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# CITY OF ITHACA

## Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan

### 2019-2023







**Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan  
2019-2023**

**CITY OF ITHACA**



**City of Ithaca**  
**Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan**  
**2019-2023**

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## INTRODUCTION

In an effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for the City of Ithaca, the City has drafted the “City of Ithaca Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan” as a tool to guide the development and preservation of the City’s park system. This plan was developed through the Parks and Cemetery Committee and the Committee of the Whole that included the entire City Council with assistance from ROWE Professional Services Company.

The intent of the plan is to provide comprehensive recommendations on the best use of city resources to meet the recreation needs of Ithaca residents, and to meet the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for eligibility for future grant applications. The vision for the parks includes both short- and long-term goals and objectives.

In preparing this plan, the Committee attempted to provide adequate opportunities for local organizations and the general public to express their wishes. The plan represents the Committee’s attempt to respond to these wishes within the bounds of its role in parks and recreation planning and the fiscal limitations of the City of Ithaca.

Access to recreation is universally recognized as one of the basic needs of modern society. It is the Committee’s goal to provide a variety of outdoor recreation experiences for all segments of the population within the City of Ithaca, including services and facilities to directly meet the needs of the community.

Changes since the prior recreation plan include: a reduced/limited lease arrangement with the Gratiot Agricultural Society for use of the fairgrounds; relocation of regional mountain bike competition from Woodland Park and discontinued use of the RC Racetrack at McNabb Park. Various non-motorized projects have been completed including a regional trail connection to the MidMichigan Community Pathway and the addition of bike lanes and sidewalks within the city.

## **COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

The geographic boundaries of this plan are the Ithaca city limits. According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the population to be directly served by the development of recreational facilities is 2,910, although it is recognized the residents from the surrounding area also enjoy the use of these city facilities.

Ithaca is located in the geographic center of Gratiot County. Gratiot County is located at the geographic center of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Surrounding Gratiot County is Saginaw County to the east; Clinton County to the south; Midland and Isabella to the north; and Montcalm to the west.

Ithaca lies 25 miles southwest of Midland; 30 miles west of Saginaw; 40 miles north of Lansing; 60 miles northeast of Grand Rapids; 90 miles northwest of Detroit, and 180 miles south of Mackinaw City.

### ***Transportation***

US-127 is located just east of Ithaca and has an average 24-hour traffic volume of 14,000 vehicles near the city. US-127 is a major north/south expressway that links southern Michigan to the Upper Peninsula via I-75. Gratiot County has two primary east-west corridors, including M-46 in the northern portion of the county and M-57 in the southern portion. The major and local street system is shown on Map 3.

The Great Lakes Central Railroad bisects Ithaca, used predominately for freight service. Special passenger train tours have also recently become a summer tourism attraction, transporting riders from as far south as Ann Arbor, stretching as far north as Petoskey.

Passenger air traffic is coordinated through MBS International Airport in Freeland, MI and Capital Regional International Airport in Lansing, MI.

### ***Topography, Vegetation, and Soils***

Gratiot County is in the center of the lower peninsula of Michigan. It was completely covered by giant ice sheets during the Pleistocene Epoch. The series of glaciers in this period left soil deposits 50 to 500 feet thick on the original bedrock of limestone and sandstone. The present topography and soil material resulted mainly from the glacial deposits and lake formations of the Wisconsin Glacier, which was the last glacier to cover this area and which melted 10,000 to 12,000 years ago.

As a result of glaciation, two general physiographic areas are located in the county. The western half of the county consists of a series of glacial moraines, till and outwash plains, and channels. These were formed directly by glacial action and deposition. The eastern half of the county is a level lake plain that was formed, and at one time covered by, the waters of Lake Saginaw, a glacial lake.

Extending generally in a north-south direction through the center of Gratiot County is a range of rolling hills known as the Owosso Moraine. The moraine is 3 to 5 miles wide and 50 to 100 feet high. The most common soils on the moraine are Perrinton and Ithaca soils. Extending in the same general direction, and just inside the western boundary of the Gratiot County line, is the West Branch Moraine. This moraine is ½ to 4 miles wide and about the same height as the Owosso Moraine. The most common soils on this moraine are Marlette and Capac soils.

The rest of the western half of the county consists mainly of nearly level till plains and sandy outwash plains and channels. Capac and Parkhill soils are common on the till plains. These soils are well suited to agricultural use. Plainfield, Riverdale, and Vestaburg soils are on the sandy outwash plains and channels.

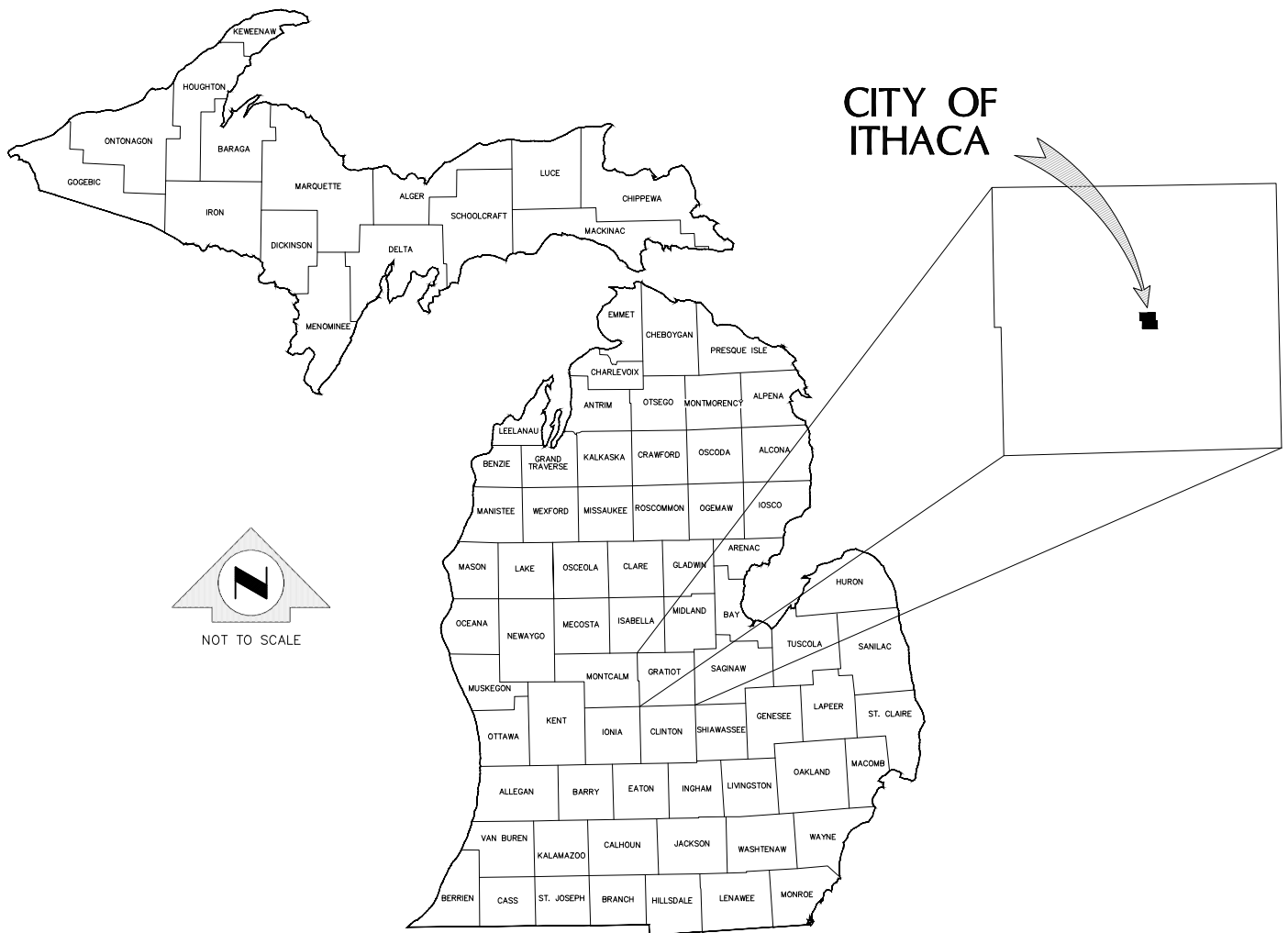
The soils on the lake plain in the eastern half of Gratiot County are well suited to agriculture. Parkhill, Lenawee, Selfridge, Dixboro, and Corunna soils are the major soils in this area.

The water that once covered the lake plain drained through the old Grand River channel, which is near Maple Rapids. This channel is now the Maple River. As the water cut the channel deeper, it formed a sequence of smaller lakes in the bed of the original Lake Saginaw. The shorelines of these lakes are marked by beach ridges consisting of sand and gravel. One, the Arkona Beach Ridge, rises 5 to 15 feet above the landscape and is 50 to 300 feet wide, but it is discontinuous. The ridge extends northeast from ½-mile southeast of Pompeii across US-127 to southeast of North Star. Here, it swings north just beyond Breckenridge and then to the west, where it becomes quite prominent. This ridge marks the western shoreline of Lake Arkona, an old glacial lake. South County Line Road, in the southeast corner of the county, is on the Beach Ridge that marks the eastern shoreline of Lake Arkona. Boyer and Spinks soils are the major soils.

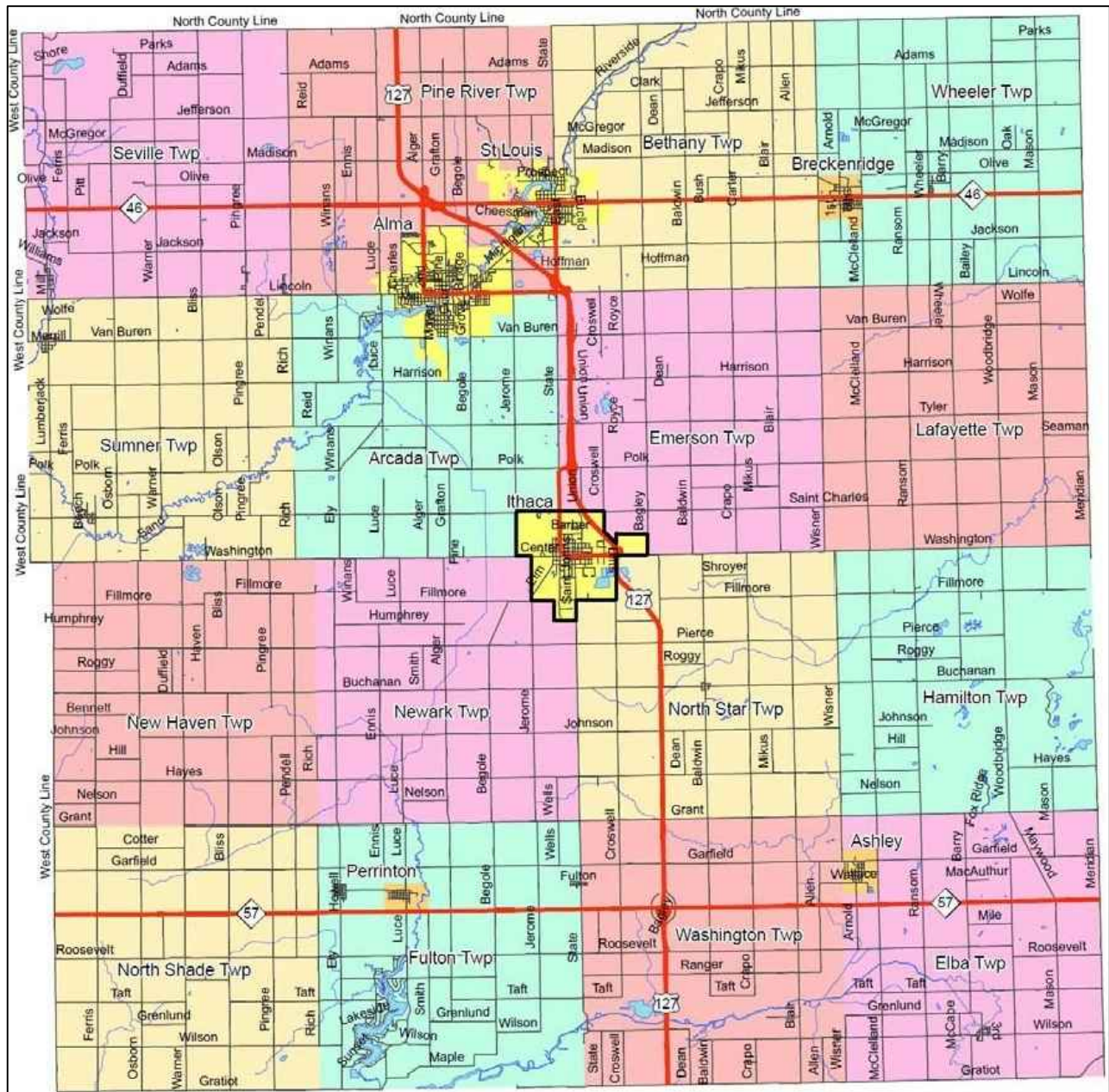
A smaller and lower lake plain is old Lake Warren. Ridges of its shoreline are exposed 2 miles east of Ashley and in the northeast corner of the county on broad, sandy flats. Oakville, Kingsville, and Arkona soils are on the flats. A low, gravelly ridge of this shoreline is just northwest of Wheeler.

Another feature on the lake plain is a swamp about 1 mile southeast of Ashley. This swamp is about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile wide and about 3 miles long. It extends in a northeast-southwest direction. It is the result of erosion at the head of the old Grand River channel. Material deposited by the Maple River blocked off part of the channel and formed the channel bed.

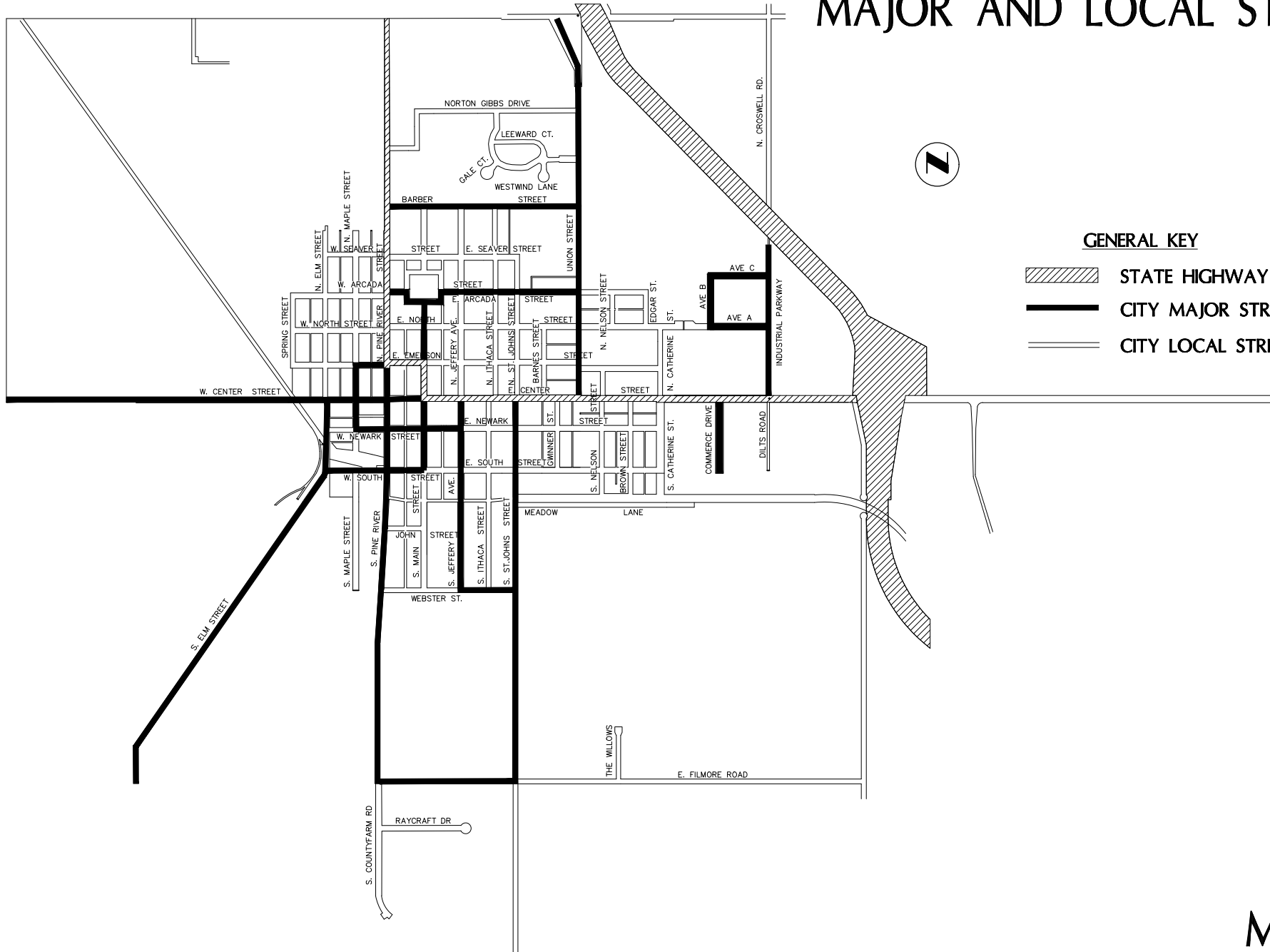
# LOCATION OF CITY OF ITHACA GRATIOT COUNTY, MI






# SURROUNDING MUNICIPALITIES



# CITY OF ITHACA GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN MAJOR AND LOCAL STREETS



## GENERAL KEY

-  STATE HIGHWAY
-  CITY MAJOR STREET
-  CITY LOCAL STREET

Topographic elevations are shown on Map 4. It illustrates the city slopes upward from the southeast to the northwest. The low point is 756 feet above mean sea level near the sewage ponds and the high point is 830 feet above mean sea level near the northern city limits in the City's northwest quadrant.

### ***Water Resources***

The City of Ithaca has no significant surface water resources. However, Gratiot County has two natural lakes, Half Moon and Madison. They are small and privately owned in Seville Township.

Rainbow Lake, a man-made reservoir on Pine Creek, is in Fulton Township. It is also privately owned and is a growing residential community.

There are two man-made reservoirs on the Pine River, one in the City of Alma and one in St. Louis.

There are two major streams in the county; the Pine River in the northern part of the county, which flows northeasterly, and the Maple River in the southern part, which flows westerly.

### ***Climate***

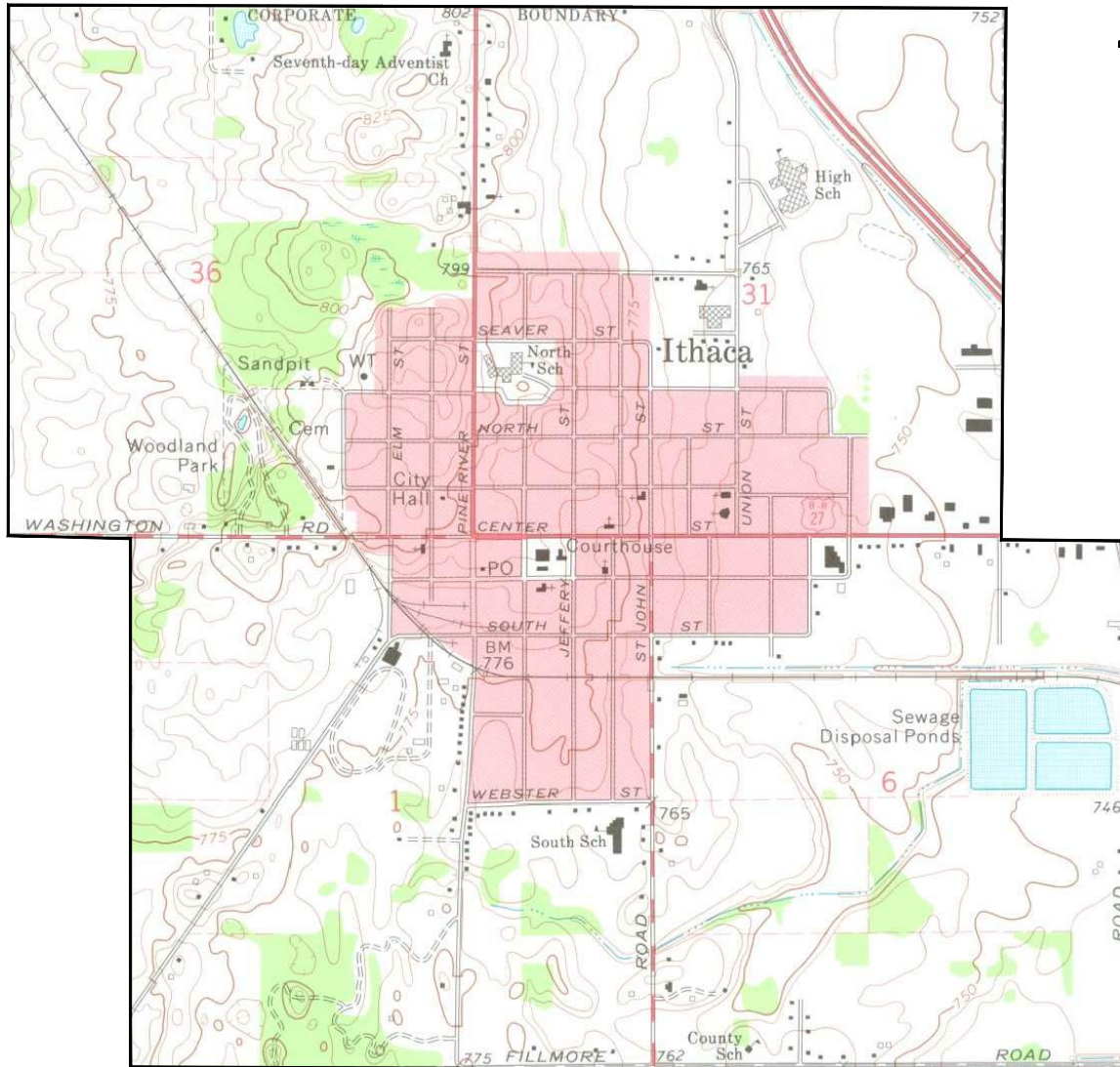
Weather influences the types of recreation that an area can support. Ithaca, like the rest of Michigan, experiences the seasonal changes, which means the area supports a variety of recreational activities ranging from swimming in the summer to sledding in the winter.

