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MANAGER
Andrew Dymczyk

TO: DeWitt Charter Township Board of Trustees

FROM: Adam Cramton, Clerk *AC*

SUBJECT: DeWitt Township Pickleball Courts

DATE: April 8, 2021

The Township has an inline skating rink in Granger Meadows Park. As an asset, it remains largely unused year-on-year. 2020 did see a moderate increase in its intended usage due to the ongoing pandemic, however, concerns are now being raised about the integrity of the surface used for skating. Facing a possible maintenance investment, I would like to propose an alternative that would benefit a larger number of our residents.

On the current Capital Improvement Plan, the rink is listed for a modification or change in 2023 or beyond, with a planned budget of \$60,000. I propose that, with a level concrete surface in place, the rink can easily be resurfaced and refitted for multiple pickleball courts. The facility has ample parking, lights, restrooms, concessions, and is located far from any residents that could be bothered by the noise that Pickleball generates. The existing hockey boards, benches, and fencing could possibly be auctioned to cover a portion of the cost. Further, there is a verified demand for this sport in DeWitt Township. DARA conducted a recreation survey and the words "pickleball" and "pickle ball" appear 17 times in the respondent write-in section. Having 3, 4, or even 6 courts, depending on the layout and separation, will also satisfy a demand for senior activities and programs in the community.

I am asking the Board to consider directing Manager Dymczyk to seek competitive quotes, using the Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process, to retrofit the existing inline skating rink for use as multiple pickleball courts, with the winning bid to be brought before the Board for approval and funding by the end of May.

Strategic plan:

Strategic: Quality of Life

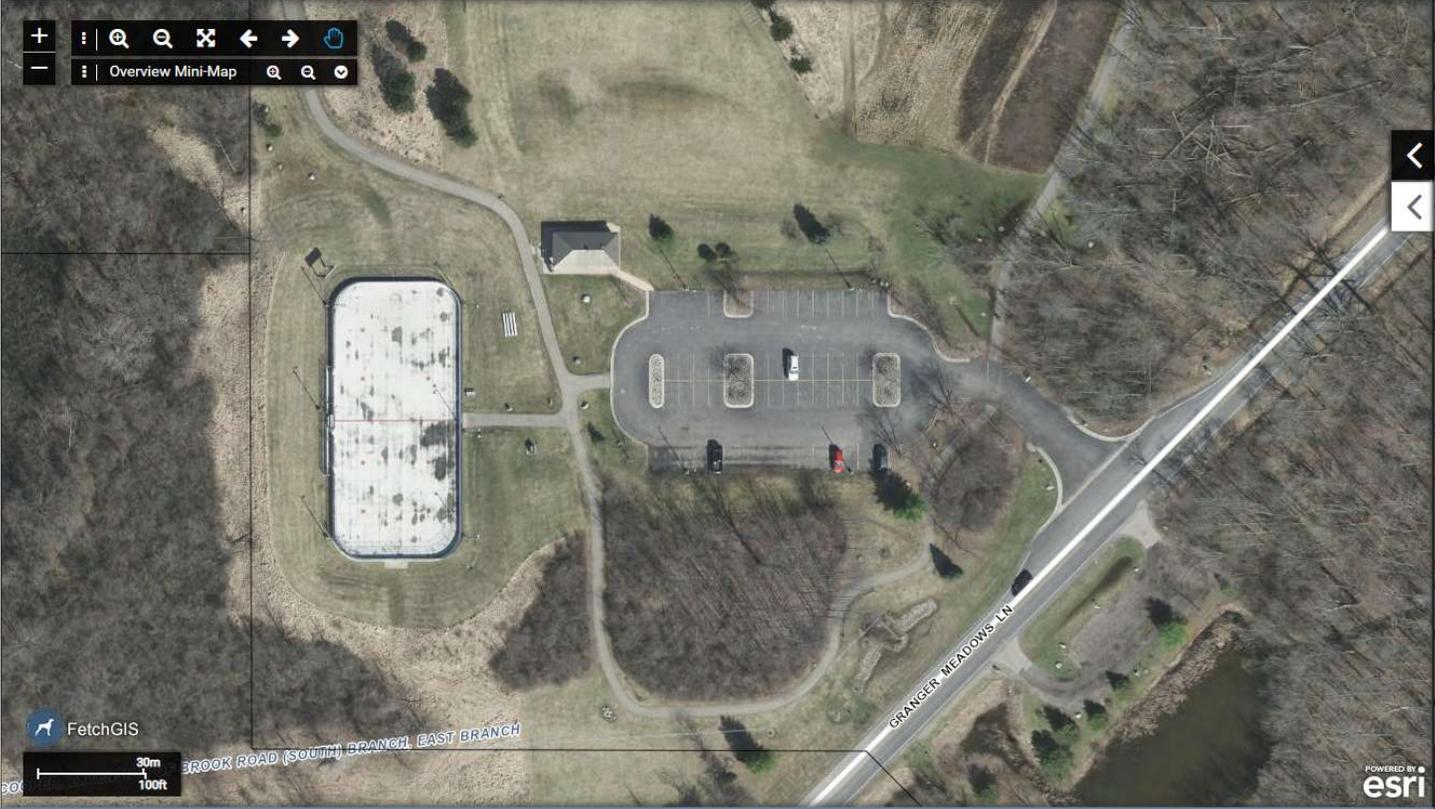
Strategy: Enhance Township recreational amenities and opportunities

Suggested action:

Direct Manager Dymczyk to seek competitive quotes, using the Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process, to retrofit the existing inline hockey rink for use as multiple pickleball courts, with the winning bid to be brought before the Board for approval and funding at the May 24th Board of Trustees meeting.



Map navigation controls including zoom in (+), zoom out (-), search, overview mini-map, and navigation arrows.



FetchGIS



BROOK ROAD (SOUTH) BRANCH EAST BRANCH

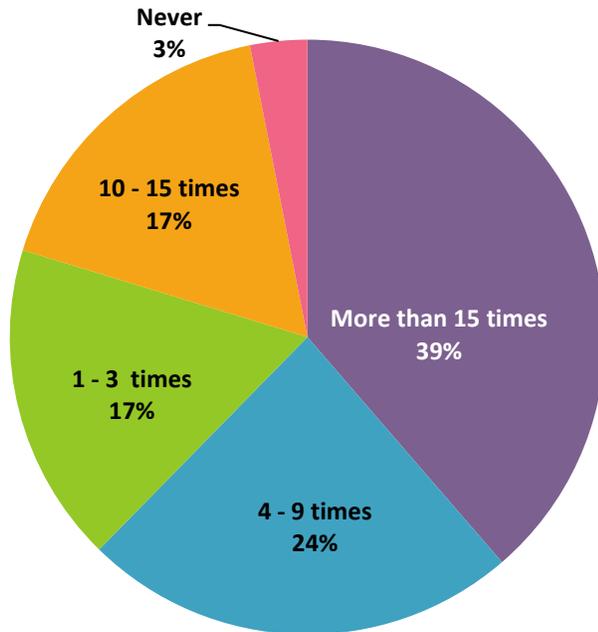
GRANGER MEADOWS LN

POWERED BY esri

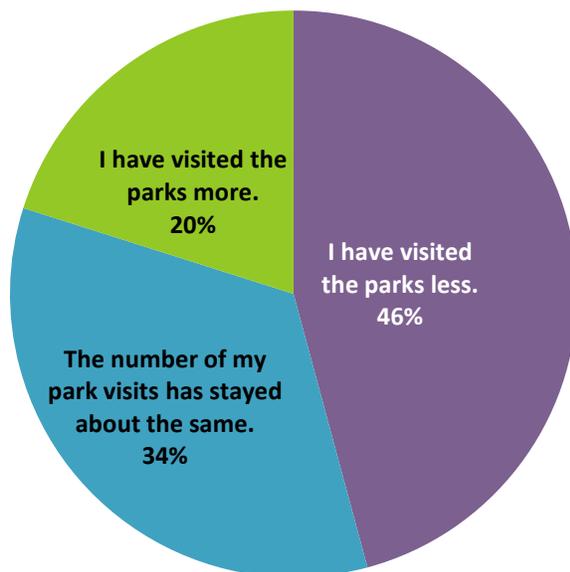
Report for DeWitt Area Recreation Plan Survey

