

CITY OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93764684279>

Dial-In Information

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 998 3290 0006#

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

Becky Murillo - Chair
Scott Bell – Ex Officio
Ronald Miller

Toni Henkemeyer – Vice Chair
Anne Marques
Joanne Wagner

Student Representatives: Adam Hauser Nicholas Williamson

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – MAY 19, 2020

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

5. CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

6. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

- A. Chair
 - a. Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative

- B. Commissioners and Ex Officio
 - a. Tree Board
 - b. City Council
 - c. Art Selection Committee
 - d. Student Representatives

- C. Staff Report

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of: 2021 – 2026 Master Plan Update

8. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of: Park Maintenance Requests

9. CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

10. PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

11. ADJOURNMENT

**CITY OF DEXTER
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2020**

The regular meeting of the City of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 7:02pm via Zoom Meetings.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Murillo, Bell, Marques, Miller, Wagner

Commissioners Absent: Henkemeyer

Student Representatives Present: Williamson, Hauser

Student Representatives Absent: None

Others Present: Justin Breyer, City Clerk and Assistant to the City Manager

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion by Miller Seconded by Marques to approve the minutes from April 21, 2020 as presented.

Unanimous Voice Vote
Motion Adopted

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Murillo, Seconded by Miller to approve the agenda as presented.

Unanimous Voice Vote
Motion Adopted

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION

A. CHAIR

Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative – Becky Murillo reported that there was an HWPI meeting held. There has been progress on all active sections that are under construction. The tunnel near M-52 should be opening soon.

B. COMMISSIONERS AND EX-OFFICIO

Tree Board – None

City Council – None

Art Selection Committee – None

Student Representatives – Adam Hauser asked about how flooding will impact the City’s parks. Discussion followed.

C. STAFF REPORT

Justin Breyer submitted his report per the packet.

NEW BUSINESS

A. DISCUSSION OF: DISTRIBUTION OF EASTER EGG HUNT CANDY

Motion by Murillo; Seconded by Wagner to reach out to Faith In Action or Food Gatherers

Unanimous Voice Vote

Motion Adopted

B. DISCUSSION OF: 2021-2026 MASTER PLAN UPDATE

The Parks and Recreation Commission discussed the following related to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update:

- Handicap Accessibility Section and Page 31 – Update to broaden for non-mobility handicap accessibility (autistic/sensory)
- Include that the City has already been approached by the Robotics Club that would like to partner on projects

OLD BUSINESS

None

PARKS MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

- The Commission discussed that ticks have been found in the Phase 2 section of the Mill Creek Park Trail.

CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE COMMISSION

None

PROPOSED BUSINESS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- Master Plan Advertising
 - NextDoor
 - Send to Doug Marrin for publication in The Sun Times
 - Share on Facebook
 - Dexter Forum – Make an announcement
 - Arts, Culture, and Heritage – other Boards and Committees

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Murillo, Seconded by Wagner adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm..

Unanimous Voice Vote

Motion Adopted

Justin Breyer

City Clerk and Assistant to the City Manager



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

8140 Main Street • Dexter, Michigan 48130-1092 • (734) 426-8303 • Fax (734) 426-5614

STAFF REPORT

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk

Date: June 12, 2020

Mill Creek Park Phase 2

Mill Creek Park Trail Phase 2 contractor, LJ Construction began work on the trail construction the week of May 11, 2020. The contractor has reported that they are making progress on the construction, and are estimating project completion by August 15, 2020.

Student Representatives

Student representative appointments to Boards and Committees. For the Parks and Recreation Commission, City Council re-appointed the two current student representatives, Adam Hauser and Nick Williamson, and appointed a new third student representative, Natalie Walton.

Maintenance Updates

Staff has ordered a new sign to replace the damaged "No River Access" sign along the boardwalk near the Westridge Connector. Staff is also preparing to order a delivery of woodchips for the City's playgrounds shortly after July 1st.

Sculptures

Two of the three new temporary sculptures for the Temporary Sculpture Display (one near LaFontaine, and one at Jeffords and Main St.) have been installed. The third sculpture is expected to be installed towards the end of June.

To: Parks and Recreation Commission

From: Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk

Re: Discussion of: Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Date: June 12, 2020

As discussed at previous meetings, the 2016- 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan is coming due for an update with the Plan expiring on December 31, 2021. In order to have full overlap of current approved plans, the 2021-2026 Plan will need to be submitted to the MDNR by February 1, 2021. In turn, work on updating the plan will need to begin in 2020. Staff has provided a draft timeline of work for the 2021-2026 update.

Staff has released the public survey via the E-Mail Update, Facebook, and the City's website. To date, we have received 116 responses. Attached is a summary of the survey results to date.

The Commission may wish to discuss:

1. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan requires two forms of public input. With the last round of updates to the Plan, the City hosted a survey similar to the one that has been released, and held a public input meeting to review the survey data and gather additional public input. The Commission may wish to discuss how we would like to conduct the second form of public input.
2. Updates to the Goals and Objectives section of the Master Plan. A copy of these sections from the current Plan are attached.

Submittal Requirements as of November 2019

- Two forms of public input
- Plan submitted to State by February 1st of the year applying. This is a change from 2016 where the application deadline was March 1st.
- Draft Plan must be available for 30-days for public review and comment, then hold a well-publicized public hearing
- Resolution by the Parks and Recreation Commission must come after the 30-day review period and before adoption by City Council

Updated Draft Timeline

- January – April 2020: Administrative and Commission Review of Existing Plan
- May – July 2020: Public Input
- September 15, 2020: Parks and Recreation Commission Reviews Draft Plan and Approves the Start of Public Review and Comment Period
- October 1, 2020: Start of Public Review and Comment Period
- October 20, 2020: Parks and Recreation Commission Recommends that City Council Set a Public Hearing Date
- November 1, 2020: Completion of Public Review and Comment Period
- November 16, 2020: City Council Adopts Date for Public Hearing

- November 17, 2020: Parks and Recreation Commission Adopts Resolution and Recommends Plan Adoption to City Council
- December 14, 2020: City Council Public Hearing and Plan Adoption

City of Dexter Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey

Thank you for taking the City of Dexter's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey. Every five years, the City of Dexter conducts a comprehensive planning process that culminates in an update to the city's 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan document. The Master Plan is used as a guide for the development and maintenance of the City's parks and recreation system, and your feedback will help inform the direction of the City's Parks and Recreation services for the next five years.

The City of Dexter posts updates regarding its parks and recreation services to its website, dextermi.gov; its Facebook page; and its E-Mail Update. To sign-up for the City's E-Mail Update, please visit: <https://dexter.broadcastgenius.com/f/1012>.

* Required

Residency

1. In which age bracket do you fall? *

Mark only one oval.

- High School Age *Skip to question 7*
- 18 - 21
- 22 - 29
- 30 - 39
- 40 - 49
- 50 - 59
- 60+

Residency

2. Which of the following best describes your residency? *

Mark only one oval.

- I live within the Dexter City limits. *Skip to question 3*
- I am a Dexter area resident living outside of the City's limits. *Skip to question 5*
- I live outside of the Dexter area. *Skip to question 7*

Residency

3. Do you receive a water, sewer, and refuse (utility) bill from the City of Dexter every-other month? (You should also mark yes if you receive the bill via e-mail or are on automatic withdrawal.) *

Mark only one oval.

- Yes
- No
- My utility bill is paid by a Condominium Association (such as Cedars or Huron Commons)

4. How long have you lived in the City of Dexter? *

Mark only one oval.

- 1 - 3 Years
- 4 - 10 Years
- 11 - 20 Years
- 21+ Years

Skip to question 6

Residency

5. How long have you lived in the Dexter area? *

Mark only one oval.

1 - 3 Years

4 - 10 Years

11 - 20 Years

21+ Years

Demographics

6. Number of children residing in your household *

Mark only one oval.

Zero

One

Two

Three

Four or More

Park Satisfaction

7. How many times have you visited the following City of Dexter parks in the last year?

*

Mark only one oval per row.

	Never	Occasionally	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
Mill Creek Park (Main St Behind Fire Station to Forest Lawn Cemetery at Broad and Grand)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monument Park (Main St. & Baker Rd.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Park (Ryan Dr. Behind LaFontaine Chevrolet)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
First Street Park (2nd St. & Edison St., aka Horseshoe Park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lion's Park (Ann Arbor St. Near Senior Center, aka Blue Playground)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peace Park (Ann Arbor St. & Inverness St.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

8. How frequently do you visit the following Non-City of Dexter maintained parks and facilities in the last year? *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Never	Occasionally	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
Hudson-Mills Metropark	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dexter-Huron Metropark	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dexter Schools Facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dexter Senior Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Washtenaw County Parks (Miller-Smith, Swift Run, Independence Lake)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9. Please rate your satisfaction with the following City of Dexter parks: *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Very Satisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	No Opinion
Mill Creek Park (Main St Behind Fire Station to Forest Lawn Cemetery at Broad and Grand)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Monument Park (Main St. & Baker Rd.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Park (Ryan Dr. Behind LaFontaine Chevrolet)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
First Street Park (2nd St. & Edison St., aka Horseshoe Park)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lion's Park (Ann Arbor St. Near Senior Center, aka Blue Playground)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peace Park (Ann Arbor St. & Inverness St.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Please check all of the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using City parks.

Check all that apply.

- There is nothing preventing me from using City Parks
- I don't have time
- I visit parks outside of the City limits
- Availability of parking
- Parks are not well maintained
- I do not know the locations of the City's parks
- I do not feel safe using the parks by myself
- They are not well lit
- I use School recreation facilities
- Accessibility issues

Other: _____

11. Please review the following list of parks and recreation activities commonly offered by municipalities. Please indicate how important you feel these items are to parks and recreation systems. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant	No Opinion
Organized Public Events and Festivals	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Trails and Pathways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Mill Creek/Huron River Access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Playgrounds and Play Structures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Organized Activities (such as team sports)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Educational Activities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintain Existing Parks and Pathways	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Permanent Bathrooms at Monument Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Designated Access to the Huron River Near the Central St./Mast Rd. Bridge	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

12. The following is a short list of ideas that have been discussed (with no action taken) by the City of Dexter's Parks and Recreation Commission. Please indicate how important you feel these projects/improvements would be to the City of Dexter's parks and recreation system. *

Mark only one oval per row.