The summer high for Ithaca usually occurs in July at 82 degrees, while the winter low occurs in January around 14 degrees. Ithaca averages 41 inches of snow per year (compared with the national average of 26 inches) and 33 inches of rain (the national average is 39 inches of rain).





# CITY OF ITHACA TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP



MAP 4

## ***County History and Development***

Gratiot County was created by an act of the State Legislature on February 3, 1855. It was named after General Charles Gratiot. At the time the county was created, seven townships were organized. Shortly thereafter, several other townships, formerly attached to Clinton and Saginaw counties, were added to Gratiot County.

In 1832, William McOmber set up the Northwestern Fur Company and carried on considerable trade with the Chippewa Indians of Gratiot County.

Gratiot County was covered with pine, maple, beech, oak, ash, basswood, and elm with some butternut, hickory, and hemlock. Some of the swamps supported white cedar and tamarack forests. In 1855, the first saw mill was built on the Pine River at the present location of St. Louis. The early inhabitants came mostly from New York State, although many came from other eastern states and Canada. The first settlements were on the ridges and knolls because at that time, the rest of the county was wet and swampy.

Travel during the time of settlement was very difficult. The only road through the county was known as the "Old Indian Trail" which extended from Maple Rapids to Lutheran Mission above St. Louis. Saginaw and Maple Rapids were the chief trading points of the area. The Pine River furnished transportation for supplies and lumber.

During early settlement, the county was known as "Starving Gratiot" and many settlers became discouraged. The area soon proved to be one of the best agricultural counties in the state.

During the summer and fall of 1855 and the spring of 1856, the population rapidly increased and large fields were cleared. Timber, however, was of little value until the advent of railroads.

The Saginaw Valley and St. Louis Railroad was first built from Saginaw to St. Louis. Later, it extended to Grand Rapids, and the name changed to Pere Marquette and then to C&O Railroad. The Toledo, Ann Arbor, and North Michigan Railroad was built about 1883 and is now known as the Great Lakes Central Railroad. This railroad acted as a great stimulus in advancing the industries of the county.

Today, Gratiot County is a top producer of soybeans. It has some fine dairy farming and other large livestock operations.

In addition to agriculture, Gratiot County has many prosperous industries and some gas, brine, and oil wells.

## ***Historic Sites***

There are five sites listed on the Michigan Register of Historic Places in the City of Ithaca. The first site is the Gratiot Center Historical Village Barn on South Pine River Street in Ithaca (currently used as storage for the City of Ithaca and the Gratiot Agricultural Society). The site was placed on the State Register in 1979. The second registered site is the Gratiot County Courthouse (currently used for county government operations), which was placed on the National Register in 1976 and the State Register in 1957. The courthouse is located on Center Street. The third site is the Jackson-Weller House at 129 West Center Street (currently used as the Gratiot County Historical Museum). The house was placed on the State Register in 1990. The fourth site is the John Jeffery house at 225 West Center Street (currently used as the Barden Funeral Home). The house was placed on the State Register in 1983. The fifth site is the Kosciusko Peet house at 228 West Center Street (currently used as the Gratiot County Genealogical Library). The house was placed on Michigan's Register in 1983. The Ithaca Downtown Historic District was added to the National Register in 2005.

There is a total of 22 sites in Gratiot County listed on the State Register of Historic Sites and 7 sites on the National Register of Historic Places.

## ***Existing Land Use***

The majority of land in the city is devoted to single-family housing and related public uses including schools, churches, and parks. The city has a downtown retail/service area which is also the location of the city offices and fire/rescue station. There are also two existing industrial parks and a new soybean processing facility located within the city limits.

**Table 1 – Existing Land Uses**

<b>Land Use Classifications</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>%</b>
Single Family	379	14.5
Mobile Home	9	0.4
Primary Business	29	1.1
Secondary Business	4	0.1
Institutional	69	2.6
Outdoor Recreation	27	1.0
Cemetery	12	0.4
Utilities	37	1.4
Industrial	499	19.1
Open Pit	37	1.4
Cropland	1,015	38.9
Grassland	222	8.6
Shrub land	31	1.2
Lowland Hardwood	80	3.1
Oak Forest	146	5.6
Wetlands	13	0.5
Lake	2	0.1
	2,611	100.0

### **Population Characteristics**

The population of the City of Ithaca had increased slowly from 1960 to 2000. The increases have been minimal in the past 25 years, with only a 5 percent gain over that period. From 2000 until 2014, the city has averaged a 0.5 percent decrease in population. However, the population of the city is impressive when compared with the 4.5 percent growth in the county, and state-wide trends of cities in Michigan losing population over the past 30 years. The county was at 42,476 in 2010, with an estimated population in 2016 of 41,202. This would illustrate a roughly 2.9 percent decrease in the population of Gratiot County. The median age for the city is 40.1 compared to 45.5 for the state. The median annual income is \$35,938 for the city and \$52,492 for the state. The city median annual income has dropped from the previous year value of \$39,363 to the 2016 average of \$35,938 (an 8.7% decline).

### **Households**

The 2010 census shows 64.4 percent of the households in Ithaca are family households. The average household size is 2.36 and the average family size is 2.86. Two-person households make up nearly 34.0 percent of the community; with the next largest group being one-person households at 30.6 percent. The County's breakdown of household types is like the City's, but with more married couple households and fewer single head

of household families and one-person households. The higher percentage of single person households may be related in part to the higher percentage of elderly in the city.

### ***Senior Population***

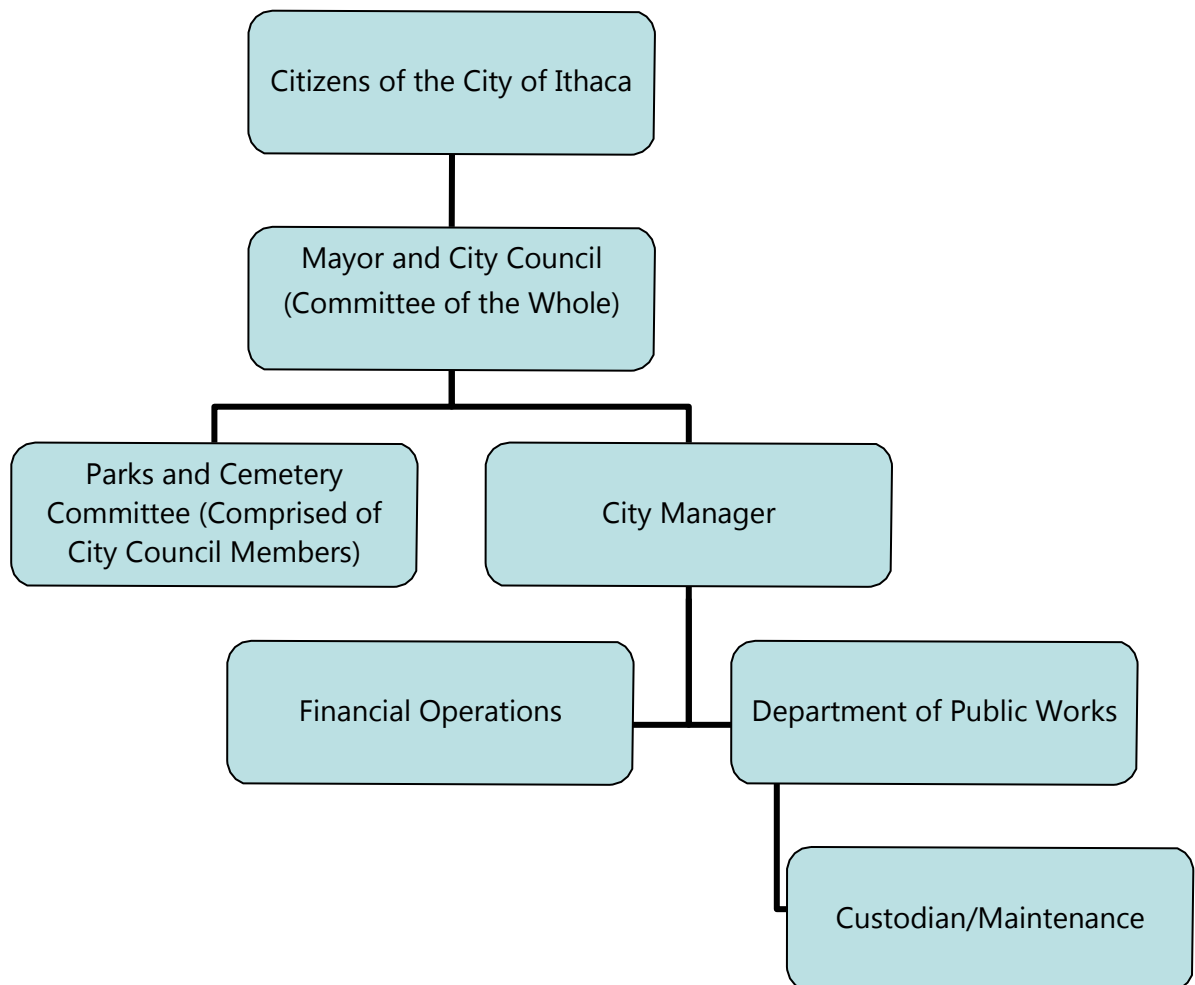
The City of Ithaca operates a Senior Activity Center that provides a meal program as well as various activity programs. In the city, the percentage of the senior population over the age of 60 is nearly 21 percent. There is a variety of senior housing in the city (Rosewood and Dillion's AFC) as well as significant living facilities in other areas of the county, including Masonic Pathways and Warwick Living Center located in Alma, Schnepf Health Care Center in St. Louis, and the Laurel's with locations near Pennington and in Carson City. Planning for development of recreational facilities should consider the needs of seniors.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The City of Ithaca parks and recreation development, maintenance, and programming is directed by the City of Ithaca's Mayor and City Council through the Parks and Cemetery Committee and City Manager.

The Parks and Cemetery Committee is a committee of the City Council and is composed of three City Council members. Its responsibilities are policy and budget development for the parks.

### ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE FLOW CHART



## ***Parks Budget***

The parks budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year has allocated \$127,213. The previous budget from 2017-2018 was for \$125,372 (a 1.5% increase from the current fiscal year). Of this financial figure, \$63,358 is for city parks and \$63,855 is dedicated to McNabb Park; salaries and wages, fringe benefits, supplies, utilities and insurance are included in each figure for the budget.

## ***Current Funding Sources***

The vast majority of funding for the City of Ithaca's Parks and Recreation budget is derived from local property tax revenues and State Revenue Sharing. Special projects have received funding from the Michigan NR Trust Fund, the Gratiot County Community Foundation, and private contributions.

CITY OF ITHACA PARKS AND RECREATION RECREATION GRANT HISTORY				
YEAR	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	STATUS
1992	Woodland Renewal Program <b>BF92-044</b>	Community stage, nature/exercise trail, shelters for the sled hill and road improvements.	\$103,000	<b>Closed</b>
2006	McNabb Land Acquisition <b>TF06-061</b>	Acquisition of ten acres for multi outdoor recreation purposes, including soccer fields.	\$40,700	<b>Closed</b>
2010	McNabb Park Site Development <b>TF10-028</b>	Development to include five soccer fields, parking area, barrier-free trails, and viewing areas.	\$183,700	<b>Closed</b>

## ***Role of Volunteers***

Local volunteers are historically instrumental in providing labor, materials, or in-kind support to make various recreation projects successful. For example, the Playscape and Dog Park in Woodland Park were built and are currently maintained by many local community members, and flower plantings near the entrance to the parks are currently being planted by volunteers.

## ***Relationship with School District***

The City of Ithaca maintains a close working relationship with the Ithaca Public School system related for recreation issues and beyond. For example, the City of Ithaca offers the use of the soccer fields at McNabb Park to the school's soccer teams for practices and tournaments.

Ithaca High School students serve as Student Representative's on the Ithaca City Council. Maintaining a close relationship with Ithaca Public Schools will be key to making the City's recreation program successful.

The city has purchased the flowers for the City's street lining project through Future Farmers of American which directly supports the school program.

The city allows Eagle Scout projects to be completed in the parks, including new signage, improvements to the dog park, construction of new benches, addition of a GaGa Ball Pit, etc.



## **RECREATION INVENTORY**

This recreation inventory was modified from the previous plan to include additional facilities and improvements to existing facilities through city staff input and research of nearby community websites and recreation plans.

### ***Accessibility Guidelines Rating***

The inventory also includes the accessibility of parks and recreation facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). In general, all construction since 1991 was required to comply with these guidelines.

A general ranking for each park was determined through site visits as follows:

- 1 – None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 2 – Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 3 – Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
- 4 – The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
- 5 – The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

### ***Regional Facilities***

On a regional level, the City of Ithaca is located within a 50-mile radius of five state recreation areas and two county parks (see Map 6).

The four county parks, Reed Park in North Star Township, Paul Hubscher Park in Sumner Township, Luneack Park in Arcada Township, and Pompeii Park in Fulton Township, provide access to fishing, swimming, picnicking, rustic camping, and other recreational opportunities. The five state parks are Newaygo State Park in Newaygo County; Ionia Recreation Area in Ionia County; Sleepy Hollow State Park in Clinton County; Bay City State Park near Bay City; and Wilson State Park in Clare County.

### ***City of Ithaca Facilities***

The following recreation inventory is a comprehensive list of public and private recreation areas and facilities in the City of Ithaca. The inventory will be important when considering decisions related to public recreation and will be valuable in planned development.

As in a significant number of communities across the State of Michigan, the local school district provides a valuable resource of facilities and programs for local community recreation. Besides providing basic recreational amenities, Ithaca Public Schools has provided recreational opportunities through its community school program. Facilities

provided by the school district are therefore included in the recreation inventory.

Private recreation developments are also important because they can relieve the demand and use pressure on public special use areas. City of Ithaca private recreation facilities are included in the recreation inventory.

The facilities below are owned and operated by the City of Ithaca and are open to the public:

### Woodland Park

This 22.5-acre park is on the west side of the city (see Map 5). The community park meets many of the area's needs and includes a variety of facilities and natural amenities. Facilities include an outdoor amphitheater; playground equipment; a playscape structure; restrooms; four shelters; picnic facilities; a sledding hill; parking; a one-mile multi-purpose trail; fenced dog park area; and one RV site. The park has many natural features including large tracts of timber, rolling topography, and natural animal habitats. The park's strengths include its large size, its many natural features, modern facilities, and room to expand in the future. The only weaknesses are the park's isolation from the City's primary residential areas and inadequate restroom facilities.



### Accessibility Rating – 3

Previous Grant Assistance – **Project No. BF92-044** - \$103,000: Community stage, nature/exercise trail, shelters for the sled hill and road improvements.

### McNabb Park

This 164.4-acre park on the southwest side of the city serves as a location for the Gratiot Agricultural Expo. The site has been the long-time home of the county fair. Various barn structures, arenas, and a horse track are in place which support this use. Campsites and outdated restroom facilities require updates to support camping for any of the activities on the site. It provides a unique opportunity for large events within proximity to the city and central location within the state. The city has recently purchased and installed some playground equipment in the park.

The park also serves as a soccer facility with five fields used by American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO). AYSO Region 1163 has initiated a pilot program called the VIP

Soccer Program, which targets mentally and/or physically disabled children to participate in soccer programming; something that is not offered anywhere in the entire Mid-Michigan region. There are some bleachers left over from the Central Michigan RC Raceway (which is no longer in operations) that are on-site. Another function of the park is a network of mountain bicycle and cross-country running trails on a relatively undeveloped 43-acre portion of the site, referred to as the Jailhouse Trail. In addition, the city allows the Agri-Fit Challenge event which is coordinated by the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce to occur in the park (in its fourth year). The Challenge is an annual agricultural-themed obstacle course 5K Run/Walk that draws nearly 200 participants.

Surrounding land uses include agriculture to the west, south and east; residential uses to the north and east; and industrial parks to the northeast/southeast. The facility's strengths include its large size, its regional attraction, specialized facilities, the trail network and room to expand. The primary weaknesses include the fact that the park does not address many local needs; the park's isolation from the City's primary residential areas; inadequate number and quality of camping and restroom facilities; and limited parking areas.

#### Accessibility Rating – 2

Previous Grant Assistance – Project No. TF06-061 - \$40,700: Acquisition of 10 acres for multi outdoor recreation purposes, including soccer fields.

Previous Grant Assistance – Project No. TF10-028 - \$183,700: Development included five soccer fields, parking area, barrier-free trails, and viewing areas.

#### Atkinson (Senior) Park

This 3.9-acre neighborhood park on the City's east side is located adjacent to the Ithaca Senior Activity Center. Facilities include a pavilion, horseshoe pits, and picnic facilities and pathway. The facility's strengths include its proximity to residential uses and room to expand. The primary weaknesses are a lack of youth-oriented recreation facilities/equipment, and lack of restroom facilities.

#### Accessibility Rating – 3

Previous Grant Assistance – N/A



### Memory Park

This small “pocket” park is Ithaca’s newest park, located in the center of Ithaca’s Historic Downtown District. Facilities include picnic tables, benches, a downtown speaker system, and a small grassy area to accommodate downtown event activities. The facility’s strengths include its easy pedestrian and vehicle access.

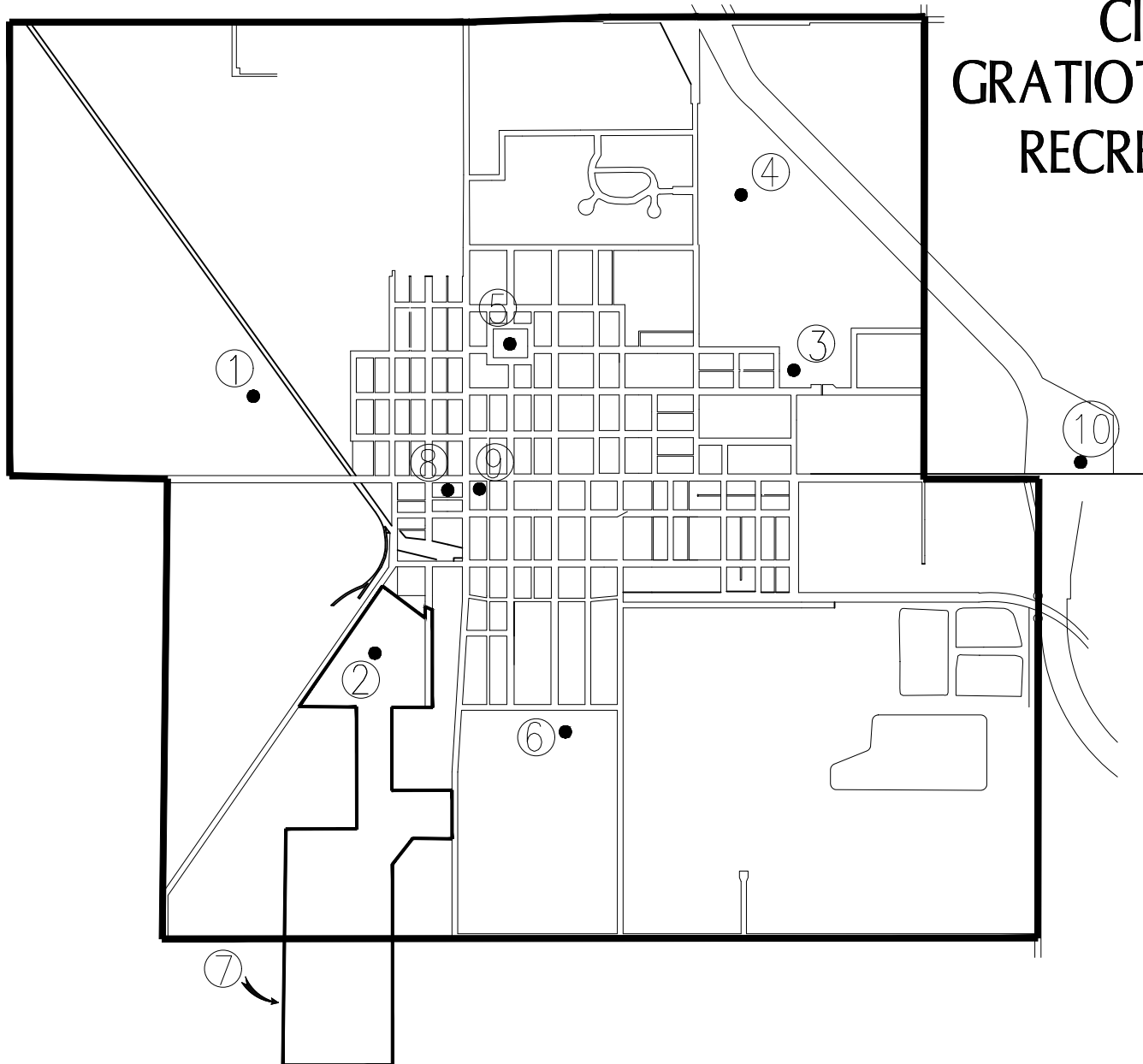


Accessibility Rating – 4

Previous Grant Assistance – N/A



# CITY OF ITHACA GRATIOT COUNTY, MICHIGAN RECREATION INVENTORY



## GENERAL KEY

1. WOODLAND PARK
2. MCNABB PARK
3. ATKINSON PARK / SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER
4. ITHACA HIGH SCHOOL
5. NORTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
6. SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
7. MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
8. LIBRARY
9. MEMORY PARK
10. MIDMICHIGAN COMMUNITY PATHWAY

## ***Ithaca Public Schools***

The area's schools maintain numerous indoor and outdoor recreation facilities at the school district's several sites.