Survey Available 11-19-2020 to 1-3-2021 492 Responses

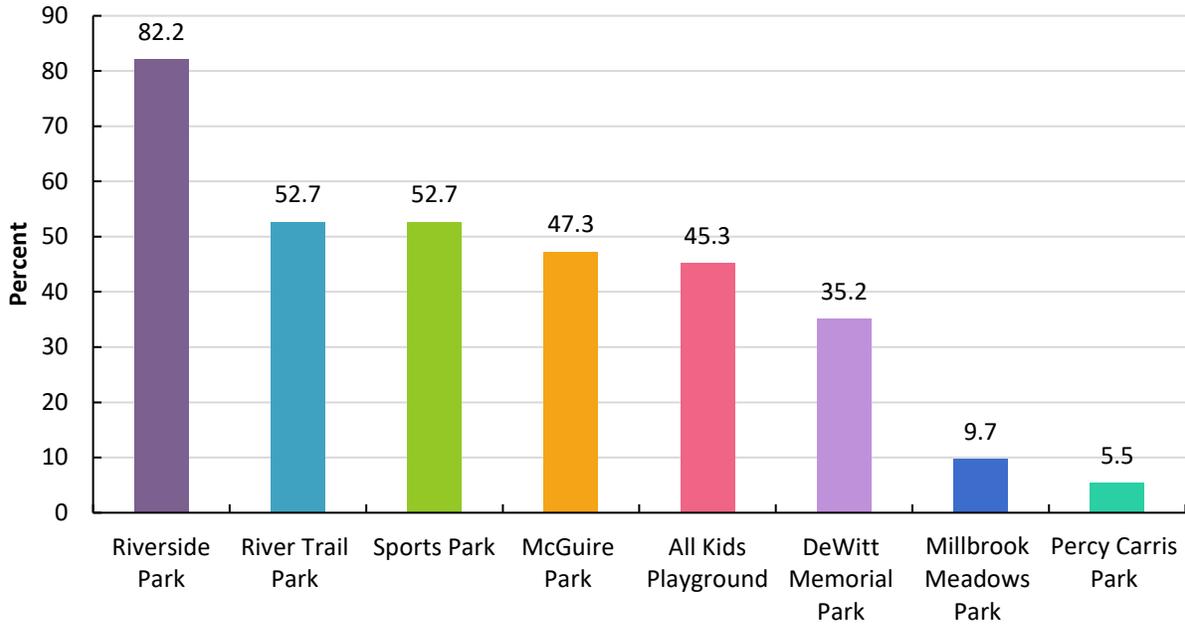
1. How many times did you visit a DeWitt Area park in the past year?



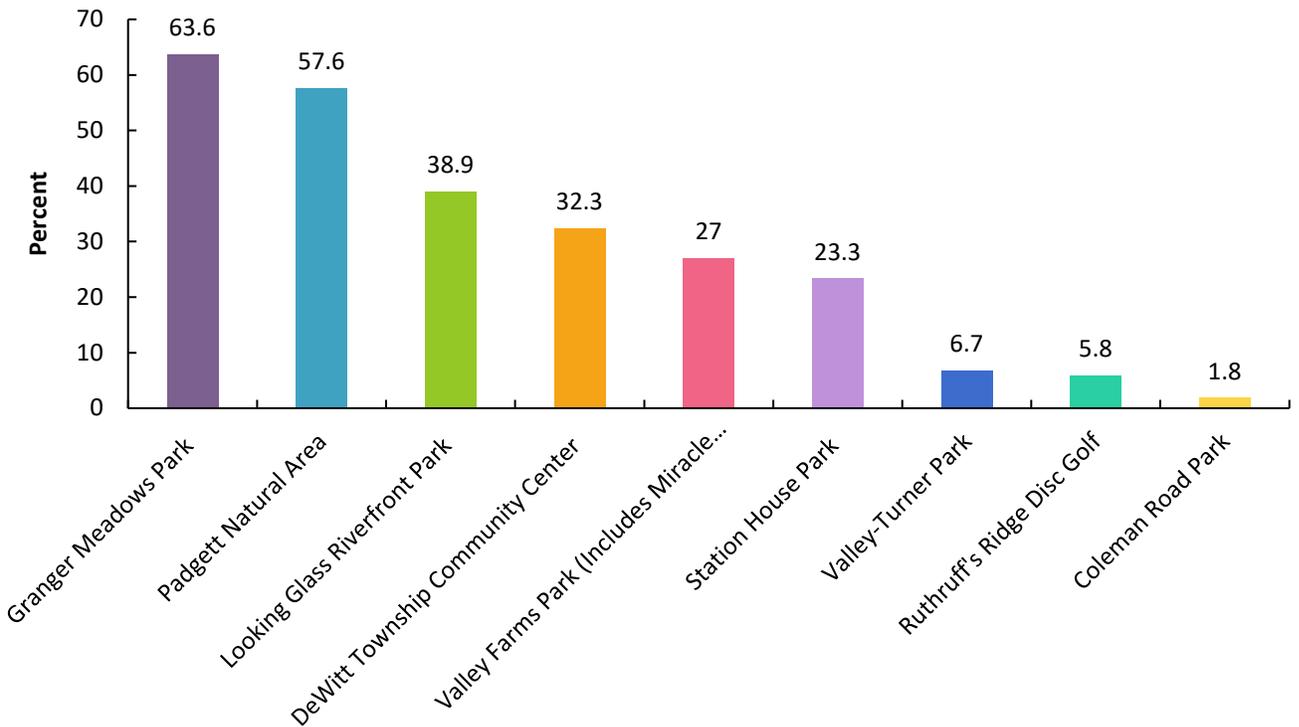
2. How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected your DeWitt area park visits in the past year?



3. Which of the following parks or facilities in the City of DeWitt did you visit in the past year?



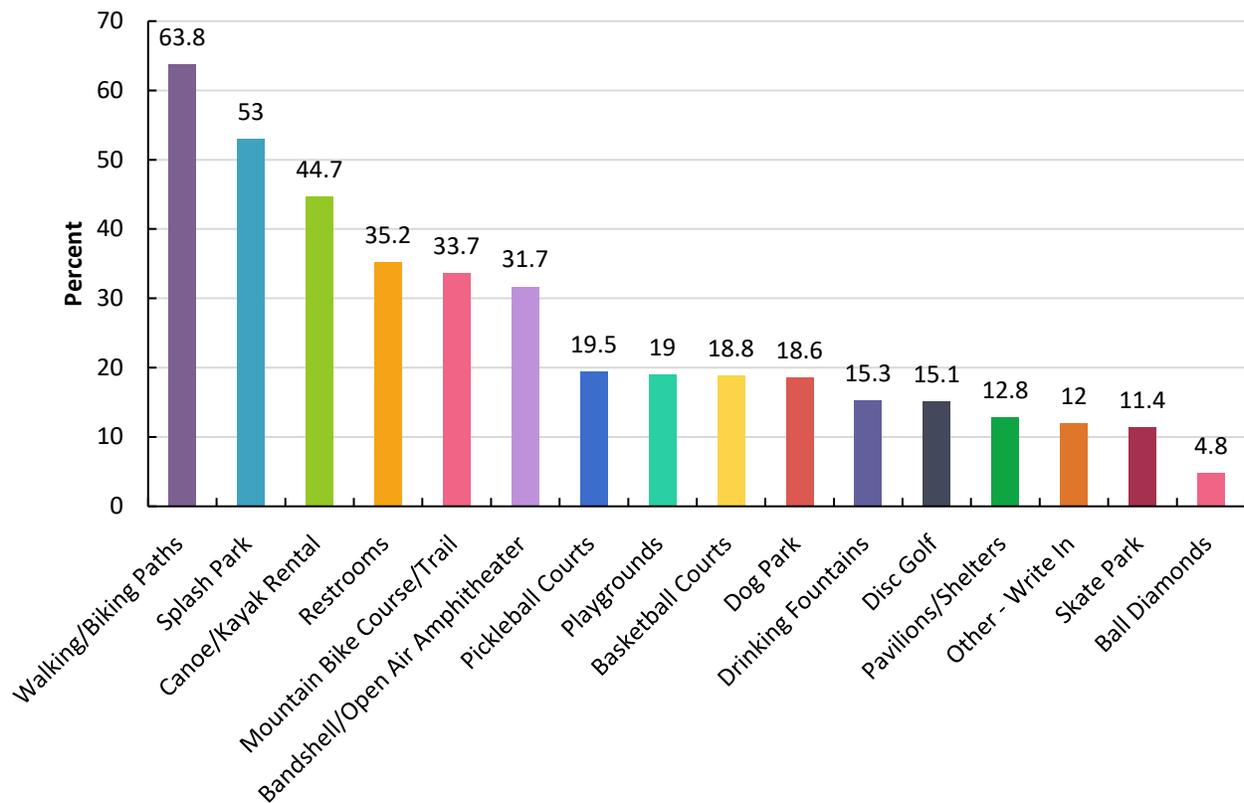
4. Which of the following DeWitt Township parks have you visited in the past year?



