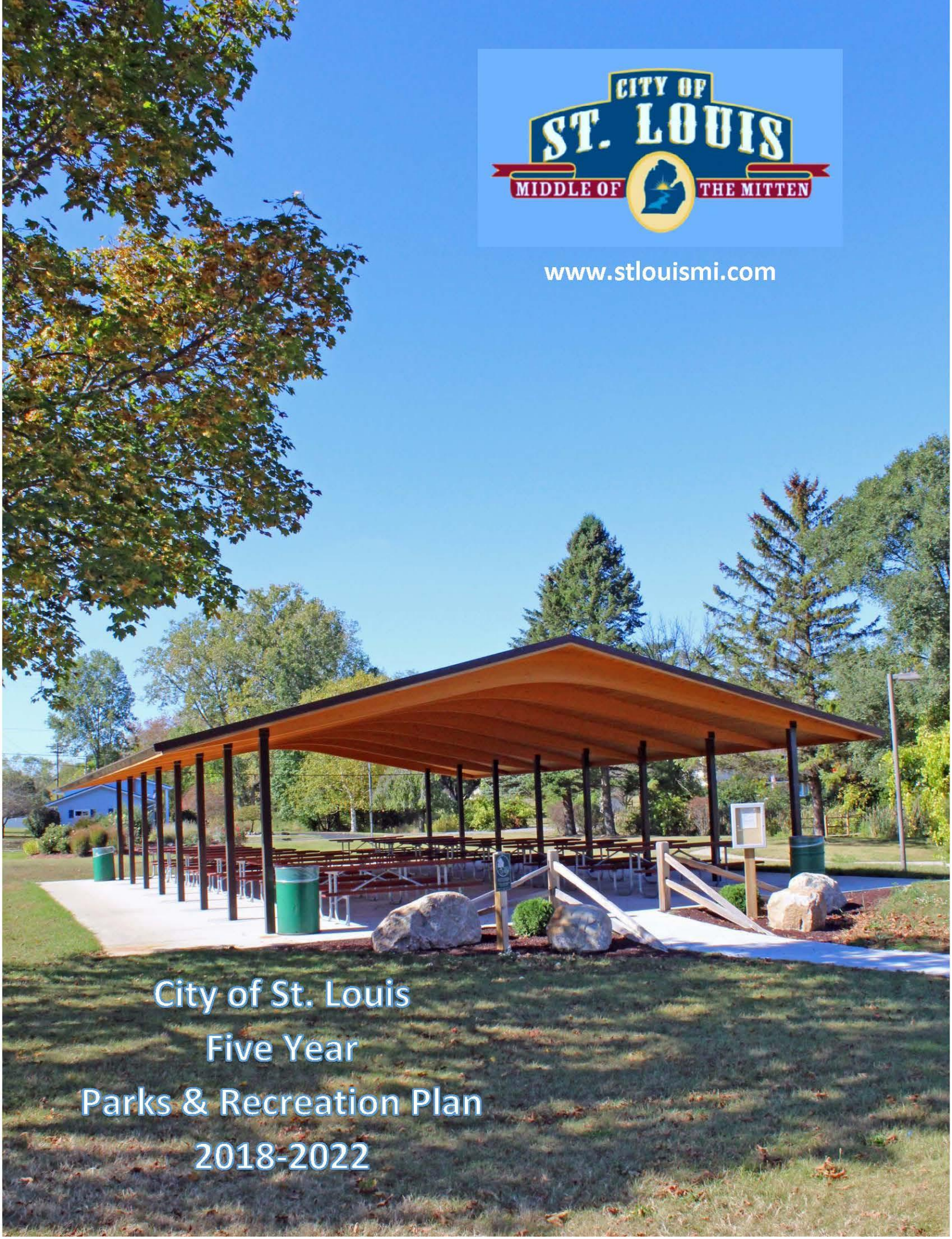
CITY OF
ST. LOUIS
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City of St. Louis
Five Year
Parks & Recreation Plan
2018-2022

The City of St. Louis Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan was prepared in 2017 by the St. Louis Park and Recreation Commission and the City of St. Louis.

It was adopted on January 15, 2018 by the Park and Recreation Commission; the City Council approved the Plan by resolution on January 23, 2018; and the St Louis Board of Education approved the Plan by resolution on February 19, 2018.

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School Superintendent
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INTRODUCTION

The City of St. Louis has developed this plan as a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to serve as a guideline to improve recreation facilities and develop new recreational opportunities in the community. To that end, this document forms the basis to guide policy for implementation of improvements and new initiatives that will meet the recreational goals and interests for the City of St. Louis and its constituents. The plan was prepared with assistance and guidance from the City of St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission and School Superintendent. With the involvement of each of these agencies, this plan is the result of joint efforts between the City of St. Louis Parks & Recreation Commission and the St. Louis Public Schools and should be used to guide evaluation and decisions for future park improvements, development, land acquisition or other community issues regarding recreation opportunities for community residents' leisure time activities.

W.T. Morris Memorial Pool.

Before any Park and Recreation Master Plan can be adopted and enacted, it is important to understand what the needs of the residents are, what recreational opportunities exist and what sort of programs and projects are needed for residents based on age, ability, population, density and the availability of recreational opportunities in neighboring communities. This plan carefully considered input and suggestions via active communication from community residents, City officials and other community stakeholders. This input is a critical component to this plan and it was used to develop a thoughtful plan geared towards making public improvements that enhance the quality of life in the St. Louis community.

The foundation for the development of this plan was based on the following:

- Develop an overall Park & Recreation Master Plan
- Develop individual Plans for the development of a Community-wide non-motorized path system, the waterfront along the Pine River and conceptual site plans for Leppien and Barnum Parks and for the Velsicol Site.
- Involve the community in the process to develop the plan
- Identify and map existing St. Louis recreational facilities
- Build common ground among St. Louis stakeholders in addressing the future recreational needs and priorities of the community
- Enable the City of St. Louis to be eligible for financial assistance based upon the plan
- Facilitate interagency collaboration in establishing recreational goals, objectives and actions, and
- Support the implementation of improvements for barrier-free, universal access to the City parks and recreational sites.

Broadly speaking, St. Louis officials intend to use this plan, in conjunction with other plans, to guide their work on all future recreational and park projects in the community. It is also a strategic document that articulates specific goals to various agencies and organizations that fund local recreational and park improvement projects.

This plan should be used in conjunction with the City's land use documents, the Velsicol Redevelopment Plan, Small Town Design Initiative, Riverfront Plan, Brownfield Redevelopment Plan, the Gratiot County-Wide Master Plan as well as other related plans to guide decision making for the future community. These planning documents are discussed in the Goals and Objectives chapter of this document.

This Community Park and Recreation Master Plan is in accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requirements as stated in the "*Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans*". For this purpose, the plan will be valid for a period of five years and will allow the community to pursue DNR-administered grants during that time frame.

View of sunrise over the Pine River.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires that a community's Park and Recreation Plan include physical characteristics and socioeconomic information that are significant to recreation. The following is a compilation of this information.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Location

The City of St. Louis is located in Gratiot County, which is in the central Lower Peninsula. The City of St. Louis lies approximately twenty miles south of Mt. Pleasant and 30 miles west of Saginaw. The City is bordered by Pine River Township to the west, the City of Alma to the southwest, and by Bethany Township to the east. The St. Louis School District reaches well beyond the St. Louis municipal boundaries and includes portions of six other townships that are spread across Isabella, Gratiot and Midland Counties. A map of the school district is shown on the following page.

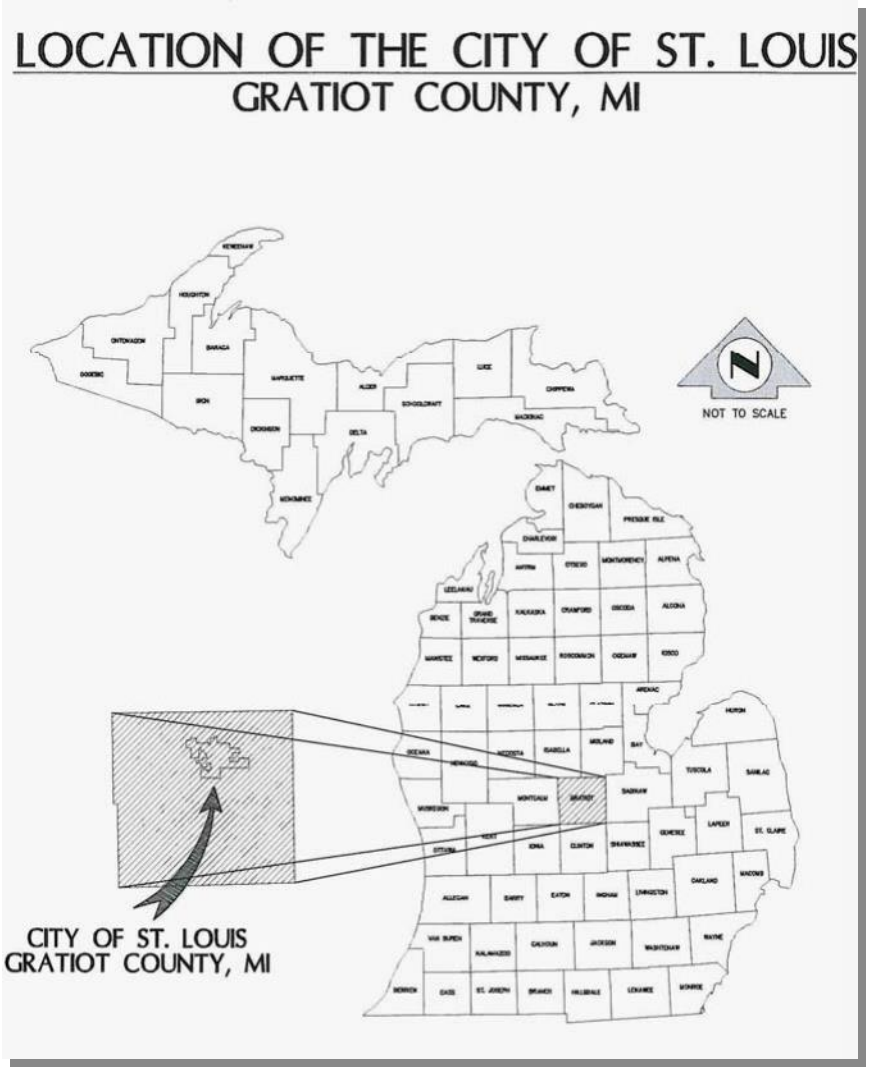


Figure 1. Location map.

Population

The non-institutionalized population of St. Louis has changed very little in the past 50 years; however the addition of the Michigan Correctional Facility in the 1990's has increased the overall population dramatically. This is shown in Figure 2. Regionally, the population for Gratiot County remained relatively stable from 2000 to 2010, with a growth rate of 0.5%.

St. Louis Michigan Population Trends						
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Non-Institutionalized	3,827	4,107	4,101	3,828	3,527	3,659
Institutionalized	0	0	0	0	967	3,823
TOTAL	3,827	4,107	4,101	3,828	4,494	7,482

Figure 2. Population trends, City of St. Louis.

The St. Louis School District boundaries extend far beyond the City of St. Louis boundary, into Pine River, Bethany and Emerson Townships, all in Gratiot County, into Coe Township in Isabella County and into Jasper and Greendale Townships in Midland County. With the lack of recreational opportunities for this entire area, the City of St. Louis provides recreational opportunities for a much larger population. The City's population for recreation includes the population of the entire school district. The school district boundaries are shown on the map in Figure 3.

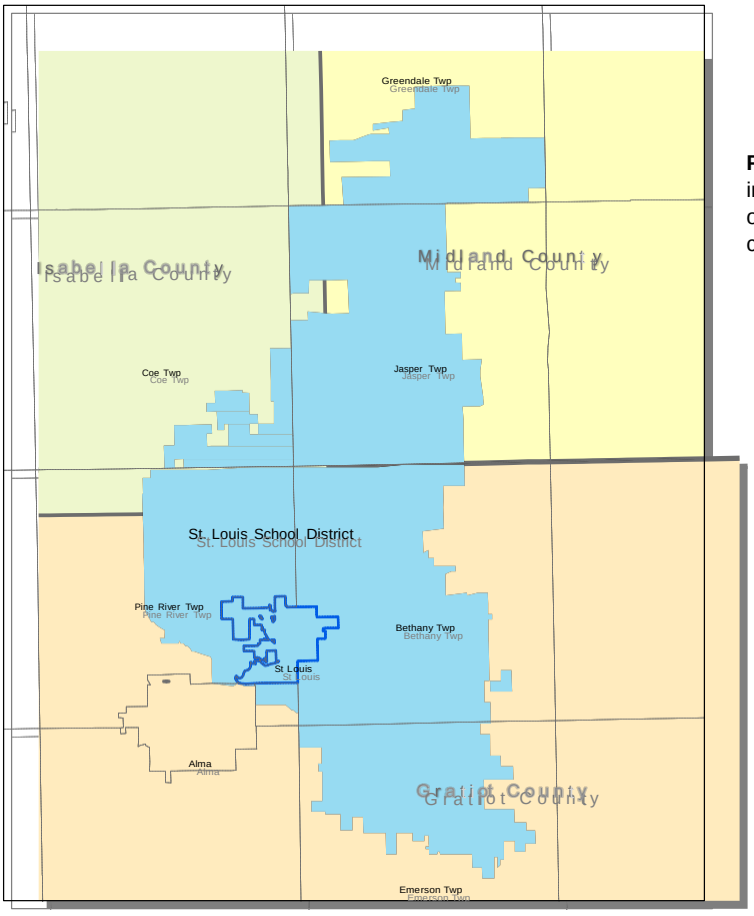


Figure 3. The St. Louis School District includes the City of St. Louis and portions of six townships in three different counties.

Transportation

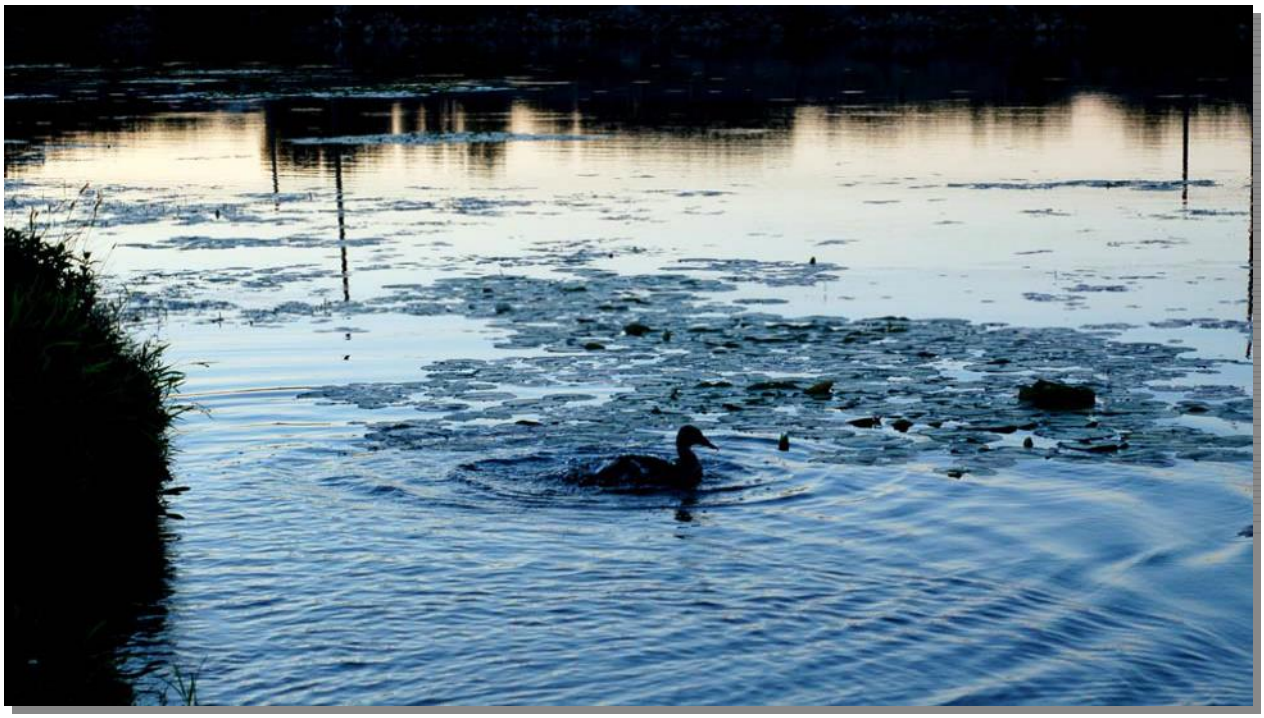
Major thoroughfares that impact traffic in St. Louis are US-127 and M-46. St. Louis is also along the historic US-27 corridor. US-127 is a major north-south expressway in Michigan that is located two miles west of St. Louis. It has an average 24 hour traffic volume of approximately 15,000 to 20,000 vehicles near St. Louis. M-46 is the area's major east/west corridor that traverses the state. Approximately 10,000 vehicles per day travel in downtown St. Louis on M-46.

Water Resources

The primary body of water in the area is the Pine River, which flows through the City from the southwest and then east and northeast through the City. In recent years, the river has undergone an extensive cleanup and restoration effort by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as part of their Superfund Program in association with the Vesicol site remediation project. The river offers boating and fishing opportunities within the City as well as a scenic river walk located at Lions Park. The City would like to extend their river walk throughout the entire City along the riverfront and connect it with the City of Alma trail system, including the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail, to the southwest, and the proposed MDOT trail system to the northwest. The community will continue to support groups dedicated to maintaining and improving the river's water quality.

Vegetation, Fish and Wildlife

Tree species native to the City include elm, ash, sugar maple, oak, tamarack and aspen. The largest wooded area in the City is located in the northwest near and around the Hidden Oaks Golf Course. Native wildlife includes open-land wildlife such as sparrows, hawks, rabbits, woodchucks and field mice. Woodland wildlife includes owls, woodpeckers, squirrels, raccoons and white-tailed deer. Wetland wildlife includes ducks, geese and killdeer. Fish species found in the Pine River include salmon, pike, large and small-mouth bass, bluegill, sunfish, rock bass, carp and suckers.



