Maintain viewsheds along the lakeshore (Volunteer, Municipal)
- Provide opportunities for low environmental impact, nature-based outreach (planned hikes, birding events, citizen science, school groups) (Volunteer, Municipal)
- Organize volunteer work groups for maintenance activities (Volunteer)

General Management Plan - Brooks Nature Area

