

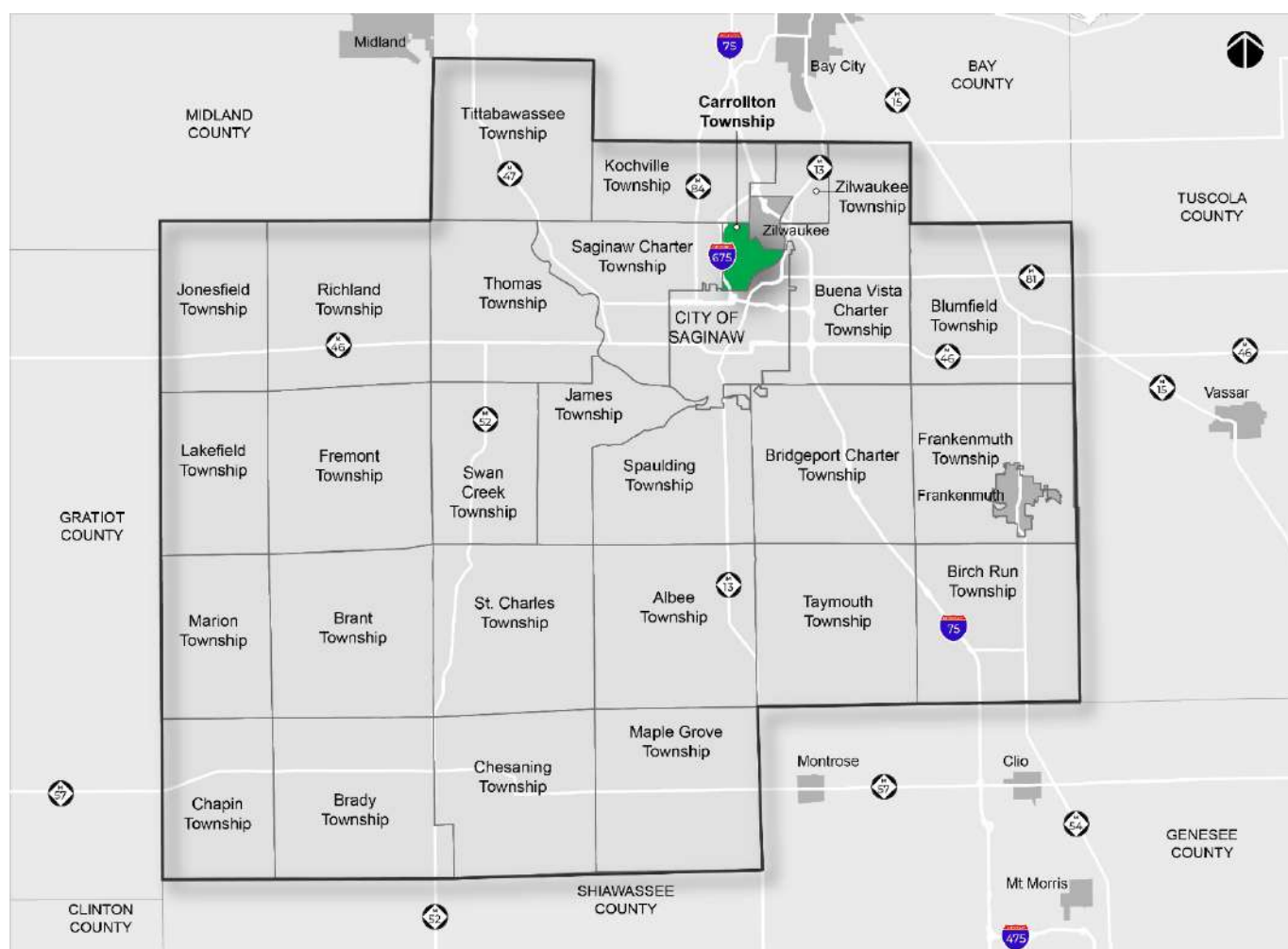
CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP



INTRODUCTION

Carrollton Township is located in northern Saginaw County on the east side of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Originally settled in the mid-19th century as the Village of Florence, the Township of Carrollton was organized in 1866. In the late 1800s, the Township had extensive manufacturing interests including housing numerous saw and shingle mills and salt works and had strong community institutions in its schools and churches. The Township today is approximately 3.4 square miles in area. It is bordered by Kochville Township to the north, the City of Zilwaukee to the east, Saginaw Charter Township to the west, and the City of Saginaw to the south. The Township also lies in a favorable location. It is adjacent to the Saginaw River and only a short distance from the Saginaw Bay and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

