

VILLAGE OF LAWTON

5 year Parks & Recreation Master Plan



2021 - 2025

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Introduction

The 2021 – 2025 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a guide for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, operations, and maintenance in the Village. The Village recognizes the significant role that recreation plays in providing a high quality of life and improved physical health of its citizens, so this effort to create the Village of Lawton's first Parks and Recreation Master Plan was undertaken to guide the orderly development of such facilities and programs.

This plan provides the data and direction to ensure that parks and recreation offerings are aligned with the community needs and values. The plan addresses current recreation issues and identifies and prioritizes future needs of the community and the means for meeting those needs over the upcoming five-year period. This plan will form the basis for future applications for recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other granting agencies. The Plan was prepared in accordance with the MDNR's Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans.

The foundation for the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to develop a strategy to further enhance the health and recreational opportunities within the village and to provide a common direction for future development and enhancements to parks, trails, and routes. The intent of this plan is to develop parks, recreational opportunities, and trail systems (non-motorized) to provide safe facilities and more choices for healthier lifestyles.

Village of Lawton staff has taken on the duties of drafting this document. To gather information regarding programming and park development, the Village utilized the online services of Survey Monkey to collect public opinion. The plan represents the best interpretation of the desires of the clients being served. This plan will provide a road map that staff and elected officials will use to guide these services for the next five years.

Community Description

Historically, Lawton was first identified as a village in 1853 when Nathan Lawton filed a description of a plat of land in the office of the County Clerk of Cayuga County New York. It was officially incorporated on November 3, 1858. Its wonderfully rich soils made it perfect for

growing grains and fruits, making Lawton renowned for its vineyards and harvests. Today, Lawton is home to the oldest standing winery and remains a premier grape growing area in the Midwest.

The Village of Lawton is a General Law Village incorporated within Antwerp Township on three sides, with Porter Township bordering to the south. Lawton is in Van Buren County, which is bordered by Allegan County, Kalamazoo County, Cass County, Berrien County, and Lake Michigan. Located in Southwest Michigan, Lawton is home to approximately 1,852 residents (based on the 2010 US Census).

Lawton is a desirable place to live with historic small-town charm. The Downtown District is the heart of the community. It is regionally known for its fine dining establishments and a premier microbrewery. In addition to outstanding dining options, downtown is home to several service industries and some shopping. Welch's Foods is a large industrial grape cooperative, producing tens of thousands of gallons of sparkling juices each year in downtown Lawton.

Lawton is located on M-40, a State Highway that runs North/South. It is three miles south of I-94 a federal Highway. These two main transportation arteries give Lawton easy access to more populated urban amenities while maintaining its individual small-town identity.

Many visitors come to the greater Lawton area during the summer to enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and swimming. Wintertime activities include ice-fishing and snowmobiling.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

The Village of Lawton's Parks and Recreation facilities not only serve the Village residents but also residents of the Greater Lawton Area. While the Village of Lawton is located in the Township of Antwerp, Van Buren County, the greater Lawton Area is comprised of the Village of Lawton, Antwerp Township, and neighboring Porter Township. The population swells in the warm weather months as summer residents and visitors flock to the area.

The table below shows the population of each Census since 1980 for the three municipalities as well as Van Buren County. As of the 2010 Census, the Village of Lawton had a total population of 1,900 people. While this was a small increase from the population at the 2000 Census, it still represents a 22% increase since 1980.

Population Trends - 1980 to 2010					
	1980	1990	2000	2010	% change since 1980
Village of Lawton	1,558	1,685	1,859	1,900	22%
Antwerp Township	7,744	9,293	10,813	12,182	57%
Porter Township	3,857	3,857	2,406	3,798	-2%
Van Buren County	66,814	70,060	76,263	76,258	14%
Totals	79,973	84,895	91,341	94,138	18%

In 2010, the median age in the village was 38.9 years. 25.4% of residents were under the age of 18; 7.6% were between the ages of 18 and 24; 24.5% were from 25 to 44; 23.1% were from 45 to 64; and 19.2% were 65 years of age or older.

The gender makeup of the village was 45.1% male and 54.9% female. The spread of population based on age is important to take account of because each age group has different recreational needs and it is important to provide an opportunity for all ages, especially in a community in which all age groups are near equally represented.

The 2010 Census revealed that there were 730 households, of which 35.2% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 40.8% were married couples living together, 16.4% had a female householder with no spouse present, 5.3% had a male householder with no wife present, and 37.4% were non-families.

The median property value in Lawton, MI was \$101,000 in 2018, which is 44% smaller than the national average of \$229,700. Between 2017 and 2018 the median property value increased from \$98,100 to \$101,000, a 2.96% increase.

People in Lawton, MI have an average commute time of 22.2 minutes, and they commute by driving alone. Car ownership in Lawton, MI is approximately the same as the national average, with an average of 2 cars per household.

Within the Village of Lawton, over 33% of households are renter occupied. Renters often have less of an opportunity to provide their families with recreation as they are limited in the amount of household improvements they can make. It is important for those who are in rental situations to be provided with adequate opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Communities with high instances of poverty is one that should have a focus on creating low-cost recreation opportunities for families. While Van Buren County has an estimated 19% of the population living below the poverty level (based on the 2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate), in Lawton 10.1% of persons are below the poverty level, and that rises to 12% for children under 18.

NATURAL FEATURES

Lawton enjoys a picturesque hilly topography that is characteristic of vineyards. The slopes of the hills are gently rolling and are very inviting for outdoor activities like hiking or snowmobiling.

Lawton is surrounded by many lakes which are a draw for in state and out of state visitors who enjoy these waters for fishing, swimming, and skiing. Lawton is one of the few communities in Michigan that allow snowmobiles to drive on local streets.

ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Lawton is a bedroom community. Most people use their personal vehicle to drive to and from work. People can easily commute to larger metropolitan areas for work and still have a lifestyle that is not available in larger employment centers.

The Village of Lawton is comprised of many different types of building and land uses. Housing is primarily single- or two-family homes with a multi-unit apartment complex that is subsidized and provides affordable housing as well as a subsidized senior apartment complex.

The greater Lawton Area and Van Buren County are home to many regional tourism destinations such as wineries, breweries and micro-breweries, lakes, resorts, auto racing and snowmobiling. There are over 3,000 homes held for seasonal or vacation uses. Many out of state residents own summer houses in the lakes area surrounding Lawton.

Due to its unique soils, the greater Lawton area is home to numerous vineyards, fruit farms and other agriculturally based businesses. Grape/fruit processing and vegetable preservation and canning are important industries and provide many jobs and a large tax base for the community.

Administrative Structure

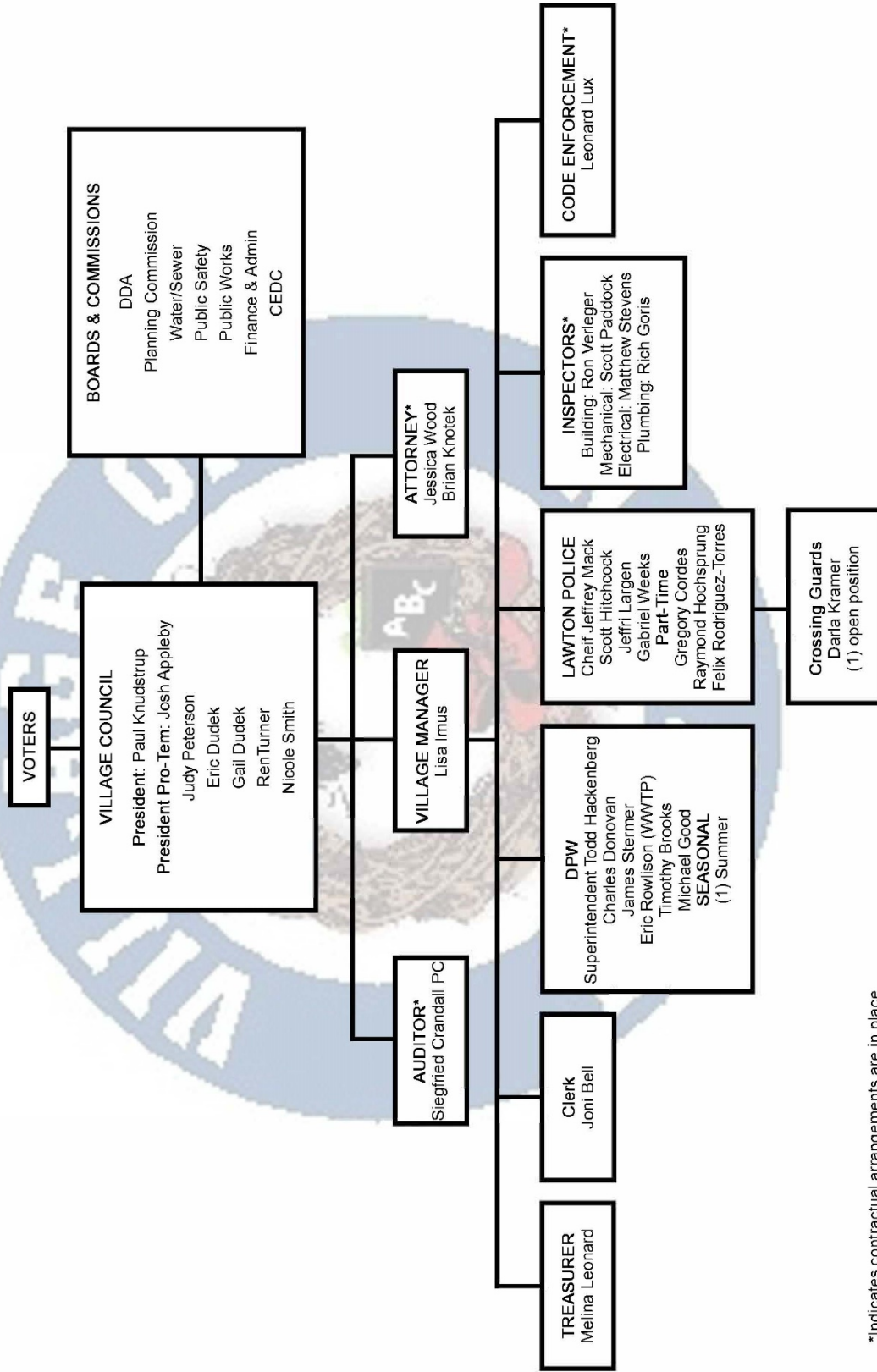
The Village of Lawton is a General Law Village, governed by a Village Council which consists of six Trustees and one Village President. These positions are elected to four-year terms by the residents. The Village operates under a Council/Manager form of government, hiring a Village Manager to oversee all village departments. The Village currently employs twelve full-time employees, several seasonal employees, two crossing-guards during the school year, and one part-time employee.

The Village does not have a special commission responsible for parks and recreation but utilizes an "ad-hoc" Village Council Committee to develop plans and goals for municipal recreation sites. The committee, however, has no direct authority to implement any proposal or expense.

Daily operations and maintenance of Lawton's parks and recreation facilities are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works (DPW). The DPW is responsible for the maintenance of the parks, streets, the municipal water/sewer system, and consists of a staff of five full time individuals as well as seasonal staff as needed. As with most small communities, the Village relies on volunteers to organize and maintain most of the recreation programs and events provided within the Village limits.



VILLAGE OF LAWTON ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



*Indicates contractual arrangements are in place.

PROJECTED BUDGET

The Village Council is responsible for determining the operating budget and capital improvements for the parks and recreation programs for Village facilities. They are also responsible for appointing the Village Manager, serving on various committees, approving projects and grants, appointing community members to Board and Commissions, and approving the purchase or sale of land.

Funding for the Village of Lawton Parks and Recreation comes from Village tax dollars distributed through the General Fund.

	2019-20 AMENDED BUDGET	2020-21 AMENDED BUDGET	2021-22 PROPOSED BUDGET
PARKS DEPARTMENT			
FICA	1,250	1,500	1,650
DEFERRED COMPENSATION	700	700	770
M.E.S.C.	250	250	275
OPERATING SUPPLIES	2,500	2,500	3,000
ELECTRIC	2,000	3,000	3,000
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	1,000	1,000	1,100
VEHICLE RENT	10,000	10,000	11,000
KID'S DREAM IMPROVEMENTS	2,000	2,000	2,200
PARKS TOTAL:	33,700	37,950	41,745

During fiscal year 2020-2021 the Parks and Recreation budget was \$37,950. Maintenance of the parks was the largest expense. For the previous five years, this has been the Villages' practice with budgeted expenses relatively flat in the General Fund.

During the 2019 – 20 Fiscal year, the Downtown Development Authority began raising funds to construct a splash pad at the Chancy Lewis Park. The success of these efforts resulted in an MEDC Patronicity matching grant for \$40,000. In total, \$142,000 was raised to construct the new Splash Pad. It officially opened in June of 2020 and came in under-budget at \$116,000. The remaining DDA fundraising revenue is being reserved for additional park and recreation improvements in Chancy Lewis Park.

CURRENT FUNDING HISTORY

The Village has not previously received any grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).

