

**2025
2029**

Parks and Recreation Plan

CITY OF GRANDVILLE, MI

Approved: January 27, 2025



Acknowledgments

CITY COUNCIL

Steve Maas – Mayor
Randy Gelderloos
Joshua Meringa
Justin Noordhoek
Tim Steenstra
Paul Troost
J.R. VanderWall

PLANNING COMMISSION

Ray Cheydleur
Jason Flanigan
Karilyn Frederick
JeNN Hammond
Matt Larsen
Chris Sholl
J.R. Vanderwall

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Kate Batchelder – Treasurer
Tim Buck – City
Kim Chrisman – School, Vice Chairman
Amy Gardine – School Board Liaison
Anthony Iracki – City
Tim Mannard – Board
Josh Meringa – City Council Representative
Tim Nolan – Board
Charlie Sundblad – DPW Representative, City Ex-Officio
Sara Szyniszewski – School
Brent Tallon – School, Chairperson
Lisa VanderLaan – School, Ex-Officio
Ben Weykamp – City

CITY STAFF

Griffin Graham – City Manager
Matt Butts – Assistant City Manager

Prepared by:



MCKENNA

235 E. Main Street, Suite 105
Northville, MI 48167
T: 248.596.0920
F: 248.596.0930
mcka.com

Contents

1. Introduction.....	1
Welcome.....	2
Community Description	3
Completed and Current Projects.....	8
2. Parks Service Analysis	11
Parks Inventory	12
MDNR Parks Classification.....	14
Overall Citywide Parks Service Analysis.....	18
3. Goals and Objectives	25
4. Buck Creek Greenway Vision.....	29
Buck Creek Greenway Plan	30
5. Non-Motorized Trails	33
Pedestrian Safety.....	34
Bike Trails Connectivity	36
6. 10-Year Citywide Action Plan	39
Wedgwood Park.....	42
Heritage Park	43
Calvin Crest Park	44
Lee Street Park.....	45
Mill Race Park	46
Peck Street Park.....	48
Little League Baseball Complex.....	49
Buck Creek Trail	50
Grand River Waterfront	51
Grand River Pathway	53
7. Public Input.....	55
Public Engagement.....	56
Action Items.....	60
8. Background Information.....	63
Description of the Planning Process	64
Administrative Structure and Funding.....	65
9. Appendix	69

List of Tables

Table 1: Population Comparison.....	4
Table 2: Household Comparison	5
Table 3: Median Age Comparison.....	5
Table 4: Age Structure Comparison.....	6
Table 5: Median Household Income Comparison	6
Table 6: Race.....	7
Table 8: Grandville Park Land Acreage Analysis.....	18
Table 9: Public Owned and/or Operated Recreation Facilities	20
Table 10: Inventory of Amenities Per Park	21
Table 11: Private Recreational Facilities Near Grandville	22
Table 12: 10-Year Citywide Action Plan	40
Table 13: Parks and Recreation Budget and Expenditures, 2014-2020.....	66
Table 14: MDNR Grant History	67

List of Maps

Map 1: City Parks	13
Map 2: Parks Service Radii	19
Map 3: Non-Motorized Transportation	35
Map 4: Non-Motorized Transportation System	37

List of Figures

Figure 1: Population Percentage Change	4
Figure 2: Buck Creek Greenway Plan.....	31
Figure 3: Grandville Administrative Structure for Parks and Recreation	65



1

Introduction



Welcome

In September 2024, the City of Grandville initiated the development of a 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan to create a vision for the future and guide decision-making for parks and recreation facilities. This plan is the result of the efforts of community leaders, staff, and residents over the past several months. This document's primary objective is to set forth the goals that are conceived by the community for recreation in the City, satisfying the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requirements for a Parks and Recreation Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a road map for parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made in the next five years, as well as projected future needs. The Plan includes all of the required elements of a Parks and Recreation Plan and therefore qualifies Grandville for funding through the MDNR. The process taken to prepare the Plan gives the City a better understanding of the needs and wants for parks, recreation, cultural facilities, and programming going forward.



Community Description

This Parks and Recreation Plan encompasses the City of Grandville. The City is located south west of the City of Grand Rapids, along Interstate 196, in western Kent County. The City is approximately 7.27 square miles in area. In order to determine its Parks and Recreation needs, the City considered how many people will use recreation amenities, what program they will participate in, and what types of facilities they will need. We must understand these existing demographic conditions and past trends in order to appropriately anticipate and plan for the future needs of the community.

The following sections correspond to the demographic data gathered from the U.S. Census. The most recent data comes from the 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. The ACS is conducted every year and samples a percentage of the community on topics such as population, economics, housing, etc. The 5-years estimates for a given population are considered a reliable source as they represent 60 months of collected data for all geographic areas. However, in some specific cases, the data may contain inaccuracies due to sampling.

POPULATION

Changes in the number of people residing in a community are an important indicator for community planning. Growing communities have different needs than do communities with stable or declining populations. The table below shows the relative populations of the City of Grandville and comparison communities, while the chart on the following page compares the population trends.

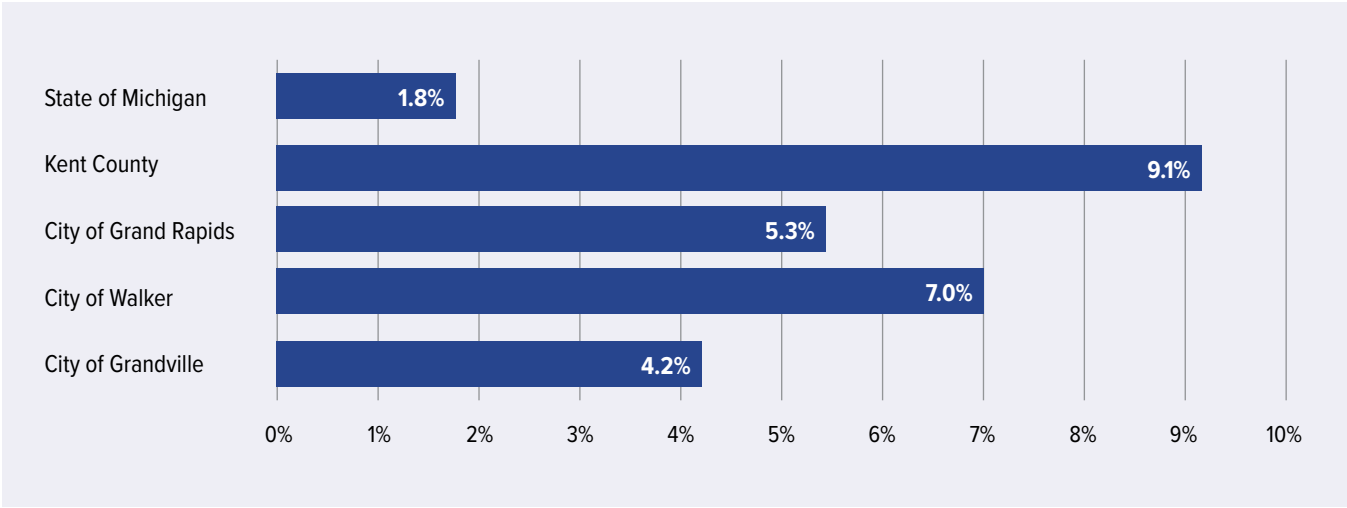
The population of the City and the surrounding communities all saw a population increase between the sample years. This mimics the State of Michigan’s trend of slow population growth.

Table 1: Population Comparison, 2010, 2017, 2020, and 2022

POPULATION	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	CITY OF WALKER	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
2010	15,378	23,537	188,040	602,622	9,883,640
2017	15,902	24,618	195,355	636,376	9,925,568
2020	15,906	24,930	198,096	652,617	9,973,907
2022	16,017	25,175	198,096	657,321	10,057,921

The City of Walker experienced the largest population percentage change during the sample years with 9.1%. The City of Grandville saw the lowest percentage change with 1.8%. This is significantly lower than the State’s percentage of 4.2%

Figure 1: Population Percentage Change, 2010-2022



HOUSEHOLDS

This section analyzes the number of households in the City of Grandville and surrounding comparison communities. Changes in the number of households in a community are an indication of additional demand for recreational activities.

Similar to population, the number of households in each of the communities experienced an increase during the sample years. Kent County saw the largest percentage increase with 11.2%, but the City of Grand Rapids and the City of Walker were close behind at 9.5% and 8.0%, respectively. The City of Grandville and the State of Michigan experienced a bit of a slower increase with 6.9% and 3.5%, respectively.

Table 2: Household Comparison, 2010, 2017, 2020, and 2022

HOUSEHOLDS	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	CITY OF WALKER	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
2010	5,982	9,684	72,126	227,239	3,872,508
2017	6,248	10,078	73,434	236,929	3,888,646
2020	6,412	10,169	76,360	244,795	3,980,408
2022	6,392	10,455	79,009	252,694	4,009,253

AGE

The age of a community's population has very real implications for recreation planning, whether it is an increased or decreased need for children's recreation to serve the population under 18, or a need for amenities more attractive to retirees. To determine the overall age of a community both the median age of the population as well as the population by age group are provided.

The table below compares the median ages (the mid-point where half the population is younger and half is older) of the City of Grandville and the comparison communities. Residents of the City are noticeably younger than some in the surrounding communities. A younger population likely means more children and a growing population going forward.

The City of Grandville was the only community of those selected to experience a decrease in median population age. However, the 2022 median age is right in line with the nearby City of Walker and Kent County overall. The City of Grand Rapids maintains a younger median age, while the State of Michigan has an older population.

Table 3: Median Age Comparison, 2010, 2017, 2020, and 2022

MEDIAN AGE	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	CITY OF WALKER	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
2010	36.3	34.6	30.8	34.4	38.9
2017	35.30	35.10	31.10	35.00	39.60
2020	35.7	37.2	31.2	35.4	39.8
2022	35.0	38.0	31.8	35.6	39.9

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP

Age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality's population are in which stages of life) gives an insight into the age makeup of a community. To compare age structure, the population is divided into the following groupings:

- » Under 5 (Pre School)
- » 5 to 19 (School Aged)
- » 20 to 44 (Family-Forming)
- » 45 to 64 (Mature Families)
- » Over 65 (Retirement)

The table below compares the age structure of the City of Grandville with that of Kent County. Persons in the Family-Forming age group are the most numerous in both the city and the county. Similar to age, this age group is more likely to mean more children and a growing population.

Table 4: Age Structure Comparison, 2022

AGE	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
Under 5	968	41,679	552,803
5 to 19	2,825	131,850	1,869,038
20 to 44	6,046	234,897	3,201,407
45 to 64	3,490	155,682	2,647,848
Over 65	2,688	93,213	1,786,825

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Median income is the amount that divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount.

