



# *Lowell Township 2021 Community Parks and Recreation Plan*



**MCSA**  
GROUP, Inc.  
Landscape Architects and Architects  
EAST GRAND RAPIDS • MICHIGAN





# LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

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SECTION 1  
INTRODUCTION



# LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 1

## INTRODUCTION

Parks, Recreation and Open Space are important elements of all communities and reflect positively on the quality of life for residents. In recent years, a more holistic approach to recreational planning has been encouraged, stretching beyond the boundaries of traditional parks to include sidewalks, linear trails, greenways, town squares, plazas and other publicly and privately owned lands. In addition to the human benefits of recreation and open space, there are also important environmental benefits such as water resource protection, reduced vehicular traffic and plant and wildlife protection. The youth of the community are given places to go and activities to participate in that provide positive and constructive ways for them to use their leisure time. Families can find fun and inexpensive means of getting together with their friends and neighbors in a manner that builds a positive image of the community. The elderly also benefits from such programs in ways that provide for healthy and happy retirement.

## PLAN PURPOSE

This 2021 Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a guide for the future development of recreation opportunities for the residents and visitors of the Township. The plan addresses current recreation issues and identifies future needs of the community and the means for meeting those needs over the up-coming five-year period. It addresses both short and long-range goals and objectives and identifies an action program by which these goals and objectives can be accomplished. In addition, the plan serves as an educational tool to acquaint local officials and residents of the need for a sound and balanced recreation program.

This Plan has been developed both to reflect the needs and goals of the community and to meet the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for qualifying for Federal and State funding assistance. These funds are available for land acquisition, facility development, and improvements to new and existing parklands.



## PLAN SCOPE

The scope of this plan includes the Township active and passive recreation facilities, undeveloped open space and linear “green” corridors. Recreational programming is also an important consideration; the Township offers a variety of athletic, recreation and enrichment programs for persons of all ages. The area of the plan is essentially limited to the Township boundaries; however, consideration is also made of neighboring municipal and regional facilities and importantly the Lowell Public School Campus that influences use patterns. The Township of Lowell is continuing to grow, and this plan takes into account the changes that can be expected in the future and their impact on the recreation facilities the Township provides.

In terms of time, the Capital Improvement Schedule of this document covers development over the next five years. The Goals and Objectives developed to guide recreation planning may continue to be relevant for many more years to come.

## LOCATION MAP



SECTION 2

**COMMUNITY  
DESCRIPTION**





# LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 2

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### INTRODUCTION

Lowell Charter Township is located in the eastern portion of Kent County, and Kent County is located in the western portion of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Lowell Charter Township is 15 miles east of Grand Rapids, which is one of Michigan's major metropolitan areas. Other than Grand Rapids, the metropolitan area includes several communities: Kentwood, Wyoming, and East Grand Rapids. Lowell Charter Township is 50 miles southeast of Muskegon, 50 miles north of Kalamazoo, 50 miles west of Lansing, 140 miles west of Detroit, 190 miles northeast of Chicago and 210 miles south of the Mackinac Bridge. The Township of Lowell is adjacent to the northeastern portion of the Township and contributes to a sense of community for Township residents.

### HISTORY

Lowell was founded as a trading post on the south bank of the Grand River in 1831 by Daniel Marsac. In 1847, he purchased land on the north side of the river and platted it as "Dansville". In 1851, a post office was established there named "Lowell" after the township. The community was replatted in 1854 and renamed after the post office. It incorporated as a village in 1861.

### SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### POPULATION

The study of population growth trends and changing indicators such as age, education, income and employment are primary to developing a basic understanding of the recreational needs for the Township. As of the 2010 US census there were 5,949 people, 1,726 households and 1,410 families residing in the township and the population density was 159.9 per square mile. Estimates from the 2019 census have the population at 6,765, which is an increase from April 2010 – July 2019 of 13.8%.



## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population Trends and Projections through 2030 for Kent County													
Townships	Trends		Projections										
	2010	2015	2020		2025			2030					
Ada	13,142	14,772	15,046	16,319	16,402	16,950	19,497	18,032	18,853	22,674	19,662	20,757	25,851
Caledonia	10,821	12,301	12,603	14,151	13,780	14,785	17,480	15,260	16,768	20,610	16,739	18,750	24,140
Cannon	13,336	13,967	15,290	17,694	14,597	17,245	22,051	15,228	19,199	26,409	15,858	21,153	30,767
Cascade	17,134	18,148	18,902	21,991	19,161	20,669	26,849	20,175	22,437	31,706	21,188	24,204	36,564
Grattan	3,621	3,656	3,814	4,034	3,691	4,006	4,447	3,726	4,199	4,861	3,761	4,391	5,274
Lowell	5,949	6,314	6,454	7,253	6,679	6,959	8,568	7,044	7,465	9,862	7,409	7,970	11,167

Source: West Michigan Regional Planning Commission; U.S. Census of Population

Notes: Projections are based on trends (10, 20, 30, & 40 year percent and numeric change) and may not be the best indicator of a community's future. Ideally, projections should incorporate planning and the established goals of a community

\*High\* projections are based on 40-year (1970-2010) percentage change. Trends and "low" projections are based on 10-year (2000-2010) numeric change trends

## AGE DISTRIBUTION

In the township the population was spread out with 30.2% under the age of 18, 7.5% from 18 to 24, 30.8% from 25 to 44, 23.2% from 45 to 64, and 8.2% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 35 years. For every 100 females, there were 101.0 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 97.5 males.

## INCOME

As of the census of 2000, the median income for a household in the township was \$58,639, and the median income for a family was \$65,395. Males had a median income of \$46,774 versus \$28,182 for females. The per capita income for the township was \$22,560. About 2.1% of families and 3.0% of the population were below the poverty line, including 3.7% of those under age 18 and 8.1% of those age 65 or over.

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/RESOURCE INVENTORY

### TOPOGRAPHY

The terrain in the Township varies from primarily gently rolling in the southern portion to more rugged terrain and steeper slopes in the northern portion. The Grand River traverses the Township in an east-west direction. The lowest elevation in the Township is 630 feet and occurs at the intersection of the Grand River and Timpson Roads. The highest point in the Township is 890 feet and occurs at the center line of Cascade and Timpson Road.

### WATER RESOURCE

The major water resource in the area is the Grand River that traverses through the northern half of the Township between M-21 and Grand River Drive.

There are three named lakes in the Township totaling approximately 220 acres. The largest lake, Pratt Lake, has an area of approximately 180 acres and is located directly north of I-96 and provides public access for boating and fishing. The remaining two lakes are located



in the southwestern portion of the Township. McEwen Lake is approximately 25 acres in area and also provided public access. Morse Lake is approximately 12 acres in size and does not provide public access.

**SOIL**

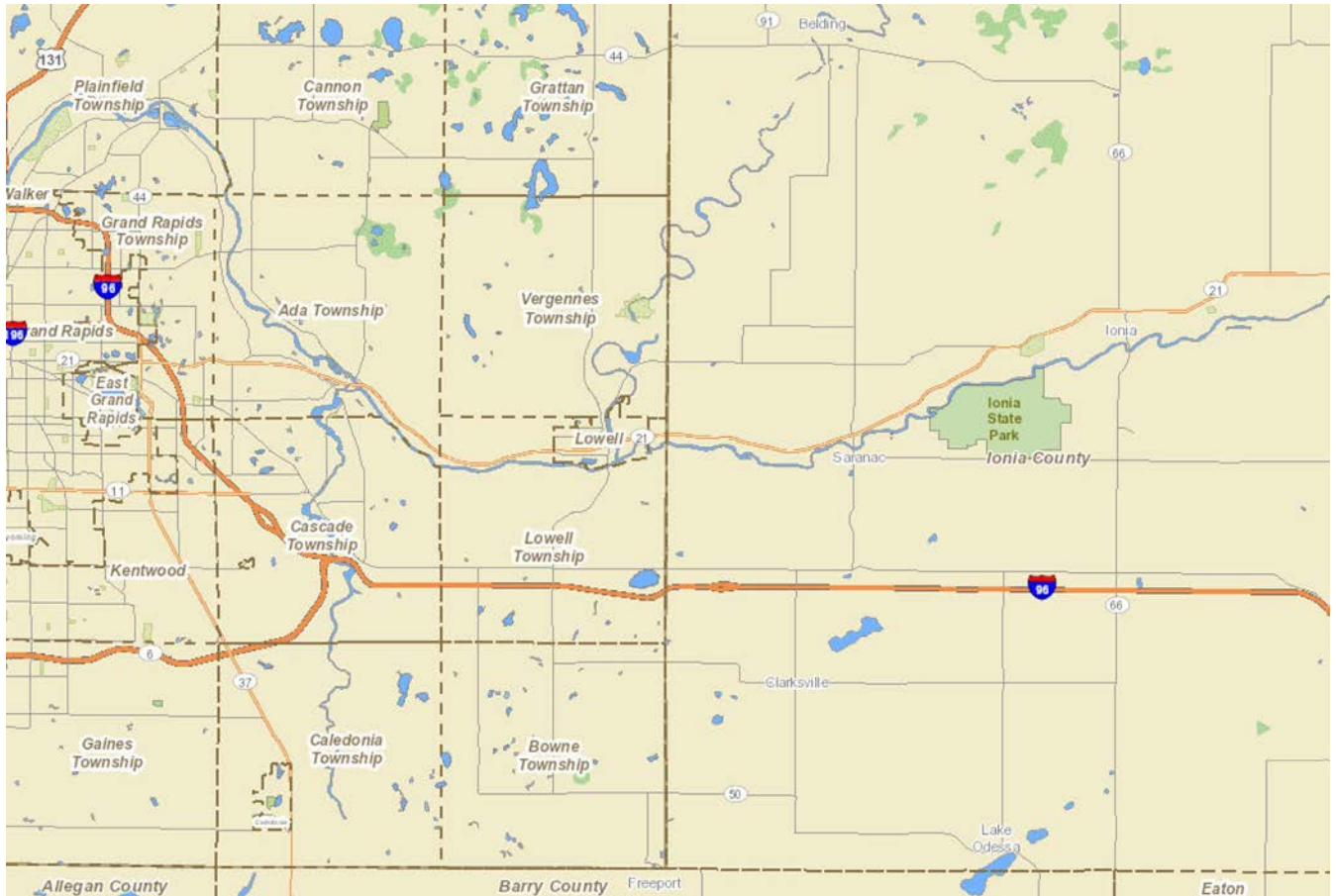
The northern half of the Township is characterized by Chelsea Loams, Boyer Sandy Loams, and Oshtemo series of soils, all of which have low water retention qualities and good to fair percolation rates. The soils of the southern half of the Township are composed of predominantly Capac, Marlette, and Parkhill Loams, which are noted for their slow percolation and ponding characteristics. The southern half of the Township is well suited to agricultural production.

**TRANSPORTATION**

Major transportation access for Lowell Township is a connection East West via M21 (Fulton) on the North part of the Township and I-96 on the South part of the Township and North South through the Township via M50 (Alden Nash/Segwun Ave/South Hudson).

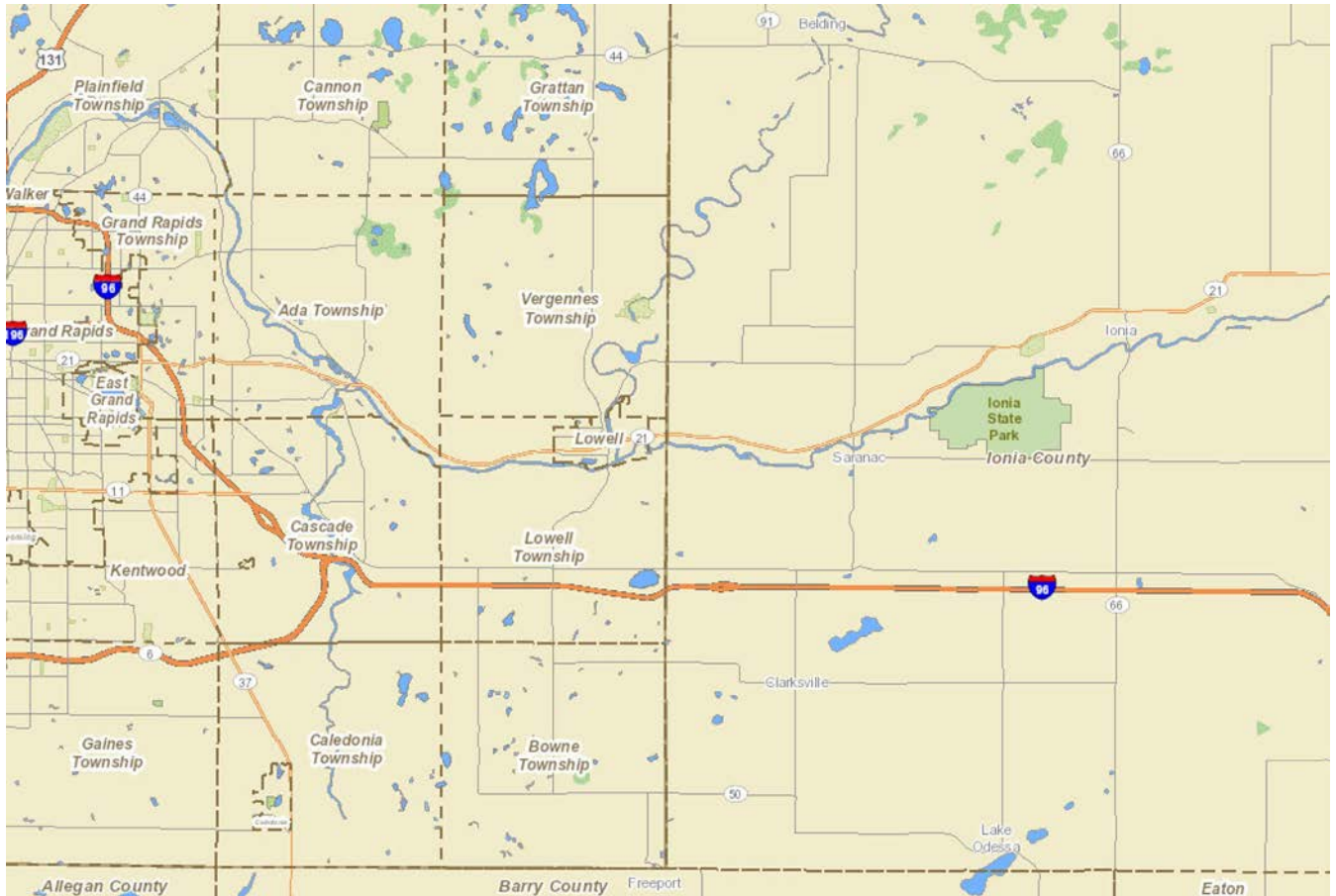


## LOCATION MAP





## LOCATION MAP



# OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF LOWELL TOWNSHIP

KE N O N Y, MCH I G A N  
T 6 N , 9 R W

Latest Revision: J U L Y 2 0 1 9

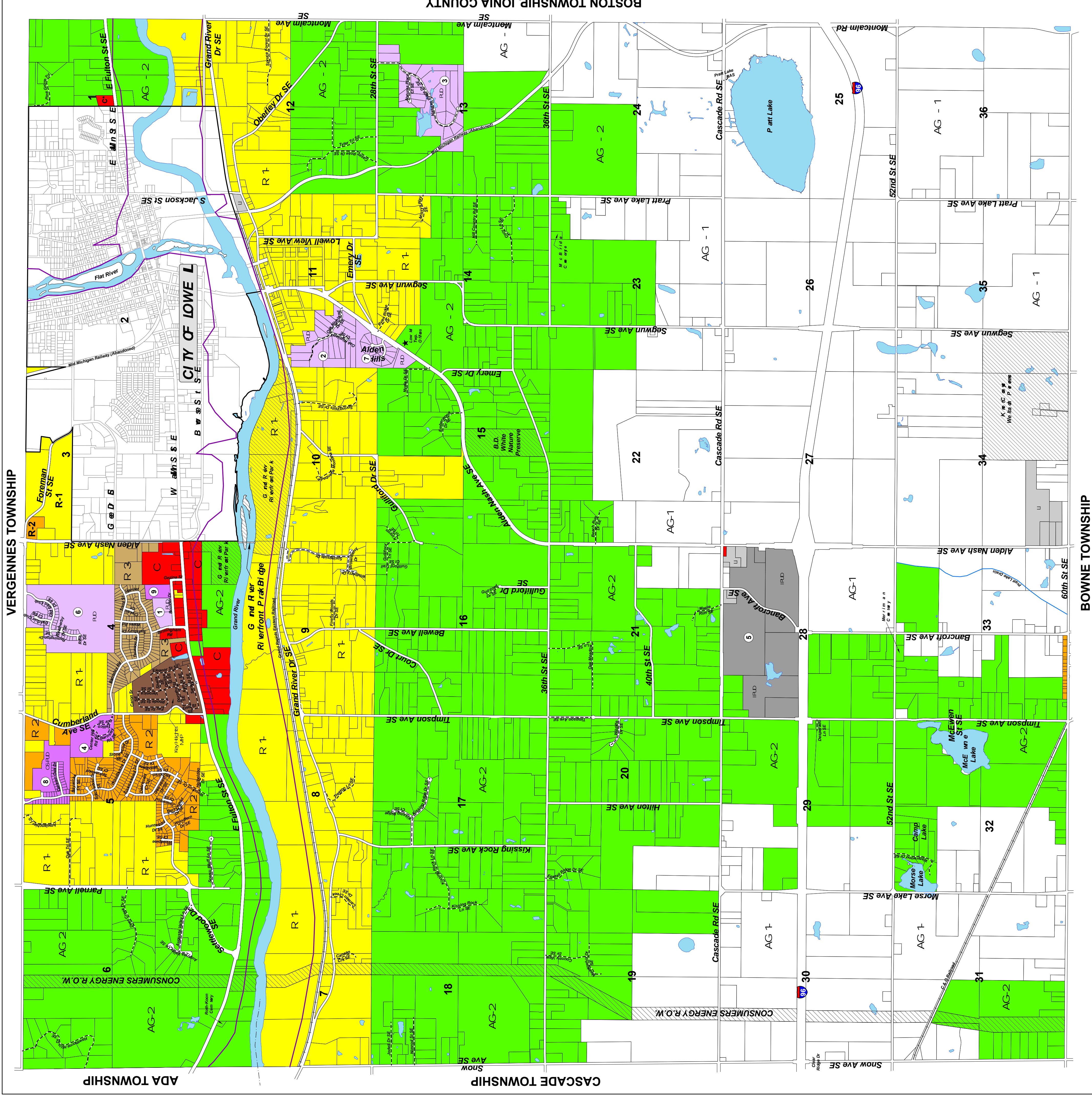
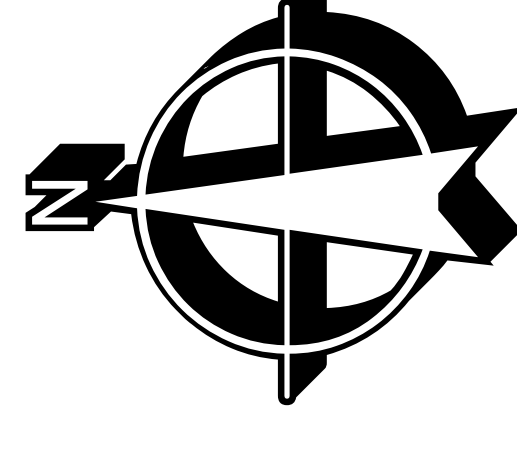
## ZONING DISTRICTS

- AG-1, PRIME AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION
- AG-2, RURAL AGRICULTURAL
- R-1, RURAL LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- R-2, MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
- R-3, HIGH DENSITY MULTIPLE FAMILY
- MH, HIGH DENSITY MOBILE HOME PARK
- C, GENERAL COMMERCIAL
- LI, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL
- OS-PUD, OPEN SPACE PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT
- IPUD, INDUSTRIAL PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT
- PUD, PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT
- FH, FLOOD HAZARD (100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN)
- PRIVATE ROADS

\* CO N T I N U I N G D O I N R A E N 2 0 0 0 Z  
14043 FULTON STREET

## Planned Unit Development

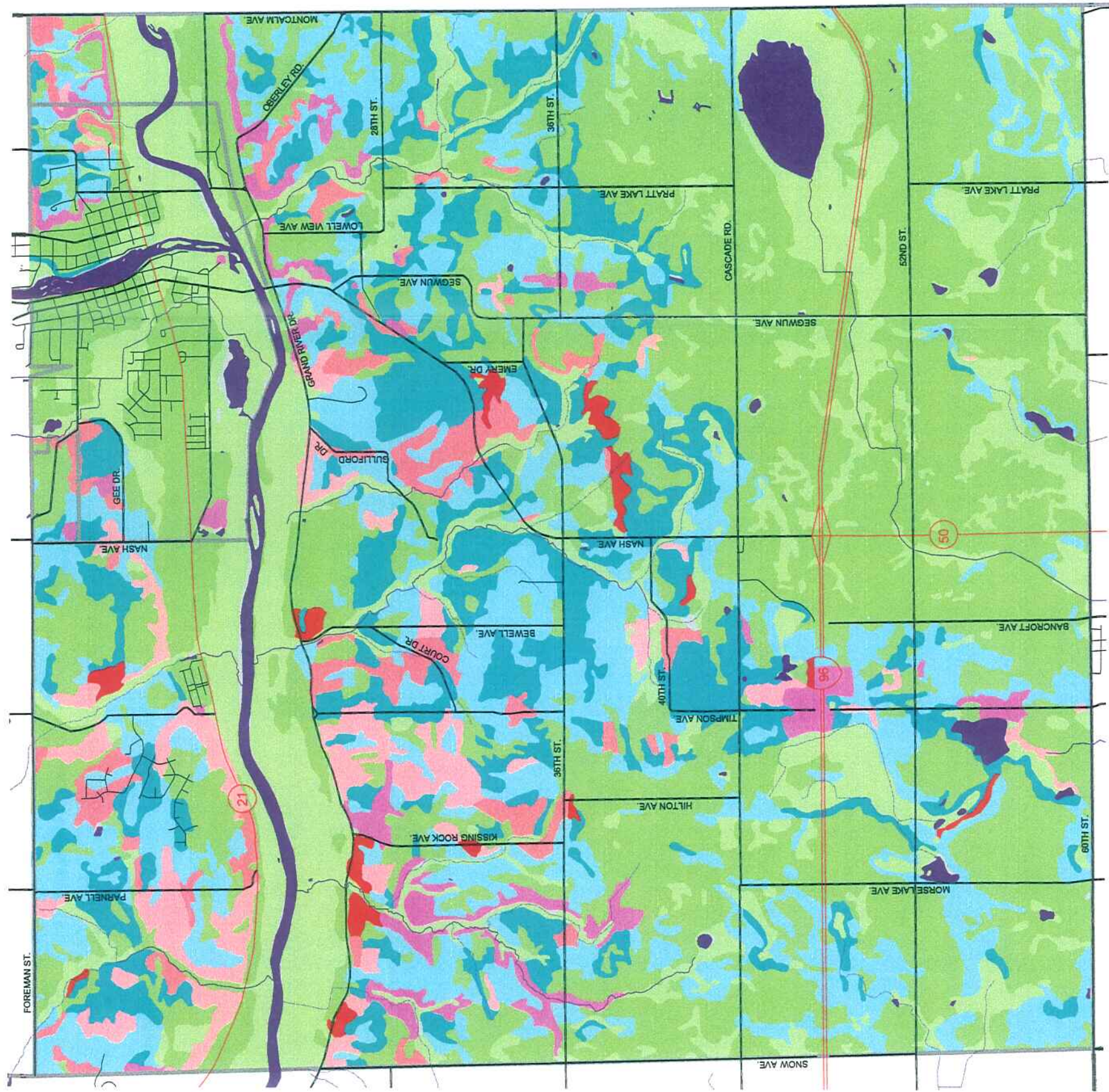
- 1 Stone Ridge Apartments
- 2 Oak Hill Lakeside Condominium
- 3 Nature's Paradise Condominium
- 4 Cumberland Ridge Condominiums
- 5 Gateway Industrial Park
- 6 Stony Buffalo
- 7 Alden Ridge
- 8 Twilight Commons
- 9 Townhomes at Riverside



MAP 1

# TOPOGRAPHIC SLOPES

LOWELL TOWNSHIP  
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



**CLASSIFICATION**

HYDROLOGY  
DRAINS AND INTERM. STREAMS  
RIVERS AND STREAMS  
LAKES/PONDS  
LAKE

ROADS  
HIGHWAYS  
STREETS  
COUNTY ROADS

POLITICAL BOUNDARIES  
POLITICAL BOUNDARY

**PERCENT SLOPES**

NO DATA OR WATER LEVEL

0 TO 6%
6 TO 12%
12 TO 18%
18 TO 40%
18 TO 45%
25 TO 45%
VARIES



DATA SOURCES:  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
LAND AND MINERAL SERVICES DIVISION,  
RESOURCE MAPPING AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION,  
SPATIAL DATA LIBRARY, 2001.  
SOILS INFORMATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, KENT COUNTY  
SOIL SURVEY, 1986.