VOLUNTEERS IN THE PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAM

The Village of Lawton often utilizes volunteers in maintenance and beautification roles in Village Parks and downtown. DDA Board members volunteer to plant and maintain flower beds and planters in the Downtown District, Cannon Park, and the North and South gateways to the Village. Clubs and teams (football, basketball, baseball/softball, National Honor Society) from the high school often volunteer for special events and park “clean-up” days.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH NON-PROFIT AND OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

Lawton Youth Baseball and Softball is the organization that arranges and operates the youth baseball program within the Stephayn Sports Complex on property owned by the Village. Approximately 200 participants are involved from the region, including a portion residing outside of the Village of Lawton. The Lawton Rocket Football organization runs and manages the Village’s rocket football fields on the corner of E First Street and Hamilton.

Senior citizen activities are coordinated through Senior Services of Van Buren County and include but are not limited to Adult Day-care services, counseling, health and fitness, Meals on Wheels, congregate meals and transportation.

A local Farmer’s Market is held weekly at Chancy Lewis Park from July through October.

The Village of Lawton Museum is a volunteer organization that is available year-round by appointment.

The Lawton Lions Heritage Community Center & Grape and Wine Museum is a regionally renowned facility that hosts large events such as weddings. The museum portion is nestled in the huge former wine cellars of the complex. The center itself is a unique architectural structure of cobblestone located in the heart of the “Fruit Belt” of southwest Michigan. The 1903 structure, a state and national historic

site, is the state's oldest standing winery building which makes it a most appropriate setting for the Museum.

Other programs that occur during the year include:

- Easter Egg Hunt – organized by a local church and volunteer group
- Memorial Day Parade – a parade through the Village ending with a ceremony at the Oak Grove Cemetery
- Ride for Wishes – A fundraising bike ride for terminally ill children – usually in June
- Summerfest – A 4th of July Celebration with a one-day street festival with parade, concerts, craft fair and fireworks.
- Veteran's Day Remembrance Ceremony at Oak Grove Cemetery
- Fall Homecoming Parade – a tradition provided by the Lawton Community School District in honor of Lawton Alumni
- Christmas Parade – A winter evening parade featuring lights and sounds of the season that winds through downtown



Recreation Inventory

In order to plan for parks and recreation in the future, the types of facilities that currently exist in the Village need to be examined. It is also helpful to compare these existing facilities to various standards as one measure of the adequacy of the parks and recreation facilities in the area.

PARK CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The Recommended Classification System for Local and Regional Open Space from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

defines various types of parks. Five of these are applicable to and found within the parks owned and operated by the Village of Lawton.

They include:

- ✓ A Mini-Park is less than one acre in size and is less than 1/4 mile from a residential setting. It is used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.
- ✓ School-Parks can combine parks with school sites to help meet the recreational space needs for the community.
- ✓ Community Parks serve a broader purpose to an area. They have more amenities and usually serve two or more neighborhoods within 1/2 to three miles and are generally 30 - 50 acres in size.
- ✓ A Special Use facility is oriented toward single-purpose use, such as a football complex.
- ✓ A Natural Resource Area is land that is set aside for the preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics or buffering.

COMPARISON TO STANDARDS

Comparison to Standards – Park Acreage				
	Recommended Acres Per 1,000 Population	Existing Acreage	Recommended for Lawton	
			Population 1,852	Deficiency
Entire Park System	5 to 20	243.0	9.3 to 37	none
Community Parks	5 to 8	7.2	9.3 to 14.8	none
Mini-Parks	.25 to .5	0.3	.5 to 1	slight
Natural Resource Areas	Variable	173.0	1.9 to 3.7	none
Special Use Facilities	Variable	32.6	Variable	none
School Facilities	Variable	30	Variable	none

The Village of Lawton has approximately 243 acres of total park space for its 2010 population of 1,852 residents. General industry standards would suggest 5 to 20 acres of total park space per 1,000 citizens, or Approximately 10 to 37 acres of total park land for the Village of Lawton.

From this standpoint, the Village exceeds standards in each of its categories of parks and recreational facilities, except for one. Mini parks should be at .5 acres and is slightly under at .3 acres. In general, the centrally located school playground and other open space make up for that deficiency. (See the table below) One area for growth may be in Lawton’s trail facilities and senior activities.

As discussed later in the public input section, there is high support in Lawton to begin a formal trail network and interest in providing increased pedestrian access.

The satisfactory amount of existing open space should not inhibit the Village from seeking new recreational lands when conditions are appropriate.

ACCESSIBILITY

Creating a park system that is safe, accessible, and usable to all individuals, including those with disabilities, is essential. A grading system has been developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to simply and effectively rate park facilities based on their ease of use and accessibility for handicapped residents, based on the American Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. Each park facility was evaluated and compared to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design by Village staff.



Included in the Recreation Inventory is an accessibility of each park. The accessibility grading system uses a five-point system ranging from one (none of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines), to five (the entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design).

MDNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreational Facilities	
Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

The Village of Lawton is dedicated to increasing accessibility at each of its parks when improvements are made. This includes accessible parking, paths, restrooms, activity areas, amenities, and signage. As noted in the inventory listing, Lawton’s parks do not meet all criteria for accessibility to the disabled. The Village of Lawton is committed to improving the accessibility of its facilities and is considering a variety of options to make this possible at its varied park and recreational facility locations.

PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES INVENTORY

The Village of Lawton currently has five public parks, a privately owned golf club, and several public-school facilities scattered throughout the Village. On the following page is a Park Facilities Chart providing an inventory of recreational opportunities. A map with park and school locations follows on the next page.

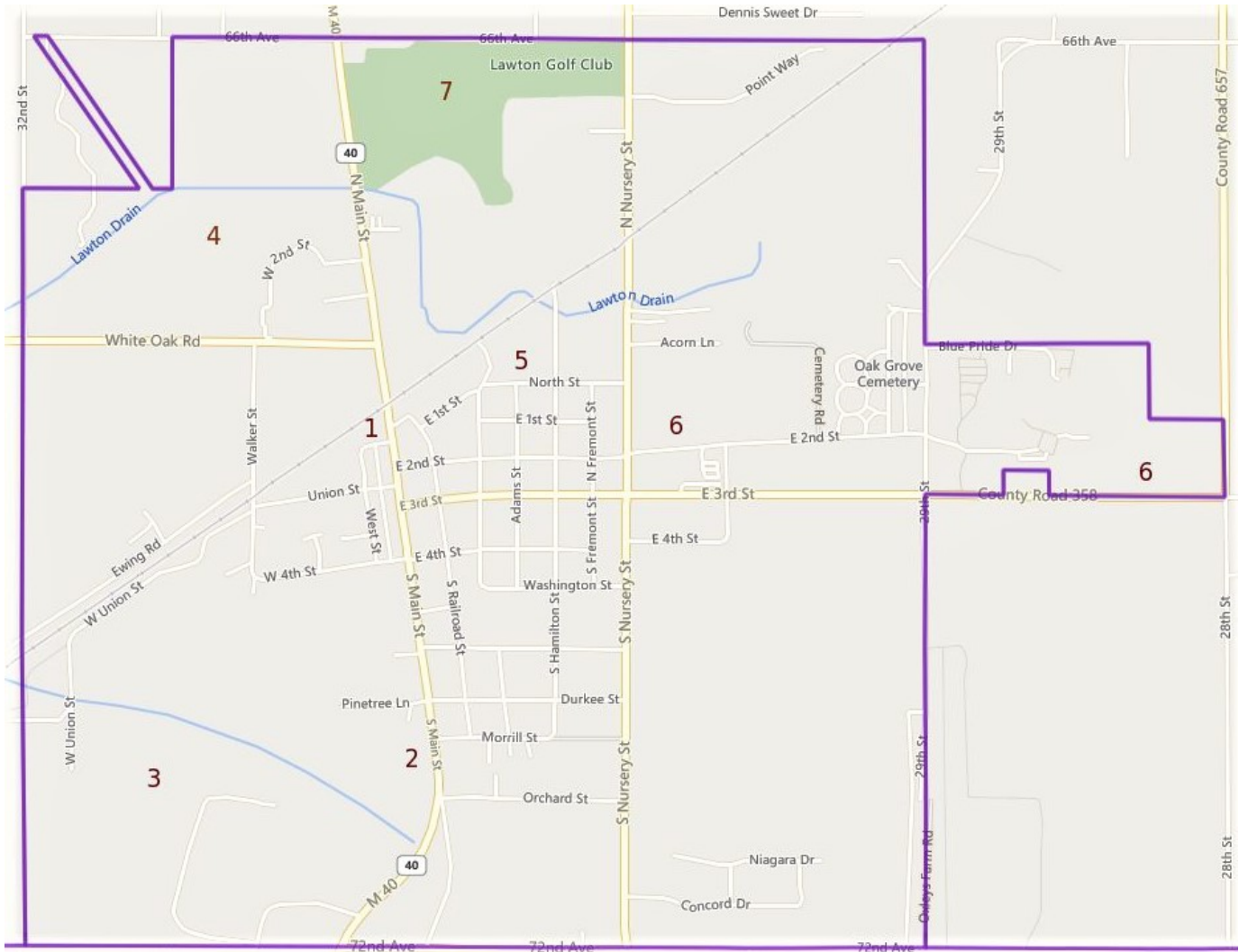
Village of Lawton Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

Village of Lawton Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory						
	Cannon Park	Chancy Lewis Park	Village Conservation Area	Stephayn Sports Complex	Rocket Football Fields	Lawton Community School Facilities
Accessibility	3	2	1	1	1	3
Park Type*	MP	CP	NRA	SUF	SUF	SP
Area (Acres)	0.3	7.2	173.0	30.0	2.6	30.0
Water Access	No	No	No	No	No	No
Service Area	Village	Community	Community	School District	School District	School District
Ball Diamonds				7		2
Pavilion		2				
Basketball Court		4				2
Benches	1	5		2	2	
Bike Rack		2				
Bleachers		4		4		Various
Concession Area				1		2
Disc Golf Course						9 holes
Football Field					1	1
Grill		4				
Horseshoe Pits		4				
Park Sign	1	1		1		
Parking		Yes		Yes		Yes
Picnic Tables		22				
Playground		1				1
Restrooms	**	1		1	**	Various
Soccer Field				1		1
Splash Pad		1				
Storage Area		1		2		Various
Tennis Courts		1				
Volleyball						2
Water Access						
Other	Veteran's Memorial					
*Park Type: MP=Mini Park; CP=Community Park; NRA=Natural Recourse Area; SUF=Special Use Facility; SP=School Park ** = Portable Restroom.						

VILLAGE OF LAWTON

PARKS AND RECREATION

FACILITIES MAP



- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Cannon Park | 5. Rocket Football Fields |
| 2. Chancy Lewis Park | 6. Lawton Community Schools |
| 3. Village Conservation Area | 7. Lawton Golf Club |
| 4. Stephayn Sports Complex | |

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES: DESCRIPTIONS

Lawton offers its residents 5 recreational facilities with a variety of capacities for active and passive recreation. Below is a description of each facility, which includes a brief description of its amenities.

Cannon Park

Type of Park: Mini-Park

Accessibility Rating: 3/5

Area (acres): 0.3

Cannon Park is a mini park that features Lawton's Veteran's Memorial at the northern gateway to downtown. Holiday displays are created in the park for the summer, fall, and Christmas seasons. It also serves as a snowmobile trailhead in the winter, which is maintained by the Southwest Michigan Snow-stompers.

Chancy Lewis Park

Type of Park: Community Park

Accessibility Rating: 2/5

Area (acres): 7.2

Chancy Lewis Park is situated at the southern edge of the Village. The park was the site of Lawton's first baseball park in the late 1800's and continued with that use until the 1950's. During the 70's the location was used for showing outdoor movies and had an ice-skating rink until the 1980's when it fell into disrepair and was removed.



The Park now offers two covered pavilions with picnic tables, a large 'community built' play structure, horseshoe pits, a tennis court, and 3 half-court basketball courts.

During the summer of 2020, a splash pad was constructed. The park also offers picnic tables, grills, and several large open space fields for

various recreational uses. There is a heated barrier free bathroom that is available year-round. The Farmer's Market is also held in the park July through October, and snowmobilers use portions of the park for parking during the winter.

Village Conservation Area

Type of Park: Natural Resource Area

Accessibility Rating: 1/5

Area (acres): 173

This property is a large, wooded area along the west side of the Village. Local residents often hike here to relax, bird watch and view wildlife in their natural habitat. While the area is not maintained by the Village, many traversable paths have been carved over the years.

Stephayn Sports Complex

Type of Park: Special Use Facility

Accessibility Rating: 1/5

Area (acres): 30

The Lawton Youth Baseball and Softball organization manages and maintains the Stephayn Sports Complex. The park has 7 ball fields and a soccer field. It also has a concessions and restroom facility and a storage area.

Rocket Football Field

Type of Park: Special Use Facility

Accessibility Rating: 1/5

Area (acres): 2.6

The Rocket football Field is a Special Use Facility that is primarily used in the fall for rocket football and cheerleading practices and games. The rocket football organization owns and maintains the fields.

Lawton Community Schools

Type of Park: School Park

Accessibility Rating: 3/5

Area (acres): 30

There are two primary areas for recreation offered by Lawton Community Schools. A large playground is located to the north of the elementary building. This is open for neighborhood use when school is not in session. A soccer field is located at the Middle School, and there is a Disc Golf on both the Middle School and High School grounds. The High School also offers 4 Gymnasiums (3 for competitions, 1 for community events such as youth sports), 1 multipurpose room (available to rent), a Weight Room, space for vocal and instrumental music, the Owen Bray Auditorium (seats 400), 4 baseball and softball fields, and Packer Stadium for football, soccer, and track (seats 1200).

