



## **Saginaw Planning Commission Regular Meeting Agenda**

505 Janes Avenue  
Hoyt Library Main Auditorium  
May 26, 2026  
6:00 PM

### **Call to Order**

### **Roll Call**

### **Approval of Minutes**

1. Minutes from April 28, 2026

### **Approval of Agenda**

### **Public Comments**

### **New Business**

### **Old Business**

1. Draft Parks & Recreation Plan
2. Proposed Data Center Zoning Ordinance Discussion

### **Adjournment**

Timothy Morales  
City Manager

If you are disabled and need accommodation to provide you with an opportunity to participate or observe in programs, services, or activities, please call the Saginaw City Clerk, 1315 S. Washington Ave., 759-1480.




**City Planning Commission**  
Morley Building, 1 Tuscola St  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
**Draft Minutes**  
Tuesday, April 28, 2026

- I. **Call to Order** – Commissioner LaMarr called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** – Staff McEmber took roll.  
**Present:** Yolanda Bland, Carla LaMarr, Jack Nash, Floyd Kloc, Rachel Weidinger Brenda Moore (arrived 6:01 p.m.), Charlene Orange (arrived 6:03 p.m.)  
**Absent:** John Milne and Bill Ostash  
**Staff:** Attorney Amy Lusk, Cassi Zimmerman, and Christina McEmber
- III. **Approval of Minutes**  
**Motion by Commissioner Nash, seconded by Commissioner Bland, to approve the meeting minutes for the regular meeting March 24, 2026. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. Motion approved.**
- IV. **Approval of Agenda**  
Attorney Lusk advised that the City Council voted to approve an extension of the moratorium on data centers and extended the timeframe for consideration of the data center ordinance. As a result, staff will be removing Item #1 Proposed Data Center Zoning Ordinance (Public Hearing) under New Business from the agenda.  
  
**Motion by Commissioner Nash, seconded by Commissioner Bland, to approve the agenda for the April 28, 2026 meeting. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. Motion approved.**
- V. **Public Comment**  
No public comments were received.
- IX. **New Business**
  - a. **Draft Parks & Recreation Plan.** Staff McEmber introduced the draft Parks & Recreation Plan, citing the plan must be posted for a 30-day review period before a public hearing may be held. Commissioners discussed updating the maps, graphs, and pictures, and adding information about the plan's duration and amendment process, demographics, public input analysis, and the city's strategic plan.
- IX. **Old Business**  
None.
- IX. **Adjournment**  
**Motion by Commissioner Nash, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 p.m. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent. Motion approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christina McEmber, Urban Planner

The background of the cover is a collage of three park scenes. The top right shows a colorful, multi-lane running path with rainbow stripes. The middle left shows a fountain with a blue bird sculpture and a white canopy. The bottom left shows a large rose bush with red flowers. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the collage.

**CITY OF SAGINAW**  
**PARKS &**  
**RECREATION PLAN**  
**DRAFT**

**2027-2031**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2027-2031 City of Saginaw Parks and Recreation Plan was developed through a cooperative effort involving the City of Saginaw staff, City of Saginaw Planning Commission, City of Saginaw City Council, local organizations, and residents who strive to enhance the parks and recreation opportunities throughout the city.

The public hearing on the Parks and Recreation Plan was held during the Planning Commission meeting on [Insert Date]. The City Council formally adopted the Plan on [Insert Date].

The City of Saginaw greatly appreciates the participation and collaboration of community leaders, residents, and members of civic organizations who contributed to the development of this plan. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of the following individuals:

## **City Council**

Brenda F. Moore, Mayor  
Priscilla Garcia, Mayor Pro Tem  
Michael D. Balls  
Eric D. Braddock, Sr.  
Carly R. Hammond  
Bill Ostash  
Jacinta Seals  
Heidi G. Wiggins  
Tobias Young

## **City Planning Commission**

Carla LaMarr, Chair  
Jack Nash, Vice Chair  
Floyd Kloc  
John Milne  
Charlene Orange  
Rachel Weidinger  
Brenda Moore, Ex-Officio, Mayor  
Bill Ostash, Ex-Officio, Council Member  
Yolanda Bland, Ex-Officio, Admin

## **City Management**

Tim Morales, City Manager

## **City Staff**

Cassandra Zimmerman, Director of  
Planning & Economic Development  
Christina McEmber, AICP, Urban Planner  
Abbey Alverson, Planning Intern

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# 01

# INTRODUCTION & PLANNING PROCESS





# INTRODUCTION

The City of Saginaw developed its Parks and Recreation Plan to guide future decision-making regarding the acquisition, development, improvement, and management of recreation facilities and programs in the city. This document serves as the foundation for implementing initiatives that align with the recreational needs and priorities of the residents, which also enhances the City's quality of life.

Before adopting the recreation plan, it is important to understand:

- The community's demographic profile,
- Existing recreational opportunities & facilities,
- Residents' preferences and priorities, and
- The types of programs and improvements that best serve the community.

The goals, objectives, and action items included in the Plan are based on consideration of public input gathered from residents, city officials, and community stakeholders. Community engagement was critical in ensuring the Plan reflects a unified vision for Saginaw's parks and recreational future.

The Plan was developed with the following foundational goals in mind:

- Engaging the community throughout the planning process.
- Identifying and mapping existing City-owned or operated recreation facilities.
- Building consensus among residents and stakeholders to address future recreation needs, park safety, and community priorities.
- Positioning the City to qualify for financial assistance tied to the Plan.
- Promoting interagency collaboration with Saginaw County and other local partners in setting and achieving parks and recreation goals.
- Supporting accessibility improvements for barrier-free or universal access to parks and recreation facilities.

City officials intend to use this Plan to guide future parks and recreation projects and policies. This plan is developed in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's (MDNR) Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans to ensure the City remains eligible to apply for MDNR- administered grant funding. The Plan is required to be updated every five years to remain current and eligible for grant funding.



# PLANNING PROCESS

In 2025, the City of Saginaw began the process of updating its recreation plan. Data was collected on various aspects of the City, including demographics and an inventory of the parks and facilities owned and operated by the City. Information was gathered from a variety of sources such as City staff, stakeholders, the 2022-2025 City of Saginaw Parks and Recreation Plan, aerial images, news articles, and on-site field visits.

## COMMUNITY INPUT

During the development of the plan, public input was gathered to help community leaders identify the needs and priorities of residents. This feedback served as a foundation for establishing the goals, objectives, and 5-year action plan for the City's parks and recreation system. The City offered multiple opportunities for public input throughout the planning process, including a public input survey, a public visioning meeting, park user interviews, and a 30-day public review period for comments on the draft plan. Planning documents can be found in Appendix A.

To gather community input on the city's park system, a public input survey was available on the City of Saginaw website or in hard copy form at City Hall from August 2025 through October 2025, and a public visioning session was held on October 9, 2025 at the Andersen Enrichment Center (Appendix B). A press release was published in MLive to announce the survey and public visioning session. Flyers were emailed to stakeholders and distributed to the public. Other marketing outreach included multiple social media platforms, such as the City of Saginaw Facebook page, the Breaking News 989 Facebook page, and the Disability Network of Mid-Michigan's Facebook and Instagram accounts.



A total of 167 individuals participated in the survey representing more than 471 individuals. About 77.2% of respondents have the following zip codes: 48602, 48601, and 48603. The majority of respondents were between the ages of 35 and 54. About 48.5% of respondents do not have children living in their household.

Approximately 30 individuals participated at the visioning session where they shared their perceptions about the city parks, identified unique features, suggested areas for improvement, prioritized future efforts, and discussed challenges to the city park system's success. Additionally, feedback was collected through interviews with park users during site visits and through other community meetings.

Participants in the visioning session included representatives from:

- Covenant Hospital
- Friends of Hoyt Park
- Saginaw County Parks
- Saginaw Future
- Saginaw Public School District
- Saginaw YMCA
- STARS (Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services)
- Urban Racquet Sports Foundation
- Adams Boulevard Area Neighborhood
- Old Town Association/West Side Park
- Heritage Square Neighborhood Association
- Fairground Neighborhood Association
- Northmoor Association/Deindorfer Woods
- Great Mural Project
- City of Saginaw Staff
- Public



# SUMMARY OF SURVEY FEEDBACK

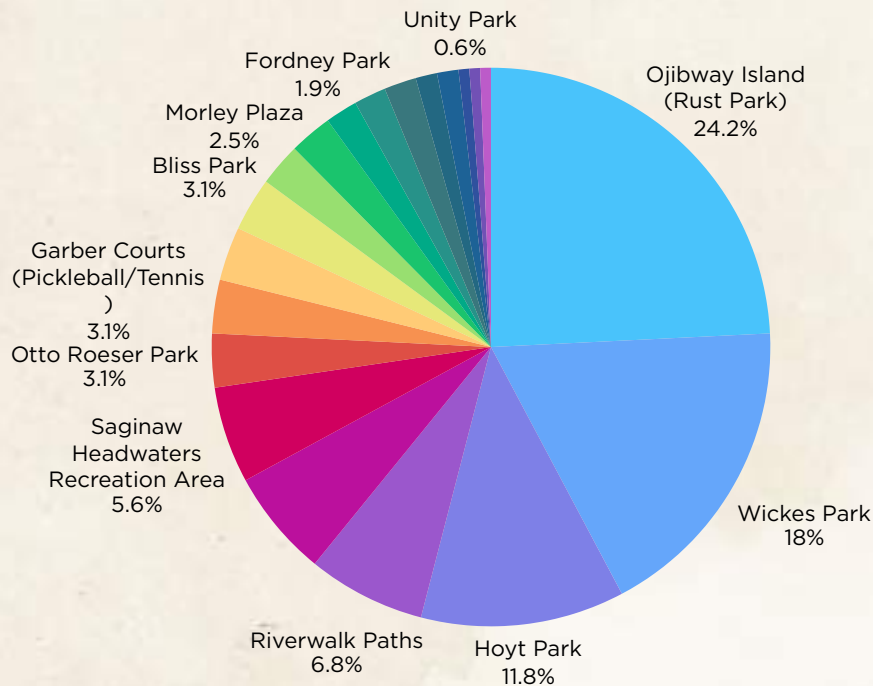


About 6 out of 10 people believe they have adequate recreation options within a mile of their home.

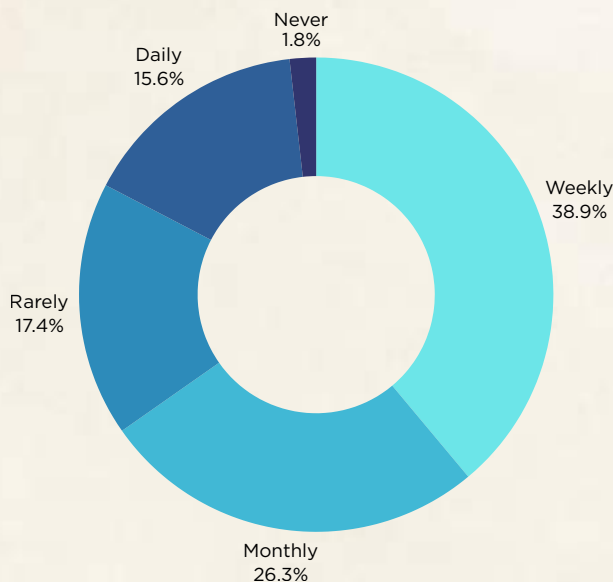
**28.5%**

of people identified themselves or someone they know as having a disability or functional limitation affecting their use of city parks.

## FAVORITE SAGINAW CITY PARK



## PARK VISIT FREQUENCY



## INFLUENCERS FOR PARK USAGE

Ranked Most to Least Important

1. Proximity to Home
2. Amenities (restrooms, trails, lighting, etc.)
3. Events/Programming
4. Playground Equipment
5. Scenery



# SUMMARY OF SURVEY FEEDBACK

## DESIRED PARK FEATURES

- Lighting - 100%
- Walking Paths - 69.4%
- Water Fountains - 67.6%
- Playgrounds for Young Children - 66.7%
- Seating - 65.7%
- Playgrounds for Older Children - 49.1%
- Florals/Landscaping - 3.7%
- Parking - 2.8%
- Bathrooms - 2.8%
- Picnic Areas - 2.8%
- Handicap Accessibility - 2.8%
- Disc Golf - 1.9%
- Trash Cans - 1.9%
- Swimming Pool - 1.9%
- Camping - 1.9%
- Basketball Courts - 1.9%



## FUTURE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Ranked Most to Least Important

### MOST REQUESTED FEATURES

1. Lighting
2. Walking Paths
3. Playgrounds (young kids)
4. Playgrounds (older kids)
5. Seating

### MODERATE/EMERGING REQUESTS

1. Accessibility
2. Trash Cans
3. Picnic Areas/Grills
4. Safety Features (cameras, lighting, etc.)
5. Splash Pad/Pool

### SECONDARY PRIORITIES

1. Water Fountains
2. Restrooms
3. Parking/Vehicle Access
4. Shade/Trees/Landscaping

### SPECIALTY REQUESTS

1. Bike Lanes/Riverwalk
2. Disc Golf/Sports Facilities
3. Boat Access/Water Recreation
4. Camping
5. Educational Signage
6. Community Programming
7. Skatepark Improvements

# SUMMARY OF VISIONING MEETING FEEDBACK

## Strengths

- Natural environment: nature trails, river proximity, Ojibway Island, etc.
- Community interest in group-based activities
- Programs: Adopt-A-Park Program, Promoting Active Communities Program & Volunteer days (clean ups/maintenance)
- Existing park infrastructure
- Connecting trails in the city and along the waterfront (improve mobility)
- Running/walking clubs
- Park & Recreation areas provide entertainment
- City's Complete Streets Ordinance
- Bike lane implementation
- Different age groups use the parks at different times of the day
- Encouragement to plant native plants for pollinator attraction
- Developing strategic partnerships
- Security cameras have decreased crime in the parks
- Strategic location of city parks



## Weaknesses

- Lack of funding, staffing, and maintenance
- Lack of marketing & promotion
- Lack of youth programming
- Lack of water-based activities (swimming)
- Not enough public engagement
- Safety concerns (lighting, broken equipment, nonfunctioning fountains, inappropriate activities, etc.)
- Limited regulation signage & enforcement staff
- Lack of cleanliness (vandalism/graffiti, litter/trash, etc.)
- Not a lot of parks & recreation activities in Saginaw when compared to Bay City or Flint
- Infrastructure issues (humps in road at Wickes Park)
- Docks are inaccessible and underutilized



# SUMMARY OF VISIONING MEETING FEEDBACK

## Threats

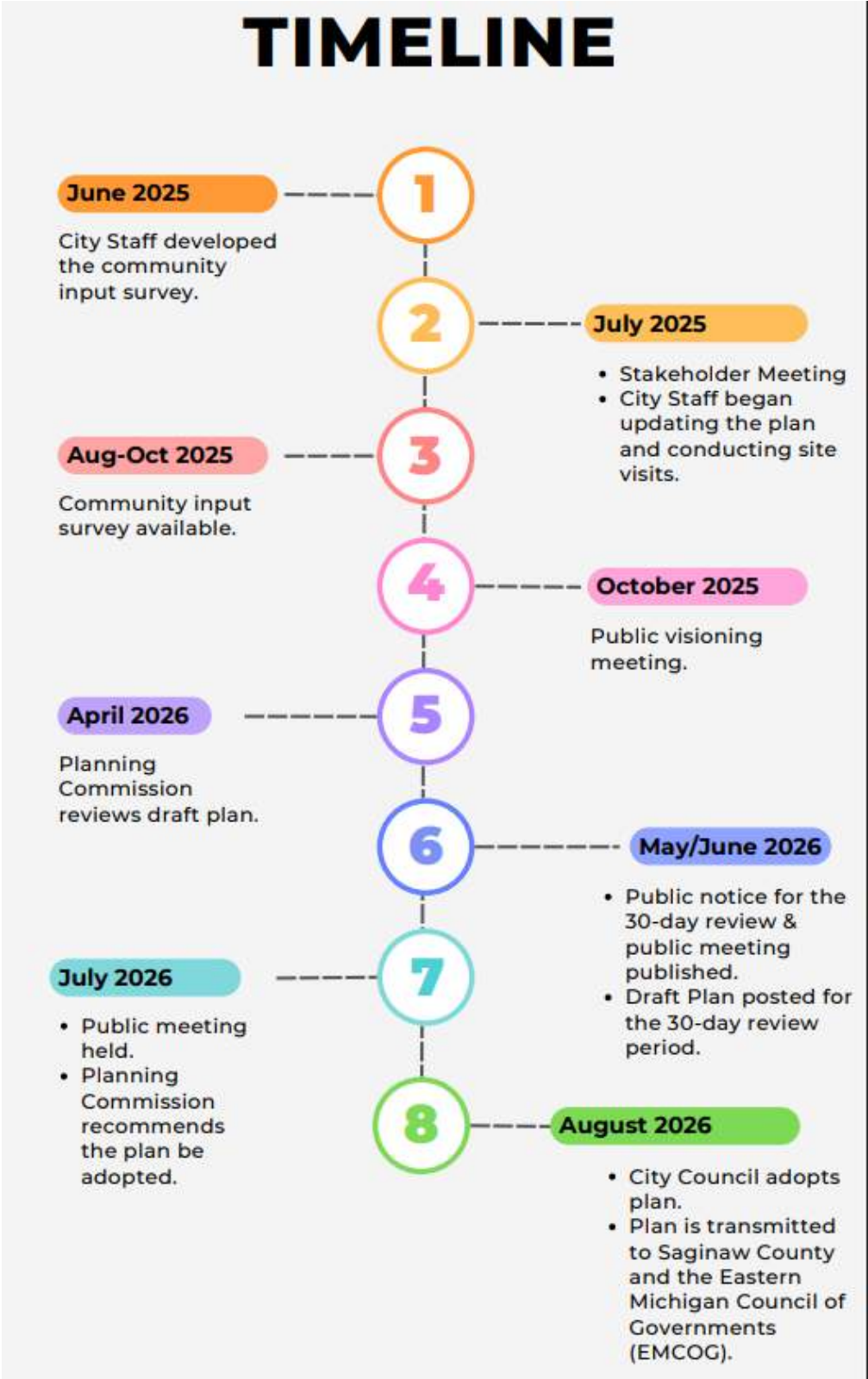
- Future residents may be deterred by less managed parks
- Public perceptions & knowledge about park amenities, physical health & activity, park & trail safety, etc.
- Accessibility issues
- People's busy schedules (competition for attention)
- Fewer school sports available
- City tax cap
- Vandalism & Littering
- Focusing on the city parks' past instead of advocating for their future
- Focusing efforts on funding & re-instating a Parks & Recreation Department
- Narrative that the parks are in a poor state due to a lack of a Parks & Recreation Department
- Lack of innovative ideas
- Lack of a sense of pride for the community/unwilling to take ownership for bettering the community
- Challenge to find volunteers
- Lack of event sponsorships/events ending
- Lack of Friends Groups
- Political in-fighting

## Opportunities

- Implement educational, historical, cultural, warning, regulation & wayfinding markers, signage and maps
- Areas to enhance park facilities (currently lots of open space) for more playscapes, sports areas, grills, pavilions, pool, modern bathrooms, etc.
- Focus on developing partnerships and collaboration with nonprofits, government agencies, schools, civic groups, faith-based groups, volunteers, etc.
- Tie park & recreation improvements to economic development initiatives
- Clean up the parks
- Increase marketing & promotion efforts, including park projects, programs, how to partner with the city, and how to become more involved
- Improve walkability in neighborhoods
- Expand programming for adults, youth, and groups
- Have more programs/sports teams
- Improve/create more public access to the river
- Develop more flower gardens
- Offer more free activities
- Host events at lesser known parks
- Offer equipment rentals (skates, kayaks, etc.)
- Re-open Ojibway Island
- Expand parking lots to assist older people with walking a shorter distance to park attractions
- Expand the Cass River Water Trail-- dredge river, add boat launches
- Have more large scale events in the parks
- Create a volunteer Parks & Recreation Commission to manage the park and recreation system
- Partner with advocate groups to generate new ideas, fundraise, and gather volunteers
- Diversify activities offered in the parks
- Develop themed parks (e.g. sculpture park, outdoor park, cultural/historical trail, etc.)



