

MUSKEGON TOWNSHIP

# Parks and Recreation Master Plan



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MUSKEGON, MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

# Parks and Recreation Master Plan

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MUSKEGON, MUSKEGON COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Adopted December 19, 2022

Prepared with the assistance of:



**MCKENNA**

124 East Fulton Street, Suite 6B  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(248) 596-0920  
**mcka.com**



# Acknowledgments

## **Township Board**

Jennifer Hodges – Supervisor  
Carrie Westbrook – Clerk  
Lindsay Theile – Treasurer  
Robert Grabinski  
John Hughes  
Joe Kemp  
Bill Ream

## **Township Parks and Recreation Committee**

Jenni Bowen  
Karley Burford  
Simeon Frang  
Tobias Fredericksen  
Kristin Nesbary  
Saxon Smith  
Lindsay Theile







# Table of Contents

<b>01. Introduction .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Welcome.....	2
Purpose and Intent .....	2
<b>02. Community Setting.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Community Setting .....	4
Organizational Structure .....	7
<b>03. Inventory and Analysis .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Recreational Inventory.....	12
Buel Avenue Park.....	13
Evanston Gardens Park .....	14
Parslow Park .....	15
Quarter Oak Park .....	16
Riverside Park .....	17
Softball World .....	18
Wesley Avenue Park .....	19
Accessibility Assessment .....	25
Buel Avenue Park.....	25
Evanston Gardens Park: .....	25
Parslow Park .....	26
Quarter Oak Park .....	26
Riverside Park .....	27
Softball World (Public Property, Leased) .....	27
Wesley Park .....	28
Mill Iron Boat Lunch – Public Property/Right-of-Way: .....	28
Natural Resource Inventory .....	29
<b>04. Planning Process and Public Input.....</b>	<b>39</b>
DNR Recreation Grant Inventory .....	40
Planning and Public Input Process.....	40
Comparison to NRPA Guidelines .....	41
<b>03. Goals and Action Plan .....</b>	<b>43</b>
Goals and Objectives .....	44
Action Program.....	45

**List of Maps**

Map 1: Park Locations .....21

Map 2: Park Service Areas .....23

Map 3: Floodplains .....31

Map 4: Wetlands.....35

**List of Tables**

Table 1: Population in Comparison Communities, 2020 .....4

Table 2: Age Distribution, 2020 .....5

Table 3: Disability Types in Muskegon Township .....6

Table 4: Annual Parks Budget.....8

Table 5: Recreational Inventory of Muskegon Township Parks .....12

Table 6: Action Program .....45

# 01. INTRODUCTION



# Welcome

Welcome to Muskegon Charter Township's 2023 Five-Year Recreation Plan. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared with technical assistance from McKenna, a planning and design consulting firm, and with the active involvement of the City's administration. This Plan will outline Muskegon Charter Township's current park facilities, both those owned by the Township and those available to Township residents; evaluate the facilities' Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance; provide the Charter Township's organizational structures in financing and administering parks; and present improvement and maintenance plans for Muskegon Charter Township Parks over the next five years.

This plan is being created in order to help Township residents understand the current state of and projected future of the Township's park facilities, as well as provide guidelines and prioritization for the parks. This plan is also intended to fulfill the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requirements for Community Parks and Recreation Plans to qualify for grant funding from programs like the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Citizen input and action, through an online survey and a public hearing, played a critical role in the development of the plan. As a result, recommendations described within the action plan reflect the needs and ideas of those who use parks and recreation facilities within Muskegon Township.

The planning process kicked off in August 2022 and concluded with the adoption of the Plan in December of 2022. A draft of the Parks and Recreation Plan was made available online and in physical form at the Muskegon Township Office, for 30-days, for public viewing and public comment from November 18 – December 19. The public was encouraged to make and share comments online or in writing to the Township office.

## Purpose and Intent

This document is intended to guide the future of parks and recreation in Muskegon Township. Parks and natural open spaces are important aspects of the overall public health and wellbeing of a community. The Plan also meets the MDNR Parks and Recreation requirements so that Muskegon Township will be able to apply for MDNR grants in the future.

## 02. COMMUNITY SETTING



# Community Setting

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Muskegon Charter Township is located east of the City of Muskegon in Muskegon County. The Township has a population of 17,952, according to 2020 Census estimates. The Township is comprised of 23.9 square miles. Census estimates for 2020 show that the Township is 95.8% white, 6% Hispanic, 3.7% black, and less than 2% Asian, American Indian and Alaska Native, or some other race. During the same Census reporting period, the average household size in the Township was 2.51 and 53.2% of households have children 6-17 years.

## BRIEF HISTORY OF MUSKEGON TOWNSHIP

Established in 1812, and chartered in 1987, Muskegon Township is situated in Muskegon County, east of the City of Muskegon and has the distinction of being the oldest Township in the State of Michigan. Encompassing some 23 square miles of the suburban periphery of the City of Muskegon, the Township originated as a sparsely settled farming community, comprising parts of Ottawa and Oceana Counties. Over the past 75 years, the Township has experienced successive waves of suburban growth beginning in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and reaching its apex in the post war period. The source of most of this growth was the expansion of the industrial economy of the City of Muskegon, who despite several annexations of Township property, could not fully envelop the eastward expansion of the growing metropolitan region.

## DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The social and economic forces portending the rapid growth of the Township in the 1960's and 1970's followed a national trend which witnessed suburbanization as a response to extensive road building projects, as well as the middle classes' increased prosperity, and alienation from urban-industrial society. By the mid-1970s, the rapid population growth which characterized the 1950s and 1960s, had begun to subside in the wake of a series of prolonged economic recessions which hit the industrial states of the Midwest, including Michigan, particularly hard. By the time the economic malaise dampened the pace of population growth and development in the 1970s, a more urban pattern and intensity of land use in the Township had been well established.

## POPULATION

Understanding the population growth or decline trends in Muskegon Charter Township is an essential component in the creation of a Recreation Plan. Past trends, current assessments, and future predictions are all aspects that will create a vision for the basis of the type of development to best serve the population. Further, comparing Muskegon Charter Township to neighboring areas will create a broader portrait of community needs.

*Table 1: Population in Comparison Communities, 2020*

Year	Muskegon Township	Fruitport Township	City of Muskegon	Norton Shores	Muskegon County	State of Michigan
2010	17,964	13,518	39,023	23,916	173,223	9,952,687
2019	17,952	14,292	37,317	25,030	175,824	9,986,857

Source: US Census Bureau, 2010 Census and 2020 Decennial Census

In comparing the several communities located in Muskegon County as noted above, Fruitport Township experienced the largest population growth over the sample period by over 600 people, or 4.3%. Over the sample period, Muskegon Township experienced a very small overall loss of population, but essentially has stayed the same size since 2010.

HOUSEHOLDS

According to 2020 Census estimates, there were a total of 7,071 total households in the Township. The average household size in Muskegon Township was 2.51 and the average family size was 3.01 for the same reporting period. There were also 1,677 households with children under the age of 18 in Muskegon Township, for the 2020 Census period. Of those households, 53.2% have children ages 6-17 living in them. Adults 65 and over represent 30.5% of the population of the Township.

Muskegon Township reported having 7,071 total housing units in the township, in 2020. There were 5,923 (83.8%) owner-occupied housing units and 1,148 (16.2%) renter-occupied housing units in the Township in 2020. The average household size for owner-occupied and rental occupied were 2.60 and 2.04 respectively. Most Muskegon Township residents live in single-family homes (77%) and are in owner occupied housing (83.8%). The median household income in the Township for the 2020 Census period was \$50,814. The median home value in Muskegon Township was \$94,800 in the 2020 Census.

AGE DISTRIBUTION

The figure below demonstrates the age makeup of Muskegon Township based on data from 2020 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, the most recent available data. Muskegon Township’s median age is approximately **39.7 years old**, which aligns with the State of Michigan’s median age of 39.8 years.

Age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality’s population are in which stages of life) gives a nuanced view of the makeup of a community. Table 2 below shows the number of individuals in different age groups in Muskegon Township and the percentage that age group is represented in the total population.

Table 2: Age Distribution, 2020

Age Group	Population	Percent of Total Population
Under 5 (Pre School)	1,077	6.0%
5 to 19 (School Aged)	3,400	18.9%
20 to 44 (Family Forming)	5,291	29.5%
45 to 64 (Mature Families)	4,819	26.8%
Over 65 (Retirement)	3,365	18.7%
Total	17,952	--

Source: US Census Bureau, 2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

As the table above suggests, the highest percentage of Muskegon Township residents fall into the 20 to 44 years old age range, or “Family Forming” age. This is consistent with the Township’s relatively young median age as well as the average household size of 2.51 people. This data suggests that in general, residents in the Township are typically from younger families with children living in the home. Parks are geared primarily toward families with children, and the number of school-aged and under 5 children is useful in considering the capacity needed at local parks. It is also important to consider the older, possibly childless population, and ways that the Township Parks may be able to provide services to them as well.



## EDUCATION

Muskegon Township consists of primarily two school districts; the Reeths-Puffer School District which encompasses the north side of the community, and the Orchard View School District which straddles the Township's eastern border with the City of Muskegon. These two districts are especially important because they offer and coordinate recreational programs with the Township. A third school district, the Muskegon Public Schools, serves a very small section of the Township but does not offer a high level of programs for the Township residents. The newly constructed Reeths-Puffer High School offers a high-tech educational center along with a 3000-seat gymnasium and 1000-seat auditorium. Orchard View School District encompasses some 12 square miles and has an enrollment of approximately 2,650 students. The District includes an early childhood center, three elementary schools, a middle school, a high school, an adult education program, and four child care centers. The Township also contains a charter school, the Timberland Academy.

