



Oshtemo Township
Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan
2024 - 2028

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The development of this Plan was a collaborative effort, created through the engagement of citizens, staff and stakeholders of the Township at various meetings and through online and mailed surveys. This Plan recognizes the contributions of all who participated in the planning process.

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INTRODUCTION

Oshtemo's parks are a great source of pride. They benefit our community in many ways: by providing us with places to enjoy the outdoors, connect with nature and each other, and improve our health through exercise. Our parks are gathering places for special events, sports tournaments, family picnics and more. They protect wildlife habitat and help maintain the quality of our air and water.

The long-term care and support of these assets is an important function of the Township Board, staff, and residents. From routine maintenance to major improvements and land acquisition, much thought goes into deciding how and where to spend the Township's limited financial resources.

WHAT IS A PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN?

This Parks and Recreation Plan is intended to be a 'road map' to guide decisions related to park improvements and maintenance over the next five years, especially at a time when financial resources are limited. The planning process included public input, inventory, and data collection. The public input provided Township leaders and staff a better understanding of its residents' needs and desires. This Plan captures those needs and provides goals and objectives to accomplish the desired improvements.

WHY DO WE NEED A PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN?

Caring for and preserving these resources, as well as adapting to the changing needs of the community is essential to Oshtemo's health and sustainability. As our population continues to increase, understanding and planning for these changes will be critical to future capital improvement decisions.

In addition, if the Plan is approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Oshtemo will be eligible to apply for recreation grant funds from the DNR. Grant programs include the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). Plan approval is valid for five years. Our current plan, **GO! Green Oshtemo**, expires December 31, 2023. Eligibility for these grant programs is extremely important. Oshtemo Township has received over \$1.4 M in MNRTF funds in the past. This grant program is critical to funding future park improvements and park land acquisition.

DNR Recreation Grants Awarded to Oshtemo Township		
Park name and project type	Year	Amount
Oshtemo Township Park Acquisition	1978	\$117,600
Oshtemo Township Park Improvements	2011	\$489,000
Flesher Field Park Improvements	2012 & 2013	\$600,000
Grange Hall Playground Improvements	2014	\$30,000
Drake Farmstead Park Improvements	2017	\$136,500
Fruit Belt Rail Corridor Acquisition	2020	\$58,000
Fruit Belt Rail Corridor Improvements	2023 application pending	\$0
Total DNR recreation grants received	-	\$1,431,100

RELATIONSHIP TO GO! GREEN OSHTEMO

GO! Green Oshtemo is the first plan of its kind in Oshtemo Township in that it plans for parks and recreation, nonmotorized transportation, and conservation, in a comprehensive and coordinated way. Developed in 2018 with extensive resident input and staff and consultant support, it was adopted by the Township Board in early 2019 as the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. ***GO! Green Oshtemo was also designed to meet the master plan requirements of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, PA 33 of 2008, and was incorporated into the overall Township Master Plan.***

This Plan is an update to the parks and recreation component of **GO! Green Oshtemo**. It is designed to meet or exceed all requirements outlined in the DNR's Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans. ***The goals, objectives and action plan contained herein replace Appendix D: Parks and Recreation Action Plan and pages 18 of the Summary Report.*** Community description, including physical and demographic characteristics, administrative structure, recreation inventory, planning process and public input process have all been researched and updated to support creation of the goals and objectives.

All other sections of **GO! Green Oshtemo** will remain in effect for the purpose of the community master plan. This includes the remainder of the Plan Summary, as well as Appendix A: Existing Conditions Inventory, Appendix B: Trends and Needs Overview, Appendix C: Public Input Summary, Appendix E: Nonmotorized Transportation Action Plan, Appendix F: Conservation Action Plan, Appendix G: Collective Plan Goals and Action Strategies, Appendix H: Parks Administrative Structure, Appendix I: Resolution of Approval, and all technical support documents, including the non-motorized corridor recommendations.

A major update to the Township master plan is planned for 2024, when the non-motorized and conservation goals in **GO! Green Oshtemo** will be updated.

OVERVIEW

OUR GROWING AND CHANGING PARK SYSTEM

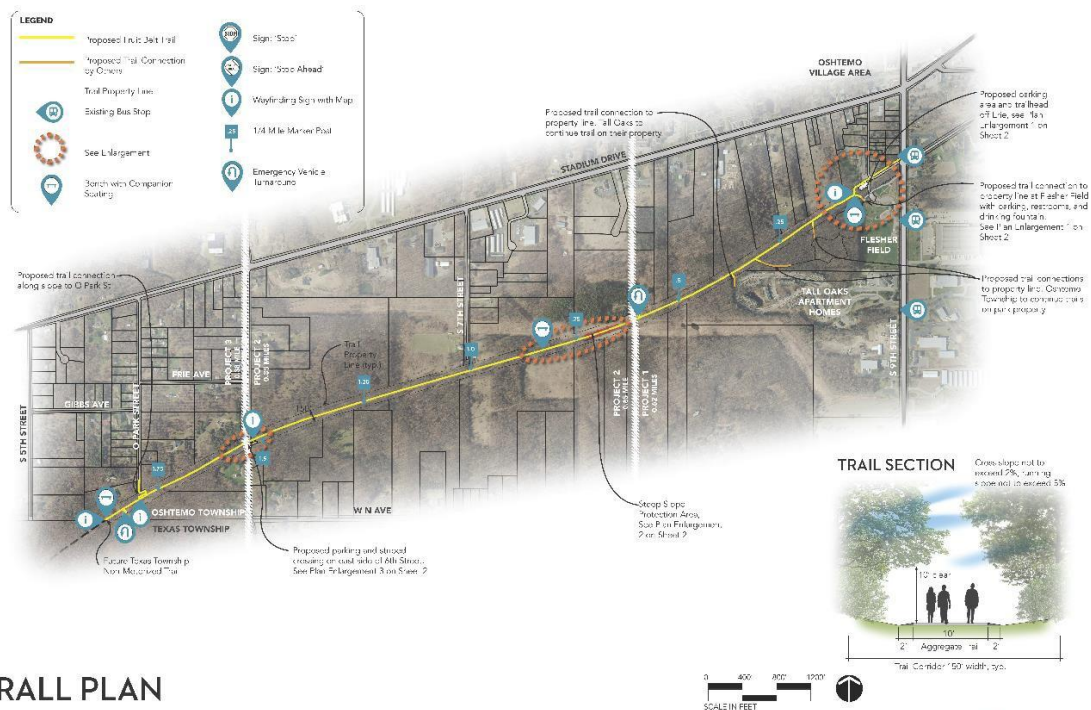
GO! Green Oshtemo provided a valuable ‘road map’ for land acquisition and park improvements over the past five years. Many of the actions recommended in the plan have been accomplished. The following is an overview of Oshtemo’s park system with a brief description of the improvements and changes made since the previous plan was adopted.

FRUIT BELT RAIL CORRIDOR

This two-mile long, 35-acre former rail corridor property was acquired in 2021 with grant funds from the MNRTF. Now open to the public for walking, bird-watching and other passive recreation pursuits, the property has an existing footpath that has been enjoyed by neighbors for decades.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- A Master Plan was developed in 2022 for the Fruit Belt Rail Trail. The plan includes an accessible crushed stone trail in the corridor, parking at the Chime Street trailhead and 6th Street, wayfinding signage, benches, and other amenities. Three MNRTF grants were submitted in 2023 for funds to construct the Trail.
- Ecological restoration is underway, thanks to a \$150,000 Planet Award grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation.



OVERALL PLAN

FRUIT BELT RAIL TRAIL MASTER PLAN
OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP, MICHIGAN

SCALE IN FEET

SHEET 1
2/27/2023



FLESHER FIELD PARK

Flesher Field, located on 9th Street south of Stadium Drive, is a popular destination for field games, family gatherings, and special events. Key attractions of this 24-acre park are the large open sports field available for soccer, football, and other games and access to the adjacent Fruit Belt Rail Trail. The park also has two wiffleball fields, two picnic shelters, a gazebo and garden area, paved loop trail, and unpaved walking trails in the wooded area. ‘Music in the Park’, Oshtemo’s free, family-friendly outdoor concert series, is held at Flesher Field.

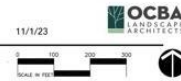
RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The Master Plan for Flesher Field was updated in 2023 with extensive public input. It proposes the addition of several new active recreation facilities to meet the recreational needs of our growing community, including basketball, pickleball, more wiffleball, and trail improvements.
- Volunteers built a trail connection to link the Fruit Belt Rail Trail with the walking trails in the wooded portion of Flesher Field.



Flesher Field Park - 2023 Master Plan Update

Oshtemo Township, Michigan



DRAKE FARMSTEAD PARK

Drake Farmstead Park is a 26-acre park on the eastern edge of the Township on Drake Road and West Main Street. Listed on the National Register of Historical Places, the site contains an historic brick farmhouse that has been restored by volunteers with the Oshtemo Historical Society. Walking trails, a picnic shelter, interpretive signs, and a parking lot were developed in 2019 with funding from MNRTF. A 1,200 square foot multi-purpose building including restrooms was constructed in 2019. Built in the style of the former carriage barn, it hosts events and recreational activities.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Constructed an exit driveway to Croyden Avenue. Designed and installed directional signage to establish a new one-way vehicular circulation pattern.
- Created a network of mowed walking trails through the wooded areas of the park.
- Planted native wildflower and grass seed mix in the six-acre prairie reconstruction area with Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KCF) funds in partnership with the Kalamazoo Nature Center.



Drake Farmstead Park - 2023 Master Plan Update

Oshtemo Township, Michigan

OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP PARK

Located behind the Township Hall and Library, this park features both an active and passive recreation area. The park includes paved loop trails, playground, picnic shelters, tennis & pickleball courts, basketball courts, wiffleball field, restroom building, and parking lot. One of the biggest draws is the 18- hole disc golf course that weaves through the wooded area of the Park. Township Park has become extremely popular, attracting visitors from within the Township and surrounding county.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Added two pickleball courts by revising the layout of the existing courts, from two tennis courts to one tennis court and two pickleball courts.
- Replaced the disc golf baskets and added new signage.

GRANGE HALL PARK

The Grange Hall is a historic building located in the rural north-west quadrant of the Township on North 3rd Street. It has ties to Oshtemo's agricultural heritage hosting the Grange Association and is a popular location for country and square-dancing sessions. The building was renovated in 2017 making it fully accessible, with an elevator to both levels and adding barrier-free restrooms. The site also contains a small playground, picnic area, basketball court, classifying it as a neighborhood park.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Installation of a staging area for cyclists, featuring a bike fix-it station, bike rack, water faucet, bulletin board and new walkway.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

RESIDENT-DRIVEN PLAN

Public participation played an integral role in the development of this Plan. A community-wide survey of randomly selected residents was conducted to ensure that feedback was gathered from park users as well as those who don't typically use our parks. In addition, an online survey was made available to all residents and park users. In total, nearly 400 people responded to the surveys, providing important insight into resident desires. To encourage face-to-face interaction and discussion of more complex issues, a public meeting in the form of an open house was held at the Oshtemo Community Center. Community Survey questions and results are included at the end of Appendix 5.

Finally, an adoption process was designed to allow for a 30-day review period of the draft plan and a public hearing, providing the residents of Oshtemo opportunities to weigh in on the plan. The public hearing is planned for the December 12, 2023 Township Board Meeting. Board consideration of Plan Adoption is planned for January 2024.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Feedback from the public input process showed that parks are one of the things residents like most about living in Oshtemo Township. Our parks are highly valued and seen as well-maintained and provide opportunities for leisure and entertainment. The community-wide survey confirmed that satisfaction levels have increased for all factors, including park maintenance, enforcement of park rules, feeling of personal safety, etc. since the 2017 survey. In addition, the top five activities participated in remained unchanged: hiking/walking, relaxing, playground, picnicking, family/group activities.

Themes for improvement are maintenance/cleaning, promoting parks, and adding recreational activities such as senior programs, more trails, and more green space.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTION PROGRAM

The goals outlined in this Plan are intended to be broad, visionary statements that are not time specific and are intended to serve as a guide to future Township leaders and staff. The objectives translate these goals into more specific direction that will help implement the overall vision of the Plan. The development of these goals and action strategies were accomplished through:

- An understanding of current conditions within the Township;
- The public input process conducted for the development of this Plan;
- The vision of the current Township Master Plan, and past Park and Recreation Plans; and,
- Direction from the Parks Committee and Oshtemo Township Board.

GOAL 1: ACQUISITION

Acquire land for new parks and trails in order to meet the needs of a growing community.

Objectives:

1. Seek land for parks and trails in urbanized areas of the Township, concentrating acquisition efforts on the development of neighborhood or mini parks, with an acreage size between one and ten acres.
2. Seek land for parks and trails in the more rural areas of the Township as well, concentrating acquisition efforts on land that becomes available with conservation value and/or in developing areas.
3. Seek land to expand existing parks and trails, recognizing this as an economical way to increase recreation opportunities where infrastructure, such as restrooms and parking, are already in place.
4. Recognizing the popularity of disc golf in Oshtemo Township, consider acquisition of 60 or more acres of land for a new world championship disc golf course.
5. As the Township continues to develop, provide for a more uniform distribution of park facilities, in terms of both geography and population, and work towards providing a park within 1/2 mile of a majority of Oshtemo residents within the urbanized area.
6. Update Township ordinances to encourage or require developers to provide more public and/or private recreation facilities within new residential developments.

GOAL 2: ACCESSIBILITY AND DIVERSITY

Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, both active and passive, that meet the needs of all ages and abilities and promote healthy, active lifestyles.

Objectives:

1. Incorporate amenities and facilities missing in Township parks or identified as a priority by the community such as improved walking/biking trails, basketball courts, pickleball and tennis courts, wiffleball fields, platform/wheelchair swings, and more playground equipment.
2. Consider expansion of the disc golf course at Township Park to alleviate congestion and to allow closure of the existing 18-hole course during tournaments while still allowing holes for casual play.
3. Explore nature-based play opportunities where children can engage with the natural environment.
4. Explore ways to provide free or low-cost, year-round programs for seniors, especially programs that provide opportunities for social interaction, group exercise, and wellness activities.

5. Recognizing the limited assets of many Township residents, consider providing free or low-cost recreation and wellness programs for youth and adults.
6. Maintain a logical balance between active and passive pursuits in the parks that address the recreation needs of users of all ages in all seasons.
7. Develop a long-range master plan for the property owned by the Township and Kalamazoo County located on KL Avenue just east of 4th Street, to meet future park and recreation needs.
8. Implement the newly updated park master plans for Drake Farmstead Park and Flesher Field.
9. Develop and provide educational programs with a focus on nature and history at Drake Farmstead Park.
10. Develop and implement a plan to provide additional outdoor recreation facilities at Grange Hall.
11. Pursue opportunities to bring art into the parks.

GOAL 3: EXCEPTIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE

Deliver an exceptional park user experience through proper maintenance and continuous improvements, recognizing that our parks are a source of community pride.

Objectives:

1. Explore opportunities to establish a greater staff presence in the parks during busy times, to enforce park rules, ensure a welcoming environment, and perform critical maintenance tasks more frequently. Also consider adding staff to organize community events and programs and to coordinate volunteers.
2. Continue to evaluate improvements needed to enhance universal access and provide equal levels of experiences for all age groups and abilities and their specific recreational needs. For example, feedback from the community survey indicates that more ADA parking spaces are needed at Township Park.
3. Work with the Oshtemo Fire Department and Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Department to provide a safe environment in the parks and along trails, and to plan for emergencies and rescue needs with improvements such as AED's, more trail markers, etc.
4. Develop a system to encourage park users to report maintenance issues and other concerns.
5. Consider ways to simplify and improve the reservation system and web-based interactions.
6. Continue to repair and renew facilities at existing parks, such as the disc golf course and hiking trails at Township Park, which are heavily used and showing signs of deterioration.
7. Continue to restore and maintain the unique historic amenities like the Drake Farmstead, Community Center, Grange Hall, etc. that are managed by the Parks Department.
8. Investigate whether there is a need for short term rental of sports equipment such as basketballs, pickleball paddles, etc. Consider partnering with the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library for rental of equipment during the weekend.
9. Consider low-cost ways to provide more recreation opportunities in winter, such as by clearing snow from more trails or promoting cross country skiing and snow shoeing opportunities.

GOAL 4: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Foster environmental stewardship by preserving natural features and improving habitat within parks, supporting efforts to make Oshtemo a leader in environmental conservation and climate resilience.

Objectives:

1. Develop programs for the "greening" and naturalization of the parks and facilities through improvements such as:
 - field maintenance;

- removal of invasive species and reestablishment of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers;
 - storm water improvements;
 - lighting upgrades; and,
 - energy audits.
2. Preserve natural features during design and development of parks to the maximum extent feasible, in consideration of the type of park planned.
 3. Collaborate with adjoining property owners to coordinate environmental stewardship efforts in areas such as Township Park, Lillian Anderson Arboretum, and adjacent environmentally sensitive lands.
 4. Restore and preserve natural areas in the parks to improve habitat, prevent the spread of invasive species, and increase the enjoyment of park users.
 5. Provide programs to educate the public about environmental issues and climate resilience.

GOAL 5: CONNECT NATURE AND PEOPLE

Develop a trail and greenway system that connects nature and people to parks, natural features, and other destinations.

Objectives:

1. Provide trail connections between parks, neighborhoods, schools, and other destinations, with special consideration for regional trail connections to adjacent communities.
2. Continue working to close the gap in the bike trail along West Main Street that leads to Township Hall and Oshtemo Park.
3. Construct an accessible trail and related amenities such as parking, benches and signage on Oshtemo's two-mile long Fruit Belt Rail Trail property, and work to extend the Trail east to connect with the City of Kalamazoo's non-motorized trails at Drake Road and Parkview Avenue.
4. Develop a set of criteria for determining when greenway/open space lands should be permanently protected in their undeveloped state and when passive recreation such as a trail should be permitted, promoting a balance between recreational opportunities and natural resource protection.
5. Identify locations and investigate opportunities to acquire land/easements for future trail and greenway connection.

GOAL 6: ENHANCE PARTNERSHIPS

Enhance partnerships with community organizations, schools, governmental units, and civic groups, and work towards better public/private partnerships with the development community to improve recreation and conservation opportunities.

Objectives:

1. Develop a comprehensive list of community organizations involved in parks, recreation, and conservation and strengthen these partnerships to support recreation and outdoor activities in Oshtemo Township.
2. Work with Friends of the Parks to encourage greater volunteer participation in all aspects of parks, recreation, and conservation activities.
3. Continue to build on the successful relationship with the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library by continuing to partner on projects and programs made possible by the library's close proximity to Township Park.
4. Explore incentive opportunities for the private development community to provide both private and public recreation opportunities within their development projects.
5. Investigate volunteer opportunities and "adopt a mile" programs for the maintenance of trails.
6. Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to provide a wider diversity of recreation opportunities, share advice and expertise, and identify cost saving opportunities.
7. Continue to work with the public and private schools in Oshtemo on volunteer projects and programs.

GOAL 7: SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system.

Objectives:

1. Develop an Asset Management Plan to project recreational facility replacement and operational needs.
2. Complete a comprehensive analysis of total costs related to the Township's rental facilities and establish cost recovery rates that will generate revenue for these expenditures.
3. Pursue all available funding sources for acquisition, capital improvements, operations and maintenance, including local sources, the Township endowment, a parks and recreation millage, state and federal grant programs, local businesses, sponsorships, and other sources.
4. Explore opportunities for greater private sector participation in the provision of recreation services in the Township.
5. Continue to build the Oshtemo Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund by promoting it to residents for estate planning and philanthropic giving, and by contributions from the Township's general fund.
6. Work with Friends of the Parks, in partnership with non-profit organizations, on fundraising campaigns for specific park improvement projects, such as with Pickleball Outreach on construction of pickleball courts.

GOAL 8: COMMUNICATION

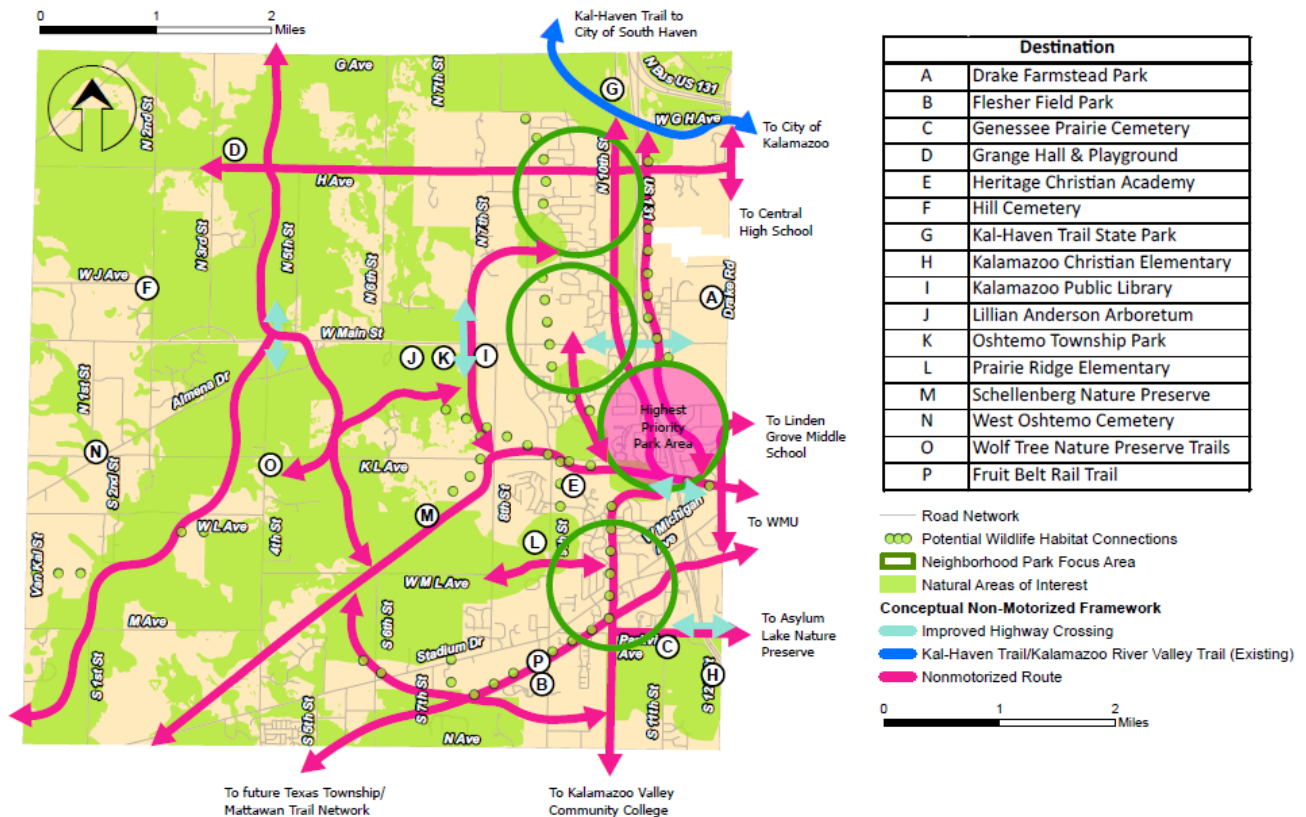
Promote Oshtemo's park and recreation facilities to encourage all residents to use, enjoy and take ownership of these essential community resources.

Objectives:

1. Develop and implement a marketing and communications plan for parks and events.
2. Continue to use the Township website, newsletter, and social media to promote the parks, recreation facilities, and park events. Explore economical ways to mail a parks promotional piece at least annually.
3. Partner with non-profit and regional organizations to promote leagues and events in Township parks, as well as local bicycling, running, walking, and group exercise activities.
4. Improve park signs, including those along roadways, at park entrances, and for wayfinding/trails.
5. Promote volunteer opportunities in the parks.
6. Seek citizen input when designing park and recreation facilities and programs, especially from children and families when designing playgrounds and youth-oriented recreation facilities and from seniors to address the specific needs of the aging population.
7. Develop a promotional piece targeted at Metro riders to let them know they can access Oshtemo's parks via bus.
8. Consider outreach to specific groups for unique uses, such as photo shoots at Drake Farmstead Park.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK MAP

The Conceptual Framework Map created in 2018 for the *GO! Green Oshtemo* Plan has been an extremely useful and important tool for Township residents, staff and leadership. It provides a “big picture” plan; linking east to west, parks, and conservation, and a far-reaching nonmotorized network that connects it all. The Natural Areas of Interest outlined on the map are those areas of the Township where significant natural features may be found and where future conservation efforts may be targeted. The Neighborhood Park Focus Areas delineate where the Township will concentrate efforts for possible future neighborhood park development, due to population and development densities. Finally, the Conceptual Nonmotorized Framework is a high-level model of how the future network may develop over time. It is intended to convey important linkages and how this system interacts with destinations, neighborhoods, commercial areas, and future conservation opportunities. The plan has been updated to include the Township’s Fruit Belt Rail Trail as a destination. All other aspects of the plan remain an accurate representation of the Township’s long-range vision for parks, recreation, and open space.



APPENDIX 1

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Oshtemo Township is located on the west side of Kalamazoo County, abutting the west side of the City of Kalamazoo. The Township is bordered by Alamo Township to the north, Almena Township to the west, Texas Township to the south, and the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo Charter Township to the east. All are in Kalamazoo County, except Almena Township, which is located in Van Buren County.

The first settlement in Oshtemo Township was recorded in 1830, and the Township was established later that decade in 1839. The Township has grown and prospered given its proximity to the City of Kalamazoo, I-94, and US-131. The development of the community has been evident in residential, office, industrial, and commercial growth. The beautiful rolling hills and rural atmosphere found in the western half of the Township in close proximity to employment, universities and colleges, and major transportation routes have made Oshtemo an attractive place to live and work.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Life is never static, and the dynamic nature of developing trends, lifestyles, and growth of the Township's population will affect future decisions for parks and recreation. Evaluating current conditions against anticipated trends will help the Township keep pace with these expected changes. The following report outlines existing demographics for Oshtemo Township and Kalamazoo County and also summarizes health trends and other factors considered important to the future development of parks and recreation facilities.

POPULATION TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS

Over the past 50 years, Oshtemo has transformed from a predominately agricultural community to a largely suburban township with a rising population. The population saw a 28 percent increase from 2000 to 2010, and a 9.4 percent increase from 2010 to 2020 according to the U.S. Census. Oshtemo's increase from 2010 to 2020 more than doubled the County's growth rate and was nearly five times that of the State of Michigan's growth rate during the same period.

