



CITY OF MONTROSE

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN **2026-2031**



ROWE Professional Services Company in collaboration with the City of Montrose

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Kim Lynch – Treasurer

Christina Rush - Clerk

Montrose City Council

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Abbreviations

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AYSO	American Youth Soccer Organization
CIP	Capital Improvement Plan
DDA	Downtown Development Authority
GISD	Genesee Intermediate School District
MDNR	Michigan Department of Natural Resources
MEDC	Michigan Economic Development Corporation
MTA	Mass Transportation Authority
NRPA	National Recreation and Parks Association
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

Section I - Introduction

The residents of the City of Montrose enjoy recreational facilities that have been completed through various partnerships and community investment projects. This plan is intended to be a tool to continue good stewardship of existing features, fostering partnerships, and pursuit of future projects.

This Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared by the City of Montrose, with direction from the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and assistance from ROWE Professional Services Company. The recreation plan is intended to guide decisions affecting the future development and improvements of the city's recreation facilities and programs. The previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2021. This plan is divided into several separate sections that represent the planning process used in its development. In addition to this introduction, the plan contains;

- **Community Description** – Provides an overview of the city's current and projected social, physical, and economic characteristics.
- **Administrative Structure** – Identifies the entities responsible for administration of the parks and recreation programs and facilities provided throughout the city.
- **Parks, Facility, and Program Inventory** – Describes the existing parks, facilities within Montrose, and programs provided in and around the city.
- **Planning Process** – Describes the participatory process by the community and other partners; process will discuss the community description, recreation inventory, public participation, analysis, action program, and plan completion and adoption.
- **Goals and Objectives** – Summarizes information collected that provides support for the suggestions and recommendations in accordance with city's specific community goals.
- **Action Plan** – Identifies the plan's goals and objectives, all project and system recommendations, and a five-year plan for investment.

The Five-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan will be used as a solid foundation for future recreational facilities and programming improvements through the city; as well as continued investments and policies that will continue to support a healthy desirable quality of life for the residents in the service area. This plan will allow the city to be eligible for Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) funding and other financial sources.

Suggestions for land acquisitions, potential construction projects and park improvements are contingent upon neighborhood interest and further studies conducted by the community.

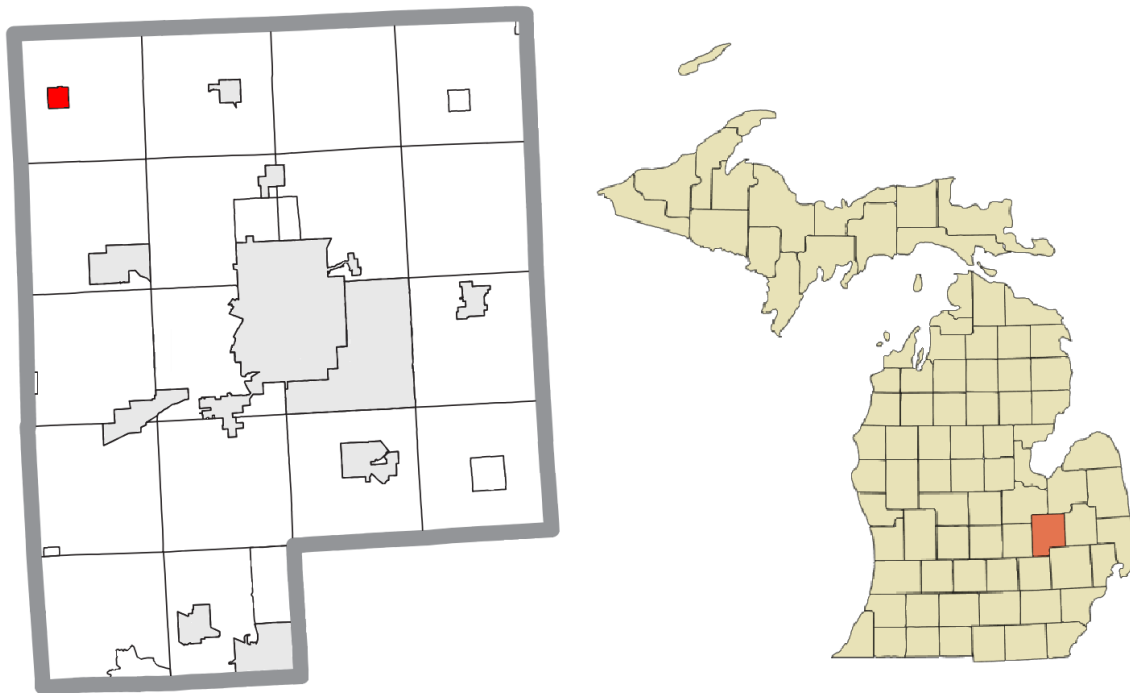
Section II - Community Description

Regional Setting

The City of Montrose is in northwest portion of Genesee County, northwest of the City of Flint; 87 miles northwest of Detroit. It covers a land area slightly over 0.98 square miles and is directly bordered by Montrose Township. It is serviced by the Montrose Community School District; and serves as a bedroom community for residents who work in major urban centers in the Flint/Genesee and Saginaw County community.

This location provides Montrose residents with a rural environment with easy access to major transportation corridors (I-75, I-69, US-23), communities throughout southeastern Michigan, as well as several local communities which offer a variety of amenities and opportunities for recreation, shopping, and employment. Map 1 shows the location of Montrose and its surrounding communities.

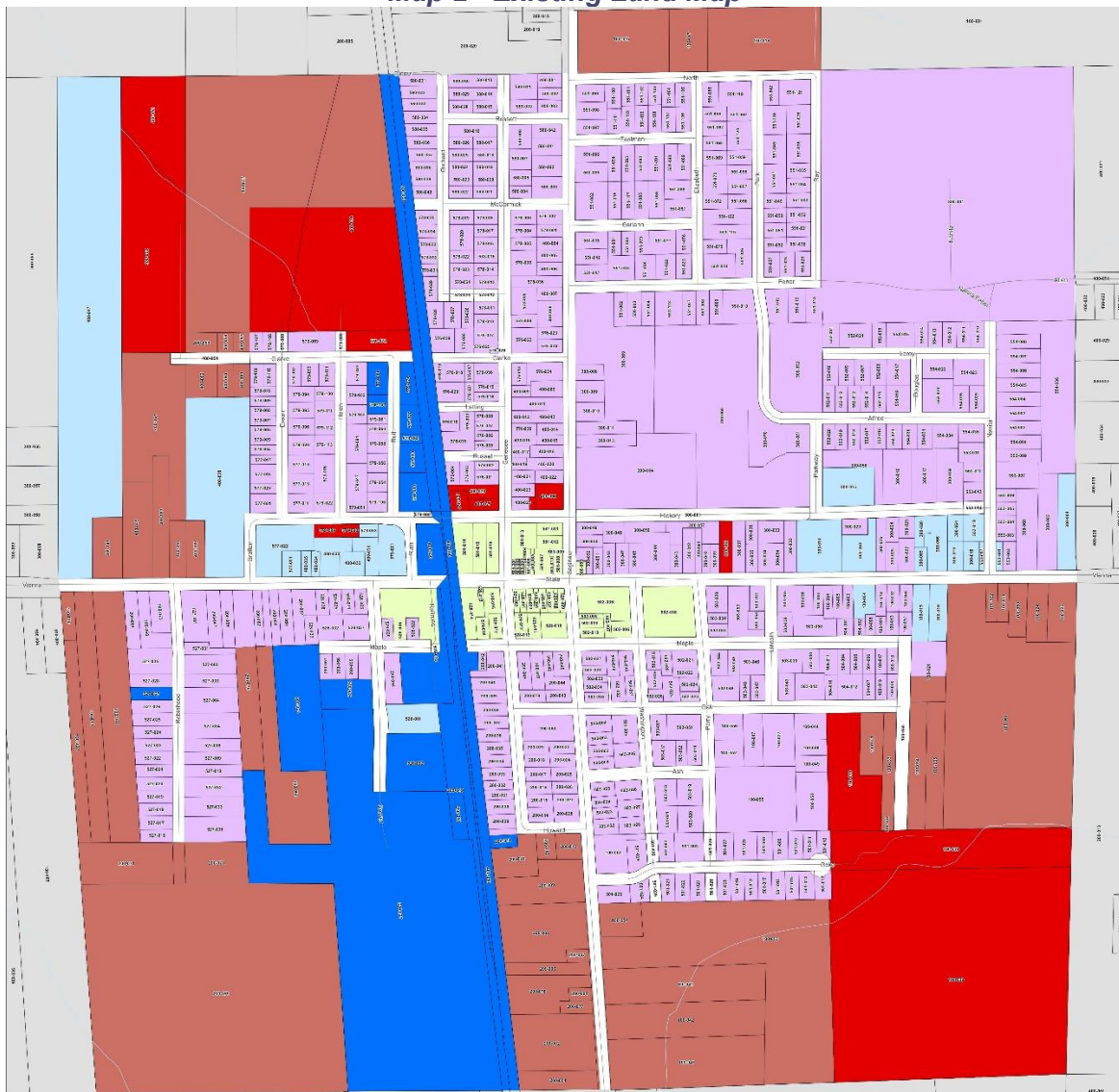
Map 1 - Location Map



Existing Land Use

Map 2 details the current land use of the city of Montrose. The topography of the city is characterized “generally flat to gently rolling terrain”. The city is mostly used for residential use with the central area used for commercial/business.

Map 2 - Existing Land Map



Transportation

Public transportation in Genesee County is provided by the Mass Transportation Authority (MTA), headquartered in Flint. Bus routes run throughout the day from the central terminal in downtown Flint to various locations throughout the county. There is currently no fixed bus route in the city; however, there is curb-to-curb shuttle services (Your Ride) in certain areas of Genesee County, including Montrose. The MTA also provides transportation by the “Rides for Wellness” program which provides access for residents in Genesee County for non-emergency medical transportation. The Greyhound Bus Station/Amtrak Station is located southeast of Montrose in Flint; aviation transportation is also located in Flint through Bishop International Airport which operates daily flights to various destinations around the country.

Climate

Montrose is in a region with cold winters and warm summers, which provide the residents with a wide variety of weather patterns. Average annual precipitation varies from 28 to 32 inches with winter snowfall and summer rainfall. Average temperatures vary from 21 degrees Fahrenheit in January to above 70 degrees Fahrenheit in July.

Water Resources

Water resources in this community are limited to various private ponds, swamps, and wetlands. Waterways located in Montrose include the Montrose Drain, Misteguay Creek (just southwest of Montrose), and the Flint River which runs to the north through parts of Flint Township. Water resources for consumption are provided through the Genesee County Drain Commission.

