



## CITY OF WATERVLIT

Parks and Recreation Master Plan  
2020—2024

DRAFT—December 6, 2019



# **CITY OF WATERVLIELT**

## **PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN - DRAFT**

**2020 – 2024**

Adopted XYZ, 2019

### **Acknowledgments**

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents, and members of the civic organizations in the preparation of this plan are greatly appreciated.

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This plan was prepared with assistance from Abonmarche Consultants.



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## Introduction

The City of Watervliet has undertaken this process to prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a road map for parks and recreation decisions made over the next five years. A community's access to resources and activities directly impacts the quality of life of its residents and visitors. Park and recreation facilities engage people in a community and keep them active and healthy. The City has developed this plan in accordance with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans established by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). In order to retain eligibility for state and federal park and recreation grant programs, the City must have a current five-year plan approved by MDNR. The purpose of this document is for planning purposes and all elements are dependent upon available funding.

The City has undertaken this plan in an effort to:

- Guide investment in parks, recreation, and open space;
- Assess present community recreational facilities and programs;
- Inventory parks, natural areas, and open spaces;
- Solicit public input and response regarding parks, recreation, and open space;
- Identify goals and prioritize improvements and acquisitions;
- Establish a course of action for improvements and acquisitions over the next five years; and
- Identify potential funding sources to satisfy the goals of the plan and the needs of residents and visitors.



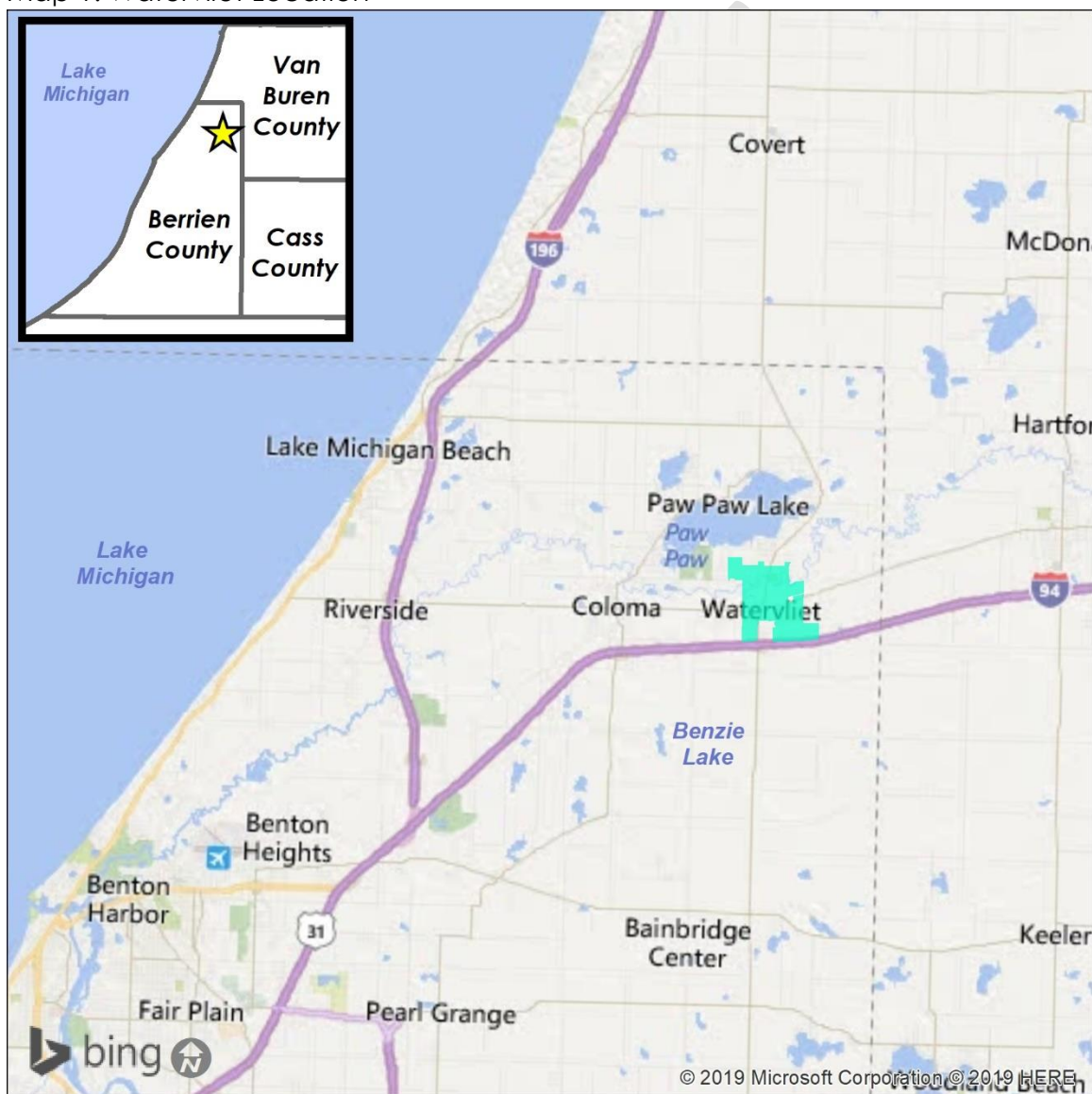


# Community Description

## Regional Setting

Watervliet is located in the northeast portion of Berrien County, Michigan. The City is bordered entirely by Watervliet Township. It is 90 miles from Chicago, 35 miles from South Bend, Indiana, 50 miles from Kalamazoo, and 90 miles from Grand Rapids. The City lies adjacent to Interstate 94 and is bisected by Red Arrow Highway.

Map 1. Watervliet Location



## Land Use

The most prominent land use in Watervliet is single-family neighborhoods and institutions such as churches and schools. The City's commercial district is compact and convenient for pedestrians. It is located primarily along the thoroughfare of Main Street, north of Red Arrow Highway. This pattern of development is conducive to creating a vibrant, walkable downtown.

## Demographics

Figure 1. City of Watervliet Population

|                     | 1990    | 2000    | 2010    | 2017*   | Change<br>1990-<br>2017 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------------|
| City of Watervliet  | 1,867   | 1,843   | 1,735   | 1,747   | -10%                    |
| Watervliet Township | 2,926   | 3,392   | 3,102   | 3,113   | +5%                     |
| City of Coloma      | 1,679   | 1,588   | 1,483   | 1,669   | -<1%                    |
| Coloma Township     | 5,123   | 5,217   | 5,020   | 4,966   | +3%                     |
| Berrien County      | 162,453 | 162,353 | 156,813 | 154,948 | -5%                     |

\*estimates provided by the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, all other figures from decennial Census.

## Transportation

The transportation system in and around Watervliet is predominantly auto-oriented. Interstate 94 serves as the primary transportation route from other Midwestern states, making it one the most important thoroughfares in Watervliet. The I-94 interchange at M-140 provides convenient access to the city.

Commercial airline flights are available at the South Bend International Airport (44 miles south) and Kalamazoo International Airport (47 miles east). Local service is also available at the Southwest Michigan Regional Airport in Benton Harbor (10 miles southwest).

Amtrak passenger service terminals are located in St. Joseph with service to Chicago or Grand Rapids and in Kalamazoo with service to Detroit.

## Natural Characteristics

### Climate

The climate of Watervliet and the surrounding area can be classified as generally mild. There are no unusual climatic conditions that severely impede activities within the City. January and June are the snowiest and rainiest months, respectively. Due to the variations in the weather patterns in southwest Michigan and location near Lake Michigan, local residents experience the four seasons together with increased cloudiness, lake effect snow, and consistently moderate temperatures throughout the year.

### Vegetation

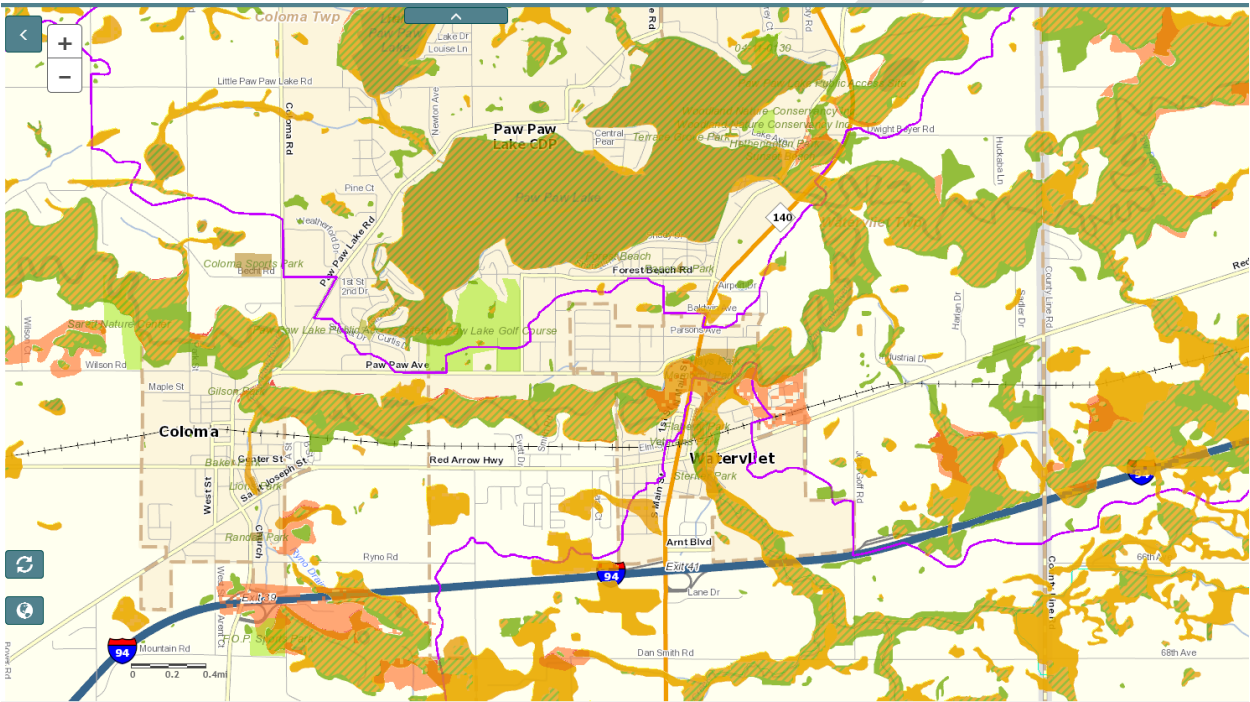
Most of the City's native vegetation has been lost to development. However, some relatively undisturbed areas are still available along the Paw Paw River and Mill Creek where you will see beech, maple, oak, and hickory trees. Much of this land is owned by the City or Berrien County where it is



preserved as parkland or open space. A few larger undeveloped, forested parcels are privately owned, one of which is 153 acres in size.

Wetlands

Wetlands include areas characterized by the presence of water that either saturates the soil or covers the land surface for all or portions of the year and where such environments foster the growth of specific plant species. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the City contains areas of wetlands primarily along the Paw Paw River and Mill Creek (see map). All of the wetlands are described as primarily emergent or forested and semi-permanently, seasonally or temporarily flooded. Some areas are forested or scrub/shrub with broad-leaf deciduous plants and trees.



Map Legend

Change what items you see on the map by using the checkboxes

Wetland Data

- ☐ Wetland (Hydric) Soils
- ☐ National Wetlands Inventory 2005
- ☒ Potential Wetland Restoration
- ☐ Highest Potential - Hydric and Presettlement Wetland Overlay
- ☐ High Potential - Hydric Soils Only
- ☐ Moderate Potential - Presettlement Wetlands Only
- ☒ Part 303 Final Wetlands Inventory
- ☐ Wetlands as identified on NWI and MIRIS maps
- ☐ Soil areas which include wetland soils
- ☐ Wetlands as identified on NWI and MIRIS maps and soil areas which include wetland soils

Other Data

Conservation and Recreation Lands

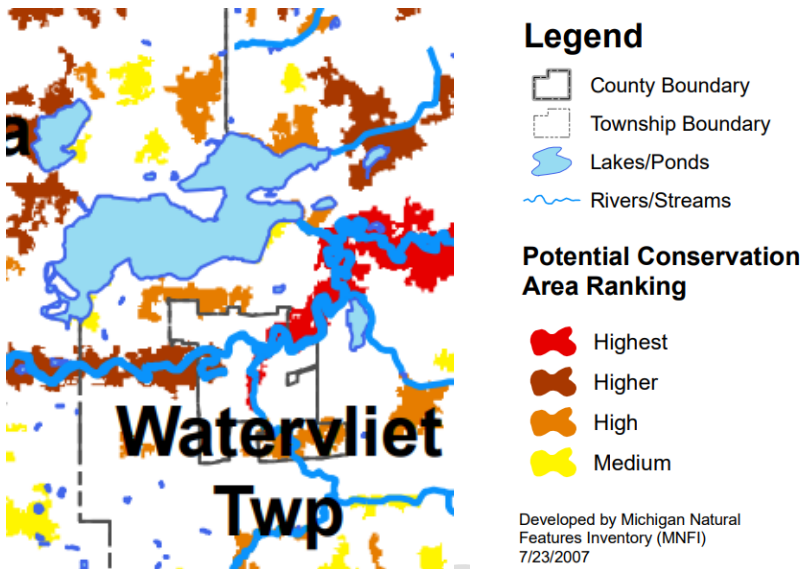
- ☐ County
- ☐ Federal
- ☐ Local
- ☐ NGO
- ☐ Native
- ☐ American Lands
- ☐ Private
- ☐ State
- ☐ Unknown
- ☐ Undetermined

Functional Tool Layers

- ☐ HUC 8 Watershed
- ☐ HUC 10 Watershed
- ☒ HUC 12 Watershed
- ☐ NWI PLUS Wetlands PreSettlement
- ☐ NWI PLUS Wetlands Current
- ☐ NWI PLUS Completed Watersheds

## Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs)

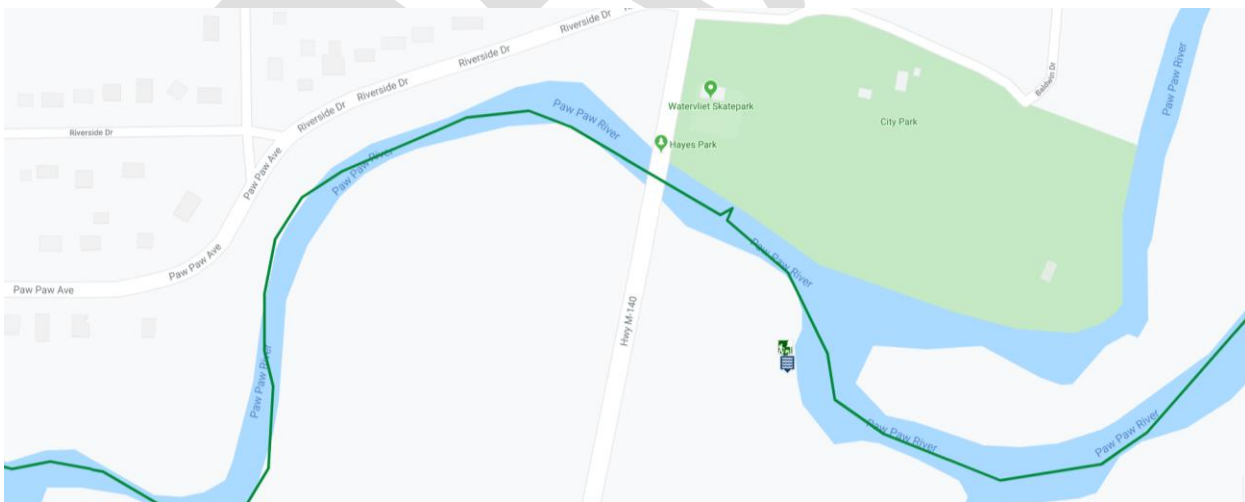
Potential Conservation Areas (PCAs) are defined as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural areas and unique natural features. Scoring criteria used to prioritize sites included: total size, size of core area, length of stream corridor, landscape connectivity, restorability of surrounding land, vegetation quality, and biological rarity score. The City of Watervliet includes high to highest areas of PCAs within its borders as seen below.



Understanding of these PCAs will help the City guide and target its recreation efforts while protecting its valuable natural resources.

