

2021-  
2025

# CITY OF ST. JOHNS

Recreation Department  
5-Year Recreation Plan



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## INTRODUCTION

The City of St. Johns is a tight-knit community that is invested in and proud of its park system. The Parks and Recreation Board has worked with the community to assess need and to develop a plan of action for the next five years. This plan supports the goals of the Michigan DNR and is built around the guidelines of the City of St. Johns Parks and Recreation Mission Statement:

“Promote a broad, year-round range of quality indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities to City residents of all ages and physical and mental abilities and encourage inter-generational participation in activities.”

The City of St. Johns Parks and Recreation Board has provided multiple opportunities for the general public to participate in the development of this plan and feel that this plan will address current and future parks and recreation needs of the community, given the fiscal limitations of the City. The City of St. Johns Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared based on the guidelines set forth by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Division. This document provides the information necessary to help the City visualize its short-term and long-term parks and recreation goals.

This plan has been realized through a comprehensive planning process that addresses the parks and recreation needs of the City of St. Johns and the greater community, and in addition establishes priorities for recreation development.

The City of St. Johns Parks and Recreation Board is proud of the work they have accomplished alongside the community with regards to facility improvements and programs. Since 2000, the following improvements have been made to the facilities within the City, either with City tax dollars, grants, or donated material, labor, or money.

- Fantasy Forest Playground - City Park
- Performance Shell – City Park
- New Pavilion – City Park
- Handicapped viewing area – City Park
- Lest Thy Be Forgotten Memorial – City Park
- Main Pavilion Ceiling redone – City Park
- Jeep Track – Main Park
- Pavilion Improvement – Main Park
- Tennis/Basketball Court addition – City Park
- Jaycee Park Renovation
- Kibbee St. Park Renovation
- Rotary Gazebo – Rotary Park
- Farmers Market Pavilion – Rotary Park
- Water Spray Park – City Park
- New Pavilion – St. Johns Depot
- Land acquired for a trailhead park at Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail

Since 2000, the offerings for recreational activity have also increased. The City has increased from offering approximately 20 programs annually to over 55 programs annually.

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

When beginning the planning process, it is important to first examine the population characteristics of a community. The characteristics and trends of a community provide important indicators as to what future recreational needs should be and how planning will accommodate. These factors include a variety of social and physical factors. Examinations of these characteristics and trends provide a firm rationale upon which future recreation decisions can be based.

## Location

The City of St. Johns serves as the county seat for Clinton County, Michigan. It is located approximately eighteen miles north of Lansing. Its location and main thoroughfares, M-21 and US-27, allow St. Johns to be a hub to central Michigan. The total population within the City of St. Johns is 7,865, but the parks serve the Clinton County population of 75,382. (2010 Census)

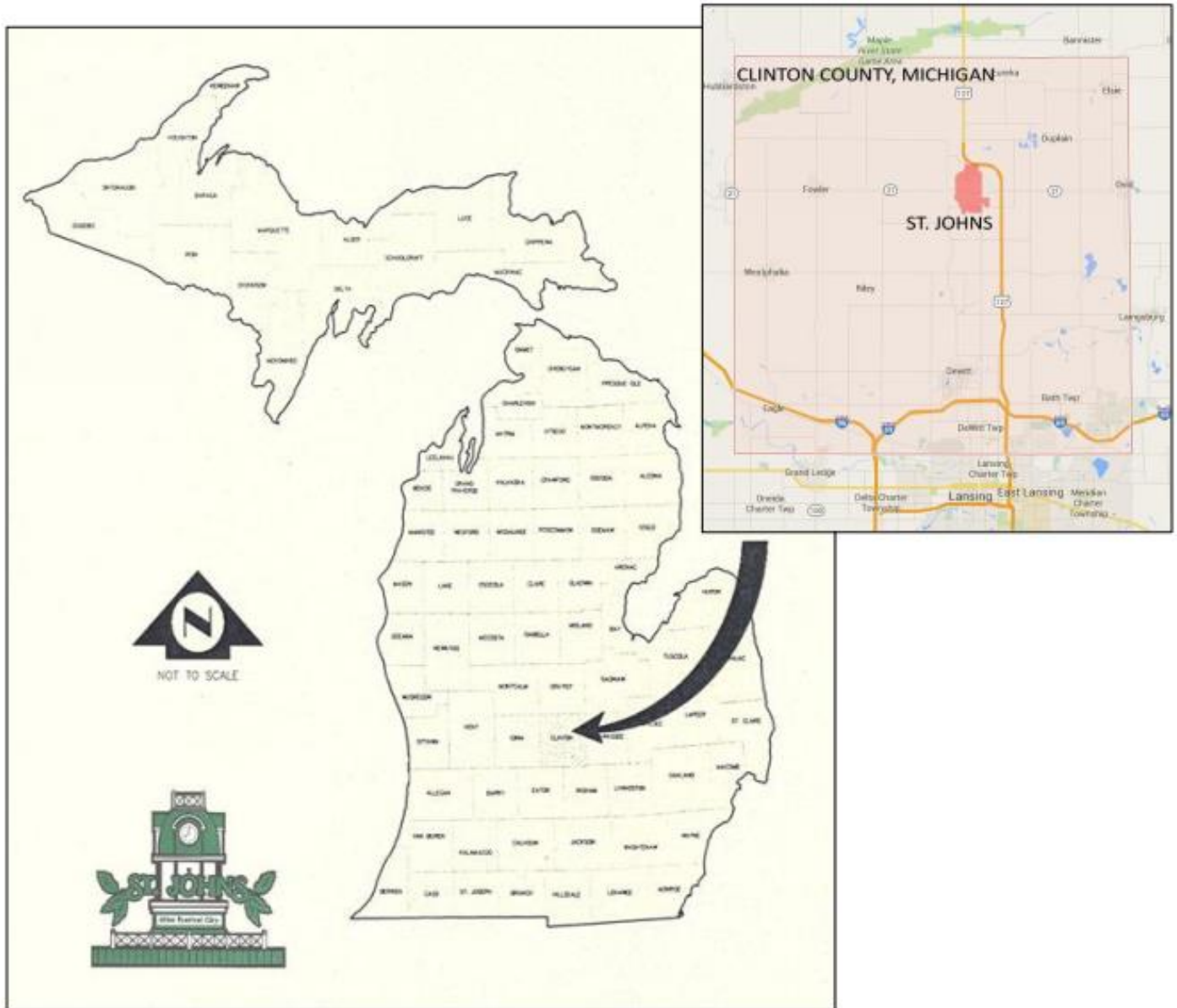


Figure 1: City of St. Johns Location

## Population Age

Figure 2 displays the age classifications, in five-year increments, of area residents. The median age for the City is 37.2. The greatest percentage (60%) of the City of St. Johns population is under the age of 45. The distribution of the City of St. Johns population is more representative of an obelisk, than the typical pyramid with the young at the bottom. This depiction related that the age cohorts remain fairly high and equal, until age 45. At that point, the percentage of people in each age classification begins to taper off. This equates to a relatively high demand for family-oriented recreation. Over the next 20 years, the City of St. Johns is likely to experience a shift in demand with an increasing need for senior recreation activities. At this time, the board has recognized a lack of recreation opportunities for the teenage demographic and the senior citizen demographic.

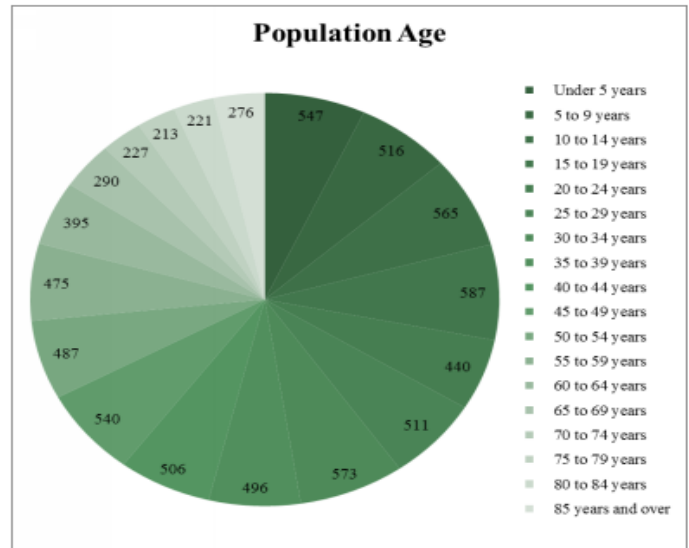


Figure 2: City of St. Johns Population and Age

## Senior Citizens

20.6% of St. Johns residents are 60 years or older, leading to a relatively high demand for senior citizen activities and programs. Currently, senior citizen recreation programs are limited and the citizens are looking to expand these programs in the future. Many aspects of the City parks are accessible to seniors, and popular events like concerts in the park help fill recreational needs of this demographic.

## Disability

It is the goal of the City of St. Johns to design future projects with the full range of human abilities in mind. The total percentage of citizens classified as disabled in St. Johns is 27.7%, slightly higher than the US average of 24.2%.

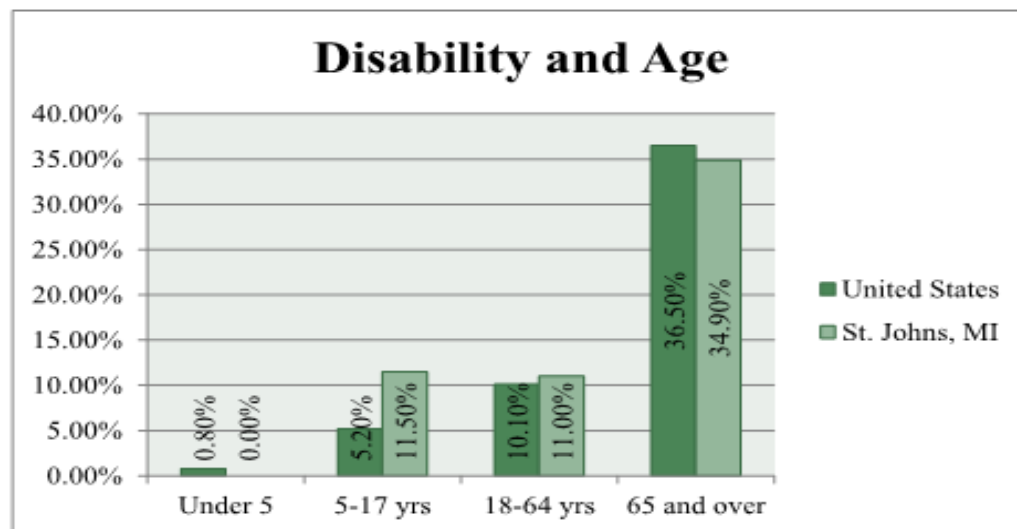


Figure 3: Disability and Age

It is clear that in any case, design that incorporates accessible features into recreation opportunities is preferable. Figure 3 compares the age distribution of disabled individuals in St. Johns vs. the United States. It is shown that St. Johns has almost double the average distribution of 5-17-year-olds with disabilities. It becomes especially critical

to provide opportunities for this demographic in any future design project. The highest percentage of disabled individuals are 65 and over, consistent with the US average.

Figure 4, below, shows an estimate from the US Census exploring the distribution of different types of disability in the City of St. Johns as compared to the US. The largest group in both the City of St. Johns and the US are those with ambulatory disability, making the ease of navigating city parks a high priority. Whether this ambulatory disability requires a wheelchair or careful and easy foot placement, the circulation systems within the parks should be evaluated and streamlined wherever possible. Creative recreation opportunities should be developed to involve all disabled individuals. The percentage of individuals with cognitive disabilities is significantly higher in the City of St. Johns than the US (26.7% and 17.4%, respectively). The City may choose to apply special focus on additional improvements and developments in a way that facilitates use by those with differing mental and physical capabilities.

