



Mecosta County Park Commission Parks and Recreation Master Plan

2021-2025



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Updated December 17, 2020

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Executive Summary

Introduction

Mecosta County is rural and is rich in natural resources. It has an abundance of lakes, streams and woodlands making recreation a significant part of its economy. Though summer cottages and retirement homes already surround many of the lakes, large tracts of land remain undeveloped. The prime river frontage owned by the Consumers Energy Company along the Muskegon River is one such area. Other examples include portions of the Martiny flooding project and the Haymarsh State Game Area. As a county park system, we benefit from this wealth. The beautiful settings surrounding our parks attract many visitors to Mecosta County making it possible to move closer to a County mandate of self-sufficiency in operation.

The Park Commission recognizes its responsibility to provide quality recreation facilities for residents and visitors to the County. This includes the need for upgrading existing facilities in order to meet new federal regulations affecting operation, replacing and renovating outdated structures, establishing new park lands by purchase, lease or some other means, and expanding services to meet changing customer demands of the next century. We also need to respond to the needs of the communities and population segments that desire the recreation services provided through fee generating community parks. These parks go hand in hand with county parks and serve travelers as well as area residents.

With ever-increasing operational costs, new federal laws, aging facilities, new demands for service and new opportunities for growth — a well thought out master plan is a must to make use of every dollar generated and to obtain grants and technical assistance necessary to accomplish our goals.

Purpose

It is the purpose of this plan to provide the Mecosta County Park Commission a useful guide for the future development of their parks and to provide a comprehensive plan to address the needs of the citizens and visitors of the area. This plan will establish goals to meet the open space and recreation needs of this region to the year 2025.

Goals of the Plan

- Update the Master Plan to address current needs and conditions to serve as a planning resource to the Mecosta County Parks Commission.
- To determine needs and make recommendations that will guide future parks and recreation decisions to best utilize the resources available to the Mecosta County Parks Commission.
- To understand what the community would like to see in future park developments and acquisitions.

Scope

This Parks and Recreation Plan is for Mecosta County Park Commission's existing parks and recreation facilities. The needs for neighborhood parks, supporting facilities, trailway/greenway systems, and recreation programs are analyzed for the projected years 2021-2025. The plan recommendations are provided through analysis of demographic projections, county land-use trends, citizen input, past and future recreational trends, state and federal grant funding requirements, and potential land acquisition opportunities.

Community Description

Mecosta County is in Michigan's lower peninsula, 50 miles north of the City of Grand Rapids. The county is 575 square miles in area and as of the 2010 census the population is 42,798 people. The community is separated into four villages: Barryton, Mecosta, Morley, and Stanwood; six cities and towns: Barryton, Big Rapids, Canadian Lakes, Mecosta, Morley, and Stanwood and 16 Townships: Aetna, Austin, Big Rapids, Chippewa, Colfax, Deerfield, Fork, Grant, Green, Hinton, Martiny, Mecosta, Milbrook, Morton, Sheridan, and Wheatland.

Mecosta County - The Land

Mecosta County is in the West-Central part of lower Michigan, bordering Newaygo County on the West, Osceola County on the North, Isabella County on the East, and Montcalm County on the South. Big Rapids, the county seat, is in the Northwestern part of the county.

Rural Mecosta County accounts for approximately 97 percent of the 575 square miles of land area. About 37 percent of this is devoted to agricultural activities but only about half is in active production. Forested land accounts for about 25 percent of the county with open space and wilderness areas following a close third in terms of land use.

Mecosta County - The Economy

Land resources have shaped much of Mecosta County's economy. The County was originally a lumber and agricultural center that relied heavily on natural resources. After the lumbering industry began to fail in the 1900's, manufacturing and Ferris Institute made an appearance. After World War II, manufacturing became a predominant industry in the County. In the 1960's, the College, seasonal residents, and tourist growth became significant economic forces. Through the years Mecosta County has learned to utilize its land resources as an important part of its economy; now the County must recognize how to preserve and wisely use these remaining resources if it is to continue to progress.

Continued growth within the industrial sector is anticipated in light of the additional purchase of land for the area's next industrial park. The presence of the US-131 corridor through Mecosta County has proven to be a definite asset in fostering future industrial growth.

Tourism and recreation have grown significantly in the County over the past decades, as urban populations seek leisure time activities and facilities away from the congestion and confusion of

densely populated cities. Mecosta County has become extremely popular in recent years because of its proximity to large populations and an abundance of natural resources.

The economic impact of the tourist industry is not only within the individual services themselves but also in the indirect benefits generated by them. By attracting large numbers of out-of-area users, the recreational suppliers create markets for a myriad of other economically important activities; the most important among these are retail sales. Leisure time users create markets for fuel, food, fishing and hunting supplies as well as an endless list of recreational vehicles and related equipment.

Mecosta County - The People

The 2019 estimated population was 43,453, a 1.5% growth from the 2010 count of 42,798. Median age is 36.5, which has been on the rise over the past decades. The aging population could be a result of two things: the increase in numbers of retirees to the county and the maturing "baby boom" generation. This group is becoming the fastest growing group in the nation while the under 18 group has declined. This new dominant group will stimulate consumption of adult-oriented leisure pursuits. It bears noting that Ferris State University with its 11,165-enrollment figure for fall 2020 is a significant group that compromises a special segment of the population.

Mecosta County is about evenly split between rural and urban population. It is anticipated that over time the county will become more urban. As people move out of the nearby metropolitan areas, they will still settle in the less populated urban areas which provide them with the kinds of services and amenities such as sewer and water, paved roads, recreational facilities, etc., that they are accustomed to receiving.

In addition to Big Rapids, Mecosta County has several other developing or existing built-up areas. Four of these are the incorporated Villages of Morley, Stanwood, Mecosta, and Barryton. Other developed areas include Remus, Chippewa Lake, Paris, Rogers Heights, Canadian Lakes Tri-Lakes Area, and the Martiny Lakes area.

The students from Ferris State University represent a special population group within Mecosta County. They are an institutional group according to the U.S. Bureau of Census, thus possessing certain similar characteristics. They are also a large enough group that they directly affect overall characteristics of the county.

Recreational development is an important part of Mecosta County, and with recreational activities come seasonal fluctuations of population. The County's second special population group, seasonal residents, causes this. Although this population group does possess similar characteristics, they are not a formal institutional group, making information gathering more difficult and less specific.

Administrative Structure

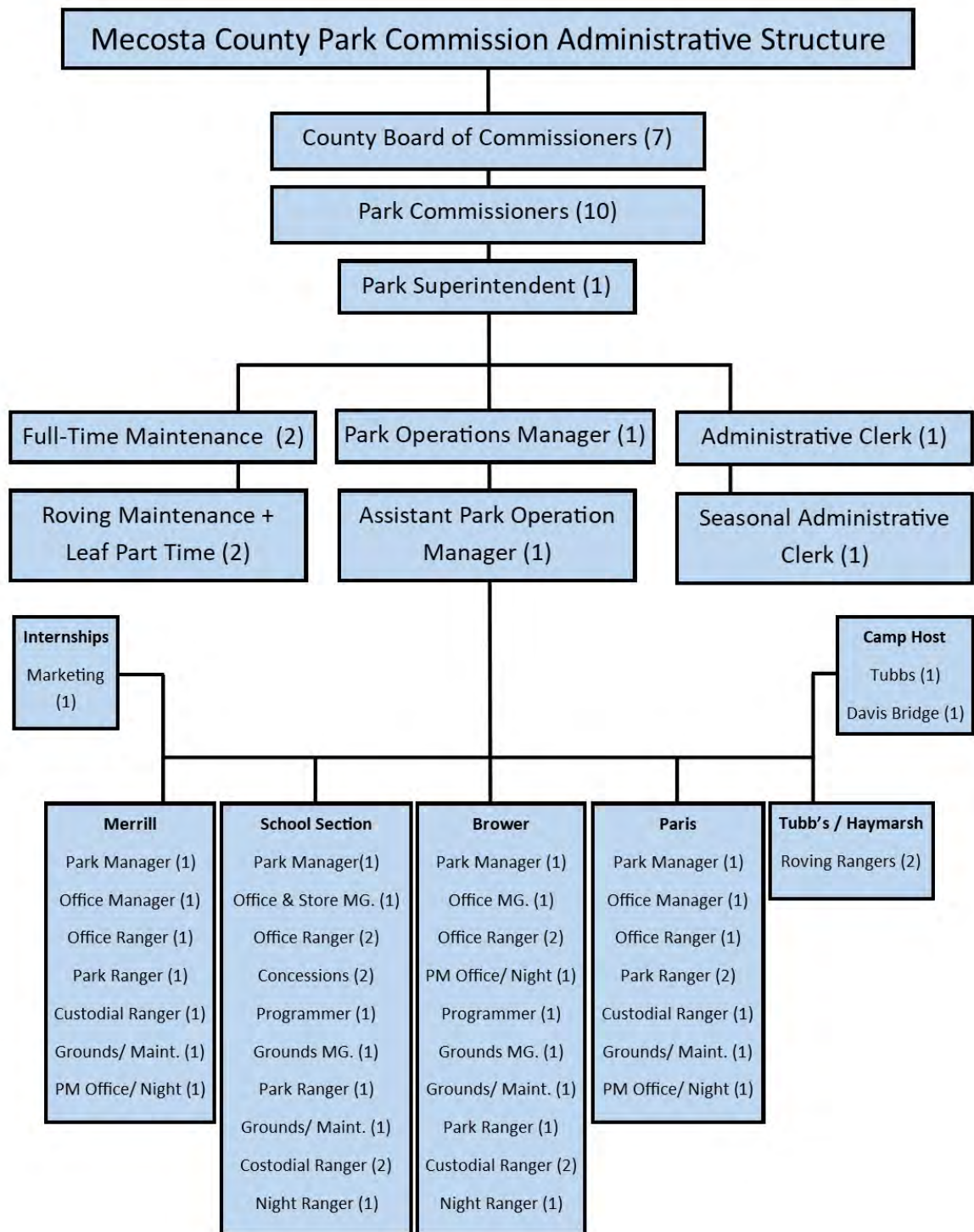
The Mecosta County Park Commission staff consists of six year-round benefited positions with two year-round, part time positions. During the peak operating season, the commission recruits 43 additional seasonal staff members and two camp hosts to manage and operate five County Parks, two Campgrounds within State Game Areas, the undeveloped White Pine Valley Recreation Area, and Michigan's Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam.

During the peak operating season, which is from late April to early October, the camping portions of the parks are open with eight seasonal park managers overseeing daily operations and rules enforcement of each park. Additional seasonal staff positions include office rangers, custodians, grounds & maintenance workers, park rangers, night rangers, programmers, and concessions workers.

The eight year-round staff positions consist of a Park Superintendent, Park Operations and Assistant Operations Managers, Administrative Clerk, two Full-Time Maintenance & two Part-Time Maintenance staff. The Mecosta County Park Commission itself consists of ten commission members who meet monthly to evaluate park operations, maintenance and finances and provide direction to the Park Superintendent. The full-time staff members work cohesively to plan, develop, administer and maintain a comprehensive operation providing recreational opportunities and an economic stimulus for Mecosta County. These staff members oversee the general operations of the parks from seasonal staff hiring to budget preparation, maintenance requirements, and operational procedures.

The Park Commission contains six sub-committees consisting of Building & Grounds, Personnel, Finance, Master Plan, Rules & Regulations, and Michigan's Dragon Trail. Each sub-committee meets as required to evaluate circumstances and operational changes and to provide recommendations to the full Park Commission.

The County of Mecosta provides a variety of services to the Park Commission including payroll and record keeping operations. All park finances are reconciled through the County Treasurer's office with annual audits being conducted. Full-time employees are incorporated into Mecosta County's benefits plan. Liability coverage is also provided under the County Plan. The County Building Department, County Road Commission, District Health Department, County Emergency Management, and The Department of Natural Resources act in an advisory capacity. The County Board of Commissioners provides governmental oversight and appoints members to the Park Commission as required. The Park commission acts as an information resource for local units of government such as townships and villages, area schools, Ferris State University, many local community organizations, and individual citizens.



Mecosta County Park Commission

The Park Commission is appointed by members of the County Board of Commissioners to three-year terms and is made up of ten citizen members:

- Marilyn Bradstrom, County Commission
- Van Johnson, Road Commission
- Karla Miller, Drain Commission
- Gary Swier, Planning Commission
- Steve Stratton
- Eric O'Neil
- Stephen Perialas
- Bryan Roles
- Bill Stanek
- Tim Vogel

Organized under Public Act 261 of 1965, the Park Commission oversees the finances and general operations of the county park system. The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the administrative headquarters located in Paris, Michigan. The Park Commission is composed of a representative of the Planning and Zoning Board, the Drain Commissioner or designee, a representative from the County Road Commission, and seven appointed representatives by the County Board of Commissioners, of which, at least one but not more than three shall be members of the County Board of Commissioners for a total of ten Park Commission members. The Parks Superintendent answers directly to the Park Commission.

The Park Commission makes organizational decisions and provides recommendations to the Board of Commissioners, including guiding the development of the Parks Master Plan. The Park Commission also provides direction and leadership to the parks staff regarding recreational operations and policies to meet the needs of county residents. The Park Commission holds committee meetings and monthly meetings as required and in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Parks Budget and Funding

Current Budget

Parks and Recreation Budget Summary

		Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Budget 2020
508-000-885.000	AUDIT EXPENSE	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
508-000-917.000	BANK CHARGES	50	10	30	20	23	50
508-000-719.000	BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION	42	63	110	126	42	0
508-000-830.000	BOOKS/PRINTED MATERIAL	7,310	2,140	660	3,693	7,982	6,500
508-000-870.000	BUILDING REPAIR/MAINT.	19,557	8,089	10,177	9,290	10,757	11,950
508-000-970.000	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	12,577	46,834	9,198	0	15,257	379,000
508-002-880.010	COMMUNITY EVENT PROMOTION	0	0	0	0	3,229	3,500
508-000-984.000	COMPUTER EQUIPMENT	379	6,067	2,418	1,360	3,998	6,500
508-000-809.000	CONFERENCE EXPENSES	1,267	1,980	1,982	1,093	1,230	1,000
508-000-801.000	CORPORATION COUNSEL	0	628	0	0	0	1,000
508-000-864.000	CREDIT CARD EXPENSE	21,390	19,591	21,573	23,838	26,655	27,000
508-000-991.000	DEBT SVC INT.	3,675	2,109	2,531	1,452	2,417	0
508-000-718.000	DENTAL, VISION, LIFE	5,422	5,533	5,585	6,015	5,535	4,823
508-000-971.000	DEPRECIATION EXPENSE	89,144	95,332	96,012	98,236	136,976	0
508-000-812.000	EMPLOYEE PHYSICALS	5,813	5,214	4,750	5,590	4,980	4,725
508-000-852.000	EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS	744	602	821	700	1,030	900
508-000-853.000	EQUIPMENT REPAIR	9,221	5,897	3,007	5,518	7,398	11,300
508-000-980.000	EQUIPMENT/FURNITURE	1,000	4,854	5,970	11,424	11,203	500
508-000-742.000	GAS/FUEL	11,070	10,334	11,843	16,213	12,985	12,800
508-000-849.000	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE	80,239	49,894	89,177	78,705	77,910	112,950
508-000-717.000	HEALTH INSURANCE	49,715	51,754	64,577	70,630	70,573	71,953
508-000-717.010	HEALTHCARE SAVING PROGRAM	370	265	290	300	295	355
508-000-891.000	INDIRECT COST ALLOCATION	28,512	28,512	28,512	28,512	28,512	28,512
508-000-704.010	INSURANCE SUBSTITUTE	2,708	1,562	0	0	0	0
508-002-869.000	LICENSES/PERMITS	3,096	5,602	5,704	5,539	5,189	5,875
508-000-710.000	LONGEVITY	720	720	0	0	0	0
508-000-972.000	LOSS ON SALE OF CAPITAL ASSETS	0	27,225	0	0	0	0
508-000-882.000	MARKETING	0	8,328	9,916	10,341	8,505	8,000
508-000-713.010	MEDICARE/FICA	5,576	6,095	6,751	7,859	7,750	8,484
508-000-808.000	MEMBERSHIP/DUES	225	855	225	585	595	600
508-000-714.000	MERS	29,475	26,240	45,928	46,861	46,876	50,640
508-000-901.000	MISCELLANEOUS	1,167	1,582	1,010	1,635	2,950	4,500
508-000-728.000	OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,929	2,988	2,834	2,001	2,061	2,600
508-000-858.000	ON-LINE SERVICES	6,876	2,600	2,531	7,818	12,526	17,730
508-000-703.000	OTHER SALARIED	155,301	161,926	192,827	201,224	204,396	238,558
508-000-709.000	OVERTIME WAGES	733	2,665	1,462	3,033	307	2,350
508-000-708.000	PART-TIME HOURLY WAGES	128,094	171,280	197,992	252,970	237,569	234,003
508-000-712.000	PENSION EXPENSE	-17,943	8,288	-47,293	-1,081	9,123	0
508-000-705.000	PER DIEMS	5,450	5,375	4,025	3,025	4,125	3,500
508-000-821.000	POSTAGE	334	328	246	106	177	340
508-000-828.000	PRINTING/PUBLICATIONS	2,389	1,540	1,803	289	205	2,500
508-000-813.000	PROF.&CONTRACT SVCS/NON-EMPLOYEE	45,363	80,704	19,173	19,100	19,333	62,250
508-002-905.000	REFUNDS	2,241	4,869	1,271	4,198	6,470	24,055
508-000-706.000	REGULAR FULL-TIME WAGES	85,823	76,676	78,138	83,450	84,653	98,022
508-000-724.000	SICK TIME WAGES	5,062	1,316	725	3,194	3,811	0
508-060-713.000	SOCIAL SECURITY/FICA	23,838	26,062	28,918	33,607	33,138	36,055
508-000-855.000	SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT	0	0	0	0	70	100
508-000-855.010	SOFTWARE PROGRAMS AND UPDATES	0	1,500	179	0	0	100
508-000-773.000	SUPPLIES/MINOR EQUIPMENT	33,169	33,456	37,518	41,758	33,204	45,050
508-013-773.010	SUPPLIES/MINOR EQUIPMENT-STONE HOUSE	0	0	0	28,722	29,806	35,000
508-000-822.000	TELEPHONE	5,739	5,977	5,789	6,374	5,872	5,425
508-000-810.000	TRAVEL/MILEAGE EXPENSE	3,605	3,513	1,844	2,468	3,335	2,500
508-002-715.000	UNEMPLOYMENT	26,083	28,050	29,869	32,412	39,018	40,500
508-000-750.000	UNIFORMS & SHOES	1,356	1,369	740	2,141	3,185	3,570
508-000-720.000	UNUSED SICK LEAVE	0	2,795	3,090	2,892	1,849	4,500
508-000-823.000	UTILITIES/REPAIR	102,889	111,228	108,790	131,917	133,792	144,200
508-000-723.000	VACATION WAGES	10,109	7,442	4,595	8,031	11,343	0
508-000-854.000	VEHICLE MAINTENANCE	4,299	6,571	5,465	7,403	10,882	17,000
508-000-981.000	VEHICLE PURCHASE	0	0	0	0	0	0
508-000-716.000	WORKMAN COMPENSATION	9,076	9,649	12,183	17,087	14,273	15,000
Totals		1,034,479	1,184,278	1,125,668	1,331,875	1,407,573	1,800,524

Relationships

Consumers Energy – The Park Commission has lease and operations agreements with Consumers Energy for use of the property containing Brower County Park, Davis Bridge County Park and Michigan’s Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam.

Michigan’s Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam Partnership – The Park Commission works in conjunction with Newaygo County Parks and West Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance to operate and maintain Michigan’s Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam. Mecosta Township (Mecosta County) and Big Prairie Township (Newaygo County) also serve on the executive committee for the trail and have made financial contributions toward trail construction. Other entities included on the executive committee include Michigan State University Extension, the County of Mecosta, the County of Newaygo and Consumers Energy.

North Country Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area – The Park Commission works in partnership with the NCCISMA on many levels. The Park Commission provides in-kind donations to the organization offering storage and office space and has completed educational projects and events within the park system related to Invasive Species.

Muskegon River Watershed Assembly – The Park Commission and Muskegon River Watershed Assembly work hand in hand on many Muskegon River improvement-oriented projects. Examples include a recent tree planting event within Paris and School Section Lake County Parks and a current dam removal and restoration project that is being evaluated within Paris Park. Park staff have volunteered to assist with Sturgeon netting prior to lamprey treatments on the Muskegon River in recent years.

DNR Fisheries – The Park Commission works hand in hand with the Fisheries Division of the DNR in stocking efforts of Rainbow and Brown Trout into the Muskegon River. We assist with the raising and planting of 20,000-30,000 fish annually and are currently in the middle of a six-year agreement to provide this resource. The Park Commission and Regional Fisheries staff members are in regular communication as to the health of many of lake and rivers within our county. Park staff have also recently volunteered and been involved in net survey studies within various bodies of water.

DNR Wildlife – The Park Commission has a great working relationship with our regional DNR Wildlife Division. The wildlife division leases storage and office space at Paris Park from the Park Commission and work together with operational agreements in Haymarsh State Game Area and Martiny State Game Area with the Park Commission maintaining all camping facilities and assisting with roadway, boat launch and trail projects. The Park Commission assists with facility needs as a deer, bear and other various wildlife check station location. The Park Commission property in Paris houses equipment for local Conservation Officers such as boats, ATVs, snowmobiles, evidence lockers, and other amenities used regularly in their daily functions.

DNR Parks - The Park Commission works in partnership with DNR Parks on maintenance items where the White Pine Trail passes through Paris County Park. During winter months trail grooming equipment is periodically stored within Paris Park. The Park Commission works to ensure signage throughout this section of the White Pine Trail is maintained and the trail remains clear of debris. Multiple parking areas to access the White Pine Trail are made available to trail users and are maintained by the Park Commission.

Kiwanis Club/Circle K - Haunted Hatchery – The Park Commission assists the local Circle K and Kiwanis Club organizations with their annual haunted hatchery event as a fund-raising activity benefitting many local organizations such as toys for tots. The event is held in the Paris Fish Hatchery building each year.

Mecosta County Convention and Visitors Bureau – The Park Commission works closely with our CVB to help bring tourists and tourism dollars to Mecosta County businesses. Many out of county visitors stay within the County Parks or attend events held within the parks on an annual basis. The Park Commission promotes the entire county when attending trade shows and other outdoor events. The CVB has provided financial contributions to Michigan’s Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam and is currently partnering with the Park Commission on a Dragon Pass program to help benefit local hotels and motels who will benefit financially from the trail.

School Section Lake Property Owners Association Partnerships – The Park Commission partners with the School Section Lake Property Owners Association on fish stocking and weed control programs at School Section Lake. The Park Commission attends annual meetings of the property owners and works hand in hand with the association to ensure all parties are involved in decisions that may affect the lake.

School Section Lake Veteran’s Memorial Project – The Park Commission recently partnered with this organization to fundraise, create, and install a Veteran’s Memorial within the park.

Remus Historical Society – School Section Lake Pavilion Project – The Park Commission partnered with these organizations to fundraise and execute a renovation plan for a history stone pavilion within the park. The building now serves as a Concessions building after a complete exterior renovation by the pavilion project organization and interior renovation by the Park Commission.

Boy Scouts – The Park Commission has ties with many local Boy Scouts organizations. Annual practice for their trip to Mackinaw Island take place by performing drills at Paris Park followed by a picnic. The White Pine Valley Recreation Area is used by multiple troops for various group camping events each season.

Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association – The Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association holds races at Brower Park each season and works with the Park Commission to bring this event to the area benefiting many local businesses.

Old Settlers Reunion – The annual re-union of the Old Settlers organization takes place at School Section Lake Veteran’s Memorial Park each year with assistance from the Park Commission. The picnic event dates back to the 1890’s and celebrates the heritage of the first African American settlers in Michigan.

Culture Alive/Little River Schoolhouse Program – The Park Commission partners with the Culture Alive Organization to provide opportunities for 4th grade classrooms to visit and experience what a day in a one room schoolhouse was like in the early 1900’s including the educational curriculum and clothing from the period. The one room schoolhouse within School Section Lake Veteran’s Park also hosts a variety of educational events each Saturday from July 4th thru Labor Day put on by Culture Alive within the park.

Mecosta and Osceola-Lake Conservation District - The Park Commission partners with the conservation district each year to host two tree sale events within the Paris Park fish hatchery building. There is an annual spring tree and shrub sale and an annual fall seedlings sale held within Paris Park.

Relief Michigan & DTE Foundation - The Park Commission partnered with these organization for a tree planting in Paris County Park to enhance the park grounds by replacing a large number of trees which were uprooted during a straight-line wind event in 2018.

Nestle Waters – Ice Mountain – The Park Commission has partnered with Nestle Waters Ice Mountain Plant through a grant to create an erosion stabilization plan for Davis Bridge County Park.

TC Energy (TransCanada) – The Park Commission partnered with TC Energy with funding to create a 1.5 mile hiking/biking loop referred to as the Brower Loop addition to the Michigan’s Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam.

Family & Group Camp – The Park Commission has a facility referred to as the Family and Group Camping Grounds where various community organizations and camps take place each season. Some examples include Camp Wilderness, which is an outdoor education camp for your 10-14 years old and Earful of Fiddle Music and Dance Camp, which is an annual immersive traditional music and dance camp.

Park Vendors and Suppliers – The Park Commission has agreements with many local businesses including food trucks/trailers, concessions suppliers, retail product suppliers, firewood suppliers, ice suppliers, fishing bait suppliers, propane suppliers, septic service providers, port-a-john suppliers, electrical service companies and more.

Volunteering with Mecosta County Parks – Operating and maintaining the Mecosta County Parks System is a major undertaking that involves many people with many different skill sets. We have been fortunate to have a large number of quality people who have come together to help make our parks system what it is today. In particular, volunteers have played an important role in our efforts and will continue to be important as we move into the future.

Resource Inventory

Water access and natural areas are an important part of Mecosta County's park system. Mecosta Parks allow direct access to the Hardy Dam Reservoir, School Section Lake, Merrill Lake, Gorrel Lake, Tubbs Lake, Haymarsh Lake, and the Muskegon River. The DNR managed Haymarsh Lake State Game Area and Martiny Lake State Game Area are within Mecosta County and have 53 rustic camping spots available through the Haymarsh and Tubbs Lake Campgrounds. Approximately 24.5 miles of the 92 mile long Fred Meijer White Pine Trail are located within Mecosta County and runs through Paris Park.

