



*Pleasant Lake County
Park and Campground*



*The Cascades
Sparks Foundation County Park*



Falling Waters Trail

Jackson County Recreation Plan **2020-2024 Edition**

Volume 1 **Chapters**

Adopted Version



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Jackson County Recreation Plan | 2020-2024 Edition

Chapter 1

Community Description & Administrative Structure

Community Description

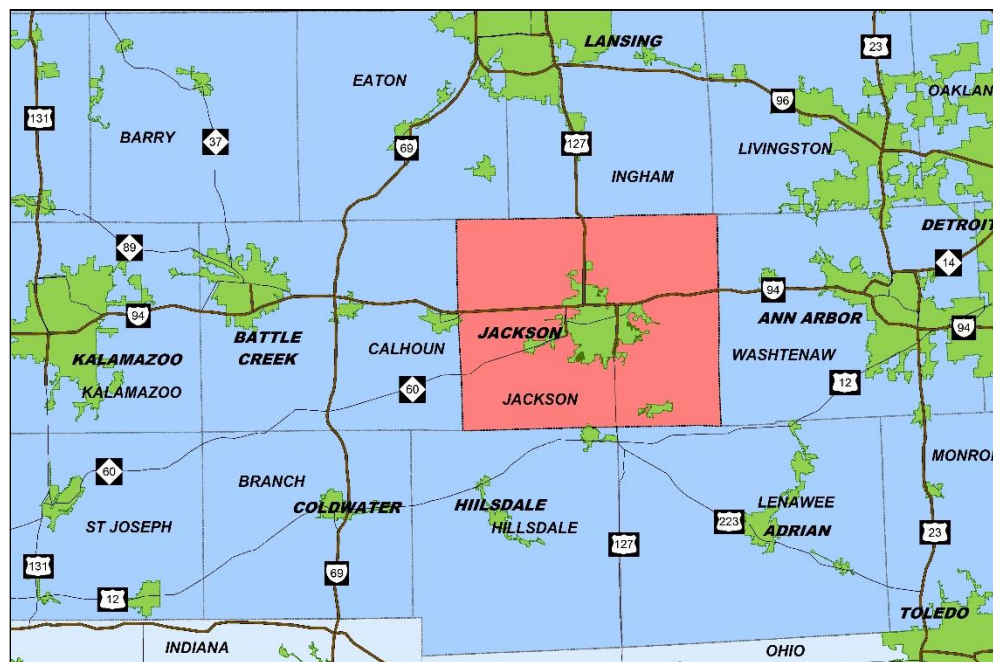
A priority of Jackson County is to develop and implement a recreation plan which responds to the recreational desires of its citizens and plans for enhancements to its parks and recreation programs. A sincere effort was spent in developing this plan which represents the projected needs for recreation facilities and services in Jackson County. For example, the plan provides a clear picture of the recreational opportunities available to residents regardless of who provides them. Nontraditional recreation opportunities such as historic districts/structures and shopping opportunities are catalogued as well as traditional parks and recreation facilities.

Location

Jackson County is located in south-central Lower Michigan, close to the border with Northwest Ohio and North-east Indiana. The Jackson Urbanized Area is located in the center of the County. Interstate Highway 94 (I-94) and United States Highway 127 (US-127) converge in Metropolitan Jackson, earning the area the nickname of “Crossroads of Michigan”. Those roads connect Jackson directly to Ann Arbor and Detroit to the east, Battle Creek and Kalamazoo to the west, Lansing to the north, and Toledo to the southeast.

Jackson County has a total land area of 720 square miles. In addition to the City of Jackson, the County includes 19 townships and 6 incorporated villages. The townships of Blackman, Leoni, Spring Arbor, and Summit are recognized as urban because the Jackson Urbanized Area extended well inside their boundaries in 2010 (see Appendix D for the Urban and Rural Jackson County map). The remainder of the townships and the villages are considered to be rural.

Regional Location



A Brief Socioeconomic Summary

The composition of Jackson County's population has an effect upon its recreational needs. Pertinent demographic components are listed below along with a brief paragraph describing the local situation. Jackson County data is compared with its statewide counterparts. Each component is described in greater detail in Appendix B of this document.

- **Population History & Projections.** The 2010 population for Jackson County was 160,248 people and the 2017 population was estimated to be 159,989 people. The population is expected to increase to 162,214 people by 2025. City of Jackson residents comprised 21% of the countywide population in 2010, down from 60% in 1930.
- **Age & Gender of the Population.** The estimated median age of a Jackson County resident in 2017 was 41.0 years, compared to 39.6 years statewide. Generation X (26%) was estimated to comprise the largest generation in the County in 2017, followed by Millennials (25%), Baby Boomers (24%), the iGeneration and younger (18%), and the Silent Generation and older (7%). Generation X (26%) and Millennials were estimated to comprise the largest generations statewide in 2017, followed by Baby Boomers (23%), the iGeneration and younger (18%), and the Silent Generation and older (7%). Males comprised and estimated 51% of the County population in 2017, compared with 49% statewide.
- **Racial & Ethnic Composition.** The population of Jackson County is fairly homogenous. An estimated 87% of County residents were white in 2017, compared to an estimated 79% statewide. Black residents comprised an estimated 8% of the County population in 2017, compared with an estimated 14% statewide. An estimated 3% of County residents were Hispanic in 2017, compared with an estimated 5% statewide.
- **Disabilities of Residents.** An estimated 15% of Jackson County residents were disabled in some way in 2017, compared with 14% statewide. An estimated 8% of County residents had an ambulatory disability in 2017, compared with 8% statewide. Older people were more apt to have a disability. For example, an estimated 30% of County residents 75 years old or older in 2017 had an ambulatory disability, compared to 32% statewide.
- **Household & Family Composition.** An estimated 66% of Jackson County households were comprised of families in 2017, compared with 65% statewide. Single people comprised an estimated 29% of all County households in 2017, compared to an estimated 29% statewide. Other non-family households comprised an estimated 5% of County households in 2017, compared to 6% statewide.
- **Group Quarters.** An estimated 6% of County residents resided in group quarters in 2017, compared to 2% statewide.

- **Income & Poverty.** The estimated median income was \$49,715 for Jackson County households in 2017, compared to an estimated \$52,668 statewide. The estimated median income was \$61,359 for County families in 2017, compared to an estimated \$66,653 statewide. The estimated per capita income was for \$25,952 for County residents in 2017, compared to \$28,938 statewide. An estimated 15% of the County population lived below the poverty level in 2017, compared to 16% statewide.
- **Housing Types.** An estimated 78% of Jackson County dwellings were single units in 2017, compared with 72% statewide. An estimated 16% of County dwellings were located in multi-family buildings in 2017, compared with 18% statewide. An estimated 6% of County dwellings were mobile homes in 2017, compared with 5% statewide.

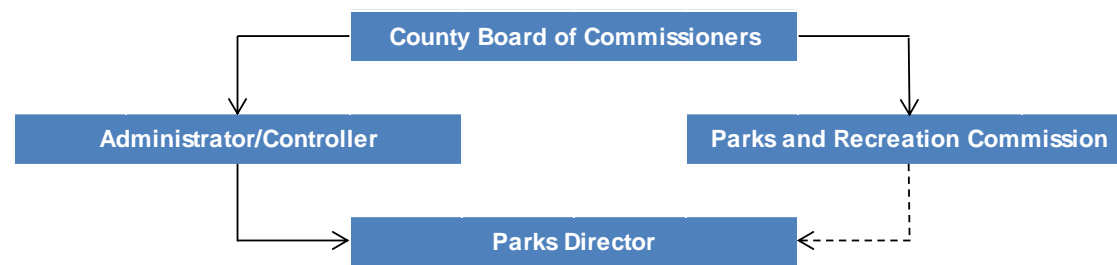
Administrative Structure

The authority to provide public park systems and recreation programs is granted by the State of Michigan. Jackson County's park system is established under the authority of Public Act 156 of 1917, *Recreation and Playgrounds* (MCL 123.51 et seq.). The act allowed for the creation of the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission, under the control of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.

Organizational Structure

The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission is responsible for planning, constructing, maintaining, programming, and administering all county parks. The Commission is also charged with studying various recreation needs, advising the Jackson County Board of Commissioners on recreation issues, and making appropriate budget requests (see the organizational chart).

Organizational Chart



The following members comprise the Parks and Recreation Commission:

- The County Drain Commissioner, or an employee designated by the Commissioner
- A member of Jackson County Planning Commission residing in Jackson County
- Eight members appointed by the County Board, including at least two but not more than three County Commissioners

The Parks Director reports to the County's Administrator/Controller. The Director is in charge of 7 full-time employees and at least 50 seasonal employees. The Jackson County Parks Association, the Cascades Park Foundation, and Cascades Inc. volunteer their services to the park system.

Parks and Recreation Budgeting

The park system's operating budget, including revenue from the millage and fees for services, was \$1,861,050 in 2019. Approximately \$1,000,000 is spent annually on capital improvement projects. Capital projects are funded via the park millage, grants and private investment

Sources of Funding

Jackson County identifies several potential sources of revenue for recreation:

- Jackson County Parks millage
- grants and donations awarded for specific projects
- user fees for golfing, camping, pavilions, and other attractions (utilized to maintain those facilities)
- rental income from weddings, concession stands, and other businesses (utilized to maintain those facilities)
- The Michigan Transportation Fund Act (Act 51)

Jackson County Parks Millage. County residents approved a 10-year millage on August 7, 2018 in order to establish a stable, long-term funding source for county parks. The 0.5 mills approved by voters is estimated to generate \$2,180,000 per year to support county parks operations and capital improvements investment at a cost of \$25 per year for a property valued at \$100,000. The millage funds will be invested as follows:

- \$2,200,000 for improvements to playgrounds/playground safety
- \$1,700,000 for the construction of kayak/canoe launches and fishing piers, creating improved access to lakes and rivers
- \$3,000,000 for improved maintenance of county trails and new connections to a state-wide trail
- \$550,000 for the repair/reconstruction of boar launch areas
- \$450,000 for beachfront/public swimming area improvements
- \$900,000 for the restoration of the Cascades
- \$2,000,000 for permanent park restrooms

- \$900,000 for the development of a community dog park (including dog-friendly watering systems and dump stations for waste disposal)

Rental and User Fees. The rent generated by concession stands and other commercial vendors contribute to the maintenance of the county system. The user fees charged for various facilities (i.e., golfing, camping, skateboarding, pavilions, etc.) contribute to the maintenance of those and other facilities within the park system.

Grants and Donations. Grants are sought from various state, federal, and philanthropic sources for the acquisition of parkland and the development of a specific park, facility (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.) or program. Donations from the general public and various service organizations for a specific park, facility, or program are also accepted. A portion of the local match required of most grants may also come from the general fund or donations. Many grants for parks and recreational facilities are likely to come from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund¹.

The Michigan Transportation Fund Act (Act 51). The Michigan Transportation Fund Act (Act 51) states that “a reasonable amount, but not less than 1% of” funds allocated to the state or a county, city, or village “shall be expended for construction or improvement of non-motorized transportation services and facilities.” That set-aside can be used to fund “an improvement in a road, street, or highway which facilitates non-motorized transportation . . . or improvement of a sidewalk in a city or village, or any other appropriate measure.” The Michigan Department of Transportation, the Jackson County Department of Transportation, the City of Jackson, and the various villages within the county receive funding through Act 51. Coordination with those entities could result in the expenditure of Act 51 funds on non-motorized projects proposed within this document.

Relationships with Other Public Agencies

Jackson County Parks is not the only supplier of parks and recreational opportunities to its residents.

Schools

Local school districts are significant suppliers of parks and recreational opportunities to their students and boosters as well as the general public. The following school districts maintain recreation facilities within Jackson County (see Appendix D for the School Districts map):

¹ This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan.

- Columbia School District
- Concord Community Schools
- East Jackson Community Schools
- Grass Lake Community Schools
- Hanover-Horton School District
- Jackson Public Schools
- Michigan Center School District
- Napoleon Community Schools
- Northwest Community Schools
- Springport Pubic Schools
- Vandercook Lake Public Schools
- Western School District

The following school districts, which cover portions of Jackson County, provide recreation programs to their students although they maintain no recreation facilities within the county:

- Albion Public Schools
- Chelsea School District
- Homer Community Schools
- Leslie Public Schools
- Litchfield Community Schools
- Manchester Community Schools
- North Adams-Jerome Schools

Local, County, State, and Private Parks and Recreation Facilities

Some of the villages and townships within Jackson County also maintain parks, trails, and recreation programs. The same is true for the some of the surrounding counties and municipalities.

Jackson County participates with the other local governments within the county in the planning for and provision of recreation facilities as evidenced by the *Jackson County Regional Trailway Study 2002* and the *Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan*. The intergovernmental cooperation that created the Study is still active. For example, the City of Jackson and Jackson County are developing a *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan* that will also address recreation.

The State of Michigan provides a variety of recreational facilities in the form of state game, wildlife, and recreation areas; state historic parks; and state parks in and around the county. Jackson County cooperated with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the establishment of the Falling Waters Trail. A variety of private entrepreneurs and quasi-public agencies also provide recreation facilities and programs in and around the Township.

Please refer to Chapter 2 for a more detailed description of recreation facilities in Jackson County and the City of Jackson.

Public-Private Cooperation

Cooperation between the public and private sectors is also active. For example, the Jackson County Parks Association, the Cascades Park Foundation, and Cascades Inc. volunteer their services to the County's park system. The Friends of the Falling Waters Trail was instrumental in the development and maintenance of the Falling Waters Trail.

Active Jackson

Active Jackson is a group of community leaders in the City of Jackson and throughout Jackson County. It also serves as the Active Living Health Action Team for the Health Information Organization (HIO) founded by Henry Ford Allegiance Health. Its mission is: "To create an environment where it's easy to walk and bike for recreation, transportation, and health; and to educate and encourage citizens to be active". As part of that effort, the HIO conducted a *Collaborative Community Assessment Metric Report* which published the results of a community health assessment survey conducted in 2017. The answers to various questions regarding general health, physical activity/overweight and obesity illustrate the need for additional recreation facilities in Jackson County.

- When asked questions about weight and height, it was determined that 32.6% of respondents were overweight (i.e., had a body mass index of 25.0-29.9) and 39.9% were obese (i.e., had a body mass index of ≥ 30.0).
- When asked to rate the difficulty in finding a place to exercise, 10.9% of respondents reported it was 'somewhat difficult' and 6.2% reported it was 'very difficult'.
- When asked if they feel if sidewalks and bike routes in their neighborhood are adequate, 77.9% and 80.2% responded 'yes', respectively.
- When asked if they use bicycle paths or bike trails in their community, 25.1% said 'yes', 44.0% said 'no', and 30.9% said the 'community does not have any' facilities.
- When respondents who reported having school age children that walk or bike to school were asked if there is a safe route to school for their kids, 68.4% responded 'yes' and 31.6% responded 'no'. When asked how many days a week their kids walk or bike to school, 34.4% said '1 day', 31.6% said '2 days', and 34.0% said '5 days'.

Active Jackson will participate in the development of the *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan* by facilitating public engagement and providing stakeholder engagement for identifying possible non-motorized routes. The nonmotorized plan is adopted by reference into this edition of the recreation plan and specific routes will become part of its next edition. The Region 2 Planning Commission, the City of Jackson, and Jackson County began the nonmotorized planning effort in 2019.



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Chapter 2

Recreation and Resource Inventories

In order to plan for future parks and recreation facilities it is important to prepare a complete inventory of existing resources and facilities. The following inventory is comprised of all known parks and recreation facilities and programs available countywide, not just those owned and managed by Jackson County. The parks, facilities, and programs were identified through local knowledge and review of current and historic documents and maps.

Park Classifications and Standards

It is also important to be able classify parks and recreation facilities and to apply standards to them in order to identify the need for additional parkland and recreation facilities in Jackson County

Types of Parks

Park systems are divided into several types:¹

- **Mini-Parks.** Small parks (less than an acre) which address limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs.
- **Neighborhood Parks.** Informal active and/or passive recreation parks which serve as the focus of the neighborhood; *this park type also serves as a mini-park for the area immediately adjacent to the facility.*
- **Community Parks.** Parks which serve a broader focus than a neighborhood and may also preserve a unique landscape or open space; *this park type also serves as a neighborhood park for the area immediately adjacent to the facility.*
- **Regional Parks.** Parks which serve the entire county as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces; *this park type also serves as a community park for the area surrounding the facility.*
- **Connector Trails.** Linear parks which serve as non-motorized connectors among neighborhoods, business areas, parks, schools, and other destinations.

¹ Springate, Lee, "Defining Parks and Park Systems," From Recreation to Re-creation: New Directions in Parks and Open Space System Planning, Megan Lewis, editor (PAS Report Number 551)

Service Area and Acreage Standards

The park acreage standard advocated by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) is 10 acres for every 1,000 residents.² The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) recommends the following service areas and minimum sizes for each type of park.³

- **Mini-Parks.** Less than ¼ mile service area and less than an acre in size
- **Neighborhood Parks.** ¼-½ mile service area and a minimum size of 5 acres
- **Community Parks.** ½-3 mile service area and a size of 30-50 acres
- **Regional Parks.** Community-wide service area and a minimum size of 50-75 acres⁴

It is important to note that a single standard cannot meet the needs of all park systems. Accordingly, some of the parks may not meet the minimum size criteria for the assigned park type.

Parks and Recreation in Jackson County

Mini, neighborhood, some community parks, and connector trails are provided by the City of Jackson and some of the other villages and townships which comprise Jackson County. Some regional parks and recreation facilities are provided by the State of Michigan, the City of Jackson and other organizations. Local and state governments and other organizations also provide a variety of recreation programs in addition to parkland. Jackson County Parks complement those systems by providing a system of regional and community parks, various connector trails, and recreation programs.

Jackson County Parks

Jackson County's park system is comprised of 18 parks encompassing 1,072 acres of parkland and 10.5 miles of trails (see Appendix C for the Jackson County Park Location and Coverage map). Most of the county parks are adjacent to water —providing opportunities for swimming, boating, and/or fishing— making them community facilities. The presence of modern campgrounds, the county fairgrounds, and significant cultural

² National Recreation and Park Association, Open Space Guidelines & Standards, C. Castleman, compiler

³ Grants Management Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans IC1924 (Rev.01/27/2006)

⁴ The standard the MDNR uses for large urban parks is also used for regional parks in this report

facilities make several parks regional facilities. Picnic areas, various sporting facilities, and toilet facilities are also available in many county parks. Please see Appendix B of this document for a complete listing of the recreation facilities found in each park and Appendix C for associated maps.