Each of the selected areas experienced an increase in median household income between 2010 and 2022. The City of Grand Rapids experienced the largest increase (60.7%) but remains below the comparison communities. The City of Grandville has the highest median income of the selected communities at \$76,344.00, closely followed by Kent County at \$76,247.00.

Table 5: Median Household Income Comparison, 2010, 2017, 2020, and 2022

YEAR	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	CITY OF WALKER	CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
2010	\$50,984	\$49,189	\$38,344	\$49,532	\$48,432
2017	\$56,765	\$55,781	\$44,369	\$57,302	\$52,668
2020	\$65,656	\$63,878	\$51,333	\$65,722	\$59,234
2022	\$76,344	\$72,020	\$61,634	\$76,247	\$68,505

RACE

This section analyzes the composition of races in the City of Grandville and surrounding comparison communities. Changes in the cultural makeup in a community can influence the types of recreational activities, programs, and amenities that are most relevant and inclusive. For example, different cultural backgrounds may bring new interests, such as demand for multi-purpose spaces, multicultural festivals, or specific sports and leisure activities. The Hispanic population in Grandville has decreased from 815 people, 5.1%, in 2022 to 1,246 people, 7.8%, in 2020. By considering these shifts, parks and recreation departments can foster inclusivity, enhance community engagement, and create environments that reflect and celebrate the rich diversity of the population.

The chart below summarizes the major racial groups compared to those in Kent County. Whites make up the majority of the population in the City and the county. However, the racial makeup of the county is more diverse than the City with African Americans making up 9.7% of the population and Asian persons 3.1% as compared to the City's 4.3% and 1.1%, respectively.

Table 6: Race, 2022

	CITY OF GRANDVILLE	KENT COUNTY	STATE OF MICHIGAN
White	87.7%	75.5%	75.7%
Black or African American	4.3%	9.7%	13.6%
American Indian and Alaskan Native	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%
Asian	1.1%	3.1%	3.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%
Hispanic or Latino Origin (of any race)	5.1%	11.1%	5.5%
White Alone, not Hispanic or Latino	85.5%	71.9%	73.5%
One Race	94.4%	92%	94.6%
Two or More Races	5.6%	8.0%	5.4%
Some Other Race	1.2%	3.3%	1.6%



Completed and Current Projects

PROJECT	COST	YEAR
WEDGWOOD PARK		
New Park Equipment (Replace Woodchips with Rubber Flooring, Relocate and Add Swings)	\$327,630	2023
Additional Pickleball Court, Repurpose or Rehab Horseshoe Pits	\$363,380	2023-24
HERITAGE PARK		
Safety Improvements to Dock	\$549,560	2023-24
Basketball Courts Resurfaced	\$25,500	2023-24
Expand the Parking Lot	\$42,950	2024
Redo the Trail	\$23,500	2024
CALVIN CREST PARK		
Update Basketball Courts	\$25,500	2023
Playground Improvements and Rubber Flooring	\$303,590	2023
MILL RACE PARK		
Nature Play Space	\$170,500	2025
Replace the Barn with a Small Pavilion, with Warming Shelter or Fire Pit	\$115,500	2025
Removal of Barn	\$14,000	2023
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL COMPLEX		
Building Renovation - Concessions and Restrooms (handicap accessible!)	\$99,600	2023
BUCK CREEK TRAIL		
Update Pedestrian Bridge South of Grandville Cemetery	\$121,000	2025
GRAND RIVER WATERFRONT		
Removal of the Old Dock and Kayak Launch.	\$25,000	Spring 2025





2

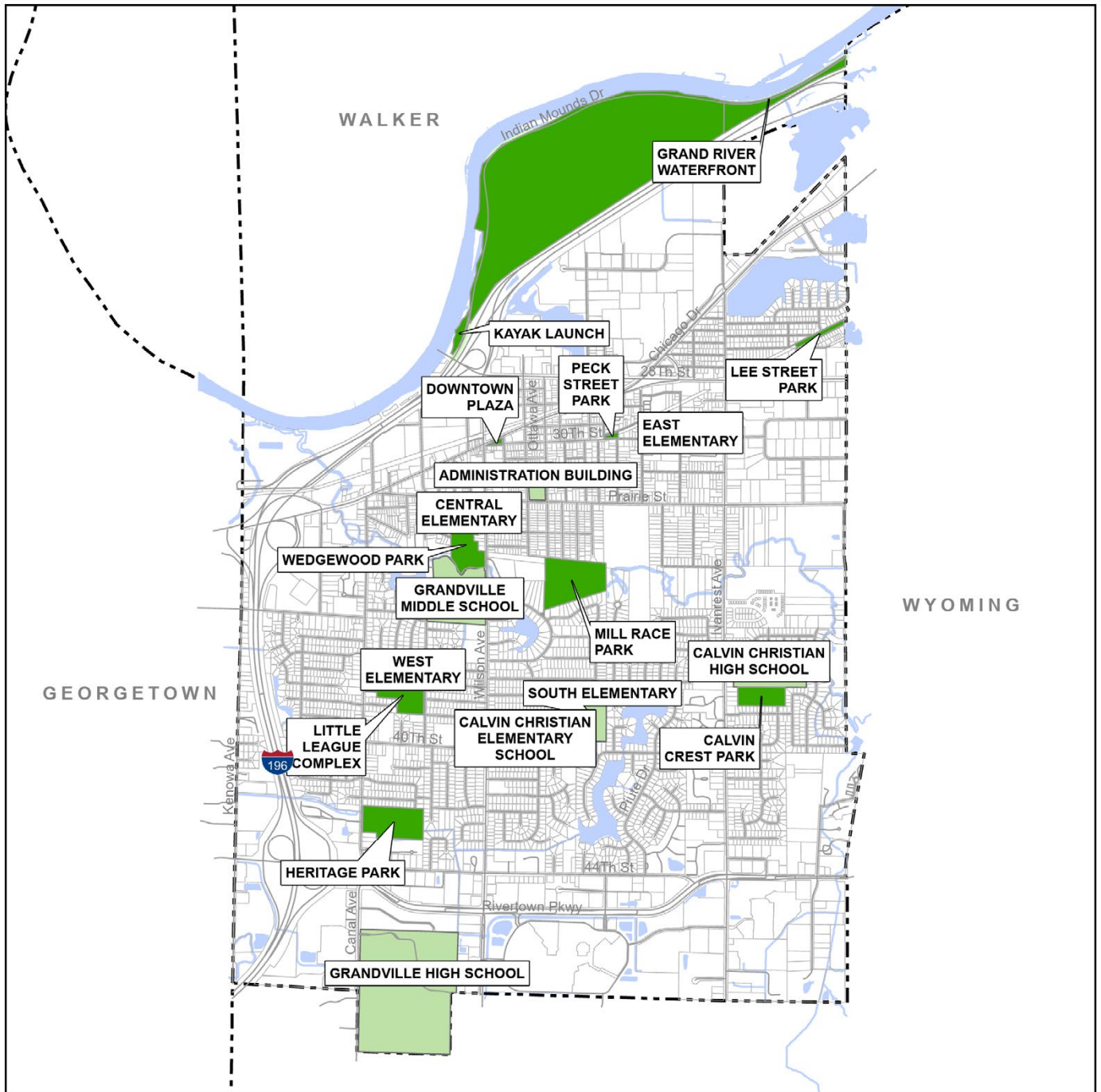
Parks Service Analysis



Parks Inventory

This plan focuses on the ten City-owned and operated parks and recreation facilities, covering 101.1 acres, or 0.16 square miles. This makes up 2% of the land area in the City. The ten parks included in this calculation are:

1. Wedgwood Park
2. Heritage Park
3. Calvin Crest Park
4. Lee Street Park
5. Mill Race Park
6. Peck Street Park
7. Little League Baseball Complex
8. Buck Creek Trail
9. Grand River Waterfront
10. Grand River Pathway



MAP 1 City Parks

City of Grandville, Kent County, MI

December 4, 2024

LEGEND

- City Parks
- School Facilities
- Municipal Boundaries
- Grandville Parcels
- Roads
- Rivers
- Water Bodies



Basemap Source: City of Grandville 2024, Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.





MDNR Parks Classification

In addition to an individual evaluation of each park, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources classification system is used to classify parks and recreation facilities based on the type of facility and expected usage. The MDNR acreage recommendations for the various classifications based on population size is discussed in a later section. The City-owned parks are classified into the following groups:

MINI-PARKS

Mini-parks are small, specialized parks, usually less than an acre in size, that serve the needs of residents in the surrounding neighborhood. A mini-park may serve a limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. Mini-parks usually serves people within a radius of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

Two of the ten City parks included in this plan are classified as mini parks. Lee Street Park and Peck Street Park are parks with limited amenities, mainly consisting of paved pathways, but serve as a shared recreation space for the surrounding neighborhoods.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks are typically multi-purpose facilities that provide land for intensive recreation activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playgrounds, skating, picnicking, etc. Neighborhood parks serve a population up to 5,000 residents located within a one half- to one-mile radius.

The City hosts three neighborhood parks: Wedgwood Park, Heritage Park, and Calvin Crest Park. The majority of the City's active recreation facilities such as ball fields are located in these three parks. Each park is also located within a broader residential neighborhood and is accessible to the nearby residents.



COMMUNITY PARK

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

The City includes one Community Park—Mill Race Park—featuring natural and wooded areas, picnic areas, biking and hiking trails, and other passive uses.





Regional Park (Millenium Park - Walker, MI)

REGIONAL PARK

A regional park is a large, publicly-owned outdoor area that serves multiple communities within a specific region. Typically spanning 500 acres or more, regional parks are located within a convenient driving distance of the communities they support. They are often managed by county, state, or regional park districts.

These parks are designed to provide a wide range of facilities for both active and passive recreation, including: sports fields, hiking, biking, and skating trails, aquatic facilities, formal gardens, water features, and camping areas.

Regional parks are frequently preserved for their natural beauty, historical significance, or recreational value. Additionally, they may host annual events such as concerts, fishing tournaments, water sports, and cultural festivals.



Natural Resource Area (Grand River Waterfront)

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Natural Resource Areas serve as preservation areas for significant natural resources, landscapes, open spaces, and buffering areas. Areas may vary in size depending on the availability of the resource.

The City of Grandville hosts two Natural Resource Areas: Grand River Waterfront, and the Grand River Pathway. These parks are given this classification due to the natural state of each park and the limited amenities available. While Natural Resource Areas are generally larger, these parks vary in size from two acres to 23 acres.



Linear Park (Buck Creek Trail)

LINEAR PARKS

Linear Parks are developed for one or more modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and/or pleasure driving. Some linear parks include active play areas. Linear parks often link other parks or components of the recreation system, community facilities, commercial areas, and other focal points.

Buck Creek Trail is considered a Linear Park, or Greenway, as it serves as a connector for Wedgwood Park to Canal Avenue and other residential areas and community facilities. Buck Creek Trail also serves as the City's connection to the Kent Trail System, which serves greater Kent County.



