



TEXAS TOMORROW: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE

2025-2029 PARKS AND TRAILS MASTER PLAN



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Introduction



This plan reflects the collaborative efforts of community leaders, staff, and volunteers over several months to develop a comprehensive vision for the parks, trails, and recreational amenities in Texas Township. The Charter Township of Texas Parks and Trails Master Plan (2025-2029) was prepared and adopted by the Township Parks and Trails Committee and Township Board to serve as a guide and decision-making document for future park, trail, and recreation facilities.

Fundamentally, this Parks and Trails Master Plan addresses the parks and trails of our current and future residents. Just as important, the plan looks to find ways to make our parks and trails an even more impactful and integrated component of the Township. By evaluating the current parks, trails, and recreation amenities, community leaders, staff, volunteers, and residents determined and prioritized the short-term and long-term needs of the community.

A Parks and Trails Master Plan:

- Develops a vision, goals and objectives.
- Updates the inventories of developed and undeveloped parks.
- Evaluates the current and future needs for improving the existing park, trails, and recreation system to accommodate future population growth.
- Gathers input from community leaders, residents and other stakeholders to determine the priorities for the parks, trails, and recreation amenities.
- Provides direction and a prioritized action agenda regarding required parks, trails, and recreation facilities to respond to issues and gaps identified during the needs assessment.

Parks and Trails Benefits

This plan addresses the challenges facing parks, trails, and recreational opportunities in Texas Township while responding to the desires of the community. Outdoor recreation and passive outdoor activities are a vital part of daily life. Parks and trails offer benefits that make them essential to thriving communities:

Economic Benefits

- Increase property values: Homes near parks and trails tend to have higher real estate value.
- Boost local economies: Parks attract visitors, supporting nearby businesses.
- Reduce infrastructure costs: Green spaces help manage stormwater, reducing public maintenance costs.

Health and Wellness Benefits

- Encourage physical activity: Walking, jogging, biking, and playing in parks promote active lifestyles.
- Improve mental health: Natural spaces reduce stress, anxiety, and depression.
- Support public health: Accessible recreation areas encourage community-wide wellness.

Environmental Benefits

- Preserve green space: Parks protect natural habitats and biodiversity.
- Improve air and water quality: Trees and vegetation filter pollutants and manage stormwater runoff.
- Combat climate change: Parks contribute to carbon sequestration and urban cooling.

Social and Community Benefits

- Strengthen community ties: Parks are gathering places for events, recreation, and civic engagement.
- Provide equitable access: Public spaces are free and available to all residents.



Parks are more than just spaces that are nice to have – they are part of the Township's infrastructure. They serve as social and cultural benefits, provide access to natural environments, and can help address physical and mental health issues.

This Plan presents an inventory of existing facilities within the Township as well as an evaluation of opportunities and priorities. Taking into account the existing facilities, as well as the anticipated demand for improvements, this plan presents goals, objectives, actions to bring the vision from paper to the ground.

While the Texas Township works closely and cooperatively with several public and private agencies that provide recreational opportunities within the Township, this Master Plan focuses on the Township-owned and operated parks, trails, and recreation amenities.

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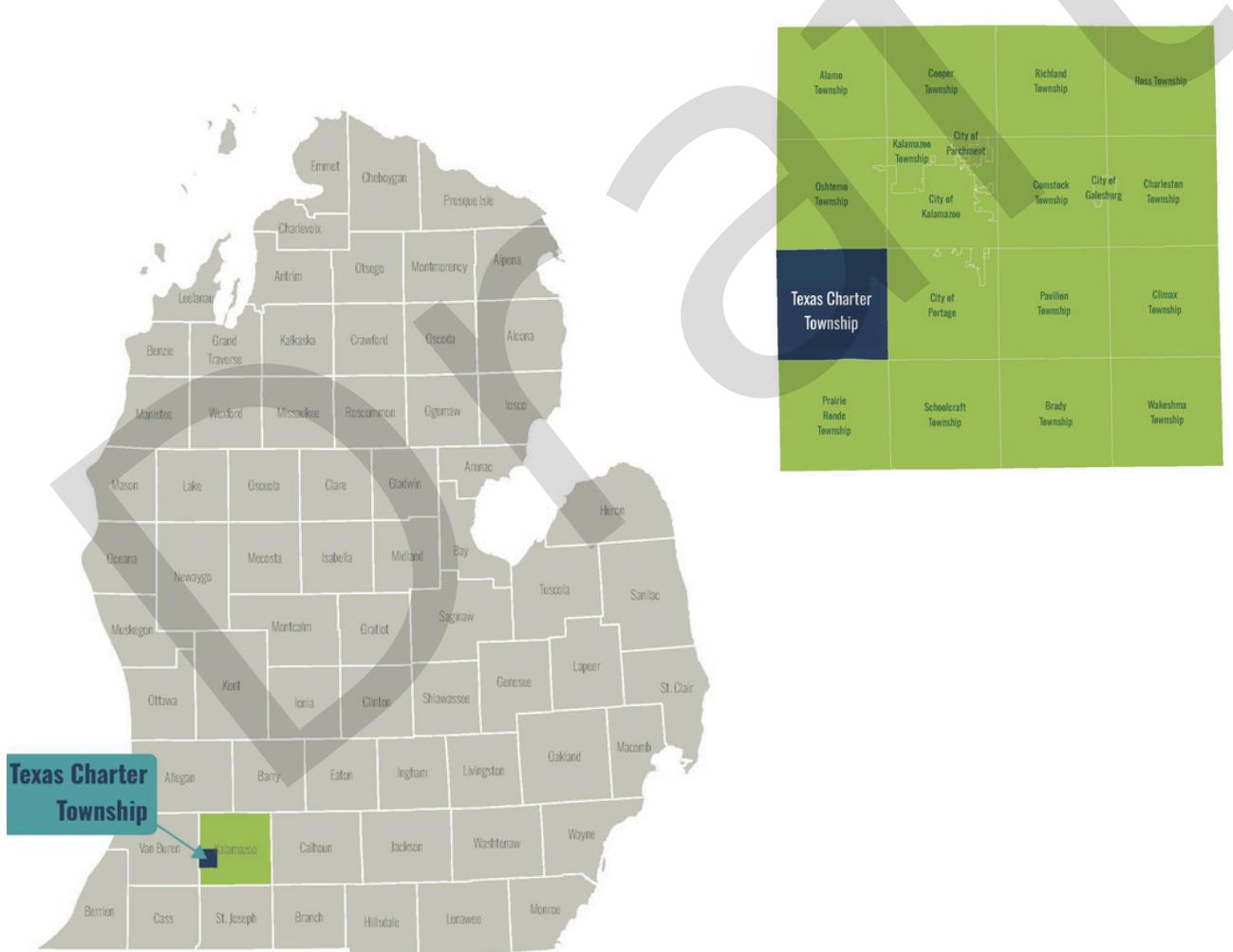
Community Description

Regional Setting

Texas Charter Township is an integral part of the Kalamazoo metropolitan region. It is bounded on the east by Portage, the region's second largest city and a major employment node, and on the north by Oshtemo Township, a growing suburban community. To the west is the Village of Mattawan, a historic small town that has become more economically connected to Kalamazoo in recent decades, and to the south is Prairie Ronde Township, a rural community.

Texas Charter Township's parks serve not only residents of the Township, but also the surrounding communities. Along with local and county parks in surrounding areas, Texas' parks and trails make up a robust regional system of green spaces, recreational amenities, and non-motorized trails.

Map 1: Region



Demographics

A review of trends in population growth is helpful in developing an understanding of the Township's recreational needs. Understanding other demographic indicators such as age, education, income, and employment trends assist in determining the type of recreational facilities which may be needed or desired and will allow the Township to keep pace with demand.

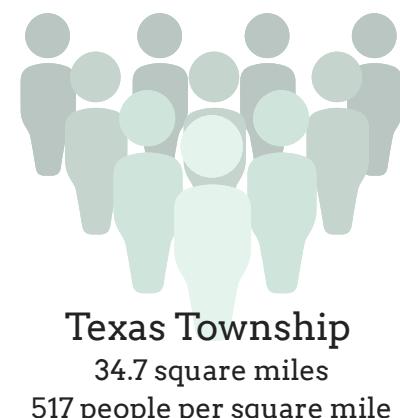
The following sections correspond to the demographic data gathered from the U.S. Census. The data comes from the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. The ACS is conducted every year and samples a percentage of the community on topics such as population, economics, housing, etc. The 5-year estimates for a given population are considered a reliable source as they represent 60 months of collected data for all geographic areas. However, in some specific cases, the data may contain inaccuracies due to sampling.

Population

Changes in population size are a key indicator for effective community planning. Communities experiencing growth often have different infrastructure, housing, and recreational needs compared to those with stable or declining populations. The Population Change Table presents the population figures for Texas Charter Township alongside selected comparison communities. Except for the City of Kalamazoo, between 2010 and 2023, Texas Township and the surrounding communities experienced population growth. To better understand the significance of this growth, it is helpful to compare Texas Township's rate of increase with that of neighboring municipalities, Kalamazoo County, and the State of Michigan. This comparison provides valuable context for forecasting potential areas of future growth and anticipating increased demand on the Township's park system.

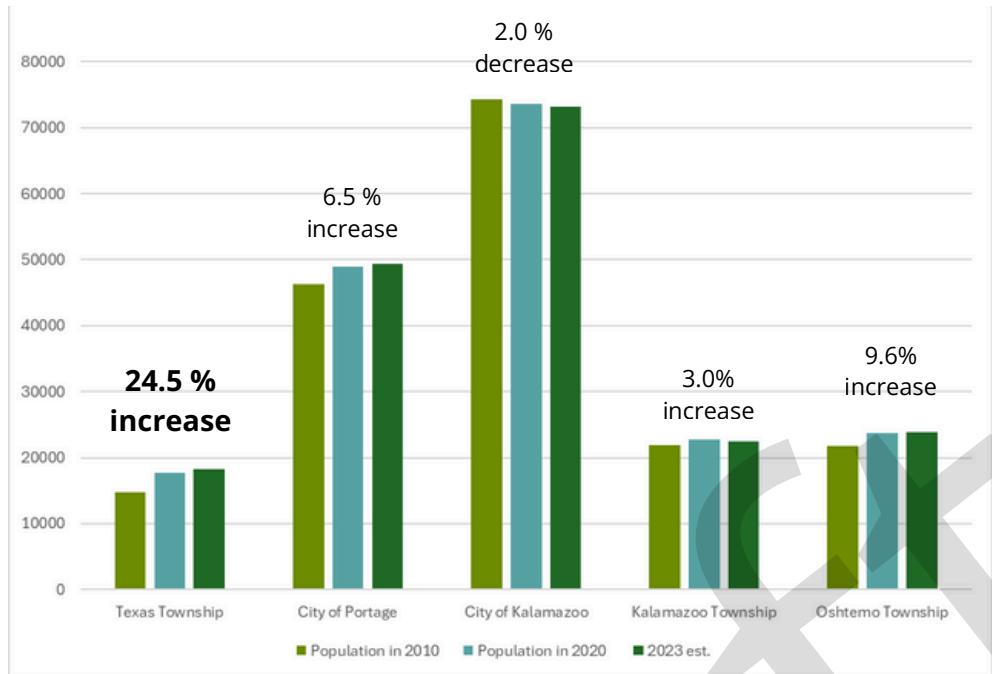
Table 1: Population Change

	Population in 2010	Population in 2020	Population 2023 est.
Texas Township	14,697	17,689	18,299
City of Portage	46,292	48,891	49,302
City of Kalamazoo	74,262	73,598	73,126
Kalamazoo Township	21,918	22,777	22,501
Oshtemo Township	21,705	23,747	23,786
Kalamazoo County	260,331	261,670	262,215
State of Michigan	9,883,640	10,077,331	10,037,261



Texas Township
34.7 square miles
517 people per square mile

Graphic 1: Percent Increase in Population between 2010 and 2023



The U.S. Census Bureau's 2023 population estimate of 18,299, indicating a 3.4% growth from 2020. While specific long-term projections for Texas Township are not readily available, the consistent annual growth rate of approximately 1% suggests a continued upward trend in population. This growth aligns with the Township's appeal as a suburban community offering a mix of residential areas, natural amenities, and proximity to employment centers.



Households

Tracking changes in the number and composition of households is essential for shaping a community that remains livable, inclusive, and responsive to resident needs. For parks and trails planning, these changes inform both the quantity and type of amenities required to support a growing and evolving population.

According to the 2019-2023 ACS 5 Year Estimate, the average household size was 2.97 people. For comparison, the 2010 Census recorded an average household size of 2.81. A growing household size can indicate an uptick in families with children, extended family living, or more shared housing arrangements. This figure is slightly above the national average of 2.49 people per household.

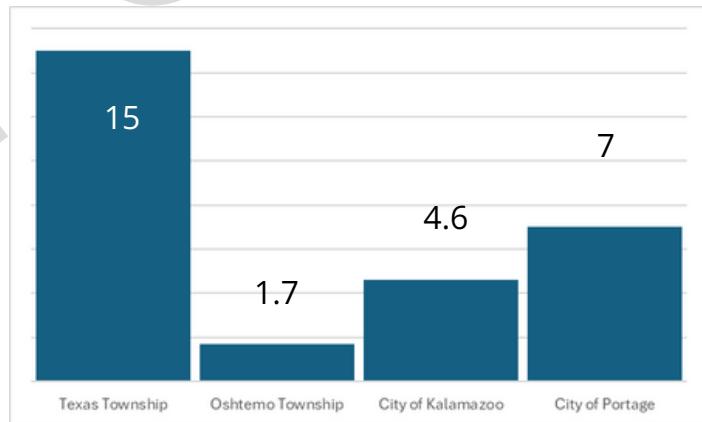
Number of Households

Texas Township's 15% increase in households signals substantial demand for new or expanded services—common to newer suburban areas. More households can result in greater park usage, requiring maintenance upgrades and possible expansion of park space. Rising household density may reflect an influx of young families, larger household compositions, or more multi-adult living arrangements. With nearly 3 people per household now, the Township may be observing the increased need for family-oriented services. For parks and trails, this trend often correlates with heightened demand for playgrounds, sports fields, and family activities.

Table 2: Household Growth - Number of Households

	2010	2023
Texas Township	5231	6036
Oshtemo	10178	10350
City of Portage	19199	20540
City of Kalamazoo	29141	30482

Graphic 2: Percent Increase in Number of Households between 2010 -2023



Age

The age composition of a community has significant implications for recreation planning. A larger population under age 18 increases the need for youth-focused amenities such as playgrounds and sports fields, while a higher proportion of older adults may require more passive recreational opportunities like walking trails.

To better understand the age profile of the community, both the median age and population by age group are examined. The Population by Age table compares the age cohorts of Texas Township to that of Kalamazoo County, and the State of Michigan.

Although Texas Township has a higher median age than its surrounding areas, there was a slight decline in median age from 2010. A decreasing median age typically suggests that younger families are moving into the community, and that birth rates may be increasing, which can influence future demand for parks, trails, and recreation facilities geared toward children and families.

Population by Age Group

Age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality's population are in which stages of life) gives an insight into the age makeup of a community. To compare age structure, the population is divided into the groupings.

People in the Family-Forming age group (20-50) are the most numerous in both the Township and Kalamazoo County. This age group is likely to mean more children, a growing population, and a need for additional recreation to accommodate the number of children and families.

Table 3: Age of Township Residents

Age	Texas Township	Kalamazoo County	State of Michigan
under 5	5.57	5.31	5.28
5 to 9	8.15	5.77	5.79
10-14	9.30	6.25	6.09
15-19	7.28	6.94	6.45
20-24	2.75	12.12	6.57
25-29	4.41	6.71	6.31
30-34	4.94	7.07	6.78
35-39	8.90	6.29	6.15
40-44	7.90	5.42	6.10
45-49	6.14	5.40	5.65
50-54	7.03	5.47	6.25
55-59	5.50	5.37	6.38
60-64	6.40	5.48	6.95
65-69	5.90	4.92	6.35
70-74	4.34	4.75	5.20
75-79	3.03	3.13	3.50
80-84	1.11	1.90	2.25
85+	1.35	1.70	1.95

At almost 25% percent, the 5-14 age group in Texas Township is notably higher than the county average (19%) and the state average (18%).

Median Age



Texas Township - 39.4

City of Portage - 37.2

Oshtemo Township - 25.2

City of Kalamazoo - 26.8

Median age in Texas Township is 39.4 years



Nearly 1/3 of the Township is under the age of 18

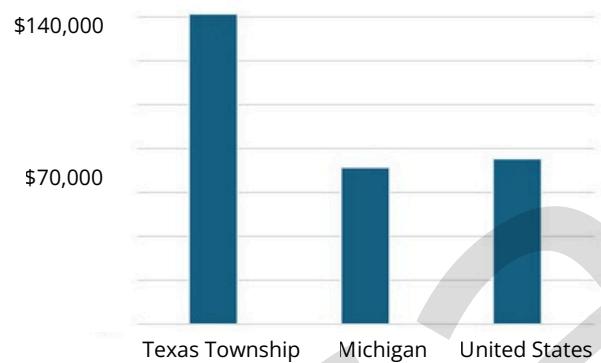


With age diversity in the population, the Township should plan with all ages in mind, such as including playgrounds next to walking paths and picnic shelters so grandparents and parents can engage together. Facilities should meet universal design standards to accommodate both young children and aging residents. Age diversity means planners must think holistically and design inclusively, offering a range of facilities, programs, and spaces that evolve with the community.

Income

As of the latest data, Texas Township demonstrates a strong economic profile with income levels significantly above state and national averages. The Median Household Income in the Township is \$141,681 (2019–2023, adjusted to 2023 dollars), with a Per Capita Income: \$60,368 (2019–2023, adjusted to 2023 dollars). These figures are nearly double the median household income of Michigan (\$71,149) and the United States (\$78,538) during the same period.

Graphic 3: Median Household Income



Graphic 4: Earning Years



Residents aged 45 to 64 have the highest median income, reflecting peak earning years.

Texas Township stands out as one of Michigan's more affluent communities, marked by high median household incomes, a substantial share of high-earning residents, and a solid economic foundation.

Median Home Value

There is a strong positive correlation between high income levels and median home values in a community. The Median Home Value in Texas Township is \$399,400 compared to Kalamazoo County at \$227,500 and the state at \$106,300. For parks and trails and broader planning, higher property values mean greater tax revenue potential—but also highlight the need for inclusive amenities and affordable housing strategies to retain diverse residents.

Texas Township's poverty rate is 3.6%. The low poverty rate and high median home value underscore the township's affluence.

Educational Attainment

Nearly all adults (98.1%) in the Township have at least a high school diploma—slightly higher than the county (94.3) and state (91.9) averages. A striking 60.6% of Texas Township residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher, significantly exceeding both Kalamazoo County (40.8%) and Michigan (31.8%).

Higher education levels often correlate with increased awareness of health benefits from outdoor activities which could spark demand for more fitness trails, outdoor fitness stations, educational signage, and other wellness-focused amenities.

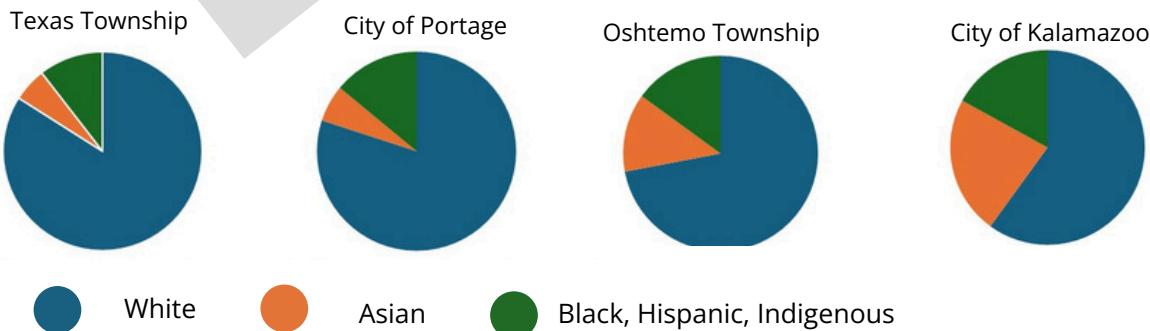
Higher home values often correlate with increased property tax revenue, offering more funding capacity for amenities. However, rising housing costs can displace lower-income households, underscoring the need for equitable access to public facilities.

Understanding these trends helps balance investment in quality amenities while addressing affordability and community inclusion.

Race

In terms of ethnicity, Texas Township's population is predominantly White (84%) with Asian residents as the second-largest racial group (5-6%), followed by multiracial and smaller percentages of Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous residents. The City of Portage's racial and ethnic composition is similar to the Townships: 80-81% White, 5.6% Black, 4-5% Hispanic, 4-5% multiracial, and 3-4% Asian. In comparison, Oshtemo Township is more racially diverse than Texas Township—71% White, 13.4% Black, 9.3% multiracial, 5.7% Hispanic/Latino. The City of Kalamazoo is even more diverse—60% White, 21-22% Black, 8-9% Hispanic, 6-7% multiracial.

Graphic 5: Racial Composition



Conclusions

Texas Charter Township is a growing, prosperous, and family-oriented community. Over the past decade, the Township has experienced notable increases in population and the number of households. This growth is occurring at a faster rate than many surrounding communities, positioning Texas Township as a key contributor to the broader Kalamazoo metropolitan region.

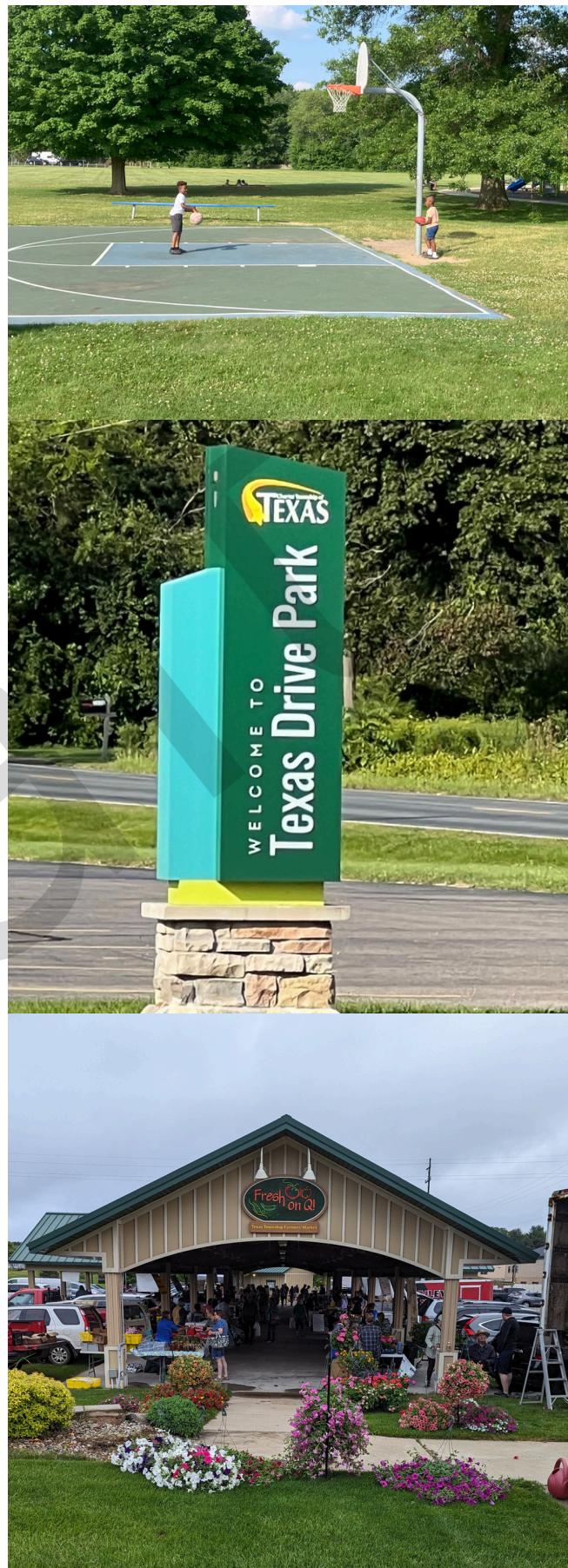
Key demographic trends include:

- Population growth outpacing household growth, suggesting larger or more family-based households.
- A rising proportion of residents in the “family-forming” age range (20-49), exceeding that of Kalamazoo County overall.
- A declining median age, signaling the growth of young families and increasing birth rates.
- An increasing number of children, alongside the aging Baby Boomer generation, indicating a wide spectrum of recreational needs.

In combination with its high household incomes, strong housing market, and high educational attainment, these trends reflect a well-resourced community capable of supporting long-term investment in:

- Parks and trails that are designed to accommodate families with children.
- Inclusive recreational facilities that serve all age groups, from youth to seniors.
- Community infrastructure and services that align with ongoing residential growth and evolving lifestyle demands.

These dynamics underscore the importance of forward-thinking planning to ensure that Texas Charter Township remains livable, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of a changing population.



