



# Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan

## 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

Approved by the Grass Lake Joint Recreation Planning Committee	January 14, 2025
Adopted by Grass Lake Community Schools	January 13, 2025
Adopted by Grass Lake Charter Township	January 14, 2025
Adopted by the Village of Grass Lake	January 21, 2025
Approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources	March xx, 2025
Expiration	December 31, 2029
Amended	N/A

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## Table of Contents

<b>Community Description</b>	7
Location	9
A Brief Socioeconomic Summary	10
<b>Administrative Structure</b>	13
Authorization	15
Organizational Structure	15
Sources of Funding	17
Recreation Budget	18
Relationships with Other Public Agencies	18
<b>Recreation and Resource Inventories</b>	19
Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Grass Lake Area	21
Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities	27
Recreation Programming	30
Resource Inventory	30
<b>Description of the Planning and Public Input Processes</b>	31
Description of the Planning and Public Input Processes	33
<b>Goals and Objectives</b>	39
Value Statements	41
Goals and Objectives	43
<b>Action Plan</b>	47
Action Plan	49
<b>Appendices</b>	
A. Demographics	51
B. Recreation and Resource Inventory	57
C. Public Input Survey	65
D. Nonmotorized Multi Use Trails	85
E. Plan Adoption Documents and Resolutions	93
<b>Maps</b>	
Location	9
Base Map	10
School Districts	16
Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park	22
Grass Lake County Park	23
Whistle Stop Park	24
Recreation	25
Trails and Sidewalks	29

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## Chapter 1

# **Community Description**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*



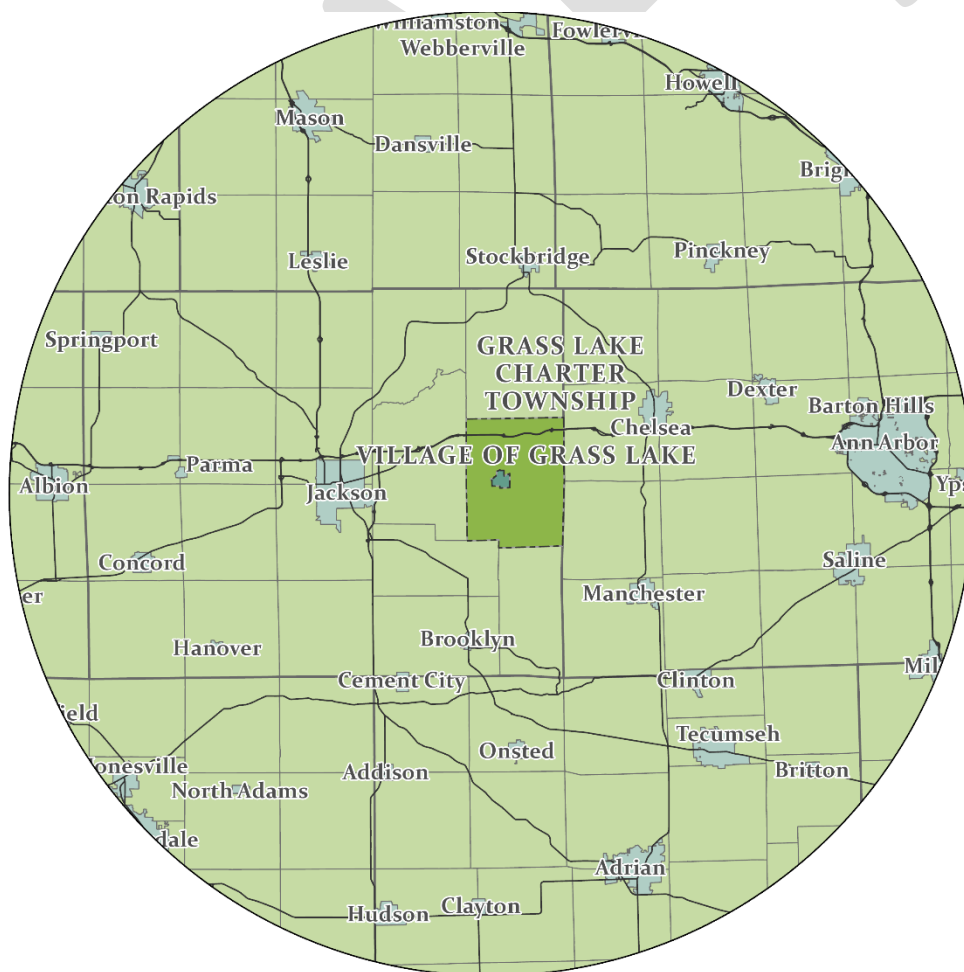
## Location

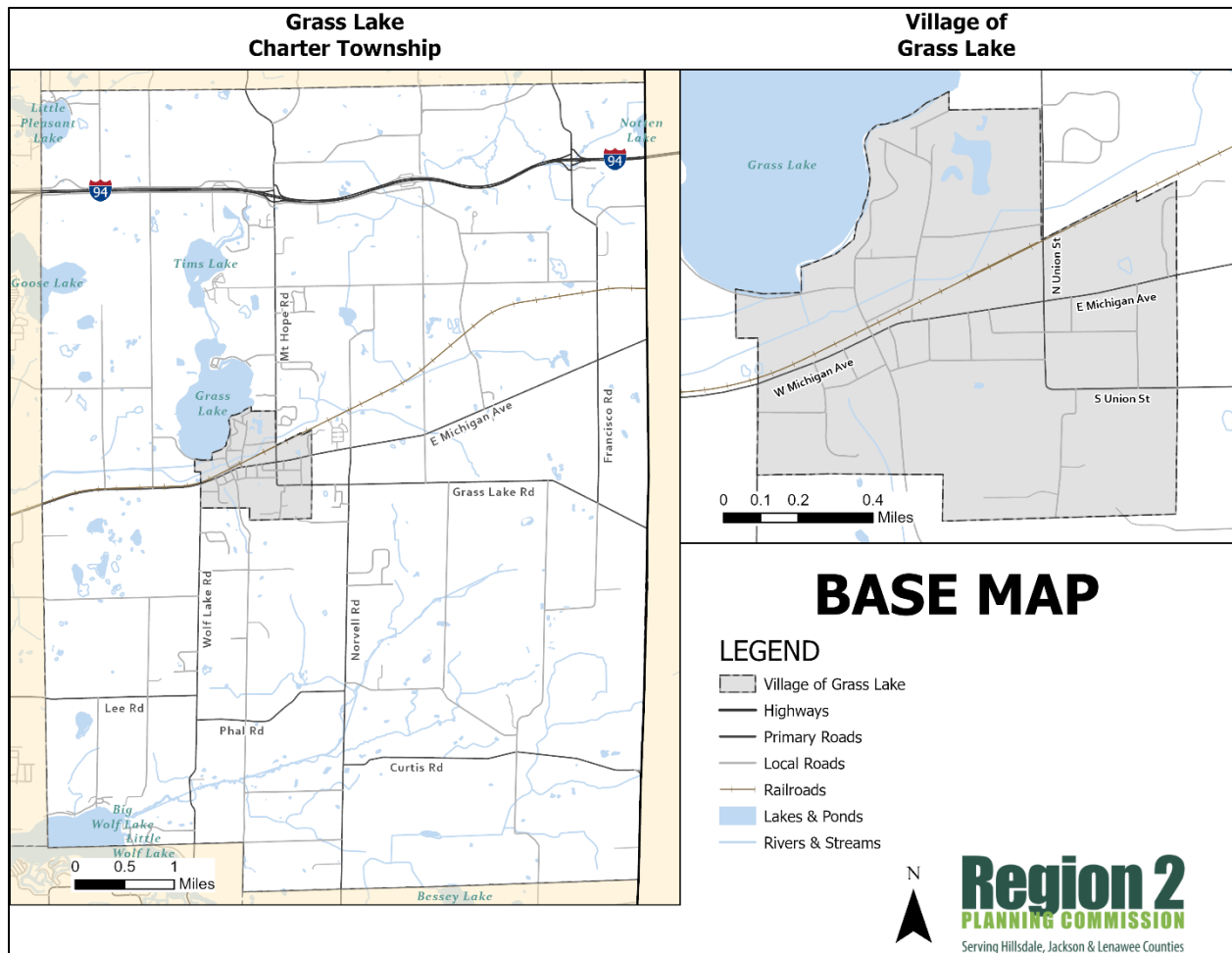
The Grass Lake Area, comprising an area of approximately 48 square miles, is located on the eastern border of Jackson County and encompasses Grass Lake Charter Township and the Village of Grass Lake.

Grass Lake Charter Township, occupying 47 square miles, surrounds the Village of Grass Lake which has an area of one square mile. Grass Lake comprises the northwestern border of the Village.

In close proximity to nearby urban centers, the Grass Lake Area is home to a variety of recreational facilities with an opportunity to successfully integrate those assets into the Area. Interstate 94 (I-94) and other regional roadways connect the Area to the nearby urban centers of Jackson and Ann Arbor.

The first priority of the Village of Grass Lake, Grass Lake Charter Township, and Grass Lake Community Schools is to jointly develop a plan which responds to the recreational desires of the community and to plan for enhancements to the parks and recreational programs of the municipalities. The recreation plan will also provide a clear picture of the recreational opportunities available to residents regardless of who provides them.





## A Brief Socioeconomic Summary

The demographic composition of Grass Lake Area residents affects its recreational needs. Accordingly, pertinent demographic components are listed below along with a brief description of the local situation. Each of the components is described in greater detail in Appendix A of this document.

### ■ Population History & Projections

Grass Lake Charter Township's 2020 population was 6,069, an increase of 6.8 percent from the 2010 population of 5,684. This continued the trend of steadily increasing population between 1930 and 2020. The Township's population increased to 6,106 in 2022, the most recent data available. Assuming an identical 6.8 percent growth rate between 2020 and 2030 the Township's population in 2030 would be projected at 6,481 residents. The Village had a 2020 population of 1,331, an increase of 13.5 percent from the 2010 population of 1,173. The Village population in 2022 was 1,222, a decrease from the 2020 population but still an overall increase of 4.2 percent from the 2010 Village population. The Village comprised twenty percent of Grass Lake area residents in 2022.

### ■ Age & Gender of the Population

Nearly twenty-six percent (25.8) of the area's population in 2022 were classified as Adult (ages 45 to 64), which was the largest population cohort in the community. Young Adult

(ages 25 to 44) was the next largest cohort representing 25.1 percent of the area's population. Together these cohorts comprised 50.9 percent of area residents in 2022. The largest population cohort in the Village in 2022 was the Young Adult representing 32.9 percent of all Village residents, which contributed to the median age of a Grass Lake Villager (32.4) being nearly twelve years younger than the 44.1 median age of all area residents. The area's population was almost evenly split between male and female residents.

#### ■ **Household & Family Composition**

Families comprised 72.1 percent of area households in 2022 compared to 55.6 percent in the Village. Children were present in 29 percent of households, nearly identical to the Village's 27.8 percent of households with children. Single-person households comprised 24.6 percent of area households, significantly less than the 35.7 percent in the Village. The average area household size was 3.02 people as compared to 3.29 people in the Village.

#### ■ **Racial & Ethnic Composition**

The area population is homogenous with 95 percent classified as white. Persons of Hispanic heritage comprised the largest minority group in the area with three percent of the population in 2022.

#### ■ **Disabilities of Residents**

Grass Lake area residents with at least one disability in 2022 comprised an estimated 7.8 percent of the population nearly identical to the share of Village residents at 8.2 percent. In terms of recreation accommodation 4.9 percent of area residents have an ambulatory disability, nearly double (2.5 percent) those in the Village.

#### ■ **Income**

The median household income for the Grass Lake area of \$91,337 in 2022 was significantly greater than that for the U.S. (\$74,755), Michigan (\$69,183), and Jackson County (\$63,338). The Village's 2022 median household income of \$75,921 also outpaced the national, state, and county median incomes.

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## Chapter 2

# **Administrative Structure**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## Authorization

In response to identified recreation needs, the Grass Lake Township Board, the Grass Lake Village Council, and the Grass Lake Community Schools Board formed a Joint Recreation Committee to develop the *Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan* under the authority of Public Act 156 of 1917 (Recreation and Playgrounds). Grass Lake Charter Township also maintains its own parks and recreation committee under the authority of the legislation. The Act:

- “authorizes cities, *villages*, counties, *townships*, and *school districts* to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds” (*emphasis added*) It also allows those entities to:
  - “operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds; acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities; employ a superintendent of recreation and assistants; vote and expend funds for the operation of such system.”
  - “operate such a system independently or they may cooperate in its conduct in any manner which they may mutually agree; or they may delegate the operation of the system to a recreation board created by any or all of them, and appropriate money, voted for this purpose, to such board.”
- The act also allows park systems to operate on “(1) property under its custody and management; (2) other public property;” and “(3) private property, with the consent of the owners.”

A copy of PA 156 of 1917 can be found online at: [www.legislature.mi.gov](http://www.legislature.mi.gov).

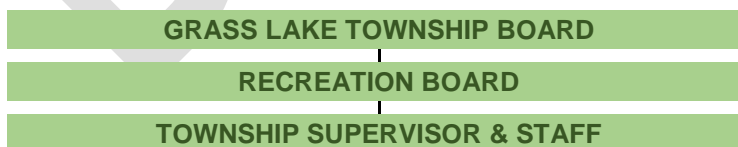
**Please note that other state enabling legislation allows for the joint provision parks and recreation facilities in addition to planning for them. The Township, Village, and Schools may choose to form one of those organizational arrangements in the future.**

## Organizational Structure

The following bodies are involved in the provision of municipal recreation:

- **Grass Lake Charter Township.** A Recreation Board is responsible for planning, constructing, maintaining, programming, and administering the Township’s recreation facilities. The Board is also charged with studying various recreation needs, advising the Township Board on recreation issues, and making appropriate budget requests.