Though technically not in the Township, post-secondary education in the area is offered through Muskegon Community College (MCC) and the newly relocated Baker College. With its 111-acre campus and 300,000 square feet of classrooms, MCC is the largest higher education institution in the metropolitan Muskegon area. In addition to having on-site conference, and job training facilities, the adjacent Muskegon Center for Higher Education serves as an extension facility for Ferris State, Grand Valley and Western Michigan Universities. The adjacent Baker College campus is approximately 40 acres in size, with 300,000 square feet of classroom and office space. The college, which moved to its present location in 1997, offers both Bachelors and Masters degree programs. Both colleges together comprise over 150 acres of land within a distinctively suburban academic setting.

## PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

According to the Census Bureau American Community Survey 2020 5-year estimates, there are approximately 2,865 residents in Muskegon Charter Township living with a disability. This is 16% of the Charter Township's population. With such a significant percentage of the population living with a disability, it is critical that the Township's park and recreation facilities are able to accommodate a diverse population of abilities and challenges. The following tables demonstrate the types of disabilities present in the community, which will further demonstrate the variety of recreation needs in the Township.

*Table 3: Disability Types in Muskegon Township*

Disability Type	Population
Hearing Difficulty	711
Vision Difficulty	250
Cognitive Difficulty	941
Ambulatory Difficulty	1,744
Self-Care Difficulty	467
Independent Living Difficulty	1,125
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,865</b>

# Organizational Structure

The Township Supervisor acts as the board chairman as well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of all the Township departments and preparing the annual fiscal budget.

Personnel for the parks program come from several sources. The Township's Department of Public Works is responsible for maintenance and improvements within the parks. The staff of the DPW is assisted throughout the summer by part-time labor.

## CURRENT FUNDING SOURCES

The Clerk, popularly elected, is responsible for overseeing the disbursement of funds for these purposes.

**Funding for parks and recreation comes from the Township's general fund.** The annual operation and maintenance funds listed above funds were used for such as grounds upkeep, and repairs to as picnic tables, fencing, play equipment, underground utilities, and electrical systems.

The Township also used American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding for upgrades to Softball World in 2022. Those funds are included in the budget table on the following page.

## ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

The Boy Scouts are involved in volunteer efforts to improve Muskegon Township parks, especially at Riverside Park. Other volunteer efforts are more informal, but the Township does utilize volunteers for parks maintenance efforts.

## RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS

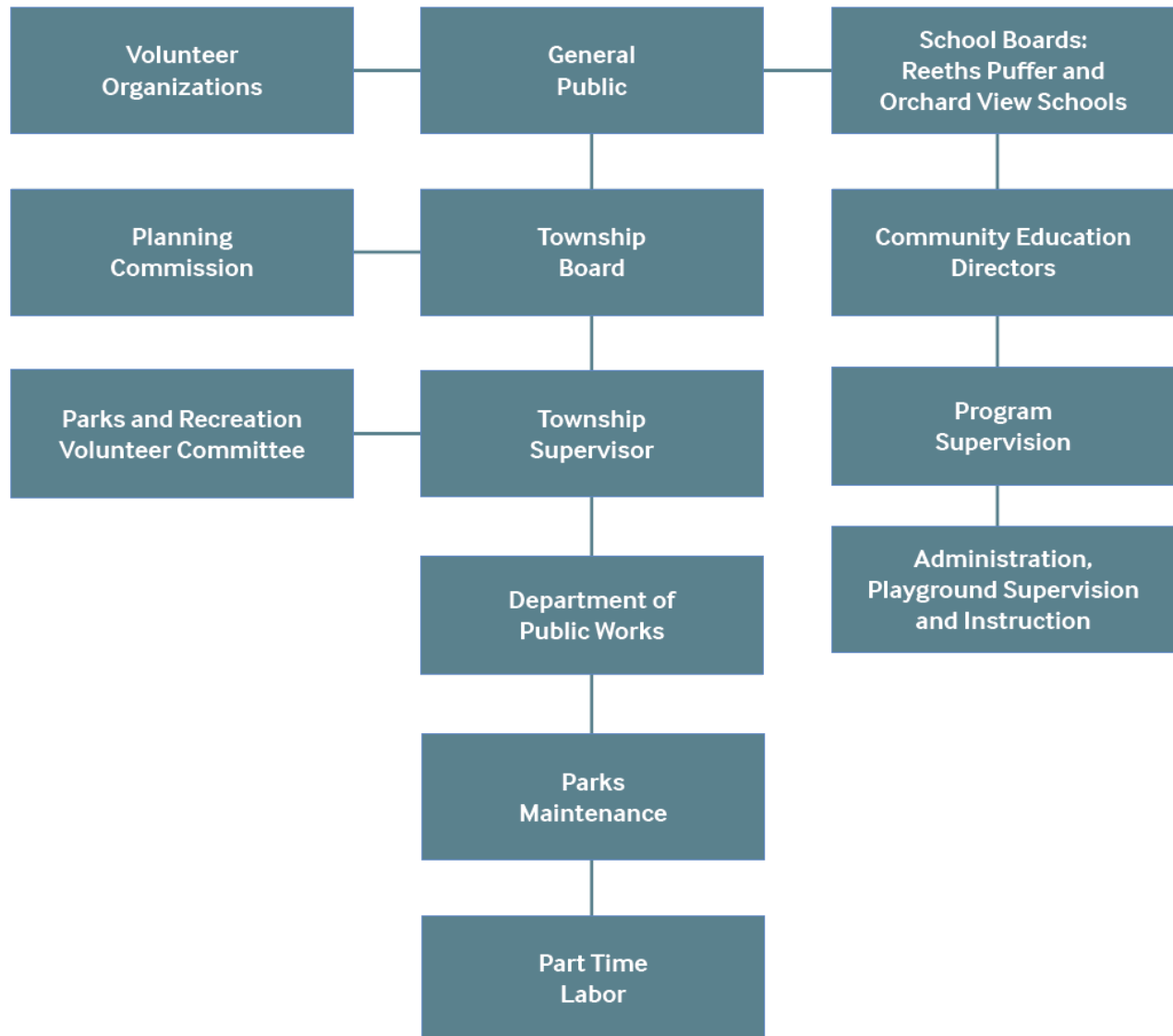
The two school districts that draw from Muskegon Township provide staff resources through their Community Education Departments for indoor and outdoor programming throughout the year and also provide for supervisory staff at various parks during the summer months. Muskegon Charter Township, Reeths-Puffer Schools, and Orchard View Schools share responsibility for the Township's parks and recreation program. The Township owns most of the parks and is responsible for maintenance and capital improvements. The school districts are responsible for programs, staffing, and providing some facilities.

## ANNUAL PARKS BUDGET

*Table 4: Annual Parks Budget*

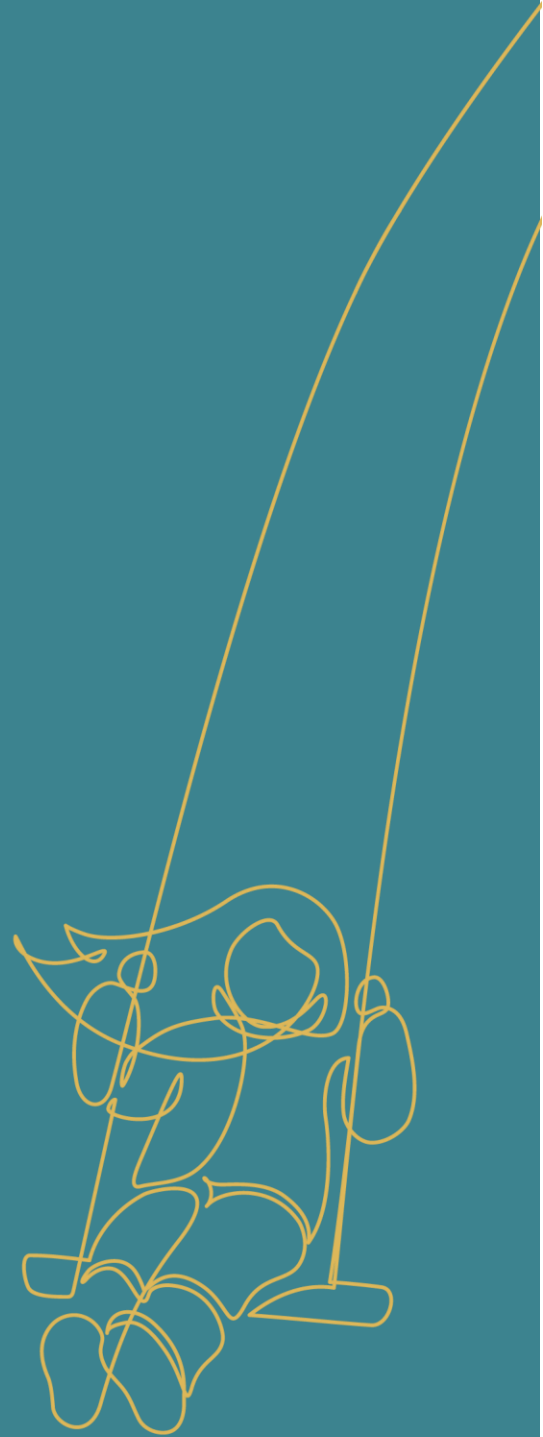
Department 707	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 (Projected)
Wages – Full Time	\$56,639.49	\$36,424.45	\$57,522.99	\$55,400.43	\$68,000.00	\$70,000.00
Wages – Overtime/Comp	\$436.06	\$372.59	\$196.51	\$242.12	\$500.00	\$500.00
Employers Social Security	\$4,164.04	\$2,695.27	\$4,233.37	\$4,229.73	\$3,651.00	\$5,240.00
Retirement Fund Contributions	\$2,788.39	\$2,508.08	\$4,440.54	\$3,413.26	\$3,938.00	\$5,458.00
Insurance	\$1,268.42	\$895.48	\$1,220.81	\$1,158.51	\$9,500.00	\$10,000.00
Operating Supplies	\$2,261.86	\$915.23	\$709.13	\$2,933.06	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00
Repair & Maintenance	\$2,289.29	\$2,972.53	\$2,570.35	\$11,975.62	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00
Small Equipment Repair	\$5,297.97	\$2,841.38	\$2,522.96	\$6,182.65	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
School Recreation Program	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Contract Services	\$400.00	\$15,400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Utilities	\$12,183.20	\$12,761.55	\$11,719.95	\$13,545.91	\$13,100.00	\$14,000.00
Vehicle Rental	\$0.00	\$1,806.45	\$11,968.99	\$12,415.48	\$12,145.00	\$11,874.00
Park Improvements	\$21,704.17	\$11,346.49	\$264.28	\$0.00	\$227,433.00	\$20,000.00
Equipment	\$76,024.48	\$2,513.67	\$3,203.00	\$11,415.00	\$65,000.00	\$3,500.00
Vehicles	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,043.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,457.37</b>	<b>\$108,453.17</b>	<b>\$100,572.88</b>	<b>\$125,911.77</b>	<b>\$430,310.00</b>	<b>\$168,572.00</b>