Population Growth Trends: 2000 - 2020				
Unit of Government	2000	2010	2020	% Change 2010 - 2020
Oshtemo Township	17,003	21,705	23,747	9.4%
Kalamazoo County	238,603	250,327	261,670	4.5%
State of Michigan (Millions)	9.938	9.88	10.07	1.9%

Source: U.S. Census, 1970-2010

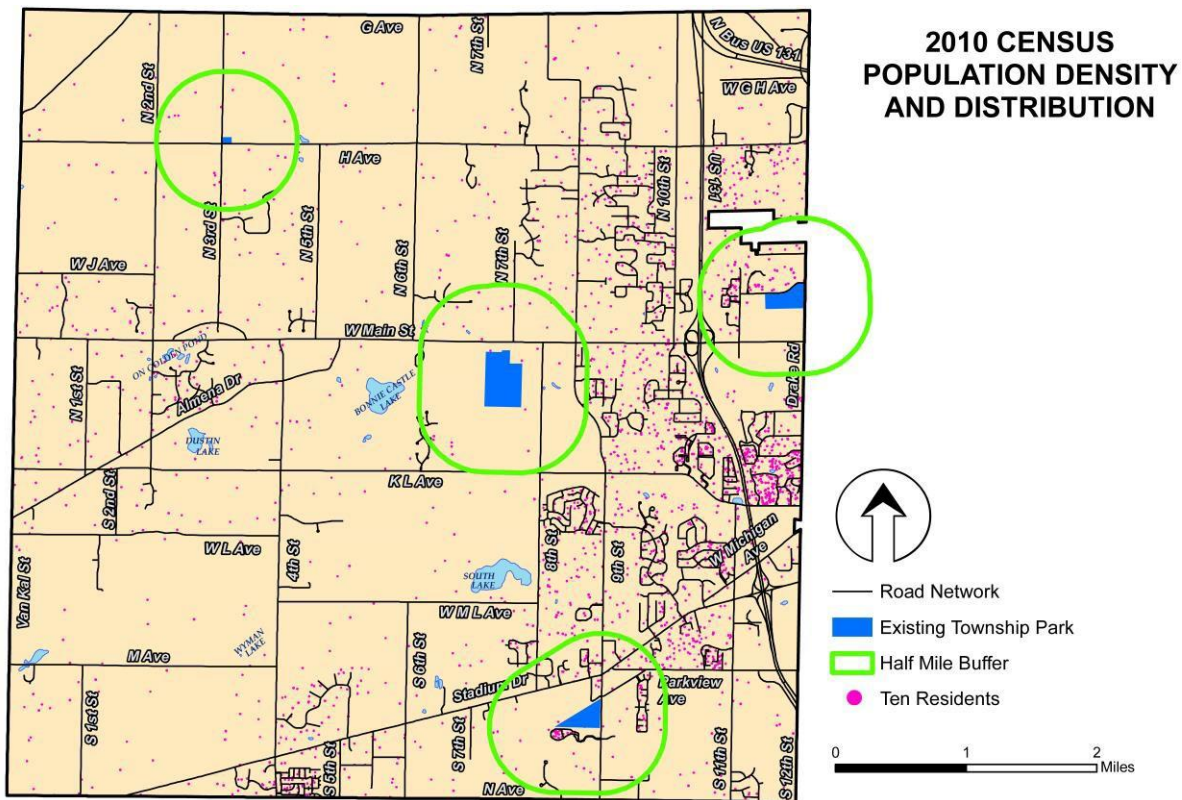
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census

Population projections are also expected to be steady and strong. Projections from the 2011 Master Plan suggested that the Township’s population would continue to increase steadily, reaching more than 33,000 residents by the year 2040. New projections are being prepared for the 2024 Master Plan update but were not complete at the time of the writing of this report. In the interim, estimates from the 2023 Oshtemo Township Housing Study project the number of households in the Township will grow by 3.5 percent from 2021 to 2026. This expected growth will result in continued demand for services and amenities like parks and recreation facilities generally provided by local government.

POPULATION DENSITY

While total population numbers are important to understanding continued growth of the Township, where that growth is occurring is equally necessary to future planning efforts. As Oshtemo Township is both a suburban community of the City of Kalamazoo, as well as a rural Township, population density is not evenly distributed. As can be expected, the Oshtemo population becomes denser closer to the eastern Township boundary. Understanding the spatial distribution of population becomes particularly critical when considering where new parks and recreation facilities should be placed. The greater the population density, the higher demand for services and amenities.



HOUSEHOLD TYPES AND SIZE

There are 10,383 total households in Oshtemo Township according to the 2021 American Community Survey of the US Census. Of these households, approximately 28 percent have children 18 years of age or younger and 30.5 percent house persons 65 years of age or older. A little more than half of these households are considered “family households” by the US Census at 5,620. Family households are two or more people that are related by birth, marriage, or adoption and reside together. The average household size in Oshtemo is 2.25 persons, and average family size is 2.93 persons.

AGE CHARACTERISTICS

Age of residents is an important statistic when planning for parks and recreation facilities, as needs vary greatly for each age group. The table below illustrates the various age groups within Oshtemo Township and their changing composition (percentage) of the overall Township population as of 2010 and 2020.

The age group which grew the most as a percentage of the total population between 2010 and 2020 is the 65 years and older age group, which increased from 15.5% of the population in 2010 to 18.8% of the population in 2020. As the population of the Township becomes generally older, issues that address an aging population need to be considered within this plan; for instance, providing senior programs and improving access to park amenities in Oshtemo.

The age group under five years also increased, from 5.4% in 2010 to 6.4% in 2020. However, the 20 to 34 years age group still makes up the largest segment of the Township's population. This could be attributed, in part, to the large amount of rental housing that caters to students. The 2012-2016 American Community Survey estimated that 3,868 residents of Oshtemo Township were enrolled in college or graduate school. The recreational needs of the student-aged population need to be considered as the Township moves forward with goal setting and future development plans.

Age of Population Oshtemo Township, 2010, 2020					
Cohort	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2020 Count	2020 Percent	% Change of Count
Under 5 Years	1,132	5.4%	1,517	6.4%	34%
5 - 19 Years	3,717	17.9%	4,068	17.2%	9.4%
20-34	5,681	27.3%	6,206	26.3%	9.2%
35-44	2,245	10.8%	2,432	10.3%	8.3%
45-54	2,362	11.4%	2,300	9.8%	-2.6%
55-64	2,446	11.7%	2,607	11%	6.5%
65 and older	3,206	15.5%	4,453	18.8%	39%

Source: 2010: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates Source:
2020: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Median age trends and estimates also demonstrate an aging population. The Township's median age increased from 32.3 years in 2010 to 35.0 years in 2020.

DIVERSITY

Understanding the diversity of the Township population is important to ensure future plans and programs provide both equitable treatment and opportunities to our changing demographics. To ensure future relevancy of amenities and services, an inclusive approach to policies and practices are needed.

At both the national and local level, trends point toward increasing population diversity. For the United States, the following statistics demonstrate changing demographics²:

Minorities account for 37 percent of the U.S. population as of 2012. Minorities will account for 57 percent of the U.S. population by 2060.

The Hispanic population will more than double, from 53 million in 2012 to 129 million by 2060. The U.S. will become a majority-minority nation for the first time in 2043.

Within Oshtemo Township, the white population will dip from 80 percent of the total population in 2010 to 76 percent in 2021, while minority races will all increase during the same time period.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

This same consideration of inclusiveness is needed when considering accessibility. Understanding the status of persons with disabilities will assist in planning appropriate facilities and locations for future parks and recreation facilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that all public services, including parks and recreation facilities, be subject to barrier-free requirements. The Act also requires that public recreation providers eliminate any eligibility requirements for participation in programs, activities, and services.

As the population ages, the proportion of persons with one or more disabilities steadily increases. This trend is consistent with the figures indicated for Oshtemo Township. According to the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 5,096 or 21.4 percent of the residents in Oshtemo have a disability. The table below shows the number of persons with a disability by age and sex.

Population by Age, Sex and Disability, Oshtemo Township			
Age	Total Population	With Disability	% Disabled
Under 5 Years Male	661	0	0.0%
Under 5 Years Female	856	0	0.0%
5-17 Male	1,703	185	10.9%
5-17 Female	1,676	63	3.6%
18 to 34 Male	3,299	490	14.9%
18 to 34 Female	3,596	440	12.2%

Population by Age, Sex and Disability, Oshtemo Township			
35 to 64 Male	3,257	393	12.1%
35 to 64 Female	4,058	958	23.6%
65 to 74 Male	1,034	269	26%
65 to 74 Female	1,296	316	24.4%
75 and over Male	675	337	49.9%
75 and over Female	1,250	469	37.5%

Source: 2021: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

The information in the table below is broken down to show the various disability types, as measured and determined by the Census, present in the Township. From a facility design standpoint, all are important. The principles of Universal Design are based on the principles of providing spaces that can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone. The inventory of facilities in the Township will provide an analysis of accessibility.

Disability Type by Age, Oshtemo Township						
Age Group	Hearing Difficulty	Vision Difficulty	Cognitive Difficulty	Ambulatory Difficulty	Self-Care Difficulty	Independent Living Difficulty
Under 18	12	35	201	0	0	0
18 to 34	0	261	543	30	51	244
35 to 64	159	290	409	589	340	431
65 to 74	187	46	137	430	194	300
75 and up	369	76	127	624	226	424
Total	727	708	1,417	1,673	811	1,399

Source: 2021: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Economic characteristics provide further evidence of the diversity of people and households in the Township and should be taken into consideration when planning for future parks and recreation needs. The economic vitality of Oshtemo Township is directly tied to the Kalamazoo metropolitan area and the rest of the State of Michigan.

INCOME

Median household income is a broad measure of relative economic health. It is defined as the income level where half of all households earn more, and half earn less. In 2020, the median household income in the Township was \$56,436, lower than in Kalamazoo County (\$69,584) and in the State of Michigan (\$66,986).

Another measure of income level in the Township is the number of ALICE households. ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed, and represents the growing number of families who are unable to afford the basics of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology. These workers often struggle to keep their own households from financial ruin, while keeping our local communities running. According to 2021 Point-in-Time Data, 47% of all households in Oshtemo Township are ALICE households. This compares with 26% of households in Kalamazoo County and 26% of households in the State of Michigan overall. This sobering reality should be an important factor in considering how best to meet the parks and recreation needs of Oshtemo residents.

Source: www.UnitedWayALICE.org

Income Levels		
Jurisdiction	Median Household Income*	ALICE households**
Oshtemo Township	\$56,436	47%
Kalamazoo County	\$69,584	26%
State of Michigan	\$66,986	26%

*Source: 2021: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

**Source: www.UnitedWayALICE.org

The table below shows a more complete picture of the income levels of Township residents.

Oshtemo Township Income in the past 12 months (in 2021 inflation adjusted dollars)		
Income Level	Number	Percent
Less than \$10,000	497	4.8%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	358	3.4%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	1,395	13.4%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	1,072	10.3%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	1,566	15.1%

Oshtemo Township Income in the past 12 months (in 2021 inflation adjusted dollars)		
Income Level	Number	Percent
\$50,000 - \$74,999	1,601	15.4%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	1,043	10.0%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	1,302	12.5%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	827	8.0%
\$200,000 or. more	722	7.0%

Source: 2021: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY

Natural features are an important element of the character of Oshtemo Township, particularly in the less developed western portion of the community. Natural features are not easily restored after they are damaged, and they provide numerous opportunities for parks and recreation.

The following outlines many of the existing natural features within the Township. A great deal of this information was gathered by the W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of GIS and Geographical Change at Western Michigan University to assist with possible areas of conservation in Oshtemo, particularly the western two-thirds of the Township.

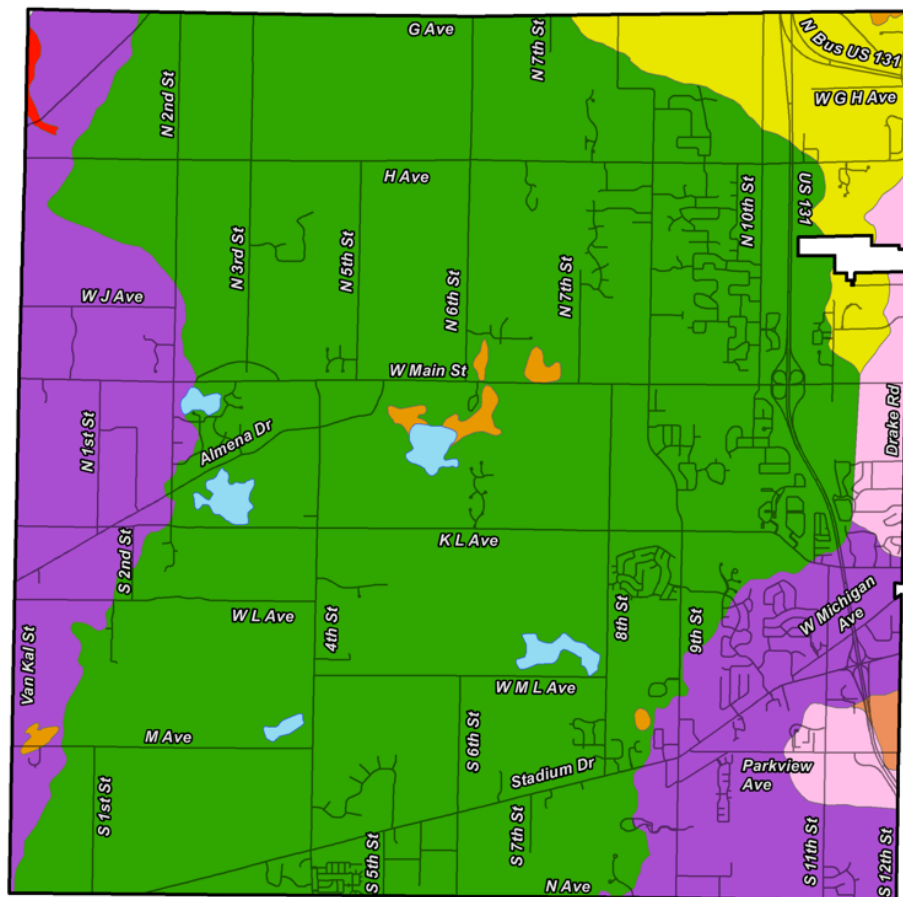
Pre-Settlement Vegetation

The best record of Michigan's pre-European settlement native landscape was documented between 1816 and 1856 by surveyors from the federal General Land Office. These surveyors included information related to wetlands, lakes, streams, soils, timber quality, etc. Biologists from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, an organization tasked to preserve Michigan's unique natural heritage, developed a methodology to translate this information, along with other references, into the pre-settlement vegetation maps that can be utilized by researchers and the general public.

Based on these maps, most of Oshtemo Township was once covered by Oak Barren, which is a fire- dependent savanna dominated by wide-spaced oak trees. Black oak and white oak were typically found, and the ground layer was predominately grasses. Oak barrens are established on droughty soils and are characteristic to nearly level to slightly undulating glacial outwash areas in Lower Michigan. This is consistent with Oshtemo Township, as most of the community is located on high lands consisting of sandy soils formed by the Kalamazoo moraine. Unfortunately, savannas like oak barren are now one of the rarest plant communities in lower Michigan.

The native plants identified in the Pre-Settlement Vegetation Map are important as they are generally the plants that are best adapted to the soils, land forms, and climate of the Kalamazoo region and Oshtemo Township in particular. Therefore, they are likely the best habitat for local wildlife and should be low maintenance and cost-effective in any landscape management plans. However, much has changed since the European settlement of Oshtemo, and fully restoring habitats to the pre-settlement conditions could be very difficult to achieve.

The Pre-Settlement Vegetation Map is one piece of the puzzle in discerning the natural environment of Oshtemo Township, aiding in the understanding of our local wildlife habitats.



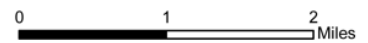
PRE-SETTLEMENT VEGETATION (MDNR)



— Road Network

Cover Type

- Beech/S Maple/B Wood/R Oak
- Black Ash Swamp
- Bur Oak Savanna
- Emergent Marsh
- Lake
- Oak Barrens
- Oak Opening
- Upland Grassland

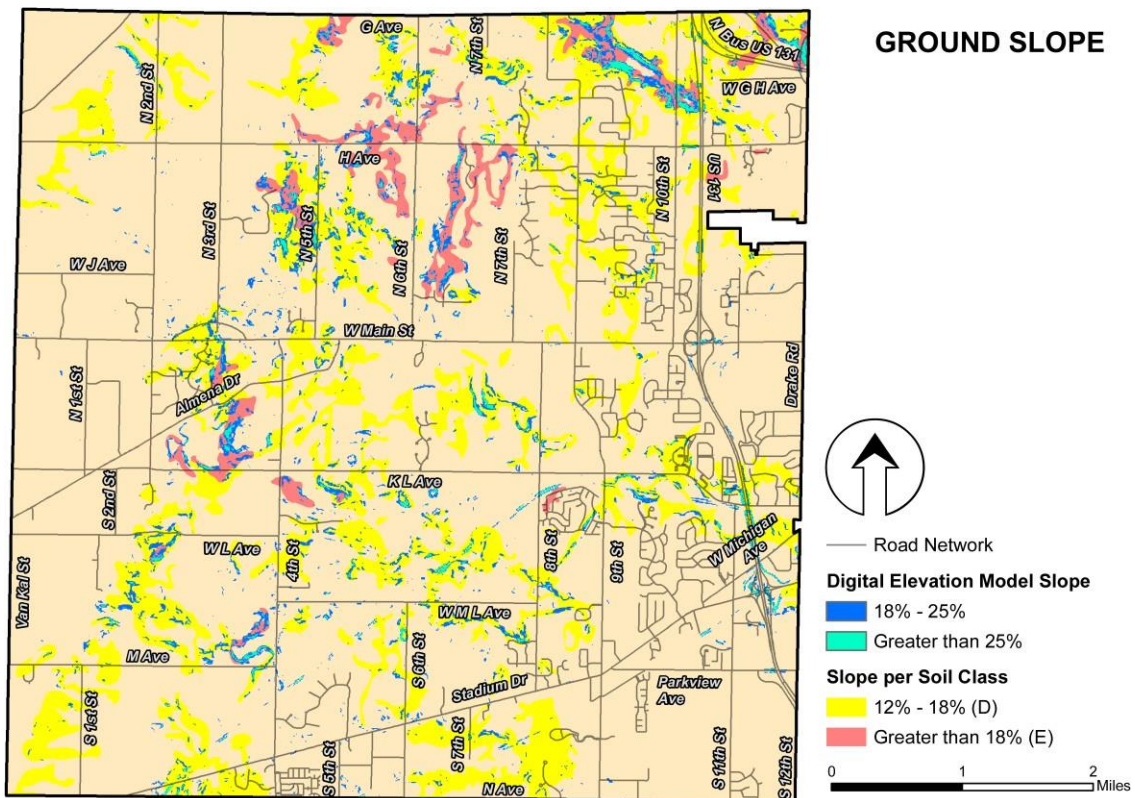


Topography

One of the most unique features of the Township is its topography. The rolling hills and valleys are unusual in this region, creating a unique and scenic landscape that attracts many to the community. Although it may be feasible to build on slopes, careful consideration should be given to drainage and erosion concerns. Steep slopes should be targeted for future acquisition or deed restrictions to assist with continued protection. Not only will this safeguard important and sensitive areas, but it will also provide interesting natural places for passive recreational use.

Slopes of over 25 percent are generally considered unfit for development. Locally high slopes are outlined on the Topography Map in very dark brown. Three prominent areas are in the northeast sections of the Township, the uplands surrounding Dustin Lake and its wetlands, and the uplands around Wyman Lake.

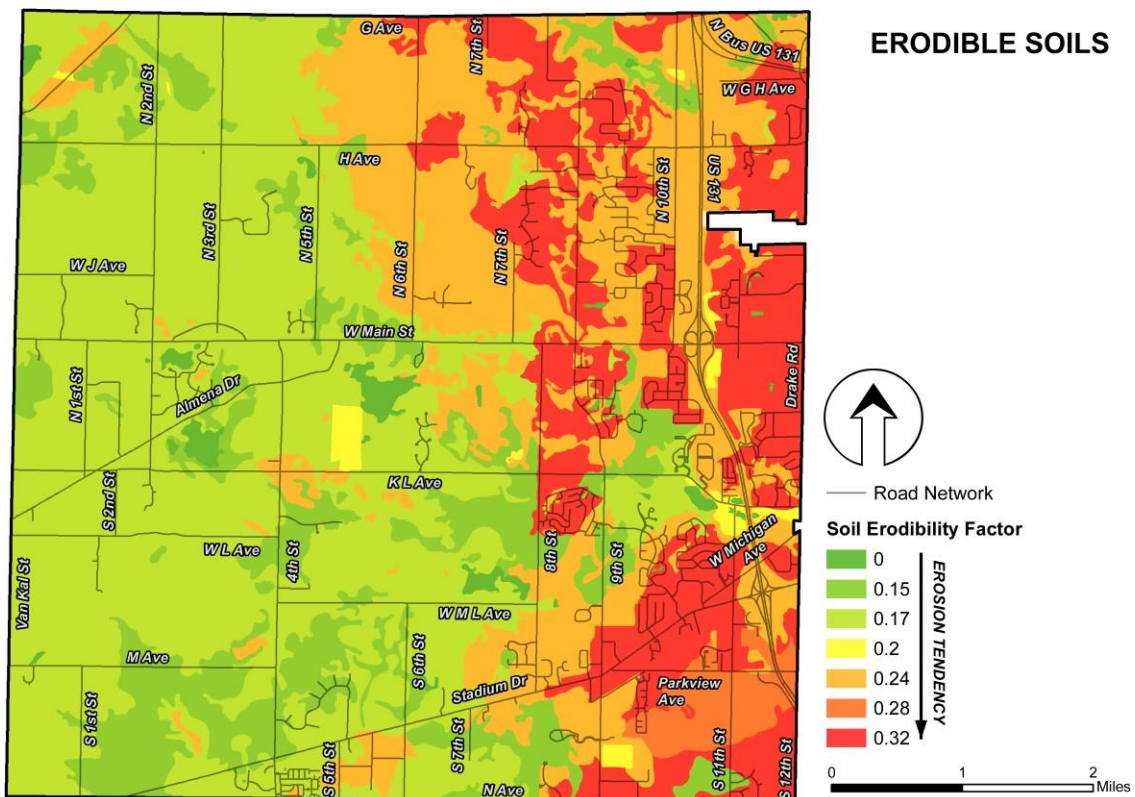
The National Resource Conservation Service designates any slope over 8 percent consistently to be "rolling," over 15 percent to be "hilly," and over 30 percent to be "steep." As can be seen on the Topography Map, much of Oshtemo is rolling and hilly.



Soils

Soils in Oshtemo Township are generally sandy loams, which have high value locally for agriculture, but present a number of limitations to development. These drawbacks could be viewed as possible opportunities when determining areas for conservation or future park sites. Soils with higher erodibility should receive a priority when considering conservation, particularly in an area that also has hilly or steep slopes.

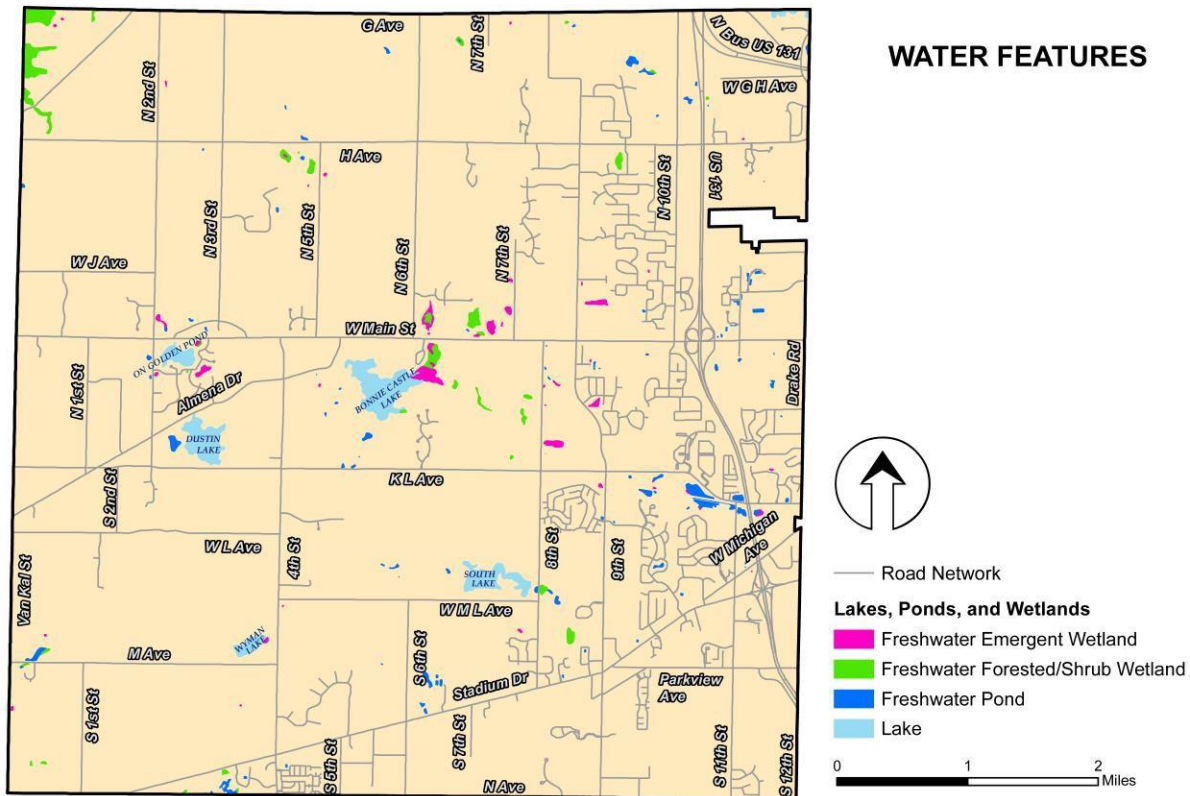
Soil erodibility has implications for most types of land use and a soil erodibility factor (K) is generally used to determine the best soils for development. The “K factor” considers the susceptibility of a particular soil to erosion and the rate of water runoff from that soil. Soils with low K values (less than 0.15) resist erosion and are not generally found in Oshtemo Township (Figure 5). Most Oshtemo soils are sandy and coarse-textured that still have fairly low K value (0.15-0.20). Medium textured soils are found in the eastern third of the Township. These soils produce moderate runoff and are somewhat susceptible to detachment. As this is the most developed portion of the Township, reliable storm water management becomes important. There are no highly erodible soils (over 0.40) in Oshtemo.



