

Appendix D

Citizen Opinion Survey Responses

City of Jackson & Jackson County Joint Recreation Plan

Write-In Survey Responses

Questions #7 and #8 of the Citizen Opinion Survey allowed respondents to write-in at least a portion of their responses as opposed to selecting the most appropriate pre-determined response to a question. Those write-in responses were summarized in Chapter 4 of the Joint Recreation Plan. However, the actual responses are reproduced below. Please note that some of the more obvious misspellings and grammatical errors were corrected. However, the substance of each response remains the same.

Question #7

Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in the park/recreation facilities?

Other (please specify)

- a connection from Cascades to Ella Sharp bike trail
- Coordinated trail system linking the Falling Waters with JCC area
- Cycling, hiking, paddling (kayak & canoe)
- WALKING
- Wildlife / Bird Watching
- Golf
- Fishing
- More mountain biking area
- Organized exercise!
- Horseback riding trails
- Bike trails
- Yoga/Walk Club Exercise class
- Better lighting & safety features
- Triathlons, 1/2 Marathons, or other similar events
- Horse Back Riding Trails
- Bike lanes on roadways to MC/ VCL/BLKMN TWNSHP
- Kayaking, canoeing, sailing access
- Better marked/defined hiking trails at wooded areas of Sharp Park
- Walk for fitness group activities, outdoor yoga
- Golf Cross
- Mini golf
- Mini-golf
- Picnic areas in the shade
- Update and use existing buildings in county parks. A lot of the parks exhibit too much faded glory...they were obviously at one time well used and kept up, but now the facilities are tired.
- Less dogs!!!
- Biking
- Canoe/Kayak rentals
- Walking, hiking
- More "community trails"
- Attend with grandkids--sports

- Bike trails and paths
- Walking/Biking Trails
- Ball Room Dancing like Dancing with the Stars
- Concerts
- Pet related activities
- The parks are fine the way they are. Don't waste tax payer money by making so-called improvements. Maintain what you already have!
- Improvement to the Golf Courses---Quality brings new golfers
- Bike trails and kayaking
- Skating
- Music, art shows
- Biking
- Dog Park - Off Leash
- Concerts
- Integrated bike lanes and trails interconnecting parks and urban areas
- Organized walks throughout the year on trails
- Walking trails on the east side for us poorer folk
- Pet friendly beach areas, Playscape near beaches, Fishing Pier, walking trail around Pleasant Lake.
- Maybe more mountain biking trails in Ella Sharp Park
- Bicycle and walking/jogging trails
- Running
- Tobogganing
- Live music
- Another pool
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Running events; i.e. The Cit Pat Running Series (5K Run/Walk)
- Water aerobics
- More paved walking trails
- Mountain biking
- Cascades Renovation
- Kayak, Canoe use the Grand River
- Exercise equipment, bike lanes to and from parks, community centers, yoga, active encouragement for the community to get fit, community gardens, recycling
- More Walking/Running Paths like Cascades Park
- Kayaking
- Horseback riding
- I love the bike trail --- I would like to see it expanded as much as possible.
- 2-5 yr old play equipment
- Bike Paths on Roads
- Primitive camp sites along the trail
- Walking and biking trails
- Large Skate park

Question #8

What have you seen at parks or recreation facilities in other cities or counties that you would like to see here?