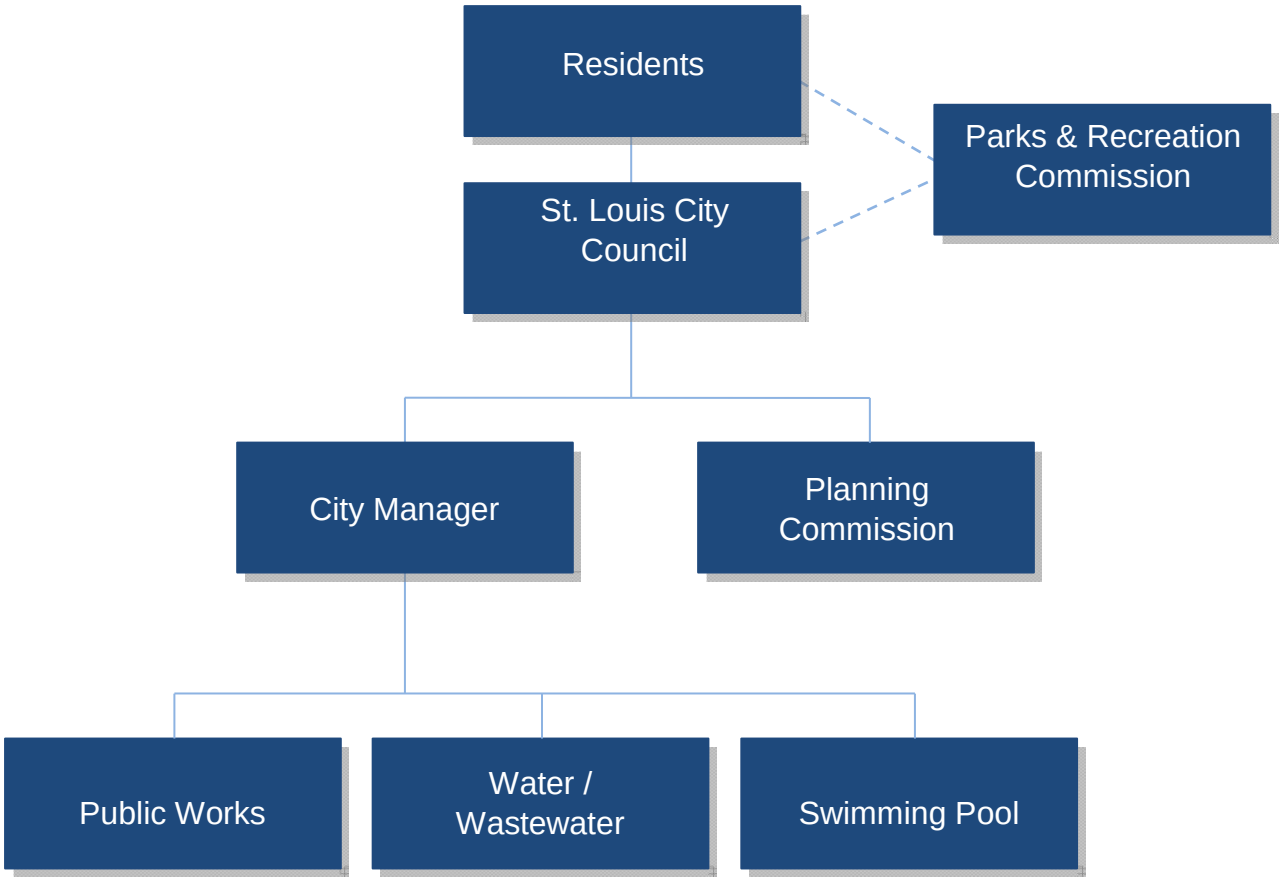
Wildlife on the Pine River in St. Louis.

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Parks and recreation functions in the City of St. Louis are handled by the Parks and Recreation Commission. Day-to-day management of the parks is handled by the City Manager. The seven members of the Commission serve on two-year terms and they serve as an advisory board to the St. Louis City Council. The Commission is responsible to make recommendations to the City Council for policy, planning and budgeting as it relates to the operation, maintenance and capital improvements of parks and recreation in St. Louis. Expenditures are approved by the City Council with recommendations from both the Commission and the City Manager. An organizational chart is shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4.

St Louis Parks and Recreation Organization Chart



BUDGETS

Sources of funding for parks and recreation functions in St. Louis are from the City general fund, user fees, facility rentals and local donations. Grants and donations have been used to assist with funding for Capital Improvements.

St Louis Parks and Recreation Budgets		
	2016	2017
Operations and Maintenance	$91,570	$63,270
Programming	$34,810	$27,900
Capital Expenditure	$228,100	$11,200

Figure 5. Budget Information.

The City of St. Louis budgeted approximately $90,000.00 for parks and recreation in 2016-2017 in addition to a $45,000 budget to maintain and operate the swimming pool. Capital Improvement projects in 2016 and 2017 included upgrades to Leppien Park in 2016 and to Penny Park in 2017. The upgrades included new playground equipment and safety surfacing at Lincoln Park, and shore stabilization, a large new pavilion and improved boat launch facilities at Leppien Park. These capital improvements were made possible with support and generous community contributions and grants.

ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS

The St. Louis Garden Club helps with planting flowers and bed maintenance in the community. Volunteers also assist with organizing and running the Joe Scholtz Annual Free Fishing Derby. A local volunteer group built and maintains the gazebo in Clapp Park.

RELATIONSHIP WITH SCHOOL DISTRICTS, OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS

Many years ago, the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District recognized the importance of a close working relationship between recreation departments and schools. Each agency works together to provide the necessary facilities and recreational programs for the community. The City uses schools and schools' athletic facilities for many of its programs, but also works closely with the school district to run programs in City parks and facilities.

MDNR GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS

The City has a proven track record for successful implementation of grant funded projects including the following Michigan Department of Natural Resources projects, as listed in MDNR records. All of the parks are still open, operational and using the amenities as described.

W.T. Morris Memorial Swimming Pool

LWCF Grant, 26-01592, 2002, $90,000

This public swimming pool serves the City and school district with recreational opportunities in the summer months. The pool includes a bath house with

Leppien Park Shore Stabilization.

showers, restrooms and locker facilities. The outdoor pool is located at the north end of the Central Business District on Mill Street. In 2005, with the help of a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, the City replaced the existing 50-year old pool with a heated pool that is handicapped accessible, new deck and improvements to the bath house. This project included a $200,000 community match. A Post Completion Self Certification Form for this project can be found in Appendix C.

Leppien Park

DNR Trust Fund Grant, TF13-093, 2016, $161,000

This project included construction and installation of a new boat launch, extensive shore stabilization and construction of a large pavilion.

Barnum River Park

DNR Fisheries Grant

Dedicated in 2002, this half-acre park is located on Main Street, two blocks north of M-46 along the Pine River near the St. Louis Electric Department Dam. Easy fishing access is provided by a barrier free wooden platform constructed through the help of a DNR Fisheries Grant. Park benches afford residents the opportunity to relax viewing the water and enjoying the excellent fishing provided by the waters of the Pine River. Parking is available on the north side of the park.

A view of Barnum Park during the Fishing Derby, along the bank of the Pine River, showing bank stabilization project.

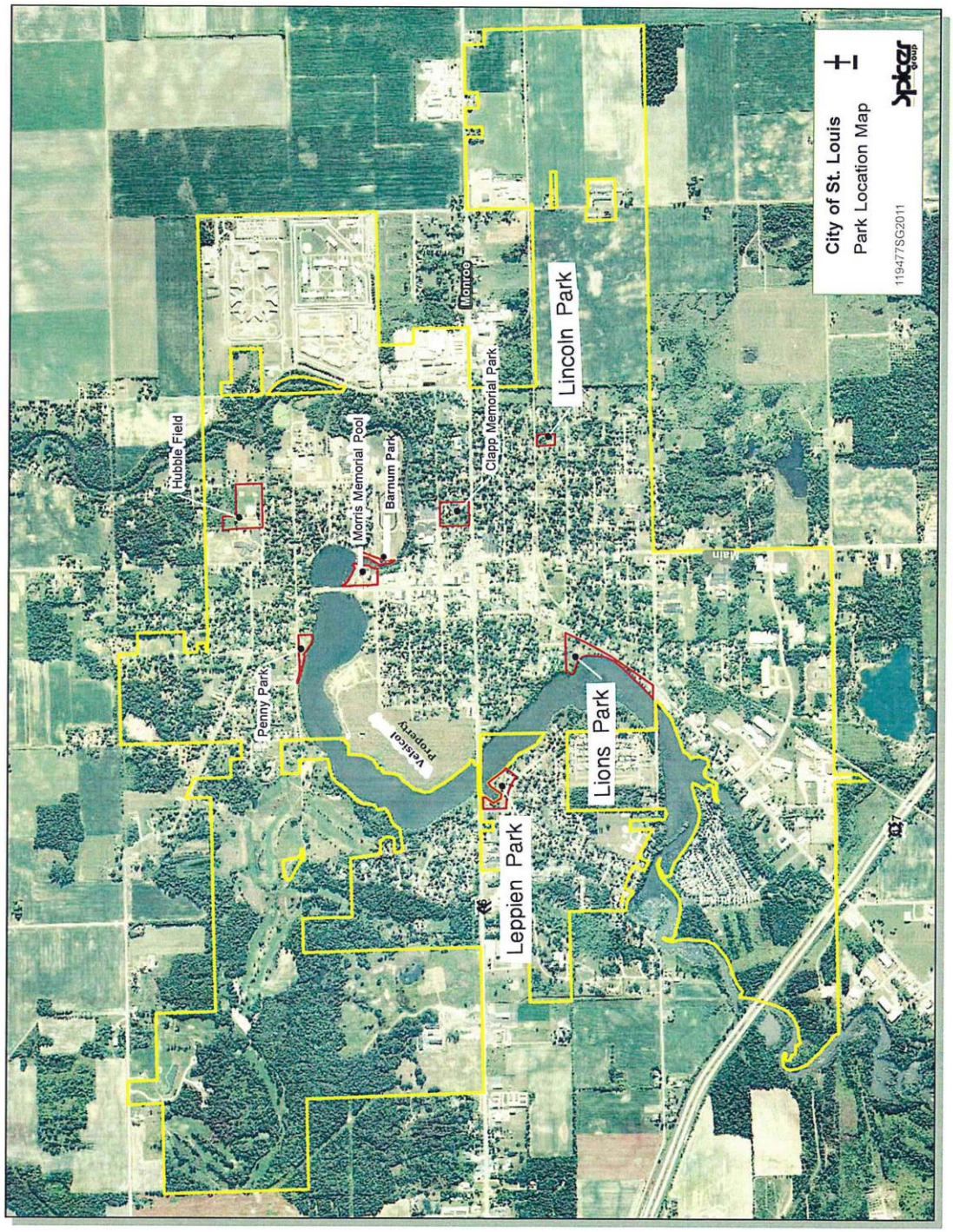
RECREATION INVENTORY

St. Louis owns eight developed parks and one undeveloped parcel, totaling 17 acres of park land. Figure 6 is a summary of the City of St. Louis recreational facilities. This inventory was taken from the most recent St. Louis Recreation Plan and then updated by City Staff. A park location map is included as Figure 7.

Figure 6. St. Louis Recreation Inventory.

Park Type	Name	Service Area	Facilities Available	Acres
CP	Clapp Memorial Park	Entire City	Picnic Area Playground Equipment Playfield Shelter/Pavilion – Capacity of 30 Gazebo	4
CP	Penny Park	Entire City	Picnic Area/grills Playground Equipment Playfield Waterfront Property Shelter/Pavilion – Capacity of 60	1.2
CP	Lions Park	Entire City	Picnic Area/grills Walking/Bike Path Playfield Waterfront Property Shelter/3 Pavilions – Capacity of 15 each	3
MP	Lincoln Street Park	½ mile	Picnic Area Playground Equipment Playfield Basketball	1.1
CP	Leppien Park	Entire City	Picnic Area/grills Playground Equipment and Playfield Pavilion – Capacity of 150 Waterfront Property Boat Launch	3.7
SU	W.T. Morris Memorial Pool	Greater St. Louis Community	Shelter Restrooms/showers Pool	1
CP	Barnum River Park	Entire City	Picnic Area Waterfront Property Fishing Pier	1
SP	Hubble Field (school owned)	Entire City	1 Softball Field/lighted 2 Peanut League Baseball Fields	1
NA	Undeveloped Parcel	NA	Future boat launch	1
				Total Acres, City park land = 17

Figure 7. Park Location Map



OTHER RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The City of St. Louis has several other private and school recreational facilities that are listed in the table below.

Figure 8. Other Recreational Facilities in the City of St. Louis.

Name	Facilities	Acres
Hidden Oaks Golf Course	18 Hole, Public Course	300+
St. Louis High School	Baseball Diamond Basketball Football Tennis Courts Outdoor Track Gymnasium Showers	10
T.S. Nurnberger Middle School	Softball Diamond Basketball Football	6
Carrie Knause Elementary	3 Youth Baseball Fields Basketball Recreational area Playground Equipment Open Playfield	10
Westgate Elementary	Ball Diamond Basketball Football Playground Equipment	9
Nikkari Elementary	Basketball Football/Soccer Playground Equipment	8
School Woods Property	Picnic Area Open Playfield Nature Trails Shelter Restrooms	20
Camp Monroe (school property)	Basketball Picnic Area Playground Equipment Open Playfield Nature Trails Shelter Restrooms	70
CSA Hall	Baseball Field	5
		Total Acres, other park land = 438+

PROGRAMMING, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

The City of St. Louis provides swimming lessons and water aerobics each summer at the W.T. Morris Memorial Pool and hosts the annual Joe Scholtz Free Fishing Derby at Leppien Park as well as an annual Boots for Heroes 5K run/walk downtown. The St. Louis Blues Festival, Homecoming and Christmas Parades, Old US-27 Motor Tour and Middle of the Mitten Golf Outing provide fun and recreation, while the 4th of July Fireworks display packs all the park areas with families that day. The City also recently passed an ordinance allowing ORV's to operate on City streets.

With the joint efforts between the City and School District, the Community Education programming is provided through the schools. The St. Louis School Public School District has an active Community Education Program that offers classes and events.

PARK CLASSIFICATION

The City of St Louis parks are classified using the following system which is adapted from one used by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The classification of each park can be found in Figure 6.

- *Mini Park (MP)* - Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Typically located in a residential setting with a service area of ½ mile or less. Size of the park usually one acre or less.

- *Neighborhood Park (NP)* - Neighborhood parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation. They are usually 3-10 acres in size. Since St. Louis is a small community, Neighborhood Parks typically serve the entire City.

- *Community Park (CP)* - Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. The focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. They are typically larger than neighborhood parks but can be the same size or smaller if meeting a specific community recreation need. Community parks serve the entire community and their special and unique facilities can attract visitors from beyond the community borders.

- *School Park (SP)* - Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use. Size can vary depending on facilities offered. Service area is typically the entire community.

- *Special Use (SU)* - Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use. In St. Louis, the Morris Memorial Pool facility is an example of a Special Use Park.

The City of St Louis has approximately 17 acres of City park land and 43 acres of school property, for a total of 60 acres of recreational land for its 7,482 citizens. General industry standards would suggest 5 - 10 acres of regional park land per 1,000 citizens, or approximately 37 - 75 acres of regional park land for the City of St. Louis. If you reduce the population by the institutionalized prison population, or to 3,659 citizens, general industry standards would suggest only 18 – 37 acres would be recommended. This would suggest that St. Louis has adequate park land for its citizens.

Conversely, more recent park guidelines indicate that one must also consider the "Level of Service" desired by the community. If St. Louis residents' needs are met with the existing 17 acres of City Park land, then that amount is sufficient. This is why the community input portion of a recreation plan is so important. The Parks & Recreation Commission needs to understand the wishes of the community it serves.

BARRIER-FREE COMPLIANCE

The City of St. Louis recognizes the importance of providing recreational opportunities to people with accessibility limitations. With the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), along with the most recent update in 2010, all areas of public service and accommodation became subject to barrier-free requirements, including parks and recreation facilities and programs.

The following summaries address the accessibility of the City of St. Louis parks and recreation facilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In general, all construction since 1991 has complied with these guidelines.

Pool and accessible lift at W.T. Morris Memorial Pool.

A general ranking for each park was based on the following scoring system, developed by the DNR, and each park score was determined through site visits as follows:

Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility requirements
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility requirements
4	The entire park meets accessibility Requirements
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

Figure 9. Accessibility Grading System (DNR).

Clapp Park

Accessibility Grade: 3

Clapp Park is generally accessible, however; there are conflicts that could make it difficult for barrier free use. Current ADA conflicts at this site include:

- No barrier free parking.
- No barrier free restrooms.
- Playground surface does not meet ADA standards.

Penny Park

Accessibility Grade: 2

Penny Park is generally accessible, however; there are conflicts that could make it difficult for barrier free use. Current ADA conflicts at this site include:

- Steep slopes are present near the playground.
- No good means of wheel chair access from parking area to playground.
- Sidewalk may be too steep in certain sections.
- Playground surface does not meet ADA standards.

Lions Park

Accessibility Grade: 2

Lions Park is generally accessible, however, there are conflicts that could make it difficult for barrier free use. Current ADA conflicts at this site include:

- Steep slopes are present throughout the park including from the parking area to the trail and from the trail to the pavilion.
- A 100' section of the riverbank near the pathway is eroding towards the river.
- The parking lots are not paved and there is no barrier free parking.

Lincoln Street Park

Accessibility Grade: 2

Lincoln Street Park is generally accessible, however, there are conflicts that could make it difficult for barrier free use. Current ADA conflicts at this site include:

- Gravel parking lot may be difficult for barrier free users.
- No barrier free parking.
- No bathrooms.

Leppien Park

Accessibility Grade: 3

Leppien Park is almost completely accessible, however; there are conflicts that could make it difficult for barrier free use. Currently there are only two barrier free parking spaces and more are needed. Accessibility improvements were made in 2011 with a contribution from the Leppien family, which included accessible playground equipment, safety surfacing and sidewalks.

W.T. Morris Memorial Swimming Pool

Accessibility Grade: 3

Recently, there were several renovations made to the pool with the assistance of a grant through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. Included in the renovations were the additions of a barrier free pool lift as well as barrier free restrooms. There is a protective lip around the pool and a barrier free drinking fountain. Future improvements to this site could include close proximity barrier free parking and better barrier free ramps. The replacement of this 50-year old bathhouse to a more modern facility has been a priority.

Barnum River Park

Accessibility Grade: 3

Like the W.T. Morris Memorial Swimming Pool, Barnum River Park was a recipient of MRNTF grant funding for park improvements. This park was generally developed to ADA guidelines. Paved parking was added recently along North Main Street. Future improvements should include adding handicapped signage for dedicated barrier free spaces and the possibility of adding an ADA restroom facility.

Hubble Field / Carrie Knause Elementary

Accessibility Grade: 2

Current ADA conflicts at this site include

- No easy wheelchair access to ball fields or playground equipment.
- Pea-stone gravel exists under playground equipment as opposed to recommended ADA surface.

The City wishes to improve accessibility at all of its parks and it will continue to work to remove the barriers and conflicts that are described above.

COMMUNITY INPUT

To comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation Open Space and Greenway Plans, the City of St. Louis offered two opportunities for public input along with a 30-day period for review and comment on the draft plan.

The first opportunity for public input was an online survey. The survey was available online for approximately four weeks in the summer of 2017. Significant results are discussed below. The second public input opportunity was the public meeting held after the 30-day review period and prior to the adoption of the plan.

St. Louis High School Football Field.

ONLINE SURVEY

The City of St. Louis opted to conduct an online survey to gather community input for the recreation plan. The online survey was made available at www.surveymonkey.com for approximately four weeks in the summer of 2017. E-mails with the survey link were forwarded to many residents and visitors encouraging them to complete the survey and forward the link to others and a story about the survey ran in the local newspaper. A summary of the survey results follows this paragraph. The complete results of the survey are contained in Appendix A.

Old US-27 Motor Tour in the City of St. Louis.

