

AGENDA
Cascade Charter Township Parks Committee
Tuesday, May 17, 2022
8 am
5920 Tahoe Dr

- ARTICLE 1. Call the meeting to order
Record the attendance**
- ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**
- ARTICLE 3. Approve the minutes of the April 19, 2022 meeting.**
- ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.
(Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker.)**
- ARTICLE 5. KDL Cascade Branch Library Plans and Update
Update from Reginal Manager, Vanessa Walstra**
- ARTICLE 6. Updates from Manager
Update and information from Staff**
- ARTICLE 7. Update on Pathways and Trails
Update on creation of a Parks Committee and the Grand River Greenway**
- ARTICLE 8. Parks Master Plan Update
Update from Troyer Group Team and Scheduling Work Session**
- ARTICLE 9. Property Acquisition Template
Review Draft of Property Acquisition Template**
- ARTICLE 10. DTE Energy Tree Grant Program
Information and Next Steps Regarding Tree Grant Program**
- ARTICLE 11. Updates and Announcements from Chair
Update from Ginny Regarding Deer Management and Burton Park**
- ARTICLE 12. Strategic Plan Update
Update from Strategic Plan Subcommittee**
- ARTICLE 13. Port-a-Potty Request Near Pickle-ball Courts
Update on the Process and Request**
- ARTICLE 14. Old Business**
- ARTICLE 15. Any Other Business**
- ARTICLE 16. Adjournment**

Meeting format

1. **Staff Presentation**

Staff report and recommendation

2. **Project presentation-**

Applicant presentation and explanation of project

a. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

i. *Open Public Hearing. Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker; exception may be granted by the chair for representative speakers and applicants*

ii. *Close public hearing*

3. **Committee discussion** – *May ask for clarification from applicant, staff or public*

4. **Committee decision - Options**

a. *Table the decision*

b. *Deny*

c. *Approve*

d. *Approve with conditions*

e. *Recommendation to Township Board*

Meeting Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Parks Committee Strategic Plan Workshop
Tuesday, April 19, 2022
8:00 AM
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

ARTICLE 1. Vice-chair Engel called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.
Members Present: Chair Ginny Wanty, Joe Engel, Mike Reese, Windy Korstange
Members Absent: Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Matt Douglas (excused)

Others Present: Township Supervisor Ben Swayze, Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Building and Grounds Supervisor Jim MacDonald, Management Office Administrative Assistant Jessica Stine, Rachel Walsh with Troyer Group, and those listed on the sign in sheet.

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Member Korstange. Motion carried 4 to 0.

ARTICLE 3. Approve the minutes of the March 15 and March 24, 2022 meetings.

Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the March 15, 2022 meeting minutes with the secretary changed to 'Planning Director Brian Hilbrands as Acting Secretary' as Member and Secretary Engel had not attended that meeting. Supported by Member Korstange. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Member Engel asked if McKenna had submitted their summary from the Strategic Plan meeting they participated in. Planning Director Hilbrands said he had not heard anything from them yet but he would reach back out.

Motion was made by Member Korstange to approve the March 24, 2022, meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 4 to 0.

ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.

There was no one who wished to speak.

ARTICLE 9. Strategic Plan Update (moved up on agenda until Manager Swayze arrived)

Member Reese talked about the Strategic Planning workshops that have been taking place and stated that there were at least a couple dozen people in attendance at the first two meetings and at least a dozen at the third.

ARTICLE 5. Updates from Manager

Planning Director Hilbrands passed out the letter that will be mailed to residents living within 500 ft of Burton Park to educate them about Oak Wilt and instruct them not to remove wood from township lands.

Manager Swayze let the committee know they had completed interviews and are offering the Director of Public Works (DPW) position to one of the candidates. Manager Swayze hopes that the candidate will accept and be able to attend the next Parks Committee meeting.

ARTICLE 6. Parks Master Plan Discussion

The committee went over the Parks 2014 Master Implementation Plan to determine what items had been completed or acted upon. Important topics to note included need for updating of the parks portion of the township website, update to the pathway map, interest in standardization of the kiosks across all parks, and enabling pickleball courts to be reserved online.

There was discussion on future programming and league rental at Cascade Rec Park. There were suggestions that the township may want to start charging for league use of the Cascade Rec Park fields and creating a 'Friends of Cascade Parks and Trails' organization. The potential for a portable, synthetic ice arena procured by the DDA was talked about but that was sidelined originally due to lack of a space to house the rink when it isn't in use; this topic may come back up for the DDA when completing the strategic plan. Pathway and trail connections to other communities is another feature that will carry over to the next Parks Master Plan. The new DPW will work on putting together a multi-year list of projects he thinks should be completed, as well as multi-year plan for pathway maintenance. Communication with the airport is moving slowly about a potential multi-use athletic complex on airport-owned land. Creation of a 'village' area has risen to the top on the list of priorities the township will be focusing on due to the results of the strategic plan.

According to the Strategic Plan survey, section five of the Township should be considered one of the most important areas for parks development and section four should also be considered as that area is underserved.

Next steps include discussing the property acquisition checklist and discussing goals and objectives for the new master plan.

ARTICLE 7. Update from the New Neighbors at the Church on Wycliff

Unity Spiritual Community Church members Ray Jaglowski (Church Treasurer), Lynne Hill (Church Gardener), and Kate Perlmutter (Church Secretary), attended and talked about their plans for the church and the adjoining parking lot they will be sharing with the township for access to the new township park. Their target opening date is June 25th and they are looking to landscape the area with native plants that promote drainage.

Their current concerns are the curb cut, parking lot size, and joint signage. The Parks Committee was not interested in utilizing an electric sign at this time. There was discussion about restoring the historic stairway on the property, but there was a general consensus that it was not a practical or safe project. The Parks Committee will work closely with the new church on parking matters.

ARTICLE 8. Naming Process for New Township Park on Wycliff

The township is looking into if the park will be named based on local history or if they will let a donor name the park. The Historical Society is currently finding out more information on the history of the site that may contribute to the naming. This will be brought back at the next Parks Committee meeting for discussion.

ARTICLE 10. Peace Park Addition

Member Engel shared that the potential property acquisition is currently at a standstill as one of the two owners wants to get another appraisal before they will sell. This will push the timeline out at least -30-60 days but the second property owner remains interested in selling the land to the township.