CITY-OWNED OPEN SPACE

City-Owned Open Spaces are areas that are not officially designated as formal parks but are currently used or have the potential to be developed into park spaces in the future. These areas can vary in size and may serve any function typically associated with other park categories, even though they are not formally classified as such.

The land located south of the cemetery as well as east of East Elementary School are identified as City Owned Open Space as plans for their future use are still being explored and developed.

SPORTS COMPLEX

Sports complex areas consolidate heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites typically serving the community as a whole. Sports Complex's size is normally based on demand, but usually a minimum of 25 acres, with 40 – 80 acres being optimal.

There is one Sports Complex located in the City. The Little League Baseball Complex is primarily dedicated to providing baseball and softball facilities for programmed play. While other parks have complexes of sports facilities, such as the tennis courts located at Calvin Crest Park, Calvin Crest also provides other recreation amenities which allows it to serve a broader purpose for the community. The amenities offered at the Little League Baseball Complex supports the baseball and softball activities.



Overall Citywide Parks Service Analysis

ACREAGE ANALYSIS

It is also essential to consider the type of parks, their location, and their distribution throughout the City. When evaluating parks and recreation service areas, it is important to closely consider where the residents in the City live. The National Recreation and Park Association, NRPA, establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to determine the areas in the community that are lacking easy access to parks and facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

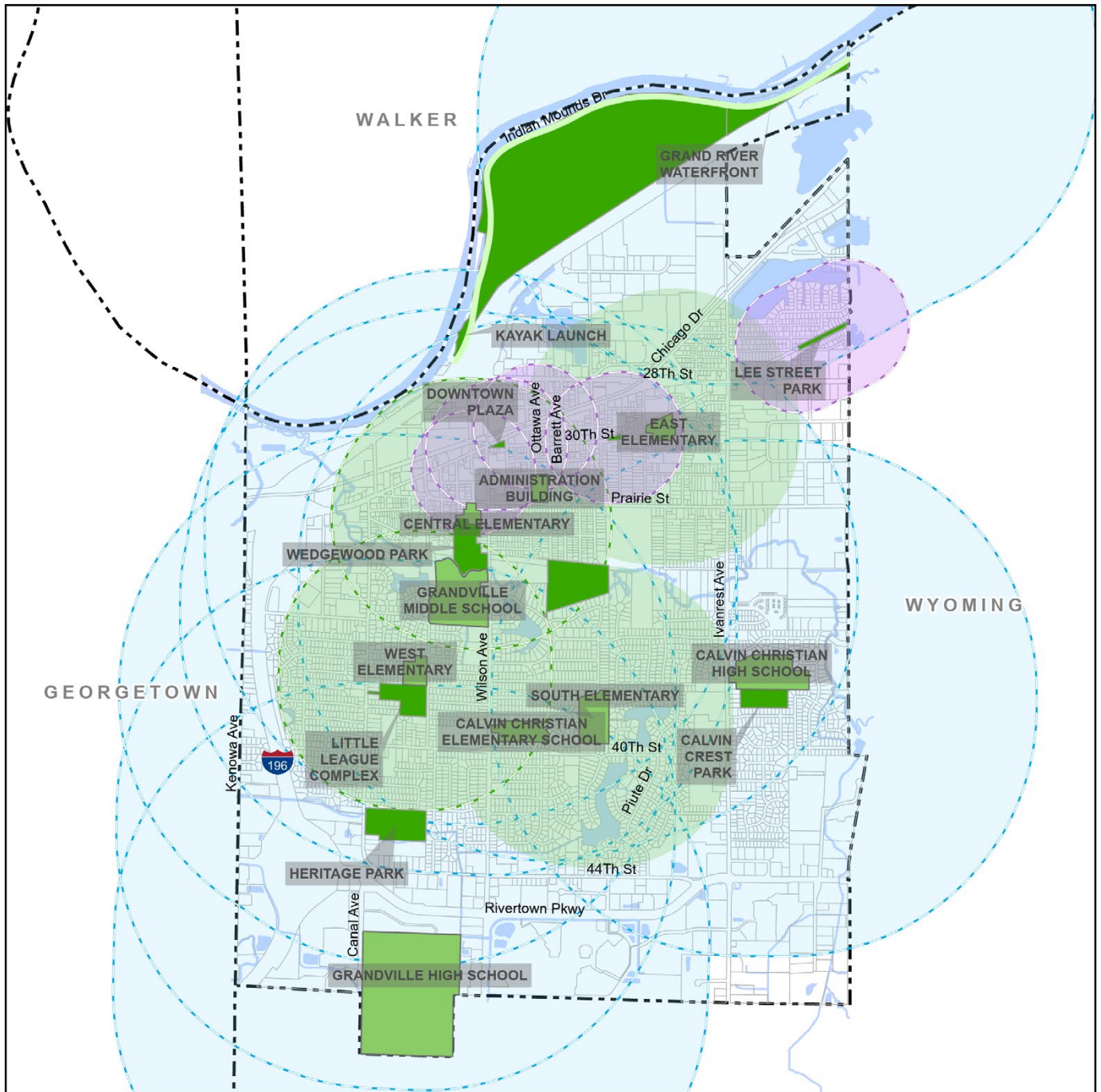
- » Mini/Neighborhood Parks 0.25 – 0.5 miles
- » Natural Resource Area/Linear Park/Sports Complex 0.5 – 3.0 miles

Table 8: Grandville Park Land Acreage Analysis

PARK CLASSIFICATION	NRPA GUIDELINE ACREAGE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS	GRANDVILLE RECOMMENDED ACREAGE	ALL PARKS ACTUAL ACREAGE IN CITY	SURPLUS/ DEFICIENCY
Mini Parks	0.25	3.98	3.0	- 0.98
Neighborhood Parks	2.0	31.80	42.0	+ 10.20
Community Parks	5.0	79.51	23	- 56.51
Natural Resource Area	Variable		41.0	+ 41.0
Regional Parks*	10.0	159.02	0	-159.02
Linear Parks	Variable		2.1	+ 2.1
Sports Complex	Variable		13	+ 13.0
Total:	> 15.25	> 274.31	124.1	-150.21

** Due to Millenium Park across the river in Walker, there is no need for a regional park in Grandville*

The table above evaluates Grandville's park acreage in comparison to national guidelines for communities throughout the State. However, the standards are general in nature and do not reflect the quality of the facilities, the character of the community or other local differences that affect community recreation facility needs. Thus, in evaluating the results, the actual conditions and trends present in the City must be taken into account.



MAP 2
Parks Service Radii
 City of Grandville, Kent County, MI
 September 27, 2024

LEGEND

Labels

- 1-Mile Buffer
- Half-Mile Buffer
- Quarter-Mile Buffer
- Grandville Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries
- Rivers



Basemap Source: City of Grandville 2024,
 Michigan Center for Geographic Information,
 Version 17a.



GRANDVILLE PARKS' AMENITIES AND FACILITIES

The tables below list ten commonly provided amenities and facilities and their location in the City parks as well as a comprehensive list of amenities available at each park. The City provides many opportunities for walk, running, and biking through the use of City trails. All of the parks provide at least some paved trails, while all of them offer either paved or unpaved trails. This is often a highly sought-after amenity. However, the City parks offer few opportunities for nature education, as it currently offers no official nature education programs through the parks.

Table 9: Public Owned and/or Operated Recreation Facilities

AMENITY	NUMBER	LOCATION(S)
Baseball/Softball Fields	3	Calvin Crest Park Little League Baseball Complex Wedgwood Park
Basketball Courts	3	Calvin Crest Park Heritage Park Lee Street Park
Soccer Field	1	Wedgwood Park
Tennis / Pickleball Courts	2	Calvin Crest Park Wedgwood Park
Volleyball Courts	2	Heritage Park Wedgwood Park
Pavilions	3	Calvin Crest Park Heritage Park Wedgwood Park
Playground Equipment	5	Calvin Crest Park Heritage Park Lee Street Park Peck Street Park Wedgwood Park
Walking Trail	10	Buck Creek Trail Calvin Crest Park Grand River Pathway Grand River Waterfront Heritage Park Mill Race Park Lee Street Park Little League Baseball Complex Peck Street Park Wedgwood Park
Picnic Facilities (tables and grills)	6	Calvin Crest Park, Grand River Waterfront Heritage Park Mill Race Park Peck Street Park Wedgwood Park
Nature Education	0	
Restrooms	4	Calvin Crest Park Heritage Park Little League Baseball Complex Wedgwood Park



Table 10: Inventory of Amenities Per Park

PARK	AMENITIES
Buck Creek Trail	1.8 Miles of Paved Pathway, Benches, Access to Buck Creek and Grand River
Calvin Crest Park	Baseball/Softball Field, Basketball Court, 8 Tennis Courts, Playground Equipment, 3 Picnic tables, Picnic Shelter, Restrooms, Pathway, 11 Benches
Grand River Pathway	Bike Path Connecting to Kent Trails, Three Mile Paved Pathway with one lane of Non-Motorized Access Only, Benches
Grand River Waterfront	River Access, Picnic Tables, Kayak Launch, Benches, Parking Area, Public Boat Launch
Heritage Park	Basketball Court, Soccer Field, Playground Equipment, Sand Volleyball Court, Disc Golf Course, Picnic Shelter, 15 Picnic Tables, 5 Charcoal Grills, Paved Parking Area, Gravel Pathway, Dock, 11 Benches
Lee Street Park	4 Benches, Basketball Goal, Playground, Sand Pit
Little League Baseball Complex	4 Baseball Fields, 1 Softball Field, 1 Tee-Ball Field, Restrooms, Concessions, Seating, Parking Lot
Mill Race Park	3 Picnic Tables, 5 Benches
Peck Street Park	Paved Pathway, 4 Benches, 2 Picnic Tables, Tot Lot
Wedgwood Park	Baseball/Softball Field, Volleyball Court, Football Field, Horseshoe Pits, Playground Equipment, Pickleball Courts, Standing Workout Equipment, Restrooms, Concession Stands, Drinking Fountain, Parking Area, 2 Picnic Shelters with Picnic Tables, Campfire Area, 4 Charcoal Grills

NEARBY COUNTY FACILITIES

Millenium Park/Johnson Park
(Kent County)

Together, these parks on the north side of the Grand River provide a natural respite from the bustle of Greater Grand Rapids, as well as active amenities such as a splash pad, boathouse, playgrounds, and a beach. There is a portion of Millenium Park that is south of the Grand River, and located within Grandville.

CLASSIFICATION:

Regional Park

SIZE:

Approximately 1,700 acres

ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT:

3, most facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines

PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Many community organizations and other operate private recreation facilities within and surrounding the City of Grandville.