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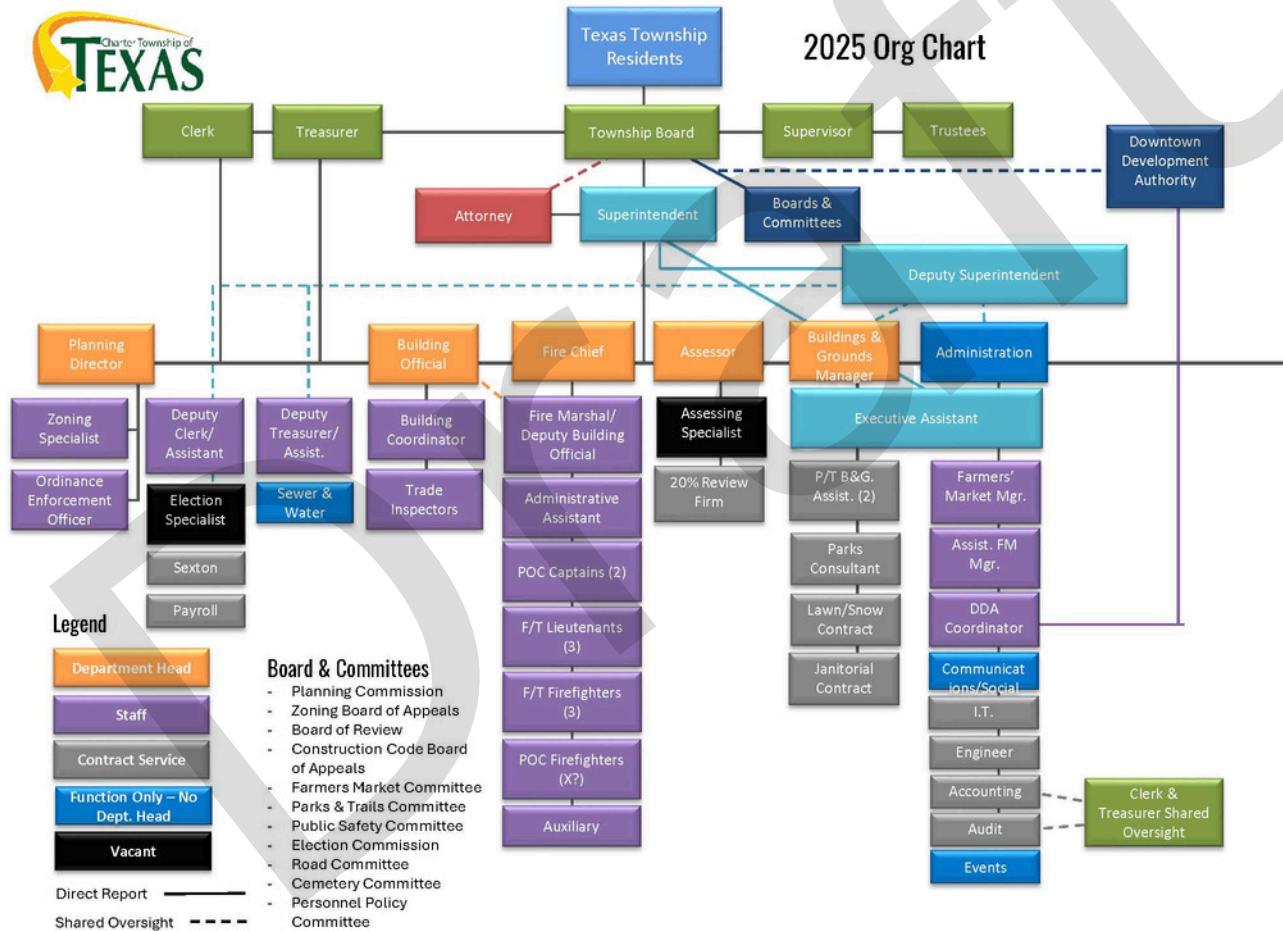
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Staff Roles and Responsibilities

The Township Superintendent is a key administrative officer and is appointed by the Board of Trustees. The Superintendent is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Township departments; annual budget and financial management; oversight of public improvements; personnel administration; Township representation; and the enforcement of Township ordinances, regulations, and policies. Though the township does not have a formal Parks and Recreation department, a Buildings and Grounds Manager position was created in 2024 to help maintain Township parks and facilities and coordinate operations and events.

The Township Board makes decisions regarding park budgeting, land acquisition, facilities, and program development based upon recommendations from the Parks and Trails Committee.

Graphic 6: Organizational Chart



Commissions and Advisory Boards

To serve the growing community and demand for public services, the Township established additional governmental boards and committees to better meet the varied needs of the Township. Committees related to parks, recreation, and trails include the Parks and Trails Committee and the Farmers' Market Committee.

Parks and Trails Committee

The Parks and Trails Committee is made up of two (2) Planning Commission members, one (1) Township Board member, two (2) members at large, the Superintendent, and two (2) alternates. Annually, the Committee reviews the long-term build out plan for each park and trail and proposes improvements to the Township Board. Development plans are created annually, and a budget is prepared out of the General Fund. There is no direct millage for park and trail development and maintenance and the Parks and Trails Committee is not authorized to spend funds or request bonds for the acquisition of land or construction of facilities. The Parks and Trails Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Township Board and must receive approval for the implementation of recreational improvements in Township parks. The objective of the Committee is to oversee and facilitate operations, upgrades, and expansion to the Township park system that is consistent with the 5-Year Parks and Trails Plan.

Buildings and Grounds Manager

The Township's developed parkland is maintained by the Buildings and Ground Manager and part-time seasonal employees. The Manager and staff are responsible for parks and trails (and other municipal facilities) that includes maintenance, painting, cleaning, splash pad operation and water quality monitoring etc., Farmer's Market set up, and pavilion rental set up. The Manager also inspects equipment and trails for maintenance concerns. Lawn maintenance is provided by a private firm that the Township contracts for this purpose.

Farmer's Market Committee

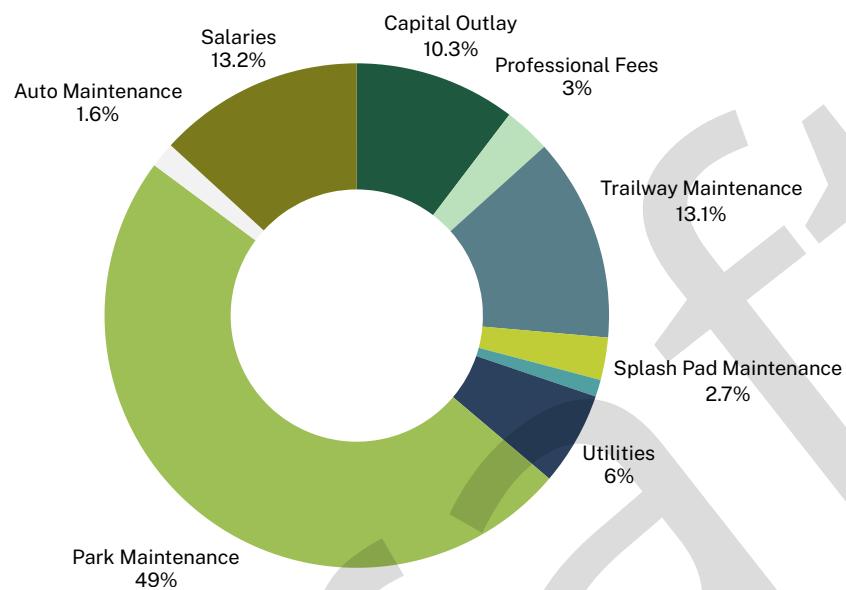
The Texas Charter Township Farmers' Market Committee is responsible for leadership, management, and administration of all matters related to the operation of the Farmers' Market. The Committee reports to the Township Board and is responsible for scheduling times and dates of the market, setting rules and guidelines for vendors, developing themed events, and setting budgets and fees. The Farmers' Market Committee is made up of one (1) member of the Township Parks and Trails Committee, one (1) Texas Township Trustee, one (1) DDA member, two (2) market vendors, and two (2) residents. A part-time Farmers' Market Manager and Assistant provide oversight, financial and vendor management, fundraising, coordination of food access and payment programs, and manages Farmers' Market public relations.



Parks and Trails Budget

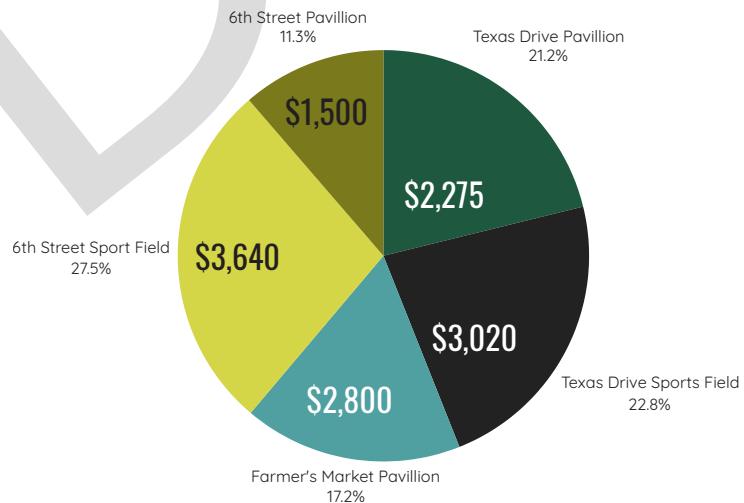
Texas Charter Township parks and trails are funded with general fund dollars; there are no separate millages. Additionally, there are no sources of income for parks and recreation except for reservation payments associated with Texas Drive Park, 6th Street Park, and Joyce Neubauer Farmer's Market Pavilion, private donations, and grants. The Township Board oversees budgeting and allocates the appropriate funding amount based on projected needs.

Graphic 7: Parks and Trails Expenditures Breakdown



Revenue comes from the Texas Township General Fund, park rental fees, donations, and grants. The Township budget anticipates \$13,235 in reservations for 2025. The Township has received two grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the development of non-motorized trails. Additional revenue comes from the Texas Charter Township General Fund, other MDNR grants (such as MNRTF), donations, and park rental fees.

Graphic 8: Park Revenue for 2025



The Friends of Texas Township Parks and Trails funds have been established at the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. One (1) fund is an endowment for long-term maintenance, and the other is for new construction and capital improvements. Donations to the fund are made through the Community Foundation.



The Township has received two (2) grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for the development of non-motorized trails. The Township received a grant in 2011 for a Pocket Park and trailhead, and then received a second grant in 2012 for Phase II of the Texas Drive Trail project (that project was also partially funded by an MDOT TAP grant).



Potential Funding Sources/Resource Partners

A variety of funding sources and resource partners may exist to assist with the implementation of proposed parks and trails projects. Primary sources include:

- **Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund.** The MNRTF can provide assistance for the Township's outdoor recreation projects including land acquisition and physical development of park facilities. This assistance is intended to bolster existing facilities, protect critical natural resources, and establish new parkland. Development project grants may range between \$15,000 and \$400,000 and there is no minimum/maximum limits on land acquisition grants. The minimum required local match is 25%.
- **Michigan Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant.** The Passport grant fund program is primarily focused on renovating and improving existing parks; however, the development of new parks is considered eligible. The Minimum grant request is \$7,500 and the maximum grant request is \$150,000. The minimum required local match is 25%.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund.** The LWCF is similar to the Trust Fund grant described above, in that it is meant to help fund land acquisition and park development. The minimum grant request amount is \$30,000 and the maximum grant request amount is \$500,000. The minimum required local match is 50%. Natural feature preservation has historically been the primary award criteria; and as such, this opportunity should especially be taken into account when planning for new passive recreation facilities. In addition, the LWCF now places emphasis on trails, "green" technology in outdoor recreation, universal design, and coordination among recreation providers.
- **MDOT Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).** The TAP fund is a grant program that funds non-motorized paths and streetscapes that enhance the community's intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options. The program uses federal funds to promote walkability, alternative transportation options, and place-based economic development to improve the quality of life for communities. The minimum required local match is 20%.
- **Township Funds.** In addition to the general fund, a special millage may be a possibility to help fund new and improved facilities in the Township. The parks budget and the parks capital improvement program have been successful in renovating and improving facilities and will continue to be critical to recreation services in the community.
- **Donations & Foundations.** Residents, property owners, businesses, and organizations frequently contribute to causes that improve local quality of life. While these contributions are often pecuniary, they may also include land donations, volunteer services, or the gift of equipment or other facilities.

Role of Volunteers

Volunteers often assist with the planning and organization of community-wide events held within the parks. In addition, maintenance and upgrades to the facilities are sometimes completed or implemented by volunteers in order to reduce costs.

Relationships with Other Entities

Texas Charter Township partners on various projects and programs with a number of regional entities, including the City of Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County, the Portage and Mattawan Public School Districts, Texas Downtown Development Authority. Specifically, the Township works with the City of Kalamazoo, which owns the Al Sabo Land Preserve, to ensure maintenance of the Township trail that runs through Al Sabo.

The Township does not provide recreational programming for the existing park facilities. A number of private recreational organizations provide youth-oriented, programmed activities at Texas Drive Park. These groups pay the Township a fee for use of the facility. The following organizations use Texas Drive Park for their programmed activities:

- Rebels 10U Fast Pitch
- West Michigan Wild 9U Baseball
- West Michigan Wild 10U Baseball
- HBF Maroons Baseball
- Hurricane Fastpitch Softball
- Mattawan Lacrosse
- Kingdom Soccer Club
- Dan Bulley Soccer School
- Soccer Shots
- Kalamazoo Bicycle Club



These organizations are regional and may also have programmed events at other locations.

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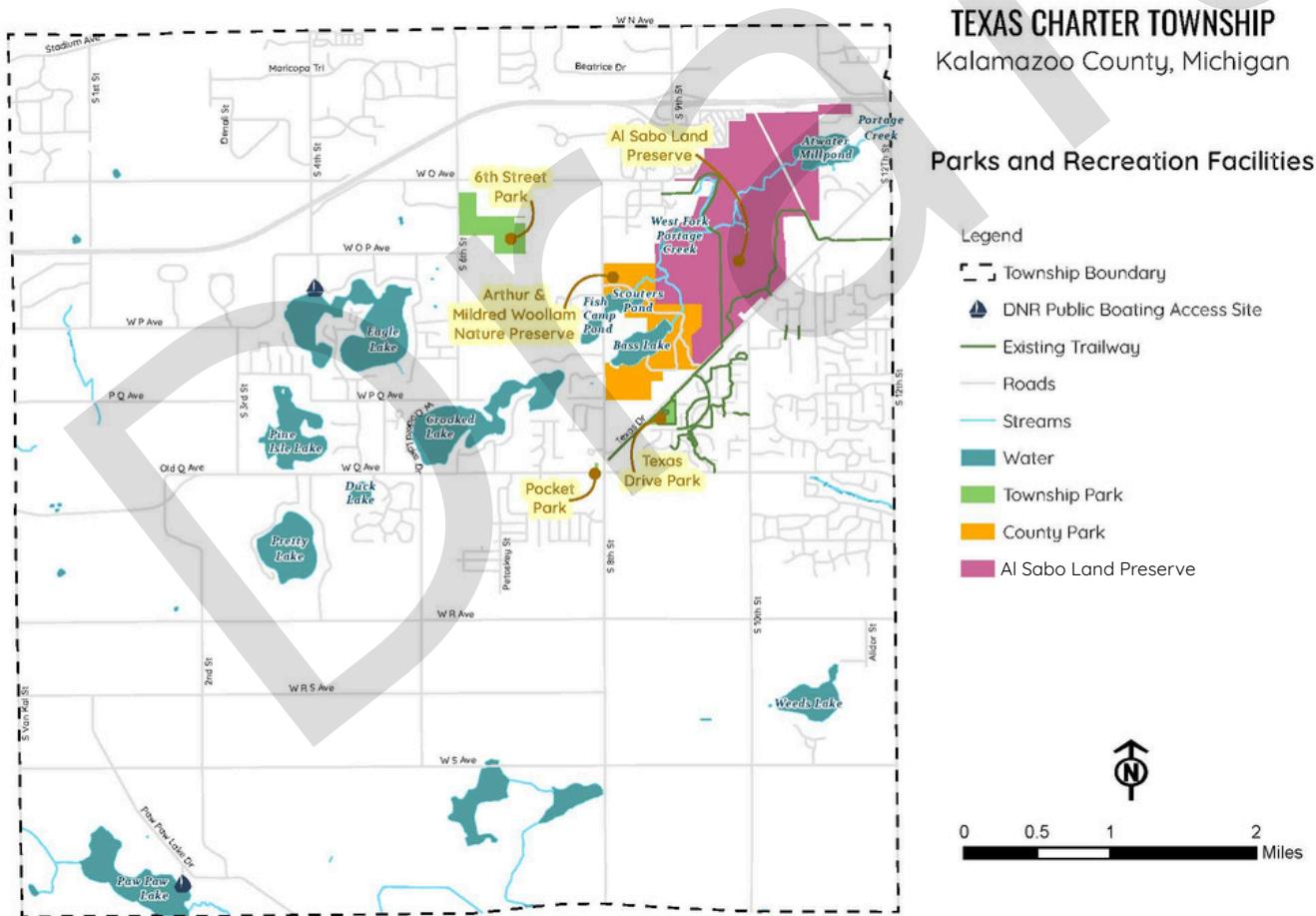
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Park Inventory and Analysis

This Park Inventory and Analysis chapter describes the parks, trails, and recreation facilities available to the community, including Township-owned parks and trails, public parks and natural resource areas operated by other entities, and private facilities. The inventory was prepared by a local consultant working with Township staff using online research and in-person site visits.

Texas Township residents are fortunate to have a wide range of publicly-owned parks and natural resource areas to choose from when seeking a place to spend time out-of-doors. The availability of this park land and green space ranked as the most valued amenity in the recent Parks, Trails, and Recreation Survey. In addition, the types of recreation available run the gamut from active sports such as pickleball, basketball, and soccer to more passive pursuits such as hiking in woods or prairies and fishing or boating in one of several lakes.

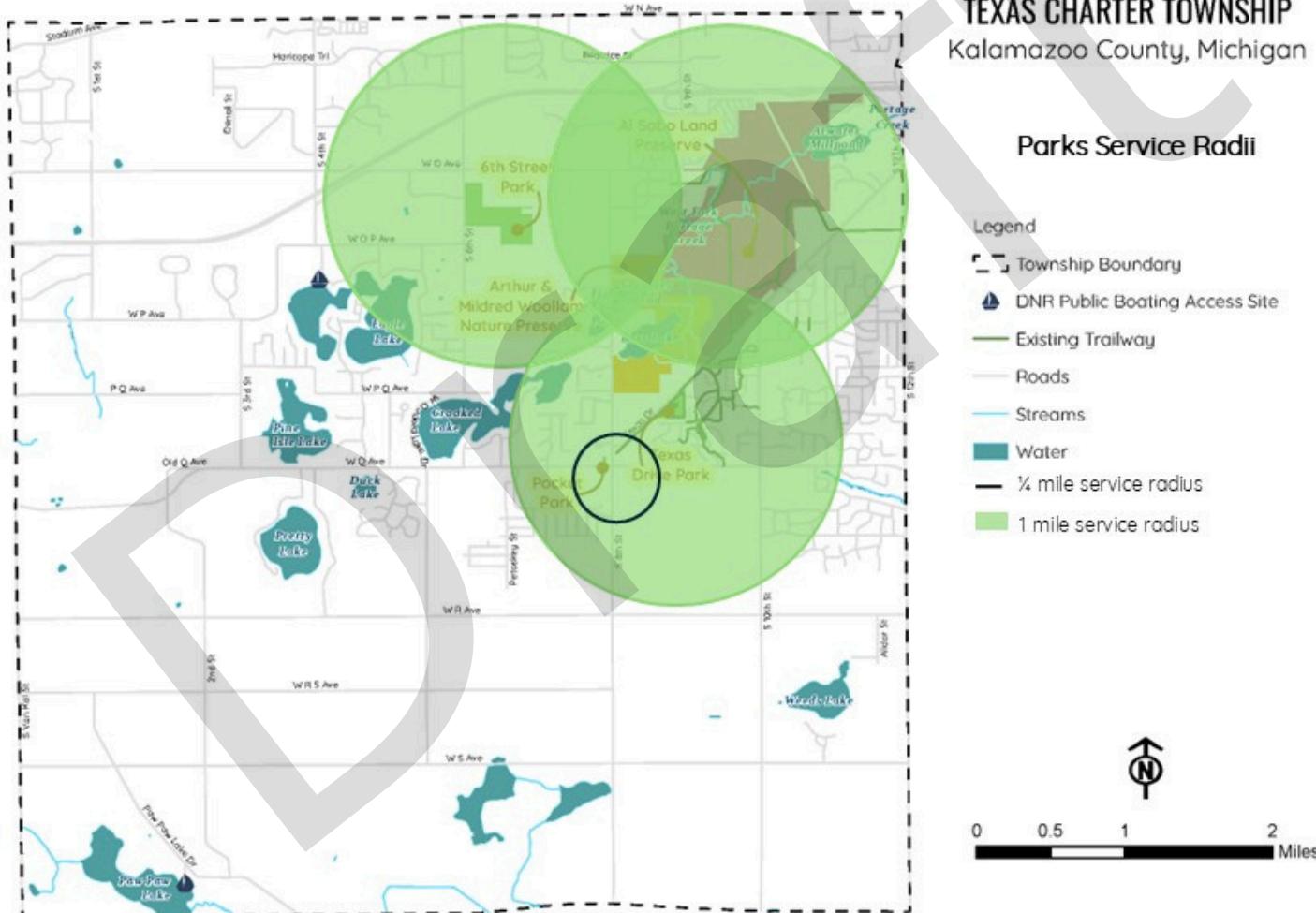
Map 2: Public Owned Parks and Trails



The National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines provides definitions for park classifications. As each community is unique in terms of geographical, cultural, and socioeconomic make-up, the NRPA definitions may be used as a guide and each community may develop its own standards.

Parks owned by Texas Township include two (2) community parks, nearly four (4) miles of multi-use trail, and one (1) mini-park. Kalamazoo County recently acquired a regional park within the Township, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) operates two (2) special use areas with lake access in the Township. In addition, the City of Kalamazoo manages a popular natural resource area dedicated to wellhead protection that is open for passive recreation. These resources are described in more detail below. The park and recreation inventory also includes a list of nearby public parks and recreation facilities in surrounding jurisdictions as well as private recreation facilities located within the Township.

Map 3: Parks Service Radii



According to the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines:

- A Community Park typically serves an area within a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to over 3 mile radius.
- A Mini typically serves an area within a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile radius.

Texas Township-Owned Parks and Trails

Texas Drive Park

For many years, Texas Drive Park was the Township's only public park. Because of this long history, and because of its central location and the range of popular amenities offered, the park is a favorite of many and the most used. It serves a broad population that includes and extends beyond the entire 36-square-mile community. Triangular in shape, it encompasses 16.3 acres on the south side of Texas Drive between 8th and 10th Streets. A large, single-family neighborhood abuts the park on two (2) sides, allowing many visitors to walk to the park.

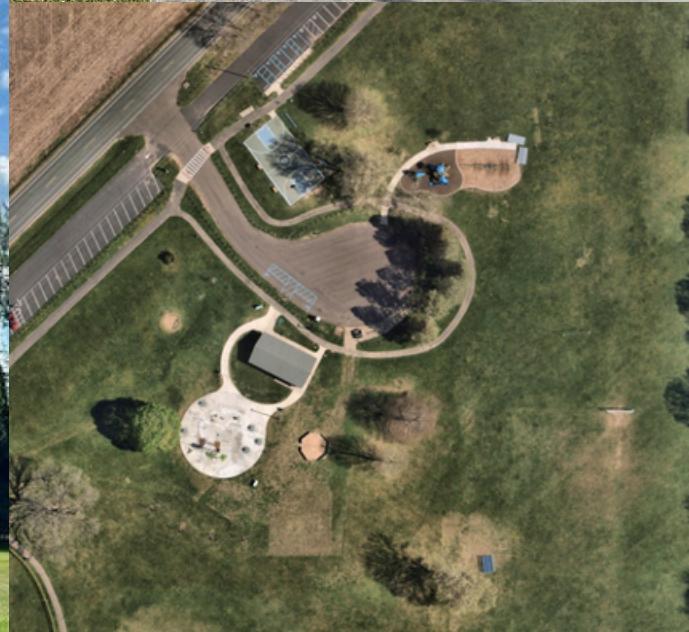
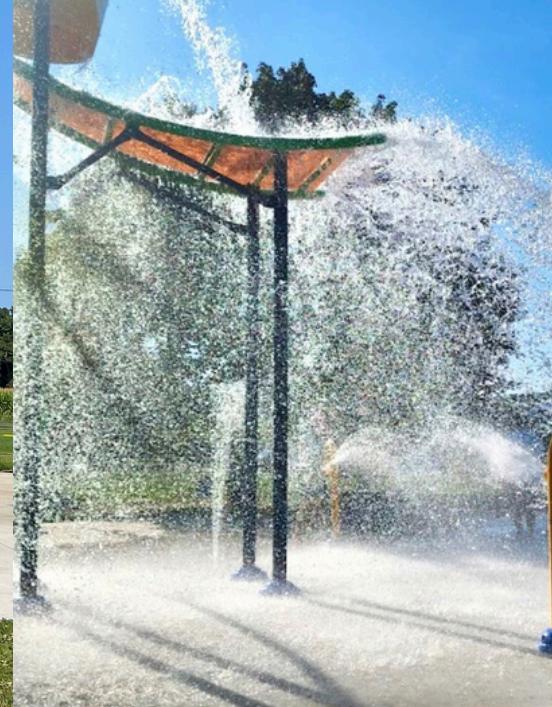
Recent focus has been on repairing or replacing older facilities and adding new amenities including the Maple Hill Splash Pad, a 2,000 sq. ft. immersive, zero-depth aquatic play area, that opened in August 2023. It features 17 interactive water and spray features with specific elements for children ages 2-5 and ages 6-12. It is accessible for children of all abilities. New accessible swings were also installed in 2023 and a new accessible playground was installed in 2021.

The park also includes picnic areas; a picnic pavilion with grill; basketball court; soccer, football, and baseball fields; gaga pit; sandbox; a $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile paved walking path that encircles the park; restroom facilities and drinking fountain; bicycle repair station and bike racks; and paved parking. 'A Day at the Park,' a mural created by artist Ellen VanderMyde, was painted on the exterior wall of the restroom building in 2024. The Park also serves as an ideal trailhead for cyclists and pedestrians using the Texas Trailway, which bisects the park and extends west to Texas Corners and east to the Township border with the City of Portage at the roundabout at 12th Street and West Milham Avenue.

