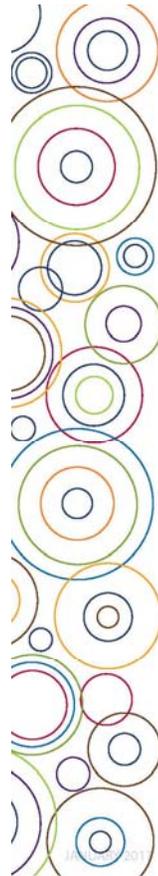


# Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Master Plan

## Parks & Recreation Master Plan Process Summary

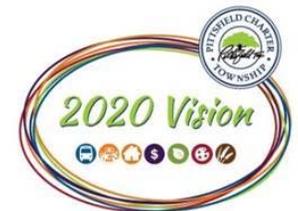
January 25, 2017



[www.pittsfield-mi.gov/masterplan](http://www.pittsfield-mi.gov/masterplan)

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# Parks & Rec | Introduction

## It's 2017! Why update?

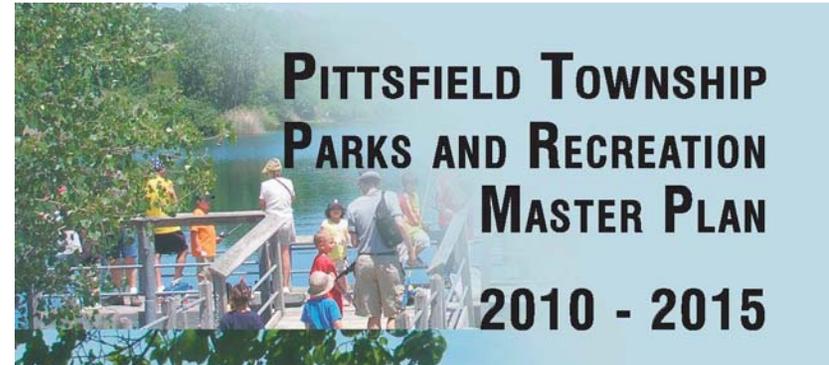
### External

MDNR purpose is to...

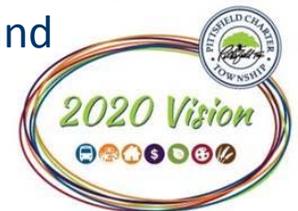
- Inventory and assess current circumstances
- Determine need based on **community input**, **existing conditions**, and future projections.
- Guide planning and implementation of recreational assets.
- Develop **goals and objectives** to address needs over five years.
- Strategic plan of action to accomplish goals of the plan.
- Establish eligibility for grant funding.

### Internal

- Synchronize with the Township Master Plan to develop a unified and cohesive vision for our community.
- Supervisor's Office led the planning effort with BRI providing support for inventory, design workshops and working with the Park Commission to identify goals and objectives.



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# Parks & Rec | Introduction

## Process

- **Inventory** and assess current circumstances
- **Community Input** to determine needs and desires.
- **Goals and Objectives** to address needs over five years.
- **Strategies** of action to accomplish goals and objectives of the plan.

