GRANDVILLE PARK & RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Final Draft

The City of Grandville

RECREATION PLANNING IN GRANDVILLE

The scope of this Recreation Plan is limited to the boundaries of the City of Grandville. While there are other influences such as the school district and County parks, the focus of the plan is parks under the jurisdiction of the City. Parks and recreation facilities are located throughout the City of Grandville and the greater Grand Rapids area. Grandville residents enjoy a wide variety of recreational opportunities provided by the City, Kent County, and surrounding communities such as Wyoming, Jenison, and Grand Rapids. The recent opening of Kent County's Millennium Park, located just to the immediate north of the City has greatly impacted the range of recreational activities available to residents of Grandville and the entire Grand Rapids area.

The City of Grandville adopted the previous Recreation Plan in 2005. This update of the Recreation Plan includes both physical and programming inventories to evaluate the existing facilities in the City of Grandville and to determine where improvements can be made. The physical inventory includes the facilities found within the City, including school facilities as well as regional park and recreation areas. The results of the physical inventory are then compared to State of Michigan standards and to the needs and desires identified by residents and City leaders, to determine if there are any deficiencies. This plan also includes a review and analysis of the City's demographic characteristics to help determine how needs have changed since the adoption of the original plan. Attributes such as income, employment, age breakdown, and disabilities are reviewed in relation to recreation needs and opportunities.

The Recreation Plan further describes the improvements and projects the community intends to accomplish during the five-year life of the plan. Planned projects are justified in terms of the goals and objectives of the plan, the needs of the residents, and other criteria related to the growth of the community.

"Grandville has been known as "the city of churches and parks". As you drive our streets you will find them graced by many beautiful churches which play an integral part in our lifestyle. In addition, the foresight of our City Council has provided for a beautiful park in each section of our city providing recreation and leisure time for all our citizens." James R. Buck, Mayor, City of Grandville

THE PLANNING PROCESS

The entire Grandville community was invited to participate in the plan development process. Public meetings were held in order to gather community input, and interviews were held with selected stakeholders in the community to assist in the recreation inventory and needs assessment

phases of the Recreation Plan. The following is a summary of tasks used to update the City of Grandville Recreation Plan:

Task 1 – Initial Meeting/Base Data Collection
A kick-off meeting was held with project staff and City of Grandville Recreation Master Plan Committee to review the scope of services, project schedule, and the existing state of recreational opportunities in the City. Base data was also collected during this phase, including maps, budget information, prior opinion survey results, site plans for individual parks, and program information.

Task 2 – Community Description
Data was collected to describe the physical and social features of the City. Elements of the physical description include climate, vegetation, wildlife, and natural features. Census data was gathered to put together a demographic profile of the area, including information on age, sex and racial distribution, employment and income information and population trends.

Task 3 – Recreation Inventory
All existing park and school sites were inventoried during this phase to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each and to identify potential suitable recreational uses. Written and graphic notations of natural features, physical features, existing conditions of facilities, barrier free access issues, maintenance needs and vandalism problems and surrounding land use patterns and features were provided.

Task 4 – Data Analysis
All collected data was gathered and analyzed to identify issues, needs, deficiencies and opportunities.

Task 5 – Public Involvement
The public involvement segment of the process was very comprehensive to ensure that all segments of the population were represented. The process brought out many new ideas and sparked a great deal of discussion among all those who were involved, making this truly a plan based on public input. As well as the specific meetings and workshops described below, the City also included information about the process in its newsletter and posted Recreation Plan information on its website as well. For each of these, interested members of the public were invited to comment.

- **Park & Recreation Committee Meetings.** The Committee met periodically during the process to make key decisions on the plan. An initial survey of the Committee was conducted to set the preliminary goals and objectives of the plan.

- **Survey to Community Leaders.** A survey was compiled with a list of goals that were not reached from the previous plan as well as a few ideas from the City. This list was organized by park and the Community Leaders were asked to number the goals by 1-5, 5 being high priority and 1 being low priority.

- **One Public Workshop.** A public work session was held on July 24, 2012 in order to present the existing conditions analysis and to obtain public input into the recreation

planning process. Issues relating to particular parks, as well as overall recreation issues, were identified and ranked. The meeting was advertised in the local newspaper and on fliers posted at central locations around the City.

- **Park Solicitation.** City staff went out to the parks to meet and survey park users. Users were asked what they liked about the parks as well as what they think could be improved or added to the parks to make them better. Multiple visits were made to all the parks over a two week period.

Task 6 – Goal Setting Work Session
A work session was held to develop goals with the committee and to present the list of prioritized issues for their review and comment prior to the formulation of an action program.

Task 7 – Goals
In this phase, goals and objectives were developed for the City, based on an objective, data-based, needs assessment as well as input received from the public, interviewees and the Recreation Master Plan Committee.

Task 8 – Recommendations
Based on the analysis and goals, preliminary recommendations were prepared to address specific recreation targets. Specific elements include an action program with a timeline, cost estimate and potential funding source for each action item and conceptual site plans and cost estimate for up to 5 new or existing park sites.

Task 9 – Work Session with Recreation Master Plan Committee
The goals, recommendations, site plans and cost estimates were presented to the Recreation Master Plan Committee for review.

Task 10 – Draft Recreation Master Plan
A draft plan was prepared for committee review and public comment. The document addressed the major issues developed during the previous tasks and outlined a plan of action designed to achieve the goals set forth.

Task 11 – Public Hearing
The City Council held a public hearing on November 26, 2012 in order to obtain input from the public on the Draft Recreation Master Plan.

Task 12 – Prepare and Adopt Final Plan
The Final Recreation Master Plan was presented to the Grandville City Council at a public hearing on November 26, 2012. The public hearing was posted one month prior to the public hearing as required and the plan was made available for public review in the City Clerk's Office, the Grandville Public Library, as well as the City's website. The plan was adopted by the City Council upon holding the public hearing.

Task 13 – Certification for MDNR Compliance
Based on public input received, and on approval from the Recreation Master Plan Committee, the Draft Recreation Master Plan was revised. The final document was reviewed for compliance

with State of Michigan requirements for grant funding eligibility and submitted for approval by the MDNR.

Located on the western edge of Kent County, the City of Grandville lies within the Greater Grand Rapids area, located about 25 miles east of Lake Michigan. The City of Grand Rapids does not directly border Grandville, but is located only a few miles to the northeast. Grandville is bordered to the north by the Grand River, which separates the communities of Grandville and Walker. To the east and south, lies the City of Wyoming. Ottawa County is directly west of Grandville, with Georgetown Township directly adjacent to the City. The communities of Georgetown Township and Hudsonville are within easy traveling distance to the west. With easy access to both Grand Rapids and the City of Holland (to the southwest on Lake Michigan) via I-196 (Ford Freeway), Grandville has in effect become a commuter suburb in recent years.

The Grandville area has experienced a great deal of growth over the past decade, especially near the southern portion of the City, near the new Rivertown Crossings mall. As a regional retail center, the mall has stimulated an explosion of spin-off commercial and retail development to the Grandville and Wyoming area near the corner of Rivertown Parkway and Wilson Avenue. The communities in Ottawa County to the west of Grandville have also been experiencing a great deal of growth, as many new residential developments have recently been constructed or approved in these areas.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The area along the Grand River was originally inhabited by the Ottawa and other Native American tribes, as can be seen by the Indian Mounds Memorial Park, approximately 3 miles to the north of Grandville. The first white settler in Grandville was Luther Lincoln in 1832, who came down the Grand River with his party and stayed the winter there. In the spring, he purchased land from the White Pigeon land office, and the settlement was given a post in 1834. Grandville was first organized as a village in 1887. The construction of the community's first railroad depot in 1872 greatly impacted the growth of the village, which was incorporated into a city in 1933.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Climate

The climate in Grandville is seasonal and tends to produce moderate temperature ranges. The weather is typical for this region of the country. The city receives approximately 34 inches of precipitation, and 72 inches of snow. The average temperature in July is 83 degrees Fahrenheit

and in January is 29 degrees Fahrenheit. The climate is suitable throughout the year for a variety of outdoor recreational activities such as: hiking, biking, swimming, skiing, fishing and many others.

Land Use

Grandville's land use distribution reflects a developed urban area with a full range of land uses. Currently, the City's largest land use category is single-family residential that occupies the central portion of the City. Other types of higher density residential land uses are located throughout Grandville. Commercial uses are concentrated along Wilson Avenue, Chicago Drive, 28th Street, and Rivertown Parkway (44th Street). The development of the Rivertown Crossings Mall in 1999 has spurred an incredible amount of spin-off retail development near the corner of Wilson Avenue and Rivertown Parkway – a trend which continues even today.

Almost the entire City of Grandville is included in the Grandville Public School District. A portion of the City of Walker, north of Grandville, is also included in the school district, as well as portions of the City of Wyoming to the south and Georgetown Township to the west. Within the City of Grandville, the area between Prairie and 36th Streets, east of Ivanrest Avenue is included in the Wyoming Public School District. The City of Grandville contains several elementary schools, a 6th grade school facility, and the middle and high schools for the district, along with their associated recreational facilities.

Transportation/Access

The City of Grandville is well-served by the area's transportation network, both motorized and non-motorized. Transportation facilities and services are described below:

Street System. I-196 crosses the northern portion of the City and links Grand Rapids (to the northeast) to Holland (to the southwest). The City is also served by 28th Street (M-11), which carries a volume of approximately 34,000 cars per day, and Chicago Drive, which carries a volume of approximately 13,200 cars per day. Major north/south streets also include Wilson Avenue and Ivanrest Avenue, while Rivertown Parkway and Prairie Street are other major east/west streets serving the City as well.

Mass Transit. In 2000, Grandville joined with other area cities to form the Interurban Transit Partnership (ITP). The ITP service, now called 'The Rapid', operates both the GO! Bus service for elderly and disabled persons, as well as 26 fixed- bus routes, 3 of which serve Grandville. The Rapid also operates several other specialized services such as the Passenger Adaptive Suburban Service (PASS), which carries persons within certain service areas either to their

destinations or to a regular bus stop, and the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) service, which links commuters with 3 specially operated parking areas and shuttle service to their place of employment.

Non-Motorized Pathways. A portion of the Kent Trails system runs right through the City of Grandville, from the Grand River, down Ivanrest Avenue, along Prairie Street, and then along an abandoned railroad bed south through the City limits through Wyoming to Byron Center. The City of Grandville also contains several trails which run along the Grand River, along Buck Creek to the City Center and which also connect to the Kent Trails system.

Natural Features

Grandville is fortunate to be surrounded by rivers, and wooded areas. These natural features are an asset when it comes to recreation. The varying topography creates a changing landscape throughout the area. There are gentle, rolling hills that are good for golfing, walking or cross-country skiing. The City also contains several smaller lakes, as well as Buck Creek, which allow for many water-based recreational activities such as fishing, swimming, boating, and a variety of other activities. A key environmental feature of the City of Grandville is the Grand River. The river provides ample opportunities for the types of activities mentioned above.

Topography. The topography of Grandville is fairly flat except for the southeastern portion of the community where the edge of the river valley is encountered and slopes may exceed 10 percent in spots. The highest point in Grandville exceeds 700 feet in the extreme southeast section of the City, with the lowest point being less than 590 feet where the Grand River intersects the community at the northwest corner.

Geology. Bedrock in the Grandville area is primarily the Michigan Formation which is composed of limestone, shale and gypsum. This formation is near the boundary with the Marshall Sandstone which may also be found locally. Bedrock is relatively shallow in Grandville and may be found near the surface or within 50 feet of the surface.

Glacial geology in Grandville is dominated by the Grand River and the Grand River Valley. Buck Creek and a smaller creek run from east to west through the middle and northern portion of Grandville. Nearly 100 percent of Grandville lies within the Grand River Valley. Much of the Grandville area is composed of unconsolidated sandy material that was part of glacial Lake Michigan. This material was mined for gravel and there are several old gravel pits that are now filled with water located along the edge of the Grand River.

Water Features. The Grand River forms the northern border of Grandville. The City has a recreation site on the waterfront that includes a boat launch site and a privately-operated riverboat. Buck Creek flows north through Grandville into the Grand River. Several recreational opportunities are located on the creek.