## Rivers and Creeks

The City of Watervliet sits along the Paw Paw River and Hays Park provides access to the 68 mile Paw Paw River Water Trail.



Mill Creek is a Type 1 Michigan Inland Trout & Salmon designated Trout Stream.



# Administrative Structure

## 1. City Commission

The City of Watervliet is a council-manager form of government with a Mayor and six commissioners. Additionally, they have a five member Planning Commission and a nine member DDA. The City Commission is the elected governing body authorized to adopt ordinances and enter into agreements and contracts as well as adopt the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks Committee for the City studies parks-related issues and makes recommendations for action to the City. The Parks Committee will recommend spending priorities based on the five-year recreation plan as adopted and amended, as appropriate by the City Commission. The Parks Committee does not have direct supervision or authority in the city. City maintenance staff is responsible for routine maintenance and repairs for parks and recreational facilities.

## 2. Funding & Budgets

Funding for Parks and Recreation is included in the General Fund City budget. Other funding sources may include, but are not limited to, MDNR grants, public and private foundation grants and/or awards, special appropriations, donations, millages, other forms of public finance, or a combination of some of these. The 2019-2020 Parks and Recreation Budget is \$42,800 for operation, maintenance and repairs.

## 3. Volunteers & Relationships with Other Organizations

The City of Watervliet collaborates with Berrien County for regional Parks and Recreation activities. Berrien County recently developed the 14-acre Paw Paw River County Park across from Hayes Park. This park is adjacent to the Paw Paw River and has hiking trails, overlooks, fishing access, and an accessible kayak launch.

The City works with and financially assists the Two Rivers Coalition, a nonprofit organization working to protect and preserve the Black River and Paw Paw River Watersheds in southwest Michigan, through an annual membership fee and \$2,500 - \$5,000 toward river cleanup projects each year.

Watervliet Public Schools utilize Hays Park for its season soccer practices, sharing upkeep and maintenance tasks at the site.

### Volunteers

When public improvement projects occur, the City asks for volunteers through its email and/or school networks. Many citizens respond and provide volunteer help. The DDA is an additional resource for volunteer help. The high school regularly supplies volunteers to assist with community service and park repair projects.

## Parks and Recreation Inventory

In October 2019, Abonmarche staff conducted an on-site inventory of the recreational facilities located in the City of Watervliet. Watervliet has one **Community Park**, Hays Park. This type of park meets community-based recreation needs and serves an area between ½ and 3 miles. The City has two **Neighborhood Parks**, Flaherty Park and Sterner Park. This type of park is multi-purpose and serves as the recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. It provides areas for both passive and active recreation activities such as fields, playgrounds, picnicking, and trails. It serves an area between ¼ and ½-mile. The City has one **Mini Park**, Veteran's Park, which serves a ¼-mile area and provides amenities such as greenery and seating.

The City has received three development grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to assist with its development of public parks:

**TF91-391 Mill Creek Park** (currently named Flaherty Park) Grant Amount \$114,000

Improve fishing access and play equipment along Mill Creek, including restroom/shelter building, paved parking and walkways with landscaping.

Grant is closed and in compliance with DNR requirements.

**TF01-011 Hays Park Improvements** Grant Amount \$70,000

Construction of low maintenance play structure and new concession/restroom facility in Hays Park.

Grant is closed and in compliance with DNR requirements.

**TF04-057 Hays Park Project** Grant Amount \$42,300

Waterfront improvements along the Paw Paw River to include a fishing pier and canoe launch. Also develop a skateboard park.

Grant is closed and in compliance with DNR requirements.

The park classification corresponds to the classification system in Appendix B of the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in June 2018. Accessibility at each park was reviewed by comparing it to the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design. The number listed in the Accessibility Rating column (also taken from the *Guidelines*) is as follows:

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







| Hays Park                                   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Size</b>                                 | 13 acres   |
| <b>Classification</b>                       | Community Park   |
| <b>Ownership</b>                            | City of Watervliet   |
| <b>Facility Description &amp; Amenities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Board and Signage (1)</li> <li>• Baseball &amp; Softball fields with dugouts (8)</li> <li>• Concession Stand (1)</li> <li>• Basketball Court (1)</li> <li>• Storage building (3)</li> <li>• Picnic Tables (6)</li> <li>• Park Benches (2)</li> <li>• Grills (4)</li> <li>• Play Structure (1)</li> <li>• Open play areas</li> <li>• Restrooms (1 women, 1 men)</li> <li>• Trash Cans</li> <li>• Water Fountain</li> <li>• Parking</li> <li>• Pavilion</li> <li>• Fishing &amp; Canoe platform/access</li> <li>• Winter Sledding</li> <li>• Skate Park</li> <li>• Batting Cages</li> </ul> |
| <b>Accessibility Rating</b>                 | <p>2: Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines</p> <p>Concession stand, restrooms, skate park, and basketball have hard surfaces but no accessible route to access these amenities exists.</p>  |

















| Flaherty Park (Formerly Mill Creek Park) |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Size</b>                              | 7 acres   |
| <b>Classification</b>                    | Neighborhood Park   |
| <b>Ownership</b>                         | City of Watervliet  |
| <b>Facility Description</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pavilion</li> <li>• Grills</li> <li>• Picnic Tables (22)</li> <li>• Fishing Access</li> <li>• Disc Golf Course</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Accessibility Rating</b>              | <p>3: Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines</p> <p>The new concrete sidewalk is accessible and leads to pavilion. Asphalt parking lot near road is striped for ADA spot but placed in a location with too much slope.</p> |









| Stern Park                  |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Size</b>                 | 7.5 acres  |
| <b>Classification</b>       | Neighborhood Park  |
| <b>Ownership</b>            | City of Watervliet   |
| <b>Facility Description</b> | Open space park with a gravel road leading to maintenance building. Two tables and a grill in lawn space near the creek. |
| <b>Accessibility Rating</b> | 2: Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines   |





| Veteran's Park              |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Size</b>                 | 0.2 acres   |
| <b>Classification</b>       | Mini Park   |
| <b>Ownership</b>            | City of Watervliet  |
| <b>Facility Description</b> | Accessible brick walkway to an area with memorial plaque, benches, and flags. |
| <b>Accessibility Rating</b> | 2: Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines            |





## Recreational Boating Facilities Inventory

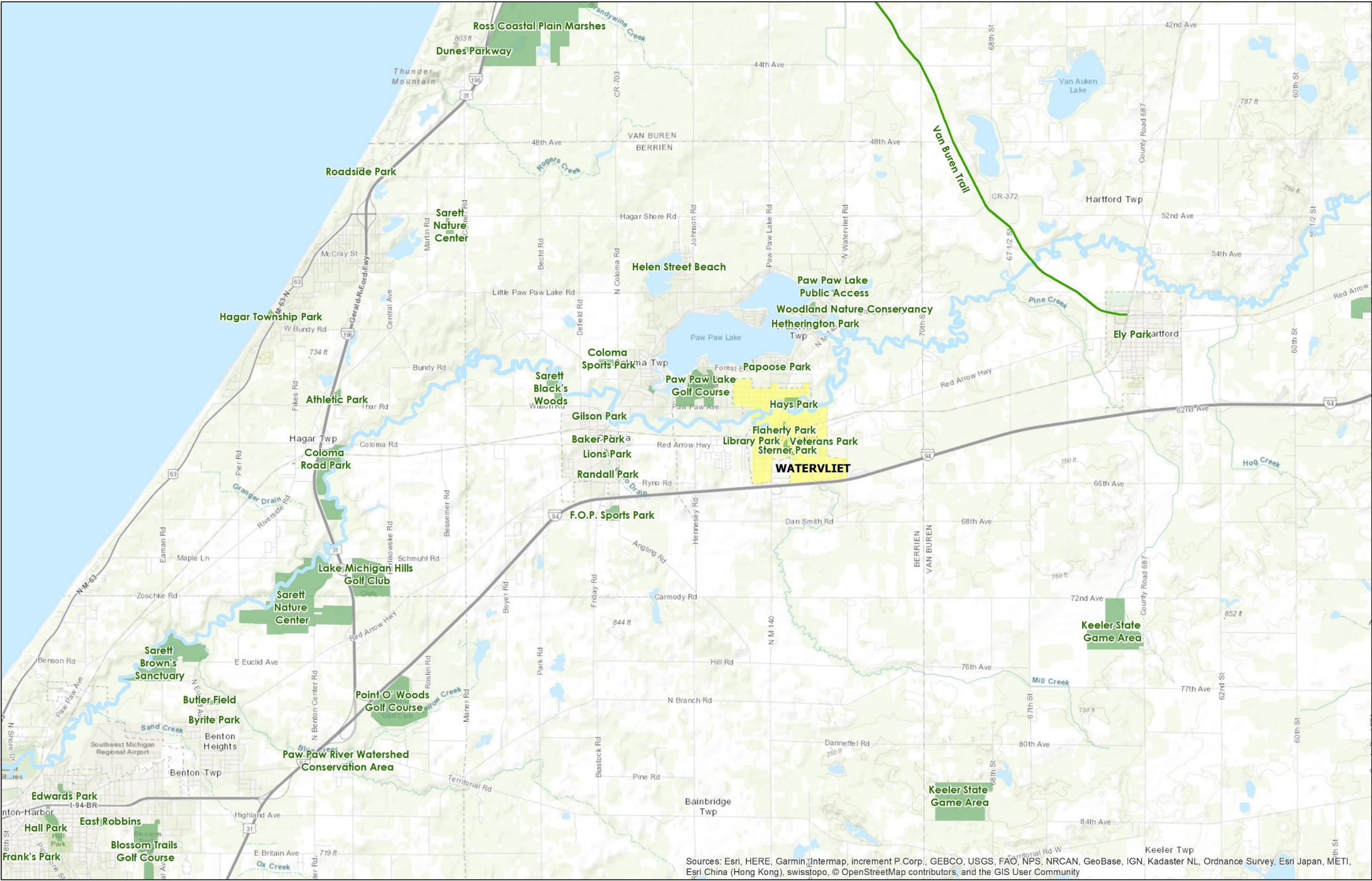
| Name  | Hays Park  |
|---|--|
| Description & Purpose                                   | The City has a canoe launch on the Paw Paw River                                 |
| Right-sizing of facility                                | n/a – there are no marinas in the City   |
| Current ADA compliant features                          | None   |
| Items that need to be addressed to become ADA compliant | Pathway at applicable grade would need to be constructed as well as ADA parking. |
| Site Development Plan                                   | none   |
| Current marketing methods                               | City website, Facebook   |
| Current events  | none   |
| Current partnerships                                    | Two Rivers Coalition to maintain Paw Paw River                                   |
| Current dredging needs                                  | n/a  |
| Repairs & Maintenance                                   | Routine maintenance as needed. Costs included in Parks Budget on page 8.         |



| Recreation Facilities in and around Watervliet managed by Others |                       |   |
|--|-----------------------|---|
| Name   | Type                  | Facilities  |
| Library Park   | Mini Park             | Landscaped park next to Watervliet Library with a pergola with benches                                  |
| Paw Paw River County Park (Berrien County)                       | Regional Park         | 14 acres with kayak launch, overlooks, fishing access, and hiking trails.                               |
| Paw Paw River Water Trail  | Park Trail            | 68-mile long trail from the Village of Paw Paw to the St. Joseph River near its outlet to Lake Michigan |
| Van Buren Trail State Park (Michigan DNR)                        | Park Trail            | 14-mile unimproved rail trail between Hartford and South Haven.   |
| Watervliet Middle/High School                                    | School – Park         | School grounds with athletic fields: football field, baseball field, track.                             |
| Watervliet North & South Elementary Schools                      | School – Park         | School grounds with playground and baseball field   |
| Paw Paw Lake Public Access (Michigan DNR)                        | Special Use           | Boat launch with picnic tables and fishing access   |
| Ross Coastal Plain Mashas (Nature Conservancy)                   | Natural Resource Area | Over 700 acres of natural area with more than 5 miles of trails for viewing wildlife and rare habitat.  |
| Keeler State Game Area (Michigan DNR)                            | Natural Resource Area | Almost 400 acres in two units of huntable land  |



Map 4: Surrounding Parks and Recreation Facilities



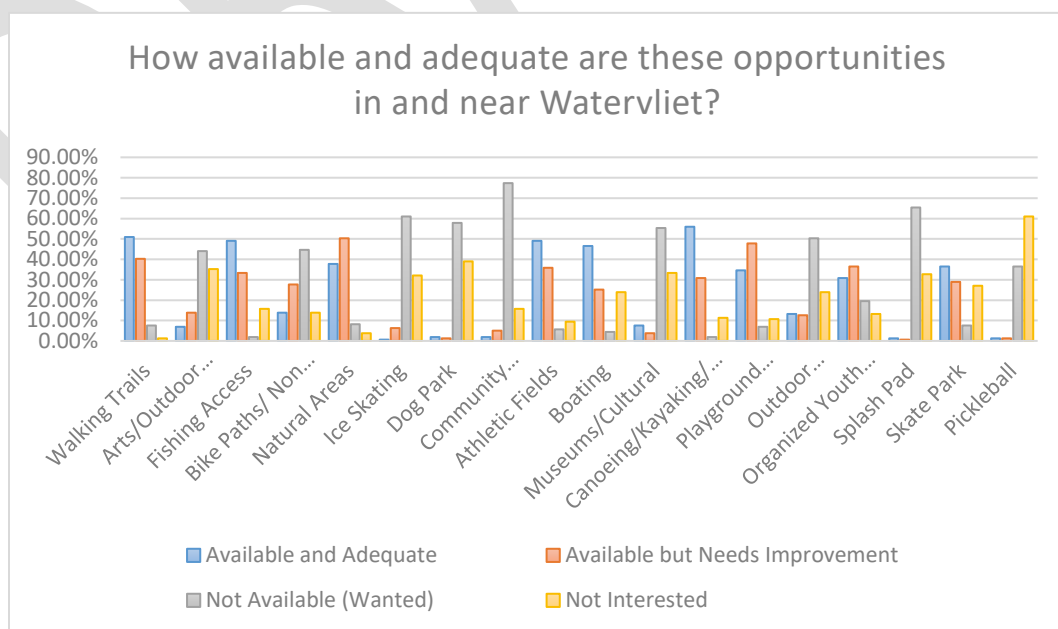
## Planning and Public Input

A systems approach to planning was used to assess the parks and recreation needs of the Watervliet community. Public input is a key component of this process and the development of this plan. The methods used for soliciting public input included a survey, public comment period for the draft plan, and a public hearing. These were broad enough to represent the community at large. Participants included members of the public at all age levels as well as key stakeholders in parks and recreation planning within the City.

### 1. Survey

An online survey was conducted in October and November of 2019. The survey had a total of 159 respondents. All household members, adults and children, were asked to complete the survey. Some key takeaways from the results are summarized below. The full survey is available in Appendix A.

- A majority of respondents (57%) were full time **city residents**, with 37% responding from a neighboring community.
- Respondent **age groups** were fairly evenly distributed between ages 21-29 (11%), 30-39 (26%), 40-49 (25%), 50-59 (19%) and 60 and older (17%).
- Six respondents indicated their household had **special accessibility needs** for park amenities.
- 66% of respondents indicated they strongly encourage **parks and public open space development**.
- Highly available recreation opportunities included fishing, walking trails, athletic fields, boating and canoeing/kayaking. A community recreation center, splash pad and ice skating were listed as least available.





