









2017 - 2021 PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN CITY OF HUDSON, MICHIGAN

Adopted by the Hudson City Council on February 21, 2017

PREPARED BY:

MCKenna ASSOCIATES

McKenna Associates Community Planning & Design 235 East Main Street, Suite 105 Northville, MI 48167 (248) 596.0920





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you.

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents and stakeholders in the preparation of the 2017-2021 City of Hudson Parks and Recreation Plan greatly appreciated and we thank everyone who participated in its development. The content in this Plan reflects the on-going collaboration between residents, stakeholders, City Council and the Recreation Advisory Board.

In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of:

CITY COUNCIL

Carmel Camp, Mayor Lee Daugherty, Mayor Pro Tem Tyler Mattison, Council Member Lee Ann Minton, Council Member Rick Moreno, Council Member Carl Sword, Council Member Darlene VandeZaude, Council Member

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

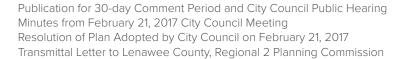
Ann Atkin Amy Hill Ali Moreno Wayne Perry Tom Romanowski

CITY ADMINISTRATION

Steven Hartsel, City Manager Jeaniene McClellan, City Clerk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	
Introduction Hudson's Planning Process Importance of Parks and Recreation Systems	2
CHAPTER 2	
Community Snapshot Community Profile	6 9 10 11
CHAPTER 3	
Green and Blue Framework Natural Features Framework Hudson's Recreation Inventory and Variety Additional Recreation Facilities Hudson's Parks and Recreation Inventory and Service Areas Map Recreation Systems Analysis	14 16 18 19
CHAPTER 4	
Hudson's Strategy Public Engagement Process Key Questionnaire Results Community Goals and Objectives	26 26
CHAPTER 5	
Planning for Change Action Plan Top Five Priority Projects Project Descriptions	32 32
APPENDIX	



Questionnaire Distributed to Residents

Full Questionnaire Results

MDNR Plan Certification Checklist and Post-Completion, Self-Certification Reports



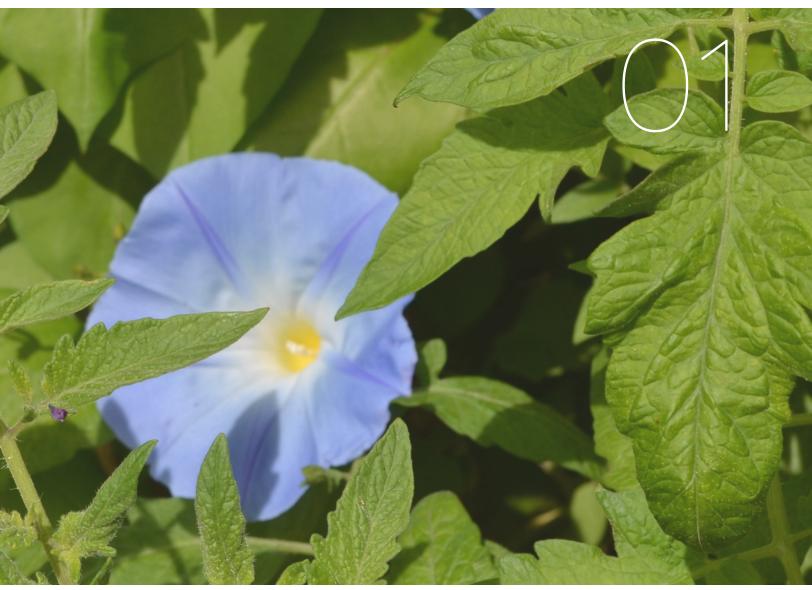
INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the City of Hudson 2017 - 2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This Plan reflects a vision for the future of Hudson's parks and recreation facilities: their operations, maintenance, and new projects over the next several years.

Hudson's Parks and Recreation Master Plan forms the basis for potential recreation grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other agencies and foundations. Hudson's plan was prepared in accordance with MDNR's *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans.*

Most importantly, this Plan will act as Hudson's play book for city building as it relates to parks and recreation over the next five+ years. It serves as a roadmap for future recreation facilities and programs by considering existing parks and programs in and around the City and the anticipated demand for additional or improved recreation facilities.





Flowers abloom along the streetscape in downtown Hudson, Main Street.

Hudson's Planning Process

// KEY STEPS

The 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was prepared with technical assistance from McKenna Associates, a planning and design consulting firm, and with the active involvement of the City's Administration and the Hudson Recreation Advisory Board.

Citizen input through a mailed survey and public hearing also contributed to the creation of this Plan. Following initial focus groups and a subsequent review by the Recreation Advisory Board, the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was submitted to Hudson's City Council for adoption. Throughout the process, all meetings were open to the public. Notices were posted beforehand, and advertised in the newspaper, as required by the Open Meetings Act. The planning process kicked-off in September of 2016 and concluded with the adoption of the Plan in February of 2017.



Ø

Project Initiation

Kick-off meeting with City Administration; schedule and work plan finalization.

Review of 2008 - 2012 Hudson Recreation Plan and other community recreation documents.

Identify & Quantify

Parks and recreation facility site visits by McKenna to inventory amenities and perform accessibility assessment.

Documentation and photography of existing recreation amenities.





Public Engagement

Public engagement solicitation via focus groups with the Recreation Advisory Board and a survey which was mailed to 400 randomly selected City households.

Analysis & Mapping

Analysis and incorporation of public engagement results.

Mapping of Hudson recreation facilities and comparison to national land and amenity standards.

Action Plan & Metrics

Determination of strategic actions and creation of the action plan and implementation matrix.

Identification of the top five priority projects and the respective scopes of work.

Draft Plan & Review

Creation of a cohesive, easy to follow document for improved functionality.

Review of the Plan by City Administration and the Recreation Advisory Board.

Final Plan & Adoption

30 day public viewing and comment period.

February 21, 2017 City Council meeting, with public hearing, for the adoption of the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Importance of Parks & Recreation Systems

The City of Hudson prides itself on its park and recreation system as a healthy system affords residents and visitors with a higher quality of life standard. The benefits of creating and maintaining a quality parks and recreation system include:

- Greater opportunities for a healthy lifestyle;
- · Rises in adjacent property values;
- · Encouragement of economic development, which in turn, can further attract investment;
- Natural beauty;
- · Environmental gains and benefits;
- · Social and fun; and
- · Sense of place and identity.

The intent of this Plan to afford all members of Hudson the opportunity to participate and enjoy in the City's parks and recreation facilities and to act as gathering spaces for community building.



Hudson, a vibrant city that supports the health of its residents with quality parks and recreation facilities, active mobility options, a clean environment, and comfortable gathering places.



COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

The City of Hudson, established in 1833 and incorporated in 1893, is located along the eastern boundary of Lenawee County, in south-central Michigan. Endowed with lush natural landscapes and the traversing Bean Creek, present day Hudson has maintained a strong connection to the environment.

Early on, the City acted as regional trading center with the development of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern and Cincinnati Northern Railways, sparking the construction of several architectural landmarks in the downtown district. Today, the City boasts the Downtown Historic District (on the National Register of Historic Places) where 44 historic structures, such as the Carnegie Library (1904), remain preserved assets.

Even as a traditional downtown community, Hudson maintains it's original relationship with nature and seeks to further incorporate parks and open space corridors throughout its downtown, neighborhoods, and commercial / industrial districts. This is evident from the City's embracement of Bean Creek and the active pathways which now weave throughout the community and act as natural stimulants to civic life.

The Community Snapshot chapter presents the social composition of Hudson, together with the administrative structure and funding mechanisms, as these fields are strongly inform the realm of possibilities for park and recreation facilities.