Jackson County Parks

| # | Name | Park Type | Size | BFA |
|-----|--|-----------|---------|-----|
| 1. | Clark Lake County Park | Community | 6.5 ac | 2 |
| 2. | Clear Lake County Park | Community | 5.5 ac | 1 |
| 3. | Gillett's Lake County Park | Community | 6 ac | 2 |
| 4. | Grass Lake County Park | Community | 9.0 ac | 3 |
| 5. | James J. Keeley County Park (Jackson County Fairgrounds) | Regional | 44 ac | 3 |
| 6. | Lime Lake County Park | Community | 321 ac | 2 |
| 7. | Little Wolf Lake County Park | Community | 9 ac | 2 |
| 8. | Minard Mills County Park | Community | 5 ac | 2 |
| 9. | Pleasant Lake County Park and Campground | Regional | 21 ac | 2 |
| 10. | Portage Lake-Ready County Park | Community | 6 ac | 2 |
| 11. | Round Lake County Park | Community | 1 ac | 1 |
| 12. | Alfred R. Snyder County Park (Horton Mill Pond) | Community | 61 ac | 2 |
| 13. | Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park | Regional | 443 ac | 3 |
| 14. | Swains Lake County Park and Campground | Regional | 25.5 ac | 3 |
| 15. | Vandercook Lake-Townsend Beaman County Park | Community | 21 ac | 3 |
| 16. | Vineyard Lake County Park | Community | 9.5 ac | 2 |
| 17. | The Burns Property ⁵ | Regional | 78.0 ac | 1 |
| 18. | Falling Waters Trail | Connector | 10.5 mi | 4 |

Reynolds Field

In addition to its official 17-park system, Jackson County maintains the Jackson County Airport-Reynolds Field, which provides unique recreational opportunities. The Aviation Heritage Park—located near the main entrance—contains a variety of aviation-themed displays:

- *A working airport beacon and the original airport flag/dedication plaques*
- *Several WW2/1950's Era monuments/equipment*
- *The Experimental Aircraft Chapter 306 Museum*

⁵ The Burns Property is 78 acres of undeveloped land in Liberty Township.

Given the estimated Jackson County population of 162,214 people in 2025, the county park system provides 66% of the acreage recommended per 100 residents. It must be noted that the service areas for the parks show that portions of the county are not served adequately. For example, much of Blackman Township as well as other villages and townships are not served by a community park. However, it is important to note that the service area for the four regional parks covers the entire county.

- **Barrier-Free Access.** It is important that the parks and recreation facilities operated by Jackson County and the City of Jackson be accessible to people with disabilities. After all, it is estimated that 15% of County residents had some type of disability in 2017 according to the American Community Survey and 8% had an ambulatory difficulty. Accordingly, all of the parks provided by the city and county were also rated according to their level of barrier free access.⁶ The number listed under the BFA column in the tables listing those parks equate to the barrier-free rating listed below:

Barrier-Free Access (BFA) Analysis

| key | description |
|-----|--|
| 1 = | None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines. |
| 2 = | Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines. |
| 3 = | Most of the facilities/park area meet accessibility guidelines. |
| 4 = | The entire park meets accessibility guidelines. |
| 5 = | The entire park was developed/renovated using the principal of universal design. |

- **Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities.** The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has awarded 15 recreation grants to Jackson County. Please see the recreation grant history table located in Appendix B for a complete listing of those grants.
- **Recreation Events and Programs.** Tournaments and other golf outings occur at the 18-hole Cascades Championship Golf Course and the 9-hole Cascades Executive Course and driving range. Programs are also provided at the Cascades (an illuminated waterfall and museum) as well as the Cascades Rotary Community Band Shell. All of those events take place on the grounds of the Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park. A variety of other events are hosted in that park (please see Appendix B for a listing of those events). The Jackson

⁶ The analysis of barrier free access was provided by Jackson County and the City of Jackson, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

County Parks Association hosts a variety of work bees and recreational events as well in the County's various parks. It should also be pointed out that some of the recreation providers listed in this chapter also provide recreational programs. For example, the various bowling alleys host bowling leagues and the City of Jackson provides a wide variety of recreation programming.

Other Municipal Parks

The City of Jackson system is comprised of 26 parks, 3 off-road trails, and several miles of widened sidewalks. The existence of golf courses, a museum, a planetarium, and other unique destinations make Ella W. Sharp Park a regional facility. The presence of recreation centers and a pool and skateboard park make Horace Blackman Park, Martin Luther King Park (Howard Woods Complex), Loomis Park, and William Nixon Memorial Park community facilities. Almost a third of the parks serve neighborhoods. Over half of the city parks are very small, making them mini facilities. Green space, playground equipment, walkways and benches, and various sporting facilities are also available in many city parks. Some of the other villages and townships within Jackson County also provide parks and recreation facilities to their residents (please see Appendix B for a listing of those parks).

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is a significant provider of regional parks and recreation facilities in Jackson County (see Appendix C for the Parks and Recreation Facilities map).

- **State Parks.** The DNR maintains the following parks which extend partially into Jackson County:
 - Meridian-Baseline State Park, Henrietta and Rives Townships.
 - Walter J Hayes State Park, Norvell Township
 - Watkins Lake State Park, Norvell Township

Walter J Hayes State Park “offers a modern campground, a large swimming area, two boat launches, a fishing pier, trails, a picnic shelter, interpretive programs and more.”⁷ The Meridian-Baseline State Park “contains the intersection of the Michigan meridian and the base-line used for the Michigan Survey. The park has two monuments that show where the two mismatched baselines meet the principal

⁷ <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/details.aspx?id=454&type=SPRK#overview>

meridian at the North Initial Point and South Initial Point.”⁸ The Watkins Lake State Park “is known for its quiet serenity, popular, 5-mile walking trail and opportunities for bird watching.”⁹

- **State Recreation and Game Areas.** The DNR maintains the following state game and recreation areas which extend into Jackson County:
 - Waterloo Recreation Area (Malan Waterfowl Production Area and Waterloo Game Unit), Grass Lake, Leoni, and Waterloo Townships
 - Grass Lake State Game Area (Schlee Waterfowl Production Area), Grass Lake Township
 - Sharonville State Game Area, Grass Lake and Norvell Townships

The Waterloo Recreation Area “is home to multiple campgrounds, cabins/yurts, beaches, picnic areas, fishing lakes, nature trails, hiking trails, mountain biking trails, equestrian trails, the Gerald Eddy Discovery Center and much more.”¹⁰

- **DNR Boat Launches.** Finally, the DNR also maintains 13 boat launches in Jackson County (please see Appendix B for a listing of those launch sites).

Local Schools

Schools also provide a variety of recreational facilities. For example, elementary schools provide numerous playgrounds aimed at different age groups and sports fields. Middle and high schools provide football fields, ball diamonds and tennis courts. Elementary, middle, and high schools provide gymnasiums. Because of those facilities, schools generally function as community parks. The following school districts, which are also part of the Jackson County Intermediate School District, maintain facilities within Jackson County (please see Appendix C for the School Districts map and Appendix B for a listing of the schools in each district).

- **Columbia School District.** The district covers the Village of Brooklyn and portions of Blackman, Columbia, Liberty and Norvell.
- **Concord Community Schools.** The district covers the Village of Concord and portions of Concord, Parma, Pulaski, Spring Arbor, and Hanover Townships.
- **East Jackson Community Schools.** The district covers portions of Blackman, Leoni, Summit, and Waterloo Townships.
- **Grass Lake Community Schools.** The district covers the Village of Grass Lake and portions of Grass Lake, Leoni, and Waterloo Townships.

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meridian-Baseline_State_Park

⁹ <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=746&type=SPRK>

¹⁰ <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?type=SPRK&id=506>

- **Hanover-Horton School District.** The district covers the Village of Hanover and portions of Hanover, Liberty, Pulaski, and Spring Arbor Townships.
- **Jackson Public Schools.** The district covers the City of Jackson and portions of Blackman, Liberty, Napoleon, and Summit Townships.
- **Michigan Center Schools.** The district covers a portion of Leoni Township.
- **Napoleon Community Schools.** The district covers portions of Napoleon and Norvell Townships.
- **Northwest Community Schools.** The district covers portions of Blackman, Henrietta, Rives, Tompkins, and Sandstone Townships.
- **Springport Pubic Schools.** The district covers the Village of Springport and portions of Parma and Tompkins Townships.
- **Vandercook Lake Public Schools.** The district covers portions of Summit Township.
- **Western School District.** The district covers the Village of Parma and portions of Concord, Parma, Sandstone, and Spring Arbor Townships.

An additional 10 districts serve residents living on the periphery of Jackson County, but maintain no schools in the County. Various religious and other quasi-public and private educational institutions are also providers of recreational facilities.

Private and Quasi-Public Parks and Recreation Facilities

A number of private and quasi-public institutions also provide recreation facilities (see Appendix C for the Parks and Recreation Facilities map).

- **Golf Courses.** There are 17 private golf courses operating in Jackson County, in addition to the public courses located in Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park and the City of Jackson's Ella Sharp Park (please see Appendix B for a listing of those private courses).
- **Camps and Campgrounds.** A number of organizations maintain camps in Jackson County for the use of their members. For example, the YMCA, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts organizations operate Camp Storer (Napoleon Township), Camp Teetonkah (Grass Lake and Leoni Townships), and Camp O' the Hills (Norvell Township), respectively. The Jackson Intermediate School District (ISD) operates Camp McGregor (Liberty Township). Various other philanthropic and religious institutions also operate camps in Jackson County. Finally, a variety of private campgrounds throughout Jackson County also provide individual campsites to patrons (please see Appendix B for a listing of those private campgrounds in Appendix B).

- **Nature Preserves.** The Phyllis Haehnle Memorial Audubon Sanctuary (Leoni Township) is a Michigan Audubon sanctuary “renowned for its Sandhill Cranes. Many pairs of cranes nest in the area and hundreds more gather here during fall migration (September to mid-November).”¹¹ Michigan State University’s MacCready Reserve (Liberty Township) “is designated for education, research, and outreach programs in wildlife and forestry management. The lush environment includes 6.5 miles of trails, rolling terrain, towering hardwoods, natural springs, and colorful wildflowers that create a diverse habitat for numerous species of birds.”¹² The Michigan Audubon Society (Spring Arbor Township), Nature Conservancy (Liberty Township), and the Michigan Nature Association (Napoleon and Norvell Townships) own additional preserves. Various clubs also own land in Jackson County for hunting and other purposes.
- **Recreation and Sport Centers.** Michigan International Speedway is the most conspicuous of the recreation and sports centers located in Jackson County. The YMCA of Jackson provides a variety of sports and recreational activities. The Optimist Ice Arena is also located in the City of Jackson. The Grass Lake Depot and Whistle Stop Park is available to rent for special events and the grounds are open to the public. Finally, several bowling alleys operate in Jackson County. Brooklyn Lanes serves the Brooklyn Area and Airport Lanes and Suburban Lanes serve the Jackson area.

Other Public and Private Facilities with Recreational Benefits

Various other facilities provided publicly and privately also have recreational benefits (see Appendix C for the Other Facilities map):

- **Local Colleges.** There are several colleges which maintain campuses in Jackson County. Baker College’s local campus is located in Blackman Township, north of the Jackson County Airport. Jackson College’s main campus is located in Summit Township and its W.J. Maher Campus is located in Blackman Township. Spring Arbor University’s main campus is located in the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor. Many colleges provide access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities. County residents can also avail themselves of the other recreational facilities and programs hosted by those institutions. For example, The George E. Potter Center (Jackson College) “is comprised of the most versatile and complete performing arts complex in the area.”¹³ The Ganton Art Gallery (Spring Arbor University) “is the largest single-space gallery in southern Michigan.”¹⁴

¹¹ <https://www.haehnlesanctuary.org>

¹² <http://www.experiencejackson.com/business/maccready-reserve>

¹³ <https://www.jccmi.edu/entertainment-events/about-the-theatre/>

¹⁴ <https://www.arbor.edu/venue/ganton-art-gallery/>

- **Jackson District Library.** The Jackson District Library's (JDL's) 13 library branches provide access to books and other items of entertainment (e.g., audio books, CDs, DVDs, etc). The Carnegie Branch is located in the City of Jackson and several other branches (e.g., Eastern, Meijer, and Summit) are located in the townships surrounding the City. The other branches are located in the other population centers of the County (see Appendix B for the table listing JDL branches in Jackson County).
- **Airports.** Airports provide opportunities for recreational activities as well as transportation. For example, Reynolds Field (Jackson County Airport) and Shamrock Airport (Brooklyn) provide opportunities for recreational flying. Napoleon Airport provides opportunities for recreational flying and parachuting.
- **Cemeteries.** Cemeteries provide important green space in urban areas. They can also be used as safe places to walk/exercise and contemplate nature (see Appendix B for a listing cemeteries in Jackson County).
- **Sidewalks.** Most of the City of Jackson's streets have sidewalks. All of the incorporated villages contain sidewalks along at least some local streets. Sidewalks also occur in other parts of Jackson County. Those sidewalks are used for exercise as well as transportation and may even connect with non-motorized trails.
- **Shopping and Dining.** Many people enjoy shopping and going out to eat. Consequently, the downtowns of Brooklyn, Concord, Grass Lake, Hanover, Jackson, Michigan Center, Napoleon, Parma, and Spring Arbor are recreation destinations because of their restaurants and/or shops. The proximity of those downtown areas to each other—as well as the various shops and restaurants scattered throughout the rest of Jackson County— increase the opportunities for this type of activity.
- **Historic Sites.** Jackson County contain many historic sites that have local, state, and/or national significance. The National Register of Historic Places contains 28 sites in Jackson County.¹⁵ A total of 47 sites in Jackson County were included on the List of Michigan State Historic Sites, including 9 informational/commemorative designations, 11 sites that are also on the National Register, and 1 demolished house.¹⁶ The City of Jackson's Under the Oaks Neighborhood is a locally designated historic district and the City has also designated 42 other local historic districts.¹⁷

¹⁵ <https://nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/mi/jackson/state.html>

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Michigan_State_Historic_Sites_in_Jackson_County

¹⁷ https://library.municode.com/mi/jackson/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIICOOR_CH13HIPR_S13-21THJAHIDI

Resource Inventory

In addition to parks and recreation facilities, Jackson County is also home to a wide variety of cultural and natural resources.

Topography

With a change in elevation of 292 feet, the County's topography can be described as gently rolling and moderately hilly. Higher elevations are found in southwestern Jackson County (see Appendix C for the Topography map). Approximately 66% of the County drains into the Upper Grand River. To the west and southwest, approximately 22% of the County drains into t. The high point of 1,178 feet above sea level is located along the western border of Hanover Township, east of Grover Road and south of Folks Road. Low elevations are located along the County's water courses as well as the northeastern corner of the County. The low point of 886 feet is located along the northern border of Tompkins Township where the Grand River flows into Ingham County.

Water Resources

Several watersheds dominate Jackson County (see Appendix C for the Watersheds map). Approximately 66% of the County drains into the Upper Grand River. To the west and southwest, approximately 22% of the County drains into the Kalamazoo River. To the southeast, approximately 12% of the County drains into the River Raisin. In addition to the three major rivers and their tributaries, Jackson County is blessed by many lakes and wetlands (see Appendix C for the Flood Zones and Wetlands map). Approximately 66% of the County drains into the Upper Grand River. To the west and southwest, approximately 22% of the County drains into t. For example, large lakes such as Columbia, Grass, Ackerson, Portage and Clark are located in the eastern half of Jackson County. Wetlands still exist in the City of Jackson as well as throughout Jackson County.

Transportation

Jackson County and the City of Jackson share a well-connected transportation system (see Appendix C for the Transportation map). Approximately 66% of the County drains into the Upper Grand River. To the west and southwest, approximately 22% of the County drains into t. Interstate 94 (I-94) traverses the County from east-to-west and skirts the northern boundary of the City. I-94 provides access to the major metropolitan areas of Chicago and Detroit. United States Highway 127 (US-127) runs through the center of the County as well as the City. It provides access to the Lansing area and other points north as well as Adrian and Toledo to the south. A wide variety of Michigan highways (e.g., M-50, M-60, M-106, etc.), county primary roads, and city major streets provide access to those major roadways. The City of Jackson and portions of the outlying urban townships are also served by a bus system.

Soils

The types of soils found in Jackson County are important to its development. For example, the 2000-2025 edition of the *Jackson Community Comprehensive Plan* (i.e., the *Jackson County Master Plan*) identifies lands suitable for agricultural preservation as well as the establishment of greenways (see Appendix C for the Prime Farmland and Greenways map). Approximately 66% of the County drains into the Upper Grand River. To the west and southwest, approximately 22% of the County drains into it. That plan contains a map of 'Agricultural Preservation Areas' which identifies parcels of land eighty (80) acres or more in size with soils classified as prime or unique for agricultural production by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The location of active agricultural land, the location of agricultural and open space areas on township future land use plans, and existing proposed sewer service areas also impacted the designation of those areas. The 'Jackson County Greenways Plan' map contained in the document identifies a possible network of greenways which "generally follows wetland areas, drainage ways, and forested lands".

Land Use

A future land use map is not available because the next edition of the *Jackson County Master Plan* was under development at the time this Plan was adopted. However, the existing land use inventory conducted for the master plan can be used for this purpose. Assessing data compiled by the municipalities was utilized to determine existing land use on December 19, 2018. The municipal assessors assigned a numeric code to each property as part of the assessment process which was then translated into broad category. Please note that most rights-of-way and some lakes and ponds are not included in the calculations. For the purposes of this Plan, that data was then utilized to divide Jackson County into various land use categories (see the Property Assessment map in Appendix C).



Jackson County Recreation Plan | 2020-2024 Edition

Chapter 3

Public Involvement

Description of the Planning Process

The steps utilized to develop the 2020-2024 edition of the *Jackson County Recreation Plan* included the following.

1. Jackson County recognized the need to update the Recreation Plan.
2. Jackson County Parks administration contracted with Region 2 Planning Commission staff to facilitate the development of the 2020-2024 edition of the Plan in the winter of 2019.
3. Jackson County Parks conducted interviews with several municipalities in which county parks are located in the spring and summer of 2019.
4. Region 2 staff updated the *Community Description* and *Recreation and Resource Inventories* chapters of the Plan and their associated appendices (i.e., *Demographics*, *Recreation and Resource Inventories*, and *Mapping*) and provided them to Jackson County Parks administration in the winter of 2019.
5. Jackson County Parks conducted recreation surveys targeted at the general public and local governmental jurisdictions in the spring of 2019. Region 2 staff provided the results of the surveys to Jackson County Parks administration in the summer of 2019.
6. After receiving feedback from Jackson County Parks administration, Region 2 staff reported the findings of the updated Plan chapters and appendices and the results of the surveys and interviews to the Parks and Recreation Commission.
7. The Parks and Recreation Commission utilized the input collected from the various public involvement efforts and the information produced by Region 2 staff to develop the goals and objectives and action program included in the Plan in the fall of 2019.
8. The Parks and Recreation Commission provided the plan for public review from October 30, 2019, through November 30, 2019, and held a public hearing on December 4, 2019. The Plan was approved by the Commission and recommended for adoption by the County Board of Commissioners after the public hearing was closed.
9. The Jackson County Board of Commissioners adopted the Plan on December 17, 2019.

Description of the Public Input Process

A variety of methods were employed to incorporate public input into the development of this plan.