Recreation Programming

The Mecosta County Park Commission hosts events throughout the summer months at several county park locations. The Michigan Boaters Safety course is hosted within multiple parks each season along with varied other educational training sessions. School Section Lake Park and Brower Park both contain Arts and Crafts buildings with a programmer on staff at each of these locations to offer weekend family activities and craft projects. The parks host several annual events such as Independence Day Parade's, Christmas in July, and Halloween in August. Each park participates in a community open house weekend offering waived entry fees in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources free fishing weekend each June. Meet and Greet events are held at Brower, Paris, Merrill-Gorrel and School Section Lake Parks where community members can visit the park and meet with Park Commission and staff members while enjoying provided food and beverages. Additional family events such as Trivia Nights, Karaoke Nights, Wagon Rides, Corn-hole Tournaments, and more are held throughout the peak season. A variety of events hosted by community organizations are also held within the county parks each season such as Fishing Tournaments, Boat Racing, Bike Races and more. Additional recreational programming in the county is organized by private groups, school districts, and similar entities. Sports leagues and other youth programming for both students and community members are offered by townships, villages, the City of Big Rapids, schools and youth sports organizations such as T-Ball, AYSO Soccer, Rocket Football, Youth Hockey, and Upward Basketball.

Recreation Inventory

The recreation inventory is an essential item to the Parks and Recreation Services. It allows the county to assess the quantity/type of facilities and where they are located. It showcases the variety of programs and events offered. It helps identify where new facilities should be built, where ADA upgrades are needed, and opportunities for programs and events. The county continually updates the recreation inventory as renovations and additions to the parks occur, so there is always a current list available. The county will continue to bring all facilities into compliance with current accessibility standards.

Brower Park



Park Description

Brower Park provides access to the 18 miles of navigable water on the backwaters of the Hardy Dam. This beautifully wooded 280-acre park boasts almost 8000 feet of river frontage with 1000 feet of sandy beach. Water sports and family friendly amenities highlight the attractions of the park. The Hardy Pond is accessible by boat launches on the north and south shorelines. Family friendly activities include event programming, arts and crafts, hayrides, and movie nights. Additional park amenities include, hiking trails, tennis courts, disc golf, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, playgrounds and picnic areas. Brower Park contains 230 campsites and 10 Camp-N-Cabins. Pets are welcome.



Davis Bridge Day Use Park

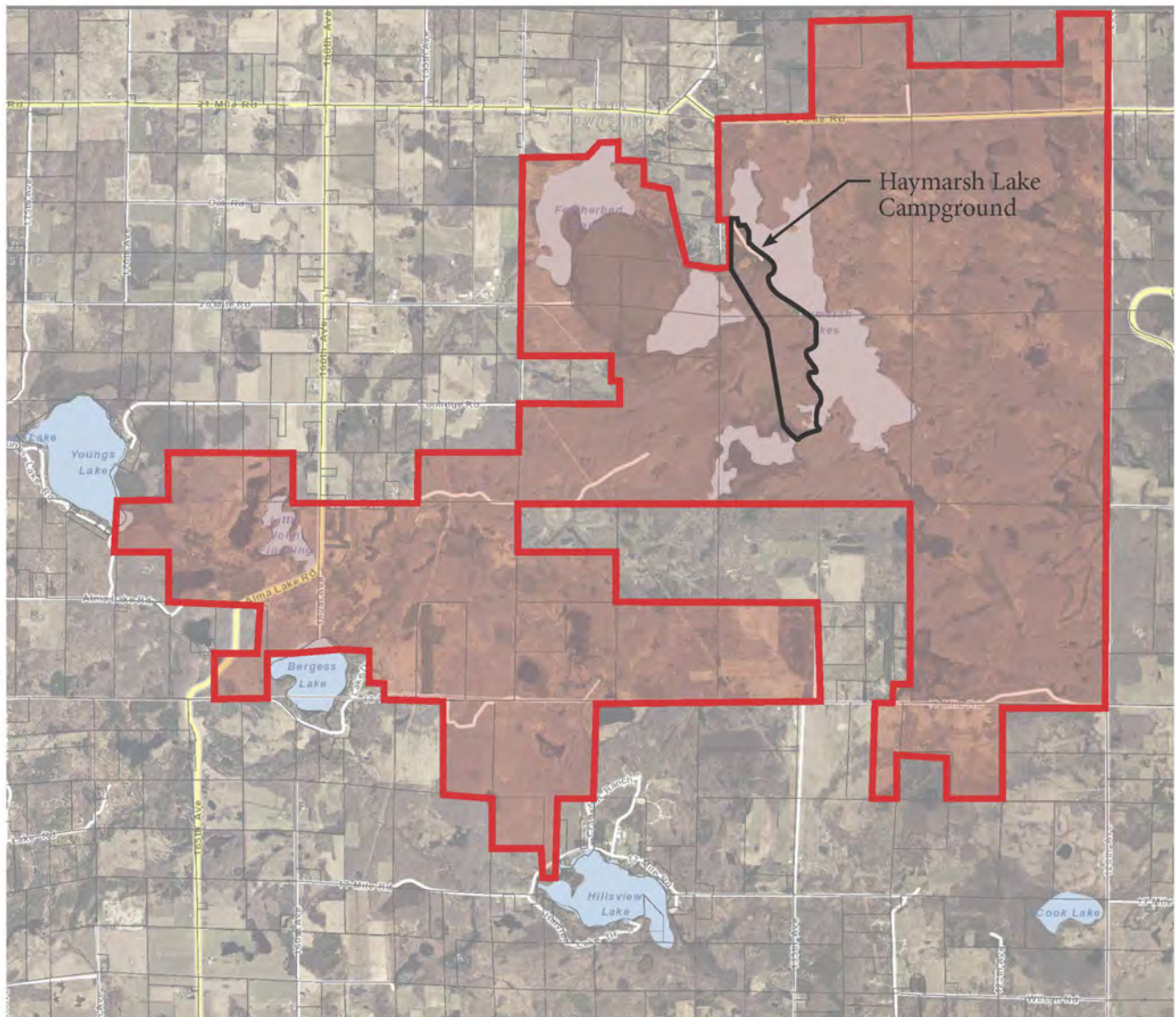


Park Description:

Davis Bridge Park offers a serene environment to enjoy natural surroundings and partake in a riverside picnic. For guests who enjoy fishing, the park offers 500 feet of shoreline and a boat launch on the banks of the Hardy Pond Reservoir. Davis Bridge Park's 20 acres contain a concrete launch ramp, a vault toilet, a hand-operated water pump, picnic tables and grills. Parking is available for your vehicle and boat trailer. A host camper is often on site to provide assistance if needed. Camping is not available at Davis Bridge Park.



Haymarsh Lake State Game Area

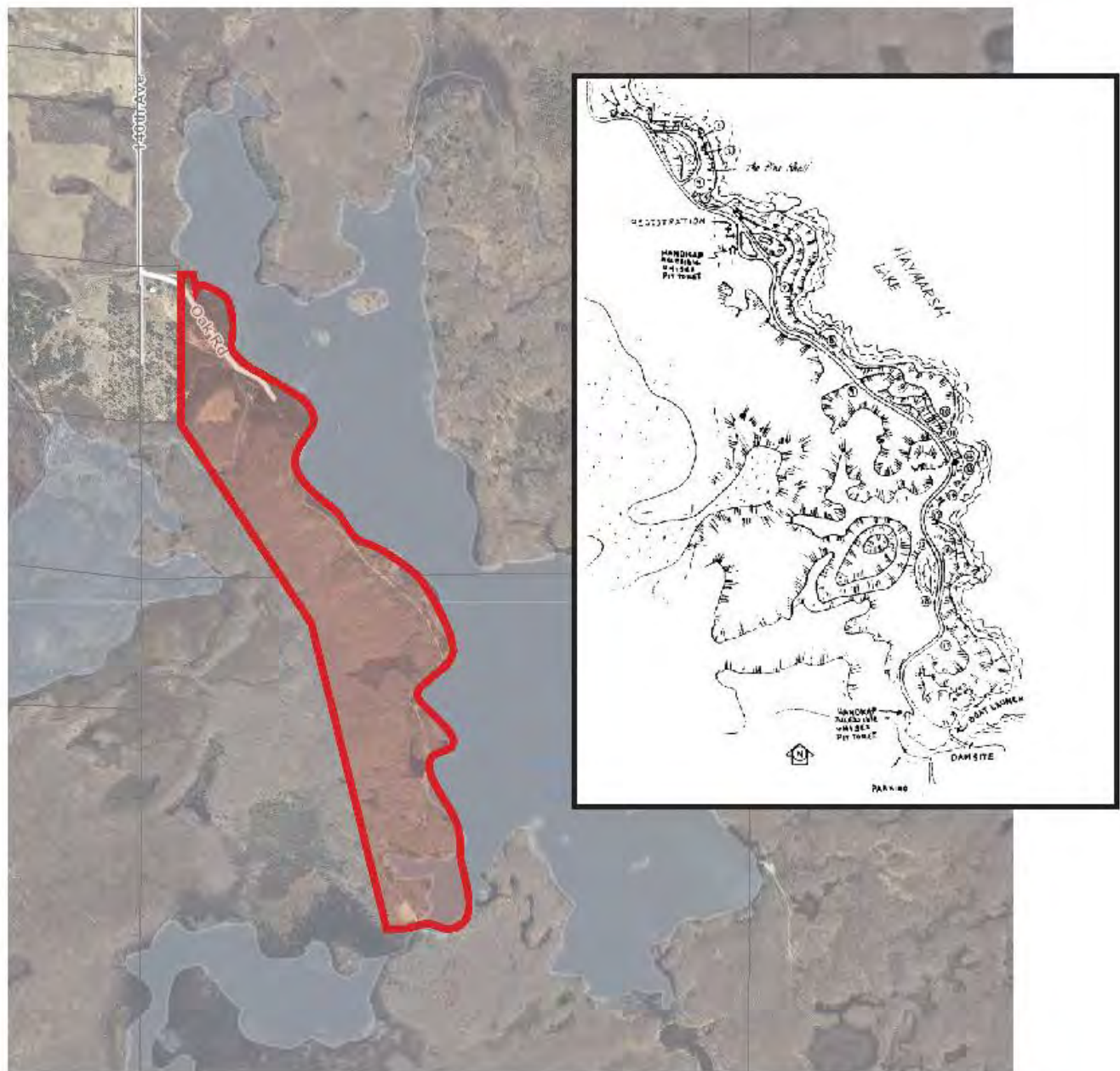


Park Description:

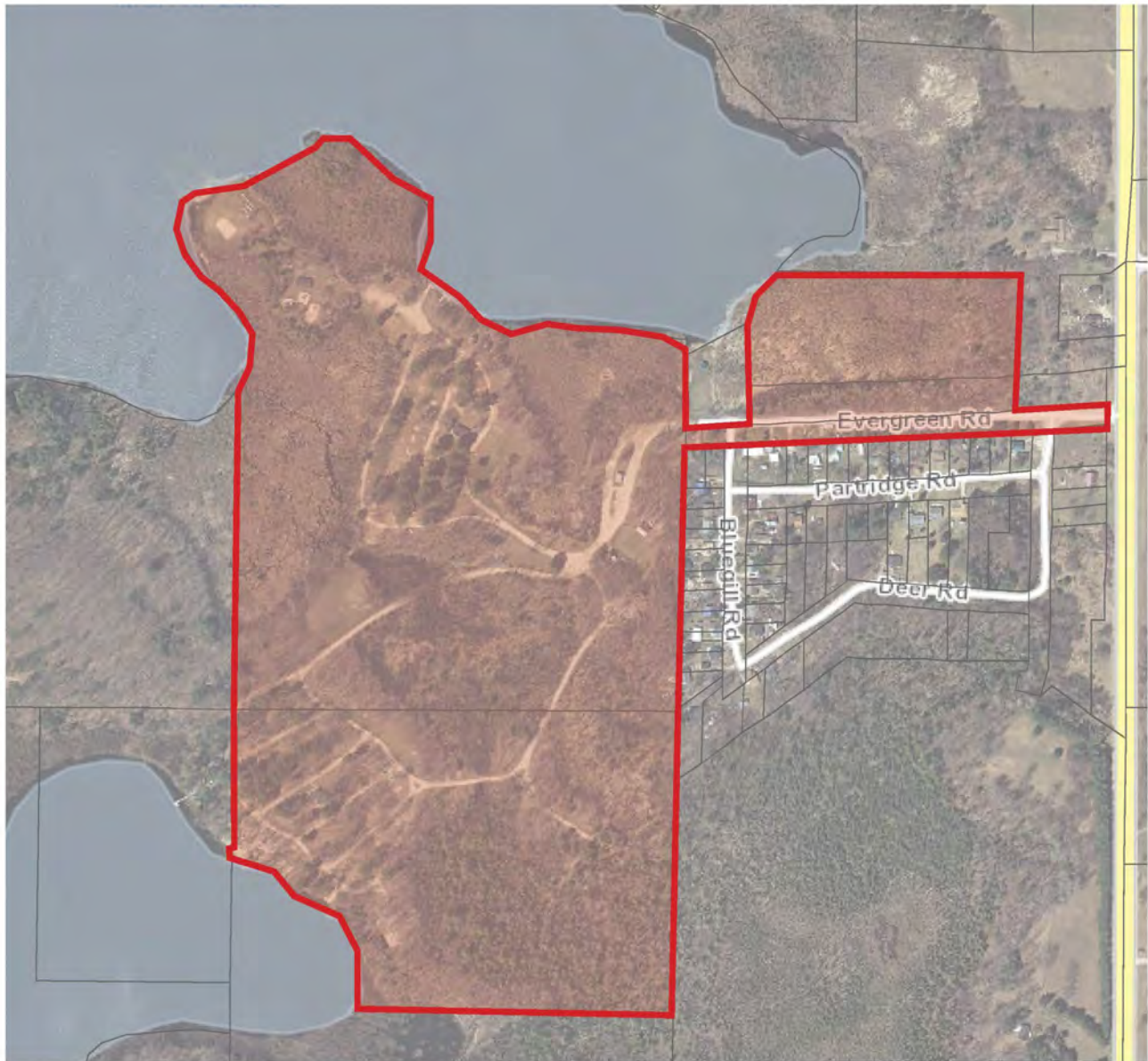
Haymarsh Lake Campground is located within DNR managed Haymarsh Lake State Game Area containing 6,737 acres. The campground is perched on the edge of Haymarsh Lake, which is a flooding project resulting in the combining of the 6 former individual lakes. The campground contains 19 rustic campsites, boat launches, vault toilets, and a hand water pump.



Haymarsh Lake Campground



Merrill-Gorrel Campground

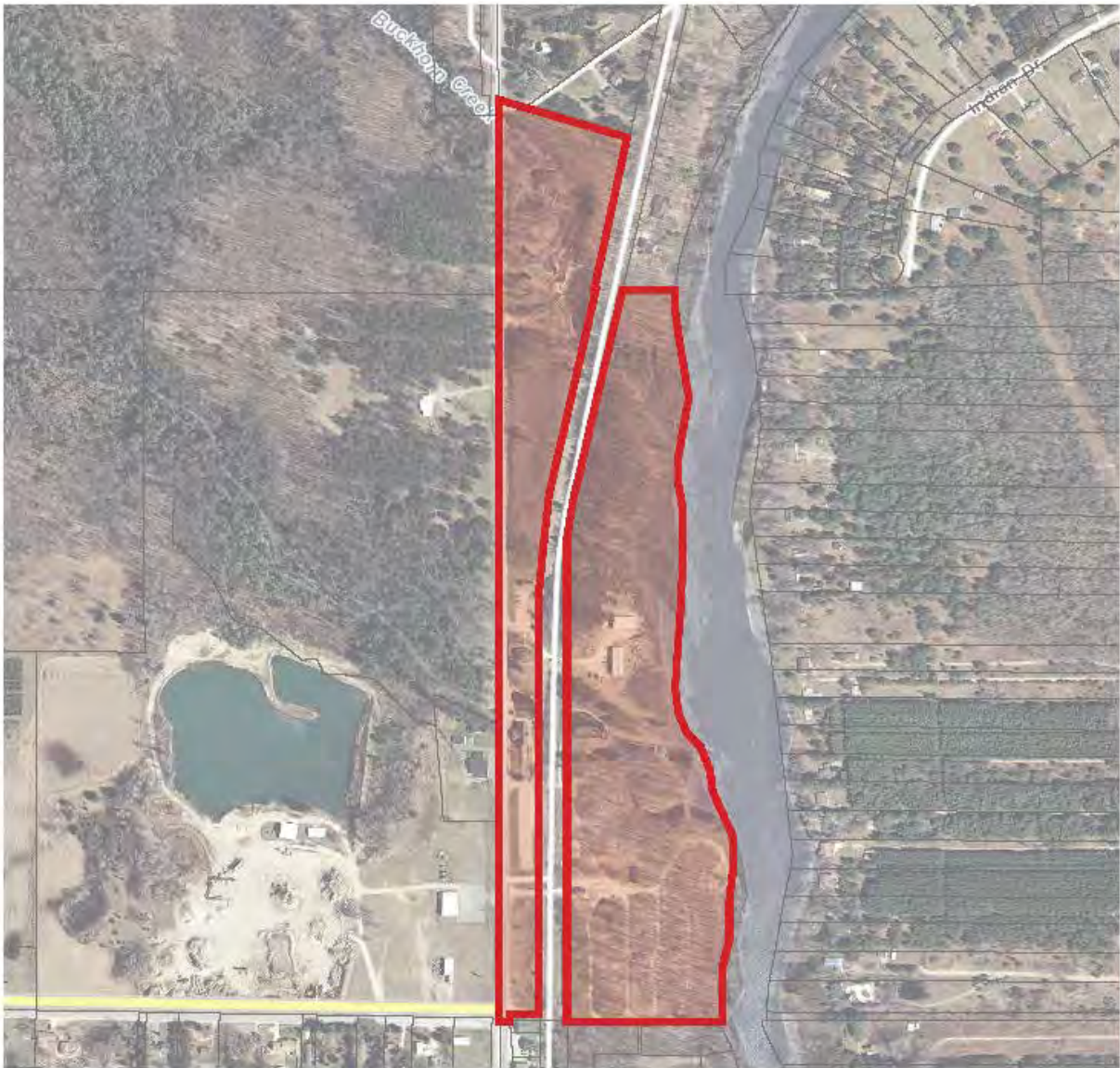


Park Description:

Merrill-Gorrel Park offers frontage on both Merrill and Gorrel Lakes. Each lake offering a boat launch, swimming beach, playground equipment and picnic area. Merrill-Gorrel Park's 90 acres offer a fishing pier, wooded trails, volleyball, basketball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, tetherball, and a ball field. 146 campsites along with 2 picnic pavilions and 4 Camp-N-Cabins enhance this picturesque getaway. Pets are welcome.



Paris Park



Park Description:

Paris Park is located at the site of the former Paris State Fish Hatchery. The Parks 40 wooded acres border the Muskegon River and provide access to Michigan's Longest Rail Trail State Park. The White Pine Trail stretches a distance of 92 miles and runs directly through Paris Park. Additional highlights of the park include an Eiffel Tower, Tube/Canoe Launch, Picturesque Hiking Trails, Historical Landmarks, Trout Ponds, Picnic Areas and Playgrounds. Park accommodations include 66 campsites, 3 Camp-N-Cabins, Pavilion Rentals, and Group Camping options. Pets are welcome.



School Section Lake Veteran's Park

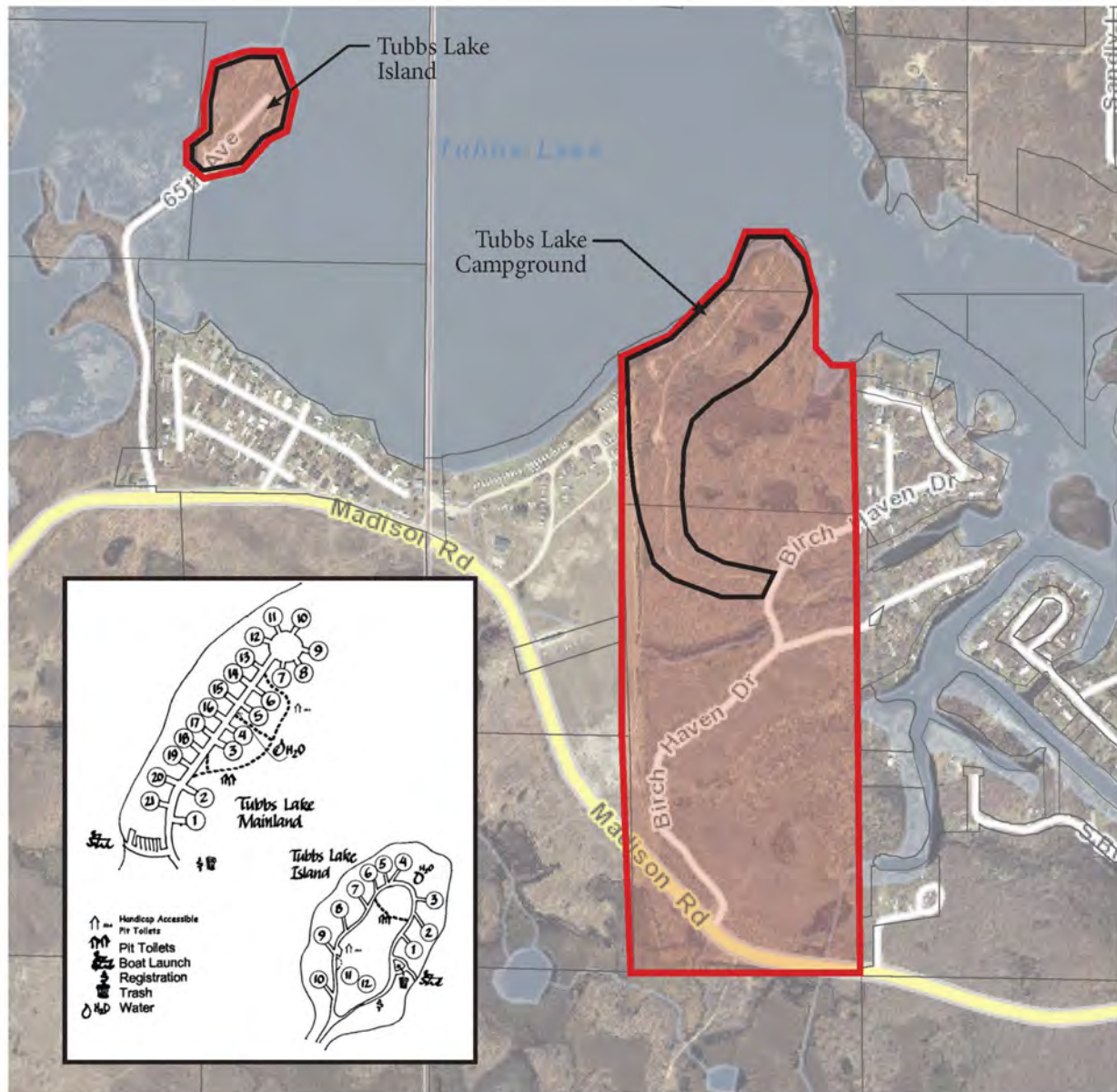


Park Description:

School Section Lake Veteran's Park is a pleasant combination of history, nature, camping, and summer fun! The trademark feature of the park is the large sand swimming area and historic fieldstone concessions building. In addition to the large swimming area are many other day use features such as a shallow water boat launch, watercraft rentals, arts and crafts, volleyball, horseshoes, basketball, ball diamonds, disc golf, playgrounds and picnic areas. The park's 86 acres contain 162 campsites, 5 Camp-N-Cabins, 2 Modern Cabins, and 4 Picnic Shelters, which are available for rent. School Section Lake is home to our Family Group Camp. This complex sleeps up to 72 guests and consists of six cabins, a lodge with kitchen and dining area and a private restroom and shower building. There are no pets allowed.



Tubbs Lake Campground



Park Description:

Tubbs Lake Campground is located within the DNR managed Martiny Lake State Game Area containing 7,660 acres which include 8 interconnected lakes. The campground is split into 2 sections consisting of Tubbs Mainland and Tubbs Island with 33 rustic sites available. Both sections offer waterfront rustic camping, a boat launch, vault toilets, and a hand water pump. Locally famous for quality fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities, it's a great place to explore and unwind.



0.3km
0.2mi

White Pine Valley Recreation Area



Park Description:

White Pine Valley Recreation Area is a 200-acre woodland area with a well-developed non-motorized trail system. The location contains a parking area with trail maps, offering opportunities for hiking, biking, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, and hunting.



0.3km
0.2mi

Regional Parks and Recreational Facilities

Accessibility Legend

1 = none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

2 = some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

3 = most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines

5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Mecosta County Parks - County Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Brower County Park	280	3	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X	X				
2	Davis Bridge County Park	5.6	3	Central & Lower Michigan Counties		X				X	X				X	X										
3	Haymarsh Lake State Campground	30	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X			X	X	X				X	X			X	X		X				X
4	Merrill-Gorrel County Park	90	1	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X		X				
5	Paris County Park	40	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	X		X				X			X	X
6	School Section Lake Veteran's County Park	85	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X	X
7	Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground	15	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X				X		X				
8	White Pine Valley County Recreation Area	200	1	Central & Lower Michigan Counties												X			X			X				
Other - County Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Mecosta County Senior Center	5	4	Senior Citizens of Mecosta County		X					X	X	X	X		X					X	X				

City of Big Rapids Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps	
1	Brutus Dog Park	1	2	Big Rapids Area																							
2	Rotary Fitness Park	0.9	3	Public schools & residential neighborhood			X						X														
3	Charles E. Fairman Community Pool	6.4	3	Big Rapids Area		X		X			X	X	X	X		X											
4	Clay Cliffs Nature Area	57.12	1	Big Rapids Area																			X				
5	Hanchett Park	1.3	4	Integrated into the Riverwalk		X				X						X							X				
6	Hemlock Park with Bandshell	10.4	3	Big Rapids Area		X	X			X	X		X				X	X	X	X		X					
7	Veteran's Memorial Park	0.3	4	Downtown Big Rapids & Residential Neighborhood		X															X				X		
8	Industrial Park Ball Field	9	4	Local Soccer & Softball Organizations													X										
9	Library Park	1.3	4	Passive park area			X																		X		
10	Linden Street Park	0.2	4	Residential neighborhood East of the Muskegon River		X	X																				
11	Mitchell Creek Park	1.8	4	Individuals who live, work and shop in the downtown area		X					X		X												X		
12	Northend Riverside Park	144.8	4	Big Rapids Area		X	X			X	X		X			X		X	X	X		X	X				
13	Pocket Park	0.1	4	Downtown Merchants, Residents & Shoppers																							
14	River Street Park	16.5	3	Residents, neighborhoods & area youth league organizations						X	X						X	X	X			X					
15	Riverwalk	4.3 M	5	Linear Park used by Big Rapids & Surrounding areas						X			X			X			X			X					
16	Supervisor's Park	2.2	n/a	Vacant park land																							
17	Swede Hill Park	2.8	4	Big Rapids Area		X				X												X			X		
18	Vogel Fields	6.6	4	Local Softball Organizations		X	X										X										
Curbside Bike Lanes		Length (mi.)	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Kayak Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps	
	N. State St./Bridge St. intersection North to City Limits	0.75		Big Rapids Area																		X					
	N. State St./Bridge St. intersection East to Catherine St. then follows Milton Ave. East to the city limits	1		Big Rapids Area																			X				
	Oak St./Ives Ave. intersection South, which turns into South St. and ends at S. State St.	1		Big Rapids Area																			X				
A total of 2.75 miles of curbside bike lane have been constructed to date throughout the City of Big Rapids.																											