MAP 9 – LOCATION MAP



COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

TABLE 14 – CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

	Carrollton Township	Saginaw County	Michigan
Population			
2010 Population	6,103	200,169	9,883,640
2020 Population	5,750	190,124	10,077,331
Percent of the Population 65 and Older	13.5%	19.7%	18.1%
Percent of the Population Under 18	25.5%	24.7%	24.4%
Percent of Population with a Disability	19.8%	16.9%	14.2%
Median Age	36.4	40.9	40.2
Education			
Percent with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	17.5%	22.5%	30%
Income			
Median Household Income	\$37,828	\$50,606	\$59,234
Per Capita Income	\$20,735	\$28,092	\$ 34,768
Housing			
Average Household Size	2.09	2.31	2.54
Median Housing Values	\$70,100	\$128,600	\$162,600
Renter-Occupied Housing as percentage of Total Occupied Units	34.0%	28.3%	26.8%

Today, Carrollton Township has a population of 5,750, a loss of 353 residents in the past decade. The Township has a fairly young population with a median age of 36.4 and 25.5% of their population is 18 and under. In comparison to the County and State, their 65 and older population is also low at only 13.5% of their population.

The Township has a higher percentage of renters (34%) compared to the County and State, and their housing sizes and median housing values are also lower.

As mentioned in Chapter 2, paying attention to the age groups, population with a disability, and percentage of renters are key factors in determining what kind of recreational amenities a Township may need.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

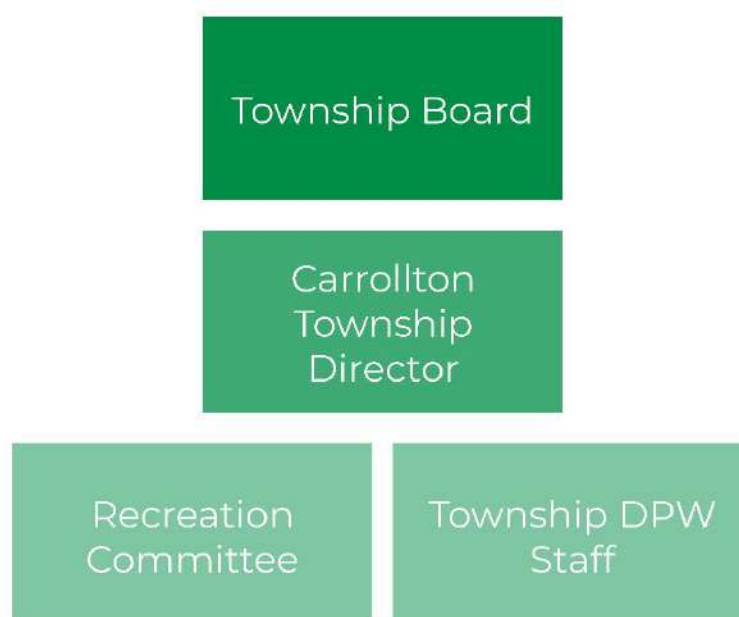
INTRODUCTION

In Carrollton Township, the Township Board is the decision-making body when it comes to parks and recreation in the Township. The Board was founded in 1866 and given the authority to acquire by gift or devise tracts of land for the purpose of public parks and recreational spaces in accordance with the Michigan Township Park Act of 1905. The Township Supervisor serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Township and Chair of the Township Board. The Board oversees assessing, building inspections, recreation, and public works in the Township. The remainder of the Board is composed of the Clerk, the Treasurer, and two Trustees, each elected for 4-year terms.

The Township also has a Recreation Committee. The committee is a seven-member committee appointed by the Board who serve as volunteers to assist with the programming in the Township. Their focus is on the youth basketball leagues and baseball where they not only help with the programming but also serve as coaches and help to maintain the baseball fields.

The recreation facilities in the Township are maintained by the Department of Public Works which employs three full-time and one seasonal staff member. The full-time staff keep parks clean, empty trash bins, set out/put away picnic tables at the beginning and end of summer, maintain outdoor pavilions and playscapes. The seasonal employee works April through November and does the same duties, along with mowing the lawn at all Township parks.