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Somewhat Unimportant	Very Unimportant	No Opinion
Connecting the City's Trail System to Shield Rd.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Connecting the City's Trail System to Dexter-Chelsea Rd. Heading Towards Chelsea	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving the Play Structure at Mill Creek Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing a Splash Pad	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing a Public Fountain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Constructing a Slide From the Dexter Farmers Market Pavilion to Mill Creek Park	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Refrigerated Ice Rink	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. What amenities would you like to see added to City of Dexter parks?

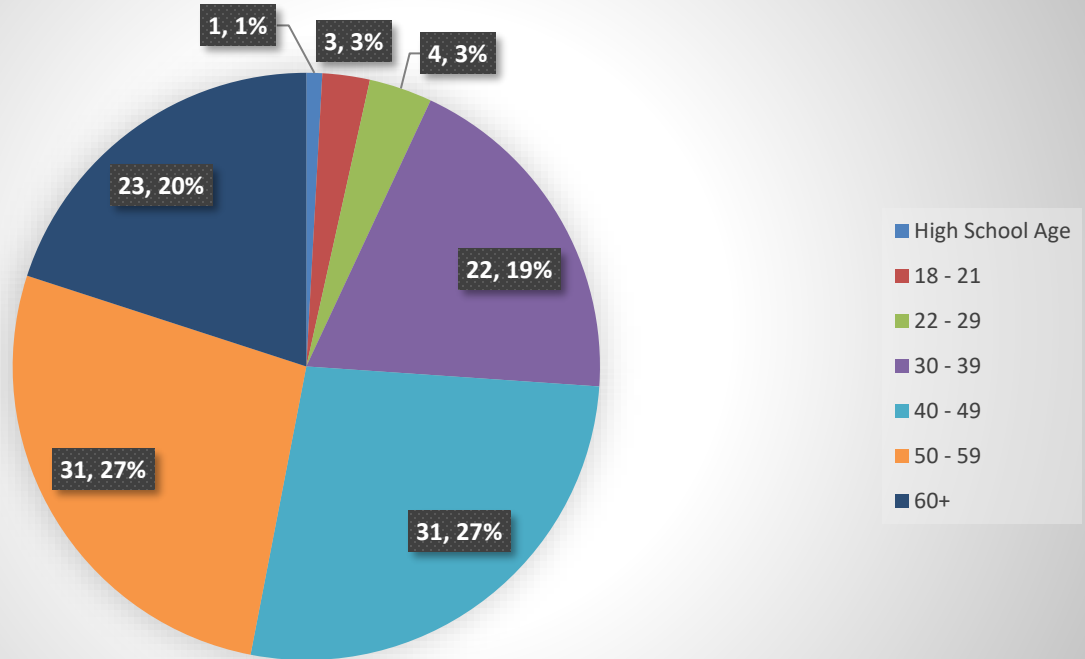
14. Are there any parks and/or recreation issues that you believe should be addressed by the City of Dexter?

15. Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

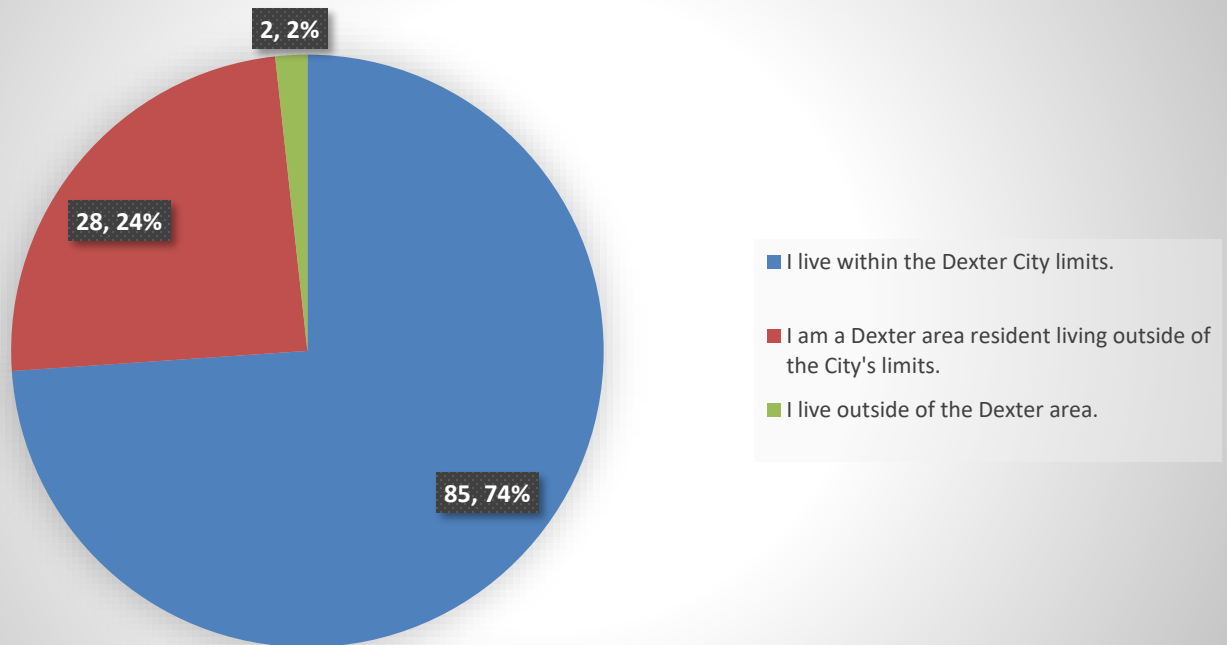
This content is neither created nor endorsed by Google.

Google Forms

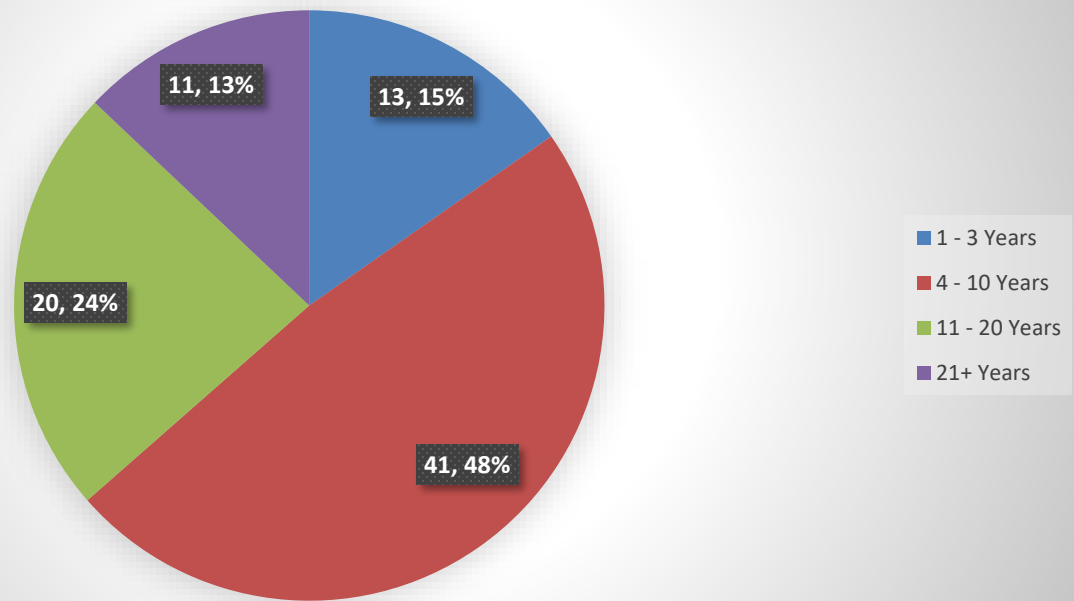
In Which Age Bracket Do You Fall?