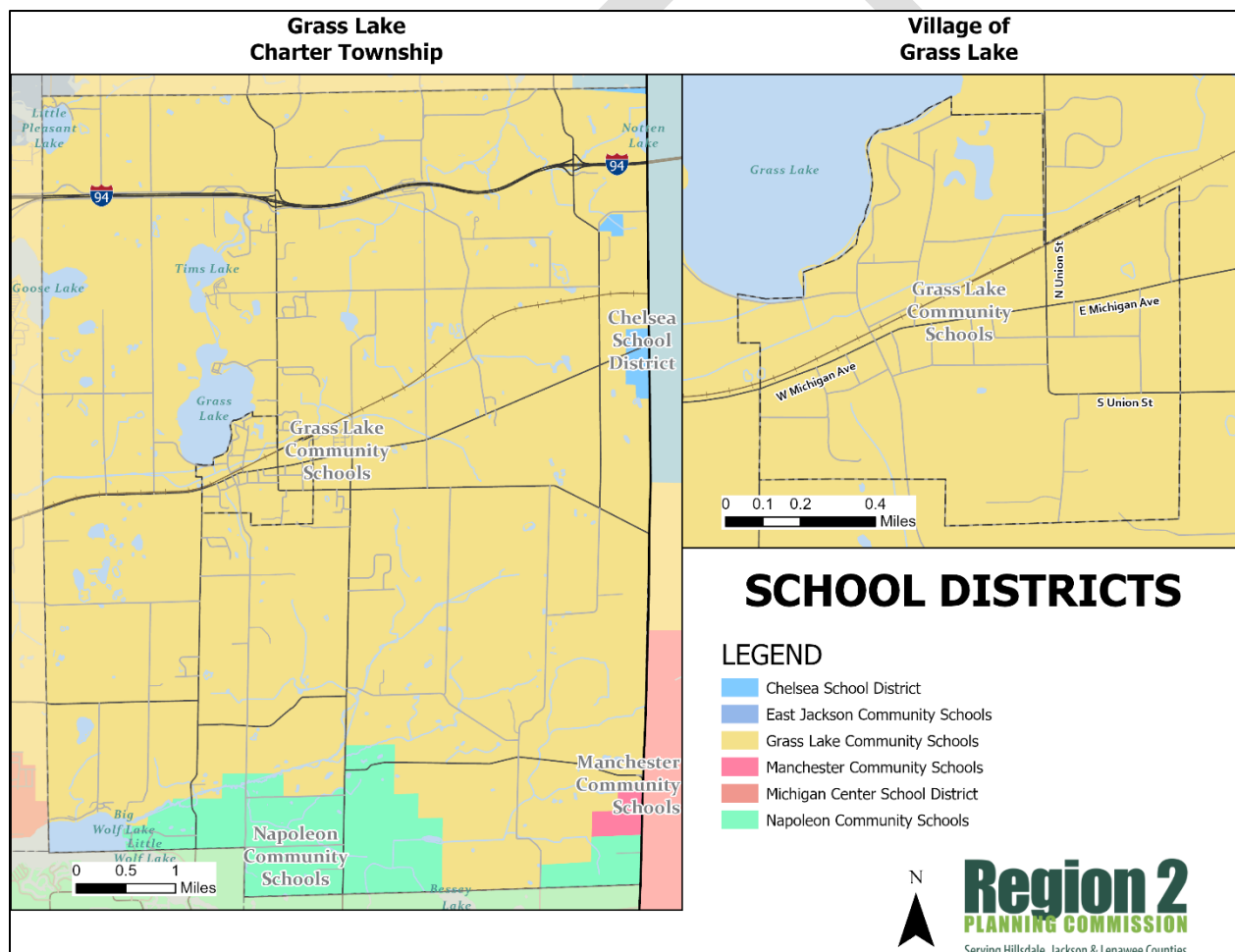
### GRASS LAKE CHARTER TOWNSHIP RECREATION STRUCTURE



The Recreation Board is comprised of the Township Supervisor and representatives from the GLSYL (Grass Lake Summer Youth League, the local AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) program, and local trail enthusiasts. Maintenance concerns brought before the Recreation Committee are addressed through the Township Supervisor. Recreational programs are coordinated through the various representatives serving on the Committee. The Township Board maintains final authority over Grass Lake Township’s facilities. The

Township Board is comprised of a Supervisor, a Clerk, a Treasurer, and 4 Trustees. The Township utilizes volunteers for specific projects and programs.

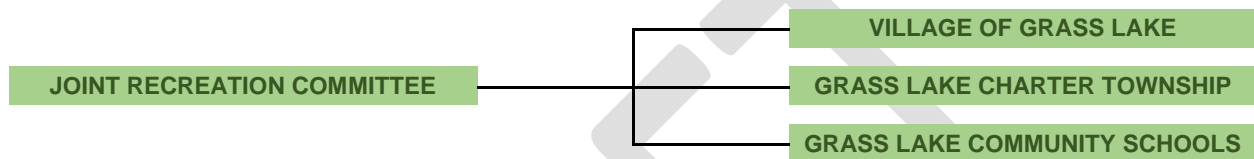
- **Village of Grass Lake.** The Village of Grass Lake has a Parks and Recreation Committee with a goal of developing a Parks and Recreation Department and budget. The Village Council is comprised of a President and 6 Trustees. The Village may utilize volunteers for specific projects.
- **Grass Lake Community Schools.** Grass Lake Community Schools serve the overwhelming majority of the Grass Lake Area. Although it is not served by a recreation committee, it does provide extensive recreation facilities to its students and the community. This coordination is the responsibility of the School's Community Services Director. The School Board is comprised of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and 3 Trustees. The Community Schools may utilize volunteers for specific projects.





- **Joint Recreation Planning.** The Joint Recreation Committee is responsible for the development of the *Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan*. The Joint Committee is also available to provide advice on recreation issues which impact the Village, the Township, and the Community Schools on an as needed basis. Membership is comprised of Grass Lake Township's Supervisor, two officials from the Village of Grass Lake, including the Village Manager, and one official from Grass Lake Community Schools. Staff from the Region 2 Planning Commission assisted the Joint Committee in the development of this document.

### JOINT RECREATION STRUCTURE



### Sources of Funding

Grass Lake Charter Township, the Village of Grass Lake, and Grass Lake Community Schools identify several potential sources of revenue for its recreation facilities and programs:

- general tax fund dollars;
- grants awarded for specific projects; and
- donations from the general citizenry and philanthropic organizations.

General tax fund dollars are used for the maintenance and programming of the Township's and Community School's recreation facilities, as well as their administration (including the cost of producing this Plan). Grants are generally awarded for the acquisition of parkland and the development of a park or recreational facility (e.g., trails, playgrounds, picnic shelters, sports facilities, etc.). Donations to be used at the discretion of the Township or the Village or for a specific 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. Grants for parks and recreational facilities are likely to come from several sources:

- **The Michigan Department of Natural Resources**
  - The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
  - The Land and Water Conservation Fund<sup>1</sup>
- **The Michigan Department of Transportation**
  - The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)<sup>2</sup>
- **The Jackson County Department of Transportation**

The 1% annual allocation of state transportation (Act 51) funds for non-motorized facilities.

<sup>1</sup> This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan.

<sup>2</sup> This is a Federal program administered locally by the State of Michigan.

## **Recreation Budgeting**

The recreation budget for Grass Lake Charter Township is used almost entirely for the maintenance and programming of its recreation facilities. The operating budget is currently around \$50,000 a year. Capital outlays are also made for projects including the development of this document, the preparation of grant applications, and the planning and construction of new recreation facilities. Grass Lake Community Schools uses its general budget to maintain and program the recreation facilities which serve its student body and the community. The recently established Village of Grass Lake Parks and Recreation Committee submitted a budget request for the first time beginning with the FY 2026 Village budget.

## **Relationships with Other Public Agencies**

Grass Lake Community Schools and Grass Lake Charter Township and are not the only suppliers of parks and recreational opportunities to Area residents.

### **Other School Districts**

Napoleon Community Schools serve the neighborhoods around Wolf Lake and two other districts protrude into the eastern border of the Area. The Jackson County Intermediate School District (which includes Grass Lake Community Schools) provides educational services to residents and local school districts. Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of the recreational facilities and programs provided by schools.

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

Jackson County and nearby cities and villages, as well as some townships, maintain parks. The State of Michigan also provides a variety of recreational facilities in the immediate and surrounding area. A variety of private entrepreneurs and quasi-public agencies also provide recreation facilities and programs in and around the study area.

Please refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed description of recreation facilities in the Grass Lake Area.

## Chapter 3

# **Recreation and Resource Inventories**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## Parks and Recreation Facilities in the Grass Lake Area

The recreation inventory is comprised of all of the parks and recreation facilities provided in the Grass Lake Area, not just those owned and managed by Grass Lake Charter Township, the Village of Grass Lake, or Grass Lake Community Schools. It is important to note that the wide variety of facilities is an incentive for people to visit the Area and to attract new residents and business. The facilities were identified through local knowledge and review of current and historic documents and maps. A complete list of Grass Lake area recreation assets can be found in Appendix B.

Numerous recreation facilities are located at the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park and the Township Office/Park. The Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park has five soccer fields, four baseball diamonds, two basketball courts, multiuse trails, and geocache. In late 2024 the Township entered into a contract with a private, third-party firm to provide operations and management of the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park. The Township Office/Park has three baseball diamonds.

Jackson County Parks received a donation of two parcels totaling approximately eight acres in 2024 to expand Grass Lake County Park. The donated parcels nearly doubled the size of Grass Lake County Park and it is expected that nonmotorized trails will be developed on this additional parkland. For over forty years Grass Lake County Park has also hosted an annual regional event of the Michigan Hydroplane Racing Association known as the “Wild Ones Regatta.” The Grass Lake Depot and Whistle Stop Park preserves the train depot, provides needed downtown green space, and serves as a community activity center and exhibition hall. These parks are currently maintained by the Township. The Village Pavilion and Events Park also provides green space downtown and hosts Music in the Park and the Farmers Market in the summer months.

### PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

	FACILITY	SIZE	DESCRIPTION	BFA
A	GRASS LAKE COMM. SPORTS & TRAILS RECREATION PARK	62 ACRES	4 BASEBALL DIAMONDS AND 5 SOCCER FIELDS, 2 BASKETBALL COURTS, MULTIUSE TRAILS, GEOCACHE	4
B	GRASS LAKE COUNTY PARK	17 ACRES	PICNIC AND GRILL SHELTERS, 2 TENNIS COURTS, 1 PLAYGROUND, A SWIMMING AREA, RESTROOMS, AND A BOAT LAUNCH	3
C	GRASS LAKE DEPOT AND WHISTLE STOP PARK		EXHIBITION HALL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITY CENTER IN A HISTORICAL DEPOT AND SCENIC PARK SETTING	2
D	GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP OFFICE/PARK	14 ACRES	3 BASEBALL FIELDS ,DISC GOLF, TRAILS, AND COMMUNITY CENTER	3
E	VILLAGE PAVILLION AND EVENTS PARK		PAVILION AND GREEN SPACE FOR HOSTING EVENTS	3





# GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SPORTS & TRAILS RECREATION PARK







# GRASS LAKE COUNTY PARK





## WHISTLE STOP PARK

George Long Elementary contains playgrounds, a nature trail, and other open spaces. Walkable nature trails are located on the grounds of the Elementary and High Schools. The football and track stadium, located on the grounds of the Grass Lake Middle School, are open to the general public when not utilized by students.

### GRASS LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS RECREATION FACILITIES

	FACILITY	SIZE	DESCRIPTION	BFA
F	GEORGE LONG ELEMENTARY	N/A	PLAYGROUNDS AND A ½-MILE NATURE TRAIL	4
G	GRASS LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL	N/A	3 BASEBALL FIELDS AND A FOOTBALL AND TRACK STADIUM	4
H	GRASS LAKE HIGH SCHOOL	N/A	1-MILE NATURE TRAIL	4

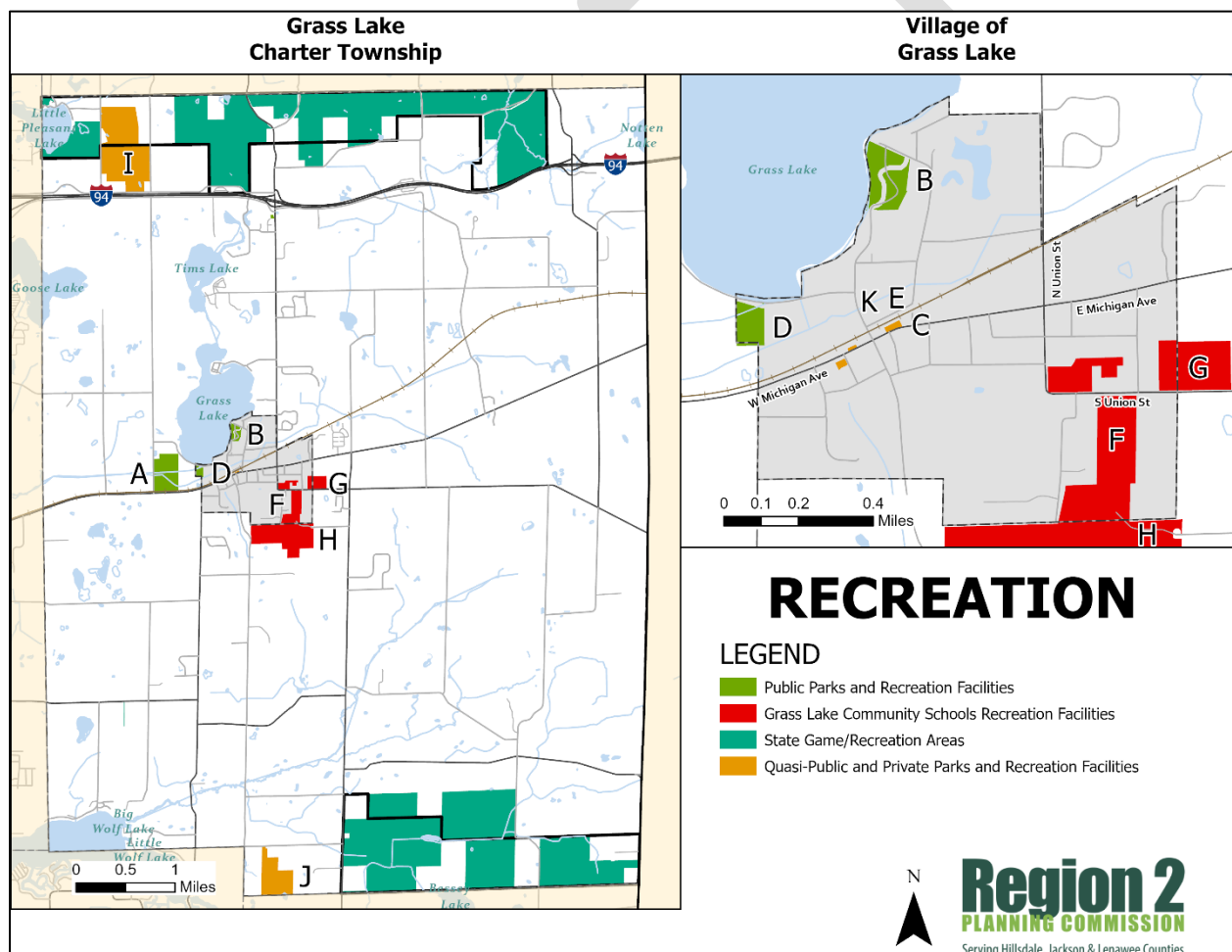
Golf courses and public campgrounds are other examples of quasi-public and private facilities whose mission directly serves the general public. The provision of needed open space and access to nature are often beneficial byproducts of the missions of nature centers and private campgrounds. It is also important to note that access to these resources already attracts seasonal



residents and can be used to attract other visitors, potential residents, and new businesses to the Grass Lake Area.

### QUASI-PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

FACILITY	SIZE	DESCRIPTION
I CALDERONE GOLF CLUB	N/A	18-HOLES IN AN OPEN LINKS STYLE SETTING
J APPLE CREEK CAMPGROUND	N/A	RECREATIONAL BUILDING, NATURE TRAIL, POOL, BALL FIELD, PICNIC TABLES, PLAY EQUIPMENT, AND HORSESHOES
K FAIRY FOREST	N/A	POCKET PARK



## Park Standards and Types

A park and recreation plan should also recognize and use appropriate park standards. The National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA) recommends a minimum of 10 acres per 1,000 persons (please see Appendix B). With a current inventory of approximately 85 acres of parklands the Grass Lake Area exceeds the recommended 61 acres based on the Township's 2022 population of 6,106 people. The recreation facilities provided by the Schools, the Township, and the County generally function as a community and/or regional parks in the Grass Lake Area.

## Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

Grass Lake Charter Township has received two previous grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Township received a \$28,500.00 grant in 1993 to acquire the property for the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park. In 1977 a \$5,034.50 grant funded the construction of two tennis courts at the Township Office. The Village of Grass Lake has not been awarded any grants through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

RECREATION GRANT HISTORY			
PARK NAME	PROJ. NO.	YEAR	USAGE
GRASS LAKE COMM. SPORTS & TRAILS RECREATION PARK	TF-93-326	1993	THE 58 ACRES OF LAND ACQUIRED WITH THE GRANT IS CURRENTLY USED AS A PARK
GRASS LAKE TOWNSHIP OFFICE/PARK	26-01023B	1977	THE TENNIS COURTS CONSTRUCTED WITH THE GRANT WERE REPLACED BY A BASEBALL FIELD

## Barrier-Free Access

It is important that recreation facilities be accessible to people with disabilities especially considering 7.8 percent of Grass Lake area residents had at least one disability in 2022. Each of the recreation facilities operated by Grass Lake Charter Township was also rated according to their level of barrier free access.<sup>3</sup> The number listed under the BFA column in that table equates 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

<sup>3</sup> The analysis of barrier free access was provided by the Joint Recreation Committee, based upon its knowledge of the parks and understanding of barrier-free access. A professional analysis may produce different results.

## Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

A variety of other public agencies and private entrepreneurs also provide recreational opportunities to Grass Lake Area residents. It is important to note that the availability of nearby regional parks and recreation facilities is an incentive for people to visit the Area and to attract new residents and business.

## State Parks

The State of Michigan maintains a number of recreational facilities within Jackson County. The Department of Natural Resources maintains a state park at the border with Lenawee County. The Waterloo State Recreation Area, which extends into the Township from the north, offers hiking and equestrian trails throughout its 10,000 plus acres. The Sharonville State Game Area, which extends into the Township from the south, offers a variety of hiking and riding trails, along with winter sports. Other state parks and state game and recreation areas are also located in the surrounding area and counties.

### STATE OF MICHIGAN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

STATE PARKS	STATE GAME & RECREATION AREAS
WALTER J. HAYES STATE PARK	SHARONVILLE STATE GAME AREA
	WATERLOO STATE RECREATION AREA
	GRASS LAKE STATE GAME AREA

## Other County Parks

The County provides a wide variety of regional recreational facilities such as winter sports areas, swimming beaches, and modern campgrounds including Grass Lake County Park. Surrounding counties and other providers also maintain park systems.

### JACKSON COUNTY PARK INVENTORY MATRIX

Park	Greenspace	Water Features	Benches	18-hole golf Course	9-Hole Golf Course	Driving Range	Modern Campground*	Ball Diamonds	Volleyball Court	Tennis Court	Basketball Court	Playground/Equipment	Winter Sports*	Restaurant/Meetings	Restrooms	Recreation Center/Gym	Trails/Paths/Sidewalks	Picnic Shelter/Pavilion	Picnic Area	Grills	Monuments/Markers	Swimming Beach	Boat Launch	Fishing
1 Clark Lake	•	•	•									•			•	•			•	•		•	•	•
2 Clear Lake	•	•	•									•						•	•	•		•		
3 Gillett's Lake	•	•	•								•	•						•	•	•		•		
4 Grass Lake	•	•	•							•		•			•			•	•	•		•	•	•
5 Lime Lake	•	•	•									•							•	•		•	•	•
6 Little Wolf Lake	•	•	•									•						•	•	•		•		
7 Minard Mills	•	•	•									•						•	•	•				•
8 Pleasant Lake	•	•	•				•				•	•			•		•	•	•	•		•		•

9	Portage Lake	•	•							•					•	•		•	•	•
10	Round Lake	•	•							•					•	•		•	•	•
11	Alfred A. Snyder	•	•	•						•					•	•	•			•
12	Sparks Foundation	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•
13	Swains Lake	•	•	•			•			•	•			•	•	•	•		•	•
14	Vandercook Lake	•	•	•				•		•				•	•	•		•	•	•
15	Vineyard Lake	•	•	•						•					•	•		•	•	•

❶ Sixty modern campsites with water and electricity; hot showers, restrooms, a sanitary dump station & water.

❷ Sledding & toboggan hill, skating pond & warming house, cross country skiing.

### Other Local Parks

Nearby cities and villages, as well as some townships, also provide parks and recreational facilities for their residents. Larger communities often host extensive park systems with regional facilities such as Jackson's Ella Sharp Park. Smaller cities, villages, and townships may also provide a small number of recreation facilities.

### Colleges and Universities

Institutions of higher learning provide access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities. Grass Lake area residents can also avail themselves of the recreational facilities and programs hosted by the colleges and universities located in Jackson County. Both Spring Arbor University and Jackson College provide access to collegiate sports and athletic facilities.

### Private Parks and Recreation Facilities

A wide variety of other private entities also provide recreational facilities.

**Camps** – Private camps, including the YMCA's Camp Storer, and the Girl Scout's Camp O' the Hills, are located in Jackson County, making them easily accessible to Grass Lake Area residents. The Boy Scout's Camp Teetonkah and Camp Fa-Ha-Lo are located in Grass Lake Charter Township. Camp Teetonkah contains camping, boat launch, fishing, swimming, playground, mini-golf ball diamond, picnic tables, and a community center. Camp Fa-Ha-Lo contains camping, hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, cabin rental, and archery.

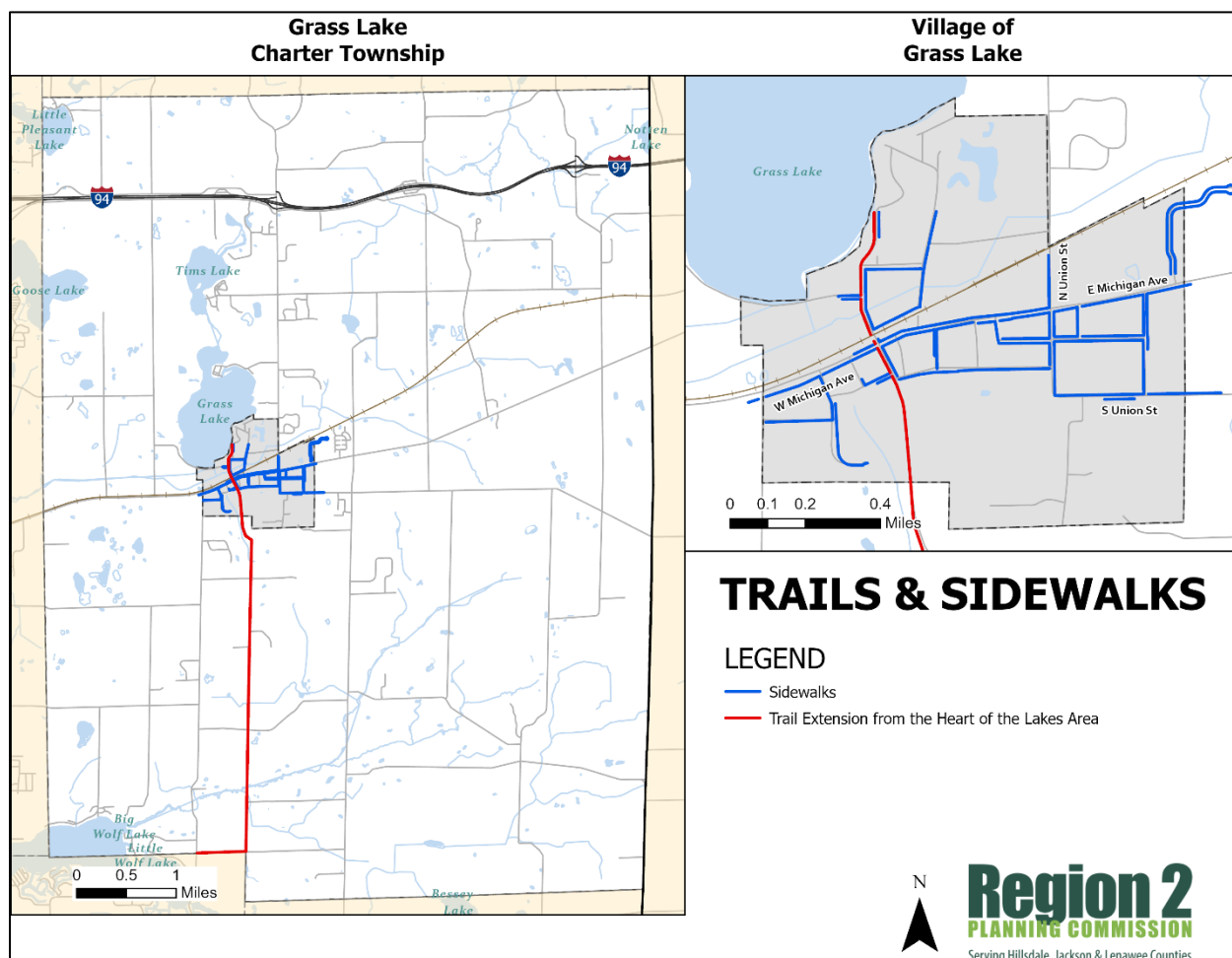
**Lefglen Nature Sanctuary** – The 208 acre reserve contains wooded uplands, oak groves, cattail marches, swales, lakes, a tamarack bog and a flowering prairie.

**Other Golf Courses** – There are 21 public golf courses within 20 miles of the Village of Grass Lake, including the Calderone Farms Golf Club, according to GolfLink™. There are an additional 29 public courses within 30 miles of the Village.<sup>4</sup>

### Sidewalks and Trails

Several Village of Grass Lake streets include public sidewalks, which provide non-motorized access to a majority of its recreation facilities. Future plans include connecting the Township, School, and Village trails with the countywide framework of trails proposed in the 2020 *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan* (please see Appendix E).

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.golflink.com>



### National, State, and Local Historical Sites

The Grass Lake Area contains three historic sites that have state and/or national significance. There are also another fifty-four sites throughout Jackson County.

#### NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL HISTORICAL SITES

STRUCTURE	ADDRESS/LOCATION	REGISTERS*
SCHOOLHOUSE SQUARE APARTMENTS	661 E MICHIGAN AVE	NR
COE HOUSE	371 W MICHIGAN AVE	NR
MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD DEPOT	210 E MICHIGAN AVE	SR HM
POTTER FARM	1916 NORVELL RD	SR
CARVER CAMP	9259 KNIGHT RD	LD HM

\*NR = NATIONAL REGISTER ; SR = STATE REGISTER; LD = LOCALLY DESIGNATED; AND HM = HISTORIC MARKER

## **Recreational Programming**

Grass Lake Township's summer youth league baseball program utilizes the baseball fields located in the Township Office/Park and the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park. The local AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) program utilizes the soccer pitches that are also located in the Sports & Trails Recreation Park and the Township Office/Park. Many Grass Lake School athletic events are open to spectators and audiences from the general public.

## **Resource Inventory**

In addition to recreation facilities, the Grass Lake area is also home to a wide variety of cultural and natural resources.

### **Topography**

The highest elevation in the Grass Lake area reaches approximately 1,011 feet above sea level and the lowest point is approximately 930 feet above sea level. Generally, the township's land surface is level to gently rolling, and contains rolling hills and low board valleys.

### **Water Resources**

There are a total of 717 acres of water area in the Grass Lake area, including lakes, streams, and wetland areas. Major bodies of water include Grass, Tims, Notten, and parts of Goose, Little Pleasant, and Wolf Lakes. Fish resources include: bluegill, sunfish, pike, perch, and a variety of bass. Wetlands are also scattered across the Area. The water in these areas is rich in nutrients. Subsequently, they contain many types of insects, fish, waterfowl, frogs, and other animals. They also serve to replenish the water table. Preservation of wetlands for both recreational/educational uses as well as for groundwater protection is critical. They provide recreation in the form of hunting and fishing, both of which have an economic benefit to the community. In addition, wetlands function as areas for education, such as nature trails, hiking, boating, bird-watching, and photography. Vernal pools, which are small isolated wetlands occurring seasonally with special species such as fairy shrimp, can also be found in the Grass Lake area.

### **Woodlands**

Woodlots of 40 or more acres are considered a major natural resource. Due to the length of time that trees require to reach maturity, much care should be given to their protection. The type and quality of trees are evaluated before any wooded areas are harvested. The most significant stands of hardwood trees in Grass Lake Charter Township are in the southern portion of the township.

## Chapter 4

# **Descriptions of the Planning and Public Input Processes**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*



## Description of the Planning Process

The development of the *Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition* included the following steps:

1. The Township recognized the need to update the Recreation Plan and invited the Village and Grass Lake Community Schools to participate, increasing the scope of the plan to cover all jurisdictions. A Joint Recreation Planning Committee oversaw the development of the Plan.
2. Region 2 Planning Commission staff was hired to review the development of the 2025 – 2029 edition of the Recreation Plan.
3. A survey was posted online on the Township and Village websites and paper copies were also accepted. The survey was open from June 18 to August 1, 2024.
4. The Joint Recreation Planning Committee utilized the input collected from the public involvement efforts to revise and update the goals and objectives and action program included in the last edition of the Recreation Plan.
5. The Recreation Planning Committee provided the plan for public review from December 2 through December 31, 2024 and held a public hearing on January 14, 2025. The Plan was approved by the Commission and recommended for adoption by the Village Council after the public hearing was closed (please see Appendix E).
6. The School Board adopted the Plan on January 13, 2025, the Township Board adopted the Plan on January 14, 2025, and the Village Council adopted the Plan on January 21, 2025 (please see Appendix E).

## Description of the Public Input Process

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

### Public Meeting before the Township Board

A public hearing for the plan was held by the Grass Lake Township Board on January 14, 2025. The subject of the meeting was the update of the Recreation Plan. A notice of the meeting was distributed throughout the area (please see the notice in Appendix E).

### Recreation Survey

A twenty question survey was available in electronic and hard copy formats from June 18 to August 1, 2024. A total of 200 surveys were returned. The complete survey can be found in Appendix C.

A sampling of the survey responses follow:

	YES	NO
<b>3. Do you believe that adequate recreational opportunities and facilities are provided to community residents?</b>	<b>32.3%</b>	<b>67.7%</b>

	YES	NO
4. Do you believe recreational facilities and programming for seniors, adults, and youth are important to the future of the Grass Lake Community?	95.0%	5.0%

7. How many times have you participated in or visited our community recreational activities/facilities in the past 12 months?	
0 Times	24.8%
1-10 Times	38.9%
11-20 Times	18.7%
20+ Times	17.6%

9. Do you use recreational facilities outside of the community?	
Trails	53 responses
Wellness Centers	17
State Parks	10
Pickleball	9

	YES	NO
10. Do you the community is walkable?	55.6%	44.4%

	YES	NO
12. Would you like to see a nonmotorized trail between the Sports Park on Willis Road and the Village Hall area?	82.1%	17.9%

	YES	NO
19. <b>Should Grass Lake leverage its current outdoor recreation amenities to become the outdoor recreation hub of Jackson County to attract visitors and new investment to the community?</b>	<b>58.3%</b>	<b>41.7%</b>

20. <b>What types of additional recreation facilities and services would you like to see provided for community residents?</b>	
<b>Nonmotorized trails – 140 responses</b>	<b>74.9%</b>
<b>Pickleball courts – 88</b>	<b>47.1%</b>
<b>Kayak rentals – 75</b>	<b>40.1%</b>
<b>Senior recreation activities – 73</b>	<b>39.0%</b>
<b>Dog park – 64</b>	<b>34.2%</b>
<b>Mountain bike trails – 48</b>	<b>25.7%</b>
<b>Gravel bike routes – 43</b>	<b>23.0%</b>

### One Month Review Period

The recreation plan was submitted for public comment for a one month period beginning on December 2, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2024. A notice announcing the meeting was published in *The Brooklyn Exponent*, which serves as the paper of record for the Township and Village, on December 31, 2024 (please see the notice in Appendix E).