### *Ithaca High School/Junior High School*

This facility is located at 710 North Union Street, was built in 1965, and improved in 1993. The facility occupies 75 acres and has a variety of facilities. Outdoor facilities include one baseball diamond; two softball diamonds; one practice softball diamond; four tennis courts; one football field; one track and three multiple-purpose fields. Indoor facilities include a gymnasium, with basketball and volleyball capabilities, and seating for 2,000. Other indoor facilities include a wrestling room, gym classrooms, one multiple-purpose room, and a weight room. For the 2017-18 school year The school had 391 students in grades 9-12, 175 students in grades 7-8, and 30 teachers.

### *North Elementary School*

This facility is located at 201 Arcada Street, was built in 1952, and improved in 1993. For the 2017-18 school year, there were 332 students in grades 3-6 and 19 teachers. Outdoor facilities include a playground area, a basketball court, a volleyball court, and a soccer field on 9.4 acres. The North Elementary indoor facilities include a gymnasium with basketball, volleyball, and seating for 500.

### *South Elementary School*

This facility is located at 400 Webster Street, was built in 1965, and improved in 1993. For the 2017-18 school year, the school had 257 students in grades K-2 and has 18 teachers. The 6-acre facility has a variety of outdoor opportunities including a playground area, a soccer field, and a basketball court. Indoor facilities include a multiple-purpose room and a small basketball court.

## ***County Facilities***

Gratiot County maintains a Recreation Plan that identifies information specific to the overall county. The plan provides inventories of all of the communities and schools, as well as the County's four parks identified below. The County Parks and Recreation Commission has been successful in securing large grants, including Michigan DNR Recreation Development grants, to support major facility upgrades at both parks. It also has a county millage to fund park improvements.

### *Luneack County Park*

This is a kayak/canoe launch on the Pine River that access the Pine River Water Trail.

### Reed County Park

This 96-acre park in North Star Township has a variety of facilities including three softball fields, picnic shelters, horseshoes, picnic facilities, a 60-acre lake with swimming and fishing, beach volleyball, nature trails, shower and toilet facilities, waterfront, playground equipment, disc golf course; and other facilities.

### Paul Hubscher County Park (formerly West Park)

This 60-acre park in Sumner Township provides residents with three shelters, picnic facilities, a lake with swimming and fishing, restrooms, rustic camping, softball field, concessions, playground equipment, and other recreation facilities.

### Pompeii County Park

This 2.5-acre park in Fulton Township was donated by the Independent Order of Odd Fellas in the spring of 2013. It features a playground, pavilion, grill, picnic tables, playing field, drinking water and vault toilet.

## **Michigan State Parks**

There are a number of Michigan State Parks in the area that provide recreational opportunities to residents and visitors in the Ithaca area. Five state facilities are within 50 miles of the area.

### Newaygo State Park

This park is west of Ithaca in Newaygo County. The 257-acre park has 99 rustic campsites and offers fishing, boating, and hiking.

### Ionia Recreation Area

This park is southwest of Ithaca in Ionia County. The 4,085-acre park has 50 campsites, including modern sites and horseman's sites. The park includes picnic facilities, a playground, beach house, and a boat launch. Activities include swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding.

### Sleepy Hollow State Park

This park is south of Ithaca in Clinton County. The 2,678-acre park has 181 campsites. Facilities include picnic shelters, playgrounds, a beach house, and a boat launch. Activities at the park include swimming, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, hiking, and cross-country skiing.

### Bay City State Park

This park is east of Ithaca on Saginaw Bay near Bay City. The 196-acre park has 264 modern campsites. Facilities include picnic shelters and areas, playgrounds, a beach house, and an interpretive center. Activities include swimming, fishing, and hiking.

### Wilson State Park

This park is north of St. Louis in Clare County. The 36-acre park has 160 campsites and includes picnic shelters and areas, playgrounds, and a beach house. Activities include swimming and fishing on Budd Lake.

## **Trail Systems**

### Ithaca Jailhouse Trail

The Ithaca Jailhouse Trail, in McNabb Park is about 4 miles long in its entirety, and was developed in partnership with the Michigan Mountain Biking Association. Annual bicycle races are held on the trail.

### Fred Meijer Heartland Trail

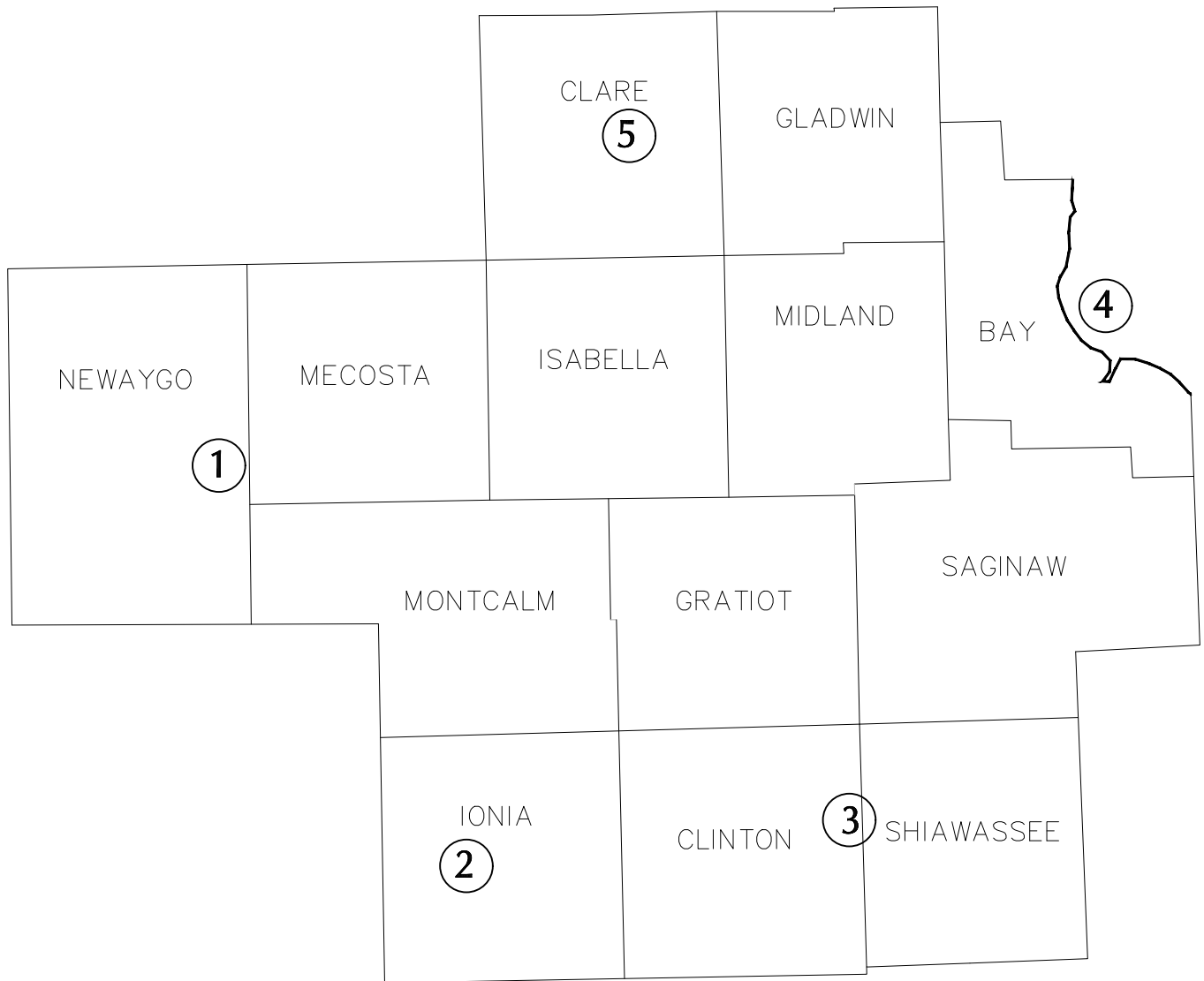
The Fred Meijer Heartland Trail is a paved trail between Alma and Riverdale at the eastern county line. Engineering and fundraising are currently underway to pave the trail between Riverdale and Edmore in Montcalm County, which would take trail users 41 miles, all the way along an existing paved portion to Greenville. There have been proposals to widen the shoulder of one of the north-south county roads between Ithaca and Alma, which would greatly enhance the interconnectedness of several communities in mid-Michigan. A portion of the US-127 Business Route from Ithaca north to the Polk Road interchange will provide a wider road with 5' paved shoulders to complete a loop from the Washington Rd. interchange. This is scheduled for construction in early 2019.

### Mid-Michigan Community Pathway

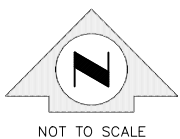
This pathway includes paved sections from Shepherd to Mt Pleasant (6.6 miles) completed in 2018 and Ithaca to St Louis/Alma area (6.5 miles) completed in 2016. The overall trail system is planned to include over 60 miles from Clare to Ithaca. When complete, it will connect the Fred Meijer and Pere Marquette Trail systems. Recently, the city constructed a new concrete sidewalk extending from its sidewalk system along US-127 BR (Center Street/Washington Road) under the US-127 overpasses and connected it to the pathway at MDOT's Park and Ride. Organized running and biking events have been and are continuously being planned utilizing both sections of the pathway system.



# LOCATION OF AREA STATE PARKS



- 1 – NEWAYGO STATE PARK
- 2 – IONIA RECREATION AREA
- 3 – SLEEPY HOLLOW STATE PARK
- 4 – BAY CITY STATE PARK
- 5 – WILSON STATE PARK



## ***Private Recreation Facilities***

There are several privately-owned recreational facilities located within or near Ithaca that address recreation needs of the community that are not necessarily offered by the city. Although these facilities are privately-operated and often have a user fee or require membership, they were considered in the plan analysis because they meet specific community needs. Private facilities include:

- Bowling Alleys: The Hardwoods Bowling and Banquet Center
- Dance: DuHadway Dance Dimensions, Academy of Performing Arts, One Last Dance
- Fitness Clubs: StayFit Gratiot County, Curves
- Golf Courses: Hidden Oaks Golf Course, The Fields Golf Course, North Star Golf Course
- Camping/Outdoor Recreation: Leisure Lake Family Campground
- Firing Ranges: A.P. Goodrich Rifle & Pistol Club

### *Paddle Sports*

A canoe, kayak, and pontoon boat livery is now located on Michigan Avenue in St. Louis on the Pine River. It is the only known paddle sport business in the county. Since its establishment, an annual Bushwhacker Challenge canoe race takes place on the Pine and Chippewa Rivers between Gratiot, Midland, and Isabella counties. There are two other access points located in Alma and Luneak Park (Gratiot County).

### *Youth-Oriented Indoor/Outdoor Recreation*

Many local churches include indoor recreation facilities in the greater Ithaca area. Ithaca United Methodist Church provides additional teen activities during the week. The most significant church-sponsored recreation facility is the Central Michigan Youth for Christ campus, located just outside of Alma on Cheeseman Road, offering a multitude of indoor and outdoor youth recreation activities targeting teens.

### *College Campus Recreation*

Alma College's Stone Center for Recreation located in Alma offers a wide range of athletic activity opportunities; however, users are limited to current college students and paying subscribers of all ages.

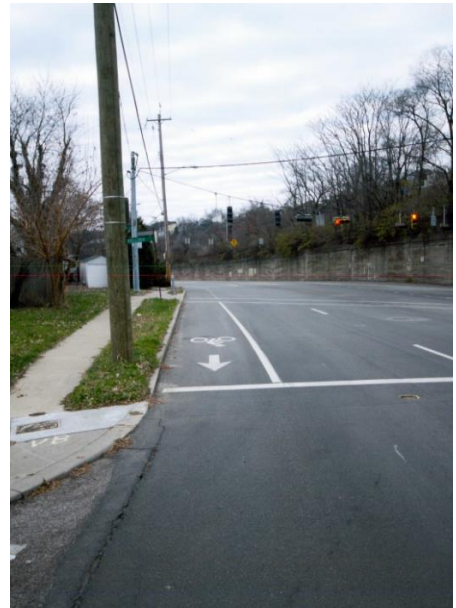
## NON-MOTORIZED BICYCLE ACCESS

One of the major concerns of many of the residents in Ithaca was the lack of bicycle lanes on residential streets throughout the city. Some of the benefits of bicycle lanes in residential communities are that they:

- Encourage active living by promoting an active lifestyle for all ages and abilities.
- Maintain community character by allowing people the mobility to connect to certain areas without having to drive.

For developing bicycle lanes on residential streets, a 5-foot wide-lane is recommended for use with all bicycle lane traffic traveling in the same direction as roadway traffic. Striping, signage, and pavement markings for safety are required to alert motorists of potential bicycle traffic on the roadways.

Connecting schools and parks with bicycle paths would promote additional non-motorized access for residents. The addition of bicycle lanes in residential neighborhoods would contribute to promoting an active lifestyle. Another benefit of providing bicycle lane access to schools and parks in Ithaca is that they contribute to the outdoor recreational experience by youths as they travel to their destinations.



## **DESCRIPTION OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

The City of Ithaca held various public meetings and gathered input from local stakeholder groups and city staff. A kick-off meeting was held September 10, 2018 with the Parks and Cemetery Committee to review the plan's current goal and objectives.

In October, a public input survey was issued on-line and via a direct mailing to all residents and property owners of the City. This was promoted via the city website and Facebook page, as well as mailed in the utility billing. On 11/1/2018 the Parks and Cemetery Committee (Committee-of-the-Whole) met to discuss priorities to be addressed in the community recreation plan, based on the input from the survey. This was a public meeting. A copy of the survey, the results, and comments from this meeting are included in the Appendix. Nearly 200 surveys responses were collected.

A copy of a draft plan was prepared for review by the City Council on 11/8/2018. The plan was revised and posted for a 30-day public review at the front counter of the city offices, Thompson Home Library, the City's Facebook page via a hyperlink, and on the city website from 11/16/2018 to 12/16/2018. A copy of the advertisement in the local paper is included in the Appendix. Public comment was included in the plan as directed by the City Manager.

The draft plan was presented in a public hearing on 12/18/2018 and recommended for adoption by City Council following the hearing. The plan was approved by City Council on 1/8/2019. Copies of the public hearing notice, meeting minutes, and resolution have been included in the Appendix.

A final copy of the plan was provided to MDNR with a transmittal letter noting that a copy has been sent to the local planning agency for acceptance.

### ***Community Input***

The City of Ithaca collected survey results from 137 residents of the Ithaca community, approximately 5 percent of the community (66 survey results were collected from non-residents who utilize the city parks). The results revealed that over 81 residents have visited the City's parks more than 4 times in a 12-month period. The majority of the residents valued the funding of additional trail projects that would connect parks and schools to downtown and incorporating additional nature trails throughout the city. Regarding which activities the majority of the residents would like to see enhanced or added are enhancements to the restroom facilities, additional hiking/walking trails, bicycle lanes on road-sides, and additional drinking fountains. Regarding McNabb Park, many of

the residents voiced support for additional trails (including increased usage for the Jailhouse Trail for events), the addition of bathroom facilities that are not portable, better signage, lighting, grooming, new bridges on the trail and updated camping sites. Currently, the trail is used for biking, walking, snowshoeing and other activities. Other comments about McNabb Park included repurposing the track area for bird watching and as a natural wildlife area. Regarding the City's other major park, Woodland Park, residents surveyed expressed a strong desire to see the renovation of the front restroom facility and the addition of one restroom in the back of the park. Other improvements mentioned for Woodland Park included adding more pavilions, new drinking fountains, ice skating rink, basketball court, make improvements and additional equipment for the Dog Park, and improving the walking trails. Some comments that were supplied by the residents included updating the playground equipment, new restroom facilities, improved wayfinding and park signage, splash park, skate park, and providing additional organized activities in the parks.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### ***Basis for Action Plan***

The following goals and objectives are based on public input, the inventory of current recreation facilities and the City's ability to support recreation demand. This determination was based on level of service. These guiding statements will serve as the basis for the proposed Action Plan. They are not listed in any order or priority.

### ***Issue #1***

There are inadequate restroom facilities and water fountains in the parks.

#### Goal

Provide adequate bathroom facilities at three of the four city parks and at all athletic fields; provide additional drinking fountains for use by park patrons.

#### Objectives

- Review existing park bathroom facilities for ADA compliance and develop implementation plan to address deficiencies.
- Evaluate existing bathroom facilities for a decision to update or replace.
- Construct new bathroom facilities in McNabb Park near the soccer fields.
- Provide additional drinking fountains where necessary.
- Extend water and sanitary sewer lines to the parks wherever possible.

### ***Issue #2***

Maximize bicycle and pedestrian facilities for residents.

#### Goal

The City and Parks and Recreation Department will work to develop non-motorized pedestrian and bicycle paths to connect residents with various points of interest within the city.

#### Objectives

- Develop shared bicycle/vehicular roadways in residential communities.
- Connect bike lanes and pedestrian access points to key destinations in the city.
- Develop internal walking routes and fitness opportunities in parks (i.e. McNabb and Atkinson Parks).

- Maintain routes for use year-round.
- Provide signage and a trailhead to the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway to encourage connections into downtown and inform users of non-motorized routes.

### ***Issue #3***

Lack of additional programming and facilities for residents of all age groups; and using the parks system in Ithaca during multiple seasons.

#### Goal

The City of Ithaca will expand its recreational equipment and programs offered through the Parks and Recreation Department to provide opportunities for all age groups.

#### Objectives

- Evaluate current playground equipment to determine whether equipment needs to be upgraded or replaced.
- Construct basketball courts and a skate park.
- Develop disc golf course at McNabb Park.
- Evaluate the potential for development of an aquatic recreation center at one of the city parks.
- Continue to promote existing programs and recreational opportunities by city.
- Promote mountain bike/cross country trails at Jailhouse Trail.
- Improve signage at McNabb and other parks.
- Promote Ecotourism (ie: Bird Watching near lagoons).
- Using the sled hill, develop programs that take advantage of the natural features in the community.
- Install new park pavilion for private use by community.
- Develop additional picnic areas.

### ***Issue #4***

The Future of McNabb Park

#### Goal

To utilize McNabb Park in the best way possible for the residents of the community.

#### Objectives

- Public/private partnerships.

- Using existing facilities on-site for additional programs (i.e. historic barn).
- Complete improvements in the area where the horserace track is located.
- Utilize the Jailhouse Trail for events and activities.

### ***Issue #5***

Safety, maintenance, and security must be continued in all park facilities and locations.

#### Goal

Continue to provide a safe, secure park experience for the community to enjoy and restoring the historic structures around Ithaca (i.e. McNabb Park Historic Barn).

#### Objectives

- Provide additional lighting in parks and along walking paths.
- Repair/replace pedestrian walkways that are in disrepair, ensuring ADA compliance for any new walkways.
- Improvement of parking lots.
- Monitor and improve surfacing/equipment for playgrounds.
- Identify historic structures and plan for future steps.
- Install wayfinding signage for the trail.