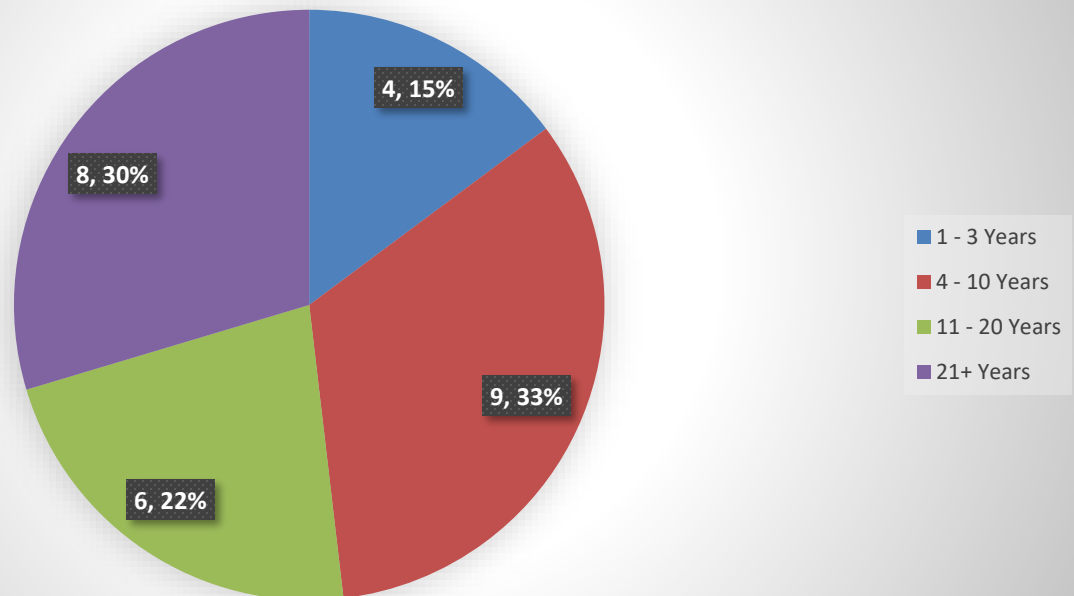
Survey Takers' Residency



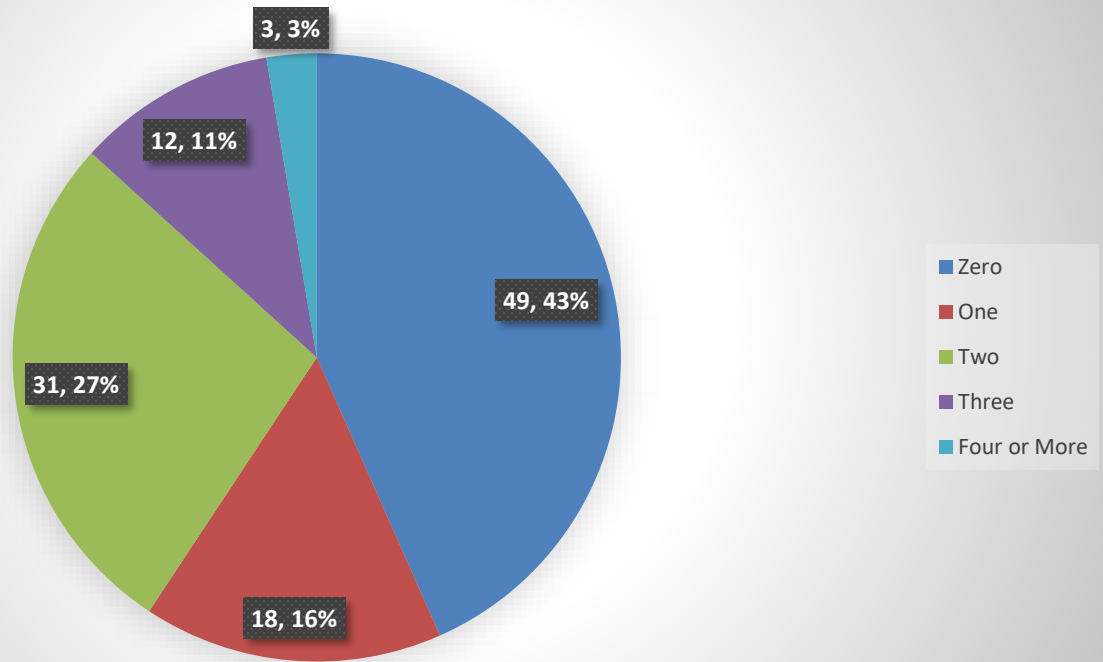
Years Lived in City



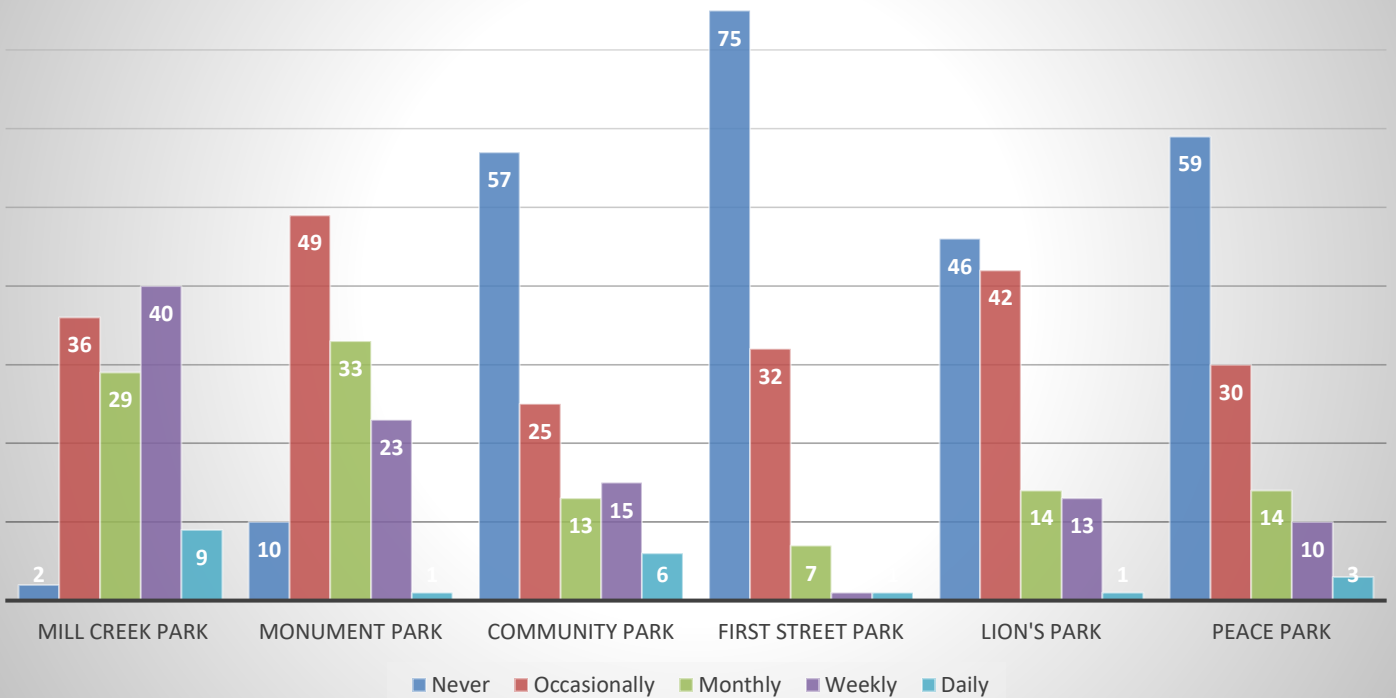
Years Lived in Dexter Area



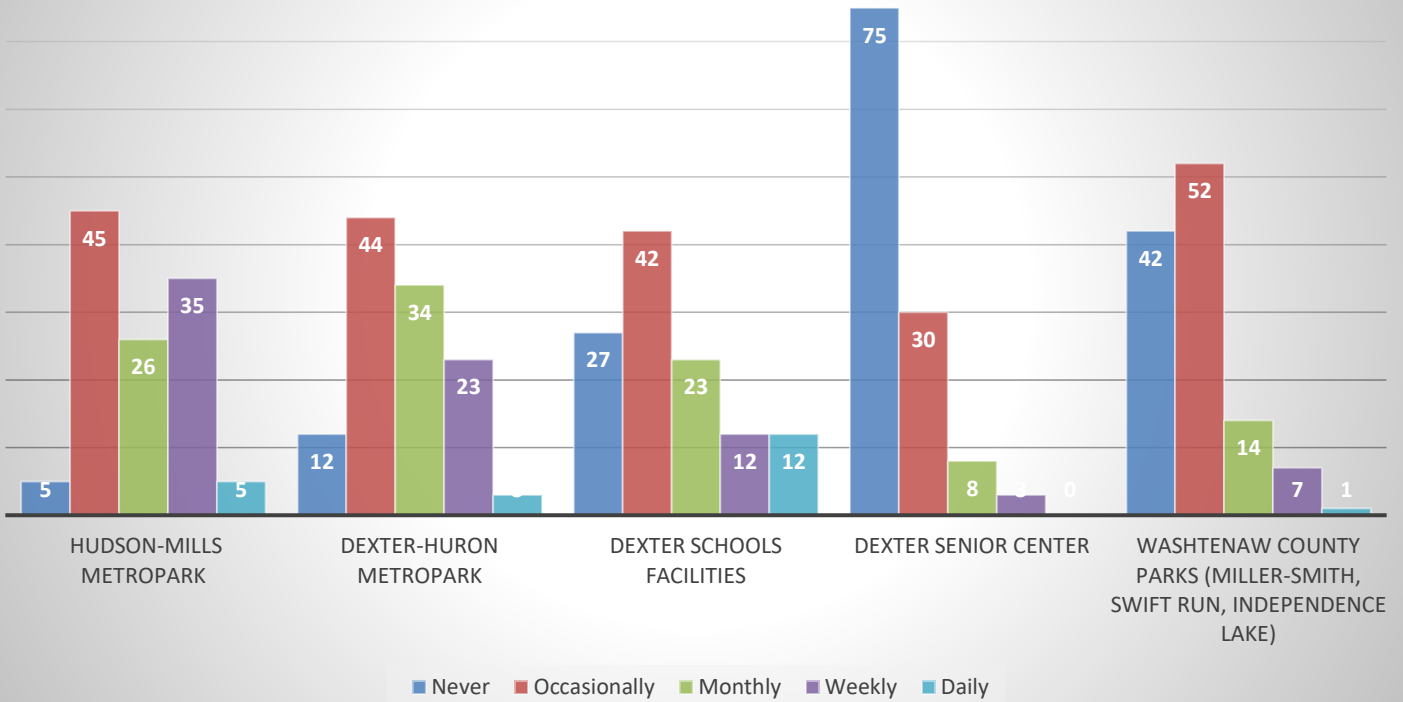
Number of Children in Household



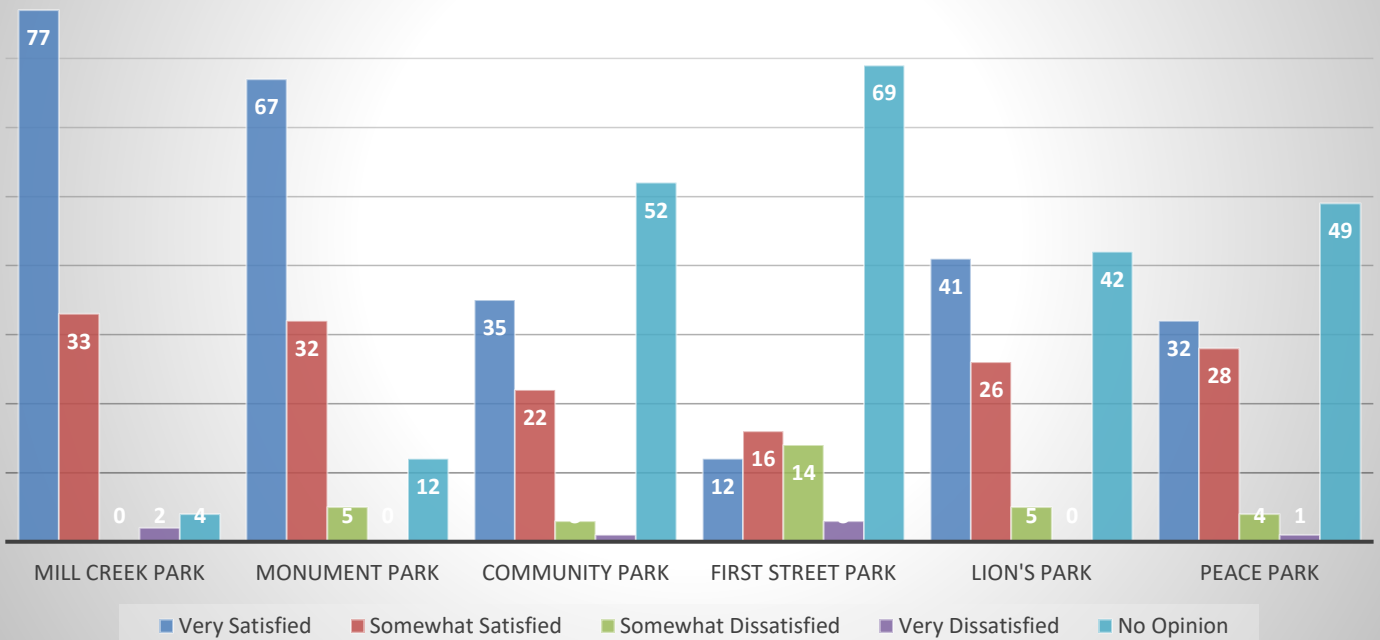
Visits to City Parks/Facilities



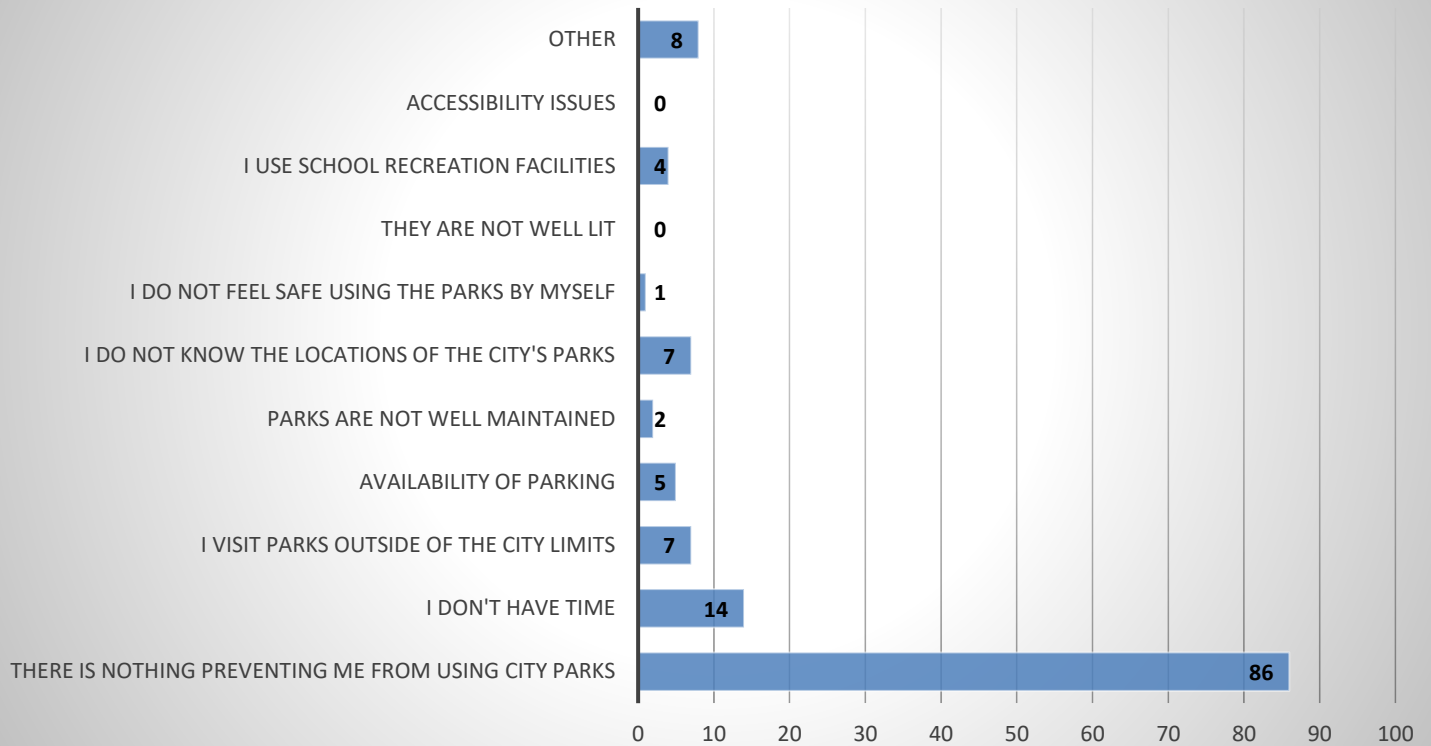
Visits to Non-City Parks/Facilities



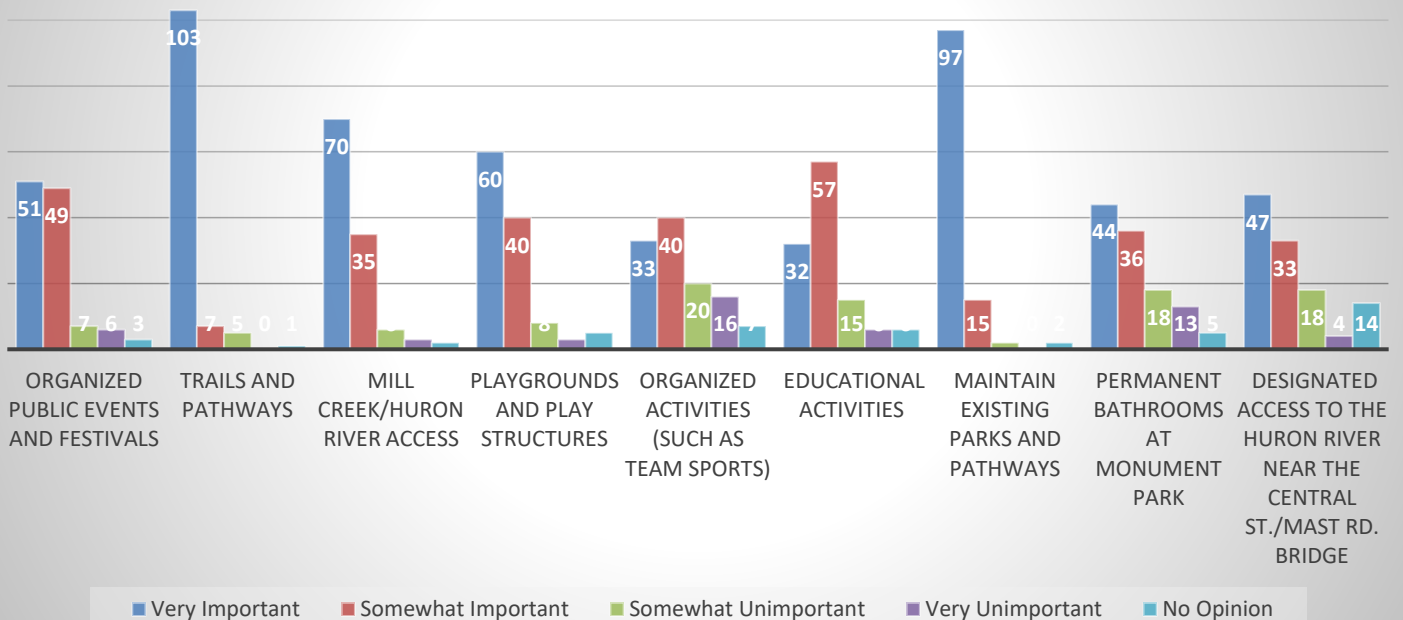
City Park Satisfaction



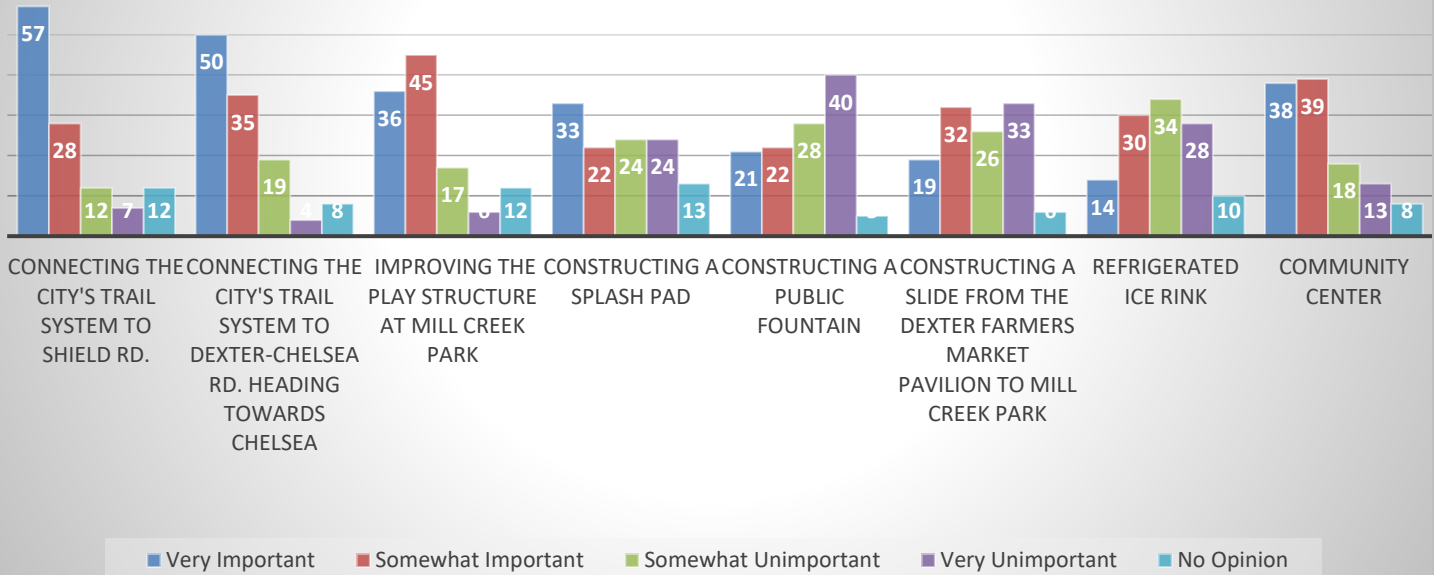
Reasons That Prevent You From Using City Parks



Please indicate how important you feel these items are to parks and recreation systems.



List of Ideas Discussed by Parks and Recreation Commission. Please indicate how important you feel these projects/improvements would be to the City of Dexter's Parks and Recreation System



What amenities would you like to see added to City of Dexter parks?
More sheltered picnic areas.
I had not thought of a splash pad but it seems fun! If it was constructed in an eco-friendly way (does all that water get wasted?). Bathrooms at Monument Creek also a good idea because of the festivals and fairs there in summer.
Dog park
drinking fountains
Facilities for seniors with adequate parking and benches
More live music bands
Pickleball
The slide from the farmer's market to Mill Creek would be awesome
Water Fountain
Permanent restrooms would be much appreciated at parks when available. A splash pad would be a very valuable asset during hot summer months if we're able to do so in a safe way.
Having restrooms in a downtown park like Monument
Extension of the mill creek park/trail toward Baker Road
More bathroom access
More bench's and or tables (places to sit), bathrooms, more parking spaces, shade trees, drinking fountains, garbage cans to encourage people to clean up.
More Flower gardens, Beach volleyball court, connecting path between dexter-Huron metro park and Huron Farms
Basketball courts
Splash pad. Recreation center with indoor pool amenities for kids (slides, play structure, etc.)
New play structures. Splash pad.
Better/more play structures; splash pad; more paved trails that allow people to avoid roads and sidewalks
Bathrooms\
Splash pad and updated playgrounds
some item to help kids learn
More signage and connections to the Border 2 Border trail. Public restroom access in parks.
Facilities for seniors with adequate parking and benches
tennis courts, Real bathrooms, play structures for older kids, hand sanitizer dispensers, livery, dog run, sandbox, putting green, driving range
Restroom on b2b half way to hudson mills and drinking fountain.
Outside 50 lap swimming pool
Rock climbing traversing wall
I would love to see a large permanent pavilion in monument park. The temporary structure that is put up for the art fair and beer tent could be permanent and used for MANY other events! Seems like the people of Dexter love events down town like that, and I could see it being used for a lot of really cool things.... flower day, seasonal/holiday events, a food truck day, possible expansion of the farmers market, etc.
Dog park
A pool for public use or water pad for kids
More shelters
A doggie park and dog bags at all park locations
Public pool

Bathrooms at Mill Creek Park.
Bicycle rentals, kayak rentals, snowmobile rentals
I like the idea of a permanent bathroom at Monument or Mill Creek parks.
More city events for adults w/o kids (such as food truck nights, music events, etc)
Community pool, tennis courts, dog parking
A splash pad would be great.
Splash pad. Permeant bathrooms at Mill Creek.
