



CITY OF MONROE

# Parks and Recreation Master Plan



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## Acknowledgements



### Mayor and City Council 2014

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In association with  
The River Raisin National Battlefield Park

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Adopted by City Council February 18, 2014

Approved by MDNR through 2018

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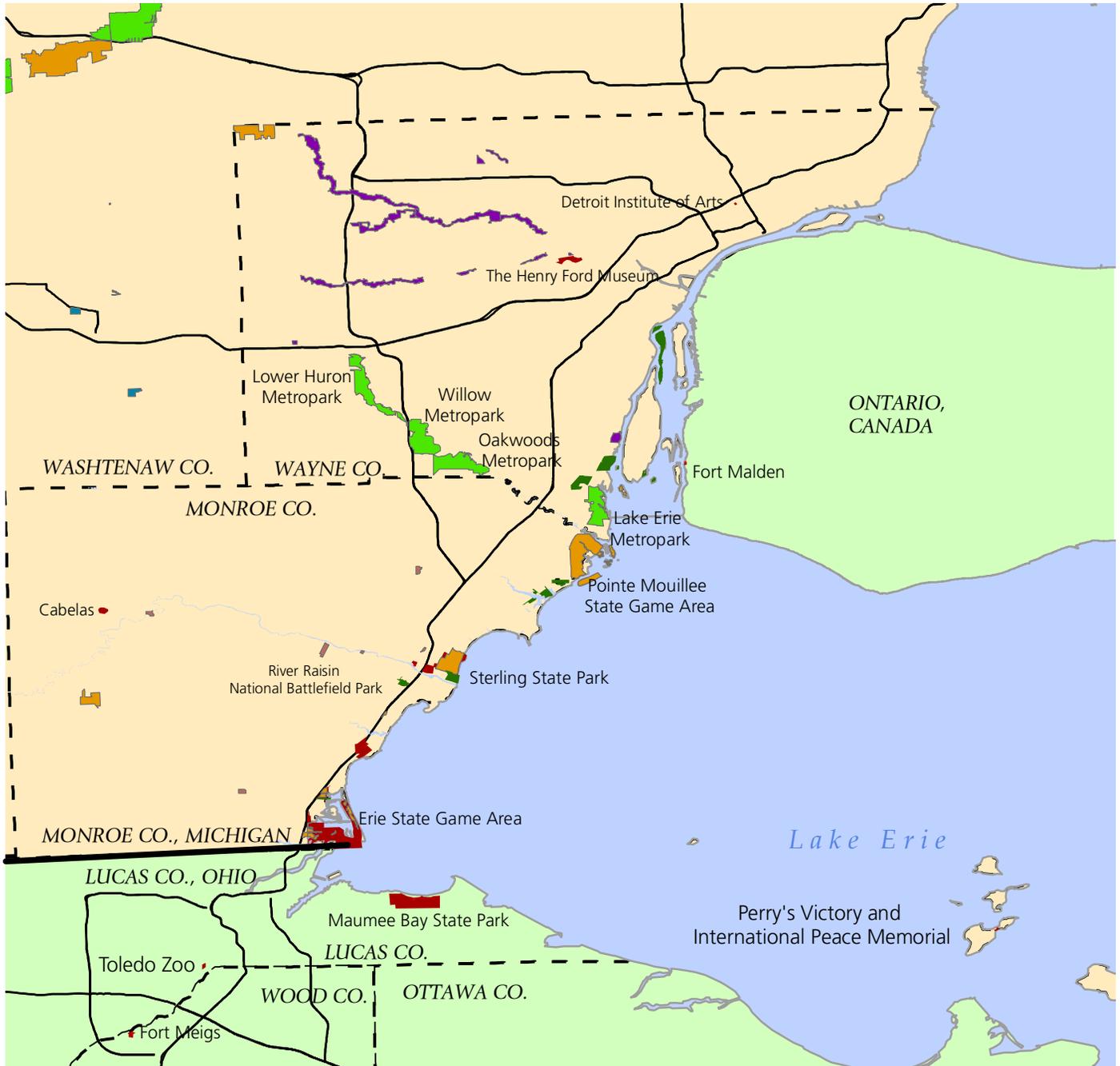
# Figures and Tables

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Regional Destinations  | vi |
| Built Features   | 4  |
| Demographic Dashboard  | 6  |
| Demographic Framework  | 7  |
| Natural Features   | 8  |
| Historic Assets  | 10 |
| Organization Chart   | 12 |
| Parks and Recreation Current Year and Projected Annual Budget  | 14 |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex Annual Net Revenue                 | 14 |
| Project Title: Munson Park                                     | 15 |
| Project Title: Hellenberg Park                                 | 15 |
| Project Title: Munson Park Phase III                           | 16 |
| Project Title: Hellenberg Park                                 | 16 |
| Project Title: Dick Waters Swimming Pool Renovation            | 17 |
| Project Title: Riverwalk Extension Project                     | 17 |
| Recreation Program Attendance Records, 2006-2012               | 18 |
| New Programs Since 2011  | 19 |
| Park Facilities Overview                                       | 22 |
| Other Parks in the Monroe Region                               | 23 |
| Park Classification System                                     | 24 |
| Park Maintenance Rating System                                 | 24 |
| Park Accessibility Rating System                               | 24 |
| Existing Recreation Facilities                                 | 26 |
| Existing Park Classification                                   | 27 |
| Existing Parks Maintenance Rating                              | 28 |
| Park Maintenance Rating  | 29 |
| Maintenance Rating by Park Type                                | 29 |
| Existing Parks Accessibility Rating                            | 30 |
| Accessibility Rating   | 31 |
| Maintenance Rating by Park Type                                | 31 |
| Greenways Plan   | 40 |
| 2007-2012 Action Plan Projects Status Report                   | 42 |
| Recreation Systems Plan 2007-2012                              | 43 |
| History Corridor - East Master Plan Overall Plan               | 44 |
| Parks and Non-motorized Infrastructure                         | 46 |
| Mill Race Park Plan  | 47 |
| Who responded to the survey?                                   | 50 |
| Top 10 Most Visited Parks                                      | 51 |
| Existing Parks Average Use Level                               | 52 |
| Average Park Use Rating  | 53 |
| Top Ten Most-Maintained Parks                                  | 54 |
| Top Ten Least-Maintained Parks                                 | 54 |
| What actions can we take to achieve our goals?                 | 57 |
| Characteristics of Millennials and How to Engage Them in Parks | 60 |
| Park Strategy  | 68 |
| Five-Year Action Plan Schedule                                 | 75 |

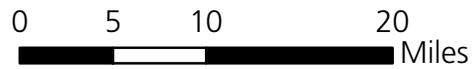
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# Contents

|                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Introduction                 | 1   |
| Planning Process             | 2   |
| Community Description        | 5   |
| Administrative Structure     | 13  |
| Parks Inventory              | 21  |
| Previous Planning            | 41  |
| Public Input Process         | 49  |
| Current Issues in Recreation | 59  |
| Cornerstones                 | 63  |
| Action Plan                  | 69  |
| Appendix A                   | 77  |
| Appendix B                   | 83  |
| Appendix C                   | 107 |
| Appendix D                   | 173 |



## Regional Destinations



- Huron-Clinton Metroparks
- Washtenaw County Parks
- Wayne County Parks
- Monroe County Parks

- Other Regional Destinations
- Detroit International Wildlife Refuge
- MDNR

- Township Boundary
- Road



# Introduction

Social demographics, economic conditions, and community attitudes are constantly in flux; this creates the need to regularly update a City's plan for the future of its recreation system. In August of 2013, the City of Monroe commissioned an update of their Parks and Recreation Master Plan. In order to address the changes that have occurred in the years since the 2007 Recreation Systems Plan was approved, a collaborative planning process was undertaken; this process involved input from community members, City officials, and planning consultants to develop a vision for the future. Through this process, the City of Monroe can gain a clearer understanding of the facilities they operate and the citizens they serve in parks and recreation programs.

This plan includes a detailed inventory of the parks and recreation assets in the City of Monroe, a reporting of the administrative structure of the parks and recreation decision-making processes in the City, a description of the public input and planning process, an outline of the City's recreation goals and objectives, and an action program with

specific directives for the next five years to work toward these goals.

This plan is written for the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Department. The City of Monroe has an extensive parks system, with public lands spread throughout the city and neighborhoods. Though the focus of this plan is on the recreation programs and facilities owned and operated by the City, regional recreation assets that are utilized by citizens of Monroe are also described.

The City of Detroit is approximately 40 miles north of Monroe, and the City of Toledo is about 25 miles to the south. Both of these cities are easily accessible via I-75. M-50 provides the city with a connection to US-23, which runs through Ann Arbor about 40 miles northwest of Monroe. US-24 (Telegraph Road) provides the citizens of Monroe with convenient access to Dearborn, Southfield, and various other communities in Wayne and Oakland Counties. Telegraph Road also provides direct access to I-275, which creates an alternative route to I-75 through Wayne and Oakland Counties.

# Planning Process

## Description of the Planning Process

The planning process for the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan began in September of 2013 with an inventory of all existing parks and recreation facilities owned by the City. This inventory identified the recreation amenities in each park, the maintenance level of each park, and the accessibility rating of each park.

Each park was classified into a park category, and the service area of each park is described within the park classification. Select neighborhood parks were looked at in-depth to visualize the demographic makeup of their quarter-mile radius service area. This information was used in determining the appropriate recreation facilities needed in each park. Following the recreation facilities inventory, the existing built and natural systems were mapped and analyzed.

Throughout the preparation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the public was consulted to determine their priorities for the future of Monroe's parks, facilities, and programs.

In October of 2013, a resident survey was distributed online and in paper form. The survey was advertised in a public notice in the Monroe Evening News, on the City's website at [www.monroemi.gov](http://www.monroemi.gov), on the Monroe Recreation Department Facebook page, and in a flyer that was distributed with leaf collection bags at City Hall. A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix C.

In late October, two Community Vision Session workshops were held at City Hall. The purpose of these workshops was to sit down with community members and discuss what the citizens thought the City did well in terms of their parks and recreation services, what they could have done better, what they felt were the barriers to their success, what their ideal community would look like in the future, and what specific actions could be taken to achieve that vision.



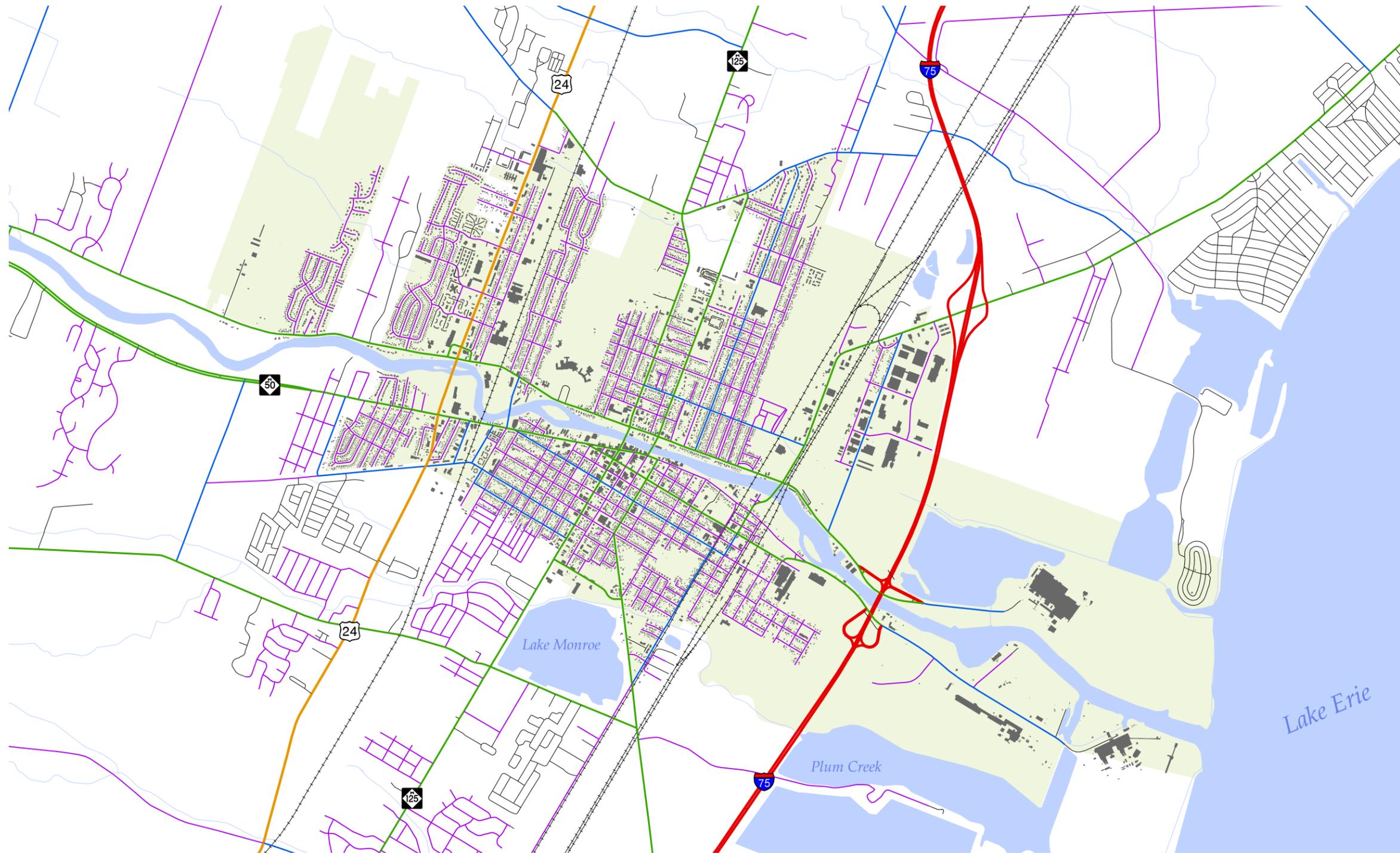


Following the survey and vision sessions, the Monroe Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC) reviewed the information gathered during the inventory and community input processes and weighed in on what they felt were the priorities for the future of parks and recreation in Monroe. The RAC held a meeting to determine the goals, objectives, and action plan for the next five years. These goals and objectives were based on the information gathered and the demographic makeup of Monroe with the intent of improving the recreation system within the community.

Once a draft plan was complete, the public review process began. The plan was available for public review from January 9th until February 7th at City Hall and on the project website. The public review period was advertised in the Monroe Evening News, on the City's website, and on the City of Monroe's public access channel. No public comments were submitted this time, so changes made during the review period consisted of further City and RAC review.

Administrators from the River Raisin National Battlefield Park were also invited to review the plan to increase coordination between the RRNBP and the City's park plans.

On February 18, 2014, a public hearing was held during the City Council meeting at which the plan was formally adopted by the City of Monroe. Paperwork relating to the review and adoption of the plan can be found in Appendix D.



CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# Built Features

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, City of Monroe

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  City of Monroe     |  Interstates         |  Major Collectors            |
|  Building Footprint |  Principal Arterials |  Local Roads                 |
|  Railroad           |  Minor Arterials     |  Not a certified public road |





# Community Description

## Built Features

The City of Monroe is located along the banks of the River Raisin in Monroe County, with Frenchtown Township, Monroe Township, LaSalle Township, and Raisinville Township surrounding it.

The historic small-town character of the city is apparent in the land development pattern, which had its roots in the long, narrow lots known as French Ribbon Farms. Most streets form a grid approximately parallel to Lake Erie, which was created when the downtown was first platted. Residential areas include many homes constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mixed commercial and residential uses are closely integrated near the downtown. Front Street and Monroe Street, which intersect on the south side of the River Raisin in the heart of downtown, provide a variety of opportunities to address for commercial, office, and residential needs.

Monroe is served by I-75, US-24, M-50, and M-125. I-75 provides connections to the entire interstate highway system. Monroe's transportation linkage is very important to the local economy, particularly in the area of tourism development.

The community is also well served by rail. Three railroads (CSX Transportation, Norfolk Southern Railway Company, and Canadian National Railway) run diagonally through town on north-south routes. Though rail access is not as important as it was in earlier years, the rails have been vital in the development of the area. Major industrial facilities such as Automotive Holdings, Ltd. (FRA, Ford Motor Company, and Visteon), Mac Steel, and Detroit Edison continue to use the rail lines.

Monroe Custer Airport provides service to private aircraft with a 5,000-foot runway. Airports are ever more important for small aircraft as the major public facilities become increasingly crowded by commercial air traffic. Custer Airport is classified by the FAA as a Class A General Aviation airport in the regional air traffic system.

Lake Erie Transit (LET) provides public transportation to the community. LET provides bus service in and around the city of Monroe and connects the city with the townships of Frenchtown and Monroe. An ETS/ADA service provides transportation for senior citizens and persons with disabilities in the city and a large portion of Monroe County.

# City of Monroe

Monroe County  
Michigan

Percentage of the Population by Age Group



**Households**  
2.44  
person average household size

**Education**  
36.3  
median age

87%  
high school graduate or higher

19%  
bachelor's degree or higher

**Income**  
\$23,274  
per capita income

\$44,054  
median household income

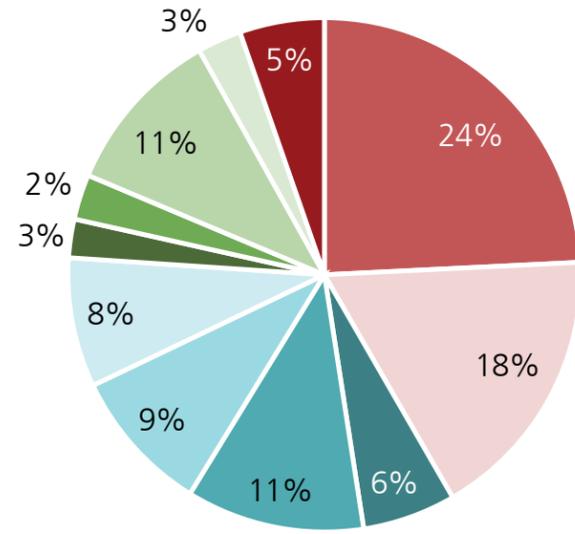
\$52,050  
male full-time, year-round earnings

\$34,430  
female full-time, year-round earnings



Households by Type

- Husband-wife family
- Husband-wife family with own children under 18 years
- Female householder, no husband present
- Female householder with own children under 18 years
- Female householder living alone
- Female householder living alone, 65 years and over
- Male householder, no wife present
- Male householder with own children under 18 years
- Male householder living alone
- Male householder living alone, 65 years and over
- Nonfamily households ("householder shares the home exclusively with people to whom s/he is not related," US Census)



17%  
population in poverty

25%  
children in poverty

**Employment**  
11.4%  
unemployment rate

21%  
service workers

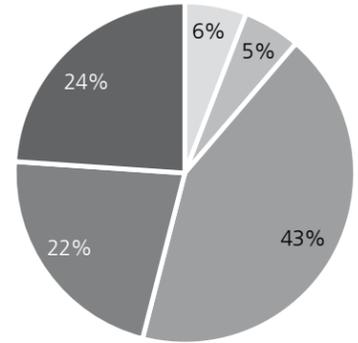
22%  
"ed and med" workers

10%  
government workers

5%  
self-employed workers

School Enrollment

- Nursery school, preschool
- Kindergarten
- Elementary school (grades 1-8)
- High school (grades 9-12)
- College or graduate school



**Top Industrial Sectors**  
22%  
education, health care, social assistance

19%  
manufacturing

11%  
retail trade

**Commuting**  
98%  
workers who commute

86%  
commuters who drive alone

21.5  
minute average commute



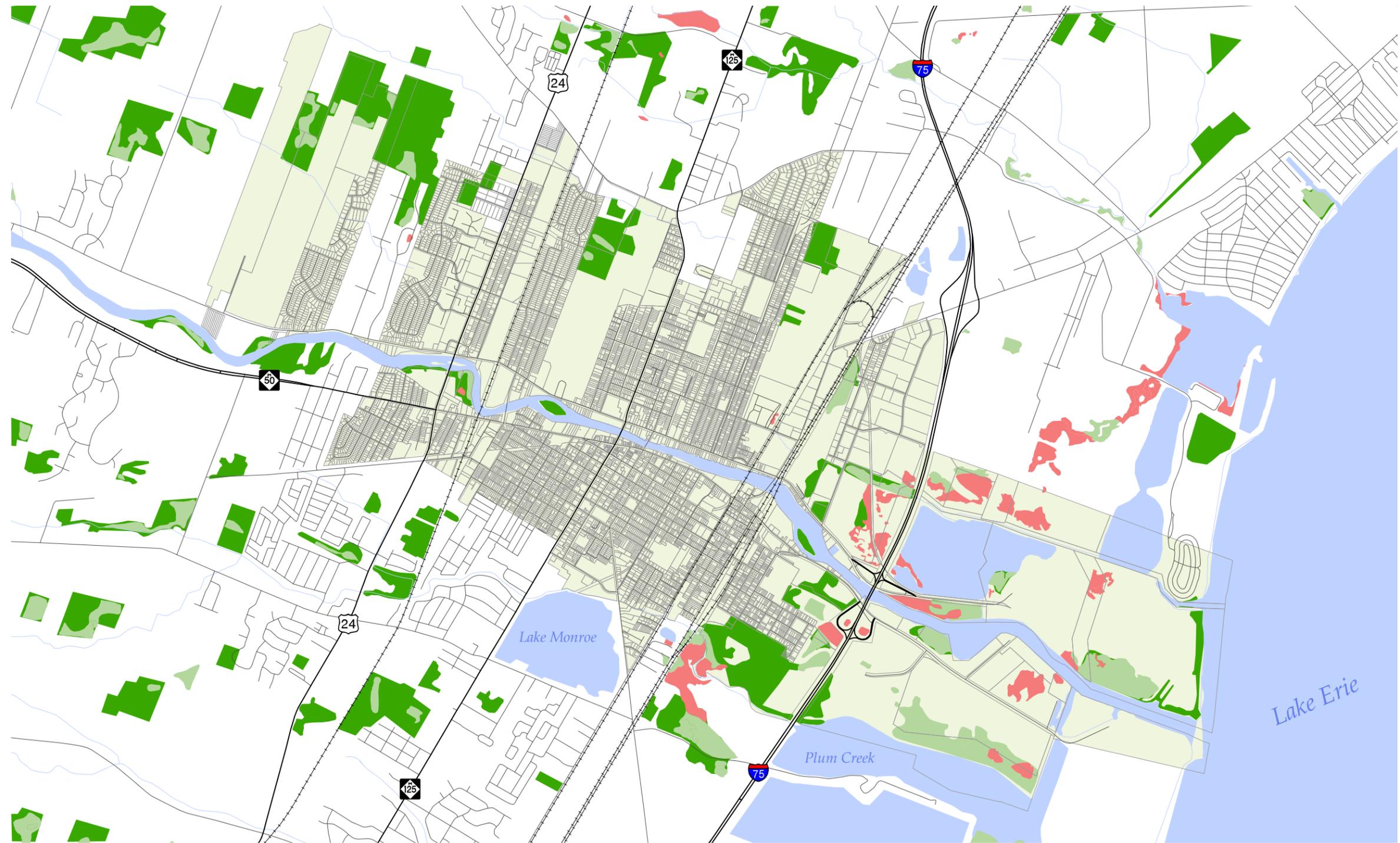
## Social Characteristics

According to a Tapestry Segmentation Profile conducted through ESRI's Business Analyst, the dominant demographic group in the City of Monroe is known as "Great Expectations." This group comprises 24.3% of households in Monroe and is a mix of younger homeowners and renters who are just beginning their family lives and careers (mainly manufacturing, retail, and service industries). This group lives primarily near the downtown core and north of the River Raisin west of Telegraph Road.

The second-largest segment of the population is known as the "Rustbelt Retirees" who comprise 19.7% of Monroe's households. Although the

median age of this group is 45, about a third are over 65. They are hardworking, settled, and involved in their community. This group lives north of the River Raisin adjacent to the downtown core.

The third-largest segment falls into a group called "Rustbelt Traditions." Fifteen percent of Monroe households are in this group that is made up of middle-aged families, single parents, and singles. Households in this group are typically financially conservative homeowners, and their neighborhoods are not very diverse. This group is located primarily north of the River Raisin and east of M-125.



CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# Natural Features

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, City of Monroe

- |   |  |                      |   |
|---|--|----------------------|---|
|  City of Monroe  |  Major Road | <b>Wetland Type:</b> |   |
|  Woodlands       |  Minor Road |                      |  Emergent                  |
|  Parcel Boundary |  Railroad   |                      |  Lowland, Shrub, or Wooded |





## Natural Features

Lake Erie and the River Raisin provide the primary water resources for Monroe; however, wetlands and industrial uses limit the utility of Lake Erie for municipal recreation purposes. Sterling State Park, located outside Monroe in the adjacent township, currently occupies the best area available for use adjacent to the lake.

Fishing and boating opportunities are extensive on the River Raisin from Hellenberg Park to its outlet, and on Lake Erie. The Monroe harbor provides excellent access to the Great Lakes system. Perch and walleye fishing attract sportsmen throughout the region.

The River Raisin has great potential for recreational use

in the city. Dams on the river on the west side of the city previously prevented it from being navigable, but these dams have recently been removed, creating new opportunities for recreation on the river. High water flows from late winter and early spring snow melt and rain can create substantial flooding along the river. Since the river is prone to seasonal flooding, recreational activities planned in relation to the river must not be dependent on a winter/spring season use.

The city occupies the site where the River Raisin terminates and empties into Lake Erie. Before development of Monroe, the area was a marshy wetland/riverine environment. Vegetation would have included various reedy plants and trees indigenous to such an environment. Poplar,

red oak, and willow trees would have been common along with shrubs and low brush such as dogwood and mulberry. Most of the area adjacent to the river was cleared with settlement. Industrial development encouraged the clearing and filling of wetlands adjacent to the River and Lake Erie.

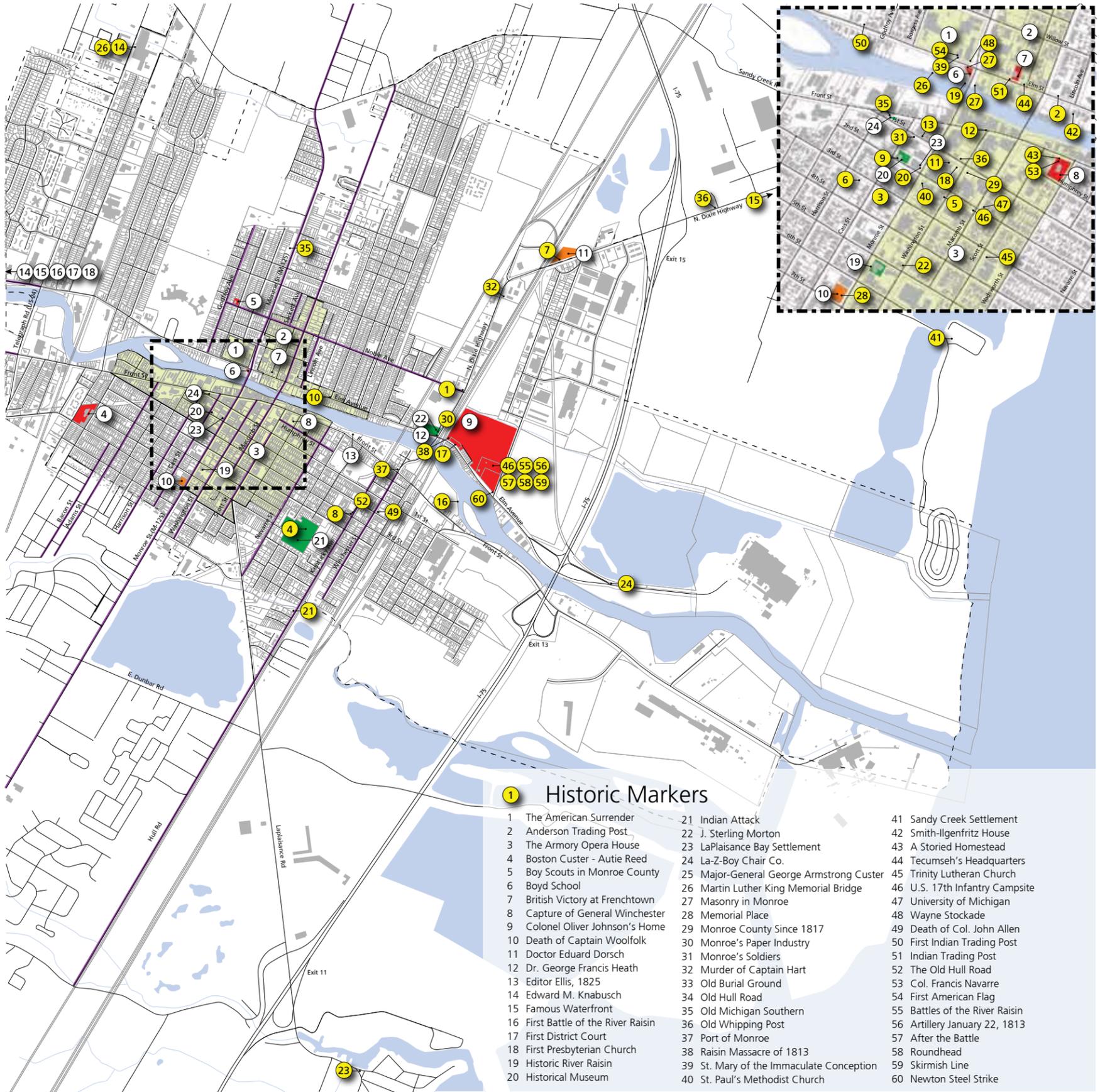
Vegetation in the urban environment of Monroe now includes maple, box elder, oak, and elm trees as well. Much of the Lake Erie marsh has been stripped of vegetation; however, remaining marshland continues to support natural plant and animal species as well as some relatively new varieties such as the American Lotus, introduced to the area in the 19th century.

The riverine/marsh environment continues to support such species as the blue heron, white crane, and the American Bald Eagle. Deer, rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, and forest birds inhabit the wooded areas in the city, particularly in and near Sterling State Park. Small ground animals common in this part of Michigan, especially in the wetlands, include opossum, muskrat, groundhogs, amphibians such as frogs and toads, a variety of species of snakes, and skunks.

Recreation facilities need to be carefully located to avoid further degradation of the wildlife habitat. Efforts should be made to enhance opportunities for wildlife observation and nature study related to the remaining habitat areas.

# Historic Assets

April 2013



- Parcel Boundary
- Building
- City Boundary
- Road
- Railroad
- Street Named after Historic Figure

- Historic Districts
  - 1 St. Mary's Church Complex Historic District
  - 2 East Elm - North Macomb Street Historic District
  - 3 Old Village Historic District

- National Historic Sites
  - 4 Weis Manufacturing Company
  - 5 Rudolph Nims House
  - 6 George Armstrong Custer Equestrian Monument
  - 7 Governor Robert McClelland House
  - 8 Sawyer House
  - 9 River Raisin National Battlefield

- War Memorials
  - 10 Kentucky Memorial Place
  - 11 Vietnam War Memorial
  - 12 Battlefield Obelisk
  - 13 Civil War Memorial
  - 14 World War I Memorial
  - 15 World War II Memorial
  - 16 Gulf War Memorial
  - 17 War on Terror Memorial
  - 18 Korean War Memorial

- State Historic Sites
  - 19 Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church
  - 20 Johnson-Phinney House
  - 21 Woodland Cemetery
  - 22 Monroe Paper Industry
  - 23 Monroe County Informational Designation (Inside Museum)
  - 24 Michigan Southern Railroad

- Historic Markers
 

|                                     |  |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| 1 The American Surrender            | 21 Indian Attack                         | 41 Sandy Creek Settlement      |
| 2 Anderson Trading Post             | 22 J. Sterling Morton                    | 42 Smith-Ilgelfritz House      |
| 3 The Armory Opera House            | 23 LaPlaisance Bay Settlement            | 43 A Storied Homestead         |
| 4 Boston Custer - Autie Reed        | 24 La-Z-Boy Chair Co.                    | 44 Tecumseh's Headquarters     |
| 5 Boy Scouts in Monroe County       | 25 Major-General George Armstrong Custer | 45 Trinity Lutheran Church     |
| 6 Boyd School                       | 26 Martin Luther King Memorial Bridge    | 46 U.S. 17th Infantry Campsite |
| 7 British Victory at Frenchtown     | 27 Masonry in Monroe                     | 47 University of Michigan      |
| 8 Capture of General Winchester     | 28 Memorial Place                        | 48 Wayne Stockade              |
| 9 Colonel Oliver Johnson's Home     | 29 Monroe County Since 1817              | 49 Death of Col. John Allen    |
| 10 Death of Captain Woolfolk        | 30 Monroe's Paper Industry               | 50 First Indian Trading Post   |
| 11 Doctor Eduard Dorsch             | 31 Monroe's Soldiers                     | 51 Indian Trading Post         |
| 12 Dr. George Francis Heath         | 32 Murder of Captain Hart                | 52 The Old Hull Road           |
| 13 Editor Ellis, 1825               | 33 Old Burial Ground                     | 53 Col. Francis Navarre        |
| 14 Edward M. Knabusch               | 34 Old Hull Road                         | 54 First American Flag         |
| 15 Famous Waterfront                | 35 Old Michigan Southern                 | 55 Battles of the River Raisin |
| 16 First Battle of the River Raisin | 36 Old Whipping Post                     | 56 Artillery January 22, 1813  |
| 17 First District Court             | 37 Port of Monroe                        | 57 After the Battle            |
| 18 First Presbyterian Church        | 38 Raisin Massacre of 1813               | 58 Roundhead                   |
| 19 Historic River Raisin            | 39 St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception | 59 Skirmish Line               |
| 20 Historical Museum                | 40 St. Paul's Methodist Church           | 60 Newton Steel Strike         |





### Historic Assets

Monroe's history and the recreational opportunities that surround it have been the focus of a recent planning effort. The River Raisin Heritage Corridor - East Master Plan studied the historic assets that are scattered throughout the city. The map to the left was created as part of that effort, and is used here to illustrate the wealth of history that is already recognized through historic site designations, historical markers, and memorials.

Monroe has three National Register of Historic Places historic districts: St. Mary's Church Complex Historic District, built between 1835 and 1839; the East Elm – North Macomb Street Historic District, with houses dating from the 1820s to the 1920s; and the Old Village Historic District, which was platted in 1817. The Old Village Historic District contains many street names with historical significance,

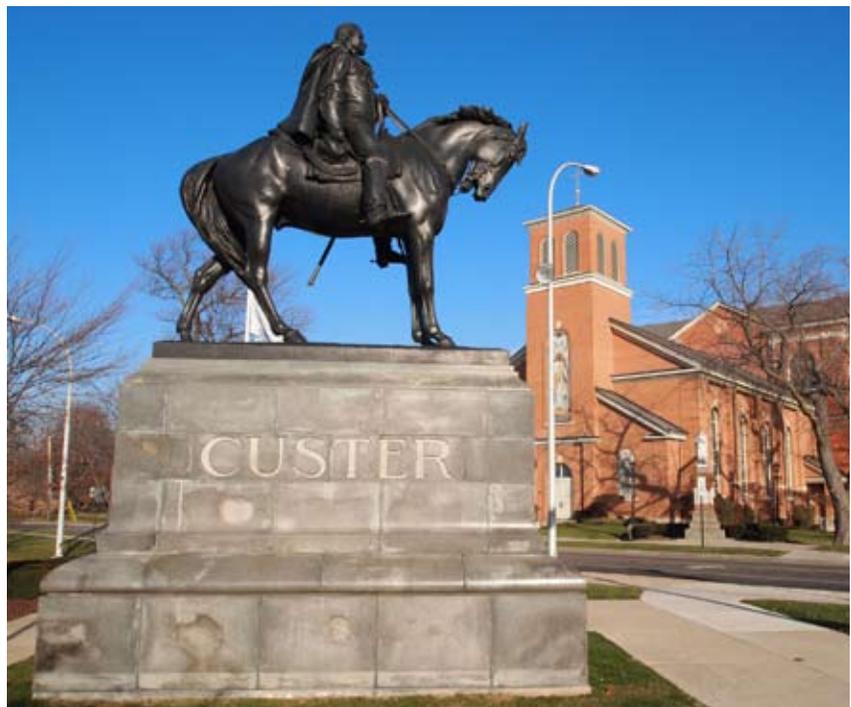
from early settlers in Monroe to figures of the War of 1812 to U.S. Presidents.

Monroe also boasts six National Historic Sites: Weis Manufacturing Company, Rudolph Nims House, the George Armstrong Custer Equestrian Monument ("Sighting the Enemy"), the Governor Robert McClelland House, the Sawyer House, and the River Raisin National Battlefield.

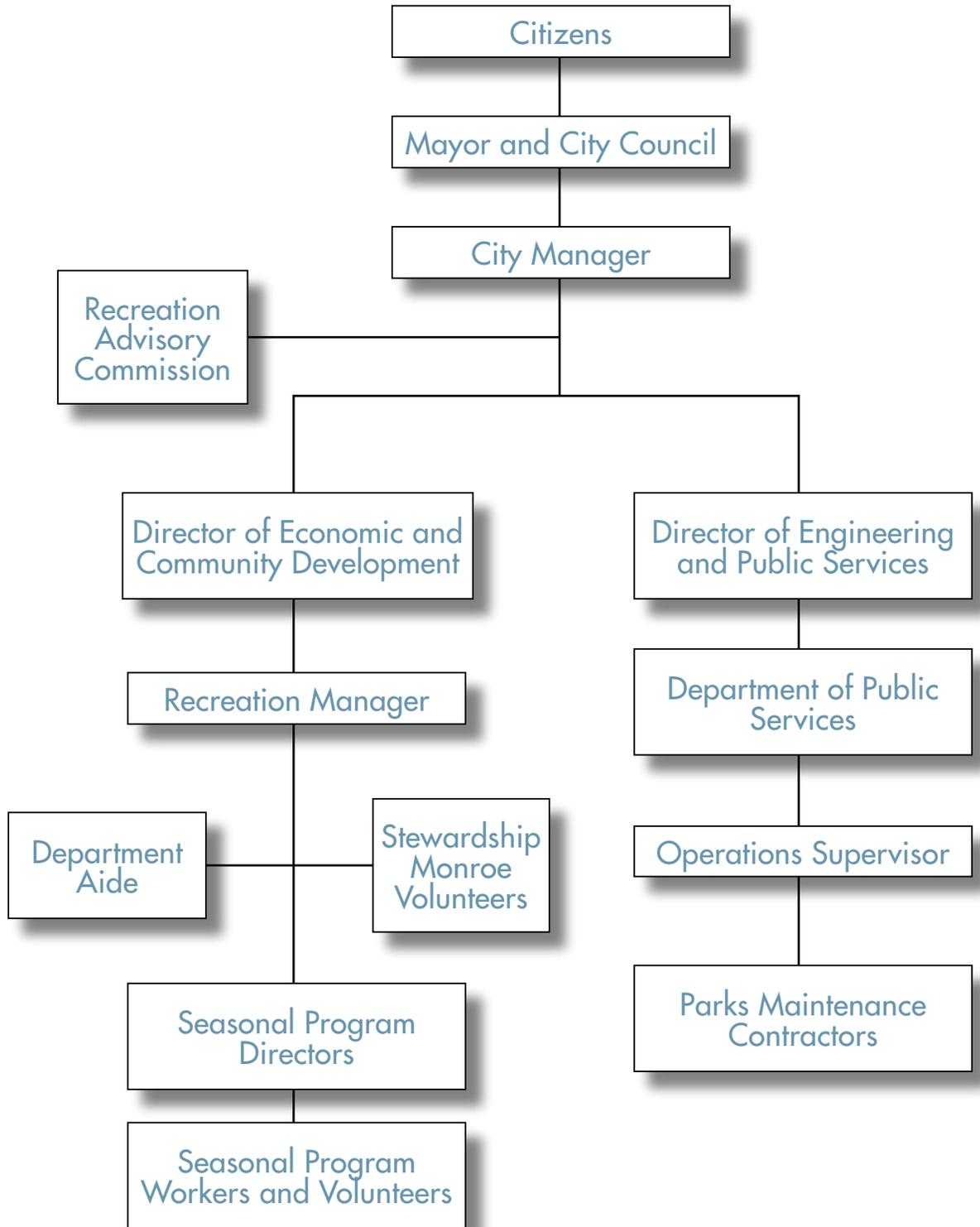
War memorials in Monroe include the Kentucky Memorial Place, Vietnam War Memorial, the Battlefield Obelisk (War of 1812), the Civil War Memorial, WWI and WWII Memorials, the Gulf War Memorial, War on Terror Memorial, and the Korean War Memorial. All of these war memorials, except for the Vietnam War Memorial and the Kentucky Memorial Place, are accessible via the River Raisin Heritage Trail. Monroe has six sites in Michigan's

State Register of Historic Places: Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church, the Johnson-Phiney House, Woodland Cemetery, the Monroe Paper Industry, the Monroe County Informational Designation, and the Michigan Southern Railroad.

In addition to the historic sites and war memorials, there are 60 historic markers in the River Raisin Heritage Corridor project area. Each historic marker contains a description of the historical significance of the site. The Battles of the River Raisin, Tecumseh's Headquarters, the Capture of General Winchester, and more can all be found on these markers. The bulk of the markers are located within downtown Monroe, but they can be found as far out as LaPlaisance Bay and Sterling State Park.



# Organization Chart





# Administrative Structure

The City of Monroe, organized under a council-manager form of government, has a long history of support for recreation programming, site acquisition, and development.

Formed in 1938 as a joint effort of the City of Monroe and the Monroe Board of Education, the nine-member Recreation Advisory Commission plays an advisory role to the City Council and Mayor in the areas of recreation needs and services. The Parks and Recreation Department became a department of the City of Monroe's administrative structure in 1976.

The City of Monroe is one of the few municipalities in Monroe County to provide a parks and recreation department that is staffed year-round with both full-time and seasonal employees to carry out the community's park and recreation objectives. While the majority of tasks are carried out by recreation employees and DPS, some parks maintenance tasks, specifically landscaping projects, ball diamond maintenance, restroom

cleaning, trash pick-up, and grass cutting, are contracted.

The Monroe Multi-Sports Complex is owned by the City of Monroe and operated under a management agreement with Rink Management Services Corporation. Budget figures for the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex are reflected in the City's General Fund Budget.

Seasonal personnel, including playground leaders, program instructors, and league directors, carry out many of the recreational programs for youth and adult sports leagues and programs such as baseball, softball, tee-ball, tennis, track and field, volleyball, swimming, and special events. In addition, approximately 300 seasonal volunteers are utilized as coaches, team managers, and special events/activity

| Parks and Recreation Current Year and Projected Annual Budget |                           |                        |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------|
|   | Current Year<br>2013–2014 | Projected<br>2014–2015 |
| Parks and Recreation General Administration                   | 236,785                   | 236,785                |
| Parks and Recreation Programs                                 | 107,136                   | 107,136                |
| General Contract Services: Parks and Playgrounds              | 30,000                    | 30,000                 |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex                                   | 1,082,556                 | 1,082,556              |
| DPS Maintenance: Parks and Playgrounds                        | 222,233                   | 222,233                |
| Total:  | 1,678,710                 | 1,678,710              |

coordinators. As an example, the Monroe Area Soccer Association (MASA) manages a full-scale soccer program for over 1,000 participants annually using volunteers.

Stewardship Monroe, a new volunteer program through the Recreation Department, offers opportunities for volunteers to assist or run various programs, such as the community garden plots, fishing groups, bike maintenance, exercise in the park, and assisting league directors.

The Recreation Department has partnered with the Michigan DNR in providing “Recreation 101” offerings for residents. This program provides a free opportunity to learn a new sport or skill without cost to the participant.

Partnership with the Monroe Public Schools includes not only some special event programs, but facility use as well. Baseball and softball fields owned by the Monroe Public Schools are shared with the City of Monroe Recreation summer youth ball program. Tennis courts owned by the City of Monroe are used by the Monroe Public School tennis program. Monroe Public School cross country meets are held at Munson Park.

In 2012, a partnership was formed with the Monroe Public Schools, the City of Monroe, and the YMCA to re-open Dick Waters Pool for public use.

### Funding

Park and recreation funding is an ongoing budget item for the City of Monroe. The budget is prepared by the Parks and Recreation Department with

input from the Recreation Advisory Commission and staff. The management of the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex

prepares a budget that is separate from the Parks and Recreation budget. The proposed budgets are submitted to the City Manager and Finance Director for review and presented to the City Council for adoption as part of an overall city budget.