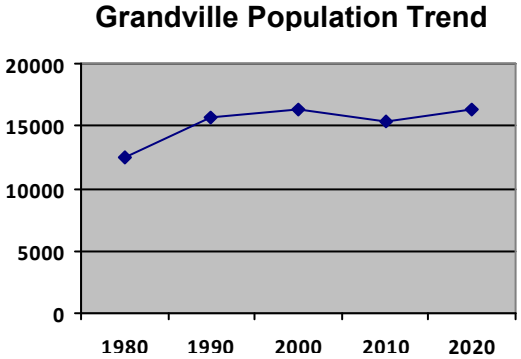
Wildlife. A wide variety of wildlife species inhabit the forests and rivers. The area supports whitetail deer and many smaller mammals including squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, and opossums. Game birds include ducks, grouse and pheasants. In the rivers are popular fish such as bass, trout, walleye, perch, and sunfish.

Native Vegetation. There remain many forested areas, especially along the Grand River. The higher well drained areas consist predominantly of oaks, sugar maple, beach and white pine. Areas of low relief and poor drainage support white pine, aspen and basswood oaks and maples. The floodplain areas consist of ash, maple, silver maple and oaks.

Floodplains. A floodplain is land adjacent to a watercourse that is prone to flooding. The Federal Emergency Management Agency designates floodplains and development is restricted as a measure to protect life, health, and property. Periodic flooding of these drainageways is critical to the types of vegetation and animal species which live here. Floodplains also contain water during periods of high stream levels. Any alteration to the physical size of the floodplain will disrupt drainage flow during high water periods and potentially cause increased flooding elsewhere. Park development must preserve the function of these sensitive areas.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010

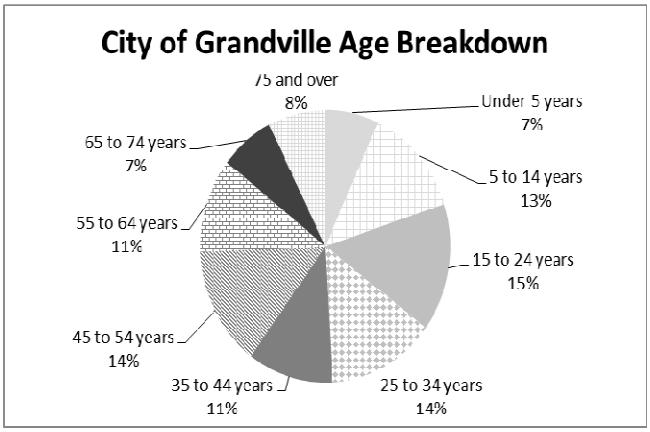
The population in Grandville has been growing at a steady pace for the past several decades except for the previous 2000 to 2010 decade. The population dropped from over 16,000 to just under 16,000. This is not unexpected as other surrounding areas have also seen stunted growth or decline in their populations as well as Kent County as a whole. With just under 16,000 people the City of Grandville is mid-sized as compared to other cities in Kent County. Only Cedar Springs, East Grand Rapids, Lowell and Rockford have smaller populations while Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Walker and Wyoming are all a great deal larger in terms of general population numbers.

Table 2-1: Population Trends and Projections

	1990	2000	2010	2020 (Projected)
City of Grandville	15,624	16,263	15,378	16,367
Kent County	500,631	574,335	602,622	636,619
State of Michigan	9,295,297	9,938,444	9,883,640	10,079,754

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Age Breakdown



The median age of the residents of Grandville has slightly matured over the past decade, rising from 34.2 to 36.3. The largest age group is made up of persons from age 15 to 24, while the second largest is those persons aged 45 to 54 with the age group 25 to 34 coming in at a close third. Overall, more than half of the population is less than 45 years of age. The large number of young adults in the population suggests that the city has a large population of high school to college aged residents. These would lead one to believe that compared to the previous decade there are less families with young children and more young single adults in the area or families with older children. With these numbers in mind, the importance of programming of activities for young adults will be a priority in coming years.

Ethnic Composition

Table 2-2: Ethnic Composition

	Grandville		Kent County		Ottawa County	
	2000	2010	2000	2010	2000	2010
Caucasian	94.9%	92%	83.1%	79.9%	91.5%	90.1%
African American	1.4%	2.2%	8.9%	9.7%	1.0%	1.5%
Native American	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%
Asian, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	1.2%	1.5%	2.0%	2.3%	2.1%	2.6%
Other Race	0.9%	1.8%	3.3%	4.5%	3.5%	3.4%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	3.1%	6.2%	7.0%	9.7%	7.0%	8.6%

The population of Grandville has a high percentage of Caucasian residents and smaller amounts of minorities. Over the last ten years the number of minorities has been increasing. Instead of representing less than five percent of the population they now make up eight percent. Although Grandville is located in Kent County, the ethnic population looks more similar to Ottawa County, which is located adjacent to Grandville on the west. Ottawa County

also has a high percentage of Caucasian Population. Overall trends show that both Grandville and Ottawa County are becoming more and more diverse as the number of Caucasians in both have decreased while the percentages of minorities have been increasing.

Physical Disabilities

Table 2-3: Disability of Noninstitutionalized Persons

	Persons 5 to 15	Persons 16-64	Persons 65 and Over
City of Grandville	188	1,357	599
% of Total Population	1.2%	8.3%	3.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

Of the total number of residents over the age of five years old, 14.3% were recorded to have a disability. Grandville has a slightly lower proportion of residents with physical limitations than the county, which is 16.3%. Providing accessible facilities for all residents is an important element to consider when planning for recreation.

Household Characteristics

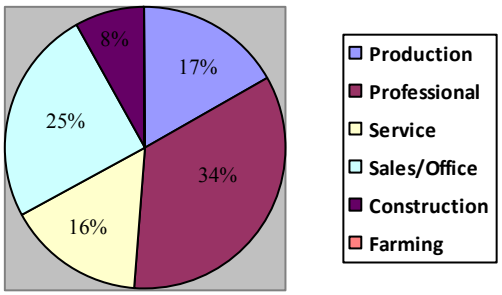
The number of households in the City has decreased by 1.9% since 2000. This goes along with the decrease in the population that the city has experienced. Along with this decrease in households comes a decrease with the average household size, suggesting that more people are remaining single and families are choosing to have fewer children. The overall household valued has increased by over 20%. These figures reflect the statewide trend of decreasing population and the nationwide trend of average household sizes going down.

Table 2-4: Household Characteristics

	2000	2010	% Change
Number of Households	6,095	5,982	-1.9%
Average Household Size	2.64	2.54	-3.8%
Median Household Value	$ 122,200	$ 148,100	21.2%
Percent Owner Occupied Units	73.6%	73.0%	3.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Employment



Occupations of Grandville residents are fairly diverse and range from white to blue collar jobs. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, almost 60% of residents are employed in either professional or sales/office jobs, with around 33% employed in production or service occupations. Construction makes up less than10% of the job categories with farming at less than 1%.

Income

Providing affordable recreation is important for City residents. Evaluation income levels helps to understand availability of disposable income that residents can spend on recreation. Grandville has a higher median income level and a lower percentage of residents below the poverty level than Kent County and State averages. However, affordability is always a consideration.

Table 2-5: Income

Median Household Income	Persons Below Poverty Level
$50,984	6.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Housing Characteristics

Because of various densities and configurations it can take, housing type has important implications for recreational land use. For instance, depending upon the types of units involved, occupants of rental housing units may have different recreation demands (and opportunities) than do owner occupants. However, this may be as much a factor of income, age and tastes as it is a lack of personal yard-space. For this reason, Table 2-6 compares owner occupied to renter occupied housing for the year 2010.

Table 2-6: Estimated Housing Units and Occupancy

Dwelling Units	Number	Percent
Owner Occupied	4,301	68.5%
Renter Occupied	1,681	26.8%
Vacant Units	294	4.7%
Total Housing Units	6,276	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Over one quarter of all housing units in the City of Granville are renter occupied. This is up slightly from the 25.7% in 2000. Many apartment complexes have recreational facilities within the complex. The availability of these private recreational facilities may reduce the need among apartment dwellers, for certain types of public facilities.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The City of Grandville is a home rule city that has operated under the council-manager form of government since its incorporation in 1933. The Grandville City Council is comprised of the Mayor and six council members who are elected on an at-large basis. Council members serve four year staggered terms except for the mayor, who is elected every four years. The City Manager and City Attorney are both appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of the City Council. There are no positions elected by the city's population other than the City Council. In the council-manager form of government, the City Council is the legislative or policy making arm of the city, while the City Manager is the chief administrative officer, and is responsible for the day to day operations of the city. The City Council is responsible for approving the Recreation Plan and the budget for recreation-related improvements.

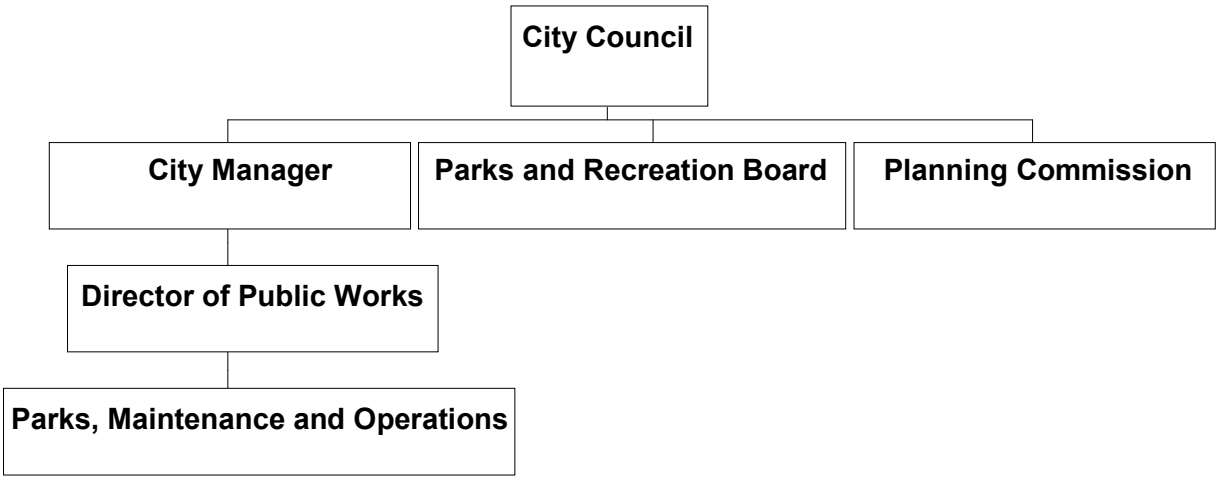
The Planning Commission is appointed by the City Council. The Planning Commission can influence recreation through recommendations related to land use and zoning. These decisions can include such things as approving the development of new neighborhoods that may require additional park facilities.

The Parks and Recreation Board was established under Act 157 of 1917 to guide development of parks and recreation facilities and programs in the City. The board is made up of seven residents of the City. One member is a representative from the City Council. The members of the board serve for three year terms. Terms of the board members are staggered to provide for a stable transition over the years.

Parks in Grandville are maintained through the Parks Department with two full-time employees and part-time staff devoted to park maintenance. The responsibilities of the two staff members include maintenance of grounds, ball fields, buildings and playground equipment. Additional responsibilities include construction of additional facilities, operating programs and maintaining grounds at City Hall, Police/Fire and the Library.

Figure 2-1 outlines the administrative structure as it relates to parks and recreation.

Figure 2-1: Administrative Structure



PARTNERSHIPS AND RELATIONSHIPS

- **Grandville Public Schools Community Education** –The City currently partners with the Community Education office of Grandville Public Schools to offer a wide variety of recreation and sports programs to area youth during the summer months, including several activities located at various City parks.

- **Calvin Christian Schools** – Calvin Christian Schools currently leases the football field located at Grandville Middle School for use by their football program.

- **Grandville Historic Commission** – The Historic Commission is located in the lower level of City Hall and operates the Schoolhouse #10, located at the City's Heritage Park, as a school museum for groups of students to visit.

BUDGET AND FUNDING

The operating budget for the Parks and Recreation Department is annually adopted by the City Council. The primary source of revenue to the Park budget is the City's general fund. Grandville also actively explores alternative financing for additional capital improvements through grant programs and private donations.

During the 2012-2013 fiscal year the Parks and Recreation Department has a total budget of $402,000 in operating costs such as personnel wages, supplies and equipment, and trail, building and equipment maintenance. Also included in the operating costs is an annual contribution to the school's summer recreation program.