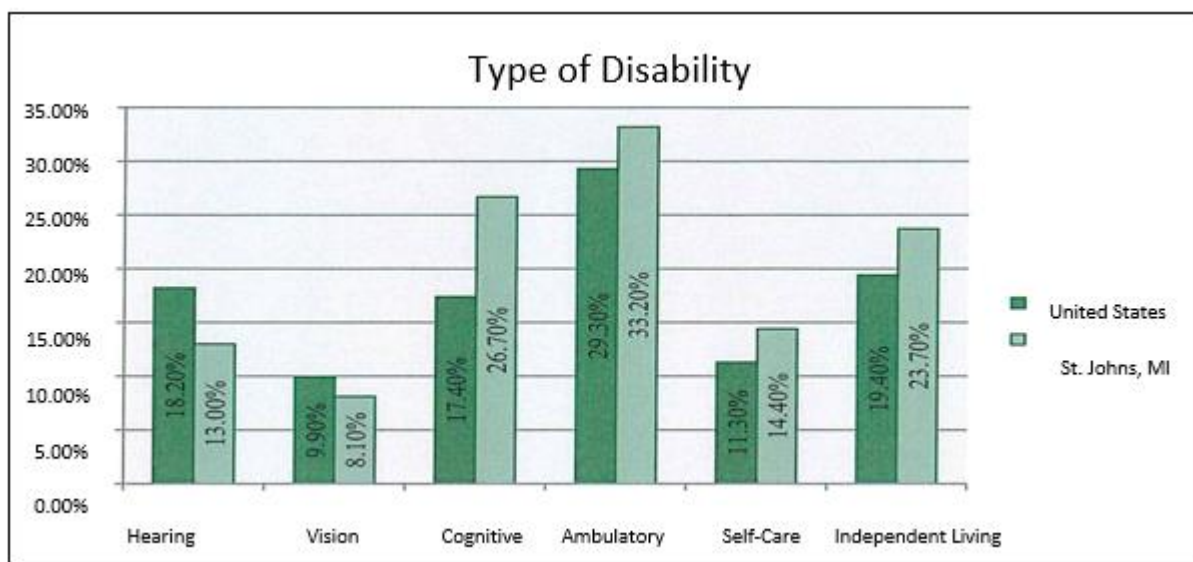


Figure 4: Type of Disability

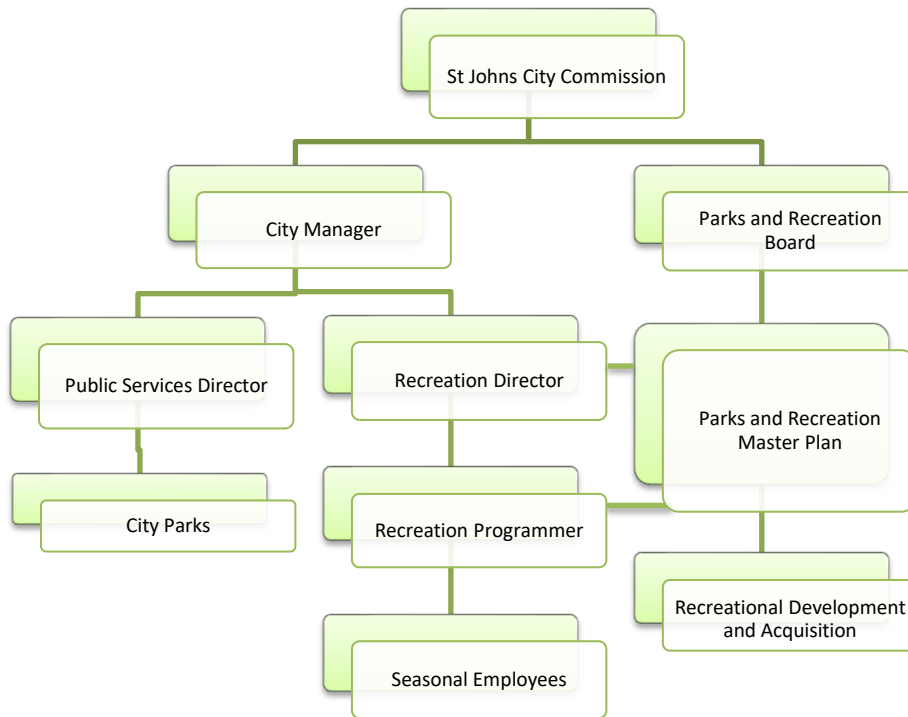
## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

### Roles of Commissions and Advisory Boards, Staff Description, and Organizational Chart

The City of St. Johns is a home rule city, with a commission/city manager form of government. Five City Commissioners are elected to overlapping four-year terms. The City Commission sets the policies and budgets for all City functions, including recreation. The Commission allocates funds for operations, maintenance, and capital improvements. The Commission also hires the City Manager and other City staff responsible for implementing the Commission’s policies and for operating City departments. This Board of Commissioners is enabled by Act 1905 PA 157; Township Parks and Places of Recreation.

The City Manager is responsible for and oversees the day-to-day operations of the City. He/she advises and consults with the City Commission and implements their decisions. The Public Services Director reports to the

City Manager. He/she is responsible for maintenance of the parks, including equipment and buildings. The City Manager also oversees the Recreation Director. Recreation programs are administered by the Recreation Department. The Recreation Director supervises the Recreation Programmer, Pool Manager, and seasonal employees, and provides staff support to the Parks and Recreation Board.



The City of St. Johns has a seven-member Parks and Recreation Board. The City Commission established the Parks and Recreation Board in 1969 and follows policies and bylaws passed during their November 7, 2002 meeting. The City Commission appoints the members of the Board for staggered two-year terms. Members may be reappointed. There is no requirement for being appointed other than being City resident or owning a business within the city limits. The City Commission always likes to have a City Commissioner and a representative of the school district on the Board and the rest of the Commission is made up of civic leaders, educators, youth service professionals, business owners and recreation program participants.

The Parks and Recreation Board is an advisory board. It reviews the City’s programs, facilities, budgets, special requests, and other items requested by the City Commission. The Board makes recommendations to the City Commission on programs and policies. The City Commission has the authority to commit funds, accept grants, and acquire land.



## Annual Budgets 2020-2025

### Annual Budgets 2020-2025

TABLE 1 City of St. Johns Projected Budget		
NAME	PARKS	RECREATION
2020-2021(Actual)	\$195,200	\$247,650
2021-2022	\$168,100	\$252,600
2022-2023	\$171,100	\$257,700
2023-2024	\$174,100	\$262,800
2024-2025	\$177,200	\$268,100

### Current Funding Sources

Monies that make up the budget come from the City's general fund. The Parks Department budget, which funds repair and maintenance of City parks, has fluctuated over the years as larger improvements have been completed, but average \$188,200 for 2016-2020. The average for the next five years is expected to be around \$177,200. The Recreation Department budget, which funds recreation programming in the City parks and other facilities, has averaged \$122,400 over the last five years. The average for the next five years is expected to be around \$257,370.

### Volunteers

Volunteers play a vital role in the City of St. Johns. Since 2000, volunteers have been the driving force behind major building projects in City Park. In 2000, a group of area residents raised over \$110,000 for a wooden play structure. In 2004, another group of committed residents raised over \$100,000 for a performance shell to replace an existing shell that was outdated and undersized. Recently, a group of citizens was able to raise over \$200,000 (including foundation grants) to replace the failing City Pool with a new spray park, complete in 2015. Community volunteers work on restoration and maintenance projects throughout the park system, including the historic rail cars at St. Johns Depot. Volunteers are also important for recreation programs, as they serve as coaches and supervision for many of the recreational programs.

### Relationships: schools, public agencies, private organizations

The City Recreation Department has a good relationship with many of the other organizations in and around the city. There is a good working relationship between the school district and the City. Each uses the other's facilities for some of their programs. There is regular communication between the school and the City to improve the programs and resolve any problems. In the summer of 2010, the Recreation Department started to use the school district's indoor pool for swim lessons, open swim, and lap swim. Since the outdoor pool at the City Park closed in 2009, all aquatic recreation programs have taken place at the high school pool. The Parks and

Recreation Board includes the Facilities Director for the school, and the City and school district have been working together to transfer the community education programs run by the school to the recreation department in order to save costs and eliminate duplication of services. This relationship expanded in the fall of 2019, when the City began renting the Wilson Center Gym to hold many recreation programs. The City added three classrooms to the rental of the gym to expand program offerings and began birthday party rentals. The City will look to expand programs offered at the Wilson Center, as well as increasing gym rental opportunities. The School Board and City Commission meet as needed to discuss issues of importance between the two. Upper management for the City and school staff meet more regularly to discuss mutual issues.

The City Recreation Department works with many other local organizations and individuals to offer expanded programs to area residents. The department works with the St. Johns Youth Baseball Organization by sharing facilities and equipment. Our adult exercise classes use local instructors to lead these programs. Over the years, the Recreation Department has worked with the Kiwanis Club, Jaycee Club, Rotary Club, various St. Johns High School teams/clubs, Chamber of Commerce, Clinton County RESA, Michigan Works – St. Johns, and numerous businesses in St. Johns.

## RECREATION INVENTORY

### Methods

The recreation inventory began with a review of the City of St. Johns 2016-2020 Recreation Master Plan. Significant changes in the park system, such as the new spray park and other improvements, were recorded and updated. A tour of all City park facilities was conducted, comparing the previous plan's inventory to the existing park facilities. The inventory was updated accordingly.

### Park Inventory

The parks and recreation facilities of the City of St. Johns were surveyed and classified into an inventory, which will be used as a basis for determining need for specific recreational facilities within the City. The inventory has been broken into multiple categories including regional, public, school, and private facilities. This list was compiled by using the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan, other City resources, and the Clinton County 2015-2019 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

### Regional Facilities

On a regional basis, the City of St. Johns is within 20 miles of several regional facilities (Table 2). These facilities mainly provide opportunities for recreational activities related to water. Sleepy Hollow State Park provides numerous recreation activities, including fishing, boating, hiking, cross-country skiing, camping, and swimming.

# Location Map

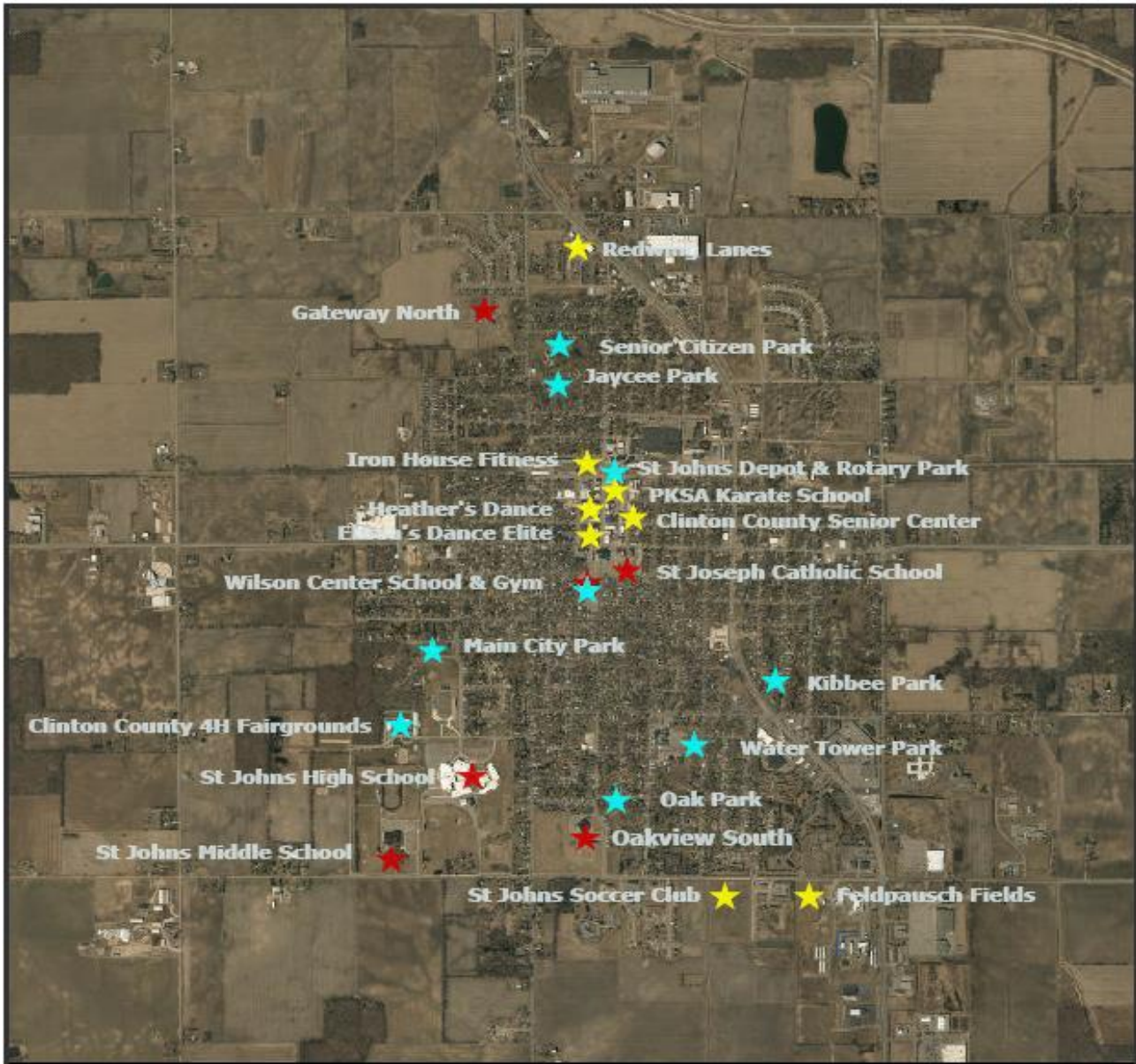


TABLE 2  
City of St. Johns REGIONAL Public Recreational Facilities Inventory

NAME	FACILITIES AVAILABLE
Looking Glass River	Boat Launch
Maple River	Boat Launch

Maple River State Game Area	Observation Deck
Grand River	Boat Launch
Muskrat Lake	Fishing, Boat Launch
Sleepy Hollow State Park	Fishing, Boating, Hiking, Cross-Country Skiing, Camping, and Swimming Beach
Francis Motz County Park	Sand Beach and Swimming Area, Beach house with 7 Unisex Restrooms, Paved Walkways and Parking Lot, Picnic Tables, Grills, Fishing Pier and a Covered Pavilion.
Clinton Lakes	272-acre property, fishing, hiking trails, nature watching. Big Clinton Lake - 90-acre lake found within Clinton Lakes County Park Little Clinton Lake - 12-acre lake found within Clinton Lakes County Park

### Local Facilities

The following table is a comprehensive list of public and private recreational facilities within the City of St. Johns.