Approximately 45 to 50% of the parks and recreation administration and programming expenditures, not including Department of Public Services maintenance work in the parks, are funded through parks and recreation fees and other revenues, with the balance funded from other sources in the general fund. The current fiscal year budget for Parks and Recreation programs and facilities can be seen in the table above. It is not anticipated that the budget will increase significantly in the following fiscal year. A more detailed budget breakdown can be found in Appendix A.

| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex Annual Net Revenue |             |
|--|-------------|
| Gross Profit                                   | 488,235.50  |
| Expenses                                       | 565,845.96  |
| Net Profit                                     | (77,610.46) |

### Previous Grant Assistance and Status Report

The City of Monroe has received a total of 8 grants from 1978 to 2002 from the State of Michigan. The following is a brief status report of those parks and their respective grants. Post-Completion, Self Certification Reports for each grant are being submitted to Grants Management along with the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Project Title: Munson Park</b>  | <b>Project Number: 26-01060 Z2</b>   |
| Grant Type: Land and Water Conservation Fund   | Project Type: Development  |
| Grant Amount: \$180,000.00   | Project Year: 1978   |
| Project Description: 1 ball field with backstop and fencing, restroom/concession/storage building, recreation pond, bleachers, litter containers, bike rack, landscaping, signage, spectator area, drainage. | Elements:<br>4 tennis courts<br>3 ball fields<br>2 parking lots<br>Access drive<br>Ball field w/backstop & fencing<br>Restroom/storage/concession building<br>Recreation pond<br>Spectator area drainage<br>Bleachers<br>Landscaping |
| Status Report: The elements included in this project exist today and are maintained by the City of Monroe. The Concessions building and tennis courts have been improved in subsequent projects.             |  |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Project Title: Hellenberg Park</b>   | <b>Project Number: 26-01417</b>   |
| Grant Type: Land and Water Conservation Fund  | Project Type: Development   |
| Grant Amount: \$105,000.00  | Project Year: 1985  |
| Project Description: Develop boat launch, parking lot improvements, new parking lot, landscaping, park bridge and support facilities, LWCF sign | Elements:<br>Boat launch<br>Parking lot improvements<br>New parking lot<br>Landscaping<br>Sterling Island bridge<br>Road and land improvements on Sterling Island |
| Status Report: The elements included in this project exist today and are maintained by the City of Monroe.                                      |   |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Project Title: Munson Park Phase III</b>  | <b>Project No. 26-01422</b>  |
| Grant Type: Land and Water Conservation Fund   | Project Type: Development  |
| Project Year: 1985   | Grant Amount: \$65,000.00  |
| Project Description: Accessible playscape, picnic shelter with fireplace and restrooms, pond lighting, landscaping, signage, and winter sports hill. | Elements:<br>Accessible playscape<br>Picnic shelter with fireplace and restrooms<br>Pond lighting<br>Landscaping and signage<br>Winter sports hill |
| Status Report: The elements included in this project exist today and are maintained by the City of Monroe.   |  |



|  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Project Title: Hellenberg Park</b>  | <b>Project Number: TF88-259</b> |
| Grant Type: Natural Resources Trust Fund   | Project Type: Acquisition       |
| Grant Amount: \$190,200.00   | Project Year: 1988              |
| Project Description: To acquire approximately 2.5 acres located adjacent to Hellenberg Park.   |                                 |
| Status Report: A full-court asphalt paved basketball court and two accessible parking spaces were constructed on a portion of the acquired land with funds that were raised locally. The basketball court is in good condition and is well maintained. |                                 |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Project Title: Dick Waters Swimming Pool Renovation</b>  | <b>Project Number: BF90-193</b>  |
| Grant Type: Recreation Bond Fund  | Project Type: Development  |
| Grant Amount: \$175,000.000   | Project Year: 1990   |
| Project Description: Renovate the city's only public outdoor pool, renovate 4 tennis courts, renovate a playground and bandshell  | Elements:<br>Gutters/inlet system, Filtering system<br>Heaters, Replace pool bottom<br>Accessible lift, Concrete deck renovation<br>Drinking fountain/signage<br>Swimming pool cover |
| Status Report: All scope elements, with the exception of the lift (which is no longer in place), are in well-maintained condition and the pool continues to serve as the only outdoor community pool. A small splash park was added adjacent to the pool in 2006. |  |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Project Title: Riverwalk Extension Project</b>   | <b>Project Number: TF97-072</b>  |
| Grant Type: Natural Resources Trust Fund  | Project Type: Development  |
| Grant Amount: \$290,125.00  | Project Year: 1997   |
| Project Description: Extension of lineal walkway along River Raisin that would connect downtown business area with Soldiers and Sailors Park, with 1,100 feet of six-foot concrete walkway. | Elements:<br>Paved walkway (1,100 feet)<br>Site preparation<br>Site fixtures |
| Status Report: The elements included in this project exist today and are maintained by the City of Monroe.  |  |

| Recreation Program Attendance Records, 2006–2012                   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Program/Activity   | 2006  | 2007  | 2008  | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  |
| Youth Basketball indoor camp                                       | 130   | 94    | 68    | 81    | 132   | 150   | 135   |
| Daddy-Daughter Dance   | 421   | 158   | 350   | 325   | 380   | 411   | 409   |
| Garden Plots   | 7     | 6     | 7     | 30    | 30    | 30    | 21    |
| Mother/Son Bowling   | 36    | 12    | 57    | 48    | 63    | 42    | 99    |
| Summer Softball Adult Players<br>(Summer Softball Adult Teams)     |       | 1,661 | 1,199 | 1,330 | 1,450 | 1,263 | 1,094 |
| Summer Youth Ball  | 111   | 104   | 74    | 81    | 81    | 68    | 65    |
| Adult Fall Softball Players<br>(Adult Fall Softball Teams)         | 805   | 804   | 810   | 812   | 717   | 553   | 540   |
| Swimming Lesson Cantrick Pool                                      |       | 162   | 145   | 220   | 248   | 357   | 429   |
| Season Passes Cantrick Pool  | 11    | 10    | 9     | 16    | 15    | 23    | 29    |
| Season Gate Attendance   | 125   | 108   | 96    | 69    |       |       |       |
| Season Gate Attendance   | 247   | 138   | 60    | 56    |       |       |       |
| Youth Tennis   | 3,796 | 3,766 | 3,807 | 4,085 |       |       | 3,011 |
| Youth Track and Field  | 45    | 22    | 39    | 21    | 21    |       | 13    |
| Park Rentals   | 48    | 25    | 9     | 19    | 15    | 27    | 16    |
| Adult Indoor Volleyball Players<br>(Adult Indoor Volleyball Teams) | 150   | 121   | 168   | 180   | 90    | 92    | 101   |
| Summer Tot Lot   |       | 239   | 245   | 275   | 295   | 249   | 83    |
| Letters to Santa   | 30    | 29    | 30    | 30    | 31    | 26    | 10    |
| Concerts in the Park   | 2,428 | 2,294 | 2,657 | 2,511 | 450   | 771   | 1,379 |
| Nature Walks   | 62    | 268   | 169   | 206   | 275   | 101   | 44    |
| Free Yoga in the Park  |       |       | 39    | 27    | 11    |       |       |
| Free Fishing Derby   |       |       | 160   | 142   | 237   | 219   | 157   |
| Punt, Pass & Kick  |       |       |       | 49    | 10    | 15    | 26    |
| Drop-in Adult Soccer   | 89    | 73    | 39    |       |       |       |       |
| Free Youth Basketball at the Park                                  |       |       | 13    |       |       |       |       |
| Free Bocce   |       |       | 32    | 36    |       |       |       |
| Soccer Challenge   |       | 15    | 8     | 8     |       |       |       |
| Amusement Park Ticket Sales  | 348   | 213   |       |       |       |       |       |
| Bases Loaded Camp  | 73    | 111   | 138   |       |       |       |       |
| Lunchtime Garden Group   |       |       |       | 10    |       |       |       |
| Free Garden Consultations  |       |       |       | 35    | 5     | 5     | 5     |
| Free Guided Bike Tours Sterling State Park                         |       |       |       |       | 8     | 5     |       |
| Free Kids Exercise in the Park                                     |       |       |       | 30    | 14    | 10    | 11    |
| Backyard Whittling   |       |       |       | 7     |       |       |       |
| Evening Summer Fun Camp  |       |       |       | 17    | 4     |       |       |
| Library Stories in the Park  |       |       |       | 21    | 11    |       | 55    |
| Free Walking Program   |       |       |       | 121   | 26    | 36    | 47    |
| Dog Classes  |       |       |       | 8     | 11    | 4     | 6     |
| Trail Biking   |       |       |       | 3     | 1     |       | 5     |
| Clowning   |       |       |       | 2     |       |       |       |
| Youth Skateboard Camp  |       |       |       | 9     | 6     |       |       |
| Backpacking for Beginners  |       |       |       | 1     |       |       |       |
| Drop-in Tennis   |       |       |       | 8     |       |       |       |
| Summer Book Club in the Park                                       |       |       |       |       | 42    |       |       |
| Free Tai Chi in the Park   |       |       |       |       | 54    |       | 42    |
| Free Bike Maintenance  |       |       |       |       | 4     | 3     | 4     |
| Free Harmonica Class in the Park                                   |       |       |       |       | 9     |       |       |
| Movie in the Park  |       |       | 700   |       | 468   |       | 376   |
| Kids' Play   |       |       |       |       | 3     |       |       |
| Court Dance  |       |       |       |       | 250   | 1,225 | 957   |
| Men's Baseball   |       |       |       |       | 54    |       |       |
| Birding Groups   |       |       |       |       | 20    | 12    | 4     |





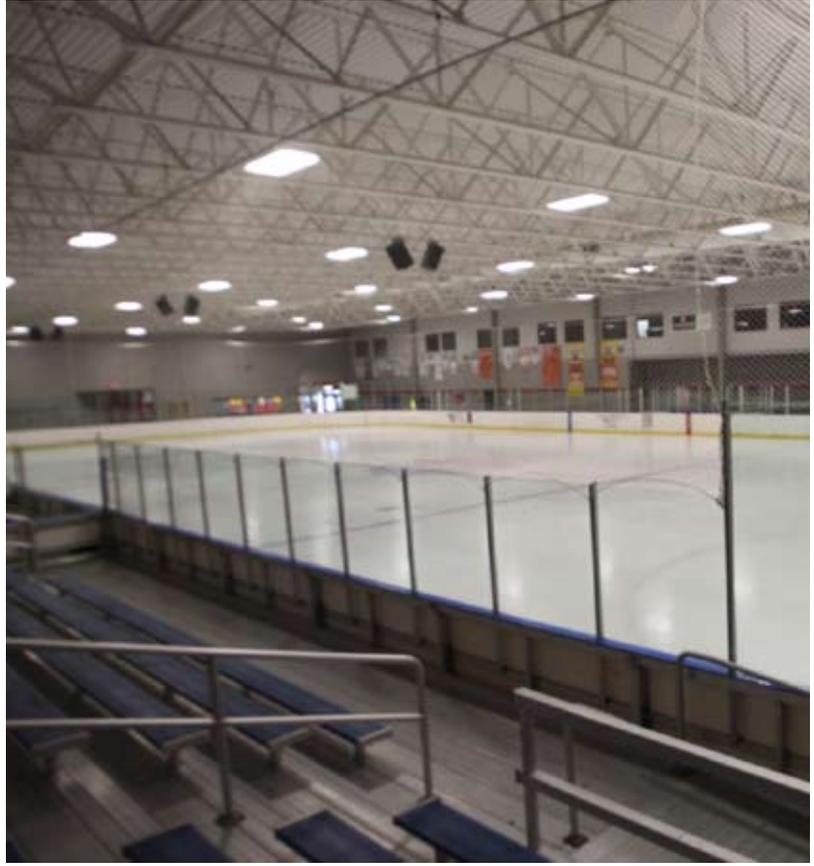
| New Programs Since 2011       |      |      |
|-------------------------------|------|------|
| Program/Activity              | 2011 | 2012 |
| Youth Flag Football           | 33   | 55   |
| Adult Flag Football           | 29   |      |
| Adult Sand Volleyball Players | 41   | 112  |
| (Adult Sand Volleyball Teams) | 6    | 17   |
| Free Boot Camp in the Park    | 67   |      |
| Free Zumba in the Park        | 81   |      |
| Nature Class for Kids         | 3    |      |
| Start Smart Football          | 7    |      |
| Nordic Walking                | 17   |      |
| Retro Tot Lot Day             | 50   |      |
| Fishing Groups                |      | 31   |
| Geocaching                    |      | 17   |
| Outdoor Photography           |      | 4    |
| Pickleball                    |      | 7    |
| Windsurfing                   |      | 4    |
| Youth Outdoor Basketball Camp |      | 12   |
| Nutrition                     |      | 26   |

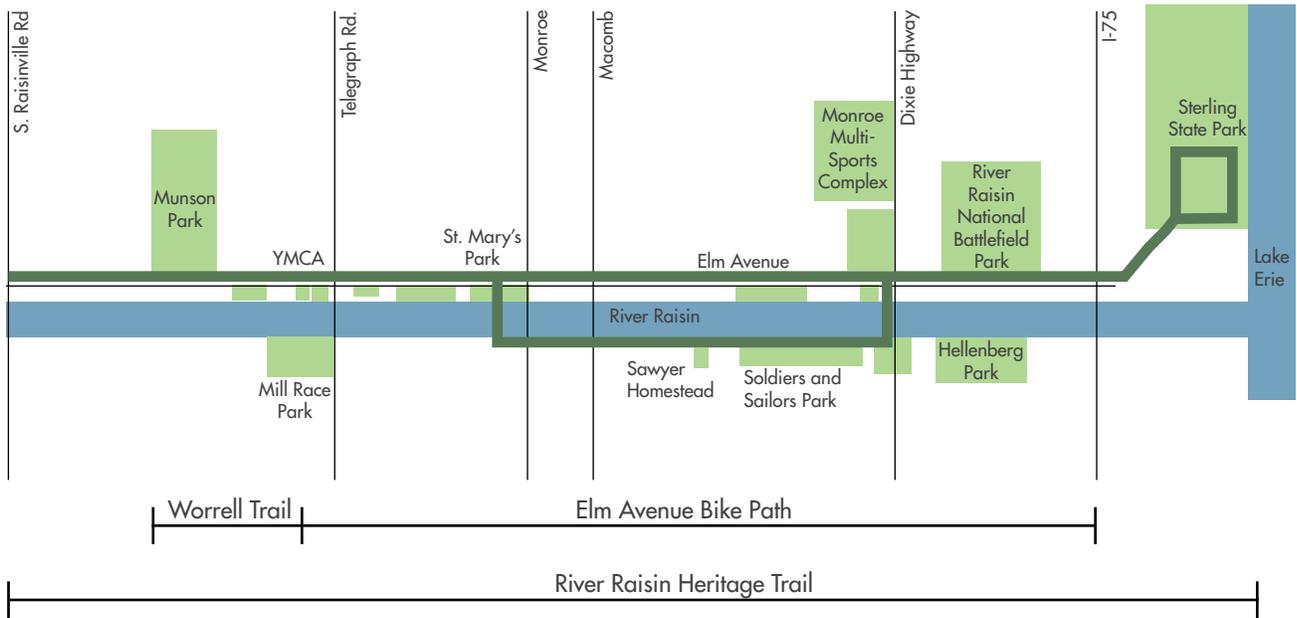
### Recreation Programs

Monroe boasts a wealth of recreation programming options for nearly every interest and demographic, ranging from sports leagues to gardening to nutrition classes and more.

Some of the most well-attended programs on record are the concerts in the park (which saw an attendance of 7,167 in 2012), the summer adult softball league, and dancing programs such as the Daddy-Daughter Dance and the Court Dance. Programs are held all over the city, including concerts in St. Mary’s Park, swimming programs in the Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool, and basketball at Hellenberg Park. Though some programs have a participation fee, many programs are available free to residents.

Monroe residents are able to sign up for recreation programs online through the City’s website. The City’s Recreation Department also publishes a newsletter highlighting the program offerings for the season. Additionally, the Recreation Department maintains a Facebook page to notify residents of pertinent information in real-time and provides a convenient way for residents to interact with the department online.





The Worrell Trail and Elm Avenue Bike Path, owned and maintained by the City of Monroe, are part of the larger trail designation of the River Raisin Heritage Trail.

# Parks Inventory

In September of 2013, Beckett & Raeder performed an inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities owned or operated by the City of Monroe. The inventory was conducted to evaluate the overall quality and usage of the community's parks and recreation facilities. Each park was visited to examine the available amenities and their condition as well as photographically document the parks. Detailed inventory reports can be found in Appendix B.

they can be divided into several categories that help clarify how each park is used, by whom, and what facilities would be appropriate for the park. A system for categorizing the parks has been created and is explained on the following pages.

***Monroe has an impressive amount of park land—around 300 acres for a population of 20,733***

Monroe has an impressive amount of park land—around 300 acres of parks and recreation land for a population of 20,733 (2010 U.S. Census), in addition to the non-motorized trail system, the River Raisin Heritage Trail. Though each park has unique characteristics,

First, let's take a look at the available recreation facilities within the Monroe area. From the table on the following page, it is clear that the parks in Monroe contain a wide variety of recreation amenities, including many small playgrounds and athletic fields.



One amenity that is not widely available is access to the River Raisin. The river provides a wonderful opportunity for recreation within the City, but the access points within the city are few. The only formal access point owned by the City of Monroe is a boat launch at Hellenberg Park. Many parks have frontage on the river, such as Mill Race Park, Veteran’s Park, St. Mary’s Park, Worrell Park, Cappuccilli Park, and Soldiers and Sailors Park,

***Access to the River Raisin is not widely available.***

but these provide no formal access points. Instead, only visual access to the river is available. Many parks that have river access are separated from the water by walls that create a several-foot drop from the riverside to the water.

Park properties owned by other agencies afford access to the water resources in the area, such as Sterling State Park and several DNR boating access sites.

| Other Parks in the Monroe Region                                  |                              |  |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| Park Name   | Owner                        | General Purpose                                  |
| <b>Monroe Public Schools Properties</b>                           |                              |  |
| MLK Park  | Monroe Public Schools        | Playground and picnicking                        |
| Navarre Field   | Monroe Public Schools        | Football, track, and baseball field              |
| Roessler Field at Riverside School                                | Monroe Public Schools        | Softball fields                                  |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool   | Monroe Public Schools        | Outdoor pool                                     |
| <b>Monroe County Parks</b>  |                              |  |
| West County Park  | Monroe County                | Natural Area, river Access, hiking               |
| Nike County Park  | Monroe County                | Sports, dog training, picnicking                 |
| Vienna County Park  | Monroe County                | Play, sports, picnicking, nature area            |
| Heck Park   | Monroe County                | Memorial, play, picnicking, sports               |
| Waterloo County Park  | Monroe County                | Fishing, canoeing, play, sports, picnicking      |
| Loranger Square   | Monroe County                | Community concerts and passive recreation        |
| St. Antoine’s Cemetery  | Monroe County                | Memorial cemetery                                |
| <b>State Recreation Properties</b>                                |                              |  |
| Erie State Game Area  | State of Michigan            | Natural Area/hunting                             |
| Petersburg State Game Area  | State of Michigan            | Natural Area/hunting                             |
| Pointe Mouillee State Game Area                                   | State of Michigan            | Natural Area/hunting                             |
| Bolles Harbor Access Site   | State of Michigan            | Boating access                                   |
| Sterling State Park   | State of Michigan            | Natural Area/camping/boating Access              |
| Swan Creek Access Site (Dixie Hwy)                                | State of Michigan            | Boating access                                   |
| <b>National Recreation Properties</b>                             |                              |  |
| Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge - Ford Marsh Unit     | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | Wildlife refuge                                  |
| Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge - Plum Creek Bay Unit | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | Wildlife refuge                                  |
| River Raisin National Battlefield Park                            | National Parks Service       | Historic site, interpretive area, visitor center |
| <b>Private Facilities</b>   |                              |  |
| Carrington Golf Club  | Private                      | Golf   |
| Monroe Golf and Country Club                                      | Private                      | Golf   |
| Raisin River Golf Course  | Private                      | Golf   |
| The Links at Lake Erie  | Private                      | Golf   |
| Monroe YMCA   | Private                      | Community center, athletic facilities            |
| <b>Multi-Jurisdictional Facilities</b>                            |                              |  |
| River Raisin Heritage Trail                                       | Multi-Jurisdictional         | Non-motorized trail                              |

| Park Classification System |                                |  |  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Symbol                     | Park Type                      | Characteristics  | Elements   |
| P1                         | Natural Undeveloped Open Space | Ecological Sensitive Areas. Service Area: Entire Community   | Preserves natural beauty of the landscape or natural features. Minimally developed. Utilizes low-impact design elements.   |
| P2                         | Rural                          | Minimal development of recreation facilities; can consist of large tracts of land. Service Area: Entire Community  | Provides recreational amenities for small to medium gatherings in a rural setting. Can include pavilions, restrooms, and lower-impact design elements.   |
| P3                         | Neighborhood                   | Located within a built environment; easily accessible by pedestrians; usually located within the neighborhood, not on an edge. Service Area: 1/4 mile radius | Provides recreational amenities on a neighborhood scale, including play elements, picnicking, and low-maintenance athletic fields. Serves residents within walking distance of the park.   |
| P4                         | Community                      | High resident recognition. Service Area: Entire Community  | Provides recreational amenities for a wide range of users and medium to large gatherings on a city-wide scale, including sports fields, universally accessible play structures, pavilions, restrooms, plazas, amphitheaters, and other high-impact amenities. Users may travel 5 to 10 miles to these parks. |
| P5                         | Regional                       | Located in the community. Service Area: a sub-region or region   | Provides recreational amenities on a regional scale. Provides facilities for large gatherings, festivals, tournaments, and other regional events. Contains universally accessible play elements, pavilions, amphitheaters, and other high-impact amenities.  |
| P6                         | Linear                         | Consists of greenways and blueways. Service Area: Entire Community   | Long and narrow parks used for non-motorized transportation, to connect destinations, or as wildlife corridors. Often follows linear natural or man-made features, such as rivers, rail corridors, or roads.   |
| P7                         | Special Purpose                | Differentiated by place and time or special function. Service Area: Entire Community   | These facilities are used for a specific purpose and are often connected with another facility. They also include parks and open spaces that are associated with historic places and events that occurred in the community.  |

| Park Maintenance Rating System |                     |  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Symbol                         | Characteristics     | Elements   |
| M1                             | Poor Condition      | The park is overall lacking in maintenance. One or two elements may be in good or excellent condition, but major elements are in poor condition, significantly impacting the usability of the site.  |
| M2                             | Fair Condition      | The majority of elements in the park are in fair to good condition. One or two elements may be in poor or excellent condition, but the site is generally acceptable. Items that need repair are not significantly impacting the usability of the site. |
| M3                             | Excellent Condition | The site is in excellent condition overall. Maintenance is regularly performed, and major elements are in excellent condition. No elements are impacting the usability of the site.  |

| Park Accessibility Rating System |   |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Symbol                           | Characteristics   | Elements  |
| A1                               | None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.                         | There are no paths connecting elements. Restrooms are not accessible. Curb cuts are not present in the roads. Play elements are not accessible and the fall surface is not accessible or out of compliance.   |
| A2                               | Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.                         | The park may contain one or two accessible elements, but the park as a whole is not accessible. For example, the park may contain an accessible picnic table, but there is no access path connecting the picnic shelter to the accessible parking spaces or sidewalk. |
| A3                               | Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.                         | The majority of elements are accessible, such as paths connecting elements, accessible picnic tables, and designated accessible parking, but one or two elements do not meet guidelines. For example, the play structure may not meet accessibility guidelines.       |
| A4                               | The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.                               | All of the elements meet accessibility guidelines as they have been brought into compliance over time. For example, paths were added to connect elements, additional accessible play elements were added, and accessible restrooms were added.                        |
| A5                               | The entire park was developed/renovated using principles of universal design. | The entire park was designed and implemented with universal accessibility in mind. All elements fully comply with ADA, and may even go above and beyond requirements.   |

### Natural Park: Mill Race Park

One example of a natural park owned by the City of Monroe is Mill Race Park. This property is situated on the River Raisin, and is currently undeveloped. Mill Race Park has the potential to include non-motorized access to the river, but currently it remains undeveloped natural space.



### Neighborhood Park: Boyd Park

Boyd Park is a good example of a neighborhood park. Neighborhood parks are meant to serve the area within walking distance of the park, or about a quarter-mile radius. Boyd Park contains spaces for small gatherings, such as an amphitheater and picnic area, as well as two different play structures. The park is served by an access path that connects the amenities.



### Community Park: St Mary's

St. Mary's Park is an example of a community park. It is centrally located and can serve as a place for large gatherings and events. The large parking lot makes it easy for many people to use the park at once, especially for concerts in the bandshell. This park also features a community amenity: frontage on the River Raisin.



### Regional Park: Munson Park

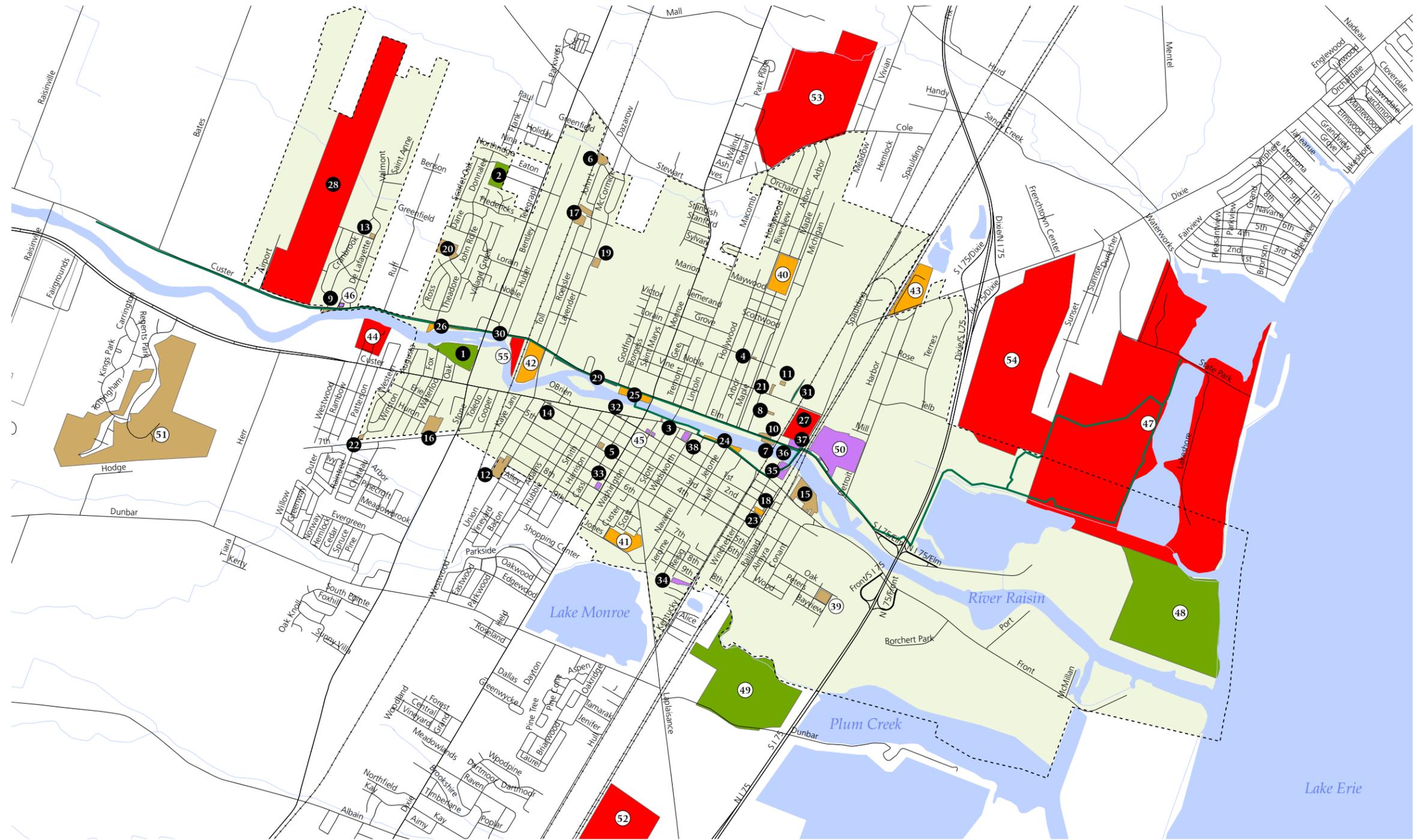
Users from Munson Park are drawn from within Monroe and several surrounding towns, making this a regional park. It contains numerous athletic facilities, a large playground, picnic shelters, multiple bathrooms, and plenty of parking. Munson Park is larger than any other City-owned Park in Monroe.



### Linear Park: Elm Avenue Bike Path

The Elm Avenue Bike Path is a prime example of a linear park. This paved asphalt/concrete path closely follows the River Raisin from Munson Park to I-75. It is part of the larger River Raisin Heritage Trail (RRHT) that stretches almost the entire length of Monroe in and east-west direction. The RRHT connects several parks including Sterling State Park, the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, St. Mary's Park, Veterans Park, and Munson Park. It is used for non-motorized transportation and exercise by many Monroe residents. The segment between the YMCA and Munson Park has recently been renamed Worrell Trail.





- River Raisin Heritage Trail
- City Parks
- Ⓜ Non-City Parks
- P1 - Natural Parks
- P3 - Neighborhood Parks
- P4 - Community Parks
- P5 - Regional Parks
- P6 - Linear Parks
- P7 - Special Purpose Parks

CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# Existing Recreation Facilities

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Bing Maps

| Existing Park Classification |     |   |            |
|------------------------------|-----|---|------------|
| Owner                        | Key | Park Name                               | Park Class |
| City of Monroe               | 1   | Mill Race Park                          | P1         |
|                              | 2   | Oak Forest Park                         | P1         |
|                              | 3   | Altrusa Park                            | P3         |
|                              | 4   | Arbor-Lorain Park                       | P3         |
|                              | 5   | Boyd Park                               | P3         |
|                              | 6   | Calgary Park                            | P3         |
|                              | 7   | Cappuccilli Park                        | P3         |
|                              | 8   | Central Park                            | P3         |
|                              | 9   | Worrell Park                            | P3         |
|                              | 10  | Crescent Park                           | P3         |
|                              | 11  | Elliot Park                             | P3         |
|                              | 12  | Father Cairns Park                      | P3         |
|                              | 13  | Frenchman's Bend Park                   | P3         |
|                              | 14  | Front/Third/Union Park                  | P3         |
|                              | 15  | Hellenberg Park                         | P3         |
|                              | 16  | Hoffman Park                            | P3         |
|                              | 17  | James and Hendricks Park                | P3         |
|                              | 18  | Labor Park                              | P3         |
|                              | 19  | Lavender Park                           | P3         |
|                              | 20  | Manor Park                              | P3         |
|                              | 21  | Noble Park                              | P3         |
|                              | 22  | Winston Park                            | P3         |
|                              | 23  | Arthur Lesow Community Center           | P4         |
|                              | 24  | Soldiers and Sailors Park               | P4         |
|                              | 25  | St. Mary's Park                         | P4         |
|                              | 26  | Veteran's Park                          | P4         |
|                              | 27  | Monroe Multi-Sports Complex             | P5         |
|                              | 28  | Munson Park                             | P5         |
|                              | 29  | Elm Avenue Bike Path                    | P6         |
|                              | 30  | Worrell Trail                           | P6         |
|                              | 31  | Median Park                             | P6         |
|                              | 32  | Gateway Park                            | P7         |
|                              | 33  | Memorial Place                          | P7         |
|                              | 34  | Plum Creek Park                         | P7         |
|                              | 35  | Rauch Park                              | P7         |
|                              | 36  | River Raisin Memorial                   | P7         |
|                              | 37  | Riviere Aux Raisins Park                | P7         |
|                              | 38  | Sawyer Homestead                        | P7         |
| School District              | 39  | MLK Park                                | P3         |
|                              | 40  | Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool               | P4         |
|                              | 41  | Navarre Field                           | P4         |
|                              | 42  | Roessler Field at Riverside School      | P4         |
| Monroe County                | 43  | Heck Park                               | P4         |
|                              | 44  | Waterloo County Park                    | P5         |
|                              | 45  | Loranger Square                         | P7         |
| State                        | 46  | St. Antoine's Cemetery                  | P7         |
|                              | 47  | Sterling State Park                     | P5         |
| Federal                      | 48  | Detroit River IWR - Ford Marsh Unit     | P1         |
|                              | 49  | Detroit River IWR - Plum Creek Bay Unit | P1         |
|                              | 50  | River Raisin National Battlefield Park  | P7         |
| Private                      | 51  | Carrington Golf Club                    | P3         |
|                              | 52  | The Links at Lake Erie                  | P5         |
|                              | 53  | Monroe Golf and Country Club            | P5         |
|                              | 54  | Raisin River Golf Course                | P5         |
|                              | 55  | Monroe YMCA                             | P5         |

### Special Purpose: Memorial Place, Loranger Square (County Park)

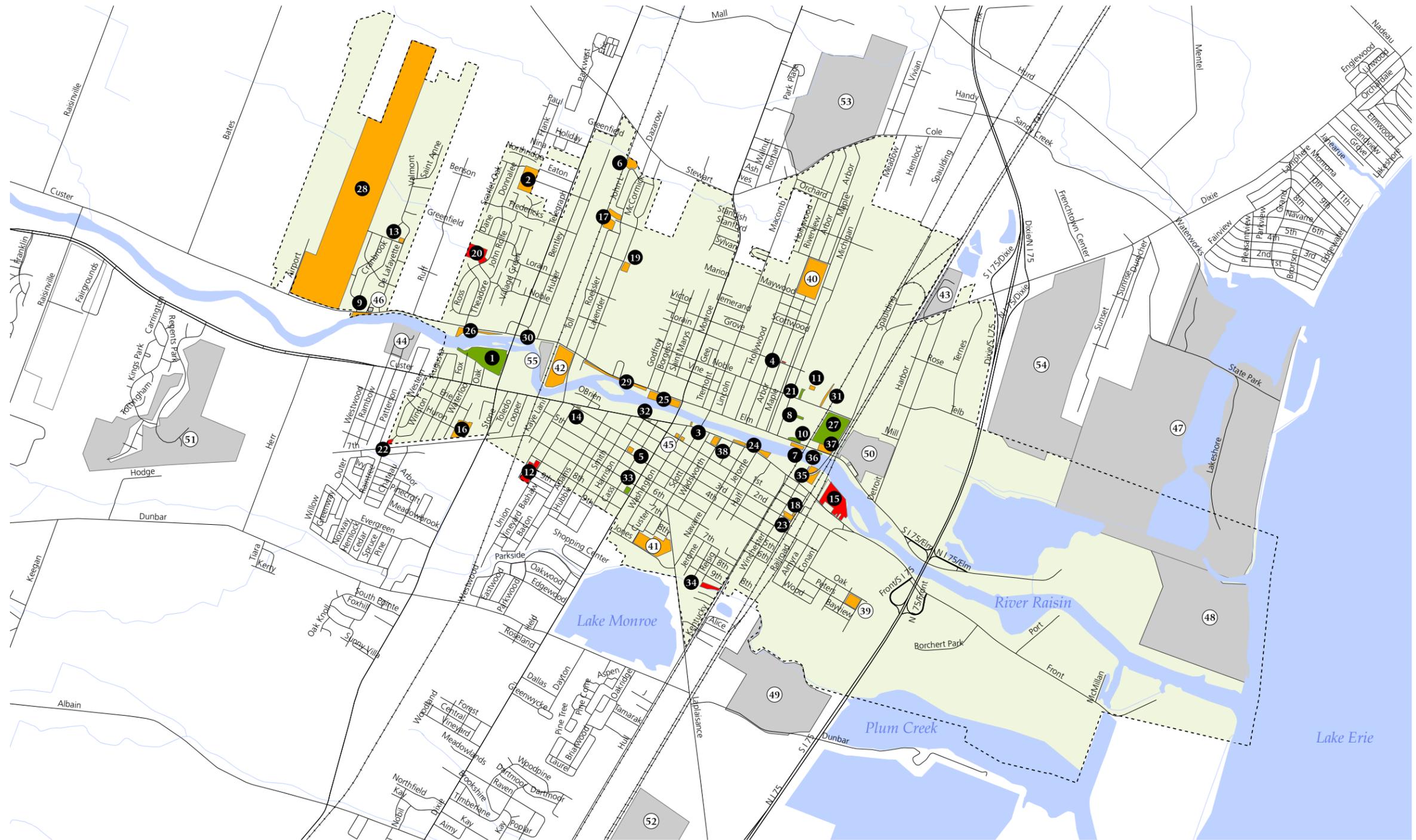
Special purpose parks can be connected with another facility, have a historic background, or have a special use. One City-owned park that fits in this category is Memorial Place, an historic cemetery and memorial site located in downtown Monroe. One example of a county-owned special-purpose park that is used by many residents is Loranger Square, which is used for art shows and other community events.

It is clear that the majority of the parks owned by the City of Monroe are neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks are important because they are accessible to those who live immediately around them, especially children, who can access these parks without needing someone to drive them.

However, many of the neighborhood parks in Monroe are facing issues with maintenance. Since they are used less than community or regional parks, their maintenance may be deferred. Only three out of 20 neighborhood parks scored an M3 (Excellent) maintenance rating.

It is possible that the amenities within the neighborhood parks are no longer appropriate for the demographics of the surrounding areas. If the park amenities could be adjusted, and some parks re-purposed from active playground parks to passive recreation parks, the overall condition of the parks would improve because maintenance dollars would be allocated to facilities that are well-used.





- City Parks
- Non-City Parks
- M1 - Poor Condition
- M2 - Fair Condition
- M3 - Excellent Condition
- Condition Not Rated

CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# Existing Parks Maintenance Rating

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Bing Maps

| Park Maintenance Rating |     |   |        |
|-------------------------|-----|---|--------|
| Owner                   | Key | Park Name                               | Rating |
| City of Monroe          | 1   | Mill Race Park                          | M3     |
|                         | 2   | Oak Forest Park                         | M2     |
|                         | 3   | Altrusa Park                            | M2     |
|                         | 4   | Arbor-Lorain Park                       | M1     |
|                         | 5   | Boyd Park                               | M2     |
|                         | 6   | Calgary Park                            | M2     |
|                         | 7   | Cappuccilli Park                        | M2     |
|                         | 8   | Central Park                            | M3     |
|                         | 9   | Worrell Park                            | M2     |
|                         | 10  | Crescent Park                           | M3     |
|                         | 11  | Elliot Park                             | M2     |
|                         | 12  | Father Cairns Park                      | M1     |
|                         | 13  | Frenchman's Bend Park                   | M2     |
|                         | 14  | Front/Third/Union Park                  | M2     |
|                         | 15  | Hellenberg Park                         | M1     |
|                         | 16  | Hoffman Park                            | M2     |
|                         | 17  | James and Hendricks Park                | M2     |
|                         | 18  | Labor Park                              | M2     |
|                         | 19  | Lavender Park                           | M2     |
|                         | 20  | Manor Park                              | M1     |
|                         | 21  | Noble Park                              | M3     |
|                         | 22  | Winston Park                            | M1     |
|                         | 23  | Arthur Lesow Community Center           | M2     |
|                         | 24  | Soldiers and Sailors Park               | M2     |
|                         | 25  | St. Mary's Park                         | M2     |
|                         | 26  | Veteran's Park                          | M2     |
|                         | 27  | Monroe Multi-Sports Complex             | M3     |
|                         | 28  | Munson Park                             | M2     |
|                         | 29  | Elm Avenue Bike Path                    | M2     |
|                         | 30  | Worrell Trail                           | M2     |
|                         | 31  | Median Park                             | M2     |
|                         | 32  | Gateway Park                            | M2     |
|                         | 33  | Memorial Place                          | M3     |
|                         | 34  | Plum Creek Park                         | M1     |
|                         | 35  | Rauch Park                              | M2     |
|                         | 36  | River Raisin Memorial                   | M3     |
|                         | 37  | Riviere Aux Raisins Park                | M2     |
|                         | 38  | Sawyer Homestead                        | M2     |
| School District         | 39  | MLK Park                                | M2     |
|                         | 40  | Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool               | NR     |
|                         | 41  | Navarre Field                           | M2     |
| Monroe County           | 42  | Roessler Field at Riverside School      | M2     |
|                         | 43  | Heck Park                               | NR     |
|                         | 44  | Waterloo County Park                    | NR     |
| Monroe County           | 45  | Loranger Square                         | M2     |
|                         | 46  | St. Antoine's Cemetery                  | NR     |
| State                   | 47  | Sterling State Park                     | NR     |
| Federal                 | 48  | Detroit River IWR - Ford Marsh Unit     | NR     |
|                         | 49  | Detroit River IWR - Plum Creek Bay Unit | NR     |
|                         | 50  | River Raisin National Battlefield Park  | NR     |
| Private                 | 51  | Carrington Golf Club                    | NR     |
|                         | 52  | The Links at Lake Erie                  | NR     |
|                         | 53  | Monroe Golf and Country Club            | NR     |
|                         | 54  | Raisin River Golf Course                | NR     |
|                         | 55  | Monroe YMCA                             | NR     |

## Parks Maintenance

Proper maintenance of parks is important to make users feel that the site is safe and in use. During the park inventory, Beckett & Raeder examined the condition of the park facilities. The Park Maintenance Rating is a generalization of the park's condition based on the inventory and deferred maintenance items from the City of Monroe's records.

Father Cairns Park has many amenities, but several are in need of maintenance, such as a cracked slide, missing safety surface, and a cracked tennis court with no net. These damaged facilities, especially the play equipment, make it difficult for residents to safely use the park. Father Cairns Park received a maintenance rating of M1 (Poor). Only five parks in Monroe were rated M1, and four were neighborhood parks.

The majority of the parks were mostly upkept with a few items in need of repair. These items did not significantly impact the usability of the site, so parks such as this are rated M2. One example of an M2 park is Soldiers and Sailors Park, which had a missing swing and needed more woodchips on the playground, but the majority of the park was still usable.

Some parks appeared to need no repairs, such as Memorial Place. The sidewalks, memorial, and flagpoles appeared to be in excellent condition.

| Maintenance Rating by Park Type |    |    |    |
|---------------------------------|----|----|----|
|                                 | M1 | M2 | M3 |
| Natural                         |    | 1  | 1  |
| Neighborhood                    | 4  | 13 | 3  |
| Community                       |    | 4  |    |
| Regional                        |    | 1  | 1  |
| Linear                          |    | 3  |    |
| Special Purpose                 | 1  | 4  | 2  |
| Total Parks                     | 5  | 25 | 7  |



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CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# Existing Parks Accessibility Rating

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Bing Maps

| Accessibility Rating |     |   |            |
|----------------------|-----|---|------------|
| Owner                | Key | Park Name                               | ADA Rating |
| City of Monroe       | 1   | Mill Race Park                          | A1         |
|                      | 2   | Oak Forest Park                         | A1         |
|                      | 3   | Altrusa Park                            | A2         |
|                      | 4   | Arbor-Lorain Park                       | A2         |
|                      | 5   | Boyd Park                               | A3         |
|                      | 6   | Calgary Park                            | A2         |
|                      | 7   | Cappuccilli Park                        | A3         |
|                      | 8   | Central Park                            | A4         |
|                      | 9   | Worrell Park                            | A4         |
|                      | 10  | Crescent Park                           | A3         |
|                      | 11  | Elliot Park                             | A3         |
|                      | 12  | Father Cairns Park                      | A1         |
|                      | 13  | Frenchman's Bend Park                   | A1         |
|                      | 14  | Front/Third/Union Park                  | A4         |
|                      | 15  | Hellenberg Park                         | A2         |
|                      | 16  | Hoffman Park                            | A1         |
|                      | 17  | James and Hendricks Park                | A1         |
|                      | 18  | Labor Park                              | A4         |
|                      | 19  | Lavender Park                           | A2         |
|                      | 20  | Manor Park                              | A1         |
|                      | 21  | Noble Park                              | A3         |
|                      | 22  | Winston Park                            | A1         |
|                      | 23  | Arthur Lesow Community Center           | A4         |
|                      | 24  | Soldiers and Sailors Park               | A2         |
|                      | 25  | St. Mary's Park                         | A3         |
|                      | 26  | Veteran's Park                          | A3         |
|                      | 27  | Monroe Multi-Sports Complex             | A4         |
|                      | 28  | Munson Park                             | A3         |
|                      | 29  | Elm Avenue Bike Path                    | A3         |
|                      | 30  | Worrell Trail                           | A3         |
|                      | 31  | Median Park                             | A1         |
|                      | 32  | Gateway Park                            | A3         |
|                      | 33  | Memorial Place                          | A4         |
|                      | 34  | Plum Creek Park                         | A1         |
|                      | 35  | Rauch Park                              | A3         |
|                      | 36  | River Raisin Memorial                   | A3         |
|                      | 37  | Riviere Aux Raisins Park                | A4         |
|                      | 38  | Sawyer Homestead                        | A3         |
| School District      | 39  | MLK Park                                | NR         |
|                      | 40  | Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool               | NR         |
|                      | 41  | Navarre Field                           | NR         |
|                      | 42  | Roessler Field at Riverside School      | NR         |
| Monroe County        | 43  | Heck Park                               | NR         |
|                      | 44  | Waterloo County Park                    | NR         |
|                      | 45  | Loranger Square                         | A3         |
| State                | 46  | St. Antoine's Cemetery                  | NR         |
|                      | 47  | Sterling State Park                     | NR         |
| Federal              | 48  | Detroit River IWR - Ford Marsh Unit     | NR         |
|                      | 49  | Detroit River IWR - Plum Creek Bay Unit | NR         |
|                      | 50  | River Raisin National Battlefield Park  | NR         |
| Private              | 51  | Carrington Golf Club                    | NR         |
|                      | 52  | The Links at Lake Erie                  | NR         |
|                      | 53  | Monroe Golf and Country Club            | NR         |
|                      | 54  | Raisin River Golf Course                | NR         |
|                      | 55  | Monroe YMCA                             | NR         |

## Park Accessibility

As part of the facilities inventory, Beckett & Raeder performed an assessment of the current level of accessibility at each City-owned park and rated the parks on a scale from A1 to A5.

A1=none of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines  
 A2=some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines  
 A3=most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines  
 A4=the entire park meets accessibility guidelines  
 A5=the entire park was developed/renovated using principles of universal design

The rating was performed by Beckett & Raeder by visually evaluating the amenities and access routes available at each park. A more detailed evaluation of slopes and clear widths would be required to fully determine compliance with ADA standards. Information on the principles of universal design can be found in Appendix A.

No park owned by the City of Monroe earned the highest possible A5 rating. Ten parks were rated to be accessible and 11 were seen to be mostly accessible, but 16 parks needed more improvement to be considered accessible. The most common problems with accessibility in parks were lack of access paths and inaccessible playground equipment. For example, though Hellenberg Park contains accessible parking spaces near the basketball court, there are no access paths connecting parking to the playground, picnic shelter, and ball field. In addition, the restrooms are not accessible.

| Maintenance Rating by Park Type |           |          |           |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
|                                 | A1        | A2       | A3        | A4        |
| Natural                         | 2         |          |           |           |
| Neighborhood                    | 6         | 5        | 5         | 4         |
| Community                       |           | 1        | 1         | 2         |
| Regional                        |           |          |           | 2         |
| Linear                          | 1         |          | 2         |           |
| Special Purpose                 | 1         |          | 4         | 2         |
| <b>Total Parks</b>              | <b>10</b> | <b>6</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>10</b> |

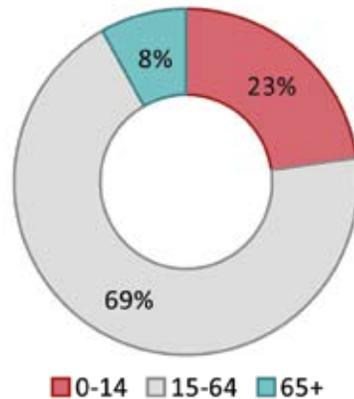
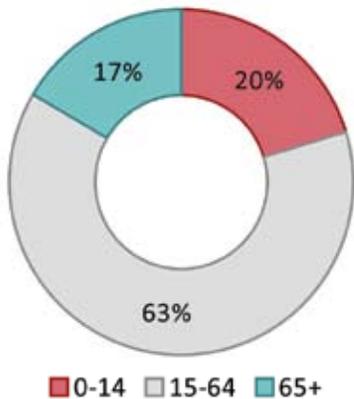


Arborwood School

| Age Group    | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-4          | 51         |
| 5-9          | 38         |
| 10-14        | 45         |
| 15-19        | 41         |
| 20-24        | 32         |
| 25-29        | 45         |
| 30-34        | 43         |
| 35-39        | 42         |
| 40-44        | 47         |
| 45-49        | 45         |
| 50-54        | 45         |
| 55-59        | 37         |
| 60-64        | 41         |
| 65-69        | 35         |
| 70-74        | 22         |
| 75-79        | 16         |
| 80-84        | 19         |
| 85+          | 17         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>661</b> |

Christianity School

| Age Group    | Number      |
|--------------|-------------|
| 0-4          | 95          |
| 5-9          | 74          |
| 10-14        | 91          |
| 15-19        | 85          |
| 20-24        | 78          |
| 25-29        | 75          |
| 30-34        | 81          |
| 35-39        | 77          |
| 40-44        | 68          |
| 45-49        | 94          |
| 50-54        | 85          |
| 55-59        | 79          |
| 60-64        | 67          |
| 65-69        | 26          |
| 70-74        | 24          |
| 75-79        | 14          |
| 80-84        | 16          |
| 85+          | 12          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1141</b> |



## Neighborhood Parks Service Area

Many neighborhood parks were previously located in areas with many children, but the demographic breakdown of the neighborhoods may have shifted over time. It is important that these parks contain features that will be used by the surrounding residents, since a greater number of users creates safer parks. An issue brief from the National Recreation and Park Association titled “Creating Safe Park Environments to Enhance Community Wellness” cited research that found that “there was a direct relationship between the level of park use and the perception of security: the larger the number of visitors involved in positive activities, the more likely that anti-social behavior was deterred.”

In order to determine whether the parks are programmed appropriately for the neighborhoods they are in, a PedShed analysis was performed. A PedShed is a catchment area from which users of the park are drawn. For neighborhood parks, we can expect that users will walk about one quarter-mile to the park. The PedShed can be disrupted by physical barriers such as railroad tracks, large fences, or roads that are difficult to cross. Using ESRI Business Analyst, an online tool that combines 2010 census data and spatial data, the number of residents in each age group living within the specified PedShed can be analyzed for each of the neighborhood parks selected for analysis. The neighborhood parks were selected based on their central location. Two properties, the Lincoln School property and Christiancy School property, are not currently City-owned parks, but are included here to analyze the opportunity for additional park locations.

## Northeast Parks

The Arborwood School property’s PedShed contains slightly more residents under 15 than residents over 65 (20% vs. 15%). This mix makes the property equally suited to children’s activities and amenities for seniors.

The Christiancy School Property has a large number of residents in its PedShed (1,141) and 23% of those are under 15 years old. Only 8% of residents in the PedShed are over 65.

Between the Arborwood and Christiancy School properties, the Christiancy School property is more appropriately suited for a playground. In addition, its location near the center of town and the River Raisin Heritage Trail also makes this an attractive site.



Arborwood School Property

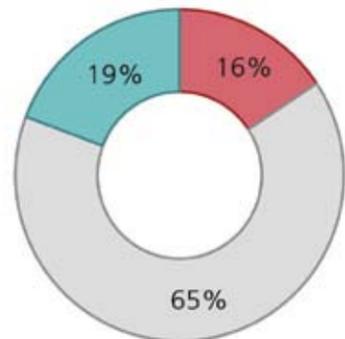


Christiancy School Property



Frenchman's Bend Park

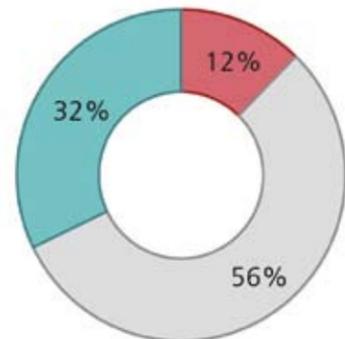
| Age Group    | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-4          | 14         |
| 5-9          | 23         |
| 10-14        | 24         |
| 15-19        | 23         |
| 20-24        | 19         |
| 25-29        | 13         |
| 30-34        | 14         |
| 35-39        | 21         |
| 40-44        | 29         |
| 45-49        | 34         |
| 50-54        | 30         |
| 55-59        | 39         |
| 60-64        | 32         |
| 65-69        | 23         |
| 70-74        | 21         |
| 75-79        | 12         |
| 80-84        | 11         |
| 85+          | 8          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>390</b> |



■ 0-14 ■ 15-64 ■ 65+

James and Hendricks Park

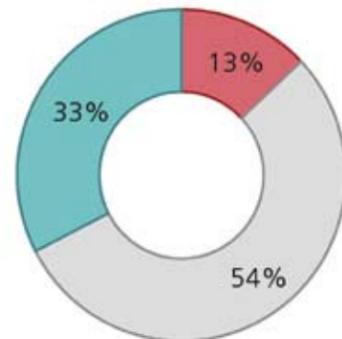
| Age Group    | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-4          | 11         |
| 5-9          | 25         |
| 10-14        | 29         |
| 15-19        | 21         |
| 20-24        | 25         |
| 25-29        | 14         |
| 30-34        | 20         |
| 35-39        | 25         |
| 40-44        | 32         |
| 45-49        | 35         |
| 50-54        | 47         |
| 55-59        | 40         |
| 60-64        | 36         |
| 65-69        | 30         |
| 70-74        | 30         |
| 75-79        | 21         |
| 80-84        | 40         |
| 85+          | 50         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>531</b> |



■ 0-14 ■ 15-64 ■ 65+

Lavender Park

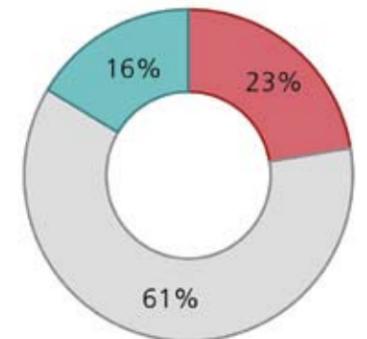
| Age Group    | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-4          | 10         |
| 5-9          | 15         |
| 10-14        | 17         |
| 15-19        | 14         |
| 20-24        | 13         |
| 25-29        | 11         |
| 30-34        | 15         |
| 35-39        | 13         |
| 40-44        | 16         |
| 45-49        | 22         |
| 50-54        | 29         |
| 55-59        | 24         |
| 60-64        | 20         |
| 65-69        | 19         |
| 70-74        | 14         |
| 75-79        | 16         |
| 80-84        | 24         |
| 85+          | 33         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>325</b> |



■ 0-14 ■ 15-64 ■ 65+

Manor Park

| Age Group    | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-4          | 73         |
| 5-9          | 61         |
| 10-14        | 59         |
| 15-19        | 62         |
| 20-24        | 70         |
| 25-29        | 60         |
| 30-34        | 57         |
| 35-39        | 57         |
| 40-44        | 43         |
| 45-49        | 56         |
| 50-54        | 52         |
| 55-59        | 39         |
| 60-64        | 33         |
| 65-69        | 24         |
| 70-74        | 23         |
| 75-79        | 20         |
| 80-84        | 35         |
| 85+          | 39         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>863</b> |



■ 0-14 ■ 15-64 ■ 65+

## Northwest Parks

Frenchman's Bend Park has 390 residents in its PedShed; 16% of those are under 15 years old, and 19% are over 65. Most of the residents in this area are between 15 and 65 (65%). This park could be programmed with features that residents of all ages could enjoy together.

James and Hendricks Park has more than twice as many residents over 65 in its PedShed compared to those under 15 years old. This park would be appropriately programmed with passive recreation amenities such as walking trails or community gardens.