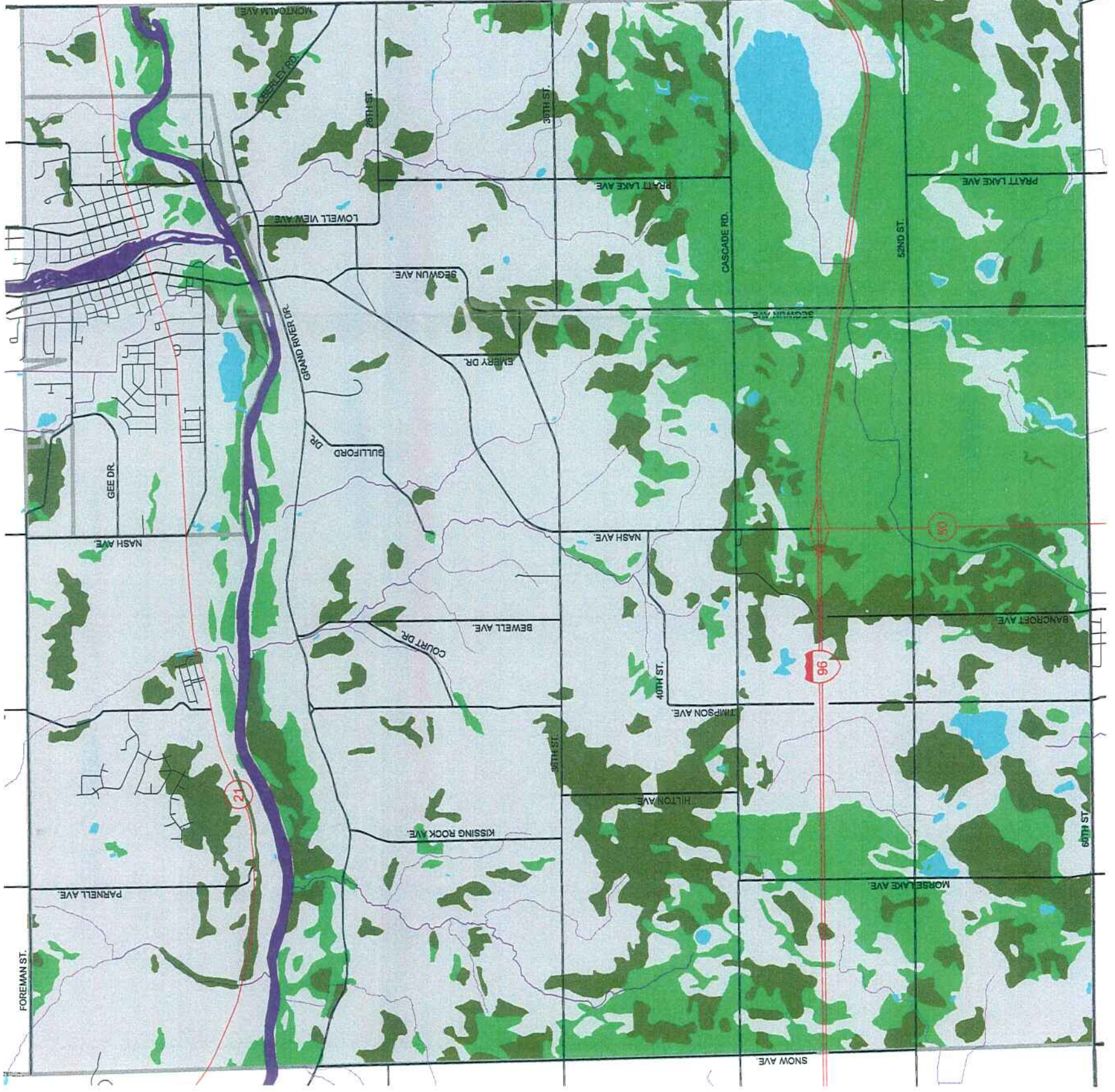


MAP 2

# PRIME FARMLAND SOILS

## LOWELL TOWNSHIP

### KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



**CLASSIFICATION**

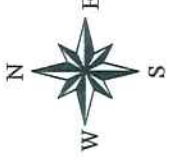
HYDROLOGY: CHAINS AND INTERMITTENT STREAMS, RIVERS AND STREAMS, LAKES/PONDS, LAKE

ROADS: HIGHWAYS, STREETS, COUNTY ROADS

POLITICAL BOUNDARIES: POLITICAL BOUNDARY

**PRIME FARMLAND SOILS**

- NOT PRIME
- PRIME, IF DRAINED
- PRIME



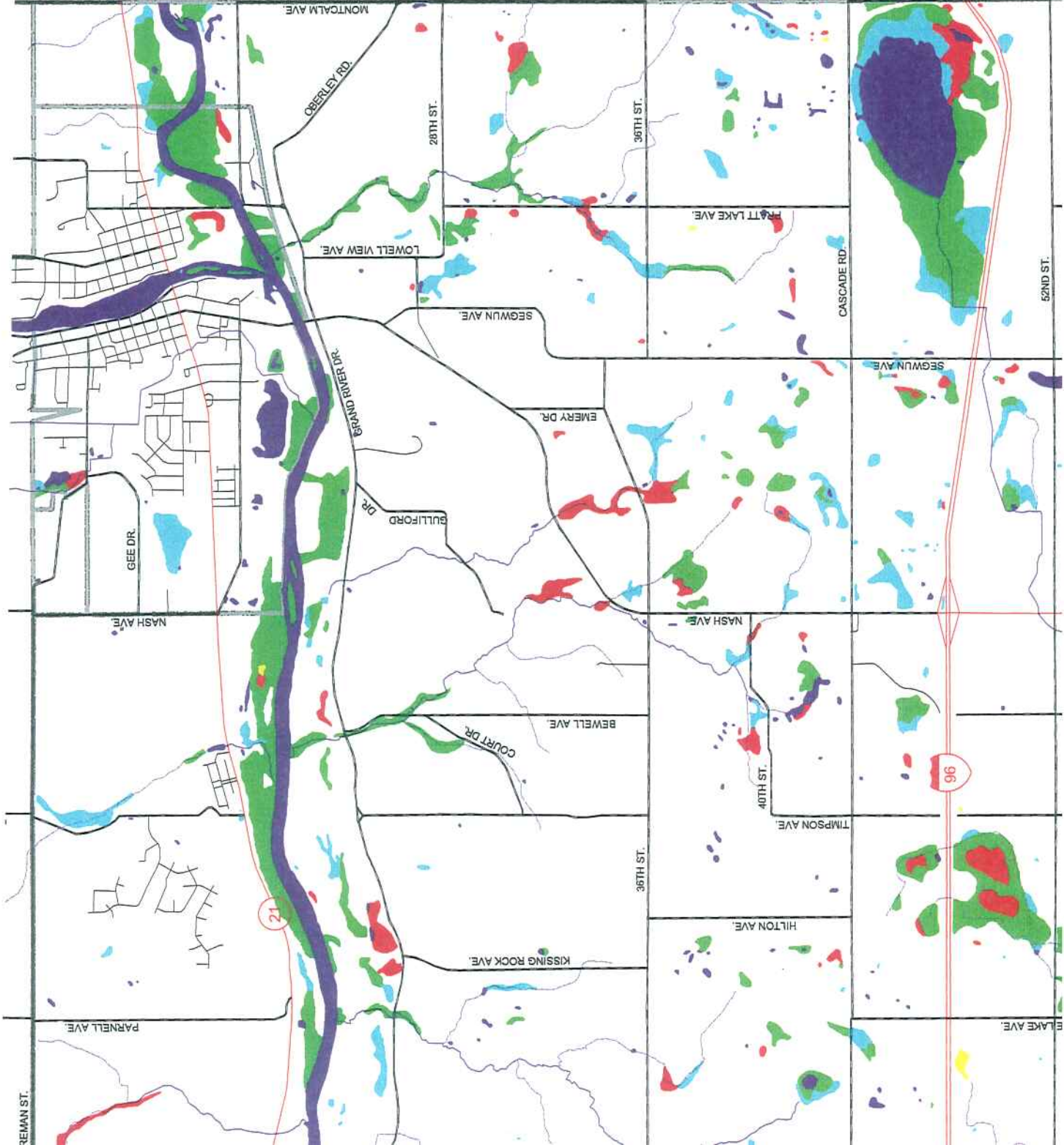
DATA SOURCES:  
 MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
 LAND AND MINERAL SERVICES DIVISION,  
 RESOURCE MAPPING AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION,  
 SPATIAL DATA LIBRARY, 2001.  
 SOILS INFORMATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
 NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, KENT COUNTY  
 SOIL SURVEY, 1986.





# MAP 3 NATIONAL WETLANDS

## INVENTORY LOWELL TOWNSHIP KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN



### CLASSIFICATION

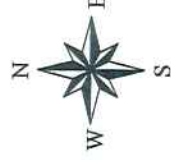
**HYDROLOGY**  
DRAINS AND INTERMITTENT STREAMS  
RIVERS AND STREAMS

**ROADS**  
HIGHWAYS  
STREETS  
COUNTY ROADS

**POLITICAL BOUNDARIES**  
POLITICAL BOUNDARY

### WETLAND TYPES

- AQUATIC BED
- EMERGENT
- FORESTED
- OPEN WATER/UNKNOWN BOTTOM
- SCRUB-SHRUB



DATA SOURCES:  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
LAND AND MINERAL SERVICES DIVISION,  
RESOURCE MAPPING AND AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY SECTION,

SECTION 3

ADMINISTRATIVE  
STRUCTURE



## **LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 3**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

#### **LOWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Jerry Hale, Supervisor  
Monica Burt, Clerk  
Ronda Benedict, Treasurer  
Mark Anderson, Trustee  
Carlton Blough, Trustee  
Steve Vander Ziel, Trustee  
Bill Thompson, Trustee

#### **PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Lowell Township currently has the following recreational areas: North Riverfront Park, South Riverfront Park, North County Trail, Bike Trail, and Bradford Nature Preserve. Township facilities include a Park Pavilion, Fields and Township Hall. There are also the following Township Cemeteries: Roth/Coons Cemetery, Wright Cemetery, Mc Bride Cemetery and Merriman Cemetery.

The city of Lowell operates the following parks: Recreation Park (30 acres), Richards Park (1.86 acres), Creekside Park (22.18 acres), McMahon Park (2.17 acres), Washington Street Property/Boy Scout Cabin (27.3 acres), Stoney Lakeside Park (53 acres and 27 acre lake), Rogers Field/Moose Properties (19.5 acres) and Upper Bridge Property (19.86 acres).

#### **RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

Annual clean up event in the fall held at the fairgrounds in Lowell with the City of Lowell and Vergennes Township.

#### **RECREATION DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Lowell Charter Township is the authorized agent of the Parks with established regulations governing use of Township parks.



## **RECREATION AND PARKS BUDGET**

The Township of Lowell Park budget for 2020 is \$88,215.00.

## **LOWELL TOWNSHIP 2020-2021 BUDGET SUMMARY**

The 2020-2021 total approved budget for Lowell Township is \$792,000.

## **CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES**

General funds.

## **ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers take care of the volleyball pits. In addition, a group of volunteers conduct everyday maintenance of the pickleball courts. A local church helps with some of the park projects once every year.

SECTION 4

RECREATION  
INVENTORY



**LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN  
SECTION 4  
EXISTING RECREATION INVENTORY**

To determine the recreational needs for the Lowell Township, an analysis of the existing facilities was undertaken. The intent of the analysis is to provide a clear evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the existing recreational opportunities the Township has to offer its citizens. The inventory is based on information provided by Township staff and site inspections carried out by MCSA Group as part of the planning process.

**TOWNSHIP PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES**

The Lowell Township provides a range of passive and active recreation opportunities for residents. There is one Township park that has existing recreational facilities on approximately 107.26 acres of public land in Lowell Township. The 70-acre parcel adjacent to the Grand River was purchased in 1991 and the development of phase one began in 1998. The remaining 37.27 acres is directly across the river to the north. This portion of the park was recently completed. Both the acquisition and development of the Grand River Park South park were funded by the Michigan DNR through a grant from the MDNR Trust Fund. Grand River North Additional information regarding this grant can be found in the Post Grant Certification Checklist. The Township property is classified as a community park. This classification is adapted from “Park, Recreation, Open Space and





Greenway Guidelines,” J. D. Mertes and J. R. Hall, 1995, as recommended by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. A more detailed description and photographic inventory of each site follows. An Existing Recreation Facilities map at the end of this section illustrates the location of the park within the Township, and an Existing Recreation Facilities matrix provides a summary of the facilities provided at each Location.

An Accessibility Assessment of each facility was undertaken using the following ranking system for the site elements based upon the 2010 Standards for Accessible Design:

- 1 - NONE
  - 2 - SOME
  - 3 - MOST
  - 4 - ALL
  - 5 - THE FACILITY MEETS THE PRINCIPALS OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN
- Equitable Design, Flexibility in Use, Simple and Intuitive Use, Perceptible Information and Tolerance for Error, Low Physical Effort and Size and Space for Approach and Use*





## **COMMUNITY PARKS**

Community-wide parks serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks and provide a range of facilities and areas capable of supporting structured and unstructured community participation. These areas are typically between 30 and 50 acres in size and serve two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3-mile distance. Facilities may include wooded or natural areas, picnic shelters and grills, bike, or hiking trails and other semi-active and passive uses for large groups of people. They may also contain specialized recreational facilities such as swimming pools, community centers and lighted ball diamonds. Community Parks should be easily accessible from throughout their service area. Grand River Riverfront Park North and South are classified within this category.







**North Grand River Park  
11998 Fulton ST SE  
31.15 Acres**



This park is located along the Grand River at the western site of the City of Lowell. Recent Improvements include a new 360’ long timber truss bridge connecting the North and South Park, Parking Area with 88 spaces including 4 barrier free, paved trail, Restroom/ Concession Building, Eight Lighted Pickleball Courts, Playground, Gaga Pit and Shelter.

Also, on the site is a historical building maintained by the Lowell Historical Museum.





***Accessibility Rating: 4***

This park was recently completed and meets ADA

***Accessibility Improvements:***

Accessibility to and into the playground

***Condition:***

Park Improvements were recently completed, so park is in excellent shape.





**South Grand Riverfront Park**  
**12025 Grand River DR SE**  
**76.44 Acres**



This park is located on the south side of the Grand River at the Western side of the City of Lowell. The park is a large multi-purpose community park that has parking spaces, restroom/ concession/ shelter, a playground, 6 soccer fields, soccer fields, concession area, fishing area/dock, picnic areas, wetland education area, lacrosse field, hiking trails, paved walkways, benches, boardwalk, natural areas, Grand River frontage, Canoe/kayak launch, gazebo, shelter and storage building.





**Accessibility Rating: 3**

This park has some accessibility.

**Accessibility Improvements:**

Barrier Free spaces should be restriped and signed near the pathway to the restroom building and near the playground. Provide accessibility to soccer field bleachers on at least one field.

**Condition:**

Because much of this park is within the floodplain, the Parking Areas and Paths wear more quickly than other sites. Consideration should be made for resealing and replacing sections annually.





## **TRAILS**

### ***North Country Trail***

The North Country Trail is part of a larger trail network which when fully completed will stretch nearly 4,600 miles from Vermont to North Dakota; 1,600 miles are already complete. The North Country Trail enters Lowell Township in the southeast corner and follows several County roads along with an abandoned railroad right-of-way north through the Township to the City of Lowell. From the City of Lowell, the Trail extends north through the Lowell State Game Area.

### ***Lowell Area Recreation Authority***

In 2004, Lowell Township, the City of Lowell and Vergennes Township formed the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) for the purpose of working toward developing, acquiring, constructing, operating and maintaining a trail system for residents of the Townships and the City. The LARA board consists of officials from each of the three municipalities and has developed a Trailway Master Plan for the Lowell Area. Recently a non-motorized trail was completed in the City of Lowell and Vergennes Townships, LARA continues to work on connecting residents to the burgeoning regional rail-trail network.

As of 2014, LARA was working on planning future connections within the community and to the region, some of which were in Lowell Township. Lowell Township's continued involvement in LARA will be an important part of improving recreational opportunities for residents, and the Township supports these efforts.

## **SCHOOLS**

### ***Wittenbach/Wege Agri-science and Environmental Center***

Located on Alden Nash Road across from Lowell High school in Vergennes Township. The facility and natural area are used by the science and social studies curriculums for field trips and provides students with hands-on experience programs.

### ***Lowell High School***

Recreation facilities at the high school include: 8 outdoor tennis courts, one baseball diamond, one softball diamond, one soccer field and one practice soccer field, a football stadium, three practice football fields and two indoor gymnasiums.



### ***Lowell Middle School and Bushnell Elementary School***

Located on 34.98 acres on Foreman Street, contains six outdoor tennis courts, one baseball diamond, a practice football/baseball/soccer field and an indoor gymnasium including five basketball courts and seating for approximately 1,200.

### ***Cherry Creek Elementary School***

Located on eight acres on Foreman Street, includes a playground, two outdoor basketball courts, one softball diamond, one baseball diamond, an open play area, a fitness course, and a nature area. The school has four indoor basketball courts and seating for 600.

### ***Alto Elementary School***

Located in the Village of Alto, provides playground equipment, a gymnasium, two softball fields, one outdoor basketball court, and one soccer field.

### ***Murray Lake Elementary School***

Located in Vergennes Township - contains a playground and an open play field.

## **PRIVATE PROPERTIES/FACILITIES**

The Township contains very limited private recreational facilities within its borders. It contains Heidi's Corn Maze, located at the intersection of Cascade Road and Alden Nash, offers recreational opportunities.

The Township is also home to the Bradford Dickinson White Nature Preserve, which is maintained by the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. This preserve contains a trailhead and parking area located along 36th Street, about ½ mile from Alden Nash.

The Township also contains two lakes with public fishing access areas and boat launches, located on Pratt Lake and McEwen Lake.



The City of Lowell contains some limited commercial recreation facilities, such as a bowling alley and a roller rink. The YMCA is currently located within the City, and contains a fitness center, weight room, teen center and rock-climbing wall.

**REGIONAL FACILITIES**

**CITY OF LOWELL PARKS**

The City operates six parks and owns other undeveloped park property that totals 175.87 acres including a 27-acre lake. The City of Lowell's park facilities include:

***Creekside Park – 22.18 Acres***

Facilities - Soccer, softball and baseball fields, a beach volleyball court, picnic shelter, concession building, paved and lit pedestrian paths, horseshoe pits, restrooms, playground, and a paved parking lot.

***Richards Park - 1.86 Acres***

Facilities - Playground, a half basketball court, benches, ice-skating rink and paved pedestrian paths.

***McMahon Park – 2.17 Acres***

Facilities - Two benches and a picnic table

***Stoney Lakeside Park – 53 acres and 27-acre lake***

Facilities - 27-acre pond that affords opportunities for swimming, fishing, and boating, a beach, restrooms, playground, picnic shelter, horseshoe pit, parking lot, picnic tables, and a dog-walking park.

***Recreation Park - 30 Acres***

Facilities - Running track, football/soccer field with lights, cinder running track, softball field with lights, rustic camping, a boat launch on the Grand River and storage area for Lowell Crew team.

***Upper Bridge Property – 19.86 acres***



## **KENT COUNTY**

Kent County has 41 sites covering more than 6,700 acres and 28 miles of paved inter-community recreation trails. The County does not currently have any park facilities in the Township, although a large park is currently being planned near Cascade and Alden Nash Roads. It is anticipated that when completed, this new County park will encompass approximately 700 acres.

The following is a brief description of the facilities at nearby County parks:

### ***Caledonia Lakeside Park*** - 58 Acres

Fishing, ball diamonds, picnic areas, playgrounds, shelter house and restrooms.

### ***Chief Hazy Cloud Park*** - 122.5 Acres

Fishing, playgrounds, picnic areas and restrooms.

### ***Coldwater River Park*** - 6 Acres

Fishing, picnic areas and vault toilets.

### ***Cooper Creek/Spencer Forest*** – 481.7 Acres

Fishing, picnicking, cross country skiing, natural trails, equestrian trails, vault toilets.

### ***Creekside Park*** - 32 Acres

Walking/biking, fitness trail, playgrounds, soccer, ball diamonds, picnic areas, horseshoes, open shelter, and restrooms.

### ***Dutton Shadyside Park*** – 18.1 Acres

Playgrounds, tennis courts, ball diamonds, picnic area with shelter, and restrooms.

### ***Fallsburg Park*** - 287 Acres

Fishing, playgrounds, ball diamonds, picnic areas, disc golf, shelter house, nature trails and restrooms.

### ***Kent Trails*** - 15 Miles

Nature Trails, cross-county skiing, walking/biking, and fishing.





***Knapp Valley Forest Park*** – 87.3 Acres  
Walking/hiking, adjacent playground.

***Luton Park*** - 264 Acres  
Mountain biking, hiking/walking/running, restrooms.

***Dwight Lydell Park*** – 38.9 Acres  
Walking/biking/hiking, fishing, winter sports playgrounds, ball diamonds, picnic area, open shelter, and restrooms.

***Myers Lake Park*** -10.4 Acres  
Fishing, swimming, playgrounds, picnic area, open shelter, and restrooms/bath house.

***Pickrel Lake*** – 310.4 Acres  
Nature trails, hiking trails, fishing, and cross-country skiing.

***Provin Trails Park*** - 46 Acres  
Nature trails, cross-country skiing, and vault toilets.

***Ruehs Park*** – 481.7 Acres  
Fishing, playgrounds, picnic area and vault toilets.

***Seidman Park*** – 435.5 Acres  
Nature trails, hiking/walking trails, cross- country skiing, and vault toilets.

***Thornapple Riverbend Greenspace*** – 43.5 Acres  
Currently undeveloped, plans for the park include trails, play area and off-leash area for dogs.

***Townsend Park*** - 144 Acres  
Nature trails, hiking/walking trails, cross-country skiing, fishing, playgrounds, picnic areas, picnic shelter, shelter house, restrooms, and vault toilets.

***Wabasis Lake Park*** – 103.6 Acres  
Campgrounds, hiking/walking trails, nature trails, fishing, swimming, playgrounds, ball diamonds, picnic areas, open shelter, restrooms/bath house and vault toilets. The



Campground offers 45 electric sites, 15 have full hookup sites. There are also 15 primitive sites, 3 cabins, one cottage and fully stocked campground store.

***White Pine Park*** - 60 Acres

Mostly undeveloped, offering parking and a single trail, vault toilets.

**STATE PARKS**

***Ionia State Recreation Area***

Rolling hills, babbling brooks, open meadows, forested ridges, a lake nestled in the hills and a river winding its way through woods and fields. The 4,500 acres of flat to rolling terrain is a mixture of open field, mature hardwood forest and pine plantations. Four miles of Grand River floodplain follow the river course on the north border of the park. Dammed waterfowl floodings and other wetlands dot the park. Wildflowers abound. Birding is excellent with more than 199 species identified by the Audubon Society.

**RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY**

See Appendices.



### Grant History

**Grantee**  
**Lowell Charter Township - Kent County**

<b>Project No.</b> TF91-227	<b>Project County:</b> Kent	<b>Project Year:</b> 1991
<b>Project Title:</b> Grand River Riverfront Park		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$49,500.00
<b>Project Description:</b> Acquisition of 70 acres of land along the Grand River Floodplain for future development of a community park for passive and active recreation. The site includes 2,150 feet of Grand River frontage.		

<b>Project No.</b> TF98-248	<b>Project County:</b> Kent	<b>Project Year:</b> 1998
<b>Project Title:</b> Lowell Charter Township Park		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$142,335.00

- Scope Item:**
- 2 Soccer Fields
  - 8 Picnic Tables
  - Access Road
  - Canoe Access Area
  - Fence (western boundary of park)
  - Gravel Parking Lot
  - Interpretive Signs
  - Landscaping
  - Nature Trail
  - Park Sign
  - Picnic Shelter
  - Well-Irrigation and Drinking Water

**Project Description:** Development of a multi-purpose park on the Grand River to include picnic facilities, trails, game fields, a canoe landing, playground equipment and fishing access.

<b>Project No.</b> CM00-175	<b>Project County:</b> Kent	<b>Project Year:</b> 2000
<b>Project Title:</b> Lowell Charter Township Park Development		
<b>Project Status:</b> Grant Closed		<b>Grant Amount:</b> \$199,655.00

- Scope Item:**
- Electrical Service
  - grills
  - Playground
  - Restroom/picnic shelter with Septic System
  - Running/Cross-Country Ski Trail-1 mile-paved

**Project Description:** Development of the Township Park to include a combined restroom/picnic shelter, children's playground, one-mile barrier free running/cross-country ski trail.

<b>Total Number of Projects:</b>	3
<b>Total Amount of Grant Given:</b>	\$391,490.00



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [ ] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Lowell Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: CM00-175

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Lowell Charter Township Park

PROJECT SCOPE: development to include restroom/picnic shelter, playground, trail

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Lowell Charter Township, Jerry Hale, Supervisor, 2910 Alden Nash, 616-897-7600, Lowell Michigan 49331, supervisor@lowelltp.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [ ] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [ ] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [ ] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [ ] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [ ] Yes [X] No

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.  
regular maintenance is performed by Township maintenance staff

Yes  No

**GENERAL**

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes  No  N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes  No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes  No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

8am to dusk. Lot is paved in the winter

**COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)**



**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**CERTIFICATION**

*I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.*

<u>Jerry Hale</u> Please print	<u><i>Jerry Hale</i></u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>1-25-2021</u> Date
<u>Kathleen N. Fremer</u> Please print	<u><i>Kathleen N. Fremer</i></u> Witness Signature	<u>25 Jan 2021</u> Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Lowell Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF91-227

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Grand River Riverfront Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition of 70 acres of land along the Grand River Floodplain

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Lowell Charter Township, Jerry Hale, Supervisor, 2910 Alden Nash, 616-897-7600, Lowell Michigan 49331, supervisor@lowelltp.org

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**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

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**regular maintenance is performed by Township maintenance staff**

Yes  No

**GENERAL**

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Yes  No  N/A

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Yes  No

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Yes  No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

**8am to dusk. Lot is paved in the winter**

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**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

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Jerry Hale  
Please print

Jerry Hale  
Grantee Authorized Signature

1-25-2021  
Date

Kathleen N. Fremer  
Please print

Kathleen N. Fremer  
Witness Signature

25 Jan 2021  
Date

Send completed report to: **POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS  
GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
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(Please select one) [ ] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [ ] RECREATION PASSPORT [ ] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Lowell Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF98-248

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Lowell Charter Township Park

PROJECT SCOPE: picnic facilities, trails, game fields, canoe landing, fishing, playgd

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

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**CERTIFICATION**

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Please print <u>Jerry Hale</u>	<u>Jerry Hale</u> Grantee Authorized Signature	<u>1-25-2021</u> Date
Please print <u>Kathleen N. Fremer</u>	<u>Kathleen Fremer</u> Witness Signature	<u>25 Jan. 2021</u> Date

Send completed report to:

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PO BOX 30425  
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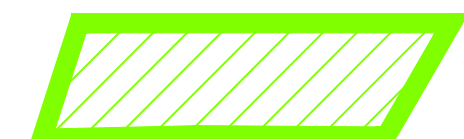

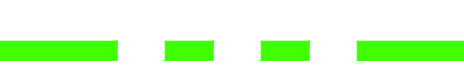






# RECREATION FACILITIES MAP

## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

**LEGEND**

-  PARKS
-  PROPOSED TRAIL SECTIONS
-  TOWNSHIP BOUNDARY
-  NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ROUTE
-  SCHOOLS
-  1/4 MILE RADIUS
-  1/2 MILE RADIUS





SECTION 5

PLANNING AND PUBLIC  
INPUT PROCESS



# **LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 5**

## **PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

### **RECREATION PLANNING**

Recreation planning plays an important role in maintaining the quality of life in a community. If a community is to provide effective recreational opportunities, it needs a way of identifying and solving current problems and anticipating future needs. Recreation planning is one means of obtaining a perspective on these problems; developing realistic alternatives; formulating goals, policies, and recommendations for public and private decisions; developing criteria to measure change; and involving people in the planning, design and decision processes.

