

CITY OF IMLAY CITY
COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN



2017-2021

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CITY OF IMLAY CITY
Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2017-2021

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Plan Adoption Record

Recreation Commission Adoption: December 13, 2016
City Commission Adoption: January 17, 2017

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Introduction

The City of Imlay City enjoys a diverse range of recreation facilities. In order to maintain and improve the quality of life for its residents, the City plays an important role in the delivery of recreation, parks, and other leisure activities.

This document is intended to serve as a guide to the community in the planning of future recreational opportunities and services. Population shifts, new developments, and changing attitudes toward leisure have added new pressures to the City's existing parks and recreational system, increasing the need for planning.

The focus of the plan is to identify the diverse needs of the residents and attempt to satisfy the recreational needs of the entire community through its recommendations and action plan.

The plan identifies the City's role as a recreation provider, inventories current programs and facilities, identifies deficiencies and opportunities, and recommends an action plan for future implementation. Areas of focus and action in the plan include:

- ✦ Ongoing plan assessment
- ✦ Geographic balance of recreational facilities
- ✦ Diversity of facilities
- ✦ Aesthetics of parkland
- ✦ Accessibility and visibility of facilities

The plan identifies action strategies for the next five-year period, at which time the plan should once again be updated. The delineation of these improvements will aid the City in grant solicitation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and long range capital improvement budgeting.

The previously prepared document was adopted on October 4, 2011. In accordance with the accepted cycle for recreation planning of every five years, it is time for an update to the plan.

The major issues addressed include the following:

- ✦ Population increases and its effect on the need for parkland and recreational facilities
- ✦ The need for major upgrades to the existing park facilities in order to meet the needs of residents
- ✦ Strengthening participation and cooperation between the schools, Imlay Township and the City as well as among the Parks, Planning and City Commissions.
- ✦ Land acquisition for future parkland in under-served areas of the City



SECTION I
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Section I

Administrative Structure

In 1985 the Imlay City Commission adopted an ordinance creating the Parks and Recreation Commission pursuant to Public Act 156 of 1917. The Commission consists of seven members, each serving a term of two years. The powers of the Parks and Recreation Commission include planning, conducting, supervising, and maintaining public play fields, athletic fields, recreation centers, and other recreation facilities and activities with the consent of the owners and authorities. The Commission also has the power to conduct any form of recreation or cultural activity that will employ the leisure time of the people in a constructive and wholesome manner. It is further the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Commission to encourage developers, absentee owners, homeowners, tenants, and businesspersons to accept basic responsibilities for preserving and enhancing the beauty of private and public places. The Commission is charged with encouraging the placing, planting, and preserving of trees, flowers, and shrubbery and sponsoring and promoting Arbor Day and a program of general improvement of the appearance of all properties in the City. The Commission may recommend appointment of personnel necessary to carry out its programs as long as provided for in the Parks and Recreation budget.

The Parks and Recreation Commission also serves as the City Tree Board as provided for in the City Tree Ordinance, which was adopted in accordance with the National Arbor Foundation's requirements for the Tree City designation. This responsibility includes the oversight of a written plan for the care, preservation, pruning, plating, replanting, removal, or disposal of trees and shrubs in parks, along streets, and in other public areas. The City is proud of our "Tree City" designation for the last 15 years which illustrates our commitment to preserving and growing our tree maintenance program.

To date, Parks and Recreation duties and assignments have been carried out by volunteers and the City's Department of Public Works staff, at the direction of the City Manager who serves as the Parks and Recreation Director. During the summer, a full-time swimming pool director is hired to handle pool activities.

Imlay City Commission

The City Commission oversees the use of annual operating budget allocations and capital improvement funds for City parks.

With recommendations from the Parks Commission, the City Commission has final approval on services, improvements, and all other decisions regarding parks and recreation within the community. Additionally, the Commission approves all grant applications and adopts the parks and recreation master plan.

Imlay City School District

The Imlay City School District recreational facilities primarily serve the recreation needs of its students. The District coordinates summer athletic programs on its ball fields. There is a significant amount of cooperation that occurs between the City and the School District to provide recreation opportunities to residents. A recent example of the cooperation between the City of Imlay City and the Imlay City Community Schools was City financial participation in the connection of a walking path to connect the High School parking lot which was resurfaced, to the Polly Ann Trail.

Imlay City Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks and Recreation Commission maintains active involvement in parks and recreation decisions. To expand and strengthen its role in the community, the Parks and Recreation Commission should consider increasing volunteer activities beyond the existing commitment. This will further improve current programs and help with budget constraints. Another method is to create various sub-committees to focus on specific issues such as beautification and tree planting.

Once adopted, the members of the Parks Commission should remain dedicated to implementing the ideas of this plan. This may be accomplished by proposing programs and projects to the City Commission for support and guidance on implementation of park and recreation plans. This direction should include either supporting or addressing policies or developments which effect parks and recreation within the City.

Role of Volunteers

Volunteers are critical to the success of the City's Parks and Recreation facilities and programs. The City actively recruits volunteers for many events and several non-profit organizations, including local churches, have volunteered to staff events, complementing our City staff. Utilization of volunteers in the future will facilitate the success of the City's recreation programs and events.

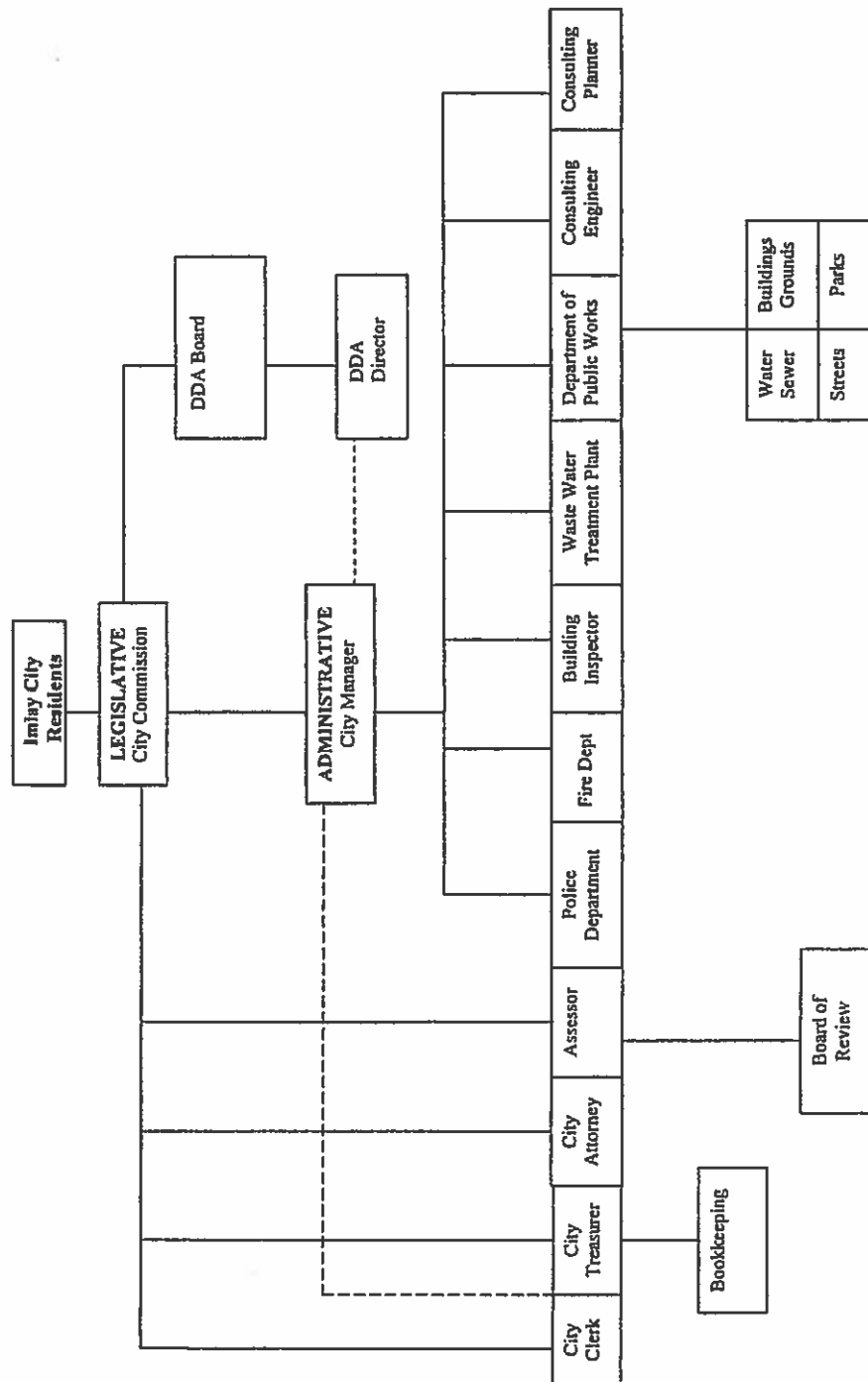
Recreation Budget

For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2016, the Parks and Recreation Department has a total budget of \$112,000. Of this total, the capital improvement allowance is \$18,000. Future budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming are anticipated to increase significantly as the City looks forward to implementation of the Five Year Action Program (see pages 60-62).

In the recent past, the Parks and Recreation Department has vigorously sought to supplement its funding through grants and fundraisers. In 2015, new playground equipment was purchased for Rotary Park at a cost of over \$40,000 with funding from a variety of sources, including Imlay City Rotary Club, Lapeer County Community Foundation, Four County Community Foundation, Imlay City Chamber of Commerce and the Imlay City DDA. The new playground equipment was constructed with volunteer labor. The City of Imlay City will continue to seek support from the following sources as it works toward attainment of the objectives set forth within this plan:

- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Donations or contributions from local citizens or service organizations and foundations
- General Fund appropriations for projects that can be done in phases
- Fundraisers

CITY OF IMLAY CITY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



SECTION II COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Section II

Community Description

Imlay City is a small town that has successfully maintained its traditional and historical character in spite of the growth pressures in the surrounding areas. The following section provides an overview of physical characteristics such as transportation systems, historic landmarks and land use development patterns which define the City. It also includes an examination of natural amenities such as vegetation that are unique to the community and can be carefully utilized and protected within the park framework. Finally, this section identifies the opportunities and/or challenges these elements create for the City's future growth and development.

Transportation/Access

The City of Imlay City is located in the southeastern portion of Lapeer County, approximately 40 miles north of the City of Detroit and 32 miles east of Flint and 34 miles west of Port Huron. The Interstate 69 freeway is located at the southern edge of the City. This interstate highway is linked to the City road system via an interchange at M-53. The I-69 corridor is an important commercial route between Canada and the Midwest. The M-53 corridor is the major north/south link between Metro Detroit and the "Thumb" area of Michigan.

This link to I-69 provides access to Imlay City and Michigan's northerly recreation areas. Further, the grid pattern road network allows desirable accessibility to recreation within the community.

Land Use

The City offers a balanced mix of commercial, residential, public, and quasi-public uses. Future development of vacant parcels may bring more single family residences to Imlay City.

Imlay City has two well-established commercial areas which are comprised of approximately 60 acres of developed land. The Central Business District is situated on Third Street between Handley Street and M-53 and the higher intensity "auto-oriented commercial" area is located along M-53 also known as Cedar Street.

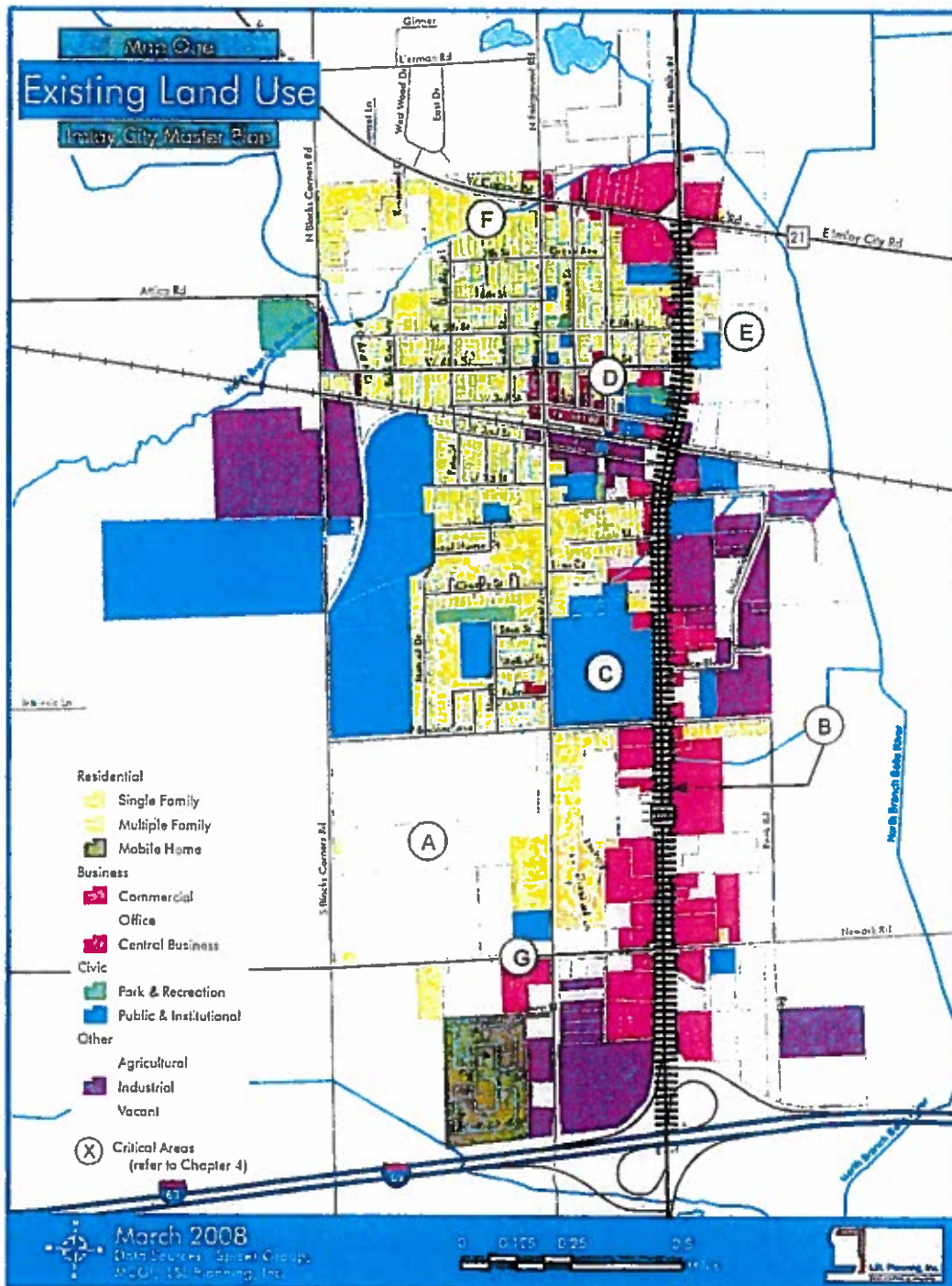
Industrial land uses occupy 7.8%, or 46.8 acres of the total developed land. In general, industrial development has occurred with direct access to, or near, major thoroughfares or railroads. As a result, the principal areas where industry is located are along M-53, generally between Borland and Engle Street; on Second Street, from M-53 to Almont Avenue; and along the east side of Blacks Corners Road.

Imlay City is similar to most older communities in terms of land use problems. The principal deficiencies in the City include: long lot platting, poor transition between land uses, uncoordinated strip commercial development, and lack of new single-family residential development.

Water, Fish, and Wildlife Resources

The north branch of the Belle River is the only water resource in the City. The Parks Commission intends to plan for the potential for constructing a walkway along the river's edge. A variety of aquatic plants abounds near the river particularly in and around Lions Park. Many educational programs involving biology with the Imlay City Schools have taken place here over the years.

In 2016, the City planned for the development of two vacant residential lots on North Third Street adjacent to and north of the railroad into a Butterfly Garden. The City will look to utilize this garden as an educational resource for the schools and community.



Topography

As a developed community, the topography of the city is relatively level. The highest elevations (830 feet) extend centrally through the City from the southwest to northwest, and slope to elevations of 800 feet.

Soils

Major soil types in the area tend to be fertile, consisting of the grey-brown podzolic type, typically of heavy forestation. This type of soil lends itself to a wide range of agricultural crops such as grains, vegetable, and fruit orchards. Existing soil groups pose no obstacles for active recreation facility development.

Drainage

Surface drainage within the City is accommodated through a system of improved storm drains and natural watercourses, including the north branch of the Belle River, the Hunt Drain, and the Bigelow Drain.

The drains are prone to flooding during wet weather events. Development within flood areas must be carefully managed.

For purposes of the National Flood Insurance Program, the concept of a floodway is used as a tool. Under this concept, the area of the 100-year flood is divided into a floodway and floodway fringe. The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas. The floodplain must be kept free of encroachment in order that the 100-year flood may be carried without substantial increases in flood heights.

Climate

The general area has a humid, continental climate that may be considered typical of the upper Midwest, great Lakes region of the United States. Prevailing southwesterly wind, frequent and often rapid weather changes, extreme seasonal temperature variations, reasonably uniform annual distribution of precipitation and four distinct seasons characterize the climate.