FIGURE 3 – ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



FUNDING AND BUDGET

The Carrollton Township parks and programming funds come from two different pots of allocated money. The money for park maintenance and improvements is allocated from the general fund, and the money for programming is allocated from the recreation fund. Recreation programming is largely funded through fees and donations. This includes registrations, concession sales, fundraiser sales, and donations. The remaining portion of park programming funds come from the Township general fund.

TABLE 15 – CARROLLTON PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET

	2022	2023
Operation and Maintenance	\$15,210	\$19,130
Programming	\$24,000	\$35,400
Capital Improvements	-	-
Total	\$39,210	\$54,530

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Programming

Carrollton Township administers recreation programming which includes Youth Baseball, Youth Basketball, Football, and Cheerleading which take place at the public school facilities. The sports programs which include Baseball, Basketball, Cheerleading, and Flag Football (new in 2023) have an average of 150-175 registrations for both baseball and basketball. Cheerleading, which is fairly new had only about 10 registrants in 2022. Flag Football is the newest program, the first season will start in August 2023.

Events

There are a few events held in the park annually. The Carrollton Lions Club holds its Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Stoker Park, and the Carrollton Public Schools hold a Meet Up & Eat Up Free Summer Lunch program at Hanchett Park.

ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Volunteers / Collaborations

The Township uses volunteers in a variety of ways, annually they have approximately 25 people who help in the parks. The Recreation Committee helps with sports programming and coaching, as mentioned above. Additionally, the Township and the schools work together, the schools allow the Township to use the gym and ball fields for practices and games. In addition to the Recreation Committee, the Township has other volunteers who help with spring clean-up in the parks and run the concession stand.

GRANT HISTORY

TABLE 16- CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP GRANT HISTORY

Project Title	Project Number	Project Year	Grant Amount	Status	Description
Hanchett Street Park	26-00718	1976	\$20,576.62	Closed	2 tennis courts, 2 basketball courts, LWCF sign
Carrollton Bar Nature Park	TF723	1983	\$174,000.00	Withdrawn	To acquire 90 acres of valuable Saginaw River floodplain plus Carrollton Bar Island to become the township's first passive park.
Carrollton Iron Belle Trail Trailhead	TF21-0136	2021	\$134,500.00	PA Executed	Development of a trailhead along the Iron Belle Trail (IBT) in Carrollton Township. The trailhead will include parking, a pathway connecting to the IBT, benches, interpretive signage, bike repair station, porta-john structure, and rain garden with native plantings.
<i>Total</i>			<i>\$329,076.62</i>		

RECREATION INVENTORY

Sherman Park

Location: 800 Sherman Road

Acres: 5

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Neighborhood Park

This 5-acre park located at Sherman Street and Taylor Street is a Neighborhood Park near the northeast border of the Township. The park includes a pavilion with grills, 2 basketball courts, a playground, and open space. Sherman Park amenities that are ADA accessible include: the parking lot and playground.



Stoker Park

Location: 520 Stoker Drive

Acres: 3

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Neighborhood Park

This 3-acre park is located at the intersection of Stoker and Eddy Streets, in the southeast corner of the Township. The park includes a picnic pavilion with four benches and two grills, an extensive playground, one youth basketball court, and various play structures. Stoker Park amenities that are ADA accessible include: the parking lot and playground.



Hanchett Park

Location: 800 Rustic Drive

Acres: 3

ADA accessibility: 2

Classification: Neighborhood Park

This 3-acre park located at the intersection of Hanchett and Rustic Street is a small community park. The park includes a picnic pavilion with four benches and two grills, an extensive playground, one youth basketball court, and various play structures. Carrollton Township



received funding in 1976 through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for two basketball courts, and two tennis courts at the park. The enclosed area surrounding the former tennis courts has been converted for use as a playground. Hanchett Park amenities that are ADA accessible include: the parking lot and playground.

Iron Belle Trailhead

Location: 4400 Lorraine

The trailhead located off Lorraine is a designated trailhead for the State Iron Belle Trail. It has benches, a bike repair station, paved parking lot, portable restrooms, and an informational kiosk. This Trailhead was recently opened in August of 2023, during the writing of this plan. The Trailhead is dedicated to Police Chief/Township Director Craig Oatten who recently passed away but dedicated his time and hard work to Carrollton Township for almost four decades.