- The two highest ranked actions indicated by respondents were to **maintain/develop recreational trails and bike paths**, and **protect water resources**.
- How well the City provided services were ranked as below:

|  | Very Well | Well   | Average | Poor   | Very Poor | Don't Know |
|--|-----------|--------|---------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Development and maintenance of a system of bike lanes and trails               | 5.66%     | 12.58% | 37.74%  | 16.98% | 9.43%     | 17.61%     |
| Maintenance of public landscaping and street trees                             | 11.95%    | 42.14% | 37.11%  | 3.14%  | 4.40%     | 1.26%      |
| Number of outdoor and open space areas   | 11.32%    | 22.01% | 44.03%  | 12.58% | 3.77%     | 6.29%      |
| Park maintenance and upkeep  | 13.21%    | 42.14% | 30.82%  | 5.03%  | 3.14%     | 5.66%      |
| Maintaining accessibility to the park system to persons of all economic levels | 25.79%    | 37.11% | 24.53%  | 3.77%  | 0.63%     | 8.18%      |
| Maintaining accessibility to the park system for persons of all abilities      | 16.35%    | 33.96% | 25.79%  | 8.18%  | 2.52%     | 13.21%     |

- The majority of respondents felt **safe to very safe** in the parks (81%).
- **Hays Park** was the most used park. Few people are aware of the existence of **Sterner Park**.
- 77% of respondents would favor an **improved bike network** and 93% would support an improved/expanded **trail system for walking and hiking**.
- Open ended responses indicated the community liked its parks, the **disc golf**, water and walking trails. Many were very appreciative that the city sought their input through the survey.
- Many of the open ended comments asking for things they didn't like mentioned the need for **public restrooms to** be open at all parks, consistent maintenance not being done, that parks are closed in the winter, and equipment is out of date.
- Suggested improvements for the parks included adding a **splash pad**, updating equipment, keeping bathrooms open, a **dog park**, expanding bike, hiking and walking **trails**, and doing something with the former paper mill site.
- Respondents seem to enjoy their community very much and support improvements to public recreation.



## **2. Public Review and Hearing of Draft Plan**

The final draft of this Plan was made available at Watervliet City Hall and the City's website on December 6, 2019. A notice of availability to review the plan was published in the Tri-City Record on December 5, 2019.

Following the review period, a public hearing was held January 7, 2020 at City Hall, 158 W. Pleasant Street, Watervliet, Michigan.

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## Goals and Objectives

Information gathered from the community description, inventory, and a public survey was evaluated and used to formulate a mission, goals, and objectives. These goals form the basis of the Action Plan in the next chapter.

### Goals

**Goal 1** - Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens regardless of age or ability.

Objective: Provide ADA accessible routes to all public recreation within the city

*A wide range of ages and ability levels exist within the community. Feedback from the public survey indicated a need for more paved and ADA paths to reach all the recreation options available.*

**Goal 2** – Work to maximize utilization of parks.

Objective: Provide amenities, maintenance, signage, recreation equipment, lighting etc. to provide maximum enjoyment and use of parks.

*Community members enjoy the parks but expressed a desire for improvements to make them more usable. Suggestions included more lighting to expand hours of use, more recreation options at each park, open bathrooms, rules prominently displayed so everyone knows, more things to do at parks, etc.*

**Goal 3** – Collaborate and cooperate with surrounding communities and parks on recreation opportunities.

Objective: Work with Watervliet Township and Berrien County Parks to coordinate and extend recreation opportunities for the community.

*Public response indicated a high appreciation of recreation options provided by neighboring Berrien County Parks and Watervliet Township. Coordinating recreation options with these neighbors will offer the entire area more recreation options in the most cost effective and efficient way.*

**Goal 4** – Create more outdoor connectivity within community through trails and paths.

Objective: Provide the public with non-motorized options to access parks, exercise and enjoy the outdoors.

*Community response indicated a high level of interest in trails and connectivity between parks. The public also wants to enjoy recreation options locally, without having to drive somewhere.*

**Goal 5** – Protect, acquire, and preserve natural resources within the community.



Objective: To recognize the value of natural resources in the community and protect the natural environment through green infrastructure choices and sustainable design features in parks.

*The public enjoys and takes advantage of the natural landscape and expressed a strong desire to protect it while enjoying it.*

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## Action Plan

The previous sections of this plan have set the foundation for the following Action Plan. The Action Plan is intended to implement the Goals and Objectives over the next five years. The City hopes to initiate the following improvements as funding and planning allow. Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted according to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities.

Priorities are defined as follows:

- Priority A = Most Important (such as projects that are of highest concern for the community or rectify a problem)
- Priority B = Very Important (such as desirable improvements)
- Priority C = Important (such as projects that need further study)

Timeframes are defined as follow:

- 1 = Within one year
- 2 = 1-3 years
- 3 = 3+ years
- 4 = As available
- 5 = Ongoing

| No.              | Project   | Priority | Timeframe | Goal/Objective |
|------------------|---|----------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>Hays Park</b> |   |          |           |                |
| 1                | Update skate park   | B        | 2         | 1, 2, 3        |
| 2                | Make a useable ice rink                                       | C        | 5         | 1, 2           |
| 3                | Add dog park  | A        | 1         | 1, 2           |
| 4                | Add bike racks  | A        | 2         | 1, 2           |
| 5                | Open and maintain bathrooms from 7am to 10pm                  | A        | 1         | 1, 2           |
| 6                | Update and expand play equipment                              | B        | 2         | 1, 2           |
| 7                | Add ADA routes to all elements                                | A        | 5         | 1              |
| 8                | Update pavilion and repair/update grills and amenities        | A        | 2         | 1, 2           |
| 9                | Add picnic tables, benches                                    | C        | 5         | 1, 2           |
| 10               | Make park rules more prominent via signage and website        | C        | 5         | 2              |
| 11               | Add boardwalk along the river                                 | B        | 4         | 1, 2           |
| 12               | Improve maintenance at park                                   | C        | 4         | 2              |
| 13               | Add/improve parking   | A        | 4         | 1, 2           |
| 14               | Expand options that support the Paw Paw River Water Trail use | A        | 5         | 4              |
| 15               | Bear Cove Water Fountain                                      | B        | 3         | 5              |



| No.                  | Project  | Priority | Timeframe | Goal/Objective |
|----------------------|--|----------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>Flaherty Park</b> |  |          |           |                |
| 16                   | Add ADA pathways to all elements   | A        | 2         | 1              |
| 17                   | Add lighting to make park safer and more usable at twilight and extend its useful season                             | A        | 2         | 2              |
| 18                   | Open and maintain bathrooms from 7am to 10pm   | A        | 1         | 1, 2           |
| 19                   | Update and add play equipment  | B        | 4         | 1, 2           |
| 20                   | Add bike racks   | A        | 2         | 1, 2           |
| 21                   | Expand disc golf   | C        | 4         | 1, 2           |
| 22                   | Add landscaping enhancements   | B        | 5         | 2              |
| 23                   | Add picnic tables, benches   | C        | 4         | 1, 2           |
| 24                   | Make park rules more prominent via signage and website   | A        | 1         | 2              |
| 25                   | Add more recreation options  | B        | 2         | 1, 2           |
| 26                   | Add concerts at the park   | C        | 3         | 2              |
| 27                   | Improve maintenance at park  | B        | 3         | 2              |
| 28                   | Add Parking  | C        | 3         | 1, 2           |
| <b>Sterner Park</b>  |  |          |           |                |
| 29                   | Increase awareness of park through signage and visual improvements   | C        | 5         | 2              |
| 30                   | Add ADA pathways   | A        | 4         | 1              |
| 31                   | Add picnic tables, benches, amenities  | B        | 5         | 1, 2           |
| 32                   | Improve access to designated trout stream fishing through aesthetic improvements, amenities and ADA accessible paths | A        | 2         | 1, 2, 5        |
| <b>Veterans Park</b> |  |          |           |                |
| 33                   | Add benches, amenities, water fountain - all with ADA access.  | B        | 4         | 1, 2           |
| 34                   | Add landscaping and/or artwork enhancements  | B        | 2         | 2              |
| 35                   | Incorporate rain garden  | C        | 3         | 5              |

| No.             | Project  | Priority | Timeframe | Goal/Objective |
|-----------------|--|----------|-----------|----------------|
| <b>Citywide</b> |  |          |           |                |
| 36              | Add bike trails throughout   | A        | 2         | 3, 4           |
| 37              | Increase wayfinding signage to parks and trails                        | A        | 2         | 3, 4           |
| 38              | Connect Hays Park and Flaherty Park with walking path                  | C        | 3         | 3, 4           |
| 39              | Develop recreation programs for children and adults in parks           | B        | 3         | 1, 2, 3, 4     |
| 40              | Add paved trails throughout community. Connect to other trail networks | A        | 5         | 3, 4           |
| 41              | Find a location for a splash pad                                       | C        | 3         | 2              |
| 42              | Add winter activity options in parks – cross country skiing, curling.  | C        | 3         | 1, 2, 5        |
| 43              | Coordinate park improvements with Berrien County Park plans.           | A        | 1         | 3, 4           |
| 44              | Develop volunteer support of parks and park activities                 | A        | 2         | 2, 3, 5        |
| 45              | Maintain Paw Paw River Water Trail                                     | A        | 5         | 3, 4, 5        |



## Appendix A – Supporting Documents

**Copy of Notice of Plan Review and Public Hearing, Affidavit of Publication**

**Public Comments Received During Comment Period:**

DRAFT

DRAFT



**Resolution Adopting the Plan**

DRAFT

## Plan Certification Checklist

DRAFT



DRAFT

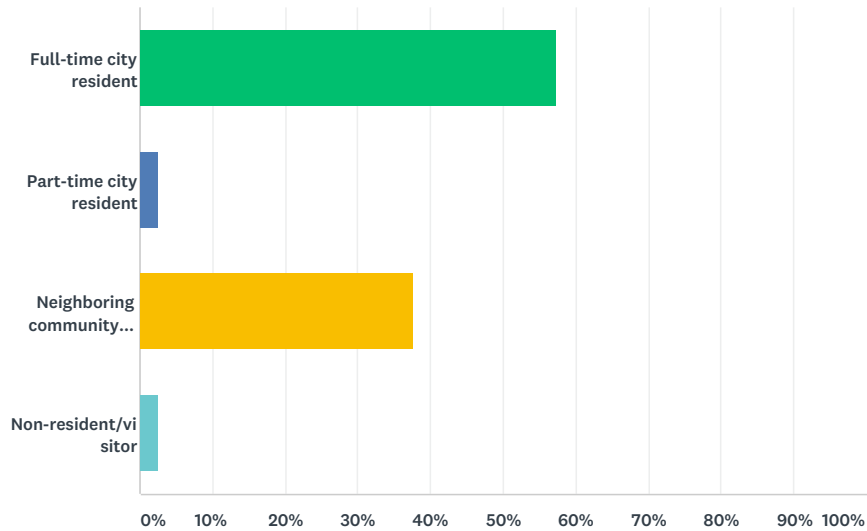
## Appendix B – Public Survey Results

DRAFT



## Q1 Which of the choices represents your residency in Watervliet?

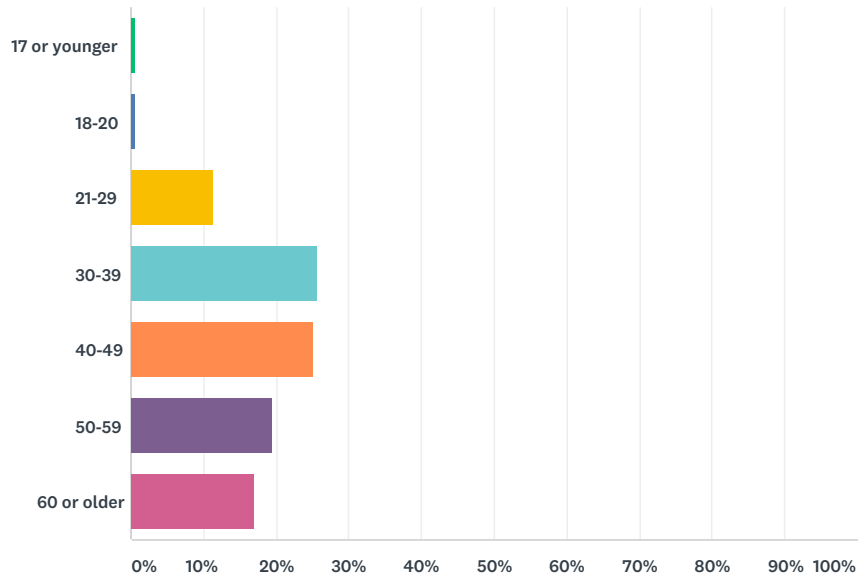
Answered: 159 Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES                 | RESPONSES |     |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----|
| Full-time city resident        | 57.23%    | 91  |
| Part-time city resident        | 2.52%     | 4   |
| Neighboring community resident | 37.74%    | 60  |
| Non-resident/visitor           | 2.52%     | 4   |
| TOTAL                          |           | 159 |

## Q2 What is your age?

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0



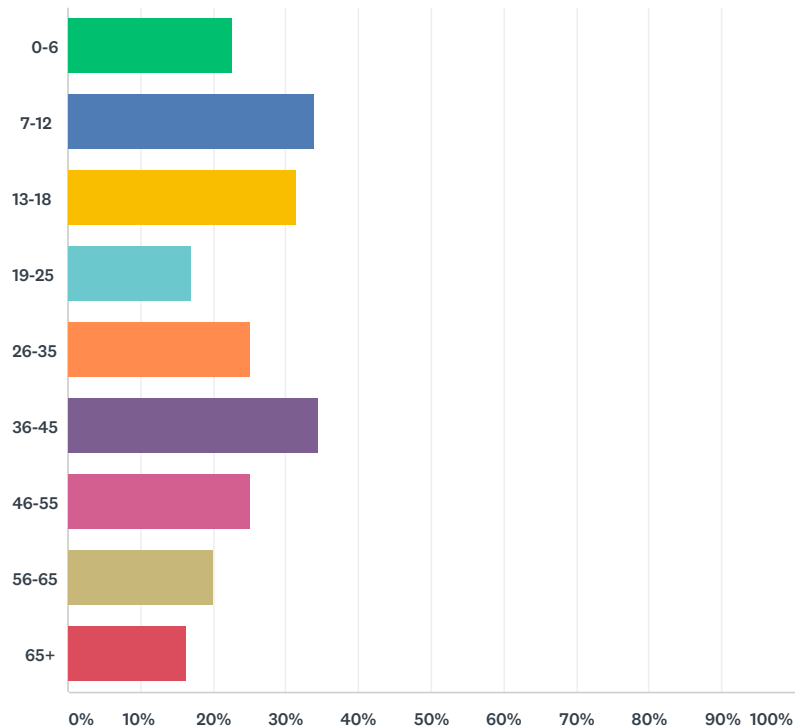
| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |   |
|----------------|-----------|---|
| 17 or younger  | 0.63%     | 1 |
| 18-20          | 0.63%     | 1 |

### City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|              |        |            |
|--------------|--------|------------|
| 21-29        | 11.32% | 18         |
| 30-39        | 25.79% | 41         |
| 40-49        | 25.16% | 40         |
| 50-59        | 19.50% | 31         |
| 60 or older  | 16.98% | 27         |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |        | <b>159</b> |

**Q3 Which of the following age groups does your household consist of?  
Please select all that apply.**

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0



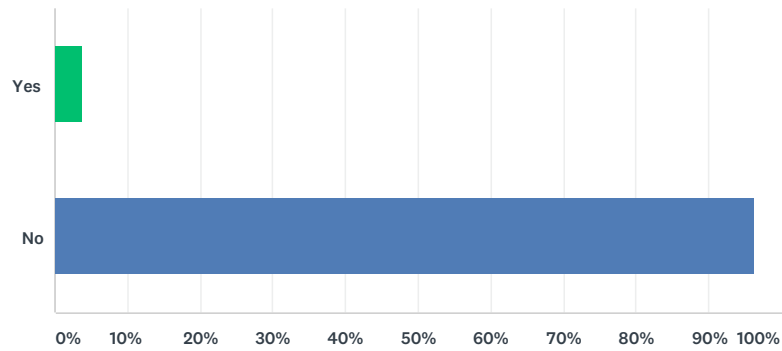
| ANSWER CHOICES                | RESPONSES |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 0-6                           | 22.64% 36 |
| 7-12                          | 33.96% 54 |
| 13-18                         | 31.45% 50 |
| 19-25                         | 16.98% 27 |
| 26-35                         | 25.16% 40 |
| 36-45                         | 34.59% 55 |
| 46-55                         | 25.16% 40 |
| 56-65                         | 20.13% 32 |
| 65+                           | 16.35% 26 |
| <b>Total Respondents: 159</b> |           |