Lavender Park's PedShed has only 325 residents, and 33% of those residents are over 65 years old. A mere 13% of residents in the PedShed are under 14. Similar to James and Hendricks Park, the amenities in Lavender Park should be targeted toward seniors.

Manor Park currently contains a tennis court, play structure, swings, a roller hockey rink, and a picnic shelter. Manor Park's PedShed contains 863 residents, 23% of whom are between 1 and 14 years old. Out of all of the parks analyzed in the northwest quadrant of Monroe, Manor Park has the greatest potential for a playground. If this park were more accessible and well-maintained, it would have a high potential for use.



Frenchman's Bend Park



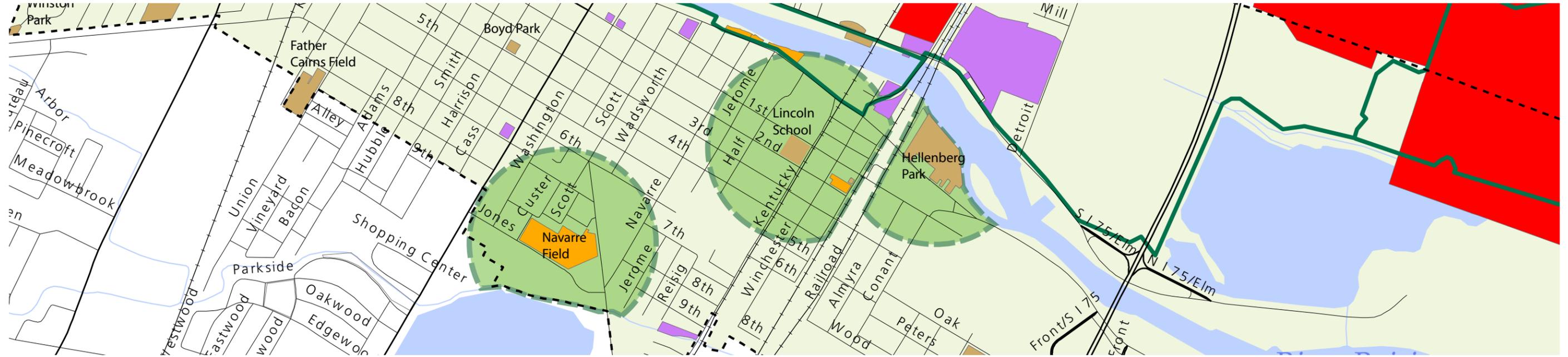
Lavender Park



James and Hendricks Park



Manor Park



Lincoln School

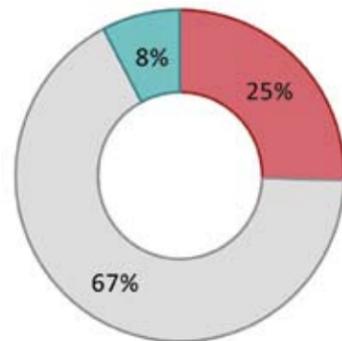
| Age Group    | Number      |
|--------------|-------------|
| 0-4          | 99          |
| 5-9          | 97          |
| 10-14        | 96          |
| 15-19        | 96          |
| 20-24        | 85          |
| 25-29        | 87          |
| 30-34        | 88          |
| 35-39        | 72          |
| 40-44        | 86          |
| 45-49        | 82          |
| 50-54        | 87          |
| 55-59        | 50          |
| 60-64        | 35          |
| 65-69        | 23          |
| 70-74        | 17          |
| 75-79        | 18          |
| 80-84        | 17          |
| 85+          | 13          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1148</b> |

Hellenberg Park

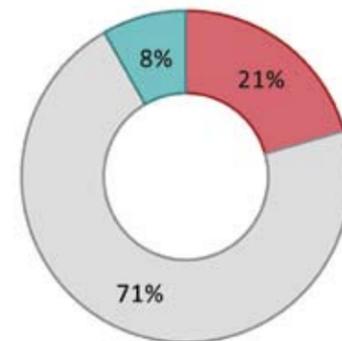
| Age Group    | Number    |
|--------------|-----------|
| 0-4          | 5         |
| 5-9          | 5         |
| 10-14        | 5         |
| 15-19        | 8         |
| 20-24        | 6         |
| 25-29        | 7         |
| 30-34        | 6         |
| 35-39        | 5         |
| 40-44        | 5         |
| 45-49        | 6         |
| 50-54        | 4         |
| 55-59        | 3         |
| 60-64        | 2         |
| 65-69        | 2         |
| 70-74        | 2         |
| 75-79        | 1         |
| 80-84        | 1         |
| 85+          | 0         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>73</b> |

Navarre Field

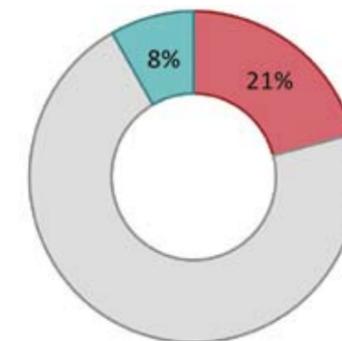
| Age Group    | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-4          | 43         |
| 5-9          | 44         |
| 10-14        | 50         |
| 15-19        | 48         |
| 20-24        | 42         |
| 25-29        | 43         |
| 30-34        | 47         |
| 35-39        | 46         |
| 40-44        | 53         |
| 45-49        | 53         |
| 50-54        | 48         |
| 55-59        | 51         |
| 60-64        | 36         |
| 65-69        | 18         |
| 70-74        | 11         |
| 75-79        | 8          |
| 80-84        | 9          |
| 85+          | 8          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>658</b> |



■ 0-14 ■ 15-64 ■ 65+



■ 0-14 ■ 15-64 ■ 65+



■ 0-14 ■ 15-64 ■ 65+

## Southeast Parks

The Lincoln School property is similar in demographic makeup to the Christianity School property. Out of the 1,148 residents in the PedShed, 25% are under 15 and 8% are over 65 years old. This property would be a good choice for the location of a playground.

Although Hellenberg Park's PedShed contains a moderately high percentage of residents under 15 years old, the total population in the PedShed is very low (73 residents) primarily due to the physical barriers, the railroad tracks and the River Raisin, which make it difficult to walk to this park. Since there are not many residents within the PedShed, Hellenberg Park is more suited to be programmed as a community park with facilities to which residents are willing to drive.

Hellenberg Park also has the potential to become more widely used throughout the community with improvements outlined in the River Raisin Heritage Corridor East - Master Plan. In the plan, this park would be the site of a large amphitheater, small improved playgrounds, an accessible canoe and kayak launch, and additional non-motorized trails. The neighborhood's connectivity with the park would be improved with a pedestrian tunnel underneath the existing railroad tracks and a pedestrian bridge across the River Raisin.

Navarre Field contains a mix of school athletic facilities and an adjacent playground. Its PedShed contains 658 residents, 21% of whom are under 15. There is a good possibility for residents to be able to walk to this playground, but the condition of the equipment may make it feel unsafe.



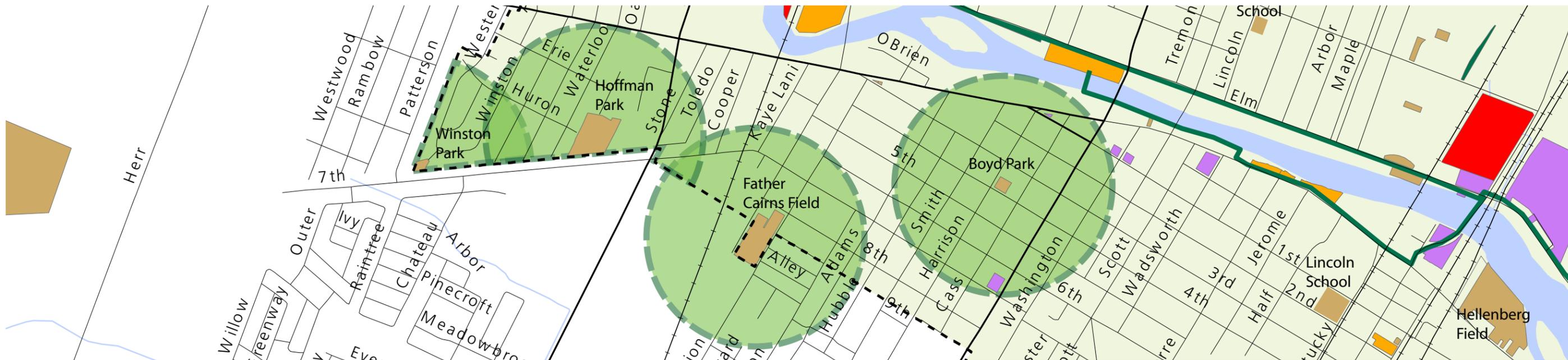
Lincoln School Property



Hellenberg Park



Navarre Field



Father Cairns Park

| Age Group    | Number      |
|--------------|-------------|
| 0-4          | 98          |
| 5-9          | 71          |
| 10-14        | 74          |
| 15-19        | 75          |
| 20-24        | 88          |
| 25-29        | 70          |
| 30-34        | 76          |
| 35-39        | 57          |
| 40-44        | 68          |
| 45-49        | 68          |
| 50-54        | 61          |
| 55-59        | 56          |
| 60-64        | 40          |
| 65-69        | 31          |
| 70-74        | 22          |
| 75-79        | 18          |
| 80-84        | 24          |
| 85+          | 41          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1038</b> |

Winston Park

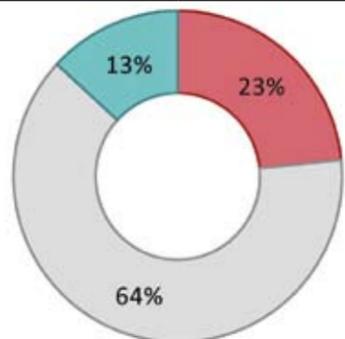
| Age Group    | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-4          | 23         |
| 5-9          | 22         |
| 10-14        | 17         |
| 15-19        | 19         |
| 20-24        | 18         |
| 25-29        | 17         |
| 30-34        | 25         |
| 35-39        | 24         |
| 40-44        | 18         |
| 45-49        | 23         |
| 50-54        | 25         |
| 55-59        | 20         |
| 60-64        | 19         |
| 65-69        | 10         |
| 70-74        | 11         |
| 75-79        | 9          |
| 80-84        | 11         |
| 85+          | 7          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>318</b> |

Boyd Park

| Age Group    | Number      |
|--------------|-------------|
| 0-4          | 85          |
| 5-9          | 90          |
| 10-14        | 106         |
| 15-19        | 96          |
| 20-24        | 97          |
| 25-29        | 91          |
| 30-34        | 80          |
| 35-39        | 91          |
| 40-44        | 94          |
| 45-49        | 82          |
| 50-54        | 89          |
| 55-59        | 70          |
| 60-64        | 63          |
| 65-69        | 32          |
| 70-74        | 17          |
| 75-79        | 10          |
| 80-84        | 13          |
| 85+          | 17          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1223</b> |

Hoffman Park

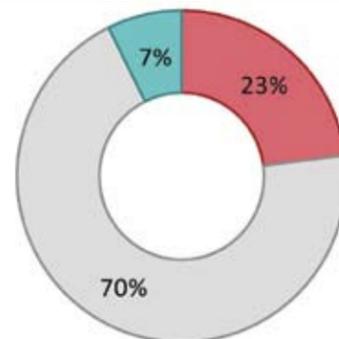
| Age Group    | Number     |
|--------------|------------|
| 0-4          | 36         |
| 5-9          | 34         |
| 10-14        | 27         |
| 15-19        | 29         |
| 20-24        | 28         |
| 25-29        | 27         |
| 30-34        | 39         |
| 35-39        | 37         |
| 40-44        | 29         |
| 45-49        | 36         |
| 50-54        | 40         |
| 55-59        | 32         |
| 60-64        | 30         |
| 65-69        | 16         |
| 70-74        | 17         |
| 75-79        | 14         |
| 80-84        | 18         |
| 85+          | 12         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>501</b> |



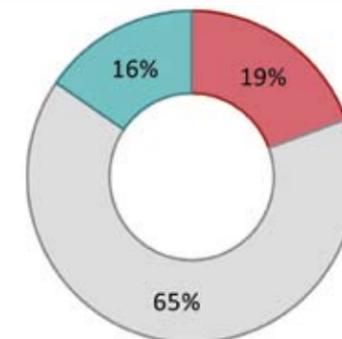
0-14 15-64 65+



0-14 15-64 65+



0-14 15-64 65+



0-14 15-64 65+

## Southwest Parks

Father Cairns Park has a high number of young residents within a walkable distance (1038), and 23% of those are under 15 years old. This park has a high potential for playground use, but the current facilities are not up to safety standards. No safety surface is present throughout the playground.

The number of residents who can walk to Winston Park is very limited due to the park's location on a cul-de-sac. This park is hard to reach for anyone living to the south or west. Therefore, the PedShed contains 318 residents, 20% of whom are under 15 years old.

Boyd Park has a high number of residents, 1,223, in its PedShed. 23% of those residents are under 15. This park is appropriately programmed with playgrounds and picnic spaces.

Hoffman Park has a nearly equal mix of residents under 15 years old and over 65 years old within its 501-resident PedShed (19% and 16% of residents, respectively). This park has ample green space, and could be programmed with community gardens or other uses.



Father Cairns Park



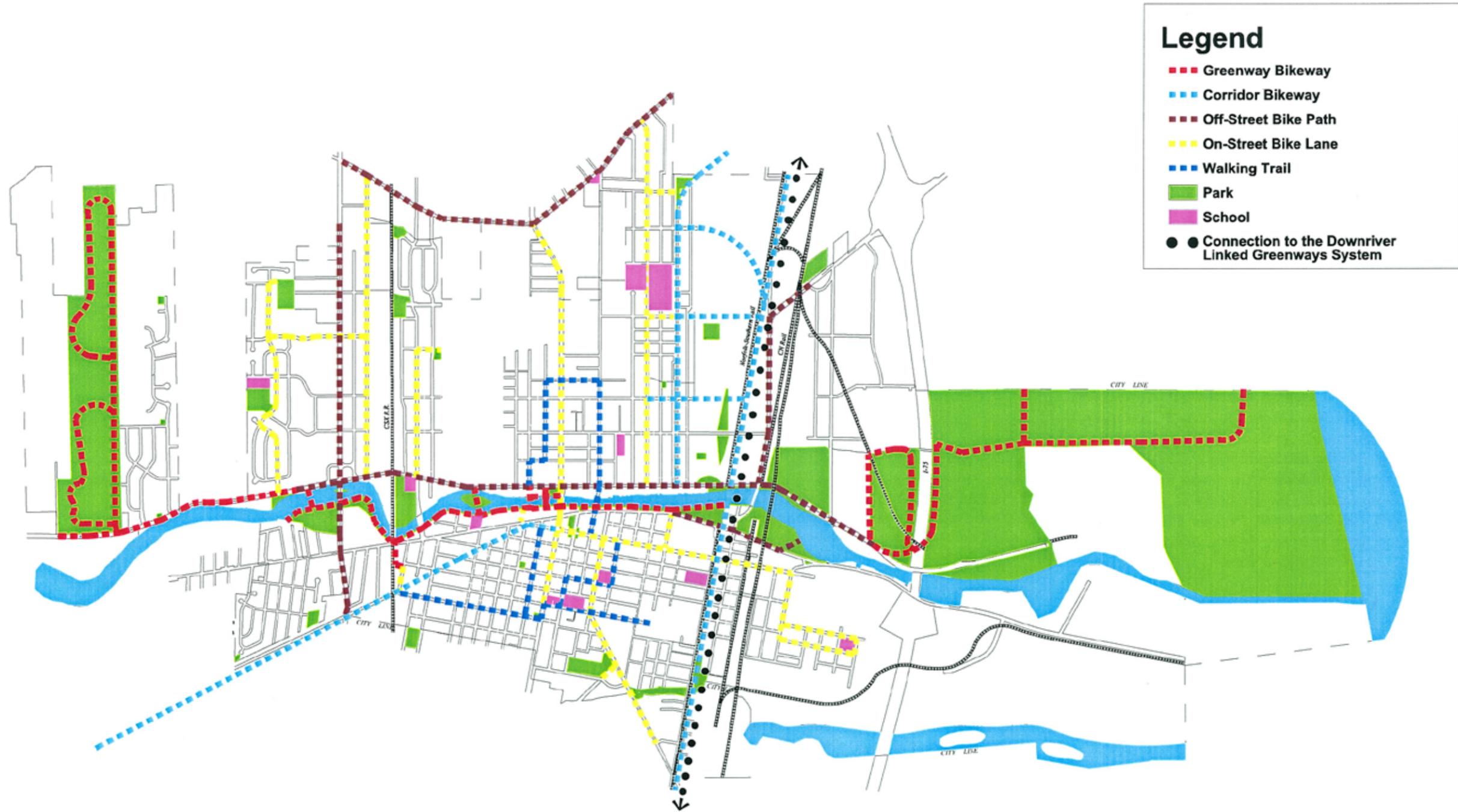
Boyd Park



Winston Park



Hoffman Park



Date: December, 2002  
 Source: Hamilton Anderson Associates

MAP 13 - GREENWAYS PLAN  
 City of Monroe  
 Comprehensive Plan





## Previous Planning

There have been several planning processes preceding this recreation plan update that offer input into what is desired for the parks and recreation system. The documents that have been reviewed include the City of Monroe Comprehensive Plan (2003), The City's Recreation Systems Plan (2007), the River Raisin Heritage Corridor - East Master Plan (2013), and the Resilient Monroe plan (2013).

### City of Monroe Comprehensive Plan

The City of Monroe completed a Comprehensive Plan process in 2003. This plan addressed a full range of planning topics for the city, including land use, transportation, housing, economic development, historic resources, downtown Monroe, municipal facilities and services, natural features and recreation, a greenways plan, and community character and design.

In the "Natural Features, Recreation and Open Space" chapter, four distinct goals were outlined for the parks and open space system.

1. Encourage integration of natural features such as woodlands and wetlands into site development as aesthetic and functional features while protecting the quality of the features.
2. Protect the quality of the River Raisin and its tributaries from the impacts of development while at the same time promoting it as one of the City's greatest assets.
3. Preserve the rare and significant features of Monroe's environment.
4. Acquire, develop, maintain, and preserve sufficient open space and recreation facilities.

Greenway goals and objectives, listed below, were also prepared as part of the comprehensive plan.

1. Develop a greenways system that provides safe and efficient non-motorized transportation routes throughout the city and to the region.
2. Utilize the greenway system to showcase and enhance key features and destinations within the city.
3. Incorporate different forms of greenway in order to accommodate the diversity of transportation modes.

| 2007–2012 Action Plan Projects Status Report                          |          |                        |                    |           |   |  |
|---|----------|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|---|--|
| Project Name  | Complete | Substantially Complete | Partially Complete | Postponed | Comments  |  |
| Greenways System  |          |                        | X                  |           |   |  |
| Munson Park Improvements  |          |                        | X                  |           |   |  |
| Veteran's Park Improvements   | X        |                        |                    |           | Needs repairs (already budgeted for)  |  |
| Soldiers and Sailors Park Improvements                                |          |                        |                    | X         |   |  |
| Recreation Center Site Selection and Construction                     |          |                        |                    | X         | Needs to be revisited, potentially "downsized" to additional indoor recreation space                  |  |
| Cairns Park Improvements  |          |                        |                    | X         | Tennis courts should be removed due to low use. Also study ball field for potential removal.          |  |
| Downtown Electric Service   |          |                        | X                  |           |   |  |
| Park Landscape Improvements   |          | X                      |                    |           |   |  |
| Hellenberg Park Facilities Plan                                       |          |                        | X                  |           | Will be redesigned in conformance to the River Raisin Heritage Corridor Plan                          |  |
| Nature Center Site Selection  |          |                        |                    | X         | Research Potential for a joint facility with schools or not-for-profit                                |  |
| Mill Race Park Study and Land Acquisition                             |          | X                      |                    |           |   |  |
| Plum Creek Footbridge Construction                                    |          |                        |                    | X         | Needs improved access, perhaps not specifically a footbridge  |  |
| Cantrick Pool Improvements  |          |                        | X                  |           |   |  |
| James and Hendricks Parks Consolidation and Improvements              |          |                        | X                  |           |   |  |
| Playground Equipment Installations                                    |          |                        | X                  |           |   |  |
| Seek Citizen Input and Feedback                                       |          | X                      |                    |           | Ongoing   |  |
| Establish "Friends of Monroe Recreation" Group                        |          |                        | X                  |           | Stewardship Monroe program has begun  |  |
| Re-evaluate Recreation Programs                                       |          | X                      |                    |           | Ongoing   |  |
| Utilize the newsletter and website for marketing and citizen services |          | X                      |                    |           | Further develop mapping on website. Social media is now used to communicate with residents (Facebook) |  |
| Park information base improvements                                    |          |                        | X                  |           | GIS-based facility inventory and maintenance schedule is recommended                                  |  |



## Recreation Systems Plan 2007–2012

The previous recreation systems plan, which was completed in 2007, outlined five goals and their specific objectives for 2007–2012. These goals represented long-term ideals that were adapted from the 2000–2004 recreation plan.

1. Provide a broad range of recreation activities/facilities
  - Provide facilities and services for all groups (i.e., age, income, ability)
  - Measure demand on a regular basis (e.g., annually)
  - Match facilities with demand (i.e., expand features or facilities where appropriate)
2. Maximize the use and distribution of existing and future facilities
  - Promote/market facilities and programs
  - Implement existing facility plans (Munson Park, Linear System)
  - Develop new and update existing facility plans
  - Improve accessibility to facilities (i.e., ADA, cost)
  - Extend/expand utility available in facilities
  - Maintain a balance between passive and active uses in parks
  - Properly maintain existing facilities
  - Develop a long-range maintenance plan for future facilities
  - Request community input on a regular basis
3. Cooperate with other providers of recreation facilities and services
  - Coordinate City recreation services with those of schools, townships, county, state, and private providers
  - Cooperate with other agencies where possible to avoid duplication of services and ensure efficient use of funds
4. Maximize and diversify funding
  - Maintain a capital improvement program adequate to satisfy the identified improvement priorities within the designated time-frame
  - Pursue all available funding sources (corporate sponsorships, "Friends of Monroe Parks," user fees, memberships, millage, grants, fundraising events, community foundations)
5. Provide appropriate landscaping and aesthetic features to beautify existing and future parks
  - Pursue agreements or partnerships with service or gardening clubs, individuals, businesses, etc., to maintain landscaping
  - Establish minimum landscaping standards
  - Develop and implement landscaping plans



**Master Plan Key**

- A. Battlefield Area Entrance
- B. Traffic Circle with Monument
- C. Entrance to Downtown Monroe
- D. South Peace Garden
- E. Detroit Avenue Realignment
- F. French Ribbon Farms
- G. Historic Homesteads (Re-Created Village)
- H. Stockade Fence
- I. RRNPB Visitor Center and Parking
- J. Events and Re-Enactment Areas
- K. River Overlook and Interpretive Park
- L. Pedestrian Bridge Addition to Rail Trestle
- M. French Chapel and North Peace Garden
- N. Waterfront Dining, Shopping & Entertainment
- O. Front Street Realignment
- P. Heritage Trail
- Q. Trail Head for Heritage Trail
- R. Elm Avenue cul-de-sac
- S. Relocated Recreation Amenities in Neighborhood
- T. Sterling Island / Interpretive Area and Major Muskrat's Lodge
- U. Visitor Parking
- V. Amphitheater, Playground and Pavilions
- W. Pedestrian Tunnel under Rail Lines
- X. Orchard and Vineyard Buffer along Rail Lines
- Y. Dixie Highway Corridor Beautification
- Z. Greenway to Plum Creek

**HISTORY CORRIDOR - EAST MASTER PLAN**

**Overall Master Plan**

April 2013





### River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan (2013)

In 2013 a placemaking plan process for the River Raisin Heritage Corridor was completed through a partnership between the Monroe County Historical Society and the City of Monroe with input from the National Parks Service and the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation.

The overarching goal of the plan was to tie together and emphasize the recreational, cultural, ecological, and historic assets of the community in order to increase the capacity for residents and tourists to enjoy them.

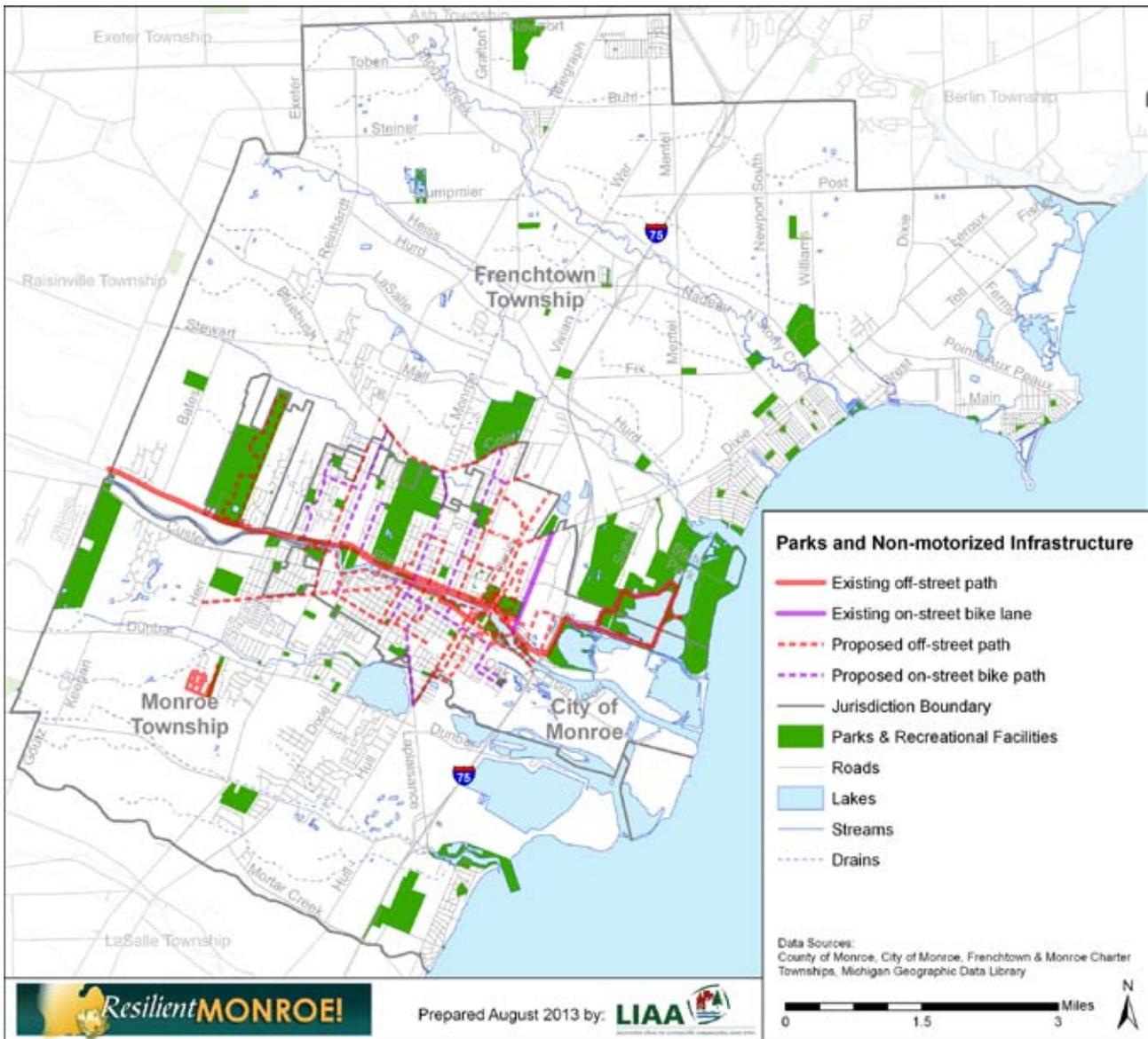
The project scope included the National Battlefield Park and the surrounding area and created distinct activity zones, including a Visitor Center, Peace Gardens, and a historic chapel, a re-created Frenchtown

Settlement, a Reenactment zone, a waterfront development, an entertainment zone with a 10,000-person capacity amphitheater, and a greenway zone that would link Monroe’s assets together.

The plan also proposed improvements to several vehicular corridors, including tree planting, converting First and Front streets into two-way traffic patterns, implementing streetscape improvements, and beautifying the expressway interchanges.

Specific parks to be improved in this plan include Hellenberg Park, Rauch Park, Riviere Aux Raisins Park, the River Raisin Memorial, Plum Creek Park, the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex,

and Cappuccilli Park. Hellenberg Park would include the new amphitheater, a pedestrian bridge across the River Raisin, improvements to Sterling Island, an accessible canoe/kayak launch, playgrounds, pavilions, and parking. Access to Plum Creek would be improved by the greenway connection, as well as interpretive stations explaining the significance of the park to the River Raisin Battles and Massacre. Rauch Park would become the site of an International Peace Garden, and Riviere Aux Raisins Park and the River Raisin Memorial would become part of the Frenchtown Settlement. The Monroe Multi-Sports Complex would house the new Visitor Center.



### Resilient Monroe (2013)

The Resilient Monroe plan is a land-use planning and community design project that was developed in partnership between the City of Monroe, Frenchtown Charter Township, and Monroe Charter Township. The project’s goal was to update the City of Monroe’s Municipal Master Plan and improve the existing Municipal Master Plans for the townships.

Planning in this regional context facilitated the creation of a common vision. The plan process involved a detailed analysis of existing conditions, including land use, economic and social trends, and previous planning efforts in the region. The plan process incorporated an array of community input in the forms of a community survey, a multi-day

planning charette, public forums, youth planning sessions, and citizen working groups.

The plan culminated in the creation of recommendations for the communities that fall into several categories. Many of the categories and action items related to economic development and general planning, some focused particularly on parks and recreation. Those items that pertained to parks and recreation are listed below.

1. Access and Transportation System
  - More Choices, More Resilience: Create a multi-modal, connected, integrated transportation system. Develop a non-motorized transportation plan for the Monroe Community. Expand the River Raisin

Heritage Trail and provide wayfinding signage to downtown. Provide additional non-motorized connections between the waterfront, the National Park, and downtown. Improve connectivity throughout the three jurisdictions. Expand safe pedestrian and bicycle transit options along Telegraph Road.

2. Feeding Monroe: Agriculture and Food Systems
  - Buy Nearby: Increase the community knowledge of local produce by increasing access to Community Gardens.
3. Housing Monroe: Buildings and Neighborhoods
  - Build Your Curb Appeal: Create public spaces (parks, squares, sidewalk libraries) where neighbors can meet and socialize.

4. Preserving Monroe: Environment and Natural Systems
  - Increase Vegetation, Increase Preservation: Promote the restoration of wetlands in vacant industrial areas and open areas that are not currently farmed. Focus on areas of high wetland potential.
  - Green Brings in More Green: Expand and market Nature Recreation and Agricultural Tourism opportunities in the Monroe Community (e.g., continue to participate in the development of a water trail plan for Monroe County).



As part of the Resilient Monroe planning process, a charrette-style workshop took place to engage local officials, citizens, business owners, and other stakeholders in creating a vision for the Telegraph Road corridor. One result of the charrette was a desire for the development of Mill Race Park. Desired amenities in the plan included an ADA-

compliant kayak launch, a picnic pavilion, a system of boardwalks, and viewing platforms. The plan suggested that Monroe should develop a site plan for the park, incorporate the plan into the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and then pursue grant funding through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.

# Monroe Recreation Plan

Project website



[Home](#) [Recreation Plan Process](#) [Project Team](#) [Calendar of Events](#) [Documents](#) [Contact](#)

Home

## Why Update the City's Recreation Plan?



Posted on October 8, 2013 by [czubko@bria2.com](mailto:czubko@bria2.com)

The City of Monroe's current recreation plan was adopted in 2007 and has exceeded the five-year expiration window. In order to become eligible for grant funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the City of Monroe wants to complete the required five-year update of the Recreation Plan to obtain this eligibility. The plan needs to be completed and adopted by the City and approved by MDNR if the City is desirous of submitting a grant application for a particular grant cycle.

The recreation plan will be based on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources "Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans".

With this new updated plan, the City wants to provide more direction to larger redevelopment initiatives and future land goals. The primary motivations for this update are to integrate the Recreation Plan more closely with the City's land use Master Plan and incorporate the newly developed vision for the River Raisin Heritage Corridor-East.

Posted in Uncategorized | 1 Reply

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the Survey](#)



## Public Input Process

As stated in the Planning Process chapter, a resident survey and two Community Vision Session Workshops were held to gather public input on the future of recreation in Monroe.

### Community Survey Results

The community survey was available for responses from October 10th, 2013, through October 31st, 2013. A total of 84 responses were collected, and 71 of those surveys were complete (84.5%). A summary of the survey results can be found on the following pages.

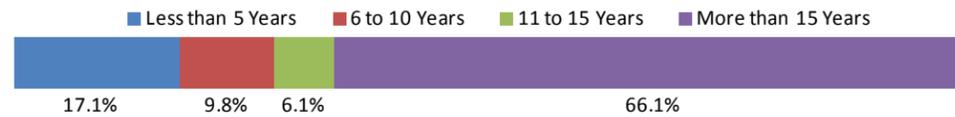
### Demographics

The majority of survey respondents have lived in the City of Monroe for more than 15 years (67.1%).<sup>1</sup> Additionally, a majority of respondents said that they plan on living in Monroe for more than 15 years into the future (59.4%).<sup>2</sup> They lived all across Monroe, with a majority of Monroe residents who took the survey living in survey areas 1 and 2, which were on the north side of the River Raisin between the airport and Monroe Street. The survey received a large number of responses from those who did not live in the city limits (21.1%), but by taking the survey they showed that

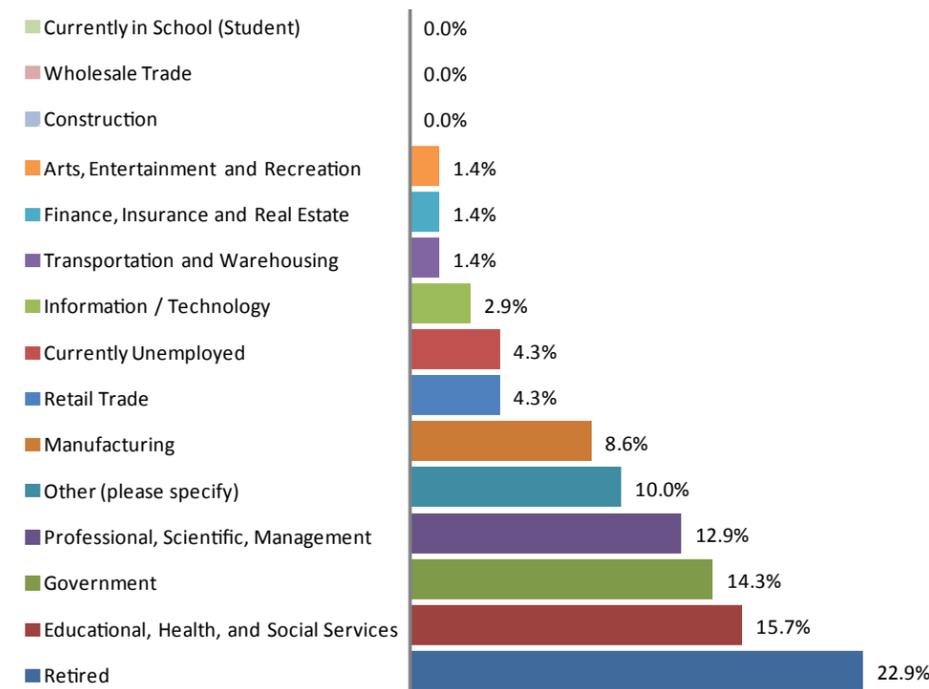
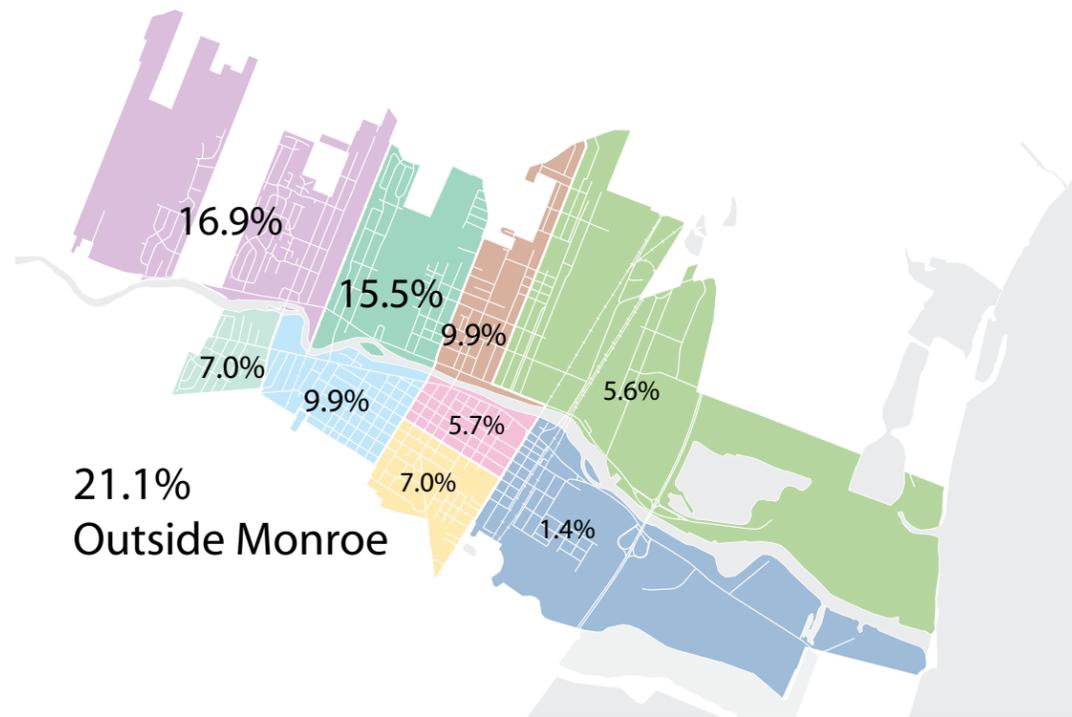
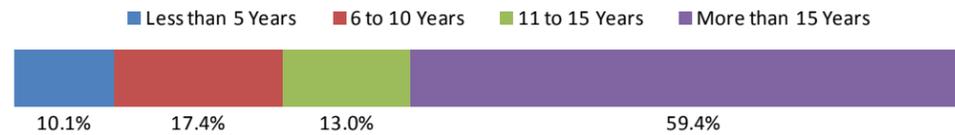
<sup>1</sup> Survey Question 1  
<sup>2</sup> Survey Question 35

# Who responded to the survey?

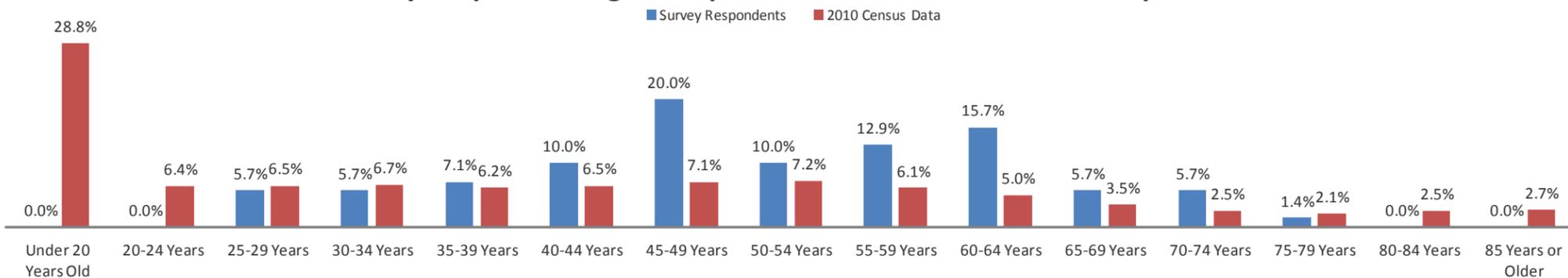
## About how long have you lived in the City of Monroe?



## How much longer do you expect to live in the City of Monroe?



## Survey Respondent Age Group Breakdown vs. Total Monroe Population



they have interest in the Monroe parks system.<sup>3</sup>

The ages of survey respondents were between 25 and 79 years old, with a majority of survey respondents falling in the 45–49 age group.<sup>4</sup> When compared to age group data from the 2010 census, significantly over-represented age groups include 45–49 years, 55–59 years, and 60–64 years. Significantly under-represented groups include residents under 24 years old and residents 80 and above.

By occupation, the most respondents were retired (22.9%), but other well-represented professions were in the educational, health and social services sector, the government sector, and the professional, scientific, and management sector.<sup>5</sup>

## General Participation and Recreation

Most survey respondents have participated in parks and recreation programs provided by the City of Monroe in the past five years (73.5%).<sup>6</sup> Most people generally participate in activities such as running, walking, or biking, with 47.6% of respondents reporting that they participate in these activities at least once a week; 43% of respondents also enjoy other outdoor activities at least once a week.<sup>7</sup> Those that visit parks do so primarily for exercise, relaxation, spending time with family and friends, and athletics.<sup>8</sup> Only one respondent preferred not to

3 Survey Question 38  
 4 Survey Question 37  
 5 Survey Question 36  
 6 Survey Question 2  
 7 Survey Question 3  
 8 Survey Question 9

visit parks because they are not interested in the recreation programs.<sup>9</sup>

The survey respondents were asked which parks they visit and how often. The responses were weighted according to the following scale: at least once a week: 4, a few times a month: 3, once a month: 2, several times a year: 1, less than once a year: 0. The weighted number was then divided by the number of responses received to calculate an average rating. The most-visited park in Monroe was Munson Park.<sup>10</sup>

Survey Question 8 asked a similar question, but in a simpler context. When asked which park the survey respondent visits most often, Munson Park was still the top choice, but the other most-visited parks varied slightly.

| Top 10 Most Visited Parks                        |                |
|--|----------------|
| Park   | Average Rating |
| Munson Park                                      | 2.18           |
| Elm Avenue Bike Path/River Raisin Heritage Trail | 1.53           |
| St. Mary’s Park                                  | 1.51           |
| Veteran’s Park                                   | 1.21           |
| Loranger Square                                  | 0.88           |
| Roessler Field at Riverside School               | 0.67           |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex - Skating            | 0.53           |
| Soldiers and Sailors Park                        | 0.47           |
| River Raisin Memorial                            | 0.46           |
| Navarre Field                                    | 0.44           |

### Perception of Monroe’s Parks and Recreation Programs and Facilities

Survey respondents generally feel like there is an excellent amount of park land available in the City of Monroe (48% rated the amount of park land as excellent), although they feel that the connections to and between parks are fair. Respondents also feel that the variety of park facilities and

9 Survey Question 10  
10 Survey Questions 4–7

the open spaces/natural areas in Monroe are generally good. Respondents feel that recreation programming and art/cultural events are also good.<sup>11</sup>

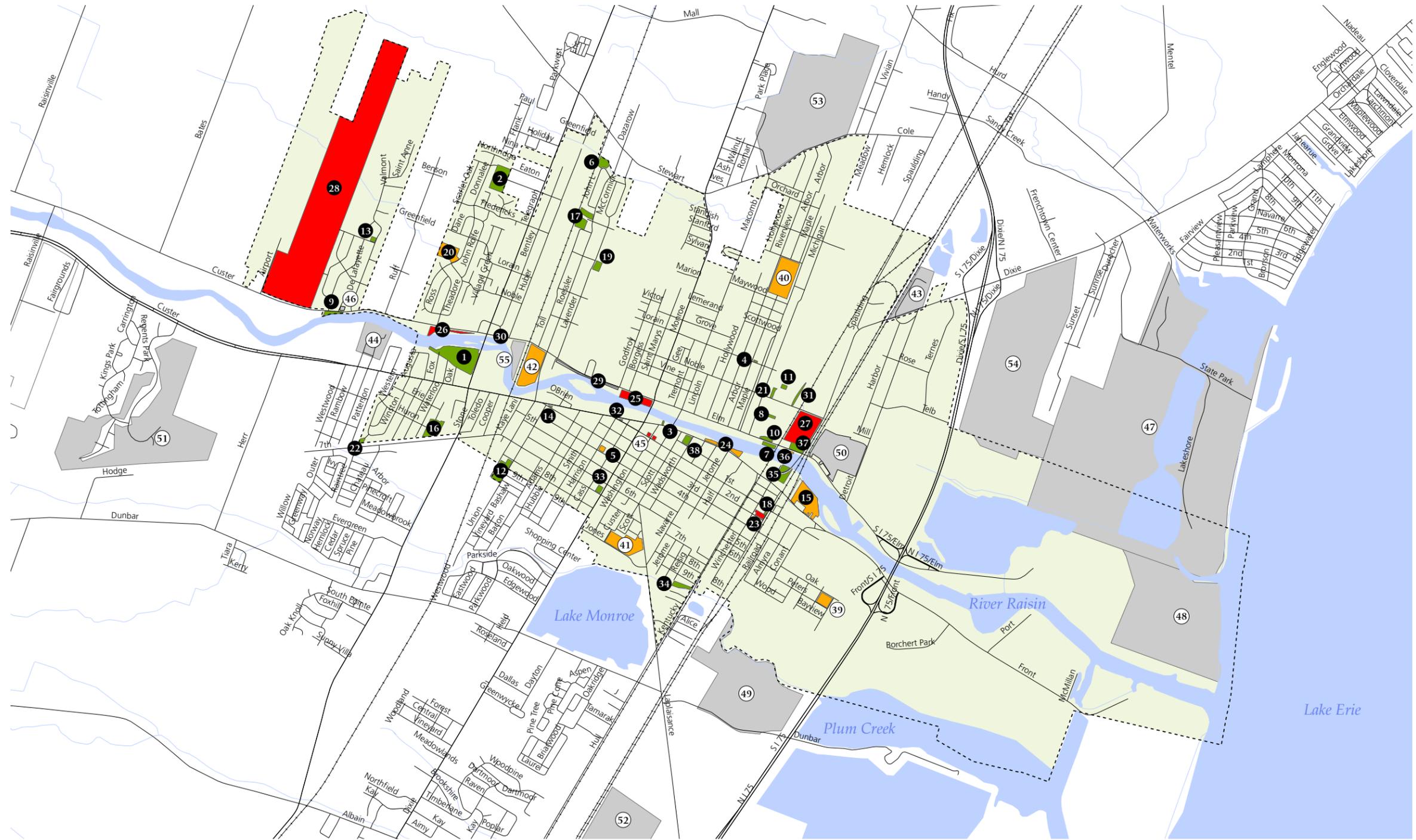
Respondents were able to rate both the indoor and outdoor recreation activities, programs, and services for various age groups. Although a majority of respondents responded “Don’t Know” when asked to rate indoor activities, elementary school, middle school, and preschool ages were rated the most favorably, followed by adults less than 60 years old.<sup>12</sup> In terms of outdoor parks and recreation facilities, the most favorably rated age groups were adults less than 60 years old and elementary school age.<sup>13</sup>

Most seniors who chose to respond said that they are satisfied with the current programs offered for their age group.<sup>14</sup> Some respondents chose to offer suggestions of what they would like to participate in, and those responses included:

- Croquet
- Bicycling
- Ladder ball
- Cards
- Walking
- Movies
- More concerts in the park
- Pickleball
- Arts and museums
- Soccer
- Develop the river
- Informational classes
- Swimming
- Horseshoes
- Bocce ball
- Badminton
- Travel
- Group fitness classes
- Court dances
- Frisbe golf
- Concerts and sports
- Bingo in the park
- Free indoor exercise
- How to keep fit through the aging years

Survey participants had the opportunity to say why they did not participate in activities in the City of Monroe.<sup>15</sup> The majority of responses cited a

11 Survey Question 11  
12 Survey Question 12  
13 Survey Question 13  
14 Survey Question 32  
15 Survey Question 27



- Low Use
- Moderate Use
- High Use
- Use Not Rated
- City Parks
- Non-City Parks



CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# Existing Parks Average Use Level

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Bing Maps

| Average Park Use Rating |     |   |           |
|-------------------------|-----|---|-----------|
| Owner                   | Key | Park Name                               | Use Level |
| City of Monroe          | 1   | Mill Race Park                          | Low       |
|                         | 2   | Oak Forest Park                         | Low       |
|                         | 3   | Altrusa Park                            | Low       |
|                         | 4   | Arbor-Lorain Park                       | Low       |
|                         | 5   | Boyd Park                               | Moderate  |
|                         | 6   | Calgary Park                            | Low       |
|                         | 7   | Cappuccilli Park                        | Low       |
|                         | 8   | Central Park                            | Low       |
|                         | 9   | Worrell Park                            | Low       |
|                         | 10  | Crescent Park                           | Low       |
|                         | 11  | Elliot Park                             | Low       |
|                         | 12  | Father Cairns Park                      | Low       |
|                         | 13  | Frenchman's Bend Park                   | Low       |
|                         | 14  | Front/Third/Union Park                  | Low       |
|                         | 15  | Hellenberg Park                         | Moderate  |
|                         | 16  | Hoffman Park                            | Low       |
|                         | 17  | James and Hendricks Park                | Low       |
|                         | 18  | Labor Park                              | Low       |
|                         | 19  | Lavender Park                           | Low       |
|                         | 20  | Manor Park                              | Moderate  |
|                         | 21  | Noble Park                              | Low       |
|                         | 22  | Winston Park                            | Low       |
|                         | 23  | Arthur Lesow Community Center           | High      |
|                         | 24  | Soldiers and Sailors Park               | Moderate  |
|                         | 25  | St. Mary's Park                         | High      |
|                         | 26  | Veteran's Park                          | High      |
|                         | 27  | Monroe Multi-Sports Complex             | High      |
|                         | 28  | Munson Park                             | High      |
|                         | 29  | Elm Avenue Bike Path                    | High      |
|                         | 30  | Worrell Trail                           | High      |
|                         | 31  | Median Park                             | Low       |
|                         | 32  | Gateway Park                            | Low       |
|                         | 33  | Memorial Place                          | Low       |
|                         | 34  | Plum Creek Park                         | Low       |
|                         | 35  | Rauch Park                              | Low       |
|                         | 36  | River Raisin Memorial                   | Moderate  |
|                         | 37  | Riviere Aux Raisins Park                | Low       |
|                         | 38  | Sawyer Homestead                        | Low       |
| School District         | 39  | MLK Park                                | Moderate  |
|                         | 40  | Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool               | Moderate  |
|                         | 41  | Navarre Field                           | Moderate  |
|                         | 42  | Roessler Field at Riverside School      | Moderate  |
| Monroe County           | 43  | Heck Park                               | Not Rated |
|                         | 44  | Waterloo County Park                    | Not Rated |
|                         | 45  | Loranger Square                         | High      |
| State                   | 46  | St. Antoine's Cemetery                  | NR        |
|                         | 47  | Sterling State Park                     | NR        |
| Federal                 | 48  | Detroit River IWR - Ford Marsh Unit     | NR        |
|                         | 49  | Detroit River IWR - Plum Creek Bay Unit | NR        |
|                         | 50  | River Raisin National Battlefield Park  | NR        |
| Private                 | 51  | Carrington Golf Club                    | NR        |
|                         | 52  | The Links at Lake Erie                  | NR        |
|                         | 53  | Monroe Golf and Country Club            | NR        |
|                         | 54  | Raisin River Golf Course                | NR        |
|                         | 55  | Monroe YMCA                             | NR        |

scheduling conflict or lack of time. Other common answers included that there were no activities of interest, or that they were unaware of the activities. One respondent said that he lives in Frenchtown just outside of Monroe, and because of this he does not hear about Monroe activities even though they live near enough to attend them.