## **ACTION PROGRAM**

### ***Bathroom Facility Improvement at all Parks (except Memory Park)***

**Priority is placed on replacing/upgrading the restrooms at Woodland Park and McNabb Park** to support the activities at these facilities as well as expansion of programs and larger regional use of McNabb. Memory Park, located in downtown, is adjacent to the Downtown Shoppes, which features a public restroom. A majority of residents expressed deep dislike for temporary bathroom facilities (porta-jons) and voiced that in areas where there are currently temporary restroom facilities that they would prefer new permanent restroom facilities.

### ***Paved Trail System Plan/Fred Meijer Heartland Trail Link Plan***

Develop a trailhead for the Mid-Michigan Community Pathway including a bike fix station, kiosk map, and other features. Promote the MDOT Non-Motorized Plan to create a looped bicycle and pedestrian trail system that could potentially connect to the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail in the City of Alma or a nearby township via existing paths as much as possible. Many of the residents would like to see a trail system connecting all of the parks. Explore developing a trail along the sanitary sewer easement to connect to school campus. Develop a link between the elementary and high school; possibly use Safe Route to School funding. Explore use of CDBG and MDOT safety funds for key crossings. A short-term high priority will be providing an internal loop trail around the soccer fields at McNabb Park and a spur connection to the Jailhouse Trail. There are many people that would use this as a fitness route as well as an accessible connection within the park.

### ***Develop Facilities at McNabb Park***

Establish funding for expanding infrastructure improvements. Provide access to all trails and paths to allow for year-round access for residents (i.e. skiing, sledding). Develop paved trail system around the park. Improvements need to be made on the athletic fields to allow for proper drainage. Improve the parking lot near soccer complex. Provide additional lighting on trails for safety.

### ***Develop Facilities at Atkinson Park***

Plan for an internal path that includes fitness stations and benches for use by all ages and abilities. Install new playground equipment. Provide a path connection to the senior center. Evaluate need for a gazebo. Keep the park passive, not active recreation.

### ***Improve Woodland Park***

Upgrade the existing restroom facility near the entrance and add additional restroom facility near volleyball court and playscape. Improve sidewalk connections to playground area. Upgrade play equipment. Maintain and improve amphitheater and other structures. Install new ice rink that requires less maintenance and provides adequate safety and usability. Continue to replace trees with a diverse variety over multiple years to stagger growth/age of the park forest. Pave the unimproved trail in the park.

### ***Winter Activity Development***

Identify cost effective winter activities within existing facilities. Replacement of the Woodland Park ice skating area and/or sledding hill are high priorities. Other improvements include expansion of groomed ski trails on existing areas.

### ***Identify Sites for Natural Area Activities***

Evaluate nearby natural areas for use as passive educational activities such as bird, plant, tree, and wildlife watching for area residents, especially area youth.

### ***Evaluate and Improve Lighting at All Parks***

Develop a plan to improve lighting with energy efficient technologies, wherever possible, at all existing parks to enhance security and general safety for recreation facility users.

### ***Memory Park***

Add umbrellas and/or a shade structure to promote more use and protection from the sun. Add murals and an aesthetic treatment.

## Funding Options

Potential Grant Source	Maximum Request Amount	Minimum Local Match	Submission Deadline	Eligible Projects
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant	\$30,000-100,000 (Pending federal funding)	50%	April 1 MDNR	May be applicable to development of sports fields or trails that link or provide access to recreational resources.
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant – Acquisition Project	No Limit	25%	April 1 August 1 MDNR	Purchase of land intended to provide outdoor recreation or protection of Michigan significant natural resources.
MNRTF Grant – Development Project	\$15,000-\$300,000	25%	April 1 MDNR	Development of lands to provide outdoor recreation or protection of Michigan significant natural resources.
Recreation Passport	\$7,500 to \$75,000	25%	April 1 MDNR	Re-development of existing park and recreation facilities.
MDOT TAP- Program	No Limit	20%	No deadline MDOT	Purchase and development regarding non-motorized, related to transportation. Program emphasis is more on providing connections than recreation opportunities.

### Federal and State Grants

There are a variety of funding sources available to local governments for park development - The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Division administers the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LCWF) and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). Special initiatives are identified each year by the MDNR that receive special consideration for grants. These should be monitored. Current initiatives relate to acquisition of land for trailways, hunting, or buffer areas for habitat and development of shooting ranges.

Other funding is also available through other divisions that can be used as match, supplemental or backup funding. For example, the pending Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grant for Phase 1 of the trail system could be used as match to other funding and complete additional phases. Federal Transportation Enhancement grant program can be used for the construction of non-motorized facilities such as multi-use paths connecting parks. Other grants include the MDNR Forest Management Division's Community Forestry grant program that could help fund a tree planting program for the parks.

### ***Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)***

Projects eligible for CDBG funding must be in a low-moderate income service area and/or provide access to the disabled to qualify. Investments using CDBG funds must provide a documented benefit to low-moderate income households. Projects eligible for funding include public infrastructure improvements and those that provide ADA-accessibility.

### ***MEDC Patronicity Crowd Funding***

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has developed an additional way of securing funding for community development projects by using crowd-funding to support developments. Communities, non-profits, and municipalities can submit projects by applying to the Patronicity campaign. The projects that meet the programs parameters and successfully crowd-fund their goal will receive a matching grant from the MEDC of up to \$50,000.

### ***Other local funds***

Placing special assessments on private property owners for construction of a bike/hike trail abutting their property, for example, could be another funding strategy. Special assessments are often set up to finance sidewalks, sewer, or street projects. The same could be done for sections of the trail system, if needed.

Appropriations from the City's General Fund are possible when a prompt commitment of funds is necessary, and the funds are available. Special assessments are levied against the owners of the property and this income is pledged to the repayment of debt.

### ***Bonds***

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

### ***Other sources of funding***

Additional sources of funding will be investigated. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, and holding fund raising events are methods to raise funds for the development of recreational facilities.

The track record for community involvement in the city for a variety of projects has been

impressive. Community organizations, businesses, and individuals have stepped up time and time again to lend their time, talent, and financial support to worthwhile community projects. While this kind of community support cannot always be measured, it should never be overlooked.

### ***Partnering/Advocates***

Leveraging available resources provides a recreation opportunity without the burden of development or operations. These public/private partnerships can be beneficial if they are structured in a formal agreement that provides incentive for good operations.

**Transmittal Letter to County/Regional Authority**



# ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

*Large Firm Resources. Personal Attention.*<sup>sm</sup>

January 7, 2019

East Michigan Council of Governments  
Mr. Bill Ernst, Regional Planner  
3144 Davenport Avenue  
Suite 200  
Saginaw, MI 48602-3494

RE: Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2019-2023  
City of Ithaca

Dear Mr. Ernst:

On behalf of the City of Ithaca, please find attached for your use a copy of the recently adopted Recreation Master Plan for the city. The plan will be adopted by the City Council.

The city is submitting a final document to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for acceptance. The plan was developed with our assistance and under the direction of both municipalities and community input.

Please contact Ms. Barbara Fandell at (989) 875-3200 or me at (810) 341-7500 with any questions.

Sincerely,  
ROWE Professional Services Company

Blake D. Strozier  
Graduate Landscape Architect

Attachment

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Engineering | Surveying | Aerial Photography/Mapping | Landscape Architecture | Planning  
Mt. Pleasant: 127 S. Main Street • Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858 • O (989) 772-2138 • F (989) 773-7757

With Offices In: Flint, MI (Corporate) • Lapeer, MI • Farmington Hills, MI • Lansing, MI • Grayling, MI • Tri-Cities, MI • Myrtle Beach, SC

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# ROWE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

*Large Firm Resources. Personal Attention.<sup>sm</sup>*

January 7, 2019

Gratiot County Planning Commission  
214 E. Center Street  
Ithaca, MI 48847

RE: Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan 2019-2023  
City of Ithaca

To Whom It May Concern:

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# Meeting Minutes and Agenda

# Ithaca Recreation Plan Meeting Agenda

November 1, 2018

1. Introductions
2. Review draft of update plan
3. Update/review survey results
4. Discuss outcomes/changes to the plan
5. Documentation needed from city
  - budget
  - changes in admin structure
  - changes in facilities
  - relevant master plan documents
  - self post completion forms
  - mi-rec grant website
  - legal notices for public meetings, etc
  - fill-out/sign plan certification checklist
6. Intent to apply for MDNR grants in 2019?
7. Next steps/schedule
  - advertise/post draft plan for 30-day public comment period
  - address any revisions/updates
  - public hearing (min. one week notice prior to meeting)/adoption of plan/resolution (separate agenda items)
  - submittal to the MDNR/County Planning Commission/Regional Planning Commission by February 1, 2019





City Council Chambers  
129 W. Emerson Street  
Ithaca, Michigan 48847

**CITY OF ITHACA**  
**City Council**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda**  
**Tuesday, December 18, 2018, 7:00 PM**

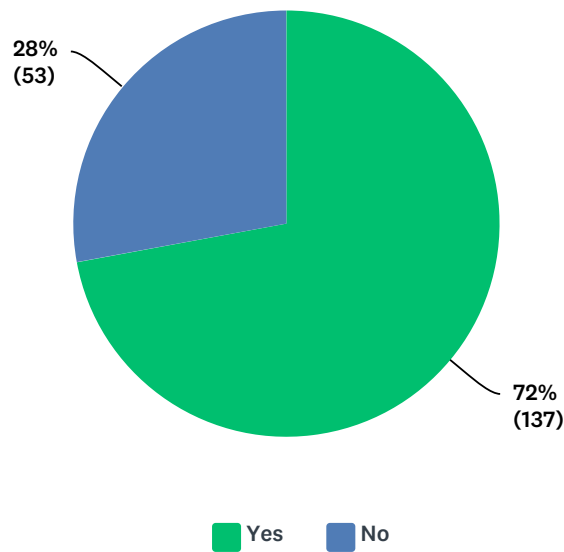
1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag & Invocation
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes
4. Public Comments (General Comments, including Items on the Agenda)
5. Public Hearing: Parks & Recreation Five-Year Plan (copies available at City Hall, Thompson Library and City website)
6. Committee Reports
  - A. Student Representative Report
7. Department Reports
  - A. Ithaca Unit Report: Lt. Roy McCollum
8. City Manager's Report
9. New Business
  - A. Resolution 2018-11: Compliance With PA152 of 2011 as Amended
  - B. Zoning Board of Appeals
    - 1) Set Recording Secretary Per Diem Meeting Fee
    - 2) 2019 Meeting Schedule
    - 3) Appointment of Board Member and Alternate Members.
  - C. Library Board Request for Budget Amendment for Purchase of an Electronic Sign
10. Old Business
  - A. AYSO Soccer Lease Agreement
11. Payroll and Warrants
12. Correspondence
  - A. Michigan DEQ Letter: Asset Management Program and Community Water Supply
  - B. Minutes: Zoning Board of Appeals and Thompson Home Public Library Board
13. Public Comments
14. Adjournment

Barbara Fandell  
City Clerk-Treasurer

**City of Ithaca – Resident Surveys**

# Q1 Are you a resident (live within the City limits) of the City of Ithaca?

Answered: 190 Skipped: 0



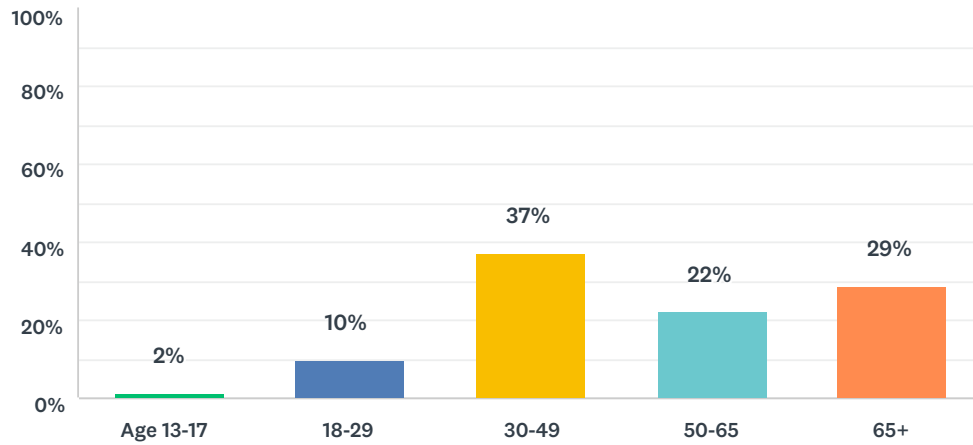
### QUIZ STATISTICS

Percent Correct 72%	Average Score 0.7/1.0 (72%)	Standard Deviation 0.45	Difficulty 8/9
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ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Yes	1/1	72%	137
No	0/1	28%	53
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>190</b>

## Q12 Which category below includes your age?

Answered: 190 Skipped: 0



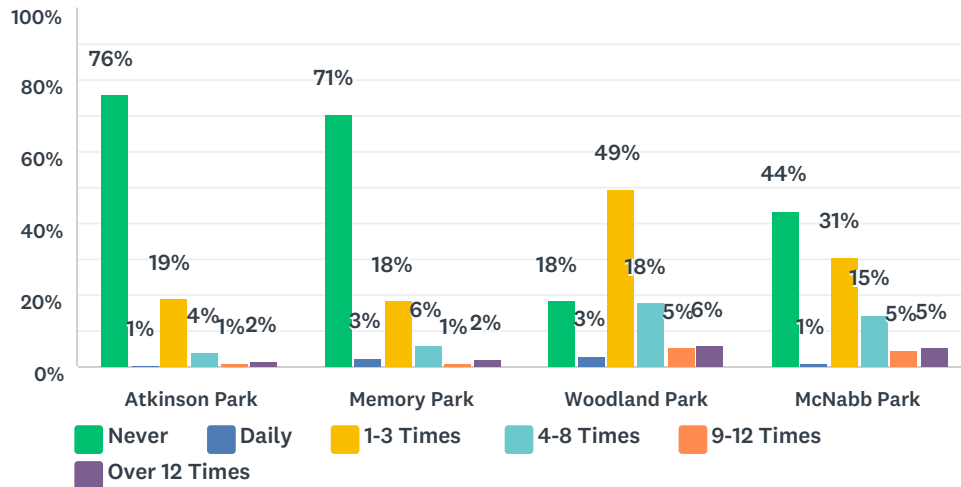
### QUIZ STATISTICS

Percent Correct 100%	Average Score 1.0/1.0 (100%)	Standard Deviation 0.00	Difficulty 9/9
-------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Age 13-17	1/1	2%	3
✓ 18-29	1/1	10%	19
✓ 30-49	1/1	37%	71
✓ 50-65	1/1	22%	42
✓ 65+	1/1	29%	55
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>190</b>

**Q2 The City of Ithaca has four city parks: Atkinson Park (next to the Senior Activity Building); Memory Park (heart of downtown), Woodland Park (West Center Street); and McNabb Park (fairgrounds). On an average month, how often do you visit each park?**

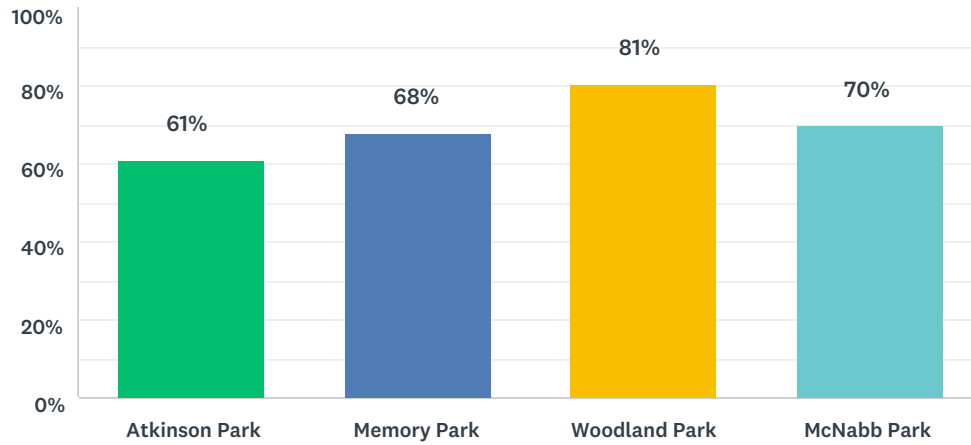
Answered: 190 Skipped: 0



	NEVER	DAILY	1-3 TIMES	4-8 TIMES	9-12 TIMES	OVER 12 TIMES	TOTAL RESPONDENTS
Atkinson Park	76% 144	1% 1	19% 36	4% 8	1% 2	2% 3	190
Memory Park	71% 134	3% 5	18% 35	6% 11	1% 2	2% 4	190
Woodland Park	18% 35	3% 6	49% 94	18% 34	5% 10	6% 11	190
McNabb Park	44% 83	1% 2	31% 58	15% 28	5% 9	5% 10	190

### Q3 Safety of our residents is very important; mark all parks in which you feel safe when visiting.

Answered: 180 Skipped: 10



#### QUIZ STATISTICS

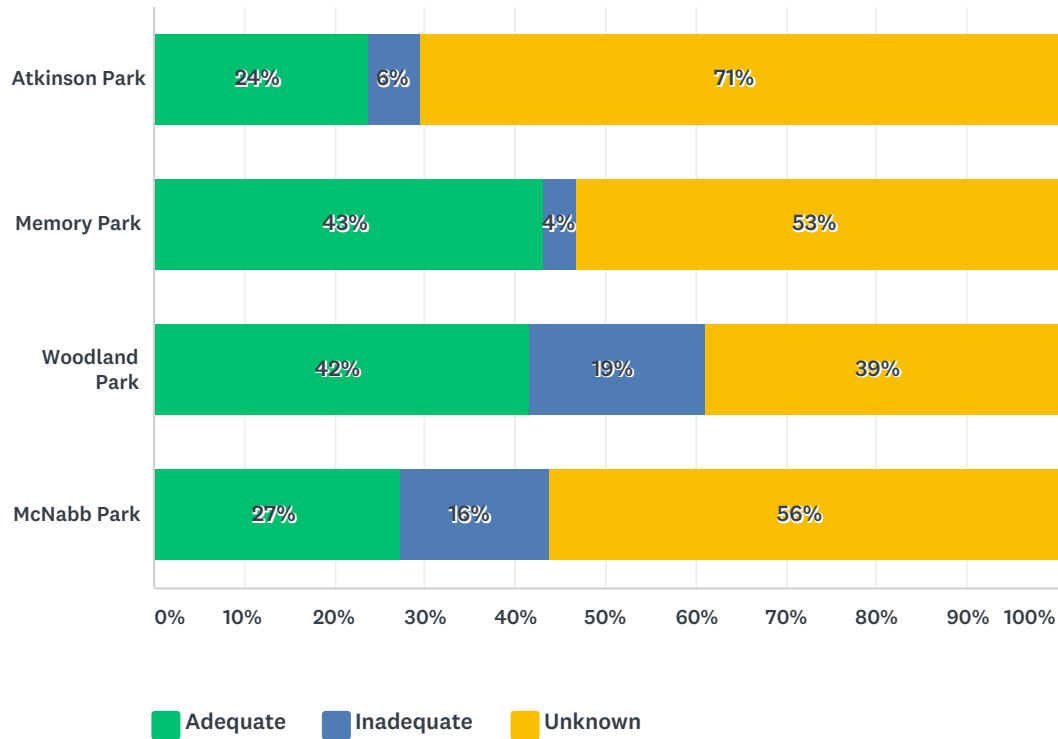
Percent Correct 43%	Average Score 7.2/10.0 (72%)	Standard Deviation 2.99	Difficulty 7/9
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ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Atkinson Park	1/10	61%	110
✓ Memory Park	2/10	68%	122
✓ Woodland Park	3/10	81%	145
✓ McNabb Park	4/10	70%	126
<b>Total Respondents: 180</b>			



### Q4 Park hours for operation are dawn to dusk. Do you feel the parks have adequate lighting for early morning and early evening visitors?