The City's current Five Year Park & Recreation Capital Plan identifies an estimated $1,950,000 worth of possible park projects. The revised Five Year Park & Recreation Capital Plan detailed in Chapter Five of this plan estimates $2,675,000 in park improvements. This revised capital plan includes both new park improvements [identified in this plan] and park improvements left from the 2005 Recreation Plan.

While many communities throughout the state struggle to meet demands for recreation facilities and the preservation of open space and natural features, Grandville is fortunate to have over 1,000 acres of parkland currently provided by the City, Kent County, and public school sites, either within Grandville's borders or in close proximity. Those three entities play a distinct role in providing a variety of passive and active recreation opportunities for City residents. Of the 1,000 acres, eight City park properties provide over 80 acres of land. Grandville Public Schools maintains approximately 185 acres of parkland located on 7 sites within the City. Kent County Parks include the Kent Trails system, as well as the new Millennium Park which includes 1,500 acres of park and open space in the northern portion of Grandville and into the surrounding area to the north of the City.

In addition to the facilities provided, residents are offered an abundance of programs, classes, and activities to meet a variety of interests through a number of sources. These programs contribute to a healthy quality of life and are important as the community grows and changes. This chapter provides a detailed inventory of these facilities in order to have a solid understanding of current conditions.

PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

City of Grandville

Grandville contains a variety of well-maintained parks and recreation facilities. Parks range from very developed community parks to relatively undeveloped areas along the Grand River and Buck Creek. City parks and recreation facilities were inventoried by city staff. The inventory of public park facilities is described below and also depicted on Figure 4-1. Developed parks generally range in size from Calvin Crest Park at 9 acres to Heritage Park at 19 acres.

Wedgwood Park – This 14-acre community park is on the west side of Wilson Avenue, south of the City Center. Facilities at the park include one lighted baseball/softball field with stands, a volleyball court, 15 lighted horseshoe pits, up-to-date playground equipment, standing workout equipment, restrooms, concession stands, a drinking fountain, a paved parking area, two picnic shelters, 33 picnic tables, a campfire area, and 4 grills. The park is also linked to a paved pathway that leads to adjoining neighborhoods, schools and a senior center.

This park is adjacent to Buck Creek and has a pedestrian bridge across the creek. The park is nicely landscaped and has aesthetically pleasing signage identifying the site. Surrounding land uses include single family residential homes, a nursing home and two schools. The park is in excellent condition and its strength includes the variety of the facilities, access to Buck Creek, and its central location near residential areas and schools.

Accessibility Ranking = 3 out of 5
The park is very accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities. The park's parking lot is paved, as are pathways and sidewalks leading to the play equipment, picnic shelters, the concessions/restroom building, and the baseball and football fields. Some of the facilities such as picnic tables and play equipment are not barrier-free.

Recreation Grant Summary:

Grant Number	Year of Application	Scope Items/Description
26-00237	1971	Acquisition of 9.27 acres of land
26-003300	1972	Develop sewer and water system, fencing, roads, parking, lighted softball field, football field, and shelter
BF91-336	1991	Develop 5 horseshoe courts, fencing, shelter structure, electrical service, site lighting and landscaping

Facilities Summary:

14 Acres
Community Park
Lighted Baseball/Softball Field
Lighted Football/Soccer Field
Playground Area (with swings)
Work out Equipment
Two Picnic Shelters
33 Picnic Tables
4 Grills
15 Lighted Horseshoe Pits
Volleyball Court (grass)
Concessions
Restrooms
Paved Pathways
Drinking Fountain
Paved Parking (111 spaces)

- **Heritage Park** – This 19-acre community park is at the south end of Canal Avenue in the southwest portion of the City. Facilities at the park include one lighted basketball court, up-to-date playground equipment, a soccer field, a sand volleyball court, a disc golf course, one picnic shelter, 15 picnic tables, 5 grills, access control, aesthetically pleasing signage, paved parking (33 spaces), pathways, footbridges, a wooden deck and benches.

The park is also the site of the "Schoolhouse #10" which provides unique recreation opportunities. The park is in excellent condition. Surrounding land uses include single family and multiple family residences. Strengths of the park include the overall condition, the large size, the small lake and stream, and the linkages to surrounding neighborhoods.

Accessibility Ranking = 3 out of 5
The park is very accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities. The park's parking lot is paved, as is the trail which runs all of the way around the lake. The newly constructed bathroom facility is barrier-free. Some pathways connections are unpaved. Some of the equipment in the park such as the schoolhouse, sand volleyball court, playground equipment, and picnic tables may not be completely barrier-free.

Recreation Grant Summary:

Grant Number	Year of Application	Scope Items/Description
26-01371	1985	Develop play equipment, 2 picnic areas and equipment, signage, bridges, entrance drive and parking, walkway, lighting and stone trail
26-01455	1986	Develop concrete walk, stone trail, benches, viewing shelter, lighted basketball court, boardwalk with floating pier, lighting, fence/gates and landscaping

Facilities Summary:

19 Acres
Community Park
Schoolhouse #10
Lighted Basketball Court
Soccer Field
Playground Area
Disc Golf Course
Picnic Shelter
15 Picnic Tables
5 Grills
Volleyball (sand)
Restroom
Pathways (mostly unpaved)
2 Drinking Fountains
Paved Parking (33 spaces)
10 Benches

- **Calvin Crest Park** – This 9-acre community park is on the east side of Ivanrest Avenue in the eastern portion of Grandville. Facilities at the park include an attractive entry plaza, one baseball/softball field with stands, a full basketball court, 8 tennis courts (with viewing stands), an up-to-date playground, restrooms, 3 picnic tables, a picnic shelter, a drinking fountain, access control, aesthetically pleasing signage, pathways, a natural area, paved parking at the adjacent school, and attractive landscaping. The park is in excellent condition. Surrounding land uses include Calvin Christian High School and single family residences. Strengths of the park include its overall condition, the variety of facilities and the park's location near a school and residential areas.

  Accessibility Ranking = 3 out of 5
  The park is very accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities. The park's parking lot is paved, as are pathways and sidewalks leading to the play equipment and tennis courts. A paved path leads near, but not quite to, the basketball court.

  Recreation Grant Summary:

Grant Number	Year of Application	Scope Items/Description
26-01002	1978	Acquisition of 9 acres (entire park), develop 6 tennis courts, softball field, nature trails and footbridges
BF89-603	1989	Develop basketball court and landscaping

  Facilities Summary:

  9 Acres
  Community Park
  Baseball/Softball Field
  Full Basketball Court
  8 Tennis Courts
  Playground Area
  3 Picnic Tables
  Picnic Shelter
  Restrooms
  Pathways
  Natural Area
  11 Benches

- **Little League Baseball Complex** – This 13-acre community park is located off of Aaron Avenue, directly adjacent to West Elementary School in the western portion of Grandville. Facilities at the park include 4 baseball, 1 softball and 1 tee-ball fields, parking facilities and 3 buildings used for a combination of concessions, storage and restrooms. The park is in excellent condition. Surrounding land uses include West Elementary School and single family residences. Strengths of the park include its overall condition and the number of ball fields in one location, and the park's location near a school and residential areas.

  Accessibility Ranking = 2 out of 5
  The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities. The park's parking lot is paved, but the pathways leading to the ball fields are not.

  Recreation Grant Summary: None

  Facilities Summary:
  13 Acres
  Community Park
  4 Baseball/1 Softball/1 Tee-ball Fields
  Restroom/Concessions Building
  Parking Lot

- **Waterfront** – This undeveloped 15-acre site is located on the Grand River on the City's northern border. The site includes a gravel access road, parking area and a public boat launch. The site also includes a bike path (which ties into the Kent Trail system) with seating and picnic tables. Also located on this property is the privately operated "Grand Lady" – a riverboat that provides cruises, tours and dinners on the Grand River. Surrounding land uses include vacant land (floodplain) and transportation (I-196). Strengths of the site include access to the Grand River, the bike path, the forested areas and the riverboat. Weaknesses include the lack of facilities, the lack of signage and the traffic noise from I-196.

  Accessibility Ranking = 2 out of 5
  The site is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities. The park's parking area is gravel, and areas closer to the river (including overlooks) are not accessible. The lack of paved parking also limits accessibility at the site. There are a few picnic tables on-site that are not very accessible in that they do not offer a table top overhang. Information about the park's bike path is included under "Grand River Pathway" below.

  Recreation Grant Summary: None

  Facilities Summary:
  15 Acres
  River Access
  Grand Lady Riverboat
  Bike Path
  Picnic Tables

- **Grand River Pathway –** The City converted a two-way roadway along the Grand River to offer one-lane for one-way traffic and the second lane for non-motorized traffic. In addition, benches and overlook features were installed for relaxing and enjoying the scenic views of the River. The majority of the river front is wooded and at a lower elevation than the pathway, however there are breaks in the vegetation and slope that allow convenient access to views of the riverfront.

Accessibility Ranking = 3 out of 5
The site is very accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities. The entire length of the pathway is paved. The only constraints are access to seating areas and overlook areas.

Recreation Grant Summary: None

Facilities Summary: Three mile paved pathway
Benches

- **Mill Race Park** – This 23-acre site is currently not developed as a park. It has 3 picnic tables, 5 benches and a paved trail that goes through the natural area. The property is adjacent to the Buck Creek Trail, single-family housing, a nursing home, and has a former farm on-site. Strengths include the proximity to Buck Creek, the Buck Creek Trail, and a large natural area in the center of the City.

Accessibility Ranking = 1 out of 5
The site is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities. This site is mostly in a natural state and does not include any paved areas.

Recreation Grant Summary:

Grant Number	Year of Application	Scope Items/Description
TF87-187	1987	Acquisition of 22 acres with 1,400 feet of frontage on Buck Creek

Facilities Summary: 23 Undeveloped Acres
3 Picnic Tables
5 Benches

- **Buck Creek Trail** – This 1.8 mile paved trail links the City's Wedgwood Park to Canal Avenue (to the west), the Cemetery (to the east), neighborhoods, schools, the Senior Center and other areas in the community. In 2010 the path was expanded north along Canal and Broadway to reach the Kent Trail where Buck Creek empties into the Grand River. Amenities along the trail include gypsum displays, benches, mileage markers and landscaping. Strengths include the overall condition of the pathway, the linkages the trail creates to Wedgwood Park, the Grandville Middle School, and Mill Race Park, as well as to Buck Creek and the Grand River.

  Accessibility Ranking = 4 out of 5
  The site is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities. Parking areas and paths leading to the trail are paved, as is the actual trail itself.

  Recreation Grant Summary:

Grant Number	Year of Application	Scope Items/Description
BF93-277	1993	Develop bituminous walk/bikeway, deck, pedestrian bridge, benches, control bollards, fencing, bank stabilization and landscaping
TF07-100	2007	Extension of existing trail from Canal Street north along Broadway, west along the I-196 R.O.W., and north along Buck Creek to Kent Trails and the Grand River.

  Facilities Summary:
  1.8 miles of paved pathway
  Benches
  Interpretive signage
  Natural areas
  Access to Buck Creek and the Grand River

- **Peck Street Park** – This mini park is located at the corner of Peck Street and Earle Avenue is 2 acres and includes a tot lot, 4 benches and 2 picnic tables (one is handicap accessible). There is a paved pathway with attractive landscaping that goes through this mini park for easy recreational bike riding or walking.

  Accessibility Ranking = 4 out of 5
  This site is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities.

  Recreation Grant Summary: This park was constructed with Community Development Block Grant Funds.

  Facilities Summary: Paved pathway

4 Benches
2 Picnic Tables
Tot Lot

- **Lee Street Park** – This mini park is located on the corner of Lee Street and Homewood Street. The park is 1 acre in size and includes a playground, sand pit, basketball hoop and benches.

  Accessibility Ranking = 4 out of 5
  This site is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities.

  Recreation Grant Summary: This park was constructed with Community Development Block Grant Funds and the City's General Fund.

  Facilities Summary:
  4 Benches
  1 Basketball Goal
  1 Playground
  1 Sand Pit

Grandville Public Schools

The Grandville Public School District is the primary school district for the City and operates all public school facilities within the City boundaries. The district also operates two elementary schools (Grand View and Cummings) which are not located within the City and have not been included in this inventory. The school district has a wide variety of facilities that benefit the community and the neighborhoods around each of the schools. A description of these facilities follows.