Table 11: Private Recreational Facilities Near Grandville

ACTIVITY	NAME
Horse Riding / Camps	Northfork Farms and Outback (Horse & Adventure Camps)
Zoo	John Ball Zoo (Grand Rapids)
Museum	Van Andel Museum Center Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum Grand Rapids Art Museum Grand Rapids Children’s Museum Grand Rapids African American Art Museum and Archives
Golf	Wallinwood Springs Sunnybrook Glen Eagle The Pines Maple Hill
Miniature Golf	Loeschner’s Village Green
Indoor Playground	Playworld



GRANDVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Grandville Public Schools provides a full range of athletic facilities for students from Kindergarten through high school. Some of these facilities are located in City parks, or otherwise open to the public, and are therefore described in this plan. Other facilities are for school use only, and are not described in this plan.

OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES

East End Gateway

This area is located on the corner of Chicago Drive, Crystal Street, and Ottawa Avenue. It is a small green area with tree coverage and seating. There is a sidewalk allowing for ease of access to this area.

The Commons

The Commons is a public facility located along a pathway running north from the library. Currently, it includes a farmers' market, children's sensory garden with seating surrounding it, and an amphitheater with picnic tables. Located around this facility are trash and recycling receptacles.

The entire length of the pathway along which the park is located is paved, allowing people of many different physical abilities to access this amenity.





3

Goals and Objectives



Goal 1

Provide diverse and exciting recreational opportunities for all residents.

1. Upgrade park amenities in as many parks as possible by 2030, as described in the Action Plan.
2. Invest in modern equipment that is fun, safe, equitable, and sustainable.
3. Provide a wide variety of activities, facilities, and amenities.
4. Ensure that newly popular facilities, such as Disc Golf and Pickleball Courts, are provided to the public.
5. Identify and implement opportunities for pollinator gardens and other areas of flowering landscaping. Recruit volunteers to create a “Garden Club” to maintain the flowers.
6. Consider a location in or around Grandville for a dog park.
7. Support Community Engagement

Goal 2

Ensure all residents have access to green space and parks amenities in their neighborhoods.

1. Ensure all parks have amenities that add value to the surrounding community, in proportion to the size of the park and the needs of the community.
2. Acquire land along Buck Creek as described in the Greenway Vision to create a continuous natural and recreational space running through the core of the City.
3. Ensure parks have adequate and appropriate space nearby for parking vehicles, where deemed necessary and appropriate.
4. Provide bicycle parking at parks where deemed necessary and appropriate.
5. Work with other City departments to ensure sidewalks are constructed to reach all parks, and work with both City and County partners to build out the planned non-motorized pathway network.
6. Work with other City departments to ensure all infrastructure surrounding parks is in working order and supports the needs of the park users.
7. Seek out opportunities for placemaking, public art, pocket parks, and small gathering areas within the downtown area.



Goal 3

Design all parks to be welcoming, accessible, and fun for all potential users.

1. Involve the community and the general public in parks improvement decisions.
2. Understand the needs of the neighborhood when planning parks improvements.
3. Understand the history of parks and their surroundings when planning parks improvements.
4. Understand the potential users of a park when designing parks improvements.
5. Understand the potential for vandalism or other negative influences when planning parks improvements.
6. Maintain and update the signage that identifies City parks.
7. Promote events and activities in parks.
8. Promote opportunities for residents to invest in parks themselves, such as community gardens, neighborhood clean-ups, and community art projects.

Goal 4

Design parks using best practices for sustainability and resiliency.

1. Reduce impervious surface in parks where possible.
2. Preserve wetlands and protect flood plains.
3. Remove invasive plant species and improve wildlife habitats.
4. Preserve trees, and replace any removed trees on a two-to-one basis.
5. Use native species for landscaping where possible.
6. Utilize recycled materials in facilities and equipment.
7. Provide and maintain trash and recycling receptacles.

Goal 5

Continue to ensure that Grandville's parks are a source of community pride.

1. Maintain all parks to a high level of quality.
2. Provide high-quality, fun, and exciting equipment and amenities.
3. Work with the community to make park spaces the center of community life.
4. Invest in public art and other placemaking activities within parks.
5. Highlight the important role parks play in providing positive stimulation and exercise for young people and families.
6. Promote City parks to the regional community.
7. Encourage residents to take pride in their neighborhood parks, and "adopt" them as their own.
8. Increase maintenance budget to ensure amenities remain in good condition.



4

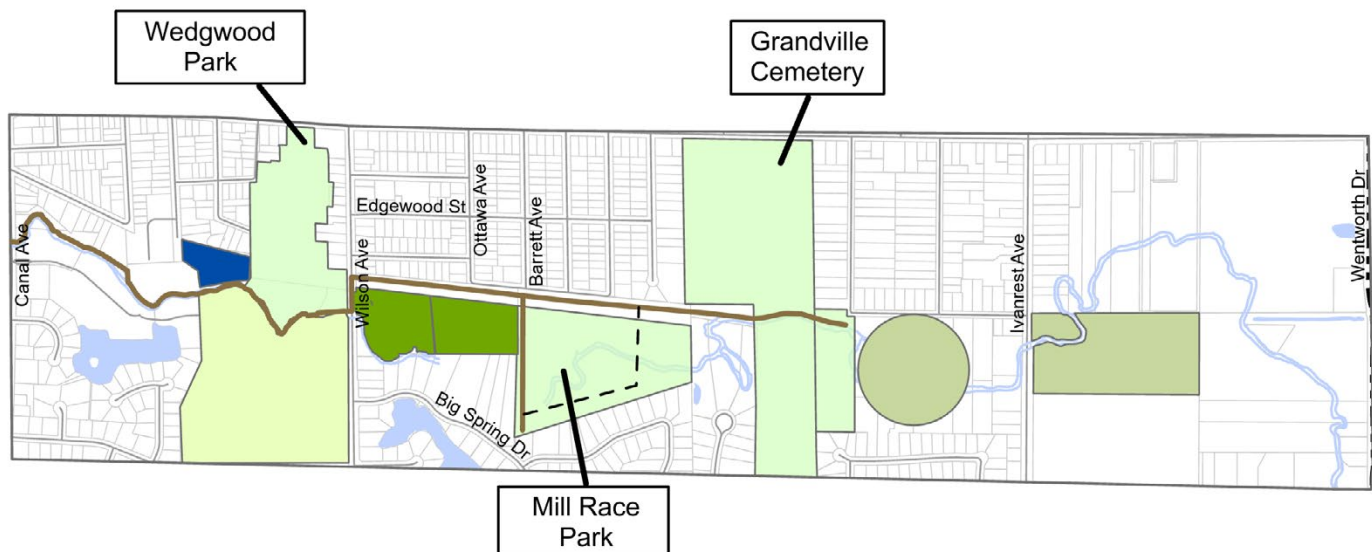
Buck Creek Greenway Vision



Buck Creek Greenway Plan

The Buck Creek Greenway is envisioned to be a space that connects parks, neighborhoods, and the creek in a cohesive greenway system that can be enjoyed by trail users, all while supporting and preserving Buck Creek's beautiful and important ecosystem. Buck Creek provides an abundance of wildlife, trails, and sustainable environments. According to a study prepared by Streamside Ecological Services, excessive nutrients from agricultural and urban runoff poses risks to Buck Creek's water quality, thus impacting the brown trout that inhabit the creek. The City of Grandville has made it an objective to preserve land around Buck Creek and create a buffer to protect this ecosystem.

Figure 2: Buck Creek Greenway Plan



The City will implement the Buck Creek Greenway in several ways. In some areas, the existing trail will be extended along the creek. In other areas, conservation easements will be obtained from willing property owners—and, in some cases, the City may acquire property, though only from willing sellers.

In some areas, private property owners will retain control over the creek edge. The City views these property owners as partners in managing the flooding of the creek and ensuring its long-term health.

Buck Creek Greenway

City of Grandville, Michigan

September 26, 2024

LEGEND

- Existing Easements and Public Land
- Potential Easements or Acquisition
- Middle School
- Potential Conservation Easements
- Senior Neighbor Center
- Existing Buck Creek Trail
- - - New Bridge and Trail



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: City of Grandville 2024. McKenna 2024.





5

Non-Motorized Trails

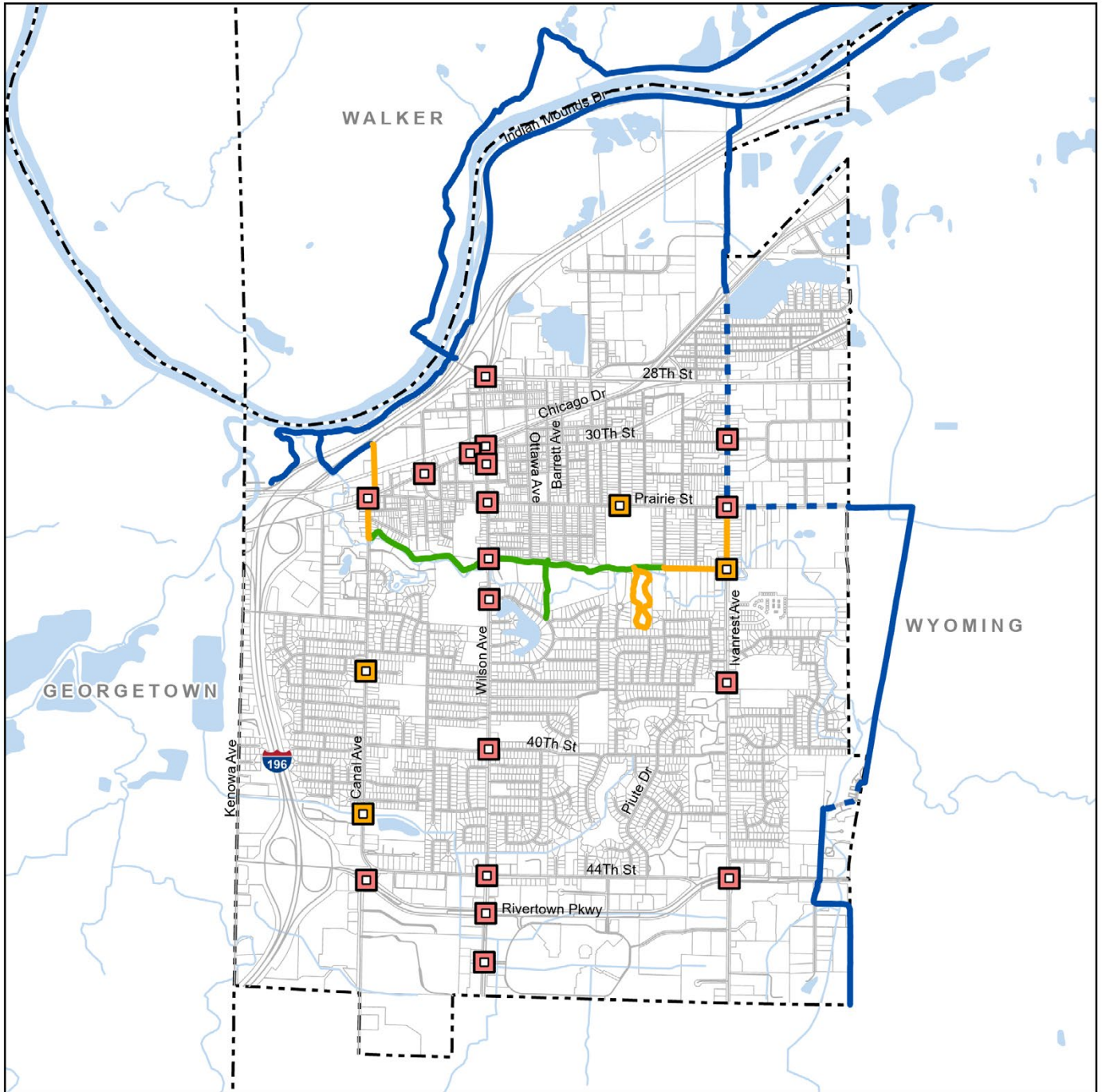
The City of Grandville contains many trails and other recreational amenities that are extremely valuable to residents and to creating a walkable City. In order to continue to encourage the use of more non-motorized forms of transportation, such as walking and biking, there are various places where the City will pursue connections between bike trails and pedestrian safety measures.