Public Facilities Outside of Lawton

Huzzy Lake, Bankson Lake, Bankson Lake, Cedar Lake, Gravel Lake, Eagle Lake, and Three Mile Lake – all within five miles of Lawton Village - have public access for fishing and boating. Maple Lake has a public access for fishing and swimming

Private Facilities in or near Lawton

Pin High Golf Course is a nine-hole golf course located within the Village limits.

Lake Cora Golf Course is an eighteen-hole public golf course that is within ten miles of the Village limits.

Copper Grille has a banquet facility specializing in weddings and other private parties located downtown in the historic Village Hall.

Staff affiliated with the local Lions Club operate the regionally renowned Lawton Community Center that annually host wedding receptions, Wine-Tasting festivals and many other events. The Lions make the facility available for community sponsored events at no charge.

A snowmobile trail runs through Lawton that annually attracts thousands of snowmobilers; Lawton is one of the few communities in Michigan that allow snow mobiles on the public side streets.

There are numerous grape vineyards and fruit farms that offer roadside markets and u-pick opportunities for those interested in agritourism.

Community Input

With the successful construction of the Splash Pad in Chancy Lewis Park, use of Village park facilities has soared. The Village Council has since decided to increase emphasis on parks and recreation and initiate its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This Plan will provide the basis for public policy decisions and technical coordination in recreational development within the Village.

One of the most important aspects of a community's Recreation Plan is the inclusion of resident's opinions about how they view the future of their parks and recreation system. To comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans, the Village of Lawton offered two opportunities for public input, along with a 30-day period for review and comment on the draft Recreation Plan.

An online community input survey was offered to the community for three weeks during December 2020. The survey was publicized in a variety of methods, including Facebook sharing and advertisements, community flyers with QR code link to the survey, the Village Newsletter mailed with water bills, an article in local newspaper, as an item on the DDA, Planning Commission and Council Agendas, and an Email blitz to City contacts.

The survey gathered information about the community's priorities with regard to the Village's park and recreation system and received 333 responses.

A second means of input was provided during the required public review period of the draft from December 23rd, 2020 to January 26, 2021. A third opportunity for public input was made available at a public hearing on January 26th, 2021.

SURVEY

In order to have an understanding of the demographics and geographic qualities of the respondents, the survey asked respondents several general questions about themselves. Over 93% of the respondents identified themselves as residents from either the Village or two surrounding townships (115 from Village of Lawton, 106 from Porter Township, and 75 from Antwerp Township.) The survey was well represented by older adults (83% were over 35 years of age), and the Village will continue to seek input from younger adults and youth

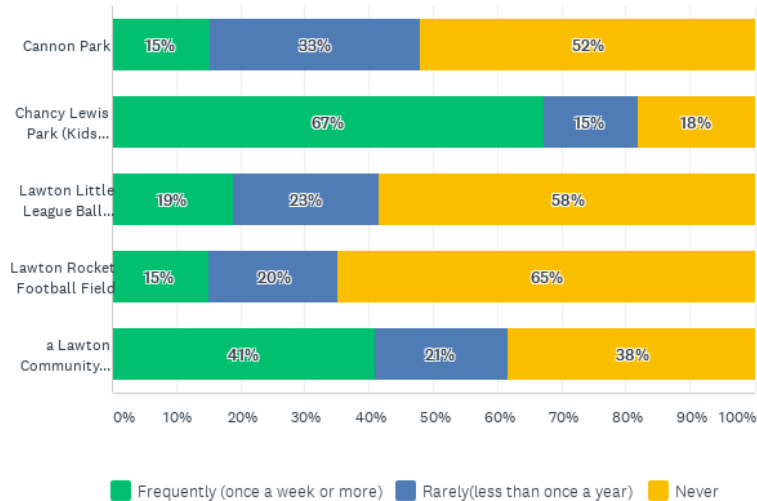
in the planning and development of our Parks and Recreation endeavors.

When asked how important parks, trails and open space were as a factor to their household's quality of life, 94% indicated it was important to them.

Of primary concern to the Village Council was parks accessibility. In answer to the question "have you noticed any physical (or other) obstacles to accessing or enjoying the parks?", a majority of the respondents collectively said "no", or 271 of the 315 who chose to answer the question. Of the 30 people who commented on specific items, 10 mentioned unruly teens; 8 commented on maintenance and the remaining 12 comments were related to various safety concerns.

The Village of Lawton has six park and recreation facilities. The Conservation Area is large and rural, two are at the gateway to our downtown - Cannon Park to the north and Chancy Lewis Park to the south. The other three are special use facilities (football and baseball fields) and the Lawton Community Schools facilities. This is how often respondents visit each park:

Q8 How often do you and your family use the following parks and recreation facilities?



Perhaps not unexpected, Chancy Lewis Park with the splash pad and large playground was the most popular, with the Lawton Community Schools facilities being the second most visited park. More than 150 respondents said they did not visit the baseball/softball fields at the

Stephayn Sports Complex or the Rocket Football Field at all. A fair number of people---over 100---said they visited Cannon Park a few times per year.

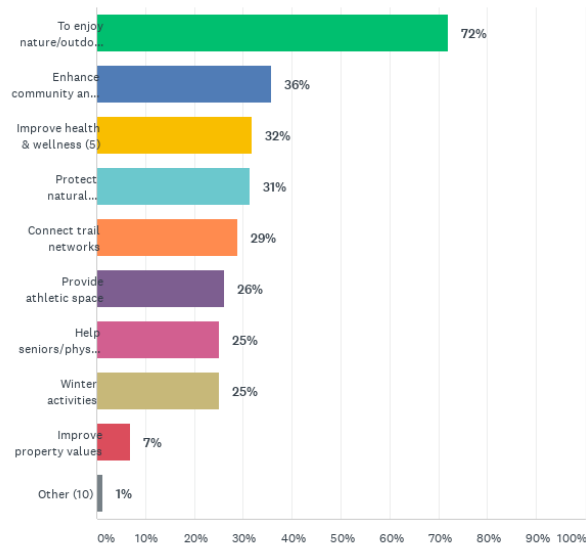
Most of the respondents typically use the Village parks for the playgrounds (173), and 132 people said they frequent the new Splash Pad. Many people use the parks to walk/bike/run (103) or just visit the parks for relaxation (192). Following those activities is use of the Special Use Facilities (Baseball/Softball/Football). Forty-three people said they used parks for "other" reasons.

The Village Council also asked what types of parks and recreation amenities the community thought were important. The survey listed 10 items, including "other". Respondents could pick and prioritize all, some or none of the listed amenities.

By far, the highest response overall was to enjoy nature and outdoors (72%).

Most of the remaining categories all ranged from 36% to 25% and were (in order) Enhance Community and Sense of Place; Improve Health and Wellness; Protect the

Q9 Which of the following of parks and recreation amenities are the most important to you?



Natural Environment and Wildlife; Connect to Regional Trail Networks; Provide Athletic Space and Opportunities; Help Seniors and Physically Challenged Individuals remain Active; and Provide Winter Activities. Improve Property Values only received 7% of the votes. Several "Other" responses included ATV trails.

Next, the Village Council asked what the community's preferences were to improve the parks and recreation system. The survey listed 11 items, including "other", and asked people to list the items according

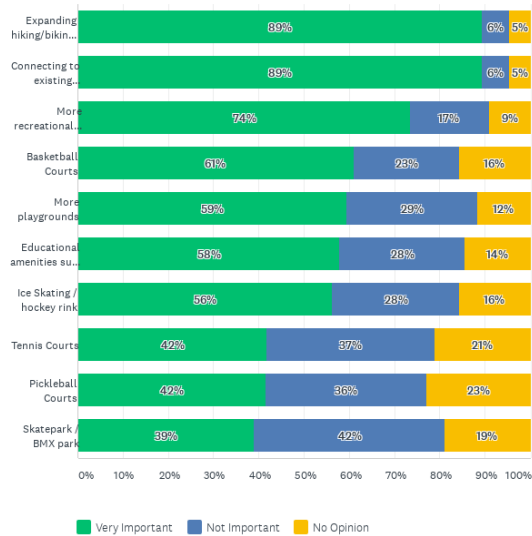
to priorities from: Very Important, Somewhat Important, Important, Not Important and No Opinion. Respondents could pick and prioritize all, some or none of the listed amenities.

The highest response overall was a tie between “expanding Hiking/biking trail network” and “connecting to existing hiking/biking trail networks. The second highest responses were to “expand availability of recreational equipment such as shuffleboard, playground equipment, etc.”. Respondents listed the Skate Park and Tennis Courts as their lowest priority, however due to the low number of youths responding to the survey, the Council will revisit the demand for a Skate Park. Other popular responses supported improving/adding basketball courts and more playgrounds.

Another way to determine priorities for the Village's parks system was to ask respondents to select goals that were most important to them and their families.

Maintaining existing parks and facilities was ranked the highest priority, and close behind was preserving natural areas. The community also felt strong about emphasizing the development of a multi-use trail system, followed by the need for new parks and recreation facilities as well as acquiring land for future parks.

Q7 Indicate your preferences to improve our parks and recreation system.



The final question of the survey was open-ended so that respondents could add general comments about parks in the Village. There was a wide range of discussion topics, some indirectly related to parks, such as concerns about the speed on M40 and the ability to cross the street and unruly teens. Notably, the most common comment was the need for additional hiking/biking trails and to connect them regionally (20 mentions). Additionally, Pickleball Courts, ATV accommodations, an ice rink, and a dog park were requested multiple times.

Goals and Objectives

Developing goals and objectives is an important part of the recreation planning process. The overall goal of a parks and recreation department is to provide recreation opportunities for the community it serves. More specific goals must be based on the demographic characteristics of the population served, the physical and environmental characteristics of the area, and the input of the community.

Goals provide overarching and general ideas of the desires and needs of community members in relation to their parks. Objectives carry out the purpose of these goals. The action plan is the most specific level of planning and it identifies specific projects and programs. These can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information, and operation and maintenance actions.

An overall guide for the recreation goals for the Village of Lawton will be to focus efforts on developing additional programs and recreational opportunities within the community; leveraging development and maintenance efforts by pursuing partnerships, grant funding, and volunteer efforts when appropriate.

The goals and objectives were developed through the Village Council and Administration and incorporate recreation planning best practices and the results of the public input process. The following goals and objectives are numbered for identification purposes only. Each goal is considered to carry an equal degree of importance.

Goal 1: Take advantage of economic development opportunities presented by downtown and commercial development in order to enhance and further parks and recreation objectives.

Parks and recreational facilities are viable economic development tools contributing to an increased quality of life in a community and inspire community pride. Parks and recreational facilities attract visitors to a community to spend money at local businesses.

Objectives

- Develop public access and strong connections to downtown.
- Target development of multi-functional parks and recreational facilities
- Upgrade deteriorating facilities

- Continue to add amenities to park facilities based upon community input and need.

Goal 2: Provide non-motorized trails and bicycle routes for recreational and transportation use.

Trails and bike routes are especially important for the residents of Lawton. They were mentioned frequently by survey respondents as an improvement they would like expanded in the Village. This is a component of a parks system that can be used by people of all ages and abilities.

Objectives

- Expand walking trails and multi-use paths within existing parks.
- Develop a walking and biking trail network across the Village to connect all parks, schools and downtown.
- Improve path surfaces when appropriate.
- Work with neighboring and regional governmental and non-profit entities to develop regional trail network.

Goal 3: Provide multi-generational recreational opportunities and quality leisure time activities with special consideration for activities that improve health and fitness and appeal to all ages within the village.

Health and well-being are an important component of one's quality of life. Lawton can use its parks and recreation facilities to offer activities and programs that will improve the health and fitness of its citizens.

Objectives

- Develop programs and facilities for multi-generational uses.
- Provide both passive and active programming for a variety of ages and abilities of the population.
- Continue to evaluate unmet recreation needs and recommend various programs in line with current trends.
- Provide recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.
- Ensure that improvements and upgrades to park facilities are handicapped-accessible, where feasible.
- Look at new amenities to satisfy various age groups.
- Ensure public parks are safe.

Goal 4: Create community awareness of Lawton recreational opportunities and promote them to citizens and visitors.

Communicating with the public is an important component of any municipal parks and recreation organization. As our population increasingly relies on the Internet for information, the Village needs to take advantage of online opportunities to communicate and interact with citizens.

Objectives

- Work with local education, arts and culture, and civic organizations to provide unique programming opportunities at the Village’s recreational sites and other venues.
- Work to enhance social media, web site, and other online opportunities to communicate with the public about Lawton park facilities and events.

Action Plan

ACTION PLAN LIST		
Land Acquisition Priorities		
Chancy Lewis Entrance to expand driveway		
Downtown property for recreational facility expansion		
Project Priorities		
High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority
Cannon Park		
New benches and trash receptacles	Construct Gazebo	
Chancy Lewis Park		
Pickleball Courts	Investigate ways to improve safety and security	
Fence along M-40 sidewalk	Sight lighting	
Improve restroom facilities	Increase parking	
Tree Trimming		
Expand driveway entrance to improve safety	Create user fees and other revenue sources from park rentals	
Village Conservation Area		
Improve/Create trails	Create regional trail connections	
Stephayn Sports Complex		
Upgrade facilities / consider relocation to downtown	Create regional trail connections	
Pathways / Trails		
Establish a Committee to Master Plan Community Trail Project	Create regional trail connections	
Other Needs & Desires		
Downtown Common Space, a year-round flexible space that will allow for passive recreation, music events, dining, and public gathering		
Facilitate participation in regional park and recreation projects		
Upgrade all park facilities to meet barrier free accessibility requirements, using universal design principals where possible.		