Population

The population of Montrose has steadily increased in past census reports. From 2010 to 2020, there was a 5.13 percent increase in population. The age breakdown of Montrose is also provided; the median age is 31 years old.

Table 1 - Population

Census	Population
1980	1,931
1990	1,812
2000	1,611
2010	1,657
2020	1,742

*Information collected from population and age distribution from the 2020 Census.

Table 2 - Age Distribution in the City of Montrose

Age	Percentage
Under 19	30.39%
20 – 24	8.65%
25 – 44	23.72%
45 – 64	22.12%
65 and over	15.12%

Section III - Administrative Structure

This section of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan describes how the resources and recreational programming within the city are administered as well as to how the Master Plan was developed. In this section, roles and positions within the city are also identified, along with information regarding the projected budgets, funding history, current partnerships and roles of volunteers for Montrose.

Downtown Development Authority

The City of Montrose has a DDA made up of city staff and community/business members that have acted in an advisory role, making recommendations and proposing new initiatives for the updated recreation master plan. The DDA also reviewed the parks and recreation master plan prior to the plan going out for public review and comment.

City of Montrose City Council

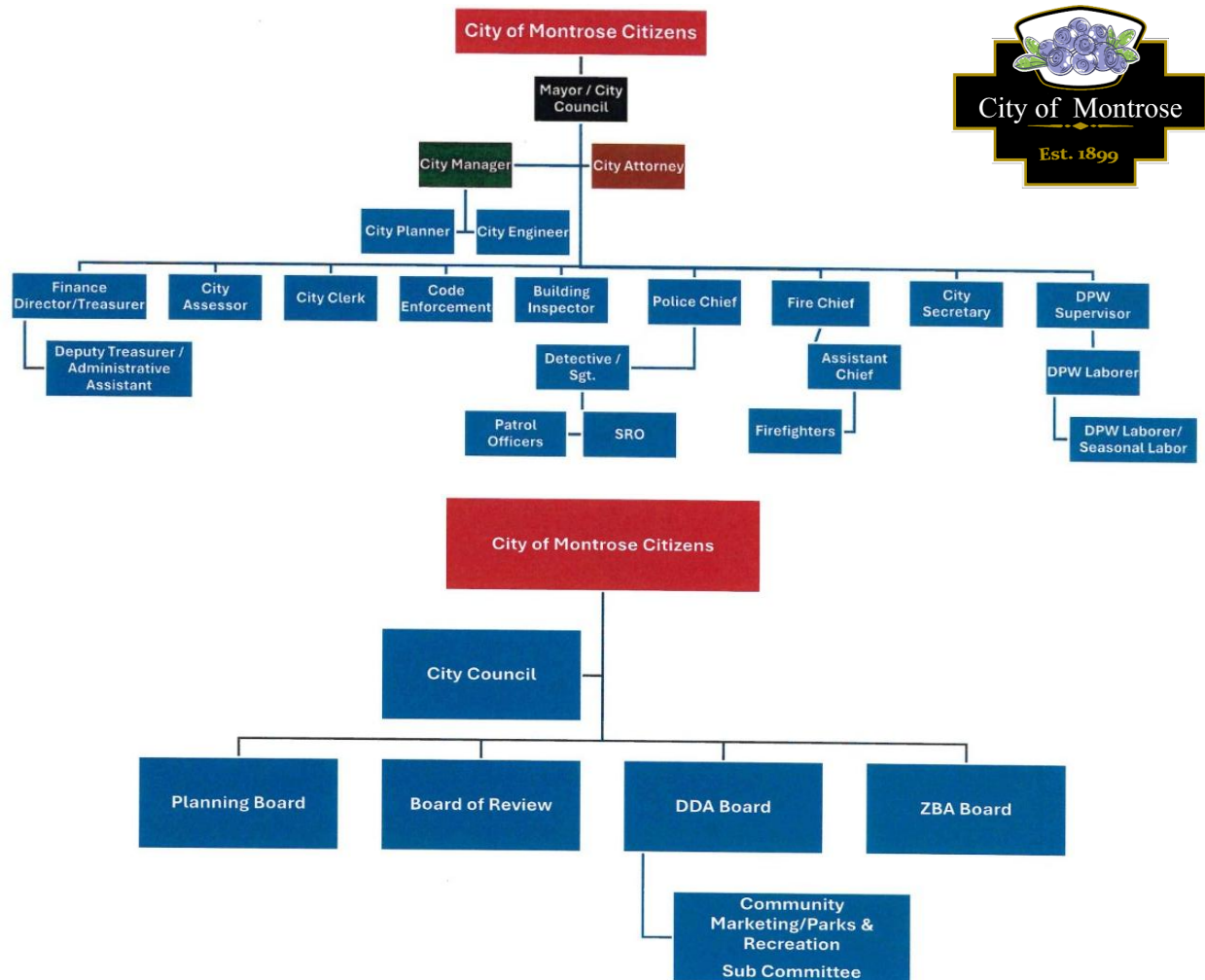
The City Council holds final authority regarding parks and recreation planning and development under the authority of MCL 41.421 (Michigan Compiled Laws) and Act 157 of the Public Acts of 1905. The city operates under a council-manager form of government, where the mayor is a member of the City Council, voted in by the residents and appointed by the other City Council members. The City Manager is hired by the City Council to operate day-to-day business of the city and to oversee all operations of the government. During this process of updating the parks and recreation master plan, after the plan was reviewed by the DDA, the plan was presented to the City Council for review where they were given the opportunity to review. After the 30-day review by the community, the sole approval of the plan rests with the city council.

City of Montrose Parks and Recreation Department

The city does not currently have any staffed personnel in the parks and recreation department. Maintenance is coordinated through the city's Public Works director and from various volunteer groups that support and operate within the city.

Figure 1 details the administrative structure for the City of Montrose.

Figure 1 - Administrative Structure



Budget

The 2026 budget for the parks and recreation department includes nearly \$42,000 for salaries and wages and an additional \$10,500 for equipment rental and leases. This is for park maintenance and upkeep and is a 33 percent increase from 2025. Some of the budgeted items include equipment upgrades at Blueberry Park, tree removals and restoration work at Lions Park, and utility cost for lights in the parks. Additional funding for the parks is provided through fundraising efforts, donations provided through endowments and philanthropic organizations, and through grants from state and federal partners. The budget information from 2025 through 2027 is listed below:

Dept 751 - PARKS AND RECREATION					
101-751-702 SALARIES AND WAGES	25,716.59	25,000.00	20,601.36	25,000.00	41,999.00
101-751-709 SS & MEDICARE	1,965.31	1,913.00	1,578.04	1,913.00	3,213.00
101-751-717 MERS	605.40	1,000.00	786.58	1,000.00	2,015.00
101-751-719 WORKERS COMP		250.00	109.71	250.00	220.00
101-751-752 SUPPLIES - OPERATING & OFFICE	372.82	1,765.00	255.76	1,765.00	2,306.00
101-751-801 CONTRACTED SERVICES	688.06	10,000.00	4,000.00	10,000.00	8,900.00
101-751-811 IT SERVICES	517.61	400.00	494.63	400.00	
101-751-920 UTILITIES	2,508.47	2,625.00	1,293.89	2,625.00	2,640.00
101-751-934 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	341.75	500.00	69.46	500.00	
101-751-940 EQUIPMENT RENTALS & LEASES		5,500.00		5,500.00	10,500.00
101-751-975 CAPITAL OUTLAY		5,000.00		5,000.00	
Totals for dept 751 - PARKS AND RECREATION	32,716.01	53,953.00	29,189.43	53,953.00	71,793.00

Funding History

The city has received two grants from the State of Michigan dating back to 1977 and two grants from the US Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department. These grants included:

- **26-00892:** \$6,790 – Construction of a shelter, driveway, and picnic equipment for Blueberry Park - 1977 (CLOSED)
- **CDBG:** \$18,000 – Parking Lot construction for Blueberry Park - 2018 (CLOSED)
- **CDBG:** \$35,000 – Playground Equipment for Blueberry Park - 2020 (CLOSED)
- **RP20-0038:** \$41,200 – Playground Equipment and sidewalk connections for Blueberry Park. (CLOSED)

Programming

Currently, the city does not coordinate any programming for recreational activities. Activities and programming operate from the local school district or in private businesses.

Relationships with School District(s), Other Public Agencies, or Public Organizations

Montrose includes one school district, Montrose Community Schools which services students in the area (elementary through high school). The Genesee Intermediate School District (GISD) is the regional educational service provider servicing students with technical and advanced educational course offerings, career/technical programming and adult/special educational services.

Other agencies that provide support and have partnered with the city are the Genesee Committee Metropolitan Planning Commission, American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), and Genesee County Parks. The city and the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission are continuing discussions about developing a bike lane along M-57 (Vienna Road) through the city and township. Genesee County Parks continues to nurture a positive relationship with the city, providing recreational opportunities through the nearby Flushing County Park for the residents of Montrose and by the nearby Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Junction in Mt. Morris.

Role of Volunteers

The role of volunteers in Montrose has proved to be extremely important for the success and continued progress of recreational activities in the community. Various volunteer groups throughout the city include a canoe and kayak launch club, and railroad depot volunteer group.

Section IV - Parks, Facility, and Program Inventory

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes an inventory of recreation facilities, programs, and events that occur within the City of Montrose as they provide information about the development of the action plan. Understanding the specific facilities and events available to the residents of Montrose will aid decision-making in the future. The following is a summary of the current recreational properties in Montrose. This also includes an accessibility designation that is based from the National Recreation and Parks Association. The designation is as follows:

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

City Park Facilities

- ❖ **Lions Park** (Neighborhood Park): Located directly across from Carter Elementary School and named after the local Lions Club chapter. Current amenities include restroom facilities, open-air pavilion with picnic tables, grills, benches, and trash receptacles. Park does provide access from the elementary school to the high school that is located north of the park and the community library.

Size: 2.7 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: 200 Alfred Street

Facilities: Pavilion, grills, restroom facilities, benches

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranking – 3)
Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

DNR Recreation Grants: None awarded to date



- ❖ **Blueberry Park** (Neighborhood Park): Located on the corner of S. Saginaw Street and Coke Drive, less than 1,100 feet from city hall, this park is identified as a neighborhood park. Current amenities include playground equipment for ages 2-5 and 6-12, walking path with lights, picnic tables, restroom facilities, and a small pavilion.