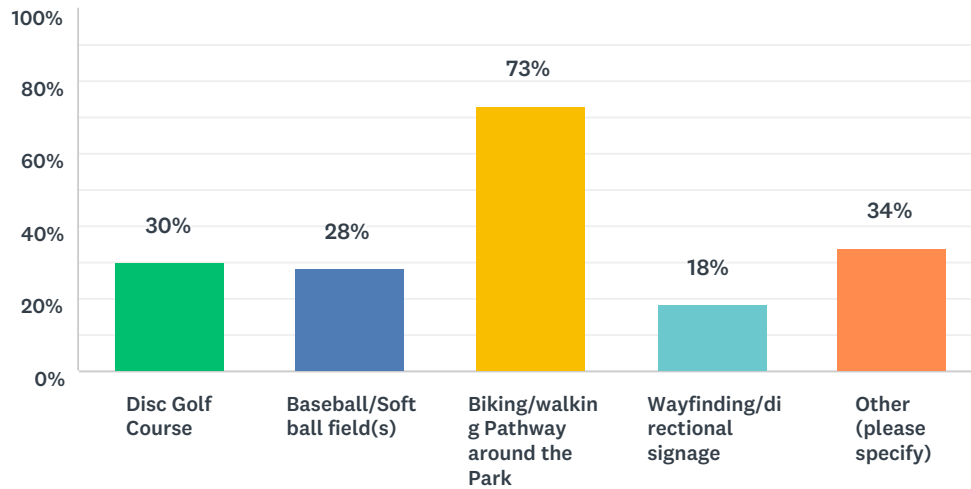
Answered: 190 Skipped: 0



	ADEQUATE	INADEQUATE	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Atkinson Park	24% 45	6% 11	71% 134	190
Memory Park	43% 82	4% 7	53% 101	190
Woodland Park	42% 79	19% 37	39% 74	190
McNabb Park	27% 52	16% 31	56% 107	190

## Q6 The City is considering new features for repurposing McNabb Park (fairgrounds). Which would you consider to be valuable additions to this park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 179 Skipped: 11



### QUIZ STATISTICS

Percent Correct 3%	Average Score 4.4/10.0 (44%)	Standard Deviation 2.31	Difficulty 2/9
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ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Disc Golf Course	1/10	30%	54
✓ Baseball/Softball field(s)	2/10	28%	51
✓ Biking/walking Pathway around the Park	3/10	73%	131
✓ Wayfinding/directional signage	4/10	18%	33
Other (please specify)	--	34%	61
<b>Total Respondents: 179</b>			

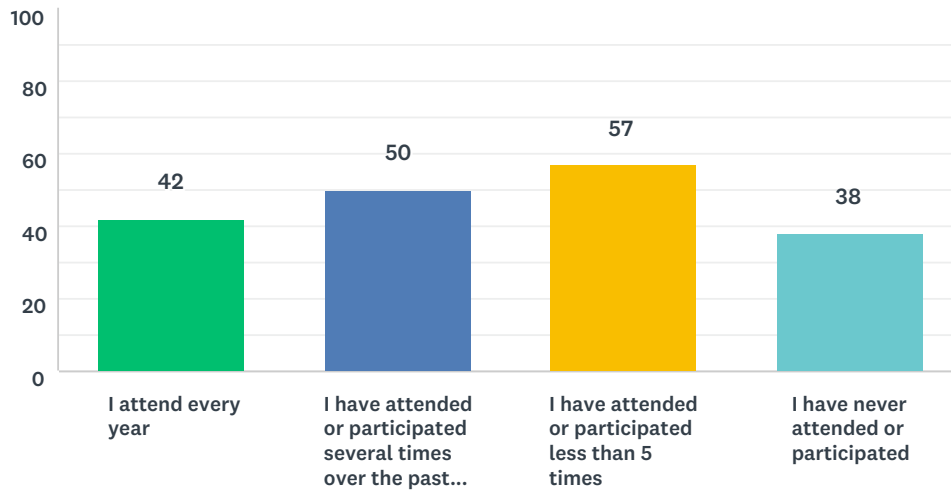
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	pickelball court, boccee ball	10/30/2018 10:14 AM
2	RV camping facilities	10/30/2018 9:44 AM
3	lighting	10/25/2018 2:21 PM
4	wayfinding signs at jail house trail	10/25/2018 2:19 PM
5	an air strip and track for remotes	10/25/2018 1:32 PM
6	use barn for open houses or receptions, family events etc...	10/25/2018 1:24 PM
7	mountain bike dirt jumps and or more mountain bike trails and features	10/25/2018 1:18 PM
8	skate park for bikes, boards, and roller blades or skates	10/25/2018 11:56 AM
9	keep racetrack open for walking & jogging, add fitness steps	10/25/2018 11:51 AM
10	The fair and racetrack are outdated. Think of something that will draw people to Ithaca and then promote it!	10/24/2018 3:08 PM

11	fair	10/24/2018 1:32 PM
12	Sell it so it can be developed in to housing to give the city a tax boost and help housing shortage.	10/20/2018 10:00 AM
13	Restrooms	10/20/2018 7:35 AM
14	what is disc golf?	10/19/2018 1:55 PM
15	Nicer restroom facilities	10/18/2018 6:10 PM
16	Keep the fairgrounds for those who show for fair	10/18/2018 11:54 AM
17	Basketball courts	10/17/2018 10:28 PM
18	scouting needs	10/17/2018 8:52 PM
19	It's peaceful out there, don't construct anything to break that peace	10/17/2018 6:34 PM
20	A new non wood playground	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
21	permanent restrooms	10/17/2018 3:11 PM
22	splash park	10/17/2018 3:06 PM
23	bike pathway eventually connected to E Center 127 path	10/17/2018 3:02 PM
24	ice rink for hockey	10/17/2018 2:37 PM
25	Well-marked walking paths that are safe.	10/17/2018 11:52 AM
26	Dog park	10/17/2018 11:20 AM
27	An outside activity that the city does not have, baseball/softball field are at the high school.	10/17/2018 10:24 AM
28	None	10/17/2018 9:47 AM
29	Bathroom and pathways	10/16/2018 10:02 PM
30	Restrooms	10/16/2018 7:33 PM
31	Walkways at the soccer field with restrooms	10/16/2018 6:12 PM
32	Basketball courts	10/16/2018 5:54 PM
33	Restrooms	10/16/2018 1:49 PM
34	Bathrooms	10/16/2018 1:30 PM
35	Leave it alone	10/15/2018 1:19 PM
36	Butterfly/flower/education trail	10/14/2018 11:29 PM
37	Fixing up arena	10/14/2018 12:04 AM
38	leave as a fairgrounds as has been	10/13/2018 7:29 PM
39	New campsites	10/13/2018 4:00 PM
40	get rid of eye soars the barns and bathrooms	10/12/2018 6:37 AM
41	Skate Park	10/12/2018 12:41 AM
42	upgrade fair buildings	10/11/2018 10:03 PM
43	Update camping area and bathroom along with livestock barns and arenas to accommodate horse and livestock show's over the weekends.	10/11/2018 9:35 PM
44	Fair	10/11/2018 9:22 PM
45	Better campsites, better barns for fair	10/11/2018 8:58 PM
46	Leave the fairgrounds for the fair	10/11/2018 8:53 PM
47	Skate park, water park	10/11/2018 8:34 PM
48	Nothing leave it the way it is let it continue to be a fairground for the youth and their families to enjoy agriculture and show their animals. It's a great learning experience for all kids and people.	10/11/2018 8:22 PM
49	Help advertise the annual GAS fair to bring people into town for it.	10/11/2018 8:20 PM

50	Allow GAS to revitalize some of the livestock facilities	10/11/2018 8:09 PM
51	It is fine the way it is, the fairgrounds work well as they are and nothing should change	10/11/2018 7:54 PM
52	All the above features found other places in the city and can be utilized there. Such a small town it doesn't make sense to duplicate these specific features listed .	10/11/2018 7:14 PM
53	Better camp & building facilities	10/11/2018 7:14 PM
54	What happened to the splash park plans? A campground?? Amphitheater?	10/11/2018 6:52 PM
55	Three of these 4 options do not alter anything that the fair currently provides. We already have baseball/softball fields in the city. All of these other options can be added without removing anything that is currently there. Disc golf specifically should never interfere with other activities and if it does. Then you are doing it wrong!	10/11/2018 6:40 PM
56	improvements to restrooms, electricity, and barns	10/11/2018 6:40 PM
57	A fair	10/11/2018 4:22 PM
58	Petting zoo like Anderson and Girls	10/11/2018 4:01 PM
59	Upgrades to host events, electric, camping, update bathrooms	10/11/2018 3:56 PM
60	Horse trails	10/11/2018 3:32 PM
61	Natural wildflower prairie area w/ interpretive paths; use historic barn for public gatherings, weddings, etc.	10/11/2018 3:04 PM

**Q7 McNabb Park is home to the Gratiot Agricultural Society Expo Fair each June. This is an open fair and participants come from neighboring townships and counties. Do you regularly attend the Expo/Fair?**

Answered: 187 Skipped: 3



**QUIZ STATISTICS**

Percent Correct  
20%

Average Score  
2.5/4.0 (62%)

Standard Deviation  
1.05

Difficulty  
5/9

**ANSWER CHOICES**

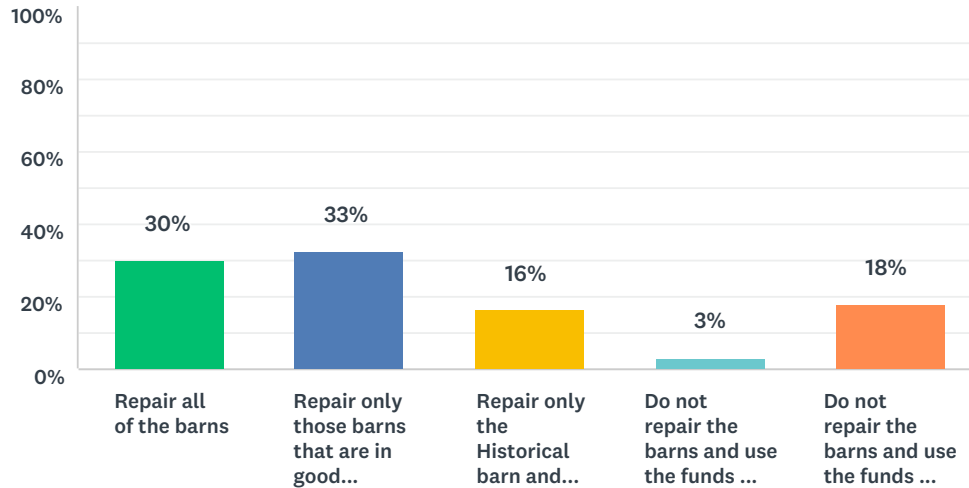
**SCORE**

**RESPONSES**

I attend every year	1/4	22.46%	42
I have attended or participated several times over the past years	2/4	26.74%	50
I have attended or participated less than 5 times	3/4	30.48%	57
✓ I have never attended or participated	4/4	20.32%	38
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>187</b>

**Q8 The City has limited resources for park features and activities. Funds are used to replace older/worn equipment and to maintain equipment and buildings within the parks. The barns at McNabb Park, including the large Historical barn, need costly repairs for events like the fair to continue. Would you like to see the City use its resources for repairs of the barns or for new activities and features? (Please select one)**

Answered: 190 Skipped: 0



**QUIZ STATISTICS**

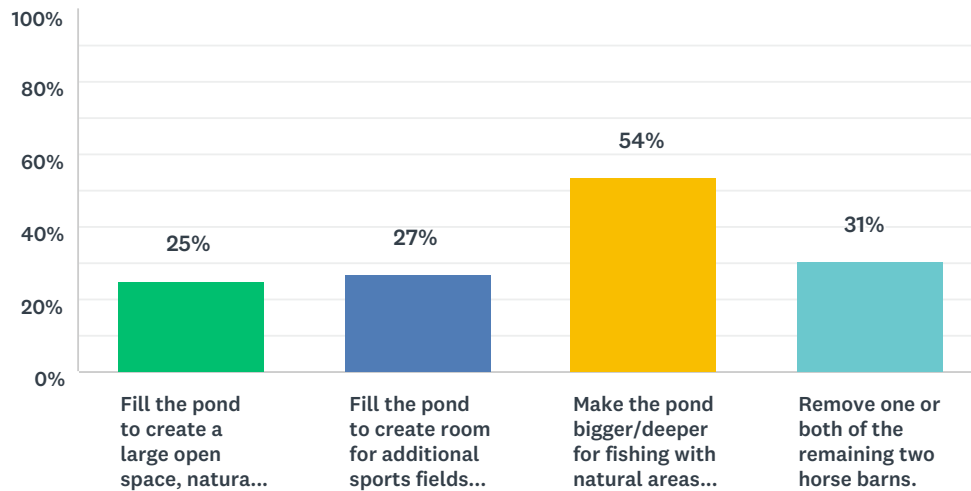
Percent Correct 18%	Average Score 2.5/5.0 (49%)	Standard Deviation 1.41	Difficulty 4/9
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**ANSWER CHOICES**

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES
Repair all of the barns	1/5	30% 57
Repair only those barns that are in good condition; demolish those that are in poor condition	2/5	33% 62
Repair only the Historical barn and repurpose it	3/5	16% 31
Do not repair the barns and use the funds to repair existing equipment and features; save extra funds for future repairs	4/5	3% 6
✓ Do not repair the barns and use the funds for new activities and features.	5/5	18% 34
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>190</b>

**Q9 In McNabb Park, the horse/harness track has only hosted a couple of races in the past few years (the State controls the races). If the City could repurpose that area, including its interior pond, by leveling the track, what would you like to see there? (Check all that apply)**

Answered: 157 Skipped: 33



QUIZ STATISTICS			
Percent Correct 1%	Average Score 3.6/10.0 (36%)	Standard Deviation 1.98	Difficulty 1/9

ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES
✓ Fill the pond to create a large open space, natural area or wildflower prairie with pathways	1/10	25% 39
✓ Fill the pond to create room for additional sports fields (baseball, softball, etc)	2/10	27% 42
✓ Make the pond bigger/deeper for fishing with natural areas surrounding it	3/10	54% 84
✓ Remove one or both of the remaining two horse barns.	4/10	31% 48
<b>Total Respondents: 157</b>		

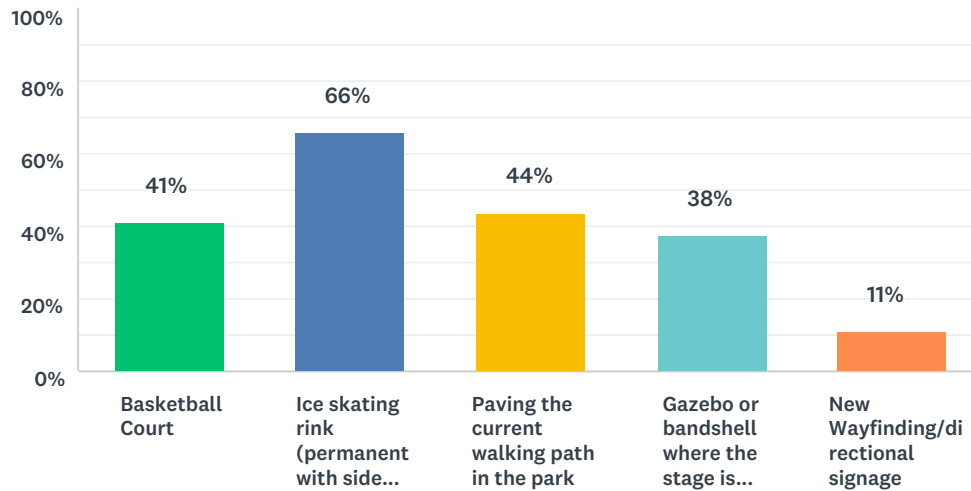
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	great location for RV camping	10/30/2018 9:44 AM
2	I would like to see the park up grade for park activities, but combine the 2 Gratiot County fairs	10/25/2018 3:32 PM
3	create a park with walkway bike trail with connecting trail to woodland	10/25/2018 3:25 PM
4	why can't there be wildflowers and fishing?	10/25/2018 3:18 PM
5	discontinue fair as currently structured. Stop trying to compete with youth fair.	10/25/2018 2:46 PM
6	fill in pond & remove track	10/25/2018 2:15 PM
7	just leave as is! with minor repairs!	10/25/2018 1:27 PM
8	a shame to lose a unique area - harness track	10/25/2018 11:56 AM
9	the pond is a natural area! leave as it. it is a unique habitat and under no circumstances should it be destroyed. Create wildflower prairies in other open spaces in the parks	10/25/2018 11:51 AM
10	use it!!!	10/19/2018 2:23 PM

11	create walkways, bike path around pond, disc golf	10/19/2018 2:10 PM
12	I don't have an opinion on this one	10/19/2018 1:35 PM
13	parking	10/19/2018 1:14 PM
14	parking	10/19/2018 12:01 PM
15	no ideas	10/17/2018 8:52 PM
16	Host different activities using the tracks, the tracks were my favorite memory growing up and I want to still bring my kids one day there, it's a part of Ithaca, embrace it don't waste it	10/17/2018 6:34 PM
17	Develop that area into an activity area would be used by the community. Some activity area which other communities do not have.	10/17/2018 10:24 AM
18	Level the track, fill in the pond and build pavillions for a nice picnic park area that is more accessible than Woodland Park. Have a parking lot for this area.	10/15/2018 2:42 PM
19	no idea	10/13/2018 12:57 PM
20	Leave the track, and let the horse men back on the track to train!!	10/12/2018 12:11 AM
21	Walking track	10/11/2018 10:01 PM
22	Use it for fair events	10/11/2018 9:22 PM
23	Not many places have oppertunities for harness raing anymore	10/11/2018 8:43 PM
24	Leave it as a race track possible fix the fence around the track and paint barns	10/11/2018 8:22 PM
25	What can the City do to encourage the State to allow more races?	10/11/2018 8:20 PM
26	Only destroy the race horse barns	10/11/2018 8:09 PM
27	Large open space that many things can come in and out of like a carnival during fair or other events	10/11/2018 7:54 PM
28	If its not used for racing doesnt the property revert back to the McNabb family per the deed? Otherwise level it, place restrooms and,pavilions on that end for rental use for reunions, weddings etc.	10/11/2018 6:52 PM
29	I don't see a need to change this area. Isn't there anything we can do to attract the state to this track? If we have the space, let's make an effort to use it for its intended purpose. There's no need to fill in the pond. It's a habitat. There are ball fields in sumner, North Star and at the school. We are a softball/baseball family and I see no need for additional fields at McNabb. McNabb is the fairgrounds. Stop trying to push out the fair and make it a usable/improved area for the fair	10/11/2018 6:42 PM
30	Is there a reason that the state is not having races? More information is needed here.	10/11/2018 6:40 PM
31	Brainstorm other options	10/11/2018 3:56 PM
32	Create new bleachers	10/11/2018 2:10 PM



# Q10 The City is considering new features for Woodland Park. Which would you consider to be valuable additions to the park? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 170 Skipped: 20



### QUIZ STATISTICS

Percent Correct 2%	Average Score 6.9/15.0 (46%)	Standard Deviation 3.47	Difficulty 3/9
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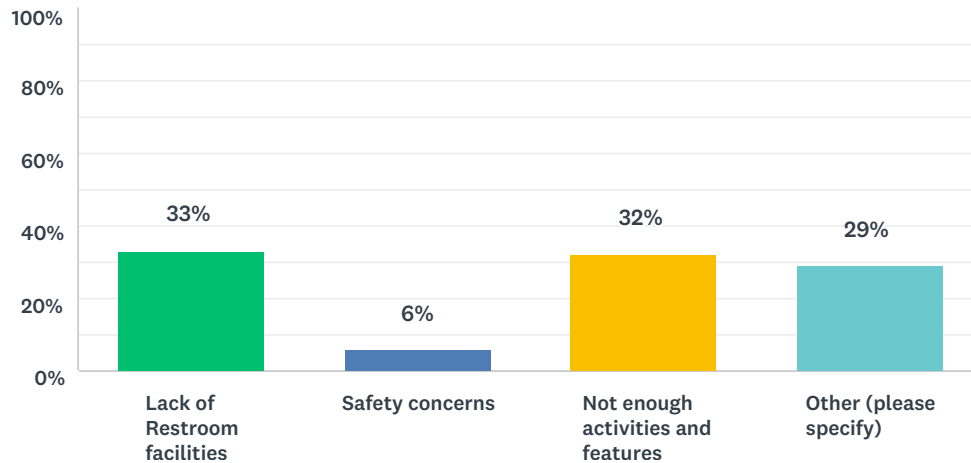
ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES
✓ Basketball Court	5/15	41% 70
✓ Ice skating rink (permanent with side walls; either real or synthetic ice)	4/15	66% 112
✓ Paving the current walking path in the park	3/15	44% 74
✓ Gazebo or bandshell where the stage is currently located	2/15	38% 64
✓ New Wayfinding/directional signage	1/15	11% 19
<b>Total Respondents: 170</b>		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I haven't been in the bathrooms in years, however I hope they are better than in years past.	10/25/2018 3:12 PM
2	maintain sledding hill	10/25/2018 2:46 PM
3	keep up what you have	10/25/2018 1:09 PM
4	shuffleboard, boccee ball, bean bag toss	10/25/2018 11:56 AM
5	improvements to dog park. City Clerk suggested we turn in a proposal	10/25/2018 11:51 AM
6	skate, bike park	10/24/2018 1:58 PM
7	Disc golf course utilizing the sled hill as a hole.	10/22/2018 5:48 PM
8	wood chips for wet areas when it rains alot	10/21/2018 11:00 AM
9	save your money	10/20/2018 10:00 AM
10	better access to dog park, closer parking for those with mobility issues.	10/19/2018 3:55 PM