Community parks are typically described as containing a wide variety of recreation facilities to meet the diverse needs of residents from several neighborhoods. Community parks may include areas suited for active recreation facilities, such as athletic complexes and swimming pools, and areas for more passive pursuits, such as nature areas and picnic pavilions.

Texas Township has two (2) community parks: Texas Drive Park and 6th Street Park.





The Park's paved loop trail is especially popular with individuals and groups that meet to walk together, including parents with strollers. It is cleared of snow in the winter and is busy year-round. Its six (6) foot width is too narrow to accommodate all users, and the trail surface is deteriorated in places. For these reasons, removal and replacement with an eight (8) foot wide trail is planned in the near term. The basketball court is also popular, as it is the only public basketball court in the Township. It is slated to be resurfaced and upgraded in 2026.

Texas Drive Park is home to the Township's 'Concerts in the Corners', a series of free family-friendly outdoor concerts held during the summer months. The park is also popular for private events and sports team practices. The picnic pavilion can be rented for events and family gatherings for a fee and is typically booked on summer weekends. The park's sports fields can be reserved for team practices for a fee; they are typically reserved for the season as soon as the reservation system opens in January. Township policy allows groups or teams that help maintain the sports fields to have first priority when making a reservation. Many teams have utilized this policy.



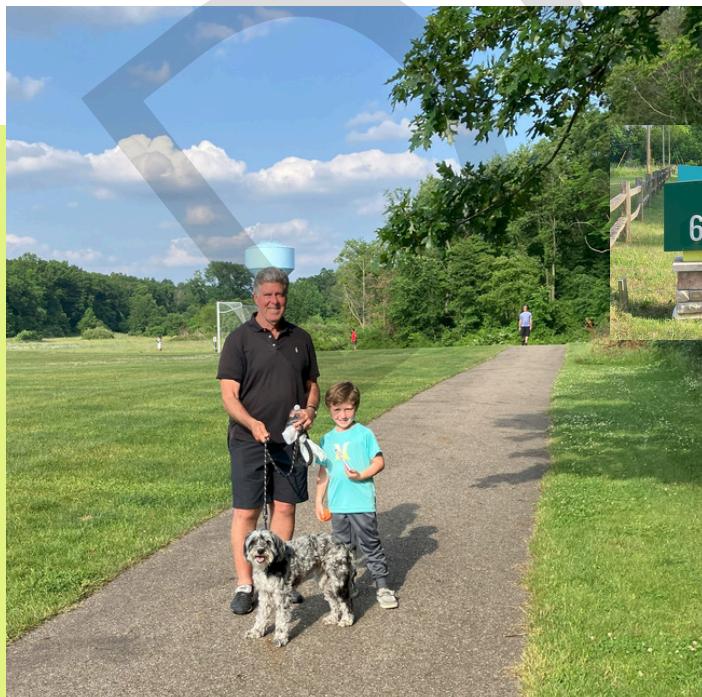
**CONCERT IN THE
CORNERS**
@ TEXAS DRIVE PARK

6th Street Park

6th Street Park is a 65-acre park located between West O and West OP Avenues. The Township's newest park, it opened in 2021 and continues to be developed. It features eight (8) pickleball courts; two (2) irrigated multi-purpose fields for soccer, rugby, football and lacrosse; a $\frac{3}{4}$ mile paved loop trail; and a paved parking lot. A picnic pavilion and a restroom building with a drinking fountain and security cameras were added in Fall 2024. In addition, there are approximately 35 acres of woodlands available for bird watching, nature study and exploring, though there are no trails established as of yet. Texas Township's Buildings and Grounds Department has a maintenance barn and shop at 6th Street Park.

An accessible play area and parking lot are proposed in the next phases of development. Longer term plans include facilities for basketball, sand volleyball, shuffleboard, bocce ball, a multi-age playground, and sledding. Walking trails and picnic areas are proposed in the wooded and naturalized areas.

The Park's pickleball courts are extremely popular, as they are the only public courts in the Township. Kalamazoo Pickleball Outreach, the local pickleball club, helped fund construction of the courts and has hosted tournaments in the Park. They also helped fund the court resurfacing project completed in the fall of 2025. Aside from tournaments, the pickleball courts are available on a first come, first serve basis. The sports fields can be reserved for games or team practices for a fee. Because they are irrigated and maintained to a higher level, the rental fee is higher than that at Texas Drive Park. The availability of these fields has taken some pressure off of the fields at Texas Drive Park. The picnic pavilion can also be rented for events and family gatherings for a fee.



Joyce I. Neubauer Farmers' Market/Mini Park

Mini-parks are specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as young children or senior citizens. The service area of a mini park is less than ¼ mile radius and the park size is typically one (1) acre or less. Texas Township currently operates one (1) park that fits this description.

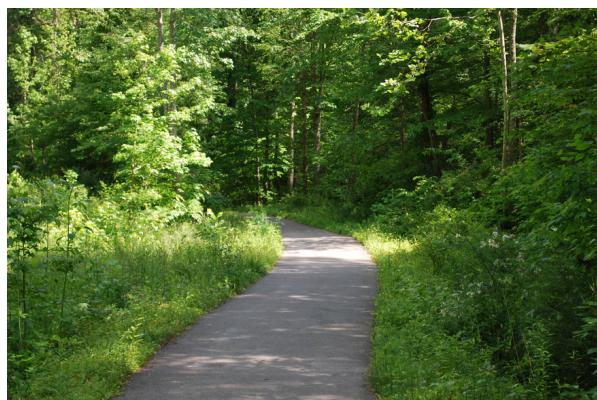


Joyce I. Neubauer Farmers' Market/Pocket Park is a 1.2-acre park in the heart of the Texas Corners downtown area. The Farmers' Market Pavilion was constructed in 2009 and has become an important gathering space for community interaction. It includes a large open-air covered structure that is used for vendors to display their goods, a restroom building with drinking fountain, benches, bike rack, and paved walks. The paved parking area is shared with the adjacent Fire Station, which was formerly the Township Hall. The Pavilion can be rented for special events and family gatherings for a fee. The Pocket Park consists of a small fenced play area. It was constructed as a safe place for children to play while families visit the Farmers' Market and it also provides recreation space in the Texas Corners area.

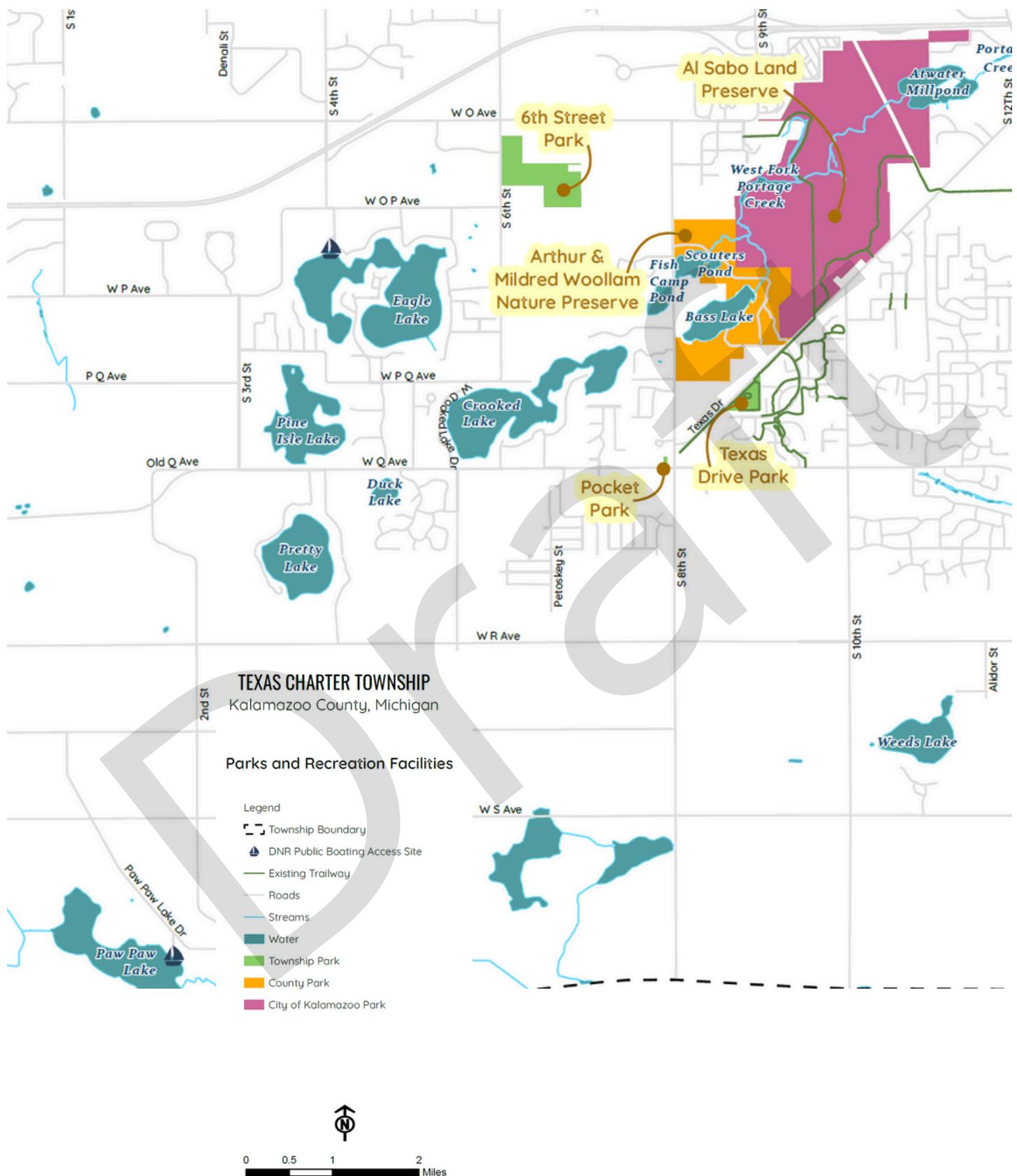


Texas Township Trailway

The Texas Township Trailway is a paved, non-motorized trail that spans approximately 3.75 miles. It was built in two (2) phases. Phase I is an eight (8) foot wide trail that starts at the Pocket Park in Texas Corners, bisects Texas Drive Park, passes the entrance to the Woollam Nature Preserve, and terminates at the Al Sabo Land Preserve parking lot. The total length is approximately 1.1 miles. It was resurfaced in 2024 and is in good condition. Phase II is a ten (10) foot wide trail that was constructed in 2016. It starts at the termination of the Phase I Trail, winds through the Al Sabo Land Preserve and follows a utility corridor to 12th Street. The Trail parallels 12th Street from the round-about at 12th Street, Texas Drive and West Milham Avenue to 12th Street Elementary School. Phase II is approximately 2.75 miles in length and has several benches along its route, as well as trash and recycling receptacles. A ten (10) foot wide side trail connects from the Phase II Trailway to the Rudgate Subdivision at Bentley Drive, encouraging access from the neighborhood. The Phase II Trailway was resealed in summer 2025.



Map 4: Township Park and Trailway Map



The Trailway also provides a safe non-motorized connection for residents in the surrounding neighborhoods to reach two (2) commercial areas: downtown Texas Corners and the shopping node at the 12th Street roundabout. Both of these areas offer a variety of shops, restaurants and services such as convenience stores, beauty salons, and pet care, allowing residents to reduce their dependence on automobiles. Because the trail connects to the City of Portage's trail system at West Milham Avenue, residents can also reach the growing regional non-motorized trail system, including the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.

Parking for trail access is available at the Pocket Park, Texas Drive Park, and Al Sabo Land Preserve. Access to restrooms and water are available during the warmer months at the Pocket Park and Texas Drive Park. A portable restroom is available at Texas Drive Park in the winter months, when the restroom facilities are closed. A bicycle repair station is also available at Texas Drive Park.

Expansion of the Trail system is currently under consideration. A Trailway Feasibility Study began in 2024, with extensive public engagement in 2025. A trail connection to 6th Street Park is being considered, as well as along West Q Avenue, 10th Street, and 12th Street.

Accessibility Scores

Like the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Texas Township has a strong focus on making the Township's parks, trails, and recreation amenities available for people of all abilities. Using the MDNR scoring matrix, the parks consultant evaluated each park.

Accessibility Score Rating developed the American Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

1

None of the facilities park areas meet ADA accessibility guidelines

2

Some of the facilities park areas meet ADA accessibility guidelines

3

Most of the facilities park areas meet ADA accessibility guidelines

4

The park areas meet ADA accessibility guidelines

5

The entire park was developed/ renovated using the principles of universal design



Texas Drive Park Accessibility Score: 3

Description of Facilities

Several new park amenities and upgrades in the past five (5) years have raised the Accessibility Score at Texas Drive Park from 2 to 3.

Following is a list of improvements related to accessibility:

1. Parking lots with 101 to 150 parking spaces require at least five (5) ADA spaces, at least one (1) of which must be van accessible. Texas Drive Park has approximately 120 parking spaces and eight (8) ADA parking spaces, four (4) of which meet the dimensional requirements to be van accessible.
2. Barrier free paths have been added from each ADA parking area to the loop trail and many park facilities, including the splash pad, picnic pavilion, restrooms, message board and rules sign, play area, swings, and one side of the basketball court. Facilities that still lack ADA access are the sand box, gaga pit, soccer field, football field, baseball field, and the bleachers for each of those sports.
3. The new play area, swings and splash pad were designed and constructed to meet ADA requirements. Benches and picnic tables associated with these improvements are also accessible. In addition, all of the picnic tables in the pavilion are accessible.
4. One unisex restroom is signed as accessible.

Texas Drive Park Recommended Improvements



The accessible parking spaces are striped in blue and painted with the International Symbol of Accessibility. However, none of the parking spaces are identified by the required sign with the international symbol of accessibility.

Eight (8) total signs are needed, four (4) for car accessible spaces and four (4) signs for van accessible spaces. The van accessible parking spaces should have an ADA sign stating that the parking space is van accessible. Both types of signs should be mounted so the bottom of the sign is at least 60 inches from the ground.



Add a beveled threshold to the ADA restroom so that it meets barrier-free entry requirements. The existing threshold is approximately 1 inch vertical height. It should be reduced to no more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch vertical height.

Place an accessible portable toilet at the Park during winter months when the restrooms are closed, rather than a non-accessible portable toilet.



Replace the existing drinking fountain on the restroom building with an accessible drinking fountain. This is planned in 2025.

The sign on the ADA restroom is correctly placed on the latch side of the door, the text characters contrast with the background and are raised, and there is Braille. However, the sign is mounted too high on the wall. The baseline of the highest character should be no more than 60 inches above the floor. It is currently placed at 63 inches above the floor. The sign should be lowered by approximately 3 inches.

Provide barrier-free access to the gaga pit, sandbox, sports fields, and bleachers. Barrier-free access is also needed to the second side of the basketball court.



Joyce I. Neubauer Farmer's Market Pavilion/Pocket Park Accessibility Score: 4

Description of Facilities:

The site was designed to meet accessibility guidelines. All areas of the site are accessible, including the play area, pavilion, restrooms, and drinking fountain. The paved parking lot, which is shared by the park and adjacent Fire Station, has 55 parking spaces and six (6) accessible spaces, which exceeds the required minimum. However, none of the accessible spaces are signed for van accessibility.

Recommended Improvements



The playground safety surface is engineered wood fiber. It should be inspected periodically and added to as needed to meet accessibility guidelines.

None of the picnic tables in the pavilion are accessible. At least one (1) accessible picnic table should be added.

Two (2) accessible parking spaces closest to the pavilion meet the dimensional requirements for van accessibility. The existing signs should be replaced with signs that state they are van accessible.



6th Street Park Accessibility Score: 4

Description of Facilities:

The site was designed to meet accessibility guidelines. All areas of the site are accessible, including the pickleball courts, sports fields, paved loop trail, picnic pavilion, grill, restrooms, and drinking fountain.

Recommended Improvements

No recommended improvements



Texas Township Trailway Accessibility Score: 4

Description of Facilities:

The trail was designed to meet accessibility guidelines. All areas of the trail are accessible.

Recommended Improvements

Additional benches might improve accessibility for some visitors, though there is no ADA requirement for number or spacing of benches.



Public Parks within Texas Township owned by other entities

Woollam Nature Preserve

Regional Parks are typically located on sites with unique natural features that are particularly suited for outdoor recreation, such as viewing and studying nature, wildlife habitats, conservation, swimming, picnicking, hiking, fishing, boating, camping, and trail use. Until recently, there was no regional park within the Township. In 2024, Kalamazoo County opened the Arthur E. and Mildred H. Woollam Nature Preserve on the site of the former Rota-Kiwan Scout Camp. The 212-acre property is under a conservation easement, with Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy as the qualified holder of the easement. Priorities for park development are to preserve the natural beauty of the site while increasing public access and enhancing the trail system with access to picnic shelters, scenic overlooks, and environmental features.

A key feature of the Woollam Nature Preserve is access to 46-acre Bass Lake and 23-acre Scouters Pond. The park also features six (6) miles of premier hiking trails, shoreline fishing, kayak rentals, picnic shelters, and restrooms. Future improvements include a nature-themed playground, nature center, indoor meeting and event space, youth rental cabins and camping, and fishing docks. The park is open daily from 7 am to dusk. As with all Kalamazoo County Parks, an admission fee is charged. Daily entrance per car is \$5. An annual pass is \$30 or \$25 for seniors aged 62 and older. Bike/Walk-In/Bus fee is \$2 per person.

Because the park opened with limited hours late in 2024, its impact on the recreation needs of Township residents has not been established. However, access to the lakes for shoreline fishing and kayaking will likely be popular, as there are no other lakes with public access in the Township that can be used without a boat. The hiking trails are also expected to be popular, as walking/hiking trails ranked as the highest priority for new or enhanced park features in the Recreation Plan Survey. Use of Woollam Nature Preserve may be reduced somewhat by the required entry fee, since the other public parks in the Township have free admission.



Public Boat/Water Access

Eagle Lake Public Access is on a popular 224-acre lake that is stocked with fish. The MDNR owns and maintains a 9.2-acre public access site with a gravel-surfaced boat ramp, suitable for medium-sized and smaller boats only, and a parking lot with 30 spaces.

Paw Paw Lake Boating Access, situated in the southwestern corner of the Township, is on a 162-acre lake. The MDNR owns and maintains a 1.7-acre public access site with a hard-surfaced boat ramp, nine (9) parking spaces, and a public toilet.

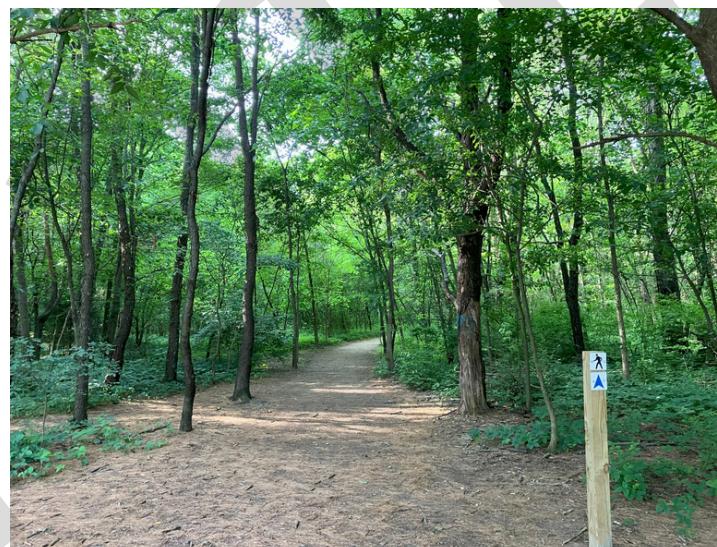
Crooked Lake MDNR Property is a 1.8-acre site along the north side of Crooked Lake. Crooked Lake is a 150-acre water body located near the center of the Township. The partially wooded property is undeveloped and it appears access is only provided via a secluded easement that is owned by an adjacent property owner. This land might be considered Special Use as it is publicly owned, but access is limited and there is no identifying signage. Also, it contains no facilities. Therefore, it is not included in any analysis.



Al Sabo Land Preserve

Natural resource areas are lands set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, landscapes, and open space. Sometimes unsuitable for development, these sites can offer recreational activities at a level designed to preserve the integrity of the natural resource. Al Sabo Land Preserve encompasses 741 acres of woods, wetlands, and meadows on the north side of Texas Drive. Owned by the City of Kalamazoo, the site was established in the early 1970s to protect the groundwater supply of the Atwater wellfield for the City's municipal water system.

The Preserve doubles as a recreation resource, attracting hikers and cyclists from throughout the region who come to walk, run, or bicycle on approximately 25 miles of hiking trails, seven (7) miles of mountain bike trails, and 1.75 miles of the paved Texas Trailway. Texas Township has an easement for the construction and maintenance of the paved trail through the Preserve; all other maintenance is performed by the City of Kalamazoo. Because recreation is not the primary intent of the site, minimal resources are allocated toward maintenance and improvements to the site.



Improvements that would benefit visitors to the Preserve include the following:

- The City of Kalamazoo partners with organizations such as the Southwest Michigan Mountain Bike Association (SWMMBA) and the Scouts of America to help maintain the trails. However, site and trail maps are dated and minimal, thus they may be difficult for the average hiker or mountain biker to follow. A new trail map would encourage residents to better utilize the resource area.
- There is a 25-space paved parking lot for the Preserve, but no accessible parking spaces. At least one (1) accessible space should be added to the parking lot.
- The bollard and cable barrier around the parking lot to prevent cars from parking in the woods is rusted and falling over, creating an atmosphere of a lack of care. It should be repaired and repainted, or replaced.



Al Sabo features around 5 miles of bike-legal singletrack mountain bike trails and has approximately 100 feet of elevation change per loop. This is a popular spot with hikers, runners, and dog walkers, and the trail crosses a paved multi-use path in many locations.

Since many Texas Township residents rely on the Preserve as a recreation resource, and because the parking lot serves as a trailhead for the Texas Trailway, it may be worth considering partnering with the City of Kalamazoo on improvements to the parking lot and trails.

Table 6: Publicly Owned Recreation Facilities within Texas Township lists the amenities, quantity of amenities, and location in the Township.

Table 4: Publicly Owned Recreation Facilities within Texas Township

Amenity	Quantity	Location
Soccer Field	1	Texas Drive Park
Football Field	1	Texas Drive Park
Multi-purpose Field (Soccer, Rugby, Football, Lacrosse)	2	6th Street Park
Basketball Court	1	Texas Drive Park
Baseball/Softball Field	1	Texas Drive Park
Pickleball Courts	8	6th Street Park
Paved Loop Trails	2	6th Street Park, Texas Drive Park
Splash Pad	1	Texas Drive Park
Boat Launch	2	Paw Paw Lake, Eagle Lake
Pavilions	4	Texas Drive Park, 6th Street Park, Farmers' Market Pavilion, Woollam Nature Preserve
Picnic area	3	Texas Drive Park, Farmers' Market Pavilion, Woollam Nature Preserve
Play area	2	Texas Drive Park, Pocket Park
Paved trails	3.75 mi.	Texas Trailway
Hiking trails	31 mi.	Al Sabo Land Preserve, Woollam Nature Preserve
Mountain bike trails	7 mi.	Al Sabo Land Preserve
Kayaking and kayak rental	1	Woollam Nature Preserve
Shoreline Fishing	1	Woollam Nature Preserve

Semi-Public/Private Facilities within Texas Township

While the following facilities are not open to the general public, they may help fulfill recreation needs for some segments of the population.

Pretty Lake Camp, Adventure Center and Farm is a privately-owned 250-acre facility located on Pretty Lake. Recreation activities include ropes courses, climbing towers, kayaking, fishing, swimming, hiking, archery, and group games. A cost-free summer camp experience is offered to youth from Kalamazoo County. The Adventure Center hosts meetings, retreats, and conferences to help fund the summer camp program.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College is Kalamazoo County's community college. Recreational facilities are primarily intended for students and public access is limited. Therefore, these facilities are classified as semi-public. Outdoor recreation facilities include six (6) tennis courts, an outdoor track, two (2) baseball fields, a soccer field, and walking trails.

Wings West is a privately owned indoor recreation facility with two (2) National Hockey League (NHL)-sized ice rinks, meeting spaces, a restaurant, and a personal training facility. It offers camps and clinics for youth.

Branch Gymnastics is a privately owned indoor recreation facility that offers gymnastics, dance, and cheerleading programs for children.

Bronson Athletic Club is an indoor fitness facility with a basketball court, racquetball courts, fitness floor and weight machines, and aquatic center. It offers group exercise classes, personal training, and swim lessons.

Private Lakes

There are several lakes within Texas Township not previously mentioned: Weeds Lake, Pine Island Lake, Duck Lake, Crooked Lake, and Mud Lake. Only private access is offered on these lakes.

Private Neighborhood Parks and Open Spaces

Several neighborhoods within Texas Township include private parks, open spaces or conservation areas intended only for residents of the particular development. Sometimes, these areas are drainage facilities, woodlands, or preserved open space and no park amenities are provided. In other instances, recreation facilities such as swimming pools and play areas are provided. Several residential communities in the Township offer recreational amenities.

The Barrington Shores subdivision includes a seven (7) acre private park intended only for residents. It includes a sledding hill, swimming pool with adjacent pool house, basketball court, tennis court, and a small playground. A trail is also provided in a separate natural feature preservation area. Additionally, the Applegate Farms subdivision has 25 acres of undeveloped land, a swimming pool, and a trail for its residents. Other common areas may also exist in residential developments throughout the Township.

Public Parks in close proximity to Texas Township

In addition to the parks and trails located within Texas Township, there are ample opportunities for outdoor recreation in the surrounding area. Several of the parks closest to Texas Township residents are described below.