- **West Elementary School** – Located at 3777 Aaron SW, this school serves 300 students and is located on 6 acres. Outdoor facilities include 6 basketball goals, 2 softball diamonds, and a large updated playground. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium. The Grandville Little League facility is adjacent to the school and has 6 youth baseball fields with restrooms and concessions. Parking is limited on the site, with 70 spaces for the Little League facility provided at the school.

- **South Elementary School** – Located at 3650 Navaho SW, this school serves 460 students and covers 16 acres. Outdoor facilities include 7 basketball goals, 2 softball diamonds, 1 practice soccer field, 3 tetherball poles, 1 tennis court, a large playground and a nature area. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium.

- **East Elementary School** – Located at 3413 30th SW, this school serves 260 students and is located on 6 acres. Outdoor facilities include 8 basketball goals, a softball diamond, a small soccer field, and a playground. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium.

- **Central Elementary School** - Located at 4052 Prairie, this school serves 290 students and is located on 4 acres adjacent to the City's Wedgwood Park. Outdoor facilities include 7 basketball goals, 1 (lighted) softball fields, small soccer field, and 2 playgrounds. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium. .

- **Grandville Middle School** – Located at 3535 Wilson SW, this school serves 940 students and covers 29 acres, adjacent to the City's Wedgwood Park. Outdoor facilities include 6 basketball goals, 2 softball diamonds (with soccer), a track and football field with concessions and stands, and 8 tennis courts. Indoor facilities include a large gymnasium and a swimming pool.

- **Grandville High School** – Located at 4700 Canal, this large school serves 1,620 students and covers 119 acres. Outdoor facilities include 2 baseball diamonds, 2 softball diamonds, 2 soccer fields and 12 tennis courts. A new football/soccer/track field turf has a turf surface to deal with the high usage the field experiences. The site also contains a 20-acre wetland. Indoor facilities include a large field house-type gymnasium (3,000 spectator capacity), one large gymnasium (seating capacity of 1,000), a swimming pool, and a training facility with 40 different exercise stations.

- **Century Park Learning Center** – Located at 5710 Kenowa SW, this innovative school within the Grandville School district offers many programs for children in young 5's through fifth grade. Although not located within the Grandville city limits, the school offers unique facilities such as a fully-stocked, state-of-the-art media center, with multimedia lab and audio/video studio, and space for student gardening. Other outdoor facilities include 3 soccer fields through district partnership with the city of Wyoming and Grandville AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization). Indoor facilities also include a large commons/cafeteria area, a full-sized gymnasium for student and community use, and small group spaces for independent and individual projects.

PRIVATE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Several privately owned recreation facilities located within or nearby the City of Grandville address recreation needs of the community that are not necessarily offered by the city. Although these facilities are privately operated and often have a user fee or require membership for use, they were considered in the plan analysis because they meet specific community needs. Private facilities include:

Private Schools

Private schools in Grandville include Grandville Christian Elementary School and Calvin Christian High School. Outdoor facilities at the high school include a football field, track, baseball fields and soccer fields. Facilities at the elementary school include a baseball field, basketball goals, soccer field and a playground. Calvin Crest Park is adjacent to the high school, and the school also has another site on the northwest corner of Rivertown Parkway and Ivanrest Avenue that includes two soccer fields. There are more facilities planned for the site.

Campgrounds

In addition to State campgrounds, there are 6 privately-operated campgrounds in Kent County. A description of these facilities follows:

- Tyler Creek Recreation Area, Alto – 200 campsites
- Indian Valley Campground, Middleville – 120 campsites
- Woodchip Campground, Byron Center – 122 campsites
- Paradise Cove Travel Trailer Resort, Sand Lake – 156 campsites
- Duke Creek KOA, Cedar Springs – 114 campsites
- Grand Rogue Campgrounds, Belmont – 100 campsites

Other Facilities

- **Visser Family YMCA**
- **Billiard Halls** – Anazeh Sands-Championship
- **Bowling Alleys** – Fairlanes Recreation Center, Park Center Bowling, Spectrum Lanes
- **Golf Courses** – Sunnybrook Country Club, Maple Hill Golf Course, Pines Golf Course
- **Skating Rinks** – Tarry Hall Roller Skating Rink, Walker Ice & Fitness Center, Georgetown Ice Center
- **Miscellaneous Facilities** –Michigan Athletic Club, Curves for Women, Ladies Workout Express, Powerhouse Gym, Ramblewood Tennis & Health Club

REGIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Surrounding Communities

- **City of Wyoming** – Wyoming maintains 21 parks, which include more than 670 acres of green space and facilities. The City has an up-to-date recreation plan (adopted February 2008) and offers over 200 health and wellness, after-school, recreation, education and leisure programs annually.

- **City of Walker** – Walker maintains 7 parks with a total of 671 acres.

- **Georgetown Charter Township** – The Township maintains 8 parks and an additional 11 school sites that have recreational facilities. There is also an indoor ice arena that was recently constructed in the Township.

- **City of Grand Rapids** - The City maintains 119 parks with a total acreage of 1560 acres. Grand Rapids current recreation plan that was updated in 2010.

Kent County

Kent County maintains 37 parks, occupying over 6,700 acres of land as well as offering over 27 miles of multi-jurisdictional trails. Table 3-1 details the facilities available within the County's parks. Additional descriptions of those parks in or near Grandville are also provided below.

- **Millennium Park** - Millennium Park is a unique, ambitious project located outside of Grand Rapids, between Johnson Park to the west and John Ball Zoological Garden to the east. The site, while previously used for industrial purposes in the recent past, consists largely of rolling terrain and is rich in natural resources and beauty, including woods, wildlife, fish and waterfowl. Millennium Park has turned approximately 1,500 acres of land into publicly owned, urban greenspace. The Park and facilities touch the four cities of Grand Rapids, Walker, Grandville and Wyoming. It is twice as large as New York's Central Park, which served as a model for Millennium Park. This makes it one of the nation's largest urban Parks.

- **Kent Trail System** – Kent Trails is a 15 mile, non-motorized trail which travels through Grand Rapids, Grandville, Walker, Wyoming and Byron Township. The trail follows an abandoned railroad line, surface streets and easements to provide a linear parkway in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. There are 4 main access points to the trail. These points are located at Johnson Park, John Ball Park, Douglas Walker Park and in Byron Center at 84th Street. Parking areas are located at these points. The trail can also be accessed at any cross street along the route. The paved pathway is completely handicap accessible. Since most of the trail follows abandoned railroad lines, the trail is predominantly level with no sharp turns.

- **Henry A. Johnson Park** – Located at the corner of Wilson Avenue and Butterworth Drive, a scenic drive winds through a large section of Johnson Park. The rolling hills and winding turns make this a challenging walk. Johnson Park also maintains a boat launch into the Grand River. Park activities and facilities include: baseball diamonds, biking, exercise equipment, fishing, a disc golf course, hiking/walking, scenic drive, picnicking, a playground, an enclosed shelter, restrooms, an open shelter, sledding hill and winter sports.

- **Palmer Park** – The boardwalk that begins at the west end of the park follows Buck Creek. It is a joint venture with the City of Wyoming. The path extends to Lamar Park (City of Wyoming). Park activities and facilities include: nature trails, walking/hiking, cross country skiing, fishing, playgrounds, 18-hole golf course, driving range, ball diamond, picnic areas, open shelters, restrooms and winter sports.

Table 3-1
Kent County Parks

Name of Park	Acres	Location of nearest intersection	BALL DIAMONDS	BASKETBALL	BEACH HOUSE	BIKE TRAILS	BRIDLE PATH	CAMPGROUNDS	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	EXERCISE EQUIPMENT	FISHING	DISC GOLF COURSE	GOLF COURSE – 18 HOLES	HIKING/WALKING	NATURE TRAILS	OPEN SHELTER	PICNICKING	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	SAND VOLLEYBALL	SHELTERHOUSE	SOCCER	SWIMMING	TENNIS COURTS	WINTER SPORTS
Bettes Memorial	3	13 Mile Rd. & Phelps Ave.	Undeveloped																						
Brewer (Earle)	95	84th St. - 1/2 mi. East of Division	1	1								1		1		A	1	A	A			1		1	
Caledonia Lakeside	43	Village of Caledonia	1								1			1			1	A	A		A				
Chief Hazy Cloud	24	Pettis Ave. & Dogwood Ave.									1						1		1						
Coldwater River	6	100th St. & Morse Lake Ave.									1						1		A						
Cooper Creek	60	17 Mile Rd. & Morgan Mills Ave.					1				1				1				1						
Creekside	32	68th St. - 1/4 mi. East of Eastern Ave.	1							1				A		A	1	A	A						
Douglas Walker	81	84th St. - 1/2 mi. West of Clyde Park Ave.	1			1								A			1	1	A		A	1			1
Dutton Shadyside	18	Hammond Ave. - 1/2 mi. N of 76th St.	1													A	1	A	A					1	
Dwight Lydell	39	West River Dr. & Lamoreaux Dr.	1								A			A		A	1	A	A					1	
Fallasburg	458	Covered Bridge Rd. & Fallasburg Park Dr.	1								1				1	A	1	A	A		A				1
Fisk Knob	4	Algoma Ave. - 1/2 mi. North of 21 Mi. Rd.															1								
Gordon	28	Northland Dr. = 1/2 mi. South of Sand Lake	1											1			1	1	A						
Johnson (Henry A.)	265	Wilson Ave. & Butterworth Dr.	1							1	1	1		1		A	1	A	A		A				1
Kent Trails	15 Miles	Johnson Pl., John Ball Pk., Douglas Walker Pk.				1			1					A											1
Knapp Valley Forest	80	Knapp Valley Dr. - East of Macguire Ave.												1											
Lamoreaux (Donald J.)	263	Coit Ave. & Bailey Park Dr.	1						1		1			1	1		1								1

Table 3-1
Kent County Parks

Name of Park	Acres	Location of nearest intersection	BALL DIAMONDS	BASKETBALL	BEACH HOUSE	BIKE TRAILS	BRIDLE PATH	CAMPGROUNDS	CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING	EXERCISE EQUIPMENT	FISHING	DISC GOLF COURSE	GOLF COURSE – 18 HOLES	HIKING/WALKING	NATURE TRAILS	OPEN SHELTER	PICNICKING	PLAYGROUND	RESTROOMS	SAND VOLLEYBALL	SHELTERHOUSE	SOCCER	SWIMMING	TENNIS COURTS	WINTER SPORTS
Lamoreaux Memorial	2	West River Dr. & North Park St.				1								A											
Long Lake	231	17 Mile Rd. & Long Lake Dr.	1		A						1					A	1	A	A		A		1		
Luton	264	Kies - West of Myers Lake Rd.	Undeveloped																						
Millennium	1000	1415 Maynard Avenue		1	A	1					A			A		A	1	A	A	1			A		
Myers Lake	6	Northeast side of Myers Lake			A						1						1	A	1				1		
Palmer (Linus C.)	335	Clyde Park Ave. between 44th and 52nd Sts.	1			1			1		1		1	A	A	A	1	A	A						1
Pickerel Lake**	300	Ramsdell Ave. - South of Belding Rd. (M-44)							1		1			A	A				A						
Provin Trails	45	SW corner of 4 Mile Rd. and Bird Ave.							1					1	1				1						1
Rogue River	79	Belshire Ave. - North of Rogue River Dr.	1			A			1		1			1	1	A	1	A	A					1	
Ruehs (Fred W.)	5	68th St. at Thornapple River									1						1	1	1						
Seidman	422	Honey Creek Ave. & Leonard St.							1		1			1	1				1						1
Spencer Forest*	550	Morgan Mills Ave. & 16 Mile Rd.					1																		
Thornapple Riverbend*	209	Alaska Ave. South of 68th St.	Undeveloped																						
Townsend (Warren R.)	144	Cannonsburg Rd. & Ramsdell Dr.	1						1		1			1	1	1	1	A	A		A				1
Wabasis Lake	104	Wabasis Ave. at Wabasis Lake	1	1	A			A			1			1	1	A	1	A	A	1	A		1		1
Wahlfield	245	NW corner of 8 Mile Rd. & Alpine Ave.							1					1	1		1		1						1
White Pine	60	Lincoln Lake Ave. - 1/2 mi. North of 16 Mile Rd.												1											

A - Indicates facilities that are accessible (barrier free). (* Unofficial Name) (** Official Name of Pickerel Lake - Fred Meijer Nature Preserve)

State of Michigan Park Facilities

Although there are no State Parks within Grandville, or within all of Kent County, there are 12 State Parks within a 1-hour drive of Grandville. These parks provide many opportunities for recreation and are described below:

- **Holland State Park** – This 142-acre park on Lake Michigan is southwest of Grandville. The park offers 310 campsites, fishing, metal detecting, swimming, a boat launch, a lighthouse, picnic area, playground, beach house, cabin/lodges, restrooms and a picnic shelter.