TABLE 3 City of St. Johns LOCAL Recreational Facilities Inventory		
NAME	FACILITIES AVAILABLE	
<b>Public Facilities</b>		
Jaycee Park — Mini-Park An area for families to play and exercise	Playground Equipment Drinking Fountain	Picnic Table Benches
Kibbee Street Park — Mini-Park An area for families to play and exercise	Playground Equipment Benches Drinking Fountain Picnic Table	Grill Basketball Hoop Bike Racks
Oak Street Park — Mini-Park	Playground Equipment Open Play Area	Picnic Table
Senior Citizen Park — Mini-Park Passive, relaxing recreation	Basketball Hoops (2) Tennis / Pickleball Courts (2) Benches Picnic Shelter	Restrooms Grills (2) Gliders (2)

St. Johns City Park — Large Urban Park	Tennis Courts (2) Performance Shell Picnic Pavilion Playground Picnic Shelters (4) Benches Picnic Tables Accessible Restrooms Trails (3) Youth Soccer Area Drinking Fountains Shuffleboard Court	Grills Full Basketball Court Basketball Court Softball Diamond (1) Flying Disc Golf Course Sand Volleyball Court Warming House Seasonal Skating Rink Sledding Hill Wooden Play Structure (Fantasy Forest) Water Spray Park
St. Johns Depot and Rotary Park	City festivals and events Picnic Pavilion Gazebo	Train Depot (Museum) Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail Access
Water Tower Park	Basketball Court Playground Equipment	Picnic Area Drinking Fountains
4-H Fairgrounds (County Operated)	Smith Hall Peck Hall Animal Barns	Restrooms Arena (Indoor and Outdoor)
Public School Facilities		
Gateway North	Soccer Field Basketball Courts (2) Baseball Backstop Swing Sets (2)	Play Structures (2) Picnic Tables Gym
Junior High/ High School Complex	Baseball Diamonds (2) Practice Cages (4) Soccer Net (6 sets) Soccer Fields (6) Soccer/Football Field	Football Field Middle School Track Tennis Courts (10) Gyms (3)
Oakview South	Soccer Field Basketball Courts (2) Baseball Backstop Swing Set	Play Structures (2) Picnic Tables Gym Quiet Area
Wilson Center	Gym Playground	Auditorium Meeting Rooms
Private School Facilities		
First Baptist	Playground Gym	Soccer Field Benches
St. Joseph's Catholic School	Gym Basketball Hoop	Playground

St. Johns Lutheran Church	Gym Basketball Hoop	Playground
Private Facilities		
Baseball Park (Little League)	Baseball Diamonds (5)	Batting Cage
Clinton County Senior Center	Indoor Passive Recreation	Food Services
Clinton Memorial Physical Rehab. and Occupational Center	Exercise and Rehabilitation Center	
Iron House Fitness	Weight training, fitness	
PKSA Karate School	Karate and Fitness	
Redwing Bowling Lanes	Bowling Alley	
St Johns Soccer Club	Soccer Fields (5)	

In St. Johns, just as in many Michigan communities, the local schools provide a valuable resource of recreational facilities and programs to the community. For this reason, an inventory of the school facilities has been included in the inventory. Private recreational facilities, while generally pay-per use, provide an excellent source for recreational opportunities that help to alleviate the pressures on public facilities. An inventory of the private recreational facilities in the City of St. Johns was also included as part of the local facilities inventory.

Currently, the City of St. Johns owns several parks. There are five neighborhood parks and one Main City Park. The neighborhood parks contain facilities ranging from benches and grills, to playground equipment, and sports facilities. Table 4 lists each park’s type, service area, accessibility, acres and features.

TABLE 4 CITY OF ST. JOHNS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES							
	Main City Park	Jaycee Park	Kibbee Street Park	Water Tower Park	Oak Street Park	Senior Citizen Park	Rotary Park
Park Type*	LUP	MP	MP	MP	MP	MP	CP
Service Area**	SJA	NB	NB	NB	NB	NB	SJA

Accessibility Rating***	3	4	4	1	1	1	2
Acres	92.5	0.62	0.3	0.72	0.7	1.59	1.9
Ball Diamond	x						
Basketball	x		x	x			
Gazebo							x
Ice Rink	x						
Open Play Field	x						
Pavilion	5					x	x
Performance Shell	x						
Picnic Area	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Playground	x	x	x	x	x		
Grills	x	x	x			x	
Drinking Fountains	x	x	x	x			x
Restrooms	x					x	x
Sand Volleyball	x						
Sledding Hill	x						
Tennis Courts	x					x	
Trails /Paths	3						x

* Park Type	**Service Area	***Accessibility Rating
CP = Community Park	NB = Neighborhood	1 = none of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines
LUP = Large Urban Park	SJA = St. Johns Area	2 = some of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines
MP = Mini-Park		3 = most of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines
NP = Neighborhood Park		4 = the entire park meets ADA guidelines
		5 = the entire park was developed /renovated using the principals of universal design

## Park Descriptions and Accessibility Assessment

The parks in St. Johns are continually evaluated for effectiveness, safety, and accessibility. Based on priorities set in prior recreation plans and community input, several projects targeting accessibility have been completed in recent years, including accessible picnic pavilions, upgraded restroom facilities, and improved parking and facility access. All present and future renovations are completed with the principles of universal design in mind.

### **Jaycee Park**

Jaycee Park is a mini-park (0.62 acres) located at the corner of Ottawa Street and Gibbs Street. Designed as a space for families to play and exercise, this park features play equipment, grills, drinking fountains, benches, bike racks, and a picnic table. Renovated in 2009, the park has accessible sidewalks to all park features, as well as a new accessible drinking fountain and parking. Based on accessibility guidelines, the site would be ranked 4—the entire park meets accessibility guidelines.

### **Kibbee Street Park**

Kibbee Street Park is a mini-park (0.30 acres) located on the corner of Kibbee Street and South Traver Street. Designed as a place for families to play and exercise, it features a half-court basketball hoop, play equipment, a picnic table, benches, and bike racks. Also renovated in 2009, the park has connective sidewalks to all major features and an accessible drinking fountain. Based on accessibility guidelines, the site would be ranked 4—the entire park meets accessibility guidelines.

### **Oak Street Park**

Oak Street Park is a mini-park (0.7 acres) located along East Oak Street at its intersection with Wight Street. The park was converted from a small orchard to a community park in the 1970s. It has play equipment and a picnic table, as well as a large open grass area for free play. The park is less than ¼ mile from Oakview South Elementary School, which has a substantial play area in place. In its current condition, this park is underutilized, and not wishing to duplicate an existing resource, the park has undergone little renovation. The community may be ready to explore a new use for the site, such as a community garden, a dog park, or selling it and using proceeds to improve other parks. Based on accessibility guidelines, the site would be ranked 1—none of the facility currently meets accessibility guidelines. Playground equipment was installed before US Consumer Product Safety Commission standards were established. They have no safety surfacing and no sidewalks. Playground does not meet barrier-free compliance.

### **Senior Citizen Park**

Senior Citizen Park is a mini-park (1.59 acres) located at the corner of Ottawa Street and Gibbs Street, across the street from Jaycee Park. Designed for passive recreation, the park features a picnic shelter, tennis/pickleball courts, basketball hoops, glider playground equipment, benches, and restrooms. Based on accessibility guidelines, the site would be ranked 1— none of the facility currently meets accessibility guidelines. There are no sidewalks leading to any facility in this park, and the bathroom does not meet barrier-free compliance.



### **St. Johns City Park**

The Main City Park is the largest park in the city (92.5 acres) and hosts the majority of the City’s recreational activities and amenities. Categorized as a Large Urban Park, it serves not only the City of St. Johns but surrounding communities as well. The park has many athletic facilities, including a baseball/softball diamond, basketball courts, a disc golf course, shuffleboard court, sand volleyball court, tennis courts, and a youth soccer field. The park has several picnic shelters/pavilions and restroom facilities, some of which are accessible. Additionally, it has several play areas, including the community-funded “Fantasy Forest”, a popular wooden play structure. It also has an accessible spray park with accessible bathroom/changing restrooms. Nature walking trails connect various aspects of the park and provide for passive recreation. A renovated performance shell provides for many activities in the warmer months, while a seasonal skating rink, warming house, and sledding hill provide winter recreation.

Based on accessibility guidelines, the site would be ranked 3—most of the facility currently meets accessibility guidelines. In the last 5 years, the main restrooms and pavilion have been renovated for universal accessibility. Within the park, there are paved walkways to all pavilions, the Performance Shell, and the Fantasy Forest play structure. The parking lot by the spray park was improved by adding a new surface with curb/gutter and sidewalk running along it. Wooded walking/jogging trails are not barrier free. Roads that run through the park are scheduled to be rehabbed in the near future.

### **St. Johns Depot and Rotary Park**

Rotary Park is a community park (≈1.9 acres) located along the recently developed Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail. The depot was purchased in 1998, with additional surrounding lands acquired in 2010. Adjacent to downtown, this renovated train depot hosts city events, rentals, and serves the trail users. The trailhead park with a restroom building, picnic tables, benches, wayfinding sign, accessible walkways, and new parking lot were completed in in 2017. Improvements to Railroad Street will increase the parking capacity around this park. Based on accessibility guidelines, the site would be ranked 2—some of the facility currently meets accessibility guidelines. This site is fully accessible.

### **Water Tower Park**

Water Tower Park is a mini-park (0.72 acres) located at the corner of Elm Street and Swegles Street. The park has a half-court basketball hoop, picnic area, and playground equipment. The park land is leased from the adjacent hospital, which makes investment in improvements difficult to justify. Communication should be opened about purchasing this land or more permanently acquiring the property. Playground equipment was installed before US Consumer Product Safety Commission standards were established. Most do not have safety surfacing and there are no sidewalks. Playground does not meet barrier-free compliance. Based on accessibility guidelines, the site would be ranked 1— none of the facility currently meets accessibility guidelines.

## Previous Grant Status Report

The City of St. Johns has received numerous grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources since 1972 (See Table 5).

Table 5				
Grant Assisted Projects				
Grant Number	Year	Project	Location	Status
26-00267	1972	St. Johns City Park	Main City Park	Closed
26-01023 Q3	1977	Main Park Restrooms	Main City Park	Closed
26-01060 w	1978	Northside Tennis Courts	Senior Citizen Park	Closed
BF89-359	1989	Veteran's Memorial Swimming Pool Renovation	Main City Park	Closed
26-01670	2006	Kibbee St Park and JC Park Renovations	Jaycee and Kibbee Parks	Closed
TF-09-169	2009	St. Johns Trailside Parkway Acquisition	Rotary Park	Closed
TF 14-0109	2014	St. Johns Trailside Park Renovation	Rotary Park	Closed
26-01741	2014	St. Johns City Park Improvements	Main City Park	Closed
TF- 16-0159	2016	Veterans Memorial Bathhouse Renovation	Main City Park	Closed

## PLANNING PROCESS

The planning process began with a review of the 2016-2020 Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan that was adopted in February of 2016 by the members of the Parks and Recreation Board. The plan outlined the goals for the development of park and recreational opportunities within the City for five years.

Due to Covid-19 precautions, a teleconference call was held April 27, 2020 discussing the results of the previous Master Plan and general ideas for the new plan took place along with a tentative schedule via email for the Master Plan process. At this point, it was determined that a thorough and well-distributed survey would be vital to the success of the new Master Plan, and several revisions of the survey took place during the next month.

The survey was distributed to the community in July 2020 and responses were accepted through August 16, 2020. These responses were reviewed with the Parks and Recreation Board at a meeting on September 16, 2020. The main body of the Master Plan was also distributed for preliminary review by the board.

The meeting participants discussed objectives and a plan of action for the new Master Plan based on the survey feedback.

The survey feedback and meeting discussion were incorporated into an updated list of goals and objectives, which was then translated into an action plan for the City. This plan and the main body of the Master Plan were reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board at a meeting on November 18, 2020. Changes from this meeting will be incorporated and the Master Plan will be posted for public review on November 11, 2020. Citizens will also be encouraged to comment through the City's website and social media presence. Due to Covid 19 Closures of the City Offices and Briggs District Library a paper copy was not available for review but was posted on the City Website. Residents in the City's email database were sent notice by email. A public review meeting took place January 11, 2021. Newspaper notice for the public hearing was circulated on 12/27/2020 and notice via email and social media was distributed. Comments from the public review period will be incorporated into the Master Plan prior to the public hearing meeting at the City Commission meeting. After City Commission approval, the Master Plan will be submitted to the State.

## PUBLIC INPUT

### Methods

Public input was the primary guide to developing this Master Plan. Several methods were used, including a community survey at the beginning of the process, a public posting of the plan for community review, and a community meeting near the end of plan development.

The community survey was developed based on the previous recreation plan's questions and responses. Several recreation plans, including the State of Michigan and Clinton County, were reviewed for applicable questions to incorporate into the survey. Special care was taken to process and incorporate any written feedback received during the last community survey. Developed online using Survey Monkey, the community survey was distributed using the City's website and social media presence, and sent to approximately 800 recipients in the City's email database. A press release was also sent out in a local newspaper giving residents options to take the survey. Community members could take the survey online or call the City Offices to have a paper copy mailed. An effort was made to reach as many citizens as possible. Overall, 242 people responded to the survey, roughly half them were from the city (119), representing approximately 3.6% of the population of the City of St. Johns. This group is believed to be representative of the city demographic as a whole. Survey responses are incorporated into the Action Program Rationale and a full copy of the survey and responses can be found in Appendix A: Survey and Results.

The plan was posted for community review on November 11, 2020. Citizens could contribute feedback in several ways, including through an online comment form, email, and phone.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Provide safe, inclusive, community-based recreational opportunities that improve the overall quality of life for all St. Johns-area residents.

Parks provide a natural gathering place for the community as well as provide for free or low-cost recreational activities. Therefore, it is important to continue to provide and improve these facilities. Based on community input, the City will continue to provide and improve these facilities.

- Objective: Continue to improve and upgrade the City of St. Johns recreational and support facilities, based on community feedback, of which residents can be proud.
- Objective: Provide increased and better access to and through the City Parks and Trails System.

- Objective: Add passive and active programming based on community input and available financing.