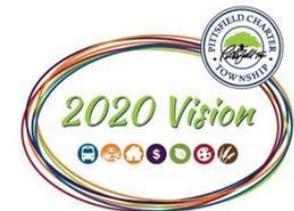
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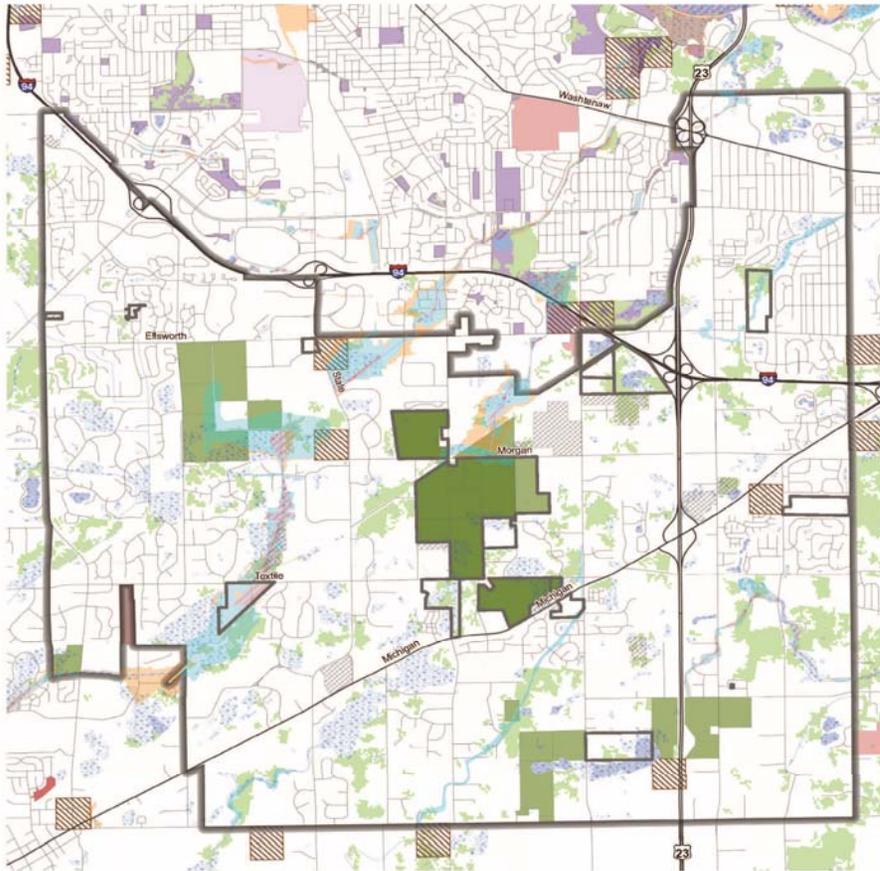
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# Inventory

Identified Township and regional recreation assets.



## Resource Inventory

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data L  
Pittsfield Township, FEMA, Washtenaw County GIS

### Legend

- Township Parks
- Conservation Easement
- DNR Lands
- Forest Land
- Farmland/Open Space
- Pittsfield Preserve
- Wetland
- 100-Year Floodplain
- 500-Year Floodplain
- Regulatory Floodway
- Lakes
- Rivers
- Major Roads
- Minor Roads

### Regional Network Parks

- University of Michigan
- City of Ann Arbor
- Ann Arbor Township
- Washtenaw County
- City of Saline



## Regional Parks

Data Sources: State of Michigan Geographic Data Library, Pittsfield Township, FEMA, Washtenaw County GIS

### Legend

- Pittsfield Township
- Cities
- DNR Lands
- Lakes
- Counties
- Major Roads
- Michigan State Game, Wildlife and Park Boundaries
- Metroparks
- County Parks
- Preserves



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# Inventory

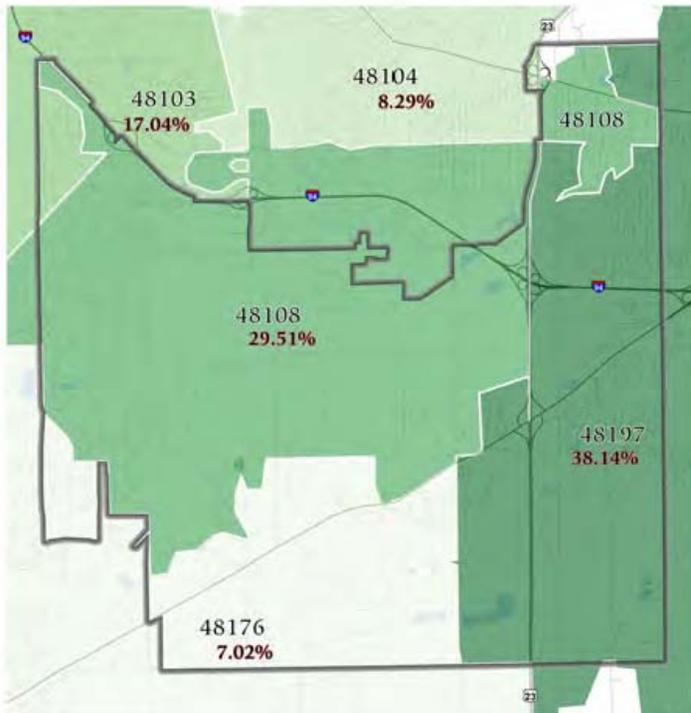
BRI & Township staff conducted site visits during October 2015 to document existing facilities and conditions.