- **Saugatuck State Park** – This 880-acre park on Lake Michigan is southwest of Grandville. The park offers swimming, picnicking, hiking, a beach, dunes and 14 miles of trail.

- **Kal-Haven Trail State Park** – This 85-acre, 33 mile long trail is located south of Grandville. The trail is located on a former Railroad bed that has a limestone/slag surface linking the City of South Haven to Kalamazoo. It offers hiking, biking, cross country skiing, and snow mobiling. There is a 11-mile parallel section where horses are allowed.

- **Yankee Springs Recreation Area** – This 5,000-acre facility southeast of Grandville has 200 campground sites and offers a variety of recreation opportunities including a beach area, 16.5 miles of hiking trails, wildlife viewing, picnic area, cross country skiing, fishing, hunting, biking, restrooms and a boat launch.

- **Ionia Recreation Center** – This 4,500-acre facility east of Granville has 149 camp sites and offers recreation opportunities such as cross country skiing, fishing, hiking, metal detecting, mountain biking, snow mobiling, equestrian sports, hunting, swimming restrooms, picnic shelter, beach house, and a boat launch.

- **Grand Haven State Park** – This 48-acre park west of Grandville is on Lake Michigan. It offers 175 camp sites, fishing, metal detecting, cross country skiing, hiking, swimming, restrooms, picnic shelter, beach house, light house, and a playground.

- **P. J. Hoffmaster State Park** – This 1,200-acre park northwest of Grandville is on Lake Michigan and offers a variety of facilities and activities including 297 camp sites, hiking, swimming, cross country skiing, metal detecting, wild life viewing, a beach, observation platforms, picnic shelter, visitor center, beach house and restrooms.

- **Muskegon State Park** – This 1,165-acre park on Lake Michigan is northwest of Grandville. The park provides many opportunities including 247 camp sites, 12 miles of trails, picnic area, restrooms, cross country skiing, fishing, hunting and a boat launch.

- **Duck Lake State Park** – This 728-acre park northwest of Grandville provides cross country skiing, hiking, metal detecting, snow moiling, fishing, hunting, swimming, a beach house, picnic area, and a boat launch.

- **Hart-Montague Trail State Park** – This 22-mile trail is located northwest of Grandville. The trail provides a linear pathway between the cities of Hart and Montague. The trail is paved and is ideal for hiking, running, in-line skating, biking, cross country skiing and snow mobiling.

- **Silver Lake State Park** – This 2,938-acre park is northwest of Grandville and provides 200 campground sites, hiking, metal detecting, off road vehicle trails/routes, fishing, hunting, swimming, a beach, boat launch, lighthouse, Orv (off road vehicle) scramble area, picnic shelter, beach house and restrooms. Inside the park is a 450-acre ORV area along the beach on and around sand dunes.

- **Newaygo State Park** – This 257-acre park is north of Grandville and offers fishing, swimming, a beach, picnic area, playground and a boat launch.

State of Michigan Game Areas

The western Michigan area contains several State Game Areas. In Kent County there is Cannonsburg State Game Area, Rouge River State Game Area, and Saranac-Lowell State Game Area. In Ionia County there is Flat River State Game Area, Grand River State Game Area, Maple River State Game Area and Portland State Game Area. In Montcalm County there is Edmore State Game Area, Langston State Game Area, Stanton State Game Area and Vestaburg State Game Area.

Access Sites

Kent County has 18 public boat launches maintained by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The list of sites follows:

- Murray Lake
- Campau Lake
- Bass Lake
- Camp Lake
- Big Pine Island Lake
- Campbell Lake
- Lincoln Lake
- Lime Lake
- Spring Lake
- Clear Lake
- Rogue River North
- Pratt Lake
- Comstock Riverside Park
- Grandville
- Wabasis Lake Park
- Rockford
- Knapp Street Bridge
- Ada – Grand River

PROGRAMMING

Activities and Classes

Grandville Community Education

The Grandville Public School District and City together offer community education classes for community youth at various times throughout the year. During the summer, a comprehensive sports and leisure program booklet is sent to all Grandville residents, listing all of the youth activities. Various activities are open to adults as well as youth. Several programs are also run

for shorter sessions during the school year as well. Programs are open to both residents of Grandville and non-residents, although residents are given priority for swim classes and other popular course offerings.

As an example, in the summer of 2012 the classes included:

Class Name/Description	Age Range	Facility Location
Preschool Pals	3-5 years old	West Elementary
Fun With Art	3-6 years old	South Elementary
Girls Girls Girls	K-3rd Grade	South Elementary
Inline Speed Skating Lessons	All Ages	Tarry Hall Skating Rink
Summer Time Eats & Treats	K-4th Grade	South Elementary
Babysitting Course	9-13 years old	Middle School
Lego Engineering Camp	1st-3rd Grade	West Elementary
Home Alone "Safe Kids"	10-13 years old	Middle School
Pickleball	1st-8th Grade	South Elementary
Teen Summer Stock Theater	8th-12th Grade	High School
Youth Summer Stock Theater	4th-7th Grade	High School
Adult Tennis	Adults	High School
Flexibility Agility & Speed Training	6th-12th Grade	Middle School
Flexibility Agility & Speed Training	Adults	Middle School
Baseball-Boys Minors	8-10 years old	West Elementary
Baseball-Boys Majors	11-12 years old	West Elementary
Baseball-Boys	13-15 years old	West Elementary
Softball-Girls	3rd-8th Grade	High School
Volleyball Camp	1st-12th Grade	High School
Volleyball Position Specific Camp	8th-12th Grade	High School
Basketball Camp-Girls	1st-9th Grade	High School
Basketball Camp-Boys	3rd-12th Grade	High School
Cheerleading Camp	Preschool-5th Grade	Middle School
Cheerleading Stunt Camp	6th-12th Grade	Middle School
Football Camp	1st-8th Grade	High School
Football Mini-Camp	9th-12th Grade	High School
MS/HS Special Teams Camp	7th-12th Grade	Middle School
Summer Nights Flag Football	1st-8th Grade	High School
Soccer Camp-Boys & Girls	K-12th Grade	Grand View Elem.
Soccer Camp-MS Boys	7th-8th Grade	High School
Soccer Camp-HS Boys	9th-12th Grade	High School
Soccer Camp-HS Boys Conditioning	9th-12th Grade	High School
Water Polo Camp-Boys	7th-12th Grade	High School
Diving Camp	8 years and older	High School

In addition to the summer programs listed above, Grandville Community Education also offers a 'Summer Quest' program for school-aged youth, which includes a variety of approx. 30 classes for children to take over a week-long session. Using a format similar to educational sessions at a professional conference, the participants choose from a selection of courses offered at various times in the mornings or afternoons and build a schedule custom tailored to their age and interests. Summer Quest classes include topics such as scrapbooking, American Girl, jewelry making, weather, dinosaurs, creative reading/writing, forensic science, animals, computers, decoupage, foreign language, story reading, and cooking.

Tri-ACE Community Education

Tri-ACE includes three local communities (Grandville, Jenison and Hudsonville) and offers adult education classes several times throughout the year. Classes include various topics in financial, arts & craft, exercise, language, and other areas.

Special Events

The City of Grandville also offers special events throughout the year. These events are often free of charge and serve to bring City residents together. The largest annual event is the 4th of July Celebration. This event includes a parade, music, food vendors, an arts and crafts show, carnival, contests and a 30-minute fireworks show. Another popular event is the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Volunteer Organizations

Organized sports for children are primarily offered through the school districts and through volunteer organizations with applicable user fees charged for participation. The following list identifies the volunteer organizations that serve the city. These groups serve an integral role in recreation planning because they offer programs for residents that are not offered by the city.

- The American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) Region 676 serves Grandville, Jenison and Hudsonville.
- The Grand Valley Soccer Association (GVSA) consists of 28 clubs, that stretch from Holland to Hastings to Traverse City.
- The Greater Grand Rapids Figure Skating Club serves the Grand Rapids area.
- The Grand Rapids Area Rocket Football League serves the greater Grand Rapids area, including Grandville.
- The Little League (Michigan - District 9) serves Grandville and surrounding communities.

The preceding chapters provide valuable insight into all aspects of parks and recreation in the City of Grandville. This information has been applied and organized in the analysis contained in this chapter. The main categories for the analysis are parkland, facilities, and programming. Parkland was evaluated in terms of the amount of parkland acreage in total and by type of park. Much of this analysis is based on population because the acreage should be proportionate to the amount of people it serves. It is also important to consider the types of parks offered and their function to ensure various parkland needs are addressed. The location of parks was also evaluated to ensure that the system is accessible to all residents. Recreation facilities and programming were evaluated in a similar manner by primarily focusing on the amount and type that are offered in comparison to the number of residents, their desires and needs. Also considered were opportunities for additional or relocated programming and facilities to diversify recreation in the City. The final section of this chapter is a summary of the key findings of this analysis. The key issues from the analysis are important to understand as they set the framework for the action plan and five-year capital improvement program.

The analysis is based on a number of sources including public input, key interviews with various groups, analysis of existing programs, the facility inventory, and the profile of the community. In addition, national standards were examined to compare recreation facilities utilized by residents to determine where potential improvements can be made. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has adopted the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards to determine the need for recreation facilities in each community. It is important to note that the national standards are guidelines set twenty years ago and are not necessarily representative of the current the needs and expectations of City residents. In some cases, the decision was made to deviate from the national standard for a more accurate account of facilities.

An individual source of information for the analysis establishes a baseline. Each conclusion is adjusted upward or downward as appropriate to reflect the larger picture, the unique characteristics applicable to Grandville, and to depict recent trends in recreation. This evaluation also took into consideration factors including regional facilities, and distribution of facilities. Therefore, the surpluses and deficiencies are more closely analyzed in the narrative found in this chapter.

PARKLAND ANALYSIS

Existing Parkland Acreage

Roughly 280 acres of public parkland exist within the City of Grandville, of which 17 acres are neighborhood parks and 164 acres are community parks. There are currently 2 mini parks and no regional parks located within the City. Because of their size and their function to serve

neighborhood residents, all of the elementary school parks were classified as neighborhood parks. The middle and high schools were classified as community parks. While the initial parkland acreage analysis depicts a slight surplus of parkland within the City, the vast majority of parkland consists of school parks. The City itself has control of roughly 93 acres of park land and does not have control over regional parks or neighborhood parks. Although the school facilities are currently available to Grandville residents, it must be taken into account that since the City has no control over these properties, they may not always be available for public use.

Table 4-1: Park Classification and Size

City of Grandville Parks	Size	MDNR Park Classification
Wedgwood Park	14	Community Park
Heritage Park	19	Community Park
Calvin Crest Park	9	Community Park
Little League Baseball Complex	13	Community Park
Waterfront	15	Community Park
Mill Race Park	23	Community Park
Peck Street Park	1	Mini Park
Lee Street Park	1	Mini Park
Buck Creek Trail	1.8 mile	Linear Park
Grand River Bike Path	3 miles	Linear Park
Grandville Public Schools	**Size**	**MDNR Park Classification**
West Elementary	6	Neighborhood Park
South Elementary	16	Neighborhood Park
East Elementary	6	Neighborhood Park
Central Elementary	4	Neighborhood Park
Grandville Middle School	29	Community Park
Grandville High School	119	Community Park

The following analysis discusses the amount of parkland as it relates to the conditions of the community and the NRPA standards based on the 2010 population of 15,378.