State-owned Parks & Trails

Kal-Haven Trail State Park is a 34-mile crushed limestone trail on a former railroad bed that connects South Haven and Kalamazoo. Walking, bicycling and cross-country skiing are permitted. Some areas adjacent to the trail are also available for equestrian use. The trail meanders through wooded areas, past farmlands, and over rivers and streams. The closest access to the Trail from Texas Township is at the 10th Street trailhead, which is located six (6) miles north.

Gourdneck State Game Area comprises approximately 2,293 acres of natural area intended for hiking, hunting, trapping, bird watching, nature interpretation, and wildlife viewing. Goals for the site are to restore the historic prairie and savanna complex once associated with Prairie Ronde and to provide grassland and savanna habitat. The State Game Area is located in the City of Portage in four separate segments. Portions of the State Game Area are adjacent to Texas Charter Township and others are about two (2) miles away.

Wolf Lake Fish Hatchery is located eight (8) miles northwest of the Township. It has a nature trail system, visitor center with programs, a renovated exhibit hall, and a show pond and observation platform for viewing an assortment of fish. The exhibit hall provides opportunities to learn about a variety of fish species, their life cycles and habitat, and how the MDNR works to protect and conserve Michigan's lakes, rivers, and streams. This facility produces a wide range of fish species for inland and Great Lakes waters, utilizing both indoor and outdoor rearing facilities. Programs include a summer fishing program for kids, outdoor skills classes, and K-12 school programs.

Van Buren State Park offers approximately 400 acres of land along the Lake Michigan shoreline in northern Van Buren County. Highlights of the park are its dune formations and mile-long sandy beach. The day use area has a picnic area, picnic shelter, and restrooms. The Park also provides 220 modern campsites and two group use areas.

County-owned Parks & Trails

Kalamazoo County operates several parks and trails. They include:

Woollam Nature Preserve

Prairie View County Park

Kalamazoo River Valley Trail

Cold Brook County Park

Kalamazoo County Expo Center and Fairgrounds

Markin Glen County Park

River Oaks County Park

Scotts Mill County Park

As previously described, Woollam Nature Preserve is located in Texas Township. Of the others, Prairie View County Park is the next closest at approximately four (4) miles away. Prairie View Park encompasses 210 acres and offers swimming, picnic shelters, playgrounds, softball, volleyball, soccer, a hiking trail, and sledding.

Kalamazoo County operates the Kalamazoo River Valley Trail, a paved trail that generally follows the course of the Kalamazoo River and will eventually include 35 miles within Kalamazoo County. It is planned to connect Battle Creek's 30-mile linear park to the east and the 35-mile Kal-Haven Trail State Park to the west with the 40-mile Portage Creek Bicentennial Trail to the south, creating a total trail network of approximately 130 miles. The Kalamazoo River Valley Trail connects to the Kal-Haven Trail at the 10th Street trailhead, which is located six miles north of the Texas Township border.



Stretching 33.5 miles between Kalamazoo and South Haven in southwest Michigan, Kal-Haven Trail State Park rests on an abandoned railroad bed constructed in 1871. The converted rail-trail winds through gorgeous scenery, including wooded areas, farmlands, streams and rivers.

Locally owned public parks & trails

Oshtemo Township, to the north of Texas Township, maintains two (2) parks and one (1) trail. Flesher Field is located a mile north of Texas Township on South 9th Street. It is a 24-acre community park with a multipurpose field for soccer or football, two wiffle ball fields, a play area, a paved loop trail, unpaved hiking trails, a pavilion, and restrooms. The other park is Oshtemo Township Park, located further north on West Main Street.

Flesher Field also serves as the trailhead for the Fruit Belt Rail Trail, a new two (2) mile long trail on a former railroad line that crosses 6th Street then terminates at the border of Texas Township. Though the trail surface is currently a mowed path or a worn dirt footpath, construction of a crushed stone trail surface is planned in 2025. The Texas Township Non-Motorized Plan proposes a continuation of the Fruit Belt Rail Trail through the Township and on to Mattawan. The MDNR's Van Buren Trail is located on the same railroad line. If a continuous trail is eventually developed in the railroad corridor, it would link to the Kal-Haven Trail in both Kalamazoo and South Haven.

The City of Portage, to the east of Texas Township, maintains 19 parks and an extensive non-motorized trail and bikeway system. The parks and trails closest to Texas Township include the following:

Westfield Park, located near Milham Avenue and 12th Street, is 12 acres in size and offers basketball, tennis, soccer, sand volleyball, baseball/softball, picnic facilities, a play area, and restrooms.

Harbors West Park, near Angling Road and Milham Avenue, is six (6) acres in size and includes basketball, sand volleyball, roller hockey, a play area, picnic shelter, walking track, nature trails, and restrooms.

Oakland Drive Park, located near Oakland Drive and Schuring Road, is 19 acres in size and offers picnic facilities, basketball, tennis, pickleball, soccer, volleyball, softball, walking trails, a play area, and restrooms.

The **Portage Bikeway** has more than 23 miles of off-road trails and 41 miles of bicycle lanes. A connection to the Portage Bikeway is available from the Texas Trailway on 12th Street, which is the border between Portage and Texas Township. It links to the Northwest Portage Bikeway, which connects to the Celery Flats Historical Area and Portage Creek Bicentennial Trail.

K-12 School Facilities

Public school facilities, including playgrounds, sports fields, and courts, can add tremendous recreational value to a community. Although there are no public or private school buildings or sports facilities in the Township, there is one public elementary school located across the Township's east border in the City of Portage. 12th Street Elementary School, a Portage Public School, is on 55 acres and has two (2) play areas, one (1) soccer field, and 16 baseball/softball fields.



12th Street Elementary School (City of Portage, Portage Schools)

Map of all facilities listed

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects

Texas Township received two (2) recreation grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. One grant was awarded in 2010 and the other in 2011. Both projects were successfully completed and remain in good standing. They are open to the public, all grant-funded facilities are present, and no conversions of use exist at the site.

Table 5: Grants

Grant Number	Project Name	Amount	Governing Act
10-025	Farmer's Market Trailhead/Mini-Park	\$287,800 Development	PA 16 of 2011
11-047	Texas Drive Non-Motorized Trail Extension	\$300,000 Development	PA 283 of 2012



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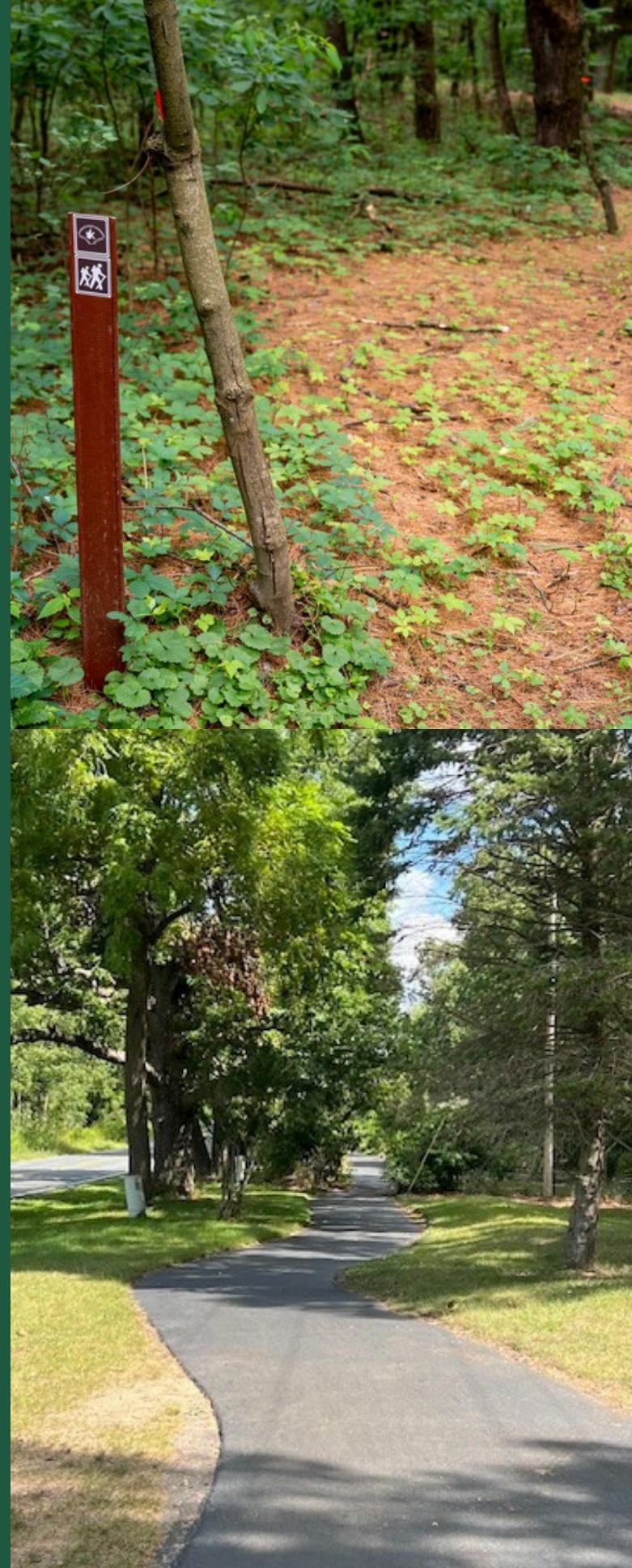
Public Input

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Existing and Proposed Non-Motorized Infrastructure

Non-motorized facilities are a vital part of the Township's transportation and recreation infrastructure. Active transportation modes—such as walking and biking—not only enhance the efficiency and safety of individual movement but also improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity. These facilities contribute significantly to community health, safety perception, and overall connectivity.

System Connectivity

Connectivity is a critical component of accessibility. Linking parks, open spaces, neighborhoods, and surrounding communities, not only improves mobility but also creates opportunities for vibrant green corridors. These connectors can serve as public green spaces in their own right—providing shade, stormwater benefits, and safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

Trails are a key feature of this system, typically found in parks and open space areas and designed to accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists. In Texas Township, soft-surface trails offer a more rugged hiking experience, often winding around natural features. These low-impact paths allow residents to enjoy and access the Township's natural areas, such as Al Sabo and Woollam preserves.



Pedestrian Infrastructure

The majority of pedestrian infrastructure in Texas Charter Township is concentrated along Q Avenue near Texas Corners, as well as in residential developments along Texas Drive and parts of the Texas Heights neighborhood. A sidewalk network also exists along 9th Street, providing a connection between Kalamazoo Valley Community College and adjacent commercial and industrial areas to the north.

Many of the sidewalks along major roads—especially in the Texas Corners area—feature protected pedestrian crosswalks, enhancing safety and accessibility for residents and visitors. As new development occurs, the Township's Zoning Ordinance mandates the installation of sidewalks and trails, ensuring continued expansion of the non-motorized network.

Trailway Network

Trails, or linear parks, are shared-use paths that emphasize both recreational use and safe, non-motorized transportation throughout the community. These trails serve to connect residents to parks, schools, commercial areas, and natural features, balancing access and mobility.

Texas Township Trailway

The purpose of the Texas Township Trailway is to connect area residents to community assets, including parks, natural areas, local businesses, schools, and neighborhoods. It is also intended to provide safe non-motorized connections from the Texas Corners DDA to Portage, Oshtemo, and Mattawan, thus connecting the Township to regional trail systems, including the Kal-Haven Trail and Kalamazoo River Valley Trail.



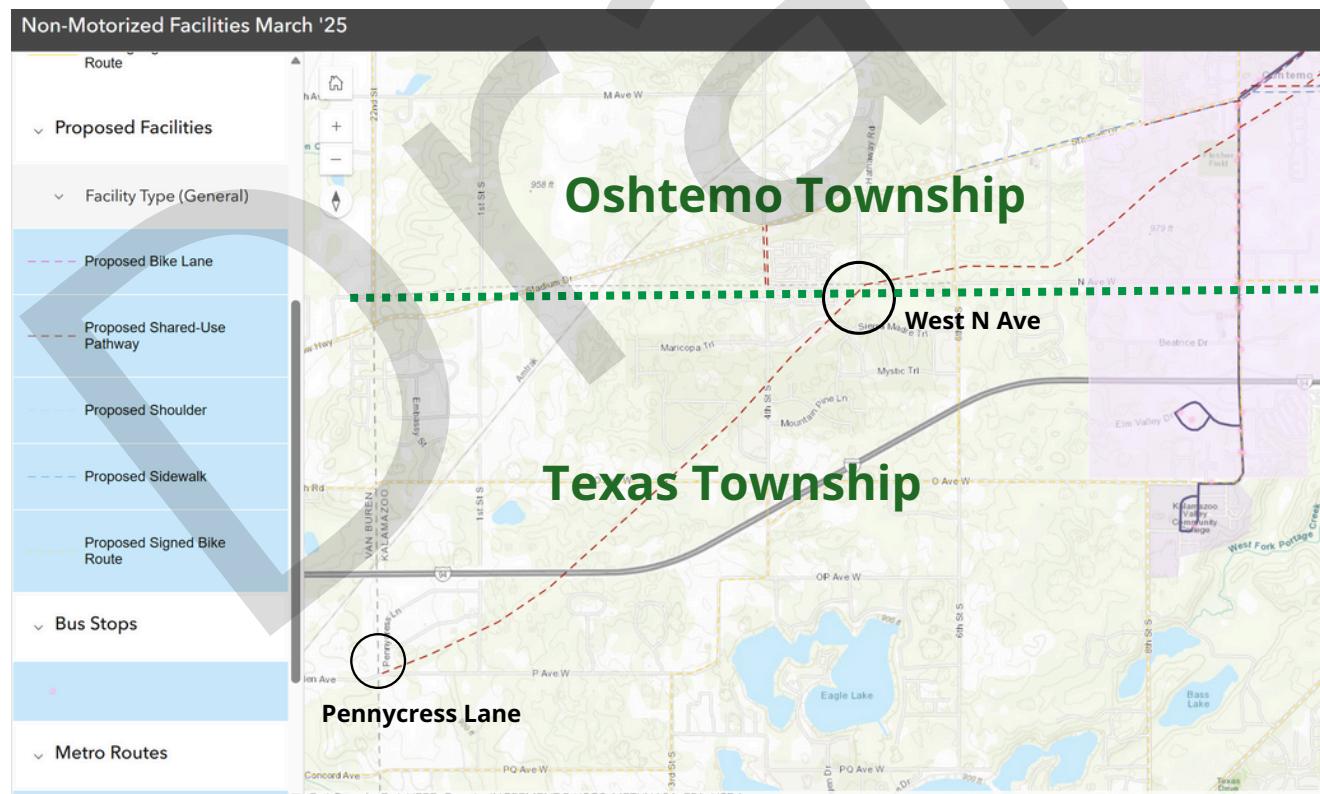
The Trailway currently connects Texas Corners DDA, centered at the intersection of 8th Street and Q Avenue, to the roundabout at 12th Street and Milham Avenue, a local commercial node at the Township's border with the City of Portage. It passes through Texas Drive Park, one of two Township-owned community parks, and Al Sabo Land Preserve, a 741-acre preserve owned and maintained by the City of Kalamazoo. The trail also connects to Portage Public Schools' 12th Street Elementary School and will provide access to Woollam Preserve, a Kalamazoo County park. Approximately four (4) miles long, the eight (8) to ten (10) foot wide paved trail is intended primarily for walking and cycling. The existing trailway was funded through a variety of sources, including grant monies from MDOT and MDNR, Texas Township General Funds, donations from the Friends of Texas Township Parks and Trails, and the Laugh Out Loud 5K Run. Constructed in two phases, the most recent phase was completed in 2016.

Trailway Expansions

The Township has developed a conceptual trailway network that aims to improve connectivity and expand access throughout the Township and to neighboring jurisdictions. Key priorities include:

- A proposed corridor parallel to Van Kal Street on the western side of the Township, creating a north-south connection to surrounding communities; and
- A diagonal trail route from N Avenue to the intersection of P Avenue and Pennycress Lane, an extension of the Fruit Belt Rail Trail, improving access across the northeast-southwest axis.

Map 7: Extension of the Fruit Belt Trail



Source: Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS), Non-Motorized Facilities March 2025

The proposed trailways throughout Texas Charter Township aim to establish a comprehensive, non-motorized network that links key destinations and amenities. These include:

- Texas Corners commercial district
- Township parks
- The Al Sabo Land Preserve and Woollam Native Preserve
- Neighborhoods and residential developments
- Trail systems in adjacent municipalities

Together, these connections are intended to expand recreation opportunities, promote safe and active transportation, and foster a more accessible and integrated community.

Private Trailways

In addition to the Township-owned trail system, several residential developments feature privately owned trailways within neighborhood boundaries. These trails are primarily designed to enhance inter-neighborhood connectivity, allowing residents to move between adjacent subdivisions without relying on main roads. Most of these private trailways are located along Texas Drive, where development density supports such internal networks.

Paved Widened Shoulder Network

Texas Charter Township currently maintains paved widened shoulders along:

- 10th Street, between Q Avenue and Texas Drive
- 8th Street, between Q Avenue and R Avenue

These shoulders support bike commuting, recreational cycling, and enhanced pedestrian safety.

To improve non-motorized access and establish a well-connected trailway system that supports both recreation and sustainable transportation, in early 2025 Texas Township hired Williams & Works to assist the Township in conducted a Trailway Feasibility Study. The study was started in early 2025 and aims to identify and prioritize an expansion of the non-motorized trail system.

The feasibility study focused on four (4) preliminary areas:

- Texas Corners Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and 6th Street Park, 6321 S. 6th Street.
- Texas Corners Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to 12th Street via West Q Avenue
- 10th Street from Texas Drive to Q Avenue 4) 10th Street from Q Avenue to Swallow Ave
- 12th Street from Queen Victoria Lane to Q Avenue,

The study evaluated potential trail routes and assessed the feasibility of each route based on the following: safety, comfort, ease of access; number and type of destinations along the route, including neighborhoods; connection to existing/proposed trailways and destinations; availability of right of way, utility, and/or other easements; engineering challenges; geography, natural features, and physical constraints that would impact trail construction; public input; financial analysis. Community support and feedback is a major factor in determining preferred routes; therefore, public input has been a key component of the planning process. A formal recommendation of preferred route(s) will be included in this Parks and Trails Master Plan as an amendment to the plan.

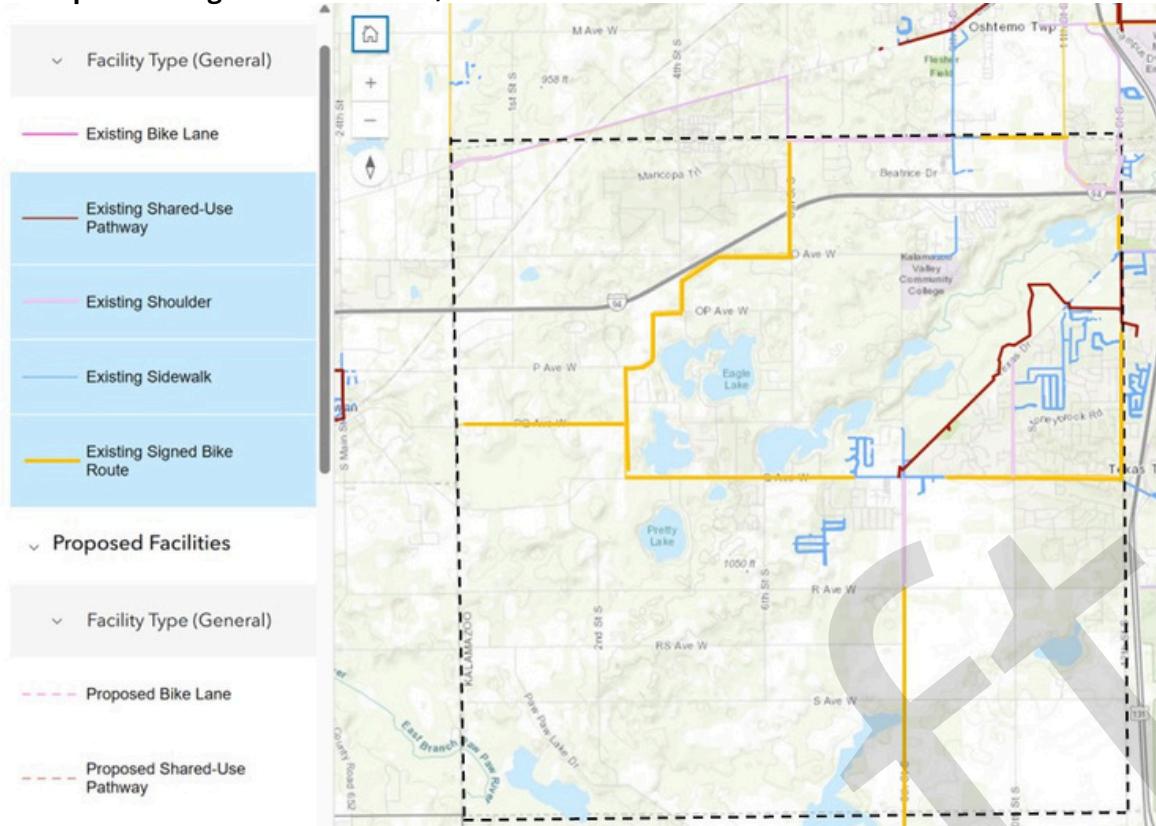
The Trailway Feasibility Study evaluated potential routes.

- Q Avenue (entire length within the Township)
- 8th Street, from Q Avenue to O Avenue
- 6th Street, from N Avenue to P Avenue
- N Avenue, from 11th Street to 6th Street

Regional Connectivity

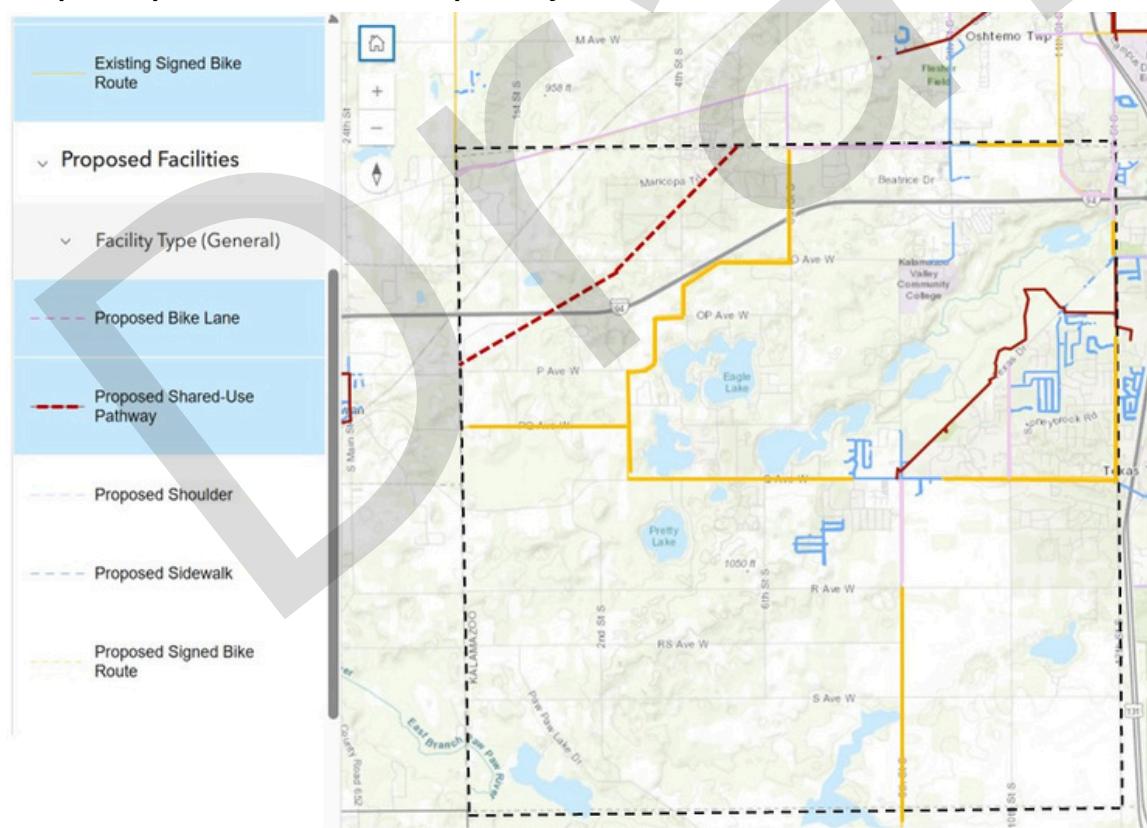
Several of the planned regional routes will run through Texas Charter Township, primarily along major transportation corridors, enhancing regional connectivity and supporting active transportation across municipal boundaries. The City of Portage has included the “Northwest Bikeway Trail Extension” in their Capital Improvement Program project list. This extension includes the development of an overpass bridge crossing US-131 and connecting the existing trail here in Texas Township at 12th Street to the Northwest Bike Trail at McGillicuddy Lane in Portage.

Map 8: Existing Trails and Paved, Widened Shoulder Network



Source: Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS), Non-Motorized Facilities March 2025

Map 9: Proposed Shared Use Trail (pathway)



Source: Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS), Non-Motorized Facilities March 2025

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Public Input

Research shows that participation in recreational activities is influenced by factors such as age, gender, family/marital status, socioeconomic position, and health-related limitations. Structural environment -such as access to facilities- may influence which activities an individual engages in. Public involvement is one of the primary components of any planning effort, including this Parks and Trails Master Plan. To gauge Township residents' opinion of Township parks and trails, the Township made a concerted effort to achieve a high level of public involvement whereby multiple methods were employed to gain the input of Texas Township's citizens including an online survey, a community workshop, public hearing, and open public comment period.