2. Promote development of a non-motorized pathway system throughout the City to encourage interaction and participation, improve pedestrian safety, and strengthen non-motorized linkages between City parks and other recreational facilities.

Paths and trails are a high priority with the residents. St. Johns currently has few trails, but with the construction of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail, they have seen a rise in non-motorized activity in the city. Connecting the rail trail with the City Park and other points of interest is a high priority for the community. 80% of survey respondents place a high or moderate funding priority on increasing trail connectivity within the community.

- Objective: Expand non-motorized pathways in St. Johns, with focus on existing paths and points of interest.
- Objective: Evaluate options for safely moving pedestrian traffic across Old U.S. 27 to expand non-motorized park access from the east side of the highway.
- Objective: Pursue a partnership with Clinton County to connect the Fred Meijer CIS Trail to Motz Park and possibly other county resources.

3. Promote regional cooperation between the City of St. Johns, Clinton County, surrounding townships, the St. Johns School District, and other public and private organizations within the County to better provide comprehensive recreational opportunities to the residents of St. Johns and Clinton County.

It makes financial and practical sense to coordinate recreation within the city in a way that is aware and supportive of the surrounding areas. The City and School District have been working together for years providing shared recreation programs and facilities. Further collaboration with the County and other organizations will prove to an important component in providing quality recreational programs and facilities to the St. Johns community.

- Objective: Continue to work with the existing partners to provide recreational programming and facilities.
- Objective: Continue to explore options for new and expanded partners, providing additional recreational opportunities.

4. Enhance the quality of local neighborhoods through establishment and maintenance of quality neighborhood parks conveniently located to all City residents.

Park facilities are among the most visible indicators of community identity and pride. Every park in the system, with the exception of the Senior Citizen Park, was shown to be the most important park to several responding households, with all parks being used by individuals on a bi-weekly basis or more frequently. The majority of respondents said clean and quality restrooms and playground areas were the most important features of a park.

- Objective: Continue to upgrade playground equipment and access, paying special attention to universal access.
- Objective: Keep parks safe and well-maintained.
- Objective: Investigate all appropriate methods to provide facilities and for facility improvements, including providing incentives to private developers, promoting donation of property and/or facilities, and the sale of unused/underused assets.

#### 5. Provide universally accessible recreation opportunities designed with all community members in mind.

The City wishes to provide recreational activities for residents of all abilities. With ambulatory and cognitive disabilities shown to be higher than the national average, special care should be taken to actively incorporate facilities for these users.

- Objective: Partner with organizations that serve disabled individuals to better understand and provide for community needs.
- Objective: Make sure that all improvements and upgrades to park facilities, where feasible, are universally accessible.

#### 6. Strengthen the role of the City of St. Johns as a regional provider/coordinator of recreational opportunities, and develop a plan that maximizes the impact of existing and future recreation providers.

Due to its centralized location and rural surroundings, the City is the major recreational provider for the central and northern part of the county. Many people from within and outside the City look to us for recreational programming, yet many are not aware of the programming we offer. Several survey respondents were unaware of multiple parks, recreation resources, and facilities.

- Objective: Expand current internet presence, including the City website, to provide information on facility locations, features, and recreation programs.

- Objective: Explore the possibility of creating a Recreation Authority with other municipal groups and recreation providers.
- Objective: Explore additional methods to improve community awareness of recreation programs and facilities.
- Objective: Encourage citizen involvement in the park system through volunteer programs, interpretive programs, and the decision-making process. Consider implementing regular online community surveys to monitor progress and gain input on specific recreation decisions.

#### 7. Acquire property, as necessary, to meet the long-term recreational needs of City residents.

In the past, the City has purchased valuable parks and recreation land but has also sold land to other entities providing them with land to expand their facilities. Local officials must be conscious of the need to retain and acquire additional parkland.

- Objective: Retain existing parkland to meet recreational needs of the City.
- Objective: Encourage the use of open spaces for recreational purposes.
- Objective: Evaluate every opportunity to expand/improve the park system and take action where practical, this may include selling underused park land and using proceeds to improve or purchase other parks. Natural conservation should be considered in addition to facility expansion.

#### 8. Promote healthy, active lifestyles through the St. Johns Parks and Recreation facilities and programs.

Considering national problems of obesity, heart health, diabetes, and other health issues, it is important to take into consideration the health impact of new and existing facilities and programs. Just over 67% of respondents participate in recreation programs offered by the department, yet 58% of survey respondents still feel that the improvement of health and fitness programming would have a positive impact on their satisfaction, and 75% currently use the parks for fitness and exercise. 66% feel that the development and improvement of trails within the park system would have a very positive impact on their satisfaction, and 11% cite “lack of trails” as a reason for not using the park system more frequently.

- Objective: Promote awareness of existing facilities and programs that support healthy lifestyles and choices.
- Objective: Provide additional health and fitness programming.

- Objective: Provide additional facilities and opportunities, including walking and biking trail systems, which foster healthy choices and lifestyles.
- Objective: Provide innovative recreation opportunities for all seasons that encourage active year-round lifestyles.

## ACTION PROGRAM

### ACTION PROGRAM

The action plan for the City of St. Johns Parks and Recreation Plan includes proposed action items including capital improvements, organization, and recreation programming changes. Priority rankings were based on survey responses, goals, and discussion within the Recreation Board. Project types consist of; Capital Improvements (C), which involve monetary investment in new facilities or equipment, Maintenance (M), which involve renovating and maintaining existing features, and Planning (P), which involve brainstorming ideas and generating community buy-in for new developments.

**Figure 5**  
**City of St. Johns 2016-2020 Action Items**

Park	Project	Project Type	Related Goal	Priority
Jaycee Park	Landscaping	C		Low
	Pavilion	C		Low
Kibbee Street Park	Landscaping	C		Low
	Pavilion	C		Low
	Replace Existing Fencing	M		Low
Oak Street Park	Park Improvement Plan — explore alternative playground options (ex. nature playground)	P		Medium
Senior Citizen Park	Construct Parking Lot	C	1	Medium
	Construct Accessible Walk System	C	1	Medium
	Restroom Renovation	M	1	Medium
	Play Equipment — Install new swings	C	1	Medium
St. Johns City Park	Improve Sidewalk Circulation System	C	1, 4, 5,	High
	Renovate Bath House and Maintain Spray Park	M	1, 3	High
	Improve Trail System	M	1	High



	Renovate and Upgrade Fantasy Forest Play Structure	M	1	High
	Renovate Warming House	M	1, 4, 6, 8	Medium
	Expand and Improve Sledding Hill	C	1,4, 6, 8	Medium
	Landscaping Improvements	M		Medium
	Install Additional Playground Equipment	C	1, 8	Medium
	Main Pavilion Exterior Renovation	M		Medium
	Expand and Improve Sand Volleyball Court	C	1	Low
	Construct New Soccer Field	C	1	Low
	Improve Park Roads	M	1	Low
St. Johns Depot and Rotary Park	Park Improvement Plan (East Side)	P	1, 3, 8	Medium
	Playground Equipment	C	1, 3, 4, 6, 8	Medium
	Parking Lot Expansion	C		Low
	Senior Citizen Amenities	C		Low
Water Tower Park	Construct Accessible Walk System	C		Medium
	Land Acquisition (Purchase from Hospital)			Low
	Playground Equipment (remove and replace)	C		Low
	Park Improvement Plan		1, 3, 4, 8	Low
Other	Trail Connections — CIS Trail to Main Park		5, 6,	High
	Trail Connections — CIS Trail to Jaycee / Senior Citizens Park		1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8	Medium
	Trail Connections — CIS Trail to Kibbee Street Park (may include overpass at highway 27)		1, 2, 3,	Medium
	Implement Park Signage System	C	1, 3,	Medium
	Revise City Recreation Website	M	1, 3,6	Medium
	Park Lighting & Safety Evaluation (All Parks)			Medium
	Fell Property Development Plan / Community Building		7, 8	Low
	Identify Location for Community Dog Park		1, 3, 4, 5, 8	High
	Identify Location for Community Skate Park		1, 3, 8	High

## RATIONALE FOR ACTION PROGRAM

### Jaycee Park

In line with Master Plan goals 1 and 4, park improvements such as landscaping installations and a picnic pavilion would strengthen the neighborhood park for the surrounding community. Jaycee Park was recently renovated with new playground equipment and a sidewalk circulation system. It meets most community needs at this time, making further improvements a relatively low priority.

### Kibbee Street Park

Kibbee Street Park could see additional improvements in the future including landscaping installations, a picnic pavilion, and replacement of existing aged fencing. These improvements support goals 1 and 4 by strengthening the park and providing a safe environment. The park play equipment and sidewalk system was recently renovated and currently meets the needs of the surrounding community, making further improvements a relatively low priority.

### Oak Street Park

Oak Street Park has been underutilized in the past, partly due to its proximity to the local elementary school, which has an excellent traditional play structure. The Park Improvement Plan would encourage community input on alternative site uses, such as a nature-based playground, skate park, or dog park. In the interest of not duplicating existing resources, improvements with traditional playground equipment are not being pursued for the site. The site currently does not offer much to residents and has relatively low use numbers. Improvement to this park would meet goals 1 and 4. Priority for this project is moderate as the needs of the community are largely met by the nearby playground.

### Senior Citizen Park

Senior Citizen Park is adjacent to Jaycee Park, and its facilities will service both parks' users. The park has existing restroom facilities that are in poor condition. Frequent vandalism on site causes some hesitation to replace these facilities until a vandal-proof solution can be found. There is strong support for improvement of restrooms in the community survey and these renovations would meet goals 1, 4 and 5. Until a solution that prevents vandalism can be found, the priority to upgrade these bathrooms is moderate. There is currently no walk system or parking lot on the site, and the addition of both these aspects would greatly increase the accessibility of the park (goal 5) while meeting goals 1 and 4 by providing a safer park. Additional play equipment, such as a new set of swings, would add variety to the site while meeting goals 1, 4 and 8. Both of these upgrades are a moderate priority for the city.

### St. Johns City Park

The main city park is the largest park in St. Johns and is the most important park to 88% of the survey respondents. Recent improvements and additions include a spray park, upgraded restroom facilities, improvements to the sidewalk system and disc golf course have been completed in the last six years.

The circulation system within the park is lacking in several areas, both in paved and unpaved trails. Walking trails are some of the most used and most important features for survey respondents, and the improvement of both paved and unpaved systems would meet goals 1, 4, 5, 6, and 8. These improvements are placed as a high priority. Improving the road system and parking is slated to happen in 2020-21 fiscal year.

Winter activities were expressed to be important in the survey results, and renovations to the sledding hill and the warming house would support winter recreation in St. Johns. These renovations will include additional

lighting at the sledding hill and the ice skating warming house. Improving these features is a moderate priority for the city and would meet goals 1, 4, 6, and 8.

The Fantasy Forest play area is one of the most unique and popular parts of the Main City Park. The wooden structure is beginning to show its age and renovations will soon be necessary. Over 84% of respondents said that Fantasy Forest updates would have a positive impact with their satisfaction of the City's recreation facilities. The park is often crowded, especially at peak times, and expansion will be explored. Renovations to the Fantasy Forest will meet goals 1, 4 and 5 and is a high priority.

The play areas in the City Park are often crowded and interest was expressed in the survey in providing a separate playground area in addition to the Fantasy Forest. This additional playground equipment could help meet goals 1, 4, 5, and 8 and is a moderate priority.

Landscaping was listed as one of the most important features to survey respondents (34%) and landscape improvements within the park are a moderate priority. These improvements would meet goals 1 and 4.

The Main Pavilion is a very noticeable part of the main park and is beginning to show wear. Exterior renovation would meet goals 1 and 4 and is a moderate priority.

The park road system varies in quality and safety, some of it being unpaved. The improvement of these roads would benefit park users while meeting goals 1, 4 and 5. Improvement to the road system is being planned to happen in the 2020-21 fiscal year.

The sand volleyball court is used by many respondents and plays an important role in local league competitions. More than 50% of survey respondents feel the improvement of the court is important to their satisfaction with the City's recreation facilities. Also, there is currently no soccer field in the main city park, but 50% of respondents feel that the addition of a soccer field would have a positive effect on their satisfaction. A potential site for the soccer field would be where the current BMX Track is located. The expansion and improvement of the sand volleyball court and the addition of a soccer field would meet goals 1, 4 and 8 of the Master Plan and is a relatively low priority at this time.

### St. Johns Depot and Rotary Park

The St. Johns Depot and Rotary Park is located along the Fred-Meijer CIS Trail and the construction of a trailhead park is underway. The park is a long, thin strip, and there are currently no plans for the east side of the site. Alternatives to explore for this area include play equipment, artifact display areas (to tie into the historic train depot), a dog park, a skate park, or a high ropes course. Amenities for senior citizens, such as glider swings and fitness stations, will also be explored and incorporated. A parking lot expansion may become necessary as the park expands, but is a relatively low priority in comparison with other site improvements. The level of community support or interest in each of the options would be collected in the Park Improvement Plan. This plan would be a critical step before further improvements can take place and is a moderate priority. The projects for this site have the potential to meet goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8.

### Water Tower Park

Water Tower Park presents a unique challenge within the City park system. The park land is owned by the adjacent hospital and is leased to the City (for only 1 dollar) on a yearly basis. Until the park land can be acquired, park improvements are difficult to justify as they may not belong to the City in the long term. Regardless, the improvement of the park is important to citizens and to the City. A park improvement plan, featuring an accessible walk system and new playground equipment, could meet goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8. This plan has a relatively low to moderate priority until the land can be permanently acquired. The possibility of acquiring the land or signing a longer lease in cooperation with the hospital should be explored as a part of this plan.