ARTICLE 11. Old Business

Garlic Mustard: The dumpster will be available starting May 6th and there will be a pull at Burton Park on May 7th. There will be another pull on May 11th, in the evening, at the cemetery. Kent County Conservation is holding an invasive species work day with GE Aviation on May 30th at Burton Park.

ARTICLE 12. Any Other Business

Deer Population Management: Chair Wanty shared that she received a commitment from Dr Rob Keys and his students from Cornerstone to come count the deer and complete a study for the township from September through December.

Emergency Phones at Cascade Rec Park and Tassell Park: Grounds Supervisor MacDonald explained that the emergency phones at Cascade Rec Park and Tassell Park don't work and he would like to remove them. He stated that they haven't worked for years and attempts to fix them haven't been successful. The committee unanimously agreed they should be removed, once approved by Manager Swayze.

Building and Grounds Capital Improvements: Chair Wanty asked Ground Supervisor MacDonald to compile a ranked list of capital improvements he believes are needed for the building and grounds of Cascade owned properties. He agreed to do so.

Park at Wycliff: Member Engel stated it is important to move forward with planning regarding parking and access at the Wycliff property, as well as the park configuration. Planning Director Hilbrands stated this might include a community meeting to find out what amenities citizens are interested in having at the new park. This will most likely be a joint project between the Parks Committee, the Planning and Zoning Department, and the Township Board.

Oak Wilt Education: Chair Wanty will be attending an upcoming session on Managing Oak Wilt at the Wittenbach Wege Center. Supervisor McDonald, Member Engel, and Ryan and Josh of the building and grounds crew will also be attending.

ARTICLE 13. Adjournment

Motion was made by Chair Wanty to adjourn. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 4 to 0. The Meeting adjourned at 9:47 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary

DRAFT



February 16, 2022

Ashley Smolinski & Vanessa Walstra
Kent District Library – Cascade Township Branch
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

RE: Master Plan Concept Review

Dear Ashley & Vanessa,

This letter is to serve as the design narrative and overview of the master plan concept which Native Edge has developed for the Cascade Township Branch Library. We are very excited about the attached concept and are looking forward to receiving your feedback.

During our initial site visit, we discussed providing multiple concepts for you and the project team to review prior to getting into more detailed designs. However, while we were tinkering with different concepts for the site, one design emerged which was head and shoulders above the rest. The attached concept addresses many of the desired elements for the site and organizes the area in a unique and harmonious manner. We decided to provide a more refined design than what was originally discussed in order to better communicate the details and features of the attached concept. Although we like the attached design, I want to be clear in stating that this design is still completely flexible, and we can incorporate any feedback and changes required to create the final master plan.

PROJECT NARRATIVE

The goals of the attached master plan documents are to provide gathering spaces for groups of various sizes, connect people with nature, provide areas for quiet reflection, restore nature across the site, and increase the functionality and character of the site to support the goals and values of the library. The primary focus area for this project is in the area directly northeast of the library, between the building and the wooded area. Additional focus areas include the wooded area and immediately adjacent areas, and the area to the northeast of the library.

The feeling we wanted to create is that of an 'outdoor library' – but what does that mean exactly? To us, that means a space with multiple gathering areas, from cozy nooks to large group spaces, and providing opportunities for exploration, engagement, learning, connection, and reflection. This plan provides a variety of gathering spaces, seating opportunities, exploring and learning through natural landscapes and hands-on features, and will draw visitors outside and encourage them to explore and utilize the space. The forms driving the arrangement of the space are circular and curvilinear, drawing on the architecture of the library and creating a strong organizational signature for the site which contrasts nicely with the natural character of the sites vegetation and natural habitat spaces. This plan works with the existing natural features, such as trees, topography, and terrain, and supports and expands on these features and incorporates them into the plan instead of removing or mitigating them.

Two plans have been provided for review. The first is the 'Overall Master Plan' which shows a comprehensive master plan for the site. This includes additional areas beyond the primary focus area to show how the plan fits within the context of the entire site. The second is the 'Master Plan Focus Area' which focuses on the primary development area to the northwest of the library.

The following section reviews the proposed individual site features which are listed on the key on the master plan sheets.

PROPOSED SITE FEATURES KEY

1. New 6' Sidewalk – One important component of the site is to ensure it is 100% ADA compliant. To achieve this, all primary use areas across the site may be accessed with a 6' wide sidewalk. The sidewalks also nicely define space, reinforce the circular design theme, and provide a clean transition from one use area to another.
2. Active Lawn Space – Overall most of the existing lawn on site has been removed and replaced by a few target areas of 'Active Lawn Space'. This active lawn space are the key focus areas for gathering, playing, and flexible use space for a variety of programming activities. The active lawn space directly adjacent to the library entrance on the northwest side of the building is the primary 'outdoor classroom' and active gathering space.
3. Paved Seating Area – This area is paved and can accommodate tables and provides a hard surface for programming that requires additional stability. This area can also serve as a seated overlook to the restored detention basin meadow and provide additional seating options for individuals with accessibility issues.
4. Perennial Garden Spaces – these areas are intentionally planted perennial gardens which will enhance the character and beauty of the outdoor areas. These gardens will help define space, indicate where more intimate areas are located, and support wildlife and education using native plants. These gardens will be installed using native perennial plugs (live plants) which is different from the prairie and meadow areas which will use native seed.
5. Fountain – Garden fountains, sculptures, and artwork can be incorporated throughout the master plan. This concept shows one primary fountain in the garden area on the west side of the site, but other fountains could be incorporated to provide white noise and tranquility.
6. Seat Walls or Curved Benches – Seating is critical so that people are encouraged to stay in the space and know there are ample opportunities to do so. This plan shows many seat walls or curved benches in the primary gathering areas near the northwest corner of the library. These features would be permanent and can be used as outdoor classrooms where a large group can be spoken to at one time (see the large active lawn area), or they can provide intimate seating near gardens (see the fountain area).