Township Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Kayak Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps	
1	Charlie Brown Park (Green Twp)	0.8	2	Green Township & Neighboring Communities			X										X	X									
2	Community Building (Chippewa Lake)	8	2	Chippewa Lake Area Residents and Visitors		X	X				X		X				X	X				X					
3	Green Township Town Hall Park	7	1	Green Township & Neighboring Communities		X	X											X				X			X		
4	Highbanks Park (BR Twp)	23.5	2	Big Rapids Township & Neighboring Communities		X	X	X		X	X		X				X			X		X					
5	Millet Park (Chippewa Twp)	1	2	Chippewa Township & Neighboring Communities		X							X					X									
6	Mitchell's Landing	66		Chippewa Township &																							
7	Morton Twp. River Park (Morton)	1		Morton Township & Neighboring Communities		X									X												
8	Pine Grove Trails (Morton)	40		Morton Township & Neighboring Communities		X										X			X			X					
9	Riverfront Park (Altona)	0.3	1	Neighboring Communities		X				X	X		X			X		X									
10	River Access Park (Green)	0.5	3	Green Township & Neighboring Communities		X																					
11	Stone Hatchery Park (Green)	1	3	Green Township & Neighboring Communities		X	X						X												X		
12	Wheatland Park (Wheatland Twp)	11	4	Wheatland Township		X	X				X		X	X			X	X									
Roadside Bike Lanes		Length (mi.)	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Kayak Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps	
	90th Ave./9 Mile Rd. south to Buchanan Rd.	0.5		Morton Township																		X					
	90th Ave./Buchanan Rd. to Buchanan Rd./100th Ave.	1		Morton Township																		X					
	M 20/80th Ave. north to 80th Ave./13 Mile	2		Morton Township, Martiny Township																		X					
	80th Ave./13 Mile Rd. north to 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd.	0.8		Martiny Township																		X					
	80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. west to 90th Ave./14 Mile Rd.	0.9		Martiny Township																		X					
5.2 miles of roadside bike lanes have been constructed to date, with an additional 6.6 miles planned to be completed by 2022. Future plans to expand roadside bike lanes include another 14.5 miles throughout Morton, Martiny, Colfax, Big Rapids, and Austin Townships. This will result in one bike lane going to Big Rapids, and another bike lane to Stanwood. These bike lanes will both connect to the White Pine Trail, resulting in a 33 mile loop.																											

Private Recreational Facilities		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Pizza Vibez Mini Golf	3	3	Serves both Residents of Mecosta County and Visitors of the County							X			X									X			
2	Highlands	30	4	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X			
3	Horsehead Lake	636	4	Serves both Residents of Mecosta County and Visitors of the County						X					X					X		X				
4	Katke - Ferris State University	160	4	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X			
5	Clear Lake Golf Club	240	4	Mecosta County, Michigan, and USA							X			X									X			
6	Outback Lodge & Equestrian	20	5	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County		X	X				X	X	X	X		X						X				
7	Pines	33	4	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X			
8	Royal	100	4	Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X			
9	St. Ives			Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X			
10	The Gate	5	5	Residents of Big Rapids and Visitors of Mecosta County							X			X												
11	Two Hats Ranch			Residents of Big Rapids and Visitors of Mecosta County		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X		X	X	X			
12	Tullymore			Primary market is outside of Mecosta County							X			X									X			

Village Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Bromley Park (Mecosta)	0.5	2	Residents of Mecosta	X	X				X	X		X								X					
2	Buffalo Park (Stanwood)	5	2	Residents of Stanwood		X	X				X		X				X									
3	Clyde Clark Park (Morley)			Residents of Morley	X					X	X				X											
4	East River Park (Barryton)			Residents of Barryton	X	X	X			X						X		X		X						
5	L. Latimer Park (Morley)			Residents of Morley	X	X	X			X	X		X		X	X				X						
6	Lion's Club Riverside Park (Barryton)	200'	2	Residents of Barryton	X											X										
7	Louise Kinney Park (Morley)			Residents of Morley	X	X					X		X					X								
8	M-66 Park (Barryton)	1.5	2	Residents of Barryton		X	X				X		X					X			X				X	

Private Campgrounds		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Bluegill Lake Campground	56	2	Most visitors are within 100 miles, however, they have groups come from as far away as Alaska	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X						
2	Canadian Lakes Campground	N/A	2	Residents of Michigan	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
3	Cranhill Ranch	300	4	Nationwide visitors	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X		X
4	Holiday Terrace Campground	4	1	Most visitors are from outside of Mecosta County	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X		X		X						
5	Mecosta Pines Campground	40	2	Mix of in and outside of Mecosta County	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X			X				X	X			X		
6	River Ridge Resort	20	4	Mostly Kent County and Allegan County	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				X
7	Sarn's Resort	200	2	Most visitors are outside of Mecosta County	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X													
8	Speed's Campground	20	1	Mix of in and outside of Mecosta County	X						X	X														
9	Tubbs Resort	60	1	Most visitors are outside of Mecosta County	X	X		X		X	X	X		X	X			X	X	X		X				
10	Youngs Lake Campground	160	1	Residents of Big Rapids and Visitors to Mecosta County	X	X		X	X	X	X	X			X			X		X						

State Recreation		Size	Accessibility	Service Area	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Haymarsh State Game Area	6,737	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X			X	X	X				X	X			X							
2	Manistee National Forest	3,459	2	Entire State of Michigan and surrounding	X				X	X						X			X	X						
3	Martiny Lakes State Game Area	7,660	2	Central & Lower Michigan Counties	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X				X						
4	White Pine State Trail Park	93	2	Entire State of Michigan and surrounding																		X				

Area Schools		Size	Accessibility	Description	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Barryton Elementary	6	3	Gym, Soccer Field, Baseball fields			X				X						X				X			X		
2	Big Rapids High School	40	5	Gym, Two Football Practice fields, Two Softball Fields, Two Baseball Diamonds, Two Soccer Fields, Seven Tennis Courts, Track & Football Complex & Cross Country Trail							X	X					X	X	X			X		X		
3	Chippewa Hills High School & Intermediate	100	4	Gym, Football field, Softball, Baseball, soccer field, Outdoor track, Playground		X	X				X	X		X			X	X			X			X		
4	Mecosta Elementary	4	4	Gym, playground		X	X										X	X						X		
5	Mecosta Osceola Intermediate School District	50		Soccer Field													X									
6	Morley Stanwood Elementary	20	4	Gym, Playground, Multipurpose field		X	X										X				X			X		
7	Morley Stanwood High School	40	5	Gym, football. Softball, baseball, practice fields, indoor track, weight room, multipurpose courts		X	X				X	X					X	X	X		X			X		
8	Morley Stanwood Middle School	40	4	Gym, football. Softball, baseball, practice fields, indoor track, weight room, multipurpose courts																						
9	Stanwood Elementary	12	4	Gym & Playground		X	X										X	X			X			X		
10	St. Michael's	5	3	Playground			X				X			X			X	X								
11	Weidman Elementary	5	3	Playground			X				X							X								

City of Big Rapids Schools		Size	Accessibility	Description	Camping	Picnicking	Playgrounds	Swimming	Hunting	Fishing	Restroom	Shower	Shelters	Concessions	Boat Launch	Nature Area	Athletic Field	Court Games	Winter Sports	Water Sports	Programming	Trails	Golf Course	Indoor Sports	Historical Site	Group Camps
1	Big Rapids Middle School	13.5	3	Gym, Soccer Fields							X	X					X	X	X		X			X		
2	Brookside Elementary	7		Gym, Baseball/Softball Field, Playground		X	X										X	X			X			X		
3	Crossroads Charter Academy	3	4	Two Gymnasiums, Soccer/Football Field, Outdoor Track & Playground			X										X		X			X		X		
4	Eastwood Elementary	4.3	4	Gym, Baseball/Softball Field, Playground		X	X										X	X			X			X		
5	Ferris State University	880	3	Racquet & Fitness Center, Indoor & Outdoor tennis courts, Two Ice Rinks, Pool, Climbing Wall, Indoor Track, Multipurpose Courts, Weight Room, Multipurpose Fields, Basketball Courts, Football Field, 18 Hole Golf Course, Indoor & Outdoor Track			X	X	X		X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X	X		X		
6	Riverview Elementary	4.4	4	Gym, Two Baseball/Softball Fields, Playground			X										X	X			X					
7	St. Peter's	2.2	4	Gym, Playground & Pavilion			X										X	X			X			X		
8	St. Mary's	2	4	Gym & Playground			X										X	X			X			X		

Grant-Assisted Parks

The Mecosta County Parks Commission has been successful in obtaining grants from the MDNR for several decades. Mecosta County has been able to maintain the facilities constructed with grant funds to allow for aesthetically pleasing sites and safe use for the public.

GRANT ASSISTED PARKS				
PROJECT #	PARK NAME	PROJECT YEAR	DESCRIPTION	GRANT STATUS
26-00015	Brower Park	1965	Water/electrical services, sanitary/sewage facilities, roads, parking lots, camping area, picnic area, playgrounds, service buildings	Closed
BF93-306	School Section Lake	1993	Shelters, playground, pathways	Closed
TF03-033	Brower Park Marina Bathhouse	2003	Marina Boathouse, sidewalks, accessible parking spaces	Closed
CFG 12-08	Tree Grant	2012	Trees planted in Paris, School Section, and Brower Parks	Closed

The beginning of the project number indicates the funding source as follows: 26 = Land and Water Conservation Fund

BF = Recreation Bond Fund

TF = Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

Planning Process

The Mecosta County Park Commission held a public hearing with no comments and approved the plan on 12/15/2020. The planning process involved these steps:

- Preparing a Community Description
- Updating the Recreation Inventory
- Determining our Recreation Needs for the participants of the plan
- Prepare and advertise public survey
- Developing an Action Plan to meet those needs

The Community Description defines the setting, history of the county, topography, geography, water features, vegetation, and wildlife. Population characteristics and economic considerations are also discussed. The Recreation Inventory was done using the information gathered from the county's parks. Descriptions are included of the recreation areas and their purpose and assessments have been made regarding the accessibility of each of these areas to people with disabilities. The survey was developed, reviewed, and approved by the Park Commission before it was posted (online & printed) for 30 days. The Action Plan was prepared based on infrastructure needs of the parks, input from the public, requirements of the American with Disabilities Act, and the future direction of the parks as determined by the Mecosta County Park Commission.

Public Input

Mecosta County values the views and opinions of its residents and helped develop the following process to gather the community's thoughts by:

- Utilizing the Park Commission Master Plan Committee
- Creating and sending out a digital and printed survey asking the community specific questions of the current park system and their dreams for the future.
- Developing a comprehensive list of goals and objectives to meet the needs of the community highlighted in the survey.

Survey Summary Results

There was a total of 572 responses to the survey, 552 responded online while 20 responded through paper fliers. Of those 572 responses there were a combined total of 289 comments given throughout the survey. A bulk of them (108) were in response to question #16 which asks for the users to provide their thoughts and ideas about the parks system.

The survey is able to conclude that an overwhelming 70% of people are in favor of an expansion of the county parks system, 29% of people are "Undecided" about the creation of a Muskegon River Water Trail, 51% of people enjoy bringing pets camping, and 55% of people rate the cleanliness of the county parks system as "Good".

After reviewing all of the 108 responses provided for question #16 a few of the most commented on topics are: road repair within the parks, maintaining the rules by the rangers, keeping School Section Lake pet free, and providing a dog park somewhere in the park system. Other less

commented on topics were the repair of the hatchery ponds, less seasonal camping spots, and maintaining park equipment. The majority of the people responding to the survey are 55-64 years old and prefer to be contacted through email.

Top 3 non-motorized trail investment priorities:

- Providing trail head improvements
- Providing access to regional trails
- Construct more trails

The top 5 visited locations are:

- School Section Lake Veteran's Park
- Brower Park
- Paris Park
- Merrill-Gorrel Park
- Haymarsh Lake Campground

Top 5 most desirable parks are:

- Brower Park
- School Section Lake Veteran's Park
- Davis Bridge Park
- Paris Park
- Merrill-Gorrel Park

Top 5 activities participated in:

- Camping
- Swimming
- Boating
- Fishing
- Trails

Top 3 reasons parks are visited:

- Close to home
- Quiet/Peaceful
- Safe

Top 5 desired event spaces:

- Farmers Market
- Concessions/Food Truck
- Arts/Crafts Festival
- Amphitheater/Concert
- Nature Education Facilities

Top 5 most desired active recreation activities:

- Playgrounds
- Mini-Golf
- Splash Pad
- Swimming Pool
- Sledding/Tubing

Top 5 most desired passive recreation activities:

- Natural Hiking Trails
- Beach Swimming
- Kayak/Canoe Launch
- Paved Trails
- Festivals & Concerts

Top 3 most desired campground amenities:

- Electricity Hook-Up
- Modern Restrooms
- Wi-fi

Top 3 most desired boating amenities:

- Shoreline Mooring Areas
- Seasonal Docking Slips
- Upgraded Boat Launches

General Parks Word Cloud (most common words largest)



Goals, Objectives, and Actions

Goal 1: Provide all users of Mecosta County Parks with high quality, accessible, reliable, sustainable park facilities and infrastructure that supports the activities and programs within each park.

Objectives

- 1. Develop a sustainable funding model to be able to maintain and replace critical park infrastructure and to leverage future opportunities.**

Actions

1. Take a complete inventory and analysis of existing park assets to understand the financial burden in detail and to plan for future capital expenditures.
 2. Present the findings of the Parks Asset Management Plan to the County Board of Commissioners and the public.
 3. Provide the public with opportunities to financially partner with Mecosta County Parks to meet the needs of the park system.
 4. Take advantage of grant opportunities to leverage available funding where possible.
- 2. Reduce the cost of park operations and maintenance while maintaining and improving overall quality of park facilities.**

Actions

1. Evaluate current maintenance practices to find ways to reduce costs.
2. When replacing current assets, evaluate each item to try to fund longer life-cycle products.
3. Continue to find ways to reduce energy use at all parks.
4. Evaluate and improve parking lot and overflow parking quantity.
5. Improve park entry and internal drive organization for better separation of uses.

Goal 2: Provide the residents of Mecosta County and day users improved and additional recreational opportunities.

Objectives

1. Provide additional and improved day-use passive recreational activity for residents and local families at each park that works with and enhances existing park uses.

Actions

1. Provide additional and improved access to natural and paved trails within and connecting to park properties
2. Develop projects to improve access to waterways for recreation.
3. Improve and find new park facilities to host large events, and festivals.
4. Develop where possible an interconnected network of land and water trails.

2. Provide additional and improved day-use active recreational activity for residents and local families at each park that works with and enhances existing park uses.

Actions

1. Improve existing, and provide new family friendly facilities as outlined in the public survey such as playgrounds, winter recreation, disc golf etc.
3. Acquire and develop new park properties to provide a more diverse recreation offering to the public and to enhance the activities of other park & recreation providers.

Actions

1. Be prepared to take advantage of new opportunities to expand the park system.
2. Target properties along rivers and lakes for high quality recreation opportunities.
3. Target properties to help fulfill the public desire to connect to regional and local trails.
4. Identify and prioritize the purchase of rare and unique high-quality natural environments for the purpose of land preservation and public benefit.

Goal 3: Maintain and improve camping facilities to provide a high-quality, clean, family friendly experience.

Objectives

1. Provide each campgrounds' guests with reliable critical infrastructure needs and amenities.

Actions

1. Continue to maintain and expand access to electricity, water, and modern restrooms.
2. Improve campground security and barrier free accessibility whenever improvements are made.
3. Continue to improve availability, reliability, and quality of WiFi connection in parks and campgrounds.

Objectives

2. Improve existing and expand recreational opportunities and experience for campground guest.

Actions

1. Improve and enhance boating opportunities and facilities.
2. Look for opportunities to expand the number of campsites available to meet demand.
3. Continue to improve overall campground cleanliness, and rule enforcement.

Goal 4: Provide the public with good online and on-site communication, messaging, and maps about the Mecosta County Parks system and plans for future improvements.

Objectives

1. Accurately depict the vision and direction of Mecosta County Parks.

Actions

1. Complete a comprehensive rebranding exercise to accurately reflect a desire to be known for parks and recreation.
2. Update the park's logo and slogan.

Objectives

2. Provide park visitors with good information on-site and online about current and future park activities and facilities.

Actions

1. Develop new parks maps for each site that are to scale and accurately show park properties, trails, parking, and amenities.
2. Post new park maps online as PDF's for easy printing.
3. Post future park plans online to help share the vision for growth.
4. Develop new park signage and trailhead standards to be used throughout parks.

Goal 5: Be good stewards of the natural environment on all park properties.

Objectives

1. Maintain and improve the natural environments where feasible of both undeveloped and developed areas of all park properties.

Actions

1. Seek to identify and eradicate invasive species from park properties.
2. Plan for green infrastructure when making park improvements.
3. Reduce the negative impacts of park use, operations, and maintenance on the natural environment.
4. Model and promote good environmental stewardship.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Supplemental DNR Attachments

Survey Results

Public Notices

Public Meeting Minutes

Post Completion Self-Certification Reports

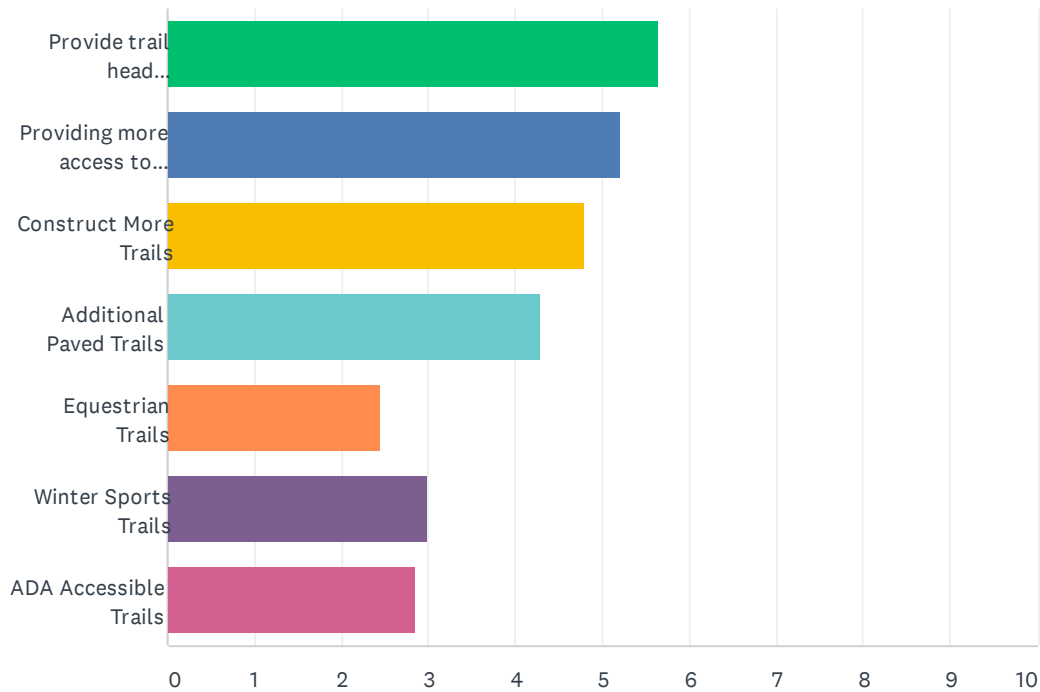
Public Hearing Feedback

Formal Resolution to Adopt the Plan

Community Park, Recreation, Checklist

Q1 When considering non-motorized trail investment priorities for the next five years, rank the following in importance to you.

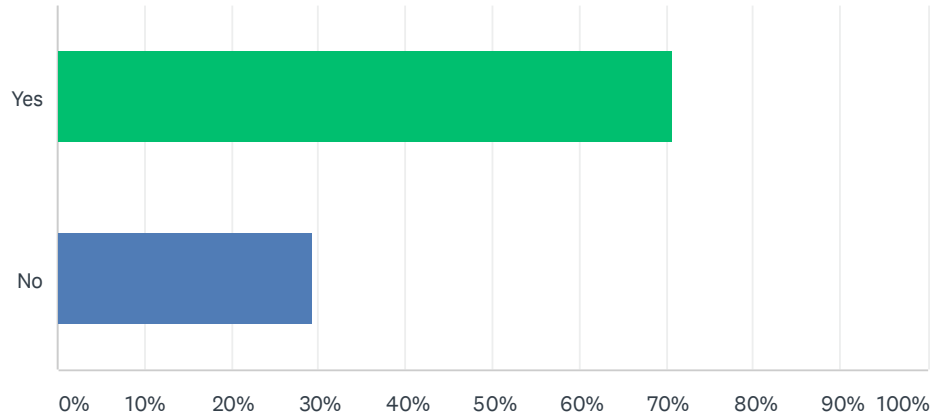
Answered: 493 Skipped: 59



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	TOTAL	SCORE
Provide trail head improvements such as parking, bike racks, and wayfinding signage.	42.52% 196	23.43% 108	11.50% 53	10.41% 48	4.99% 23	5.21% 24	1.95% 9	461	5.65
Providing more access to regional trails.	18.76% 85	31.79% 144	23.62% 107	12.36% 56	7.06% 32	3.75% 17	2.65% 12	453	5.21
Construct More Trails	16.77% 78	17.42% 81	29.25% 136	17.42% 81	9.89% 46	3.66% 17	5.59% 26	465	4.80
Additional Paved Trails	10.79% 49	13.22% 60	15.42% 70	31.94% 145	16.08% 73	8.81% 40	3.74% 17	454	4.29
Equestrian Trails	4.22% 19	2.00% 9	2.44% 11	8.00% 36	27.33% 123	20.67% 93	35.33% 159	450	2.44
Winter Sports Trails	5.49% 25	7.25% 33	7.03% 32	9.23% 42	18.46% 84	36.70% 167	15.82% 72	455	2.99
ADA Accessible Trails	6.09% 28	5.43% 25	10.43% 48	10.00% 46	15.00% 69	19.13% 88	33.91% 156	460	2.85

Q2 Are you in support of the expansion of the county parks system, including the acquisition of new park properties?

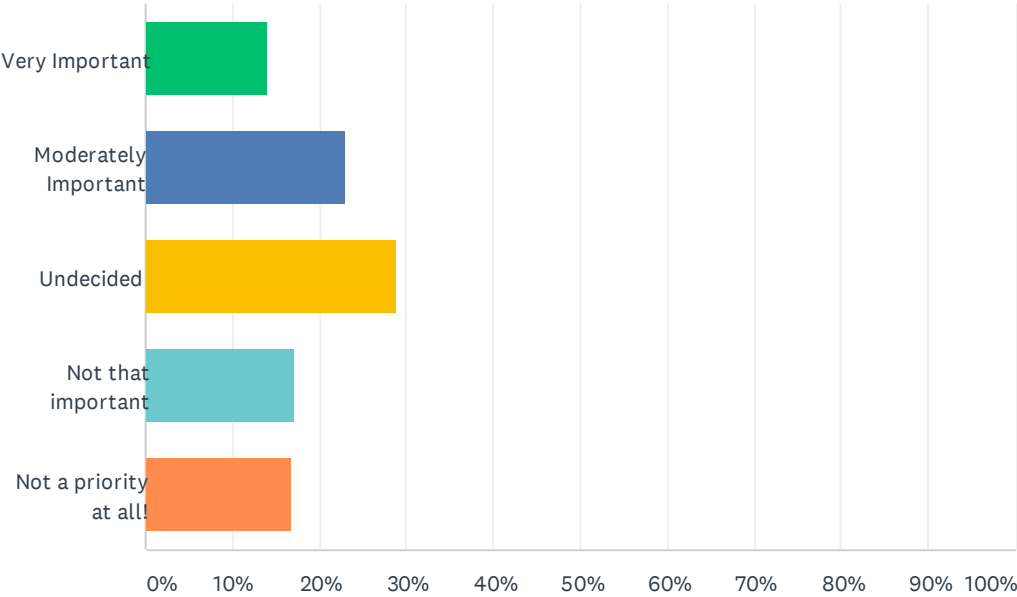
Answered: 507 Skipped: 45



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.61%	358
No	29.39%	149
TOTAL		507

Q3 How important is the creation of a designated Muskegon River “Water Trail” in Mecosta County to you?