School Facilities

Carrollton Township is home to multiple public schools. These schools include Carrollton Elementary School, Carrollton Middle School, Carrollton High School, and OMNI Adult and Alternative Education. These schools each hold unique recreational opportunities for the students who attend them. Carrollton High School, located at 1235 Mapleridge Road, includes a full-sized track, softball fields, and a full-sized high school football field. The schools offer approximately 73 acres of recreational space.

Carrollton Township

Parks and Trails

Legend



Park Location



Trailhead



Schools

Iron Belle Trail

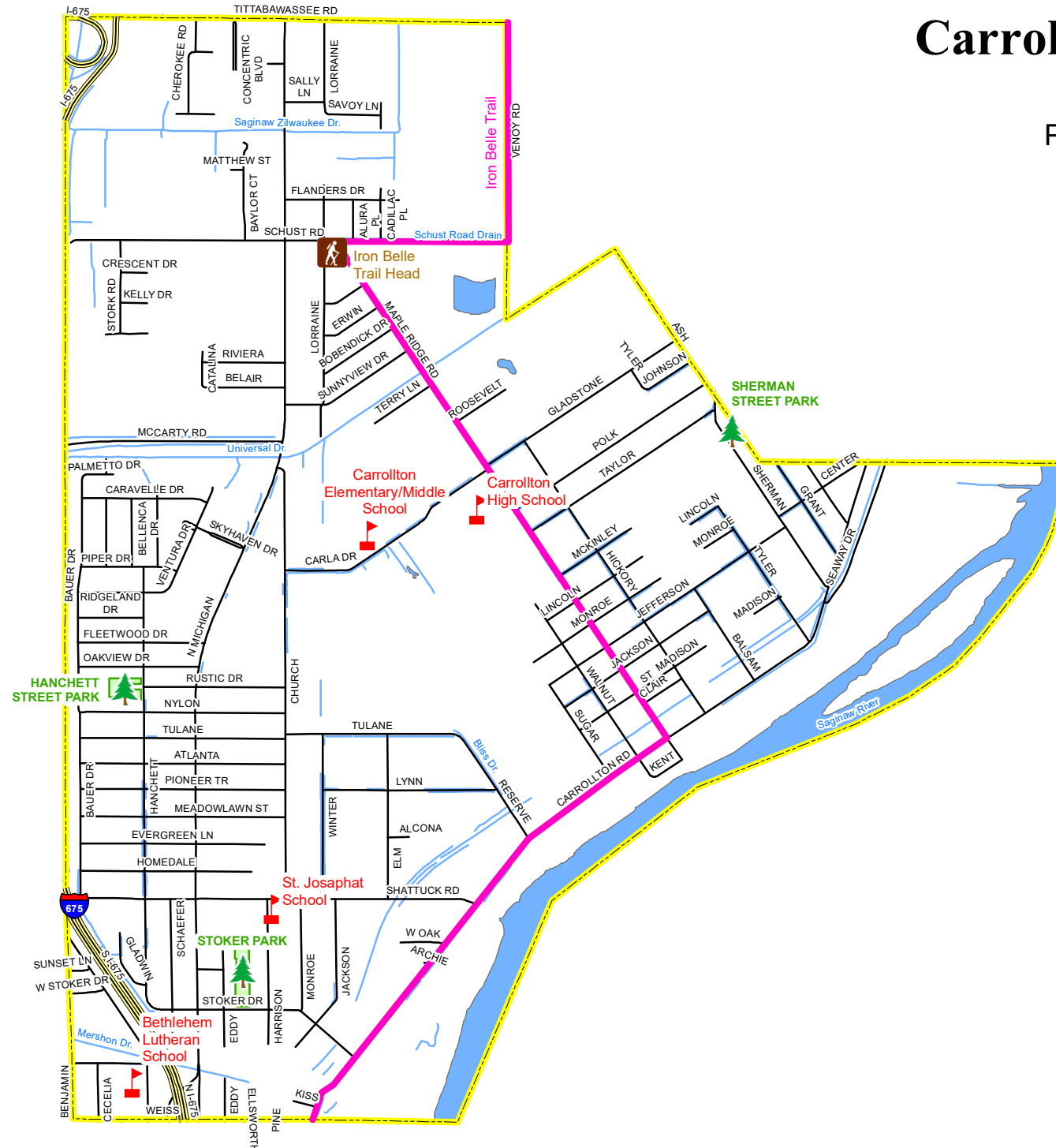
Interstate

Carrollton Township Parks

Township Boundary

Drains/Streams

Rivers/Ponds



Comparison to Standards

The following classification system is adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide. It categorizes different types of parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups. There is one classification type in the Carrollton Township: neighborhood park.