5. Please evaluate the following general aspects of parks and recreation in the DeWitt Area.

	Very Good	Good	Neutral	Poor	Very Poor	Don't Know
Quality of Programs	26.9%	47.3%	9.9%	2.7%	0.2%	13.0%
Quality/Friendliness of Staff	28.4%	31.9%	12.0%	1.0%	0.2%	26.5%
Variety of Facilities/Amenities	21.0%	55.8%	15.1%	4.8%	0.2%	3.1%
Maintenance and Appearance	31.0%	53.8%	12.3%	1.9%	%	1.0%
Safety and Security	31.9%	52.2%	11.0%	0.6%	0.2%	4.1%

6. What additional facilities would you like to see add to the DeWitt area parks system?



Other - Write In	Count
Pool/community pool/outdoor pool/swimming pool with adult lap swim	9
Ice hockey rink for winter/Ice Rink/Ice Skating	6
Tennis Courts	4
Canoe/kayak launch	3
Sand Volleyball Courts/Volleyball Courts	3
Clearing out fallen trees in the Looking glass river	2
Amphitheater with good parking.	1
Beach, Sandy area, swimming	1
Curling Rink	1
dirt bike park	1
Extended river trail.	1
Gaga Pit	1
History	1
I already filled in this survey. But I have to say that there are several poorly worded or vague questions and/or undefined terms.	1
I would love a simple fountain near the Gazebo that is nice looking but kids can safely get wet! Something similar to fountain in front of Cooley Law Stadium! Also a couple nice sand volleyball courts! Maybe in that empty lot by riverside park, with high quality sand!	1
Key Fob for dog park maintained better	1
More handicap accessible equipment.	1
More natural areas like Padgett Park which is very crowded with too many uses for one small park. Skiers, walkers, bikes, dogs.	1
More park locations	1
Natural Areas	1
Natural playgrounds/playscapes AND more nature trails AND sand volleyball	1
One direction walk paths, so dogs & pedestrians don't have to pass one another. Eg. Clockwise on M,W,F, Sat and counterclockwise on Sun,T,Th	1
Outdoor Pool for everyone to use; not 2nd class citizens like at the schools!	1
Pathway over the freeway to connect the south side of the Dewitt Public Schools children to the rest of the community.	1

please finish side walks on Dill and webb to Lousts very dangerous area	1
restoration of Gunnisonville School on the corner of Clark and Wood Roads	1
running trails	1
Soccer fields	1
Soccer/football fields - spring flooding creates challenges	1
Some wing dams for fishing, clear the downed trees	1
Special floral or arbeteriem	1
Storywalk back at Valley Farms	1
Updated playground equipment at the Downtown Dewitt Firestation - MCJuire Park	1
Walkinga/biking paths that connect to other communities	1
Winter stuff, ice rink etc	1
water/pop machines by bathrooms	1

7. Please address the adequacy of the following recreational programs in the DeWitt area.

	Excellent	Good	Marginal	Inadequate	Don't Know/No Opinion
Youth Sports Leagues	17.4%	36.6%	6.2%	2.1%	37.8%
Adult Sports Leagues	3.7%	15.4%	13.5%	6.0%	61.4%
Special Events (Easter Egg Hunt, Flashlight Pumpkin Hunt, Birthday Bashes, etc.)	11.7%	33.0%	10.9%	1.7%	42.8%
Instructional Classes	6.6%	20.5%	13.0%	2.7%	57.1%
Health and Fitness Classes	5.0%	18.0%	13.7%	3.5%	59.8%
Day Camps for Youth	10.6%	19.3%	7.7%	2.1%	60.5%
Senior Citizen Activities	1.7%	5.6%	8.1%	7.9%	76.9%
Teen Programs	1.9%	6.6%	8.1%	6.4%	77.0%
Adaptive Recreation (Recreation programs for adults and youths with cognitive or physical disabilities)	2.5%	6.4%	4.5%	5.0%	81.6%

8. Please list any specific types of recreation PROGRAMS that are not available in the DeWitt area you would like to see offered here.

1. Younger youth sports programs, older youth classes and programs like cooking, art, stem, etc.
2. anything for our youth
3. I never know what is offered because communication is so minimal.
4. I would love to see a community pool or water park offered, like East Lansing. There is no open swim offered to the public.
5. More indoor basketball facilities and more teen programs.
6. Volleyball, Pound Fitness Class, Sewing Class, Cooking Class, Meal Bingo, Poker.
7. Pickelball Pickelball Pickelball Pickelball Pickelball
8. Seasonal arts and crafts activities (ie: kite making in the spring) and the open gym time for littles during the day more often and adding time for big kids in the evening.
9. Swim classes, more art or hobby classes like the Hannah Community Center, kids dance class
10. Adult Coed sports leagues (softball, kickball, soccer, volleyball)
11. Bike paths. Not share the road
12. Youth girls softball
13. Swim lessons
14. Would like to see more teen programs
15. Crafting, sporting tournaments, swimming.
16. Exercise classes or yoga for seniors.
17. More senior citizen activities
18. Teen programs. It feels like once kids are out of 5th grade, there's nothing available, sports, art, e.t.c.
19. Snowshoe/cross country ski trails
20. More activities for kids 6 and under
21. We have LOVED all that DARA has offered our children. As they get older (14, 12, 9) it seems there aren't as many opportunities, likely because there are so many offerings elsewhere. I would love more recreational teen type offerings. Teen volleyball night, or a dance, or lock in type thing.
22. Pickleball league
23. Cross country skiing More boot camp
24. Theater, swimming instructions
25. Would like to see Jr Chef classes for kids ages 8 , true ninja classes/courses for kids 8 .
26. More programs for children beginning at age 3 instead of 4.
27. Pickleball courts...growing sport. Consider converting skate park in Granger Meadows to 6 Pickleball courts.
28. Would love to see teen cooking classes or one evening painting class, poetry reading, or pottery class.
29. Aquatics
30. More partnerships with the schools for recreation and instructional classes. Or maybe with the library to support teens after school
31. Dog Park with a small dog side!
32. Cooking class for a variety of ages. Larger variety of exercise classes.
33. guided nature hikes outdoor social activities

34. 50 and over adult softball league
35. I have no idea what programs are offered. If there are, they should be better advertised to the community.
36. Splash park would be nice. Grandkids love the one in saint Johns
37. We need additional, affordable summer programming for kids up to age 13.
38. Winter sports programs. Outdoor rinks for the kids to skate
39. Splash park or pools in the city of dewitt
40. Floor hockey for kids 6th grade and older.
41. Tennis classes, swim classes
42. Swimming/diving, archery/shooting
43. Would love to see more paved biking/walking paths.
44. Swim programs, ie open swim, youth swim league.
45. Enjoying recent improvements. Continue to fine tune. Enjoying the trails. Seating at beginning or end of trails. Enjoying dog park, add a little equipment there. Dogs need a platform, a place where dog gets a time out. Add agility, small dog/ puppy area. The new Sidewalk s great addition
46. Sports Equipment Rentals - or workshops on cross country skiing or using snowshoes along the trails. Outdoor winter activity highlights. Have the community center develop a rental program for sleds and skates, balls, tennis equipment
47. Kids' golf, kids' tennis, girls' elementary age volleyball
48. horseback riding trails
49. Outdoor fitness classes; yoga, etc. in park setting
50. Pickle ball
51. would like to see dog park opened through the winter. Perhaps closing it from mid-March thru mid-April during thaw and early spring. Would be not to go 4 months with it closed.
52. Miss group exercise classes due to virus!!
53. Community weight loss program Loose 1,000 pounds Community garden spaces Walking mileage contest 10,000 miles
54. Are there over 60 softball leagues?
55. I would like to see additional outdoor tennis courts.
56. A drama club for late elementary/early middle school age would be of interest.
57. Swimming lessons on regular basis to children.
58. Historical-educational program at a restored Gunnisonville School on the corner of Clark and Wood Roads.
59. Community pool would be great.
60. More areas to explore nature, both wooded and prairie.
61. Mountain bike trails
62. Skate park for younger people. Biking Kayaking
63. Access to more fishing opportunities
64. Pickle ball
65. Senior athletic league: pickleball, as example.
66. More river activities such as kayaking or canoeing
67. Art camps/classes
68. Nature and history programs
69. I wish I could walk my dog in Granger Park.