Surveys and Interviews

A couple of surveys and various interviews were conducted in order to collect the opinions of the general public and the local governmental jurisdictions which comprise Jackson County

General Public Survey. An online survey was conducted during the spring of 2019, via SurveyMonkey®, to collect the opinions of the general public regarding the provision of parks and recreation facilities in Jackson County. The survey was posted to www.JacksonCountyParks.org, the Jackson County Parks website, on April 18, 2019. The following notice was published in the *Jackson Citizen Patriot* from April 28, 2019, through May 4, 2019:

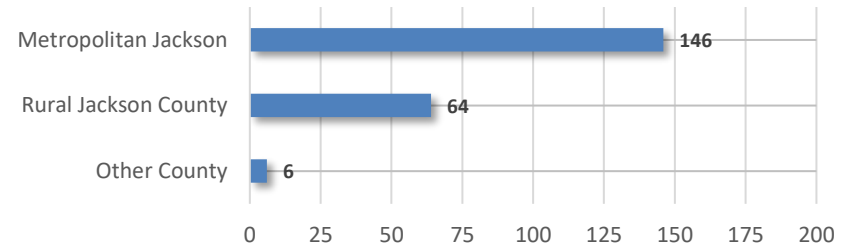
Every five years, the Jackson County Parks Department conducts a comprehensive planning process to develop a master plan for its parks and recreation system. The master plan is used as an overall guide to the development and operation of the county's parks [and] other recreational facilities. The Jackson County Parks Department is seeking citizen input – please help by completing a short survey by May 18. Tell us about how you use the county parks now, and what recreation opportunities you would like to have in the future. The survey is available by going to JacksonCountyParks.org/.

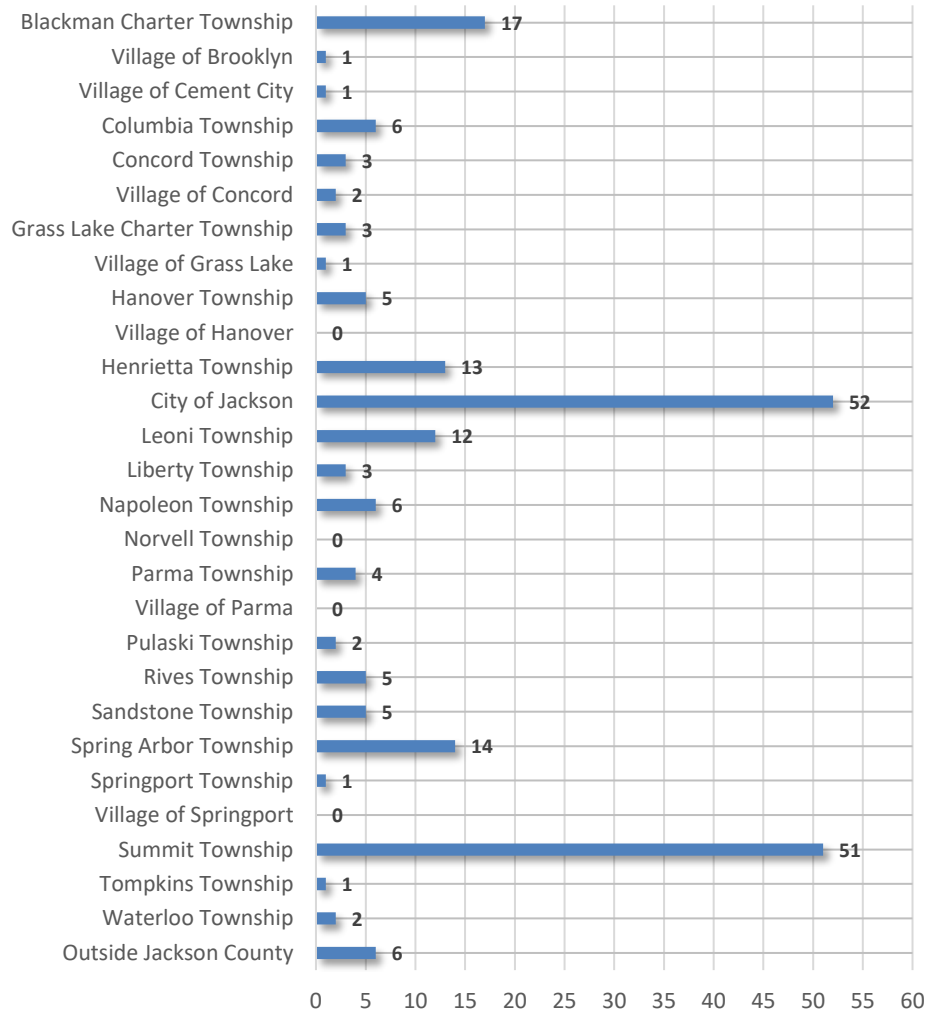
A total of 217 people took the survey and the last response was received on June 13, 2019. Survey responses are summarized by question.

1. Where do you live?

Approximately 68% of respondents were residents who lived in Metropolitan Jackson, which is comprised of the City of Jackson (24%) and the Urban Townships of Blackman (8%), Leoni (6%), Spring Arbor (6%), and Summit (24%) (n=216). Rural Township residents accounted for approximately 27% of respondents (see the Urban and Rural Jackson County map in Appendix D). Residents of the 7 villages comprised 2% of respondents. Only 3% of respondents lived in another county.

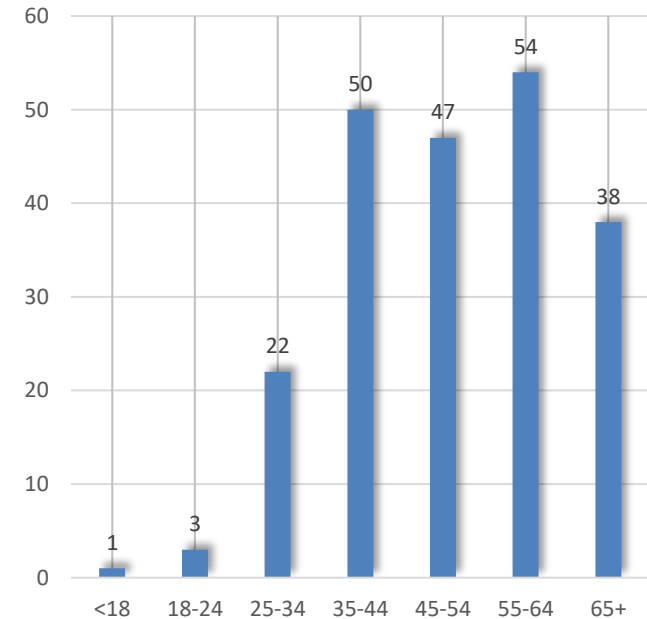
The City of Jackson (24%) and Summit Township (24%) accounted for almost half of all respondents. There were no respondents from Norvell Township or the Villages of Hanover, Parma, and Springport. There were also respondents from Eaton, Hillsdale, Ingham, and Washtenaw Counties as well as the State of Tennessee.





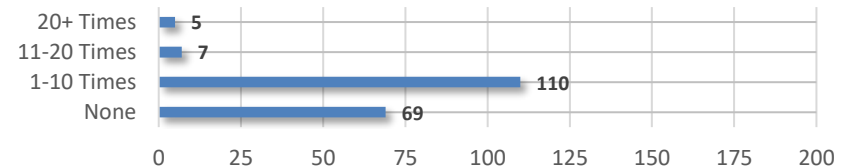
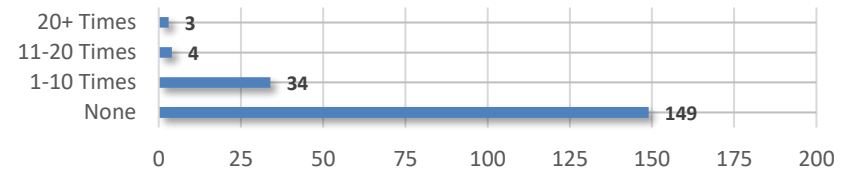
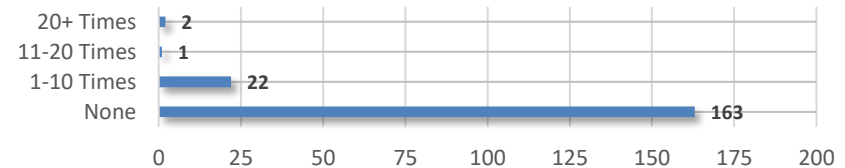
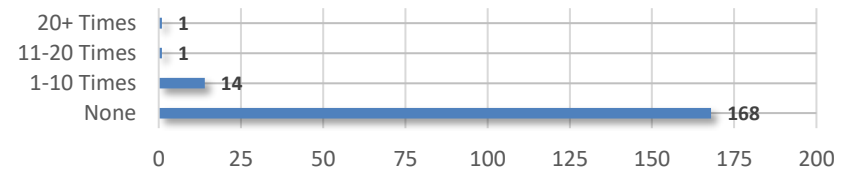
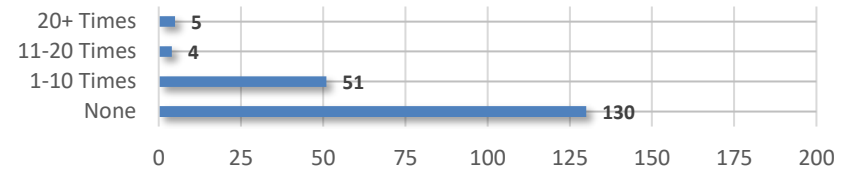
2. What is your age?

Less than one half of a percent of respondents were children <18 years old (n=215). Approximately 33% were young adults 18-24 years old (10%) and 35-44 years old (23%). Approximately 47% were middle aged adults 45-54 years old (22%) and 55-64 years old (25%). Approximately 18% were senior citizens ≥65 years old.

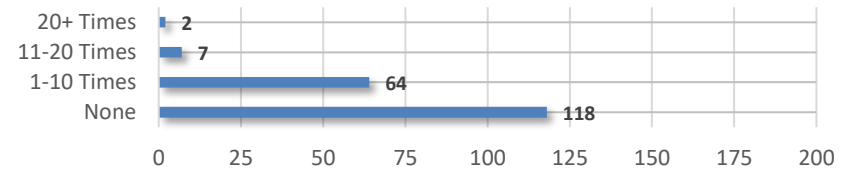
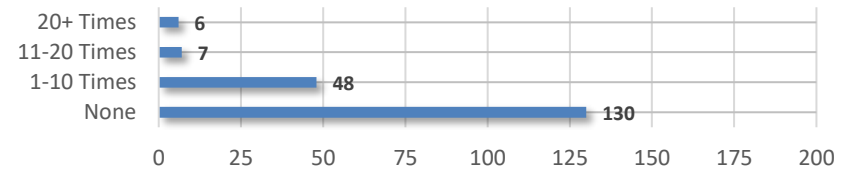
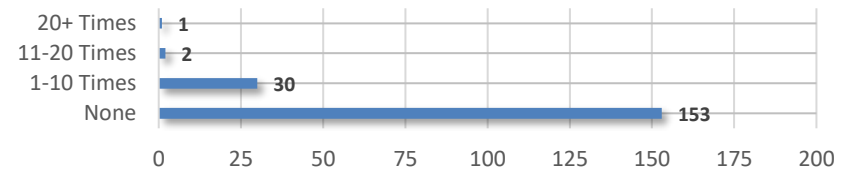
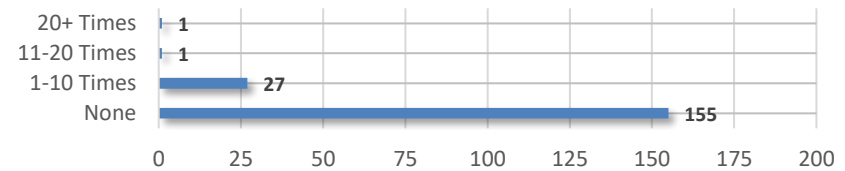
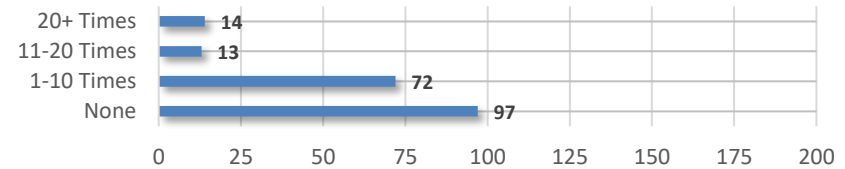


3. How many times have you visited each County Park within the last year?

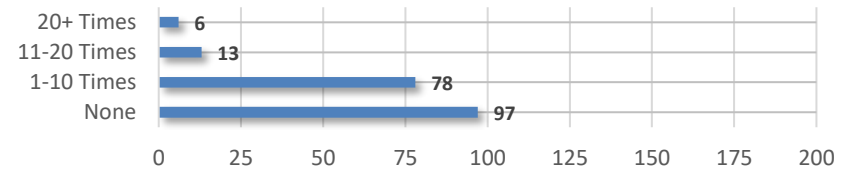
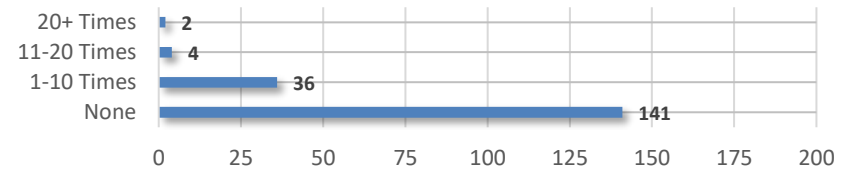
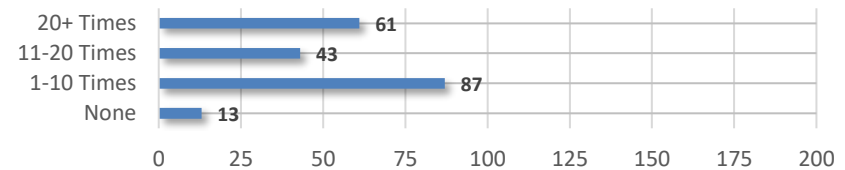
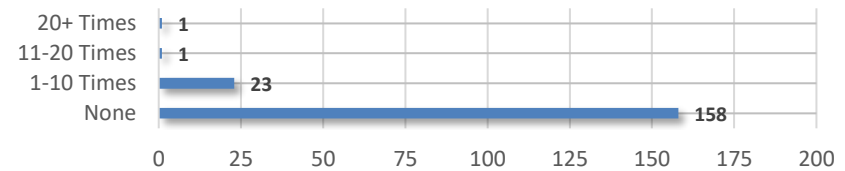
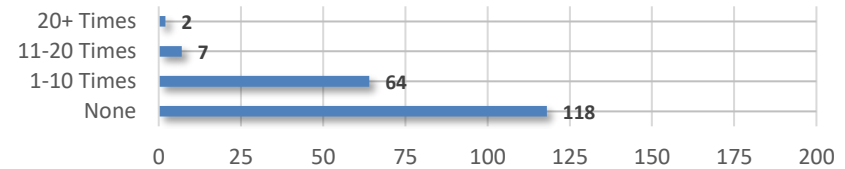
- Clark Lake County Park.** Approximately 32% of respondents patronized Clark Lake County Park in the last year (n=190). Of those respondents, approximately 85% visited 1-10 times, 7% visited 11-20 times, and 8% visited at least 20 times.
- Clear Lake County Park.** Approximately 9% of respondents patronized Clear Lake County Park in the last year (n=184). Of those respondents, approximately 88% visited 1-10 times, 6% visited 11-20 times, and 6% visited at least 20 times.
- Gillett's Lake County Park.** Approximately 13% of respondents patronized Gillett's Lake County Park in the last year (n=188). Of those respondents, approximately 88% visited 1-10 times, 4% visited 11-20 times, and 8% visited at least 20 times.
- Grass Lake County Park.** Approximately 22% of respondents patronized Grass Lake County Park in the last year (n=190). Of those respondents, approximately 83% visited 1-10 times, 10% visited 11-20 times, and 7% visited at least 20 times.
- James J. Keeley County Park (Jackson Co. Fairgrounds).** Approximately 64% of respondents patronized James J. Keeley County Park in the last year (n=191). Of those respondents, approximately 90% visited 1-10 times, 6% visited 11-20 times, and 4% visited at least 20 times.



- Lime Lake County Park.** Approximately 51% of respondents patronized Lime Lake County Park in the last year (n=196). Of those respondents, approximately 73% visited 1-10 times, 13% visited 11-20 times, and 14% visited at least 20 times.
- Little Wolf Lake County Park.** Approximately 16% of respondents patronized Little Wolf Lake County Park in the last year (n=184). Of those respondents, approximately 93% visited 1-10 times, 3% visited 11-20 times, and 3% visited at least 20 times.
- Minard Mills County Park.** Approximately 18% of respondents patronized Minard Mills County Park in the last year (n=186). Of those respondents, approximately 91% visited 1-10 times, 6% visited 11-20 times, and 3% visited at least 20 times.
- Pleasant Lake County Park and Campground.** Approximately 32% of respondents patronized Pleasant Lake County Park in the last year (n=191). Of those respondents, approximately 79% visited 1-10 times, 11% visited 11-20 times, and 10% visited at least 20 times.
- Portage Lake County Park.** Approximately 38% of respondents patronized Portage Lake County Park in the last year (n=191). Of those respondents, approximately 88% visited 1-10 times, 10% visited 11-20 times, and 3% visited at least 20 times.



- **Round Lake County Park.** Approximately 21% of respondents patronized Round Lake County Park in the last year (n=185). Of those respondents, approximately 92% visited 1-10 times, 3% visited 11-20 times, and 5% visited at least 20 times.
- **Alfred R. Snyder County Park (Horton Mill Pond).** Approximately 14% of respondents patronized the Horton Mill Pond in the last year (n=183). Of those respondents, approximately 92% visited 1-10 times, 4% visited 11-20 times, and 4% visited at least 20 times.
- **Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park.** Approximately 94% of respondents patronized Cascades Park in the last year (n=204). Of those respondents, approximately 46% visited 1-10 times, 23% visited 11-20 times, and 32% visited at least 20 times.
- **Swains Lake County Park and Campground.** Approximately 23% of respondents patronized Swains Lake County Park in the last year (n=183). Of those respondents, approximately 86% visited 1-10 times, 10% visited 11-20 times, and 5% visited at least 20 times.
- **Vandercook Lake County Park.** Approximately 50% of respondents patronized Vandercook Lake County Park in the last year (n=194). Of those respondents, approximately 80% visited 1-10 times, 13% visited 11-20 times, and 6% visited at least 20 times.

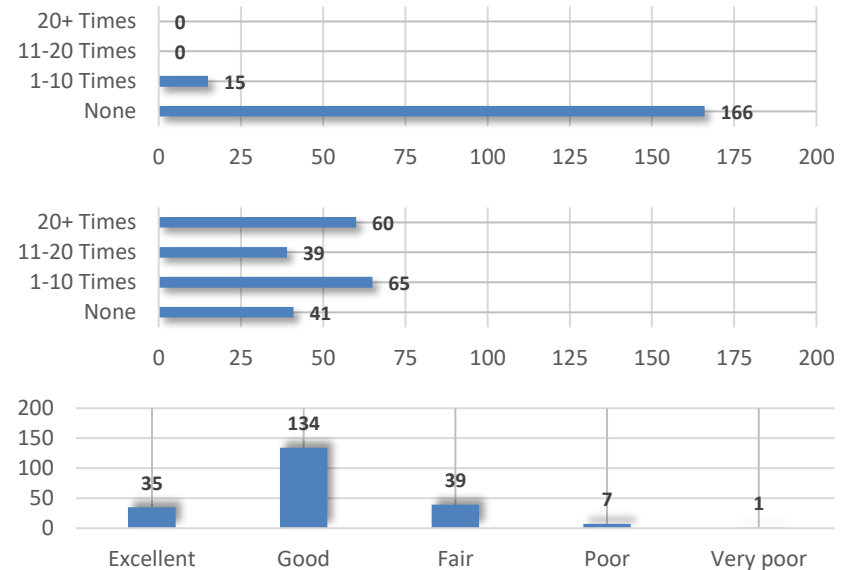


- **Vineyard Lake County Park.** Approximately 8% of respondents patronized Vineyard Lake County Park in the last year (n=181). Of those respondents, approximately 100% visited 1-10 times.
- **Falling Waters Trail.** Approximately 80% of respondents patronized the Falling Waters Trail in the last year (n=205). Of those respondents, approximately 40% visited 1-10 times, 24% visited 11-20 times, and 37% visited at least 20 times.

