



Village of Three Oaks, Michigan

PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

2017 - 2021 Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Village of Three Oaks, Berrien County, Michigan

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Adopted by the Three Oaks Village Council on February 8, 2017

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you!

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In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of:

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Village of Three Oaks 2017 - 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan reflects a vision for the future of Three Oaks' parks and recreation facilities: their operations, maintenance, and enhancements for the next five (5) years. It serves as a roadmap for future recreation facilities and programs by considering existing parks and programs in and around the Village and the anticipated demand for additional or improved recreation facilities.

This Plan also forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other agencies and foundations. Three Oaks' Plan was prepared in accordance with MDNR's *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*.

Three Oaks' Planning Process

KEY STEPS

The 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared with technical assistance from McKenna Associates, a planning and design consulting firm, and with the active involvement of the Village's Administration and the Three Oaks Parks and Recreation Board.

Citizen input through an online survey and public hearing also contributed to this Plan. Following initial discussion by the Village's Planning Commission and a draft Plan review by the Parks and Recreation Board, the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was submitted to Three Oaks' Village Council for adoption. Throughout the process, all meetings were open to the public. Notices were posted beforehand, and where required, advertised in the newspaper, as provided by the Open Meetings Act. The planning process kicked-off in December of 2016 and finished with the adoption of the Plan in February of 2017.

This Plan will act as Three Oaks play book for community building as it relates to parks and recreation over the next five+ years.



Project Initiation

Kick-off meeting with Village Administration; schedule and work plan finalization.

Review of 2011: Plan 203Oaks and other community recreation documents.



Identify & Quantify

Parks and recreation facility inventory by McKenna to catalogue amenities and update accessibility assessments.

Documentation of updated demographics and community profile.

Importance of Parks and Recreation Systems

The Village of Three Oaks prides itself on its park and recreation system as a healthy system affords residents and visitors with a higher quality of life standard. The benefits of creating and maintaining a quality parks and recreation system include:

- Greater opportunities for a healthy lifestyle;
- Rises in adjacent property values;
- Encouragement of economic development, which in turn, can further attract investment;
- Natural beauty;
- Environmental gains and benefits;
- Social and fun; and
- Sense of place and identity.

The intent of this Plan to afford all members of Three Oaks the opportunity to participate and enjoy in the Village's parks and recreation facilities and to act as gathering spaces for community building.





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COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

The Village of Three Oaks is a traditional small town with an historic core, grid street system, abundant amenities, in southern Berrien County, southwestern Michigan. It is located within a few miles of Lake Michigan and the Four Winds Casino in nearby New Buffalo, both of which attract visitors to the general area. US-12 and nearby I-94 provide access to nearby metropolitan areas of Chicago, St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, and South Bend.

The area that became Three Oaks was initially settled in 1850, with its first businesses serving the rail line between Chicago and Detroit. Originally called Chamberlain's Siding, after founder Henry Chamberlain, the settlement became a Village in 1867 and was renamed "Three Oaks" after three distinctive trees near the railway that engineers used as a marker.

Throughout its history, Three Oaks has been known for its patriotism. In 1899, the community raised \$1,400 for the Dewey Cannon Memorial to the battleship USS Maine, the largest amount per capita of any community in the country. The memorial was dedicated by President William McKinley and other heroes of the Spanish-American War.

Downtown Three Oaks remains the center of most community activities in the Village. With a strong retail base, park space, institutions, and public facilities, it continues to act as a draw for residents and visitors alike. In fact, the 1989 film *Prancer*, was set in Three Oaks, with much of filming done on location.

Parks near the downtown are also home to special events as Dewey Cannon Park is used during the summer for volleyball tournaments and concerts, and is also the staging area for the Apple Cider Century bicycle race. Three Oaks also hosts an annual Flag Day Weekend Celebration that has been called the largest in the country. In June of 2016, the Village celebrated their 64th annual Flag Day Weekend and hosted the world's largest Flag Day Parade. The Flag Day festival includes a parade and the reading of an original piece by the Village Poet Laureate. Other community events within park areas include Art in the Park and the winter Tree Lighting Ceremony.

In addition to the many assets, festivals, and amenities offered in Three Oaks, the community is ideally situated to take advantage of the abundant historical, cultural, and institutional facilities located in the surrounding communities as well as the abundant natural features and resources.

Administrative Structure

OVERVIEW

Operations, maintenance and improvements to Three Oaks' recreation facilities are the primary responsibilities of Village staff and the Department of Public Works (DPW). Providing parks and recreation opportunities to the community begins at the top with the residents, who entrust these assets to the Village Council and the Parks and Recreation Board, with staff support.

The following entities are the major municipal recreation players within the Village of Three Oaks and described in greater below:



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE >

Residents, Volunteers, and Community Organizations

Village Council

Village Staff and
Administration

Parks and Recreation Board

KEY RECREATION PLAYERS

1

Village Council

A seven (7) member board, the Council maintains final authority over all recreation facilities.

2

Parks and Recreation Board

The Parks and Recreation Board is appointed by the Village Council and serves as an advisory body to oversee the management and budgetary decisions regarding parks in the community. Board members meet once a month and include representatives of the community as well as from both the Village Council and the Planning Commission. One member of the Board is also a Three Oaks Township resident which promote cross-jurisdictional and regional prosperity.

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Residents, Volunteers and Community Organizations

The Village strongly relies on volunteers and community organizations to maintain a quality parks system for Three Oaks. Volunteer citizens not only make up the majority of the Parks and Recreation Board, but also assist with the planning and organization of community-wide events and festivals held within the parks. Contributing organizations include, but are not limited to the Rotary Club of Harbor County, The American Legion, the Masonic Lodge and various Garden Clubs. Their continual investment and dedication to parks is a vital component to the vitality and beautification of Three Oaks' park lands.

In addition, maintenance and upgrades to the facilities desired by the Board are often completed or implemented by volunteers in order to reduce the cost of the project.



Funding

Primary funding for the maintenance and programming of Three Oaks' recreation facilities comes almost entirely from a sub-account of the Village's general fund. Alternative funding sources include donations from individuals / private organizations and grants awarded for specific projects, all of which the Village continues to pursue.

Table 2.1 details the Village of Three Oaks' Parks and Recreation budget expenditures with consolidated categories. During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the Parks and Recreation budget was \$36,000. Although only 3.56% of the total \$722,095 general fund budget (not including water and sewer funds) for the Village, it does represent an increase from the previous year's budget.

Currently, there is no independent revenue source for parks and recreation (e.g. user fees, millage, etc.) in the Village with the exception of a small amount of funding collected from rental fees for facilities in three of the Village's parks: Carver, Watkins, and Dewey. The vast majority of revenue is transfers from the general fund with only small amounts coming from independent revenue sources.

With a Parks and Recreation Plan in place, the Village Council may consider seeking a millage to help fund the Parks budget. Any decision on whether or not to seek a millage will depend on the fiscal constraints of the general fund and the specific parks and recreation goals expected to be realized both in the near future and long-term.

Grant History

The Village of Three Oaks has not received grants from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Passport Grant Program, Clean Michigan Initiative Recreation Bond Fund or the 1988 Recreation Bond Fund. However, the Village has graciously been the recipient of grants from Southwest Michigan Realtors, the Pokagon Fund, Rotary District 6360, and the Masonic Lodge. The contributions from these entities have enabled the Village to successfully complete parks and recreation projects and improve the quality of the Three Oaks' recreation system.

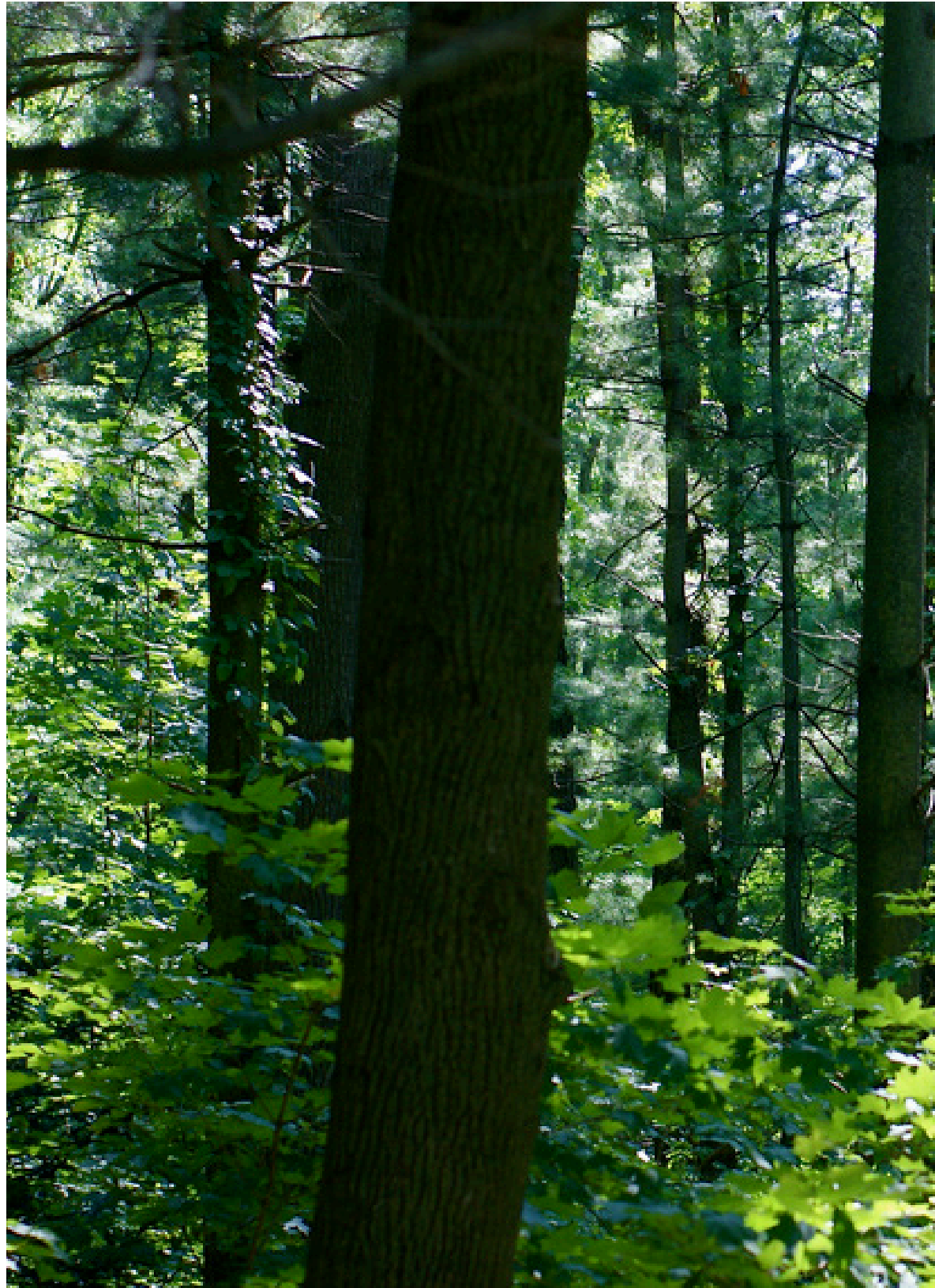
Budget

TABLE 2.1:
Parks & Recreation Budget Expenditures,
2015-2016

Category	2015 - 2016 Expenditures
Wages (Full, Part-Time, etc.)	\$12,500.00
Operating Supplies	\$4,500.00
Fuel and Oil	\$500.00
Professional / Contractual Services	\$6,000.00
Printing and Publishing	\$500.00
Insurance	\$1,500.00
Utilities	\$4,500.00
Repair and Maintenance	\$1,000.00
Equipment Maintenance	\$500.00
Equipment Rental	\$500.00
Rents and Leases	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous Expense	\$1,000.00
TOTAL	\$36,000.00

Source: Village of Three Oaks, 2016

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GREEN & BLUE FRAMEWORK

Understanding Three Oaks' environmental setting is critical when planning for recreation facilities and the connections between them. The location, topography, and existing environmental features all influence the types of facilities, amenities, and programs that are best suited for implementation.

The Green and Blue Framework chapter describes the benefits and challenges associated with Three Oaks' location and natural resources features. Also included within this chapter is the Village's existing formal park system, with an inventory of the current recreation amenities provided at each facility and a description of recreational facilities that are available outside of Three Oaks. The existing recreational facilities and land devoted to such uses then provides the backdrop for analysis and comparison to MDNR standards to determine where the Village is excelling or may have room for improvement.

Additionally, this chapter follows a holistic, regional approach to environmental quality, transportation linkages, parks and recreation facilities, and other assets. The Village of Three Oaks seeks collaboration with not only Three Oaks Township and Berrien County, but also within the larger region of southwest Michigan.



Natural Features Framework

Three Oaks' green and blue framework highlights the Village's many natural assets including open spaces, waterbodies, and wetlands:

WATERWAYS AND DRAINAGE

There are no significant natural waterways in Three Oaks, except for a few minor creeks on the northwest side of the community. The Schwark Drain, a manmade watercourse built to ease the drainage problems, cuts across the southwest side of town, through Watkins Park. Water in Three Oaks eventually drains into the Galien River and then into Lake Michigan.

Much of the Village suffers from drainage problems, a result of the flat topography of the area. Recently, the Schwark Drain was built on the southwest side of town in order to make the vacant land south of Locust Street more attractive and feasible for development. The drain has improved the flow of stormwater from the south side of the Village, but its construction severely damaged the nature trails at Watkins Park, which are now in need of repair.

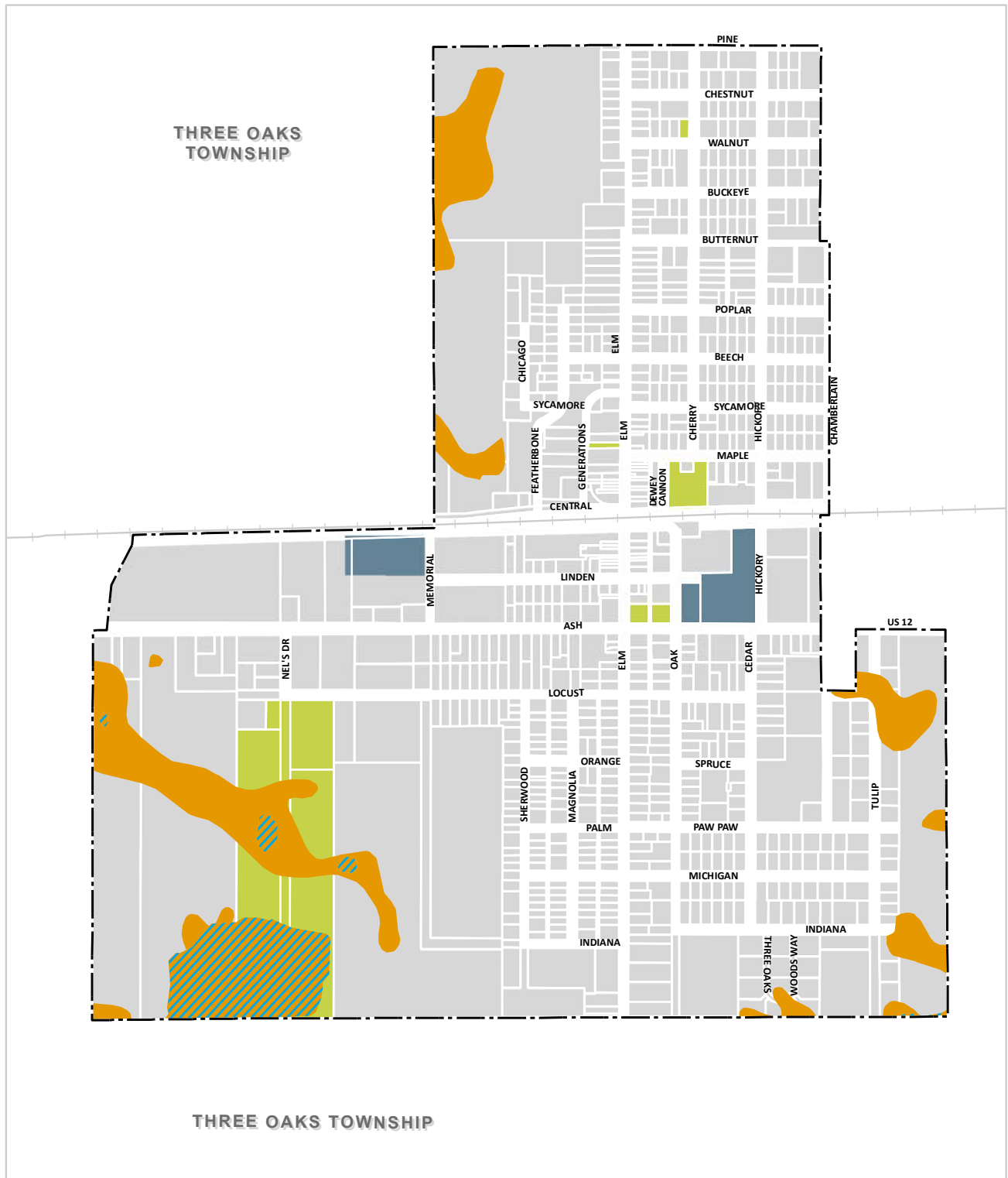
WOODLANDS

Since so much of the land around Three Oaks is used for farming, large woods or forests are not common. However, the Village has a healthy number of street trees and other vegetation in its residential districts. Additionally, there are two wooded areas within the community – one at the southern end of Watkins Park, which features nature trails, and one south of Indiana Street, where the Three Oaks Woods subdivision has been built with minimal impact on the tree canopy.

TOPOGRAPHY

The Village and surrounding areas are very flat, the result of glaciers grinding down any roll to the land during the most recent Ice Age. Those same glaciers left southern Michigan and northern Indiana with the extremely fertile farmland that surrounds Three Oaks today. Because of the flat topography, drainage is a problem and the ground often gets a spongy consistency after a rainstorm or snowmelt.





Natural Features Map

Village of Three Oaks, Berrien County, Michigan

January 6, 2017

Data Source: Berrien County GIS, 2008

-  Wetlands
-  Soil Areas which include Wetland Soils
-  Village Parkland
-  Non Village Parkland
-  Village Of Three Oaks Boundary

Feet 0 400 800



Three Oaks Recreation Inventory and Variety

In total, Three Oaks features six (6) public recreation facilities, with over 34 acres of land and a series of non-motorized pathways / trail systems. The Village's parks and recreation facilities each have different types of amenities and opportunities for a wide variety of recreation experiences.

The following inventory and the Parks and Recreation Facilities Map detail the amenities currently available at each facility and the facility's respective location.



CHAMBERLAIN DOWNTOWN POCKET PARK

Classification:	Mini-Park
Accessibility:	Level 4

Chamberlain Path is a small park in the heart of downtown Three Oaks, featuring an ever changing collection of sculptures provided by the Harbor Country Public Arts Initiative. An artistic large Kaleidoscope has been placed in the park for viewing.

The Path connects Elm Street and Generations Drive. Chamberlain Path has an attractive walking path and improved landscaping, updated in 2015. Eight (8) planters were placed in the park and local volunteers plant these annually.

There is an open-to-traffic driveway on the south side allowing traffic to drive through, park and visit the Region of Three Oaks Museum, The Acorn Theater and The Journeyman Distillery. There is also frequent pedestrian activity along Chamberlain Path and Generations Drive. Space for future improvements, including the potential incorporation of public restrooms is available within this area.