About the Respondents

220 people responded to the survey, with 90% residing in the City of St. Louis or in the St. Louis School District. Ten percent resided outside of the City of St. Louis and School District. Approximately 58% of the respondents were from households of three to five people. Another 24% were from households of two persons. The remaining respondents were from households of six or more (13%), or households of only one person (5%). The age of the respondent was distributed across Several age groups from 18 to 65 and older.

People with Disabilities

Question 8 in the survey asked respondents about disabilities in their families and what types of improvements would make the City of St. Louis parks more user-friendly. Of the respondents who answered this question, 42% have no one with a disability in their family or know someone with a disability. Of the improvements for the parks, walking and biking paths received 54%, accessible restrooms 62%, a splash pad 48% and drinking fountains 40%.

Visiting the Parks

Ninety-seven percent of the respondents answered the question about which St. Louis parks they had visited in the past year. Over 97% of those who responded said they had used a St. Louis Park during the past year. Twenty-seven percent reported that they had visited a park more than 15 times.

Respondents were asked why they visit St. Louis parks in Question 2. The two most common responses were for casual or informal use such as picnicking or using a playground and for fitness and exercise such as walking, hiking or bicycling.

ANSWER OPTIONS	Response Percent
Casual/Informal Use (Picnic, Playground, Geocaching)	65.28%
Fitness and Exercise (Walking, Hiking, Bicycling)	42.13%
Participation in a Community Event	28.7%
Enjoying Nature	37.04%
Swimming at W.T. Morris Pool	18.06%
Watching a Game of League Sporting Event	15.28%
Fishing	18.52%
Boating/Canoeing/Kayaking	7.87%
Participation in a Game w/ Friends or w/ a League	16.67%
Other (please specify)*	11.11%
Answered Question	***216***
Skipped Question	***4***

Figure 10. Reasons for visiting St. Louis parks.

Evaluating Existing Services

Question 6 asked respondents to evaluate the following four different aspects of St. Louis Parks as Very Good, Good, Neutral, Poor, or Very Poor:

- Variety of Facilities/Amenities
- Maintenance and Appearance
- Safety and Security
- Quality/Friendliness of Pool Staff

Respondents had quite favorable opinions about each of the aspects they were asked to evaluate. Over half of the respondents felt each aspect was either "very good" or "good".

Additional Facilities or Amenities

Question 4 provided a list of recreational features and amenities. The respondents were asked to check those they felt were most needed in St. Louis and provide their own answers in the "other" box if applicable. A common theme among respondents was the desire for more Walking and Biking Paths. A graph of the responses can be seen in Figure 12 below. Question 7 further asked respondents if it was important to add more trails and non-motorized pathways in the City of St. Louis to which 84% responded with a Strongly Agree or Agree answer.

The gazebo at Clapp Park.

Velsicol Site

Question 5 asked respondents about the redevelopment of the Velsicol site. Respondents gave their opinions on which of the items in Figure 13 could be added to the park. Written responses were also given and can be found in the complete survey, located in Appendix A.

Pine River and Natural Areas

Question 6 asked respondents their feelings about the Pine River and natural areas in the community. Of the 220 who responded to the question, 73.49% felt the river and natural areas contribute a positive effect on their quality of life and 84.54% feel it is important to enhance the natural resources and recreational opportunities along the Pine River in the City of St. Louis.

Additional Written Comments

Respondents to the survey were given the opportunity to give additional input on what they like best and what they would improve about parks and recreation in the City of St. Louis. The responses to these questions can be found in the complete survey in Appendix A.

DRAFT PLAN AND THE PUBLIC MEETING

After the Park and Recreation Master Plan was completed, it was made available for public review for 30 days. Interested persons could view the plan in person at the St. Louis City offices. The 30-day review of the plan was advertised in the local newspaper, The Morning Sun, on December 14, 2017.

The final opportunity for public input was held on January 23, 2018 at the public hearing. The public hearing was held at the St. Louis City Hall. The hearing was advertised in The Morning Sun on January 11, 2018.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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

Goals are the broadest level. They are overreaching and general. Objectives carry out the purpose of the goal. The Action Program is the last level and it identifies specific projects and programs. The Action Program can include organizational, staffing, programming, public information and operation and maintenance actions.

FIVE OVERALL RECREATION GOALS FOR THE FUTURE

The City of St. Louis formulated the recreation goals and objectives listed below based upon the characteristics of the overall community and the input received at the community input session. The goals and objectives listed below represent a flexible tool that will guide where resources are focused on regarding park and recreation maintenance and development versus a rigid capital improvement schedule. This format will allow decisions to be made based on changing conditions and take advantage of opportunities as they are presented to the community.

Top 10 Reasons Why Parks are Important

The National Recreation and Park Association maintains a top ten list of reasons why parks are important in the United States:

1. Public parks provide millions of Americans with the opportunity to be physically active.
2. Parks have true economic benefits.
3. Parks provide vital green space in a fast-developing American landscape.
4. Parks preserve critical wildlife habitat.
5. Parks and recreation facilitate social interactions.
6. Leisure activities in parks improve moods, reduce stress and enhance a sense of wellness.
7. Recreational programs provide organized, structured, enjoyable activities.
8. Community recreation services provide a refuge of safety for at-risk youth.
9. Therapeutic recreation is an outlet that individuals with disabilities have.
10. Public parks embody the American tradition of preserving public lands.

This list is from the article, *Top 10 Reasons Parks Are Important*, by Richard J. Dolesh, Monica Hobbs Vinluan, and Michael Phillips.

Goal 1: Pursue grants and develop partnerships and advocates to serve park needs

Continue to seek partnerships with other recreational providers and agencies and with neighboring communities to share ideas and provide non-competing programs and facilities. (Examples include but are not limited to civic groups, community groups, schools, etc.)

- Communicate with private developers on shared use arrangements or providing conservation easements, trail and park development as appropriate.
- Apply for grants to develop park facilities.
- Continue to utilize the Velsicol Property Re-Use Plan as well as pursuing other development options on the Velsicol Property such as a river walk.
- Partner with Gratiot County Parks on potential recreational improvements.
- Seek grant monies and funding opportunities to renovate or replace pool bath house.

Goal 2: Increase development of park facilities.

- Develop new recreational opportunities at the Velsicol Site, School Woods Property and other City/School owned parks and properties. Improve scarce or outdated playground equipment at all existing parks and bring up to ADA standards.
- Create a historically themed tourist area to coincide with the City's Historical Society Depot Museum, as well as identify other historical sites within the City for State designation as well as tourist purposes. Promote interaction between the T.A. Cutler Memorial Library and the Historical Society given their proximity to each other.
- Identify and develop a site for and additional full-size baseball field.
- Identify and develop potential recreational opportunities for younger residents.

Goal 3: Promote non-motorized connections within existing facilities and neighboring communities.

- Utilize and expand on existing sidewalk to provide linkages to parks.
- Maintain routes as appropriate for all season use.
- Develop the path route to create a river walk/non-motorized path through the City of St. Louis along the Pine River and throughout the downtown and to connect with the City of Alma.

Goal 4: Establish key natural features / areas for conservation.

- Complete an inventory, land-use overlay and policies for conservation easements.
- Developments should recognize: limits of flood plain and forested land, outdoor recreation and green space and scenic, historic, educational and environmental significance. Judicious development should allow a close relationship with natural features without destroying them.

Goal 5: Pursue enhancement opportunities that are aesthetically and architecturally appealing throughout the Downtown and gateway areas of the City.

- Pursue the "Safe Routes to School Program" when appropriate.
- Maintain and repair sidewalks as well as Victorian street lighting on an as needed basis to provide a safe and enjoyable environment to each user throughout the City.

Installation of new sidewalks in Clapp Park.

COORDINATION OF PLANNING

The goals and objectives in this plan are considered to be consistent with and reflective of several other planning documents from the community and region. Significant portions of each of these plans as each relates to parks and recreation are described below. Documents are available for review at the St. Louis City Hall or on the City's web site.

City Master Plan

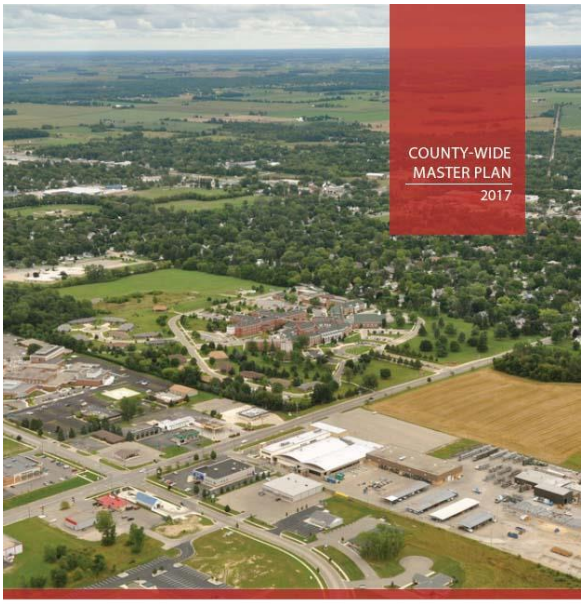
In 2011, the City of St. Louis joined with all other units of government in Gratiot County to create the Gratiot Regional Excellence and Transformation (GREAT) Plan. The 146-page document replaced all previous plans.

Velsicol Redevelopment Plan

In 2004, the City prepared a reuse planning report for the 54-acre Velsicol Chemical Corporation Superfund Site located along the south side of the Pine River in Downtown St. Louis. The Velsicol Plan suggests using a large portion of the Velsicol site for recreational use including 21.5 acres for community recreational fields, 5 acres for an amphitheater area, and 9 acres for a community park.

Gratiot Master Plan

In 2011, Gratiot County completed a master plan that included all the units of government in Gratiot County. The resulting GREAT Plan took input from all the governmental units within the County, including the City of St. Louis and created one comprehensive plan. The document was revised and updated in 2017 and renamed the Gratiot Master Plan. It includes goals, objectives, and numerous strategies for achieving them. Goal 5 and its objectives relate directly to recreation:



GRATIOT MASTER PLAN

Goal 5: Provide premier cultural and recreational resources.

Objective 5.1: Provide more public access to the waterfront

Objective 5.2: Provide a robust system of parks, trailways and other recreational opportunities

Photo rendering by the MSU STDI, at Clapp Park.

Small Town Design Initiative

In 2004-2005, the City of St. Louis worked with Michigan State University's Small Town Design Initiative on a conceptual improvement plan for a variety of physical improvements to the City. Several of these improvements relate to the parks, pathway system, and riverfront.

FERC Municipal Dam Recreation and Land Use Plan

Because the City of St. Louis owns and operates the St. Louis Municipal Dam, it is required to complete a recreation and land use plan to satisfy the requirements of Article 412 of the City's Federal Energy Regulatory Committee (FERC) license agreement. It includes review of all St. Louis parks that are located on the Pine River. The most recent plan was completed in 2007. This document includes planned upgrades for:

- Improve ADA accessibility at Leppien Park, Barnum River Park, Penny Park and Lions Park.
- General improvements at Barnum River Park.
- Canoe Portage around the dam at Mill Street.
- Signage improvements in all the parks, including directional signs, fish consumption warning signs and no swimming signs.

A view of the St. Louis Dam, near Barnum Park.

ACTION PLAN

Following is a brief description of accomplishments over the past 5 years and a description of the projects that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission has determined are recreational priorities for the City over the next five year period. On a broad scale, the Commission has developed a City Trailway Plan and a Waterfront Plan. Beyond that, it has developed specific desired actions for each of its remaining parks. Conceptual development plans have been drawn for Leppien Park, the Velsicol Site and Barnum Park and justification is provided for each project. All of the plans mentioned above can be found at the end of this chapter. A list of potential funding sources has been included in Appendix B.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In the past five years, St. Louis has completed the following improvements to its park and recreation facilities, completed with the use of generous private donations from individuals and civic groups as well as City funds.

Leppien Park

Shoreline protection work completed; new dock installed for canoe/boat launch; added more parking; added new pavilion; added 12 new picnic tables

Barnum Park

Parking lot paved; picnic tables added; bank stabilization; railing replaced

Lincoln Park

Play structures replaced; new safety surface; parking area added; improved accessibility; improved basketball goal

Hubble Field

Storage shed added; added cemented pavilion and some paved parking; replaced and added playground equipment; added handicapped accessible swing; replaced basketball court

Penny Park

Paved parking lot added; new metal roof on pavilion

Clapp Park

Trees added; former well house no longer used and now available for potential conversion into a concession stand to use during community events.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL PLAN

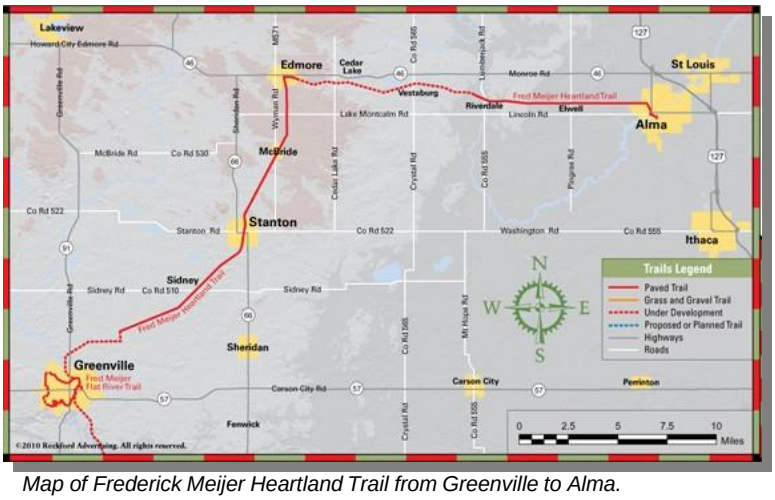
The City of St. Louis developed a Non-motorized Trail Conceptual Plan as part of the update of this Recreation Plan. The purpose of the plan is to identify routes for future expansion of the pedestrian and trail system in the St. Louis community and adjacent communities. The expansion of this trail system into a regional non-motorized trail will provide non-motorized transportation and recreational opportunities throughout and beyond the community of St. Louis to a variety of destinations including neighborhoods, schools, commercial areas, civic uses, places of employment and parks and open space and nearby communities, particularly the City of Alma. The Trail Plan can be found at the end of this chapter.

Research of Existing Trailways

In the development of the Trail Plan, the entire St. Louis community was looked at in terms of what trails and sidewalks existed and nearby communities were researched for their existing and proposed trail systems.

The only existing non-motorized trails in St. Louis are within existing parks and sidewalks along the more populated streets. Existing trails are developed in both Lions and Leppien Parks, with planned trails in Barnum Park and the Velsicol Site. Existing sidewalks currently exist along Washington Street (M-46) and many of the other major City streets, primarily east of the Pine River, leading to the schools.

The closest community with an existing trail system is Alma (to the southwest) where the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail has been developed east-west through Alma. This trail system extends further west from Alma to Edmore and south of Edmore to Stanton, and then southwestward to Greenville. There is also an inter-regional non-motorized trail system proposed to connect to Alma from the north, through Mt. Pleasant and Clare, where it would connect to the Pere Marquette Rail Trail. The Pere Marquette Rail Trail is developed from Midland through Clare, and further westward to Farwell, with proposed connections heading west from Farwell. The Pere Marquette system also connects with City of Midland trail system and the proposed links to the Great Lakes Bay Region Trail system which will connect Midland, Bay and Saginaw Counties.



Map of Frederick Meijer Heartland Trail from Greenville to Alma.

Trail Plan Development

With the most developed trail at Lions Park, it is a natural starting point for future development to expand upon. The planned trail route through the City of St. Louis is proposed to follow the Pine River corridor north of and south of Lions Park, in downtown St. Louis area. Following the river and proposed trail route to the southwest, the proposed route can be developed along the Pine River, crossing under US-127 to the Alma Trail. An alternate location for this connection is shown on the plan, following Cheesman Road west to Begole Road south into Alma. To the north the trail is proposed to follow the eastern bank of the Pine River where it will connect with Leppien Park at the intersection of the Pine River and Washington (M-46) and the Velsicol site on the eastern bank of the river just north of M-46. The proposed trail is proposed to cross the Pine River at Mill Street to connect with Penny Park, Barnum Park and Clapp Memorial Park. Existing sidewalks from this point already connect the proposed trail system to Hubble Field. The

Lions Park Trail.

proposed trail will also connect to the existing sidewalk system up through West Madison Road. The proposed sidewalk system is proposed to extend further along West Madison Road to Hidden Oaks Golf Course where it will turn south. The proposed trail will meander through the golf course to West Monroe Road (Washington/M-46). The proposed trail will cross over M-46 and head south to connect with the proposed route along Cheesman Road. In addition to these routes, supporting sidewalk routes are proposed along Michigan Avenue from State Street to US-127 and along South Main Street (US-127 Business Route) from State Street to East Crawford.

Development Priorities

Extending the trail within the City and beyond is the City's top priority, with the connection from Lions Park to Alma as the primary focus. Once connected to the trail in Alma, the City of St. Louis will be regionally connected to existing and planned routes of non-motorized travel throughout the State of Michigan. The second priority for development of the St. Louis trail is from Lions Park northward, along the Pine River to City Hall, the pool and Barnum Park. The final priority for connection would be through the northwest section of St. Louis, along West Madison Road to the golf course, south through the golf course and connecting to Cheesman Road.

Meijer-Heartland Trail in Alma.

Implementation

Planning is merely one step toward creating a comprehensive system of trails connecting a community within and beyond its borders. Implementing this plan will be a long and sometimes tedious process that will require cooperation among groups, tenacity in working towards goals and endurance in dealing with long time tables. There are many implementation strategies that can help turn much of this plan into a reality. The main strategies include acquisition of property, seeking funding for development and finally development of the trail.

Acquisition of Property

Many segments of the proposed trail will require acquisition of property. This would be the first step in the process. The property can be a donation, an easement, lease, license, fee simple purchase, or other form of use agreement. Depending on the price of the acquisition, the City may choose whether or not to pursue grant funding.

Seek Funding

The City of St. Louis will pursue grant funding to develop these non-motorized connections. Grant funds may also be sought to acquire property, depending on the cost of acquisition. Trail grants for acquisition and development can be sought from federal, state and local sources. For most grants, local match money is required and projects must be listed in the recreation plan.

Development of Trail

Three things must be in place to develop the trail: LAND must be acquired or secured; FUNDING must be in place: and PEOPLE must be on-board to support the project.

Maintenance

Regular maintenance of the trail system, once developed, will be very important to ensure they function safely and efficiently for users. Considerations will need to be taken into account for both short-term and long-term maintenance. Short-term maintenance includes daily, weekly, or regular maintenance of the trail such as mowing grass, trimming tree branches, sweeping, snow removal or small repairs. With the trail along the river, there may also be some sediment removal or cleanup after a high water event. Long term maintenance are usually capital improvement items, such as repaving, re-decking a boardwalk or other larger project which a typical maintenance budget cannot handle.

WATERFRONT PLAN

The City of St. Louis wishes to capitalize on its Pine River waterfront area and has developed a waterfront plan that relates primarily to recreational use of the river. The purpose for producing the master plan for the Waterfront Planning Area is to:

- Maximize the success and impact of activities already underway.
- Connect key areas within the Waterfront Planning Area that are not adequately connected.
- Clean up and develop areas that have been underutilized.