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND MANAGEMENT





# 03. INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS



# Recreational Inventory

## DESCRIPTION OF METHODS USED TO CONDUCT THE INVENTORY

To prepare the recreation inventory, project consultants conducted site visits and visual checks of each of the parks and facilities in the Township in summer of 2022. The staff made field notes about the number and type of amenities there were in the park. Photos of the amenities were also taken during the site visits. The information that was gathered in the site visits was then synthesized into the descriptions below.

## TOWNSHIP FACILITIES

Muskegon Township is directly to the east of the City of Muskegon. Muskegon Township residents benefit from the park and recreation offerings in the Muskegon region. Some of the amenities in the area are, Pere Marquette State Park, Muskegon State Park, PJ Hoffmaster State Park, Pioneer Park, The Muskegon State Game area, and the Muskegon Luge Adventure Park. While these facilities are not in Muskegon township, they are easily accessed and enjoyed by township residents.

At the time of a summer 2022 park assessment, all Muskegon Township parks had a bathroom facility or at least a concrete structure for storage. However, at the time of the assessment, all bathroom facilities were locked and had porta-potties instead.

**Table 5: Recreational Inventory of Muskegon Township Parks**

	Buel Avenue Park	Evanston Gardens Park	Parslow Park	Quarter Oak Park	Riverside Park	Softball World	Wesley Park	TOTAL
Basketball Hoops	2	2	4		2		2	12
Baseball/Softball Fields	2	1	3	1	2	4	3	16
Pickleball Courts							1	1
Soccer Field							1	1
Tennis Courts		1			1		1	3
Play Structure	1	1	3	1	3		2	11
Horseshoes					1		1	2
Shuffleboard		1					1	2
Skate Park			1					1
Roller Hockey			1					1
Picnic Area/Tables	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	8
Pavilion		1	1		1		1	4
Restrooms	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7
ADA Accessible Pathways					1			1
Nature Trail					1			1

## BUEL AVENUE PARK

130 BUEL AVE

Buel Avenue Park is an **8.67 acre** neighborhood park in the Northwestern region of Muskegon Township that was first constructed in 1976, according to a plaque located at the site. It contains 2 baseball fields, 2 basketball courts, swing sets and play equipment, as well as picnic tables and grills. The park has some newer plastic playground equipment as well as older metal structures. The park is surrounded by an approximately 4-foot tall chain link fence with multiple access points. There is a paved parking lot but very few sidewalks connecting features at the park. The baseball diamonds have very little seating nearby, but seem to be at least partially maintained, as the bases appeared new and the fields have been mowed. Tall, patchy grass intermixed with sand or dirt is the prominent surface type of most of the play and picnic areas.





## EVANSTON GARDENS PARK

2262 S DANGL RD

Evanston Gardens Park is a small neighborhood park of **4.7 acres**, in the far southeast corner of Muskegon Township. Evanston Gardens is somewhat hidden through trees and behind homes. The park includes a baseball diamond, 2 basketball hoops, and play equipment of various ages and materials, including a play area for children 1-7 and an all-ages area. Evanston Gardens also has a picnic pavilion with benches and grills. There are two parking lots on either end of the park. There are very few sidewalks connecting park features. At the front of the park, there are “little free library” boxes for community members to “take-a-book and leave-a-book”. This is not a Township funded amenity, but it adds to the type of activities that are available in the Township. The park has a lot of trees, allowing for plenty of shade, and visitors enjoy bringing hammocks to relax in.





## PARSLOW PARK

1271 SAUTER ST

Parslow Park is one of the Township's most popular neighborhood parks and is full of amenities. The **8.5 acre** park includes a variety of play structures, including a toddler play area. There are 4 basketball hoops and 3 baseball diamonds. The swing set includes an ADA-approved adaptive swing. The park also has a large, covered picnic pavilion with many picnic tables. Parslow Park's most unique feature among the Township's other parks is its skate park, which is surrounded by a tall-chain link fence and includes multiple skate obstacles. The skate park was repainted and updated in 2022. Parslow Park has some paved paths connecting park features, but most surfaces are grass or sand.



## QUARTER OAK PARK

1990 E APPLE AVE

Quarter Oak Park is **7 acre** neighborhood park, located behind Muskegon Township Hall at the corners of Quarterline Road and Oak Street. Shady Rest Cemetery sits on the other side of Oak Avenue from Quarter Oak Park. The Park's parking lot has a dirt surface and is lined with even rows of trees. This feature is unique and attractive but creates an uneven surface for the parking lot. From the parking lot, the nearest feature is a baseball diamond. On the other side of the baseball diamond is both old and new play equipment. The park is along a busy street on one side and has no sidewalks on either of its adjoining streets. There are also no sidewalks connecting the parking lot to any of the park features, which are spaced out in the park. Aside from the parking lot, this park has very few trees and very little shaded seating, though there are some young trees where most people sit at picnic tables.





## RIVERSIDE PARK

947 E GILES RD

Riverside Park is Muskegon Charter Township's largest community park at **30.7 acres**. It has a large, paved parking lot and paved, narrow walking pathways throughout. It includes 2 basketball hoops, 2 baseball fields, and multiple play sets of various size and age. Some of the older metal play structures are quite unique, including two very tall winding slides connected by a bridge, which must be climbed on a ladder. Further back in the park there is a covered picnic area with wooden and concrete seating which was well-maintained aside from some overgrowth near some of the benches. Near this picnic area is the entrance to the Riverside Park Nature Trail. This trail is long and winding and goes through a wooded wetland area encompassing most of the park's acreage. The paths are quite narrow and overgrown, with some sections crossing wetlands and creek-beds on wooden raised paths, which were sometimes broken or uneven. The walking paths in Riverside Park would benefit from resurfacing, but it is a great access point to nature in a mostly developed region.



## SOFTBALL WORLD

878 S. MILL IRON RD

Softball World is a **19 acre** privately managed softball facility, owned by Muskegon Township. The facility consists of four softball diamonds, concessions and bathroom facilities, storage, and dirt parking lots. The site does not have barrier free parking spaces that are delineated. There are no accessible concrete pathways in the facility, except for the area around the bathroom and concession stand. Currently, only vehicle access to the site exists with a parking lot off Mill Iron Rd. The facility is not connected to surrounding neighborhoods by bike paths or pedestrian pathways. There is existing picnic furniture at the site, but it may not be ADA compliant. Softball World is an important private recreation amenity in Muskegon Township.