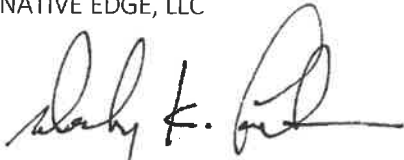
7. Rain Garden – The area at the northern corner of the library tends to be wet and here we are proposing a rain garden to create a beautiful garden space while solving the sites drainage issues. The rain garden would be slightly depressed, to help drain adjacent water, and would have an overflow structure which drains under the adjacent sidewalk and into the detention basin. This feature could also have a fountain feature incorporated, providing continuously running water.
8. Expanded Woodland Area – The expanded woodland area does just what it sounds like – it expands the existing woodland area to create buffers and help define space. On the west side of the project area the woodland areas extend all the way from the northernmost active lawn adjacent to the pavilion to the northwest corner of the library. This expanding planting of mainly native trees and shrubs will help to define space and provide a sense of enclosure, so users in the outdoor use areas don't feel exposed and instead feel safe and protected from the adjacent road. The woodland area is also expanded into a few areas to help define space within the primary use areas, as well to the northeast portion of the site to provide a buffer from the adjacent properties to the east.
9. Restored and Enhanced Woodland Area – The existing woodland areas will be cleaned up and restored, so that they are accessible, safe, and educational. Existing invasive or nuisance vegetation will be removed, and beneficial species will be planted to provide educational opportunities and increase the ecological quality of this area. Trails will be created through this location which connect to adjacent areas throughout the site and provide access to unique opportunities within the woodland area.
10. Woodland Play Areas – These areas are locations intended for natural play within the woodland areas. These areas will be clearings with natural materials and some built elements to encourage kids to explore and use their imaginations. Having this area within the existing woodland area will help to buffer some of this 'wilder' play from other users enjoying the site.
11. Pavilion – During our meeting, the idea of a pavilion on the north side of the woodland area was discussed, and we think it is a terrific idea. This concept provides a large pavilion area adjacent to a large formal garden and two active lawn areas. This location could become a major event and entertainment area for the library and could host a wide variety of events and programs. This entire area overlooks a large, restored prairie, which will be full of wildflowers, bees, and butterflies.
12. New Prairie Areas – The new prairie areas eliminate existing lawn and replace it with a beneficial low-profile prairie which will support local ecosystems and wildlife, add incredible natural beauty to the site, and reduce maintenance costs.
13. New Retention Area Meadow Planting – The new retention area meadow planting is similar to the prairie areas, except it provides a plant mix which prefers more consistent moisture and will have a slightly higher profile in character.

14. Wet Meadow Planting – This is very similar to the meadow planting, except here plants which require consistently wet soils will be used.
15. Trails – trails will be used to provide additional hiking and engagement opportunities across the site, particularly in the natural habitat areas like the woodlands and prairies. To the greatest extent possible, these trails will also be ADA compliant, and will be mown paths or decomposed granite to allow all users to access all corners of the site.
16. Seating Areas – There are many seating areas across the site, but this feature refers to the nodes along the northeast side of the building, which will feature a table and chairs with an umbrella or other shade structure. These areas are designed for quiet gatherings, eating lunch, and enjoying the beauty of the restored natural areas on the northeast side of the site.
17. Access to Improvement Areas – There are two primary ways to access these new improvement areas. The main access point is from the northwest corner of the library at the existing exterior door, and the secondary access point is from the sidewalk where you can access the site directly from the parking lot. The southeast corner of the site is where users can travel around the building to access the new improvement areas.

We hope you like the design and are looking forward to your feedback! Please let me know if there is a time in the near future when we can meet, virtually or in person, to discuss the design and any questions and comments you have.

With gratitude,

NATIVE EDGE, LLC



Wesley K. Landon, ASLA
Landscape Architect / Principal

*Attachments [Cascade Library_Overall Master Plan]
[Cascade Library_Focus Area Master Plan]*



PROJECT
LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN
 KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY - CASCADE TOWNSHIP BRANCH

PREPARED FOR
 Kent District Library
 CASCADE TOWNSHIP BRANCH

PREPARED BY
 NATUREGE
 ECODISCIPLINARY NATURE DESIGN

DATE 2/18/22
SHEET TITLE OVERALL MASTER PLAN
SHEET No. 1 OF 2

- PROPOSED SITE FEATURES KEY**
- 1 NEW 6' SIDEWALK
 - 2 ACTIVE LAWN SPACE
 - 3 PAVED SEATING AREA
 - 4 PERENNIAL GARDEN SPACES
 - 5 FOUNTAIN
 - 6 SEAT WALLS OR CURVED BENCHES
 - 7 RAIN GARDEN
 - 8 EXPANDED WOODLAND AREA
 - 9 RESTORED AND ENHANCED WOODLAND AREA
 - 10 WOODLAND PLAY AREAS
 - 11 PAVILION
 - 12 NEW PRAIRIE AREAS
 - 13 NEW RETENTION AREA MEADOW PLANTING
 - 14 WET MEADOW PLANTING
 - 15 TRAILS
 - 16 SEATING AREAS
 - 17 ACCESS TO IMPROVEMENT AREAS

NOTES:
 1) Refer to included project narrative for detailed design information.



- PROPOSED SITE FEATURES KEY**
- 1 NEW 8' SIDEWALK
 - 2 ACTIVE LAWN SPACE
 - 3 PAVED SEATING AREA
 - 4 PERENNIAL GARDEN SPACES
 - 5 FOUNTAIN
 - 6 SEAT WALLS OR CURVED BENCHES
 - 7 RAIN GARDEN
 - 8 EXPANDED WOODLAND AREA
 - 9 RESTORED AND ENHANCED WOODLAND AREA
 - 10 WOODLAND PLAY AREAS
 - 11 PAVILION
 - 12 NEW PRAIRIE AREAS
 - 13 NEW RETENTION AREA MEADOW PLANTING
 - 14 WET MEADOW PLANTING
 - 15 TRAILS
 - 16 SEATING AREAS
 - 17 ACCESS TO IMPROVEMENT AREAS

NOTES:
 1) Refer to included project narrative for detailed design information.