4. How do you rate the Jackson County Parks system?

Approximately 78% of respondents rate the park system excellent (16%) or good (62%) (n=216). Approximately 18% think the system is fair. Less than 4% think county parks are poor (3%) or very poor (<0.5%).

Respondents were given the opportunity to expand upon their responses. There were many positive comments regarding the overall park system, including its trails. However, although many respondents thought the system is clean and well-maintained, others felt parts are outdated and/or in need of more maintenance. Concerns were voiced regarding goose excrement, the condition of the Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park lagoons/ponds, the need for system-wide playground updates, restroom conditions system-wide (including a preference against porta johns), general security/safety (i.e., strange people, needles, etc.), and the Pleasant Lake County Park seawall. There were inquiries regarding why the Jackson County Fairgrounds (i.e., James J. Keeley County Park) have been incorporated into the park system. Some respondents were unaware of all of the parks in the system while others seemed to assume that at least some City of Jackson parks are owned/operated by Jackson County Parks. The 90 responses to the question are summarized in the adjacent word cloud and listed in the following table.



always nice kids Need updating well maintained Clean well maintained clean new
 well go great Falling Waters Trail many maintained
 Cascades area parks safe needs much lot Lake
 better Clean safe trails kept clean even love see county year

A word cloud is a visual representation of common words contained in the various comments provided in response to the question. The more common the word, the larger it is represented in the word cloud.

1. In rough shape.
2. Clean and safe.
3. Very impressive system. I've learned about all the parks from watching [our] local channel JTV.
4. So many great options to choose from. Love the trails around the parks I have visited. Cascades in particular offers trails, great scenery, connection to trails- I love running there! I can't give it an "excellent" rating though because I blew a tire at Cascades turning into the parking lot off Brown by the band shell. There are some incredibly deep crevices in the entrance to that lot.
5. Falling Waters Trail is excellent; Vandercook Lake is not as well maintained.
6. Well kept, clean, safe, easy access, beautiful!
7. The improvement of connecting the running trails.
8. Afraid to take grandkids because of needles. Cascade park for kids by waterpark [doesn't] have covered places to sit and picnic or watch kids play.
9. They could use updating.
10. Beautiful, accessible areas that we truly enjoy.
11. Especially cascades trail is deteriorating and the geese make [it] very dirty and unsanitary.
12. It seems many of the parks aren't getting enough attention.
13. Many are outdated, but I know the county tries. Cascades could use new playground equipment. Falling Waters is beautiful. Round Lake looks like it has not been touched since 1995. It could definitely use new play equipment.
14. Amazing Staff!!!!
15. I believe you are trying hard with the allotted funds.
16. They are kept clean. We like to ride bikes and camp.
17. Loomis Park needs a new kids play area to make it safer for the kids and neighborhood.
18. Pretty good shape, concerns seem to get addressed. Not overly crowded, but always people where I go.
19. I am putting Good because I have not visited all of them in years....but enjoyed the ones I have visited.... I would have to say one of the most important thing would be to Keep them Clean and Drug Free !!!
20. Do they do anything?
21. Areas are well groomed at all times. if you meet team members they are pleasant.

-
22. With the exception of Wolf Lake Park, the parks are well maintained with great amenities.
-
23. The Pleasant Lake playground structure needs repair. The beach area also needs new sand.
-
24. Seems to always be clean and mowed.
-
25. Play equipment is out of date/broken many times we go. Play area at Grass Lake park is over grown with weeds and many times has yellow jacket nests that remain the whole summer.
-
26. There is something for everyone, Cascades is beautiful.
-
27. Everything is in order and maintained.
-
28. Upkeep and general appearance could be better.
-
29. Lots to do and very big. Great [trails] for riding, running, walking.
-
30. Nice trails/walkways, clean restrooms. Safe environment.
-
31. Thanks for making these parks funded and available.
-
32. Clean, safe.
-
33. Generally clean and well kept.
-
34. Most parks are adequate. Would like to see some [Pickleball] courts built.
-
35. No.
-
36. Improving each year.
-
37. Need updating and inviting.
-
38. I didn't even know all these parks existed, but the ones we have visited are well taken care of. We are new to this area and very pleased with the parks.
-
39. Great parks, love the upgrades at Cascades! I would live to see even just minor upgrades at the rest.
-
40. People don't always clean up after themselves or their pets! Was happy to see poop bags along trails to help (as I forgot some for my pets [occasionally]!) But still see poo!
-
41. Clean and well maintained.
-
42. Too much goose poop [everywhere].
-
43. Need restrooms and not porta pots at Cascades. Also, would appreciate 1/10 mile markers on trails.
-
44. Some parks definitely get better care than others. For instance, the Clark Lake County Park is awful compared to the township park but it has SO MUCH potential. Also, the geese mess at cascades is terrible as well. However, there are some things the parks do awesome as well. I'm a runner and I was shocked and pleased to
-

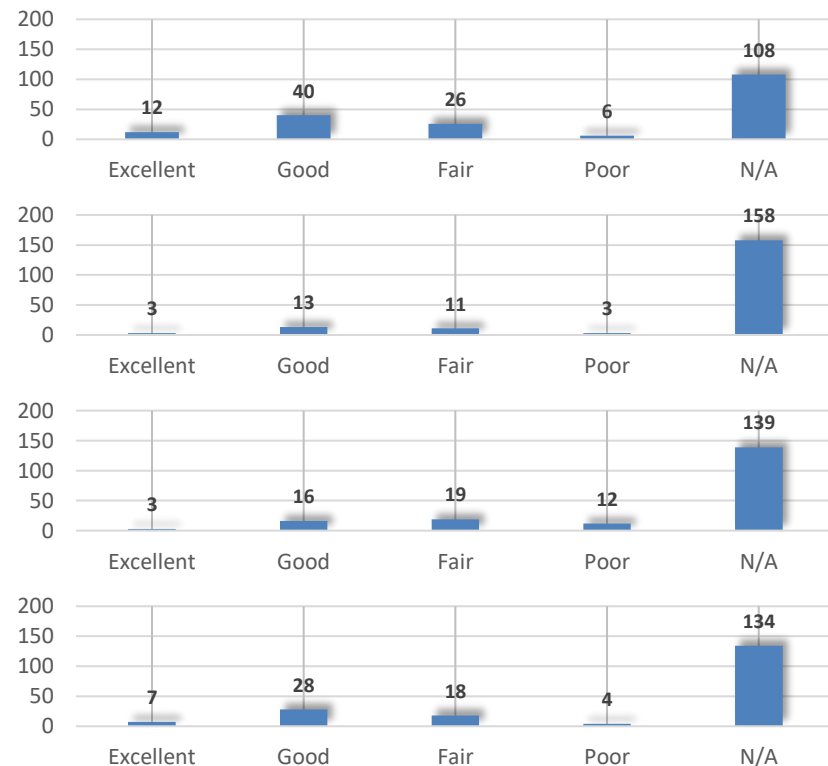
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|-----|--|
| | learn that you plow the cascades (and I heard also falling waters) in the winter! It made snowy running so much better. And every time I run on the Falling Waters Trail I am awed that such a gem is right in the [Jackson] community! |
| 45. | [Not] even aware of many of these parks existing. Would be good to have more information readily available on them and the features they offer including accessibility. |
| 46. | The parks are clean with garbage cans that have been emptied. Tree trimming and mowing is always up to date. Falling waters trail needs drinkable water somewhere on the trail. |
| 47. | There are many parks with a good variety of things available. |
| 48. | There are a lot of parks & seem to be maintained well. |
| 49. | Many are excellent, but the Grass Lake Park is fair to poor. Lots of trash, graffiti, and sometimes vandalism. It sure would be nice to have the concession open more than two times a year, as well as a nicer way to enter the water than some slippery concrete steps. That park could be a real attraction, but it needs work. |
| 50. | Great job on keeping up with all the work required. |
| 51. | Cascades canals need cleaning out. |
| 52. | Well maintained, just need some updating. |
| 53. | Lack of routine maintenance on some and unfulfilled promises to use millage money to fix things. |
| 54. | We mostly use the parks for swimming and camping and the fairgrounds for the fair. For the most part the parks are in good condition but would like better bathrooms. |
| 55. | I use Falling Waters trail a lot. It is well maintained. |
| 56. | Goose poop, facilities, access, unaware of most even listed so not promoted well or not much to promote. |
| 57. | Well taken care of. Beautiful surroundings. |
| 58. | [Everything] I've seen is maintained very well. |
| 59. | Many parks need updates. |
| 60. | I [haven't] seen [too] many issues at the parks [I've] went to. I see they call it the fairgrounds on here and not [Keely] park. [Its] not a park like the others. [Go] there once a year. |
| 61. | Not much for kids to play on and going into the water is not safe. |
| 62. | Don't know...haven't visited!!! |
| 63. | It's great that we have such an abundance of parks. Also, the diversity of each park is nice. Places like Sparks and Swains have a serious goose problem and something needs to be done. You can't even walk the path around Sparks at a comfortable pace because you constantly have to look where you step. Too much goose crap. They need to be removed. When/why were the fairgrounds changed back to Keeley Park? Was this done through a county-wide vote? Or was this done at a board meeting? Was it done so it would "officially" fall under the county parks system, therefore, making it eligible for the millage funds? Was it clearly stated in the park millage proposal that the fairgrounds would be eligible/part of the park system? |

-
64. Great daytime activities anything towards the evening needs much better security. It's to the point we avoid cascades in the evenings.
-
65. Clean, well maintained.
-
66. No programs for youth to keep busy and get outdoors.
-
67. Nice parks, well maintained, safe.
-
68. We often take time picking up litter or pulling weeds at the playgrounds and parks. They don't seem to be always maintained.
-
69. They need to be updated.
-
70. Cascades ponds have turned into creepy lagoons and need cleaning up. Considering that it's our county's centerpiece park and it's a very visible symbol of Jackson, it needs attention financially. We've been discussing Sparks Park for many many years.
-
71. Lots of variety but some in need of maintenance and general cleanup on top of updates.
-
72. Good variety of parks. Not always great accessibility.
-
73. Varied sites. Good upkeep.
-
74. Easy access, usually well maintained.
-
75. [There] is a lot of lake access, but very little hiking and access to wooded areas.
-
76. Always seems like strange people with no kids hanging around kids play areas.
-
77. There should be bathrooms at Vandercook Lake boat launch and better care of parking lot and litter. Cascade lagoons are a mess and should be dredged and the flow opened back up to head west as it once did. I grew up in that park so I know.
-
78. The Cascade Falls are amazing and pretty.
-
79. Some parks like Cascades are in great condition for my child to play. Others like Loomis, needs serious thought put into a new playground structure.
-
80. They are poorly maintained and facilities like playgrounds, beaches and restrooms are either absent, antiquated or awful...or all three.
-
81. Maintenance needs to improve.
-
82. Walking, biking, and golfing opportunities.
-
83. Too many locations makes maintenance not cost effective.
-
84. Lots of space, lots of activities and many different things to do
-
85. Clean, well maintained, safe.
-
86. Normally clean. Facilities average. Comparable with State parks.
-
87. Sea wall [at] Pleasant Lake is no good. It's a head knocker for kids. Guard rail around park in disrepair and ALL the grass needs cut.
-

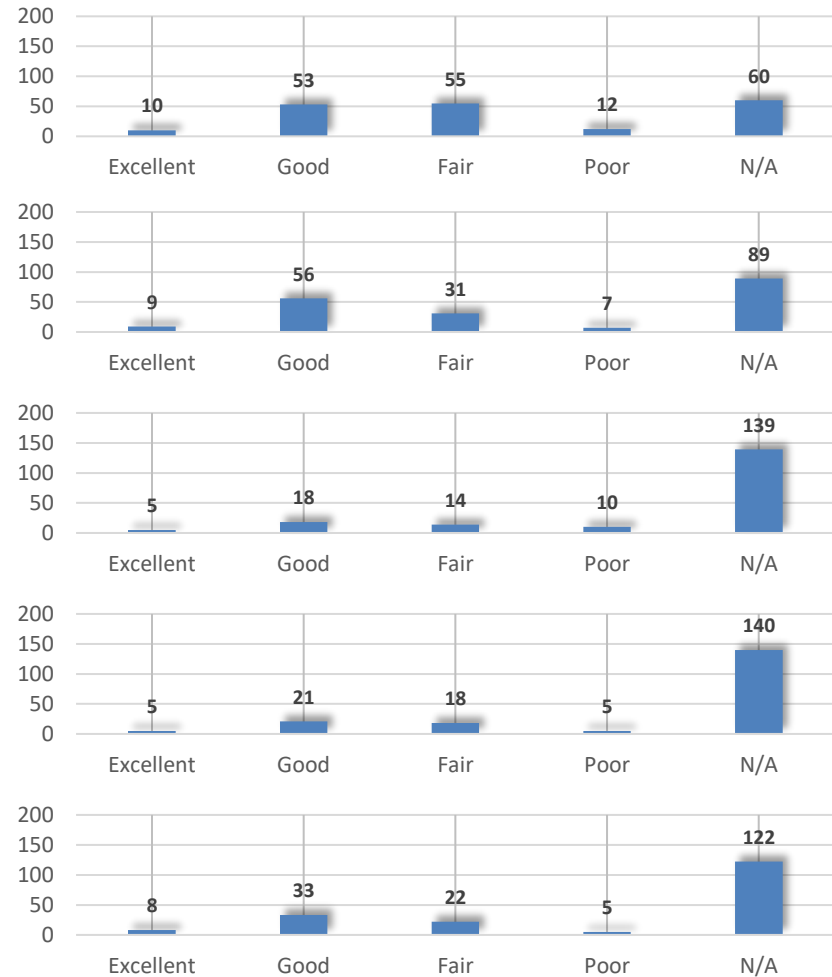
-
88. Please rebuild the pool at Ella Sharp park. It will give the kids in the city a place to be and we could tie it in with a free lunch M-F + weekends. It would help with childhood obesity, diabetes and nutrition for kids. Please ask your grant writing staff/[departments] to write a State or Federal grant. Thank you!
-
89. Variety.
-
90. I love Sparks park, and the Falling Waters trail, and the new connection trail.
-

5. How do you rate each County Park?

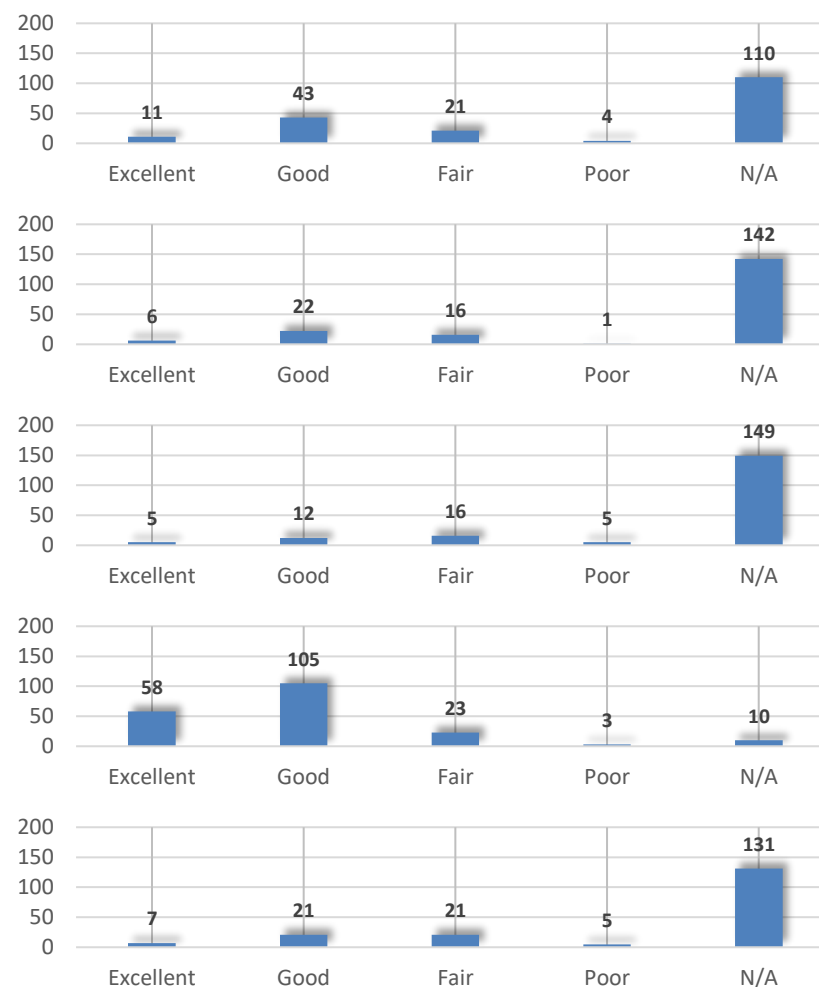
- **Clark Lake County Park.** Approximately 44% of respondents rated Clark Lake County Park (n=192). Of those respondents, approximately 62% rated the park excellent (14%) or good (48%). Approximately 38% rated the park fair (31%) or poor (7%).
- **Clear Lake County Park.** Approximately 16% of respondents rated Clear Lake County Park (n=188). Of those respondents, approximately 53% rated the park excellent (10%) or good (43%). Approximately 47% rated the park fair (37%) or poor (10%).
- **Gillett's Lake County Park.** Approximately 26% of respondents rated Gillett's Lake County Park (n=189). Of those respondents, approximately 38% rated the park excellent (6%) or good (32%). Approximately 62% rated the park fair (38%) or poor (24%).
- **Grass Lake County Park.** Approximately 30% of respondents rated Grass Lake County Park (n=191). Of those respondents, approximately 61% rated the park excellent (12%) or good (49%). Approximately 39% rated the park fair (32%) or poor (7%).