Montibeller Park			
Owning Agency: Pittsfield Township		Party Responsible for Maintenance: Pittsfield Township	
Location: 4305 Ellsworth Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48108		Size: 55.4 Acres	
Date of Visit: 10/07/2015		Observed Use Level: Medium	
Facilities Inventory			
Item	Quantity	Condition	Notes
Baseball Field (No Lights)	2	1 Good, 1 Excellent	One backstop is rusted. Both have 1 bleacher set.
Open Play Field	1	Excellent	Large mowed fields with rolling hills
Volleyball	1	Good	Grass court, wooden posts with net in good condition
Tennis Court	4	2 Poor, 2 Excellent	Two old courts and two new courts
Walking / Biking Trail	1	Good	Bituminous path from parking lots to amenities and nature trails. Nature trails need clean-up of branches and new wood chips.
Play Structure	2	Excellent	Wood chips need to be filled. Equipment in good condition.
Swings	1	Excellent	Two bucket seats, two regular seats
Picnic Shelter	1	Good	
Restrooms	1	Good	Men / Women. Good lighting, could use paint and concrete sidewalk is coming away from building.
Park Grills	4	Good	Not accessible. In lawn areas.
Picnic Tables	15	Excellent	
Drinking Fountain	1	Excellent	
Pet Waste Bag Dispenser	1	Excellent	
Bicycle Parking	1	Good	Paint scuffed up
Maintenance Shed	1	Good	
Trash / Recycling	12	Good	
Parking Lot	2	Good	Unpaved with bumper blocks
Signage (Yes / No)	Yes	Excellent	Park entry sign, park pavilion map, misc signage
<b>Observations:</b> This park is walkable from residential areas (people were observed using the park but there were very few cars in the parking lot). Many mature trees. The wooded area has dirt trails with remnants of wood chips, and fallen limbs occasionally obstruct the paths. The wood chips were installed two years ago, and have decomposed somewhat. In the woods, there is an informal log bridge over a ditch that is a safety concern. Invasive species are present in the woods (buckthorn). Large mowed lawn areas with rolling hills are used for sledding. Some of the lawn area could be converted to prairie if it is desired to reduce mowing. Two play structures entertain 2-5 and 5-12 age groups. Good access off Ellsworth Road. There is an informal cut-through to Meijer which may need to be addressed from a safety standpoint. Of the two playground areas present, the smaller of the two was newer and is for older children. Park users say there are not enough swings.			
<b>Barrier Free Evaluation:</b> 3 - Most of the facilities / park areas meet accessibility guidelines. There were access paths to main play areas, the picnic shelter, tennis courts, and almost all the way to baseball fields. The restrooms are marked accessible but may not be up to current standards. The two parking lots each have access paths to some amenities, but the access paths do not connect to each other. Trails in the woods are not accessible. Very few accessible pieces of play equipment. Picnic tables are not the cantilevered type. Most park grills are in lawn areas far from paths, but a few are very near the picnic shelter.			
<b>Ideas for Improvement:</b> Upgrades to baseball fields, replace signs, replace trail signs, pave parking lots, renovate restrooms, renovate pavilion with electricity, replace maintenance building, repurpose old tennis courts. Possible new items include sand volleyball courts, a disc golf course, a dog park, dugouts, and permanent fencing on the baseball fields. Naturalize stream.			