Drinking/ water access, space for skateboards
Dog park
Definitely the splash pad and the slide! The slide from the fasteners market to the park sound SO FUN.
It would be nice to have a rec center like Saline
Just good engaging structures for 3-8 range
Dog park
Splash Pad!
Outdoor Pool
Permanent bathrooms hand washing stations water bottle filling stations instead of drinking fountains:)
Please add more flowers,spring bulbs/annuals. Potentially some lighting in Mill creek park south of Main Street.
Bathroom facilities
Bathrooms
wider paths
Dog park
something like the Henry Ford park in Greenfield Village, natural objects, less colors, more innovation
Handwash stations
Permanent bathrooms, skate park
More focus on expanding and connecting walking/bike paths. Connecting to the HS and Chelsea should be top priorities.
More education on the value of native landscaping items.
Adult Rec Sports and a fountain that kids can play in when it's hot.
clean, safe and well maintained bathroom facilities
More play structures for older kids
Dog park
Don't add too much. Bucolic nature of parks is preferable.
Bathrooms, park exercise equipment
Additional water-bottle filling sources

Are there any parks and/or recreation issues that you believe should be addressed by the City of Dexter?
Connect trail from cider mill to fire station
One way biking paths. Very dangerous for people trying to walk. Unable to relax for fear of getting hit by a biker. No one policing speed of bikers. Some paths should be designated for walkers only.
The Community is in urgent need of a larger, better funded Community Center. Our current center compared to Chelsea's is an embarrassment!
Not mentioned in the survey is pedestrian or bike access to the village from the West. Addressing the RxR bridge and Chelsea Rd intersection are critical to making the city a walkable destination.
Better lit and more accessible amenities at Horseshoe Park and better monitoring of fireman's park to discourage after hours loitering by teens.
continuing to expand the boardwalk system
garlic mustard in out of control at Horseshoe Park woods
More parking at mill creek park. Improve Horshoe park; this is a great location that needs to be cleaned and improved with landscaping, restrooms, tables/benches and play structure.
Force the owner of the property on the west side of Mill Creek, across from Mill Creek Park, to replace trees that he ripped out several years ago.
I would really love to have more wood chips spread at community park. It would be a simple fix to enhance the experience of community members.
Skate park
A safe solution to get up to the library from the B2B/Mill Creek Park with a stroller/bike were you don't have to cross or ride along side busy Main St. with children.
no
More signage on trails and parks of trail/park etiquette.
Better maintained and beautified, such as flowers, better way to get bike down at Mill Creek, a fence at Peace Park
More parking behind fire station for non boat users
I would like to see the play structures at Mill Creek Park be improved to serve older kids as well as younger kids. The river and B2B makes that a popular park. All kids have the right to play and there just isn't enough structures and space to serve our youngest as well as our oldest children.
More frequent woodchip placement at parks
Add a water park of water pads
Traffic around monument park - people turn onto central and start speeding, general traffic flow.
Pool
Continued expansion of bike/walking paths. Improved bike paths/lanes inside city.
"The bridge" needs to one a one-way and a new "old" bridge constructed for opposite traffic. People love this quaint bridge, but we need safety and better traffic flow, without a light.