Size: 1.4 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: 237 S. Saginaw Street

Facilities: 0.5 Concrete trail, playground

equipment, lighting, picnic tables, trash receptacles, restroom facilities

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranking - 3) Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.

DNR Recreation Grants: LWCF - 26-00892, RP20-0038, CBDG 2018 and 2020



- ❖ **Montrose Train Depot** (Community Center): Located off State Street and Hickory, the Montrose Train Depot is included in the updated plan because the site is seen as an redeveloped site that could be used for recreational purposes in the city. The building has its own volunteer organization and there have been groups that have rented out the building for various uses.

Location: 154 W. State Street

Facilities: Meeting Spaces

Accessibility: (Accessibility Ranking - 3)

Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines.



Figure 2 - Recreation Inventory

	Acreage	Ball Diamonds	Football/Soccer	Tennis Courts	Picnic Area	Playground Equipment	Playfield (Open)	Nature Trails	Waterfront Property	Shelter	Restrooms	Comments
Municipal Facilities												
Lions Park	2.7				X					X	X	Lighted
Blueberry Park	1.4					X				X	X	Walking Trail and Lights
Montrose Train Depot	0.6										X	Historical Site



Picnic Pavilion at Blueberry Park



Playground equipment at Blueberry Park



Lions Park; looking to the northeast

School Facilities

School-aged youth in the Montrose area are serviced through the Montrose Community Schools, as well as by GISD. Montrose currently has three facilities and one administrative building located in the city. While they are not owned by the city, the recreational facilities of the school district include:

- ❖ **Carter Elementary School:** Located in front of Lions Park, the facilities around the school include two large playground areas, open fields/soccer field, baseball/softball field, and an indoor basketball court. Parking is available adjacent to the school building; and restroom facilities are included on the inside of the school.

Size: 12.2 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: 200 Park Street

Facilities: Basketball court, playground, ball diamond, soccer field, and indoor gymnasium



❖ **Kuehn-Haven Middle School:**

Located off Ray Street and connected to Hill-McCloy High School; the facilities include gymnasium and auxiliary gym, playground equipment, outdoor basketball court, softball, baseball fields, regulation football/soccer fields, football/soccer practice fields, concession area, storage shed, and unpaved walking trail.

Size: 81 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: 302 Ray Street

Facilities: Indoor gymnasium, auxiliary gymnasium, playground, outdoor basketball court, football/soccer regulation field, practice fields, concession area, restroom facilities, and parking



- ❖ **Hill-McCloy High School:** The entrance to the school is on Nanita Drive; but the building is connected to Kuehn-Haven Middle School. Amenities to the site include indoor gymnasium, weight room, restroom facilities, regulation football/soccer complex, practice fields, concession area, tennis courts, softball/baseball fields, and lighted parking lots.

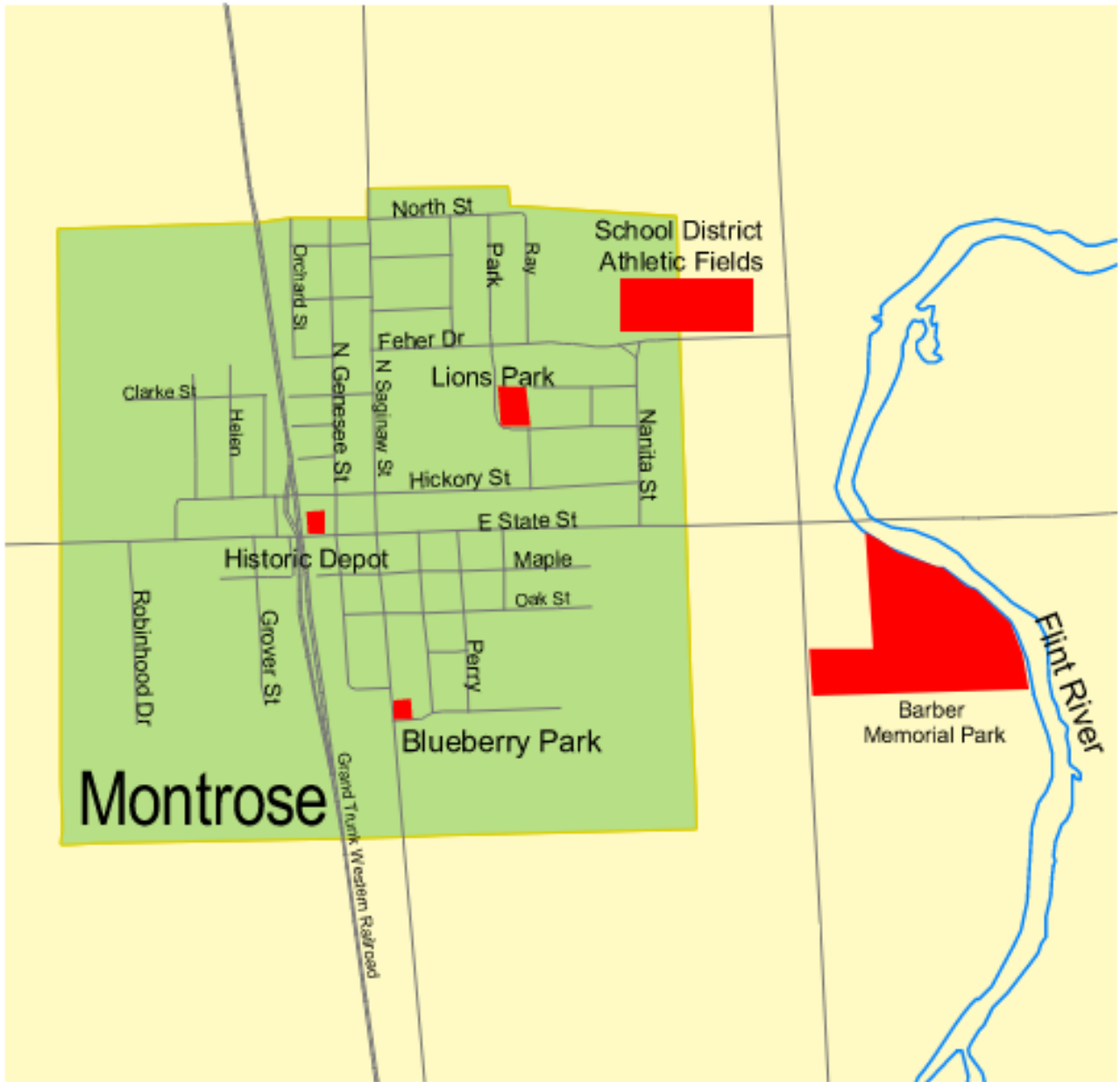
Size: 81 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: 301 Nanita Drive

Facilities: Indoor gymnasium, weight room, restroom facilities, football/soccer complex, practice fields, softball/baseball fields, concession stand, ticket booth for football/soccer complex, track and field equipment, lighted parking lots, tennis courts





Montrose Area
Park Location Map



Regional Recreation Facilities and Parks

Regional recreational facilities within the service area offer unique natural features that provide outdoor activities such as wildlife habitats, boating, hiking, and trails. Many of these amenities are readily available to the residents of Montrose through the Montrose Township Parks and Recreation, the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Committee and through the MDNR.

❖ Barber Memorial Park – Montrose Township Parks and Recreation

Size: **27 acres**

Age Groups Served: All Ages

Location: 11410 N. Seymour Road

Facilities: Basketball/pickleball courts, benches, restroom facilities, picnic pavilions, soccer fields, playground equipment, Flint River access, Veterans Memorial, storage shed



Montrose lies within Genesee County, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission. Genesee County Parks boasts over 10,000 acres of recreation property that include activities such as biking, boating, hiking, nature trails, swimming, and off-road activities.

Map 3 details the location of various parks and recreational areas within the Genesee County Parks system.

Map 3 - Genesee County Parks Map



- 1) Linden County Park
- 2) Flushing County Park
- 3) Bluebell Beach and Flint River Bike Path
- 4) Crossroads Village and Huckleberry Railroad
- 5) Stepping Stone Falls and Picnic Area
- 6) Bluegill Board Launch
- 7) Administrative Offices
- 8) Buell Lake County Park
- 9) For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum
- 10) Davison Roadside County Park
- 11) Everett A. Cummings Event Center
- 12) Mounds Off-Road Vehicle Area
- 13) Goldenrod Disc Golf Course
- 14) Richfield County Park
- 15) Holloway Dam Public Access Fishing Site and Canoe Launch
- 16) Walleye Pike Boat Launch
- 17) Wolverine Campground/Buttercup Beach
- 18) Toboggan Hill
- 19) Elba Equestrian Complex
- 20) Hogbacks Area
- 21) Zemmer Park

In Montrose, the closest county park is in Flushing Township (Flushing County Park). All other park facilities are within a 15- to 25-minute radius from the city. Residents are currently at a disadvantage with being given recreational opportunities.

Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission Facilities

Major Parks

a. **Bluebell Beach and Flint River Trail Bike Path - Genesee Township**

Size: 350 acres, including 2,000 feet of frontage on Mott Lake

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Bray Road or Carpenter Road via the Flint River Trail

Facilities: Splash Park, swimming beach, pavilions, playground, aquatic feature, play equipment, and .8 miles of paved trail linking Carpenter Road and Bluebell Beach

b. **Linden County Park - Fenton Township**

Size: 234 acres, including 1,200 feet of frontage on Byram Lake

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Access adjacent to the Village of Linden

Facilities: Swimming beach, play fields, tennis and multi-purpose courts, trails, play equipment areas, picnic areas, restrooms, and shelters

c. **Flushing County Park - Flushing Township**

Size: 105 acres, with 2,080 feet of frontage on the Flint River

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: McKinley Road adjacent to the City of Flushing

Facilities: Play fields, horseshoe courts, preschool play equipment areas, picnic areas, and shelters

d. **Buell Lake County Park - Thetford Township**

Size: 241 acres of land, 3,600 feet of frontage on Buell Lake

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Lake and Genesee Roads, relates well to Clio and Otisville; barrier-free boat launch, trail system and boardwalk allow for excellent access once in the park. Safe play zones need to be incorporated into a transitional plan.