Conclusion

In an effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, the Village of Lawton has developed this recreation plan as a tool to guide the development of park and recreational facilities over the next five years. This plan represents the ongoing commitment by the Village to establish recreational goals and objectives for the community. The Plan will also provide the Village of Lawton eligibility for grants from the Department of Natural Resources to assist the community in reaching its recreational goals.

Community input was collected via an online survey conducted in December of 2020. Goals and objectives for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan were then identified based on existing priorities and from the input collected through the survey. From there, Action Plan items were developed and prioritized.

The Village Manager completed the draft Recreation Master Plan document, and it was made available for review at the Village Hall and on the Lawton Village website beginning on December 23, 2020.

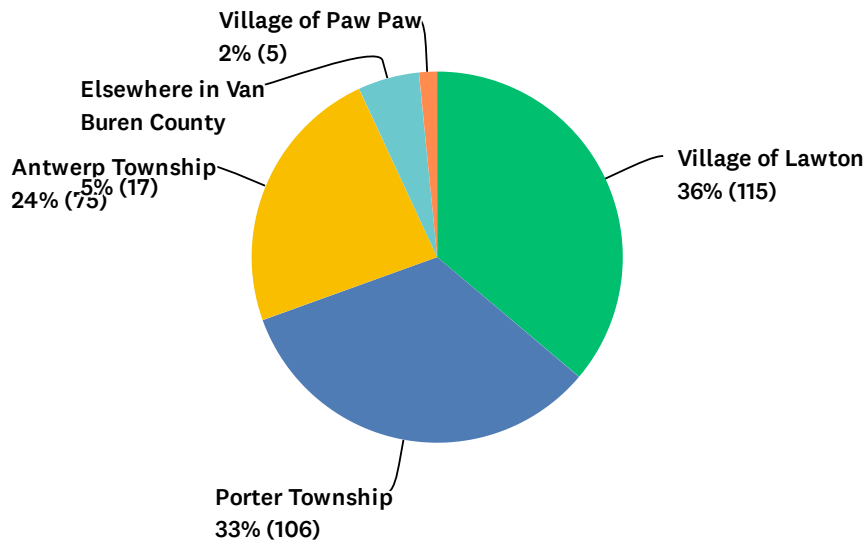
The opportunity to review the draft plan and the notice of the public hearing were advertised in the *Courier Leader*, on the Village Website, and in the Village Newsletter. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public meeting during a Village Council Meeting held prior to adoption of the plan on January 26, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting took place virtually from the Lawton Village Hall.

On January 26, 2021, the Lawton Village Council passed a resolution adopting the 2021 – 2025 Village of Lawton Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Appendix A – Survey Results

Q1 Please indicate where you live

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0



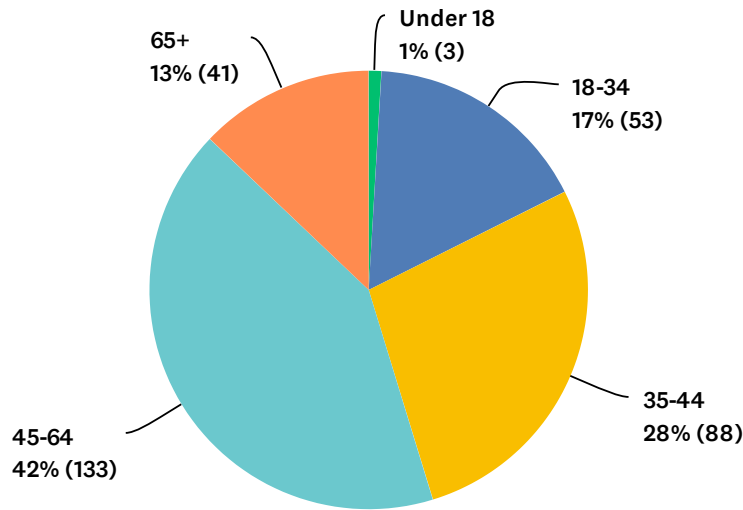
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Village of Lawton (1)	36%	115
Porter Township (3)	33%	106
Antwerp Township (2)	24%	75
Elsewhere in Van Buren County (5)	5%	17
Village of Paw Paw (4)	2%	5
Other (please specify) (6)	0%	0
TOTAL		318

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	2.00	2.16	1.10

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
	There are no responses.	

Q2 What is your age?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0

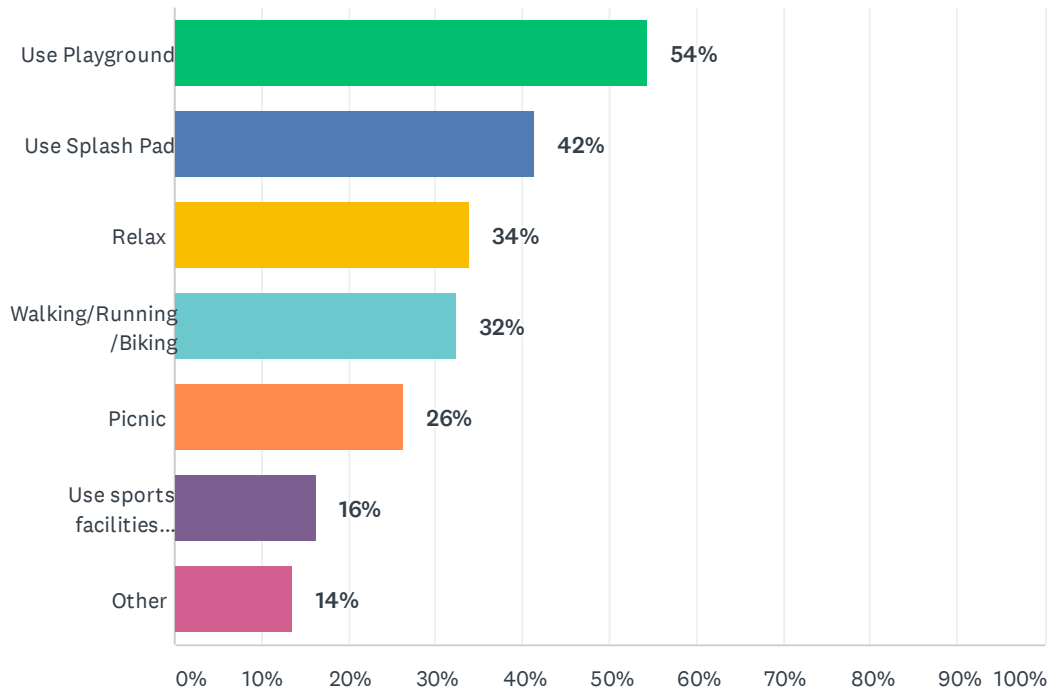


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Under 18 (1)	1% 3
18-34 (2)	17% 53
35-44 (3)	28% 88
45-64 (4)	42% 133
65+ (5)	13% 41
TOTAL	318

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	4.00	3.49	0.95

Q3 What do you typically do in Village of Lawton parks?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0



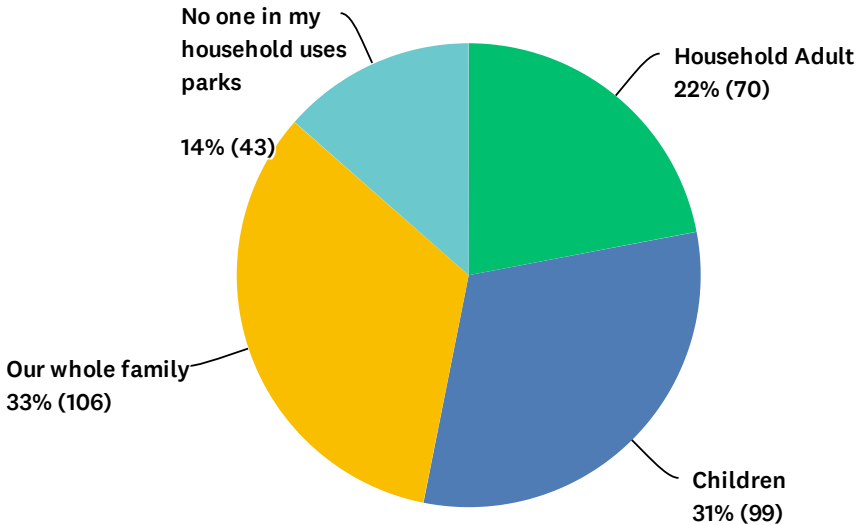
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Use Playground (2)	54%	173
Use Splash Pad (3)	42%	132
Relax (5)	34%	108
Walking/Running/Biking (1)	32%	103
Picnic (6)	26%	84
Use sports facilities (baseball, football, basketball, etc) (4)	16%	52
Other	14%	43
Total Respondents: 318		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	7.00	3.00	3.45	1.85

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	n/a	1/9/2021 1:04 PM
2	Love how it enhances community	1/8/2021 2:09 PM
3	Nature walks, picking berries, etc.	1/5/2021 3:26 PM
4	I honestly have never been	1/4/2021 8:37 PM
5	Farmers market	1/4/2021 8:17 PM
6	Nothing. Did not know about any trails	1/4/2021 12:40 PM
7	None	1/4/2021 11:16 AM
8	Boating	1/4/2021 9:48 AM
9	None	1/4/2021 8:35 AM
10	We use the shelter for family reunions, birthdays, etc.	12/24/2020 12:03 AM
11	Nothing	12/23/2020 3:02 PM
12	Place to let dogs off leash	12/23/2020 10:56 AM
13	Tennis	12/23/2020 10:14 AM
14	NEw to area so haven't usedany	12/23/2020 9:39 AM
15	Look forward to using splash pad	12/20/2020 5:48 PM
16	we used to play tennis, but the courts need work	12/18/2020 1:40 PM
17	Don't use your park.	12/18/2020 9:49 AM
18	We don't use the park much...teenagers smoking and cussing	12/18/2020 9:13 AM
19	WORK	12/18/2020 8:39 AM
20	Don't use it	12/16/2020 11:39 PM
21	Nothing	12/16/2020 12:20 PM
22	Waiting for Covid to get under control	12/16/2020 11:53 AM
23	we don't use the parks	12/16/2020 9:14 AM
24	Lawton Bootcamp indoor facility	12/16/2020 12:04 AM
25	I would walk if we had a trail!	12/15/2020 10:05 PM
26	Meet with students & families for learning activities during COVID-19- prior did not use park	12/15/2020 10:00 PM
27	Na	12/15/2020 10:00 PM
28	Not much to do	12/15/2020 9:24 PM
29	Going to big T	12/15/2020 7:24 PM
30	watch grandkids play	12/15/2020 4:17 PM
31	I don't use the parks	12/15/2020 4:14 PM
32	Nothing	12/15/2020 3:31 PM
33	Kids used to use park but have outgrown	12/15/2020 2:52 PM
34	nothing	12/15/2020 2:35 PM
35	just moving into to Lawton so really haven't used any yet	12/15/2020 2:18 PM
36	Farmer's Market	12/15/2020 1:46 PM
37	Don't use often	12/15/2020 1:08 PM

Q4 Who in your household is the most active user of our parks?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0

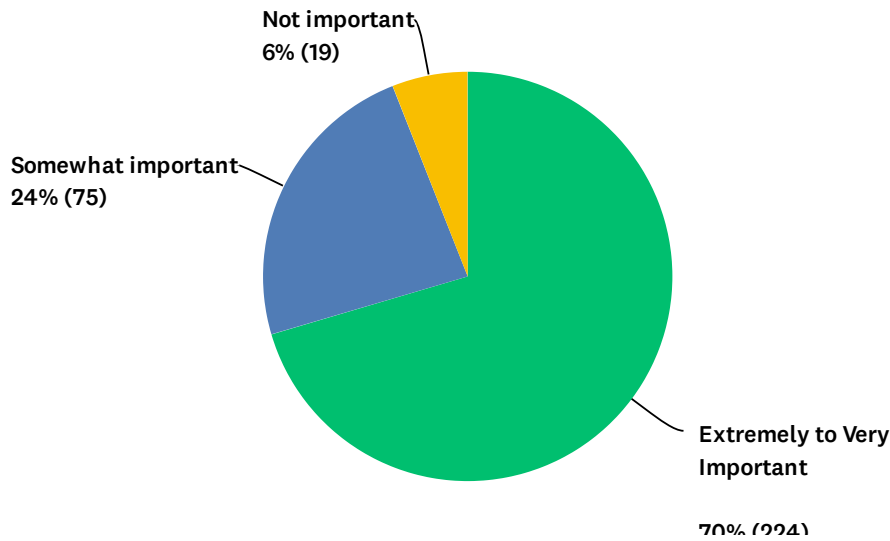


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Household Adult	22%	70
Children	31%	99
Our whole family	33%	106
No one in my household uses parks	14%	43
TOTAL		318

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	3.00	3.19	1.28

Q5 How important are parks, trails, and open space to you and your household's quality of life?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0

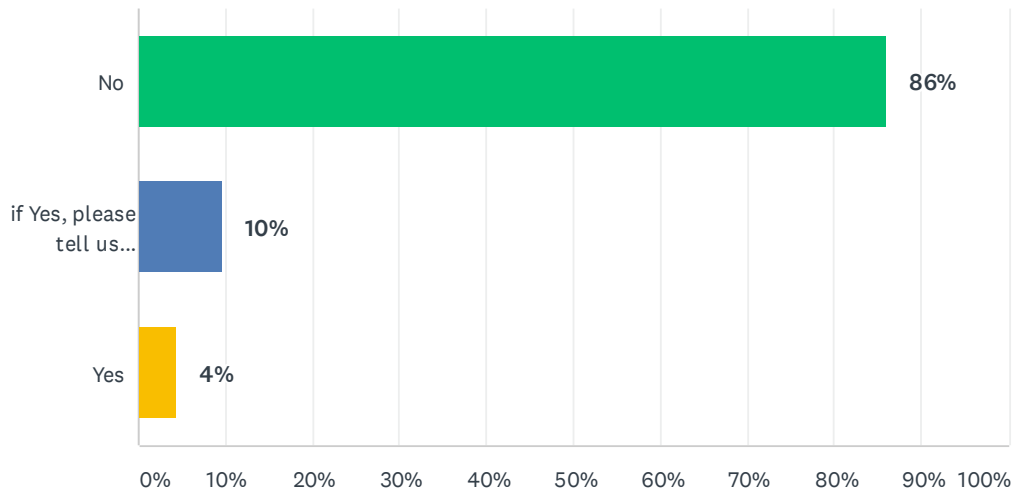


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Extremely to Very Important	70%	224
Somewhat important	24%	75
Not important	6%	19
TOTAL		318

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	5.00	2.00	2.02	0.95

Q6 Have you noticed any physical (or other) obstacles to accessing or enjoying the parks?