Survey

In summer 2024, a survey was conducted over a period of eight weeks and had 999 surveys completed (compared to 582 survey responses in 2019). A postcard with a QR code and website address for the survey was mailed to every Texas Township resident (and business) inviting their participation in the survey. Three hundred seventy-seven (377) surveys were accessed from the Township website and 621 surveys were accessed from email, social media (facebook) or QR code (from the postcard). This is a 5.5% response rate- based on a 2025 estimated population of 18,000.



Survey results help the Township better understand the community's opinion of the current parks, trails, and recreation trends and preferences but also the community's desire for future facilities and improvements.

The survey consisted of 5 demographic questions followed by 13 survey questions specific to parks, trails, for open comments. The survey was anonymous and allowed respondents to skip questions that did were not applicable. On average the survey was completed in six (6) minutes. (Survey and survey summary are in Appendix A)

Survey Highlights

Most Valued Amenity:
Availability of Park Land and Greenspace



5.5%

Response rate based on population



999

Respondents completed the Survey



75%

Respondents live in a 2-4 person household



6 mins.

Average time to complete the Survey



62%

of respondents agreed that members of my household use the parks and recreation amenities on a regular basis, and I believe that these services are important to quality of life.

Parks Rating

Respondents rated the condition of our parks, trail, and recreation facilities as..



8 out of 10

Recreation/Leisure Activities

87%



Respondents use the parks for Exercise and Casual Fitness

Desired Amenities @ 6th Street Park



obstacle course



outdoor fitness equipment



Survey Highlights

Most commonly used park on a daily basis

Texas Township Paved Trailway and Texas Drive Park



Top priorities for new or enhanced park features in the Township

hiking/walking/biking trails
restrooms
sledding hill
shade/seating at Splash Pad

Most requested park improvements



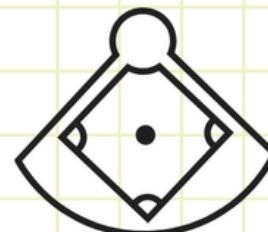
available seating amenities



restroom facilities



athletic fields



Dot Voting

On June 26, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. residents and general public participated in dot voting, also known as "sticker voting," "dotmocracy," or "multi-voting." This is a simple and effective group decision-making and prioritization technique where each participant is given five (5)"dots" (small adhesive stickers) to place on the goals or objectives they believe are most important, valuable, or feasible.

Dot voting is a powerful tool as it quickly reveals which ideas, tasks, or options the group collectively values most and you can see at a glance where the majority's preferences lie. The results of the dot voting will help the Parks and Trails Committee prioritize the implementation plan. Dot voting results are in Appendix A. The top five (5) results were:

1

When warranted require developers to provide walking and biking trails and neighborhood parks



2

Promote and maintain strong working relationships with Kalamazoo County, City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, neighboring Townships, local school districts and KVCC to enhance recreation opportunities available to area residents



3

Connect non-motorized trails and bikeway connections to natural areas (Al Sabo Land Preserve and Woollam Nature Preserve)



4

Pursue other sources of funding such as a park/trail millage, bonds, loans, gifts, and endowments



5

Add 6th Street Park amenities.



30-Day Public Review Period

The draft Parks and Trails Master Plan was made available for public review for a period of 30 days prior to the public hearing. To ensure that the plan was easily accessible to residents, the draft plan was made available in multiple formats to give residents the opportunity to review and comment on it. An electronic copy of the draft plan was made available for access from the Township website for resident review. Paper copies of the plan were also available for review at Township Hall. Residents were notified about the review period in multiple ways. Notice was published on the Township's website with a link to the draft plan and instructions on how residents can submit comments. Copies of these posted notices can be found in the Appendix B. In addition, the Township posted the review period on its electronic message sign and through Facebook posts.

Public Hearing and Resolution of Adoption

A public hearing was held following the 30-day public review period. The public hearing was held at the Township meeting on November 24, 2025 and allowed residents to share any input prior to the resolution for adoption of the plan. Notice of the public hearing was provided following the Township's procedures for public hearings, including a published notice in the Kalamazoo Gazette, posted notice at the Township Hall, and on the Township website. Copies of these notices can be found in Appendix B.

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In the broadest sense, a Parks and Trails Master Plan provides the Township with clear guidelines and recommendations for making consistent and well-informed decisions regarding the delivery of parks, recreation, and trail facilities. The Goals and Objectives of this Township Master Plan should serve as the guiding framework that shapes the nature and extent of future park and trail acquisition, development, and maintenance. To be both realistic and achievable, these goals must take into account the Township's financial, social, physical, and political conditions. Effective policy should also recognize the unique characteristics of the Township's existing parks and trails and evaluate their relationship to community demographics and recreational needs.

Goals are broad statements that identify general needs and establish a foundation for long-term planning. Objectives are measurable outcomes that provide the Township with clear targets to work toward in achieving its goals.

Together, goals and objectives provide strong policy direction. The Action Plan in Chapter 8 prioritizes the goals and objectives, guides annual planning efforts, and identifies potential funding sources to support implementation.

Goal 1: Maintain and improve existing Township parks and trails so they are safe, clean, and attractive.

a. Update the schematic master plans in the future to reflect recreation trends and changing demographics.

b. Upgrade and add Texas Drive Park amenities.

- Widen and replace the existing loop walking trail
- Install walking trail exercise equipment
- Provide more shade and seating around park facilities, including shade near the splash pad and benches along the loop walking trail.
- Resurface and upgrade the existing basketball court



c. Add 6th Street Park amenities.

- Provide self-directed recreation such as outdoor fitness equipment and /or obstacle course
- Design and develop a new play area for children utilizing feedback from the community survey and dot voting exercise
- Provide more shaded areas and seating (benches and shaded spots along trails and shade at pickleball courts)

d. Add amenities to the Texas Township Trailway.

- Provide additional seating along the trail



e. Develop a maintenance/management plan to enhance safety, improve efficiency, and extend the life span of park facilities.

- Create a parks, trails, and recreation improvement program that identifies and prioritizes features or upgrades
- Develop an operating budget

Goal 2: Address safety issues and provide Universally Accessible parks, trails, and recreational facilities that provide access for all persons of all abilities.

a. Renovate existing facilities to meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and incorporate Universal Access design principles into all new amenities to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all users.

- Add ADA signage to the existing car and van accessible parking spaces at Texas Drive and the Joyce I. Neubaer Farmer's Market Pavilion
- Replace the existing drinking fountain at Texas Drive Park with an accessible drinking fountain.
- Improve access to and signage of the ADA restroom at Texas Drive Park

b. Integrate ADA accommodations in such a way that they are seamlessly used by all residents within the community and do not cause separation of users based on abilities.

Provide more barrier-free parking spots, barrier-free tables and shaded areas, and barrier-free access/path to amenities

Goal 3: Goal: Leverage technology and innovative solutions to enhance the relevance and appeal of parks, trails, and recreation for all generations.

a. Increase mobile connectivity with 'Smart Parks.'

- Seek innovative grants to fund the installation of electric vehicle charging stations, solar charging stations, and benches with USB/C ports
- Include QR codes throughout parks and trails
- When new lighting is needed, consider use of solar lights
- Promote gaming integrations, e.g., app-based games, Geo-Caching

b. Create and promote a user-friendly online reservation system for park facilities to improve accessibility, streamline operations, and increase user convenience.



Goal 4: Build awareness among residents about parks, trails, and recreation in the Township and focus on increasing use of park facilities and trails.

- a. Adopt a vision statement and promote the vision on the Township website and through media.
- b. Create a downloadable park and trailway system map with each park and available amenities.
- c. Engage residents in volunteer activities.
- d. Promote Texas Township Friends of the Parks and Trails Endowment Fund.
- e. Create a Parks, Trails, and Recreation 'Partner Program' to match groups and businesses with specific parks for volunteer support.
- f. Sponsor 'Love Your Parks and Trails' Spring and Fall Cleanup Service Days in partnership with philanthropic groups and community organizations, such as the National Honor Society and Scouting America.

Goal 5: Promote and enhance the financial stability of Texas Township parks, trails, and recreation amenities by generating funding.

- a. Strive to maintain general fund appropriations.
- b. Continue to seek grants and other matching sources of revenue.
- c. Pursue other sources of funding such as a park/trail millage, bonds, loans, gifts, and endowments.



Volunteers from Consumers Credit Unions participated in a spring clean-up.

Goal 6: Continue the development of the non-motorized trail system within the Township to link homes, parks, and commercial areas.

- a. Continue to collaborate with neighboring communities for connectivity via non-motorized trails and bikeways.
- b. Implement the recommendations of the Texas Township Non-Motorized Feasibility Study.
- c. Work with new developments in the Township and the DDA to connect the community using non-motorized trails and bikeway connections.
- d. Connect non-motorized trails and bikeway connections to natural areas, e.g., Al Sabo Land Preserve and Woollam Nature Preserve.
- e. Create opportunities to connect trails in older neighborhoods with undeveloped or abandoned right of way.
- f. Work with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission for traffic calming/ pedestrian/ trail crossings

Goal 7: Develop new parks, trails, and recreation facilities as necessary.

- a. Identify and prioritize community needs through regular assessments and public input, ensuring that new parks, trails, and recreation facilities are developed in locations that maximize accessibility, support diverse recreational opportunities, and enhance the overall quality of life for residents



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How to Use the Action Plan

The Action Plan outlines the priority Goals and Objectives as determined through public input, as well as specific improvements for individual parks or trails. Some goals and objectives are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are improvements that require a large monetary investment.

The Action Plan should serve as a yearly checklist to track progress. The timing of project completion depends on available funding, including allocations from the municipal budget, grants, and other funding sources. Additional grant funding could accelerate progress and help bring key projects to completion sooner. Goals, Objectives, and Action Items should be reviewed annually and adjusted based on updated findings and funding opportunities.

Table 7: Top Goals and Objectives, highlights the top three goals identified through public input. The listed objectives support multiple priority goals, showing how different actions can work together to address community needs.



Table 6: Top Goals and Objectives for Master Plan (from Dot Voting)

Top Objectives	Top Goals		
	Maintain and improve high quality, safe, clean, and attractive existing Township parks and trailway facilities.	Promote and enhance the financial stability of Texas Township parks, trails, and recreation amenities by generating funding.	Continue the development of non-motorized trail systems within the Township to link homes, parks, and commercial areas.
Acknowledge that the Township's parks, trails, and recreation count as essential infrastructure.	✓	✓	✓
Anually allocate funding for parks and trails expansions and seek funding opportunities for right-of-way acquisitions, easement acquisitions proactively.		✓	✗
Continue to include parks and recreation projects and programs in the the Texas Township Capital Improvement Plan	✓	✓	✓
Continue to invest in existing parks and facilities to meet community priorities	✓	✓	✓
Develop a maintenance management plan to adequately forecast the true cost of delivering and maintaining high quality park and trail experience.	✓	✓	✓
Develop equipment replacement schedules based on hours of operations/length of use.	✓		✓
Establish life cycle assessment for each park and set aside annual budget for deferred maintenance.	✓	✓	✓
Explore a dedicated funding source for Parks and Trails maintenance.		✓	✓
Explore alternate funding strategies. Examine all local, state, and federal funding sources to assist with the development of parks, trails, and recreation areas once a long term funding mechanism is established.			✓
Identify other partners in the community to support the Parks and Recreation Plan.	✓	✓	
Prioritize safe connections and intersections.Identify locations for added safety measures and work with the Road Commission of Kalamazoo on options.	✓	✓	✓
Regularly assess existing parks and facilities for renovations to continue to attract visitors.	✓	✓	

Table 7 includes projects from the 2020-2024 Parks and Trails Master Plan, which are carried forward and are included in this updated plan. Many projects are medium to long-term projects, span several years, focus on achieving significant, overarching goals, and involve sustained effort and substantial resources.

The projects are identified by the length of time it will likely take to complete them. Short-term projects are the ones that can be tackled in the next one (1) to three (3) years—usually quick improvements or urgent needs that can show progress right away. Medium-term projects are those that may take three (3) to five (5) years, often because they need more planning, funding, or coordination. Long-term projects are the big ideas that may take five (5) to ten (10) years or more, such as new facilities or large park expansions, and usually require significant investment or partnerships.

Table 7: Continued Parks and Trails Projects

Trails

Study and determine routes through existing residential developments along Q Avenue to connect: parks, existing trails, Texas Corners and neighboring communities.

Identify gaps in the sidewalk network throughout Township; priority focus on residential developments along Q Avenue; create an infill program and include in capital improvement programming.

Add seating along existing Trailway.

Study routes and develop trail / bikeway from Texas Corners to KVCC.

Terms

Short to Medium Term

Medium Term

Short Term

Medium Term

Medium Term

Medium

Medium Term

Medium Term

Short Term

Medium Term

Texas Drive Park

Widen and replace existing loop walking trail.

Upgrade restroom, drinking fountain, and ADA signage at parking spaces.

Provide more shade and seating areas around the park.

Resurface and upgrade the existing basketball court.

6th Street Park

Design and develop children's play area.

Construct additional parking near the existing parking and proposed play area.

Provide more shaded areas and seating (benches and shaded spots along trails and shade at pickleball courts.

Install outdoor fitness equipment and/or an obstacle course.

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APPENDIX

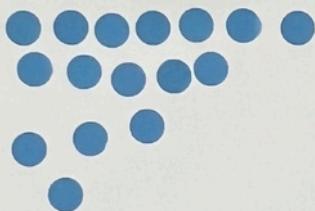


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PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Goal: Promote and maintain strong working relationships with Kalamazoo County, City of Kalamazoo, City of Portage, neighboring Townships, local school districts, and KVCC to enhance recreation opportunities available to area residents.



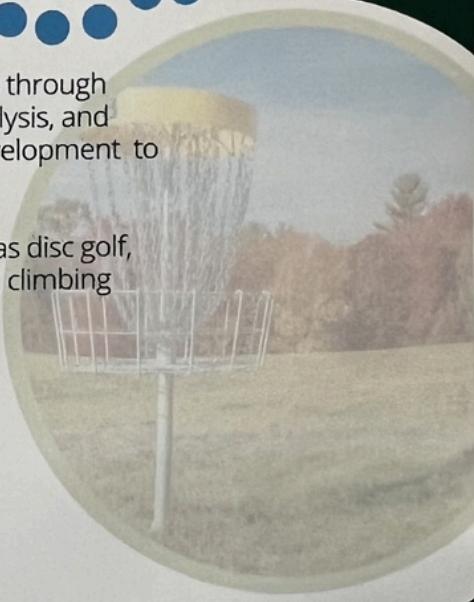
PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Goal: Develop new parks, trails, and recreation facilities as necessary.

OBJECTIVES

- When appropriate, require developers to incorporate walking and biking trails, as well as neighborhood parks, into new developments
- Identify and prioritize underserved areas through community engagement and spatial analysis, and initiate planning, design, and phased development to meet identified needs
- Develop new recreation amenities such as disc golf, sand volleyball courts, snowshoeing trail, climbing structure



PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Goal: Promote and enhance the financial stability of Texas Township parks, trails, and recreation amenities by generating funding.

OBJECTIVES

- Strive to maintain general fund appropriations
- Continue to seek grants and other matching sources of revenue
- Pursue other sources of funding such as a park/trail millage, bonds, loans, gifts, and endowments

PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Goal: Build awareness among residents about parks, trails, and recreation in the Township and focus on increasing use of park facilities and trails.

OBJECTIVES

Adopt a vision statement and promote the vision on the Township website and through media

- Create a downloadable park and trailway system map with each park and available amenities
- Engage residents in volunteer activities
- Promote Texas Township Friends of the Parks and Trails Endowment Fund
- Create a Parks, Trails, and Recreation 'Partner Program' to match groups and businesses with specific parks for volunteer support
- Sponsor 'Love Your Parks and Trails' Spring and Fall Cleanup Service Days in partnership with philanthropic groups and community organizations, such as the National Honor Society and Scouting America

PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Goal: Address safety issues and provide Universally Accessible parks, trails, and recreational facilities that provide access for all persons of all abilities.

OBJECTIVES

Renovate existing facilities to meet or exceed Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards, and incorporate Universal Access design principles into all new amenities to ensure inclusivity and accessibility for all users

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Develop facilities and integrate ADA accommodations in such a way that they are seamlessly used by all residents within the community and do not cause separation of users based on abilities

- Provide more barrier-free parking spots, barrier free tables and shaded areas, and barrier free access/path to amenities, e.g., splash pad



PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Goal: Leverage technology and innovative solutions to enhance the relevance and appeal of parks, trails, and recreation for all generations.

OBJECTIVES

Increase mobile connectivity with 'Smart Parks'

- Install solar charging stations and benches with USB/C ports
- Include QR codes throughout parks and trailways
- Install electric vehicle charging stations
- Install solar lights
- Promote gaming integrations, e.g., app-based games, Geo-Caching

Create and promote a user-friendly online reservation system for park facilities to improve accessibility, streamline operations, and increase user convenience



PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Goal: Continue the development of the non-motorized trail system within the Township to link homes, parks, and commercial areas.

OBJECTIVES

Continue to collaborate with neighboring communities for connectivity via non-motorized trails and bikeways

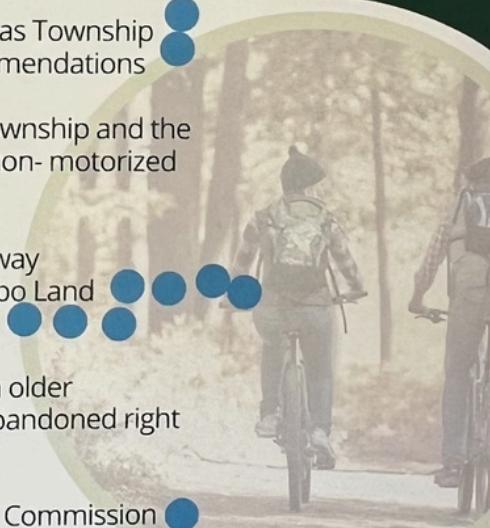
Support the implementation of the Texas Township Non-Motorized Feasibility Study recommendations

Work with new developments in the Township and the DDA to connect the community using non-motorized trails and bikeway connections

Connect non-motorized trails and bikeway connections to natural areas, e.g., Al Sabo Land Reserve and Woollam Nature Preserve

Create opportunities to connect trails in older neighborhoods with undeveloped or abandoned right of way

Work with the Kalamazoo County Road Commission for traffic calming/ pedestrian/ trail crossings



PARKS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN UPDATE



Goal: Maintain and improve high quality, safe, clean, and attractive existing Township park and trailway facilities.

OBJECTIVES

Continue to improve Township parks using the approved schematic master plan as a guide

Upgrade and add Texas Drive Park amenities

- Develop the approved 'Sensory Garden'
- Install new walking trail and exercise equipment
- Provide more shaded areas and seating around park facilities

Add 6th Street Park amenities

- Focus on passive recreation and expand self-directed recreation
- Develop an unstructured play area featuring natural elements and 'natural playscape' e.g., log benches, rock/boulder obstacle courses, textured path, pollinator gardens, pergola, native grasses, wild meadows, bird boxes, and environmental education features and signs
- Provide more shaded areas and seating (benches and shaded spots along trails and shade at pickleball courts)

Develop a maintenance / management plan

- Create a parks, trails, and recreation improvement program that identifies and prioritizes features or upgrades
- Develop an operating budget



Texas Township Parks & Recreation Plan Update Survey

Demographics

* 1. Do you live in Texas Township?

- Yes, I am a full-time resident
- Yes, I am a part-time resident
- No

2. If you don't live in Texas Township, which municipality do you reside in?

3. If you live or own property in the Township, please select all that apply:

- I own a home in Texas Township
- I rent in Texas Township
- I own rental property in Texas Township
- I own a business in Texas Township
- I own agricultural land in Texas Township
- I own vacant land in Texas Township

* 4. How many people live in your household?

* 5. What are the ages of the members of your household? (Select all that apply)

- 0 to 4
- 5 to 9
- 10 to 14
- 15 to 19
- 20 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 55
- 55+

15. The 6th Street Park master plan includes a large space dedicated to intergenerational play where children, teens, adults and seniors can all enjoy an area of various play features. Please rank the types of play you and your family would prefer:

All Ages obstacle style challenge course

- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Traditional playground equipment for age 2-5 years
- Traditional playground equipment for age 5-12 years
- Sensory Garden
- Music Garden
- Natural playground features such as tunnels, hillsides, log and boulder play components
- Waterscape (interactive pondless waterfalls and streams)
- Net climber area

16. If you own a dog, do you walk your dog in the Township's parks or pathways?

- Yes
- No
- Not Applicable

17. Would you like to see an off-leash dog park constructed in the Township?

- Yes
- No

18. If yes, which location would be best suited for an off-leash dog park?

- Downtown Texas Corners
- 6th Street Park
- Texas Drive Park
- Other (please specify)

* 14. Please select your top 5 priorities for new or enhanced park features would you like to see within the Township:

	First Priority	Second Priority	Third Priority	Fourth Priority	Fifth Priority
Baseball/Softball Fields	<input type="radio"/>				
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
Conservation Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Disc Golf					
Dog Park (Off Leash)	<input type="radio"/>				
Fitness & Wellness Programs	<input type="radio"/>				
Hiking/Walking Trails	<input type="radio"/>				
Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenities (Shade/Seating)	<input type="radio"/>				
Mountain Biking Trails	<input type="radio"/>				
Multi-Use Sports Fields	<input type="radio"/>				
Park Programming & Events	<input type="radio"/>				
Paved Trailways (Bicycling & Walking)	<input type="radio"/>				
Pickleball Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
Picnic Areas					
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>				
Pump Track	<input type="radio"/>				
Restrooms	<input type="radio"/>				
Sand Volleyball Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
Sensory Gardens & Natural Playground	<input type="radio"/>				
Sledding Hill	<input type="radio"/>				
Skateboard Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>				
	<input type="radio"/>				
	<input type="radio"/>				
	<input type="radio"/>				
	<input type="radio"/>				

Other (please specify)



Texas Township Parks & Recreation Plan Update Survey

Future Park Planning/Prioritization

We're looking for insight on where to invest resources for future park programming and development.

* 12. Please rate the following parks, recreation spaces, and facilities based on availability and sufficient quantity.

	Poor	Marginal	Average	Good	Outstanding
Availability of Park Land & Greenspace	<input type="radio"/>				
Variety of Parks & Recreation Facilities/Amenities	<input type="radio"/>				
Athletic Fields	<input type="radio"/>				
Sports Courts Non-Motorized	<input type="radio"/>				
Motorized Trailways & Pathways	<input type="radio"/>				
Available Seating Amenities	<input type="radio"/>				
Restroom Facilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Pavilion Facilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>				
Lighting Security	<input type="radio"/>				
Accessibility	<input type="radio"/>				
Special Events & Programming	<input type="radio"/>				
	<input type="radio"/>				
	<input type="radio"/>				

13. If you do not frequent or use Township parks, recreation facilities and/or programs, please select the reasons that prevent your or members of your household from doing so? (Select all that apply)

- I use private park facilities and programs
- Park facilities are not well maintained
- Park facilities do not have the right equipment
- Security is insufficient
- Lack of programs
- Too far from residence
- I participate in programs provided by other communities or organizations
- Poor customer service by staff
- I do not know the location of parks and park facilities
- Availability of parking
- Park facilities are too hard to reach, poor access
- None / No Opinion
- Other (please specify)
-

* 9. Which of the following statements comes closest to the way you feel about the parks and recreation amenities in our community?

- Members of my household use the parks and recreation amenities on a regular basis, and I believe that these services are important to quality of life.
- Although members of my household do not use the parks and recreation amenities frequently, I believe that these services are important to the quality of life.
- Parks and recreation amenities are not important to quality of life.
-

* 10. In general, what kind of recreation/leisure activities do you and your family members participate in? (Select all that apply)

- Exercise/Fitness/Casual Sports
- Organized Team Sports
- Children's Play
- Nature Study/Gardening/Conservation
- Family Picnic/Gathering at the Parks
- Biking/Cycling

Other (please specify)

* 11. How would you rate the overall condition of parks and recreation facilities?

0 - Poor

5

10 - Excellent



Texas Township Parks & Recreation Plan Update Survey

Park Facilities

We're seeking your feedback on the availability and condition of existing parks and recreation facilities and amenities.

* 6. Are you familiar with the park facilities offered by Texas Township?

- Yes
- No

* 7. Do you feel that you have safe and convenient access to parks in Texas Township?

- Yes
- No
- Neutral / No Opinion

* 8. How often do you use the following facilities?

	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	At Least Once a Year	Never
Texas Drive Park	<input type="radio"/>				
6th Street Park	<input type="radio"/>				
Pocket Park (Adjacent to Farmers' Market Pavilion)	<input type="radio"/>				
Al Sabo Land Preserve	<input type="radio"/>				
Texas Township Paved Trailway	<input type="radio"/>				
Farmers' Market	<input type="radio"/>				
Facilities at KVCC	<input type="radio"/>				
	<input type="radio"/>				



7110 West Q Avenue | Kalamazoo, MI 49009 | www.texastownship.org | P: 269-375-1591 | F: 269-375-0791

Date: August 23, 2024
To: Committee of the Whole
From: Kelly McIntyre, Planning Director

Attached are the results for the Parks, Trails, and Recreation survey. These results will help frame the goals and objectives for the 2025-2029 Parks, Trails, and Recreation Master Plan that the Township is updating.

For ease of review- I am providing the highlights of the survey in this memo. I am including the survey results presentation I prepared. These survey results (in their entirety) will be included in the Master Plan Appendix.

Snapshot/HighlightsofParks,Trails, and RecreationSurvey

- 999 Respondents completed the Survey with a 77% completion rate (meaning answered every question)
- 5.5% response rate based on population (~18,000 – 2023 estimate)
- On average it took 6 minutes and 2 second to complete the survey

Demographics

- 95% of 999 survey respondents live in Texas Township as a full-time resident.
- 98% of respondents own a home in Texas Township (44 skipped this question).
- 75% of respondents live in a 2–4-person household.
- 51% of the respondents are aged from 35 to 55; 47% of respondents are over 55.