### Wilson Center

In 2018, the City began renting the Wilson Center and multiple classrooms from the St. Johns Public School District for recreation programs. These programs have been received well by the community and the gym is being used for either recreation programs or private rentals almost every night from October – April. The City offers: Open gym pickleball, basketball, and volleyball; volleyball leagues, basketball clinics, yoga, Zumba, cardio drumming, Nerf battles, as well as private rentals and birthday parties. The school district is in the process of selling the building to a developer. Even though the developer has said they plan to continue to lease to the City, we are looking at it as a short-term use until something more formal is in place. The addition of the Wilson Center Gym as a long-term site would alleviate the need for a community center.

### Trail Connections

The addition of non-motorized trail connections throughout the city relate directly to goal 2 and have been a priority for the City since the completion of the Fred Meijer CIS Trail. The desire for these trail systems have been expressed by the community survey. Providing a pedestrian connection from the CIS Trail to the Main City Park has the highest priority, as this is the park that has the most users and the most regional draw. Connection to Kibbee Street Park would involve getting pedestrians across highway 27, something the community has wanted to do for some time. Connecting to both Kibbee Street Park and Senior Citizens/Jaycee Park are moderate priorities for the community. These trail connections are consistent with goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

### Dog Park

The idea of a dog park has been discussed for years in St. Johns. 35% of survey respondents feel the addition of a dog park is a high priority in the park system. The demand for a park is present, but it must be located wisely with proper community guidance and input. Potential locations are at the BMX track in the main city park or at the Depot lot, but many other potential locations should be explored. The planning for and eventual creation of a dog park would meet goals 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8 and is a low priority.

### Skate Park and High Ropes Course

A skate park has been discussed for years as a means to engage the teenage demographic in St. Johns. This proposed facility had mixed reviews in the community survey, with 10% feeling it is one of the most important features in a park. Another possible engagement solution is a high ropes course, which would require more

long-term city involvement but is more supported by the community. 42% feel a high ropes course should have funding priority, while 42% feel a skate park should be funded. Either facility could be an exciting new addition to St. Johns and the surrounding region, and a community discussion should be opened. The planning for and construction of a skate park or high ropes course would meet goals 1, 3, 4, 5, and 8 and is a low priority for the community.

### Website Revisions and Park Signage System

The community survey has revealed that many park users have trouble finding information on St. Johns parks, and some do not know that certain parks exist within the system. In order to better promote park usage, several projects have been developed with a moderate priority. Revisions to the City website including a park map and facility list would provide information to the average user at a relatively low cost to the City. This could also be applied to recreational programs. A consistent park signage system would also help citizens locate parks and develop a sense of identity for neighborhood parks and for the St. Johns park system. This will become especially important for wayfinding as non-motorized trails are developed. The improvement of the website and park signage system meets goals 1, 3, 4, and 6 and are both a moderate priority to complete.

### Lighting / Safety Evaluation

Poor night lighting was given as a top reason for not using the parks more often by 31% of respondents who felt there were limitations that keep them from using the park. Lighting has been updated in some areas of the Main City Park, but a further evaluation of the lighting and safety of all the parks may be warranted. This is a moderate priority for the city and would meet goals 1 and 4.

### Recreation Programming

The majority of recreation program users feel that offering more health and fitness classes and swimming classes would have a positive impact on their satisfaction with the St. Johns Recreational Programming. Additional classes are limited by the availability of instructors and facilities, but the option to expand wherever possible should be explored. Amenities related to these classes, such as inflatable obstacles and fitness equipment, will also be pursued. This is a moderate priority for the City and would meet goals 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8.

### Fell Property Development Plan / Community Building / Wilson Center

A community building has been discussed for years within the City of St. Johns and would have a very positive impact on recreation opportunities and programs offered. A proposed site for the community building is the Fell Property (adjacent to the Main City Park), which would have space for the facility and walking/skiing trails. Due to the large investment this would require, careful planning and proper funding sources must be in place before construction. The development of the community building is a relatively low priority due to financial reasons, but would meet goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 of the Master Plan. Below is a further description of what this community building could offer.

The community building would be used to house various community recreation needs, including multi-use courts, fitness center area, track, game-room/arcade, classroom/meeting room and multi-use room. Size of the

building would be about 44,000 square feet and with costs projected to be approximately \$150 square foot for a total of 7 million dollars.

### Fitness Center Area

The fitness center area would be located inside the track next to the multi-use courts in a 50x60 foot area. This area would be appropriate for young children to help them establish a healthy lifestyle, adults who accompany their children or simply wish to improve their health, and for older citizens who wish to exercise, but may have difficulties with the equipment found in traditional gyms. Equipment would be comprehensive and include the traditional equipment found in exercise facilities, as well as specialized and alternative forms of equipment to address the special needs of area residents. This type of exercise facility directly supports the Mission Statement of the Parks and Recreation Plan to support inter-generational recreational activities and address the recreation needs of all segments of the population.

### Multi-use Courts

It is proposed that the two courts would be side by side 50 ft. x 94 ft. Courts could be used for basketball, indoor tennis and additional volleyball courts if needed. In making them multi-use, we would be able to accommodate three needs that were indicated in the survey.

### Track

The proposed track would be a 4-lane track that would encircle the two multi-use courts and would be an eighth of a mile long. The track would provide for additional walking the jogging areas as indicated in the survey.

### Multi-use Room

The multi-use room would be used for soccer, floor-hockey, half-court basketball, and volleyball. This multi-use room would house a soccer field/floor hockey, three half-court basketball courts, and three regulation size volleyball courts.

### Game Room/Arcade

The game room would house various video games, and other tabletop games (i.e. air hockey, foosball, billiards) for people to play. This would satisfy the number two need from the results of the November 12, 2003 public planning meeting.

### Class Room /Meeting Room

This room would be available for community meetings, provide space to hold community enrichment classes, and also be used as a room to hold birthday parties or other special events.

## Appendices

### Appendix A

Q1 Rate the overall importance of the City of St. Johns parks and recreational facilities, programs, and services.

Answered: 119 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Extremely Important	63.87% 76
Important	33.61% 40
Not Important	2.52% 3
TOTAL	119

Q2 I (or members of my household) use the City Park facilities.

Answered: 116 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	95.69% 111
No	4.31% 5
TOTAL	116

Q3 Please indicate the age(s) of the users.

Answered: 118 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1-5	27.12% 32
6-9	35.59% 42
10-19	55.08% 65
20-29	16.10% 19

30-39	32.20%	38
40-49	29.66%	35
50-59	20.34%	24
60-69	10.17%	12
70+	8.47%	10
Did not answer yes	1.69%	2
Total Respondents: 118		

## Q4 How frequently do you or members of your household use each park?

Answered: 118 Skipped: 1

	TWICE A WEEK OR MORE	TWICE A MONTH	A FEW TIMES A YEAR	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
St. Johns City Park	42.37% 50	27.97% 33	27.12% 32	2.54% 3	118	1.90
Jaycee Park	3.81% 4	7.62% 8	30.48% 32	58.10% 61	105	3.43
Kibbee Street Park	6.54% 7	6.54% 7	26.17% 28	60.75% 65	107	3.41
Water Tower Park	4.76% 5	8.57% 9	22.86% 24	63.81% 67	105	3.46
Oak Street Park	4.85% 5	2.91% 3	20.39% 21	71.84% 74	103	3.59
Senior Citizen Park	0.00% 0	1.94% 2	13.59% 14	84.47% 87	103	3.83
St. Johns Depot and Rotary Park	17.43% 19	21.10% 23	46.79% 51	14.68% 16	109	2.59

## Q5 Are the City parks conveniently located for your use?

Answered: 118 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	94.92% 112



No	5.08%	6
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>118</b>

## Q6 Please select the park you would consider most important to your family.

Answered: 117 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
St. Johns City Park	83.76%	98
Jaycee Park	0.85%	1
Kibbee Street Park	4.27%	5
Water Tower Park	1.71%	2
Oak Street Park	3.42%	4
Senior Citizen Park	0.00%	0
St. Johns Depot and Rotary Park	5.98%	7
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>117</b>

## Q7 Why did you visit a City of St. Johns park?

Answered: 117 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Fitness and Exercise (Walking, Biking etc)	75.21%	88
Casual informal use (picnic, playground)	79.49%	93
Participate in a game for a league	14.53%	17
Community Event (Movie, Concerts)	47.86%	56
Youth program activity	24.79%	29
Other (please specify)	7.69%	9
<b>Total Respondents: 117</b>		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Basketball	8/12/2020 10:36 PM
2	I direct my leisure time to walking the trails and Quid Vidi	8/9/2020 11:35 AM
3	Yoga	8/8/2020 9:46 AM
4	reunions	8/7/2020 12:24 PM
5	open house	7/22/2020 11:48 AM
6	Enjoy the Splash Park when open and Fantasy Forest, plus B-ball when available and tennis courts	7/22/2020 11:48 AM
7	hockey/ice skating; batting practice	7/22/2020 11:34 AM
8	Pavilion rental for a b-day party.	7/21/2020 3:08 PM
9	Preschool graduation event	7/21/2020 3:02 PM

## Q8 Which of the following factors, if any, do you feel limit your park use?

Answered: 115 Skipped: 4

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Not enough personal time	38.26% 44
Poor night lighting	6.09% 7
Condition or availability of restrooms	6.96% 8
Lack of trails	11.30% 13
Not sure of park locations	6.96% 8
Poorly maintained	6.09% 7
Too far from home	2.61% 3
Parks don't have the right amenities	5.22% 6
Too crowded	1.74% 2
Feel unwelcome	1.74% 2
Insufficient parking	4.35% 5
Disability preventing use	0.87% 1
Disinterested in visiting park	0.00% 0

Lack of mobility accessibility	0.87%	1
Too hard to get to	0.00%	0
None of the above	33.91%	39
Other (please specify)	9.57%	11

Total Respondents: 115

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Trails at City Park are not marked well and left me feeling lost instead of enjoying my walk	8/17/2020 9:26 AM
2	Lack of funding for better equipment	8/17/2020 12:14 AM
3	Covid	8/16/2020 8:46 PM
4	40 years here and I have never heard of these parks	8/9/2020 11:35 AM
5	Right now we are avoiding the park strictly due to Covid. If that wasn't a factor we would visit the park much more often for play dates.	8/3/2020 11:37 AM
6	With me recently moving to St. Johns, there are parks here that I never heard of that I will be visiting. Thank you	7/23/2020 11:04 AM
7	High school students speeding through park	7/22/2020 3:09 PM
8	Covid.	7/22/2020 11:50 AM
9	We were playing tennis recently with our Grandsons at Main City Park. Teenagers playing Basketball were vulgar and loud, also dropped trash near Court. Very disturbing, so we left the Park.	7/22/2020 11:48 AM
10	St. Johns has some nice parks, but it is apparent when compared to cities we've visited that funding for parks/rec here is poor. Guess we all get what we pay for.	7/22/2020 11:34 AM
11	Very concerned at speed of traffic that goes through The park every single day. Kids are going to get hit.	7/21/2020 2:52 PM

## Q9 Please select the four features you would consider to be the most important when visiting a park.

Answered: 119 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Restrooms	68.07% 81
Grills	0.84% 1

Play Equipment	52.94%	63
Ball Fields	5.88%	7
Trees and Landscaping	36.13%	43
Paved Parking	5.04%	6
Picnic Tables	17.65%	21
Tennis Courts	5.88%	7
Water Spray Park	28.57%	34
Basketball Courts	10.92%	13
Natural Walking Trails	48.74%	58
Picnic Table Umbrellas	5.04%	6
Bike Racks	2.52%	3
Trash Receptacles	21.85%	26
Ice Skating Pond	4.20%	5
Picnic Shelters	11.76%	14
Benches	12.61%	15
Volleyball Courts	4.20%	5
Paved Walking Trails	22.69%	27
Soccer Fields	5.88%	7
Sledding Hill	13.45%	16
Spray Park	17.65%	21
Warming House	4.20%	5
Shuffleboard Court	3.36%	4
Green space	12.61%	15
Dog Walk Stations	9.24%	11
Pickleball Court	5.04%	6

Wheelchair Accessibility	1.68%	2
Disc Golf Course	8.40%	10
Community Centers	4.20%	5
Additional Parks	1.68%	2
Dog Park	16.81%	20
Roller Blading/Skate Park	8.40%	10
Hockey Rink	5.04%	6
Inclusive/Accessible Park	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	4.20%	5

Total Respondents: 119		
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Clean, functioning restrooms. WITH ROOM TO GET INTO AND OUT OF STALL (one stall is almost unusable at City Park due to size!!)	8/17/2020 9:26 AM
2	perhaps some decent parking - asphalt is a bonus	8/9/2020 11:35 AM
3	Water drinking stations	8/8/2020 9:46 AM
4	community events like concert in the park	8/3/2020 1:51 PM
5	recycling and trash options.	7/22/2020 8:16 AM

**Q10** How would the improvement or addition of the following features impact your satisfaction with the City of St. Johns recreation facilities?  
 Answered: 118 Skipped: 1

	VERY POSITIVE IMPACT	SOMEWHAT POSITIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Restrooms	64.10% 75	26.50% 31	9.40% 11	0.00% 0	117	1.17
Grills	16.67% 19	24.56% 28	58.77% 67	0.00% 0	114	0.66
Play Equipment	65.79% 75	16.67% 19	17.54% 20	0.00% 0	114	0.99
Ball Fields	18.92% 21	36.94% 41	43.24% 48	0.90% 1	111	0.96