Table 4-2: Parkland Acres List

	NRPA Standard Per Population	Facilities Required for Grandville	City of Grandville	Grandville Public Schools	Total Surplus and (Deficiencies)
Parkland Acres					
Mini Parks	0.25 /1,000	3.75 acres	2	0	(1.75 acres)
Neighborhood Parks	1.0 /1,000	15 acres	0	32	17 acres
Community Parks	5.0 /1,000	77 acres	93	148	164 acres
Regional Parks	10.0 /1,000	153 acres	0	0	(163 acres)
Total Parks		*248.75 acres*	*95*	*180*	

[1] Population based on the 2010 U.S. Census for the City of Grandville of 15,378.
[2] Facilities include those listed in the table above.
Source of Standard: Lancaster, Roger A., Ed. 1983. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA NRPA

Mini Parks. There are currently 2 mini parks located within the City of Grandville. This creates a deficiency of 1.75 acres based on population standards. The primary purpose of these parks is to provide local playground and open space for residential neighborhoods. The two mini parks

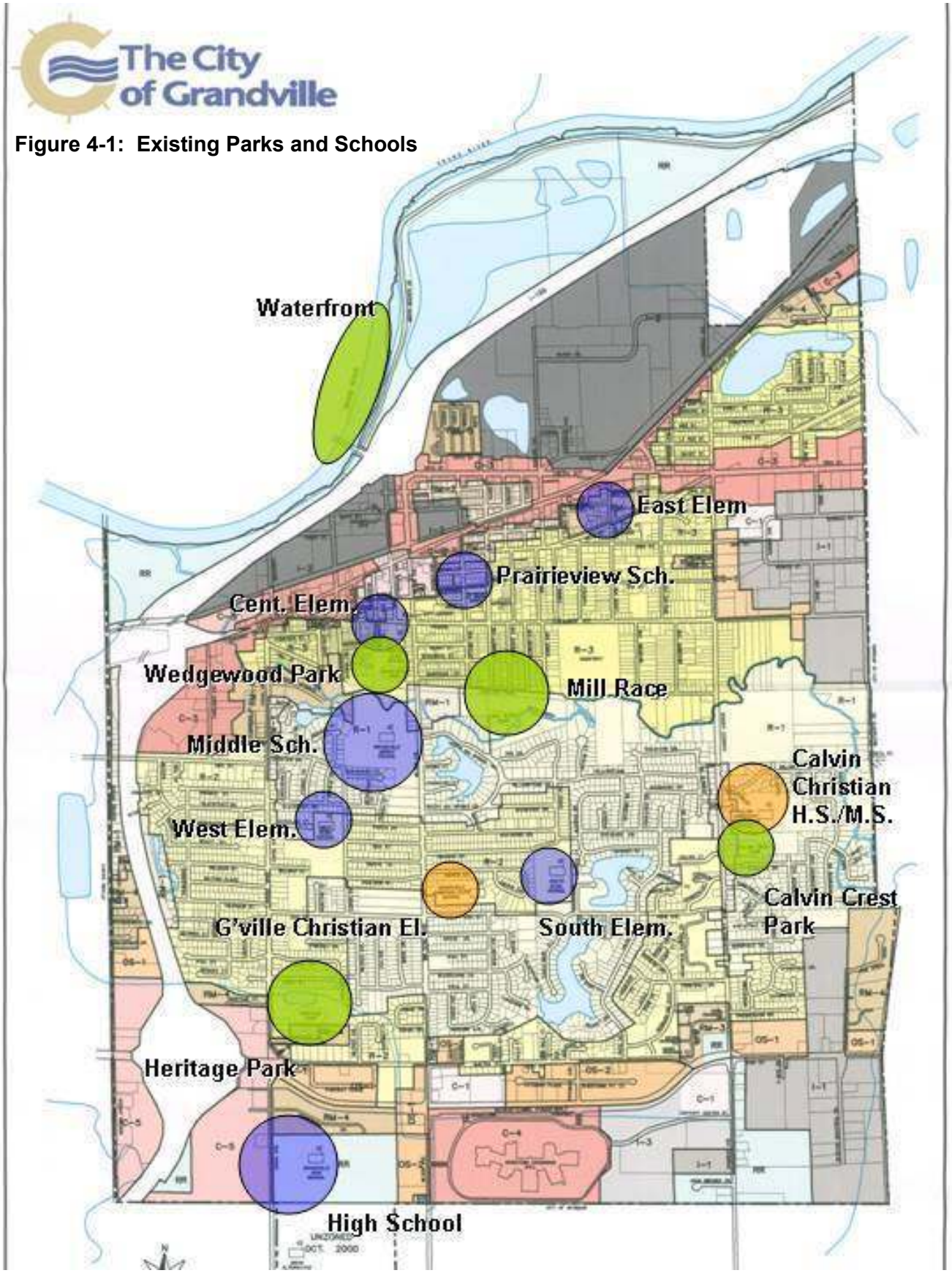
include a tot lot, playgrounds, a basketball hoop and a sand pit for toddlers to play in. They are located in the northeast side of the city where there was a deficiency of parks available.

Neighborhood Parks. This park classification shows a surplus of 17 acres over the recommended 15 acres of neighborhood-scale parks. All of the acreage; however, is derived from school facilities, which are not controlled by the City. If some of the school facilities were to close or change use, the City would face a neighborhood park deficiency. Because of the school district's vital role in providing parkland, the City and school district should maintain on-going communication to ensure that the need for neighborhood parks continues to be met.

Community Parks. With a recommended 77 acres, Grandville has a surplus of 164 acres of community parkland, the largest of all surpluses. However, more than half of these parkland acres (148 acres of the 228 acre total) are made up of school facilities (mostly the middle and high schools), which are not controlled by the City. However, even discounting the school-operated facilities the City controls 93 acres of community parkland which exceeds the 77 acres recommended by the population standards.

Regional Parks. Although there are no regional parks located within the City of Grandville boundaries, the City is adjacent to two large Kent County parks: Henry A. Johnson Park and Millennium Park. Millennium Park has approximately 1,500 acres of land that is publicly owned, urban greenspace. The Park facilities touch the four cities of Grand Rapids, Walker, Grandville and Wyoming. It will be twice as large as New York's Central Park, which served as a model for Millennium Park, making it one of the nation's largest urban parks. The completed portion of the park includes a 100-acre lake with a 6-acre sand beach frontage. Activities include swimming areas, a spray park and bathhouse, playground areas, several boardwalk areas connecting to hiking and nature trails, basketball and volleyball courts, over 200 picnic tables and 4 picnic shelters.

Figure 4-1: Existing Parks and Schools



Parks and Recreation Service Area

Although the overall amount of parkland in Grandville is sufficient, it is important to consider the type of parks, their location, and their disbursement around the City. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas it is important to closely consider where the residents of the community live. The NRPA establishes a standard service area for each park classification to determine which areas in the City are lacking easy access to parkland. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

- Mini Parks – 0.25 miles or less
- Neighborhood Parks – 0.25-0.5 miles
- Community Parks – 1.0 to 2.0 miles
- Regional Parks – 30 minute driving time

One other key factor relating to service area is that the Grandville recreation facilities serve a significant number of users who live outside of the Grandville city limits, especially in areas such as the City of Wyoming panhandle to the south, and the City of Walker to the north. Many of these users also participate in organized activities such as the AYSO soccer league, Little League and Rocket Football as well.

FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Existing Park Facility Analysis

Existing park facilities were also analyzed to determine if the current amount of facilities were adequate to meet residents' needs. This analysis takes into account a variety of factors including specific needs and conditions of the City, comments heard at the public forums, programming needs, as well as the national averages. Potential surpluses and deficiencies are shown in Table 4-3. The following comments provide further perspective and assist in identifying key issues.

Athletic Fields. The number of athletic fields in the City reflects a surplus in almost all of the categories based on national standards. However, throughout the process some of the concerns that were mentioned included a lack of fields, especially soccer fields and the quality of the field given the amount of use that they get during the sports seasons. The different types of athletic fields are specifically discussed below.

- Baseball/Softball Fields. The analysis of ball fields within Grandville resulted in a large surplus in facilities. Upon further inspection however, 12 of the 20 fields are in schools, which can create scheduling conflicts for organized sports leagues. During the public input process, it was noted that the City should investigate lighting more ball fields to extend their usability into the evening hours.

Table 4-3: Park Facilities List

	NRPA Standard Per Population	Facilities Required for Grandville	City of Grandville	Grandville Public Schools	Total Surplus and (Deficiencies)
Tennis Courts	1 /2,000	7	8	21	22
Playgrounds	1 /3,000	5	4	5	4
Basketball Courts	1 /5,000	3	3	17	17
Volleyball Courts	1 /5,000	3	2	0	(1)
Ballfields	1 /5,000	3	8	12	17
Soccer Fields	1/ 10,000	2	1	7	6
Football Fields	1 /20,000	1	1	2	2
Running Track	1 /20,000	1	0	2	1
Swimming Pool	1 /20,000	1	0	2	1
Golf Course – 18 Hole	1 /50,000	.3	0	0	(0.3)
Ice Hockey – indoor	1 /100,000	0	0	0	0

[1] Population based on the 2010 U.S. Census for the City of Grandville of 15,378.
[2] Facilities include those listed in the table above.
Source of Standard: Lancaster, Roger A., Ed. 1983. Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines. Alexandria, VA NRPA

- Soccer Fields. According to the national standards, there is a surplus of soccer fields in the community. However, 4 of the 5 fields are in schools, which can create scheduling conflicts for organized sports leagues. Also, residents and organizations in the City have expressed a deficiency in fields. Due to the increasing popularity of the sport and expanding programs, the City should consider the development of additional fields within the park system a priority. One possibility which was explored during the public meeting was to relocated soccer fields from Wedgwood Park to Mill Race Park, which would also free up space at Wedgwood Park for additional facilities there.
- Football Fields. The need for football fields is met by the school district and the existing field at Wedgwood Park. With the new turf football field that will be at the High School the football field will not experience wear and tear as was previously a concern to residents.
- Running Tracks. Similar to football fields, running tracks are provided at the middle and high school within the City. These facilities meet all current and expected needs for running tracks.

Court Sports. A deficiency is shown for volleyball courts with surpluses in tennis and basketball courts. The majority of these facilities are provided at school facilities with very few at City parks, other than volleyball courts which are only located at City parks. Court sports are generally low cost improvements, do not occupy much land, do not require organized team participation and promote convenient and active recreation. In addition, once the court is installed it can be permanently or temporarily re-used for other purposes. Based on these characteristics these facilities are ideal in neighborhood and mini parks. Those parks that do offer court sports should be maintained to continue long term use. Currently Mill Race Park does not offer any court sports and should be improved to accommodate at least one of these facilities based on the desires of the neighborhood. The three different types of court facilities are briefly discussed below.

- Tennis Courts. A total of 28 tennis courts are provided at City parks and at school sites, 8 of which are City courts. Many existing courts require re-surfacing and new courts should be considered at some of the mini and neighborhood parks. Concern was raised over courts could be converted for other uses.
- Basketball Facilities. There are a number of basketball backstops, or half court basketball facilities, located throughout the City at a majority of the schools. Full basketball courts are also located at Heritage and Calvin Crest Parks. If new basketball courts are proposed they should be full court to maximize use.
- Volleyball Courts. There is a deficiency of one outdoor volleyball court according to the national standards. Sand volleyball courts were identified as a need at one of the public input meetings. Existing courts are located at Wedgwood and Heritage Parks. These facilities however could be considered at a mini park or neighborhood park to offer greater variety at parks.

Ice Rinks. National standards do not indicate a need for an indoor ice rink in the City of Grandville. However, the issue of an outdoor public skating rink came up throughout the public meetings held. Historically there was ice skating at a facility in Wedgwood Park, but ice skating has not been offered within the City for many years. Discussion entailed the possibility of a multi-use facility since outdoor ice skating is a seasonal activity.

Playgrounds. The amount of playground facilities in the community exceeds the population needs according to the NRPA standard by 4 with only 4 of the 9 playgrounds run by the City. Playgrounds are conveniently located at most schools and parks and generally meet the needs of City residents. In recent years the City has made significant progress towards replacing outdated play equipment, and all City parks contain new, high-quality equipment.

Golf Courses. There are no municipal golf courses in the City of Grandville. The national standards do not indicate a need for an 18-hole course, with a deficiency of only 0.3 in this category. Kent County operates the L. E. Kaufman Golf Course, located within Wyoming, in close proximity to Grandville. This course, along with other privately-operated courses in the area, serves to meet the golfing needs of the residents of Grandville.

Skateboard Park. The development of a skateboard park was the most widely discussed topic during the public input process. The City's previous Recreation Plan listed a skateboard park as number one in the action plan, and potential locations for such a park have been a highly debated issue over the past several years. Although the NRPA standards do not list skateboard parks, they have become very popular within the past decade and many communities across the State have already either constructed them or have incorporated plans for these parks into their recreation plans. All of the youth interviewed during the public input process for this plan stressed the need and desire for such a park to be located in Grandville. Although a skateboard park has recently opened in the nearby City of Wyoming, residents of Grandville do not feel that it sufficiently serves the needs of Grandville's youth for such a facility.