Water Features

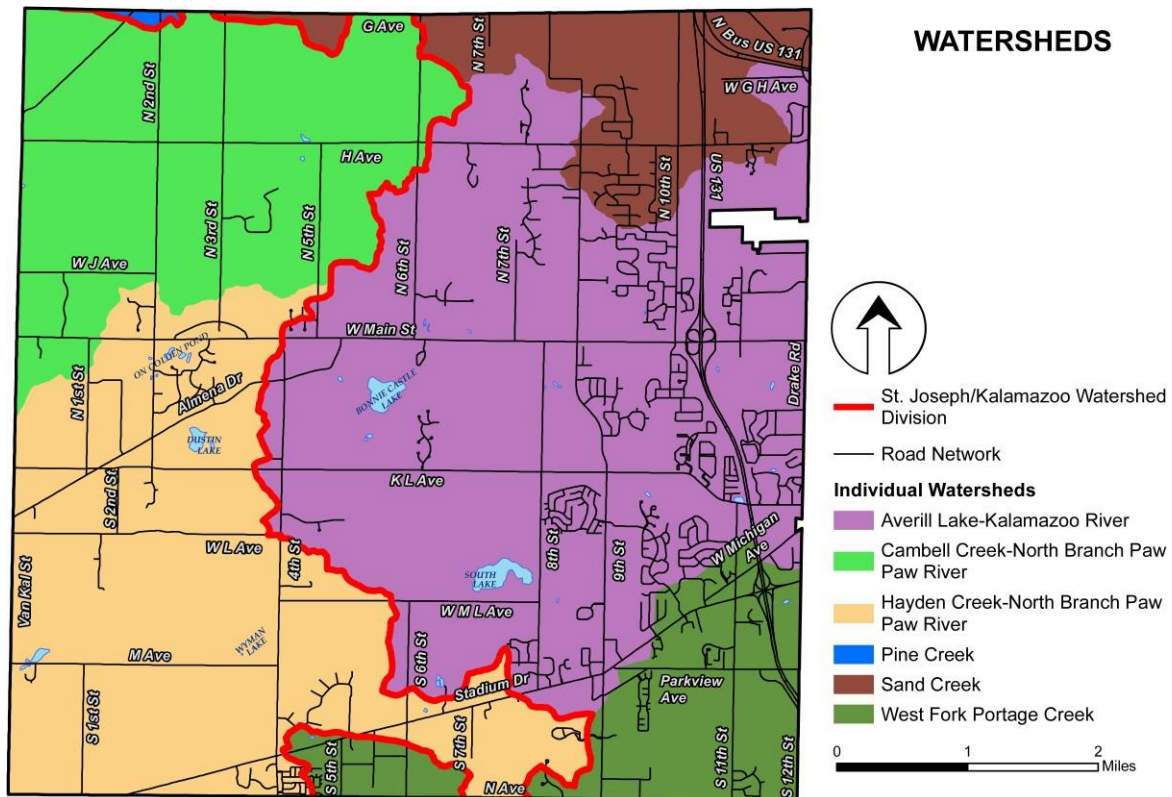
Water features and wetland areas are scattered throughout the Township but comprise very little of the total land mass of the community at only 1.6 percent. Water features are generally valued for their aesthetic views and the sense of tranquility that they provide. Wetlands are identified by the Michigan Resource Information System maps and the National Wetland Inventory, which shows mostly combinations of wetlands with wetland soil areas and are located primarily near small lakes. The largest wetland complexes are associated with Dustin, South, and Bonnie Castle lakes. Given the manmade nature of some of the smaller wetlands found in the Township, verification of the habitat quality will be needed prior to any future conservation decisions. Future conservation of water features will likely be a combination of Township efforts and preservation by land developers during the development review process. Sensitive wetland areas should be high on the priority list for conservation, with possible passive recreational spaces, to provide greater future protection.

There are few streams and or rivers in the Township. However, portions of three branches flow through the northwest corner of Oshtemo.



Watershed Areas

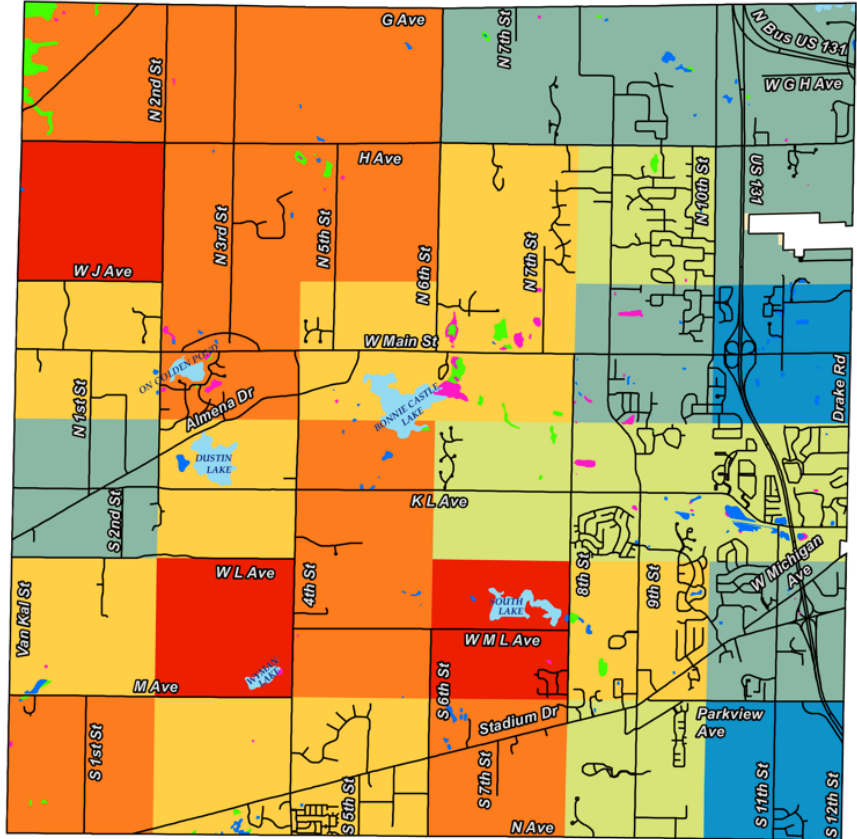
While streams and rivers are few in Oshtemo, the Township does serve six watershed areas. A watershed is an area of land that drains rain water and snowmelt into streams, lakes, or wetlands. The groundwater, which is the drinking water for the Kalamazoo area, is connected to the surface water network of the watershed. Therefore, it is not only necessary to protect watershed areas for wildlife, but for future generations who will need this important resource. The two largest watershed areas in Oshtemo are the Averill Lake-Kalamazoo River and Hayden Creek-North Branch Paw Paw River watersheds.



Groundwater Recharge

As stated, groundwater is the only source of drinking water in Kalamazoo County. Therefore, clean accessible groundwater is a critical quality of life indicator for the Township, particularly for those areas that do not have access to treated water through the City of Kalamazoo’s public system.

Groundwater recharge estimates, by section, were accessed from the U.S. Geological Survey Michigan Water Science Center by the W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of GIS and Geographical Change. Due to sandy soils and high permeability, the Township generally has high annual groundwater recharge potential from 12-17 inches per year. Lower values are consistently found in the eastern part of the Township where development has increased the amount of impervious surface. While there are no specific standard cutoffs for when groundwater recharge should be protected, those areas with high annual recharge should be prioritized for possible conservation in the future.



ANNUAL GROUNDWATER RECHARGE RATE IN INCHES PER TOWNSHIP SECTION

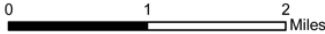


Lakes, Ponds, and Wetlands

- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Road Network

Recharge Rate in Inches

- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17

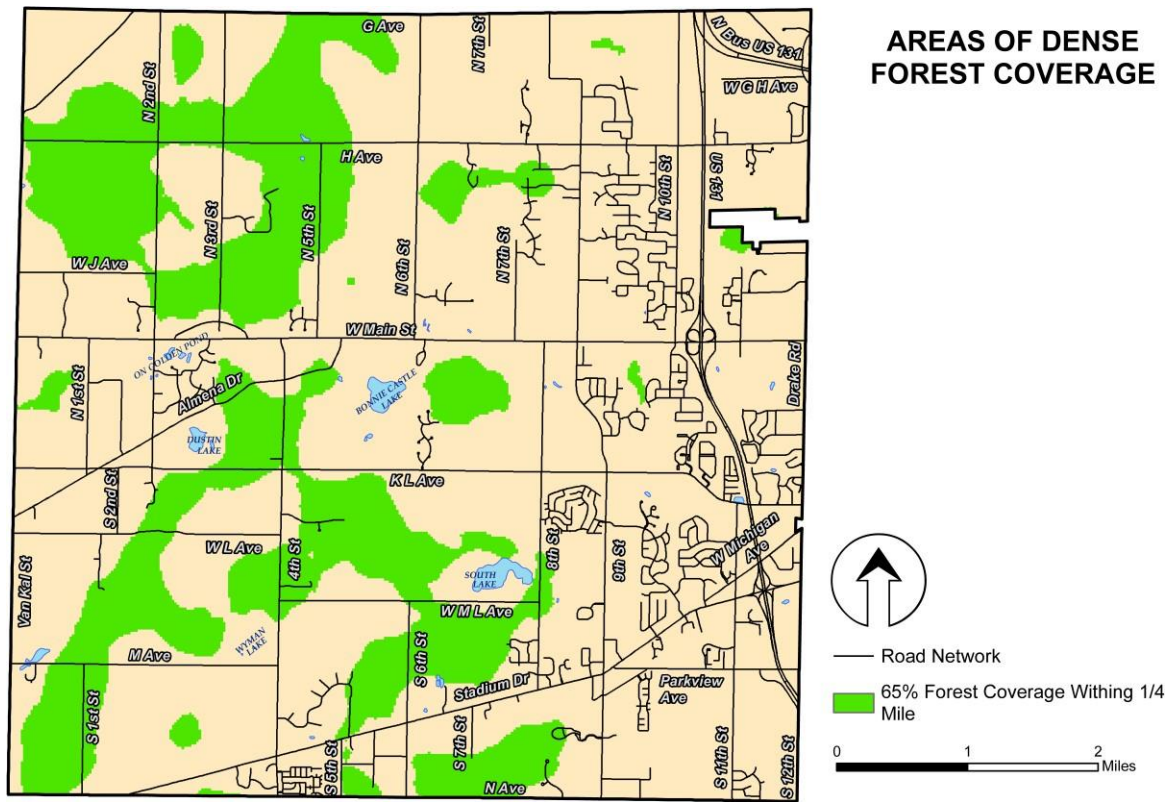


Woodland and Vegetation Cover

Another important natural feature in Oshtemo are the wooded and forested areas. Woodlands comprise over 33 percent of the total land area in Oshtemo and play an important role in species habitat, air quality, and recreation.

The W.E. Upjohn Center for the Study of GIS and Geographical Change at Western Michigan University utilized the National Land Cover Dataset to access information on land use and land cover at 30m (meter) resolution for Oshtemo. Areas with high forest cover were identified as critical for maintaining diversity of native species, integrity of freshwater resources, and contributing to the aesthetic quality of Oshtemo Township. High forest cover areas were described as those areas that are at least 65 percent forested at the quarter mile. It is important to note that quantifying high-density forest is an imprecise science and the Center created some general data layers to serve merely as indicators.

In both the rural and more developed areas of the Township, proximity to these woodlands should be considered an asset and preservation should be a priority. Recreational use of these woodlands – including hiking, biking, or simply natural areas – can become an amenity for development.



LAND USE

The Township has historically been a rural community but continues to grow and develop with a variety of land uses, particularly east of 9th Street. The predominant land uses in Oshtemo are residential, agricultural open space, and increasingly commercial as the Township continues to become a major shopping and retail center in the western Kalamazoo region.

Single-family residential units are either located on larger parcels, often with acreage attached, or within platted subdivisions or similar site condominium developments. Generally, subdivisions are found east of 9th Street and are of a density that creates a neighborhood setting, often increasing the demand for park facilities. In addition, nearly half of the housing units in the Township are in multi-family developments, most of which are located in large complexes. While many of these provide some recreational amenities to their tenants, there are likely other recreational needs to be addressed. In addition, multi-modal transportation opportunities are generally more in demand near multi-family developments.

In 2021, the American Community Survey reported a total of 11,394 housing units in the Township. According to the 2023 Oshtemo Township Housing Study, the Township needs to enable the development of 750 new housing units to address housing issues. In addition to this residential growth, the Township continues to experience an increase in commercial developments, particularly along West Main Street (M-43), Stadium Drive, and Drake Road. The industrial market has also increased with new developments occurring along Stadium Drive and KL Avenue.

The majority of future growth will continue to be directed to the eastern portion of the Township, consistent with the Township Master Plan. As growth is inevitable, the Township must plan accordingly to ensure potential park development opportunities are capitalized upon.

TRANSPORTATION

Township residents rely on the local and regional circulation networks to access Township destinations, parks, and other recreational facilities. The existing road system consists of an irregular grid network of roads. Portions of the Township are served by the City of Kalamazoo's Metro, which provides a fixed route bus system for the Kalamazoo region. Additionally, the entire Township is served by the on-demand Metro County Connect service. To ensure that an integrated public transit system is provided at a county-wide level, the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority was formed in 2006 to work collaboratively with Metro Transit to provide quality public transportation alternatives to Township residents.

Oshtemo Township is served by several bus lines including: Route 3, West Michigan; Route 4, Route 7, Alamo; Route 11, Stadium/KVCC; Route 14, West Main; Route 16, Lovell; and Route 25, Parkview Campus.

The Township is fortunate to be served by a substantial regional transportation network, including US- 131, M-43, and nearby I-94. The major east-west roads within the Township are M-43 (West Main Street) and Stadium Drive. The major north-south roads within the Township are US-131, Drake Road, 9th Street, and Van Kal Street. The system of roads in and near Oshtemo provides reasonably good access by automobile to recreation facilities in the Township and in surrounding communities. M-43, US-131, and I- 94 provide connections to regional and state recreational facilities, as well as shopping and entertainment venues in Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, and Lake Michigan shoreline communities.

Access to destinations, parks, and recreation facilities can be difficult for certain segments of the population, primarily children and older adults. Existing recreation facilities are primarily located on busy roadways or in adjacent communities, which requires travel on rural roads or across major roads and highways. Efforts have been made recently to expand the bike lanes and nonmotorized pathways throughout the Township, but continued work is needed.

HEALTH CHARACTERISTICS

The health statistics outlined in this report are from organizations that provide information on a county level. Data at the township-level was not available. However, the county statistics can still provide a clear picture of the likely health trends occurring in Oshtemo.

ACCESS TO EXERCISE

According to the 2023 County Health Ranking for Kalamazoo County, approximately 89 percent of the Kalamazoo County population has access to exercise. This indicator is defined as the percentage of individuals who live reasonably close to a location for physical activity (parks or other recreational facilities like YMCA’s, gyms, etc.). The County is ahead of the State of Michigan and the United States, where 85 and 84 percent of the population, respectively, have adequate access to exercise opportunities. While access to locations that provide exercise is critical, actually utilizing the facilities is the next step. According to the 2023 County Health Rankings, 18 percent of Kalamazoo County adults do not engage in any physical activity.

HEALTH RISKS

In Kalamazoo County, 40 percent of the adult population is considered obese. This percentage is higher than the statistics reported for the State of Michigan (35%) and the United States (32%). In addition, 19% of the adult population are reported to smoke and 21% of the population are reported to drink excessively. The table below shows a comparison of health behaviors for residents of Kalamazoo County, Michigan and the United States.

Health Behaviors	Kalamazoo County	Michigan	United States
Adult Smoking	19%	19%	16%
Adult Obesity	40%	35%	32%
Physical Inactivity	18%	20%	22%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	89%	85%	84%
Excessive Drinking	21%	20%	19%
Alcohol-Impaired driving deaths	29%	29%	27%

Sexually Transmitted Infections	728.9	448.3	481.3
Teen births	18	17	19

Source: 2023 County Health Rankings, Kalamazoo Michigan

APPENDIX 2

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

This chapter reviews the administrative structure and funding for parks and recreation in Oshtemo Township. It describes who does what, including both staff and volunteers, where funding for parks comes from and how dollars are spent.

OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP STAFF

Oshtemo Township has a Parks Department. The Parks Director is the sole staff person, responsible for administration and day-to-day management of the parks and budget, as well as implementing the goals and action strategies of the Parks and Recreation Action Plan. The Parks Director manages park improvement projects, administers contracts, seeks, and applies for grants, plans events, and oversees rental facilities. Because the responsibilities of this position have grown significantly over the past few years, consideration should be given to adding staff in order to accomplish the goals and vision of the department.

Maintenance of park facilities is conducted by the Township Maintenance Department, which includes a Maintenance Director, two full-time maintenance personnel, one part-time Park Ranger, and two seasonal part-time staff. Aside from the Park Ranger, a position dedicated solely to parks, Maintenance Department staff are also responsible for maintaining the Township Hall, three fire stations, and three cemeteries. The Maintenance Director works closely with the Parks Director, particularly on larger maintenance projects that require outside contractors, such as resealing parking lots or replacing fencing. The Maintenance Department increased in size in 2022 with the addition of the part-time Park Ranger position, which is primarily tasked with meeting renters before and after their rental periods on weekends. Additional staff may be needed in the future in order to keep up with park maintenance needs.

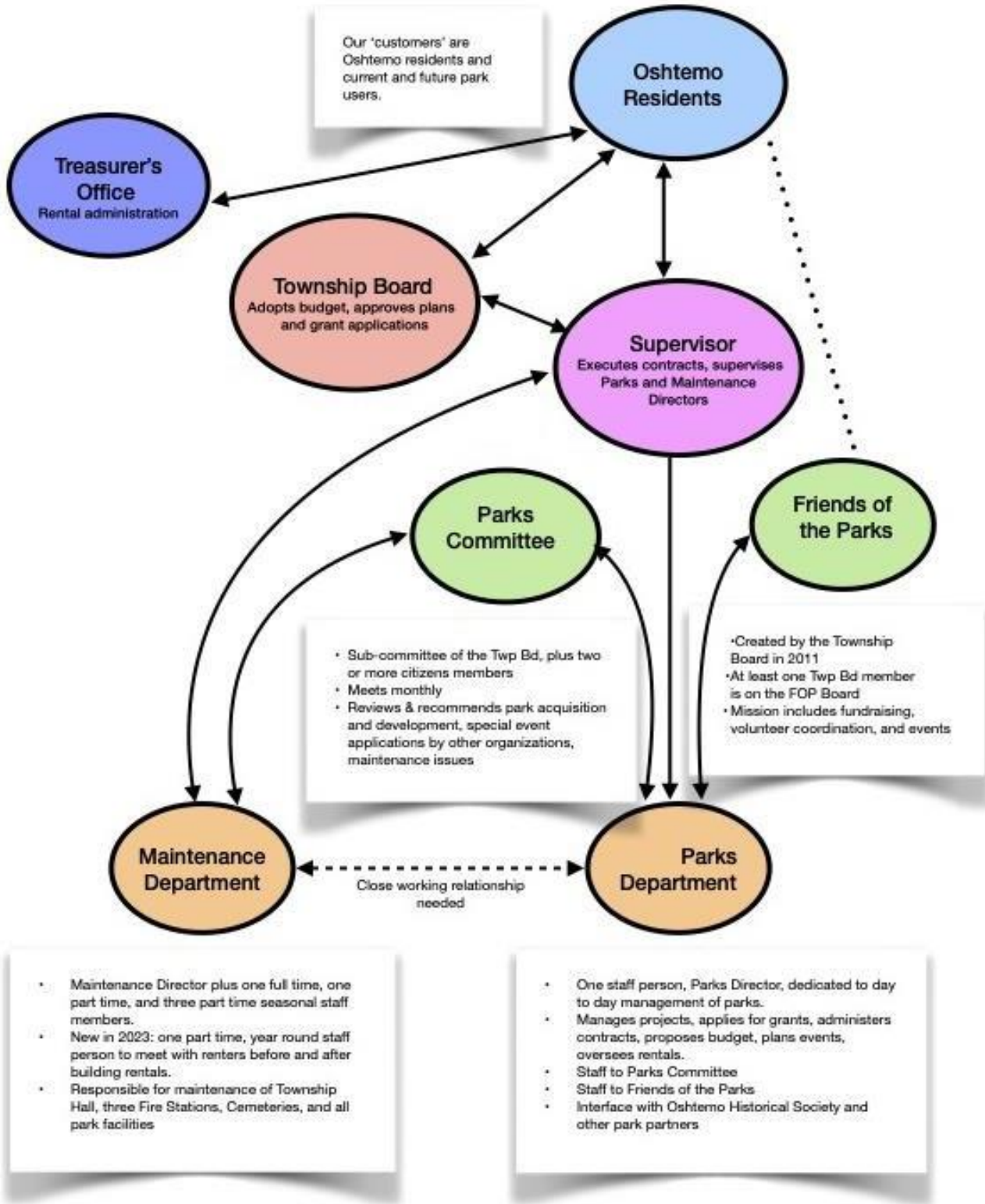
Oshtemo's Code Enforcement Department has become increasingly involved with the parks in recent years, due to an increase in homeless encampments on park property. The staff of this two-person department responds quickly to notifications of encampments and helps to enforce park rules and ensure cleanup of the park. Similarly, Oshtemo's Fire Department has seen an uptick in calls to the parks in recent years. Calls for service have typically involved minor injuries and lost children, all of which were closed successfully. Feedback from both of these departments has been sought for this plan update.

PARKS COMMITTEE

The Parks Committee is a subcommittee of the Township Board that serves as an advisory body and makes recommendations for planning, management, and budgetary decisions regarding parks in the Township. Two members of the Township Board volunteer to sit on the Committee and are appointed by their peers. In addition, two residents are appointed by the Board to serve on the Committee. The Committee meets once a month.

The Parks Committee works with the Parks Director to propose a budget to the Township Board for maintenance and improvement of the Township's parks and facilities. They also oversee the development of park plans, grant applications and improvement projects, review applications for special events, and weigh in on maintenance issues. The Parks Director provides staff support to the Parks Committee.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



VOLUNTEERS

OSHTEMO FRIENDS OF THE PARKS

Oshtemo Friends of the Parks (OFP) was created in 2011 by the Township Board, recognizing the need to use the volunteerism and philanthropy of residents and businesses to further the quality of life in the Township through parks. The mission of the citizen volunteers is to support Oshtemo Township's community parks through public programs, volunteer coordination, and fundraising. One of their most significant endeavors was a capital campaign to raise \$250,000 for improvements at Drake Farmstead Park. The group also hosts a free, family-friendly outdoor concert series called 'Music in the Park' in the gazebo at Flesher Field each summer and coordinates 'Yoga in the Park' for a nominal fee at Flesher Field. At least two Township Board members serve on the OFP Board, and all OFP Board members are appointed by the Township Board.

OSHTEMO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Oshtemo Historical Society (OHS) was formed in 2004 to help with the preservation of key historic structures. Their mission is to preserve and disseminate knowledge of the history of the surrounding area. The primary focus of the OHS has been the rehabilitation of the Drake Farmstead, which has benefited from thousands of volunteer work hours on the house and grounds. In addition, the Society meets monthly to learn about a variety of historic topics and discuss ways to preserve the Township's historic structures. OHS partnered with OFP on the capital campaign for Drake Farmstead Park.

In addition, the Township maintains strong relationships with the Oshtemo Rotary Club, the Kalamazoo Wiffle League, K'Acres Disc Golf and other regional disc golf organizations. Volunteers from each organization have been invaluable in helping to construct and maintain infrastructure at the parks, as well as raising funds for equipment improvements. Both the Kalamazoo Wiffle League and the K'Acres Disc Golf offer leagues that are open to the public.

PUBLIC ENTITY PARTNERSHIPS

KALAMAZOO PUBLIC LIBRARY

The relationship with the Kalamazoo Public Library and the Township has flourished over the past several years. A paved loop trail linking Township Park to the Oshtemo branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library was constructed in 2012. This popular trail is often used by library staff for story time stroller walks, and is occasionally the site of seasonal, temporary 'story walks'. Building on this connection, the library has offered a variety of outdoor summer programs for adults, youth, and teens, from yoga to scavenger hunts to fairy garden parties. This valuable partnership has helped to broaden the variety of programs offered in the parks, including free summer programs for youth, teens, and adults.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

In 2006, a Downtown Development Authority (DDA) was formed to help recreate a village-like atmosphere at the site of the original Township settlement at South 9th Street and Stadium Drive. Through zoning and development standards adopted in 2008, the Oshtemo Village area is intended to become a compact, walkable, mixed-use environment. The DDA has annually supported 'Music in the Park' at Flesher Field, which is included in the DDA's area boundaries.

PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING

EXPENDITURES

The Township parks and recreation operating budget for the 2023 fiscal year is \$358,321. The funds come from the Township's general fund and are primarily utilized for maintenance and operations of the facilities and for special projects. The table below summarizes the actual expenditures in 2022, the projected expenditures in 2023, and the requested budget for 2024.

Parks Department Actual and Anticipated Expenditures			
	2022 Actual Expenditures	2023 Projected Expenditures	2024 Requested Budget
Administrative Expenses	\$139,805	\$168,358	\$166,521
Consultants	\$15,004	\$33,000	\$15,000
Utilities	\$23,322	\$29,500	\$29,400
Capital Improvements and Development	\$153,094	\$195,407	\$132,000
Supplies and Maintenance Services	\$34,844	\$122,463	\$128,500
Total Park Expenditures	\$366,069	\$548,728	\$471,421

REVENUE

There is currently no substantial independent revenue source for parks and recreation (e.g., user fees, millage, etc.) in the Township with the exception of funding collected from rental fees for the picnic shelters, the Community Center, the Grange Hall, Drake Farmstead Carriage Barn, and limited other special events. The greatest source of revenue is transfers from the General Fund. Over \$4.2M has been transferred to parks from the general fund over the past 19 years (2004 - 2022), with an average annual transfer of \$222,146. When considered on a per capita basis, the amount of transfer in 2022 averages

\$10.53 per person, up from 9.98 per person in 2018.

Grants and donations are another important source of revenues. Over \$2.4M has been received in grants and donations during the same period, with an annual average of \$131,037.

Oshtemo Township has received seven state grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. The first was awarded in 1986 and totaled \$117,600 for the acquisition of 68 acres of land for Oshtemo Township Park. In 2010, a development grant of \$500,000 was awarded for improvements to Oshtemo Township Park. Two development grants were awarded in 2012 and 2013 for a total of \$600,000 for improvements to Flesher Field Park. In 2014, a \$30,000 development grant was received for Grange Hall Playground. In 2017, a development grant for Drake Farmstead Park was received in the amount of \$136,500. Finally, in 2020, an acquisition grant in the amount of \$58,000 was awarded for 35 acres of land in a two-mile long corridor, named the Fruit Belt Rail Trail. In 2021, a Consumers Energy Foundation Planet Award grant of \$150,000 was awarded for habitat restoration and safety improvements to the Fruit Belt Rail Trail.

The table below illustrates the revenues collected in 2022, anticipated in 2023, and planned in 2024 for the Parks Department budget, which shows that the greatest source of revenue is transfers from the General Fund with only small amounts from independent revenue sources.

Parks Department Actual and Anticipated Revenues			
	2022 Actual Revenues	2023 Budget Anticipated Revenues	2024 Projected Revenues
Grants/Donations	\$244,290	\$10,000	\$20,839
Rental Fees	\$58,308	\$48,100	\$56,000
Interest	\$16,508	\$14,750	\$6,000
Transfer from General Fund	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Total Parks Revenue	\$569,106	\$322,850	\$332,839

PARKS AND RECREATION ENDOWMENT FUND

In 2008, the Oshtemo Township Board approved the establishment of the Oshtemo Charter Township Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The fund was started with an initial contribution of \$150,000, which was the remainder of a much larger grant made by The Upjohn Company to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation in 1988. Originally, the funds were marked for road improvements around the KL Landfill site. However, when these repairs were deemed unnecessary, these remaining funds were made available to Oshtemo Township for their parks, recreation, and open space projects, prompting establishment of this Fund.

As an endowment fund, the earnings of the fund, and not the principal, are available for spending. This ensures the longevity of the fund. The fund represents a sustainable, independent revenue source specifically for Parks and Recreation in the Township. For this reason, the Township Board included a appropriation to increase the endowment fund by \$50,000 in the 2023 budget. The Township also encourages community members, businesses, and other interested parties to support the long-term maintenance and development of parks and recreation by donating to the Endowment Fund.

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PARKS INVENTORY

This inventory, originally developed for *GO! Green Oshtemo*, was updated through internet and in person research, aerial photography review, and analysis of parks and recreation plans of surrounding communities. Inventory update was performed by Oshtemo staff.

Oshtemo Township operates five parks and three historic community buildings. It also owns one undeveloped, former landfill property that may be developed for passive recreation at some point in the future.

Each of the parks and/or recreation facilities below are broken into categories based on type. These categories are suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and are meant to aid in determining the primary purpose and uses of existing facilities in the Township. The table on the following page, Oshtemo Township Recreation Inventory, shows facilities owned and operated by Oshtemo Township, other facilities located within the Township that are operated by public entities and are generally open to the public, and private facilities that may meet the recreation needs of residents but may require membership or fees for use.

OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP OWNED/MANAGED PARKS

Grange Hall Park - Neighborhood Park and Community Building

Grange Hall Park has a small playground, picnic area, basketball court, and nature trail. The primary feature of the site is the historic Grange Hall, a popular location for country and square-dancing sessions and private events such as wedding receptions. The Hall has ties to Oshtemo's agricultural heritage and hosts meetings of the West Oshtemo Grange Association. The building was renovated in 2017, making it fully accessible with an elevator to both levels and barrier-free restrooms. The parking lot, picnic area, and basketball court are fully accessible as well. Grange Hall Park is located in the rural northwest quadrant of the Township on North 3rd Street and encompasses two acres. Five acres of property immediately north of the Park were acquired by the Township in recent years, offering a possibility of future park expansion.

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Grant Information: The Grange Hall picnic area and playground improvements were funded by a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Oshtemo Township park fund, and private donations.

Flesher Field Park - Community Park

Flesher Field, located on 9th Street south of Stadium Drive, is a popular destination for field games, family gatherings, and special events. A key attraction of this 24-acre park is the large open sports field available for soccer, football, and other games. Upgraded in 2014 and 2015, the park also features a playground,

two picnic pavilions, two wiffleball fields, accessible restrooms, a 0.17-mile paved loop trail, and a gazebo and garden area.

In addition to the active recreation area, Flesher Field has 12 acres of woodlands west of the sports field. The woodlands feature a canopy of white oaks interspersed with red and black oaks and hickory trees that support many species of wildlife, especially birds and butterflies. A looped walking trail circles through the wooded area and offers connections to the adjacent Fruit Belt Rail Trail property.

In recent years, the Township received requests for more recreation facilities in general at Flesher Field and specific requests from individuals and recreation organizations for improvements such as pickleball courts and more wiffleball fields. To respond to these requests, the Township contracted with OCBA Landscape Architects in Spring 2023 to update the Flesher Field Park Master Plan. Two open houses were held to gather community input. The updated plan was completed in November 2023 and is included in this report.

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Grant Information: Park improvements were funded through a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund with financial support from the Oshtemo Township Rotary Club, the Consumers Sunburst Run, and Oshtemo Township park fund.

Oshtemo Township Park - Community Park

This park measures roughly 70 acres and is located behind the Township Hall at West Main and 7th Streets. It features both an active recreation area and a hilly, wooded area with walking trails for passive recreation. The park includes two paved loop trails, a playground, two picnic shelters, one tennis courts, two pickleball courts, two basketball courts, a wiffleball field, a disc golf course, restroom building, and parking lot. The 18-hole disc golf course is one of the biggest draws, attracting heavy use throughout the year. Township Park has become extremely popular, attracting both visitors from within the Township and surrounding county.

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Grant Information: Park improvements were funded through a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund with financial support from the Oshtemo Township Rotary Club, the Consumers Sunburst Run, and Oshtemo Township park fund.

Drake Farmstead Park - Community Park and Historic Building

Drake Farmstead Park is a 26-acre park at the eastern edge of the Township. It is unique in that it retains a rural, 'country' feel despite being adjacent to a major commercial center on a busy intersection. The centerpiece of the park is the historic Drake House, a brick farmhouse constructed in the 1880's. The park is dedicated to passive recreation use to preserve the historic character and rural atmosphere of the property.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Park contains the historic farmhouse, which is being restored by volunteers with the Oshtemo Historical Society. Touring the restored farmhouse will allow visitors to better understand life in the early years of the Township. The Park also has a tree-lined driveway, barn intended for educational programs on nature and local history and private events, parking lot, walking trails, and interpretive signs. The barn houses the park's restrooms. Six acres of the property are being restored with native prairie species.

In recognition of the significant accomplishments made at the Park in recent years and feedback received from the public since the park opened in 2021, the Township contracted with OCBA Landscape Architects in Spring 2023 to update the Drake Farmstead Park Master Plan. Two open houses were held to gather community input. The updated plan was completed in November 2023 and is included in this report.

Accessibility Ranking: 3

Grant Information: Picnic shelter, parking lots and trail improvements were funded through a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund with financial support from the Oshtemo Township Rotary Club and Oshtemo Township park fund. Funding for the barn was from a Capital Campaign led by the Oshtemo Friends of the Park and Oshtemo Historical Society.

Fruit Belt Rail Trail - Trail

Oshtemo Township purchased approximately two miles of former rail corridor in 2021 for use as a trail. The 150' wide property is adjacent to the north side of Flesher Field Park and extends southwest to the Township's southern boundary. Used by neighboring property owners and local residents 'in the know' for decades, the property has a well-worn footpath that is now open to the public. Short term plans are to develop an accessible crushed stone trail in the corridor, with parking, signage and other trail amenities. Longer term, the trail is planned to extend east to connect with non-motorized trails in the City of Kalamazoo, providing safe and convenient access to downtown and many other destinations. To the west, Texas Township's non-motorized plan proposes extending the trail to it's border near Mattawan. Accessible restrooms, picnic areas, and access to water for trail users will be provided at Flesher Field.

Accessibility Ranking - 1

Grant Information: Land acquisition was funded through a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Three development grants for trail construction and related amenities were submitted to the MNRTF in 2023.

DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design

UNDEVELOPED TOWNSHIP PARKLAND

In addition to the developed park facilities, the Township owns one vacant property that has the potential to be developed into an active and/or passive recreational facility. The former KL Avenue Landfill occupies 87-acres of land on KL Avenue, just east of 4th Street. Currently, the area is divided into four parcels, of which the Township owns one 22.5-acre parcel. The remaining three parcels are owned by Kalamazoo County. Additionally, the Township owns a vacant 26-acre parcel directly to the west of the landfill site. Much potential exists for a partnership with Kalamazoo County to develop a park on the 113-acre site. If fully developed, this area could possibly function as a large urban or regional park for both Oshtemo and Kalamazoo County residents.

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES NOT OWNED/MANAGED BY OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP

The Oshtemo Township Recreation Inventory table on page 46 includes recreation facilities at schools, apartment complexes, and other locations in order to give an accurate picture of the recreational offerings in the Township. A brief overview of each is included below.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAILS

The Kal-Haven Trail/Kalamazoo River Valley Trail (KRVT) crosses Oshtemo at the northwest corner of the Township. This is an important asset for Oshtemo, as it connects residents to both the City of Kalamazoo and the wider Southwest Michigan region. The Kal-Haven Trail State Park is a 35-mile linear park that links the City of Kalamazoo with the City of South Haven. A trailhead is located off of North 10th Street, which is the western terminus for the KRVT. The trailhead includes a parking lot, pit-toilets, benches, and a train caboos that serves as a small office and visitor center. Once completed, the KVRT will connect Kalamazoo to the City of Battle Creek, providing continuous nonmotorized access from Battle Creek to the City of South Haven and Lake Michigan.

NATURE PRESERVES

Two popular, publicly accessible nature preserves are the Lillian Anderson Arboretum owned and maintained by Kalamazoo College and Wolf Tree Nature Trails owned and maintained by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy.

The Lillian Anderson Arboretum was established in 1998 and comprises 140 acres of marsh, meadow, pine plantation and second-growth deciduous forest. Its primary mission is to conserve the natural qualities of the property in which the Arboretum is located. In addition, Kalamazoo College utilizes the Arboretum for a myriad of university studies, community building, solitary contemplation, and passive recreation. The trails are open to the public for hiking/running in the summer and snowshoeing/cross-country skiing in the winter. The Arboretum is located immediately west of Township Park, allowing visitors access to both properties and the ability to share facilities such as parking and restrooms.

Wolf Tree Nature Trails was acquired by the Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy in 2011 and opened to the public in 2016. The preserve is located at the southeast corner of 4th Street and KL Avenue and comprises 69 acres of land, which includes two ¾-mile passive recreation trails that wind through forest and meadows, providing scenic views of the Township.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Prairie Ridge Elementary is a Kalamazoo Public School located on 9th Street just north of Stadium Drive and includes a playground with a myriad of outdoor play equipment designed for children aged five to eleven years old.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Kalamazoo Christian Elementary and Middle School is a private school located on South 12th Street south of Parkview Avenue. The school grounds currently house an outdoor play area and a soccer field. Heritage Christian Academy, located at the northeast corner of South 9th Street and Quail Run Drive, has a soccer field, baseball field, basketball court, and play area.

PRIVATE FACILITIES WITHIN OSHTEMO

There are a number of private recreation facilities within Oshtemo Township, from amenities offered by apartment providers to fitness facilities requiring membership. While these facilities do not publicly serve all citizens of Oshtemo Township, they assist with meeting the overall recreation needs of the community. Most of the private recreation facilities offered in the Township are outlined in the Oshtemo Township Recreation Inventory table.

FACILITIES WITHIN A HALF MILE OF OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP

Access to park and recreation facilities does not stop at jurisdictional borders. Residents of neighboring communities utilize Oshtemo facilities just as Oshtemo residents likely access adjacent amenities. To get a better picture of these facilities generally within walking distance for Oshtemo residents, the following amenities were reviewed:

Frays Park—Mini/Neighborhood Park

The park measures 11 acres and is located on Canterbury Avenue, east of Drake Road. Park amenities include play equipment, picnic facilities, tennis, pickleball and volleyball courts, and paved walking trails.

Asylum Lake Preserve—Regional Park

The 274-acre Asylum Lake Preserve is located on the west side of the City of Kalamazoo and is owned by Western Michigan University. The lake and adjoining property are preserved as a passive recreation area under an agreement between WMU and the City of Kalamazoo. It provides a popular hiking, walking, and fishing area for residents. The preserve also serves as a research area for WMU students and faculty.

Kalamazoo Community Soccer Complex

This facility on Drake Road just east of the Township boundary contains 10 soccer fields and is home to six different soccer leagues. Restrooms and support facilities are provided as well.

Linden Grove Middle School

Linden Grove Middle School is a Kalamazoo Public School located just east of the Township boundary on Drake Road. It has outdoor tennis and basketball courts for active recreation.

Kalamazoo Central High School

Kalamazoo Central High School, also a Kalamazoo Public School located east of the Township boundary, provides a number of recreational facilities like a football field, outdoor tennis courts, etc. It should be noted that these facilities are dedicated to school-related programs.

ADDITIONAL LOCAL/REGIONAL PARKS

Many of the communities near Oshtemo have their own park facilities, and while not directly supported by Oshtemo residents, these parks are generally open for all Kalamazoo County residents to use and enjoy and are located within a short distance of the Township.

6th Street Park (Texas Township)

This new 65-acre park is located on 6th Street, approximately 1.5 miles south of Oshtemo Township. It features two multi-purpose fields, eight pickleball courts, and a paved walking trail.

Texas Drive Park (Texas Township)

This newly upgraded 16-acre park features a splash pad, playground, basketball court, paved walking trail, pavilion, multi-purpose fields, and baseball field. It is located approximately four miles from Oshtemo Township's southern border.

Bicentennial Park and Celery Flats (City of Portage)

This 205-acre park is located along Portage Creek and contains 3.5 miles of multi-use trails, over eight miles of paths, canoeing, fishing, playgrounds, shelters and picnicking. The park also contains the Celery Flats Interpretative Center and historical area. Celery Flats highlights the heritage of celery farming in Portage and Kalamazoo County and includes four relocated structures as part of the historical area. The facilities are available to rent for events.

Markin Glen Park (Kalamazoo County)

Markin Glen Park straddles North Westnedge Avenue north of G Avenue in Cooper Township. Area residents can enjoy barrier-free access to 160 acres of woodlands, meadows, and lakeshore. Amenities include fishing, camping, a swimming beach, tennis courts, picnic facilities, and an extensive system of trails.

Prairie View Park (Kalamazoo County)

Located in Schoolcraft Township and owned by the County since 1960, Prairie View Park offers regional-scale amenities such as boat launches and a swimming beach on Hogset Lake. Multiple sports fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, and hiking trails round out the available facilities. A beach house with fireplace provides winter-time patrons with a warm place to gather.

Woolham Preserve (Kalamazoo County)

Kalamazoo's newest County Park, the Arthur E. & Mildred H. Woolham Nature Preserve, is currently in the development phase and will open for public access in Spring 2024. The County, in partnership with Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy, has established a conservation easement on the 212-acre Woolham Preserve to protect its unique natural features in perpetuity. The master plan proposes picnic shelters, restrooms, trails, nature plan, kayak rental and launch, and opportunities for birdwatching and nature education.

Oshtemo Township Recreation Inventory

Facilities	Acres	Accessibility Eval	Baseball/Softball	Basketball	Biking trail/path	Disc Golf Course	Dog Park	Football Field	Golf Course/Range	Hiking/Walking Trail	Nature Area/Garden	Pavilion	Picnic Facilities	Play Area	Rollerskating Rink	Soccer Field	Swimming Pool	Tennis	Wiffleball	Volleyball	Pickleball	Indoor Facility	Outdoor Facility	Combined Facility	
OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP FACILITIES																									
Drake Farmstead	26	1								•	•	•	•											•	
Flesher Field	24	3	•							•	•	2	•	•		•			2				•		
Grange Hall Playground	2	3		•									•	•										•	
Oshtemo Township Park	70	3		2		•				•	•	2	•	•				1	•		2		•		
OTHER FACILITIES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC																									
<i>Govt./Non-Profit</i>																									
Kal Haven Trail/KRVT	NA	3			2 mi.					2 mi.	•													•	
Kal Haven Trail Head	5	3			•					•		•	•											•	
Lillian And. Arboretum	140	2								Unkwn	•													•	
Wolf Tree Nature Trails	69	1								1.5 mi.	•													•	
<i>Public Schools</i>																									
Prairie Ridge Elementary	NA													2											•
PRIVATE FACILITIES																									
<i>Private Schools</i>																									
Heritage Christian	NA		•	•										•											•
Kalamazoo Christian	NA						•							•											•
<i>Churches</i>																									
Centerpoint Church	NA																					•			
Lighthouse Community	NA		•											•											•
Voyage Church	NA										•			•											•
<i>Manufactured Home Communities</i>																									
Colonial Manor	NA																•								
Fountain Springs	NA													•			•								
Huntington Run	NA													•			•								
Woodland Estates	NA													•											
<i>Apartment Complexes</i>																									
Centerbury Apartments	NA																•								•
Danford Creek	NA																•								•
Mill Creek Apt. Homes	NA																•								•
The Paddock Apartments	NA																•								•
The Wyatt Apartments	NA			•													•			•					•
58 West	NA									•			•				•				•				•
W. Zoo Church of Christ	NA																					•			
Summer Ridge	NA			•													•				•				•
<i>Other</i>																									
Golf Svcs Driving Range	NA								•																•
Meadow Run Dog Park	25					•				•	•														•
Prairies Golf Club	122								•																•
Ridgeview Golf Club	117								•																•
Rollerworld	NA														•								•		

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS/METHODS

This plan is intended to form a road map for the decisions made in the next five years regarding parks and recreation facilities in Oshtemo Township. Feedback gathered from residents during the early public input process and a thorough understanding of the demographic, administrative and land use characteristics of the community play a critical role in the development of the plan. As this is Oshtemo's fourth consecutive Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan, it is also important to review the action plans and community feedback from previous years. Another important step is to develop an understanding of how Oshtemo's existing recreation opportunities compare with other communities.

PLANNING PROCESS

The Oshtemo Township Board, through the Parks Committee, directed the update of the Oshtemo Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan. The planning process included the steps described below.

1. Engage the community - early public input
 - Randomized survey of Oshtemo residents, July 2023
 - Flesher Field and Drake Farmstead Park Master Plan meeting #1 August 28, 2023
 - Online survey, September 27 - October 18
 - Open House public meeting, October 11
 - Flesher Field and Drake Farmstead Park Master Plan meeting #2 November 11, 2023
2. Review previous plans
 - *GO! Green Oshtemo*, 2019 - 2023
 - Oshtemo Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014 - 2018
 - Oshtemo Township Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009 - 2014
3. Collect and analyze data
 - Community description and demographics
 - Administrative structure & funding
 - Parks and recreation inventory
 - Natural resources inventory
4. Develop Goals, Objectives and Action Program
 - Review previous goals and objectives, update and prioritize
 - Consider current and future trends and needs, including comparison to park metrics
5. Draft report
 - 30-day review period of draft plan
 - Revise plan based on community feedback
6. Approval process
 - Public Hearing by Township Board
 - Resolution of adoption by Township Board
 - Submit plan to DNR

COMPARISON OF PARKS METRICS

Oshtemo's previous Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plans used guidelines or standards provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to understand the number of parks and recreational facilities which might be needed based on the community's population. Because these guidelines are no longer in use, they are not included in this plan. According to the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the guidelines are no longer in use because every community is unique. Recognizing that communities vary greatly by size, needs and desires, so too should their park and recreation

agencies' offerings. Instead, the NRPA replaced the single set of standards with creation of a nationwide benchmarking tool that allows a community to compare its parks and recreation agency and resources with peer data. The use of NRPA's peer data allows for comparison to jurisdictions with similar population, type of municipality, or region, for example. The NRPA also stresses that knowing the characteristics of the residents who use a community's resources - both current and future - is an important factor in shaping the parks and open space offerings.

LEVEL-OF-SERVICE TRENDS

Level-of-service (LOS) standards are measures of the minimum amount of a public facility or service which must be provided to meet that community's basic needs and expectations. For example, a community may set a standard for how many park acres are needed per 1,000 population. However, every community is different and there is no "one-size-fits-all" LOS standard. But, by adopting LOS standards, a community says that all residents, regardless if they pay taxes or use the park and recreation facilities, have equal opportunity to share in the basic services in the standard.

With that said, there are tools provided by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) that allow communities to evaluate themselves against similar jurisdictions they view as peers. Each year, the NRPA develops the Park and Recreation Performance Benchmarks to provide some general national standards and to provide local communities with information for comparison. However, this comparison should be tempered with an understanding of Oshtemo's specific needs to help identify the most optimal parks and recreation program for our community.

The 2023 NRPA report contains data from more than 1,000 park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2020 and 2022. These agencies range from very large cities with robust park and recreation departments to small villages. According to NRPA, the average parks agency has the following metrics:

Has 10.8 acres of park land per 1,000 residents
Spends \$94.77 in operating expenditures per capita
Employs 8.9 staff members per 10,000 residents
Recovers 24.6 percent of operating expenditures through revenue generation
Has 1 park for every 2,287 residents

The 2020 U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census indicates Oshtemo Township's current population is 23,747 persons. When comparing to the national metrics provided by the NRPA, the Township has the following statistics:

Has 4.61 acres of park land per 1,000 residents (includes Drake Farmstead, Grange Hall Playground, Flesher Field, Fruit Belt Rail Trail and Township Park for a total of 157 acres)
Spends \$11.92 in operating expenditures per capita (this is based on an average of \$283,148 in operating expenditures – actual expenditures for 2022 and the current 2023 budget)

Employs 1.4 staff members per 10,000 residents (Parks Director and a percent of maintenance and treasurer department staff time)

Recovers 35 percent of operating expenditures through revenue generation (rental fees and interest earned – does not include grants or general fund monies. This is based on 2022 revenues and expenditures)

Has 1 park for every 4,749 residents

Once a community establishes LOS, it is used to measure whether existing standards are adequate to serve its citizens, or whether there are deficiencies that should be corrected. They also serve as yardsticks to measure whether existing capacity is adequate to handle new development, or to determine what improvements will be required to avoid overloading existing facilities and services. As the community grows, LOS can help to assure that facilities and services will keep pace with that growth.

There are a multitude of ways to consider LOS. Below are a handful of examples:

Acres of parkland per resident

Distance of residents from parks (example - every resident within 1 mile of park)

Township budget for parks per capita

Establishment of parks based on population density (example – 1 acre of parkland for every acre with a population density of 40 residents per acre)

Establishment of parks based on residential development density (example – 1 acre of parkland for every 10 acres of land with a density of 6 dwelling units or more)

Distance of residents from parks in areas over a certain density (example – parks will be within a ½ mile distance from every resident located in an area with a population density of 40 residents per acre)

A LOS that only addresses certain types of parks (example – the Township already has three “community parks” so develop a LOS that focuses on “mini- and neighborhood parks.”)

As part of the analysis for the 2019 - 2023 *GO!* Green Oshtemo Plan, the Parks and Recreation Study Group reviewed a LOS based on budget per capita. Their reasoning for this recommendation is based on the clear development and population density patterns found in our community. Both existing development and the Township’s Future Land Use Plan provide a distinct demarcation in development at around 8th Street, with nonresidential development and higher density residential patterns to the east. If the LOS was based on population or residential density, all facilities would be concentrated towards the east side of the Township. If it was based just on parkland per resident, the east side could be underserved. Determining a LOS on distance to a park would not work because of the large parcel development pattern on the west side. In addition, facilities like trails, greenways, conservation areas, etc. would be difficult to include in these LOS standards.

Because of Oshtemo’s unique development pattern, the Study Group felt that none of the other suggested LOS worked as well as budget per capita. This plan carries that reasoning forward and continues to look at LOS based on budget per capita.

Operating budget per capita for neighboring Townships were found to be as follows for 2022 budgets:

Oshtemo Township - \$283,064 operating budget / 23,747 population = \$11.92 per capita

Comstock Township - \$408,246 operating budget / 15,625 population = \$26 per capita

Texas Township - \$101,750 operating budget / 17,132 population = \$5.94 per capita

The operating budget for these communities was gathered from data provided on their websites. It should also be noted that each of these communities has very different park and recreation facilities. Comstock Township has a large softball complex and a lake park, while Kalamazoo Township has a number of small mini or neighborhood parks at two acres or less.

When reviewing Oshtemo's budget for both operating and capital expenditures averaged over four years (2020 – 2022 actuals and 2023 budget), the following total is calculated:

Total Parks Budget = \$373,907 / 23,747 population = \$15.74 per capita

At this time, a LOS related to budget per capita has not been established. However, the Township Board has indicated an interest in continuing to evaluate the Parks Department per capita budget as Oshtemo's population inevitably grows.

APPENDIX 5

PUBLIC INPUT

Residents' opinions on Oshtemo's parks and recreation facilities were a key consideration in the development of this plan. Efforts were made to seek input from those who use our parks as well as those who don't, and special efforts were made to involve residents in the high-density residential areas whose concerns are often overlooked. Public input methods included an open house, a community-wide survey of randomly chosen residents, an online survey, and the public hearing for adoption. Because updating the Flesher Field and Drake Farmstead Park Master Plans is a major component of this plan, two additional public meetings were held specifically for feedback on the long-term vision of these parks. Information below provides a summary of the meetings and public input received.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Cobalt Community Research, a 501 c 3 not for profit research coalition, conducted a survey to gather feedback on Oshtemo's parks, local government, Fire/EMS, Sheriff, transportation infrastructure, etc. The survey involved a random sample of 2,000 residents drawn from the voter registration list. Surveys were mailed in May 2023 with a follow-up mailing in June 2023. Residents had the option to respond by mail or online with a unique ID number. Valid responses were obtained from approximately 330 residents, providing a +/- 5.3 percent margin of error with a confidence level of 95%. Cobalt Community Research provided comparison scores with local governments in Michigan, the Midwest and across the nation.

The survey questions related to parks were developed by the Parks Director and Parks Committee. Many of the questions were repeated from a similar community survey conducted by Cobalt Community Research in 2017. Results of the community survey are included in Appendix 6, Supplemental Information. The bottom line, as described by Cobalt, was that parks scored above benchmarks and residents would like more maintenance/cleaning in the parks. Overall, the community survey results were favorable and provided a great deal of very useful information, particularly when respondents were given the opportunity to provide written comments.

Results of this survey are especially valuable because the randomly selected respondents were not necessarily park users. An important caveat is that demographic data from the survey showed 50% of respondents were over age 65, which is a higher proportion than found in the overall population (19%). In addition, 51% retired, and 35% employed. Community Survey questions and results are included at the end of Appendix 5.

ONLINE SURVEY

In order to give park users an opportunity to provide feedback to the same questions as asked in the community survey, an online survey was conducted. The online survey was held from September 27 to October 18th. It was advertised via legal notice in the newspaper, Township newsletter, website and social media. In addition, yard signs with a link to the survey via QR code were placed around the Township and moved to events such as the Township's dump day. Signs were also placed at the apartment complexes in Oshtemo's high density residential areas. 98 citizens responded to the survey, providing important insights into residents desires. Online Survey questions and results are included at the end of Appendix 5.

OPEN HOUSE

A public open house was held on October 11th from 4 - 6 pm at the Oshtemo Community Center. The open house was advertised via legal notice in the local newspaper, Township newsletter, website, and email, and on social media sites like Facebook and Nextdoor. Five informational stations were set up around the room and attendees were invited to give feedback at each station. Opportunities to provide feedback included writing answers to questions and a sticky dot exercise. Attendees were also invited to participate in the online survey.

Information stations included the following topics:

- 1) Our parks: a description of Oshtemo's parks with a list of accomplishments over the past five years.
- 2) About us: Oshtemo Township demographics
- 3) Community survey results
- 4) Administrative Structure: who develops and maintains our parks
- 5) Reviewing our previous plan: Goals and Objectives from *GO! Green Oshtemo*

The minutes of the open house include all information presented at each station with the feedback received. They are included in Appendix 6, Supplemental Information.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND HEARING

The Plan was made available for public comment from November 10, 2023 through final adoption. A digital copy of the Plan was posted on the Township website and e-mailed to a broad audience, including public meeting attendees, neighboring jurisdictions, and Township boards and officials. A hard copy of the Plan was made available at the Township Hall. Finally, an adoption process was designed to allow for two public hearings, providing the residents of Oshtemo opportunities to weigh in on the draft Plan.

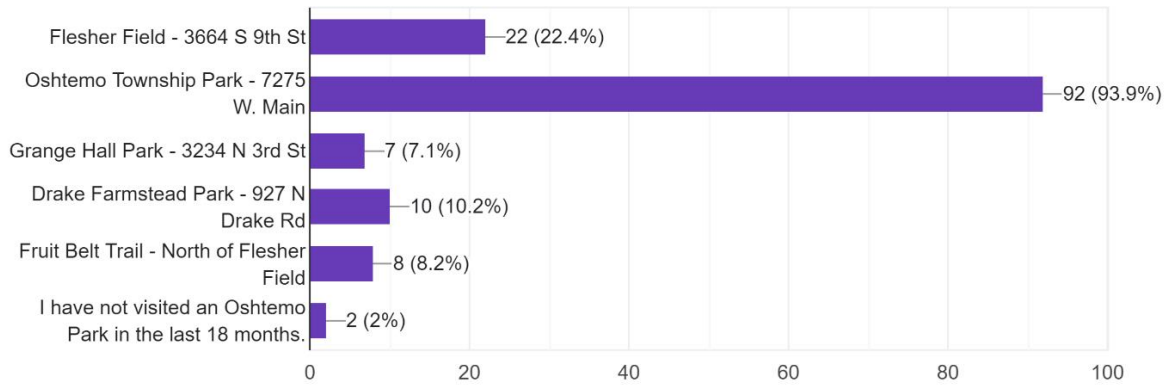
The first public hearing was held before the Township Board on December 12, 2023. Interested residents were invited to speak. A notice was placed in the Kalamazoo Gazette and on Mlive.com on November 7, 2023 and posted on the Township's website on November 9, 2023.

The Board will consider adoption of the plan at their January 9, 2024 meeting.

ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS & RESULTS

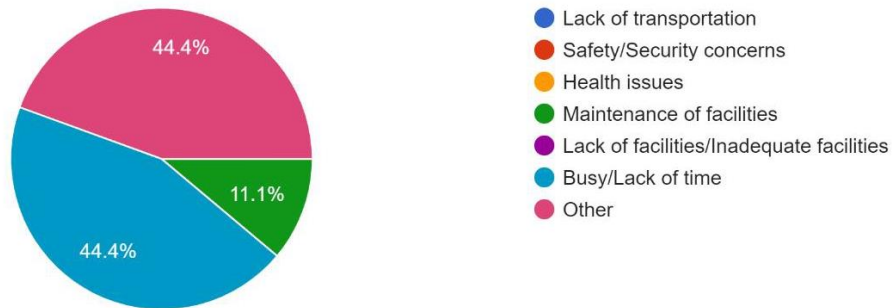
1. Have you visited an Oshtemo Township park within the last 18 months? If yes, which of the following parks have you visited?

98 responses



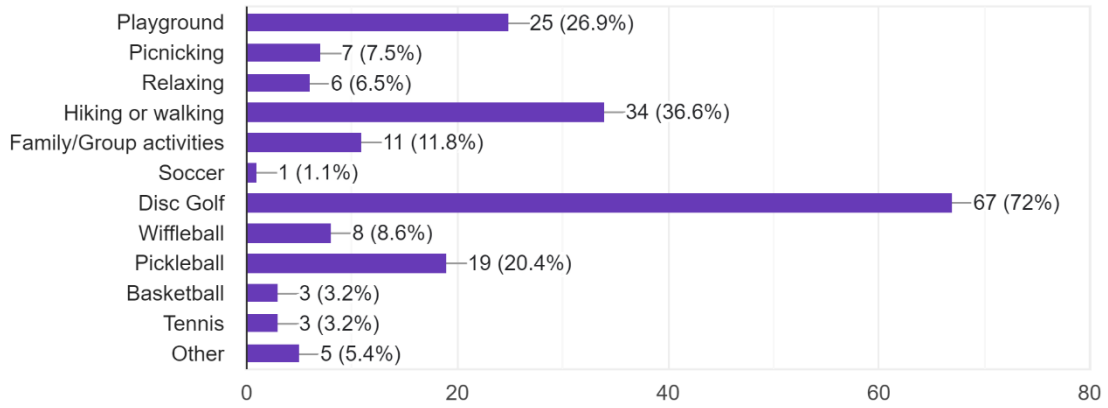
2. If you have not visited a park in the last 18 months, please tell us why? (Then skip to question 6)

9 responses

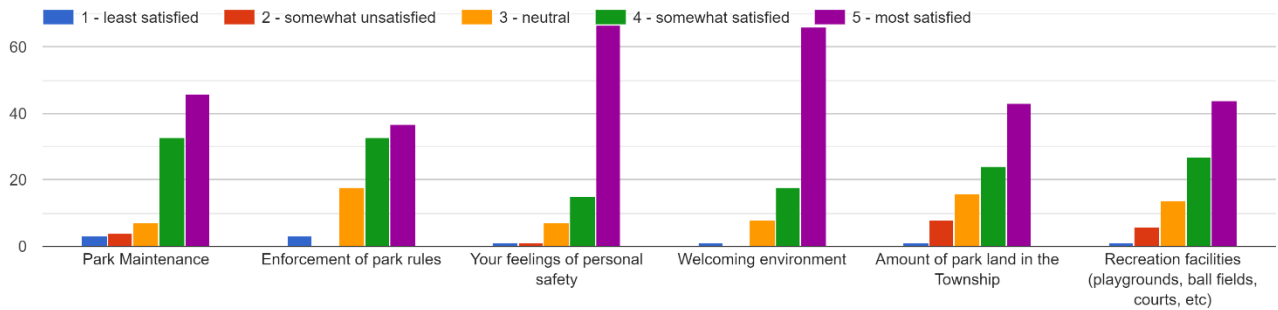


4. If yes to Question 1, which activities do you typically participate in while at the park?

93 responses

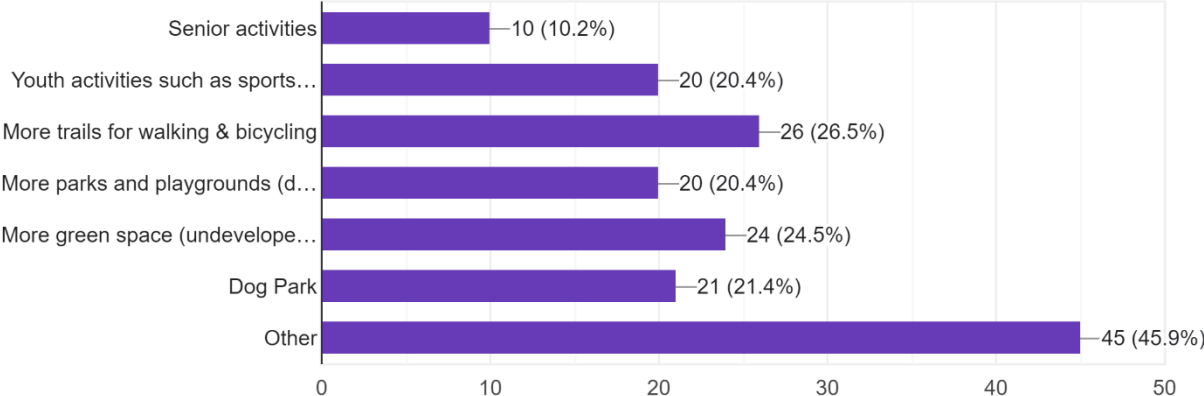


5. If yes to Question 1, please let us know how satisfied are you with each of the following (Scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least satisfied and 5 being the most satisfied):

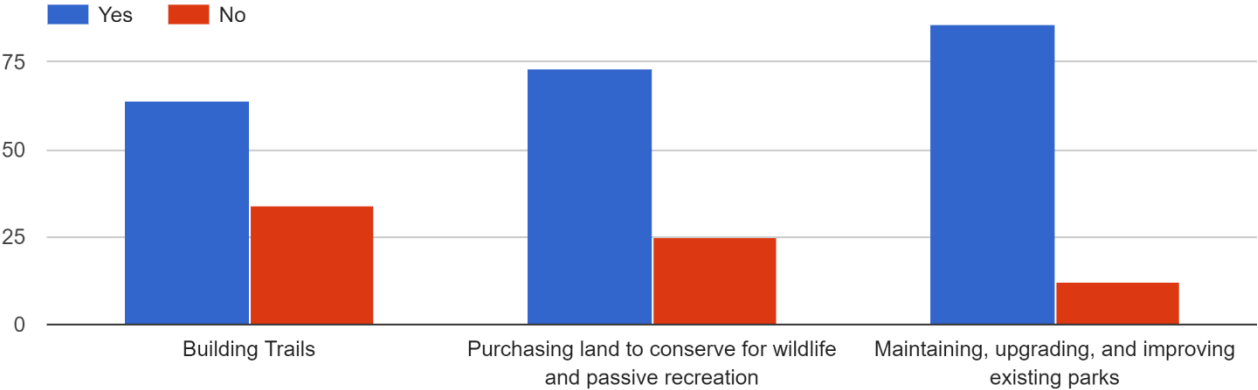


6. What recreation programs or facilities would you like to see added to Oshtemo's Parks?

98 responses

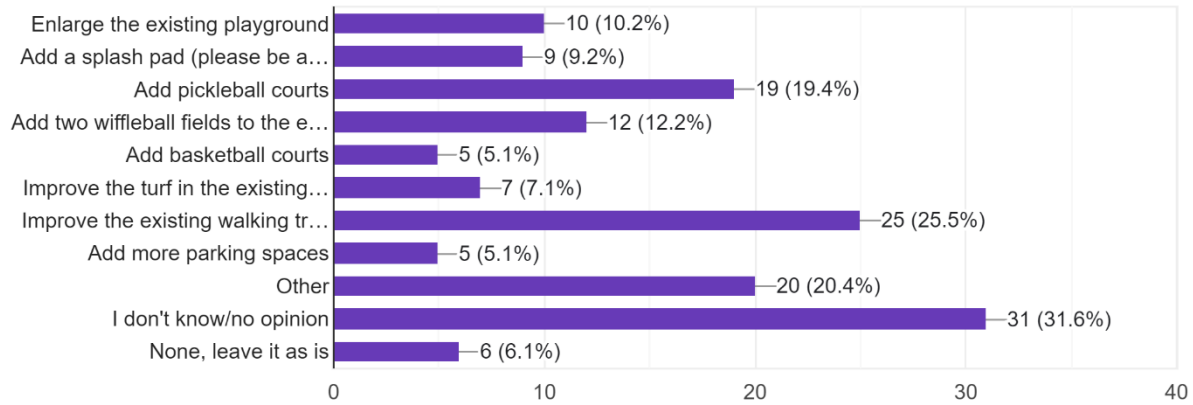


7. Would you support up to an additional .5 mills in property taxes for the following?



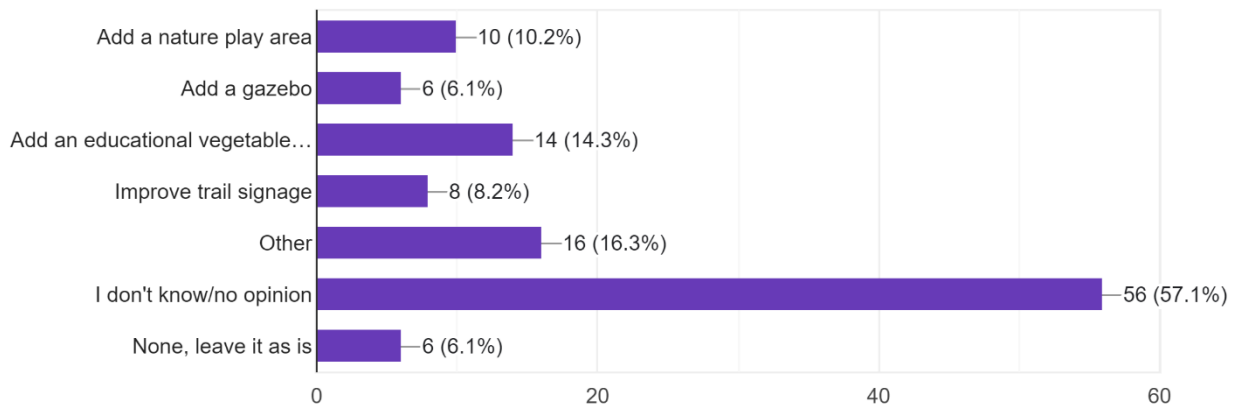
8. Which of the following recreation facilities would you like to see added or improved at Flesher Field? (3664 S 9th St)

98 responses



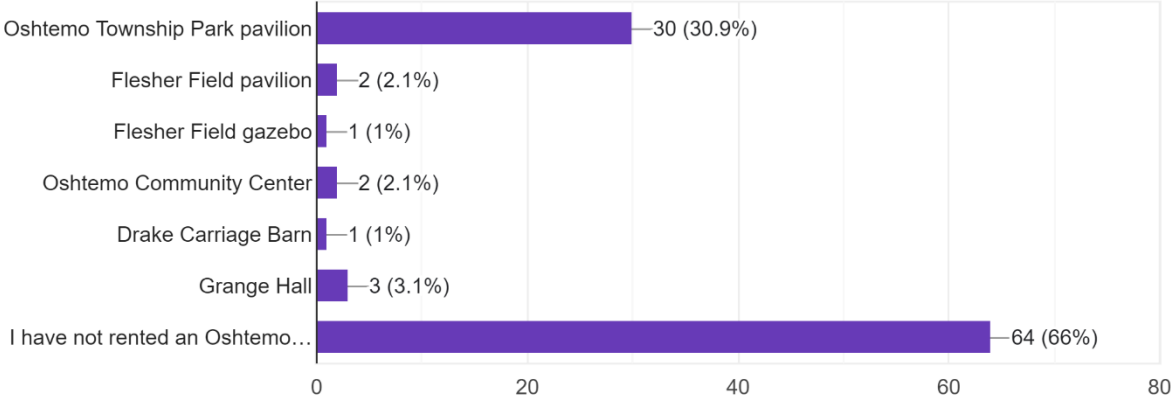
9. Which of the following recreation facilities would you like to see added or improved at Drake Farmstead Park?

98 responses

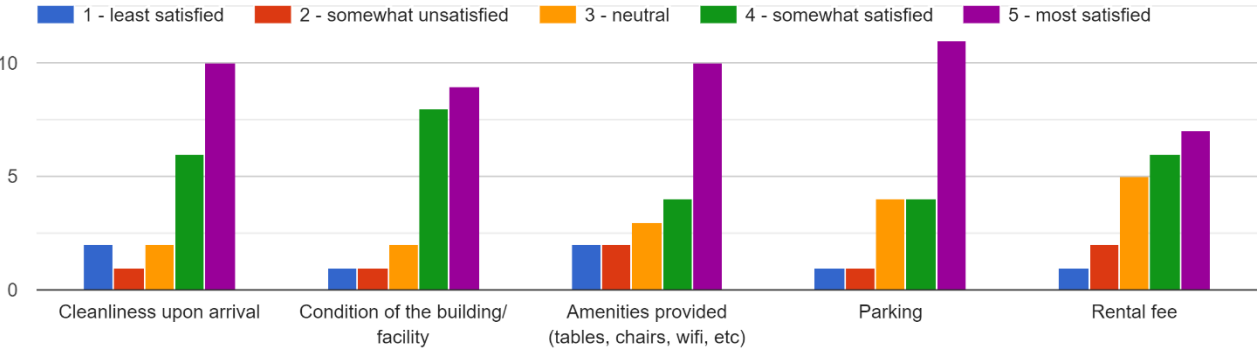


10. Have you rented an Oshtemo park facility in the past two years? If yes, which facility did you rent? (If no, please skip to question 12)

97 responses

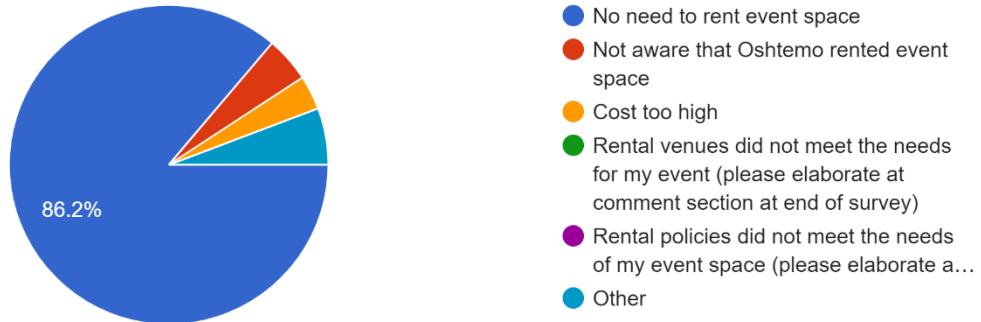


11. If yes, how satisfied were you with each of the following? (Scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the least satisfied and 5 being the most satisfied):



12. If you have not rented an Oshtemo park facility in the last two years, why not?

87 responses



13. What amenities or changes would you like to see made to Oshtemo's rental facilities?

N/A

Clean up the bad language on the play structure, and encourage the disc golfers to use less profanity while playing next to a playground!

1111

Disc golf course rental so the course can be closed during events. It is a near championship level course and during events takes about 3 hours to play a round. Add random casuals and it can make for a 10 hour day.

I'm looking forward to using Oshtemo for disc golf tournaments in the future, but have no current opinions on the matter.

Open restrooms

N/a

Cleaning of facilities before rental including the porta John being serviced

Whenever I see the place is rented, I can rarely find a decent parking spot if I can find one at all.

Sometimes I have to park at the firehouse even though I am disabled I cannot find a disabled spot nor a regular spot. This has happened several times.

Was unaware of some of the rental available. I'm aware now and appreciate this survey.

Updated restrooms, updated grills

More disc golf

None

When we arrived, a large family was using our rented pavilion. We made due with the smaller pavilion, but a reserved sign would be helpful so other families don't use it while we paid to rent it.

14. How can we better promote Oshtemo's parks, recreation facilities and park events?

Bigger signage!

11

Add more disc golf courses!

Local fbook posts

Fix flooding on disc course

Social media could be a lot better.

By increasing reach through advertising on social media, the different local events happening at the parks.

Align Oshtemo/parks social media accounts to promote the constant disc golf events happening at the park. It is considered one of the best courses in the Midwest, and it does not get the recognition it deserves.

Improve community web page. Offer more activities and amenities to drive interest knowledge of parks

increase the number of tennis courts, add lights to tennis courts to all tennis to be played at night / early morning, add a board to tennis courts

Facebook and Oshtemo parks publication

Temporary signs announcing thr events two weeks before event date.

If it's for disc golf, more on the Facebook group.

You have built and maintained much of the parks/trails. "If you build it, they will come"...I see a lot of people enjoying your parks/facilities. Pickleball is a healthy activity for all ages, especially seniors. Thank you for improving the Oshtemo court, however so many seeking more courts...especially INDOOR courts during winter...Players "hunt" for indoor courts:) during the winter, churches that have gyms open that on certain days to accommodate those looking. Portage Senior Center also has courts.

More disc golf events

Increase awareness of the Disc Golf facility

Disc golf course maintenance could be better. Fallen trees and branches are only cleaned up by volunteers if allowed

Would love to have a nature playground and/or a small bike pump track for kids added! McKay Lake Park in Westminster, CO is a great example!

Facebook events, email newsletter, posters at park facilities, partner with other groups like public library or nature center and schools

Regularity of events at parks

Social Media

Facebook

Occasional mailing about parks only (check for cost & determine effectiveness). Maybe special mailing before summer event season starts too? Post events as FB events (promote posts too?). Connect with Scouts/Schools/Master Gardeners for service projects and maintenance.

Super funny tiktok videos

I'm a huge fan of Facebook and specifically Facebook Events. I realize it is "MomBook" or "GrandmaBook" now, but I still think that is the PERFECT target audience for events information since those people are often looking for something for their families to do. (I'm a Facebook Specialist, so I know a bit more about it than the average person, but the younger folks have moved on to "Instagram"- still owned by FB- and TikTok and even NEWER platforms that I haven't heard about twice yet... But Facebook is still useful and like I said, that's the demographic you WANT for your events.) So using Facebook Events to make sure every event is represented would be huge. Maybe also 'targeting' nearby apartment complexes with the information. Those are places where people DON'T often have natural space to enjoy and could really benefit from knowing about the parks and things going on at them they can be a part of. I really want to see a pamphlet or article or something that shows how people can get to the Parks by using the BUS LINE. Metro might be interested in collaborating on something like that, because we really DO need to get more people using the bus. I think knowing they can just hop on a bus and NOT HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT PARKING is a HUGE boon to you. Flesher Field has a stop, Drake Farmstead has a stop (and I heard they were thinking of putting in another across from the apartments on Croyden), the Township park with Disc Golf can be accessed by the library stop from what I'm guessing... like seriously... I think if there were something that showed people, "Hey! Catch this bus and you can get to the park!" it would catch on. And with the apartments, too. It's unfortunate that it happens, but I think people are so focused on going from point A to point B they don't look up and see what's around them. SO MANY apartments surround the Drake Farmstead! And a good deal of them for older persons, so having Senior events at the Carriage House could be something they'd be interested in. If it could be advertised at the Drake corner fast food restaurants that there was a park they could go eat outside at, that might be a way to get people to go there! My husband and I went there on a Sunday and EVERYONE who was there (four separate groups including us) were there to take photos. So maybe some promotion of the parks (And Drake in particular) for photoshoots, or even having an event with several photographers offering sessions might be able to generate some revenue. (If you were to provide some decorations or animals for the day and have a small fee for the photographers to be there? I don't know exactly how it could work but I think there's something there. Fall AND Christmas/Winter AND Easter/Spring?) And I think a lot of events now days get spread through specialized groups. So if you have a photographer day like above, making sure the Local Photography groups knew about it. Or contacting KVCC Photography Class and inviting them out. Once they know about it, they'll start coming back.

Social media presence with event notification. Announcements on township website.

15. Please share any additional comments on Oshtemo's parks, rental facilities, and open spaces.

Clean up the facility!

1

I love the disc golf course and that's what usually brings me back. But when my kids were younger the main attraction was the playground.

I would love for the mixed use path along M-43 to actually connect to the park before the library. It just disappears! Also, biggest issue in disc golf is generally mud/water retention after rain but it has been getting better. Thank you for maintaining such a beautiful park.

More disc golf courses would help to alleviate the burden felt by Osthemo Park. That course need maintenance like plugging the fairways, maybe adding an extra basket position so there isn't so much soil compaction around the baskets. A new course at Lillian Anderson or Wolf Tree would also help

remove burden by spreading out the amount of people. New courses should be done by a professional designer and not LaBond like everything else so we can have a variety of designs that incorporate different schools of design philosophy.

I've always enjoyed using and respecting the course and the park has always been in good shape. I am thankful for the people who maintain it.

It would be fantastic if you added an additional 6 holes to your disc golf course. You have the land, and it's the most used activity at Oshtemo Township Park.

More pickleball courts, continued improvements to disc golf course (such as second basket location)

I only recently moved to the area and am extremely impressed with the disc golf course in Oshtemo. It is a major reason I chose to live in this part of Kalamazoo. I have since picked up pickle ball and have frequently used the courts at the park as well. They seem to be full a good portion of the time, so more courts nearby seems like it would be used. But at the present, I am extremely satisfied by the park.

An additional disc golf course would be nice. The current one is always busy. There are hundreds of people on league days, making it difficult to play casually anywhere nearby.

Disc golf courses in the greater Kalamazoo area are becoming increasingly crowded on afternoons/evenings/weekends. Especially on league days. The big league/club here had a record number of members this year (k'aces) and league nights were jam packed at all courses. Players were finishing in the dark towards the end of the season this year because rate of play was so slow due to the crowd. All this is to say that Kalamazoo could really use another well-designed course (Larry Labond) if there is space at any of the parks that might have a good profile for a new course (usually 25-30 acres).

tennis courts at Oshtemo park were decreased to add pickle ball courts. There is not enough tennis courts to meet demand and often people are waiting to use courts.

the fee is too high. I volunteer at the park. I paid for non-resident rental. No one else was at the park so I felt I just lost \$150. I easily could have used it or the free one. Before looking at my responses to the other questions. My son lives in Matawan and I have two grand-children.

More manicured disc golf course, amazing course just could use some more care. Possibility to bring in a lot of revenue and visitors from out of state/town.

The ability to reserve the disc golf course for events. When there are tournaments and people not in the tournament cause problems.

Really on the parking is number one. Being disabled and having to walk over 100 yards because I can't find a disabled spot, or even a regular spot in that area and having to park at the firehouse isn't great. I get parking is an issue but a lot of your ideas are about increasing things but parking remains a major issue.

See Question #14. Thank you for your services to keep the park open and welcome to all. Do they have an officer walk the Oshtemo Park from time to time to assure safety? I have never encountered someone on my many hikes..but I wondered if you did patrol occasionally?

The disc golf course in the township park is great, it would benefit from more regular maintenance, especially grass mowing in rainy times.

Expand the disc golf course by 6 holes, improve / add / repair retaining walls to improve water management on multiple holes. Mowing has been better on the course but should be more consistent. Disc golf in oshtemo probably leads the pack when it comes to consistent park usage year round, i believe it is fair to treat it as such when it comes to upkeep and disbursement of funds.

More disc golf holes at Oshtemo park, and courses put in at other parks with enough wooded areas. Maintain the disc golf course in a better manner. Gravel and or wood chips in areas that get very muddy

Thank you!

I could only choose one park in the first question, survey would not allow more than one selection Oshtemo does a great job prioritizing and maintaining parks and greens space! Thank you!! many rental spaces seem too small for large events like a wedding, lack of kitchen facilities Would love more pickleball courts.

More pickleball courts would help to address many things including physical, social, mental well being and commerce. The possibilities are endless. Pickleball is booming because it checks so many boxes for living a happy and healthy life style.

Moved here from Denver and have been disappointed by the lack of parks and trails. So much private, undeveloped land here. Denver has open space requirements for all neighborhoods. Would like to see more of that here, especially in new developments.

Would love to see the disc golf course cleaned up, such as hanging limbs.

More trash cans for the disc golf course. Help us help you keep the park clean.

Some erosion control on disc golf course

Awesome place to throw disc

I'm not sure if Oshtemo's Southwest Michigan Michigan bike routes comprise part of the Township's Parks and Recreation plans, but if they belong in the plan, please remember to include them.

I really enjoy the Fruit Belt trail and Flesher Field. I would love to see more pedestrian infrastructure to get to the parks though. A crossing on 9th street near Flesher Field would be nice and it would improve access for public transit users as well (there is a bus stop in front of the post office across the street). If it were also possible to include a pedestrian crossing for the trail when it reaches 6th street that would also be wonderful.

Can you be too successful, i.e., more people use parks, and increased wear & tear exceeds maintenance/replacement budget?

Oshtemo does an excellent job creating an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Enjoy the concerts at Flesher

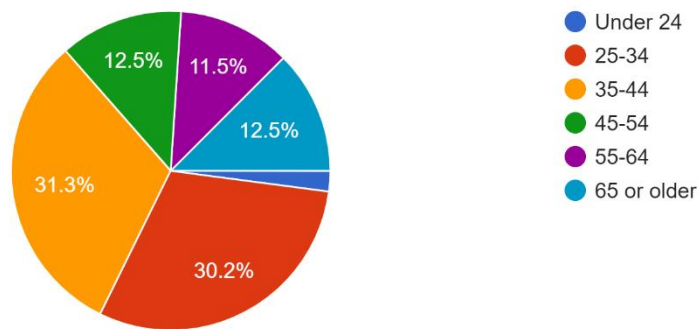
I live next door to Flesher Field at the Tall Oaks apartments. There is a small, hidden 'spur' that cuts through the woods along a ponding basin and lands on the Fruit Belt Trail. Not many residents know about it, but a few do take their dogs along it. I feel like there is some untapped potential there for both the Fruit Belt and Flesher Field. I've figured out how to walk 2 miles from my doorstep to Flesher Field and back. I run the paved loop at FF and wish there were more paved paths. It would definitely cut down on the ticks which is one reason I don't really hike the Fruitbelt Trail any more. (Deer Ticks live in the leaf litter and plants that hang over the trail) We love seeing the hot air balloons go up, so that was a good idea, whoever had it. I had told a small group of friends who get together on Sunday mornings to read and talk about how Drake Farmstead had open bathrooms and it was perfect for them for a bit. Now that the bathrooms are closed and locked, I don't think it works for them. My husband and I go there to eat lunch once in a while, but now that the bathrooms are locked, we have to go home to eat if we've been out a while. We understand the unhoused people probably abused it, it's still one of the reasons we liked to go there and spend some time. We went to see the Grange Hall park and felt like it was kind of small. We know the building itself is the draw, so that's fine. We did⁶⁰ do

the trail in the woods and felt like it could be improved a bit. The playground was small but the kids from the church service that just got out seemed to enjoy it enough. I feel like an improved trail (or even a small disc golf course) could increase the draw to that location. When I was helping at the Public Meeting, I was kinda shocked to hear that the Community Center wasn't in use very much. I'd like to help remedy that, if I can. Before the Pandemic I was working at the Kalamazoo Nature Center in the Programming Department and in the year I was there we had started creating programs that people were LOVING and attendance had started to explode! Many of those programs are transferable to a Parks and Rec type platform and I'd love to help brainstorm more if you guys go in that direction! I have lots of ideas and have a background that lends itself to building a community around locations :) Do let me know if you want to do some brainstorming!