Facilities: Play fields, play equipment areas, picnic areas, fishing, shelters, and model airplane flying field

e. **For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum - City of Burton**

Size: 384 acres of land, 2 acres of water

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Access via Genesee Road and Davison Road; relates well to the City of Flint

Facilities: Nature trails, interpretive buildings, and indoor and outdoor exhibits

f. **Richfield County Park - Richfield Township**

Size: 345 acres, with 3,120 feet of frontage on the Flint River

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Access via Irish Road

Facilities: Play fields, shelters, picnic areas, tennis courts, and canoe launch site

g. **Davison Roadside County Park - City of Burton**

Size: 9 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Accessibility and Location: Good - Access via Davison and Belsay Roads

Facilities: Picnic area, beginners' sledding hill, pavilion, and playground

Regional Recreational Facilities/Attractions

a. **Holloway Reservoir Regional Park**

The Holloway Reservoir Regional Park in Genesee and Lapeer Counties encompasses 5,500 acres of land, including 1,975 acres of water (Holloway Reservoir). The park provides open space for a variety of educational and recreational activities, including swimming, boating, picnicking, camping, and fishing. Recent shoreline stabilization efforts have been added along the Wolverine Shoreline to minimize loss of campground area due to erosion. Additional activities have been designed to increase interest in the park on both the local and regional level. Located in Richfield Township and Lapeer County, the following summarizes the area:

Size: 5,860 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Accessibility and Location: Approximately 15 miles northeast of the City of Flint

Facilities: Holloway Reservoir, Buttercup Beach, Walleye Pike Boat Launch, hogback area, Zemmer Road Fishing Site, toboggan hill, equestrian trail, Wolverine Campground

b. **Genesee Recreation Area**

The Genesee Recreation area consists of 4,460 acres of scenic land in Richfield and Genesee Townships. Like the Holloway Reservoir Park, traditional recreational activities such as swimming, picnicking, bicycling, hiking, boating, and fishing are provided. Activities and attractions such as Stepping Stone Falls, Crossroads Village, and the Huckleberry Railroad create a greater regional appeal, as well as add to the tourism industry of the area. Located in Genesee and Richfield Townships, the following summarizes the area:

Size: 4,460 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Facilities: Stepping Stone Falls, C.S. Mott Lake, Bluebell Beach, Historical Crossroads Village and the Huckleberry Railroad, Bluegill Boat Launch, Everett A. Cummings Center, Goldenrod Beach Disc Golf, Richfield Park, Timber Wolf Fishing Site, equestrian trails, snowmobile trails, Richfield Park BMX Course

c. **Mounds ORV Area - Genesee Township**

Size: 370 acres, with 240 acres open to ORV use

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Access via E. Mt. Morris Road. Genesee County Road Commission has begun the process of developing a master plan.

Facilities: For motorcycles, mini-bikes, dune buggies, four-wheel drive vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles

d. **Crossroads Village and the Huckleberry Railroad**

Size: Approximately 80 acres, 4 miles of track

Age and Groups Served: All ages

Location: Bray Road and Stanley Road to I-475

Facilities: Historical Crossroads Village, a bicentennial project, offers a glimpse of a Michigan village in the 1860 to 1880 historical period. The Huckleberry Railroad is located within Crossroads Village and follows an 8-mile loop through the Genesee Recreation Area on a narrow-gauge rail. The train equipment is steam-powered and restored to 1800s vintage.

e. **Stepping Stone Falls**

Size: Approximately 30 acres

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Stepping Stone Falls is part of the dam which forms Mott Lake.

Facilities: The height on the main fall is 11.5 feet and is lighted from sunset to midnight with changing-colored lights.

f. **Everett A. Cummings Event Center - Genesee Township**

Size: Approximately 1,740 acres from Genesee Road to Irish Road, over 300 acres accessed from Mt. Morris Road

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Access via Mt. Morris Road and Irish Road

Facilities: Trails for hiking, horses, and snowmobiles. Fishing and water access to Flint River. Duck hunting islands location along the Flint River. Location of major events such as Genesee County Fair, MUDGIRL Run, Midwest Invitational Rodeo, and other functions. Eighteen-hole Goldenrod disc golf course.

g. **Wolverine Campground and Buttercup Beach - Columbiaville**

Size: 195 campsites available

Age Groups Served: All ages

Location: Access via Baxter Road

Facilities: Campsites, beach, swimming, playground, and boat launch. Other regional recreational facilities exist in other counties (Oakland, Livingston, and Lapeer) that are operated by the State of Michigan through the MDNR.

Table 3 details the different amenities to each park as well as square footage of each park.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Facilities

There are numerous facilities that are operated through the MDNR that are within the Montrose area. These state facilities provide a variety of activities such as camping, biking, and non-motorized trails.

Table 3 - State Park Facilities

Recreation Facility	Acres	Boat Launch	Camping	Cross Country Skiing	Fishing	Pavilions/ Shelters	Picnic Area	Playground	Swimming
Oakland County									
Bald Mountain State Park	4,637	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Dodge No. 4 State Park	139	Y	-	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y
Groveland Oaks Campground	N/A	Y	Y	-	Y	-	Y	Y	Y
Highland State Park	5,524	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Holly State Park	7,470	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Marshbank State Park	N/A	-	-	-	-	Y	Y	Y	-
Ortonville State Park	3,205	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y
Pontiac Lake State Park	3,700	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Proud Lake State Park	3,614	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Seven Lakes State Park	1,378	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Livingston County									
Brighton State Park	4,913	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Island Lake State Park	3,466	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lakelands Trail State Park	13	-	-	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y
Bay County									
Bay City State Park	2,389	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Private Recreation Facilities

There are private recreational facilities located around the City of Montrose that provide recreational activities for residents in the township. These facilities are privately operated and, in some cases, require a user fee for admittance. They were included in the parks and recreation analysis because they meet the specific needs of the community. The private facilities around Montrose include:

- **Bowling Alleys:** Clio Bowling Arcade, Colonial Lanes
- **Dance:** Reflections Dance & Fitness Center
- **Fitness Clubs:** Reflections Dance & Fitness Center, FitWorksJourney
- **Golf Course:** Briar Ridge Golf Course
- **Martial Arts:** Evolve Martial Arts and Fitness, Clio Karate, Cosens Martial Arts, Heian Karate Do, Colonial Hills BJJ and MMA
- **Miscellaneous Facilities:** Camp Copneconic (YMCA), GCI (GISD) Base Camp Challenge Center, Montrose Orchards, The Montrose Gathering

Montrose Recreational Programs

While programming is provided through various other recreational service providers in Genesee County, Montrose does not currently have a structured parks and recreation program that develops activities for the city. Many residents participate in the recreational programs offered through the county parks, and the local communities in Clio, Flint, Flushing, Flushing Township and Mt. Morris Township. There has been increased support from the city residents for volunteer organizations to take an active role in sponsoring different recreational and senior programs and activities within the city.

Montrose Blueberry Festival

The Montrose Blueberry Festival is an independent non-profit organization that operates in the Montrose/Montrose Township community yearly. It is a major annual celebration with parades, races, food, entertainment, vendors, and community building events for the Montrose area. The festival runs for a full week in the month of August.

Recreation Inventory Analysis

Montrose has made improvements to their park properties over the past few years; however, per standards set by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), the city lacks the proper acreages for the general industry standards of a community with 1,000 citizens. From the previous recreation plan to the current plan, there should be at least double the amount of park acres in the community. The NRPA determines park properties such as:

Park Designation	Montrose
Mini-Park	1 (0.6 acres) – Montrose Train Depot
Neighborhood Park	2 (4.1 acres)
School Park	2 (93.2 acres) – Primary and Secondary Complex
Community Park	None
Large Urban Park	None

Along with this standard of park acreage, the need for additional park amenities is essential for the city to succeed in having an effective park and recreation system. Currently, the only place to play outdoor sports is at the current school park properties in the city.

The city should consider acquiring properties in the community that are vacant to expand with neighborhood parks or by installing additional recreational amenities within the current park properties to support current trends with recreation and the community's interest in what type of improvements the community would prefer to see in the parks.

Recreation needs were based on input provided by meeting with city DDA officials, a site tour on March 29, 2026, and a community-wide online survey conducted from April 14th through June 15th. Information from the survey is included in Appendix A and reflected in the Goals and Objectives section.

Section V - Planning Process

Montrose, through the DDA, gave direction to ROWE Professional Services to prepare this Parks and Recreation Master Plan update for the purpose of providing a guide for future development within the city. The planning process resulted in a revised plan that reflects the current and projected needs and ideas of those who are residents of the city and users of the park facilities. The following process is explained below:

- ❖ **Community Description** – The process began with an analysis of the city's physical and social characteristics. Those characteristics included location, history, transportation systems, natural resources, and population information. As noted, the city has experienced a 5.13 percent increase in population from the U.S. Census conducted from 2010 to 2020.
- ❖ **Recreation Inventory** – The recreation inventory was updated based on the current site conditions in Montrose. The list of additional public and private facilities were also adjusted and updated to reflect what is currently still available in the township.
- ❖ **Public Participation** – Survey questions were developed based on the information from the previous recreation plan from 2021. The questions were shared with the Montrose city staff, and the survey was available starting in April until mid-June 2026. Information from city staff and from the DDA was also included in the site visits conducted with ROWE about the potential for renovations, updates and potential sites for future expansion of the parks system. ROWE also reached out to the superintendent of Montrose Community Schools to encourage parents to participate in the survey. On July 21st, a draft of the recreation plan with the goals and objectives was made available for the city council to review. A legal notice for a 30-day plan review and advance notice of the public hearing was posted on [REDACTED], for a 30-day public review period through [REDACTED].
- ❖ **Analysis** – The information collected from survey was analyzed based on experience from the DDA, city council and city staff. After the information was analyzed, it was compared based on financial/funding sources and the specific needs and desires of the township and residents.



- ❖ **Action Plan** – Upon completion of the analysis, goals and objectives were determined to provide the framework for the action plan (goals and objectives). The goals and objectives were developed from information collected from the survey.
- ❖ **Plan Completion** – Following the 30 days, the DDA submitted a resolution of endorsement, supporting the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Prior to the City Council meeting, a public hearing was held to solicit any additional input from residents. After the public hearing, the plan was presented to the Montrose City Council on [REDACTED] and was submitted to the MDNR for approval; transmittals will be sent to Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission.

Basis for Action Plan

The preceding information for the parks and recreation plan supports the current operations and development that have occurred in park properties and in the surrounding area. The Basis for the Action Plan is meant to evaluate the information collected; to summarize the needs and prioritize the community's interest in future programming, potential development, and opportunities for recreational facilities within the City of Montrose.

Public input is essential as Montrose goes forward with providing recreational facilities and programming for community members. During the planning update process, the city contacted members of the community by conducting a survey from residents within the city.