Community Profile

// DATA SOURCES

Hudson's current demographic situation and trends provide understanding to the types of recreation facilities and amenities that are needed. The figures used in this Plan comes from the US Census Bureau's 2014/15 ACS 5-year data, which uses statistical sampling over a 5-year period to describe the average characteristics over the period of collection. Information for smaller geographic regions generally have a higher margin of error in statistical sampling, yet the ACS is considered very reliable and is a dataset that we believe can provide the most accurate portrayal of the changing population in the City and surrounding communities. Comparison data also comes from the US Decennial Census.

// POPULATION

Hudson has regained population growth in the past five years.

From 1990 - 2010, the City of Hudson steadily lost population while Lenawee County's population continued to rise, in part due to the growth and development of Adrian. The 5.4% gain in Hudson's population during the past five years is a major accomplishment, especially since the surrounding communities of Adrian, Hillsdale and the County as a whole, have recently experienced population loss. This trend alludes to the fact that Hudson is a highly desired community to live in within the region.



// HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Hudson's households continue to grow.

Household size, the number of persons living together in one house, is an important indicator of community composition as larger numbers tend to indicate more children which impacts the demand on parks and recreation facilities. Nationally, household sizes are shrinking. Hudson is unique however, as household sizes in 2015 were not only larger than the County or surrounding average, but have also increased a significant amount since 2010.

HUDSON	2015 2010	2.77	
MICHIGAN	2015 2010	2.49 HOUSEHOLD SIZE TRENDS 2.49 Source: US Census	

// AGE STRUCTURE & MEDIAN AGE

Age structure and median age data plays an important role when considering the types of recreation services and facilities Hudson should focus on offering its residents.

Hudson is a relatively young community.

Hudson's median age in 2015, the age half the population is above and half is below, is significantly lower than Lenawee County and Michigan, indicating the presence of younger families and young professionals. Adrian and Hillsdale also have younger median ages but those figures reflect their student populations. Even since 2014, the median age continues to rise in all comparison areas (except for Hillsdale) while Hudson's median age has lowered even still.

Hudson's age structure breakdown (below) is also consistent with the City's younger median age and further emphasizes the youthful state of the current population.

TABLE 1.1: MEDIAN AGE, 2015

Community	Median Age
Hudson	32.5
Adrian	34.2
Hillsdale	27.2
Lenawee County	40.9
Michigan	39.5

Source: US Census

AGE STRUCTURE CITY OF HUDSON & LENAWEE COUNTY: 2015

Source: US Census

AGE STRUCTURE CLASSIFICATIONS

Pre-School Under 5
School Aged 5 - 19
Family Forming 20 - 44
Mature Families 45 - 64
Retirement 65+

Lenawee County



Due to Hudson's large percentage of age structure classifications with children, recreation amenities which focus on active, youth and family oriented exercises are important to maintain and plan for in the community. As over 30% of Hudson's population is under 18, providing safe and fun places for activity is also valuable for early development and creates a bond between individuals and their community, often leading to continued investment throughout adult life.

While much of the recreational needs of the City's age classifications are provided through Hudson Area Schools, it is important for Hudson to provide a variety of activities that are oriented towards youth, especially during the summer months when school is not in session. Hudson's younger population also highlights the need for safe trails and pedestrian routes in order to properly access recreation facilities.

Additionally, although Hudson has a smaller percentage of those in the retirement age classification than Lenawee County, planning for the City's senior population is essential so that facilities and programs are available to meet their needs. This includes passive recreation opportunities, amenities such as benches, pavilions, lighting, public restrooms, and ADA accessibility that at a minimum, allows individuals to reach and navigate facilities. It is important to note that many seniors live on the periphery of the city (such as within Leffingwell Estates just south of town), and these seniors heavily use the city's recreational amenities and consider themselves members of the Hudson community.











// DISABILITIES

Recreation facilities must be accessible to all members of the community. US Census data shows that in 2000, 25% percent of Hudson's population had a least one (1) disability. In 2014, ACS data now shows that 14.4% percent of Hudson's population reported having at least one (1) disability. Of that 14.4% percent, approximately 28% percent of residents over 65 years of age reported having at least one (1) disability.

This data calls attention to the need to design recreational facilities with greater accessibility. Existing facilities should be retrofitted and upgraded when possible and new facilities designed to permit universal access for all.

// LAND USE

Hudson has a large percentage of multi-family residential units.

Per the 2016 Master Plan, the City has a larger percentage of two-family and multi-family residential land uses than surrounding communities and the County as a whole. 15% percent of Hudson's land is devoted to multi-family residential uses.

This statistic is important to note as often, multi-family complexes offer their own recreation amenities in lieu of a traditional, private backyard for recreation (as provided with detached, single family housing). However, the existing multi-family developments in Hudson do not offer significant recreation amenities, especially for children who need space for active recreation, thus placing a stronger demand on the City's parks and recreation system to provide opportunities for passive and active recreation.

A significant amount of land in Hudson is devoted to the parks, recreation, and open space.

Hudson encompasses approximately 2.20 square miles and existing land uses per the 2016 Master Plan indicate that over 44% percent of this land is devoted to natural, vacant, or agricultural spaces. In addition, the City operates six (6) parks and recreation facilities (over 40 acres) and has created over 3.5 miles of greenway trails.

Administrative Structure

Operations, maintenance and improvements to Hudson's recreation facilities are the responsibilities of City staff, the Recreation Advisory Board (RAB), and the Department of Public Works (DPW). Ultimate authority for the provision of parks and recreation is held by City Council.

// KEY RECREATION PLAYERS

The following entities are the major municipal recreation players within Hudson:

City Council:

Hudson's City Council maintains final authority over all of its parks and recreation facilities.

Recreation Advisory Board:

Hudson has an active and established Recreation Advisory Board that serves as an advisory body for the City Council on the planning, constructing, maintaining, and administering of parks and recreation areas. The Board is currently comprised of five (5) members who have been a resident of the Hudson for at least one (1) year, are registered to vote, and are not financially indebted to the City.

City Staff:

City staff and administration is also involved in the operation and rental of facilities and the Department of Public Works maintains the municipal parks. Various sports leagues utilize Hudson's municipal athletic fields through a cooperative agreement with the City, coordinated by staff and reviewed by the Recreation Advisory Board.

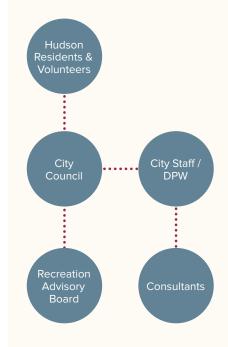
// VOLUNTEERS & COLLABORATION

As common in smaller communities, the City relies on volunteers and service organizations to help maintain a quality recreation system. Volunteers and service organizations often assist with the organization of community-wide events and are a critical component of the upkeep and development of parks and recreation facilities.

Service organizations that have recently contributed to Hudson's in parks and recreation facilities include:

- Chamber of Commerce (enhancements to the Webster Park entrance);
- Service Organizations, including the Boy Scouts (Will Carleton Park tennis court refinishing);
- Department of Public Works; and
- Residents.

HUDSON'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE >





2016 tennis court refinishing at Will Carleton Park, a successful project which was made possible through community volunteers and collaboration, including Rayba's Tennis Retreat, Jason Decker, the Boy Scouts, DPW and others.

Photo credit: City of Hudson.



Budget

TABLE 2.1: PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET

Revenue Sources	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017
United Way Contributions	\$50	\$50	\$50
Due from General Fund	\$2,000	\$9,300	\$5,050
Due from Rec Dept Fund Balance	\$1,500	\$0	\$5,000
Misc Revenue (from Field Trips)	\$250	\$0	\$1,500
Total Revenue:	\$3,800	\$9,350	\$11,600
Expenditures	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016	2016 - 2017
Administrative Expense	\$600	\$600	\$600
Operating Supplies	\$50	\$50	\$0
Field General Maintenance	\$1,000	\$50	\$0
Audit Fees	\$50	\$50	\$0
Field Trips	\$500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Recreation Upgrades (Tennis Ct Rehab)	\$1,500	\$7,000	\$0
Misc Expense	\$100	\$100	\$0
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$9,500
Total Expenditures:	\$3,800	\$9,350	\$11,600

Source: City of Hudson, 2016.