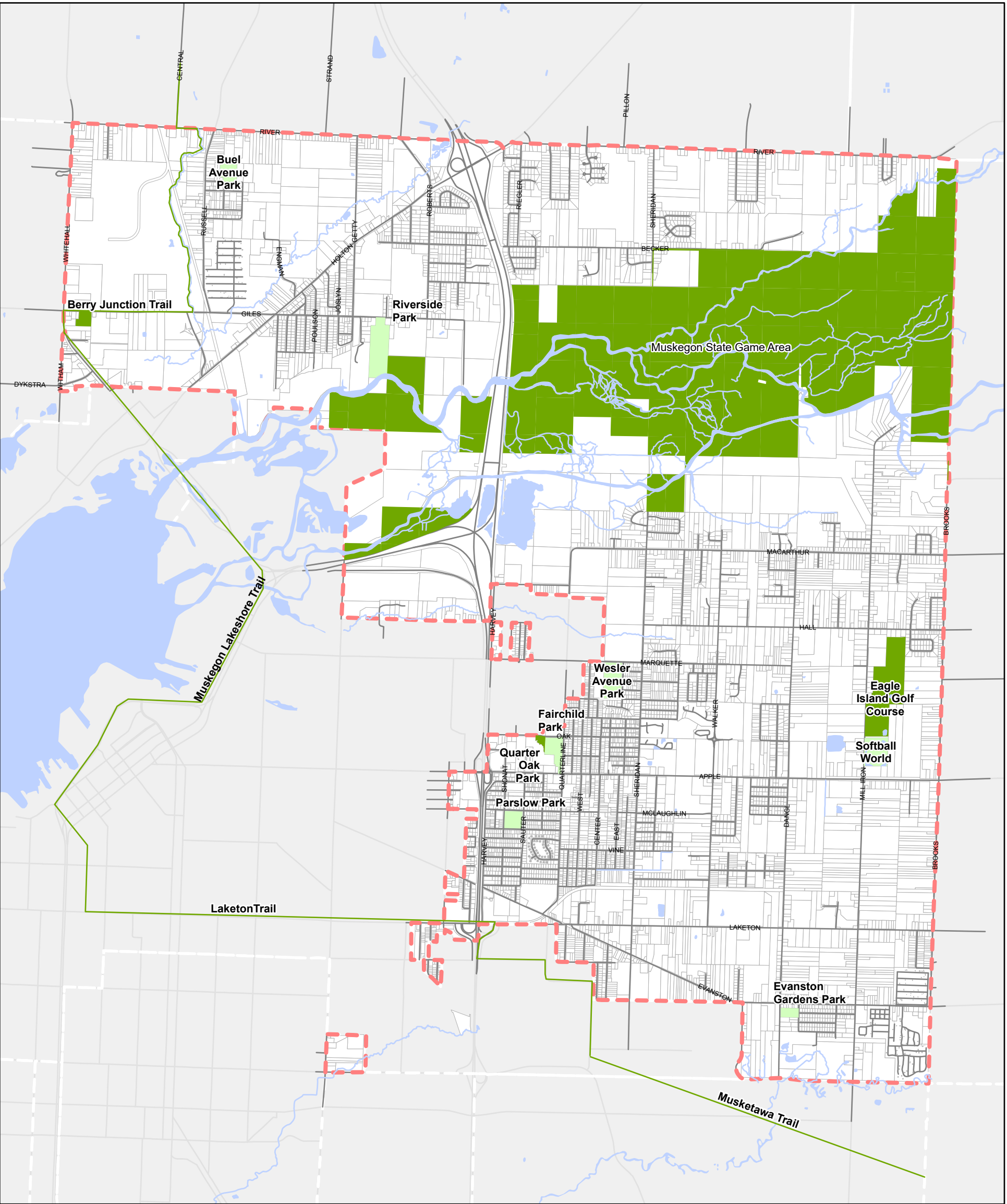
## WESLEY AVENUE PARK

2305 MARQUETTE AVE

Wesley Avenue Park is another one of Muskegon Charter Township's largest parks and recreation facilities with a wide variety of amenities. The park is technically owned by Orchard View Public Schools, but the Township holds a 100 year lease on the property. Wesley Avenue Park is **18 acres** and located along a quiet neighborhood street. The park is directly near Muskegon County Community College, Baker College, and the Orchard View Schools Administrative Building. The park has narrow paved paths connecting most of its amenities. The park contains 1 tennis court, 1 pickle ball court, 3 baseball fields, 2 basketball hoops, a soccer field, horseshoe pits, and all-ages as well as toddler play equipment. During the McKenna site visit in summer 2022, the basketball courts were flooded and appeared to have clogged drainage. A new storage structure for equipment was installed in 2012 and is monitored by a surveillance camera. The soccer field has a storage structure for equipment. There are picnic tables and multiple grills around the park, in addition to a covered picnic pavilion. There are a number of grills at the park, some of which are usable while others are no longer in working condition.







# Park Locations

Muskegon Charter Twp., Muskegon County, MI

September 22, 2022

- LEGEND**
- Township Owned
  - Not Township Owned

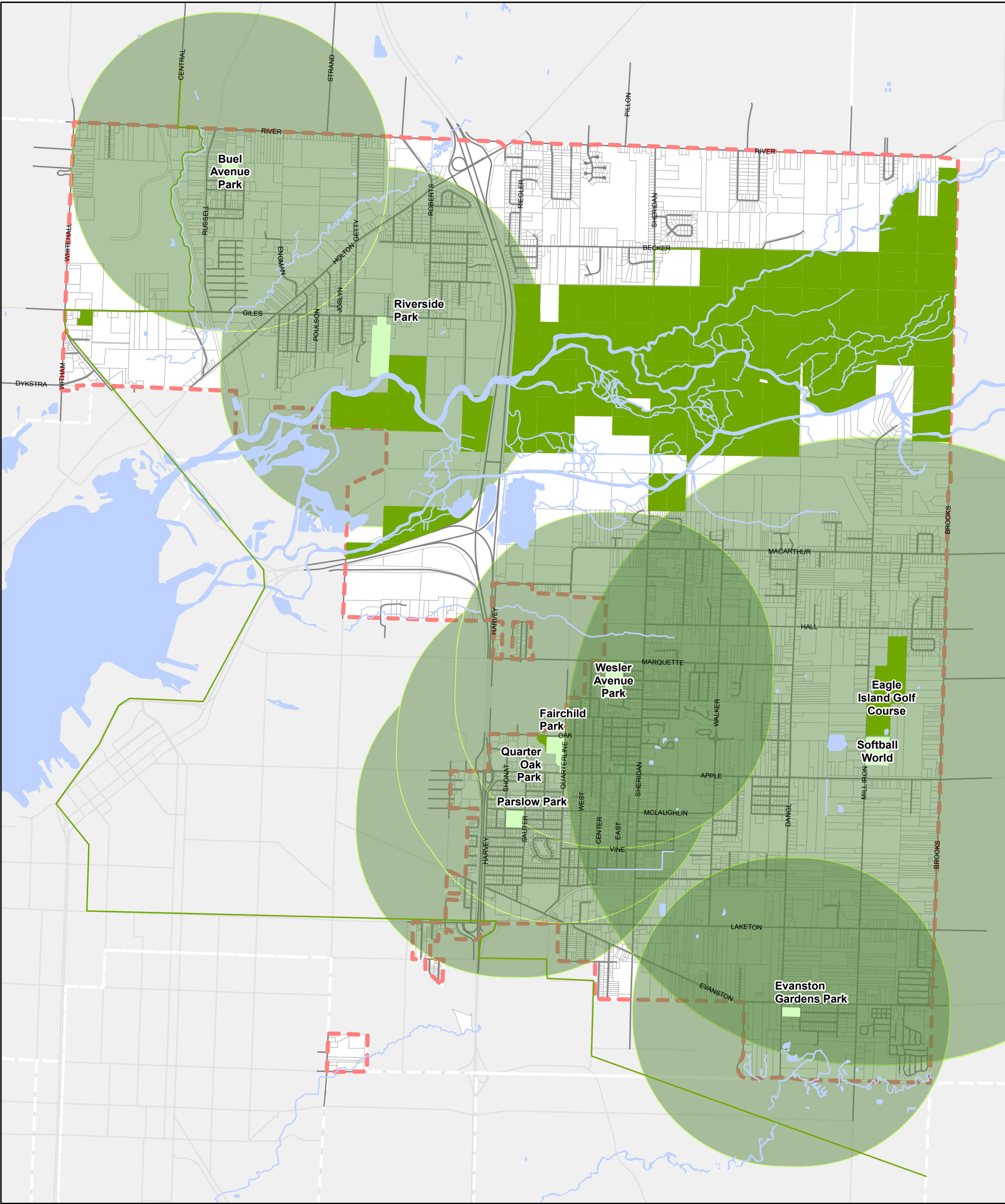


Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Muskegon County 2021. McKenna 2022.









# Park Service Areas

Muskegon Charter Twp., Muskegon County, MI

September 22, 2022

## LEGEND

- Park Service Area
- Township Owned
- Not Township Owned
- Trails



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Muskegon County 2021. McKenna 2022.