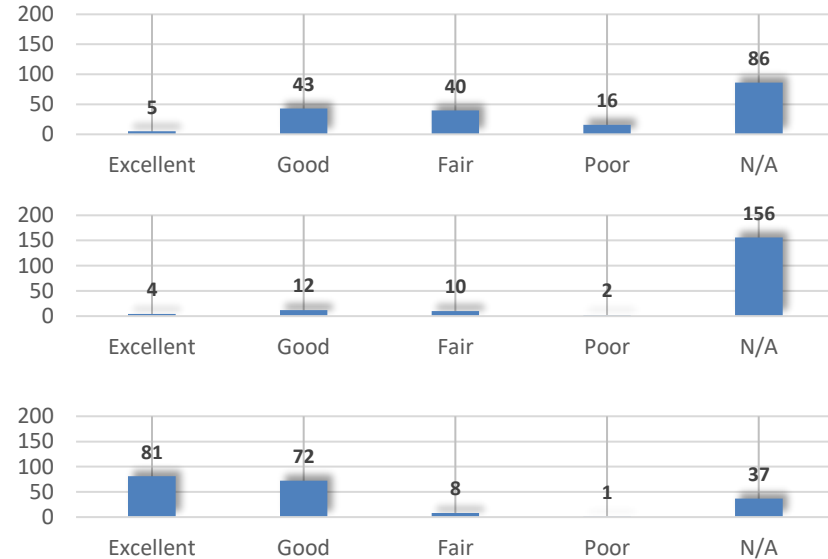
- James J. Keeley County Park (Jackson Co. Fairgrounds).** Approximately 68% of respondents rated James J. Keeley County Park (n=190). Of those respondents, approximately 49% rated the park excellent (8%) or good (41%). Approximately 51% rated the park fair (42%) or poor (9%).
- Lime Lake County Park.** Approximately 54% of respondents rated Lime Lake County Park (n=192). Of those respondents, approximately 63% rated the park excellent (9%) or good (54%). Approximately 37% rated the park fair (30%) or poor (7%).
- Little Wolf Lake County Park.** Approximately 25% of respondents rated Little Wolf Lake County Park (n=186). Of those respondents, approximately 49% rated the park excellent (11%) or good (38%). Approximately 51% rated the park fair (30%) or poor (21%).
- Minard Mills County Park.** Approximately 26% of respondents rated Minard Mills County Park (n=189). Of those respondents, approximately 53% rated the park excellent (10%) or good (43%). Approximately 47% rated the park fair (37%) or poor (10%).
- Pleasant Lake County Park and Campground.** Approximately 36% of respondents rated Pleasant Lake County Park (n=190). Of those respondents, approximately 61% rated the park excellent (12%) or good (49%). Approximately 39% rated the park fair (32%) or poor (7%).



- Portage Lake County Park.** Approximately 42% of respondents rated Portage Lake County Park (n=189). Of those respondents, approximately 68% rated the park excellent (14%) or good (54%). Approximately 32% rated the park fair (27%) or poor (5%).
- Round Lake County Park.** Approximately 24% of respondents rated Round Lake County Park (n=187). Of those respondents, approximately 62% rated the park excellent (13%) or good (49%). Approximately 38% rated the park fair (36%) or poor (2%).
- Alfred R. Snyder County Park (Horton Mill Pond).** Approximately 20% of respondents rated the Horton Mill Pond (n=187). Of those respondents, approximately 45% rated the park excellent (13%) or good (32%). Approximately 55% rated the park fair (42%) or poor (13%).
- Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park.** Approximately 95% of respondents rated Cascades Park (n=199). Of those respondents, approximately 87% rated the park excellent (31%) or good (56%). Approximately 14% rated the park fair (12%) or poor (2%).
- Swains Lake County Park and Campground.** Approximately 29% of respondents rated Swains Lake County Park (n=185). Of those respondents, approximately 52% rated the park excellent (13%) or good (39%). Approximately 48% rated the park fair (39%) or poor (9%).



- **Vandercook Lake County Park.** Approximately 55% of respondents rated Vandercook Lake County Park (n=190). Of those respondents, approximately 46% rated the park excellent (5%) or good (41%). Approximately 53% rated the park fair (38%) or poor (15%).
- **Vineyard Lake County Park.** Approximately 15% of respondents rated Vineyard Lake County Park (n=184). Of those respondents, approximately 57% rated the park excellent (14%) or good (43%). Approximately 43% rated the park fair (36%) or poor (7%).
- **Falling Waters Trail.** Approximately 81% of respondents rated the Falling Waters Trail (n=199). Of those respondents, approximately 94% rated the park excellent (50%) or good (44%). Approximately 6% rated the park fair (5%) or poor (1%).



Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide comments. Safety concerns on the Falling Waters Trail and its maintenance were identified. There was an inquiry regarding why the Jackson County Fairgrounds (i.e., James J. Keeley County Park) has been incorporated into the park system. Concerns regarding goose excrement, retaining walls at Gillett's Lake and Pleasant Lake County Parks, and the entrance stairs at Gillett's Lake County Park were also voiced. Other responses seemed to assume that at least some City of Jackson parks are owned/operated by Jackson County Parks. The 9 responses to the question are provided in the following table.

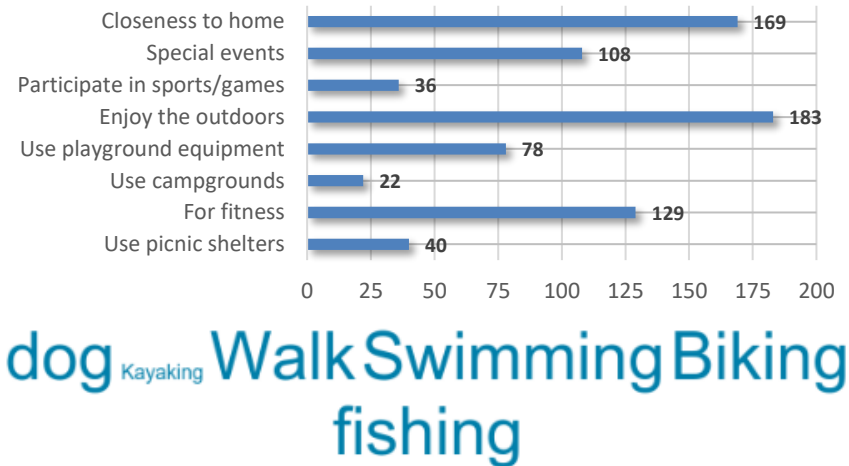
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|---|
| 1. What can be done to make the Falling Waters Trail safer? |
| 2. Take down the fence at Nixon park so kids can use the skate park. |
| 3. BTW: I hate the retaining walls at [Gillett's] and Pleasant Lakes! |
| 4. Keely Park is not a park. We did not vote to fix it. We were not asked to vote to fix it but paying for it none the less without voting for it. Fix the roads. |
| 5. Going in to [Gillett's] Lake is bad, stairs need help to be safe. |
| 6. See previous comments. |

-
7. Sparks Park has many more attendees than other parks except for Falling Waters Trail but it's a messy disgrace with all the goose poop and slimy lagoons. FIX IT!
 8. Better maintenance needed on the Falling Waters Trail. The trail has a lot of debris, especially leaves in the Fall. Regular cleaning of the trail surface is needed. The asphalt is cracking and is in need of attention.
 9. Please rebuild the pool at Ella Sharp park.
-

6. **Why do you visit a park/recreation facility?**

Enjoying the outdoors (85%) and closeness to home (78%) were the most identified reasons for visiting a park or recreation facility. Fitness (60%), special events (50%), and playgrounds (36%) were also popular reasons. Picnic shelters (19%), sports/ games (17%), and campgrounds (10%) were the least cited reasons.

Approximately 17% of responses also identified other motives for visiting a park or recreation facility. Access to water (i.e., swimming, kayaking/boating, etc.) and trails for various activities were the most popular reasons. Respondent's dogs and a variety of other reasons (i.e., photography, geocaching, family, scenery, etc.) were also identified. The 36 responses are summarized in the adjacent word cloud and listed in the following table.



-
1. Beautiful paved bike trails.
 2. To take photos.
 3. Hike.
 4. Kayaking.
 5. Soccer games. Sharp park museum.
 6. Family gatherings.
 7. Show at fair.
 8. Kayaking.
 9. Geocaching.
-

| |
|---|
| 10. Walking and bike riding. |
| 11. Running. |
| 12. Boating. |
| 13. Fishing. |
| 14. Dog walking. |
| 15. Walk our dog when no campers. |
| 16. Biking. |
| 17. Allows dogs! |
| 18. Swimming, kayaking. |
| 19. Swimming. |
| 20. To ride the trail. |
| 21. For the love of going to a park and [enjoying] the outdoors. |
| 22. I like to swim. [Lime] lake, Swains, and Pleasant have the cleanest water. |
| 23. Access to lake for fishing. |
| 24. Haven't visited!!! |
| 25. Drive through it to get other places, but enjoy the views. |
| 26. Biking and mountain biking at Ella. |
| 27. Walk my dogs. |
| 28. In addition to enjoy with watercraft, water is generally beautiful and calming to watch or listen or to paint or to write near. However, the waters at Sparks and at Horton needs environmental attention to cleanliness, smell and flow. |
| 29. Fishing. |
| 30. Transportation on FWT |
| 31. Play with nieces. |
| 32. We like to swim or canoe. |
| 33. Biking. |
| 34. Fishing. |

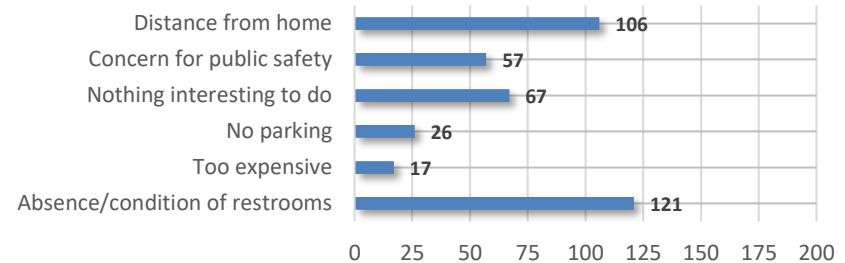
35. Boating.

36. Daily bike rides.

7. **What discourages you from visiting a park/recreation facility?**

Absence/condition of restrooms (59%) and distance from home (51%) were the most identified reasons discouraging visits to a park or recreation facility. Nothing interesting to do (33%) and concerns for public safety (28%) were also popular explanations. No parking (13%) and too expensive (8%) were the least recognized reasons.

Approximately 19% of responses also identified other reasons that discourage them from visiting a park or recreation facility. Poor access to water (i.e., poor beaches, no boat ramps or canoe/kayak launch sites, no pool or swimming lessons, etc.) were cited as well as safety concerns (i.e., ‘creepy’ people, crime, drug users and needles, ‘foreign objects’, etc.). A variety of other reasons were also provided (i.e., dirty and unmown facilities, trash, geese, dogs not allowed, etc.). The 39 responses are summarized in the adjacent word cloud and listed in the following table.



access Nothing Lack swimming parks way water children

1. Not familiar with most parks.-We are new to Jackson.

2. Lack of mowing.

3. Needles.

4. Nothing else, really.

5. In the past, there have been foreign objects on the park equipment that could harm my children and also some of the park equipment is damaged and it's not enjoyable for my children.

6. No reason to.

7. Dirty...Trash build-up...Creeps hanging around are all reasons not to go.

8. Crime.

9. Some parks we pick over others, as they have better playground equipment. Round Lake, Lime Lake, and the Horton Park have sad old equipment. So what is there to do, if it is not swimming season.

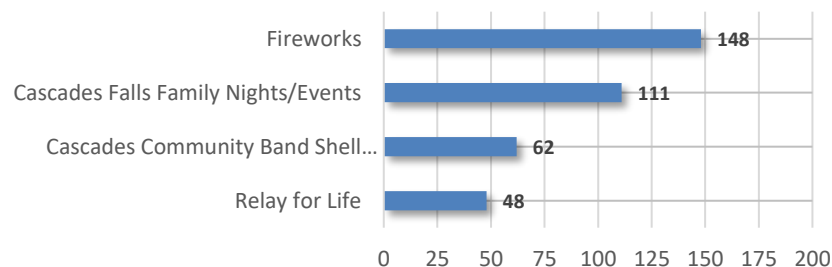
10. The geese creep me out.
11. Hate [port-a-johns].
12. Lack facilities I would use.
13. Rest rooms are not always available when I visit. They are usually locked.
14. Didn't really know about all the parks.
15. Many do not allow dogs. I raise and train bird dogs. Part of that is water work. Very few places to go to train, or just to cool/off while exercising the dog when it's hot. The safest way to do it.
16. [You're] too alone. No one can hear you if someone attacks you.
17. No water/boating access.
18. Creepy people. It has always been that way, even when I was kid.
19. Lack of drinking water.
20. When no dogs allowed. Need dog friendly places to swim!
21. Nothing discourages me.
22. I have been approached by apparent drug users at some parks and I am concerned for my children.
23. Trash and goose poop everywhere.
24. [Don't] want to be in town.
25. Nothing!!!
26. Too much goose feces.
27. Upkeep on playground equipment, upkeep of grounds.
28. None as far as the ones close to my home. The other ones the distance mainly.
29. I didn't know where some of these parks are. We'll have to do more exploring!
30. The goose poop! And the soggy saturated grass. Especially at Sparks--it's becoming unusable. I feel you've done a good job with public safety and have never felt threatened at a County Park.
31. Lack of water access or tables/benches or grills.
32. Inability to access without driving.
33. Just not familiar with what some parks offer.

-
34. The parks where lakes can be accessed are overcrowded and poorly maintained. The "beaches" are usually eroded gravel. Often there is no way to launch a canoe or kayak from the park.
-
35. I am not a camper.
-
36. Nothing.
-
37. Lack of outside swimming pool for exercise for children, adults and swimming lessons for all ages.
-
38. No public boat ramps.
-
39. Nothing really.
-

8. In what County Park events do you participate?

Fireworks (79%) and Cascades Falls family nights/ events (59%) were the most identified events. Cascades Community Band Shell concerts (33%) and the Relay for Life (26%) were also popular.

Approximately 24% of responses also identified other events in which they participate. Special events (i.e., Paws in the Park, Earth Day, etc.), organized races/runs, benefit walks, fitness events, and impromptu walking/biking were identified. Some responses seemed to assume that at least some City of Jackson parks are owned/operated by Jackson County Parks and it was also pointed out that all Jackson County Parks events are held at Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park. The 45 responses are summarized in the adjacent word cloud and listed in the following table.



Civil War Muster family None cascades events park
runs Paws Park

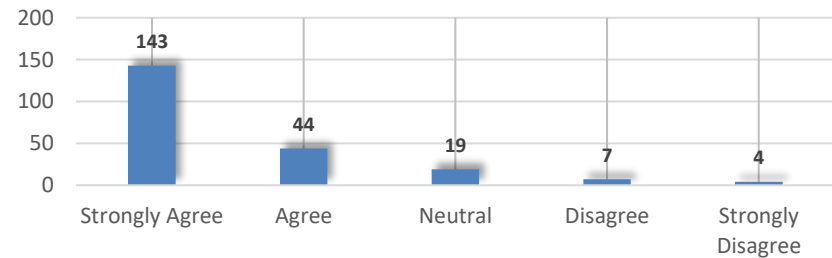
-
1. We are new to Jackson but will participate in all selected above.
-
2. Run to the towers road race.
-
3. Paws in the park.
-
4. Civil War?
-

| |
|---|
| 5. None. |
| 6. Lupus Walk. Other fundraiser benefit walks. |
| 7. N/A. |
| 8. None. |
| 9. Family [Get-togethers], Picnics, Ball Games.... |
| 10. Tunnel to towers. |
| 11. Jackson County Fair. |
| 12. Fitness events. |
| 13. Henry Ford Allegiance Health family day. |
| 14. Fair and events at fair made in Michigan, etc. |
| 15. Used to visit the Civil War Muster, but it has moved. Don't care for the crowds at fireworks displays. Lack of respect for park cleanliness is a huge problem. |
| 16. Paws in the park. |
| 17. [N/A]. |
| 18. 5k runs. |
| 19. A lot. |
| 20. None. |
| 21. Walking and biking. |
| 22. Boot camp at cascades with the [YMCA]. |
| 23. None. |
| 24. Fair. |
| 25. The Falling Waters 5K a couple of years ago. |
| 26. There are more than just Cascades Falls. That's why there are no questions about the other county parks in this question. JCP needs to hold events at them too. |
| 27. I used to take my family to the Civil War Muster...since the beginning! I [won't] go anywhere near the fireworks at cascades for crowd size and danger and quality of attendees. I go to Hanover or Somerset. Also [I] have never liked more than one fireworks show per year, that keeps it special. |
| 28. [Fishing] at Grass Lake for kids. |
| 29. County fair. |

-
30. Falling Waters Trail to walk and bike.
-
31. Hot air jubilee.
-
32. Balloon festival.
-
33. Earth day, Autism walk.
-
34. 5ks.
-
35. Keep the parks clean.
-
36. None.
-
37. Celebrate Earth Day.
-
38. Organized runs and bike rides.
-
39. Paws in the Park.
-
40. Various running / race events.
-
41. Civil War Muster, Shakespeare Festival, Wine and Beer Festival.
-
42. Civil war muster. The animal shelter or Humane Society has an event there. Have been trying to get to the concerts.
-
43. Paws in the Park.
-
44. Nothing in our area.
-
45. So hopefully that we could have water aerobics for adults and children's swim lessons every summer.
-

9. **A regional trail system should continue to be developed in Jackson County.**

Approximately 86% of respondents strongly agreed (66%) or agreed (20%) that a regional trail system should continue to be developed (n=217). Approximately 9% were neutral. Approximately 5% disagreed (3%) or strongly disagreed (2%) with continued development of the system.



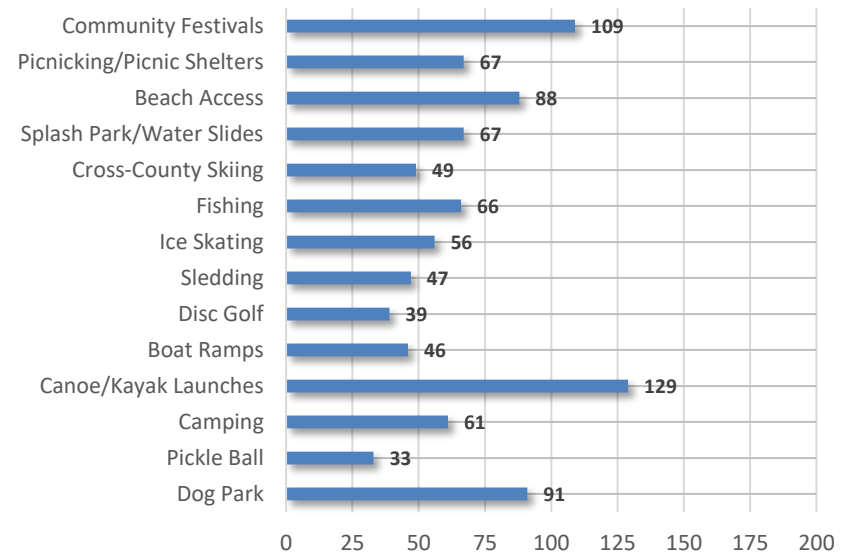
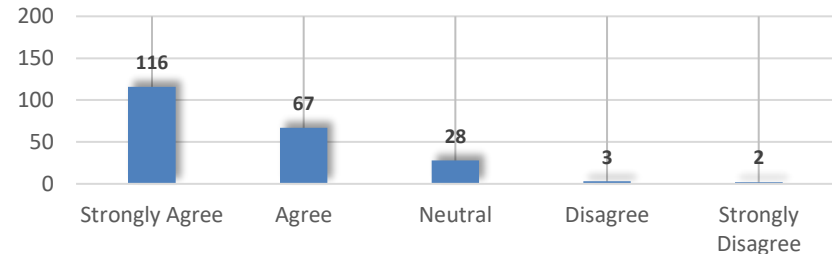
10. Canoe/kayak launch sites should be provided along the Grand River, Portage River, and Chain of Lakes.

Approximately 85% of respondents strongly agreed (54%) or agreed (31%) that canoe/kayak launch sites should be provided along the Grand River, the Portage River, and the Chain of Lakes (e.g. Center, Olcott, Wolf, etc.) (n=216). Approximately 13% were neutral. Approximately 2% disagreed (1%) or strongly disagreed (1%) with continued development of the system.