70. Soccer activities
71. Clean up the river so you can use it to kayak More bike trails in the area
72. Beach Volleyball league
73. Adult coed softball league used to field many teams now not so much. Maybe lower fee to get teams to come back
74. Kayak boat ramps needed
75. Swimming pool and swimming lessons, squash courts, indoor basketball courts for adults, adult athletes with young children options (daycare by the hour at sports or workout facilities).
76. Ice hockey Volleyball
77. Dog training classes
78. Adult lap swim
79. More activities at the Riverside Park.
80. Swim lessons
81. Soccer and game fields. Big complex to have gr and Detroit meet here to play
82. Spanish classes Adult sports Adult Swimming
83. No a program. Having kayak pads to get on and off easier.
84. Just more Disc Golf Courses
85. Canoe and kayak rentals
86. Fishing, kayaking or canoeing...outdoorsman type activities for teens.
87. Hiking;
88. Pickelball more places. More bathrooms
89. Splash Park for the kids... Also a swimming pool outdoors...
90. A kayak shuttle service would be helpfully make the river more useable
91. Outside yoga, outside pickle ball,
92. Summer programs for kids and programs for seniors
93. Outdoor fitness groups/boot camps
94. Aqua aerobics, swim lessons for both adults and children. Canoe & kayak rentals. Adult fitness programs, the area fitness centers available are not affordable for many to join.
95. need to market/communicate better what IS offered. Antiquated services. would like adult softball and volleyball leagues. Cornhole leagues or open competitions for adults.
96. Kayak rentals would be outstanding, we hike in the park off of Shavey Road probably 2x a week. Also would be interested in some sort of art classes.
97. Don't know - haven't looked into the programs available, particularly in the past year.
98. Regular Zumba.
99. Pickle ball beginners
100. Pound workout Adult team sports- like delta township Walking/ running groups Virtual/ on demand video of an orientation of each park, location, & offerings Adult classes ftf/virtual ie estate planning, stocks/bonds/ world languages/ cultures... Celebrate publicly the kindness in our community Celebrate our public servants, maybe a couple per month Give more detailed description of classes offered, sometimes it's missing details- look at how Delta township communicates classes.
101. Senior activities and programs
102. A dog park that separates small and large dogs.
103. Small dog area at the dog park. Current park is unsafe.
104. Adult co-ed sports teams, such as softball, kick ball, etc.

- 105. Masters swim team
- 106. More trails or parks like Fenner. I drive there most days for nature trails without tons of people like Padgett. Even if they made the trails wider. With COVID it is hard to safely distance as they currently exist.
- 107. Adult basketball and volleyball
- 108. Amphitheater, splash pad
- 109. Bicycle education
- 110. Youth programming: Dance, art, culinary, more sports (other than tball/baseball, basketball, soccer), swimming lessons Adult programming: group fitness, volleyball, art, culinary *It's possible, I've overlooked some offerings, I haven't seen every season's catalog

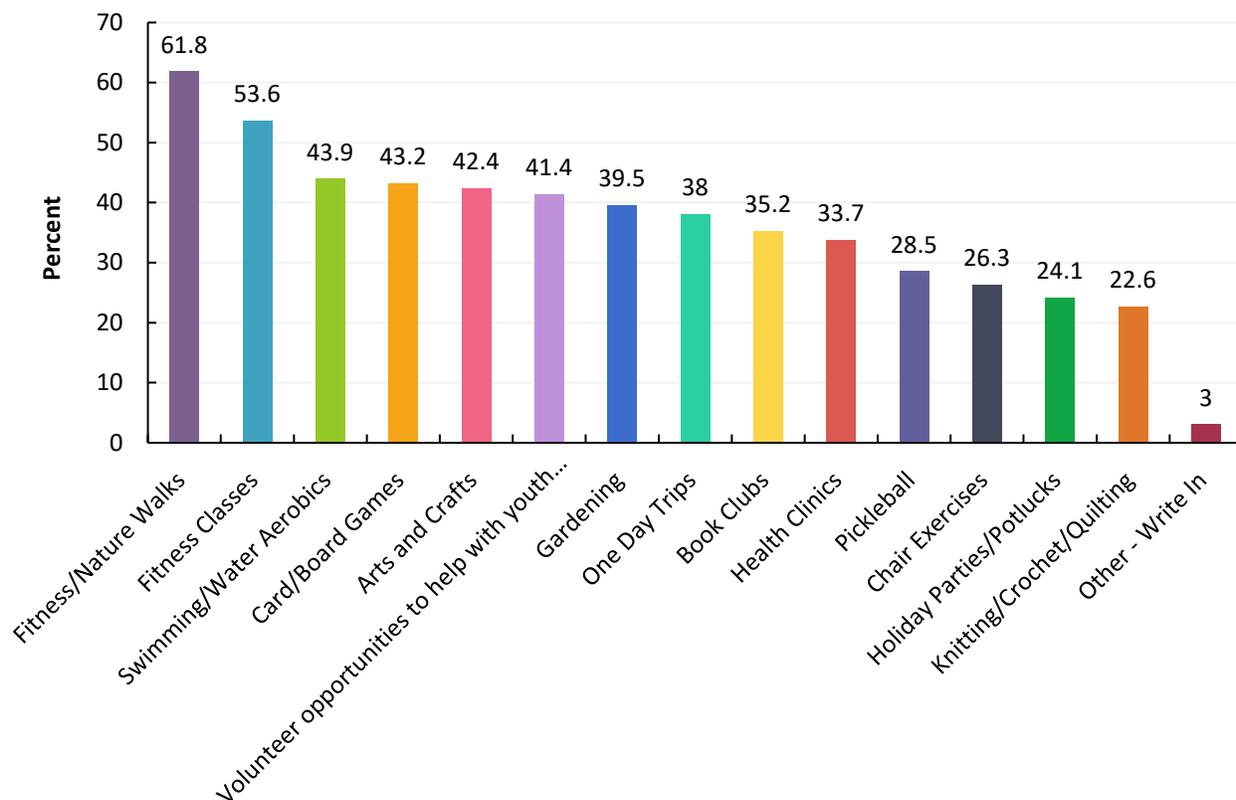
9. Please rate your feelings regarding the following statements concerning land acquisition for parks and recreation in the DeWitt Area.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral/No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The City of DeWitt needs more park land.	17.7%	30.7%	44.1%	6.3%	1.3%
DeWitt Township needs more park land.	18.3%	35.0%	39.6%	6.0%	1.0%
DeWitt and DeWitt Township should partner with other organizations and groups to preserve agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive open space.	40.6%	37.7%	18.8%	1.9%	1.0%

10. DeWitt Township owns an undeveloped parcel of land on the Looking Glass River at Round Lake and Wood Roads that will be developed into Waters Edge Park. Please rank the following potential amenities that could be added there in order of importance.

Item	Overall Rank	Score	Total Respondents
Walking Trails	1	2,806	456
Canoe Launch	2	2,208	430
Picnic Areas	3	1,841	418
Shore Fishing	4	1,585	398
Nature Center	5	1,410	373
Nature Signs and Displays	6	1,240	372
Community Garden Lots	7	847	352

11. Which of the following activities would you like to see offered in DeWitt for our growing senior citizen population?



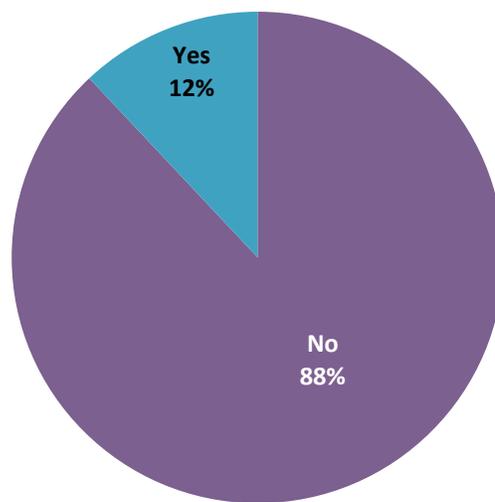
Other – Write In

1. Adopt a Senior Instead/Meals and conversation
2. Bingo
3. Curling
4. Dance
5. More visibility to get community involved
6. We are not anywhere near seniors, so while we highly support senior activities, we are not in a position to state what they should be.
7. Would like ANYTHING to begin with
8. informal social gatherings
9. tai chi