Neighborhood Park

Parks in this classification are the most basic park unit of a system and serve as the recreation and social focus of a neighborhood. Neighborhood parks are easily accessible to neighborhood populations and geographically centered within safe walking distance and bike access. Typically, neighborhood parks are five to ten acres in size and can service a population of approximately 5,000 residents. The parks have a service location of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distance. National standards recommend one acre of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents. The national standard for the Township is 5.75.



TABLE 17– COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

	Standard	Park Acreage	Standard Amount	Deficiency / Excess
Neighborhood Parks	1 acres/1,000 residents	11	5.75	+5.25
School Facilities	-	73.2	-	+73.2
Total		84.2	5.75	+78.45
<i>Table is based on the 2020 Census population</i>				

TABLE 18 – PARKS AND RECREATION INVENTORY

	Sherman Park	Stoker Park	Hanchett Park	Iron Belle Trailhead
Acres	5	3	3	
Accessibility	2	2	2	
Park Type	NP	NP	NP	Trailhead
Facilities				
Basketball	2	X	2	
Benches	X	X	X	X
Bike repair station				X
Grills	X	X	X	
Open Space	X	X		
Pathway	X			
Pavilion	X	X	X	
Playground	X	X	X	
Parking	X	X	X	X
Restroom Facilities	X	X	X	X



COMMUNITY INPUT

The Carrollton Township portion of the survey asked ten questions. These questions covered topics from visitation, park usage, and park amenities to land acquisition. Identifying the park usage will provide Township officials with determining what parks are being used the most and where areas of improvements might best be suited. When asked respondents which parks they visit and how often the responses are below.

Hanchett Park

- Weekly: 8.8%
- Couple times a month: 25.3%
- Couple times a year: 45.1%
- Never: 20.9%

Sherman Park

- Weekly: 2.3%
- Couple times a month: 8%
- Couple times a year: 34.1%
- Never: 55.7%

Stoker Park

- Weekly: 8%
- Couple times a month: 25%
- Couple times a year: 40.9%
- Never: 42%

Iron Belle Trailhead

- Weekly: 8%
- Couple times a month: 10.3%
- Couple times a year: 29.8%
- Never: 51.7%

If respondents said never, the next question asked why they do not visit the parks. This will help officials understand why users are not using the parks and if there is something they could do to improve usage. Respondents said that they do not visit the parks because they have just never been, because of safety concerns, their location, or park offerings.

It's just as important to know what respondents are using in the parks and why they are visiting. Respondents said they visit the parks for the following reasons:

- Walking or exercising: 72.5%
- Playgrounds: 60%
- Hanging with friends: 30%
- Picnic or family gatherings: 22.5%
- Participating in or watching sports: 11.3%

What do you like best?

"Close to home and so far it's a true community enjoyment"

Township officials want to gauge residents' feelings on four statements. Of the four statements the majority of the respondents selected that they agree with them.

- It is important to enhance the natural resources and recreation opportunities along the Saginaw River: **89.5% agree**
- It is important to provide outdoor recreation facilities, athletic fields, and courts within the Township: **93% agree**
- It is important that Carrollton Township Parks have non-motorized pathways and trails: **76.7% agree**
- The preservation of natural areas and water resources in the community has a positive effect on my quality of life: **83.7% agree**

The best way to make improvements within the Township parks is to know what residents and visitors would like to see. The survey asked respondents what additional facilities or amenities they would like to see added to the parks. The top ten responses are listed below.

- Restrooms
- Non-Motorized pathways
- Concerts in the parks
- Winter activities
- Playground
- Dog park
- Pavilion
- Public access to the Saginaw River
- Fishing platform
- Wooded nature areas

What would you improve about the parks?

“More access to the river for pedestrian fishing.”

Township officials' priorities might not be the same as Township residents, therefore, the survey asked respondents how they would prioritize the acquisition of land along the Saginaw River. Respondents said

- A top priority: 38%
- Important: 48%
- Not Important: 6%
- No opinion: 9%

The survey also asked respondents to prioritize the following activities.