This Parks and Recreation Plan presents an evaluation of the Township’s recreational needs and opportunities. It considers the existing amenities in the Township, the current and anticipated demand for additional or improved facilities, and the means for providing those facilities.

Since the previous Parks and Recreation Plan, developed in 2015, the Township has continued to make improvements to its park and recreation facilities. The most recent accomplishment is the completion of improvements to North Grand River Park.

This plan is to serve as a guideline for directing the Township in the operation and maintenance of existing and future facilities and programs to meet the recreational needs of its citizen’s. The plan summarizes long-term recommendations intended to guide the development of recreation opportunities and describes an action and capital improvement program for implementation over the next five years.





**PLAN PROCESS AND DEVELOPMENT**

This 2021 Community Park and Recreation Plan was developed by the Charter Township of Lowell with the assistance of MCSA Group, Inc, a park and recreation planning consultant. Township staff met regularly with representatives of MCSA Group, between June 2020 January 2021 for the development of this Plan.

Criteria considered and evaluated for plan development evolved from the examination of goals and recreation standards determined through a wide variety of input sources. This information was collected from the inventory and review of existing facilities; the identification of recreation needs and deficiencies; public opinion; current statewide recreation issues and priorities; and future expectations.

Public input was sought throughout the process by means of a single Public Meeting held to solicit public desires and concerns regarding parks and recreation. It was advertised on the Township’s website. The meeting schedule was as follows. A summary of the comments and discussion items can be found in the appendices of this report.

- October 29, 2020                      Public Input Meeting
- January 26, 2021                      Plan Adoption by Township Board

In addition, the Township undertook a survey of Township residents. The survey was available on the internet via Survey Monkey. A total of 341 surveys were completed. A copy of the survey and a summary of the results are included at the end of this section.

The survey was well received and indicated a high level of satisfaction with the Township’s Park. A large number of respondents recorded an interest in a splash pad, natural areas and walking trails. Residents also would like monies spent on maintenance over development.

Comments from the public meetings and surveys were incorporated into a final draft of the Plan, which was made available to the public for one month commencing on December 7, 2020 to solicit further comments prior to a public hearing and plan adoption.

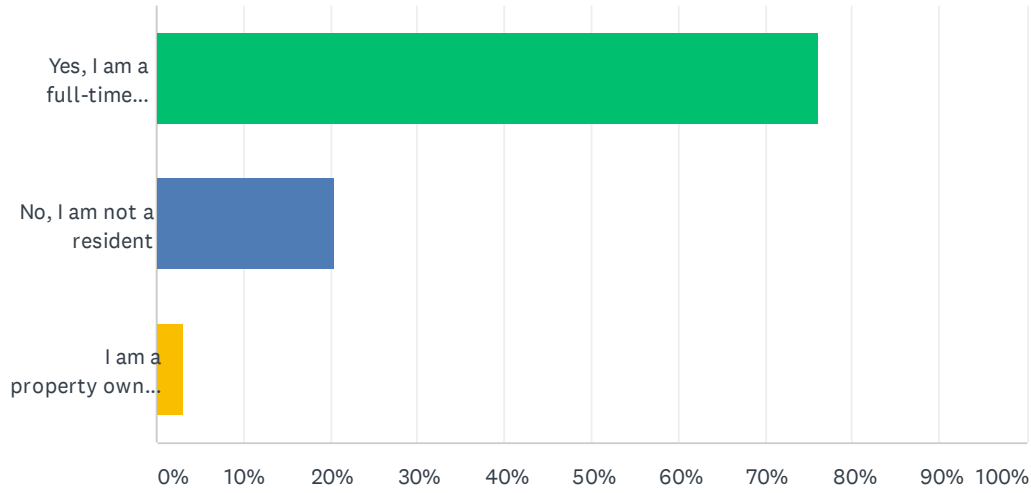




Following the one-month review period, the final plan was presented during a public hearing to the Township Board on January 26, 2021. The Resolution to formally adopt this plan can be found in Section 9.

# Q1 Do you live in Lowell Township?

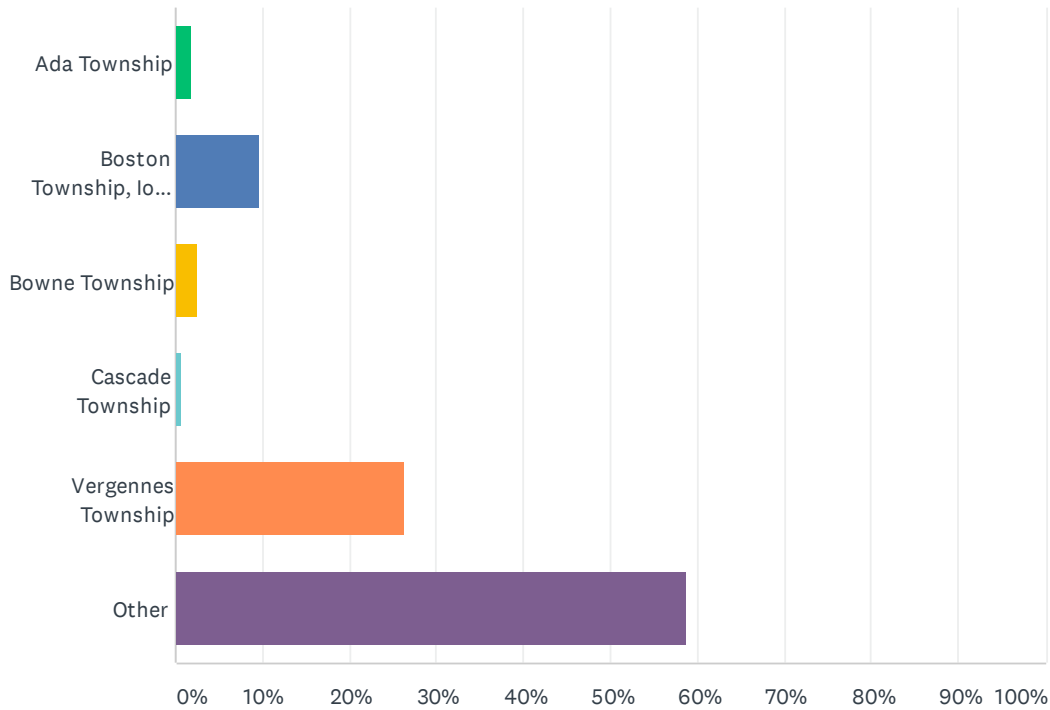
Answered: 341 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, I am a full-time resident	76.25%	260
No, I am not a resident	20.53%	70
I am a property owner but do not reside here	3.23%	11
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>341</b>

## Q2 If you do not live in Lowell Township, where do you live?

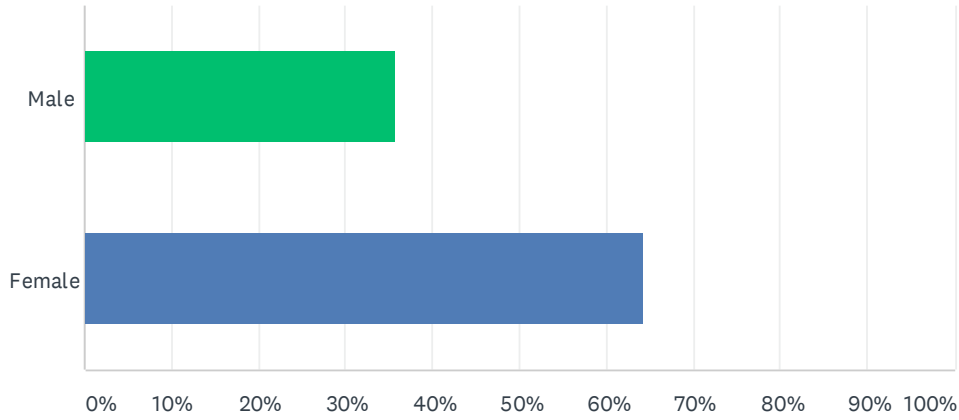
Answered: 155 Skipped: 186



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Ada Township	1.94% 3
Boston Township, Ionia County	9.68% 15
Bowne Township	2.58% 4
Cascade Township	0.65% 1
Vergennes Township	26.45% 41
Other	58.71% 91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>155</b>

### Q3 Are You:

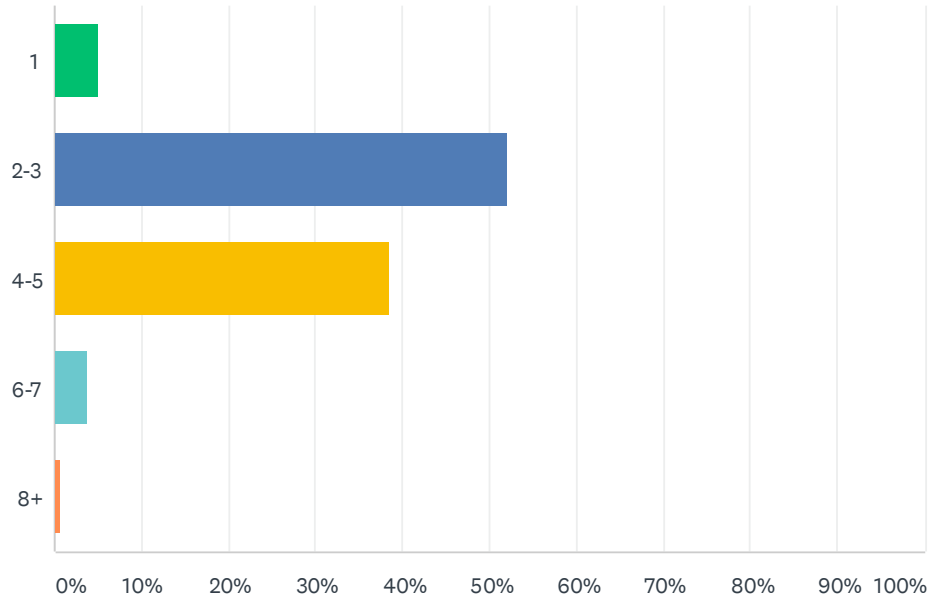
Answered: 338 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Male	35.80% 121
Female	64.20% 217
Total Respondents: 338	

## Q4 How many people currently live in your household?

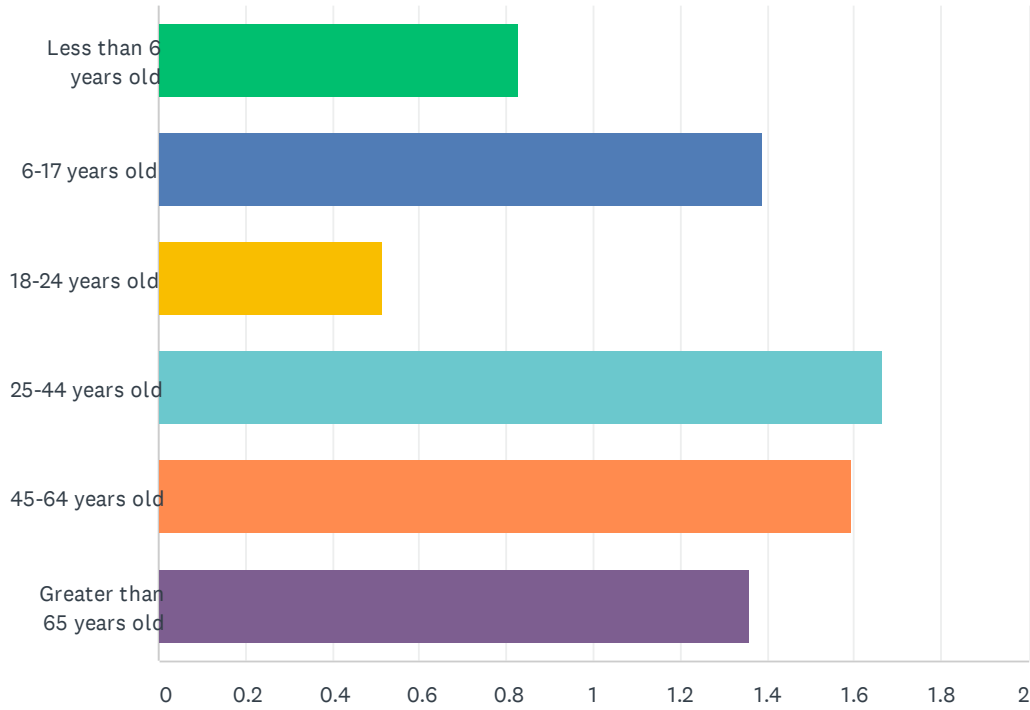
Answered: 340 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	5.00%	17
2-3	52.06%	177
4-5	38.53%	131
6-7	3.82%	13
8+	0.59%	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>340</b>

### Q5 How many people in your household are:

Answered: 338 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
Less than 6 years old	1	124	150
6-17 years old	1	239	172
18-24 years old	1	51	99
25-44 years old	2	356	214
45-64 years old	2	284	178
Greater than 65 years old	1	170	125
Total Respondents: 338			

#	LESS THAN 6 YEARS OLD	DATE
1	1	1/9/2021 2:55 AM
2	1	12/12/2020 1:13 PM
3	0	12/11/2020 9:14 PM
4	2	12/11/2020 10:53 AM
5	0	12/11/2020 8:59 AM
6	0	12/11/2020 8:45 AM
7	1	12/11/2020 8:39 AM
8	0	12/11/2020 8:11 AM
9	2	12/11/2020 5:35 AM
10	1	12/11/2020 12:15 AM
11	0	12/10/2020 11:00 PM
12	0	12/10/2020 8:14 PM
13	0	12/10/2020 11:35 AM
14	0	12/10/2020 9:51 AM
15	0	12/10/2020 9:16 AM
16	0	12/10/2020 8:49 AM
17	2	12/10/2020 7:48 AM
18	0	12/10/2020 7:36 AM
19	0	12/10/2020 6:47 AM
20	0	12/10/2020 5:17 AM
21	0	12/10/2020 1:03 AM
22	4	12/9/2020 11:07 PM
23	1	12/9/2020 11:03 PM
24	0	12/9/2020 10:48 PM
25	0	12/9/2020 10:20 PM
26	0	12/9/2020 10:19 PM
27	0	12/9/2020 9:59 PM
28	0	12/9/2020 9:29 PM
29	0	12/9/2020 9:25 PM
30	0	12/9/2020 8:52 PM
31	1	12/9/2020 8:39 PM
32	0	12/9/2020 8:01 PM
33	0	12/9/2020 8:01 PM
34	0	12/9/2020 7:54 PM
35	2	12/9/2020 7:19 PM
36	1	12/9/2020 6:37 PM
37	0	12/9/2020 6:31 PM



Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

38	0	12/9/2020 6:31 PM
39	1	12/9/2020 5:52 PM
40	0	12/9/2020 5:43 PM
41	1	12/9/2020 5:43 PM
42	0	12/9/2020 5:27 PM
43	0	12/9/2020 4:35 PM
44	1	12/9/2020 4:34 PM
45	0	12/9/2020 3:20 PM
46	0	12/9/2020 2:29 PM
47	0	12/9/2020 2:28 PM
48	2	12/9/2020 2:19 PM
49	0	12/9/2020 2:12 PM
50	1	12/9/2020 2:12 PM
51	0	12/9/2020 2:11 PM
52	0	12/9/2020 2:10 PM
53	2	12/9/2020 2:08 PM
54	0	12/9/2020 2:07 PM
55	0	12/9/2020 2:00 PM
56	1	12/9/2020 1:59 PM
57	1	12/9/2020 1:47 PM
58	0	12/9/2020 1:47 PM
59	1	12/9/2020 1:41 PM
60	1	12/9/2020 1:31 PM
61	1	12/9/2020 1:22 PM
62	3	12/9/2020 1:13 PM
63	2	12/9/2020 1:12 PM
64	1	12/9/2020 1:09 PM
65	2	12/9/2020 1:04 PM
66	1	12/9/2020 1:00 PM
67	2	12/9/2020 12:56 PM
68	2	12/9/2020 12:56 PM
69	2	12/9/2020 12:53 PM
70	2	12/9/2020 12:46 PM
71	1	11/24/2020 4:48 PM
72	2	11/23/2020 3:59 PM
73	0	11/19/2020 8:33 PM
74	2	11/13/2020 11:33 PM
75	0	11/13/2020 6:37 PM

Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

76	1	11/13/2020 4:24 PM
77	0	11/12/2020 3:49 PM
78	2	11/12/2020 3:43 PM
79	1	11/11/2020 4:23 AM
80	1	11/11/2020 12:03 AM
81	2	11/10/2020 11:24 PM
82	1	11/10/2020 10:50 PM
83	0	11/10/2020 8:15 PM
84	0	11/10/2020 7:40 PM
85	0	11/10/2020 7:09 PM
86	1	11/10/2020 5:50 PM
87	1	11/10/2020 4:56 PM
88	2	11/10/2020 3:11 PM
89	1	11/10/2020 2:58 PM
90	2	11/10/2020 2:05 PM
91	1	11/10/2020 1:39 PM
92	1	11/10/2020 1:26 PM
93	2	11/10/2020 12:46 PM
94	2	11/10/2020 11:43 AM
95	1	11/10/2020 11:33 AM
96	2	11/10/2020 11:25 AM
97	2	11/10/2020 11:03 AM
98	3	11/10/2020 10:34 AM
99	1	11/10/2020 10:29 AM
100	1	11/10/2020 6:41 AM
101	3	11/10/2020 4:32 AM
102	1	11/9/2020 11:36 PM
103	0	11/9/2020 10:55 PM
104	2	11/9/2020 10:45 PM
105	0	11/9/2020 10:43 PM
106	0	11/9/2020 10:17 PM
107	1	11/9/2020 10:17 PM
108	2	11/9/2020 9:49 PM
109	1	11/9/2020 9:42 PM
110	0	11/9/2020 9:22 PM
111	0	11/9/2020 8:59 PM
112	2	11/9/2020 8:22 PM
113	0	11/9/2020 8:10 PM

Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

114	1	11/9/2020 8:04 PM
115	0	11/9/2020 7:56 PM
116	0	11/9/2020 7:47 PM
117	0	11/9/2020 7:38 PM
118	1	11/9/2020 7:35 PM
119	1	11/9/2020 7:35 PM
120	0	11/9/2020 7:27 PM
121	0	11/9/2020 7:22 PM
122	0	11/9/2020 7:13 PM
123	2	11/9/2020 6:41 PM
124	1	11/9/2020 6:23 PM
125	1	11/9/2020 6:10 PM
126	0	11/9/2020 5:53 PM
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31	0	12/9/2020 11:03 PM
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33	0	12/9/2020 10:20 PM
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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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22	2	12/10/2020 8:49 AM
23	2	12/10/2020 7:36 AM
24	2	12/10/2020 6:42 AM
25	2	12/10/2020 5:36 AM
26	2	12/10/2020 5:17 AM
27	2	12/10/2020 1:03 AM
28	0	12/9/2020 11:03 PM
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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

38	1	12/9/2020 8:22 PM
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45	0	12/9/2020 6:31 PM
46	1	12/9/2020 5:59 PM
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73	0	12/9/2020 12:46 PM
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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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79	1	11/25/2020 7:43 PM
80	1	11/24/2020 4:48 PM
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Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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116	1	11/10/2020 10:52 AM
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119	2	11/10/2020 9:08 AM
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145	1	11/9/2020 6:30 PM
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147	2	11/9/2020 6:23 PM
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151	2	11/9/2020 5:16 PM

Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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175	1	6/5/2020 2:49 PM
176	1	6/5/2020 1:54 PM
177	2	6/5/2020 1:44 PM
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6	2	12/11/2020 8:59 AM
7	0	12/11/2020 8:45 AM
8	0	12/11/2020 8:11 AM
9	1	12/11/2020 8:10 AM
10	0	12/10/2020 11:00 PM
11	2	12/10/2020 8:14 PM
12	0	12/10/2020 11:35 AM
13	0	12/10/2020 9:16 AM
14	2	12/10/2020 8:43 AM
15	1	12/10/2020 8:18 AM
16	2	12/10/2020 7:37 AM
17	0	12/10/2020 7:36 AM
18	0	12/10/2020 5:17 AM
19	0	12/10/2020 1:03 AM
20	2	12/9/2020 11:20 PM
21	0	12/9/2020 11:03 PM
22	0	12/9/2020 10:48 PM
23	0	12/9/2020 10:20 PM
24	0	12/9/2020 10:19 PM
25	1	12/9/2020 9:52 PM
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32	0	12/9/2020 7:54 PM
33	0	12/9/2020 7:19 PM
34	1	12/9/2020 6:47 PM
35	2	12/9/2020 6:34 PM
36	0	12/9/2020 6:31 PM
37	1	12/9/2020 5:59 PM

Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

SurveyMonkey

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41	0	12/9/2020 4:35 PM
42	1	12/9/2020 3:32 PM
43	0	12/9/2020 3:20 PM
44	1	12/9/2020 3:17 PM
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49	0	12/9/2020 2:08 PM
50	0	12/9/2020 2:07 PM
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52	2	12/9/2020 1:55 PM
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57	2	12/9/2020 12:49 PM
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60	1	11/30/2020 8:30 AM
61	1	11/28/2020 9:51 PM
62	1	11/25/2020 7:43 PM
63	1	11/24/2020 6:15 PM
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65	2	11/18/2020 5:53 PM
66	2	11/13/2020 9:57 PM
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68	2	11/13/2020 5:06 PM
69	2	11/13/2020 11:24 AM
70	1	11/12/2020 5:02 PM
71	1	11/11/2020 6:07 PM
72	1	11/11/2020 12:03 AM
73	0	11/10/2020 10:50 PM
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75	0	11/10/2020 8:15 PM



Lowell Charter Township Community Parks and Recreation Survey

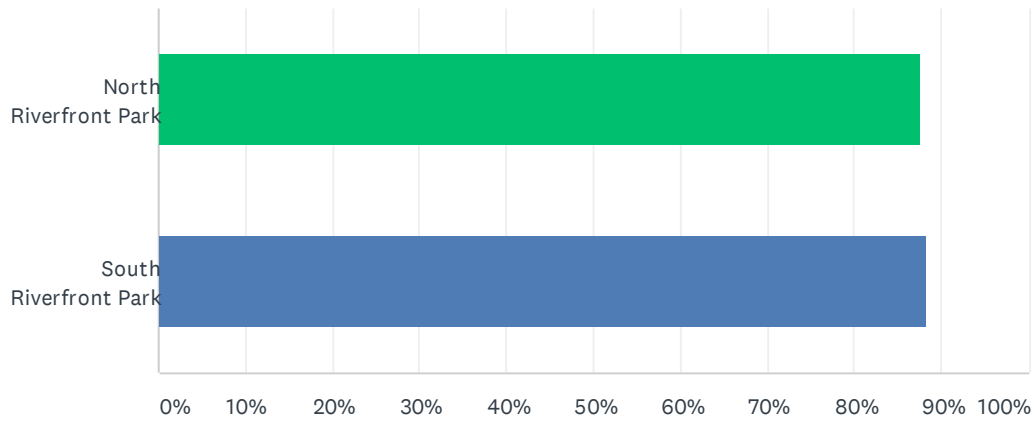
SurveyMonkey

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80	0	11/10/2020 3:11 PM
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83	1	11/10/2020 1:54 PM
84	69	11/10/2020 11:43 AM
85	1	11/10/2020 10:42 AM
86	2	11/10/2020 9:00 AM
87	1	11/10/2020 7:20 AM
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99	0	11/9/2020 7:27 PM
100	0	11/9/2020 7:22 PM
101	1	11/9/2020 6:37 PM
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103	1	11/9/2020 6:02 PM
104	0	11/9/2020 5:53 PM
105	1	11/9/2020 5:13 PM
106	0	11/9/2020 5:02 PM
107	2	11/9/2020 4:54 PM
108	0	11/9/2020 4:48 PM
109	0	11/9/2020 4:43 PM
110	0	11/9/2020 4:22 PM
111	2	6/9/2020 10:26 PM
112	2	6/9/2020 2:02 PM
113	1	6/6/2020 1:51 PM

114	0	6/6/2020 1:19 PM
115	2	6/5/2020 7:57 PM
116	0	6/5/2020 7:45 PM
117	1	6/5/2020 6:39 PM
118	2	6/5/2020 3:11 PM
119	0	6/5/2020 3:09 PM
120	1	6/5/2020 2:49 PM
121	2	6/5/2020 1:54 PM
122	1	6/5/2020 1:44 PM
123	0	6/5/2020 1:44 PM
124	0	6/5/2020 1:39 PM
125	2	6/5/2020 1:32 PM

### Q6 Which of the Lowell Townships parks and facilities have you or members of your household utilized in the last 12 months?