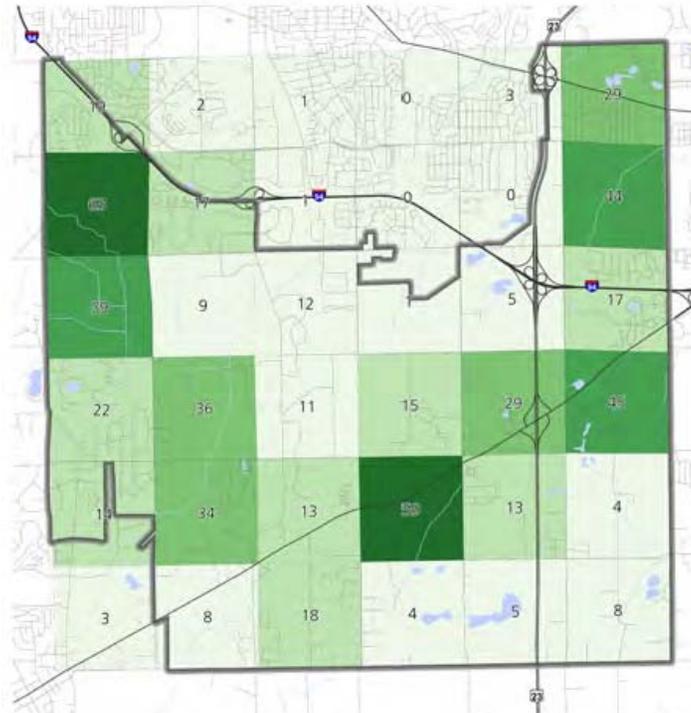


# Public Input - Survey

As part of the 2020 Vision planning process, a survey targeting Township residents was conducted. It garnered 767 responses or a response rate of 5.5% which is exceptional.



**PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
**Percentage of Recreation Participants**  
 The above map shows the percentage of recreation participants within each zip code.



**PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP**  
**Number of Responses by Section**  
 The above map shows the number of community survey responses within each section of the Township.

**Number of Responses**

- 0 - 13
- 14 - 25
- 26 - 38
- 39 - 50
- 51 - 63



# Public Input - Survey

How would you rate the following park and recreational amenities in Pittsfield Township?								
Answer Options	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Rating Average	Pct Don't Know	Excellent - Poor
Amount of park land	171	339	108	43	32	2.83	5%	2.97
Senior recreation programming	73	177	63	21	359	1.4	52%	2.90
Open space/natural areas	132	346	144	31	36	2.74	5%	2.89
Youth recreation programming	78	255	114	24	214	1.94	31%	2.82
Variety of park amenities (e.g. playgrounds, pavilions, trails)	112	334	148	52	52	2.58	7%	2.78
Greenways (10' pathways), sidewalks and bike lanes	150	263	190	66	29	2.63	4%	2.74
Adult recreation programming	59	231	153	42	206	1.85	30%	2.63

In your opinion, how well are Pittsfield Township parks maintained?								
Answer Options	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know	Rating Average	Pct Don't Know	Excellent - Poor
Lohr-Textile Greenway	127	96	13	2	397	1.30	635	3.46
Lillie Park	172	231	21	2	237	2.15	663	3.35
Platt Road Greenway	86	96	17	2	424	1.07	625	3.32
Prairie Park	46	61	9	2	502	0.62	620	3.28
Marsh View Meadows Park	80	103	18	3	426	1.06	630	3.27
Hickory Woods Park	48	79	15	2	487	0.73	631	3.20
Pittsfield Preserve	73	145	23	3	402	1.20	646	3.18
Montibeller Park	78	156	32	4	369	1.33	639	3.14
Wall Park	19	35	11	1	548	0.33	614	3.09
Pittsfield Park	47	109	29	2	446	0.91	633	3.07

## Recreation Assessment

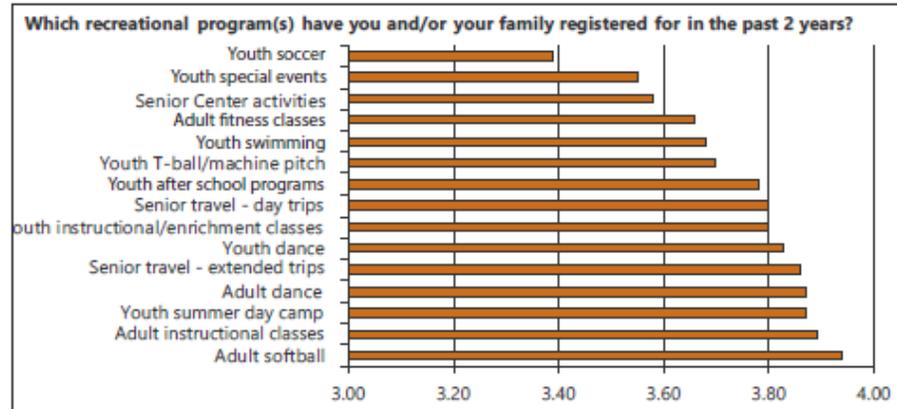
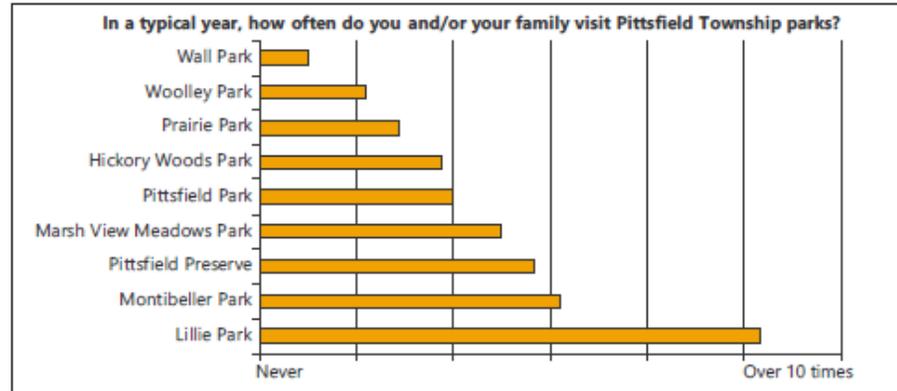
Among the respondents who assessed the condition of park maintenance, the overall picture was excellent: in no case did the percentage of “Excellent” or “Good” responses fall below 80%, and the four parks above all earned more than 90% of such responses.