PROJECT
LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN
 KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY - CASCADE TOWNSHIP BRANCH

PREPARED FOR
 Kent District Library
 CASCADE TOWNSHIP BRANCH

PREPARED BY
 NATVEGE
 ECOSYSTEMICALLY INFORMED DESIGN

DATE 2/10/22
SHEET TITLE MASTER PLAN FOCUS AREA
SHEET No. 2 OF 2



- PROPOSED SITE FEATURES KEY**
- 1 NEW 6' SIDEWALK
 - 2 ACTIVE LAWN SPACE
 - 3 PAVED SEATING AREA
 - 4 PERENNIAL GARDEN SPACES
 - 5 FOUNTAIN
 - 6 SEAT WALLS OR CURVED BENCHES
 - 7 RAIN GARDEN
 - 8 EXPANDED WOODLAND AREA
 - 9 RESTORED AND ENHANCED WOODLAND AREA
 - 10 WOODLAND PLAY AREAS
 - 11 AMPHITHEATER SEATING
 - 12 AMPHITHEATER STAIRS
 - 13 NEW PRAIRIE AREAS
 - 14 NEW RETENTION AREA MEADOW PLANTING
 - 15 WET MEADOW PLANTING
 - 16 TRAILS
 - 17 SEATING AREAS
 - 18 ACCESS TO IMPROVEMENT AREAS
 - 19 RESTROOM BUILDING

NOTES:
 1) Refer to included project narrative for detailed design information.

PROJECT
LANDSCAPE MASTER PLAN
KENT DISTRICT LIBRARY - CASCADE TOWNSHIP BRANCH

PREPARED FOR
 Kent District Library
 CASCADE TOWNSHIP BRANCH

PREPARED BY
 NATURE EDGE
 ECOSYSTEMS AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

DATE 2/10/22
SHEET TITLE MASTER PLAN FOCUS AREA V2
SHEET No. 2 OF 2



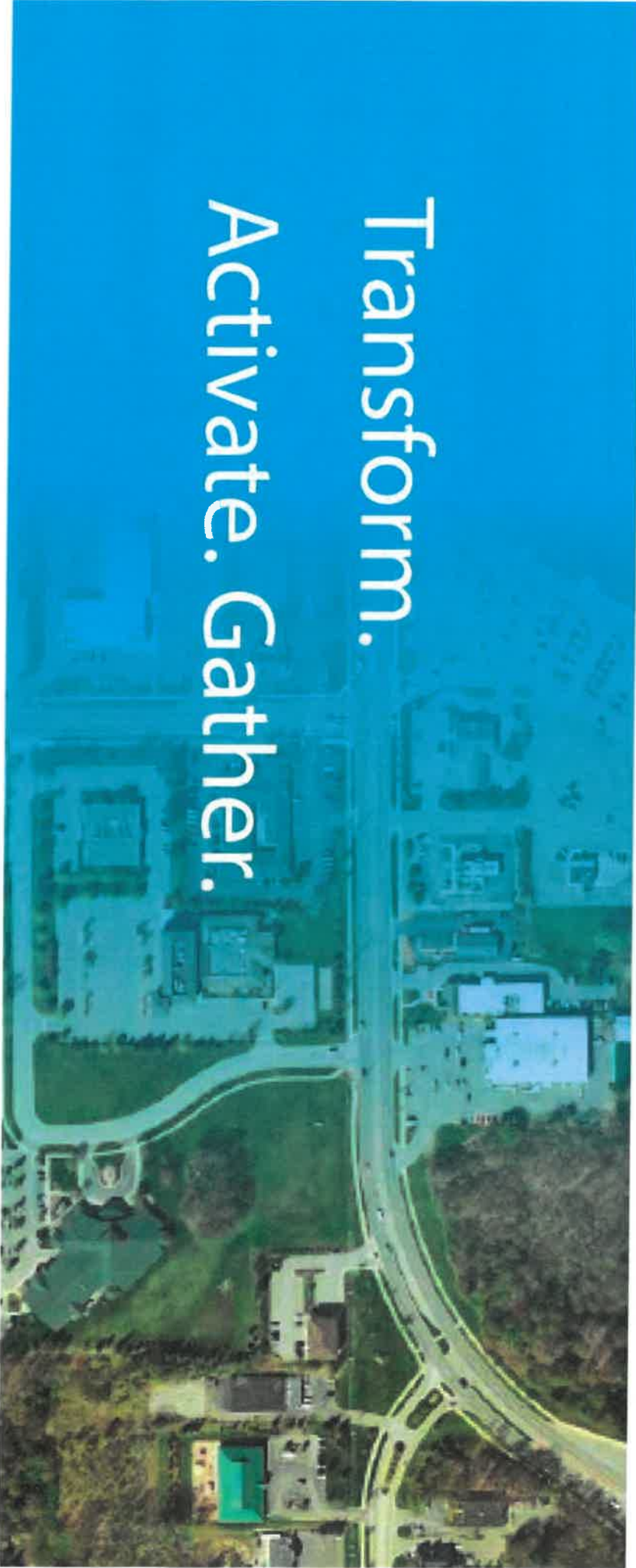


CASCADE

Transform **A**ctivate **G**ather

Transform.

Activate. Gather.