The draft Parks and Recreation Plan was available for review on the City of Saginaw website and at City Hall on (Date). The public review period ran from (Date) through (Date), and was publicized through (social media, press release). The public hearing was held during the Planning Commission meeting on (Date). The City Council adopted the plan on (Date) and copies of the plan were transmitted to Saginaw County and the Eastern Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG).



# 02

# COMMUNITY PROFILE



# REGIONAL LOCATION



Located in Michigan’s Lower Peninsula, the City of Saginaw serves as the county seat in Saginaw County. Covering roughly 18 square miles, it shares borders with six townships: Carrollton, Saginaw, James, Spaulding, Bridgeport, and Buena Vista (Map 2.1). Major highways, such as I-75, I-675, M-46, and M-58, link the city to destinations across the state. Air service is available through MBS International Airport, Flint Bishop International Airport, and Harry Browne Airport. Public transit is available through the Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services (STARS), which operates routes within the city and to the surrounding communities. Rail service is provided by Lake State Railway and the Huron and Eastern Railway.

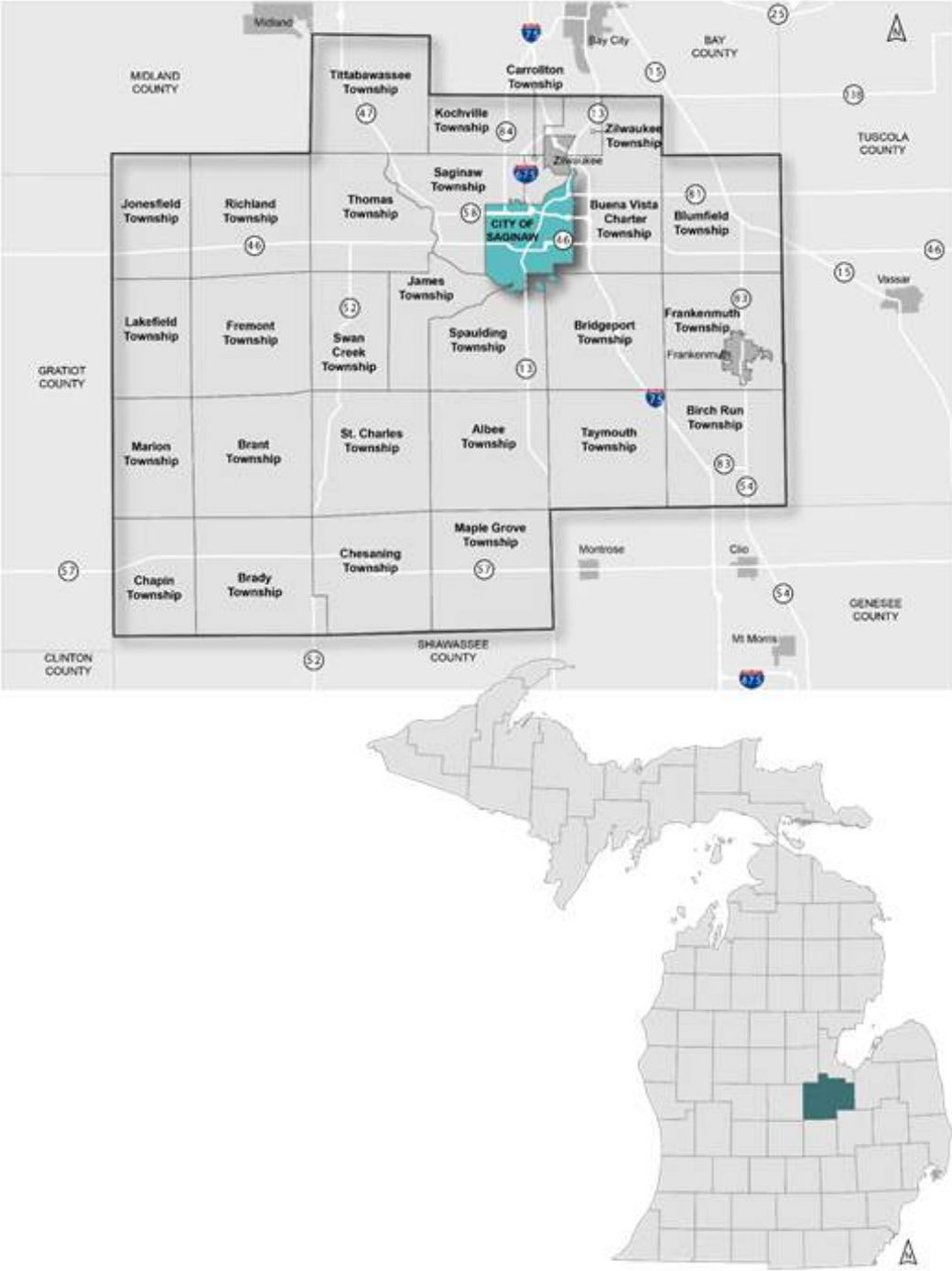
Saginaw is a regional center for arts, sports, and entertainment. Its attractions include the Dow Event Center, Temple Theater, Children’s Zoo, and Saginaw Art Museum. The Dow Event Center houses the Saginaw Spirit junior ice hockey team, which hosted and won the 2024 Memorial Cup. Saginaw is also home to the Saginaw Soul, a basketball super league team, which is currently selecting its home venue. Old Town, on the west side of the Saginaw River, offers a mix of restaurants, shops, and local businesses.

Saginaw’s development pattern is relatively dense, with a more suburban character in its northern and western neighborhoods. Single-family housing dominates the city landscape, and active neighborhood associations foster community engagement through neighborhood and arson watch programs, cleanups, events, and neighborhood planning. The Saginaw Public School District operates 18 schools, which are complemented by private and charter institutions. Higher education institutions within the city include Saginaw Valley State University, Delta College, and the Central Michigan University School of Medicine.

Healthcare is a cornerstone of the city, anchored by facilities such as the Aleda E. Lutz Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Covenant Medical Center, Mary Free Bed at Covenant HealthCare, MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw, and CMU Medical Education Partners. The ongoing Medical Diamond development project in Downtown Saginaw is expected to feature medical buildings, a hotel, retail shops, residential housing, and a riverfront park.

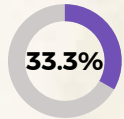
As the most populated and developed jurisdiction in Saginaw County, the City has undergone significant changes over the past 15 years in population, housing, recreation, and open space. Despite challenges, such as population decline and economic shifts, Saginaw’s neighborhoods remain resilient, its residents remain deeply committed, and its leadership is focused on ensuring the City’s continued prosperity.

**Map 2.1 Location Map**



# POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

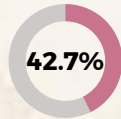
## INCOME (2023)



of residents make under \$25,000/year



of residents with retirement income



of households receiving food stamps/SNAP

The City has more residents making under \$25,000/year than the County (20.2%) and State (16.0%). The City saw an increase in households receiving food stamps/SNAP and households with retirement income between 2019 and 2023, which is comparable to the County and State. About 11.7% of the City's population has a Bachelor's Degree or Higher, which is less than the County (23.4%) and State (31.8%).

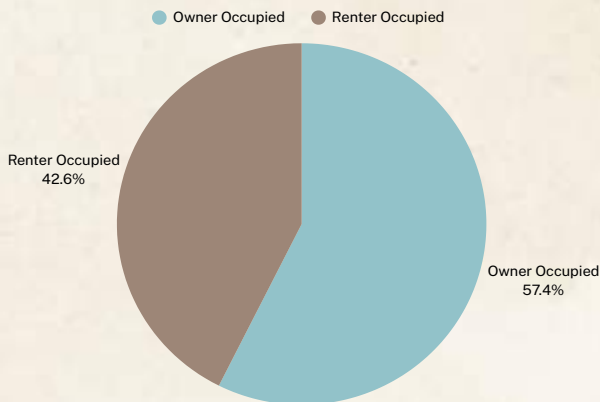


**\$37,298**

## MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (2023)

The City's median household income is significantly less than the County (\$58,347) and State (\$71,149).

## HOUSEHOLDS (2023)



The City has significantly more rentals than the County (26.5%) and State (27.1%). The average household size in the City is 2.41, which is between the County (2.36) and State (2.43).

## FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (2023)

**33.5%**

of the population in the City is below the poverty level, which is significantly higher than the County (18.1%) and State (13.1%).



## ALICE THRESHOLD (2023)

**67.0%**

of households in the City are below the ALICE threshold\*, which is higher than the County (45.0%) and State (27%).



\*ALICE Threshold: individuals whose income is above the Federal Poverty Level, but do not earn enough to cover basic expenses, such as rent, food and childcare, and do not qualify for public assistance.

# POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

## Population (2010, 2023)

**43,879**  
**PEOPLE**



The City has experienced a 14.8% population decline since 2010. Saginaw County has also experienced a population decline, while the State experienced population growth (1.7%). The City has a larger population who identify as Black or African American, Some Other Race, Two or More Races, and Hispanic or Latino than the County or State.

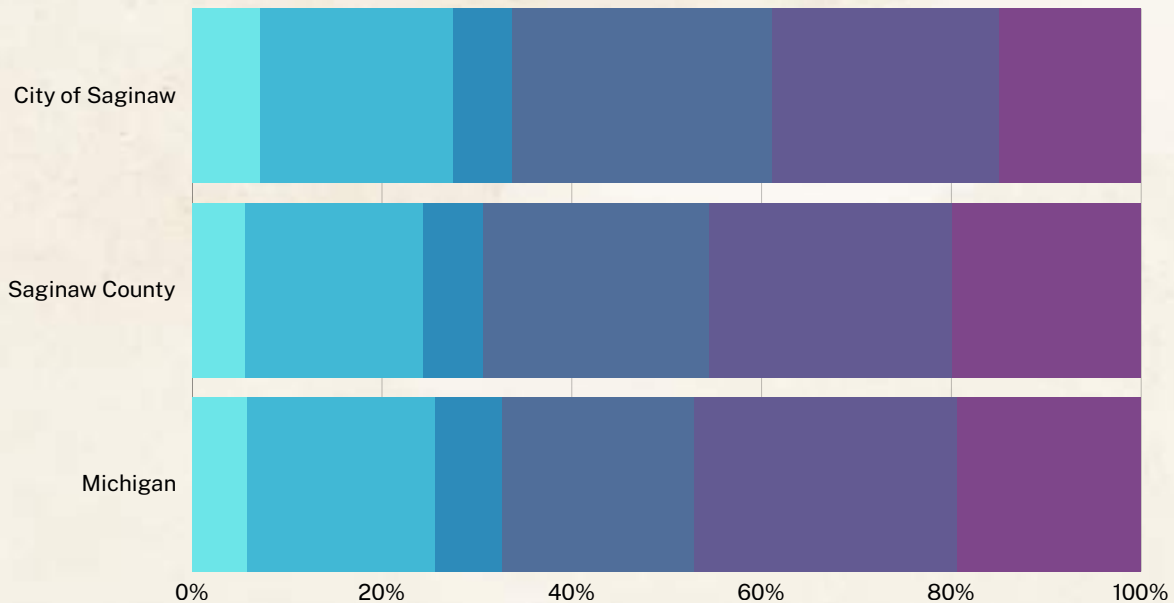
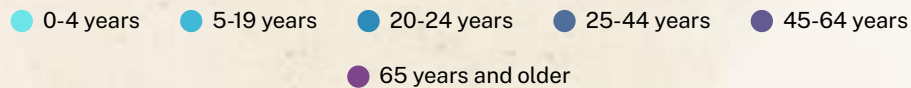
## Median Age (2023)



**36.2**  
**YEARS**

The median age in the City is lower than Saginaw County (41.1 years) and the State (40.1 years).

## Age Distribution (2023)



U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

About 27.5% of the City's population is under the age of 19 and about 14.9% is 65 years and older. The County and State have an older population than the city. About 50.4% of grandparents are responsible for their grandchildren in the city, which is a decline from 57.9% in 2022. There has been an increase in the number of grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18 years old (863 in 2022, 980 in 2023).

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# 03

# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



# ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

This section outlines how the City organizes and maintains its parks and recreation facilities, and provides an overview of the organizational structure, funding sources, and key community stakeholder groups.

## CITY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The City operates under a Council-Manager form of government. Established under Enabling Act 455 of the Legislature of 1889, the City Council consists of nine members elected at large to serve overlapping four-year terms. The Council meets twice a month (on the second and fourth Monday) and is responsible for setting all municipal policies not otherwise established by the City Charter or State law. The City Manager, appointed by and reporting directly to the City Council, oversees day-to-day administration of City operations.

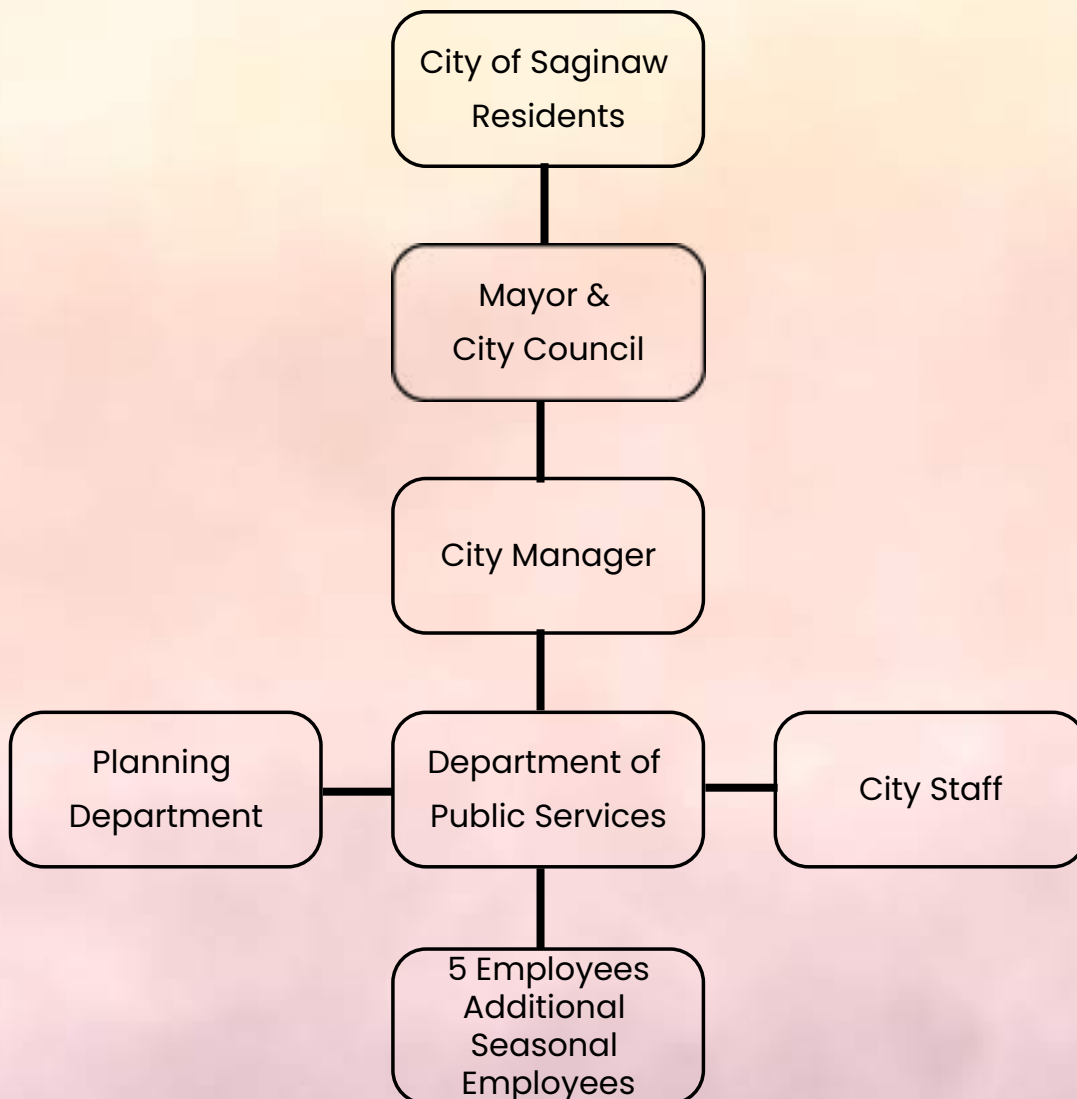
The City's system of government relies on the City Manager to provide strong leadership in identifying and addressing major policy issues. As the chief administrator, the City Manager implements policies developed by the City Council and directs and coordinates the work of all City departments including the delegation of parks and recreation-related administrative and maintenance responsibilities to city staff. The City Manager is also responsible for preparing the annual budget for Council review and adoption and for ensuring that budget provisions are properly executed.