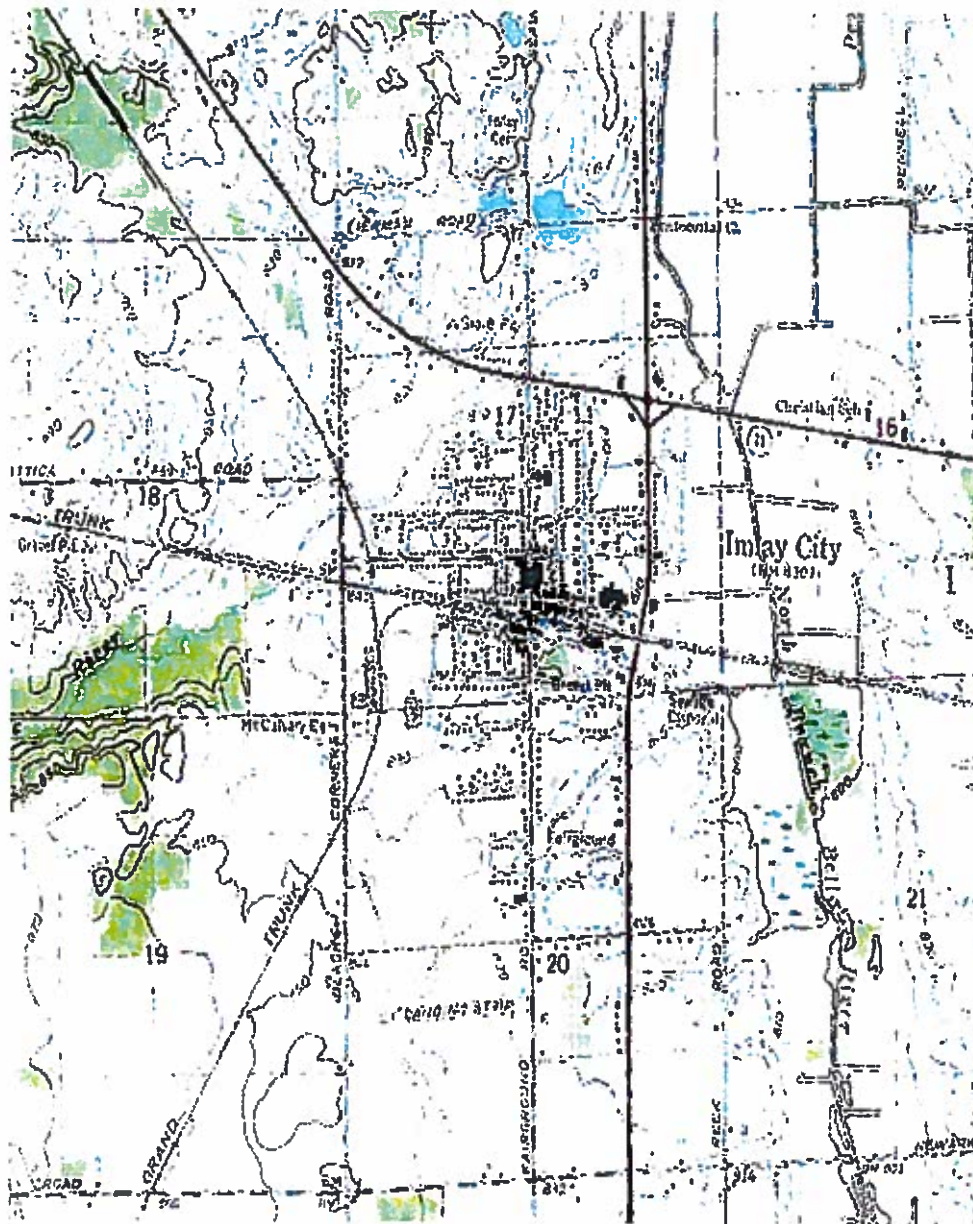
The Great Lakes exert a power climatic influence throughout the State of Michigan and moderate land temperatures are attained by cooling in summer and warming in winter. Spring is delayed and fall extended approximately one month due to the moderating effect of the Great Lakes. The climate must be considered in defining year round recreational opportunities.

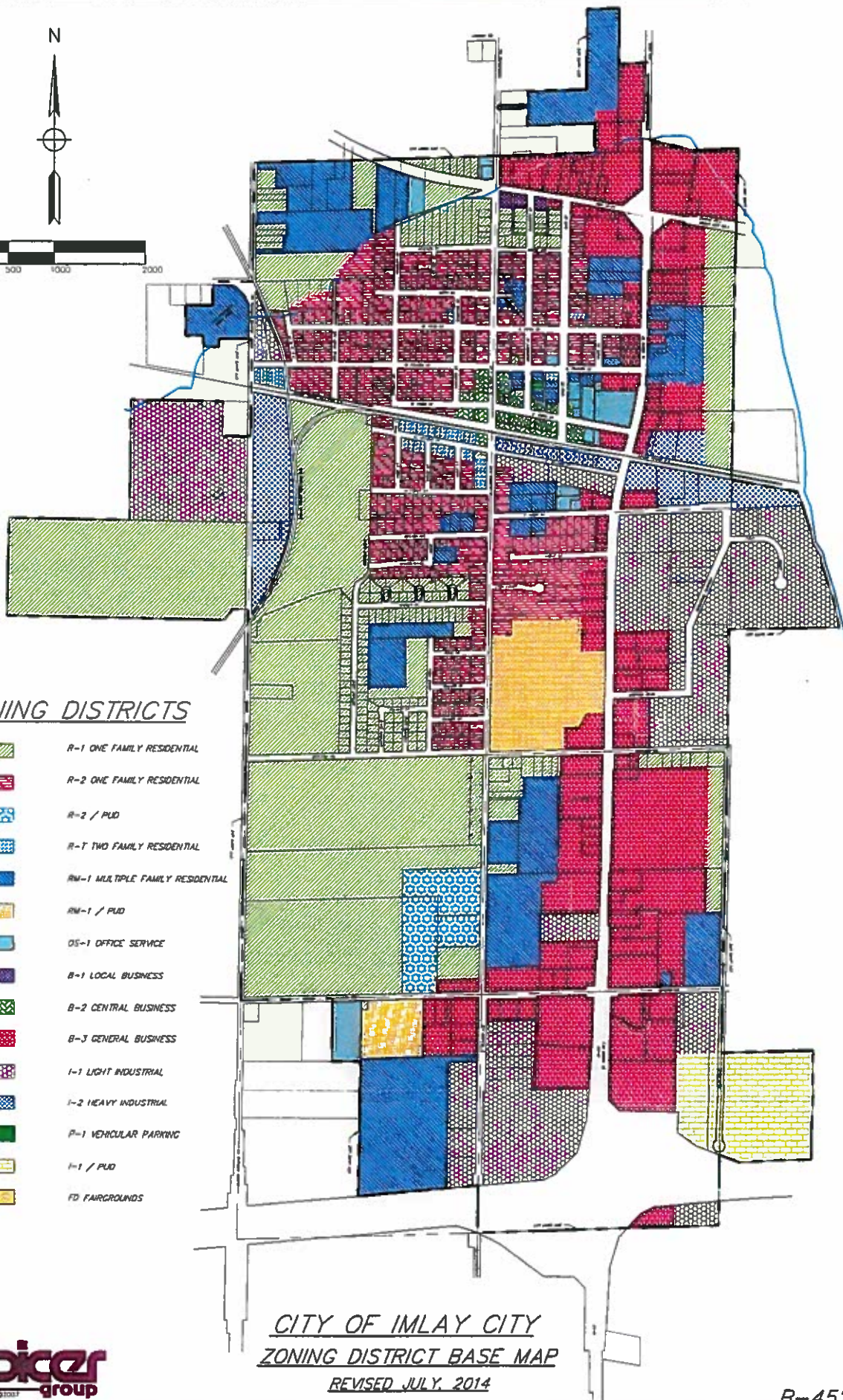
Key Findings

The purpose for reviewing existing physical characteristics is to identify key findings that will guide decision-making as it relates to parks and recreational planning in Imlay City. They are as follows:

- Excellent connection to I-69 and M-53 increases accessibility to regional recreation.
- Grid pattern streets and sidewalks allow easy pedestrian access in and around the community.
- The City has an active downtown and a variety of land uses which present a system to accommodate residents, workers, and shoppers within the City.
- The level of topography will minimize development constraints.
- Good soil conditions present opportunities for landscaping and gardening enhancements.
- Climate conditions warrant concentration on indoor and outdoor facilities.
- Review floodplain and drainage areas when locating equipment.

BOUNDARY AND FEATURES MAP





ZONING DISTRICTS

-  R-1 ONE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
-  R-2 ONE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
-  R-2 / PUD
-  R-3 TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
-  RM-1 MULTIPLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
-  RM-1 / PUD
-  OS-1 OFFICE SERVICE
-  B-1 LOCAL BUSINESS
-  B-2 CENTRAL BUSINESS
-  B-3 GENERAL BUSINESS
-  I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
-  I-2 HEAVY INDUSTRIAL
-  P-1 VEHICULAR PARKING
-  I-1 / PUD
-  FD FAIRGROUNDS

CITY OF IMLAY CITY
ZONING DISTRICT BASE MAP
REVISED JULY, 2014

SECTION III PLANNING PROCESS

Section III

Planning Process

The City and School District provide the delivery of recreational services in Imlay City. They both attempt to serve a variety of needs and together provide a broad range of recreational opportunities to City residents. The majority of recreational opportunities in the City are publicly sponsored and most are administered at a local level. Following is discussion of the administrative structure and the planning process for parks and recreation programming in Imlay City. It is important to analyze the administrative structure in order to understand how improvements will be accomplished, through what process, and if there are any needed improvements to the current system to allow this Plan to be more effective. Specific comments from the public assisted in determining the types of projects and their priority for the City.

Planning Process

Community input for this parks and recreation plan was achieved through a community survey which was mailed to residents as an insert in a quarterly newsletter and made available for online completion as well. The draft plan review was held on December 13, 2016 at a regular Parks and Recreation Commission meeting. Citizens were given the opportunity to provide insight with regard to existing and future parks and recreation facilities and programs in the City. The key people involved in the process were the Parks and Recreation Commission members, City staff, and City Manager. The plan process included:

- Background inventory and analysis of City park facilities and programs.
- Background inventory and analysis of school district facilities and programs.
- A planning workshop with the Parks Commission.
- Coordination with City staff
- A public hearing/final presentation with Parks Commission to City Commission
- Consideration of public comments
- Plan adoption

Summary of public comments: The park inventory analysis indicates a need for additional neighborhood park land. Other public interests included maps or brochures to show where each park is located, improvements to existing parks such as additional signage, tree planting, additional trash receptacles, surfaced walking/bike paths, restroom facilities, community gardening, a skate park, and a Belle River walk.

Key Findings

- Parks Commission continued direction and involvement is crucial to the success of this document
- City Commission should continue to refer to Parks Commission recommendations and resolutions regarding policies and development
- City Commission should examine appropriate funding opportunities through City Manager
- Continued cooperation with the School District and Imlay Township is pivotal in providing recreational services to residents
- There is opportunity to expand and strengthen the Parks Commission's role in recreation planning for the City

The draft plan was available for review by the public after the December 13, 2016 Parks and Recreation Meeting until final adoption by the City Commission at a Public Hearing on January 17, 2017.

A copy of the community survey and responses follows.

**IMLAY CITY PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY
FALL 2016**

The Imlay City Parks and Recreation Commission is currently drafting a 5 Year Community Recreation Plan for the City's parks and recreation activities and facilities. The following survey questions will assist with the development of this Plan. Your participation is needed and appreciated. The survey is also available online at [www.imlaycity.org](#). Please return the completed survey to City Hall either in person, by mail, or at the drop box located on the west side of City Hall no later than Friday, October 7, 2016.

1. What is your age range?

☐ 24 & under ☐ 25 to 34 ☐ 35 to 44 ☐ 45 to 54 ☐ 55 to 64 ☐ 65+

2. How often did you visit the parks in Imlay City last year?

☐ 0 ☐ 1 – 5 times ☐ 6-10 times ☐ More than 10 times

If you answered "0" to question #2, please go to question #4

3. Which park do you visit most often?

☐ Lamb Steele Park ☐ Lion's Park ☐ Old School Park ☐ Rotary Park ☐
☐ Veteran's Park

4. Do you use the Alvin Norlin Pool during the summer and if so, how often?

☐ 0 times ☐ 1-5 times ☐ 6-10 times ☐ 10 times +

If you do not use the Pool, share your reasons why you don't.

5. How satisfied are you with Imlay City's park facilities?

___ Not Satisfied ___ Somewhat Satisfied ___ Very Satisfied ___ Extremely Satisfied

6. What outdoor activities do you enjoy?

7. How important are the following:

	Unimportant	Somewhat Important	Very Important
Trees	___	___	___
Picnic Tables/Benches	___	___	___
Public Art	___	___	___
Community Gardens	___	___	___
Bike/Pedestrian Paths	___	___	___
Skate Park	___	___	___
Splash Pad	___	___	___
Belle River Walk	___	___	___
Ice Rink	___	___	___
Music/Entertainment	___	___	___
Restrooms	___	___	___

Other (please specify) _____

8. Would you be willing to volunteer for Imlay City Parks and Recreation activities/events?

___ Yes ___ No

9. If a park millage is needed to add or improve facilities, would you support:

1 mill ☐ Yes ☐ No

½ mill ☐ Yes ☐ No

NOTE: One mill on a property with a Taxable Value of \$ 50,000 would equal \$ 50 in additional tax each year. One-half mill would amount to \$ 25 additional tax on that same property value.)

10. Do you have any additional suggestions for the Parks and Recreation Commission?

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. The Parks and Recreation Commission Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Imlay City Hall. These meetings are open to the public and you are encouraged to attend and participate in the decision making process to improve our Parks and Recreation facilities and activities.

The Planning process engaged residents, park users, City staff, advisory groups, and various stakeholders through public meeting, individual comments, and a community survey. The findings provided significant understanding and direction necessary to evaluate and prioritize the future direction of the park and recreation system.

The survey was the primary tool used to gain feedback from residents and park users. It was posted online from August 23, 2016 through September 12, 2016. The survey was also distributed with the quarterly City newsletter in May to approximately 1,500 households. A total of 85 surveys were returned compared with only 22 surveys returned as part of the 2011 plan. Survey results and additional comments from the survey will support the direction of park programs, amenities, and future initiatives. Below is a summary of the findings.

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS/ACTIVITY LEVEL – Questions #1 through #4 collected information regarding age and attendance at parks and recreational activities. The majority of respondents were age 25 to 44 or older. This differed considerably from the 2011 survey where the majority of respondents were age 55 and older. Respondents and members of their households regularly participated in activities such as hiking/walking, bicycling, and attending DDA sponsored free concerts. Parks visited most often were Old School Park, Lamb/Steele Park, Lion's Park, Rotary Park and Veteran's Park respectively.

Surprisingly, very few respondents used the Alvin Norlin Pool during the summer with 65% of those surveyed saying they never visited the pool. Approximately 20% stated they used the pool 1 to 5 times during the summer. It appears that more citizens need to become aware of the Pool and activities provided there with additional marketing/advertising activity needed.

PARKS SATISFACTION – About 60% of those surveyed stated they were "Somewhat Satisfied" with the City's Parks leaving only about 30% stating they were with "Very Satisfied" or "Extremely Satisfied". This is different than the 2011 survey where a majority of individuals stated they were satisfied or very satisfied with park facilities.

PARK ACCESSIBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY – Improving connectivity between parks was important to many individuals, including walking and biking paths between parks and to major destination points.

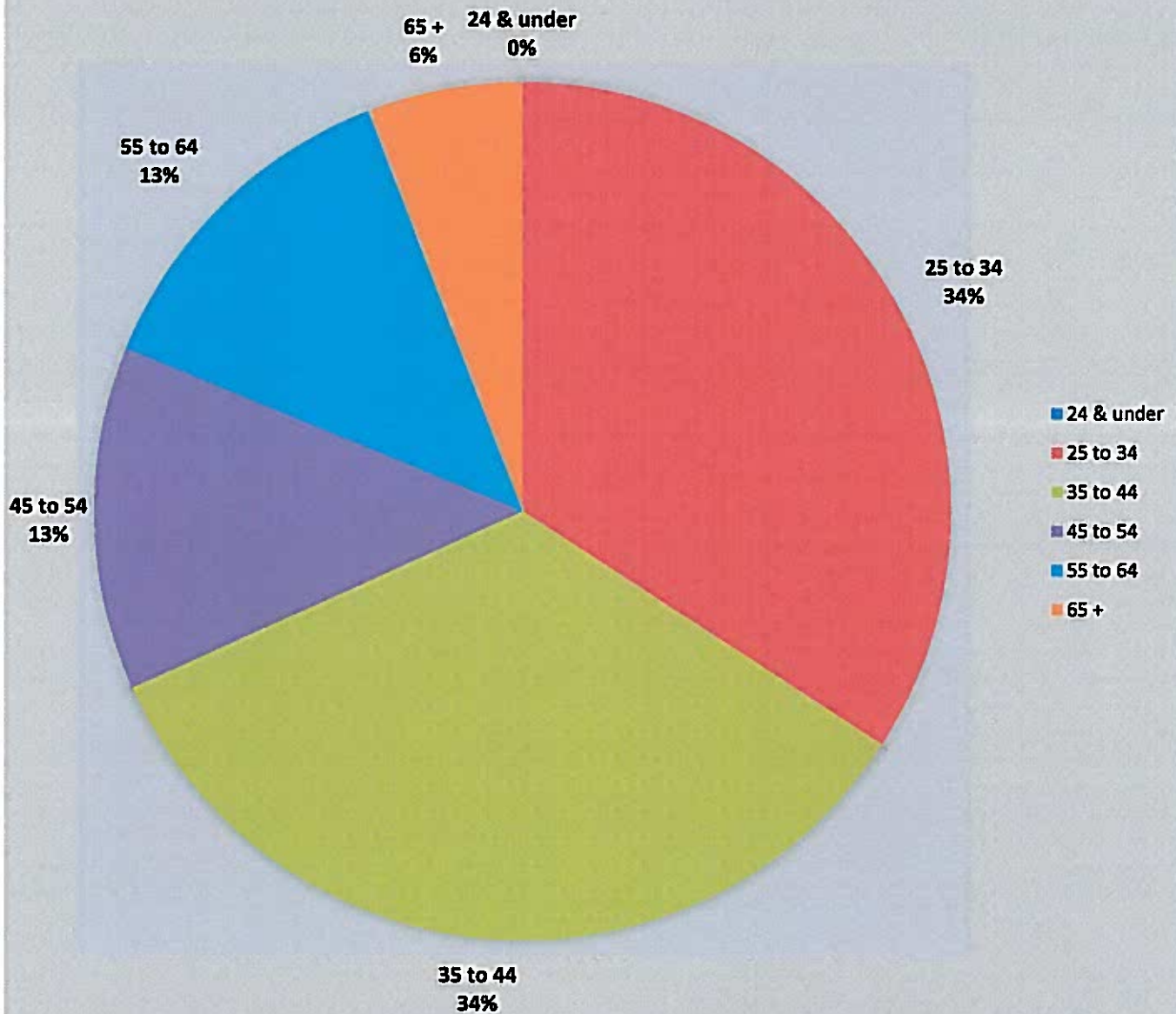
COMMUNITY OUTREACH – Comments were received regarding the need to create a map or brochure indicating where the parks are located and what is available at each park.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES – Many people expressed a willingness to volunteer (60%), but were unaware of volunteer opportunities. There may be a need for more leadership in this area.