Park, Facilities, Programs

- 88% of respondents feel they have safe and convenient access to the parks – 6% answered ‘no’
- Texas Park is the most often utilized facility – 6.6% use daily; 26% use weekly; 26% monthly; 30% use at least once a year; 12% never use
- Most frequently used park, trails, and recreation asset (on a daily basis) are the Texas Township paved trailways
- 62% or 522 respondents use the parks and recreation amenities on a regular basis and believe these services are important to quality of life
- 97% of respondents (who do not use the parks and recreation amenities on a regular basis) believe parks and recreation amenities and service are important to quality of life
- Exercise/Fitness/Casual Sports (unstructured activity) is the most common recreation/leisure activity among respondents. Second is biking or cycling
- Respondents rated the condition of our parks and recreation facilities an 8 out of 10
-

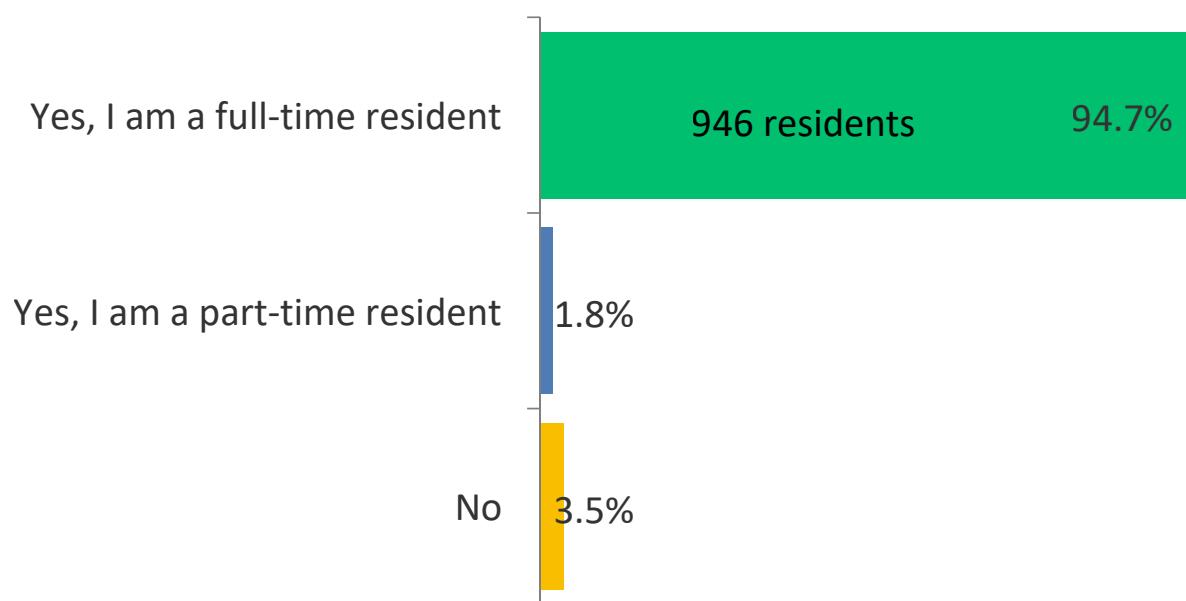


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- The availability of park land and greenspace is the most valued amenity in Texas Township
- Lack of equipment, lack of programs, and participation in other communities are the main reasons why respondents do not frequent the parks/facilities/programs. "Other" answers include:
 - availability of pickleball courts
 - mobility and safe sidewalk access to trails and parks
 - absence of baseball and softball fields
 - overgrown trails
 - lack of programs for seniors
- Top 5 priorities for new or enhanced park features include (in order of desirability): hiking/walking trails, paved trailways (bicycling and walking), restrooms, sledding hill, and Maple Splash Pad Amenities (shading/seating)
- An 'all-age obstacle style challenge course' at 6th Street Park ranged highest for a dedicated space in the park, seconded by outdoor fitness equipment
- 62% of respondents with dogs walk their dog in a Township Park or pathway
- Desire for an off-leash dog park is split among respondents; If an off-leash dog park were in Texas Township, respondents felt that 6th Street would be preferable over Texas Corners or Texas Drive Park

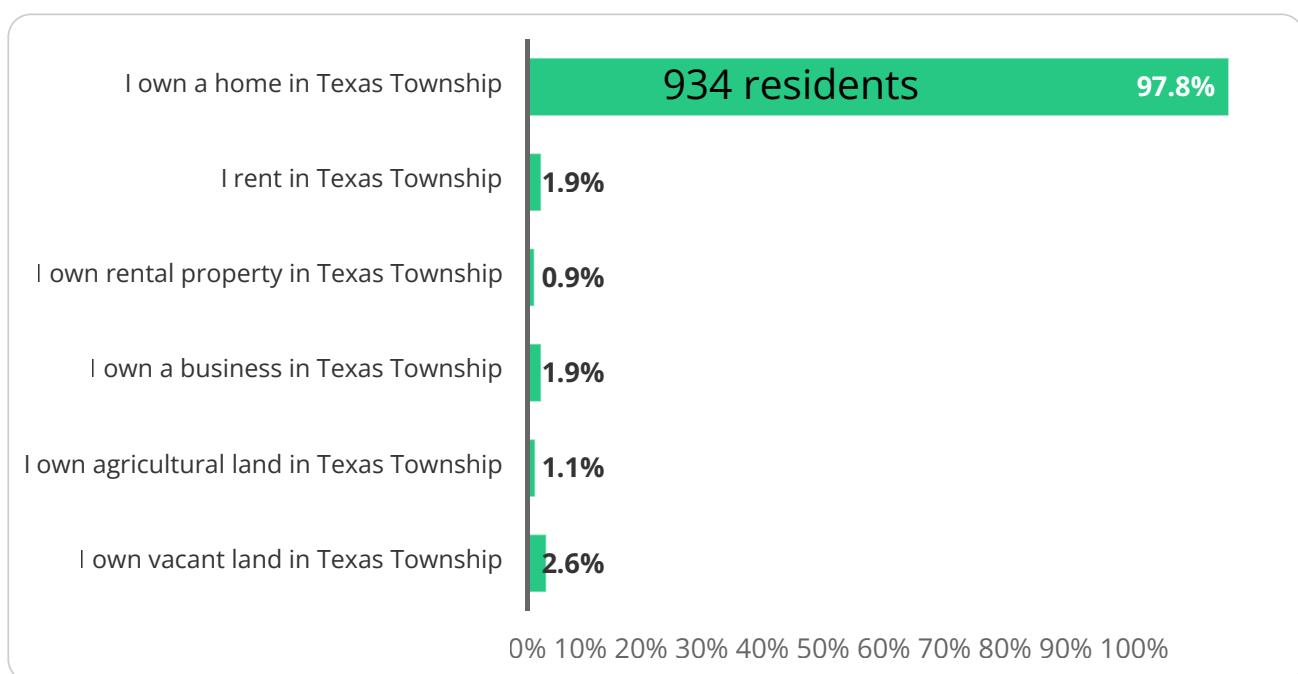
Q1: Do you live in Texas Township?

Answered:999 Skipped:0



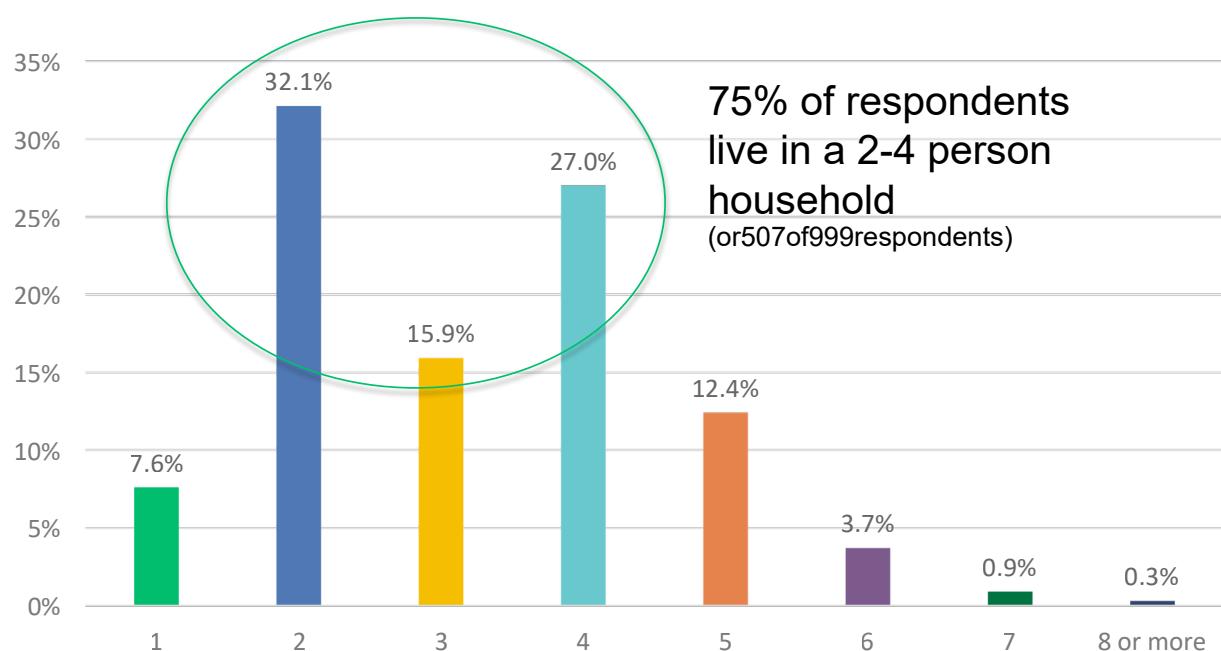
Q3: If you live or own property in the Township, please select all that apply:

Answered:955 Skipped:44



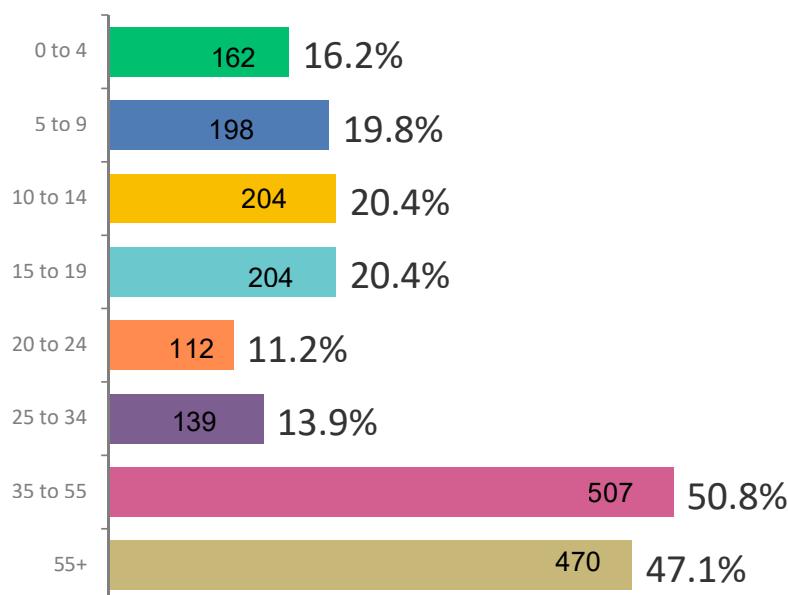
Q4: How many people live in your household?

Answered:999 Skipped:0



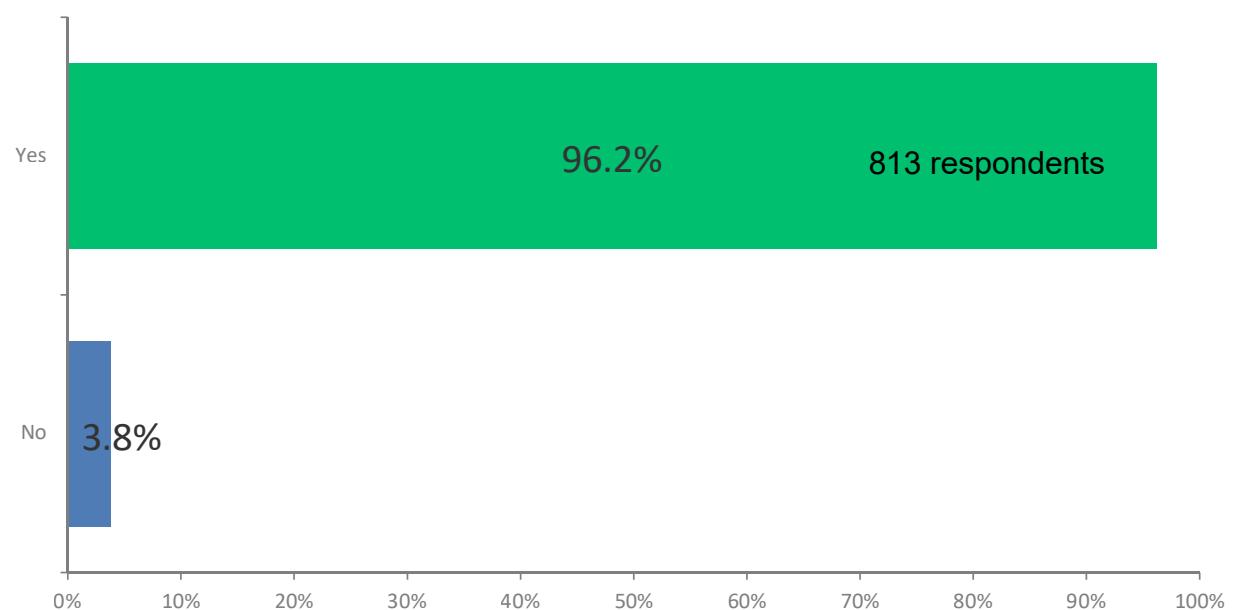
Q5: What are the ages of the members of your household? (Select all that apply)

Answered:999 Skipped:0



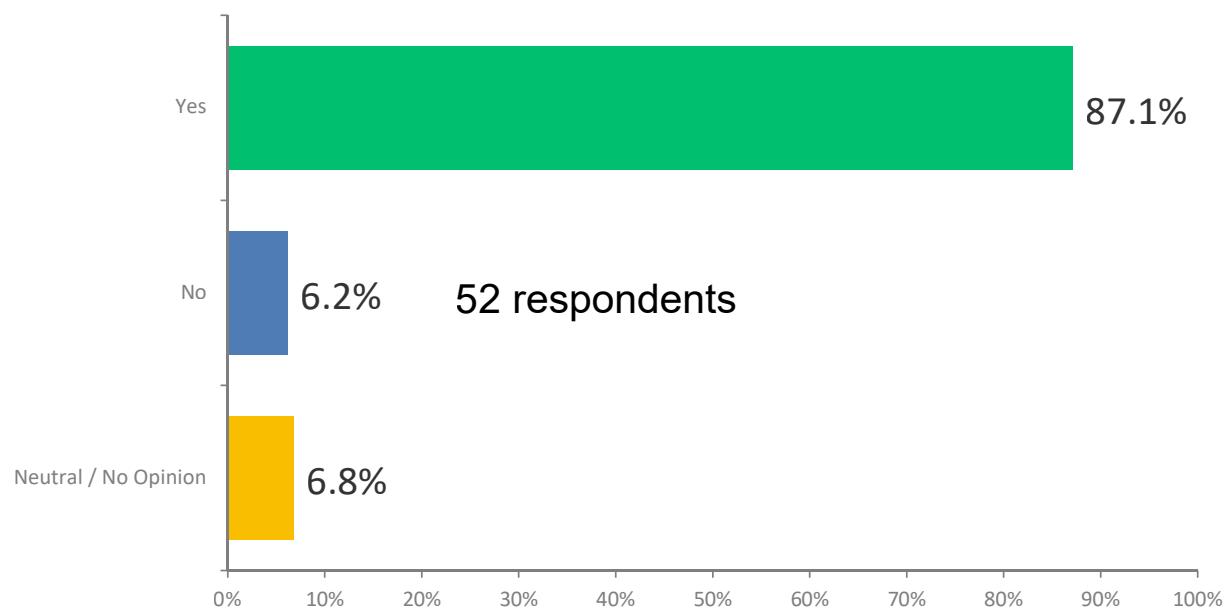
Q6: Are you familiar with the park facilities offered by Texas Township?

Answered:845 Skipped:154



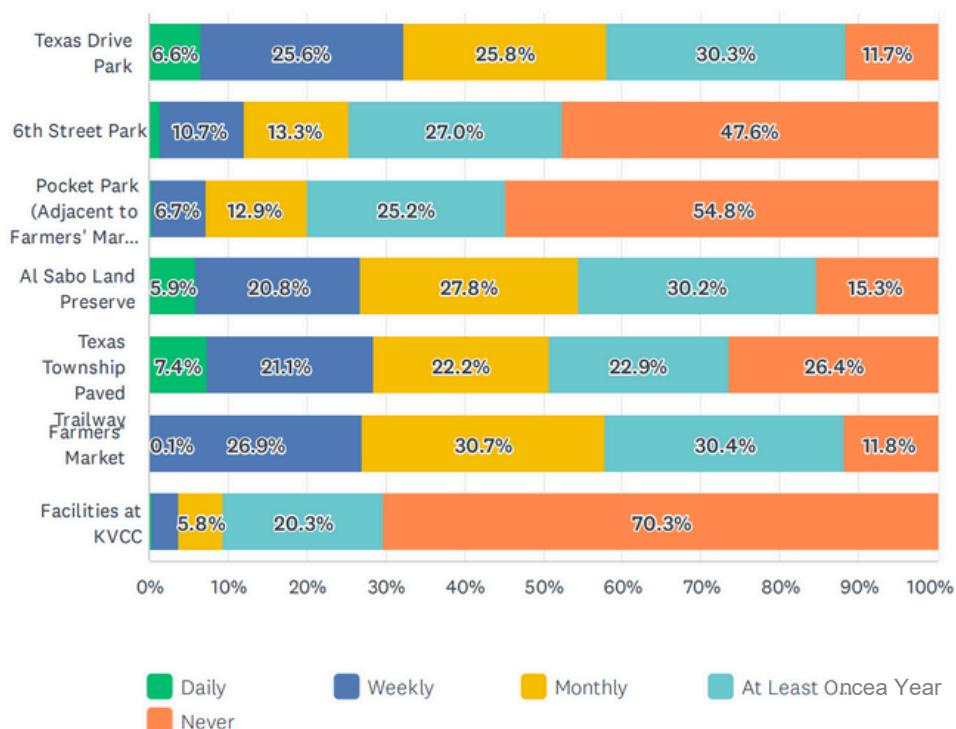
Q7: Do you feel that you have safe and convenient access to parks in Texas Township?

Answered:845 Skipped:154



Q8: How often do you use the following facilities?

Answered: 844 Skipped: 155



Q8: How often do you use the following facilities?

Answered: 844 Skipped: 155

	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Texas Drive Park	6.6% 55	25.6% 213	25.8% 215	30.3% 252	11.7% 97	832	2.85
6th Street Park	1.5% 12	10.7% 88	13.3% 109	27.0% 222	47.6% 391	822	1.91
Pocket Park (Adjacent to Farmers' Market Pavilion)	0.5% 4	6.7% 55	12.9% 106	25.2% 207	54.8% 451	823	1.73
Al Sabo Land Preserve	5.9% 49	20.8% 174	27.8% 232	30.2% 252	15.3% 128	835	2.72
Texas Township Paved Trailway	7.4% 61	21.1% 174	22.2% 183	22.9% 189	26.4% 218	825	2.60
Farmers' Market	0.1% 1	26.9% 225	30.7% 257	30.4% 254	11.8% 99	836	2.73
Facilities at KVCC	0.5% 4	3.1% 26	5.8% 48	20.3% 168	70.3% 581	827	1.43

ncea Year

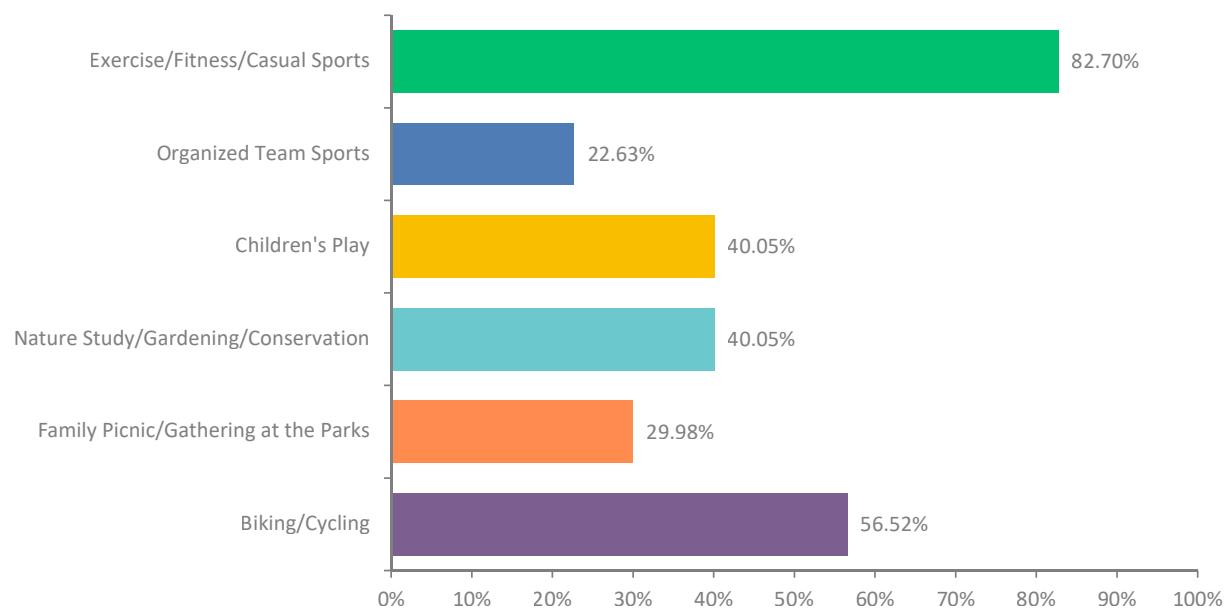
Q9: Which of the following statements comes closest to the way you feel about the parks and recreation amenities in our community?

Answered:844 Skipped:155

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Members of my household use the parks and recreation amenities on a regular basis, and I believe that these services are important to quality of life.	61.9%	522
Although members of my household do not use the parks and recreation amenities frequently, I believe that these services are important to the quality of life.	35.6%	300
Parks and recreation amenities are not important to quality of life.	2.6%	22
TOTAL		844

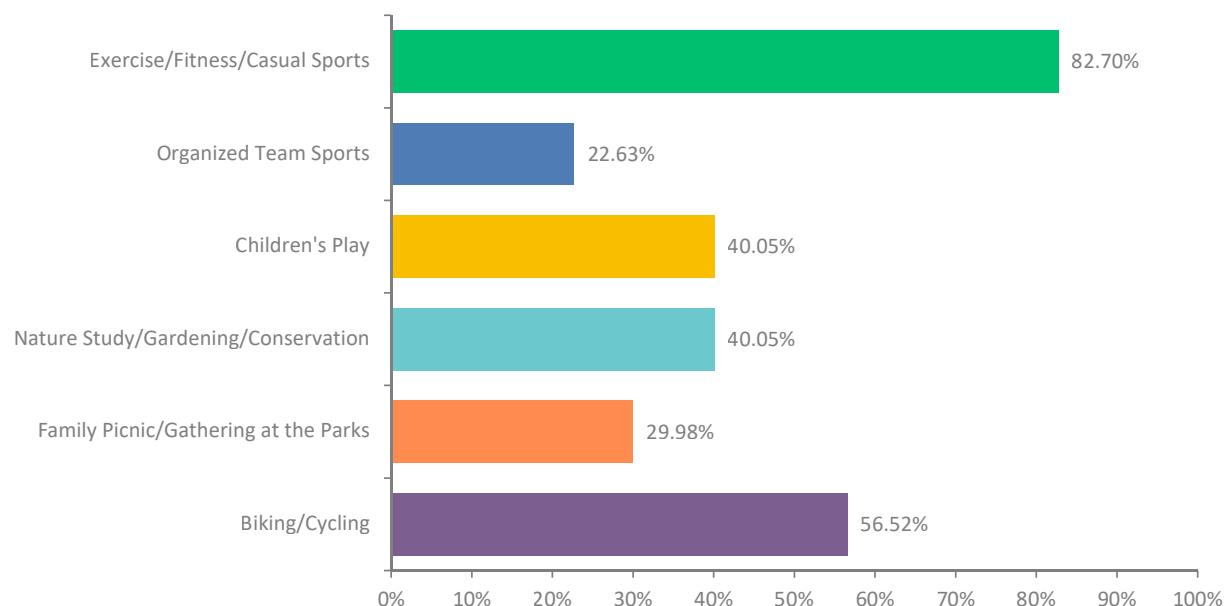
Q10: In general, what kind of recreation/leisure activities do you and your family members participate in? (Select all that apply)

Answered:844 Skipped:155



Q10: In general, what kind of recreation/leisure activities do you and your family members participate in? (Select all that apply)

Answered:844 Skipped:155



Q10: In general, what kind of recreation/leisure activities do you and your family members participate in? (Select all that apply)

Answered:844 Skipped:155



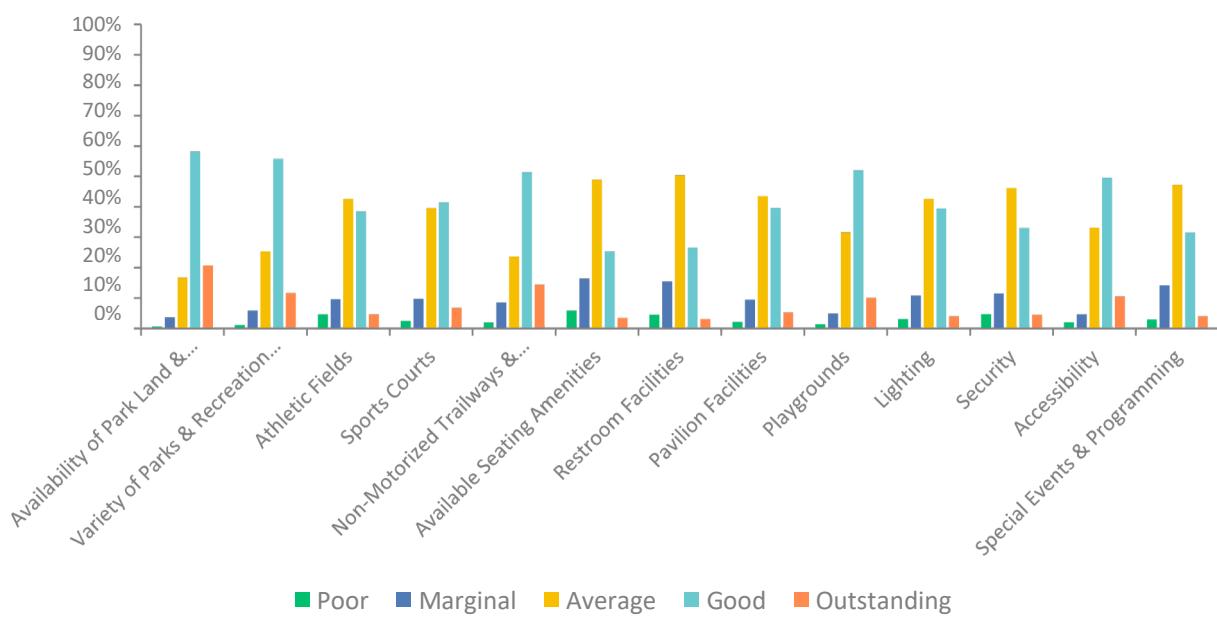
Q11: How would you rate the overall condition of parks and recreation facilities?