Under this system of government, the City Council is responsible for setting policy and making decisions related to municipal parks and recreation. This authority includes budgeting, land acquisition, facility development, ordinances, rules, and other related actions. The Council also approves formal agreements with partner agencies, including the Saginaw Board of Education and the Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. The Saginaw City Council generally makes decisions on parks and recreation issues under three primary circumstances:

- During the preparation of the City's annual budget
- When the City Manager presents a recreation-related issue before the Council for special consideration
- When a parks issue is identified by a Council member, a citizen, or an interest group.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE



# FUNDING & BUDGET

The city is currently unable to fund parks and recreation activities at its desired level and increasingly relies on volunteers and community groups to help maintain and improve park facilities. Parks maintenance, Celebration Park, and the Japanese Tea House are funded through the general fund, while the boat launch is supported by enterprise funds. The 2026-2031 Capital improvement Plan includes projects to remodel the Green Point Nature Center and demolish a bathroom building on Ojibway Island, both of which will be funded by the general fund. The city does not fund programming.

	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Park Grounds Maintenance	\$567,740	\$610,320	\$858,732	\$754,119	\$510,869



# MAINTENANCE & OPERATION

Under the current organizational structure, the City does not have a formal Parks and Recreation Department or Commission. Instead, the Department of Public Services, operating under the general direction of the City Manager, oversees the administration, planning, operation, and maintenance of the City's park system and related facilities. The maintenance division provides labor and material resources necessary to maintain buildings, grounds, and infrastructure within the parks. The Department also supports all programs and activities conducted in city parks and recreational facilities by providing building and grounds maintenance services.



The Department employs two groundskeepers and three maintenance employees who are responsible for more than 600 acres of developed parkland. The City's parks system includes more than 615 acres of community parkland featuring playgrounds, walking trails, picnic areas, a skate park, a splash pad, open green spaces, and facilities for various sporting activities.

The City provides online information about parks and facilities, including hours of operation and visitor rules. An online system is available for purchasing boat launch passes, including options for annual season passes. Additionally, community organizations and residents may rent space in public parks for private or public events.

## PROGRAMMING

The Planning Department coordinates limited recreation programming in the city. Since 2023, the City of Saginaw has partnered with community representatives to engage with residents through the Michigan Fitness Foundation's pilot program, Promoting Active Communities (PAC). This initiative assists communities with understanding the barriers to active living and solutions to overcome them. Programming for PAC focuses on increasing exposure to the available activities and recreational areas throughout the city, ensuring accessibility for

everyone. Partner organizations provide coaching for specific activities or sports, along with equipment that participants can take home. This approach encourages continued participation and creates opportunities for residents to join local teams or clubs.

In addition, the City collaborates with organizations and community members in the Adopt-A-Park Program to offer recreation programming. Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission provides recreational programming within the city parks.

## PROMOTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES: FAMILY PLAY DATES

**76**  
**Participants**

Free Play Day  
Partner: Delta Sigma  
Theta Sorority

**30**  
**Participants**

Tennis & Pickleball Day  
Partner: Urban  
Racquet Sports  
Foundation

**29**  
**Participants**

Baseball Day  
Partner: Saginaw Sugar  
Beets

**15**  
**Participants**

Track & Field Day  
Partner: Greene St331  
Track Club

**40**  
**Participants**

Skateboarding Day  
Partner: Shawn Deer

## COUNTY PROGRAMMING IN THE CITY

Program	Location(s)	Number of Participants 2022	Number of Participants 2023	Number of Participants 2024
Bringing Back the Ice	Hoyt Park	6,000	500	50
Walk with Ease	YMCA	247	425	535
Youth Baseball	Hoyt Park	255	262	262
Outhouse Races	Hoyt Park	400	300	150
Supersized Fun	Otto Roeser Park, Bliss Park	92	138	60
Art in the Park	Deindorfer Woods, Otto Roeser Park, Fordney Park, Bliss Park	82	227	178
Build It	Otto Roeser Park, Bliss Park, Fordney Park	162	152	50
Music on the Move	Fordney Park, Deindorfer Woods, Otto Roeser Park	69	70	59



# ADOPT-A-PARK PROGRAM

The City partners with a variety of community groups and agencies to maintain and improve park facilities.

The **Friends of Hoyt Park** is a 501C3 volunteer organization that maintains Hoyt Park since 2008. The organization provides programming and uses donations to maintain the Hoyt Park Ball Fields, Ice Rink and the 'lower bowl.' The Ice Rink and warming house are manned by volunteers and are only open for scheduled events. The Friends of Hoyt Park partner with the Saginaw County Parks & Recreation Commission to offer the Hoyt Park Youth Summer Baseball League. The organization also offers a variety of activities and events, such as softball and baseball tournaments, youth and adult baseball and softball leagues, 5K runs, kickball tournaments, and winter events.

**Covenant Medical Center** assists with the maintenance and improvements at Bliss Park.

**Project Unify** assists with improvements at Veterans McKinney Park and Unity Park.

The **Rotary Club of Saginaw Foundation** is developing a playground plan for Crayola Park and is actively fundraising for its implementation.

Additionally, **community members** assist with the maintenance and improvements at Weadock Park, Westside Riverfront Park, Dr. Archer Claytor Park, and St. Vincent Park.





## ADDITIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

The **Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission** is committed to collaborating with local partners to enhance the recreation opportunities throughout Saginaw County. Action items in the County's recreation plan that pertain to the city include supporting city parkland and facilities, and providing mobile recreation programming.

Since 1984, the **Saginaw Community Foundation** strives to improve the quality of life in Saginaw County through leadership, education, and philanthropic support. The foundation meets community needs through targeted grants, investments, scholarships, donor advised funds, and endowed funds.

**First Ward Community Center** was established in 1931 and offers youth after school and summer day programs, summer youth employment, and youth training in performing and visual arts.

The **Urban Racquet Sports Foundation** maintains and operates the Garber Tennis Courts.

**The Neighb** is a charitable organization that serves economically disadvantaged individuals and families. The organization provides educational programs and services, including arts & culture initiatives, a soup kitchen, health & nutrition services, academic support, youth sports, career assistance and job training, and financial literacy programs.

# PAST GRANT HISTORY

The following list identifies grant projects awarded through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, as reported by DNR Grants Management (Appendix C). This list does not include grants from other sources used for recreation projects (Appendix D).

YEAR	TITLE	PROJECT #	GRANT AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
2020	Riverwalk-Iron Belle Trail through Wickes Park	TF20-0147	\$300,000	Develop the Riverwalk-Iron Belle Trail through Wickes Park. The park drive will be converted to accommodate the proposed trail extension. Additional Lighting.
2016	Ojibway Island Improvements	TF16-0098	\$245,000	Improve the pathway in Ojibway Island Park and renovate the restroom building to make it ADA accessible.
2012	Boulder Climbing Garden and Connector Path	TF12-086	\$67,000	Develop boulder climbing garden and multi-use pathway extension in the Frank N. Andersen Celebration Park.
2008	Celebration Park Repurposing Project (formerly Andersen Water Park)	TF08-039	\$480,000	Development of a splash pad, picnic pavilion, and overlook area.
2007	Celebration Park Development (formerly Andersen Park)	TF07-072	\$51,800	Demolish water park facilities. Reroofing two restroom buildings and a restroom/storage building.
2000	Westside Riverfront Park Development	TF00-106	\$256,153	Development of paved Riverwalk from Court Street to E. Holland Avenue.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>PROJECT #</b>	<b>GRANT AMOUNT</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>
1992	Hoyt Park Improvements	BF92-223	\$223,500	Redevelop/improve sports fields, lighting, and parking facilities.
1991	Rust Avenue Boat Launch	TF91-222	\$375,000	Develop a support facility for the existing boat launch, including paved drive, restroom, fencing, lighting, and walkways.
1990	Ojibway Island Renovation	TF90-343	\$165,000	Construction of playground renovation, parking, and access bridge repair.
1989	Wickes Park Renovation	BF89-364	\$375,000	Rehabilitation of riverfront park including roadway resurfacing, parking improvements, restrooms, boat launch renovation and shoreline erosion control.
1985	Saginaw Wave Pool	26-01431	\$640,000	Wave pool, bathhouse, parking lot, site work/landscaping, and signage.
1980	Green Point Nature Center	TF410	\$19,800	Acquisition of 6.5 acres.
1978	Riverfront Acquisition and Development	26-01060 J1	\$142,686	Acquire 1.5 acres to develop landscaping and paved pathways.
1973	Goetz Grove Nature Center	26-00515	\$151,095	Develop 70 acres to include 2.4 miles of trails, nature interpretive building, fishing pier, parking lots, septic tank, lights, gates, roads, and ponds.
1970	Riverfront Park Expansion	26-00206	\$152,000	Acquire and develop 5.06 acres of land for passive recreational facilities, walkway and parking.

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# 04

# INVENTORY



# NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY

A natural features inventory is a valuable tool for recreation planning since it identifies existing natural resources and highlights the areas where these resources are lacking. This information guides decisions on future park acquisitions, natural resource protection, and the development of parks and trails.

The City is fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources within and near its borders (Map 4.1). The Saginaw River flows through the heart of the city, linking it to the Shiawassee River, Cass River, and Saginaw Bay. Anglers are drawn to the river for its walleye, smallmouth bass, white bass, freshwater drum, and catfish. Wetlands are scattered along the river and at the City's outskirts. On the east side of the river, the County Land Bank owns open grassy areas that were once occupied by homes and businesses.

Large, forested areas are concentrated within the City's parks and in conjunction with the City's location in the Mississippi Flyway, the City is a prime destination for birdwatching. Nearby natural areas, such as Crow Island State Game Area and the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, further enhance the City's appeal for nature enthusiasts.

**Map 4.1 Natural Features**



# PARKS & RECREATION INVENTORY

The parks & recreation inventory provides an overview of the City’s recreational facilities with each park being classified as a neighborhood, community, or regional park. This classification system, adapted from the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) guide, provides standards for parks based on size, service area, facilities, and user groups.

According to these benchmarks, the City has a combined shortage of 159.9 acres in neighborhood and community parks, but a surplus of 108.5 acres in regional parks, resulting in an overall deficit of 51.4 acres (Table 4.1). These figures do not account for parks and recreation land that is owned by other entities within the city. The City also provides recreation services and facilities to a larger population than its official residency, and community feedback indicates the total amount of parkland is sufficient regardless of national acreage standards. Residents’ primary concerns focus on the condition and amenities of existing parks, including more pathways, benches, drinking fountains, upgraded playgrounds, and improved security and maintenance.

Table 4.1 Comparison to Park Standards Source: 2020 Census Population				
Park Type	Standard	City Park Acentage	Standard Amount	Deficiency/ Excess
Neighborhood	1 acre/ 1,000 residents	17.1	44	-26.9
Community	5 acres/ 1,000 residents	87.0	220	-133.0
Regional	5 acres/ 1,000 residents	328.5	220	108.5
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>432.6</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>-51.4</b>



Park accessibility was also evaluated using the Michigan Department of Natural Resources grading system, which identifies the most and least accessible parks. While some sites and undeveloped recreation areas are not ADA accessible, the City is dedicated to improving accessibility as park upgrades are made. City staff conducted on-site assessments to update park information, accessibility ratings, and photographs. Information from previous strategic plans was also incorporated into this update.

## DNR Accessibility Grading System

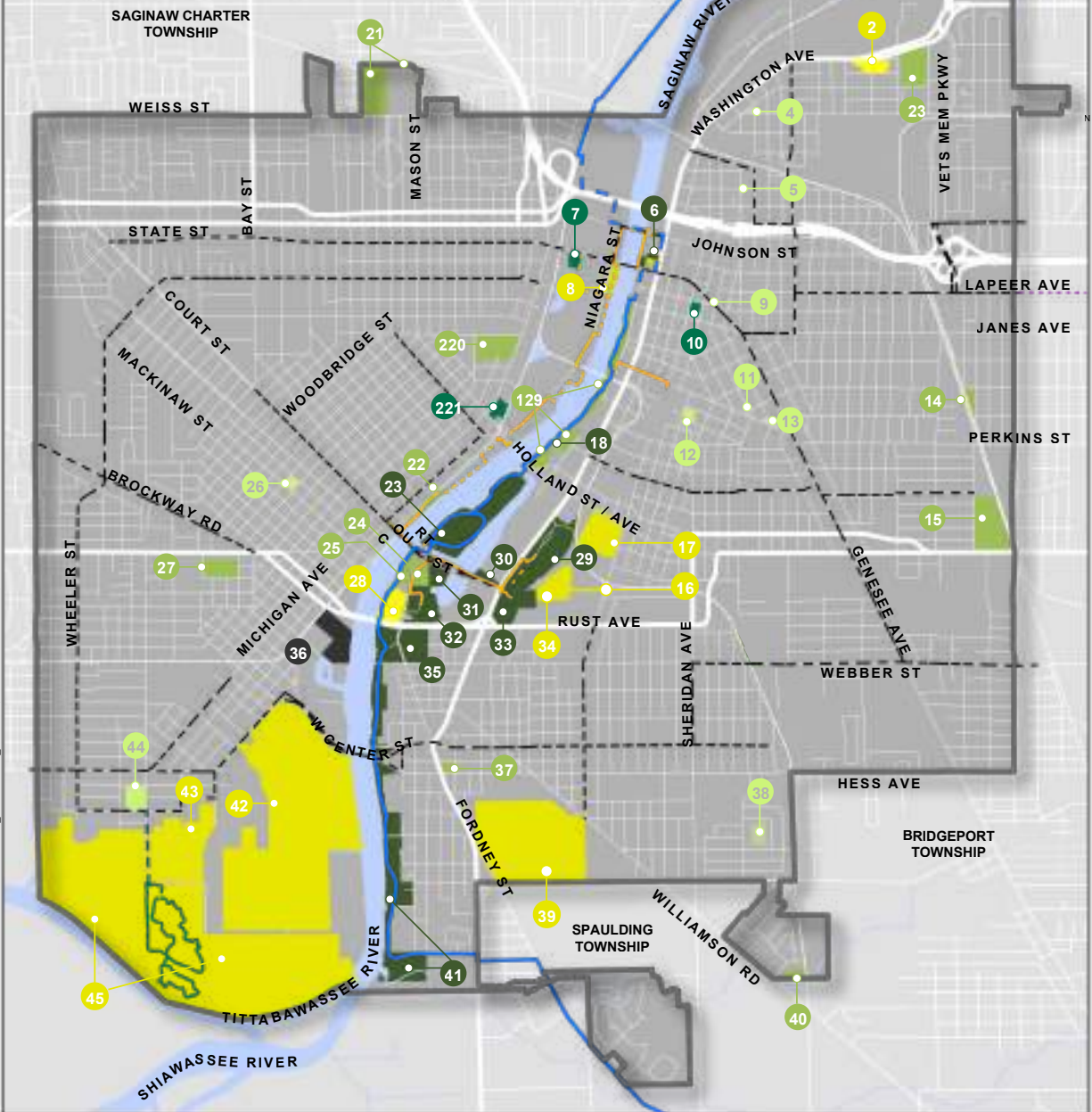
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

# MAP 4.2 - PARKS AND RECREATION MAP

## CITY OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN



- |                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| 1. DEINDORFER WOODS                | 21. SAGINAW ARTS MUSEUM                | 41. WICKES PARK  |
| 2. FIRST WARD COMMUNITY CENTER     | 22. WESTSIDE RIVERFRONT PARK           | 42. SAGINAW RIVER HEADWATERS REC AREA                                |
| 3. UNITY PARK                      | 23. OJIBWAY ISLAND (RUST PARK)         | 43. US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES                                    |
| 4. GERMAINE PARK                   | 24. GARBER TENNIS COURTS               | 44. MERRILL PARK CENTER  |
| 5. DR. ARCHER CLAYTOR PARK         | 25. CRAYOLA PARK                       | 45. SHIAWASSEE NATURAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AND GREEN POINT NATURE CENTER |
| 6. MORLEY PLAZA                    | 26. OTTO ROESER PARK                   |  |
| 7. MID MICHIGAN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM  | 27. FORDNEY PARK                       |  |
| 8. NASH RIVERFRONT PARK            | 28. YMCA                               |  |
| 9. JEFFER'S PARK                   | 29. HOYT PARK                          |  |
| 10. CASTLE MUSEUM                  | 30. JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER           |  |
| 11. WEADOCK PARK                   | 31. ANDERSEN ENRICHMENT CENTER         |  |
| 12. ST. VINCENT'S PARK             | 32. FRANK N. ANDERSEN CELEBRATION PARK |  |
| 13. PARK PLACE                     | 33. SAGINAW CHILDREN'S ZOO             |  |
| 14. BILTMORE PARK                  | 34. CALVARY CEMETERY                   |  |
| 15. LAWRENCE MCKINLEY / VET'S PARK | 35. WEBBER PARK                        |  |
| 16. SAGINAW ZOO TRAILS             | 36. BOAT LAUNCH                        |  |
| 17. BRADY HILL CEMETERY            | 37. LINTON PARK                        |  |
| 18. RIVERWALK                      | 38. SCHROEDER PARK                     |  |
| 19. POTTHOFF PARK                  | 39. FOREST LAWN CEMETERY               |  |
| 20. BLISS PARK                     | 40. HALJEAN PARK                       |  |



### LEGEND

- |                    |                  |  |                              |  |
|--------------------|------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| Regional Parks     | Other Facilities | Iron Belle Trail                         | Saginaw River Loop           | Potential Bike Lanes                             |
| Community Parks    | Arts & Culture   | Proposed Iron Belle Trail                | Proposed Saginaw River Loop  | Green Point Environmental Center Nature Pathways |
| Neighborhood Parks | Boat Launch      | Proposed Connection to Harger Line Trail | Proposed Green Point Pathway |  |

PATH: Q:\PROJ\2020\12825\SAGINAW RECREATION\NEWMAZ\PRINTED\01-19-2022 BY: MESSICOR\FP\MGLE



# CITY OF SAGINAW NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Parks in this classification represent the most basic unit of the park system and serves as recreational and social gathering spaces in neighborhoods. These parks are designed to be easily accessible to nearby residents and geographically centered within safe walking and biking distance. Neighborhood parks typically range from five to ten acres and can serve approximately 5,000 residents.