DILLARD PARK

Classification:	Mini-Park
Accessibility:	Level 2

Dillard Park is a mini neighborhood park, located on the north side of town at the corner of Cherry and Walnut Streets. It has been generally well-used through its life and is a staple of the neighborhood. In 2011 and 2016, all equipment has been replaced with a play gym for 2-5 year olds and swing set for older children.

Planters have also been built by the Department of Public Works (DPW). One of the planters houses trees for Three Oaks to plant when needed. The first were used in 2016 along some Village streets. Four (4) large planters were placed to create a natural barrier for playing children, which were planted by the local volunteer garden club. Signage, benches and picnic tables were placed for visitors which include handicapped accessible picnic tables.

As a result, Dillard Park is always busy with kids and families enjoying the outdoors, swinging, climbing and tossing balls. All of these upgrades re-established the park as a quality mini-park for use by area residents and children.

Dillard Park was a donation from the Dillard Family to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors.





DEWEY CANNON PARK

Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Accessibility:	Level 3

Site of the historic Dewey Cannon monument to the Spanish-American War, which was famously dedicated by President William McKinley himself, Dewey Cannon Park is Three Oaks' most historic recreational facility. In the summer, the park plays host to a weekly volleyball league and a concert. It serves as a trail head to many recreational bike rides for the regional bikepath system. Its central gazebo is used for weddings and other gatherings, as well as community events.

The not-for-profit community organization, the *Art and Education Center*, has taken over and remodeled the former Village office building at the north end of the park. They have built out an open-air theater from the Center, opening into the park. Built to host drama, film and music, this addition gives expanded options to those already available at the central gazebo. Two new bicycle racks have been placed at the west edge of the park, convenient to the Three Oaks Bicycle Center. The donating families have recognition plaques on the racks. New benches and tables are already planned for the summer activities, to replace the former, well-used ones.

The park is in need of some improvements, however. The electrical service to the gazebo needs an upgrade, and will be taken care of this year. There are no rest-rooms, although portable toilets have been available through the spring, summer, and fall seasons. The drinking fountain and barbecue grills are inoperative and in disrepair. There has been some talk about planting landscape screening at the edge of the park to separate the park from the commercial property on the east side. This has not been decided because many like the iconic, rural look of the facility.

This central park also suffers from drainage issues: during significant rain events and snow-melt, large puddles form throughout, limiting the use of the facility. This should also be addressed to improve the function of the park.



CARVER MEMORIAL PARK

Classification:	Neighborhood Park
Accessibility:	Level 4

Situated at the corner of Elm and Ash Streets, Carver Memorial Park is the gateway entrance to the village, but, for years was forgotten and underutilized. Named Carver Park in the 1970's it is dedicated to Three Oaks' only Vietnam fallen soldier, Randall Carver. Now considered the memorial park, it contains memorial and historical markers. Newly added is the 'fallen soldier monument'. The existing historical markers have been repaired, cleaned and resituated for better display.

The redesign and updates to Carver Memorial Park over the past five years have truly created a beautiful area that acts as a community gathering place and outdoor event space.

Today, the pavilion is complete, and hosts private and public gatherings, including the annual tree lighting event in December and Art in the Park during Flag Day celebration. A new sculpture was added by Harbor Country Public Arts Initiative, named "Bicycle Bob" in recognition of the Apple Cider Century and support of bicycling in the area. Pathways and landscaping have been added, with more landscaping planned, and the new benches along the paths encourage gatherings. No longer is the park underutilized and forgotten.

Future improvements consist of a planned visitor information kiosk, as well as a park entry sign. To complete the park and enhance its function as a gathering place, a public restroom facility is still a much needed amenity. At completion, Carver Memorial Park will truly be a year round asset to the community as envisioned five years ago.

ACCESSIBILITY RANKINGS

Providing accessible facilities that may be utilized by persons with varied disabilities is one of Three Oaks community goals. Each Village owned recreation facility was evaluated for compliance to the ADA Standards of Accessible Design by McKenna. Recreation facilities are rated on a 1-5 scale, as defined by MDNR:

- 1 None of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 2 Some of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 3 Most of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 4 The entire recreation facility meets ADA accessibility.
- 5 The entire recreation facility was developed / renovated using the principles of universal design.

All of the Village's facilities have accessibility ratings of 2, 3, or 4. While most of the recreation facilities include elements that are handicapped accessible, many of the routes to reach such facilities are lacking in compliance.



WATKINS PARK

Classification:	Community Park
Accessibility:	Level 2

Watkins Park is by far the largest park in the Village. Located on the southwest side of town at the end of Nel's Drive south of Locust Street, it features a playground, baseball fields, basketball hoops, pavilions and party space, and The Hoadley Nature Trail.

Cooperating with the Berrien County Drain Commissioner, Friends of Harbor Country Trail and the Rotary Club, plans are being developed to connect the Hoadley Trail and Schwark Wetlands area into the Berrien County Hike and Bike trail plan. Once accomplished these trails would connect Three Oaks Township Conservation Area Trails with current trails throughout the County and beyond. The trails have recently been greatly improved through a partnership with the Village of Three Oaks and the Harbor Country Rotary Club. Both Watkins Park and Hoadley Trail property were donated by the respective families to enhance the quality of life for Three Oaks residents and guests.

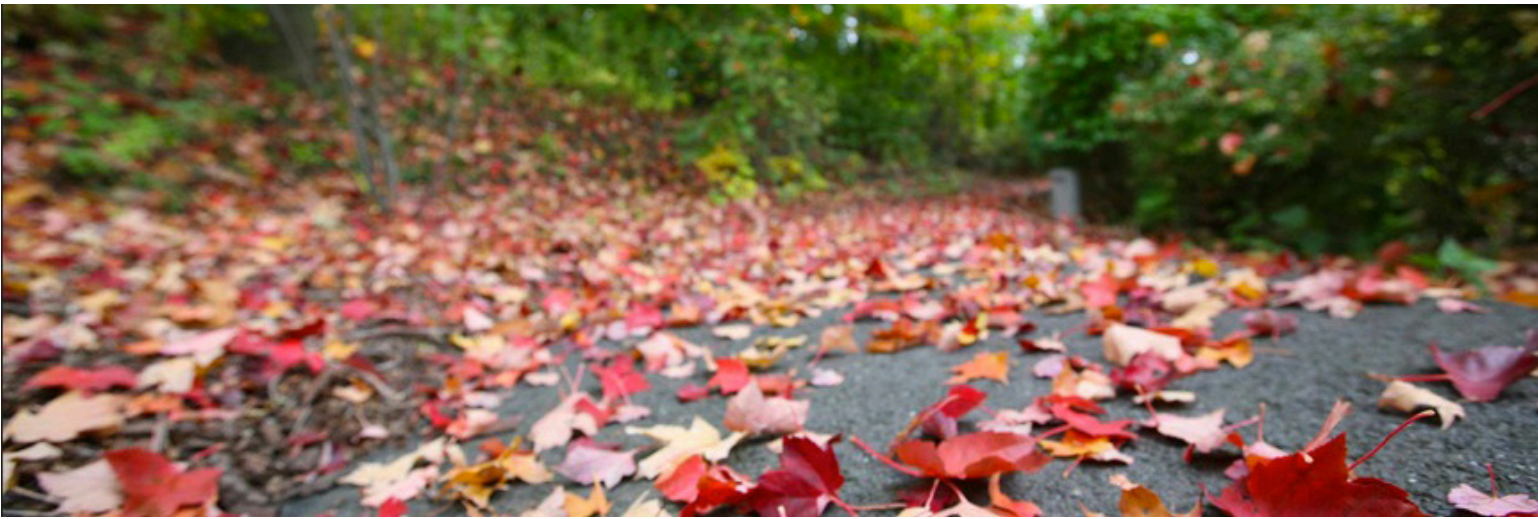
The baseball fields are the home to Three Oaks Little League, a popular spring and summer activity which involves much of the community. The two smaller fields, for 9-12 year olds, feature floodlights, and are in good condition except for some needed maintenance on the dugouts. The larger field, for 13-14 year olds and older, is in some need of updating, including re-defining the limits of the dirt infield. It also does not have floodlights.

The basketball hoops themselves are in good condition, except for needed net replacement (which is common for outdoor courts). The hoops are underutilized, however, because the court is used for parking and is filled with cars on little league nights.

The playground is built in the "timbertown" style, with wooden towers interconnected by tunnels, bridges, slides, and other playscapes. For most of its life it was well-maintained, but it has recently become the target of vandalism and negative behavior. A group of community members organized to build the playground in the mid-1990's and could be remobilized for the necessary repairs and updates. The playground is not well lit and there are many enclosed spaces, which could contribute to the vandalism. In addition, the timbers are showing effects of age and poor maintenance.

The park has two pavilions and an indoor party space that the Village rents out to community members. There is also a restroom facility, although it is not open to the public on a consistent basis.

The Schwark Drain Wetlands and the Hoadley Nature Trail, incorporated within the boundaries of Watkins Park, could become the focus for expansion of several environmental and recreational activities in the future.



NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAYS / TRAIL SYSTEM

Classification:	Non-Motorized Pathway / Trail System
Accessibility:	n.a

Three Oaks is the center of a network of 12 regional bikeways. The 5-mile Spring Creek Trail stays close to the Village, while longer trails like the Grand Mere Trail, the Posey Hill Trail, and the Warren Woods Trail stretch to distant destinations – the Lakeshore, Indiana, and Warren Woods State Park, respectively. The bike trails provide the routing for the annual Apple Cider Century, and they are popular with locals and visitors alike.

Additional Recreational Facilities

COMMUNITY GARDENS FACILITIES

The Community Garden was established in 2011 with Three Oaks Township’s grant from The Pokagon Fund. It is located on township land, behind the River Valley Three Oaks Elementary campus, south of the railroad tracks and just east of the old historical Three Oaks train station.

It is a true “community” garden. Village resident volunteers manage participation of gardeners, educational and celebratory events held over the seasons, and maintenance of the grounds. The local garden club volunteers maintain flower beds surrounding the garden fencing. The Village supports the garden with funding for soil, organic tea applications and general maintenance needs. The Township supports the garden with funding for water, tools and equipment, and insurance. The River Valley schools are engaged with pre-school through 5th grade students planting, maintaining and harvesting six (6) beds. Volunteers help the students plant seeds each season using grow lights for germination. Teachers include the plantings in their curriculum and each student takes home a plant in spring, with the remaining plants being planted in the beds or sold to support their gardening efforts. Each year volunteers and teachers use some the harvest for a soup party with the students.

The entry is graced with Little Free Library #24908 in the entry kiosk. Seating in the entry shelter allows visitors to sit and enjoy the garden or read in a natural setting. A rain garden collects water and provides habitat for pollinators.





NON-VILLAGE RECREATION FACILITIES

Within the confines of the Village, there are also two other recreational facilities. The American Legion fields, along Memorial Drive near Linden Street offer baseball and softball facilities. Three Oaks Elementary School, at Ash and Hickory Streets, has playground equipment and the only field in the Village suitable for soccer, lacrosse, or football. The playing fields surrounding the elementary school are partially owned by the River Valley School District and partially owned by Three Oaks Township.

THE COUNTY, STATE AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

The region surrounding Three Oaks is well supplied with parks of various types. Directly southwest of the Village limits are new trails on W. Forest Lawn Road at the Kesling Conservation area. Across the state line is Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, which offers lakefront beaches and sand dune recreation. Other Lake Michigan beaches include Grand Mere, Warren Dunes, and Indiana Dunes State Parks, while both Michigan and Indiana have inland State Parks in the region – Warren Woods in Chikaming Township, Michigan, and Potato Creek in North Liberty, Indiana.

The larger metropolitan areas in the region, such as South Bend, Michigan City, and Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, feature parks of their own, including the St. Joseph County Fairgrounds in Mishawaka, Potawatami Park and Zoo in South Bend, Indiana, and Silver Beach in St. Joseph, Michigan. Additionally, Three Oaks Township has new trails built off Kesling Preserve on Forest Lawn Road.

Three Oaks does not provide formal recreational programming for its residents, but there are several options available through adjacent communities and private providers.

Table 3.1: National / State / County Parks

Recreation Name	Location	Description
IN Dunes	Porter, IN	20+ miles of lakeshore with around 200 foot high dunes.
Grand Mere	Stevensville, MI	1 mile shoreline and 3 inland lakes, connected by hiking trails.
Warren Dunes	Bridgman, MI	6 miles of trails, 3 mile shoreline, largest dune rises 260 feet above lake.
Warren Woods	Chikaming Twp, MI	The last forest of its kind in MI, located near Three Oaks.
IN Dunes	Beverly Shores, IN	One of the most unique ecosystems in the Midwest.
Potato Creek	North Liberty, IN	A large lake surrounded by unique ecosystems and an interpretive nature center.
Silver Beach	St. Joseph, MI	St. Joseph's most popular beach, includes both river and lakefront amenities.
Love Creek	Berrien Springs, MI	Skiing, hiking, mountain biking, woodlands, and a nature center.
Glassman Park (phase I)	New Buffalo Twp, MI	Nature habitat, fishing areas, trails and kayaking.
Galien River County Park	New Buffalo Twp, MI	Fishing, hiking trails, natural areas, water sports (kayaking) and treetop overlook.
Berrien County Youth Fair	Berrien Springs, MI	Annual fair in August, along with other events and festivals.
Spicer Lake Nature Preserve	New Carlisle, IN	Home to many endangered species, features educational amenities.
St. Joseph County Fairgrounds	Mishawaka, IN	Annual fair in July, along with other events and festivals.
Bendix Woods	New Carlisle, IN	Major stop on the Northern IN Art & Earth Trail.
Creek Ridge County Park	MI City, IN	Series of boardwalks allow all visitors chance to experience entire trail system.
Patriot Park	MI City, IN	Serves a variety of sports leagues from around MI City.
Red Mill County Park	LaPorte, IN	Mostly a nature preserve with multi-use trails for hiking and biking as well as a rental hall
Bluhm County Park	Westville, IN	One of the area's best wildflower viewing with a variety of trails for various uses
Luhr County Park	LaPorte, IN	Nature Center and gift shop available with four eco-systems and a free fishing
Kingsbury Fish and Wildlife	Kingsford Heights, IN	Features fishing, hunting, a shooting/archery range, and a boat launch.



Table 3.2: Additional Local Parks

Recreation Name	Location	Description
Ox Creek Parkway	Benton Harbor, MI	Greenway through Benton Harbor
Jean Klock Park	Benton Harbor, MI	Beach and lakefront recreation
Maiden Lane Park	St. Joseph, MI	Community athletic fields
Robert Feather Park	Berrien Springs, MI	Community park for Berrien Springs
Plym Park	Niles, MI	Public 9 hole golf course
Fort St. Joseph Park	Niles, MI	Historic fort built in 1691
Fernwood Botanical Garden and Nature Center	Niles, MI	Garden, forest, trails, conservatory with art and other enrichment opportunities
Central Park	Mishawaka, IN	Playing fields and walkway along river
Marshall Park	South Bend, IN	Neighborhood park amenities
Boehm Park	South Bend, IN	Community athletic fields
Leeper Park	South Bend, IN	Neighborhood sports facilities, walking trails
Rum Village Park	South Bend, IN	Urban oasis with nature trails
LaSalle Park	South Bend, IN	Neighborhood gathering place
Potawatomi Park	South Bend, IN	Zoo and Water Park
Blackthorn Golf Club	South Bend, IN	Golf Course
McCoy Creek Rec Area	Buchanan, MI	Community park for Buchanan
Bourissa Hills Park	New Carlisle, IN	Tennis courts and wooded space
Chikaming Park	Chikaming Twp, MI	Natural habitats and walking trails
New Buffalo Park	New Buffalo, MI	Lake MI beachfront
Krueger Park	MI City, IN	Wooded area with pavillions
Washington Park	MI City, IN	Civil War Memorial and Zoo
Hanson Park	MI City, IN	Riverfront trails and sports facilities
Motts Park	MI City, IN	Nature trails and woodlands
Fox Park	LaPorte, IN	Lakefront park and concert venue
Soldier's Memorial Park	LaPorte, IN	Regional lakefront amenities
Village Park	LaPorte, IN	Historic recreational facilities
Prairie Meadow Park	Westville, IN	Hosts annual pumpkin festival
Coffee Creek Park	Chesterton, IN	4 miles of trails through unique habitat
Dogwood Park	Chesterton, IN	Neighborhood sports facilities



Recreation Systems Analysis

COMPARISON TO STATE AND NATIONAL STANDARDS

The type of parks and their location, number of amenities, and distribution throughout the Village are all components that are assessed together as a recreation system analysis. The following comparisons are made between Three Oaks population and the state and national standards for service areas, acreage, and number of facilities.

Overall, Three Oaks has a strong formal parks and recreation system and within the last five years, has made considerable efforts towards improving recreation facilities and making them more accessible to neighborhoods and other community destinations.

SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to identify areas in the community that are lacking access to recreation facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

Mini-Park	>0.25 mile walkability service radius
Neighborhood Park	0.25 – 0.5 mile service radius
Community Parks	1.0 mile service radius

As illustrated on the Park and Recreation Inventory and Service Areas Map, Three Oaks formal park system extends to the majority of the Village's existing or planned neighborhoods, especially within the downtown core and most of the north side of the Village. This is considered exceptional park service as individuals living within these areas have at least walkable access to two or more park facilities. However, several neighborhoods are outside of this walkability range, especially within the southeast portion of the Village. Building upon the existing non-motorized / trail system and linking neighborhoods to parks is one way to improve access and expand recreation opportunities for residents without the creation of an entirely new park facility.

ACREAGE ANALYSIS

Table 3.3 evaluates Three Oaks' park acreage to national guidelines for Michigan communities. As a state-wide measure, these standards are general in nature and do not always reflect the quality of the facilities, the character of the community, or other local differences that impact community recreation facility needs. Thus in evaluating the results, the actual conditions and trends present in the Village must be accounted for.

Even so, as a baseline indicator, Table 3.3 highlights the surplus of all park land that is available to residents. In addition, the presence of the Non-Motorized / Trail System throughout the Village provides additional access to parks and active recreation. Overall, the land dedicated and reserved for parkland in Three Oaks far exceeds minimum standards.

TABLE 3.3: Three Oaks Recreation Land Acreage Analysis

Facility Type	NRPA Guideline for Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents	Three Oaks Minimum Recommended Acreage*	Three Oaks Actual Acreage	Surplus / Deficiency
Mini Parks	0.25 acres	0.40 acres	0.73 acres	+ 0.33 acres
Neighborhood Parks	1.00 acres	1.60 acres	2.22 acres	+ 0.62 acres
Community Parks	5.00 acres	7.95 acres	31.87 acres	+ 23.92 acres
Non-Motorized / Trail System	Variable	Variable	>1.0 linear miles	n/a

* Based on the 2015 ACS population count of 1,598 individuals.

FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Additionally, MDNR recommends a certain number and type of recreation facilities for a community based again on its population size. Table 3.4 compares Three Oaks recreation facilities to the MDNR standards. Although the Three Oaks Elementary School, and other institutional recreational facilities, are within Village limits, they remain part of the River Valley School District and thus, were not calculated in the Villages facility count. However, it is important to note that these institutional facilities, including Three Oaks Elementary and the American Legion, are heavily utilized by members of the community and a popular destination for Three Oaks residents.

Considering Three Oaks 2015 population of 1,598, the Village has done an outstanding job of exceeding MDNR standards for several types of applicable recreation facilities. Again, the surplus of recreation amenities would only be greater if the count included the many active recreation facilities that belong to the River Valley School District and other institutions. As such, it is recommended that collaboration is continued with the School System and other entities, including the Township, in order to provide residents with even greater access to recreation facilities. Additionally, the Village may consider expanding the access to such facilities in order to create more inclusive environments for residents and visitors.