We need more promotion of the public transit available to each of the parks. I would also like to see a bicycle trail that connects flescher field and other parks to downtown Kalamazoo without having to ride on the road. We are only a few miles to the city center and I would choose a bike over driving and public transit if it was an option.

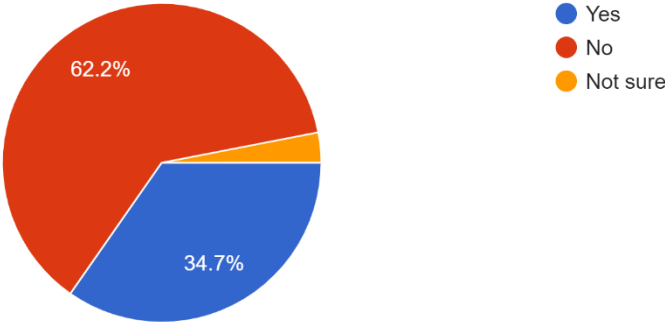
16. Before you leave, please tell us a little about yourself! What is your age?

96 responses



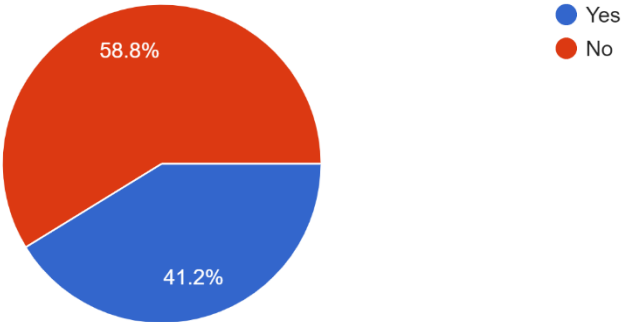
17. Do you live within Oshtemo Township?

98 responses

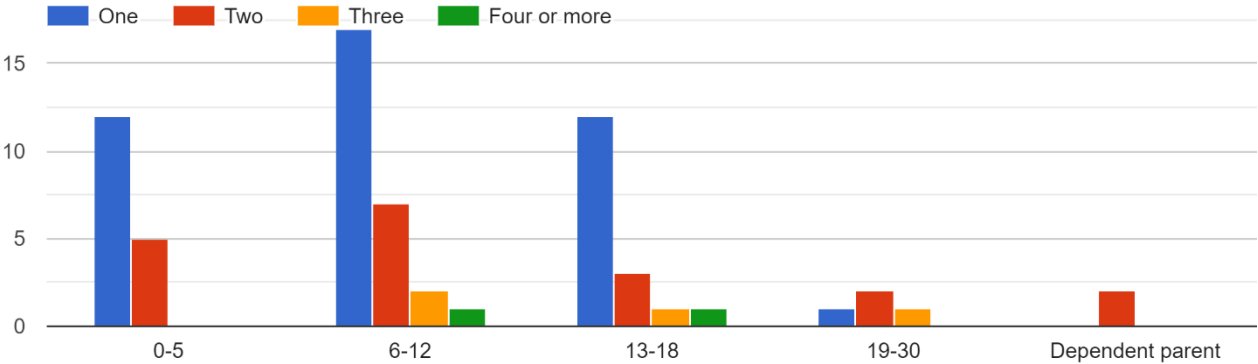


18. Do you have children or other dependents at home?

97 responses

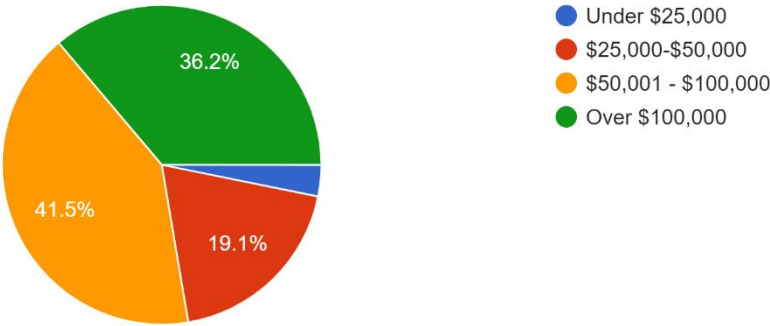


19. If yes, how many children do you have in the following age groups? (If no, skip to Question 20).



20. Which of the following best describes your household income?

94 responses





PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oshtemo Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF10-113

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Oshtemo Township Park Development

PROJECT SCOPE: Play area, picnic shelter, tennish, basketball, trails, RR & Parking

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oshtemo Charter Township, Vanessa Street, Parks Director, 7275 West Main Street, 269-216-5233, Kalamazoo MI 49009, vstreet@oshtemo.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Daily restroom cleaning and trash pickup, weekly or as needed mowing, frequent checks of playground, tennis and basketball courts, and trails.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
Picnic shelter can be reserved for a fee

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
Dawn to 30 minutes after dusk, year round.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Empty box for comments.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Cheri Bell, Township Supervisor

Please print

Cheri Bell
Grantee Authorized Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Vanessa Street, Parks Director

Please print

Vanessa Street
Witness Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



**PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT**

*This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
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GRANT TYPE: MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
(Please select one) LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND RECREATION PASSPORT BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oshtemo Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF14-0170

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Grange Hall Playgroud Improvements

New playground and barrier-free access to exisiting basketball &

PROJECT SCOPE: picnic

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee) <u>Oshtemo Charter Township</u>	Contact Person <u>Vanessa Street</u>	Title <u>Parks Director</u>
Address <u>7275 West Main Street</u>	Telephone <u>269-216-5233</u>	
City, State, ZIP <u>Kalamazoo MI 49009</u>	Email <u>vstreet@oshtemo.org</u>	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided?
If yes, please describe change(s). Yes No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) Yes No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. Yes No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area?
If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. Yes No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. Yes No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. Yes No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Weekly or as needed mowing, trash removal, and facility cleaning. Frequent checks of play
ground, basketball, picnic & pavement areas.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
Fee is charged for rental of indoor Grange Hall, no fee for playground, basketball or
picnic areas.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
Dawn to 30 minutes after dusk, year round.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Empty box for comments.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Cheri Bell, Township Supervisor

Please print

Cheri Bell

Grantee Authorized Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Vanessa Street, Parks Director

Please print

Vanessa Street

Witness Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oshtemo Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF12-046 and TF13-069 PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Flesher Field Park Improvements

Loop path, restroom, parking, play area, picnic shelter, gazebo,

PROJECT SCOPE: wiffle

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

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SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Daily restroom cleaning and trash pickup, weekly or as needed mowing, frequent checks of playground and trails.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
Picnic shelter can be reserved for a fee. Residents receive a discounted rate.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Dawn to 30 minutes after dusk, year round.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Cheri Bell, Township Supervisor

Please print

Cheri Bell

Grantee Authorized Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Vanessa Street, Parks Director

Please print

Vanessa Street

Witness Signature

11/21/2023

Date

**Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

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GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oshtemo Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF17-0190

PROJECT TYPE: Development

PROJECT TITLE: Drake Farmstead Park Improvements

PROJECT SCOPE: Parking lot, picnic shelter, crushed stone path, walking trails

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oshtemo Charter Township, Vanessa Street, Parks Director, 7275 West Main Street, 269-216-5233, Kalamazoo MI 49009, vstreet@oshtemo.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Weekly or as needed mowing, trash removal, and facility cleaning.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
Fee is charged for rental of indoor Carriage Barn, no fee for park entry walking trails or picnic shelter.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
Dawn to 30 minutes after dusk, year round.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Cheri Bell, Township Supervisor

Please print

Cheri Bell
Grantee Authorized Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Vanessa Street, Parks Director

Please print

Vanessa Street
Witness Signature

11/21/2023

Date

**Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oshtemo Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF20-0070

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: Fruitbelt Trail Corridor Acquisition

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition of 36 acres of former railroad corridor, future trail

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oshtemo Charter Township, Vanessa Street, Parks Director, 7275 West Main Street, 269-216-5233, Kalamazoo MI 49009, vstreet@oshtemo.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain.

Yes No

Weekly or as needed mowing and trash removal

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants)

Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain.

Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure.

Yes No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Dawn to 30 minutes after dusk, year round.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Cheri Bell, Township Supervisor

Please print


Grantee Authorized Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Vanessa Street, Parks Director

Please print


Witness Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Send completed report to:

**POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**



PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended;
the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: [X] MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND [] CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
[] LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND [] RECREATION PASSPORT [] BOND FUND

GRANTEE: Oshtemo Charter Township

PROJECT NUMBER: TF86-074

PROJECT TYPE: Acquisition

PROJECT TITLE: New Park Land

PROJECT SCOPE: Acquisition of 65 acres for a new park in Oshtemo Charter Township.

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Table with 3 columns: Name of Agency (Grantee), Contact Person, Title, Address, Telephone, City, State, ZIP, Email. Row 1: Oshtemo Charter Township, Vanessa Street, Parks Director, 7275 West Main Street, 269-216-5233, Kalamazoo MI 49009, vstreet@oshtemo.org

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). [] Yes [X] No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) [] Yes [X] No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. [] Yes [X] No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. [X] Yes [] No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. [] Yes [X] No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. Yes No
Daily restroom cleaning and trash pickup, weekly or as needed mowing, frequent checks of playground, tennis and basketball courts, and trails.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) Yes No N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. Yes No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. Yes No
Picnic shelter can be reserved for a fee

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?
Dawn to 30 minutes after dusk, year round.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

Empty space for comments.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Cheri Bell, Township Supervisor

Please print


Grantee Authorized Signature

11/21/2023

Date

Vanessa Street, Parks Director

Please print


Witness Signature

11/21/2023

Date

**Send completed report to: POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925**

Post Completion Self-Certification Report Pictures



Oshtemo Township Park TF10-113



Flesher Field Park—TF12-046 & TF13-069



Grange Hall Park TF14-0170

Fruit Belt Rail Trail TF-20-0070



Drake Farmstead Park TF17-0190

Pictures taken November 22, 2023



Oshtemo Township Pavilion Rental Agreement



Select a park: _____ Township Park, 7275 West Main Street
_____ Flesher Field, 3664 South 9th Street

Select a date: M TU W TH F SA SU ____/____/____

Name _____
(must be age 21 or older) (photo ID required)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If not a resident, are you a Township property and/or business owner? _____ Yes _____ No

Address of Township property or business owned, if not a resident: _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Description of Event _____

If other than a family event provide name of group and group contact person & phone #:

Estimated number in group _____

On behalf of myself and my group or organization using the pavilion, I agree to release Oshtemo Township from any and all responsibility for injuries or property damage whatsoever arising from participation in the above activities. I assume liability for any & all damage to the pavilion.

I have read & agree to comply with the rules for use and cancellation policy. _____ (Initial here)

Signature _____ Date _____

Fee: (check applicable fee)

Oshtemo Taxpayer, Resident, Property/Business Owner

- | | |
|--|---|
| ___ 11am-3pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$35.00 | ___ 11am-3pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$75.00 |
| ___ 4pm-8pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$35.00 | ___ 4pm-8pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$75.00 |
| ___ 11am-8pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$70.00 | ___ 11am-8pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$125.00 |

Not an Oshtemo Taxpayer/Resident/Property/Business Owner

- | | |
|---|---|
| ___ 11am-3pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$70.00 | ___ 11am-3pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$150.00 |
| ___ 4pm-8pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$70.00 | ___ 4pm-8pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$150.00 |
| ___ 11am-8pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$140.00 | ___ 11am-8pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$250.00 |

The reservation is not secured until both the agreement and fee are received. See cancellation policy on back. There will be a \$30.00 fee if your check is returned. Fee \$ _____ Date paid _____

DL ___ Calendar ___ Web ___ Maint ___ History ___ Reserved Sign ___ Certificate ___



Township parks are built & furnished with public funds. Township officials, being aware they are custodians of taxpayers' property, have formulated the following conditions for renters. Failure to comply with any of these conditions will result in immediate revocation of the rental agreement. Cost of any repair to the premises is the responsibility of the renter.

Pavilion Rental Rules

1. Must be age 21 or over. Photo ID is required.
2. The pavilion will not be rented on Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day.
3. All set up and clean up must be completed during the rental period.
4. Parking, loading or unloading at the pavilion is prohibited. All vehicles must remain in the parking lot.
5. Decorations and temporary directional signs are permitted but must be removed at the conclusion of the event and must not damage park property.
6. Inflatables (bouncers, slides, etc.) are prohibited.
7. Canopies over 100 sq. ft. in area and sound amplifying equipment require separate approval from the Township office. Contact Karen High, Parks Director, at khigh@oshtemo.org or 269-216-5223.
8. No gambling on the premises.
9. Garage sales are not allowed.
10. The Township is not responsible for property left in the park.
11. Questions during your rental period? Call 269-216-5243.

Cancellation Policy

To cancel your pavilion reservation with a full refund, please notify the Township at least 2 weeks prior to the rental period. Contact us by phone 269-375-4260, fax at 269-375-7180, e-mail to khigh@oshtemo.org or mail to 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49009.

Park Rules

1. The park is open from sunrise to half an hour after sunset.
2. Certain facilities may be reserved. See the Oshtemo Township website for details. All other facilities are to be used on a first come-first served basis.
3. Pets must be on a leash and kept under control.
4. Owners must clean up after their pets
5. Smoking, alcohol, and controlled substances are prohibited.
6. Hitting golf balls is prohibited.
7. Discharge of firearms, archery equipment, hunting, and trapping are prohibited.
8. Fires are permitted in grills only.
9. No cooking oil may be left on site.
10. Disorderly conduct, including loud music, loud swearing, or otherwise disturbing the peace, is prohibited.
11. Please don't litter! Use trash receptacles provided.
12. Pedestrians have the right of way on all paths. Bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles should be courteous of others using the park.
13. Motor vehicles are permitted in designated parking areas only. Violators will be subject to fine.
14. Overnight parking is prohibited without prior written approval from the Township.
15. Loitering and impairing other visitors' use of park property is prohibited.
16. It is unlawful to destroy or damage park property, trees or plants.
17. All gatherings of 200 persons or more in a Township park require advance notice to the Township.
18. Police Officers or Township employees may request any person to leave for cause. Violation of park rules is a violation of law and subject to fines. (Ordinance 215).



**Oshtemo Township
Gazebo and Garden Rental Agreement**

Flesher Field, 3664 South 9th Street

Date of event: M T W TH F SA SU ___/___/___ **Start time of event:** _____

Type of event: ___ wedding ___ concert _____ other (please describe)

Number of people expected _____ **Are you planning to have a tent?** ___ yes ___ no

If other than a family event, provide name of group, contact person and phone #: _____

Gazebo and Garden Rental (check applicable fee)

Oshtemo Taxpayer, Resident, Property/Business Owner

- ___ 11am-3pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$35.00
- ___ 4pm-8pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$35.00
- ___ 11am-8pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$70.00
- ___ 11am-3pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$50.00
- ___ 4pm-8pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$50.00
- ___ 11am-8pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$100.00

Not an Oshtemo Resident/Property/Business Owner

- ___ 11am—3pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$70.00
- ___ 4pm—8pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$70.00
- ___ 11am—8pm Weekday (Mon-Thurs) = \$140.00
- ___ 11am-3pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$100.00
- ___ 4pm-8pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$100.00
- ___ 11am-8pm Weekend (Fri-Sun) = \$200.00

Name _____
(must be age 21 or older) (photo ID required)

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

If not a resident, are you a Township property and/or business owner? ___ Yes ___ No

Address of Township property or business owned if not a resident: _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Signature _____ **Date** _____

The reservation is not secured until agreement and payment are received. See cancellation policy on back. \$30.00 fee for returned checks.

Fee \$ _____ **Date paid** _____

DL___ **Calendar**___ **Web**___ **Maint**___ **History**___ **Reserved Sign**___ **Certificate**___

Reservation of the Gazebo and Garden area includes the following:

- 20' wide gazebo surrounded by garden beds filled with flowering shrubs, ornamental grasses, and wildflowers.
- Lawn area with space for approximately 200 guests. **(Chairs not provided).**
- Crushed stone paths.
- A designated tent space that will accommodate a staked or free-standing tent. Tents placed outside the designated tent space must be free-standing due to underground wiring and plumbing.
- Electricity available at the gazebo and designated tent space.
- A 35' x 35' picnic pavilion is located nearby and can be rented with the gazebo and garden area for an additional fee. The picnic pavilion includes 9 picnic tables.
- The park also features a new playground, wiffleball fields, restrooms, a second picnic shelter, mowed playing field, and a paved loop trail. **Please note that the park remains open to the public during your rental period.**

Rental Rules

1. Must be age 21 or over. Photo ID is required.
2. Alcohol not permitted in the park.
3. The park is open from dawn to half an hour after sunset. Events after dark are not permitted.
4. Staked tents are permitted only in the designated area due to underground wiring and plumbing in other areas of the garden. **You are responsible for any damage caused by the staking of tents.**
5. No reservations are accepted on Memorial Day, Independence Day, or Labor Day.
6. Driving or parking on the grass is prohibited. This includes delivery, loading and unloading. All vehicles must remain in the parking lot.
7. Decorations and temporary directional signs are permitted but must be removed at the conclusion of the event and must not damage park property.
8. Questions during your rental period? Call 269-216-5243.

Cancellation Policy

To cancel your reservation with a full refund, please notify the Township at least 2 weeks prior to the rental period. Contact Karen High, Parks Director, by phone 269-216-5223 or e-mail to khigh@oshtemo.org or mail to Oshtemo Township, 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 49009. No refunds due to weather conditions.

Park Rules

1. Pets must be on a leash and kept under control. Owners must clean up after their pets.
2. Smoking, alcohol, and controlled substances are prohibited.
3. Hitting golf balls is prohibited.
4. Discharge of firearms, archery equipment, hunting, and trapping are prohibited.
5. Fires are permitted in grills only.
6. No cooking oil may be left on site.
7. Disorderly conduct, including loud music, loud swearing, or otherwise disturbing the peace, is prohibited.
8. Please don't litter! Use trash receptacles provided.
9. Pedestrians have the right of way on all paths. Bicycles and other non-motorized vehicles should be courteous of others using the park.
10. Motor vehicles are permitted in designated parking areas only. Violators will be subject to fine.
11. Overnight parking is prohibited without prior written approval from the Township.
12. Loitering and impairing other visitors' use of park property is prohibited.
13. It is unlawful to destroy or damage park property, trees or plants.
14. Police Officers or Township employees may request any person to leave for cause. Violation of park rules is a violation of law and subject to fines. (Ordinance 215).

On behalf of myself and my group or organization using the park, I agree to release Oshtemo Township from any and all responsibility for injuries or property damage whatsoever arising from participation in the above activities. I assume liability for the cost of any & all damage to the premises. I understand that failure to comply with any of the above conditions will result in the immediate revocation of the rental agreement.

I have read & agree to comply with the rules for use and cancellation policy. _____ (Initial here)

OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC
OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Parks Department of the Oshtemo Charter Township will be conducting a public meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, in the form of an Open House from 4:00-6:00p.m. at the Oshtemo Charter Township Community Center, located at 6407 Parkview Avenue, within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Items to be considered at the Public Open House includes, in brief, the following:

Oshtemo wants to hear from YOU! Oshtemo Township is inviting community members to help guide the **5-Year Community Parks & Recreation Plan**, a comprehensive plan that will be used as a road map for decisions made over the next five years. This is an open house style meeting, please come anytime between 4:00pm -6:00pm for an interactive approach to sharing your vision for the future of Oshtemo parks. All ages are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Parks are one of the things that many residents like most about Oshtemo. While maintaining and improving existing parks has been our highest priority, Oshtemo has also expanded park offerings in recent years to keep pace with our growing community. To plan for park needs now and, in the future, Oshtemo is preparing a Community Parks & Recreation Plan. This plan will also enable Oshtemo Township to apply for recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

You are invited to attend the Public Open House. If you are unable to attend, written comments may be submitted in lieu of a personal appearance by writing to: Parks Director, 7275 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009, to the date of the Public Open House meeting. You may also submit comments via email to oshtemo@oshtemo.org.

You are also invited to give input through an online survey about Oshtemo's parks. Survey results will be used to guide development of the plan. The survey will be open until October 18th and can be found at Oshtemo.org/ParksInput.

Oshtemo Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the Township by phone, or in writing, at least seven (7) days prior notice to the scheduled hearing date.

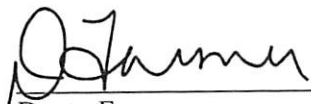
OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
By: Vanessa Street, Parks Director
(269) 216-5233

OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)


AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING
OCTOBER 11, 2023, PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE
RE: 5-YEAR COMMUNITY PARKS & REC PLAN

I, Dusty Farmer, being first duly sworn, depose and say that on the 28th day of September, 2023, I conspicuously posted a true and correct copy of the October 11, 2023, Public Open House Notice (in compliance with the provisions and requirements of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, MCL 211.19, and the Americans with Disabilities Act) for the Open House at the Township Community Center located at 6407 Parkview Ave, on the bulletin board located at the Oshtemo Charter Township Hall (7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009), as well as on the Township's website, within the seven (7) days preceding the publication of the within Notice for public inspection.



Dusty Farmer
Oshtemo Charter Township Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of September, 2023.



sierra lucas notary public
County of CASS, State of Michigan
Acting in Kalamazoo County, Michigan
My commission expires: 2/23/2030



State of Michigan,) ss
County of Kalamazoo)

Nancy Bloch being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of MLive Media Group; that Kalamazoo Gazette is a public newspaper published in the city of Kalamazoo, with general circulation in Kalamazoo county, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

Kalamazoo Gazette 10/03/2023

Nancy Bloch
Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of October 2023

Teasha R Payne
Notary Public

TEASHA R. PAYNE
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI
COUNTY OF MECOSTA
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026
ACTING IN COUNTY OF hent



**OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Parks Department of the Oshtemo Charter Township will be conducting a public meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, in the form of an Open House from 4:00-6:00p.m. at the Oshtemo Charter Township Community Center, located at 6407 Parkview Avenue, within the Township, as required under the provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Items to be considered at the Public Open House includes, in brief, the following:

Oshtemo wants to hear from YOU! Oshtemo Township is inviting community members to help guide the **5-Year Community Parks & Recreation Plan**, a comprehensive plan that will be used as a road map for decisions made over the next five years. This is an open house style meeting, please come anytime between 4:00pm -6:00pm for an interactive approach to sharing your vision for the future of Oshtemo parks. All ages are encouraged to attend the meeting.

Parks are one of the things that many residents like most about Oshtemo. While maintaining and improving existing parks has been our highest priority, Oshtemo has also expanded park offerings in recent years to keep pace with our growing community. To plan for park needs now and, in the future, Oshtemo is preparing a Community Parks & Recreation Plan. This plan will also enable Oshtemo Township to apply for recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

You are invited to attend the Public Open House. If you are unable to attend, written comments may be submitted in lieu of a personal appearance by writing to: Parks Director, 7275 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49009, to the date of the Public Open House meeting. You may also submit comments via email to oshtemo@oshtemo.org.

You are also invited to give input through an online survey about Oshtemo's parks. Survey results will be used to guide development of the plan. The survey will be open until October 18th and can be found at Oshtemo.org/ParksInput.

Oshtemo Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the Township by phone, or in writing, at least seven (7) days prior notice to the scheduled hearing date.

OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
By: Vanessa Street, Parks Director

(269) 216-5233

10751792-01

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF OSHTEMO
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING FOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE RE
THE 5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION PLAN
PLANNING COMMISSIONS, UTILITIES AND RAILROADS**

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
 : ss
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)

I, Vanessa Street, being first duly sworn, depose and say that I sent the Public Open House Notice set for October 11, 2023, for the 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan, to each of the following named Planning Commissions, Utilities and Railroads as directed by the Clerk of Oshtemo Charter Township, Kalamazoo County, Michigan, copies of which are attached:

Texas Township
Planning Commission
7110 West Q Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Kalamazoo Charter Township
Planning Commission
1720 Riverview Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Alamo Township
Planning Commission
7901 North 6th Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Almena Township
Planning Commission
27625 County Road 375
Paw Paw, MI 49079

City of Kalamazoo
Planning Commission
Community Planning &
Development Department
245 N Rose St Ste 100
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Kalamazoo Metropolitan County
Planning Commission
Planning & Community Development Dept.
201 W. Kalamazoo Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Consumers Energy Company
1945 Parnell Road
Jackson, MI 49201-2277

Midwest Energy Cooperative
60590 Decatur Rd
Cassopolis, MI 49031

Norfolk Southern
8000 Ravines Edge Court Ste 100
Columbus, OH 43235

Michael F. Angelo
Amtrak
30th Street Station, 5th Floor S.
Philadelphia, PA 19104

American Electric Power (AEP)
52807 US 131 N
Three Rivers, MI 49093

Road Commission of Kalamazoo County
3801 E Kilgore Rd
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W Ottawa St
PO Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

by placing the same in sealed envelopes, properly addressed to said Planning Commissions,
Utilities and Railroads with postage prepaid thereon, and by mailing the same by first-class mail,
in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on October 3rd, 2023.

Vanessa Street

Vanessa Street
Oshtemo Charter Township

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10th day of October, 2023.

Sierra Lucas

Sierra Lucas notary public
County of CASS, State of Michigan
Acting in Kalamazoo County, Michigan
My commission expires: 2/23/2030

SIERRA LUCAS
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF CASS
My Commission Expires FEBRUARY 23, 2030
Acting in the County of Kalamazoo

Yard Signs posted for Online Survey and Public Input Meeting Open House Notice

Yard signs were placed at various location throughout Oshtemo Township to spread the word about the parks online survey, and serve as additional notice of the public input meeting open house that was held on October 11th, 2023. 98 responses to the survey were received.

Locations of yard signs posted:

All Oshtemo Township Parks & Township Hall

Oshtemo Township branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library

Streets along densely populated areas and neighborhoods

Bulletin boards throughout the Township





What do you think of Oshtemo Township's Parks?

Share your thoughts at
Oshtemo.org/ParksInput

input will be accepted until October 18th

Scan here for survey!



To provide feedback in person, and learn more
about upcoming park improvements, please attend:

Open House Public Meeting
October 11th, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
At Oshtemo Community Center
6407 Parkview Ave, Kalamazoo 49009



Search for a service or a page

- About Oshtemo
- Boards & Committees
- Applications
- Elections
- Officials & Departments
- Notice Board

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Notice Board

[Click here to view Legal Notices](#)

[Parks Survey- Tell us what you think!](#)

[View notice here](#) (PDF 610KB)

[Notice of Public Open House - 5 year Community Parks and Rec Plan](#)

[View the notice here](#) (PDF 17KB)

[Notice of Election Commission Meeting Oct 10, 2023](#)

[View the notice here](#) (PDF 6KB)

[Notice of Opportunity to Comment on Transportation Planning Process](#)

[View the notice here](#) (PDF 27KB)

[Notice of Oshtemo Township Hall West Drive](#)

Oshtemo Charter Township Hall west drive/entrance will be closed Thursday, 9/21/2023 for the Contractor to work on sewer installation. Please prepare to use the east entrance (closest to the library). The west drive/entrance closure is expected to last the entire day.

Meeting Minutes

Public Meeting/Open House for the Oshtemo Township Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan

Date/Time: Wednesday, October 11, 2023 from 4 - 6 pm.