- **Maintaining existing parks**
 - A top priority: 45.9%
 - Important: 50.5%
 - Not Important: 2.4%
 - No opinion: 1.2%
- **Upgrade/add amenities to existing parks**
 - A top priority: 44.7%
 - Important: 50.6%
 - Not Important: 3.5%
 - No opinion: 1.2%
- **Maintaining existing programs**
 - A top priority: 31.1%
 - Important: 61.5%
 - Not Important: 3.6%
 - No opinion: 3.6%
- **Add new recreational programs**
 - A top priority: 38.1%
 - Important: 55.9%
 - Not Important: 3.6%
 - No opinion: 2.4%

The Township currently offers four different programming opportunities to Township residents and has two events within their parks. Additional programming and activities respondents would like to see are:

- Food truckfestivals
- Concerts in the park
- Summertime activities
- Kids safety events
- Craft shows
- Adult recreational leagues

What do you like best?

“Having these places for the area youth is wonderful”

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1 - Provide safe broad community-based recreation opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all residents of Carrollton Township.

Objectives:

1. Continue to ensure well-maintained and safe conditions at Hanchett, Stoker, and Sherman Parks.
2. Continue to add amenities to Carrollton Township park facilities based on community input and need.
3. Ensure public parks are safe.
4. Improve existing facilities that need updated or have become outdated.

Goal 2 - Improve access to the Saginaw River through recreational facilities and open space.

Objectives:

1. Utilize land along the Saginaw River that can be used for boating, kayaking, canoeing, or passive use.
2. Explore the possibility of acquiring Carrollton Island for recreation purposes.

Goal 3 - Improve/provide barrier-free access or Universal Design standards to all recreation facilities.

Objectives:

1. Provide equal recreational opportunities for all people.
2. Improve barrier-free access to existing recreation facilities.
3. Develop programs for special needs population.
4. Ensure that upgrades are accessible.
5. Where possible, strive to meet Universal Design standards with new park amenities and facilities.
6. Conduct an audit of all Township owned facilities, which includes a detailed report and priority list with recommendations to improve accessibility.

Goal 4 - Improve walking and pedestrian opportunities throughout Carrollton Township.*Objectives:*

1. Continue to increase connectivity of pedestrian pathways and provide connections to local amenities and other regional trail systems like the Great Lakes Bay Regional and Iron Belle Trail systems.
2. Add walking and multi-use paths within existing parks.
3. Improve path surfaces when appropriate.
4. Improve pedestrian access throughout the Township by working with the Road Commission and Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail group to implement projects that align with the schedule and goals of each of these groups.

Goal 5 - Improve communication about existing recreational programs in Carrollton Township.*Objectives:*

1. Continue to utilize the Township's Parks and Recreation website and Facebook page to communicate with residents regarding parks and recreation.
2. Develop a brochure that describes the parks and facilities in Carrollton Township.
3. Explore partnerships, grants, foundations, and other funding opportunities.
4. Continue to work with existing recreation partners in the community to provide programs, leagues, and special events.
5. Explore options for new and expanded partnerships to provide additional recreational opportunities.

Goal 6 – Investigate opportunities to acquire new properties for parkland and open space as they become available.*Objectives:*

1. Acquire additional parkland in various open spaces in the Township including parcels with access to the Saginaw River.
2. Preserve and protect open space and other important natural resources in the Township.
3. If desired, acquire property adjacent to existing park facilities.

Goal 7 – Investigate opportunities to develop an indoor recreational facility.

ACTION PLAN

TABLE 19 – CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP ACTION LIST

Facility/Project	Relates to Goal	Priority
Sherman Park		
Add handicap-accessible features and surfacing at the park when appropriate.	1, 3	1
Investigate potential Disc Golf Course	1	2
Investigate potential dog park opportunities	1	3
Add restroom facilities	1, 3	4
Stoker Park		
Improve security and curfew enforcement	1	1
Add handicap-accessible features and surfacing where appropriate	1,3	2
Investigate potential dog park opportunities	1	3
Add restroom facilities	1, 3	4
Hanchett Park		
Add handicap-accessible features and surfacing where appropriate	1,3	2
Improve security and curfew enforcement	1	1
Add restroom facilities	1, 3	3
Township Wide Initiatives		
Develop a non-motorized trail for sections of the Iron Belle Trail that do not have existing sidewalks.	4	1
Provide walking paths in existing parks when appropriate.	4	2
Investigate parcels for acquisition including land along the Saginaw River	2, 5	6
Upgrade basketball and other court facilities at parks	1	3
Provide new play structures at Township parks	1, 3	4
Work with school district on potential property acquisition adjacent to baseball fields	5, 6	5