11	perhaps more indirect lighting for walking	10/19/2018 1:18 PM
12	bike path	10/19/2018 12:01 PM
13	Ice skating but consider it as big as it was with a possible barrier in ground to keep the water in place and the ice solid. I don't think walls are necessary over the natural pond and grounds around it. I have not seen the other ideas.	10/17/2018 8:52 PM
14	A new playscape	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
15	seating for stage	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
16	replace missing boards in playground wall	10/17/2018 3:27 PM
17	splash pad	10/17/2018 3:06 PM
18	Spray Park	10/16/2018 4:23 PM
19	More toys for kids	10/14/2018 12:04 AM
20	I love the park how it is but maybe build better restrooms	10/11/2018 8:09 PM
21	Gazebo/bandshell would be great but the parking near this is not good and not very safe for handicappers.	10/11/2018 6:52 PM
22	Ice skating rink, really? Who comes up with this crap?	10/11/2018 4:22 PM
23	Nothing	10/11/2018 4:01 PM
24	More activities for the dog park	10/11/2018 3:09 PM
25	educational signage on tree/plant species	10/11/2018 3:04 PM
26	An ice skating rink would be incredible to utilize! I have fond memories of skating there when I was very young and would love to share the same memories with my children without having to travel more than 30 minutes to do so.	10/11/2018 2:53 PM

# Q5 What is the most significant factor for NOT utilizing the city parks?

Answered: 172 Skipped: 18



### QUIZ STATISTICS

Percent Correct 30%	Average Score 2.0/3.0 (67%)	Standard Deviation 0.96	Difficulty 6/9
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ANSWER CHOICES	SCORE	RESPONSES	
✓ Lack of Restroom facilities	3/3	33%	57
Safety concerns	2/3	6%	10
Not enough activities and features	1/3	32%	55
Other (please specify)	--	29%	50
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>172</b>

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	lack of restrooms, not enough activities	10/30/2018 10:17 AM
2	Atkinson - other end of town. Memory - appreciate it but down town for businesses. No need to linger	10/30/2018 10:07 AM
3	safety concerns, not enough activities/features	10/30/2018 9:46 AM
4	lack of RV camping facilities, lack of restrooms	10/30/2018 9:44 AM
5	old age	10/25/2018 3:32 PM
6	too busy	10/25/2018 3:28 PM
7	too tired	10/25/2018 3:21 PM
8	usually doing other things, however interested in having parks available	10/25/2018 3:12 PM
9	age - don't use the parks like we used to	10/25/2018 2:26 PM
10	too old	10/25/2018 2:22 PM
11	I don't have kids or dogs. No reason to go there.	10/25/2018 2:19 PM
12	we're too old	10/25/2018 1:32 PM
13	assign personnel to observe & collect data state wide from other parks features. Set up website for public comments on activities they find at other parks they go to	10/25/2018 1:24 PM
14	lack of restrooms, not enough activities	10/25/2018 12:03 PM

15	lack of restrooms, not enough activities	10/25/2018 11:56 AM
16	not enough activities, few trees & shrubs, varied habitats	10/25/2018 11:51 AM
17	age	10/24/2018 2:27 PM
18	n/a	10/24/2018 1:58 PM
19	safety concerns, not enough activities/features	10/24/2018 1:32 PM
20	County Parks have been developed, city does not need to duplicate.	10/20/2018 10:00 AM
21	McNabb Park is more for soccer families	10/20/2018 6:24 AM
22	handicap access to the dog park would help or closer parking. I cannot use as currently configured.	10/19/2018 3:55 PM
23	elderly - 95 years old	10/19/2018 2:13 PM
24	lack of restrooms, not enough activities, time	10/19/2018 2:10 PM
25	lack of restrooms, not enough activities	10/19/2018 1:41 PM
26	not my thing	10/19/2018 1:38 PM
27	surveillance by police	10/19/2018 1:14 PM
28	Found Human Feces in the Children's Playground	10/19/2018 12:47 PM
29	911 surveillance by police	10/19/2018 12:01 PM
30	Have no idea where half the parks are	10/17/2018 6:34 PM
31	The woodland park always has bees everywhere!	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
32	none of the above. we use them when we want to.	10/17/2018 3:27 PM
33	no reason	10/17/2018 3:16 PM
34	lack of restrooms, not enough activities	10/17/2018 3:06 PM
35	Prefer woodland	10/17/2018 9:47 AM
36	no time too busy	10/15/2018 2:42 PM
37	No interest	10/15/2018 1:19 PM
38	Too busy adulting to take time to have fun. Work, errands, housework and kids school activities occupy all the time.	10/14/2018 11:29 PM
39	Na	10/14/2018 4:59 PM
40	I'm not a kid anymore. I do go with my grandkids.	10/13/2018 12:57 PM
41	Fairgrounds has bad fair. Go to Alma for rides	10/12/2018 7:36 PM
42	Moved out of area but come back for visits with family	10/12/2018 1:48 AM
43	Fair	10/11/2018 9:22 PM
44	Too busy at home	10/11/2018 8:53 PM
45	None	10/11/2018 8:09 PM
46	Just dont do that	10/11/2018 7:39 PM
47	Busy	10/11/2018 7:14 PM
48	not enough need and/or time	10/11/2018 6:40 PM
49	Not enough free time	10/11/2018 4:01 PM
50	Work in Alma so use their parks during the days more often.	10/11/2018 4:00 PM

## Q11 What do you feel would most improve each park?

Answered: 118 Skipped: 72

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Atkinson Park	38.98%	46
Memory Park	34.75%	41
Woodland Park	66.95%	79
McNabb Park	78.81%	93

#	ATKINSON PARK	DATE
1	Bathrooms, remove walnut trees. They are messy and dangerous for walkers	10/30/2018 10:21 AM
2	playground, tables/benches	10/30/2018 10:17 AM
3	Determine who uses it. Seems to cater to seniors because of location	10/30/2018 10:07 AM
4	senior walking trail & activities, bocci ball, etc	10/30/2018 9:44 AM
5	I think the parks are well groomed and a good job has been done to keep them appealing	10/25/2018 3:32 PM
6	nothing	10/25/2018 3:25 PM
7	advertise the location & accomodations	10/25/2018 2:46 PM
8	restrooms would be nice, maybe some swings.	10/25/2018 2:26 PM
9	restrooms	10/25/2018 2:15 PM
10	weekly clean up	10/25/2018 2:11 PM
11	lights	10/25/2018 1:32 PM
12	flowers	10/25/2018 1:24 PM
13	safety	10/25/2018 1:09 PM
14	lighting	10/25/2018 11:56 AM
15	get rid of the messy cottonwood trees	10/24/2018 3:08 PM
16	bathrooms	10/24/2018 1:58 PM
17	safety	10/21/2018 11:00 AM
18	Sell	10/20/2018 10:00 AM
19	bathrooms	10/19/2018 2:23 PM
20	a pool for children to use in the summer	10/19/2018 2:21 PM
21	art	10/19/2018 2:10 PM
22	nothing	10/19/2018 1:50 PM
23	public bathroom	10/19/2018 1:14 PM
24	public bathroom	10/19/2018 12:01 PM
25	More features	10/18/2018 8:12 AM
26	More walking paths	10/17/2018 10:28 PM
27	Advertise what this park is, I have no idea where this is	10/17/2018 6:34 PM
28	trim trees	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
29	Scenary	10/17/2018 3:26 PM

30	Pick up sticks/branches often	10/17/2018 2:03 PM
31	Develop something in the park to bring people to it. The senior center may need shuffleboard courts, or other outside activities?	10/17/2018 10:24 AM
32	Dog waste container/bags	10/16/2018 4:22 PM
33	NA	10/16/2018 2:02 PM
34	Na	10/16/2018 1:52 PM
35	More lighting	10/14/2018 12:04 AM
36	Play equipment, entertainment activities	10/13/2018 3:55 PM
37	Basket ball court	10/12/2018 12:41 AM
38	Unknown	10/11/2018 10:01 PM
39	Ok	10/11/2018 7:39 PM
40	Something for kids	10/11/2018 7:29 PM
41	There is nothing there but a tiny sidewalk...	10/11/2018 7:13 PM
42	Nice for what it is.	10/11/2018 6:40 PM
43	None	10/11/2018 4:59 PM
44	N/a	10/11/2018 4:01 PM
45	replace bird screen in picnic shelter with a solid ceiling; exercise stations for senior citizens	10/11/2018 3:04 PM
46	Unknown	10/11/2018 2:10 PM
<b>#</b>	<b>MEMORY PARK</b>	<b>DATE</b>
1	stage, large permanent Christmas tree	10/30/2018 10:17 AM
2	Fine. Leave as it.	10/30/2018 10:07 AM
3	no change	10/30/2018 9:44 AM
4	nothing	10/25/2018 3:25 PM
5	do the benches have to have names on them - put a sign up inviting people to remember	10/25/2018 3:18 PM
6	?	10/25/2018 1:32 PM
7	flowers	10/25/2018 1:24 PM
8	safety	10/25/2018 1:09 PM
9	activity - bag toss. Not an enclosure, but a half fence to make it more eye catching	10/25/2018 11:56 AM
10	? shelter from sun	10/24/2018 3:08 PM
11	safety	10/21/2018 11:00 AM
12	Sell	10/20/2018 10:00 AM
13	a pool for children to use in the summer	10/19/2018 2:21 PM
14	nothing	10/19/2018 2:10 PM
15	nothing	10/19/2018 1:50 PM
16	what is the large grey building used for?	10/19/2018 1:14 PM
17	what is the large grey building used for?	10/19/2018 12:01 PM
18	Sharing Book Station	10/18/2018 8:12 AM
19	Biking path	10/17/2018 10:28 PM
20	Advertise what this park is	10/17/2018 6:34 PM
21	shade of some nature	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
22	Scenary	10/17/2018 3:26 PM

23	More benches	10/16/2018 10:53 PM
24	Informational Installation Highlight Community Activities and Businesses	10/16/2018 4:22 PM
25	Covered Seating	10/16/2018 3:42 PM
26	Na	10/16/2018 1:52 PM
27	Covered area for shade	10/16/2018 1:30 PM
28	N/a	10/14/2018 12:04 AM
29	Entertainment	10/13/2018 3:55 PM
30	I've lived here most of my life. Never heard of this one.	10/13/2018 12:57 PM
31	Unsure	10/12/2018 12:41 AM
32	Awning of some kind	10/11/2018 10:01 PM
33	Ok	10/11/2018 7:39 PM
34	Dog drinking fountain	10/11/2018 7:29 PM
35	How is this hunk of cement a park?	10/11/2018 7:13 PM
36	We sit here a lot and search for and hide painted rocks here. Our children love this area but we have no ide what it is or it's purpose. What is the house for?	10/11/2018 6:42 PM
37	Some signage explaining its purpose would help.	10/11/2018 6:40 PM
38	None	10/11/2018 4:59 PM
39	N/a	10/11/2018 4:01 PM
40	market umbrellas for the tables or a shade sail/canopy over the tables; mural on west wall	10/11/2018 3:04 PM
41	Nothing	10/11/2018 2:10 PM
<b>#</b>	<b>WOODLAND PARK</b>	<b>DATE</b>
1	update, repair playscape	10/30/2018 10:17 AM
2	restrooms	10/30/2018 10:14 AM
3	Path from cemetery, across the RR tracks allowing easier access	10/30/2018 10:07 AM
4	clear out some of the trees for safety	10/30/2018 9:46 AM
5	restrooms and improved walking trail	10/30/2018 9:44 AM
6	connect woodland to McNabb with bike/walking paths/trails	10/25/2018 3:25 PM
7	some type of stage improvement	10/25/2018 3:12 PM
8	decent restrooms, maintain playscapes, tables, etc	10/25/2018 2:46 PM
9	lite sled hill better, add ice rink	10/25/2018 2:15 PM
10	lights	10/25/2018 1:32 PM
11	paved approaches for handicapped, permanent exercise equipment (like Sumner park has)	10/25/2018 1:24 PM
12	ice rink	10/25/2018 1:18 PM
13	safety	10/25/2018 1:09 PM
14	more community events	10/25/2018 11:56 AM
15	plant more trees & shrubs	10/25/2018 11:51 AM
16	paving walk, extreme upgrades to lighting	10/25/2018 11:42 AM
17	update shelter areas, more biking	10/24/2018 3:08 PM
18	restroom in back of park	10/24/2018 2:13 PM
19	ice pond, skate/bike park	10/24/2018 1:58 PM
20	safety	10/21/2018 11:00 AM

21	maintain	10/20/2018 10:00 AM
22	More lighting	10/20/2018 6:24 AM
23	restrooms	10/19/2018 2:31 PM
24	lighting	10/19/2018 2:23 PM
25	a pool for children to use in the summer	10/19/2018 2:21 PM
26	ice skating	10/19/2018 2:10 PM
27	what I checked off	10/19/2018 1:55 PM
28	repaving roadways	10/19/2018 1:50 PM
29	restrooms at both ends of park, more picnic tables & grills	10/19/2018 1:35 PM
30	pave walking paths, lights	10/19/2018 1:32 PM
31	drinking fountain	10/19/2018 1:14 PM
32	More care for Children's Playground	10/19/2018 12:47 PM
33	drinking fountain	10/19/2018 12:01 PM
34	Basketball or ice skating	10/18/2018 6:10 PM
35	Paved paths/Child activities	10/18/2018 8:12 AM
36	More activities	10/17/2018 10:28 PM
37	Host events, have school events here	10/17/2018 6:34 PM
38	repair playscape	10/17/2018 3:35 PM
39	a new playscape	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
40	more lighting in back area	10/17/2018 3:30 PM
41	Activities available in park	10/17/2018 3:26 PM
42	can't read sign at front of park telling what's available for use.	10/17/2018 3:11 PM
43	splash pad	10/17/2018 3:06 PM
44	black squirrels, promote natural surroundings	10/17/2018 3:02 PM
45	more music	10/17/2018 2:37 PM
46	Make it conducive to walking/running and keep the children's areas up-to-date.	10/17/2018 11:52 AM
47	Safety features	10/17/2018 11:20 AM
48	Redo the shelter for all weather use, redo the bathrooms	10/17/2018 10:24 AM
49	Paved walking path	10/17/2018 10:05 AM
50	Ice rink	10/17/2018 9:47 AM
51	Bathrooms down by castle	10/16/2018 5:54 PM
52	Improve pavilions and community gathering areas.	10/16/2018 4:22 PM
53	Walking/Riding paths connecting streets and sidewalks to park	10/16/2018 3:42 PM
54	Cover up vandalism and profanity.	10/16/2018 1:52 PM
55	Restrooms	10/16/2018 1:49 PM
56	More activities to serve various ages	10/16/2018 1:30 PM
57	Stairs on some of the steeper walking trails for elderly mobility and balance.	10/14/2018 11:29 PM
58	More kids climbing toys	10/14/2018 12:04 AM
59	Upkeep of equipment	10/13/2018 3:55 PM
60	Better bathrooms	10/12/2018 7:36 PM
61	Basket ball court	10/12/2018 12:41 AM



62	More lighting year around	10/12/2018 12:11 AM
63	Better lighting and bathrooms, concessions	10/11/2018 10:01 PM
64	Love the idea of a basketball court and ice skating rink!	10/11/2018 8:50 PM
65	Restrooms	10/11/2018 8:09 PM
66	Picnic tables	10/11/2018 7:39 PM
67	Ice skating, maybe heat or concessions for sledding	10/11/2018 7:29 PM
68	Bathrooms!	10/11/2018 7:21 PM
69	Love this park, please improve bathrooms	10/11/2018 7:13 PM
70	I like the ice skating idea. And the paved walkway.	10/11/2018 6:52 PM
71	Basketball courts	10/11/2018 6:40 PM
72	Ice skating	10/11/2018 5:40 PM
73	More activities	10/11/2018 4:59 PM
74	Nothing	10/11/2018 4:01 PM
75	paved walking trail: tow rope for downhill sledding	10/11/2018 3:32 PM
76	paved walking path; interpretive signage; replace swings & chains & rocking animals; upgrade picnic shelter electrical & lighting; remove old wellhouse; upgrade restrooms	10/11/2018 3:04 PM
77	Fix and or repair play equipment and possibly expand play structure	10/11/2018 3:01 PM
78	More patrolling of park by law enforcement. It's unsettling being there by myself as a young mom with small children with no visual from Center Street.	10/11/2018 2:53 PM
79	Lighting, ice rink	10/11/2018 2:10 PM
<b>#</b>	<b>MCNABB PARK</b>	<b>DATE</b>
1	restrooms	10/30/2018 10:14 AM
2	Keep soccer fields, maintain woodsy, natural atmosphere. Re-purpose barn	10/30/2018 10:07 AM
3	remove GAS fair and utilize activities w/ soccer & RV area	10/30/2018 9:44 AM
4	make it a park/trails/nature area	10/25/2018 3:25 PM
5	parking, more picnic, sports, warming shed for sledding, cross country trail for skiing	10/25/2018 3:18 PM
6	improve are and advertise overnight for RV, motor or non bikers accomodiations	10/25/2018 2:46 PM
7	no horses, remove all, remove track	10/25/2018 2:15 PM
8	finish slope for snow sledding, that side of town	10/25/2018 1:32 PM
9	Maintenance, Mr. McNabb wanted it this way. It should just be repaired!	10/25/2018 1:27 PM
10	paved approaches for handicapped, permanent exercise equipment (like Sumner park has)	10/25/2018 1:24 PM
11	mountain bike trails	10/25/2018 1:18 PM
12	safety	10/25/2018 1:09 PM
13	New building. Keeping the fair & grounds active keeps you growing families in Ithaca instead of Alma area & Alma businesses. Alms is growing, Ithaca is looking more like a skeleton	10/25/2018 12:03 PM
14	bike trail, skate park for stunt bikes, roller blades, skate boards. Other towns don't have this - unique.	10/25/2018 11:56 AM
15	pressure pond	10/25/2018 11:51 AM
16	more biking, walking. Need to encourage biking from 127 trail into and around town. Get with it!	10/24/2018 3:08 PM
17	bike trail, not a mountain bike trail	10/24/2018 2:27 PM
18	fishing pond, campground, enhance mountain bike trail, make longer, advertise	10/24/2018 1:58 PM
19	bathrooms	10/24/2018 1:37 PM

20	new lighting, speaker system. From my understanding the fair board has painted and tried to fix the fair grounds up but has met resistance.	10/24/2018 1:32 PM
21	safety	10/21/2018 11:00 AM
22	sell	10/20/2018 10:00 AM
23	Pathways & restrooms	10/20/2018 7:35 AM
24	restrooms, bike trail in the open	10/19/2018 2:31 PM
25	a pool for children to use in the summer	10/19/2018 2:21 PM
26	walk/bike paths, art, nature, playscape, dog park, kids bike race, disc golf tournament, city wide picnic, horseshoe tournament, connect parks together with bike path	10/19/2018 2:10 PM
27	what I checked off	10/19/2018 1:55 PM
28	nothing	10/19/2018 1:50 PM
29	update of restrooms, lighting for peaceful sunset walks	10/19/2018 1:41 PM
30	walking path, lights	10/19/2018 1:32 PM
31	financial support	10/19/2018 1:14 PM
32	financial support	10/19/2018 12:01 PM
33	Restroom facilities and safe way to walk to park from town	10/18/2018 6:10 PM
34	Updates	10/18/2018 11:54 AM
35	Move away from horse activities	10/18/2018 8:12 AM
36	Biking path	10/17/2018 10:28 PM
37	The fair	10/17/2018 9:28 PM
38	Bring back the attention to the tracks, kids lessons for racing, and events not just during 4h...maybe hold something during winter...reindeer races?	10/17/2018 6:34 PM
39	Scenary	10/17/2018 3:26 PM
40	splash pad	10/17/2018 3:06 PM
41	bandshell, softball fields, path around	10/17/2018 3:02 PM
42	Safety features	10/17/2018 11:20 AM
43	This is a gold mine if it was properly developed.	10/17/2018 10:24 AM
44	Signage for trails	10/17/2018 10:05 AM
45	Bathroom's and pathways	10/16/2018 10:02 PM
46	Baseball/softball complex to host tournaments	10/16/2018 8:55 PM
47	Bathrooms	10/16/2018 8:53 PM
48	Bathrooms	10/16/2018 7:45 PM
49	Restrooms and walkways	10/16/2018 6:12 PM
50	Bathrooms	10/16/2018 5:54 PM
51	Increase natural areas. Add informational placards about local wildlife, vegetation and ecology	10/16/2018 4:22 PM
52	Activities for age 10-18	10/16/2018 3:42 PM
53	Path for runners	10/16/2018 2:02 PM
54	Na	10/16/2018 1:52 PM
55	Restrooms	10/16/2018 1:49 PM
56	Sidewalk for safety	10/16/2018 1:30 PM
57	Leave it a fair	10/15/2018 1:19 PM
58	Paved parking	10/14/2018 11:29 PM

59	If the camping was upgraded it could host a lot of different events!!!	10/14/2018 2:10 PM
60	Fix up barns and arena	10/14/2018 12:04 AM
61	leave the fair ground part alone This is a great experience for our youth	10/13/2018 7:29 PM
62	Get rid of falling down barns and use area for something new	10/13/2018 3:55 PM
63	Better bathrooms and year around things vs a 1 week fair	10/12/2018 7:36 PM
64	No more fair	10/12/2018 6:37 AM
65	The 4H presence	10/12/2018 12:41 AM
66	Let the Ag board do more, year around!!	10/12/2018 12:11 AM
67	Repair barns	10/11/2018 11:06 PM
68	Update Camping Spots	10/11/2018 10:31 PM
69	keeping the fairgrounds	10/11/2018 10:03 PM
70	Unknown	10/11/2018 10:01 PM
71	The city working with the fair to make it a big success for future	10/11/2018 9:22 PM
72	Better barns	10/11/2018 8:58 PM
73	Electric updated	10/11/2018 8:53 PM
74	Maybe if the pond was made into a bigger fishing pond, it could also be used for ice skating or ice hockey. Possibly campsites for those who show horses, or campsites with electricity for those who show at the fair.	10/11/2018 8:50 PM
75	Grandstand and mud bog area	10/11/2018 8:43 PM
76	Maybe a little more lighting	10/11/2018 8:22 PM
77	Repairs to the livestock facilities	10/11/2018 8:09 PM
78	Taking down the horseracing track	10/11/2018 7:54 PM
79	Barn repairs. Arena..new fence	10/11/2018 7:39 PM
80	Obstacle course, better fairs. We really enjoy fair but it has really sucked in recent years. Easier access to info about being in the fair and supporting it.	10/11/2018 7:29 PM
81	Bathrooms	10/11/2018 7:21 PM
82	Improving building & electricity	10/11/2018 7:14 PM
83	Restrooms	10/11/2018 7:13 PM
84	What about moving the dog park to here. Make it larger. Permanent dog agility course? The splash park? Permanent campground with a host. Better restrooms. Horseback riding trails? Pave jailhouse trail. More pavilions, bbqs, picnic tables.	10/11/2018 6:52 PM
85	Improve it as fairgrounds. That's what it is. Preserve the historical barn. It is beautiful and a part of our history. Stop trying to make it something it's not and work with the fair board to utilize it for its intended purpose.	10/11/2018 6:42 PM
86	Fix the HISTORICAL barn	10/11/2018 6:40 PM
87	None	10/11/2018 4:59 PM
88	Improve barns	10/11/2018 4:01 PM
89	The city supporting the current activities, volunteers and prgrams that are currently held.	10/11/2018 3:56 PM
90	Horse riding trails.	10/11/2018 3:32 PM
91	remove old fair buildings & horsetrack; add new restrooms (vaults okay); paved walking trail around park; more trees & wildflower natural areas (mow less!)	10/11/2018 3:04 PM
92	A nature-center vibe would be neat. Maybe not something as extensive as Forest Hill but something the local elementary schools can take field trips to.	10/11/2018 2:53 PM
93	Repair of buildings, lighting, get in a real fair with rides	10/11/2018 2:10 PM

**Advertisement of 30-Day Draft and Public Hearing**

# AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

In the matter of

Public Notice - City of Ithaca

County of Gratiot, ss.