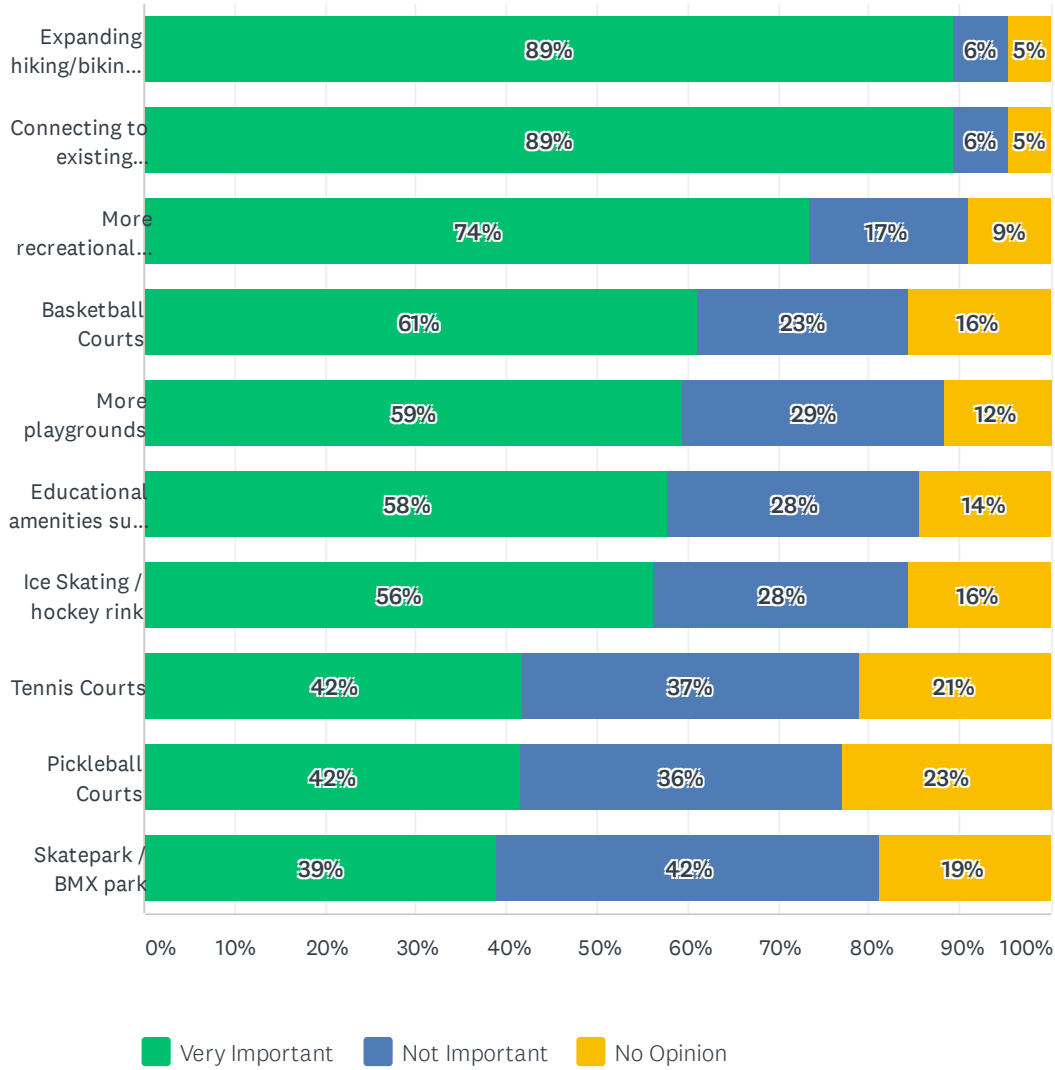
Answered: 315 Skipped: 3



#	IF YES, PLEASE TELL US...	DATE
1	trails trails seem minimal, not connected or convenient	1/4/2021 3:50 PM
2	maintenance The Wasps sometimes fight us for the playground equipment	12/29/2020 2:31 PM
3	unruly youth Too many teenagers hanging around cussing and smoking.	12/24/2020 12:03 AM
4	limited parking Limited parking in Lewis Park	12/23/2020 5:48 PM
5	Covid 19	12/23/2020 12:26 PM
6	unruly youth Smoking and cussing teenagers being rude	12/18/2020 9:13 AM
7	limited parking They are small, parking is limited, I don't know where they all are. Mostly I am aware of the Chancy Lewis Park.	12/18/2020 8:39 AM
8	maintenance Broken nets	12/18/2020 7:37 AM
9	unruly youth Teenagers smoking in front of children	12/16/2020 8:27 PM
10	maintenance Graffiti,	12/16/2020 11:45 AM
11	unsafe Too far from town	12/15/2020 10:01 PM
12	limited parking Traffic / parking	12/15/2020 7:20 PM
13	limited parking Parking	12/15/2020 5:41 PM
14	unruly youth big kids are rude	12/15/2020 3:12 PM
15	unruly youth I think all of the signage regarding NO ____ is off putting. I realize there must be rules, and I don't want the parks abused or to encounter abusive people, but the signs seem offensive.	12/15/2020 2:53 PM
16	maintenance Cleanliness	12/15/2020 2:47 PM
17	unruly youth Sometimes when we visit the playground there are older kids there that make it inappropriate for younger children.	12/15/2020 2:45 PM
18	unsafe Narrow driveway to the park	12/15/2020 2:31 PM
19	unruly youth Riff Raff that hangs out at the park and defaces the property.	12/15/2020 2:28 PM
20	unruly youth Teenagers being on the playground making out while young children are trying to play.	12/15/2020 2:15 PM
21	limited parking Handicapped parking at park	12/15/2020 2:15 PM
22	unsafe traffic speed on M40	12/15/2020 12:59 PM
23	maintenance mosquitos and poison ivy in kids dream	12/15/2020 12:59 PM
24	unsafe Speedy M40	12/15/2020 12:16 PM
25	unruly youth We don't go to kids dream. It's over ran with older kids saying and doing inappropriate things.	12/15/2020 12:05 PM
26	limited parking Parking	12/15/2020 11:49 AM
27	Need to add topsoil along sidewalk from rest room to fountain, and seed for grass	12/15/2020 11:38 AM
28	unruly youth Teens should have another place to go not near the young kids. Too many drugs and vaping being done there	12/15/2020 11:31 AM
29	maintenance The playground is dark and hold a lots of moisture	12/10/2020 6:22 PM
30	maintenance Too many trees over playground area	12/9/2020 8:21 PM

Q7 Indicate your preferences to improve our parks and recreation system.

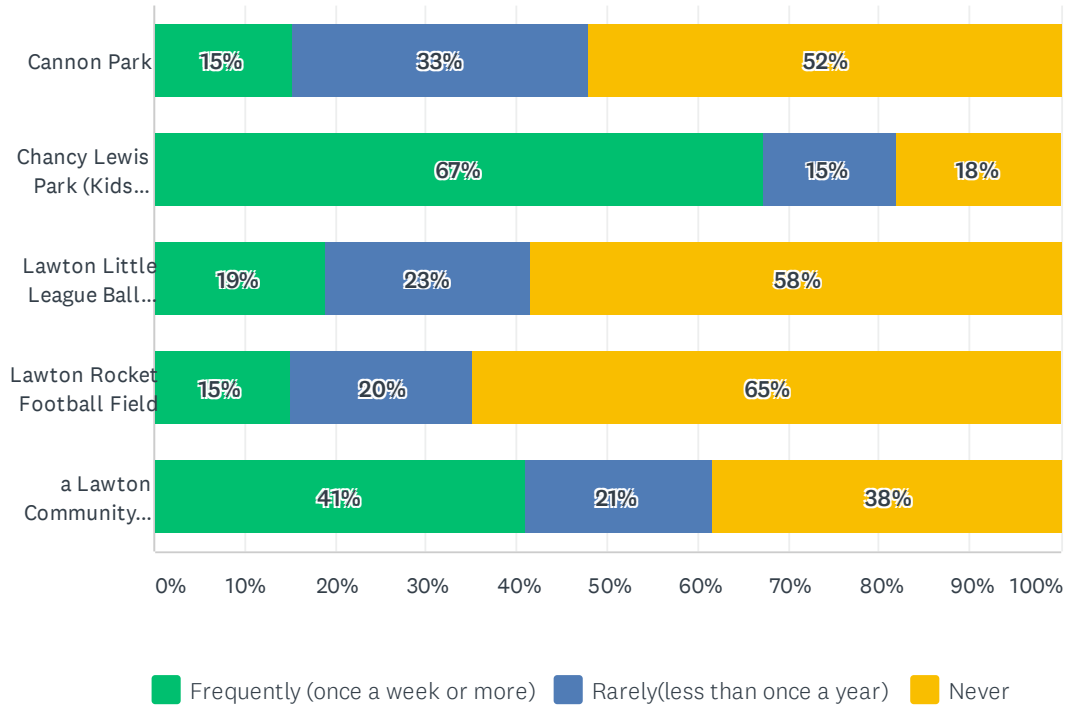
Answered: 318 Skipped: 0



#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Atv/utv trails	1/15/2021 10:13 AM
2	Dog Park	1/9/2021 1:04 PM
3	ORV/ATV Trails/Parks	1/8/2021 12:44 PM
4	atv/orv trails	1/8/2021 12:38 PM
5	Would love to see a small area for skateboarding since it's illegal downtown	1/5/2021 3:26 PM
6	Lighting, security cameras, improved bathroom facilities , fencing	12/23/2020 5:48 PM
7	walking trails with pets	12/21/2020 9:29 PM
8	A safe area for kids to ride bikes/scooters	12/16/2020 8:34 AM
9	Toddler park	12/15/2020 8:51 PM
10	Place to ride ATV	12/15/2020 4:38 PM
11	Encouragement for pet owners to visit designated animal-friendly areas. Education about how tax dollars support and maintain parks - even info on the relevant yearly budgets and if/how they've changed. Personally, I think it's important that people make the connection between taxes and positive, successful initiatives that directly improve residents' quality of life.	12/15/2020 3:45 PM
12	I would like to see work out stations on trails	12/15/2020 3:07 PM
13	A park/playground area in the actual "heart" of the residential area of the Village would be GREAT! Also, a band shell or covered stage area/amphitheatre for future concerts, stage plays/dramas/cultural activities - with potential for lighting and sound - would be extremely positive and a great addition to our park/Village.	12/15/2020 2:53 PM
14	Great to get more varied options for teens and adults that are healthy and constructive! We have good play equipment and basketball areas between schools and Kids Dream already!	12/15/2020 2:52 PM
15	Golf cart trails	12/15/2020 1:11 PM
16	ice hockey that is floor hockey in summer!	12/15/2020 12:59 PM
17	Adding pickleball and shuffleboard may seem boring but it adds a more well rounded age participation in our parks. A tennis court can double for pickleball, just add color specific lines. Adding a shuffleboard pad might be the most cost effective addition that gets used.	12/15/2020 12:12 PM
18	These extra things will are only worthwhile if they are maintained by public works and controlled with police presence. I don't have much faith in public works taking on more responsibilities.	12/15/2020 12:05 PM
19	Upgrade rest rooms, and develop better horse shoe pits.	12/15/2020 11:38 AM
20	Basketball Courts and Baseball fields need improvement	12/9/2020 10:38 AM

Q8 How often do you and your family use the following parks and recreation facilities?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0