A view of the St. Louis Water Tower from the Pine River.

- Maximize use and availability of existing parks and their opportunities for public access to the River.
- Overcome the image that the Pine River in St. Louis is not environmentally safe.

By orienting waterfront revitalization around public spaces, new development will enhance the quality of existing destinations and result in a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

The Waterfront Plan can be found at the end of this chapter and includes many of the City's park properties along the Pine River. Plans for improvements to some of these sites, as they relate to the waterfront, are included below. The Waterfront Development Plan can be found at the end of this chapter.

Trailways Along the Waterfront

The proposed trail development will run along the Pine River corridor, primarily on the eastern bank. A more detailed description for the Trailways development can be found above in the description of the Trailways Plan with a Conceptual Development Plan at the end of this chapter.

Lions Park

Bank stabilization is included along the waterfront at Lions Park to protect the park from scouring by the bend in the Pine River. The bank stabilization may include stone rip-rap, plantings, or a combination of the two.

Velsicol Site

The Velsicol site is undergoing environmental remediation and cleanup to be used for recreational purposes. The proposed plan includes trailway along the riverbank and fishing platforms along the waterfront. A complete description of the proposed improvements of the Velsicol Site can be found starting on the next page, with a Conceptual Plan at the end of this chapter.

An aerial view of the Velsicol site.

Leppien Park

Leppien Park is along the west bank of the Pine River at Washington / M-46. It is currently well developed after 2016 shore stabilization, new boat launch and large pavilion, but needs its play scape replaced. A complete description of the proposed improvements to the site can be found starting on the next page, with a Conceptual Plan at the end of this chapter.

Mill Street / City Hall / Morris Memorial Pool / Barnum Park

The waterfront plan introduces a new pedestrian bridge behind City Hall, near the W. T. Morris Pool to connect with Barnum Park, across the Pine River. This would provide river access and connectivity to recreational land in this area. River access could be in the form of a boat launch, floating dock or other means of providing opportunities for boating and fishing.

Property Acquisition along the Waterfront

The City of St. Louis recently acquired waterfront property directly south of Lions Park and is interested in property east of the Velsicol site. The property south of Lions Park, once developed, would contain a trailhead area for the proposed trail. The other properties would provide additional greenspace in the community to buffer the Pine River from heavier uses.

A view of the Pine River in St. Louis.

Other Types of Waterfront Improvements

There are other elements to add to the recreational quality of the Pine River in St. Louis. Improvements might include:

- Interpretive signage depicting the natural features of the site, the history of the area or other educational subject.
- Picnic areas or benches for recreational enjoyment.
- Viewing platforms for observing wildlife.
- Bank stabilization along the river corridor which could help to improve the water quality, protect the riverbank and provide access to the river.

Implementation of Waterfront Improvements

There are a number of projects listed to improve the waterfront of the Pine River. Each project will require funding that may be obtained through grants. A complete list of potential grants can be found in Appendix B.

LEPPIEN PARK

This 3.7 acre park is located on the City's west side on the southwest corner of the intersection of M-46 and the Pine River. The park provides 350 feet of river access, a boat launch, two barrier free fishing platforms and serves the City's largest subdivision. The park has picnic and barbeque facilities as well as a children's play area with equipment. Walkers and joggers enjoy the trailways along the river as well. New and updated playground equipment was added in 2011 with ADA accessible surfacing. In addition, the piers have been repaired.

Leppien Park

A conceptual improvement plan for Leppien Park was developed as part of the Recreation Master Plan process. The proposed improvements include:

Bank Stabilization

This was part of the 2016 grant project and increase vegetation or other bank stabilization control measures along the Pine River shoreline within Leppien Park. This deters Geese and other waterfowl from coming on shore at the park to ensure that the park remains nearly free of waterfowl feces. Bank stabilization and shoreline restoration work addressed the erosion problem.

Park Entry Sign

Because of Leppien Park's location along M-46, it makes it one of the City's most visible parks along the scenic Pine River. However, there is no signage along M-46 as a park identifier. The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to purchase a sign to place along M-46 within the near future. With Leppien Park being one of the City's premier parks, it is felt that it should be promoted as such. The Parks and Recreation Commission would also like to see a yellow flashing warning light to notify traffic of possible pedestrian foot traffic going to and coming from Leppien Park.

Pavilion / Parking

As part of the 2016 DNR project, a large pavilion was built to meet the needs of park users. However, additional parking is still needed closer to this pavilion.

Boat Launch Improvements

The existing boat launch was replaced by a new launch as part of the 2016 DNR project, to improve accessibility and service for launch users

VELSICOL REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

The City intends to develop this property for recreational uses. This site is located along the Pine River and is currently undergoing an environmental remediation by the U.S. EPA. A Reuse Planning Report for the Velsicol Chemical Corporation Superfund Site was completed for the City of St. Louis in June of 2004. Based upon this document, the City has developed a conceptual plan for development at the site. It is included at the end of this chapter. The proposed improvements are described below:

An aerial view of the Velsicol site.

Trailway Extension & Lighting

The trail extension and lighting at this location will be a part of the larger trailway plan to connect the City of St. Louis with the City of Alma as well as providing area residents and regional users the opportunity to enjoy a scenic, multi-use recreational trail way within the center of the state. Lighting the trail will extend the hours the trail can be used and will provide a sense of safety on the trail in the evening hours.

The proposed trailways through this site will run along the east and west sides of the property, looping together, with some intermediate crossings through the park. The trailways will connect all of the proposed elements of the park for ADA access. The trailways will also connect to existing sidewalks on North and West Center Streets on the west side of the Velsicol site and to M-46 on the south side. A more detailed description of the Trailway Plan can be found on pages 25 - 28.

Other Recreation-Based Improvements

Along with the proposed trailways, the park plan also includes many other types of recreational improvements to the site. These include a boat launch, fishing piers, fitness stations, sports fields, basketball courts, an educational building, an amphitheater, parking, fencing and landscaping.

Implementation of the Velsicol Site Development

There are a number of projects listed. Each project will require funding that can be obtained through potential grants.

A complete list of potential grants can be found in Appendix B. For further information on this property, please reference the *Recognizing the Past, Looking to the Future: Reuse Planning Report for the Velsicol Chemical Corporation Superfund Site*, completed for the City of St. Louis in June of 2004.

BARNUM RIVER PARK

Dedicated in 2002, this half-acre park is located on Main Street, two blocks north of M-46 along the Pine River near the St. Louis Electric Department Dam. This park is St. Louis' most active site for fishing. Easy fishing access is provided by a wooden platform constructed through the help of a DNR Fisheries Grant. Parking and benches are available on the north side of the park. A conceptual plan was completed in 2011 and can be found at the end of this chapter. The following is a list of proposed improvements for Barnum River Park:

River Walk Extension and Lighting

The river walk extension at this location will be a part of the larger river walk project to connect the City of St. Louis with the City of Alma as well as providing area residents and regional users the opportunity to enjoy a scenic, multi-use recreational trail way within the center of the state.

Fishing access at Barnum Park

Shoreline Restoration

The City will be implementing measures to stabilize the shoreline at this location due to erosion from the fast current generated by the St. Louis Electrical Dam. A significant portion of this work was accomplished in 2013.

Improve Accessible Parking

The City was able to improve parking at Barnum Park in 2013 as part of the North Main Street paving and bank stabilization project. They paved the gravel lot that was muddy during the spring thaw and fall rains and lined the new pavement. This improved ADA compliance as well.

Increase Vegetation or Other Control Measures Along the Pine River Shoreline

This is a project that in theory will deter Geese and other waterfowl from coming on shore at the park to ensure that the park remains free of waterfowl feces.

Canoe Portage

This area in the future will afford canoe portage for those using the Pine River for canoeing.

CLAPP PARK

This large, wooded lot the size of a full City block provides open space in the City's center. A picnic shelter/pavilion (which received extensive renovation in 2003 to match the Victorian theme of the City), picnic tables and grills provide users with a central location for picnics and other non-physical activities. A replica of a historic gazebo for music performances was constructed in 1999 and Victorian lighting was added throughout the park in 2001. Parking is available on Franklin and Clinton Streets which border the park on the west and east sides. The park is bordered on the south by M-46 (Washington Avenue) and on the north by Saginaw Street. The park is in a residential area, only one block away from the Central Business District and is across the street from St. Louis High School. The following is a list of proposed improvements:

Shelter Improvements

The City hopes to add ADA compliant restrooms to the pavilion/shelter facility, and with the former well house no longer used, it could become a concession stand to use during community events.

The gazebo/stage at Clapp Park.

Improve Gazebo/Stage

The Parks Commission has identified this as a project that would be a restoration and addition to the existing gazebo within the park. Currently, this facility is used for several community functions such as weddings, school pictures and music recitals and concerts within the park. The Commission has identified the fact that the current facility is not conducive to concerts; therefore, would like to add on to the existing structure providing a better stage area for musicians to perform.

Add New Playground Equipment

Playground equipment at Clapp Park was significantly upgraded in 2010 to include a dome climber, swings and a merry-go-round to make it more adequate for the number of users of this park. This equipment is intended for use for children between four and nine. Plans are to continue to upgrade and add to this equipment, including items of interest to young people 10-14.

Add New Park Signage and Historical Marker

In an effort to better promote Clapp Park as well as the geographical significance of St. Louis, the Parks Commission is recommending new banner signs on each light pole along Franklin and Clinton Streets reading CLAPP PARK with the City logo. Further, there is a geographical marker located within Clapp Park that signifies the geographical center of the Michigan's Lower Peninsula. The City would like to purchase a new historical plaque to place at this marker to clearly show the marker's intent and significance. This has been identified as a priority project for this park. In addition, plans are to design and install a decorative wall and planters to welcome people to St. Louis as they enter the downtown area from the east or west.

PENNY PARK

This park is situated on the north side of the Pine River. Located on Prospect Street, the 1.2 acre park provides open space for the area as well as a scenic overlook of the river. The park also has a children's play structure, picnic tables, pavilion and benches. Parking is available along the north side of the park on Prospect Street and the park is in a residential area. The City recently installed additional safety surface material to meet MRPA and ADA standards. The following is a list of proposed improvements for Penny Park:

Pavilion and new paved parking at Penny Park.

Increase Vegetation or Other Erosion Control Measures along the Pine River

This is a project that, in theory, will deter Geese and other waterfowl from coming on shore at the park to ensure that the park remains free of waterfowl feces.

LIONS PARK

This park, located between the Pine River and Michigan Avenue, provides recreational resources to the City's south side. The park includes three picnic shelters, picnic tables and grills. Limited parking is available at the park. The three-acre park includes over 1,500 linear feet of river frontage and is surrounded by residential uses. The following is a list of proposed improvements for Lions Park:

Lions Park.

Acquire Land near Intersection of Hazel Street and Michigan Avenue

The City would like to acquire adjacent property to the north end of Lions Park for the purposes of developing an improved, ADA compliant parking area to increase parking and accessibility at this park. Currently the park is extensively used by non-motorized foot traffic because of its scenic river walk. The City would also like to use this land to install an improved playground area with new ADA accessible playground equipment.

Connection of River Walk North and South of Lions Park

One of the assets of this park is that there is an extensively used river walk for non-motorized traffic. The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to see this walk extended north and south of the property to connect with other existing parks, neighborhoods and the Downtown area. This work would be a small part of the overall plan to extend a river walk throughout the City and eventually connect to the south with the City of Alma and the Frederic Meijer Heartland Trail.

Stabilization of Park's Shorelines

As part of the river walk and other various park improvements, the City has identified that the shoreline of the Pine River along Lions Park will need to prevent erosion damage.

Increase Vegetation or Other Control Measures along the Pine River Shoreline

This is a project that in theory will deter geese and other waterfowl from coming on shore at the park to ensure that the park remains free of waterfowl feces.

Benches and Waste Receptacles

The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to add new benches and waste receptacles along the trailway at Lions Park as well as near play areas and parking areas. Another long term feature of this area should be to add period lighting and benches along the trailway.

Play Area

Modern playground equipment and ADA qualified surface needs to be installed.

LINCOLN STREET PARK

This 1.1 acre neighborhood park serves the needs of residents in the southeast quadrant of the City. The park has play structures, benches and picnic facilities and provides open space for the area's residents. The park is located on Lincoln Street two blocks south of M-46. Limited on-site parking is available as well as on-street. The following is a list of proposed improvements for Lincoln Street Park:

The playground at Lincoln Park.

Improve Parking

Currently parking for this park consists exclusively of on-street parking along Lincoln Street and other surrounding streets. The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to evaluate several parking alternatives to determine which parking model would be best suited to improving the parking at this facility. In 2017 some off-street parking was added but the area is not paved.

Improvement of Basketball Court

The Parks and Recreation Commission have identified this project as a task that would repair the surface of the basketball court as well as any improvements that would need to be made to the actual basketball hoop especially since this is currently the only park with basketball courts in the City.

W.T. MORRIS MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL

This public swimming pool serves the City and school district with recreational opportunities in the summer months. The pool includes a bath house with showers, restrooms and locker facilities. The outdoor pool is located at the north end of the Central Business District on Mill Street. In 2005, with the help of a Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant, the City replaced the existing 50-year old pool with a heated pool that is handicapped

W.T. Morris Memorial Pool.

accessible, new deck and improvements to the bath house. The following is a list of proposed improvements for W.T. Morris Memorial Pool:

Adding Additional Water Features

The Parks and Recreation Commission recognize during the summer months, this pool is very busy. As part of the pool area, the Parks and Recreation Commission would like to add a wading pool for small children as well as adding a spray park for users of all ages. Further, the Park Commission would like to look into adding a slide into the deep end of the pool.

Improve Existing Parking and Address Need for Additional Parking

Currently there is on-street parking along Mill Street in front of this site, however due to the usage of this facility during the summer months, additional parking is necessary. The City is looking at a couple of options for a surface parking lot that would either construct a new lot to the north of the pool, and the second option would be to improve a surface lot to the south of the pool on Mill Street.

Addition of Concrete Patio or Deck behind the Pool

This project has been identified in the STDI study. The intent of this project would be to provide a seating area near the pool which could be used to sunbathe, parents could read or watch their children, and to provide a shaded picnic area for those who are ready to take a break from the sun without leaving the pool facility.

Construction of New Bath House

This project has been identified by the Parks and Recreation Commission as a long-term goal. While the existing bath house is functional, it is approximately 65 years old and should be replaced when funding becomes available. Because of the high cost of replacement, renovations such as new windows and exterior improvements should be explored.

HUBBLE FIELD / CARRIE KNAUSE ELEMENTARY

Hubble Field is located at the site of Carrie Knause Elementary School in the northern third of the City and is intended for use as a softball diamond. Two Little League diamonds and one T-Ball diamond were constructed at Hubble Field/Carrie Knause Elementary School Complex. The following is a list of proposed improvements for Hubble Field/Carrie Knause Elementary School complex:

General Park Improvements

The Parks and Recreation Commission have identified several maintenance projects that they would like to complete at this park over the next five (5) years to improve upon the parks appearance and overall usability. These projects are as follows:

- Add new lighting to the park.
- Add new bleachers for spectators.
- Construct a fence north along Union Street to prevent balls from going into the street.
- Add additional parking to prevent people from parking on the lawn.
- Add ADA compliant restrooms to the facility.

This park currently receives a fair amount of usage since it is adjacent to an elementary school; however these are all improvements that the Parks and Recreation Commission feel will enhance the overall attractiveness of this park to youth and adult leagues as well as the general public.

MICHIGAN AVENUE BOAT LAUNCH

The City currently owns a vacant piece of property along the Pine River on South Michigan Avenue. The property is fenced and is paved. The Parks and Recreation Commission would like to investigate the feasibility of converting this vacant lot into a public boat launch along the river to provide an additional access point to the river within the City.

OTHER PROJECTS

The City may desire to develop other facilities in St. Louis where a need was expressed in the community input. A description of those needs is as follows:

Development of Soccer Fields and Programs

Both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the St. Louis Area Schools identified the need for youth soccer programs within the City. Currently there are some areas that would be appropriate for soccer development including the schools and at Hubble Field. It is the intent within the next five years to determine the most appropriate location for soccer development and move forward with programming. Other possibilities are next to T.S. Nurnberger Middle School and at property on Cheesman Road.

Baseball Field

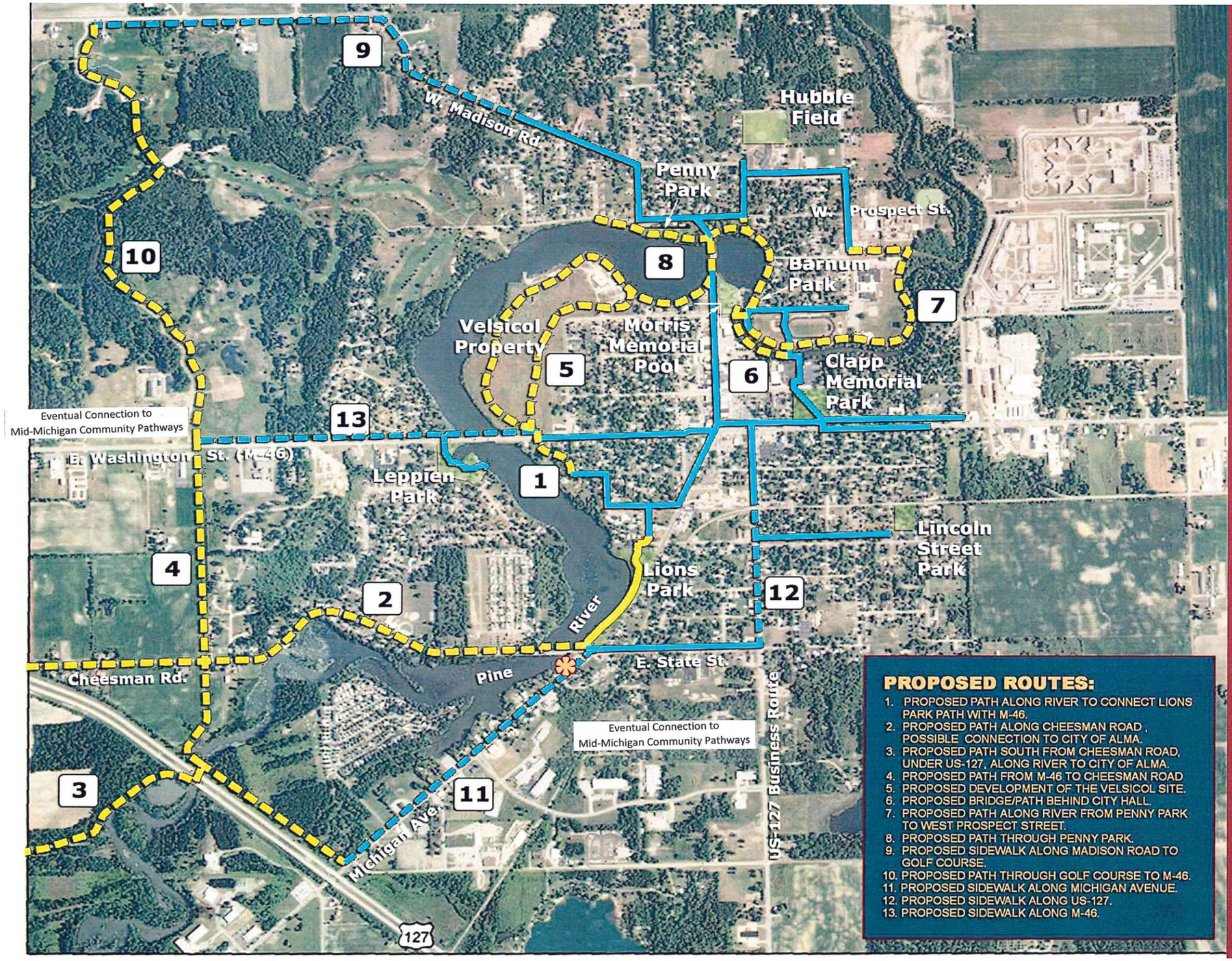
The high school baseball field, because of its proximity to the Pine River, is subject to flooding in the spring. The City and schools would like to determine a site for an additional full size baseball field because of this situation and construct a new field. This field could also be used for summer leagues and would not be meant to replace the existing field. Currently the high school field is the only one available in St. Louis.