# Accessibility Assessment

## BUEL AVENUE PARK

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE= 3

- a. Permanent restrooms closed, only non-accessible portable toilets available. **Reopen accessible restroom facilities and modify interior furnishing as required to comply with ADA Standards.**
- b. No barrier-free spaces delineated or signed. **Parking area should have the required barrier free spaces delineated and signed.**
- c. No accessible routes exist to connect surrounding residential neighborhood to park, i.e. no pedestrian/sidewalk circulation. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- d. No hard surface accessible pathways exist to inter-connect park facilities and parking. Accessibility should accommodate a mixed-ability of groups, such as able-bodied child and a parent with a disability. Long grass is difficult to wheel or walk through. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- e. Transfer point on play structure with manufactured resilient surfaces should be connected to accessible route. **Add paved walks where appropriate.** For each transfer point, 30"x48" wheelchair parking spaces should be provided adjacent to an accessible route and out of the equipment's required fall zone. (Play equipment should be accessible, but must be designed for children, not wheelchairs.) **Relocate equipment to allow for transfer points (5'X5' clear, level area) should be provided to allow a child to transfer between a wheelchair and the play structure.**
- f. Ex. sidewalk to restroom building & entrances is less than 5' width required.
- g. Grills should be located on an accessible surface and located on an accessible walk or path. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**

## EVANSTON GARDENS PARK:

ACCESSIBILITY SCORE=2

- a. Permanent restrooms closed, only non-accessible portable toilets available. **Reopen accessible restroom facilities and modify interior furnishing as required to comply with ADA Standards.**
- b. Ex. sidewalk to restroom is adequate.
- c. Ex. sidewalk to restroom building & entrances is less than 5' width required. **Widen paved walks where appropriate.**
- d. Barriers free parking not adjacent to ramp. **Relocate designated barrier-free parking closer to park entrance & sidewalk ramp.**
- e. Transfer point on play structure with manufactured resilient surfaces should be connected to accessible route. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- f. For each transfer point, 30"x48" wheelchair parking spaces should be provided adjacent to an accessible route and out of the equipment's required fall zone. (Play equipment should be accessible, but must be designed for children, not wheelchairs.) **Relocate equipment to allow for transfer points (5' X 5' clear, level area) should be provided to allow a child to transfer between a wheelchair and the play structure.**
- g. No accessible routes exist to connect surrounding residential neighborhood to park, i.e. no pedestrian/sidewalk circulation. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- h. No hard surface accessible pathways exist to inter-connect park facilities and parking. Accessibility should accommodate a mixed-ability of groups, such as able-bodied child and a parent with a disability. Long grass is difficult to wheel or walk through. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**

## PARSLOW PARK

### ACCESSIBILITY SCORE=2

- a. Permanent restrooms closed, only non-accessible portable toilets available. **Reopen accessible restroom facilities and modify interior furnishing as required to comply with ADA Standards.**
- b. No hard surface accessible pathways exist to inter-connect park facilities and parking. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- c. Accessibility should accommodate a mixed-ability of groups, such as able-bodied child and a parent with a disability. Long grass is difficult to wheel or walk through. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- d. No accessible routes exist to connect surrounding residential neighborhood to all sides of the park. Existing narrow sidewalk only along Shonat St. & part of Francis Ave. **Widen walks where appropriate.**
- e. Transfer point on play structure with manufactured resilient surfaces should be connected to accessible route. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- f. For each transfer point, 30"x48" wheelchair parking spaces should be provided adjacent to an accessible route and out of the equipment's required fall zone. (Play equipment should be accessible, but must be designed for children, not wheelchairs.) **Relocate equipment to allow for transfer points (5'X5' clear, level area) should be provided to allow a child to transfer between a wheelchair and the play structure.**
- g. Improvement: one ADA accessible full support swing seat available on swing set.
- h. Restroom Building & Toilet Facilities-**Modify interior furnishing as required to comply with ADA Standards.**
- i. Ex. sidewalk to restroom building & entrances is less than 5' width required. **Widen walk were appropriate.**
- j. Existing picnic furniture not ADA compliant. **Add barrier-free compliant picnic table(s).**
- k. Grills should be located on an accessible surface and located on an accessible walk or path. Current grills are near, but not resting on, accessible surfaces. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**

## QUARTER OAK PARK

### ACCESSIBILITY SCORE=2

- a. No permanent restrooms, only non-accessible portable toilets available. **Construct accessible toilet facilities if feasible.**
- b. No barrier-free spaces delineated or signed. No pathways exist to connect any park features, including parking lots. **Parking area should be paved and have the required barrier-free spaces delineated and signed. An accessible route must be provided to the park's facilities.**
- c. No accessible routes exist to connect surrounding residential neighborhood to park, i.e. no pedestrian/sidewalk circulation. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- d. Transfer point on play structure with manufactured resilient surfaces should be connected to accessible path or walk. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- e. For each transfer point, 30"x48" wheelchair parking spaces should be provided adjacent to an accessible route and out of the equipment's required fall zone. (Play equipment should be accessible, but must be designed for children, not wheelchairs.) **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- f. Drinking fountain is not designed and located so it is usable by a person in a wheelchair. Drinking fountain should be located on an accessible walk or path. **Replace fountain with ADA accessible model and add paved walks as needed.**
- g. Grills should be located on an accessible surface and located on an accessible walk or path. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**

## RIVERSIDE PARK

### ACCESSIBILITY SCORE=3

- a. No permanent restrooms, only non-accessible portable toilets available. **Construct accessible toilet facilities if feasible.**
- b. Nature Trail is not barrier-free accessible. May be cost prohibitive to develop an accessible route down wooded ridge to Cedar Creek. Improving wooded ridge path may make path more accessible to those who walk with braces or have visual impairments, may be a hazard to all. **Repair wooded ridge steps. Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- c. Transfer point on play structure with manufactured resilient surfaces should be connected to accessible route. Features and play areas are connected by paved walks. **Add additional paved walks where appropriate.**
- d. For each transfer point, 30" x 48" wheelchair parking spaces should be provided adjacent to an accessible route and out of the equipment's required fall zone. (Play equipment should be accessible, but must be design for children, not wheelchairs.) **Relocate equipment to allow for transfer points (5' x 5' clear, level area) should be provided to allow a child to transfer between a wheelchair and the play structure.**
- e. No accessible routes exist to connect surrounding residential neighborhood and Reeths-Puffer Schools to park, i.e. no pedestrian/sidewalk circulation. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- f. Grills should be located on an accessible surface and located on an accessible walk or path. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- g. Improvement: one ADA accessible full support swing seat available on swing set.

## SOFTBALL WORLD (PUBLIC PROPERTY, LEASED)

### ACCESSIBILITY SCORE=3

- a. Barrier-Free spaces are delineated and signed.
- b. Concession/Restroom Building & Toilet Facilities. **Modify interior furnishing as required to comply with ADA standards.**
- c. Ex. sidewalk to restroom is adequate.
- d. No hard surface accessible pathways exist to connect parking lot to park facilities. Stone dust surfacing connects parking lot to ball fields. Only sidewalk found around the concession/restroom building. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- e. No accessible routes exist to connect surrounding residential neighborhood to park, i.e. no pedestrian/sidewalk circulation. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- f. Existing picnic furniture not ADA compliant. **Add barrier-free compliant picnic table(s).**

## WESLEY PARK

### ACCESSIBILITY SCORE=2

- a. Total number of parking spaces provided should be reviewed to assure that the proper number of barrier-free spaces are delineated and signed. Barrier-free spaces should be spread proportionately between the three parking lots. An accessible route must be provided to the park's facilities from all parking lots. **Parking area should be paved and have the required barrier-free spaces delineated and signed. Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- b. Permanent restrooms closed, only non-accessible portable toilets available. **Reopen accessible restroom facilities and modify interior furnishing as required to comply with ADA Standards.**
- c. Ex. sidewalk to restroom building & entrances is less than 5 widths required. **Widen paved walks where appropriate.**
- d. No accessible routes exist to connect surrounding residential neighborhood to park, i.e. no pedestrian/sidewalk circulation. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- e. More hard surface accessible pathways should be constructed to inter-connect park facilities and parking. Accessibility should accommodate a mixed-ability of groups, such as able-bodied child and a parent with a disability. Long grass is difficult to wheel or walk through. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- f. Transfer point on play structure with manufactured resilient surfaces should be connected to accessible route. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**
- g. **For each transfer point, 30"x48" wheelchair parking spaces should be provided adjacent to an accessible route and out of the equipment's required fall zone.** (Play equipment should be accessible, but must be designed for children, not wheelchairs.) **Relocate equipment to allow for transfer points (5'X5' clear, level area) should be provided to allow a child to transfer between a wheelchair and the play structure.**
- h. Some barrier-free compliant picnic tables are recommended.
- i. Grills should be located on an accessible surface and located on an accessible walk or path. **Add paved walks where appropriate.**

## MILL IRON BOAT LUNCH – PUBLIC PROPERTY/RIGHT-OF-WAY:

### ACCESSIBILITY SCORE=1

- a. No formal parking or any provisions for disabled persons. **ADA requirements should be incorporated into any future site improvements.**



# Natural Resource Inventory

Located east and northeast of the City of Muskegon, Muskegon Charter Township occupies a unique space in the West Michigan region. It has the distinction of being the oldest Township in Michigan, created in 1837 when its boundaries also included parts of lands now in Ottawa and Oceana Counties. Eventually, its geographic extent was reduced by further divisions of the State government and annexations by the City of Muskegon. All of these factors have given the Township its current boundary, which encompasses about 23 square miles. The Township shares a common border with seven other communities: the Cities of Muskegon and North Muskegon, Laketon Township, Dalton Township, Cedar Creek Township, Egelston Township and Fruitport Township.

Protecting the water quality in the Township's rivers and streams is of critical importance

Muskegon Charter Township's unique location is reflected in the diversity of its land uses and natural features. The southwest portion of the Township has been urbanized and is only about three miles east of downtown Muskegon. The southeast corner of the community has experienced less intense development over the years, and contains vital stands of hardwood forests and open spaces while supporting low- and moderate-density residential development. The Township is bisected by the Muskegon River, which empties into Muskegon Lake just west of the Township's boundary. The river is surrounded by a large, wooded wetland area, cutting a path about one and a half miles wide from east to west. This natural feature provides a barrier dividing approximately six square miles of the Township from the remainder.

## SURFACE WATER AND WATERSHEDS

A watershed is an area of land where all of its water drains to a common location. Watersheds also include many smaller tributaries (or sub-watersheds) such as creeks and streams that feed into a larger river and are influenced by the topography of the land. Surface water in Muskegon Charter Township consists entirely of rivers and streams flowing, generally, in an east-to-west direction towards Muskegon Lake; no lakes of significant size are located within the Township. Most of Muskegon Township is within the Muskegon River watershed, which encompasses an area of about 2,700 square miles and contains more than a dozen sub-watersheds.