Open-Ended Response

- Jackson county really should continue to expand their bike trails around the county. Bicycling and walking trails are a real asset to a community and promote a healthy lifestyle.
- Better nature trails
- I would like to attend more fitness classes, maybe moving some of the city classes from 4:30 to 5:30 allowing full time day workers to attend? More toning fitness classes. Maybe some events to connect single people with outdoor/fitness activities
- More trails for biking and hiking and winter walking. Would really be in favor of linking a trail on Browns Lake Rd and South Jackson Rd. areas to the Falling Water trail.
- Water Park - like the Hawk Park in Lansing. I would like to see some of the inner city parks given a use. Parks like Withington and other small city parks have green space but have no use - there are no benches, no chess tables, no equipment for kids and no secured fencing to allow it. So parks like these have essentially no services and no use except to hold down vacant public holdings. The more green the better for our city's kids. Also all parks should have a public interface - all areas should have things for adults to engage in not just for kids. The more opportunities to do this the better our community's civic bonding.
- More Festivals and family events, NO BEER Allowed! -----
- More up-to-date and cleaner rest rooms. Better and cleaner beach maintenance. Life guards at beaches. Employee(s) or unpaid volunteer(s) present at the park to answer questions and be available for general assistance and emergencies. More concession stands. Newer playground equipment and picnic tables/grills.
- Non-motorized connections between parks and neighborhoods; riverfront exposure and access; bike parking; no-smoking policy, especially at playgrounds; interactive fountains and public art
- Privatize county golf course and get out of that business
- None
- A ropes course or zip lines for children. More basketball and tennis courts. Rock climbing walls. Larger water park.
- Waterparks
- I don't go to any parks when out of town
- More trash containers, including pet clean up. Enforcement for pet waste.
- Outdoor - Full size ice arena covered by large roof and sides that come down to say 10 feet from the ground. You only have ice skating/hockey when it's cold enough and local hockey players maintain the ice just by flooding the arena with a fire hose. Cement floor. In most months of the year it serves as a large shelter and could house festivals - events - family reunions. It's good to get out of the sun in the middle of summer. Roof keeps the sunshine from melting the ice in winter until the temperature reaches say 38+ degrees. Also - Signs that talk about the history and natural features of the park.
- More picnic tables and grills.
- The City of Jackson does not offer enough diversity for the people that live here. The ma-

majority of events are for senior citizens or country music people. Start projects that are for 40's and 30's singles, families, ethnic activities. All the other cities I have visited have multi ethnic activities. Jackson has little to none. Jackson needs to come out of its conservative, republican, racist shell and acknowledge there are other people that live here.

- Better bathroom facilities, (including a bathroom that's open year-round at Cascade Falls park), a basketball court (for Grass Lake)
- I would like to see nice clean family friendly areas. My experience has been that County parks especially are usually dirty and not well kept. Having areas with flush toilets and running water is a huge plus as well. Jackson County needs something other than Nixon where families can enjoy themselves all day. A nice large park with water slides, pool area, maybe even a small zoo would be fantastic!
- I think we have one of the best, only the commercial ice cream place at cascades has ruined the fact that not like other parks, we had no commercial buildings. Leave it as is and keep commercialism out.
- More shade trees.
- Continued expansion of the walking/biking trails.
- I am quite proud of our parks, they are beautiful and plentiful. I consider myself fortunate to be so close to Ella Sharp and Cascade parks. I hate to see Ella Sharp pool so slow...maybe turning part of it into a splash park would help alleviate the congestion at Nixon and give some activity of that sort to the south end of town. I think once the kids are coming ...more families will come...etc. The tennis courts at Ella and Parkside are delightful...
- Community events
- Indoor restroom facilities.
- More open green spaces. More grass, trees and shrubs; less asphalt and concrete.
- We have great parks here
- Really nothing, I feel we have nice parks and recreation facilities for the size of our county. Always could do more activities if funding were available, but we have a lot to be proud of in the county and city.
- The Splash Parks and smoke-free ordinances.
- Gun/sporting clay ranges, hiking trails, restroom facilities open more,
- Wave pools.
- Nice picnic tables, Benches, Enough Trash receptacles. LAWNS MOWED. Note for below-----What about fundraisers of some sort?
- Better Water Park
- Mapped walking trails close to my home. The falling waters trail has no good area to park at the entrance closest to my house and discourages me from using it even though I do enjoy it. Cross country skiing with mapped trails and equipment to rent.
- Water Slides and Splash Fountains Bigger Playground sites and equipment
- Exercise class outside
- More extensive nature and walking trails. For example, the City of Portage has numerous parks with a variety of walking trails both paved and unpaved.
- I am very happy with our parks
- Most bathroom facilities are open and clean in other parks. There are a lot of people walking biking hiking, and no where to go but outside or a dirty porta-john in Ella Sharp