Section VI - Goals and Objectives

An overall guide for the parks and recreation goals of the City of Montrose will be to focus efforts on updating/maintaining recreational facilities and developing/supporting programming that will promote opportunities for interaction and healthy living within the city. Of the goals and objectives listed, the top priorities include:

- Maintain existing park properties within the city.
- Install new playground equipment to replace outdated or damaged equipment.
- Replace outdated furniture/equipment (i.e. grills, picnic tables, trash receptacles).
- Support non-motorized paths throughout the city that connect to existing parks and key places in the community.
- Develop a plan for the Montrose Depot for potential usage.
- Analyze the potential for acquiring properties for usage for pocket parks or additional community parks around the city.
- Develop a dog park or nature preserve within Montrose.

The overall theme for improving recreational opportunities will be to develop and create recreation programming and activities that will support the growing needs of the City of Montrose.

The following goals support this (not listed in any order or priority).

Goal #1: Provide Safe, community-based recreation opportunities

Provide recreational facilities and programming that are safe and accessible to all residents in the community.

- Provide and maintain playground equipment and activities in park properties that are appropriate for all age groups.
- Develop community recreational activities that will be supported by the residents.
- Install landscaping around the sites to beautify and enhance park areas.
- Leverage various organizations and groups for short-term maintenance of parks properties.
- Ensure that all playground equipment is ADA accessible.
- Promote safety within the park areas for young people and adults.

Goal #2: Secure and acquire additional properties for future park land

As the landscape of the city changes and properties become available, the city could potentially inquire about acquiring vacant properties to utilize for pocket parks, community parks, or even for trailheads along M-57.

Future acquired properties could be used for a city square, recreation center, large playground area for the entire city, nature park, amphitheater, or dog park.

- Pursue grant opportunities and funding sources that could provide funding for land acquisition or new recreational complex development.

Goal #3: Stronger partnerships with local/regional organizations that promote active living

Work with community partners (i.e. Montrose Community Schools), rotary clubs, etc. as they promote within the county active recreational programming within the community.

- Provide support for county-wide non-motorized trail network through the Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission that comes through Montrose.
- Investigate the potential for developing bike lanes along certain routes in the city.
- Develop M-57 into a non-motorized option.
- Partner with Montrose Community Schools to provide athletic and recreational programming that supports local parks but also highlights the park systems that are closest to the local schools.

Goal #4: Long-term plan for the Montrose Depot

The Montrose Depot is an historic building in the community and moving forward, a long-term plan of action of what can be done with the building and site area is essential.

- Conduct focus groups with community members and discuss potential options for the site.
- Review potential grants that exist for preservation and upkeep; grants that support converting the site into a recreational museum or trailhead location.

Section VII - Action Plan

Comments from the community reiterate the need for additional recreational activities and equipment at parks and the desire for more natural areas/trails throughout the community. Thirty-six (36) percent of the respondents identified the need for the city to update/upgrade the existing playground equipment. Per the NRPA recommendations, the community still lacks the necessary “per acre” recommendation for park acreage. Also, Montrose should focus on trends for non-motorized transportation within the city; providing or updating routes and sidewalk connections within the city to provide accessible paths.

Blueberry Park

Blueberry Park currently has playground equipment, a pavilion area, restroom facilities, and walking trails. However, some of the safety surfacing is beginning to wear and the playground equipment has been in place for over 10 years. Many young people in the area utilize newer playground facilities because their facilities provide more connected playground elements that are for all ages. Future improvements at the park include:

- Update/upgrade existing playground equipment
- Additional on-street parking around the park
- Increase landscaping around the park; provide screening against residential properties
- Maintain existing amenities and site features by coordinating with volunteer groups and city public works director.
- Improve lighting around park with LED bulbs.
- Connect sidewalk to park site amenities (i.e. park benches, park tables, and playground)

Lions Park

Lions Park provides a unique opportunity with Carter Elementary to the west of and Hill-McCloy High School to the northeast. There are athletic fields from the high school/middle school close to the park, and large playground areas around the school. However, Lions Park does not have any recreational equipment on-site. Limited improvements at this location can be coordinated with the city with those improvements consisting of:

- Paved/enhanced walking trails
- Playground equipment
- New picnic tables, benches and tables
- Update restroom facility on-site
- Replace roofing on existing pavilion on-site
- Trim/maintain existing landscaping and trees around the park

Montrose Train Depot

While the train depot is not currently a recreational facility, the intent would be to prepare the site for usage as a recreational asset to the community. Some of the responses mentioned turning the space into an event center, community resource hub, or making it a venue that could be rented out by the community. Future improvements at the site include:

- Paved/enhanced walking trails
- Promote business incubator within the facility
- Develop event/community center
- Install large outdoor pavilion and walking trail
- Install site furnishing (i.e. benches, trash receptacles, water fountain)
- Develop site into trailhead location for community

Recreational Trail Connections

The Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission recently updated their previous trail map. Since the last priority map was created, many trails that were proposed have since been developed throughout the county. Montrose does have a section of trail that extends through the city into the township. This section is identified as a “Tier 1” project.

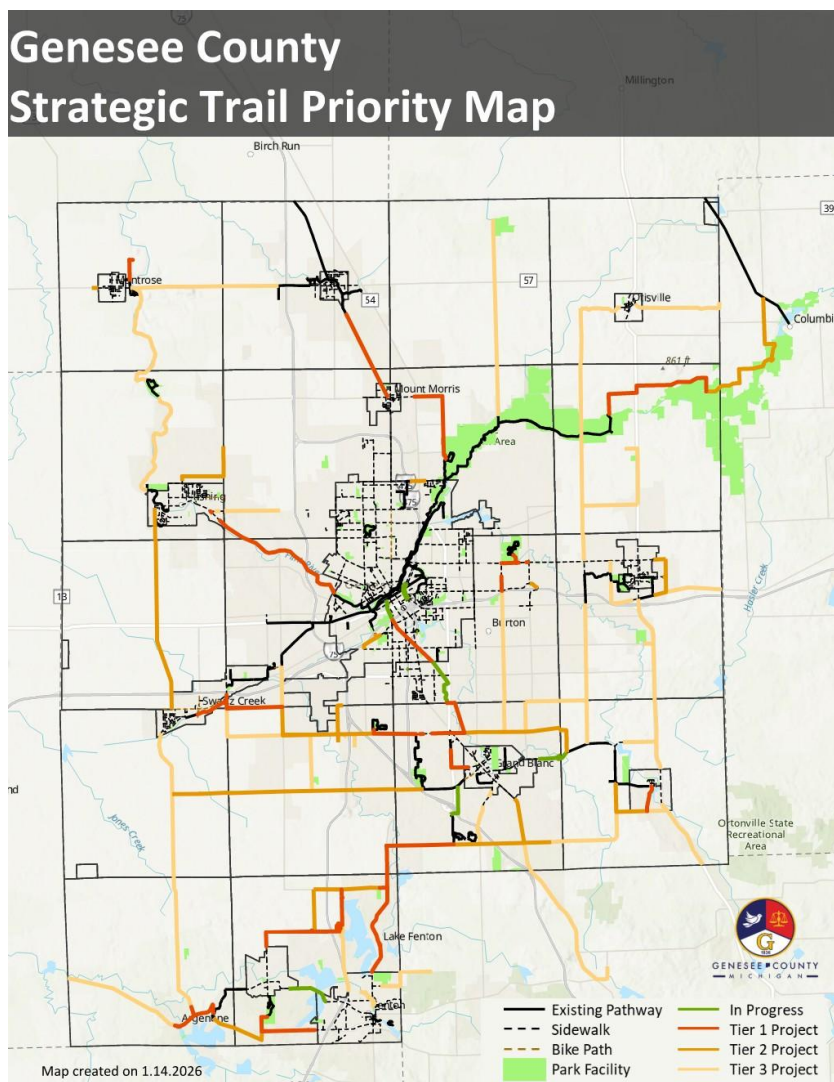
Another trail section that goes through the Montrose community would be along State Street and is identified as a “Tier 3” project.

Community Involvement/Fund Raising

Montrose currently has a line item in the General Fund for supporting the parks and recreation department (maintenance and operations). There is a need for the city to evaluate the potential for fundraising and setting up an endowment through the Community Foundation of Greater Flint for the purpose of recreational opportunities.

Community involvement and engagement is critical in sustaining the parks’ properties and providing the amenities that would be essential in the overall success of Montrose parks. Organizing community neighborhood support through an “Adopt-A-Park” program would draw support from various neighborhood organizations and businesses to take a more active role in the overall maintenance and tending of park properties. However, fundraising will be a huge support in the implementation of various programming and activities in the city. Incorporating various philanthropic organizations and enterprises for funding through volunteer groups would be essential in providing financing to incorporate various amenities into the parks. Outreach to the businesses in Montrose would also be vital to the success of the park programs for park sponsorship or sponsoring certain programming opportunities to take place in various locations.

Map 4 - Recreational Trail Connections



Programming

The city does not have dedicated staffing for programming. Working with the school district, there are programs that can be developed through the Montrose Community School district that can be supported by the city within the community. The city does not have to have dedicated parks department to have an effective parks system.

Maintenance

The city has a dedicated public works director that oversees the maintenance and operations of all city property, including work at the parks. Moving forward, the city should continue to monitor the life expectancy on all trails, surfaces, and equipment and develop a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) list and budget items as a sinking fund for future maintenance and replacement. By staying on top of these items, the city will ensure the longevity of the park amenities.

Land Acquisition

From our site visit and through the community survey, it was determined the city should investigate land acquisition based on demand for recreational facilities in the city and on the population of the community. The site (located off Maple Street) has connections to M-57 (State Street) and is a current woodlot/vacated street. A separate concept master planning effort should be pursued to develop a site plan for this potential site. There is certainly a demand for more recreational facilities and for the potential for other amenities (i.e. dog park, nature trail), but all land acquisitions should be in alignment with the goals and objectives.

Safety

Safety in Montrose is coordinated through the Montrose Township Police Department, Genesee County Sheriff Department, and the Michigan State Police. The township police have provided park monitoring during peak hours of operation. Along with the other agencies listed, volunteer groups and community organizations have also helped in safety with park monitoring, helping to deter vandalism and loitering after park hours. Vehicles cannot drive through most of the parks in Montrose, but there are still access points where people can get through the parks. To deter crime and loitering, cameras may be installed in the parks during evening and night hours.

Partnerships with School Districts

The Montrose Community School District continues to be a resource and a partner within the Montrose Community for many of their programs and activities. The students in the community attend the schools and are active participants in the activities around the community. For the future, the city could investigate additional funding through the CRIM Foundation or other recreation-centric programming that could enhance utilizing the park properties through the school system. Suggestions for how Montrose could assist the school districts with providing those opportunities include:

- Upgrade existing walking routes to schools in the city
- Potential for improved bike trails along routes in the city and curb-cuts in the primary routes along M-57 (State Street) and Nichols Road

These proposals are tentative based on the needs of the school district and the necessity of providing those services to the community.