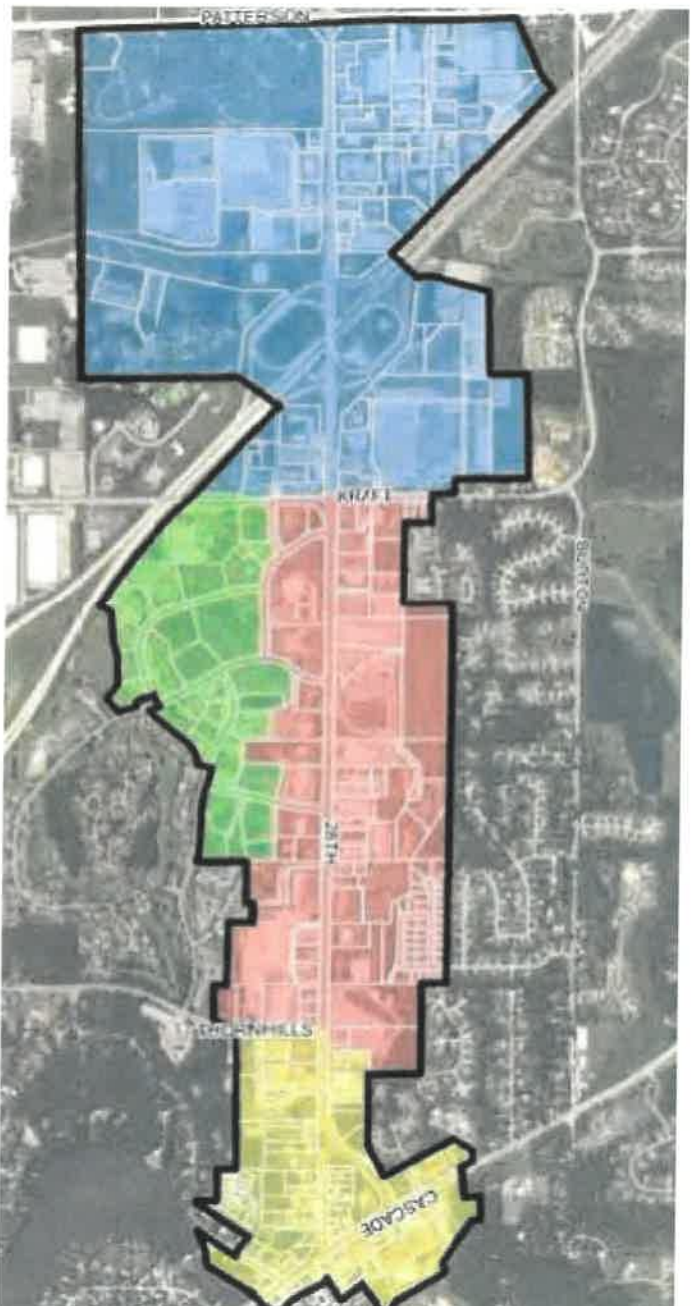


CASCADE GATHERING PLACE

VIRIDIS
Design Group

williams & works

Cascade Downtown Development Authority



Consistent Input



- Skate and climbing plaza with shelter
- Walking paths with seating and overlook areas
- Amphitheater flexible for intimate events
- Recirculating Water Feature
- Restroom/storage to minimize use of library facilities
- Native planting enhancements
- Improve on-street parking, visual appeal, and pedestrian connectivity along Jacksmith Ave.
- Protect and preserve existing tree grove
- Consider future Library expansion
- Flexible open areas for library outdoor programming
- Village gateway beautification and stormwater improvements at “triangle lot” (old 28th Street)



LEGEND

EXISTING

- A CASCADE LIBRARY
- H PARKING LOT
- C NOTO'S RESTAURANT
- D TREE GROVE
- F STORMWATER DETENTION BASIN
- F MEMORIAL TREES

PROPOSED

- A RECURRATING CASCADE FOUNTAIN STARTING AT TREE GROVE AND TERMINATING AT BANDSHELL OVERLOOK
- B CHILDREN'S SOUND AND DISCOVERY GARDEN (44'-8,000 SF)
- C AMPHITHEATER AREA (44'-9,000 SF)
- D ACCESSIBLE LOOP WALKS AND TRAILS (2,200 LF)
- E FLEXIBLE OPEN GREEN SPACE
- F ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS: DEFINED ON-STREET PARKING LANDSCAPED BUMP-OUTS, CROSSWALKS, ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTING AND STREET TREES
- G SKATE AND CLIMBING PLAZA (44'-15,000 SF)
- H PICNIC SHELTER (20'X40')
- I OVERLOOK/VIEWING AREA
- J BIKE PARKING WITH AIR AND TOOL STATION
- K VILLAGE GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS WITH NEW SIGN AND RAIN GARDEN
- L RAIN GARDEN AND BIDSWALE
- M NATIVE PLANTING AREA
- N FUTURE LIBRARY EXPANSION
- O RESTROOM, STORAGE, AND EVENT KIOSK (20'X20')





COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE MASTER PLAN



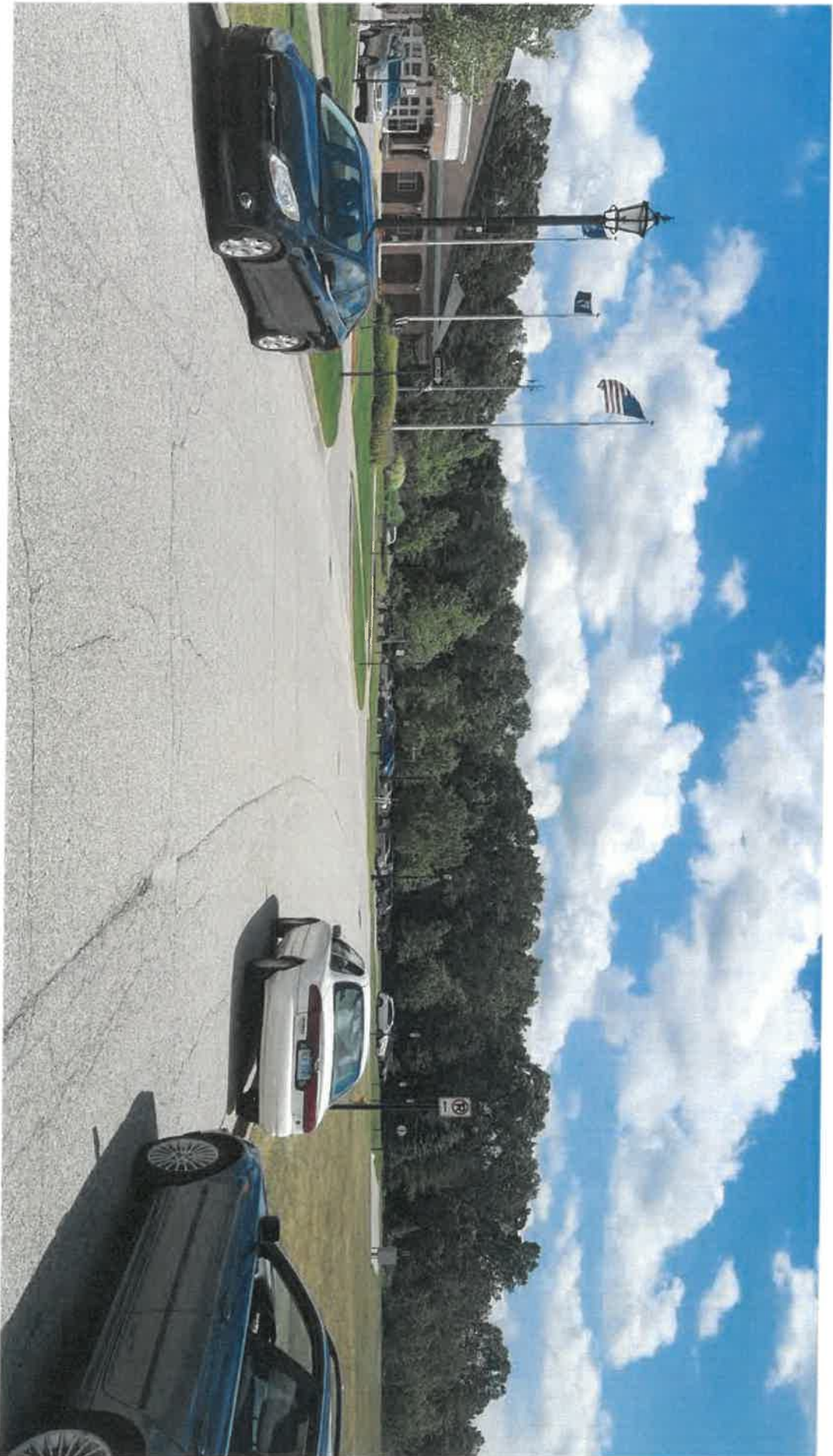
williams & works
engineers, architects, planners