**Q4 Does anyone in your household have special accessibility needs for park amenities?**

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0



## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

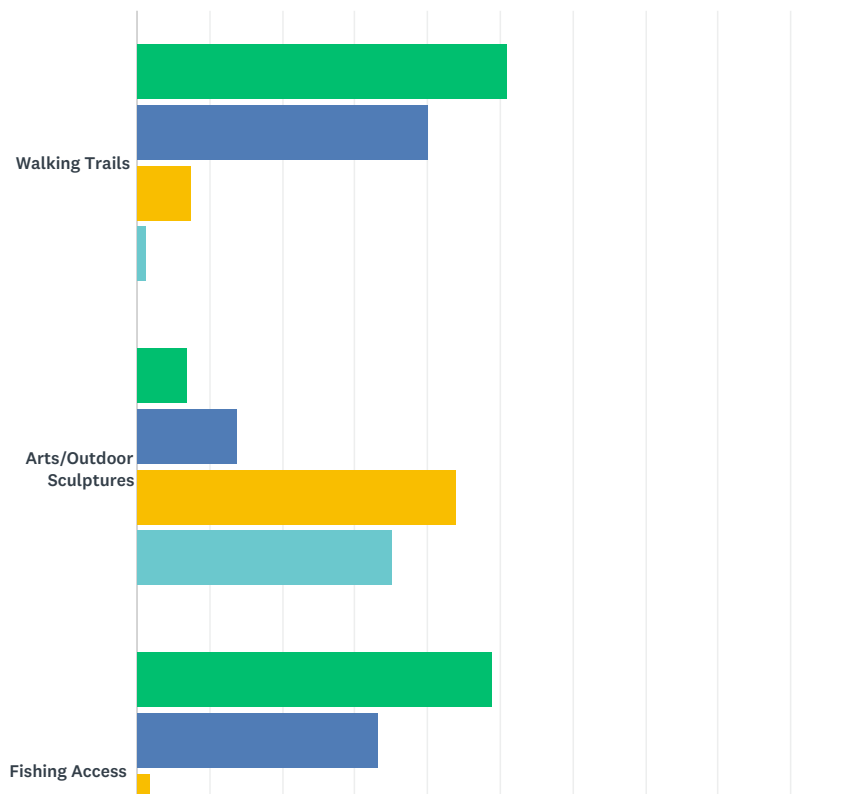


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES  |
|----------------|------------|
| Yes            | 3.77% 6    |
| No             | 96.23% 153 |
| TOTAL          | 159        |

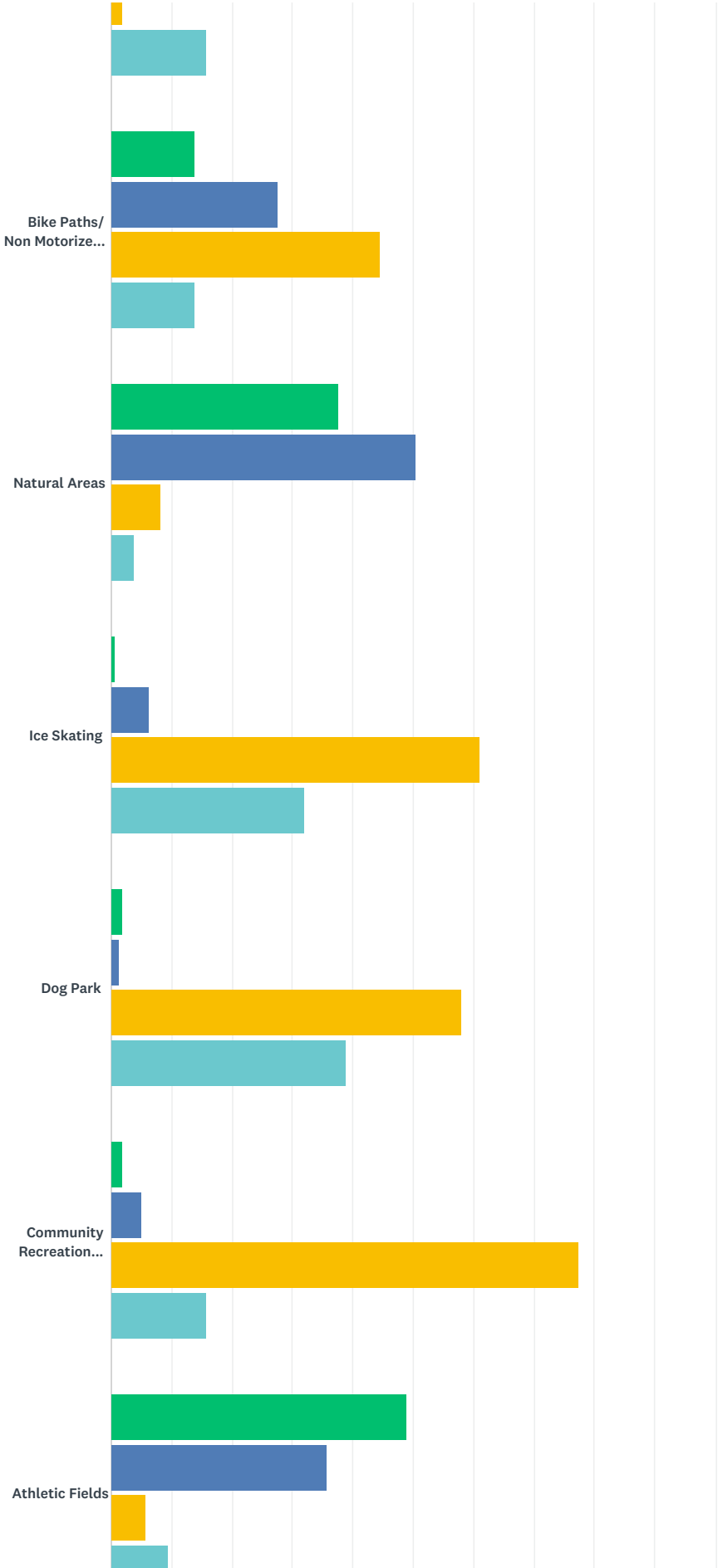
| # | IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY   | DATE                |
|---|--|---------------------|
| 1 | Husband is in a wheelchair and a paralyzed. Needs to be accessible for him to go with our children | 10/15/2019 10:23 PM |
| 2 | We take a stroller to the parks.   | 10/15/2019 8:40 PM  |
| 3 | Handicapped parking  | 10/15/2019 4:08 PM  |
| 4 | Walking disability   | 10/15/2019 3:05 PM  |
| 5 | Wheelchair   | 10/15/2019 2:11 PM  |
| 6 | Handicap   | 10/14/2019 8:27 PM  |

**Q5 How available and adequate are these opportunities in and near Watervliet? Please choose one response for each item.**

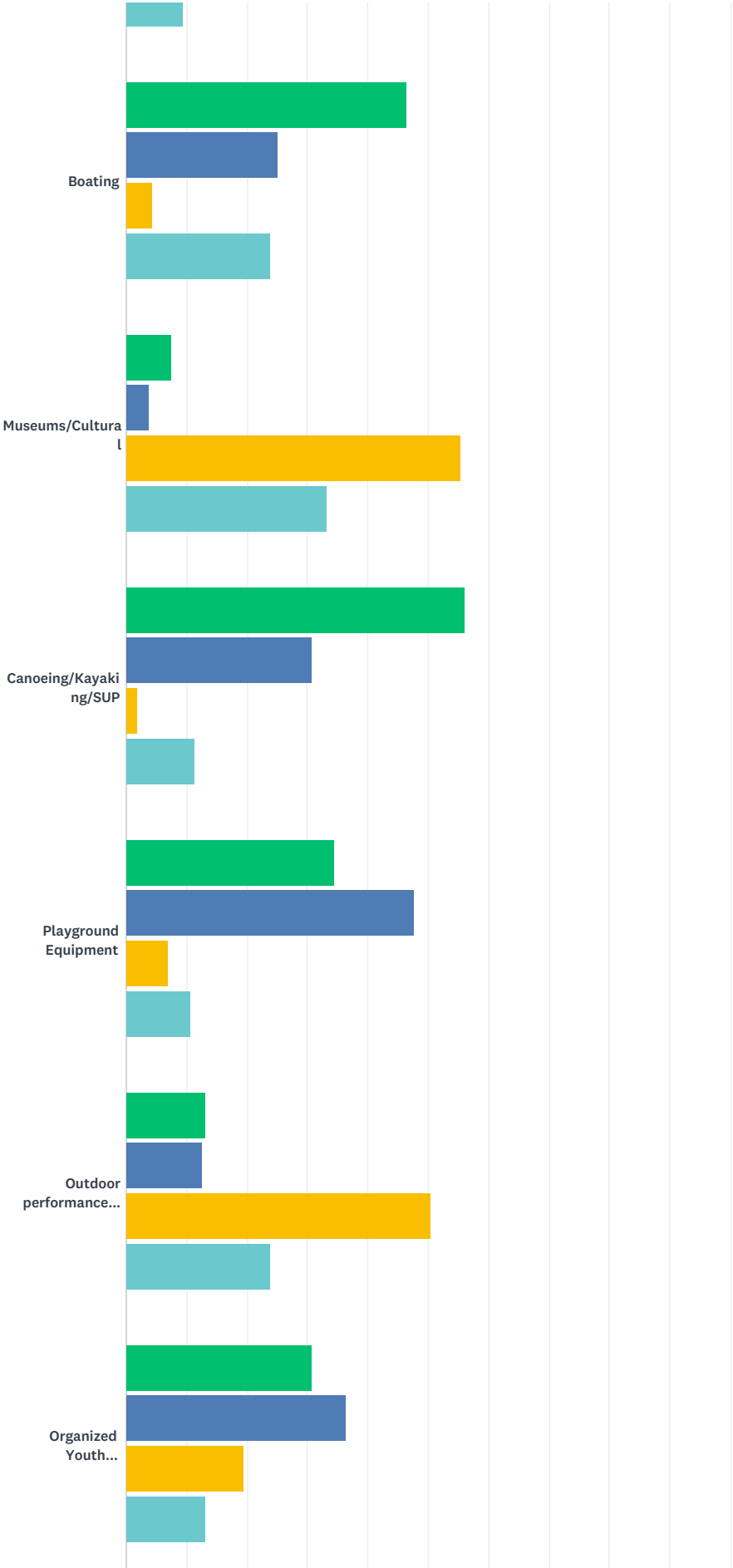
Answered: 159 Skipped: 0



City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

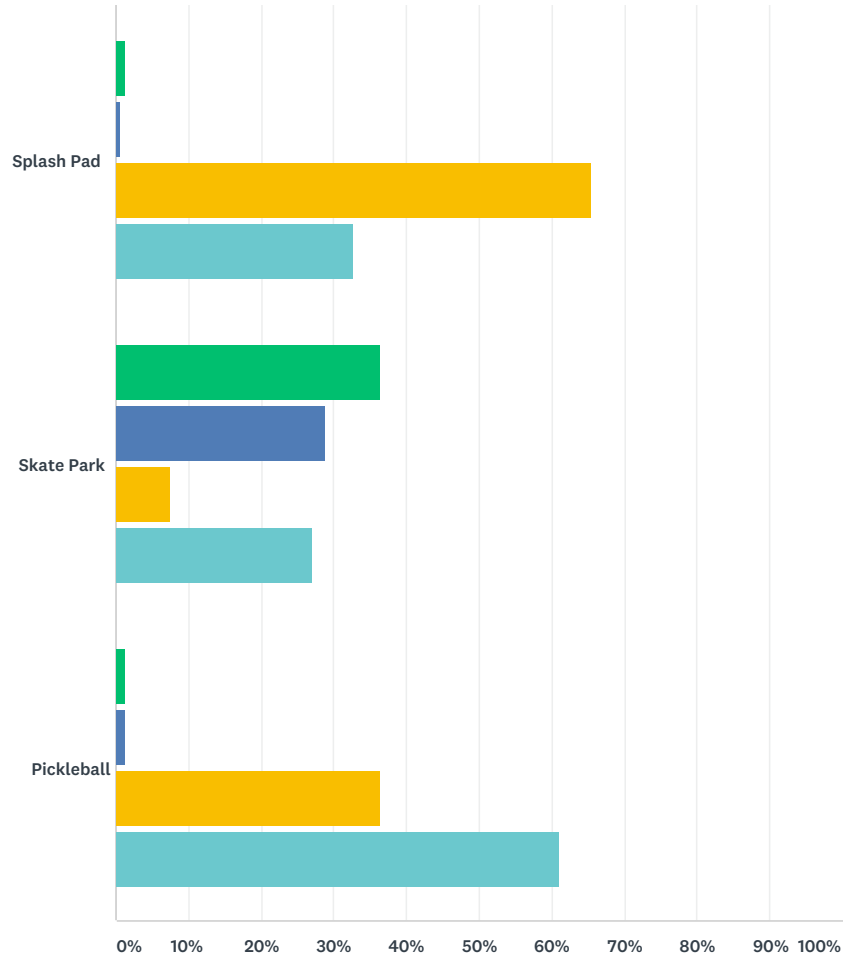


City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey





# City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey



■ Available and Adequate
 ■ Available but Needs Improvement
 ■ Not Available (Wanted)
 ■ Not Interested

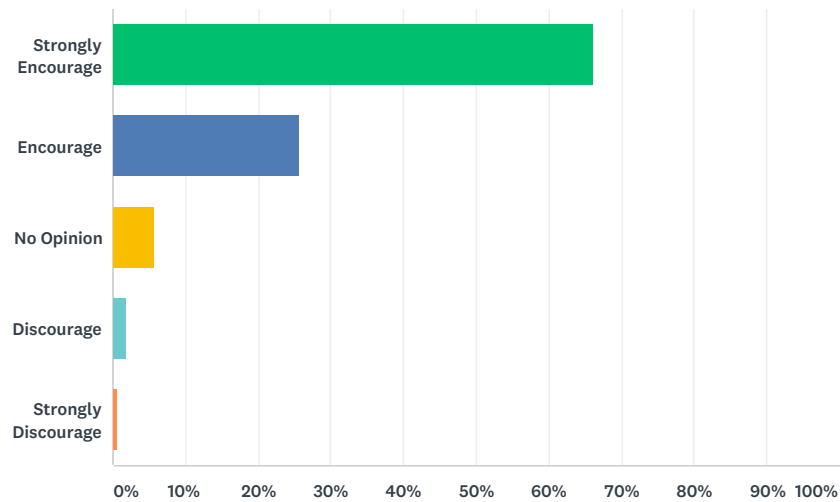
|                                  | AVAILABLE AND ADEQUATE | AVAILABLE BUT NEEDS IMPROVEMENT | NOT AVAILABLE (WANTED) | NOT INTERESTED | TOTAL |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Walking Trails                   | 50.94%<br>81           | 40.25%<br>64                    | 7.55%<br>12            | 1.26%<br>2     | 159   |
| Arts/Outdoor Sculptures          | 6.92%<br>11            | 13.84%<br>22                    | 44.03%<br>70           | 35.22%<br>56   | 159   |
| Fishing Access                   | 49.06%<br>78           | 33.33%<br>53                    | 1.89%<br>3             | 15.72%<br>25   | 159   |
| Bike Paths/ Non Motorized Trails | 13.84%<br>22           | 27.67%<br>44                    | 44.65%<br>71           | 13.84%<br>22   | 159   |
| Natural Areas                    | 37.74%<br>60           | 50.31%<br>80                    | 8.18%<br>13            | 3.77%<br>6     | 159   |
| Ice Skating                      | 0.63%<br>1             | 6.29%<br>10                     | 61.01%<br>97           | 32.08%<br>51   | 159   |
| Dog Park                         | 1.89%<br>3             | 1.26%<br>2                      | 57.86%<br>92           | 38.99%<br>62   | 159   |
| Community Recreation Center      | 1.89%<br>3             | 5.03%<br>8                      | 77.36%<br>123          | 15.72%<br>25   | 159   |
| Athletic Fields                  | 49.06%<br>78           | 35.85%<br>57                    | 5.66%<br>9             | 9.43%<br>15    | 159   |
| Boating                          | 46.54%<br>74           | 25.16%<br>40                    | 4.40%<br>7             | 23.90%<br>38   | 159   |
| Museums/Cultural                 | 7.55%<br>12            | 3.77%<br>6                      | 55.35%<br>88           | 33.33%<br>53   | 159   |