11. Is there an activity that you would like to see more of in Jackson County Parks?

Canoe/kayak launches (62%), community festivals (52%), dog parks (44%), and beach access (42%) were the most identified activities. Picnicking/picnic shelters (32%), splash park/water slides (32%), fishing (32%) were also very popular. There was also support for camping (29%), ice skating (27%), cross-country skiing (24%), sledding (23%), boat ramps (22%), disc golf (19%), and pickleball (16%).

Approximately 17% of responses also identified other activities of which they would like to see more. Access to water (i.e., paddle boat and canoe/kayak rentals, boat launches, fishing piers, dog swimming area, etc.) was popular. Trails and a variety of other facilities were also identified (i.e., gaga ball (a variant of dodgeball), updated playground equipment, tobogganing and skiing facilities, other impromptu sports like shuffleboard and ring-toss, etc.). The 36 responses are summarized in the adjacent word cloud and listed in the following table.



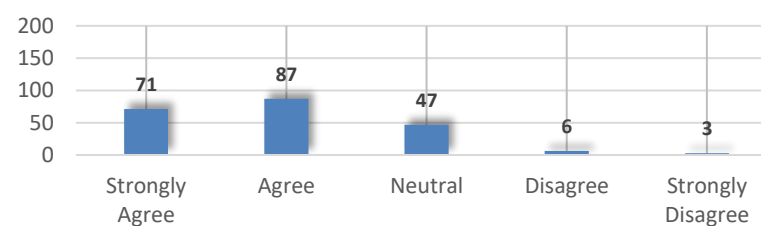
years areas trails nice parks walking kids Vandercook Cascades boat
Mountain bike trails kayak launches

| |
|---|
| 1. Updated, safer playground equipment. Garbage cans to encourage less littering. Paddle Boating rentals. Canoe and kayak rentals other than at Vandercook. Food/beverage stand at Falling Waters or the other parks as well would be nice. |
| 2. Family-friendly/Kid oriented performers in the [band shell]. Music, magic shows, variety, comedy. |
| 3. More for the kids/teens to do something positive. |
| 4. Yes, on the dog park. I proposed a dog park 15+ years ago and am still willing to do some of the leg work to make it happen! |
| 5. Water aerobics classes. |
| 6. Gaga ball [(i.e., type of dodgeball)] for kids. |
| 7. None. |
| 8. We need more things for young people, from maybe 8 years and up to adult. More things to do at no cost would keep these kids occupied and it would be a good thing to keep them out of trouble. We need things that the kids don't need money for. |
| 9. More [children's] play areas, wheelchair accessible swings, random bench swings throughout parks. |
| 10. We use the kayak launches at Vandercook and Round Lake regularly. They are excellent. |
| 11. Anything to get kids and families outdoors and moving. |
| 12. Bicycle/jogging/walking trails along a scenic river like the border to border trail, which coffee shops and kids play gyms along the way. |
| 13. More policing of the parks. |
| 14. Definitely dog parks. |
| 15. Place to swim with your dog. |
| 16. Triathlons and runs. |
| 17. Tobogganing. |
| 18. I love fishing piers for my kids! I thought [the] fishing pond at Cascades was stocked for fishing? |
| 19. Whatever it is it should not be added until ALL the roads are fixed. You can have all the nice parks, boat ramps, kayak launches and activities you want. But, if the roads are crap, which they are, people either won't come back or come at all. |
| 20. Mountain bike trails. |
| 21. Enclosed in areas for children with autism. |
| 22. We like walking/hiking trails. |
| 23. Keep the parks going. |

-
24. Cascades Golf Course is already the best area in Jackson for Cross Country skiing and you could advertise or emphasize it more if we continue to get the snow. Winter Festival if you get the lagoons back into shape for flooding and clearing for ice skating and hockey. Food Trucks (not just dogs and burgers) at Sparks.
-
25. activities or games for kids/families e.g. Gaga, tetherball, etc.
-
26. Bike share stations.
-
27. Hiking, mountain bike trails.
-
28. Lime Lake needs fishing platforms and stocking of fish. Also Lime and Vandercook need a designated kayak launch since the power craft are often "bullies" and don't share. If the lagoons are ever dredged then ice skating should return to Cascades.
-
29. A hot cocoa stand at the Cascades sledding hill north end.
-
30. Mountain bike trails.
-
31. Pleasant Lake needs to have a boat launch. Been demanded for years.
-
32. Outside swimming pool. Resume swimming classes for kids. Resume water aerobics for adults. Teach life guard classes for teens.
-
33. Games at Cascades such as shuffleboard, ring toss, bean bags - tailgate type games. If can't do games, then at least make shuffleboards for folks to bring own equipment. Nice brick enclosed picnic pavilion with running water/sinks like Lansing Park has.
-
34. Pool.
-
35. Walking paths / trails.
-
36. More bike trails/paths connected to existing infrastructure.
-

12. Jackson County Parks should partner with municipalities to develop traditional facilities (e.g., tennis, baseball, etc.), where appropriate, in addition to its primary focus of providing access to water and other natural resources.

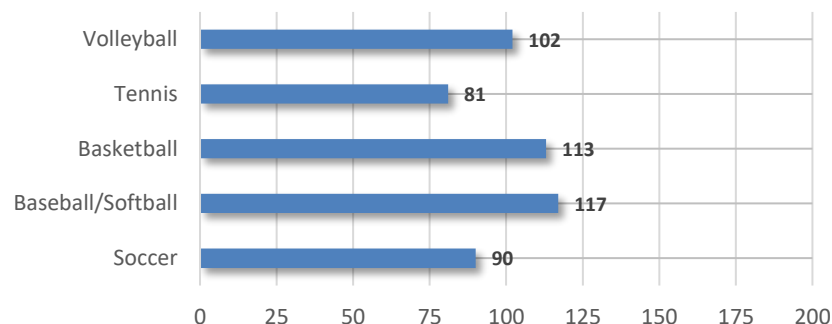
Approximately 74% of respondents strongly agreed (33%) or agreed (41%) that Jackson County Parks should partner with municipalities to develop traditional facilities, where appropriate, in addition to its primary focus of providing access to water and other natural resources (n=214). Approximately 22% were neutral. Approximately 4% disagree (3%) or strongly disagree (1%) with partnering.



13. What traditional municipal recreational facilities should be considered?

Baseball/softball (62%) and basketball (60%) were the most identified facilities. Volleyball (54%), soccer (48%), and tennis (43%) were also very popular.

Approximately 15% of responses identified other facilities. Trails (i.e., nature, water, hiking, biking, running, etc.) were popular. A pool/aquatic center with swimming lessons was identified, along with various other suggestions (i.e., picnicking, volleyball, kick-ball, disc golf, pickleball, etc.). The 28 responses are summarized in the adjacent word cloud and listed in the following table.



1. None.
2. Picnicking areas.
3. We have quite a few basketball, tennis, soccer, and baseball/[softball] places, but very few volleyball. A community pool would be nice again.
4. The community needs another public pool since the City was unwilling to renovate the existing pool at Ella Sharp. Removing that was the most ridiculous move ever made.
5. Aquatics center.
6. Swimming.
7. None.
8. Need more research to decide, it could be good but it could also be bad. I don't agree with everything the city and county do. We need to focus more on the people without money! That would make this a better environment for everyone.
9. Golf. A partnership between Cascades and Sharp Park golf courses could benefit both facilities if they could coordinate some maintenance areas (sand for refilling traps, spraying, tree services, [aerating] and sanding greens).
10. [Pickleball].
11. Running.
12. Don't care.
13. Disc golf.

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14. Kickball.
 15. I like nature trails, on the water trails too. It would be great if you could keep the rivers navigable, free from fallen trees.
 16. Only Hiking, Mt biking, XC skiing and snowshoeing. Parks should be kept natural.
 17. Pickleball.
 18. Biking trails, even if they aren't paved.
 19. Ice skating.
 20. Running trails.
 21. Make the parks better.
 22. 2.
 23. Pickleball and disc golf are suitable to develop and could be popular uses for the park land here.
 24. Outdoor workout station. Velodrome.
 25. All activities would bring community involvement.
 26. Swimming Water safety Water aerobics Swimming lessons for all ages.
 27. Shuffleboard.
 28. Pool.
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14. **What have you seen at parks or recreation facilities in other counties that you would like to see in Jackson County Parks?**

Respondents were given the opportunity to identify facilities/activities seen at other parks they would like to see in Jackson County Parks. A variety of trails, with amenities (i.e., workout stations, public art, restrooms, etc.), were suggested. Restrooms and playgrounds, with amenities, were identified. Community festivals/events that are family oriented were requested (i.e., food trucks, farmer's markets, organized day camps, etc.) Water access was popular (i.e., swimming areas/pools, splash pads, better beaches, fishing, etc.). Dog parks and a variety of other facilities were also mentioned (i.e., volleyball, soccer, pickleball, skate/bike parks, ice rinks, etc.), along with concessions and equipment rental (i.e., kayaks, life

walking path Updated safe Kayak launch playground fitness restrooms beach
 events Dog Nice pool facilities running access lakes trails
 Outdoor park equipment Dog park festivals better bike
 water large areas activities playground equipment around Clean
 Bike trails Bathrooms skating kayak walking

jackets, snowshoes, etc.). The need for handicap accessibility, security, and parking/road improvements were also noted. The 119 responses are summarized in the above word cloud and listed in the following table.

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| 1. "More brain stimulating playgrounds. More natural plant habitat. |
| 2. Food trucks. |
| 3. Organized camps for youth and utilizing parks to host better events. |
| 4. More [splash pads] that doesn't cost an arm and leg. Maybe do a membership program or hook up with YMCA so those members could have more benefits within Jackson Co. |
| 5. More family events, more things for families to do together. |
| 6. Well-maintained walking trails, drinking fountains, bathrooms, art on the trails (Kalamazoo has a great trail system with art and facts on it along the river). |
| 7. Full facility. Modern restrooms. |
| 8. [N/A]. |
| 9. Better walking and running trails. Falling Waters trail is great but it would be nice to have shorter scenic trails at some of the parks. |
| 10. A walking path around playground equipment so I can get exercise and keep an eye on kiddos. |
| 11. More parking. More accessible for the disabled. |
| 12. Farmers markets. |
| 13. I would love to see the softer turf under equipment and the big shades to help from the equipment getting too hot in the summer. |
| 14. Volley ball courts. |
| 15. Dog park. |
| 16. Nicer bathrooms |
| 17. Toddler specific playscapes. Rubber ground cover instead of wood chips or sand. |
| 18. More playground equipment. |
| 19. They are safer and cleaner |
| 20. Trail systems through safe neighborhoods. Jackson's system runs through some shady parts of town and heavily wooded/brush areas. Do not feel safe using the [Intercity] Trail. |
| 21. Swimming pools. Soccer fields. [Pickleball] courts. Dog parks. |
| 22. Defined walking paths, fitness trails. |
| 23. Fishing ponds easy access for All...Band Stands...Nice Clean Picnic areas...Clean, Nice, Safe play area for Children. Security Cameras in Children areas. |
| 24. Dog park |

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| 25. Exercise/training stations. Paved parking lot for FWT. |
| 26. Tracks/paths for runners and walkers. |
| 27. Dog water park. |
| 28. N/A. |
| 29. Take down the fence at Nixon Park for the skate park. Update more of the playground equipment. |
| 30. Paddle board, kayak, snow shoe rentals. |
| 31. More festivals and events. |
| 32. Cleaner beach access areas and water testing should be done. Playground should have shredded tires/rubber ground cover not wood chips. Grass Lake Park has no baby/toddler swings. Very discouraging for young families. |
| 33. Splash pads that are free. |
| 34. Walking trails that are distance marked. |
| 35. More amenities (with the exception of Cascades). Nicer restrooms. |
| 36. Outside ice rink, sand volleyball, bike and skate rentals, canoe and kayak rental. |
| 37. [Splash pads]. |
| 38. Skateboard ramps, skating areas, and places that people/kids can do their bike tricks. |
| 39. Kayaking launches. |
| 40. More events. |
| 41. Updated camping sites, community activities. |
| 42. Wheelchair accessible. |
| 43. Butterfly garden, sensory play, dog parks, trail and walking path markers for kids with colorful pictures, facts etc. |
| 44. Better condition of walking "strolling" paths. |
| 45. [Pickleball] courts. |
| 46. Dog parks. |
| 47. Dog Park. |
| 48. [Pickleball]. |
| 49. More festivals. |
| 50. Drinking fountains rest rooms, bike/kayak [rentals]. |
| 51. More walking paths. |

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| 52. Family activities. |
| 53. Concessions...Photography points. |
| 54. Wonch park in Okemos. |
| 55. Trails around lakes to run. |
| 56. 1/10 mile markers on all trails. Permanent restrooms. Paddle boats to rent. Easy fishing access. |
| 57. Midland has great facilities with lots of lights, activities, farmers markets, festivals. |
| 58. The border to border trail in Ann Arbor is scenic plus it has children play parks along the way and coffee shops and picnic areas. |
| 59. Fishing platforms. Handicap access. Swimming. Kayak and canoe rental and access. Nature walks and environmental education. |
| 60. Kayak launch. [Pickleball]. Clean bike trail. |
| 61. N/A. |
| 62. Parking in better shape. Access to restrooms. |
| 63. Bathrooms and water at most of the parks. |
| 64. Lake access for dogs. Off leash dog beach. We have enough lakes to make this possible. Kayak launches along our beautiful Grand River are needed [too]. |
| 65. Permanent workout equipment. |
| 66. A good pool for swimming. |
| 67. Waterfalls. |
| 68. Dog park. |
| 69. Dog playgrounds. |
| 70. Clean and well maintained restrooms and playground equipment. |
| 71. More [band shells] at other parks other than the Cascades. |
| 72. Better kayaking facilities. |
| 73. Splash park for handicapped persons. |
| 74. Toboggan run, beaches with beach volleyball, connected park bike trails, connected trails to towns throughout county, flush facilities with running water, free admission splash park, safe inner city trails, ample parking for large events, current facilities regularly with regular upkeep showing pride and are a draw to use (city ball fields and basketball courts are ghetto, walking path of large park covered in goose poop). |
| 75. More ice cream! Seriously, you guys do a great job, [you're] always working toward more [sic] trails etc.! Thank you!!! |
| 76. Nicer beach areas with updated bathroom facilities. |
| 77. I haven't visited any other county parks that I know of. |

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| 78. More community activities. |
| 79. The use of our money being spent with us being told. |
| 80. Kayaking /paddle board rentals seem to be popular. |
| 81. A lack of geese and goose poop decent roads to get in and out of parks and around cities. |
| 82. Security presence. |
| 83. Outdoor exercise/gyms, community events (arts and music festivals), kayak and canoe launches. |
| 84. Nice playground equipment and gardens. |
| 85. Activities which are safe and family friendly. Concerts should be considered as well but in a live music during the day so it does not disrupt neighbors and sleeping children. |
| 86. Dog park. |
| 87. Concession stands for larger/busier facilities. |
| 88. Pools, playground directors, summer [day camps]. |
| 89. Larger playground equipment for kids as they grow older. Ice skating rink. |
| 90. Bathrooms instead portables. |
| 91. Nice swim areas with good restroom facilities. |
| 92. More parking. |
| 93. I don't know. |
| 94. Keeping the parks clean. |
| 95. Closer restrooms near playgrounds. Wider variety of playground equipment available. |
| 96. Disc and Pickleball. Shaded seating near waters. Nature Trails. Birding Trails. |
| 97. More bicycle access and trails. |
| 98. Life jackets for use, outdoor ice skating facility, recycling. |
| 99. Outdoor workout stations, bike share, food cart business permit. |
| 100. More water features, like sprinklers at kids' playgrounds. Agility courses. |
| 101. Roads that aren't disintegrating like those at the Cascades. It's a disgrace to host the Relay for Life, Civil War Muster and other events there when you risk injury with the potholes. |
| 102. Wooded trails, hiking, mountain biking. |
| 103. Outdoor fitness equipment. Hockey in the winter. Public pool. |
| 104. Bathrooms and better patrols by park or community police. |

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| 105. Dog park. Handicap accessible and equipment. |
| 106. Jogging course/trail with exercises at several stations; Warm ups, regular exercises, and cool downs. |
| 107. Natural areas, trails, boardwalks and access points. Municipal indoor swimming pools. |
| 108. Comfortable seating. fitness trail. dog parks. |
| 109. Mountain Bike trails. |
| 110. Winter snow plowing of parking lots especially where access to lakes for ice fishing. Boat launches at lakes that don't already have ramps. |
| 111. Ground maintained. |
| 112. Movie night. |
| 113. Outdoor pool. Swimming lessons for all ages. Health teaching for good nutrition + take home food for the weekday and weekend. Water aerobics for adults. Water safety. Life guard teaching and certification. |
| 114. Brick enclosed picnic pavilion with running water with 2 sides that can be used by 2 parties or 1 large party. In Lansing park. |
| 115. Terribly miss the pool. Terrible idea not to rebuild or repair. |
| 116. Pool. |
| 117. I have no insight for this. |
| 118. Ice skating rink. |
| 119. Solar LED lighting. Grills. |

Local Governmental Jurisdictions Survey. Another survey was conducted to collect the opinions of local governmental jurisdictions regarding the provision of parks and recreation facilities in Jackson County. The survey was mailed to Township Supervisors, Village Presidents, and the Jackson City Manager on April 22, 2019, a follow-up postcard remained was sent on May 20, 2019, and a report compiling the results of the returned surveys was completed on July 30, 2019. General responses to pertinent questions are summarized as follows:

- Officials from 11 townships and 2 villages replied to the survey. Those municipalities comprise approximately 48% of the 27 communities comprising Jackson County and 62% of County residents. With the exception of the Townships of Blackman Charter and Spring Arbor, the responding municipalities are located in the rural portions of the County.
- Responding local governmental officials generally felt that their residents most often visited county parks closest to where they live, with the possible exception of Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park.
- Approximately 79% of municipal officials felt that the county park(s) their residents most often visited were in good or fair condition although none felt they were in excellent condition. Park features such access to water and natural areas received favorable comments.

Unfavorable comments were made regarding the lack of permanent restrooms and the poor condition of boat launches, beaches, and playground equipment.

- In the opinion of local governmental officials, lake access (i.e., boat launches, swimming beaches, picnic areas) and trails were the park facilities most favored by their residents.
- Canoe and kayak launches and dog parks were the park features municipal officials felt their residents would most like to see in county parks; at this time no county parks have these features.