Swimming Pool. Based on the NRPA standard, the City of Grandville should provide one swimming pool. The City has three pools, located at the middle and high schools as well as the Vissar Family YMCA. Although no public outdoor pool is located within Grandville, the new Millennium Park operated by Kent County does provide a beach and spray park to give residents access to outdoor aquatic opportunities.

PROGRAMMING

Coordination

The City should continue to work with the Community Education program to offer quality programs and activities throughout the year. One need cited in the public input sessions was for a City-run recreation department. An opportunity may exist to partner with the Community Education program to share staff and resources in a way to reduce the costs for both entities. In addition, the City should evaluate the idea of instituting fees for City facilities to create a balance between covering City costs while maintaining affordability for area residents. It is not uncommon for a City to charge a nominal entrance fee to help recoup basic costs. However, if fees are charged for special events, the City should attempt to provide a handful of family events free of charge throughout the year.

Monitoring

The City should keep abreast of the latest trends and preferences in recreation. The City and Community Education program have been providing up-to-date programming, as evidenced by the wide variety of programs offered. Preferences are constantly changing and the City should continue to offer innovative programming to keep residents interested and involved.

Integration of senior programs into the overall programming should be sought. Segregating seniors prevents the mingling of ages, which has proven to be beneficial to community youth. Seniors often have the time to be more involved with community events, and can serve as mentors to younger generations. While “senior only” events should continue, the introduction of more multi-generational events should actively be incorporated into future programming.

KEY FINDINGS

- Overall, the City shows a surplus of parkland compared to accepted national guidelines. However, the majority of the surplus land is located on school properties where the City does not have control over the design and use of the park lands and facilities.
- Since potential land for additional parks is limited, the City should focus on better utilization of existing park sites by redesigning sites to incorporate new types of facilities to help meet recreation needs and by diversifying facilities offered.
- The City should ensure that all of the facilities are consistently maintained to keep fields usable and to prevent future deficiencies.
- The City should continue to explore the possibility of creating a skate park and should determine the most practical, viable and safe location for such a park to be located.
- Opportunities for a potential mixed-use facility, possibly with skate park and outdoor ice skating activities should be investigated.
- Court facilities should be encouraged in neighborhood and mini parks because they offer informal, low-cost recreation opportunities.
- Coordination with various recreation providers, especially the Community Education program, should be continued, keeping an eye toward possible opportunities for shared staff in order to streamline programming oversight and to look into future expansion of program offerings.

The City of Grandville offers a high quality of life for its residents including strong neighborhoods, preserved natural features, and a variety of community facilities and services. This Recreation Plan will ensure that these assets are preserved into the future and that new opportunities to improve the system are explored and implemented. This final portion of the plan is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with public involvement and the analysis of existing community conditions. Existing parks, recreation facilities, and programs were inventoried and evaluated, and an assessment of need was then developed taking into consideration the City's characteristics, desires, and needs. The findings of this analysis are expressed in Chapter Four then translated into the recommendations contained in this final chapter.

The Action Plan is organized into five sections:

- Plan Goals and Action Steps
- System-Wide Recommendations
- Park-Specific Recommendations
- Five Year Capital Improvement Plan
- Funding Sources

This format provides a systematic approach to implementing this plan and ensures that realistic and feasible strategies are given top priority and consideration by the City Council.

PLAN GOALS AND ACTION STEPS

To provide a guideline for decision making, the City Council has developed the following goals and action steps. These goals and action steps express a unified vision for future investments, projects, and other efforts.

Goal #1: Add new recreational opportunities to parks.

- New facilities will provide additional recreation opportunities for park users.
- The development of new facilities offers the potential for the City to broaden the types of activities offered to its citizens.

Objective: Addition of a Splash Pad at Wedgwood

The addition of a splash pad is one of the top goals for the parks. The area to the west of the playground and parking lot area would be the best location for the splash pad because of the ample parking, good park use, and the nearby bathrooms. The incorporation of a splash pad into the park system would provide citizens with a place to cool off during the summer and give young children a close to home aquatic recreational opportunities.

Objective: Improve the Usefulness and Function of Mill Race Park

Throughout the process to update this plan, the desire to improve Mill Race Park has been a primary theme. Although there is an understanding that the park should remain passive in nature, the community understands that the park is underutilized. The park currently does not

have parking which is a critical element for improving its usefulness. By adding minimal parking as well as the improvements listed below the a balance is struck at keeping the park passive in nature while improving the park for public use.

- **Acquire Additional Land for Mill Race Park**

  Located between the existing park buildings of Mill Race Park and the Brookcrest assisted living complex along the Buck Creek Trail, this heavily wooded parcel offers the potential for nature trails directed towards seniors.

- **Turn the Barn at Mill Race into a Pavilion or Community Building**

  An existing barn remains in the park from the previous use as a horse farm. The barn is still in relatively good condition. The barn is locked and is an untapped resource that could provide a scenic and historic feeling to something that would be of use to the public such as a picnic shelter or community building. This would increase park's use and add uniqueness to the park that others do not have.

- **Construct an Outdoor Skating Rink**

  In conjunction with the rehabilitation of the barn, the construction of an outdoor skating rink would certainly draw families from throughout the community and area. The rink should be designed in a manner to accommodate various uses throughout the year.

- **Installation of a Disc Golf Course**

  Following the successful disc golf course at Heritage Park, the need for a second disc golf course is clear. Both the size and passive nature of Mill Race Park make it a perfect spot for disc golf.

Goal #2: Expand and improve the non-motorized trail system in the City by connecting to regional trails, schools, parks, open spaces and neighborhoods.

Objective: Trail System Improvements

Several opportunities exist for improvements to the existing trail system within the City:

- Access to the Kent Trail system could be improved or expanded, possibly along the Buck Creek through the Dill property.
- As suggested in the Grandville Downtown Master Plan, stronger pedestrian connections should be provided to the downtown area.
- New north/south paths could be developed through neighborhoods to create pedestrian linkages between neighborhoods while avoiding the traffic and crossings along Canal, Wilson and Ivanrest Avenues. These paths could also link existing park facilities with neighborhoods that currently do not have pedestrian access to them, allowing residents better access to existing park facilities.
- Lighting fixtures could be added along the City's trail system in order to improve safety.
- Additional non-motorized access to the public school sites could be pursued as opportunities arise.

- Add trail maps at beginning and end of each trail and in parks to inform public on different routes

Goal #3: Expand and improve the City's recreational facilities to better serve all segments of the population and to offer a greater choice in recreation activities.

Objective: Construct pickle-ball courts in Wedgewood Park.

Pickle-ball is a recreational activity popular with seniors. With growing population of seniors, it is critical that senior targeted activities are incorporated in the parks. Wedgewood is a centrally located park that is in the proximity of senior condos and the Grandville Senior Center.

Objective: Grand River Waterfront Improvements (Indian Mound Trail)

Several opportunities exist to improve the existing Indian Mounds bike trail, including providing better access from the trail to the City, and making the trail completely non-motorized. Also, over-looks could be added, and both picnic areas and fishing opportunities should be expanded. Eventually this property will become part of Millennium Park, so improvements to the park should be coordinated with Kent County.

Objective: As parks are improved, incorporate barrier-free facilities

As noted in the inventory, most of the parks rate high in accessibility, but could use improvement. As each of the parks are improved or developed, special attention must be paid to incorporating barrier-free elements including paved pathways, ramps, barrier free parking, and facilities that are barrier free such as bathrooms, water fountains, and picnic tables with overhangs.

Goal #4: Explore joint venture opportunities with local school districts and service groups to broaden recreational facilities.

- Due to ever decreasing funding options, joint venture projects are a way of creating or improving recreation facilities with pooled resources.
- By partnering with other groups, the chances for obtaining grant funding are greatly improved.

Objective: Prairie View School (Grandville Public Schools)

The closing of Prairie View School as the dedicated 6th grade school building offers the opportunity to partner with the school district as to possible re-uses for the building and surrounding property. Although one potential recreational use for the property is to develop an additional football/soccer field, the school district will determine its needs first before any decisions are made.

Objective: Middle School Tennis Facility Improvements (Grandville Public Schools and Calvin Christian School)

Improvements to or remodeling of the existing tennis facility is a possible project at the Middle School.

Other Issues Identified But Not Included in Action Plan

- Issue: Create a Park and Recreation Department with a Director and Staff – The Recreation Master Plan Committee could not justify the expense of a Park and Recreation Department at this time. As recreational facilities and programs expand in the future, this issue will be revisited.

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Land Acquisition

The planning process showed that there is a need for additional parkland to preserve the natural features of the community and to expand public recreation opportunities. It was also apparent that land acquisition should continue to be a priority for the Council in order to obtain land while it is still available. There are different ways to acquire land and examples of the methods include such things as donation from land owners or using grant monies.

Land acquisition must be considered on an on-going basis, as purchase opportunities become available. Based on the results of public involvement, an understanding of the community and population trends, and consideration of plan goals and priorities, land acquisition decisions must factor in the following:

- There should be a focus on land acquisition, utilizing any potential funding sources available.

- Land acquisition in the City should emphasize large sites, when possible. Large sites will accomplish many objectives: maximizing the potential to offer a range of recreation opportunities at one site, maximizing benefits of preservation, allowing for appropriate buffers within the site and along the perimeter, and increasing efficiency for maintenance.

- Land acquisition should also focus on the potential for "mini" parks in identified neighborhoods when land becomes available in those areas.

- The City should continue to acquire recreation and preservation parcels along Buck Creek, as well as parcels that will build a system of greenway connectors throughout the City.

General Initiatives

In addition to capital investments into the parks and recreation system, the City must also put forth on-going efforts to maintain the high quality of the system. The following paragraphs describe efforts that should be coordinated each year.

- **Fund Raising** – Develop new and creative ways to raise funds for park improvements. Examples include adopt-a-park beautification programs, donations in exchange for recognition at the park (such as a name on a bench or pavilion), or support from local businesses and service organizations.

- **Barrier Free Accessibility** – The Americans with Disabilities Act has established guidelines to provide barrier free accessibility at public facilities. It is important to provide access to the City parks according to these guidelines so that all residents can enjoy the parks in a safe manner. This accessibility includes access to the facilities and barrier free facilities themselves. As each park is improved a high priority must be placed on upgrades that improve the barrier free accessibility rating as described in the inventory. Improvements would include proper surfaces for wheelchairs, accessible picnic tables, and play equipment that is accessible for use.

- **Design Improvements** – As the park system evolves and each park undergoes its own degree of improvements, it is important to visually unify the parks so that residents are aware that the facilities they use are part of the City's system and that entrances are well-marked. This will facilitate greater appreciation and respect for the City's resources and efforts. This can be accomplished by a uniform set of design themes that symbolize City of Grandville parks and are used in the design of benches, signs, waste receptacles, bike racks, and other amenities at each park.

- **Park Maintenance** – The City should continue to improve its park maintenance program to assure the parks receive proper care. Coordination with outside agencies and organizations such us the Calvin Christian Schools, Grandville Public Schools and Kent County will be beneficial in accomplishing this objective. In the future, when new facilities, such as athletic fields are introduced, the City must consider strategies for maintenance. Possible solutions may include involvement from volunteer athletic organizations that use the fields.

- **Staffing** – The City needs to annually monitor staffing and office facility needs as required for efficient administration, operation, programming and maintenance of the parks and recreation system. Specifically, hiring of a full time parks and recreation director could become important to oversee daily efforts and coordinating policies, programs, and recommendations with the City Council, Planning Commission, citizen groups, school districts, regional groups, state and federal agencies and other consultants.

- **Public Involvement** – With most projects, the City should continue to solicit residents' suggestions concerning planning, use and development of City parks.

- **Natural Resource Inventory** – As opportunities become available the City should continue to learn more about the natural areas in the City through inventories and appropriate studies.

Recreation Programming

The City should continue to work closely with Grandville Community Education and Tri-Ace Community Education to provide quality recreation programming and activities to Grandville residents. Additional partnerships, perhaps with the YMCA or other non-profit or private groups also could add to the quantity and quality of programs offered and should be explored. At some point in the future if a separate Parks and Recreation department is explored within the City, opportunities for City-provided programs may become available.