The predominate hydrologic feature in the Township is the Muskegon River, which originates more than 200 miles upstream in the Houghton Lake region in Roscommon County. The river flows southwest, passing through several cities including Evart (Osceola County), Big Rapids (Mecosta County) and Newaygo (Newaygo County) before emptying into Muskegon Lake. The river descends more than 250 feet in elevation between its headwaters in Roscommon County and its mouth in Muskegon Lake. Also flowing through the Township towards Muskegon Lake are several smaller creeks and streams including Bear Creek, Little Bear Creek, Ryerson Creek, Cedar Creek, Four Mile Creek and Little Black Creek.

Protecting the water quality in the Township's rivers and streams is of critical importance to protecting the overall environmental health of the Township. Rivers and streams provide critical habitats for plants and animals, increase the quality of life for Township residents and help to define the character of the community. Furthermore, while land use practices in Muskegon Township may have a less significant effect on the watershed when compared with a community further inland, the Township should nevertheless take steps to protect the watershed.



This would help to protect the water quality, not only in the Township's waterways, but also Muskegon Lake and Lake Michigan, as well.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, one of the leading threats to a community's surface water is nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. Unlike pollution resulting from a single point, such as an industrial development or sewage treatment plant, NPS pollution cannot be traced to a single source or a specific location. NPS pollution is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it carries pollutants and deposits them into lakes, rivers, wetlands and groundwater. These pollutants include excess fertilizers, oil and grease from urban areas, sediment from construction sites, bacteria from livestock and many other contaminants.

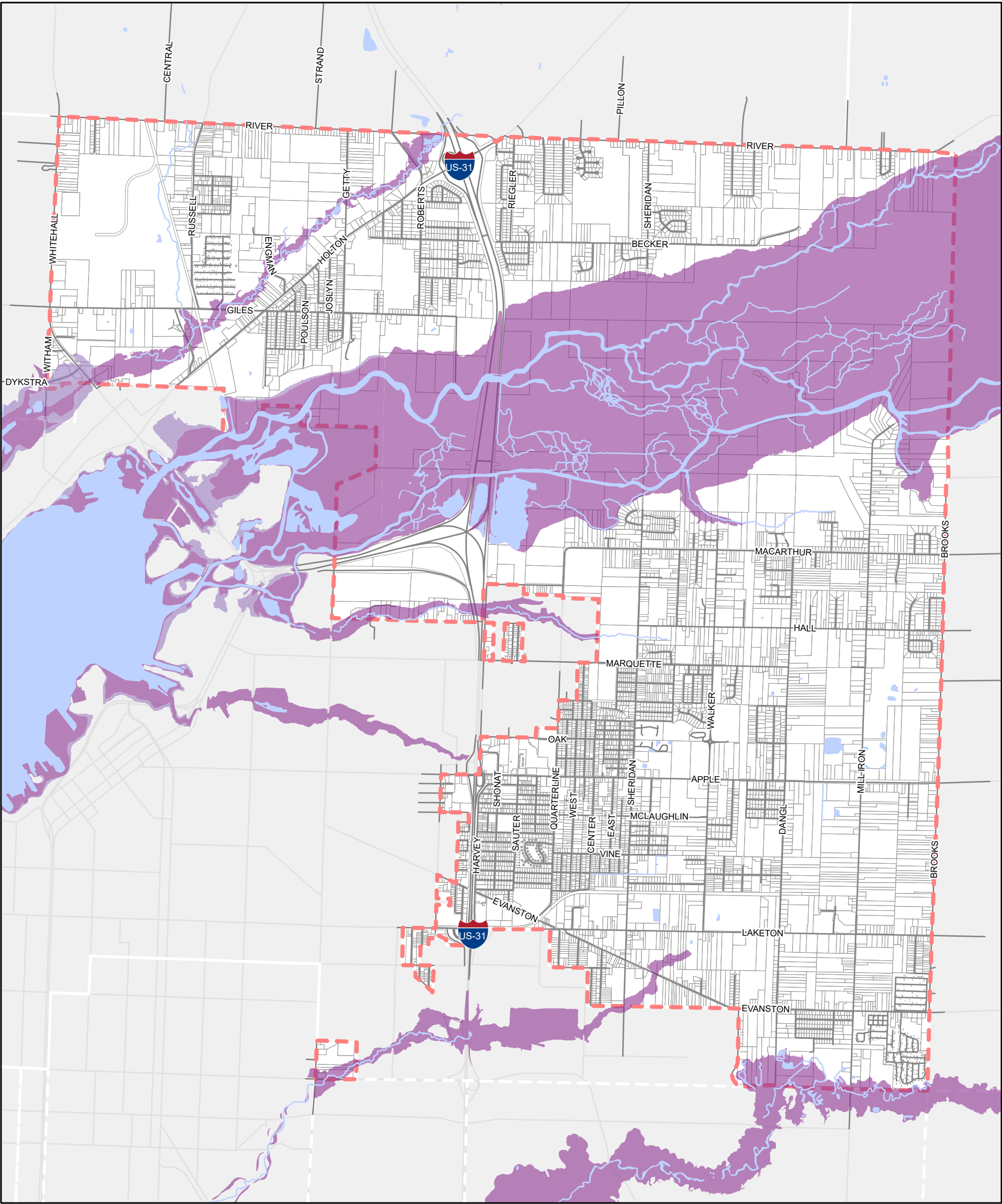
The nature of NPS pollution also means that the land use practices of one community may have a wide-ranging effect on another community. Since the Township lies at the mouth of the Muskegon River, it may be affected by NPS pollution that results from the land use practices that occur in most of the 2,700 square mile watershed located upstream of the Township.

The Muskegon River watershed encompasses an area of about 2,700 square miles.

NPS pollutants include runoff from parking lots, stormwater discharge, and other sources.

## FLOODPLAINS

Muskegon Township contains four areas that are within the flood zone as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. These areas are generally found along Little Bear Creek, the Muskegon River, Four Mile Creek and Black Creek. The Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) is defined as the land area covered by the floodwaters of a base flood. In this area, the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) floodplain management regulations must be enforced and the mandatory purchase of flood insurance applies. Areas in the SFHA in Muskegon Township are shown on Map 5.3. Most lands located within the SFHA in Muskegon Township are undeveloped, except for a limited number of residential properties located in close proximity to Little Bear Creek. As future land use decisions are contemplated in the updated Master Plan, the Township should discourage development in these sensitive, and potentially hazardous, locations.



# Floodplain

Muskegon Charter Twp., Muskegon County, MI

December 13, 2021

## LEGEND

- 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
- Bodies of Water
- Parcels



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Muskegon County 2021. McKenna 2021.





## WETLANDS

Wetlands play a unique role in the natural environment. Muskegon Township is blessed with an abundance of natural wetland areas, most of which are found along the stream and river corridors. Wetlands as identified by the National Wetland Inventory are illustrated in Map 5.3. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality defines wetlands as "...land characterized by the presence of water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances does support, wetland vegetation or aquatic life..."

Muskegon Township is blessed with an abundance of natural wetland features.

The Michigan DEQ further describes wetlands as "a significant factor in the health and existence of other natural resources of the state, such as inland lakes, ground water, fisheries, wildlife and the Great Lakes" and defines several of the environmental benefits of wetlands, citing that they provide:

- Flood and storm control by the hydrologic absorption and storage capacity of wetlands.
- Wildlife habitat by providing breeding, nesting, and feeding grounds and cover for many forms of wildlife, waterfowl, (including migratory waterfowl) and rare, threatened or endangered wildlife species.
- Protection of subsurface water resources and provision of valuable watersheds and recharging ground water supplies.
- Pollution treatment by serving as a biological and chemical oxidation basin.
- Erosion control by serving as a sedimentation area and filtering basin, absorbing silt and organic matter.
- Sources of nutrients in water food cycles and nursery grounds and sanctuaries for fish.