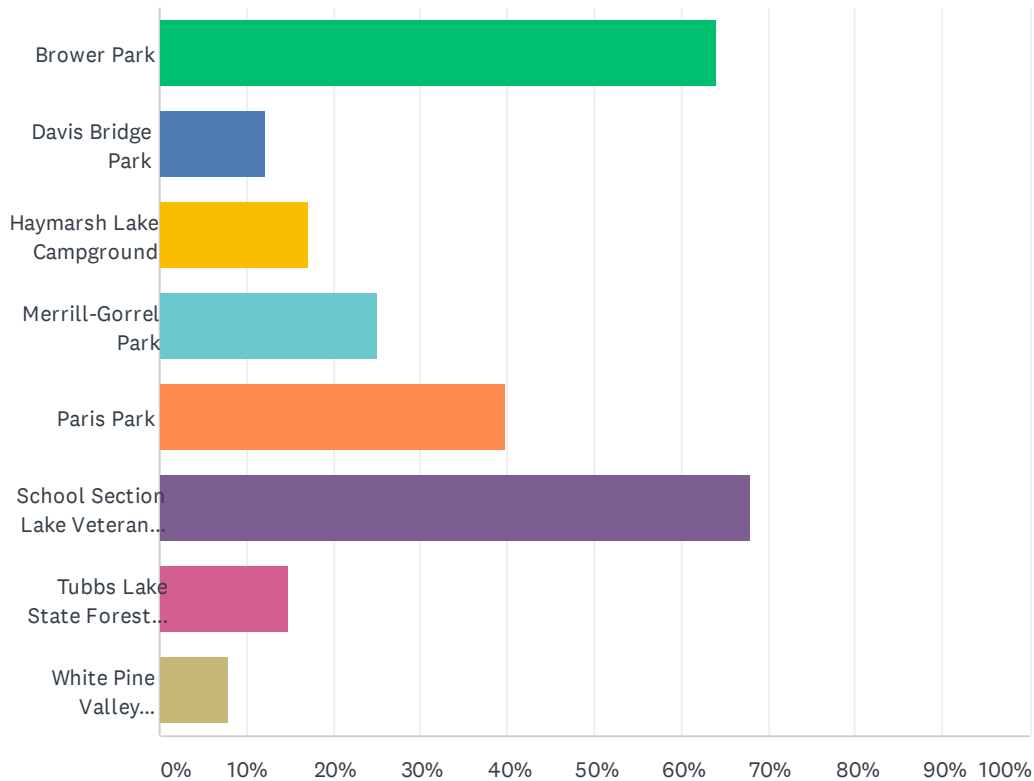
Answered: 512 Skipped: 40



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very Important	14.06%	72
Moderately Important	23.05%	118
Undecided	28.91%	148
Not that important	17.19%	88
Not a priority at all!	16.80%	86
TOTAL		512

Q4 Which parks/recreation facilities have you visited?

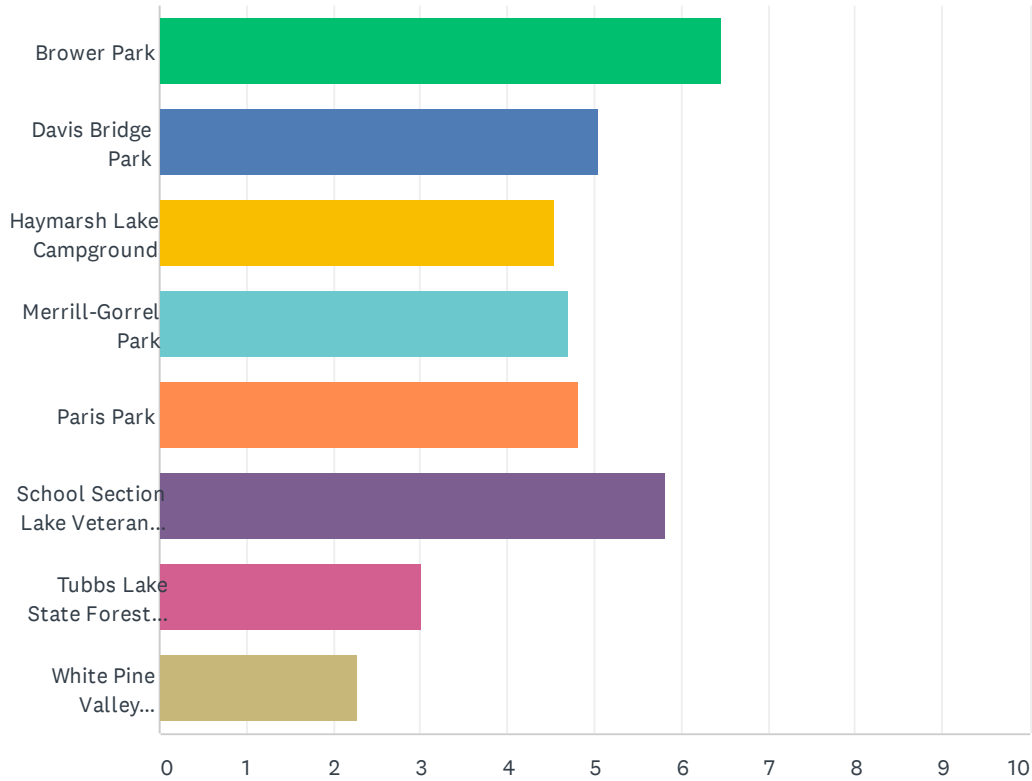
Answered: 413 Skipped: 139



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Brower Park	63.92%	264
Davis Bridge Park	12.11%	50
Haymarsh Lake Campground	17.19%	71
Merrill-Gorrel Park	25.18%	104
Paris Park	39.71%	164
School Section Lake Veteran's Park	68.04%	281
Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground	14.77%	61
White Pine Valley Recreation Area	7.99%	33
Total Respondents: 413		

Q5 Please rank the county parks from most to least desirable.

Answered: 468 Skipped: 84

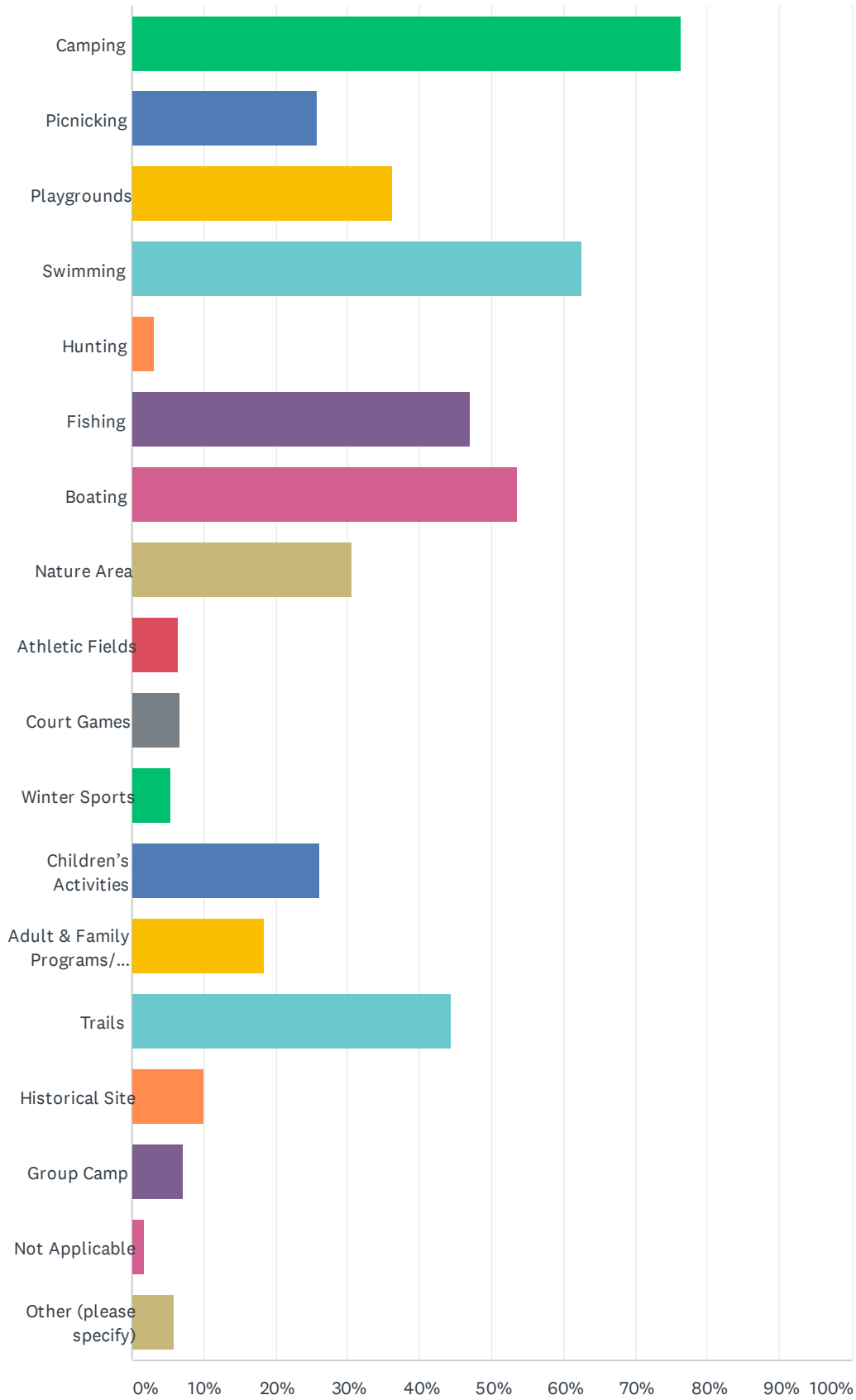


	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL	SCORE
Brower Park	42.58% 175	26.76% 110	8.03% 33	7.30% 30	3.65% 15	2.68% 11	2.92% 12	6.08% 25	411	6.47
Davis Bridge Park	2.81% 10	22.47% 80	24.16% 86	15.17% 54	13.48% 48	10.11% 36	7.87% 28	3.93% 14	356	5.04
Haymarsh Lake Campground	3.12% 11	7.93% 28	21.53% 76	22.95% 81	16.43% 58	13.88% 49	8.50% 30	5.67% 20	353	4.54
Merrill-Gorrel Park	10.24% 38	7.82% 29	13.48% 50	22.10% 82	22.64% 84	9.16% 34	9.70% 36	4.85% 18	371	4.70
Paris Park	10.26% 39	10.79% 41	16.84% 64	13.68% 52	20.53% 78	19.21% 73	5.53% 21	3.16% 12	380	4.81
School Section Lake Veteran's Park	36.02% 152	18.72% 79	7.82% 33	6.64% 28	5.21% 22	15.40% 65	4.50% 19	5.69% 24	422	5.81
Tubbs Lake State Forest Campground	1.93% 7	3.86% 14	8.54% 31	6.34% 23	7.71% 28	14.60% 53	45.18% 164	11.85% 43	363	3.02
White Pine Valley Recreation Area	4.25% 15	2.83% 10	3.12% 11	4.53% 16	7.37% 26	7.37% 26	12.18% 43	58.36% 206	353	2.29

Q6 What activities do you participate in most at the parks? (provide comments)

Answered: 496 Skipped: 56

Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Survey

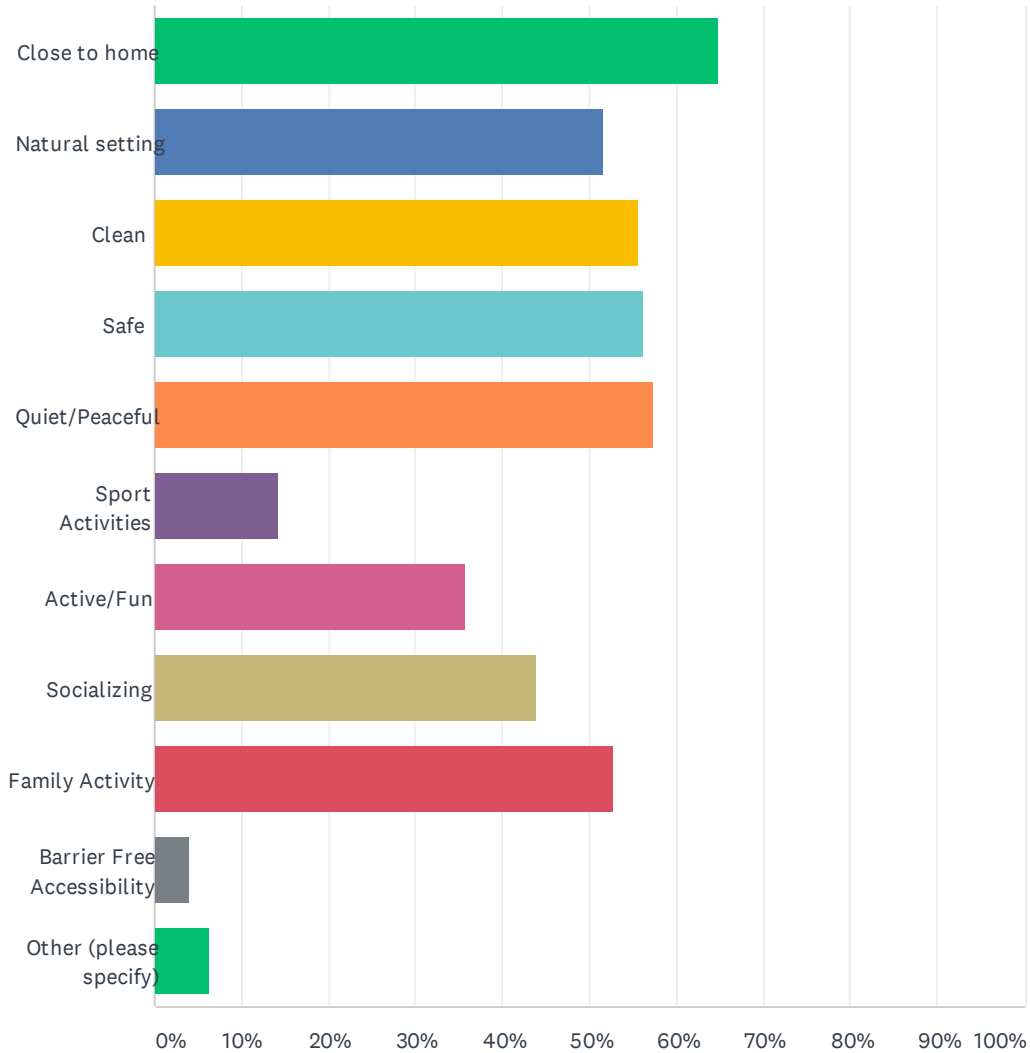


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Camping	76.41%	379
Picnicking	25.81%	128
Playgrounds	36.09%	179
Swimming	62.50%	310
Hunting	3.23%	16
Fishing	46.98%	233
Boating	53.63%	266
Nature Area	30.65%	152
Athletic Fields	6.45%	32
Court Games	6.65%	33
Winter Sports	5.44%	27
Children's Activities	26.21%	130
Adult & Family Programs/ Events	18.35%	91
Trails	44.35%	220
Historical Site	10.08%	50
Group Camp	7.06%	35
Not Applicable	1.61%	8
Other (please specify)	5.85%	29
Total Respondents: 496		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	We enjoy relaxing most	10/12/2020 7:57 PM
2	Except dogs - running and barking - No dogs	10/12/2020 3:11 PM
3	The dogs have to go!!	10/12/2020 3:05 PM
4	Pay on of your seasonal from each campground to be an activities director to be in charge of events within their campground only.	10/12/2020 2:55 PM
5	As elderly and retired, we no longer participate in the other activities.	10/12/2020 2:49 PM
6	I like programming for all ages.	10/12/2020 2:41 PM
7	We are at School Section Lake. Like it very well	10/12/2020 2:26 PM
8	We really enjoy the trout ponds, would liek to see life back in the old ponds with more wildlife. Feeding the fish is the best part for the grandkids. Great historical landmark with lots of educational history.	10/12/2020 2:22 PM
9	We enjoy the tubing at Paris! We love bike riding around in the parks, in areas surrounding the parks and at Paris Park we love the bike trail.	10/12/2020 2:08 PM
10	Enjoy nature, birdwatching, exploring history and hicking/bicycling	10/12/2020 1:46 PM
11	Walking trails that aren't too steep, nature information on trees, etc., would like a gift shop or antique shop, after market to walk around and look at :)	10/9/2020 11:21 AM
12	We love the natural setting--not commercialized.	10/9/2020 11:09 AM
13	Golf cart rides	9/30/2020 6:29 PM
14	This year was a disappointment all around at School Section Lake Park	9/30/2020 2:23 PM
15	Bicycling	9/21/2020 9:11 PM
16	foraging and bird watching-wild life watching	9/19/2020 9:53 AM
17	Feeding fish	9/15/2020 11:37 AM
18	Kayaking	9/14/2020 1:53 PM
19	Biking	9/13/2020 2:06 PM
20	Seasonal camping	9/13/2020 9:49 AM
21	Mountain biking	9/11/2020 12:11 AM
22	Corn hole	9/10/2020 5:20 PM
23	Visiting friends at School Section Lake campground	9/10/2020 11:20 AM
24	Some lakes are too busy and many boaters don't follow the established routes or no wake times	9/9/2020 6:44 PM
25	Canoeing better access to rivers like little muskegon	9/9/2020 7:04 AM
26	Relaxing and camp fire	9/7/2020 5:49 AM
27	DOG PARK	9/5/2020 5:36 PM
28	Kayaking	9/5/2020 2:54 PM
29	Pet friendly	9/4/2020 4:47 PM

Q7 Why do you visit parks? Check all that apply

Answered: 479 Skipped: 73

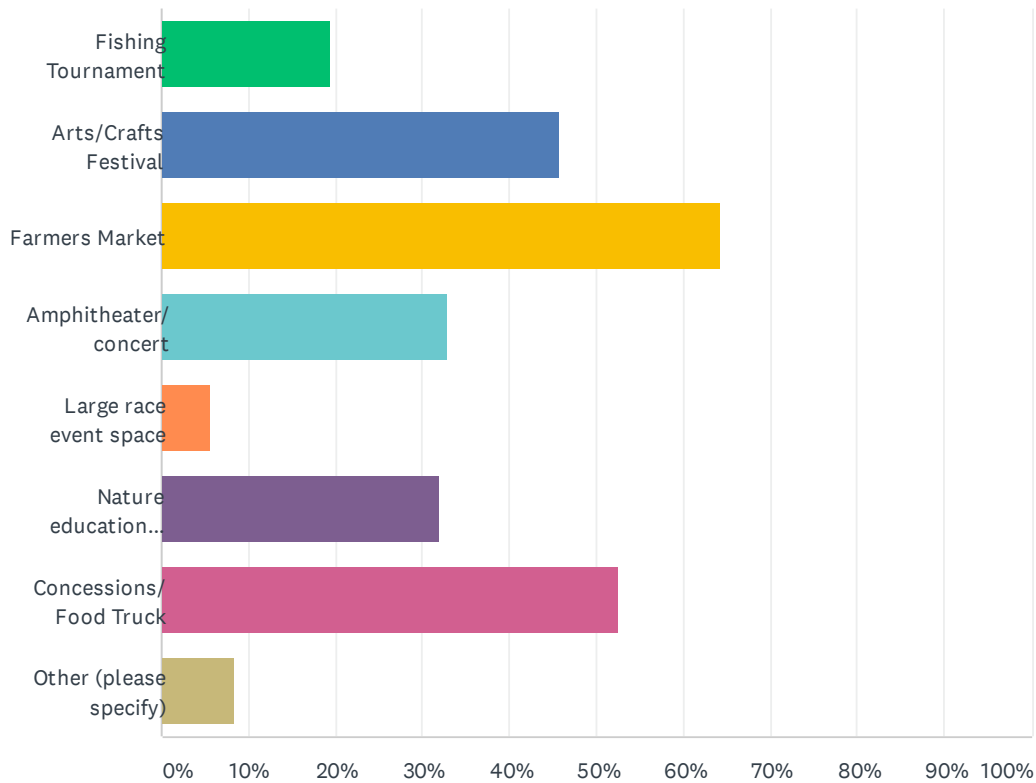


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Close to home	64.93%	311
Natural setting	51.77%	248
Clean	55.74%	267
Safe	56.37%	270
Quiet/Peaceful	57.41%	275
Sport Activities	14.20%	68
Active/Fun	35.70%	171
Socializing	43.84%	210
Family Activity	52.82%	253
Barrier Free Accessibility	3.97%	19
Other (please specify)	6.26%	30
Total Respondents: 479		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	The friendships we've made throughout the years	10/12/2020 2:59 PM
2	seasonal camping cost	10/5/2020 7:21 AM
3	Just to camp	9/30/2020 3:06 PM
4	No pets	9/30/2020 12:11 PM
5	No pets allowed	9/30/2020 12:09 PM
6	NO PETS	9/30/2020 11:48 AM
7	River tubing	9/30/2020 11:23 AM
8	visiting family who is camping	9/24/2020 3:01 PM
9	relieve stress and solitude	9/19/2020 9:57 AM
10	I really enjoy the history and beauty of parks like the fish hatchery	9/15/2020 11:41 AM
11	Available to have pets	9/13/2020 2:06 PM
12	Boating fishing. I would love to be able to get to the boat launch before and after the park opens and closes for the season. There is still a lot of fishing and boating outside of your camping season.	9/12/2020 3:16 PM
13	On the water	9/11/2020 3:48 PM
14	Nice Boat Launch	9/10/2020 10:20 PM
15	Need cleaner restrooms	9/10/2020 5:06 PM
16	Don't visit	9/10/2020 2:21 PM
17	Kayak landing	9/10/2020 1:42 PM
18	Small settings with little boat traffic and noise. Family atmosphere	9/10/2020 1:17 PM
19	No pet zone	9/10/2020 12:15 PM
20	Group meetings	9/10/2020 11:53 AM
21	Pet Friendly	9/10/2020 11:32 AM
22	Don't use	9/10/2020 10:58 AM
23	I would visit Veterans Park a lot more but they charge for people who live on the lake to pull their boat up. In the past we would come for ice cream, we took swim lessons there. Now it is just a place to ignore. Not to mention all the extra boat traffic from campers who don't always know the rules of the lake. The least you could do is allow residents to come over without charging us. You're using our area free for the campers.	9/10/2020 1:47 AM
24	Fishing/hunting	9/8/2020 11:57 AM
25	Don't you don't do any discount for disabled vets other do not your county	9/8/2020 9:04 AM
26	No DOGS	9/7/2020 9:57 PM
27	Relaxing vacation	9/7/2020 5:52 AM
28	Camping	9/6/2020 8:42 AM
29	Swimming	9/5/2020 7:58 AM
30	No pets	9/4/2020 4:34 PM

Q8 What type of event spaces would you like to see more of? (Select All That Apply)

Answered: 422 Skipped: 130



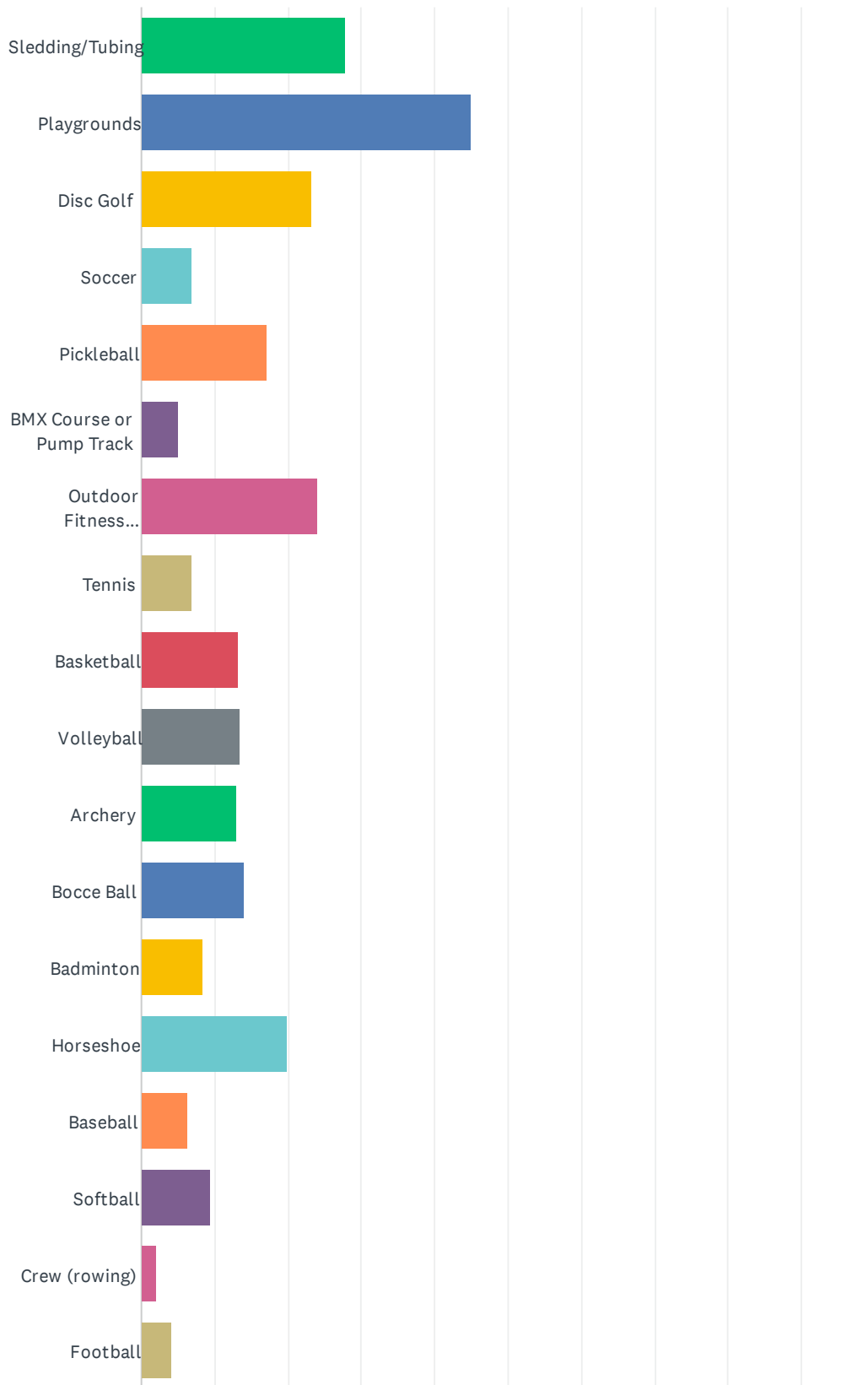
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Fishing Tournament	19.43%	82
Arts/Crafts Festival	45.73%	193
Farmers Market	64.22%	271
Amphitheater/ concert	32.94%	139
Large race event space	5.69%	24
Nature education facilities	31.99%	135
Concessions/ Food Truck	52.61%	222
Other (please specify)	8.29%	35
Total Respondents: 422		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	none of the above	10/18/2020 8:44 PM
2	Put small convenience stores in parks	10/12/2020 4:20 PM
3	Please bring the snow cone man back to Brower as my kids call him	10/12/2020 3:35 PM
4	Have movie night using your baseball backdrop (ex: Gorrell side) using a large canvas attached for screen	10/12/2020 2:59 PM
5	something at Merril Lake campground, there are no events there	10/5/2020 7:21 AM
6	Nothing. Please just maintain what you have.	10/3/2020 1:09 PM
7	Bring back trivia and dj	9/30/2020 6:31 PM
8	Hand dipped ice cream at school Section lake	9/30/2020 6:02 PM
9	Trivia	9/30/2020 11:32 AM
10	Store	9/30/2020 11:32 AM
11	Adult activities	9/30/2020 11:24 AM
12	Kids/teen activities	9/29/2020 9:27 AM
13	Trivia	9/28/2020 9:28 PM
14	natural spaces for nature education	9/19/2020 9:57 AM
15	Improve Paris ponds	9/16/2020 9:45 AM
16	winter sports warming areas	9/14/2020 5:13 PM
17	none	9/14/2020 10:05 AM
18	Bike trails	9/13/2020 2:06 PM
19	Corn hole, karaoke, safety days. Boater safety. Water safety. Swimming lessons. Civil servant connection activities. Once different one every month. Fire. Rescue. Ambulance. Aero med. Cops. Dispatchers. Dispatchers are also a very important part of our safety. Without them we would be on trouble. They are truly the first connection to getting help. Water Rescue. All of that stuff would be very beneficial to our community and others. Boaters safety offered 2 to 3 times a year. Not just once. And the one time they offer it at Brower is usually the same Saturday of fair. I have lots of things to suggest. I can't proof read this because it is on my phone and I only have a small box that holds about 5 words at a time. I am sure you will figure it out though.	9/12/2020 3:16 PM
20	Water activities	9/11/2020 3:48 PM
21	Winter sports - xcountry, pond hockey	9/11/2020 9:05 AM
22	None. You can't maintain what you have!	9/10/2020 7:33 PM
23	None	9/10/2020 2:21 PM
24	Ramp/landing river access improvements	9/10/2020 1:42 PM
25	All natural activity is great	9/10/2020 12:47 PM
26	Really don't use parks	9/10/2020 11:53 AM
27	Pet camping area	9/10/2020 11:32 AM
28	Improved boat launches	9/8/2020 11:57 AM
29	Adult activities	9/6/2020 12:28 AM
30	None	9/5/2020 6:36 PM
31	Dog Park, Brower	9/5/2020 5:37 PM
32	Better boat launch	9/4/2020 8:57 PM

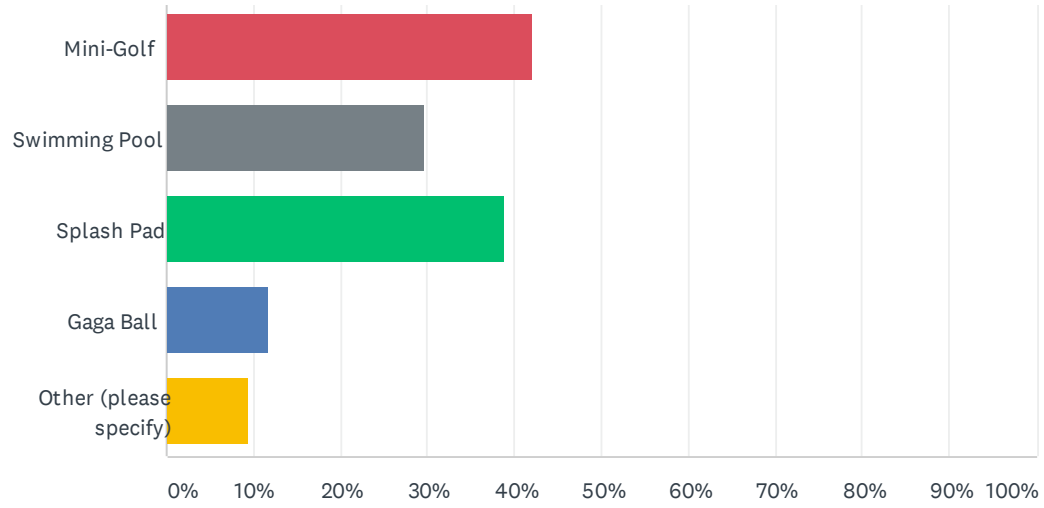
33	NONE	9/4/2020 4:43 PM
34	Activists for kids such as mini golf arcade updated sports fields	9/4/2020 2:48 PM
35	NONE	9/4/2020 2:44 PM

Q9 Select all active recreation activities that you would want to see more of in Mecosta County Parks. (provide comments)

Answered: 386 Skipped: 166



Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Survey



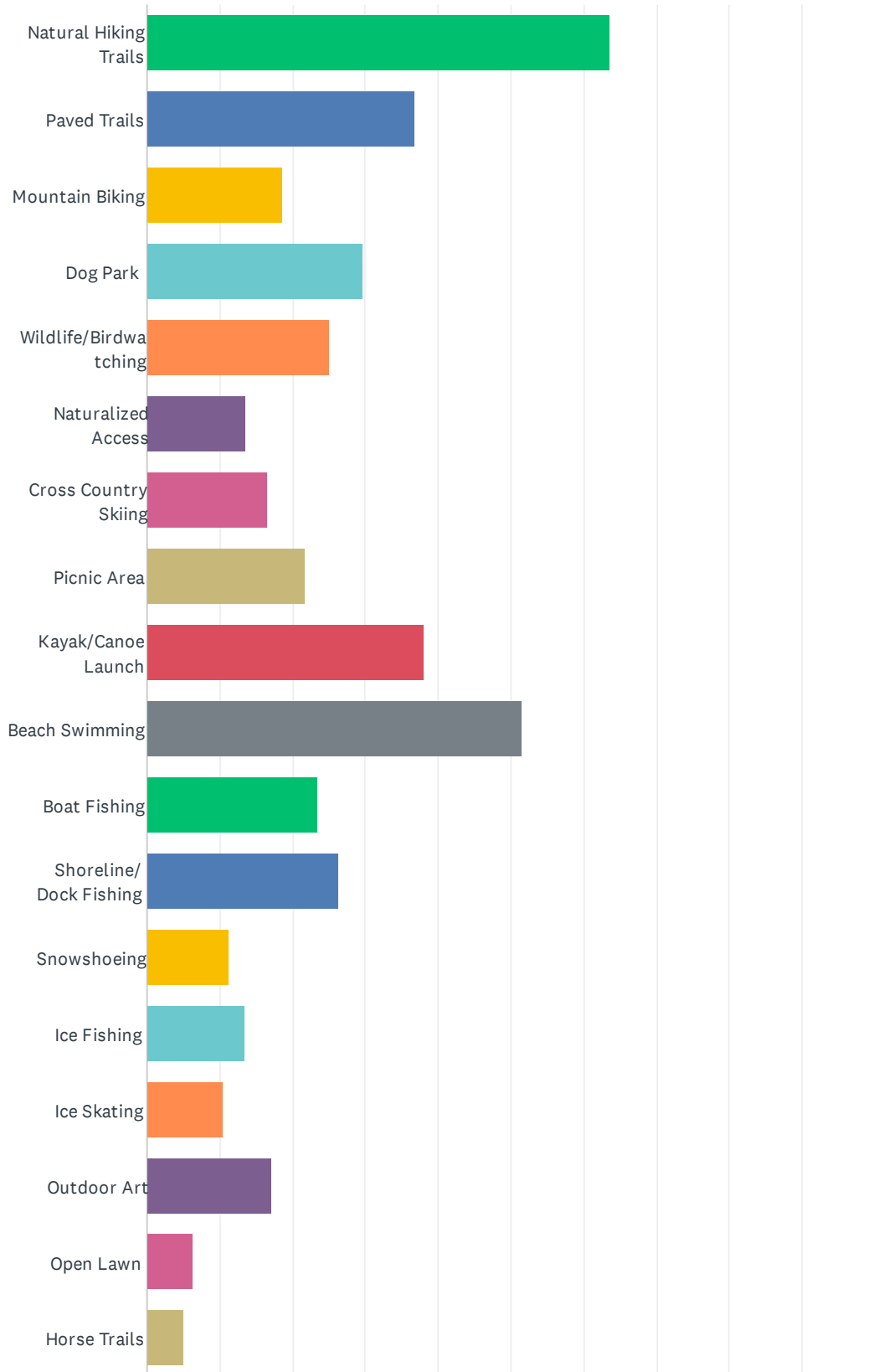
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Sledding/Tubing	27.72%	107
Playgrounds	45.08%	174
Disc Golf	23.32%	90
Soccer	6.99%	27
Pickleball	17.10%	66
BMX Course or Pump Track	4.92%	19
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	24.09%	93
Tennis	6.99%	27
Basketball	13.21%	51
Volleyball	13.47%	52
Archery	12.95%	50
Bocce Ball	13.99%	54
Badminton	8.29%	32
Horseshoe	19.95%	77
Baseball	6.22%	24
Softball	9.33%	36
Crew (rowing)	2.07%	8
Football	4.15%	16
Mini-Golf	41.97%	162
Swimming Pool	29.79%	115
Splash Pad	38.86%	150
Gaga Ball	11.66%	45
Other (please specify)	9.33%	36
Total Respondents: 386		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Too old to do sports!	10/12/2020 3:34 PM
2	Need better playgrounds and updates for the kids	10/12/2020 3:26 PM
3	Get rid of dogs!!!	10/12/2020 3:12 PM
4	Dogs gotta go first!!	10/12/2020 3:05 PM
5	Beach area on Gorrel side to be cleaned up and looking as nice as Merrill.	10/12/2020 2:59 PM
6	Bring back the merry-go-round	10/12/2020 2:31 PM
7	Shuffleboard at School Section Park	10/12/2020 2:26 PM
8	clean goose free beaches	10/5/2020 7:21 AM
9	You do not need new playgrounds, but just update some of the ones that are there. Maybe add a merry-go-round.	10/3/2020 1:09 PM
10	Bounce houses for kids	9/30/2020 6:02 PM
11	Paris Park ducks and fish	9/30/2020 2:50 PM
12	Cornhole	9/30/2020 2:26 PM
13	Bicycle Trails	9/28/2020 9:17 PM
14	Bike....hike	9/26/2020 9:07 AM
15	Biking	9/21/2020 9:13 PM
16	cross country skiing - snowshoeing in natural area	9/19/2020 9:57 AM
17	Paddling opportunities	9/18/2020 11:31 AM
18	Cross Country Skiing groomed trails	9/14/2020 5:13 PM
19	none	9/14/2020 10:05 AM
20	Skateboard/Skooter park	9/13/2020 7:07 PM
21	Bike trails	9/13/2020 2:06 PM
22	Dog friendly swim area	9/13/2020 9:51 AM
23	Horse trails. Archery classes are and awesome idea. Hunter safety classes. Fun Fishing for the kids. And adults if they have their licenses. Bike parades wagon rides. As much outdoor activities as possible. Art is cool. It is just something that you are usually inside for. We need to get our kids outside	9/12/2020 3:16 PM
24	Swimming	9/11/2020 3:48 PM
25	xcountry trails	9/11/2020 9:05 AM
26	Kayak	9/10/2020 1:42 PM
27	Like the way things are now	9/10/2020 1:17 PM
28	Social events, like dances	9/10/2020 1:03 PM
29	Canoeing/ kayak	9/9/2020 7:06 AM
30	Yard games to check out/rent - corn hole, yard size jenga, fun things to enjoy with family but too bulky for me to haul with all my other camping stuff.	9/7/2020 5:52 AM
31	Walking paths	9/6/2020 9:23 PM
32	Kayak landing/livery	9/6/2020 8:52 AM
33	Dog Park, Brower	9/5/2020 5:37 PM
34	Better boat launch	9/4/2020 8:57 PM

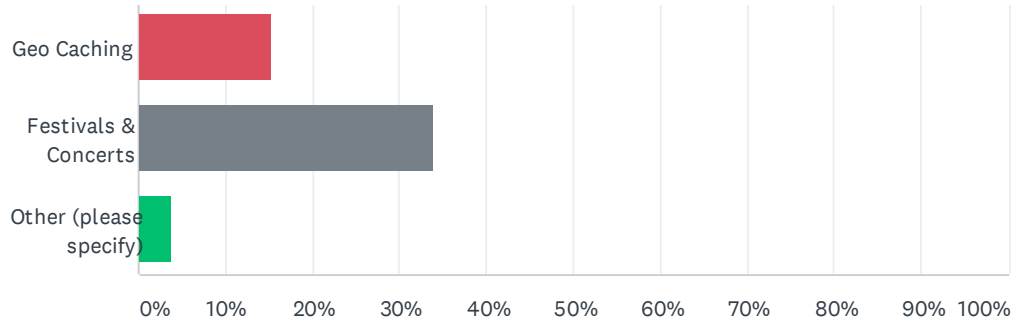
35	Brower park needs more activities for the kids	9/4/2020 2:48 PM
36	NONE	9/4/2020 2:44 PM

Q10 Select all passive recreation activities that you would want to see more of in Mecosta County Parks. (provide comments)

Answered: 431 Skipped: 121



Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Survey

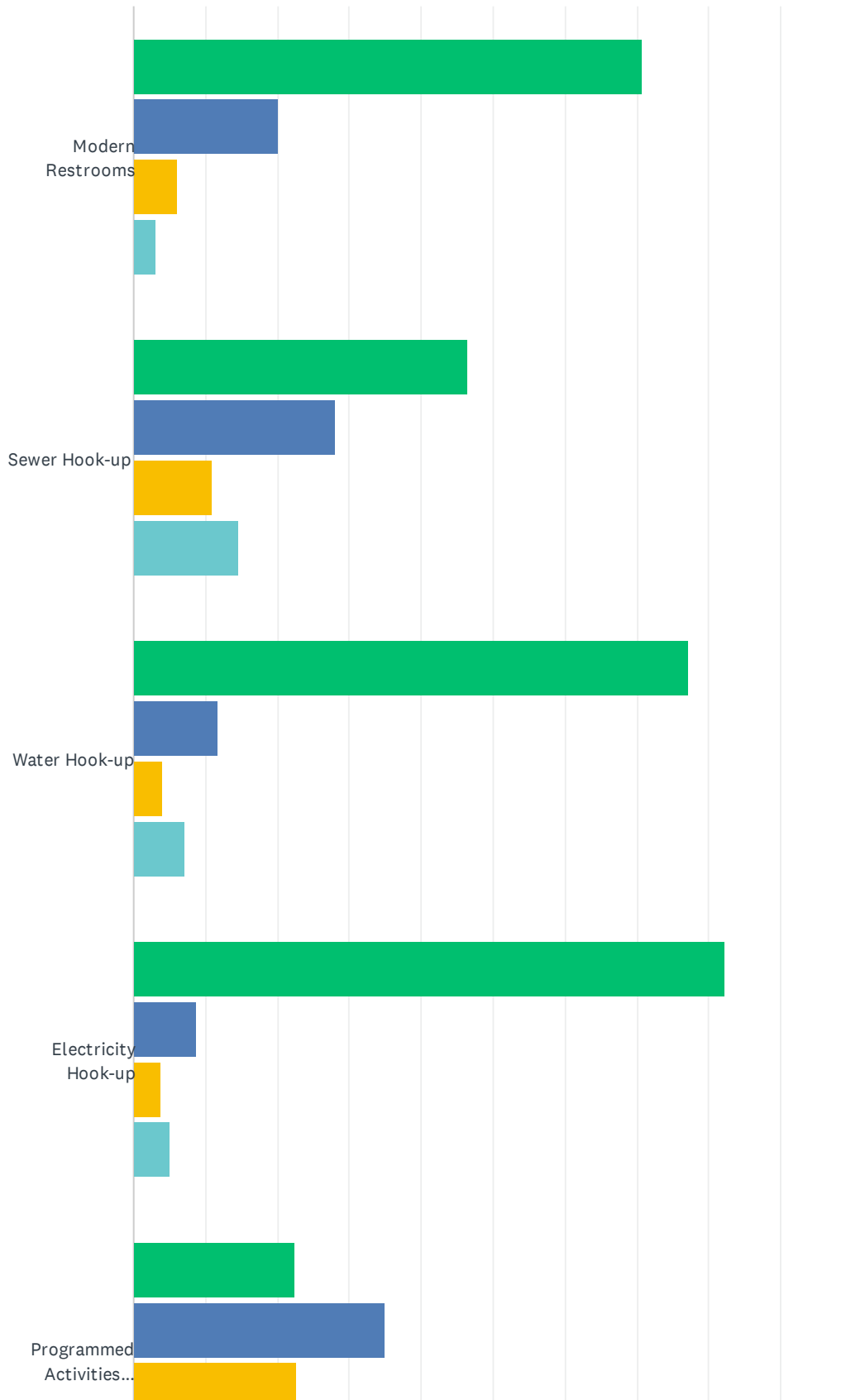


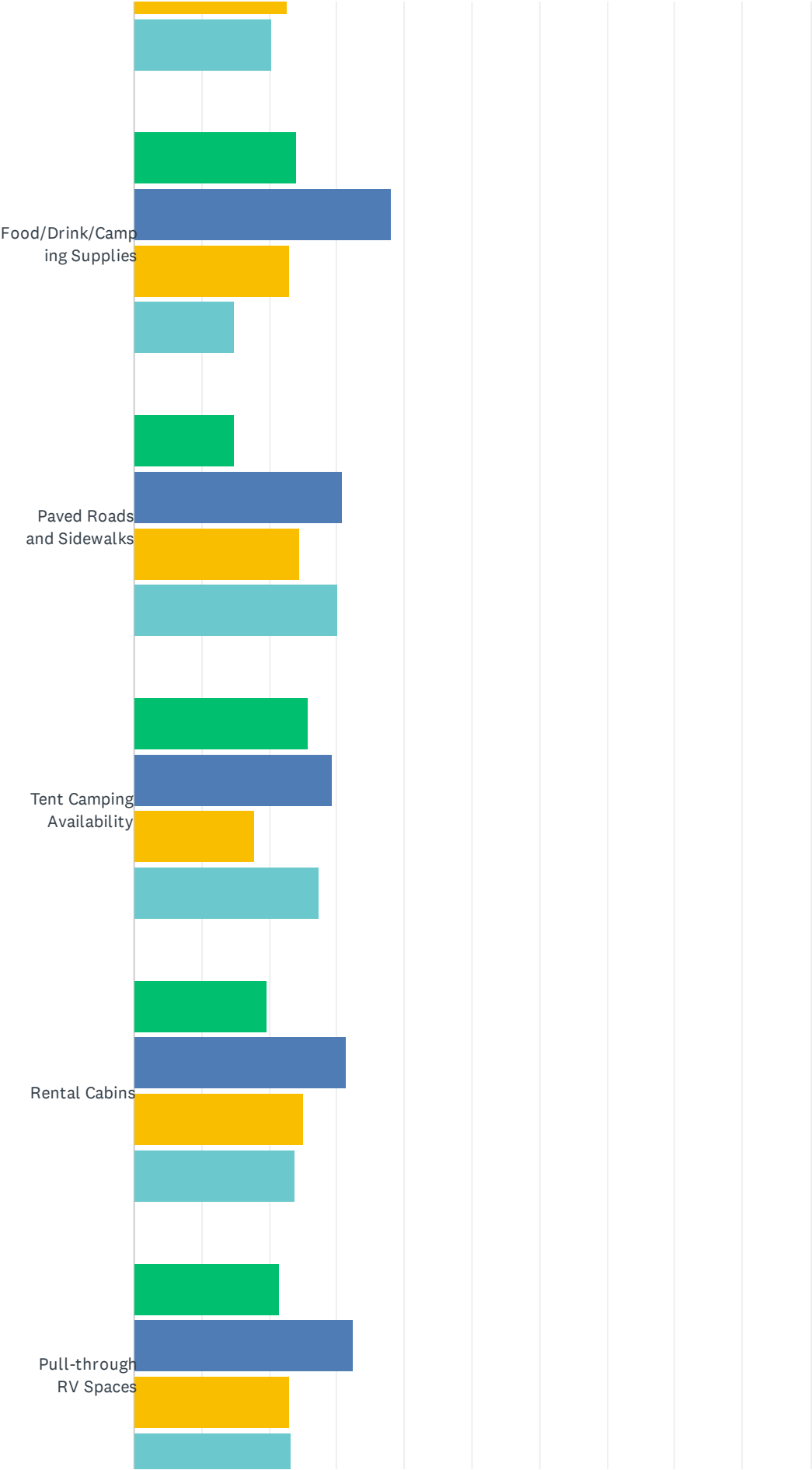
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Natural Hiking Trails	63.57%	274
Paved Trails	36.89%	159
Mountain Biking	18.56%	80
Dog Park	29.70%	128
Wildlife/Birdwatching	25.06%	108
Naturalized Access	13.69%	59
Cross Country Skiing	16.47%	71
Picnic Area	21.81%	94
Kayak/Canoe Launch	38.05%	164
Beach Swimming	51.51%	222
Boat Fishing	23.43%	101
Shoreline/ Dock Fishing	26.45%	114
Snowshoeing	11.37%	49
Ice Fishing	13.46%	58
Ice Skating	10.44%	45
Outdoor Art	17.17%	74
Open Lawn	6.26%	27
Horse Trails	5.10%	22
Geo Caching	15.31%	66
Festivals & Concerts	33.87%	146
Other (please specify)	3.71%	16
Total Respondents: 431		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	School Section Lake Park has great picnic and beach! Hope next year can again do music, cards, trivia again!	10/12/2020 3:36 PM
2	Get rid of the dogs.	10/12/2020 3:27 PM
3	No Dogs!!!	10/12/2020 3:12 PM
4	Dogs gotta go first!!	10/12/2020 3:06 PM
5	Put up posts with frames to exhibit artwork of campers. Change it weekly/monthly. Ex. Go to Belding ? and see what they have	10/12/2020 3:01 PM
6	I prefer programming designed for all ages.	10/12/2020 2:42 PM
7	No dogs at School Section Lake	10/12/2020 2:27 PM
8	It would be fun if you had a chili cook-off or a pie baking contest on a given day during camp season. How about "campers only" yard sale event at campsites who want to take part for a few short hours so campers could walk around camp and shop at each others' sites.	10/12/2020 2:08 PM
9	Playgrounds desperately need updating	9/30/2020 11:29 AM
10	Cross country skiing	9/28/2020 6:39 PM
11	I really want to see all the ponds at paris park full again. It was sad to see some of them without water, fish or ducks this year. I think the Eiffel tower looks so much better surrounded by water. My family and friends love coming here to feed the fish and ducks and love the history of the hatchery and that its a great family activity.	9/15/2020 12:45 PM
12	Garage sale/flea market	9/13/2020 9:54 AM
13	Perfect the way things are now!keep things small and noise and boating to a minimal	9/10/2020 1:24 PM
14	Live on ssl so don't use park	9/10/2020 11:55 AM
15	Swimming area at gorrell is poor. Upgrade like Merrill. Fishing is difficult due to weeds.	9/8/2020 10:12 AM
16	More golf cart trails	9/5/2020 1:29 AM

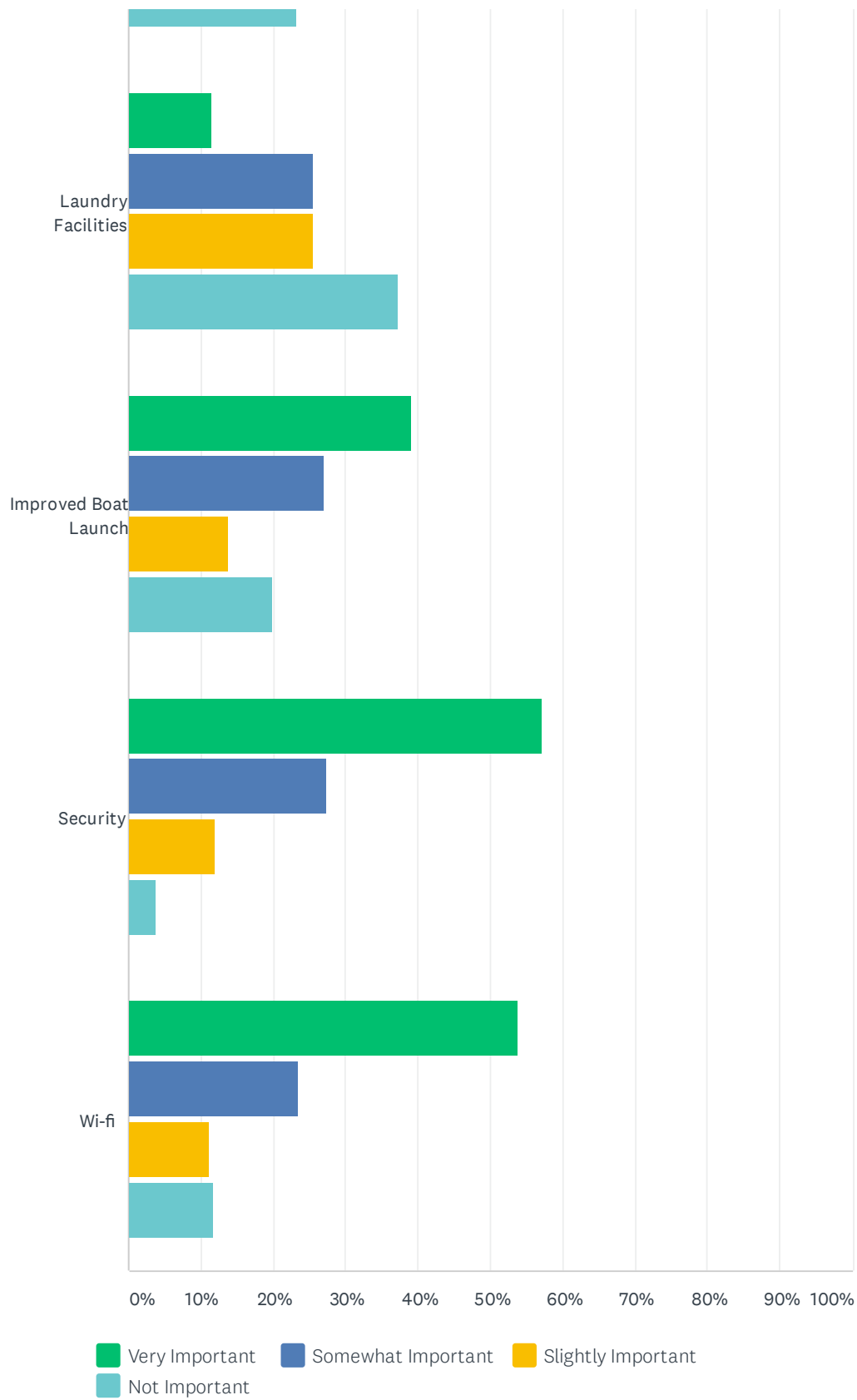
Q11 Rate the importance of the following campground amenities/services.

Answered: 465 Skipped: 87





Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Survey



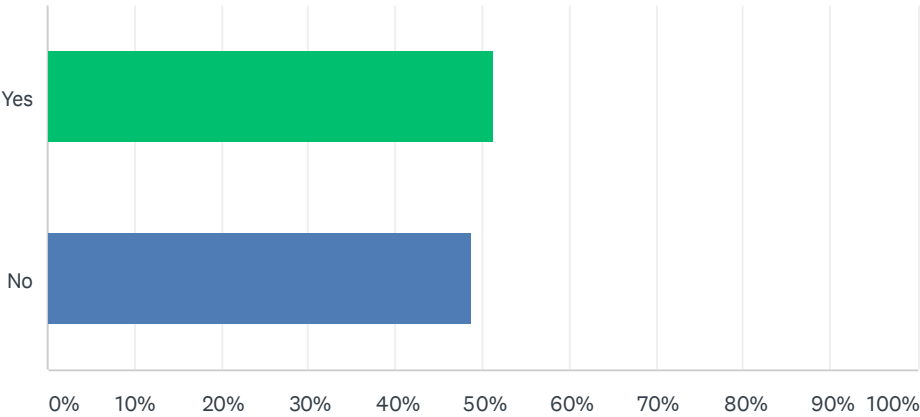
	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Modern Restrooms	70.70% 321	20.04% 91	6.17% 28	3.08% 14	454	3.32
Sewer Hook-up	46.52% 207	28.09% 125	10.79% 48	14.61% 65	445	3.68
Water Hook-up	77.21% 349	11.73% 53	3.98% 18	7.08% 32	452	3.30
Electricity Hook-up	82.22% 370	8.89% 40	3.78% 17	5.11% 23	450	3.23
Programmed Activities (Craft Barn, Guided Nature Hike, etc.)	22.33% 96	34.88% 150	22.56% 97	20.23% 87	430	3.98
Food/Drink/Camping Supplies	24.13% 104	38.05% 164	22.97% 99	14.85% 64	431	3.91
Paved Roads and Sidewalks	14.79% 63	30.75% 131	24.41% 104	30.05% 128	426	4.15
Tent Camping Availability	25.71% 109	29.25% 124	17.69% 75	27.36% 116	424	4.02
Rental Cabins	19.67% 84	31.38% 134	25.06% 107	23.89% 102	427	4.04
Pull-through RV Spaces	21.53% 93	32.41% 140	22.92% 99	23.15% 100	432	4.02
Laundry Facilities	11.50% 49	25.59% 109	25.59% 109	37.32% 159	426	4.26
Improved Boat Launch	39.20% 167	27.00% 115	13.85% 59	19.95% 85	426	3.81
Security	57.01% 248	27.36% 119	11.95% 52	3.68% 16	435	3.47
Wi-fi	53.72% 238	23.48% 104	11.06% 49	11.74% 52	443	3.58

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Would camp more if we could bring our dog.	10/15/2020 4:55 PM
2	In this day and age people work even on vacation so I believe this should be a free service to those that stay at your parks.	10/14/2020 7:11 PM
3	No security at all at night. Current wifi sucks!!	10/12/2020 3:12 PM
4	Need beter wifi service at School Section Park	10/12/2020 2:27 PM
5	improvmnts like this need to be done at Merril Gorrel Lake	10/5/2020 7:24 AM
6	Cable would be nice	10/4/2020 11:37 AM
7	Clean restrooms are a must!! Lawn maintenance and clean, adequate garbage facilities are important. Quiet, orderly campers is appreciated.	10/1/2020 6:57 PM
8	Pull through sites would be nice for transient campers.	9/30/2020 4:24 PM
9	Like stated above. Definitely needs updating at Brower Park especially playgrounds and bathrooms.	9/30/2020 11:29 AM
10	Need adult activities	9/30/2020 11:27 AM
11	Tree trimming would real nice!!	9/28/2020 3:34 PM
12	I think keeping and fixing historical places for people to enjoy and learn is very important	9/15/2020 12:45 PM
13	Not familiar with all these parks. School section lake is a beautiful small park and too many big boats have been allowed in somehow. Absolutely opposed to a bigger boat launch. Those big boats and motors belong on the tri lakes if not Lake Michigan.	9/11/2020 7:17 PM
14	A place to swim	9/11/2020 3:49 PM
15	I would like to see first and foremost an increase in wages for staff so that the parks are fully staffed all season long.	9/10/2020 8:19 PM
16	boats allowed are too large/powerfull for schoolsection lake	9/10/2020 4:55 PM
17	Fixing Brower Parks WiFi that doesn't work on weekends	9/10/2020 2:16 PM
18	Spend time and money on beach upkeep and pavilion and bathrooms. Keep power boats to a minimal and concentrate on nature and hiking	9/10/2020 1:24 PM
19	Wi-Fi is much worse this year than the last couple	9/10/2020 1:20 PM
20	I think there needs to be a limit to the boats that can be launched at School Section Lake. As a property owner I see a potential accident on our lake because of the amount of boats that are being let onto the lake. The motor size was limited up until just recently. Please for the sake of safety put limits on daily passes.	9/10/2020 7:46 AM
21	Site size that isn't over taken by seasonal campers.	9/10/2020 4:50 AM
22	Electrical boxes at brower need to be updated to both 30 amp/50 amp service.	9/9/2020 10:01 PM
23	Family activities are fun. Halloween in Aug., etc.	9/9/2020 7:40 PM
24	I don't camp	9/9/2020 6:06 PM
25	School section lake needs a boat launch and parking area	9/8/2020 11:59 AM
26	Kayak stand moved closer to water, in the current position it's too far to carry kayaks to the lake. Know kids just climb on it like monkey bats. Merrill has it positioned perfectly.	9/8/2020 10:12 AM
27	Need more rangers and managers visible to enforce rules	9/7/2020 9:27 PM
28	Golf carts at the camp ground would be a major plus	9/7/2020 4:07 PM
29	Less yearly camp sites and dont let the campers stay at the campground year round, the people need to take them home. And the need to have different sites so others can enjoy every site in the campground. But I know you won't listen to this suggestion.	9/5/2020 5:59 PM
30	DOG park, brower	9/5/2020 5:39 PM

31	Better maintenance for campground cabins. There were busted out screens, dirt, and rotted/worn out sections of flooring.	9/5/2020 1:59 PM
32	Please keep as many sites as possible open to NON-seasonal camping. Thank you!	9/4/2020 11:14 PM
33	Pop and Ice Cream at least !	9/4/2020 6:26 PM
34	Less snobby seasonal people	9/4/2020 5:08 PM
35	A really good WIFI would be awesome to be able to work during the week as seasonal campers. Not because of COVID...just as a normal thing.	9/4/2020 2:53 PM

Q12 Do you enjoy having dogs/pets while visiting county campgrounds/parks?

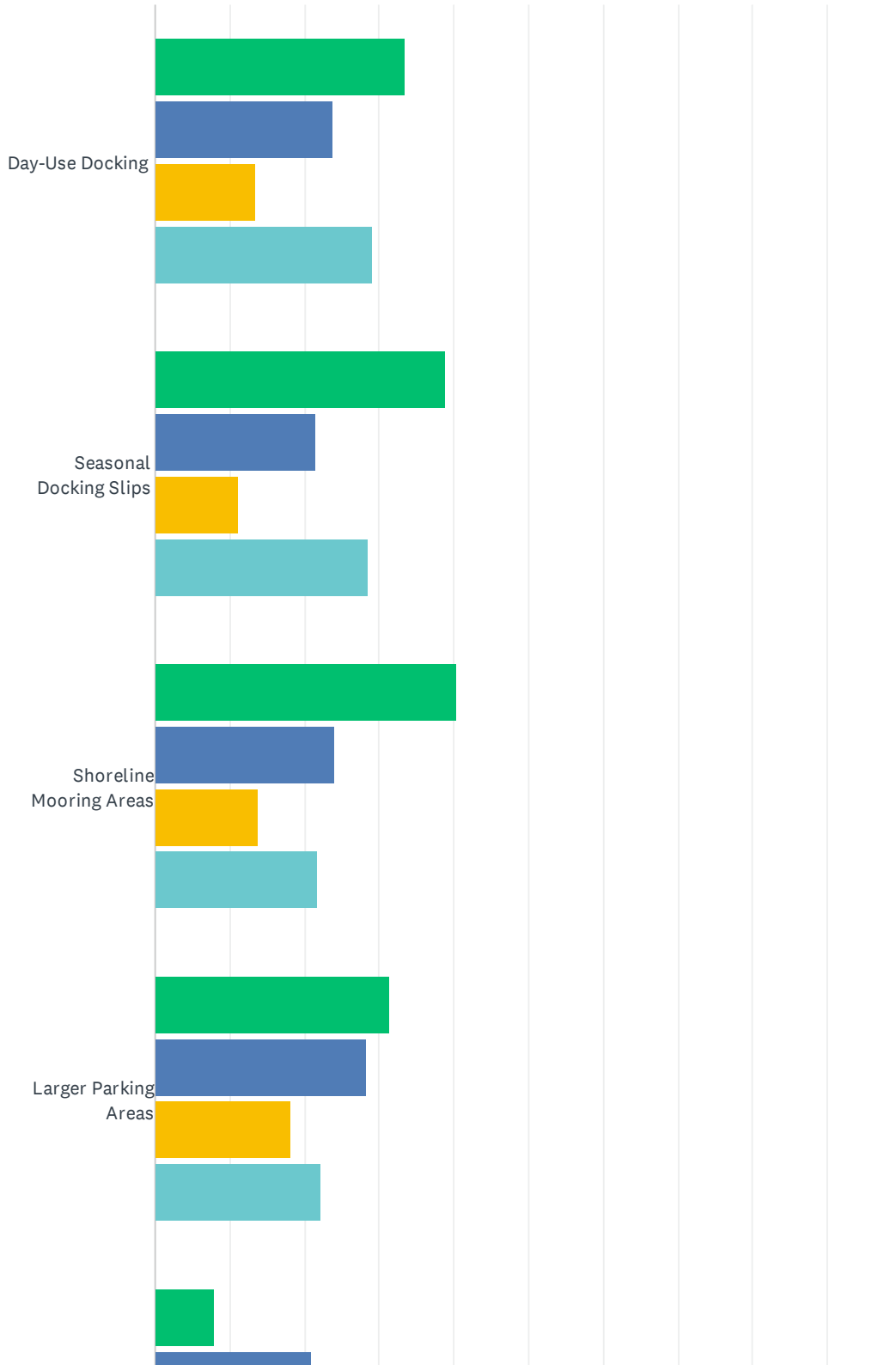
Answered: 465 Skipped: 87

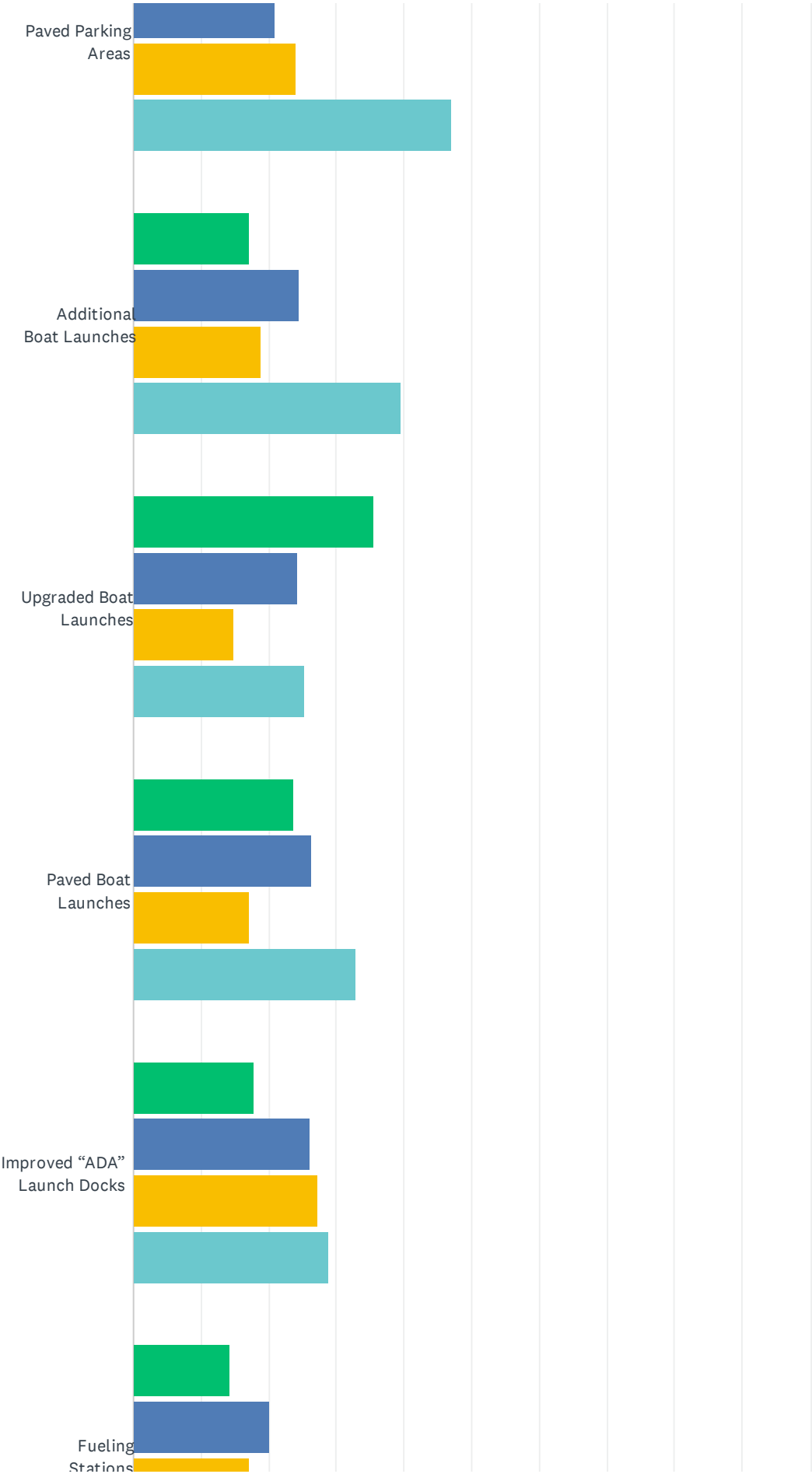


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		51.18%	238
No		48.82%	227
TOTAL			465

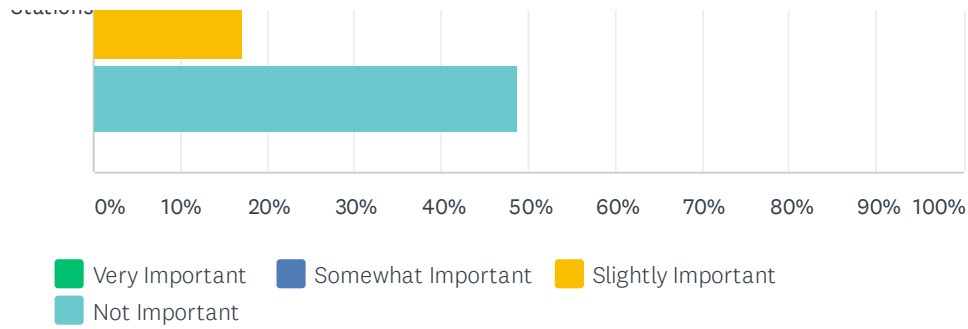
Q13 Boating is a very popular activity within Mecosta County Parks. Rate the importance of the following boating amenities that could be added in the future.

Answered: 442 Skipped: 110





Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Survey

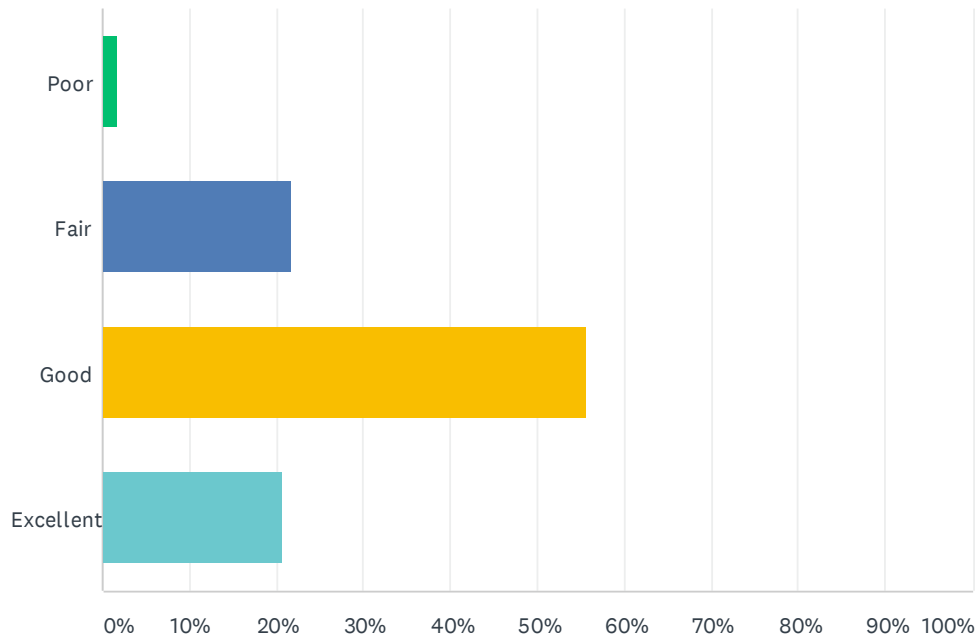


	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	SLIGHTLY IMPORTANT	NOT IMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Day-Use Docking	33.57% 142	23.88% 101	13.48% 57	29.08% 123	423	2.38
Seasonal Docking Slips	39.01% 165	21.51% 91	11.11% 47	28.37% 120	423	2.29
Shoreline Mooring Areas	40.48% 170	24.05% 101	13.81% 58	21.67% 91	420	2.17
Larger Parking Areas	31.34% 131	28.23% 118	18.18% 76	22.25% 93	418	2.31
Paved Parking Areas	7.88% 32	20.94% 85	24.14% 98	47.04% 191	406	3.10
Additional Boat Launches	17.11% 71	24.58% 102	18.80% 78	39.52% 164	415	2.81
Upgraded Boat Launches	35.60% 152	24.36% 104	14.75% 63	25.29% 108	427	2.30
Paved Boat Launches	23.54% 97	26.46% 109	17.23% 71	32.77% 135	412	2.59
Improved "ADA" Launch Docks	17.78% 72	26.17% 106	27.16% 110	28.89% 117	405	2.67
Fueling Stations	14.18% 58	20.05% 82	17.11% 70	48.66% 199	409	3.00

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Do not have a boat.	10/12/2020 3:36 PM
2	These are not important to me.	10/2/2020 2:22 PM
3	If I pay for a boat pass it's not right to have to fight for a spot put day and weekend boaters in another area	9/30/2020 6:36 PM
4	The added underwater length to the big boat launch was nice but it should have been installed at the same angle as the existing concrete. The small launch needs to have approximately 10 more feet of concrete added as well.	9/30/2020 4:24 PM
5	Here at Brower I have notice that the parking lot at the smaller boat launch is quite often filled with vehicles without boat trailers. People are just parking there, then there isn't room to park your truck and boat trailer once you've launched your boat. A lot of times the vehicles are left there over night, which is according to the rules, no over night parking in that lot. Nothing is done about it.	9/30/2020 4:10 PM
6	kayak launching	9/26/2020 11:56 AM
7	If able to put in docks would be good.	9/14/2020 8:55 AM
8	Controlled boating is needed, especially on School Section Lake. There are too many boats on the lake already, so any plans to allow more is an issue.	9/12/2020 1:52 PM
9	I like a quiet campground, not one overloaded with boats	9/10/2020 10:37 PM
10	I don't do boating	9/10/2020 9:35 PM
11	way too many boats on schoolsection lake	9/10/2020 5:01 PM
12	Extending the ramp and dock in the shallow water boat launch at browe	9/10/2020 2:18 PM
13	School Section Lake does not need any more boats on the lake. Too narrow and small of a lake for the traffic that is on it now. We need to keep everyone safe.	9/10/2020 1:27 PM
14	Any improvements to Boat Launches should be preceded by a study of the current and potential boating saturation of each lake being considered.	9/10/2020 12:29 PM
15	SSL is already crowded don't need more boats	9/10/2020 11:57 AM
16	School Section Lake is being overrun by over powered boats owned by park guests. They ignore the directional recommendations and speed through the narrows with tubers and skiers. Please provide rules to the guests for everyone's safety and limit the size and power of the boats using your ramp.	9/10/2020 10:30 AM
17	Our lake is over run with speed boats. This would be School Section Lake.	9/10/2020 7:48 AM
18	I would be against all kinds if additional access to the lake by campers at Veterans Park on School Section Lake since you want to charge residents of the lake to pull up to shore . I would prefer you shut that park down than add more boats to the lake.	9/10/2020 1:51 AM
19	Limit boat launch at school section lake to campground registered guest and limit size of motor to appropriate size for small lake	9/9/2020 6:46 PM
20	School Section Lake needs no additional boating access as it is too crowded already and many visiting boats are not following lake rules.	9/9/2020 6:31 PM
21	Additional launch spots, Docking, slips, Mooring spaces, should not be allowed on school section Lake. The lake is too small for additional boats and it already is dangerous	9/9/2020 6:10 PM
22	Increased parking at Brower for vehicle and boat trailer, boat launch and parking needed at school section	9/8/2020 12:01 PM
23	I'm not a boater so these do not apply to me	9/6/2020 9:26 PM
24	If had rec fuel	9/4/2020 3:40 PM
25	Dont own a boat	9/4/2020 3:06 PM

Q14 Please rate the overall cleanliness and appearance of the Mecosta County Parks system.

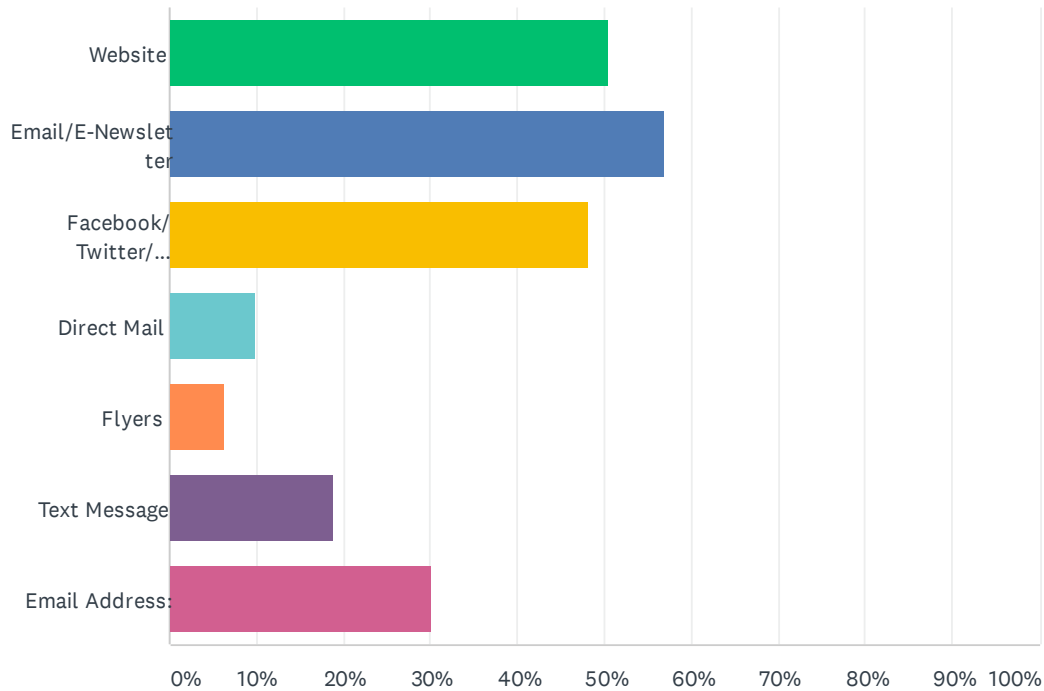
Answered: 452 Skipped: 100



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Poor	1.77%	8
Fair	21.68%	98
Good	55.75%	252
Excellent	20.80%	94
TOTAL		452

Q15 Would/How do you prefer to be contacted about park related activities and services? Check those that you use. (provide email if you want to receive updates)

Answered: 421 Skipped: 131



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Website	50.36%	212
Email/E-Newsletter	57.01%	240
Facebook/ Twitter/ Instagram	48.22%	203
Direct Mail	9.74%	41
Flyers	6.18%	26
Text Message	18.76%	79
Email Address:	30.17%	127
Total Respondents: 421		

Q16 If you have anything you'd like to add that we haven't touched on, please include your thoughts and ideas below. (provide comments)

Answered: 108 Skipped: 444

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	There is a current need for upgraded electrical service at Brower park. The plug in boxes should be on a rotation basis to be changed out every couple years. The need for 50 amp service is also a current need. Today's camping units need more amp service. This needs to be addressed sooner than later!	10/14/2020 7:22 PM
2	Would be nice if you would consider how long people have been camping at your facility when it comes to seasonal camping drawings. Kind of a reward for supporting the park system every year and helping improving the campgrounds	10/12/2020 5:35 PM
3	Please do not allow pets at School Section Park. There are enough other parks where people with pets can go camping	10/12/2020 3:39 PM
4	I definitely hope you keep the policy of no pets at School Section Lake Park!!	10/12/2020 3:37 PM
5	Brower used to be a good family park. Now it is a No Rules Dog Park. We have more dogs than kids. They leave them in ?? all day. They go in the cabins, art barn, bathrooms. Some campers have three or more. The staff never asks or tells them the rules, why is this? People party till all hours and play bag toss till 1am. Where are the night rangers? No enforcement. Boaters from outside the park leave their boats in the boat basin all summer. Some of them never camp at Brower. Fix the roads and paths with the right stuff, not beach sand. You just end up with bigger holes. Try to ride a bike or walk in beach sand. You take out a tree stump and fill it in with beach sand, think it will grow grass? The cost keeps going up--what are the people getting? Put the camper tongues back to the Road	10/12/2020 3:31 PM
6	Cutt off date for canceling seasonal camping moved to Oct. 31 or lose all \$. No Dogs - rapping all over, no rules enforced for dogs, not on leashes, left on campsites, barking, aggressive, too long of leashes, some have no one holding onto other side of leashes. No rules enforced. Brower Park is rundown--have been hardly any improvements--money is being put in other parks. Hardly any mowing has been done this year. Not enough tree management is done. Roads are crap-holes and mud holes. Rangers are riding together in gators paying them double to ride around and doing nothing. Prices keep going up but there is no improvements. Park managers have no authority saying everything has to go through Jeff. Have to get rid of dogs. Noise rules are not being enforced after 10. Need to kick out people with boats parked in channel if not camped here. Boats from Speets and River Ridge and others are paying only \$30 to have their boats in channel all summer long and they are not camped here. GET RID OF DOGS!!!	10/12/2020 3:20 PM
7	1. Dogs Gotta go. 2. Cut off date for canceling lots done by Oct. 31. 3. A lot of unfairness here! 4. No rules are enforced. 5. Dogs have never been a problem until this year. If you say (some)thing to Mark he responds by saying "Pick your own battles!" (Really??)	10/12/2020 3:08 PM
8	IF you would weed out a lot of the pine trees on site, it would open the site up to be grassier and more sunlight and more accessible for larger campers to utilize their whole site. People will buy your pines and then you could put it back into each individual park you profited from! Large RVs, campers would be better fitted, more satisfied	10/12/2020 3:04 PM
9	Dogs have overrun Brower Park! Almost every lot has 2 or 3 dogs per lot! I'm tired of hearing barking and vicious sounding dogs as well as having dog poop all over! I'm so disappointed for the blatant disregard for rules! Why have rules if they aren't enforced! Rangers need to address violations rather than befriend the violators! A day doesn't go by without seeing violations. Where are the park rangers--riding around on the Gator doing nothing!	10/12/2020 2:52 PM
10	School Section is pet-free and should stay that way. Pets are allowed at other parks so no need for School Section.	10/12/2020 2:47 PM
11	Routine maintenance is important. Painting buildings, repairing picnic tables, painting/straightening signs and fences, mowing, cleaning restrooms, painting walls in showers.	10/12/2020 2:43 PM
12	Please keep the fish hatchery working. Repair what is needed and bring back the animals I remember. I would love to see Springtime in Paris come back.	10/12/2020 2:37 PM
13	I think it would be great to have the fish ponds fixed--the park history is all about the hatchery. I also feel that bringing back Springtime in Paris/Art in the Park would bring some extra money for the park. As a kid these were my two favorite things at the park.	10/12/2020 2:33 PM
14	Need to scrap and add more road gravel to the roads more often. There are several water	10/12/2020 2:29 PM

holes. Some tree trimming needs to be done at School Section Park.