PARK SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on input received from residents, City officials, park user groups, and an understanding of recreation trends and conditions, the Recreation Master Plan Committee has developed concept plans for two existing parks. Copies of these concept plans are provided below. A table listing all existing and proposed parks is also provided, with specific recommendations shown for each park.

The parks are organized into three categories: Passive Parks, Moderately Passive Parks, and Moderately Active Parks. These categories group the parks by their intended level of use so recommendations can be considered in terms of that intent.

Table 5-1
Park Recommendations

Passive Parks	
Mill Race Park	▪ Add second disc golf course ▪ Provide improved parking to accommodate the increase usage of the park ▪ Turn the barn into a pavilion or community building for public use ▪ Locate a outdoor skating rink adjacent to the barn ▪ Informational signs about wildlife along trails
Dill Property	▪ Acquire property when becomes available. ▪ Combine with portions of adjacent undeveloped parcels to create new park. ▪ Park could include trails, over-looks or interpretive markers, or possibly some active uses (field sports). ▪ Develop improved access between existing Buck Creek Trail and the Kent Trail system.

Table 5-1 Park Recommendations	
Moderately Passive Parks	
Buck Creek Trail	▪ Acquire additional property (Dill property in particular) to increase possibilities to expand trail through the City. ▪ Add trail maps ▪ Enhance existing pedestrian features where trail crosses Wilson Avenue.
Grand River Waterfront	▪ Provide better access from Indian Mounds Trail to the City. ▪ Make the Indian Mounds Trail completely non-motorized. ▪ Add over-looks, and expand picnic areas and fishing opportunities. ▪ Coordinate improvements with Kent County.
Moderately Active Parks	
Wedgwood Park	▪ Add splash pad to the west of playground facility ▪ Construct pickle-ball courts ▪ Put in additional picnic shelters that are smaller around splash pad
Heritage Park	▪ Put in "no feeding wildlife" sign
Calvin Crest Park (See Figure 3)	▪ Put in a tot lot to accommodate families with small children
Sanford Lake Park	▪ Acquire property on Sanford Lake for park development. ▪ Potential activities include paddle boats, overlooks, band shell and picnic areas.
Canal Ave. Mini Park	▪ Acquire property for development of "mini" park. ▪ Park could contain playground, seating area, and attractive landscaping.
Wilson/Ivanrest Mini Park	▪ Acquire property for development of "mini" park. ▪ Park could contain playground, seating area, and attractive landscaping.

FIVE YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The previous section of this Chapter provided a complete listing of all recommendations. Some were on-going efforts that will involve staff time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require investment. This Five Year Capital Improvement Plan incorporates the top priority recommendations that require financial investment from the City in the next five years. These priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities.

The list of actions is ambitious for two primary reasons. First, the success of the previous five year program has highly motivated the City to maintain parks and recreation as a funding priority. Secondly, this gives the City flexibility to respond to new opportunities. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.

Table 5-2
Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Year	Projects (in order of priority)	Cost	Funding Sources
Year #1 2013 $475,000	**New Parkland:** Acquisition of additional park land within City, including adjoining lots of existing parks or individual large parcels.	TBD	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Buck Creek Trail Crossing: Enhance existing pedestrian features at Buck Creek Trail and Wilson Avenue.	$80,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Splash Pad: Develop a splash pad at Wedgwood Park	$300,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Pickle-ball Courts: Construct pickle-ball courts at Wedgwood Park	$80,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Disc Golf: Add a disc golf course to Mill Race Park	$10,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	No Feeding Wildlife Signs: Add "no feeding wildlife" signs at parks with water features.	$5,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
Year #2 2014 $400,000	**New Parkland:** Acquisition of additional park land within City, including adjoining lots of existing parks or individual large parcels.	TBD	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Add Picnic Shelters at Wedgwood: Add two (2) smaller picnic shelters around splash pad and playground.	$50,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Mill Race Skating Rink – Construct a multi-season/purpose skating rink.	$100,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Convert Barn into Pavilion/Community Building: Renovate barn at Mill Race into a pavilion or community building for public use.	$250,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
Year #3 2015 $725,000	**New Parkland:** Acquisition of additional park land within City, including adjoining lots of existing parks or individual large parcels. Specifically, acquire additional parcel for Mill Race Park, and acquire Dill property for new park development if available.	$575,000 or more (TBD)	Grants, Local Funds, Donations

Year #3 Cont.	**Buck Creek Trail Extension-East:** Extend Buck Creek Trail east through Dill property (if available for purchase) and tie into existing Kent Trail system.	$150,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
Year #4 2016 $550,000	**New Parkland**: Acquisition of additional park land within City, including adjoining lots of existing parks or individual large parcels.	TBD	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Trail Extension/Development: Extend Buck Creek Trail to connect with Downtown.	$50,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Sanford Lake Mini Park: Acquire property and develop new neighborhood Park on Sanford Lake.	$500,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
Year #5 2017 $525,000	**New Parkland**: Acquisition of additional park land within City including adjoining lots of existing parks or individual large parcels.	TBD	Grants, Local Funds, Millage, Donations
	Grand River Waterfront Improvement (Indian Mounds Trail): Make improvements to Indian Mounds Trail along the Grand River waterfront.	$75,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Wilson/Ivanrest Mini Park: Acquire property and develop new neighborhood park between Wilson and Ivanrest Avenues, north of 44th Street.	$150,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Canal Mini Park: Develop park along Canal Ave when land becomes available.	$150,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations
	Trail Extension/Development: Develop north/south trails through neighborhoods to avoid crossings at Canal, Wilson and Ivanrest Avenues.	$150,000	Grants, Local Funds, Donations

OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

An item not specifically included in the Five-Year Action Plan because of the dependency of future partnership opportunities between the City of Grandville, the Grandville Public School District and/or Calvin Christian School. The Plan should be amended to include the following project.

- **Prairie View School Property:** Look into partnership opportunities with Grandville Public Schools to re-develop the Prairie View School property for recreational purposes. The potential cost for this project would be $50,000.

FUNDING SOURCES

The scope of recreation improvements proposed for the Five Year Capital Improvement Plan can be financed through a combination of resources. Aside from the general fund, these potential sources are described below.

- **Special Millage** - These have been successful tools for other communities in financing land acquisition and park improvements and could be considered as viable techniques in Grandville. A millage is an effective method to divide costs over time amongst all the taxpayers in the community to provide matching grant funds or finance projects outright. A millage allows more flexibility in how the money is utilized than does a bond.

- **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)** - MNRTF provides funding assistance for state and local outdoor recreation needs, including land acquisition and development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection to valuable natural resources. These are grants between $15,000 and $500,000 with a required minimum local match of 25%. This grant is ideal for implementing community park plans and for land acquisition in the future.

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** - LWCF provides funding assistance for communities to acquire and develop land for outdoor recreation. The minimum award is $15,000 and the maximum of $500,000 with a 50% local match. The eligibility criterion emphasizes preservation of natural resources such as waterways. This grant is ideal for implementing community park plans and for land acquisition in the future.

- **Michigan Natural Resources Tree Planting Grants** - Through the MDNR, there are three tree planting grant programs that will assist in funding landscape enhancements at the parks and re-foresting projects: Cooperative Resources Management Initiative, Urban Community Forestry Program - Arbor Day Mini-Grants, and Urban Community Forestry Program.

- **Arbor Day Foundation** - Becoming a member of the Arbor Day Foundation will provide the City with additional resources related to tree planting and maintenance.

- **The Transportation Enhancement Act -** Provides funding for numerous types of projects that support the enhancement of transportation facilities and promote safe and efficient multi-modal transportation methods. This is a reimbursement program that originally comes from the federal level and is administered by Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). Under this program, the City is eligible to apply for funding to implement non-motorized pathway priorities and some enhancement projects related to transportation.

- **Conservation Easements** - A conservation easement is a method of preserving open space that is guaranteed through formal documentation. This technique can also be used to preserve open space if it is not feasible for the City to acquire the land. Rather than

obtaining fee simple, or complete ownership, an organization or community can purchase or acquire by gift an 'easement' to the property.

- **Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships** - Reduced funding at the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands.

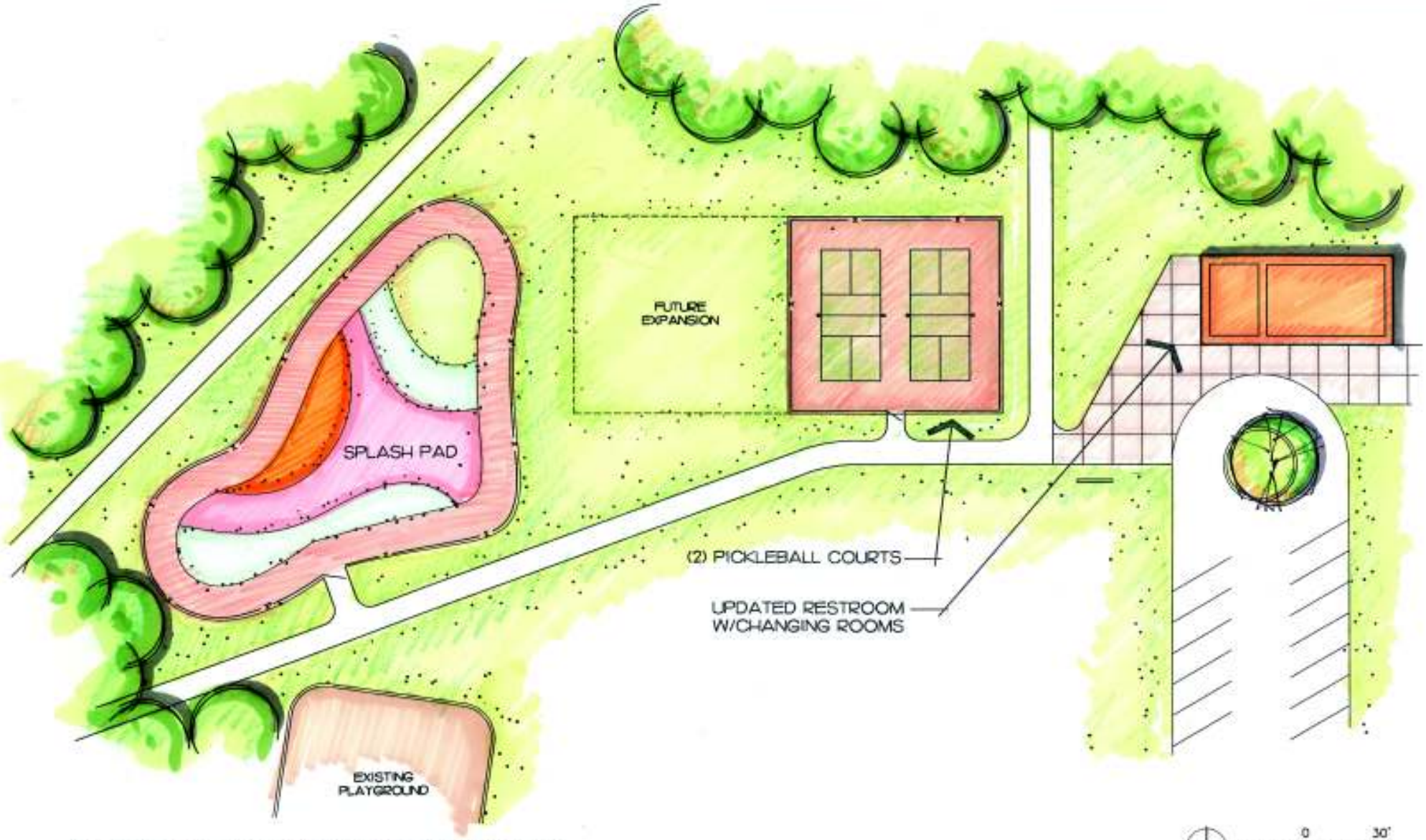
- **Donations** - Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

- **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.

- **Recreation Bond** - 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 upgrades to the park improvements and parkland 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.

- **Lease or Contractual Agreements** - The City may increase the availability of recreation facilities to its residents by leasing sites, facilities, and services from other sources in order to meet demands.

- **User Fees** - The City could investigate charging reasonable fees to participants in recreation programs. Every year the City should evaluate the fees to ensure they are providing the appropriate amount of funding to allow the programs to continue.



WEDGEWOOD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

CITY OF GRANDVILLE 2013 RECREATION MASTER PLAN

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MILL RACE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

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