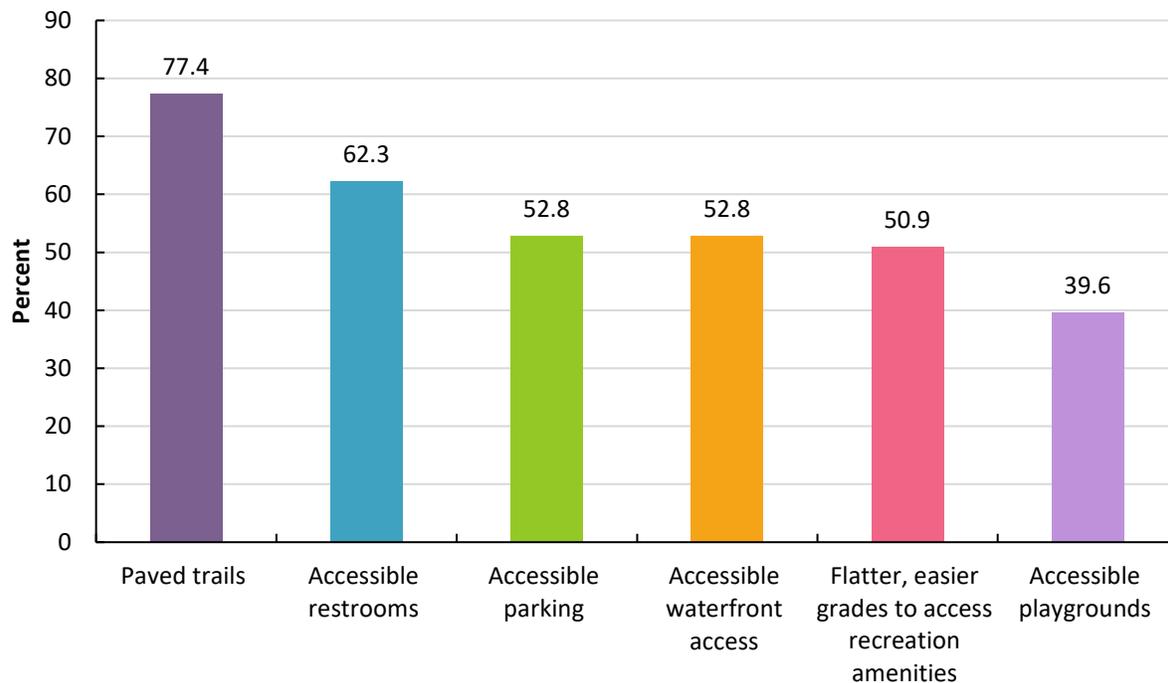
12. Please rate your feelings regarding pathways in the DeWitt area.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral/No opinion	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Shared use pathways for non-motorized transportation have a positive effect on the quality of life for DeWitt residents.	65.2%	27.0%	6.6%	0.8%	0.4%
It's important to provide shared use pathways for non-motorized transportation to connect community destinations and places.	64.3%	28.5%	6.0%	0.8%	0.4%
Shared-use pathways should include on and off road locations.	45.6%	33.2%	16.3%	3.9%	1.0%

13. Do you or anyone in your family have a disability?



14. **What types of improvements are important to add to our parks for people with disabilities? Please check all that apply.** (This question was only offered to those who answered yes to Question 13.)



15. **What do you like best about parks and recreation in DeWitt?**

1. Clean
2. Sports fields
3. I love the amount of space there is for being outdoors
4. affordability of programs, well-kept parks, kind staff
5. There are a lot of them and different age groups and abilities are accounted for.
6. Big parks with trails and playgrounds
7. Great place to spend quality time with family, get exercise and enjoy nature.
8. Location
9. The variety
10. Walking paths in nature are my favorite.
11. The staff is great and the activities offered for special events (ie: dinner with Santa) are fun!
12. Playground equipment
13. Parks are all quite clean/well maintained and very safe. We enjoy the youth sports programs for our children, and holiday activities like the Easter egg hunt, etc
14. Variety of park structures
15. They are clean !!
16. We feel that the system in place encourages an active lifestyle, and appreciate the continued improvements that allow for expanded opportunities to do so.

17. We enjoy the preserved natural areas with maintained paths that we can walk along as well as the various playgrounds.
18. With small kids right now, the paths and playgrounds are what we utilize the most.
19. Proximity
20. Manicured and marked trails,
21. I love the friendly staff, and it's nice to have multiple parks.
22. They are easily accessible, clean, well maintained and I feel generally safe when exercising alone.
23. We love the parks and trails. We also taken part in a youth basketball class that was really well done.
24. We like different things about different parks. Padget we love biking on the trails. We enjoy walking and fishing at Riverside. We have family photos taken there as well. The gazebo at Riverside is helpful for Girl Scout events.
25. Clean, safe, easily accessible
26. You do a great job with preschool and early elementary programming. Would like to see more opportunities for older kids and teens. One of the events my kids really enjoyed is the haunted house/maze tour. Also, would like to see more things offered for adults and seniors.
27. Well groomed. Restrooms. Safe feeling.
28. Playground facilities are adequate
29. Always feel safe
30. I like there there are year-round options
31. Variety of parks. Wish there was more equipment for little kids
32. It gives my kids a place to play and they love the parks.
33. Don't use much. Go to Delta Township for pickleball and 39er programs.
34. That we have parks. Just wish there were more space, amenities, and more accessible equipment at all playgrounds.
35. Love to walk the trails and enjoy the kayak launches.
36. Close enough to walk to
37. I love having walking and bike trails available in our community to allow for safe exercise.
38. The variety of parks, the restrooms, well maintained
39. Programs
40. Love the parks and special community events.
41. They are in good condition. The basics are there for some of the parks.
42. So many options to choose from. Truly a family friendly town.
43. DeWitt has been blessed with beautiful green spaces. Chad Stevens from DARA is amazing. He is such an asset for our community!
44. Dog park is great, just need a small dog side
45. Playgrounds
46. Variety of programming at DARA for youth & we love visiting the many parks in the area.
47. Playgrounds and walking trails
48. It's availability. Cleanliness. Natural beauty.

49. Proximity
50. There is always one near by and they are relatively clean.
51. Trees and trails!
52. Open to all Sports are friendly and focus on learning and fun Getting to be outside in a nice environment in suburban setting where most houses don't have much property
53. Youth programs
54. Walking path
55. I love the increase in walkways and pathways, especially the paved trail connecting Clark to schavey.
56. clean, close to home, safe, free
57. Connection of parks to community through accessible walking paths like sidewalks and paved pathways
58. The community participation in events is good
59. Exercise I'm a natural environment
60. Walking trails, good maintenance.
61. I like the scenery and walking trails. I also like bringing my dog.
62. Clean and safe
63. I love the dedicated bike lanes.
64. Enjoying nature
65. Many opportunities for all ages within my family.
66. Variety of options
67. Convenience, close, play areas for grandkids
68. They have many locations and places to run and walk dogs
69. Walking paths
70. I love that they are easily accessible. I love that they give an opportunity for our residents to spend time being active outside in nature all year round! Thank you.
71. Variety of playgrounds
72. The sidewalk and path improvements. Geneva needs safe walking. Cars too close to pedestrians. A few years ago the street width was reduced by 6 inches to save'costs.'
73. Our kids have aged out of the summer camps, but they were invaluable. The walking trails.
74. There are many options, and the parks are decent. Also love DARA and the programs foe kids.
75. Fun areas to take kids
76. Walking trails, natural aspects (water, trees, etc), clean
77. Lots of opportunities
78. The number of parks available for visits and exploration - bringing variety and change to kids visits. The number of different equipment. Nature!! Natural trails for family walks! Sooo many things!
79. They are abundant. We utilize them frequently for walking, and taking our two little ones out.
80. Peaceful and undisturbed
81. The programming is fantastic, and the parks are well cared for!

82. Improved pathways.
83. Accessibility to sidewalks/paths
84. safety and ease of access to most park areas
85. Green space with walking trails.
86. There are good places to bike and walk and lots of playgrounds for kids.
87. The trails and paths are wonderful! Such a great community amenity. Padgett Park is a gem of a park and hopefully will always remain in a natural state. The addition of the canoe/kayak launches really helped encourage a better kayak experience. We are overall very happy with the parks and recreational opportunities in DeWitt.
88. Many to choose from in fairly close proximity.
89. The ability to use and enjoy the natural beauty
90. Grandchildren have participated in summer day camp and really enjoyed the trips
91. Well maintained.
92. There are numerous wonderful and well-kept playgrounds that my children enjoy.
93. Options of kid playgrounds
94. Easy access, well maintained.
95. They are close to home and easily accessible.
96. Walking trails
97. They're well kept
98. accessibility / variety
99. The sidewalks are wonderful and keep the community safe. Parks are always well kept, I am proud to take visitors to our parks.
100. I love the shared use pathways and how they connect the parks.
101. There are multiple parks to visit (instead of always going to the same 1-2) and they're well maintained.
102. Number of recreational areas. And sports leagues for smaller kids. Lansing offers none of these programs.
103. Plenty of calm areas to walk, see nature, and say hello to other community neighbors.
104. I like the fact that so many parks are within five minutes from my house.
105. The opportunity to exercise and be in nature
106. The variety of trail types within the multiple parks.
107. They are safe places to recreate
108. Peace and Quietness
109. they are clean and very well put together
110. Close to home within walking distance
111. Nearby
112. Beautiful surroundings and integration of natural and man made amenities
113. Ability for our kids to have safe activities to do.
114. Cleanliness and availability

115. The variety of parks and facilities.
116. access
117. Location, ease of access and use
118. We've recently moved to dewitt and loved our walk at the Padgett (I think that's the one) area. I loved the signage about the different trees and would love more educational signage about the flora and fauna in the area. Environmental education and preservation is very important to me and I hope to see more land focusing on teaching people to respect and enjoy the environment. I also am very excited about the dog park near here.
119. We can walk out our door and walk nearby paved and non-paved walking paths. We don't have to drive (car) to get to a walking path.
120. They want to expand their parks
121. Access to the looking glass.
122. They give our family an environment to get exercise together and feel safe.
123. Kayak launches, hiking trails, restrooms, water fountains, dog park
124. The cleanliness, availability, and walking paths. I also like the different kinds of playground equipment available.
125. I enjoy spending time outdoors, fishing, hiking, and enjoying natural areas mostly.
126. Do a good job with what they have. Love the parks!
127. Clean, well maintained, safe for kids to play, good places to walk
128. Variety of parks to attend. Padgett nature trails!
129. Super nice Thank you for providing
130. Access. Design. Maintenance Location
131. Availability, cleanliness, social meeting place outdoors
132. Lots of sidewalks and more coming
133. Walking paths
134. The natural beauty
135. Family friendly Clean
136. Peaceful area to get away from Lansing & walk the dogs in nature. Love the kayak/canoe launches!
137. Kayaking on the Looking Glass with easy in/out
138. Plenty of opportunities
139. The paved walking/biking trails in natural settings are awesome.
140. Cleanliness
141. Fishing spots
142. Clean and Safe well maintained
143. Storywalk
144. Cleanliness
145. The extension of sidewalks is most appreciated.
146. Close to home
147. We love having several parks within walking distance from our house.