The City has 12 parks classified as neighborhood parks, each serving an area within a  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile radius (Map 4.2). National standards recommend one acre of neighborhood parks per 1,000 residents, which translates to about 44 acres for the City's population. Currently, the City provides 17.1 acres of neighborhood park space.



# Biltmore Park

Burt Street & S 20<sup>th</sup> Street/521 S 20<sup>th</sup> Street



**Size:** 2.4 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None



Biltmore Park is a natural area within the Unity in the Community Neighborhood. The natural area is bordered on the west by railroad tracks.

> Open Field Natural Area

# Dr. Archer Claytor Park

532 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave/536 N Roosevelt Austin Ave



**Size:** 0.5 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None



Dr. Archer Claytor Park is located in the Northeast Saginaw Neighborhood. The First Ward Community Center and the Saginaw County Young Professionals hold clean-up events. In 2025, community members obtained private donations and a grant from the Saginaw Community Foundation to restore the park.

- > Play Equipment
- > Sand box
- > Little Free Library



# Germaine Park

900-998 Farwell Street/1109 N 3<sup>rd</sup> Street



**Size:** 0.6 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Germaine Park is a triangular park located in the Northeast Saginaw Neighborhood. It is surrounded by homes and open space.



- > Basketball Court
- > Play Equipment
- > Shelter
- > Water Fountain
- > Trash Receptacle



# Haljean Park

3610 Cora Street



**Size:** 2.5 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Haljean Park is located in the Sherwill Community Neighborhood and is bordered by railroad tracks to the east and Consumers Energy property to the south.



- > Open Field Natural Area

# Jeffers Park

602 E Genesee Avenue



**Size:** 0.2 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Jeffers Park is designated as a Michigan Historic Site within the Houghton-Jones Neighborhood. On May 30, 1906, Jeffers Park and a memorial fountain were dedicated. This park has served as a focal point of the business district. The park has functioned as a town square, downtown meeting spot, and as the home for a memorial to commemorate Saginaw soldiers who have died in battle. In 2003, a committee was formed to preserve and restore the park and fountain.

- > Landscaped Open Area
- > Monument
- > Lighting
- > Water Fountain



# Merrill Park Center

1901 Maple Street



**Size:** 6.1 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Merrill Park Center is located in the Coulter Neighborhood next to the Merrill Park Elementary School. The park is maintained by the Boys & Girls Club.

- > Two Softball Fields
- > Playground
- > Basketball Court
- > Parking
- > Picnic Tables



# Otto Roeser Park

1100 Van Buren Street



**Size:** 1.4 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Otto Roeser Park is located in the Heritage Square Neighborhood and hosts gatherings and events. The park is built on the previous site of the Otto Roeser Elementary School, which was built in the late 1800's and was later destroyed by a fire. A slab from the school's foundation has been converted into a bench. Community members built the park through grants, fundraising efforts, and volunteer work.

- > Paved Pathway
- > Play Equipment
- > Bike Rack
- > Gazebo
- > Lighting
- > Trash Receptacles
- > Water Fountain
- > Benches
- > Parking



# Park Place

1029 Hoyt Avenue



**Size:** 0.3 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Park Place is located in the Cathedral District Neighborhood. The park is surrounded by homes and a permanently closed school.

- > Maintained Open Space



# Saginaw Fairgrounds Memorial Park

2701 E Genesee Avenue



**Size:** 1.0 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Saginaw Fairgrounds Memorial Park is in the planning phase to create an accessible public space in the Fairground Neighborhood. The park is surrounded by businesses and homes. The Historic Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate, a 1929 architectural landmark, is currently being restored.

- > Historic Saginaw County Fairgrounds Main Gate
- > Pathway
- > Pavilion
- > Parking



# St. Vincent's Park

802 Howard Street



**Size:** 1.8 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 2  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

St. Vincent's Park is located in the Cathedral District Neighborhood.

- > Basketball Court
- > Play Equipment
- > Picnic Tables
- > Benches
- > Grills
- > Open Space



# Weadock Park

659 S Weadock Avenue



**Size:** 0.3 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None



Weadock Park is maintained open space in the Cathedral District Neighborhood that is surrounded by homes.

## Adopt-A-Park Goals, Objectives & Action Items

**Goal:** Long-term maintenance and upkeep of Weadock Park

**Objective 1:** Continue to maintain the park

- Edging sidewalks
- Mowing
- Maintaining bushes and trees
- Maintaining the historic sign

**Objective 2:** Continue to improve the park

- Plant additional trees, shrubs, and other plantings
- Install additional solar lights where others have failed or been stolen.



**Maintained Open Space**

# CITY OF SAGINAW COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are designed to serve multiple neighborhoods and typically provide a wider variety of amenities than neighborhood parks. According to the NRPA, the typical size of these parks is 30 acres or more. The City has ten parks classified as community parks, though each is smaller than the national standard. These parks are included in this category based on the broad population they serve and the facilities/uses they provide.

National guidelines recommend five acres of community parkland per 1,000 residents, which equates to 220 acres for the City. Currently, the City's community parks total 87.0 acres, resulting in a 133 acre shortfall.



# Bliss Park

1405 N Michigan Avenue



**Size:** 12.8 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 2  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Bliss Park is located in the Covenant Neighborhood. Since the park is adjacent to the hospital, Covenant HealthCare assists with park maintenance and improvements. The park hosts events and fairs. During the Civil War, the park was used as a drilling ground for the 29<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment. In 1995, the park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

- > Paved Trails
- > Play Equipment
- > Six Horseshoe Pits
- > Pavilion/Picnic Tables
- > Benches
- > Open Space
- > Restrooms
- > Grills



# Crayola Park

1739 Fordney Street



**Size:** 5.2 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

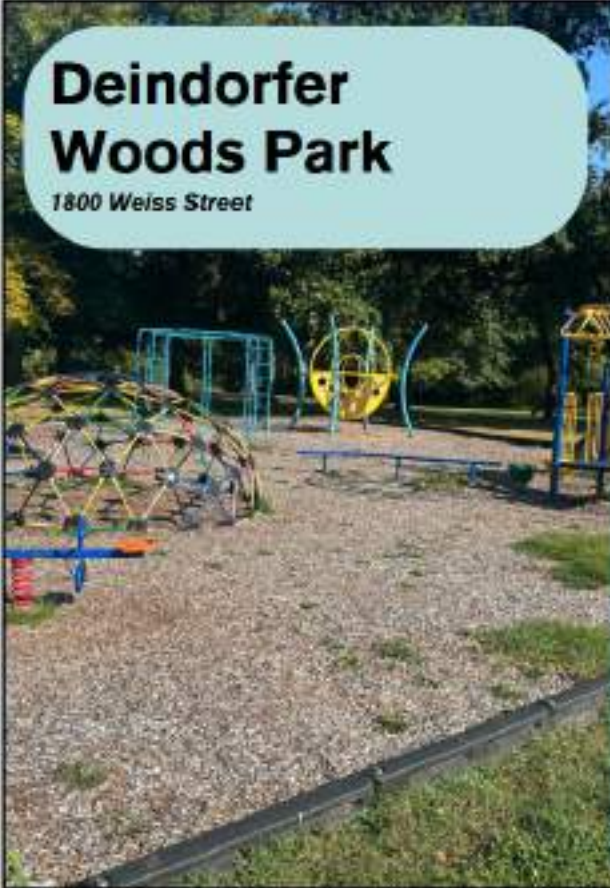
Crayola Park, also known as Randall Wickes Children's Playground, is located along the Saginaw River and has a crayon theme. The Downtown Rotary Club, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, City of Saginaw Government, Saginaw County Parks, and local businesses raised funds in 2025 to replace old equipment, replace pavement with a rubber playground surface, and design the park to be barrier-free and accessible.

- > Play Equipment
- > Paved Trails
- > Fishing
- > Parking
- > Benches
- > Lightining
- > Shelter/Picnic Tables



# Deindorfer Woods Park

1800 Weiss Street



**Size:** 25.1 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Deindorfer Woods Park is located in the Northmoor Neighborhood and is adjacent to the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center. Events are hosted at the park. In 2012, Consumer's Energy and the Saginaw Community Foundation utilized a \$250,000 grant & endowment for new playground equipment, play turfs, parking lot, lights, water fountain, and wood chips for trails.

- > Natural Area
- > Play Equipment
- > Pavilion/Picnic Tables
- > Nature Trail
- > Lighting
- > Parking
- > Benches
- > Grills
- > Restrooms



# Garber Tennis Courts

1760 Fordney Street



**Size:** 4.3 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

The Garber Tennis Courts are adjacent to the Andersen Enrichment Center and are leased, maintained, and operated by the Urban Racquet Sports Foundation (URSF). The courts were established in 1950 and reconstructed in 2021 after a 2019 fundraising campaign led by the URSF. In 2023, the U.S. Tennis Association announced Garber Tennis Courts winner of the Outstanding Facility Awards Program.

- > Eight Tennis Courts
- > Eight Pickle Ball Courts
- > Parking
- > Lighting
- > Benches
- > Indoor Meeting Space
- > Restrooms



# Linton Park

413 Hess Avenue



**Size:** 17.1 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None



The land for Linton Park was given to the city by William S. Linton, who became known as the "Father of the City's Park System." The park is surrounded by homes.

> Natural Area

# Unity Park

1305 Leon Scott Court



**Size:** 12 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None



Unity Park is located in the Northeast Saginaw Neighborhood and is surrounded by businesses and homes.

- > Basketball Court
- > Two Softball Fields
- > Natural Area
- > Parking
- > Shelter/Picnic Tables
- > Grills
- > Paved Trails



# Veterans McKinney Park

930 S 20<sup>th</sup> Street/2835 E Holland Ave



**Size:** 8 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Veterans McKinney Park is located in the Unity in the Community Neighborhood. The park is the home for the Lawrence McKinney monument.



- > Basketball Court
- > Play Equipment
- > Dog Park
- > Parking
- > Picnic Tables
- > Grills
- > Monument
- > Benches
- > Lighting



# Westside Riverfront Park

222 N Niagara Street



**Size:** 2.5 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4  
**MDNR Grant History:** TF00-106

Westside Riverfront Park is located in the West Side Civic Neighborhood and Old Town Historic District. The park provides access to the Saginaw River and is surrounded by businesses.



- > Paved Trail
- > Swimming
- > Fishing
- > Parking
- > Benches
- > Lighting
- > Grills



# CITY OF SAGINAW REGIONAL PARKS

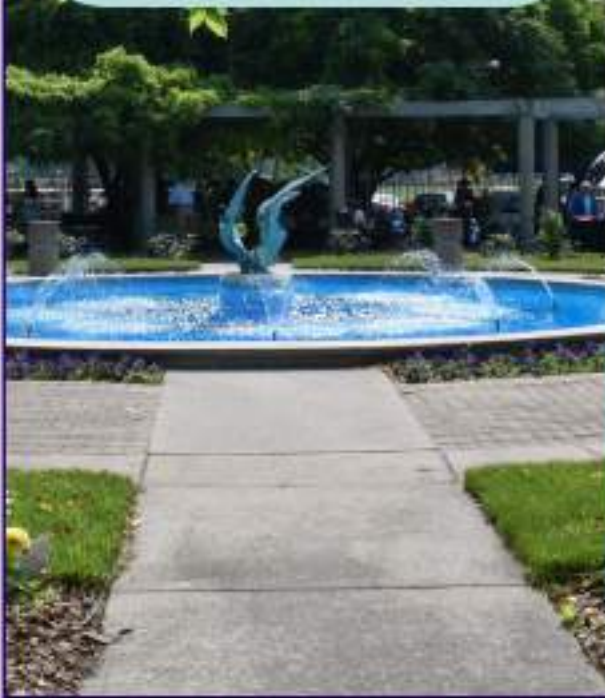
Regional parks typically serve several communities and are often 200 acres or more in size. These parks are set aside for preservation of natural resources, environmental significance, or historic and cultural interests. While national standards emphasize large acreage, the NRPA also recognizes parks for their regional or cultural importance regardless of size. This is the case for the city.

According to NRPA's standard of five acres per 1,000 residents, the City's target is 220 acres. The City currently has 13 regional parks totaling 328.5 acres, exceeding the standard by 108.5 acres.



# Andersen Enrichment Center

120 Ezra Rust Drive



**Size:** 4.44 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Andersen Enrichment Center is situated near the Saginaw River and Lake Linton Reservoir. The Center houses the Saginaw Community Enrichment Commission, which promotes the arts and entertainment in the area. The Andersen Memorial Gardens host various events throughout the year.



- > Cultural Facilities
- > Natural Area
- > Memorial Rose Garden
- > Paved Trails
- > Meeting Space Rentals
- > Lighting
- > Parking
- > Restrooms

# Frank N. Andersen Celebration Park

1830 Fordney Street



**Size:** 4.0 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4  
**MDNR Grant History:** 28-01431, TF07-072, TF08-039, TF12-086

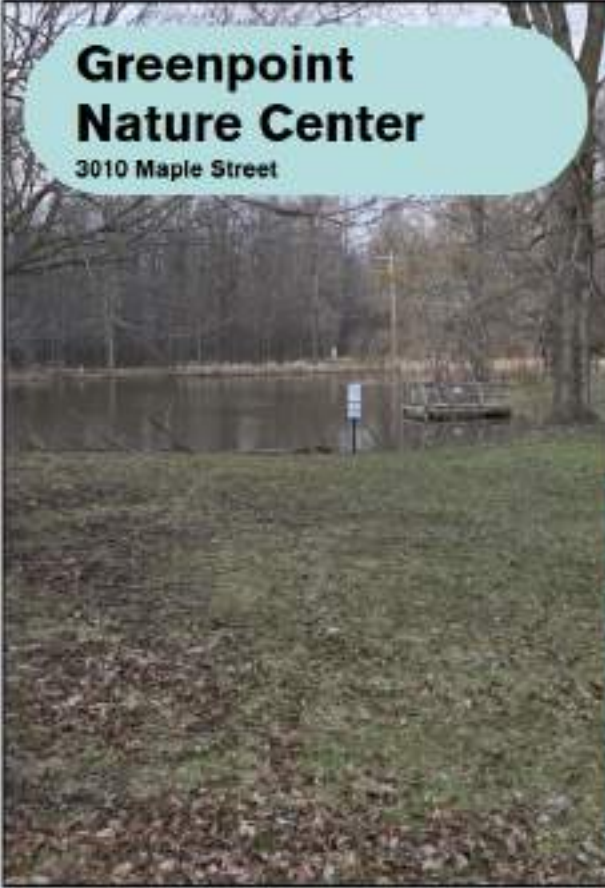
Celebration Park is located between the Saginaw River and Linton Lake. The park is situated on the previous site of the Idlewild Tourist Camp, later renamed the Saginaw Tourist Camp.



- > Play Equipment
- > Rock Climbing Feature
- > Paved Trails
- > Skateboard & Inline Skate Park
- > Bocce Ball Court
- > Splash Pad
- > Parking
- > Benches & Lighting
- > Events
- > Restrooms
- > Fitness Court
- > Picnic Shelter/Picnic Tables

# Greenpoint Nature Center

3010 Maple Street



**Size:** 76 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:**  
 26-00515, TF-410

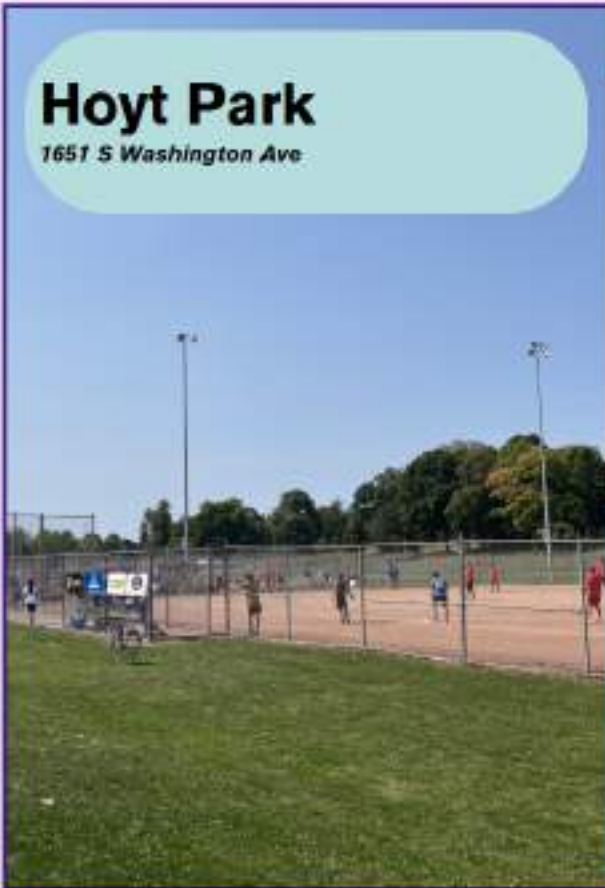
Greenpoint Nature Center, previously Goetz Grove Nature Center, is located in the Coulter Neighborhood. It began providing environmental education in 1977, but closed in 1988 due to budget cuts. In 1993, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the City formed a partnership to reopen the center. Staff from the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge operate the center.