Pedestrian Safety

The City of Grandville has various crosswalks throughout the City that provide residents safe commutes to recreational amenities. Major streets like Wilson Avenue includes protected and unprotected crosswalks that give residents access to spaces such as Wedgwood Park, and Buck Creek Trail. There are a few locations that have a potential for increasing pedestrian safety measures.

Indicated with orange on the map, several crosswalks and pedestrian upgrades have been proposed to improve walkability and accessibility. A crosswalk over Prairie, across from the Grandville Cemetery, would allow those in the northern neighborhood to access the parks and trails that lie south of them, such as Mill Race Park and Buck Creek. The connection between the two ends of Buck Creek Trail, one ending at Canal Avenue, the other beginning at Broadway Avenue is also sited as a place with a need for pedestrian upgrades, as it is currently unsafe for pedestrians and bikers to cross Chicago Drive. Implementing a crosswalk between Chicago Drive and Broadway Avenue would allow for increased and safer access to the continuation of Buck Creek Trail.



MAP 3

Non-Motorized Transportation

City of Grandville, Michigan

September 27, 2024

Legend

- Grandville Parcels
- Municipal Boundaries
- Roads
- Lakes, Rivers, Streams, Drains
- Buck Creek Trail
- Buck Creek Trail Extension
- Kent Trails
- Upgrade to Trail
- Existing Crosswalk
- Proposed Crosswalk/Pedestrian Safety Upgrades



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, Version 17a.
Data Source: City of Grandville 2024.
McKenna 2024.

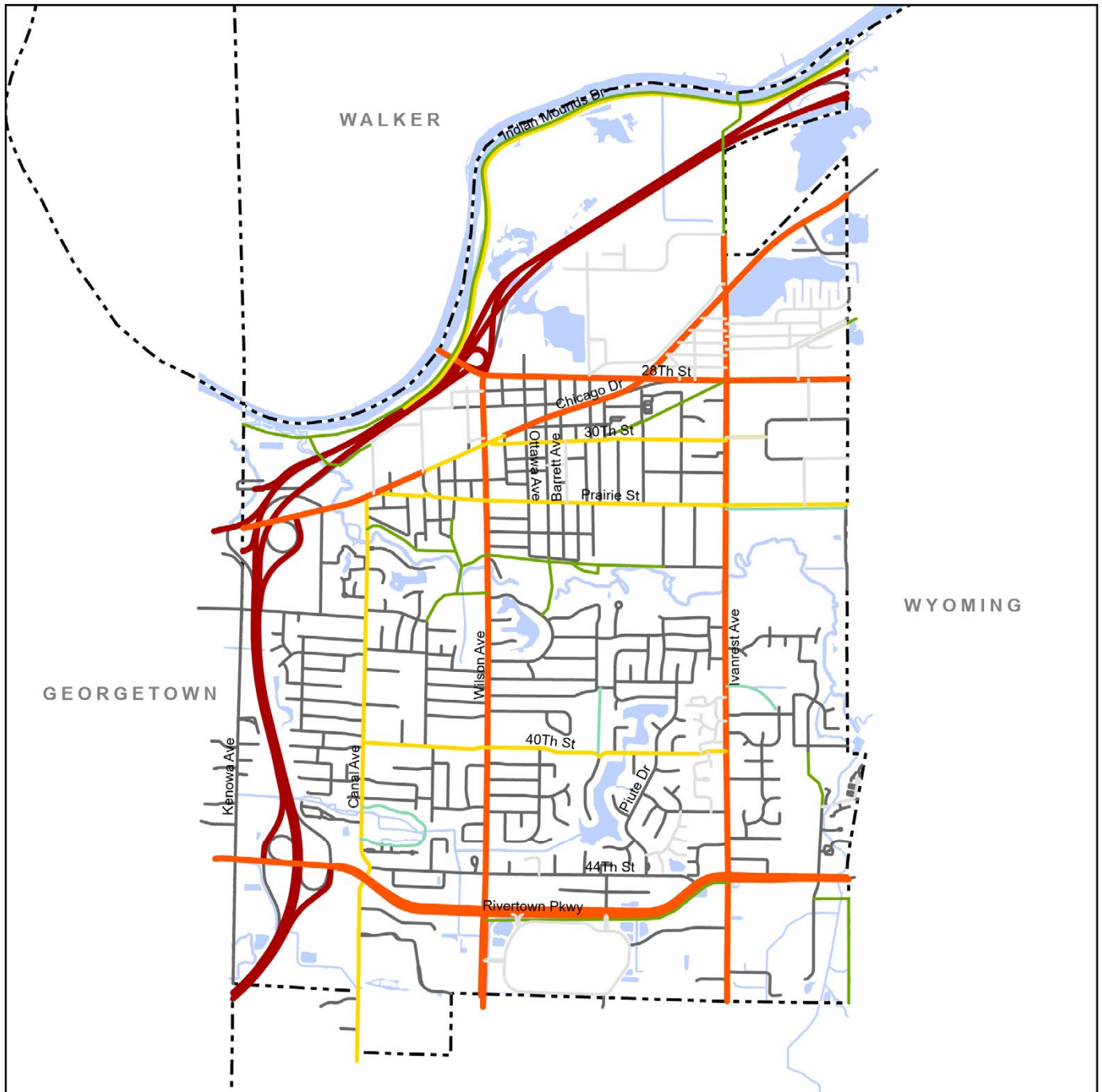




Bike Trails Connectivity

A portion of Kent Trails runs through the eastern part of the City of Grandville, running down from the Grand River, down Ivanrest Avenue, along Prairie Street, and into the City of Wyoming and Byron Center. The Kent Trails continue across the Grand River into the City of Walker, which connects to Buck Creek Trail and the Grand River Pathway along Indian Mounds Drive. In order to promote use of this trail, this section of the Kent Trails has been targeted as a place for trail upgrades, indicated as a dashed line on the map of Non-Motorized Transportation.

Buck Creek Trail is the other major bike trail in the City of Grandville, and runs from 34th Street to Canal Avenue. Buck Creek Trail begins again at Broadway, and in partnership with Kent Trails, connects to major regional trails from there. Along Buck Creek Trail, two major disconnections, one between Canal and Broadway, the other between 34th and the Kent Trails on Ivanrest, will be pursued as new connections to promote trail connectivity and access. Indicated with yellow on the map, these connections will create a loop between Buck Creek and Kent Trails, connecting residents to regional amenities and recreational opportunities.



MAP 4

Non-Motorized Transportation System

City of Grandville, Kent County, MI

September 27, 2024

LEGEND

- Freeway
- 4 - 5 Lane Thoroughfare
- 2 - 3 Lane Thoroughfare
- Non-Motorized Trail
- Local Street - No Sidewalks
- Local Street - With Sidewalks
- Bike Lanes
- Trails
- Rivers
- Water Bodies
- Municipal Boundaries



Basemap Source: City of Grandville 2024,
Michigan Center for Geographic Information,
Version 17a.
Data Source: City of Grandville 2024,
McKenna 2024.







10-Year Citywide Action Plan

10-Year Citywide Action Plan

NOTE: Costs are based on square foot take-offs from aerial photos, and include 15% contingency, but no AE fees, permitting costs, or infrastructure (utility, stormwater management) upgrades.

Table 12: 10-Year Citywide Action Plan

PARK NAME	2026-2030 (5-YEAR HORIZON)	COST ESTIMATE	FUNDING SOURCE
Acquisition	Acquire Land (or conservation easements) along Buck Creek to Complete the Buck Creek Greenway Vision	TBD	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy
Wedgwood Park	Senior Center Lot Improvements	\$40,000	City Parks Budget State Grants School District Facilities Budget Private Philanthropy
Heritage Park	Relocate and Add Swings	\$15,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy
	Street Parking Signage along 42nd Street and Cherokee Avenue	\$5,000	
	Explore Methods to Reduce and/or Eliminate Waterfowl Feces in the Park.	TBD	
Calvin Crest Park	Review and Redesign Tennis Courts	TBD	City Parks Budget State Grants Calvin Christian High School Facilities Budget Private Philanthropy
	Higher Fencing	\$5,000	
Lee Street Park	Canopies	\$184,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy
	Install New Playground Equipment with Rubber Flooring	\$150,000	
	New Benches/Seating Areas	\$32,500	
Mill Race Park	Remove Invasive Species and Implement Rain Gardens, Pollinator Gardens, and Native Plantings	\$55,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy Volunteers
	Ice Rink	\$100,000	
Peck Street Park	Canopies (Fabric and Trees)	\$184,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy
	Community Garden Partnership	TBD	
	Install New Playground Equipment with Rubber Flooring	\$150,000	