### City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|                                     |              |              |               |              |     |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-----|
| Canoeing/Kayaking/SUP               | 55.97%<br>89 | 30.82%<br>49 | 1.89%<br>3    | 11.32%<br>18 | 159 |
| Playground Equipment                | 34.59%<br>55 | 47.80%<br>76 | 6.92%<br>11   | 10.69%<br>17 | 159 |
| Outdoor performance space           | 13.21%<br>21 | 12.58%<br>20 | 50.31%<br>80  | 23.90%<br>38 | 159 |
| Organized Youth Recreation Programs | 30.82%<br>49 | 36.48%<br>58 | 19.50%<br>31  | 13.21%<br>21 | 159 |
| Splash Pad                          | 1.26%<br>2   | 0.63%<br>1   | 65.41%<br>104 | 32.70%<br>52 | 159 |
| Skate Park                          | 36.48%<br>58 | 28.93%<br>46 | 7.55%<br>12   | 27.04%<br>43 | 159 |
| Pickleball                          | 1.26%<br>2   | 1.26%<br>2   | 36.48%<br>58  | 61.01%<br>97 | 159 |

### Q6 How much should the City of Watervliet encourage parks and public open space development?

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0

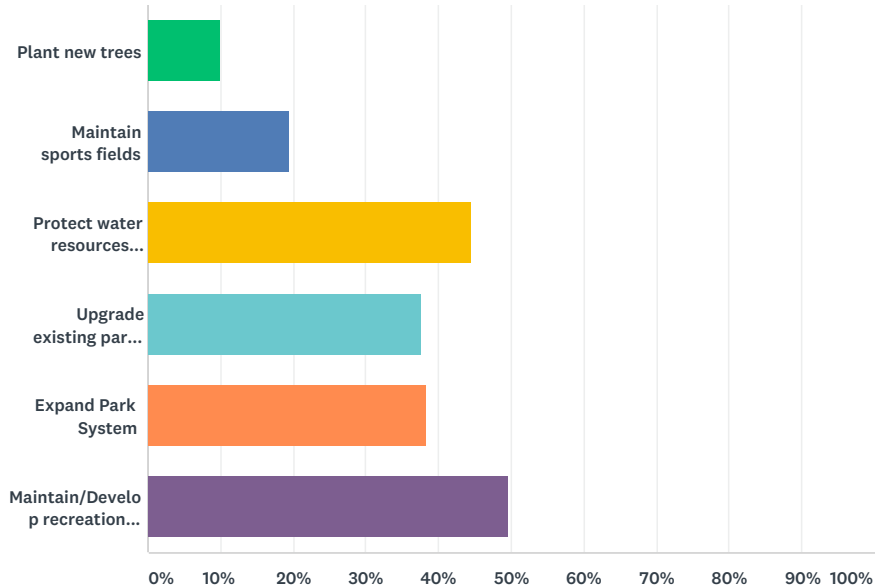


| ANSWER CHOICES      | RESPONSES |            |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Strongly Encourage  | 66.04%    | 105        |
| Encourage           | 25.79%    | 41         |
| No Opinion          | 5.66%     | 9          |
| Discourage          | 1.89%     | 3          |
| Strongly Discourage | 0.63%     | 1          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        |           | <b>159</b> |

### Q7 Please select the two actions most important to you from the following choices:

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0

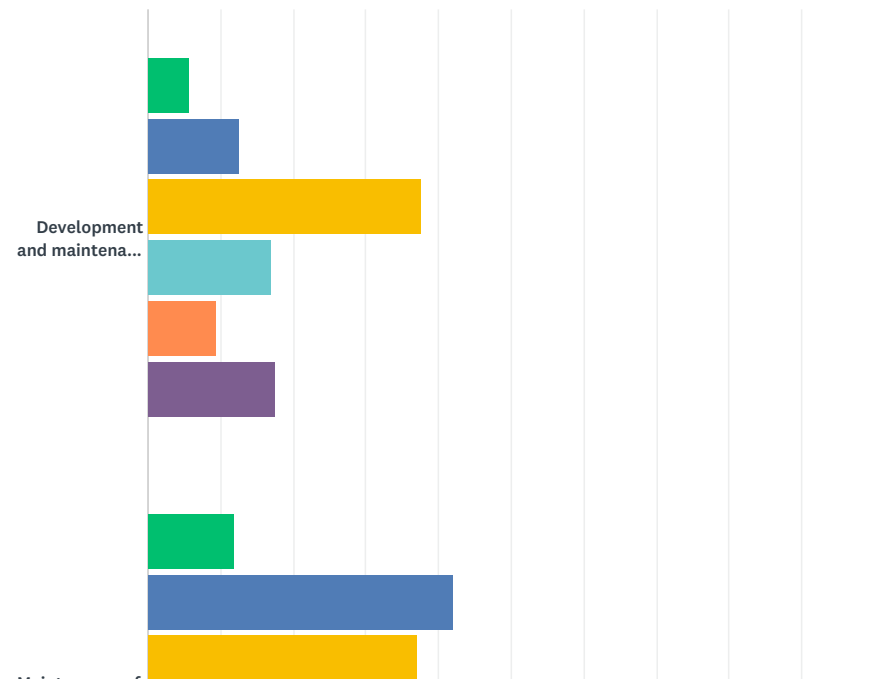
City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey



| ANSWER CHOICES   | RESPONSES |    |
|--|-----------|----|
| Plant new trees  | 10.06%    | 16 |
| Maintain sports fields   | 19.50%    | 31 |
| Protect water resources (Streams, rivers, wetlands, lakes and groundwater) | 44.65%    | 71 |
| Upgrade existing park amenities  | 37.74%    | 60 |
| Expand Park System   | 38.36%    | 61 |
| Maintain/Develop recreational trails and bike paths                        | 49.69%    | 79 |
| Total Respondents: 159   |           |    |

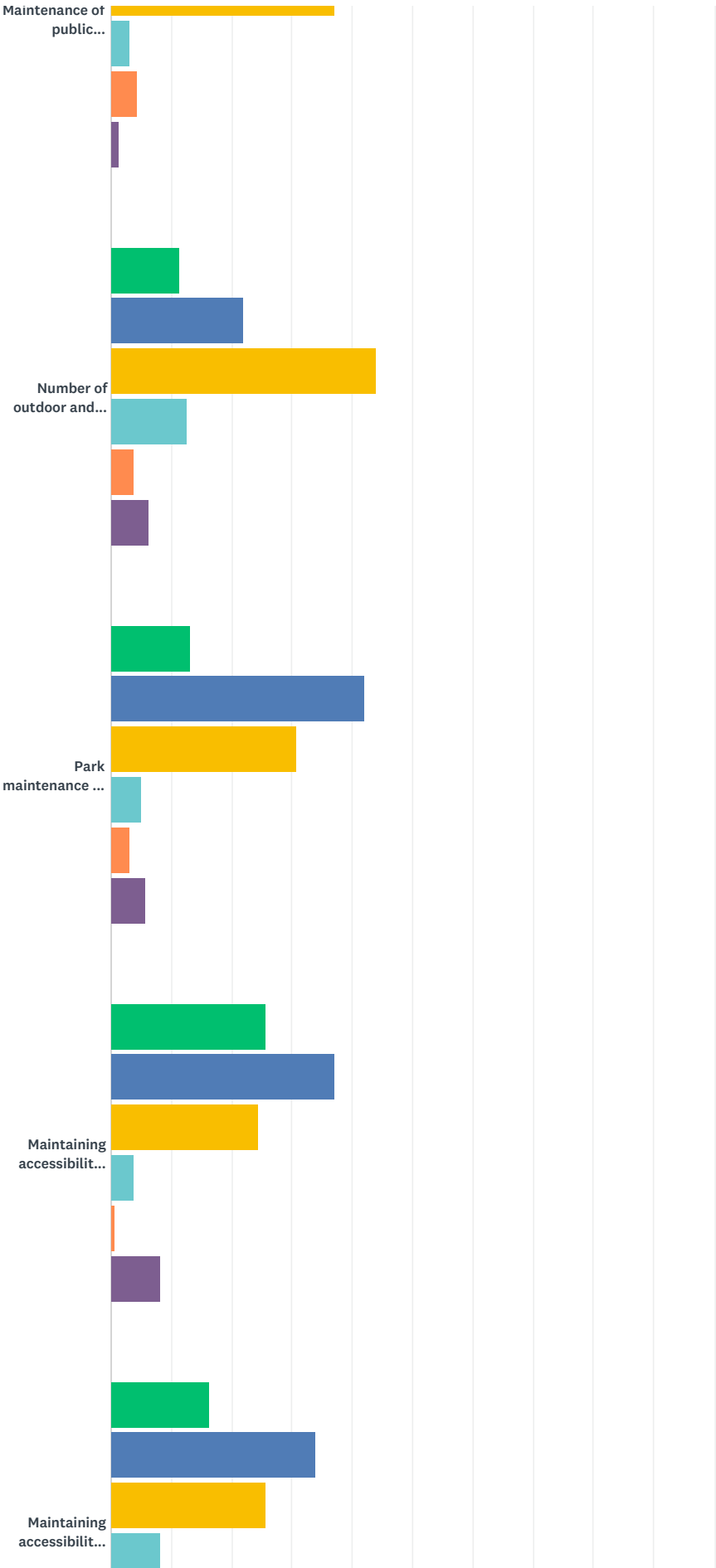
Q8 From your own experience please indicate how well you think the City has provided each of the services below. Choose from one of the following choices:

Answered: 159    Skipped: 0

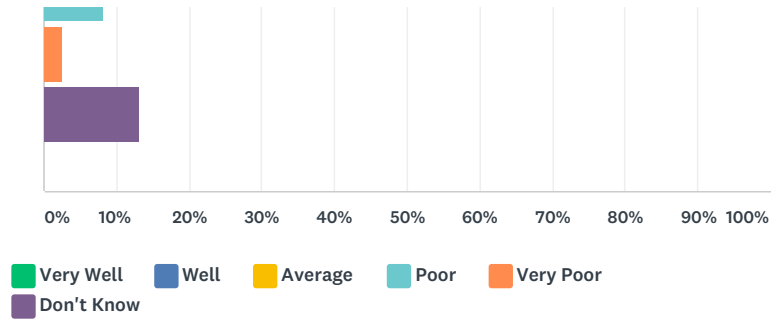




City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey



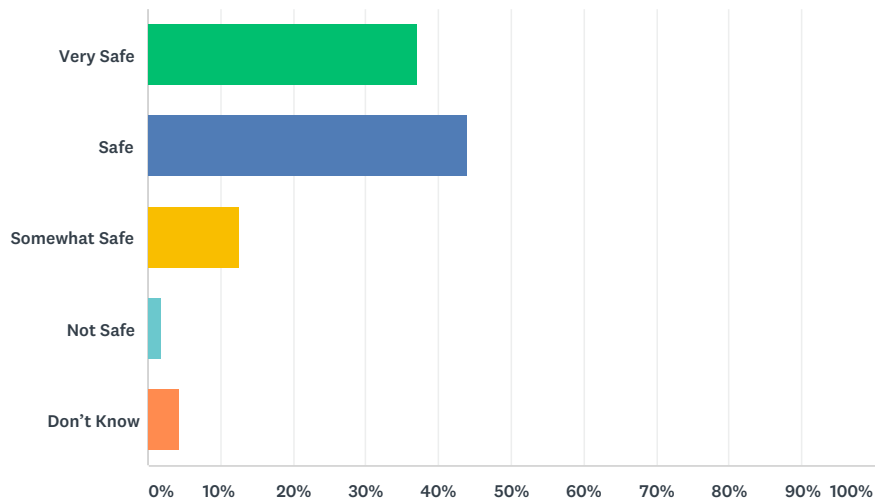
### City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey



|  | VERY WELL    | WELL         | AVERAGE      | POOR         | VERY POOR   | DON'T KNOW   | TOTAL |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| Development and maintenance of a system of bike lanes and trails               | 5.66%<br>9   | 12.58%<br>20 | 37.74%<br>60 | 16.98%<br>27 | 9.43%<br>15 | 17.61%<br>28 | 159   |
| Maintenance of public landscaping and street trees                             | 11.95%<br>19 | 42.14%<br>67 | 37.11%<br>59 | 3.14%<br>5   | 4.40%<br>7  | 1.26%<br>2   | 159   |
| Number of outdoor and open space areas   | 11.32%<br>18 | 22.01%<br>35 | 44.03%<br>70 | 12.58%<br>20 | 3.77%<br>6  | 6.29%<br>10  | 159   |
| Park maintenance and upkeep  | 13.21%<br>21 | 42.14%<br>67 | 30.82%<br>49 | 5.03%<br>8   | 3.14%<br>5  | 5.66%<br>9   | 159   |
| Maintaining accessibility to the park system to persons of all economic levels | 25.79%<br>41 | 37.11%<br>59 | 24.53%<br>39 | 3.77%<br>6   | 0.63%<br>1  | 8.18%<br>13  | 159   |
| Maintaining accessibility to the park system for persons of all abilities      | 16.35%<br>26 | 33.96%<br>54 | 25.79%<br>41 | 8.18%<br>13  | 2.52%<br>4  | 13.21%<br>21 | 159   |

### Q9 Level of personal safety felt in the parks during the day?

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0

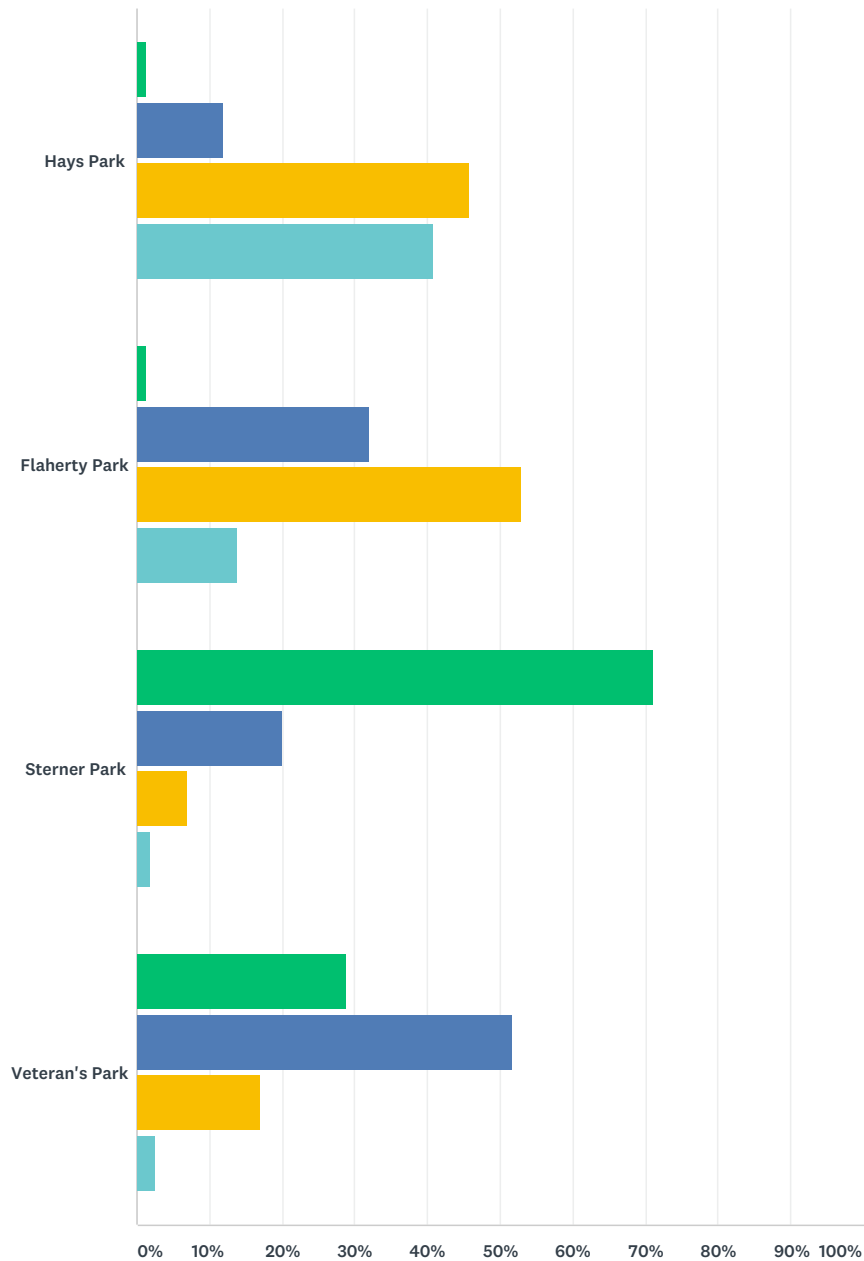


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Very Safe      | 37.11%    | 59  |
| Safe           | 44.03%    | 70  |
| Somewhat Safe  | 12.58%    | 20  |
| Not Safe       | 1.89%     | 3   |
| Don't Know     | 4.40%     | 7   |
| TOTAL          |           | 159 |