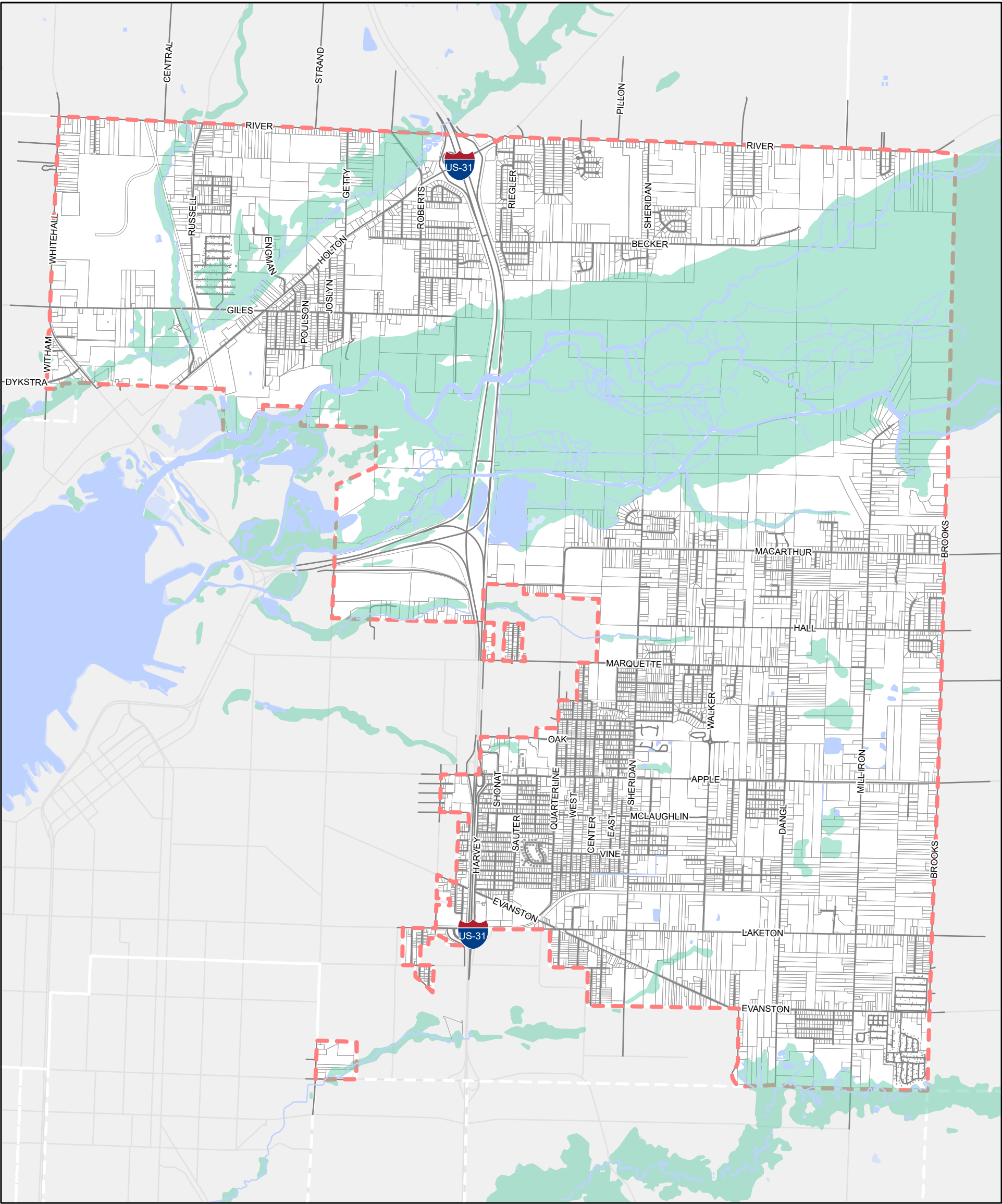
Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, PA 451 of 1994, provides for the protection of most wetlands greater than five acres in area, and also enables local communities to adopt a natural feature ordinance to protect wetlands and natural features within their boundaries. However, despite these regulations, the Michigan DEQ estimates that, nationally, approximately 100,000 acres of wetlands are destroyed annually, and it is generally accepted that the total amount of wetlands is continually declining. Responsible development techniques are vitally important if the decline in wetland areas is to be reversed. At the local level, the Township must ensure that reasonable and responsible development is permitted while protecting natural features, such as wetlands, to the greatest extent possible. An updated Master Plan should recommend several suggestions for protecting wetlands within the Township.

In response to the apparent decline in wetland areas, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service established voluntary wetland restoration programs to assist landowners who want to restore wetlands on their property.

Similar programs have been started by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and several nonprofit organizations. Most wetland restoration projects are designed to restore water to drained wetland areas by simple techniques, such as plugging agricultural ditches or breaking field tiles. Map 5.4 illustrates the location of potential wetland restoration sites within Muskegon Township as identified by the Michigan Center for Geographic Information.







# Wetlands

Muskegon Charter Twp., Muskegon County, MI

December 13, 2021

## LEGEND

- Lakes & Ponds
- Wetlands
- Parcels



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a. Data Source: Muskegon County 2021. McKenna 2021.





## GROUNDWATER

Maintaining a clean groundwater supply is of critical importance for any community. In Muskegon Township, many residents are connected to a public water distribution system, but data from the State of Michigan indicates that about 900 drinking water wells are located within the Township's boundaries. The majority of these wells draw water from a relatively shallow depth: the static water level is less than 30 feet down in most cases. These wells may be susceptible to pollution if polluted water is not filtered thoroughly enough before reaching the water table.

Maintaining a clean groundwater supply is of critical importance for any community.

Causes of pollution in groundwater are often similar to the causes of pollution in surface water discussed above: excessive fertilizing and intense industrial land uses can result in hazardous substances soaking into the ground, which can end up in the groundwater supply. If the soil is unable to filter these chemicals before they reach the relatively shallow water table in Muskegon Township, the water drawn from those wells may be harmful to the health of residents.

Since the quality of the groundwater is, in many cases, affected by land use decisions and practices within a community or region, one of the goals of the updated Master Plan should be protecting this resource that is critical to the Township's residents.

## SOILS

The composition of soils in a community is one of the primary factors affecting the natural and built environment. By studying the characteristics of different types of soil, it can be determined whether the soil can hold enough water to keep plants growing through a drought, withstand a flood, and provide the necessary chemicals to vegetation so that they will grow properly. Table 5.1 on the following page contains the texture characteristics of soils found in Muskegon Township, which are also illustrated on Map 5.6.

**Sandy** – Consists of loose, single grained particles. Sands contain 85-100% sand-sized particles.

**Blown-Out Land** – Areas where the original surface layer and the subsoil have been removed by soil blowing or water erosion.

**Mucky** – Extremely dark in color, contains well-decomposed organic soil mixed with mineral soil material.

**Marsh** – Consists of old bayous and wet areas along streams.

**Loamy** – Is medium-textured, and contains a relatively even mix of sand, silt and clay.

Soil characteristics are also an important factor in planning for growth and development. Certain soils are ideally suited for supporting buildings, while others may be too wet or too unstable to support development without incurring significant additional development costs. Similarly, certain soils are ideal for agricultural use, while others are ideal for septic systems.

However, it is important to remember that soil characteristics are not mutually exclusive; some soils may serve competing interests. For example, one soil type may be equally suited for both agricultural uses and urban development. Therefore, soil properties alone cannot dictate land uses, but should be one of the many factors that contribute to the future land use decisions.



## WOODLANDS

The preservation of natural woodland forests is often a high priority for many residents, as there are many benefits to the preservation of woodlands. Large stands of mature trees can improve air and water quality and provide habitats for a variety of plant and animal species. Additional human benefits include energy savings, reduced noise levels, and natural aesthetics and increased property values.

An important component of woodland preservation is connectivity. Interconnected forests allow animal species to move freely throughout a community, minimizing the hazards posed by urban development. In some areas of the Township, these woodland areas also follow stream corridors, which provide additional benefits, such as minimizing stream bank erosion. Muskegon Township is fortunate to have about 8,000 acres of woodland areas within its boundaries. Throughout the planning process, maintaining connected woodlands should be a consideration as land use policies are considered

# 04. PLANNING PROCESS AND PUBLIC INPUT



# DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

## MDNR GRANT HISTORY

Year	Grant Number	Park	Description	Amount	Open to the Public?	Grant-Funded Facilities Still Present?	Use Conversions ?
1975	26-00646	Riverside	Acquisition	\$15,016.62	Yes	Yes	No
1976	26-00813	Riverside	Development	\$75,566.22	Yes	Yes*	No
1988	TF88-175	Softball World	Acquisition	\$300,000	Yes	Yes	No
1999	CM99-108	Wesley	Development	\$165,120	Yes	Yes	No
2013	TF13-077	Berry Trail	Development	\$300,000	Yes	Yes	No

*\*While many of the grant-funded items are still present, some have been removed due to deterioration or end of their lifespan during the 46 years since the grant was approved.*

## Planning and Public Input Process

The planning process was informed by citizen comments through an online survey. The survey was taken by 110 individuals. A draft of the Parks and Recreation Plan was made available online and in physical form at the Muskegon Township Office, for 30-days, for public viewing and public comment from November 18 – December 19. The public was encouraged to make and share comments online or in writing to the Township office.

The Muskegon Township Parks and Recreation Plan survey consisted of 34 questions that asked respondents to rate the park facilities in the Township. The survey was answered by 110 respondents. The survey covered each of the Muskegon Township parks and Softball World. One of the questions in the survey asked respondents to rank the items at each park that needed to be upgraded. Respondents were also asked to identify and rank potential new park amenities that don't currently exist.

When asked about Buel Avenue Park, respondents ranked restrooms (73%), picnic areas and grills (66%), and playground equipment (59%) as the things they would most like to see upgraded in the park. Respondents also ranked walking/bike paths, lighting and security equipment, and pickleball as amenities that should be added in Buel Avenue Park.

When asked about Evanston Gardens Park, respondents said that restrooms (82%), picnic pavilion (75%), and playground equipment (52%) are the amenities they would most like to see upgraded in the park. Respondents also ranked walking/bike paths, lighting and security equipment, and pickleball as amenities that should be added in Evanston Gardens Park.

When asked about Parslow Park, respondents said that restrooms (76%), playground equipment (57%), a picnic pavilion (53%), and walking paths (51%) are the amenities they would most like to see upgraded in the park.

Respondents also ranked walking/bike paths, lighting and security equipment, parking and pickleball as amenities that should be added in Evanston Gardens Park.

Respondents were asked to rank the items at Quarter Oak Park that are most in need of being upgraded. The respondents chose restrooms (87%), picnic tables (72%), and playground equipment (65%) as the items that they would like to see upgraded. When respondents were asked what new amenities they would like to see in Quarter Oak Park they said walking/bike paths, picnic pavilion, lighting and security cameras, and pickleball.