Trees and Landscaping	44.64%	40.18%	14.29%	0.89%		
	50	45	16	1	112	1.29
Paved Parking	21.24%	31.86%	45.13%	1.77%		
	24	36	51	2	113	0.92
Picnic Tables	30.09%	53.10%	15.93%	0.88%		
	34	60	18	1	113	1.40
Tennis Courts	14.55%	32.73%	52.73%	0.00%		
	16	36	58	0	110	0.80
Water Spray Park	52.73%	32.73%	12.73%	1.82%		
	58	36	14	2	110	1.25
Basketball Courts	23.15%	39.81%	34.26%	2.78%		
	25	43	37	3	108	1.14
Natural Walking Trails	66.07%	30.36%	3.57%	0.00%		
	74	34	4	0	112	1.27
Picnic Table Umbrellas	18.92%	41.44%	37.84%	1.80%		
	21	46	42	2	111	1.09
Bike Racks	12.73%	43.64%	43.64%	0.00%		
	14	48	48	0	110	1.00
Trash Receptacles	57.89%	31.58%	10.53%	0.00%		
	66	36	12	0	114	1.21
Ice Skating Pond	24.11%	37.50%	38.39%	0.00%		
	27	42	43	0	112	0.99
Picnic Shelters	27.68%	45.54%	26.79%	0.00%		
	31	51	30	0	112	1.19
Benches	34.82%	43.75%	21.43%	0.00%		
	39	49	24	0	112	1.22
Volleyball Courts	9.91%	37.84%	50.45%	1.80%		
	11	42	56	2	111	0.93
Paved Walking Trails	50.44%	29.20%	18.58%	1.77%		
	57	33	21	2	113	1.16
Soccer Fields	14.55%	36.36%	48.18%	0.91%		
	16	40	53	1	110	0.91
Fantasy Forest	62.16%	25.23%	10.81%	1.80%		
	69	28	12	2	111	1.20
Sledding Hill	44.55%	39.09%	14.55%	1.82%		
	49	43	16	2	110	1.30
Spray Park	57.27%	29.09%	11.82%	1.82%		
	63	32	13	2	110	1.23

Warming House	26.79%	33.04%	39.29%	0.89%	112	0.96
	30	37	44	1		
Shuffleboard Court	11.93%	33.94%	51.38%	2.75%	109	0.91
	13	37	56	3		
Green space	40.91%	39.09%	18.18%	1.82%	110	1.26
	45	43	20	2		
Dog Walk Stations	29.63%	28.70%	37.04%	4.63%	108	1.06
	32	31	40	5		
Pickleball Court	14.41%	27.93%	54.05%	3.60%	111	0.85
	16	31	60	4		
Wheelchair Accessibility	33.64%	22.73%	43.64%	0.00%	110	0.79
	37	25	48	0		
Disc Golf Course	19.27%	33.03%	44.95%	2.75%	109	0.96
	21	36	49	3		
Wilson Center Recreation Facilities	45.61%	28.95%	21.93%	3.51%	114	1.18
	52	33	25	4		
Indoor Birthday Party Room	28.18%	36.36%	31.82%	3.64%	110	1.15
	31	40	35	4		
Indoor Fitness Facility	53.57%	25.89%	16.96%	3.57%	112	1.20
	60	29	19	4		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Like current park system but #1 addition would be more trails like on the Westside of the city park even if the just ran through City owned lands. Do not need to be paved.	8/9/2020 8:03 PM
2	Exercise stations on the trail like Portland has	8/3/2020 1:51 PM
3	The play ground fantasy forest needs MAJOR UPKEEP. Alot of the structure is extremely loose. Trees need to be trimmed. What is a limb falls on a. Child. The parking lot needs major help. Repaved.	8/3/2020 10:36 AM
4	I would love to see a skatepark put in!	7/28/2020 10:16 AM
5	Our community desperately needs a skate park	7/27/2020 1:30 PM
6	Restrooms, even portapotties would be reallt great at the smaller neighborhood parks.	7/22/2020 11:28 AM
7	More availability of indoor recreation courses.	7/22/2020 8:16 AM

## Q11 How would you describe your overall satisfaction with the St. Johns parks?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very Satisfied	38.66% 46
Satisfied	54.62% 65

Dissatisfied	4.20%	5
Very dissatisfied	0.00%	0
Comments	2.52%	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>119</b>
<b>#</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>	<b>DATE</b>
1	The smaller parks badly need to be updated. More accessibility equipment.	8/16/2020 7:10 PM
2	as stated earlier 40 years here and I barely know of their existence	8/9/2020 11:35 AM
3	Neutral	7/22/2020 8:16 AM

## Q12 I think existing park areas need maintenance.

Answered: 117 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	66.67%	78
Disagree	11.11%	13
No Opinion	22.22%	26
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>117</b>

## Q13 There are limitations to the City of St. Johns parks system that keeps you and/or your household members from using City parks and/or activities whenever you would like.

Answered: 117 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	11.97%	14
No	75.21%	88
No Opinion	12.82%	15
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>117</b>



**Q14** If yes, which of the following is/are the reason(s). (Check all of that apply.)

Answered: 17 Skipped: 102

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Transportation	5.88%	1
Safety	11.76%	2
Health Concerns	11.76%	2
Fees	5.88%	1
Lighting	35.29%	6
Parking	5.88%	1
Location	11.76%	2
Hours	35.29%	6
Accessibility/Inclusion	5.88%	1
Other (please specify)	29.41%	5
Total Respondents: 17		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Muddy at times	8/17/2020 6:58 AM
2	Speeding kids	7/22/2020 3:09 PM
3	The splash park and Fantasy Forest were not open in 2020!	7/22/2020 11:48 AM
4	Lack of Restrooms	7/22/2020 11:28 AM
5	Poor playground equipment	7/22/2020 2:20 AM

## Q15 I find the City parks to be clean and well-maintained.

Answered: 116 Skipped: 3

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	87.93%	102
Disagree	3.45%	4
No Opinion	8.62%	10
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>116</b>

## Q16 I feel the City should provide additional recreational facilities.

Answered: 118 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	54.24%	64
Disagree	15.25%	18
No Opinion	30.51%	36
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>118</b>

## Q17 The City should provide more of the following recreation facilities:

Answered: 108 Skipped: 11

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/bike Trails	61.11%	66
Softball Fields	1.85%	2
Community Center	34.26%	37
Hockey Rink	12.96%	14

Sledding Hill	14.81%	16
Grills	4.63%	5
Restrooms	30.56%	33
Soccer Fields	9.26%	10
Roller Blade Rink	13.89%	15
Volleyball Courts	3.70%	4
Shuffleboard Facilities	9.26%	10
Paved Parking	4.63%	5
Cross Country Ski Trail	22.22%	24
Skateboard Facilities	16.67%	18
Trees and Landscaping	16.67%	18
Tennis Courts	3.70%	4
Water Spray Park	16.67%	18
Picnic Areas	15.74%	17
Benches	15.74%	17
Parks	10.19%	11
Playgrounds	25.00%	27
Basketball Courts	12.04%	13
Wilson Center Gym	23.15%	25
Other	9.26%	10
None	8.33%	9
Total Respondents: 108		

## Q18 I (or members of my household) participate in City Recreational Programs.

Answered: 119 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	67.23% 80
No	32.77% 39
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>119</b>

## Q19 Please indicate the age(s) of the users.

Answered: 108 Skipped: 11

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
1-5	16.67% 18
6-9	30.56% 33
10-19	37.96% 41
20-29	6.48% 7
30-39	14.81% 16
40-49	14.81% 16
50-59	11.11% 12
60-69	9.26% 10
70+	6.48% 7
Did not answer yes	17.59% 19
<b>Total Respondents: 108</b>	

## Q20 The City provides a variety of recreational programs.

Answered: 118 Skipped: 1

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Agree	75.42% 89
Disagree	5.08% 6
No Opinion	8.47% 10
Comments	11.02% 13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>118</b>

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Wish there were more options but glad we have something	8/17/2020 7:48 AM
2	Great new ones	8/16/2020 7:10 PM
3	Your guide says as much but haveneverparticipated	8/9/2020 11:35 AM
4	Love the adult yoga	8/8/2020 9:46 AM
5	The quality was so poor for the kids programs and the fees too high.	8/5/2020 8:04 AM
6	They are often full	8/3/2020 10:49 AM
7	They are limited, but I know that you try new programs and they don't get much support. People ask for new programs, but don't make time to support them.	7/23/2020 2:33 PM
8	Would like to see more Senior Citizens Information.	7/23/2020 11:04 AM
9	There needs to be more quality programs.	7/22/2020 11:48 AM
10	The most needed activity is a bike park!	7/22/2020 11:35 AM
11	I wish there were more adult programs	7/22/2020 11:28 AM
12	yes, a variety of programs are provided but are EXTREMELY limited and nearly impossible to participate in.	7/22/2020 8:16 AM
13	Much more now than a few years ago. I would love to see the ball diamonds used more.	7/21/2020 3:03 PM

## Q21 How satisfied are you with the current City Recreation Programs in St. Johns?

Answered: 118 Skipped: 1

	VERY SATISFIED	SOMEWHAT SATISFIED	SOMEWHAT DISATISFIED	VERY DISATISFIED	DOES NOT APPLY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
(no label)	34.75% 41	46.61% 55	6.78% 8	3.39% 4	8.47% 10	118	2.04

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Hmm - If you do not use it you cannot have an opinion	8/9/2020 11:35 AM
2	My dissatisfaction isn't due to your efforts, but to a lack of community engagement	7/23/2020 2:33 PM
3	would love more lap swim!	7/22/2020 1:26 PM
4	I wish there were more adult programs and not just sports. Adventure type camps, nature activities, art activities, etc etc.	7/22/2020 11:28 AM
5	PLEASE fix the water tower park! I have been asking for years, it's dismal and sad. Figure something out with the hospital. It's a great location and I took my kids there all the time before the slide and other equipment was removed. The other parks all have nice upgraded playgrounds and this great space is left to rot.	7/22/2020 2:20 AM

## Q22 The City should provide more of the following recreation programs (select all that apply):

Answered: 112 Skipped: 7

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Health and Fitness Classes	58.04% 65
Volleyball Leagues	11.61% 13
Senior Programs	19.64% 22
Roller Hockey League	9.82% 11
Basketball Leagues	18.75% 21
Softball Leagues	11.61% 13
Dance, Music, Theater	31.25% 35

Youth Slow Pitch	8.04%	9
Arts and Crafts	20.54%	23
Soccer Leagues	16.07%	18
Walking Club	30.36%	34
Tennis Leagues	12.50%	14
Special Events	25.00%	28
Football Leagues	8.04%	9
Swimming Classes	34.82%	39
T-Ball LeaguesOther	8.93%	10
Fitness Programs	39.29%	44
Ice Hockey League	14.29%	16
Infant/Toddler Programs	19.64%	22
None	4.46%	5
Other (please specify)	8.04%	9

Total Respondents: 112

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Lap swimming	8/17/2020 12:25 PM
2	yoga	8/16/2020 8:50 PM
3	no opinion	8/9/2020 8:03 PM
4	PICKLEBALL COURTS	7/25/2020 6:13 AM
5	Fitness programs for seniors	7/23/2020 11:04 AM
6	All activities added are a plus	7/22/2020 9:11 PM
7	The Northeast Section of City needs a neighborhood Park and playground.	7/22/2020 11:48 AM
8	more adult swim options	7/21/2020 5:18 PM
9	Kickball league	7/21/2020 3:09 PM

## Q23 How would the improvement or addition of the following programs impact your interest in the City of St. Johns Recreational Programs?

Answered: 116 Skipped: 3

	VERY POSITIVE IMPACT	SOMEWHAT POSITIVE IMPACT	NO IMPACT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Special Events	55.05% 60	33.94% 37	11.01% 12	109	1.56
Health and Fitness Classes	61.40% 70	27.19% 31	11.40% 13	114	1.50
Swimming Classes	47.32% 53	27.68% 31	25.00% 28	112	1.78
Concerts in the Park	54.46% 61	28.57% 32	16.96% 19	112	1.63
Nature Education Programs	44.14% 49	38.74% 43	17.12% 19	111	1.73
Summer Camps	41.07% 46	35.71% 40	23.21% 26	112	1.82
Walking Camps	39.81% 43	25.93% 28	34.26% 37	108	1.94
Dance, Music, Theater	44.55% 49	35.45% 39	20.00% 22	110	1.75
Open Gym Activities	36.70% 40	42.20% 46	21.10% 23	109	1.84
Arts and Crafts	37.27% 41	38.18% 42	24.55% 27	110	1.87
Senior Programs	35.14% 39	20.72% 23	44.14% 49	111	2.09
T-ball Leagues	25.00% 27	22.22% 24	52.78% 57	108	2.28
Basketball Leagues	28.57% 30	31.43% 33	40.00% 42	105	2.11
Basketball Clinics	27.10% 29	35.51% 38	37.38% 40	107	2.10
Soccer Leagues	25.23% 27	33.64% 36	41.12% 44	107	2.16
Kickball Leagues	23.15% 25	36.11% 39	40.74% 44	108	2.18
Softball Leagues	25.00% 27	28.70% 31	46.30% 50	108	2.21
Football Leagues	22.43% 24	27.10% 29	50.47% 54	107	2.28