Funding

Table 2.1 details Hudson's Parks and Recreation budget since 2014 and includes a breakdown of revenue sources and expenditures.

Primary funding for the maintenance and programming of City parks and recreation facilities comes almost entirely from a sub-account of the City's general fund and from the Recreation Department. Capital outlays are also made for projects including the five year Parks and Recreation Plan, the preparation of grant applications and the planning and construction of new facilities.

Alternative funding sources include donations from individuals / private organizations and grants awarded for specific projects, all of which the City continues to pursue and revenue generated from field trips. The contributions from individuals / private organizations, including United Way, to successfully implement parks and recreation projects and improve the quality of Hudson's recreation system.



Grant History

Over the past 30 years, the City has been the recipient of the following three (3) MDNR grants for recreation facility development; all projects are closed. Additionally, Hudson has received four (4) CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement) grants since 2000 for assistance with the Hudson Trail System.

TABLE 2.2: MDNR PARKS & RECREATION GRANT HISTORY

Project Title	Project Year (Project No.)	Grant Amount	Site Elements	2016 Condition of Amenities
Will Carleton Park	1980 (26-01104 A2)	\$31,904.78	Restroom building, two (2) tennis courts, and a picnic shelter.	Good; recent upgrades to tennis courts.
Will Carleton Park: Phase II	1981 (26-01179)	\$20,000.00	Softball field, basketball court, two (2) picnic shelters, and LWCF plaque.	Excellent.
Memorial Park Upgrades	1999 (CM99-330)	\$75,000.00	Restroom / storage / concession building, picnic shelter, and improvements to river access, and parking.	Good; room for parking improvements.

Source: Grants Management, Department of Natural Resources.

Note: Project #: TF96-122 for the expansion of the Bean Creek Linear Park was withdrawn.

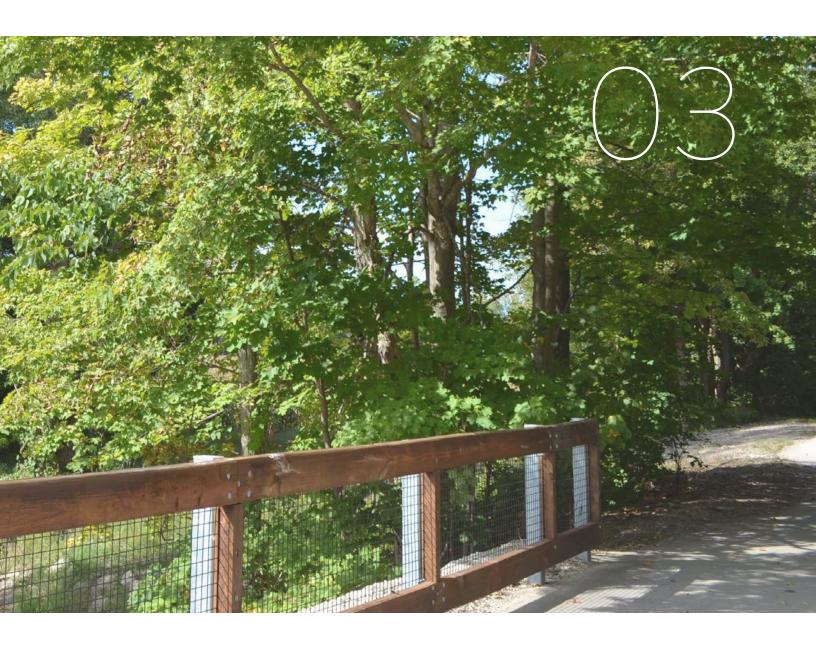


GREEN & BLUE FRAMEWORK

Understanding Hudson's environmental setting is critical when planning for recreation facilities and the connections between them. The location, topography, and existing environmental features all influence the types of facilities, amenities, and programs that are best suited for implementation.

The Green and Blue Framework chapter describes the benefits and challenges associated with Hudson's location and natural resources features. Also included within this chapter is the City's existing formal park system, with an inventory of the current recreation amenities provided at each facility and a description of recreational facilities that are available outside of Hudson. The existing recreational facilities and land devoted to such uses then provides the backdrop for analysis and comparison to MDNR standards to determine where the City is excelling or may have room for improvement.





Natural Features Framework

Hudson's green and blue framework highlight the City's many natural assets including open spaces, waterbodies, and the formal park system:

WATER COURSES

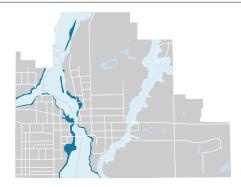
Bean Creek, the largest waterway in Hudson, divides the City from east to west, and is a tributary of the Tiffin River, which flows south into Ohio and joins with the Maumee, eventually draining into Lake Erie at Toledo.

For much of its course through Hudson, Bean Creek has natural surroundings, and has not been channelized at any point. The Bean Linear Park, Murdock and Thompson Trails run almost the entire length of Beak Creek within the City. However, in the downtown area, it is hidden behind commercial and industrial uses as development turns its back on it.

Other, smaller creeks also run through Hudson, especially on the east side of town.

Additionally, there are several wetlands within the Hudson, with the most prominent areas south and east of the High School and others scattered near the Industrial Park.

FLOODPLAIN

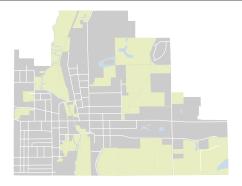


Bean Creek's floodplain is mostly contained to the vacant land surrounding its banks. However, there are some built up areas of the City that are in danger of flooding.

Due to low elevations, the area immediately south of the football stadium and west to US-127 is in the floodplain but this area is not densely developed. On the south side of town, Memorial Park also lies within the floodplain.

There is also a significant floodplain from a smaller creek, known as the Garrison Drain, on the east of town. Some parcels within the Industrial Park, and some residences on the southeast edge of town lie within the affected area, but for the most part the floodplain is vacant land

OPEN SPACE / UNDEVELOPED LAND



This category includes all undeveloped land or vacant land within the City that is available for preservation or future development into a recreational area, commercial, or residential use, which is plentiful.

The east and west sides of the City are largely separated by vacant land along the sides of Bean Creek. This land also happens to be at lower elevation than much of the city. The majority of this land is open fields, although few are used for agriculture. There are also some crops of trees and small wooded areas, especially near to the creek itself.

On the northeast edge of town, east of Hudson Area High School, is a large swath of open land (mostly fields with some agricultural uses). This open land serves as a barrier between the residential areas on the east side of town and the industrial uses near Main Street and Munson Highway.

The southeast edge of the City is also undeveloped, although this area is heavily wooded, especially near Wood Street. Large residential lots project into the wooded area, offering residents a secluded, rural setting within the City boundaries.

FORMAL PARK SYSTEM

SOILS & WOODLANDS

TOPOGRAPHY



Hudson's formal park system includes trails, pathways, gathering places, unplanned natural, open areas, and third public spaces where residents can come together. The entire parks systems plays a significant role in creating a healthy, inclusive community.

Additionally, the greenway trail system that the City has been developing is nearly complete, providing users with over four (4) miles of greenways along Bean Creek, through school-grounds and a subdivision, into the Industrial Park, down Main Street, and by the historic railroad viaduct. The trail's construction has improved access to recreational areas for residents and connected neighborhoods.



Very few woodland areas remain but those that do are mostly located along Bean Creek, other stream valleys, and the southeast edge of the City.

The native vegetation consists as follows:

- High Lands > mainly oak, with some beech and maple.
- Low Areas > elm, ash, pin oak, swamp white oak, sycamore, cottonwood, aspen, and red maple.
- Undergrowth > red osier dogwood, gray dogwood, hazelnut, and willow.