Funding Sources

Various grant opportunities and programs exist that are useful in leveraging funding for projects and property acquisition. A summary of funding resources in the state of Michigan include:

- ❖ **Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF)** – Provides funding assistance for the purchase of land (or interest in land) for recreation or protection of land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, and the development of recreation facilities. This assistance is directed at creating and improving outdoor recreational opportunities and providing protection of valuable natural resources. The improvement grants are between \$15,000 and \$400,000 with a required minimum local match of 25 percent. Acquisition grants vary depending upon the value of property and local match amount; therefore, there is not a minimum or maximum amount. This grant is ideal for implementing community park plans and for land acquisition in the future. Applications are due in April and September of each year for acquisition projects and April of each year for development projects.
- ❖ **Michigan Recreation Passport** – Provides CIPs and development projects in communities throughout Michigan. Projects must be in public recreation use for the life of the project rather than perpetuity. Indoor recreation facilities and existing park locations are eligible for the grant. The primary focus is on improving and renovating existing parks. The application deadline is April 1st, with a December grant award announcement. Minimum grant request must be \$7,500 with a maximum request of \$150,000; there is a 25 percent match by the local municipality or organization. The 25 percent match can either be cash/credit (for locally assumed costs including labor and equipment), donations of goods and services from non-governmental entities, cash donations from non-governmental entities, or repurposed land.
- ❖ **Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) – The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** provides funding for numerous types of projects that support the enhancement of transportation facilities and promote safe and efficient multi-modal transportation methods. This is a reimbursement program that originally came from the federal level and is administered by MDOT. A minimum of 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects.
- ❖ **Special Mileage** – A property tax millage can be used to finance specific park and recreation projects such as parkland improvements and facility upgrades. A millage is an effective method to divide costs over time amongst all taxpayers in the community to provide matching grant funds or finance projects outright. A millage allows more flexibility in how the money is utilized than a bond.
- ❖ **Urban and Community Forestry (UCF)** – Program funded through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program and the Water Trail Designation Program. Local units of government, nonprofit organizations, and schools are eligible to apply. Projects include street and park tree management and planning activities; urban forestry training and education events; tree plantings; and Arbor Day celebrations.
- ❖ **Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)** – Projects eligible for CDBG funding must be in a low- to moderate- income service area and/or provide access to the disabled to qualify. Investments using CDBG funds must provide a documented benefit to low- to moderate-income households. Projects eligible for funding include public infrastructure improvements and those that provide ADA accessibility.

- ❖ **MEDC Public Spaces Community Places (PSCP)** – The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has developed an additional way of securing funding for community development projects by using crowdfunding to support developments. Communities, non-profits, and municipalities can submit projects by applying to the Patronicity campaign. The projects that meet the programs parameters and successfully crowd-fund their goal will receive a matching grant from the MEDC of up to \$50,000.
<https://www.patronicity.com/puremichigan>
- ❖ **MEDC Michigan Community Revitalization Program (MCRP)** – MCRP is a program available from the Michigan Strategic Fund (MSF), in cooperation with MEDC, designed to promote community revitalization that will accelerate private investment in areas of historical disinvestment; contribute to Michigan’s reinvention as a vital, job-generating state; foster redevelopment of functionally obsolete or historic properties; reduce blight; and protect the natural resources of the state. The focus of the MCRP is to encourage and promote capital investment and redevelopment of brownfield and historic preservation sites located in traditional downtowns and high-impact corridors.
- ❖ **USDA Rural Development** – This direct loan and grant program provides funding for essential community facilities in through the Rural Development program. Example projects include pavilions with shared use as a Farmers Market at trailheads. Yearly applications.
- ❖ **Michigan Natural Resources Tree Planting Grants** – Through the MDNR, there are three tree planting grant programs that will assist in funding landscape enhancements at the park and reforestation projects. Applicants must provide at least 50 percent of the total project cost.
- ❖ **Public-Private or Public-Public Partnerships** – Reduced funding at the public and private sector has created a need for various partnerships between public and private entities as well as between two or more public entities, to accommodate specialized large-scale recreation demands.
- ❖ **Harry A. & Margaret D. Towsley Foundation** – Provides funding for projects in arts/culture, education, environmental support, civic and community activities, and health and human services. The geographic area of primary interest is Michigan. Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) non-profits, community groups, non-political committees, and local capital improvement projects. Capital project request may not exceed 10 percent of the total cost of the project. Foundation does not support organization on an annual (or ongoing) basis and encourages self-sufficiency and financial sustainability.
- ❖ **General Fund** – Continue to allow for re-investment in facilities to avoid future increased maintenance costs and ensure revenue streams when possible.
- ❖ **Donations** – Businesses, corporations, private clubs, community organizations, and individuals will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.
- ❖ **Home Depot Community Impact Grants** – Grant offered through Home Depot awards up to \$5,000 to 501 (c)(3) designated organization (for at least one year) and tax-exempt public service agencies in the United States. Grants are normally given in the form of Home Depot gift cards to purchase tools, materials, or services.

- ❖ **AARP Community Challenge** – Community grant program is available for all 501(c) non-profit organizations, government entities, and other types of organizations based on a case-by-case basis. Program seeks to improve public spaces, civic engagement, inclusion, and transportation. Submission dates for grant programs are April of the calendar year.
- ❖ **Bass Pro Shops Community Engagement Program** – Funding and programming available to the community for preservation of wildlife, outdoor activities and education access for sportsman (hunting) and beautification. Eligible organizations must be in proximity to an active Bass Pro Shop, part of a national recreation or conservation program or in the Missouri Ozark region.
- ❖ **Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network (WIN) Grants** – Grants are accepted from the WIN that deals with land use, water resources, wildlife stewardship, communication/regional marketing, agriculture, and pollution prevention. The basis is to integrate economic goals with environmental and social goals based on the premise of meeting human needs for residents.



Conclusion

Montrose remains a welcoming, close-knit community where strong families grow and neighbors support one another. The focus of this plan is to highlight areas that could enhance those areas that make the community stronger and provide the necessary elements that would make Montrose a better place for years to come. Many of the residents are life-long members of the community that have been in the Montrose community for over 40 years. By improving existing facilities and exploring opportunities to expand park properties when needed, the city can better provide residents with spaces that support active living for all ages.

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Appendix A: Survey Responses



PUBLIC INPUT



5 YEAR PARK AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Parks in the City of Montrose are developed to provide our community with improved connections and opportunities for social engagement, exercise and mobility. We want to maximize our resources and make sure that our priorities balance good stewardship and a reflection of your interests and your values.

We want your input as part of updating our 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan that is currently being drafted.

**MONTROSE WANTS
TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**WE NEED YOUR
IDEAS**

**MAKE AN IMPACT
ON YOUR
COMMUNITY**

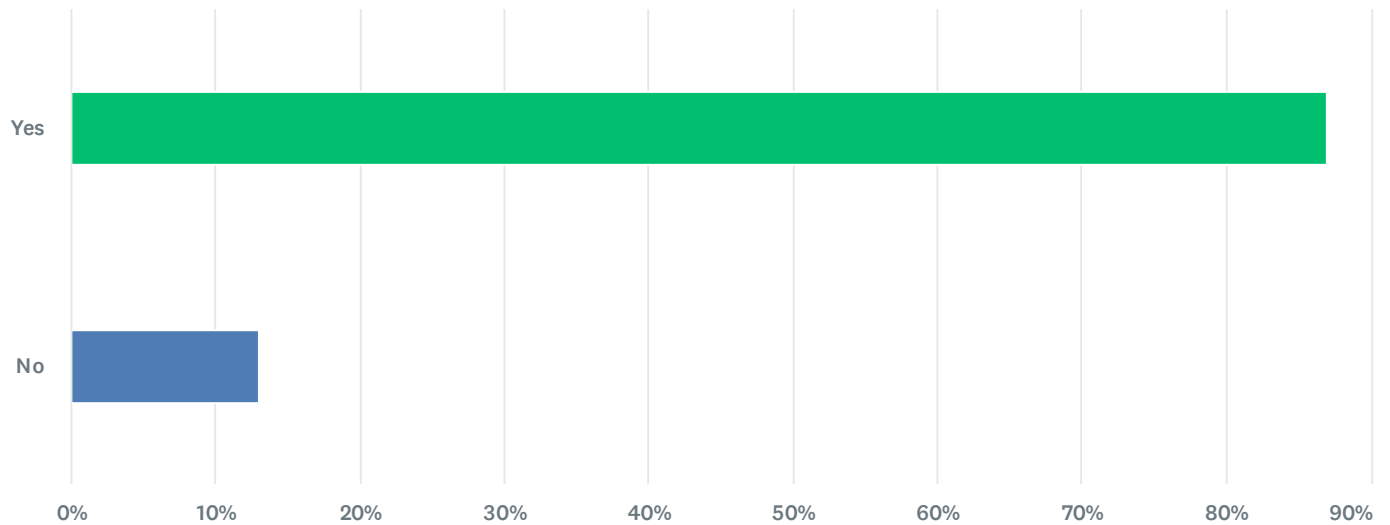
**ANY QUESTIONS?
CONTACT**

Joe Karlichek, Manager

810.639.6168 Ext. 4

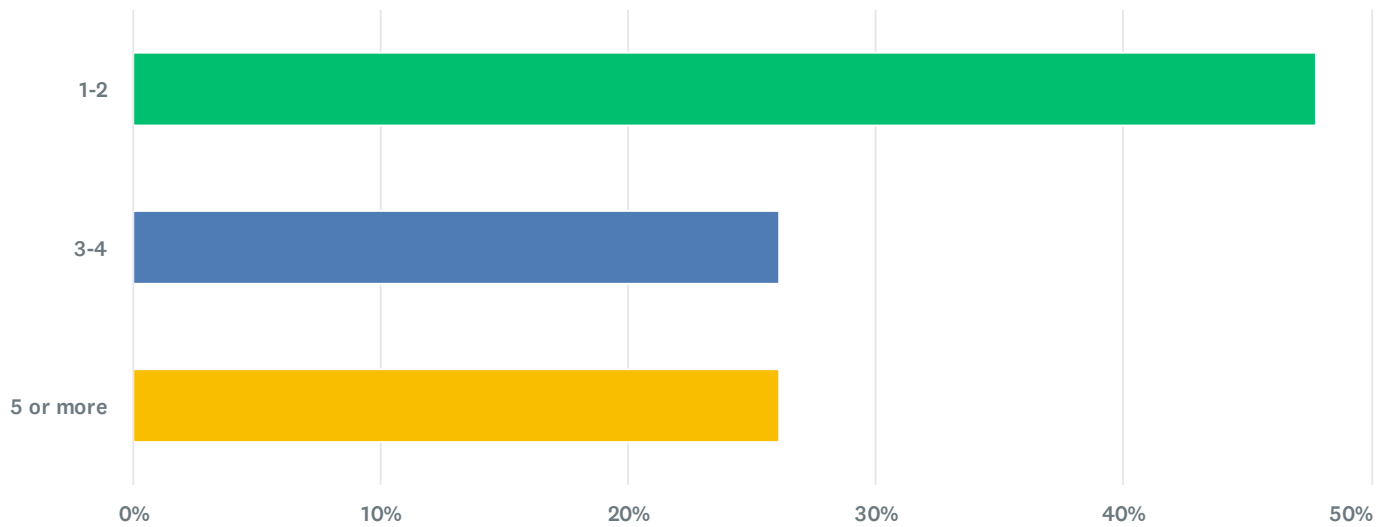
Q1 23 responses

Do you live in the City of Montrose?