Park Signage

It is the intent of the City to unify signage throughout all of the parks over the next five years.

ST. LOUIS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

As in the past, the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis Area Schools have agreed to mutually assist each other in providing the residents of the City and the school district with the best recreational opportunities available. This partnership has worked very well in the past, and both parties have expressed an interest in strengthening that bond so it can be even better in the future.



PROPOSED ROUTES:

1. PROPOSED PATH ALONG RIVER TO CONNECT LIONS PARK PATH WITH M-46.
2. PROPOSED PATH ALONG CHEESMAN ROAD , POSSIBLE CONNECTION TO CITY OF ALMA.
3. PROPOSED PATH SOUTH FROM CHEESMAN ROAD, UNDER US-127, ALONG RIVER TO CITY OF ALMA.
4. PROPOSED PATH FROM M-46 TO CHEESMAN ROAD
5. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE VELSICOL SITE.
6. PROPOSED BRIDGE/PATH BEHIND CITY HALL.
7. PROPOSED PATH ALONG RIVER FROM PENNY PARK TO WEST PROSPECT STREET.
8. PROPOSED PATH THROUGH PENNY PARK.
9. PROPOSED SIDEWALK ALONG MADISON ROAD TO GOLF COURSE.
10. PROPOSED PATH THROUGH GOLF COURSE TO M-46.
11. PROPOSED SIDEWALK ALONG MICHIGAN AVENUE.
12. PROPOSED SIDEWALK ALONG US-127.
13. PROPOSED SIDEWALK ALONG M-46.

NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL CONCEPT PLAN

CITY OF ST. LOUIS

www.stlouismi.com

108 West Saginaw St.
St. Louis, MI 48880
(989) 681-2137

N
W E
S

NOT TO SCALE

LEGEND:

- EXISTING PATH
- PROPOSED PATH
- EXISTING SIDEWALK
- PROPOSED SIDEWALK
- PROPOSED TRAILHEAD

Spicer group

www.spicergroup.com

230 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, MI 48607
(989) 754-4717

February, 2018

Waterfront Plan

City of St. Louis Five Year Parks & Recreation

CITY OF ST. LOUIS

www.stlouismi.com

Spicer group

230 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, Michigan, 48607
(989) 754-4717
www.spicergroup.com

February, 2018

Leppien Park

City of St. Louis
Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan

Located on the City's west side on the southwest corner of the intersection of M-46 and the Pine River, Leppien Park is 3.7 acres in size and provides 350 feet of river access. In addition, the park has a boat launch, two barrier-free fishing platforms, and serves the City's largest subdivision. The park has picnic and barbeque facilities, as well as a children's play area with equipment. Walkers and joggers enjoy the pathways along the river as well. Updated playground equipment was added in 2011.

Location Map: Waterfront view of Leppien Park

CITY OF ST. LOUIS MICHIGAN
www.stlouismi.com

Spicer group
230 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, Michigan, 48607
(989) 754-4717
www.spicergroup.com

February, 2018

M-46

Proposed Signage

Proposed Pathway Connection

Pine River

Devon Drive

Proposed Major Bank Stabilization

Proposed Minor Bank Stabilization

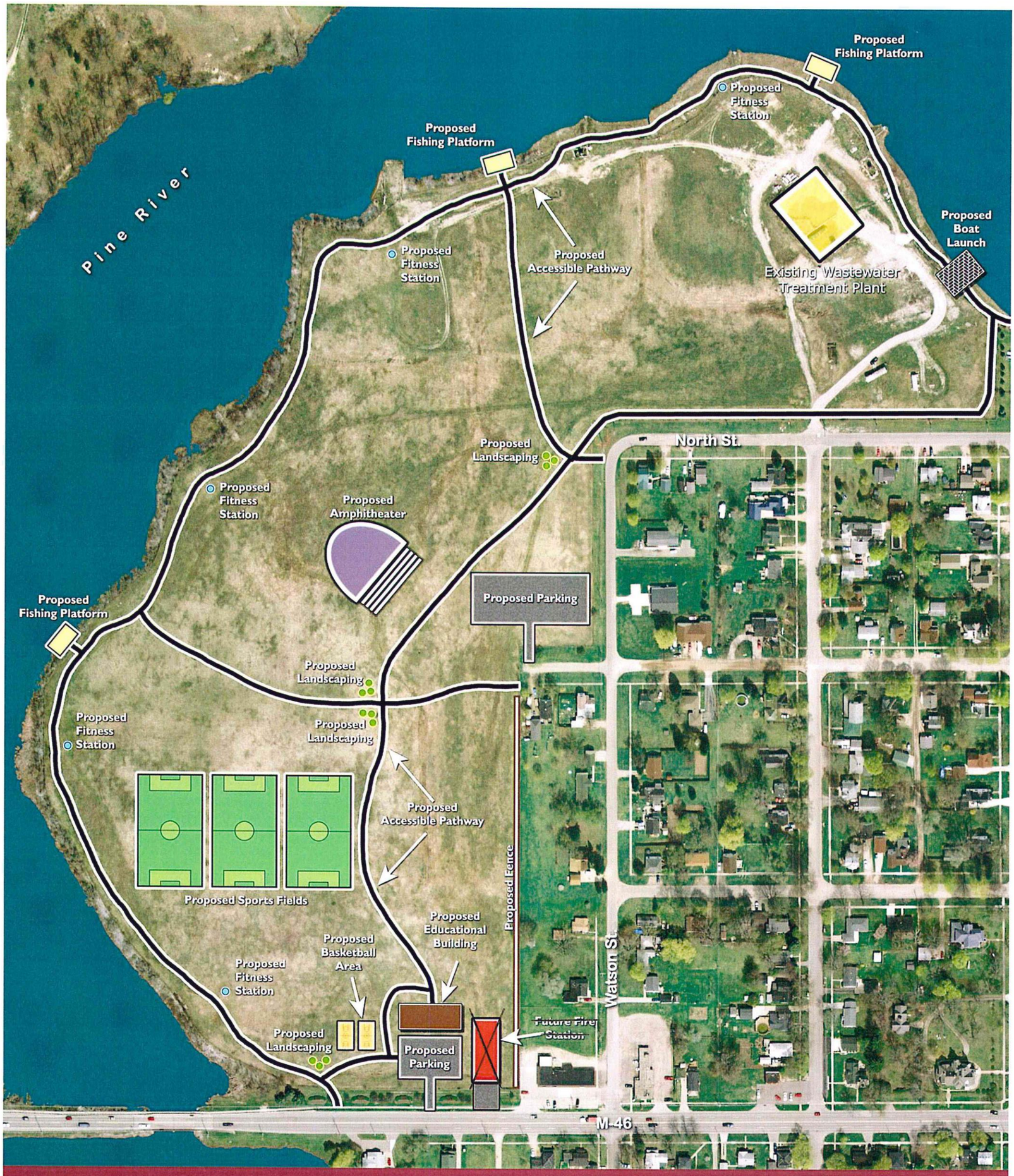
Proposed Pavilion

Proposed Parking

Proposed Accessible Pathway

Proposed Boat Launch Improvements

Surrey Road



Velsicol Site

City of St. Louis Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan

In 2004, the EPA completed a reuse planning report for the Velsicol Chemical Corporation superfund site. The report presented a number of guidelines that highlighted key reuse considerations and opportunities, a number of which were recreation improvements. The plan presented here incorporates those concepts, but as part of the Parks & Recreation Plan for the City of St. Louis, it furthers those ideas toward recreational amenities that are community-oriented and potentially eligible for MDNR grant programs.

www.stlouismi.com

Spicer group
230 S. Washington Ave.
Saginaw, Michigan, 48607
(989) 754-4717
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February, 2018

Barnum River Park

Concept Plan

Project Summary:

A Accessible Pad / Portage and Future Riverwalk Extension

B New Railing

C Paved Parking

D Ornamental Lighting

E Accessible Ramp

F Shoreline Treatment

G Accessible Path

H Pads / Accessible Seating

Fishing Access

Plaza (extension of overbook with umbrella table / seating)

K Shade Trees

L Timber Guardrail

M Retaining Wall

Wayfinding sigange

Accommodations for accessible portaging

Match streetscape details for lighting, decorative pavement, furnishings, etc

Railing with accessible detail for fishing

Wood guardrail to blend with park setting

SHORELINE TREATMENT / RETAINING WALL OPTIONS

Vegetated gabion basket for uniform / sustainable shoreline stabilization

Redi-Rock modular concrete wall system

Poured -in-place concrete wall with formliner and acid / color stain

Painted steelsheet piling

0 30' 60'

PLANNING PROCESS

In its continuing effort to provide quality recreational opportunities for its citizens, the City of St. Louis has developed this Parks & Recreation Master Plan as a tool to guide the development of community parks and recreation over the next five years. This plan is the latest effort by the local governmental officials in the City of St. Louis to establish recreational goals and objectives for the community. The plan will also provide the City with eligibility for grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assist the community in reaching its recreational goals.

The City of St. Louis worked with their Parks and Recreation Commission and the St. Louis Public Schools to assist them with completion of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan, as well as concept plans for their Pathway, Waterfront, the Velsicol site, Leppien Park and Barnum Park.

Data was collected about the City including maps, demographics, park information and an inventory of existing facilities. This data was collected from a number of resources, including the past recreation plan and other documents such as other relevant planning documents, various websites, field observations and conversations with City officials.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Community input was collected via an online survey conducted in late summer of 2017. Based upon the existing information and the community input, the City of St. Louis developed goals and objectives for parks and recreation. Then, action plan items were written that would work toward accomplishing the goals and objectives.

The Parks & Recreation Master Plan document was completed and it was made available for review at the City of St. Louis for at least 30 days beginning on December 14, 2017. This reviewing opportunity was advertised in the local newspaper, The Morning Sun. The final opportunity for community input occurred at the advertised public meeting held prior to the adoption of the plan. This meeting was on January 23, 2018 at the City Council meeting held at the City Hall Council Chambers at 6:00 PM.

PLAN ADOPTION

On January 15, 2018, the City of St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission passed a resolution adopting the recreation plan and recommended approval to the City Council. On January 23, 2018, the City of St. Louis City Council passed a resolution adopting the recreation plan and on February 19, 2018 the St. Louis Board of Education passed a resolution adopting the recreation plan. Copies of the advertisements and resolutions are included in Appendix D.

APPENDIX A

Public Input Documentation

City of St. Louis

News & Views

September, 2017

News from Downtown

On Saturday, August 19th St. Louis had another nice community event as Dalis to the Rescue sponsored their second annual Pet-A-Palooza in Clapp Park. A big crowd enjoyed the animals as well as lots of contests, games, food and fun on a beautiful afternoon.

Dalis to the Rescue rescues lost, abandoned and injured animals nurses them back to health and finds them homes. They work off of donations and fundraisers such as the Pet-A-Palooza event. They also work on having animals spayed or neutered. This is a valuable service to our community!

Dalis operates D-Tails Dog & Cat Grooming in Downtown St. Louis and can be contacted at (989) 681-0980. Dalis to the Rescue also has a Facebook page with more information. Please consider donating or helping out, and thanks to Dalis, her family and friends for all their efforts.

Phil Hansen, DDA Director

Recycle Guidelines

Back to School

September 5, 2017 is the first day of school. I would like to remind everyone to please SLOW DOWN and PAY ATTENTION to the sudden increase in pedestrian, bicycle and vehicular traffic that comes with the start of school.

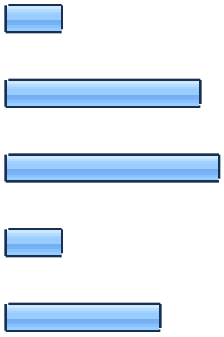
Parents, please take a few moments of your day to have discussions with your child/children about safety when walking to and from school. Make sure they know to use the crosswalks and to look twice before crossing the street. Stress the important of putting the electronic devices away and pay attention while walking. It is amazing to see how many kids are walking aimlessly while focused on their digital devices and not their surroundings.

Have discussions on stranger safety. Have you planned who your child/children can go to in the event of an emergency or a problem? Teen drivers need to focus on driving and not the radio, their phones or friends. Parents be a positive role model for your teen driver. If you're doing it, they will follow your lead. Pay attention for reduced speed school zones and school buses. The fines for traffic violations in school zones are doubled!!

Photograph and make note of valuable items that your child may have. Cell phones, iPod's, tablets, laptops all have a serial number. Photograph or write down the make, model and serial number of these items. If they are lost or stolen the police will need this information. Activate or add tracking apps to these devices. There are many free tracking apps available for most all devices now.

Please be safe out there and do your part to make this school year as safe as possible.

Chief Ramereiz



St. Louis Homecoming

St. Louis Homecoming Parade & Game
Friday, October 6, 2017
5:30 Parade
7:00 Game
vs Pinconning

You can see all the sports team schedules for the Fall by going to the school website at www.stlouisschools.net.

Please take the time to see the Sharks play as often as you can. *Go Sharks!*

Public Meeting Announcement

A public meeting is scheduled for September 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room, 300 North Mill Street.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the in-place thermal treatment system that will be installed at the former Velsicol Plant.

EPA and DEQ will be available to answer your questions about the project.

Park Plan Survey

We want your input!

The City of St. Louis is updating its Recreation Master Plan. Please take a few minutes to take our survey so we know what you think about our parks and how we can plan for the future.

Go to https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StLouisParks to take a brief survey—only 5 to 10 minutes of your time.

Brush pickup for the month of September begins September 11th

Thank you!

Thank you Needham's Home Center for once again sponsoring free swims at the W.T. Morris Swimming Pool. We appreciate your continued support.

Also, thank you to the St .Louis GardenClub and volunteers for preparing, planting and maintaining the flowers downtown. We appreciate the time and effort you devote to making our community look great!

Dates to Remember

Thursday, September 14, 2017
Last Day to pay Summer 2017 Property Tax without Penalty

Tuesday, October 31, 2017
Trick-or-Treat 5:30—7:30 p.m.

Farmers Market

Visit the St. Louis Farmers Market
Thursdays
May—October
2:00-6:00 p.m.

If you'd like to be a vendor, or have questions, Linda Bader is the market Manager and can be reached at 620-0448 or baderL@ispmgt.com.

Please "Like" our Facebook Page
City Hall St. Louis, Michigan
to stay in touch with us

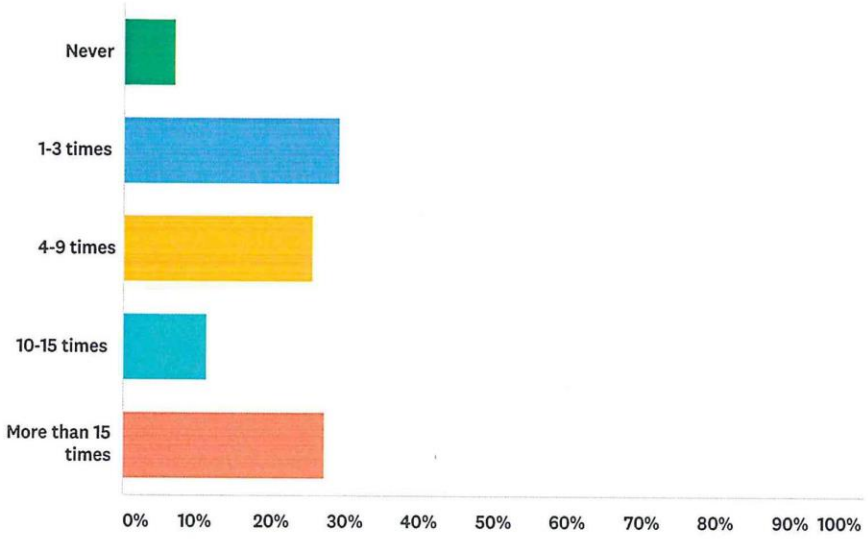
City Offices are closed September 4th

Trash pick up will be one day later due to Labor Day

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Q1 How many times did you use a St. Louis park in the past year?

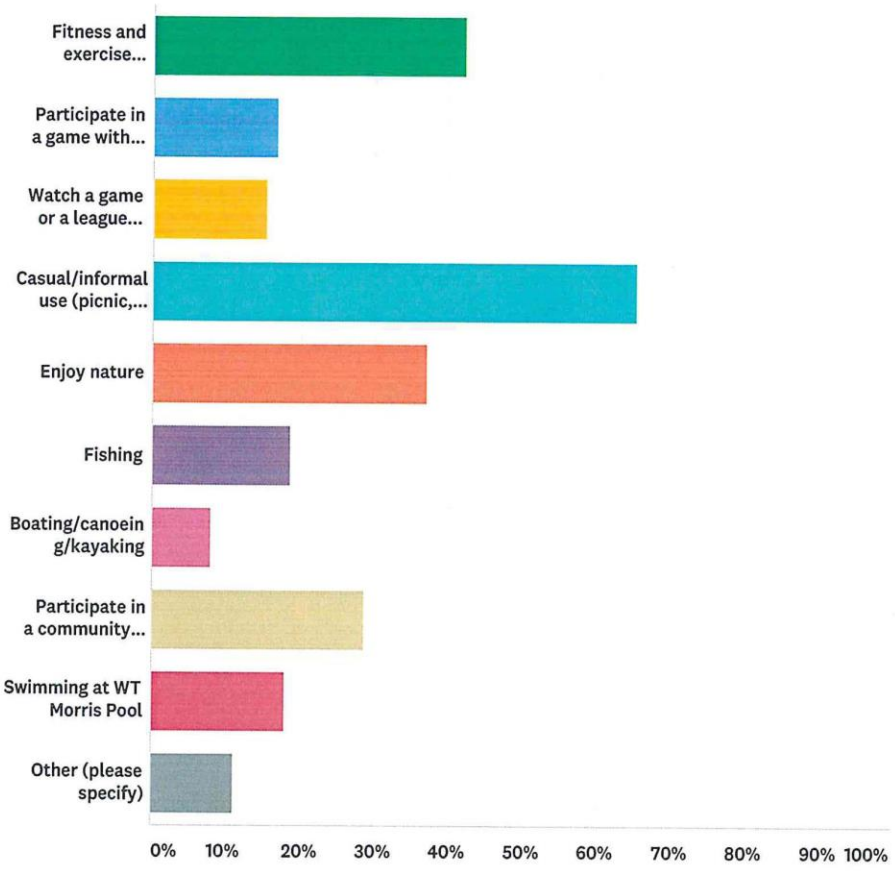
Answered: 220 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Never	6.82%	15
1-3 times	29.09%	64
4-9 times	25.45%	56
10-15 times	11.36%	25
More than 15 times	27.27%	60
TOTAL		220

Q2 Why do you visit parks in St. Louis? Please check all that apply.