PARK NAME	2020-2025 (5-YEAR HORIZON)	COST ESTIMATE	FUNDING SOURCE
Little League Baseball Complex	Engage with Stakeholders to Explore Potential Solutions for Parking Challenges	\$5,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy Little League Facilities Budget
	Annual Assessments with Little League	\$5,000	
Buck Creek Trail	Maintain and Update Wayfinding and Other Signage Along Trail	\$50,000	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy
	Implement Crosswalk on Prairie Street as well as between Broadway and Chicago Drive	\$2,000	
	Primitive Path South of Buck Creek	TBD	
	Remove Invasive Species and Implement Native Species and Tree Planting	\$30,000	
	Remove Roots Undermining Trail	\$10,000	
	Repave Trail as Needed	TBD	
	Redirect Composite	TBD	
	Acquire Conservation Easements along Buck Creek to construct a Buck Creek Greenway	TBD	
Grand River Waterfront	Promotion and Education	\$10,000	City Parks Budget
	Improved Access Plan	TBD	
	Replace Old Dock	\$12,500	
	Work with Kent county Parks on improvements to the Kent Trail System, Indian Mounds Trail, and the Grand River Greenway	TBD	
Land Adjacent to the Senior Center	Gazebo	\$20,000	Senior Center City Parks Budget
	Picnic Area	\$10,000	
	Senior-Maintained Gardens	\$5,000	
Land South of the Cemetery	Construct Unpaved Trails through Woods for Mountain Biking, Winter Activities (i.e. snow shoeing, cross country skiing) and Others, Designed for All User Levels	\$392,480	
	Improve Fish and Wildlife Habitat Along Buck Creek	\$1 per square foot	
	Refurbish Pedestrian Bridge	\$50,000*	
Land Across from South Elementary	Upgrade Existing Facilities	TBD	City Parks Budget State Grants Private Philanthropy
Miscellaneous	Improve Tree Canopy	\$800-\$1,200 per tree	
	Remove Invasive Species and Improve Wildlife Habitat	TBD	
	Curb Cut Rain Gardens	\$4,000 per garden	
	Support Community Engagement	\$2,000	

*Structural investigation is needed to determine the extent of the repairs



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Wedgwood Park

AMENITIES

Wedgwood Park offers a wide variety of amenities and green space, located off of Wilson Avenue. The park features various sports fields, playground equipment, dedicated parking, and access to Buck Creek Trail.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

Amenities at Wedgwood Park are accessible using paved sidewalks and pathways throughout the park. Wedgwood offers paved parking with several handicap parking spaces allowing all users to access play equipment, picnic shelters, restrooms, and the baseball and football fields. Facilities such as some of the picnic tables and play equipment are not barrier-free.

LOCATION:

3391 Wilson Ave SW

SIZE:

14 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

3 – most facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.

PUBLIC INPUT

There were numerous comments received about improvements to Wedgwood Park. They are:

- » Improve or Remove the Sand Pit
- » Improvements to the Senior Center Lot
- » Wedgwood Park would be a great location for Splash Pads

ACTION PLAN

As the comments from the public indicate, the City will consider making small improvements to the playground at Wedgwood Park, including reducing the size of the sand pit, while adding amenities such as small built-in sand toys. The City will also consider potential improvements to the Senior Center Lot.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Heritage Park

AMENITIES

Heritage Park is one of the most popular parks in the City and is located off of Canal Avenue. Heritage Park features a beautiful pond right in the center of the property, surrounded by a walking path that includes a small footbridge, as well as a dock to look out over the lake. The interior of the park includes a disc golf course, updated playground equipment, benches, and a pavilion with picnic tables. The Historical No. 10 Schoolhouse is located in Heritage Park, acts as a living museum and provides various historical learning and interacting opportunities. The large trees, natural walkway, and various wildlife add to the beauty of the park.

LOCATION:

4264 Canal

SIZE:

19 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

3 – most facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

The parking lot at Heritage Park is paved and access to the bathroom facility is barrier-free. However, the gravel trail which runs all around the lake, including the dock, as well as some unpaved pathway connections and amenities such as playground equipment and volleyball court have limited accessibility.

PUBLIC INPUT

According to residents, improvements in this park should be focused on the following:

- » Relocate and Add Swings
- » Street Parking Signage along 42nd Street and Cherokee Avenue
- » Replace Woodchips with Rubber Flooring

ACTION PLAN

Toddler swings will be moved in closer proximity to the other set of swings to encourage ease of access. Street parking on 42nd Street and Cherokee Avenue might be encouraged in order to address the parking needs at Heritage Park through signage. Rubber flooring for the play structure will be considered as well.

Investigate tactics to address the environmental concern of waterfowl coming onto land and leaving waste in public areas. This plan will focus on identifying and implementing environmentally friendly strategies that minimize harm to local ecosystems, while also enhancing the beauty and functionality of the space.



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Calvin Crest Park

AMENITIES

Calvin Crest Park is located behind Calvin Christian Highschool, on the east side of Ivanrest Avenue. This park features a baseball/softball field, a full basketball court, 8 tennis courts, natural areas, and pathways. The playground equipment is tucked into the right back corner of the park, near the forested area, and includes a historical metal stage coach that invites kids to use their imagination on the playground.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

Calvin Crest is fairly accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities due to a paved parking lot, pathways, and sidewalks that lead to tennis courts and play equipment. Access to the basketball court has limited accessibility.

PUBLIC INPUT

The survey conducted indicated that residents supported the following improvements for Calvin Crest Park:

- » Find a location for New Tennis Courts
- » Repurpose the Land Used for Old Tennis Courts
- » Add in Pickleball Courts
- » Install Higher Fencing

ACTION PLAN

In the next 5 years, the City will strive to improve and make repairs to Calvin Crest Park, as the public comments indicated.

LOCATION:

3796 Ivanrest

SIZE:

9 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

3 – most facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.



MINI PARK

Lee Street Park

AMENITIES

Lee Street Park is located on the corner of Lee Street and Homewood Street, surrounded by a residential neighborhood. It is a remarkable asset to the residents surrounding it and with access to a playground, sand pit, basketball hoop, and benches, Lee Street Park provides a variety of amenities in only an acre of land.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

The paved path throughout the interior of the park connects the parks amenities such as benches, a small playground, sand pit, and basketball goal and gives people with a broad range of physical capabilities access to these amenities. Lee Street is widely accessible to pedestrians, but does not include a parking lot.

PUBLIC INPUT

According to the survey, residents expressed interest in the following:

- » Canopies for Shade
- » Install New Playground Equipment with Rubber Flooring
- » Incorporating an Increased Number of Shaded Benches/Seating Areas

ACTION PLAN

The City will install canopies to provide shade over benches, without needing to plant trees which would interfere with powerlines that run over the park. Maintenance and landscaping of Lee Street Park will continue to be a priority.

LOCATION:

Lee Street at Homewood Street

SIZE:

1 acre

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

4 – the entire park meets MDNR accessibility guidelines.



COMMUNITY PARK

Mill Race Park

AMENITIES

Mill Race Park is a forested green space that is currently in the process of being developed as a park. It features a few picnic tables and benches and access to Buck Creek trail.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

The City has prioritized and made many improvements to the park regarding accessibility including the addition of paved walkways. This allows the park to be accessible to people with a broad range of physical capabilities.

PUBLIC INPUT

The public was invited to vote on action plan items about the future of Mill Race Park, and they supported ideas including the following:

- » Ice Skating Rink
- » Pollinator Gardens
- » Unpaved Trail

ACTION PLAN

Mill Race Park is an important component of the preservation and beautification of the Buck Creek Greenway. In partnership with the residents of Grandville, the Park Committee, and landscape architects, the City has developed a plan for Mill Race Park that preserves the integrity and beauty of Buck Creek and the green space of Mill Race Park, while incorporating new amenities for residents.

The City's goal with developing parts of Mill Race Park is to implement low impact amenities that do not overtly disturb the general character of the site, all while enhancing the natural features of the site. There are a variety of amenities being added to the site on the north side of Buck Creek that will enhance both the visitor and natural experience. This includes a paved path, a creek overlook deck, and a natural playground and shelter.

LOCATION:

3370 Carlton Park

SIZE:

23 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

3 – *most facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.*

Several sites at Mill Race Park are planned for native plantings and pollinator habitats. These will continue to facilitate the natural environment of Mill Race Park, as well as provide ecological benefits to the area. In order to protect this habitat, any additions made to the park will be done so with best practices to keep them as low impact as possible.

Eventually the City would like to develop unpaved, multi-use trails to the south of Buck Creek, allowing residents to mountain bike, run, walk, or snowshoe. In order to provide access to these amenities without increasing the number of impervious surfaces, and thus increasing nutrient run off, a few diagonal parking spaces on Carlton Park Drive constructed of a permeable surface are included in this plan. The City hopes to install a temporary ice-skating rink according to the existing natural landscape and flooding patterns as well as a low-impact disk golf course to increase recreational opportunities without requiring any alterations to the landscape.

The following additions are currently planned for Mill Race Park:

- » Pollinator Gardens and Native Plantings
- » Overlook Deck
- » Natural Playground
- » Shelter

In addition to these amenities, the City will continue to investigate the feasibility of improvements to the property south of Buck Creek and initiatives to connect Mill Race Park to this parcel of land. These improvements include:

- » Installation of a pedestrian bridge.
- » The construction of unpaved multi-use trails on the south side of Buck Creek that connect the Cemetery and Mill Race Park through conservation easements on property in between Mill Race Park and the land south of the cemetery.
- » Seasonal Ice Rink





MINI-PARK

Peck Street Park

AMENITIES

Located in a residential neighborhood, Peck Street Park is a miniature park situated on the corner of Peck Street and Earle Avenue. It is a beautifully landscaped park that features a tot lot, benches, and picnic tables, one of which is handicap accessible.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

Peck Street is widely accessible to pedestrians, and includes a paved pathway that provides access to the tot lot, benches, and picnic tables, one of which is wheelchair accessible.

PUBLIC INPUT

Residents expressed interest in the following:

- » Canopies for Shade
- » Community Garden Partnership
- » Install new Playground Equipment with Rubber Flooring

ACTION PLAN

As with Lee Street Park, while trees are not able to be planted here due to interference with the power lines, the City could implement canopies to provide shade over seating areas. Continued maintenance and landscaping with native plantings could be prioritized.

LOCATION:

Peck Street at
Earle Avenue

SIZE:

2 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

4 – the entire park meets
MDNR accessibility guidelines.

1 – none of the facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.

2 – some facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.

3 – most facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.

4 – the entire park meets MDNR accessibility guidelines.



SPORTS COMPLEX

Little League Baseball Complex

AMENITIES

The Little League Baseball Complex is a sports complex, adjacent to West Elementary School, and provides access to many in the Wedgwood Park neighborhood and beyond to 4 baseball fields, 1 softball field, and 1 tee-ball field, as well as concessions and seating.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

While the park's parking lot is paved, this park is not widely accessible due to the lack of paved walking pathways leading to the ball fields or the concessions.

PUBLIC INPUT

There were various comments received about improvements needed at the Little League Baseball Complex. They were:

- » Street Parking Signage
- » Sidewalks Repair throughout the Complex

ACTION PLAN

Organized team sports are popular for all ages. It is recommended that the City work with Little League to keep fields well maintained, as well as perform an annual review of the Complex to assess what amenities should be improved or added.

The City is committed to exploring ways to improving parking around the Little League Complex to improve safety and accessibility.

LOCATION:

3777 Aaron Avenue

SIZE:

13 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

2 – some facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.