### Sense of Community and Interest in Volunteerism

A majority of residents feel that the sense of community in Monroe is moderately strong (54%).<sup>16</sup> 82% of respondents feel that the Monroe parks and recreation facilities are either extremely important or very important contributors to the sense of community.

The City of Monroe has recently begun "Stewardship Monroe," a program aimed at promoting community awareness and involvement in order to enhance the City's programs, parks, trails, and open spaces. One question on the survey was intended to gauge how many residents were interested in contributing time, talent, and skill to the community. 24 respondents were somewhat interested and 15 respondents were very interested in volunteering.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Survey Question 28

<sup>17</sup> Survey Question 19

## Perception of Park Maintenance

A series of questions<sup>18</sup> asked respondents to think about the parks in various areas of Monroe and rate how well the parks and recreation facilities are maintained.

In order to determine a ranking of the each park's perceived condition, a weighted rating scale was used. The number of responses in each category was multiplied by the following number: Extremely Well: 5, Very Well: 4, Moderately Well: 3, Slightly Well: 2, Not Well at All: 1. Responses marked "Don't Know" were not included. Then, the weighted sum was divided by the number of responses to determine an average rating. A complete list of the park ratings can be found in Appendix C.

18 Survey Questions 20–23

| Top Ten Most-Maintained Parks                    |                | Top Ten Least-Maintained Parks |                |
|--|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Park   | Average Rating | Park                           | Average Rating |
| Sawyer Homestead                                 | 4.1            | Median Park                    | 2.4            |
| Loranger Square                                  | 3.9            | Elliot Park                    | 2.4            |
| Veteran's Park                                   | 3.8            | Crescent Park                  | 2.4            |
| St. Mary's Park                                  | 3.7            | Father Cairns Park             | 2.4            |
| Elm Avenue Bike Path/River Raisin Heritage Trail | 3.6            | Central Park                   | 2.4            |
| River Raisin Memorial                            | 3.6            | Hellenberg Field               | 2.4            |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Swimming Pool      | 3.5            | Arbor-Lorain Park              | 2.4            |
| Memorial Place                                   | 3.5            | Mill Race Park                 | 2.5            |
| Munson Park                                      | 3.4            | Calgary Park                   | 2.5            |
| Roessler Field at Riverside School               | 3.4            | Plum Creek Park                | 2.5            |

## Ease of Use

The survey asked a series of questions relating to the ease of use of Monroe's parks and recreation facilities. Although many respondents do not know how easy it is for those who are disabled, elderly, or others with restricted mobility to get around in the City of Monroe, a majority of those who answered felt it was moderately easy (23%). 14% of respondents feel it is not easy at all.<sup>19</sup> Most respondents feel that it is extremely easy or very easy to enter, travel through, and use most parks in their neighborhood.<sup>20</sup>

An open-ended question asked respondents what they felt would make Monroe's parks easier for them or their family to use. 31 responses were collected. Some respondents thought that the parks were fine as they currently are, but other responses

ranged from maintenance and upkeep to additional amenities such as exercise equipment or picnic areas. Many respondents requested additional parking or accessible paths to access amenities.<sup>21</sup>

## Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool

Respondents were asked to rate their response to several statements regarding the Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool<sup>22</sup> and the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex. In terms of the Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool, most respondents disagreed with the statement "Members of my family use the Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool." A majority of respondents somewhat agreed that the pool is worthy of taxpayer support, but a majority also agreed that it should be supported by those who use the pool rather than taxpayer dollars.

19 Survey Question 16

20 Survey Question 17

21 Survey Question 18

22 Survey Question 33

## Monroe Multi-Sports Complex

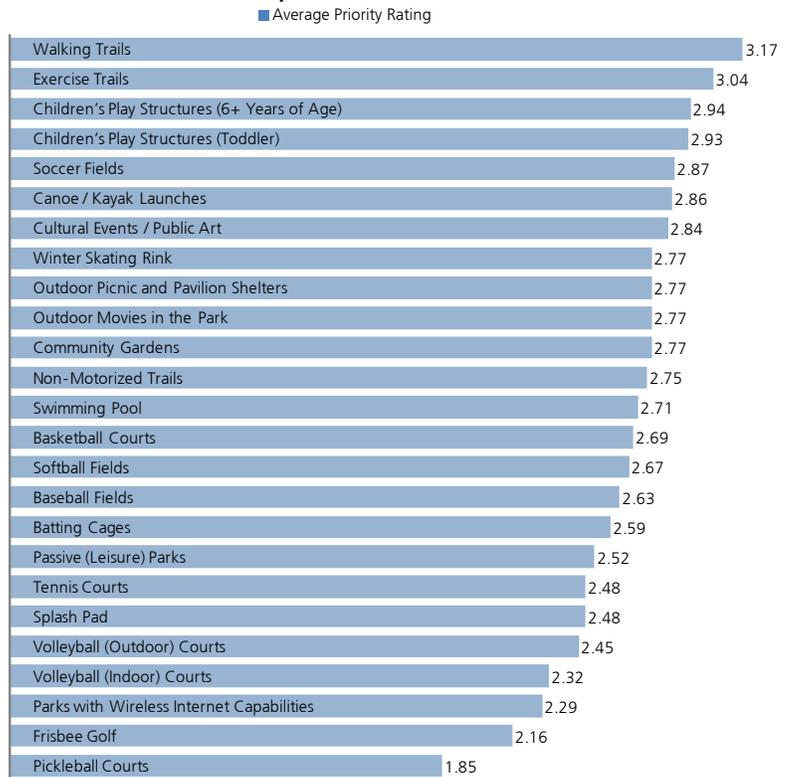
When asked whether the respondent’s family members use the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex<sup>23</sup>, the response was fairly split. 35 respondents indicated that their family members use the facility (by answering strongly agree or somewhat agree), whereas 36 indicated that they did not (by answering somewhat disagree, strongly disagree, or no opinion). On the question of funding, most respondents either strongly agree or somewhat agree that the facility is worthy of taxpayer support. Once again, respondents also indicated that they agreed with the statement “To the extent possible, the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex should be supported by those who use it rather than by general taxpayer dollars.”

## River Raisin Heritage Trail and River Raisin Heritage Corridor Master Plan

Most survey respondents were aware that a master plan has recently been completed for the River Raisin National Battlefield Park and surrounding area, known as the River Raisin Heritage Corridor East – Master Plan.<sup>24</sup> When asked whether they use the River Raisin Heritage Trail to travel to Sterling State Park, most respondents said they never do so (35%).<sup>25</sup>

23 Survey Question 34  
 24 Survey Question 30  
 25 Survey Question 31

## Development Priorities



## The Future of Parks and Recreation

Respondents were able to indicate which recreation facilities and activities the City of Monroe should plan for and develop. A list of amenities and activities was provided with the option to rate each choice as high priority, medium priority, low priority, or not needed. Respondents’ answers were weighted and analyzed, and the top 10 amenities or activities are as follows: walking trails, exercise trails, children’s play structures (6+ years of age), children’s play structure (toddler), soccer fields, canoe / kayak launches, cultural events / public art, community gardens, and outdoor movies in the park, and outdoor picnic and pavilion shelters.<sup>26</sup>

A large majority of survey  
 26 Survey Question 14

respondents strongly agree that parks and recreation facilities and services are important to the community and worthy of taxpayer support (80%). A smaller majority (42%) strongly agree that Monroe should invest in additional parks and recreation facilities and services, and 36% somewhat agree. Respondents were very split when it came to funding—a very slight majority of respondents feel that to the extent possible, these facilities should be supported by general taxpayer dollars than by those who use them (41.6%). 8.5% of respondents have no opinion on this issue. Respondents are in favor of Monroe actively planning and sponsoring arts and cultural activities. Most respondents feel safe when visiting Monroe’s parks, but they feel that it is currently difficult to walk and bike to adjacent communities.<sup>27</sup>

27 Survey Question 15



## Improvements to Recreation Services and Programs

When asked what changes would most improve recreation services and/or programs in the City of Monroe, respondents offered a variety of suggestions.<sup>28</sup> Maintenance items were common suggestions, including removal of damaged and outdated equipment, general upkeep of facilities, and landscape maintenance.

Additional facilities requested included soccer fields, and outdoor skating rink/summer swimming pool, pet runs, picnic space, restrooms, lighted fields, walking paths, and greater connectivity between parks. Respondents suggested that advertising of programs could be improved, including promoting opportunities to children through school communications.

Some respondents felt that some park priorities could be established, such as placing higher priority on major parks and lower maintenance equipment at pocket parks. One even suggested removing parks that aren't used or don't have any recreational facilities.

Some administrative changes suggested were an increase to the parks and recreation budget, greater community involvement, and additional parks staff. Specific programming suggestions included year-round programming for all ages, lower fees for adult softball, and more options for couples and individuals, greater use of the river, and more coordination with events that generate attendance.

## Recreation Activity Suggestions

Commonly suggested activities that respondents said they would participate in if they were

available in the City of Monroe include walking and biking activities; sports activities such as adult soccer, tennis, pickleball, golf, tai chi, and fitness classes; cultural events such as concerts, festivals, movie nights, arts and entertainment; water activities including canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and an outdoor splash pad; and winter activities such as outdoor skating.

## Event Suggestions

Respondents suggested a number of interesting event ideas—common suggestions of events they would attend if held in the City of Monroe include concerts (many respondents would like to see more concerts in the park), movies, art and cultural events, wine and food events, and festivals.<sup>29</sup> Athletic events such as additional soccer tournaments, organized running events, canoeing, and kayaking were also suggested frequently.

28 Survey Question 24

29 Survey Question 26

| What actions can we take to achieve our goals?                                      |   |
|---|---|
| Session 1   |   |
| Priority  | Action Items  |
| Priority 1: All parks accessible to all people.                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add more accessible routes to all parks</li> <li>• Do complete accessibility audit</li> <li>• Add park amenities for seniors</li> </ul>  |
| Priority 2: Adequate facilities to accommodate all our recreation programs.         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a parks master plan</li> <li>• Develop site plans for major parks</li> <li>• Explore funding options</li> </ul>  |
| Priority 3: Complete riverwalk connection to all public facilities along the river. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City non-motorized transportation plan</li> <li>• Apply for state and federal grants</li> <li>• Continue to engage community stakeholders to achieve the vision</li> </ul>   |
| Session 2   |   |
| Priority  | Action Items  |
| Priority 1: Neighborhood parks sustained by neighborhoods.                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find volunteers and train them</li> <li>• Community education</li> <li>• Pilot the idea in one park—set communication up, etc. (maybe choose an area with younger families)</li> <li>• Include businesses who might adopt parks</li> <li>• Involve neighborhood associations—block parties, involvement beyond parks and recreation</li> <li>• Formal handbook recognition for adopt-a-park</li> </ul> |
| Priority 2: Central facility for indoor programming                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider barn/garage at Munson (find space)</li> <li>• Assess likely participation level and types</li> <li>• Develop and maintain a funding mechanism</li> </ul>  |
| Priority 3: More regional partnerships and coordination                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt supporting resolutions</li> <li>• Continue conversation and relationships developed during Resilient Monroe report</li> <li>• Draft an outline of what authority would look like</li> <li>• Start with connectivity: use recreation authority to complete pathway in order to show a successful mechanism (pick something and start with that)</li> </ul>  |

## Community Visioning Workshops

In addition to the community survey, community visioning workshops were held to help establish collective priorities for the future of parks and recreation in the City of Monroe.

Two sessions were held, one at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 29th, and one at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30th. Seven residents attended session 1, and eight residents attended session 2. Though the workshops were small in turnout, the discussion was fruitful. However, due to the small turnout, the results of the community vision

workshops should not be seen as representative of the opinion of the entire town. Instead, they offer insight into the priorities of a group of involved citizens.

Each session was composed of five exercises, posed in the form of questions with open-ended answers. The complete results of the community vision workshops can be found in Appendix C.

The table above is the culmination of the workshop; the attendees determined their top priorities for the future and thought of specific action items that could be taken to achieve their collective vision.





# Current Issues in Recreation

The National Recreation and Park Association performed a review of current research on parks and recreation benefits from papers published in 2010. This synopsis gave a briefing of the key ways that parks and recreation create vibrant communities. These benefits are important to recognize, especially in a time of tight budgets and cuts across departments.<sup>30</sup>

## Physical Health

Access to parks and outdoor spaces has a positive impact on the health of residents of all ages. For children, time spent outdoors has the strongest correlation to physical activity, which is of utmost importance in preventing

<sup>30</sup> Summary of 2010 Research Papers: The Key Benefits. National Recreation and Park Association. [www.nrpa.org](http://www.nrpa.org)

obesity. For seniors, parks and recreation remain an important part of life as a way of keeping a healthy level of physical activity, though the activities may be less intense. Time in nature can have unexpected health benefits—one study showed that individuals with diabetes saw a greater drop in blood glucose levels from a 30 minute walk in nature than the same amount of time spent exercising elsewhere.

## Mental Health and Social Function

Studies have shown that time spent in nature decreases stress and anxiety, which are prevalent in today's society. Sadness and depression can also be reduced by time spent outdoors—one

study found that the number of diagnosed depression was 33% higher in residential areas with the fewest green spaces in the study compared to the areas with the most green spaces. Another study showed that a 20-minute walk in nature improved the concentration of children diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Outdoor spaces are more than just places to exercise—they are places to gather and build community.

## Youth Development

Recreation programs can play a positive role in youth development. Participation in structured activities can help children and adolescents develop positive relationships and conflict resolution techniques,

**G.I. Generation**

Born Prior to 1937  
9% of adults  
4% of Internet users

**Silent Generation**

Born 1937–1945  
9% of adults

**Older Baby Boomers**

Born 1946–1954  
13% of adults  
13% of internet users

**Younger Baby Boomers**

Born 1955–1964  
20% of adults  
22% of Internet users

**Generation X**

Born 1965–1980  
20% of adults  
23% of Internet users

**The Millennial Generation**

Born 1981–2000  
26% of adults  
30% of Internet users

Source: Pew Internet & American Life Project December 2008 Survey

**Characteristics of Millennials and How to Engage Them in Parks**

| Characteristic                  | Traits   | Ways to Engage Millennials   |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Special</b>                  | Used to receiving awards, strong relationships with supportive parents                                 | Give rewards for participating in projects or completing tasks or challenges   |
| <b>Team Oriented</b>            | Value teamwork, belonging, collaboration, and service  | Offer opportunities for volunteer service and encourage social and sporting groups to hold events at parks                     |
| <b>Sheltered</b>                | Led structured lives as children, enjoy spending time outdoors and socializing with friends and family | Encourage use of electronic tools such as GPS and the Internet, feature safety and structure in park literature                |
| <b>Confident and Tech Savvy</b> | Optimistic, up-beat, believe that they can improve the world   | Share information freely, allow information sharing, survey visitors online, provide audio tours and promotional videos        |
| <b>Pressured</b>                | Feel pressured to achieve and behave, avoiding personal risk, not as interested in history or reading  | Relate historical events to current events, include objects, visuals, and sounds for interpretation, minimize need for reading |
| <b>Achieving</b>                | Expected to do great things, make the country a better place   | Use electronic tools to communicate and encourage community involvement, offer challenges and quizzes                          |
| <b>Conventional</b>             | Respectful of authority, civic-minded, respectful of cultural differences because they are diverse     | Promote benefits of parks to healthy work/life balance, design facilities for diverse users and volunteers                     |



become more civic-minded and involved in the community, and build optimism, self-confidence, and autonomy. healthy.

### Environmental Benefits

Parks and green space are important environmental “sinks,” capturing storm water runoff, sequestering carbon, and lowering the temperature of the surrounding air. City parks filled with trees remove pollution from the air, helping to keep sensitive populations healthy.

### Economic Impact

Parks and recreation have economic benefits from several sources—decreased healthcare costs, increased property values, and additional tourism revenues are a few. Parks are an investment in the community.

### Engaging the Next Generation

Although Millennials (age 21–36) are not the largest population segment in Monroe, they will have

a greater impact on the economy as time goes on and should be considered as a targeted demographic for potential residents. They are quite different than the generations that came before—Generation X and the Baby Boomers.

Park attendance has been declining since the rise of the GenXers, who visited parks as children but are less likely to do so in adulthood. Millennials are even less likely to visit parks as they tend to prefer socialization and indoor activities but consider parks a key component adding to sense of place and quality of life.<sup>31</sup>

Key characteristics used to describe Millennials are special, team-oriented, sheltered, confident and tech-savvy, pressured, achieving, and conventional. Knowledge of the characteristics

31 Offering Ideas to Expand Visitor Experience. Recreation Opportunities Planning Division, Recreation Section, March 2010 California State Parks.

and values of Millennials can be used to engage them in park settings.

The table to the left explains the key characteristics of the Millennial generation and gives examples of how to engage with them. For example, Millennials are tech-savvy and are rarely disconnected from the Internet. Because of this, information on parks and programs should be easily accessible online. The history of Monroe could come alive using technology—information kiosks within the parks could give links to audio tours or informational videos, creating an immersive experience.

### The New Economy

Today, talented and well-educated people choose where they want to live and then find work there instead of following jobs. Desirable places to live are high-quality, clean, green, and close to open space for recreation. Because of this, talent becomes concentrated in these high-quality areas, which in turn attracts businesses.



Audio tour signage

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Provide safe, high-quality  
recreational experiences

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Fully leverage Monroe's recreational  
waterfront assets

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Fully leverage historic assets  
within Monroe's recreation system

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Accessible playground with poured-in-place rubber safety surfacing

# Cornerstones

A well-constructed structure must be built on a solid foundation. The City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan cornerstones are the key components of the community-building process that has its foundation based on the parks inventory, community input, and previous planning within the community. When the foundation, cornerstones, and building blocks lock together, they construct a well-defined recreation system.

## 1. Provide safe, high-quality recreational experiences that increase the quality of life in Monroe.

The New Economy suggests that the future workforce will locate to regions and communities that possess a combination of economic, cultural, and recreational amenities. According to the National Association of Realtors® 2013 Community Preference Survey, “60 percent of respondents favor a neighborhood with a mix of houses, stores, and other businesses

that are within walking distance, rather than neighborhoods requiring driving between home, work, and recreation. Respondents indicated that while the size of a home or yard does matter, most are willing to compromise size for a preferred neighborhood and less commuting.”

Locally, the availability of water and sanitary systems in the surrounding Townships creates a situation where families can use some City services without paying City taxes; however, families

who live in the Township are relegated to their cars for errands, school functions, shopping, and work. According to the Center for Neighborhood Technology, a household in Monroe Township pays \$100 more per month in transportation costs than a City of Monroe household. In order to compete with the lower property taxes found in the Townships, the City needs to be a desirable place for families to live. The bundle of services provided by the City, including public safety, street maintenance, parks, and recreation programs, helps to offset this differential in taxes by creating a better quality of life. As a result, a well-maintained and quality designed parks system matters.

An opportunity for the City to increase its desirability is having an integrated park system that contains high-quality and impeccably maintained parks connected with a series of pathways, bike paths, dedicated bike lanes, and sidewalks. The community has called for this action—in the survey administered for this recreation plan, the public indicated that greater maintenance of parks would improve recreation services and programs in the City of Monroe (question 28). They also indicated that the connections between parks were only “fair” (question 11). The top two highest-priority facilities that respondents desired Monroe to plan for and develop were walking trails and exercise trails (question 14). In the Community Visioning workshops, non-motorized connectivity was a top



priority in both sessions. Expanding non-motorized transportation options and increasing pedestrian and bicycle connectivity was also a recommendation from the Resilient Monroe plan that included significant public input.

## Building Blocks

- a. Determine which parks should be reclassified and repurposed from active recreation experiences to passive recreation experiences
- b. Increase the level of maintenance in parks
- c. Improve the administrative process for park maintenance, including communication between recreation programs, park users, and maintenance administrators.
- d. Task the Recreation Advisory Commission to recommend an annual capital improvements budget and maintenance program for the City's budgeting process.
- e. Increase the accessibility of parks and recreation amenities for all users
- f. Expand pedestrian and non-motorized connectivity between parks
- g. Develop master plans for larger parks, especially Munson Park and Father Cairns Park, in order to fully utilize the space for current and future users



Whitewater rapids within a bluewater trail

## 2. Fully leverage Monroe's recreational waterfront assets.

The historic development of Monroe (Frenchtown) was dependent on its access to water: the River Raisin. French explorers, Native Americans, and later French-Canadian settlers used the River Raisin for transport of goods and services. As the community developed, controlling the flow of the river as well as connecting infrastructure resulted in the construction of a series of small dams. These dams in turn reduced fish passage and recreational use of the river for fishing, canoeing, and kayaking.

Remediation efforts to clean the River Raisin have included the removal of dams and thus are allowing access to the river that has been limited for decades. Prior recreation plans suggested greater access to the River Raisin even though access was not feasible. Today, with removal of the dams, access is achievable; however, the removal of the dams has not entirely solved the problem. The water level of the River Raisin is seasonally low, and the dam removal design did not include channels to allow kayaking during these times. Creating channels with areas of deeper, faster-moving water will create better opportunities for kayakers to travel farther up the River Raisin in periods of low water.

As noted in the recreation inventory, many of Monroe's parks have visual access to the River Raisin but lack physical access. Further, several

parks have retaining walls and elevations higher than the river that limit accessibility. The thrust for this plan is to advance the concept that the City should have a land- and water-based recreation system.

The Resilient Monroe plan also supports continued participation in the development of a water trail plan for Monroe County as a way to expand and market nature recreation and agricultural tourism opportunities in the community.

In the community survey, responses rated canoe and kayak launches as the sixth-highest priority amenity that Monroe should plan for and develop (question 14). Water-related activities and facilities were also requested in survey questions 24, 25, and 26.

### Building Blocks

- a. Determine the most appropriate points to access the River Raisin for recreational use such as canoeing, kayaking, and fishing
- b. Increase opportunities for accessible recreation on the River Raisin
- c. Coordinate with other regional agencies interested in developing a blueway system on the River Raisin
- d. Evaluate the potential to use the River Raisin as a kayak adventure course, including determining where appropriate depth can be achieved through channels



Accessible canoe and kayak launch and fishing pier



### 3. Fully leverage historic assets within Monroe's recreation system.

Settled by French Canadians in the late 1700s, the City of Monroe is steeped in history. In 1813, the armies of Britain, Canada, and the U.S. amassed to fight for control of the Northwest Territories at the Battles of the River Raisin. Today, this is the site of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. The City's earliest plat was established the same year the State of Michigan was approved for statehood in 1837. Over the years it has been the home of educators, authors, statesmen, inventors, and Monroe's most notable General George Armstrong Custer.

The continuum of recreation services includes active, passive and educational pursuits. At the local level, park systems typically focus on active park facilities and passive/open-space areas. Educational and interpretive opportunities usually occur at regional



Descriptions of historic events at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park

and national parks that have access to natural, historical, and cultural resources. However, Monroe has elements of all. So, Monroe is uniquely positioned to provide a wide array of recreational resources to local and regional residents and national visitors.

### Building Blocks

- a. Coordinate City park improvements with the River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan proposed projects
- b. Increase opportunities for the interpretation of historic events within the City parks
- c. Establish a “Veteran’s Honor Trail” that links Heck Park, Soldiers and Sailors Park, Veterans Park, Memorial Place, and the River Raisin National Battlefield Park as a commemorative trail with education interpretive stations
- d. Partner with the River Raisin National Battlefield Park on historical and nature programs, coordinating signage, and restrooms
- e. Partner with the River Raisin National Battlefield Foundation and the Monroe County Historical Society to design and install a cultural asset wayfinding system



Interpretive signage displaying historic photos

| Park Strategy                 |         |          |           |              |         |  |
|-------------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|--------------|---------|--|
| Park Facility                 | Upgrade | Maintain | Repurpose | Decommission | Develop | Additional Remarks   |
| Altrusa Park                  |         |          |           |              |         | Kayak/canoe access to downtown; work with DDA on the project                       |
| Arbor-Lorain Park             |         |          |           |              |         | Install pedestrian scale lights  |
| Arthur Lesow Community Center |         |          |           |              |         | Projects suggest by ALCC Board   |
| Boyd Park                     |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Calgary Park                  |         |          |           |              |         | Decommission and use for open space  |
| Cappuccilli Park              |         |          |           |              |         | Install fishing pier/overlook per River Raisin Heritage Corridor Plan              |
| Central Park                  |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Cranbrook (Worrell) Park      |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Crescent Park                 |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Elliot Park                   |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Elm Avenue Bike Path          |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Father Cairns Park            |         |          |           |              |         | Prepare master plan and program as a neighborhood park                             |
| Frenchman’s Bend Park         |         |          |           |              |         | Install walkway through park; possible pedestrian lighting                         |
| Front/Third/Union Park        |         |          |           |              |         | Complete landscaping project   |
| Gateway Park                  |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Hellenberg Park               |         |          |           |              |         | Repurpose per River Raisin Heritage Corridor Plan                                  |
| Hoffman Park                  |         |          |           |              |         | Redevelop a portion of site for residential housing                                |
| James and Hendricks Park      |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Labor Park                    |         |          |           |              |         | Prepare master plan to integrate park with ALCC and library                        |
| Lavender Park                 |         |          |           |              |         | Remove tennis court  |
| Manor Park                    |         |          |           |              |         | Resurface tennis/pickelball court; shelter; and landscaping                        |
| Median Park                   |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Memorial (Cemetery) Park      |         |          |           |              |         | Repurpose as part of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park                    |
| Mill Race Park                |         |          |           |              |         | Prepare master plan; kayak/canoe launch and parking; natural area                  |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex   |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Munson Park                   |         |          |           |              |         | Prepare master plan  |
| Noble Park                    |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Oak Forest Park               |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Plum Creek Park               |         |          |           |              |         | Repurpose per River Raisin Heritage Corridor Plan                                  |
| Rauch Park                    |         |          |           |              |         | Repurpose per River Raisin Heritage Corridor Plan; Peace Garden                    |
| River Raisin Memorial         |         |          |           |              |         | Repurpose per River Raisin Heritage Corridor Plan; Peace Garden                    |
| Riviere Aux Raisins Park      |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Sawyer Homestead              |         |          |           |              |         | Install interpretive wayside exhibits highlighting role in War of 1812             |
| Soldiers & Sailors Park       |         |          |           |              |         | Pathway; pedestrian lighting; fishing and river overlooks; restroom                |
| St Mary’s Park                |         |          |           |              |         | Prepare master plan and redevelop  |
| Veteran’s Park                |         |          |           |              |         | Install kayak launch; consolidate shelters into one large pavilion                 |
| Winston Park                  |         |          |           |              |         | Redevelop for residential property   |
| Roessler Field                |         |          |           |              |         | Discussion with Monroe Public Schools on long-range disposition                    |
| MLK Park                      |         |          |           |              |         |  |
| Worrell Trail                 |         |          |           |              |         | Reconstruct pathway  |
| River Raisin Heritage Trail   |         |          |           |              |         | Install mile markers and restroom facilities where appropriate                     |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) Pool     |         |          |           |              |         | Study the feasibility of upgrading the pool or developing water features elsewhere |
| Christiancy School Property   |         |          |           |              |         | Develop a neighborhood park  |



An example of Hoffman Park redeveloped for residential property and a small park

## Action Plan

A detailed road map is the first step toward realizing Monroe's parks and recreation Cornerstones. This plan includes a general strategy for each City-owned park as well as a list of action plan items that support the plan's Building Blocks.

### Parks Strategy: Upgrade

Some parks will receive improvements that will upgrade the level of service they currently provide to the community, either by incorporating a new element or by creating a new cohesive master plan for the park. These improvements will help Monroe support Cornerstones 1 and 2 by increasing the quality of not just the individual park amenities, but also the parks as a whole, including their design and the variety of recreational experiences they offer. For example, the addition of a fishing overlook at Cappuccilli Park would allow visitors to interact with the River Raisin, which is currently inaccessible due to an undeveloped steep slope. Master plans and phased redevelopment

of Father Cairns Park and others to a higher degree of design and recreation experience will encourage a greater number of users to visit the parks and enhance the overall attractiveness within the adjacent neighborhoods and community. Each park master plan process would engage the public in the park's design so that the park becomes a place that will be treasured by the neighborhood for generations.

As parks are upgraded, they must be brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The ADA is civil rights law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of a

disability; it provides equal opportunity for persons with disabilities to enjoy, among many other things, park lands and recreation programs. Any addition or improvement must comply with the law in various ways, including the incorporation of access routes between park elements, accessible play equipment with accessible play surfaces below, barrier-free restrooms, barrier-free parking, and others. Barriers to entering and using existing facilities must be removed when readily achievable, meaning they are able to be carried out without much difficulty or expense. Increasing accessibility in Monroe's parks allows more residents to enjoy the recreation assets the City has to offer, and it is the right thing to do.

The pool at Arborwood (Cantrick) School is jointly operated by the City of Monroe, the Monroe YMCA, and Monroe Public Schools. Currently, the pool does not feature a zero-depth entry or an accessible lift for access into the pool, and so it does not comply with the ADA. There are several options the City could consider in a feasibility study: renovating the pool to have a zero-depth entry, which is helpful to pool users of all abilities; installing a lift; or potentially incorporating smaller water features such as splash pads or other kid-friendly elements in the master plans of Munson Park or Father Cairns Park while discontinuing use of the Arborwood pool and leaving the YMCA to be the primary pool in the city.

### Parks Strategy: Maintain

Parks assigned the Maintain strategy will primarily receive treatments that are necessary to bring the park equipment up to an acceptable standard. Some examples of this strategy include installing pedestrian-scale lighting in Arbor-Lorain Park as mentioned in the General Items, resurfacing the courts and repairing the shelter at Manor Park, or other deferred maintenance items that the City has previously noted. This strategy supports Cornerstone 1: Provide high-quality recreational experiences.

### Parks Strategy: Repurpose

Some parks within the Monroe parks system are planned to serve a different purpose than they currently do; these parks will be repurposed. Plum Creek Park, Rauch Park, Riviere Aux Raisins Park,

Cappuccilli Park, the River Raisin Memorial, Memorial Place, and Hellenberg Park will be repurposed to fully leverage Monroe's historic assets in keeping with the River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan. This supports Cornerstone 3: Fully leverage Monroe's historic assets within Monroe's recreation system. The City should consider transferring ownership to the National Battlefield Park for their use with the stipulation that if the National Parks System no longer wanted these properties, ownership would be transferred back to the City.

Another park that can be repurposed is Hoffman Park. This large, decentralized park currently has a playground in the center of a large green space. Two roads dead-end into the park; if these roads were connected, residential properties could be sited along the road, and the interior space could serve as a high-quality active central park featuring an accessible playground, pavilion, and landscaping. A walking path could wind behind the houses to provide a passive recreation experience.

### Parks Strategy: Decommission

Some parks within Monroe may better serve the community if they are decommissioned. This is the case in two parks: Winston Park and Calgary Park. Winston Park is tucked in the corner of a residential development and is difficult to access. The equipment is in poor condition and the park is very small, which limits its usefulness. It would be better suited as residential property. Calgary Park is located on the northern edge of Monroe and has aging equipment that, if removed, would leave the park as a large, flexible green space.

### Parks Strategy: Develop

Due to the number of households and children in the neighborhood adjacent to the former Christianity Elementary School it is recommended that a new neighborhood park, similar in design and quality to Boyd School Park, be developed. Because the property is already under public ownership by the Monroe Public Schools a long-term lease is envisioned to accomplish this project.

## Trail Map

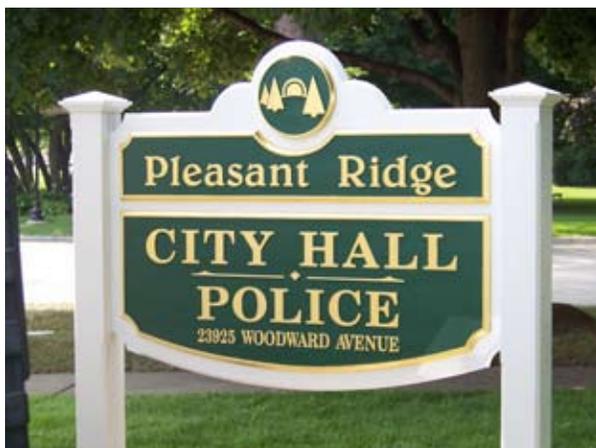
One way to increase recreational use of the River Raisin is to create and display a Bluewater Trail map. The map could show interested residents and visitors where kayak and canoe launches are located along the river. Showing the approximate travel time between launch points can help interested parties with trip planning. The difficulty level of different parts of the river can be shown to guide inexperienced sportspersons around obstacles and also help thrill-seekers discover new challenges. For example, the turning basin at the Port of Monroe features significantly deeper water than the rest of the River Raisin and is therefore an important feature to highlight on a bluewater trail map.

Residents and visitors interested in using the River Raisin Heritage Trail can currently find the trail map online and in brochures. The addition of trail maps at key points along the trail would further increase the recognition of the trail and assist users with both following the trail and locating the historic sites along the route. Installing distance markers along the trail would also contribute to the ease of use of the trail.

## General Park and Program

### Improvements

Standardizing and upgrading the aesthetics of Monroe's parks will improve the overall level of quality of the park system and community.



An example of upgraded facility signage



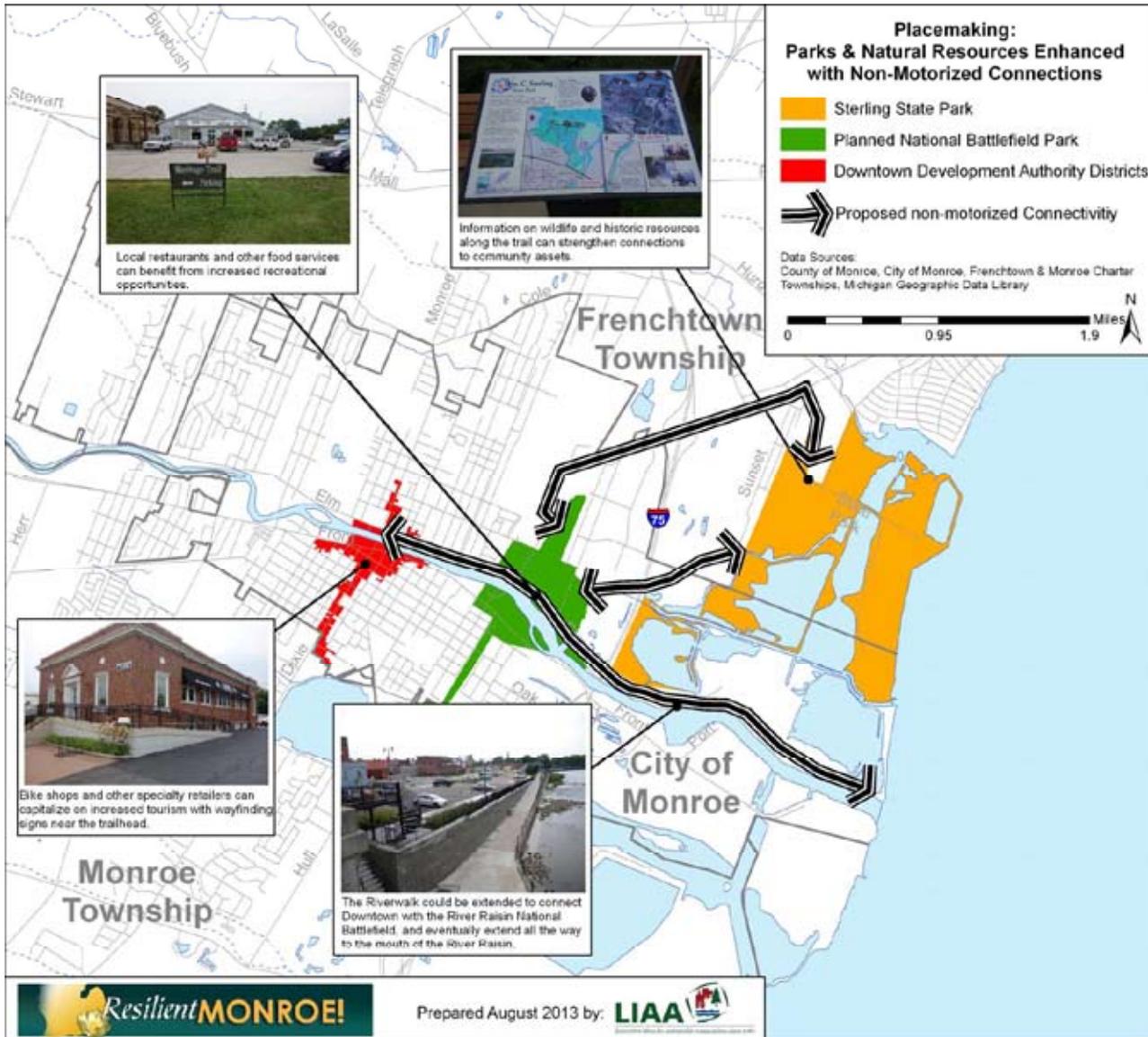
An example of a wayfinding map

This includes providing improved park signage, standardized playground equipment, connected sidewalks within the parks to major activity centers, and pedestrian-scale lighting.

Park signage should be upgraded to improve the image of the parks—the character and quality of park signs gives a subconscious signal to the users about the quality of the park. The style of signage chosen should be of durable construction and a timeless design. The City can collaborate with the River Raisin National Battlefield Park to develop a unified signage scheme to encourage the flow of visitors between the National Battlefield and City parks.

Standardizing park equipment will provide a unified look across all parks and simplify park maintenance. This applies not only to playground equipment, but also to restroom facilities, which have a great impact on a visitor's experience at the park. The design of these improved restroom facilities can also be coordinated with the River Raisin National Battlefield Park so that the public can enjoy the same high facility standard across all recreation experiences in Monroe.

A connected system of sidewalks, pathways, and bicycle lanes is important for pedestrian safety, accessibility, and walkability. Monroe should continue to develop its non-motorized pathway system as suggested in the River Raisin Heritage Corridor and the Resilient Monroe plans, including the expansion of the Riverwalk and the River Raisin Heritage Trail. Increasing the connectivity between Monroe's destinations and linking the downtown, City parks,



the State Park, the National Park, and Monroe’s historic and environmental assets would contribute to a healthy, vibrant community. In conjunction with adding pedestrian pathways comes the need for additional lighting. Increasing pedestrian-scale lighting provides both increased safety and contributes to the aesthetic appeal of parks. Where parks are upgraded, pedestrian-scale lighting should be considered.

Where trails are implemented, opportunities for wayside recreation arise. For example, interpretive signage explaining Monroe’s history, environmental features, and other items of interest can transform a bicycle ride or stroll into a cultural and educational experience. Additionally, trail-side outdoor fitness

stations could be installed in strategic locations throughout the City to encourage greater physical activity in Monroe residents of all fitness levels.

In addition to collaborating with the River Raisin National Battlefield Park on the design of signage and restrooms, the City could collaborate with the RRNBP in programs and services offered. One opportunity is the formation of an Outdoor Recreation and Fitness library system that would allow park users to check out specialized equipment from the National Park, certain City parks, and City Hall. For example, a Fauna Pack could include binoculars, bird and wildlife identification guides, an observation checklist, and an activity sheet. A variation on this theme could be a Flora and Insect Pack, which would swap out

binoculars for a magnifying glass and include insect and plant identification guides. A Geocaching Pack could include a handheld GPS and the coordinates to various caches throughout the City, which could contain interesting information about Monroe. The possibilities for this equipment library are only limited by the imagination.

Finally, Monroe can strengthen ties with the community and improve its parks by partnering with interested civic groups. These groups could work with the established Stewardship Monroe program to adopt parks or sponsor park features (new park features would be maintained by the City of Monroe). Civic groups and clubs could be encouraged to set up maintenance endowment funds for new park features to help sustain the life of the elements.

### Recreation Advisory Commission

Currently, the operational, programming, and development of parks and recreation facilities is bifurcated between the Recreation Department, a unit within the Economic and Community Development Division, and the Department of Engineering and Public Services. Maintenance is handled through the Department of Engineering and Public Services; park development through the Economic and Community Development Division; and programming through the Recreation Department. The Recreation Advisory Commission, established in the 1980s, was established to make “recommendations to the Mayor and Council regarding Structured Recreation Programs, Leisure Services, and the development, redevelopment or rehabilitation of all park and recreation areas.”<sup>1</sup> Section 22-22 of the City’s Codified Ordinance now relegates the status of the Recreation Advisory Commission to an appellant board for recreation sports rulings and disciplinary actions. This diminution of duties has taken the broader, general duties of overseeing a Recreation System (development, maintenance, and programming) away from the Recreation Advisory Board. In addition, it has reduced the role of citizen advocacy and involvement.

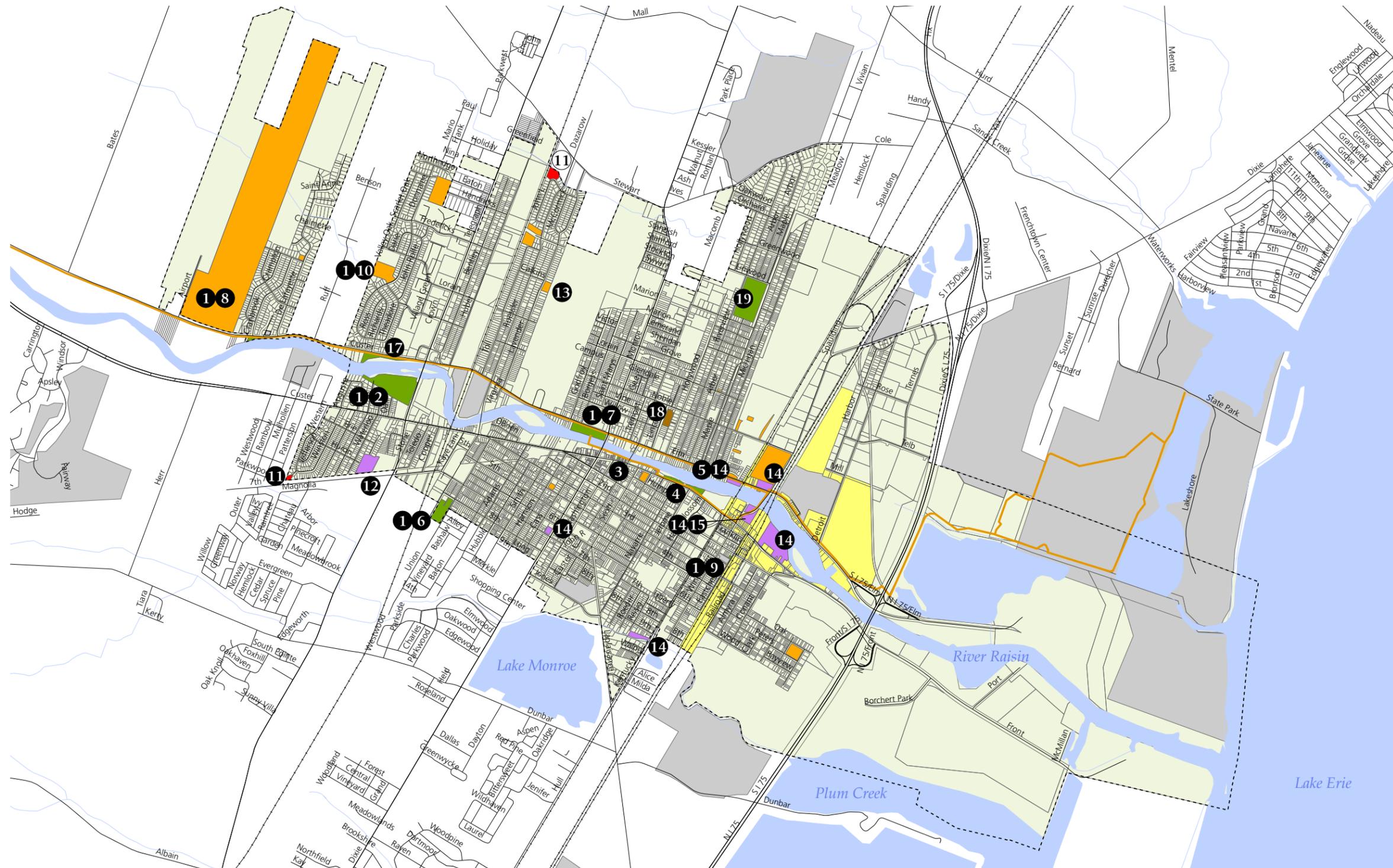
<sup>1</sup> By-Laws of Monroe Recreation Advisory Commission published in 1982.

Monroe is uniquely positioned to utilize its recreational, cultural, and historic assets as part of its economic development strategy. It is one of a very few communities who have local, county, state, and national parks within its jurisdictional limits and these should be used to provide residents and visitors with a quality recreation experience. The economic impact model used in the River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan enumerated the potential visitor and economic impact to the community derived solely from visitors using the Battlefield-related facilities. If non-Battlefield related facilities, such as kayaking, fishing access, citywide trails, and connectivity to other historic and cultural sites are collectively developed, the economic impact from the Battlefield experience is leveraged. In addition, many of the components within the River Raisin Heritage Corridor— East Master Plan will require City of Monroe oversight and funding procurement.

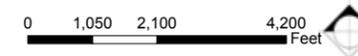
A Recreation Advisory Commission as envisioned in the 1980s during the consolidation of school and city park programming into the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Department should be reinstated to assist in this oversight, funding procurement, and decision-making. It is recommended that Recreation Advisory Commission be revised to the “Parks and Recreation Commission” and that its purpose would be along the lines recommended below:

“The parks and recreation commission shall have the authority and power to advise the City regarding the operation of a system of public parks and facilities, including the planning, construction and maintenance of such public parks and facilities. The commission shall closely coordinate its activities with other City plans and budgets in order to ensure maximum benefits to the public. The parks and recreation commission shall also be charged with the following duties:

It shall act as an advisory body to the City Council and administrative staff with the duty to support, study, conceive, formulate, develop plans and research funding for the acquisition and development of parks, waterways, greenways, walkways, natural areas, playgrounds and other recreational areas; coordinate with other agencies such as the State



- Upgrade
- Repurpose
- 1 Action Plan Item
- Maintain
- Develop
- Decommission
- Acquire



CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

# Parks Strategy and Action Plan

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Bing Maps

| Five-Year Action Plan Schedule |   |      |      |      |      |      |
|--------------------------------|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| Supported Goals                | Actions   | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
| 1:g                            | 1. Master Plans: St Mary's, Munson, Mill Race, Father Cairns, Labor Park, and Manor Park  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 2:b                            | 2. Mill Race Kayak Access, Parking, and Nature Landscaping  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 2:b                            | 3. Altrusa Park Kayak Storage (DDA)   |      |      |      |      |      |
| 2:b                            | 4. Fishing Access and Restrooms at Soldiers and Sailors Park  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 2:b                            | 5. Fishing Overlook at Cappuccilli Park   |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:b,e                          | 6. Father Cairns Park Development   |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:b,e                          | 7. St Mary's Park Development   |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:b,e                          | 8. Munson Park Development  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:b,e                          | 9. Labor Park Development   |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:b,e                          | 10. Manor Park Development  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:a,e                          | 11. Decommission Winston and Calgary Parks  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:b,e                          | 12. Hoffman Park Redevelopment  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:a,e                          | 13. Lavender Park Tennis Court Removal  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 3:a,b                          | 14. Repurpose Plum Creek Park, Rauch Park, Riviere Aux Raisins Park, Cappuccilli Park, the River Raisin Memorial, Memorial Place, and Hellenberg Park |      |      |      |      |      |
| 3:a,b                          | 15. Peace Garden Development (MCHS)   |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:b,e<br>2:b                   | 16. Veterans Park Shelter, Kayak Launch, and Playscape  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 3:a,b                          | 17. Acquisition of Properties Related to the River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan  |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:e                            | 18. Develop the former Christiancy School property into an accessible neighborhood park   |      |      |      |      |      |
| 1:b,e                          | 19. Study the feasibility of options for Arborwood Pool or other water features in the city   |      |      |      |      |      |

of Michigan Department of Natural Resources and National Park Service; to promote, encourage and recommend the placing, planting, maintenance and preservation of trees, shrubs, woody and herbaceous plants in the city; to sponsor, plan, promote, coordinate and carry out activities within the city park system and to otherwise promote public interest in the general improvement of the city parks, greenways, waterways, walkways, playground, natural areas, and other outdoor recreational areas.”

### Five-Year Action Plan

The adjacent table outlines a proposed schedule for the implementation of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Each item supports one or more Cornerstones and Building blocks previously described in this plan. The location of each action plan item is shown on the adjacent map.

Over time, the implementation of these action plan items will help Monroe reach the goals of providing safe, high-quality recreational experiences, fully leveraging Monroe’s waterfront assets, and fully leveraging the historic assets within Monroe’s recreation system.