### Q10 What is your awareness/usage of the following parks?

## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

Answered: 159 Skipped: 0



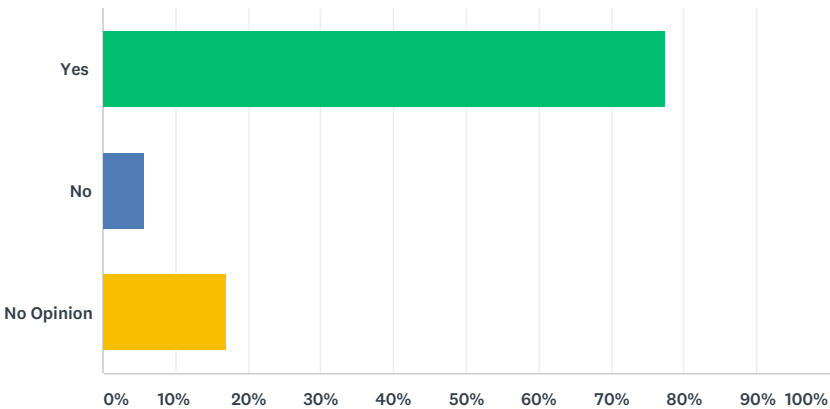
■ Unaware it existed
 ■ Aware of it but never used
 ■ Use it occasionally
 ■ Use it regularly

|                | UNAWARE IT EXISTED | AWARE OF IT BUT NEVER USED | USE IT OCCASIONALLY | USE IT REGULARLY | TOTAL |
|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------|
| Hays Park      | 1.26%<br>2         | 11.95%<br>19               | 45.91%<br>73        | 40.88%<br>65     | 159   |
| Flaherty Park  | 1.26%<br>2         | 32.08%<br>51               | 52.83%<br>84        | 13.84%<br>22     | 159   |
| Sterner Park   | 71.07%<br>113      | 20.13%<br>32               | 6.92%<br>11         | 1.89%<br>3       | 159   |
| Veteran's Park | 28.93%<br>46       | 51.57%<br>82               | 16.98%<br>27        | 2.52%<br>4       | 159   |

Q11 Would you favor an improved bike network (either non-motorized or

## on-road facilities) through Watervliet?

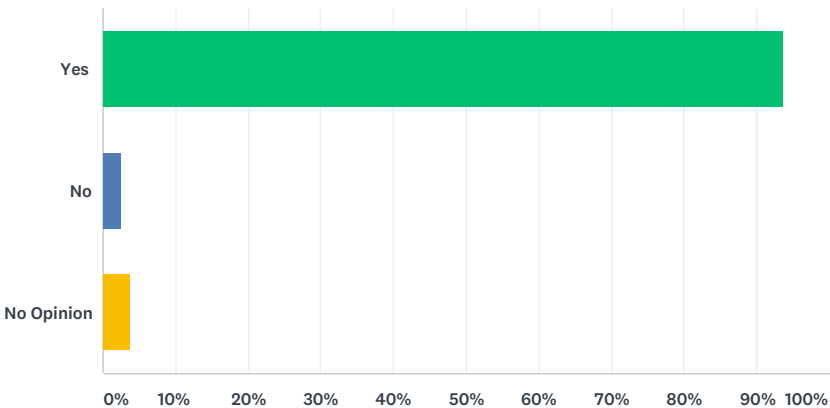
Answered: 159   Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes            | 77.36%    | 123 |
| No             | 5.66%     | 9   |
| No Opinion     | 16.98%    | 27  |
| TOTAL          |           | 159 |

## Q12 Would you favor an improved/ expanded trail system for walking and hiking?

Answered: 159   Skipped: 0



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Yes            | 93.71%    | 149 |
| No             | 2.52%     | 4   |
| No Opinion     | 3.77%     | 6   |
| TOTAL          |           | 159 |

## Q13 What I like about the City’s Parks & Recreation Opportunities:

Answered: 112   Skipped: 47

| # | RESPONSES | DATE |
|---|-----------|------|
|---|-----------|------|



## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 1  | A variety of parks and amenities   | 11/18/2019 6:23 PM  |
| 2  | City has a great landscape for parks   | 11/17/2019 8:12 PM  |
| 3  | NA   | 11/17/2019 1:24 PM  |
| 4  | Truly a beautiful area for families and more   | 11/16/2019 5:55 PM  |
| 5  | I like that we utilize them during the 4th of July festival, just wish we used them more often.  | 11/16/2019 2:34 PM  |
| 6  | Everyone knows everyone.   | 11/14/2019 9:27 PM  |
| 7  | Good park for size of city   | 11/14/2019 5:56 PM  |
| 8  | I love everything except the restroom situation. I know vandalism can be an issue and port a potties are an easy answer, but they are not for families. You can't take your family into the port a potties and they close the ones at Hays. This is a huge issue for families.   | 11/14/2019 5:38 PM  |
| 9  | The newest walking trail is now available.   | 11/14/2019 4:55 PM  |
| 10 | Love the new park and excited to see what the future holds.  | 11/14/2019 4:52 PM  |
| 11 | We need a multi purpose place! A place that would bring money to the city but also a place for kids to hang out safe. It would bring jobs also.. an area that has a dog park, a city pool/splash pad, a recreation center.. this could all be done in one spot. AND OUR CITY NEEDS IT BADLY  | 11/14/2019 4:44 PM  |
| 12 | No opinion   | 11/14/2019 4:19 PM  |
| 13 | Everything   | 11/14/2019 4:00 PM  |
| 14 | The fact your asking for input.  | 11/14/2019 3:49 PM  |
| 15 | Number of park options   | 11/14/2019 3:24 PM  |
| 16 | Flatly disc golf course is very maintained.  | 11/14/2019 10:56 AM |
| 17 | Disc Golf Course. Though it needs a better one where you will not lose your disc in the river. Number 1 reason that I don't play that course is hole 7. Also if it wasn't for the actual disc golf group there it was not well taken care of until this year. And these guys are volunteers, who's being paid to run and take care of the parts. Volunteers shouldn't have to. | 11/14/2019 9:58 AM  |
| 18 | Availability   | 11/14/2019 8:26 AM  |
| 19 | Disc Golf  | 11/14/2019 7:19 AM  |
| 20 | Disc golf park is great. Baseball fields are great. Skate park is decent.  | 11/14/2019 7:15 AM  |
| 21 | Disc golf at Flaherty  | 11/14/2019 7:03 AM  |
| 22 | The walking trails, fishing areas and the ball fields.   | 11/14/2019 6:17 AM  |
| 23 | The new trails and the kayak launch  | 11/13/2019 9:39 PM  |
| 24 | Love walking and biking  | 11/13/2019 7:01 PM  |
| 25 | Boat launch and fishing spots  | 11/13/2019 6:06 PM  |
| 26 | Disc golf course   | 11/13/2019 5:50 PM  |
| 27 | I like that they may have an opportunity to make improvements  | 11/13/2019 4:58 PM  |
| 28 | That we have several parks available for use. That being said we need to set a timeline for regular upgrading and maintenance.   | 11/12/2019 4:09 PM  |
| 29 | I like the playground at Hayes park. It would be nice to have one more centrally located too.  | 11/11/2019 5:48 PM  |
| 30 | It's a beautiful area and we should be proud to show it off.   | 11/9/2019 8:43 AM   |
| 31 | The city's parks are beautiful! There are amenities that can be added to improve as funding permits.   | 11/6/2019 5:02 PM   |
| 32 | Hays park is by far the safest and most visible park. With the most enjoyable things for the youths.   | 11/6/2019 5:31 AM   |
| 33 | They almost have a creek or river in them  | 11/6/2019 4:29 AM   |
| 34 | I really enjoy the newest walking trail. It's lovely.  | 11/6/2019 2:55 AM   |
| 35 | The new pathways   | 11/6/2019 12:00 AM  |
| 36 | they're appropriately sized for the size of the town.  | 11/5/2019 7:52 PM   |
| 37 | None   | 11/5/2019 6:16 PM   |
| 38 | The playgrounds  | 11/5/2019 4:54 PM   |
| 39 | We really enjoyed the walking trails and kayak launch.   | 11/5/2019 4:17 PM   |
| 40 | It's a beautiful city. Thanks for the new trail  | 11/5/2019 4:05 PM   |
| 41 | I love the river side parks and the trails.  | 11/5/2019 3:46 PM   |
| 42 | They are very clean and safe.  | 11/5/2019 3:17 PM   |
| 43 | N/a  | 11/5/2019 1:04 PM   |

## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 44 | That they are making efforts toward improvement   | 11/5/2019 1:04 PM   |
| 45 | The ease of getting to it. But it is not safe out there.  | 11/5/2019 11:41 AM  |
| 46 | Very Beautiful  | 11/5/2019 10:28 AM  |
| 47 | Love the new County Park with the trail along the river! Wish it was longer but its a great start   | 11/5/2019 9:14 AM   |
| 48 | A place to get outside and go for a walk  | 11/5/2019 9:13 AM   |
| 49 | Not sure  | 11/5/2019 7:49 AM   |
| 50 | Very nice & personal able to work with. They do really seem to care about community   | 11/5/2019 7:31 AM   |
| 51 | Nice get-a-way to just go somewhere quiet and tranquil.   | 11/5/2019 7:15 AM   |
| 52 | Trails through woods and near river, resting spots along the way, trail is level and safe to walk on.   | 11/5/2019 7:00 AM   |
| 53 | The addition of the walking path on the river has been great. I wish it was longer though.  | 11/5/2019 6:57 AM   |
| 54 | The water and beautiful trees   | 11/5/2019 6:42 AM   |
| 55 | Hays park has greater potential. With a greater vision and grant money it could be a gem.   | 11/5/2019 6:42 AM   |
| 56 | It's exciting to be asked my opinion on the potential next steps  | 11/5/2019 6:36 AM   |
| 57 | Something for kids to do  | 11/5/2019 6:34 AM   |
| 58 | Seeking opportunities for improvement.  | 11/5/2019 6:32 AM   |
| 59 | Well maintained and great for the community   | 11/5/2019 6:27 AM   |
| 60 | .   | 11/5/2019 6:17 AM   |
| 61 | Not much  | 11/4/2019 11:15 PM  |
| 62 | They have improved since my children used in the 80's.  | 11/4/2019 1:51 PM   |
| 63 | No opinion  | 11/2/2019 4:32 PM   |
| 64 | Nothing.....  | 11/2/2019 3:26 PM   |
| 65 | Lots offered - inclusive - easy to find -   | 11/1/2019 8:51 AM   |
| 66 | The rec ball program is a huge benefit to many of the children of our community, but it would be nice if there were more varied activities/sports available.  | 11/1/2019 5:47 AM   |
| 67 | The river/kayak launch at both the County Park and Hays Park. I like that they are well maintained too.   | 10/30/2019 5:24 PM  |
| 68 | The signage and attention to detail by making nice cleared out areas with benches along the river. Clearing out and making the disc golf trails a lot easier to play on                                     | 10/29/2019 4:11 PM  |
| 69 | There's so much room for opportunity  | 10/29/2019 9:24 AM  |
| 70 | It encourages people to get outdoors and learn and creat memories with friends and family that you will never get online  | 10/29/2019 9:17 AM  |
| 71 | I love the trees!   | 10/29/2019 9:01 AM  |
| 72 | more things for us to do without having to drive 20+ minutes to do it.  | 10/29/2019 12:35 AM |
| 73 | There is lots of green space throughout town and many parks to use for all ages.  | 10/28/2019 10:04 PM |
| 74 | Well maintained!  | 10/27/2019 8:59 PM  |
| 75 | Kayaking  | 10/26/2019 10:27 PM |
| 76 | I like the Paw Paw Lake Trail.  | 10/26/2019 7:07 PM  |
| 77 | The disc golf course is nice, but It would be better if it was 18 holes which would make it a destination course for people passing through between Chicago and Holland or Kalamazoo                        | 10/24/2019 8:46 PM  |
| 78 | Incorporate Mill creek & PPR now with great opportunity for growth that could bring visitors  | 10/22/2019 6:33 PM  |
| 79 | They need be nice   | 10/22/2019 12:23 PM |
| 80 | Very happy you guys give a damn.  | 10/21/2019 12:48 PM |
| 81 | The new park is nice but we need to encourage outside participation to bring people to town such as fountains & theater & zip lining  | 10/18/2019 8:00 AM  |
| 82 | They are great opportunities to get outdoors.   | 10/17/2019 7:23 PM  |
| 83 | Frisbee golf courss   | 10/17/2019 6:18 PM  |
| 84 | always clean and well maintained  | 10/17/2019 4:02 PM  |
| 85 | Everything  | 10/17/2019 3:10 PM  |
| 86 | I love being able to take a vacation in my own town. And play wonderful sports like this disc golf check out our local sporting events through our children or take a nice leisurely stroll along the river | 10/17/2019 2:47 PM  |

## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|     |   |                     |
|-----|---|---------------------|
| 87  | There are a lot of well- maintained areas. I like that the trails feel woodsy and are not cleared too much, but just enough. I like the river lookouts and canoe/kayack launches. | 10/17/2019 12:22 PM |
| 88  | Hays Park is a blessing for the youth. The new paths across the river from Hays are awesome! Would love to see those expanded and connected to Hays.                              | 10/17/2019 8:43 AM  |
| 89  | Community center  | 10/17/2019 5:26 AM  |
| 90  | Love the Paw Paw River Walking Trail.   | 10/16/2019 12:20 AM |
| 91  | I like that the city is trying to preserve the land and natural spaces that it has and make it more usable to the public.   | 10/15/2019 10:23 PM |
| 92  | Walking path and bridge over paw paw river  | 10/15/2019 10:09 PM |
| 93  | There is a lot of potential   | 10/15/2019 10:09 PM |
| 94  | There are a lot of parks with paths where o can push a stroller.  | 10/15/2019 8:40 PM  |
| 95  | Disc Golf   | 10/15/2019 3:54 PM  |
| 96  | I really enjoy the new parks. Looking forward to disc golf in the spring  | 10/15/2019 3:05 PM  |
| 97  | I love our river exposure and a juice job has been done but needs further improvement through out city. What happen to the plan for south side area near school                   | 10/15/2019 2:11 PM  |
| 98  | We have pride in what we have!  | 10/15/2019 8:13 AM  |
| 99  | It is great. We are a small town and need more recreational areas to enjoy.   | 10/15/2019 12:17 AM |
| 100 | Hays park has nice area for Recreational ball. Everything is painted and looks nice.  | 10/14/2019 9:56 PM  |
| 101 | They offer water views  | 10/14/2019 9:20 PM  |
| 102 | Water access, kayak launches, walking/biking trails, fishing  | 10/14/2019 9:07 PM  |
| 103 | We love the rocks and the peaceful walks by the river   | 10/14/2019 9:05 PM  |
| 104 | I like the disc golf, the kayaking is great, the sports fields are always full and in good repair   | 10/14/2019 8:37 PM  |
| 105 | I like the improvements made to the parks thus far.   | 10/14/2019 8:21 PM  |
| 106 | all near waterways, accessible, easy parking, varieties of recreation available   | 10/14/2019 8:19 PM  |
| 107 | Generally clean, and not run down with hooligans.   | 10/14/2019 8:07 PM  |
| 108 | Plenty of space   | 10/14/2019 7:28 PM  |
| 109 | Good for a small city   | 10/14/2019 7:22 PM  |
| 110 | Close to home well thought out  | 10/14/2019 7:18 PM  |
| 111 | Great Potential   | 10/14/2019 6:48 PM  |
| 112 | Short commute for great playground equipment, nature walks with nice trails and plenty of outdoor scenery.  | 10/14/2019 6:41 PM  |