Volleyball Leagues	22.43%	30.84%	46.73%		
	24	33	50	107	2.24
Ice Hockey Leagues	22.22%	28.70%	49.07%		
	24	31	53	108	2.27
Tennis Leagues	22.43%	31.78%	45.79%		
	24	34	49	107	2.23
Karate	21.50%	37.38%	41.12%		
	23	40	44	107	2.20
Horseshoes	14.95%	35.51%	49.53%		
	16	38	53	107	2.35
Roller Hockey Leagues	14.02%	25.23%	60.75%		
	15	27	65	107	2.47
Cornhole Tournaments	29.63%	33.33%	37.04%		
	32	36	40	108	2.07
Infant/Toddler Programs	29.63%	29.63%	40.74%		
	32	32	44	108	2.11
Pickleball Tournaments	22.43%	24.30%	53.27%		
	24	26	57	107	2.31

## Q24 How frequently do you or your household participate in each City Recreational Program when offered?

115	Answered: Skipped: 4	ONCE A WEEK	TWICE A WEEK	TWICE A MONTH	A FEW TIMES A YEAR	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Concerts in the Park		11.50% 13	0.00% 0	7.96% 9	59.29% 67	21.24% 24	113	3.79
Special Events		4.63% 5	0.00% 0	3.70% 4	76.85% 83	14.81% 16	108	3.97
Summer Camps		0.00% 0	1.85% 2	0.93% 1	32.41% 35	64.81% 70	108	4.60
Swimming Classes		1.82% 2	5.45% 6	0.91% 1	25.45% 28	66.36% 73	110	4.49
Health and Fitness Classes		9.91% 11	2.70% 3	4.50% 5	22.52% 25	60.36% 67	111	4.21
Basketball Clinics		2.75% 3	0.92% 1	2.75% 3	22.94% 25	70.64% 77	109	4.58
Arts and Crafts		3.77% 4	0.00% 0	2.83% 3	19.81% 21	73.58% 78	106	4.59
T-ball Leagues		3.74% 4	0.93% 1	1.87% 2	12.15% 13	81.31% 87	107	4.66
Softball Leagues		2.80% 3	0.00% 0	1.87% 2	4.67% 5	90.65% 97	107	4.80
Volleyball Leagues		5.61% 6	1.87% 2	0.93% 1	4.67% 5	86.92% 93	107	4.65
Open Gym Basketball		2.80% 3	0.93% 1	1.87% 2	13.08% 14	81.31% 87	107	4.69
Open Gym Volleyball		4.72% 5	0.94% 1	1.89% 2	4.72% 5	87.74% 93	106	4.70
Open Gym Pickleball		2.83% 3	1.89% 2	2.83% 3	5.66% 6	86.79% 92	106	4.72
Kickball League		0.94% 1	0.00% 0	2.83% 3	7.55% 8	88.68% 94	106	4.83
Football Leagues		1.89% 2	1.89% 2	1.89% 2	9.43% 10	84.91% 90	106	4.74
Open Gym Soccer		1.89% 2	0.94% 1	0.00% 0	10.38% 11	86.79% 92	106	4.79

Karate	1.89%	0.00%	0.00%	6.60%	91.51%		
	2	0	0	7	97	106	4.86
Nerf Battles	0.00%	0.93%	3.74%	28.97%	66.36%		
	0	1	4	31	71	107	4.61
Scooter Night	0.93%	0.00%	3.74%	11.21%	84.11%		
	1	0	4	12	90	107	4.78
Words and Wiggles	1.90%	0.00%	0.95%	6.67%	90.48%		
	2	0	1	7	95	105	4.84

## Q25 Please select the two best ways to let you know about recreational programs and events in the future.

Answered: 117 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)	64.96% 76
Word of Mouth	3.42% 4
City of St. Johns Website	22.22% 26
Recreation Department Registration Website	10.26% 12
Newspaper	6.84% 8
Email	55.56% 65
Text Blasts	27.35% 32
Parks and Recreation Seasonal Brochure	12.82% 15
Program Flyers	9.40% 11
Visited or called the City/Recreation Department Office	0.00% 0
Radio	0.00% 0
Other (please specify)	1.71% 2
<b>Total Respondents: 117</b>	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	mail	8/9/2020 11:35 AM
2	So much info is on facebook that I either don't see events, or quickly forget them.	7/23/2020 2:33 PM

## Q26 Recognizing that there is limited funding available, how would you prioritize the following areas?

Answered: 115 Skipped: 4

	HIGH PRIORITY	MODERATE PRIORITY	LOW PRIORITY	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Playground equipment	54.05% 60	29.73% 33	16.22% 18	111	1.62
Preserving unique natural areas	37.27% 41	49.09% 54	13.64% 15	110	1.76
Connecting parks and communities via trails	40.71% 46	38.94% 44	20.35% 23	113	1.80
Extended hiking trails (natural-surfaced trails more than 5 miles)	44.14% 49	32.43% 36	23.42% 26	111	1.79
Upgrading park restrooms	23.85% 26	48.62% 53	27.52% 30	109	2.04
City Park Renovations	10.91% 12	58.18% 64	30.91% 34	110	2.20
Natural-surfaced paths in parks	22.02% 24	41.28% 45	36.70% 40	109	2.15
Nature programs	14.02% 15	36.45% 39	49.53% 53	107	2.36
Paved trails in parks	16.82% 18	31.78% 34	51.40% 55	107	2.35
Buying land to expand existing parks	17.76% 19	40.19% 43	42.06% 45	107	2.24
Park shelters or lodges	10.19% 11	37.04% 40	52.78% 57	108	2.43
Mountain bike trails	13.89% 15	33.33% 36	52.78% 57	108	2.39
Rock climbing area	7.34% 8	28.44% 31	64.22% 70	109	2.57
High ropes course	9.17% 10	36.70% 40	54.13% 59	109	2.45

Cross country ski trails	11.93%	29.36%	58.72%		
	13	32	64	109	2.47
Off-leash dog parks	18.18%	25.45%	56.36%		
	20	28	62	110	2.38
Outdoor amphitheaters	5.50%	33.03%	61.47%		
	6	36	67	109	2.56
Agricultural education	7.41%	29.63%	62.96%		
	8	32	68	108	2.56
Skate/roller park	23.36%	25.23%	51.40%		
	25	27	55	107	2.28
Disc golf courses	7.48%	28.04%	64.49%		
	8	30	69	107	2.57
Equestrian trails	1.87%	8.41%	89.72%		
	2	9	96	107	2.88
Indoor fitness facility	24.55%	39.09%	36.36%		
	27	43	40	110	2.12
Special event/birthday rental facilities	18.35%	37.61%	44.04%		
	20	41	48	109	2.26

**Q27 Please indicate your level of support for these potential sources of additional funding to improve the St. Johns parks, recreation programs, and trails.**

Answered: 116 Skipped: 3

	STRONGLY SUPPORT	MODERATELY SUPPORT	NEUTRAL	MODERATELY OPPOSE	STRONGLY OPPOSE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Expand park system funding from St. Johns' general tax base	29.31%	39.66%	24.14%	2.59%	4.31%		
	34	46	28	3	5	116	2.13
Ask voters to support a new millage for St. Johns Park and Trail system	32.17%	32.17%	20.00%	6.96%	8.70%		
	37	37	23	8	10	115	2.28
Implement fees for park usage	5.17%	11.21%	12.93%	15.52%	55.17%		
	6	13	15	18	64	116	4.04
Develop new user fees for activities that are currently free	4.42%	16.81%	26.55%	23.01%	29.20%		
	5	19	30	26	33	113	3.56

**Q28 I would be willing to pay a millage for improved recreational facilities and programs.**

Answered: 117 Skipped: 2

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Agree	64.96%	76
Disagree	16.24%	19
No Opinion	18.80%	22
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>117</b>

**Q29 Under what conditions might you support a tax millage for the St. Johns Parks and Trails system?**

Answered: 109 Skipped: 10

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Funds must only be used where needed to operate, expand, and improve the City park system	66.06%	72
Funds can only be used to acquire new land for City parks and trails	12.84%	14
Must be renewed by voters every 5 years	55.96%	61
Must be renewed by voters every 10 years	15.60%	17
Other (please specify)	6.42%	7
<b>Total Respondents: 109</b>		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Only if the surrounding areas are also taxed for usage, and not just city residents. They drive in and use the facility as well. It would also need to be a very, very small millage, renewed every 2 years.	8/17/2020 9:26 AM
2	Dog park	8/17/2020 12:06 AM
3	Do not support	8/16/2020 10:48 PM
4	I will never approve of any city mil until Mayer Hufnagel and Commissioner Rustman are removed. They both have a negative impact on the City of St, Johns.	8/16/2020 8:30 PM
5	I would support all conditions. Parks are vital for physical and social health!	8/3/2020 1:51 PM
6	OBVIOUSLY MY SUPPORT WOULD BE BASWED ON WHAT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REC PROGRAM ARE PROPOSED, BUT IMRPOVEMENTS ARE A NECESSITY IF THIS COMMUNITY IS GOING TO GROW AND DRAW PEOPLE TO IT.	7/25/2020 6:13 AM
7	Programs need to be more available. limited programs to 16 people is too limiting (ie- yoga program this year)	7/22/2020 8:16 AM

## Q30 Where do you live?

Answered: 119 Skipped: 0

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of St. Johns	100.00%	119
Victor Township	0.00%	0
Bingham Township	0.00%	0
Olive Township	0.00%	0
Greenbush Township	0.00%	0
Bengal Township	0.00%	0
Essex Township	0.00%	0
Duplain Township	0.00%	0
Riley Township	0.00%	0
Ovid Township	0.00%	0
Other	0.00%	0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>119</b>

# Q31 Do you currently have an account on the Recreation Department registration site? <https://stjohnsmi.myrec.com/info/default.aspx>

Answered: 97 Skipped: 22

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	60.82%	59
No	39.18%	38
TOTAL		97

## Public View Comments

#	Other	Date
1	I think it's really sad that a dog park is a higher priority than figuring out a solution to the Water Tower Park problem. It's acknowledged that the park is in a serious state and is basically unusable due to lack of access and play equipment. I live within view of it and there's rarely anyone there even on the nicest days. There's nothing to do for kids or anyone else. But in the plan it's listed as "low" priority. But a park for dogs rates "high." That's completely backwards.	11/10/20 6:31 pm
2	I am really impressed with the level of communication and planning, thank you! I am also pleased to see the emphasis on trails and to learn of the related survey results. Walking or biking with my family provides precious quality time and exercise. With so many of our residents spread out in the country, greater access and connectivity to the lovely trails would be wonderful. Very best and stay well.	11/10/20 1:12 pm
3	Took some time last night and read your Master Plan and just wanted to compliment you on the thoroughness and overall professionalism the plan emits. I was very impressed. You and your "team" did a fantastic job and I am grateful we have your department in our community. Job Well Done! The only thought I had was this; why wouldn't you incorporate video surveillance in your problem areas (vandalism/safety). The systems available these days are not egregiously expensive and I would think, provide the city with recourse as well as act as a deterrent (with signage) to delinquency. It may also comfort our elderly population, parental concerns, and act as an aid for law enforcement should they be needed. I am not suggesting active monitoring, rather continuous recording and storage that could be accessed should the need arise. Thank you, and again – Great Job!	11/10/20 6:31 pm



# Appendix B - Notice of Plan Availability

Send Email Blast by Account:  
Account Type: All  
Ages: All  
Grades: All

Send New Email Blast

Subject: Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan Review

Opt In Type:  Cancellations  General

Message Body:

The City of St. Johns Parks and Recreation Board would like to get your input on the proposed 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan. The plan will be available for public viewing and comments from November 11 – December 18, 2020. A master plan, approved by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, is required if the City wants to apply for grant funding from the DNR. Your comments will help with the development of the plan. The plan can be found by going to the [www.cityofstjohnsmich.com](http://www.cityofstjohnsmich.com) or by copying and pasteing the link below in you browser search bar. [https://cityofstjohnsmi.com/egov/documents/1605032081\\_31646.pdf](https://cityofstjohnsmi.com/egov/documents/1605032081_31646.pdf). Any comments will be included in the Master Plan and can be sent to [bschafer@stjohnsmich.com](mailto:bschafer@stjohnsmich.com).

Thank you for your time

Bill Schafer

Optional Reply-to Email Address (default: BSCHAFFER@stjohnsmich.com)

Photo Upload

Choose File No file chosen Upload

Document Upload

Recreation Department

activities in the City.

They work in cooperation with other groups and individuals to carry out these activities throughout the year.

All program information and rates are subject to change. Please check back often on our Recreation Department website for updates prior to your final registration. All programs are subject to cancellation if the minimum registration is not met.

**William S. Schafer - Recreation Director**  
**Marie Heard - Recreation Programmer**

**St. Johns has a NEW Recreation Department website and registration system, [myrec.com](http://myrec.com)!**

Adult Leagues & Programs, Youth Programs, and Pool Programs can be found using the Register Now link below:

**REGISTER NOW**

**Mission & Master Plan:**  
**Mission Statement**  
Promote a broad, year round range of quality indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities to City residents of all ages and physical and mental abilities and encourage intergenerational participation in activities.  
**Master Plan**  
[Five Year Master Plan 2021 - 2025 - DRAFT](#)  
Questions/comments regarding the Five Year Master Plan, please contact [William Schafer, Recreation Director](#)  
[Five Year Master Plan 2016 - 2020](#)

**More Information**  
Find content and services related to this page.  
[Action Center](#)  
[Document Center](#)  
[Forms & Applications](#)  
[Useful Links](#)  
[Locations](#)  
[Services Index](#)

Park Inventory  
Spray Park

Like us on Facebook

## Appendix C - Public Hearing Notice and E-mail

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

LSJ MEDIA

300 S. Washington Square, Suite 300, Lansing, MI 48933

State of Michigan, County of Macomb

IN THE MATTER OF:

CITY OF ST JOHNS/LEGALS

PO BOX 477

SAINT JOHNS, MI 48879

### City of St Johns Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given the St. Johns City Commission will hold a public hearing to take comments on the proposed 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan. The public hearing will be on Monday, January 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Virtual Meetings Via Telephonic Conference, please join my meeting from YOUR computer, tablet or smartphone: [https://www.gotomeet.me/City\\_ofStJohns](https://www.gotomeet.me/City_ofStJohns) or Dial 1 866 899 4679, Meeting ID: 350-938-341, Per State Executive Order No. 2020-15 Concerning OMA and COVID-19. Those unable to attend the public hearing can view the plan on the city website at <https://cityofstjohnsmi.com/@gov/documents/160503208131646.pdf> and give written comment on the master plan to [bschafer@stjohnzmich.com](mailto:bschafer@stjohnzmich.com) by January 5, 2021. Please call 224-8944 ext 227 if you have additional questions.