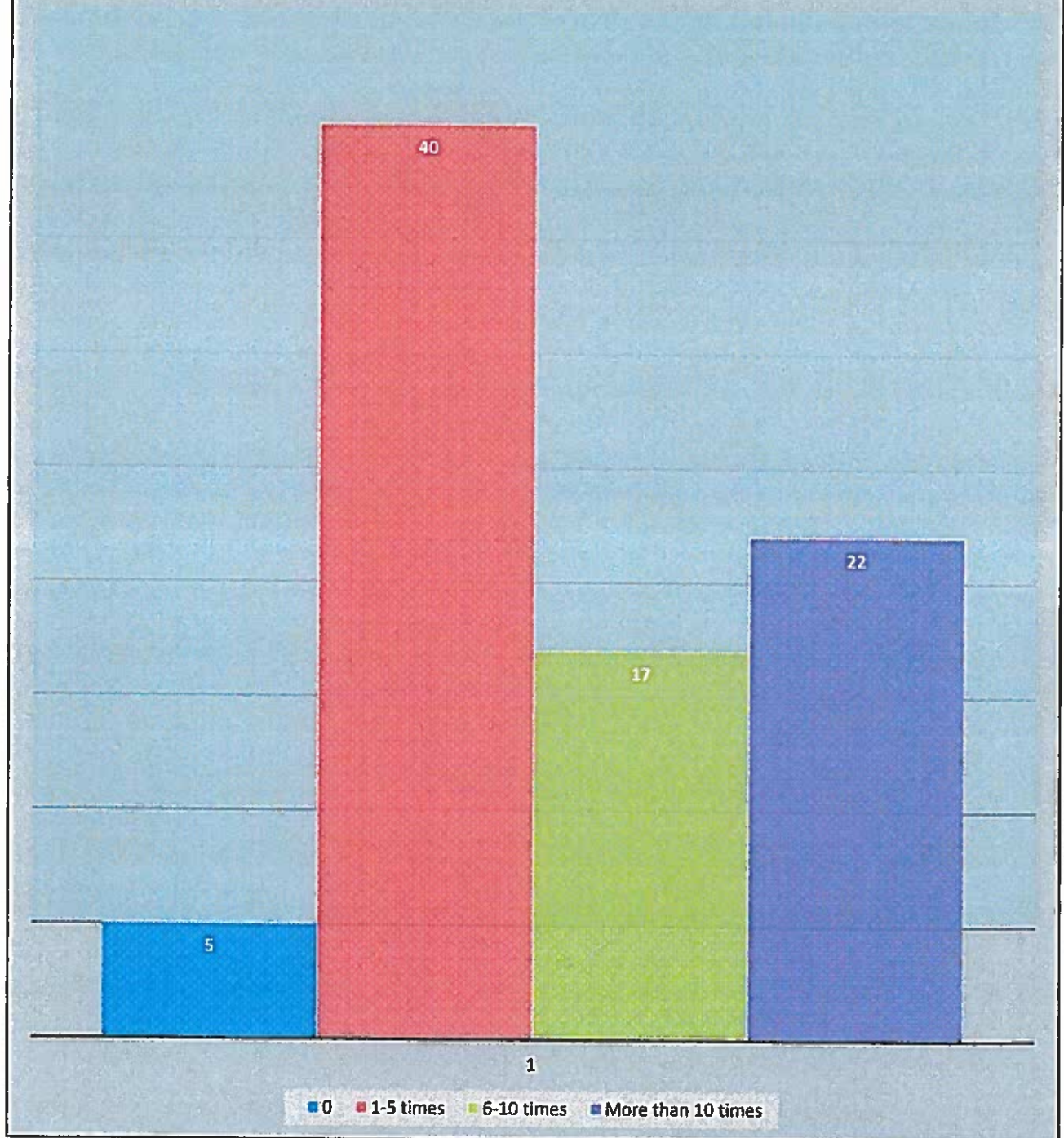
MILLAGE – A majority of respondents indicated that they would support a new millage increase dedicated to parks, if asked. 92% of survey respondents stated they would support a one-half millage request for parks. 66% stated they would support a 1 mill request.

ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS – The questionnaire also asked respondents to prioritize several park initiatives for future implementation. Those identified as important include more trees, construction of surfaced bike/walking paths, addition and improvement of restroom facilities, Belle River Walk, more music/entertainment, and a new splash pad.

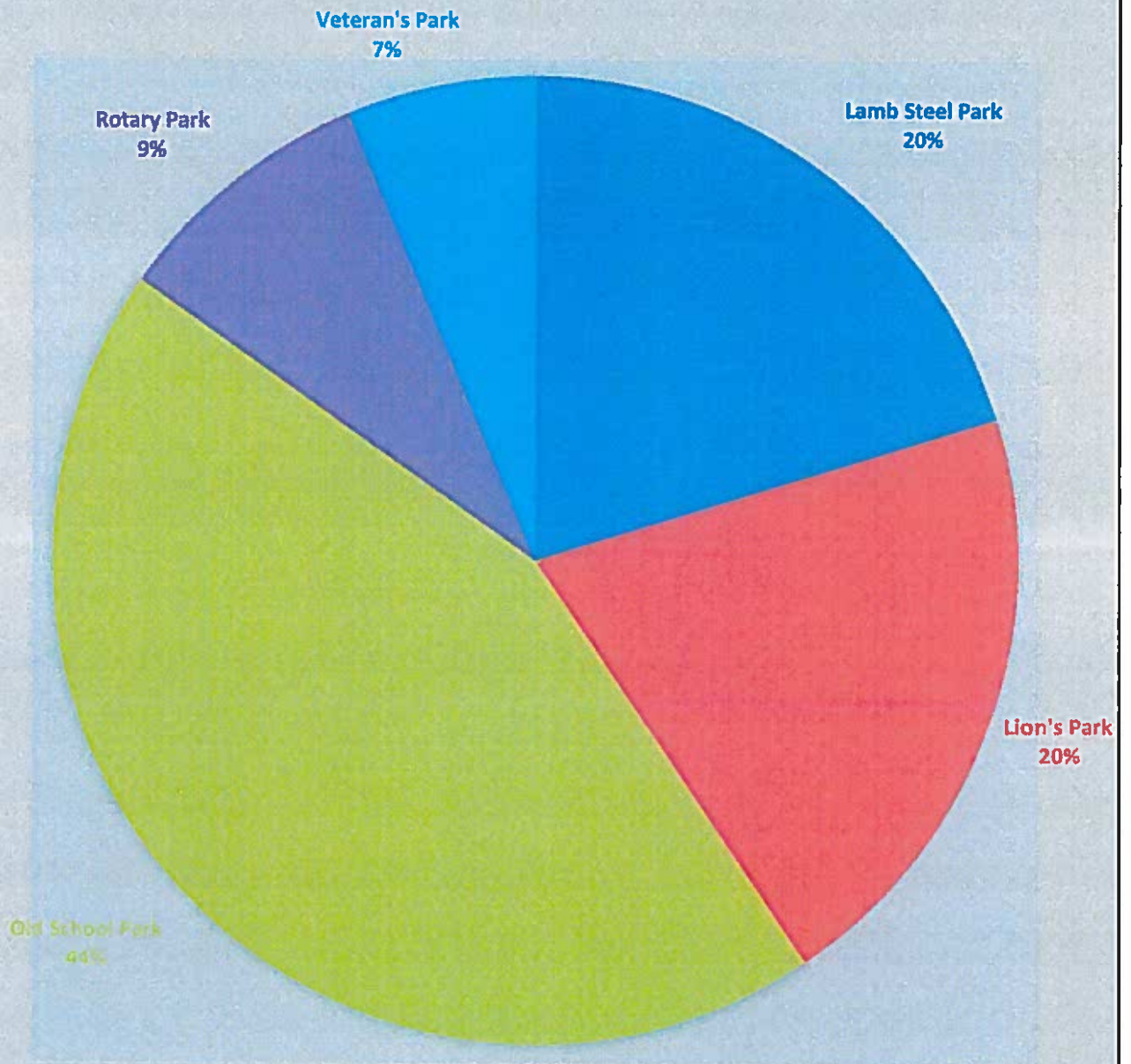
WHAT IS YOUR AGE RANGE?



How often did you visit the parks in Imlay City last year?

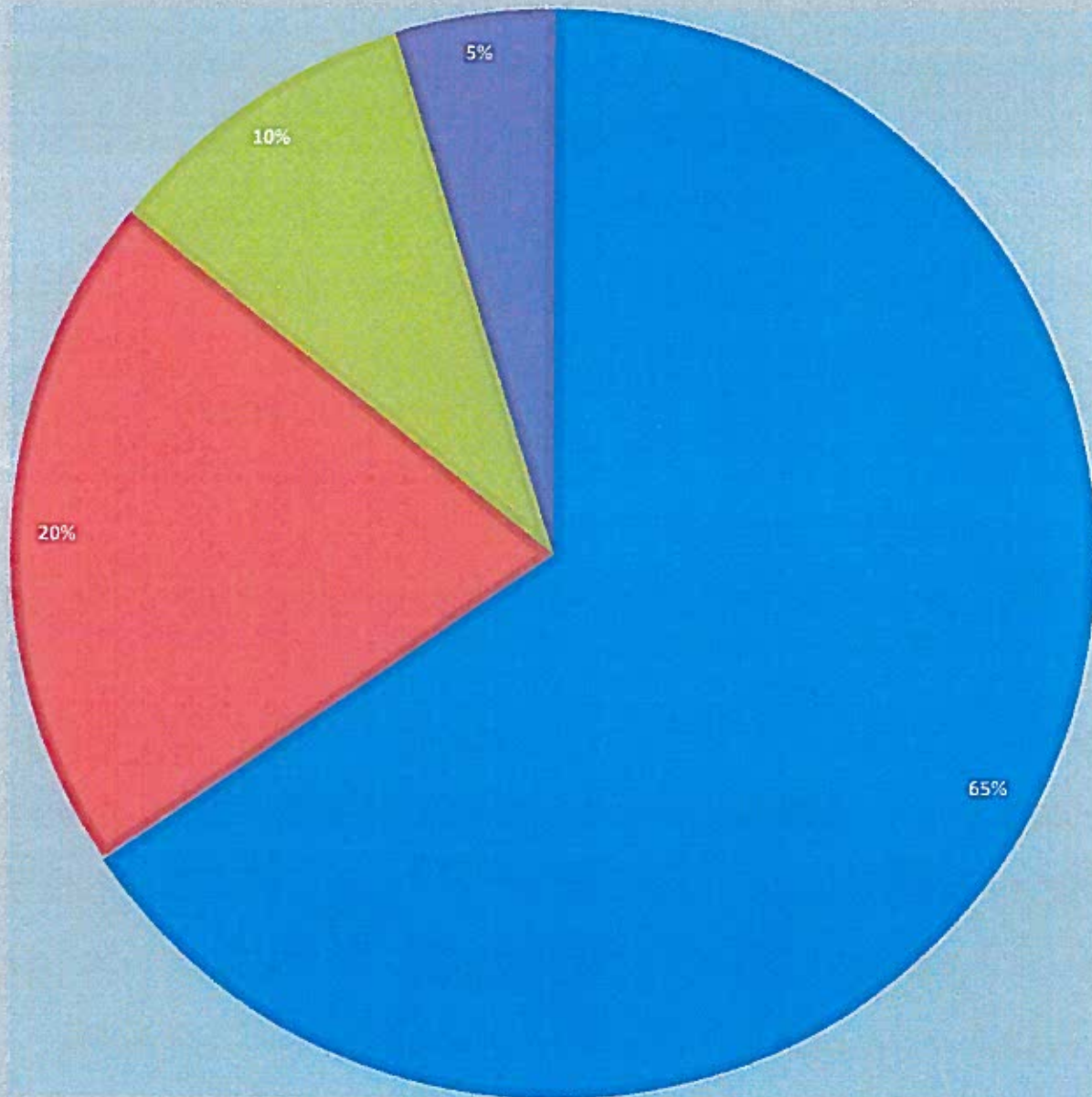


WHICH PARK DID YOU VISIT MOST OFTEN?

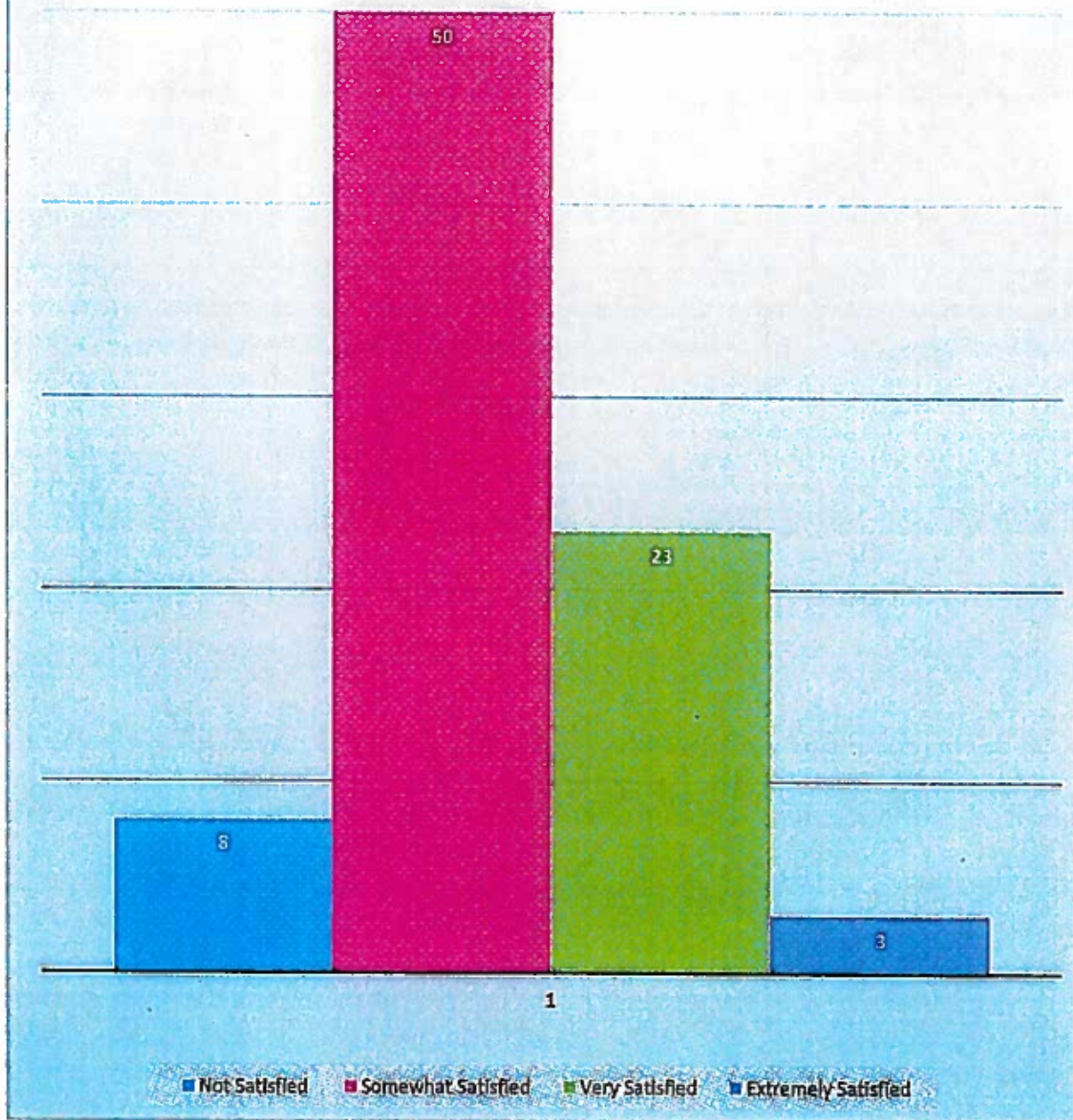


**DO YOU USE THE ALVIN NORLIN POOL DURING THE SUMMER AND
IF SO, HOW OFTEN?**

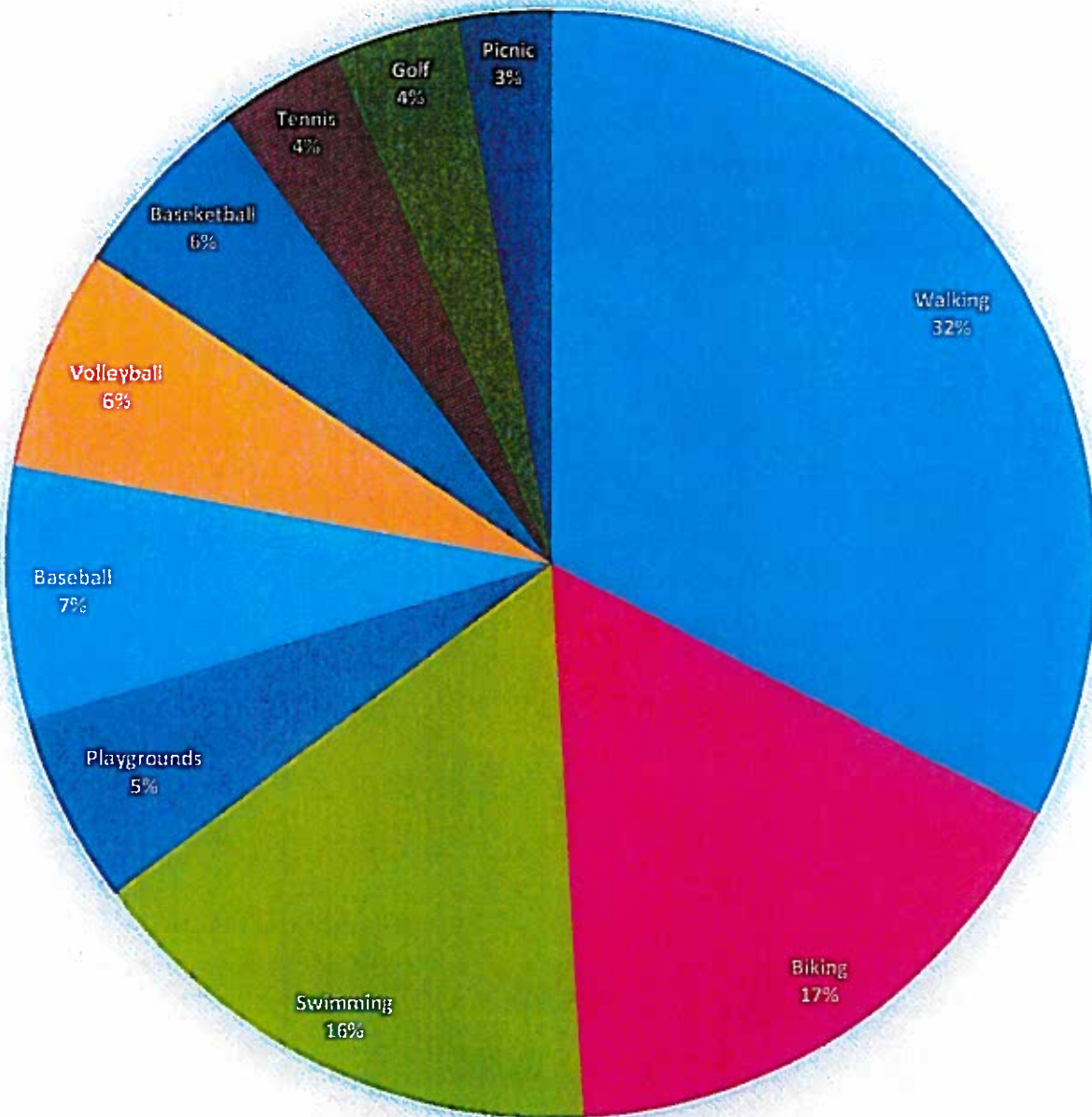
■ 0 Times ■ 1-5 times ■ 6-10 times ■ 10 times +



How satisfied are you with Imlay City's park facilities?



What outdoor activities do you enjoy?