Park and Recreation Master Plan

Thomas P. MacDonald

, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the publisher of the

## Gratiot County Herald

a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published.

### PUBLIC NOTICE City of Ithaca Park and Recreation Master Plan

The City of Ithaca is providing a draft version of the Five-Year Park and Recreation Plan for 2019-2023 for public review for a 30-day period from November 16, 2018 up to and including December 16, 2018. The document is available to review during normal business hours at:

- Ithaca City Hall: 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, MI
- Thompson Home Public Library: 125 W. Center Street, Ithaca, MI

The document is also available to review electronically at:

- City of Ithaca website: [https://www.ithacami.com/1/260/public\\_notices.asp](https://www.ithacami.com/1/260/public_notices.asp)
- City of Ithaca Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofIthacaMI/>

Comments on the plan may be submitted in writing up until 4:30pm on December 16, 2018 to the City Clerk at:

City of Ithaca  
129 W. Emerson Street  
Ithaca, Michigan 48847  
or by fax: 989-875-4064 or by email to: [clerk@ithacami.com](mailto:clerk@ithacami.com)

The City of Ithaca will also hold a public hearing to solicit comments on the Five-Year Park and Recreation Plan. This is the final comment opportunity before adoption and submittal of the plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The public hearing will be held during the regular meeting of the Ithaca City Council on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm or as soon thereafter as the agenda allows. The meeting is held at the Ithaca City Hall, 129 W. Emerson St, Ithaca, MI

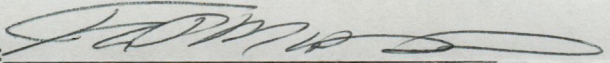
Barbara Fandell  
City Clerk-Treasurer

Nov. 15 20 18      Dec. 13 20 18

\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:



Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public

in and for Gratiot County, Michigan, this 13th

day of December 20 18

*DeAnna Lynn Coffin*

My commission expires May 3, 2023

**DeAnna Lynn Coffin**  
**Notary Public, Gratiot County, MI**  
**My Commission Expires May 3, 2023**

### PRINTER'S BILL

\_\_\_\_\_ Reprints  
\_\_\_\_\_ Folios \_\_\_\_\_ Times \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Budget

Fund: 101 GENERAL FUND

2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2017-18 AMENDED BUDGET	2018-19 APPROVED BUDGET
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>			
<b>Dept 751 - CITY PARKS</b>			
101-751-702.000	SALARIES AND WAGES	20,000	20,000
101-751-719.000	FRINGE BENEFITS	5,000	5,000
101-751-720.000	RETIREMENT-EMPLOYER COST	1,000	1,000
101-751-721.000	FICA -EMPLOYER COST	1,530	1,530
101-751-726.000	SUPPLIES	1,000	500
101-751-775.000	MATERIALS USED	500	500
101-751-801.000	PROFESSIONAL & CONTRACTUAL	17,912	15,228
101-751-910.000	INSURANCE	900	890
101-751-920.000	UTILITIES	2,200	2,400
101-751-930.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	1,000	8,310
101-751-933.000	REPAIRS - PLAYSCAPE	500	500
101-751-940.000	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	1,000	5,000
101-751-970.000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	11,000	0
101-751-977.000	EQUIPMENT/CAP OUTLAY UNDER \$5	1,500	2,500
Totals for dept 751 - CITY PARKS		65,042	63,358
<b>Dept 752 - MCNABB PARK</b>			
101-752-702.000	SALARIES AND WAGES	20,000	25,000
101-752-719.000	FRINGE BENEFITS	5,000	6,500
101-752-720.000	RETIREMENT-EMPLOYER COST	1,000	1,200
101-752-721.000	FICA -EMPLOYER COST	1,530	1,915
101-752-726.000	SUPPLIES	500	500
101-752-801.000	PROFESSIONAL & CONTRACTUAL	1,000	1,000
101-752-910.000	INSURANCE	1,300	1,540
101-752-920.000	UTILITIES	1,800	2,300
101-752-930.000	REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	3,000	3,900
101-752-940.000	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	15,000	18,000
101-752-956.000	MISC EXPENSE	200	0
101-752-970.000	CAPITAL OUTLAY	10,000	0
101-752-977.000	EQUIPMENT/CAP OUTLAY UNDER \$5G	0	2,000
Totals for dept 752 - MCNABB PARK		60,330	63,855
<b>TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS</b>		<b>125,372</b>	<b>127,213</b>
<b>NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 101</b>		<b>(125,372)</b>	<b>(127,213)</b>

## **Meeting Minutes and Resolution of Support**



**CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
December 18, 2018  
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Schafer gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons Brett Baublitz, Scott Gray, Clark Hubbard, Rick Koppleberger and Student Representative Alli Derby. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker and Recording Secretary Shelley Moffit.

Absent were Councilpersons James Andrew and James Gruesbeck and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Audience in attendance was Marla Macha, Brian Adkins, Helen Soderberg, Jared Barden, Rob & Lexi Endter.

**Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 4, 2018.** City Manager Yonker noted a correction needed to be made on page 1, second paragraph under City Manager's Report should read "South Bagley" not "South Begole" **Friendly amendment to include the correction. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Marla Macha shared that the lighting in the downtown block of businesses is really poor. Poor lighting and closed businesses at night is not welcoming or warm to visitors or residents.

Jared Barden of Ms. Van DeWeghe's government class introduced himself.

**Public Hearing: Parks & Recreation Plan**

Mayor Schafer stated it was time for the Public Hearing.

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Koppleberger to enter into a public hearing to take comment on the Five-Year Park and Recreation Master Plan. Motion carried. Mayor Schafer opened the hearing at 7:04pm**

City Manager Yonker noted the written comments received and included in the packet. They will be attached to the meeting minutes. He gave a brief overview of each written comment received.

Resident Helen Sodderberg questioned the makeup of the other respondents to the survey as there were over 200 collected, but only 137 residents responded. Manager Yonker shared that the survey was opened to the public so some users of the parks that are not residents, were able to respond also.

Manager Yonker reminded that the five-year plan is required by the MDNR in the event the City would like to write for grants through the department to help further develop the parks. The plan has been on public review for the past 30-days at the City Hall, Library, website and Facebook.

Ms. Sodderberg shared she was in favor of keeping the pond at McNabb Park and shared it has been in existence long enough that there is mature plant and wildlife in that area. She noted there is funding available for natural wetlands and there is educational opportunities for the school children. She further shared the support from the Big Dog playgroup at Woodland Park.

Mayor Schafer asked for additional comments. None were offered.

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to close the public hearing. Motion carried. Mayor Schafer closed the public hearing at 7:13pm.**

**Committee Reports**

Alli Derby, Student Representative, reported that the new principal is well liked and things are going well at the school. The Adams Family musical is underway. Mayor Schafer thanked her and Dallas for being in the parade and carrying the City flag.

**Department Report**

Lt. Roy McCollum provided a written report on the November activity of the Ithaca Unit.

**Moved by Baublitz, second by Koppleberger to receive the Ithaca Unit report.** Councilperson Gray noted the illegal possession stop during the month and hope it was not tied to the legalization issue. **Motion carried.**

City Manager's Report

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the AYSO Soccer Lease Agreement, Recreational Marihuana Ordinance, MDOT training webinar on Local Agency Program, Senior Activity Board luncheon, SAW grant, Library digital message board sign, 101 E Center Street interest, ICMA Recycling update, Zoning Board of Appeals, DDA and Planning Commission meetings, MME Ethics Committee, City Strategic Planning meeting, Undersheriff retirement, West city landfill, Parks & Recreation Master Plan, Chamber/IPC events, and Rotary activities.

Manager Yonker reported the City offices will be closed on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> of December and the 1<sup>st</sup> of January for the holiday. He would also be on vacation from the 24<sup>th</sup> through the 1<sup>st</sup>. He informed Council of the upcoming MML Capital Conference. Clerk Fandell will be distributing information and looking to register those that are interested. Staff has been watching the legislative issues and bills that are active. He discussed the Lame Duck and issues being considered. There are several that affect local control for a one-community fix. One bill is the Fireworks bill which places limitations on when they can be lit off. Another is the Disabled Veteran's property tax exemption bill, which is seeing movement to transition from a Property Tax Exemption to an Income Tax Exemption. This also includes a credit for disabled veterans that rent and do not own. Another is a bill which would assess a fee to water customers to put into State programs for water issues at the State level. The City would have to try and get the money through grants, or loans for the money paid in by our residents. The MNML is greatly opposed to this. It is still out there but many items have been stripped. The final is a bill which imposes a tipping fee for those utilizing the landfills. The funds would go to the State for Brownfield and recycling funding. This appears to have died and now they are looking at the new sales tax from internet purchases for this. This money should be coming to us as part of Revenue Sharing so more to come.

**Moved by Koppleberger, second by Hubbard to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.**

New/Old Business

Mayor Schafer presented Resolution 2018-11 which keeps the City in compliance with the State of Michigan on the health insurance benefits for the employees.

**Moved by Gray, second by Baublitz to adopt Resolution 2018-11 Compliance with PA152 of 2011 as Amended. The motion carried with the following Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes: (5) Baublitz, Gray, Hubbard, Koppleberger, Schafer**

**Nos: (0) None**

**Absent: (2) Andrew, Gruesbeck**

Mayor Schafer addressed the Zoning Board of Appeals requests. First order is to set the Recording Secretary fee. City Manager Yonker explained that a similar fee was set for the Planning Commission of \$25.00 per meeting.

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to set a Recording Secretary per diem fee of \$25.00 per meeting for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried.**

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Baublitz to approve the 2019 meeting schedule for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion carried.**

City Manager Yonker received interest from Jim Wideman to fill the vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mayor Schafer as for this appointment. Peggy Heffner may be interested in one of the Alternate positions.

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to appoint Jim Wideman to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending June 30, 2021. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer noted the request from the Library Board to purchase an electronic sign at a cost of \$14,000. City Manager Yonker explained it was not in the budget so it requires an amendment to the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget and approval for the purchase. If not approved, they would put in next year's budget but would not be received or installed until late fall and they would like it prior to the Summer Reading program.

**Moved by Baublitz, second by Hubbard to approve the electronic sign in the amount of \$14,000 and to amend the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget for the purchase. Councilperson Gray abstained from the vote due to financial reasons. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer called for action on the AYSO Soccer Lease Agreement renewal. She asked if the screen fenced at the lot line a snow fence? Manager Yonker said that fence was installed back when the land acquisition was done to keep the balls and kids from going into the farm field.

**Moved by Hubbard, second by Gray to approve the Lease Agreement between AYSO and the City of Ithaca. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer thanked Brian Adkins for his patience during this renewal process.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Baublitz, second by Koppleberger to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #45307-45354 and Payroll Checks #15156-15168, DD1281-DD1286, EFT #869-873 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mayor Schafer noted the received correspondence.

- MDEQ Letter on the Asset Management Program and Community Water Supply
- Board minutes: ZBA, Thompson Library Board

City Manager Yonker shared the new procedures and reporting requirements for the City regarding the MDEQ correspondence. Director Studt has filed and was accepted on the first filing. He further updated on the PFAS cleanup as being required by MDEQ and upcoming decisions that will need to be made.

Public Comment

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Lexi Endter addressed an issue she is having with her neighbor's driveway being used as a shooting range. It is about 60 feet from the property line. She has reviewed the Ordinance and her property is in the allowed area, however you cannot be within the safety zone of 100 feet of any building, however the end of the ordinance does not address target shooting. She is moving the barn and horse to the other side of the property, however there are still young children in the safety zone area. Manager Yonker explained that he is unsure if the property owner is aware that this is being done. Lexi shared they are shooting a bow, however there was a person who stopped and used a gun. Manager Yonker said we need to take it under advisement and look at the Ordinance; would like to talk with Lt. McCollum before making any recommendations.

Ms. Endter thanked the City Council for its participation in the Christmas parade and the evening activities.

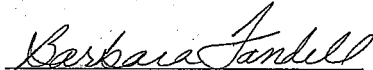
Mayor Schafer reminded the Council of the Strategic Planning Session on January 17, 2019.

Mayor Schafer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Shelly Moffit, Recording Secretary



Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of Ithaca, County of Gratiot, Michigan, held on December 18, 2018.

  
Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer                      Date

Minutes 12-18-18

**From:** Chris Maltby <[chris@terriscycle.com](mailto:chris@terriscycle.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 11, 2018 11:03 AM  
**To:** Chris Yonker <[manager@ithacami.com](mailto:manager@ithacami.com)>  
**Subject:** 5 year plan

Chris,

After reading your recreational plan draft here are my thoughts on a couple points:

Developing winter activities at low cost - coordinate and organize snow shoeing on the Mountain Bike Trail. This grooms the trail for fat biking. You want people who have \$3000 bikes visiting Ithaca - they will gas up, buy lunch, and what not. We have people come from as far as Greenville and Lansing to Alma because we do this here. Hiking and walking is soft conditions in shoes will ruin this, but we have other trails. More consistent snow would increase influx into town, but it is what it is.

Establish funding for infrastructure at McNabb Park. We have local people (customers) in Ithaca who are ready to rebuild bridges, but need materials. Often items like old power poles and other re-cycled city materials can be used to do this. A couple of the bridges need work. Converting the RC track into a pump track would bring people in. I have not found locals who will manicure this. Fund-raising races and events could be staged at The Jailhouse Trail too. I have heard about a disc golf course here. The one they put in at Deerfield Park required removing A LOT of trees. This would be bad for the existing trail. Mosquito will also unbearable there most of the summer. It is no place to be at a walking pace.

What is the place and time of the 18th meeting? And the general format?

Thank you for your time!

Chris Maltby

Terry's Cycle  
989-463-5260  
[www.terriscycle.com](http://www.terriscycle.com)  
[www.facebook.com/terriscycle/](https://www.facebook.com/terriscycle/)

Minutes 12-18-18

To: Ithaca City Council Members

From: Woodland Dog Park – Big Dog Playgroup

Date: December 12, 2018

Re: Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan for 2019 – 2023 recommendations

It is important to recognize that the Dog Park receives use from many individuals that are not residents of the City of Ithaca. The City should be proud of the fact that it is the only dog park in the county.

We started our Sunday afternoon play group several years ago, but it really took off last August. We have had a core group that have attended through rain and snow. We've had up to 12 dogs with an average attendance of 6 dogs.

Owners bring their dogs to the park to exercise and to have an opportunity to socialize with other dogs. For improvements we would like to add agility and exercise equipment such as a tunnel and ramps. There are plans for these that have relatively low materials cost. We could provide volunteer labor or it could even be an Eagle Scout project as were the benches that were installed.

Also, we would appreciate it if the City would put gravel or another hardening material in and around gates. The area gets muddy and slippery from rain and melting snow. As the area is shaded, it is slow to dry out.

Our group is a mixture of City residents as well as those from other areas in the county. It is reflective of the users of the park.

RECEIVED

Respectively submitted,

DEC 14 2018

Tricia Bailey & ProV, Alma

Liz Dudek & Meathead, Owner-Operator Stay Fit, Ithaca

Danette Hubbard & Riley, Alma

Eric Huff & Amanda Huff & Walter, Alma

Mary Humm & Lucy, Ithaca

Daryl & Sandra Koch, Alma

Helen Soderberg & JoJo, Ithaca

Deanna Timmins & Daisy, Alma

CITY OF ITHACA  
ITHACA, MICHIGAN

submitted on behalf of listed individuals,

*Kelen E. Soderberg*  
516 S. Saint Johns St.  
Ithaca, MI 48847  
ph. 875-5093

*Minutes 12-18-18*

To: Ithaca City Council Members

From: Helen E. Soderberg

Date: December 14, 2018

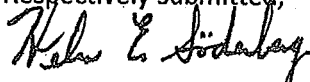
Re: Draft Parks and Recreation Plan, McNabb Park

I strongly advocate preserving the pond located in the middle of the old horsetrack in McNabb Park. It's a unique wetland habitat that does not exist in any of the other city parks. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates that about half of the state's original wetlands have been drained or filled. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality estimates that the rate of wetland loss outpaces efforts to create or restore wetlands. It's ironic to think that this pond would be created only to be destroyed. It provides opportunities for bird watching, including waterfowl -an activity which is promoted in the draft plan -as well viewing a community of wetland plants as they progress through the seasons. It's a refreshing visual change in a homogenous landscape of open lawn and woodlots.

The approximately mile long horsetrack is great for walking and jogging. Fitness stations would enhance use. I note in the plan fitness stations are planned for Atkinson Park, but does not give a reason why that park was selected.

The draft plan does not address the fate of the pond. Question #9 in the survey had two options that proposed getting rid of the pond. The first was to fill the pond to create a large open space. The pond is an open space, it just happens to have water on it. The same option says that filling the pond would create a natural area, which in fact it would be destroying one. Adding that a wildflower prairie would be established seems to sweeten the deal, who doesn't like flowers? However, there exists ample space elsewhere in the park to establish warm season grasses and flowers, as there is also ample space for additional sports fields as proposed in the second option. For example, there is space in and around the horse paddock near the former boarding barn and between the woodlot containing the Jailhouse Trail and Pine River Street.

Respectively submitted,



Helen E. Soderberg, 516 S. Saint Johns St., Ithaca

Ph. 875-5093

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2018

CITY OF ITHACA  
ITHACA, MICHIGAN

Minutes 12-18-18

To: City Council Members

From: Helen E. Soderberg

Date: December 14, 2018

Re: Draft Parks and Recreation Plan, Corrections & Questions

Page 26

The Hardwoods is under new ownership. It's been renamed Pins.

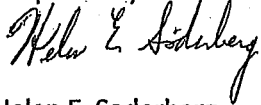
The Curves in Ithaca closed several years ago. The nearest one is in Flint.

Page 28

I'm confused as to the number of survey responses received. This page states that over 200 were received and that 137 were received from City Residents. Were there 63 or so received from other than city residents?

I would like to be able to see the compilation of the results for each survey question.

Respectively submitted,



Helen E. Soderberg

RECEIVED

DEC 14 2018

CITY OF ITHACA  
ITHACA, MICHIGAN

Again, thank you for taking the time to let us know your views. And thank you for all of the efforts you have put forth to help maintain the trails; I sincerely appreciate that!