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# Appendix A

| BUDGET REPORT FOR CITY OF MONROE - DPS     |                               |                   |                   |                                       |                          |                            |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 09/29/2013                                 | Calculations as of 06/30/2013 |                   |                   |                                       |                          |                            |
| GL NUMBER                                  | DESCRIPTION                   | 10-11<br>ACTIVITY | 11-12<br>ACTIVITY | 12-13<br>ACTIVITY<br>THRU<br>06/30/13 | 13-14<br>FINAL<br>BUDGET | 13-14<br>ADOPTED<br>BUDGET |
| Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND                    |                               |                   |                   |                                       |                          |                            |
| APPROPRIATIONS                             |                               |                   |                   |                                       |                          |                            |
| Dept 60.756-PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS            |                               |                   |                   |                                       |                          |                            |
| 101-60.756-750.000                         | OPERATING SUPPLIES            | 4,551             | 7,258             | 7,367                                 | 7,500                    | 7,500                      |
| 101-60.756-750.060                         | PLANTING MATERIALS            | 1,976             |                   | 1,252                                 | 2,000                    | 2,000                      |
| 101-60.756-775.000                         | REPAIR & MAINT SUPPLIES       | 4,188             | 4,337             | 6,688                                 | 5,000                    | 5,000                      |
| 101-60.756-818.020                         | GENERAL CONTRACT SERVICES     | 37,062            | 48,369            | 47,565                                | 101,733                  | 101,733                    |
| 101-60.756-825.010                         | F/L CONSTRUCTION              | 88,768            | 70,822            | 98,238                                | 70,000                   | 70,000                     |
| 101-60.756-853.000                         | TELEPHONE                     | 1,414             | 256               |                                       |                          |                            |
| 101-60.756-921.000                         | ELECTRIC                      | 10,524            | 9,251             | 11,723                                | 11,500                   | 11,500                     |
| 101-60.756-922.000                         | GAS                           | 444               | 636               | 453                                   | 1,000                    | 1,000                      |
| 101-60.756-923.000                         | WATER & WASTEWATER            | 4,740             | 5,203             | 7,408                                 | 8,000                    | 8,000                      |
| 101-60.756-933.000                         | MAINTENANCE - EQUIPMENT       |                   |                   |                                       | 500                      | 500                        |
| 101-60.756-943.000                         | RENTAL-EQUIPMENT              | 43,048            | 14,602            | 21,686                                | 15,000                   | 15,000                     |
| Totals for dept 60.756-PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS |                               | 196,715           | 160,734           | 202,380                               | 222,233                  | 222,233                    |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS                       |                               | 196,715           | 160,734           | 202,380                               | 222,233                  | 222,233                    |

| BUDGET REPORT FOR CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION |                              |                   |                   |                            |                                       |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Calculations as of 11/30/2013                           |                              |                   |                   |                            |                                       |
| GL NUMBER   | DESCRIPTION                  | 11-12<br>ACTIVITY | 12-13<br>ACTIVITY | 13-14<br>AMENDED<br>BUDGET | 13-14<br>ACTIVITY<br>THRU<br>11/30/13 |
| Fund 101 - GENERAL FUND                                 |                              |                   |                   |                            |                                       |
| APPROPRIATIONS  |                              |                   |                   |                            |                                       |
| Dept 70.521- ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL                   |                              |                   |                   |                            |                                       |
| 101-70.521-702.000                                      | FULL TIME SALARIES & WAGES   | 115,042           | 116,900           | 118,552                    | 45,271                                |
| 101-70.521-703.000                                      | PART TIME SALARIES & WAGES   | 2,563             | 3,063             |                            | 1,875                                 |
| 101-70.521-704.000                                      | OVERTIME                     |                   | 50                |                            |                                       |
| 101-70.521-707.000                                      | LONGEVITY                    | 1,110             | 1,190             | 1,270                      |                                       |
| 101-70.521-708.000                                      | SICK PAY BONUS               | 800               | 363               | 1,036                      |                                       |
| 101-70.521-715.000                                      | RETRO-PAY                    |                   |                   |                            |                                       |
| 101-70.521-716.000                                      | WAIVER-HEALTH INSURANCE      | 750               | 750               | 750                        |                                       |
| 101-70.521-717.000                                      | FICA                         | 7,281             | 7,354             | 7,645                      | 2,854                                 |
| 101-70.521-717.005                                      | MEDICARE                     | 1,703             | 1,720             | 1,763                      | 668                                   |
| 101-70.521-718.000                                      | LIFE INSURANCE               | 588               | 593               | 516                        | 228                                   |
| 101-70.521-718.005                                      | DISABILITY INSURANCE         | 115               | 115               | 115                        | 44                                    |
| 101-70.521-718.010                                      | WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE      | 159               | 163               | 165                        | 71                                    |
| 101-70.521-718.015                                      | UNEMPLOYMENT                 | 418               | 609               | 365                        | 142                                   |
| 101-70.521-719.000                                      | MEDICAL INSURANCE            | 14,977            | 14,911            | 15,525                     | 6,013                                 |
| 101-70.521-719.025                                      | FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PLAN        | 4                 | 4                 |                            |                                       |
| 101-70.521-719.050                                      | PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE       | 1,111             | 2,494             | 2,924                      | 1,152                                 |
| 101-70.521-719.075                                      | DENTAL INSURANCE             | 1,456             | 1,428             | 1,031                      | 570                                   |
| 101-70.521-720.000                                      | POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE  | 33,221            | 45,984            | 46,424                     | 19,400                                |
| 101-70.521-721.000                                      | PENSION CONTRIBUTION         | 1,747             | 2,017             | 1,990                      | 805                                   |
| 101-70.521-725.000                                      | MILEAGE                      | 242               | 203               | 250                        | 82                                    |
| 101-70.521-727.000                                      | OFFICE SUPPLIES              | 559               | 930               | 900                        | 902                                   |
| 101-70.521-728.000                                      | COPIES                       | 607               | 891               | 700                        | 271                                   |
| 101-70.521-730.000                                      | POSTAGE                      | 814               | 934               | 850                        | 146                                   |
| 101-70.521-750.015                                      | UNIFORMS/CLOTHING            |                   |                   |                            |                                       |
| 101-70.521-818.020                                      | GENERAL CONTRACT SERVICES    |                   |                   | 17,000                     | 4,500                                 |
| 101-70.521-818.100                                      | TRANSACTION PROCESSING COSTS | 58                | 4,710             | 2,500                      |                                       |
| 101-70.521-853.000                                      | TELEPHONE                    | 508               | 612               | 560                        | 270                                   |
| 101-70.521-860.000                                      | TRAINING & TRAVEL            | 536               | 1,008             | 800                        | 365                                   |
| 101-70.521-905.000                                      | PUBLISHING/ADVERTISING       | 7,774             | 6,898             | 8,000                      | 150                                   |
| 101-70.521-933.000                                      | MAINTENANCE - EQUIPMENT      | 177               |                   | 350                        |                                       |
| 101-70.521-941.000                                      | RENTAL-VEHICLE               | 6,300             | 6,300             | 3,150                      | 1,575                                 |
| 101-70.521-943.000                                      | RENTAL-EQUIPMENT             |                   | 254               | 254                        | 254                                   |
| 101-70.521-957.000                                      | REFERENCE MATERIAL           | 77                |                   |                            |                                       |
| 101-70.521-958.000                                      | MEMBERSHIPS & DUES           | 1,351             | 501               | 1,400                      | 1,070                                 |
| 101-70.521-980.000                                      | OFFICE EQUIPMENT & FURNITURE |                   |                   |                            |                                       |
| Totals for dept 70.521-ADMINISTRATION & GENERAL         |                              | 202,048           | 222,949           | 236,785                    | 88,678                                |

| Dept 70.756-PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS            |                               |         |         |         |         |
|--|-------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 101-70.756-702.000                         | FULL TIME SALARIES & WAGES    |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-703.000                         | PART TIME SALARIES & WAGES    |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-704.000                         | OVERTIME                      |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-704.703                         | OVERTIME-PART-TIME            |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-707.000                         | LONGEVITY                     |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-708.000                         | SICK PAY BONUS                |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-717.000                         | SOCIAL SECURITY               |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-717.005                         | MEDICARE                      |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-718.000                         | LIFE INSURANCE                |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-718.005                         | DISABILITY INSURANCE          |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-718.010                         | WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE       |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-719.000                         | MEDICAL INSURANCE             |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-719.025                         | FLEXIBLE BENEFIT PLAN         |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-719.050                         | PRESCRIPTION INSURANCE        |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-719.075                         | DENTAL INSURANCE              |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-720.000                         | POST RETIREMENT HEALTH CARE   |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-721.000                         | PENSION CONTRIBUTION          |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.756-818.020                         | GENERAL CONTRACT SERVICES     | 29,376  | 31,015  | 30,000  | 9,912   |
| Totals for dept 70.756-PARKS & PLAYGROUNDS |                               | 29,376  | 31,015  | 30,000  | 9,912   |
| Dept 70.757-MULTI-SPORTS COMPLEX           |                               |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.757-727.000                         | OFFICE SUPPLIES               | 12,706  | 8,337   | 12,600  | 2,564   |
| 101-70.757-750.000                         | OPERATING SUPPLIES            | 8,071   | 4,905   | 7,200   | 2,747   |
| 101-70.757-750.005                         | OPERATING SUPPLIES - VEHICLES | 4,188   | 3,341   | 3,840   | 1,372   |
| 101-70.757-785.005                         | RESALE MERCH - PRO SHOP       | 6,096   | 4,246   | 4,380   | 1,091   |
| 101-70.757-785.010                         | RESALE MERCH - CONCESSIONS    | 25,042  | 23,089  | 21,780  | 3,649   |
| 101-70.757-818.020                         | GENERAL CONTRACT SERVICES     | 74,102  | 67,262  | 41,200  | 19,252  |
| 101-70.757-818.035                         | PERSONNEL                     | 301,665 | 265,097 | 263,865 | 74,386  |
| 101-70.757-853.000                         | TELEPHONE                     | 8,475   | 8,492   | 8,400   | 2,223   |
| 101-70.757-860.000                         | TRAINING & TRAVEL             | 370     | 114     |         |         |
| 101-70.757-905.000                         | PUBLISHING/ADVERTISING        | 13,387  | 8,773   | 9,600   | 2,386   |
| 101-70.757-910.000                         | INSURANCE PREMIUM             | 27,570  | 29,189  | 26,905  | 10,785  |
| 101-70.757-921.000                         | ELECTRIC                      | 134,559 | 140,970 | 108,000 | 51,577  |
| 101-70.757-922.000                         | GAS                           | 28,384  | 35,232  | 55,000  | 8,586   |
| 101-70.757-923.000                         | WATER & WASTEWATER            | 6,584   | 9,720   | 7,200   | 2,100   |
| 101-70.757-931.000                         | MAINTENANCE - BUILDINGS       | 1,277   | 22,427  | 22,809  | 14,676  |
| 101-70.757-933.000                         | MAINTENANCE - EQUIPMENT       | 13,920  | 33,089  | 22,045  | 12,725  |
| 101-70.757-942.000                         | RENTAL-BUILDING               | 466,529 | 425,037 | 430,542 | 387,342 |
| 101-70.757-943.000                         | RENTAL-EQUIPMENT              | 1,703   | 2,178   |         | 1,086   |
| 101-70.757-955.000                         | MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE         | 93      | 14      |         | (44)    |
| 101-70.757-955.010                         | SALES TAX                     |         |         |         |         |
| 101-70.757-956.000                         | LICENSES, FEES & PERMITS      | 1,455   | 541     | 4,980   | 130     |
| 101-70.757-958.000                         | MEMBERSHIPS & DUES            | 1,611   | 2,233   | 2,400   | 987     |
| 101-70.757-963.005                         | PROGRAM EXP-SPORTS COMPLEX    | 4,923   | 1,850   | 2,695   | 581     |

|  |                                 |           |           |           |         |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| 101-70.757-963.010                             | PROGRAM EXP-HOCKEY              | 1,329     | 2,826     | 1,950     | 380     |
| 101-70.757-963.015                             | PROGRAM EXP-INFLATABLES         | 22,939    | 21,932    | 25,165    | 3,688   |
| 101-70.757-975.000                             | BUILDINGS & BUILDING IMPRVMENTS |           |           |           |         |
| 101-70.757-977.000                             | OPERATING EQUIPMENT             |           |           |           |         |
| Totals for dept 70.757-MULTI-SPORTS COMPLEX    |                                 | 1,166,978 | 1,120,894 | 1,082,556 | 604,269 |
| Dept 70.761-PARKS AND REC. PROGRAMS            |                                 |           |           |           |         |
| 101-70.761-703.000                             | PART TIME SALARIES & WAGES      | 29,691    | 31,728    | 42,000    | 15,473  |
| 101-70.761-717.000                             | FICA                            | 1,841     | 1,967     | 2,604     | 959     |
| 101-70.761-717.005                             | MEDICARE                        | 431       | 460       | 609       | 224     |
| 101-70.761-718.010                             | WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE         | 684       | 740       | 57        | 508     |
| 101-70.761-718.015                             | UNEMPLOYMENT                    | 115       | 146       | 126       | 44      |
| 101-70.761-750.000                             | OPERATING SUPPLIES              | 12,613    | 18,265    | 21,000    | 2,028   |
| 101-70.761-818.020                             | GENERAL CONTRACT SERVICES       | 14,775    | 30,030    | 34,000    | 6,623   |
| 101-70.761-853.000                             | TELEPHONE                       | 348       | 377       |           | 152     |
| 101-70.761-921.000                             | ELECTRIC                        |           |           |           |         |
| 101-70.761-922.000                             | GAS                             |           |           |           |         |
| 101-70.761-923.000                             | WATER & WASTEWATER              |           |           |           |         |
| 101-70.761-958.000                             | MEMBERSHIPS & DUES              | 4,495     | 3,165     | 6,740     | 1,005   |
| Totals for dept 70.761-PARKS AND REC. PROGRAMS |                                 | 64,993    | 86,878    | 107,136   | 27,016  |
| TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS                           |                                 | 1,463,395 | 1,461,736 | 1,456,477 | 729,875 |



# Principles of Universal Design

A working group of architects, product designers, engineers, and environmental design researchers collaborated to establish Principles of Universal Design to guide a wide range of design disciplines.

The Principles of Universal Design were authored by the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University, through a grant by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

## Principle 1

### **Equitable Use**

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

Guidelines:

1. Provide the same means of use for all users: identical whenever possible, equivalent when not.
2. Avoid segregating or stigmatizing any users.
3. Make provisions for privacy, security, and safety equally available to all users.
4. Make the design appealing to users.

## Principle 2

### **Flexibility in Use**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

Guidelines:

1. Provide choice in methods of use.
2. Accommodate right-or left-handed access and use.
3. Facilitate the user's accuracy and precision.
4. Provide adaptability to the user's pace.

## Principle 3

### **Simple and Intuitive Use**

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

Guidelines:

1. Eliminate unnecessary complexity.
2. Be consistent with user expectations and intuition.
3. Accommodate a wide range of literacy and language skills.
4. Arrange information consistent with its importance.
5. Provide effective prompting and feedback during and after task completion.

## Principle 4

### **Perceptible Information**

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

Guidelines:

1. Use the different modes (pictorial, verbal, tactile) for redundant presentation of essential information.
2. Maximize "legibility" of essential information.
3. Differentiate elements in ways that can be described (i.e. make it easy to give instructions or directions).
4. Provide compatibility with a variety of techniques or devices used by people with sensory limitations.

## Principle 5

### **Tolerance for Error**

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

Guidelines:

1. Arrange elements to minimize hazards and errors: most used elements are most accessible; hazardous elements eliminated, isolated, or shielded.
2. Provide warnings of hazards and errors.
3. Provide fail-safe features.
4. Discourage unconscious action in tasks that require vigilance.

## Principle 6

### **Low Physical Effort**

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably and with a minimum of fatigue.

Guidelines: Allow user to maintain a neutral body position.

1. Use reasonable operating forces.
2. Minimize repetitive actions.
3. Minimize sustained physical effort.

## Principle 7

### **Size & Space for Approach and Use**

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

Guidelines:

1. Provide a clear line of sight to important elements for any seated or standing user.
2. Make reach to all components comfortable for any seated or standing user.
3. Accommodate variations in hand and grip size.
4. Provide adequate space for the use of assistive devices or personal assistance.

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# Appendix B

## Detailed Park Inventory

| Altrusa Park   |                            |           |                                      |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe             |           |                                      |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance  | City of Monroe             |           |                                      |
| Location   | Near East Front and Macomb |           |                                      |
| Size   | 0.1 ac                     |           |                                      |
| Date /Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                    |           |                                      |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score   | 2                          |           |                                      |
| Observed Use Level   | None                       |           |                                      |
| Park Amenities   |                            |           |                                      |
| Amenity  | Quantity                   | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs       |
| Picnic Tables  | 1                          | G         | Accessible table, no connecting path |
| Performance space  | 1                          | E         | Not accessible. Overlooks river      |
| Comments   |                            |           |                                      |
| Small pocket park overlooks the River Raisin and can be accessed from the Riverwalk. |                            |           |                                      |
| Accessibility Comments   |                            |           |                                      |
| Only stairs lead to performance space. No path to accessible table                   |                            |           |                                      |

| Arbor / Lorain Park   |                        |           |                                |
|---|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe         |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe         |           |                                |
| Location  | Arbor St and Lorain St |           |                                |
| Size  | 0.12 ac                |           |                                |
| Date /Time of Visit   | 9/24/13                |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 2                      |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None                   |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |                        |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity               | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Walking Trail   | 1                      | G         | City Sidewalk                  |
| Play structure  | 1                      | F         | No fall surface                |
| Swings  | 2                      | F         | No Fall Surface                |
| Signage   | 1                      | G         | Park sign                      |
| Bench   | 1                      | G         | Metal                          |
| Comments  |                        |           |                                |
| Tiny neighborhood park  |                        |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments  |                        |           |                                |
| No accessible play elements; sidewalk nearby but no connecting paths; good opportunity for accessible swing |                        |           |                                |

| Arthur Lesow Community Center   |                       |           |                                   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe        |           |                                   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe        |           |                                   |
| Location  | E 2nd and Eastchester |           |                                   |
| Size  | 0.94 ac               |           |                                   |
| Date /Time of Visit   | 9/23/13 Morning       |           |                                   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 4                     |           |                                   |
| Observed Use Level  | Medium                |           |                                   |
| Park Amenities  |                       |           |                                   |
| Amenity   | Quantity              | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs    |
| Basketball Court  | 1                     | G         | In Gymnasium, stripes are covered |
| Picnic Tables   | 2                     | F         | Outside in courtyard              |
| Restrooms   | 2                     | F         | Accessible                        |
| Bicycle Parking   | 2                     | F         | Metal rack                        |
| Trash receptacles   | 2                     | G         |                                   |
| Bench   | 1                     | G         | Metal, ornamental                 |
| Pool tables   | 3                     | G         |                                   |
| Ping Pong Table   | 1                     | G         |                                   |
| Comments  |                       |           |                                   |
| Adjacent to Green Growers Group<br>Kitchen facilities, computer center, conference room, bar area |                       |           |                                   |
| Accessibility Comments  |                       |           |                                   |
| Includes accessible restrooms and elevator  |                       |           |                                   |

| Boyd Park   |                            |           |  |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe             |           |  |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                                     | City of Monroe             |           |  |
| Location  | 4th Street and Harrison St |           |  |
| Size  | .544 ac                    |           |  |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                    |           |  |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 3                          |           |  |
| Observed Use Level  | Medium                     |           |  |
| Park Amenities  |                            |           |  |
| Amenity   | Quantity                   | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs         |
| Walking trail   | 1                          | E         | Asphalt path throughout park           |
| Play structure  | 2                          | G         | Woodchip surface                       |
| Swings  | 4                          | G         | 2 tot, woodchip surface                |
| Other play equipment  | 2                          | E         | Spring seats                           |
| Picnic shelter  | 1                          | F         | No fabric roof                         |
| Picnic tables   | 12                         | F/G       | None accessible, some need maintenance |
| Benches   | 4                          | G/E       |  |
| Amphitheater  | 1                          | G         | Concrete with grass seats              |
| Tetherball  | 1                          | F         | No rope or ball                        |
| Comments  |                            |           |  |
| Two play structure for different age groups                           |                            |           |  |
| Accessibility Comments  |                            |           |  |
| Good path around entire park; play equipment could be more accessible |                            |           |  |

| Calgary Park   |                          |           |   |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe           |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance  | City of Monroe           |           |   |
| Location   | John L Dr and Calgary Dr |           |   |
| Size   | 1.9 ac                   |           |   |
| Date /Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                  |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score   | 2                        |           |   |
| Observed Use Level   | None                     |           |   |
| Park Amenities   |                          |           |   |
| Amenity  | Quantity                 | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs            |
| Baseball field (no lights)   | 1                        | F         | backstop                                  |
| Walking/biking trail   | 1                        | G         | Neighborhood sidewalk and path to shelter |
| Play structure   | 1                        | G         | Woodchip surface                          |
| Swings   | 2                        | F         |   |
| Other Play Equipment   | 1                        | F         | Monkey bars                               |
| Picnic shelter   | 1                        | F         | Paint chipping                            |
| Picnic Tables  | 1                        | E         | Accessible on the ends                    |
| Signage  | 1                        | G         | Park sign                                 |
| Comments   |                          |           |   |
| No fall surface under swings or monkey bars; how much is this park used?                         |                          |           |   |
| Accessibility Comments   |                          |           |   |
| Path leading to shelter with accessible table; no path to playground or accessible play elements |                          |           |   |

| C.D. "Al" Cappuccilli Park   |                                |           |                                     |
|--|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe                 |           |                                     |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance  | City of Monroe                 |           |                                     |
| Location   | Elm Avenue near Mason Run Blvd |           |                                     |
| Size   | 1.9 ac                         |           |                                     |
| Date / Time of Visit   | 9/23/13 Morning                |           |                                     |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score   | 3                              |           |                                     |
| Observed Use Level   | None                           |           |                                     |
| Park Amenities   |                                |           |                                     |
| Amenity  | Quantity                       | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs      |
| Walking / Biking Trail   | 2                              | G         | Sidewalks running throughout        |
| Picnic Tables  | 2                              | G / E     | With pavilion cover, not accessible |
| Grills   | 2                              | F         |                                     |
| Signage  | 2                              | G         | Park Name                           |
| Trash can  | 1                              | G         |                                     |
| Open lawn  | 1                              | G         |                                     |
| Comments   |                                |           |                                     |
| Passive picnicking park, Nice views of the river<br>Potential for river access |                                |           |                                     |
| Accessibility Comments   |                                |           |                                     |
| Walk is accessible, tables are not<br>No nearby parking                        |                                |           |                                     |

| Central Park                             |                 |           |                                |
|--|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency                            | City of Monroe  |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance        | City of Monroe  |           |                                |
| Location                                 | Baptiste Ave    |           |                                |
| Size                                     | 0.4 ac          |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit                     | 9/23/13 Morning |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score           | 4               |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level                       | None            |           |                                |
| Park Amenities                           |                 |           |                                |
| Amenity                                  | Quantity        | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Walking Path                             | Yes             | E         | Sidewalk adjacent to road      |
| Irrigation System                        | Yes             | G         |                                |
| Comments                                 |                 |           |                                |
| Green open space; nice plantings         |                 |           |                                |
| Room for informal sports in central lawn |                 |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments                   |                 |           |                                |
| Walks are accessible                     |                 |           |                                |

| Worrell Park   |                            |           |                                      |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe             |           |                                      |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance  | City of Monroe             |           |                                      |
| Location   | Custer Rd and Cranbrook Rd |           |                                      |
| Size   | 1.3 ac                     |           |                                      |
| Date / Time of Visit   | 9/23/13 Afternoon          |           |                                      |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score   | 4                          |           |                                      |
| Observed Use Level   | None                       |           |                                      |
| Park Amenities   |                            |           |                                      |
| Amenity  | Quantity                   | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs       |
| Walking / Biking Trail   | 1                          | G         | Heritage Trail runs through          |
| Benches  | 2                          | F         | Accessible wheelchair parking beside |
| Comments   |                            |           |                                      |
| Passive park to view river   |                            |           |                                      |
| Accessibility Comments   |                            |           |                                      |
| 5'-6' asphalt walkway; marked area next to benches for wheelchairs; curb cuts from crosswalk |                            |           |                                      |

| Crescent Park                                       |                 |           |                                      |
|---|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Owning Agency                                       | City of Monroe  |           |                                      |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                   | City of Monroe  |           |                                      |
| Location  | Crescent Drive  |           |                                      |
| Size  | 0.68 ac         |           |                                      |
| Date / Time of Visit                                | 9/23/13 Morning |           |                                      |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                      | 3               |           |                                      |
| Observed Use Level                                  | None            |           |                                      |
| Park Amenities                                      |                 |           |                                      |
| Amenity   | Quantity        | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs       |
| Walking / Biking Trail                              | 2               | E         | Around 8' concrete sidewalk          |
| Park lighting                                       | 10              | E         | Pedestrian scale ornamental lighting |
| Benches   | 4               | G         | Wood and metal                       |
| Comments  |                 |           |                                      |
| Beautiful landscaping                               |                 |           |                                      |
| Accessibility Comments                              |                 |           |                                      |
| Walk is very accessible                             |                 |           |                                      |
| No space next to benches for wheelchair or transfer |                 |           |                                      |
| Only on-street parking                              |                 |           |                                      |
| Curb cuts in sidewalks                              |                 |           |                                      |

| Elliot Park  |                            |           |                                    |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe             |           |                                    |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                              | City of Monroe             |           |                                    |
| Location   | Elliot Rd and Baptiste Ave |           |                                    |
| Size   | 0.4 ac                     |           |                                    |
| Date / Time of Visit   | 9/23/13 Morning            |           |                                    |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                                 | 3                          |           |                                    |
| Observed Use Level   | None                       |           |                                    |
| Park Amenities   |                            |           |                                    |
| Amenity  | Quantity                   | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs     |
| Walking Path   | 1                          | G         | Sidewalk around & through          |
| Park Lighting  | Yes                        | G         | Pedestrian lights around perimeter |
| Irrigation system  | Yes                        |           | Appears to be irrigation           |
| Benches  | 4                          | G         |                                    |
| Landscaping  | Yes                        | G         | Needs weeding                      |
| Comments   |                            |           |                                    |
| Passive park, formal symmetrical design                        |                            |           |                                    |
| Needs maintenance on landscaping; Irrigation system turned off |                            |           |                                    |
| Accessibility Comments   |                            |           |                                    |
| Around 4' concrete sidewalks                                   |                            |           |                                    |
| Curb cuts from road  |                            |           |                                    |

| Elm Avenue Bike Path (Part of River Raisin Heritage Trail)  |  |           |                                |
|---|--|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe                             |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                           | City of Monroe                             |           |                                |
| Location  | North of the River Raisin along Elm Avenue |           |                                |
| Size  | 2 miles                                    |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                                    |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                              | 3  |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None                                       |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |  |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity                                   | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Non-motorized Multi-Use Path                                | 1  | G         | Asphalt / Concrete             |
| Comments  |  |           |                                |
| Wide non-motorized path with asphalt and concrete surfaces. |  |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments                                      |  |           |                                |
| Curb cuts are present                                       |  |           |                                |

| Father Cairns Park  |                     |           |                                   |
|---|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe      |           |                                   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe      |           |                                   |
| Location  | Union St and 8th St |           |                                   |
| Size  | 1.8 ac              |           |                                   |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13             |           |                                   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 1                   |           |                                   |
| Observed Use Level  | None                |           |                                   |
| Park Amenities  |                     |           |                                   |
| Amenity   | Quantity            | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs    |
| Lighted baseball fields   | 1                   | F         |                                   |
| Multi-purpose sports field  | 1                   | E         |                                   |
| Basketball  | 1                   | F         | Full court, net damaged           |
| Tennis court  | 1                   | F         | Cracked Surface, no net           |
| Play structure  | 1                   | F         | No safety surface. Cracked slide. |
| Swings  | 1                   | G         | 2 tot swings. No safety surface.  |
| Signage   | 1                   | E         | Park sign                         |
| Roller Hockey   | 1                   | G         | Asphalt court                     |
| Bench   | 1                   |           |                                   |
| Comments  |                     |           |                                   |
| Needs upkeep. Larger green space; nice shade trees. Could have better separation from storage yards |                     |           |                                   |
| Accessibility Comments  |                     |           |                                   |
| No paths or ADA swings  |                     |           |                                   |

| Frenchman's Bend Park   |                                 |           |                                |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe                  |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe                  |           |                                |
| Location  | Payson Ave and Ave de Lafayette |           |                                |
| Size  | .4 ac                           |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13 morning                 |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 1                               |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None                            |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |                                 |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity                        | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Walking/biking trail  | 1                               | E         | Sidewalk around perimeter      |
| Play Structure  | 1                               | G         | Woodchip surface               |
| Picnic Tables   | 1                               | G         | With shelter                   |
| Litter receptacle   | 1                               | G         |                                |
| Comments  |                                 |           |                                |
| Weeds coming up through woodchips at playground<br>Small neighborhood park; not many elements for 3-5 year olds |                                 |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments  |                                 |           |                                |
| Bench not accessible; no paths to elements; no accessible play elements   |                                 |           |                                |

| Front/Third/Union Park  |                       |           |                                |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe        |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe        |           |                                |
| Location  | Front St and Third St |           |                                |
| Size  | 0.06 ac               |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13               |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 4                     |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None                  |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |                       |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity              | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Sidewalk  | 1                     | G         | Sidewalk around perimeter      |
| Comments  |                       |           |                                |
| Small open space, no features. Will be extensively planted in Spring 2014 |                       |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments  |                       |           |                                |
| Walkway is accessible   |                       |           |                                |

| Gateway Park  |                       |           |                                   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe        |           |                                   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                     | City of Monroe        |           |                                   |
| Location  | Front St and First St |           |                                   |
| Size  | 0.4 ac                |           |                                   |
| Date / Time of Visit                                  | 9/24/13               |           |                                   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                        | 3                     |           |                                   |
| Observed Use Level                                    | None                  |           |                                   |
| Park Amenities  |                       |           |                                   |
| Amenity   | Quantity              | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs    |
| Park Lighting   | Yes                   | G         | Street lighting, pedestrian scale |
| Bench   | 1                     | G         | Wood (log)                        |
| Flagpole  | 3                     | E         |                                   |
| Historic Marker                                       | 1                     | E         | Old Michigan Southern             |
| Comments  |                       |           |                                   |
| Tiny pocket park<br>Brickwork; landscaping            |                       |           |                                   |
| Accessibility Comments                                |                       |           |                                   |
| Accessible walks; bench not accessible (up on a curb) |                       |           |                                   |

| Hellenberg Park   |                          |           |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe           |           |                                     |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe           |           |                                     |
| Location  | Near E Front and Link St |           |                                     |
| Size  | 9.2                      |           |                                     |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/23/13 Morning          |           |                                     |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 2                        |           |                                     |
| Observed Use Level  | Low                      |           |                                     |
| Park Amenities  |                          |           |                                     |
| Amenity   | Quantity                 | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs      |
| Baseball field (no lights)  | 1                        | F         | Bleachers, backstop, gravel surface |
| Multi-purpose sports field  | 1                        | G         |                                     |
| Basketball court  | 1                        | G         | Adjustable baskets, accessible      |
| Walking / Biking Trail  | Yes                      | G         | Through woods on island             |
| Play Structure  | 1                        | F         | Woodchip surface, graffiti, rusting |
| Boat launch   | 1                        | G         | 2 floating docks                    |
| Picnic shelter  | 1                        | F         |                                     |
| Picnic Tables   | 4                        | F         |                                     |
| Grills  | 1                        | P         |                                     |
| Restrooms   | 2                        | F         | Not accessible                      |
| Parking lot   | 1                        | G         |                                     |
| Comments  |                          |           |                                     |
| Larger park near the river, several different amenities   |                          |           |                                     |
| Accessibility Comments  |                          |           |                                     |
| No paths to playground, basketball courts have accessible parking and access path, restrooms not accessible |                          |           |                                     |

| Hoffman Park  |                           |           |   |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe            |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe            |           |   |
| Location  | Huron St and Waterloo Ave |           |   |
| Size  | 3.3 ac                    |           |   |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                   |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 1                         |           |   |
| Observed Use Level  | None                      |           |   |
| Park Amenities  |                           |           |   |
| Amenity   | Quantity                  | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs              |
| Multi-purpose sports field  | 1                         | E         | Large lawn                                  |
| Play structure  | 1                         | F         | Some pieces missing; woodchip surface; ramp |
| Picnic tables   | 1                         | E         | With shelter                                |
| Signage   | 1                         | E         | Park sign                                   |
| Bench   | 1                         | E         | Metal                                       |
| Comments  |                           |           |   |
| Larger neighborhood park; plentiful green space<br>Two entry points   |                           |           |   |
| Accessibility Comments  |                           |           |   |
| Play structure has a ramp but it is not flush with woodchips; once up the ramp you can't access any other features without transferring<br>No paths to facilities |                           |           |   |

| James and Hendricks Park  |                              |           |   |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe               |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                                       | City of Monroe               |           |   |
| Location  | Hendricks Dr and Roessler St |           |   |
| Size  | 3.3 acres                    |           |   |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13 Morning              |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 1                            |           |   |
| Observed Use Level  | None                         |           |   |
| Park Amenities  |                              |           |   |
| Amenity   | Quantity                     | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs          |
| Multi-purpose sports field  | 1                            | G         | Open lawn                               |
| Play Structure  | 1                            | G         | Woodchip surface                        |
| Picnic tables   | 1                            | E         | With pavilion cover & litter receptacle |
| Parking lot   | 1                            | G         | Road end                                |
| Comments  |                              |           |   |
| Large open field with elevation changes; adjacent neighborhood sidewalk |                              |           |   |
| Accessibility Comments  |                              |           |   |
| No parking lot (road end); no paths connecting features                 |                              |           |   |

| Labor Park                                       |                           |           |  |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|--|
| Owning Agency                                    | City of Monroe            |           |  |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                | City of Monroe            |           |  |
| Location   | 2nd Street and Winchester |           |  |
| Size   | 0.12 ac                   |           |  |
| Date / Time of Visit                             | 9/23/13 Morning           |           |  |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                   | 4                         |           |  |
| Observed Use Level                               | None                      |           |  |
| Park Amenities                                   |                           |           |  |
| Amenity  | Quantity                  | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs         |
| Walking Path                                     | Yes                       | F         | Concrete Sidewalk                      |
| Signage  | 1                         | G         | Park name sign                         |
| Parking Lot                                      | 1                         | G         | Shared with Community Center / Library |
| Comments   |                           |           |  |
| Passive green space adjacent to community center |                           |           |  |
| Accessibility Comments                           |                           |           |  |
| Paths are accessible, no features to connect     |                           |           |  |

| Lavender Park                                |                            |           |  |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|--|
| Owning Agency                                | City of Monroe             |           |  |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance            | City of Monroe             |           |  |
| Location                                     | Lavender St and Calkins St |           |  |
| Size   | 1.2 ac                     |           |  |
| Date / Time of Visit                         | 9/24/13                    |           |  |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score               | 2                          |           |  |
| Observed Use Level                           | None                       |           |  |
| Park Amenities                               |                            |           |  |
| Amenity                                      | Quantity                   | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs           |
| Basketball Court                             | 1                          | G         | Half court                               |
| Tennis Court                                 | 1                          | F         | No net, weeds growing up                 |
| Play Structure                               | 1                          | G         | Equipment for younger and older children |
| Swings                                       | 4                          |           | 2 tot swings                             |
| Other Play equipment                         | 1                          | G         | Bouncy teeter-totter                     |
| Picnic Tables                                | 1                          | E         | With shelter                             |
| Signage                                      | 1                          | E         | Park sign                                |
| Benches                                      | 2                          | E         |  |
| Comments                                     |                            |           |  |
| Nicely shaded and defined with trees         |                            |           |  |
| Good diversity of equipment for various ages |                            |           |  |
| Accessibility Comments                       |                            |           |  |
| No paths except for city sidewalk            |                            |           |  |
| Woodchip surface                             |                            |           |  |

| Manor Park                        |                               |           |  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Owning Agency                     | City of Monroe                |           |  |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance | City of Monroe                |           |  |
| Location                          | Donnalee Dr. and Theodore Dr. |           |  |
| Size                              | 5.5 ac                        |           |  |
| Date / Time of Visit              | 9/23/13 Afternoon             |           |  |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score    | 1                             |           |  |
| Observed Use Level                | None                          |           |  |
| Park Amenities                    |                               |           |  |
| Amenity                           | Quantity                      | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs         |
| Tennis Court                      | 1                             | F         | No net, surface is fine, fence is poor |
| Play Structure                    | 1                             | F/P       | Woodchips are gone, slide is cracked   |
| Swings                            | 2                             | E         | Tot swings                             |
| Hockey                            | 2                             | G         | Asphalt Roller hockey courts           |
| Picnic Shelter                    | 1                             | F/P       | No tables. Performance pavilion?       |
| Parking Lot                       | 1                             | G         | Asphalt. No signed Barrier-free spaces |
| Pickle ball                       | 2                             | F         | Stripes and no net                     |
| Accessibility Comments            |                               |           |  |
| No paths or barrier-free spaces   |                               |           |  |

| Median Park                          |                               |           |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| Owning Agency                        | City of Monroe                |           |                                    |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance    | City of Monroe                |           |                                    |
| Location                             | Mason Run Blvd and East Noble |           |                                    |
| Size                                 | 0.3 ac                        |           |                                    |
| Date / Time of Visit                 | 9/23/13 Morning               |           |                                    |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score       | 1                             |           |                                    |
| Observed Use Level                   | None                          |           |                                    |
| Park Amenities                       |                               |           |                                    |
| Amenity                              | Quantity                      | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs     |
| Park lighting                        | Yes                           | E         | Pedestrian lights around perimeter |
| Irrigation system                    | Yes                           | G         |                                    |
| Comments                             |                               |           |                                    |
| Needs maintenance                    |                               |           |                                    |
| Passive green space                  |                               |           |                                    |
| Accessibility Comments               |                               |           |                                    |
| No paths or curb cuts to access park |                               |           |                                    |

| Memorial Place   |                |           |                                |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                                | City of Monroe |           |                                |
| Location   | Monroe and 7th |           |                                |
| Size   | 0.66 ac        |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit   | 9/24/13        |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                                   | 4              |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level   | None           |           |                                |
| Park Amenities   |                |           |                                |
| Amenity  | Quantity       | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Walking Trail  | 1              | E         | Concrete sidewalk              |
| Flagpole   | 1              | E         |                                |
| Stone memorial   | 1              | E         |                                |
| Comments   |                |           |                                |
| Markers grown over with grass; beautiful landscaping facing road |                |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments   |                |           |                                |
| ADA access from sidewalk street                                  |                |           |                                |

| Mill Race Park  |  |           |                                |
|---|--|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe                                 |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                           | City of Monroe                                 |           |                                |
| Location  | Telegraph Rd and the River Raisin (South Bank) |           |                                |
| Size  | 14.2 ac  |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13  |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                              | 1  |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None   |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |  |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity                                       | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Open space  | 1  | E         | No access                      |
| Comments  |  |           |                                |
| Natural area with limited access<br>Adjacent to fish ladder |  |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments                                      |  |           |                                |
| No access from neighborhoods                                |  |           |                                |

| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex   |                     |           |                                |
|---|---------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe      |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe      |           |                                |
| Location  | 333 N Dixie Highway |           |                                |
| Size  | 15.34 ac, 70,000 sf |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/23/2013 afternoon |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 4                   |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None                |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |                     |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity            | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Hockey  | 1                   | E         | Includes ramp up to bleachers  |
| Picnic Tables   | 2                   | E         | Not Accessible. Indoors.       |
| Restroom  | 4                   | E         | Accessible                     |
| Parking Lot   | 1                   | E         | Accessible, Large              |
| Arcade Games  | Several             | G         |                                |
| Indoor Turf Field   | 1                   | E         |                                |
| Comments  |                     |           |                                |
| Ultimate Frisbee on Wednesdays<br>Bounce Equipment on weekends<br>Concessions |                     |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments  |                     |           |                                |
| Accessible building, restrooms, meeting rooms, and fields                     |                     |           |                                |

| Munson Park   |                       |           |   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe        |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                                   | City of Monroe        |           |   |
| Location  | Custer and Airport Rd |           |   |
| Size  | 212.07 ac             |           |   |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/23/13 Afternoon     |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                                      | 4                     |           |   |
| Observed Use Level  | Medium                |           |   |
| Park Amenities  |                       |           |   |
| Amenity   | Quantity              | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs              |
| Lighted softball fields   | 4                     | G         | With restrooms, concessions, scoreboards    |
| Other ball fields   | 2                     | F/G       | Tball / Reduced Size baseball (Youth)       |
| Soccer  | 22                    | G         |   |
| Sand Volleyball   | 2                     | G         | With 2 benches                              |
| Tennis Courts   | 4                     | G         |   |
| Walking / Biking Trail  | 1                     | G         | Gravel; 7.6 Miles total (according to sign) |
| Swings  | 11                    | G         | 1 accessible, 3 tot, 6 reg, 1 tire          |
| Play structure  | 1                     | G         | Wooden, sections for older and younger kids |
| Picnic Shelter  | 2                     | G         |   |
| Picnic Tables   | 27 +                  | G         | 6+/- accessible                             |
| Grills  | 3                     | G         | Accessible                                  |
| Restrooms   | 3                     | G         | Accessible                                  |
| Parking Lot   | 4                     | G         | 2 asphalt, 2 gravel                         |
| Picnic table with shelter   | 4                     | G         |   |
| Sledding Hill   | 1                     | G         |   |
| Pond  | 1                     | G         | Lighted                                     |
| Skate Park  | 1                     | G         | Metal ramps                                 |
| Comments  |                       |           |   |
| Very large park, many sports fields and amenities                   |                       |           |   |
| Accessibility Comments  |                       |           |   |
| Many structures are accessible, parking available at many amenities |                       |           |   |

| Noble Park                                       |                          |           |   |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency                                    | City of Monroe           |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                | City of Monroe           |           |   |
| Location   | E Noble and Baptiste Ave |           |   |
| Size   | 0.54 ac                  |           |   |
| Date / Time of Visit                             | 9/23/13 Morning          |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                   | 3                        |           |   |
| Observed Use Level                               | None                     |           |   |
| Park Amenities                                   |                          |           |   |
| Amenity  | Quantity                 | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs              |
| Walking Path                                     | Yes                      | E         | Sidewalk through park, between 4 and 5 feet |
| Park lighting                                    | Yes                      | E         | Pedestrian lights around perimeter          |
| Irrigation System                                | Yes                      |           |   |
| Comments   |                          |           |   |
| Passive green space                              |                          |           |   |
| Accessibility Comments                           |                          |           |   |
| Sidewalk runs through park and is generally flat |                          |           |   |

| Oak Forest Park                           |                              |           |                                |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency                             | City of Monroe               |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance         | City of Monroe               |           |                                |
| Location                                  | Donnalee Dr and Hendricks Dr |           |                                |
| Size                                      | 7.0 ac                       |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit                      | 9/23/13 Afternoon            |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score            | 1                            |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level                        | None                         |           |                                |
| Park Amenities                            |                              |           |                                |
| Amenity                                   | Quantity                     | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Walking / Biking Trail                    | 1                            | F         | Wooded trail, no treatment     |
| Comments                                  |                              |           |                                |
| Wooded area. No signage or formal trails. |                              |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments                    |                              |           |                                |
| No accessible amenities                   |                              |           |                                |

| Plum Creek Park   |                               |           |   |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe                |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                                       | City of Monroe                |           |   |
| Location  | Near Kentucky Road and 9th St |           |   |
| Size  | 2.4 ac                        |           |   |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                       |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 1                             |           |   |
| Observed Use Level  | None                          |           |   |
| Park Amenities  |                               |           |   |
| Amenity   | Quantity                      | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs            |
| Multi-purpose sports field  | 1                             | G         | Open lawn                                 |
| Basketball  | 1                             | P         | Half-court, pavement overgrown            |
| Play structure  | 1                             | P         | Cracked slide, no fall surface            |
| Picnic Shelter  | 1                             | F/P       | No tables, weeds growing in crack in roof |
| Signage   | 2                             | E         | Park sign, historic marker                |
| Comments  |                               |           |   |
| Poor access to park. Enormous old trees. Equipment is in poor condition |                               |           |   |
| Accessibility Comments  |                               |           |   |
| Poor access to site; no paths within site.                              |                               |           |   |

| Rauch Park  |                               |           |                                  |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe                |           |                                  |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe                |           |                                  |
| Location  | N Dixie Highway near Front St |           |                                  |
| Size  | 2.1 acres                     |           |                                  |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/23/13 morning               |           |                                  |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 3                             |           |                                  |
| Observed Use Level  | None                          |           |                                  |
| Park Amenities  |                               |           |                                  |
| Amenity   | Quantity                      | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs   |
| Walking / Biking Trail  | 1                             | F         | Sidewalk – narrow, about 4’ wide |
| Signage   | 2                             | G         | Park sign and historical marker  |
| Comments  |                               |           |                                  |
| Passive park, open space<br>Historical Marker<br>Was there previously a pavilion or other structure?  |                               |           |                                  |
| Accessibility Comments  |                               |           |                                  |
| Sidewalk a little narrow – around 4’<br>Curb cuts available, slopes not steep<br>East side of park does not have sidewalks<br>No formal parking |                               |           |                                  |

| River Raisin Memorial   |  |           |                                |
|---|--|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe   |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                             | City of Monroe   |           |                                |
| Location  | Dixie Highway and Elm Avenue, adjacent to the River Raisin |           |                                |
| Size  | 0.36 acres   |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13  |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                                | 3  |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None   |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |  |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity   | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| City Sidewalk   | 1  | G         | Accessible                     |
| Comments  |  |           |                                |
| Small green space with no identifiable features or park sign. |  |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments  |  |           |                                |
| Walkway is accessible, no other features present              |  |           |                                |

| Riviere Aux Raisins Park  |                              |           |   |
|---|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe               |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                                       | City of Monroe               |           |   |
| Location  | Dixie Highway and Elm Avenue |           |   |
| Size  | 1.9 ac                       |           |   |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/23/13 morning              |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 4                            |           |   |
| Observed Use Level  | None                         |           |   |
| Park Amenities  |                              |           |   |
| Amenity   | Quantity                     | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs                                  |
| Walking / Biking Trail  | 1                            | E         | At least 12' wide. Extension of the River Raisin Heritage Trail |
| Memorial Marker   | 1                            | E         |   |
| Comments  |                              |           |   |
| Marker moved to this location in fall of 2002                           |                              |           |   |
| Newly constructed multi-use path runs adjacent to the historical marker |                              |           |   |
| Accessibility Comments  |                              |           |   |
| New path adjacent to monument - River Raisin Heritage Trail             |                              |           |   |
| Parking Lot far away at Monroe Multi-Sports Complex                     |                              |           |   |

| Sawyer Homestead  |                           |           |                                |
|---|---------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe            |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe            |           |                                |
| Location  | Front St and Wadsworth St |           |                                |
| Size  | 1.1 ac                    |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                   |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 3                         |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None                      |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |                           |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity                  | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Historic Building   | 1                         | P         |                                |
| Historical Marker   | 1                         | G         |                                |
| Comments  |                           |           |                                |
| Historic Site – house constructed in 1873. Structure has sustained fire damage. City is working on repairing the structure. |                           |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments  |                           |           |                                |
| Path from sidewalk to building, steps lead up to building entrance  |                           |           |                                |

| Soldiers and Sailors Park                            |                       |           |                                |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe        |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                    | City of Monroe        |           |                                |
| Location   | East Front and Jerome |           |                                |
| Size   | 1.2 ac                |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit                                 | 9/24/13               |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                       | 2                     |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level                                   | None                  |           |                                |
| Park Amenities                                       |                       |           |                                |
| Amenity  | Quantity              | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Basketball   | 1                     | G         | Half-court with bleachers      |
| Tennis court   | 4                     | E         | Path from sidewalk             |
| Play structure                                       | 1                     | G         | Woodchips all gone             |
| Swings   | 4                     | F         | No fall surface. 1 missing     |
| Horseshoe Pits                                       | 2                     | G         |                                |
| Picnic Shelter                                       | 1                     | F/G       | Wooden                         |
| Picnic tables  | 4                     | F/G       | 2 Accessible                   |
| Grills   | 1                     | F         |                                |
| Signage  | 1                     | F         | Park sign                      |
| Bench  | 6                     | G/E       | Metal and wood                 |
| Civil War memorial                                   | 1                     | E         |                                |
| WWI Memorial   | 1                     | E         |                                |
| Shuffleboard courts                                  | 4                     | P         | No markings                    |
| Accessibility Comments                               |                       |           |                                |
| Path to tennis courts is not quite flush, needs work |                       |           |                                |
| No paths to playground equipment                     |                       |           |                                |

| St. Mary's Park   |                       |           |   |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe        |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe        |           |   |
| Location  | Elm Avenue and Monroe |           |   |
| Size  | 3.0 ac                |           |   |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13               |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 3                     |           |   |
| Observed Use Level  | Low                   |           |   |
| Park Amenities  |                       |           |   |
| Amenity   | Quantity              | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs                    |
| Basketball Court  | 1                     | G         | Hoops in good condition                           |
| Tennis court  | 2                     | F         | Lighted, cracks and sealing                       |
| Play Structure  | 1                     | G         | Mostly for older kids, small and large slide      |
| Walking/Biking Trail  | 1                     | E         | Path to amphitheater; River Raisin Heritage Trail |
| Swings  | 2                     | G         | Tot swings  |
| Picnic shelter  | 1                     | G         |   |
| Picnic tables   | 8                     | E         | 4 accessible                                      |
| Grills  | 1                     | F         |   |
| Restroom  | 2                     | G         | Accessible (unisex)                               |
| Parking Lot   | 1                     | G         | Public Lot  |
| Band Shell  | 1                     | G         | Asphalt Path leads to stage                       |
| Pedestrian Bridge   | 1                     | E         |   |
| Historical Marker   | 1                     | G         |   |
| Wood Sculpture  | 1                     | E         |   |
| Benches   | 1                     | G         | Near play structure                               |
| Bowling courts  | 2                     | F         | Used for Bocce Ball; lots of leaf debris present  |
| Accessibility Comments  |                       |           |   |
| <p>Path missing link from amphitheater stage to seating area</p> <p>No path to play structure</p> <p>Paths are discontinuous</p> <p>Accessible restrooms</p> <p>Contract for resurfacing has been awarded. Work will occur in May/June 2014</p> |                       |           |   |