148. Availability of programming for young children.
149. I love the accessibility of the pathways and free parks. I do hope there is a program, maybe youth driven, to help keep these areas open and preserved! I know in other Lansing area bike paths I have felt unsafe. If it does not already exist, will you consider having the parks and pathways monitor/patrolled by law enforcement?
150. The ability to enjoy quiet and nature. The beauty and visual opportunity to use land and not destroy habitats any further.
151. The continued expansion of Greater Lansing parks systems will enhance outdoor recreation and the increase health benefits for the surrounding communities.
152. It's close to home!
153. Clean, safe, connected by sidewalks (mostly), different parks for different age levels
154. The parks along the Looking Glass River.
155. Canoe launches
156. Very clean and well maintained. There are many parks to choose from that offer a variety of activities.
157. Safety
158. Clean and well cared for
159. Cleanliness
160. The kayak launches. Also, they are always clean and safe!
161. Clean playgrounds
162. Playgrounds and river access
163. Clean and well maintained
164. The boat launches and river access.
165. Walking trails, playgrounds, and picnic areas
166. They are generally well kept and nice facilities and a great place to gather as a community under non-Covid circumstances.
167. The river, how my child can be safe in a park that's more open and not hidden in the back. How the feeling of feeling safe when my child plays.
168. We have a lot of parks for a small city.
169. Disc Golf
170. The combination of great play grounds for the kids and access to the looking glass. I wish I would have discovered how amazing exploring the looking glass river was when I was much younger. It should be boldly emphasized that the looking glass river is a canoeing and kayaking paradise. Especially with more and more people visiting our parks since covid canceled everything.
171. There are many options as far as locations go (including walking paths and playgrounds).
172. The many options we have
173. We have easy access to the parks. Well maintained.
174. Kayak/ walking by the river
175. Trails for walking and Biking
176. The variety of activities that can be participated in. The proximity to parks. The programs are reasonably priced and enjoyable.

177. We love to walk and bike in DeWitt. The people who do so in DeWitt has hugely multiplied.
178. Nice pathways to walk and see nature.
179. Ease of use
180. well maintained
181. Easily accessible and great sizes.
182. I really use the bathrooms the most, I walk and run around DeWitt
183. Spread out in the area
184. The number of options available.
185. Convenience
186. Walking trails
187. Safety and user friendly
188. Natural use of space. Walking in nature. Exercise.
189. They are clean and have a wide variety of options for different age kids
190. that we have some.
191. Availability, well connected by trails and sidewalks. I feel that I can easily walk or bike from my home to many of the recreation facilities.
192. We appreciate the variety of playground options. Although, a few of the locations are showing quite a bit of wear (Valley farms & DeWitt fire station specifically).
193. River and playgrounds
194. all the sidewalks are starting to tie everything together
195. The community events; Easter egg hunt, flashlight pumpkins hunt. The amount of playgrounds in town.
196. Walking trails with restrooms
197. lots of choices on where to go clean facilities (usually) kayak ramps activities
198. Trails and river views/access
199. Differed locations, they are maintained very well, & I'm able to access them easily.
200. There are a few different opyions
201. The total amount of walking trails. Well kept play areas.
202. Clean
203. Kayaking and nature trails.
204. Lots of options close to home
205. I don't use any parks in Dewitt, only Padgett Park in the township. I also use the private parks on Lake Geneva for residents only which are very well kept. I appreciated the township meeting with some of us nature lovers when they put in the path to join the Quarry area to the nature trails that runs partially from the park. We were able to save some old and rare trees in the park as they moved the trail to accommodate them.
206. We love the dog park but it needs to remain open year round
207. I just love DeWitt.
208. Clean & well kept up.

- 209. They're clean and well kept. I love that there are restrooms at many of them. We walk and visit playgrounds all the time!
- 210. Location and connected
- 211. Open area
- 212. Variety of programs/events. Many parks with playgrounds, sports fields. Would like to see more basketball courts.
- 213. Community health aspect
- 214. Free
- 215. The number of available locations to choose from.
- 216. Parks are clean and maintained. Well located to my home.

16. What one thing would you do to improve parks and recreation in the DeWitt area?

- 1. Splash Pad, activities for teens at parks, like sport equipment
- 2. Update the playground equipment, add outdoor fitness equipment
- 3. I would love to see some of the playgrounds remodeled. Some are in poor condition/outdated
- 4. I really would love more opportunities to get my kiddo (7yo) into classes, sports, etc, but I never know when things are happening.
- 5. A splash pad in the summer and an ice rink in the winter.
- 6. More indoor facilities and activities since we live in a largely winter environment
- 7. To come together more as a community
- 8. Splash park
- 9. Spray Padgett Park for mosquitos so we can enjoy the trails.
- 10. More Pickelball courts
- 11. Parking!
- 12. Please don't give kids a shirt for every sport, try the reversible jerseys like Delta Twp. Parks and Rec.
- 13. Create more vegetation buffer at parks along the Looking Glass River. Stop mowing and trimming along the entire bank. This leads to poor water quality and the increase of plant and algae due to nutrients. The Riverside Park is a prime example where downstream of the bridge on Bridge Street it has no tree canopy and grass to the waters edge. The river would benefit from trees and longer grasses along the river edge.
- 14. Update playground equipment, other parks in Lansing have "cooler" playgrounds. Increase the amount of adult sports leagues- there are many young families/parents that I think would enjoy an outlet for socializing and meeting new people.
- 15. More activities. Bonfires, s'mores, bands, more community events. Community pool. Off road biking trails. Golf lessons
- 16. Add Splashpad
- 17. You need rules at the dog park!!
- 18. Better play equipment for younger kids and community courts for basketball, pickle ball, and tennis.

19. I wish there was a bigger variety for kids (more playground equipment and a splash park)
20. Add a splash park or community pool.
21. Having a pool available for the community.
22. Canoe launch at Wood Rd. Alos please continue adding multi use paths and sidewalks, these are great additions.
23. Add a splash pad
24. Better maintenance and availability of the dog park. Improved signage for walking paths.
25. More walking trails and easy to find information on their locations
 - a. Pricing. Years ago it was a viable option for a family on a budget, but prices have risen so much for most activities that it's actually cheaper to go elsewhere. Even volunteering to coach doesn't give any sort of price break. 2) The organization of the sports leagues has always been disappointing. It's all very last minute despite having applications in a month in advance. Coaching gets the training session notification the day of (the day before if lucky). Even coaches don't know what days/times practices will be until the week of. 3) Teen activities. As I said, it seems things drop off by 5th grade and don't pick up until adulthood. 4) A splash pad would be great (and more cost effective than a pool).
26. Fix the flooding at riverside park downtown. The trails are often water or ice covered and not accessible for use/accessible for safe use.
27. I would love more trails to places in the community so we can walk from our house off airport road.
28. More summer activities and availability to get out within the city such as splash pad and or community pool.
29. An additional walking/biking trail. A fishing spot also.
30. Walking trails.
31. More bike trails
32. More at one with nature parks and trails
33. Pickle ball courts - Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US and can be played by all ages (youth to seniors). Access to both outdoor and indoor courts would be a great addition to the community. We currently have to drive to Delta Mills to play outdoors and don't have a indoor location (without paying) to play.
34. Restrooms open throughout the year. Lighting.
35. Connect subdivisions on south side of 69 via walk/bike trails to the many paths on the north side of the highway
36. Baseball facilities are severely lacking
37. A splash pad!
38. Would love a Splashpad at Granger Meadows or at the Sports Park
39. Increased variety of activities
40. More variety for kids
41. More pavilions and or picnic tables at parks. Playground equipment for younger and older kids at the same park. A splash pad would be so nice to have during the summer.
42. Add more activities for younger children. Most activities are for 4 .
43. More senior programming
44. More handicap assessable playground equipment.