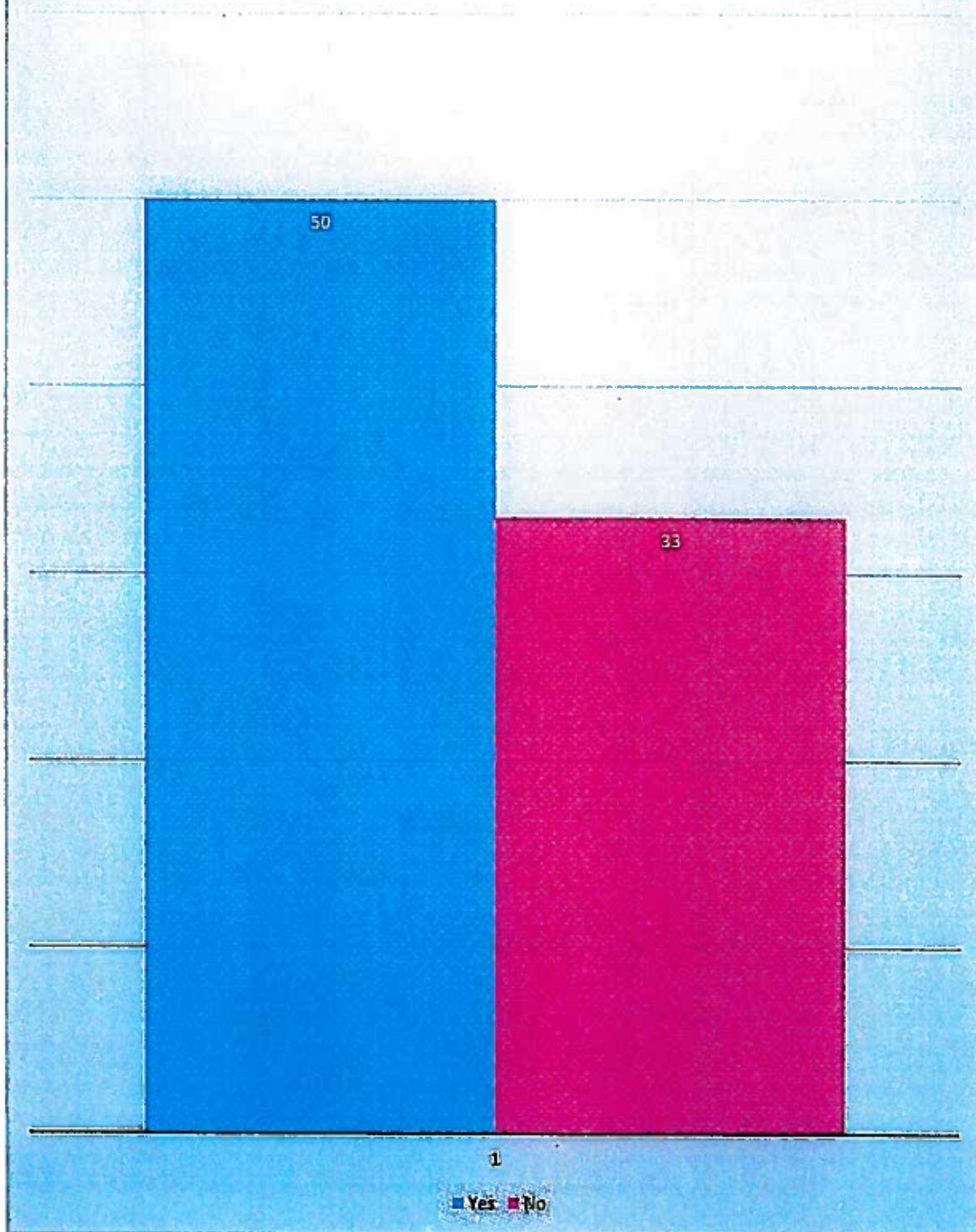


■ Walking ■ Biking ■ Swimming ■ Playgrounds ■ Baseball ■ Volleyball ■ Basketball ■ Tennis ■ Golf ■ Picnic

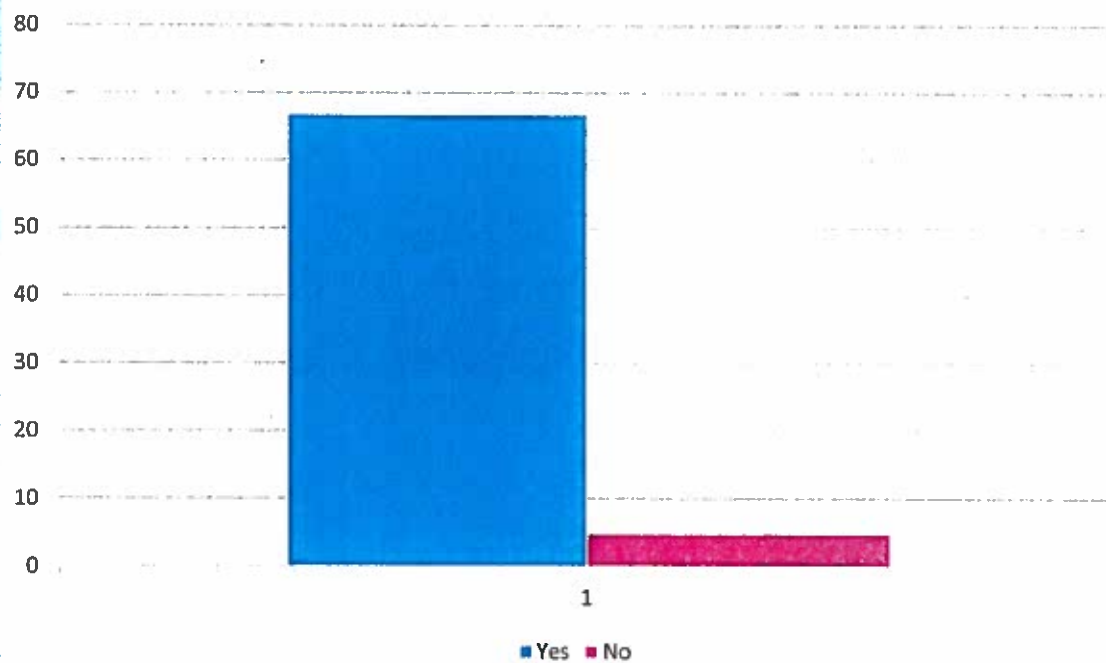
How important are the following:

	Unimportant	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Total	Weighted Average
Trees	1.18% 1	22.35% 19	76.47% 65	85	2.75
Picnic Tables/ Benches	0.00% 0	21.43% 18	78.57% 66	84	2.79
Public Art	32.14% 27	53.57% 45	14.29% 12	84	1.82
Community Gardens	7.14% 6	55.95% 47	36.90% 31	84	2.30
Bike/Pedestrian Paths	1.19% 1	23.81% 20	75.00% 63	84	2.74
Skate Park	54.22% 45	31.33% 26	14.46% 12	83	1.60
Splash Pad	8.33% 7	38.10% 32	53.57% 45	84	2.45
Belle River Walk	10.84% 9	45.78% 38	43.37% 36	83	2.33
Ice Rink	23.81% 20	55.95% 47	20.24% 17	84	1.96
Music/ Entertainment	9.52% 8	52.38% 44	38.10% 32	84	2.29
Restrooms	0.00% 0	22.89% 19	77.11% 64	83	2.77

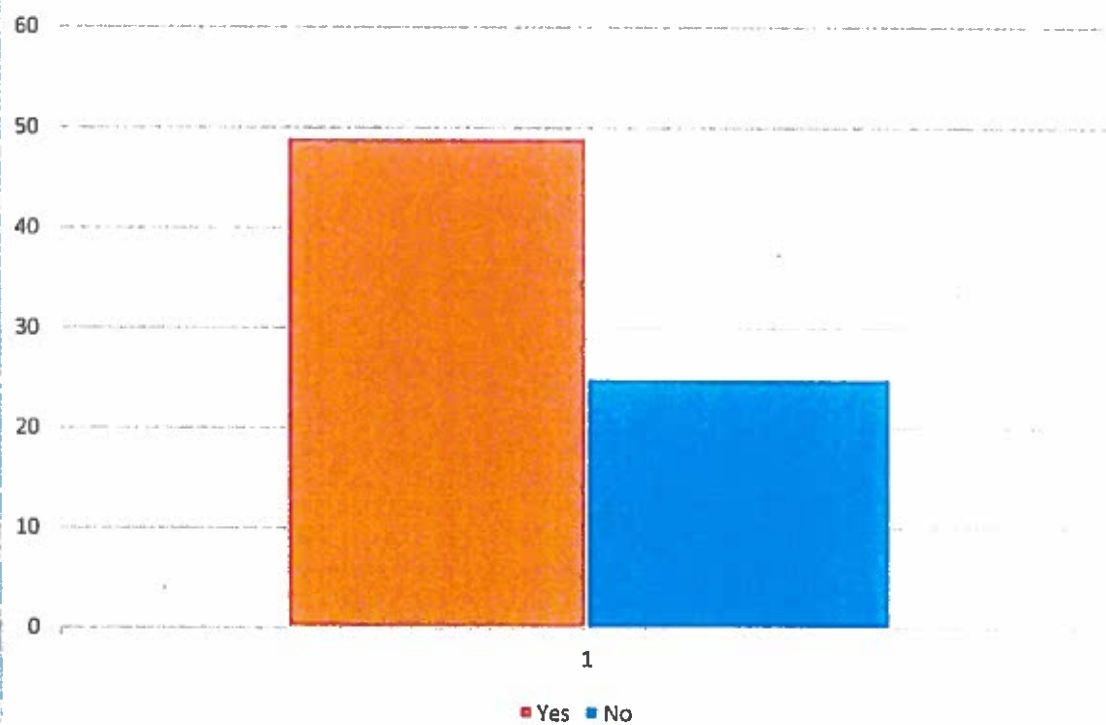
**Would you be willing to volunteer for Imlay
City Parks and Recreation activities/events?**



**If a park millage is needed to add or improve facilities,
would you support 1/2 mill?**



**If a park millage is needed to add or improve facilities,
would you support 1 mill?**



Q 10 Sample Question: *Do you have any additional suggestions for the Parks and Recreation Commission?*

Sample Suggestions:

1. More open swim in the summer months.
2. The kids 10+ year olds are bored with the parks. Some Ideas are building splash pads, skate parks (for summer months), Ice Rink (for winter month), more bike trails, and a sledding hill.
3. Fix up the existing parks. Repaint the equipment, get more up to date equipment. Clean the graffiti off existing equipment.
4. More lights, benches, and landscaping at the parks.
- *5. Dog parks.
6. Adding batting cages, bike track, basketball court. volleyball area.
7. Handicapped accessible for people with special needs. At least one park should have handicap accessible equipment.
8. Restrooms at the parks.
9. Make the pool an all year round venue. Enclosing it in winter.
10. Make a campground with permit, it would encourage tourism.

**Had the most suggestions for this question*

**SECTION IV
PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES
INVENTORY**

Section IV

Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Analysis of Imlay City's recreational needs requires evaluation of its present parks and recreational facilities at both the regional and local levels. Together, the City and school district control approximately 56 acres of parkland within the City. Recreation opportunities vary from activities of a small neighborhood park to numerous athletic fields at the school complex. City and school district facilities were inventoried under this plan.

To provide adequate information for this analysis, the inventory must provide information regarding parklands and the availability of facilities/activities whether or not these are located in parklands. Inventory, analysis, and planning must take place within a defined geographic area. This is called the service area. Recreational opportunities may be active or passive. Active recreational opportunity means games and athletic activities. All other recreational activity is passive.

City Park Facilities

The City owns and operates five public parks:

- Lamb Steele Park
- Lion's Park
- Old School Park
- Rotary Park
- Veteran's Park

The Imlay City Parks and Recreation Commission uses the following standards to classify its parks.

Community Parks Community Parks are commonly designed to provide areas for intense, active recreational opportunities. Play fields are also considered community parks. They may also serve only passive recreational uses. Community parks may include areas of significant natural features and/or land suitable for intense recreational development.

Neighborhood Parks Neighborhood parks provide facilities which are scaled to the recreational requirements of the surrounding neighborhood. These parks are generally designed to meet several active and passive recreational needs. Picnic tables, benches, lawn area, play equipment, and play fields are generally the basic facilities within a neighborhood park. Non-league ball diamonds, skating facilities, and sledding areas may also be included.

Mini Parks Mini-parks serve the immediate sub-neighborhood depending on their use. These serve a variety of purposes such as tot lots, block parks, or even a public garden. They are small, usually about the size of the average lot in the neighborhood (7,400 to 10,000 square feet). If equipped for the use of small children, parks should not be situated so that children are required to cross heavily traveled streets.

Desirable features in these parks include fencing or hedging to define the area, swings, slides, sand boxes, benches and tables in keeping with the size of the park.

Classification Standards – The following table identifies the technical standards by the NRPA for the park classifications described above. These standards are applied in the following section where the park facilities inventory is analyzed.

Table 1: Park Classification Standards

Community Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Mini- Parks
<i>Local service Area Radius:</i>		
2 miles	.25 miles	<.25 miles
<i>Minimum Size Recommendation:</i>		
10 acres	5 acres	.25 acres
<i>Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents:</i>		
5 acres	1 acre	.25 acre

Table 2: City Park Classification

Park	Size	Park Type
Lion's	9.3 acres	Community
Veteran's	3.5 acres	Neighborhood
Lamb Steele	5.0 acres	Community
Old School	.5 acres	Mini-Park
Rotary	.9 acres	Mini-Park

Based on the described criteria relative to park classification, the City's parks have been categorized as listed in Table 2.

Lion's Park is the City's largest park, containing a variety of facilities. Rotary and Old School Park are smaller but provide various active recreation facilities. The City pool is located at Lamb Steele Park. A large passive recreation area is provided at Veteran's Park.

Park Inventory – Table 3 presents a complete inventory of City facilities. This inventory will be compared to national standard in the following section of this plan. Map 5 on the following page identifies the location of the existing recreation facilities that were evaluated as part of this report.

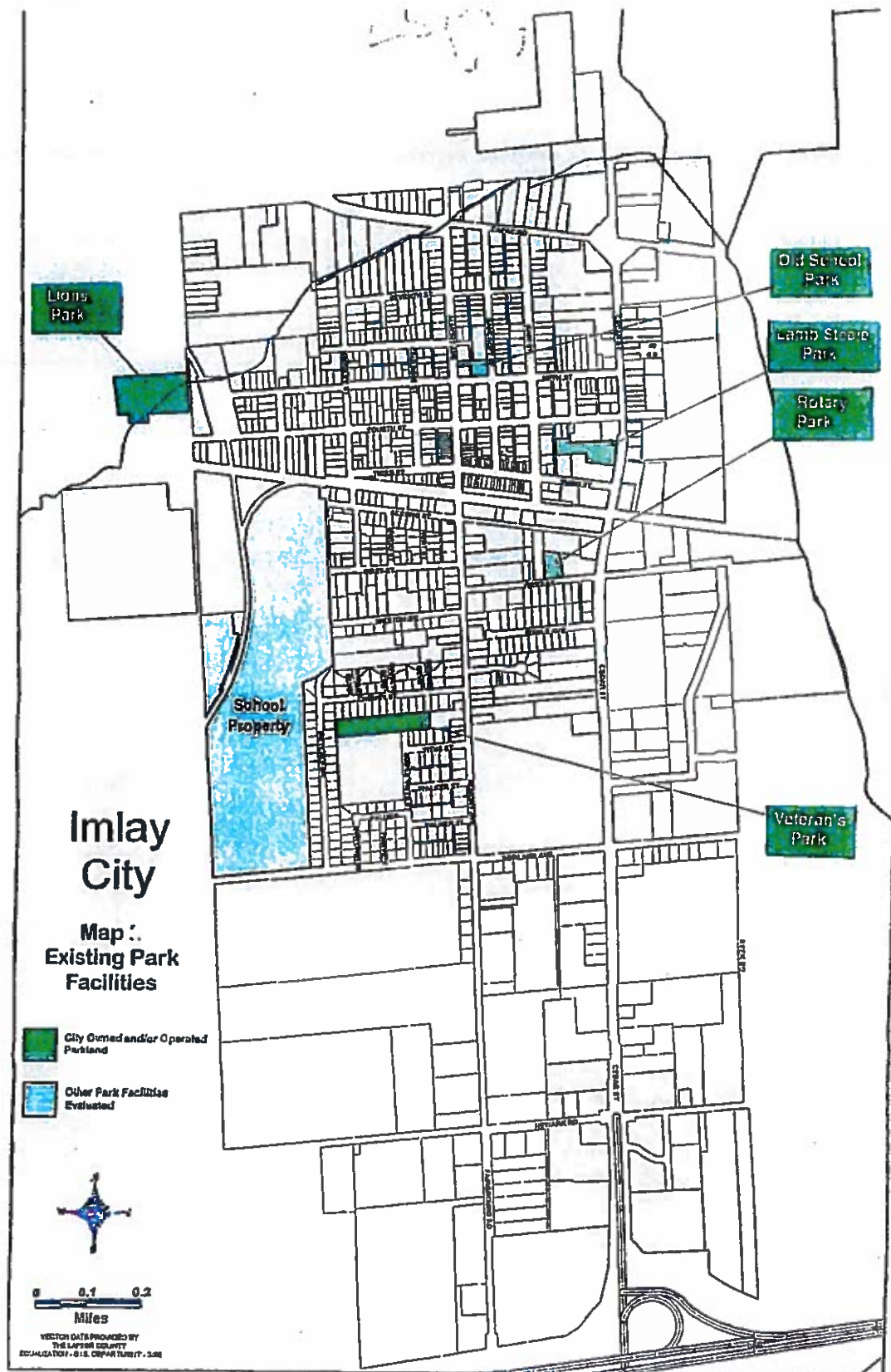


Table 3: Imlay City Park Inventory

	Lion's Park	Rotary Park	Veteran's Park	Lamb Steele Park	Old School Park
<u>FACILITIES</u>					
Ball Field	X				
Basketball Court	X				
Ice Skating Seasonal					
Play Equipment (wood, metal)	X	X	X		X
Play Equipment (Structure)					X
Soccer/Football Field	X				
Tennis Court					
Walking Path	X		X		
Swimming Pool				X	
Sledding Hill					
Natural Area	X		X		
Picnic Area (Pavilion/gazebo)	X	X		X	
Picnic Area (table, grills)	X			X	X
Restrooms	X			X	

The School District is the major source of active recreation programs and facilities. Because of its importance to the recreational needs of the City, coordination and cooperation between the City and the School District is crucial. The following table lists the facilities provided by the Imlay City School District within the City.

Table 4: Imlay City School District Inventory

	WESTON ELEMENTARY	BORLAND ELEMENTARY	MIDDLE SCHOOL	HIGH SCHOOL
<u>Facilities</u>				
Ball Field		1	4	6
Basketball Court	2	4	6	
Volleyball		1		
Play Equipment (wood, metal)	X	X		
Play Equipment (structure)	X	X		
Football Field With track			1	
Soccer Field (practice)				2
Tennis Court			3	8
Restrooms			X	
Gymnasium/ Multi-purpose Room	X	X	X	X

Regional Recreational Facilities

Regional recreation areas generally serve residents from the various communities in the regional service area. They may be publicly or privately held and may be designed to provide for a single recreational activity or multiple recreational activities.

Regional park facilities provided for residents include county parks, state recreation and park areas, community recreation areas, and other facilities. Some facilities, which are located within a half hour to an hour drive, are listed along with the size and location in the table below.