When asked about what amenities need to be upgraded at Riverside Park, respondents said restrooms (82%), nature trails (76%), picnic tables (60%), and playground equipment (42%). Respondents also felt that walking/bike paths, picnic pavilion, lighting and security cameras, and pickleball were all things they would like to see added in the park.

Respondents felt that Wesley Park would benefit from upgrades to the restrooms (75%), playground equipment (68%), and picnic area (68%) and basketball courts (36%). When asked to rank potential new amenities for Wesley Park, respondents ranked walking/bike paths, lighting and security cameras, and trash cans as new amenities they would like to see in the park.

Softball World is a privately-managed recreation amenity, owned by the Township. Survey respondents were asked to rank the need for upgrades to Softball World. Respondents listed restrooms (49%), bleachers (37%), parking (35%), barrier-free access (34%), and concessions (31%) as the amenities in the facility that are most in need of upgrades. Respondents also ranked the importance of potential upgrades to the facility and chose restrooms, lighting and security cameras, parking, and more fields as amenities they would like to see at the facility.

## Comparison to NRPA Guidelines

National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Guidelines also informed the Planning Process. Below, the existing amenities in the Township are compared to NRPA Guidelines for recreational amenities per person. The Township's population is 17,952 people.

Amenity	Current Existing	NRPA Recommendation	NRPA Recommendation for Muskegon Twp	Surplus / Deficiency
Basketball Hoops	12	1 per 2,500 people	7	+5
Baseball/Softball Fields	16	1 per 5,000 people	4	+12
Pickleball/Tennis Courts	4	1 per 2,000 people	10	-6
Soccer Field	1	1 per 10,000 people	2	-1
Play Structure	11	1 per 5,000 people	4	+7
Volleyball Court	0	1 per 5,000 people	4	-4



# 03. GOALS AND ACTION PLAN



# Goals and Objectives

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the recreation planning process. Goals should be broad and address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific objectives. The overall goal of the Township is to provide quality recreation programs and facilities that serve the greatest proportion of residents within the community. Once the recreation goals for the community have been determined, they need to be translated into objectives.

**The following goals and objectives were developed through public input and deliberation by Township Leaders.** In order to achieve these goals, this plan recommends that the Township establish a dedicate parks line-item in the budget to ensure sufficient resources are available.

## **Goal 1: Improve, enhance, and expand amenities in the Township's Parks**

- To the extent possible, maintain older equipment and facilities to maintain park character.
- Replace and upgrade equipment and facilities that cannot be adequately maintained.
- Improve access through pathways and ADA compliance.
- Install lighting as appropriate.
- Maintain tree canopy, including removing dead or dying trees, trimming trees, and planting new trees.
- Provide multiple sizes of baseball fields so that many age groups can participate on Township fields.
- Improve pedestrian amenities (e.g. seating, shade, pathways, etc.).
- Install new signage at all parks.

## **Goal 2: Improve safety and security within the Township's Parks.**

- Utilize the principals of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)
- Consider security cameras
- Initiate a routine inspection and maintenance program
- Replace fully plumbed restrooms with easier-to-maintain non-flush restrooms.
- Improve lighting
- Involve local neighborhoods and civic groups in ensuring safety and security in the parks

## **Goal 3: Work with regional and state partners to expand the non-motorized trail system.**

- Work with regional authorities to seek funding for planning, design and implementation of new pathway connections
- Partner with adjacent communities to expand recreation opportunities within pathways
- Work closely with the State of Michigan to implement pathway improvements within the Muskegon State Game Area/Muskegon River Basin
- Partner with local organizations such as Scouts to promote use of non-motorized transportation.

## **Goal 4: Increase access to and use of the Muskegon State Game Area and other public land in the Muskegon River Basin.**

- Improve entranceways and signage
- Partner with regional and state partners to construct additional trails and amenities.
- Increase communication and coordination with regional and state partners.

# Action Program

Ultimately, the Action Program is the section of the plan where the Township intends to meet, or work towards meeting goals and objectives over the next five years. Specific capital improvements for parks over the next few years are listed in the tables below, by park facility.

**Table 6: Action Program**

Softball World			
Year	Description	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
2023	Dig out and replace infield dirt.	\$5,000 per field	T
	Replace irrigation in outfield.	\$15,000 per field	T
	Add additional portable restrooms	\$1,000 each	T
2024	Re-stripe parking and add additional barrier-free spaces	\$10,000	T
	Upgrade concession stand wiring and lighting	\$3,000	T
	Construct an umpire building	\$10,000	T
2025	Upgrade Lighting	\$300,000	T, G
2026	Design infield for multiple base path lengths, so that many age groups can enjoy the fields	\$5,000	T, G
Future/ Aspirational	Expand facility through purchase of land along Apple Avenue	TBD	T, G, P
	Add additional facilities, including soccer or indoor facilities	TBD	T, G, P, PF
	Fully pave parking lot	TBD	T, PF, P

Buel Avenue Park			
Year	Description	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
2023	Dig out and replace infield dirt on "front" field.	\$5,000 per field	T
2024	Resurface basketball court and remove tree roots	\$15,000	T
	Replace small grills with one large grill for group events.	\$1,000	T
2025	Convert restroom to storage building	\$10,000	T
	Install permanent non-flush toilet designed to prevent vandalism and convert flush restroom to storage.	\$10,000	T
2026	Convert "back" baseball field to soccer/football field.	\$15,000	T
Future/ Aspirational	Construct a network of paved sidewalks to connect amenities together.	TBD	T, G, P

**Funding Sources Key:** T = Township   G = Grants   P = Partnerships   PF = Private Funds   V = Volunteers



## Evanston Gardens Park

Year	Description	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
2023	Paint playground equipment to extend its life and improve aesthetics.	\$8,000	T
	Replace horse rockers with sand diggers, including an accessible sand digger.	\$6,000	T
	Remove large deteriorating slide.	\$2,000	T
2024	Replace baseball field with wiffleball and/or disc golf facilities (3-6 holes).	\$20,000	T, G
	Repair pavilion roof.	\$5,000	T
	Replace shuffleboard courts with cornhole courts.	\$1,000	T
2025	Re-pave and expand basketball court, including removing curb and improving dimensions for team play.	\$15,000	T
2026	Install permanent non-flush toilet designed to prevent vandalism and convert flush restroom to storage.	\$10,000	T
	Replace tennis courts with pickleball courts, if pickleball demand supports conversion.	\$10,000	T, G, P
Future/ Aspirational	Construct a network of paved sidewalks to connect amenities together.	TBD	T, G, P

## Parslow Park

Year	Description	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
2023	Paint playground equipment to extend its life and improve aesthetics.	\$8,000	T
	"Touch up" baseball field with cosmetic upgrades	\$1,000	T
2024	Upgrade street hockey rink with new boards, nets, and surface.	\$20,000	T, G
	Install permanent non-flush toilet designed to prevent vandalism and convert flush restroom to storage.	\$10,000	T
2025	Replace fencing at skate park.	\$5,000	T
	Re-pave and expand basketball court, including removing curb and improving dimensions for team play.	\$15,000	T
2026	Add irrigation to baseball field.	\$50,000	T, G, P
2027	Construct a network of paved sidewalks to connect amenities together.	\$50,000	T, G, P

**Funding Sources Key:** T = Township   G = Grants   P = Partnerships   PF = Private Funds   V = Volunteers

### Quarter Oak Park

Year	Description	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
2023	Enclose portable toilet to improve aesthetics.	\$5,000	T
	"Touch up" baseball field with cosmetic upgrades	\$1,000	T
	Add new fencing along Quarterline Road	\$10,000	T
	Paint playground equipment to extend its life and improve aesthetics.	\$3,000	T
2025	Pave parking lot	\$30,000	T

### Riverside Park

Year	Description	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
2023	Replace tennis court with pickleball court.	\$10,000	T, G
2024	Paint playground equipment to extend its life and improve aesthetics.	\$8,000	T
2025	Install permanent non-flush toilet designed to prevent vandalism and convert flush restroom to storage.	\$10,000	T
2026	Add irrigation to baseball fields.	\$15,000	T, G, P
Ongoing	Engage Scouts in ongoing maintenance of Nature Trail, including re-cutting it, adding new mulch, and installing wayfinding signage.	\$1,000	T, V

### Wesley Park

Year	Description	Estimated Cost	Funding Source
2023	Paint playground equipment to extend its life and improve aesthetics.	\$8,000	T
	Replace horse rockers with sand diggers, including an accessible sand digger.	\$3,000	T
2024	Repair pavilion roof.	\$5,000	T
	Add a new grill near the soccer field	\$2,000	T
2025	Re-pave and expand basketball court, including removing curb and improving dimensions for team play.	\$15,000	T
2026	Install permanent non-flush toilet designed to prevent vandalism and convert flush restroom to storage.	\$10,000	T
2027	Add irrigation and new fencing	TBD	T, G, P

**Funding Sources Key:** T = Township   G = Grants   P = Partnerships   PF = Private Funds   V = Volunteers





124 E. Fulton Street, Suite 6B  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
(248) 596-0920  
**mcka.com**

John Jackson, AICP  
Christopher Khorey, AICP  
Jeff Keesler  
Danielle Bouchard, AICP  
Carrie Leitner

President  
Project Manager  
Project Planner  
GIS Mapping  
Graphic Design