TABLE 3.4: Three Oaks Recreation Amenities Standard Analysis

Amenity Type	MDNR Standard	Three Oaks Suggested Amenity Count*	Three Oaks Actual Amenity Count	Surplus / Deficiency
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000	0	3	+ 3
Baseball / Softball Field	1 per 5,000	0	3	+ 3
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	0	1	+ 1
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	1	0	- 1
Greenway / Trail System	1 system per region	1	1	+ 1
Volleyball Court	1 per 5,000	0	0	- 1

* Based on the 2015 ACS population count of 1,598 individuals.



04





THREE OAKS' STRATEGY

Goals and objectives formulated by the community are the cornerstone of the recreation planning process as they form the framework for public and private decision-making. The purpose of this Plan is to provide a basis for public policy decisions and technical coordination in recreational development and to inject long-range consideration into the determination of near-term actions.

The goals and objectives, as outlined in this chapter, were developed through the Parks and Recreation Board and Village Administration, incorporate park and recreation best practices, and were confirmed by the results of the public engagement process.

Three Oaks' strategy hinges on its ability to provide a variety of parks that are flexible spaces to serve multiple users, creating an inclusive space for the community to enjoy.

This chapter details the public engagement process and key results and establishes the Village's goals and various corresponding objectives.

Public Engagement Process

Community participation brings vitality to a Parks and Recreation Plan and thus, the following pages detail the Village's public engagement process and feedback, and the resulting themes, goals, and objectives. To solicit public input, the Village hosted a online survey during the month of December, 2016 which was publicized by the Village Administration and Parks and Recreation Board. Approximately 60 individuals responded to the survey and submitted feedback.

Key Survey Results

Respondents were asked a series of questions pertaining to the existing quality of park areas (appearance, maintenance, and cleanliness), use of existing facilities, improvements, and priorities for Three Oaks park and recreational facilities. Key results of the survey are detailed below with full results included in the appendix. A majority of respondents (68 percent) were from the Village with the remaining 32 percent from the Township (10 percent) and other surrounding communities (22 percent).

VISITS TO FACILITIES IN THE PAST YEAR AND CONDITION RANKING

The majority of respondents that live within the Village or Township of Three Oaks most often visit parks within the Village, as opposed to the Township or elsewhere. This indicates the Village's parks provide a critical service to not only Village residents but those in the Township and surrounding communities.

On average, Village Parks are visited between 6-10 times per year by households while almost 40% of respondents indicated parks are visited more than 11 times per year.

The most popular visited parks and recreation facilities within the Village in the past year are listed below, along with the most popular mode of travel when visiting (drive, walk, bike):

Recreation Facility	Percent of Respondents Visit the Most	Most Popular Mode of Travel
Dewey Cannon Park	57%	60% walk
Watkins Memorial Park	22%	45% drive
Carver Park	14%	57% walk
Dillard Park	03%	19% both walk and drive
Chamberlain Path Park	03%	51% walk



COMMUNITY GARDENS

An overwhelming 100% percent of survey respondents supported the idea of Community Gardens within Three Oaks and only 5 percent were not aware that the Village currently has a Community Garden near the Three Oaks Elementary School.

However, just over half (51 percent) of respondents were not interested in participating in the Village's Community Garden. 17 percent of respondents indicated they would need additional information on what a community garden involves and the benefits of such participation. This indicates educational outreach may be helpful to encourage greater involvement.

NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAYS AND THE TRAIL SYSTEM

Over 50 percent of survey respondents indicated that they use existing trail system often and occasionally. An additional 35 percent stated they were not aware of the existing trail system. This is further supported by the fact that 47 percent of trail users stated it is difficult to find and access the trail system within Three Oaks, noting more publicity and maps is needed.

Similar to the community gardens, promoting awareness and the addition of wayfinding signage to convey the availability of the trail system amenity may help to increase usership.

Additionally, 83 percent of respondents support the extension and connection of the Village's trail system to other local and regional trails.

PARK AND RECREATION PRIORITY INVESTMENTS

The following areas were ranked by priority of Village investment over the next five years:

- Creation of a Dog Park
- New Playground Equipment
- Expansion and Enhancement of Nature Areas
- Expansion and Enhancement of Walking Trails
- Sledding Hills
- Design and Implementation of New Park Signage

Improved access to park space or additional recreational facilities within the southeast quadrant of the Village is also a priority for future investments as only 42 percent of survey respondents felt this area is sufficiently serviced by parks and recreation facilities.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR VILLAGE RECREATION FACILITIES

Survey participants were asked if they "would support an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes" for various parks and recreation improvements. Areas of parks and recreation which received more than 50 percent of respondents indicating they would support or strongly support an additional 0.5 mills included:

- Maintaining, upgrading, or improving existing parks (73.68%);
- Constructing new walking trails and sidewalks (64.29%); and
- Creating parks on vacant land (53.57%).

It is important to note that a response category for "neutral" was available for this question, which, in the case of maintaining, upgrading, or improving existing parks, shows that only 5.26% of respondents actually disagreed with such a millage.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT QUOTEABLES;

what Three Oaks
stakeholders are saying:

"I love the parks in Three Oaks; I think the Village does a great job of maintaining them, and since I live downtown I find a good number of them readily accessible."

"Better children's playground as well as higher priority on exercise."

"Nature Trail in back of Watkins -- this is a nice addition to Three Oaks Park system; it would be nice to see more accessible trails or connecting accessible off road hiking/walking trails."

"I love Timber Town!"

"Acquiring land or conservation protection is most important to keep Three Oaks open space and the feel of the community is paramount."

"Put in frisbee golf around Watkins Park."

"Glad to see the Village thinking towards the future."



Community Goals and Objectives

Goals, as related to community planning, are general statements of ideals toward which the Village strives towards. They also express a consensus of community direction for public and private agencies, groups, and individuals, and are long-range considerations that guide the development of specific objectives and actions.

Objectives are a means to achieve goals and identify the methods by which the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan may be realized.

The stated goals and objectives are grouped according to major community themes and developed using feedback from the public engagement surveys and the Parks and Recreation Board.

GOAL #1:

Non-Motorized Connectivity –

Improve non-motorized connectivity in the community.

Objectives:

- Identify and pursue funding for additional sidewalks, trails, and pathways.
- Provide connections to parks, neighborhoods, and major areas of activity.
- Coordinate non-motorized planning with neighboring communities and Berrien County.
- Improve signage and access to non-motorized facilities.
- Utilize natural features areas as connections where possible.
- Create a better pedestrian crossing at railroad tracks and Elm Street.
- Provide a trailhead facility at junction of bike / non-motorized trails with amenities for users including items such as but not limited to restrooms, showers, lockers, water, vending machines, etc.

GOAL #2:

Existing Facilities Maintenance and Improvement –

Continue to maintain and improve existing parks and recreation facilities.

Objectives:

- Provide continuous improvements and maintenance to Village park facilities and equipment to return them to working, well-maintained condition.
- Implement a Village Parks specific maintenance program that would include the maintenance and upgrade of equipment and trail ways as well as restoration and maintenance of Historical Markers and Landmarks.
- Identify and provide funding for annual improvements to community facilities that maintain or exceed current levels.
- Adhere to high standards of maintenance for all parks and recreation facilities.
- Continue to improve safety and accessibility at parks.
- Explore opportunities for the “greening” of the parks and facilities through improvements such as field maintenance, reestablishment of native plantings, stormwater improvements, lighting upgrades, and energy audits.

GOAL #3:

Park Land Acquisition and Development –

Explore opportunities and provide funding for park site and land acquisition.

Objectives:

- Expand existing parks through the acquisition of available lots adjacent to or close to existing parks.
- Consider acquisition of sensitive environmental lands and natural resources for passive use or preservation.
- Acquire property or an existing building that would accommodate the construction of a Community and Fitness Center offering recreational activities to all ages.

GOAL #4:

Expand Amenities and Facilities at Village Parks –

Maximize use of existing park sites by expanding facilities and amenities available to residents to further increase quality of life for residents and further encourage others to visit and stay in Three Oaks.

Objectives:

- Include a broad range of facilities within each park where feasible, particularly addressing amenities and facilities currently lacking within the community.
- Develop park sites to their optimal use in consideration of changing community needs and resource limitations.
- Maintain a logical balance between active and passive pursuits in the parks.
- Develop covered gathering areas for festivals and events at downtown park site(s).
- Provide ancillary facilities to enhance the sites such as all season water fountains, grills, electricity outlets, controllable water sources, bleachers (at sports fields), and public restrooms.
- Provide facilities for activities currently not provided in the community, such as tennis, volleyball (permanent), bocce ball, horseshoe, campground, and a dog park.
- Provide for winter season recreation, such as an ice rink with warming hut with restroom facilities and/or facilities for cross country skiing.
- Continue to build and expand the community garden.
- Utilize parks as signature facilities in the community and incorporate gateways into Village and downtown.
- Provide activities in community for youth and teens.
- Coordinate with Three Oaks Township and Harbor Country communities on regional recreation issues and trail connections

GOAL #5:

Serve All Populations with Parks and Recreation –

Provide a range of parks and recreation facilities to meet the leisure needs of all segments of the population.

Objectives:

- As Three Oaks continues to develop, ensure that the Village population continues to be served with a uniform distribution of facilities, in terms of both geography and population.
- Develop facilities to meet the physical needs and ability levels of all park users, including improving the accessibility of existing facilities.
- Provide facilities and amenities for park users of all ages.

GOAL #6:

Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources –

Protect natural and cultural features, such as wooded areas, wetlands, wildlife habitat, natural drainage ways, and historic structures and facilities.

Objectives:

- Identify important and recognized natural features and open spaces in the community.
- Preserve natural features within park sites to the maximum extent feasible, in consideration of the proposed multiple-use character of the Village's parks.
- Develop programs and utilize sites in a manner that results in a greater appreciation of the community's natural resources.
- Incorporate natural and historic resource protection, including protection of groundwater recharge areas, into the parks and recreation program whenever the opportunity presents itself.
- Identify funding for upgrades and maintenance of historic facilities in the community.
- Conduct Natural Features Inventory within next five years to identify high priority sensitive areas for planning purposes.

GOAL #7:

Funding –

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

Objectives:

- Pursue all available funding sources for capital improvements and operations and maintenance, including local sources, a parks and recreation millage, state and federal grant programs, local businesses, community organizations, and other sources.
- Explore opportunities for greater private sector participation in the provision of recreation and leisure services in the Village.
- Coordinate efforts with local interest groups and recreation providers and create partnerships for providing these resources throughout the region.
- Develop long-range projections of costs and revenues as a management tool.
- Explore developing a more complete fee structure for the use of community park facilities; update the existing fees to be competitive with regional facilities; and review the fees on an annual basis.

05





PLANNING FOR CHANGE

Three Oaks' Action Plan serves as a template for future projects and is intended to be a flexible, year-by-year list of improvements for 2017-2021. The Action Plan supports the goals and objectives for the Village development, growth, and enhancement through a comprehensive set of network improvements, policies and programs that are staggered over the five (5) year period.

Within this chapter, projects are identified which will develop the Village's recreation system in a manner that provides a total recreation experience for the entire family. With the goal to continually develop facilities for active and passive recreation, competitive sports, for children, adolescents, and seniors, and picnic and gathering spaces, and natural landscapes, Three Oaks will continue to afford residents and visitors a high-quality park and recreation experience.

Detailed on the next several pages is Three Oaks' Action Plan, top five (5) projects for prioritization, and project descriptions to help guide and inspire responsible parties towards a common understanding and lay the groundwork for implementation.



Top five Priority Projects

The following five (5) priority projects represent near-term investments that have the potential to create major and immediate improvements to the Village's parks and recreation system.

These top five projects were identified by Village Administration and the Parks and Recreation Board and serve as an excellent starting point for future prioritization and action:

- 1 Dewey Cannon Park Improvements
- 2 Watkins Park Improvements
- 3 Chamberlain Pocket Park Improvements
- 4 Carver Park Improvements
- 5 Joint Three Oaks Partnerships

Full project descriptions are detailed on the following pages.

Action Plan

Three Oaks' Action Plan is detailed in Table 5.1 which presents each of the proposed project titles, the anticipated time frame, estimated cost range, and potential funding sources / partnerships. Some park facilities contain various projects that are planned to occur over multiple years and involve coordination with other agencies. Other park and recreation facility projects involve targeted improvements that Three Oaks can implement quickly within one year and/or with the help of volunteers.

Cost range estimates for Three Oaks' Action Plan projects were derived in 2016 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project should be specifically determined with the aid of site surveys, programming elements, and engineering requirements. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the project based on the schedule provided, the project's implementation time frame could be stretched over additional years or the scope of the project condensed.

Projects of the Action Plan should be reviewed annually by the Parks and Recreation Board and reported to the Village Council, allowing for adjustments to respond to updated needs / conditions and the identification of funding opportunities.

Time Frame Key:

Near-term	Less than 1 year
Mid-term	1 - 3 years
Long-term	Over 3 years

Estimated Cost Range Key:

\$	\$0 - \$10,000
\$	\$10,001 - \$500,000
\$	\$500,000+

Funding Sources and Collaboration Key:

GF	General Fund (Three Oaks)
D/P	Donation or Partnership
LSO	Local Service Organizations
CS	Corporate Sponsor
G	Grants (i.e. MDNR, CDBG)
DDA	Downtown Development Authority
PC	Planning Commission
PRB	Parks and Recreation Board
VC	Village Council
BC	Berrien County
TOT	Three Oaks Township
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality

TABLE 5.1: Three Oaks Parks and Recreation Action Plan, 2017-2021

Project	Time Frame			Estimated Cost Range	Funding Source(s) & Collaboration
	Near-term	Mid-term	Long-term		
Park Maintenance and Function	X			\$	GS, LSO
Non-Motorized Pathway / Trail System Connections		X		\$\$	GF, LSO, G, BC, TOT
Joint Three Oaks Partnership		X		\$	VC, TOT, PRB
Expand and Partner for Recreation Facilities		X		\$\$	G, VC, TOT, PRB
Chamberlain Downtown Pocket Park Improvements		X		\$\$	GF, G, TOT, DDA, LSO
Watkins Park Improvements			X	\$\$	GF, TOT, G, LSO, CS
Carver Memorial Park Improvements	X			\$\$	GF, G, PC, PRB, DDA, LSO, CS, D/P
Dewey Cannon Park	X			\$	GF, G, LSO
Dillard Park Improvements		X		\$	GF
Water Resource Management		X		\$\$ - \$\$\$	GF, G, LSO, DDA, DEQ
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update			X	\$	GF, PC, PRB, VC, DDA
Park and Wayfinding Signage Plan	X			\$	GF, G, PRB, DDA





Project Descriptions

PARK MAINTENANCE AND FUNCTION

The Village of Three Oaks is fortunate to have a quality parks system with a wide variety of amenities dispersed throughout the community. To continue restoring parkland and maintaining existing facilities and amenities, the Village anticipates creating maintenance plans with responsibilities of each entity involved to ensure that the community is enjoying the full benefits of Three Oaks recreational assets.

NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY / TRAIL SYSTEM CONNECTIONS

The Village of Three Oaks is committed to providing pedestrian and bicycle pathways and connections throughout the Village and beyond. The Village should continue to develop pathways and connections, particularly linking the parks and recreation and Village facilities, as well as residential areas. A Village-wide plan for a multi-modal trail system is proposed, including bicycles, pedestrian, snowmobiles, and others incorporate local, County, State, and other trail systems to ensure maximum connectivity.

JOINT THREE OAKS PARTNERSHIP

Three Oaks Village and Township have established an improved, working relationship for the planning and management of their Parks and Recreation Boards, to maximize benefits for the Village and Township residents, who all enjoy the parks and recreation facilities of the area. There is some momentum to combine the Village and Township Parks and Recreation Boards, which would streamline, organize the parks system for the entire community, and potentially result in reduced costs as a result of shared services. Together, the Village and Township can further enhance recreation amenities.

EXPAND AND PARTNER FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Investigate the possibility of providing new recreation facilities in schoolyards and the parks of other local jurisdictions that will be available to all residents of the Three Oaks Area, including: the River Valley School District recreation facilities and county and township parks in the Three Oaks Area; and provide opportunities for a healthier lifestyle through exercise. Strongly work with local service organizations.

CHAMBERLAIN DOWNTOWN POCKET PARK IMPROVEMENTS

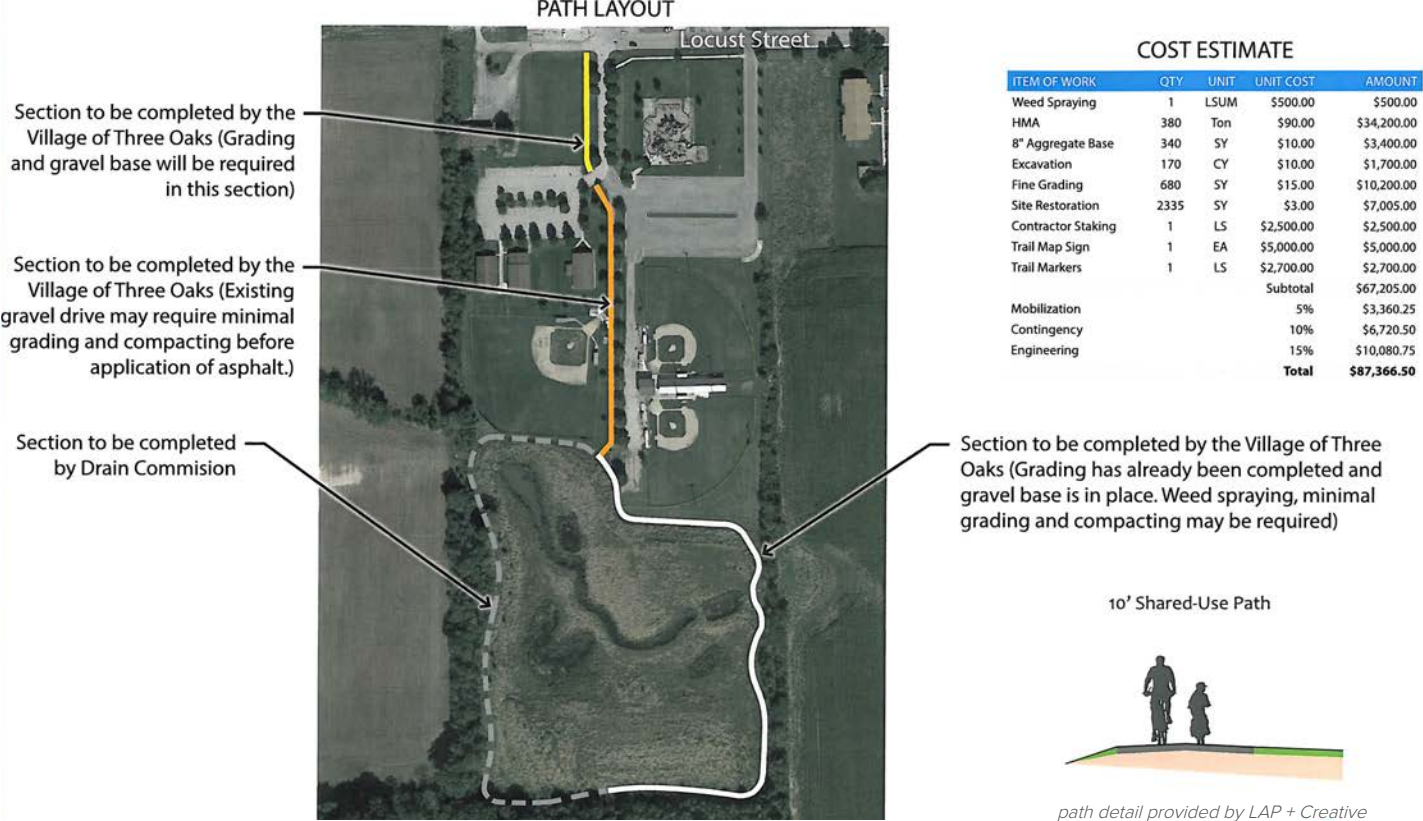
Located within the downtown core, continued development to the Chamberlain Pocket Park will provide the Village with a centralized gathering space for community events and further enhance the overall character and public image of Three Oaks. Improvements include additional landscaping, signage, seating, public restrooms, public art (cleaning and feature pieces, decorative pavement treatments, and landscaping screening (to provide a greater transition from the adjacent commercial / parking areas). Strongly working with local service organizations and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is critical for the success of this project.