The trash can at Monument park being overflowed with DQ trash. I'd like to see some tall trees planted across the river from Mill Creek park. It seems very bright looking that way since that land was cleared.
They all need better Park Identification signs, i.e. a Mill creek Park sign up by Main Street, a Horseshoe Park sign, etc. etc.
No
More enticing structures
The park behind LaFontaine is awesome but always seems like it's not well maintained. Long grass, tons of weeds, and dirty equipment
Adding bathrooms and water bottle filling stations
No River Access sign is damaged along trail to Hudson Mills

In near future, posting social distancing rules

Look into Reggio and creative learning - these are more aesthetically beautiful and will last longer than plastic or colored metal. The Greenfield Village Park is a wonderful one to look at and to try to emulate!!

Community Park is pretty disgraceful at the moment. It needs regrading so that heavy rainfall has a place to go, the weeds in the play areas are everywhere, and the woodchips need redone. During Stay Home orders, people haven't been using it, but it seems like a good time for the City to get in there and do necessary work

No

See above re paths.

We need better maintenance of the natural systems. Particular concentrate on the removal of invasive species.

The city should not be using pesticides/week killer on grass in parks.

Centrally located event board that is consistently updated and accessible to the public and local businesses.

No

On the Border 2 Border Trail, there should be signage (or additional signage) instructing bikers to indicate when passing walkers.

Do you have any other comments, questions, or concerns?

Would like to see more bike racks in town to encourage bicyclists on the trail to stop and utilize the restaurants and shops in town there are not enough racks spread throughout the city center for this. Need some by the Riverview Cafe/Dexter Pub so they are close by for people eating there (some bikes are VERY expensive and the owners don't want to secure their bikes too far from where they are).

I believe that Dexter should partner with surrounding townships to develop a community center that includes such things as a large space for indoor events, indoor facilities for seniors and for teens, community playing fields, etc. I see the Hamburg facilities on Merrill Road as a good example. I think Dexter does a great job with parks, with the truly outstanding Mill Creek Park and the trail Hudson Mills being a shining example.

You're doing a bang up job - keep up the great work!

I really love how the city has built and continues to improve on the park system and the community activities like music on Fridays in the summer

The city is doing a great job with parks. Thank you!

before isolation, Horseshoe Park could get very noisy/could have kids hanging out after dark

Great job with parks! They have really been improving. Keep up the good work. I especially love the fireworks and watching from river front park. Bring back movies. LOVE music in the park. Please keep it.

Keep up the good work! Dexter would not be Dexter without the parks and trail system.

No

Parks are important to the overall well being of the community including physical health, well being, connecting the community, and getting people outside and moving. They make us a community. Access for people with handicaps is important. I you have an injury or are in a wheelchair being able to use our well maintained side walks is critical.