- > Woodlands
- > Wetlands
- > Fields
- > Riverine habitat
- > Restrooms
- > Hiking & cross-country skiing trails
- > Fishing
- > Displays & Aquariums
- > Working Bee Hive
- > Wildlife Observation Area
- > Classroom & environmental programs

# Hoyt Park

1651 S Washington Ave



**Size:** 26 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:**  
 BF92-223

Hoyt Park was donated to the city in 1883 and has a history of hosting year round sporting events and recreational opportunities. In 2008, the Friends of Hoyt Park signed a lease with the City to revitalize and maintain the park. The friends group uses donations to groom and maintain the ballfields, ice rink, and to keep the 'lower bowl' are clean. The ice rink and warming house are manned by volunteers and is only open for scheduled events.



- > Warming House
- > Six Softball Fields
- > Cross Country Skiing
- > Sled Hill
- > Nature Trails
- > Ice Skating
- > Programs & Events
- > Birdwatching
- > Open Space
- > Restrooms
- > Parking & Lighting
- > Picnic Shelter & Benches

# Japanese Cultural Center

527 Ezra Rust Drive



**Size:** 4.0 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

The Japanese Cultural Center located along Linton Lake and is operated by a nonprofit. The Tokushima-Saginaw Friendship Garden has been open to the public for over 50 years, and the Tea House was built in 1985-86 as a symbol of friendship and cultural exchange with Saginaw's Sister City, Tokushima, Japan. With assistance from the city, the Tea House Board is responsible for facility operation and maintenance.



- > Cultural Facilities/Tea House
- > Meeting Space
- > Gardens & Natural Area
- > Nature Trails & Paved Trails
- > Parking
- > Restrooms
- > Tea Ceremonies, workshops, & classes
- > Picnic Tables/Shelter



# Lake Linton/Lake Linton Reservoir

121 Ezra Rust Drive



**Size:** 24.5 acres (plus 8 acres of Lake Linton Reservoir)  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 2  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Lake Linton/Lake Linton Reservoir border Ojibway Island (Rust Park). The Water Treatment Plant pumps water from the Lake Linton Reservoir.



- > Fishing
- > Birdwatching



# Morley Plaza

133 N Washington Avenue



**Size:** 2.7 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Morley Plaza is located in Downtown Saginaw and is surrounded by businesses, entertainment facilities, and homes.



- > Paved Trails
- > Events (Friday Night Live)
- > Fishing
- > Boat Mooring
- > Parking
- > Picnic Tables
- > Lighting



# Ojibway Island (Rust Park)

101 Ezra Rust Drive



**Size:** 43.3 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:** TF90-343, TF 16-0098

Ojibway Island is an island park along the Saginaw River. The land was donated to the City by Ezra Rust and became a central hub for public space.



- > Cross Country Skiing
- > Fishing
- > Paved Trails & Nature Trails
- > Amphitheater
- > Natural Area
- > Grills
- > Parking
- > Benches & Lighting
- > Monuments
- > Events
- > Restrooms
- > Picnic Shelter/Picnic Tables



# Rust Avenue Boat Launch

107 Lee Street



**Size:** 15.6 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4  
**MDNR Grant History:** TF91-222

Rust Avenue Boat Launch is located in the Coulter Neighborhood and provides access to the Saginaw River.



- > Boat Launch
- > Fishing
- > Pavilion
- > Parking
- > Restrooms



# Saginaw Children's Zoo

1730 S Washington Ave



**Size:** 10 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 4  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

The Saginaw Children's Zoo was established in 1929 by the city. In 1996, the Saginaw Zoological Society took over management. The zoo is an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The zoo has over 150 animals, colorful gardens, a miniature train, a #6 plastics drop off center, and the region's only hand-carved carousel. The zoo is supported by a county millage, and from members, volunteers, and donors.



- |                                |                      |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| > Animal Exhibits              | > Concessions        |
| > Paved Trails                 | > Benches & Lighting |
| > Birdwatching                 | > Restrooms          |
| > Parking                      | > Classroom          |
| > Picnic Tables/Picnic Shelter | > Events             |

# Saginaw Riverfront Park

619 Water Street



**Size:** 5.5 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 1  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Saginaw Riverfront Park is in the planning phase to create an accessible waterfront park as part of the Medical Diamond, a future bioscience hub.

- > Future Fishing Boardwalk
- > Future Kayak Launch
- > Future Water Access
- > Future Adult Fitness Center
- > Future Play Equipment
- > Future Plaza
- > Future Paved Trails
- > Future Community Garden



# Webber Park

200 Rust Avenue



**Size:** 11.6 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 3  
**MDNR Grant History:** None

Webber Park is a natural space between Newton and Fordney Streets. The park is surrounded by homes and industrial businesses.

- > Natural Area



# Wickes Park

412 Wickes Park Drive



**Size:** 92.5 acres  
**Accessibility Assessment:** 2  
**MDNR Grant History:**  
BF89-364, TF20-0147



Wickes Park was donated to the city in the late 1890's or early 1900's. The park is located in the Southeast Wickes Park Neighborhood. In 2018, the American Planning Association, by request from Get Outside for a Healthy Inside (GOHI), developed a comprehensive park revitalization plan. SEEDS EcoCorps crew members removed debris, old playground equipment, vegetation overgrowth, and invasive plants along the Saginaw River.



- > Natural Area
- > Benches
- > Fishing
- > Grills
- > Natural Area
- > Picnic Tables
- > Parking
- > Boat Ramp (Kayaks/Canoes Only)
- > Final Segment of the Cass River Water Trail



## OTHER REGIONAL FACILITIES

The City also benefits from additional recreational facilities within its boundaries that, although not city-owned, offer residents expanded recreational opportunities.

### **Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge**

Established in 1953, the Refuge encompasses more than 9,800 acres of marsh, bottomland hardwood forest, and grasslands. It is designated as a United States Important Bird Area for its global significance to migratory waterfowl. Under the Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the refuge was authorized for use as an inviolate sanctuary and management area for migratory waterfowl. In addition, the refuge is designated under the Refuge Recreation Act as an area for fish and wildlife-oriented recreational development, the protection of natural resources, and the conservation of endangered and threatened species. In 2014, the 135-acre Germania Town and Country Club golf course was donated to Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge and includes the Green Point Nature Center. The Refuge maintains a lease with the City for the Green Point Nature Center.

### **Crow Island State Game Area**

The Crow Island State Game Area encompasses about 3,500 acres of wetlands, diked croplands, and agricultural uplands along the Saginaw River. The game area provides habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds and wildlife, which offers opportunities for hunting, trapping, fishing, and other recreational activities.

## YMCA

Established in June 1868, the YMCA is a nonprofit, membership-based organization along the Saginaw River. It provides residents with access to programs and activities, such as aquatic programs, fitness opportunities, youth sports, and Camp Timbers.

### Special Angels Partnership Program

- Collaboration between the YMCA & Special Angels, Inc.
- Program provides recreational opportunities for children with special needs

### KidsCampUs

- Collaboration between the YMCA & Boys & Girls Club
- Program aims to inspire youth to reach their greatest potential academically, socially, emotionally, and physically

## Saginaw River Headwaters Recreation Area

The Saginaw River Headwaters Recreation Area offers 334 acres of passive recreation along the Saginaw River. The site was home to General Motors Corporation operations, including the Saginaw Malleable Iron Plant, and has been transformed from an industrial property into a natural recreation area.

### Owned by

- Michigan Department of Natural Resources

### Operated by

- Saginaw County Parks & Recreation

## Bay City State Park

Bay City State Park is the closest state park to the city and features waterfront access to Lake Huron, a beach, and marshlands.

- Swimming
- Hiking Trails
- Campground
- Picnicking Facilities
- Fishing
- Nature Center

## First Ward Community Center

The First Ward Community Center is a non-profit organization established in 1931 on the northeast side of the city.

- LACER (Literacy Arts Cultural Enrichment Recreation), after-school & summer day program servicing youth to read at their grade level
- Theater Group
- Summer youth employment program
- Training Programs & Job Assistance
- Emergency Assistance
- Senior Citizen Programs

## Janet H. Nash Riverfront Preserve

The Janet H. Nash Riverfront Preserve is a three-acre urban restoration project along the riverfront in downtown Saginaw. The project was funded by local philanthropic sources to restore a formerly developed riverside lot.

- Paved trail along river
- Plaza with benches
- Native plants & flowers

### Maintained by

- Saginaw County Parks & Recreation
- Saginaw Arts & Sciences Academy (SASA)
- Saginaw Basin Land Conservancy

## Schroeder Park

Schroeder Park is owned by the City of Saginaw School District. The park is 5.2 acres in size.

- Playground
- Softball Field
- Open Space

# NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL FACILITIES

The City of Saginaw is part of a regional trail system that provides residents with safe, healthy, and scenic options for walking, biking, and recreation. Trails enhance quality of life, boost property values, support local economies, and connect people to the community. Expanding connections to nearby jurisdictions, such as Harger Line Trail and Saginaw Township Pathway, will strengthen the regional non-motorized network, promote economic vitality, and encourage active lifestyles (Map 4.3). Within the City, there are three regional trail systems:




















- **Saginaw River Loop:** The 6.34 mile loop travels along both sides of the Saginaw River, crossing at the Court Street and Johnson Street Bridges. However, the proposed loop is not complete. The trail is part of the Iron Belle Trail and Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail (GLBRT).
- **Iron Belle Trail:** The Iron Belle Trail is a set of two trails that traverse the entire State of Michigan from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. The Eastern Trail, 827 miles, is a bike route that utilizes existing bike paths, bike lanes, and designed bike routes. The Western Trail, 1,203 miles, is the hiking route that uses the North County National Scenic Trail. The Eastern Trail traverses approximately 5.8 miles in the city, starting at Wickes Park and traveling north along the Saginaw River through Ojibway Island and Potthoff Park until it connects with the Saginaw River Loop. North of downtown, the planned route is to cross the Johnson Street bridge and continue north until it intersects with the trail in Carrollton Township.
- **Green Point Environmental Natural Pathway:** The main trailhead is located on the south side of the interpretative building and intersects with four other trails, totaling over 2.5 miles of trails within the park. The trail winds through wooded wetlands, open fields, a pond, and good wildlife habitat. Off the Duck Trail and Beaver Trail, there is a beach along the Tittabawassee River where trail users can sit and experience the wildlife.
- **City of Saginaw Riverwalk:** The riverwalk is approximately 7.1 street acres that traverses through parks, downtowns, and commercial areas along the Saginaw River.

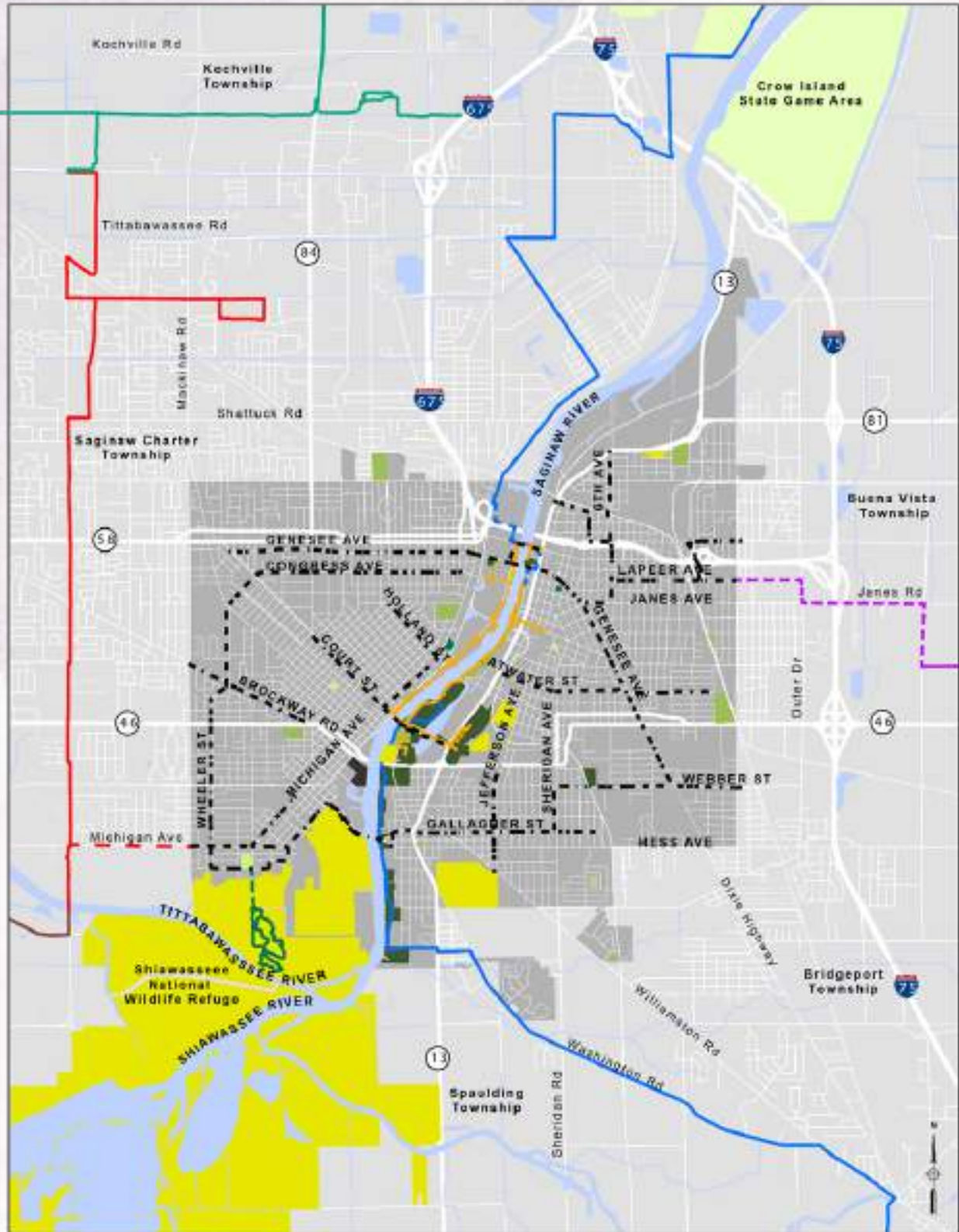
Surrounding trail systems include:

- **Harger Line Rail-Trail:** The Harger Line Rail Trail is a 10-mile trail that is primarily used for walking, running, and road biking. The trail traverses from Richville Township in Tuscola County to Buena Vista Township in Saginaw County. There is an opportunity to extend the trail from Buena Vista Township into the City to connect to a future bike path on Lapeer Avenue.
- **Saginaw Township Pathway:** The Saginaw Township Pathway is approximately 9.26 miles and connects Kochville Township with the Saginaw Valley Rail Trail in James Township.
- **Kochville Township Multi-Use Pathway:** The Kochville Township Multi-Use Pathway is 8.2 miles that traverses through the township to connect Saginaw Valley State University, Krossroads Park, Elmer Lange Park, the commercial and residential areas of the township, and Tittabawassee Township. The trail is part of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail System.
- **Saginaw Valley Rail Trail:** The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail is an 11 -mile trail that connects the Village of St. Charles with Saginaw Township via the Saginaw Township Pathway. The trail traverses through wetlands, over rivers and creeks, and through the Shiawassee State Game Area. The trail is primarily used for hiking, biking, jogging, walking, cross country skiing, and horseback riding.
- **Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail:** The Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail is a non-motorized transportation trail that connects Saginaw, Bay, and Midland Counties. Once completed, the trail will be almost 100-miles long.

# Map 4.3 Non-Motorized Transportation Map

## LEGEND

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  REGIONAL PARKS     |  STATE RECREATION          |  HARGER LINE TRAIL                        |  GREEN POINT ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER NATURE PATHWAYS |
|  COMMUNITY PARKS    |  IRON BELLE TRAIL          |  PROPOSED CONNECTION TO HARGER LINE TRAIL |  GREEN POINT POTENTIAL PATHWAY                    |
|  NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS |  PROPOSED IRON BELL TRAIL  |  SAGINAW RIVER LOOP                       |  SAGINAW TOWNSHIP PATHWAY                         |
|  OTHER FACILITIES   |  POTENTIAL BIKE LANES      |  PROPOSED SAGINAW RIVER LOOP              |  POTENTIAL SAGINAW TOWNSHIP PATHWAY               |
|  ARTS & CULTURE     |  SAGINAW VALLEY RAIL TRAIL |  KOCHVILLE TOWNSHIP PATHWAY               |  |



# WATER TRAILS

The National Park Service oversees the National Water Trails System, a sub-set of the National Recreation Trails. This program provides best management practices and a formal designation. The water trail system is established to protect and restore local rivers, shorelines, and waterways, conserve natural areas along the water, and increase access to outdoor recreation.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has partnered with Pure Michigan and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to manage the Pure Michigan Trail, Water Trail, and Trail Town Designation Program. This program has a formal designation which ensures a quality trail experience, offers clear information for users, has broad community support, and has a sustainable business, maintenance, and marketing plan.