WATKINS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement park improvements, including:

- Repairs to the Little League Fields (equipment and electrical upgrades);
- Repairs and replacement of broken equipment in Timber Town;
- Repairs to the existing station fitness course;
- New picnic and gathering spaces;
- Shared-Use path improvements (see project details below), including a connection to the bike trail system on Elem Street via Locust with street markings as "shared use"; and
- Addition of multi-purpose tennis and basketball courts.

Watkins Park: Shared-Use Proposal Detail





Carver Memorial Park, 2016

The Village, with support from the Masonic Lodge and others, has made significant recent investments, including the construction of a covered, outdoor pavilion with a series of picnic tables underneath and a fireplace to afford residents and visitors with year-round community gathering activities.

CARVER MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The centralized location of Carver Park and its current programming has made it an ideal site for universal access improvements and an expansion of recreational amenities. The overall design concept for an improved Carver Park is the finalization of an inclusive, universally accessible community gathering space with recreational amenities to attract a variety of users and ages.

Outstanding park improvements include:

- **WAYFINDING KIOSK.** Installation of a wayfinding kiosk to inform both residents and visitors of the park and its amenities and surrounding Village with other recreational destinations to help individuals experience other Three Oaks attractions. Wayfinding signage is a component that was budgeted in the most recent Capital Improvement Plan.

- **RESTROOM FACILITIES.** Construction of restroom facilities will allow park users greater enjoyment of the space for longer durations. The restroom facilities will feature more than the minimum number of accessible units to ensure there are sufficient facilities available during community events. Additionally, a second water fountain designed for universal access and with sensors to avoid the waste of water resources is also located just outside the restroom facilities.



Example of a restroom facility planned for at Carver Park, with architectural style and character as desired by the community.

- **LANDSCAPING UPGRADES.** Additional vegetation in various groupings around the pathway system will create a series of both formal and informal gardens for wildlife and viewing. Native vegetation will be incorporated into the design. The gardens provide an excellent opportunity for youth to connect with nature in an engaging and educational manner. Visitors can also enjoy the gardens, both aesthetically and educational as signage will be provided. Evergreen trees are also planned to increase the overall amount vegetation and on-site species diversity.



DEWEY CANNON PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement park improvements, including:

- Electrical upgrades;
- Landscape upgrades;
- Addition of a drinking fountain.

DILLARD PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement park improvements, including:

- Addition of a drinking fountain; and
- Best management for stormwater drainage.

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Create, ingrate, and maintain blue and green infrastructure centered around the Village's water systems that aims to improve the water quality (including algae removal, water flows and levels) so that they remain healthy and attractive. Acquire and preserve greenbelts of land around water systems to protect the watershed from development impacts and pollution and collaborate on regional projects to address environmental quality.

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years (2022 deadline).

PARK WAYFINDING AND SIGNAGE PLAN

Continue to design and implement wayfinding signage at all parks, following a consistent theme that ties into the existing Three Oaks theme. All trail signage should include a map with routes and incorporate travel times for each segment to help guide unfamiliar users and any wayfinding signage program must consider parking and Village destinations.



COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this
information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than March 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:

2017 - 2021 Village of Three Oaks Parks and Recreation Master Plan

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.

County

Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body

Village of Three Oaks

Berrien

Feb., 2017

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

☒ 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

☒ 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)

☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart

☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming

☒ Current Funding Sources

☒ Role of Volunteers

☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:

☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities

☐ Articles of Incorporation

☒ 3. RECREATION INVENTORY

☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory

☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities

☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)

☒ Accessibility Assessment

☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

☐ Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

☒ 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)

☒ 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

☒ 6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

☒ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

☒ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice Jan. 16, 2017 Newspaper / Jan. 6, 2017 website

Type of Notice Newspaper + website

Plan Location Village Offices + website since Jan. 6, 2017.

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 30 plus days

☒ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice Jan. 16 and Jan. 19, 2017

Name of Newspaper Herald Palladium

Date of Meeting Feb. 8, 2017

☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ 7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

☒ 8. ACTION PROGRAM

☒ 9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S) - N/A, no previous grants received.

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: Feb. 8, 2017

☐ 2. Official resolution of the _____ Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: _____

☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: Feb. 9, 2017

☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: Feb. 9, 2017

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

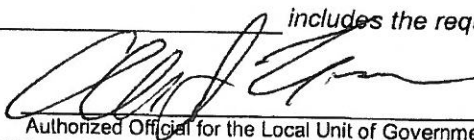
NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Village of Three Oaks
(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated



Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

2/28/17
Date

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.

Village of Three Oaks --- 2017-2021 Parks + Recreation Plan

We want to hear from you!

The Village of Three Oaks is updating its 2011 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This plan will help guide the Village as it develops and improves its parks and recreation system over the next five years.

We invite you to provide feedback on your experiences and opinions on the parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services offered by the Village, and comment on any improvements or new initiatives you would like to see in the future.

Your input in this plan is crucial to helping Three Oaks make the best investments in parks and recreation over the next five years. This anonymous survey will take about 15 minutes to complete.

Hard copies of the survey can be submitted to the Village Offices: 24 North Elm Street, Three Oaks, MI 49128.

Thank you for your participation!

If you have any questions or additional comments, please contact Laura Haw at lhaw@mcka.com

Village of Three Oaks --- 2017-2021 Parks + Recreation Plan

Survey Questions

1. Where do you currently live?

- ☐ Village of Three Oaks
- ☐ Three Oaks Township
- ☐ Elsewhere (please specify)

2. If you live within the Village of Three Oaks, do you most often visit parks and recreation facilities in the Village or Township?

- ☐ I most often visit parks within the Village of Three Oaks (includes Carver Park, Chamberlain Path, Dillard Park, Dewey Cannon Park, Watkins Memorial Park).
- ☐ I most often visit parks within Three Oaks Township.
- ☐ N/A: I most often visit parks elsewhere.
- ☐ N/A: I do not live within the Village of Three Oaks (please see question #3).

3. If you live outside of the Village of Three Oaks, do you most often visit parks and recreation facilities in the Village, Township or elsewhere?

- ☐ I most often visit parks within the Village of Three Oaks (includes Carver Park, Chamberlain Path, Dillard Park, Dewey Cannon Park, Watkins Memorial Park).
- ☐ I most often visit parks within Three Oaks Township.
- ☐ I most often visit parks elsewhere.
- ☐ N/A: I live within the Village of Three Oaks (please see question #2).

4. In the past year, how many times did you visit the parks and recreation facilities within the Village of Three Oaks? (includes Carver Park, Chamberlain Path, Dillard Park, Dewey Cannon Park, Watkins Memorial Park).

- ☐ None; I did not visit any Village parks in 2016
- ☐ 1-5 times
- ☐ 6-10 times
- ☐ 11-25 times
- ☐ More than 25 times

5. Which Village of Three Oaks park do you visit most often?

- ☐ Carver Park
- ☐ Chamberlain Path
- ☐ Dillard Park
- ☐ Dewey Cannon Park
- ☐ Watkins Memorial Park

6. What other recreation facilities inside the Village do you use? Please list.

7. Do you feel that the southeast quadrant of the Village has sufficient access to parks and recreation facilities?

- ☐ Yes, the southeast quadrant has sufficient access.
- ☐ No, there are not enough parks and recreation facilities within the southeast quadrant.
- ☐ Unsure, I do not live / visit this area of the Village.

8. Are you aware that you can rent out certain Village facilities such as Watkins Park pavilion, Carver Park, Dewey Cannon Park, etc?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

9. Did you or a member of your household use the trail system within the Village of Three Oaks in 2016?

- ☐ Yes, often.
- ☐ Yes, occasionally.
- ☐ No, I am not interested in trails.
- ☐ No, I was not aware there was a trail system in Three Oaks.

10. If you used the trail system within Three Oaks, is it easy to find and access the trails? Please list any recommendations to make access, parking, etc. easier.

- ☐ Yes, it is easy to find and access the trail system.
- ☐ No, it is difficult to find and access the trail system.

Please list any recommendations:

11. Would you support the extension and connection of the Village's trail system to other local and regional trails?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ N/A, no opinion

12. Do you visit other parks and recreation facilities in the Harbor County region?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

13. How do you most frequently travel to the following Village recreation facilities?

Method of Travel
(Drive, Walk, Bike, Do Not Visit)

Carver Park	<input type="text"/>
Chamberlain Path	<input type="text"/>
Dillard Park	<input type="text"/>
Dewey Cannon Park	<input type="text"/>
Watkins Memorial Park	<input type="text"/>

14. Do you or any members of your household ride bikes?

- ☐ Yes, often.
- ☐ Yes, occasionally.
- ☐ No, but we would if there were more bike paths within the Village.
- ☐ No, never.

15. If you ride a bike within the Village, are you comfortable riding on bike paths or bike lanes to do any of the following: (1 = not comfortable, 5 = very comfortable).

	1 = Not Comfortable	2 = Somewhat Comfortable	3 = Neutral	4 = Comfortable	5 = Very Comfortable
Leisurely Ride (with adults only)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Leisurely Ride (with children, 18 and younger)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ride for Exercise	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commute to Work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Children Riding Alone (i.e. to school, friends house, park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

16. How often do you (or a member of your household) use the on-street bike routes within the Village?

- ☐ Once per year
- ☐ Once every 6 months
- ☐ Once per week
- ☐ 3 or more times per week
- ☐ Never

17. Do you support the idea of Community Gardens within the Village Three Oaks?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.
- ☐ Unsure, need more information on what a community garden is.

18. Are you aware the Village of Three Oaks has a Community Garden near the River Valley Three Oaks Elementary School?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

19. Would you or a member of your household like to participate in the Village of Three Oaks Community Garden?

- ☐ Yes.
- ☐ No.
- ☐ Unsure, need more information on what a community garden is.

20. Please rate your level of satisfaction with the Village's parks and recreation facilities:

	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
Overall variety of parks and recreation facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Variety of parks and recreation facilities for children.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Variety of parks and recreation facilities for teens.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Variety of parks and recreation facilities for adults.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Variety of parks and recreation facilities for seniors.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Distribution of parks and recreation facilities within walking distance of your neighborhood.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of walking paths (including sidewalks).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of off-street bike paths.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of on-street bike lanes / routes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability of bike racks at parks and other Village destinations (i.e. downtown).	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Number of trees planted in parks / amount of shade.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Appearance of parks and recreation facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Signage and ease of finding parks and recreation facilities.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Which should be the highest priority for Village investments over the next five years?

Please rank in order of priority (#1-3, with #1 being the highest priority).

	#1: Highest Priority	#2: Medium Priority	#3: Lowest Priority
Community Gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Picnic Shelters / Pavilions / Gathering Spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature Areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Paved Bicycle Paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Nature Centers / Gardens	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playground Equipment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Basketball Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sledding Hill	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cross County Skiing Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor Ice Rink	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Toddler Parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tennis Courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mountain Bike Trails	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Soccer Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Baseball / Softball Fields	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swimming Pool	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beach Volleyball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Shuffleboard / Bocce Ball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Skate Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disc Golf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Exercise Facilities (outdoor stations)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Park Signage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. Please check all the reasons that prevent you or members of your household from using any of the Village's parks, recreation facilities, or programs.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities are not well maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor customer service by staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program or facility not offered | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not know the location of parks and facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities do not have the right equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Availability of parking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Security is insufficient | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities are too hard to reach, poor access |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too far from residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities are not ADA accessible |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participate in programs provided by other communities or organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> None / no opinion |

23. Would you support an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for the following Parks and Recreation improvements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
Creating parks on vacant land.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining, upgrading, or improving existing parks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Purchasing land for additional parks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing new walking trails and sidewalks.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing new bike trails and paths.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

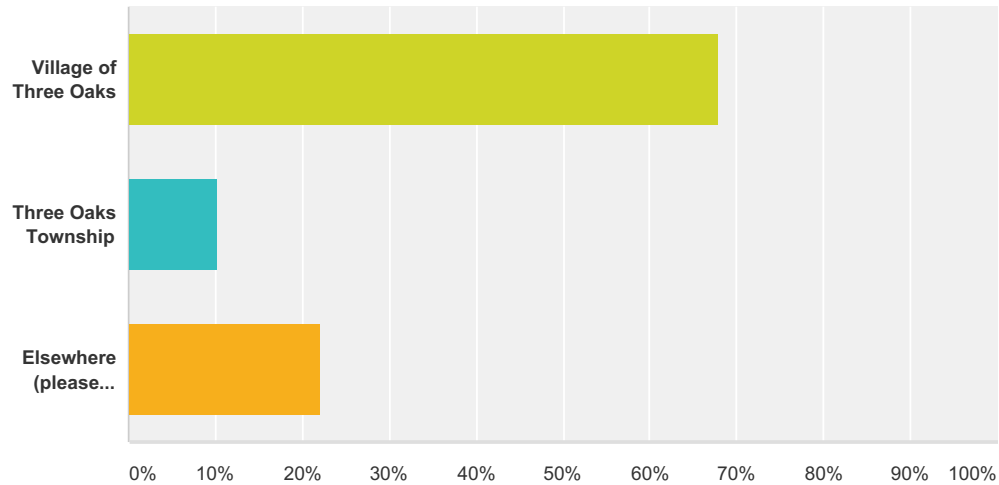
24. If you could make one change to any park or recreation facility in the Village of Three Oaks, what would it be? (for example, new bike racks at Carver Park, expand bike paths, etc.).

25. The Village of Three Oaks thanks you for participating in this survey!

Please leave any additional comments that were not addressed in the above questions.

Q1 Where do you currently live?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 0

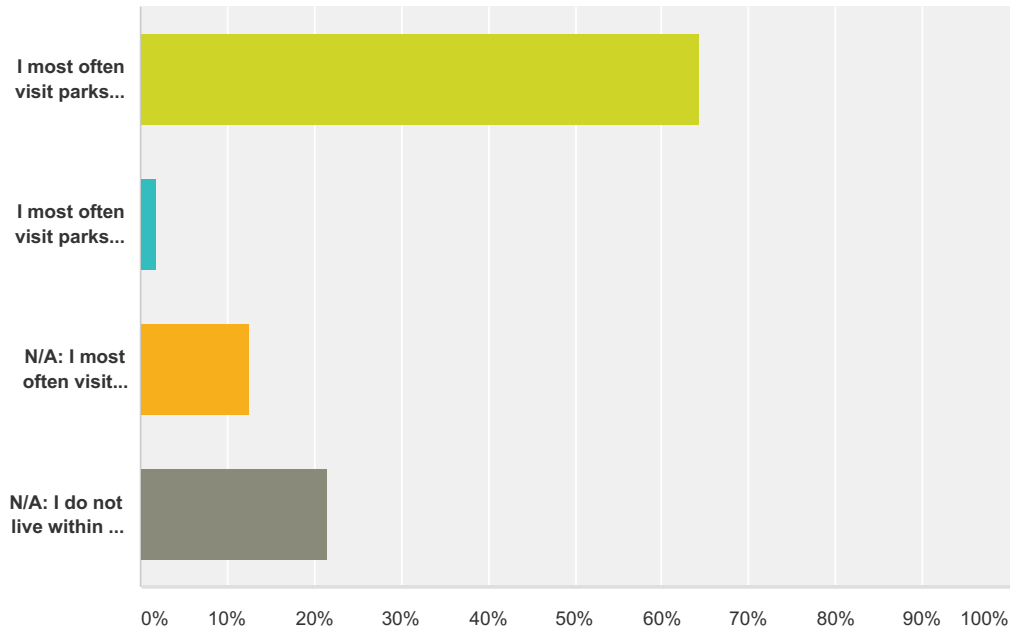


Answer Choices	Responses
Village of Three Oaks	67.80% 40
Three Oaks Township	10.17% 6
Elsewhere (please specify)	22.03% 13
Total	59

#	Elsewhere (please specify)	Date
1	Fort Wayne	1/1/2017 7:12 AM
2	Chikaming Township with a Three Oaks, Mi address	12/22/2016 8:59 AM
3	Chikaming	12/21/2016 8:58 PM
4	Chickaming	12/21/2016 2:33 PM
5	Sawyer	12/21/2016 5:41 AM
6	Granger, IN but grew up in XTO and still have ties there.	12/20/2016 10:53 PM
7	Chikaming Township	12/20/2016 10:28 PM
8	Schoolcraft	12/20/2016 6:25 PM
9	Bridgman	12/20/2016 6:15 PM
10	Chikaming Twp	12/20/2016 5:52 PM
11	La Porte Indiana	12/20/2016 4:56 PM
12	Chicago	12/20/2016 4:49 PM
13	Galien twp	12/20/2016 4:27 PM

Q2 If you live within the Village of Three Oaks, do you most often visit parks and recreation facilities in the Village or Township?

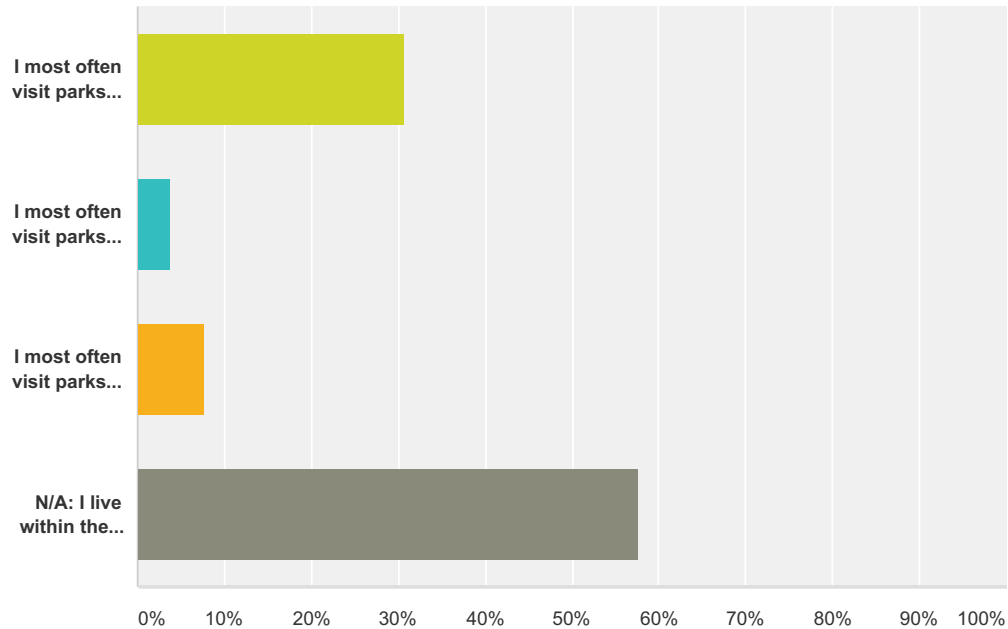
Answered: 56 Skipped: 3



Answer Choices	Responses
I most often visit parks within the Village of Three Oaks (includes Carver Park, Chamberlain Path, Dillard Park, Dewey Cannon Park, Watkins Memorial Park).	64.29% 36
I most often visit parks within Three Oaks Township.	1.79% 1
N/A: I most often visit parks elsewhere.	12.50% 7
N/A: I do not live within the Village of Three Oaks (please see question #3).	21.43% 12
Total	56

Q3 If you live outside of the Village of Three Oaks, do you most often visit parks and recreation facilities in the Village, Township or elsewhere?