The Soil Survey for Lenawee County indicates that the soils in the City are predominately in the Fox series, while the low areas in the Bean Creek Valley belong to the Granby Series. Soils of the Fox Series are well drained while soils of the Granby Series are poorly to very poorly drained.



Proper planning to take advantage of Hudson's significant topography features should be considered. This includes a 70-foot difference between the City's highest and lowest points and Bean Creek which runs through a valley that averages 20-25 feet lower than surrounding areas.

- Lowest Point > along the creek near the southern City limits, at 890 feet above sea level.
- Highest Point > in the Industrial Park, near the intersection of Main Street and Munson Highway town, at 960 feet above sea level.
- Quickest Drop > near Webster Park, where a steep cliff separates the park, at 930 feet of elevation, from fields abutting Bean Creek, which sit 30-40 feet below.

These features add an element of natural beauty to Hudson, and should be incorporated into park planning as a natural asset.



Hudson's Recreation Inventory & Variety

In total, the City of Hudson features six (6) public recreation facilities, with over 40 acres of land and over 3.5 miles of trailways. Hudson's parks and recreation facilities each have different types of amenities and opportunities for a wide variety of recreation experiences. The following inventory and the adjoining Park and Recreation Inventory and Services Areas Map details the amenities currently available at each facility and the facility's respective location.

DOWNTOWN CIVIC POCKET PARK

Classification: Mini-Park
Area: 0.13 acres
Accessibility: 2

Located within the historic downtown, on the grounds of the City of Hudson Police Station, this mini-park is a civic gathering space and the site for the City's Christmas tree and lighting ceremony. Existing amenities include picnic tables, a bench, and a small tot lot with playground equipment. A wood chip path runs through the space and paved, ADA parking is provided in the adjoining Police Station parking lot.



THOMPSON'S PARK

Classification: Neighborhood-Park
Area: 2.19 acres

Accessibility: 3

Thompson Park is located in the southwest section of the City and is a traditional neighborhood park featuring space for both gathering and active / passive recreation. Active recreation amenities include both recent additions of new play structures, a swing set with one (1) ADA swing and climbing wall, and older, metal playground equipment. A pavilion with multiple picnic tables is centrally located in the park. A gravel parking lot exists along the Church Street ROW with additional overflow parking available directly adjacent to the site at Memorial Park.



ACCESSIBILITY RANKINGS

Providing accessible facilities that may be utilized by persons with varied disabilities is one of Hudson's community goals. Each City owned recreation facility was evaluated for compliance to the ADA Standards of Accessible Design by McKenna in the summer of 2016. Recreation facilities are rated on a 1-5 scale, as defined by MDNR:

- None of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 2 Some of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 3 Most of the site elements meet ADA accessibility guidelines.
- 4 The entire recreation facility meets ADA accessibility.
- The entire recreation facility was developed / renovated using the principles of universal design.

All of the City's facilities have accessibility ratings of 2, 3, or 4. While most of the recreation facilities include elements that are handicapped accessible, many of the routes to reach such facilities are lacking in compliance.

WEBSTER PARK

Classification: Neighborhood-Park

Area: 3.39 acres

Accessibility: 2

Located in the south central portion of the City, Webster Park features a softball field (often used for T-Ball practice and games), a picnic shelter, restroom facility, playground equipment (repainted in 2016), and picnic tables and grills. Parking is located on a gravel and grass area on the northwest portion of the park.

Webster Park is also a beautiful location for watching the sunset over Bean Creek and features a large, unplanned open space at one end of the park.



MEMORIAL PARK

Classification: Community Park
Area: 16.86 acres

Accessibility: 3

Directly adjacent to Thompson Park in the southern portion of the City, Memorial Park is a highly programmed, active recreation center with soccer fields, two (2) baseball fields, restroom facility, a concession stand, and covered pavilion with picnic tables. A popular spot for practice games and league tournaments, Memorial Park can become quite busy and due to the location of each baseball / soccer field, the crossover of balls / equipment between games does occur. Directly to the west is a large gravel lot which provides parking for events, although space is at a premium during events.



WILL CARLETON PARK

Classification: Community Park
Area: 21.40 acres

Accessibility: 3

A popular area for active and organized sports, including the adult softball league, Will Carleton Park contains a variety of recreation amenities including two (2) baseball fields, two (2) tennis courts, basketball court, volleyball court, picnic shelters, tables and grills, playgrounds and tot lot, restroom facility, and large, undeveloped natural areas.

Most recently, the tennis courts were refinished with crack sealing and the court resurfacing, fencing repaired and the old backstop removed. The courts will be available for use in the spring of 2017.



HUDSON GREENWAY TRAIL SYSTEM

Classification: Greenway
Area: > 4 linear miles

Accessibility: 4

In 2000, a paved linear park (1,000 ft.) along Bean Creek between the Main and Jackson Street bridges was the first section of the larger, greenway trail system to be created. Four (4) CMAQ grants provided most of the funding for five (5) additional trail segments crossing the City. Today, Hudson's trail system is over four (4) miles and features three (3) trailhead areas with on-site parking and offers paved, handicapped access to and from the trail: (1) the main trailhead is 100 ft. south of the intersection of M-34 and S. Munson Hwy, near the oval turnaround; (2) at McKenzie and M-34; and (3) at S. Wood and Main, which is suited for adults and seniors, and features a glider bench and a lot of shade.









Additional Recreation Facilities

// SCHOOL RECREATION FACILITIES

Hudson Area Schools serve the City of Hudson, the Village of Clayton, and portions of adjoining townships in Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties. All school facilities (listed below) are located within Hudson City limits and represent a substantial portion of Hudson's total recreation facilities:

- Lincoln Elementary School: 13.9 acres. Athletic field, playground gym and parking lot.
- Hudson Middle and High School: 79.9 acres. Softball/baseball fields, athletic field, gym, outdoor track, cross-country path and parking lots.
- Thompson Field: 14.5 acres. Football field, playground, athletic fields, and parking lots.

While these facilities are geared towards individuals aged 6-19, many adults continue to support the various sports teams and arts and cultural productions of the Hudson Tigers, participating in the recreational experiences of the students.

// INSTITUTIONAL / ALTERNATIVE RECREATION OFFERINGS

Surrounding school districts and private schools also provide recreational facilities and programs, including Sacred Heart School (within the City) which provides a playground, gym, and recreation hall with kitchen facilities on 1¼ acres. Additionally, the Lenawee Intermediate School District (which includes the Hudson Area Schools) maintains the 'Adult Learning Services@VO-TECH' program (located in Adrian), which provides a wide range of adult enrichment programs.

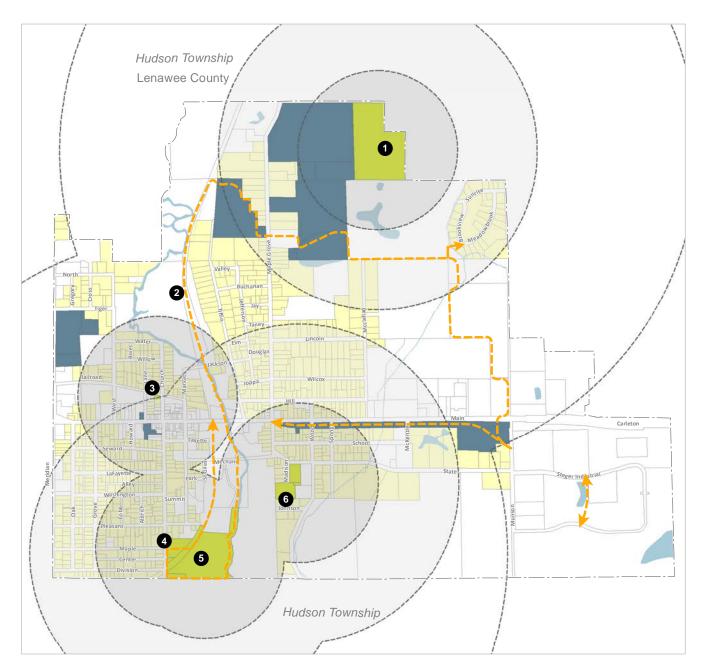
There are also four (4) special recreational uses within Hudson:

- The Community Center which contains a recreation hall with kitchen facilities and acts as a centralized senior meeting area;
- The Maple Grove Cemetery, (approximately 30.3 acres) which contains wooded, open spaces with cemetery plots and pathways for running and other recreation activities;
- 3. The Veterans Memorial area in downtown Hudson which is maintained by the City, but on privately-owned property; and
- 4. The recently created Community Garden along Main Street between Wood and S. Maple Grove.