More historic plaques around town, horseshoe park could be cleaner and fresher and better maintained, with more activities, bocce ball, croquet, etc.

I am concerned that the rezoning of the Copeland Building to house the Encore Theatre will increase traffic and create safety issues for children playing at the blue park.

Water park

Would like less parking on the main street of Dexter: More pedestrian mingling

I like seeing the parks as I run or walk. I brings a bit of nature to the city and a visual break around town. My old city did not have have anything close to what we have here and I appreciate this.

I do not think that the new ice rink location works very well. It needs to be in very a visible location so that people are aware that it exists, so people can see it in use, and where it is not subject to vandalism. What about the parking lot next to the Lions Park playground?

No

This survey doesn't ask questions about Mill Creek Park south of Main Street - that is a huge miss. The survey should also ask more questions about the use of the different trails and how often people use the trails that we have constructed (i.e. to Dexter Huron, to Hudson Mills, Through Mill Creek Park). Or at the vary least it should mention the Border to Border Trail.

Thank you for taking our community's children seriously. Also, thank you for keeping the Gazebo area beautiful and not adding in construction next to Fillmore. I'd love to see that area (where that short building is) into a full park, take out the lot and road and make it another beautiful park with beautiful flowers and perennials.

It's important to maintain well what we have before expanding or constructing new

No

The frequency of park use is very dependent on the weather. My answers do not apply to winter, when my usage of various parks is limited. I was disappointed that the ice rink was moved to Mill Creek Park from Monument Park; it was nice to see activity downtown in the winter. Since I don't use the ice rink myself, I would have to defer to the people who do use the rink.

Our parks are great, other than some better native vegetation management no complaints.

I think after Covid19 many adult would appreciate having local adult Rec sports rather than having to go into Ann Arbor for such activities.

I love our parks and trails. They are important to me and my family and make the top of my list of why we live in Dexter. They are well maintained and have been constructed thoughtfully. Thank you.

The Mill Creek Park and trail is wonderful. We use it a lot. It has done much to enrich our life.

The Planning Process

Summary of the Planning Process

The City of Dexter Parks and Recreation Commission along with the Commission's City staff liaison, the Assistant to the City Manager, had the primary responsibility for compiling the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The process of developing this document involved a great deal of research, analysis, and coordinating data collection from a variety of sources.

Staff began the process by reviewing the previous 5-Year Master Plan, which was used as a template for the current Plan. Due to extensive work and investment in Dexter's parks between 2009 and 2012, much of the information was no longer relevant and the Plan required significant updates. Staff conducted a review of existing physical conditions of parks within the City of Dexter. This review included visiting each site, taking photographs, and logging amenities.

Staff then consulted reliable sources of data (the United States Census, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Huron River Watershed Council, State of Michigan student data) to perform an analysis of City demographics, population, and social and economic data. This information was used to evaluate recreation needs and opportunities compared to National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) standards. The NRPA standards may be found on page 31, under Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory.

The City also communicated regularly with representatives from the Dexter Community School District and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation in order to gather data. Staff reviewed Washtenaw County's 5-Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan and performed an analysis of State-wide and County-wide trends.

With this information, the Parks and Recreation Commission met to review the Introduction, Community Description, Administrative Structure, and Facilities Inventory sections of the Master Plan. The Commission also performed a preliminary review of the Goals and Objectives section of the Plan. With these processes underway, the Parks and Recreation Commission sought public input.

Public Input

Description of the Public Input Process

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that parks and recreation planning processes incorporate public input using at least two means. The City of Dexter utilized both traditional and technological methods to gather public opinion, comments, and feedback on the City's parks and recreation services and facilities.

The City used a number of sources to advertise the public input opportunities and spread awareness of the process:

-) City Council Reports – Information regarding the public survey was included in a City Council report from staff for their September 14, 2015 meeting. Information regarding the Input Session was included in a staff report to Council for their November 23, 2015 meeting.
-) Hard Copy Survey Distribution - Paper copies of surveys were distributed to the Dexter Senior Center and the Cedars of Dexter.
-) Kiosks - Flyers for the survey and public input session were posted in six kiosks throughout the City.
-) City's Website – The City posted two news articles about the public survey on September 25, 2015 and October 12, 2015 to the City's website www.dextermi.gov

- J E-mail Updates – The City sent e-mail updates to its over 700 subscribers about the survey. These occurred on September 22, 2015 and October 9, 2015. A post about the Public Input session was included in the e-mail update of December 2, 2015.
- J Facebook Posts – The City posted blurbs on its Facebook page regarding the public survey on October 12, 2015 and September 22, 2015. A blurb was posted on November 20, 2015 regarding the Public Input Session.
- J We Love Dexter News Website - The online local news website We Love Dexter posted an article regarding the survey on September 25, 2015 and an article about the Input Session on November 18, 2015.
- J Sun Times News - The Sun Times newspaper ran an article about the survey on September 22, 2015.

City of Dexter Parks and Recreation Survey

One of the first steps of the five-year planning process was to gather input on parks and recreation issues that were important to the community. To ascertain these important issues, the City of Dexter developed a survey using a free online software program called Survey Monkey. There were a total of 182 survey takers and the survey generated 365 textual responses. The survey was made available on August 24, 2015 and closed on December 1, 2015. Paper copies of the survey were distributed to the Dexter Senior Center and The Cedars of Dexter senior living community. Hard copies of the survey that were returned to City staff were input by hand. Once the survey closed to the public, the Survey Monkey software allowed staff to generate response results and draft conclusions.

Public Input Session – December 3, 2015

The City hosted a Public Input Session for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan on Thursday, December 3, 2015. During the meeting, City staff presented a project introduction and preliminary survey findings to a crowd of approximately 20 stakeholders. Those in attendance were asked to participate in two exercises designed to gather opinions on parks and recreation services as well as the City's parks and recreation goals.

First, the stakeholders were asked to participate in an issue identification exercise. Citizens were presented with four posters, labelled:

1. Smaller Projects
2. Other Small Projects
3. Ideas to promote Less Used Parks
4. Other Comments

Each of the poster topics was accompanied by a list of some of the major issues and concerns that were identified from the survey. All citizens were then given the opportunity to take markers and to write down any issues that they believed were missing from these lists. When the group finished their issue additions, each citizen was given a set of six stickers and asked to affix their stickers on the boards next to the issues that they believed were the most critical for the plan to address (Attachment 16).

During the second exercise, those in attendance were asked to provide written comments on the draft set of goals as discussed by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Staff received eight (8) sets of comments on the goals.

Public Hearing - February 16, 2016

The 30-Day Public Review Period began on Friday January 15, 2016 and concluded on Monday, February 15, 2016. Copies of the draft plan were made available at the City offices (8123 Main St., 2nd Floor, Dexter), the Dexter District Library (3255 Alpine St., Dexter), and on the City's website at dextermi.gov. Feedback was

incorporated into the Plan as appropriate throughout the 30-Day period. The feedback that was provided during the 30-day public comment period is included in the appendix.

With the conclusion of the 30-Day Public Review Period, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing at their February 16, 2016 meeting. Three members of the public attended the public hearing. All expressed appreciation for the planning process. No changes to the document were recommended.

Summary of Findings

1. There is overwhelming support for trails and pathways.

In response to question 4, “please review the following list of parks and recreation activities commonly offered by municipalities like ours. Which do you feel are the most important to provide to the Dexter community?” survey takers responded that “Trails and Pathways” was the most important. Out of 182 survey takers, 147 people rated “Trails and Pathways” in their top three highest priorities, with 68 people selecting it as their first priority, 54 as the second most important, and 25 as the third most important. Meanwhile, 131 people rated “maintain existing parks and pathways” as one of their top three priorities.

In addition, in response to question 6, “the following is a short list of ideas that have been discussed (with no action taken) by the City of Dexter’s Parks and Recreation Commission. Please indicate how important you feel these projects/improvements would be to the City of Dexter’s parks and recreation system,” 88.5% (154 people) rated “expanding Mill Creek Park trail” as at least somewhat important, excluding those with no opinion. 51.7% of survey takers (90 people) rated this project as “very important.”

Trails and pathways also received the most (16) text comments to question 7, “what are some parks and/or recreation items that may not be listed that you would like to see addressed?”

In addition, during the public meeting exercises on December 3, 2015, 10 people out of 17 showed support for trails under the “Other Comments” poster. On the “smaller projects” poster, “Solar Lighting Along B2B Trail” received support from 6 people.

2. The community is interested in more/better playground offerings.

On question 4, “please review the following list of parks and recreation activities commonly offered by municipalities like ours. Which do you feel are the most important to provide to the Dexter community?” “playgrounds and playground structures” ranked third behind trails and pathways, and maintaining parks and pathways. 106 people rated “playgrounds and playground structures” as one of their top three priorities; 28 people selected it as their first priority, 41 as their second, and 37 as their third.

In addition, in response to question 6, “the following is a short list of ideas that have been discussed (with no action taken) by the City of Dexter’s Parks and recreation Commission. Please indicate how important you feel these projects/improvements would be to the City of Dexter’s parks and recreation system,” 74% (147 people) rated “improving the play structure in Mill Creek Park North” as at least somewhat important, excluding those with no opinion. 31% of survey takers (49 people) rated this project as “very important.”

The demand for playground structures in Dexter is understandable as the City of Dexter is the hub of the Dexter Community School District, which services over 3,500 students from the surrounding area. In addition, according to the US Census, the average age of the Dexter population is mid-30s. This age bracket is the time period that one could reasonably expect people to have school-age (and playground-age) children.

The City is currently working on a project to install a play structure at Lion's Park in the spring of 2016. Once this project is complete, this may help reduce the demand for new play structures in Dexter.

3. Though Dexter-area residents are generally satisfied with the quality of Dexter parks, the community recognizes that maintenance of existing assets is important.