45. Cut grass more in Padgett Park trail. Currently only cut about twice a season.
46. More connected bike trails would be a nice option for safely getting around the area.
47. Better lighting in Riverside park bathrooms.
48. Upgrade Facilities
49. I would love to see some aquatic options. Splash pad and/or pool (indoor and out) would be amazing.
50. The DeWitt area needs a community pool
51. Expand coordination with organizations (outside DARA) to use the parks more for activities for kids ages 8 to 14. The parks are not being used enough by those age brackets.
52. Some of the equipment needs updating. so more parks could use walking trails (pending space)
53. Communication - don't assume everyone knows where everything is. Not everyone is from Dewitt. When a location is posted, include an actual address.
54. More "to do" in the parks. Kayak launches/rentals, bike/hiking trails. More potential activities. More groups that meet for fitness or some type of activity.
55. Add a small dog side to the dog park. Them little dogs have a hard time with the big dogs.
56. Skate park
57. We have really struggled recently with the youth sports programs. It is very apparent that parent coaches are hand-picking their sports teams (started seeing this in grade 2, very apparent in grade 3 sports). For youth that are not on these elite teams, the entire sports season is incredibly discouraging as the teams are stacked and they have zero chance of winning. My family will no longer participate in DARA sports as a result of this. I can't risk losing my children's enthusiasm for sports because DARA doesn't appropriately allocate youth among different teams.
58. Move Dara closer to dewitt. Parks are fine, need more classes
59. Lighting
60. make them more interactive
61. Cant think of a thing right now.
62. Increase program offerings
63. Add mountain bike trail. Splash park.
64. More playground equipment please.
65. Add pickleball courts. It's the fastest growing sport in the world and for all ages and abilities. Look at the Glen Arbor courts, they added social areas and made it a community space!
66. Add pickleball courts and mountain biking More non-motorized pathways that don't share the road with cars Another story walk
67. Include more outdoor activities for teens. Sports programs typically end by 3rd grade. Playgrounds are too young for them.
68. Cleanliness
69. Not sure
70. the girls cheer program is not good. Soccer is great! football looks good
71. Extend walking/biking paths to DeWitt Township residents off of Airport/Stoll road
72. More residential sidewalk connections to parks--particularly in the city. Cannot believe the number of subdivisions in the city without sidewalks

73. Add winter sports
74. Update and upkeep
75. Map of all opportunities
76. The Valley Farms building is small and old. Also, I don't like the location of Valley Farms building - it is too far from the center/heart of the Dewitt Community. I would love to see a new building.
77. A fenced in toddler playground similar to McCormick Park in Williamston.
78. More developed trails.
79. Adult & Senior programs,
80. I would love to see a new recreation center closer to the City of Dewitt.
81. Larger playscapes with more to do
82. Splash pad area
83. Due to the large amount of families in the area I believe a splash pad would be a great addition to the parks and would be very popular.
84. Connect paths to more outlying areas. They have been adding sidewalks and that is so exciting! Keep it up! Connecting neighborhoods is important to keep people active.
85. More walking/biking trails that connect community spaces
86. Add pickle ball courts
87. Bike trails/walking trails
88. More dog friendly areas.
89. Kayaking Do you have a list of items that could be done for Girl Scout and Boy Scout Awards, Volunteer Hours, Bath High Schools Spring Unity in the Community Day.
90. Continue adding safe sidewalks. Move DARA closer to city center.
91. Increase playgrounds and connect neighborhoods south of 69 to the trail systems
92. Would love a safe walkway or bridge to connect the township to the city (lack of sidewalk on Airport especially over the highway make it dangerous for walking or biking so always have to drive to the parks).
93. add horseback riding trails
94. More natural areas (e.g. Padgett Park)
95. Splash pad for kids would be amazing!
96. We have had negative experiences with unsupervised kids (ages 8-12) but Im not sure what could be done with that...
97. Add bird feeders for bird watching
98. It is terrific!
99. I would allow pets to use the paved walkways. I cannot enjoy the Granger Park walk path because dogs are not allowed. The dog trail in Granger Park is very small and would need to be walked about 10 times to get a good workout. My dogs are more well behaved than most children and it is a shame we cannot use the paved pathways.
100. Cultural activities, concerts
101. create a pathway between the business area north of the Old-27 bridge and the existing non-motorized path near Granger Meadows so that there is a safe way to walk/run/bike rather than drive

from the residential community to the park (the bike lane along Turner Rd that helps connect DeWitt to the Lansing River Trail is a good example of this kind of access)

102. Allow our pets to use more of the parks.
103. Clean up debris and grind up dead and fallen trees. The riverside park downtown is a mess.
104. Continue to pursue trail/ pathway connections.
105. Nature programs
106. Don't believe "school of choice" students should pay more to participate in activities. I pay DeWitt Twp taxes and have 2 grandchildren in DeWitt schools and their parents also graduated from DeWitt.
107. Promote fun ways to use the parks.
108. I would create more nature paths.
109. Add a splash pad
110. More dog friendly parks with bags and trash receptacles available. The dog area at Granger Meadows is in the bug infested woods and you're not allowed to walk on the sidewalks with your dog so I don't go there.
111. Advertise what is available. I realized as I was filling out this survey that I don't know much about any of the parks & recreation programs except for the one that our exchange student was involved with (basketball).
112. Repair and level the cooking grills
113. Not sure right now
114. Add hiking trails somewhere
115. better kept - at times....
116. I would like to see activities adults would like to do such as shore fishing, increased walking trails, additional canoe access, biking trails and or tennis courts.
117. None of the parks have a "wow" factor that's a strong draw -- like the "castle" park in Wacousta.
118. Enforce the no dog ordinance. We have confronted several people walking large dogs and they look at us and say everyone does it. How do we enforce the ordinance? I have a Ranger and am a senior. I would be happy to patrol Granger Meadows park. Just educating the violators would solve many of these situations...I believe.
119. Keep them plowed in the winter and mowed in the summer (weeds cover up the sidewalk and have ticks if not mowed regularly)
120. A bike and walking path that is less hilly than the one through the woods between Clark and Schavey Roads, yet still avoids the risk of motorized vehicles.
121. Add more programs that include persons with disabilities and our growing senior population.
122. Basket Ball Court Tennis court
123. I think we need a splash pad here my reason supporting this is the weather in Michigan gets hot and I think we should have somewhere we're we could cool off when it gets into the hotter months of the year.
124. Restroom
125. See above suggestions regarding the Gunnisonville School on the corner of Clark and Wood Roads.
126. Upgrade and or add to the toys in the parks.

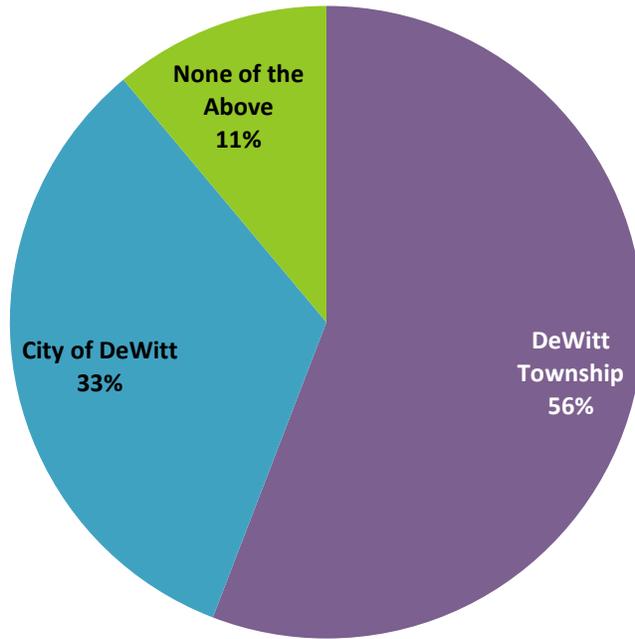
127. More publicity for facilities and programs, particularly for those that are suitable for seniors.
128. Post leash law signs. Many dogs are off leash and it is state law they need to be leashed. The dog park by Padgett park is often interpreted as being all of the trails and paved area.
129. Kayak launch. Disc golf. Walking trails.
130. Need more parks
131. More kayak launches
132. Volunteer clean up events at various parks
133. Would love to have more mountain bike trails. As they are draw for local businesses
134. Better up keep and maintenance. Mowing in summer more frequently. Adding rest rooms
135. Clear the rivers log jams
136. Add a community water site (pool, splash park, lake, etc.)
137. More unpaved trails
138. Added accessibility for handicapped people needs to be a top consideration.
139. Make more fishing opportunities
140. Pickle ball courts
141. The waters edge park has a LOT of matted down grass growth. Shouldn't it be removed every now and then?
142. More parks located south of the highway for communities off of Stoll Road.
143. Publicity
144. I would like to help clean up the trees and branches in the Looking Glass River between Bridge Street and Airport Road so it is more user friendly to paddlers. It doesn't make sense to offer two fancy handicap canoe launches and then make the handicap paddlers have to portage their boats through the mud and brush many times in that short section. I'd be happy to volunteer if a group gets organized.
145. More river access
146. Keep dogs in the dog park. Enforce leash laws with fines for violators. No dogs on any school property that serves as an athletic field.
147. More dog parks open year round
148. More trails, walkable paths
149. Make sure you do archaeological studies where appropriate prior to developments
150. Canoe/kayak launch(es) on the Looking Glass River.
151. Allowing leashed dogs on paved trails, or make new ones. The Granger meadows dog trail is terrible. Enforce leash policy
152. Created more forested areas
153. More options to do at the parks
154. More dog friendly trails, with minimal contact. Eg. One-way trails to minimize contact with strange dogs.
155. Upgrade the playgrounds. For how much money there is in DeWitt, the playgrounds are inadequate.
156. Clear out downed trees out of the river