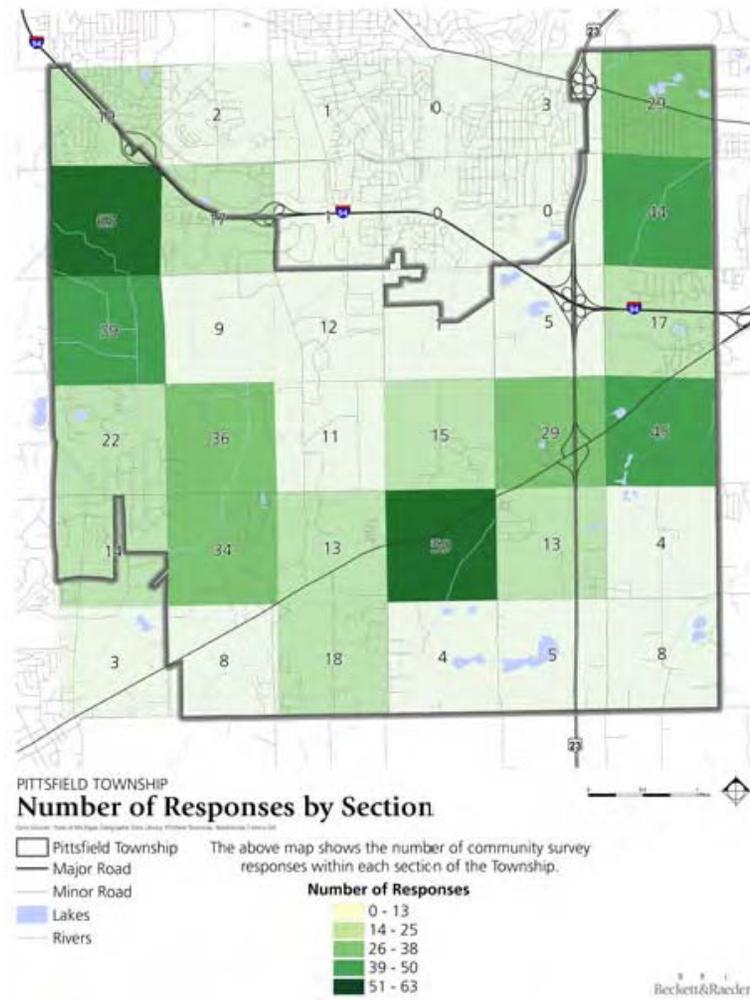
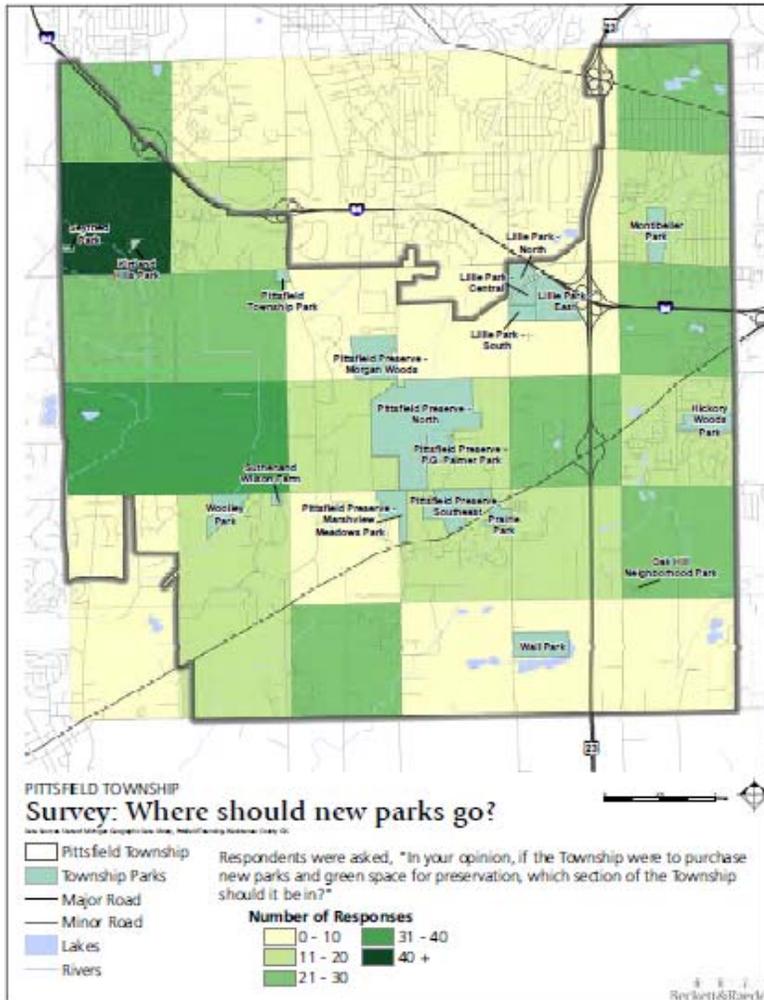
## Public Input - Survey