- and Cascades. I would think even community service could keep those clean and open.
- Water parks in Oakland County. Splash parks, petting zoo, bike and riding trails in Brighton and Kensington Park.
 - Cleanliness!
 - Paint ball field in forested surrounding / Multi level laser tag arena / Fishing with edible fish off long of raised docks extending into good fishing areas of lakes (not ponds) / renaissance fair. Provide bike paths along Page Ave, South St, Francis St, S Cooper St, Lansing Ave, Elm St, to allow safe biking from Michigan Center, Vandercook Lake, Blackman Township, into Jackson - This is not only for recreation but for economic travel to work, shopping, and parks and rec facilities.
 - Better play ground equipment.
 - We think Jackson does a great job for a city of this size, and the poor economy. We appreciate the hard work that has gone into providing our town with these beautiful community spaces. We love the Falling Waters trail from Jackson to Concord, it's great to see so many people taking advantage of it! The trail has been well worth the time, energy, and funds that have gone into it. We also love all the soccer, baseball, and sports at the parks. We take advantage of boating and golfing in the area also. Personally, we go out of town to tour well kept gardens, and special collections of trees and plants. We miss the rose gardens that used to be so beautiful at Ella Sharp Park. We know how hard roses are to keep up with however, and are glad that the daffodils and some flower gardens are still planted. Our public parks are very important to us.
 - We have great parks/recreation activities from what I've surveyed. Re: Question #9. below, the region might also look at potentially selling some park property (if prudent), and/or relinquishing property to conservancies, to increase/free up funding for recreation opportunities. I'm certain this is being considered, even if the ultimate conclusion is "we're not going to do it. . ."
 - More walking and bike trails.
 - Loomis Park needs more lighting at night (motion lights would be great) and there isn't a sign indicating appropriate conduct, hours of the park, or appropriate ages. We have a lot of problems with this park and I will NOT take my kids or families kid there. Recently it was set on fire! PLEASE HELP!!!
 - Better picnic pavilions close to activity centers for users of all ages - example: park system in Mt Pleasant
 - More festivals, art/craft shows, children's events on holidays, and summertime Allow local musicians to use the cascade falls venue prior to sundown for events...
 - Coordinated bike trails, rivers, and campgrounds, and family activities that are within easy distance of each other. You can ride/rent boats, bikes, fishing equipment etc etc. Any parks, fairs, festivals, camping etc. should only continue if it makes money somehow. Include an option to donate money towards city/county parks and rec. on annual taxes. Put all prisoners to work, either manufacturing something or separating the communities recycled products or something that can make money!
 - Frisbee golf, better access to rest rooms, more dog friendly areas, dog park.
 - More walking trails.
 - Covered decks/patios where families could eat or sit and visit, and still supervise children at play.