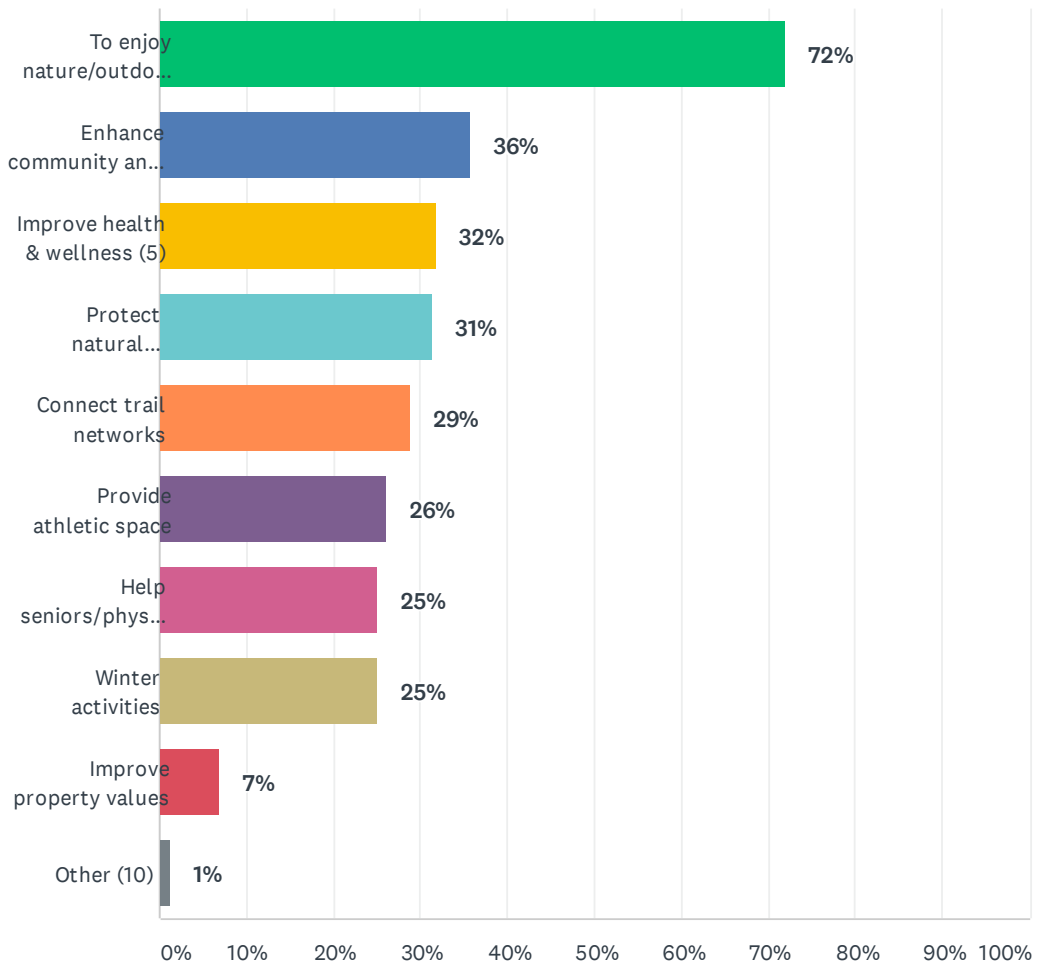
	FREQUENTLY (ONCE A WEEK OR MORE)	RARELY(LESS THAN ONCE A YEAR)	NEVER	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Cannon Park	15% 37	33% 79	52% 126	242	4.06
Chancy Lewis Park (Kids Dream Playground/Splash Pad/Pavilions/Basketball and Tennis Courts)	67% 130	15% 28	18% 35	193	2.16
Lawton Little League Ball Diamonds	19% 52	23% 63	58% 161	276	4.02
Lawton Rocket Football Field	15% 43	20% 57	65% 185	285	4.20
a Lawton Community Schools recreation field/facility	41% 95	21% 48	38% 89	232	3.16

BASIC STATISTICS					
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEDIAN	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
Cannon Park	1.00	5.00	4.00	3.94	1.08
Chancy Lewis Park (Kids Dream Playground/Splash Pad/Pavilions/Basketball and Tennis Courts)	1.00	5.00	3.00	2.79	1.11
Lawton Little League Ball Diamonds	1.00	5.00	5.00	3.97	1.30
Lawton Rocket Football Field	1.00	5.00	5.00	4.14	1.25
a Lawton Community Schools recreation field/facility	1.00	5.00	3.00	3.26	1.40

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	What is Cannon Park?	1/8/2021 7:49 AM
2	cross country trail for walking	12/21/2020 9:29 PM
3	I walk the sidewalks of the village.	12/18/2020 8:39 AM
4	Just moved here	12/15/2020 10:12 PM
5	Often spectators	12/15/2020 5:41 PM
6	During sports seasons, the ball fields are most important	12/15/2020 3:41 PM
7	didn't know that we could use LCS facilities	12/15/2020 3:39 PM
8	During sports seasons, the ball fields are 100% most important.	12/15/2020 3:07 PM
9	just moved to Lawton	12/15/2020 2:18 PM
10	No idea what/where Cannon Park is?	12/15/2020 12:24 PM

Q9 Which of the following of parks and recreation amenities are the most important to you?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0



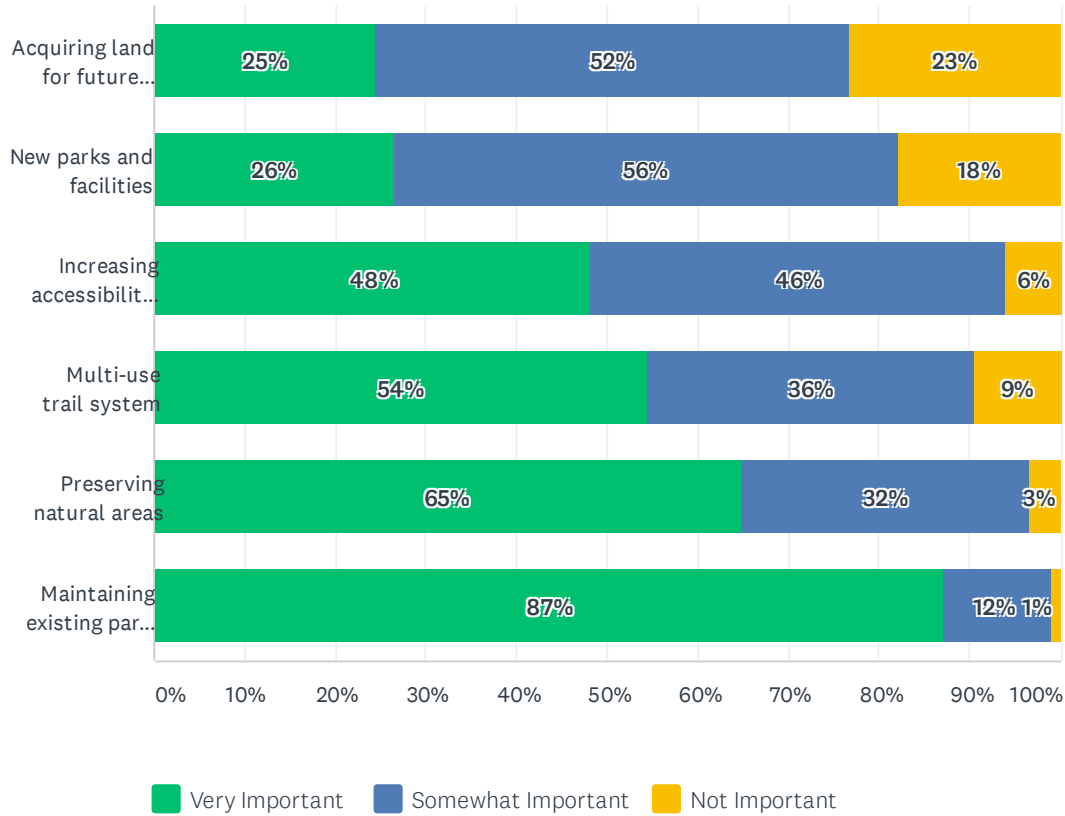
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
To enjoy nature/outdoors (1)	72%	229
Enhance community and sense of place (9)	36%	114
Improve health & wellness (5)	32%	101
Protect natural environment/wildlife (4)	31%	100
Connect trail networks	29%	92
Provide athletic space	26%	83
Help seniors/physically-challenged remain active (2)	25%	80
Winter activities	25%	80
Improve property values (8)	7%	22
Other (10)	1%	4
Total Respondents: 318		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	10.00	4.00	4.32	2.77

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	ATV/ORV trails	1/8/2021 12:38 PM
2	A place to take my granddaughters when they visit.	12/15/2020 5:33 PM
3	Place to ride ATV	12/15/2020 4:38 PM
4	Na	12/15/2020 3:31 PM

Q10 How important are the following to improve parks and recreation in the Village of Lawton

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0

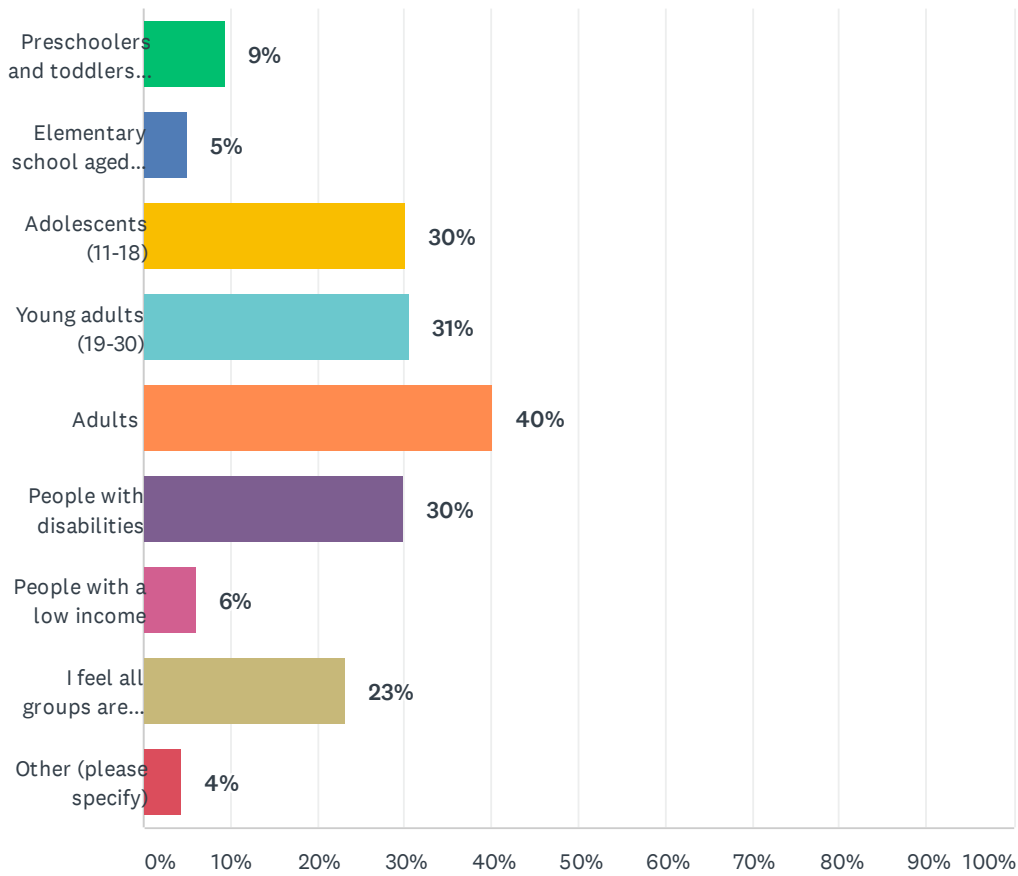


	VERY IMPORTANT (1)	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT (2)	NOT IMPORTANT (3)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Acquiring land for future parks	25% 78	52% 166	23% 74	318	1.99
New parks and facilities	26% 84	56% 177	18% 57	318	1.92
Increasing accessibility for all abilities	48% 153	46% 146	6% 19	318	1.58
Multi-use trail system	54% 173	36% 115	9% 30	318	1.55
Preserving natural areas	65% 206	32% 101	3% 11	318	1.39
Maintaining existing parks and facilities	87% 277	12% 38	1% 3	318	1.14

BASIC STATISTICS					
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEDIAN	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
New parks and facilities	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.92	0.66
Maintaining existing parks and facilities	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.14	0.37
Acquiring land for future parks	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.99	0.69
Increasing accessibility for all abilities	1.00	3.00	2.00	1.58	0.60
Multi-use trail system	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.55	0.66
Preserving natural areas	1.00	3.00	1.00	1.39	0.55

Q11 Which groups do you feel are under-served by current recreation services and amenities?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0