VILLAGE GATEWAY - EXISTING



VILLAGE GATEWAY - PROPOSED



JACKSMITH STREETScape - EXISTING



JACKSMITH STREETScape - PROPOSED



LEGEND

- VILLAGE GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS**
2019 Cost Estimate: \$235,400
- TRAIL LOOP, NATURAL LANDSCAPING AND CHILDREN'S DISCOVERY GARDEN**
2019 Cost Estimate: \$563,200
- AMPHITHEATER AREA**
2019 Cost Estimate: \$1,804,000
- STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS**
2019 Cost Estimate: \$378,000
- SKATE AND CLIMBING PLAZA**
2019 Cost Estimate: \$580,000



COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE

Cascade Township, Michigan

09.06.19

PROJECT PHASING PLAN



Opinion of Probable Cost - Landscape Master Plan - Cascade Library

Item	Qty.	Unit	Unit Price	Total	Notes
PHASE I - PRIMARY USE AREA ADJACENT TO NW SIDE OF LIBRARY					
Site Prep., Demo, Grading, & Drainage	1	LS	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 17,500.00	Includes any additional topsoil, fill, and removals needed.
4" Sidewalks	4,182	SF	\$ 7.00	\$ 29,274.00	
Concrete Pavers	706	SF	\$ 26.00	\$ 18,356.00	
Seat Walls	233	LF	\$ 180.00	\$ 41,940.00	
Fountain	1	EA	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
Lawn Areas	2,323	SF	\$ 0.15	\$ 348.45	
Perennial Garden Areas	3,265	SF	\$ 7.00	\$ 22,855.00	
Rain Garden	1	Allowance	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	
Woodland Expansion Areas	1	Allowance	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00	
Existing Woodland Clearing and Grubbing	1	Allowance	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	
Woodland Paths and Play Areas	1	Allowance	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	
Tables and Chairs	3	EA	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
Phase I Subtotal				\$ 162,473.45	
Site Survey				\$ 3,000.00	
Professional Fees @ 10%				\$ 16,247.35	
Contingency @ 12%				\$ 19,496.81	
Phase I Total				\$ 201,217.61	

PHASE II - PAVILION AREA AND IMPROVEMENTS NORTH OF EXISTING WOODS					
Site Prep., Demo, Grading, & Drainage	1	LS	10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	
4" Sidewalks	8,213	SF	7.00	\$ 57,491.00	
60' Pavilion	1	LS	80000	\$ 80,000.00	Includes Engineering, Installation, and Utilities
Perennial Garden Areas	3,223	SF	7.00	\$ 22,561.00	
Lawn Areas	3,926	SF	0.15	\$ 588.90	
Phase II Subtotal				\$ 170,640.90	
Site Survey				\$ 1,500.00	
Professional Fees @ 10%				\$ 17,064.09	

Contingency @ 12%	\$	20,476.91
Phase II Total	\$	209,681.90

PHASE III - NORTHEAST SIDE OF BUILDING FACING DETENTION BASIN						
Site Prep., Demo, Grading, & Drainage	1	LS	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
4" Sidewalks	2,075	SF	\$	7.00	\$	14,525.00
Perennial Garden Areas	4,495	SF	\$	7.00	\$	31,465.00
Tables and Chairs	3	EA	\$	2,000.00	\$	6,000.00

Phase III Subtotal	\$	56,990.00
Site Survey	\$	500.00
Professional Fees @ 5%	\$	2,849.50
Contingency @ 6%	\$	3,419.40
Phase III Total	\$	63,758.90

PHASE III - NATURAL AREA IMPROVEMENTS						
Prairie Area Prep.	2.3	AC	\$	1,500.00	\$	3,450.00
Prairie Area Seed Installation	2.3	AC	\$	5,000.00	\$	11,500.00
Meadow and Wet Meadow Area Prep.	0.8	AC	\$	2,000.00	\$	1,600.00
Meadow and Wet Meadow Seed Installation	0.8	AC	\$	6,000.00	\$	4,800.00
Woodland Expansion Area Plantings	1	Allowance	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00

Phase III Subtotal	\$	31,350.00
Professional Fees @ 5%	\$	1,567.50
Contingency @ 6%	\$	1,881.00
Phase III Total	\$	34,798.50

Includes eradication of existing lawn areas in all of the displayed prairie areas on the master plan.

This number may be increased if erosion control blankets are required on slopes.

Project Summary

Phase I Total	\$ 201,217.61
Phase II Total	\$ 209,681.90
Phase III Total	\$ 63,758.90
Phase IIII Total	\$ 34,798.50
Project Grand Total	\$ 509,456.91

Notes:

- 1) The cost estimates provided in this table assume average material and construction prices for the various site improvements. Most features have a high and low range depending on exact materials specified and the prices in this spreadsheet assume the median price range for these features. This means that there is potential for the constructed price of the proposed site improvements to be above or below the estimated prices based on the exact materials chosen.
- 2) Due to the variable nature of material prices and contractor fees, no guarantee is made as to the actual cost of construction of the features listed in this table. These numbers are intended to provide an estimation of probable cost which can be used to plan for construction and next steps.