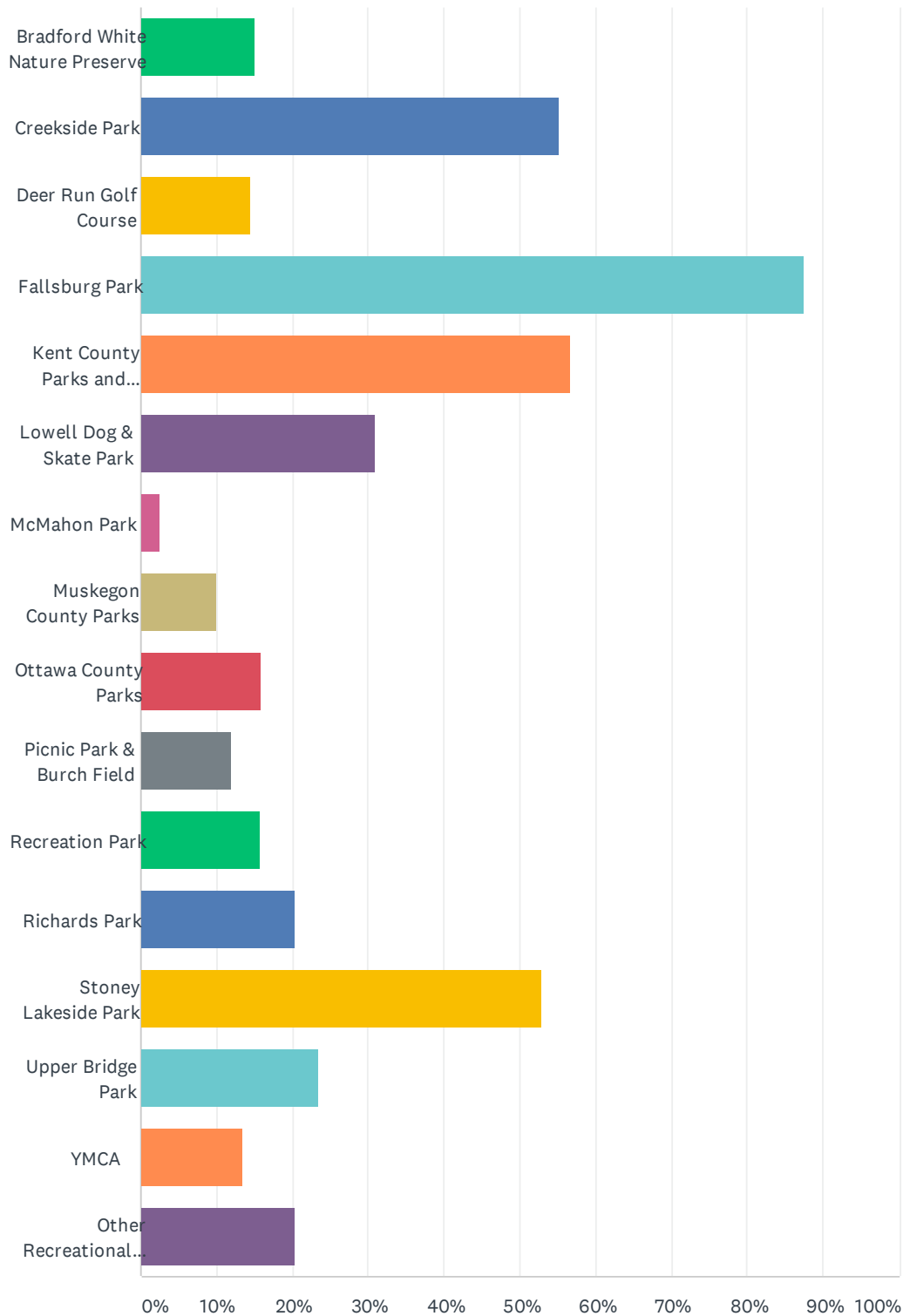
Answered: 301 Skipped: 40



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
North Riverfront Park	87.71% 264
South Riverfront Park	88.37% 266
Total Respondents: 301	

### Q7 Check any of these Parks and Recreation Facilities you or members of your household have utilized in the last 12 months.

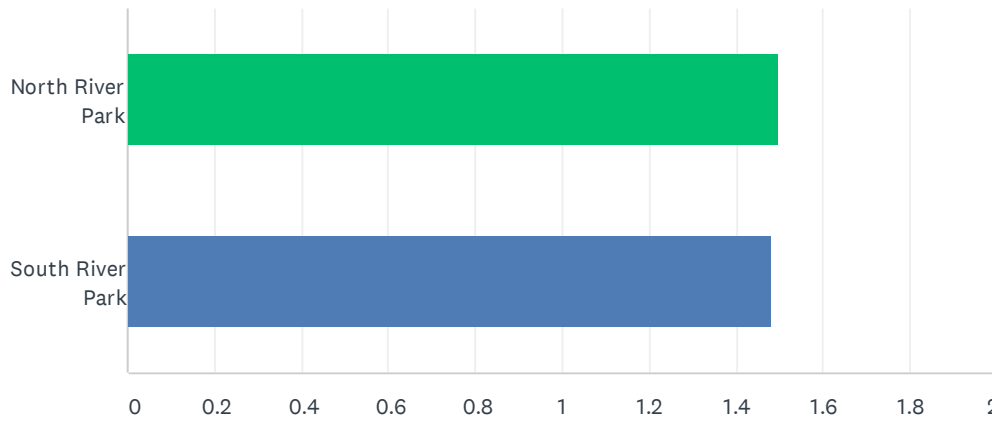
Answered: 319 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Bradford White Nature Preserve	15.05%	48
Creekside Park	55.17%	176
Deer Run Golf Course	14.42%	46
Fallsburg Park	87.46%	279
Kent County Parks and Trails	56.74%	181
Lowell Dog & Skate Park	31.03%	99
McMahon Park	2.51%	8
Muskegon County Parks	10.03%	32
Ottawa County Parks	15.99%	51
Picnic Park & Burch Field	11.91%	38
Recreation Park	15.67%	50
Richards Park	20.38%	65
Stoney Lakeside Park	52.98%	169
Upper Bridge Park	23.51%	75
YMCA	13.48%	43
Other Recreational Facility	20.38%	65
Total Respondents: 319		

### Q8 Please rank the Townships facilities you would like to see improved or expanded. 1=High Priority, 2=Low Priority

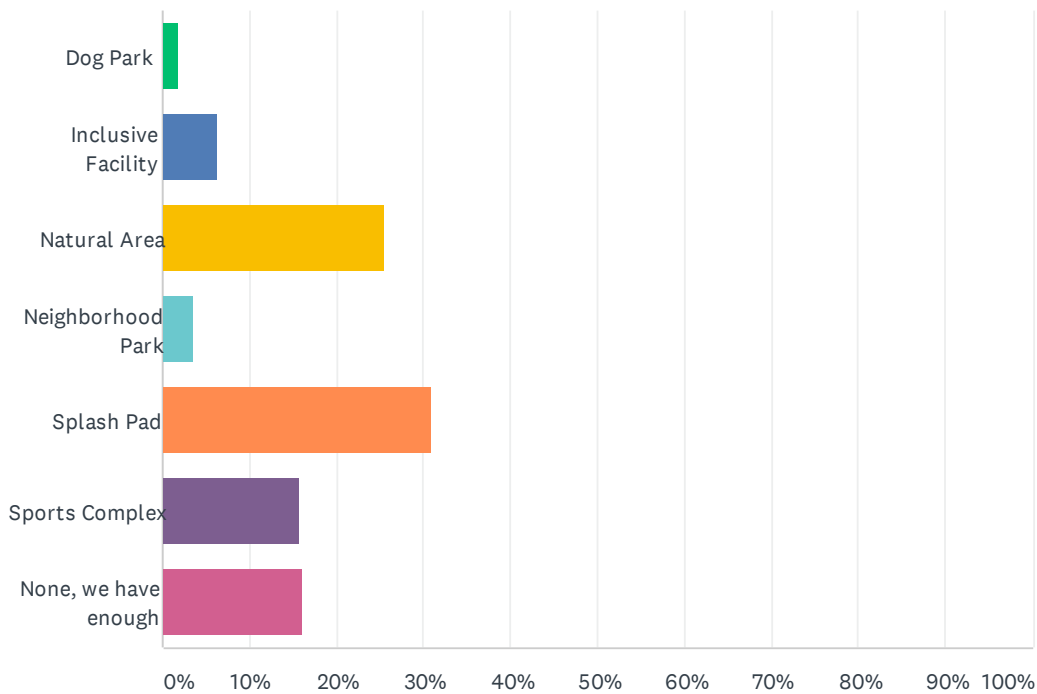
Answered: 289 Skipped: 52



	1	2	TOTAL	SCORE
North River Park	50.47% 108	49.53% 106	214	1.50
South River Park	47.89% 125	52.11% 136	261	1.48

# Q9 What additional types of new parks/facilities would you most like to see in the Township?

Answered: 306 Skipped: 35



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Dog Park	1.96% 6
Inclusive Facility	6.21% 19
Natural Area	25.49% 78
Neighborhood Park	3.59% 11
Splash Pad	31.05% 95
Sports Complex	15.69% 48
None, we have enough	16.01% 49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>306</b>

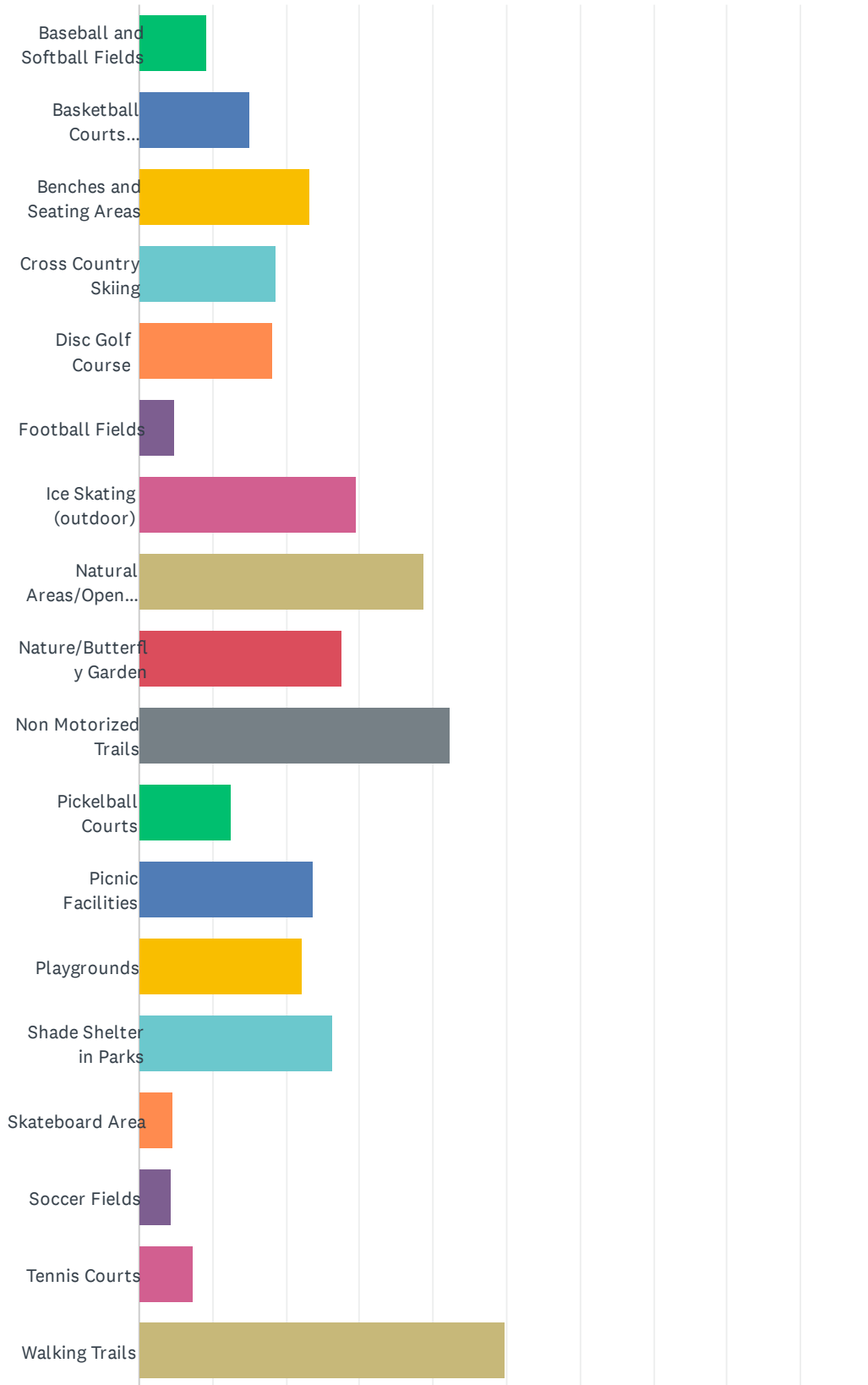
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Hiking trails	12/20/2020 10:42 PM
2	Pool	12/12/2020 4:06 PM
3	Walking trails	12/11/2020 8:11 AM
4	Fishing areas loaded with bass	12/10/2020 11:00 PM
5	It only allows me to pick one...	12/10/2020 9:51 AM
6	Skate park additions	12/10/2020 9:02 AM
7	Walking and bike paths along the river.	12/10/2020 5:36 AM
8	A place for hammocks, easily rentable inexpensive fishing poles, kayaks/canoes/tubes for the rivers, permanent easels for painting artwork at various parks.	12/9/2020 10:20 PM
9	Lowell should have a city pool like when I was a kid.	12/9/2020 10:19 PM
10	Horse trails	12/9/2020 8:52 PM
11	Baseball fields	12/9/2020 6:37 PM
12	walking paths	12/9/2020 5:59 PM
13	I like undeveloped open spaces for hiking.	12/9/2020 5:55 PM
14	Lowell needs a pool	12/9/2020 5:18 PM
15	Indoor courts for basketball and tennis	12/9/2020 2:19 PM
16	Pool	12/9/2020 2:12 PM
17	paved trails	12/9/2020 2:07 PM
18	Basketball	12/9/2020 2:00 PM
19	Bike trails	12/9/2020 1:48 PM
20	Kayak rentals, chess boards	12/9/2020 1:20 PM
21	Would love some kind of outdoor exercise equipment	12/9/2020 1:13 PM
22	More Pickleball Courts	11/30/2020 8:30 AM
23	More pickleball courts please!!!	11/28/2020 9:51 PM
24	More Beach Volleyball courts. Maybe an indoor beach volleyball facility that we could all use.	11/24/2020 4:48 PM
25	Single Track Mt. Bike trails	11/23/2020 12:25 PM
26	Mountain Biking Park	11/16/2020 6:44 PM
27	Community Center with pool / splash pad	11/13/2020 11:33 PM
28	Rail trail on cascade near Pratt lake to be maintained for ability to bike to downtown Lowell and possibly south river front park	11/13/2020 6:56 PM
29	Or anything to the west of Meijer... there are thousands of residents, with more moving in every week and zero parks/public spaces within walking distance.	11/12/2020 3:43 PM
30	Please include inclusive features such as planning for a service dog to relieve itself. Also, lots of sensory experiences for seekers and quiet pods/areas for kids who need a calm space.	11/12/2020 12:30 PM
31	Bicycle single track (mountain bike flow trail)	11/11/2020 7:55 AM
32	I'd love to see a bike path from downtown Lowell going South on the old railroad tracks	11/10/2020 11:00 PM
33	I'm content but a few want more.	11/10/2020 8:15 PM
34	Need to stop adding to and start maintaining parks around the township	11/10/2020 7:40 PM
35	Hiking trails	11/10/2020 5:23 PM

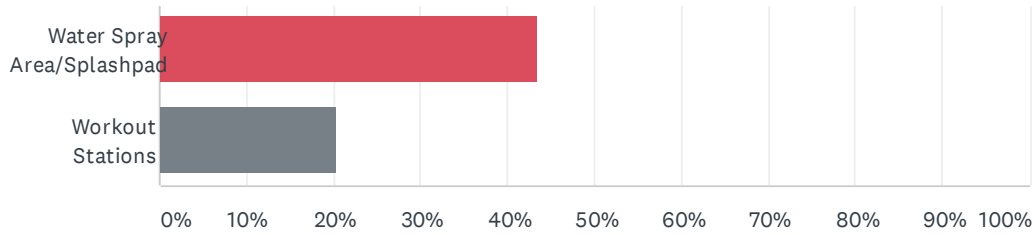


36	Basketball courts with lights	11/10/2020 4:56 PM
37	Campground	11/10/2020 3:11 PM
38	The property at the township headquarters is a special and unique natural area. I would love to see this protected with some minimal trails. It could use some prescribed fire as well. And permanent protection. Thank you	11/10/2020 1:39 PM
39	Pool	11/10/2020 11:37 AM
40	Open Space	11/10/2020 10:05 AM
41	Inclusive facility, natural area, splash pad, sports complex	11/10/2020 10:05 AM
42	Indoor walking track	11/10/2020 6:45 AM
43	pool	11/9/2020 11:36 PM
44	Outdoor pool	11/9/2020 10:31 PM
45	Disc golf	11/9/2020 9:54 PM
46	disc golf	11/9/2020 8:10 PM
47	Bathrooms and Drinking fountains installed/maintained seasonally at existing parks	11/9/2020 7:38 PM
48	MTB trails. XC Ski trails. Ice skating trail/rink. Bike park. ATV trails.	11/9/2020 7:35 PM
49	Expand skate park. Basketball. Indoor pool	11/9/2020 7:27 PM
50	Please keep the natural beauty of south riverfront park. There is enough that has added to increased congestion. Love the new bridge and I think that's enough	11/9/2020 7:14 PM
51	Pool	11/9/2020 7:11 PM
52	Nice bigger skate park with more ramps jumps etc. what ever it's called. Saranac has a nice one.	11/9/2020 6:37 PM
53	Community Center!	11/9/2020 6:10 PM
54	Pool	11/9/2020 5:02 PM
55	Community center/pool	11/9/2020 4:25 PM
56	swimming pool	6/9/2020 10:26 PM
57	Good Kayak launch at the North Park	6/6/2020 1:51 PM
58	A family fitness center would be nice I mean like something that have in other communitys I mean what does the ymca have here	6/5/2020 6:39 PM
59	the YMCA upgraded to have indoor pool and fitness equipment, also a KIDS area in the pool with splash park, etc.	6/5/2020 4:31 PM
60	Complete the Disc Golf Park as proposed	6/5/2020 2:23 PM
61	Mountain Bike Trails!!! Winter ice skating rink/trail. XC ski trails.	6/5/2020 2:23 PM
62	Large YMCA or fitness center with group classes	6/5/2020 2:07 PM
63	Bike paths	6/5/2020 2:00 PM
64	Protection of our wetlands. Stop the draining of AG-1 property.	6/5/2020 1:44 PM

# Q10 Which of the following activities would you most like to see expanded or added in the Township?

Answered: 326 Skipped: 15

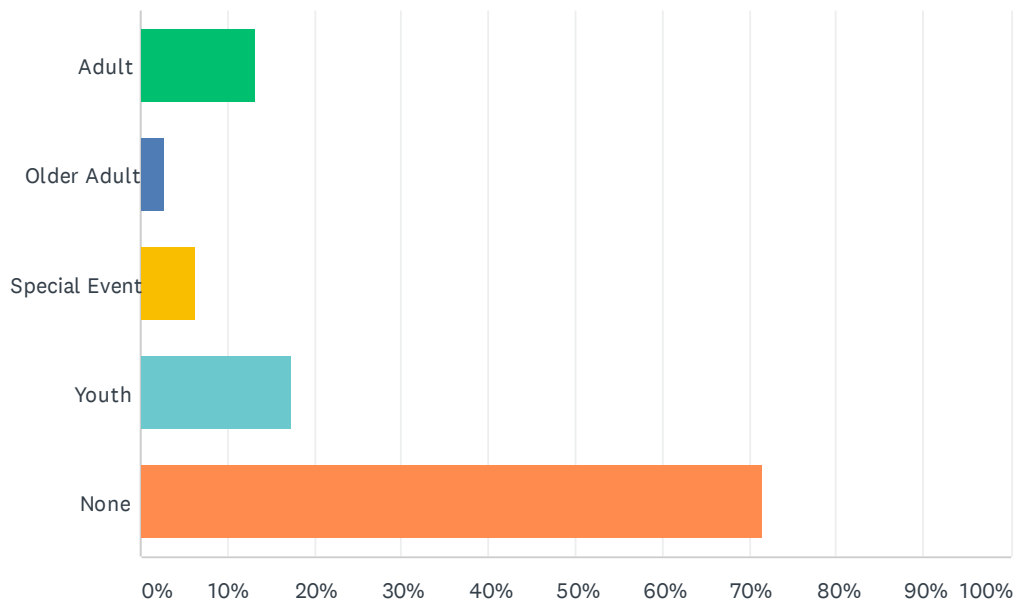




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Baseball and Softball Fields	9.20%	30
Basketball Courts (outdoor)	15.03%	49
Benches and Seating Areas	23.31%	76
Cross Country Skiing	18.71%	61
Disc Golf Course	18.10%	59
Football Fields	4.91%	16
Ice Skating (outdoor)	29.45%	96
Natural Areas/Open Space	38.65%	126
Nature/Butterfly Garden	27.61%	90
Non Motorized Trails	42.33%	138
Pickelball Courts	12.58%	41
Picnic Facilities	23.62%	77
Playgrounds	22.09%	72
Shade Shelter in Parks	26.38%	86
Skateboard Area	4.60%	15
Soccer Fields	4.29%	14
Tennis Courts	7.36%	24
Walking Trails	49.69%	162
Water Spray Area/Splashpad	43.56%	142
Workout Stations	20.25%	66
Total Respondents: 326		

### Q11 In what recreation programming offered by The Township have you or your family participated in the last year?

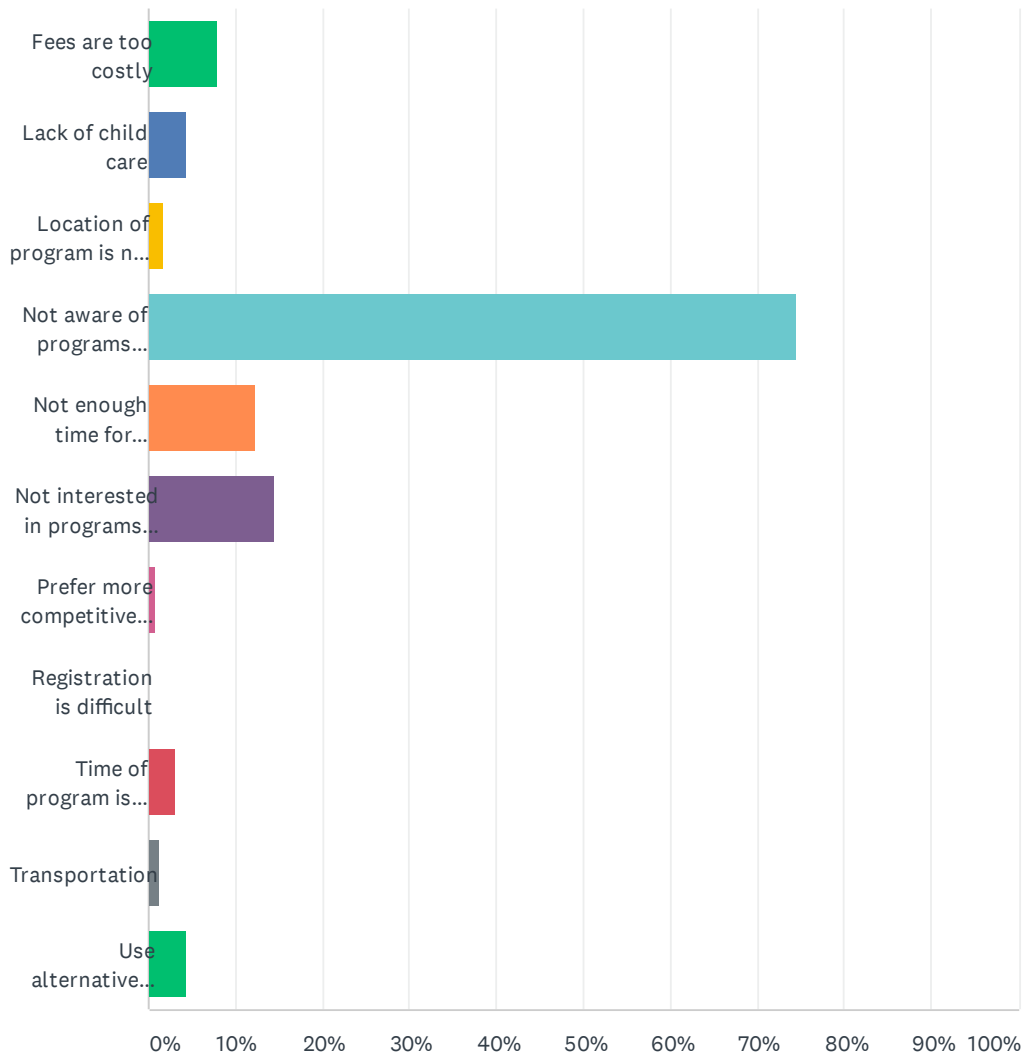
Answered: 333 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Adult	13.21% 44
Older Adult	2.70% 9
Special Event	6.31% 21
Youth	17.42% 58
None	71.47% 238
Total Respondents: 333	

### Q12 If you answered "none" to Question 11 above, please indicate your reason for non-participation.

Answered: 227 Skipped: 114



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Fees are too costly	7.93%	18
Lack of child care	4.41%	10
Location of program is not convenient	1.76%	4
Not aware of programs offered	74.45%	169
Not enough time for participation	12.33%	28
Not interested in programs offered	14.54%	33
Prefer more competitive sport leagues for my child	0.88%	2
Registration is difficult	0.00%	0
Time of program is inconvenient	3.08%	7
Transportation	1.32%	3
Use alternative recreational programming	4.41%	10
Total Respondents: 227		