- We need some batting cages in Jackson!!! The one at Cascades doesn't work anymore.
- Water parks
- Midland has a community tennis center. Indoor courts. Non profit. Jackson should have one adjacent to the Dennis Kiley outdoor courts.
- Restroom facilities
- The Oakland County Parks have some of the best disc golf courses in Michigan. This is a great activity for the whole family and I believe it would be well used in the Jackson area. In order to find a good course now, we have to travel at least 50 miles.
- More bike/walking trail systems like falling waters trail. Most people will say and I agree that the Falling Waters Trail is by one of the best things we have in this county.
- Horse trails - Cabin camping - Very large arts and crafts festivals -
- What I see in Jackson is so fantastic, please just keep it maintained and clean.
- Local bands or people have late afternoon / evening music. Not so much dancing. Just sit and listen to music and maybe eat a picnic lunch. Call it "Music under the stars"?
- Increase walkable paths.
- Bicycle/hiking trails.
- Cleaner. Loomis park is fabulous but doesn't look like the playscape is taken very good care of.
- A better playground area for Lions park it appears to be a little outdated.
- More night lights
- Baseball/softball for youth and older citizens into the summer not until first of June. Waterpark type of activities More pools like Ella Sharp with some kids toys but not Nixon Park.
- I would like to see more pavilions. I would like to see a cleaner alternative for paddle boat riding. The Cascade Park water is so filthy that, even children, don't want to use it for paddle boat riding.
- Band pavilions.
- Splash park like Hawk Island; canoe/kayak rentals with access to the Grand River, after it's cleaned up in areas; a nice place to paddle boat (Cascades could be very beautiful if the water was cleaned up/out); Cross country skiing - used to go at night in Lansing, with candle lit pathways - awesome! Boardwalk along the river, like Lansing.
- An outside art Show, more community events, like Night's Out where an area of 5-6 blocks have a potluck and meet their neighbors. This would be hosted by the firemen or police in Kalamazoo.
- Water features such as splash gardens etc.
- Running trails, beaches with sand, clean restrooms open and available
- Washtenaw County has a wonderful water park and is discounted to their county residents. It is large w/ plenty of area to lay out, big wave pool, slides and equipment for little kids, and a lazy river. The facility is very clean. I would like to see Jackson get a facility like this.
- Our family has really enjoyed the Falling Water trail for exercise and family bike rides. We would like to see more designated parking for use on this path. Perhaps, more restrooms, vending machines or even allow vendors to sell things during the summer. I think city / county / townships need to merge together in these economic times, they can consolidate staff (including management). This is a very wise option, I really don't think a lot of new

millages will be passed in all parts of the county.

- I wish there were more well-lit park areas to walk in during the winter.
- Better system of bike paths and trails for bikes, and bike lanes. Cleaner, better maintained (weeds).
- This survey is quite limited and vague, therefore the results will be as such. Nevertheless, the County officials seem to be the ones whom are pushing the 'merger' concept more. This is quite ironic due to the fact that the County's service levels, variety of services, and overall funding have been lacking comparatively speaking. The City's park system has been regularly improved, well maintained and appreciated by resident of both the City and the County. DO NOT let a potential merger of the two systems result in an overall decline in any of the systems. The County's overall budget for parks is approx 1.6 million, the City's is approx. 2.8 million, if a Metro Park system is indeed the desire of BOTH City and County residents, the City should be taking the lead, not the County. Often we see in the "OP EDS" those who complain about the County subsidizing those in the City. In this instance it appears the potential for the reverse to become reality.
- Unable to think of anything, I appreciate what we have.
- Music.
- Less involvement with special interest groups (i.e. minorities that want things like water parks or motocross trails) and more involvement in keeping park areas in a more natural state. It's inherent in the logic and quite easy to see that areas left in a wild condition have mass appeal vs. areas developed for special interest groups. Township taxpayers DO NOT want to pay for the up keep of city owned parks! If a fee system is established it must be dedicated to park maintenance and improvement.
- A concession stand at Nixon park during softball season, playground equipment at Nixon park.
- Keep the parks clean and updated.
- Improvement of the Cascades Golf Course back to what it was in past.....one of the best municipal courses in America. This course was previously compared to Torrey Pines (San Diego) and with vision could be made at least as good as our bordering county courses. People are leaving our area to play Ann Arbor (Chelsea) because of it's quality..... Need a vision of where our money is coming from and how it is spent.....
- Children really enjoy the water parks.
- The two parks I use the most are Cascades and Ella Sharp due to the fact that both are very close to my home. I think a Disc Golf course in one of the city parks would be put to good use and draw people into Jackson.
- Nature trails similar to what's at Cascades Park now.
- Bike trails between parks.
- Clean nice parks, that are well kept. No garbage overflowing, nice picnic areas, with well kept picnic tables. As a county employee my job keeps me out in the field most days of the summer months which then in turn leads to a packed lunch to enjoy at a park in the area of work that day. We visited a number of parks throughout the whole County and were surprised at how unkempt they are. The picnic tables were horrible either falling apart or paint all peeled away. Garbage overflowing, unmowed lawns, etc. I feel we need to keep up the parks we have now and make them enjoyable and welcoming to the public before we go and spend more money on new parks, equipment!