The 37.5 mile long Cass River Water Trail offers diverse paddling experiences as it travels from Wickes Park in the City of Saginaw through Bridgeport Charter Township, and Frankenmuth Township to end at the Vassar State Game Area. The trail includes fourteen launch sites with parking. In 2023, the Cass River Water Trail received its state designation as a Pure Michigan Water Trail.



**Water Trail:** A designated route on a navigable waterway that provides access for non-motorized watercraft, including kayaks, canoes, and rowboats. Generally, a water trail is organized, supported, and managed by a specific organization and/or community partner.

## Water Trail Features

- Launch points
- Wayfinding signage
- Connections to amenities, such as rest stops, restaurants, restrooms, retail shops, and lodging

## Water Trails are located near:

- Historical points of interest
- Environmental points of interest
- Cultural points of interest

# 05

## GOALS, OBJECTIVES & ACTION PLAN





# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

This plan identifies achievable goals and objectives to guide the City's parks and recreation planning efforts in key areas, such as maintenance and operations, staffing, public outreach, the physical environment, capital improvements, and programming. The goals represent broad, long-term aspirations

the City aims to achieve, and the objectives are more detailed strategies that support each goal. The action plan identifies specific projects and initiatives the City intends to implement over the next five years. These goals and objectives are informed by demographic trends, the City's physical and environmental characteristics, recreational trends, and input from stakeholders and the community.

## ACTION PLAN

The action plan outlines specific projects aimed at maintaining and enhancing the quality and variety of park amenities. These potential capital improvements serve as a framework for decision makers and support the City's efforts to secure funding. The project list is neither fixed nor exhaustive. Changing circumstances, particularly funding availability, may affect the order in which projects are undertaken.

Funding for park and recreation capital improvements is available through a variety of local, state, and federal programs (Appendix D). Grant opportunities exist for parks and recreation projects, but applicants must carefully identify and pursue funding sources that align with specific eligibility requirements and program criteria.

# GOAL 01

**Promote and strengthen Saginaw’s recreation system by improving access, expanding programming, and increasing community awareness to ensure residents of all ages and abilities can enjoy safe, high-quality parks, facilities, and outdoor experiences.**

## **Objective 1.1: Enhance Access**

**Intent:** Improve universal accessibility to parks and recreation facilities to support health, inclusion, and quality of life for all residents.

### **Policy Direction**

- Ensure all parks and facilities meet or exceed ADA accessibility standards.
- Improve geographic distribution of recreational opportunities across the city.
- Prioritize investment in underserved areas with limited park access.

### **Action Strategies**

- Implement ADA upgrades to parks and recreational facilities to improve universal accessibility.
- Conduct a systemwide accessibility assessment, including mapping existing parks and amenities.
- Prioritize development of recreational facilities in areas lacking adequate access to park space and amenities.

## **Objective 1.2: Expand Programming Opportunities**

**Intent:** Provide diverse, inclusive, and year-round recreational programming that meets the needs of residents of all ages and abilities.

### **Policy Direction**

- Expand access to recreational programming across the city.
- Support year-round recreational opportunities.
- Strengthen partnerships to enhance program delivery and reach.

### **Action Strategies**

- Continue implementation of the *Promoting Active Communities Action Plan*.
- Strengthen partnerships with neighborhood groups, schools, Adopt-A-Park groups, and Saginaw County Parks and Recreation.
- Engage community partners in program design and implementation.
- Establish guidelines for community-led programming and park improvement partnerships.

## **Objective 1.3: Increase Community Awareness & Engagement**

**Intent:** Improve awareness, visibility, and use of the parks and recreation system through enhanced connectivity, coordinated outreach, and structured civic engagement.

### **Policy Direction**

- Strengthen connectivity between parks, trails, and transportation systems.
- Improve public awareness of recreational amenities and programming.
- Expand community participation in planning and stewardship.
- Formalize advisory and engagement structures for parks and recreation.

### **Action Strategies**

- Enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections to parks and recreational facilities.
- Implement a comprehensive wayfinding signage program to connect local parks, trails, and regional networks.
- Launch a coordinated marketing and outreach campaign highlighting parks, programs, and events.
- Develop print and digital materials promoting recreational amenities and activities.
- Partner with community organizations to expand programming that engages new users and reduces social isolation.
- Establish a Parks & Recreation Commission through ordinance.
- Adopt bylaws and establish regular meeting schedules for the Commission.
- Utilize commission support to implement the Parks and Recreation Plan.

# GOAL 02

**Preserve, enhance, and sustainably maintain Saginaw's parks and recreational facilities to ensure they remain safe, attractive, and welcoming, while providing a high-quality experience.**

## **Objective 2.1: Strengthen Financial Sustainability**

**Intent:** Ensure long-term financial stability for parks and recreation through diversified funding, strategic investment, and cost-effective operations.

### **Policy Direction**

- Prioritize funding for park improvements and programming.
- Diversify revenue sources while maintaining equitable access.
- Leverage partnerships to support long-term system sustainability.

### **Action Strategies**

- Integrate park and recreation priorities into the Capital Improvement Plan.
- Explore revenue-generating opportunities (e.g. rentals, events, concessions, etc.) that do not create accessibility barriers.
- Pursue grants, sponsorships, philanthropic contributions, and cost-sharing partnerships.

## **Objective 2.2: Implement Proactive Maintenance and Lifecycle Management**

**Intent:** Maintain safe, functional, and attractive parks through proactive maintenance and strategic reinvestment.

### **Policy Direction**

- Establish a preventive maintenance approach across the park system.
- Use lifecycle planning to guide capital replacement and upgrades.
- Encourage community involvement in park stewardship.

### **Action Strategies**

- Implement routine maintenance schedules and condition assessments.
- Conduct lifecycle analyses to prioritize repair and replacement of facilities and equipment.
- Engage commission members in system evaluations and capital planning.
- Repair or replace aging, damaged, or obsolete infrastructure.
- Expand volunteer programs, including Adopt-A-Park initiatives, for maintenance and beautification efforts.

## **Objective 2.3: Enhance the Saginaw Riverfront as a Recreational and Community Asset**

**Intent:** Strengthen the riverfront as a premier destination for recreation, environmental stewardship, and community identity.

### **Policy Direction**

- Expand public access and connectivity to the riverfront.
- Enhance waterfront amenities and year-round usability.
- Promote environmental stewardship and resilience along the river corridor.

### **Action Strategies**

#### **A. Expand Access and Connectivity**

- Support partner-led improvements to waterfront access and recreation facilities.
- Pursue strategic land acquisition or easements to expand public access.
- Improve wayfinding signage, trailheads, and connections along the river corridor.

#### **B. Enhance Waterfront Amenities**

- Upgrade riverfront parks with lighting, seating, landscaping, fishing access, kayak launches, and other amenities.
- Support private and nonprofit partners in providing recreation services, dining, and event spaces.

#### **C. Strengthen Environmental Stewardship and Resilience**

- Support shoreline restoration, native plantings, and habitat improvements.
- Partner with environmental organizations to monitor water quality and promote river health education.
- Incorporate green infrastructure and nature-based solutions to reduce erosion and improve resilience.
- Highlight the river's cultural, historical, and ecological significance through public art and interpretive features.

#### **D. Encourage Riverfront Economic Development**

- Promote compatible mixed-use, recreation-oriented, and visitor-serving development.
- Leverage the river corridor to catalyze investment in adjacent neighborhoods and business districts.
- Market the riverfront as a regional destination through branding and partnerships.

## **Objective 2.4: Invest in Facility Rehabilitation & Modernization**

**Intent:** Upgrade aging infrastructure to improve safety, functionality, and user experience while reducing long-term costs.

### **Policy Direction**

- Prioritize reinvestment in outdated or high-need facilities.
- Use durable, low-maintenance materials to improve lifecycle efficiency.
- Align improvements with community needs and usage patterns.

### **Action Strategies**

- Renovate parks and facilities with aging or obsolete infrastructure.
- Incorporate durable and sustainable materials in all upgrades.
- Prioritize investments in underserved or high-use areas.
- Engage neighborhoods and community groups to identify and prioritize improvements.

# GOAL 03

## Strengthen Planning, Leadership, and Partnerships in Parks & Recreation

### Objective 3.1: Maintain a Responsive & Inclusive Parks Planning Framework

**Intent:** Ensure the parks and recreation system reflects evolving community needs through regular planning updates and inclusive engagement.

#### Policy Direction

- Maintain a current and actionable Parks and Recreation Plan.
- Promote equitable engagement across diverse community groups.
- Align park improvements with community priorities and usage trends.

#### Action Strategies

- Update the 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan on a regular cycle.
- Conduct inclusive public engagement during planning, design, and implementation.
- Encourage ongoing community participation in park stewardship and programming.

### Objective 3.2: Strengthen Local Leadership & Interdepartmental Coordination

**Intent:** Reinforce the City's leadership role in parks and recreation through coordinated planning, implementation, and environmental stewardship.

#### Policy Direction

- Maintain strong municipal leadership in park system development.
- Promote coordination across City departments.
- Advance urban forestry, habitat restoration, and ecological health initiatives.

#### Action Strategies

- Coordinate planning and implementation across City departments (e.g. Public Services, Community Public Safety, Building, Planning, and Economic Development, etc.)
- Support native tree and shrub planting to enhance canopy coverage and biodiversity.
- Partner with environmental organizations to advance restoration efforts and ecological monitoring.

## **Objective 3.3: Expand Regional Collaboration & Partnerships**

**Intent:** Enhance recreational opportunities through coordinated regional planning, shared resources, and strategic partnerships.

### **Policy Direction**

- Strengthen partnerships with local, regional, and state entities.
- Promote coordinated planning and investment in recreation infrastructure.
- Support regional connectivity through trails, riverfronts, and greenways.

### **Action Strategies**

- Collaborate with regional partners on planning initiatives, programming, and capital projects.
- Pursue joint funding opportunities, including grants and shared maintenance strategies.
- Support development of regional trail, riverfront, and greenway systems to improve connectivity and access.

# GOAL 04

## Enhance Recreation Experiences and Natural Resource-Based Amenities

### Objective 4.1: Naturalize Underutilized Park and Recreation Areas

**Intent:** Promote environmental stewardship and expand passive recreation opportunities by transitioning low-use park areas into naturalized landscapes that support ecological function, education, and low-impact public use.

#### Policy Direction

- Prioritize the preservation and restoration of sensitive ecological areas.
- Expand opportunities for passive recreation that emphasize nature observation and quiet enjoyment.
- Integrate green infrastructure and native landscaping into park planning and design.
- Encourage environmental education and community stewardship through interactive spaces.

#### Action Strategies

##### A. Preservation Areas (“Keep Out”)

- Identify and designate ecologically sensitive areas for protection and restoration.
- Transition low-use turf grass to native meadows, prairies, and pollinator habitats.
- Incorporate green infrastructure, including rain gardens and bioswales, into park improvements.

##### B. Low-Impact Recreation Areas (“Look Only”)

- Develop nature trails and wildlife observation areas.
- Establish “quiet zones” with minimal disturbance, natural vegetation, and contemplative spaces.
- Install viewing platforms, wildlife blinds, and interpretive signage.

##### C. Interactive Nature Areas (“Look & Touch”)

- Create outdoor learning environments, including community and pollinator gardens.
- Improve access to riverfront areas through boardwalks, trails, and accessible pathways.
- Incorporate public art and cultural features that reflect local natural and historical assets.

- Partner with educational institutions and organizations to provide programming.
- Develop outdoor classrooms and install educational signage on ecology and environmental systems.

## **Objective 4.2: Expand & Enhance the Non-Motorized Trail Network**

**Intent:** Develop a safe, accessible, and connected non-motorized transportation network that supports recreation, active living, and connectivity between neighborhoods, parks, and regional destinations.

### **Policy Direction**

- Improve connectivity between parks, neighborhoods, and key destinations.
- Prioritize accessibility, safety, and user experience in trail design.
- Coordinate with regional trail systems to strengthen broader connectivity.
- Enhance trail corridors as recreational and environmental assets.

### **Action Strategies**

- Expand multi-use paths, loop trails, and greenways throughout the city.
- Complete priority segments of the Iron Belle Trail within city limits.
- Advance key local trail projects, including the Saginaw River Loop, Wickes Park Trail, Ojibway Island connections, and Green Point Pathway.
- Improve ADA accessibility, crossings, lighting, and wayfinding signage.
- Coordinate with regional partners to connect to adjacent trail systems.
- Explore future connections to nearby regional trails and pathways.
- Enhance trail corridors with landscaping, seating, and riverfront access improvements.
- Develop a trailhead and bike lane connection on the east side of the river near the Center Street Bridge.

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# APPENDICES

**A. PLANNING DOCUMENTATION**

**B. SURVEY RESULTS**

**C. POST-COMPLETION SELF  
CERTIFICATION REPORTS**

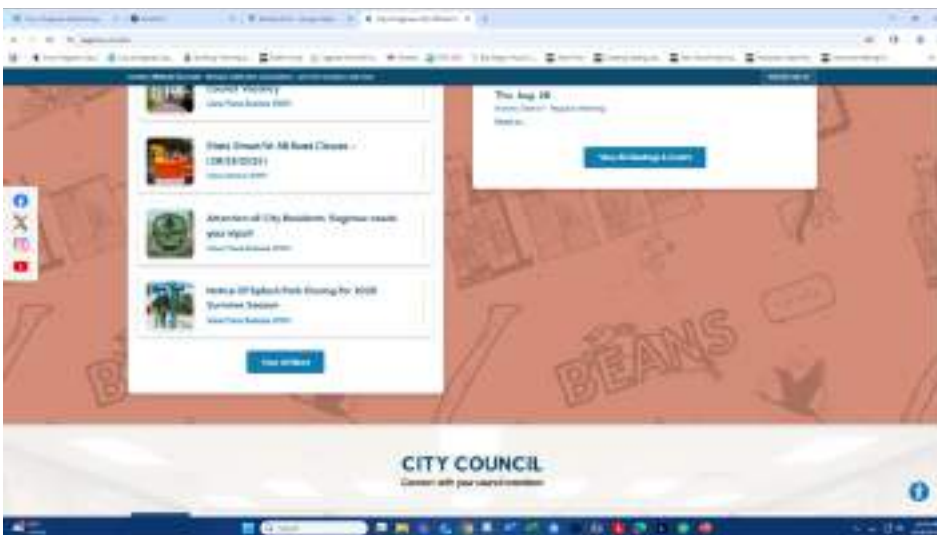
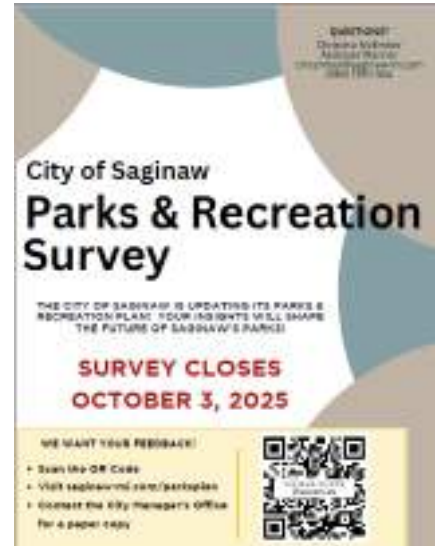
**D. OTHER FUNDING SOURCES**



# A PLANNING DOCUMENTATION

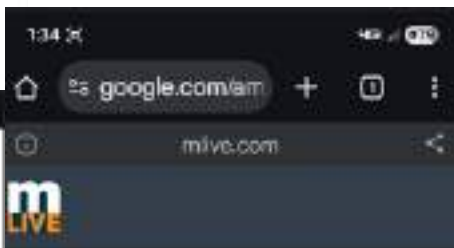


# COMMUNITY OUTREACH





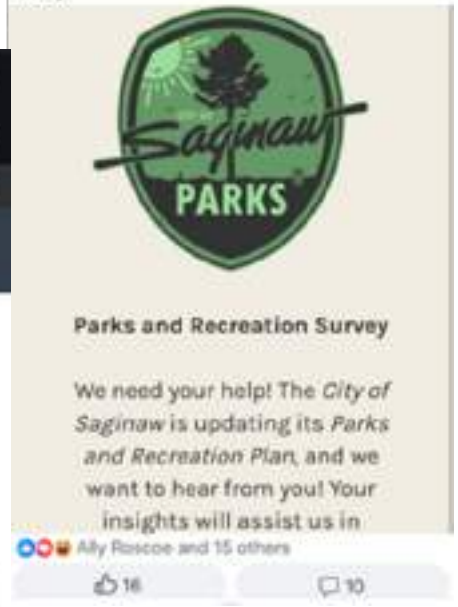
disabilitynetworkmm The City of Saginaw would like residents to provide input as they update the City's Parks and Recreation Plan. Your... more  
6 days ago



SAGINAW AND BAY CITY NEWS  
**Saginaw seeks resident input for parks planning through survey, meeting**  
Published: Sep. 30, 2025, 2:45 p.m.



People watch the 100th Anniversary Fireworks Display during Saginaw's annual Fourth of July celebration in the 2024 MLive live image. (MLive Live Image) (MLive Live Image)





**PRESS RELEASE**

City of Saginaw  
Public Information Office  
1315 S. Washington Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601

Contact: Public Information Office, 989 759-1403

**ATTENTION ALL CITY RESIDENTS: SAGINAW NEEDS YOUR INPUT!**

**August 25, 2025 SAGINAW, MI** – The City of Saginaw would like residents to provide their input as we update the City's Parks and Recreation Plan. The [Parks and Recreation Plan Survey](#) is now available on our website. The information we receive from our residents will be integrated with other survey data to create goals and action items to guide the City's design and maintenance of our parks in the years to come. The survey will be available on the city's website through October 3, 2025. To participate in the online survey, click [here](#).