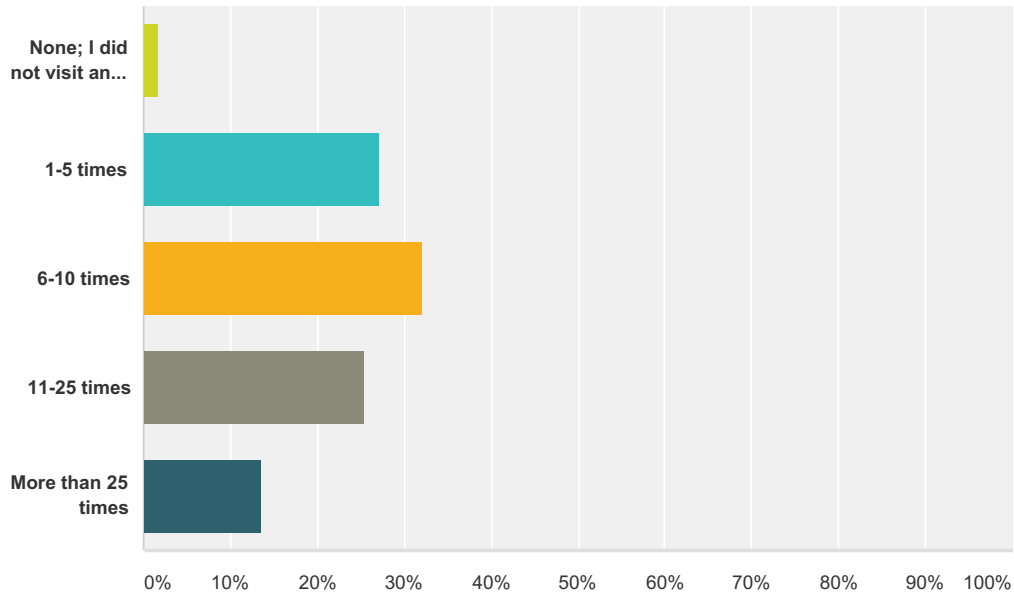
Answered: 52 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses
I most often visit parks within the Village of Three Oaks (includes Carver Park, Chamberlain Path, Dillard Park, Dewey Cannon Park, Watkins Memorial Park).	30.77% 16
I most often visit parks within Three Oaks Township.	3.85% 2
I most often visit parks elsewhere.	7.69% 4
N/A: I live within the Village of Three Oaks (please see question #2).	57.69% 30
Total	52

Q4 In the past year, how many times did you visit the parks and recreation facilities within the Village of Three Oaks? (includes Carver Park, Chamberlain Path, Dillard Park, Dewey Cannon Park, Watkins Memorial Park).

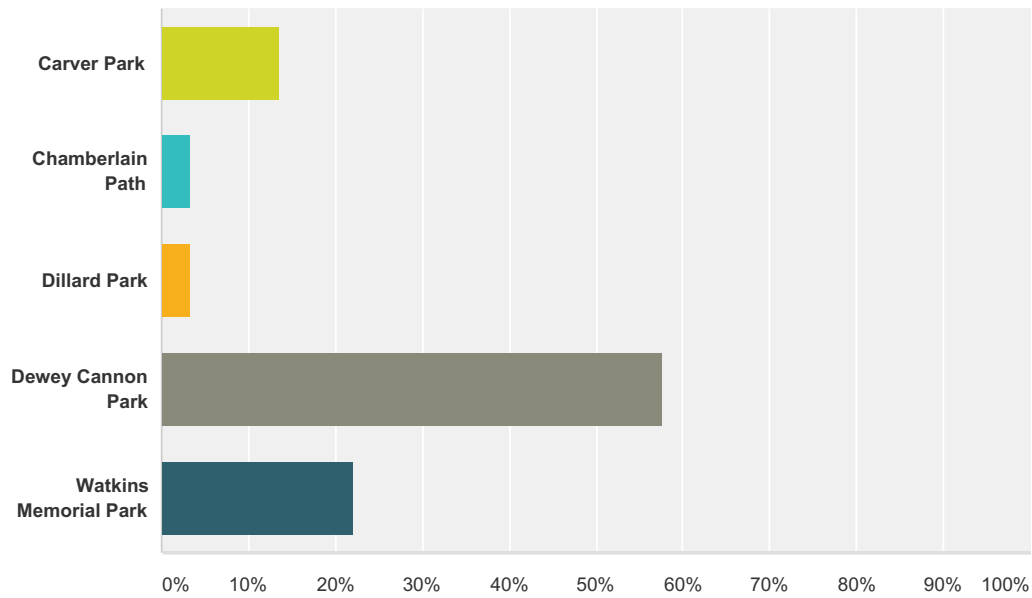
Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
None; I did not visit any Village parks in 2016	1.69%	1
1-5 times	27.12%	16
6-10 times	32.20%	19
11-25 times	25.42%	15
More than 25 times	13.56%	8
Total		59

Q5 Which Village of Three Oaks park do you visit most often?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Carver Park	13.56%	8
Chamberlain Path	3.39%	2
Dillard Park	3.39%	2
Dewey Cannon Park	57.63%	34
Watkins Memorial Park	22.03%	13
Total		59

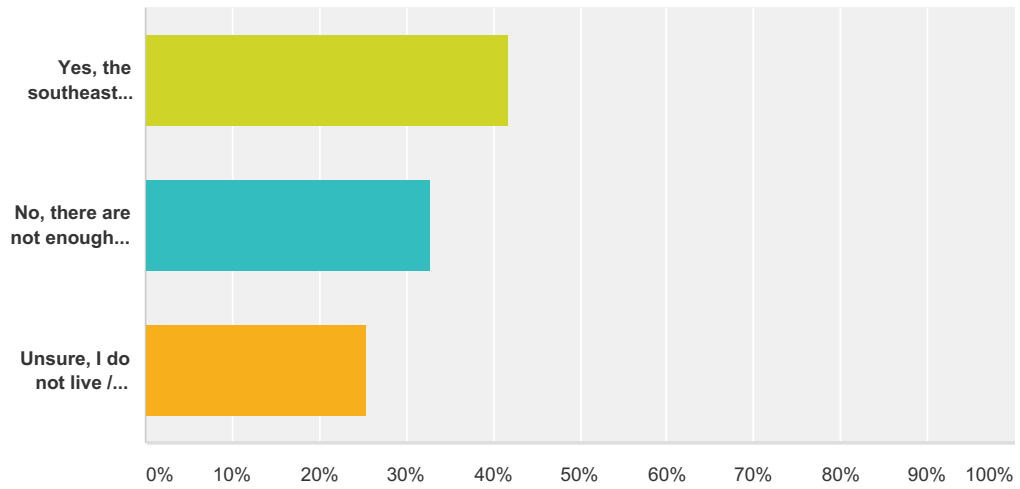
Q6 What other recreation facilities inside the Village do you use? Please list.

Answered: 18 Skipped: 41

#	Responses	Date
1	Watkins park. I really enjoy the track through the woods.	1/1/2017 7:12 AM
2	Nature Trail in back of Watkins Would like to see it developed at bit more for easier access and trails marked better. This is a nice addition to Three Oaks Park system, and not sure how well known and used. . Would be nice to see more accessible trails or connecting accessible off road hiking/walking trails.	12/22/2016 8:59 AM
3	The only thing I can think of is that I use the bicycle lanes. I ride often.	12/21/2016 6:39 PM
4	Hoadley Trail in Watkins Park.	12/21/2016 5:07 PM
5	Farmers market community garden	12/21/2016 2:33 PM
6	baseball park and Carver Park	12/21/2016 11:52 AM
7	Just streets & sidewalks for walking	12/20/2016 9:43 PM
8	I walk my dog on the nice quiet streets.	12/20/2016 9:11 PM
9	Timber town	12/20/2016 6:28 PM
10	Carver park	12/20/2016 6:15 PM
11	Timbertown	12/20/2016 5:13 PM
12	Hoadly Trail	12/20/2016 5:01 PM
13	Dewey Cannon Park	12/20/2016 4:56 PM
14	Timber Town behind Hardings when the kids are visiting.	12/20/2016 4:55 PM
15	None	12/20/2016 4:46 PM
16	Dewey. Chamberlain	12/20/2016 4:38 PM
17	Acorn theater Vickers theater	12/20/2016 4:27 PM
18	Watkins Memorial Park	12/20/2016 4:05 PM

Q7 Do you feel that the southeast quadrant of the Village has sufficient access to parks and recreation facilities?

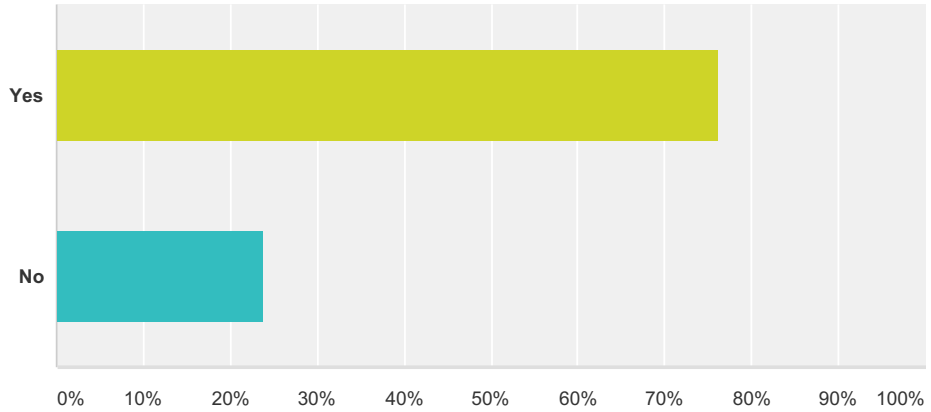
Answered: 55 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, the southeast quadrant has sufficient access.	41.82%	23
No, there are not enough parks and recreation facilities within the southeast quadrant.	32.73%	18
Unsure, I do not live / visit this area of the Village.	25.45%	14
Total		55

Q8 Are you aware that you can rent out certain Village facilities such as Watkins Park pavilion, Carver Park, Dewey Cannon Park, etc?

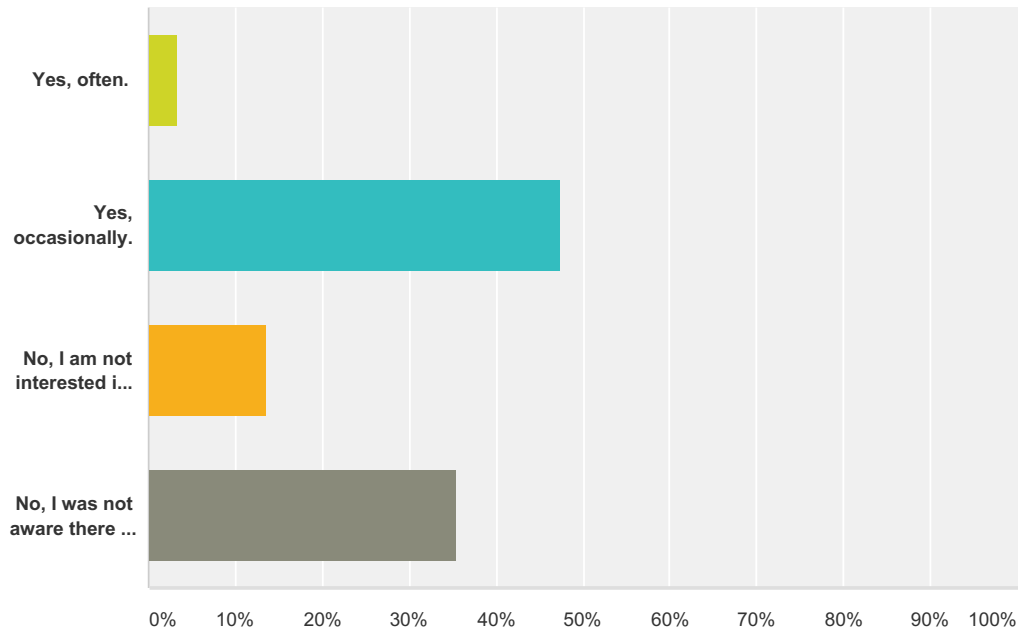
Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	76.27%	45
No	23.73%	14
Total		59

Q9 Did you or a member of your household use the trail system within the Village of Three Oaks in 2016?

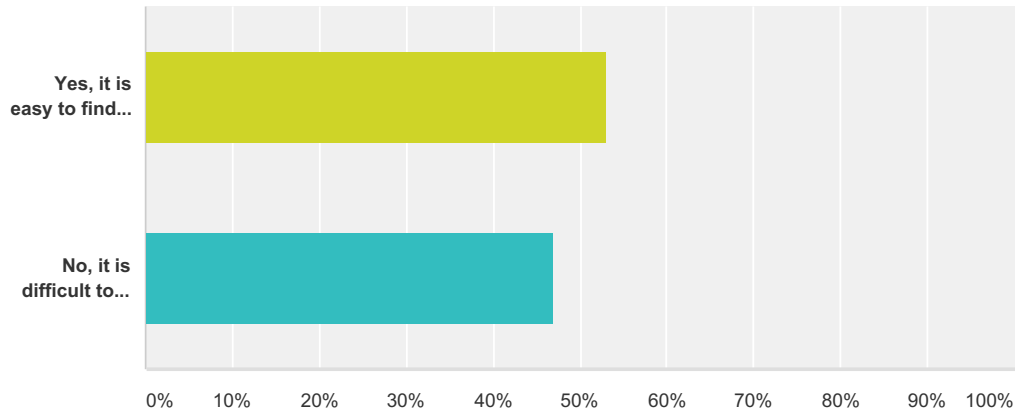
Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, often.	3.39%	2
Yes, occasionally.	47.46%	28
No, I am not interested in trails.	13.56%	8
No, I was not aware there was a trail system in Three Oaks.	35.59%	21
Total		59

Q10 If you used the trail system within Three Oaks, is it easy to find and access the trails? Please list any recommendations to make access, parking, etc. easier.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 25

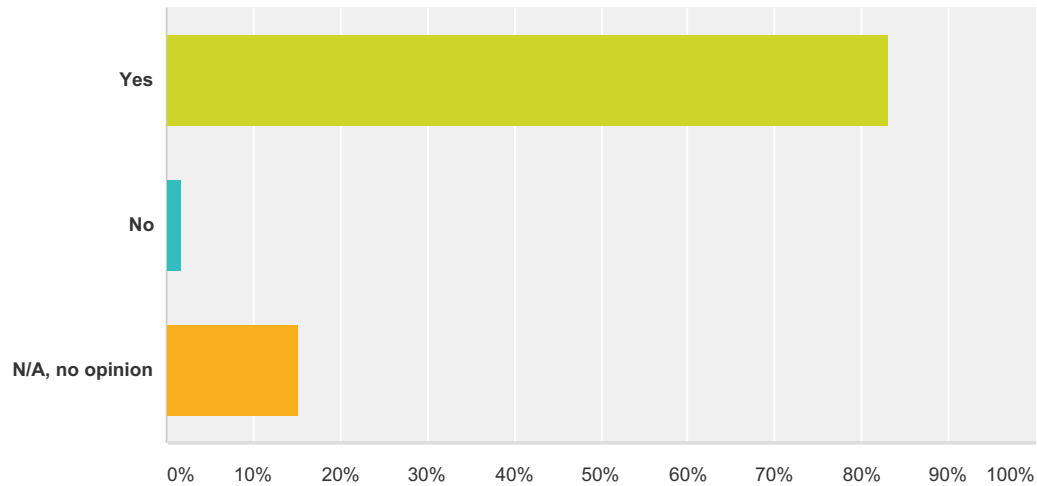


Answer Choices	Responses
Yes, it is easy to find and access the trail system.	52.94% 18
No, it is difficult to find and access the trail system.	47.06% 16
Total	34

#	Please list any recommendations:	Date
1	I don't know about the "trail system".	1/1/2017 7:12 AM
2	I have difficulty knowing where all the parks are located including the paths	12/22/2016 11:15 AM
3	Nature Trail in back of Watkins Would like to see it developed at bit more for easier access and trails marked better. This is a nice addition to Three Oaks Park system, and not sure how well known and used. . Would be nice to see more accessible trails or connecting accessible off road hiking/walking trails.	12/22/2016 8:59 AM
4	Not as clearly marked or identified as it could be.	12/21/2016 5:07 PM
5	Quite a bit of litter on the trail - also saw a large knife stuck in a tree which freaked me out, seeing as though I walk the trail alone.	12/20/2016 10:21 PM
6	Need more publicity and maps. I stopped into the Harbor Country Chamber of Commerce and they had no maps.	12/20/2016 6:46 PM
7	none	12/20/2016 5:52 PM
8	Where are they?	12/20/2016 5:01 PM
9	Is there actually a system other than the trail behind Watkins Park? I liked the old parcourse better.	12/20/2016 4:58 PM

Q11 Would you support the extension and connection of the Village's trail system to other local and regional trails?

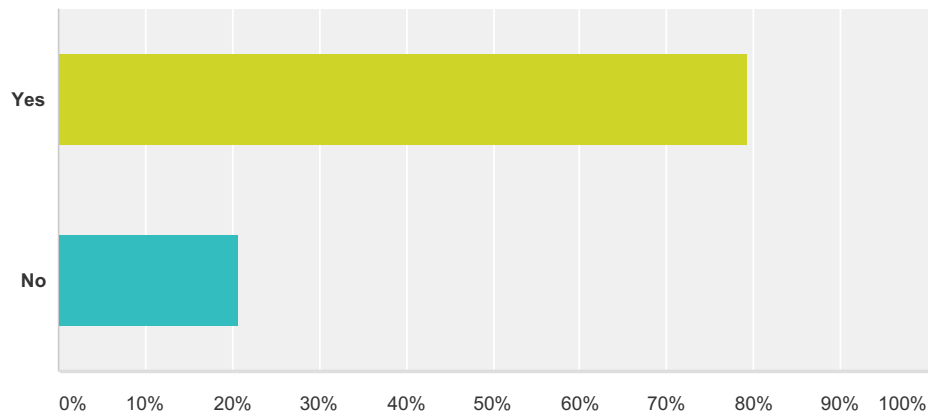
Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	83.05%	49
No	1.69%	1
N/A, no opinion	15.25%	9
Total		59

Q12 Do you visit other parks and recreation facilities in the Harbor County region?