GREENWAY

Buck Creek Trail

AMENITIES

Buck Creek Trail is 2.1 miles paved trail that runs from 34th Street and Wayburn Avenue to Grand River, and connects many focal points of the community, such as the Senior Center and various neighborhoods and schools. Running alongside Buck Creek, this trail features benches, mileage markers, and attractive landscaping along the side.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

Parking areas near the trail, as well the trail itself, are paved, and allow for people with a range of physical capabilities to access this amenity. However, derelict signage, flooding, and dangers in crossing major streets in order to access the trail act as impediments to various groups of people and contribute to limited accessibility of Buck Creek Trail.

PUBLIC INPUT

Residents expressed interest in the following action plan items for Buck Creek Trail:

- » Repave Trail as Needed
- » Remove Roots Undermining Trail
- » Maintain and Update Wayfinding and Other Signage
- » Implement Crosswalk on Prairie Street, as well as between Broadway and Chicago Drive
- » Native Plantings and Trees along Trail
- » Flood Mitigation and Creek Stabilization
- » Create a Primitive Trail

ACTION PLAN

The City will prioritize the maintenance of the trail, repaving and removing roots as needed. Flood mitigation and planning for future flooding events will also be a priority.

The City envisions a Buck Creek Greenway that includes preserved frontage along the entire length of the creek. Preserving the wetlands portion of the Dill Property on Ivanrest, as well as other targeted expansions of the trail, located where appropriate and desired by nearby residents, will provide residents of Grandville with a large trail system, as well as preserving an important and naturally beautiful resource.

LOCATION:

34th Street at Wayburn

SIZE:

2.1 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

3 – most facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.



NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Grand River Waterfront

AMENITIES

The Grand River Waterfront is located along the river on the northern border of the City and features a public boat launch, a kayak launch, and access to the beautiful nature of the Grand River.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

The Waterfront pathway features a gravel parking area, however the lack of paved areas closer to the river limit accessibility on this site.

LOCATION:

City's northern border on the Grand River

SIZE:

15 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

2 – some facilities meet MDNR accessibility guidelines.

PUBLIC INPUT

Residents expressed interest in the following:

- » Educate and Promote of this Resource to Residents
- » Replace Old Dock
- » Work with Kent County parks on Improvements to the Kent Trail System

ACTION PLAN

Continued maintenance of the Grand River waterfront, as well as promotion of the resource through signage and education will be a priority.

Collaborating with Kent County Parks to improve the greenway will also be of high priority.





NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

Grand River Pathway

AMENITIES

To create the Grand River Pathway, the City converted a two-way road along the Grand River into a one-lane, one-way, with the other lane preserved for non-motorized traffic. This pathway features access to benches and overlook features to enjoy the scenic views of the River.

BARRIER-FREE ASSESSMENT

The entire length of the Grand River Pathway is paved, allowing people of many different physical abilities to access this amenity. Access to seating and overlook areas presents a barrier and limits accessibility.

PUBLIC INPUT

Residents expressed interest in the following:

- » Educate and Promote of this Resource to Residents
- » Improve Access Plan
- » Work with Kent County parks on Improvements to the Kent Trail System

ACTION PLAN

The City will strive to maintain regular maintenance and repairs to the Grand River Pathway, and to promote its connection to Kent Trails, as well as Downtown Grandville.

LOCATION:

4234 Indian Mounds Drive
SW

SIZE:

3 acres

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE:

3 – most facilities meet MDNR
accessibility guidelines.





Public Input



Public Engagement

The purpose of this document is to summarize the most frequent responses from the survey data and open-ended responses that relate to the City's vision and goals for its parks.

SURVEY RESULTS

Question 1: Wedgwood Park Action Items

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Sand Pit Improvements
- » Senior Center Lot Improvements

Comments:

- » Turf not necessary, grass is softer for children and athletes
- » Good spot for a splash pad
- » Good spot for a skate park

Question 2: Heritage Park

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Relocate and Add Swings
- » Street Parking Signage along 42nd Street and Cherokee Avenue
- » Replace Woodchips with Rubber Flooring

Comments:

- » Rubber is toxic to kids and the environment
- » Native plantings along pond in place of scrub
- » Path around pond with a fountain
- » Upgrades to bridge

Question 3: Calvin Crest Park

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Partner with Calvin Crest High School to Find a New Place for Tennis Courts
- » Repurpose Land Used for Tennis Courts as Green Space
- » Add in Pickleball Courts

Comments:

- » Native plantings and trees
- » The tennis courts are necessary, and should be updated, whether in current spot or new

Question 4: Lee Street Park

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Canopies for Shade
- » Install New Playground Equipment with Rubber Flooring
- » New Benches/Seating Areas

Comments:

- » The rubber flooring contributes to handicap accessibility and is important for children to be included

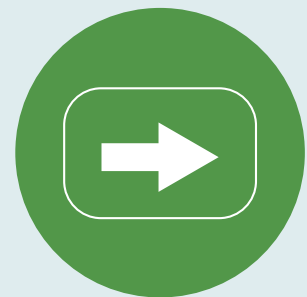
198

Survey Respondents



120

RESPONDENTS WANT
Unpaved Walking Paths



RESPONDENTS WANT
Rain Gardens, Native
Plantings, and Pollinator
Gardens

Question 5: Mill Race Park

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Low Impact Disk Golf Course
- » Rain Gardens, Native Plantings, and Pollinator Habitat Gardens
- » Ice Rink
- » Unpaved Trail on South Side of Buck Creek

Comments:

- » Good spot for a skateboard park
- » Empty green space would be nice, keep it peaceful
- » Another disc golf course is not necessary

Question 6: Peck Street Park

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Canopies for Shade (Trees and Fabric)
- » Community Garden Partnership
- » Install New Playground Equipment with Rubber Flooring

Comments:

- » This may not be a good spot for a community garden

Question 7: Little League Baseball Complex

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Street Parking Signage to Guide Cars
- » Sidewalk Repair throughout the Complex

Comments:

- » Increase Parking

Question 8: Buck Creek Trail

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Repave Trail as Needed
- » Remove Roots Undermining Trail
- » Maintain and Update Wayfinding and Other Signage
- » Implement Crosswalk on Prairie Street, as well as between Broadway and Chicago Drive
- » Native Plantings and Trees along Trail
- » Flood Mitigation and Creek Stabilization
- » Create a primitive Trail

Comments:

- » Crosswalk at Prairie Keep it natural, enhanced for wildlife, but controlled
- » Keep it natural, enhanced for wildlife, but controlled

Question 9: Grand River Waterfront/Pathway

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Education and Promotion of this Resource to Grandville Residents
- » Improved Access Plan
- » Replace Old Dock
- » Work with Kent County Parks on Improvements to the Kent Trail System and the Grand River Greenway
- » Enforce non-motorized traffic use only on Indian Mounds Drive

Comments:

- » Not many people know about the Grand River Waterfront Access, education and promotion should be prioritized

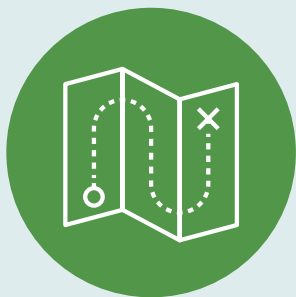
Question 10: Land Adjacent to the Senior Center

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Gazebo
- » Picnic Area
- » Senior-Maintained Gardens

Comments:

- » More native flowers and trees would lower the costs of mowing



RESPONDENTS WANT
**Buck Creek Trail
Improvements**

Question 11: Land South of the Cemetery

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Construct Unpaved Trails through Woods for Mountain Biking, Winter Activities (i.e. snow shoeing, cross country skiing), and Others

Comments:

- » Clean up trash here
- » Keep it quiet
- » This would be a good spot for a dog park

Question 12: Land Across from South Elementary

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Replace Dilapidated Tennis Courts with Pickleball Courts

Comments:

- » Good spot for a skate park
- » Not everyone likes pickleball
- » More tree cover and vegetation

Miscellaneous

The following enhancements were supported:

- » Improve Tree Canopy
- » Curb Cut Rain Gardens
- » Skate Park

Comments:

- » Dog park
- » Aquatic center
- » More native plantings and natural landscaping would eliminate mowing and watering costs
- » Parks open later
- » Splash pad
- » Paths paved for strollers and wheelchairs

Desired Amenities

More than 25% voted for:

- » Hiking/Walking Trails
- » Restrooms
- » Natural Area
- » Special Events/Festivals
- » Playgrounds
- » Community Gardens
- » Bicycling
- » Pickleball
- » Sledding



Action Items

PARK	ACTION ITEM	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NO OPINION
Wedgwood Park	Sand Pit Improvements	47%	11%	44%
	Senior Center Lot Improvements	47%	9%	44%
	Replace Grass Football Field with Artificial Turf	20%	56%	24%
Heritage Park	Relocate and Add Swings	61%	8%	31%
	Street Parking Signage along 42nd Street and Cherokee Avenue	40%	14%	45%
	Replace Woodchips with Rubber Flooring	58%	19%	22%
Calvin Crest Park	Partner with Calvin Crest High School to Find a New Place for Tennis Courts	43%	19%	38%
	Repurpose Land Used for Tennis Courts as Green Space	47%	18%	35%
	Add in Pickleball Courts	58%	13%	30%
	Higher Fencing	21%	21%	58%
Lee Street Park	Canopies for Shade	66%	9%	25%
	Install New Playground Equipment with Rubber Flooring	62%	14%	24%
	New Benches/Seating Areas	65%	9%	27%
Mill Park Race	Low Impact Disk Golf Course	54%	22%	23%
	Rain Gardens, Native Plantings, and Pollinator Habitat Gardens	76%	7%	17%
	Ice Rink	65%	15%	20%
	Unpaved Trail on South Side of Buck Creek	76%	8%	15%
Peck Street Park	Canopies for Shade (Trees and Fabric)	70%	9%	21%
	Community Garden Partnership	65%	14%	21%
	Install New Playground Equipment with Rubber Flooring	62%	15%	23%
Little League Baseball Complex	Street Parking Signage to Guide Cars	64%	9%	27%
	Sidewalk Repair throughout the Complex	59%	6%	34%
Buck Creek Trail/ Greenway	Repave Trail as Needed	89%	4%	7%
	Remove Roots Undermining Trail	85%	5%	10%
	Maintain and Update Wayfinding and Other Signage	68%	7%	25%
	Implement Crosswalk on Prairie Street, as well as between Broadway and Chicago Drive	77%	6%	18%
	Native Plantings and Trees along Trail	79%	8%	13%
	Flood Mitigation and Creek Stabilization	82%	4%	14%
	Create a Primitive Trail	49%	12%	40%

PARK	ACTION ITEM	SUPPORT	OPPOSE	NO OPINION
Grand River Waterfront	Education and Promotion of this Resource to Grandville Residents	67%	9%	23%
	Improved Access Plan	66%	8%	26%
	Replace Old Dock	62%	10%	29%
	Work with Kent County Parks on Improvements to the Kent Trail System and the Grand River Greenway	68%	9%	22%
Land Adjacent to the Senior Center	Gazebo	63%	5%	32%
	Picnic Area	61%	8%	31%
	Senior-Maintained Gardens	70%	5%	25%
Land South of the Cemetery	Construct Unpaved Trails through Woods for Mountain Biking, Winter Activities (i.e. snow shoeing, cross country skiing), and Others	76%	15%	9%
Land Across from South Elementary	Replace Dilapidated Tennis Courts with Pickleball Courts	68%	11%	21%
Miscellaneous	Improve Tree Canopy	72%	6%	22%
	Curb Cut Rain Gardens	54%	8%	38%
	Skate Park	43%	35%	22%





Background Information

Description of the Planning Process

Citizen input played a critical role in the development of this Plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use the City's parks and recreation facilities. The process included seven tasks that are discussed below.