Location: Oshtemo Community Center, 6407 Parkview Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Attendees:

- Dusty Farmer, Oshtemo Township Clerk
- Neil Sikora, Oshtemo Township Trustee
- Sara Feister
- Leanna Harris
- Larry Fitch
- Jessica Simons
- Greg McComb
- Hannah Hudson
- Larry LaBond
- Sandy Bliesener
- Josh Lower
- Nathan Carley
- Barb Malsom
- Zak Ford
- Adam Bennett
- Dianna Arsenault
- Greg Fountain
- Amy Atwater
- Ken Atwater
- Vanessa Street
- Karen High

A public meeting with an open house format was used to gather input for Oshtemo’s Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. Attendees were greeted at the door by a volunteer, Hannah Hudson, and were asked to sign in. Hannah gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting, which was described further on display boards and is printed below. She described the five interactive ‘stations’ placed around the room and invited attendees to visit each one, review the information presented and answer the questions. She also asked them to participate in a sticky dot exercise at the last station. Oshtemo Township Parks Director, Vanessa Street, and former Oshtemo Township Parks Director/parks consultant, Karen High, were on hand to answer questions and interact with attendees.

The information displayed at each station is printed below, followed by the public comments received. Public comments are shown in ***bold and italic font*** for ease of identification.

Meeting Overview: Oshtemo Township Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan

What is a Parks & Rec Plan?

- A ‘**road map**’ to guide park improvements and maintenance decisions over the next five years. Considers current and **future** community needs.

Why do we need it?

- To be eligible to apply for **recreation grant funds** from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), we must have an approved Parks & Rec plan on file. Approval is valid for five years. Our current plan, GO! Green Oshtemo, expires **December 31, 2023**.

What will it do for us?

- We’ve received over **\$1.4 M** in DNR recreation grant funds in the past! Grant projects are listed below. ***It is critical that we have an approved Parks & Rec Plan to help fund future park improvements and/or park land acquisition.***
- Key components will include updates to the **Flesher Field** and **Drake Farmstead Park Master Plans**.

DNR Recreation Grants Awarded to Oshtemo Township		
Park name and project type	Year	Amount
Oshtemo Township Park Acquisition	1978	\$117,600
Oshtemo Township Park Improvements	2011	\$489,000
Flesher Field Park Improvements	2012 & 2013	\$600,000
Grange Hall Playground Improvements	2014	\$30,000
Drake Farmstead Park Improvements	2018	\$136,500
Fruit Belt Rail Corridor Acquisition	2021	\$58,000
Fruit Belt Rail Corridor Improvements	2023 application pending	\$0
Total DNR recreation grants received	-	\$1,431,100

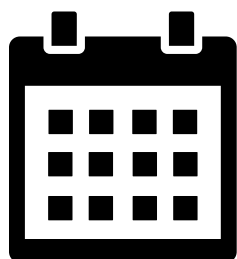
Who is involved?

- ▶ All **Oshtemo residents** are urged to participate! Oshtemo Township Board and Parks Committee members are closely involved in the planning process, which is being led by Parks Director **Vanessa Street** with assistance from former Parks Director **Karen High**. For more information, contact Vanessa at vstreet@oshtemo.org

What are the steps in the process?

1. Engage the community - early public input
 - Randomized survey of Oshtemo residents, July 2023
 - Flesher Field and Drake Farmstead Park Master Plan meeting #1
 - Online survey - *open now!*
 - Open House public meeting
 - Flesher Field and Drake Farmstead Park Master Plan meeting #2
2. Review previous plans
 - GO! Green Oshtemo, 2019 - 2023
 - Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2014 - 2018
 - Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2009 - 2014
3. Collect and analyze data
 - Community description and demographics
 - Administrative structure & funding
 - Parks and recreation inventory
 - Natural resources inventory
4. Develop Goals, Objectives and Action Program
 - Review previous goals and objectives, update and prioritize
 - Consider current and future trends and needs
5. Draft report
 - 30 day review period of draft plan
 - Revise plan based on community feedback
6. Approval process
 - Public Hearing by Township Board
 - Resolution of adoption by Township Board
 - Submit plan to DNR

What are the critical dates?



October 18	Online Survey ends
November 1	Flesher Field, Drake Farmstead Park Mtg #2
November 10	Draft plan available for review
December 12	Public Hearing at Township Board mtg
Jan 9 and/or Jan 23	Resolution of Approval at Township Board Mtg
Jan 24	Submit Plan to DNR
February 1	Deadline to submit plan to DNR

Station 1: Our Parks

Oshtemo Township owns and manages **five** parks and **three** event buildings encompassing approximately **157** acres. Each park and event building is described below along with some of the actions accomplished over the past five years.

FLESHER FIELD PARK

- ▶ 24 acres, equally divided between mowed/developed areas (active recreation) and woodland (passive recreation)
- ▶ Large open sports field for soccer, football, etc.
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Two wiffleball fields
- ▶ Two picnic shelters, one gazebo
- ▶ 0.17 mile paved loop trail
- ▶ Unpaved walking trails in wooded area
- ▶ Connects to Fruit Belt Rail Corridor
- ▶ Accessible restrooms, parking, and drinking fountain

Recent accomplishments

- ✔ Volunteers built a trail connection to the newly acquired Fruit Belt Rail Corridor property and helped improve and maintain the woodland trails. (2022)
- ✔ With assistance from Kalamazoo Nature Center (KNC) staff, created low mow test areas to increase wildlife habitat and decrease mowed areas, reducing our climate impact. (2022)
- ✔ Continued to host ‘Music in the Park’, a free outdoor concert series held at the gazebo, funded entirely by grants and sponsorships.
- ✔ Continued to host ‘Yoga in the Park’, funded entirely by participant fees.
- ✔ Resurfaced and restriped the parking lot and asphalt path. (2022)

FRUIT BELT RAIL CORRIDOR

- ▶ 35 acres, two (2) mile long corridor
- ▶ Connects to Flesher Field Park
- ▶ Footpath in corridor

Recent accomplishments

- ☑ Acquired former rail corridor property extending from Flesher Field to the Township's south border. Funded by a grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), which requires the land be dedicated in perpetuity to outdoor public recreation. (2021)
- ☑ Opened the property to the public. (2022)
- ☑ Received a \$150,000 Planet Award grant from Consumers Energy Foundation for ecological restoration and environmental education. (2022)
- ☑ Hosted a public information meeting and volunteer sessions on ecological restoration. Began building a base of volunteers to help with ongoing invasive species removal and trail maintenance. (2022)
- ☑ Applied for MNRTF grants to construct a 10' wide crushed stone trail, parking and related amenities in the Corridor. (Not funded in 2022. Applications pending 2023)

OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP PARK

- ▶ 70 acres, with both active and passive recreation areas
- ▶ Disc Golf Course (18 hole)
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Basketball, tennis and pickle ball courts, wiffleball field
- ▶ Two picnic shelters
- ▶ Two paved loop trails, unpaved walking trails in wooded area
- ▶ Accessible restrooms, parking, and drinking fountain

Recent Accomplishments

- ☑ Color coated and restriped tennis, pickleball and basketball courts. Revised court layout to one tennis and two pickleball courts rather than two tennis courts based on results of online survey. Installed chain link fence between tennis and pickleball courts. Hosted a Grand Opening/Learn to Play Pickleball event to thank donor, Kalamazoo Pickleball Outreach. (2022)
- ☑ Partnered with K'Acres Disc Golf League to replace all disc golf baskets (2022) and 37 disc golf course signs (2020).
- ☑ Hosted programs for adults and youth in partnership with Kalamazoo Public Library.
- ☑ Offered tennis lessons for youth and adults with Lets Serve Tennis Club. (2019 and prior)

DRAKE FARMSTEAD PARK

- ▶ 26 acres, dedicated to preserving the historic character and rural atmosphere of the site.
- ▶ Historic home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Restoration of the home led by Oshtemo Historical Society volunteers, available for tours by appointment
- ▶ Unpaved walking trails
- ▶ Picnic shelter and Carriage Barn (event building)
- ▶ Accessible restrooms in Carriage Barn, parking, and drinking fountain

Recent Accomplishments

- ☑ Completed construction of the carriage barn, barrier-free ramp to the historic house, renovation of the reception room, and six interpretive signs (2019)
- ☑ Built a network of walking trails and removed invasive vegetation. (2019 and ongoing)
- ☑ Worked with Township Attorney on unsuccessful effort to acquire the adjacent pond property for park land. (2019)
- ☑ Completed construction of the picnic shelter, accessible trail, and parking lot with MNRTF, Oshtemo Rotary, and Park funds. Improved the historic gravel driveway. (2020)
- ☑ Planted native wildflower and grass seed mix in the six-acre prairie reconstruction area with Kalamazoo Community Foundation (KCF) funding. (2020 and ongoing)

- ☑ Opened the park to the public for daily use. Finishing touches included handmade benches and a sign kiosk with park map and bulletin board. (2021)
- ☑ Constructed a sidewalk along Croyden Ave to improve pedestrian access to the park. (2021)
- ☑ Constructed an exit driveway to Croyden Avenue. Designed and installed directional signage to establish a new one-way vehicular circulation pattern. Installed new park signs at the Drake Road entry and Croyden Avenue exit. (2022)
- ☑ Hosted ‘Fall on the Farm’, a free community event cosponsored by Oshtemo Friends of the Parks (OFP) and Historical Society (OHS).
- ☑ Installed two pole light fixtures for the path between the carriage barn and parking lot. (2023)

GRANGE HALL PARK

- 2 acres, both active and passive recreation opportunities
- Historic building available for community and private events, fully accessible (Event building)
- Playground
- Basketball Court
- Unpaved nature trail
- Bicycle amenities include bike fix-it station, access to water, bike rack, informational signage
- Accessible picnic area, parking
- Portable toilet available in summer months

Recent Accomplishments

- ☑ Created a staging area for cyclists, featuring a bike fix-it station, bike rack, water faucet, bulletin board and new walkway. Hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony to recognize donor, Bike Friendly Kalamazoo. (2021 & 2022)
- ☑ Worked with an Eagle Scout candidate to create a nature trail on Township-owned property north of Hall. (2020)

OSHTEMO COMMUNITY CENTER

- Historic fire station renovated for community meetings and private events.
- Two rooms available for rent with foyer and restrooms
- Fully accessible, including restrooms and parking

Recent Accomplishments

- ☑ Replaced gutters and sign. (2022)
- ☑ Replaced carpet in North Room. (2023)

MISCELLANEOUS

- ☑ Added a part time staff person dedicated to meeting facility renters before and after private events. (2022)
- ☑ Assessed all rental policies and fees and revised as needed. Developed a policy and fees for long term rentals. (2022)
- ☑ Installed playground communication boards at Flesher Field and Township Park. (2022)
- ☑ Painted the old Township Hall. (2022)
- ☑ Began collaborative effort with Society for History and Racial Equity (SHARE) to acknowledge Harris Family cultural heritage. (2022)
- ☑ Attempted to preserve 57 acres of land at 8443 W KL Ave, adjacent to Wolf Tree Nature Trails, by purchasing it from the County. It was sold to a higher bidder. (2021)
- ☑ Continued to study alternatives and communicated with property owners to pursue a neighborhood park on the east side of the Township near high density residential areas. (2019 and ongoing)

Additional recreation opportunities in Oshtemo

- Lillian Anderson Arboretum - 140 acres owned and managed by Kalamazoo College
- Wolf Tree Nature Trail Preserve - 69 acres owned and managed by Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy (SWMLC)
- Kal-Haven Trail and Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

Question 1: If you could choose one park improvement or acquisition project to happen in the next year, what would it be?

Responses:

1. *More pickle ball courts would be desirable!*
2. *More disc golf courses - the one at Township Park is the best (and only!) one around. It gets very congested, sometimes so busy that we can't use the course.*
3. *Continue improvements at Fruit Belt Rail Trail*
4. *More climbing equipment at Flesher Field*
5. *Pickleball courts at Flesher Field, 8 minimum. 8 courts are needed for running tournaments to bring in revenue to the Township and to hold fundraisers.*
6. *Large world championship disc golf course. 60-100 acres are needed for this.*
7. *More signage, clearing marking trails and distances.*
8. *Drake Farmstead Park - trail improvements and development, such as a playground.*
9. *Additional ballfields at Flesher Field*

Question 2: Are there areas where you feel an additional park(s) is needed? If so, where? Draw an arrow or put a sticky note on the map to show where you feel a park is needed.

Responses:

1. *Eastern edge of Township*

Station 2: About Us... Oshtemo Township Demographics

2020 Population: 23,747

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census

2021 Population: 23,583

Source: 2021: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

We've been growing! Population Growth Trends, 2000 - 2020				
Unit of Government	2000	2010	2020	% Change 2010 - 2020
Oshtemo Township	17,003	21,705	23,747	9.4%
Kalamazoo County	238,603	250,327	261,670	4.5%
State of Michigan (Millions)	9.938	9.88	10.07	1.9%

Source: U.S. Census, 1970-2010

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Decennial Census

Age of Population Oshtemo Township, 2010, 2020					
Cohort	2010 Count	2010 Percent	2020 Count	2020 Percent	% Change of Count
Under 5 Years	1,132	5.4%	1,517	6.4%	34%
5 - 19 Years	3,717	17.9%	4,068	17.2%	9.4%
20-34	5,681	27.3%	6,206	26.3%	9.2%
35-44	2,245	10.8%	2,432	10.3%	8.3%
45-54	2,362	11.4%	2,300	9.8%	-2.6%
55-64	2,446	11.7%	2,607	11%	6.5%
65 and older	3,206	15.5%	4,453	18.8%	39%

Source: 2010: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates
Source: 2020: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

Median Age: Oshtemo Township: 35.0 Kalamazoo County: 35.0 Michigan: 40.3
Source: U.S. Census 2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-Year Estimates

Population by Age, Sex and Disability, Oshtemo Township			
Age	Total Population	With Disability	% Disabled
Under 5 Years Male	661	0	0.0%
Under 5 Years Female	856	0	0.0%
5-17 Male	1,703	185	10.9%
5-17 Female	1,676	63	3.6%
18 to 34 Male	3,299	490	14.9%
18 to 34 Female	3,596	440	12.2%
35 to 64 Male	3,257	393	12.1%
35 to 64 Female	4,058	958	23.6%
65 to 74 Male	1,034	269	26%
65 to 74 Female	1,296	316	24.4%
75 and over Male	675	337	49.9%
75 and over Female	1,250	469	37.5%

Source: 2021: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

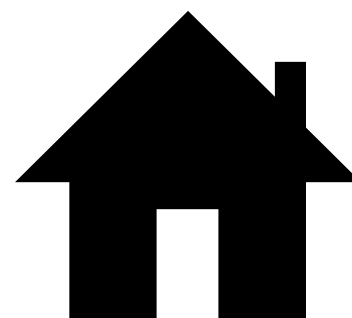
Disability Type by Age, Oshtemo Township						
Age Group	Hearing Difficulty	Vision Difficulty	Cognitive Difficulty	Ambulatory Difficulty	Self Care Difficulty	Independent Living Difficulty
Under 18	12	35	201	0	0	0
18 to 34	0	261	543	30	51	244
35 to 64	159	290	409	589	340	431
65 to 74	187	46	137	430	194	300
75 and up	369	76	127	624	226	424
Total	727	708	1,417	1,673	811	1,399

Source: 2021: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Housing and Households in Oshtemo Township

Total households: 10,383 Ave household size: 2.25
 Total families: 5,620 Ave family size: 2.93
 Households with one or more persons under age 18: 28%
 Households with one or more persons over 65: 30.5%
 Householder living alone: 34.9%,
 Of those households with a person living alone, 15.6 are 65 or older

Owner occupied: 50.5% Renter occupied: 49.5%
 Source: 2021: ACS Five-Year Estimates Subject Tables



Median Household Income	
Jurisdiction	Median Household Income
Oshtemo Township	\$56,436
Kalamazoo County	\$69,584
State of Michigan	\$66,986

Source: 2021: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Oshtemo Township Income in the past 12 months (in 2021 inflation adjusted dollars)		
Income Level	Number	Percent
Less than \$10,000	497	4.8%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	358	3.4%

Oshtemo Township Income in the past 12 months (in 2021 inflation adjusted dollars)		
Income Level	Number	Percent
\$15,000 - \$24,999	1,395	13.4%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	1,072	10.3%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	1,566	15.1%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	1,601	15.4%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	1,043	10.0%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	1,302	12.5%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	827	8.0%
\$200,000 or. more	722	7.0%

Source: 2021: American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates

ALICE

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mloyed, and represents the growing number of families who are unable to afford the basics of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and technology. These workers often struggle to keep their own households from financial ruin, while keeping our local communities running.

2021 Point-in-Time Data, ALICE Households:

- **Oshtemo Township: 47%**
Kalamazoo County: 26%
- State of Michigan average: 26%

Source: www.UnitedWayALICE.org

Health Behaviors

Health Behaviors	Kalamazoo County	Michigan	United States
Adult Smoking	19%	19%	16%
Adult Obesity	40%	35%	32%
Physical Inactivity	18%	20%	22%
Access to Exercise Opportunities	89%	85%	84%
Excessive Drinking	21%	20%	19%
Alcohol-Impaired driving deaths	29%	29%	27%

Sexually Transmitted Infections	728.9	448.3	481.3
Teen births	18	17	19

Source: 2023 County Health Rankings, Kalamazoo Michigan

Question 3: What changes have taken place over the past five years that affect our parks? Please add your thoughts below!

- ▶ COVID 19 impacts: increased park use, health struggles, business closures, increased stress
- ▶ Housing crisis has increased the number of unhoused people, encampments
- ▶ Inflation contributes to economic stress

Response: none

Question 4: With these trends, needs, and demographics in mind, please share your thoughts on how our parks can better serve people of all ages in our population?

Responses:

1. *Senior activities, especially in the winter.*
2. *Programs/activities for young families*
3. *Public pool at Flesher Field*

Question 5: How can our parks better serve people with disabilities?

Responses:

1. *Platform/wheelchair swings*
2. *Accessible trails*
3. *Consider audits by Disability Network partners, etc.*

Question 6: How can our parks better serve low income households?

Responses:

1. *Free youth programs*
2. *Available equipment to use at facilities*

Question 7: How can our parks improve the health of our residents?

Responses:

1. *AEDs in lock boxes with cameras*
2. *Access to coordinated/facilitated group exercise*
3. *Knox keys for pylons/accessible trails for small vehicles*
4. *More exercise groups for senior residents, with varying degrees of ability required.*

Station 3 2023 Oshtemo Resident Survey by Cobalt Community Research

Who Responded:


- ▶ 330 respondents, +/- 5.3%
- ▶ Age: 50% were age 65 or older (*a higher percentage than the overall population at 19%*)
- ▶ Employment Status: 51% were retired, 35% employed
- ▶ Household Income:
 - 33% earned over \$100,000, (*27.5% in overall population*)
 - 55% earned over \$50,000 (*52.9% in overall population*)
- ▶ Household Composition: 26% of households had children under age 18 (*28% in overall population*)

The first part of the survey was about all aspects of the Township.

Many respondents said our parks are one of the things they like most about living in Oshtemo Township!

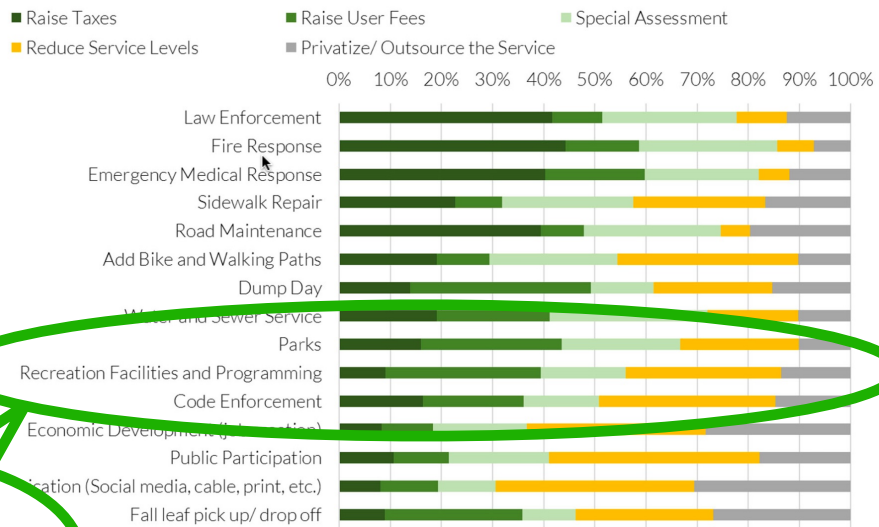
Question 14: What do you like the most?

- 1. Rural and natural environment:** Many residents appreciate the rural setting, wooded areas, green spaces, and natural beauty of the community. They enjoy the countryside feel, open spaces, trees, hills, wildlife, and proximity to parks, trails, and nature preserves.
- 2. Convenient location:** The community is valued for its convenient access to amenities and services. Residents appreciate being close to shopping centers, restaurants, grocery stores, libraries, hospitals, post offices, and major highways. They like the proximity to Kalamazoo and Portage, as well as the ease of getting around and quick access to everyday needs.
- 3. Peaceful and safe atmosphere:** The community is perceived as quiet, safe, and peaceful. People enjoy the friendly neighbors, well-kept properties, and the general feeling of safety in the area.
- 4. Small-town feel:** The community is often described as having a small-town atmosphere, where people feel connected and neighborly. Residents appreciate the sense of community, the friendly atmosphere, and the tight-knit neighborhoods. They also like the small-town appeal of the area.
- 5. Parks and recreational amenities:** The presence of parks, green spaces, and recreational facilities is highly valued. Residents enjoy the community parks, trails, sports complexes, pickleball courts, disc golf parks, etc. The parks are seen as well-maintained and provide opportunities for leisure and entertainment.



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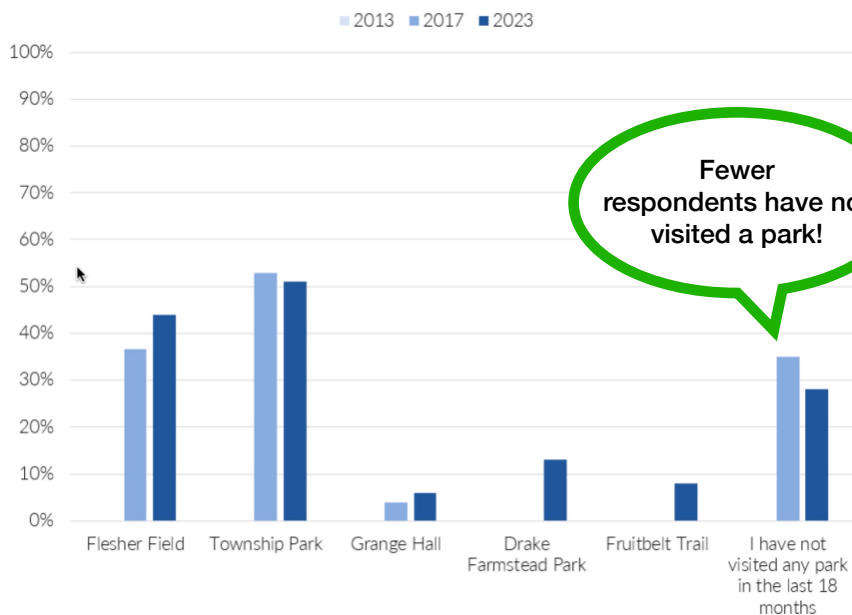
Budget Resources- Prioritize Funding if Revenue Cannot Maintain Current Levels



Feedback on how to prioritize funding or reduce service levels if revenue decreases.

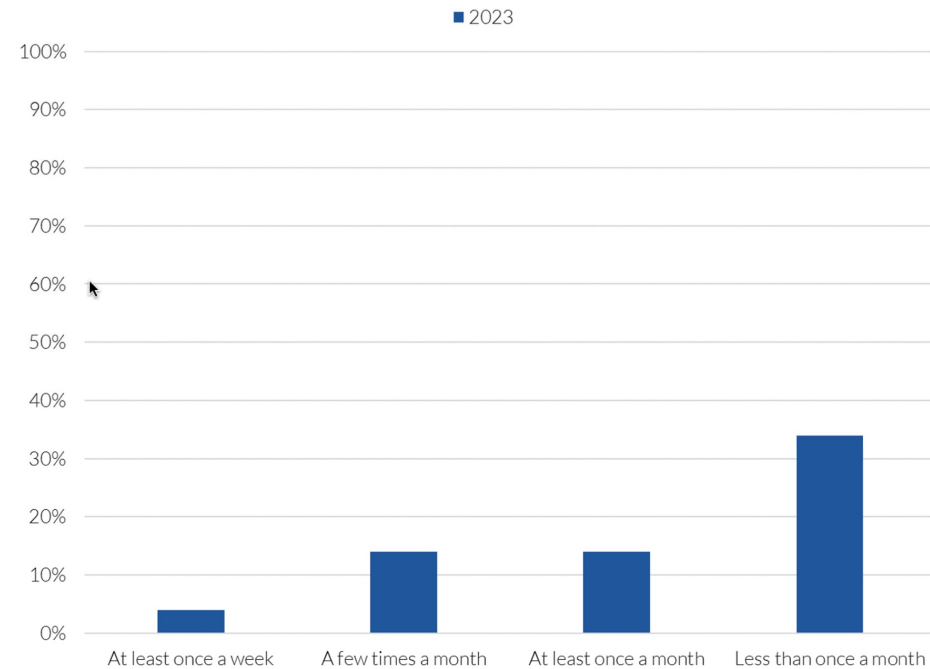
The questions below were specific to Oshtemo Parks. Some responses can be compared to our 2017 survey.

Question 25: Which parks have you visited in the last 18 months?

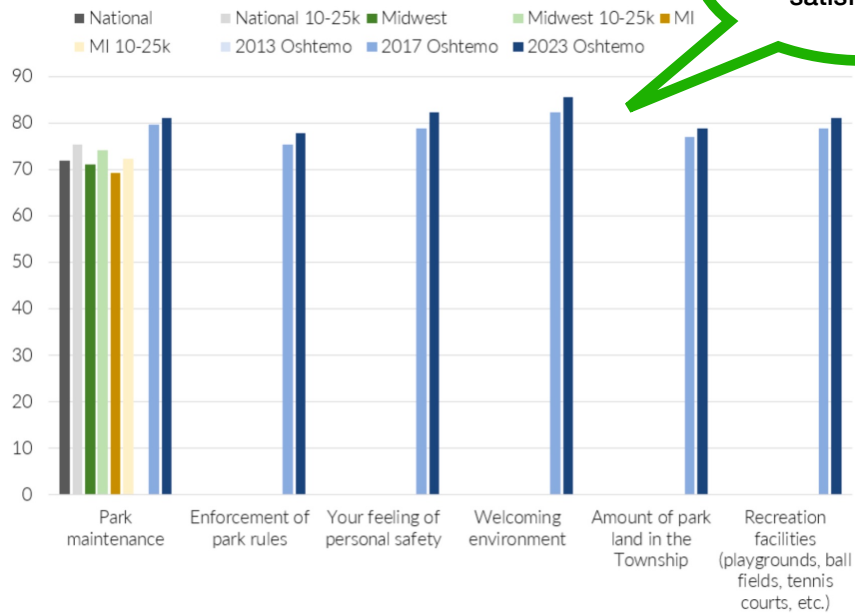


Fewer respondents have not visited a park!

Question 26: How often do you visit?