Of the survey takers that expressed an opinion on question 2, "please rate your satisfaction with the following City of Dexter parks," 95.5% stated that they were at least "somewhat satisfied" with Mill Creek Park South, with over 70% stating that they were "very satisfied." Mill Creek Park North, Monument Park and Community Park all received similarly high ratings at 60% and above being "very satisfied" and over 90% being at least "somewhat satisfied." The lowest rated park was First Street Park with only 20% responding "very satisfied" and 72% responding at least "somewhat satisfied."

Based on the responses to question three, "please check all the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household from using City parks," Dexter-area residents do not feel that Dexter parks suffer from many of the common problems faced by public parks. The following issues received a very small percentage of responses: poor lighting (3.3%), poor maintenance (2.75%), and I do not feel safe (1.1%).

Additionally, very few text responses to questions that prompted respondents to discuss other issues related to maintenance or quality of existing parks. Instead, most of the responses related to additional projects that would enhance the existing quality of parks.

On question 4, "please review the following list of parks and recreation activities commonly offered by municipalities like ours. Which do you feel are the most important to provide to the Dexter community?" "maintain existing parks and pathways" ranked second behind trails and pathways. 131 people rated "playgrounds and playground structures" as one of their top three priorities; 49 people selected it as their first priority, 41 as their second, and 41 as their third. In addition, survey responded with 22 text comments related to general maintenance items they would like to see addressed.

4. First Street Park, Lion's Park, Peace Park, and Community Park are underused.

When prompted with the question "how many times have you visited the following Dexter parks in the last year?" Mill Creek Park North, Mill Creek Park South, and Monument Park all received a strong number of "daily," "weekly," and "monthly" visitors. Meanwhile, the following parks all received a high number of "never" responses: First Street Park (82.68%), Lion's Park (56.11%), Peace Park (51.12%), and Community Park (44.13%). The 82.68% rate of people that indicated that they "never" visit First Street Park is drastically different when compared to Mill Creek Park North and Monument Park, both which received less than 4% of people indicating that they never visit those parks. In fact, the number of people that visit the least frequently used parks at least monthly was: First Street Park (3.36% or 6 people), Lion's Park (14.45% or 26 people), Peace Park (16.89% or 30 people), and Community Park (26.82% or 48 people).

There are a few reasons why people may not be visiting First Street, Lion's, and Peace Parks. These include not knowing the locations of these parks, the parks being located outside of downtown, and there being few amenities at these parks.

For responses to question three, 66.5% (121 people) of respondents indicated that there was nothing preventing them from using Dexter parks, but the second highest response was "I do not know the locations of

the City's parks" with 18.68% (34 people). With regard to question 2, "please rate your satisfaction with the following City of Dexter parks," the parks with the highest number of "no opinion" responses and the lowest satisfaction rating were: First Street Park (25 total respondents with an opinion), Lion's Park (56 respondents), Peace Park (74 respondents) – and Community Park to a lesser degree (98 respondents). This compares to 172 respondents with an opinion for Mill Creek Park North.

5. While it may not be as high of a priority as other items, water-based recreation has been recognized as an issue that needs to be addressed.

This issue of water recreation access has been derived from a number of sources – Huron River Watershed Council (now that Dexter has been recognized as a Trail Town), and issues arising from the illegal Mast Rd. Bridge access point. In terms of priority, on question 4, "Mill Creek/Huron River Access" ranked fifth, with 58 people selecting this option as one of their top three priorities. However, in response to question 6, 71% of respondents with an opinion (105 people) indicated that "improving the Huron River access point at the Mast Rd. Bridge" was at least "somewhat important." 33% of respondents (50 people) indicated that this project was "very important." Similarly, 68.7% of respondents with an opinion (108 people) indicated that "removing debris from Mill Creek to provide easier access to the Huron River" was at least somewhat important – 25.5% (40 people) thought that this project was "very important."

In addition, based on responses to question 5, "the City is currently assessing the need to provide better access to Mill Creek/Huron River for water-based recreation activities. Please check all of the following choice that apply to you," there appears to be interest in launching a kayak, canoe, or inter-tube in Dexter. 50% of respondents (91 people) stated that "I would kayak, canoe, or inter-tube if free access was more convenient." Another 33.52% (61 people) responded "I would kayak, canoe, or inter-tube if parking was more convenient." In fact, only 24.18% of respondents (44 people) indicated that they had no interest in going in the water.

6. Feedback from the Public Input Session reflects textual comments made in the Public Survey regarding support for restroom facilities and parks-based public events.

Two important items were reflected in the public input session exercises: public restrooms and parks-related public events. During the input exercises, comments related to public restrooms received a high degree of support on the "Other Comments" board based on the votes that were cast (via stickers). The call for public restrooms (non-port-o-potty) received a total of 11 votes (out of a possible 17). At the same time, though there was no question specifically referring to restrooms, public bathroom facilities received several text responses on the public survey on questions 3, 5, and 7. The locations recommended by these comments were around Mill Creek Park and Monument Park.

Based on feedback from the survey and public input exercises, there appears to be support for additional parks-related organized public events. On question 4 of the survey, "organized public events and festivals" ranked fourth behind playgrounds playground structures. 106 people (58.24%) ranked this item within their top three priorities, with 28 respondents (15.38%) ranking it as their first priority. In addition, during the public input exercise, when prompted to provide "ideas to promote less used parks," several comments called for "park specific activities," and "have annual Dexter Park Day." These comments received a great deal of support at the input session.

7. There is not significant demand for organized activities or educational activities.

With regard to question 4, respondents indicated that organized activities and educational activities were the least important priorities when compared to the other options presented. Only 14% of respondents (27 people) indicated that “organized activities” fell amongst their top three priorities – only 3 people (1.65%) indicated that it was their first priority. Similarly, only 18 people (9.89%) of people indicated that “educational activities” was one of their top three priorities. There were also very few text comments calling for organized or educational activities from survey takers.

8. The demographics of survey respondents are representative of the Dexter-area population.

The demographics of those taking the survey were generally representative of Dexter-area residents. According to questions 8 of the survey, 70% of respondents were Dexter City residents, 28% of respondents were Dexter-area resident, and 2% of respondents were non-area residents. According to responses to question 9, the highest rate of responses was among those living in the Dexter-area between 4-10 years (26%) and 11-20 years (25.5%). According to question 10, the age brackets with the most responses were 30-39 (36%), and 40-49 (27%). 2010 Census figures indicate that these are the two largest age brackets in the City of Dexter. Highest rate of responses among those with two children (33.5%), zero children (32.5%), and one child (19.23%) living in the household. These statistics are close to US Census figures.

Goals and Objectives

1. **GOAL: (Space/Facilities) Meet present and future community needs for parks, greenways, trails, and recreation.**
 - A. Objective: Plan and develop a system of parks, greenways, open space, and recreation facilities that meets National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) standards for individual park types.
 - i. *Strategy: Identify desirable parcels within or adjacent to the City and evaluate for park system inclusion.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Seek to provide required space or facilities through the development of partnerships, or the purchase of easements or property.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Consider the location of existing parks and facilities when choosing new sites in order to provide a balanced distribution.*
 - iv. *Strategy: Encourage the development of parks and facilities in areas which are pathway accessible and will serve a large number of City residents or a priority targeted group.*
 - v. *Strategy: Provide parks and recreation facilities that are consistent with NPRA standards and guidelines and that coincide with the needs of the City.*
 - vi. *Strategy: Develop parks and recreation assets with safe, universally accessible pathway linkages as a priority consideration.*
 - B. Objective: Encourage the preservation and maintenance of green space and the development of new parks and/or recreation assets when opportunities arise.
 - i. *Strategy: Encourage park projects that honor and preserve local history and historic architecture.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Promote the integration of our goals with the City Planning Commission and their development review process to ensure that projects meet increased parks and recreation needs.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Use the development review process to encourage the clustering of dwellings facilitating more space for parks, recreation, pathways, open space, or linear parks.*
 - iv. *Strategy: Encourage large developments to dedicate a minimum of 30% of their project as green open space, exclusive of stormwater detention/retention ponds and paved surfaces.*
 - v. *Strategy: Encourage small developments to provide green open space for small mini-parks.*
 - vi. *Strategy: Encourage developers to preserve green open space and mature trees in their projects, to protect significant ecosystems, and to use greenways and linear parks to buffer their projects, to provide for the safe movement of wildlife, and to connect to the linear parks or greenways of adjacent jurisdictions.*
 - vii. *Strategy: Encourage developers to provide pathways connecting their project with the City's system of pathways and the pathways of adjacent parks, trail systems, or jurisdictions.*
 - viii. *Strategy: Encourage developers to meet the recreation demands created by their project through the construction of new neighborhood parks and active recreation facilities.*
 - C. Objective: With the completion of Mill Creek Park Phase 1, plan and develop a linear park and pathway system through the Mill Creek Drainage basin.
 - i. *Strategy: Engage City Council to appoint the Parks and Recreation Commission to coordinate the team to develop and implement the Plan for Mill Creek Park Phase 2.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Coordinate linear park and pathway connections with regional and local jurisdictions including other adjacent Washtenaw County Parks and Preserves, and with the master plans of neighboring townships.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Select a consultant to help develop detailed plans for the Parks development.*
 - iv. *Strategy: Secure approval and funding from City Council to engage the services of preferred consultant.*

- v. *Strategy: Apply for funding from both City and non-City sources to help execute the Mill Creek Park Phase 2 Plan and park development.*
- vi. *Strategy: Collaborate with the Dexter Community Schools to establish access points connecting the High School and Intermediate Schools.*
- vii. *Strategy: Execute the park development plan in phases as funding allows.*
- viii. *Strategy: Encourage adjacent jurisdictions to collaborate when appropriate.*