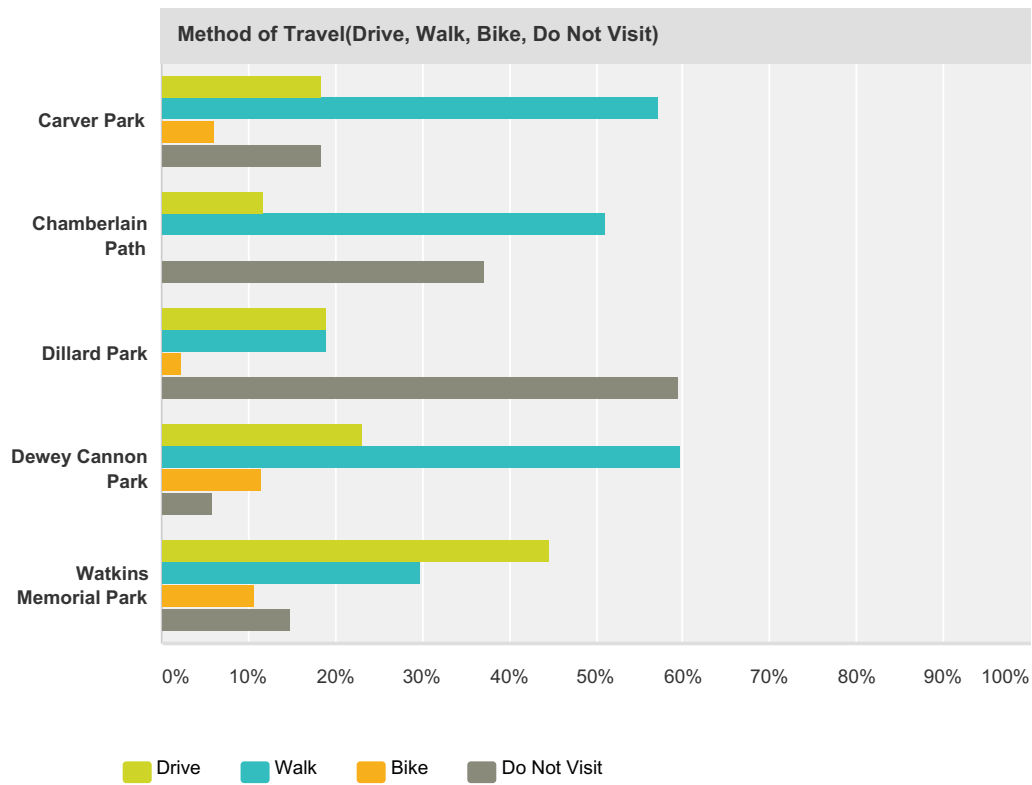
Answered: 58 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	79.31%	46
No	20.69%	12
Total		58

Q13 How do you most frequently travel to the following Village recreation facilities?

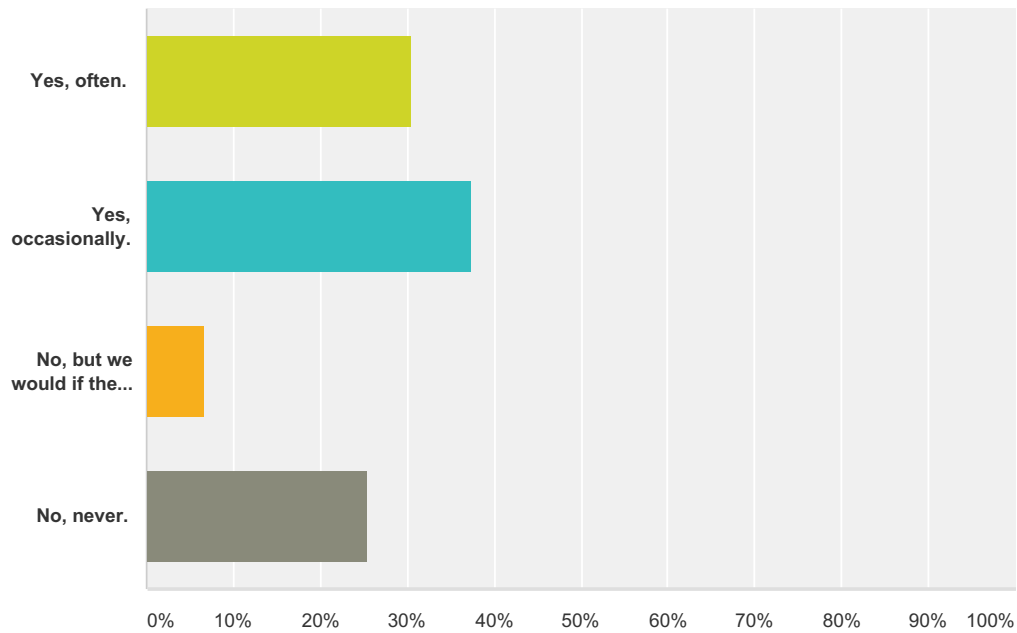
Answered: 55 Skipped: 4



Method of Travel(Drive, Walk, Bike, Do Not Visit)					
	Drive	Walk	Bike	Do Not Visit	Total
Carver Park	18.37% 9	57.14% 28	6.12% 3	18.37% 9	49
Chamberlain Path	11.63% 5	51.16% 22	0.00% 0	37.21% 16	43
Dillard Park	19.05% 8	19.05% 8	2.38% 1	59.52% 25	42
Dewey Cannon Park	23.08% 12	59.62% 31	11.54% 6	5.77% 3	52
Watkins Memorial Park	44.68% 21	29.79% 14	10.64% 5	14.89% 7	47

Q14 Do you or any members of your household ride bikes?

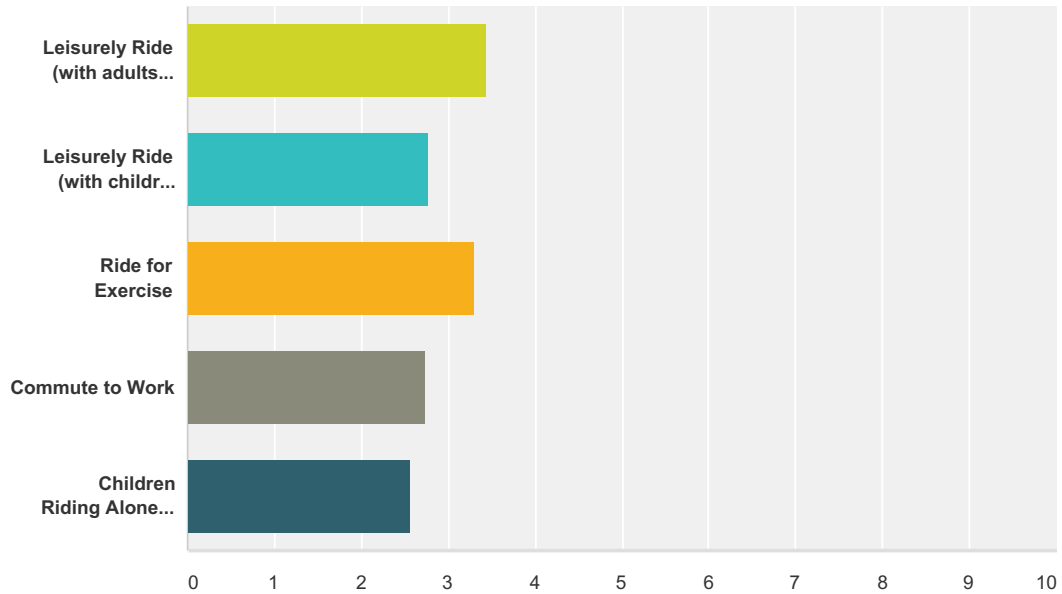
Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes, often.	30.51%	18
Yes, occasionally.	37.29%	22
No, but we would if there were more bike paths within the Village.	6.78%	4
No, never.	25.42%	15
Total		59

Q15 If you ride a bike within the Village, are you comfortable riding on bike paths or bike lanes to do any of the following: (1 = not comfortable, 5 = very comfortable).

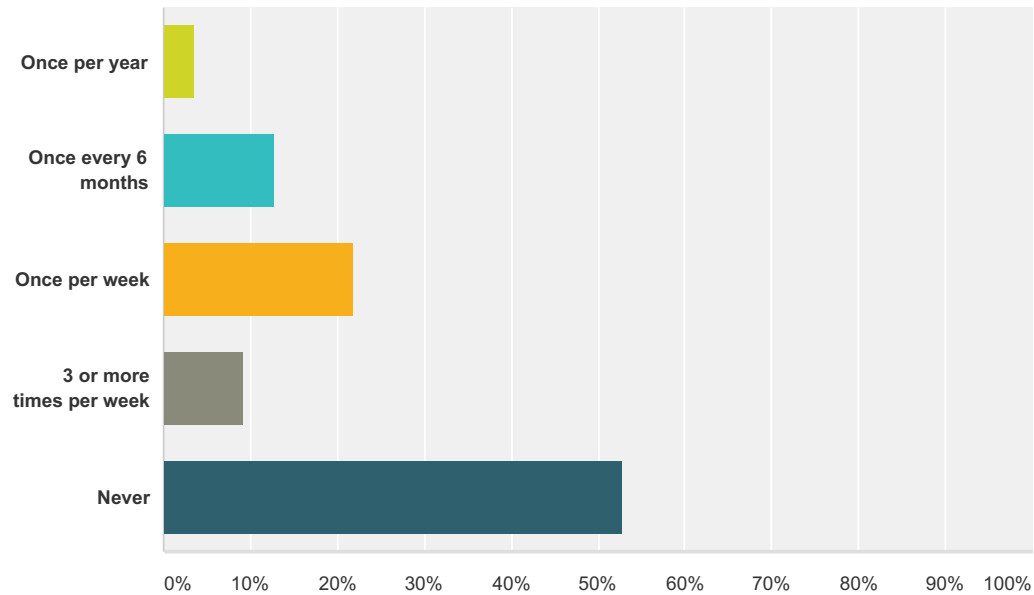
Answered: 40 Skipped: 19



	1 = Not Comfortable	2 = Somewhat Comfortable	3 = Neutral	4 = Comfortable	5 = Very Comfortable	Total	Weighted Average
Leisurely Ride (with adults only)	12.82% 5	10.26% 4	17.95% 7	38.46% 15	20.51% 8	39	3.44
Leisurely Ride (with children, 18 and younger)	22.86% 8	20.00% 7	25.71% 9	20.00% 7	11.43% 4	35	2.77
Ride for Exercise	13.51% 5	13.51% 5	24.32% 9	27.03% 10	21.62% 8	37	3.30
Commute to Work	32.26% 10	3.23% 1	35.48% 11	16.13% 5	12.90% 4	31	2.74
Children Riding Alone (i.e. to school, friends house, park)	37.14% 13	11.43% 4	20.00% 7	20.00% 7	11.43% 4	35	2.57

Q16 How often do you (or a member of your household) use the on-street bike routes within the Village?

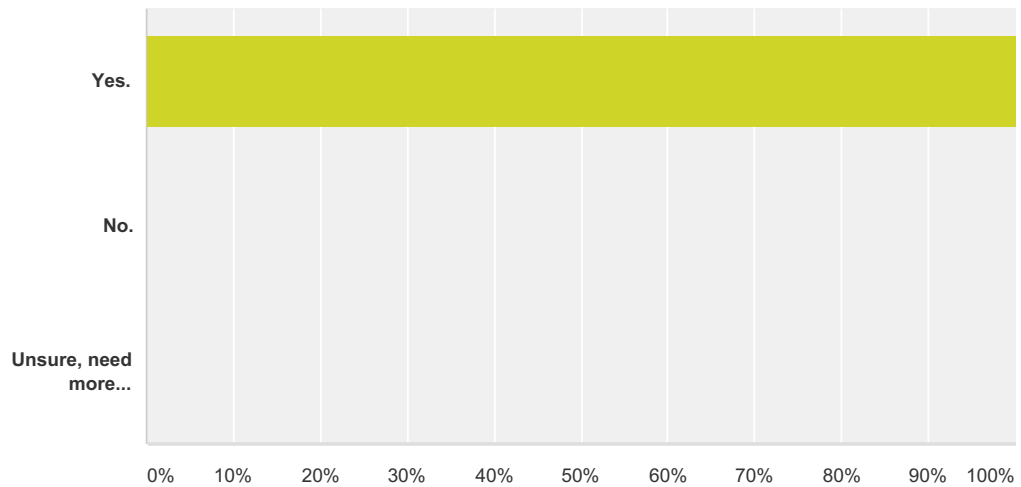
Answered: 55 Skipped: 4



Answer Choices	Responses	
Once per year	3.64%	2
Once every 6 months	12.73%	7
Once per week	21.82%	12
3 or more times per week	9.09%	5
Never	52.73%	29
Total		55

Q17 Do you support the idea of Community Gardens within the Village Three Oaks?

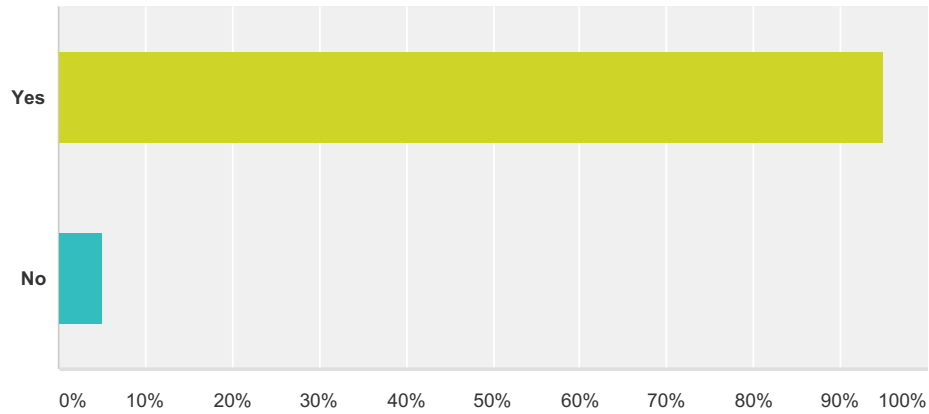
Answered: 58 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes.	100.00%	58
No.	0.00%	0
Unsure, need more information on what a community garden is.	0.00%	0
Total		58

Q18 Are you aware the Village of Three Oaks has a Community Garden near the River Valley Three Oaks Elementary School?

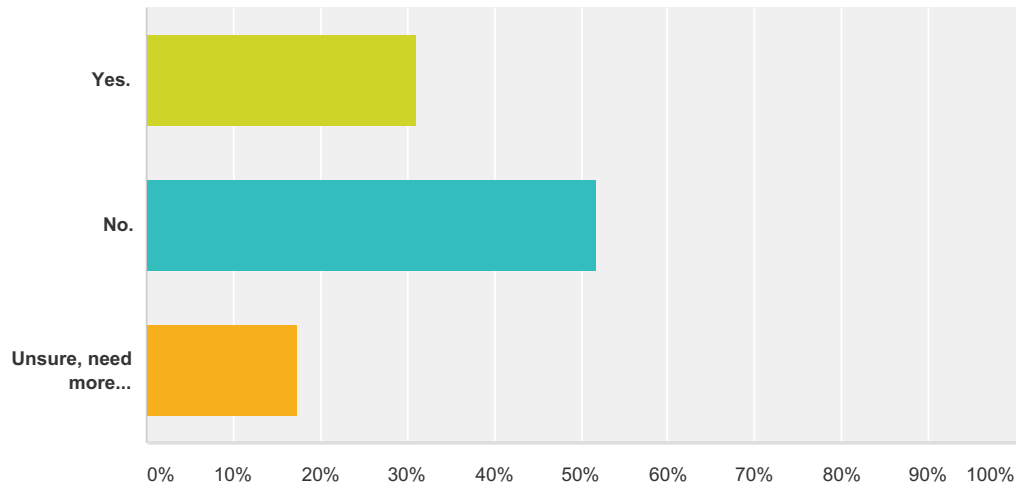
Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.92%	56
No	5.08%	3
Total		59

Q19 Would you or a member of your household like to participate in the Village of Three Oaks Community Garden?

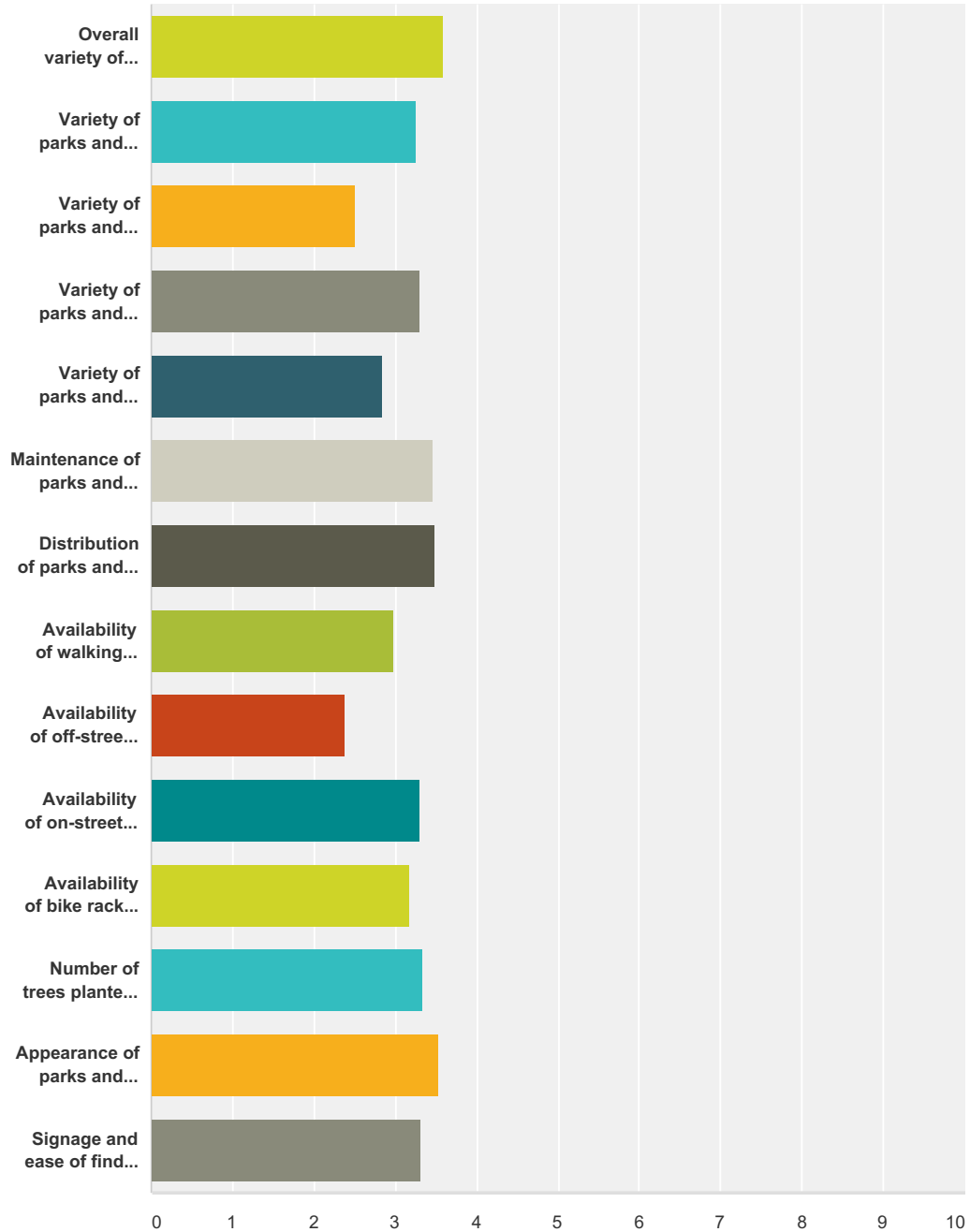
Answered: 58 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes.	31.03%	18
No.	51.72%	30
Unsure, need more information on what a community garden is.	17.24%	10
Total		58