Q2 23 responses

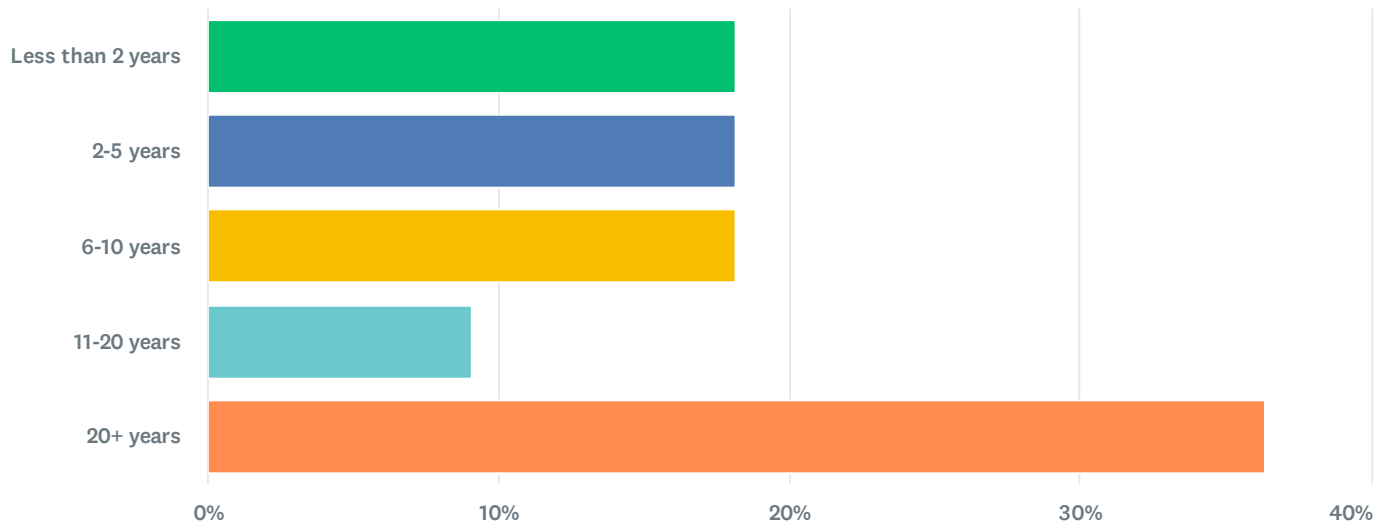
How many people currently reside in your household?



Q3 22 responses

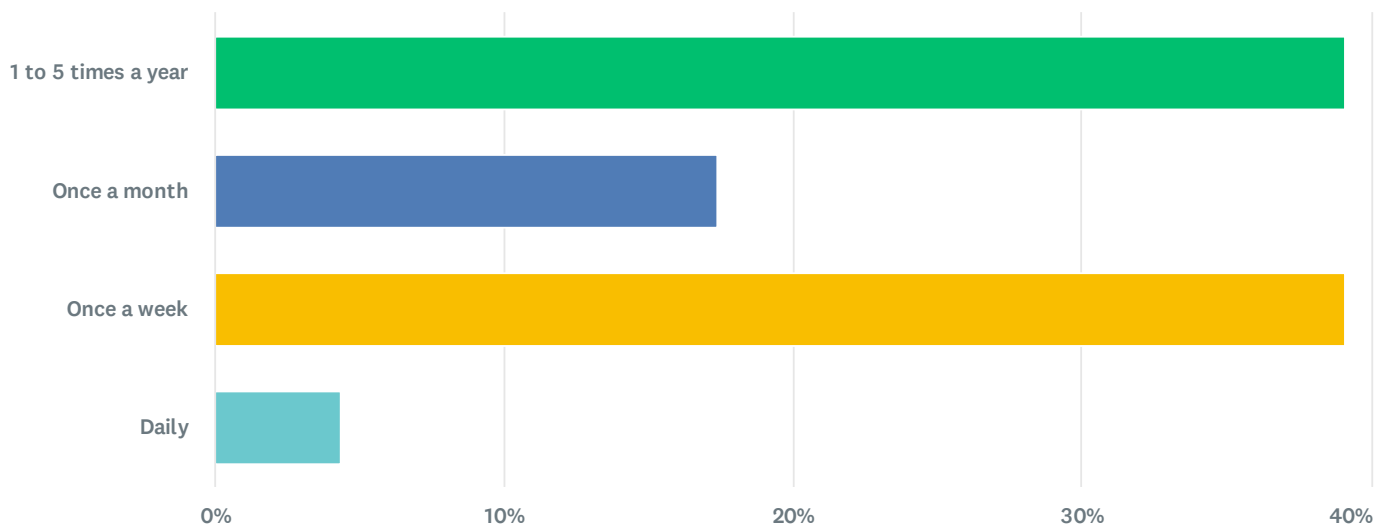
How long have you lived in the City of Montrose?

City of Montrose Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026-2030



Q4 23 responses

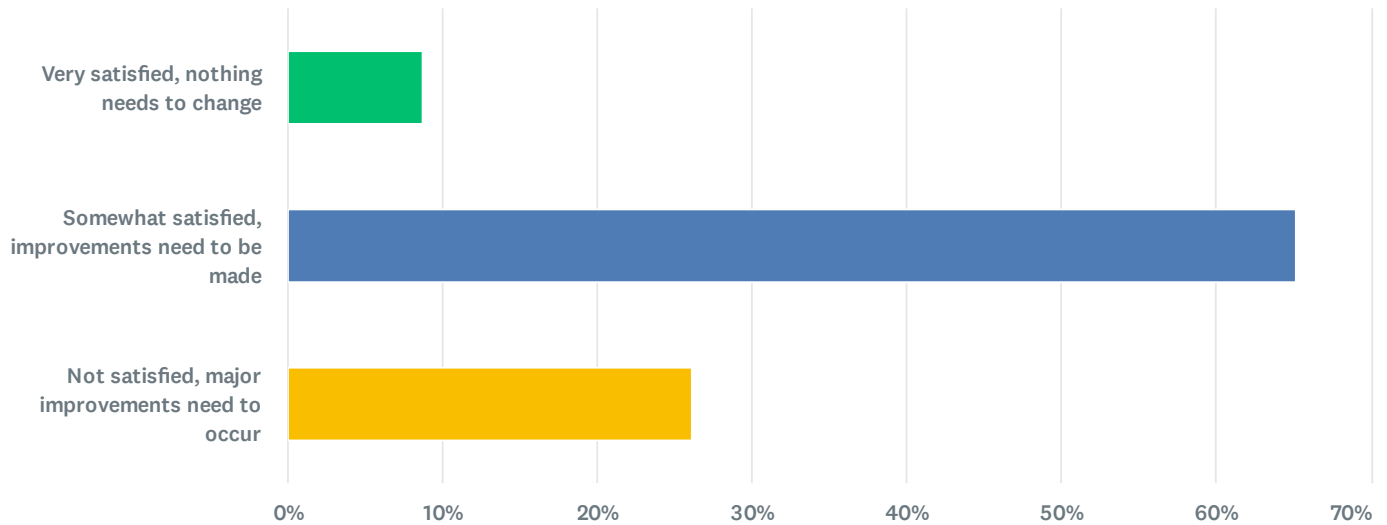
How often do you and your family visit the parks in Montrose?



Q5 23 responses

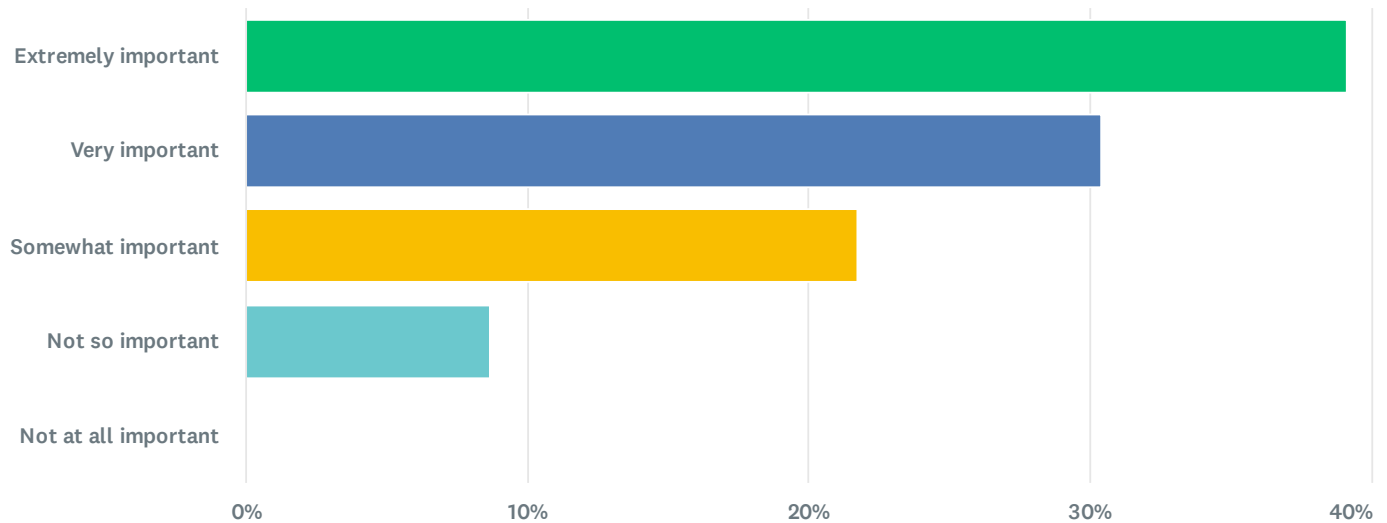
How do you feel about the current park properties in the city?