Participants commented on their level of use for parks and recreation programs. Participants also gave suggestions for better communication of programs and desire for additional programs.

## Recreation Participation



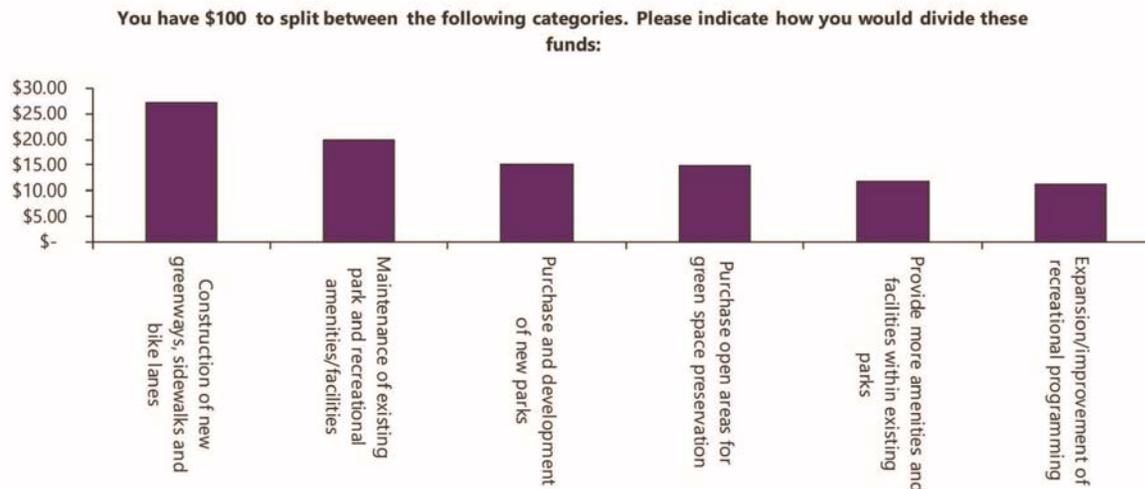
# Public Input - Survey



## Public Input - Survey

A highlight of the survey was a “\$100 exercise” designed to determine residents top goals for parks. The highest 5 results were:

- Construction of non-motorized facilities
- Maintenance of existing parks and facilities
- Purchase and development of new parks
- Purchase of open areas for green space preservation
- Provide more amenities within existing parks
- Expansion/improvement of recreational programming



## Public Input – Public Forums

Four public forums were held following a kick-off event October 2015. They were well attended and needs/desires expressed by the public largely mirrored the survey results.