// THE COUNTY, STATE, + PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

The County:

Both Lenawee and Hillsdale Counties maintain fairgrounds in Adrian and Hillsdale, respectively. Both counties also maintain park systems including Bicentennial Park, Median Park, Berber Hill, Iron Lake, Lewis Emery Park, Hemlock Lake Park and Ramsdell Nature Park. These parks generally feature amenities such as beaches, boat launches, picnic shelters and tables, playgrounds, sporting facilities, and restrooms / outhouses.



Hudson's Park & Recreation Inventory & Service Areas

City of Hudson, MI

<u>Legend</u>

← → Greenway Trail System
City Recreation Facilities

Institutional Recreation Facilities +
Dedicated Open Space and Facilities

Residential Zonned Land

0.25 Mile Walkability Service Area

0.5 Mile Service Area

1.0 Mile Service Area Municipal Boundary

City Parks and Recreation Facilities

1 Will Carleton Park

2 Hudson Greenway Trail System

3 Downtown Civic Pocket Park

4 Thompson Park

Memorial Park

6 Webster's Park



Source: Lenawee County GIS, 2010 Data Source: McKenna Associates, 9/10 < Page intentionally left blank >



The State:

The State of Michigan maintains various recreational facilities in the Hudson Area in the form of state game, wildlife and recreation areas; state historic parks; and state parks. These include the Walter Haynes State Park, Cambridge State Historical Park, Lake Hudson State Recreation Area and Lost Nations State Game Area. Michigan State University also maintains Hidden Lake Gardens, an arboretum and botanical garden, in the vicinity of the City.

Private Facilities:

A variety of private entrepreneurs within the region provide recreational experiences, including:

- Golf Courses. More than 20 golf courses are within 25 miles of the City, including Evergreen Golf Course, a 9-hole public course, that is adjacent to Hudson
- Michigan International Speedway. Located approximately 15 miles north of the Hudson, the Speedway is an important facility which normally hosts racing events three weekends each summer. However, the MIS is also available for events such as the Michigan High School Athletic Association's annual Lower Peninsula Finals for Boy's and Girl's Cross Country.
- Hudson Bowling Lanes. Located within the City, this local facility hosts a number of bowling leagues for adults and youth.
- Hudson Cinema. Also located within the City, Hudson Cinema is a one-screen movie theater that seats up to 120 people, and also offers a venue for laser tag.
- American Legion Post 180. Adjacent to Hudson is American Legion Post 180, which provides recreational opportunities to its member veterans.









Recreation Systems Analysis

// COMPARISON TO STATE & NATIONAL STANDARDS

The type of parks and their location, number of amenities, and distribution throughout the City are all components that are assessed together as a recreation system analysis. The following comparisons are made between Hudson's population and the state and national standards for service areas, acreage, and number of facilities.

Overall, Hudson has a strong formal parks and recreation system and within the last five years, has made considerable efforts towards linking it's recreation facilities to each other, to neighborhoods and to other community destinations.

Service Area Analysis

MDNR establishes a recommended service area for each park classification to identify areas in the community that are lacking access to recreation facilities. The service area boundary for each type of park is as follows:

Mini-Park
Neighborhood Park
Community Parks

>0.25 mile walkability service radius
0.25 – 0.5 mile service radius
1.0 mile service radius

As illustrated on the Park and Recreation Inventory and Service Areas Map, with all the service areas applied, Hudson's formal park system extends to the majority of the City's existing or planned neighborhoods. However, when applying only the 0.25 mile walkability radius to Hudson's recreation areas, several neighborhoods are outside of this range. Building upon the existing greenway trail system and linking neighborhoods to parks will improve access and expand recreation opportunities for residents.

Acreage Analysis

Table 3.1 evaluates Hudson's park acreage to national guidelines for Michigan communities. As a state-wide measure, these standards are general in nature and do not always reflect the quality of the facilities, the character of the community, or other local differences that impact community recreation facility needs. Thus in evaluating the results, the actual conditions and trends present in the City must be accounted for.

As a baseline indicator, Table 3.1 highlights the surplus of neighborhood and community park land that is available to residents. Although mini-park space was found to be deficient, the weaving of the Hudson Greenway Trail System throughout the City provides access to parks and active recreation that replaces the need for additional mini-parks. Overall, the land dedicated and reserved for parkland in Hudson far exceeds minimum standards.

TABLE 3.1: HUDSON'S RECREATION LAND ACREAGE ANALYSIS

Facility Type	NRPA Guideline for Minimum Acreage per 1,000 Residents	Hudson's Minimum Recommended Acreage*	Hudson's Actual Acreage	Surplus / Deficiency
Mini Parks	0.25 acres	0.60 acres	0.13 acres	- 0.47 acres
Neighborhood Parks	1.00 acres	2.43 acres	5.58 acres	+ 3.15 acres
Community Parks	Community Parks 5.00 acres		38.26 acres	+ 26.01 acres
Greenways / Trails	Variable	Variable	>4.0 linear miles	n/a

^{*} Based on the 2015 ACS population count of 2,431 individuals.

// FACILITIES ANALYSIS

Additionally, MDNR recommends a certain number and type of recreation facilities for a community based again on its population size. Table 3.2 compares Hudson's recreation facilities to the MDNR standards. Although Thompson Field (and other institutional recreational facilities) is within City limits, it is part of the Hudson Area School System with limited public access and thus, was not calculated in the City's facility count. However, it is important to note that Thompson Field (and other institutional facilities) is heavily utilized by members of the community and a popular destination for Hudson residents.

Considering Hudson's 2015 population of 2,431, the City has done an outstanding job of exceeding MDNR standards for all types of applicable recreation facilities. Again, the surplus of recreation amenities would only be greater if the count included the many active recreation facilities that belong to the Hudson Area School System and other institutional uses. As such, it is recommended that continued collaboration with the School System and other entities occur in order to provide residents with even greater access to recreation facilities. Additionally, the City may consider expanding the access to such facilities in order to create more inclusive environments for residents and visitors.



TABLE 3.2 HUDSON'S RECREATION AMENITIES STANDARD ANALYSIS

Amenity Type	MDNR Standard	Hudson's Recommended Amenity Count*	Hudson's Actual Amenity Count	Surplus / Deficiency	
Basketball Court	1 per 5,000	0	1	+1	
Baseball / Softball Field	1 per 5,000	0	5	+ 5	
Multi-Purpose Athletic Field	Varies	-	-	-	
Soccer Field	1 per 10,000	0	4	+ 4	
Tennis Court	1 per 2,000	1	1	+/- O	
Greenway / Trail System	1 system per region	1	1	+/- O	
Volleyball Court	1 per 5,000	0	1	+1	

^{*} Based on the 2015 ACS population count of 2,431 individuals.