Table 5: Regional Park Facilities

Name	Location	Acres
Sutter's Recreation Area	North Branch	40
Washakie Recreation	North Branch	40
Seven Ponds	Dryden	245
General Squier Park	Dryden	
Polar Palace	Lapeer	
Henley Recreation Center	Lapeer	
Lapeer Recreation Center	Lapeer	
Metamora Hadley	Lapeer County	683
Davison Swimming Pool	Davison	
Bald Mountain Recreation	Oakland County	3,118
Pontiac Lake Recreation	Oakland County	3,757
Ortonville Recreation Area	Oakland County	4,107
Highland Recreation	Oakland County	5,504
Holly Recreation	Oakland County	7,446
Lake Port State Park	St. Clair County	566
Algonac State Park	St. Clair County	1,024
Holloway Reservoir	Marathon Twp.	3,477
Lapeer State Game Area	Mayfield Twp.	7,000
Torzewski County Park	Oregon Twp.	
Yntema Soccer Field	Imlay Township	20

Community Programs

In addition to the school District programs provided, there are various organizations that participate in

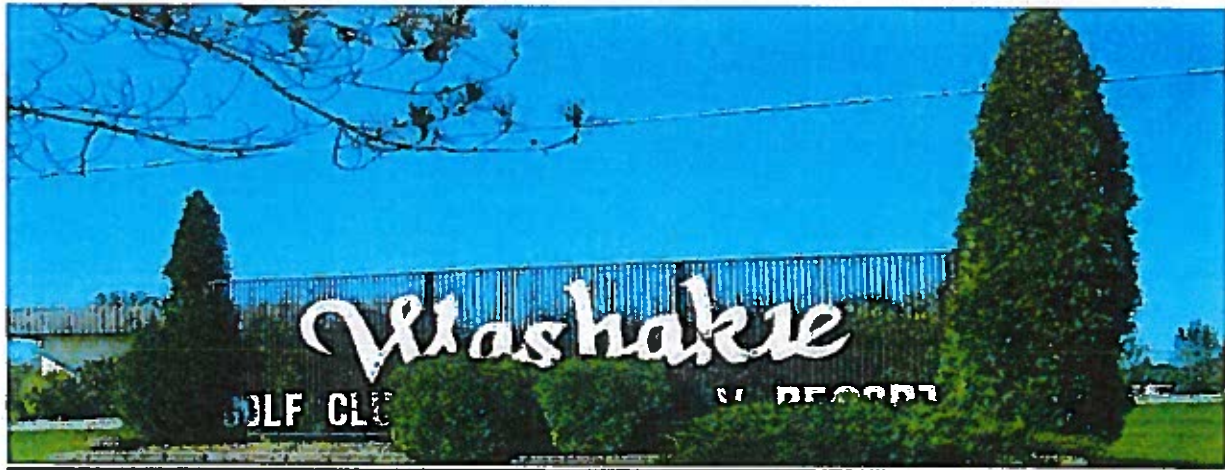
- ✦ Lapeer County Sportsman's Club
- ✦ Various Local Churches
- ✦ Imlay City Boys Baseball
- ✦ Imlay City Girls Softball
- ✦ AYSO Soccer
- ✦ Little League Football
- ✦ Veterans of Foreign Wars
- ✦ Lion's Club
- ✦ Rotary Club
- ✦ Boy Scouts
- ✦ Girl Scouts
- ✦ 4-H Club

Private Recreation

Private Recreation is also provided by various golf courses in the surrounding communities.

Washakie Recreation

Source: Washakie Golf & R.V. Resort, accessed February 9, 2009, from <http://www.washakiegolfrv.com>



SECTION V
PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY ANALYSIS

Section V

Parks and Recreation Inventory Analysis

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has adopted a set of standards, based upon those developed by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), to determine the need for recreation facilities in each community. These standards establish: 1) the specific recreation facilities such as tennis court or soccer fields, which should be available based upon the population of the community; and 2) the "service areas," or number and type of parks that should be available to residents within a certain distance from their homes. Each of these standards will be applied to the existing inventory of community-wide and school distinct recreation facilities to determine if deficiencies are present. The results of this analysis will be incorporated, in part, into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, contained in the next section of the document.

Existing Parkland

The analysis of existing parkland is contained in Table 6. Park acreage includes City-owned facilities, the Fairgrounds site, and the school facilities. The nationally recognized standard for parkland sizes and amount per 1,000 residents was applied. The population utilized was the projected population size for the year 2015 to address anticipated population increases.

Table 6: Parkland Acreage Comparison

Park Classification	Recommended Acreage Per 1,000 Residents	Existing Acreage	Recommended for 2016**	Projected Surplus/(Deficiency) 2021
Mini Parks	.375	1.4	1.349	0.051
Neighborhood Parks	1.5	3.5	5.395	(1.895)
Community Parks	6.5	119.3*	23.381	95.919
Overall Parkland Required	10	124.2*	35.97	88.23

*=105 acres of total includes school and fairgrounds sites

**=Population estimate used: 3,597 (2010 census)

Existing Facilities

Coupled with facilities provided by the school district, the City adequately serves the recreational needs of residents. The deficiencies identified in Table 7 includes nine and eighteen hole golf courses; however, the smaller population of the City may not warrant provision of those facilities indicated as deficient.

The school district's most recent recreational development consists of 65 acres adjacent to the Polly Ann Trail on Blacks Corners Road. The City is in a partnership with the Friends of the Polly Ann Trail and works with this volunteer group to assist in the promotion and maintenance of the portion of the Trail that goes through the City. The City plans to install decorative lighting along this portion of the Trail. Also, in the summer of 2016, the City participated in the cost of connecting the School's High School Parking Lot with a paved connection path to the trail.

Table 7: Comparison of City and School Facilities with State Recreational Standards

<u>Facility</u>	State Standard	State Requirement	Existing City & School Facilities	Surplus/ Deficiencies
Basketball Courts	1/5,000	0.71	13	12.29
Tennis Courts	1/2,000	1.80	11	9.2
Volleyball Courts	1/5,000	0.71	1	.29
Baseball Diamonds	1/5,000	0.71	6	5.29
Softball Diamonds	1/5,000	0.71	5	4.29
Football Fields	1/20,000	0.18	1	.82
Soccer Fields	1/10,000	0.35	3	2.65
Golf Courses				
9 holes	1/20,000	0.14	0	(.14)
18 holes	1/50,000	0.07	0	(.07)
Swimming Pool	1/20,000	0.18	1	.82
Playgrounds/Tot Lots	1/3,000	1.19	8	6.81

Service Area

The standard service areas by park classification, as outlined in Table 2 in Section IV, have been applied. This standard generally identifies neighborhoods within the City that may be underserved by parkland. Neighborhood parks and mini parks were only evaluated because the intent of those parks is to provide parkland in close proximity, ideally walking distance, to residential areas. Community parks provide service for the entire City with less emphasis on pedestrian access.

Based on the map provided on the following page, underserved areas include the southwest portion of the City, currently used for agricultural operation and three land packets in the northern area. The largest underserved area in the north is the northwest neighborhood near Lion's Park and the Belle River. There may be potential for a linear network along the river to serve these residents. A boardwalk along a portion of the river is identified in the Action Plan.

The two remaining underserved areas are to the north and east of Old School Park. Due to the large number of single-family residential homes in these areas, there is a potential for smaller pocket parks to serve the neighborhoods. There may also be potential for a larger scale park along Cedar Street as it redevelops.

Discussion

The purpose of this section of the analysis is to evaluate the various levels of parkland existing and begin to identify necessary improvements to these areas. The discussion is organized by park classification. Some parks may fall into more than one category for the purposes of discussion.

General Parkland-to-Resident Ratio – Overall, the residents of the community are adequately served by parks and recreation. Based on the ratio formula, there is a surplus of parkland for residents.

It is important to note that a large portion of this acreage is provided by the school district and the Eastern Michigan Fairgrounds. Therefore, excluding that acreage, the total remaining parkland within the City is 19.2 acres.

Applying the ratio standard of 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents creates a deficiency of 16.77 acres. Because the school has developed their 65 acres, there is more than sufficient parkland available to City residents, according to the same standard.

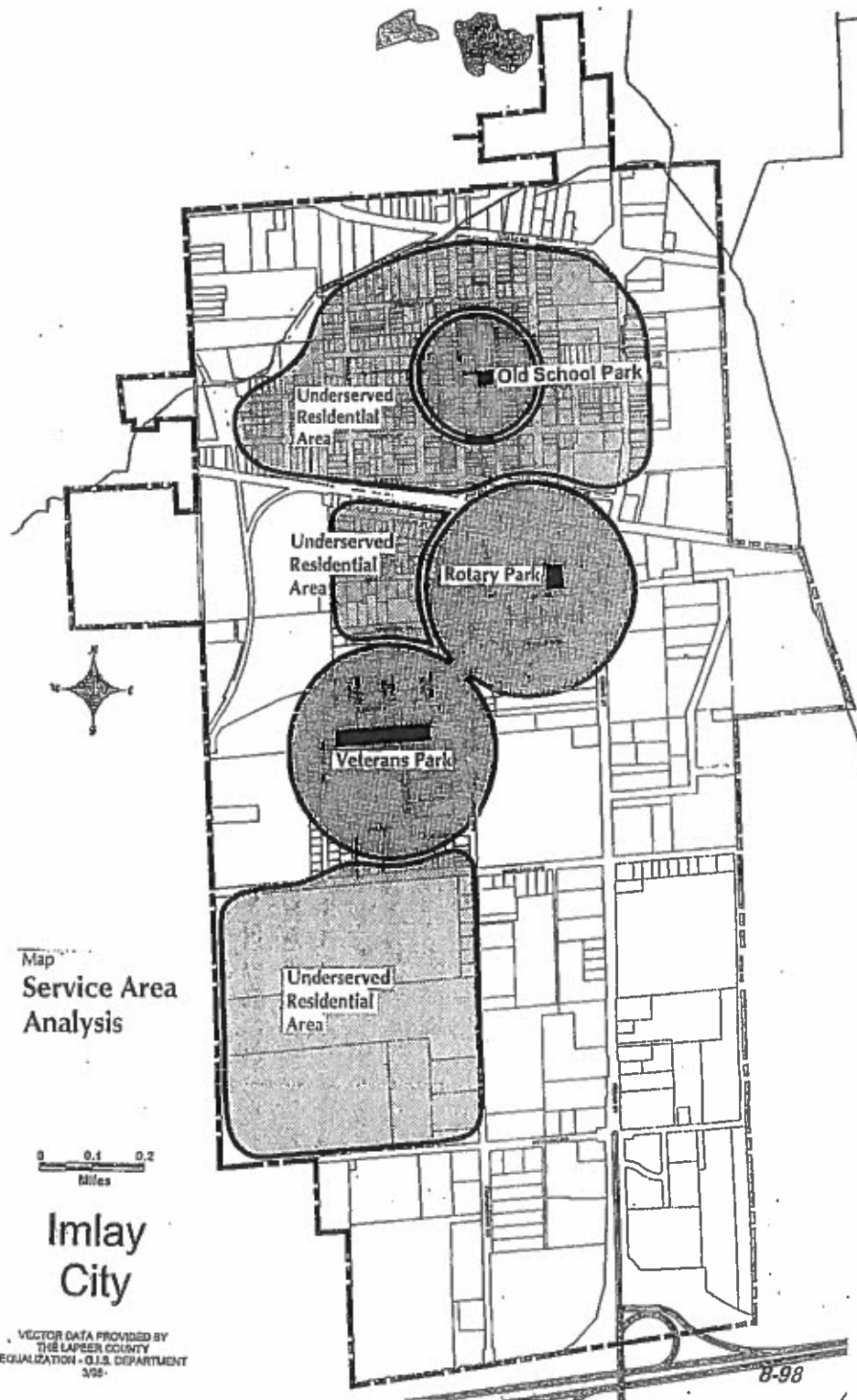
Mini Parks – As described in the previous section, mini parks are small, specialized parks that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. The park may also serve a specific group such as small children or senior citizens.

Rotary park and Old School Park are classified as mini parks. In 2015, Rotary Park realized construction of a new playscape area which was constructed by community volunteers and paid for by contributions from the Imlay City Rotary Club and other local grant programs. This addressed a need identified in a recent survey of the surrounding residential property owners which indicated the desire for a low-key park with small play equipment and picnic area. Old School Park provides small play equipment, a play structure, and picnic areas.

The only deficiency within the City is 1.895 acres of neighborhood parkland. This deficiency could be resolved by the development of the previously discussed boardwalk along the Belle River adjacent to the Polly Ann Trail.

Due to the surplus of active recreational facilities, any additional land acquired should provide passive recreation areas. This would include benches, picnic tables, and other features that promote leisure time.

Two "pocket" parks were recently developed in the downtown setting to create a common gathering place for people.



Neighborhood Parks – Neighborhood parks typically are multi-purpose facilities, providing active recreation areas with some passive recreation space.

Veterans Park is classified as a neighborhood park because of its size; however this park also fits the passive classification because it is generally open space with some park features.

Community Parks – Community parks are larger in size and provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities for the entire population.

Lion's Park and Lamb Steele Park are classified as community parks. Lion's Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including ball fields, basketball courts, play equipment, picnic areas, and restrooms. Lamb Steele Park consists primarily of the swimming pool with associated picnic area, and a gazebo used for summer concerts, outdoor movies, and weddings. A new splashpad located at Lamb Steele Park was identified as a major project that would be a significant recreational addition to this park.

The school district playgrounds and play fields are also classified as community park facilities because they are located within the City's limits and they are easily accessible for all City residents; however, students within the school district have priority over residents for use of school facilities.

The general parkland-to-resident calculations, excluding school property, created a deficiency of community parkland. The main reason for excluding school parkland from calculations is to fully evaluate whether the City is adequately serving residents. In other words, if it is a goal to become independent from the schools relative to parkland, these calculations assess what the community must do to accomplish the goal. Typically, good relations with the school district permit the overlapping of facility usage. If the City wishes to become less reliant on the schools, consideration should be given to land acquisition for community parkland. Due to the abundance of active recreation, any land that could be preserved would be a benefit. This is especially true for land along the Belle River.

Regional Parks – there are no regional facilities within the City limits; however, Imlay City is adequately served by a large supply of regional parks within a one-hour drive.

Passive Parks – The primary purpose of passive areas is to provide relief from highly developed residential and commercial neighborhoods. Facilities may include sitting areas and other pedestrian amenities, landscaping, monuments and fountains, and historical features.

Based on the inventory of current facilities at each park, Veterans Park is the most passive park.

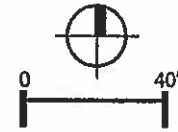
Linear Parks – A linear park is an area developed for one or more modes of recreation travel, such as hiking, bicycling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, or pleasure driving. These parks can take the form of a pathway/greenway system or simply a greenbelt along the road frontage. A common goal is to link other components of the recreation system together either physically or visually.

The Polly Ann Trail, owned by the MDNR, has been hard surfaced within the city limits. It has been a goal of the city to link this trail with other trails, paths and sidewalks in the city. The connections to the Polly Ann Trail as it extends into Imlay Township are yet to be completed. The city has also identified a trailhead as a future goal.

A multi-purpose pathway also exists along the M-53 corridor from East First Street to Newark Road. Opportunities to link this path to others should be investigated.

Lamb Steele Park

Existing Conditions



Existing Fence

Water Tower

Imlay City Hall



Existing Gazebo



Existing Signage



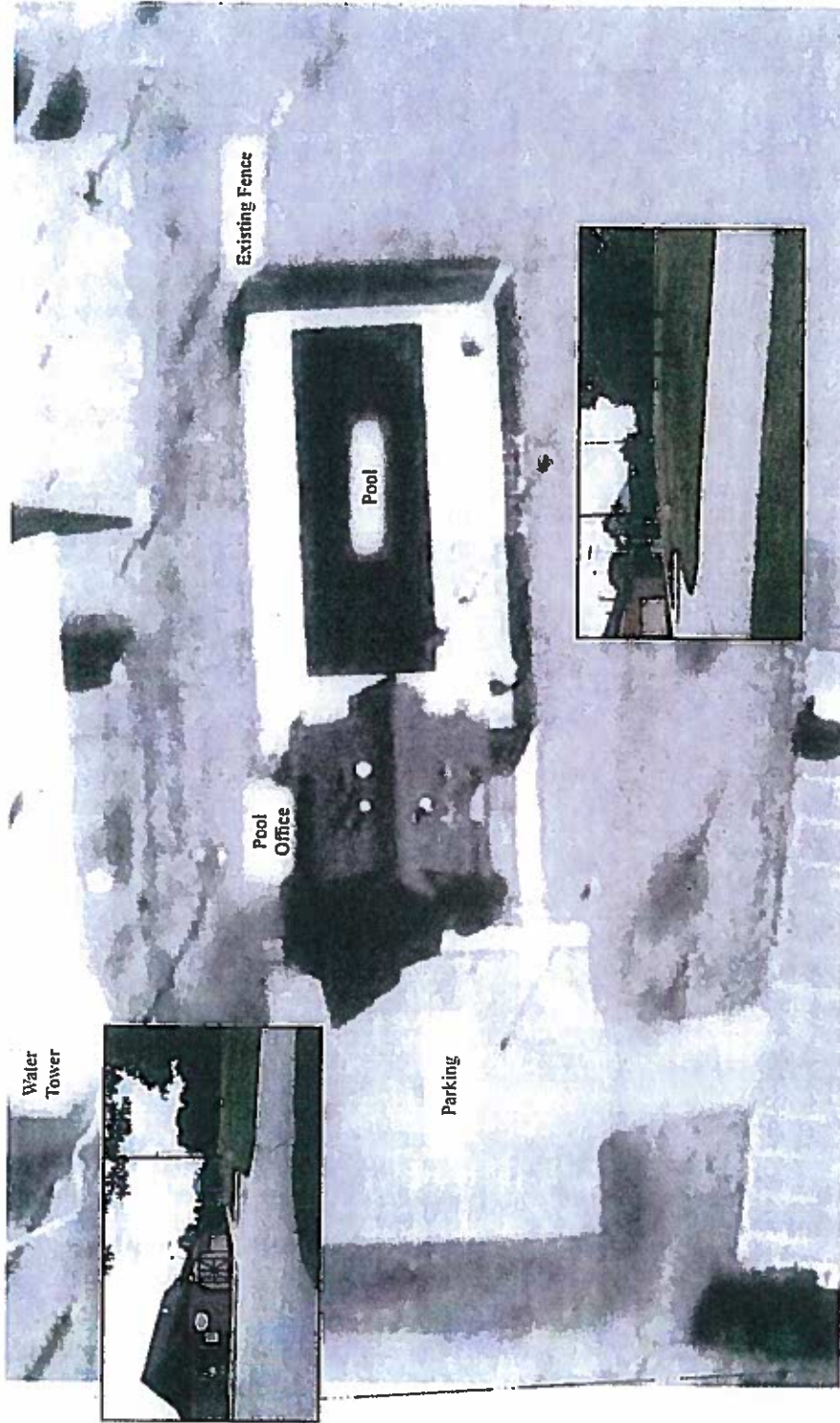
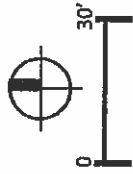
Parking Lot