Chris

For Public Hearing  
Minutes 12-18-18

*Chris A. Yonker*



City Manager

129 W. Emerson St.

Ithaca, MI 48847

Office: 989-875-3200

Email: [manager@ithacami.com](mailto:manager@ithacami.com)

Web: [www.ithacami.com](http://www.ithacami.com)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CityofIthacaMI>

*Please think of the environment before printing this email!*

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**From:** James <[jvhjr68@gmail.com](mailto:jvhjr68@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, December 17, 2018 11:13 AM

**To:** Chris Yonker <[manager@ithacami.com](mailto:manager@ithacami.com)>

**Subject:** Ithaca city parks

Hello Chris

I see that Ithaca is looking for input on improvements on city parks.

My main concern and the part I use the most is the Jail House Trail in McNabb Park. I use the mountain bike trail there all year long. We snowshoe it in the winter so we can ride fat bikes on it. I hope whatever you decide that if anything to improve the trail a little as in things like new bridges. I know there has been talk of disc golf course somewhere but I hope you keep it clear of the trail if one is put in. The mosquitoes in spring and summer would drive most people away that would try to use it if put too close to woods anyways. I know that Reeds park by North Star has one and not for sure how much it gets used.

I am good friends with Chris from Terry's Cycle in Alma and went to school here in Ithaca with Jeff Glynn that works for the City of Ithaca and is also President of the Jail House Trail group. I help Jeff keep the trail clear by moving branches and small trees off from trail to keep it open; also help him blow leaves off trail when possible. I do not have a big leaf blower of my own so I can only help him when he is out there working on it.

I am looking at marking the trail better for bike riding and riding at night and I am spending my own money to get the things I need to do this, which is reflective tape and plastic sign material. I make vinyl signs so I can make a lot of the signs myself. I have been talking to Jeff about working and repairing some of the bridges but we need supplies to do this as in treated wood so it don't rot. I have been and am willing to put my own time into fixing up the trail because I use it often and it is a very nice trail to have around here.

There are a lot of older people that use the trail to walk, which is great but this year we have had a lot more people walking on the bike trail instead of the two-track and we come rolling up on them fast going thru with bikes and have to let them know we are coming thru. I play music with a speaker on my bike anymore so people can hear me. There is plenty of room out there that more of a walk trail could be put in separate from the bike trail if the city or city-run group



was willing to. The biggest problem is when we groom the trail with snowshoes for the fat bikes and then people walk on it with shoes and break it all up.

We also had a problem with dog walkers out there this year because of a person I know has been telling all of his dog walking friends about this area. There is the dog park at Woodland Park but everyone is using the mountain bike trail now for dogs. I know you cannot stop it but people let their dogs run off from their leash and has caused some problems when a dog comes running up to you when you are flying thru the trail on a bike. Someone or a dog will get hurt at some point.

So at this point these are some areas that could be improved because of the older people that use the trail often:

- signs to show dedicated mountain bike trail and be aware of fast moving bikes
- possible way to groom it in winter for fat bikes and walkers on two-track
- improvements on bridges
- possible add on for walking trails and maybe a little more lighting
- signs on trail for marking trail better and possible rules to follow for dog walkers
- possible parking lot layout for Jailhouse trail and sign added to show where trail is
- possibility for cross country skiing in winter, but people walk on trail that is put in for skis and ruin it so that would be a hard one to keep nice.

The Jail House Trail is a known mountain bike trail from all around and if done right the city can use this as a draw to bring new people into the city to use it. There are people like me that spend quite a bit of money to have very nice bikes and we are always looking for new and cool places to ride.

I live and work in Ithaca and bought my house from my Aunt and Grandma that have lived in Ithaca since the mid 40's. I am willing to put my own time in like I have been doing to keep the trail up and clear. I used my own push mower and push mowed the whole trail several times to keep the weeds pushed back and make the trail flow very nice.

Thanks for your time to read all of this.

James VanHorn  
cell 989-285-7037

**CITY OF ITHACA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
January 8, 2019  
7:00 PM**

The regular meeting of the City of Ithaca City Council, held at 129 W. Emerson Street, Ithaca, Michigan, was called to order by Mayor Schafer at 7:00 p.m. and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Councilperson Koppleberger gave the invocation.

Present were Mayor Alice Schafer and Councilpersons James Andrew, Brett Baublitz, Clark Hubbard, Scott Gray, James Gruesbeck and Rick Koppleberger. Officers and staff present were Attorney Jefferson Arnold, City Manager Chris A. Yonker, DPW Director Bob Studt and Clerk-Treasurer Barbara Fandell.

Absent was Student Representative Dallas Conn.

Audience in attendance was Rob & Lexi Endter, Steve Clark, Joel and Tessa Zuker.

**Moved by Baublitz, second by Andrew to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 18, 2018. Motion carried.**

**Public Comment**

Mayor Schafer asked for public comments. None were offered.

**Committee Reports**

Mayor Schafer stated that there were no Committee meetings to report on.

**Department Reports**

City Manager Yonker presented the Building Permit report noting that he is following up an issue with the county on not providing copies of all of the permits for our assessing department or Equalization. A better system needs to be worked out. The city will be forwarding copies of Zoning applications to the County building inspector so he is aware that a building permit is required. Currently, the applicant is responsible for taking the copy to the county and pull the permit.

**Moved by Koppleberger, second by Gray to receive the Building Permit report. Motion carried.**

**City Manager's Report**

City Manager Yonker provided a written report which updated Council on the new Recreational Marihuana ordinance, west city landfill cleanup, SAW grant, Recycle Coach app, Planning Commission, Assessor's contract, Zoning Board of Appeals, MME ethics investigation, IPC meeting, Lame-Duck Legislative session, MPPS survey, GGDI annual report, recruitment for DPW worker, Park & Recreation Plan Update and community events.

City Manager Yonker reminded Council of the upcoming "Charleston Nine" fire training. The training is free and there are still spots available. It is January 26, 2019 from 9-4:00pm at Masonic Pathways. He reported the recycle coach app is going on the website. Residents can set up reminders through the app as well as obtain information on where they can go to recycle items that we do not take. He reported that interest was received for one the ZBA alternate positions but another is still needed. City Manager Yonker further reported on the Lame Duck session. Nearly 400 bills were presented and the Governor vetoed 56 of them. He will bring a couple of them to the strategic planning meeting for discussion. He further updated the Council on the MDEQ response letter to the PFAS clean up and due care provisions. Contact with Emily Peabody verifies the recommendation to work with an environmental consultant on the clean up process. The MDEQ will provide some assistance. Mayor Schafer stressed that the MDEQ services be utilized first and as much as possible through the process, to help save on cost. Manager Yonker stated he would be filing the financial evaluation the next day to see if the city qualifies for financial assistance. The deadline for filing is 45 days from December 12<sup>th</sup> (1/26/19). He shared that assistance will be needed with the historic information.

**Moved by Baublitz, second by Gray to receive the City Manager's report. Motion carried.**

Mayor Schafer inquired about the letter from resident Tim Palmer regarding the vacating of the alley behind his home. She asked Attorney Arnold to speak to the issue as staff requested him to review it.

Attorney Arnold stated the alley had originally been vacated by the City Council in 1996; however, the former Clerk and staff at that time did not follow through with processing the vacation through the Attorney General and Register of Deeds. Therefore, it was never processed officially or legally and now too much time has elapsed so the process would need to be completely redone. Vacating would split the land among all of the owners with 50% of the alley going to each side's property owner. City Manager Yonker asked if the entire alley could be given to the residential side property owners since the south side owner is industrial. Attorney Arnold advised against it as the statute does not direct it that way, but he would verify for accuracy. Clerk Fandell asked if a new petition would be required and if the old resolution would need to be rescinded. Attorney Arnold confirmed and said it would be treated as a new request and the resolution should be rescinded.

Moved by Baublitz, second by Hubbard to rescinding Resolution 1996-13 due to it not being processed legally and timely and to reinstate the vacating of the alley if petitioned by the new property owners. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (7) Baublitz, Gray, Gruesbeck, Hubbard, Koppleberger, Andrew, Schafer  
Nays: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None  
Abstain: (0) None

New/Old Business

Mayor Schafer presented the Resolution to adopt the Five-Year Park and Recreation Plan. Clerk-Treasurer Fandell commented that the document would have the minutes of this meeting and the last with the public hearing included as well as the resolution added to it before filing. Steve Clark, Rowe Professional Services, added that some updates were made to include the feedback from the residents and there would also be four other forms to add which include completion certificates from past MDNR grants and the final Checklist that is required. Mr. Clark stated, pending receiving the documents from the City, the plan will be filed on schedule. He thanked the staff and Council for their due diligence in this project. Mayor Schafer agreed and asked for action.

Moved by Andrew, second by Hubbard to adopt Resolution 2019-01 Park and Recreation Master Plan. Motion carried by Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: (7) Gray, Gruesbeck, Hubbard, Koppleberger, Andrew, Baublitz, Schafer  
Nays: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None  
Abstain: (0) None

Councilperson Hubbard shared that he attended the new Governor's inauguration and also a luncheon in which she and the new Secretary of State were in attendance. It was a special pleasure to be invited and attend.

City Manager Yonker informed the City Council that two members of the DPW union approached him regarding the replacement of Rick Wymmer and increasing the additional pay to employees who obtain the water and sewer licenses from \$0.25 per hour per license to \$1.00 per hour per license. He had Director Studt talk with the current crew to see if anyone wanted to step up and obtain the licensing, which one did, so the position listed to hire is for a general laborer. As for the wage increase, past contracts paid \$0.15/hour/license and increased to \$0.25 in the contract prior to the most recent one. He stated this request is a negotiable item and was not included in the negotiations of the current contract. There has been nothing in received in writing from the Union steward to request opening the contract, so he was making Council aware that one may be forthcoming, but there is no action to be taken at this time, nor can there be as it has to be a written mutual agreement to open the contract. The decision Council would need to consider is if it were reopened, then would it be a portion or the entire contract or not to open at all. City Manager Yonker stated that at this point, he needed to speak with the City's labor attorney first. If filed, and Mr. Zuker and Mr. Waldron choose to not continue with the licensed position, it could change the position that is currently posted.

Councilperson Baublitz asked how many were dedicated to water and or sewer. Director Studt stated two were and he also carries the licenses. Councilperson Hubbard said it may be worth considering and Councilperson Baublitz add that a Letter of Understanding may be an option as well. City Manager Yonker reminded that the request has been taken out of context of the total negotiation so a Letter of Understanding would not address the other negotiated items, but only add to the contract.

Direction to the City Manager to look into the options if the union submits a written request.

Claims, Accounts and Payroll

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to approve the claims submitted to the Ways and Means Committee by City Clerk-Treasurer Fandell and recommended to Committee for payment: Accounts Payable Checks #45355-45390 and Payroll Checks #15169-15208, DD1287-DD1301, EFT #874-884 as listed in the Check Register Book. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mayor Schafer asked to receive any questions or comments regarding the correspondence included in the packet at listed.

- Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting Invitation
- Meeting minutes: DDA, Ithaca Promotional Comm, Gratiot Area Chamber and Planning Commission
- Greater Gratiot Development Inc. 2018 Annual Report

Mayor Schafer shared the IPC is in need of volunteers and help with events. The Person of the Year has been selected and Terry Hessbrook has informed Marci Browne of the recipient. Councilperson Baublitz suggested that the churches be contacted to help with the Easter Egg Hunt. Lexi Endter shared that the IPC is currently working with them and other organizations for help with stuffing eggs and running the hunt.

Public Comment

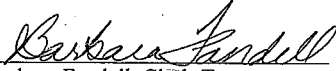
Mayor Schafer asked for public comments.

Steve Clark informed Council that the new GIS system from the SAW grant was installed on the City's server and the training has been completed. Rowe will now move forward with digesting the data and creating the asset management plan which is slated to be completed in September. Rowe will be meeting with the city staff over the next several months to discuss revenue streams for the projects in the plan. Since there is not a separate fund, it will fall within the street funds. Rowe intends to present some ideas for funding. This work is all part of the grant. Currently there is no additional grant funding for the projects within the plan, and the City did not qualify for grant funding prior due to its funding status. The MDEQ uses different criteria to qualify recipients than the MEDC.

Mayor Schafer asked for additional business to come before the City Council. None was offered.

Moved by Gray, second by Hubbard to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

  
Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of Ithaca, County of Gratiot, Michigan, held on January 8, 2019.

 1-16-19  
Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer Date

**RESOLUTION 2019-01  
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

The following was moved by Councilperson Andrew, second by Councilperson Hubbard to adopt:

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ithaca has undertaken a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which provides a description of the physical features, existing recreation facilities, community relationships and the desired action plan to be taken during the period of 2019 through 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ithaca provided opportunities for public input through a city-wide survey which was offered to all ages through direct mailing, electronic survey through the City's website and Social Media, and available at the Thompson Home Public Library and the Ithaca City Hall; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ithaca further provided opportunities for public input at its regular meetings of the City Council held on November 6, 2018, November 20, 2018, December 4, 2018, at a public hearing held on December 18, 2018, January 8, 2019 and the document was made available for review and comment at the Ithaca City Hall, Thompson Home Public Library and online through the City of Ithaca website and Social Media from November 16, 2018 through December 16, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Ithaca has undertaken the plan for the benefit of the entire area and will adopt the master plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreational needs of the City of Ithaca and surrounding communities; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Ithaca City Council hereby adopts said Parks and Recreation Master Plan for 2019 through 2023.

Ayes: (7) Gray, Gruesbeck, Hubbard, Kopplesberger, Andrew, Baublitz, Schafer  
Nays: (0) None  
Absent: (0) None  
Abstain: (0) None

Resolution declared adopted this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2019.

  
Barbara Fandell  
Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer



I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council of Ithaca, County of Gratiot, Michigan, held on January 8, 2019.

Barbara Fandell 1-16-19  
Barbara Fandell, Clerk-Treasurer                      Date

**Grant Post-Completion Forms and Photographs**



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

GRANTEE: City of Ithaca

PROJECT NUMBER: BF92-044

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Woodland Park Renewal Program

PROJECT SCOPE: Stage/drainage, trail, totlot, road, fence, shelters/tables, landscap

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: City of Ithaca, Chris A. Yonker, City Manager, 129 W. Emerson St., 989-875-3200, Ithaca, MI 48847, manager@ithacami.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

Added dog park, sand volleyball courts, 2 picnic shelters, GaGa Ball pit, & signage.

City will be removing abandoned water wellhouse building in spring 2019.

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. [X]Yes [ ]No

Existing restrooms need to be upgraded/replaced. Internal roads, parking & trail are beyond their useful lives & need resurfacing. Former skating warming house not used.

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

Regularly scheduled maintenance and "as-needed" maintenance by City Public Works staff. Semi-annual safety inspections of all play equipment & playscape structure.

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

Restrooms have been vandalized & are being locked when park is not open (dusk to dawn.) Some graffiti on playscape, but is removed as soon as possible. New 360 security camera.

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

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No  
Regularly scheduled maintenance and "as-needed" maintenance by City Public Works staff.  
Period dead tree/limb removal by City and/or private parties.

**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  
Large Pavilion: \$30 (NR-\$40) (4-hr. max. timeframe from 9AM to dusk)  
Small Pavilion: \$15 (NR-\$20) (NR= Non-Resident)  
Stage Area: \$30 (NR-\$40)

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
Open dawn to dusk year round.

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

Ithaca Rotary Club planted 60+ pine seedlings as service project in 2018.

Local church congregation has held annual park maintenance days and last summer painted all metal play equipment & have stained & sealed wooden portions of playscape structure every other year.

City removed older concrete slab that was previously used for an ice rink. It was unlevel and no longer usable.

Arranged for the installation of free public Wi-Fi access throughout park 3 years ago. Also installed 360-degree security camera at playscape (lower level of park.)



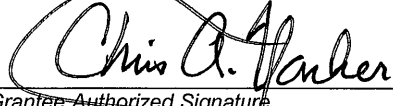
POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

**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.*

Chris A. Yonker

Please print



Grantee Authorized Signature

January 24, 2019

Date

Barbara Fandell

Please print



Witness Signature

January 24, 2019

Date

Send completed report to:

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



Woodland

City Park

Entrance



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: City of Ithaca, MI

PROJECT NUMBER: TF06-061

PROJECT TYPE: Land Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: McNabb Park Land Acquisition

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquire ten (10) acres for development of new soccer fields

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: City of Ithaca, Chris A. Yonker, City Manager, 129 W. Emerson Street, 989-875-3200, Ithaca, MI 48847, manager@ithacami.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

City has added swingsets, playground equipment and two new picnic shelters to the site.

These improvements were funded with local grants and the City's General Fund.

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. Yes No  
Regularly scheduled maintenance and "as-needed" maintenance by City Public Works staff.  
Tenant organization helps maintain nets, concession & storage buildings.

### 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  
While the AYSO group has a lease for use of the soccer fields, others are permitted to use them when available and when games are not scheduled.

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No  
AYSO pays a flat \$1,000/year rental for the use of the soccer fields.  
Field rental others: \$20 (\$30 NR) (4-hr. max. timeframe from 9AM to dusk;NR=Non-resident)

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?  
Fields available on a seasonal basis. Parks are down to dusk operations.

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

New more comprehensive 5-year lease with AYSO signed in late 2018.

In the last couple of years, the City has added improvements to the site through local grants & the City's general fund. Those investments include new swingsets, playground equipment and two picnic shelters near the new soccer fields. The DPW installed a perimeter drainage system around one of the new fields.

AYSO has invested in new nets & net stands, as well as team benches.

City has disced and replanted additional practice/game field to north of these grant-funded soccer fields. AYSO is also helping with the cost of renovating the field.

City has improved concession stand with new steel roof in last two years.

Arranged for the installation of free public Wi-Fi access throughout park 3 years ago.

City will take over field maintenance in the coming season as part of new lease with AYSO. This will include mowing, fertilizing & weed management. City was already providing refuse services and parking lot & access road grading.

The soccer complex was host to a large AYSO regional tournament two years ago, with several hundred participants. Plans are being made to again host the regional event in coming years.

AYSO lease payment & rent of fields by other groups help cover some of the City's maintenance costs & pays for water/electric usage @ concession stand. Others may use the fields at no charge on a non-reservation basis, so long as they are not used for organized games or tournaments and they yield when a lessee/renter desires to use the fields.

**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.*

Chris A. Yonker

Please print

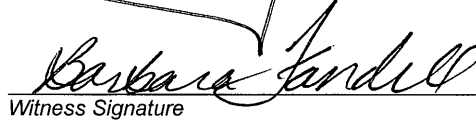
  
Grantee Authorized Signature

January 24, 2019

Date

Barbara Fandell

Please print

  
Witness Signature

January 24, 2019

Date

Send completed report to:

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MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



**Revenue derived from oil, gas and mineral production from state-owned lands provides funding for this public recreation site.**

**Funding is made possible through a grant provided to the citizens of the State of Michigan by the:**

**Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
and Environment**





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: City of Ithaca, MI

PROJECT NUMBER: TF10-028

PROJECT TYPE: Site Development

PROJECT TITLE: McNabb Park Site Development

PROJECT SCOPE: Soccer Field Grading/Restoration, Parking Lot Barrier-Free Viewing Area

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: City of Ithaca, Chris A. Yonker, City Manager, 129 W. Emerson Street, 989-875-3200, Ithaca, MI 48847, manager@ithacami.com

SITE DEVELOPMENT

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

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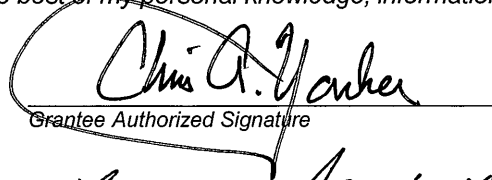
**POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D**

**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.*

Chris A. Yonker

Please print

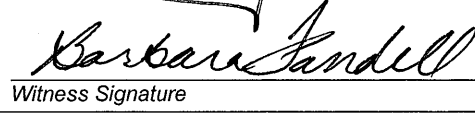
  
Grantee Authorized Signature

January 24, 2019

Date

Barbara Fandell

Please print

  
Witness Signature

January 24, 2019

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PO BOX 30425  
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



**Parks and Recreation Plan Certification Checklist**



# COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

## CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

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

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

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

### PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:  
**City of Ithaca 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan: 2019-2023**

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
City of Ithaca, MI	Gratiot	January 2019

### PLAN CONTENT

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

**1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

- Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
- Current Funding Sources
- Role of Volunteers
- Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

**Recreation Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:**

- Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- Articles of Incorporation

**3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

- Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- Accessibility Assessment
- Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

**4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**

**5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

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

Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice November 15, 2018

Type of Notice Gratiot Co. Herald, Web, Facebook

Plan Location City Hall, Library, Website

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) Nov. 16 - Dec. 16, 2018

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

Date of Notice December 16, 2018

Name of Newspaper Gratiot Co. Herald

Date of Meeting December 18, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

**7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**8. ACTION PROGRAM**

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

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

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

1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 8, 2019

2. Official resolution of the \_\_\_\_\_ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 9, 2019

4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 9, 2019

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

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

*I hereby certify that the recreation plan for*

The City of Ithaca, Michigan \_\_\_\_\_ *includes the required content, as indicated*

(Local Unit of Government)

*above and as set forth by the DNR.*



, City Manager Jan. 24, 2019

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

**This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.**