The City's Parks and Recreation Plan is a blueprint that serves as a roadmap to guide the City's decision-making for our city parks. The plan will direct the development and management of our parks, facilities, and recreational programs through 2030, and outlines goals, objectives, and action items to improve the quality of life for residents through recreational opportunities and access to natural spaces.

The Parks and Recreational Plan looks at ways we can:

- Create equitable access to parks in every neighborhood
- Ensure we have the right number and distribution of recreational facilities
- Develop creative and inclusive recreational programming for our community
- Expand community impact through partnerships and creative funding strategies

Public Engagement is the key to a successful and beneficial Parks and Recreational Plan. We invite you to provide feedback on your experiences and opinions of the parks and recreational facilities in the city and comment on any improvements and new initiatives you would like to see in the future.

To ensure every resident has an opportunity to participate and make their voices heard, a Community Input Session will also be held at the Andersen Enrichment Center on Thursday, October 9, 2025 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The public session is an additional opportunity to engage the community and gain their perspective on what they would like to see developed and completed at our city parks and facilities over the next 5 years.

Cassi Zimmerman, Director of Planning and Economic Development, commented on the need for citizen input. "This is a very important survey. We know our resources are limited for our parks, so we want our goals to focus on what matters most to our residents. We want our parks to have a positive impact throughout the city to accommodate physical and recreational activities for individuals and groups of all ages and abilities. To set the right goals and plans for our parks, we need to hear from our community. The input from citizens will help us determine how we can bring activity, entertainment and create a safe, clean environment in all our city parks. I encourage everyone who visits our parks to complete the online survey on our website and attend our Public Input session on October 9 at 5:30 p.m. at the Andersen Center."

To participate in the online survey, click [here](#). The survey will be available on our website at [www.saginaw-mi.com](http://www.saginaw-mi.com) until October 3, 2025.

For more information, contact Christina McEmber, Assistant Planner, at (989) 759-1304



**PRESS RELEASE**

City of Saginaw  
Public Information Office  
1315 S. Washington Avenue  
Saginaw, MI 48601

Contact: Public Information Office, 989 759-1403

**FINAL DAYS TO PROVIDE INPUT ON SAGINAW'S PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN**

**September 26, 2025 SAGINAW, MI** – The City of Saginaw would like to remind residents of the opportunity to provide their input as we update the City's Parks and Recreation Plan. The online Parks and Recreation Survey will be available on the city's website through October 3, 2025. To participate in the online survey, click [here](#).

To ensure every resident has an opportunity to participate and make their voices heard, Residents are also invited to attend the [Parks and Recreation Visioning Meeting](#) scheduled for Thursday, October 9, 2025 at the Andersen Enrichment Center from 5pm to 6pm. The public session is an additional opportunity to engage the community and gain their perspective on what they would like to see developed and completed at our city parks and facilities over the next 5 years.

The City's Parks and Recreation Plan serves as a roadmap to guide the City's decision-making for our city parks. The plan will direct the development and management of our parks, facilities, and recreational programs through 2030, and outlines goals, objectives, and action items to improve the quality of life for residents through recreational opportunities and access to natural spaces. We invite residents to provide feedback on their experiences and opinions of the parks and recreational facilities in the city and comment on any improvements and new initiatives they would like to see in the future.

The Parks and Recreational Plan looks at ways we can:

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To participate in the online survey, click [here](#). The survey will be available on our website at [www.saginaw-mi.com](http://www.saginaw-mi.com) until October 3, 2025.

For more information, contact Christina McEmber, Assistant Planner, at (989) 759-1304

# **NOTICE OF DRAFT PLAN AVAILABILITY & PUBLIC HEARING**

# **SIGNED PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**





# **PLANNING COMMISSION ADOPTION RESOLUTION**

# **SIGNED CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**



# **CITY COUNCIL ADOPTION RESOLUTION**

# COUNTY TRANSMITTAL LETTER

**EASTERN MICHIGAN  
COUNCIL OF  
GOVERNMENTS (EMCOG)  
TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

# B

# SURVEY RESULTS



1. What is your zip code?

What is your zip code?	Count of What is your zip code?
48602	69
48601	47
48603	13
48638	7
48604	5
48609	4
48623	3
48607	3
48626	2
48706	2
48415	2
40601	1
48452	1
45875	1
4863	1
48708	1
45258	1
48722	1
48724	1
48417	1
48611	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>167</b>

2. Please select your age range:

Please select your age range	Count of Please select your age range:
35-54	64
55-69	44
20-34	36
70+	19
13-19	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>167</b>

3. How many people live in your house (include all adults and children)?

How many people live in your house?	Count of How many people live in your house?
2	58
4	34
3	30
1	24
5+	21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>167</b>

4. Please select the age range of the children in your household (Select all that apply):

Please select age range of children	Count of please select children age range
0-4	26
5-8	22
9-12	25
13-18	29
18-25	18
25+	9
No children live in my household	81

5. Do you or a family member have disabilities or functional limitations that affect your ability to use city parks or participate in recreational activities?

Disability or Functional Limitation	Count of yes
yes	37
no	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>

- Limited mobility/Use of mobility device (wheelchair, walker, vehicle, cane, etc.)
- Heat sensitivity
- Lack of disability infrastructure/parking

6. Would you like to receive updates about city parks and recreation programs?

Receive Emails	Count of yes
yes	86
no	81
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>

7. How often do you visit local parks?

Frequency	Count of How often do you visit local parks?
Weekly	65
Monthly	44
Rarely	29
Daily	26
Never	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>167</b>

8. Which parks do you visit most often (select all that apply.)

9. What activities do you usually do when visiting parks? (select all that apply.)

What Activities?	Sum of Count
Walking/Running	126
Attending Events	77
Playground Use	50
Picnicking	47
Sports (basketball, soccer, tennis, skating)	42
Fishing	37
Biking	37
Other (Park car/Watch)	10
None, I don't visit city parks	5
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>431</b>

10. Have you ever participated in any of these park programs? (select all that apply).

11. Do you feel there are adequate recreation options within a mile of your home?

Do you feel there are adequate recreation options within a mile of your home?	Count
yes	97
no	70

12. Do you use recreational facilities outside of the City of Saginaw?

Do you use recreational facilities outside the City of Saginaw?	Count of Do you use recreational facilities outside the City of Saginaw?
Total	114
Male	57
Grand Total	114

13. What influences your choice of which park to visit most? (Rank top 3)

14. I would use city parks more often if (select all that apply):

14. I would use city parks more often if (select all that apply):

16. What features would you like to see added to your local parks? (select all that apply)

What Improvements?	Sum of Count
More amenities (Benches, Restrooms, Lighting, etc.)	93
Better Maintenance (Trash, Landscaping, Repairs)	70
More Activities/Events	68
Safer Environment	43
Accessibility Upgrades	42
Better Signage	20
Open up for Vehicle Traffic	11
Other	6
Playground	3
None	2
Camping Options	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>360</b>

15. How satisfied are you with the condition of the following amenities:

17. Which of the following should be a priority for future park improvements?

What Improvements?	Sum of Count
More amenities (Benches, Restrooms, Lighting, etc.)	93
Better Maintenance (Trash, Landscaping, Repairs)	70
More Activities/Events	68
Safer Environment	43
Accessibility Upgrades	42
Better Signage	20
Open up for Vehicle Traffic	11
Other	6
Playground	3
None	2
Camping Options	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>360</b>

18. What is your favorite city park and why?

What is your favorite City park?	Count of What is your favorite City park?
Ojibway Island (Rust Park)	39
Wickes Park	29
Hoyt Park	19
Riverwalk Paths	11
Celebration Park— Splashpad	10
Saginaw Headwaters Recreation Area	9
Otto Roeser Park	5
Garber Courts (Pickleball/Tennis)	5
Deindorfer Woods	5
Bliss Park	5
Morley Plaza	4
Celebration Park— Playgrounds	4
Celebration Park— Skate Park	3
Celebration Park— Fitness Court	3
Fordney Park	3
Japanese Cultural Center TEA Gardens	2
Morley School Park	2
Unity Park	1
Crayola Park	1
Heritage Park	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>161</b>

19. How often do you visit your favorite park?

How often do you visit local parks?	Count of How often do you visit local parks?
Weekly	65
Monthly	44
Rarely	29
Daily	26
Never	3
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>167</b>

20. What makes this park stand out compared to others?

What Makes Your Favorite Park Stand Out?	Sum of Count
Location	97
Nature/Scenery	85
Where Friends/Family Gather	49
Accessibility	43
Safety	38
Amenities	36
Events or Programming	33
Other	10
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>391</b>

22. Any additional thoughts or suggestions you would like to share?

- There is a need to bring the parks department back. Would like to see a community pool for families.
- It seems grants are given to the same individuals who are white to improve amenities that do not assist those in color and there are racist painted saying on the court street bridge. Also, the statue in Ojibway park is very ill stated and racist, who cares that he's the first white man? Why is this in public view of our youth?
- Hoping you get rid of the 2 effing tax caps
- The city needs a parks department again. It needs a parks commission. It needs to focus on the safety of its parks and allocate funding to upgrade them
- Enforce fines on litter bugs!
- Open the island back up to traffic. Put wickes park drive back the way it was. Stop making changes to our parks these are OUR parks stop cutting trees on Ojibway just to make fireworks more visible. Island looks like a concrete dump now....
- The island has always been a beautiful place to visit, but your closing it, has made it inaccessible to a large group of people who are unable to visit. Reopen it to all the people, not just the walkers and dogs!!
- Quit changing our parks and then asking us after the fact.
- More winter activities
- Open up, rust park for cars to drive around again
- Make Saginaw parks safe for everyone
- We need toys at wickes
- Playgrounds and rest rooms
- Overall the city does not feel safe. I've never journeyed the trails and have little knowledge of most of the parks mentioned during this survey. I would drive 30+ minutes to Plymouth pool in the summer not just because it seemed safe but also because there are no public pools in Saginaw. And if there was, would I take my nieces and nephews? I would love the convenienc but I would fear for our safety. And also be hyper-vigilant. That's not relaxing nor is it an experience worth paying for.
- Return Hoyt park to its original size for winter skating and return the toboggan runs. Baseball fences have ruined its once famous outdoor skating. You sacrificed public use in order to let organizations like Sugarbeet baseball make money hosting tournaments. You are being used.
- More trash cans throughout the pathway
- I feel if there were more water fountains outside too fill up water bottles or etc. that the trails would have more attention too them with people who are using those routes too exercise or when out fishing etc.

22. (Cont.) Any additional thoughts or suggestions you would like to share?

- A riverfront park on the west side of the river would be nice. Something with benches to sit and watch the water.
- What happened to the promise given about redoing Otto Roeser park? City lied to whole neighborhood. We did a questionnaire a couple years ago. We were told upgrades would happen. I will never trust a city official.
- Please upkeep crayola park
- I love nature, I'd like to see more wooded trails maybe on the outskirts of the city or something.
- Quit building new parks when you can't maintain the ones we have
- I really think that if we kept the parks in better condition, and gave the youth something useful to do with their time, that could help with crime.
- The parks should represent the best of the City. They need to be cared for better.
- More parks equals more children enjoying their childhood and youth, instead being exposed to gang activities and drugs.
- Wicks Park, which has unfortunately been abandoned and overlooked. Once a place for families, children, and the community to come together, the park is no longer serving its purpose.
- The playground has been removed, the basketball courts are no longer accessible, and the walking trails—once a safe and calming place—are no longer available for families to enjoy. In addition, community gatherings and activities at the park are often shut down by police presence, which discourages neighbors from using the space.
- Wicks Park used to be a vibrant hub for the community, where families could enjoy a safe environment, neighborhood houses provided snacks and resources, and children had a place to play during the summer and after school. Now, many children in the area have no playground or safe recreational space.
- I strongly urge you to consider investing in Wicks Park to restore it as a safe and welcoming space for families and children. Revitalizing this park would not only benefit the youth but also strengthen the sense of community and provide a positive outlet for families in our city.
- Bring the playground back. Have a clean up team. More seatings and picnic tables
- As a child growing up on the South Side of Saginaw Michigan wicks parks had so much for the youth and recreations were being done it kept the youth out of trouble. It would be a honor to bring back the wonderful memories that Ray Culpepper inherited within wicks parks we were not just a community we were family. In order for us to continue this legacy or wick park alive We need the city of Saginaw to cut the high grass give us working water fountains, restrooms, swing sets for the children, basketball nets for the rims. We would

22. (Cont.) Any additional thoughts or suggestions you would like to share?

love to have a safe and healthy environment like any other side of town for our children and grandchildren thank you so kindly for reading my concerns

- I would like to see the Lightning and basketball courts repaired and a new playground put up for the kids to play and the lawncare maintenance.
- I love wickes park
- Kayak launch would be nice
- Yes out better rims and playgrounds at wicks park
- Open parks up to vehicles
- Where are the picnic tables that are new? Mayor say they were burned. They were not. I'm very concerned about the park
- No new parks until we can use the ones we have
- Wickes Park playground has been taken away and the children have nothing to play on in the Wickes Park Community
- Wicks really needs a playground, there is 1 slide that's been there since I was a kid. These kids have nothing safe to do.
- Our parks have become extremely underutilized when they can be so valuable to our communities. We have a lot of opportunity for improvement
- I think that the City/County does an excellent job.
- We need more for the kids and families, not the older people.
- Connect all our city paths with the county and inter county rail trails
- Thanks for this great idea to involve the citizens. Keep up the good work,
- Keep the park fully staffed at all times.
- Quit trying to change our parks
- I would love to have a city walking trail or playground closer to me. We had so much fun this summer with all the events available for the kids this summer! Thank you!
- A walking track like Hoyt Park on the west side would be nice. The river path is nice too but some areas have a few hidden spots that feel unsafe.
- I walk my dogs at the parks so they must be pet friendly.
- Keep up the good work. We're on the path to make Saginaw even better :)
- Why is the west side park not on this list. I adopted this park and visit daily to take care of it and yet it's not listed???
- City parks are not handicapped accessible or elderly friendly
- Saginaw parks are known for being non kept up and facilities are poor, just having land and calling it a park doesn't make it inviting. They need to have proper well maintained, up to date facilities.
- Before spending money on new parks, perhaps maintaining the existing parks would be money better spent. ( mowing grass, opening up Ojibway Island to the public, utilizing and improving existing space like Wickes Park.
- I would like to go to parks and feel safe with my family.
- Make residents of the city and county feel safe, provide some fun activities, and we will show up and have family fun!

22. (Cont.) Any additional thoughts or suggestions you would like to share?

- Make Saginaw parks "Great Again". Facilities currently lack accessibility & maintenance!!
- Please open Ojibway to foot traffic. It has been closed way to long. Please.
- All parks would greatly benefit from improved lighting and enhanced safety measures. In many major cities, there is sufficient lighting and regular patrols by law enforcement officers. Additionally, the public is often informed about the presence of security cameras on-site. This presents a challenge for Saginaw, as we typically struggle with funding. Improved lighting would also be beneficial during the relatively short days of spring and fall. Many more people would enjoy the parks in early spring and late fall if they felt safer.
- Hoyt Park is the crown jewel of the City parks system. I played organized ball there from 1958 thru 2015 and continue to coach in the Hoyt Park baseball league as well as volunteering for the grass cutting. I would love to see the youth programs expanded and the return of the adult programs.
- Open up Ojibway again and stop removing roads and access to the parks. Gentrification isn't a good look. Classism and racism isn't a good look either.
- Accessibility is my biggest concern. I would like very much to be able to spend time on Ojibway Island, but that is closed to me now because I'm not able to walk the park...and, No I Don't Understand Why! I used to be able to drive to a spot and park my car so I didn't have to walk very far. Accessibility does not increase when you close roads!
- Quit painting our parks leave them natural. Stop cutting down trees on the island
- I have taken many friends and even relatives visiting from overseas to the city of Saginaw Parks. The Headwaters recreation area always elicits surprise when we get to the top of the hill because of the view of the wetlands and rivers. People cannot believe they are in an industrial city (well, maybe a medical center, now :) ) The same is true of the east bank of the Saginaw River. the minute you get south of the YMCA, where the walking path is surrounded by water and green plants, the feeling is one of being "up north". We've even had deer cross the path, seen rare Green Herons and of course eagles, egrets, a red eared slider turtle, beaver and other creatures including about four foot long snakes (eastern hognose or a similar type). There is an abundance of moths and butterflies, lightning bugs and other insects. A cousin visiting from England could not get over how lightning bugs lit our path at dusk as we walked the west river bank in the Saginaw River Headwaters Recreation Area. England does not have lightning bugs and ours were truly beautiful that evening. I would like the city to sponsor a walking tour once a year during which a naturalist would point out plants for use.
- Open Ojibway Park to vehicular traffic. Should've never closed it.
- Start an adult baseball (hardball) league
- Cut the grass, renovate Wicks Park, open the drives back up

22. (Cont.) Any additional thoughts or suggestions you would like to share?