| Veteran's Park  |                        |           |   |
|---|------------------------|-----------|---|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe         |           |   |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe         |           |   |
| Location  | Custer and Richards Dr |           |   |
| Size  | 2.26 ac                |           |   |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/23/13 Afternoon      |           |   |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 4                      |           |   |
| Observed Use Level  | Medium                 |           |   |
| Park Amenities  |                        |           |   |
| Amenity   | Quantity               | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs  |
| Walking / Biking Trail  | 2                      | G         | Heritage Trail and Sidewalk   |
| Play Structure  | 1                      | F         | Woodchip surface  |
| Swings  | 8                      | F         | 2 tot, 6 regular with woodchips   |
| Other Play Equipment  | 2                      | E         | Sensory Play  |
| Picnic Shelter  | 2                      | G         |   |
| Picnic Tables   | 23                     | G         | 6 accessible  |
| Restrooms   | 1                      | G         |   |
| Signage   | 1                      |           | Park sign   |
| Grills  | 13                     |           |   |
| Parking Lot   | 3                      | G         | Asphalt   |
| Benches   | 10                     | G         | Various types   |
| Dam Overlook  | 1                      | G         |   |
| Memorials   | 7                      |           | POW, Blue Star Memorial, WWI & WWII, VFW, War on Terror, Persian Gulf War, Lt. Col Matt C Urban |
| Comments  |                        |           |   |
| Many benches and picnic tables<br>Beautiful views of river, adjacent to River Raisin Heritage Trail                     |                        |           |   |
| Accessibility Comments  |                        |           |   |
| Two parking lots have connecting paths, most features connected with sidewalk<br>Accessible picnic tables and restrooms |                        |           |   |

| Winston Park   |                            |           |                                |
|--|----------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe             |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance  | City of Monroe             |           |                                |
| Location   | Winston Dr and Western Ave |           |                                |
| Size   | 0.4 ac                     |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit   | 9/24/13                    |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score   | 1                          |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level   | None                       |           |                                |
| Park Amenities   |                            |           |                                |
| Amenity  | Quantity                   | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Swings   | 6                          | F         | One tot swing                  |
| Picnic Shelter   | 1                          | G         |                                |
| Park sign  | 1                          | E         | Park sign                      |
| Open lawn  | 1                          | E         |                                |
| Bench  | 1                          |           |                                |
| Comments   |                            |           |                                |
| Small neighborhood park; no fall surface under swings; each set is missing one swing (2) |                            |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments   |                            |           |                                |
| No paths throughout park   |                            |           |                                |

| Arborwood School Complex – South Building                                     |                               |           |  |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Owning Agency   | City of Monroe                |           |  |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | Monroe Public Schools         |           |  |
| Location  | Riverview Ave and Linwood Ave |           |  |
| Size  | 9.5 ac                        |           |  |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                       |           |  |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 2                             |           |  |
| Observed Use Level  | Medium                        |           |  |
| Park Amenities  |                               |           |  |
| Amenity   | Quantity                      | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs           |
| Baseball field (no lights)  | 1                             | G         |  |
| Football field  | 1                             | G         | With scoreboard                          |
| Basketball  | 3                             | E         | Half-court                               |
| Tennis court  | 2                             | F/P       |  |
| Play Structure  | 2                             | E         | Woodchip surface, one has an access path |
| Swings  | 15 +/-                        | G         | One Accessible Swing                     |
| Outdoor pool  | 1                             | G         | YMCA and Public Schools use in summer    |
| Parking lot   | 1                             | E         |  |
| Benches   | 2                             | G         |  |
| Comments  |                               |           |  |
| Variety of age equipment; 5-year-old playground; used to be a middle school's |                               |           |  |
| Accessibility Comments  |                               |           |  |
| One playground has access path  |                               |           |  |

| Arborwood School Complex – North Building  |                              |           |                                  |
|--|------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | City of Monroe               |           |                                  |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance  | Monroe Public Schools        |           |                                  |
| Location   | Linwood Ave and Hollywood Dr |           |                                  |
| Size   |                              |           |                                  |
| Date / Time of Visit   | 9/24/13                      |           |                                  |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score   | 3                            |           |                                  |
| Observed Use Level   | Medium                       |           |                                  |
| Park Amenities   |                              |           |                                  |
| Amenity  | Quantity                     | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs   |
| Baseball field (no lights)   | 1                            | G         | Backstop                         |
| Multi-purpose sports field   | 1                            | E         | Open lawn                        |
| Soccer   | 1                            | F         | No Nets                          |
| Walking Trail  | 1                            | G         | Access paths (except for garden) |
| Play Structure   | 4                            | E         | Woodchip surface                 |
| Swings   | 8                            | E         |                                  |
| Other play equipment   | 1                            | G         | Metal climber                    |
| Picnic shelter   | 1                            | E         | Newer structure                  |
| Picnic tables  | 3                            | E         |                                  |
| Gardens  | 2                            | G         |                                  |
| Comments   |                              |           |                                  |
| Good variety of equipment; some newer and some older   |                              |           |                                  |
| Accessibility Comments   |                              |           |                                  |
| No accessible swings; ADA tables available; access paths connect to most features; newer play structures have safety surface but older structures do not |                              |           |                                  |

| Roessler Field at Riverside School   |                       |           |                                |
|--|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | Monroe Public Schools |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance  | Monroe Public Schools |           |                                |
| Location   | Elm and Roessler      |           |                                |
| Size   | 13.5 ac               |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit   | 9/24/13               |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score   | 3                     |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level   | Low                   |           |                                |
| Park Amenities   |                       |           |                                |
| Amenity  | Quantity              | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Lighted baseball field   | 1                     | G         | Bleachers, lights, fence       |
| Softball field   | 3                     | G         |                                |
| Parking lot  | 1                     | G         | Gravel                         |
| Maintenance Building   | 1                     | G         | With fountain                  |
| Bicycle Parking  | 1                     | G         | Cement structure               |
| Comments   |                       |           |                                |
| Viewed some residents practicing on the lighted field<br>Weeds growing in gravel areas; maintenance trails off after season is over (according to users) |                       |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments   |                       |           |                                |
| Signs for barrier-free spaces in parking lot<br>No paths from parking lot to features<br>Bleachers close to parking lot                                  |                       |           |                                |

| Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park (Near Orchard Center School)  |                       |           |                                |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | Monroe Public Schools |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | City of Monroe        |           |                                |
| Location  | Norwood and Oak       |           |                                |
| Size  | 2.74 ac               |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/23/13 Morning       |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 2                     |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | None                  |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |                       |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity              | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Basketball Court  | 1                     | G         |                                |
| Play Structure  | 1                     | P         |                                |
| Swings  | 2 Sets                | F         | 2 swings, 2 tot swings         |
| Other Play Equipment  | 1                     | G         | Metal climber                  |
| Picnic Shelter  | 1                     | G         |                                |
| Picnic Tables   | 4                     | G         | Metal; 1 accessible            |
| Grills  | 2                     | P         |                                |
| Parking Lot   | 1                     | E         | Shared with School             |
| Trash receptacle  | 1                     | G         | Metal barrel                   |
| Comments  |                       |           |                                |
| Playground equipment needs upgrade; picnic shelter and tables in good condition<br>Woodchips under swings; swings and climber are dated; City sidewalk around perimeter |                       |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments  |                       |           |                                |
| No paths from parking lot except for perimeter sidewalk; no accessible features in playground; accessible picnic table at shelter                                       |                       |           |                                |

| Navarre Field   |                         |           |                                |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency   | Monroe Public Schools   |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance   | Monroe Public Schools   |           |                                |
| Location  | Jones Ave and Custer St |           |                                |
| Size  | 10.7 ac                 |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit  | 9/24/13                 |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score  | 2                       |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level  | Low                     |           |                                |
| Park Amenities  |                         |           |                                |
| Amenity   | Quantity                | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Lighted baseball Field  | 1                       | G         | Grass infield, dugouts         |
| Multi-purpose sports field  | 1                       | G         | Open lawn                      |
| Football field  | 1                       | G         | Scoreboard, grandstands        |
| Play Structure  | 1                       | F         | No fall surface                |
| Swings  | 4                       | G         | No fall surface, 2 tot swings  |
| Parking Lot   | 1                       | F         | No striping                    |
| Roller Hockey   | 1                       | G         | Is this used?                  |
| Comments  |                         |           |                                |
| Lots of graffiti and broken glass; play structure is in poor condition; no trees for shade. |                         |           |                                |
| Accessibility Comments  |                         |           |                                |
| No access paths to features   |                         |           |                                |

| <b>Loranger Square</b>                               |   |           |                                |
|--|---|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Owning Agency  | Monroe County                               |           |                                |
| Party Responsible for Maintenance                    | City of Monroe maintains the Lotus Fountain |           |                                |
| Location   | 1st St and Washington St                    |           |                                |
| Size   | 0.92 ac                                     |           |                                |
| Date / Time of Visit                                 | 9/24/13                                     |           |                                |
| Accessibility Evaluation Score                       | 3   |           |                                |
| Observed Use Level                                   | None  |           |                                |
| <b>Park Amenities</b>                                |   |           |                                |
| Amenity  | Quantity                                    | Condition | Comments and Maintenance Needs |
| Picnic tables  | 4   | G         | Not accessible                 |
| Pavilion   | 1   | E         | Accessible                     |
| Benches  | 2   | G         |                                |
| Lotus fountain                                       | 1   | G         |                                |
| <b>Accessibility Comments</b>                        |   |           |                                |
| Accessible pavilion; no accessible benches or tables |   |           |                                |

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# Appendix C

## Community Survey

### Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

#### Welcome!

Please read response options carefully to be sure you are choosing the appropriate answer.

JavaScript and cookies will need to be enabled on any browser in order for the site and surveys to work properly.

When using SurveyMonkey, we recommend using any of the following:

Internet Explorer 8.0 and later  
Firefox 10.0 and later  
Safari 3.0 or later  
Chrome

In regard to Safari, we strongly recommend updating to the 3.0 version as it works best with our site.

Some online companies, like AOL, may provide their own browsers. However, these browsers seem more prone to have trouble rendering the site or interacting with the tool. If this is the case, we recommend using an alternate browser listed above.

Thank you for taking time out of your schedule to answer this survey. The City of Monroe is in the process of updating the Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan and the information from the survey will be used by the City to prepare the plan and establish priorities. Your input will help shape the future of Monroe's parks!

When you fill out the survey please answer the questions in a way which best represents your overall household priorities and use of parks and facilities.

The survey is confidential. We do not ask for names or addresses. Again, thank you.

Note: If you are filling out a paper copy of the survey those questions marked with a “ \* ” next to the question require an answer.

#### **1. About how long have you lived in the City of Monroe?**

- Less than 5 Years  
 6 to 10 Years  
 11 to 15 Years  
 More than 15 Years

#### **2. Have you participated in parks and recreation programs provided by the City of Monroe in the past five years?**

- Yes  
 No

# Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

## 3. Please indicate which type of leisure activities that you regularly participate in:

|                                    | At least once a week  | A few times a month   | Once a month          | Several times a year  | Less than once a year | Not at all            |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sports Team                        | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gym; Work Out Facility             | <input type="radio"/> |
| Outdoor Activities                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Running, Hiking, Walking or Biking | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify activity and frequency)

Use this map of Monroe's parks for reference, if needed.



CITY OF MONROE - PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

## Existing Recreation Facilities

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Bing Maps



## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

# Existing Recreation Facilities

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Bing Maps

**4. Think about the parks in Northeast Monroe. Please identify which outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities that you (or a member of your household) use in Monroe, and how often.**

|   | At least once a week  | A few times a month   | Once a month          | Several times a year  | Less than once a year |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Arbor-Lorain Park                           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Swimming Pool | <input type="radio"/> |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Tennis Courts | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cappuccilli Park                            | <input type="radio"/> |
| Central Park                                | <input type="radio"/> |
| Crescent Park                               | <input type="radio"/> |
| Elliot Park                                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Median Park                                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex - Skating       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex – Indoor Field  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex – Bounce House  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Noble Park                                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| River Raisin Memorial                       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Riviere Aux Raisins Park (Stone Monument)   | <input type="radio"/> |

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**5. Think about the parks in Northwest Monroe. Please identify which outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities that you (or a member of your household) use in Monroe, and how often.**

|  | At least once a week  | A few times a month   | Once a month          | Several times a year  | Less than once a year |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Calgary Park                                       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cranbrook Park                                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Frenchman's Bend Park                              | <input type="radio"/> |
| James and Hendricks Park                           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Lavender Park                                      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Manor Park   | <input type="radio"/> |
| Munson Park  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Oak Forest Park                                    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Roessler Field at Riverside School                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| St. Mary's Park                                    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Veteran's Park                                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Elm Avenue Bike Path / River Raisin Heritage Trail | <input type="radio"/> |

**6. Think about the parks in Southeast Monroe. Please identify which outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities that you (or a member of your household) use in Monroe, and how often.**

|                                      | At least once a week  | A few times a month   | Once a month          | Several times a year  | Less than once a year |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Altrusa Park                         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Arthur Lesow Community Center        | <input type="radio"/> |
| Hellenberg Field                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Labor Park                           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Loranger Square                      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park | <input type="radio"/> |
| Navarre Field                        | <input type="radio"/> |
| Plum Creek Park                      | <input type="radio"/> |
| Rauch Park                           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Sawyer Homestead                     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Soldier & Sailors Park               | <input type="radio"/> |

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**7. Think about the parks in Southwest Monroe. Please identify which outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities that you (or a member of your household) use in Monroe, and how often.**

|                    | At least once a week  | A few times a month   | Once a month          | Several times a year  | Less than once a year |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Boyd Park          | <input type="radio"/> |
| Father Cairns Park | <input type="radio"/> |
| Front/Third/Union  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Gateway Park       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Hoffman Park       | <input type="radio"/> |
| Memorial Place     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Mill Race Park     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Winston Park       | <input type="radio"/> |

**8. Which Monroe park and/or recreation facility do you visit most often? (Identify One)**

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

### 9. Why do you visit parks? (Check all that apply.)

- Relaxation
- Exercise
- Athletics / Sports
- Nature / Wildlife viewing
- Spending time with family / friends
- Socializing with friend / neighbors
- I do not visit parks
- Other (please specify)

### 10. If you answered “I do not visit parks,” what is the reason? (Check all that apply.)

- I do not have time to visit parks.
- I do not feel safe in parks.
- I usually exercise indoors.
- I'm not interested in the park amenities.
- I'm not interested in the recreation programs.
- Other (please specify)

### 11. As a resident of Monroe, how would you rate the following?

|                                | Excellent             | Good                  | Fair                  | Poor                  | Don't Know            |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Amount of Park Land            | <input type="radio"/> |
| Variety of Park Facilities     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Recreation Programming         | <input type="radio"/> |
| Open Spaces / Natural Areas    | <input type="radio"/> |
| Connections to & Between Parks | <input type="radio"/> |
| Art and Cultural Events        | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify item and rating)

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

### 12. How would you rate the City of Monroe INDOOR recreation activities, programs and services for age groups:

|                                 | Excellent             | Good                  | Fair                  | Poor                  | Don't Know            |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Pre-school Age                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Elementary School Age           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Middle School Age               | <input type="radio"/> |
| High School Age                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Adults (Less than 60 Years Old) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Adults (More than 60 Years Old) | <input type="radio"/> |

### 13. How would you rate the City of Monroe OUTDOOR parks and recreation facilities for ages:

|                                 | Excellent             | Good                  | Fair                  | Poor                  | Don't Know            |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Pre-school Age                  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Elementary School Age           | <input type="radio"/> |
| Middle School Age               | <input type="radio"/> |
| High School Age                 | <input type="radio"/> |
| Adults (Less than 60 Years Old) | <input type="radio"/> |
| Adults (More than 60 Years Old) | <input type="radio"/> |

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

### 14. Please indicate which of the following recreation facilities and activities Monroe should plan for and develop.

|  | High Priority         | Medium Priority       | Low Priority          | Not Needed            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Baseball Fields                              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Basketball Courts                            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Batting Cages                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Children's Play Structures (Toddler)         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Children's Play Structures (6+ Years of Age) | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Canoe / Kayak Launches                       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Community Gardens                            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Cultural Events / Public Art                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Exercise Trails                              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Frisbee Golf                                 | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Non-Motorized Trails                         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Outdoor Movies in the Park                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Outdoor Picnic and Pavilion Shelters         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Parks with Wireless Internet Capabilities    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Passive (Leisure) Parks                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Pickleball Courts                            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Soccer Fields                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Softball Fields                              | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Splash Pad                                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Swimming Pool                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Tennis Courts                                | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Volleyball (Outdoor) Courts                  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Volleyball (Indoor) Courts                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Walking Trails                               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Winter Skating Rink                          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Other (please specify)

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**15. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.**

|  | Strongly Agree        | Somewhat Agree        | No Opinion            | Somewhat Disagree     | Strongly Disagree     |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Parks and recreation facilities and services are important to our community and worthy of taxpayer support.                                | <input type="radio"/> |
| Monroe should invest in additional parks and recreation facilities and services.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| To the extent possible, parks and recreation facilities should be supported by those who use them rather than by general taxpayer dollars. | <input type="radio"/> |
| It is currently difficult to walk and bike to adjacent communities.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| Monroe should actively plan for and sponsor arts and cultural activities.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| I feel safe when visiting Monroe Parks.  | <input type="radio"/> |

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**16. How easy is it for people who are disabled, elderly, or others with restricted mobility to get around in the City of Monroe?**

- Extremely Easy
- Very Easy
- Moderately Easy
- Slightly Easy
- Not at all Easy
- Don't Know

**17. How easy is it to enter, travel through, and use most parks in your neighborhood?**

- Extremely Easy
- Very Easy
- Moderately Easy
- Slightly Easy
- Not at all Easy
- Don't Know

**18. What do you think would make Monroe's parks easier for you or your family to use?**

**19. The City of Monroe recognizes that volunteers' contribution of talent, time, and skill enhances our programs, parks, trails, and open spaces, ultimately helping our community to flourish and thrive. How interested are you in donating your time or skills to the community?**

- Very Interested
- Somewhat Interested
- Somewhat Uninterested
- Not Interested at all





## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**24. What changes would most improve parks and recreation services and/or programs in the City of Monroe?**

**25. What types of recreation activities would you participate in if they were available in the City of Monroe?**

**26. What types of events would you attend if they were held in the City of Monroe?**

**27. If you do not participate in activities in the City of Monroe, why not?**

**28. How strong is the sense of community in Monroe?**

- Extremely Strong
- Very Strong
- Moderately Strong
- Slightly Strong
- Not at all Strong

**29. How important do you feel the Monroe parks and recreation facilities are to our sense of community?**

- Extremely Important
- Very Important
- Moderately Important
- Slightly Important
- Not at All Important

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**30. Are you aware that a master plan for the River Raisin National Battlefield Park and surrounding area was recently completed? (For more information, visit [www.historic1812.org](http://www.historic1812.org))**

- Yes
- No

**31. Do you use the Heritage Trail / Elm Avenue Bike Path to travel to Sterling State Park?**

- More than once a week
- Once a week
- Once a month
- Once a year
- Never

**32. A large segment of Monroe's population is between the ages of 50 and 60. If you are a senior, what programs and activities would you like to see in Monroe in the near future?**

- I'm satisfied with the current programs.
- I don't participate in any City activities.
- I would like to participate in (Please specify below):
- I would like to participate in (Please specify below):

**33. Please rate your response to the following statements regarding Arborwood (Cantrick) School Outdoor Pool. Note that "No Opinion" is to the far right.**

|   | Strongly Agree        | Somewhat Agree        | Somewhat Disagree     | Strongly Disagree     | No Opinion            |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Members of my family use the Arborwood (Cantrick) School outdoor pool.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| The Arborwood (Cantrick) School outdoor pool is worthy of taxpayer support.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| To the extent possible, the Arborwood (Cantrick) School outdoor pool should be supported by those who use it rather than by general taxpayer dollars. | <input type="radio"/> |

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**34. Please rate your response to the following statements the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex. Note that "No Opinion" is to the far right.**

|  | Strongly Agree        | Somewhat Agree        | Somewhat Disagree     | Strongly Disagree     | No Opinion            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Members of my family use the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| The Monroe Multi-Sports Complex is worthy of taxpayer support.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| To the extent possible, the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex should be supported by those who use it rather than by general taxpayer dollars. | <input type="radio"/> |

## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**35. How much longer do you expect to live in the City of Monroe?**

- Less than 5 Years
- 6 to 10 Years
- 11 to 15 Years
- More than 15 Years

**36. Which of the following categories best describes your occupation?**

- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Wholesale Trade
- Retail Trade
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Information / Technology
- Finance, Insurance and Real Estate
- Professional, Scientific, Management
- Educational, Health, and Social Services
- Arts, Entertainment and Recreation
- Government
- Currently in School (Student)
- Retired
- Currently Unemployed
- Other (please specify)

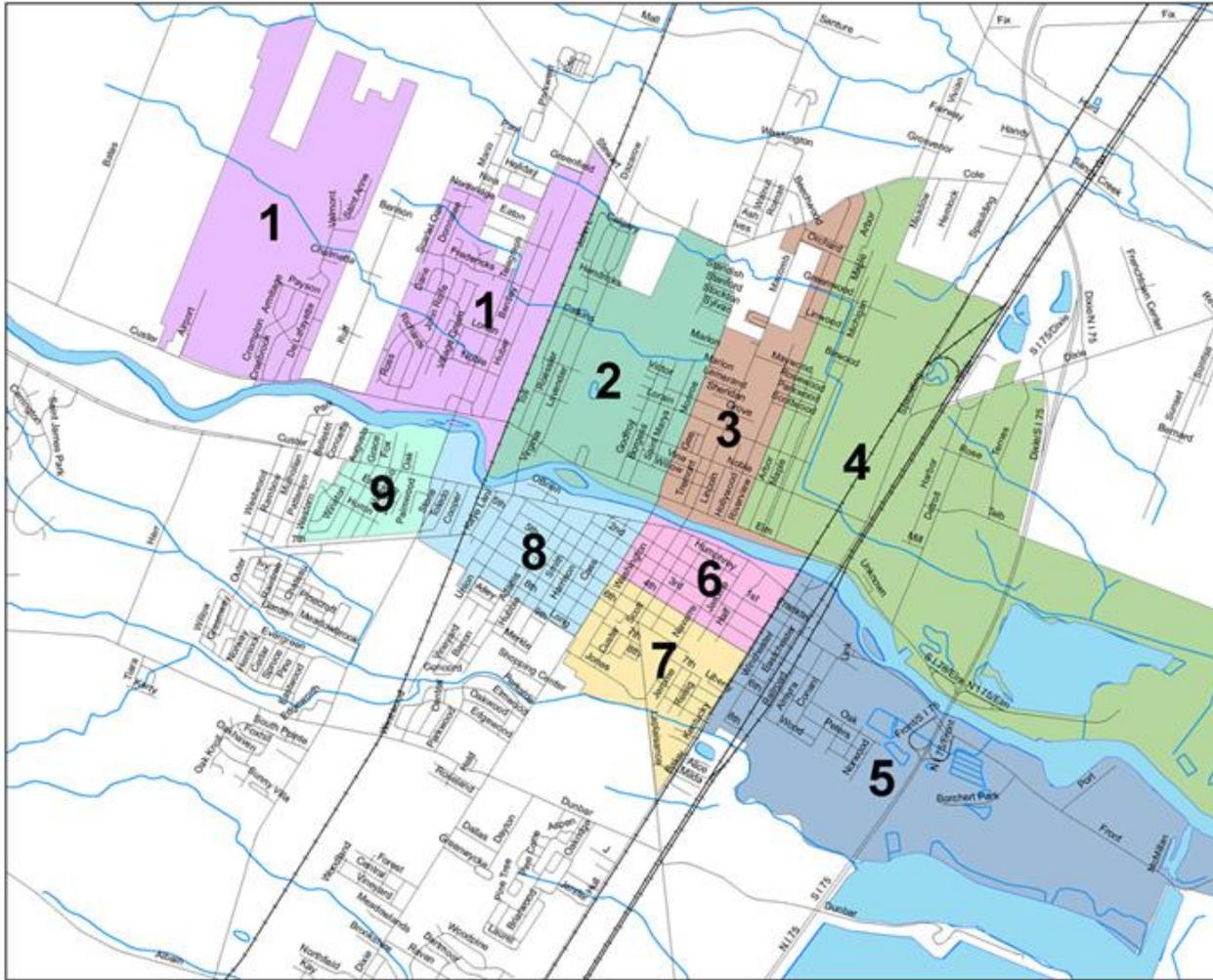
## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

### 37. What category below describes your age?

- Under 20 years old
- 20-24 Years
- 25-29 Years
- 30-34 Years
- 35-39 Years
- 40-44 Years
- 45-49 Years
- 50-54 Years
- 55-59 Years
- 60-64 Years
- 65-69 Years
- 70-74 Years
- 75-79 Years
- 80-84 Years
- 85 Years or Older

# Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

Use the map below to answer question 38.



## Monroe Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan

**38. In which area of the community do you reside? (Refer to the map above)**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- I live outside the City of Monroe.

**39. Please feel free to comment in the text box below regarding any suggestions you may have that were not addressed in this survey.**

**Thank you!**

You are now finished with the survey. Thank you for your input!

## Survey Results

| 1. About how long have you lived in the City of Monroe? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Less than 5 Years                                       | 17.1%            | 14             |
| 6 to 10 Years   | 9.8%             | 8              |
| 11 to 15 Years  | 6.1%             | 5              |
| More than 15 Years                                      | 67.1%            | 55             |
| answered question                                       |                  | 82             |
| skipped question  |                  | 2              |

| 2. Have you participated in parks and recreation programs provided by the City of Monroe in the past five years? |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes  | 73.5%            | 61             |
| No   | 26.5%            | 22             |
| answered question  |                  | 83             |
| skipped question   |                  | 1              |

| 3. Please indicate which type of leisure activities that you regularly participate in: |                      |                     |              |                      |                       |            |                |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | At least once a week | A few times a month | Once a month | Several times a year | Less than once a year | Not at all | Response Count |
| Sports Team  | 30                   | 2                   | 1            | 4                    | 9                     | 37         | 83             |
| Gym; Work Out Facility   | 17                   | 4                   | 0            | 6                    | 9                     | 47         | 83             |
| Outdoor Activities   | 36                   | 19                  | 8            | 10                   | 1                     | 10         | 84             |
| Running, Hiking, Walking or Biking   | 40                   | 19                  | 4            | 9                    | 3                     | 9          | 84             |
| Other (please specify activity and frequency)  |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 15         | 15             |
| answered question  |                      |                     |              |                      |                       |            | 84             |
| skipped question   |                      |                     |              |                      |                       |            | 0              |

Question 3 Other Responses:

1. Music in Park
2. Golf
3. Gardening at least once a week, fishing a few times a month
4. Hockey & figure skating daily
5. Parent of children who do t ball
6. Special Olympics practices, competitions, and fund raisers
7. concerts in the park - weekly during the summer months when offered
8. Take the family to various parks
9. Concerts in the park (St. Mary's Park)
10. Kayaking at State park
11. Soccer from 2-4 times per week
12. yard hobbies
13. soccer
14. gardening, nature activities such as birding, fishing, kayaking
15. kids playgrounds/playscapes 2-3 times per week

4. Think about the parks in Northeast Monroe. Please identify which outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities that you (or a member of your household) use in Monroe, and how often.

| Answer Options                              | At least once a week | A few times a month | Once a month | Several times a year | Less than once a year | Response Count |
|---|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Arbor-Lorain Park                           | 0                    | 1                   | 0            | 1                    | 71                    | 73             |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Swimming Pool | 2                    | 1                   | 1            | 5                    | 64                    | 73             |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Tennis Courts | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 3                    | 70                    | 73             |
| Cappuccilli Park                            | 0                    | 3                   | 1            | 3                    | 66                    | 73             |
| Central Park                                | 1                    | 0                   | 0            | 0                    | 72                    | 73             |
| Crescent Park                               | 1                    | 0                   | 0            | 0                    | 72                    | 73             |
| Elliot Park                                 | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 1                    | 72                    | 73             |
| Median Park                                 | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 1                    | 72                    | 73             |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex - Skating       | 3                    | 3                   | 2            | 14                   | 52                    | 74             |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex – Indoor Field  | 2                    | 2                   | 1            | 10                   | 59                    | 74             |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex – Bounce House  | 1                    | 1                   | 3            | 16                   | 53                    | 74             |
| Noble Park                                  | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 1                    | 72                    | 73             |
| River Raisin Memorial                       | 2                    | 3                   | 1            | 14                   | 53                    | 73             |
| Riviere Aux Raisins Park (Stone Monument)   | 0                    | 2                   | 1            | 3                    | 67                    | 73             |
| answered question                           |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 74             |
| skipped question                            |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 10             |

5. Think about the parks in Northwest Monroe. Please identify which outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities that you (or a member of your household) use in Monroe, and how often.

| Answer Options                                     | At least once a week | A few times a month | Once a month | Several times a year | Less than once a year | Response Count |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Calgary Park                                       | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 2                    | 71                    | 73             |
| Cranbrook Park (Worrell Park)                      | 1                    | 0                   | 1            | 4                    | 67                    | 73             |
| Frenchman's Bend Park                              | 0                    | 1                   | 1            | 3                    | 68                    | 73             |
| James and Hendricks Park                           | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 2                    | 71                    | 73             |
| Lavender Park                                      | 0                    | 0                   | 3            | 2                    | 68                    | 73             |
| Manor Park   | 3                    | 1                   | 3            | 7                    | 59                    | 73             |
| Munson Park  | 21                   | 13                  | 7            | 23                   | 10                    | 74             |
| Oak Forest Park                                    | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 0                    | 73                    | 73             |
| Roessler Field at Riverside School                 | 2                    | 4                   | 7            | 15                   | 45                    | 73             |
| St. Mary's Park                                    | 8                    | 10                  | 10           | 29                   | 16                    | 73             |
| Veteran's Park                                     | 4                    | 12                  | 8            | 21                   | 28                    | 73             |
| Elm Avenue Bike Path / River Raisin Heritage Trail | 10                   | 14                  | 6            | 19                   | 25                    | 74             |
| answered question                                  |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 74             |
| skipped question                                   |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 10             |

6. Think about the parks in Southeast Monroe. Please identify which outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities that you (or a member of your household) use in Monroe, and how often.

| Answer Options                       | At least once a week | A few times a month | Once a month | Several times a year | Less than once a year | Response Count |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Altrusa Park                         | 0                    | 2                   | 0            | 4                    | 67                    | 73             |
| Arthur Lesow Community Center        | 0                    | 1                   | 2            | 5                    | 65                    | 73             |
| Hellenberg Field                     | 0                    | 2                   | 0            | 5                    | 66                    | 73             |
| Labor Park                           | 0                    | 1                   | 0            | 0                    | 72                    | 73             |
| Loranger Square                      | 3                    | 7                   | 5            | 21                   | 37                    | 73             |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park | 0                    | 2                   | 0            | 2                    | 69                    | 73             |
| Navarre Field                        | 1                    | 4                   | 2            | 12                   | 54                    | 73             |
| Plum Creek Park                      | 1                    | 0                   | 0            | 1                    | 71                    | 73             |
| Rauch Park                           | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 1                    | 72                    | 73             |
| Sawyer Homestead                     | 0                    | 3                   | 0            | 7                    | 63                    | 73             |
| Soldier & Sailors Park               | 0                    | 6                   | 3            | 10                   | 54                    | 73             |
| answered question                    |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 73             |
| skipped question                     |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 11             |

7. Think about the parks in Southwest Monroe. Please identify which outdoor parks and/or recreation facilities that you (or a member of your household) use in Monroe, and how often.

| Answer Options     | At least once a week | A few times a month | Once a month | Several times a year | Less than once a year | Response Count |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| Boyd Park          | 0                    | 0                   | 1            | 2                    | 70                    | 73             |
| Father Cairns Park | 0                    | 0                   | 2            | 2                    | 69                    | 73             |
| Front/Third/Union  | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 1                    | 72                    | 73             |
| Gateway Park       | 1                    | 1                   | 0            | 3                    | 68                    | 73             |
| Hoffman Park       | 0                    | 0                   | 0            | 1                    | 72                    | 73             |
| Memorial Place     | 1                    | 0                   | 0            | 3                    | 69                    | 73             |
| Mill Race Park     | 0                    | 0                   | 2            | 0                    | 71                    | 73             |
| Winston Park       | 0                    | 1                   | 1            | 1                    | 70                    | 73             |
| answered question  |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 73             |
| skipped question   |                      |                     |              |                      |                       | 11             |

## 8. Which Monroe park and/or recreation facility do you visit most often? (Identify One)

| Answer Options                                     | Response Percent         | Response Count |
|--|--------------------------|----------------|
| Arbor-Lorain Park                                  | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Altrusa Park                                       | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Swimming Pool        | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Tennis Courts        | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Arthur Lesow Community Center                      | 1.4%                     | 1              |
| Boyd Park  | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Calgary Park                                       | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Cappuccilli Park                                   | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Central Park                                       | 1.4%                     | 1              |
| Cranbrook Park (Worrell Park)                      | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Crescent Park                                      | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Elliot Park  | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Elm Avenue Bike Path / River Raisin Heritage Trail | 9.9%                     | 7              |
| Father Cairns Park                                 | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Frenchman’s Bend Park                              | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Front/Third/Union                                  | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Gateway Park                                       | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Hellenberg Field                                   | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Hoffman Park                                       | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| James and Hendricks Park                           | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Labor Park   | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Lavender Park                                      | 1.4%                     | 1              |
| Loranger Square                                    | 1.4%                     | 1              |
| Manor Park   | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park               | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Median Park  | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Memorial Place                                     | 1.4%                     | 1              |
| Mill Race Park                                     | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex – Bounce House         | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex – Indoor Field         | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex - Skating              | 5.6%                     | 4              |
| Munson Park  | 43.7%                    | 31             |
| Navarre Field                                      | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Noble Park   | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Oak Forest Park                                    | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Plum Creek Park                                    | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Rauch Park   | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| River Raisin Memorial                              | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Riviere Aux Raisins Park                           | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Roessler Field at Riverside School                 | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Sawyer Homestead                                   | 0.0%                     | 0              |
| Soldier & Sailors Park                             | 1.4%                     | 1              |
| St. Mary’s Park                                    | 23.9%                    | 17             |
| Veteran’s Park                                     | 8.5%                     | 6              |
| Winston Park                                       | 0.0%                     | 0              |
|  | <b>answered question</b> | 71             |
|  | <b>skipped question</b>  | 13             |

| 9. Why do you visit parks? (Check all that apply.) |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options                                     | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Relaxation   | 65.3%            | 49             |
| Exercise   | 72.0%            | 54             |
| Athletics / Sports                                 | 53.3%            | 40             |
| Nature / Wildlife viewing                          | 42.7%            | 32             |
| Spending time with family / friends                | 58.7%            | 44             |
| Socializing with friend / neighbors                | 34.7%            | 26             |
| I do not visit parks                               | 1.3%             | 1              |
| Other (please specify)                             | 5.3%             | 4              |
| answered question                                  |                  | 75             |
| skipped question                                   |                  | 9              |

Question 9 Other Responses:

1. City Events Planned
2. music
3. memorials
4. have a small child

| 10. If you answered "I do not visit parks," what is the reason? (Check all that apply.) |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| I do not have time to visit parks.  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| I do not feel safe in parks.  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| I usually exercise indoors.   | 0.0%             | 0              |
| I'm not interested in the park amenities.   | 0.0%             | 0              |
| I'm not interested in the recreation programs.  | 100.0%           | 1              |
| Other (please specify)  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| answered question   |                  | 1              |
| skipped question  |                  | 83             |

| 11. As a resident of Monroe, how would you rate the following? |           |      |      |      |            |                |
|--|-----------|------|------|------|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't Know | Response Count |
| Amount of Park Land  | 35        | 28   | 5    | 0    | 5          | 73             |
| Variety of Park Facilities                                     | 22        | 28   | 17   | 1    | 5          | 73             |
| Recreation Programming   | 15        | 38   | 9    | 4    | 6          | 72             |
| Open Spaces / Natural Areas                                    | 18        | 39   | 10   | 2    | 4          | 73             |
| Connections to & Between Parks                                 | 11        | 19   | 23   | 9    | 10         | 72             |
| Art and Cultural Events  | 10        | 27   | 20   | 5    | 9          | 71             |
| Other (please specify item and rating)                         |           |      |      |      |            | 3              |
| answered question  |           |      |      |      |            | 73             |
| skipped question   |           |      |      |      |            | 11             |

Question 11 Other Responses:

1. Need a golf set-up
2. The state of the parks are dire. The city neglects them. They are in disrepair.
3. The park facilities are in disrepair, which discourages visits

| 12. How would you rate the City of Monroe INDOOR recreation activities, programs and services for age groups: |           |      |      |      |            |                |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't Know | Response Count |
| Pre-school Age  | 4         | 13   | 11   | 3    | 41         | 72             |
| Elementary School Age   | 6         | 13   | 14   | 3    | 35         | 71             |
| Middle School Age   | 6         | 12   | 12   | 3    | 38         | 71             |
| High School Age   | 5         | 5    | 14   | 3    | 44         | 71             |
| Adults (Less than 60 Years Old)   | 5         | 11   | 15   | 8    | 32         | 71             |
| Adults (More than 60 Years Old)   | 4         | 8    | 9    | 5    | 45         | 71             |
| answered question   |           |      |      |      |            | 72             |
| skipped question  |           |      |      |      |            | 12             |

| 13. How would you rate the City of Monroe OUTDOOR parks and recreation facilities for ages: |           |      |      |      |            |                |
|---|-----------|------|------|------|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Don't Know | Response Count |
| Pre-school Age  | 12        | 23   | 14   | 1    | 22         | 72             |
| Elementary School Age   | 14        | 26   | 11   | 1    | 20         | 72             |
| Middle School Age   | 10        | 26   | 11   | 1    | 23         | 71             |
| High School Age   | 8         | 20   | 14   | 2    | 28         | 72             |
| Adults (Less than 60 Years Old)   | 12        | 29   | 15   | 3    | 12         | 71             |
| Adults (More than 60 Years Old)   | 11        | 23   | 8    | 4    | 27         | 73             |
| answered question   |           |      |      |      |            | 73             |
| skipped question  |           |      |      |      |            | 11             |

| 14. Please indicate which of the following recreation facilities and activities Monroe should plan for and develop. |               |                 |              |            |                |                |
|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | High Priority | Medium Priority | Low Priority | Not Needed | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Baseball Fields   | 11            | 30              | 16           | 10         | 2.63           | 67             |
| Basketball Courts   | 9             | 34              | 18           | 6          | 2.69           | 67             |
| Batting Cages   | 13            | 23              | 23           | 9          | 2.59           | 68             |
| Children's Play Structures (Toddler)  | 19            | 28              | 18           | 3          | 2.93           | 68             |
| Children's Play Structures (6+ Years of Age)  | 19            | 30              | 15           | 4          | 2.94           | 68             |
| Canoe / Kayak Launches  | 26            | 13              | 24           | 6          | 2.86           | 69             |
| Community Gardens   | 18            | 25              | 18           | 8          | 2.77           | 69             |
| Cultural Events / Public Art  | 17            | 31              | 12           | 8          | 2.84           | 68             |
| Exercise Trails   | 24            | 30              | 11           | 5          | 3.04           | 70             |
| Frisbee Golf  | 6             | 15              | 31           | 16         | 2.16           | 68             |
| Non-Motorized Trails  | 16            | 26              | 19           | 7          | 2.75           | 68             |
| Outdoor Movies in the Park  | 18            | 25              | 18           | 8          | 2.77           | 69             |
| Outdoor Picnic and Pavilion Shelters  | 16            | 28              | 18           | 7          | 2.77           | 69             |
| Parks with Wireless Internet Capabilities   | 11            | 19              | 18           | 21         | 2.29           | 69             |
| Passive (Leisure) Parks   | 12            | 23              | 23           | 11         | 2.52           | 69             |
| Pickleball Courts   | 0             | 10              | 37           | 20         | 1.85           | 67             |
| Soccer Fields   | 24            | 19              | 17           | 8          | 2.87           | 68             |
| Softball Fields   | 14            | 27              | 16           | 10         | 2.67           | 67             |
| Splash Pad  | 14            | 20              | 17           | 16         | 2.48           | 67             |
| Swimming Pool   | 18            | 26              | 14           | 12         | 2.71           | 70             |
| Tennis Courts   | 9             | 28              | 19           | 13         | 2.48           | 69             |
| Volleyball (Outdoor) Courts   | 5             | 31              | 20           | 11         | 2.45           | 67             |
| Volleyball (Indoor) Courts  | 7             | 22              | 25           | 14         | 2.32           | 68             |
| Walking Trails  | 33            | 22              | 9            | 6          | 3.17           | 70             |
| Winter Skating Rink   | 21            | 19              | 23           | 7          | 2.77           | 70             |
| Other (please specify)  |               |                 |              |            |                | 5              |
| answered question   |               |                 |              |            |                | 72             |
| skipped question  |               |                 |              |            |                | 12             |

## Question 11 Other Responses:

1. Golf
2. Natural Areas
3. Please allow MASA to expand the soccer fields in the back of the park.
4. Handicap access to Munson Park soccer fields. My wife could not attend because she could not walk to the fields.
5. An indoor venue to hold programs all year would be nice

| 15. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements.   |                |                |            |                   |                   |                |
|--|----------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | No Opinion | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Response Count |
| Parks and recreation facilities and services are important to our community and worthy of taxpayer support.                                | 58             | 11             | 1          | 1                 | 1                 | 72             |
| Monroe should invest in additional parks and recreation facilities and services.   | 30             | 27             | 7          | 5                 | 3                 | 72             |
| To the extent possible, parks and recreation facilities should be supported by those who use them rather than by general taxpayer dollars. | 8              | 22             | 6          | 21                | 15                | 72             |
| It is currently difficult to walk and bike to adjacent communities.  | 18             | 21             | 25         | 6                 | 2                 | 72             |
| Monroe should actively plan for and sponsor arts and cultural activities.  | 27             | 25             | 14         | 3                 | 3                 | 72             |
| I feel safe when visiting Monroe Parks.  | 37             | 29             | 1          | 4                 | 1                 | 72             |
| answered question  |                |                |            |                   |                   | 72             |
| skipped question   |                |                |            |                   |                   | 12             |

| 16. How easy is it for people who are disabled, elderly, or others with restricted mobility to get around in the City of Monroe? |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Extremely Easy   | 5.7%             | 4              |
| Very Easy  | 11.4%            | 8              |
| Moderately Easy  | 22.9%            | 16             |
| Slightly Easy  | 4.3%             | 3              |
| Not at all Easy  | 14.3%            | 10             |
| Don't Know   | 41.4%            | 29             |
| answered question  |                  | 70             |
| skipped question   |                  | 14             |

| 17. How easy is it to enter, travel through, and use most parks in your neighborhood? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Extremely Easy  | 22.5%            | 16             |
| Very Easy   | 35.2%            | 25             |
| Moderately Easy   | 22.5%            | 16             |
| Slightly Easy   | 9.9%             | 7              |
| Not at all Easy   | 4.2%             | 3              |
| Don't Know  | 5.6%             | 4              |
| answered question   |                  | 71             |
| skipped question  |                  | 13             |

| 18. What do you think would make Monroe's parks easier for you or your family to use? |                |
|---|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Count |
| Open-ended  | 32             |
| answered question   | 32             |
| skipped question  | 52             |

## Question 18 Answers:

1. I think they are excellent already.
2. A complete River Trail
3. They are accessible by car or bicycle, however trails leading back to trails in the woods at Munson need grading/maintenance/gravel
4. More bicycle accommodations
5. Side walks along busy streets to get to and from the parks.
6. shuttle service and more communications. (email)
7. The park in the sub in which we live gets very little attention as far as maintenance. Pass by it and it looks somewhat lame and has no draw-me-in attraction.
8. They are good now!
9. Nothing. They are fine and accessible.
10. If the city properly maintained the parks and ensured that they were properly landscaped. Herion needles have been found in parks. The city should keep the parks clean and free from harmful items.
11. Keep connecting them together with bike and walking means
12. Handicap access to the soccer fields from the parking areas at Munson Park. Wife had to sit in the car because she could not get to see 4 year old grandson play on one of the east side fields.
13. More picnic areas. Tables are limited and few in between. Only a couple parks have tables, and those amount of tables are very few. Sterling State Park puts the Monroe Parks to shame in available picnic areas!
14. working facilities
15. More reason to visit them.
16. The city should let MASA develop the area north of existing fields for new soccer field
17. They seem easy to me.
18. Clean bathrooms
19. Seating and shade
20. Parking
21. More bike paths in the city. Overall, the city of Monroe is not very pedestrian friendly, like neighboring cities such as Ann Arbor.
22. Clean bathrooms
23. parking
24. nothing
25. something for every age
26. Many of the parks are neighborhood parks and aren't set up for much parking. Those are nice but the focus should be on the larger, more public parks.
27. no opinion
28. Keeping equipment in safe repair and patrol for trouble, vandalism, etc.
29. They are just fine.
30. lights
31. Teens that congregate at St. Mary's Park by the bridge and under the shelter make park users feel less safe. Upkeep on structures would draw users. Exercise stations would encourage more exercise
32. Smoothed out paths, more than one path to a location (playscape has only parking lot path and would be nice to walk a path from opposite side); trash cans along the way for pet poop!

19. The City of Monroe recognizes that volunteers' contribution of talent, time, and skill enhances our programs, parks, trails, and open spaces, ultimately helping our community to flourish and thrive. How interested are you in donating your time or skills to the community?

| Answer Options        | Response Percent | Response Count |
|-----------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Very Interested       | 21.1%            | 15             |
| Somewhat Interested   | 33.8%            | 24             |
| Somewhat Uninterested | 23.9%            | 17             |
| Not Interested at all | 21.1%            | 15             |
| answered question     |                  | 71             |
| skipped question      |                  | 13             |

20. Think about the parks in Northeast Monroe. How well are the parks and facilities in the City of Monroe maintained?

| Answer Options                              | Extremely Well | Very Well | Moderately Well | Slightly Well | Not Well at All | Don't Know | Response Count |
|---|----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Arbor-Lorain Park                           | 1              | 2         | 5               | 3             | 5               | 52         | 68             |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Swimming Pool | 4              | 9         | 5               | 0             | 3               | 47         | 68             |
| Arborwood (Cantrick) School – Tennis Courts | 2              | 2         | 3               | 4             | 4               | 53         | 68             |
| Cappuccilli Park                            | 1              | 7         | 7               | 4             | 3               | 46         | 68             |
| Central Park                                | 1              | 1         | 3               | 1             | 4               | 58         | 68             |
| Crescent Park                               | 1              | 1         | 1               | 2             | 3               | 60         | 68             |
| Elliot Park                                 | 1              | 1         | 1               | 2             | 3               | 60         | 68             |
| Median Park                                 | 1              | 1         | 1               | 2             | 3               | 60         | 68             |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex - Skating       | 3              | 15        | 7               | 9             | 4               | 31         | 69             |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex – Indoor Field  | 3              | 12        | 8               | 9             | 3               | 34         | 69             |
| Monroe Multi-Sports Complex – Bounce House  | 3              | 12        | 10              | 9             | 4               | 31         | 69             |
| Noble Park                                  | 1              | 3         | 4               | 2             | 2               | 56         | 68             |
| River Raisin Memorial                       | 5              | 12        | 3               | 2             | 3               | 43         | 68             |
| Riviere Aux Raisins Park                    | 1              | 7         | 3               | 3             | 3               | 51         | 68             |
| answered question                           |                |           |                 |               |                 |            | 69             |
| skipped question                            |                |           |                 |               |                 |            | 15             |

| 21. Think about the parks in Northwest Monroe. How well are the parks and facilities in the City of Monroe maintained? |                |           |                 |               |                 |            |                |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Extremely Well | Very Well | Moderately Well | Slightly Well | Not Well at All | Don't Know | Response Count |
| Calgary Park   | 1              | 1         | 4               | 0             | 4               | 58         | 68             |
| Cranbrook Park (Worrell Park)  | 1              | 5         | 5               | 1             | 2               | 54         | 68             |
| Frenchman's Bend Park  | 1              | 6         | 7               | 1             | 2               | 51         | 68             |
| James and Hendricks Park   | 1              | 2         | 4               | 0             | 3               | 58         | 68             |
| Lavender Park  | 1              | 4         | 10              | 2             | 5               | 46         | 68             |
| Manor Park   | 1              | 5         | 9               | 2             | 4               | 47         | 68             |
| Munson Park  | 4              | 28        | 22              | 5             | 2               | 8          | 69             |
| Oak Forest Park  | 2              | 1         | 4               | 1             | 2               | 58         | 68             |
| Roessler Field at Riverside School   | 5              | 15        | 18              | 4             | 1               | 26         | 69             |
| St. Mary's Park  | 10             | 30        | 12              | 3             | 4               | 9          | 68             |
| Veteran's Park   | 10             | 24        | 9               | 5             | 1               | 19         | 68             |
| Elm Avenue Bike Path / River Raisin Heritage Trail   | 4              | 25        | 10              | 3             | 2               | 24         | 68             |
| answered question  |                |           |                 |               |                 |            | 69             |
| skipped question   |                |           |                 |               |                 |            | 15             |

| 22. Think about the parks in Southeast Monroe. How well are the parks and facilities in the City of Monroe maintained? |                |           |                 |               |                 |            |                |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Extremely Well | Very Well | Moderately Well | Slightly Well | Not Well at All | Don't Know | Response Count |
| Altrusa Park   | 1              | 2         | 5               | 2             | 3               | 55         | 68             |
| Arthur Lesow Community Center  | 2              | 5         | 8               | 1             | 1               | 51         | 68             |
| Hellenberg Field   | 0              | 2         | 10              | 4             | 5               | 46         | 67             |
| Labor Park   | 1              | 1         | 3               | 2             | 1               | 60         | 68             |
| Loranger Square  | 11             | 16        | 9               | 0             | 2               | 30         | 68             |
| Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park   | 2              | 2         | 3               | 0             | 2               | 59         | 68             |
| Navarre Field  | 2              | 2         | 13              | 8             | 3               | 40         | 68             |
| Plum Creek Park  | 1              | 1         | 5               | 1             | 4               | 56         | 68             |
| Rauch Park   | 1              | 1         | 4               | 0             | 2               | 60         | 68             |
| Sawyer Homestead   | 7              | 18        | 0               | 1             | 1               | 41         | 68             |
| Soldier & Sailors Park   | 3              | 12        | 7               | 4             | 2               | 40         | 68             |
| answered question  |                |           |                 |               |                 |            | 68             |
| skipped question   |                |           |                 |               |                 |            | 16             |

| 23. Think about the parks in Southwest Monroe. How well are the parks and facilities in the City of Monroe maintained? |                |           |                 |               |                 |            |                |
|--|----------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Extremely Well | Very Well | Moderately Well | Slightly Well | Not Well at All | Don't Know | Response Count |
| Boyd Park  | 1              | 2         | 7               | 2             | 3               | 53         | 68             |
| Father Cairns Park   | 1              | 2         | 3               | 6             | 4               | 52         | 68             |
| Front/Third/Union  | 1              | 2         | 3               | 3             | 2               | 57         | 68             |
| Gateway Park   | 1              | 4         | 2               | 0             | 2               | 58         | 67             |
| Hoffman Park   | 1              | 1         | 2               | 0             | 2               | 62         | 68             |
| Memorial Place   | 2              | 5         | 2               | 0             | 2               | 57         | 68             |
| Mill Race Park   | 1              | 1         | 4               | 0             | 4               | 58         | 68             |
| Winston Park   | 1              | 1         | 5               | 1             | 3               | 57         | 68             |
| answered question  |                |           |                 |               |                 |            | 68             |
| skipped question   |                |           |                 |               |                 |            | 16             |

| 24. What changes would most improve parks and recreation services and/or programs in the City of Monroe? |                |
|--|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Count |
| Open-ended   | 38             |
| answered question  | 38             |
| skipped question   | 46             |

Question 24 Answers:

1. Rest rooms
2. higher priority on major parks, greenspace, low maintenance equipment at pocket parks, including removal of damaged or obsolete concrete and equipment
3. Open park on old christiancy property.
4. More staff and funding
5. bike/walking paths to the parks especially where there is heavy traffic
6. There needs to be a permanent area designated for the younger kids soccer fields. The current setup does not have benches for the kids camp fields. These are the fields used by the 4, 5, and 6 year olds. Right now there is no area designated for them, so the Monroe Area Soccer Association can't have benches put in for these fields because they are being moved each season. It would be nice to have a permanent area designated for them.
7. contine to get the word out.
8. Add soccer fields in Munson Park
9. I believe the city is short staffed in maintenance areas. Simple/basic items are neglected. Promotion of opportunities to children through school communication might help. Cairns Field condition in particular in need of major improvements.
10. Community involvement
11. The members of the community where the parks are located, take an interest in keeping them clean and reporting problems.
12. A realistic and targeted increase in the parks and rec budget. Proper landscaping of the parks. Proper maintenance of the equipment and grounds. Recreation programs need active marketing.
13. Additional Soccer fields at Munson, it would be great to host the large competitions such as Canton and Northville these communities understand the appeal of this sport and the income it generates for the community when these tournaments are held
14. Remove many parks that aren't used for anything and do not have any recreational facilities from the city budget.
15. Up-keep. Much painting of fixtures and structures must be done.