HUDSON'S STRATEGY

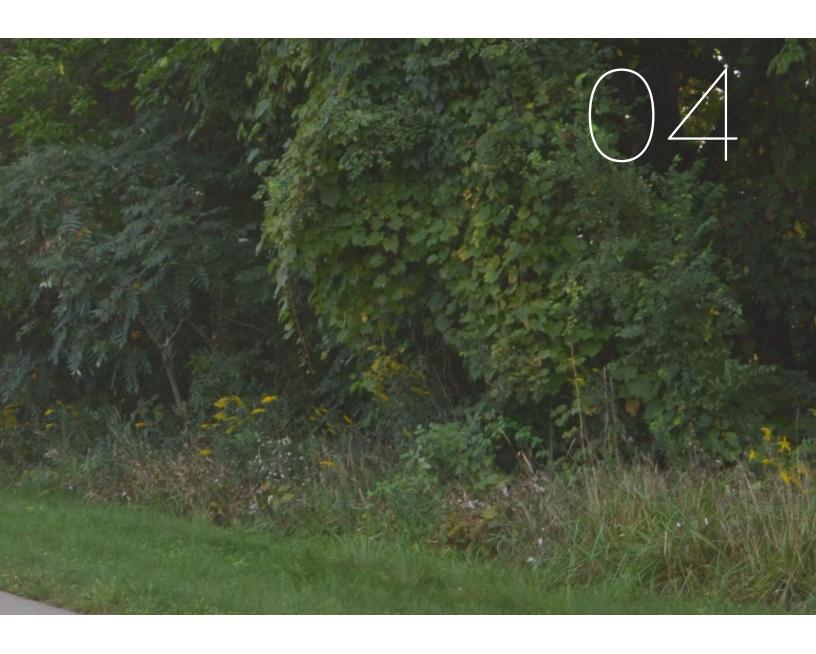
Goals and objectives formulated by the community are the cornerstone of the recreation planning process as they form the framework for public and private decision-making. The purpose of this Plan is to provide a basis for public policy decisions and technical coordination in recreational development and to inject long-range consideration into the determination of near-term actions.

The goals and objectives, as outlined in this chapter, were developed through the Recreation Advisory Board and City Administration, incorporate park and recreation best practices, and were confirmed by the results of the public engagement process.

Hudson's strategy hinges on its ability to provide a variety of parks that are flexible spaces to serve multiple users, creating an inclusive space for which the community to enjoy.

This chapter details the public engagement process and key results and establishes the City's five (5) goals and various corresponding objectives.





Public Engagement Process

Community participation brings vitality to a Parks and Recreation Plan and thus, the following pages detail the City's public engagement process and feedback, and the resulting themes, goals, and objectives. To solicit public input, the City randomly selected over 400 households to participate in a Parks and Recreation Questionnaire during the month of December, 2016. Approximately 30 households responded to the mailing and submitted feedback.

Respondents were asked a series of questions pertaining to the existing quality (appearance, maintenance, and cleanliness) and use of existing facilities and improvements and priorities for Hudson's park and recreational facilities. Key results of the survey are detailed below with full results included in the appendix. Major themes which emerged from the public engagement results and are embodied in the goals and objectives section. They include a priority on maintenance (general upkeep and improving the existing park facilities) and the continual enhancements and investments to the Hudson trail system.

Key Questionnaire Results

QUALITY AND USE OF HUDSON'S RECREATION FACILITIES

Overall, the majority of respondents (60 percent or higher) noted that the quality of all Hudson's parks and recreation facilities (except for Webster) was good or excellent. Hudson's trail system stood out as the top quality facility with over 92% of respondents finding the trials are in good or excellent condition. There is an opportunity to greatly improve the quality ranking of the City's parks through improvements at Webster and Thompson Park. Below is a list of all Hudson's recreation facilities, ranked by their condition with Hudson Trail System in a most excellent condition:

- 1. Hudson Trails
- 2. Memorial Park
- 3. Will Carleton Park
- 4. Thompson Park
- 5. Webster Park

In terms of park user ship, all questionnaire respondents indicated they had visited a portion of Hudson's trail system at least once in 2016. Approximately 75 percent of respondents also visited Will Carleton and Webster's Park, even though those parks were identified earlier as needing quality improvements. 60 percent of respondents had visited both Thompson and Memorial Park. These numbers demonstrate that the City parks, especially the trail system, are heavily used.

TRANSPORTATION TO RECREATION FACILITIES

When asked how often do individuals, walk, bike, and drive to reach Hudson's parks and recreation facilities, over 60 percent of respondents indicated they often walk. This fact highlights the importance of maintain a safe and enjoyable non-motorized network that links the City's parks to the trail system, neighborhoods, the downtown, and other destinations. The need for a comprehensive, non-motorized system (sidewalks, trails, bike lanes, crosswalks, etc.) is further in demand as 35 percent of respondents often (with another 35 percent indicating 'sometimes') riding a bike to reach the parks.

In contrast, less than 40 percent of respondents indicated they drive to City parks, placing a higher importance on amenities which serve the pedestrian and cyclists – i.e. seating, available water, bike parking, shade and moments for relaxing, and restroom facilities.

PRIORITIES FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Respondents ranked various community programs, identifying the most important program areas to improve. The top three (3) program areas ranked most important for improving included:

- 1. Senior adult health, fitness, social programs, and assistance;
- 2. Community special events and festivals; and
- 3. Family programs and activities.

Respondents did indicate that the City is excelling in several areas of community program offerings, including youth and adult sports programs and summer programs.

PRIORITIES FOR HUDSON RECREATION FACILITIES

Questionnaire participants also ranked the City's recreational facilities, identifying the most important facilities to prioritize for improvements. The top three (3) areas for facility improvements are:

- 1. Safety / security at park facilities;
- 2. Lighting at park facilities; and
- 3. Playground equipment / play area updates.

As many young families and youth utilize the park spaces, safety and lighting remains a priority. The City recognizes this and in Chapter 5, various projects listed in the Action Plan detail plans for park improvements which address the above priority rankings.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT QUOTEABLES;

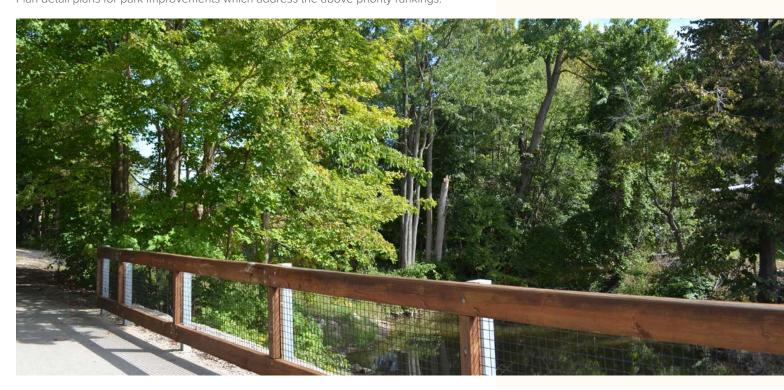
what Hudson stakeholders are saying:

"Our grandchildren really like the parks."

"[Memorial Park,] what a great park – a hidden gem!"

"Downtown Hudson looks good, Christmas tree [is] beautiful."

"Thank you for investing into parks and trails."





Community Goal & Objectives

Goals, as related to community planning, are general statements of ideals toward which the City strives towards. They also express a consensus of community direction for public and private agencies, groups, and individuals, and are longrange considerations that guide the development of specific objectives and actions.

Objectives are a means to achieve goals and identify the methods by which the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan may be realized.

These stated goals and objectives are grouped according to major community components and were developed using feedback from the public engagement surveys and the Recreation Advisory Board.

1) PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

GOAL:

Maintain, develop, and expand (where possible and appropriate) recreation facilities to provide a variety of park and recreation experiences (both passive and active) that are desired by the community.

+ Meet Demand

Strive to provide the recreation opportunities of this Plan over the next five-year period to meet the City's unmet need for parks and recreation pursuits.

+ Land Acquisition

Look for opportunities to acquire land that: (1) is adjacent to / near existing parks; (2) could provide increased / enhanced recreation opportunities; or (3) will help protect and provide access to community natural features.