Answered: 216 Skipped: 5



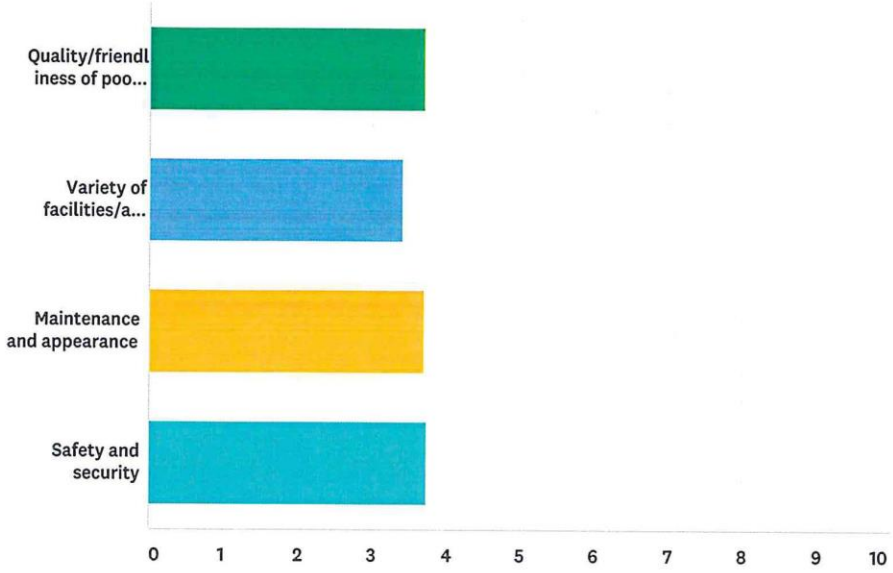
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Fitness and exercise (walking, hiking, bicycling)	42.13%	91
Participate in a game with friends or with a league	16.67%	36
Watch a game or a league sporting event	15.28%	33
Casual/informal use (picnic, playground, geocaching)	65.28%	141
Enjoy nature	37.04%	80
Fishing	18.52%	40
Boating/canoeing/kayaking	7.87%	17
Participate in a community event	28.70%	62
Swimming at WT Morris Pool	18.06%	39
Other (please specify)	11.11%	24

Total Respondents: 216

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I enjoy taking our grand children for the playground equipment. We like to stop by the dam and watch & listen to the water as well.	9/22/2017 4:57 PM
2	Clap park is a wonderful park. I wish it was better maintained.	9/22/2017 4:25 PM
3	Hanging out with my friend	9/20/2017 11:32 PM
4	Girl	9/20/2017 9:19 PM
5	Hanging out with friends.	9/20/2017 9:04 AM
6	My class went over there for a picture.	9/19/2017 11:13 PM
7	Basketball	9/19/2017 6:02 PM
8	Family meetings	9/19/2017 2:41 PM
9	Meet up place	9/19/2017 2:40 PM
10	Took my 2 young kids to the park to play	9/19/2017 2:31 PM
11	My younger siblings	9/19/2017 1:49 PM
12	x-country practice	9/19/2017 1:47 PM
13	Just to hang out with friends.	9/19/2017 1:44 PM
14	car shows	9/19/2017 1:44 PM
15	Hanging out. and car shows	9/19/2017 1:44 PM
16	i hang with people	9/19/2017 1:21 PM
17	Hanging out with friends.	9/19/2017 12:30 PM
18	I frequently use the river walk	9/6/2017 2:08 PM
19	I've used it for practice on nice days & so have the girls outside of regularly scheduled practices	8/18/2017 8:26 AM
20	School dance pictures	8/17/2017 11:25 PM
21	Evening in the park	8/17/2017 1:50 PM
22	Two small children	8/17/2017 12:05 PM
23	Just to get out of the house	8/17/2017 11:48 AM
24	We live nearby. I take my Grandchildren there at least 2-3 times a week.	8/17/2017 10:51 AM

Q3 Please evaluate the following general aspects of parks and recreation in St. Louis:

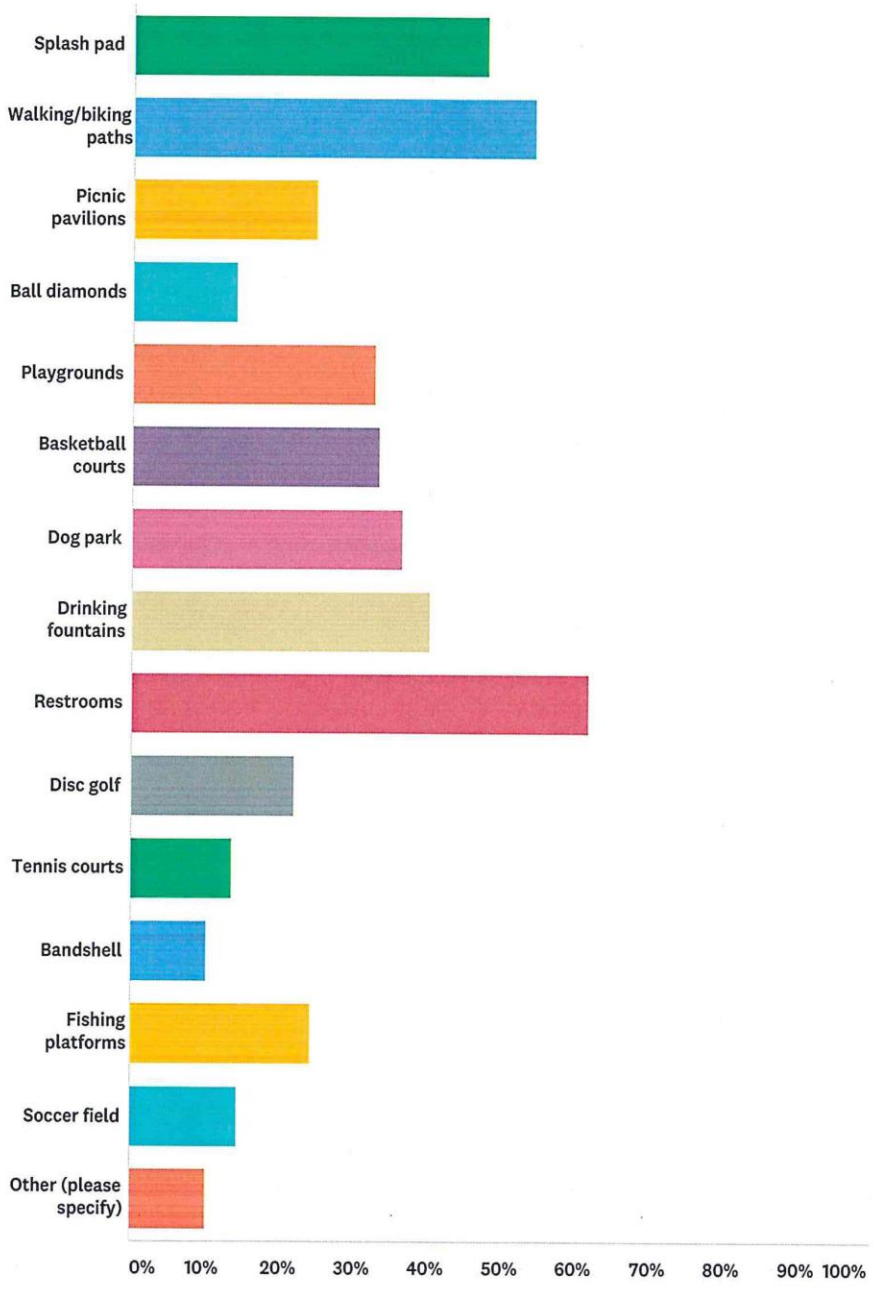
Answered: 211 Skipped: 10



	VERY POOR	POOR	NEUTRAL	GOOD	VERY GOOD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Quality/friendliness of pool staff	2.26% 4	1.13% 2	38.42% 68	39.55% 70	18.64% 33	177	3.71
Variety of facilities/amenities	1.45% 3	16.91% 35	30.43% 63	42.51% 88	8.70% 18	207	3.40
Maintenance and appearance	2.42% 5	7.25% 15	24.64% 51	48.31% 100	17.39% 36	207	3.71
Safety and security	2.88% 6	3.85% 8	28.37% 59	45.19% 94	19.71% 41	208	3.75

Q4 What additional facilities/amenities would you like to see added to the St. Louis park system? (Check all that apply.)

Answered: 214 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Splash pad	47.66%	102
Walking/biking paths	54.21%	116

Picnic pavilions	24.77%	53
Ball diamonds	14.02%	30
Playgrounds	32.71%	70
Basketball courts	33.18%	71
Dog park	36.45%	78
Drinking fountains	40.19%	86
Restrooms	61.68%	132
Disc golf	21.96%	47
Tennis courts	13.55%	29
Bandshell	10.28%	22
Fishing platforms	24.30%	52
Soccer field	14.49%	31
Other (please specify)	10.28%	22

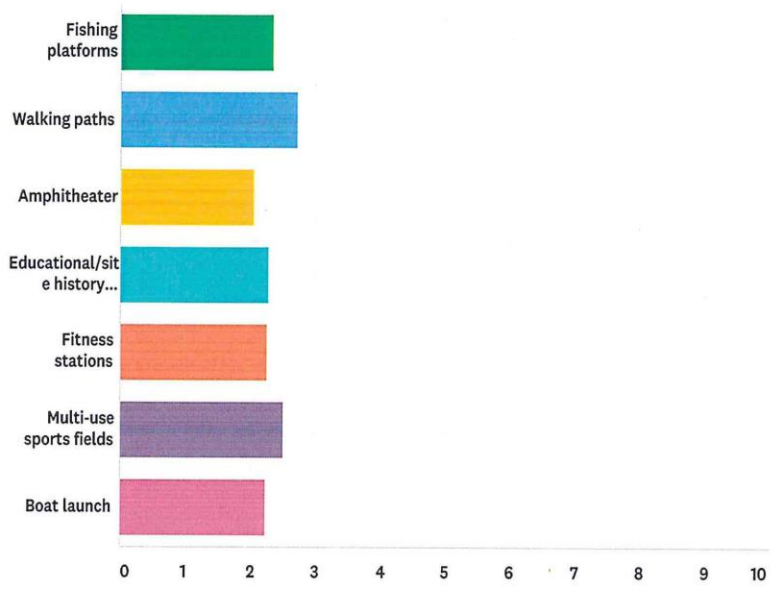
Total Respondents: 214

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Not MORE playgrounds, just more items to use. We do not have a dog, but I see how popular they are in other communities.	9/22/2017 4:57 PM
2	Bike trail connected to Alma	9/20/2017 7:11 AM
3	more fun for high schoolers	9/19/2017 2:41 PM
4	Would like to see better equipment for small children. the park right by town is not really fit for small children	9/19/2017 2:31 PM
5	Taco Bell Cheesy Alfredo That one thing The Krusty Krab Statue of Abe lincoln skyzone a community hot tub	9/19/2017 1:48 PM
6	skate park would bring quite a bit of people to St. Louis	9/19/2017 1:44 PM
7	water park.	9/19/2017 1:21 PM
8	Baseball Diamond, Bassketball Court, Bathrooms, Disk Golf	9/19/2017 12:46 PM
9	fitness equipment, playground equipment for adults so the playground is multi-generational. See Greenfield's Outdoor Fitness.	9/10/2017 6:57 PM
10	At the pool, added to the fenced in area on the lawn to make assessable from the pool area, a picnic area and possible a shelter for shade. It would be wonderful to have a spot for snacks (yet keep out of the pool area) and for moms that want to come watch but not bake in the sun.	8/21/2017 10:08 PM
11	I think a splash pad would be a great addition to St. Louis. They work very well for small children who are not large enough to utilize the pool.	8/21/2017 8:54 AM
12	Another boat launch on the north side of the 46 bridge. Bigger boats cant get under it to fish.	8/18/2017 9:56 PM
13	We really need some ballfields that would even allow for adults to use and enjoy. Basketball courts would be wonderful.	8/18/2017 9:24 PM
14	Walking path on Cheesman Road from Westgate to Michigan Ave.	8/18/2017 10:08 AM
15	Accessible playground	8/18/2017 8:33 AM
16	No comment	8/17/2017 7:37 PM
17	handicapped walking area to all the equipment	8/17/2017 6:32 PM
18	Outside volleyball area	8/17/2017 2:26 PM

19	Boat launch	8/17/2017 2:22 PM
20	Not just playgrounds but bigger playgrounds and more stuff in the current ones.	8/17/2017 1:21 PM
21	Shuffleboard	8/17/2017 12:05 PM
22	horeshoe pits	8/17/2017 10:36 AM

Q5 St. Louis is planning for the possible redevelopment of the Velsicol site (the large open area on the east side of the Pine River just north of M-46). Please provide your opinion on the following amenities that could be added to the potential park.

Answered: 215 Skipped: 6



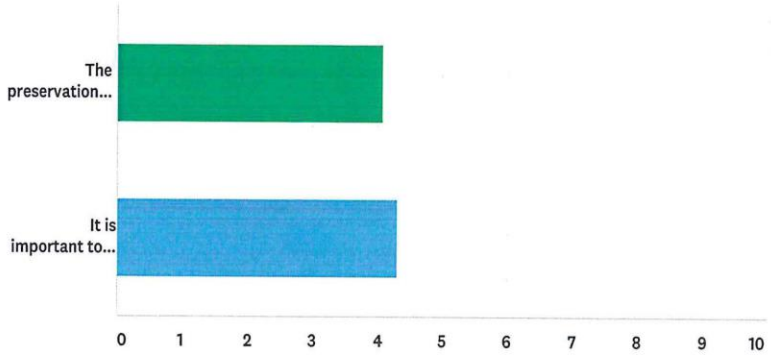
	NOT NEEDED	INDIFFERENT	IMPORTANT TO ADD	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Fishing platforms	13.99% 27	37.31% 72	48.70% 94	193	2.35
Walking paths	4.85% 10	17.48% 36	77.67% 160	206	2.73
Amphitheater	23.59% 46	46.67% 91	29.74% 58	195	2.06
Educational/site history exhibits	17.28% 33	36.13% 69	46.60% 89	191	2.29
Fitness stations	15.96% 30	42.02% 79	42.02% 79	188	2.26
Multi-use sports fields	10.31% 20	28.35% 55	61.34% 119	194	2.51
Boat launch	23.16% 44	30.53% 58	46.32% 88	190	2.23

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	dog park?	9/22/2017 4:57 PM
2	I am not too sure it would be a safe area for any of that.	9/21/2017 9:12 AM
3	Basketball Courts	9/20/2017 8:48 AM

4	something out rages	9/19/2017 2:41 PM
5	Basketball court	9/19/2017 2:03 PM
6	Dog Park	9/19/2017 1:46 PM
7	Basketball court	9/19/2017 1:44 PM
8	Splash pad	9/19/2017 1:40 PM
9	water park	9/19/2017 1:21 PM
10	floral gardens like Dow	9/10/2017 6:57 PM
11	nothing there	9/6/2017 9:06 AM
12	haz mat suits	9/6/2017 8:02 AM
13	Most definitely a boat launch!!!!	8/18/2017 9:56 PM
14	shopping, eating, paddle boats, sports complex	8/18/2017 5:14 PM
15	I would not support anything at this location	8/18/2017 8:58 AM
16	This site will never be safe! Please don't waste our money on it. I won't ever take my child there!	8/17/2017 10:48 PM
17	Better playground	8/17/2017 9:02 PM
18	handicapp accessable walk ways for easier travel	8/17/2017 6:32 PM
19	soccer Fields are needed	8/17/2017 12:23 PM
20	Only if cleaned up completely!!!	8/17/2017 12:18 PM
21	Possibly a place for a large outdoor farmers market with pavilion, water, and electric	8/17/2017 11:02 AM
22	This question and others are not allowing us to mark more than 1	8/17/2017 10:36 AM

Q6 Please rate your feelings regarding the following statements concerning the Pine River and natural areas in St. Louis.

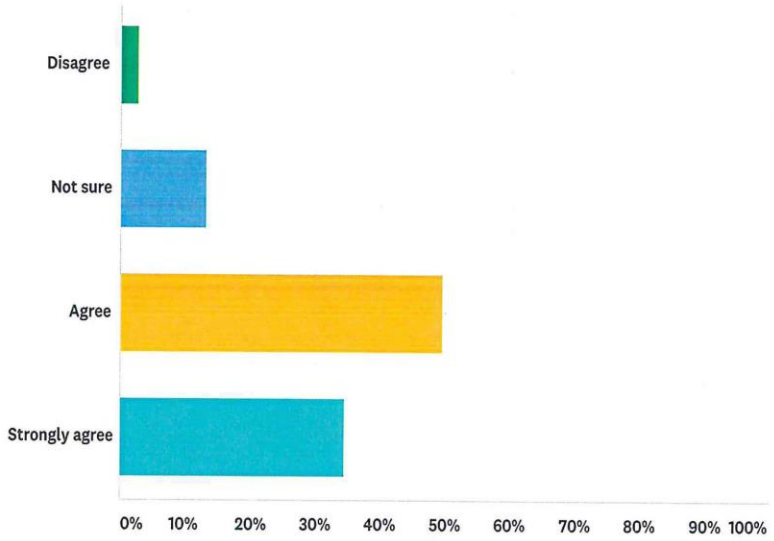
Answered: 220 Skipped: 1



	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
The preservation and restoration of the Pine River and natural areas in our community has a positive effect on the quality of my life.	2.33% 5	2.79% 6	21.40% 46	31.16% 67	42.33% 91	215	4.08
It is important to enhance the natural resources and recreational opportunities on the Pine River in St. Louis	1.36% 3	2.27% 5	11.82% 26	33.18% 73	51.36% 113	220	4.31

Q7 It is important to add more trails and non-motorized pathways in the City of St. Louis.