2. GOAL: (Recreation) Encourage healthy lifestyles for City residents through recreation.

- A. Objective: Offer City residents a balance of active and passive recreation opportunities.
 - i. *Strategy: Develop and promote active and passive recreation activities and local events that are affordable and provide good value to citizens of all ages.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Make pathway and passive recreation development first priority in order to achieve the highest utilization and return on investment.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Develop active recreation facilities secondarily but as required to meet specific high priority needs.*
 - iv. *Strategy: Collaborate with the Dexter Community Schools and other public and private interests in the planning and delivery of recreation opportunities while eliminating duplication.*
 - v. *Strategy: Evaluate the feasibility of developing passive facilities in support of birding, photography, and environmental education.*
 - vi. *Strategy: Evaluate the feasibility of developing active facilities in support of a skateboarding/inline skating, dog park, outdoor rock climbing, and paddle sports.*
- B. Objective: Offer City residents multiple opportunities to walk, run, bike, or skate without leaving their community.
 - i. *Strategy: Identify, promote, and help develop longer outings via additional pathway and water trail linkages to adjacent parks, trail systems, greenways, and waterways owned and operated by other jurisdictions.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Begin the planning process for Mill Creek Park Phase 2.*
- C. Objective: Offer City residents opportunities to experience the City's natural water features.
 - i. *Strategy: Enhance the Mill Creek water trail from Shield Road to the Huron River.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Collaborate with the Huron River Watershed Council to increase access to Mill Creek and the Huron River by adding a universal access point.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Work with the Huron River Watershed Council to promote the City's designation as a Trail Town.*
 - iv. *Strategy: Coordinate river clean-up days to provide paddlers with safe passage through the City's waterways.*

3. GOAL: (Accessibility) Strive to make sure all City parks and recreation sites accessible.

- A. Objective: Design and develop a system of all-season, non-motorized pathways, trails, sidewalks, and bike paths linking City neighborhoods with both City and adjacent non-City parks, greenways, pathways, recreation venues, schools, and commercial retail areas.
 - i. *Strategy: Expand existing pathway systems within the boundaries of the City, including bicycle lanes, trails, and other non-motorized pathways.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Communicate location and accessibility of walking trails and non-motorized paths.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Segregate bicycle and pedestrian traffic from motorized traffic where appropriate and feasible.*
 - iv. *Strategy: Coordinate parks and trail planning with the State of Michigan, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, and Metroparks trail initiatives.*

- v. *Strategy: Proactively invite other City and/or regional groups involved in planning to enhance linkages to City parks and recreation for a broader regional system.*

B. Objective: Strive to make sure all parks and recreation assets are barrier-free and universally accessible.

- i. *Strategy: Review all plans for new parks and recreation facilities, for compliance with current ADA standards.*
- ii. *Strategy: Develop and implement strategies to make existing parks and recreation facilities compliant with current ADA standards.*
- iii. *Strategy: Explore securing funding assistance for ADA-related improvements.*

4. GOAL: (Environment) Make nature and healthy ecosystems an important characteristic of our City.

A. Objective: In designated City natural areas, enhance and preserve healthy ecosystems for native plants, fish, and wildlife.

- i. *Strategy: Develop and implement a comprehensive management plan, including environmental framework, to enhance and sustain the above.*
- ii. *Strategy: Minimize the impact of invasive species where practical. Provide a supportive habitat for desirable species.*
- iii. *Strategy: Perform maintenance as required within natural areas and waterways to enhance the environment for native species. Periodically repopulate desirable native species where and when appropriate.*
- iv. *Strategy: Encourage the City to maintain best practice stormwater solutions to increase water quality.*
- v. *Strategy: Promote and maintain riparian buffers to reduce erosion and lower water temperatures.*
- vi. *Strategy: Promote and maintain sufficient ability for fish to move upstream.*
- vii. *Strategy: Educate community about habitat, plants, wildlife, fishery, and their value.*
- viii. *Strategy: Educate community about potential for pet damage to habitat, plant life, wildlife, fishery, and water quality.*
- ix. *Strategy: Develop and promote identification and education programs in our natural areas using citizen volunteers, teachers, or partnering with non-City organizations.*
- x. *Strategy: Promote the use of our natural areas by residents in an effort to increase their sense of ownership and support.*

B. Objective: Provide natural enhancements to City urban areas and parks.

- i. *Strategy: Integrate the use of native plants with non-native perennials and annuals.*
- ii. *Strategy: Use bio-retention islands, bio-swales, rain gardens, and other innovative water retention strategies when appropriate.*
- iii. *Strategy: Add and maintain features or structures that invite and support wildlife, e.g., hummingbird gardens, birdhouses, bat houses, etc.*
- iv. *Strategy: Consider integrating large boulders, water features, or other natural-style hardscape.*

C. Objective: Advocate for the enhancement and preservation of natural features within and surrounding our City.

- i. *Strategy: Promote the preservation of scenic vistas, natural land buffers, greenways, and waterways.*
- ii. *Strategy: Promote the preservation and enhancement of important wildlife habitat and migration routes, including aquatic, in and through the City.*
- iii. *Strategy: Promote increased public access to adjacent waterways, greenways, and public lands.*

5. GOAL: (Management) Use sound planning, financial, and operational management practices.

- A. Objective: Deliver superior service to citizens and others seeking help.
- i. *Strategy: Commit to serving residents with warmth, courtesy, and respect in all matters.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Communicate with residents regularly to enhance timeliness of information, transparency of process, and support for parks and recreation in our City.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Make ease of use and affordability priorities when developing recreation programs.*
- B. Objective: Deliver on our stated goals and objectives.
- i. *Strategy: Annually review the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, Goals and Objectives, and the Budget.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Annually maintain and implement project priorities as listed in the 5-year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP).*
 - iii. *Strategy: Take action on opportunities to implement projects that would meet stated Goals and Objectives.*
- C. Objective: Ensure that our parks and recreation assets remain available for enjoyment, now and in the future.
- i. *Strategy: Develop a parks and recreation master plan and update it at a minimum of every 5 years.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Annually secure adequate funding for operations and maintenance.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Establish and promote a restricted parks and recreation endowment fund.*
 - iv. *Strategy: Leverage outside funding, partnerships, and other assets whenever possible.*
 - v. *Strategy: Consider opportunities for the development of parks and recreation revenues from user fees, rentals, and/or other direct services when appropriate and desirable, e.g., gazebo rentals, facility and equipment rentals, concessions, etc.*
 - vi. *Strategy: Annually develop and submit a budget and capital improvement plan.*
 - vii. *Strategy: Develop community support as required.*
- D. Objective: Foster smart and efficient management practices.
- i. *Strategy: Ensure appropriate staff and volunteers are educated in relevant current best practices and changing trends of the parks and recreation profession.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Ensure that appropriate staff and volunteers are provided the resources and support of City government to be successful.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Develop and implement appropriate asset maintenance schedules, reflective of the investment and projected long-term value of the asset.*
 - iv. *Strategy: Participate in City and regional planning groups that would impact City parks and recreation.*
 - v. *Strategy: Partner with other public and private entities where duplication could be eliminated or to help provide new programs and facilities for City residents.*
- E. Objective: Identify and utilize available City and non-City funding resources to meet our goals.
- i. *Strategy: Identify and apply to funding sources that may serve as alternatives or supplements to City funds.*
 - ii. *Strategy: Consider park, facility, hardscape, or equipment sponsorships as a part of any funding campaign.*
 - iii. *Strategy: Develop and promote efforts to fund a City Parks and Recreation Endowment, e.g., Dexter Parks & Recreation Guide to Giving, raffle-style giveaway, or other fundraising device.*

- 6. GOAL: (Community) Foster a community-wide sense of pride in and support for our parks and recreation program.**
- A. Objective: Promote parks and recreation activities throughout the Dexter area.
- i. Strategy: Communicate with the City Planning Commission, Downtown Development Authority, Chamber of Commerce, City Council, and local civic organizations about the importance of parks and recreation initiatives in the community.
 - ii. Strategy: Work with public and private agencies through joint sponsorship of programs, projects, and events.
 - iii. Strategy: Produce an integrated set of print and PDF brochures, and mailings promoting our parks and recreation assets and programs.
 - iv. Strategy: Promote our parks and programs through wayfinding and activity promotion signage and advertising.
 - v. Strategy: Provide periodic updates on projects through a combination of communication channels, e.g., City newsletter, website, brochures, news media.
- B. Objective: Provide and promote opportunities for individual citizens and community groups to influence the mission, priorities, management, and operations of the parks and recreation program.
- i. Strategy: Regularly survey residents to measure program and service quality, user satisfaction, and to collect citizen input.
 - ii. Strategy: Regularly invite residents to attend and participate in Parks and Recreation meetings.
 - iii. Strategy: Invite citizens to volunteer in support of Parks and Recreation objectives and projects.
 - iv. Strategy: Regularly review citizen feedback, incorporating desired ideas.
- C. Objective: Develop and maintain parks and recreation assets that incorporate a high degree of aesthetic appeal.
- i. Strategy: Engage the services of appropriate design professionals when developing or upgrading parks and recreation assets.
 - ii. Strategy: Develop and implement design standards for all park and recreation assets.
 - iii. Strategy: Periodically review existing assets for appearance and invest as necessary to elevate to desired standard.
 - iv. Strategy: Utilize or compliment other design standards used in the City by other departments and organizations.
- D. Objective: Develop and maintain park and recreation assets and recreation programs that meet current industry safety standards and, where standards do not exist, develop and maintain assets and programs with careful consideration for user or participant safety.
- i. Strategy: Engage the services of appropriate safety or risk assessment professionals when developing or upgrading parks and recreation assets.
 - ii. Strategy: To assure safety of users, require that current industry standards be identified and met when developing any design or bid specification.
 - iii. Strategy: Work with local law enforcement personnel to develop appropriate design safeguards and post-implementation strategies.
 - iv. Strategy: Where identifiable, clearly indicate potential risks to participants or users and any limits to participation or use, e.g., signage.
 - v. Strategy: Follow recommendations of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA).