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Acknowledgements

City Council

James DeForest, Mayor
Noah Belanger, Mayor Pro-tem
Sandy Whellton, Council Member
Michael Moody, Council Member
Ben Stiffler, Council Member
Kent Hall, Council Member
Scott VanAllsburg, Council Member

Alan Dolley, City Manager

Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission

Earl Wolf, Chair
Phillis Chirico, Vice-Chair
Howard Dahlstrom, Commissioner
Patty Pratt, Commissioner
Teri Nelson, Commissioner
Peter Schall, Planning Commission Representative
Kent Hall, Council Representative
Scott VanAllsburg, Council Alternate
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I – Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of the 2014 – 2019 City of Williamston Park and Recreation Plan is to set the direction for Williamston over the next five years in the acquisition, development, renovation, and provision of outdoor recreation opportunities. It takes into account the views of residents through a 2004 survey sent to 700 registered Williamston voters, builds on recent efforts to create a “walkable community” as evidenced in the 1999 “Park Corridor Plan” (Gove Associates 1999), a survey by WHS sociology students in 2012, local service club initiatives and citizen input over the last 5 years. The plan builds upon the recommendations of the 2010 -2014 park plan and links with current improvements to McCormick Park, accounts for the upgraded school facilities, addresses the southern part of the City along the Williamston Road Corridor, oversight over Old Mill Park/Island, and reflects the property deal between the City and schools.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources requires an updated park and recreation plan to be submitted for approval every five years to be eligible for state and federal park and recreation grants such as those from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund. This updated plan will act as an outline for enhancing the park and recreation opportunities in Williamston and will maintain eligibility for certain funding sources.

Methods

This document was developed by the City of Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission was established as an outcome of the 2005-2009 park master plan. The commission met monthly beginning in 2005 and has been the point of contact for citizens to share their ideas and opinions. The current master plan represents the ideas and opinions shared by the citizens of Williamston to the commission. It reflects input obtained during two public workshops held on November 7, 2013 and XX XX, 2013. A working draft of the master plan was made available to the public on XXX X, 2014 with request for feedback, a public hearing was held on February XX, XXXX before the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the master plan was further discussed at the February XX, XXXX city council meeting.

The plan was available for the required 30-day public review period from XXXX, 2014 through XXXX, 2014. After commencing the public review period, the Parks and Recreation Commission held a public hearing and provided a resolution recommending adoption. Finally, on XXX XX, 2014, the City Council reviewed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and formally adopted the plan. See Appendices A and B for adoption documentation and meeting minutes.

Plan Preparation

The 2014-2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Williamston was prepared by the City of Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission.
## Plan Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006-2009</td>
<td>Monthly Parks and Recreation Commission meetings for public input on issues associated with parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 3, 2008</td>
<td>Work Session of Parks and Recreation Commission to update parks and recreation master plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 2009</td>
<td>Work Session of Parks and Recreation Commission to update parks and recreation master plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 3, 2009</td>
<td>Working draft of master plan made available to public for comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 2009</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing to discuss parks and recreation master plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23, 2009</td>
<td>City Council discussion of parks and recreation master plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21, 2010 – March 24, 2010</td>
<td>30-day Public Review Period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 24, 2010</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation Commission public hearing and recommendation of adoption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 25, 2010</td>
<td>City Council review and formal adoption of plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
II – Community Description

Location and Size

The City of Williamston is located in north central Ingham County. The City encompasses 2,842 acres and was incorporated as a village in 1877 and as a city in 1944.

Williamston is east south east of the Lansing/East Lansing metropolitan area. The corridor from East Lansing/Meridian Township to Williamston through Williamstown Township (Ingham County) is rapidly developing both for residential and commercial purposes with a subsequent decline in agricultural and wild land uses. On the south, the City of Williamston reaches to I-96. This corridor along the expressway access to the City is also poised for rapid development. The area currently is only well-linked to the downtown, the Red Cedar River and the city parks by roadway. There is a lack of non-motorized trail linkage. The township directly north and northwest of the City (Williamstown in Ingham County) is growing, with significant development taking place and more planned for the Grand River/M-43 corridor. Further to the north (Woodhull Township in Shiawassee County), the northwest (Bath Township in Clinton County) and to the south (Wheatfield Township in Ingham County) are shifting from primarily agricultural/wild land uses to increasingly residential areas. This is especially true of Bath Township. To the east, Locke Township (Ingham County) is still primarily agricultural and wild land, while south of that and south east of Williamston are Leroy Township and the City of Webberville (Ingham County), which are experiencing more rapid growth due to their proximity to I-96.

To the southeast of Ingham County along I-96 is Livingston County, the fastest growing county in the state from 1990 to 2000 (36% growth in population). In total, this suggests that the demand for park land in and near Williamston is likely to sharply increase as population rises and the amount of nearby wild land and open space declines, making way for development.

Natural Features

Topography
Topography in Williamston has little relief, but the Red Cedar River and its tributaries do have a defined floodplain. This lack of topographic change minimizes concerns about water erosion due to slope. However, it also makes areas of higher elevation especially valuable, such as the sledding hill in Deer Creek’s Park.

Water Resources
The principal water resource in Williamston is the Red Cedar River. It is fed by a number of tributaries, including Deer Creek, which is the most extensive tributary in the City, flowing from the southwestern part of the City (adjacent to the City well field property) northward through Deer Creek Park. McCormick Park provides the principal public access to the Red Cedar in Williamston. Wetlands are found in the Red Cedar floodplain and in the southern part of the City near Linn Road, both east and west of
Williamston Road. The Tobias-Linn Drain (an Ingham County Drain) also traverses the southern part of the City of Williamston.

Soils
The Soil Survey of Ingham County indicates that three predominate types of soil (Marlette, Oshtemo and Capac) are found in Williamston. The Marlette and Oshtemo soils are found in the well-drained areas, and the Capac soils are found in the more poorly drained areas especially in the floodplain and wetland areas.

Climate
The Michigan State Climatologist reports that Williamston’s climate is sub-humid temperate. In January, the typical daily temperature is 20.1 degrees and in July the typical daily temperature is 70.5 degrees. The total annual precipitation is 29.7 inches with most falling between April and September in the form of rain. The average seasonal snowfall is 40.2 inches. Williamston’s four distinct seasons provide the opportunity for many seasonal recreation activities, including snow and ice activities such as sledding and skating.

Vegetation
The vegetation in Williamston is typical of south central Michigan, dominated by deciduous trees where other land uses (e.g. agriculture, turf, development, etc.) do not preclude the typical forest species. This is especially apparent in the Red Cedar floodplain where silver maple, American elm, cottonwood and green ash are common. There are many street trees in Williamston and they provide valued shade in the spring and summer, vibrant fall color and habitat for birds and other wildlife year round. Key street tree species are sugar and Norway maple, red and white oak, white ash and honey locust. A key vegetation concern is the emerald ash borer, which dooms all green, white or exotic ash (e.g. mountain ash), regardless of size unless expensive insecticide treatments are regularly applied. Except for large specimen trees, the City should continue to identify and remove ash from the landscape. In public park areas, dead and dying ash trees could present a safety hazard. As a result of the 2007 tornado, 39 trees (including many ash trees) were removed from McCormick Park.

Wildlife
The Red Cedar River floodplain provides some of the most valuable wildlife habitat in the City. Mammals found there include whitetail deer, gray and fox squirrel, raccoon, coyote, red fox, muskrat and mink. A wide variety of birds also use the floodplain, highlighted by waterfowl. Fish species in the Red Cedar include rock bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike and bluegills, as well as catfish, carp and suckers. Turtles include the common map turtle, musk turtle, Blanding’s turtle, and eastern painted turtle and spiny softshell. The floodplain is important habitat for reptiles and amphibians including northern watersnake, eastern garter snake and blue racer.