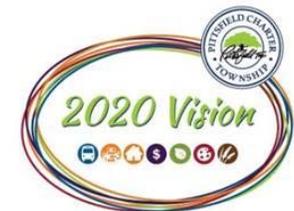


## Public Input – Park Design Workshops

Park Design Workshops were held in December 2015 with a specific goal of guiding conceptual master plans for Montibeller, Township, and Wall Parks.



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# Public Input – Stakeholder Review of Objectives

Members of the Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Commission and representatives from Huron Clinton Metro Parks, a local trail group, and a disabilities coalition were convened to review the detailed objectives and strategies presented in the previous Five-Year Recreation Plan. The conversation was guided by the consultant to cover areas of significance which the stakeholders felt should be examined or incorporated in the Recreation Master Plan.

*Maintain and upgrade existing park facilities that create clean, safe, attractive, and functional environments.*

- Maintenance to be enhanced
- Adequate personnel required

*Develop park facilities that respond to residents' recreational needs*

- Prepare a map that shows non-public open spaces in the Township. Large residential developments have incorporated open space and this needs to be inventoried.
- Lower income households mapping to determine barriers affecting access to recreation facilities.
- Incorporate universal design in park designs and park renovation projects
- Consider full range of disabilities when designing park facilities.

*Participate in the establishment of a Township-wide nonmotorized transportation system*

- Filling the gaps in Township trail network.
  - a. Greenway gap at Platt Road and State. Boardwalk – expensive capital cost (paved vs. natural) and upfront costs
  - b. Ellsworth
  - c. Montibeller to Lillie Park (North-east portion of Township)
  - d. MSU-HOA study for connection
  - e. Lohr Road circle as connection

*Continue to provide for an efficient and fiscal administration of parks and recreation services*

- Volunteer group needed to address invasive species in parks.
- Park millage (local match) for MDNRTF applications

*Maintain and enhance the quality of parks and recreation programming and services*

- Link with agriculture – continuity – community gardens at Hickory Woods and Marshview Meadow.

*Acquire future parkland and open space to meet the future recreational needs of the community.*

- Acquisition of property in northwest portion of Township (Township owns 3 acres)

*Continue to evaluate the need for a new community center.*

- Building (update) short term. Recreation/senior center building is not a long term solution

*Other comments*

- Great schools, access to Ann Arbor, quiet are Township assets
- Affordable housing is an asset.

# Goals & Objectives

Goal	Importance	Progress (Rank)	Difference
#1 Maintain and upgrade existing park facilities that create clean, safe, attractive, and functional environments.	4.41	3.88(2)	.53
#2 Develop park facilities that respond to residents' recreational needs	4.38	3.71 (4)	.67
#3 Participate in the establishment of a Township-wide nonmotorized transportation system	4.35	3.94 (1)	.41
#4 Continue to provide for an efficient and fiscally prudent administration of parks and recreation services	4.20	3.80 (3)	.40
#5 Maintain and enhance the quality of parks and recreation programming and services	3.79	3.69 (5)	.09
#6 Acquire future parkland and open space to meet the future recreational needs of the community	3.76	3.56 (6)	.20
#7 Continue to evaluate the need for a new community center	3.33	2.47 (7)	.87

# Goals, Objectives, and Strategy

## Overall Township Goals

### Projects:

Funding Source: Grants & Local Match

Fulfills Goals: #6, #1, #5

- Park Acquisition in Northeast & Northwest
- Nonmotorized Improvements
- Accessibility & General Park Improvements

High Priority  
Medium Priority  
Low Priority



## Wall Park

7401 Platt Road

### Projects:

Funding Sources: Grants & Local Match

Fulfills Goals: #1, #2, #3, #5

- Paved Trails in Use Areas
- New Limestone Fines & Boardwalk Trails
- Extend Greenway South to Park
- Enhance Residential Buffer
- New Restrooms
- New Pavilion
- Expand Soccer Field Irrigation
- Expand Parking

High Priority  
Medium Priority  
Low Priority



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JANUARY 2017

Thank you!  
Questions?



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