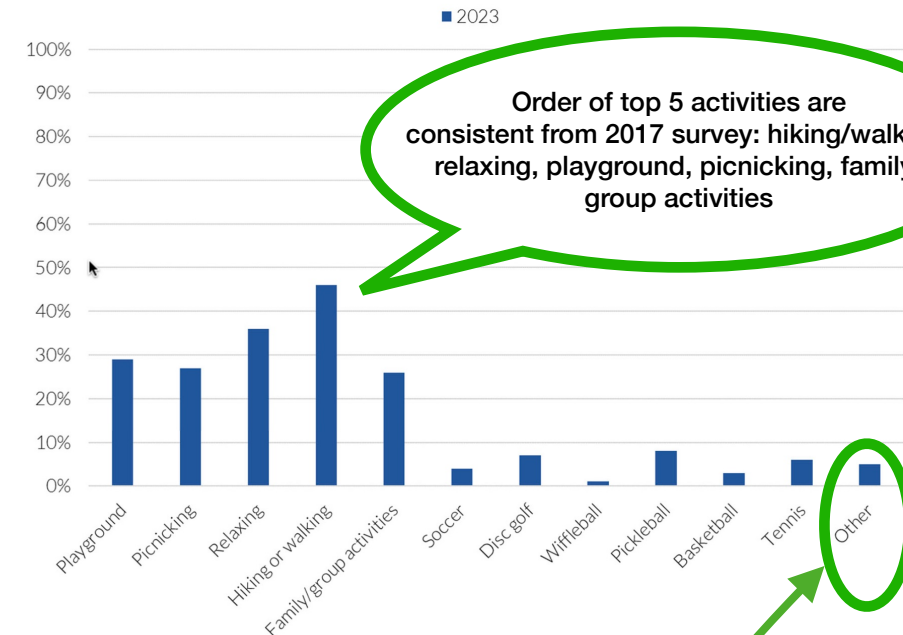


Overall Parks Satisfaction



Increases in all aspects of park satisfaction!

Question 28: What activities do you participate in while at the park?



Question 29: Other Activities while visiting the Parks?

- Eating:** Lunch and picnics and events/concerts.
- Outdoor activities/walking:** Activities enjoyed by residents are bird watching, nature walks, dog walking, kite flying, geocaching, snow activities, trail running, and enjoying nature.
- Recreational Sports:** Playing football, kickball, baseball, pickleball, rollerblading, and engaging in dance workouts. Also mentions of enjoying recreational activities with grandchildren, using parks for grandchildren's events, and participating in snow activities like skiing.



Question 30: Ways to improve parks to increase satisfaction

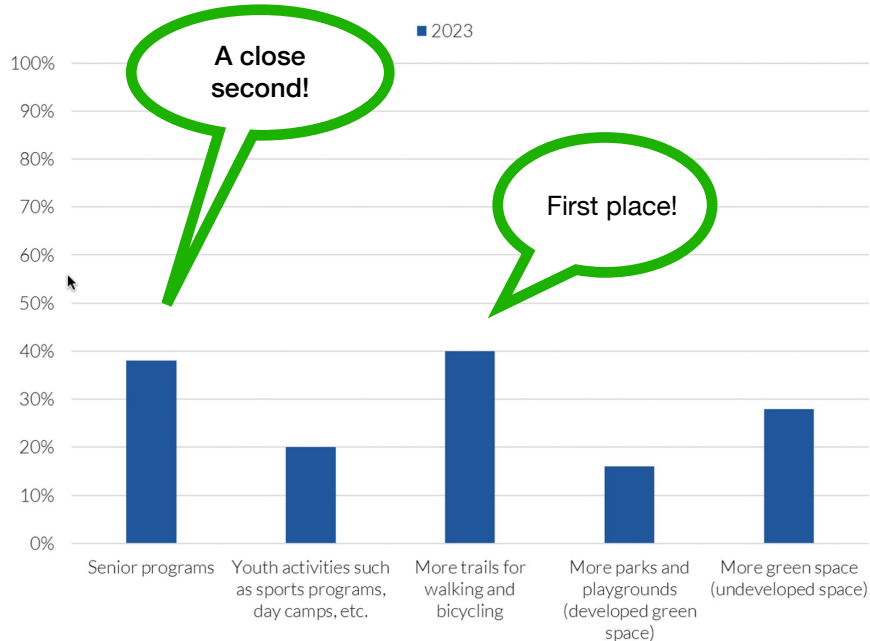
- Maintenance:** Maintaining and improving the parks and their facilities. Specific suggestions include additional maintenance of bathrooms, ensuring cleanliness, stocking supplies, providing ADA-accessible restrooms, improving lighting in winter months, clearing snow on walks.
- Improve awareness:** Many residents didn't know what parks offer or what special events are going on.
- Clean:** Keeping the parks clean and well-maintained. Suggestions include keeping benches, chairs, and amenities in good condition, cleaning and getting rid of garbage, enforcing rules against littering, and providing regular upkeep to preserve cleanliness. Residents want to see much more effort toward keeping bathrooms clean.
- Improving recreational activities:** It includes requests for more playgrounds for children, more swing sets for different age groups, additional pickleball courts, more fitness classes, more soccer equipment, more tennis courts, trails/sidewalks to lead to parks from neighborhoods, and developing Flesher Field with more amenities



CobaltCommunityResearch.org

Top ways to improve are maintenance/cleaning, awareness/promoting parks, and adding recreational activities

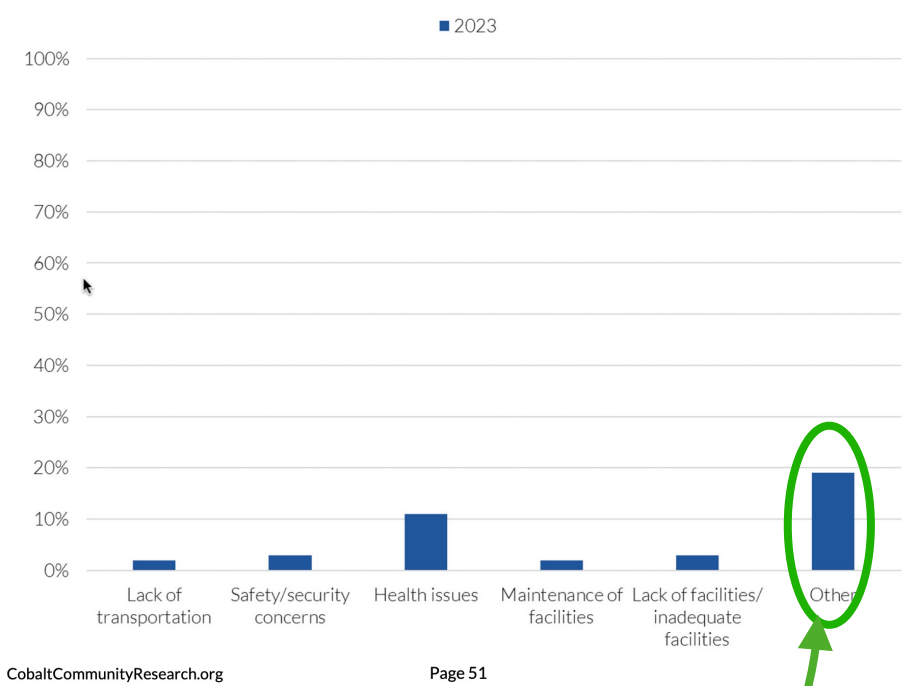
Question 31: What recreation programs or facilities would you like to see added or expanded in the Township?



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Question 32: If you haven't visited a park in the last 18 months, what best explains your reason for not doing so?



Question 32a: Other barriers to visiting parks

1. Interest: Many individuals express a lack of interest or need for using the parks in Oshtemo. The reasons mentioned include being busy with other activities, having no desire or reason to visit the parks, no longer having a lifestyle that involves park usage, and not being a "park person."
2. Busy/lack of time: A significant number of responses mention being too busy or having limited time to visit the parks
3. Need: Need more information of where parks are located, what is available, what is going on there



Need for better promotions/advertising is a recurring theme

Question 33: Review statements below and indicate whether you agree or disagree:

Parks provide economic benefits to the Township		Parks enhance the quality of life in the Township		Well-maintained parks enhance the property values of surrounding homes		The parks in Oshtemo Township are well promoted	
Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
71%	18%	90%	3%	85%	7%	47%	36%

36% of respondents feel parks not well promoted. This is down from 42% in 2017 but still an issue to be addressed.

Question 34: Would you support up to an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for the following?

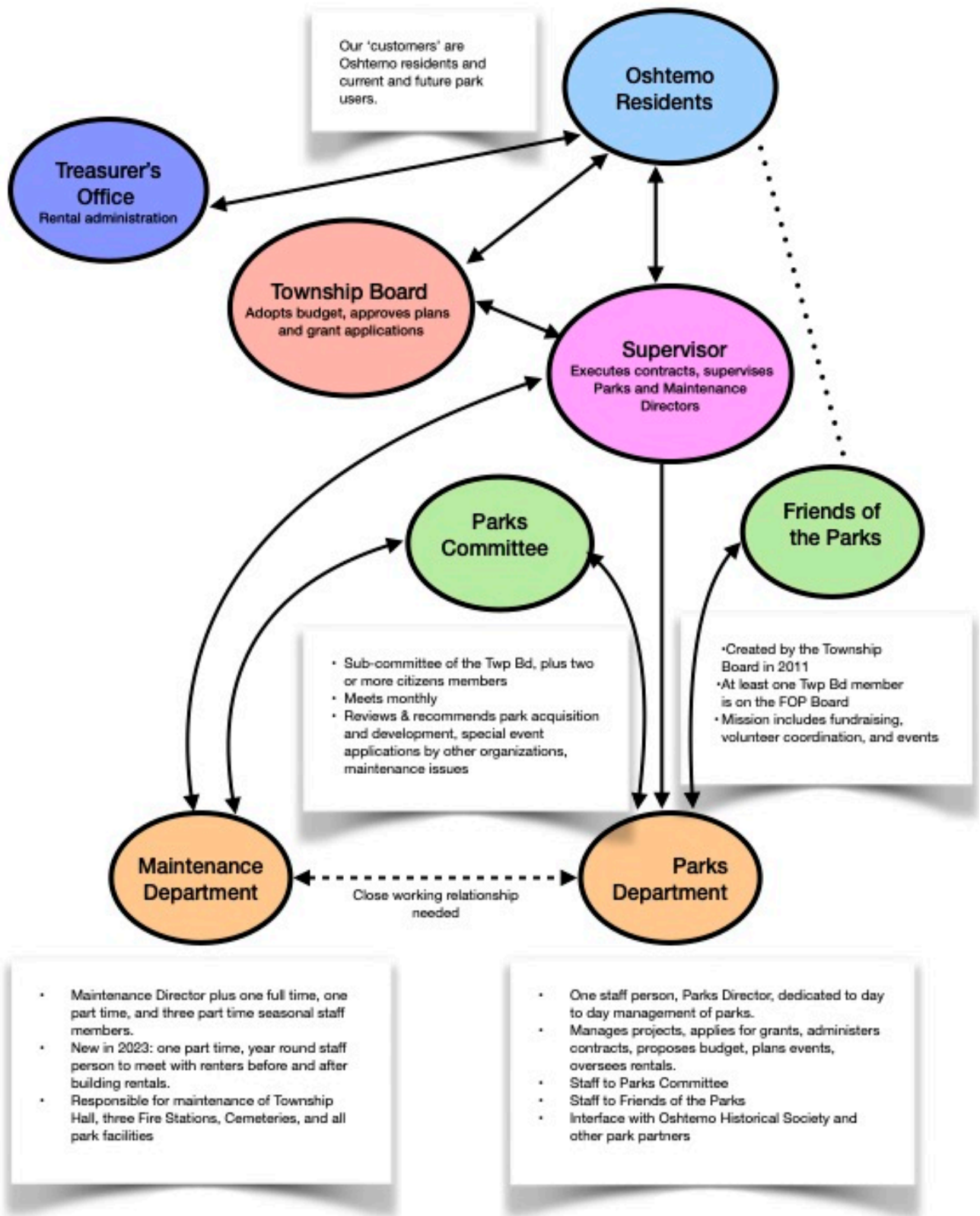
Building Trails		Purchasing land to conserve for wildlife and passive recreation		Maintaining, upgrading, and improving existing parks	
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
43%	51%	47%	47%	56%	38%

56% of respondents would support millage to maintain and improve existing parks

Station 3 Continued, Online Survey

Attendees were invited to complete an online survey using the QR code provided. They were encouraged to ask friends and neighbors unable to attend the meeting to complete the online survey as well. End date of the survey, October 18, was posted.

Station 4 Administrative Structure



Question 8. With the Administrative Structure in mind, how we can improve the management and maintenance of our parks?

Responses:

- 1. Create a programming position to create/manage community events at parks, ranging from small scale to large.*
- 2. Continue investment in volunteer support and management.*

Question 9. How can we pay for park improvements and maintenance?

Responses:

- 1. Fundraiser between Friends of the Parks and Pickleball Outreach nonprofit.*
- 2. Work with related groups that might benefit from improvements.*
- 3. Advertise for more volunteer help.*

Station 5 Reviewing our previous plan...GO! Green Oshtemo

GO! Green Oshtemo was our community's first effort to consider parks and recreation, nonmotorized facilities, and conservation of open space and greenways in a coordinated way. Development of the plan included a comprehensive planning process that lasted nearly a year and involved study groups made up of many residents, Township Board, Parks Committee and Planning Commission members, plus staff and consultants.

Following are the Goals and Objectives related to parks and recreation from **GO! Green Oshtemo**. We can use the good work generated in 2018 and 2019 as a starting point for the new Goals and Objectives that will be included in our Parks & Rec Plan for 2024 - 2028. *(Note: Goals and Objectives that don't fall under the typical scope of the Parks & Rec Plan, such as nonmotorized facilities and conservation, have been omitted from the list below. These plan elements will be included in the Township Master Plan update scheduled in 2024.)*

Please review the Goals and Objectives listed below and put **GREEN** dot stickers next to those that you feel are a **HIGH** priority, and **YELLOW** dot stickers next to those that you feel are a **LOW** priority. Don't put a dot sticker next to the goals and objectives that are neither a high nor a low priority to you, or if you are undecided. Keep in mind that these are long range goals, many of which will require more time than the 5-years allotted to this plan to achieve. It is the Township's intent to continually work towards realizing this future vision.



High Priority



No sticker = in between or undecided



Low priority

GOAL 1: Acquisition - Explore land acquisition opportunities to develop new parks.

Objectives:

2. Focus land acquisition efforts for parks in the urbanized area of the Township. **Yellow - 1**
3. Concentrate acquisition efforts on the development of neighborhood or mini-parks, with an acreage size between one and ten acres. **Green - 3**

4. As the Township continues to develop, provide for future park development and more uniform distribution of facilities, in terms of both geography and population. **Green - 2**
5. towards ensuring that the majority of Oshtemo residents within the urbanized area of the Township are within ½ mile of a park. **Green - 2**

GOAL 2: Accessibility and Diversity - Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities, both active and passive, that meet the needs of the Oshtemo Community.

Objectives:

1. Incorporate amenities and facilities missing in Township parks or identified as a priority by the community such as walking/biking paths, basketball courts, pickleball courts, and a splash pad. **Green - 2 for the objective in general, Yellow-2 for splash pad.**
2. Maintain a logical balance between active and passive pursuits in the parks, to address the recreation needs of all users. **Green - 1**
3. Seek citizen input when designing park and recreation facilities and programs, especially from children and families when designing playgrounds and youth-oriented recreation facilities and from seniors to address the specific needs of the aging population. **Green - 1**
4. Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions to provide a wider diversity of recreation opportunities that help to meet the needs of Oshtemo residents. **Green - 1**
5. Explore opportunities, such as updating Township ordinances, to require developers to provide private recreation facilities within new developments. **Green - 1**

GOAL 3: Exceptional Park Experience - Deliver an exceptional park user experience through proper maintenance and continuous improvements, recognizing that our parks are a source of community pride.

Objectives:

1. Annually assess and update the Long-Term Capital Maintenance Forecast to assist with projecting recreational facility replacement and operational needs.
2. Continue to evaluate improvements needed to enhance universal access that provide equal levels of experiences for all age groups and abilities and their specific recreational needs.
3. Review the Township’s park rules and policies and routinely seek public input and feedback on ways they might be improved.
4. Develop a system to encourage park users to report maintenance issues and other concerns. **Green - 1**
5. Explore opportunities to establish a greater staff presence in the parks during busy times, to enforce park rules, ensure a welcoming environment, and increase safety. **Green - 1**
6. Consider ways to simplify and improve the reservation system and web-based interactions.
7. Continue to repair and renew facilities at existing parks, such as the disc golf course at Township Park, which is heavily used and showing signs of deterioration. **Green - 2**
8. Continue to restore and maintain the unique historic amenities like the Drake Farmstead, Community Center, Grange Hall, etc. that are managed by the Parks Department. **Green - 1**
9. Explore nature-based play opportunities where children can engage with the natural environment. **Green - 1**
10. Pursue opportunities to bring art into the parks. **Green - 1**

GOAL 4: Environmental Stewardship - Foster environmental stewardship through the preservation of important natural features and sustainable design practices within parks, supporting efforts to make Oshtemo a leader in environmental conservation.

Objectives:

1. Develop programs for the “greening” and naturalization of the parks and facilities through improvements such as: **Green - 1**
 - field maintenance;
 - reestablishment of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers;

- storm water improvements;
 - lighting upgrades; and,
 - energy audits.
2. Preserve natural features during design and development of park sites to the maximum extent feasible, in consideration of the type of park planned. **Green - 1**
 3. Collaborate with adjoining property owners to coordinate environmental stewardship efforts in areas such as Township Park, Lillian Anderson Arboretum, and adjacent environmentally sensitive lands.
 4. Restore and preserve natural areas in the parks to improve habitat, prevent the spread of invasive species, and increase the enjoyment of park users. **Green - 1**

GOAL 5: Development of Existing Facilities - Continue progress towards development of existing park facilities in established and undeveloped Township park land. **Green - 2**

Objectives:

1. Develop a long-range master plan for the property owned by the Township and Kalamazoo County located on KL Avenue just east of 4th Street, to meet future needs. **Green - 2**
2. Continue to implement the park master plans for Drake Farmstead Park, Flesher Field, and Township Park. **Green - 2**
3. Develop and implement a plan to provide additional outdoor recreation facilities at Grange Hall.
4. Develop and provide educational programs with a focus on nature and history at the Drake Farmstead Park. **Green - 1**

GOAL 6: Connect Nature and People - Advance a greenway network that connects natural features and people to community and regional destinations. **Green - 1**

Objectives:

1. Provide connections to parks, neighborhoods, schools, and major areas of activity through neighborhood greenways and conservation trails or bicycle and pedestrian-focused corridors.
2. Develop a set of criteria for determining when greenway/open space lands should be permanently protected in their undeveloped state and when passive recreation should be permitted for the use and enjoyment of Oshtemo residents, promoting the balance between recreational opportunities and natural resource protection.
3. Structure the passive recreational component of the greenway system so that connections to the larger Township nonmotorized plan provide linkages to local and regional destinations, particularly Oshtemo parks and other publicly accessible open spaces.
4. Investigate opportunities for acquisition of undeveloped lands within the more urbanized area of the Township to allow for community open spaces and greenways where available natural areas may be scarce.
5. Develop a generalized map for where acquisition of land/easements should be prioritized within the Township.
6. Develop policies and practices for the maintenance and upkeep of the passive recreation greenways within the Township.
7. Partner with regional organizations to promote bicycling, running, and walking activities.

GOAL 7: Enhance Partnerships - Enhance partnerships with community organizations, governmental units, and civic groups, and work towards better public/private partnerships with the development community to improve recreation and conservation opportunities. **Green - 1**

Objectives:

1. Develop a comprehensive list of community organizations involved in parks, recreation, and conservation and strengthen these partnerships to support recreation and outdoor activities in Oshtemo Township.

2. Work with Friends of the Parks to develop and implement a parks and programming communication plan.
3. Encourage greater volunteer participation in all aspects of parks, recreation, and conservation activities.
4. Continue to build on the successful relationship with the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library by continuing to partner on projects and programs made possible by the library's close proximity to Township Park.
5. Explore incentive opportunities to the private development community to include both private and public recreation opportunities within their development projects.
6. Investigate volunteer opportunities and "adopt a mile" programs for the maintenance of the publicly accessible greenway system.

GOAL 8: Sound Fiscal Management - Develop stable sources of funding and practice sound fiscal management of the parks and recreation system.

Objectives:

1. Explore the potential of a replacement and acquisition fund for maintenance of parks and recreation assets.
2. Complete a comprehensive analysis of total costs related to the Township's rental facilities and establish cost recovery rates that will generate revenue for these expenditures.
3. Pursue all available funding sources for acquisition, capital improvements, operations and maintenance, including local sources, the Township endowment, a parks and recreation millage, state and federal grant programs, local businesses, sponsorships, and other sources.
4. Explore opportunities for greater private sector participation in the provision of recreation services in the Township.
5. Continue to build the Oshtemo Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund.
6. Assess and update the Long-Term Capital Maintenance Forecast as a budgeting tool.
7. Explore funding opportunities that will assist the Township in leveraging capital for recreational greenways within the Township.

Question 10. What's missing? Please share your thoughts on Goals or Objectives to add to the plan.

Responses:

- 1) *Climate resilience*
- 2) *Habitat improvement*
- 3) *Environmental health*

Question 11. What's changed? Please share your thoughts on Goals or Objectives that need to be revised.

Responses: None

The open house ended at 6 pm.

These public meeting minutes were prepared by Karen High and certified by Vanessa Street, Oshtemo Township Parks Director, and serve as the official record.

Signed,

_____/_____/_____
 Vanessa Street Date
 Oshtemo Township Parks Director

OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

**NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING FOR FIVE-YEAR
COMMUNITY PARKS & RECREATION PLAN 2024-2028**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the draft Charter Township of Oshtemo Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028 will be available for review and comment for 30 days beginning November 10th, 2023, and ending December 10th, 2023. The plan can be viewed in person at Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo MI 49009 during regular business hours and online [Oshtemo.org/Notice-Board](https://oshtemo.org/Notice-Board)

Oshtemo Township is preparing a Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the Plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of parks and recreational facilities over the next five years.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Oshtemo Township Board will hold a public hearing on **December 12th, 2023, at 7:15pm at the Oshtemo Township Hall, 7275 West Main Street**, to hear comments on the Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan 2024-2028.

You are invited to attend the public hearing. If you are unable to attend, all interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to the Oshtemo Township Parks Department, 7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo MI 49009, or you may contact the Parks Department at 269-216-5233. Comments may also be submitted via email to oshtemo@oshtemo.org.

Oshtemo Charter Township will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at this hearing, to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids should contact the Township by phone, or in writing, at least seven (7) days prior notice to the scheduled hearing date.

OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
By: Vanessa Street, Parks Director
(269) 216-5233



State of Michigan,) ss
County of Kalamazoo)

Nancy Block being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of MLive Media Group; that Kalamazoo Gazette is a public newspaper published in the city of Kalamazoo, with general circulation in Kalamazoo county, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):


Kalamazoo Gazette 11/07/2023

Nancy Block
Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of November 2023

Teasha R Payne
Notary Public

TEASHA R. PAYNE
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF MI
COUNTY OF MECOSTA
COMMISSION EXP FEB 24 2026
ACTING IN COUNTY OF hent



**OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

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[Five-Year Parks & Rec Plan 2024-2028 DRAFT for Public Review Period Nov 10-Dec 10](#)
[View document here](#) PDF 2192

[Notice of Election Commission Meeting Oct 10, 2023](#)
[View the notice here](#) PDF 1479

[Notice of Opportunity to Comment on Transportation Planning Process](#)
[View the notice here](#) PDF 12748

[Notice of Oshtemo Township Hall West Drive](#)
 Oshtemo Charter Township Hall west drive/entrance will be closed Thursday, 9/21/2023 for the Contractor to work on sewer installation. Please prepare to use the east entrance (closest to the library). The west drive/entrance closure is expected to last the entire day.

[Notice of City of Kalamazoo Media Release](#)

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OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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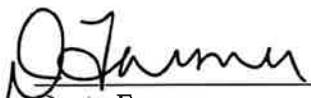
OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
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OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP
KALAMAZOO COUNTY, MICHIGAN

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF KALAMAZOO)

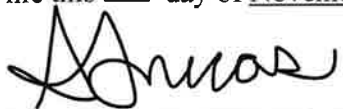
AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING
DECEMBER 12, 2023, PUBLIC HEARING
RE: 5-YEAR COMMUNITY PARKS & REC PLAN 2024-2028

I, Dusty Farmer, being first duly sworn, depose and say that on the 2nd day of November, 2023, I conspicuously posted a true and correct copy of the December 12, 2023, Public Hearing Notice (in compliance with the provisions and requirements of the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976, MCL 211.19, and the Americans with Disabilities Act) for the Public Hearing located at 7275 West Main St. Kalamazoo, MI. 49009, on the bulletin board located at the Oshtemo Charter Township Hall (7275 West Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009), as well as on the Township's website, within the seven (7) days preceding the publication of the within Notice for public inspection.



Dusty Farmer
Oshtemo Charter Township Clerk

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of November, 2023.



Sierra Lucas notary public
County of Cass, State of Michigan
Acting in Kalamazoo County, Michigan
My commission expires: 2/23/2030



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Legal Notices

- [5 Year Parks Plan and Notice of Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 114KB} November 2, 2023
- [Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 104KB} October 30, 2023
- [Zoning Public Meeting](#) ^{PDF 86KB} October 30, 2023
- [Parks Public Meeting Notice](#) ^{PDF 162KB} October 25, 2023
- [2024 Road SAD Budget Notice of Public Meeting](#) ^{PDF 34KB} October 20, 2023
- [2024 Police SAD 04 and 09 Budget Notice of Public Meeting](#) ^{PDF 112KB} October 20, 2023
- [2024 General, Fire and Police Fund Budget Notice of Public Meeting](#) ^{PDF 172KB} October 20, 2023
- [2024 Fire SAD 1 Budget Notice of Public Meeting](#) ^{PDF 106KB} October 20, 2023
- [2024 Fire SAD 2 Budget Notice of Public Meeting](#) ^{PDF 126KB} October 20, 2023
- [Notice of Public Meeting](#) ^{PDF 89KB} October 19, 2023
- [Notice of Ordinance Adoption](#) ^{PDF 11KB} October 11, 2023
- [Notice of Zoning Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 129KB} October 9, 2023
- [Notice of Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 141KB} October 5, 2023
- [Notice of Ordinance Submittal](#) ^{PDF 21KB} October 5, 2023
- [Notice of Ordinance Adoption](#) ^{PDF 27KB} October 3, 2023
- [Notice of Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 623KB} - Fire SAD September 28, 2023
- [Notice of Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 664KB} - Master Plan Update September 28, 2023
- [Notice of Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 269KB} Mailed September 13, 2023
- [Notice of Registration](#) ^{PDF 202KB} September 18, 2023
- [Notice of Public Accuracy Test](#) ^{PDF 111KB} September 18, 2023
- [Notice of Election](#) ^{PDF 154KB} September 18, 2023
- [Notice of Ordinance Adoption](#) ^{PDF 214KB} September 13, 2023
- [Notice of Ordinance Submittal](#) ^{PDF 121KB} September 13, 2023
- [Notice of Zoning Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 146KB} August 28, 2023
- [Notice of Zoning Public Hearing](#) ^{PDF 212KB} August 2, 2023
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- [Notice of Ordinance Adoption](#) ^{PDF 174KB} July 20, 2023
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