16. Soccer fields
17. Better advertising to the residents
18. Outdoor skating in the winter and a swimming pool in the summer.
19. the city should let MASA develop the area north of existing fields for new soccer field.
20. Get rid of geese.
21. Clean bathrooms
22. the city should let MASA develop the area north of existing fields for new soccer fields
23. city should let MASA develop the area north of existing field for new soccer field at Munson park
24. "Better soccer fields. Better maintenance of parks."
25. none
26. adjust to different trends and lifestyles, more interconnectivity with other events that generate attendance, diversification of programming, more use of the river, better traditional competitive sports programs
27. none
28. pet runs
29. If there are bathrooms there may be some way to make them safer/cleaner. My main concern is safety because some odd people hang out in parks. Also, make sure the equipment is safe. Munson's expensive playscape is looking rough.
30. cleanlynes,more to do, and more picnic space
31. I think parks the parks are doing fine. Rest room facilities at some need improvement.
32. Charge less for adult softball and maintain Munson ballfields, lights, restrooms and stands better.
33. lights
34. Better walking trails between parks
35. Community help
36. Offer year round programming for all ages. Outdoor programming is limited by weather.
37. more awareness, more options for couples/individuals (especially for sports teams!)
38. More money alloted to the parks for maintance/upgrades. In the past few years the parks budget is so little that the City can barely maintain the parks. They look horrible and I am afraid that someone is going to get hurt at them.

| 25. What types of recreation activities would you participate in if they were available in the City of Monroe? |                |
|--|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Count |
| Open-ended   | 38             |
| answered question  | 38             |
| skipped question   | 46             |

1. Question 25 Answers:
2. Golf, Swimming
3. Golf
4. Tai Chi
5. My main recreation activities include walking the bike paths,and sidewalks, encompassing some parks along the way. Would like to bicycle more.
6. Walking/bicycling programs-clubs
7. biking,hiking,outdoor swimming pools
8. The summer programs this past year for children and adults were great. Keep it up
9. Fitness classes for all levels of fitness
10. A simple outdoor ice skating sheet of ice would be nice but would first need to see if it would be affordable and used by locals.
11. Splash Pad
12. Music

13. Canoeing
14. See previous responses
15. Don't know. I do go to St. mary's Park for events already.
16. Arts and entertainment.
17. family
18. Pickleball, frisbe golf.
19. Skating and swimming.
20. I just started kayaking and hope the changes on the river make it easier, and also hope there would be some type of guide as to how to manage the new spots they are working on.
21. arts & museums
22. Walking and bicycling
23. 5k's
24. Sports
25. Our family is very active in all activities currently offered. Jazz Festivals, Movie nights, athletics, etc. When you offer a safe, affordable community activity, we are usually there.
26. Pickle ball
27. horseshoe
28. canoe/kayak, tennis, camping, videogame tournament, movie in park
29. Walking
30. winter activities
31. You have a lot of activities but I just haven't done many of them. Keep up the music in the park.
32. canoeing, sports,
33. I'm getting to the age that I just walk.
34. open ice skating for adults and seniors only
35. soccer
36. A greater variety of cultural events; concerts, festivals etc
37. Would love to see more nature activities to engage kids in their environment. Indoor activities could include specifically young children and seniors
38. adult soccer!
39. dedicated kids paths so that they are safer when riding and not competing with adults for same paths.

| 26. What types of events would you attend if they were held in the City of Monroe? |                |
|--|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Count |
| Open-ended   | 33             |
| answered question  | 33             |
| skipped question   | 51             |

1. Question 26 Answers:
2. Bicycling
3. "Art, Music, Culture"
4. Art fairs, already attend Jazz festival, downtown festivals like former Floral City Festivals, wine crawl, pub crawl, grub crawl
5. Like the current events
6. movies and fitness classes in the park
7. I think the city should look into holding more soccer tournaments.

8. movies in the park. moderate exercise program
9. Not particularly for this household but more cultural events would be nice. I know the area doesn't probably warrant it though.
10. concerts in the park
11. Attend most all
12. Movie in the park
13. Movies in the park. Story time for children. Active community clean up activities.
14. What you have now on the schedule.
15. Concerts!
16. family
17. 4th of July fireworks, ethnic festivals.
18. historical events, canoeing
19. Art and music
20. Most of anything. Love seeing what Monroe has to offer and support local businesses.
21. Festivals
22. Athletics, festivals, organized runs.
23. Concerts
24. jazzandarts
25. canoe/kayak race, something like the old challenge cup, arts and culture performances
26. none
27. historical, ghost tours
28. Maybe some good theater in the park - appropriate for all ages.
29. concerts
30. Concerts are my favorite.
31. more concerts, ballet
32. art, craft and musical events
33. see above; blues festival! :)
34. More concerts in the park, more classes

| 27. If you do not participate in activities in the City of Monroe, why not? |                |
|---|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Count |
| Open-ended  | 17             |
| answered question   | 17             |
| skipped question  | 67             |

Question 27 Answers:

1. Haven't found activities I am interested in
2. Sometime limited because of busy schedule
3. most of the current activities are during the day when I work. We need more evening and weekend events
4. Time issues
5. Our son played hockey locally until 4 years ago. The facility and association were terribly ran so he now plays in the downriver area. Unfortunately much of our income and time are spent there as well. Although living in the area much of our lives we do very little in the city or county of Monroe.
6. I do participate
7. I participate

- 8. If it wasn't because of the nearness of St. Maery's where I can walk to, I would say parking is the best reason for not attending.
  - 9. I do, if they appear interesting.
  - 10. -
  - 11. Usually don't know about them or uninterested.
  - 12. I do
  - 13. time
  - 14. Always working
  - 15. I actually live in Frenchtown, just past the Ford Dealership. It's very close to Monroe but I'm not always getting the info on downtown happenings.
  - 16. i do
- Not aware of indoor activity spots aside from Multisports Complex.

| 28. How strong is the sense of community in Monroe? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options                                      | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Extremely Strong                                    | 11.4%            | 8              |
| Very Strong   | 22.9%            | 16             |
| Moderately Strong                                   | 54.3%            | 38             |
| Slightly Strong                                     | 8.6%             | 6              |
| Not at all Strong                                   | 2.9%             | 2              |
| answered question                                   |                  | 70             |
| skipped question                                    |                  | 14             |

| 29. How important do you feel the Monroe parks and recreation facilities are to our sense of community? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Extremely Important   | 32.4%            | 23             |
| Very Important  | 49.3%            | 35             |
| Moderately Important  | 15.5%            | 11             |
| Slightly Important  | 2.8%             | 2              |
| Not at All Important  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| answered question   |                  | 71             |
| skipped question  |                  | 13             |

| 30. Are you aware that a master plan for the River Raisin National Battlefield Park and surrounding area was recently completed? (For more information, visit <a href="http://www.historic1812.org">www.historic1812.org</a> ) |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Yes  | 81.4%            | 57             |
| No   | 18.6%            | 13             |
| answered question  |                  | 70             |
| skipped question   |                  | 14             |

| 31. Do you use the Heritage Trail / Elm Avenue Bike Path to travel to Sterling State Park? |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| More than once a week  | 5.7%             | 4              |
| Once a week  | 10.0%            | 7              |
| Once a month   | 22.9%            | 16             |
| Once a year  | 25.7%            | 18             |
| Never  | 35.7%            | 25             |
| answered question  |                  | 70             |
| skipped question   |                  | 14             |

| 32. A large segment of Monroe’s population is between the ages of 50 and 60. If you are a senior, what programs and activities would you like to see in Monroe in the near future? |                  |                |
|--|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options   | Response Percent | Response Count |
| I’m satisfied with the current programs.   | 44.7%            | 17             |
| I don’t participate in any City activities.  | 15.8%            | 6              |
| I would like to participate in (Please specify below):   | 39.5%            | 15             |
| answered question  |                  | 38             |
| skipped question   |                  | 46             |

Question 32 Answers:

1. Croquet, swimming, bicycling, horseshoes, ladder ball, bocce ball, cards, badminton
2. Walking, Travel
3. walking,biking,movies,swimming
4. group fitness classes
5. more concerts in the park/court dances
6. not a senior
7. pickleball, frisbe golf
8. A list would be nice, seniors have a lot of time and like to try different things.....I just stated kayaking at 59.
9. arts and museums
10. concerts, and sports
11. listed above
12. soccer
13. bingo in the park
14. develop the river
15. free indoor exercise, informational classes, anything not older senior geared. How to keep fit through the aging years.

33. Please rate your response to the following statements regarding Arborwood (Cantrick) School Outdoor Pool. Note that "No Opinion" is to the far right.

| Answer Options  | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree | No Opinion | Response Count |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Members of my family use the Arborwood (Cantrick) School outdoor pool.  | 7              | 7              | 2                 | 32                | 21         | 69             |
| The Arborwood (Cantrick) School outdoor pool is worthy of taxpayer support.   | 13             | 21             | 7                 | 9                 | 19         | 69             |
| To the extent possible, the Arborwood (Cantrick) School outdoor pool should be supported by those who use it rather than by general taxpayer dollars. | 14             | 29             | 7                 | 4                 | 15         | 69             |
| answered question   |                |                |                   |                   |            | 69             |
| skipped question  |                |                |                   |                   |            | 15             |

34. Please rate your response to the following statements the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex. Note that "No Opinion" is to the far right.

| Answer Options   | Strongly Agree | Somewhat Agree | Somewhat Disagree | Strongly Disagree | No Opinion | Response Count |
|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|----------------|
| Members of my family use the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex.  | 16             | 19             | 1                 | 22                | 13         | 71             |
| The Monroe Multi-Sports Complex is worthy of taxpayer support.   | 19             | 20             | 16                | 10                | 6          | 71             |
| To the extent possible, the Monroe Multi-Sports Complex should be supported by those who use it rather than by general taxpayer dollars. | 14             | 32             | 6                 | 9                 | 9          | 70             |
| answered question  |                |                |                   |                   |            | 71             |
| skipped question   |                |                |                   |                   |            | 13             |

35. How much longer do you expect to live in the City of Monroe?

| Answer Options     | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Less than 5 Years  | 10.1%            | 7              |
| 6 to 10 Years      | 17.4%            | 12             |
| 11 to 15 Years     | 13.0%            | 9              |
| More than 15 Years | 59.4%            | 41             |
| answered question  |                  | 69             |
| skipped question   |                  | 15             |

| 36. Which of the following categories best describes your occupation? |                  |                |
|---|------------------|----------------|
| Answer Options  | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Manufacturing   | 8.6%             | 6              |
| Construction  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| Wholesale Trade   | 0.0%             | 0              |
| Retail Trade  | 4.3%             | 3              |
| Transportation and Warehousing  | 1.4%             | 1              |
| Information / Technology  | 2.9%             | 2              |
| Finance, Insurance and Real Estate                                    | 1.4%             | 1              |
| Professional, Scientific, Management                                  | 12.9%            | 9              |
| Educational, Health, and Social Services                              | 15.7%            | 11             |
| Arts, Entertainment and Recreation                                    | 1.4%             | 1              |
| Government  | 14.3%            | 10             |
| Currently in School (Student)   | 0.0%             | 0              |
| Retired   | 22.9%            | 16             |
| Currently Unemployed  | 4.3%             | 3              |
| Other (please specify)  | 10.0%            | 7              |
| answered question   |                  | 70             |
| skipped question  |                  | 14             |

Question 36 Other Responses:

1. Security. Fire specialist
2. mom
3. Mom to four kids
4. self-employed
5. social security
6. Religion
7. Not for Profit

**37. What category below describes your age?**

| Answer Options     | Response Percent | Response Count |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Under 20 years old | 0.0%             | 0              |
| 20-24 Years        | 0.0%             | 0              |
| 25-29 Years        | 5.7%             | 4              |
| 30-34 Years        | 5.7%             | 4              |
| 35-39 Years        | 7.1%             | 5              |
| 40-44 Years        | 10.0%            | 7              |
| 45-49 Years        | 20.0%            | 14             |
| 50-54 Years        | 10.0%            | 7              |
| 55-59 Years        | 12.9%            | 9              |
| 60-64 Years        | 15.7%            | 11             |
| 65-69 Years        | 5.7%             | 4              |
| 70-74 Years        | 5.7%             | 4              |
| 75-79 Years        | 1.4%             | 1              |
| 80-84 Years        | 0.0%             | 0              |
| 85 Years or Older  | 0.0%             | 0              |
| answered question  |                  | 70             |
| skipped question   |                  | 14             |

**38. In which area of the community do you reside?**

| Answer Options                     | Response Percent | Response Count |
|------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1                                  | 16.9%            | 12             |
| 2                                  | 15.5%            | 11             |
| 3                                  | 9.9%             | 7              |
| 4                                  | 5.6%             | 4              |
| 5                                  | 1.4%             | 1              |
| 6                                  | 5.6%             | 4              |
| 7                                  | 7.0%             | 5              |
| 8                                  | 9.9%             | 7              |
| 9                                  | 7.0%             | 5              |
| I live outside the City of Monroe. | 21.1%            | 15             |
| answered question                  |                  | 71             |
| skipped question                   |                  | 13             |

**39. Please feel free to comment in the text box below regarding any suggestions you may have that were not addressed in this survey.**

| Answer Options    | Response Count |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Open-ended        | 24             |
| answered question | 24             |
| skipped question  | 60             |

## Question 39 Answers:

1. I think that making two bike lanes on N. Dixie Hwy. could end up being a serious mistake. Safety issues are: speed; cars and trucks not seeing you when they wish to turn into or out of a business; darkness of night on a busy road. We are bikers and we will never bike on that stretch of highway. There are other safer ways to get to Sterling State Park by bike.
2. Need restrooms open yearly. Munson Park - need year round restrooms. Elm Avenue Bike Path - need resurfacing for roller blading. In reference to Arborwood outdoor pool: what does it cost to swim? Need an outdoor pool non-school related. Hours not published enough.
3. Trails, Bike Paths, Natural Areas, Dog Park
4. I'm very excited about the volunteerism program rolled out at the last Council meeting. It made me think of my own community involvement in making Monroe better. Perhaps a more proactive search for volunteers needs to be a priority, with recognition via social media, awards, T-shirt/sweatshirt for participation, etc. Just something to be a thank you to volunteers. Perhaps even a picnic for volunteers.
5. I'd like to be able to walk or bike from the State Park on Lake Erie all the way through the City to Monroe Community College and from Walmart/Lowe's and the Mall of Monroe through the City all the way to Custer Elementary.
6. Please allow Munson Park to expand its soccer fields for the MASA league
7. "First of all thank you for the opportunity to fill out this survey. Sorry if my words sound harsh but I believe that Monroe is in very hard times. Foremost I believe the city lacks leadership. I do not attend the city council meetings but watch them on local access and the lack of info made public is troubling. The many closed door sessions is mind boggling. I on many occasions have heard Mayor Clark cut the public off because he has apparently heard enough. Very disrespectful. These people(good or not) are your residents.
8. Although not within the city limits, I believe we should do much more to promote the local community college. They do a great job with the jazz fest, why not attempt the same idea with a contemporary christian music fest. Although not a huge interest for my residence I feel more cultural events would be enjoyed by locals and draw in outsiders attention and finances.
9. I would like to see the MMSC thrive. My son and many of his friends and ex-teammates still participate in ice hockey in the Toledo and downriver areas. Unfortunately there local support and money go with them.i.e. money spent on gas, food and shopping done in cities, counties and states other than Monroe.
10. In closing I again thank you for this opportunity. Good luck and we hope and pray for the improvement of Monroe."
11. The city should let MASA develop the area north of existing fields for new soccer field.
12. Parks should be maintained and cleaned by citizens using. Over view and upkeep by the city funds available but not at risk of major repairs for all tax payers
13. I believe parks are the responsibility of the neighborhood in which the park is located. They should maintain the park by picking up garbage when necessary and reporting problems and broken equipment. The neighborhood should be responsible for spring cleaning. The city should provide mulch and maintain equipment though.
14. "This survey was silently put on the city website after a concerned citizen started posting pictures of the deplorable state of our city parks. The city should do a much better job at circulating this survey. Putting the fliers in the parks and recreation department and advertising on the website do not ensure that it is adequately circulated. If the city wants accurate data from the citizens of Monroe, it should promote the survey on Facebook and other social media sites, on the web, on MPACT, on the radio, and through mail and email blasts. It should be sent to business, citizens, and people from surrounding communities.
15. This survey completely ignores marketing for City of Monroe recreation and sport activities."
16. I believe the county should help fund the parks such as the multi sports plex and munson. These larger parks are attractive to all Monroe County residents and a benefit. The north fields of Munson park should be allowed to develop more fields. The participant actively solicit funds to create the fields and the city of Monroe benefits because we spend money eating and shopping on our way to and from the fields. Munson Park would be more attractive to the larger soccer tourney if they hand the facility to handle them
17. "I have lived in Monroe for 30 years now. I have always really liked living here and feel that Monroe is now my hometown. As for Parks and Recreation Dept., as I have lived here I have used the facilities often as I aged (Softball, walking, hiking,

- running). Enjoyed the opportunities that were given to me, and the memories I have now from that use.
18. Ease of Handicap accesibilities at Munson for a lot of the far soccer fields from the parking lot is something I feel needs addressed as I have stated earlier in my survey.
  19. As for some of the statements answered, I feel the taxpayer AND the user should share in the expense of some of the facilities, pool, ice rink etc. I feel this is important for the youth and adults to participate in activities associated with these places."
  20. "I am unfamiliar with many of the 'parks' listed. some of the 'parks' are simply grass areas where a house or building once stood (i.e. Labor Park). I am unclear what recreational activities can take place at such a park. I hope my unfamiliarity (and possibly others) does not skew your results.
  21. I appreciate your attempt to better the parks but you need a broader forum. I'm not sure how many residents will fill this survey as it is now."
  22. The city should let MASA develop the area north of existing fields for new soccer field
  23. "city should let MASA develop the area north of existing field for new soccer field at Munson park.
  24. With just the 2 soccer tournaments each year masa bring in over 6000 people to Monroe for a soccer weekend"
  25. The project on N. Dixie Hwy is the biggest waste of money and I am supporting voting against every city council member and the mayor for supporting it. The Detroit Avenue Bike Lane would bring bicyclist to N. Dixie Hwy which I rarely see anyone use. If they wanted a bike path on N. Dixie Hwy I believe an asphalt trail on the city right of way would have been sufficient.
  26. I feel that in Monroe we need more side walks on Telegraph Road and Monroe Street. Plus more bridges for cars to underneath the railroad tracks. I hate how this is in Monroe the design is very out dated. I work near Detroit I've been late for work more times then I like because of this. One train stops the whole city! I wish you would do a survey on that? I know for a fact that 20 plus family's left Monroe just for this reason Union Brothers & Sister's.
  27. The park we use the most is Munson. I hear that you are updating the bathrooms, which they really need. My daughter has played softball there and I've taken my kids there for the playscape. If there's plans for further development I'd be in favor of it.
  28. we need a pool on the eastside of monroe for the children. Some kids can't get to the other side of town.
  29. The city should let MASA develop soccer fields north of field in place
  30. I would like to see a better variety of summer concerts and more events with Sterling State Park.
  31. Nature center at Munson would be great! Would love to have natural areas where residents could visit to enjoy nature and be safe right in the City. Indoor year round programming would be really nice
  32. "Pets: I support a dog run/park, but could we please post some pet rules along the pathways? Especially about cleaning up after pets. Also, please provide trash cans along the trails other than in parking lots. Living along the path, many people use the ground for pet feces and their garbage since trash receptacles are not available.
  33. Bike Path: make path along N Custer wider to accommodate bikes and walking. It is barely big enough for 2 people to pass each other walking let alone if they have a pet or child with them. The path also needs repaving/smoothing due to age and tree roots. Possibly even put a white line down the middle and mark it for walking, running, or direction of flow. Maybe even post bike rules."

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## Vision Session Workshop Results

| What has our community accomplished well?                   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Item  | Number of Votes |
| Session 1   |                 |
| Land for parks use  | 4               |
| Program notifications (newsletter)                          | 4               |
| Amount of programming at parks                              | 4               |
| Walkability of parks  | 1               |
| Activities at parks   | 1               |
| Parks on river  | 0               |
| Fishing   | 0               |
| Session 2   |                 |
| Offer good variety of programming for all areas of interest | 4               |
| Great variety of parks around the city                      | 3               |
| Have kept recreation department through cuts                | 1               |
| Community values recreation                                 | 0               |

| What could our community have done better?  |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Item  | Number of Votes |
| Session 1   |                 |
| Dedicated park supervisor   | 5               |
| Nature Center   | 3               |
| Parks maintenance   | 2               |
| Bicycle accommodations  | 2               |
| More soccer fields (kids camp)  | 2               |
| Proactive park maintenance schedule   | 2               |
| Handicap accessibility – playground and park  | 1               |
| Ice Arena landscaping   | 1               |
| More fishing piers  | 1               |
| Convert parks garage at Munson for day and inside program   | 1               |
| Nature Trails – Munson  | 0               |
| Parking lots at Munson  | 0               |
| Landscaping and shade trees at Munson   | 0               |
| Better conservation of natural areas  | 0               |
| More bathroom facilities and maintenance of them  | 0               |
| Better park signage   | 0               |
| More youth ball diamonds  | 0               |
| Flag football fields  | 0               |
| Kayak and canoe access  | 0               |
| Better maintenance reporting system and audit process   | 0               |
| Session 2   |                 |
| Removed old / tired / broken structures from parks so that it looks better. Green space is better than broken amenities in a park | 4               |
| Better maintenance (ball fields, general park area)   | 3               |
| Better communication between parks and recreation   | 1               |
| Could have not called small green areas “a park”. Eliminate non-usable green spaces from park titles / listing                    | 0               |

| What are our community's barriers to success?  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Item   | Number of votes |
| Session 1  |                 |
| Parks and recreation are separate  | 6               |
| Misunderstanding of the value of recreation  | 5               |
| Increased funding / funding has been cut   | 2               |
| Lack of staff to run programs  | 1               |
| Fees getting too high to try and cover cost. Resident fee vs non-resident fee (fee equality)       | 0               |
| Lack of programming for special needs  | 0               |
| No park master plans   | 0               |
| Session 2  |                 |
| Lack of communication between people / staff for maintenance                                       | 4               |
| Money for budget   | 2               |
| Reduced Staff  | 2               |
| Cultural changes – tastes, interest, less outdoor activities with electronics, more varied options | 2               |
| Finding new and different options for programming  | 0               |
| Families lack the ability to pay for recreational opportunities                                    | 0               |
| Fragmentation of users due to urban sprawl – economic shift  | 0               |

| What does our community look like ten years in the future?  |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Item  | Number of votes |
| <b>Session 1</b>  |                 |
| All parks accessible to all people  | 5               |
| Adequate facilities to accommodate all of our recreation programs   | 4               |
| Complete riverwalk connecting all public facilities along the river   | 3               |
| Well-lit fields for night use   | 2               |
| Regional collaboration (share)  | 2               |
| Coordination of social and sporting events  | 2               |
| Coordination with National Park and State Parks   | 2               |
| More winter recreation opportunities  | 1               |
| More parks in northeast quadrant  | 0               |
| School training program internship  | 0               |
| Water trail with canoe and kayak rentals with launch areas  | 0               |
| <b>Session 2</b>  |                 |
| Neighborhood parks sustained by neighborhoods themselves. Resident ownership. Have communication and partnerships with volunteer groups and have a structured relationship              | 4               |
| Central facility for indoor programming to address recreational needs of all ages. Munson Park as a hub. Provide a social area to bring population together. Nature center with trails. | 3               |
| More regional partnerships to avoid redundancy. Recreational authority  | 3               |
| Package and capitalize Monroe recreational offerings and opportunities to prospective residents - wide range of opportunities   | 2               |
| Evaluate all parks for use – change to prioritize. Manageable and sustainable parks. Plan needs to be fluid in its use, both parks and programming                                      | 1               |
| Seniors – walking paths, places for small children to play  | 1               |
| Better nature opportunities and river access. Preserve natural areas for city residents to enjoy natures. All parks near the river and islands for nature enjoyment. Connectivity.      | 1               |
| Expanded non-motorized routes   | 1               |
| Neighborhood parks having less amenities to upkeep. Small green space, picnic tables, small playscape for little ones.  | 0               |
| River Raisin Heritage Trail connected to Monroe Community College   | 0               |
| Expanded canoe and kayak access to the river  | 0               |

| What actions can we take to achieve our goals?                                   |  |
|--|--|
| Session 1  |  |
| Priority   | Action Items   |
| Priority 1: All parks accessible to all people                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add more accessible routes to all parks</li> <li>• Do complete accessibility audit</li> <li>• Add park amenities for seniors</li> </ul>   |
| Priority 2: Adequate facilities to accommodate all our recreation programs.      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a parks master plan</li> <li>• Develop site plans for major parks</li> <li>• Explore funding options</li> </ul>   |
| Priority 3: Complete riverwalk connection all public facilities along the river. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City non-motorized transportation plan</li> <li>• Apply for state and federal grants</li> <li>• Continue to engage community stakeholders to achieve the vision</li> </ul>  |
| Session 2  |  |
| Priority   | Action Items   |
| Priority 1: Neighborhood parks sustained by neighborhoods                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find volunteers and train them</li> <li>• Community education</li> <li>• Pilot the idea in one park – set communication up, etc (maybe choose an area with younger families)</li> <li>• Include businesses who might adopt parks</li> <li>• Involve neighborhood associations – block parties, involvement beyond parks and recreation.</li> <li>• Formal handbook recognition for adopt a park.</li> </ul> |
| Priority 2: Central facility for indoor programming                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider barn / garage at Munson (Find space)</li> <li>• Assess likely participation level and types</li> <li>• Develop and maintain a funding mechanism</li> </ul>   |
| Priority 3: More regional partnerships and coordination                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt supporting resolutions</li> <li>• Continue conversation and relationships developed during Resilient Monroe report</li> <li>• Draft an outline of what authority would look like</li> <li>• Start with connectivity: use recreation authority to complete pathway in order to show a successful mechanism (pick something and start with that)</li> </ul>   |

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## 01

CITY PARKS FORUM  
BRIEFING PAPERS

How cities use parks for..

## Community Revitalization

**Executive Summary**

Parks are complex elements of a city. They can serve scores of different uses, may be specialized in their function, or can simply provide visual appeal for residents. However they work, they act to define the shape and feel of a city and its neighborhoods. They also function as a conscious tool for revitalization.

Parks can stem the downturn of a commercial area, support the stabilization of faltering neighborhoods, and provide a landmark element and a point of pride for constituents. For all these things to happen, the city needs to be open and aware of parks' potential to spur revival, and support the elements that are needed to make that happen.

**Key Point #1**

Parks that serve as central walking, resting, and meeting places can revive failing or threatened commercial areas.

**Key Point #2**

Renewal takes leadership, vision, and time; with these three ingredients, revitalization tends to attract ever more investment.

**Key Point #3**

Community residents and the city, working together on a neighborhood park project, can turn around a distressed residential area.

**Key Point #4**

Parks don't automatically lead to neighborhood revival; before investing, the city should make sure the relation of a park to its surrounding neighborhood will allow revitalization.

The City Parks Forum is a program of the American Planning Association funded by the Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation



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## Community Revitalization

### KEY POINT #1:

*Parks that serve as central walking, resting, and meeting places can revive failing or threatened commercial areas.*

In the 1960s Portland, Oregon's downtown business district began showing early signs of disinvestments, with stores starting to move to the suburbs. One suggestion to counteract the trend was to build an 11-story parking garage on the site of the old Portland Hotel. The ensuing public outcry killed the idea; instead, a square block plaza was built on the site.

Pioneer Courthouse Square, which opened in 1984, looks like a European plaza, with 66,000 bricks (each individually purchased as a fundraising device), few trees, and no grass. It functions as a public park, with streams of users walking, eating, talking, reading, watching, and listening, while professional and improvisational players perform, and events from the commercial to the political take place.

After the parking garage was defeated, Meier & Frank, the linchpin downtown retailer, considered closing its store. The city committed to building dispersed parking a few blocks away, creating a bus transit mall, and developing the MAX light-rail system to keep the retailer. Several years later, Nordstrom built a flagship store facing the square.

The momentum carried. Ever since the square officially opened in 1984 and the MAX started in 1986, the combination of central civic open space and dense transit connections has revolutionized the way Portlanders use their downtown—and how the commercial district has responded. Other retailers like Banana Republic, Gap, and Abercrombie & Fitch located there, and two shopping centers, Pioneer Place and the Galleria, were built. There is now discussion of erecting high-end, high-rise housing nearby.

Pioneer Courthouse Square, Inc., the management agency for the square, is considering putting in an ice skating rink to add another dimension to the facility's community draw. Says Square Director Karen Whitman, "My goal is to become the Rockefeller Center of the West Coast."

### KEY POINT #2:

*Renewal takes leadership, vision, and time; with these three ingredients, revitalization tends to attract ever more investment.*

For more than 25 years, under the leadership of Mayors Bill McNichols, Federico Peña, and current Mayor Wellington Webb, Denver has been steadily restoring the South Platte River and its shoreline communities to ecological and economic health. The former misused, polluted area now features watersports, 15 new adjacent parks connected by a continuous trail, and numerous new commercial, cultural, and entertainment facilities. Its most recent park addition, opened in 2001, is the Commons, near the confluence of the South Platte and Cherry Creek.

The 23-acre Commons was placed in the Bottoms, a blighted area of the city that was the spot of Denver's 19th century founding. The naturalistic, Olmstedian park was constructed on land recycled from a former tangle of railroad tracks and warehouses. It opened 15 years after the charette that led to its vision and five years after the city bought the land. One of its edges curves along the river and is filled with native grasses in constructed wetland seeps; the other, facing the downtown streetscape, has formal walking paths flanked by carefully spaced trees.

The Commons has spurred significant residential and commercial redevelopment in the Bottoms. As of early 2002 developers have built or project building more than 1 million square feet of office space, 350,000 square feet of retail establishments, 575 hotel rooms, 928 units of condominium housing, and 782 units of rental housing. The national sporting goods company REI, which overwhelmingly locates in suburbs, is thriving in a converted power plant near Commons Park.

Downtown is walking or bicycling distance away, and an extension of the light-rail system is planned. Mayor Webb's commitment to build a park along the river seems to have been the signal the development community was waiting for. As Denver Developer Ray Suppa told *ColoradoBiz* magazine, "That was the catalyst. It's one thing to master-plan something; it's another to put in the roads and parks."

Commons Park and its surrounding neighborhood is proof of the resilience of cities, the ultimate strength of great locations, and of the ability of parks to send a profound message. It also teaches lessons about the power of following a vision and using public-private partnerships to incrementally restore the civic infrastructure in tandem with unleashing the economic vitality of a community.

**KEY POINT #3:**

*Community residents and the city, working together on a neighborhood park project, can turn around a distressed residential area.*

Baltimore's Patterson Park, a gift in 1827 from one of the founders of the B&O Railroad, provides a dramatically different snapshot of "green revitalization." A landlocked area, its rectangular form fits squarely into the grid of the surrounding row house neighborhoods of Butcher's Hill, Washington Hill, and Greektown. With its iconic hilltop Chinese Pagoda, Patterson Park has historically played a role in the relative stability of its ethnic communities.

In the 1970s, as Baltimore's economy deteriorated, the park and the community both began going downhill. The park's lake became clogged with cattails, most of the sports field light poles short-circuited because of water leakage, and the pagoda had to be fenced off. Vandalism and arson destroyed several beloved buildings. Benches in need of repair were removed by the city. In 1985, a racially connected beating further undermined the reputation of the area.

Because of disinvestments and racial tension Patterson Park's historic cohesion had become badly shaken; but individuals and several community organizations remained committed to saving the neighborhood, and the park served as the anchor for their efforts. The Southeast Community Organization and Friends of Patterson Park worked to have a capital improvement master plan adopted, repairs and renovations were made, and private funds (such as \$100,000 from the National Football League) were raised. At the same time, several community development corporations worked to get aid for housing construction and rehabilitation, and arts organizations scheduled events in the park, including a "water ballet" in the swimming pool and a "Stars, Stripes and Snowballs" big-band concert for Independence Day.

By the late 1990s housing demand began to increase and, while still affordable, prices were rising noticeably. Between 2000 and 2001 the average home price on the north side of Patterson Park rose by 8.2 percent, and in the first three months of 2002 it rose by another 12.9 percent (In contrast, during the same period housing prices for Baltimore as a whole declined.) Many of the new purchasers are now rehabilitating their properties.

Along with the gradual stabilizing of its surrounding seven neighborhoods, the park itself is getting significant upgrades. The renovated pagoda was reopened in April 2002; \$100,000 was raised privately to restore the 1893 fountain; and new perimeter lighting was installed. Most important, the city commissioned a detailed study of capital needs for the park's renovation.

"Patterson Park has had a tremendous influence in East Baltimore," says Craig Thompson, a realtor with Long and Foster who lives in the area. "When people were scared of it, it hurt the neighborhood. Now that people's perceptions are changing, it's a great attractant. Today it's just about impossible to find a house for sale right along the park."

**KEY POINT #4:**

*Parks don't automatically lead to neighborhood revival; before investing, the city should make sure the relation of a park to its surrounding neighborhood will allow revitalization.*

There's no guarantee that a city park will be a neighborhood amenity. Shunned or poorly maintained parks can be frightening places that negatively affect their surroundings. Poorly located parks and parks that mark the edges of neighborhoods can serve as barriers or as turf markers to everyone from youth gangs to mothers with toddlers to business people walking to work.

Also, not every successful park exerts a revitalizing influence on its surrounding neighborhood. Parks that are extraordinarily popular in their own right can have almost no impact on their surrounding neighborhood. This can be due to the physical and economic shape of the built environment around the park. If there is no capacity to allow for the growth of small private entrepreneurial enterprises nearby, or nearby residential uses, there can be relatively little street life in the vicinity of the park. Especially in the case of downtown parks, often when the business day ends, the park becomes desolate.

For these reasons, parks need as much thoughtful attention to design, location, and surrounding uses as every other constructed element in the city, from housing to retail to commercial to entertainment. When careful attention is given to selective park creation or improvement, it will likely have a great impact.

Elements to keep in mind when hoping to use city parks for community revitalization:

- 1. PHYSICAL:** A park should be both a worthwhile destination in itself and an attractive walking route to use in the course of doing other business.
- 2. POLITICAL:** Creating a park – or repairing it – should provide the opportunity for people in the neighborhood to get to know each other and work together for the greater good.
- 3. ECONOMIC:** The park should create such a distinctive presence that it gives retailers an opportunity to play off the "signature" and redouble the district's vitality. For a park in a residential area, the distinctiveness should give homeowners the confidence to renovate and upgrade.
- 4. CONTEXT:** The park must be located in a community that has the physical space, economic opportunity, and political commitment to revitalize.

**Resources**

Courthouse Square, Portland:  
[www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/Parks/PioneerCourthouseSq.htm](http://www.parks.ci.portland.or.us/Parks/PioneerCourthouseSq.htm)

Patterson Park, Baltimore:  
[www.pattersonpark.com](http://www.pattersonpark.com)

Commons Park, Denver:  
[198.202.202.66/South\\_Platte\\_River/template21140.asp](http://198.202.202.66/South_Platte_River/template21140.asp)

Cover photo: Commons Park, Denver, courtesy of Civitas, Inc.

**Note:** For an expanded discussion on this topic, please contact the author, Peter Harnik, Director, Green Cities Initiative, Trust for Public Land; 202-543-7552; [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org).

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## 03

CITY PARKS FORUM  
BRIEFING PAPERS

How cities use parks for...

## Economic Development

**Executive Summary**

Parks provide intrinsic environmental, aesthetic, and recreation benefits to our cities. They are also a source of positive economic benefits. They enhance property values, increase municipal revenue, bring in homebuyers and workers, and attract retirees.

At the bottom line, parks are a good financial investment for a community. Understanding the economic impacts of parks can help decision makers better evaluate the creation and maintenance of urban parks.

**Key Point #1**

Real property values are positively affected.

**Key Point #2**

Municipal revenues are increased.

**Key Point #3**

Affluent retirees are attracted and retained.

**Key Point #4**

Knowledge workers and talent are attracted to live and work.

**Key Point #5**

Homebuyers are attracted to purchase homes.

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**KEY POINT #1:***Real property values are positively affected.*

More than 100 years ago, Frederick Law Olmsted conducted a study of how parks help property values. From 1856 to 1873 he tracked the value of property immediately adjacent to Central Park, in order to justify the \$13 million spent on its creation. He found that over the 17-year period there was a \$209 million increase in the value of the property impacted by the park.

As early as the 19th century the positive connection between parks and property values was being made. Olmsted's analysis shows the real dollar amount impact of parks. His study was not a unique situation, however. Several studies conducted over the last 20 years reaffirm his findings, in cities across the country. Below are more examples of how proximity to a park setting is connected to property values.

**Chattanooga, Tennessee:** In the early 1980s this city was facing rising unemployment and crime, polluted air, and a deteriorating quality of life. To lure middle-class residents back, local government, businesses, and community groups decided to improve the quality of life by cleaning the air, acquiring open space, and creating parks and trails. As a result, property values rose more than \$11 million, an increase of 127.5 percent.

**Atlanta:** After Centennial Olympic Park was built, adjacent condominium prices rose from \$115 to \$250 a square foot. As noted on the Centennial Olympic Park website, "Thousands of people who have made the move to downtown Atlanta have chosen Centennial Olympic Park as their front yard." [www.centennialpark.com](http://www.centennialpark.com).

**Amherst, Massachusetts:** Cluster housing with dedicated open space was found to appreciate at an annual rate of 22 percent, compared to a comparable conventional subdivision's rate of 19.5 percent. This translated in 1989 dollars to a difference of \$17,100.

**KEY POINT #2:***Municipal revenues are increased.*

Another component of the Central Park study was an assessment of increased tax revenue as a result of the park. The annual excess of increase in tax from the \$209 million in property value was \$4 million more than the increase in annual debt payments for the land and improvement. As a result of building Central Park, New York City made a profit.

Increased property values and increased municipal revenues go hand in hand. Property tax is one of the most important revenue streams for cities. By creating a positive climate for increased property values, the tax rolls will benefit in turn. As shown with Central Park, parks can both pay for themselves and generate extra revenue. In addition, tax revenues from increased retail activity and tourism-related expenditures further increase municipal monies.

**Property Tax Benefits**

**Chattanooga:** Improvements in Chattanooga resulted in an increase in annual combined city and county property tax revenues of \$592,000 from 1988 to 1996, an increase of 99 percent. (Lerner and Poole, 1999).

**Boulder:** The presence of a greenbelt in a Boulder neighborhood was found to add approximately \$500,000 in property tax revenue annually.

**Sales Tax Benefits**

**Oakland, California:** The presence of the East Bay Regional Park District is estimated to stimulate about \$254 million annually in park-related purchases, of which \$74 million is spent in the local East Bay economy.

**Shopping Districts:** Surveys indicate that prices for products in districts with trees were on average about 11 percent greater than in no-tree districts; the quality of products were rated 30 percent higher than in areas with no sidewalk landscaping.

**Tourism-Related Benefits**

**Atlanta:** Centennial Olympic Park has an estimated 1.5 million visitors each year; attending 175 public events.

**San Antonio, Texas:** Riverwalk Park, created for \$425,000, is lined with outdoor cafes, shops, bars, art galleries, and hotels, and has overtaken the Alamo as the most popular attraction for the city's \$3.5-billion tourism industry.

**KEY POINT #3:***Affluent retirees are attracted and retained.*

"There is a new, clean growth industry in America today—The industry is retirement migration" (Foreward in Longino, 1995, 7).

By the year 2050, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 1 in every 4 Americans will be 65 years of age or older, creating an affluent group of retirees with financial benefits, including Social Security, military benefits, and pension plans. With an average life expectancy of between 75 and 83 years, this is a significant population group, both in size and affluence.

They are also mobile, moving to various locations across the country—places as diverse as northern Wisconsin and Michigan, the mountains of Colorado and Montana, and New England. Members of this mobile retiree cohort have been termed "GRAMPIES": (Growing [number of] Retired Active Monied People In Excellent Shape).

GRAMPIES want communities that provide leisure and recreation amenities. In a study by Miller et al. (1994), a retiree sample was asked to review 14 features and indicate their importance in the decision to move. The first three in rank order were scenic beauty, recreational opportunities, and mild climate.

Retirees bring expendable income into their communities. If 100 retired households come to a community in a year, each with a retirement income of \$40,000, their impact is similar to that of a new business spending \$4 million annually in the community. (Crompton, p. 65).

They increase the tax base and are "positive" taxpayers, using fewer services than they pay for through taxes. For example, they pay taxes to school districts but do not send children there.

Retirees transfer significant assets into local investment and banking institutions, expanding the local deposit base that can be used for commercial and industrial financing.

**KEY POINT #4:***Knowledge workers and talent are attracted to live and work.*

"...cities are characterized by a sense of place, beauty in the natural environment, a mixed-use transportation system and a 24-hour lifestyle. These are the characteristics that will attract the creativity and brainpower that undergird the new economy." Steven Roulac, futurist, The Roulac Group.

A significant change has occurred in the American economy. Industry today is composed of smokeless industries, high technology, and service-sector businesses, collectively referred to as the "New Economy." The workers in the New Economy are selling their knowledge, as opposed to physical labor, as the main source of wealth creation and economic growth. These employees, referred to in studies as "knowledge workers" or "talent," work in a "footloose" sector—companies are not tied to a certain location in order to achieve a competitive advantage.

What the companies are attached to is retaining their talent and attracting more talent. As a result, several studies have been conducted to determine what factors are important to talent when they are making employment decisions.

A survey of 1,200 high technology workers in 1998 by KPMG found that quality of life in a community increases the attractiveness of a job by 33 percent.

Knowledge workers prefer places with a diverse range of outdoor recreational activities, from walking trails to rock climbing. Portland, Seattle, Austin, Denver, and San Francisco are among the top cycling cities; they also are among the leaders in knowledge workers.

Workers attracted to an area are then positioned to put money back into the local economy through jobs, housing, and taxes, which then contribute to parks.

**KEY POINT #5:***Homebuyers are attracted to purchase homes.*

"Parks, ponds, bike paths." "Nearly five acres of woodland protected as a nature sanctuary" "My lake...my park...my home."

All around the U.S. real estate brokers and homebuilders are advocating parks as one of the top residential selling points. The desire to live near parks also translates into real dollars.

A 2001 survey by the National Association of Realtors (NAR) revealed that 57 percent of voters would choose a home close to parks and open space over one that was not.

In addition, the NAR survey found that 50 percent of voters would be willing to pay 10 percent more for a house located near a park or protected open space.

The National Association of Home Builders found that 65 percent of home shoppers surveyed felt that parks would seriously influence them to move to a community.

According to Economics Research Associates (ERA), a 1991 survey in Denver found that 48 percent of residents would pay more to live in a neighborhood near a park or greenway.

One of the most popular planned community models today is golf-course residential development. However, surveys have shown that the majority of people who live in golf course communities don't play golf regularly—as many as two-thirds, according to ERA. They are attracted to the dedicated open space, the expansive views, and the guarantee that both elements will stay the same. By promoting, supporting, and revitalizing urban parks, cities can help attract a significant portion of the homebuying community.

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Cover photo: San Antonio Riverwalk, courtesy of Alexander Garvin

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## 04

CITY PARKS FORUM  
BRIEFING PAPERS

How cities use parks to...

## Create Safer Neighborhoods

**Executive Summary**

For those concerned that green spaces may foster crime and illegal activity, evidence now exists that the opposite may be true. When adjacent to residential areas, green spaces have been shown to create neighborhoods with fewer violent and property crimes and where neighbors tend to support and protect one another. These are the findings of scientists at the Human-Environment Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who studied green space alongside public housing in Chicago. Other researchers who are conducting similar studies across the country are finding similar results.

The factors that explain these findings emphasize the importance of greenery in community and personal wellness. Time spent in natural surroundings relieves mental fatigue, which in turn relieves inattentiveness, irritability, and impulsivity, recognized by psychologists as precursors to violence. Green spaces also support frequent, casual contact among neighbors. This leads to the formation of neighborhood social ties, the building blocks of strong, secure neighborhoods where people tend to support, care about, and protect one another.

**Key Point #1**

Time spent in nature immediately adjacent to home helps people to relieve mental fatigue, reducing aggression.

**Key Point #2**

Green residential spaces are gathering places where neighbors form social ties that produce stronger, safer neighborhoods.

**Key Point #3**

Barren spaces are more frightening to people and are more crime prone than parks landscaped with greenery and open vistas.

**Key Point #4**

In order to make the best use of greenery and open space, it must be positively incorporated into a community's design.

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## Create Safer Neighborhoods

**KEY POINT #1:**

*Time spent in nature immediately adjacent to home helps people to relieve mental fatigue, reducing aggression.*

The University of Illinois scientists have concluded that park-like surroundings increase neighborhood safety by relieving mental fatigue and feelings of violence and aggression that can occur as an outcome of fatigue. The three classic symptoms of mental fatigue are inattentiveness, irritability, and poor impulse control, each of which has been previously linked to aggression.

Time spent in nature relieves mental fatigue specifically by restoring directed attention capacity, which is the ability to concentrate and pay focused, effortful attention. Like a muscle, directed attention capacity fatigues with exertion (such as through working, studying, or driving in traffic) and recovers with rest. The sights and sounds of nature absorb individuals effortlessly, during which time concentration rests and renews.

In a study recently published in the *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, researchers looked at stress recovery and directed attention restoration in a group of young adults. Each subject was given an attentionally demanding task (driving to an unfamiliar site). Upon their arrival, subjects were split into two groups, with one group sitting in a room with tree views followed by a walk in a nature reserve, and the other group sitting in a viewless room and walking in an urban setting. Performance on an attentional test improved for the nature group. In addition, subjects in the nature group reported less anger and greater positive affect following the nature walk; the urban group had the opposite results.

When concentration is restored, so is the ability and willingness to handle tasks and problems thoughtfully and calmly. With convenient access to spaces that relieve mental fatigue and foster mental restoration, families and communities may become safer.

**KEY POINT #2:**

*Green residential spaces are gathering places where neighbors form social ties that produce stronger, safer neighborhoods.*

The University of Illinois researchers found that residents who live near outdoor greenery are more familiar with their nearby neighbors, socialized more with them, and expressed greater feelings of community and safety than did residents lacking nearby green spaces. Shade trees figured importantly in the use of outdoor spaces. The more trees existed in a space, the more heavily the space was used by people of all ages.

Green spaces are settings for frequent, informal interaction among neighbors that nurtures the formation of neighborhood social ties. Research has shown that these ties are the glue that transforms a collection of unrelated neighbors into a neighborhood. They are the heart of a neighborhood's strength. When ties are weak, people feel isolated and unsupported. When ties are strong, people feel empowered to help and protect each other.

The value of green space in prompting the formation of neighborhood ties is exemplified by redevelopment that occurred in the historic East Falls section of **Philadelphia** in the 1990s. The area surrounding the Chelsea apartments was converted from a scene dominated by factories and warehouses to a residential neighborhood replete with modest yet welcoming green spaces that gave residents a place in which to socialize (Rodriguez, 1996). Referring to the green space one resident said, "It's nice because often in an apartment community people don't have an opportunity to meet each other. The park gives us an outdoor area to enjoy together. It's really used a lot!"

Another vital green space within this community was converted from a driveway to a series of patios shaded by pear and birch trees. The patios lie between two buildings that were converted to townhouses. The space succeeds so well as a social catalyst that residents call it the Melrose walkway after the TV soap opera, *Melrose Place* (Rodriguez, 1996).

The conspicuous presence of people outdoors contributes further to safety by increasing surveillance, which discourages criminals. More people outdoors means that threatening behavior is more likely to be observed. At the same time, potential criminals are deterred by the sense that they are being noticed and watched.

**KEY POINT #3:**

*Barren spaces are more frightening to people and are more crime prone than parks landscaped with greenery and open vistas.*

Some community leaders are inhibited from proposing new parks or supporting existing ones out of concern that parks can be settings for crime and illegal activity. However, when properly planned, parks and greenways adjacent to residential areas may help to shield against crime.

The University of Illinois researchers tested the conventional wisdom that, in the inner city, barren spaces are safer than spaces with trees and greenery that could hide illicit activity. The study compared crime rates for inner-city apartment buildings with varying amounts of vegetation and found that the greener the surroundings, the fewer crimes occurred against people and property.

The scientists compared crime rates for apartment buildings with little or no vegetation to buildings with high levels of vegetation. They found that roughly half as many crimes (48 percent fewer property crimes and 56 percent fewer violent crimes) were reported in buildings with high amounts of vegetation. In addition, buildings with medium amounts of vegetation had 42 percent fewer total crimes (40 percent fewer property crimes and 44 percent fewer violent crimes) than did buildings with low levels of vegetation. Far from shielding criminals, nearby vegetation seems to shield against them.

These findings were consistent with prior studies that found that urban residents who live in green surroundings experience fewer quality-of-life crimes such as littering and graffiti, and fewer incivilities, such as noisy or disruptive neighbors. In other studies, people reported feeling safer in residential areas that contained greenery.

In **Providence, Rhode Island**, through the early 1990s city officials launched a tree-planting program that converted barren, unused open spaces into treed oases. As a result of their efforts, a number of the oases became gathering points for neighborhood recreational and social functions (Davis, 1992).

Researchers in **Austin, Texas**, used a geographic information system (GIS) to determine if there was a relationship between the greenness of various neighborhoods and their crime levels. They found that areas with less than the average amount of greenness had more crime. ([aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/syllabi/435/article.doc](http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/syllabi/435/article.doc))

**KEY POINT #4:**

*In order to make the best use of greenery and open space, it must be positively incorporated into a community's design.*

New parks and open space should be developed within residential developments so that nature is close to home. It is critical that these spaces are carefully designed to support the activities for which they were intended; that requires that each space have an intended purpose. If the purpose of the space is to promote social interaction, it should be located where frequent, casual encounters by neighbors are likely to occur. In addition, shade trees are proven attractants for neighbors to mingle and form social ties.

If the intention of the park or open space is to promote restoration, areas that can be left green and pervious will help people relax and will reduce feelings that lead to aggression. While law enforcement officials have historically recommended removing vegetation to eliminate cover for criminal activity, vegetation that maintains visibility actually fosters feelings of safety. Widely spaced high-canopy trees, grass, flowers, and low-growing shrubs do not block views, and allow the user to become oriented to the setting. This understanding of one's surroundings is important in that letting down one's guard and becoming absorbed in the natural environment promotes restoration (Kaplan, 1998).

Where parks already exist, their maintenance is critical. A well-maintained park or open space sends a message that someone cares about it. In turn, the message that someone cares about the park helps create a perception of safety. The greater the perception of safety, the more likely the park will be used. In addition, maintenance programs that include participation by the users help establish a sense of ownership and promote stewardship of the space.

It is also critical that the community be included in planning and programming the open space. In **Macon, Georgia**, Mayor C. Jack Ellis, the Village Green community, and Village Hope, a nonprofit organization, worked together to use a CPF grant to revive the Village Green park as a crime prevention activity. The addition of a picnic shelter, tables, and grills, a new playground unit, new basketball goals, and park beautification efforts have increased park use by more than 25 percent. In addition, the parks and recreation department, along with the police athletic league, are sponsoring athletic programs in the park. Neighborhood watch groups are coordinating programs with the police precinct assigned to Village Green, and citizens are volunteering their time at the precinct to answer phones and do other needed tasks. Citizens now care more about their neighborhood, and incidents of crime or violence have dropped by more than 50 percent!

**Resources**

Along with the citations below, data for this briefing paper were drawn from the Coping with Poverty archive, a multi-study research project examining the effects of the physical environment on the functioning of individuals, families, and communities residing in urban public housing.

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**Of Special Note**

**All referenced University of Illinois studies were conducted** at public housing developments in Chicago in which study participants had highly similar demographic characteristics and uniform apartments. The only factor that systematically differentiated participants was the amount of greenery outside of their apartments.

The USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program supported much of the research noted in this briefing paper on the recommendation of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council. Findings do not necessarily reflect the views of the USDA Forest Service. The Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the University of Illinois also provided research funding.

For more information on the work of the University of Illinois Human-Environment Research Laboratory, please go to [www.herl.uiuc.edu](http://www.herl.uiuc.edu) or contact the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Human-Environment Research Laboratory, 1103 S. Dornier Dr., Urbana, IL 61801; phone (217) 333-1965.

The Human-Environment Research Laboratory of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a multidisciplinary research laboratory dedicated to studying the relationships between people and the environments they inhabit. The mission of the lab is to generate information about human-environment relationships to guide policy, planning, and design of environments. The lab's scientists explore how to create environments in which individuals, families, and communities flourish, and how to better involve people in the design, management, and stewardship of their local environments.

**City Parks Forum Briefing Papers**

This is one in a continuing series of briefing papers on how cities can use parks to address urban challenges. We hope the information here helps you to create great urban parks in your city.

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*Photo of Mercy-Bush Park Courtesy of Bob Weaver Photography.*

09

CITY PARKS FORUM  
BRIEFING PAPERS

How cities use parks to...

# Promote Tourism

## Executive Summary

Public parks are often the “engine” that drives tourism in many communities. In a simplified tourism model, visitors use some mode of transportation to leave their homes and travel to attractions, which are supported by various kinds of services, such as hotels/motels, restaurants, and retailing. The attractions and support services provide information and promote their offerings to target groups they have identified as potential visitors.

Attractions activate this tourism system. Rarely do people leave their homes and travel some distance because they want to stay in a particular hotel or dine at a particular restaurant in a different locale. Most of the time, the desire to go to a destination on a pleasure trip is stimulated by its attractions.

Many of these attractions are located in parks, while some parks are themselves attractions. This leads to the conclusion that in many communities, parks drive the tourism industry.

## Key Point #1

Parks provide sites for special events and festivals that attract tourists.

## Key Point #2

Parks provide sites for sports tournaments, which can be major sources of tourism and economic benefits, especially for smaller cities.

## Key Point #3

Large urban parks with zoos, memorials, museums, cultural and heritage artifacts, and historical sites can attract tourists.

## Key Point #4

Parks with landscape planting and design that are recognized as “living works of art” can be tourist attractions.

The City Parks Forum is a program of the American Planning Association funded by the Wallace Foundation and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation



American Planning Association

*Making great communities happen*

## 09

CITY PARKS FORUM  
BRIEFING PAPERS

## Promote Tourism

**KEY POINT #1:**

*Parks are sites for special events and festivals that attract tourists.*

Tourists are defined as visitors who come to a community from outside of it. In this context, they come specifically to visit a park or to engage in activities that take place in a park. Since the mid-1980s, there has been unprecedented growth in the number of festivals and events. Communities organize, host, and promote festivals and special events whose objectives frequently include attracting tourists. They are perceived to create a new form of tourism attraction, which is transient and flexible, so it can be used to extend or create a community's tourism season. Parks are frequently the location of choice for festivals and events because they are often centrally located, gathering places that are intended to facilitate recreation and can accommodate temporary infrastructure without major disruption of their normal functions.

When evaluating the tourism impact of festivals and events in parks, the following points should be considered:

1. Large numbers of participants and spectators do not necessarily equate to a large number of tourists. Most people at community festivals and events are from within the community. A mega-event is likely to attract more tourists to a community than multiple smaller events. Its attraction power is likely to stimulate interest from a much larger geographic area.
2. Many people from outside the community at these events are "casuals" and "time-switchers." "Casuals" are visitors who were already in the community, attracted by other features, visiting friends and relatives, or for other reasons. The event or festival was not the reason they came to the city. "Time-switchers" are visitors who had been planning a visit to the community for some time, but scheduled the timing of their visit to coincide with the event. In both cases, the tourism impact of these visitors on the community would have occurred without the event.
3. It is difficult to estimate the number of tourists at many festivals and events because they are not gated events and do not charge admission. Thus, total attendance counts, proportion of tourists to locals, and proportions of casuals and time-switchers are simply guesses, which may be wildly inaccurate. For example, a study of Fiesta San Antonio, which is comprised of multiple events that take place over a three-week period, many of them in parks, concluded the economic impact was \$16 million. If locals from within the city, casuals, and time-switchers were included, this would lead to the economic impact being wrongly inflated to \$136 million.

**KEY POINT #2:**

*Parks provide sites for sports tournaments, which can be major sources of tourism and economic benefits, especially for smaller cities.*

Consider the scenario in which a city hosts a junior soccer tournament. Twenty-four teams from out of town play in its parks over a weekend. The economic impact scenario of these tourists is likely to resemble the following:

- Each team has a squad of 15 players who are all supported by their families, so a total of 360 families (15 x 24) come to the community.
- They stay Friday and Saturday nights and return home late in the day on Sunday.
- On average each family spends \$300 in the community for accommodations, food, entertainment, and gas during the weekend, so total expenditure in the community from the tournament visitors is \$108,000 (360 families x \$300).

The tourism and economic impact of such tournaments is maximized when all teams/players in a tournament come from outside the community, and the number of nights they have to stay in the community is high. This exemplifies the retailing principle that the longer people remain in an area, the more they are likely to spend. Increasing visitors' average length of stay is the most efficient way to increase the impact of an event on a community.

In most cases, sports tournaments will generate a greater economic impact for local communities than special events and festivals, because most attendance at the latter (unless they are "mega-events") is likely to be from locals.

**KEY POINT #3:**

*Large urban parks with zoos, memorials, museums, cultural and heritage artifacts, and historical sites can attract tourists*

Cumulative attraction, an accepted principle in tourism development, says that a cluster of proximate facilities is likely to result in greater visitation. Cumulative attraction recognizes that much tourism business is shared. An attraction secures its visitors as a result of its own generative power and as a result of the generative power of proximate attractions. Clusters of recreational facilities offer a critical mass that is not present when facilities are widely scattered. As this critical mass becomes greater, people will travel from a more extensive geographical area to visit them, visitors will stay longer in the area, and they will spend more dollars.

**Hermann Park in Houston** attracts 5.5 million visitors each year. The original 410-acre park site was obtained from George Hermann's estate in 1914. George E. Kessler, one of America's greatest park designers, was retained to design it, and it was completed by 1933. Over the years a host of attractions were added either in the park or on its periphery, including the Houston Zoo; Garden Center and Botanical Garden; Houston Museum of Natural Science; Miller Outdoor Theater; Planetarium; Aquarium; various monuments; and the first desegregated golf course in Texas. The cumulative impact of these attractions, together with the beauty of Kessler's original park design, have made Hermann Park a primary destination for visitors to Houston.

**Balboa Park, San Diego** was developed on a 1,400-acre tract of land set aside for a public park by the city of San Diego in 1870. The park is renowned for its brilliant displays of seasonal flowers, shady groves of trees, and meandering paths. However, its ability to attract tourists today owes much to the legacy of the Panama-California Exposition of 1915–16, and the California International Exposition of 1935–36.

Balboa Park hosts 15 museums, which display internationally significant art treasures, exotic animal species, unique model railroads, world folk art, sports memorabilia, and rare aircraft. Many of the museums are housed in magnificent Spanish colonial revival buildings, originally constructed for the 1915–16 Exposition. Other attractions in the park include the San Diego Zoo; the Old Globe Theater; a sports complex with championship tennis courts, athletic fields, velodrome, and swimming pool; a golf course; Starlight Bowl; and an array of institutions that reflect San Diego's diversity, including the Centro Cultural de la Raza, the World Beat Center, the Japanese Friendship Garden, and the House of Pacific Relations. Balboa Park attracts more than 14 million visits a year.

In contrast to the cultural, historical and terrestrial focus of Balboa Park, **Mission Bay, San Diego** focuses on contemporary, sporting, and water-oriented activities. It covers 4,600 acres between Mission Beach, the San Diego Sports Arena, and Sea World. Approximately half the acreage is land, and its 27 miles of shoreline include 19 miles of sandy beaches with restrooms and shower facilities. The park offers a variety of landscapes and supports all types of boating activities including sailing, waterskiing, windsurfing, jetskiing, rowing, and swimming. Bicycle paths shared with hikers and inline skaters wind all around the bay.

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**KEY POINT #4:**

*Parks with landscape planting and design that are recognized as “living works of art” can be tourist attractions.*

**Prospect Park in Brooklyn** is widely considered to be the finest park designed by Olmsted and Vaux. Within the boundaries of the 526-acre park are a variety of natural and planned landscapes. The principal features of their design are the Long Meadow, a heavily wooded area they called the Ravine, and a 60-acre lake.

The park became so dilapidated due to lack of maintenance that by 1984, attendance had fallen to a historically low 2 million visits a year. In the 1990s, more than \$100 million of private and city investment successfully renovated the park, restoring much of its original glory. Attendance rebounded to 6 million visits a year as Prospect Park again became one of the most popular attractions for tourists in New York City.

**Golden Gate Park in San Francisco** covers 1,013 acres. It is approximately three miles long and one-half mile wide. William Hammond Hall designed the park in 1870, but John McLaren, his successor as park superintendent, implemented the design. Hall, inspired by the Olmsted/Vaux design of Central Park in New York City, created a hilly park with a varying landscape of lakes, meadows, ridges, and winding roads. The park now contains more than one million trees, nine lakes, several fly-casting pools, and a lily pool within its borders.

In the east part of the park are The Conservatory of Flowers, a Victorian greenhouse built around 1880 modeled after the Palm House at Kew Garden in London; the Japanese Tea Garden, which covers five acres; and the M. H. DeYoung Museum, which has a diverse collection of fine art. These latter two attractions were legacies of the 1894 Midwinter International Exhibition. Other attractions in the park include the Buffalo Paddock; Planetarium; Asian Art Museum; Aquarium; and a 70-acre arboretum. The park's meadows are used extensively for picnicking. The attractions within Golden Gate add to its cumulative impact, but it is the inherent beauty of the park that mainly attracts its 12 million annual visitors.

**Grant Park in Chicago** is often referred to as Chicago's “front yard.” Renowned architect Daniel H. Burnham envisioned the 320-acre park as a formal landscape with museums and civic buildings. His geometric design borrows from the great parks of Europe. A series of bridges cross railroad tracks, and the park is divided into sections with public walkways, lawns, trees, and monuments. The park's centerpiece is the Clarence Buckingham Fountain, built in 1927, which is enhanced at night with a choreography of colored spotlights.

In 2004, the park was extended by 24.5 acres when **Millennium Park** was added to its northern border; constructed over active railroad beds. Millennium Park has quickly become a major Chicago attraction, with interactive public art, ice-skating, dining, and free classical music presentations by the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus.

**Resources**

Crompton, John L. 1999. *Measuring the Economic Impact of Visitors to Sports Tournaments and Special Events*. Ashburn, Virginia: National Recreation and Park Association.

Hermann Park, Houston:  
[www.hermannpark.org](http://www.hermannpark.org)

Balboa Park, San Diego:  
[www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/balboa/index.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/balboa/index.shtml)

Mission Bay, San Diego:  
[www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/missionbay/index.shtml](http://www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/missionbay/index.shtml);  
[www.a-zsandiegobeaches.com/missionbay.htm](http://www.a-zsandiegobeaches.com/missionbay.htm)

Prospect Park, Brooklyn, New York City:  
[www.prospectpark.org/hist/main.cfm?target=history](http://www.prospectpark.org/hist/main.cfm?target=history)

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco:  
[www.sfmuseum.org/hist2/ggpark.html](http://www.sfmuseum.org/hist2/ggpark.html)

Grant Park, Chicago:  
[www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/index.cfm?fuseaction/parks.home.cfm](http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/index.cfm?fuseaction/parks.home.cfm)

This briefing paper was written by John L. Crompton, Distinguished Professor of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University, Dr. Crompton's primary interests are in the areas of marketing and financing public leisure and tourism services. Questions regarding this briefing paper may be directed to him at [jcrompton@tamu.edu](mailto:jcrompton@tamu.edu)

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*Photo of the Pedestrian Bridge in Millennium Park, Chicago. Photo courtesy of Chicago Park District, Caroline O'Boyle.*

# PHOTO WEEK IN REVIEW • DECEMBER 29-JANUARY 4

and started to shovel.

"Don't lift with your back, lift with your knees," he advised as he dug into the sidewalk outside his Park Slope row house. Later, his teenage son emerged to help, prompting de Blasio to jokingly give him "an A for effort but a D for punctuality."

Faced with the first test of his leadership barely two days after taking the oath, de Blasio responded with a display of regular-guy charm that would have been unimaginable for his predecessor, billionaire Michael Bloomberg.

"I've lived in New York for 70 years, and I can't recall a mayor shoveling before," said Kenneth Sherrill, a retired political science professor at Hunter College.

After 12 years of the businesslike, buttoned-down style of Bloomberg, the storm offered a glimpse of a new style of leader in de Blasio, apart from



— AP photo by SETH WENIG  
New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio shovels the sidewalk in front of his house Friday in New York. Less than 36 hours into his tenure, the new mayor's leadership skills were tested by a major winter storm.

their clear political differences.

De Blasio spoke of heading a conference call on the storm at 4 a.m. He faced the media in baggy blue jeans. And when asked by a reporter how many layers he was wearing in

Blasio opponents frequently leveled the charge that he had little experience managing a large organization. He had a small staff as a city councilman, and as public advocate, he oversaw a \$2 million annual budget. By comparison, New York City's annual budget is more than \$70 billion.

In a sense, the storm provided an early opportunity for de Blasio to demonstrate his management mettle.

De Blasio put 1,700 plows on the streets soon after the snow started falling Thursday night. He acted early Friday to close schools, out of concern over bitterly low temperatures. And by late Friday morning, he announced that every one of the city's primary roads and nearly all of the secondary roads had been plowed.

Asked to grade his first test, he said: "Based on the information I have right now, I give everyone an A for extraordinary effort and extraordinary effectiveness."

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PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF MONROE  
5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN  
PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

The City of Monroe is in the process of updating the Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. As part of the process, a draft of the plan will be available for public review and comment January 9 through February 7, 2014. The draft plan may be viewed electronically at [www.monroeci.gov](http://www.monroeci.gov). Paper copies of the draft plan are available during regular business hours at Monroe City Hall, 120 E 1st St. Monroe, MI 48161, Second Floor: Recreation Department, First Floor: Monroe City Clerk's counter, and Engineering and Public Services counter, or on the web at [www.MonroeRecPlan.org](http://www.MonroeRecPlan.org). Comments will be accepted through February 7, 2014 by the City and online. Email Loretta LaPointe, [loretta.lapointe@monroeci.gov](mailto:loretta.lapointe@monroeci.gov), or submit comments at [www.MonroeRecPlan.org](http://www.MonroeRecPlan.org).  
January 5, 2014

## Student dies after shooting

two apartments on the campus looking for the person believed to have shot the student, but they turned up nothing.

The victim, whose name and condition were not released, was transferred to a Grand Rapids hospital. His wounds were not believed to be life-threatening.

## President to visit Michigan Friday

EAST LANSING, Mich. (AP) — The White House is confirming that President Barack Obama will visit East Lansing this week.

The White House says Obama is expected to discuss the economy during Friday's stop.

Obama spoke to workers at the Daimler Detroit Diesel plant in Wayne County's Redford Township during a December, 2012, visit.

Vice President Joe Biden delivered a speech last month and toured Detroit's North American International Auto Show.

## GOP wary of immigration issue

■ Republicans distrust Obama's recent change in view on the legal status of many immigrants.



## Search to begin for Obama presidential library location

WASHINGTON (AP) — The search for a home for President Barack Obama's presidential library is officially under way.

With Obama's blessing, top supporters are launching a foundation that will develop and build the library, which both will house his presidential records and serve as a monument to his legacy.

The nonprofit Barack H. Obama Foundation will be led by Marty Nesbitt, a close Obama friend and Chicago, and Julianna Smoot, a former White House social secretary and top official in Obama's reelection campaign.

A vigorous competition to host the library already has ramped up. Hawaii, where Obama was born, and Illinois, his longtime home, have been lobbying

the Obamas both publicly and privately. New York, where Obama went to college, also has expressed interest.

With so many of Obama's aides and supporters calling Chicago home, the focus increasingly has turned to the Windy City, where Obama first was elected and came into his own as a national political figure. The involvement of Nesbitt, a Chicago businessman, in forming the foundation is likely to amplify speculation that Chicago has an inside track to getting the library.

The third founding member of the nonprofit's board, Kevin Poorman, also is based in Chicago and runs a company formed by Chicago businesswoman Penny Pritz-

ker, who is now Obama's commerce secretary.

"No specific site, institution, city or state is advantaged over another at this point," Nesbitt said in an interview. "The ultimate site will be chosen based on the merits."

Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Obama's former chief of staff, said Chicago is "undeniably a natural fit" to host an Obama library and museum.

This month, the foundation will ask parties that want to host the library to make their interest known. That list will be culled, and in May the foundation will notify the groups that will be invited to submit proposals. The president and first lady Michelle Obama will make the decision, and the foundation will announce it in early 2015.

## Campaign committees raise almost \$500 million

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PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF MONROE  
PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Monroe is in the process of updating the Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. A draft of the plan is available for public review and comment through February 7, 2014. The draft plan may be viewed electronically at [www.monroeci.gov](http://www.monroeci.gov). Paper copies of the draft plan are available during regular business hours (Mon-Fri, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm) at Monroe City Hall, 120 E 1st St. Monroe, MI 48161, Second Floor: Recreation Department, First Floor: Monroe City Clerk's counter, and Engineering and Public Services counter, or on the web at [www.MonroeRecPlan.org](http://www.MonroeRecPlan.org). Comments will be accepted through February 7, 2014 by the City and online. Email Loretta LaPointe, [loretta.lapointe@monroeci.gov](mailto:loretta.lapointe@monroeci.gov), or submit comments at [www.MonroeRecPlan.org](http://www.MonroeRecPlan.org).  
A Public Hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014, 7:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Monroe City Hall, 120 East First Street, to solicit comments on the following item:  
Adoption of the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
All interested citizens are requested to attend the public hearing.  
February 2, 2014

# Appendix D

## Public Review Notice

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF MONROE  
5-YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN  
PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD**

The City of Monroe is in the process of updating the Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. As part of the process, a draft of the plan will be available for public review and comment January 9 through February 7, 2014. The draft plan may be viewed electronically at [www.monroemi.gov](http://www.monroemi.gov). Paper copies of the draft plan are available during regular business hours at Monroe City Hall, 120 E 1st St, Monroe, MI 48161, Second Floor: Recreation Department, First Floor: Monroe City Clerk's counter, and Engineering and Public Services counter, or on the web at [www.MonroeRecPlan.org](http://www.MonroeRecPlan.org). Comments will be accepted through February 7, 2014 by the City and online. Email Loretta LaPointe, [loretta.lapointe@monroemi.gov](mailto:loretta.lapointe@monroemi.gov), or submit comments at [www.MonroeRecPlan.org](http://www.MonroeRecPlan.org).  
January 5, 2014

## Public Hearing Notice

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**STATE OF MICHIGAN      SS**  
**COUNTY OF MONROE**

Jay S. Hollon being first duly sworn, says that he is the Treasurer of The Monroe Evening News, a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news and which is a duly qualified newspaper, printed, published and circulated in the County of Monroe. The annexed notice is a printed copy taken from said newspaper, and has been duly published in said newspaper for One insertions, and that the first publication thereof was on the 2nd day of February A.D. 2014 and the last publication thereof was on the 2nd day of February A.D. 2014.

*Jay S. Hollon*  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of February A.D. 2014.

*Janet Latondra*  
\_\_\_\_\_

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

JANET LATONDRA, Notary Public, Monroe County, Mich.  
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF MONROE  
My Commission Expires Jan. 25, 2019  
Acting in the County of \_\_\_\_\_

## Recreation Advisory Commission Resolution and Meeting Minutes

### CITY OF MONROE RESOLUTION

#### Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018

Whereas, the City of Monroe has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2014 through 2018, and

Whereas the residents of the City of Monroe were provided a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all the aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation of the plan, and

Whereas, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least two weeks, and

Whereas, a final public comment session was held on January 22, 2014 at Monroe City Hall, 120 E. First St., to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

Whereas the City of Monroe has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the City of Monroe, and

Now, therefore be it resolved that City of Monroe Recreation Advisory Commission hereby adopts the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018.

Motion: Council member Bob Cebina  
Seconded by: Council member Lucie Fortin  
Ayes: 5 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

#### RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

I, Loretta J. LaPointe, Executive Secretary of the Recreation Advisory Commission, City of Monroe, County of Monroe, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is an exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Recreation Advisory Commission of said City, at a special meeting thereof held on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014.



Loretta J. LaPointe  
Recreation Advisory Commission  
Executive Secretary

I, Michelle J. LaVoy, City Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Monroe, County of Monroe, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that Loretta J. LaPointe is the Executive Secretary of the Recreation Advisory Commission, City of Monroe.



Michelle J. LaVoy  
City Clerk-Treasurer



**MONROE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**February 12, 2014**

CITY HALL, SECOND FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 pm by Vice-chairman Knapp.

**Present:** Chairman Vice-Chairman Garry Knapp, Bob Cebina, Mary Minney, Karen Feldman, Lucie Fortin.

**Also present:** Loretta LaPointe, Recreation Manager, and Caitlin Jackson, Beckett & Raeder

**Excused:** Cheryl Miller, Henry Jones

**Approval of Minutes of January 22, 2014**

Vice Chairman Knapp called for approval of the January 22, 2014 meeting minutes.

Motion made by Mary Minney to accept the minutes, supported by Bob Cebina.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Recreation Manager's Report**

Loretta LaPointe, Recreation Manager, had no report for this month.

**Old Business**

**A. Recreation Plan Approval**

Lucie Fortin asked if there had been any public input, and what were the changes from the previous draft. Caitlin said there had been very little public response, but that it was not unusual. Caitlin also explained some date changes of when the plan expires. Loretta spoke about some changes as they relate to the duties of the Recreation Advisory Commission in relation to prioritizing the Capital Improvement Budget.

A motion to approve the resolution that the City Council adopts the Recreation Plan update was made by Bob Cebina and supported by Mary Minney. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business**

No new business

**Petitions and Communications**

No petitions or communications.

**Commissioner Comments**

Garry Knapp welcomed Lucie Fortin as a new member. Bob also thanked Caitlin for her hard work on the Recreation Plan update.

Lucie Fortin commented that she was happy to join the commission.

Bob Cebina commented that he was glad the plan was finished.

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Cebina, supported by Lucie Fortin.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.

## City Council Resolution and Meeting Minutes

R14-05

### CITY OF MONROE RESOLUTION

#### Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018

Whereas, the City of Monroe has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2014 through 2018, and

Whereas the residents of the City of Monroe were provided a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all the aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation of the plan, and

Whereas, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least two weeks, and

Whereas, a final public comment session was held on February 18, 2014 at Monroe City Hall, 120 E. First St., to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

Whereas the City of Monroe has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the City of Monroe, and

Whereas, after the public meeting, the City Council voted to adopt said recreation and natural resources conservation plan.

Now, therefore be it resolved that City of Monroe hereby adopts the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018.

Motion: Council Member Molenda  
Seconded by: Council Member Rafko  
Ayes: 7 Nays: 0  
Motion Carried.

#### RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

I, Michelle J, LaVoy, City Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Monroe, County of Monroe, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is an exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the City Council of said City, at a regular meeting thereof held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014.



  
Michelle J. LaVoy  
City Clerk-Treasurer

CITY OF MONROE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2014

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Council Members Iacoangeli, Vining, Molenda, Rafko, Sisk, Hensley, and Mayor Clark.

Michelle J. LaVoy, City Clerk-Treasurer gave the invocation.

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Public Hearings.

13 This being the date set to hear public comments on Proposed Capital Improvements Program Budget for Fiscal Years 2014-2015 and there being one comment on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

Michelle J. LaVoy, Clerk-Treasurer read a letter from Mr. David Smith into the record.

Dan Swallow, Director of Economic & Community Development gave a brief synopsis of what Capital Improvements mean, why they are done ahead of the regular budgeting process and summarized the types of projects that are looked at as part of the capital improvements budget.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street asked what street projects are scheduled for the next fiscal year and asked if there is a possibility to enhance the street program.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services explained that there is a point rating scale to determine which streets are selected and said his department coordinates with water & wastewater projects to minimize paving of streets that may need to be torn up a year or two later. He said that sometimes projects get moved up or down the list depending on whether the utilities can fund them. He explained that the number one priority project this year is the resurfacing of East Noble Avenue between Monroe Street and Dixie Highway and the number two project is East Third Street between Scott Street and Winchester Street. He continued to list other projects that are also set to be completed during the Fiscal years 2014-2015. He noted that generally they resurface 2 miles, of an 83 mile system.

Richard Micka, 47 East Elm Avenue said that the State Police, VFW Hall and Navarre Field are all on Jones Avenue which makes it a showcase of Monroe, and he thinks it needs a good upgrade.

Council Member Hensley asked for staff to comment on the lighting proposal for the Civil War Monument at Soldiers and Sailors Park.

George Brown, City Manager noted that the original lighting, supplied by the Veteran's group, was vandalized and subsequently removed. He said that estimates will be sought along with a project plan for lighting in the shelter and security lighting in the park. He said \$15,000 would be at the high end and that electrical service will be a greater expense but that it would include monument and security lighting.

Council Member Hensley noted that this project was added late and asked if it needs to go back to the Citizens Planning Commission for a recommendation.

George Brown, City Manager said that if Council approves the CIP Budget as a super majority, it shouldn't be an issue, but a report will go to the planning commission of what Council proposed and decided.

Council Member Molenda asked if the monument was constructed pursuant to the latest updated monument policy and if so why would it be part of this project to provide infrastructure for electrical hookup and replacement of lights that were both part of the original policy. He said he thinks it would fall under the maintenance schedule and responsibilities of the policy.

George Brown, City Manager said that assistance will be solicited from the AM Vets and said that the AM Vets had contributions to put the previous system in place so this project, if done, could actually cost the city less. He noted that the trust fund for future maintenance was meant for capital replacement, major conservation, repairs, landscape maintenance, etc.

Council Member Rafko asked when the street projects are underway, what are the priorities and how will they be addressed.

Patrick Lewis, Director of Engineering & Public Services said he is not sure if Council Member Rafko is referring to preventative maintenance but noted that snow has been plowed and pot holes have been filled on the same day and said they need to find out where the biggest problem areas are. He said that if there are any acute hazards, those problem areas will be taken care of immediately.

Mayor Clark noted that this proposed CIP Budget includes projects that have been identified by staff but other areas may be identified by staff during one of the approved projects that may present other capital improvement opportunities.

Council Member Iacoangeli commented on projects needed and planned for Soldiers and Sailors Park.

There being eleven (11) persons present commenting and one comment on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed.

24 This being the date set to hear public comments on Proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018, and there being no comments on file in writing in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing open.

George Brown, City Manager noted that there have been public forums inviting input on the plan and it has been widely distributed to various stake holder groups to review. He said staff and consultants are here to answer questions.

Council Member Molenda said that this plan takes a lot of effort on the part of a lot of different people and he wanted to recognize the efforts of our professional in-house staff, the consultants, the Recreation Advisory Committee, people at the public forums who and those who responded to the survey and Council Member Iacoangeli, before he was elected to Council, who worked on this plan. He said he likes the end product; the document is insightful, informative and provides us with a good clear road map as to where to go in terms of advancing Recreation and our community. He continued that there is clear guidance in developing master plans for individual parks that he thinks would be beneficial in the near term, as well as some specific projects that he would hope to see, projects that have been kicked around for as long as he can remember. He said he likes that it is very clearly presented in priority on this document and he thinks that council should take direction from that.

Mayor Clark suggested that if you haven't had an opportunity to review the plan, please take time to do so. He said there is a lot of detail, that it addresses present and future uses.

Council Member Iacoangeli said that from a consultant's point of view, the reflection in the quality of the product is more than the consultant's effort; it's the effort of the staff and the client. He said that as an employer he wants to

recognize Caitlyn Jackson who worked with him on the project; she coordinated, put the graphics together and honchoed the report from beginning to end. He also recognized the members of the Recreation Advisory Commission and their efforts.

Caitlyn Jackson, Becket & Raider said it was a pleasure to work with the City of Monroe. She noted that they had a limited amount of time to work on the plan but everything progressed smoothly and produced a tremendous product. She is excited to see where Monroe takes the product.

There being five persons present commenting and no comment on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, the Mayor declared the hearing closed

**Consent Agenda.** (All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Mayor and Council and may be approved by one motion. Any item may be removed for separate discussion by a Council Member or citizen.)

A. Approval of the Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting held on Monday, February 3, 2014.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$766,418.88.

Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

18 13<sup>th</sup> Annual River Raisin Jazz Festival.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to hold the annual River Raisin Jazz Festival at St. Mary's Park on August 7 – 10, 2014 and to close Elm Avenue from Borgess Avenue to North Monroe Street, and recommending that Council approve the request contingent upon passage of the 2014 budget and inclusion of the funding for the event, items being met as outlined by the administration, and that the City Manager be granted authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

19 8<sup>th</sup> Annual River Raisin Labor Day Barbeque Festival.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual River Raisin Labor Day BBQ Festival on August 30, 2014 and to close the affected streets from 12 noon until 10:00 p.m., and recommending that City Council approve the request for Saturday, August 30, contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, and that the City Manager be granted authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

20 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Superhero 5K Run/Walk

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe Rotary Club for permission to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Superhero 5K Run/Walk on May 3, 2014 at 8:00 a.m., to run on the affected streets and for assistance from the City and Police Department and for a fee waiver, and recommending that City Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to costs recovery & fee waivers in accordance with City Council adopted policy, and that the City Manager be granted authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.

2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 21 New Public Safety Building – Professional Services Award for Phased Approach Study.
1. Communication from the Director of Engineering and Public Services, submitting the New Public Safety Building – Professional Services Award for a Phased Approach Study, and recommending that the City Council award a change order to the original service agreement to Redstone Architects, Inc. for further study of both potential locations at a fixed fee of \$14,940, and that the City Manager, Director of Engineering and Public Services, or their designee be authorized to execute any necessary and appropriate agreements on behalf of the City.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 22 Land Divisions/Lot Reconfiguration Approval – Riverfront Park and Parking Lot.
1. Communication from the Director of Economic and Community Development, submitting the Land Divisions and Lot Reconfiguration for the Riverfront Park and Parking Lot, and recommending that the City Council approve the land divisions and lot reconfigurations for 34, 56, 78, 102, 113, 114, 116 and 120 West Front Street in accordance with the attached staff analysis and survey.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.
- 23 Proposed Resolution - River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan Endorsement.
1. Communication from the Director of Economic and Community Development, submitting a proposed resolution endorsing the River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan, and recommending that City Council endorse the River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan in the form of the attached resolution.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 24 Proposed Resolution - Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018 Adoption.
1. Communication from the Recreation Manager, submitting a proposed resolution to adopt the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018, and recommending that City Council adopt the resolution approving the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014-2018, and authorize City staff to complete the administrative steps necessary to certify the Plan with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, following consideration of any comments received at the public hearing.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.
- 25 Proposed Capital Improvements Program Budget – Fiscal Year 2014-2015.
1. Communication from the Director of Economic & Community Development, submitting the Proposed FY 2014-2015 Capital Improvements Program Budget, and recommending that Council approve the FY2014-2015 Capital Improvements Program Budget, following consideration of any comments received at the public hearing.
  2. Supporting documents.
  3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Rafko that item 18, 22, 23 and 24 be approved as presented and that item B, 19, 20, 21 and 25 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$766,418.88.

Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

Council Member Iacoangeli asked what project was included in the Brownfield authority loan payment.

Ed Sell, Finance Director said the project was to clean up the battlefield site.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that item B be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

19 The communication from the City Manager's Office was presented, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to hold the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual River Raisin Labor Day BBQ Festival on August 30, 2014 and to close the affected streets from 12 noon until 10:00 p.m., and recommending that City Council approve the request for Saturday, August 30, contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, and that the City Manager be granted authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.

Council Member Iacoangeli said he was in contact with one of the business owners in the area where the streets will be closed and that owner indicated that he will close his business during the time of the street closure because of the affect this had on his business last year. He suggested that the stage be placed on Washington Street and keep Front Street open to accommodate the downtown businesses.

Mayor Clark said that there is time to have that discussion and that this might be an opportunity to postpone to a later meeting to give an opportunity to meet with the Director of Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau to make those suggestions and to gather more information.

It was moved by Council Member Sisk and seconded by Council Member Rafko that item 19 be postponed until the regular meeting to be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Following further discussion on the item a vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

20 The communication from the City Manager's Office was presented, reporting back on a request from the Monroe Rotary Club for permission to hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Superhero 5K Run/Walk on May 3, 2014 at 8:00 a.m., to run on the affected streets and for assistance from the City and Police Department and for a fee waiver, and recommending that City Council approve the request contingent upon items being met as outlined by the administration, subject to costs recovery & fee waivers in accordance with City Council adopted policy, and that the City Manager be granted authority to alter/amend the event due to health and/or safety reasons.

Council Member Molenda said that there are two different dates on the Fact Sheet and he wants to clarify that the correct date is Saturday, May 3.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Rafko that item 20 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

21 The communication from the Director of Economic and Community Development was presented, submitting the New Public Safety Building – Professional Services Award for a Phased Approach Study, and recommending that the City Council award a change order to the original service agreement to Redstone Architects, Inc. for further study of both potential locations at a fixed fee of \$14,940, and that the City Manager, Director of Engineering and Public Services, or their designee be authorized to execute any necessary and appropriate agreements on behalf of the City.

Council Member Iacoangeli said he would like to disclose to Council that the firm his firm, Becket & Raider has done business with Redstone Architects, Inc., and asked if Council would like him to abstain from the vote.

Mayor Clark said that the relationship with this Firm is inactive so he does not see a reason why Council Member Iacoangeli cannot vote on this item.

Tom Ready, Attorney said according to the Charter, unless there is a direct conflict of interest, a Council Member is required to vote on items as they come up unless the body for some reason feels otherwise.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Sisk that item 21 be accepted, placed on file and the recommending be carried out.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

25 The communication from the Director of Economic and Community Development was presented, submitting the Proposed FY 2014-2015 Capital Improvements Program Budget, and recommending that Council approve the FY2014-2015 Capital Improvements Program Budget, following consideration of any comments received at the public hearing.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Hensley that item 25 be accepted, placed on file and the recommendation be carried out, with the additional electrical lighting project at Soldiers & Sailors Park.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

#### Council Comments.

Council Member Iacoangeli thanked the Mayor for writing a letter to Senator Richardville regarding Senate Bill 313 and asked that a PowerPoint presentation be made regarding the current conditions and requirements of the rental inspection program sometime in the near future.

Council Member Vining invited everyone to Monroe County Community College La-Z-Boy Center, room 257 & 258 on Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 p.m. for a panel discussion about Black History and the American Dream and on February 20, at Warrick "A" Building there will be another presentation regarding Black History from Africa to the Americas at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member Molenda said that last Thursday the Monroe Exchange Club recognized CPL. Kent Klemz of the Monroe Police Department as Officer of the Year.

Council Member Rafko thanked City employees who keep us safe and those who clean the streets.

Council Member Sisk said he would like to have discussion on how Council holds meetings and thanked Mr. Ready and Mr. Brown for their patience in working with him on this topic. He explained that recently he was invited to a meeting of two Council Members for a briefing session and said when he received that invitation he was uncomfortable. He said he contacted Mr. Ready to ask if they were in compliance with the open meetings act by holding a meeting in this manner. He explained that he is not insinuating anything sinister is happening at any level but he has been in government for 14 years and he is very cautious when it comes to anything that falls under the open meetings act and said everyone on Council should also be cautious for two reasons. He noted that Council is personally accountable under the open meetings act and they could be charged with a misdemeanor or be fined if in violation. He also noted that if Council loses the persona that they are operating less than 100% compliance in the public's eye and the public perception is that Council may be operating behind the scene, that's a trust that Council will never get back. He asked Mr. Ready give his opinion.

Tom Ready, Attorney explained that the opening meetings act is an act of our State Legislature to require meetings of public bodies to be open to the public and held in a place available to the general public and said there are other provisions in that paragraph but that is the meat of it. He said there are two key words in there that need to be defined; firstly, "meeting": the act defines a meeting as the convening of a public body at which a quorum is present for the purpose of deliberating toward or rendering a decision. He said the other definition that's key is; "public body": any state or local legislative or governing body, which includes City Council. He provided a copy of his written opinion concerning the open meetings act to members of Council and the City Manager and said that it was written on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014, and he and referred to it in his statement. He noted that a specific issue was raised whether or not a conference involving less than a quorum of the members of City Council might violate the act and said that this is an important question because "meeting" as defined in the act talks about the convening of a public body at which a quorum is present. He continued that at first you might think if there is not a quorum, there is not a meeting, but that is not necessarily the case because sometimes the court interprets things in a way that courts interpret them and perhaps extend it beyond the first bosh language of the act. He continued that the open meetings act applies and requires open meetings as to all deliberations of the public body constituting a quorum and defines a meeting as convening of a public body at which a quorum is present to deliberate or render a decision on public policy. He referred to a case, "Booth Newspapers against Wyoming City Council" and described the details of that case which he said was not clear. He referred to another case in Ishpeming and described the details of that case also. He said that you have to use common sense and gave some hypothetical instances of times when there might be two or more members together and the open meetings act not be violated. He continued that if the purpose of the meeting of less than a quorum group is simply to provide information and not to deliberate or work toward a decision on public policy, it is his opinion that it will not violate the open meetings act.

Council Member Iacoangeli said he appreciates Council Member Sisk taking the initiative on the issue. He said that he sent a couple of emails to the City Manager expressing his discomfort with having the two on two meetings also. He said that he can appreciate the City Attorney's interpretation of this issue but he cannot sit in a meeting and not ask questions. He noted that if he is in a meeting with the City Manager and a department head for a briefing and he asks questions, he said those questions are of his opinion and conceivably those could be aggregated with the opinions of other people that have been through these types of meetings, to really define what an informal or indirect policy could be and that's what his comfort level is. He said that he resisted the two on two meeting, and had been scheduled for the one person briefing, but wonders if this type of meeting is one that Council is comfortable with and if they are, as a group Council should discuss that here and now in an open forum and if not, Council should provide appropriate direction to City Administration that they are not

going to engage in these type of meetings. He continued that he thinks it is unfair to the City Manager that Council not give him direction of how they're willing to meet as a City Council.

It was moved by Council Member Iacoangeli and seconded by Council Member Rafko that in the future, beginning with this meeting, discussions of any nature that are not subject to closed session under the open meetings act, would be conducted either in public in a regular City Council Meeting or in a Council Work Session.

Mayor Clark said that in the past few weeks he's had some email exchanges that would probably negate that opportunity in the future. He said he thinks that there is information that Council needs to have at times and it's not about deliberation and it's not about rendering a decision. He said if Council isn't comfortable in getting information prior to decision making time and be less informed when it's time for the decision, he thinks there will be a lot of postponements and adjournments. He said this is about the City Manager and his duty to provide Council with information so they can make an informed decision.

Council Member Rafko said that she appreciated all of the informational emails and being updated on the business of the City. She said that her feelings about one on one meetings is that there are 6 others on Council and she would like to know what their thoughts are on any issue so if there is a meeting with another Council Member and somebody, she is not privy to what they've discussed. She said that she would like to have meetings will all Council Members present.

Mayor Clark said that those who attended the MML training sessions heard training on the open meetings act and he said that if the meeting is used for substantive discussion about matters pending before the unit government this may be used under the open meetings act. He said that he is not saying that the emails have all been of that nature but when you send emails to everybody you have to be cautious in what that purpose and intent is and if it is to persuade or get vote or support.

Council Member Vining said that she was curious why the meetings were held in this manner, separate from other Council Member and she said that being new, it is really helpful to have other Council Members present because they may ask questions that she may want to ask but not necessarily know how to ask.

Council Member Molenda said that he thinks there are a number of practical implications that should be considered along with any type of motion or direction, and one is simply defining what business is. He said to have any conversation with any other Council Member or staff member or email exchange, which could be considered city business. He said we could fall back on the standard of the purpose of deliberation so he would caution against broad language such as conducting city business if we're not able to have any conversations with anybody and doing much of anything. He noted that the other practical implication is getting everybody in the same room at the same time. He said he is a huge fan of everyone being in the same room and the dialog and different points of view, and differing points of view.

Following lengthy discussion regarding the issue and the motion, the motion was withdrawn by Council Member Iacoangeli and support of the motion withdrawn by Council Member Rafko with the agreement that Tom Ready, Attorney would work on an Order of the Chamber.

Council Member Hensley announced the Salvation Army's Annual Soup Day on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army's Campus of Hope. He also commented on snow removal on the sidewalks and asked residents to shovel their sidewalks.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Clark announced there will be a Soldier's Homecoming for First Lieutenant Adam Gagnon on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in downtown Monroe on Monroe Street. He thanked the Monroe Military families who coordinate these homecomings. He commented on item 23, Proposed Resolution - River Raisin Heritage Corridor – East Master Plan Endorsement.

Citizen's Comments.

Jean Guyor, 303 North Macomb Street also commented on the River Raisin Heritage Corridor Plan. She said on behalf of the Historical Society she would like to congratulate Council for adopting the plan and she said that she thinks we will see some great things come out of it.

Richard Micka, 47 East Elm Avenue noted that MDOT came to Frenchtown Charter Township and gave a presentation on the expansion and upgrade of Interstate I 75. He said the City, the Townships, the County, the State and the Federal government all have a stake in this project. He explained that it is 20 miles worth of upgrade, it is going to take five years and it will be done in sections. He said that his fear is that when it's done in sections, the first section will be done from exit 15 to Interstate I 275 and if they do something in that section that preempts what happens in the next phase of the program, you won't have a chance to back up and get it corrected. He said he is referring to exits 13 & 14, exit 13 is heavily industrial and Exit 14 is currently an exit for the Battlefield, and if you approach the City of Monroe now, north or south on I 75 you'll see a sign that reads "Monroe, next four exits". He explained that when this job is all done that sign will read "Monroe, next three exits", so if we lose an exit, which one will it be and how much is it going to cost us and how far will somebody have to travel to get where they want to go.

Brandon Burns, 13370 LaPlaisance Road commented on his recently purchased home, which is registered as a triplex and the problems that he has had in trying to get occupancy permits for each unit after many upgrades to the property. He said the rental unit ordinance has specific language that prevents him from renting the units and converts the property to single family dwelling because of the length of time the property remained vacant.

Adam Yeager, 1833 South Custer said he would like to see the snow plow trucks stay home once in a while because of the mess they make on drive way approaches and sidewalks.

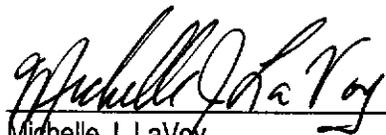
Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street commented on the drug problem in this community and urged people to get involved in the fight against the problem.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Rafko that the meeting adjourn at 9:15 p.m. until the Regular Meeting on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Michelle J. LaVoy  
 City Clerk-Treasurer

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Robert E. Clark  
 Mayor

## Transmittal Letters

*letter of transmittal*

**B R i**  
**Beckett&Raeder**

*Landscape Architecture  
Planning, Engineering &  
Environmental Services*

Date: 2.19.14  
From: Caitlin Jackson  
To: **Robert Peven, AICP, Director**  
Monroe County Planning Department  
125 East Second Street  
Monroe MI 48161

**i**  
*initiative*

**Project:** City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
**Enclosed:** Final Adopted City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan

**Remarks:**  
Please find enclosed a CD containing the final adopted draft of the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan for your review.

Thank you.



Caitlin Jackson

cc: Loretta LaPointe, Recreation Manager  
City of Monroe

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.  
535 West William, Suite 101  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Petoskey Office  
616 Petoskey St., Suite 100  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Traverse City Office  
921 West 11th St., Suite 2E  
Traverse City, MI 49684

Toledo  
419.242.3428 ph

734.663.2622 ph  
734.663.6759 fx

231.347.2523 ph  
231.347.2524 fx

231.933.8400 ph  
231.944.1709 fx

www.bria2.com

*letter of transmittal*

**B R i**  
**Beckett&Raeder**

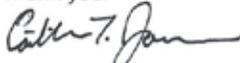
*Landscape Architecture  
Planning, Engineering &  
Environmental Services*

Date: 2.19.14  
From: Caitlin Jackson  
To: **Mr. Calvin Johnson**  
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments  
1001 Woodward Ave, Suite 1400  
Detroit, MI 48226

**i**  
*initiative*

Project: **City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan**  
Enclosed: **Final Adopted Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Remarks:  
Please find enclosed a CD containing the final adopted draft of the City of Monroe Parks and Recreation Master Plan for your review.

Thank you.  
  
Caitlin Jackson

cc: Loretta LaPointe, Recreation Manager  
City of Monroe

Beckett & Raeder, Inc.  
535 West William, Suite 101  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Petoskey Office  
616 Petoskey St., Suite 100  
Petoskey, MI 49770

Traverse City Office  
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