- Saginaw needs a campground. Doesn't need to be big. It needs to be near the river, near bike paths that lead to museums, old town, downtown, restaurants and more. It would be a destination.
- Bring park activities like when we had parks and recreation program
- Save the skatepark and remove the paint
- A campground. In the city. Near bike trails, riverfront access, withing biking distance of everything Celebration Square, and simple routes that guide folks to museums, and other points of interest
- Parks in neighborhoods for kids and families to easily walk to. Better playgrounds. Basketball rims that are well maintained. Parks like Ojibway have small access fee n gate to keep out overcrowding, unlawful, unruly and loitering residents.
- The way Ojibway was used is a huge part of this community. Yes, it should be taken care of... but not allowing cars in has pretty much stopped people from here from going. It has always been too spooky for most to just walk. Also, the communal aspect of the park has been completely stripped. The community would also LOVE The Civitan to be rehabbed & reopened
- More opportunities for locals to get involved in change could be design contests. Opening these opportunities to local Architectural firms and Delta students would open doors and create connections while keeping ideas in the community diverse. Some honor tradition while others think progressively or artistically.
- Everything looks beautiful
- Trees
- Why do you need to repair the stage on Ojibway Island if no one can use the park?
- Love Hoyt Park. So many memories
- Open Ojibway island back up, the work is done, no need to keep the front parking area at least opened up
- Hoyt park is probably only one I visit, kids grown up now. Drive by our parks around saginaw everyday and notice the lack of attention. Where are our future kids supposed to have fun play run. Saginaw grown and raised, I feel our city is letting our kids down.
- Stop making all the parks into dog walker parks and reopen them to the handicapped. We once had beautiful parks that everyone could enjoy!!
- Picnic tables have rotted on Ojibway; could be used at Hoyt. More parks promotion i.e park of the week to encourage usage. Highlight a particular trait per park. Promote meetup events, maybe scavenger hunts. Adopt park opportunities around specific needs.
- Open Ojibway Island to automobiles

**C**

**POST-COMPLETION  
SELF CERTIFICATION  
REPORTS**



**D**

# **OTHER FUNDING SOURCES**



# SOURCES OF RECREATION GRANT FUNDING

## Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

- Applications due annually on April 1
- Minimum of 25% match required
- Development Project Grants
  - Minimum Grant Request: \$15,000
  - Maximum Grant Request: \$400,000
- Land Acquisition Grants
  - No minimum/maximum limits
- MNRTF Goals: Resource Protection, Water Access, Community Recreation, Urban Recreation, & Economic Development

## Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

- Applications due annually on April 1
- 50% match required
- Development Project Grants
  - Minimum: \$30,000 (\$60,000 minimum total project cost)
  - Maximum: \$500,000 (\$1,000,000 maximum total project cost)
- Land Acquisition Grants
  - No minimum/maximum limits (grants cannot exceed annual apportionment from NPS)
- Funds a variety of public outdoor recreation projects

## Michigan Recreation Passport Grant

[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)

- Applications due annually on April 1
- Minimum of 25% match required
- Development Project Grants
  - Minimum: \$7,500
  - Maximum: \$150,000
- Funds focus on renovating and improving existing facilities at parks, but development of new facilities or parks is eligible
- Reimbursement program (all grants are paid as reimbursement for actual expenses) for outdoor and indoor recreation projects

## **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)**

[www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot)

- Applications may be submitted online at any time.
- Minimum of 20% match required, over match at 50% or higher is recommended
- Funds vary each year, depending on congressional action
- Eligible applicants: county road commissions, cities, villages, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, state and federal natural resource or public land agencies, nonprofits, and tribal governments. MDOT may partner with a local agency and other organizations (e.g. townships, trail groups, etc.) may partner with an eligible agency.
- Funds bike paths, pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, and preservation of historic transportation facilities that enhance the intermodal transportation system and provide safe alternative transportation options

## **Great Lakes Fisheries Trust (GLFT)**

[www.glft.org](http://www.glft.org)

- Application due dates vary
- Matching funds are not required, but projects with local funding and promote community participation in the use of fishery resources will be favored
- Funds to increase access to the Great Lakes for shore-based angling
- Projects must be located on the Great Lakes or on tributaries below the lowermost barriers to fish passage

## **Michigan Coastal Management Grant**

[www.michigan.gov/ogl](http://www.michigan.gov/ogl)

- Application due mid to late December
- A one-to-one non-federal match is required for all projects
- Planning Grants
  - \$10,000 (min.)-\$100,000 (max.)
- Low-Cost Construction Grants
  - \$10,000 (min.)-\$250,000 (max.)
- Feasibility, Design, and Engineering Grants
  - \$10,000 (min.)-\$150,000 (max.)
- Land Conservation through acquisition
  - Maximum: \$500,000
- Grant functions on a cost reimbursement basis
- Funds focus on the protection, preservation, and restoration of coastal wetlands, beaches, and dunes, the protection and management of coastal waters, and the creation and enhancement of public access to the Great Lakes

# OTHER GRANT PROGRAMS

## Specific Sports & Sports Foundations

### 1. United States Tennis Association (USTA)

[www.usta.com](http://www.usta.com)

Funding for tennis courts and programs

### 2. Major League Baseball

[www.baseballtomorrow.com](http://www.baseballtomorrow.com)

Baseball Tomorrow Fund

### 3. United States Soccer

[www.ussoccerfoundation.org](http://www.ussoccerfoundation.org)

## Safe Routes to School

[www.saferoutesmichigan.org](http://www.saferoutesmichigan.org)

- Mini Grant
  - Schools can apply once a year
  - Up to \$15,000 for each school or up to \$120,000 for districts with 8 or more schools
  - Only funds programming
- Major Grant
  - Applications deadlines are ongoing
  - Up to \$300,000/school available for infrastructure and an additional \$15,000/school available to build programming around your project
  - Funds sidewalks, crosswalks, and any other infrastructure improvements
  - May need to undergo an in-depth planning process prior to submitting an application

## Trust for Public Land (TPL)

[www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org)

- Creating parks, trails, and schoolyards
- Conserving cultural sites
- Planning and designing with communities

## **Nonpoint Source Program Grants**

[www.michigan.gov/egle](http://www.michigan.gov/egle)

- Minimum 10% match required
- Minimum: \$25,000
- Maximum: \$275,600
- Funds assist partners with restoring waterbodies impaired by NPS pollution and protect high quality waters from impairments caused by NPS pollution.

## **Saginaw Community Foundation**

[www.saginawfoundation.org](http://www.saginawfoundation.org)



**153-2.2** – Add Data Center definition.

### **Data Center**

A facility used primarily for the storage, management, processing, and transmission of digital data, which houses computer or network equipment, systems, servers, appliances and other associated components related to digital data operations, and may also include air handlers, power generators, water cooling and storage facilities, utility substations, and other associated utility infrastructure to support sustained operations.

**153-3.1.J(3)** – Add Data Centers to the list of Special Land Uses under I-1, Light Industrial.

**153-3.1.K(3)** – Add Data Centers to the list of Special Land Uses under I-2, General Industrial.

### **153-4.34 Data Centers**

A. This section shall be known as the Data Center Zoning Ordinance.

#### **B. Applicability.**

1. *Data Center as an Accessory Use.* A Data Center that meets all of the criteria (a through c below) may be considered an accessory use and is not subject to the requirements of this Section.
  - a. The Data Center exclusively serves the enterprise functions of the on-site property owner or tenant.
  - b. The Data Center does not lease data storage or processing services to off-site or third parties.
  - c. The Data Center occupies no more than 10% of the building footprint.
  - d. The Data Center shall not be housed in a separate, standalone building.
2. *Data Center as a Principal Use.* All Data Centers as a principal use shall be located, developed, and operated in compliance with the standards established in this Section, in addition to those development standards set forth elsewhere in this Chapter.

- C. **Purpose.** Data Centers are an increasingly prominent land use that presents unique considerations related to land use compatibility, infrastructure demand, and environmental impact. Data Centers are frequently heavy utility users and may require substantial utility infrastructure, including electrical power, cooling systems, and broadband capacity, which can significantly affect surrounding development and municipal services, including the availability and distribution of utilities to other City customers. The operation of Data Centers can generate impacts such as noise from mechanical equipment, heat discharge, 24-hour activity, and large-scale building footprints, all of which require appropriate development standards to ensure compatibility with nearby uses. The City seeks to support technological innovation and economic development while maintaining land use compatibility, environmental stewardship, and high-quality design. Establishing zoning regulations and development standards specific to Data Centers will provide clarity to applicants, promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, and ensure Data Centers are appropriately sited and designed within the community.
- D. **Approval Procedures for Data Centers.** Zoning Administrator review shall confirm the use of the property conforms to the building and zoning requirements of the City Code and shall be transmitted with a recommendation for approval or disapproval transmitted to the Planning Commission. Planning Commission review shall be conducted in accordance with § 153-6.1 and § 153-6.3 for special land uses and subject to the applicable site standards set forth in this Chapter. Except as otherwise provided herein, neither the Planning Commission nor the Zoning Administrator shall waive any requirement of this Chapter.
- E. **Application Requirements.** In addition to the application requirements otherwise set forth in this Chapter, all development applications for a Data Center shall include all the following:
1. *Project Narrative.* A project narrative that describes how the Data Center is consistent with the City's Master Plan, any other applicable City plan or policies, and is compatible with surrounding uses.
  2. *Operational Plan.* An operational plan that provides evidence of compliance with all zoning, building, and fire safety regulations.
  3. *Good Neighbor Policy.* A good neighbor policy describing all the following:
    - a. The measures that will be taken to ensure ongoing compatibility with adjacent uses, including sound attenuation, lighting control

measures, vehicular access and traffic control, and litter control measures.

- b. Complaint response procedures, including the name and telephone number of the person responsible for the operation of the facility; and procedures for investigation, remedial action, and follow-up.

4. *Water Consumption and Thermal Management Report.* A water consumption and thermal management report which describes all the following:

- a. Cooling System. The proposed cooling system for the Data Center, including whether the Data Center will utilize a water-cooled, air-cooled, closed loop, dry cooled, evaporative, or other cooling method.
- b. Water Usage.
  - i. The estimated amount of total water in acre feet that will be used by the proposed project and associated land use for a calendar year, along with a monthly breakdown of projected water demand for each month within that year.
  - ii. The estimated amount of water in million gallons per day that will be used by the proposed project during a typical 24-hour operational period under normal conditions, including anticipated usage patterns.
  - iii. The estimated amount of water in million gallons per day to be used by the proposed project in a 24-hour period on its highest water consumption day.
  - iv. The estimated highest instantaneous flow rate in million gallons per day that will be used by the project along with the minimum, average, and maximum durations and frequencies of these flow conditions.
  - v. Indicate high consumption operational flexibility. Identify if high water demands can be aligned with the City's low-demand periods.
  - vi. The number of the proposed water meters and the size of each water meter for the proposed project.
  - vii. Planned use of sustainable practices to limit or offset the Data Center's use of water, including, but not limited to wastewater reuse.
- c. The Data Center operator shall submit an annual compliance report that details any changes to and continuation of all assessments submitted with an application.

- d. Any cost of increasing conveyance or capacity in the public water system necessary of a Data Center shall be borne by the Data Center.
  - i.

5. *Wastewater Report.*

- a. Proof that the applicant or property owner submitted a wastewater discharge permit and pre-operational wastewater analysis report as referenced in Chapter 51 of this Code.
- b. A report detailing whether wastewater will be directly discharged into surface water, discharged onto the ground or into groundwater, or discharging into the municipal wastewater treatment facility via sanitary sewer, as well as proof that all permitting requirements for same have been met. Such plan shall detail:
  - i. Expected daily wastewater discharge;
  - ii. An on-site treatment plan, including any necessary equipment to conduct trace analyses and consistent monitoring of chemical use for on-site water preparation and treatment;
  - iii. Pipe size, material type, percent grade, and length of pipes;
  - iv. Direction of flow.
- c. The Data Center operator shall submit an annual compliance report that details any changes to and continuation of all assessments submitted with an application.
- d. Any cost of increasing conveyance or capacity in the public wastewater system necessary of a Data Center shall be borne by the Data Center.

6. *Electric and Natural Gas (Energy) Service Report.* A report including the estimated annual and monthly demand for electric and natural gas utility services, an assessment of future energy needs for the proposed project, and planned use of sustainable practices and renewable energy sources to limit or offset the Data Center's use of water and power.

7. *Initial Sound Study.* An initial sound study performed by a third-party acoustic engineer which documents all the following:
- a. The baseline sound levels on the project site.
  - b. The baseline sound levels measured at the property line of the nearest residential zoning district, residential use, or other sensitive uses as reasonably determined by the Zoning Administrator.

8. *Tree Preservation and Reforestation Plan.* A plan outlining the efforts to minimize tree removal and enhance urban forestry efforts where transmission lines cross public land or park areas and require tree removal as a result.
9. *Waste Disposal/Decommissioning Plan.* A waste disposal/decommissioning plan which thoroughly outlines the following:
  - a. A plan outlining the procedures for safe removal and recycling or disposal of server infrastructure, hazardous materials, batteries, electronic waste, and related products, which will apply in cases when the data center is updated or decommissioned.
  - b. A plan outlining the closure and disposal of wastewater treatment systems, chemical waste, and related infrastructure, which will apply in cases when the data center is decommissioned.
  - c. The method of ensuring funds will be available for site decommissioning and stabilization in the form of surety bond or cash deposit to the City.
10. *Heat Mitigation Plan.* A plan outlining the strategies for waste heat reuse or dissipation and vegetative or green roof and/or site design to offset urban heat island effects.
11. *Emergency Management Plan.* A plan outlining procedures for dealing with emergencies resulting from flood, fire, explosion, or catastrophic weather events.
12. *Citizen Participation.* All the following citizen participation measures are required:
  - a. Neighborhood Meeting.
    - i. The applicant shall hold a minimum of two (2) public neighborhood meetings with residents to describe the project, including the project design, proposed sound-mitigation, lighting control measures, vehicular access and traffic control, and litter control measures.
    - ii. A representative of the developer or owner with decision-making authority on the design of the Data Center shall attend the neighborhood meetings.
  - b. Neighborhood Meeting Notification.
    - i. Mailed Notice. The applicant shall notify by mail all property owners and homeowners' associations within a half-mile radius

of the exterior boundary of the property that is the subject of the application, based on the last assessment.

- ii. Notice Timeframe. Written notice shall be provided by first class mail a minimum of 15-days prior to each neighborhood meeting.
- c. Site Posting.
  - i. The applicant shall post a sign on the proposed Data Center site at least 15- days before each neighborhood meeting.
  - ii. The sign shall be located along an arterial street or other high-visibility location as reasonably determined by the Zoning Administrator.
  - iii. The sign shall include all the following content and shall be reviewed and approved by the Zoning Administrator before installation: the applicant's name and contact information; a brief description of the Data Center project; and the date, time, and location of the neighborhood meeting.
  - iv. The applicant shall remove the sign after the neighborhood meeting(s), but not sooner.
- d. Online Posting. The applicant shall maintain a project website and post all meeting notices and other public documents, including the developer's application and all reports associated therewith, to such website 15 days in advance of any neighborhood meeting.
- e. Newspaper Posting. The applicant shall advertise notice of the neighborhood meeting in a newspaper of general circulation serving the residents of the City of Saginaw. The advertisement shall appear at least one (1) week prior to the neighborhood meeting.

**F. Development Standards.** In addition to those development standards set forth elsewhere in this Chapter, the following standards shall apply. Where a conflict may occur between the provisions of this Section and any other provision of the City Code, the more restrictive provision shall control.

1. *Separation from Residential Zoning Districts and Residential Uses.* A Data Center and all associated mechanical equipment, including but not limited to battery storage, power generation, cooling, ventilating, or other equipment that supports the Data Center, shall be located at least 500 feet from the property line of the nearest residential zoning district, residential use, or other sensitive use as reasonably determined by the Zoning Administrator.
  - a. This setback may be waived by the Planning Commission in relation to solar power facilities developed in concert with a Data Center.

Such solar power facilities remain subject to the requirements of §153-4.29 of the Code.

2. *Building Design Based on Sound Study.*

- a. Based on the results of the initial sound study, the Data Center shall be designed and built to incorporate sound mitigation methods sufficient to prevent the sound levels emanating from the Data Center (as determined by a third-party acoustic engineer) from exceeding the ambient noise levels at the property line of the nearest residential zoning district, residential use, or other sensitive use as determined by the Zoning Administrator that were observed in the studies provided upon application.
  - i. In no instance shall the ambient noise level of any Data Center exceed 55 decibels at the property line of the nearest residential zoning district, residential use, or other sensitive use as determined by the Zoning Administrator. Violations of this provision shall constitute a public nuisance in accordance with Chapter 94 of this Code.
- b. Design specifications for such sound mitigation shall be provided to the City and incorporated into the building design before building permit approval.

3. *Utilities.* The Data Center shall bear the full cost of undergrounding any adjacent or on-site electrical infrastructure that would otherwise be provided via overhead distribution and/or transmission as deemed necessary by the City in its sole discretion and approved by the applicable utility.

**G. Operational Requirements.**

1. *Sound Study at Certificate of Occupancy or Certificate of Completion Stage.* Within 30 days of the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or certificate of completion, whichever occurs first, the Data Center operator shall conduct a sound study performed by a third-party acoustic engineer. The study shall document noise levels emanating from the Data Center measured at the property line of the nearest residential zoning district, residential use, or other sensitive uses as reasonably determined by the Zoning Administrator, during peak routine operation of the Data Center mechanical equipment.

2. *Annual Sound Study Required.* The Data Center operator shall conduct an annual sound study performed by a third-party acoustic engineer during peak routine operation of the Data Center mechanical equipment for five (5) years after completion of the initial post-construction sound study. The study shall document noise levels emanating from the Data Center as measured at the property line of the nearest residential zoning district, residential use, or other sensitive uses as reasonably determined by the Zoning Administrator. The Data Center operator shall provide the results of the sound study to the City within 30 days of the anniversary of the date on which the certificate of occupancy or certificate of completion was issued by the City.
  
3. *Backup Generators.* If the Data Center operator intends to use backup power generators on the parcel, the operator shall maintain a public website announcing the times when the generators will be in operation. Any routine operation of the backup generators, including for testing purposes, shall be announced on the website at least 72 hours in advance. Unless the generators are supplying backup electrical supply during a power outage or an electric utility demand response event, backup generators may only operate between the hours of 9:00 am and 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Upon request by City staff, the Data Center operator shall provide the address of the website where the notices required by this Section are published. In all instances, the Data Center operator shall be responsible for all interconnection costs related to the operation of the generating system.