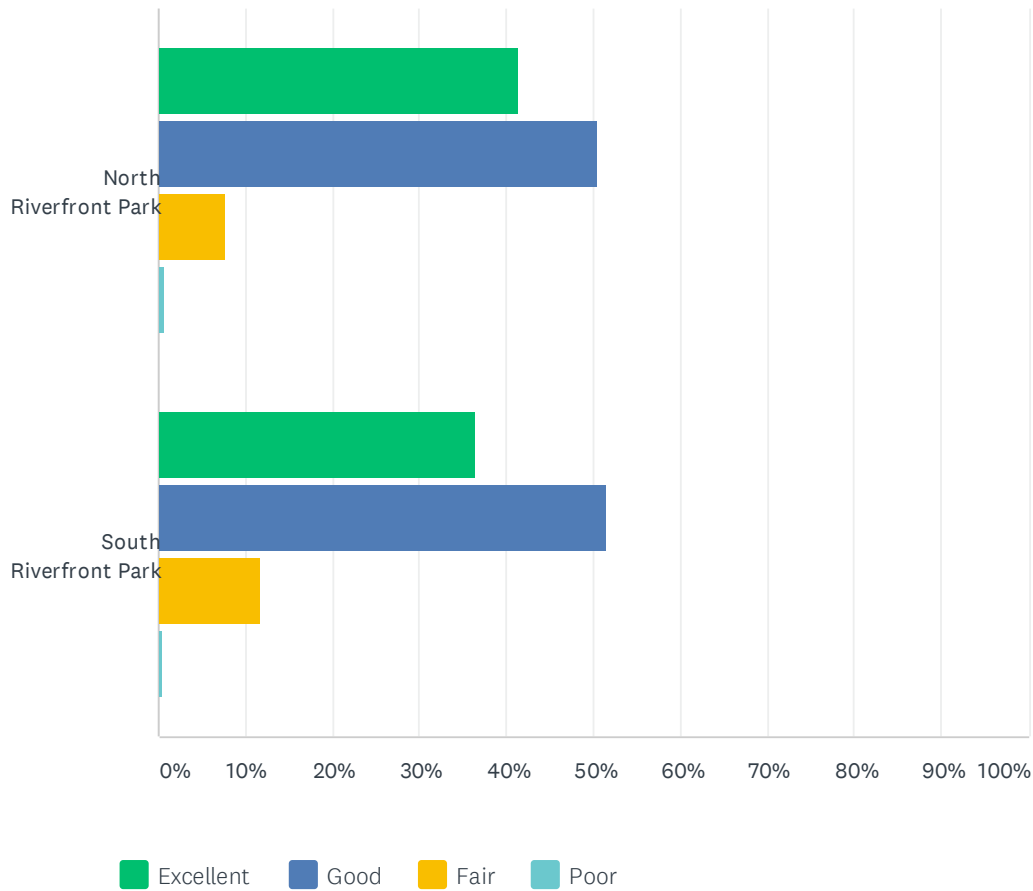
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	covid	12/28/2020 9:15 AM
2	Enjoy solo use of parks	12/20/2020 10:42 PM
3	back problems	12/12/2020 7:10 PM
4	Not sure. Is YMCA programs part of this. Then yes. If not I have not heard of any programs	12/11/2020 10:46 PM
5	COVID	12/11/2020 9:51 AM
6	Just moved here and things were closed due to COVID	12/11/2020 8:11 AM
7	I didn't	12/10/2020 9:51 AM
8	COVID	12/9/2020 9:29 PM
9	Covid	12/9/2020 8:01 PM
10	Social Distancing	12/9/2020 7:51 PM
11	Covid-19 happened.....	12/9/2020 6:34 PM
12	Just moved so haven't had the chance	12/9/2020 5:43 PM
13	Covid	12/9/2020 4:56 PM
14	N/a	12/9/2020 3:32 PM
15	Kids are too young	12/9/2020 2:19 PM
16	covid	12/9/2020 2:08 PM
17	We've stayed away from anything organized since February due to covid.	12/9/2020 2:07 PM
18	Covid	12/9/2020 1:59 PM
19	We kayak and hike	12/9/2020 1:20 PM
20	New to area and Covid kept us home	12/9/2020 12:53 PM
21	Are there any pickleball clubs or leagues in Lowell?	11/28/2020 9:51 PM
22	COVID	11/13/2020 11:33 PM
23	Pandemic, unsure of inclusive features for children with autism	11/12/2020 12:30 PM
24	Covid	11/11/2020 6:07 PM
25	working an the pandemic has kept us in	11/10/2020 8:26 PM
26	Covid	11/10/2020 11:43 AM
27	Covid	11/10/2020 11:25 AM
28	Health of spouse	11/10/2020 10:42 AM
29	Covid 19	11/10/2020 10:34 AM
30	Township website is in need of a significant update and notices should be posted	11/10/2020 10:05 AM
31	Covid	11/10/2020 10:05 AM
32	Just moved here	11/10/2020 8:35 AM
33	Covid restrictions	11/9/2020 9:48 PM
34	Not interested in the programs offered.	11/9/2020 9:04 PM
35	Covid	11/9/2020 7:22 PM
36	I'm retired and don't have small children	11/9/2020 6:37 PM
37	I don't currently live in my house	11/9/2020 6:30 PM

38	None	11/9/2020 6:07 PM
39	Covid	11/9/2020 5:14 PM
40	How are programs advertised?	11/9/2020 4:32 PM
41	COVID 19	11/9/2020 4:24 PM
42	Well what's to do here pickle ball and go to a playground pebble beach what a dump your playgrounds are nice glad you added trees last year winter time families are on their own	6/5/2020 6:39 PM
43	Too old...	6/5/2020 3:11 PM



### Q13 How would you rate the maintenance of the Township Parks you have visited?

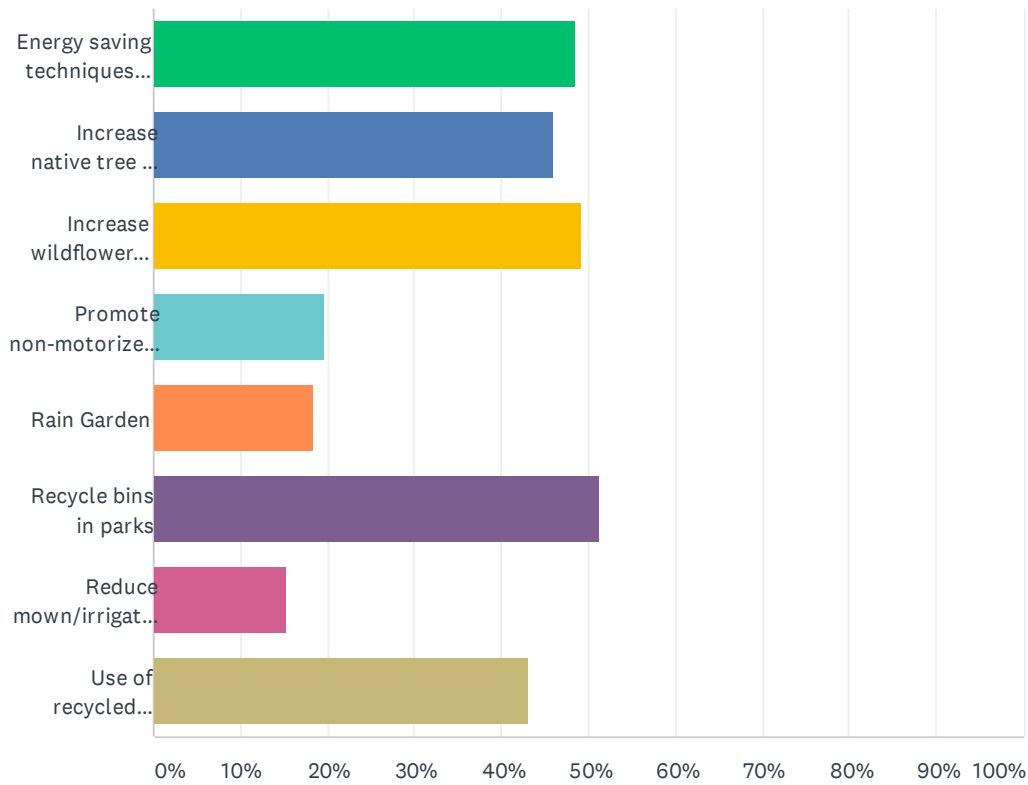
Answered: 323 Skipped: 18



	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
North Riverfront Park	41.40% 130	50.32% 158	7.64% 24	0.64% 2	314	1.68
South Riverfront Park	36.48% 112	51.47% 158	11.73% 36	0.33% 1	307	1.76

### Q14 Please indicate which green initiatives you think would be most effective.

Answered: 320 Skipped: 21

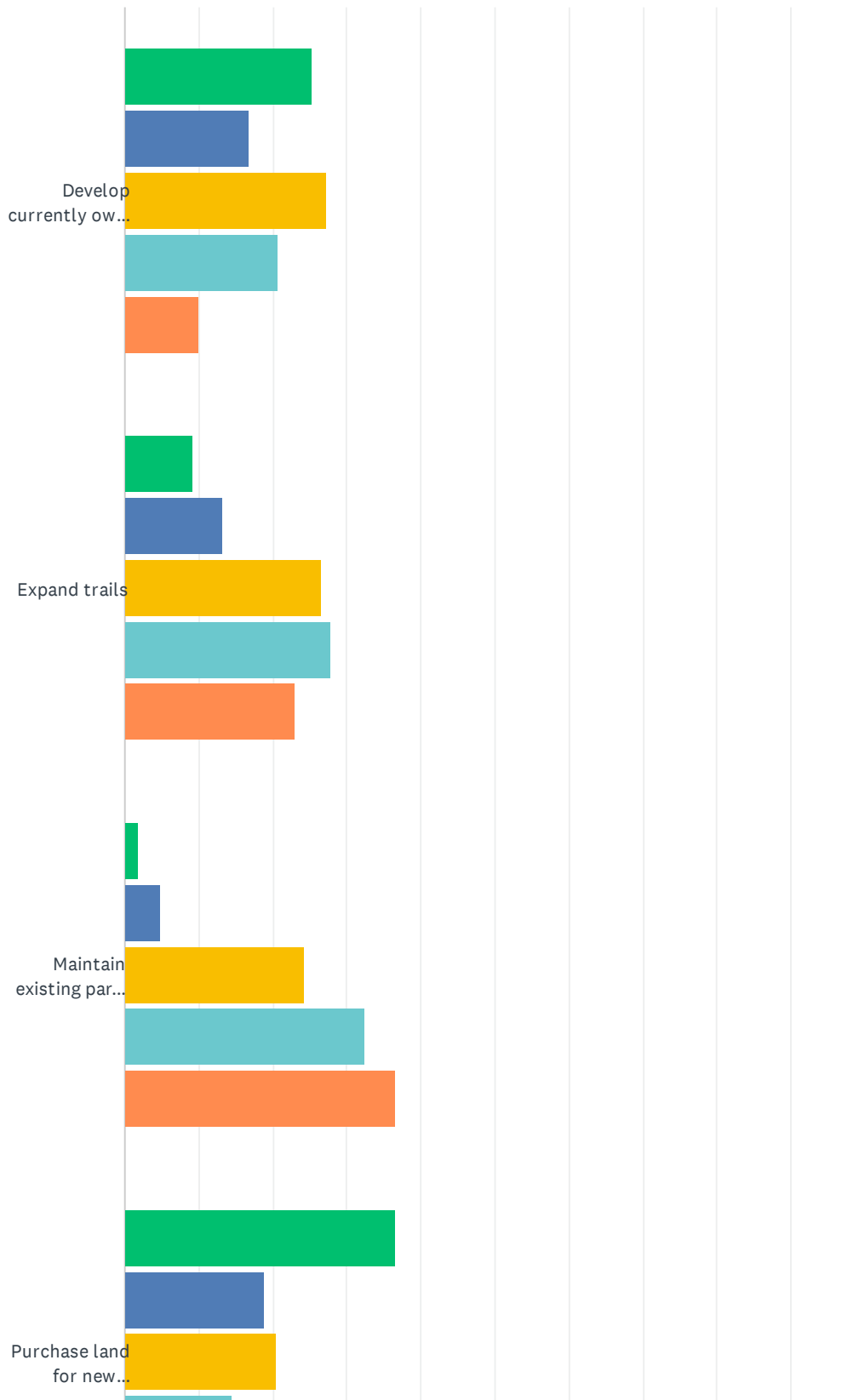


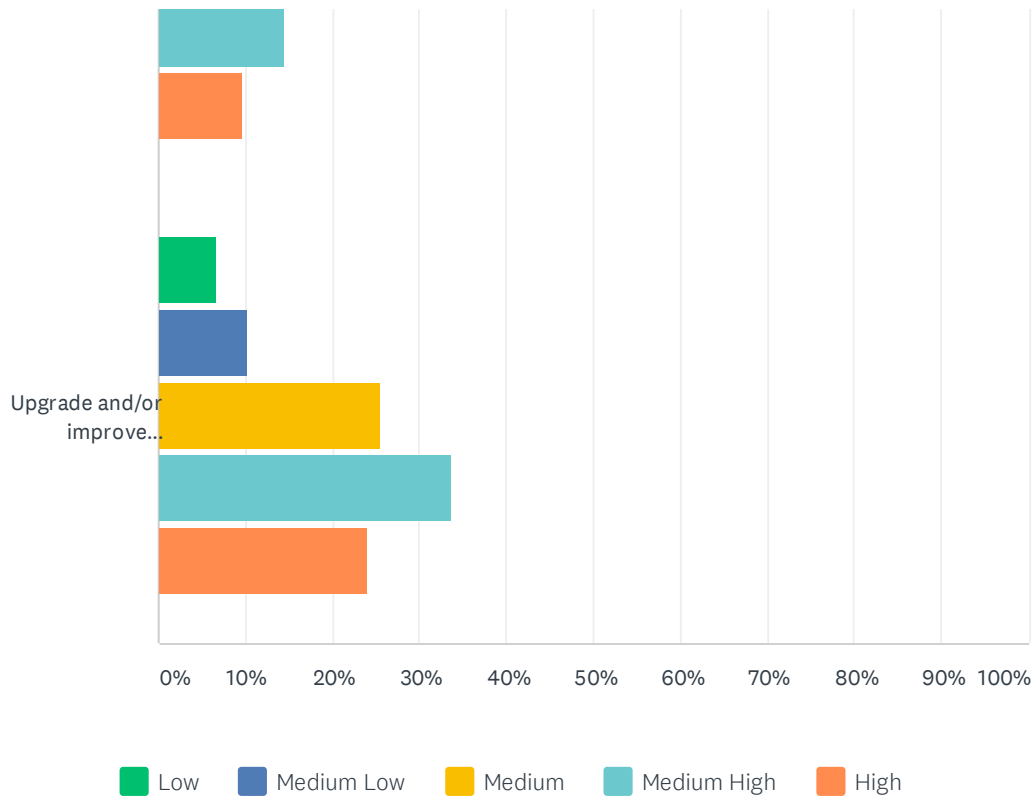
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Energy saving techniques (solar power, LED lights, timers, etc)	48.44%	155
Increase native tree and shrub planting	45.94%	147
Increase wildflower areas	49.06%	157
Promote non-motorized transportation to parks	19.69%	63
Rain Garden	18.44%	59
Recycle bins in parks	51.25%	164
Reduce mown/irrigated lawn areas	15.31%	49
Use of recycled products and materials	43.13%	138
Total Respondents: 320		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Decrease pavement and asphalt	12/20/2020 10:42 PM
2	A place to recycle household items would be nice.	12/9/2020 2:30 PM
3	Dark sky lighting	12/9/2020 2:11 PM
4	Lights and security cameras around and near the new bridge to discourage vandalism.	11/24/2020 6:15 PM
5	Keep it park like	11/10/2020 5:50 PM
6	You have to mow or the mosquitoes will carry everyone away with the river right there	11/9/2020 5:29 PM
7	None	11/9/2020 4:48 PM
8	No more fertilizer and chemicals on soccer fields. Too many dogs and children play on it.	6/6/2020 1:19 PM
9	None	6/5/2020 1:39 PM

### Q15 Please rate, in order of priority, how you feel park and recreation funding should be spent.

Answered: 338 Skipped: 3

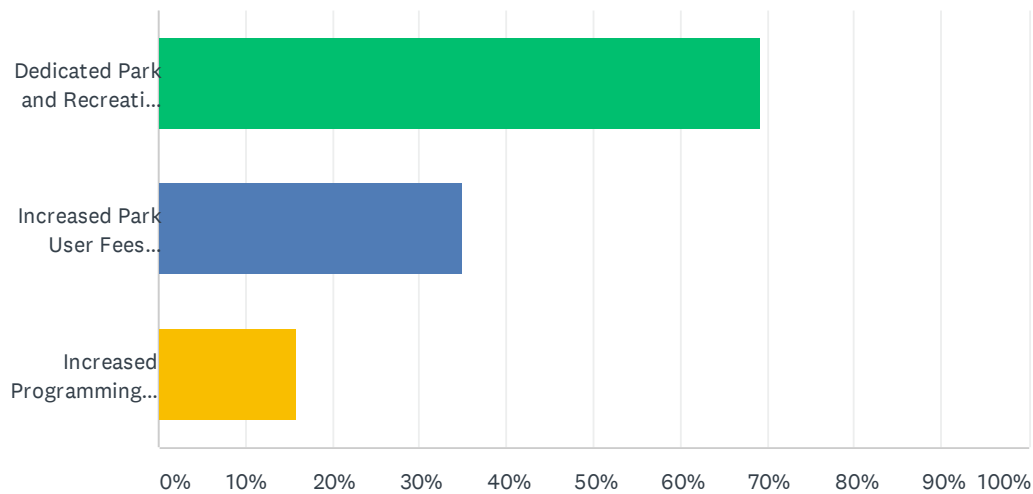




	LOW	MEDIUM LOW	MEDIUM	MEDIUM HIGH	HIGH	TOTAL
Develop currently owned non-developed land	25.30% 83	16.77% 55	27.13% 89	20.73% 68	10.06% 33	328
Expand trails	9.28% 31	13.17% 44	26.65% 89	27.84% 93	23.05% 77	334
Maintain existing park facilities	1.80% 6	4.80% 16	24.32% 81	32.43% 108	36.64% 122	333
Purchase land for new parks/open space when available	36.56% 121	18.73% 62	20.54% 68	14.50% 48	9.67% 32	331
Upgrade and/or improve existing park facilities	6.61% 22	10.21% 34	25.53% 85	33.63% 112	24.02% 80	333

### Q16 The Township will continue to solicit state and federal grant funding and private donations/fund raising for recreation facility development and improvements. What other funding options should be considered?

Answered: 221 Skipped: 120

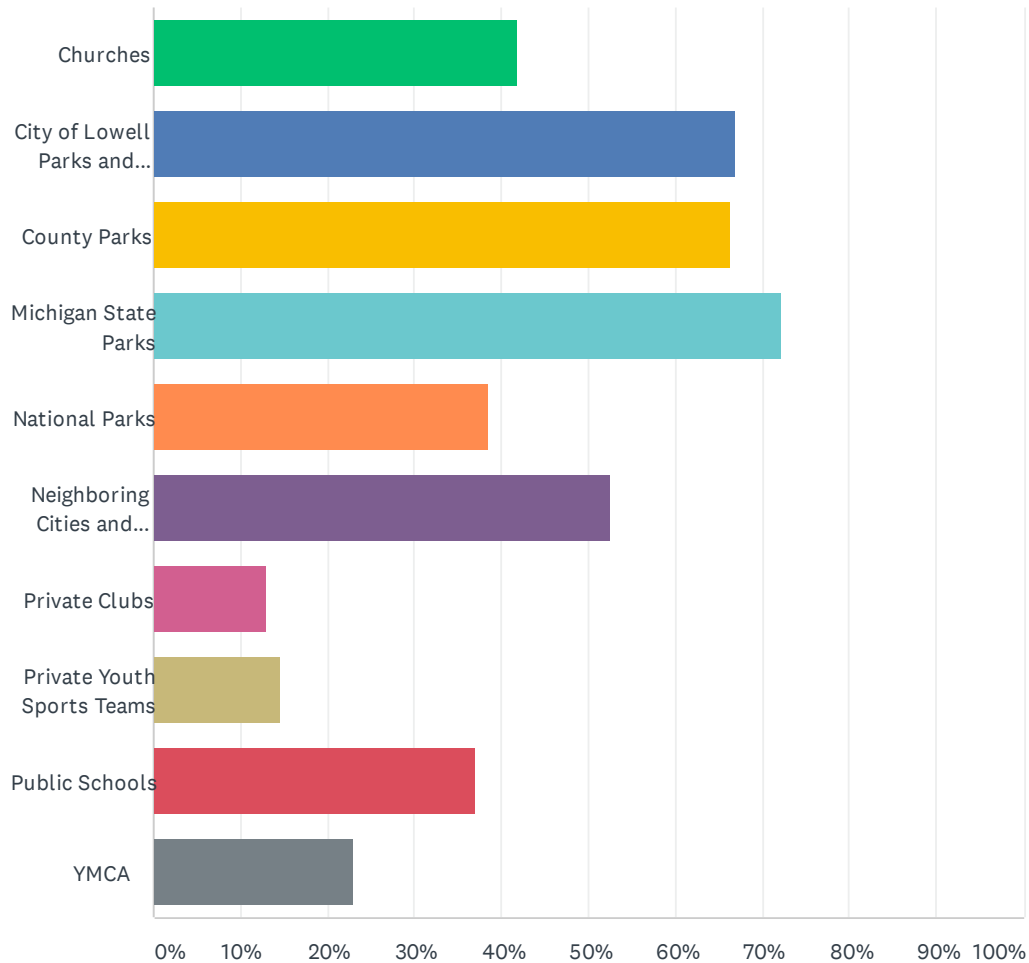


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Dedicated Park and Recreation mileage	69.23%	153
Increased Park User Fees (rental facilities, etc.)	34.84%	77
Increased Programming Fees	15.84%	35
Total Respondents: 221		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Donations at park	12/14/2020 5:55 AM
2	We already pay plenty in taxes	12/10/2020 9:51 AM
3	Include city of Lowell	12/10/2020 5:36 AM
4	Maintain current costs	12/9/2020 9:52 PM
5	None	12/9/2020 7:54 PM
6	None	12/9/2020 6:50 PM
7	Not taxes	12/9/2020 2:48 PM
8	None, maintain and expand when possible without posing more costs on citizens	12/9/2020 2:19 PM
9	none of these	12/9/2020 2:11 PM
10	Unsure	12/9/2020 1:31 PM
11	Could do fundraisers	12/9/2020 1:13 PM
12	None, keep budgets as is and work with in them	12/9/2020 12:56 PM
13	Not sure	11/28/2020 9:51 PM
14	Anything available from the state?	11/24/2020 6:15 PM
15	No other funding options should be considered.	11/13/2020 9:36 PM
16	None	11/13/2020 6:37 PM
17	None of the above	11/12/2020 3:49 PM
18	Leave it alone	11/11/2020 7:55 AM
19	None	11/10/2020 11:24 PM
20	None	11/10/2020 5:23 PM
21	No fees for users. Families can't afford it.	11/10/2020 3:11 PM
22	Private donations	11/10/2020 1:26 PM
23	I can not answer this as it would depend on the amount of Grant/ donation money received.	11/10/2020 11:18 AM
24	None	11/10/2020 8:46 AM
25	Donations	11/10/2020 4:32 AM
26	NA	11/9/2020 11:36 PM
27	Not sure	11/9/2020 10:17 PM
28	More efficient use of current funding	11/9/2020 9:48 PM
29	None	11/9/2020 8:22 PM
30	None	11/9/2020 7:41 PM
31	none	11/9/2020 7:29 PM
32	Not sure	11/9/2020 6:37 PM
33	None. Good grief. The township is in the country. Can't we keep it that way??	11/9/2020 5:29 PM
34	None	11/9/2020 4:48 PM
35	Sponsorships, fund raising for targeted project	11/9/2020 4:32 PM
36	none	11/9/2020 4:27 PM
37	None. Enough taxes and fees.	6/5/2020 1:39 PM

### Q17 Check all of the organizations that you or members of your household have used for indoor and outdoor recreation activities during the last 12 months.