- I think the Nixon skate park is great. I've never used it but every time I drive by it seems packed with kids and that's a cheap sport that's difficult to master. I think we need another skate park on the south side of town, maybe in Sharp Park or Cascades.
- I really enjoy the Hawk Island Park in Lansing. They have a great playground area for small children. It has age appropriate playground equipment as well as a wonderful fence barrier around the area. It only has one exit so the little kids cannot get out without your knowledge. Most of our parks like Cascades and Ella Sharp do not have equipment for the kids around 1-4 years of age and they are so close to the roads that I am always in fear that if they take off running I will not catch them in time. It would be great if our play areas were more barricaded from the roadways. They also have a great water park area for kids and adults of all ages. It doesn't have water slides, it is more like water pads and sprinkler things. Also, much of the playground equipment are built in areas of direct sun light. It would be great if they were more shaded. In the hot sunlight the equipment is useless because kids can easily burn themselves. A slide in the sunlight will really hold onto the heat and burn the legs of kids going down them.
- I think we do just fine compared to other cities.....but Even though I agree with the monument of murdered victims of Jackson County, I strongly disagree with the fact that it is placed right in front of our #1 tourist destination. Do our visitors need to see this, right before they go see our falls???(I know my family thought it was placed in a strange area) I think it would be more appreciated next to a stream, lake, pond...somewhere more quiet and serene, where people can come to reflect.
- Blue grass Fest. 5-K events/run walks
- Water parks
- I would love to see a volleyball court and ESPECIALLY tennis courts, or at least a city run tennis league. I know Cascades has tennis courts and I think a league would be a really big asset. Also, indoor tennis courts would be cool to use in the winter. There is no place in Jackson to play, I have to drive to Lansing and Ann Arbor to play. A nicer off leash dog park would be nice. I walk my dog regularly at both Cascades and Ella Sharp Park and there is plenty of space that could be used. The humane society's park is nice but not big enough and not convenient.
- More improved walking trails like those at the McCreedy Preserve on Skiff Lake Road.
- Disc golf would be a wonderful addition and would not be a terrible strain on the City/County's budget as there is little maintenance after the initial installation of the disc golf baskets. Expanding the Falling Water bike trail through the City of Jackson and the Armory Arts would be an excellent attraction. Increasing user fees would only discourage community use and involvement.
- The Lansing inter-urban trail system has a centerline which I would like to see painted on the Falling water trail, or at least a dashed line approx. every 25 feet. I would like to see Jackson become more bike friendly, as there are many citizens who must use bicycles as a primary means of transportation, and many others who enjoy cycling for fitness and as a way to get outdoors. I think there needs to be more public awareness regarding facilities that Jackson has to offer, and events that are happening throughout the year. This will enable citizens to enjoy "stay-cations", save money on travel, and the money they will be spending stays within the community.
- Many more festivals and activities