Across the rest of the city, especially the developed central and northern areas, many songbirds are common, providing many residents the opportunity to enjoy bird feeding and observation. South near I-96, there is still open land that has the potential to benefit a
wide variety of open space wildlife species. As this area is developed, creating habitat corridors along Deer Creek, the Tobias-Linn Drain, non-motorized trails/pathways and at retention/detention basins holds out the promise of a city with abundant wildlife that all residents, visitors and workers can enjoy.

**Land Use**

Table 1 shows the land use within the City of Williamston. Most of the undeveloped lands currently lie in the southern portion of the city. The land is broken down into the following categories as described in the Williamston Comprehensive Plan:

**Public/Exempt**  
This class contains property that is tax exempt. Typically, that is land that is in public ownership such as parks, schools, or other public properties.

**Commercial**  
The commercial category includes areas with or without structures, where goods are distributed or personal business services are provided. This includes the retail sales of goods and services to local residents and consumers attracted from outside the community. The downtown commercial district, as well as single lot or highway, retail, wholesale and office space are included in this category.

**Industrial**  
Industrial includes areas where raw or unfinished materials or commodities are used to produce a product. This includes industries whose manufacturing processes may cause emissions that are potentially detrimental to surrounding land uses.

**Residential**  
These are areas where dwellings and their accessory buildings occupy the major portion of the land.

**Developmental**  
Parcels in this category have been designated for future development.

The southern less-developed area provides potential opportunity for the creation of future recreation opportunities that require larger space, or are more conveniently located for the southernmost Williamston residents.
Table 1: Land Use, City of Williamston

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>Number of Parcels</th>
<th>Areas (acres)</th>
<th>Percent of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public/Exempt</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>16.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>7.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential</td>
<td>1,202</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>33.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed</td>
<td>1,086</td>
<td>307</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,464</td>
<td>1,252</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Williamston GIS Database

Transportation

Several significant transportation corridors intersect or border the City of Williamston. State highway M-43 (Grand River Ave.) bisects the city running east-west. Interstate 96 served by interchange 117 (Williamston Road), provides a direct expressway link on the southern part of the city. Crossing the Red Cedar River to the north from Grand River Avenue, Williamston Road/Putnam Street is the lone vehicular/pedestrian link for north-south traffic. The desire for a “walkable” community was clearly expressed in the 1999 Park Corridor Plan (Gove Associates 1999) and the draft Williamston Road Corridor Plan (Community Planning Associates 2004). In particular the 2004 plan calls for “pedestrian circulation….. to enable future and existing neighborhoods to be linked with sidewalks, hiking/biking trails and other pedestrian friendly designs”. It also calls for “connecting all existing and proposed residential developments to the downtown area”. This was reinforced in the planning process through the recreation needs assessment. The walkability of McCormick Park has been completed, but Memorial Park needs a similar hard surface pathway. However, for truly sustainable development, pedestrian connections should be available not only for neighborhoods but also for commercial and industrial areas as workers, visitors and residents need to better connect. Sidewalk improvements have been recently undertaken, but expansion toward Plymouth Landing and the industrial park or pedestrian/bike connections to other communities has not progressed significantly. Pedestrian/bike access will promote more healthy lifestyles such as walking to work, lunch or shopping or using a bicycle for exercise during work breaks instead of sitting.
Demographic Characteristics

All demographic characteristics cited are based on data provide by the US Bureau of the Census.

Overall Population
There were 3,854 people residing in Williamston in 2010. This is a 12% increase from the 2000 census population of 3,441, influenced to a large measure by the expansion of the Williamston City limits during the late 1990’s. However, with Williamston being a hub for the neighboring townships for goods, services and education, it is likely that the population pressure on City facilities will be considerably greater than that illustrated by the census of the City population levels. Of the population over 4 years of age, 14.4% are reported to have a disability by the US Census of 2000.

Households
There were 1,605 occupied housing units in Williamston in 2010. Of these, 66% were owner occupied and 34% were in rental units. This is an increase in owner occupied/decrease in rental occupied from 1990 where the Bureau of the Census reported that 59% of households were owner occupied and 41% in rental properties. The median household income in 2010 for City households was $61,840, above the median of $42,469 for households across Ingham County. Single-person households make up 32% of all households.

Age, Sex and Race
The age distribution of Williamston’s population is gradually getting older with the single greatest population increase in the 45-64 age groups over the past two (2) decades (Table 2). Somewhat surprisingly, the proportion of elementary and middle school aged residents has stayed relatively constant. The largest decline continues in the 25-34 year old group, likely reflecting people who relocating for employment reasons.

Females comprise the majority of Williamston residents 52 % while 48 % are males. The racial make-up of the City is predominately Caucasian with 94.45% reporting their race as white to the US Bureau of the Census in 2010. In summary, every age category and men and women are well represented across the population. Hence, the City needs to take into account the full range of residents in their provision of outdoor recreational opportunity. Further, it is likely that the population will diversify as the nation’s population does, making it important to continue to assess the recreational needs of a changing population. The City does not have enclaves of population with disproportionately high levels of persons with disabilities, seniors, those with lower incomes or specific ethnic identities.
Table 2: Age Distribution of Population, City of Williamston, 1990 and 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>1990 Percent</th>
<th>2000 Percent</th>
<th>2010 Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
<td>8.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-9</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>7.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>7.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-24</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>11.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>13.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>15.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
<td>13.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>10.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
<td>5.42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 and over</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>6.31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USA.com

Education
The population of Williamston is well educated according to the State of Michigan statistics, with 73.29% of adults 25 and over having attended college. Of these over half having earned a bachelor’s or graduate college degree. Further, the voters of the Williamston school district in a 2004 special election approved a bond issue which significantly upgraded the K-12 system in the district. One aspect of the bond was to renovate and improve the high school gymnasium and some associated athletic facilities. These amenities are available for use by the general public through a fee for use program.

Regional Considerations
The populations of the adjacent townships of Williamstown Township, Wheatfield Township, Leroy Township and Locke Township are growing. Respectively, they have grown by 3%, -1%, -3% and 7% between 2000 and 2010. Residents of these areas use Williamston as a hub for goods, services and education. It is also reasonable to suggest they use city parks, which along with the Williamston Community Schools (also in the city) provide the venue for youth and adult sports leagues. With the exception of Williamstown Township, the other adjacent townships also lack a park and recreation infrastructure. In total, almost 12,000 people were reported in the adjacent townships in the 2010 Census. Coupled with Williamston’s 3,854 residents, it is reasonable to picture Williamston’s park and recreation infrastructure and programs serving more than 15,000 potential users.

Zoning
Williamston is a zoned community. A zoning map is found on page 9.
INSERT: ZONING MAP
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III – Administrative Structure

Administration

The following shows the organization structure of the City of Williamston. All city expenditures for parks and recreational purposes are approved by the City Council. The City of Williamston has a weak mayor form of government with a city manager.

City Council
Legislative body appropriating money for park and recreation function and passing park and recreation related ordinances. The council also directly supervises the city manager.

City Manager
The City Manager is the CEO of Williamston City Government. The manager directly supervises department heads, including Planning and Zoning and Public Works. Alan Dolley is the City Manager.

Community Development
This department is responsible for park and recreation planning. McKenna Associates serves as the Community Development Department.

Department of Public Works
This office is responsible for park maintenance. Scott DeVries is the City’s Engineer/Superintendent of Public Works.

Parks and Recreation Commission
The commission is a volunteer board of Williamston residents who fulfill an advisory role to the City Council on all matters pertaining to the City of Williamston parks and youth recreation.

Programming, Volunteers, and Relationships

All park and recreation programming is provided by cooperating governmental units and non-profit entities in the community. The various programs include volunteers to make them possible.

Source: City of Williamston
Figure 1: City Organizational Structure
Parks and Recreation Budget and Grant History

Table 3 summarizes the 2011 – 2014 actual and budget for parks and recreation within the City of Williamston.

Additionally, Table 4 summarizes the state recreation grants awarded to the City. Further descriptions of each facility are included in Section IV.

Table 3: Parks and Recreation Budgets, City of Williamston, 2010 – 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries and Wages</td>
<td>$20,533</td>
<td>$19,520</td>
<td>$16,281</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>$10,053</td>
<td>$10,160</td>
<td>$6,683</td>
<td>$9,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating Supplies</td>
<td>$7,336</td>
<td>$6,384</td>
<td>$3,970</td>
<td>$6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual Services</td>
<td>$10,845</td>
<td>$38,309</td>
<td>$4,744</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance – Liability/Property</td>
<td>$252</td>
<td>$231</td>
<td>$237</td>
<td>$300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Festival/Flamingo Fest</td>
<td>$4,075</td>
<td>$3,193</td>
<td>$10,115</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>$3,529</td>
<td>$4,792</td>
<td>$3,977</td>
<td>$5,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Maintenance Building</td>
<td>$3,031</td>
<td>$14,394</td>
<td>$15,557</td>
<td>$18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Rental</td>
<td>$15,013</td>
<td>$16,806</td>
<td>$12,693</td>
<td>$16,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$74,667</td>
<td>$113,789</td>
<td>$74,257</td>
<td>$104,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Williamston

Table 4: Recreation Grant History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source/Project Number</th>
<th>Project Year/Name</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Project Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LWCF – 26-00305</td>
<td>1972 – McCormick Park Improvement</td>
<td>$1,106.17</td>
<td>Lighted croquet court, horseshoe and shuffleboard area, picnic storage, conversion of pool into play area, play equipment, LWCF sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LWCF – 26-00314</td>
<td>1972 – Memorial Park Improvement</td>
<td>$41,289.92</td>
<td>Renovation of existing swimming pool, improvement ball field, tennis court, lighting, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe courts, wintertime warming house, site improvement, picnic area, boat livery and footbridges, LWCF sign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNRTF – TF616</td>
<td>1982 – Williamson Recreation Corridor</td>
<td>$105,000</td>
<td>Acquisition of 3 parcels totaling 2.53 acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNRTF – TF95-121</td>
<td>1995 – Red Cedar River Rapids</td>
<td>$342,700</td>
<td>Develop artificial rapids course in the Red Cedar River for recreation and to control water levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNRTF – TF08-081</td>
<td>2008 – McCormick Park Improvements</td>
<td>$391,100</td>
<td>Paved pathway system, parking, canoe/kayak launch, fishing/observation structures, landscaping, and lighted pathway, concession/accessible restroom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Michigan Department of Natural Resources
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Section IV – Recreation Inventory

Recreation Facilities

The following inventory lists all of the public, semi-public and private recreation facilities located within Williamston and many of those in nearby communities. It also assesses problems of existing public recreation facilities in Williamston.

City of Williamston Park Inventory and Assessment

All parks are inspected annually by members of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Below are the assets and problems associated with each of the parks. Due to the relatively small area of Williamston, all of the parks service most all residents and many residents of neighboring towns.

Additionally, a barrier-free accessibility assessment has been included for each facility. The passage of the American Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires all areas of public service, including parks and other recreation facilities, to have barrier-free accessibility. An evaluation of Williamston parks and recreation facilities has been conducted as part of the inventory. In accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE) standards, facilities were evaluated to determine if a person with any of the following criteria can safely and independently access and use the park or facility:

- Has limited sight or is blind
- Uses a wheelchair
- Has a hearing impairment or is deaf
- Uses a walking aid
- Has a mental impairment

A five-point evaluation system was used to rank each facility’s accessibility. The system is described below and the accessibility rankings can be found under the description of each park.

- **Level 1.** The park is not accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. The site includes little paved areas and the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 2.** The park is somewhat accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Either the parking area or pathways are paved, but not both. Many of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are not easily accessible.
- **Level 3.** The park is mostly accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Most of the parking areas and pathways are paved, and some of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas are accessible but may be completely barrier-free.
- **Level 4.** The park is completely accessible to people with a broad range of physical disabilities. Parking areas and pathways area paved, and most of the facilities such as play equipment or picnic areas area easily accessible.
- **Level 5.** The entire park was developed or renovated using the principles of universal design, a design approach which enables all environments to be usable by everyone, to the greatest extent possible, regardless of age, ability, or situation.
1. McCormick Park
McCormick Park is centrally located within the City of Williamston on North Putnam Street. Inventory suggests the following park assets and challenges:

**Assets**
- Two picnic shelters
- Several picnic tables and grills
- Recreational sporting field
- Significant public river frontage (almost 1/4 mile)
- Two play structures
- Playground equipment that involved community support
- Access to the Red Cedar River including facilities for carry-in watercraft and fishing
- Accessible Restrooms
- Centrally located with the City of Williamston
- Bandshell
- Concession building
- Parking availability
- Interpretive Signage
- Ash Tree Chainsaw Sculpture Art (10)
- Lighted paved pathways
- Wall of Honor (American Legion)
- Park benches
- Renovated historical gazebo

**Problems**
- Limited shade
- (wood) play structure maintenance
- Vandalism

**Barrier-Free Assessment – Level 3.5-4.0**

2. Memorial Park
Memorial Park is located on Highland Street next to the Elementary School.

**Assets**
- Almost ¼ mile natural frontage on the Red Cedar River
- Linked to area south of river by pedestrian bridge
- Adjoins Williamston Community Schools property
- Sports fields
- Accessible picnic tables with grills

**Problems**
- No pathways or facilities
- Limited parking
- Limited access to riverfront
- Blighted outdoor swimming pool facilities and tennis court

**Barrier-Free Assessment – Level 1**

3. **West End Park**
West End Park is a wetland/retention area that is located off Grand River Ave. The area serves as wetland habitat and provides an area for wildlife watching. The area is lacking a sense of identity and is not clearly linked to the Williamston park system. There is no parking and a lack of any interpretive information. Public access is currently only available through a 12 foot wide easement out to Grand River Avenue.

**Barrier-Free Assessment – Level 1**

4. **Old Mill Park**
West of Putnam Street Bridge including the river boardwalk, informational signage, historical plaza and gazebo. Gazebo and garden plots are maintained by the local Red Cedar Garden Club. The man-made island has an extensive management plan focused on enhancing the visual appeal and natural habitat.

**Assets**
- almost ¼ mile natural frontage on the Red Cedar River
- 100 yard-long boardwalk
- scenic views of Red Cedar River/rapids
- Blue Star Veterans marker
- butterfly garden

**Problems**
- maintenance of wooden boardwalk
- accessibility problems for picnic table/viewing platforms
- identity signage

**Barrier-Free Assessment – Level 2**

5. **Williamston Community Schools Recreation Resources**
The Williamston Community School District operates two elementary schools (Discovery and Explorer), one middle school and one high school. All of these schools are located within the City of Williamston. These school sites are designed primarily to meet the needs of the students, but do provide extensive recreation facilities and opportunities for school district residents, which includes all City of Williamston residents. The schools have indoor and outdoor recreational facilities such as gymnasiums, basketball courts, baseball diamonds, football fields, a track, a pool, sand soccer fields. High school and the middle school athletic directors all provide significant community recreation service. School facilities are used by community members on many occasions when not in use for school functions.
6a. Williamston Area Community Center

The Community Center fills a variety of recreational and community programs needs. It currently is host to the library and senior center. Meeting rooms and classrooms are used by the community education department, the community foodbank, boy and girl scouts, exercise classes, etc. Rooms can be reserved by any community groups or individuals. External to the community center is a large play area and the Williamston Schools Sports Complex.

b. Community Center Play Area

Assets
- adjacent to community center
- Trent Allen Memorial Basketball courts (2008)
- young children’s play area

Problems
- playground maintenance issues

7. Deer Creek Park

Deer Creek Park is located on Mechanic Street. The park is linked to a football field and track that is owned by the school district.

Assets
- lighted sledding hill
- multi-use open space
- wooded area located on the West boundary
- adjoins Williamston Community Schools property including sports complex
- ample recently-paved parking
- small covered pavilion
- gated access
- signage
**Problems**
- There is minimal shelter or tree cover at the park other than on the western boundary
- no restroom facilities

**Barrier-Free Assessment – Level 3**

8. **Well Field**
The current well field located off of Linn Road is a large piece of land owned by the City. Although not currently use for any recreational purpose, this area of land provides potential for future development with convenient access for the residents of the Plymouth landing area. One major drawback to development of this area for recreational purposes is the current inaccessibility to these lands by pedestrians or bicycles accompanied by its relative distance from downtown.

**Barrier-Free Assessment – Level 1**

9. **Miscellaneous City Land**
A pocket park is currently located at City Hall. Another is planned for land owned by the Downtown Development Authority east of the bridge over the Red Cedar River on the north side of Grand River Avenue. These can provide islands of relaxation adjacent to development and can assist in channeling visitors from parking to local businesses. Additionally, Thurlby Park (a small strip of land) provides minimal public access downstream of the downtown area.

**Barrier-Free Assessment – Level 1**
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Neighboring and Regional Park and Recreation Facilities

Williamstown Township Hall
Located at the corner of North Zimmer and Germany roads, the Township Hall lands are available to township residents for recreational use and for meetings of community clubs and organization. This land includes a pavilion, soccer field and baseball diamond.

Williamstown Township Park
Williamstown Township Community Park was built in 1996 and consists of 132-acres located approximately 3 miles west of downtown Williamston off Grand River Ave. The park lies on the banks of the Red Cedar River and currently has a sledding hill, nature trails, wildflower prairie, two soccer fields, a baseball field, dog walk, an open turf area for various activities an informational kiosk and a parking area (includes port-o-john facility.)

MDOT Roadside Park
The Michigan Department of Transportation roadside park is located at the intersection of Grand River Avenue and Meridian Road. It is located on the banks of the Red Cedar and is a 1.8 acre park with picnic tables, grill units, restroom facilities and canoe launch facilities.

Meridian Township Parks
Meridian Township has eighteen parks and natural areas available for recreational use. There are three parks that provide active interpretation: the Nokomis Learning center (a Native American Cultural Center), Harris Nature Center (an environmental education center) and Meridian Historic Village, which offers people the opportunity to experience the nineteenth century lifestyle.

Ingham County Parks
Ingham County Parks has a park system of more than 1,400 acres that includes seven main parks and two smaller parks in southern Ingham County. The closest parks to Williamston are Lake Lansing Park North and Lake Lansing Park South. Lake Lansing Park South (once a popular amusement park) is located on the southeast shore of Lake Lansing, the largest body of water within 30 miles of Lansing. The 30 acre-site includes a sandy beach bordered by four acres of grass. Besides swimming, fishing and paddle boats are available for water recreation. For land based recreation, the Friends of Ingham County Parks have funded the construction of a band shell providing a community performance space for music and community entertainment and events. In addition, there is picnicking, volleyball, horseshoes and other opportunities for general recreation. Lake Lansing North is larger with over 400 acres of land providing non-motorized trails, picnicking, softball diamonds, and volleyball. At the waterfront, a well developed boat launch for trailer and carry-in boats is available.

The other notable Ingham County Park is the Potter Park Zoo. This 85 acre park has housed animals since 1920 and its control recently moved from the City of Lansing to
Ingham County. The park consists of the zoo, picnic area, pavilions, a portion of the City’s river trail system, canoe rentals and significant riverfront lands.

**Ingham County Fair and Exposition Center**
The Ingham County Fairgrounds are located in Mason and are best known for hosting the ten-day Ingham County Fair. The fairgrounds are used continuously from early spring through early winter. The primary use of the fairgrounds is for equestrian shows. Other uses include livestock shows, pet shows, automobile shows and events such as circuses, swap meets and bicycles races. Throughout the winter months (November through March), the fairgrounds provide winter storage for boats, campers, motor homes and cars.

**City of Lansing**
The City of Lansing has over 100 park and recreation facilities. Those of exceptional regional importance that serve Williamston residents include:

- **Fenner Nature Center**: contains primarily natural areas and offers environmental education, summer day camps and nature walks.
- **Rivertrail**: an urban trail system that borders the Red Cedar and Grand Rivers. The river trail offers sites for picnicking, links to many attractions (e.g. Impressions 5 Museum, Lansing Community College, Lansing Farmers Market, Michigan State University, etc.) and also adjoins park and recreation facilities with a large amphitheater and festival grounds.

**City of East Lansing**
The City of East Lansing has 24 parks. Four key regional parks are:

- **Abbott Road Park**: 130 acres of partially wooded areas and wetland areas linked to the paved Northern Tier Trail.
- **The Family Aquatic Center**: on Abbot just north of Lake Lansing Road.
- **East Lansing Soccer and Softball Complexes**: on Abbott Road at the north end of the City near the Family Aquatic Center.

**Michigan State University**
MSU is located approximately eleven miles west of Williamston. It offers a large variety of recreational opportunities on campus including trails, natural woodlot areas, a planetarium, performing arts venues, Big Ten sporting events, and several gardens.

**State of Michigan Facilities**

- **Rose Lake Wildlife Research Area**: Located in Bath Township in Clinton County is the closest State of Michigan facility to Williamston. It is an 873-acre farmland and wildland site used for wildlife research also provides wildlife oriented recreation such as hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing. In addition, many use the area for non-motorized trail activities such as hiking, cross-country skiing and bicycling.
- **Sleepy Hollow State Park**: Located in Clinton County 12 miles northwest of Williamston is a 2,700-acre park that offers camping, picnic facilities, playgrounds, a
beach house, boat launches, swimming, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, hiking, bicycling and cross-country skiing.

- Three other state facilities offering outdoor recreation that are located within a thirty-mile radius of Williamston are the Dansville State Game Area (southern Ingham County), the Pinckney and Brighton State Recreation Areas, both located in Livingston County.

**Commercial and Non-Profit Recreation Facilities**

There are several private sector organizations that address the recreation needs of some segments of the population. These commercial recreation facilities may not be accessible to all residents because they do charge user fees. The following list summarizes the types of commercial recreation facilities that are available in Ingham County and within thirty miles of Williamston.

- Williamston Community Fitness Center & Walking Track
- Williamston Senior Center
- Golf Courses (21)
- FunTyme (water park, putt-putt golf and go-kart facility)
- Harris Nature Center
- Woldumar Nature Center
- Campgrounds (Lansing Cottonwood, Moon Lake, PJ Family, Wheel Inn, Ingham County Fairgrounds)
- Athletic Clubs (Yoga and cycling center, Curves, YMCA, Court One, Gold’s Gym, Powerhouse Gym and The MAC, Williamston High School Fitness Center)
- Roller Skating (Edru Roller Skating Arena)
- Theater/Stage (Williamston Theatre, Lansing Civic Players Guild, The Riverwalk Theatre, Wharton Center for Performing Arts)
- Dance Studios
- Baseball Fields (Cooley Law School Park)
- Movie Theaters (Sun Theatre, Celebration! Cinemas, NCG Theaters, AMC Theaters, Lansing Mall 6)
- Bowling Alleys (Pro Bowl, Marvel Lanes and MSU Union)
- Shopping Centers (storefronts along Grand River Avenue, Frandor, Meridian Mall, Lansing Mall, and Eastwood Town Center)
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V – Background

Overview

Fulfilling one of the first recommendations of the 2005-2009 parks master plan, the City established a 7-member citizen Parks and Recreation Commission in 2005. This body meets monthly and has oversight for the park lands and plays an advisory role to the City Council on all matters pertaining to the parks. The commission provides a venue for citizens to share input or criticism about the parks.

In October 2007, a tornado swept through the city of Williamston and caused significant damage in both Deer Creek and McCormick Parks. Adding to that, the park’s lost all of its ash trees to the Emerald Ash Borer, causing significant loss of shade. Much of the focus by the commissions subsequent to this event was the reconstruction of the damage and planned replacement of lost trees and other assets.

The following sections provide specific background for the developments surrounding each of the major parks.

McCormick Park

In 2006, the parks commission worked with Capital Consultants to develop a master plan for McCormick Park. This plan would integrate existing facilities; future funded facilities and proposed additions. Public hearings were held, plans reviewed and a finished plan was submitted to city council for approval during 2006 and 2007.

The commission worked with the Williamston Kiwanis Club and the Williamston Area Beautification Fund (WABF) Committee to begin to fulfill some of the envisioned items in the McCormick Park plan. During spring 2007, the Kiwanis Club donated and constructed a “Tot-Lot” playground, replacing a set of aging structures. During 2008, the WABF had raised enough money to initiate the installation of a bandshell within the park in accordance with the park plan. An initial concert/fundraiser was held in September 2007. The project was completed and dedicated as The American Legion Bandshell in June 2008.

During 2007, the American Legion proposed a new veteran’s memorial be installed within McCormick Park. This project had considerable public support, so the McCormick Park plan was adjusted to include the proposed structure. On Memorial Day 2008, the American Legion dedicated the Wall of Honor Memorial, near the Putnam Street bridge.

In the fall of 2007, the commission voted to complete a proposal for a Natural Resources Trust Fund grant as a means to help raise the money to fulfill the vision set forth in the Capital Consultants plan. This was completed and filed to the state in April 2008. The plan requested nearly $400,000 with a 40% match by the city and the city was informed that the proposal would be funded in December 2008. The McCormick Park Renovation Project was completed in 2011, and dedicated Memorial Day 2012. The project included natural
riverfront landscaping, lighted pathways, accessible restrooms, concession, fishing pier and canoe/kayak access.

In 2009, the City organized a Tree Sculpture Festival to utilize the large, dead ash trees in the park. Carvers were sponsored to create chainsaw sculptures. Eventually the sculptures were repositioned in the park as permanent art pieces.

Memorial Park
The sporting fields are used by the Community Recreation Association. In 2013, a Scout project constructed an accessible picnic site with tables and grills.

Deer Creek Park
This downtown park is primarily used by the Lion’s Club during Jubilee, for winter sledding and parking for High School football games. The “pit area” used for Jubilee’s Demolition Derby, was filled in and a temporary area was erected for use during the Jubilee, allowing other use of the land throughout the rest of the year. In 2008, the parking lot was expanded and repaved, with improvements to the fencing and gate. The pavilion was also rebuilt due to damage by the 2007 tornado.

Old Mill Park
In 2006 the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) requested the Parks and Recreation Commission to take oversight of this area including the river boardwalk, island and gazebo. In 2008, the Park and Recreation Commission renamed the area Old Mill Park (a name recommended by one of the city residents through an open call for names) to recognize the historical significance that the area played in the city of Williamston. In 2006, a Historical Plaza was built which includes the historic millstone (encased in concrete) and wayside display panels with interpretive information about the mill and bridge. The informational panels were donated by the Williamston Sunrise Rotary Club.

The landscaping around the gazebo has been maintained by annual planting and upkeep by the Red Cedar Garden Club. In 2012, the Club donated the Blue Star Veterans Memorial marker.

In 2008, a long-term management plan for the island and riverbank areas was created and the initial stages implemented by Wildtype, Mason MI. The plan is designed to achieve the desire expressed by the public of creating an attractive and manageable natural area. The plan further limits invasive species and focuses on long-term management. Floodplain shade trees were hand-planted on the bank and island. The goal is a future “glade” habitat to evolve. The management plan includes yearly maintenance, including herbiciding (which is vital to control invasive species) tree thinning and limbing promoting proper tree growth. Future plans call for periodic burns offering an educational opportunity for the community about the vital role fire plays in the natural life cycle. The contract was renewed in 2012.
Community involvement with the island has been high to date. During multiple fall 2008 work days, 30+ volunteers cut and removed logs from the island. The result is a cleaner habitat featuring flood-tolerant native riparian trees and plantings.

Update on 2009 -14 Action Program

1. A citizen park and recreation advisory committee should be formed to work with the City Council and appropriate personnel in the executive branch of Williamston city government. Completed.

2. Non-motorized trail expansion to link community assets including parks, schools, businesses, the Red Cedar River and neighborhoods should be a top priority.

   Initial work completed on paths in McCormick Park. Repairs of sidewalks continues in disrepair. Inter-connecting bike paths continue to be a focus of the park plan. Coordination with DDA, City Planner, adjacent communities continues.

3. The quantity and quality of recreation opportunities related to the Red Cedar River needs to be improved by enhancing opportunity for water-based recreation (fishing, canoeing/kayaking) and adjacent non-motorized trails with universal access features that connect aesthetically pleasing public recreation spaces and community schools.

   Renovation of McCormick Park completed. Future access improvement is a goal along Memorial Park’s riverfront and a Red Cedar Pathway from Putnam Street bridge to Deer Creek Bridge.

4. Each park (including linear and pocket parks) should be clearly designated, with an attractive entrance sign, appropriate parking, non-motorized trail opportunities, proper access for the disabled and a distinctive, inviting character.

   Not all completed. A sign is needed identifying Old Mill Park. Improved signage at all park locations in needed. Improved parking at Deer Creek Park

5. Williamston needs to better use existing public lands such as the well field area in the southern part of town, Thurby Park near the Red Cedar River and other publicly owned spaces to create important park land, maintain open space and link people to nature. Some, such as the well field may provide the opportunity for developed recreation facilities needing a large land base (athletic fields, nature trails, etc.).
No significant progress on this.

6. **Williamston needs to use water management features associated with new development (e.g. retention/detention basins) as ecological assets by using wetland plant species, irregular shorelines, varying depths and other techniques to maximize the aesthetics and wildlife value of these necessary aspects of development.**

Water and ecological management is a key aspect completed in McCormick Park riverfront and its rain garden basin. River front and island is ongoing at Old Mill Park.
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VI – Basis for Action

The current recreation needs assessment, the 1999 Park Corridor plan, McCormick Park Master Plan, the current recreation inventory and assessment of Williamston and nearby jurisdictions and the Michigan State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2008-2012 constitute the basis for the action presented in Section VI, Action Plan. Regarding the Michigan SCORP, the following Williamston action plan helps Michigan address the key state priorities of resource conservation, trails, community recreation, universal access, green technology and cooperation and coordination among governmental units. This alignment with state priorities make the City of Williamston eligible for federal Land and Water Conservation money administered by the State of Michigan.

In the past, National Recreation and Park Association standards prescribing a minimum level of recreation land or infrastructure (e.g. 10 acres of locally owned public parkland per 1,000 residents) were used in a prescriptive approach to define community recreation needs. This approach is not used in this plan. Rather, a more modern level of service (LOS) approach is adopted. In LOS, the community is fully engaged in the process. Acquisition and development are tailored to meet community identified needs and link with recreation opportunities provided in neighboring jurisdictions. For example, the older standards approach would not take into account that the City of Williamston is defined by more than political boundaries. It is a community, public school, and recreational hub for 15,000 people, only 3,854 of which live in the City.

Key resources to assist in the proposed actions are funding sources administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. These include the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF), one time monies derived from the sale of leases and royalties on state owned hydrocarbon resources and protected by the Michigan Constitution to provide perpetual funding to support the acquisition and development of Michigan public outdoor recreation opportunities. Another source is the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the precursor to the MNRTF. This fund has been in place since 1965 and is also derived from hydrocarbon resources, those on federal lands and the outer continental shelf, through the sale of leases and the resulting royalties from extraction.

This plan will be continually reviewed and amended as necessary by the City of Williamston.
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VII – Goals and Objectives

The goals of the parks master plan is to create an environment that will allow local residents access to recreational activities and remove barriers to individuals living an active lifestyle. The goals include the following:

1. **Provide recreation opportunities.**

   Recreation opportunities need to be developed for residents of all ages and abilities. There are currently limited local recreation opportunities for many different age ranges. Specifically, the plan seeks to increase the number of outdoor activities for children and adults including those with disabilities. Additionally, the plan will encourage further development of both public and private recreational opportunities such as adult recreational sports leagues (sand volleyball, pickleball, bowling alley, winter sports).

2. **Encourage an active lifestyle including walking, biking, skating.**

   The community has expressed a desire to invest in a walkable community. Developing a network of paths will help remove accessibility as a barrier to maintain an active lifestyle and will lead to a decrease in obesity and an overall improvement in health.

3. **Build a strong community through social interactions.**

   Community can only be built through social interactions. The parks plan seeks to create an environment where residents have space and motivation to interact and develop as strong a supporting community. The renovation of McCormick Park is one major step toward providing a central community gathering location.

4. **Offer recreational access to and appreciation of the Red Cedar River.**

   The renovation of McCormick Park and the enhancement of Old Mill Park focus in part on creating an appreciation of the Red Cedar River through education and access. A Red Cedar Pathway access, from Old Mill park, adjacent the business district to Deer Creek bridge and a Memorial Park riverfront pathway are future goals.

5. **Offer environmental education opportunities**

   The parks plan recognizes that support for the natural environment begins through education. The parks play a key role in helping residents of all ages understand the impact that humans have on the environment and how individuals’ decisions can help minimize negative impacts on the environment. The natural riverbank management, the island management and the park rain garden are excellent examples of demonstration plots that serve as a passive environmental education experience.
6. **Enhance community/citizen park maintenance opportunities**

Parks offer a framework for volunteer opportunities for landscaping, grounds and building maintenance. These projects should be under the supervision of city staff.
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VIII – Action Program

The following items represent the key targets for progress during the timeframe of this masterplan. The order listed is not meant to denote a hierarchy, but simply a list of important goals.

1. **Ongoing McCormick Park Improvement.**

   McCormick Park is the jewel of the City of Williamston Parks. The receipt of the MNRTF 2008 grant provided both motivation and support for fulfilling the McCormick Park planned upgrading into a premier park providing significant public benefit and educational opportunity. Future improvements, such as sand volleyball, are planned.

2. **Continuing to develop the walkability of Williamston**

   Promote projects that connect residents of the city to the downtown and parks via walkable and bikeable pathways.

3. **Expand recreation opportunities for children and families.**

   Access to recreation is the first step in partaking in a healthy lifestyle and a strong community. Available activities need to be expanded and increased. These may include increased bicycle pathways, usage of the band shell, development of the well field, or the creation of new city assets such as the creation of a community ice rink, sand volleyball, skate park, or by encouraging private investment in the form of the creation of recreational opportunities such as a new bowling alley.

4. **Increase universal access to parks.**

   Continue to increase accessibility to the Red Cedar River and natural resources of Williamston. Specifically the increase of access in Memorial Park and the improvement of the Old Mill Park Boardwalk location should all be primary goals.

5. **Continue to incorporate green technologies.**

   The City of Williamston should continue to focus on increasing green technologies throughout the city and specifically in the parks. Parks should continue the use of environmentally friendly materials, LED lighting, permeable pavement as well as water control mechanisms such as rain gardens to minimize erosion and damage.

6. **Environmental Education.**

   The park system should also encourage environmental awareness and education. The access to natural resources, provided by the park, provide ideal settings and opportunity to educate the public through signage, demonstration areas and partnerships with other
city groups including the schools.

7. Develop distinct Park Donation Policies.

The park system should have clear policies in place for donations, donation maintenance and memorials. Other policy issues include environmental issues such as designated natural areas (native vs. non-native plants).

**Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan**

This section summarizes the overall system recommendations as well as specific improvements to individual parks. Some are multi-year efforts that will involve time and coordination, while others are park improvements that require largely monetary investment. Table 5: Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan incorporates the top recommendations that require capital improvement in the next five years and beyond for planning purposes.

Priorities should be reviewed on an annual basis and adjusted to respond to updated findings and identification of funding opportunities. In particular, costs should be closely monitored, as the proposed plan estimates are in 2014 dollars and are strictly preliminary. Actual costs for each project will be more specifically determined as site surveys, programming elements, and engineering plans are developed if applicable, as well as further analysis of the proposed improvement. In funding levels are lower than required to implement the Plan based on the schedule provided, the implementation could be stretched over additional years.
### Table 5: Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SHORT TERM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2014-2016</td>
<td>Demolition of condemned pool, etc at Memorial Pk</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual Park tree replacement/addition budget</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Park Identity signage for all parks including</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upgrade playgrounds and facilities</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>McCormick Park additions (sand volleyball, pickleball, tetherball, etc)</td>
<td>$6-8,000</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Continuation of Old Mill Park/island/McCormick Park riverfront/rain garden WildType maintenance plan</td>
<td>$2,000/year</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bandshell security door/cameras</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red Cedar Bike/walk paved pathway from Old Mill Park</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MEDIUM TERM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2016 - 2018</td>
<td>Recreation Improvements/landscaping of Deer Creek Park</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>1, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Create paved pathway along Memorial Park riverfront, linking Highland St. to pedestrian bridge</td>
<td>$50-80,000</td>
<td>2, 3, 4</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>LONG TERM</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 and Beyond</td>
<td>Develop well field area (e.g. dog park, or sport field complex, disc golf)</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>1, 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: City of Williamston*

Suggested Funding Sources
1. City Funds
2. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)*
3. Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MDNR) or other State grants*
4. Private Funds (Service organizations, community groups, donations, etc.)
5. Inland fisheries, Waterways Grants, etc. (MDNRE)*

* Local match required (minimum 25% for MNRTF; 20% for MDOT). Match for acquisition can include cash or bargain sale during the grant period. Match for development can include billable in-kind services performed during the grant period. (note: MDOT and DNR grants for pathways can be each other’s match)
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Appendix A – Resolutions of Adoption

CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL

At a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 161 E. Grand River Avenue, Williamston, Michigan on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 6:00 p.m., there were:

PRESENT: Timothy Grossman, Randy Pail, John Pratt, and Scott VanAlsburg.

ABSENT: Michelle Hyne, Michael Moody, and Andy Simmons.

The following resolution was offered by Pratt and supported by Grossman.

Resolution Adopting the City of Williamston 2010 – 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

WHEREAS, the City of Williamston has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical and social features, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2010 and 2014, and

WHEREAS, Parks and Recreation Commission has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and will use this document to assist in meeting the recreation needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, multiple opportunities for public comment were made available, suggestions were solicited, two public workshops were held with the Parks and Recreation Commission on December 3, 2009 and January 20, 2009; a draft of the plan was made available to the public on February 3, 2009; the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council reviewed the draft plan in February, 2009; comments were sought during the 30-day review period from February 21, 2010 to March 24, 2010, which were incorporated into the plan; and

WHEREAS, at a special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission and after the public hearing on March 24, 2010, the Parks and Recreation Commission recommended adoption of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City Council of the City of Williamston, hereby adopts the City of Williamston 2010 – 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the City of Williamston and directs that this plan, along with a copy of this Resolution, be filed with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and the Ingham County Board of Commissioners.

VOTE ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:
YES: Pail, Pratt, VanAllsburg, Grossman.
NO: None.

THIS RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I, Holly M. Thompson, the undersigned duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council at a Special Meeting held on Thursday, March 25, 2010.

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk
City of Williamston

Dated: 3-26-10
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION #01-10

CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

At a Rescheduled Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan held in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 161 E. Grand River Avenue, Williamston, Michigan on Wednesday, March 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., there were:

PRESENT: Phillis Chirico, Gwen Hulbert, Ryan Sweeder, Larry Wittrup, and Earl Wolf.

ABSENT: John Pratt

The following resolution was offered by Sweeder and supported by Hulbert.

Resolution Recommending Adoption of the City of Williamston 2010 – 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan

WHEREAS, the City of Williamston has undertaken a Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical and social features, existing parks and recreation facilities, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain recreation facilities during the period between 2010 and 2014; and

WHEREAS, two public workshops were held with the Parks and Recreation Commission on December 3, 2009 and January 20, 2009; a draft of the plan was made available to the public on February 3, 2009; the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council reviewed the draft plan in February, 2009; comments were sought during the 30-day review period from February 21, 2010 to March 24, 2010, which were incorporated into the plan; and

WHEREAS, this plan meets the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment as the document must be filed with that agency if the City is to be eligible for state and federal recreation grants; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission of City of Williamston has reviewed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and finds itself in accord with the basic plans and strategies outlined in this document; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Williamston, recommends that the City of Williamston City Council adopt the City of Williamston 2010 – 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and directs that this Plan, along with a copy of this Resolution, shall be forwarded to the City of Williamston City Council.

VOTE ON THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:

YES: Sweeder, Wittrup, Chirico, Wolf, Hulbert.

NO: None.
THIS RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I, Holly M. Thompson, the undersigned duly qualified and acting Clerk of the City of Williamston, Ingham County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Parks and Recreation Commission at a Rescheduled Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk
City of Williamston

Dated: 3-24-10
NOTICE

THERE WILL BE A PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION WORK SESSION ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2008 AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 161 E. GRAND RIVER AVENUE, WILLIAMSTON. THE MEETING WILL BE TO DISCUSS THE PARKS MASTER PLAN. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. PLEASE CALL 517-655-2774 WITH QUESTIONS. THANK YOU.
NOTICE

THERE WILL BE A PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION WORK SESSION ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009 AT 8:00 A.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 161 E. GRAND RIVER AVENUE, WILLIAMSTON. THE MEETING WILL BE TO DISCUSS THE PARKS MASTER PLAN. ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. PLEASE CALL 517-655-2774 WITH QUESTIONS. THANK YOU.
PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING: PROPOSED PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN
CITY OF WILLIAMSTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

THE CITY OF WILLIAMSTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON FEBRUARY 11, 2009, CONCERNING THE PROPOSED 2009-2013 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN.

THE 2009-2013 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SETS THE DIRECTION FOR WILLIAMSTON OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS IN THE ACQUISITION, DEVELOPMENT, RENOVATION AND PROVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES. THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES Requires AN UPDATED PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN BE APPROVED EVERY FIVE YEARS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR STATE AND FEDERAL PARK AND RECREATION GRANTS.


THE PUBLIC HEARING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11, 2009 AT 7:00 PM, WILLIAMSTON CITY HALL, 161 EAST GRAND RIVER AVENUE, WILLIAMSTON, MICHIGAN.

CITY CLERK
CITY OF WILLIAMSTON, MICHIGAN

ENT-696498  2/8/09
CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
Parks & Recreation Commission
February 11, 2009
Regular Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall by Chair Ryan Sweeder and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call:
Present: Chair Ryan Sweeder, Commissioners Phillis Chirico, Gwen Huibert, Larry Wittrup, and Council Representative Michael Moody. Absent: Earl Wolf and John Pratt.

4. Approval of Agenda:
Add item 9a. DTE Grant Update.

Motion by Wittrup, second by Chirico, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Audience Participation:
Chair Sweeder called for audience participation. There was none.

6. Public Hearing:
Chair Sweeder noted that a Public Hearing on the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan was scheduled for 7:00 p.m. However, with no citizens in attendance, Chair Sweeder proceeded with the Commission agenda items.

Motion by Wittrup, second by Chirico, to correct starting time of January 14th, 2009, meeting to 7:10 p.m., and approve minutes with corrected starting time. Motion passed by voice vote.

8. Action Items:

8a. McCormick Park Rules.

The draft of McCormick Park Rules (for the small sign) was reviewed. Consensus was to approve the “Animals must be on 6’ leash” rule and the animal waste pick up rule. Commissioners agreed to change the rule on vehicles to read “Authorized Vehicles Only”
leaving off the additional language. Commissioner Wittrup suggested the language stating the
hours be "Open from dawn to dusk" and simply be stated at the top under the "Welcome to
McCormick Park" wording, followed by Please help take care of Your Park and the list of rules.
Commissioner Chirico stated her concerns about needing language stating pedestrians have the
right-of-way on the pathways, and Chair Sweeder said it had been decided in previous
discussions to put such notices on even smaller signs in appropriate areas. Chair Sweeder said
he would prepare several different "sign drafts" and bring them to the March Commission
meeting for further consideration.

8b. Park Master Plan:

Chair Sweeder stated that the draft Park Master Plan notice was in the Enterprise, and was
posted on the City's website, giving citizens until February 18th to review and comment on the
plan. He said City Manager Lisa Hitchcock indicated two people had come in for copies of the
plan. He noted the deadline for completion of the plan is March 31st, and the Commission's
schedule is to have it for the City Council's review and comments at their February 21st
meeting.

Motion by Wittrup, second by Hulbert, to recommend passage of the Park Master Plan to City
Council, pending further comments from Council members and/or Commission members.
Motion passed by voice vote.

9. Discussion Items:

9a. DTE Grant Update.

Chair Sweeder said he was informed by City Manager Lisa Hitchcock that the City is being re-
imbursed by DTE for the $2,000 spent on trees in McCormick Park.

Discussion followed re plans for implementing the DNR Grant for McCormick Park. Consensus
was that the most efficient way was to have one or two Commissioners serve as "Grant
Administrators" and work with the City Manager to prepare a "laundry list" of tasks and a "time
table" for their completion. Commissioners Hulbert and Chirico shared their concern about
fundraising being a top priority. Commissioner Chirico stated the bandshell is being sought as
the site for a June wedding, and there may not be any grass near the bandshell, due to
construction. Commissioner Wittrup volunteered to check on this. Commissioner Chirico
volunteered to do a draft "application" for use of the bandshell and bring it to the March
Commission meeting.

10. Correspondence Received/Information Only: (There was none)
11. Staff Reports: (There were none)

12. Audience Participation: (There was none)

13. Member Comments:

Commissioner Chirico commented that Jerry Jorgensen had offered the City some free pine trees and she would like to see the City follow up on the offer for planting in McCormick Park.

Commissioner Wittrup stated he was planning on another “park clean-up day” during the first part of May, and that he is lining up volunteers. He stated his concerns that trees in McCormick Park need to be planted in either Spring or Fall—as summer plantings usually fail due to lack of water, etc. Commissioner Wittrup said he would like to work with Commissioner Pratt and City Manager Lisa Hitchcock, as “Grant Administrators” to oversee the DNR Grant.

Commissioner Hulbert said she agreed with Commissioner Wittrup on the need for another park clean-up-day, and shared his concerns about the need to plan for administration of the DNR grant.

Council Member/Commission Representative Moody congratulated the Commission on their good work, and said the Council had recently approved the Band Shell Policy the Commission recently sent to them.

Chair Sweeder said he was glad to see Commissioner Wittrup back on the job, and happy that the band shell rules are now in place. He feels the Commission is getting things done.

14. Adjournment:

Meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

*THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.

Respectfully Submitted By Gwen Hulbert, Secretary,

Date Approved: March 11, 2009
CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AND
PUBLIC HEARING
WILLIAMSTON PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMISSION

Notice is given to any and all interested parties that the City of Williamston is preparing an update to the five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources requirements. When completed, the plan will serve as a guide for the acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities and programs over the next five (5) years.

The Plan will be available for review and comment for 30 days beginning Monday, February 21, 2010 at City Hall, 161 E. Grand River Avenue, Williamston, MI 48895, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Additional plan viewing locations include the library, the City Public Services Building, and the City website (www.williamston-mi.us).

Notice is also given to any and all interested parties that the Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, 7:00 pm, at City Hall, 161 E. Grand River Avenue to hear comments on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Comments may be submitted in writing to the City Clerk, prior to the meeting if you cannot attend in person.

All interested parties may submit comments in person or in writing to the City of Williamston Parks and Recreation Commission, 161 E. Grand River Avenue, Williamston, Michigan 48895. If you have questions, please call 517-655-2774 for more information.

City Clerk
City of Williamston

WE-799378  2/21/10
CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2010
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall by Chairman Earl Wolf and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Roll Call:
Chairman Earl Wolf, Vice Chair Phillis Cherico, Commissioners Gwen Hulbert, Ryan Sweeder, and Larry Wittrup. Absent: John Pratt.
Also Present: City Manager Tim Allard, City Clerk Holly Thompson, Community Development Director Heather McPhail, and citizen David Minnock.

3. Approval of Agenda:
Add item 9a. Update of McCormick Park Improvements, item 9c. Wood Sculpture Sealing Update, item 10b. Wood Chips from Howard Dahlstrom for Playground, and 10c. Turbine in Michigan.
Motion by Sweeder, second by Wittrup, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed by voice vote.

5. Public Hearing- Park Plan Amendment:
Chairman Wolf opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.
Director McPhail went through the 2010-2014 Parks & Recreation Plan with the Commission and public.
Chairman Wolf called for public comment and/or written comments at this time and there were none.
Chairman Wolf closed the public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

6. Audience Participation:
David Minnock of WKAR public broadcasting for MSU talked to the Commission about a proposed Pumpkin Festival. He asked if the Commission would be interested in supporting/endorsing the festival. Mr. Minnock explained that the festival would include blown glass pumpkins, a bonfire, Legend of Sleepy Hollow performance, pumpkin carving contest, among other activities.
The Parks Commission discussed the concept and felt that the festival should be delayed until 2011 but they were interested in pursuing the concept along with other service groups.

7. Approval of Parks & Recreation Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2010:
Motion by Sweeder, second by Hulbert, to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 10, 2010 as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.
8. Action Items

8a. Parks & Recreation Plan Resolution for Approval:
Motion by Sweeder, second by Hulbert, to adopt the resolution recommending adoption of the City of Williamston 2010-2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan as presented. Yes: Sweeder, Wittrup, Chirico, Wolf, Hulbert. No: None. Motion passed.

9. Discussion Items

9a. Update of McCormick Park Improvements:
Plans for the McCormick Park improvements were shown to the Commission for their review.

The Commission discussed the location and viability of the sand volleyball courts. Manager Allard informed the Commission of St. Mary’s Church’s concerns with the volleyball courts.

The Commission discussed the parking lots and ideas for better parking solutions.

The work on McCormick Park is scheduled to start in May.

The Parks Commission wished to discourage high maintenance events going on in McCormick Park during construction.

9b. Update on Riverwalk Trail Extension grant status, including property owner feedback:
There is no grant that can be acquired until property can be obtained for the riverwalk trail.

9c. Wood Sculpture Sealing Update:
A recommendation for sealing the wood sculptures was distributed for review. Within the next 30 days the sculptures should be sealed. The Commission discussed the idea of cutting the sculptures off the stumps and relocating them in the park on concrete bases.

The Parks Commission recommended that the oils be purchased for sealing the wood sculptures and they will figure out who will be applying the oils at the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Hulbert will check with the wood carver that expressed interest in painting her wood sculpture before it is sealed.

11. Audience Participation:
Chairman Wolf called for public comment at this time and there was none.

12. Member Comments:
Commissioner Wittrup reported that the City Council has adopted the second reading of the Zoning Ordinance and the Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing on a prohibited businesses ordinance.

Commissioner Chirico commented that she has seen people looking at the statues but was perturbed that people are letting their children climb on the sculptures.
Commissioner Hulbert stated that she is glad that they are finally going out to bid for the McCormick Park project.

Chairman Wolf asked the City Manager to update the Commission on the 109 Building, N. Williamston Road project, and the Zoning Ordinance issue with an recreational vehicle on Spaulding and Quinan Streets.

Manager Allard reported that the City is closing on the 109 building on Friday and explained the funding and project timeline. The North Williamston Road project is being done in two phases from the highway to Industrial Park Drive. The project is supposed to be completed by the end of the construction season. Manager Allard stated that the Planner took a look at the issue of the recreational vehicle and found it to be in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance.

13. Adjournment:
Meeting Adjourned at 9:46 p.m.

*THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD.

Respectfully Submitted by: ____________________________
Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

Date Approved: ____________________________
CITY OF WILLIAMSTON
CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 25, 2010
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

1. Call To Order:
The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers by Councilman VanAllsburg and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Pratt, second by Grossman, to appoint Councilman VanAllsburg to run the meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

2. Roll Call:

Also Present:
City Manager Tim Allard, City Treasurer Alan Dolley, City Attorney Bonnie Toskey, and citizen Terri Campbell.

Motion by Grossman, second by Pratt, to excuse Hyne, Moody, and Simmons. Motion passed by voice vote.

3. Approval of Agenda:
Motion by Pratt, second by Pail, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed by voice vote.

4. Audience Participation:
Councilman VanAllsburg called for public comment at this time and there was none.

5. Action Items

5a. Resolution Approving the 2010-2014 Parks & Recreation Master Plan:
Motion by Pratt, second by Grossman, to adopt the resolution approving the 2010-2014 Parks & Recreation Master Plan as presented. Yes: Pail, Pratt, VanAllsburg, Grossman. No: None. Motion passed.

6. Audience Participation:
Councilman called for public comment at this time and there was none.

7. Adjournment:
Motion by Pail, second by Pratt, to adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote.

*Meeting Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:__________________________

Holly M. Thompson, City Clerk

______________________________
Scott VanAllsburg, Councilman

Date Approved:__________________________
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Appendix C – Literature Cited