**Q20 Please rate your level of satisfaction
with the Village's parks and recreation
facilities:**

Answered: 57 Skipped: 2



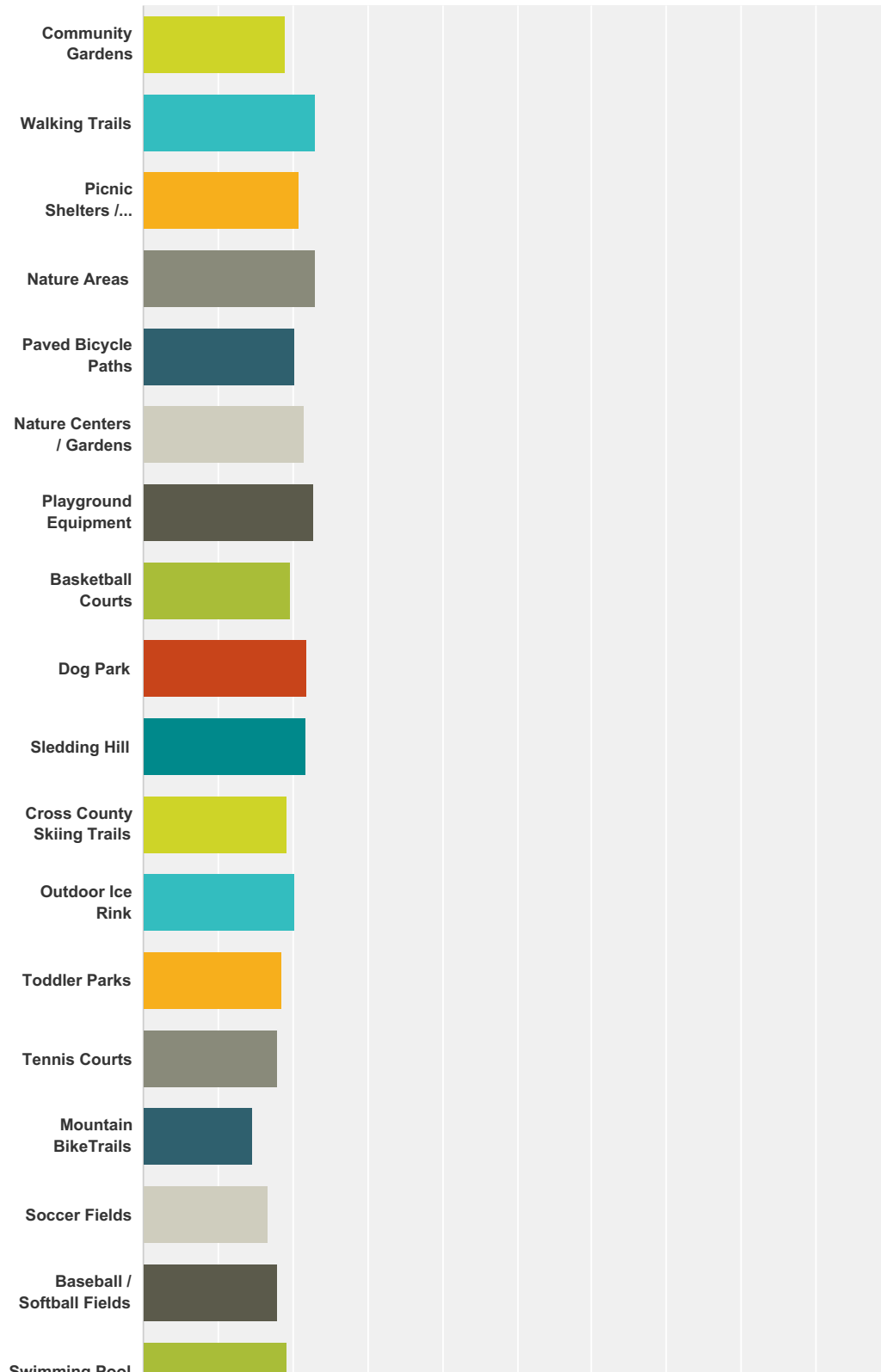
	Poor	Fair	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent	Total	Weighted Average
Overall variety of parks and recreation facilities.	1.75% 1	10.53% 6	35.09% 20	31.58% 18	21.05% 12	57	3.60
Variety of parks and recreation facilities for children.	10.71% 6	17.86% 10	19.64% 11	39.29% 22	12.50% 7	56	3.25

Village of Three Oaks --- 2017-2021 Parks + Recreation Plan

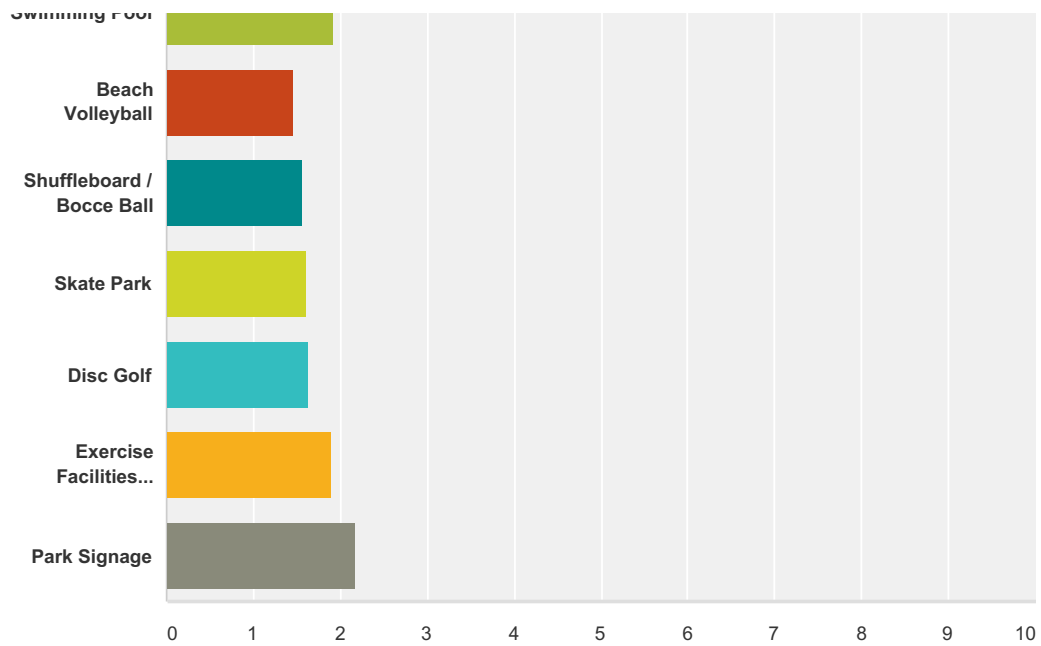
Variety of parks and recreation facilities for teens.	30.91% 17	16.36% 9	30.91% 17	14.55% 8	7.27% 4	55	2.51
Variety of parks and recreation facilities for adults.	3.57% 2	23.21% 13	28.57% 16	28.57% 16	16.07% 9	56	3.30
Variety of parks and recreation facilities for seniors.	15.09% 8	30.19% 16	22.64% 12	20.75% 11	11.32% 6	53	2.83
Maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.	8.93% 5	5.36% 3	28.57% 16	44.64% 25	12.50% 7	56	3.46
Distribution of parks and recreation facilities within walking distance of your neighborhood.	3.77% 2	11.32% 6	35.85% 19	30.19% 16	18.87% 10	53	3.49
Availability of walking paths (including sidewalks).	14.29% 8	21.43% 12	26.79% 15	26.79% 15	10.71% 6	56	2.98
Availability of off-street bike paths.	40.82% 20	10.20% 5	24.49% 12	20.41% 10	4.08% 2	49	2.37
Availability of on-street bike lanes / routes.	3.85% 2	17.31% 9	34.62% 18	34.62% 18	9.62% 5	52	3.29
Availability of bike racks at parks and other Village destinations (i.e. downtown).	3.92% 2	23.53% 12	33.33% 17	29.41% 15	9.80% 5	51	3.18
Number of trees planted in parks / amount of shade.	10.71% 6	14.29% 8	21.43% 12	37.50% 21	16.07% 9	56	3.34
Appearance of parks and recreation facilities.	5.36% 3	14.29% 8	19.64% 11	44.64% 25	16.07% 9	56	3.52
Signage and ease of finding parks and recreation facilities.	7.02% 4	14.04% 8	31.58% 18	35.09% 20	12.28% 7	57	3.32

Q21 Which should be the highest priority for Village investments over the next five years? Please rank in order of priority (#1-3, with #1 being the highest priority).

Answered: 58 Skipped: 1



Village of Three Oaks --- 2017-2021 Parks + Recreation Plan



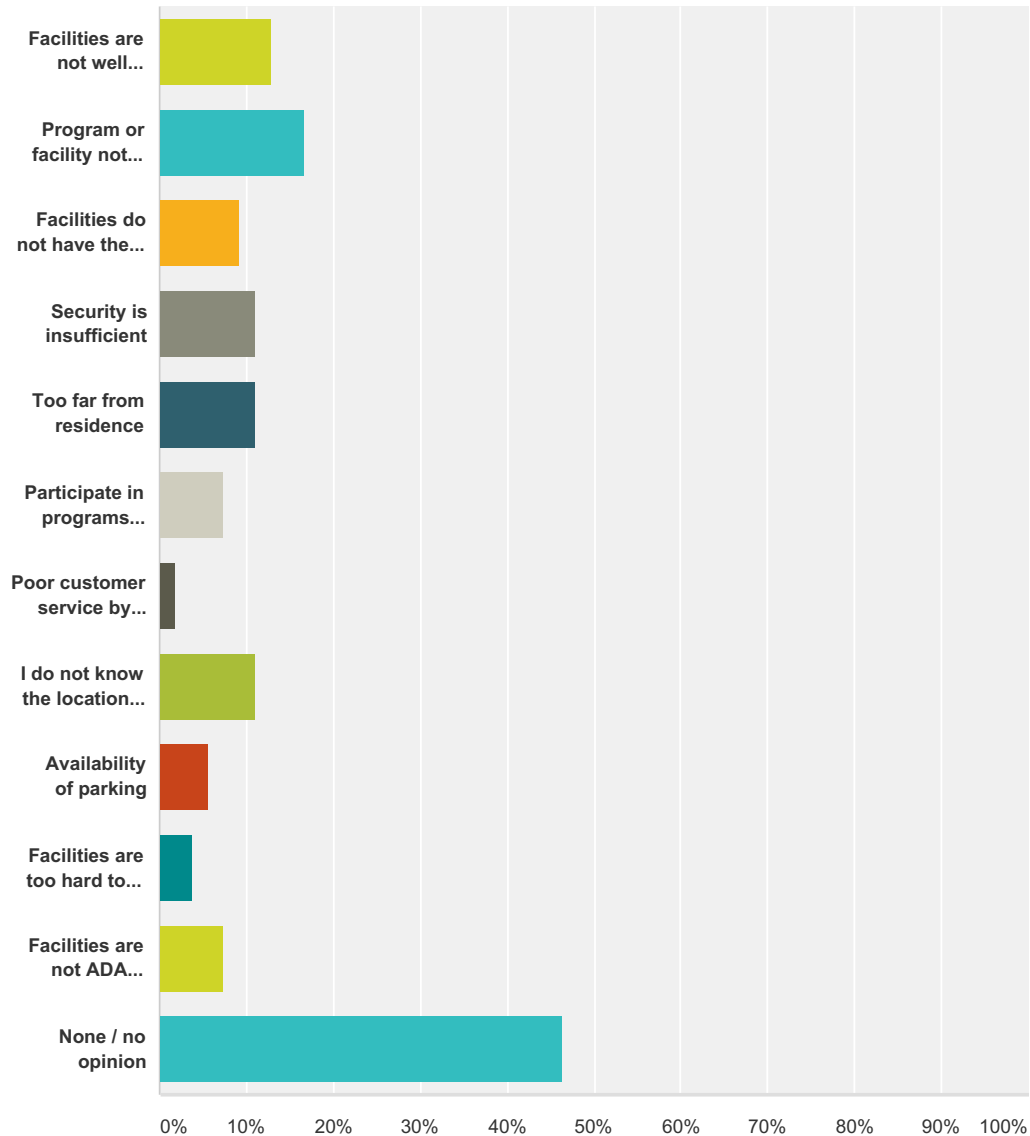
	#1: Highest Priority	#2: Medium Priority	#3: Lowest Priority	Total	Weighted Average
Community Gardens	19.23% 10	51.92% 27	28.85% 15	52	1.90
Walking Trails	40.74% 22	48.15% 26	11.11% 6	54	2.30
Picnic Shelters / Pavilions / Gathering Spaces	28.30% 15	50.94% 27	20.75% 11	53	2.08
Nature Areas	41.82% 23	45.45% 25	12.73% 7	55	2.29
Paved Bicycle Paths	26.92% 14	48.08% 25	25.00% 13	52	2.02
Nature Centers / Gardens	32.00% 16	50.00% 25	18.00% 9	50	2.14
Playground Equipment	41.18% 21	45.10% 23	13.73% 7	51	2.27
Basketball Courts	27.78% 15	40.74% 22	31.48% 17	54	1.96
Dog Park	43.40% 23	32.08% 17	24.53% 13	53	2.19
Sledding Hill	37.25% 19	43.14% 22	19.61% 10	51	2.18
Cross County Skiing Trails	27.45% 14	37.25% 19	35.29% 18	51	1.92
Outdoor Ice Rink	33.96% 18	33.96% 18	32.08% 17	53	2.02
Toddler Parks	15.69% 8	54.90% 28	29.41% 15	51	1.86
Tennis Courts	15.69% 8	49.02% 25	35.29% 18	51	1.80

Village of Three Oaks --- 2017-2021 Parks + Recreation Plan

Mountain Bike Trails	5.88% 3	35.29% 18	58.82% 30	51	1.47
Soccer Fields	10.00% 5	46.00% 23	44.00% 22	50	1.66
Baseball / Softball Fields	16.00% 8	48.00% 24	36.00% 18	50	1.80
Swimming Pool	33.33% 17	25.49% 13	41.18% 21	51	1.92
Beach Volleyball	7.84% 4	31.37% 16	60.78% 31	51	1.47
Shuffleboard / Bocce Ball	7.84% 4	41.18% 21	50.98% 26	51	1.57
Skate Park	12.00% 6	36.00% 18	52.00% 26	50	1.60
Disc Golf	14.00% 7	34.00% 17	52.00% 26	50	1.62
Exercise Facilities (outdoor stations)	24.00% 12	42.00% 21	34.00% 17	50	1.90
Park Signage	37.25% 19	43.14% 22	19.61% 10	51	2.18

Q22 Please check all the reasons that prevent you or members of your household from using any of the Village's parks, recreation facilities, or programs.

Answered: 54 Skipped: 5



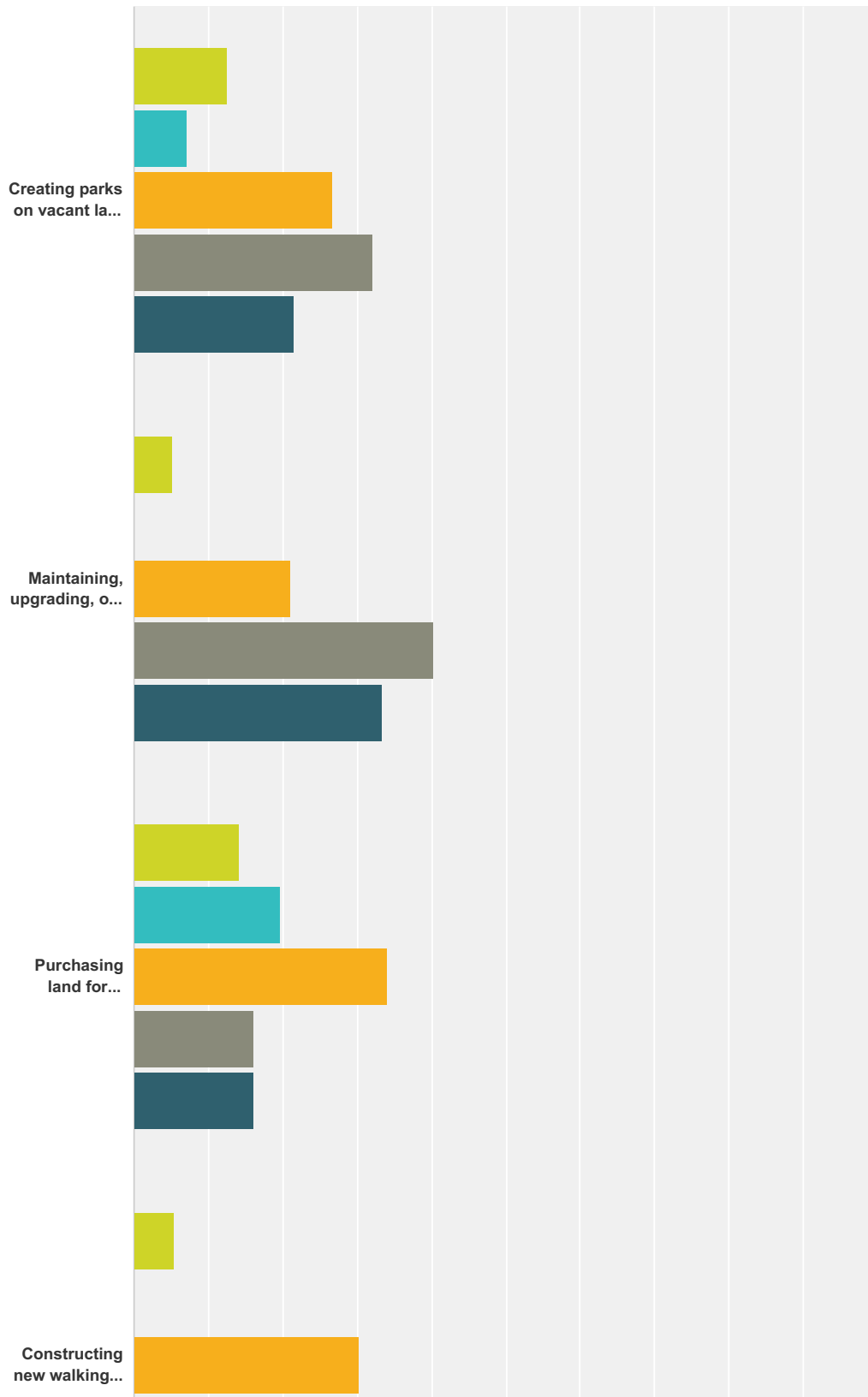
Answer Choices	Responses
Facilities are not well maintained	12.96% 7
Program or facility not offered	16.67% 9
Facilities do not have the right equipment	9.26% 5
Security is insufficient	11.11% 6
Too far from residence	11.11% 6