Answered: 330 Skipped: 11



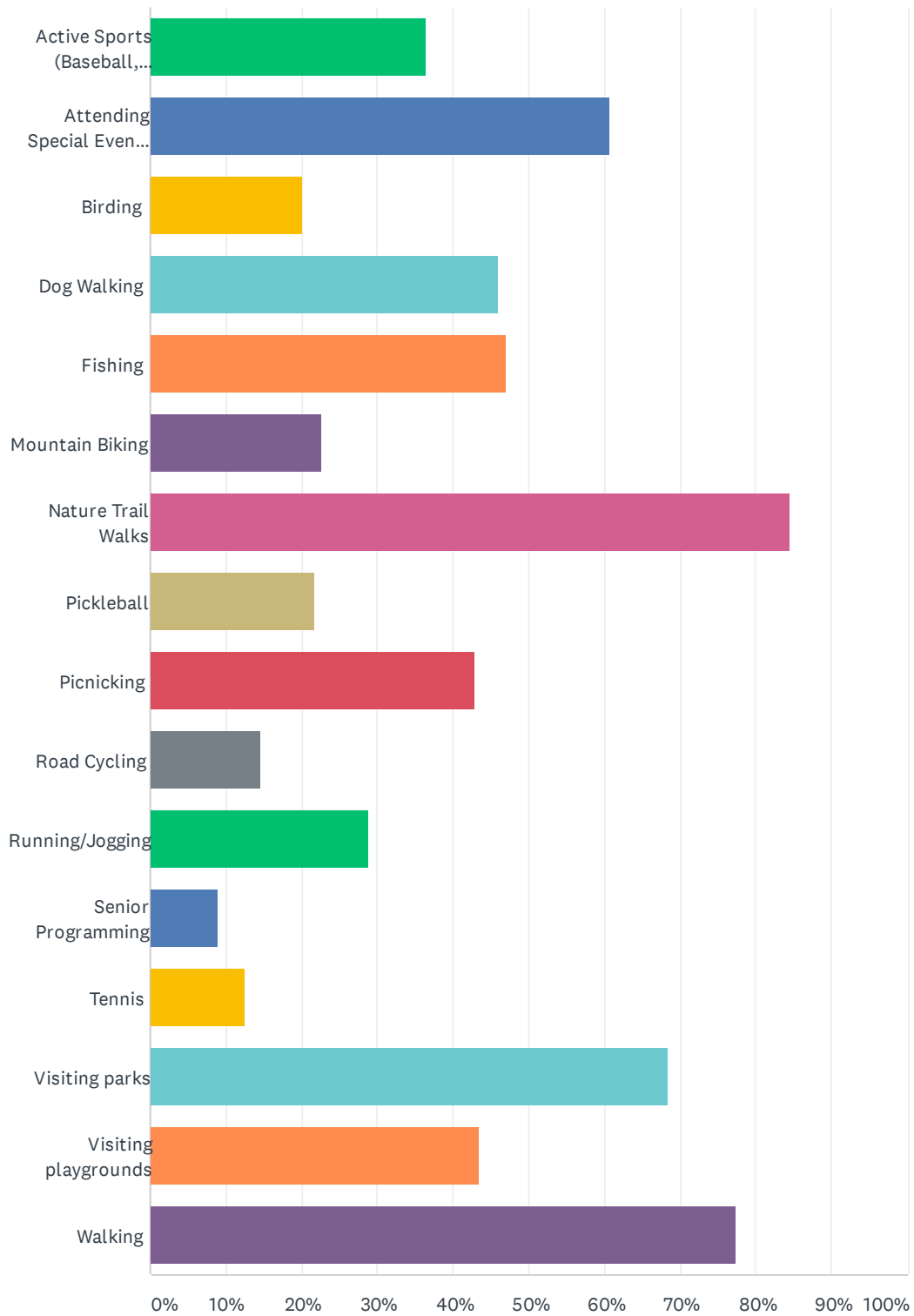


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Churches	41.82%	138
City of Lowell Parks and Recreation	66.97%	221
County Parks	66.36%	219
Michigan State Parks	72.12%	238
National Parks	38.48%	127
Neighboring Cities and Townships	52.42%	173
Private Clubs	13.03%	43
Private Youth Sports Teams	14.55%	48
Public Schools	36.97%	122
YMCA	23.03%	76
Total Respondents: 330		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	schneider manor activity room	12/9/2020 5:59 PM
2	No. Covid we like to join community groups, churches and city youth programs. Covid is definitely keeping us less engaged.	12/9/2020 12:53 PM
3	Lowell parks, walking paths and trails, plus pickleball courts regularly!	11/28/2020 9:51 PM
4	Limited activity at parks due to COVID	11/24/2020 6:15 PM
5	Flat River Trail	11/12/2020 12:30 PM
6	None	11/11/2020 4:23 AM
7	USFS lands. Why would you leave this off of this question?	11/10/2020 10:05 AM
8	Out of state parks	11/9/2020 7:38 PM
9	Na	11/9/2020 4:59 PM

# Q18 Please indicate activities you and/or members of your household enjoy:

Answered: 335 Skipped: 6

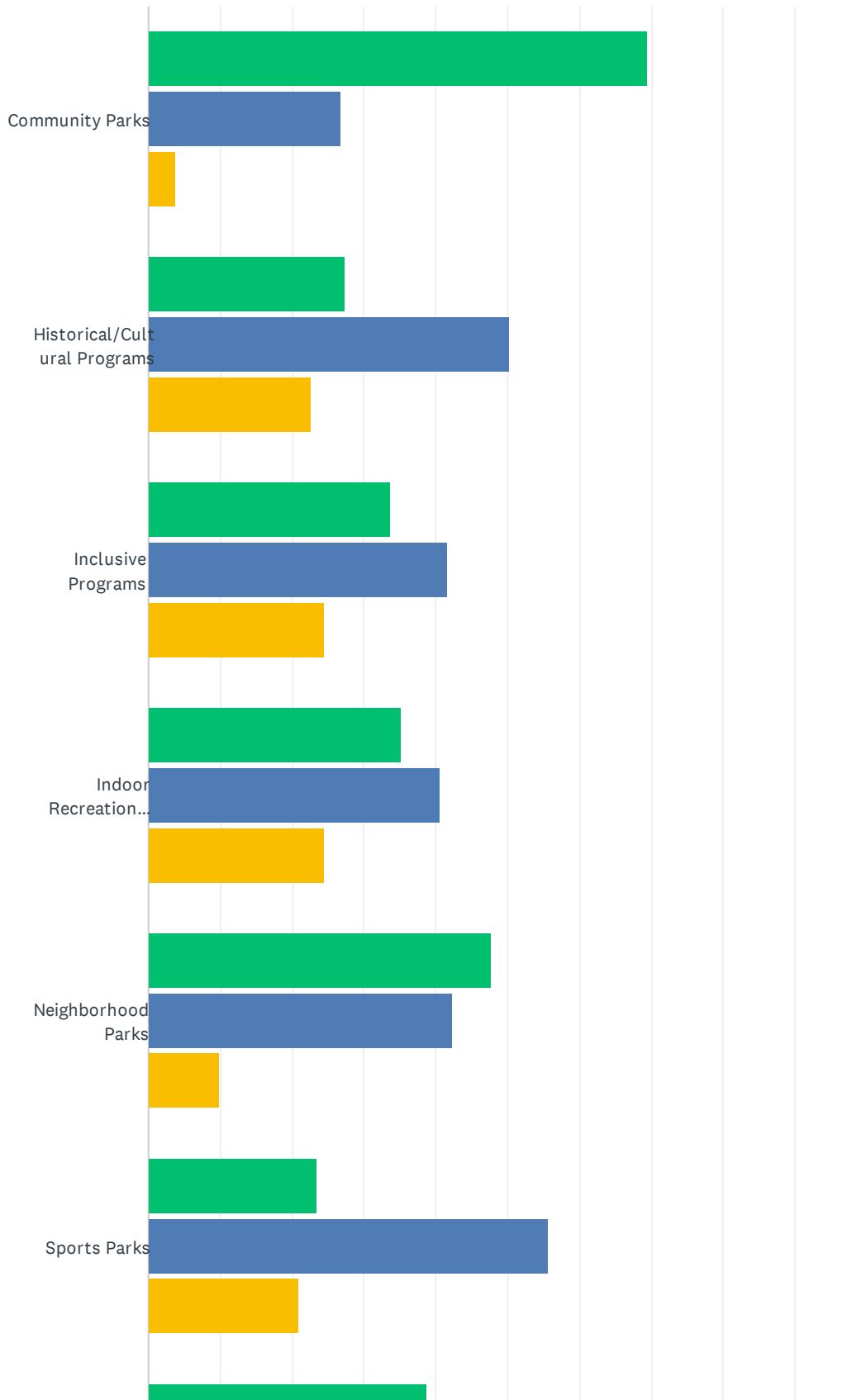


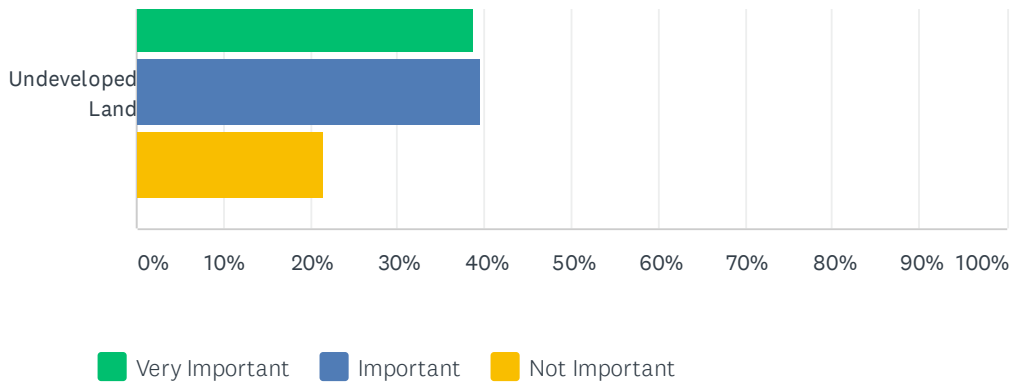
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Active Sports (Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Soccer, Football, etc.)	36.42%	122
Attending Special Events (concerts and movies, etc.)	60.60%	203
Birding	20.00%	67
Dog Walking	45.97%	154
Fishing	47.16%	158
Mountain Biking	22.69%	76
Nature Trail Walks	84.48%	283
Pickleball	21.79%	73
Picnicking	42.99%	144
Road Cycling	14.63%	49
Running/Jogging	28.96%	97
Senior Programming	8.96%	30
Tennis	12.54%	42
Visiting parks	68.36%	229
Visiting playgrounds	43.58%	146
Walking	77.31%	259
Total Respondents: 335		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Like biking but on trails not roads	12/11/2020 10:46 PM
2	Golf	12/11/2020 8:45 AM
3	Kayaking	12/11/2020 6:04 AM
4	Dirt biking!	12/10/2020 9:51 AM
5	Kayaking	12/10/2020 6:47 AM
6	Hiking trails, sitting by the river, hammocking, camping, floating down the river	12/9/2020 10:20 PM
7	Horseback riding	12/9/2020 8:52 PM
8	Camping	12/9/2020 8:01 PM
9	Orv	12/9/2020 6:50 PM
10	hunting	12/9/2020 5:55 PM
11	yoga	12/9/2020 2:11 PM
12	Water activities like swimming and splash pads	12/9/2020 12:53 PM
13	Beach Volleyball.	11/24/2020 4:48 PM
14	XC Skiing	11/23/2020 12:25 PM
15	Kayaking	11/16/2020 6:44 PM
16	Hunting	11/14/2020 8:12 AM
17	Photography.	11/13/2020 9:36 PM
18	Riding bikes	11/10/2020 11:00 PM
19	Disc golf	11/10/2020 10:50 PM
20	Off roading in jeeps	11/10/2020 2:05 PM
21	Jam Sessions and Open Mics	11/10/2020 10:57 AM
22	Quadding, canoe	11/10/2020 10:05 AM
23	disc golf	11/9/2020 8:10 PM
24	Kayaking	11/9/2020 7:22 PM
25	Kayaking, golf	11/9/2020 5:53 PM
26	Disc Golf	11/9/2020 4:48 PM
27	Letterboxing	11/9/2020 4:32 PM
28	eating ice cream!	11/9/2020 4:27 PM
29	Beach/Sand Volleyball	6/19/2020 12:54 PM
30	Our a little on the young side but but ya know ice skating baseball bikeing coming up	6/5/2020 6:39 PM
31	Disc Golf	6/5/2020 2:23 PM
32	Skiing, snowshoeing, kayaking, canoeing, kiting	6/5/2020 2:23 PM

# Q19 How important is it to have the following in Lowell Township?

Answered: 339 Skipped: 2



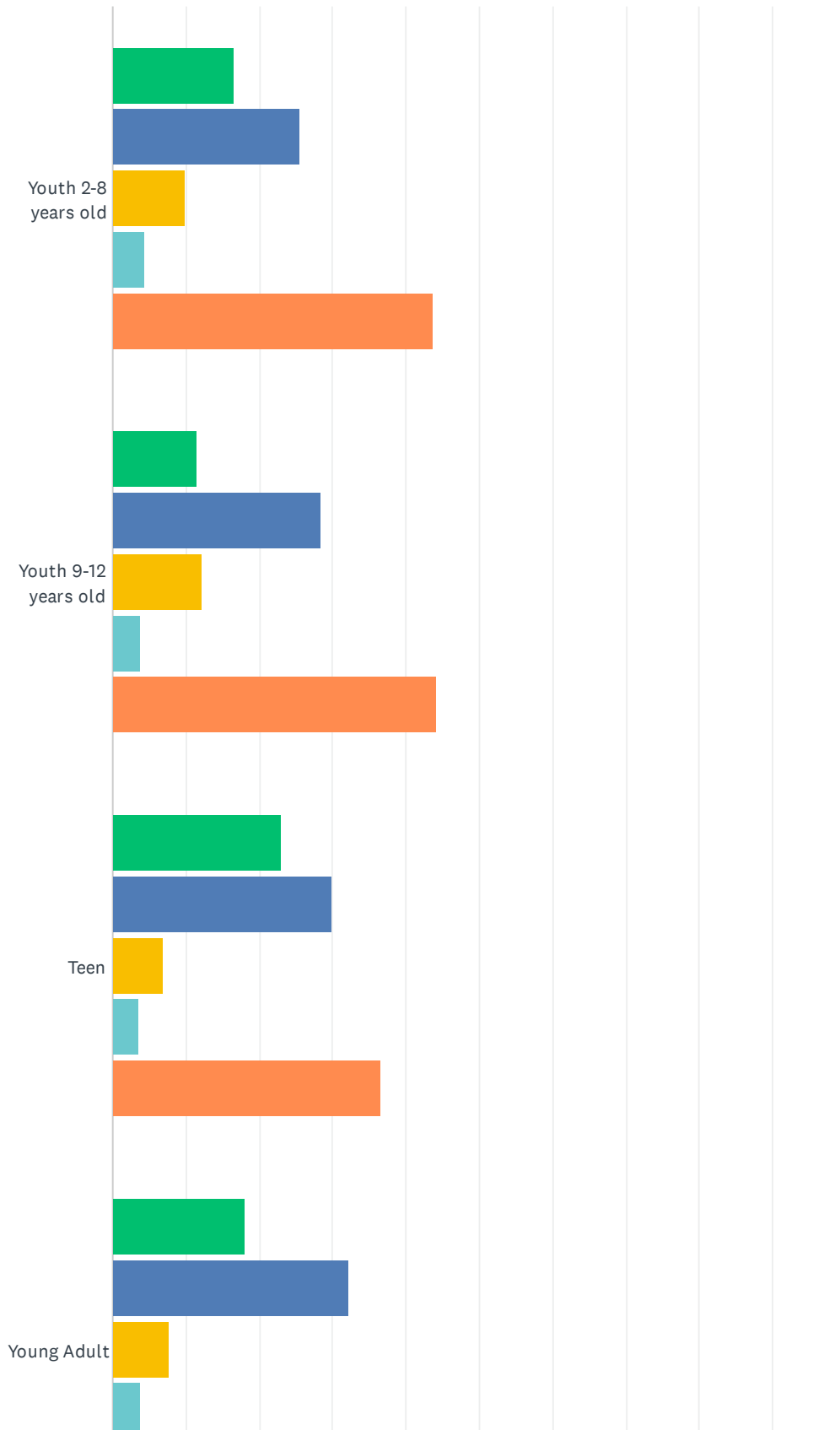


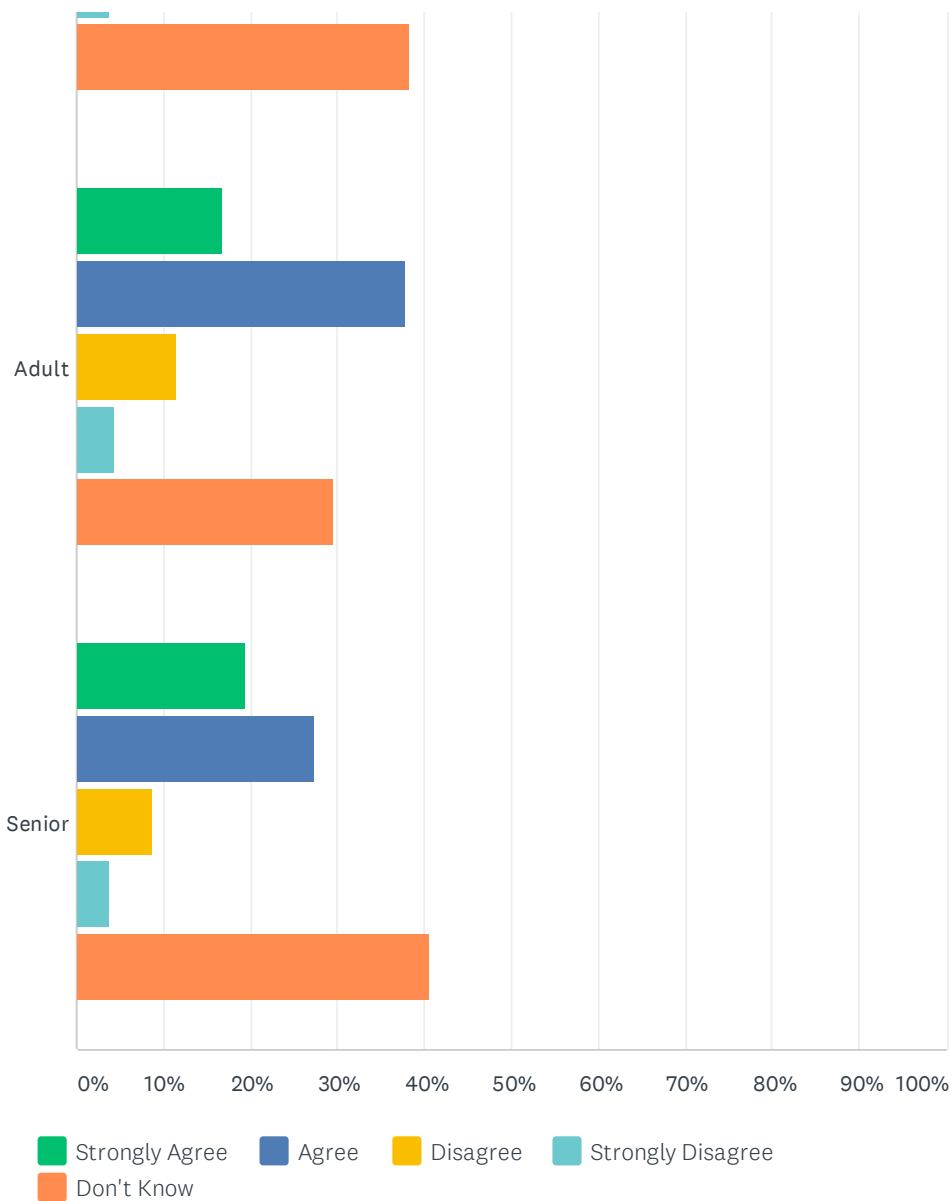
	VERY IMPORTANT	IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Community Parks	69.44% 234	26.71% 90	3.86% 13	337	1.34
Historical/Cultural Programs	27.33% 91	50.15% 167	22.52% 75	333	1.95
Inclusive Programs	33.76% 106	41.72% 131	24.52% 77	314	1.91
Indoor Recreation Facility	35.06% 115	40.55% 133	24.39% 80	328	1.89
Neighborhood Parks	47.75% 159	42.34% 141	9.91% 33	333	1.62
Sports Parks	23.38% 76	55.69% 181	20.92% 68	325	1.98
Undeveloped Land	38.72% 127	39.63% 130	21.65% 71	328	1.83

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Hiking/walking trails	12/20/2020 10:42 PM
2	We really do not have any indoor recreational facilities here in Lowell. You have to go to another community for this.	12/11/2020 10:46 PM
3	Additional Pickleball Courts in Lowell area	11/30/2020 8:30 AM
4	Lowell does not have a bicycle mountain bike trail. This would be a important improvement non- motorized only!	11/11/2020 7:55 AM
5	Like the undeveloped parcel that was left for a Eastgate park years ago that is still undeveloped and no longer has access to it due to condos built around it.	11/10/2020 11:18 AM
6	Open space owned by Township or partners	11/10/2020 10:05 AM
7	Community Center	11/9/2020 6:10 PM
8	We have enough parks and churches in Lowell.	6/5/2020 2:52 PM
9	SWIMMING POOL IS NEEDED	6/5/2020 2:23 PM
10	Recreational Trails	6/5/2020 2:23 PM

### Q20 There is a need for more programs for the following ages:

Answered: 330 Skipped: 11



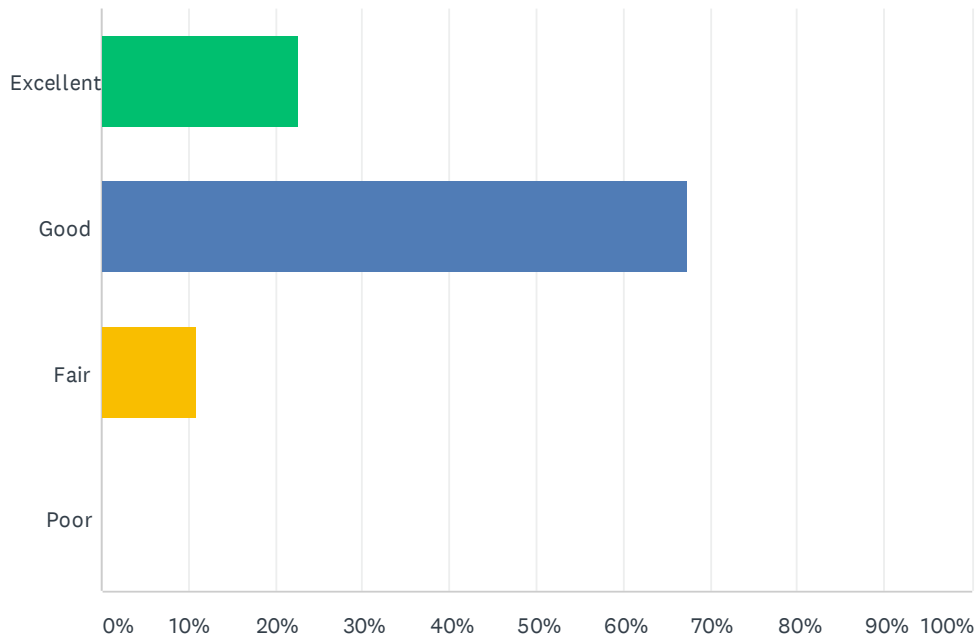


	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DON'T KNOW	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Youth 2-8 years old	16.56% 52	25.48% 80	9.87% 31	4.46% 14	43.63% 137	314	3.33
Youth 9-12 years old	11.50% 36	28.43% 89	12.14% 38	3.83% 12	44.09% 138	313	3.41
Teen	23.03% 73	29.97% 95	6.94% 22	3.47% 11	36.59% 116	317	3.01
Young Adult	17.89% 56	32.27% 101	7.67% 24	3.83% 12	38.34% 120	313	3.12
Adult	16.67% 52	37.82% 118	11.54% 36	4.49% 14	29.49% 92	312	2.92
Senior	19.38% 62	27.50% 88	8.75% 28	3.75% 12	40.63% 130	320	3.19



## Q21 How would you rate the overall Parks and Recreation Facilities provided by Lowell Township?

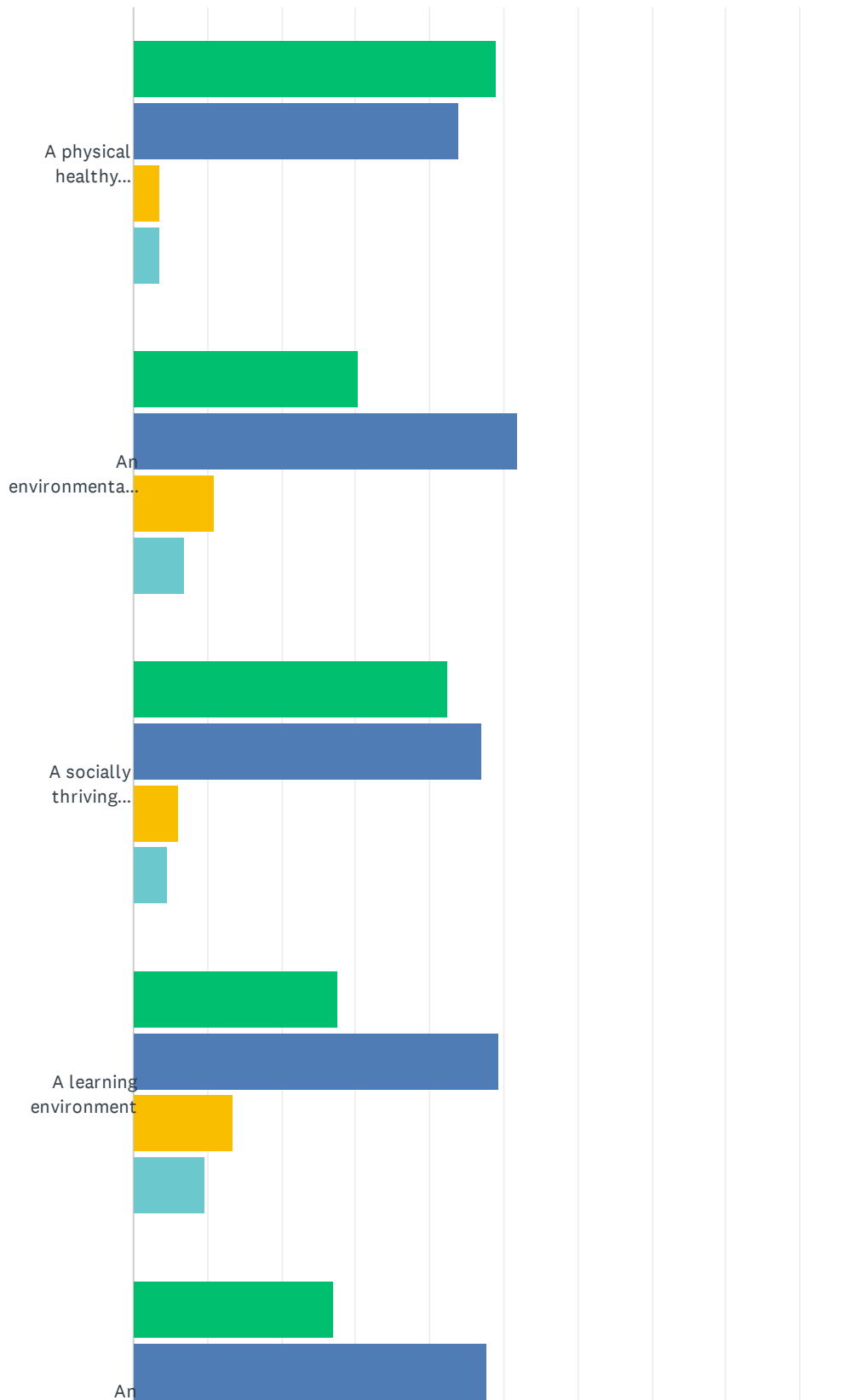
Answered: 337 Skipped: 4

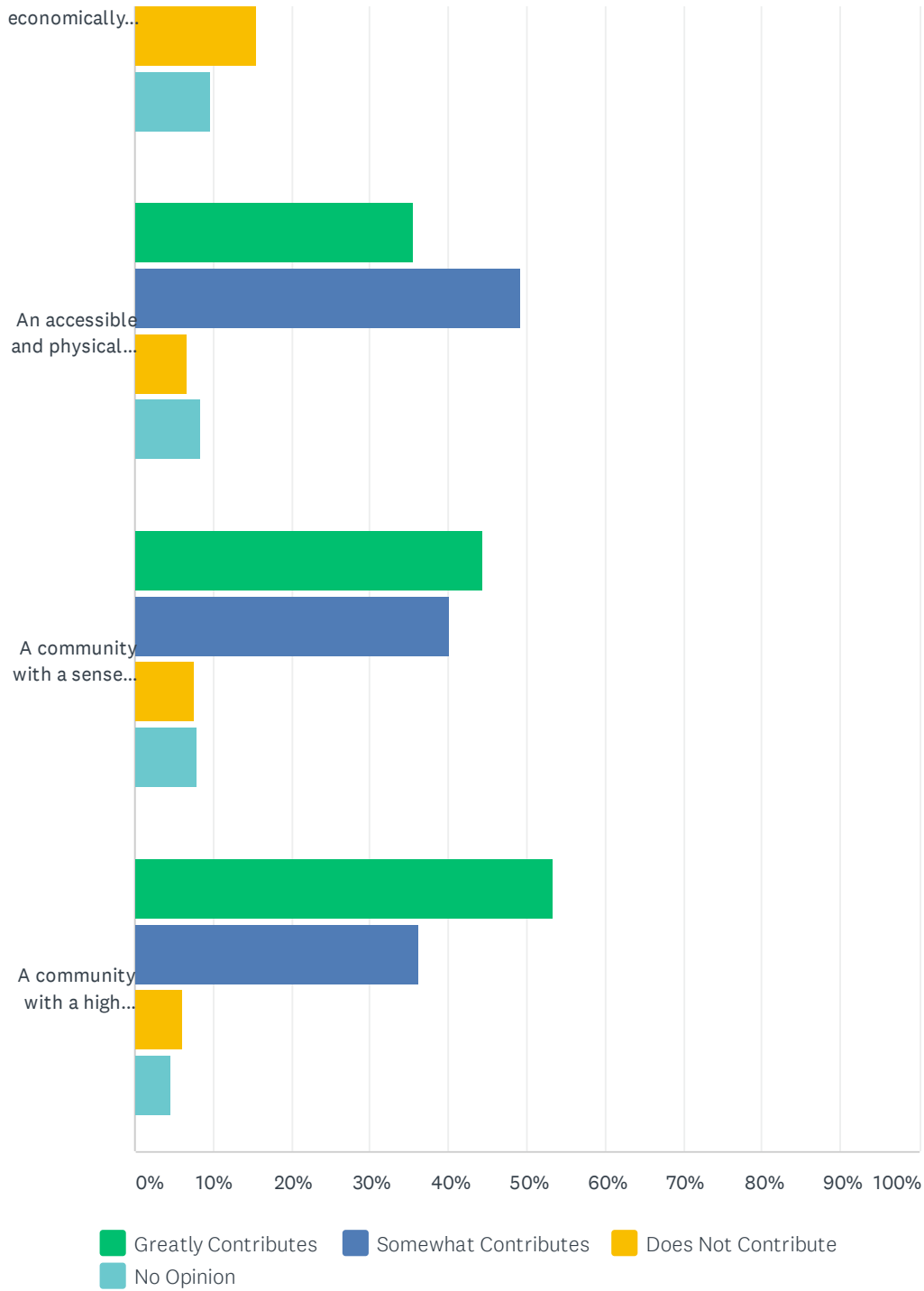


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	22.55%	76
Good	67.36%	227
Fair	10.98%	37
Poor	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 337		