The plan was available for review in the offices of the Township, the Village, the School Board, and the Grass Lake Branch of the Jackson District Library. The recreation plan was also available for review online at the Village website ([www.villageofgrasslake.com](http://www.villageofgrasslake.com)), the Township website ([www.grasslaketownship.gov](http://www.grasslaketownship.gov)), the Grass Lake Community Schools website ([www.grasslakeschools.com](http://www.grasslakeschools.com)), and the Region 2 website ([www.region2planning.com](http://www.region2planning.com)).

### Commission Meetings

All meetings of the Joint Recreation Planning Committee, the Township Board, the Village Council and the School Board were open to the public.

### Regional Coordination

The required transmittal letters were sent to the Jackson County Parks Department and the Region 2 Planning Commission (please see the letters in Appendix E).

### Public Hearing

A public hearing on the recreation plan was held on January 14, 2025 at 6:00 pm at the Grass Lake Township Office, during a meeting of the Joint Recreation Planning Committee. A notice

announcing the meeting was published in *The Brooklyn Exponent* on December 31, 2024 (please see the public notice in Appendix E). The meeting took place prior to the vote on the resolution recommending adoption of the Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan by the Village Council, Township Board, and Community Schools Board (please see the meeting minutes in Appendix E).

### **Other Planning Efforts**

Comprehensive/master and other recent planning efforts in the Grass Lake area (each of which included a public involvement component) often included a recreation component:

**Grass Lake Charter Township Master Plan** — Adopted in March 2023, the goals of the Master Plan provide the underlying basis for future land use decisions by capturing the overall vision for Grass Lake Charter Township. The goals help express the character and level of growth that will be acceptable, as well as the quality of life the Township will be able to offer its residents. The Grass Lake area contains a mixture of developed and rural characteristics. The “built” areas face the challenge of ensuring that existing and future neighborhoods and businesses remain attractive to residents and investors. The direction for the undeveloped areas will be the preservation of rural qualities that have made Grass Lake Charter Township a desirable place to live. A total of seven goals and their associated policies and actions were developed. The Natural Features goal had a recreation component to one of its policies:

- The Township will consider the preservation (through acquisition, donation, easements, or other similar means) of areas that merit permanent protection from development, such as sensitive natural features, desired park lands, or public open spaces.

**Village of Grass Lake Master Plan** — Adopted in December 2020, the Master Plan sets forth policy guidelines for future land development within the Village of Grass Lake through the year 2040. The Plan establishes a well-defined land development policy, directing growth into areas of the Village which are or may be able to accommodate new development and encourages individuals and government bodies to find innovative approaches to continuing growth in established areas of the Village. A total of eight goals with objectives were developed with four goals specifically mentioning recreation in some capacity. The recreation-related objectives include:

- Objective 1.3. Champion Health and Wellness
- Objective 3.1. Protect Open Space and Natural Features
- Objective 3.2. Provide Nonmotorized Trail Connections
- Objective 7.3. Create, Expand, and Maintain an Integrated System of Sidewalks and Pathways

**Jackson City + County Non-Motorized Plan 2020** — Adopted in April 2020 the Plan lays out a vision for a connected network that will serve those who want to walk, bike, ride, and drive. It focuses on the modes that have traditionally received less attention including biking and walking. The Plan offers near-term recommendations and a long-term vision that reflect desires and priorities driven by stakeholder input. Five priorities were identified for the Grass Lake Nonmotorized Network in the Plan:

- Completing sidewalk gaps
- Improve crosswalks to ensure ADA compliance and provide safe routes to school
- Improve railroad crossings for people who walk and bike

- Provide trail connections to the Waterloo-Pinckney Recreation Area and to new subdivisions on the edge of town
- Provide a trail connection along Mount Hope Road connecting to the Waterloo-Pinckney trailhead and future medical center near I-94

**2020 – 2024 Jackson County Recreation Plan** — Jackson County developed its recreation plan in 2020. The following objectives from that report are pertinent to the Grass Lake area:

- **Goal 1:** Develop lines of communication, collaboration, and cooperation with other local communities and recreation providers.
- **Goal 2:** Develop a non-motorized trail network.
- **Goal 3:** Renovate existing parks and recreation facilities.

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## Chapter 5

# **Goals and Objectives**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*



## **Value Statements**

Values represent the desired quality and character of outdoor recreation as well as the foundational elements necessary to achieve that character. The following statements describe values that can serve as guiding principles for recreation in the Grass Lake area.

### **Environmentally & Economically Sustainable**

The environment is the primary asset for outdoor recreation activities and attractions in the Grass Lake area. A healthy environment provides numerous ecosystem services upon which the local economy ultimately depends. Healthy economies, in turn, enhance quality of life and provide the resources necessary for stewardship and long-term thinking. By considering both the environment and the economy simultaneously, we can use the highest levels of sustainability to provide the best quality of life for the residents of the Grass Lake community, support economic development, protect the area's natural resources and promote consistent delivery of recreational services.

### **Inviting**

An authentic culture of hospitality invites people to engage with their environment and with each other. Outdoor recreation in the Grass Lake area is inclusive and reflective of our resident population and invites everyone to participate in outdoor recreation. It physically connects communities and invites cooperation towards greater opportunities.

### **Unique**

The landscapes and culture of the Grass Lake area are distinguishing characteristics celebrated through outdoor recreation. By reflecting what is unique at the local level we can realize economic and environmental benefits.

### **Organized**

Facility and program operators demonstrate professionalism and intentionality by providing a high level of service, cleanliness, maintenance, security, and safety to ensure high-quality recreation experiences. Participants will only continue to engage in outdoor recreation activities if they have positive safe experiences.

### **Connected**

Projects that are impactful at broader scales often require intentional coordination or collaboration among multiple partners. They are operationally and physically connected to leverage the assets of all partners and achieve a larger scale that attracts funders and users looking for more robust or comprehensive experiences.

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## Goals and Objectives

The following Goals and Objectives define core actionable strategies for delivering outdoor recreation services that incorporate the ideals articulated in the aforementioned Value Statements.

### Goal #1: Develop Nonmotorized Trail Network

Develop a nonmotorized trail network utilizing sidepaths and sidewalks to connect recreation, residential, institutional, and commercial areas within the Grass Lake area.

- **Objective 1.1:** Develop a nonmotorized trail connecting downtown Grass Lake to the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park on Willis Road.
  - Establish a trailhead at Village office
  - Explore the feasibility of incorporating a companion soft-surface trail with features for mountain or BMX biking alongside the nonmotorized trail. The All-American Trail alongside the Razorback Greenway in Bentonville, Arkansas is an example of this.
- **Objective 1.2:** Develop the Priority Trails for the Grass Lake area as identified in the *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan 2020*. The Priority Trails are:
  - Ann Arbor Road Sidepath – connects Jackson to Grass Lake: 5.8 miles
  - Mount Hope Road Sidepath – Connects the Village to Waterloo SRA: 3.7 miles
- **Objective 1.3:** Implement the recommendations for the Grass Lake Local Network as identified in the *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan 2020*.
- **Objective 1.4:** Improve walkability in the Village by addressing deficiencies in the sidewalk network, such as:
  - Completing sidewalk gaps
  - Improving crosswalks and railroad crossings

### Goal #2: Make Improvements to Existing Recreation Facilities

Determine the feasibility of improving the community's existing recreation facilities.

- **Objective 2.1:** Improve Grass Lake Community Sports and Trails Recreation Park.
  - Identify funding source(s) for maintenance costs and to hire a part-time facilities staffer for the park with an emphasis on maintaining the ballfields
  - Add additional parking
  - Improve walking trails
  - Determine the feasibility of developing a cross country running course capable of hosting high school cross country meets
- **Objective 2.2:** Improve the connectivity between the Grass Lake Depot and Whistle Stop Park and the rest of the community
- **Objective 2.3:** Work with Jackson County Parks to improve Grass Lake County Park.
  - Enhance the connectivity and walkability between the Park and community by improving the sidewalks and / or adding a Sidepath
  - Add a trailhead to the Park

- Coordinate with Jackson County Parks on the planning and programming of the two recent land donations totaling eight acres that the County Parks received, which brings the overall acreage of Grass Lake County Park to 17.25 acres
- Encourage Jackson County Parks to develop nonmotorized trails on the newly added acres of Grass Lake County Park
- **Objective 2.4:** Grass Lake Community Schools recreation facilities
  - Grass Lake Schools have expressed a need to develop additional indoor recreation space to accommodate teams and groups that want to use its facilities
- **Objective 2.5:** Identify new recreation opportunities for the Township Community Center property
  - Develop new ballfields to replace existing fields at the Community / Senior Center
  - Improve the Township's lakefront parcel by adding a viewing platform or dock, which will also provide increase access for shore fishing

### **Goal #3: Improve Recreation Infrastructure**

Identify opportunities to improve the operational infrastructure of community recreation.

- **Objective 3.1:** Establish a partnership between the Township and Village to create a Community Recreation Department with a particular focus on:
  - Programming adult and youth recreation leagues
  - Event coordination
  - Recreation facility management
  - Explore a partnership with Jackson County Parks to oversee Grass Lake County Park
- **Objective 3.2:** Maintain the health and water quality of Grass Lake
  - Develop a strategy to keep out invasive weeds and organisms to ensure the lake's future recreational viability
- **Objective 3.3:** Explore the feasibility of utilizing the county drain behind the Events Park for a nonmotorized trail or other recreational use
- **Objective 3.4:** Seek opportunities to increase collaboration through additional programming with the 5 Healthy Towns

### **Goal #4: Establish Grass Lake as an Outdoor Recreation Hub**

Utilize the community's outdoor recreation assets to attract visitors, residents, and new investment.

- **Objective 4.1:** Develop outdoor recreation related events to attract visitors and spending to the community
- **Objective 4.2:** Identify additional outdoor recreation infrastructure needed to continue building community as an outdoor recreation hub
  - Gear rentals such as kayaks, SUPs, bikes, etc.

- Identify a partner, such as the Jackson Public Library Grass Lake Branch, to host an outdoor recreation gear lending library to provide a lower cost entry to outdoor recreation for local residents
- Adopt the Rural Recreational Roads model to establish a gravel cycling presence in the community by identifying gravel cycling routes and the location for a hub to access the routes and provide a base level of amenities to riders, such as parking, water, and restroom access
- Identify sites for the development of mountain bike trails and / or a pump track
- Identify potential locations for a skate park or skate garden and determine the feasibility of incorporating skate park components such as benches, small banks, jumps, and ramps along a paved nonmotorized
- **Objective 4.3:** Identify complementary infrastructure to serve outdoor recreation visitors to the community and nearby assets such as Waterloo SRA
  - Maps and guides of outdoor recreation offerings such as gravel cycling potentially in partnership with Experience Jackson and / or Region 2's Southern Michigan Outdoors initiative
  - Provide bike repair stations at appropriate locations
  - Food and beverage offerings including the potential to develop a food truck court
  - Short term lodging options catering to outdoor recreation visitors

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## Chapter 6

# **Action Plan**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*



## Action Plan

The action plan details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific improvement projects as well as strategies for implementation.

The following outlines a list of specific projects and actions which are recommended for accomplishment during the planning period. They are based on the needs identified in the previous section.

### 1: Develop Nonmotorized Trail Network

- Prioritize development of a nonmotorized trail connecting downtown Grass Lake to the Grass Lake Community Sports & Trails Recreation Park on Willis Road with a trailhead at the Village office
- Cultivate partners, such as Jackson County DOT and MDOT, to assist in development of priority trails identified in the 2020 *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan*
- Develop a schedule for phased implementation of recommendations to improve the Grass Lake Local Network as identified in the 2020 *Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan*
- Improve walkability in the Village by identifying and addressing the most deficient sidewalk sections in order of need
- Pursue funding sources such as grants and philanthropic opportunities to begin buildout of the nonmotorized trail network

### 2: Make Improvements to Existing Recreation Facilities

- Improve Grass Lake Community Sports and Trails Recreation Park by adding additional parking and improving walking trails
- Identify opportunities for improved connectivity between the Grass Lake Depot and Whistle Stop Park and the rest of the community
- Seek a partnership with Jackson County Parks to improve Grass Lake County Park through additional amenities and assist in programming recent land donations that have increased acreage of the Park to best serve the community's desires
- Work with Grass Lake Community Schools to identify indoor recreation facilities to serve as models for future development of a facility locally
- Identify and design new recreation opportunities such as improved ballfields and lakefront activation for the Township Community Center property

### 3: Improve Recreation Infrastructure

- Coordinate a partnership agreement between the Township and the Village to create a Community Recreation Department tasked with sports programming, facility management, and event coordination duties
- Maintain the health and water quality of Grass Lake by seeking assistance from, and partnerships with entities such as Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), where appropriate and feasible
- Meet with the Jackson County Drain Commissioner to determine feasibility of utilizing the county drain behind the Events Park for recreational uses
- Increase collaboration with the 5 Healthy Towns initiative

#### **4: Establish Grass Lake as an Outdoor Recreation Hub**

- Determine the additional outdoor recreation infrastructure needed to continue building community as an outdoor recreation hub
- Identify a partner to assist in creating outdoor recreation events to attract visitors and spending to the community
- Identify host partner(s) and gear suppliers to establish an outdoor recreation gear lending library
- Adopt the Rural Recreational Roads model in partnership with Experience Jackson and Regions 2's Southern Michigan Outdoors initiative to establish a gravel cycling presence in the community
- Determine feasibility and identify locations for a skate park or skate garden
- Identify complementary infrastructure needs, such as food and lodging, to serve the outdoor recreation visitors to the community and nearby assets
- Partner with Experience Jackson and Region 2's Southern Michigan Outdoors initiative to assist in the development and marketing of Grass Lake as an Outdoor Recreation Hub

Appendix A

**Demographics**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

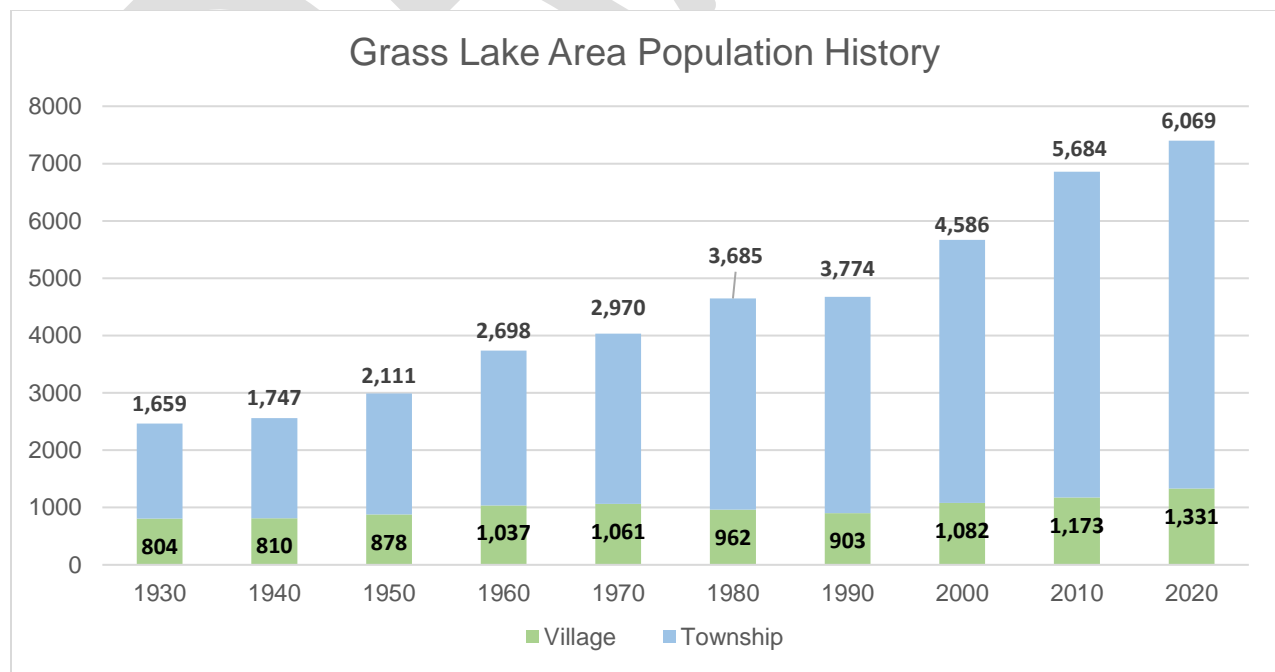
*This page intentionally blank.*

The Grass Lake Area is comprised of Grass Lake Charter Township and the Village of Grass Lake. The composition of Grass Lake residents can have an effect upon the recreational needs of the area. For example:

- **Population History & Projections** – establish the need for general recreational facilities (standards for which are based upon the size of the population).
- **The Age & Sex of the Population** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among various age groups and gender interests.
- **Household & Family Composition** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced between family-oriented and individual activities.
- **Racial & Ethnic Composition** – further refine the need for general recreational facilities balanced among the various interests of racial and ethnic groups.
- **The Disabilities of Residents** – establish the need for special recreation facilities and disability accommodations to general recreation facilities.
- **Income** – helps to illustrate the need for publicly-funded recreational facilities.

### Population History & Projections

Grass Lake Charter Township's 2020 population was 6,069, an increase of 6.8 percent from the 2010 population of 5,684. This continued the trend of steadily increasing population between 1930 and 2020. The Township's population increased to 6,106 in 2022, the most recent data available. Assuming an identical 6.8 percent growth rate between 2020 and 2030 the Township's population in 2030 would be projected at 6,481 residents. The Village had a 2020 population of 1,331, an increase of 13.5 percent from the 2010 population of 1,173. The Village population in 2022 was 1,222, a decrease from the 2020 population but still an overall increase of 4.2 percent from the 2010 Village population. The Village comprised twenty percent of Grass Lake area residents in 2022.



As measured by the nine decennial census periods between 1930 and 2020 the Township's average growth rate per decade was 15.85 percent. Assuming that rate of growth would result in a 2030 population for the Township of 7,031 or an increase of 962 people since 2020. Utilizing the growth rate for the Township of 6.8 percent between 2010 and 2020 would result in a 2030 Township population of 6,482, an increase of 413 people.

Similarly for the Village, assuming the historical growth rate per decade between 1930 and 2020 of 6.12 percent would result in a 2030 population for the Village of 1,412, or an increase of 81 people since 2020. Utilizing the growth rate for the Village of 13.5 percent between 2010 and 2020 would result in a 2030 Village population of 1,511, an increase of 180 people.

#### Historical Growth Rates Per Decade

	Village	Township
1930 – 1940	.007	5.3
1940 – 1950	8.4	20.8
1950 – 1960	18.1	27.8
1960 – 1970	2.3	10.0
1970 – 1980	(9.3)	24.1
1980 – 1990	(6.1)	2.4
1990 – 2000	19.8	21.5
2000 – 2010	8.4	23.9
2010 – 2020	13.5	6.8
<b>Historical Average</b>	<b>6.12%</b>	<b>15.85%</b>

#### Age & Gender of the Population

Nearly twenty-six percent (25.8) of the area's population in 2022 were classified as Adult (ages 45 to 64), which was the largest population cohort in the community. Young Adult (ages 25 to 44) was the next largest cohort representing 25.1 percent of the area's population. Together these cohorts comprised 50.9 percent of area residents in 2022. The largest population cohort in the Village in 2022 was the Young Adult representing 32.9 percent of all Village residents, which contributed to the median age of a Grass Lake Villager (32.4) being nearly twelve years younger than the 44.1 median age of all area residents. The area's population was almost evenly split between male and female residents.

Population by Age, 2022	Grass Lake Village		Grass Lake Charter Twp.	
	Value	% of Total	Value	% of Total
Total	1,222	100%	6,106	100%
Preschool (0 to 4)	100	8.2%	480	7.9%
School Age (5 to 17)	207	16.9%	910	14.9%
College Age (18 to 24)	89	7.3%	337	5.5%

Young Adult (25 to 44)	402	32.9%	1,535	25.1%
Adult (45 to 64)	206	16.9%	1,576	25.8%
Older Adult (65 plus)	218	17.8%	1,268	20.8%
Median Age	32.4		44.1	

### Household & Family Composition

Families comprised 72.1 percent of area households in 2022 compared to 55.6 percent in the Village. Children were present in 29 percent of households, nearly identical to the Village's 27.8 percent of households with children. Single-person households comprised 24.6 percent of area households, significantly less than the 35.7 percent in the Village. The average area household size was 3.02 people as compared to 3.29 people in the Village.

### Racial & Ethnic Composition

The area population is homogenous with 95 percent classified as white. Persons of Hispanic heritage comprised the largest minority group in the area with three percent of the population in 2022.

### Disability of Residents

Grass Lake area residents with at least one disability in 2022 comprised an estimated 7.8 percent of the population nearly identical to the share of Village residents at 8.2 percent. In terms of recreation accommodation 4.9 percent of area residents have an ambulatory disability, nearly double (2.5 percent) those in the Village.

### Income

The median household income for the Grass Lake area of \$91,337 in 2022 was significantly greater than that for the U.S. (\$74,755), Michigan (\$69,183), and Jackson County (\$63,338). The Village's 2022 median household income of \$75,921 also outpaced the national, state, and county median incomes.

#### Median Household Income: 2022

Grass Lake Charter Township	\$ 91,337
Grass Lake Village	\$ 75,291
Jackson County	\$ 63,338
Michigan	\$ 69,183
United States	\$ 74,755

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*



Appendix B

**Recreation and Resource Inventory**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

## NRPA PARK STANDARDS

USE	SERVICE AREA	SIZE	ACRES/ 1,000	SITE FEATURES
SPECIALIZED FACILITIES THAT SERVE A CONCENTRATED OR LIMITED POPULATION OR SPECIFIC GROUP SUCH AS TOTS OR SENIOR CITIZENS.	LESS THAN ¼ MILE RADIUS.	1 ACRE OR LESS	0.25 TO 0.50	WITHIN NEIGHBORHOODS AND IN PROXIMITY TO APARTMENT COMPLEXES, TOWNHOUSES OR HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY.
AREA FOR INTENSE RECREATION ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS FIELD GAMES, COURT GAMES, CRAFTS, PLAYGROUND APPARATUS AREA, SKATING, PICNICKING, WADING POOLS, ETC.	¼ TO ½ MILE RADIUS TO SERVE A POPULATION UP TO 5,000 — A NEIGHBORHOOD.	15 ACRES	1 TO 2	SUITED FOR INTENSE DEVELOPMENT. EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO NEIGHBORHOOD POPULATIONS. GEOGRAPHICALLY CENTERED WITH SAFE WALKING AND BIKE ACCESS. MAY BE DEVELOPED AS A SCHOOL PARK FACILITY
AREA OF DIVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. MAY INCLUDE AREAS SUITED FOR INTENSE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, SUCH ATHLETIC COMPLEXES, LARGE SWIMMING POOLS. MAY BE AN AREA OF NATURAL QUALITY FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION, SUCH AS WALKING, VIEWING, SITTING, AND PICNICKING. MAY BE ANY COMBINATION OF THE ABOVE, DEPENDING UPON SITE SUITABILITY AND COMMUNITY NEED.	MORE THAN ONE NEIGHBORHOOD — 1 TO 2 MILE RADIUS.	15+ ACRES	5 TO 8	MAY INCLUDE NATURAL FEATURES, SUCH AS WATER BODIES, AND AREAS SUITED FOR INTENSE DEVELOPMENT. EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO NEIGHBORHOOD SERVED.

SOURCE: ROGER A. LANCASTER, ED; 1983. RECREATION, PARK AND OPEN SPACE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES. ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA: NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION, P. 56-57.

<b>Municipal &amp; County Parks:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Clear Lake County Park	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	5 ac.
Grass Lake Community Sports & Trail Recreation Park	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	62 ac.
Grass Lake County Park	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	9 ac.
Grass Lake Township Park	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	14 ac. – disc golf, trails
Little Wolf Lake County Park	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	9 ac. – water access

<b>State Parks, Recreation &amp; Game Areas:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Grass Lake State Game Area	Grass Lake	Jackson	125 ac.
Sharonville State Game Area	Grass Lake	Jackson	4,387 ac. – shooting range
Waterloo State Recreation Area	Waterloo Twp.	Jackson	20,000 ac. total w/ 5,776 ac. of wildlife area

<b>Lakes:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Goose Lake	Grass Lake / Leoni Twps.	Jackson	398 ac.
Grass Lake	Grass Lake	Jackson	352 ac.
Little Wolf Lake	Grass Lake / Napoleon Twps.	Jackson	99 ac.
Tims Lake	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	105 ac.
Welch Lake	Grass Lake / Leoni Twps.	Jackson	106 ac.
Wolf Lake	Grass Lake / Leoni Twps.	Jackson	355 ac.

<b>Public Boat Launches:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Grass Lake County Park Boat Launch	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	Gravel

<b>Shore Fishing:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Portage Lake	Grass Lake	Jackson	360 ac.

<b>Campgrounds:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Apple Creek Campground	Grass Lake	Jackson	170 total sites – 130 ac.
Hideaway RV Park	Grass Lake	Jackson	61 total sites
Holiday Campgrounds	Grass Lake	Jackson	180 total sites – 150 ac.
Faholo Conference Center	Grass Lake	Jackson	Assemblies of God camp – 500 guest capacity
G.W. Carver Camp	Grass Lake	Jackson	Assoc. of Greater Detroit Metropolitan Baptist Dist. – 385 ac. – founded in 1941

<b>Regional Trails:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Waterloo – Pinkney Trail	Grass Lake	Jackson	36 mi.

<b>Local Trails:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Grass Lake Community Township Park Nature Trail	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	1.8 mi.
Thom Baird Nature Trail	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	1.4 mi.

<b>Golf Courses:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Calderone Golf Club	Grass Lake	Jackson	18 holes

<b>Disc Golf:</b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Faith Baptist Church DG Course	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	9 holes – 14 ac.
Fa Ho Lo DG Course	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	9 holes – private
Grass Lake Township Park DG Course	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	9 holes

<b><i>Shooting Sports:</i></b>			
<b>Asset:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Sharonville State Game Area Shooting Range	Grass Lake	Jackson	Rifle/pistol range – 34 stations, 4 distances – Hand Trap range – 8 stations – Shotgun pattern range – 1 station, 2 distances – Archery range – 7 stations
Grass Lake Sportsman's Club	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	Rifle – pistol – trap – turkey shoot ranges

<b><i>Cycling Events:</i></b>			
<b>Event:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Waterloo G&G Gravel Bike Race	Grass Lake	Jackson	4/30/2022 – 50k, 100k, and 10 mi. races – MGRS – 500 max – <b>463</b> riders in 2022
The Watermoo Gravel Bike Race*	Grass Lake	Jackson	8/13/2022 – 111 mi. race – MGRS – <b>212</b> riders in 2022
The Rode to Hell Gravel Bike Race	Grass Lake	Jackson	Held at Waterloo SRA – 10/8/2022 – <b>182</b> riders in 2022

<b><i>Running Events:</i></b>			
<b>Event:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Traffic Jam'In 5k – ORS Race Series	Grass Lake	Jackson	7/8/2022 – 5k run/walk/1mi. fun run – <b>252</b> participants

<b><i>Triathlon Events:</i></b>			
<b>Event:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Tri Goddess Tri Multisport Festival	Grass Lake	Jackson	Big Portage Lake State Park: Waterloo SRA – Duathlon, Aquabike, Mini-Sprint Tri, Sprint Tri, Sprint Relay, Swim Run – “women only” – 6/25/2022 – <b>307</b> participants
Ugly Dog Tri: Michigan's Original Gravel Road Tri	Grass Lake	Jackson	Big Portage Lake State Park: Waterloo SRA – Tri, “Pretty Dog” Tri, Duathlon, Aquabike, Tri Relay – 7/23/2022 – <b>140</b> participants

Battle of Waterloo: 10-stage Triathlon	Grass Lake	Jackson	Big Portage Lake State Park: Waterloo SRA – 7/29/2023 – held every other year – “bucket list tri” in Triathlete Magazine
--	------------	---------	--

<i><b>Equestrian Hunter / Jumper and Dressage Events:</b></i>			
<b>Event:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Waterloo Hunter Trials	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 4/16/2022
Dressage at Waterloo Spring Classic I & II	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 6/3 – 6/5/2022
Dressage at Waterloo June I & II	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 6/17 – 6/19/2022
Waterloo Hunt Horse Show #1	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 6/28 – 6/29/2022 USEF Heritage Competition
Waterloo Hunter Jumper Classic #2	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 6/30 – 7/3/2022 – <b>222</b> horses
Dressage at Waterloo – July Performance	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 7/15 – 7/17/2022
Dressage at Waterloo August I	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 8/5 – 8/7/2022
Dressage at Waterloo Summer Finale I & II	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 8/18 – 8/21/2022
USDF Region 2 Dressage Championships	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 9/14 – 9/18/2022
Welcome Horse Show I	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 5/4 – 5/8/2021 – Hunter Jumper Association of Michigan (HJAM)
HJAM Welcome Horse Show II	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 5/11 – 5/15/2021 – HJAM
HJAM Annual Horse Show	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 5/18 – 5/22/2021 – HJAM
Fox Brush @ Waterloo	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 7/23 – 7/24/2021 – Lake Effect Horse Show
Fox Brush @ Waterloo	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 7/29 – 7/31/2021 – Lake Effect Horse Show
USDF Region 2 Dressage Championships	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 9/14 – 9/18/2022
Welcome Horse Show I	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 5/4 – 5/8/2021 – Hunter Jumper Association of Michigan (HJAM)
HJAM Welcome Horse Show II	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 5/11 – 5/15/2021 – HJAM

HJAM Annual Horse Show	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 5/18 – 5/22/2021 – HJAM
Fox Brush @ Waterloo	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 7/23 – 7/24/2021 – Lake Effect Horse Show
Fox Brush @ Waterloo	Grass Lake	Jackson	Waterloo Hunt Club – 7/29 – 7/31/2021 – Lake Effect Horse Show

<i>Outdoor Recreation Groups:</i>			
<b>Group:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>County:</b>	<b>Description:</b>
Grass Lake Roadrunners	Grass Lake	Jackson	Running club
Grass Lake Sportsman's Club	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	Shooting – fishing – 96 ac.
Waterloo Hunt Club	Grass Lake	Jackson	Equestrian club – fox hunts – dressage – 60 ac. – 200 horse stabling – <a href="http://waterloohunt.com">waterloohunt.com</a>
Wolf Lake Yacht Club	Grass Lake Twp.	Jackson	Sailing / boating



Appendix C

**Public Input Survey**

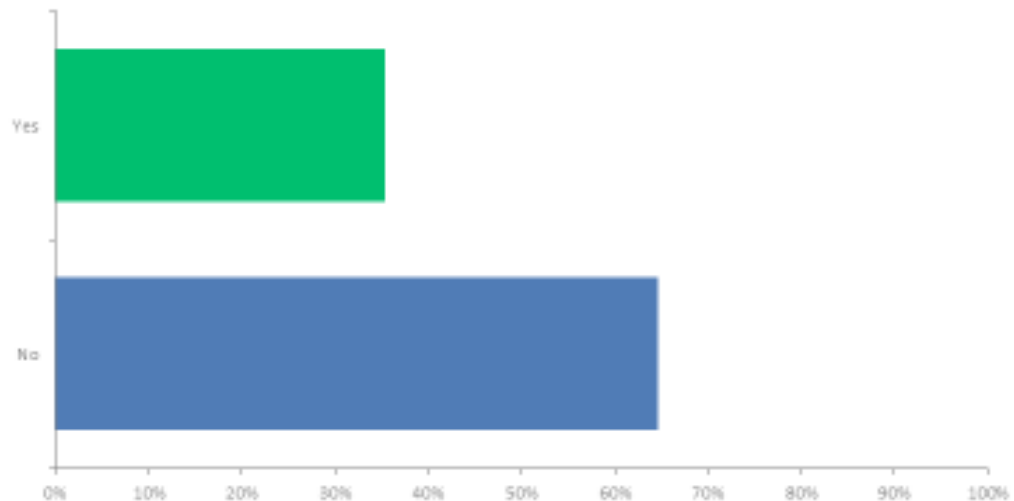
Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

**Q1: Are you familiar with the Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan 2016-2020 edition**

Answered: 198 Skipped: 2



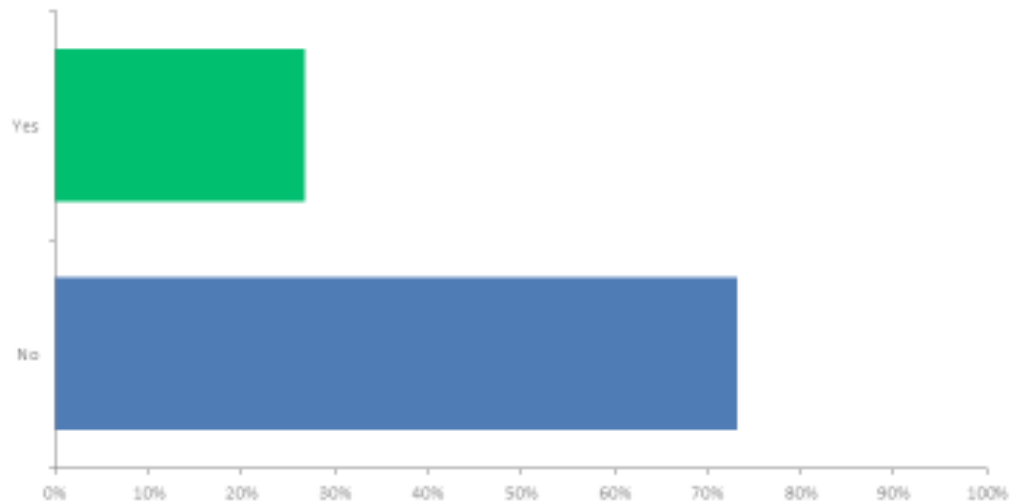
**Q1: Are you familiar with the Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan 2016-2020 edition**

Answered: 198 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	35.35%	70
No	64.65%	128
TOTAL		198

**Q2: Are you aware of the current recreation plans for our Grass Lake community?**

Answered: 198 Skipped: 2



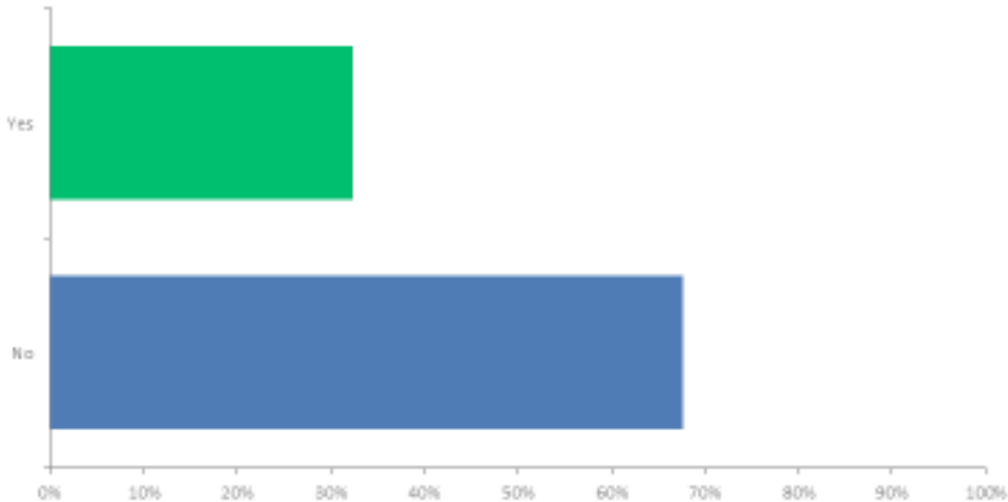
**Q2: Are you aware of the current recreation plans for our Grass Lake community?**

Answered: 198 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	26.77%	53
No	73.23%	145
TOTAL		198

**Q3: Do you believe that adequate recreational opportunities and facilities are provided to community residents?**

Answered: 195 Skipped: 5



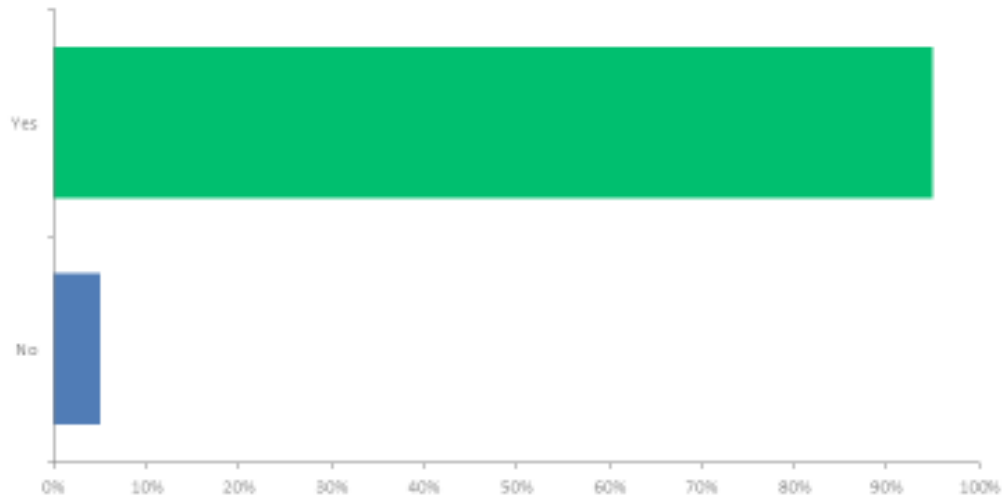
**Q3: Do you believe that adequate recreational opportunities and facilities are provided to community residents?**

Answered: 195 Skipped: 5

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	32.31%	63
No	67.69%	132
TOTAL		195

**Q4: Do you believe recreational facilities and programming for seniors, adults, and youth are important to the future of Grass Lake?**

Answered: 200 Skipped: 0



**Q4: Do you believe recreational facilities and programming for seniors, adults, and youth are important to the future of Grass Lake?**

Answered: 200 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	95.00%	190
No	5.00%	10
TOTAL		200

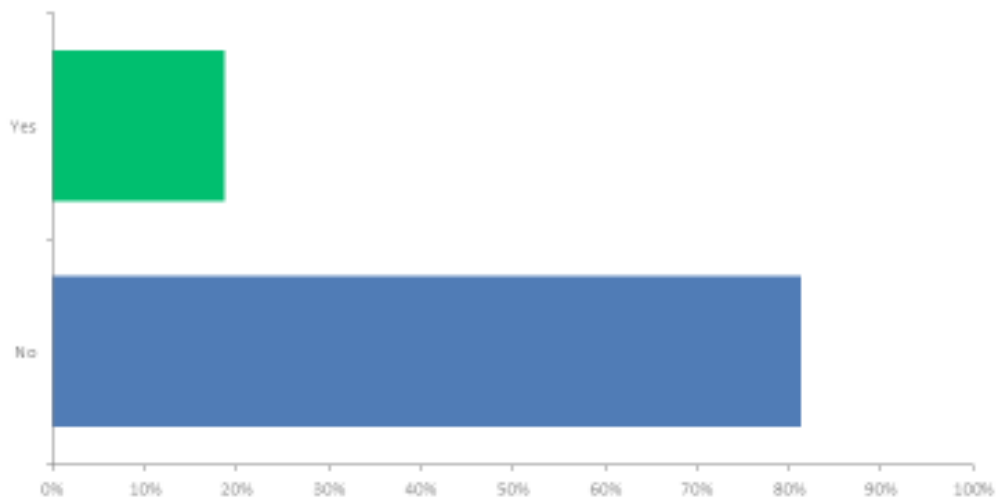
Q5 What recreational facilities do you currently use in the Grass Lake community?

playground County park Lake Waterloo Walking paths ball fields village  
hiking trails complex area Soccer use Willis Rd lake township  
soccer fields access trails baseball fields None  
high school parks tennis courts Walking trails center  
park lake Willis Senior Center Willis road Grass Lake Park  
Sports County park roads track Lake park walking boat launch Grass Lake



**Q6: Are you aware of any accessibility issues that need to be addressed at Grass Lake recreation areas?**

Answered: 193 Skipped: 7



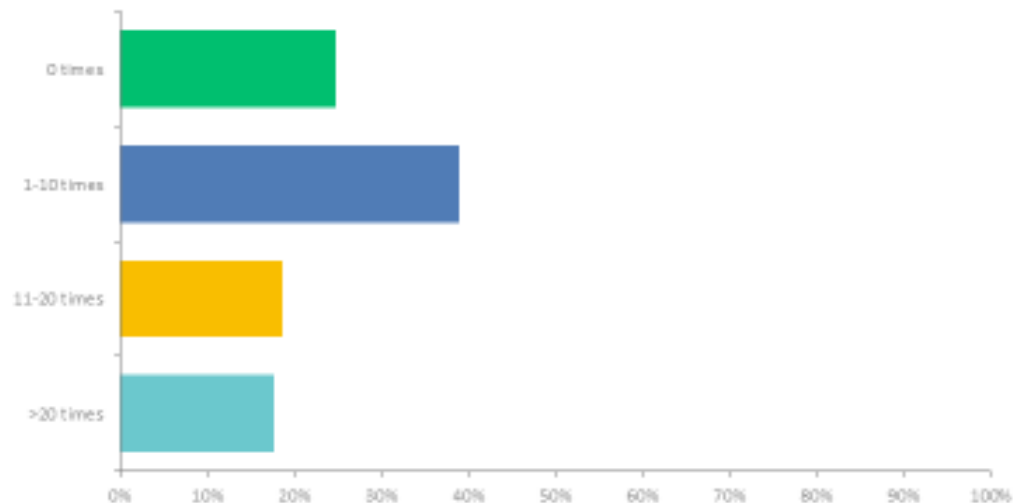
**Q6: Are you aware of any accessibility issues that need to be addressed at Grass Lake recreation areas?**

Answered: 193 Skipped: 7

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	18.65%	36
No	81.35%	157
TOTAL		193

**Q7: How many times have you participated in or visited our community recreational activities/facilities in the past 12 months?**

Answered: 198 Skipped: 2



**Q7: How many times have you participated in or visited our community recreational activities/facilities in the past 12 months?**

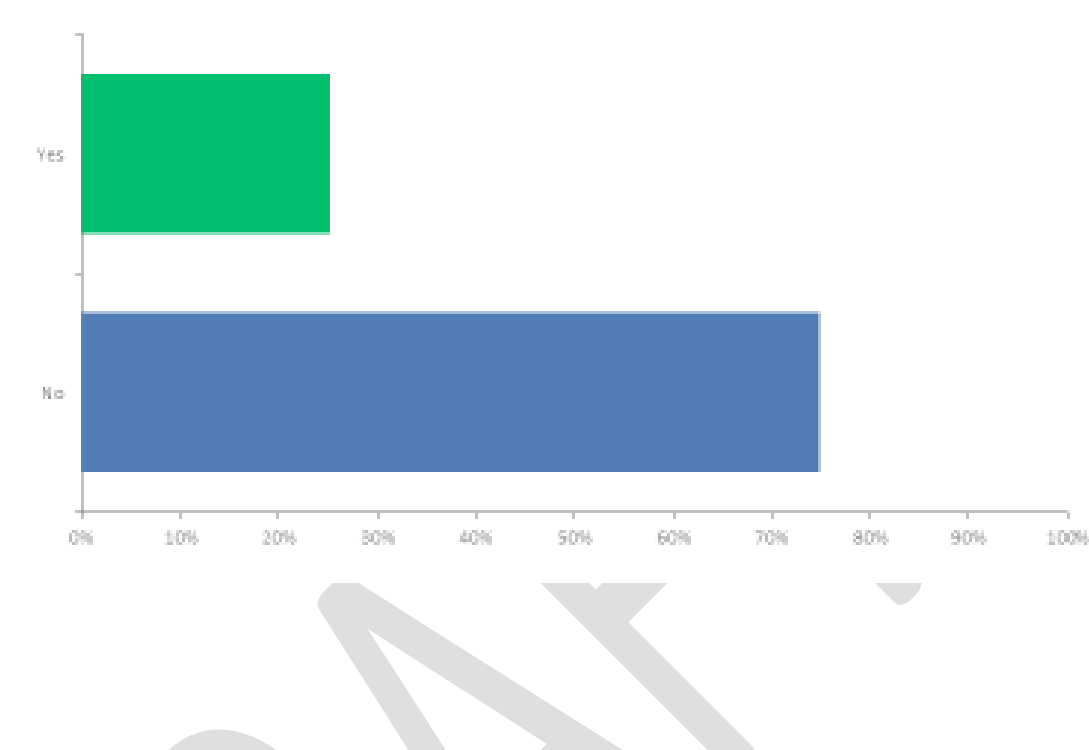
Answered: 198 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0 times	24.75%	49
1-10 times	38.89%	77
11-20 times	18.69%	37
>20 times	17.68%	35
TOTAL		198



**Q8: Does your family participate in Grass Lake community sports leagues?**

Answered: 199 Skipped: 1



**Q8: Does your family participate in Grass Lake community sports leagues?**

Answered: 199 Skipped: 1

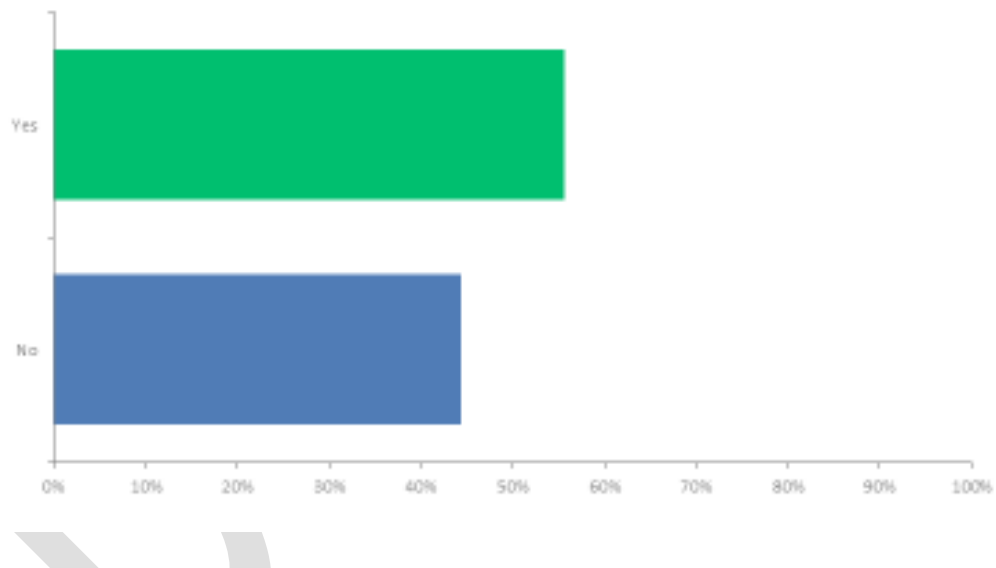
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	25.13%	50
No	74.87%	149
TOTAL		199

Q9 Do you use recreational facilities outside of the community? which facilities? Where?  
How frequently?



Q10: Do you believe the community is walkable?

Answered: 196 Skipped: 4



Q10: Do you believe the community is walkable?

Answered: 196 Skipped: 4

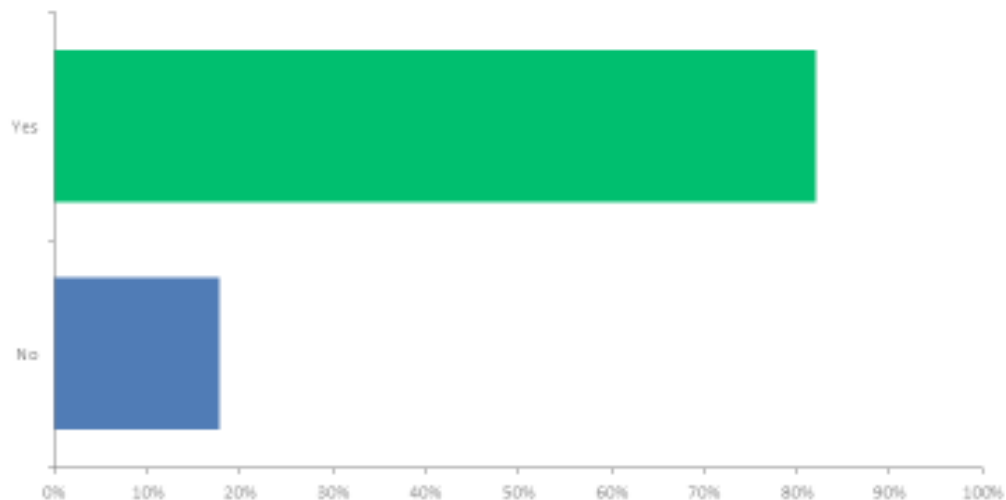
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	55.61%	109
No	44.39%	87
TOTAL		196

Q11 Where do people want to walk and/or bike to within the community that they can't currently?

bike lane Sports Park bike trail Township lake Sports subdivisions Need  
 connect Michigan Ave village great town Mt Hope Rd bike  
 Chelsea walk Rd trails everywhere road around  
 downtown Around lake paths Mount Hope road sidewalks  
 Waterloo Wolf Lake safe walking biking main roads park Page Ave sure  
 Along

Q12: Would you like to see a non-motorized trail between the Sports Park on Willis Road and the Village Hall area?

Answered: 195 Skipped: 4



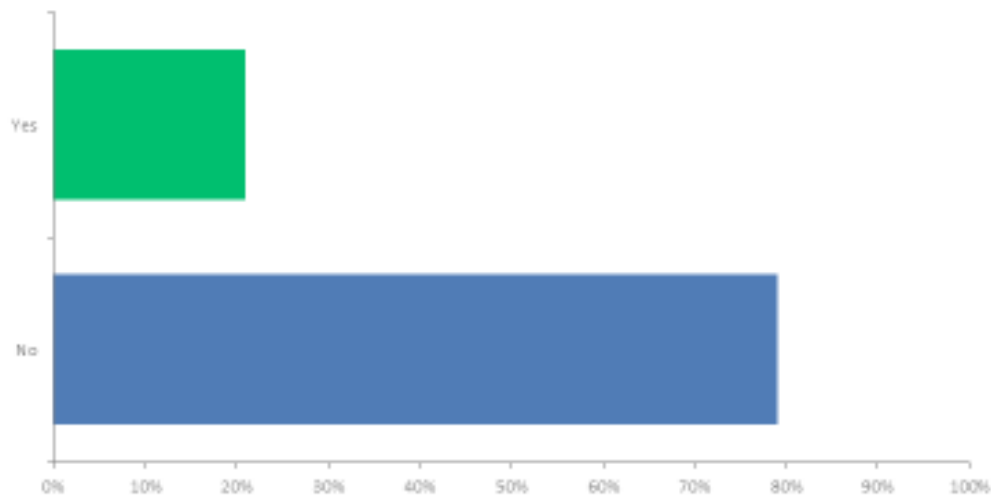
Q12: Would you like to see a non-motorized trail between the Sports Park on Willis Road and the Village Hall area?

Answered: 195 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	82.14%	161
No	17.86%	35
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>196</b>

**Q13: Do you prefer private recreational areas to those provided by the public sector?**

Answered: 186 Skipped: 14



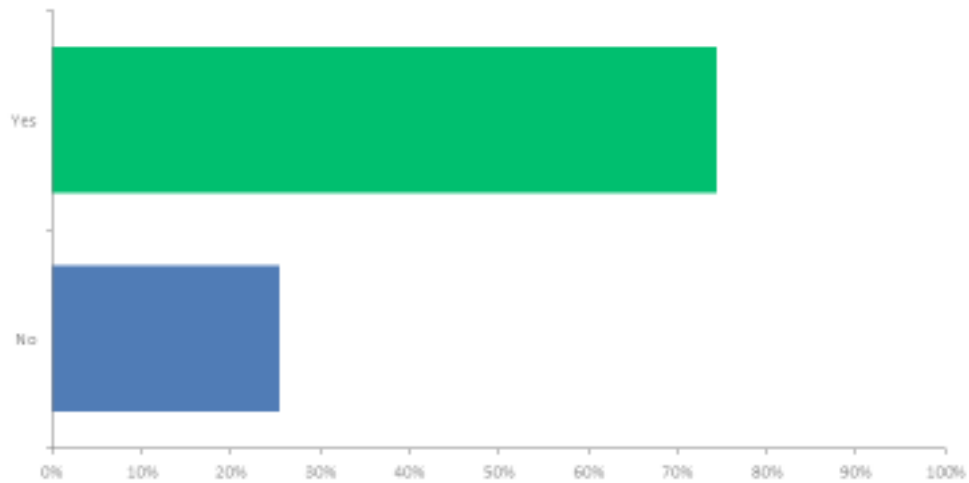
**Q13: Do you prefer private recreational areas to those provided by the public sector?**

Answered: 186 Skipped: 14

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	20.97%	39
No	79.03%	147
TOTAL		186

**Q14: Do you believe that the local governments need to place a higher priority on financially funding parks, non-motorized trails, and recreation?**

Answered: 192 Skipped: 8



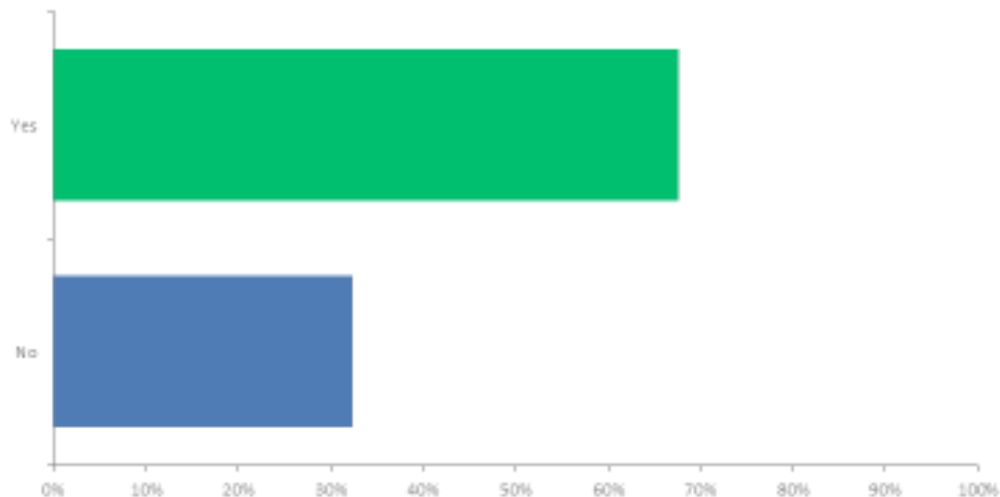
**Q14: Do you believe that the local governments need to place a higher priority on financially funding parks, non-motorized trails, and recreation?**

Answered: 192 Skipped: 8

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	74.48%	143
No	25.52%	49
TOTAL		192

**Q15: Would you support a recreation millage to further develop, maintain and enhance the community parks, non-motorized trails, and recreation?**

Answered: 192 Skipped: 0



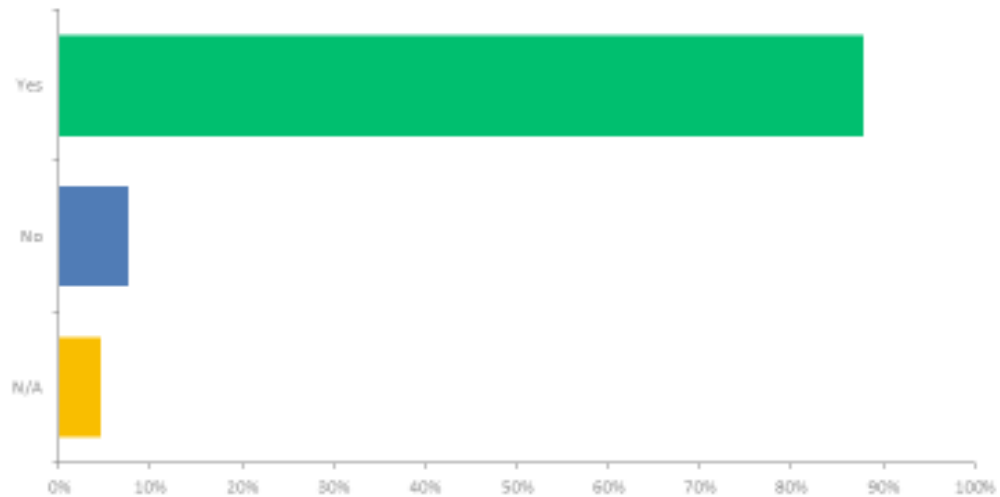
**Q15: Would you support a recreation millage to further develop, maintain and enhance the community parks, non-motorized trails, and recreation?**

Answered: 192 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	67.71%	130
No	32.29%	62
TOTAL		192

### Q16: Have you voted in the past 12 months?

Answered: 199 Skipped: 1



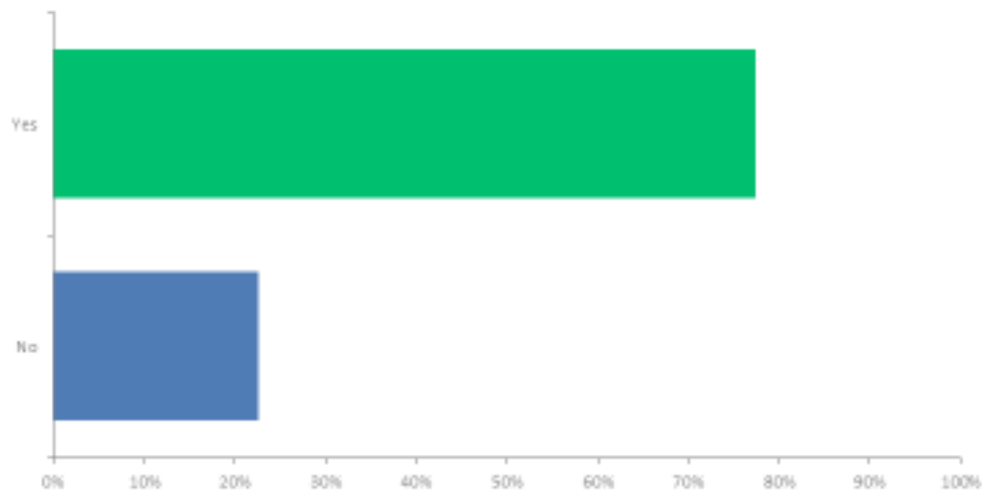
### Q16: Have you voted in the past 12 months?

Answered: 199 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	87.94%	175
No	7.54%	15
N/A	4.52%	9
TOTAL		199

**Q17: Do you believe trail location markers and increased lighting and other park amenities would increase the usage of the community's recreational areas?**

Answered: 190 Skipped: 10



**Q17: Do you believe trail location markers and increased lighting and other park amenities would increase the usage of the community's recreational areas?**

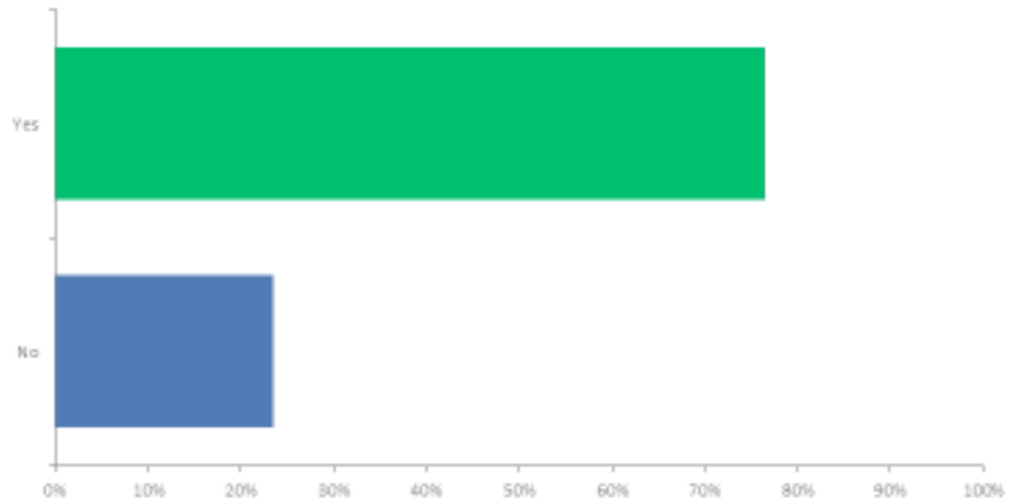
Answered: 190 Skipped: 10

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.37%	147
No	22.63%	43
TOTAL		190



**Q18: Would you support outside vendors, such as gear rentals or food concessions, operating on-site at community recreation areas?**

Answered: 191 Skipped: 9

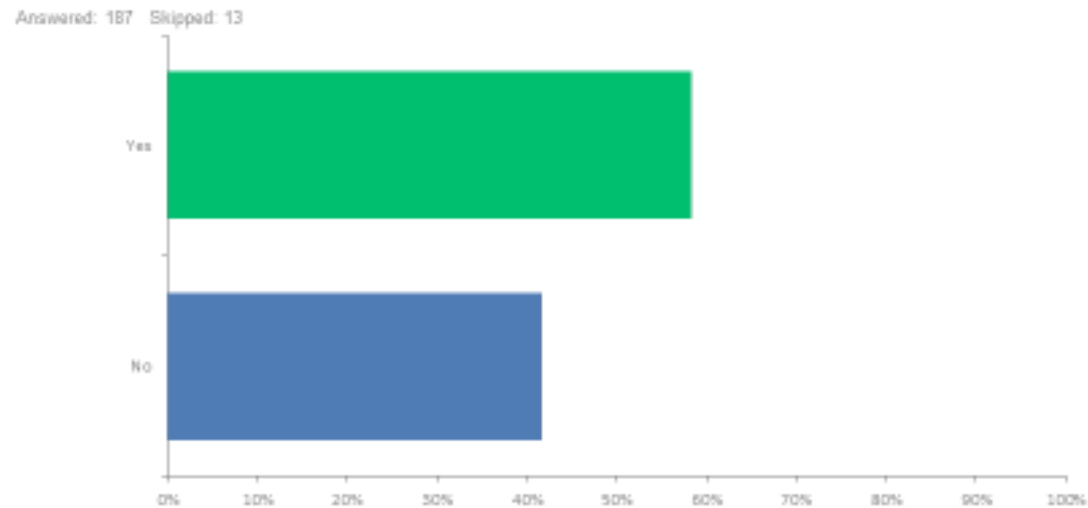


**Q18: Would you support outside vendors, such as gear rentals or food concessions, operating on-site at community recreation areas?**

Answered: 191 Skipped: 9

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	76.44%	146
No	23.56%	45
TOTAL		191

**Q19: Should Grass Lake leverage its current outdoor recreation amenities to become the outdoor recreation hub of Jackson County to attract visitors and new investment to the community?**



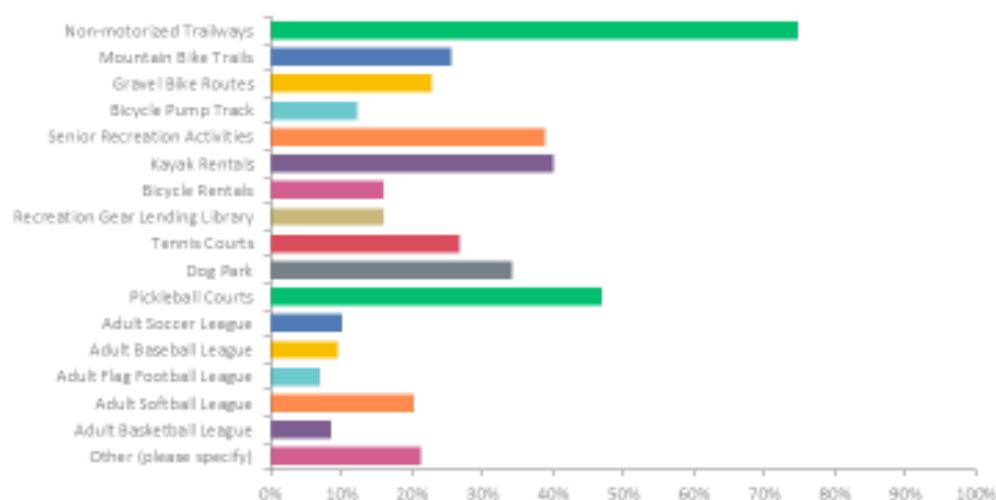
**Q19: Should Grass Lake leverage its current outdoor recreation amenities to become the outdoor recreation hub of Jackson County to attract visitors and new investment to the community?**

Answered: 187 Skipped: 13

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	58.29%	109
No	41.71%	78
TOTAL		187

## Q20: What types of additional recreation facilities and services would you like to see provided for community residents?

Answered: 187 Skipped: 13



## Q20: What types of additional recreation facilities and services would you like to see provided for community residents?

Answered: 187 Skipped: 13

ANSWER CHOICES	PERCENTAGE	COUNT
Non-motorized Trailways	74.87%	140
Mountain Bike Trails	26.67%	48
Gravel Bike Routes	22.99%	43
Bicycle Pump Track	12.90%	23
Senior Recreation Activities	39.04%	73
Kayak Rentals	40.11%	75
Bicycle Rentals	16.04%	30
Recreation Gear Lending Library	16.04%	30
Tennis Courts	26.74%	50
Dog Park	34.22%	64
Pickleball Courts	47.06%	88
Adult Soccer League	10.16%	19
Adult Baseball League	9.63%	18
Adult Flag Football League	6.95%	13
Adult Softball League	20.32%	38
Adult Basketball League	8.56%	16
Other (please specify)	21.39%	40
TOTAL		188

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

Appendix D

**Nonmotorized Multiuse Trails**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

**Jackson City + County Non-Motorized Plan 2020** — Adopted in April 2020 the Plan lays out a vision for a connected network that will serve those who want to walk, bike, ride, and drive. It focuses on the modes that have traditionally received less attention including biking and walking. The Plan offers near-term recommendations and a long-term vision that reflect desires and priorities driven by stakeholder input. Five priorities were identified for the Grass Lake Nonmotorized Network in the Plan:

- Completing sidewalk gaps
- Improve crosswalks to ensure ADA compliance and provide safe routes to school
- Improve railroad crossings for people who walk and bike
- Provide trail connections to the Waterloo-Pinckney Recreation Area and to new subdivisions on the edge of town
- Provide a trail connection along Mount Hope Road connecting to the Waterloo-Pinckney trailhead and future medical center near I-94



### Grass Lake

The Village of Grass Lake has a walkable downtown with nearby parks, schools and neighborhoods to connect. The Waterloo-Pinckney Rec Area is a major bicycle destination to the north.

**Priorities**

- Completing sidewalk gaps
- Improve crosswalks so they are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide safe routes to schools
- Improve railroad crossings for people who walk and bike
- Provide trail connections to the Waterloo-Pinckney Recreation Area and to new subdivisions on the edge of town
- Provide a trail connection along Mount Hope Road connecting to the Waterloo-Pinckney trailhead and future medical center near I-94

- 1 Provide foot paths between parks and downtown
- 2 Complete sidewalk gaps along Michigan Avenue, Warrior Trail, Portage Street and Lakeside Drive
- 3 Work with landowners to provide connection from Michigan Ave to Grass Lake Middle School
- 4 Local road bike route on Clark, Water, South, Church, Lake, Brown, Portage and Union Streets
- 5 Sidepath connection to Breezy Lane
- 6 Improve railroad crossings
- 7 Improve crosswalks - detectable warning, curb ramps, high visibility marking, in-road pedestrian signs or rectangular rapid flash beacons to help slow traffic in the downtown and along school routes
- 8 Crosswalk with rectangular rapid flash beacon
- 9 New crosswalk - provide access to trail from neighborhoods
- 10 Sidepath along west side of Mount Hope Road
- 11 Paved shoulders on Wolf Lake Road, Norvell Road and Grass Lake Road



Whistlestop Park Depot in Grass Lake

78

Jackson City + County Nonmotorized Plan







1

## Mount Hope Road Sidepath

Sidepath connection between the Village of Grass Lake and Waterloo State Recreation Area using right-of-way along Mount Hope Road.

Length	3.7 miles
Surface	Paved Sidepath
Right-of-Way	Parallels Mount Hope Road
Public Input	Priority. The desire to connect to subdivision off Mount Hope Road and to new Henry Ford Allegiance Health care facility planned near I-94.
Ownership	Mostly right-of-way with a some private property owners. May require easements with adjacent property owners.
Topography	Swales, utilities and vegetation
Bridges + Boardwalks	Bridge crossing I-94
Road Crossings	Railroad crossing and minor road crossings
Existing Structures	Nothing significant
Magnitude of Cost	<u>\$4.86 Million (Further evaluation needed. Price could vary considerably due to easements.)</u>

## Provisions for Non-Motorized Transportation in ‘Act 51’

Act 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, and commonly referred to as ‘Act 51,’ created the Michigan Transportation Fund (MTF) which is the mechanism for distributing the state gas tax to eligible transportation agencies (e.g., the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); county road commissions; and city and village departments of public works (townships are served through road commissions)). ‘Act 51’ also contains Michigan’s legal system for classifying roads<sup>5</sup>:

- state trunklines (e.g., Interstate (I), United States (US), and Michigan (M) routes);
- county primary roads and city and village major streets; and
- county, city, & village local roads and streets).

## Non-Motorized Provisions in ‘Act 51’ (Sec. 10k)

‘Act 51’ requires that a reasonable amount—or at least a value not less than 1%—of an agency’s annual MTF allocation shall be expended on the construction or improvement of non-motorized services and facilities. However, funds can be spent over a period not to exceed 10 years. ‘Act 51’ also states that non-motorized facilities may be established in conjunction with or separate from already existing highways, roads and streets; new road construction; and road reconstruction and that those facilities shall be established when a highway, road or street is being constructed, reconstructed or relocated.

**‘Act 51’ provides a potential funding source for the development of non-motorized facilities which the Village of Grass Lake and Grass Lake Charter Township should explore. However, since ‘Act 51’ was passed into law in order to facilitate mobility (i.e., transportation and economic development), only projects which can fulfill a transportation need as well as a recreation opportunity are eligible for this funding.**

WORK CREDITABLE AGAINST THE SEC. 10K EXPENDITURE REQUIREMENT				
DESCRIPTION OF WORK	CREDITABLE WORK	ELIGIBLE COSTS		
NON – ROAD FACILITIES		ENG.	CONST.	
SHARED USE PATHS (AS A PROJECT)	ALL ENGINEERING / CONSTRUCTION	100%	100%	
SHARED USE PATHS (AS PART OF A ROAD PROJECT)	1) ALL PATH RELATED CONSTRUCTION; 2) NON-PATH WORK IN THE ROAD PROJECT, NECESSITATED BY THE PATH COMPONENT (E.G. EXTRA FILL, CULVERT EXTENSION, ETC); AND 3) PRORATED ENGINEERING COSTS.	PRORATED 1	100% OF 1) & 2)	
SHARED USE STRUCTURES	ALL ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION	100%	100%	
BICYCLE PARKING	ACQUISITION AND INSTALLATION	100%	100%	
SIDEWALKS, RAMPS & CURB CUTS	ALL ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION	100%	100%	

<sup>5</sup> State trunklines, county primary roads, and village and city streets are all MTF-eligible facilities. However, this is not true for all local streets and roads.

<b>SIGNS, PAVEMENT MARKINGS, &amp; SIGNALS</b>	ALL WORK SPECIFICALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE NON-MOTORIZED FACILITY AND ITS PEDESTRIAN/NON-MOTORIZED USERS	100%	100%
--	---	------	------

ROAD FACILITIES		ENG.	CONST.
<b>BIKE LANES AND ASSOCIATED SIGNAGE / PAVEMENT MARKINGS</b>	THAT PORTION OF THE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION THAT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE BIKE LANE	PRORATED	PRORATED <sup>2</sup>
<b>SHOULDER PAVING (AS A PROJECT)</b>	ALL ENGINEERING/CONSTRUCTION	100%	100%
<b>SHOULDER PAVING (AS A PART OF OTHER ROAD/BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, OR WIDENING WORK)</b>	THAT PORTION OF THE ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION THAT CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE PAVING SHOULDER PORTION OF THE WORK	PRORATED	PRORATED <sup>2</sup>
<b>ROAD &amp; BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, &amp; WIDENING</b>	THAT PORTION OF THE OUTSIDE LAND WIDTH IN EXCESS OF THE MINIMUM DESIGN WIDTH FOR MOTOR VEHICLES	PRORATED	PRORATED

<sup>1</sup> PRORATION:  $E_{NM} = (C_{NM} / C_{TOT}) \times E_{TOT}$ , WHERE E=ENGINEERING \$\$ & C=CONSTRUCTION \$\$

<sup>2</sup> PRORATION:  $C_{NM} = (W_{NM} / W_{TOT}) \times C_{TOT}$  WHERE W=WIDTH OF ROADWAY AND C=CONSTRUCTION \$\$

NOTE: ONLY ROAD/BRIDGE PROJECTS AY ITEMS WHICH INCLUDE THE NON-MOTORIZED WIDTH IN THE WIDTH PRORATION

## Project Eligibility

Eligible non-motorized facility improvements include but are not limited to:

- On-road facilities — non-motorized accommodations built in a roadway (e.g., shoulder paving; a share of road/bridge construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, or widening, and striped bicycle lanes);
- Off-road facilities — are accommodations which occur off the edge of a road or street although they may still be within its right-of-way (e.g., ramps and curb-cuts where paths or sidewalks cross roadways, bicycle parking facilities; and signs, pavement markings, and signals); and
- Sidewalks.

'Act 51' states that the 1% set-aside may not be attributed to a non-motorized project:

- when the cost of establishing the non-motorized facilities would be disproportionate to needs;
- where the establishment of non-motorized facilities would be contrary to public safety;
- where adequate non-motorized facilities already exist;
- where local matching funds are not available (e.g. projects using federal funds); or
- where previous expenditures and projected expenditures for non-motorized facilities exceed 1% of the agency's MTF allocation, thus making additional expenditures discretionary.

Since MTF funding can only be spent on eligible roads and streets, the 1% set-aside can only be attributed to eligible roads and streets in the case of on-road facilities. It should also be pointed out that all improvements must meet established design criteria for non-motorized facilities. 'Act 51' also requires agencies to consult with their MDOT development region in the preparation & submittal of a 5-year program of non-motorized projects. However, this requirement has yet to be clarified by MDOT.

## Non-Motorized Facility Safety Standards

Safety is a concern when designing non-motorized facilities. What should be the minimum standard for the type of non-motorized facility to build given the type of roads or streets they augment? The National Functional Classification (NFC) System classifies roads according to their importance (i.e., how busy they are):

- **Principal Arterials** — interstates and other freeways, state (e.g., US and M) routes between large cities, and important surface streets in large cities
- **Minor Arterials** — state routes between smaller cities; medium-important surface streets in large cities; and important surface streets in smaller cities
- **Collectors** — county farm-to-market roads (major and minor) and various connecting streets in large and smaller cities (urban)
- **Local Roads/Streets** — residential streets and lightly traveled county roads; and
- **Private Roads/Streets** — local roads streets that are owned and maintained privately.

The Grass Lake Area hosts principal and minor arterials, urban/major collectors, local streets, and private streets. The following non-motorized standards are encouraged based upon those types of roadways:

Recommended Non-Motorized Standards	
Road/Street Type	Facility Type(s)
Freeways and Other Principal Arterials	Multiuse Paths
Minor Arterials	Sidewalks/Multiuse Paths
Urban/Major Collectors	Sidewalks and bike lanes/Multiuse Paths
Minor Collectors	Sidewalks and bike lanes
Local Roads/Streets	Sidewalks
Private Roads/Streets	Sidewalks

Appendix E

**Plan Adoption Documents and Resolutions**

Grass Lake Area Recreation Plan: 2025 – 2029 Edition

DRAFT

*This page intentionally blank.*

Note: This page is currently a placeholder.