- I would like to see the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department finally step up to the plate. I did not like question #2. I believe that the City of Jackson's facilities are very nice and the County Parks are not, just visit them. I live in the city and do not want the county to ruin our parks. I hope that our city parks do not suffer. Our parks are important to our community. Thank you
- More walking, roller-skating, biking trails that circle a park.
- I would like to see our parks and recreation departments take a strong stance on promoting healthy environments by making our parks, playgrounds etc completely smoke-free or tobacco free. This is particularly important in the smaller city recreation playground areas or on the beaches. Kids are playing in these areas and are observing adults and some youth who are lighting up. This is a terrible example of role modeling. In addition, the clean up for the cigarette butts is time consuming. They have smoke-free parks / recreation areas in various cities around the state and country and it would be nice to see smoke-free recreation sites in Jackson County as well. Smoke-free beaches and playgrounds would be a welcome addition.
- Nice sandy beach area at parks on lakes - flat surfaces with seating of some sort (Clear Lake really has no flat sitting area or beach area).
- 1. Expand the established city rec. programming throughout the county. 2. Outdoor education program/interpretive center.
- Dedicated running/biking trails (paved)
- FOUNTAINS, DUCKS, VENDERS (FOOD-POPCORN, DRINKS, HOT DOGS ETC)
- A lot of outdoor concerts and festivals. Also, more lighting for evening times when it is getting dark so you can feel more safe walking to your vehicles, especially with little ones in tow.
- I will just put a general comment here doesn't really apply to your question but think it desperately needs to be addressed: I would like to see all the graffiti from gangs etc.. removed from the parks, playgrounds, recreational areas etc.. this is ridiculous children have to play where these signs and sayings are, how about starting with just a simple cleanup of that alone and make people feel safe to come to different parks, trails, recreational facilities, etc... I think a bucket of cleaner or paint is a lot less cheaper than no one coming at all!!
- More trail systems at the parks for hiking - more viewing of natural habitats
- Having closing and opening gates USED so before hours and after hour visits to the parks are eliminated and/or decreased.
- Frederick, Maryland had Sunday afternoons in the park -- with music -- usually more adult driven -- jazz, quartets, etc. Kind of the Sunday brunch kind of idea.
- A dog park in the City of Jackson where dogs can be off their leash
- More winter activities such as; sledding down hill for kids andm families.
- Lots of sports complexes that are big enough to hold tournaments. Other groups may start the funding for these complexes but the city or county maintains the grounds and helps the group. This brings in \$\$!
- Slides
- Gardens, concessions
- Utilization of the Grand River as a recreation option. A canoe/kayak livery would be a great idea. The system of parks and recreational opportunities along the Huron River be-

tween Dexter and Ypsilanti is an excellent example of this.

- I would like to see cleaner water at Cascades Park (Sparks Park). Removal of the geese would also create cleaner side walks at all parks.
- A natural building project like the Kid's Cottage in Kensington Metro Park http://www.glgj.org/mediawiki/index.php?title=Kensington_Children's_Cottage
- I use the parks for walking/hiking and think we are very fortunate to have them. I am not sure what we could add to make them better,
- More playgrounds
- The parks are what convinced us to move to Jackson 26 years ago. We love them just the way they are. Keep up the good work and maintenance of the parks. Notice people, couples, and children love to stroll through the parks looking at nature, running through the open areas and climbing the hills. Our parks are Jackson's jewel.
- Trails used for commuters even in winter months - cleared for bicyclists. I do not live near a trail, but would use it if there were one.
- Walking trails. Cross country ski rentals & lighted trails. Kayak rentals. Nixon Park has been a hit - let's do one on the south side of the city of Jackson Let's keep adding more bike trails to city & county streets & roads (as other towns do)
- Not much - we have it all
- More park like areas in the downtown area of Jackson. More green space in the downtown.
- More Bicycle Trails between parks.
- Kayak & Canoe Rental, camping. Better marked trails for biking and cross country skiing.
- Dog poop bags & places to dispose of them. Would like to see the walking trails more understandably marked for distance.
- All over Spain and most of Western Europe, all parks, from the a park in the smallest mountain town to large parks at the beach, have outdoor exercise equipment. Its fun for all ages and you don't have to have a gym membership to use it. There were always wonderful scenes of people young and old using the equipment and I would have the same hope for its use in the US. The park should be a family friendly safe place to love and enjoy the outdoors, there should be very specific recycling bins in all parks, encouraging people to not just keep the park green but the community too. Jackson could jump leaps and bounds on the topic of recycling in general. Community gardens are a brilliant way to both educate about the importance of locally grown whole foods and to get the community working together towards a common goal. Jackson has a lot of talented gardeners and a wonderful summer growing season that could be extended by hoop houses. If there are hungry people and open space, we should be growing food, and what an amazing way to teach youth about this and bring people together. See: The Edible Schoolyard, by Alice Waters. See: The omnivorous dilemma by Micheal Pollan The park should be a place for activity, education and fun, where we learn to respect the beauty of nature and live in harmony with it.
- Area where families can picnic with a pavilion and have restrooms available, along with playground and splash park available for use. (Marysville Park on the east side of the state has a nice set up. there is a small fee per car to park at this park)
- Food Vendors
- Gardens, floral and landscape exhibits Sculpture and art Live performances Plant con-