Village of Three Oaks --- 2017-2021 Parks + Recreation Plan

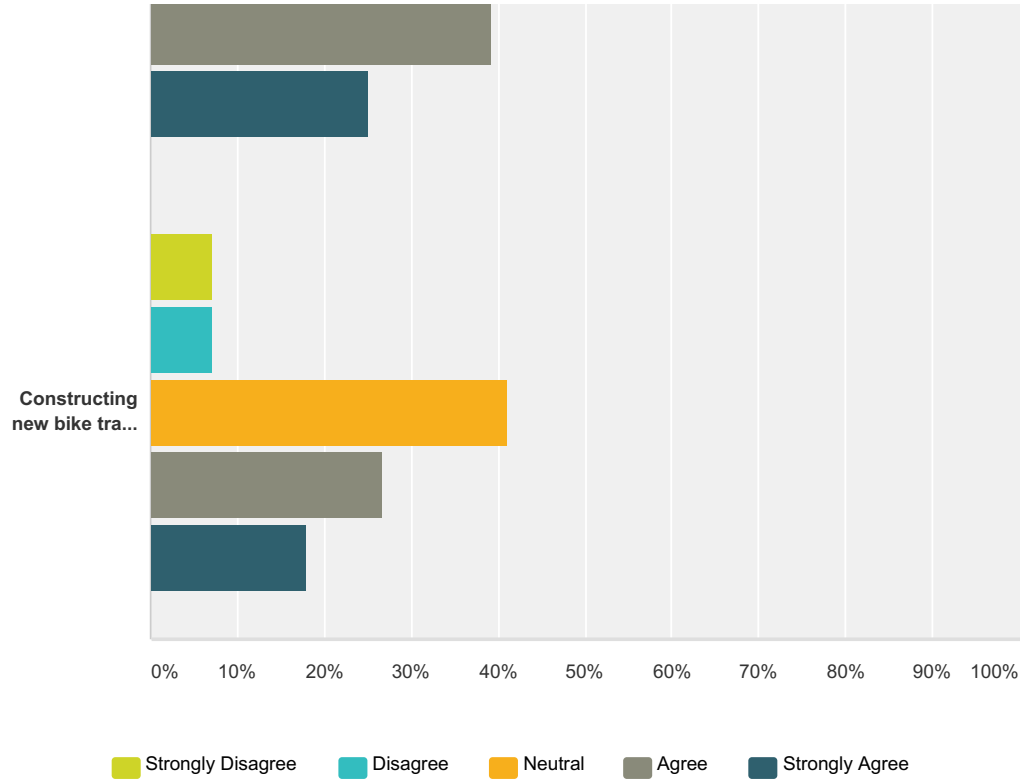
Participate in programs provided by other communities or organizations	7.41%	4
Poor customer service by staff	1.85%	1
I do not know the location of parks and facilities	11.11%	6
Availability of parking	5.56%	3
Facilities are too hard to reach, poor access	3.70%	2
Facilities are not ADA accessible	7.41%	4
None / no opinion	46.30%	25
Total Respondents: 54		

Q23 Would you support an additional 0.5 mills in property taxes for the following Parks and Recreation improvements:

Answered: 57 Skipped: 2



Village of Three Oaks --- 2017-2021 Parks + Recreation Plan



	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree	Total
Creating parks on vacant land.	12.50% 7	7.14% 4	26.79% 15	32.14% 18	21.43% 12	56
Maintaining, upgrading, or improving existing parks.	5.26% 3	0.00% 0	21.05% 12	40.35% 23	33.33% 19	57
Purchasing land for additional parks.	14.29% 8	19.64% 11	33.93% 19	16.07% 9	16.07% 9	56
Constructing new walking trails and sidewalks.	5.36% 3	0.00% 0	30.36% 17	39.29% 22	25.00% 14	56
Constructing new bike trails and paths.	7.14% 4	7.14% 4	41.07% 23	26.79% 15	17.86% 10	56

Q24 If you could make one change to any park or recreation facility in the Village of Three Oaks, what would it be? (for example, new bike racks at Carver Park, expand bike paths, etc.).

Answered: 28 Skipped: 31

#	Responses	Date
1	Put in frisbee golf around Watkins Park.	1/1/2017 7:12 AM
2	Clean up and restoration of Watkins park play ground equipment.	12/24/2016 10:01 PM
3	Timbertown is a great park that has not been properly upkeep for years. It would be a shame for the existing equipment to fall into a complete state of disrepair before it is maintained.	12/24/2016 7:30 PM
4	Maintaining Timber Town!!! New trash receptacles in Dewey Cannon Park! Paving existing walking paths Hoadley Nature Trail More Bike racks	12/24/2016 12:17 PM
5	Park/playground in SE quadrant without need to cross Hwy 12	12/22/2016 9:51 AM
6	I guess I am not aware of all the park, maybe something to convey the location of all, A small sign at each park sign showing a map of town with other parks? or is there a website or FB link to map with park and facilities that signage could direct public to learn about parks?	12/22/2016 8:59 AM
7	Benches. Some can only sit and watch, but enjoy doing it if seating is easily accessible to parking	12/21/2016 8:58 PM
8	Develop the trails and natural area in Watkins around the Schwark drain holding ponds.	12/21/2016 5:07 PM
9	Not move farmers market	12/21/2016 2:33 PM
10	permanent lot area for farmer's markets and outdoor events so as not to use up existing parking and traffic pattern interruptions	12/21/2016 11:52 AM
11	The "High School" sign at Watkins is odd and doesn't make sense to most people.	12/21/2016 7:05 AM
12	The "High School" sign in Carver Park is out of place. It came from the school that stood where the elementary playground is now. It is just weird to have it there. Very weird. Makes no sense to those of us who know the history of the sign. I guess when we're all gone in 30 or 40 years it won't matter...people will then think the sign belonged to the school that was originally there.	12/20/2016 10:28 PM
13	Better childrens playground as well as higher priority on exercise. There has been too much emphasis on stupid Illinois bike trails and not enough on our own THREE OAKS residents. We need a Gym!!!!	12/20/2016 10:27 PM
14	Better speed enforcement in the village. Crazy how fast drivers go on Elm. There is ZERO enforcement of speed limit. Would also like a Public pool.	12/20/2016 10:21 PM
15	Indoor walking area & splash pad	12/20/2016 9:43 PM
16	Restrooms added	12/20/2016 6:46 PM
17	I would like to see the sidewalks that we have upgraded so they are better passable, and perhaps maintained in the winter (plowed) by the village because most homeowners don't do that and they are impassable during winter. Fix what's broken before building new, and focus on the year round resident's needs...	12/20/2016 6:28 PM
18	Sidewalks and street lights in very poor repair. Please add additional street lighting and repair the sidewalks in town. That will improve how things look, the mobility of people, and the safety. I would happily pay additional tax levy for this.	12/20/2016 6:12 PM
19	I think more activity that teens like helps keep them occupied and prevents mischief. Everywhere, not just Three Oaks.	12/20/2016 5:52 PM
20	Please work on the playground Timbertown, a good playground or pool would give something for kids/teens to do	12/20/2016 5:13 PM
21	Hiking trails and exercise opportunities.	12/20/2016 5:01 PM

Village of Three Oaks --- 2017-2021 Parks + Recreation Plan

22	There should ne a row of bridal wreath (Spirea) or other classic shrubs in Dewey Cannon Park along the roadway that runs back to Seifert's, making the train track fence less visible. It would impart some elegance to that area. In fact, shrubs are not utilized enough in any of the village parks, and they would lend scale and proportion to any park setting. The use of a landscape person or company to assist with design (some might do it pro bono) is needed. They could help with choice of trees as well for the streetscapes. We need more hardwood trees as well as ornamentals for the side streets. Many more trees should be planted each year to counteract the butchery done to clear the power lines.	12/20/2016 4:58 PM
23	Turn that big empty lot owned by the Village over on Maple Street into a dog park. People shouldn't have to go over to New Buffalo for a dog park, and dog parks don't have to be treeless, blighted lots out in the middle of nowhere.	12/20/2016 4:55 PM
24	Dog park	12/20/2016 4:46 PM
25	Add walking paths.	12/20/2016 4:38 PM
26	New pavilion and tables/seating at Dewy Cannon	12/20/2016 4:25 PM
27	Expand nature areas and walking trails	12/20/2016 4:07 PM
28	Rejuvenate and illuminate Timber Town	12/20/2016 4:05 PM

**Q25 The Village of Three Oaks thanks you
for participating in this survey! Please
leave any additional comments that were
not addressed in the above questions.**

Answered: 9 Skipped: 50

#	Responses	Date
1	I love Timber Town!!!!!!!	1/1/2017 7:12 AM
2	Paving East Central between Elm and Dewey Cannon Park due to the amount of foot traffic and heavy bicycle traffic! Many complaints from cyclists and pedestrians.	12/24/2016 12:17 PM
3	Aquiring land or conservation protection is most important to keep Three Oaks open space and the feel of the community is paramount. I shudder to think of all those fields surrounding Three Oaks being sold and developed and how that would change the the town, village, township. If land cannot be purchased working to promote conservation easements to keep land open is important.	12/22/2016 8:59 AM
4	Fix what we have before taking on new projects. The steeets and sidewalks are a disgrace.	12/22/2016 7:22 AM
5	overall I love the parks in Three Oaks. I think the village does a great job of maintaining them, and since I live downtown I find a good number of them readily accessible. I would love to see an outdoor skating rink at Dewey Cannon, and perhaps using the community center as a warming station.	12/21/2016 7:05 AM
6	PLEASE instruct law enforcement to enforce speed limit on Elm on north end of the Village. Only matter of time until someone is seriously injured.	12/20/2016 10:21 PM
7	Grew up in T.O., but haven't lived there for a long time. Sorry, I probably wasn't much help. I do think this is a good cause, though.	12/20/2016 6:25 PM
8	Several of the items in #21 would be better suited for the township. The new signage for local attractions is too long/complicated and poorly placed. The town is not that large. If you are driving, you could crash trying to read the signage. How about "shopping", "food", "entertainment"? Less is more. Perhaps utilize a graphic designer to make all signage for village parks and attractions more consistent.	12/20/2016 4:58 PM
9	Glad to see the village thinking towards the future.	12/20/2016 4:07 PM

AFFP

Public Hearing Notice

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF MICHIGAN }
COUNTY OF BERRIEN } SS

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
HAS SCHEDULED A PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING:
Wednesday, February 8, 2017
7:00 PM

Samantha Wilkens, being duly sworn, says:

That she is Customer Service Clerk of the **Herald Palladium**, a Daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in St Joseph, Berrien County, Michigan; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following dates:

January 16, 2017
January 19, 2017

Three Oaks Village Hall
21 North Elm Street
Three Oaks, MI 49128

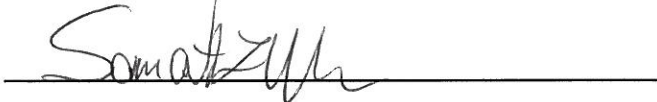
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to any and all interested parties that the Three Oaks Village Council will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 7:00 pm at Village Hall, located at 21 North Elm Street, Three Oaks, Berrien County, MI, to hear comments on the draft of the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Village of Three Oaks is preparing a five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the Plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of community recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to Three Oaks Village Hall during regular business hours, Monday thru Thursday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with a disability should feel free to contact the Village (269-756-9221) at least seventy-two (72) hours in advance of the Public Hearing, if requesting accommodations.

Publisher's Fee: \$ 357.20

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:



S:/Cynthia E. Moynihan
Three Oaks Village Clerk

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 16th day of January 2017.



Deborah Ann Shelton, Notary Public 8/1/2020

RECEIVED

JAN 30 2017

Village of Three Oaks

60063994 60814859

Accounts Payable
VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS
P.O. BOX 335
THREE OAKS, MI 49128

Village of Three Oaks
Parks and Recreation Committee
January 5, 2017

Call to Order: 2:00 pm by Chair Brown

Roll Call: Present-Joan Brown, Steve Henderson, Marlene Kramer, Darlene Heemstra, Steve Shimek

Absent-Larry Shawver, Debbie Weber

Attending-Adam Umbrasas, David Grosse, Rebecca Harvey

Motion to accept agenda and approve December minutes: Motion by Heemstra, Second by Kramer
Motion carried unanimously

Unfinished business:

Carver Park: sign has been approved by the village board.

Master Plan: Extensive discussion of 5 year master plan prepared by McKenna and associates with Rebecca Harvey in attendance from McKenna. Numerous amendments and editorial changes made to plan as submitted.

Motion to approve 5 year master plan for parks as amended by Henderson, second by Heemstra. Carried unanimously.

Use of elementary sign: No longer considered

Mural for downtown: ArtFX will be presenting quotes at future meeting

Home of Prancer sign: still researching location

Banner use for events: tabled

New Business:

Township Parks and Recreation Report: Nothing new to report

Community Garden: Bed rentals still active. Some leaving, others rented to new tenants.
Website has been renewed.

Public Comment: None

Motion to adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Heemstra, Second by Shimek, Carried unanimously at
4:10 pm.

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – DATE: 02-08-17

Chair called Village Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM at Three Oaks Village Hall.

Pledge of Allegiance: Yes

Roll Call: Present: Capiak, Graziano, Kramer, Pappa, Zebell, Heemstra, Grosse

Absent: None

CLOSED REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING at 7:02 pm TO ENTER INTO the PUBLIC HEARING MEETING for the PROPOSED (5) year PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN for 2017-2021.

No Discussion. No Public Comments. Public Hearing closed at 7:02 pm and the Regular Council meeting re-opened at 7:02 pm.

Approval of the Agenda as presented by the Village Council President. Moved: Heemstra

Supported: Capiak Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Comment on the Agenda: None

- **Approval of the Consent Agenda to include: Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on 01-11-17. Approval of Invoices to be paid (\$38,855.19), Approval of Disbursements made from January 1 through January 31, 2017 (\$95,554.51), Approval of Prepays, and Payroll as paid (\$32,952.37), and the Treasurer's Report. Moved: Kramer Supported: Heemstra Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 MOTION CARRIED.**
- **VEHICLE BIDS for DPW & POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Due to some confusion on the specifications for the DPW vehicle, it will need to be re-bid. Those bids will be solicited and the information will be available at the March meeting. There were (2) two bids received and opened on January 25, 2017 for the Police vehicle. Chief Dennis Buller prefers that the replacement vehicle be a 4-door truck. Siemans Ford presented a bid of \$29,243 and Three Oaks Ford submitted a bid of \$29,325. Adam will check with other police departments that are currently using this type of truck to see if they are happy with it before submitting the low bid from Siemans Ford to Council for approval at the March meeting. The Village will pay cash for the new vehicle out of funds that have already been allocated.
- **BIDS for 2017 STREET PAVING PROJECT:** (2) bids were received and opened on February 7, 2017 for the 2017 Street Paving project. Rieth Riley's bid was \$106,621.52 and Michigan Paving's was \$125,776.28. It was decided that since bids came in much lower than expected, additional street work could be done. It was decided to do (2) additional blocks of Hickory and (3) additional blocks of Cherry. A change order for the extra work was submitted in the amount of \$29,117.89. **A Motion was made to approve the low bid from Rieth Riley for street work on Butternut, Sycamore, Walnut, Chestnut and Buckeye Streets, and on North Elm (from the train tracks to Sycamore) in the amount of \$106,621.52 and Change Order #1 from Rieth Riley in the amount of \$29,117.89 for (2) blocks of Hickory and (3) blocks of Cherry for a total amount of \$135,739.41. This work is projected to be completed before Flag Day weekend. Moved: Kramer Supported: Pappa Aye: Capiak, Graziano, Kramer, Pappa, Zebell, Heemstra, Grosse Nay: None Absent: None Abstain: None MOTION CARRIED.**
- **SEWER PONDS DREDGING:** Prior to getting bids for dredging the Sewer ponds, there must be a "residual material plan" in place with the DEQ. Edgewater Resources, (an engineering firm), is working with the DEQ to get one done, however, it may take up to 3 months. Once it is complete, bids can be solicited for the dredging.
- **SEWER PONDS STUDY:** Testing has been done to determine what is going into the Sewer ponds and to determine if something is infiltrating the ponds other than what is going thru the pipes. The results of the study have not been received yet.
- **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:** Projects need to be identified so that money can be set aside and allocated. A priority item would be a study of the Water Plant.
- **JOINT PARKS BOARD DISCUSSION:** Three Oaks Township is interested in discussing the possibility of a joint Parks Board. By creating a joint board, it would make it easier to pursue grants and be easier to market & coordinate projects using grant money. There currently is a Township member with voting privileges on the Village's Parks & Recreation Board. There needs to be further discussion about pursuing this idea.

- **ADOPTION of PARKS and RECREATION PLAN:** The updated (5) year Parks & Recreation Plan for 2017-2021 (with changes as noted for McKenna & Associates) was presented at the Public Hearing meeting prior to the Council meeting. This Plan must be submitted by March 1, 2017 to MDNR in order to remain eligible for state funding/grants. **A Motion was made to adopt the (5) year Parks & Recreation Plan for 2017-2021 (with changes as noted to be made by McKenna & Associates) prior to submitting the Plan by March 1, 2017 to MDNR. Moved: Heemstra Supported: Capiak Aye: 7 Nay: 0 Absent: 0 Abstain: 0 MOTION CARRIED.**
- **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD:** The written minutes from the meeting held on February 6, 2017 were not yet available. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, March 6, 2017.
- **PLANNING COMMISSION:** The written minutes from the meeting held on February 7, 2017 were not yet available. The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 7, 2017.
- **DDA BOARD:** There will be no DDA meetings held in January, February, or March of 2017.
- **VILLAGE MANAGER'S UPDATES:** No report was available from Adam due to a death in his family.
- **VILLAGE PRESIDENT COMMENTS:** David Grosse reported that the fundraising for the 150th anniversary celebration is going exceptionally well; that there are already many volunteers, and that a brochure outlining all the upcoming events and activities in the Village this summer should be available by the end of April.
- **COUNCIL MEMBER, Steve Graziano,** asked if the Village could look into a different provider for both the internet and phone service as the rates with AT & T have increased substantially. Dave will ask Adam to see what alternatives are available.
- **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:32 pm.**

Submitted by:

Cynthia E. Moynihan

Cynthia E. Moynihan,
Three Oaks Village Clerk
Proposed Minutes for the 02-08-16 Regular Council Meeting



To Whom It May Concern,

On February 8th 2017 the Three Oaks Village Council held a public hearing on the proposed Park and Recreation Plan recommended from the Village Parks and Recreation Committee. After the public hearing the during the regular Village Council meeting the plan was unanimously adopted by the Village Council.

With warm regards,

Adam J. Umbrasas
Village Manager

February 9, 2017

Berrien County Planning Commission
c/o Berrien County Community Development Department
Berrien County Administration Building, 4th Floor
701 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085

Subject: Village of Three Oaks 2017-2021 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

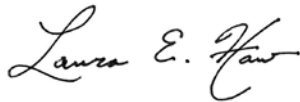
Dear Commissioners:

Enclosed, please find a copy of the Village of Three Oaks 2017-2021 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. We have submitted this plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for certification and to the Southwest Michigan Commission to ensure cooperation and coordination of recreation planning efforts.

This plan was recommended for adoption by the Village of Three Oaks Parks and Recreation Board and formally adopted by the Three Oaks Village Council on February 8, 2017.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura E. Haw
Senior Planner

Enclosure

February 9, 2017

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
376 W. Main Street
Suite 130
Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651

Subject: Village of Three Oaks 2017-2021 Parks & Recreation Master Plan

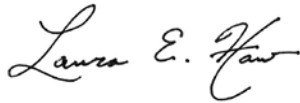
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Respectfully submitted,



Laura E. Haw
Senior Planner

Enclosure



McKenna Associates
Community Planning & Design
235 East Main Street, Suite 105
Northville, MI 48167
(248) 596.0920

John R. Jackson, AICP, President	Project Manager
Laura Haw, Senior Planner / Designer	Planner / Document Design
Sabah Aboody Keer, Senior Urban Designer	Map Production