Notice: People with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in the meeting should contact the Recreation Department at (989) 224-8944 ext. 227 at least two (2) working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.


CCN.4522686

12/27/2020


Being duly sworn, says that he/she is authorized by the publisher of Clinton County News, to swear that a certain notice, a copy of which is annexed here to, was published in the following publication:

1. Published in the English language for the dissemination of general and/or legal news, and
2. Has a bonfide list of paying customers or has been published at least once a week in the same community without interruption for at least 2 years, and
3. Has been established, published and circulated at least once a week without interruption for at least one (1) year in the community where the publication is to occur.

Clinton County News, 12/27/20

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Totoraitis

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 28th DAY OF Su  
December, 2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GINA ANNE HUFF

Notary Public State of Michigan

County of Livingston

My commission expires March 9, 2023

Acting in the County of Macomb 0004522686, LSJ-L08041



LSJ-LSJ-Clinton County News

Open PDFs without converting 1: x | Saint Johns, MI Laws | City of St. Johns Recreation: Ma: x | +

stjohnsmi.myrec.com/management/administration/email\_blast/send/preview.aspx?EmailBlastID=21489

Apps | IntelliGrants - Login | New Tab | FetchGIS | City of St. Johns Re... | https://secure.myre... | Chapter 2: Scoping... | Saint Johns, MI Laws

View Email Blast

Welcome William Schafer

Member Search | Go

Accounts Administration De-Activate Email Update Residency Disclaimer Email Blasts Text Blasts Exclusion Dates Manage Users Settings Dept Web Info Facilities Finance Home Page Manage Photos Memberships Misc Products Programs Reports


View Recipients | View Non-Recipients | Return to Email Blast List

Send Email Blast by Account:  
 Account Type: All  
 Ages: All  
 Grades: All

View Email Blast

Subject	Opt In Type	Reply-to Email Address
Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan Public Hearing	General	BSCHAFFER@stjohnsmich.com (system default)

Message Body ( View Full Window )



100 E. State St Suite 1100, St Johns, MI, 48879 • (989) 224-8944 • <http://www.StJohnsMichRec.com>

I wanted to let you know the St. Johns City Commission will hold a public hearing to take comments on the proposed 2021-2025 Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan. The public hearing will be on Monday, January 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m., Virtual Meetings Via Telephonic Conference, please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone: <https://www.gotomeet.me/CityofStJohns> or Dial 1 866 899 4679, Meeting ID: 350-938-341, Per State Executive Order No. 2020-15 Concerning OMA and COVID-19. Those unable to attend the public hearing can view the plan on the city website at [https://cityofstjohnsmi.com/egov/documents/1605032081\\_31646.pdf](https://cityofstjohnsmi.com/egov/documents/1605032081_31646.pdf) and give written comment on the master plan to [bschafer@stjohnsmich.com](mailto:bschafer@stjohnsmich.com) by January 8, 2021. Please call 224-8944 ext 227 if you have additional questions.

Send Type:  Scheduled  Standard

Last Modified on 1/6/2021 10:38:24 AM by William Schafer | Created on 1/5/2021 11:32:29 AM by William Schafer

Send Email Now Cancel

This is a sample email for one customer in your email blast. All customers will receive a similar email.

Click View Recipients at the top of the page then click one of the "Export To" links to export the recipient list.

Type here to search

3:44 PM 1/28/2021

## Appendix D – Public Hearing Minutes

Eric Hufnagel  
Mayor

Jean Ruestman  
Vice Mayor

Bob Craig  
Commissioner

Tamara Kirschenbauer  
Commissioner

Brad Gurski  
Commissioner



Jon Stoppels  
City Manager

Dave J. Kudwa  
Community Development

Mindy J. Seavey  
City Clerk

Kristina Kinde  
City Treasurer

John B. Salemi  
City Attorney

Steven Martin  
Director of Public Services.

### EXCERPT OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2021 ST. JOHNS CITY COMMISSION MEETING

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS

##### 1. Parks and Recreation 2021-2025 5-Year Master Plan Public Hearing

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Kirschenbauer that the city commission open the public hearing.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: craig

YEA: Gurski

YEA: Kirschenbauer

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel NAY: None

Motion carried.

The public hearing was opened at 6:08 p.m.

City Manager Stoppels said the master plan is a very important document and requires citizen input. He said Bill has done an outstanding amount of work on it with his staff.

Recreation Director Schafer said a master plan was required by the DNR to apply for grants. He said we must have multiple opportunities for public input and we have done that. He said they need a resolution of support from the city commission submitted by February 1st. He said the survey took place over the summer and they had 242 people respond to the survey. He said the previous survey they had 287 responses. He said they did add a few questions and it may have been too many. He discussed grants the city has received and projects that are still on our plan. He discussed some of the negative comments.

Mayor Hufnagel asked if anyone from the public was present to discuss this.

Ed Thelen, Parks and Recreation Board member, was present. He thanked Bill and staff on the wonderful job they did on the master plan. He asked the commission for their support.

Commissioner Craig said they had time to review this. It covers a number of potential projects and is very comprehensive. At the board meeting (Parks and Recreation Board), we supported it. He said there were some comments from citizens on the Scott Road trail. They hope it will get connected down to Townsend Road. He said he heard comments on the M-21/Scott Road intersection. He said some streets, traffic and safety concerns.

Commissioner Ruestman said thought it was a very good plan. She said she didn't know the senior citizen park was called the senior citizen park.

Commissioner Gurski said it was good to see the parks being used during the pandemic.

Commissioner Kirschenbauer said it was a very good plan and it prioritizes.

Mayor Hufnagel said even though this is mandated, it is a great exercise. He said he was glad we didn't have to contract with a consultant this time. He looks forward to achieving the goals.

Motion by Commissioner Craig seconded by Commissioner Kirschenbauer that the city commission close the public hearing.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Craig

YEA: Gurski

YEA: Kirschenbauer

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel NAY: None

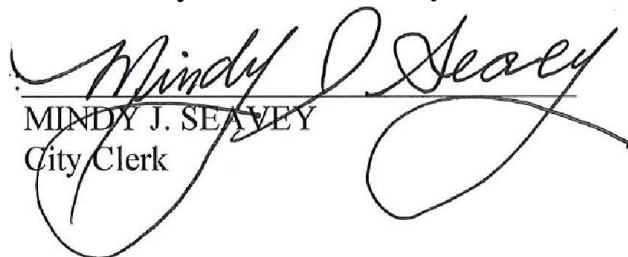
Motion carried.

The public hearing was closed at 6:17 p.m.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an excerpt of the minutes of the St. Johns City Commission meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021. A.D.



By DATED: January 28, 2021.

  
MINDY J. SEAVEY  
City Clerk

Eric Hufnagel  
Mayor

Jean Ruestman  
Vice Mayor

Bob Craig  
Commissioner

Tamara Kirschenbauer  
Commissioner

Brad Gurski  
Commissioner



Jon Stoppels  
City Manager

Dave J. Kudwa  
Community Development

Mindy J. Seavey  
City Clerk

Kristina Kinde  
City Treasurer

John B. Salemi  
City Attorney

Steven M. Martin  
Director of Public Services

EXCERPT OF MINUTES  
OF THE JANUARY 11, 2021  
ST. JOHNS CITY COMMISSION MEETING

3. Resolution #3-2021 - Parks and Recreation 2021-2025 5-Year Master Plan

City Manager Stoppels said this is the adoption of the 5-year master plan.

Motion by Commissioner Craig seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the city commission adopt Resolution #3-2021 - Parks and Recreation 2021-2025 5-Year Master Plan.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: craig

YEA: Gurski

YEA: Kirschenbauer

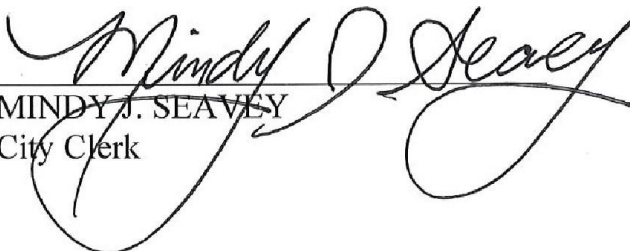
YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel NAY: None

Motion carried.



I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an excerpt of the minutes of the St. Johns City Commission meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D. 2021.

By:   
MINDY J. SEAVEY  
City Clerk

DATED: January 28, 2021

100 East state street, P O. Box 477, St. Johns, Michigan 48879-0477

(989) 224-8944 Fax (989) 224-2204

E-mail: csj@ci.saint-johns.mi.us

**RESOLUTION #3-2021  
CITY OF ST. JOHNS CITY COMMISSION  
FIVE YEAR PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN  
2021 - 2025**

At a regular meeting of the City of St. Johns City Commission, held virtually, at 6:00 p.m. on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2021 ;

Present: Commissioners Hufnagel, Craig, Ruestman, Kirschenbauer, Gurski

Absent: None

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Craig and supported by Commissioner Gurski.

WHEREAS, the City of St. Johns has undertaken a planning process to determine the parks and recreation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2021 through 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City of St Johns began the process of developing a community recreation in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the City of St Johns were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days for plan, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on January 11, 2021 virtually at a St Johns City Commission regular meeting to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the City of St Johns 2021-2025 Five-year Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of St Johns has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the City of St Johns, and

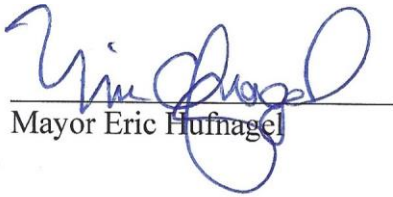
WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the St Johns City Commission voted to adopt said City of St Johns 2021-2025 Five-year Master Plan

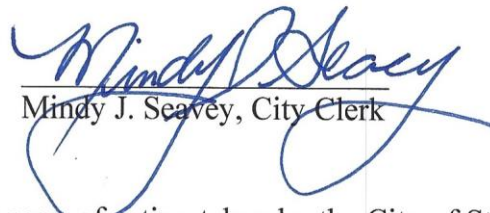
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the St Johns City Commission hereby adopts the City of St Johns 2021-2025 Five-year Master Plan.

YEA: Hufnagel, Craig, Ruestman, Kirschenbauer, Gurski

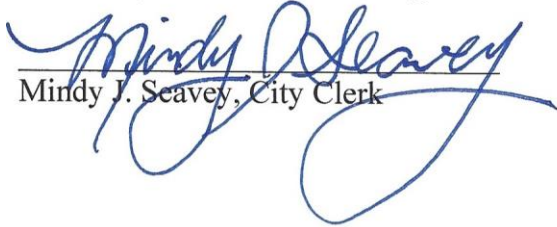
NAY: None

Resolution declared adopted.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Eric Hufnagel

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of action taken by the City of St. Johns City Commission at a regular meeting held on January 11, 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk





## Appendix F – Letter to County Planning Board

Eric Hufnagel  
*Mayor*

Jean Ruestman  
*Vice Mayor*

Bob Craig  
Commissioner

Tamara Kirschenbauer  
Commissioner

Brad Gurski  
Commissioner



Jon Stoppels  
*City Manager*

Dave J. Kudwa  
*Community Development*

Mindy J. Seavey  
City Clerk

Kristina Kinde  
City Treasurer

John B. Salemi  
City Attorney

Steven M. Martin  
*Director of Public Services*

February 1, 2021

Clinton County Planning Commission  
100 East State Street  
St. Johns, MI 48879

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the “City of St. Johns Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan, 2021-2025” for your files. The plan was adopted by the City of St. Johns City Commission on January 11, 2021. The plan has been submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their final approval.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact my office at (989) 224-8944 ext. 227.

Sincerely,

William Schafer  
Recreation Director  
City of St. Johns  
100 E. State Street Suite 1100  
P.O. Box 477

## Appendix G – Letter to Regional Planning Commission

Eric Hufnagel  
Mayor

Jean Ruestman  
Vice Mayor

Bob Craig  
Commissioner

Tamara Kirschenbauer  
Commissioner

Brad Gurski  
Commissioner



Jon Stoppels  
City Manager

Dave J. Kudwa  
Community Development

Mindy J. Seavey  
City Clerk

Kristina Kinde  
City Treasurer

John B. Salemi  
City Attorney

Steven M. Martin  
Director of Public Services

February 1, 2021

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission  
3135 Pine Tree Rd #2C  
Lansing, MI 48911

Dear Sir or Madam:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the "City of St. Johns Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan, 2021-2025" for your files. The plan was adopted by the City of St. Johns City Commission on January 11, 2021. The plan has been submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for their final approval.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact my office at (989) 224-8944 ext. 227.

Sincerely,

William Schafer  
Recreation Director  
City of St. Johns  
100 E. State Street Suite 1100  
P.O. Box 477  
St. Johns, Michigan 48879-0477