## Q14 What I don't like about the City's Parks & Recreation Opportunities:

Answered: 106   Skipped: 53

| #  | RESPONSES   | DATE               |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 1  | City is getting better about it but at times hasn't done the best job maintaining the parks   | 11/17/2019 8:12 PM |
| 2  | Could use more opportunities. Especially in winter. Either outdoor related or a facility to use publicly indoor in winter ie basketball/hockey, etc   | 11/17/2019 1:24 PM |
| 3  | Wish they could be upgraded a bit   | 11/16/2019 5:55 PM |
| 4  | Veteran's Park is very sparse. Maybe a nice plaque recognizing local residents. Hay's Park is a nice park that is well maintained. I wish they didn't have the ice rink there and it was downtown somewhere. Flaherty Park is a hidden gem that needs some major updating. The playground equipment is old and very limited. This park has the opportunity to offer great family events during the summer. I feel it is treated as out of site and out of mind. | 11/16/2019 2:34 PM |
| 5  | Too small   | 11/14/2019 9:27 PM |
| 6  | No tennis court or bike trail   | 11/14/2019 5:56 PM |
| 7  | I love everything, see previous comments about restrooms.   | 11/14/2019 5:38 PM |
| 8  | Not easily accessible to those in wheelchairs (ex: Hayes gets very muddy and does not offer a steady path between fields).  | 11/14/2019 4:55 PM |
| 9  | Parks are closed in the winter! It would be nice to use the new county park in late fall and winter   | 11/14/2019 4:52 PM |
| 10 | Not enough things to do   | 11/14/2019 4:44 PM |

## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 11 | No opinion  | 11/14/2019 4:19 PM  |
| 12 | Nothing   | 11/14/2019 4:00 PM  |
| 13 | Was difficult finding housing in the area but we would love to see fundraising to help with the parks.  | 11/14/2019 3:49 PM  |
| 14 | Non improved roads and parking and lack of walk paths trails to truly utilize the space. Need noted tree also Hayes to separate the areas.  | 11/14/2019 3:24 PM  |
| 15 | Would like to see more bike paths   | 11/14/2019 10:56 AM |
| 16 | As I said in other question Not sure if there is a team that really cares about taking care of the park. Seems like they just mow and leave. The real care is from volunteers which is sad. Plus no working bathrooms is disappointing. | 11/14/2019 9:58 AM  |
| 17 | Lack of continued improvement   | 11/14/2019 8:26 AM  |
| 18 | Needs more Disc golf  | 11/14/2019 7:19 AM  |
| 19 | That it took way too long for the city to start maintaining the disc golf park. Much improvement this year 2019 hope they keep it up.   | 11/14/2019 7:15 AM  |
| 20 | Not sure  | 11/14/2019 7:03 AM  |
| 21 | We need more things in this town for kids to do.  | 11/14/2019 6:17 AM  |
| 22 | Not enough to attract usage of downtown   | 11/13/2019 9:39 PM  |
| 23 | Need public restrooms not porta potty   | 11/13/2019 7:01 PM  |
| 24 | Nothing.  | 11/13/2019 4:58 PM  |
| 25 | Haphazard maintenance. For example, the family area at Hays. This area is not the most inviting place to me.  | 11/12/2019 4:09 PM  |
| 26 | No within walking distance  | 11/11/2019 5:48 PM  |
| 27 | I love parks!   | 11/6/2019 5:02 PM   |
| 28 | Flaharty Park I never use feels to secluded, not opened up enough for the public eye. Pretty park but needs something to change.  | 11/6/2019 5:31 AM   |
| 29 | No gardens of any kind. Shrubs, roses etc etc etc! Plain and boring.  | 11/6/2019 4:29 AM   |
| 30 | There's no community area, really.  | 11/6/2019 2:55 AM   |
| 31 | The ambiguous "dusk" closings   | 11/6/2019 12:00 AM  |
| 32 | they all need improvement and better maintenance.   | 11/5/2019 7:52 PM   |
| 33 | No bike trail opportunities.  | 11/5/2019 6:17 PM   |
| 34 | None  | 11/5/2019 6:16 PM   |
| 35 | None  | 11/5/2019 4:54 PM   |
| 36 | They are doing a good job.  | 11/5/2019 4:17 PM   |
| 37 | I'd take advantage of more hiking trails, if available.   | 11/5/2019 3:46 PM   |
| 38 | Not many of of them.  | 11/5/2019 3:17 PM   |
| 39 | N/a   | 11/5/2019 1:04 PM   |
| 40 | That there is so many things that could be getting done but don't   | 11/5/2019 1:04 PM   |
| 41 | It is not safe out there. There are men who hang out there for no apparent reason. We have been followed and we will not use it because of this. They are intimidating people and we are not the only ones who have experienced this.   | 11/5/2019 11:41 AM  |
| 42 | River needs a lot of cleaning up  | 11/5/2019 10:28 AM  |
| 43 | Wish there was more walking trails. I hope they expand the trail to the airport. The old spray field road   | 11/5/2019 9:13 AM   |
| 44 | Nothing   | 11/5/2019 7:49 AM   |
| 45 | They issue of who maintains Hayes Park  | 11/5/2019 7:31 AM   |
| 46 | The president of watervliet rec council, Arica Angelo is very rude and for NOT represent the community well. She is rude to many parents, coaches, and surrounding communities. I think she's stealing money from the program as well.  | 11/5/2019 7:20 AM   |
| 47 | Some things at hays park seem unfinished over by back entrance. I would love to see the back river bank have over views/decks.  | 11/5/2019 7:15 AM   |
| 48 | not aware of all available. The trails along the river smell like people are smoking marijuana in there. I wont bring my kids in there anymore now.   | 11/5/2019 7:00 AM   |
| 49 | Flahert park has a terrible play ground area  | 11/5/2019 6:42 AM   |
| 50 | N/A   | 11/5/2019 6:36 AM   |



## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 51 | Needs up dates equipment  | 11/5/2019 6:34 AM   |
| 52 | I wish the old paper mill was utilized with a recreation center for kids or a park with basketball courts or splash pad for kids. Something or somewhere for families to engage in physical activities with their children.   | 11/5/2019 6:32 AM   |
| 53 | More playground equipment at Flaherty park  | 11/5/2019 6:27 AM   |
| 54 | All of our parks do not really bring in revenue to the city   | 11/5/2019 6:17 AM   |
| 55 | No tennis courts  | 11/4/2019 11:15 PM  |
| 56 | Not used in the last few years  | 11/4/2019 1:51 PM   |
| 57 | No opinion  | 11/2/2019 4:32 PM   |
| 58 | The city's lakefront parks should be eliminated and not upgraded! There is talk of upgrades including installation of charcoal burning grills. You have to be kidding = so let's let's burn down all the lakefront homes close to the parks. These parks never close and should have new private fencing installed. Visitors to the parks are allowed to do anything they want (shoot off guns, set off fireworks and drink alcohol) and the neighbors have to play police and also pick up all the crap that is thrown into the lake.  | 11/2/2019 3:26 PM   |
| 59 | Could use a better social media presence about the parks (availability, things to do); could use better signage; safety in parks in the evening is a concern (especially Flaherty)  | 11/1/2019 8:51 AM   |
| 60 | Unclear rules/regulations. Residents are told one thing, signs say something else, and people end up doing something completely different. It's confusing to some of us. Ex: the gates at Hayes. There is a closing time on the sign, I think 10, sometimes the gates are closed then, sometimes earlier than that, sometimes not at all. Then in the winter they stay closed, which I think is a great plan to save from plowing, there's less chance of any accidents if a child isn't seen, and no chance of vehicles getting stuck. But I frequently see cars parked overnight in the lot on top of the hill, on that little side street/back exit, inside of the gates. Maybe they're city vehicles? It seems strange for private vehicles to be in a closed park overnight, a bit worrisome. Someone mentioned going to the park but was it was closed so they turned around but wondered about multiple vehicles parked inside and that's when I started to notice the cars. | 11/1/2019 5:47 AM   |
| 61 | The park equipment at Hays is old and should be removed for open space or replaced with new equipment. Also, parking at Hays is an issue when there's several games going on.   | 10/30/2019 5:24 PM  |
| 62 | Nothing I don't like  | 10/29/2019 9:24 AM  |
| 63 | Sometimes you feel like you shouldn't be there, like your interrupting a game   | 10/29/2019 9:17 AM  |
| 64 | Needs improvement especially for toddlers   | 10/29/2019 9:01 AM  |
| 65 | I don't really have a dislike about it.   | 10/29/2019 12:35 AM |
| 66 | There is not a central park area for festivals or to draw people into town. There is no art incorporated in the green areas.  | 10/28/2019 10:04 PM |
| 67 | NA  | 10/27/2019 8:59 PM  |
| 68 | Not enough of them.   | 10/26/2019 10:27 PM |
| 69 | The Paw Paw Trail is not very long and has a lot of debris that should have been cleaned up before it opened.   | 10/26/2019 7:07 PM  |
| 70 | Restrooms are always locked at Flaherty park leaving women nowhere to pee when playing disc golf.   | 10/24/2019 8:46 PM  |
| 71 | Hays park feels like it's devoted to teens & below  | 10/22/2019 6:33 PM  |
| 72 | N/a   | 10/22/2019 12:23 PM |
| 73 | Too many loose dogs in the parks  | 10/21/2019 11:24 PM |
| 74 | Don't like that nothing's been done with the old paper mill property. Put a big park there. Plant some trees, dig a pond.   | 10/21/2019 12:48 PM |
| 75 | Soccer should be added to the list of sports available for kids to play.  | 10/18/2019 4:35 PM  |
| 76 | Hays park nothing to do there sports taken it over sterner to remote but have not been there in awhile went there in Jr high for science class  | 10/18/2019 8:00 AM  |
| 77 | Nothing.  | 10/17/2019 7:23 PM  |
| 78 | lack of more organized events   | 10/17/2019 4:02 PM  |
| 79 | Flattery isn't open anymore   | 10/17/2019 3:10 PM  |
| 80 | Like that they don't get the funds to take care of our wonderful city as they should  | 10/17/2019 2:47 PM  |
| 81 | Please plant more trees in Hays Park to replace all of the ones that have died over the years. When I was a child it was more like a dense wooded area. I miss that!  | 10/17/2019 12:22 PM |
| 82 | Not enough bike trails or lanes.  | 10/17/2019 8:43 AM  |
| 83 | N/A   | 10/16/2019 12:20 AM |

### City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|     |  |                     |
|-----|--|---------------------|
| 84  | Not accessible enough. Not enough appropriate access for wheelchairs to enjoy and be a part of everything without struggling. Not enough handicap parking either.    | 10/15/2019 10:23 PM |
| 85  | Not paved and not big enough for running would like to see it expand   | 10/15/2019 10:09 PM |
| 86  | Flaherty Park is run down and a congregation point for mischief  | 10/15/2019 10:09 PM |
| 87  | The new park has a ton of poison ivy.  | 10/15/2019 8:40 PM  |
| 88  | Lack of sporting fields other than baseball.   | 10/15/2019 3:54 PM  |
| 89  | No community center or outdoor venue   | 10/15/2019 3:05 PM  |
| 90  | Lack of organized activities for kids  | 10/15/2019 2:11 PM  |
| 91  | Well maintained  | 10/15/2019 8:13 AM  |
| 92  | Parks are nice. There are people that misuse and abuse some of the property.   | 10/15/2019 12:17 AM |
| 93  | I feel like parks/ recreation is becoming more of a priority. More focus should be on bringing more businesses /factories/ employment in our town.                   | 10/14/2019 9:56 PM  |
| 94  | I wish there was better parking, and the dirt road could use some help for sure, dusty at times and can be muddy at times. Crushed pavement could help. (Hays park). | 10/14/2019 9:56 PM  |
| 95  | We need more accessibility to biking and hiking... the new park is awesome but it's a mile in a circle....   | 10/14/2019 9:20 PM  |
| 96  | Need more walking/biking trails, safer kayak launches  | 10/14/2019 9:07 PM  |
| 97  | Nothing  | 10/14/2019 9:05 PM  |
| 98  | I wish we had some small co Ed adult league activity   | 10/14/2019 8:37 PM  |
| 99  | There is not enough parking at Hayes Park.   | 10/14/2019 8:21 PM  |
| 100 | winter activities curtailed because city does not keep accesses cleared  | 10/14/2019 8:19 PM  |
| 101 | Needs more parks and recreation opportunities.   | 10/14/2019 8:07 PM  |
| 102 | The old playground at Hays Park has been abandoned and ready for a lawsuit from some kid finally making the slide fall over.   | 10/14/2019 7:28 PM  |
| 103 | N/A  | 10/14/2019 7:22 PM  |
| 104 | Would like morevyrails and wildlife viewing areas and ice skating  | 10/14/2019 7:18 PM  |
| 105 | Need amphitheatre  | 10/14/2019 6:48 PM  |
| 106 | Nothing to complain about as all the amenities are free.   | 10/14/2019 6:41 PM  |

### Q15 What improvements or additional services do you suggest for the City's Parks? Please indicate if for a specific park.

Answered: 102   Skipped: 57

| #  | RESPONSES   | DATE                |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 1  | More restrooms  | 11/18/2019 6:23 PM  |
| 2  | Maintain existing equipment in all parks and finish repairing east end of Hays park   | 11/17/2019 8:12 PM  |
| 3  | Bathroom facilities, picnic areas, access to paw paw Lake.  | 11/16/2019 5:55 PM  |
| 4  | Playground equipment update at Flaherty Park. It would also be great if there were community events held in the shelter area down there.  | 11/16/2019 2:34 PM  |
| 5  | Upgrade the skate park. Make an ice rink as well as a dog park.   | 11/14/2019 9:27 PM  |
| 6  | Restrooms. We need facilities that are open when the park is open, it's a huge inconvenience when you have more than one child or a baby. | 11/14/2019 5:38 PM  |
| 7  | Updating parks with adequate lighting and make them accessible to persons in wheelchairs.   | 11/14/2019 4:55 PM  |
| 8  | Parks open all year   | 11/14/2019 4:52 PM  |
| 9  | Recreation Pool Dog park Ice skating  | 11/14/2019 4:44 PM  |
| 10 | No opinion  | 11/14/2019 4:19 PM  |
| 11 | N/a   | 11/14/2019 4:00 PM  |
| 12 | Promotion of the parks and events in the parks.   | 11/14/2019 3:49 PM  |
| 13 | Do something with the old Paper Mill location. Trails, trees, parking, splash pad, etc..  | 11/14/2019 3:24 PM  |
| 14 | Bike racks at all parks.  | 11/14/2019 10:56 AM |

## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 15 | Working bathrooms at all parks  | 11/14/2019 9:58 AM |
| 16 | Continue to upgrade amenities   | 11/14/2019 8:26 AM |
| 17 | Cleaning up of debris that are still sitting around the trails. (Dead limbs, logs, brush piles, dead fallen trees)  | 11/14/2019 7:15 AM |
| 18 | Disc golf wherever feasible   | 11/14/2019 7:03 AM |
| 19 | Adding more things in town for kids to do, more bike trails and walking trails.   | 11/14/2019 6:17 AM |
| 20 | Bike trails   | 11/13/2019 9:39 PM |
| 21 | Expand paw paw river north berrien county park  | 11/13/2019 7:01 PM |
| 22 | None  | 11/13/2019 4:58 PM |
| 23 | Hays needs play equipment for more than just toddlers. Grills need to be kept in good working condition as well as the pavilion to make it more inviting for family functions.                  | 11/12/2019 4:09 PM |
| 24 | It would be great to see a skating/recreation facility here.  | 11/9/2019 8:43 AM  |
| 25 | Better lighting   | 11/6/2019 5:02 PM  |
| 26 | I answered this in above question.  | 11/6/2019 5:31 AM  |
| 27 | How about a waterfall, gold fish, Koirala water garden pond in flaherty park. Take advantage of the hill side   | 11/6/2019 4:29 AM  |
| 28 | I would like to see a community event center/gathering area of some sort added in the city. I feel that Watervliet lacks the aspect of community in its park systems.                           | 11/6/2019 2:55 AM  |
| 29 | Water supply/well and more hangout spaces (pavillions, tables, benches)   | 11/6/2019 12:00 AM |
| 30 | better upkeep all around. cameras to deal with vandalism.   | 11/5/2019 7:52 PM  |
| 31 | None  | 11/5/2019 6:16 PM  |
| 32 | None  | 11/5/2019 4:54 PM  |
| 33 | Dog park for sure and maybe an additional kayak launch.   | 11/5/2019 4:17 PM  |
| 34 | See above.  | 11/5/2019 3:46 PM  |
| 35 | Make more trails, and create more parks without destroying the ecosystem.   | 11/5/2019 3:17 PM  |
| 36 | N/a   | 11/5/2019 1:04 PM  |
| 37 | Put a recreational building or ymca or indoor scarring or hockey ring on old paper mill site  | 11/5/2019 1:04 PM  |
| 38 | Clean up the river  | 11/5/2019 10:28 AM |
| 39 | Pavilion downtown for Festivals and school events/concerts  | 11/5/2019 9:14 AM  |
| 40 | None  | 11/5/2019 9:13 AM  |
| 41 | I dont have any thing to suggest  | 11/5/2019 7:49 AM  |
| 42 | See #14   | 11/5/2019 7:15 AM  |
| 43 | enforce marijuana laws and give stiff penalties for law breakers who do it in public  | 11/5/2019 7:00 AM  |
| 44 | Biking paths, more play areas for kids, picnic areas would be nice too.   | 11/5/2019 6:57 AM  |
| 45 | A walking path connecting flaherty park and hays park instead of walking on main road   | 11/5/2019 6:42 AM  |
| 46 | Hays park. Develop the back half it's just plain.   | 11/5/2019 6:42 AM  |
| 47 | N/A   | 11/5/2019 6:36 AM  |
| 48 | ..  | 11/5/2019 6:34 AM  |
| 49 | More activities, playgrounds, rec center for kids   | 11/5/2019 6:32 AM  |
| 50 | More playground equipment at flaherty park  | 11/5/2019 6:27 AM  |
| 51 | .   | 11/5/2019 6:17 AM  |
| 52 | Maintained better   | 11/4/2019 11:15 PM |
| 53 | No opinion  | 11/4/2019 1:51 PM  |
| 54 | More pickleball courts  | 11/2/2019 4:32 PM  |
| 55 | Enforce the non stated rules of usage and and secure the waterfront parks after hours. Installing charcoal grills at Sunset Park will be a disaster and a huge liability.....                   | 11/2/2019 3:26 PM  |
| 56 | Expanded activities for both kids and adults. I've heard a lot about colomas pickle ball league, good things. Also consistency and enforcement of rules, they have to be the same for everyone. | 11/1/2019 5:47 AM  |
| 57 | Add on to the skate park and remove & replace trees in Flaherty Park that are old or in the way.  | 10/30/2019 5:24 PM |
| 58 | The swings and equipment at Flaherty Park need improvement  | 10/29/2019 4:11 PM |
| 59 | More stuff to do at Flaherty  | 10/29/2019 9:24 AM |

## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|    |   |                     |
|----|---|---------------------|
| 60 | If you open up my hiking trails it would be nice if some paths were paved for people with disabilities and leashed dog friendly with trash cans and little poop bags along the path to encourage to keep it clean                           | 10/29/2019 9:17 AM  |
| 61 | Toddler safe toys or a kids park. Maybe mosquito treatment.   | 10/29/2019 9:01 AM  |
| 62 | I strongly recommend a splash pad. That would bring so more people traveling to Watervliet, because it's closer than st. joe to some and also the chance these visitors would check out the local shops and those would thrive.             | 10/29/2019 12:35 AM |
| 63 | The new trails need more milage and maybe tent locations along the way. Hays park needs more art work. Flaherty park needs bug control and more events Like back in the day when they had the tribes come for festivals. Or have bands play | 10/28/2019 10:04 PM |
| 64 | NA  | 10/27/2019 8:59 PM  |
| 65 | Bicycle (dirt) trails.  | 10/26/2019 10:27 PM |
| 66 | More walking trails.  | 10/26/2019 7:07 PM  |
| 67 | installation of an 18 holes disc golf course, Having restrooms open, installation of cameras at Hays park with views of the playground.   | 10/24/2019 8:46 PM  |
| 68 | Pedestrian bridge spanning 140 would enable trails connecting County & City parks & safe crossing of a busy road  | 10/22/2019 6:33 PM  |
| 69 | Just need keep up   | 10/22/2019 12:23 PM |
| 70 | Hayspark bathrooms needimprovements and Flaherty park as well   | 10/21/2019 11:24 PM |
| 71 | Put a big park where the paper mill was. Plant trees, dig a pond etc...   | 10/21/2019 12:48 PM |
| 72 | Adding a soccer field to encourage the sport in our town.   | 10/18/2019 4:35 PM  |
| 73 | Fountains, zip lining, amp theatre, an interactive kid trail like east side of state, a destination activity  | 10/18/2019 8:00 AM  |
| 74 | An addition to existing trails.   | 10/17/2019 7:23 PM  |
| 75 | Make flathery more accessible   | 10/17/2019 3:10 PM  |
| 76 | Upgrade are 9-hole disc golf course to an 18-hole disc golf course so perhaps in the future we would be able to host PDGA events  | 10/17/2019 2:47 PM  |
| 77 | Grills, trees and swings etc for the east side of Hays Park.  | 10/17/2019 12:22 PM |
| 78 | Connect Hays Park with the new trails across the river. Expand bike trails (even if they're not paved for time being)   | 10/17/2019 8:43 AM  |
| 79 | Dog Park  | 10/17/2019 5:26 AM  |
| 80 | N/A   | 10/16/2019 12:20 AM |
| 81 | Soccer fields, hiking trails along the river, more winter activities (ice skating, cross county skiing, curling)  | 10/15/2019 10:09 PM |
| 82 | Clear up Flaherty Park and connect Hayes the County Park and Flaherty to expand trail system  | 10/15/2019 10:09 PM |
| 83 | Maybe a bit more playground equipment at Flaherty park  | 10/15/2019 8:40 PM  |
| 84 | Soccer field(s), bike trails  | 10/15/2019 3:54 PM  |
| 85 | Paved bike paths not attached to the roads  | 10/15/2019 3:22 PM  |
| 86 | I know our family would like to have a soccer field   | 10/15/2019 3:05 PM  |
| 87 | Like to see a board walk along shore of river in Hayes pk. Development of mill property. Development of a park area on south side of city.  | 10/15/2019 2:11 PM  |
| 88 | NA  | 10/15/2019 8:13 AM  |
| 89 | I'd like to see the old paper mill property developed into a recreational/parks area maybe a water pad, walking/biking trails, etc.   | 10/15/2019 8:08 AM  |
| 90 | Hays park has come a long ways, but still needs more clean Up all along the back part of park.  | 10/14/2019 9:56 PM  |
| 91 | N/a   | 10/14/2019 9:20 PM  |
| 92 | Kayak launches and landings, more Trails along rivers edge, River marking signs for Kayakers along river  | 10/14/2019 9:07 PM  |
| 93 | A few benches in the rock walks   | 10/14/2019 9:05 PM  |
| 94 | I think you have a good park system, kayaking has been great. Maybe spray for mosquitoes due to eee   | 10/14/2019 8:37 PM  |
| 95 | Expand skate park at Hayes park and restore the old fountain/cave.  | 10/14/2019 8:21 PM  |
| 96 | plow all park accesses throughout winter  | 10/14/2019 8:19 PM  |
| 97 | A splash pad or something similar where the papermill used to be, also with a large walking trail around the area. Maybe a playground, something to draw people in and relax and socialize.   | 10/14/2019 8:07 PM  |



## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|     |  |                    |
|-----|--|--------------------|
| 98  | It'd be nice to see a permanent structure erected to house live entertainment during summer months | 10/14/2019 7:28 PM |
| 99  | Would love to see old mill site developed.   | 10/14/2019 7:22 PM |
| 100 | Ice skating  | 10/14/2019 7:18 PM |
| 101 | Fishing access   | 10/14/2019 6:48 PM |
| 102 | N/a  | 10/14/2019 6:41 PM |

## Q16 Additional Comments

Answered: 65    Skipped: 94

| #  | RESPONSES  | DATE               |
|----|--|--------------------|
| 1  | Watervliet is a City with much potential, a community center is needed.  | 11/18/2019 6:23 PM |
| 2  | Thank you for asking questions and opening this survey up to the public for input. Keep up the great work!   | 11/16/2019 5:55 PM |
| 3  | A splash pad, a dog park, and community area building would be awesome. I appreciate the fact that ArcLight has been awesome in offering to host larger events but our community should have a place to hold events. There is so many opportunities downtown for that. | 11/16/2019 2:34 PM |
| 4  | The park developments are great, but we need restrooms that are open when the parks are open. It would be great to have soccer fields too, but my vote is for restrooms that are open and working.   | 11/14/2019 5:38 PM |
| 5  | None   | 11/14/2019 4:55 PM |
| 6  | None   | 11/14/2019 4:52 PM |
| 7  | Please please please   | 11/14/2019 4:44 PM |
| 8  | None   | 11/14/2019 4:19 PM |
| 9  | N/a  | 11/14/2019 4:00 PM |
| 10 | Make a better disc golf course and have working bathrooms at every park. And have a team that cares to really take care of it not just quickly mow it every now and then.  | 11/14/2019 9:58 AM |
| 11 | Thanknyou  | 11/14/2019 7:15 AM |
| 12 | None   | 11/14/2019 7:03 AM |
| 13 | None   | 11/14/2019 6:17 AM |
| 14 | No   | 11/13/2019 9:39 PM |
| 15 | It would be nice if we could develop an open space to build an open air pavilion for musical events, something that would draw outsiders into our city.  | 11/12/2019 4:09 PM |
| 16 | Love our town!   | 11/9/2019 8:43 AM  |
| 17 | I am happy to see much maintenance updates downtown. Thank you City manager for that. I like seeing things painted makes city look nice.   | 11/6/2019 5:31 AM  |
| 18 | The little park on Allen court is by far the nicest in the city! All the planting and flowers , plus how clean the creek is.   | 11/6/2019 4:29 AM  |
| 19 | I LOVE the Watervliet County Park Plan. I would be excited to see that happen. Baby steps are still progress!  | 11/6/2019 2:55 AM  |
| 20 | None   | 11/5/2019 6:16 PM  |
| 21 | None   | 11/5/2019 4:54 PM  |
| 22 | No   | 11/5/2019 4:17 PM  |
| 23 | Thanks for seeking public input!   | 11/5/2019 3:46 PM  |
| 24 | None   | 11/5/2019 3:17 PM  |
| 25 | None   | 11/5/2019 1:04 PM  |
| 26 | It's very unsafe to go canoeing or rafting in the river it really needs to be cleaned up   | 11/5/2019 10:28 AM |
| 27 | Make the walk trail the whole length of the spray field trail  | 11/5/2019 9:13 AM  |
| 28 | Not at this time   | 11/5/2019 7:49 AM  |
| 29 | The community needs something for the kids like a community center & more outdoor activities   | 11/5/2019 7:31 AM  |
| 30 | I love that the trees and shrubs located in the back of Hays park has been cleaned up. Better sight lines for safety.  | 11/5/2019 7:15 AM  |

## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

|    |  |                     |
|----|--|---------------------|
| 31 | when i want to enjoy the serenity of the out doors and smell fresh air as i walk along trails and see the natural beauty of earth, i don't want to smell some pot head smoking his marijuana even if it is 100 feet away. it stinks, its illegal to smoke in public places, and makes me not want to come visit the parks.   | 11/5/2019 7:00 AM   |
| 32 | It would be nice to see the old paper mill lot turned into something for the kids instead of a trailer park  | 11/5/2019 6:42 AM   |
| 33 | Never quit evolving.   | 11/5/2019 6:42 AM   |
| 34 | Thank you for reaching out to community members and for seeking ways to improve where with live. People love this town and thanks for giving them reasons to come and stay   | 11/5/2019 6:32 AM   |
| 35 | Love the community of Watervliet and all it has to offer   | 11/5/2019 6:27 AM   |
| 36 | The city has plenty of parks.  | 11/5/2019 6:17 AM   |
| 37 | Residential sidewalks need updating/repairs  | 11/4/2019 1:51 PM   |
| 38 | None   | 11/2/2019 4:32 PM   |
| 39 | There is more involved than just cutting the grass once a week at the lakeside parks and letting visitors go wild. The parks should be closed after dusk just like the other parks. New private fencing installed around the parks perimeters so the neighbors are not harassed and or threatened. The existing gates that allow non riparian home owners access to Sunset park anytime the please need to be removed. If there are improvements to be made to the parks there also needs to be more park district responsibilities. We are all tired of calling the police and being harassed by these so called park visitors. | 11/2/2019 3:26 PM   |
| 40 | These are good questions. Thanks for doing this survey, I hope it helps to improve the already good elements of our parks and gives some insight into things that might look questionable to community members, so that issues may be addressed.   | 11/1/2019 5:47 AM   |
| 41 | Thank you for valuing our opinions   | 10/29/2019 9:24 AM  |
| 42 | None.  | 10/29/2019 9:17 AM  |
| 43 | Please Keep making improvements to the town. There have been a lot of great things added and updated but keep at it. We need more foot traffic through town but I believe with how hard the city officials have been working we could get there.   | 10/28/2019 10:04 PM |
| 44 | ...  | 10/26/2019 10:27 PM |
| 45 | In the past year, the local disc golf scene has grown by 50%. The national average has been growing at 20% or better for the last 15 years. Disc golf is only becoming more popular and shows no signs of slowing down. It would be highly advantageous for the community to have a championship-caliber disc golf course local to Watervliet.   | 10/24/2019 8:46 PM  |
| 46 | I don't feel safe going to parks because of loose dogs running around ,more enforcement needed,sings which say dogs must be on leash in Hayes park and flaherty park.  | 10/21/2019 11:24 PM |
| 47 | None   | 10/17/2019 3:10 PM  |
| 48 | Love our city of Watervliet I am one of the leaders of the Railhead Disc Golf Club that meet down in Flaherty Park. We have approximately 30 people that show up every Wednesday to play disc golf with us and enjoy our wonderful Park system we have several people that drive well over 30 minutes to come join these wonderful parks. If that is something that they are interested in doing I could work on getting baskets donated to the city for the rest of the nine holes that we would need just have to find room either in water filtration plant or across the street by the paper mill                            | 10/17/2019 2:47 PM  |
| 49 | I'm looking forward to the addition of 60+ acres to the new county Park. I heard Sarret Nature Center and Watervliet Twp may get involved to make it connected to a whole lot more. That would be wonderful!!!!  | 10/17/2019 12:22 PM |
| 50 | N/A  | 10/16/2019 12:20 AM |
| 51 | I don't know exactly what sports are available for kids. Mine will probably be starting to play soon so it would be nice if they were posted on FB. I have seen a couple signs on the corner of red arrow and m-140.   | 10/15/2019 8:40 PM  |
| 52 | we try for a small town, but could be better   | 10/15/2019 3:54 PM  |
| 53 | No   | 10/15/2019 3:05 PM  |
| 54 | City needs a younger point of view. Bringing in new business large businesses and restaurants  | 10/15/2019 2:11 PM  |
| 55 | Considering the size of our town. Parks and recreation I feel needs to be minimal.   | 10/14/2019 9:56 PM  |
| 56 | I wish all the merchant owners would look at their buildings and just do one thing each year to show an improvement. Such as City Hall just painted doors. Nice it shows you care!   | 10/14/2019 9:56 PM  |
| 57 | N/a  | 10/14/2019 9:20 PM  |
| 58 | None   | 10/14/2019 9:07 PM  |
| 59 | Na   | 10/14/2019 8:37 PM  |

## City of Watervliet Recreation Plan Public Input Survey

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|----|--|--------------------|
| 60 | Wish Hays Park was open yr round..it's beautiful back by the river..it should be plowed.Also,cameras would be nice so people don't 4x4 back there..or go mudding | 10/14/2019 8:27 PM |
| 61 | Watervliet is a beautiful area just needs more amenities.  | 10/14/2019 8:07 PM |
| 62 | It's nice to see Watervliet finally wanting to do something.   | 10/14/2019 7:28 PM |
| 63 | Would love to see gazabo (Like Boyne City Michigan) in the new obtained lot - band concerts where people bring their chairs etc....                              | 10/14/2019 7:22 PM |
| 64 | Would love to get involved with our parks  | 10/14/2019 7:18 PM |
| 65 | Recall the Mayor!!!!   | 10/14/2019 6:48 PM |