Answered:844 Skipped:155

ANSWER CHOICES	AVERAGE NUMBER	TOTAL NUMBER	RESPONSES
	8	6,514	844

Q12: Please rate the following parks, recreation spaces, and facilities based on availability and sufficient quantity.

Answered:844 Skipped:155



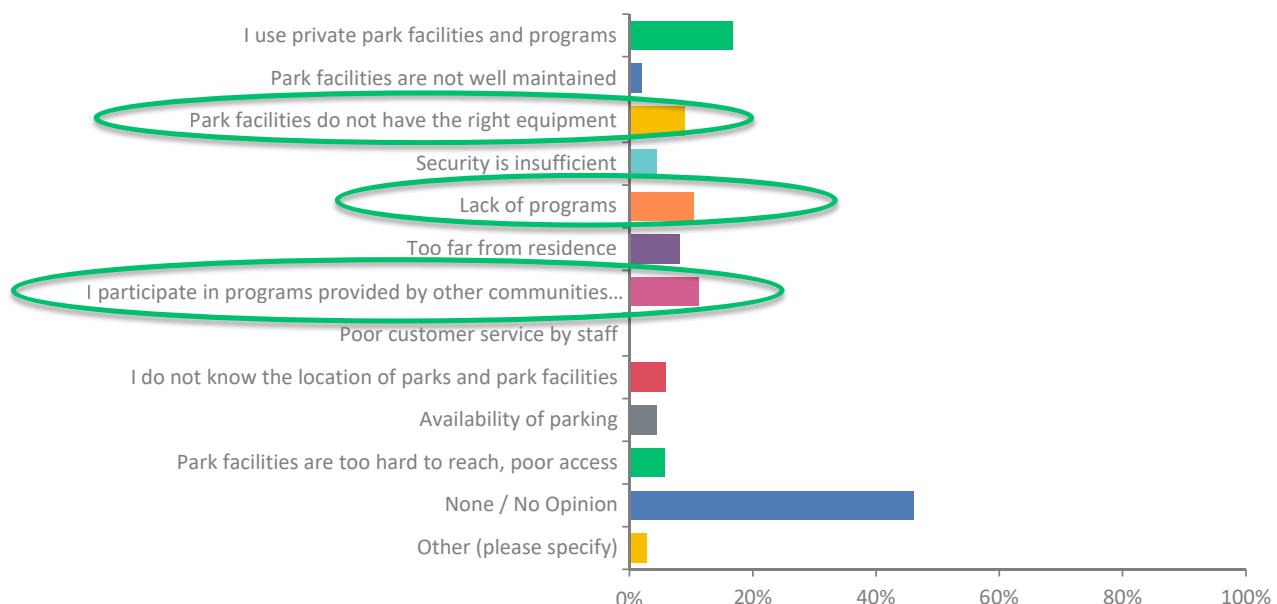
Q12: Please rate the following parks, recreation spaces, and facilities based on availability and sufficient quantity.

Answered:844 Skipped:155

	Poor	Marginal	Average	Good	Outstanding	AVERAGE
▼ Availability of Park Land & Greenspace	0.6% 5	3.7% 31	16.8% 142	58.2% 491	20.7% 175	844 3.95
▼ Variety of Parks & Recreation Facilities/Amenities	1.2% 10	5.9% 50	25.4% 214	55.8% 471	11.7% 99	844 3.71
▼ Athletic Fields	4.6% 39	9.6% 81	42.7% 360	38.5% 325	4.6% 39	844 3.29
▼ Sports Courts	2.5% 21	9.7% 82	39.6% 334	41.5% 350	6.8% 57	844 3.40
▼ Non-Motorized Trailways & Pathways	1.9% 16	8.5% 72	23.7% 200	51.4% 434	14.5% 122	844 3.68
▼ Available Seating Amenities	5.9% 50	16.5% 139	48.9% 413	25.2% 213	3.4% 29	844 3.04
▼ Restroom Facilities	4.5% 38	15.4% 130	50.4% 425	26.7% 225	3.1% 26	844 3.08
▼ Pavilion Facilities	2.1% 18	9.5% 80	43.5% 367	39.7% 335	5.2% 44	844 3.36
▼ Playgrounds	1.4% 12	4.9% 41	31.6% 267	52.0% 439	10.1% 85	844 3.64
▼ Lighting	3.1% 26	10.8% 91	42.7% 360	39.5% 333	4.0% 34	844 3.31
▼ Security	4.7% 40	11.5% 97	46.2% 390	33.1% 279	4.5% 38	844 3.21
▼ Accessibility	2.0% 17	4.6% 39	33.2% 280	49.6% 419	10.5% 89	844 3.62
▼ Special Events & Programming	3.0% 25	14.2% 120	47.3% 399	31.5% 266	4.0% 34	844 3.19

Q13: If you do not frequent or use Township parks, recreation facilities and/or programs, please select the reasons that prevent your or members of your household from doing so? (Select all that apply)

Answered:494 Skipped:505



Q13: If you do not frequent or use Township parks, recreation facilities and/or programs, please select the reasons that prevent your or members of your household from doing so?

Other answers

Mobility/access issues **Pickleball**courts not available; too busy Texas Park Drive Trail is extremely overgrown Lack of safe **sidewalk access**; lack of bike paths; Lack of Q Ave and R Ave. access to bike trails **Bike paths/trails**from all parts of township to parks would allow more usage. Lack of organized **programs for seniors**

No mountain bike trails

Limited parkingfor Farmers Market

Waiting for playground at 6th St park

Only tennis courts are at KVCC. Lighting and security not applicable

Lack of **variety at parks**for many ages, lack of seating

No motorized trails

No facilities for swimming laps or open water swimming.

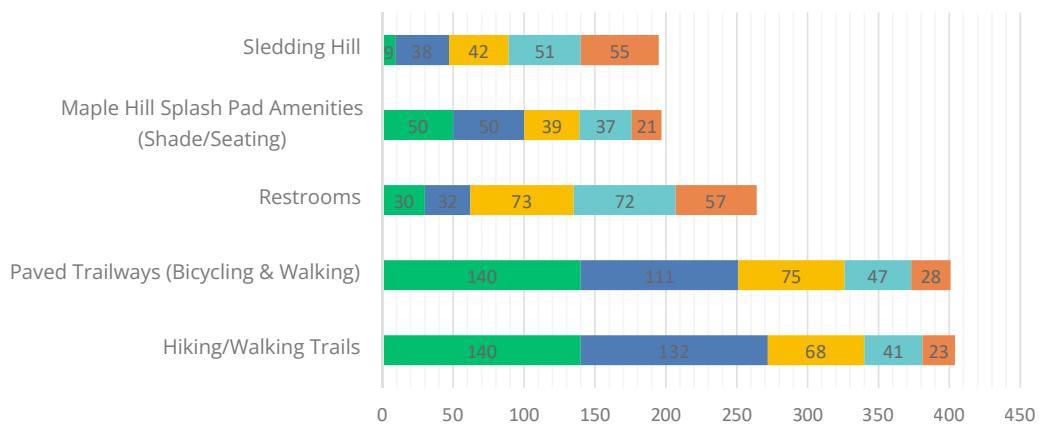
Need more **baseball/softball fields**

Need some dog parks in Texas township

Q14: Please select your top 5 priorities for new or enhanced park features would you like to see within the Township:

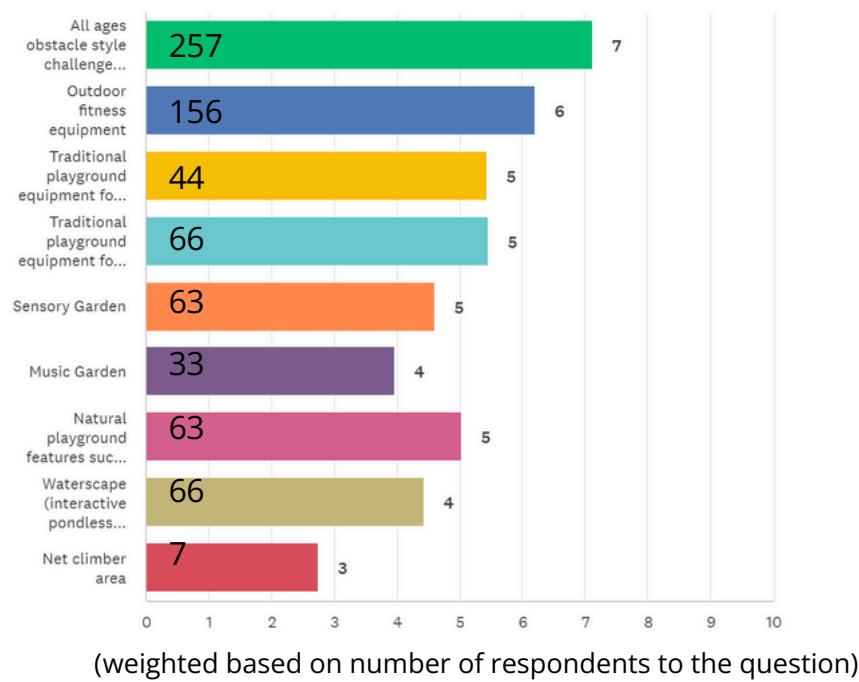
Answered: 772 Skipped: 227

1. Hiking/Walking Trails
2. Paved Trailways (Bicycling and Walking)
3. Restrooms
4. Sledding Hill
5. Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenities (Shade/Seating)



	Hiking/Walking Trails	Paved Trailways (Bicycling & Walking)	Restrooms	Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenities (Shade/Seating)	Sledding Hill
First	140	140	30	50	9
Second	132	111	32	50	38
Third	68	75	73	39	42
Fourth	41	47	72	37	51
Fifth	23	28	57	21	55

Q15: The 6th Street Park master plan includes a large space dedicated to intergenerational play where children, teens, adults and seniors can all enjoy an area of various play features. Please rank the types of play you and your family would prefer:



Answered: 725 Skipped: 274

Selected Comments from the Survey

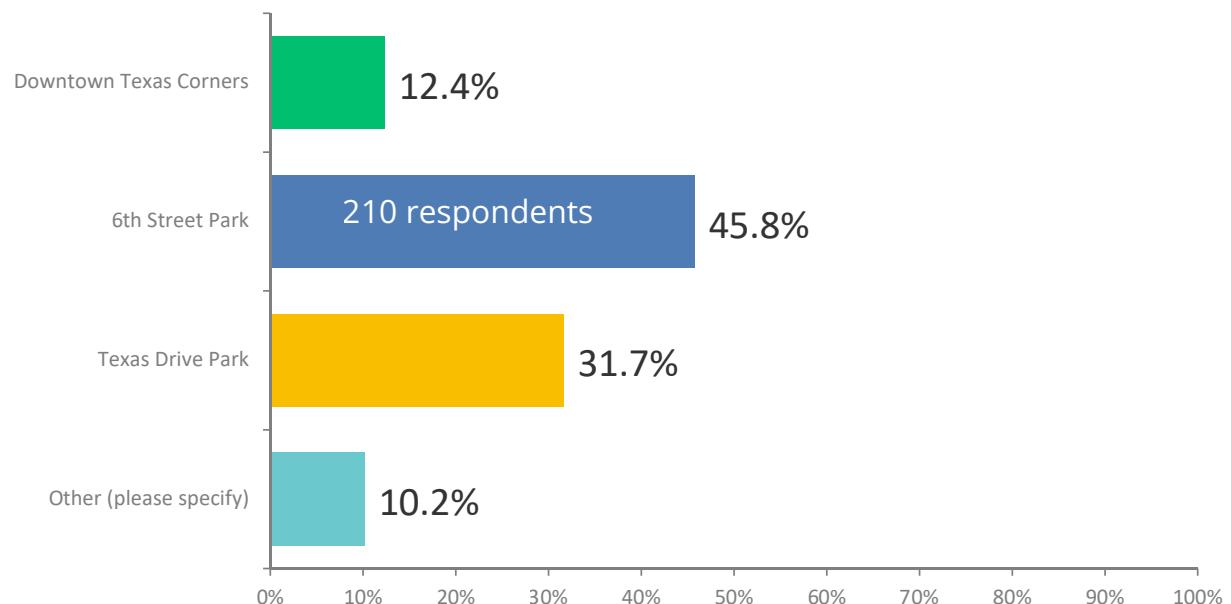
"Rather than investing in new features, we would like to see the current parks maintained to a higher level. Texas Drive Park needs 8-10' paths that are resurfaced. Trees/brush needs to be better cleared back from the paths."

"There needs to be a safer way/trail/sidewalk to access Texas Corners via bicycle from the growing neighborhoods west of Texas Corners."

"We need more trails and sidewalks to access + sometimes dangerous to walk on streets due to high traffic speed."

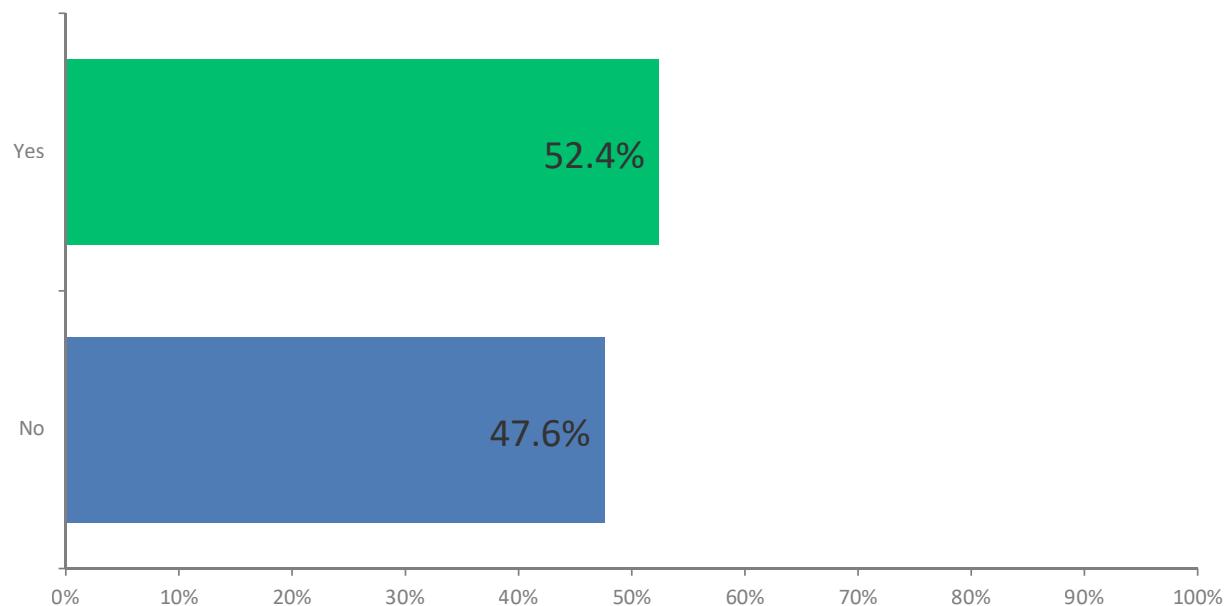
"I love to bike the paved trails. Getting there safely is the problem. Many of the roads don't have shoulders and some cars get really mad if you don't move over to accommodate them."

Q18: If yes, which location would be best suited for an off-leash dog park?



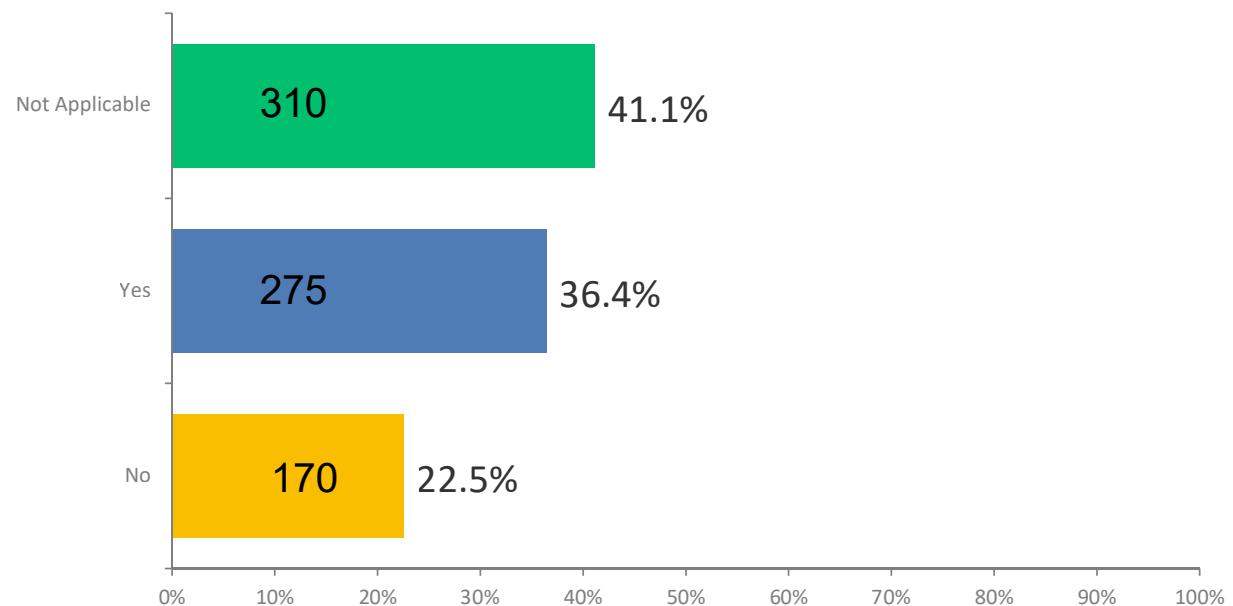
Answered: 461 Skipped: 538

Q17: Would you like to see an off-leash dog park constructed in the Township?



Answered: 731 Skipped: 268

Q16: If you own a dog, do you walk your dog in the Township's parks or pathways?



Answered: 755 Skipped: 244

Texas Township Parks & Recreation Plan Update Survey

Q1. Do you live in Texas Township?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, I am a full-time resident	94.69%	946
Yes, I am a part-time resident	1.80%	18
No	3.50%	35
	Answered	999
	Skipped	0

Q2. If you don't live in Texas Township, which municipality do you reside in?

Answered	69
Skipped	930

Respondent ID	Response Date	Responses	Tags
114655625607	Jul 30 2024 05	Kalamazoo	
114655534037	Jul 30 2024 03	Kalamazoo	
114654449268	Jul 29 2024 09	Antwerp Township	
114651980806	Jul 25 2024 07	Portage	
114651544498	Jul 24 2024 04	Milwood	
114651225744	Jul 24 2024 10	Antwerp Township	
114651167877	Jul 24 2024 09	Not Applicable	
114650668446	Jul 23 2024 05	Kalamazoo	
114650617524	Jul 23 2024 04	1	
114650506572	Jul 23 2024 02	Texas Drive	
114648929020	Jul 21 2024 01	Texas Township	
114648890614	Jul 21 2024 11	Texas Heights Neighborhood	
114648001832	Jul 19 2024 01	Kalamazoo twp	
114647851398	Jul 19 2024 10	Oshtemo	
114646357728	Jul 17 2024 01	Prairie Ronde Township	
114645988829	Jul 17 2024 05	Kalamazoo	
114645659568	Jul 16 2024 05	Rudgate	
114645546201	Jul 16 2024 03	Portage (far west side)	
114645506702	Jul 16 2024 02	Prairie Ronde	
114645332136	Jul 16 2024 11	N/A	
114645100026	Jul 16 2024 06	Rudgate	
114644743359	Jul 15 2024 06	Osthemo	
114644218643	Jul 15 2024 07	NA	
114644207790	Jul 15 2024 07	Portage	
114643907769	Jul 14 2024 05	Kalamazoo	
114643849832	Jul 14 2024 01	Portage	

114643650584	Jul 13 2024 08N/A Jul 13 2024 06N/A Jul 13 2024 05Kalamazoo Jul 13 2024 04Portage/Kalamazoo Jul 13 2024 02Eagle lakr Jul 12 2024 08Village of Mattawan Jul 12 2024 03Kalamazoo Jul 12 2024 02Mattawan Jul 12 2024 01Portage Jul 08 2024 07Portage Jul 08 2024 11Portage Jul 07 2024 04Applegate Jul 06 2024 08Portage Jul 06 2024 08Portage Jul 05 2024 08Portage Jul 03 2024 06Portage Jul 03 2024 01Portage Jul 03 2024 12Decatur Township Jul 02 2024 03Mattawan, Almena Twp Jul 01 2024 08Oshtemo Jun 30 2024 03Portage Jun 27 2024 049097 Jun 27 2024 12Kalamazoo Jun 25 2024 10Oshtemo Jun 25 2024 08City of Kalamazoo Jun 24 2024 12Almena Jun 23 2024 05Oshtemo Jun 21 2024 03Portage Jun 20 2024 05Kalamazoo Jun 19 2024 12Schoolcraft Jun 18 2024 1N/a Jun 18 2024 1Portage Jun 18 2024 08Colony Woods Jun 18 2024 07NA Jun 18 2024 07Mattawan Jun 18 2024 06N/a Jun 18 2024 06Eagle Lake Jun 18 2024 04Rudgate Jun 18 2024 03Rochester Hills Jun 18 2024 03Portage Jun 18 2024 03Na Jun 18 2024 02Schoolcraft Jun 18 2024 0Kalamazoo
114643617012	
114643612596	
114643595529	
114643563869	
114643270712	
114643122839	
114643068315	
114643041621	
114640167975	
114639777953	
114639217708	
114638969847	
114638967892	
114638312689	
114637334355	
114637161199	
114637088107	
114636455958	
114635799999	
114634935161	
114633034458	
114632966627	
114631672263	
114631595119	
114630402789	
114629868523	
114628954570	
114627736874	
114627226633	
114626773969	
114626766828	
114626675613	
114626635220	
114626632146	
114626606003	
114626604723	
114626499710	
114626466266	
114626459663	
114626459111	
114626390465	
114626343312	

Q3. If you live or own property in the Township, please select all that apply:

Answer Choices	Responses
I own a home in Texas Township	97.80% 934
I rent in Texas Township	1.88% 18
I own rental property in Texas Towns	0.94% 9
I own a business in Texas Township	1.88% 18
I own agricultural land in Texas Town	1.05% 10
I own vacant land in Texas Township	2.62% 25
Answered	955
Skipped	44

Q4. How many people live in your household?

Answer Choices	Responses
1 2 3 4 5	7.61% 76
6 7 8 or	32.13% 321
more	15.92% 159
	27.03% 270
	12.41% 124
	3.70% 37
	0.90% 9
	0.30% 3
Answered	999
Skipped	0

Q5. What are the ages of the members of your household? (Select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses
0 to 4 5 to 9 10 to 14 15 to 19 20 to 24 25 to 34 35 to 55 55+	16.22% 162
	19.82% 198
	20.42% 204
	20.42% 204
	11.21% 112
	13.91% 139
	50.75% 507
	47.05% 470
Answered	999
Skipped	0

Q6. Are you familiar with the park facilities offered by Texas Township?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	96.21% 813
No	3.79% 32
Answered	845
Skipped	154

Q7. Do you feel that you have safe and convenient access to parks in Texas Township?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	87.10% 736
No	6.15% 52
Neutral / No Opinion	6.75% 57
Answered	845
Skipped	154

Q8. How often do you use the following facilities?

	Daily	Weekly
Texas Drive Park	6.61%	55 25.60%
6th Street Park	1.46%	12 10.71%
Pocket Park (Adjacent to Farmers' Market)	0.49%	4 6.68%
Al Sabo Land Preserve	5.87%	49 20.84%
Texas Township Paved Trailway	7.39%	61 21.09%
Farmers' Market	0.12%	1 26.91%
Facilities at KVCC	0.48%	4 3.14%

Q9. Which of the following statements comes closest to the way you feel about the parks and recreation amenities in our community?