ROWE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES COMPANY

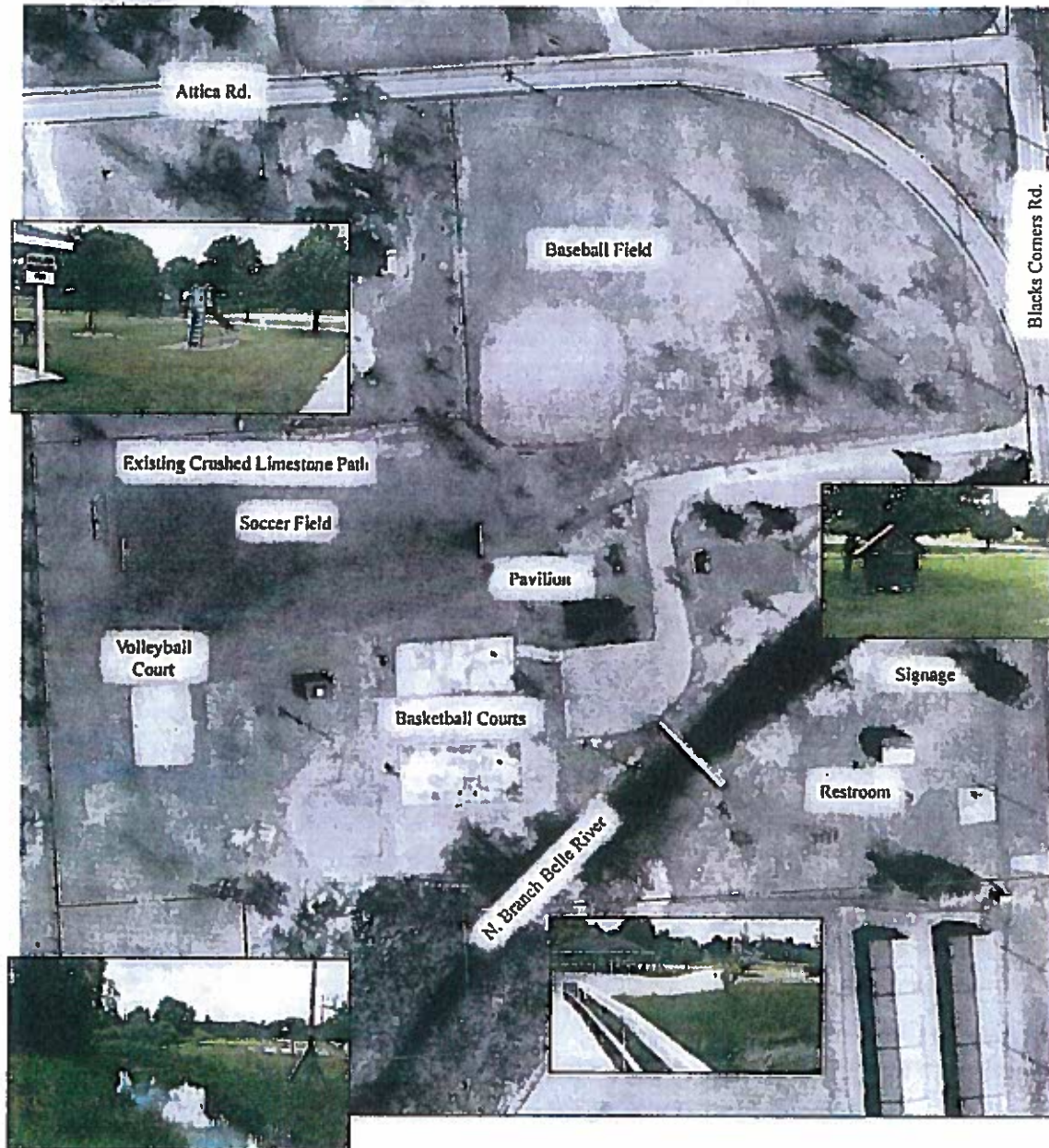
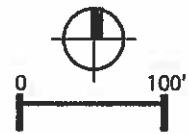
Imlay City, MI
11C0091 | June 2011

Imlay City Pool Existing Conditions



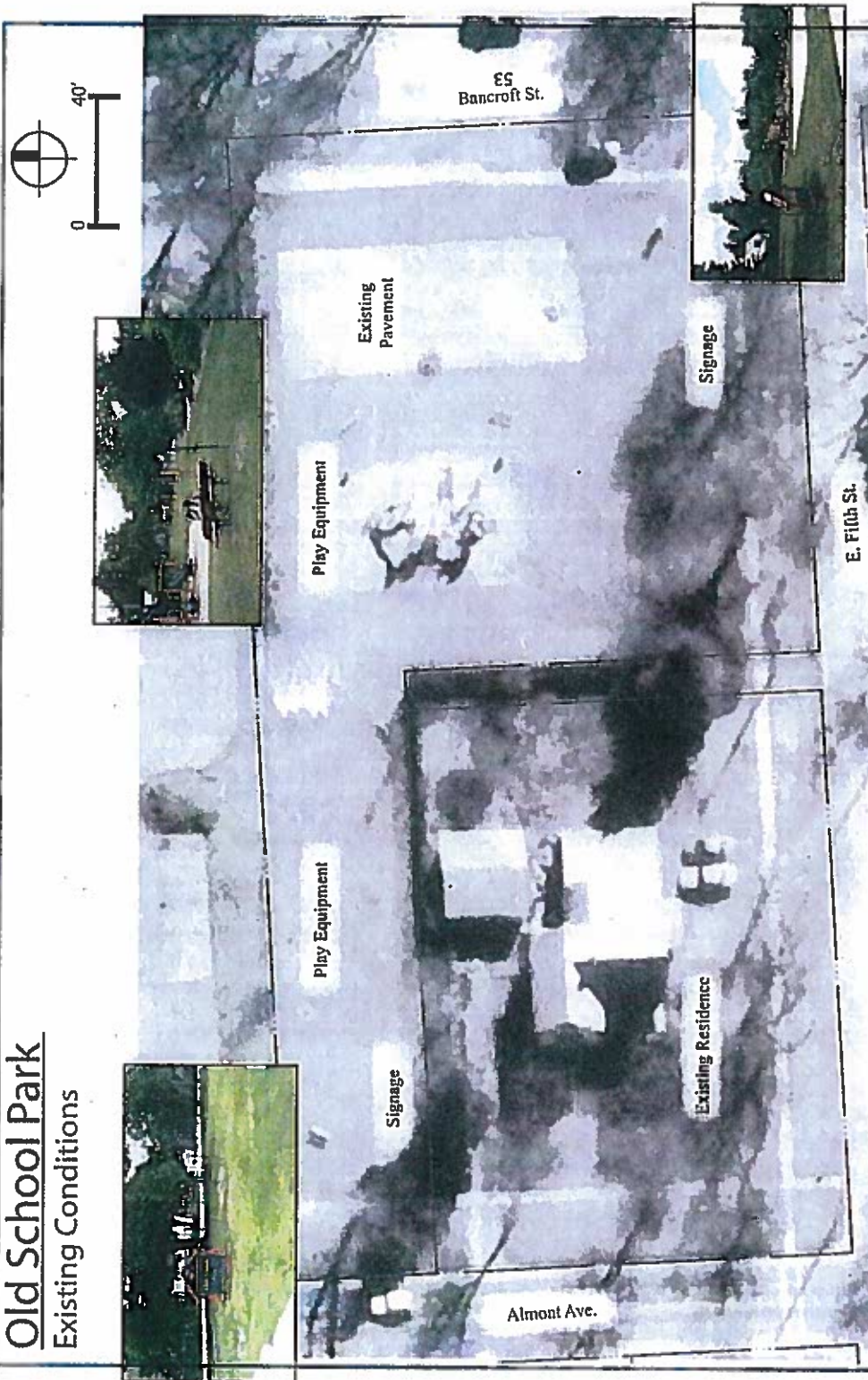
Lion's Park

Existing Conditions



Old School Park

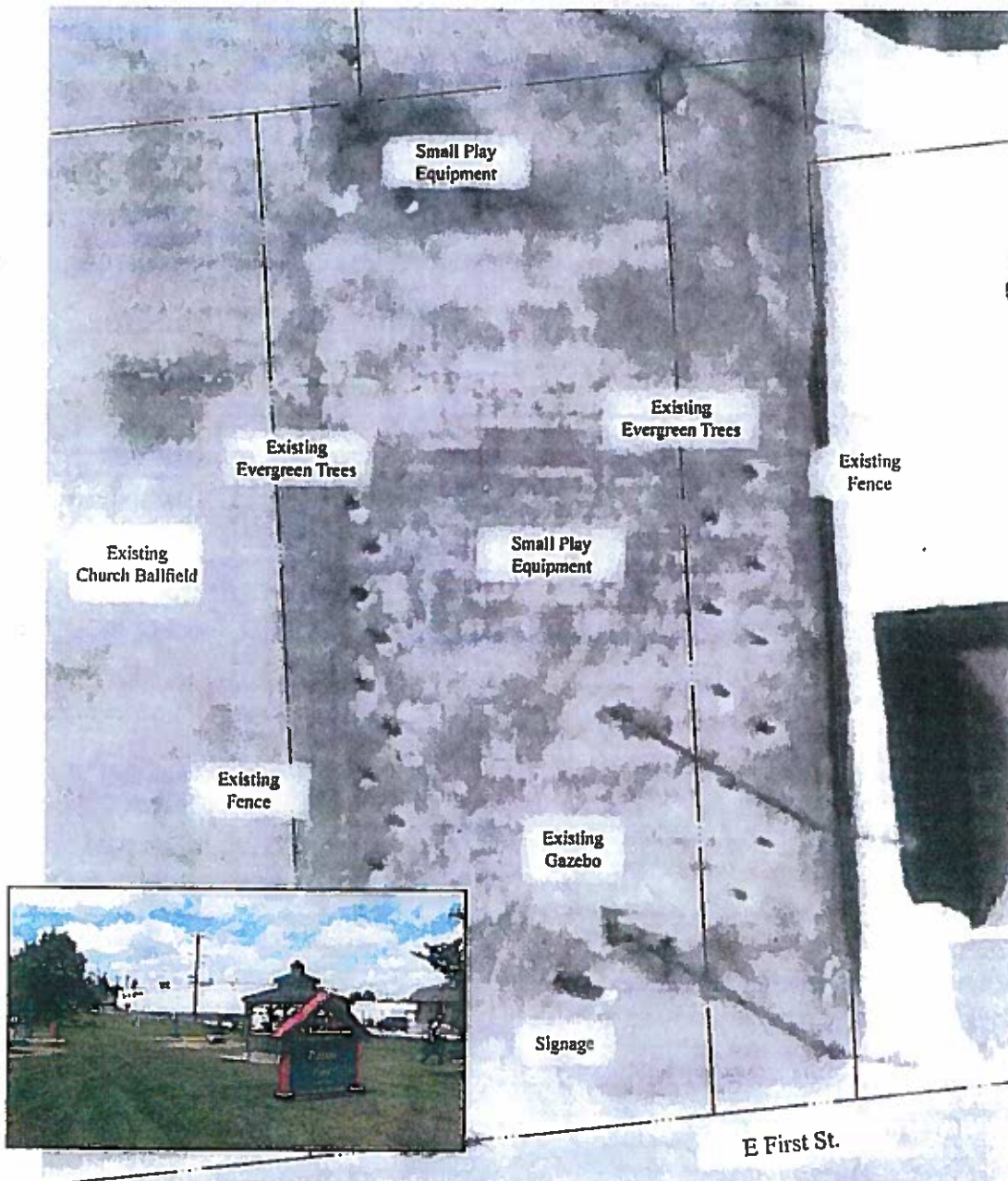
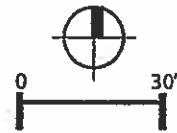
Existing Conditions



Imlay City, MI
11C0091 | June 2011

Rotary Park

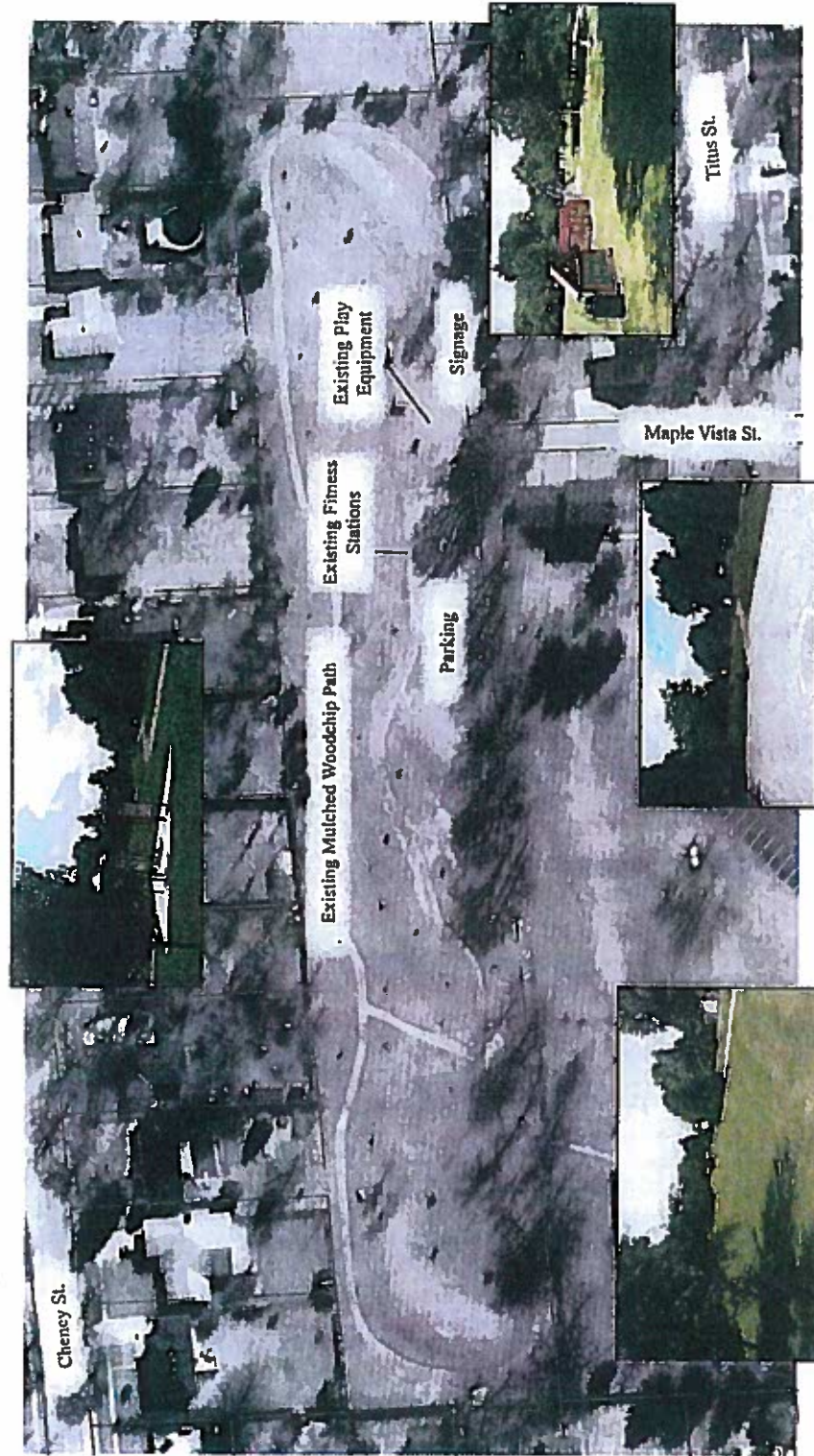
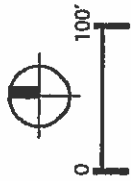
Existing Conditions



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SERVICES COMPANY

Imlay City, MI
11C0091 | June 2011

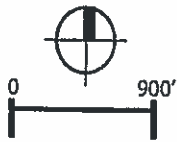
Veteran's Park Existing Conditions



Imlay City, MI
11C0091 | June 2011

Pathway System Map

City of Imlay City



Existing Conditions at
Proposed Trailhead Location



LEGEND



The development of the Polly Ann Trail is expected to provide additional customers to the downtown central business district as it creates excellent access to and from the main commercial area.

The City of Imlay City together with the Parks and recreation Commission have adopted a Pathway Systems plan to link existing sidewalks with new development and incorporate intermodal transportation into the system in the forms of non-motorized trails and shared roadways. Linking these modes of transportation will be a priority for the commission during the next five years. A map showing the proposed linkages is shown on page 39.

The location of parks is generally spread throughout the community. Accessible connections between parks, neighborhoods, downtown, schools, and other civic buildings should be provided for pedestrians, cyclists, and other non-motorized transportation. The City has incorporated bike lanes in local and major street reconstruction projects to improve connection to parks and recreation facilities.

Park Facilities/Equipment – A surplus of facilities is generally provided within the City and creates an important benefit to citizens. The City and school district may wish to convert some surplus facilities to facilities which are not provided. For example, the creation of a new facility that is not listed such as areas for skateboarding may also benefit the high percentage of younger residents.

Gateways to Commercial Areas – At the corner of Cedar Street (M-53) and Third Street, small areas of green space and enhanced site amenities coordinate with the park facilities to create an entranceway to the area. The downtown has constructed a streetscape to enhance the area.

Service Areas – Although community parks represent a deficiency based on acreage calculations, two additional neighborhood parks would be more appropriate in the following locations:

- ✦ Northeast of Lion's Park along the river to service the adjacent residential areas and connect to the potential Polly Ann Trail extension
- ✦ A park should be incorporated into future development of the vacant agricultural land on the southwest corner of South Almont Avenue and Borland Road.

Key Findings

- ✦ Two neighborhood parks are needed at both the very north and south ends of the City
- ✦ With the inclusion of school park facilities, residents are adequately served by recreation
- ✦ Without the inclusion of school park facilities, there is a deficiency in community parkland and in the overall ratio of parkland per resident
- ✦ There is a surplus of recreation equipment/facilities, but there are still facilities which are lacking such as those for skateboarding

BARRIER FREE EVALUATION

The City of Imlay City is committed to providing access to recreation facilities for people of all ages and abilities. In recent years, the City has taken steps to renovate existing parks and provide new recreation opportunities. Recent projects have ensured compliance with barrier-free requirements, but further minor improvements are needed to improve accessibility to the City's recreation areas and natural resources. For all new park facilities and enhancements to the older parks, the addition or improvement of handicapped accessible routes to all areas and activities will be one of the major priorities.

An evaluation of the handicapped accessibility at the existing park and recreation facilities has been conducted as a part of the plan. Each park and its accessibility issues are outlined below, along with actions to eliminate the handicap accessible deficiencies.

The accessibility improvements are scheduled to be completed during renovation and improvements to each specific park as outlined in the Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule of this document.