# Q22 To what degree do you think Parks and Recreation contribute to Lowell Township being....

Answered: 334 Skipped: 7

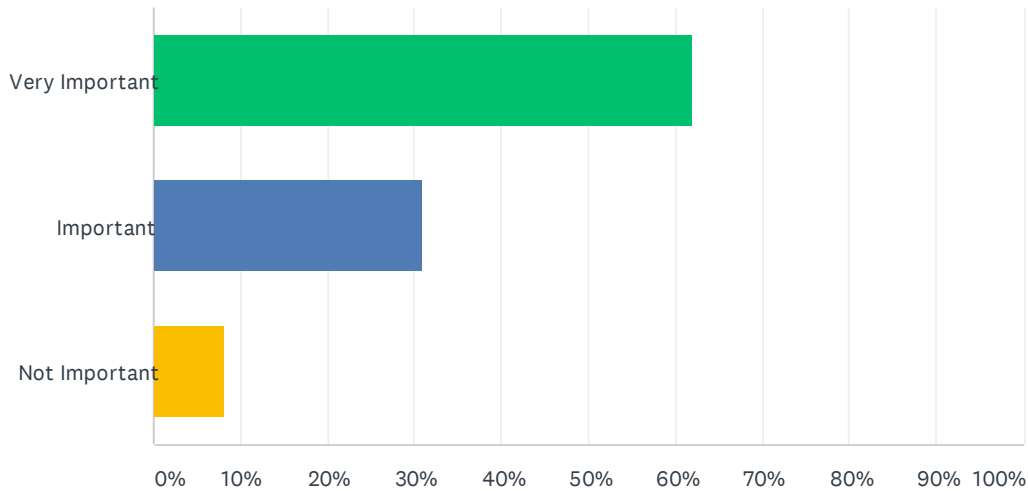




	<b>GREATLY CONTRIBUTES</b>	<b>SOMEWHAT CONTRIBUTES</b>	<b>DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE</b>	<b>NO OPINION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>WEIGHTED AVERAGE</b>
A physical healthy community	48.95% 163	43.84% 146	3.60% 12	3.60% 12	333	1.62
An environmentally sustainable community	30.30% 100	51.82% 171	10.91% 36	6.97% 23	330	1.95
A socially thriving community	42.42% 140	46.97% 155	6.06% 20	4.55% 15	330	1.73
A learning environment	27.58% 91	49.39% 163	13.33% 44	9.70% 32	330	2.05
An economically thriving community	27.05% 89	47.72% 157	15.50% 51	9.73% 32	329	2.08
An accessible and physically connected community	35.65% 118	49.24% 163	6.65% 22	8.46% 28	331	1.88
A community with a sense of place	44.41% 147	40.18% 133	7.55% 25	7.85% 26	331	1.79
A community with a high quality of life	53.31% 177	36.14% 120	6.02% 20	4.52% 15	332	1.62

### Q23 How would you rate the importance of the preservation of Open Spaces in the Towhship? (Open spaces are undeveloped areas that would be protected from future development)

Answered: 297 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very Important	61.95% 184
Important	30.98% 92
Not Important	8.08% 24
Total Respondents: 297	

Q24 Thank you for your participation. If you have additional comments or suggestions please feel free to use the space below.

Answered: 59 Skipped: 282

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	In favor of keeping open spaces naturally preserved and undeveloped. Especially in neighborhoods. Thank you!	12/12/2020 1:13 PM
2	Thank you for everything you do!	12/11/2020 10:53 AM
3	.	12/11/2020 8:41 AM
4	The skatepark could really use some additions.	12/10/2020 9:02 AM
5	None.	12/10/2020 7:36 AM
6	The township parks are a wonderful asset to the entire Lowell area.	12/10/2020 5:36 AM
7	We feel the biggest improvement that could be made would be expanding the paved trails. Have one run the length of vergennes connecting to the HS, one that connects to Fallasburg, maybe connect to the Ada trails. It would make everything much more accessible.	12/9/2020 10:19 PM
8	A facility with a pool for the swim team so we don't have to drive around half an hour for practice at 9:30pm	12/9/2020 9:25 PM
9	Splash pad needed!!!	12/9/2020 5:52 PM
10	We are in the process of relocating to Lowell from Chicago area. We have outstanding parks and indoor Rec. the indoor opportunities are so important due to the weather in midwest being cold and wet so much of the year. I hope to see an indoor community center go in Lowell. It has done wonders for our area.	12/9/2020 5:43 PM
11	Please, PLEASE stop all of the housing developments! We are losing our outdoor spaces, please preserve the land!	12/9/2020 4:35 PM
12	if this concerns youth sports activities, our grandchildren could not become involved due to cost and limited space. would be nice if lower income had help, maybe though we are not aware of all that is available	12/9/2020 1:55 PM
13	I live in the City of Lowell, not the township, but still wanted to participate in survey	12/9/2020 1:46 PM
14	Have you considered partnering with the ymca for adult recreation activities? Maybe even senior programs. They have a group of seniors that meet almost daily at their facility.	12/9/2020 1:32 PM
15	N/a	12/9/2020 12:56 PM
16	A splash pad is the only type of outdoor recreation that Lowell seems to be missing. In the summer my kids and I enjoy experiencing all the different playgrounds our community has to offer.	12/9/2020 12:53 PM
17	We visited McMahon Park earlier this month and found it in terrible condition. It deserves better. Additional coordination between the city and the township seems in order.	12/9/2020 12:49 PM
18	We are so pleased and proud of the Riverfront Parks and all they offer! We use them weekly and even daily. They are a great benefit to our community. I would like to see Creekside Park improved to have Pickleball Courts and some walking more walking paths. I know that is in the City of Lowell, but it would add greatly to our community, too.	11/30/2020 8:30 AM
19	Wondering if Betty Yeiter's farm is going to become a park?	11/25/2020 7:43 PM
20	As a senior resident that enjoys walking the bridge, I would like to see more seating across the bridge and on each end As a resting place and just to enjoy the view without standing .	11/24/2020 6:15 PM
21	I think Jerry does a great job and look forward to being a member of this community for a long time.	11/24/2020 4:48 PM
22	Lowell township HAS BEEN A WONDERFUL PLACE TO GROW UP IN AND I HAVE LIVED HERE MY ENTIRE LIFE I'M 80 YRS. YOUNG THANKS FOR THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES	11/19/2020 3:56 PM
23	Add more side walks!	11/15/2020 8:06 PM
24	The pickleball courts and north park are wonderful. Nice work!	11/13/2020 6:37 PM
25	I was not impressed with this survey. Difficult to answer some questions given the wording of the question. I am surprised more thought did not go into how questions were presented on this	11/12/2020 5:02 PM

	survey. Basically I am disappointed.	
26	None	11/11/2020 10:48 PM
27	Better notice of community knowledge of events.	11/11/2020 6:07 PM
28	Plenty of existing parks; monies can be invested elsewhere	11/10/2020 11:15 PM
29	Township needs a much better way of communicating their plans BEFORE they take steps. I don't understand why that is such a problem in this community.	11/10/2020 7:40 PM
30	Study holly oaks orv over near flint. Its a county ran off road park that jas been basically selling out admission since opening. There is nowhere within 1.5hrs of here to wheel legally. It could become a huge increase in money for the local area and parks budget.	11/10/2020 2:05 PM
31	I cannot stress enough the importance of permanently protecting the property at the township headquarters. You should take all measures to expand this to the East. The opportunity to protect such a site is rare. I love Lowell and the natural areas around it are a big reason why. Thanks for doing what you do!	11/10/2020 1:39 PM
32	Splash pad or a pool!!!!	11/10/2020 11:25 AM
33	Question 1 answer yes live in Lowell township then question 2 if you don't live in township where. You have to mark to continue to question 3 although it was answered in question 1. Question 8 makes you rate both north and south parks but can only check low priority for 1 park. I choose 2 low priority on both. Question 10 you have to check one. Surveys do not require you to answer if you do not agree with question. The board has taken advantage of purchasing and selling undeveloped land for years without any transparency. They fail to notify voters of plans and then claim it's the voters fault for not looking at their website. They have a book of township ordinances then fail to follow them if you have a problem. Sad that no one else runs for these positions as they get voted in automatically. Remember you work for We The People and am assuming you all took a constitutional oath to do that!!!	11/10/2020 11:18 AM
34	More places/activities for teens greatly needed. Something like a gazebo at the park with a firepit and Bluetooth sound system. Designed to hang hammocks from the poles. Place to hangout, listen to music and just be kids outdoors. Adventure ropes and a zip line across the river! This would require staffing and fees but should be sustainable. Mountain bike or BMX Bicycle track. Self serve rentals at the park! Kayaks, bikes, tricycles, croquet sets, etc. More oddball events. Remote control plane/boat/truck meetup. Township garage sale at the park. Concerts in the park. Game night. Races, tricycle race for kids, running, bicycle grand prix, go carts. Fishing contest. Chess club. Story time. Invest more money in individuals who can make rewarding and educational activities happen. People like musicians, teachers, naturalists, comedians, story tellers, guides, etc.	11/10/2020 10:57 AM
35	no water treatment plant!	11/10/2020 10:37 AM
36	The Township needs park programs other than team sports e.g., bird walks, nature programs, craft programs.	11/10/2020 10:05 AM
37	There is a great need in the Lowell community for youth to find economical sports and recreational activities. It should be made a priority to help counter balance the potential negative social effects of the numerous marijuana shops infiltrating our area! Legal or not it WILL affect our youth and we need to keep them engaged in heathy ways with great mentors!	11/9/2020 8:59 PM
38	Need a total overhaul of all trustees and board supervisor. Dishonest and only out for their own self interests. Lack of transparency. Real estate brokering between board trustees and private parties is unethical on behalf of township. This park initiative is another shining example of no transparency until the survey.	11/9/2020 8:47 PM
39	CLEAN UP THE JUNK THAT SOME HOMES HAVE THAT MAKE OUR NEIGHBOR HOODS LOOK LIKE A RECYCLING BUSINESS OUT OF BUSINESS .	11/9/2020 8:27 PM
40	We are opposed to putting any industrial facility on the property on Grand River across from Riverfront Park. If the purchase cannot be halted, it should be preserved as undeveloped Open Space.	11/9/2020 8:22 PM
41	Proud to live in Lowell Twp.	11/9/2020 7:33 PM
42	No new parks. Maintain and /or improve current ones.	11/9/2020 7:27 PM



43	I think there is enough land and trails available for outdoor activities. Some activities like basketball courts would be nice, but overall I really enjoy the Lowell Township area for its wooded, private, undeveloped feel. I think that any future spending should be done to the existing developed areas, no need to expand at this point.	11/9/2020 7:21 PM
44	Please, we do not need an additional park across from grand river South Park.	11/9/2020 7:14 PM
45	We need a community center. This is Michigan. Outdoor is great for 1/3 of the year. Our community needs an indoor place where families can spend the winter months participating in community activities.	11/9/2020 6:10 PM
46	Thanks	11/9/2020 6:07 PM
47	Understanding that it is a right to read meeting minutes, or attend township meetings, I would still like to see more communication from the township on current issues. I actually do not know if it is possible at this point to attend meetings virtually or not. The last Emergency Services Millage request e-mail came just weeks before the prior election and did not thoroughly explain the justification for the request. It simply stated that we had rising contract costs for fire and police. How much? Show the data. The e-mail also stated that "residents have asked for tornado sirens". How much do they cost and how many residents do not have smart phones or cannot hear the City of Lowell's sirens? I believe that if there is a true need, and thorough and well developed communications, the residents of Lowell Township are not going to flat out say "NO" on the basis of higher taxes.	11/9/2020 4:48 PM
48	Do we hold classes and activities for outdoor recreation? I could teach people about letterboxing, a great adventure sport for all ages.	11/9/2020 4:32 PM
49	Sand/Beach Volleyball courts	6/19/2020 12:54 PM
50	Could not get number 8 to work	6/6/2020 1:51 PM
51	Too many lawn chemicals used on the parks lawns. Waste of money, runs off into the river and not good for children of pets to be playing on.	6/6/2020 1:19 PM
52	Splash pad, please!!!	6/5/2020 3:40 PM
53	Please do not add anymore New churches or parks in Lowell. We have enough.	6/5/2020 2:52 PM
54	Please complete the disc golf course as planned. Part of why we contributed to the fund! Would love an update.	6/5/2020 2:23 PM
55	Don't overlook winter recreation! An addition of a multi use trail would fit very well in Lowell/Vergennes township. XC skiing/snowshoeing, mountain biking and trail running would be nice to have close to home. A kayak launch on the Grand River would be nice to have too, especially for the adaptive paddlers. If a mountain bike trail system was developed, a bike shop could pop up in town adding jobs and income.	6/5/2020 2:23 PM
56	The current facilities are a great start. I think the issue is just getting people to get out and use them. Re-educate & advertise??	6/5/2020 2:20 PM
57	Inclusive was not well defined in the survey. Not sure how to answer those questions. Also the maps did not show up well for mobile device survey.	6/5/2020 2:00 PM
58	More attention should be given to enhancing the infrastructure of the township. Bad roads, lack of technology access, etc. deserve more attention.	6/5/2020 1:39 PM
59	Out of every question, I would say my highest personal priority would be more unpaved running/walking trails - natural areas	6/5/2020 1:39 PM

SECTION 6

RECREATION NEEDS  
AND DEFICIENCIES



## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 6

### NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

This section of the Plan identifies recreation deficiencies determined through a variety of means. Study methods include comparison to recreational standards for acreage and facilities, geographic distribution of existing facilities, direct input from Lowell Township staff and representatives, and public input and participation. While each of these methods has its limitations, using a combination of methods will yield a more accurate assessment of recreational needs and deficiencies. The following is a brief description of each of the methods used.

### RECREATION STANDARDS

While only a guide, recreation standards provide a benchmark for evaluating the relative adequacy or inadequacy of Lowell Township's recreation system. This Plan has used as a guide the 1983 Recreation, Park, and Open Space, Standards and Guidelines and 1995 Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines published by the National Recreation and Park Association.

Typical recreation standards establish a certain number of activity-specific recreational facilities per 1,000 of population (e.g. 1 tennis court per 2,000 persons). Other standards establish a certain number of acres per 1,000 of population for different types of park facilities, such as neighborhood, community and regional parks. These standards are adapted to reflect Lowell Township's character and compared with the Township's existing and projected population. This Plan will combine both approaches to ascertain deficiencies in recreational facilities and acreage. The 2019 U.S. Census Bureau population estimate was used for the purposes of this study.

There are two basic types of recreational experiences: "active" and "passive." "Active" recreation requires space and facilities capable of accommodating exertive activities. Such



facilities include: sports fields, play apparatus areas, open areas, special facilities, such as pools and court areas, and areas for organized activities. On the other hand, "passive" recreation requires little more than space and furniture for quiet, non-exertive activities for limited numbers of users. Recreation areas must provide for both types of use and preferably include a variety of opportunities for each to respond adequately to a wide range of interests and age groups.

Parks are generally classified by purpose and area per population served. They range in type from mini-playlots and green areas to large regional and national parks.

The categories used for this plan will be as follows:

1. Neighborhood Parks and Schools\*
2. Community Parks
3. Natural Resource Areas
4. Trails

## **RECREATION STANDARDS FOR ACREAGE**

### **1. Neighborhood Parks and Schools**

**Description** - Neighborhood parks serve individual neighborhood populations as determined by the distance that can easily be traveled by local users for relatively short periods of recreation. Facilities provided in these parks are generally active in nature and include multipurpose open play areas for pick-up games, play apparatus, court areas, landscaping, site furnishings and possibly a shelter. Special areas for bike riding or specific court games may also be provided. Activities for all seasons should also be included.

**Service Areas** - The area served by neighborhood parks is generally considered to be a one quarter (1/4) mile to one half (1/2) mile radius in size and should be uninterrupted by non-residential roads or other physical barriers.

**Neighborhood Park Acreage Standards** - Nationally accepted standards for neighborhood parks recommend one or two (1-2) acres per 1,000 of population with five (5) acres as a



minimum size and five to ten (5-10) acres optimal. It is recommended that the minimum of two (2) acres per 1,000 population be used as a guide for site selection.

It is also recommended that neighborhood facilities be combined with elementary schools. In such cases, the minimum site size should be five to seven (5-7) acres.

***Existing Recreation Acreage***

Lowell Township currently has (0) parks that would fit into the neighborhood park definition.

***Needs and Deficiencies:*** The table below compares the estimated 2019 Township population to the recreation standard of two (2) acres per 1,000 persons.

<u>2020 Population</u>	<u>Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Required</u>	<u>Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Available</u>	<u>Deficiency/ Surplus</u>
6,765	13.53	0.0	- 13.53

For the estimated 2019 population, there is a deficit of 13.53 acres for neighborhood recreation in accordance with the recreational standards. However, these deficiencies need to be considered jointly with the facilities provided by Community Parks, which can have a joint purpose of also serving the neighborhood. The National Recreation and Park Association recommends a total close-to-home space (Mini-Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks) of 6.25 to 10.5 acres per 1000 population.

The use of the acreage standard must be coupled with a review of the location and accessibility of the existing recreation areas. Additionally, the recreational acreage should be accessible on foot without having to cross busy streets or negotiate physical barriers.

As the population increases, additional parks should be developed near the residential areas.



## **2. Community Parks**

**Description** - Community-wide parks provide a range of facilities and areas capable of supporting organized community participation programs that would not be appropriate in neighborhood parks because of their average size or traffic volume generated. Facilities should be centrally located, diverse enough to accommodate all age groups for both active and passive experiences and organized so that compatible uses relate to one another. Adequate parking and vehicular circulation is also important, since park users will generally arrive at these parks by vehicle. Lighted use areas significantly increase the recreational value of parks of this type. Typical facilities recommended for community parks include ball fields, open use areas, tennis courts, picnic areas, play apparatus areas, restrooms and shelters. Additional special facilities could include band shells, amphitheaters, swimming and wading pools, community-meeting buildings, skating facilities, bicycle courses and nature study areas.

As with neighborhood parks, it is often beneficial to develop community parks in conjunction with junior or senior high schools where practical because of the athletic fields and courts potentially available for public use. This arrangement assures the maximum level of use as well as the most practical expenditure of development funds.

**Service Area** - The area served by community-wide parks varies significantly from one municipality to another because of the distribution of population and related factors. However, a community park usually serves two or more neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.

**Community Park Acreage Standards** – The size of a community park varies according to the desired uses but is usually between 30 and 50 acres. It is recommended that a range of five (5) to eight (8) acres per 1,000 population be used as a standard basis for development.



**Existing Community Recreation Acreage** – Lowell Township has two (2) facilities which would fall within the Township-Wide Community Park classification. Both North and South Grand River Riverfront Parks are considered a Lowell Township-Wide Community Park because of their location within the Township and the range of activities provided. While they cannot be considered community parks, they do provide community access to athletic fields.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Existing Site Acreage</u>
North Grand River Riverfront Park	31.15
South Grand River Riverfront Park	76.44
<b>Total</b>	<b>107.59 acres</b>

**Needs and Deficiencies:** The following table compares the estimated 2020 Township population to the recreation standard of eight (8) acres per 1,000 persons.

<u>2020 Population</u>	<u>Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Required</u>	<u>Neighborhood Rec. Acreage Available</u>	<u>Deficiency/ Surplus</u>
6,765	54.12	107.59	+ 53.47

The Township-Wide Community Park developed acreage of 107.59 acres is a surplus of 53.47 acres from the considered national standard for a typical community of this size based upon the estimated 2019 population.

### **3. Natural Resource Areas/Open Space**

**Description** - Natural Resource Areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual/aesthetic buffering. These sites are typically unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential and can support recreational activities at a level that preserves the integrity of the natural resource. The location and size of these parks are largely governed by availability.

**Existing Natural Resource Area Acreage** – The Land Conservancy of West Michigan owns the 43.4 acres of the Bradford Dickenson White Nature Preserve in the south-central area of the Township. The nature preserve features simple hiking trails through oak-hickory



and pine forests. Kent County also owns approximately 267.78 acres of land in the same area for future development.

***Needs and Deficiencies*** - There are no recognized acreage standards for natural resource areas and the Township is fortunate to have a significant amount of natural resource acreage within the Lowell Charter Township limits.

#### **4. Trails**

***Description*** – There are several different types of trails that can provide both transportation and recreation opportunities. Trails may be located within parks, on an independent right-of-way, or within the road right-of-way. Connector Trails are defined as “multi-purpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the Community” (J.D. Mertes and J.R. Hall, Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, 1995). These trails are generally located within the road right-of-way and can be divided into two types. Type I has separate paths for different user types, such as pedestrians and bicyclists. Type II has mixed uses and is suited to lighter use patterns.

***Existing Facilities***- The Township has two well defined trail systems. The North Country Trail, a large trail network connecting nearly 4,600 miles from Vermont to North Dakota, enters Lowell Township in the southeast corner and follows several county roads along with an abandoned railroad right-of-way north through the township and into the City of Lowell. From there, the North Country Trail extends north through the Lowell State Game Area.

Lowell Charter Township also works closely with The Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) to develop, acquire, construct, and maintain various trail systems throughout the area that service residents of both the Township as well as the City of Lowell. This relationship is an important part of improving recreation opportunities for all residents, and the Township supports these efforts.

***Needs and Deficiencies*** - There have been no deficiencies determined for this category and needs vary depending on the community. However, any future development will only enhance the existing trail systems present in the Township.





**RECREATION STANDARDS FOR ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES**

A comparison of activity-specific recreational facilities within the Township with recreation standards indicates that the Township contains many of the recreational facilities desirable for the current and future population, but deficiencies are evident in some areas.

While the standards for comparison address the quantity of facilities generally desirable for several persons, they do not address quality or location concerns. Consequently, a community that has the appropriate numbers of facilities may not have facilities of a useful or desirable quality or may not have facilities located where they would be most accessible by residents. Also, not all the facilities are available to the public or for use by the Township Recreation Program.

Lowell Charter Township has limited public indoor recreation facilities. The area school building facilities accommodate these functions at present, but to a limited degree. Private recreation facilities also supplement the indoor recreation needs. However, any future design of recreation facilities or additional activities should take into consideration the location of residential growth in the community to best serve the growing population.

**RECREATION FACILITIES SUMMARY**

Lowell Township takes pride in its park and recreation facilities and demonstrates good stewardship of its natural resources. While substantial improvements have been achieved over the last 10 years, a variety of improvements are recommended to fully utilize the Lowell Township’s recreational land and improve accessibility for all users.



**2020 RECREATION STANDARDS AND DEFICIENCIES  
LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP \*  
Estimated 2020 Population: 4,194**

FACILITY	STANDARD	RECOMMENDED FACILITIES	EXISTING* FACILITIES	FACILITY DEFICIENCIES
Softball	1:5,000	2	12	OK
Baseball	1:5,000	2	7	OK
Soccer	1:10,000	1	10	OK
Basketball (outdoor)	1:5,000	2	1 (Full) 15 (Half)	OK
Football	1:20,000	1	3	OK
Tennis/Pickleball	1:2,000	5	18 Courts (Mix of Each)	OK
Playground Equipment	1:3,000	4	12 (Areas)	OK
Volleyball	1:5,000	2	2	OK
Running Track	1:20,000	1	2	OK
Swimming Pool (Indoor)	1:20,000	1	0	-1
Picnic Shelters	1:2,000	5	10	OK
Mixed Use Field	As available	--	13	OK
Sledding Area	Provide as Available	--	0	OK
Trails	1 system per region	--	14	OK

\*as of 2020, total existing facilities at City of Lowell, School, and Township properties.

SECTION 7

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



## LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 7

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In order to stay on a logical, programmed course of action during the next five years, Lowell Township has developed the following goals and objectives. These goals and objectives are based upon the recreation inventory and needs assessment, and direct input from citizens, Township officials and staff. The goals are long-range in nature and intended to be broad in scope and flexible enough to accommodate future change. The objectives are short-range in nature and intended to direct specific program and development decisions to be made in the next five years. Goals and objectives are meant to guide the intent of the actions to be taken but be flexible enough to reflect changing attitudes and opportunities as may present themselves for Lowell Township to be responsive to its citizens.

#### **Goal No. 1**

**Recreational opportunities at Grand River Riverfront Park will be increased and improved through the work of Lowell Charter Township.**

#### **Objectives**

- Expand on educational opportunities at Grand River Park.
- Expand the range of activities and facilities offered for use at Grand River Park.
- Add a boat launch for small watercraft at Grand River Riverfront Park.