15	Paris Park is our favorite campground, staff is great. Campers are usually friendly. Feel very comfortable here. Would love to see some improvements to the park for our children, grandchildren to enjoy the rich historical value. It's conveniently located, close to stores but still has the outdoor woodsy feel. Would be great to see historical displays of old fishery.	10/12/2020 2:24 PM
16	My family loves the fish ponds at Paris Park. We noticed that they are in need of repairs. We would love to see ponds and hatchery stay at the park for future generations.	10/12/2020 2:19 PM
17	Limit seasonals--especially at School section where they are taking over most of the preferred sites. How about local bands doing a concert on Saturday nights once in a while. How about a lower price for the annual sticker for county residents? We love your theme weekends. Halloween is fun. Would like you to stay open later in the fall so we could camp and enjoy fall colors and Indian Summer. (if we get any!)	10/12/2020 2:11 PM
18	Would very much like to see Paris' hatchery building and ponds restored. We are losing our heritage and history daily. Once it is gone it can't be replaced. Would also love to see Springtime in Paris again. Also the duckponds to museum	10/12/2020 1:51 PM
19	We love Paris Park, especially in the fall! Love the bike trails, the nearby disc golf, the river, and the quietness! Love the fishery and hope the spillway is able to be fixed so that can be continued	10/12/2020 1:39 PM
20	No smoking on beaches or playgrounds.	10/12/2020 12:37 PM
21	I like school section because there are no pets allowed.	10/12/2020 11:37 AM
22	We are seasonal and love the laid back, safe, and social atmosphere. This past year some new rules and tighter regulations made our experience not as great, but we still enjoy it there. Some minor upgrades, such as paved roads in the campground would be great, in our opinion!	10/10/2020 8:10 AM
23	We would like to see the hatchery fixed. It is very enjoyable. The building by hatchery would mak ea wonderful venue for wedding receptions, family reunions, etc. Would be wonderful fixed up nice. Advertise the disc golf on trail. Maybe have equipment available to use via deposit refundable when returned. The building could also be used for craft shows, programs, etc. could even charge a small fee for use on entry into an event.	10/9/2020 11:16 AM
24	We enjoy Paris Park campground. Being on the river and trail. We think a good improvement to the river access point would be to remove many of the large rocks to create a safe swim area. It is very hard and unsafe trying to maneuver through the large slippery rocks.	10/9/2020 11:07 AM
25	Please don't add a lot of rules and regulations. Keep School Section pet free. Maintain what you have rather than trying to add something new.	10/3/2020 1:18 PM
26	I have been camping at Merrill for the past several years; in the beginning of the season, the staff is on top of everything, but as the season goes on, things are overlooked. No toilet tissue in the restroom, restrooms aren't cleaned. I would love to see the beach at the Gorrell side improved. No easy way to get to the beach, and there is not much of a beach.	10/2/2020 2:26 PM
27	Mark is amazing at Brower. I am still bothered by the change in regular sites becoming prime sites on the point. The new sites that have now become prime flood regularly, have no wifi, and no seepage pits. I would love to send pics of the mud and flooding. Our 5th wheel had to be towed out of the mud this spring. I spoke at the board meeting in July and nonone seemed to listen or care. It was also mentioned that it had already been decided in the seasonal letter info that went out when in fact it was shared qnd voted upon by the board that very night. Im saddened by the lack of honesty, especially to those of us that have supported Browet for more than 40 years.	10/1/2020 12:43 AM
28	I'd start by firing jeff and get a parks superintendent that isnt on a power trip and get someone that can relate and listen to the campers instead of running every camper off that questions the rules or has an idea to improve old rules and maybe listen to your people who take pride in the parks and treat as if it's there home	9/30/2020 6:42 PM
29	The bathroom and showers need to be cleaned better and more often.	9/30/2020 6:08 PM
30	I can only speak about Brower Park. I have seasonally camped here for the last 13 years. The roads in the park need to be improved. When we have rain, there a lot of the road that have standing water. They need to be filled with gravel and not just graded. Also the night rangers	9/30/2020 4:31 PM

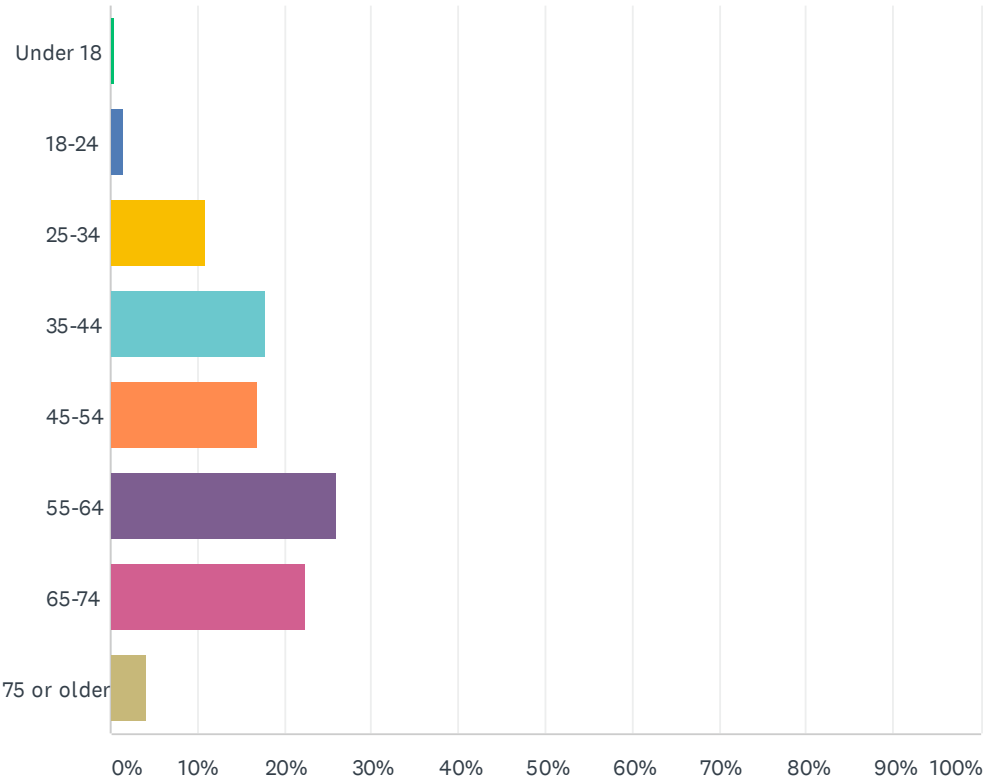
just ride around and not handle people who are rowdy/noisy after quiet time. The dogs have been awful this year! They are very noisy and bark. I have seen many dogs on leashes but then then the other end of the leash is not attached to anything and the dog is free to roam. I don't understand why there is an extra charge for dogs, say an extra \$5 a day for each dog. Many people have more than 1 dog. I feel you are missing out on additional moneys by not charging for each dog. That might deter some of the huge dogs that have been in the park this summer. Also I have seen a number of dogs left inside campers while the camper is gone off their site, and the dog is left barking in the camper. Also, camper should be parked on the sites with the hitch to the road. And lastly I feel that maintenance of the campground has been very lacks this summer, such as cutting and trimming the grass. It appeared that the rangers just ride around on the gator and don't do their jobs. Brower Park has become known for the no rules park. The rules are not enforced, so why do you have the rules if they are not going to be enforced. It's just very sad.

31	Roads need need more gravel, not dirt from out of the woods and not sand. Parking lot by the small boat launch is suppose to be for launch vehicles and trailers only. Get rid of the dogs ! Park employees riding around on the gator, not really doing anything. Should start paying employees a little higher wage to hopefully get a little bit better help. (part time) Some of these things are really have nothing to do with the 5 year master plan, but we as seasonal campers see this stuff all the time. I personally think that the current management is doing a pretty good job with what they have to work with.	9/30/2020 4:30 PM
32	Very poor staff/lack of rule enforcement this year. Too many people allowed in to the beach areas. Seasonals couldn't use the beach without worry of covid. Beach and bathrooms were filthy all the time. Rules seemed to be a thing of the past at school section	9/30/2020 2:36 PM
33	Pets allowed in all parks	9/30/2020 2:12 PM
34	Do Not want pets at School Section Park!	9/30/2020 12:21 PM
35	NO PETS	9/30/2020 11:52 AM
36	Need to add laundry facilities at School Section Lake Campground. Enlarge camp sites to accommodate the newer, bigger RVs.	9/30/2020 11:40 AM
37	Parks need better management and security. Cleaner bathrooms and grounds. We need an adult activities director. Larger sites. Less restrictions on decks.	9/30/2020 11:32 AM
38	Common sense rules. Golf carts are not the same as vehicles. They should be allowed to drive on grass and should be prohibited in certain areas.	9/28/2020 9:32 PM
39	More seasonal sites at Brower. Use vacant area by playground	9/28/2020 8:40 PM
40	Please keep natural walking trails a nature area White Pine Valley Recreation Area.	9/28/2020 8:16 PM
41	I live near the WPURA in Paris. It's a beautiful nature area that my family and many other neighboring family's enjoy. We have heard of possible development of that land. Hoping that is not the plan as it's a natural habit to help the Muskegon watershed. We all hope it continues to remain as - is with the wonderful walking trails and natural beauty.	9/28/2020 6:48 PM
42	Grading of the roads and trimming of trees!!!	9/28/2020 3:37 PM
43	All pets welcome	9/28/2020 1:25 PM
44	clear out the overgrown woods so that we can all see the river. Create paths to the river that are safe and easily accessible. Install a Goodhumor ice cream vending machine. Install a handicapped accessible	9/26/2020 12:04 PM
45	love paris park - needs more marketing...pls	9/24/2020 10:53 PM
46	The county needs bike trailheads and good wayfinding maps for paths/trails.	9/24/2020 3:05 PM
47	what happened to the information from the last survey? How do you plan on reaching all the people who do not receive the pioneer? How do you expect people to rate WPVRA when it receives little endorsement and is discovered by word of mouth generally? t	9/19/2020 10:04 AM
48	Brower Park allows too many seasonal residents/campers. Tends to create a party atmosphere and less friendliness towards non-seasonal campers.	9/17/2020 1:49 PM
49	My favorite idea here would be a pool/splash pad area (brower park especially)	9/16/2020 11:31 PM

50	Paris park is one of my favorite parks to go to. I love the history of the hatchery and love to feed the fish. Its a great family friendly park and i would love to see all the ponds back to being full of fish and would like to see the hatchery eventually restored. I also would like to see organized group activities like bingo games or art projects or scavenger hunts.	9/15/2020 1:02 PM
51	We have a serious lack of winter sports facilities in the County. This is the number one thing I would like to see improved.	9/14/2020 5:15 PM
52	boaters from park are rude and do not know rules. More education to boaters - i.e. noise reduction, counter clockwise direction, island is private property,	9/14/2020 10:09 AM
53	I'm hoping it stays "no pets" park. There's nothing wrong having one park with no pets. The lack of respect to other campers has gone down at School Section, also. Cutting through people's lots has escalated, throwing food, trash on the ground is a norm. When we started camping, we were given a list of the main set of rules to follow before setting up. That doesn't exist anymore, I was told. These are just a few that are broken out of many. When you are a seasonal dealing with this every weekend it becomes discouraging. There isn't enough help, I understand that. So bringing back the idea people need to go through the rules before setting up, would help.	9/14/2020 9:19 AM
54	The boats from the campground at School Section Lake should have the hp limits restored	9/13/2020 9:11 PM
55	Additional showers at Paris park	9/13/2020 2:08 PM
56	Please do not allow political signage or flags.	9/13/2020 9:56 AM
57	I would like to see the speed limit lowered in the park especially on weekends and holidays. The entrance/exit speed could be increased at Browers because it is hard to get up the incline pulling something so heavy and you could put up a split rail fence back in the woods to help keep the kids from running into the road. They have to at least slow down. That is not a high traffic area for the kids either. The huge potholes as you are entering before and after you pass the office is absolutely terrible. Those need to be kept maintained. I was told the main office called on a huge hole as soon as you came over the hill to enter the park and finally I called the county and they said they had not heard anything about it and they had it filled within a couple of hours. I am not sure who is suppose to take care of the potholes after the office but it needs to be kept up. The trees on the entrance and exit road from the office to the launch need to be trimmed up. The trees from the boat launch to the boat trailer parking need to be trimmed also. That is all I can come up with off the top of my head. Oh the managers at Browers are good. I again I can't proofread it right now but I am sure you will figure out what I am talking about.	9/12/2020 3:42 PM
58	I would personally like to see less seasonal spaces taken up. Many, many of the spaces are taken up by seasonal campers that may only come up on certain weekends, if at all during the week. In my opinion there should be fewer spaces available for seasonal campers and more available for day/week use. Possibly following closer to the state campground rules. I personally have stopped camping at some of the Mecosta county parks because of the seasonal campers. I have encountered too many that feel they can police and direct certain actions of the non seasonal campers, when no violations are being performed.	9/12/2020 8:52 AM
59	Please allow dogs/pets into county parks	9/11/2020 11:02 PM
60	The people of Lake School Section Lake would not approve of any addition to boating upon the lake, as well as enlarging mass camping in the area of Woods road. We do see areas within the park that could be enlarged, for camping. Yet we would not approve of destroying the woods in the area of Woods rd.	9/11/2020 10:29 AM
61	I enjoy the parks	9/11/2020 9:09 AM
62	I am worried about the increase of boats on SSL. Since the increase in engine size was allowed, the lake has many fast boats that do not follow the rules. This lake does not have the capacity to hold more boats and with additional launches and mooring areas, there is a greater risk of accidents. This lake is too small for all of this. Keep it as is, or even go back to the 9hp rule.	9/10/2020 10:40 PM
63	Cleaner group camps and with power in the cabins as well.	9/10/2020 8:50 PM
64	need boat size/power regulation for schoolsection lake	9/10/2020 5:01 PM
65	More showers	9/10/2020 4:44 PM

Q17 What is your age?

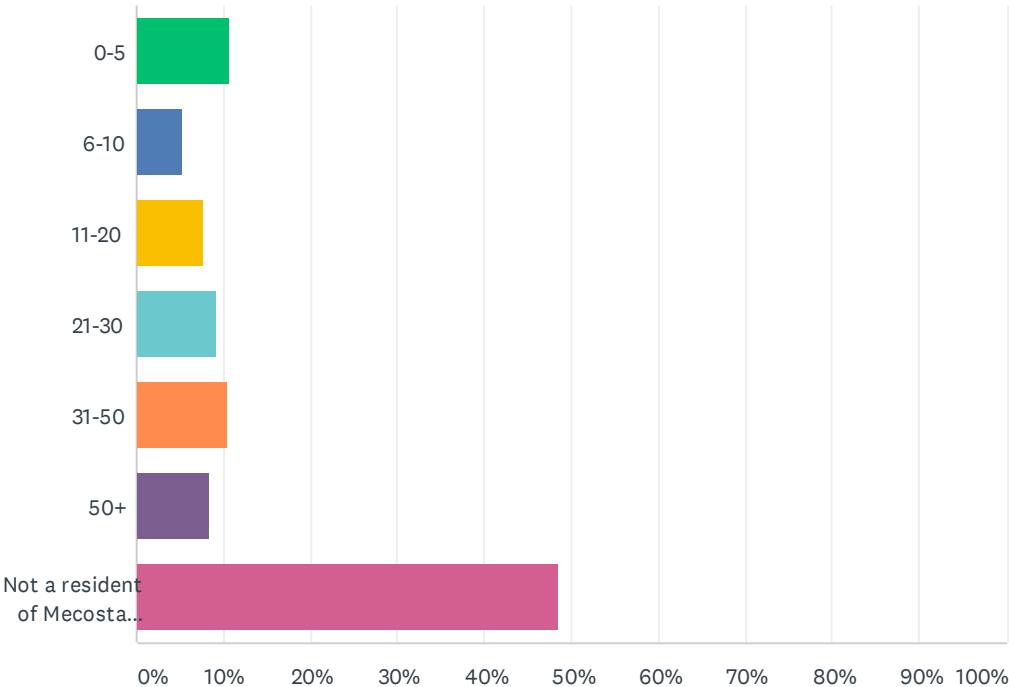
Answered: 456 Skipped: 96



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.44%	2
18-24	1.54%	7
25-34	10.96%	50
35-44	17.76%	81
45-54	16.89%	77
55-64	25.88%	118
65-74	22.37%	102
75 or older	4.17%	19
TOTAL		456

Q18 How many years have you been a Mecosta County resident?

Answered: 458 Skipped: 94

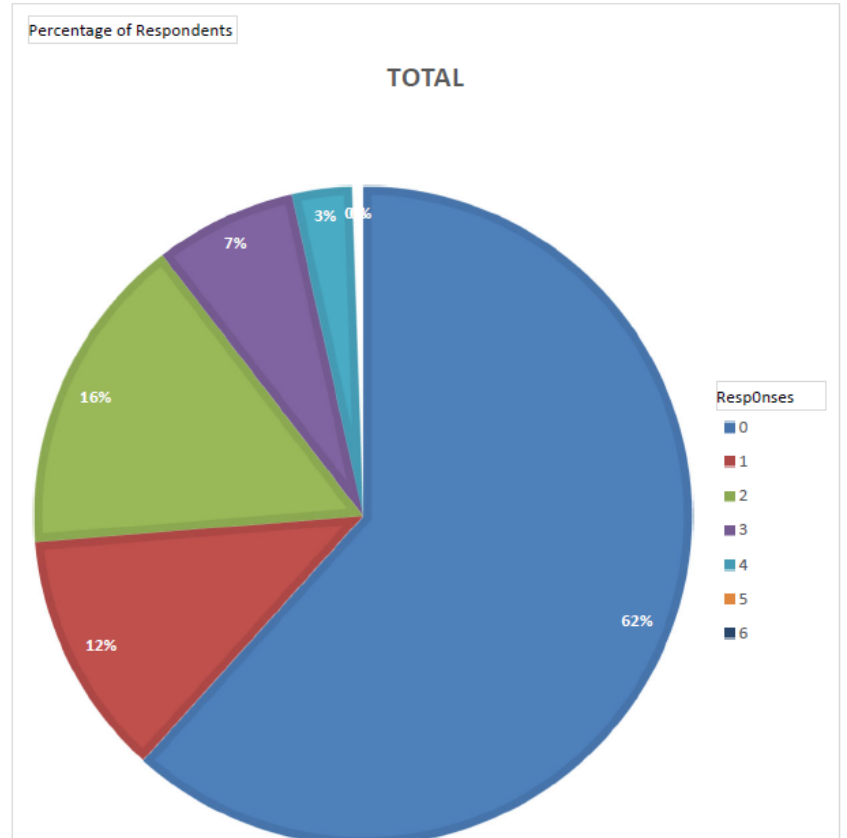


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-5	10.70%	49
6-10	5.24%	24
11-20	7.64%	35
21-30	9.17%	42
31-50	10.48%	48
50+	8.30%	38
Not a resident of Mecosta County	48.47%	222
TOTAL		458

Q19 How many children under age 18 live in your household?

Answered: 373 Skipped: 179

Row Labels	Percentage of Respondents
0	61.66%
1	12.06%
2	15.82%
3	6.97%
4	2.95%
5	0.27%
6	0.27%
Grand Total	100.00%



Q20 Is there anyone living with you who are elderly, disabled, or with special needs?

Answered: 342 Skipped: 210

Row Labels	Count of Respondents
No	243
Yes	50
0	13
1	8
Elderly	5
2	4
82 & 80	1
2 elderly	1
both husband and I are elderly	1
Yes3	1
Disabled	1
My husband and I are seniors	1
we are	1
Nope	1
We are both senior citizens. Our grandchildren grew up coming to this park. They are in college and still come back.	1
1 has trouble walking on rough terrain.	1
Wife and I are elderly	1
Yea	1
Yes, I'm disabled yet I love to walk through the park in the winter when my health allows it.	1
Getting there	1
Yes, my second oldest child	1
Grandparents	1
Yeselderly	1
just me	1
me	1
Grand Total	342

3 DAY WEATHER FORECAST



TODAY

76°/44°

Sunny along with a few clouds. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible.



THURSDAY

62°/38°

Sunny. High 62F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.



FRIDAY

59°/37°

Generally sunny despite a few afternoon clouds. High 59F. Winds NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

LOTTERY

DETROIT (AP) — Michigan lotteries drawn Tuesday:

Midday Daily 3

3-2-6

Midday Daily 4

3-5-0-1

Daily 3

0-9-7

Daily 4

4-0-3-5

Fantasy 5

1-5-9-22-39

Keno

1-7-11-13-15-16-24-
29-35-37-42-43-44-49-
50-54-58-60-64-68-
70-80

POLICE BLOTTER

Officers investigate possible criminal sexual conduct

BY TAYLOR FUSSMAN

tfussman@pioneergroup.com

BIG RAPIDS — Big Rapids Department of Public Safety officers responded to the following calls Monday.

All calls may not be reported.

Monday, Sept. 14

- A black BMX-style bicycle was found at the bandshell.

- Officers responded to a civil dispute in the 700 block of Fuller Avenue.

- A Go-Pro camera was found at Northend Riverside Park.

- Officers responded to a possible criminal sexual conduct complaint in the 800 block of Henderson

nude pictures to an unknown man in Arizona. The case is under investigation.

- A man and woman were arguing about child custody in the 1100 block of Catherine Street.

- Officers responded to a civil dispute at Parkview Village.

- A man reported his cellphone was stolen in the 700 block of South State Street. When he tracked his phone, it ended up being in the general location of the 300 block of Morrison Avenue. The cellphone was not on. The case is under investigation.

- Officers responded to suspicious activity complaints in the 100 block of

Mecosta County Parks Master Plan looks for public input

Survey active through Oct. 4

BY ALICIA JAIMES

alicia.jaimes@pioneergroup.com

MECOSTA COUNTY — In an effort to better-serve the community and gauge the interest of park visitors, the Mecosta County Park Commission is pleased to announce an upcoming update to their five-year Master Plan.

Working in partnership with consulting and engineering firm, Prein and Newhof, the park commission will be collecting public input regarding the future of the Mecosta County Parks through a public engagement process. This will include an open house, public meetings and opportunities to complete paper or online surveys.

The master plan is scheduled to be completed by February 2021, with the goal to

establish a vision for the 2021-25 calendar years.

The park commission will be looking for what best meets the community's current and future recreational needs, while increasing safety and accessibility, and protecting and enhancing environmental resources.

The plan update will outline goals, identify new opportunities, determine improvements and project phasing, as well as set the framework for development, upgrades, expansion and maintenance of facilities, offerings and services over the next five years.

In order to accomplish this goal, a review of existing parks, facilities, programs, staffing, operations and budgeting is being performed, and recommendations will be developed based on expressed community needs and desired current and future outcomes.

"Public input is a vital

part of the planning process," officials stated in a news release. "County residents and park users are encouraged to take the Mecosta County Park Commission Master Plan survey. The survey may also be completed in hard copy which can be obtained from and returned to any county park office, or the Mecosta County Park Commission Administrative Office located at 22250 Northland Drive in Paris, Michigan."

The survey will remain active through Oct. 4.