157. Improve River access and use
158. More basketball and pickle ball courts
159. Additional paved walking/biking trails.
160. More non motorized paths
161. Short, easy walk from parking lot to water access and picnic area for people with mobility issues
162. McGuire parks basketball courts could be improved! Would love a mountain bike trail or course through Granger Park!
163. Monitor better to minimize vandalism and misuse
164. Better communication on events and activities
165. Some sidewalks are somewhat dark for extended distances. Although I understand the cost and light pollution are undesirable.
166. Improve looking glass river access for canoeing and kayaking. Too many water obstacles and need to remove trees and improve parking
167. More kayak ramps
168. I'd love to see a disc golf course here in town.
169. More trails that extend farther out from DeWitt for biking safely and clean river water for fishing and a splash pad or swimming pool with lessons available.
170. Take bags to pick up trash. Work w police to ensure safety to neighborhoods.
171. Larger parks with more to do, Dewitt should have as much to offer as Meridian twp
172. More disc golf courses
173. better access to the Looking Glass River
174. More walking trails.
175. Add/increase aquatic (pool) activities. Even before COVID, pool hours were limited.
176. Put more kayak ramps along the river. Wood RD and Forest hill RD area.
177. More nature trails
178. Get parking closer to the launch at riverside
179. Increase number of restrooms
180. Add bike paths
181. Water fountain
182. Advertise parks more. I'd never heard of several on the list.
183. 4 to six soccer/baseball/football to bring in money from Grand Rapids
184. River accessibility
185. Splash pad
186. More community activities
187. Replace the wooden deck overlooking the river at the river front park on Herbison near Airport. Clear the river of deadfall trees from the river. It is very dangerous for kayakers. Note it does not make any sense to have a handicap launch facility when a kayaker must get out of their kayak along the route to pull a kayak over fallen trees.
188. Offer more outdoor fitness/yoga classes for the community

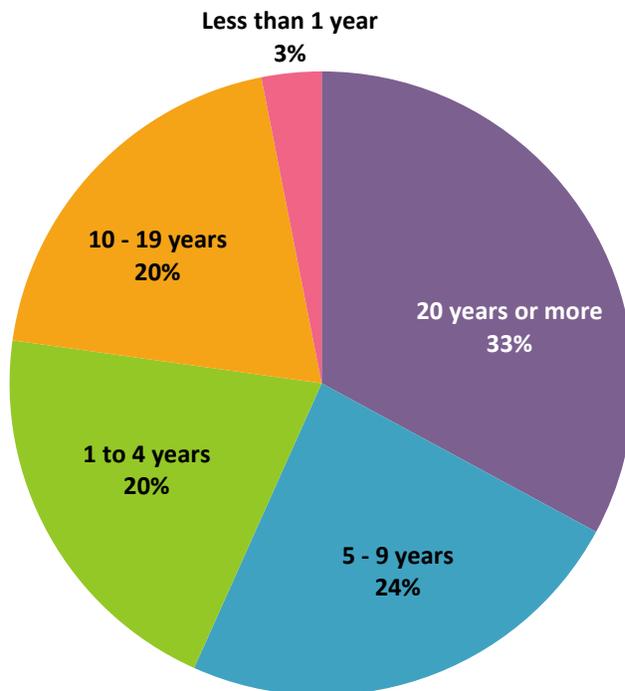
189. Connect to a paved cycling trail such as a rails to trails project.
190. Add some restrooms
191. Acquire/develop more land along the Looking Glass at multiple points. Stabilized fill along the North side of the river adjacent to Main St West of Mcguire park with a paved meandering path through a ribbon of grass and trees along the bank would be beautiful and wonderful to use. Boardwalks meandering through the marshy area along the south side of the river adjacent to Herbison just East of Airport on either side of the kayak launch park. Acquire the land on the Southeast corner of Airport and Herbison and develop it into another community park.
192. More canoe launches and cleaning of the looking glass river!
193. Having equipment for kids to play ball or sports. Having signs with pictures showing the progress of how dewitt became what it is today how it was founded.
194. Maintain Disc Golf Courses, Trails, and Playgrounds.
195. More canoe and kayak access to the Looking Glass river and more signage. Everything can always be improved to bring the community safe fun activities for all ages.
196. More youth and teen activities.
197. More playground equipment similar to Wacousts
198. I would love to see a splash park for the kids and more Pickelball courts for adults
199. More water activities.. Things to keep kids active during the summer.. Not only sports,, Not all kids play sports..
200. Longer river trail/more accessible river access
201. Organization is doing a good job , with what is available. More connecting trails for biking
202. Sports park is underutilized due to the high costs
203. Increase natural areas
204. More paths that connect for safe walking and biking.
205. Canoe rentals
206. Add a crosswalk from riverside park to the gazebo
207. Larger play structures
208. Add more nature trails for walking.
209. More variety in programs for all ages
210. We need a pool or splashpad
211. Add special features to improve quality of parks.
212. I would love to see more activities for younger (under 4) kids.
213. Better disc golf course
214. advertise and communicate the availability. Use social media more often to reach your audience.
215. More is always better - the parks are great as-is. The only facility I would like to see is a public shooting range, but that may be a little niche for the cost.
216. Have swings at all playgrounds & replace or improve old worn structures. A splash pad would be awesome as well.
217. continue sidewalks to connect current paths- there are a few dangerous spots still with in the City. Never finished! Maybe sidewalk from Washington to Main st on Logan
218. Splash pad.

219. A community pool
220. side walks going all thru town
221. Keep the restrooms open longer.
222. keep bathrooms open all year
223. Keep the bathrooms open all year. Add basketball courts
224. Offer more walking paths
225. More community engagement activities. I know this is hard with the pandemic
226. I'd like to see more adult programs offered. I typically go to EL or Delta Township for my organized adult activities.
227. More trails
228. Better connection between parks.
229. Keep the bathrooms open year round.
230. Seating along the river at Looking Glass Riverfront Park!
231. Lights on walking paths at night through granger meadows
232. More nature area. It is getting so built up in the area. We could use some green space.
233. Leave restrooms open year round
234. More playground equipment areas. Splash pad!
235. More walking trails.
236. I would love more sidewalks connecting neighborhoods to downtown and parks.
237. Trim tree branches at parks and add more basketball courts
238. More events
239. More community events (when possible/safe)
240. Splash pad!!!
241. Connect parks with biking walking trails along the rivers to other communities
242. More trails for running/biking
243. Add restrooms to some of the parks with playgrounds.
244. Increase advertising or marketing and be clear in communications. Pricing, registration, dates, age requirements, etc. have not always been clear or highly visible on flyers and other materials I have seen.

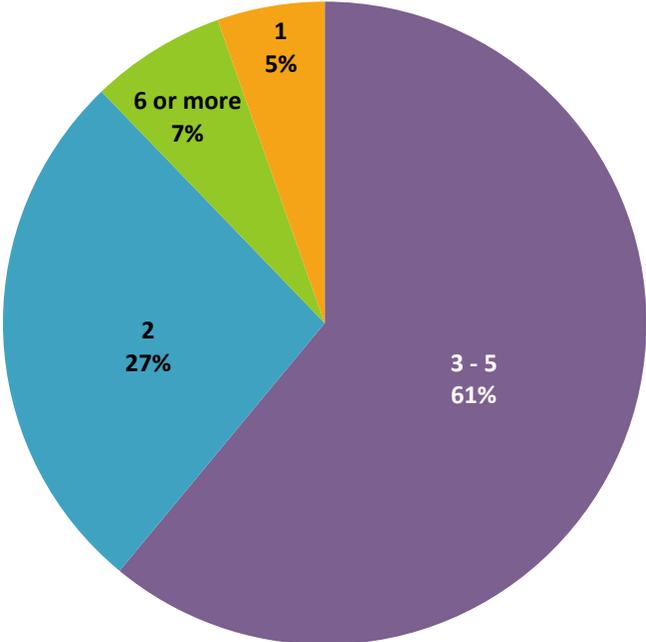
17. Where do you live?



18. How long have you lived in the community that you selected above?



19. How many people live in your household?



20. What is your age?