Answer Choices	Responses
Members of my household use the park facilities	61.85% 522

Although members of my household	35.55%	300
Parks and recreation amenities are n	2.61%	22
Answered		844
Skipped		155

Q10. In general, what kind of recreation/leisure activities do you and your family members participate in?(Select all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses
Exercise/Fitness/Casual Sports	82.70%
Organized Team Sports	22.63%
Children's Play	40.05%
Nature Study/Gardening/Conservatio	40.05%
Family Picnic/Gathering at the Parks	29.98%
Biking/Cycling	56.52%
Other (please specify)	
Answered	844
Skipped	155

Respondent ID	Response Date	Other (please specify)	Tags
114657571227	Aug 01 2024	1Pickleball	
114657489468	Aug 01 2024	0Walking the dog	
114656672270	Jul 31 2024	09Taking walks or cross country skiing	
114656379211	Jul 31 2024	01pickleball	
114655730134	Jul 30 2024	07Pickleball	
114655534037	Jul 30 2024	03Kids	
114654867101	Jul 29 2024	07hiking	
114654866271	Jul 29 2024	07cross country skiing, fishing, swimming	
114654815967	Jul 29 2024	05Paddling	
114654072754	Jul 28 2024	05Farmers market produce	
114654051577	Jul 28 2024	03none not familiar with anything in area	
114652178322	Jul 25 2024	11pickleball!!!!!!!!!!!!	
114651198751	Jul 24 2024	10Fishing and hunting	
114651065559	Jul 24 2024	07Mountain biking	
114650800787	Jul 23 2024	09Swimming	
114650530415	Jul 23 2024	02Running trails/paths	
114648991650	Jul 21 2024	05Tennis	
114648543399	Jul 20 2024	01Dog walking	
114647851398	Jul 19 2024	10Pickleball	
114646661176	Jul 17 2024	09Walking dog	

114646020127	Jul 17 2024 06Hunting, Fishing, Dog Training
114645696713	Jul 16 2024 07Walking/hiking
114645309487	Jul 16 2024 11covered areas for picnics and stage for perform
114645086349	Jul 16 2024 06Metal detecting
114644841949	Jul 15 2024 09Hiking, swimming
114644743846	Jul 15 2024 07Walking
114644734351	Jul 15 2024 06Pickle ball
114644341824	Jul 15 2024 10Hiking
114643943348	Jul 14 2024 07Mountain biking
114643943293	Jul 14 2024 07Pickleball
114643919563	Jul 14 2024 06Walking
114643899469	Jul 14 2024 04Trail riding (UTV)
114643815304	Jul 14 2024 10Park concerts
114643811313	Jul 14 2024 10Dog walking
114643802408	Jul 14 2024 10Swimming, lap and open water
114643787500	Jul 14 2024 09Pickleball
114643785436	Jul 14 2024 09Fishing
114643773033	Jul 14 2024 08Kayaking
114643769460	Jul 14 2024 07walking
114643612596	Jul 13 2024 05Walking dogs
114643589008	Jul 13 2024 04Horseback riding
114643465047	Jul 13 2024 09Hiking, swimming, splash park, use of playgrou
114643311531	Jul 12 2024 10Dog Walking
114643195852	Jul 12 2024 05Walking and go to Lake Michigan
114643170823	Jul 12 2024 04Pickle Ball
114643093866	Jul 12 2024 02PICKLEBALL, WHEN COURTS ARE AVAILAB
114643087851	Jul 12 2024 02music
114641757785	Jul 10 2024 07Paddleboard, Kayak
114639856471	Jul 08 2024 01Running
114639777953	Jul 08 2024 11Hiking
114639613104	Jul 08 2024 08Walking
114639256164	Jul 07 2024 06walking paths
114638854423	Jul 06 2024 12Exercise walking
114638826823	Jul 06 2024 10Walking
114636457926	Jul 02 2024 03hunting
114634850449	Jun 30 2024 10Running
114634575697	Jun 29 2024 05trail running/walking
114631582882	Jun 25 2024 07Pickleball
114631491906	Jun 25 2024 05Running
114630378728	Jun 24 2024 1Walking on safe paths
114630271052	Jun 24 2024 09kayaking
114629759943	Jun 23 2024 10Dog walk
114629573037	Jun 22 2024 09Dog walking
114629492703	Jun 22 2024 03Splash pad with grandkids

114629455509	Jun 22 2024 0dog walking
114629443099	Jun 22 2024 12Need volleyball, tennis and pickle ball court at T
114629387807	Jun 22 2024 09Running
114629248181	Jun 22 2024 02Volleyball ground
114628971768	Jun 21 2024 03Walking trails
114628829551	Jun 21 2024 12Hiking / long walks through Al Sabo
114627468375	Jun 19 2024 07pickleball, tennis, hiking, walking, biking
114627463125	Jun 19 2024 06Metal detecting
114627326579	Jun 19 2024 02WALKING, DOG PARKS
114627318990	Jun 19 2024 02concert in the park
114627142635	Jun 19 2024 10Golf, Yoga
114627077818	Jun 19 2024 09Rollerblading
114627037381	Jun 19 2024 08Hiking
114627016173	Jun 19 2024 07walking
114626764581	Jun 18 2024 1Softball field at texas drive park - love this
114626751841	Jun 18 2024 10Tennis, Swimming, Golf, Pickleball
114626709613	Jun 18 2024 09Mountain biking
114626692716	Jun 18 2024 08Walking/hiking/running
114626620111	Jun 18 2024 07Pickel ball

I love to bike the paved trails.
 Getting there safely is the
 problem. Many of the roads
 don't have shoulders and some
 cars get really mad if you don't

114626610470	Jun 18 2024 06move over to accomate them. Jun 18 2024 06Pickleball Jun 18 2024 06Pickleball Jun 18 2024 06TV
114626610789	WORK REST Jun 18 2024 05Trail hikes, boating, RV to state
114626608929	and national pa Jun 18 2024 04Pickleball Jun 18 2024 04None
114626606234	Jun 18 2024 04Jogging Jun 18 2024 04Pickleball Jun 18 2024 04Lakes, Dogs, would love a large water park for Jun 18 2024
114626527723	03Hiking Jun 18 2024 03group hikes Jun 18 2024 03Farmers
114626524498	market Jun 18 2024 03Pickleball Jun 18 2024 03Pickleball Jun
114626524454	18 2024 03Tennis Jun 18 2024 03Running
114626525971	
114626498078	
114626491719	
114626487957	
114626482581	
114626478973	
114626459111	
114626457132	
114626457729	
114626453953	

Q11. How would you rate the overall condition of parks and recreation facilities

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
(no label)	8	6514	100.00%
			Answered
			Skipped

Q12. Please rate the following parks, recreation spaces, and facilities based on

	Poor	Marg
Availability of Park Land & Greenspace	0.59%	5 3.67%
Variety of Parks & Recreation Facilities	1.18%	10 5.92%
Athletic Fields	4.62%	39 9.60%
Sports Courts	2.49%	21 9.72%
Non-Motorized Trailways & Pathways	1.90%	16 8.53%
Available Seating Amenities	5.92%	50 16.47%
Restroom Facilities	4.50%	38 15.40%
Pavilion Facilities	2.13%	18 9.48%
Playgrounds	1.42%	12 4.86%
Lighting	3.08%	26 10.78%
Security	4.74%	40 11.49%
Accessibility	2.01%	17 4.62%
Special Events & Programming	2.96%	25 14.22%

or use Township parks, recreation facilities and/or programs, please select the reasons that prevent your or members of your household

Answer Choices	Responses
I use private park facilities and programs	16.80% 83
Park facilities are not well maintained	2.02% 10
Park facilities do not have the right equipment	8.91% 44
Security is insufficient	4.45% 22
Lack of programs	10.32% 51
Too far from residence	8.10% 40
I participate in programs provided by the Township	11.13% 55
Poor customer service by staff	0.20% 1
I do not know the location of parks and recreation facilities	5.87% 29
Availability of parking	4.45% 22

Park facilities are too hard to reach, please specify	5.67%	28
None / No Opinion Other (please specify)	46.15%	228
Other (please specify)	2.83%	14
		66
Answered	494	
Skipped	505	

Respondent ID	Response Date	Other (please specify)	Tags
114660491649	Aug 06 2024	My mobility issues - some state parks have all terrain electric wheelchairs. It would be awesome to have these available.	
114657571227 114657565465	Aug 01 2024 Aug 01 2024	I would use 6th St. pickleball courts mornings if they were open play, like at Ramona Park. Pool	
114656291683	Jul 31 2024	Texas dr park trail is extremely overgrown. Bushes and trees extending into the path make it difficult to use the trail.	
114656220028	Jul 31 2024	We live by Crooked Lake and have to bike on Q Ave to access bike paths. I want to use the paths but am hesitant to ride on a heavily traveled road where cars are traveling at high speeds.	
114656185336	Jul 31 2024	Additional shade options needed near play areas mostly for walking since it's attached to Applegate. I'm starting to notice that my grandkids are starting to age	
114654883071	Jul 29 2024	out of the Texas Dr Park.	

114654560537
114654097546

bike paths from all parts of township to parks would allow
Jul 29 2024 11more usage
Jul 28 2024 06Usually too busy

114652935651
114651591664

Lack of organized programs for seniors, lack of safe walking and biking trails from western areas of the Township
Jul 26 2024 09areas of the Township
Paddleball courts too busy,
Jul 24 2024 05none available

114651167877

There is no safe bikeway connecting neighborhoods bordering 12th St and Q Ave to park facilities proximate to Texas Corners. A dedicated bikeway is needed along Q Ave.
Jul 24 2024 09bikeway is needed along Q Ave.

114651065559

I travel somewhere with mountain bike trails
Jul 24 2024 07mountain bike trails

114651053166

Would like more bike paths connecting or shoulders on roads
Jul 24 2024 06roads

114650800787

Limited parking for Farmers Marketing
Jul 23 2024 09Marketing

114650610680

Waiting for playground at 6th st park
Jul 23 2024 04park

114648567216

Not enough pickleball or tennis courts
Jul 20 2024 02courts

114648299793

Lack of bike trails.
Jul 20 2024 12Lack of bike trails.

114647914493

We use them when we can.
Jul 19 2024 11Busy with other activities too.

114646676565

Live on 8th. Lack of sidewalk and dangerous bike lane keeps family from going to parks or downtown
Jul 17 2024 09downtown

114646222623

Others- ours kids are very young- will use more once they
Jul 17 2024 10are older

114646020127

Primary hobby activities are not allowed
Jul 17 2024 06
Jul 16 2024 07Newer resident

114645659568

We need more sidewalks. Q is a deathtrap.
Jul 16 2024 05

114645647905

Only tennis courts are at KVCC.
Lighting and security not applicable
Jul 16 2024 05

114645299667

More sidewalks to get to the parks would be ideal.
Jul 16 2024 11
Jul 16 2024 09I live at Bass Lake

114644743846

Very limited personal time
Jul 15 2024 07
Jul 15 2024 06No sidewalks

114644743663

114644729922

I really wish there was a boardwalk or path along eighth Street from KVCC to Al Sabo. I live right off eighth Street at the Glades, and I would love to be able to safely ride with my kids to Al Sabo and the connector trails there or just to be able to stay off of eighth Street with the kids.
Jul 15 2024 06

114644619156

I am unable to access trails from my neighborhood without riding on a busy road with a shoulder that is too narrow, thus unsafe.
Jul 15 2024 03

114644618477

I wish we could safely bike there. We live off R Ave.
Jul 15 2024 03

114644604188	Lack of variety at parks for many ages, lack of seating not enough trail pathways
114644399447	Jul 15 2024 03available
114644341824	Why don't we have a park with a swimming beach? We just got the boy scout park, people want to swim.
114643956373	Jul 15 2024 10question 12 - average score implies no opinion/not sure (add that option please).
114643933768	Access to some is limited, things have improved but still lack something.
114643919563	Jul 14 2024 06Moved to area about 18 months ago.
114643899469	Jul 14 2024 04No motorized trails
114643895943	Poor sidewalk access for teenagers from Applegate Trails (have to cross 45mph 10th St and 55mph Texas Drive)
114643828291	Jul 14 2024 04I wish I could walk to the 6th street Park. NO sidewalks.
114643802408	No facilities for swimming laps or open water swimming.
114643683286	Recently moved from WMU campus area

They walk their dog without the lashes and many walkers Do NOT want take care the business even Township provides the free bags, These selfish folks NEED to see big signs related these issue in every corner(6th street, Texas drive park, Al Sabo paved trail way), Walkers at the paved trailway (with or w/o family) do not obey the user safety rules , just walk on the wrong side & block the path when the biker pass or follow them. Parents should take care their young ages anytime everywhere. Unfortunately a group of players use all the courts every day at 6th street and do not give any space& time for other players outside the group. Township need provide more pavilion at parks. If Township have more funding, police patrol could stop by anytime anywhere specially in evening time for safety reason.Thank

114643610146

Jul 13 2024 06you !

Need more baseball/softball

114643611158

Jul 13 2024 05fields

114643589008

Jul 13 2024 04acreage

Bike trails need groomed. Tree

114643568859

Jul 13 2024 02branches hit you in the face.

Need more side walks to be

114643563869

Jul 13 2024 02able to access other then a car.

stick to the ones most near our

114643498909

Jul 13 2024 11home.

Q down to 7th for safe enough

114643486646

Jul 13 2024 10access to get there

Currently, there are poor

options for those looking to play

114643289224

Jul 12 2024 09baseball, softball or wiffle ball.

114643230924	Jul 12 2024 06	the pavilion with the farmers provided my own recreation	nice. I look forward to being able to have nice restrooms when they're done. Of course
114643228237	Jul 12 2024 06	sidewalks on Texas Drive in the Birchwood Hills area would greatly increase safe access to the bike trails and therefore the parks. Currently, neighborhood	sidewalks on Texas Drive in the Birchwood Hills area would greatly increase safe access to the bike trails and therefore the parks. Currently, neighborhood
114643149012	Jul 12 2024 04	residents must walk on the busy COURTS WERE OPEN	residents must walk on the busy COURTS WERE OPEN
114643093866	Jul 12 2024 02	MORNINGS	MORNINGS
114643081913	Jul 12 2024 02	township sidewalks to access + sometimes dangerous to walk	township sidewalks to access + sometimes dangerous to walk
114639856471	Jul 08 2024 01	on streets due to high traffic	on streets due to high traffic
114636457926	Jul 02 2024 03	I use my own land	I use my own land
114632966627	Jun 27 2024 12	Walkability/bikeability to parks	Walkability/bikeability to parks
114631582882	Jun 25 2024 07	pickleball courts	pickleball courts
114631293123	Jun 25 2024 08	Specifically at Al Sabo too fast. Feel unsafe crossing	Specifically at Al Sabo too fast. Feel unsafe crossing
114631133474	Jun 25 2024 10	Q avenue would be great. So many people walk/run, and cars are flying down the road. More people	Q avenue would be great. So many people walk/run, and cars are flying down the road. More people
114629855692	Jun 23 2024 04	would be able to use the parks if	would be able to use the parks if
114629492703	Jun 22 2024 03	exposure	exposure
114629455509	Jun 22 2024 04	dog parks	dog parks
114628363383	Jun 20 2024 10	I work alot at the moment	I work alot at the moment

Q14. Please select your top 5 priorities for new or enhanced park features would you like to see within the Township:

	First Priority	Second
Baseball/Softball Fields	19.70%	13 21.21%
Basketball Courts	18.84%	13 15.94%
Conservation Programs	29.00%	29 14.00%
Disc Golf	14.29%	14 24.49%
Dog Park (Off Leash)	38.54%	74 19.79%
Fitness & Wellness Programs	13.10%	19 24.14%
Hiking/Walking Trails	34.65%	140 32.67%

Maple Hill Splash Pad Amenities (S	25.38%	50	25.38%
Mountain Biking Trails Multi-Use	26.67%	36	20.74%
Sports Fields Park Programming &	18.94%	25	12.12%
Events Paved Trailways (Bicycling	12.42%	19	16.34%
& Walk Pickleball Courts Picnic Areas	34.91%	140	27.68%
Playgrounds Pump Track Restrooms	29.79%	56	21.81%
Sand Volleyball Courts Sensory	9.09%	9	14.14%
Gardens & Natural Playgrou	16.17%	27	27.54%
Sledding Hill Skateboard Park	0.00%	0	18.18%
Tennis Courts Other (please specify)	11.36%	30	12.12%
	7.14%	6	25.00%
	18.31%	26	14.79%
	4.62%	9	19.49%
	13.89%	5	8.33%
	17.53%	17	17.53%

Respondent ID	Response Date	Other (please specify)	Tags
114657231334	Aug 01 2024 0	Soccer fields 1st priority	
114654592302	Jul 29 2024 12	grandparents at playgrounds walk down Q from 12th street to 8th street. Or at least from 10th	
114653642885	Jul 27 2024 05	to 8th street. We see no need to currently	
114653108296	Jul 26 2024 01	spending money on parks.	
114652935651	Jul 26 2024 10	1 selection Maintaining current facilities.	
114652543146	Jul 25 2024 08	Nothing additional is needed. 6th street.. pickleball is too large-	
114652178322	Jul 25 2024 11	more courts needed!!!!	
114651287966	Jul 24 2024 11	Pool	
114651198751	Jul 24 2024 10	Fishing	
114650590190	Jul 23 2024 03	Town swimming pool!!	
114649663271	Jul 22 2024 03	The baseball diamonds need to be fixed up at Texas Drive Park.	
114648915686	Jul 21 2024 12	#1 Public lake access	
114648499850	Jul 20 2024 11	Pickleball courts used but it is in terrible condition! Seems like some of the rental fees could go to pay for fixing it. Also the walking trail	
114645375279	Jul 16 2024 12	at Texas Dr is all torn up along	

114645192320	connecting nearby neighborhoods safely to the
114645086349	Jul 16 2024 09parks. Especially along Q
114644432736	Jul 16 2024 06Metal detecting
	Jul 15 2024 12Fishing pond
	the ability to have more trails to bike/hike/walk/run is a need to help assist with safety of this
114644399447	Jul 15 2024 11type of traffic that is currently on
114644341824	Jul 15 2024 10swimming beach!
114644283059	Jul 15 2024 09Disc golf course
114644218643	Jul 15 2024 07Pickleball Courts
114644215695	Jul 15 2024 07several others
114643931377	Jul 14 2024 06Warmer water in splash pad!!!! Control track at Sandy Pines and thought would be
114643888591	Jul 14 2024 03cheap/easy to do at park as
114643815304	Jul 14 2024 11Camping grounds
114643802408	Jul 14 2024 10opportunities Street for pickleball players to
114643787500	Jul 14 2024 09sit
114643785436	Jul 14 2024 09Open Bass Lake
114643667464	Jul 13 2024 10waterpark
114643624925	Jul 13 2024 06Community Pool - 3rd
114643568859	Jul 13 2024 02alsabo from Texas heights to 6th street at least. Safe access for most
114643486646	Jul 13 2024 10residents to use the facilities in nice. I don't see need for more right now. Especially if you
114643314542	Jul 12 2024 11don't add more things would
114643313728	Jul 12 2024 11expansion hazard. I'd not go down that
114643230924	Jul 12 2024 07road.
114643233620	Jul 12 2024 07Fishing area
114643228237	Jul 12 2024 06taxes eliminate some ice rink space, with new rink down town . Wing Stadium is on a short term plan . We should build an ice rink
114643195852	Jul 12 2024 05and swimming facilities maybe
114643142831	Jul 12 2024 04Definitely more pickleball courts! TRAIL GOING WEST ON Q
114643093866	Jul 12 2024 02AVE PAST THE LAKES
114643087851	Jul 12 2024 02biking trails

114642513143	Jul 11 2024 07Enough
114641757785	Jul 10 2024 07beach Twp, then I'll say the trail maps at Al Sabo need updating. I don't know if I'm on walking or
114640001724	Jul 08 2024 03bike trails, which way to go, and needs to be mowed more often. It's a great amenity but the
114639217708	Jul 07 2024 04grass and weeds get in the way there was an NA option
114632430765	Jun 26 2024 06available
114631410488	Jun 25 2024 03Outdoor fitness equipment
114630977172	Jun 25 2024 06Parking they need to be better
114629855692	Jun 23 2024 04maintained or pickleball courts at texas
114628829551	Jun 21 2024 0drive park
114627953810	Jun 20 2024 1cove
114627899463	Jun 20 2024 10Ice skating rink
114627892917	Jun 20 2024 09Parks on or near lakes. Ability to bike safely with
114627077818	Jun 19 2024 09children from Colony Woods
114626948861	Jun 19 2024 05use Safe access to Township from
114626750579	Jun 18 2024 10Eagle Lake/Barrington/ Fiinegan and on 6th street need a walk path that is at least 4 feet wide.
114626729016	Jun 18 2024 10Should be mandatory on main Lowered speed limits on 12th
114626632706	Jun 18 2024 07street and Texas Drive control, increase ecological
114626635220	Jun 18 2024 07diversity and awareness, clean
114626606003	Jun 18 2024 06Parking at Alsabo #2
114626598582	Jun 18 2024 06use Water park with slide/pool/life
114626491719	Jun 18 2024 04guard on duty & for all ages
114626481728	Jun 18 2024 03instructors a pump track or a practice course w drops, skinny's and
114626469729	Jun 18 2024 03jumps over by Al sabo in the way/trail/sidewalk to access Texas Corners via bicycle from
114626445985	Jun 18 2024 03the growing neighborhoods west
114626448318	Jun 18 2024 03Community pool
114626442848	Jun 18 2024 03Why isn't running an activity?

Q15. The 6th Street Park master plan includes a large space dedicated to intergenerational play where children, teens, adults and seniors can all enjoy an area of various play features. Please rank the types of play you and your family would prefer:

	1	2
All ages obstacle style challenge cou	35.45%	257 21.93%
Outdoor fitness equipment Traditional	21.52%	156 23.03%
playground equipment for Traditional	10.21%	74 11.86%
playground equipment for Sensory	6.07%	44 12.55%
Garden Music Garden Natural	3.45%	25 7.72%
playground features such as	4.55%	33 2.90%
Waterscape (interactive pondless wa	8.69%	63 9.52%
Net climber area	9.10%	66 8.28%
	0.97%	7 2.21%

Q16. If you own a dog, do you walk your dog in the Township's parks or pathways?

Answer Choices	Responses
Not Applicable	41.06% 310
Yes	36.42% 275
No	22.52% 170
Answered	755
Skipped	244

Q17. Would you like to see an off-leash dog park constructed in the Township?

Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	52.39% 383
No	47.61% 348
Answered	731
Skipped	268

Q18. If yes, which location would be best suited for an off-leash dog park?

Answer Choices	Responses
Downtown Texas Corners	12.36% 57
6th Street Park	45.77% 211
Texas Drive Park	31.67% 146
Other (please specify)	10.20% 47
Answered	461
Skipped	538

Respondent ID	Response Date	Other (please specify)	Tags
114653108296	Jul 26 2024 01	Please lower my property taxes	
114652935651	Jul 26 2024 10	No opinion feces everywhere, spread of parasites, children getting bit by	
114650668446	Jul 23 2024 05	strangers animals parking and adequate space removed from dense housing	
114650544016	Jul 23 2024 02	because dog parks can be loud.	
114646222623	Jul 17 2024 11	Any location is fine	
114645696713	Jul 16 2024 07	Don't know unsanitary, and too many humans are irresponsible	
114645348874	Jul 16 2024 11	owners, opening everyone up to	
114645100026	Jul 16 2024 07	None	
114644823893	Jul 15 2024 09	Na	
114644686724	Jul 15 2024 05	Any	
114644619156	Jul 15 2024 03	N/A	
114644399447	Jul 15 2024 11	Wollam Nature Reserve	
114644283059	Jul 15 2024 07	No thank you	
114644215695	Jul 14 2024 07	With	
114643913381	Jul 14 2024 06	water area	
114643919563		Not sure	
114643888591	Jul 14 2024 03	thing and there are others close by.	
		features, we would like to see the current parks maintained to a higher level. Texas Drive Park needs 8-10' paths that are	
114643811313	Jul 14 2024 10	resurfaced. Trees/brush needs	
114643628835	Jul 13 2024 07	Somewhere other than above	

	Safety reason (the walker or dog owner do not train their dogs). This is as a preventive plan that Township should rethink seriously because
114643610146	Jul 13 2024 06Township will not take any take my dog and would rather
114643607411	Jul 13 2024 05the space be used for
114643557148	Jul 13 2024 02any of above would be great
114643555106	Jul 13 2024 02Woollam preserve Texas drive park and it is unsafe. I don't think adding a
114643258921	Jul 12 2024 11dog park will change that.
114643228237	Jul 12 2024 06none
114643195852	Jul 12 2024 05We don't need it
114643183196	Jul 12 2024 05None of the above
114643087851	Jul 12 2024 02none enough bad dog owners at the
114640173761	Jul 08 2024 08parks now
114639856471	Jul 08 2024 01n/a If considered, do not make it
114636107879	Jul 02 2024 08part of the current parks.
114631672263	Jun 25 2024 10NA
114630977172	Jun 25 2024 06None
114630757883	Jun 24 2024 09Rita kiwan
114629597219	Jun 22 2024 1Na
114629535169	Jun 22 2024 06Not needed dog park instead we can
114629248181	Jun 22 2024 02increase more amenities! any dedicated space away from
114627781094	Jun 20 2024 06high activity spaces
114627490430	Jun 19 2024 08public places!
114627215480	Jun 19 2024 12The old boy scout property.
114627142635	Jun 19 2024 10Not sure
114627105258	Jun 19 2024 10Boy Scout property
114626750579	Jun 18 2024 10Anywhere adequate bags and garbage pickup and have it completely
114626729016	Jun 18 2024 10fenced in for safety.
114626606234	Jun 18 2024 06None
114626458493	Jun 18 2024 03No opinion
114626452268	Jun 18 2024 03a place with low traffic