Task One: Community Description

The first task was to obtain a description of Grandville's physical and social features. These features include land use, community facilities, environmental and natural features, as well as population characteristics including age distribution, household size, and income. The Community Description can be found in Chapters 2 and 3.

Task Two: Parks and Recreation Inventory

The parks and recreation inventory includes written descriptions of facilities in Grandville including both City parks and facilities and recreational amenities operated by other entities, such as the Grandville Public School District, Kent County, or private entities. The information includes the acreage, barrier-free accessibility, types of recreation facilities, and other descriptions of the physical attributes of the area's facilities.

Task Three: Administrative Structure and Funding

The City reviewed the administrative structure of its parks and recreation facilities and programming. This analysis also includes a review of the current and projected revenues and expenditures for Parks and Recreation as well as the grant history of funding received from the MDNR and other sources.

Task Four: Public Participation

The following public participation methods and events were conducted throughout the process of preparing the Plan:

- » **Survey** – A survey was available to City residents from early October to early November. It was advertised online and at the Scarecrow Festival. Selected results can be found in Chapter 7, with full results in the Appendix.
- » **Review Period** – November 20 – December 20, 2024.

Task Five: Analysis

Based on the data collected in tasks one through four, the information was analyzed in accordance with national and state guidelines, local needs, the experience of the Parks and Recreation Department and consultants, the desires of the residents, and potential funding sources.

Task Six: Action Plan

Taking into account the analysis, goals and objectives and public input results, a five-year plan was created. The Plan provides the City a checklist of what action is to be accomplished, when and where it will occur, who will accomplish it, how much it will cost, and potential funding sources.

Task Seven: Plan Completion and Adoption.

The Plan was adopted at a regular meeting of the Grandville City Council on January 13, 2025.

Administrative Structure and Funding

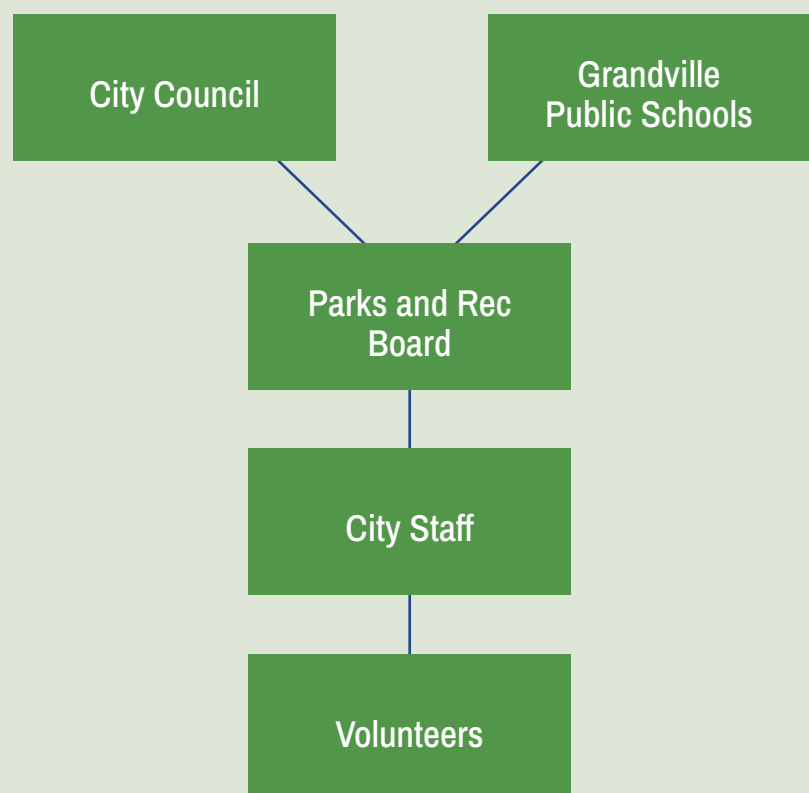
ADMINISTRATION

The Grandville Parks and Recreation Board is a joint entity of the City of Grandville and Grandville Public Schools. The Board works to ensure that the Grandville community has high-quality, well-maintained park spaces for all residents to enjoy.

VOLUNTEERS

As is common in smaller communities, the City relies heavily on volunteers in order to maintain a quality parks and recreation system. Volunteer citizens often assist with the planning and organization of community-wide events and festivals held within the parks. Volunteers also assist with maintenance, although the City is actively seeking additional volunteers for these tasks to reduce the burden on City maintenance employees.

Figure 3: Grandville Administrative Structure for Parks and Recreation



PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING

The table below summarizes the Grandville parks and recreation budget from 2014-15 through 2025-2029.

Table 13: Parks and Recreation Budget and Expenditures, 2014-2020

FISCAL YEAR	BUDGET	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES
2014-15	\$397,086	\$367,029
2015-16	\$353,421	\$391,492
2016-17	\$414,407	\$429,438
2017-18	\$450,965	\$414,171
2018-19	\$494,453	\$435,112
2019-20	\$526,582	\$448,045
2020-21	\$535,133	\$450,116
2021-22	\$520,833	\$505,307
2022-23	\$1,406,354	\$1,388,581
2023-24	\$1,867,250	\$234,598
2024-25*	\$1,341,700	
2025-26	\$634,000	
2026-27	\$597,000	
2027-28	\$102,000	
2028-29	\$723,000	

Source: Grandville, 2024

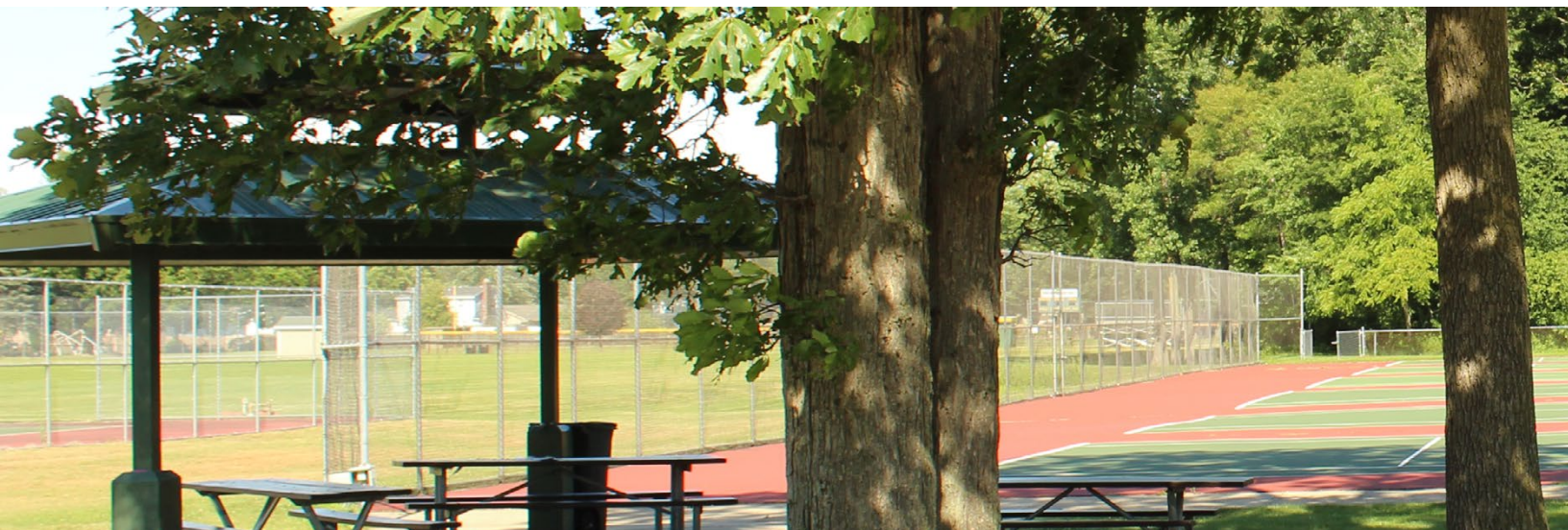
*Current fiscal year

FUNDING SOURCES

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

RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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



PARKS AND RECREATION MDNR GRANT HISTORY

Table 14: MDNR Grant History

PARK	GRANT NUMBER	YEAR OF APPLICATION	SCOPE ITEMS / DESCRIPTION
Wedgwood Park	26-00237	1971	Acquisition of 9.27 acres of land
	26-003300	1972	Develop sewer and water system, fencing, roads, parking, lighted softball field, football field, and shelter
	BF91-336	1991	Develop 5 horseshoe courts, fencing, shelter structure, electrical service, site lighting, and landscaping
Heritage Park	26-01371	1985	Develop play equipment, 2 picnic areas and equipment, signage, bridges, entrance drive and parking, walkway, lighting, and stone trail
	26-01455	1986	Develop concrete walk, stone trail, benches, viewing shelter, lighted basketball court, boardwalk with floating pier, lighting, fence/gates, and landscaping
Calvin Crest Park	26-01002	1978	Acquisition of 9 acres (entire park), develop 6 tennis courts, softball field, nature trails, and footbridges
	BF89-603	1989	Develop basketball court and landscaping
Mill Race Park	TF87-187	1987	Acquisition of 22 acres with 1,400 feet of frontage on Buck Creek
	TF21-0159	2021	Addition of picnic shelter, playground, and pollinator gardens
Grandville and Kent Trail Pathway Connections	07-100	2007	Development of a pathway to connect the Kent Trail Extension to Buck Creek Trail
Kent Trails	01-179	2001	Development of extension of Kent Trail System along the Grand River







Appendix

1. Notice of Availability of Draft Plan
2. Public Hearing Notice
3. Public Hearing Minutes
4. PCSC Reports

intentionally left blank

Planning Consultants:



235 E. Main Street, Suite 105
Northville, MI 48167
T: 248.596.0920
F: 248.596.0930
mcka.com

John Jackson, AICP President
Christopher Khorey, AICP Project Manager
Paige Brodeur Project Planner
Carrie Leitner Art Director



3195 Wilson Ave SW
(616) 531-3030
cityofgrandville.com