For additional information about the Master Plan process and additional public input opportunities, visit the Mecosta County Parks website at mecostacountyparks.com or follow "Mecosta County Park Commission" on Facebook.

To complete the survey, visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MecostaCountyParksSurvey>.

MARKETPLACE

Sept. 24, 2020

Pioneer Classifieds: (231) 592-8348 • classified@pioneergroup.com

Deadlines:

Tuesday - Friday	Noon 1 Business Day Prior
Saturday, Monday	Noon Friday
Legal Advertising	Noon 3 Business Days Prior
Shoppers & Combo Ads	Noon Thursday
Classified Display Ads	Noon 2 Business Days Prior

FREE ADS!

Are you a current Pioneer print subscriber?

Send us your address to receive one ad and we'll publish them for FREE!

Rates:	
Up to 15 Words, 1 Day	\$12.70 (add words 25¢/line.)
Up to 15 Words, Shoppers	\$13.35 (add words 35¢/line.)
Combo, 15 Words	\$39.20 (add words 35¢/line.)
Garage Sale, 20 Words, 1 Day	\$21.25 (add words 25¢/line.)
Multiple insertion rates available upon request.	

Cancellations or corrections must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day before publication. The Pioneer is responsible only for the first day's insertion. Listing for errors that not exceed the cost of space in which the error or correction occurred. Payment: All ads must be pre-paid. Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, Check or Cash prior to deadline. 5PM DEADLINE: Pioneer Group reserves the right to edit or reject any ad at any time and to determine ad classification.

115 N. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids, MI 49307 | www.pioneergroup.com/classifieds

Garage Sale

BIG RAPIDS

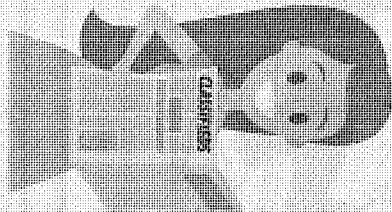
Massive Yard Sale
September 24th, 25th & 26th
9am-8pm
16531 16 Mile Rd
Big Rapids
Antique rocking chair, Antique Thomas A. Edison Phonograph with cylinders, Frigidaire kitchen stove 1 y/o black & chrome

CHIPPEWA LAKE

STUFFS GOTTA GO - HOUSE SOLD
September 25th & 26th 9am-5pm
NO EARLY SALES
10461 N. Chippewa Drive
Chippewa Lake
*Using a GPS use Event as the city.

No reasonable offers refused except on large items listed separately.
1995 Rick Ciunn Edition Nitro Bass Boat, Trailer and 11hp mercury Motor with Motor guide Trolling Motor and brand new cranking battery. \$5100 OBO
1951 John Deere A Tractor with powertrac, new back tires. Also has tire chains and back blade w/excursion \$3200 OBO
16' Hobie Cat Sailboat with trailer, Tequila Sunrise sail. Like new. \$2500 OBO

CLASSIFIEDS



EAGLE VILLAGE

is hiring passionate people to help children and families reach their potential.

- Our Mission is Essential and we need you!
- Youth Specialist- All Shifts
- Maintenance Specialist
- Psychologist

88 of 100

0015 Community Events

STONE HATCHERY FARMER'S MARKET & YARD SALE ITEMS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2020
9AM-4PM
Stone Hatchery Park
21331 Northland Dr.
Paris, MI 49338

0030 Special Notices

Our Brothers Keeper Shelter
We Provide...
"a meal a day & a place to stay" to those in our community who are homeless.
405 South Third
Big Rapids
231-629-8033
okb.shelter@gmail.com
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

0032 Public Notices

CITY OF EVART OSCEOLA COUNTY MICHIGAN
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND EVART CITY ORDINANCE 2019-08 HISTORIC DISTRICT ORDINANCE AS ADOPTED ON JULY 1, 2019
Notice is hereby given that at a regular city council meeting on March 2, 2020 the Evart City Council adopted Ordinance 2020-03. The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend Evart City Code Ordinance 2019-08, as it relates to Historic District Study Committee and the Study Committee Report, Establishing Additional Modifications or Eliminating Historic Districts, the Historic District Commission Meetings, Record-keeping & Rules of Procedure, Design Review Standards and Guidelines.
This Amendment is available to be viewed at the office of the Evart City Clerk, 200 S. Main Street, Evart, MI 49831, City Hall, 5814 100th Avenue, Evart, MI 49831, and on the City's website www.evart.org.
Kathy Flebog, City Clerk

0050 Help Wanted

THE MECOSTA-OSCEOLA Intermediate School District is accepting applications for the following position:
• MOP Co-Op Computer Technician - Level 1 (full-time)
A complete posting is available at www.misd.org. Interested applicants must submit a letter of application, resume, transcripts, certificates, and references to: Mark R. Krumpp, Assistant Superintendent, Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District, 15760 190th Avenue, Big Rapids, MI 49307

0110 For Rent

APARTMENT
UNIVERSITY PARK SUITES
NOW LEASING FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR!
Come Live at The SuiteLife at University Park Suites!
We have flexible lease terms! The only place that will do a 1 Semester Lease for Graduating Seniors! No need to find a sub-leaser!
We are the best value in Big Rapids! With rent starting at \$370 for your own bathroom and kitchenette, you won't find anywhere like University Park Suites!
Come check out all that we have to offer. Free WiFi, Clubhouse, Gym and Pool all open after office hours!
Call us today at 231-796-7495
Schedule a Tour!

0030 Special Notices

RELIABLE? DEPENDABLE? LOOKING TO MAKE SOME EXTRA \$\$
The Pioneer Group is always accepting Independent Contractor Applications to deliver our publications.
If interested please stop by:
115 N. Michigan Ave
Big Rapids, MI 49831
5pm
or call the Circulation Hotline 231-796-1710

0032 Public Notices

CITY OF EVART OSCEOLA COUNTY MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND EVART CITY CODE, CHAPTER 144B - INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE
Notice is hereby given that at a regular city council meeting on January 21, 2020 the Evart City Council adopted Ordinance 2020-01 to amend Evart City Code, Chapter 144B as it relates to the International Property Maintenance Code. This Amendment is available to be viewed at the office of the Evart City Clerk, 200 S. Main Street, Evart, MI 49831, City Hall, 5814 100th Avenue, Evart, MI 49831, and on the City's website www.evart.org.
Kathy Flebog, City Clerk

0100 Pets & Supplies

DOG CRATE DOUBLE doors
divider new in box \$25.00 Big Rapids 231-796-8325

0110 For Rent

BIG RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION
NOW SEEKING
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING AND FAMILY HOUSING

1-6 bedroom units located in Evergreen Village and Parkview Village. Income based rent with utilities included. Only minutes from downtown, active resident council, group activities, Neighborhood Watch program and security cameras.

Apply at:
9 Parkview Village
Big Rapids
(231) 796-8689

The application is also available at:
www.bigrapidshousing.org

LARGE STORAGE CUPBOARD
8ft x 30 inches. White, 2 doors. Free if you transport a second one from Stanwood to me in Big Rapids. 231-349-5422

MICROWAVE, \$20 OBO
Frankfort, 231-651-0964.

NOVA WALKERS 8 inch and a 6 inch. Both padded seats, brakes and utility bags, like new. Make Offer Big Rapids 231-796-9525

PORTABLE GENERATOR:
\$900 surge watts and 7500 running watts, \$400 OBO. Call 231-889-3479 for details, Onstama area.

WESTERN SNOW PLOW for Jeep \$1,500 5 tires & rims for Jeep \$ 80.00 each. (231)633-6699, Copemish.

WIG W/ REAL Hair, Platinum

Public Land Auction

Tax reverted real estate in Mecosta County will be offered at an online-only public auction at www.tax-sale.info. All bids must be placed by 5:00pm EST on Nov. 3rd, 2020. For more information and to view the list of the properties

FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY
For current job opportunities, look for our display ad in the following pages.

0050 Help Wanted

PUBLIC NOTICE: MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION
5-Year Master Plan Update
The Mecosta County Park Commission in conjunction with consulting firm Prehn and Ne-who are currently conducting a survey to gain community input on current and future recreational programs, services and facilities operated by the Park Commission. Surveys may be completed online by visiting: bit.ly/surveymonkey.com/mecosta-county-parks-survey or by paper copy which are available at any Mecosta County Park office, the Mecosta County Park Commission administrative offices at 22250 Northland Drive, Paris, MI 49388 or the Park Commission website at www.mecostacounty-parks.com. The deadline to complete the survey is Oct. 4.

PUBLIC NOTICE



The Mecosta County Park Commission is requesting your input on a draft of our 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

This document, which will be available for a 30 day review period beginning Friday, November 13th and ending Monday, December 14th, may be found at our website, <https://www.mecostacountyparks.com/public-notice-meetings.....> See More

2021-2025

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

DRAFT AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW

**THE MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION IS REQUESTING YOUR INPUT
ON A DRAFT OF OUR 2021-2025 FIVE YEAR MASTER PLAN**



The plan will be available for review from
Friday, November 13th to Monday, December 14th
at the following locations:

- + Mecosta County Parks Office (by appointment only):
22250 Northland Dr. Paris, MI 49338
- + [Mecosta County Parks page on Facebook](#)
- + www.mecostacountyparks.com

Please send comments to admin@mecostacountyparks.com

MARKETPLACE

Nov. 14, 2020

Pioneer Classifieds: (231) 592-8348 • classified@pioneergroup.com

Deadlines:

Tuesday - Friday	Noon 1 Business Day Prior
Saturday, Monday	Noon Friday
Legal Advertising	Noon 3 Business Days Prior
Shoppers & Combo Ads	Noon Thursday
Classified Display Ads	Noon 2 Business Days Prior

FREE ADS!

Are you a current Pioneer print subscriber?

Email us your "Items for Sale" ads and we'll publish them for FREE!

Email your name, address, phone number & ad text to:
classified@pioneergroup.com *Some restrictions apply.

Rates:

Up to 15 Words, 1 Day	\$12.70 (add words 25¢/ea.)
Up to 15 Words, Shoppers	\$13.35 (add words 35¢/ea.)
Combo, 15 Words	\$39.20 (add words 35¢/ea.)
Garage Sale, 20 Words, 1 Day	\$21.25 (add words 25¢/ea.)
Multiple insertion rates available upon request.	

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD FOR ERRORS

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115 N. Michigan Ave., Big Rapids, MI 49307 | www.pioneergroup.com/classifieds

0032 Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE:

MECOSTA County Park Commission is requesting public input on a draft 2021-2025 five year Parks & Recreation Plan. The plan will be available from Friday, November 13th to Monday, December 14th for review at Mecosta County Parks Administration Office, 22250 Northland Dr. Paris, MI 49338 and www.MecostaCountyParks.com. Please send comments to admin@MecostaCountyParks.com

0110 For Rent



NOW SEEKING!

**QUALIFIED APPLICANTS
FOR AFFORDABLE
SENIOR HOUSING
AND FAMILY HOUSING**

1-6 bedroom units located in Evergreen Village and Parkview Village. Income based rent with utilities included. Only minutes from downtown, active resident council, group

0170 Items for Sale

A SET OF weather tech floor liners for a Honda CR-V 2012 thru 2016. Front only. They are like new with very little usage. Cost \$109.00 new now for \$70.00. Honor, 231-325-2467. Leave a message.

A SET OF weather tech front floor liners for a 2011 thru 2015 tacoma. They cost \$109.00 new, now for \$70.00. Very good shape. Honor. Call 231-325-2467, leave message.

APPLIANCES

WASHER AND DRYER, gas and electric for sale. Call 231-299-1319, Manistee.

BUILDING MATERIALS

THINK BEFORE YOU REACT



Every child deserves
to feel safe at home
and in his or her
community.

MARKETPLACE

Nov. 16, 2020

Pioneer Classifieds: (231) 592-8348 • classified@pioneergroup.com

Deadlines:

Tuesday - Friday	Noon 1 Business Day Prior
Saturday, Monday	Noon Friday
Legal Advertising	Noon 3 Business Days Prior
Shoppers & Combo Ads	Noon Thursday
Classified Display Ads	Noon 2 Business Days Prior

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Email your name, address, phone number & ad text to:
classified@pioneergroup.com Some restrictions apply.

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Up to 15 Words, Shoppers	\$13.35 (add words 35¢/ea.)
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PUBLIC NOTICE:

MECOSTA County Park Commission is requesting public input on a draft 2021-2025 five year Parks & Recreation Plan. The plan will be available from Friday, November 13th to Monday, December 14th for review at Mecosta County Parks Administration Office, 22250 Northland Dr. Paris, MI 49338 and www.MecostaCountyParks.com Please send comments to admin@MecostaCountyParks.com

DISTRICT is accepting applications for the following position:

• Transition Coordinator

A complete posting is available at www.moisd.org. Interested applicants must submit a letter of application, resume, transcripts, certifications, and references to:

Mark R. Klumpp
Assistant Superintendent
Mecosta-Osceola
Intermediate School District

0110 For Rent



NOW SEEKING!

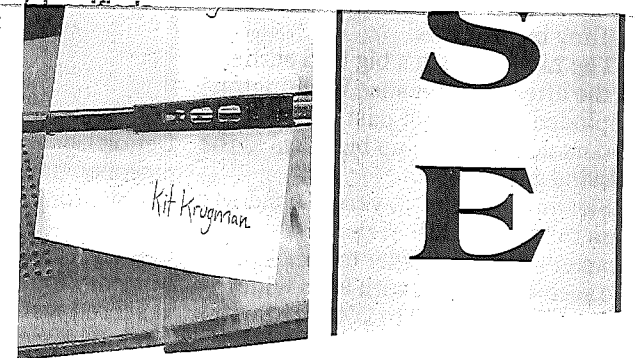
QUALIFIED APPLICANTS
FOR AFFORDABLE
SENIOR HOUSING
AND FAMILY HOUSING

A SET OF weather tech front floor liners for a 2011 thru 2015 tacoma, They cost \$109.00 new, now for \$70.00. Very good shape. Honor. Call 231-325-2467, leave message.

APPLIANCES

WASHER AND DRYER, gas and electric for sale. Call 231-299-1319, Manistee.

BUILDING MATERIALS



[HOME](#)[COUNTY PARKS](#)[ONLINE RESERVATIONS](#)[INFORMATION](#)[CONTACT](#)

2020 Park Commission Meeting Schedule - Click Here

November Park Commission Meeting:

DUE TO CURRENT INDOOR MEETING RESTRICTIONS, PUBLIC WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE NOVEMBER PARK COMMISSION MEETING VIA THE ZOOM ONLINE OR CALL-IN MEETING APPLICATION. LOG-IN INFORMATION FOR THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE BELOW.

The next meeting is November 17th and is scheduled to begin at 5:00 pm.

The agenda for the November Park Commission meeting will be available here once finalized: AGENDA

We will ONLY be offering online or call-in attendance for the November meeting through the "Zoom" meeting application. Log in information for the meeting is available below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87233203715?pwd=aVZTcldJWUJQVFVSRUlyVEtBdUI4dz09>

Meeting ID: 872 3320 3715

Passcode: 116313

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

Public Notice

A Draft Version of the 2021-2025 Mecosta County Park Commission Master Plan is available for public input from November 13th, 2020 thru December 14th, 2020. All comments and input related to the draft plan should be e-mailed to: admin@MecostaCountyParks.com or sent via mail to:

Mecosta County Park Commission
22250 Northland Drive
Paris MI 49338

A public hearing on the draft Master Plan will be held on December 15th in conjunction with the Park Commission monthly meeting.

A Draft Version of the plan is available for review using this link: [Mecosta County Parks 2021-2025 Draft Master Plan](#)

Park Commission Meeting Minutes

[January 2018](#)

[February 2018](#)

[January 2019](#)

[February 2019](#)

[January 2020](#)

[February 2020](#)

[HOME](#)[COUNTY PARKS](#)[ONLINE RESERVATIONS](#)[INFORMATION](#)[CONTACT](#)[July 2018](#)[August 2018](#)[September 2018](#)[October 2018](#)[November 2018](#)[December 2018](#)[July 2019](#)[August 2019](#)[September 2019](#)[October 2019](#)[November 2019](#)[December 2019](#)[August 2020](#)[September 2020](#)

Master Plan

[Master Plan 2014-2018](#)[Master Plan Amendment](#)

Policy Updates

There are no recent policy update postings.



Mecosta County Park Commission

22250 Northland Drive

Paris, MI 49338

(231) 832-3246

Email the Administrative Office

Discover, Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted at
Brower,
School Section, Merrill-Gorrel and Paris Parks

[HOME](#)[COUNTY PARKS](#)[ONLINE RESERVATIONS](#)[INFORMATION](#)[CONTACT](#)

[2020 Park Commission Meeting Schedule - Click Here](#)

The December Park Commission meeting is scheduled for December 15th and will begin at 5:00 pm.

The agenda for the December Park Commission meeting will be available here once finalized: AGENDA

DUE TO CURRENT INDOOR MEETING RESTRICTIONS, PUBLIC WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE DECEMBER PARK COMMISSION MEETING VIA THE ZOOM ONLINE OR CALL-IN MEETING APPLICATION. LOG-IN INFORMATION FOR THE MEETING IS AVAILABLE BELOW:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87962596492?pwd=NytpZXBxV2dzWFlxMkc0ZkRNanEvdz09>

Meeting ID: 879 6259 6492

Passcode: 511214

Dial by your location

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Public Notice

A Draft Version of the 2021-2025 Mecosta County Park Commission Master Plan is available for public input from November 13th, 2020 thru December 14th, 2020. All comments and input related to the draft plan should be e-mailed to: admin@MecostaCountyParks.com or sent via mail to:

Mecosta County Park Commission

22250 Northland Drive

Paris MI 49338

A Public Hearing on the draft Master Plan will be held on December 15th in conjunction with the Park Commission monthly meeting. The Public Hearing will begin at 5:05 PM and end once all public have been provided an opportunity to speak. Log-in information for the Public Hearing is available above.

A Draft Version of the Master Plan is available for review using this link: [Mecosta County Parks 2021-2025 Draft Master Plan](#)

Park Commission Meeting Minutes

[January 2018](#)

[February 2018](#)

[March 2018](#)

[April 2018](#)

[January 2019](#)

[February 2019](#)

[March 2019](#)

[April 2019](#)

[January 2020](#)

[February 2020](#)

[April 2020](#)

[May 2020](#)

[HOME](#)

[COUNTY PARKS](#)

[ONLINE RESERVATIONS](#)

[INFORMATION](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[September 2018](#)

[October 2018](#)

[November 2018](#)

[December 2018](#)

[September 2019](#)

[October 2019](#)

[November 2019](#)

[December 2019](#)

[October 2020](#)

[Master Plan](#)

[Master Plan 2014-2018](#)

[Master Plan Amendment](#)

[Policy Updates](#)

There are no recent policy update postings.



Mecosta County Park Commission

22250 Northland Drive

Paris, MI 49338

(231) 832-3248

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The monthly meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission is scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m. December 15th, 2020 at the Mecosta County Services Building located at 14485 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307. Public may attend this meeting online or call-in via the Zoom online meeting application. Log-in information is posted on the County of Mecosta website, Mecosta County Park Commission website, and at the Mecosta County Park Commission Administration Office.

AGENDA

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Minutes of November 17th Park Commission Meeting
Minutes of December 1st Rules and Regulations Committee Meeting
4. Haunted Hatchery – Circle K
5. Public Hearing* (5:05 pm) – 2021-2025 Park Commission Master Plan
6. Public Comment* (comments regarding current agenda items)
7. Reports and Updates
 - A. Superintendent's Updates
 - B. Dragon Trail Updates – Construction, Fundraising, Marketing
 - C. Incident/Accident Reports – None to Report
8. Correspondence – None to Report
9. Committee Actions
 - A. Masterplan
 - i. 2021-2025 Park Commission Master Plan
 - ii. Buckhorn Creek Dam Removal Project
 - iii. 2021 Event Schedule
 - B. Personnel
 - i. Assistant Operations Manager Job Posting
 - C. Finance
 - i. 2021 Refund Policy
10. Financial
 - Financial Report – Rev & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet, Year-to-Year
 - Year End Budget Adjustments – Review and Approval
 - Approval of Bills
11. Public Comment* (general comments)
12. Resolution - Perialas
13. Other Business:
 - A. 2021 Meeting Dates & Times - Next Meeting is to be determined.
 - B. Park Superintendent – Out of office December 18th returning January 4th.
14. Adjournment

*Public comments are welcomed and encouraged. In order to conduct an orderly meeting, each public commenter is limited to four minutes unless granted additional time by the Chairperson or by a majority vote of the Commission members present. A commenter may not yield his/her time to another person.

MARKE

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0032 Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mecosta County Park Commission has scheduled a public hearing for December 15th, 2020 at 5:05 pm to receive public input regarding the draft 2021-2025 Mecosta County Parks and Recreation Master Plan. All public must attend the hearing virtually. Log-in information is available at www.MecostaCountyParks.com or by calling 231-832-3246.

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The December 15, 2020 Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order via live video conference at 5:00 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stratton.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Johnson, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. Perialas (arrived - 5:35 PM), Mr. Roels, Mr. Stanek, Mr. Stratton, Mr. Sweir (arrived - 5:05 PM) and Mr. Vogel. **Members Absent:** Ms. Miller. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Erin Bean - Operations Manager and Kathy Maclean - Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections, the agenda is approved with the addition of Tree Sale under Correspondence.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the minutes of the November 17th Park Commission meeting and the December 1st Rules & Regulations meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Haunted Hatchery - Circle K

Erin Bezeau, Circle K President, provided a report on this year's event. Due to COVID, attendance and subsequent revenue was lower this year, with a total of \$2560 being raised. A portion of the proceeds are being donated to the parks to benefit youth programming in the parks.

Public Hearing

The Chairman of the Mecosta County Park Commission, Steve Stratton, opened the Public Hearing for the 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan at 5:05 PM.

P. Griffith noted the Parks Superintendent had been receptive to his input and that he appreciated the Superintendent's willingness to discuss and make changes to the draft during the public review period.

There was no additional public input.

The Chairman of the Mecosta County Park Commission closed the Public Hearing at 5:13 PM and the Commission Meeting resumed.

Public Comment: None.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 15 current and completed projects, including:
Paris Fencing Safety fencing has been installed around the sink hole area by the icehouse and fence repairs have been completed in multiple sections near the campground.

Grand Rapids RV Show has been cancelled; we elected to move our payment to the January 2022 show.

Dead Trees have been removed from School Section Lake and Brower Parks' common and campground areas; additional tall or dangerous trees will be removed by Cook's Tree Service. An evaluation of Merrill-Gorrel's trees will take place next week.

Ice Mountain Davis Bridge Grant check for \$20,000 has been received.

FGC Renovations Our staff have been repairing and repainting windows, walls and ceiling and updating lighting to LED in the lower level of the lodge. Flooring to be installed soon.

Dragon Trail Updates - Mrs. Bradstrom and Mr. O'Neil updated the Commission regarding the Trail's available fund balance of approximately \$7,800. To move forward with next year's scheduled build, an influx of up to \$410,800 is needed, approximately 50% of which is matching grant dollars through a Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant that will be reimbursed once portions of the trail are completed and certified by the engineer. The first segment scheduled to be built in 2021 is the segment that connects Davis Bridge Park to Brower Park. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. O'Neil to have the Superintendent draft a letter requesting a line of credit up to \$410,800 from Mecosta County. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Incident /Accident Report - No reports.

Correspondence

Park Commission Appointments - Paul Griffith has been appointed to the Park Commission and Mrs. Bradstrom and Mr. Stratton have been reappointed for a term of 3 years.

2021 Tree Sale - The Commission agrees to provide the Mecosta County Conservation District use of the Paris Fish Hatchery Building for their 2021 Tree Sales.

Committee Actions

Masterplan

2021-2025 Park Commission Master Plan - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to submit the Master Plan Draft to the County Board of Commissioners for their review and approval. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Buckhorn Creek Dam Removal Project - The Muskegon River Watershed (MRWA) has completed a preliminary restoration plan and project estimate to remove the dam and restore the stream to its natural condition. The project partners include MRWA, MCPC, and the MDNR Fisheries, Parks and Recreation and Wildlife Divisions. Various funding sources will be pursued; MCPC will have some financial burden, but currently the estimated amount has not been established. This will be a long-term solution to the sink hole by the icehouse. Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to support MRWA's continued progress in the interest of the Park Commission. Motion carried.

Event Schedule - Events and event dates were reviewed. Community Open House Weekend to include free vehicle entry on Friday as well as Saturday and Sunday.

Personnel

Assistant Operations Manager Job Posting – Job description was reviewed and approved to post with minor correction. Anticipated hiring of position to take place in February 2021.

Finance

2021 Refund Policy - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mrs. Bradstrom to approve the updated refund policy as presented. Motion carried.

Financial

Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet, Year-to-Year -

Financial reports were reviewed and discussed.

Year End Budget Adjustment - Review and Approval - Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, seconded by Mr. Vogel to approve the budget adjustments as presented. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Approval of Bills - Mr. Stanek motioned, seconded by Mr. Roels to approve the bills in the amounts of \$2,244.11 and \$11,446.15. Motion carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

Public Comment: None.

Resolution

WHEREAS: **Mr. Stephen Perialas** has faithfully served the Mecosta County Park Commission for a total of 21.5 years. **Mr. Stephen Perialas** has served as Chairman for 3 years, 1 year as Vice Chairman, 4 years as Secretary and has served on several Mecosta County Park Commission sub-committees.

WHEREAS: **Mr. Stephen Perialas** has, during his appointment with this Commission, given freely and unselfishly of his time, experience, and varied expertise, which have contributed significantly to the development, improvement and continued operations of the Mecosta County Parks, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Mecosta County Park Commission and the Superintendent of said Commission does hereby express sincere gratitude for the faithful and dedicated contributions which **Mr. Stephen Perialas** has made and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this resolution be made a permanent part of the proceedings of this Commission and that a true copy be given to **Mr. Stephen Perialas** as a record of his exemplary service.

Motion carried Unanimously.

Other Business:

2021 Meeting Dates & Times - The 2021 schedule was reviewed and supported with all in-person Commission Meetings scheduled at the Mecosta County Services Building and the September and December meeting dates moved to the 2nd Tuesday of those months.

Next Commission Meeting - 5 PM, January 19th at the Services Building and/or via Zoom.

Park Superintendent - Out of Office December 18- January 4

Adjournment: 6:20 PM