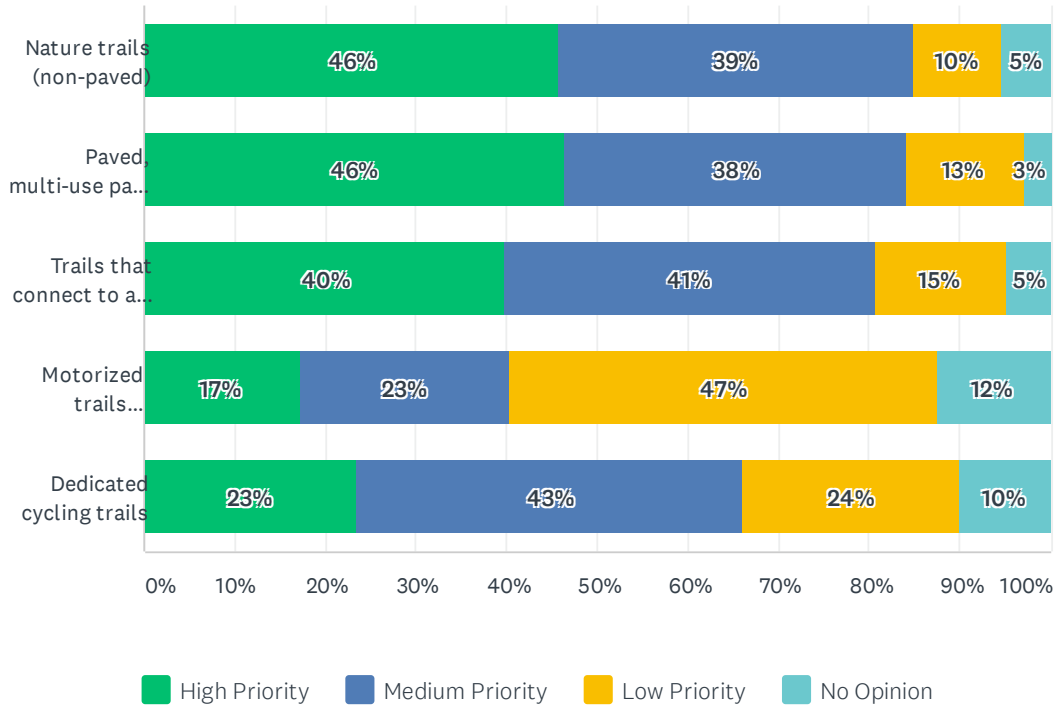
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Preschoolers and toddlers (under 5) (1)	9%	30
Elementary school aged children (5-10) (2)	5%	16
Adolescents (11-18) (3)	30%	96
Young adults (19-30) (4)	31%	97
Adults (5)	40%	128
People with disabilities (6)	30%	95
People with a low income (7)	6%	19
I feel all groups are adequately served (8)	23%	74
Other (please specify) (9)	4%	14
Total Respondents: 318		

BASIC STATISTICS				
Minimum	Maximum	Median	Mean	Standard Deviation
1.00	9.00	5.00	4.92	1.95

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Atv/Utv	1/15/2021 10:13 AM
2	ATV/ORV owners	1/8/2021 12:38 PM
3	Teenagers are a bad influence and I can't let my grandkids go to the park without being there to supervise.	12/24/2020 12:03 AM
4	Seniors seem underrepresented in park users	12/23/2020 5:48 PM
5	Older adults	12/16/2020 11:39 PM
6	older folks who would like to be active in a safe environment	12/16/2020 4:36 PM
7	I don't know enough about the parks to answer this.	12/16/2020 9:14 AM
8	Elderly	12/15/2020 11:50 PM
9	ATV riders	12/15/2020 4:38 PM
10	Senior Citizens	12/15/2020 3:39 PM
11	seniors	12/15/2020 2:35 PM
12	no opinion	12/15/2020 2:18 PM
13	elderly	12/15/2020 12:59 PM
14	I would consider 50+ a group in themselves.	12/15/2020 12:12 PM

Q12 How should different types of trails or pathways be prioritized in the Village of Lawton?

Answered: 318 Skipped: 0



	HIGH PRIORITY (1)	MEDIUM PRIORITY (2)	LOW PRIORITY (3)	NO OPINION (4)	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Nature trails (non-paved)	46% 144	39% 123	10% 30	5% 17	314	1.75
Paved, multi-use paths (bikes, walking, etc.)	46% 146	38% 119	13% 41	3% 9	315	1.72
Trails that connect to a regional trail system	40% 125	41% 129	15% 46	5% 15	315	1.84
Motorized trails (snowmobile, four wheeler, etc.)	17% 54	23% 73	47% 148	12% 39	314	2.55
Dedicated cycling trails	23% 74	43% 135	24% 75	10% 32	316	2.21

BASIC STATISTICS					
	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	MEDIAN	MEAN	STANDARD DEVIATION
Nature trails (non-paved)	1.00	4.00	2.00	1.75	0.84
Paved, multi-use paths (bikes, walking, etc.)	1.00	4.00	2.00	1.72	0.79
Trails that connect to a regional trail system	1.00	4.00	2.00	1.84	0.84
Motorized trails (snowmobile, four wheeler, etc.)	1.00	4.00	3.00	2.55	0.92
Dedicated cycling trails	1.00	4.00	2.00	2.21	0.91

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Multi-use trails (walking, hiking, biking) make sense; prefer non-paved with wooden walkways over low areas	12/23/2020 5:48 PM
2	I see that walking is included with biking. I must disagree with this idea. Bikes and walkers do not mix well. It is unsafe.	12/18/2020 8:39 AM

Q13 Please share any other comments regarding parks and recreation in the Village of Lawton.

Answered: 67 Skipped: 251

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Shooting	1/11/2021 6:19 PM
2	Na	1/10/2021 10:34 PM
3	Consider allowing Geocaching on park lands as a way to attract visitors.	1/10/2021 8:35 PM
4	Increasing the ability for people to enjoy their ATV/ORV/golf carts in the village would greatly increase satisfaction. The northern areas that allow those vehicles to travel helps to make them a destination spot in Michigan. Which then brings more income to those communities.	1/8/2021 12:38 PM
5	Would love to see the hiking/biking trail realized on the large wooded property SW of town, as discussed a couple of years ago	1/5/2021 3:26 PM
6	Love the new splash pad.	1/4/2021 4:47 PM
7	None	1/4/2021 4:08 PM
8	None	1/4/2021 12:40 PM
9	Y	1/4/2021 11:59 AM
10	Connecting bike trails	1/4/2021 10:25 AM
11	Pickleball courts would be great!	1/4/2021 8:58 AM
12	Connect to trails. Help Lawton grow and bring more people through town which helps small businesses grow. While play grounds are nice...they won't bring outside people through town spending money.	1/4/2021 8:32 AM
13	We have a super sidewalk system that we can expand and put more bench seats along	12/29/2020 2:31 PM
14	Commented above. Too much drug and sexual activity taking place by teenagers in Chancy Lewis park.	12/24/2020 12:03 AM
15	The gradual evolution of Lewis Park has been good to see - Splash Pad wonderful; Pickle Ball courts on a resurfaced tennis court makes sense. Developing trails in the adjacent land a high priority; connecting with regional trails would be a huge benefit and would likely attract grant funding.	12/23/2020 5:48 PM
16	None	12/23/2020 3:02 PM
17	A community pool and ice rink would be amazing!	12/23/2020 2:51 PM
18	We need places for families to get out and enjoy nature together. Not all families have children, some are adults with senior parents. Let's find a way to add multigenerational activity/gathering places.	12/23/2020 2:30 PM
19	Alot of people already hang out in the woods where there not supposed to be. More trails might add to that.	12/23/2020 9:42 AM
20	Our family loves the idea of an ice rink. Skating is a lifetime sport and fun for all ages. A skate rental hut could even bring some income in for the community. Sounds like a super fun winter option! We could certainly use more options for winter fun.	12/22/2020 7:41 PM
21	There is nothing to do here. We must have lovely places to play outside and encourage movement for all ages. If we want young families to move here we must offer something for them to do.	12/20/2020 5:48 PM
22	N-A	12/19/2020 6:51 PM
23	None	12/19/2020 10:19 AM
24	Regarding recreation in the Village: the entire village could be considered to be a "recreational facility." I wouldn't call it a park, but it could be 'park-like,' by which my thought is that it could be more conducive to residents and neighbors being better acquainted and more involved. The need for going to small parks dotted around the village might be mitigated if people found park-like settings at their home which may be accessed at a moment's notice, without traffic issues. RE: Chauncy Lewis Park, I find that the need to cross M-40 to get to it from most of the village is not a safe condition for children and other pedestrians.	12/18/2020 8:39 AM

25	I would like to see the streets in the Village of Lawton all to have pedestrian side walks on both sides of each street. When there are even two or three walkers, going in differing directions on the one side walk that is available, someone has to step out onto the street. If you want the Village to be appealing to possible new residents, they are looking for safe walking conditions for them and for their children throughout the village. There are too many streets without sidewalks both sides of a street. It shouts neglect for the residents, regardless of whether they are using your parks or not. They need safe and pleasurable conditions near to home. Who wants to have to drive everywhere, and to a park especially when they have their own neighborhoods to possible enjoy?	12/16/2020 4:36 PM
26	Think the splash pad is great happy the kids have a fun place to play in the summer !!	12/16/2020 4:33 PM
27	Na	12/16/2020 8:50 AM
28	We LOVE Kids Dream and the splash pad! I have 3 little kids and we go there almost daily! It would be nice to have paved paths/trails somewhere though to go and walk with the kids without having to worry about traffic - some place that is easy to push a stroller and for the young ones to ride bikes.	12/16/2020 8:34 AM
29	We would love to see pickle ball courts that specifically cater to seniors but can be utilized by all ages.	12/16/2020 7:21 AM
30	How does this department share information with the public? I was not aware there was a parks and recreation department until I received this email to take survey.	12/15/2020 10:00 PM
31	It would be great to have a bike trail connect to Paw Paw.	12/15/2020 9:41 PM
32	More toddler swings	12/15/2020 8:51 PM
33	Bicycle trails paved would be so nice	12/15/2020 8:44 PM
34	Proud of our community and our parks	12/15/2020 7:45 PM
35	We need public walking paths that are safe and well maintained.	12/15/2020 5:55 PM
36	My granddaughters love the splash pad!	12/15/2020 5:33 PM
37	Splash Pad is great addition would like to see more improvements to park surrounding it including upgrading bathrooms.	12/15/2020 5:32 PM
38	None	12/15/2020 4:43 PM
39	Currently there is no local place for ATV riders to go in this area. The closest trail is over 3 hours away. Closest park is 2 hours away. ATV trail would bring in more people and provide increase to local economy.	12/15/2020 4:38 PM
40	Maintaining our youth fields is most important. Our children deserve the best.	12/15/2020 3:41 PM
41	None	12/15/2020 3:34 PM
42	Little league and rocket are definitely highest priority, but it would be nice to see improvements to trails.	12/15/2020 3:07 PM
43	The playground that we have now is poorly taking care of. I think you need to take care of what you have before you build new things.	12/15/2020 3:07 PM
44	None	12/15/2020 3:04 PM
45	I would love to see more nature and walking trails. Also more promotion of these trails.	12/15/2020 3:00 PM
46	We would LOVE to have pickle ball courts/updated tennis courts! Right now we drive to Paw Paw or Kalamazoo to play pickle ball, but we'd LOVE being able to play here. We'd also frequently use walking/biking trails!! If we had kids, I think my husband and I would use the current parks more often because they look so fun. At this point though, my husband and I wish there were more things available for adults who like to get outside (other than walking around the village).	12/15/2020 3:00 PM
47	I wouldn't categorize "Canon Park" as a "park" - it holds a picnic table and a refuse can. And a monument. For it to be a "park" it would seem that there might need to be a bit more space there and definitely an amenity or two. I had to puzzle a minute to identify this "park" in my	12/15/2020 2:53 PM

	mind; I would guess that most folks recognize only one park in the Village, and it is on the outskirts of the Village at that.	
48	Keep working on trimming trees for better visibility into activities in the park. Great work on updates and improvements!	12/15/2020 2:52 PM
49	Parks always seem to be clean and maintained.	12/15/2020 2:31 PM
50	We love the parks in Lawton and would appreciate some walking and biking trails as well.	12/15/2020 2:30 PM
51	Would love to see kids dream have a face lift, and re-create activities there, now that the water park is there!	12/15/2020 2:21 PM
52	Why not use the current green space in town across from barn brewers as a sitting area with tables or benches and offer outdoor seating for the local restaurants. It would be a VERY welcoming site for visitors and make our small town very likable. Take carry out food over to that area to enjoy by all. You could fit ALOT of tables and landscaping to make it beautiful.	12/15/2020 2:19 PM
53	Thank you for your focus on this important issue.	12/15/2020 1:08 PM
54	We've occasionally seen older kids hanging out at the dream not really playing, just sitting. I didn't notice any mischief going on, but if they had a skate park or floor hockey area maybe they wouldn't be bored and open to finding trouble to get into. This could turn into games during summer fest or all summer long. A floor hockey tournament during summer fest over the weekend, or just a small league all summer/winter long for those who can skate on ice or just can't and want to play on foot.	12/15/2020 12:59 PM
55	Would love to see a dog park!	12/15/2020 12:24 PM
56	I think Lawton has and is doing a great job with it's parks and recreation.	12/15/2020 12:12 PM
57	Over all I think the addition of the splash pad has been a huge asset to the community. I have seen a lot more people using the park even in a pandemic	12/15/2020 11:54 AM
58	Maybe a band stand and an activities coordinator	12/15/2020 11:49 AM
59	Would love to have ATV park or trails. Walking and bike trails would be amazing	12/15/2020 11:45 AM
60	Walking trails would be good, if you are going to connect to other trail networks, then they should be a multi use trail. (ie- bicycle,horseback,snowmobile.	12/15/2020 11:38 AM
61	Basketball courts should be moved to Field near HS. Similar to Hartford Schools set up. Current ones fill with water too easily and are too near little kids	12/15/2020 11:31 AM
62	This is a vital initiative to ensure our town continues to thrive and our citizens remain active and connected to one another! So important for maintaining a strong sense of community!! Bravo!	12/15/2020 11:26 AM
63	It would be great to have a trail system that loops from our parks to the high school with meandering in between, this would be great for hiking, biking and running, Portage has an excellent system and it is very popular	12/15/2020 9:18 AM
64	Need to attempt some volunteer monitoring during high usage times. Have heard of several complaints reference of older kids and improper behavior. The police have checked it often but they can't be there all the time. It would add to the use of our parks to try and obtain a few presentations every summer, regarding any number of things. I.e. local history, natur	12/14/2020 8:01 PM
65	I think that the restrooms should be expanded to accommodate more users at one time.	12/14/2020 6:31 PM
66	Maintaining Kids Dream and the Splash Park are very high priorities. There are parts of Kids Dream that need repairs now.	12/14/2020 12:08 PM
67	Na	12/10/2020 6:31 PM



COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

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

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

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

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:

Village of Lawton Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2021 - 2025

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
Village of Lawton	Van Buren	January 2021

PLAN CONTENT

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

✓ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

✓ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

- ✓ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- ✓ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- ✓ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
- ✓ Current Funding Sources
- ✓ Role of Volunteers
- ✓ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

N/A **Recreation Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:**

N/A Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities

N/A Articles of Incorporation

✓ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

- ✓ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- ✓ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ✓ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- ✓ Accessibility Assessment

N/A Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

N/A Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

N/A **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**

✓ **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

✓ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

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

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

Date of the Notice December 24, 2020

Type of Notice Legal Notice in Courier Leader

Plan Location Lawton Village Hall or Website

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 32 days

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

Date of Notice December 24, 2020

Name of Newspaper Courier Leader

Date of Meeting Tuesday, January 26, 2021

✓ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

✓ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

✓ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

N/A 9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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

✓ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 26, 2021

2. Official resolution of the N/A
recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: N/A

✓ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: January 27, 2021

✓ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: January 27, 2021

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

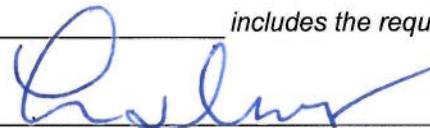
I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

Village of Lawton

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated



Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

January 26, 2021

Date

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

OFFICE OF

THE COURIER-LEADER

PAW PAW, MI 49079

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF VAN BUREN,

Robin L. Racette Griffin

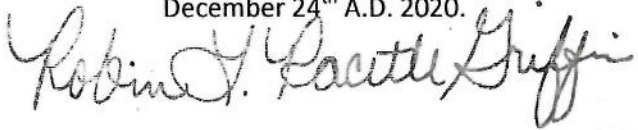
Being duly sworn, says I am the printer of

THE COURIER-LEADER,

a weekly newspaper printed and circulating in

said county, that the annexed is a printed copy

December 24th A.D. 2020.

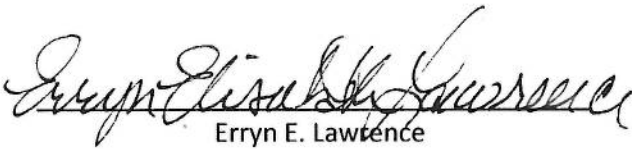


Printer.

Robin L. Racette Griffin

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this

24th day of December A.D. 2020.


Erryn E. Lawrence

NOTARY PUBLIC, VAN BUREN COUNTY,

MICHIGAN

ERRYN ELISABETH LAWRENCE
Notary Public, Van Buren Co., MI
My Commission Expires 02/15/2024

VILLAGE OF LAWTON
5 YEAR PARKS and RECREATION
MASTER PLAN
**NOTICE of PLAN AVAILABILITY
for PUBLIC REVIEW and COMMENT**

A draft of the 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the Village of Lawton will be available for public review and comment for 30 days beginning on December 26th at 12 noon. Anyone interested may review the plan and forward comments.

Written comments may be sent to Village of Lawton, 125 S. Main Street., P.O. Box 367, Lawton, MI 49065, c/o Lisa Imus. Email comments may be sent to ImusL@LawtonMI.gov. Copies of the plan are on file at Lawton Village Hall or online at: www.LawtonMI.gov.

For more information contact:

Lisa Imus, Village Manager
(269) 624-6407

Joni Bell
Village Clerk

Dec. 24, 2020

PUBLISHER'S AFFIDAVIT

OFFICE OF
THE COURIER-LEADER

PAW PAW, MI 49079

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF VAN BUREN,

Robin L. Racette Griffin

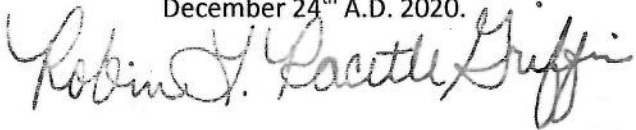
Being duly sworn, says I am the printer of

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a weekly newspaper printed and circulating in

said county, that the annexed is a printed copy

December 24th A.D. 2020.

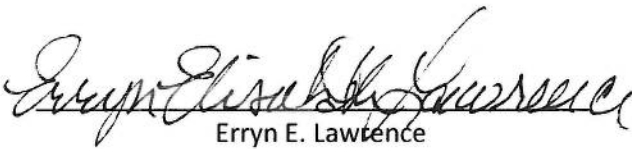


Printer.

Robin L. Racette Griffin

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this

24th day of December A.D. 2020.


Erryn E. Lawrence

NOTARY PUBLIC, VAN BUREN COUNTY,

MICHIGAN

ERRYN ELISABETH LAWRENCE
Notary Public, Van Buren Co., MI
My Commission Expires 02/15/2024

Village of Lawton
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Parks and Recreation 5-year Master Plan

The Village of Lawton will conduct a Public Hearing during the regular Council meeting on Tuesday, January 26th, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held virtually and can be accessed by phone - dial (312) 626-6799 and enter meeting ID#223 344 0545) or by computer at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2233440545> and enter meeting ID# 223 344 0545.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is for the Village Council to hear comments and make a determination to accept the Parks and Recreation Plan for the Village of Lawton. Written comments will be received at Lawton Village Hall, 125 S. Main St., PO Box 367, Lawton, MI 49065 until 3 p.m. on January 26th, or may be presented during the public hearing. For additional information contact the Village Manager at lmusL@LawtonMI.gov.

Copies of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan are available for review at the Village of Lawton office or on the Village website at www.LawtonMI.gov. Necessary and reasonable aids and services for disabled persons upon 7 days prior notice to the City Offices at (269) 624-6407.

Joni Bell
Lawton Village Clerk

Dec. 24, 2020



VILLAGE OF LAWTON

Regular Meeting Minutes – Tuesday January 26, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting was held remotely and in person

Lawton Village Hall – 125 S Main Street, Lawton MI 49065

WWW.LAWTONMI.GOV 269.624.6407

MINUTES

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** President Knudstrup called the January 26, 2021 Meeting of the Lawton Village Council to order at 7:03 p.m.
- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **ROLL CALL:** Present: President Knudstrup. Trustees: J Appleby, E. Dudek, G. Dudek, N. Smith, J. Peterson and R. Turner. Absent: None. Others present: Village Manager Imus, Superintendent Hackenberg, and 3 other guests.
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA:** The Consent Agenda included the approval of the January 26, 2021 Council Agenda, the January 12, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes. Peterson, supported by E Dudek, made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval.
- V. **COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:**
- VI. **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**
- VII. **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**
 - A. Manager Imus gave a brief summary of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Appleby made a motion to open the public hearing to discuss the Master Parks and Recreation Plan with support from Peterson. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor.
 - B. Public comment for the proposed Parks and Recreation plan, Paul Harvey commented on the importance of trails and that adjacent townships are also working on the development of trails. Pam Stermer from the County Planning Commission was curious when it will coming their way to take a look at, she thinks it looks like a great plan. Councilman Appleby applauded Manager Imus on what a great job has been done putting this all together, he had commented on the trails and the ability to walk. President Knudstrup agreed with Appleby noting that it was extremely well done and furthers the village to be a Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC). E Dudek also is very happy with how this turned out. With no further comment, Turner with support from G Dudek made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

VIII. EXISTING BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution 01-2021: A Resolution to Approve the Village of Lawton 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Turner made a motion to Approve Resolution 01-2021, supported by Appleby. A roll call vote was taken with all in favor.

IX. BOARD, COMMITTEE, AND STAFF REPORTS

Village Manager – Manager Imus reminded everyone that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, January 30th at 10:00 a.m. to welcome The Allen Group to the Village.

- X. **COUNCIL COMMENTS** – E Dudek noted that Duane Packer stopped into the Village Office, thinking this was an in-person meeting. Duane commented that he is extremely happy about the Parks and Recreation Plan and he is willing to help in any way he can. Appleby commented he would like a reminder to go to village residents regarding parking, making sure they are not parking on the sidewalks now that the snow has fallen.

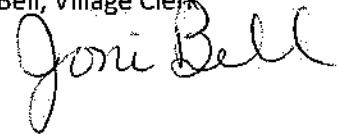
XI. CLOSED SESSION

Peterson moved that Council go into a Closed Session in accordance with the provisions of Section 8(d) of the Open Meetings Act to consider purchase/lease of real property, with support from G Dudek at 7:30 p.m. A unanimous roll call vote taken.

Turner made motion to end the closed session at 8:26 p.m. supported by E Dudek. A unanimous roll call vote was taken.

- XII. **ADJOURNMENT** – Appleby, supported by Turner, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. A roll call vote was taken with unanimous approval of those present. The next regular scheduled meeting is February 9, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted by Joni Bell, Village Clerk



**VILLAGE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON
COUNTY OF VAN BUREN
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION NO. 01-2021

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON
5-YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN (2021 - 2025)**

At a regular meeting of the Village Council for the Village of Lawton, Michigan, held via a virtual Zoom meeting in Lawton, Michigan, on the 26th day of January 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: President Knudstrup. Trustees: J Appleby, E. Dudek, G. Dudek, N. Smith,
J. Peterson and R. Turner.

ABSENT: None.

The following Resolution was offered by Councilperson Turner and supported by Councilperson Appleby.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Village Council of the Village of Lawton, County of Van Buren, State of Michigan has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreational and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2021 through 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lawton began the process of developing a five-year community parks and recreation master plan 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 Village of Lawton 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 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of 30+ days from the dates of December 23, 2020 to January 26, 2021, and

WHEREAS, a Virtual Public Hearing was held during a regular Village Council Meeting on January 26th, 2021 to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Village of Lawton 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2021 – 2025), and

WHEREAS, the Village of Lawton has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Village of Lawton, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Village of Lawton Village Council publicly considered the adoption the Village of Lawton 5-year Parks & Recreation Master Plan (2021 – 2025).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Village of Lawton hereby adopts Village of Lawton 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2021 – 2025).

YEAS: P. Knudstrup, J. Appleby, E. Dudek, G. Dudek, N. Smith, J. Peterson and R. Turner.

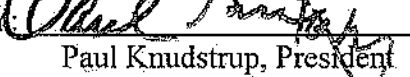
NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

ADOPTED this 26th day of January 2021.

VILLAGE OF THE VILLAGE OF LAWTON

BY: 
Paul Knudstrup, President

BY: 
Joni Bell, Village Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I, Joni Bell, the duly appointed Clerk of the Village of Lawton, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Lawton Village Council at a regular meeting held January 26th, 2021, in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, the minutes of the meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.

VILLAGE OF LAWTON

BY: 
Joni Bell, Village Clerk



VILLAGE of LAWTON

P. O. Box 367 • 125 S. Main Street • Lawton, Michigan 49065 • (269) 624-6407
www.LawtonMI.gov Follow us on Facebook @[VillageofLawtonMI](https://www.facebook.com/VillageofLawtonMI)

January 27, 2021

Mr. Ted Thar, Director of Land Management
219 Paw Paw Street
Suite 302
Paw Paw, MI 49079

Dear Mr. Thar:

Enclosed for the Van Buren County Planning Commission's and your review is a copy of the Village of Lawton's first 5-year Park and Recreation Master Plan (2021 – 2025) adopted by the Village Council on January 26th, 2021. The plan has recently been created based on the established guidelines by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and we would appreciate your review and any comments you may have concerning the Plan's contents. The plan is also located on the Village's website at www.lawtonmi.gov.

If you need have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Lisa Imus
Lawton Village Manager



VILLAGE *of* LAWTON

P. O. Box 367 • 125 S. Main Street • Lawton, Michigan 49065 • (269) 624-6407
www.LawtonMI.gov Follow us on Facebook @[VillageofLawtonMI](https://www.facebook.com/VillageofLawtonMI)

January 27, 2021

Marcy Hamilton, Deputy Executive Director
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
376 West Main Street
Suite 130
Benton Harbor, MI 49022-3651

Dear Ms. Hamilton:

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the Village of Lawton's first 5-year Park and Recreation Master Plan (2021 – 2025) adopted by the Village Council on January 26th, 2021. The plan has recently been created based on the established guidelines by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and we would appreciate your review and any comments you may have concerning the Plan's contents. The plan is also located on the Village's website at www.lawtonmi.gov.

If you need have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Lisa Imus
Lawton Village Manager

The plan is also located on the Village's website at www.lawtonmi.gov.

Village of Lawton is an equal opportunity employer