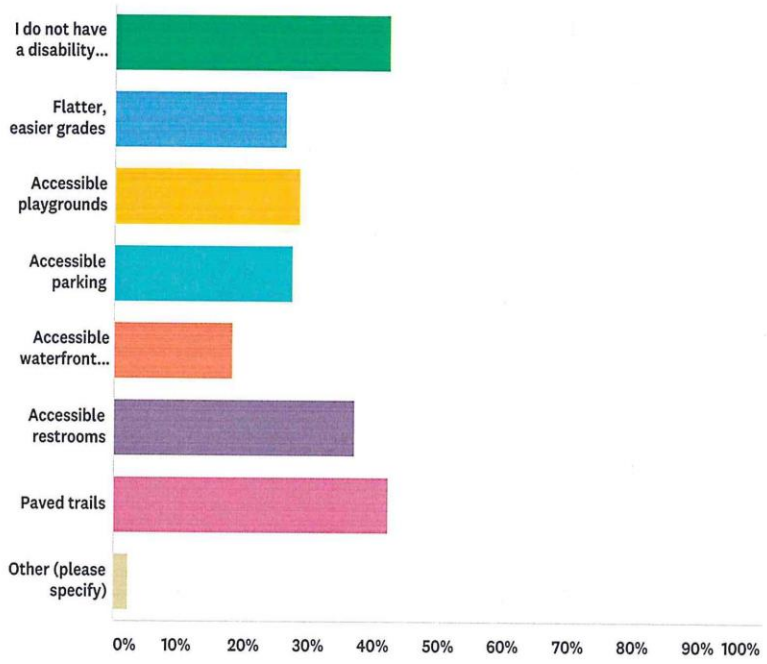
Answered: 220 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Disagree	2.73%	6
Not sure	13.18%	29
Agree	49.55%	109
Strongly agree	34.55%	76
TOTAL		220

Q8 If you or someone you know has a disability, please indicate which of the following would make St. Louis parks more user-friendly for you or someone you know with a disability. Please check all that apply.

Answered: 208 Skipped: 13



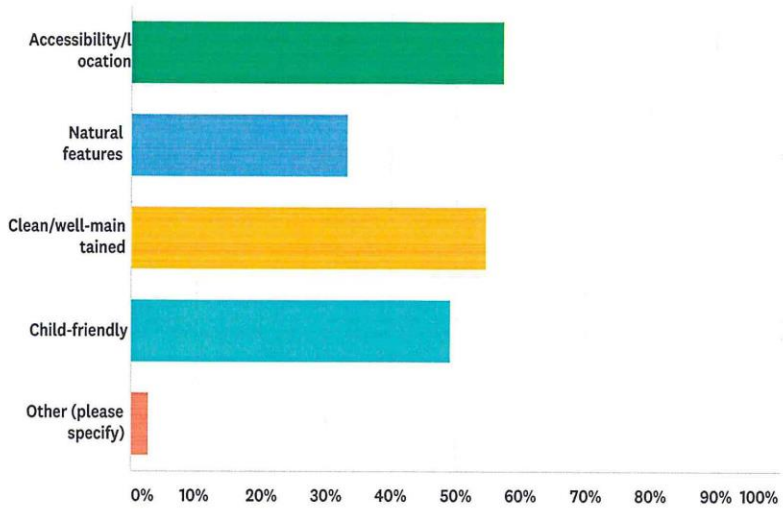
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I do not have a disability and do not know anyone with a disability.	42.31%	88
Flatter, easier grades	26.44%	55
Accessible playgrounds	28.37%	59
Accessible parking	27.40%	57
Accessible waterfront access	18.27%	38
Accessible restrooms	37.02%	77
Paved trails	42.31%	88
Other (please specify)	2.40%	5
Total Respondents: 208		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	better lighting or security cameras	9/20/2017 8:42 AM
2	water park	9/19/2017 1:21 PM
3	unknown	8/18/2017 10:08 AM

4	Park equipment for those in wheelchairs or other disabilities	8/17/2017 10:48 PM
5	for sure ALL THE ABOVE....	8/17/2017 6:32 PM

Q9 What do you like best about parks and recreation in St. Louis?

Answered: 216 Skipped: 5

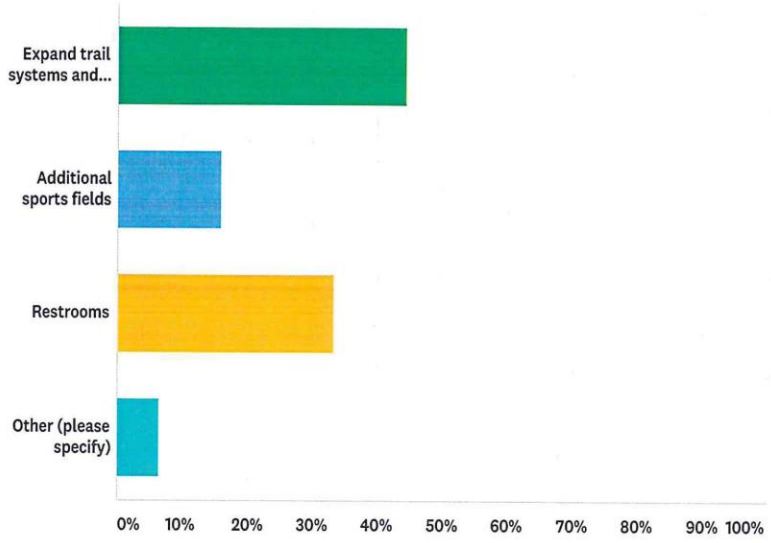


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Accessibility/location	57.41%	124
Natural features	33.33%	72
Clean/well-maintained	54.63%	118
Child-friendly	49.07%	106
Other (please specify)	2.78%	6
Total Respondents: 216		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I like the rubber mulch at Leppien as well as the ability to enjoy the river (without algae). I feel the parks are spread through out the city well, but due to the many parks, it limits the amount of equipment we can have at each one.	9/22/2017 4:57 PM
2	Ok	9/22/2017 4:25 PM
3	Recreational Area (Basketball Court)	9/19/2017 6:02 PM
4	WATER PARK	9/19/2017 1:21 PM
5	Overall disappointing. The schools and city need to collaborate more and share resources (like most other small communities) so we can all enjoy what we have spent so much money developing.	8/21/2017 7:21 AM
6	Love the merry-go-round. Would live more slides and swings especially in Clapp park	8/17/2017 10:48 PM

Q10 What is one thing you would do to improve parks and recreation in St. Louis?

Answered: 214 Skipped: 7



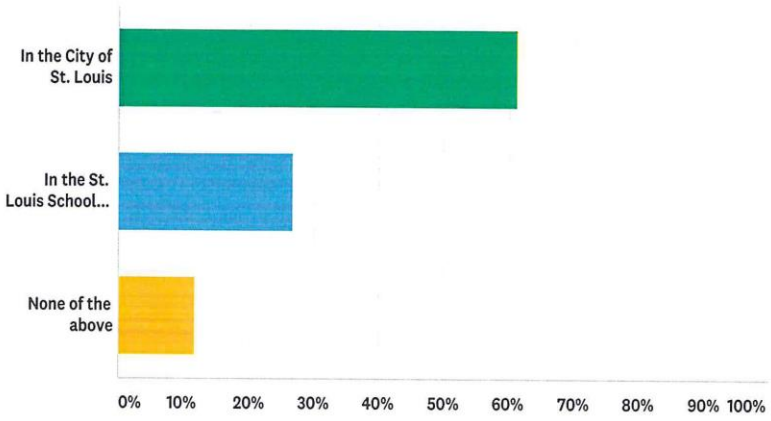
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Expand trail systems and walkways	44.39%	95
Additional sports fields	15.89%	34
Restrooms	33.18%	71
Other (please specify)	6.54%	14
TOTAL		214

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I'm amazed to look down the trail system in Alma and almost always see people using it. The trails are everywhere around the state, and don't seem to be going away.	9/22/2017 4:57 PM
2	Better maintenance.	9/22/2017 4:25 PM
3	More playground options	9/20/2017 1:48 PM
4	Have a band shell or a place for outdoor performances	9/20/2017 1:36 PM
5	splash pad! dog parks	9/19/2017 8:59 PM
6	all of the above	9/19/2017 2:41 PM
7	Amphitheater	9/19/2017 1:11 PM
8	Splash Park	9/7/2017 3:47 PM
9	More playgrounds	8/23/2017 11:07 AM
10	Add a dog park; would be nice to have somewhere in the city where dogs can go free and run around and have fun together	8/23/2017 7:58 AM
11	more interesting and educational playgrounds	8/20/2017 9:48 AM

12	Add walkway on Cheeseman Road	8/18/2017 9:45 PM
13	More fiahing locations	8/17/2017 11:10 PM
14	Update pool/add spray park	8/17/2017 7:23 PM

Q11 Where do you live?

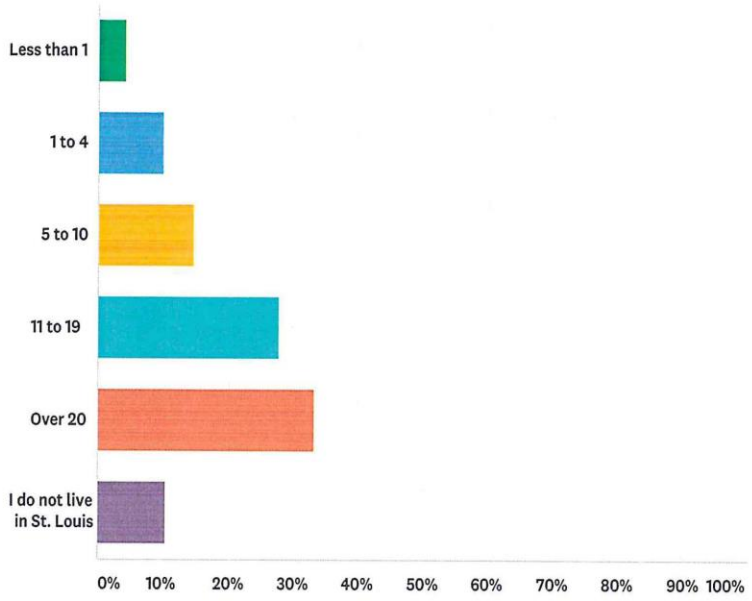
Answered: 220 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
In the City of St. Louis	61.36%	135
In the St. Louis School district, but outside of the City of St. Louis	26.82%	59
None of the above	11.82%	26
TOTAL		220

Q12 How many years have you lived in St. Louis?

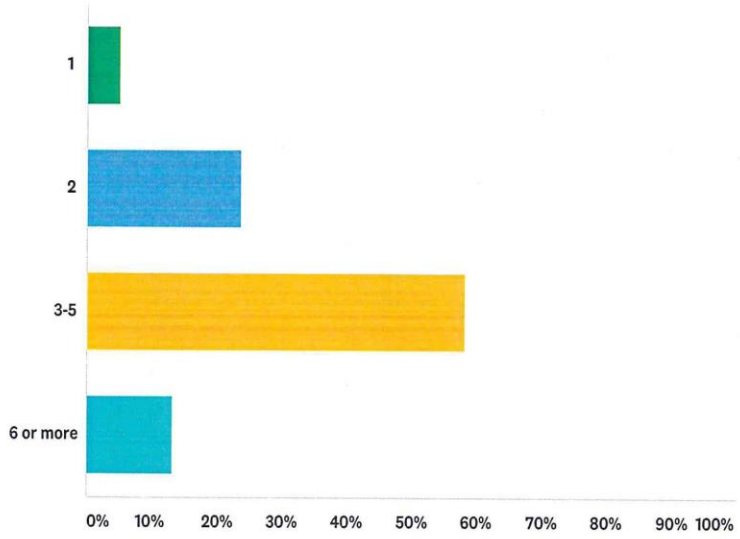
Answered: 220 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Less than 1	4.09%	9
1 to 4	10.00%	22
5 to 10	14.55%	32
11 to 19	27.73%	61
Over 20	33.18%	73
I do not live in St. Louis	10.45%	23
TOTAL		220

Q13 How many people live in your household?

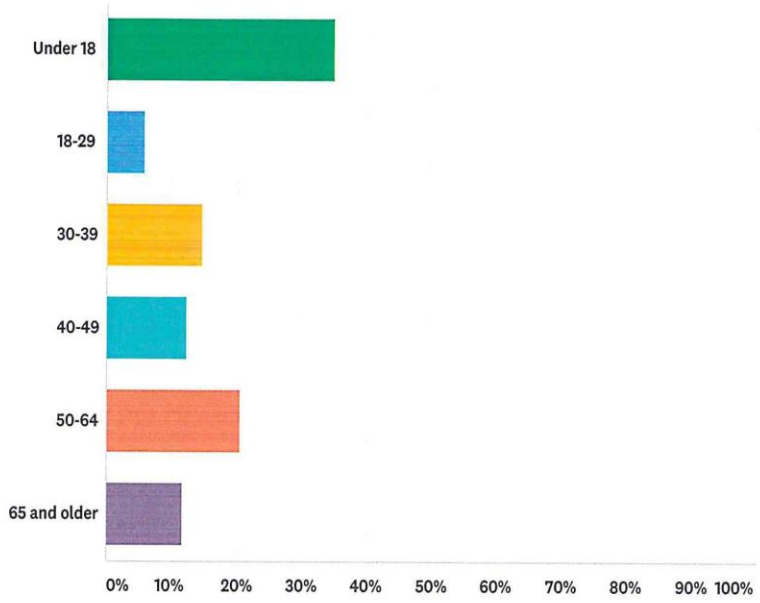
Answered: 220 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
1	5.00%	11
2	23.64%	52
3-5	58.18%	128
6 or more	13.18%	29
TOTAL		220

Q14 What is your age?

Answered: 220 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	35.00%	77
18-29	5.91%	13
30-39	14.55%	32
40-49	12.27%	27
50-64	20.45%	45
65 and older	11.82%	26
TOTAL		220

APPENDIX B

Potential Funding Sources for Parks and Recreation Projects

POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTS

Funding for the projects described under the Action Program can come from a range of local, state and federal programs. Grant funding is available for parks and recreation projects. However, applicants need to target potential funding agencies and programs very carefully so as to meet the specific criteria required. What follows is a current listing of programs and agencies that can provide funding for parks and recreation projects.

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

- Match requirement – minimum of 26%
- Development grants
  - Minimum Grant Request $15,000
  - Maximum Grant Request $300,000
- Acquisition grants
  - No minimum or maximum
- Goals of MNRTF Board
  - Resource Protection – very important
  - Water Access
  - Community Recreation
  - Urban Recreation
  - Economic Development
- Due annually on April 1
- www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

- Administered by MNRTF, applications due annually on March 1
- 50% match required
- Minimum grant request $30,000 ($60,000 project total)
- Maximum grant request $75,000 ($150,000 project total)
- Funds a wide variety of outdoor recreation projects
- www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants

Michigan Department of Transportation - Transportation Enhancement Funds

- For non-motorized transportation and rehabilitation & operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (bridges, railroad depot, etc.)
- 20% minimum match required, 40% recommended
- Eligible applicants include county road commissions, cities, and villages. Other organizations may *sponsor* applications (i.e. County Road Commission or local MDOT office sponsors a Township application)
- Rolling on-line application process
- www.michigan.gov/mdot - Go to "Projects and Programs".

Other Programs to Consider:

Coastal Program – Great Lakes – US Fish and Wildlife Service

- Grants to conserve fish and wildlife and their habitats and to support healthy coastal ecosystems
- Rolling application process
- www.fws.gov/midwest/greatlakes/apply.htm

Specific sports and sports foundations

- United States Tennis Association (USTA) –
  - funding for tennis courts and programs
  - www.usta.com
- Major League Baseball
  - Baseball Tomorrow Fund, more info at www.baseballtomorrow.com
- United States Soccer - www.ussoccerfoundation.org

Safe Routes to School

- For projects near elementary and middle schools:
  - Sidewalks and off-street pedestrian facilities
  - On-street and off-street bicycle facilities
  - Traffic calming and speed reduction
  - Pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements
  - Traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools
- Need to complete the safe routes planning process to apply
  - www.saferoutesmichigan.org

Trust for Public Land (TPL)

- Conservation Transactions: TPL helps structure, negotiate, and complete land transactions that create parks, playgrounds, and protected natural areas. TPL serves as an independent agent, buying land from willing landowners and then transferring it to public agencies, land trusts, or other groups for protection. In some instances, TPL will protect land through conservation easements, which restrict development but permit traditional uses such as farming and ranching.
- More information at www.tpl.org

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grants

- Must be part of a watershed management plan
- Projects aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution (streambank and shoreline stabilization, rain gardens, erosion control, conservation easements)

- www.michigan.gov/deq - Go to "Surface Water" and then to "Non-point Source Pollution".

Community Forestry Grant Program

- Projects that develop or enhance urban and community forestry resources in Michigan. Project categories are: Management and Planning, Education and Training, Library Resources and Tree Planting.
- 50% match required.
- http://www.mi.gov/dnrucf - Go to "Community Forestry Grants".

Community Foundations, Private Foundations, and Endowments

APPENDIX C

Adoption Documents

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN,

County of Gratiot, ss.

In the matter of Notice of Review – City of St. Louis
Draft Five Year Recreation Master Plan

Thomas P. MacDonald, being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the publisher of the

Gratiot County Herald

a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper, and that annexed hereto is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published.

NOTICE OF REVIEW
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
DRAFT FIVE YEAR RECREATION MASTER PLAN

The City of St. Louis has developed a Draft Five Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The plan evaluates existing recreation opportunities, reviews public opinion regarding recreation, establishes recreational goals, and proposes a five-year schedule of improvements and other related items that the City wishes to pursue. The plan has been written jointly for the benefit of the residents of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District. A copy of the Draft Plan is available for review at www.stlouismi.com. A copy can also reviewed a t City Hall, 300 North Mill Street, St. Louis, MI.

If you are interested in submitting comments regarding the Draft Plan, please send written comments to Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk at the address above by January 15, 2018.

A public meeting to take input on the draft plan will be held on Monday, January 15, 2018 at City Hall, 300 North Mill Street, St. Louis, MI, at 4:15 PM.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk

Dec. 14 20 17 _____ 20____

_____ 20____ _____ 20____

_____ 20____ _____ 20____

Signed: [signature]

Sworn to and subscribed before me, a Notary Public in and for Gratiot County, Michigan, this 14th day of December 20 17

DeAnna Lynn Coffin

My commission expires May 3, 2023

DeAnna Lynn Coffin
Notary Public, Gratiot County, MI
My Commission Expires May 3, 2023

PRINTER'S BILL

____Reprints
____Folios _____Times $_____

City of St. Louis
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of St. Louis shall conduct a public meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at St. Louis City Hall, 300 North Mill Street, St. Louis, MI for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed draft of the St. Louis Five year Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The plan evaluates existing recreation opportunities, reviews public opinion regarding recreation, establishes recreational goals, and proposes a five-year schedule of improvements and other related items that the City wishes to pursue. The plan will be considered for adoption by the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District. A PDF copy of the plan is available for review at www.stlouismi.com. A copy of the plan can also viewed at City Hall, 300 North Mill Street, St. Louis, MI.

All comments, written and oral, will be noted for the record.

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk

Morning Sun
1/14/18

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

St. Louis, Michigan
January 23, 2018

The regular meeting of the Saint Louis City Council was called to order by Mayor Kelly on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Council Members Present:	Mayor James C. Kelly, Melissa A. Allen, Jerry L. Church
Council Members Absent:	George T. Kubin, Thomas L. Reed (excused)
City Manager:	Kurt Giles
City Clerk:	Mari Anne Ryder
Police Chief:	Richard Ramereiz, Jr.