+ Best Practices

Utilize environmentally-friendly design and construction techniques, ensure parks are inviting, friendly, aesthetically-pleasing, and consistent with the City's overall design standards, and prioritize park safety.

+ Accessibility

Ensure barrier free accessibility to all existing parks, recreation facilities and trail systems within the community, including paths, transfer points, resilient surfacing, picnic tables, play equipment, curb cuts, parking, etc.

+ Signage

Develop and implement consistent signage for the parks system and along access roads to raise awareness of park locations and facilities (including historical interpretative signage, where appropriate).

+ Maintenance

Develop maintenance standards for developed park areas and trail systems and the cost to maintain the standard on a yearly basis.

2) GREENWAY & TRAIL SYSTEMS

GOAL:

Expand and improve the non-motorized trail system to offer recreation and transportation opportunities, to connect with regional trails and to link people with parks and other destinations, promoting mobility and public health.

+ Hudson Trail Systems

Continue to maintain and enhance the Hudson Trail Systems and plan for future connections to the greater regional network, including the trail systems in Lenawee County.

+ Downtown Connections

Establish a safer pedestrian / non-motorized connection across E. Main Street (M-34) to between the downtown core and three of the City's parks and various neighborhoods.

+ Sidewalk Connections

Add sidewalk to missing links between existing City sidewalks and connect paths to existing and planned bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

+ Water Access

Expand recreation access to Bean Creek through land acquisition and/or conservation easements for greenways / trails, especially along water / drainage corridors that are ideal for trails but less suitable for other land uses.

+ Wayfinding Program

Develop a consistent wayfinding program for the greenways / trails that directs users of the non-motorized paths to City destinations (to coordinate with park signage).

+ New Development

Through the Zoning Ordinance, require developers to provide greenways / trails, in addition to sidewalks, in new developments that connect with other community neighborhoods, amenities, and destinations.



3) PROGRAMMING & PARTNERSHIPS

GOAL:

Coordinate with other parks and recreation providers and supporters to ensure safe, quality, affordable, accessible, and diverse program and event opportunities.

+ Digital Outreach

Develop and maintain a stronger, more viable website and other social media platforms to increase awareness of planned activities and upcoming events.

+ Volunteers

Actively seek and encourage the involvement of residents in the process. Establish and maintain job descriptions and duties in the park system of volunteers to help deliver services and support staff work.

+ Educational Relationships

Work closely and support the Hudson Community School District to continue to provide recreational program activities and events.

+ Relationship Building

Foster, promote, and encourage cooperative relationships with public and private entities.

+ Wealth of Programs

Work with local athletic organizations, clubs, and institutions to aid in offering and promoting a wealth and variety of organized activities within the community.

4) NATURAL RESOURCES

GOAL:

Preserve and protect natural resources and environmentally sensitive lands while maintaining public use, access, and enjoyment.

+ Viewsheds & Topography

Ensure the preservation of natural resources viewsheds; enhance viewsheds of water bodies, woodlands and wetlands from ROW and non-motorized paths; and capitalize on the rolling topography of the City.

+ Watercourses

Protect and restore water quality, stream channels, wetlands and ecosystems, enhance in-stream habitat, and implement streambank restoration and erosion control measures utilizing soft shoreline techniques.

+ Stormwater Management

Where possible, utilize low-impact development (LID) techniques to manage storm water that infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, and detain runoff close to its source.

+ Continuing Education

Increase awareness and education of natural resources through interpretive signage and emphasize native planting projects.

+ Preserve Open Space

Preserve open space, especially along Bean Creek, the southeast side of the City and along the periphery of Hudson's limits.

5) FINANCE

GOAL:

Prioritize funding streams and seek alternative funding sources to assist in implementing the goals, guidelines, and capital improvement projects in this Plan.

+ Financial Performance

Track how the City will spend its future financial resources on recreation projects and inform the public on resources available. Consider long-term maintenance costs associated with all improvements.

+ Self - Generating

Where appropriate, seek to make improvements, offer programs and events, and maintain facilities that will generate revenue.

+ Grants

Identify and pursue all applicable federal, state, and local grants, including the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF).

+ Sponsorships

Seek sponsorships for facilities and programs where appropriate.

+ Long - Range Planning

Review and update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years to maintain a current assessment and ensure grant funding eligibility.



PLANNING FOR CHANGE

Hudson's Action Plan serves as a template for future projects and is intended to be a flexible, year-by-year list of improvements for 2017-2021. The Action Plan supports the goals and objectives for the City development, growth, and enhancement through a comprehensive set of network improvements, policies and programs that are staggered over the five (5) year period.

Within this chapter, projects are identified which will develop the City's recreation system in a manner that provides a total recreation experience for the entire family. With the goal to continually develop facilities for active and passive recreation, competitive sports, for children, adolescents, and seniors, and picnic and gathering spaces, and natural landscapes / vistas, Hudson will continue to afford residents and visitors a high-quality park and recreation experience.

Detailed on the next several pages is Hudson's Action Plan, top five (5) projects for prioritization, and project descriptions to help guide and inspire responsible parties towards a common understanding and lay the groundwork for implementation.







Jop **five** Priority Projects

The following five (5) priority projects represent near-term investments that have the potential to create major and immediate improvements to the City's parks and recreation system.

These top five projects were identified by City Administration and the Recreation Advisory Board. The following projects serve as an excellent starting point for future prioritization and action:

- 1 Bean Creek Crossing
- Bean Creek Trail Re-Conditioning
- Will Carleton Park Active Recreation Improvements
- 4 Hudson Trail Extension
- Memorial Park Improvements

Full project descriptions are detailed on the following pages.

Action Plan

Hudson's Action Plan is detailed in Table 5.1 which presents each of the proposed project titles, the anticipated time frame, estimated cost range, and potential funding sources / partnerships. Some park facilities contain various projects that are planned to occur over multiple years and involve coordination with other agencies. Other park and recreation facility projects involve targeted improvements that Hudson can implement quickly within one year and/or with the help of volunteers.

Cost range estimates for Hudson's Action Plan projects were derived in 2016 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project should be specifically determined with the aid of site surveys, programming elements, and engineering requirements. If funding levels are lower than required to implement the project based on the schedule provided, the project's implementation time frame could be stretched over additional years or the scope of the project condensed.

Projects of the Action Plan should be reviewed annually by the Recreation Advisory Board and reported to the City Council, allowing for adjustments to respond to updated needs / conditions and the identification of funding opportunities.

Time Frame Key:

Near-term Less than 1 year
Mid-term 1 - 3 years
Long-term Over 3 years

Estimated Cost Range Key:

\$ \$0 - \$10,000 \$\$ \$10,001 - \$500,000 \$\$\$ \$500,000+

General Fund (Hudson)

Funding Sources & Collaboration Key:

GF

D/P Donation or Partnership LSO Local Service Organizations CS Corporate Sponsor G Grants (i.e. MDNR, CDBG) DDA Downtown Development Authority PC Planning Commission RAB Recreation Advisory Board CC City Council LC Lenawee County НС Hillsdale County MDOT Michigan Department of Transportation University Region DEQ Department of Environmental Quality