Parks and Strategic Plan Public Survey Summary

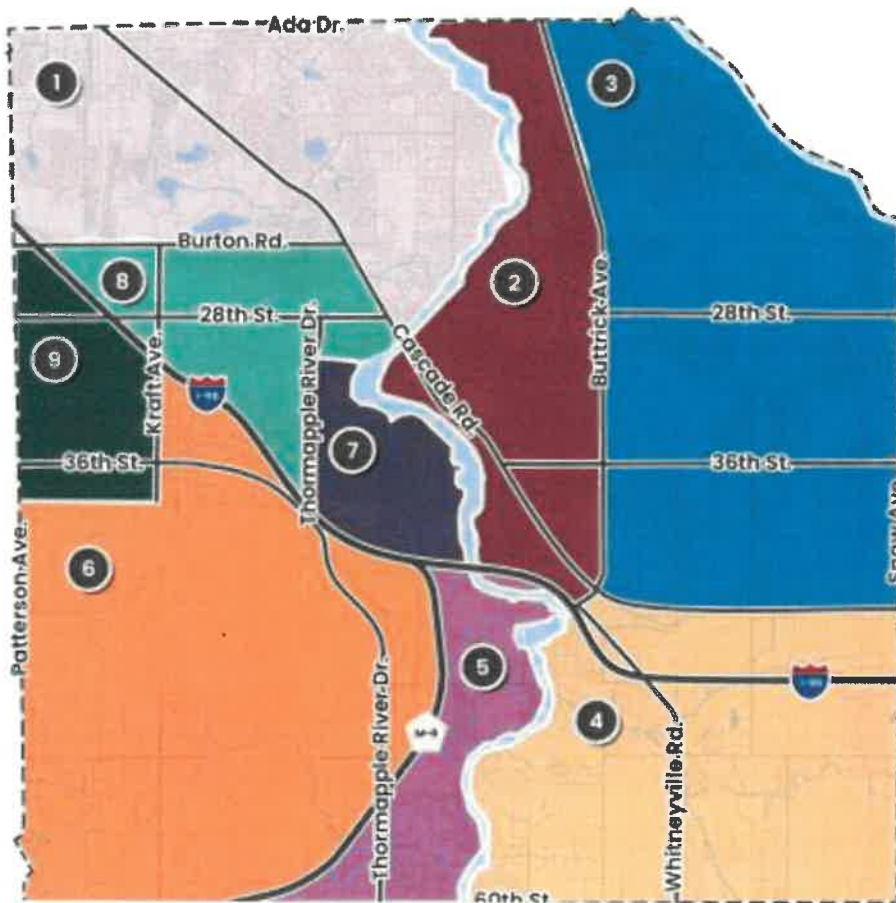
2014 Parks Survey: 170 responses

2021 Parks Survey: 970 responses

Strategic Plan Survey: 1,887 responses

There were similar demographics across each of the surveys

Reference Image for Township Sections:



Top Concerns of the Strategic Plan as they relate to parks:

- Not enough Parks and Natural Areas was ranked 7th within the top issues and concerns. Not enough parks was a higher concern within younger demographics (18 – 49) compared to older demographics.
- Lack of Pathway Maintenance was ranked as 9th within the top issues and concerns, and was also a higher priority for younger demographics
- Lack of River and lake preservation was ranked 4th in the top list of concerns, and was the #1 ranked concern among 18–29-year-olds, 2nd among seniors, and 5th among middle-aged groups
- River preservation was ranked as a top 5 issue among all the township sections that border the Thornapple or Grand River, with it being in the top three issues for sections 5, 3, and 7.
- Not enough parks is a greater issues for the south and eastern sections of the township, with it being ranked the #5 issue by sections 5 and 4 (southeast) and ranked 6th and 7th by sections 2 and 3 (east of Thornapple River)
- Pathway maintenance was a lower ranked issue but was ranked as a higher area of concern in sections 6, 7, and 8, which are central/southwest of the Thornapple River.

Conclusions:

- Lake and River preservation is critically important, especially for those that live along waterfront areas. It is a concern for the younger generations.
- Not having enough parks is a concern of younger generations and is of particular concern for sections south of I-96 and east of the Thornapple River.
- Pathway maintenance is a larger concern for residents who live west of the Thornapple River.

Top priorities of the Strategic Plan as they relate to the parks:

- Not raising taxes was 2nd ranked priority and was ranked in the top 4 for all age and location demographics
- Planning residential growth was ranked as the 3rd priority
- Creating community gathering space was ranked 4th for priorities and was a very high priority for sections 5 and 6 which make up the southwest quadrant of the township.
- Improving existing parks was ranked as the 5th priority, and was higher for sections 1, 2, 3, & 4, which make up the north and east sections of the township.
- More parks and pedestrian facilities were ranked 9th and 10th, with more parks being of slightly higher concern to younger generations (18-49) and residents in the southwest areas of the township, and pedestrian facilities of more concern to residents living in sections 5 and 3.

Conclusions:

- Neighborhood parks would benefit underserved areas, promote residential growth, and serve as gathering space.
- Section 5 and 6 (south and east) are underserved from existing facilities and should be a priority for new development.
- 18 – 49 age demographics tend to rank parks, public space, and pedestrian pathway maintenance and development as higher priorities than older demographics.

- While not raising taxes is widely important, the parks survey indicated the majority of respondents (67.5%) were willing to spend at least \$100/per on a parks milage, with 33% indicated they were willing to spend over \$100/year on a parks mileage.
- Creating a Village is the number one or two priority across all age and location demographics. Integrating green space or gathering space into downtown village developments can accomplish multiple goals.
- Section 5 indicated the desire for most parks improvements throughout the rankings and had the lowest overall ranking for Not Raising Taxes (4). This area should receive consideration for new facilities.