City of Montrose Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026-2030



Q6 23 responses

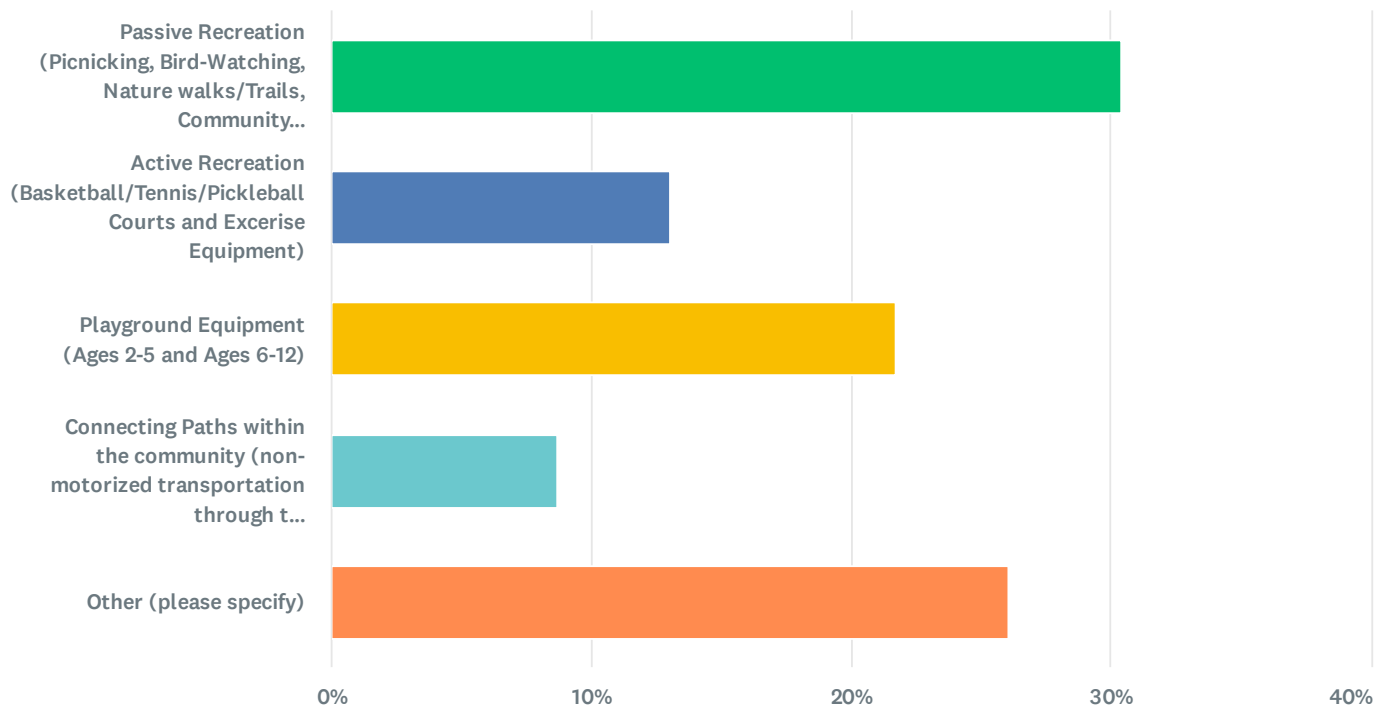
How important do you feel public parks and recreational facilities are to your quality of life?



Q7 23 responses

What are some additional activities or programming that you would like to see in Montrose?

City of Montrose Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026-2030

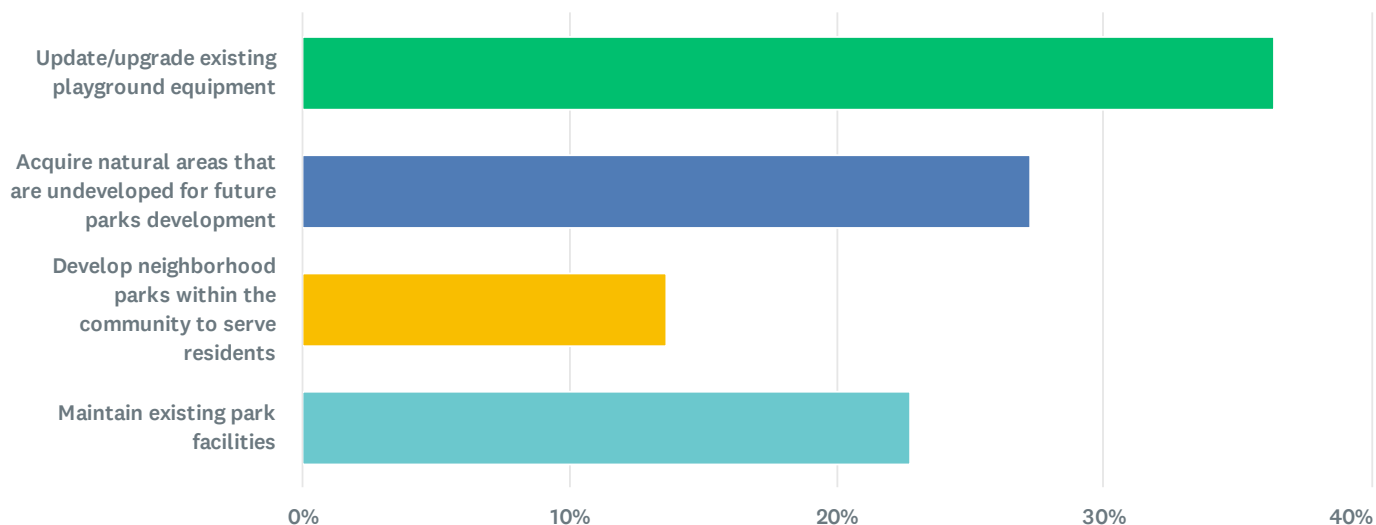


#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	The 1st 2nd and 4th options are all worthy	5/7/2026 7:26 PM
2	Need to be able to pick more then one , I feel like all these areas need work fine	4/26/2026 7:02 AM
3	All of the above.	4/25/2026 6:44 PM
4	Special needs playground for special needs	4/24/2026 5:09 PM
5	Indoor places. Arcade, sit down restaurant that i can take my kids to. Not a bar	4/22/2026 7:17 PM
6	Combination of passive and active recreatio	4/22/2026 1:02 PM

Q8 22 responses

How can the current parks in the City of Montrose be improved?

City of Montrose Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026-2030



Q9 How would you like to see the Montrose Depot utilized as in the future?

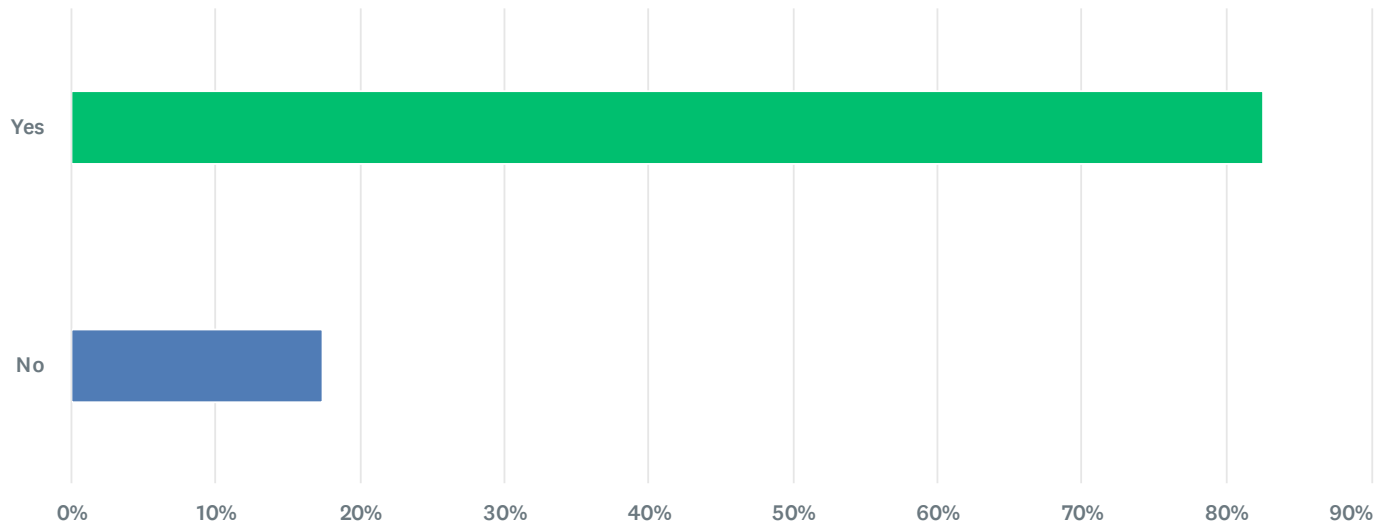
Answered: 15 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Maintain it as an historical building	5/8/2026 2:01 PM
2	Use more for the community	4/26/2026 7:02 AM
3	I wouldn't, it's an old small insignificant building.	4/25/2026 6:44 PM
4	Events Community centers	4/25/2026 11:11 AM
5	Additional parking needed Promote use by advertising and explaining what's in it Fine arts gatherings	4/25/2026 4:59 AM
6	Make sure accessible to all, last time I was there the handicap ramp was closed	4/24/2026 5:09 PM
7	I don't know what that is.	4/23/2026 4:15 PM
8	Lower the price for city residents to rent. Price is too high for what it is.	4/22/2026 7:17 PM
9	Put a air conditioner in and it would be rented more	4/22/2026 3:22 PM
10	How about letting people know what it is currently used for?	4/22/2026 1:02 PM
11	Pavilions and outdoor picnics.	4/22/2026 11:51 AM
12	Continue as currently used	4/22/2026 11:43 AM
13	Community workshops and volunteer events.	4/22/2026 11:39 AM
14	Community events, gathering for citizens.	4/22/2026 11:39 AM
15	Bakery, drive through coffee, small diner	4/22/2026 11:25 AM

Q10 23 responses

Would you support the city creating an endowment to support future park operations?

City of Montrose Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2026-2030



Appendix B: Public Notice/Approval/Transmittals

Appendix C: Post Completion