LAMB/STEELE PARK

The Lamb/Steele Park includes a gazebo, which is accessible; a swimming pool; and picnic area. Future considerations include a wheel chair lift for the pool and barrier free picnic tables. Some small play equipment may be installed in the future. Barrier free accessibility will be a priority for future improvements at this park. Lamb/Steele Park has a ranking of 2*.

LION'S PARK

Play areas at this park are not accessible with safety surfacing at the present depth. Picnic tables are not barrier free. Lion's Park ranks a 1.

OLD SCHOOL PARK

This park has a play structure, swings, and other small play equipment. A small picnic area is also located in Old School Park. None of the current facilities are barrier free. Attention to future additions will include accessibility. There is no barrier free route to the play structures. A hard surfaced walk should be added to make this facility accessible. Old School Park ranks a 1.

ROTARY PARK

Rotary Park has several play structures and a gazebo with picnic tables. None of the structures or tables are barrier free. Attention to accessibility should be a priority for this park. Rotary Park ranks a 1.

VETERAN'S PARK

A 1,000' walking path was recently constructed in this park with ADA certified wood chips. This park abuts a senior citizen housing facility and is most often used by those residents. Three exercise stations have been installed at this park, all of which are accessible. Veteran's Park ranks a 2.

RANKING SYSTEM

- 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

DNR RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY

GRANT NUMBER: BF 90-155
1988 RECREATION BOND FUND

AMOUNT OF GRANT: \$150,000

YEAR: 1990

PARK NAME: LAMB/STEELE PARK

SCOPE OF ITEMS: IMLAY CITY AREA POOL

The Alvin Norlin Pool was constructed in 1990/1991 with \$150,000 MDNR Recreation Bond Funds and approximately \$65,000 donated funds. The pool is 75' x 30' and is 3' deep on one end and 5' deep on the other. The pool is still actively used between Memorial Day and Labor Day each year. Parks and Recreation employs a full time, seasonal pool director and life guards to provide swim lessons and open swimming to Imlay City area community. The pool is also available to rent for parties.

SECTION VI
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Section VI

Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Planning for the City's parks and recreational facilities involved a thorough process. This portion of the document is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with the thorough analysis of the physical and demographic attributes of the community. Existing parks and recreation facilities and programs were inventoried and evaluated. An assessment of need was then developed that considered both accepted recreation standards and the specialized needs of Imlay City's citizens.

A community survey was distributed with the City's quarterly newsletter and was also made available online for those who chose to submit the survey electronically. Finally, these needs were analyzed and reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission with input from the public. A final draft of the plan was then prepared and public comments were accepted for a thirty day period before final changes were made. The plan was then adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission and referred to the City Commission for final adoption.

Summary of Findings

The following key findings were concluded during the planning process for the City of Imlay City:

- ✚ Excellent access to I-69 throughout the community
- ✚ Active downtown and land uses
- ✚ Good topography and soil conditions
- ✚ Climate conditions warrant concentration on indoor facilities
- ✚ Floodplain and drainage ways are present and to be protected
- ✚ Primarily a young population (average age is 33)
- ✚ Peak usage of parks is likely at night, during the week, and on the weekend
- ✚ More single family homes suggest more demand on parks and recreation
- ✚ Continued involvement of the Recreation Commission is crucial
- ✚ City Commission should continue to refer to Recreation Commission
- ✚ Funding should be examined
- ✚ Continued cooperation with the School District is crucial
- ✚ There is a deficiency in neighborhood parks
- ✚ Without School park facilities, there is a deficiency in community parkland and in the overall ratio of parkland
- ✚ Overall, there is a surplus in recreational equipment/facilities
- ✚ Facility types should be more diverse

Goals and Objectives

The results of this summary are presented in the following statement of goals and objectives.

Goals are described as a desired state of affairs for the community in the future. Goals are broad, public purposes toward which objectives and implementation strategies are directed.

Objectives are steps designed to achieve goals. These are more narrowly defined statements of public purpose, and help clarify and identify appropriate implementation measure to achieve the goal.

Amount of Parkland

The City analyzed whether there is an adequate amount of parkland to meet current and future needs of the population. Additionally, the distribution of these park facilities was considered.

Goal: Provide additional neighborhood parkland in city.

Objectives:

- ✦ Provide multipurpose, active recreation facilities which are currently lacking within the city.
- ✦ Investigate opportunities to acquire additional parkland.

Existing Park Facilities

The City analyzed whether the parks were being utilized to their potential. The City must take steps to improve and modify park facilities to address physical deficiencies and recurrent and projected needs.

Goal: Upgrade the appearance and quality of current park facilities, recognizing the significance of parkland to the overall character and image of the community.

Objectives:

- ✦ Construct walking paths and/or fitness trails.
- ✦ Create image improvements at City parks by planting additional landscaping, gardens, and utilizing common site amenities.
- ✦ Facilitate volunteer efforts such as “adopt a park” program by which different community groups contribute time and labor toward improving overall park aesthetics.

Recreational Opportunities

The demand for additional recreation facilities that are not currently offered by the school district or the City was considered.

Goal: Provide indoor and outdoor recreation facilities that are not currently offered by the school district or the City was considered.

Objectives:

- ✦ Create comprehensive bike/walking path network throughout the city.
- ✦ Develop program for new recreation activities for specified age groups as needed.
- ✦ Work with area townships in planning for recreational facilities.
- ✦ Coordinate efforts with Lapeer County to take an active role in addressing the lack of physical activity in Imlay City residents.

Parks and Recreation Strategy

This portion of the master plan proposes tasks that incorporate the existing facility evaluation, the City's goals and objectives, and future projections/conditions within the City. The tasks are applied specifically to each park and recreational facility as well as to particular future conditions.

As improvements and redevelopment take place, barrier free compliance must be a focus at all city parks.

Efforts should be made to facilitate volunteer efforts such as "adopt a park" program by which different community groups contribute time and labor toward improving overall park aesthetics.

Lion' Park

A primary community park, this park needs general improvements to enhance its appearance and desirability for user.

These include:

- ✚ Install new play structure
- ✚ Construct observation deck(s) along Belle River
- ✚ Landscape improvements at park entrance
- ✚ Provide benches and grills

Rotary Park

General improvements include:

- ✚ Landscape improvements to buffer from adjacent industrial uses and also in front of chain link fence along First Street. Provide additional parking to enhance use of the Park.

Veteran's Park

This is the only park that is categorized as providing passive recreation. In order to preserve this status, the following improvements are recommended:

- ✚ Create garden plots for seniors and other residents

Lamb Steele Park

The primary function of this park is the community pool. Passive recreation areas are also provided.

To further accommodate families and capitalize on its prime location downtown, the following should be considered:

- ✚ Provide benches and grills
- ✚ Investigate opportunities for a splash pad
- ✚ Expand fenced pool area for larger, more open deck and shade areas
- ✚ Construct a skate park

Old School Park

This is the smallest park and is located near downtown. There is potential to promote this park as a passive relief from the nearby commercial development. The main priority is beautification of the site to enhance the area as a whole.

- ✚ Improve park identification with landscaping/flower arrangements
- ✚ Improve existing basketball court area for an ice rink
- ✚ Provide bathroom facilities (port-a-johns if permanent structure is not possible)

Connection Improvements

In addition to additional signage that is needed at some of the parks, the overall connection between the parks should be improved to increase use of the facilities. All parks should be accessible by the various modes of transportation, including pedestrian, bicycling, rollerblading, and vehicle traffic. This can be accomplished with the following:

- ✚ Lion's Park requires sidewalk connections for an improved pedestrian link between the neighborhoods and downtown
- ✚ Veteran's Park should have visible and separate connections for residents from the road and adjacent neighborhood
- ✚ Create a comprehensive trail network connecting all parks and other community facilities. Directional signage and markers could guide residents through the network. Trail markers can indicate information such as the minutes to the next few destinations and rest areas could be provided where land is available.
- ✚ Develop additional park signage in coordination with DDA way finding sign project.

Polly Ann Trail

Continued development of the abandoned rail right-of-way owned by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is an excellent opportunity for the community and the region. The City should:

- ✚ Encourage and communicate with the state to ensure development of a trailhead.
- ✚ Promote connection of the trail to downtown and school sites.
- ✚ Add new decorative lighting to encourage use and to deter vandalism.

Fairgrounds

Though not under the control of the City, the following consideration should be promoted:

- ✚ As redevelopment occurs, reserve some land in order to create a community park with a variety of recreation activities for the City.
- ✚ Based on community support, a community garden and a pedestrian path could be developed.

Land Acquisition and New Parkland Potential

As previously identified, excluding school property from parkland calculations creates a deficiency in acreage provided for residents. This can be remedied by land acquisition in the following areas:

- ✚ As redevelopment occurs, create a park with "neighborhood" type recreation activities located in the southwest portion of the City where new single-family residential development is likely to occur.
- ✚ The preservation of the land along Belle River, northeast of Lion's Park, provides the potential for a neighborhood park with minimal active recreation.
- ✚ Develop and enhance community gardens and a butterfly garden.

School Property

Continued cooperation with the school is crucial. The schools are a primary source of active recreation and organized sports. They are expected to continue to be a valuable recreation resource opportunity for City residents.

SECTION VII
FIVE YEAR ACTION PROGRAM

Section VII

Five Year Action Program

This section provides information on the implementation and scheduling of recreation projects based on community input, trends, and administrative review. The Action Plan is structured over a five-year program, beginning in 2017 and ending in 2021. This method of reviewing the depth of public recreation improvements by facility allows the city agencies, elected officials, and residents the opportunity to adequately fund these improvements and complement local funding with other sources of non-local funds. In addition, the recommendations and timing of facility improvements are not static and can be altered periodically to reflect changes in public policy and redirection of recreation programming, as determined by the City Commission, City Parks and Recreation, and/or City administration.

Priority Criteria

In order to develop a usable program, the Action Plan required a set of criteria to establish priorities:

1. Improving existing park facilities to serve current users and to attract and increase new users.
2. Promoting projects which can be funded easily through the general fund and through public participation.
3. Diversifying and adding new facilities at existing parks to serve a broader range of users.
4. Improving accessibility and visibility of parks for residents.
5. Acquiring new parkland to provide facilities for under-served areas based on classification standards.
6. Obtaining grant funding for land acquisition and recreational projects.

The following is a description of the criteria in order of importance:

Plan Summary

With a mature park system in place, the plan focuses primarily on methods the City may use to improve facilities and better serve residents.

The recommendations of this plan respond to lifestyle trends in the community and forecasted population increases. In order to provide active recreation for the younger segments of the population, the active recreation uses are promoted and planned for improvement. To meet all the needs of younger residents, diversity among the types of activities is encouraged through conversion of existing facilities.

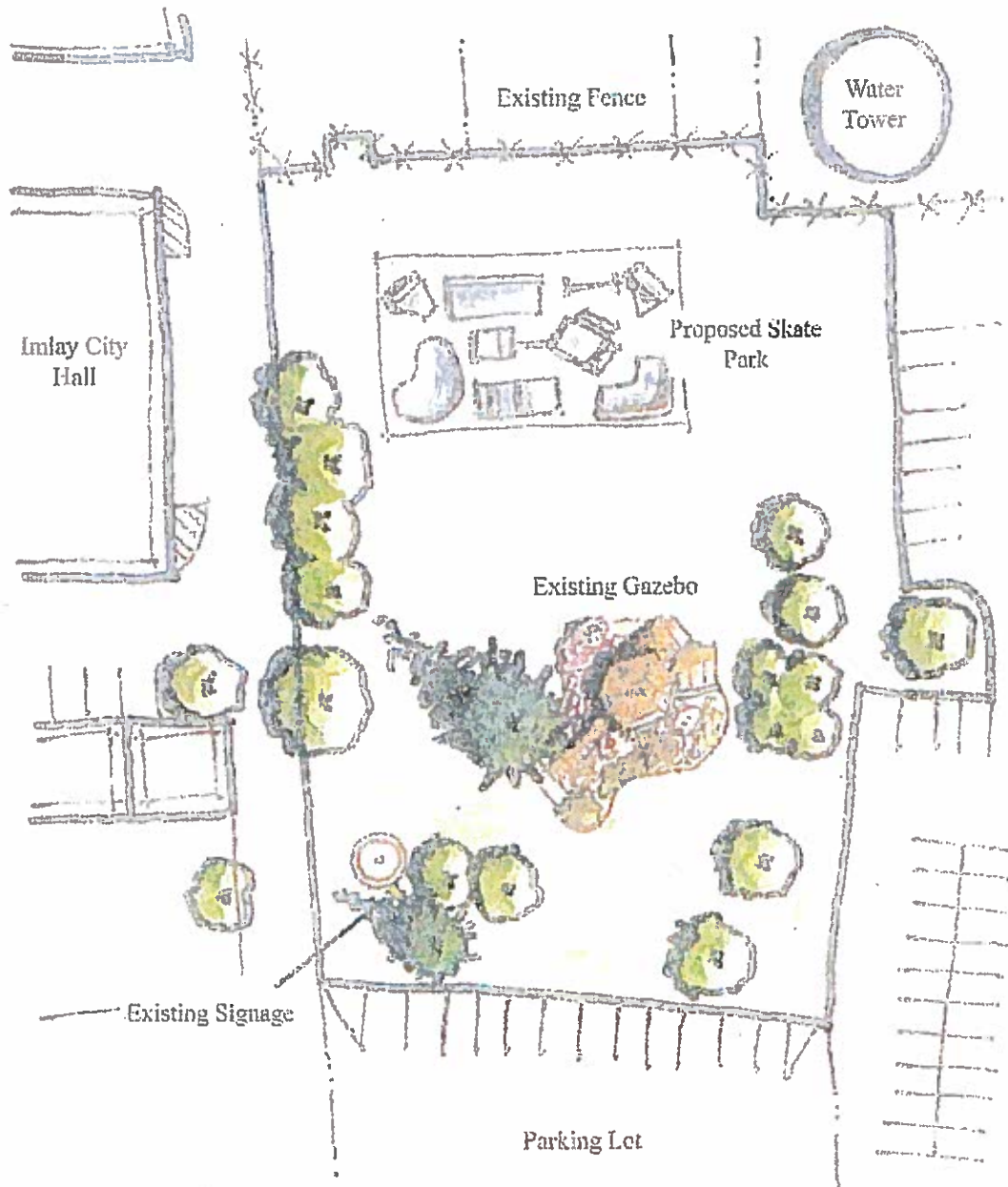
Planned improvements for the connection and visibility of the parks will further serve younger populations, who likely walk and bike to the parks. Older residents will also see additional benefits through simplifying access to areas.

Finally, future populations will be accommodated by additional park acquisition in order to ensure that citizens will not be under served by recreational facilities.

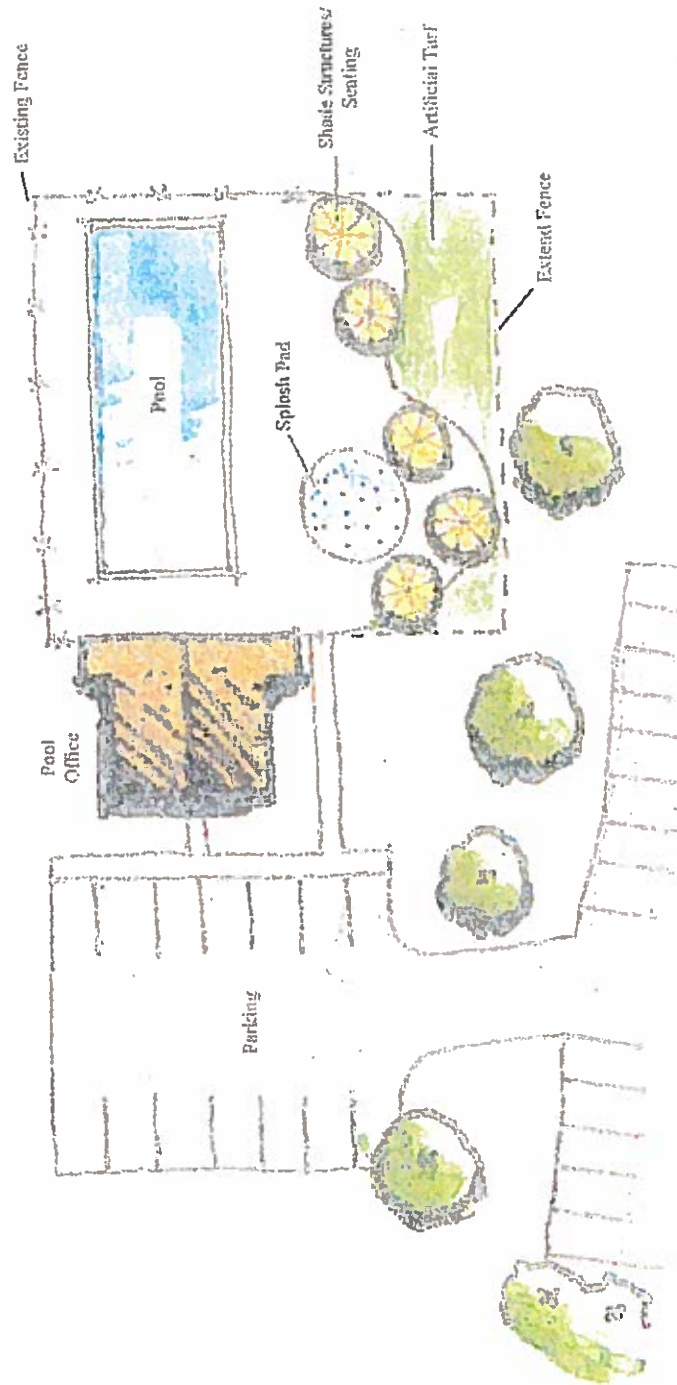
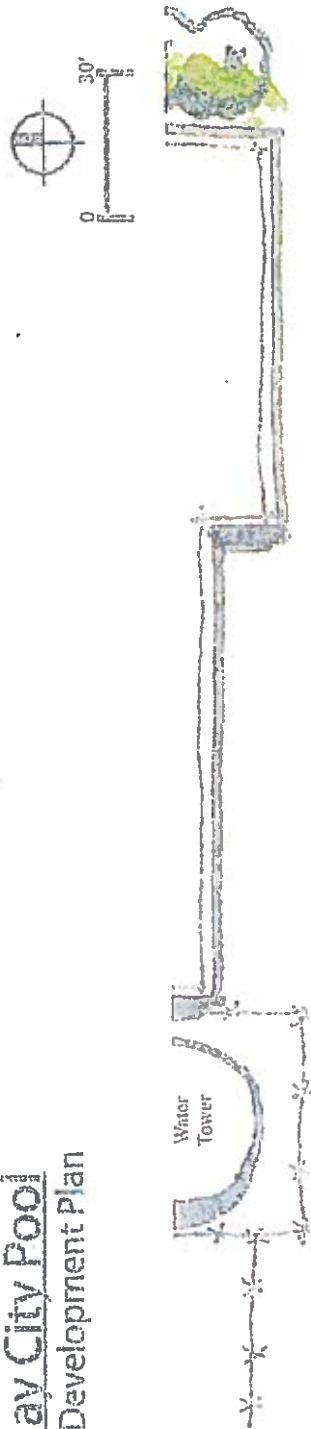
Year	Name of Park	Type of Improvement	Cost	Funding Mechanism
2017	Lion's Park	Landscape Improvements at entrance	\$3,000	Private Donations, General Fund
		Benches, Grills	\$7,500	General Fund
	Polly Ann Trail	Lighting /Landscaping	\$125,000	General Fund/Grants/Donations
	Bike/Walking Paths	Begin to review bike/walking path Connections throughout City	Variable	Donations, General Fund, Grants
	Old School Park	Property Purchase, Restroom Facilities	\$150,000	General Fund/Grants
	Butterfly Garden	Install a Butterfly Garden at property located on West Third Street	\$10,000	General Fund, Grants
2018	Lamb/Steele	Splashpad Construction	\$200,000	Lamb/Steele Fund General/Grants/Donations
	Lion's Park	Observation Deck(s)	\$10,000	General Fund/Grants
		Construct Walking Path along River	\$80,000	General/Grants/Donations
	Path Connections	Develop comprehensive path network and bike/pedestrian path accesses where needed	Variable	General Fund, Grants
		Develop bike path/Trailway/sidewalk plan including maps	\$1,000	General Fund
	Signage	Coordinate with DDA on Way-finding Signs	\$5,000	General Fund
	Old School Park	Improve asphalt area for Ice Skating	\$4,000	General Fund/Fundraiser/Grants
	Polly Ann Trail	Trail Head	Variable	Private Donations, General Fund, Fundraising
	Veteran's Park	Crushed Limestone Pathway	\$10,000	General Fund
2019	Acquisition	Begin negotiating and acquiring easements along Belle River for a complete connection from Lion's Park to Handley Street.	\$25,000	General Fund, Private Donations, Grants
	Lion's Park	Install Play Structure w/barrier free accessibility	\$40,000	General Fund, Private Donations, Grants
	All	Investigate Opportunities w/Recreation Authority (School/Twp/City)		Fundraising, Grants
2020	Lamb/Steele	Relocate Gazebo and construct a new Entertainment Stage	\$110,000	General Fund, Private Donations, Grants
2021	Update Master Plan	Re-evaluate Action Plan	\$10,000	General Fund