TABLE 5.1: HUDSON'S PARKS & RECREATION ACTION PLAN, 2017-2021

Project	Time Frame			Estimated Cost	Funding Source(s)
	Near-term	Mid-term	Long-term	Range	& Collaboration
Bean Creek Crossing	X			\$\$\$	RAB, DDA, G, MDOT
Bean Creek Trail Re-Conditioning	×			\$\$	DDA, GF, D/P, G
Will Carleton Park Active Recreation Improvements	×			\$\$\$	RAB, LSO, CC, GF, D/P, G
Hudson Trail Extension		X		\$\$	LC, MDOT, GF
Memorial Park Improvements		X		\$\$	RAB, LSO, CC, GF, D/P, G
Thompson Park Improvements			X	\$\$	RAB, LSO, CC, GF, D/P, G
Downtown Civic Pocket Park Improvements	×			\$\$	RAB, LSO, CC, GF, D/P, G
Webster Park Improvements		×		\$\$\$	RAB, LSO
Expand and Partner for Recreation Facilities	×	×	X	\$	LC, HC, CC
M-34 Pedestrian Crossing		X		\$\$	MDOT, RAB, LSO, CC, GF, D/P, G
M-34 Trail System Improvements	×			\$\$	HC, LC, MDOT
East Gateway			X	\$\$	DDA
Bean Creek Management		×		\$\$\$	RAB, CC, LC, HC, DEQ, GF, G
Park Signage Plan	×			\$\$	DDA, GF, CS, LSO
Wayfinding Signage Plan		×		\$\$	DDA, CS, LSO, GF
Zoning Ordinance Amendments	×			\$	PC, CC, GF
Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update			X	\$	RAB, CC, GF









Project Descriptions

BEAN CREEK CROSSING

Create the Bean Creek Crossing in the downtown core by utilizing the existing stone railroad viaduct, an impressive piece of architecture that is mostly hidden by vegetation and an unremarkable building. As the site is located just a few feet north of Main Street, the rail viaduct has traditionally acted as a reference point for Hudson residents, but not to visitors. Transformed into an urban trailhead for the greenway trail system and utilized as a gathering space and gateway, Bean Creek Crossing will strongly define the downtown space and expand trail access.

Planned amenities include landscaping, signage to draw the attention of passersbys (particularly those on foot or bike), seating and gathering spaces (with emphasis on water views), decorative pavers, public art, and non-motorized amenities such as a drinking fountain and permanently installed bike repair toolkit.

This impact of this project is critical since from the viaduct, a trail user can access almost the entire City.

BEAN CREEK TRAIL RE-CONDITIONING

This project consists of re-conditioning the original 1,000 linear feet of the Bean Creek Trail with fencing, bank restoration and new asphalt.

WILL CARLETON PARK ACTIVE RECREATION IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement active recreation park improvements, including:

- Removal of the existing rocks from the tot lot area and installation of new equipment (existing tot lot pictured right);
- Upgrade amenities near the pavilions as they are heavily used;.
- Basketball courts enhancements, including rust removal or replacement of backboards, new nets, re-surfacing of the pavement, and repair / replacement to the fence;
- Bee removal and management as this has created difficulty in using the softball fields for practices / games;
- Additional landscaping that is strategically placed to provide shade at softball dugouts and viewing spots for players and spectators;
- Improvement to the restroom facilities with a design to ensure that the exterior
 doors face highly used areas of the park (presently, it is difficult for parents
 to watch their children from the pavilion or softball areas when entering and
 existing the restroom facility); and
- Bat removal and management in the concession stand.



HUDSON TRAIL EXTENSION

Phase 1 is to expand the Hudson trail system to connect to the Lake Hudson Recreation Area that is approximately three (3) miles southeast of the City, along Main Street to US-127. Phase 2 is to extend and link the trail system to other destinations within and outside of Hudson.

MEMORIAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement general park improvements, including a paved, ADA accessible pathway to reach the restroom facility and the paving and striping of a portion of the existing parking lot to ensure ADA accessibility, including appropriate signage. Additional amenities planned for this site include a machine pit for league use and the connection and development of additional parking made at the adjacent municipal Waste Water Treatment Plant to alleviate congestion in the main Memorial Park parking lot during events.

THOMPSON PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Design and implement general park improvements, including: an internal, paved pedestrian pathway through the park to reach recreation amenities and the pavilion; paving and striping of the parking lot to ensure ADA accessibility, including appropriate signage; the addition of decorative, dark sky lighting at the park entrance and along the Church Street ROW; and elevation to the appearance of the existing park rock that highlights its significant through relocation to a more prominent area of the park; and replacement of antiquated metal playground equipment.

DOWNTOWN CIVIC POCKET PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Located within the downtown core, continued development to the Civic Pocket Park will provide the City with a centralized gathering space for community events and further enhance the overall character and public image of Hudson. Improvements include additional landscaping, signage, seating, public art, decorative pavement treatments, and landscaping screening (to provide a transition area to the adjacent residential use to the south).

WEBSTER PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Expansion of the park amenities to include: enhancements to the softball fields; enhancements parking to ensure ADA accessibility, including appropriate signage; removal and management of bees; creation of a year-long maintenance plan (presently cleaned up in spring but lacks annual effort); replacement of antiquated playground equipment (ideal location for a splash pad). Further, the ample open space and adjacency to Bean Creek call for the opening of viewsheds, landscaping, and creation of gathering spaces with seating to capitalize on natural vistas and beautiful sunsets.

The Webster Park changes reflect the desire to keep the existing casual parking at the park, such as during the summertime Thursday evening Concerts in the Park, where people often drive in and picnic before and during the performances.

EXPAND AND PARTNER FOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Investigate the possibility of providing new recreation facilities in schoolyards and the parks of other local jurisdictions that will be available to all residents of the Hudson Area, including: mutual use of the Hudson Area School's recreation facilities, county and township parks in the Hudson Area, and City recreation facilities; and provide opportunities for a healthier lifestyle through exercise.

M-34 PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

Investigation the feasibility for an enhanced pedestrian crossing across M-34 to link the downtown core with the residential neighborhoods and parks located within the southern portion of the City. Per the results of the investigation, design and implement a safe pedestrian crossing across M-34.

M-34 TRAIL SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Create a canopy of trees along the existing and any planned trail extensions along M-34, providing shade for trail users, incorporating the community garden and any other community destinations / landmarks, and defining the corridor as a focal point for drivers and visitors. This project also includes making the 1-Mile Industrial Park trail segment more noticeable and with additional signage. Other project improvements to the M-34 trail system include supplementary lighting along the road and public areas for increased pedestrian visibility and the incorporation of pathway amenities such as: benches, bicycle racks, and trash / recycling receptacles.

EAST GATEWAY

This project consists of highlighting the rail viaduct, north of the bridge, and its connection to the non-motorized trails that radiate from this node. The site should incorporate matching lighting, signage, and hardscape materials used in the Bean Creek Crossing project to give the area a unified and connected feel. Further, in coordination with nearby entities, designated bike routes coming into Hudson from the east or west should lead to this and the Bean Creek Crossing entrance node, where riders can make the decision to continue on the Hudson trail system or to visit downtown destinations.

BEAN CREEK MANAGEMENT

Create, ingrate, and maintain blue and green infrastructure centered around the Bean Creek system that aims to improve the water quality (including algae removal, water flows and levels) so that Bean Creek remains a healthy and attractive watercourse. Continue to acquire and preserve greenbelts of land around the Bean Creek system to protect the watershed from development impacts and pollution and reduce stress on the City's sewer systems.

PARK SIGNAGE PLAN

Design and implement new signage at all parks, following a consistent theme that ties into Hudson's wayfinding plan.

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE PLAN

Study, design and implement a new wayfinding signage plan to highlight parks, City destinations and trailways that will complement other City signage. Trail signage should include a map with routes and incorporate travel times for each segment to help guide unfamiliar users.

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS

Assure that as Hudson continues to develop, adequate land is set aside and programmed throughout the City for recreational purposes. As new residential subdivisions are built, quality parkland and open space must be set aside, and can be planned and regulated through minor Zoning Ordinance text amendments.

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan every five years (2022 deadline).





McKenna Associates Community Planning & Design 235 East Main Street, Suite 105 Northville, MI 48167 (248) 596.0920

John R. Jackson, AICP, President Laura Haw, Senior Planner / Designer Carrier Leitner, Graphic Designer Sabah Aboody Keer, Senior Urban Designer Map Production

Project Manager Planner / Document Design Document Design