Others in Attendance:

Keith Risdon – Public Services Director, Mark Abbott – DPW Superintendent, Teresa Ward – Assessor, Sally Church – Park Board Member, Ralph Echtinaw – Resident, one high school student

Mayor Kelly led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Hearing – Draft 5-Year Parks & Recreation Plan.

Mayor Kelly opened the Public Hearing at 6:01 p.m.

Manager Giles handed out updated maps that will be included in the plan.

Mayor Kelly asked for Public Comment on the Plan.

There was none.

Mayor Kelly closed the Public Hearing at 6:03 p.m.

Resolution 2018-02 Adoption of 2018-2022 Parks & Recreation Plan.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by member Allen, and supported by member Church:

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has undertaken a five-year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, goals and objectives, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2018 and 2022 and,

WHEREAS, the plan is written for the benefit of the residents of City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District,

WHEREAS, an online input survey was made available to the public in August and September of 2017, and

WHEREAS, the draft Recreation Plan was made available for review and public comment from December 14, 2017 to January 12, 2018, and

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held on January 15, 2018 at 4:15 pm, at the St. Louis City Hall to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has developed the Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to use the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2018 the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the City of St. Louis City Council adopt the Recreation Plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this day that the City of St. Louis adopts said Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District.

Ayes: Allen, Church, Kelly
Nays: None
Absent: Kubin, Reed
Resolution Declared Adopted.

City Council Minutes.

City Council discussed the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8, 2018.

Moved by Church, supported by Allen, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on January 8, 2018. All ayes carried the motion.

Claims & Accounts.

City Council discussed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Allen, supported by Church, to approve the Claims & Accounts in the amount of $515,507.54. All ayes carried the motion.

Monthly Reports.

City Council discussed the December, 2017 Monthly Reports.

Moved by Allen, supported by Church, to receive the December, 2017 Monthly Reports and place on file. All ayes carried the motion.

Audience Recognition.

None.

Consent Agenda.

Mayor Kelly requested approval of Consent Agenda items "a" through "g" as shown below:

a. Payment Wm. F. Nelson for Switchgear Project.
b. Payment to Theka for Switchgear Project.
c. Payment to MECA for Safety Program Renewal.
d. Payment to Berthiaume & Company for Audit.
e. Payment to FTC&H for Water Supply Project Professional Services.
f. Payment to MMEA for 2018 Membership.
g. Assessors Report – Informational.

Moved by Allen, supported by Church, to approve Consent Agenda items "a" through "g." All ayes carried the motion.

New Business.

Resolution 2018-03 Poverty Exemption.

Manager Giles stated the resolution is the same as in previous years except the section pertaining to the amount of assets allowed has been more detailed.

Discussion was held.

Manager Giles requested Council Members adopt Resolution 2018-03 Poverty Exemption.

The following resolution was offered by City Council Member Church, and supported by City Council Member Allen.

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the City of St. Louis, Gratiot County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the

household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.

2) File a claim with the Assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission Form 4988, *Poverty Exemption Affidavit.*

3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed $5,000.00 excluding homestead equity, cash value of one automobile and home furnishings. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.

4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.

5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.

6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.

7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after July 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The following are the 2017 federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions

Size of Family Unit	2017 Poverty Guidelines
1	$ 12,060
2	$ 16,240
3	$ 20,420
4	$ 24,600
5	$ 28,780

6	$ 32,960
7	$ 37,140
8	$ 41,320
For each additional person	$ 4,180

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

Ayes: Church, Allen, Kelly
Nays: None
Absent: Kubin, Reed
Resolution Declared Adopted.

Resolution 2018-04 Waving Penalty Fees and Interest for Failure to File A Property Transfer Affidavit.

Manager Giles requested Council Members adopt Resolution 2018-04 Property Transfer Affidavit, which is required in lieu of charging Penalty fees for failure to file a Property Transfer Affidavit.

Assessor Teresa Ward explained that the Resolution is required to be on file for Municipalities waiving penalty fees and interest for failure to file a Property Transfer Affidavit.

Discussion was held.

Council Members thanked Teresa for her input.

The following resolution was offered by City Council Member Allen, and supported by City Council Member Church.

WHEREAS, MCL 211.27a(10) requires the buyer, grantee, or other transferee of the property shall notify the appropriate assessing office in the local unit of government in which the property is located of the transfer of ownership of the property within 45 days of the transfer of ownership, on a form prescribed by the state tax commission; and

WHEREAS, MCL 211.27b(1) imposes penalties for the failure to file a Property Transfer Affidavit after the 45 day period has elapsed; and

WHEREAS, MCL 211.27b(5) allows the governing body of the local tax collecting unit to waive, by resolution, the penalty levied under subsection (1); and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis hereby waives the penalties for failure to file a Property Transfer Affidavit within 45 days of a transfer of ownership.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the City of St. Louis hereby waives penalties under Section 211.27b(1) of the General Property Tax Act.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all resolutions or parts of resolution in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Upon roll call vote, the following voted:

Ayes: Allen, Church, Kelly
Nays: None
Absent: Kubin, Reed
Resolution Declared Adopted.

Resolution 2018-05 Charitable Gaming License.

Manager Giles Requested Council Members adopt Resolution 2018-05 Charitable Gaming License.

Discussion was held.

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Church, and supported by Allen.

The request from Dalis to the Rescue of the City of St. Louis County of Gratiot, asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable gaming licenses, be considered for Approval.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Church, Allen, Kelly
Nays: None
Absent: Kubin, Reed
Resolution Declared Adopted.

Letter of Authorization to Purchase Power.

Manager Giles requested approval of the Letter of Authorization to purchase generating capacity from June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 in a maximum commitment amount of $21,000.00.

Discussion was held.

Moved by Allen, supported by Church, to approve the Letter of Authorization to purchase capacity in the maximum commitment amount of $21,000.00. All ayes carried the motion.

Purchase of Meters.

Manager Giles requested Council Members approve the purchase of 96 Sensus Remote Read Meters from Etna Supply in the amount of $9,600.00.

Moved by Church, supported by Allen, to approve the purchase of 96 Sensus Remote Read Meters from Etna Supply in the amount of $9,600.00. All ayes carried the motion.

Change March Meeting Time.

City Manager Giles requested City Council Members change the March 20, 2018 meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. due to members leaving that day for the MML Conference.

Moved by Allen, supported by Church, to change the March 20, 2018 meeting time from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. All ayes carried the motion.

City Manager Report.

Manager Giles informed Council members of the following: Hydro #5 is now repaired and running, the Water/Wastewater Rate Study will be presented at the next meeting and work on the manhole in the Athletic Field is scheduled to begin soon.

City Clerk Report.

None.

Police Chief Report.

Chief Ramereiz informed Council members that CPR training for City employees is being set up.

Mayor Kelly inquired on the progress of making Corinth Street no parking. Chief Ramereiz stated staff has discussed the issue and a Traffic Control Order will be placed on the next Agenda.

Council Comments.

None.

Public Comments.

None.

Adjournment.

Moved by Allen, supported by Church, to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. All ayes carried the motion.

Mari A Ryder

Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk

Resolution Recommending Adoption

St. Louis Recreation Plan

St. Louis, Michigan

Minutes of the City of St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on the 15th day of January, 2018, at 4:15 P.M.

Present: Sally Church, Amanda Kelly, Steve Larsen, Mary Reed

Absent: Melissa Allen, Dorothy Trgina

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Larsen, and supported by Member Reed:

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has undertaken a five-year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, goals and objectives, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2018 and 2022 and,

WHEREAS, the plan is written for the benefit of the residents of City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District,

WHEREAS, an online input survey was made available to the public in August and September of 2017, and

WHEREAS, the draft Recreation Plan was made available for review and public comment from December 14, 2017, to January 12, 2018, and

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held on January 15, 2018 at 4:15 pm, at the St. Louis City Hall to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has developed the Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to use the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this day that the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that the St. Louis City Council adopt the Recreation Plan

Yeas: Larsen, Reed, Church, Kelly
Nays: None
Absent: Allen, Trgina

I, Mary Reed, Parks & Recreation Commission Recording Secretary, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission at a Regular Meeting thereof held on January 15, 2018 at 4:15 pm.

Mary Reed, Recording Secretary

Resolution of Adoption

2018 - 02

St. Louis Recreation Plan

St. Louis, Michigan

Minutes of a regular meeting of the City of St. Louis, City Council, held on January 23, 2018 at the City Hall, in the City of St. Louis, County of Gratiot at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor James C. Kelly, Melissa A. Allen, Jerry L. Church

ABSENT: George T Kubin, Thomas L. Reed (excused)

The following preamble and resolution was offered by member Allen, and supported by member Church:

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has undertaken a five-year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, goals and objectives, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2018 and 2022 and,

WHEREAS, the plan is written for the benefit of the residents of City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District,

WHEREAS, an online input survey was made available to the public in August and September of 2017, and

WHEREAS, the draft Recreation Plan was made available for review and public comment from December 14, 2017 to January 12, 2018, and

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held on January 15, 2018 at 4:15 pm, at the St. Louis City Hall to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has developed the Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to use the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2018 the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the City of St. Louis City Council adopt the Recreation Plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this day that the City of St. Louis adopts said Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District.

Yeas: Allen, Church, Kubin
Nays: None
Absent: Kubin, Reed
Resolution Declared Adopted

Mari Anne Ryder
Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk

I, Mari Anne Ryder, Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the City of St. Louis at a Regular Meeting thereof held on January 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Mari Anne Ryder
Mari Anne Ryder, City Clerk

St. Louis Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 15th, 2018

The regular meeting of the St. Louis Parks & Recreation Commission was called to order by City Manager Kurt Giles at 4:17 p.m. With chairperson Kevin Palmer's retirement from the commission, the first order of business was to elect a new chair and vice-chair. Nominated for the positions of chair and vice-chair were Melissa Allen and Amanda Kelly, respectively. A motion to accept this slate was made by Steve Larsen, seconded by Sally Church. Motion carried.

In the absence of Chair Melissa Allen, Vice Chair Amanda Kelly presided over the meeting.

Roll Call
Present: Steve Larsen, Amanda Kelly, Mary Reed, Sally Church
Absent: Melissa Allen, Dorothy Trgina
Vacancy
Others Present: Kurt Giles, City Manager, Mark Abbott, DPW Director, Keith Risdon, Utilities Director, Kathy Larsen, resident, Ralph Echtinaw, Editor, St. Louis Sentinel online newspaper

Approval of December 11, 2017 Minutes
Motion by Larsen and supported by Church to accept the December 11, 2017 minutes and place them on file, with the addition of Chris White, resident, in the audience at that meeting. Motion carried.

No changes to the agenda

Financial Reports for the Parks and Pool
Motion by Larsen, and supported by Reed, to receive and place on file the financial report ending 12/31/17. Motion carried.

Business
At 4:26 p.m. Kelly opened a Public Meeting for input on the draft Parks & Recreation Commission's 5-Year Plan. There were no public comments. The Public Meeting was closed by Kelly at 4:30 p.m.

It was noted – and Giles will see that it is republished correctly – that the City Council meeting at which the new plan will be presented (with recommendation from the Parks & Rec Commission for approval) had a discrepancy in the date. The correct day and date is Tuesday, January 23rd.

Larsen mentioned that he had not seen the final draft of the 5-year plan. Giles stated that it is on the City's website, but did give Larsen a paper copy. The Commission went over changes that had been made during the December meeting. With no further discussion,

Larsen made the motion, supported by Reed, to adopt and forward to City Council, the 2018-22 Parks & Recreation 5-Year Plan. Motion carried. Commission members will receive a paper copy of the Plan.

There being no further business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Reed
Acting Secretary

Resolution of Adoption

St. Louis Recreation Plan

St. Louis, Michigan

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has undertaken a five-year Recreation Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities, goals and objectives, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2018 and 2022 and,

WHEREAS, the plan is written for the benefit of the residents of City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District,

WHEREAS, an online input survey was made available to the public from in August and September of 2017, and

WHEREAS, the draft Recreation Plan was made available for review and public comment from December 14, 2017, to January 12, 2018, and

WHEREAS, a public meeting was held on January 15, 2018 at 4:15 pm, at the St. Louis City Hall to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Louis has developed the Recreation Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to use the plan as a document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, on January 15, 2018 the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Commission recommended that the City of St. Louis City Council adopt the Recreation Plan, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on this day that the Board of Education of the St. Louis School District adopt said Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the City of St. Louis and the St. Louis School District.

Yeas: 4
Nays: 0
Absent: 3

I, D. Kelley, Secretary, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the St. Louis Board of Education at a Regular Meeting thereof held on February 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Donald Kelley
Secretary

ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Monday, February 19, 2018
Regular Meeting
7:00 PM
High School Media Center
MINUTES

A regular meeting of the St. Louis Board of Education was held in the High School Media Center.

Members present: Mr. Jeff Baxter, Mr. Don Kelley, Mrs. Carrie Beeson, and Mr. Greg Walterhouse

Members absent: Mrs. Kelly Bebow, Mrs. Carrie Salladay and Mr. John Pavlik

Others present: Superintendent Kristi Teall; Administrative Assistant Diann Woodcock; Administration: Stacey Haag. Others: Kurt Giles, Ralph Echtinaw, Calin Deck, and Jenna Jewell.

The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Baxter

No one asked to address the board.

There were no former public concerns.

High School Student Council Report: Jenna Jewell reported that they just completed their "Crush" sales for Valentine's Day and are currently planning an exchange day with Carrollton High School on April 19th.

TSN Student Council Report: No report was given.

It was moved by Member D. Kelley, supported by Member C. Beeson to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion passed.

It was moved by Member G. Walterhouse, supported by Member D. Kelley to approve the minutes from the regular meeting and the organizational meeting of January 15, 2018. All ayes, motion passed.

It was moved by Member G. Walterhouse, supported by Member C. Beeson, to approve the monthly activity report as presented. All ayes, motion passed.

It was moved by Member C. Beeson, supported by Member G. Walterhouse, to approve and pay the board bills in the amount of $739,020.26. A roll call vote was taken:

J. Baxter	aye	D. Kelley	aye	
C. Beeson	aye	G. Walterhouse	aye	All ayes, motion passed

The monthly receipts were reviewed and Diann Woodcock will place them on file.

The financial reports were reviewed.

Stacey Haag, Business Manager, presented the amended 2017/2018 Budget. It was moved by Member D. Kelley, and supported by Member G. Walterhouse to approve the amended 2017/2018 Budget. A roll call vote was taken:

J. Baxter	aye	D. Kelley	aye	
C. Beeson	aye	G. Walterhouse	aye	All ayes, motion passed

Kurt Giles, St Louis City Manager, presented the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Plan. Superintendent, Kristi Teall made the recommendation to the Board of Education to adopt the St. Louis Parks and Recreation Plan. It was moved by Member C. Beeson and supported by Member G. Walterhouse to adopt the plan as presented by Mr. Giles. All ayes, motion passed.

Jeff Baxter, President, presented a review of the current evaluation for Superintendent Kristi Teall. Mr. Baxter made the recommendation to extend Mrs. Teall's contract for one (1) year. It was moved by Member D. Kelley and supported by Member C. Beeson to approve the evaluation and contract renewal of Mrs. Teall. All ayes, motion passed.

It was moved by Member C. Beeson and supported by Member G. Walterhouse to approve the hiring of the following: Dave Fox - Bus Driver, Camela Greening - Playground Parapro at Nikkari Elementary, and David Hamp - PE Parapro at TSN Middle School. All ayes, motion passed.

It was moved by Member D. Kelley, and supported by Member G. Walterhouse to accept the letter of resignation from Andrea Baxter – CK Parapro and Cheryl Irvin – HS/MS Teacher. All ayes, motion passed.

It was moved by Member C. Beeson and supported by Member D. Kelley to accept the retirement of Ted Doll. Ted has been a part of the High School Support Staff since 1980. All ayes, motion passed

Kristi Teall gave the Superintendent's report.

- Currently working on putting together an after school woodworking program for at risk students. The program will be supervised by Phil Maxwell. Additional funds are being requested from the Gratiot Community Foundation.
- Working with Kelly Thompson from the RESD on a After School Grant
- Recently had three (3) High School Senior signings for the Fall of 2018: Brittany Roberson – MMCC, Travis Courter – Dordt College, and Mick Munderloh – Michigan Tech.
- Alma College Four Year Scholarship Recipients: Adam Lawhorne, Jayce Kuehlein, and Lillian Windsor
- Big Event Reminder – Saturday, March 10, 2018 @ City Hall
- The Countywide School Board meeting was held on Thursday, February 15, 2018 – attended by Mrs. Teall and Member Greg Walterhouse.
- The City of St. Louis recently completed the repairs needed on the Athletic field.

It was moved by Member D. Kelley, supported by Member G. Walterhouse to adjourn. All ayes.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Don Kelley
School Board Secretary

Kurt Giles
City Manager
Email: kgiles@stlouismi.com

300 North Mill Street
Saint Louis, Michigan 48880-1529
Telephone: (989) 681-2137 ext. 2
Fax: (989) 681-3842

February 21, 2018

Gratiot County Planning Commission
214 E. Center Street
Ithaca, MI 48847

To Whom It May Concern:

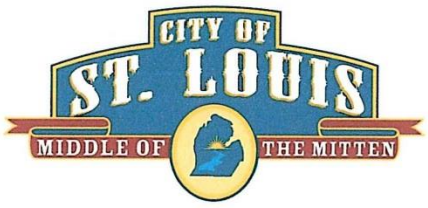
Please find enclosed the recently adopted Recreation Olan for the City of St. Louis. It is being sent to the Gratiot County Planning Commission according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for the Development of Community Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans. If you have any questions regarding the Plan feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kurt Giles

Kurt Giles, City Manager

Kurt Giles
City Manager
Email: kgiles@stlouismi.com



300 North Mill Street
Saint Louis, Michigan 48880-1529
Telephone: (989) 681-2137 ext. 2
Fax: (989) 681-3842

February 21, 2018

East Central Michigan Planning & Development
3144 Davenport
Saginaw, MI 48602

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed the recently adopted Recreation Olan for the City of St. Louis. It is being sent to the Gratiot County Planning Commission according to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements for the Development of Community Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans. If you have any questions regarding the Plan feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kurt Giles, City Manager

Michigan Department of Natural Resources-Grants Management

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

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

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

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

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:
City of St. Louis Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan 2018 - 2022

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
City of St. Louis	Gratiot	January 23, 2018
St. Louis School District	Gratiot, Midland, Isabella	February 19, 2018

PLAN CONTENT

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

☒ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

☒ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

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

Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:

- ☒ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation

☒ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**

- ☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- ☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- ☒ Accessibility Assessment
- ☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☐ Waterways Inventory (if applicable)

☐ **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**

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

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

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

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

Date of the Notice: December 14, 2017

Type of Notice: Newspaperq

Plan Location: City Hall, City Website

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days): 33

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

Date of Notice: January 14, 2018

Name of Newspaper: Gratiot County Herald

Date of Meeting: January 23, 2018

☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☒ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

☒ **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)**

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

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

☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: January 23, 2018

☒ 2. Official resolution of the Parks & Recreation Commission Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: January 15, 2018

☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: February 21, 2018

☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: February 21, 2018

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

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

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

City of St. Louis *includes the required content, as indicated*
(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government — Date: 2/21/2018

This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.