The results for individual questions pertinent to public involvement follow:

• **What local governmental jurisdiction do you represent?**

Townships

- Blackman Charter Township
- Columbia Township
- Concord Township
- Grass Lake Charter Township
- Henrietta Township
- Liberty Township
- Norvell Township
- Pulaski Township
- Sandstone Township
- Spring Arbor Township
- Waterloo Township

Villages

- Village of Brooklyn
- Village of Grass Lake

• **Which county parks do you feel your residents visit most often?**

The following table shows which county parks municipal officials felt were most often visited by their residents. Most of those officials represent the rural portion of Jackson County. Since most of the county parks are located in rural areas, it is not surprising that municipal officials felt their residents most often visit nearby parks. However, it is important to note that Falling Waters Trail and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park (most often visited for special events like fireworks shows) are visited by residents throughout the county.

| # | Name | Blackman Township | Columbia Township | Concord Township | Grass Lake Township | Henrietta Township | Liberty Township | Norvell Township | Pulaski Township | Sandstone Township | Spring Arbor Township | Waterloo Township | Village of Brooklyn | Village of Grass Lake |
|----|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Clark Lake County Park | | | | | | | • | | | | | • | |
| 2. | Clear Lake County Park | | | | | | | | | | | • | | |
| 3. | Gillett's Lake County Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| # | Name | Blackman Township | Columbia Township | Concord Township | Grass Lake Township | Henrietta Township | Liberty Township | Norvell Township | Pulaski Township | Sandstone Township | Spring Arbor Township | Waterloo Township | Village of Brooklyn | Village of Grass Lake |
|-----|--|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 4. | Grass Lake County Park | | | | ● | | | | | | | | | ● |
| 5. | James J. Keeley County Park (Jackson County Fairgrounds) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6. | Lime Lake County Park | | | ● | | | | | | | ● | | | |
| 7. | Little Wolf Lake County Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | ● |
| 8. | Minard Mills County Park | | | | | | | | | ● | | | | |
| 9. | Pleasant Lake County Park and Campground | ● | | | | ● | | | | | | | | |
| 10. | Portage Lake-Ready County Park | | | | | ● | | ● | | | | ● | | |
| 11. | Round Lake County Park | | | | | | ● | | | | | | | |
| 12. | Alfred R. Snyder County Park (Horton Mill Pond) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13. | Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park | ● | | | | | | | | ● | ● | ● | | |
| 14. | Swains Lake County Park and Campground | | | ● | | | | | ● | | | | | |
| 15. | Vandercook Lake-Townsend Beaman County Park | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16. | Vineyard Lake County Park | | ● | | | | | ● | | | | | | |
| 17. | The Burns Property | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18. | Falling Waters Trail | | | ● | | | | | | ● | ● | | | |

- How do you rate the Jackson County Parks that your residents visit most often?**

Approximately 36% municipal officials rated the park(s) their residents visit most often excellent (0%) or good (36%). Approximately 57% rated the park fair (43%) or poor (14%). Approximately 7% of respondents had no response (n=14). Some respondents provided comments explaining their park ratings (see the table below). Favorable comments concerning desirable park features included a boat launch, access to scenic areas, and an artesian well. Unfavorable comments included the poor condition of boat launches, a lack of permanent restrooms, the unavailability of running water, outdated playground equipment, and erosion control/beach improvements at swimming areas.

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| 1. Don't know. [Blackman Township] |
| 2. Swimming areas need upgrading, outdated playground at Clark Lake. Vineyard Lake playground equipment fairly new. Both parks lack running water and toilets. [Columbia Township] |
| 3. Boat ramp deteriorating; access; weeds; roads. [Concord Township] |
| 4. The Pleasant Lake Park has been ignored for years with only rudimentary maintenance. The Park has not had designated funding for other than required bathhouse/restroom improvements. The park has great potential to coordinate its assets with area state parks (Meridian-Baseline Park, Waterloo Recreation Area and Mike Levine Lakeland Trail). Some residents feel discouraged in the past by park staff when using the park from Memorial Day to Labor Day while campgrounds were in use. The park's store facility has been cost prohibitive for potential vendors to offer drinks and snacks. [Henrietta Township] |
| 5. Our artesian well and boat launch. [Liberty Township] |
| 6. Grass is mowed, activities available, clean. [Sandstone Township] |
| 7. Provides boating activities, and walking and biking through very scenic portion of Jackson County. [Spring Arbor Township] |
| 8. This park needs some improvement. [Village of Brooklyn] |
| 9. Parking, no restrooms, graffiti, guard rails in poor condition, boat launch is too shallow, need playground equipment, not enough picnic tables, no pavilion for gathering, bird waste, need some erosion control. [Waterloo Township] |

• **What activities or facilities do you feel your residents would like to see in the county parks they most often visit?**

Officials were asked for their judgement about activities their residents might enjoy in the parks they visit. Each county park offers a unique combination of features and activities such as playgrounds, picnic areas, swimming and boating. In the future it may be possible to add or improve features to parks where there is an interest by users. The following table shows that respondents most often mentioned beach access, boat launches, picnic shelters, and trails. Not all parks have these features and, as noted in the comments above, and some of the existing facilities need upgrading. Also frequently mentioned were canoe and kayak launches and dog parks. These are not available in any parks now but could be added to some parks in the future.

| # | Name | Blackman Township | Columbia Township | Concord Township | Grass Lake Township | Henrietta Township | Liberty Township | Norvell Township | Pulaski Township | Sandstone Township | Spring Arbor Township. | Waterloo Township | Village of Brooklyn | Village of Grass Lake |
|----|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Community Festivals | | | • | | • | | | | • | • | | | |
| 2. | Picnic Shelters | | • | • | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | |

| # | Name | Blackman Township | Columbia Township | Concord Township | Grass Lake Township | Henrietta Township | Liberty Township | Norvell Township | Pulaski Township | Sandstone Township | Spring Arbor Township. | Waterloo Township | Village of Brooklyn | Village of Grass Lake |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 3. | Beach access | | • | • | • | • | | | • | • | • | • | • | |
| 4. | Splash park/Water slides | | | | | | | | | • | | | | |
| 5. | Fishing piers | | • | • | | • | | • | | | • | | | • |
| 6. | Disc golf | | | | | • | | | | | • | | | |
| 7. | Trails | | • | • | | • | | • | | • | • | • | • | |
| 8. | Boat launches | | | • | • | • | • | | • | • | • | • | | • |
| 9. | Canoe/kayak launches | • | • | • | | • | | • | • | | • | • | • | • |
| 10. | Cross country skiing | | | | | • | | | | | • | | | |
| 11. | Ice skating | | • | | | • | | | | | • | | | |
| 12. | Sledding/snow boarding | | | | | • | | | | | | | | |
| 13. | Tennis | | | | • | | | | | | | | | |
| 14. | Pickleball | | | | • | | | • | | | | | | • |
| 15. | Dog park | | | | | • | | • | | • | • | | • | • |
| 16. | Volleyball | | | | | • | | | | | • | | | |
| 17. | Baseball/Softball | | | | | | | • | | | | | | |
| 18. | Basketball | | | | | • | | | | | • | | | • |

Jackson County Parks Strategic Plan

Jackson County Parks completed a strategic plan on December 29, 2017—with input from the public, Park Commissioners, staff, and key community stakeholders—in an effort to serve the community while balancing environmental, human, and financial realities. That plan forms the basis for the mission, vision, and strategic priorities (each of which are comprised of a goal and strategies) contained in Chapter 4 of this document.

Jackson County Parks Millage

County residents approved a 10-year millage on August 7, 2018 in order to establish a stable, long-term funding source for county parks. The 0.5 mills approved by voters is estimated to generate \$2,180,000 per year to support county parks operations and capital improvements investment at a cost of \$25 per year for a property valued at \$100,000. The millage funds will be invested as follows:

- \$2,200,000 for improvements to playgrounds/playground safety
- \$1,700,000 for the construction of kayak/canoe launches and fishing piers, creating improved access to lakes and rivers
- \$3,000,000 for improved maintenance of county trails and new connections to a state-wide trail
- \$550,000 for the repair/reconstruction of boat launch areas
- \$450,000 for beachfront/public swimming area improvements
- \$900,000 for the restoration of the Cascades
- \$2,000,000 for permanent park restrooms
- \$900,000 for the development of a community dog park (including dog-friendly watering systems and dump stations for waste disposal)

Other Planning Efforts Impacting Jackson County Parks

Jackson County also participates in various regional nonmotorized trail planning and water trail planning efforts and facilitates master planning activities for individual county parks.

Nonmotorized Trails. A regional nonmotorized trail is emerging in Jackson County. The Hiking Trail of the State of Michigan's *Iron Belle Trail* and *Route #1* of the *Great Lake-to-Lake Trails* are proposed to traverse the County from Munith in its northeast corner to Concord in its southwest corner, utilizing the same corridor (see the Major Community Facilities Map in Appendix C). Major portions of the corridor are already completed, including the Martin Luther King Junior Equality Trail, which traverses the City of Jackson, and Jackson County Parks' Falling Waters Trail, which traverses the Townships of Summit, Spring Arbor, and Concord and the Village of Concord. The Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park extension, which will traverse the Townships of Waterloo, Henrietta, Leoni, and Blackman, is currently under development. Other trails also traverse portions of Jackson County. Please see the Transportation Facilities and Utilities section of this chapter for more detail on nonmotorized trail planning.

- **Hiking Trail of the Iron Belle Trail.** “The Iron Belle Trail is Michigan’s showcase trail that touches hundreds of municipalities and crosses through 48 different Michigan counties. Using existing trails, networks and some new connections, the trail extends more than 2,000 miles from the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit on a biking trail and hiking trail. The biking route utilizes many of the state’s existing bike paths, bike lanes, and signed, designated biking routes as it travels up the east side of the state, while the hiking route utilizes sidewalks, trails, and the 1,000-mile plus North Country National Scenic Trail traveling up the west side of the lower peninsula” (see [Iron Belle Trail – Two Routes, One great Trail](#)). The hiking trail utilizes the MLK Equality Trail/Falling Waters Trail corridor, which is suitable for biking as well as hiking. ‘Click’ on [Iron Belle Trail](#) for a map of the trail and [Falling Waters Trail – Jackson- Lakeland Trail](#) for a detailed map of the trail in the Jackson Area.
- **Route #1 of the Great Lake-To-Lake Trails.** “The last three decades in Michigan’s trail movement have been about securing individual trails of all types: abandoned rail, utility corridors, road rights of way, and more. Today, Michigan can extend these trails east and west to reach from one Great Lake to another, weaving in many communities and tourism attractions along the way. [The] Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance has identified 5 Great Lake to Lake Trail routes across the state” (see [About the Great Lake to Lake Trails](#)). Route #1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trails will connect South Haven (Lake Michigan) with Port Huron (Lake Huron), utilizing the MLK Equality Trail/Falling Waters Trail corridor. ‘Click’ on [GLTL Route #1: South Haven to Port Huron](#) for a map of the trail.
- **Recent Efforts to Augment the Corridor.** There have been several local efforts to augment the MLK Equality Trail/Falling Waters Trail corridor.
 - **Horton Road Trail, the Fourth Street Connector Development Project, and the Sparks Park Inter-City Trail Connector.** Summit Township joined with the City of Jackson and Jackson County to submit complementary Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) applications to construct trails that connect Ella Sharp Park and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park to the MLK Equality Trail/Falling Waters Trail corridor and each other and to

Accommodations and Signage

The developing regional nonmotorized and water trail systems will attract tourists to Jackson County. Signage along the trail systems is needed that directs them to existing lodging/campgrounds, restaurants, and other attractions. Opportunities for additional trailheads and camping facilities throughout the systems should also be explored. For example, Jackson County has an opportunity to obtain land at the confluence of the Grand River with its tributary, the Portage River, which could serve as a trailhead for both systems and may be suitable for camping. Similar such opportunities may arise in the future

provide trail loops in Summit Township and the City of Jackson. The local governments received Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) grants in 2015 for the Horton Road Trail Development Project (TF 15-0069), the Fourth Street Connector Development Project (TF-15-0097), and the Sparks Park Inter-City Trail Connector Development Project (TF 15-0092) and all 3 trails are now open to the public. The Horton Road Trail and the Fourth Street Connector link with each other, the Weatherwax Trail, and the MLK Equality Trail to provide a connection to Ella Sharp Park as well as a trail loop. The Sparks Park Inter-City Trail Connector provides a connection between the trails in Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park, the MLK Equality Trail, and City of Jackson sidewalks and bike lanes to provide another trail loop.

- **Teft Road.** Spring Arbor Township submitted a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) application to construct a trail that will connect the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor with the Falling Water Trail. The Township received a Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant in 2017 for the Teft Road Trail Development Project (TF-17-0064). Once completed, the Teft Road Trail will also provide a connection between Spring Arbor University (via the sidewalk system in the unincorporated village of Spring Arbor) and Lime Lake County Park.
- **Brooklyn to Manchester Trail.** Local officials and boosters are working with the National Park Service (NPS) and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to develop a trail that will connect the Village of Brooklyn to the Village of Manchester and traverse Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, roughly along an abandoned railroad right-of-way. The NPS and MDNR are interested in the effort in order to recognize the Underground Railroad that operated in the general area. Planning is well underway on the Washtenaw County side of the trail.
- **Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan.** The Region 2 Planning Commission, the City of Jackson, and Jackson County began developing a nonmotorized plan that covers all of Jackson County beginning in 2019. It will provide an update to the *Jackson County Regional Trailway Study* completed in 2002. It is anticipated that potential on-road and off-road nonmotorized projects throughout Jackson County will be identified in this document. The plan will be available at www.region2planning.com. **The Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan is adopted by reference as part of this plan.**
- **On-Road Nonmotorized Transportation.** With the exception of freeways, Jackson County's roads and street are available for use by pedestrians and bicyclists. **Consequently, this Recreation Plan states that Jackson County supports the goal of complete streets,** which "means roadways, planned, designed, and constructed to provide appropriate access to all legal users in a manner that promotes safe and efficient movement of people and goods whether by car, truck, transit, assistive device, foot, or bicycle," as defined by Public Act 51

of 1951 (State Trunk Line Highway System), as amended. Accordingly, Jackson County Parks officials will advise local governmental jurisdictions, the Jackson County Department of Transportation (JC DOT), and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) on future road and street projects within Jackson County regarding the inclusion of appropriate nonmotorized facilities (e.g., sidewalks, bike lanes, paved shoulders, trails, etc.).

Water Trails. Water trails are comprised of canoe/kayak launch sites connecting together signed stretches of river (and lakes) maintained for paddling. The [Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan](#), adopted by the Upper Grand River Watershed Council in 2017, proposes several water trails in Jackson County. The Upper Grand River Water Trail will flow from the Liberty Mill Pond (Liberty Township) to Eaton Rapids (Eaton County), as well as on the North Branch of the river from the unincorporated village of Michigan Center (Leoni Township) to the confluence with the main channel (City of Jackson). The Portage River Water Trail will flow from the Portage Lake Campground (Waterloo State Recreation Area (Waterloo Township)), to its confluence with the Grand River (Blackman Township). The Chain of Lakes Water Trail will flow from Little Wolf Lake County Park (Napoleon Township) to Leoni Community Park on the shore of Center Lake (unincorporated village of Michigan Center). Those trails were recognized as state-designated water trails by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in 2018 and will be included in updates to the *Jackson County Recreation Plan* and likely other pertinent municipal recreation and master plans. Jackson County Parks plans to develop canoe/kayak launch sites in Little Wolf Lake County Park (Napoleon Township), on the Chain of Lakes, and Vandercook Lake County Park (Summit Township), on the Grand River, in the near future. Please see the water trail development plan for a complete listing of the proposed canoe/kayak launch sites. **The Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan is adopted by reference as part of this plan.**

The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council has also designated portions of both branches of the Kalamazoo River as water trails. The water trail on the North Branch of the Kalamazoo River flows from the unincorporated village of Horton (Hanover Township) to the City of Albion (Calhoun County), where it joins with the South Branch to form the Kalamazoo River. The water trail on the South Branch has also been designated, flowing from Scipio Township (Hillsdale County) to the City of Albion. A canoe/kayak livery already exists at the Twin Lakes Campground on the South Branch of the Kalamazoo River. Although the River Raisin has not been designated as a water trail, this plan recognizes that canoeing and kayaking take place on that watercourse in Jackson County and its potential for water trail development.

County Park Master Planning. Jackson County has engaged planning efforts as well as master planning for individual county parks.

- **Park Master Plans.** The County of Jackson Board of Commissioners adopted the [Master Plan for Sparks Foundation County Park \(Cascades Park\)](#) on October 11, 2006. A master plan for James J. Keeley County Park, the site of the Jackson County Fair and the American 1 Credit Union Event Center, was also adopted by the County Board on March 15, 2016. **The master plans for James. J. Keeley County Park and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park are adopted by reference as part of this plan.**

- **Public Engagement Sessions.** Jackson County Parks held public engagement sessions in the Townships of Columbia, Henrietta, and Napoleon—the locations of Clark Lake County Park, Pleasant Lake County Park and Campground, and Little Wolf Lake County Park, respectively— during the summer of 2019. Summaries of those sessions are located in Appendix B.

Cascades Lagoon System Vision. The lagoons in Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park need to be dredged and there are drainage issues in the surrounding area which need to be addressed. The Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission has endorsed the following approach to rectifying the problem:

- **Vision.** A Cascades Lagoons System that is free flowing and has a natural balance allowing for clean, open water. The lagoons are navigable by kayak or other non-motorized craft, and by the very nature of their existence create a positive interactive recreation experience for all users of Sparks County Park including trail users, those picnicking, or looking to relax by immersing themselves in nature.
- **Recommendations:**
 1. Increase and maintain the amount of open water in the lagoons
 2. Clear brush and vegetation from a significant area of the lagoons shoreline opening up views of the lagoons (open water)
 3. Improve the water quality (decrease the amount of algae growth in the lagoons) of the lagoons. Restore the balance of the lagoons to allow it to naturally aerate and filter itself.
 4. Protect the amount of water and quality of water in the Manor House Lagoon (consider adding a well to pump fresh water into this body of water?)
 5. Open up/ restore the water flow of the lagoons by cleaning or dredging the water channels.
 6. Open up/ restore the flow of water into the north lagoons drain under High Street
 7. Consider ways to increase flow into the south drain/ stream that flows through the Cascades Golf Course and look at restoring the #4-hole pond/ open water.

The Drain Commissioner's recommendation is to remove a plate installed at an outlet to the Manor House pond as a first step towards a solution and to then monitor this solution for changes or improvements.

Public Involvement and Plan Adoption

Public involvement was also an integral part of the Jackson County Recreation Plan approval process.

Commission Meetings

All meetings of Jackson County's Parks and Recreation Commission are open to the public.

One Month Review Period

The recreation plan was submitted for a one-month public comment period which began on October 30, 2019, and ended on November 30, 2019. The plan was available for review in the offices of Jackson County Parks and the County Administrator as well as online at www.JacksonCountyParks.org. The following written comments were submitted:

To whom it may concern,

I attended the public meeting at the Manor House earlier this year with several neighbors so that we could ask the County Parks Commission *to fix and restore the Cascades Park Lagoons and surrounding area*. We each sat at different tables and we all wrote that this was our main priority. But I don't see it reflected in your upcoming plan. *We have 7 homes in my neighborhood with documented flooding and water/ hydrostatic pressure damage from spring thaw to winter freeze created by the plugged up lagoons.*

The lagoons were plugged up around 1999/ 2000 and now they are 4-5 ft. higher, which creates a higher water table next door, in our neighborhood. Stewardship of public funds must first be scrutinized so that it is consistent with protecting the public health and welfare. Before building new structures or undertaking new programs, we must attend to what we already have and ensure that our parks are causing no harm.

I am asking that the Jackson County Recreation Plan 2020-2024 *to prioritize a plan for Sparks/Cascades Park lagoon area to unplug the drainage stream, and manage the storm water that is collected flows in from outlets surrounding that area, as well as from the falls all summer*. This area functioned very well for 68 yrs., until it was plugged up. Property is getting damaged and residents are getting sick from the molds, the mosquitos, and the stress.

Surveying neighbors and park walkers, every single person wanted the lagoon area to get a lot more attention - some love. They want it fixed. Many said of the smelly scum-covered clogged up lagoons, "its gross". It's the County's centerpiece park and needs water-management now.

As noted below in Section 1 of the Plan, there is funding provided which could be used to properly dredge the lagoons of Sparks/Cascades Park. Removing the bottom silt, removing the dam-plates, clearing invasive vegetation, and restoring the flow of the creek will relieve the hydrostatic stress on the neighboring resident basement floors and the water seepage into their basements.

Find the funding here: Jackson County Parks Millage. County residents approved a 10-year millage on August 7, 2018 in order to establish a stable, long-term funding source for county parks. The 0.5 mills approved by voters is estimated to generate \$2,180,000 per year to support county parks operations and capital improvements investment at a cost of \$25 per year for a property valued at \$100,000. The millage funds will be invested as follows

- \$3,000,000 for improved maintenance of county trails and new connections to a state-wide trail
 - \$900,000 for the restoration of the Cascades
 - \$900,000 for the development of a community dog park (including dog-friendly watering systems and dump stations for waste disposal)
-

if you keep putting this off, more and more homes will be damaged. A few homes are very very bad, with structural damage. *This situation has already been on the local news, constituents have come and given Public Comments at your Park Board meeting last April 3, and at the County Board Meeting in June. The City of Jackson has sent the county a RESOLUTION asking for county to join them to help fix this situation. We have signed a drainage petition, and are ready to submit it to the county drain commissioner.* We have been trying to work with the county. But the county has done NOTHING. This NON-ACTION could have big repercussions. We are asking you to do what is right for us and what is smart for the County.

Another 5 individuals provided similar comments that echoed those listed above in some way, shape, or form.

An additional set of comments regarding recreation leisure attractions available in Woodstock Township. Given that Woodstock Township is located in Lenawee County, an editorial decision was made to not publish those comments in the Jackson County based document.

Letters of Transmittal

Letters of transmittal were sent to the County of Jackson and the Region 2 Planning Commission (R2PC) alerting those bodies of the recreation planning effort.

Public Hearing and Plan Approval

A public hearing on the recreation plan was held on December 4, 2019, at 8:00 am in the offices of Jackson County Parks at Keeley Park (200 W. Ganson Street, Jackson), during a regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. A Resolution of Approval was then passed by the Commission. The Jackson County Board of Commissioners passed a Resolution of Adoption on December 17, 2019, at 5:00 pm in the 5th floor Commission Chambers of the Jackson County Tower Building (120 W. Michigan Avenue, Jackson), during a regular meeting.



Jackson County Recreation Plan | 2020-2024 Edition

Chapter 4

Mission, Vision, Strategic Priorities, and Action Program

Jackson County Parks completed a strategic plan on December 29, 2017—with input from the public, Park Commissioners, staff, and key community stakeholders—in an effort to serve the community while balancing environmental, human, and financial realities. That plan forms the basis for the following mission, vision, and strategic priorities (*the italicized text is directly from the strategic plan*):

Mission

The Jackson County Parks and Recreation System provides the environments that facilitate memorable experiences and enhance the quality of life in our community.

Vision

Promoting a fun, healthy, active and environmentally-rich community.

Values

Jackson County Parks values:

- *[Its] customers, employees, volunteers, benefactors, business partners, community leaders and supporters*
- *[Its] availability to all people*
- *[Its] facilities and parks*
- *[Its] diverse scheduled activities, programs and unique experiences*
- *Fiscal responsibility*
- *[Its] guardianship and preservation of open spaces, natural resources and heritage*
- *[Its] leadership and partnerships within the community*
- *Wholesome family programming*

Strategic Priorities

Jackson County Parks identifies the following priorities:

Priority #1 — *Cooperation between governments*

Goal — *Cultivate partnerships and explore new approaches to build relationships and streamline operations.*

- **Strategy #1.1** — *Initiate and encourage collaboration among staff and with other governmental departments.*
- **Strategy #1.2** — *Identify opportunities to build trust through teamwork, clarity of expectations and goal development.*

Jackson County Parks staff will continue to participate in multijurisdictional efforts to plan for and implement regional recreation facilities (e.g., parks, terrestrial and water trails, etc.) and to develop them as appropriate.

- **Strategy #1.3** — *Improve communication and coordination among all divisions and management.*

Priority #2 — Healthy community

Goal. — *Promote opportunities for all people to be active and healthy while enjoying safe and well maintained lands and facilities.*

- **Strategy #2.1** — *Encourage the use of parks and open spaces for active living, group fitness and healthy lifestyles through targeted marketing efforts.*
- **Strategy #2.2** — *Ensure that accessible and inviting trails, parks, and open spaces connect communities by identifying and partnering with other municipalities and stakeholders to expand trails and open spaces.*

Adopt the Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan and Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan (see Chapter 3) by reference, implement the multijurisdictional documents as appropriate, and support the goal of Complete Streets (see Chapter 3) by advising pertinent transportation agencies and local governmental jurisdictions on future road and street projects regarding the inclusion of appropriate nonmotorized facilities.

- **Strategy #2.3** — *Encourage innovative programming through partnerships, including partnerships with private organizations and medical facilities.*
- **Strategy #2.4** — *Promote golf courses through targeted marketing efforts, including highway signage and social media.*
- **Strategy #2.5** — *Provide safe and quality equipment to promote active living.*
- **Strategy #2.6** — *Promote natural areas through improved signage and strategic activities (hikes, tours, etc.).*

Priority #3 — Quality of life

Goal. — *Promote a healthy quality of life in the community.*

- **Strategy #3.1** — *Promote facilities and services through targeted marketing efforts and partnerships including social media outlets.*
- **Strategy #3.2** — *Encourage family and community unity by increasing awareness through targeted marketing at schools, churches and civic groups.*
- **Strategy #3.3** — *Ensure water quality and reduced pollution through improved signage.*

Priority #4 — Access to water

Goal — *Ensure access to water to enrich the recreational experience of patrons.*

- **Strategy #4.1** — *Preserve fens and wetland habitats by responsibly controlling access and by partnering with professionals and nature conservancies.*
- **Strategy #4.2** — *Provide adequate, clean and appropriate facilities that lead to water access (parking, trails, canoe/boat launches, etc.).*

Adopt the *Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan* (see Chapter 3) by reference and implement the multijurisdictional document as appropriate. Implement Strategy #5.2 as it relates to water trails

Priority #5 — Expand trail systems

Goal — *Create a trail system throughout the community that will provide opportunity for recreation as well as alternative modes of transportation.*

- **Strategy #5.1** — *Expand and enhance opportunities for recreational trail experiences to promote exercise, health, and wellness and provide opportunities for non-motorized transportation.*

Support the goal of Complete Streets (see Chapter 3) by advising pertinent transportation agencies and local governmental jurisdictions on future road and street projects regarding the inclusion of appropriate nonmotorized facilities.

- **Strategy #5.2** — *Pursue funding for additional facilities and resources on trails (restrooms, lighting, etc.).*
Provide signage along the developing regional nonmotorized and water trails which directs users/tourists to existing lodging/ campgrounds, restaurants, and other attractions. Opportunities for the establishment of additional trailheads and camping facilities throughout the systems should also be explored.
- **Strategy #5.3** — *Develop a terrestrial plan that will connect communities and trail systems.*
Adopt the *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan* (see Chapter 3) by reference and implement the multijurisdictional document as appropriate.

Priority #6. — Environments for programs and events

Goal — *Engage the community by providing and maintaining the environments for people to discover, learn about, protect, and enjoy their parks and open space.*

- **Strategy #6.1** — *Maintain parks and facilities to enrich the recreational experience of patrons.*
Adopt the park master plans for James J. Keeley County Park and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park (see Chapter 3) by reference; utilize the public input gleaned from the public engagement sessions held for Clark Lake County Park, Pleasant Lake County Park, and Campground, and Little Wolf Lake County Park; and implement them as appropriate.
- **Strategy #6.2** — *Ensure public safety at parks and facilities.*
- **Strategy #6.3** — *Be a leader in the provision of sustainable, environmentally-friendly parks, natural areas, trails and recreation facilities.*
Explore unanticipated and time-sensitive opportunities for new/improved parks and recreation facilities/programs and seek funding for/developing them, as appropriate, without amending this plan.
- **Strategy #6.4** — *Increase outreach to the community to increase access to and knowledge of the parks system.*
Make handicap accessible improvements to existing parks as opportunities arise and construct new facilities to meet the requirements of the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990* (as amended) or universal design standards.

Background Information

Input into developing the mission, vision, goals and strategies listed above include:

- The strategic plan completed by Jackson County Parks, which forms the basis for the mission, vision, and strategic priorities contained in this chapter.
- The opinions of Jackson County residents and others in the surrounding regions:
 - The surveys of the General Public and Local Governments conducted by Jackson County Parks for this plan and summarized in Chapter 3 of this document.
 - The *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan* and the *Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan* created for Jackson County and the surrounding regions, as summarized in Chapter 3 of this document, and the goal of Complete Streets as defined by Michigan's Public Act 51 of 1951 (State Trunk Line Highway System).
 - The master plans for James J. Keeley and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Parks, as summarized in Chapter 3 of this document.
 - The public engagement sessions held for Clark Lake, Pleasant Lake, and Little Wolf Lake County Parks, as summarized in Chapter 3 and Appendix B of this document.
 - The ten-year approved by Jackson County voters for 0.5 mills on August 7, 2018, as summarized in Chapter 3 of this document.
- The Cascades Lagoons System in Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park needs to be rehabilitated, as summarized in Chapter 3 of this document and the comments of the general public summarized therein.
- The parks and recreation facilities available to Jackson County residents and visitors—including those not provided by Jackson County Parks—as described in Chapter 2 and Appendix B of this document.
- The health and disabilities of Jackson County residents:
 - The *Collaborative Community Assessment Metric Report* released by the Health Information Organization founded by Henry Ford Allegiance Health, as summarized in Chapter 1 of this document.
 - American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau) estimates regarding disabled Jackson County residents, as summarized in Chapter 1 and Appendix A of this document, and the federal American with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Cooperation between governments. Approximately 74% of respondents to the general public survey conducted for this plan strongly agreed (33%) or agreed (41%) that Jackson County Parks should partner with municipalities to develop traditional facilities, where appropriate, in addition to its primary focus of providing access to water and other natural resources. The regional trail and water trail systems traversing Jackson County also require cooperation between governments, within and outside of the county.

Healthy community. The answers to various questions regarding general health, physical activity/overweight and obesity summarized in the *Collaborative Community Assessment Metric Report* released by the Health Information Organization founded by Henry Ford Allegiance Health illustrate the need for additional recreation facilities in Jackson County. An estimated 15% of Jackson County residents were disabled in some way in 2017, according to the American Community Survey. An estimated 8% of County residents had an ambulatory disability. An estimated 30% of County residents 75 years old or older had an ambulatory disability.

Quality of life. Enjoying the outdoors (85%) and closeness to home (78%) were the reasons for visiting a park or recreation facility most identified by respondents to the general public survey conducted for this plan, followed by fitness (60%), special events (50%), playgrounds (36%), picnic shelters (19%), sports/ games (17%), campgrounds (10%), as well as other motives (17%). Fireworks (79%) and Cascades Falls family nights/events (59%) were the events most identified by survey respondents, followed by Cascades Community Band Shell concerts (33%) and the Relay for Life (26%). Community festivals (52%), dog parks (44%), and pickleball were identified by respondents as activities they would like to see more of in Jackson County Parks.

Access to water. Approximately 85% of survey respondents strongly agreed (54%) or agreed (31%) that canoe/kayak launch sites should be provided along the Grand River, the Portage River, and the Chain of Lakes (e.g. Center, Olcott, Wolf, etc.). Approximately 62% of respondents identified canoe/kayak launches as an activity they would like to see more of in Jackson County Parks, 42% identified beach access, and 22% identified boat ramps. Access to water (i.e., paddle boat and canoe/kayak rentals, boat launches, fishing piers, dog swimming area, etc.) were popular write-in responses. Water access (i.e., swimming areas/pools, splash pads, better beaches, fishing, etc.) was a popular write-in response were suggested when asked what respondents had seen in other counties that they would like to see in county parks. The *Upper Grand River Water Trail Development Plan* proposes several water trails in Jackson County which include various canoe/kayak launch sites, some of which are proposed in county parks. The Kalamazoo River Watershed Council has also designated portions of both branches of the Kalamazoo River in Jackson County as water trails. Improvements to the Cascades Lagoons System in Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park will also improve access to water.

Expand trail systems. Approximately 86% of respondents to the general public survey strongly agreed (66%) or agreed (20%) that a regional trail system should continue to be developed. Trails were included in write-in responses to the question regarding an activity they would like to see

more of in Jackson County Parks. Trails (i.e., nature, water, hiking, biking, running, etc.) were included in write-in responses to the question regarding traditional municipal recreation facilities that should be considered. A variety of trails, with amenities (i.e., workout stations, public art, restrooms, etc.), were suggested when asked what respondents had seen in other counties that they would like to see in county parks. It is anticipated that potential on-road and off-road nonmotorized projects throughout Jackson County will be identified in the *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan*.

Environments for programs and events. Fireworks (79%) and Cascades Falls family nights/ events (59%) were the events most respondents to the general public survey attended. Special events (i.e., Paws in the Park, Earth Day, etc.), organized races/runs, benefit walks, fitness events, and impromptu walking/biking were also identified. Community festivals/events that are family oriented (i.e., food trucks, farmer's markets, organized day camps, etc.) were requested when asked what respondents had seen in other counties that they would like to see in county parks. The golf course was identified among the most popular likes identified as part of the *Master Plan for Sparks Foundation County Park (Cascades Park)*.

Action Program

Please see the Action Program map in Appendix C for the location of the various projects.

| Map Key | Project Title | Description | Investment Amount | Schedule | Funding Source(s)* |
|---------|---|--|-------------------|----------|--------------------|
| F | Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park – Cascades Lagoon System Vision. <i>(This will likely be implemented incrementally.)</i> | A Cascades Lagoons System that is free flowing and has a natural balance allowing for clean, open water, navigable by kayak or other non-motorized craft, and create a positive interactive recreation experience for all users of the park (e.g., trail users and those picnicking/relaxing). | TBD | TBD | SGF,PD,CPM, |
| | Total TBD Capital Investment | | TBD | | |
| H | Vandercook Lake Count Park Fishing and Kayak/Canoe Launch | Construct new all in one docking system to support fishing and canoe/ kayak use on the lake | \$175,000 | 2020 | CPM, SGF, |
| D | Little Wolf Lake County Park Fishing and Kayak/Canoe launch | Construct new all in one docking system to support fishing and canoe/ kayak use on the lake | \$467,000 | 2020 | CPM, SGF, |
| I | Vineyard Lake County Park Fishing and Kayak/Canoe Launch | Construct new all in one docking system to support fishing and canoe/ kayak use on the lake | \$180,000 | 2020 | CPM, PD, |
| A | Clark Lake County Park Improvements | Site landscaping, control systems, playground & shelter improvements | \$100,000 | 2020 | CPM |

(continued)

| Map Key | Project Title | Description | Investment Amount | Schedule | Funding Source(s)* |
|---------|---|--|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| J | General Falling Waters Trail Repairs | Seal crack 5 miles of hard-surface trail | \$50,000 | | CPM |
| E | Pleasant Lake County Park and Campground Improvements | Engineering & design of retain wall system and shore line wall systems repairs; Improvements to existing play area | \$50,000 | 2020 | CPM |
| D | Little Wolf Lake County Park Improvements | Playground, picnic table, grills, pavilion improvements | \$50,000 | 2020 | CPM |
| — | General Park Improvements | New picnic tables for parks use | \$20,000 | 2020 | CPM |
| | Total 2020 Capital Investment | | \$1,092,000 | | |
| K | Blackman Township Trail Connector | 2.2 mile hard-surface trail connecting the city trail and Falling Waters Trail to the new State Trail north to Stockbridge, Michigan | \$3,800,000 | 2021 | SGF, TAP, CPM, |
| B | James J. Keeley County Park Site Improvements- Phase 2 | Playground Improvements, Phase 2 Landscape Restoration, construct ice skates/ water spray plaza adjacent to American 1 Events Center | \$3,000,000 | 2021 | NRA, CPM, |
| | Total 2021 Capital Investment | | \$6,800,000 | | |
| F | Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park Trail Improvements | Replaces sections of existing trail; seal coat sections of existing trail, construct Paredo trail, construct path from Denton Play Area to Cascades entrance | \$900,000 | 2022 | SGF,PD,CPM, |
| F | Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park Pickleball Courts | Construct pickleball court complex | \$700,000 | 2022 | PD, PG, CPM |
| B | James J. Keeley County Park Outdoor Exhibition Arena | Construct new covered open air exhibition area on north end of midway | \$1,600,000 | 2022 | SAG, CGF, NRA, |
| | Total 2022 Capital Investment | | \$3,200,000 | | |
| F | Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park Trail Improvements - Phase 2 | Construction of a new west trail loop connecting Fishery, Pickleball, and Denton Play Areas to existing loop | \$700,000 | 2023 | SGF, CPM |
| F | Cascades Golf Course Irrigation Replacement | Installation of a totally new electronic, double row, irrigations system | \$750,000 | 2023 | Revenue Bond |
| | Total 2023 Capital Investment | | \$1,450,000 | | |
| G | Swains Lake County Park and Campground Improvements | Reconstruct Boat Launch, Renovate Playground, Construct new fishing dock | \$150,000 | | CPM |
| C | Lime Lake County Park Improvements | Construct picnic pavilion, install playground, improve/ expand playground, connector trail to Falling Waters Trail | \$150,000 | | CPM |
| F | Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park Dog Park | Construction of a county dog park at Sparks County Park | \$900,000 | | JCAS Millage |

(continued)

| Map Key | Project Title | Description | Investment Amount | Schedule | Funding Source(s)* |
|---------|--|---|--------------------|----------|---------------------|
| L | Connector Trail to Calhoun County Line | Extend the Falling Waters Trail to the Calhoun County Line as part of the statewide trail connector | \$3,500,000 | 2024 | SGF, TAP, JDOT, CPM |
| | Total 2024 Capital Investment | | \$4,700,000 | | |

***Key:**

| CPM = County Parks Millage | SGF = State Grant Funds | PD = Private Donations | TAP = Federal Transportation Alternative Program |
 | NRA = Naming Rights Agreement | PG = Private Grant | SAG = State Agricultural Grant | CGF = County General Fund | RB = Revenue Bond |

Background Information

The Plan's goals and objectives are the basis for the action program listed above.

- Quality of life (strategy #3) — Clark Lake, Pleasant Lake, Little Wolf Lake, Keeley Park, Swains Lake, and Lime Lake County Parks improvements; general park improvements, Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park Pickleball Courts; James J. Keeley Park Outdoor Exhibition Arena; and Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park Dog Park.
- Access to water (strategy #4) — fishing and kayak/canoe launches proposed for Little Wolf, Vandercook, and Vineyard Lake County Parks and Pleasant Lake, James J. Keeley, and Swains Lake County Parks (and Campground) Improvements and the Cascades Lagoons System in Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park is proposed for rehabilitation.
- Expand trail systems (strategy #5) — general trail repairs, Blackman Township Trail Connector, Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park Trail Improvements, Connector Trail to Calhoun County Line, and Lime Lake County Park Improvements
- Environments for programs and events (strategy #6) — James J. Keeley Park Outdoor Exhibition Arena and Cascades Golf Course Irrigation Replacement (Sparks Foundation County (Cascades) Park).