#### **Goal No. 2**

**Lowell Charter Township will actively cooperate and participate in the development of non-motorized trail networks in the Township.**



### Objectives

- Participate in discussions with the North Country Trail regarding the potential use of an abandoned railroad right-of-way in the eastern portion of the Township. Expand the range of activities and facilities offered for use at Grand River Park.
- Provide continued support to the Lowell Area Recreation Authority (LARA) in developing trails and connections in the greater Lowell region, including Lowell Township.
- Cooperate with and support neighboring jurisdictions in the development of a rail-trail between Lowell, Greenville, and Ionia.

### Goal No. 3

**Residents of the Township will be provided with a variety of recreational facilities and activities.**

### Objectives

- Encourage or require developers to create pocket parks or natural areas in future residential developments in higher density areas of the Township.
- Develop feasible approaches to meet a growing demand for equestrian-related recreational opportunities in the Township.
- Develop a plan for using the Township Hall property for recreational use.

### Goal No. 4

**The Township will ensure that recreational facilities are available to all residents and visitors.**

### Objectives

- Add an ADA accessible fishing pier or other ADA accessible facilities to Grand River Park.
- Pursue senior activities and exercise opportunities at Grand River Riverfront Park.

### Goal No. 5

**The Township will actively work to increase the number of visitors to Grand River Riverfront Park.**



Objectives

- Construct basketball and/or tennis courts in Grand River Park.
- Construct or acquire a historic bridge for relocation to Grand River Park to access the island in the Grand River and the north bank.
- Develop the barked trail around the perimeter of Grand River Riverfront park for cross-country skiing.

**Goal No. 6**

**Lowell Charter Township will facilitate in the development of additional recreational properties within the Township.**

Objectives

- Explore feasibility of purchasing additional acreage at Grand River Park.
- Explore feasible methods, such as trails and bridges, to connect the various recreational facilities to the Township and surrounding communities.

**Goal No. 7**

**Lowell Charter Township will acquire properties within the 100-year floodplain along the Grand River for recreational use.**

Objectives

- Acquire additional property along the north side of the Grand River across from the western portion of Grand River Riverfront Park.
- Acquire property along the south side of the Grand River for recreational uses.

**Goal No. 8**

**Lowell Charter Township will continue and expand cooperative efforts with neighboring communities to improve and expand recreational opportunities for residents of the larger Lowell community.**

Objectives

- Explore feasible approaches to developing and maintaining a competition swimming pool.
- Explore joint approaches to meet recreational needs of the area\aging population.

SECTION 8

**ACTION PROGRAM  
AND CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**



## **LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 8**

### **ACTION PROGRAM**

The Action Program and Capital Improvement Schedule for Lowell Township Community Park and Recreation Plan states the proposed course of development or improvement that will be taken over the next five years. The Goals and Objectives, from the previous section, serve as guidelines for the development of the Action Program. The Capital Improvement Schedule which follows will focus on the needs identified in the Action Program and will project potential expenditures for the five-year action period on a year-by-year basis. The five-year period will begin in 2021 and extend through 2025. This time period will not be sufficient to accomplish all of the goals and objectives but begins to prioritize those projects that may be achievable within the initial five years.

The Action Program focuses on reduction of deficiencies and expansion and improvements of facilities in a manner that not only meets current needs, but also diversifies the type and quality of recreational opportunities within the Township. The Community Park and Recreation Plan identifies these needs in general terms in the Recreation Needs and Deficiencies section; the Action Plan describes specific actions to be taken to address these needs; and the Capital Improvement Schedule specifically itemizes those projects which will be most feasible during the next five years. The proposed schedule will allow for flexibility as funds become available and as opportunities are presented.





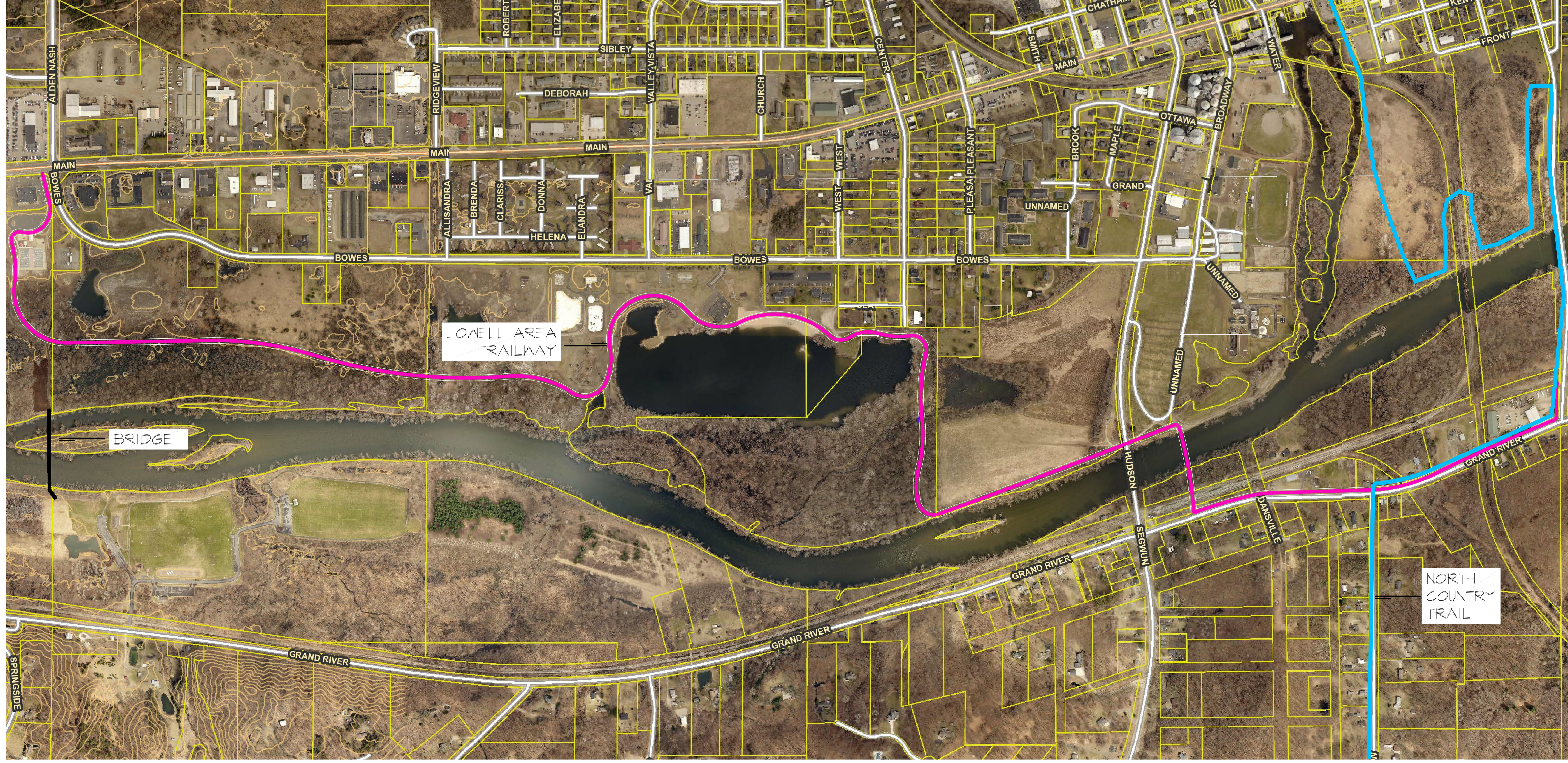
**ACTION PROGRAM AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**  
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE**

The following River projects have been identified for improvements and will occur as funds allow.

Project	Township	Other Funds*	Total Project Costs	Suggested Year
<b><u>Grand River Riverfront Park</u></b> Master Plan of Entire Park	\$8,000			2021
<b><u>Grand River Riverfront Park</u></b> Grant Application for Splashpad	\$6,000			2021
<b><u>Grand River Riverfront Park</u></b> Splashpad and Playground Accessibility (North)	\$200,500	\$200,000		2022
<b><u>Grand River Riverfront Park</u></b> 18 Hole Disc Golf Course (South)	\$150,000			2023
<b><u>Grand River Riverfront Park</u></b> Grant Application for Playground Improvements	\$6,000			2023
<b><u>Grand River Riverfront Park</u></b> Playground Improvements (South)	\$60,000			2024
<b><u>Grand River Riverfront Park</u></b> Site Amenities (South) Benches, Picnic Tables, Interpretive Signage, Security Lighting and Camera	\$30,000			2025

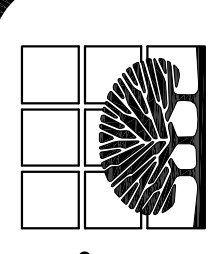


Project	Township	Other Funds*	Total Project Costs	Suggested Year
<b><u>Grand River Riverfront Park</u></b> Parking and Walk Improvements (South)	To Be Determined Annually			Ongoing
<b><u>Park Property Acquisition</u></b> Acquisition of additional park properties				Ongoing



**LOWELL AREA TRAILWAY**

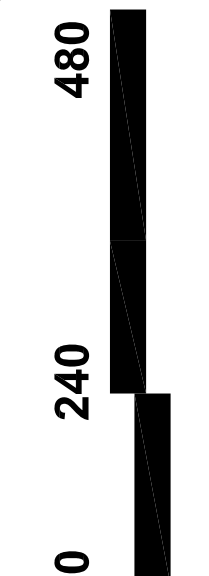
Lowell Charter Township  
Community Parks and  
Recreation Plan

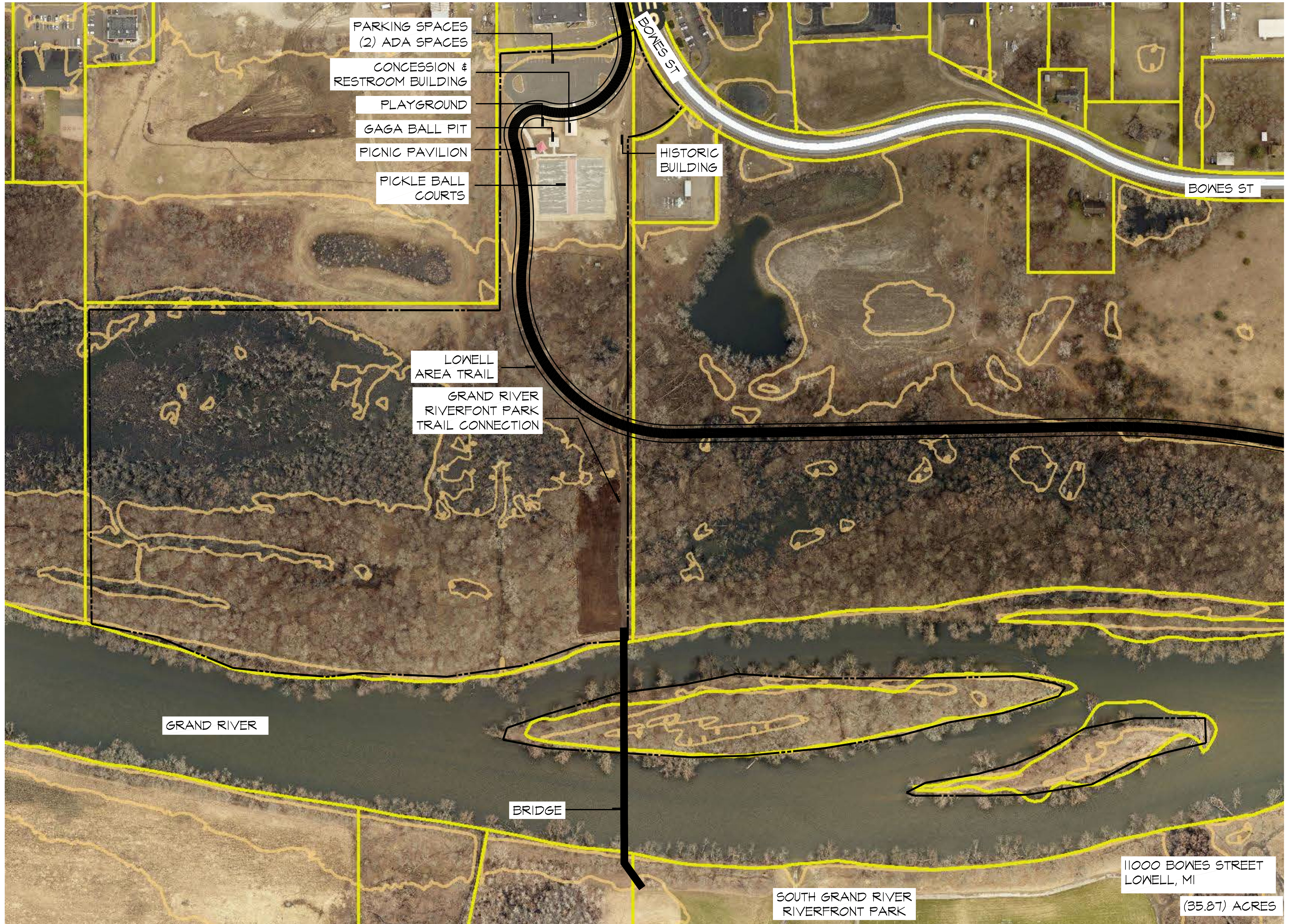


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NORTH  
SCALE IN FEET





PARKING SPACES  
(2) ADA SPACES

CONCESSION &  
RESTROOM BUILDING

PLAYGROUND

GAGA BALL PIT

PICNIC PAVILION

PICKLE BALL  
COURTS

BONES ST

HISTORIC  
BUILDING

BONES ST

LOWELL  
AREA TRAIL

GRAND RIVER  
RIVERFRONT PARK  
TRAIL CONNECTION

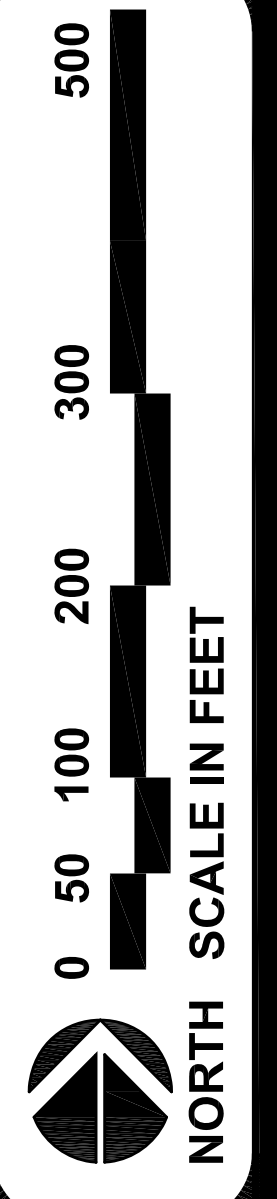
GRAND RIVER

BRIDGE

SOUTH GRAND RIVER  
RIVERFRONT PARK

11000 BONES STREET  
LOWELL, MI

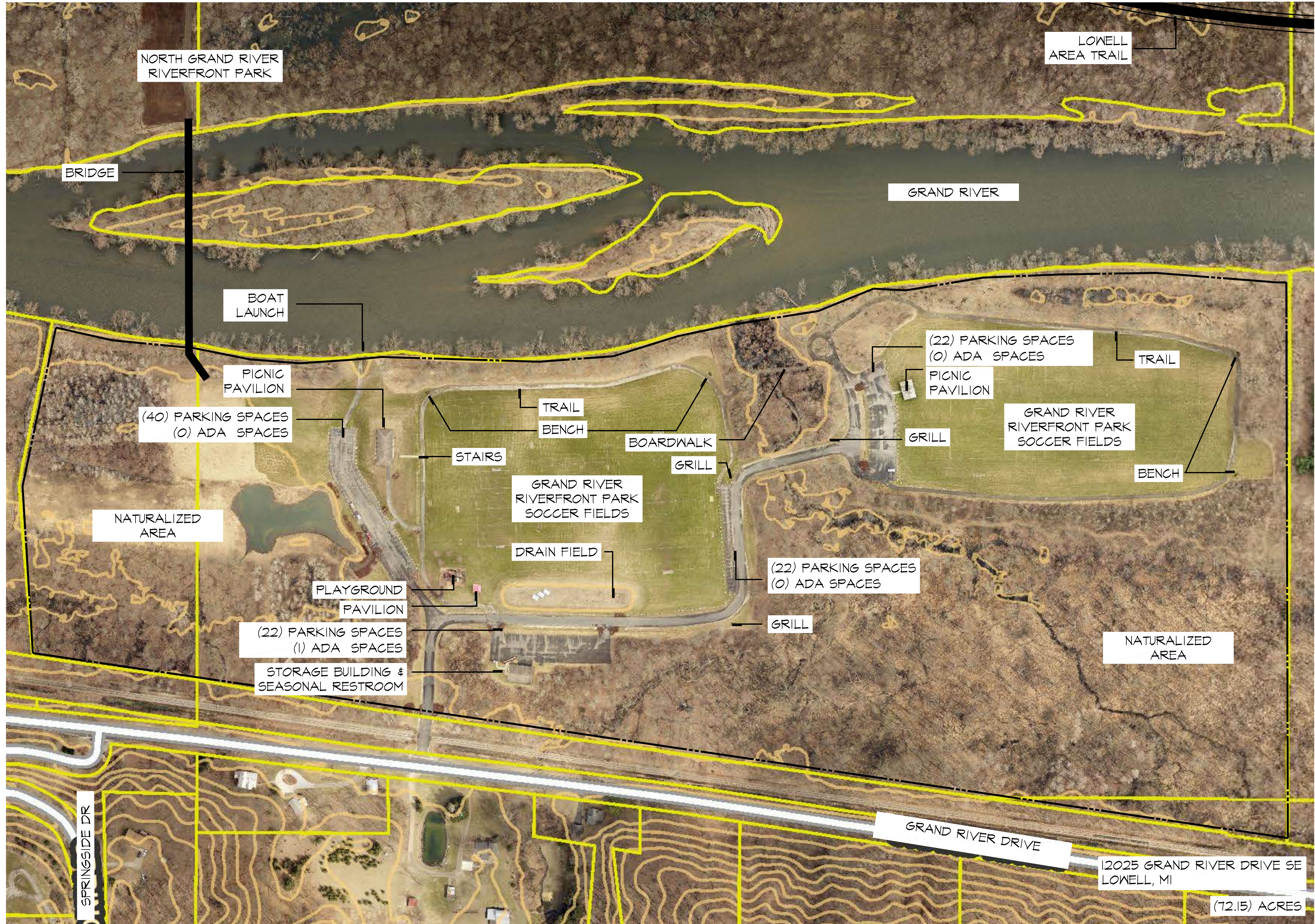
(35.87) ACRES



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**Lowell Charter Township  
Community Parks and  
Recreation Plan**

**NORTH  
RIVERFRONT  
PARK**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
**Lowell**



NORTH GRAND RIVER RIVERFRONT PARK

LOWELL AREA TRAIL

BRIDGE

GRAND RIVER

BOAT LAUNCH

PICNIC PAVILION

(40) PARKING SPACES  
(0) ADA SPACES

(22) PARKING SPACES  
(0) ADA SPACES

TRAIL

PICNIC PAVILION

GRAND RIVER RIVERFRONT PARK SOCCER FIELDS

TRAIL

BENCH

BOARDWALK

GRILL

BENCH

STAIRS

GRILL

GRAND RIVER RIVERFRONT PARK SOCCER FIELDS

NATURALIZED AREA

DRAIN FIELD

(22) PARKING SPACES  
(0) ADA SPACES

PLAYGROUND PAVILION

GRILL

(22) PARKING SPACES  
(1) ADA SPACES

NATURALIZED AREA

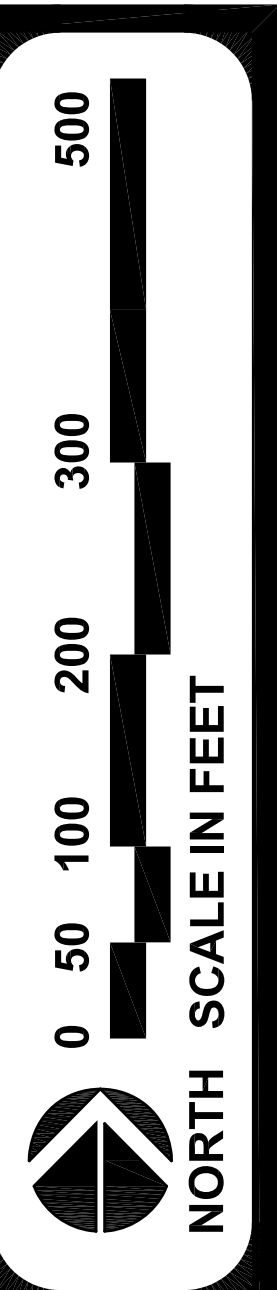
STORAGE BUILDING & SEASONAL RESTROOM

SPRINGSIDE DR

GRAND RIVER DRIVE

12025 GRAND RIVER DRIVE SE  
LOWELL, MI

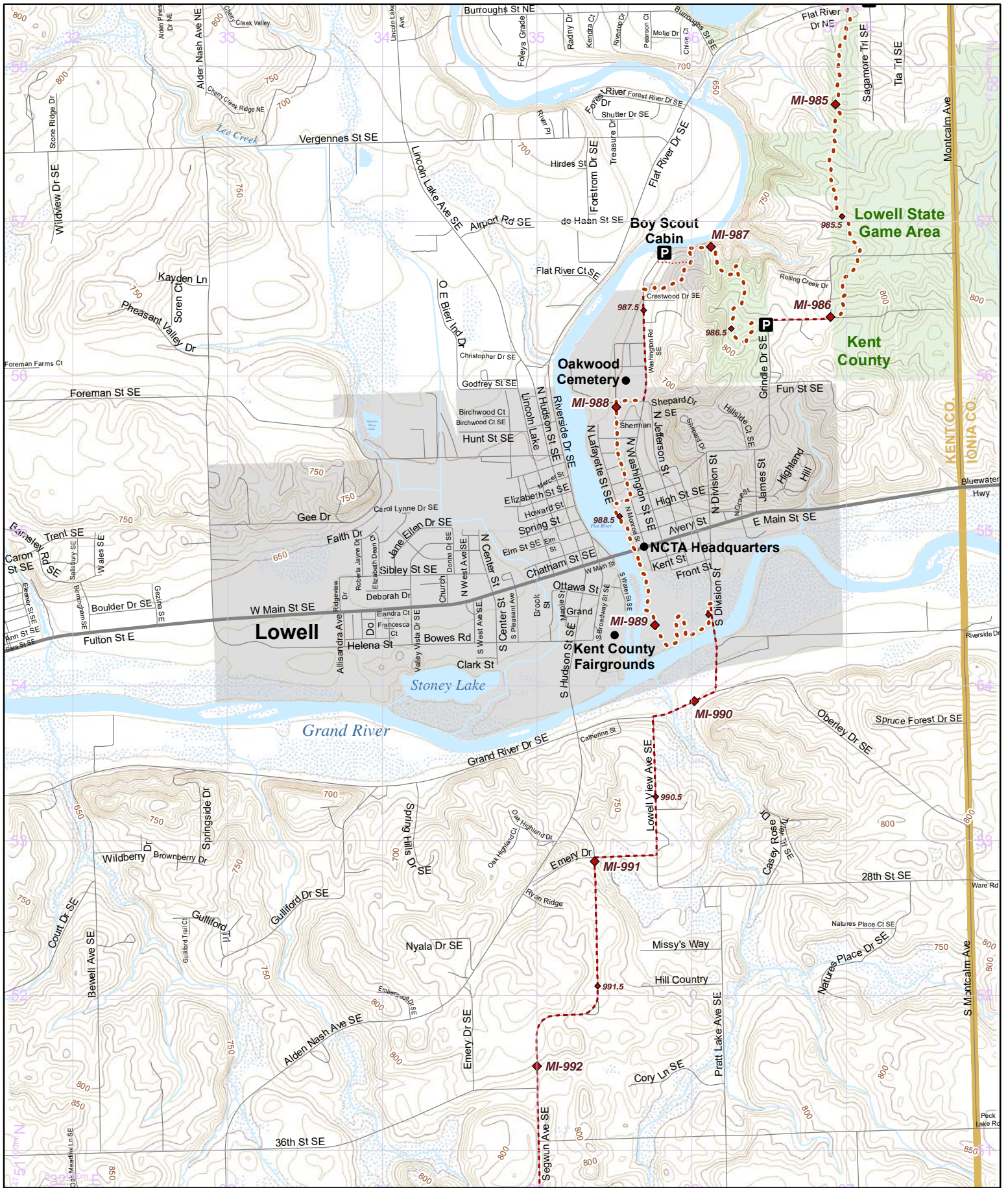
(72.15) ACRES



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Lowell Charter Township  
 Community Parks and  
 Recreation Plan

**SOUTH RIVERFRONT PARK**  
 CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
**Lowell**



- Parking
- Camping
- Point of Interest
- NCTA
- On-Road
- 1/2 mile Points
- Nearby Trail
- 50-foot Contour Interval
- Public Lands
- County Bndry.
- Wetlands

### North Country National Scenic Trail

Michigan Section Maps

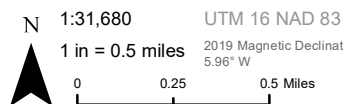
MI-154

West Michigan Region

Warning: Reroutes will shift all of the mile points in a state. Make sure everyone in your group has the most recent maps and information by visiting: [northcountrytrail.org](http://northcountrytrail.org)

Update Version - 9/15/2020

Use this map on your mobile device w/ the "PDFMaps" app from Avenza - <http://avenza.com/pdf-maps>  
To add this map at no cost from the Avenza Store, visit: <https://www.avenzamaps.com/maps/830849/>



NCTA provides free maps so everyone can get outside and explore the NCT. To keep our map downloads free (retail value \$9.99), the trail in good condition for you and protected for future generations, it's critical that we build a strong community to support our work. If you share our vision please join us at [northcountrytrail.org](http://northcountrytrail.org)

SECTION 9

**LOCAL ADOPTION AND  
CERTIFICATION PLAN**



# **LOWELL CHARTER TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SECTION 9**

## **LOCAL ADOPTION AND CERTIFICATION PLAN**

**CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST**

**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)**

Included Online

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

**CITY COMMISSION RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

**COUNTY PLANNING AGENCY TRANSMITTAL LETTER**