Lamb Steele Park

Site Development Plan



Imlay City Pool Site Development Plan

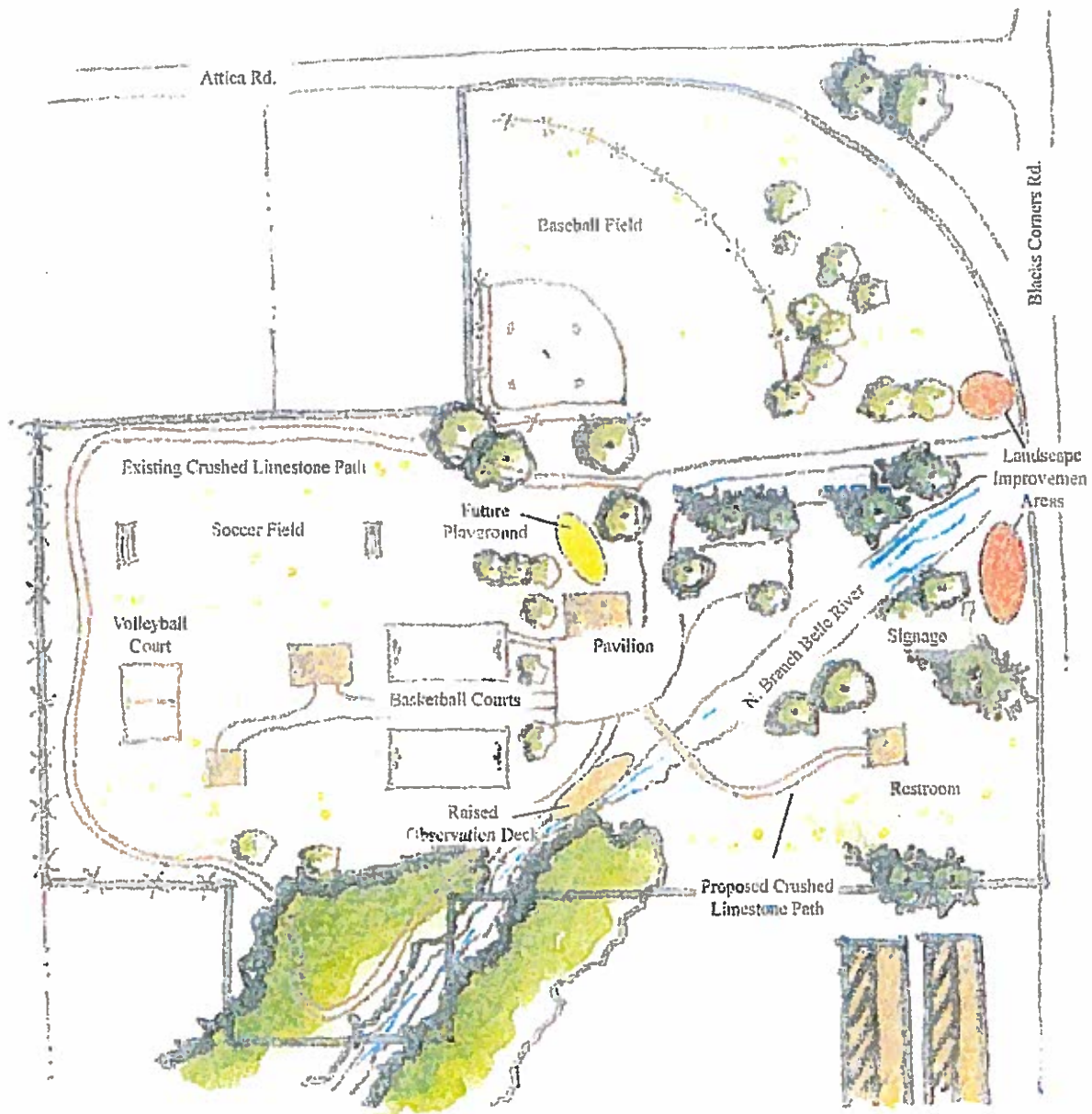


Imlay City, MI
11C0051 | June 2011

ROWE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES COMPANY

Lion's Park

Site Development Plan



ROWE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES COMPANY

Imlay City, MI
11C0091 | June 2011

Old School Park Site Development Plan



Imlay City, MI
11C0091 | June 2011

 **NOWE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES COMPANY**

Rotary Park

Site Development Plan



ROWE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES COMPANY

Imlay City, MI
11C0091 | June 2011

Veteran's Park Site Development Plan



Imlay City, MI
 11C0091 | June 2011


 ROWE PROFESSIONAL
 SERVICES COMPANY

Program Implementation

The scope of recreation improvements proposed in the Five-Year Action Plan can be financed solely through general fund proceeds or a combination of the funding sources that have been listed as suggestions. The City does not have park or recreation department staff, with the exception of seasonal pool employees. The 2016 budget for the parks and recreational facilities is \$112,000 allocated for maintenance of existing parkland and monthly operating costs.

Funding Initiative: In general, there are several existing and potential funding sources available to the City for Parks and Recreation facility improvements. In addition to the City providing resources to pay from the general fund, other resources of funding include a dedicated millage, user fees, bonds, grants, donations, foundations, contractual agreements, and conveyances. The following is a brief description of these funding sources:

General Fund: The General Fund may continue to provide a healthy budget for recreation programming and to accommodate the recommended improvements to City parks as funds are available.

Dedicated Millage: A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects, for park land acquisition, or for the operation of recreation facilities. The dedicated millage has gained favor in many communities because voters are increasingly wary of approving millage increase for non-specific purposes.

Use Fees: Fees could be charged to the users of specific recreation facilities or for enrollment in recreation programs. User fees can provide substantial support for park facilities. Other communities in Michigan have established user fees for swimming pools, tennis courts, wave pools, use of lighted athletic fields, and use of indoor facilities. User fees are a promising source of funding in the municipality if used selectively for specific facilities and services.

Bonds: a number of bond programs can be used to finance construction of parks and recreation facilities. General Obligation Bonds are issued for specific community projects, such as park land acquisition, and may not be used for other purposes. These bonds are usually paid for with property tax revenues. Revenue Bonds are issued for construction of public projects that generate revenues. The bonds are then retired using income generated by the project.

Special assessment Bonds are used to pay for projects that benefit a particular segment of the population. For example, recreation improvements that benefit a defined subdivision or neighborhood could be financed using special assessment bonds, in which case only residents who receive the benefit would be assessed.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants:

Following is a summary of the two viable recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The Land and Water Conservation (LWCF) provides grants for projects which include community recreation and trail way improvements. These are grants between \$30,000 and \$100,000 to local units of government for development of facilities such as ball fields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails, and picnic areas; including support facilities and renovation of existing facilities. Funds are provided through federal appropriations. The required grant match from the community is fifty percent.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grants are available for projects which include land acquisition or rights to land for recreational users. This may also include protection of land because of its environmental importance.

Development of public outdoor recreation facilities is eligible. Funds are provided through the sale of oil and mineral leases on state land.

The required local contributions required equals at least twenty-five percent of the project cost. There is no minimum or maximum amount for acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$300,000.

There are three special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Board of Trustees.

- Trails/Greenways
- Wildlife/Ecological Corridors and Winter Deeryard Acquisitions
- Project is located within an Urban Area

Community Development Block Grants: Revenues obtained through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for a variety community improvement projects, including the development of recreation facilities or land acquisition for new parks or athletic fields in low and moderate income neighborhoods that qualify under the program.

Donations: Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities. Often, communities show their appreciation by providing a plaque of some sort to signify the contribution. Crowdfunding is an additional program the City can use to raise funds from citizens wishing to contribute to projects.

Foundations: A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation Board of Directors, according to a predetermined plan.

Lease or Contractual Agreements: The City may increase the availability of recreation facilities to its residents by leasing sites and facilities from other recreation providers. For example, the City may agree to help maintain school recreation facilities in exchange for guaranteed availability of the facility to the public.

The City may also contract with private entrepreneurs to provide services such as City-owned park facilities, recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities to residents, while minimizing City administrative costs.

Public Use Conveyances: Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this program provides state lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include the development of local parks.

Action Initiatives: There are additional steps the City can take beyond obtaining funding to improve the parks and recreation system for residents. The following will assist in facilitating local initiatives toward implementing this document.

Intradepartmental Involvement: Maintain good communication between the city boards to ensure that consistent goals are followed in decision-making.

Public-Private Partnerships: Implications of reduced funding at the public and private sector has prompted both sectors to work collaboratively in the development of projects. For example, private companies could build recreation facilities on public property through a long-term lease agreement.

Neighborhood Park/Neighborhood Group Partnerships: Projects identified in the Five-Year Action Plan include renovations and the upgrading of neighborhood parks. It is recommended that neighborhood associations and residents be involved in the design and implementation process prior to the renovation of the neighborhood park. This level of involvement should include participation in the design process, fundraising, maintenance assistance, seasonal park cleaning, and monitoring.

Kick-Off Project: To prove that the City is committed to improving parks and recreation programming within the City it is recommended that a kick-off project be identified. This project would serve as a symbol to the success of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Kick-off projects are something that can be easily implemented and visible for the residents.

SECTION VIII
LOCAL ADOPTION AND CERTIFICATION

**CITY OF IMLAY CITY
RESOLUTION 2017 – 1**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN FOR
CITY OF IMLAY CITY, LAPEER COUNTY**

At a regular meeting of the Imlay City Commission held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Imlay City Hall, 150 N. Main Street, Imlay City, Michigan, Commissioner Rankin moved for the adoption of the following resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Tanis.

WHEREAS, the City of Imlay City has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2016 through 2020, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Imlay City began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and;

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Imlay City were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and;

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and;

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 17, 2017 at Imlay City Hall, 150 N. Main Street, Imlay City, Michigan to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Imlay City Five Year Community Recreation Plan, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Imlay City has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the City of Imlay City, and;

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Imlay City Commission voted to adopt said Five Year Community Recreation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Imlay City Commission hereby adopts the Imlay City Five Year Community Recreation Plan.

YEAS: Tanis, Rankin, Kempf, Ramirez, Bargaen

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Planck, Romine

Dated: January 18, 2017

Walter J. Bergen
Walter J. Bergen, Mayor

Nicole F. Frost
Nicole F. Frost, City Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Imlay City Commission, County of Lapeer, Michigan, at a regular meeting held on January 17, 2017.

Nicole F. Frost
Nicole F. Frost, Clerk
City of Imlay City



**COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND
GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST**

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this
information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:

City of Imlay City Community Recreation Plan

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.

County

Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body

City of Imlay City

Lapeer

January 2017

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

☒ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**☒ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming☒ Current Funding Sources☒ Role of Volunteers☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations**Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:**☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities☐ Articles of Incorporation☒ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)☒ Accessibility Assessment☐ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities☐ Waterways Inventory (if applicable)☒ **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**☒ **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

☒ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- ☒ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- ☒ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice November 30, 2016

Type of Notice Newspaper

Plan Location City Hall, Ruth Hughes District Library, City Website

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) December 13, 2016-January 16, 2017

- ☒ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice January 4, 2017

Name of Newspaper "Tri-City Times"

Date of Meeting January 17, 2017

- ☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☒ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

☒ **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)**

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- ☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 17, 2017
- ☒ 2. Official ~~resolution~~ minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: December 13, 2016
- ☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 24, 2017
- ☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 24, 2017

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

City of Imlay City

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated


Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

1/27/17
Date

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.

Affidavit of Publication

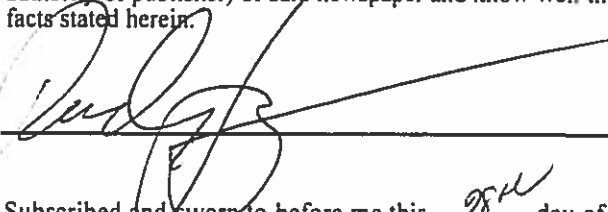
IN THE MATTER OF:

City of Imlay City
STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF Lapeer

Being duly sworn, deposes and says the annexed copy of a notice was taken from The Tri-City Times community newspaper published and circulated in said State and County and that said notice was published in said newspaper on the

28th day of November
A.D. 2016, that he/she is the Publisher (and or with authority of publisher) of said newspaper and know well the facts stated herein.


Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of November A.D. 20 16

Paula Ponsell
Notary Public in and for said St. Clair County

My Commission expires January 27 2019

TRI-CITY TIMES-NOVEMBER 23, 2016

CITY OF IMLAY CITY 5 YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN DRAFT PLAN REVIEW NOTICE

The City of Imlay City Parks and Recreation Commission will be reviewing the draft 5 Year Parks and Recreation Plan for City parks and recreation programs and facilities at their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 150 N. Main Street, Imlay City, MI 48444.

Public comments are welcome and encouraged. The draft plan will be available for public review for not less than 30 days after this meeting. The plan may be viewed at City Hall, the Ruth Hughes Library, and online at www.imlaycity.org. Once all public comments have been considered and changes incorporated, the final plan will be considered at a public hearing held by the City Commission prior to their approval.

Questions can be directed to Tom Youatt, City Manager at (810) 724-2135.

Nicole F. Frost
City Clerk
47-2

Affidavit of Publication

IN THE MATTER OF:

City of Imlay City
STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF Lapeer

Being duly sworn, deposes and says the annexed copy of a notice was taken from The Tri-City Times community newspaper published and circulated in said State and County and that said notice was published in said newspaper on the

2nd ^{day} December
A.D. 20 16 that he/she is the Publisher (and or with authority of publisher) of said newspaper and know well the facts stated herein.

[Signature]
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of December A.D. 20 16

Paula Pausel
Notary Public in and for said St. Clair County

My Commission expires January 27 2019

9-A-TRI-CITY TIMES-NOVEMBER 30, 2016

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COUNTY OF Lapeer

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9th day of January
A.D. 2017 that he/she is the Publisher (and/or with authority of publisher) of said newspaper and know well the facts stated herein.

[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9 day of January A.D. 20 17

[Signature]
Notary Public in and for said St. Clair County

My Commission expires January 27 2019

TRI-CITY TIMES-JANUARY 4, 2017

CITY OF IMLAY CITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING 5 YEAR COMMUNITY RECREATION PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Imlay City will hold a public hearing on the 17th day of January, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as may be heard, at City Hall, located at 150 North Main Street, Imlay City, MI 48444.

The purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments on the draft 5-Year Community Recreation Plan prior to consideration of its adoption by the City Commission.

Comments may be submitted in writing or in person. Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact the City Clerk a week in advance of the meeting to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. You may contact the City Staff at (810) 724-2135 with any questions.

Nicole F. Frost
City Clerk
1-1

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
IMLAY CITY PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2016**

1. **CALL TO ORDER: 6:07 p.m.**
2. **ROLL CALL:** Present:, Chairman Kelly Villanueva , Vice Chairman Stu Davis, Deanna Davis, Heather Sample, Secretary Lois Rheume **Also Present:** City Manager Tom Youatt **Absent:** Mayor Walt Bargaen
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
Moved by Stu Davis, supported by Lois Rheume to approve the agenda.
UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.
4. **CITIZENS FROM THE FLOOR:** None
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Moved by Stu Davis, supported by Heather Sample to approve minutes from November 8, 2016 meeting. UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.
6. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** Reviewed and accepted
6. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. **Recreation Plan** – Lisa is to be commended for her work on the plan. Moved by Stu Davis, supported by Lois Rheume to approve Recreation Draft.
8. **NEW BUSINESS:** none
9. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Discussion on pool schedule and pricing to be held at the January meeting.
10. **ADJOURNMENT:**
Moved by Stu Davis, supported by Heather Sample, **UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: _____
Lois Rheume, Secretary

Approved: _____



CITY OF IMLAY CITY

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

150 NORTH MAIN STREET, IMLAY CITY, MI 48444
(810) 724-2135 • (810) 724-1861 FAX
www.imlaycity.org



JANUARY 26, 2017

Joe Stock, Director
Lapeer County Parks and Recreation Department
255 Clay Street
Lapeer, MI 48446

Dear Joe,

Please find enclosed for your review the Community Recreation Plan for the City of Imlay City for 2017 through 2021. Any comments on this plan should be forwarded to the City of Imlay City at the above address and to the Grants Management of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Youatt", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Youatt
City Manager



CITY OF IMLAY CITY

MUNICIPAL OFFICES

150 NORTH MAIN STREET, IMLAY CITY, MI 48444
(810) 724-2135 • (810) 724-1861 FAX
www.imlaycity.org



JANUARY 26, 2017

Sharon Gregory, Planner III
Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission
1101 Beach Street, Room 223
Flint, MI 48502

Dear Sharon,

Please find enclosed for your review the Community Recreation Plan for the City of Imlay City for 2017 through 2021. Any comments on this plan should be forwarded to the City of Imlay City at the above address and to the Grants Management of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30425, Lansing, MI 48909-7925.

Thank you for your assistance.

Yours Truly,

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Tom Youatt
City Manager