- servatory Festivals Historic exhibits Natural history exhibits.
- Concessions at beaches, lots of trails for hiking and biking.
 - Before you add to or expand the park facilities, make sure there is sufficient funds to maintain the quality of the facilities we currently have.....i.e. picnic tables, playground equipment, mowing the grass, etc.
 - Equipment rental concession stands toddler/preschool play equipment bus transportation to parks (would be especially good for Vandercook Lake County Park and Cascades Park!).
 - Close it up, save money, give it back to the deer, bad people hide there and get away with it Vagabonds fish for the "New" fish cook it on the new grills, and sleep on the picnic tables, what a waste of money. Auction off the junk, let the grass grow over the asphalt. Use the money to get rid of the trash/drug houses.....but that's right, ALL prison "Citys" are nothing more then human dump sites....3 meals and a cot, FREE of charge, is not a punishment. As broke as we are it's also not a hard choice, when you are young and cold and hungry.....shame on you even thinking about any park ANY WHERE!
 - I would love more playground areas for my grand kids to play on.
 - I think our parks are fantastic. We have great playground equipment, fields, pools, skate park, etc. I believe we are very fortunate to have these resources. Marketing them could be better though. There are a lot of negative people in Jackson whose real issue is that they are uninformed about all of the wonderful things we have to offer.
 - A way to give the parks money for use
 - Zoo
 - Walking and biking trails. We, my wife and I, have a boat in Whitehall/Montigue and the Montigue Hart Bike Trail goes right through our marina. We ride our bikes on this trail sometimes daily and we're up there most of the summer. It adds hours of recreational pleasure to our stay in Whitehall/Montigue. One can ride this trail to the grocery store, the library and into town. At least two miles of the trail is planted with wild flowers which are in bloom all summer and fall. They have gardening clubs that keep some of the large flower beds weeded and planted what are also along the trail. They also plant flowers on most corners of the busiest town streets. A few flowers can make a town blossom for tourist. We like the Falling Waters Trail but it's a long ways from Brooklyn, our residence. We would like to see the old railroad grade between Brooklyn and Cement City made into a bike/walking trail similar to the Falling Waters Trail. This would be well used spring, summer and fall months. It would bring and keep visitors here in the Irish Hills area. This trail would be our first and top priority.
 - Community water park with indoor facility for winter. Nature trails.
 - Sections of paved areas closed off for inline skating (including skate rental options). Would also like to see more options available to bring pets to parks ~ understanding that not everyone is a responsible pet owner.
 - Better walking trails - there needs to be a place where people can walk without someone zooming up from behind on a bike - had a few close calls. Also, people like to walk dogs - maybe there could be a dog park area where the dogs can run loose and play with others - also, in that line, there should be receptacles placed and spaced to be able to dispose of doggie doo bags - this would encourage better use!
 - Horse trails

- I am a huge fan of the trail system. My family uses Falling Water trail often and have been looking forward to the development of the Grand River Arts walk for years; we were heartbroken to learn that the railroad has made it so the trail cannot run along the river as originally planned. The trail systems are up and coming and in cities that attract lots of people, trail systems are taken very seriously and are developed. Although there are some who cry foul at such development it is an absolute necessity when trying to keep people here and attracting others to the area. Jackson needs to do all it can to keep it a viable place for people to live and work today and the future. I know there is discussion of a possible splash park at Cascades Falls. I moved from a huge city that had several of these parks and they are absolutely wonderful. If one is built it needs to be big enough to accommodate lots of people and shouldn't be just for wee ones but for everyone. Perhaps something along this line <http://www.flickr.com/photos/presdee/2751252794/>. Also, it would be neat if there were an outdoor skating rink at either Ella or Cascades. The only skate park is at Nixon and it is small. Jackson should build a 3-5 acre park with all kinds of neat features. Skaters travel and they spend money if the park is worth visiting. I see kids everywhere with skateboards and nowhere to skate, give them a place.
- Nothing in particular. I believe Jackson city and county parks have what I enjoy. I would suggest that those in the 12 to 30 year age range be asked.