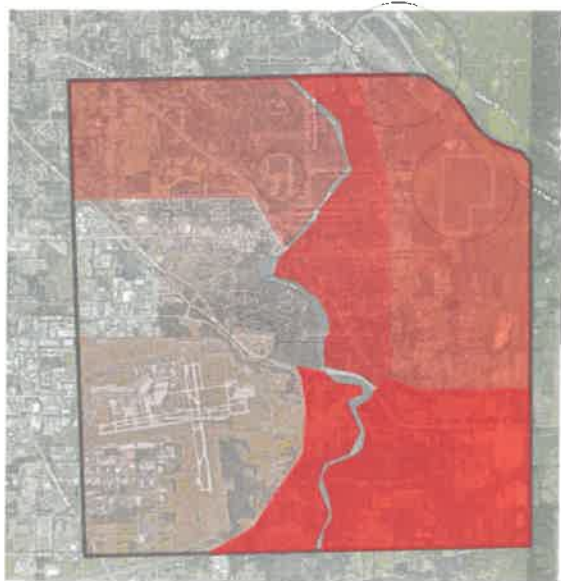
Priorities from 2021 parks survey:

- Maintenance of existing parks and facilities highest priority
- Additional trails and pathways second priority
- New parks and facilities third highest
- Acquisition of new park property
- Restroom facilities
- If additional funding was available, new amenities in existing parks was the preferred option
- Preferred amenities include nature-based play, pickleball, pool/splash pad, children’s play equipment, ice rink, amphitheater
- Small neighborhood parks, natural areas, trails, and waterfront parks are most desired park types. “No additional parks” was the lowest response for what types of parks are needed.
- Programming was desired, especially nature-based, educational, and children’s programming

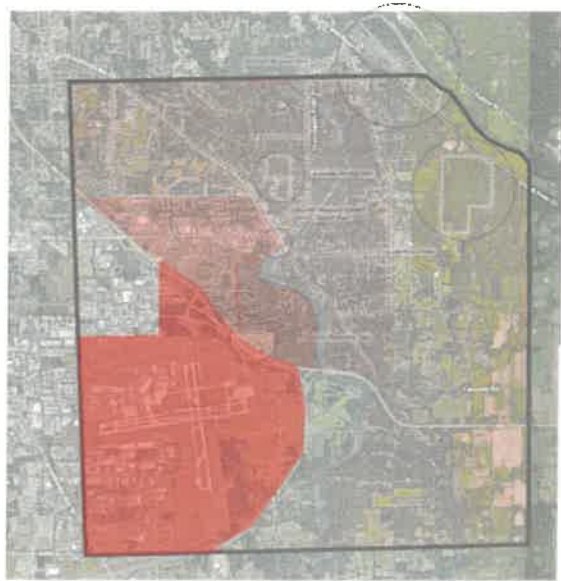
Integration of Results:

- Maintenance of existing trails and parks rated higher in the parks survey than the strategic plan survey
- Not raising taxes was a high priority, but people responded positively to the option of a parks millage. When given a specific positive outcome of increased tax dollars it is more favorable than generally speaking of raising taxes.
- Integrating a gathering space/green space with a “downtown village” can address multiple priorities
- Targeting additional parks or parks improvements and maintenance in areas that are underserved based on geographic response
- Increased awareness of improving and protecting the Thornapple River

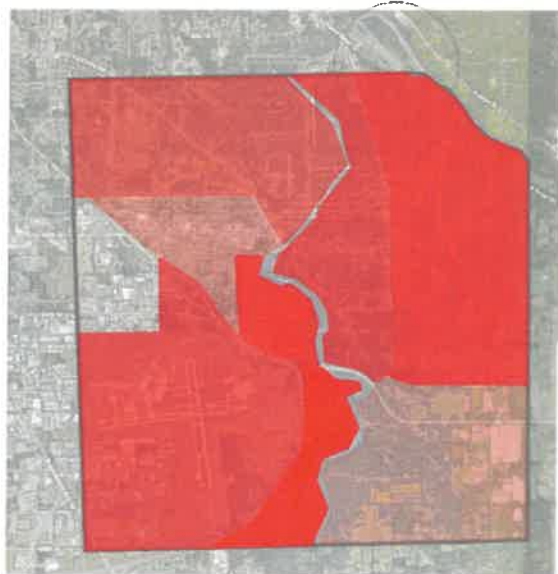
Issues and Priorities Heat Maps:



**Issues of Concern
Not enough Parks**



**Issues of Concern
Pathway Maintenance**



**Issues of Concern
Lack of River/Lake Preservation**



**Issues of Concern
Overlap**

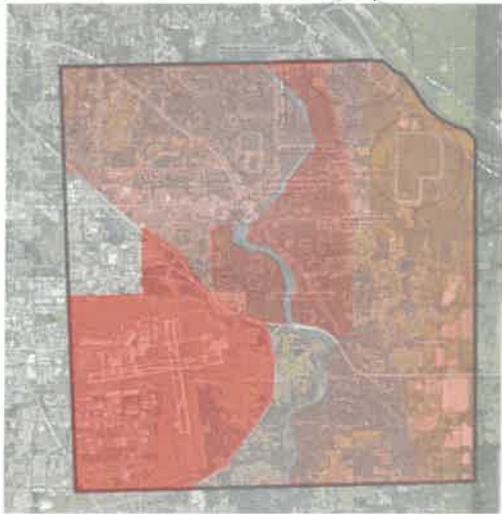
These graphics illustrate the issues of concern within the strategic plan that were related to parks and recreation. Darker colors indicate areas that ranked that specified issue higher, and lighter colors indicate areas that ranked that specified issue as of lower concern. The overlap map combines the 3 Issues of Concern maps and shows the areas where more people ranked parks and recreation related issues as a higher concern.



Priorities
Community Gathering Space



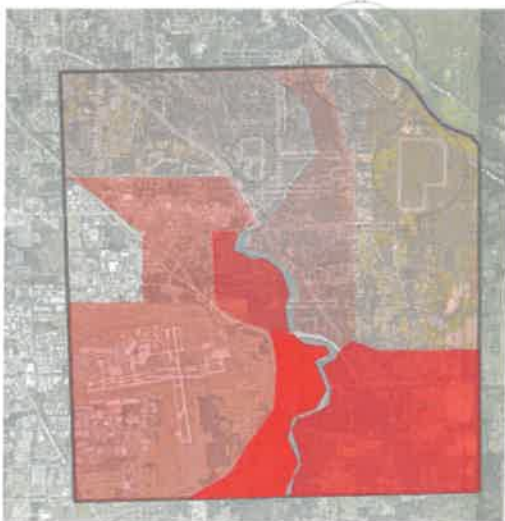
Priorities
Improving Existing Parks



Priorities
More Parks

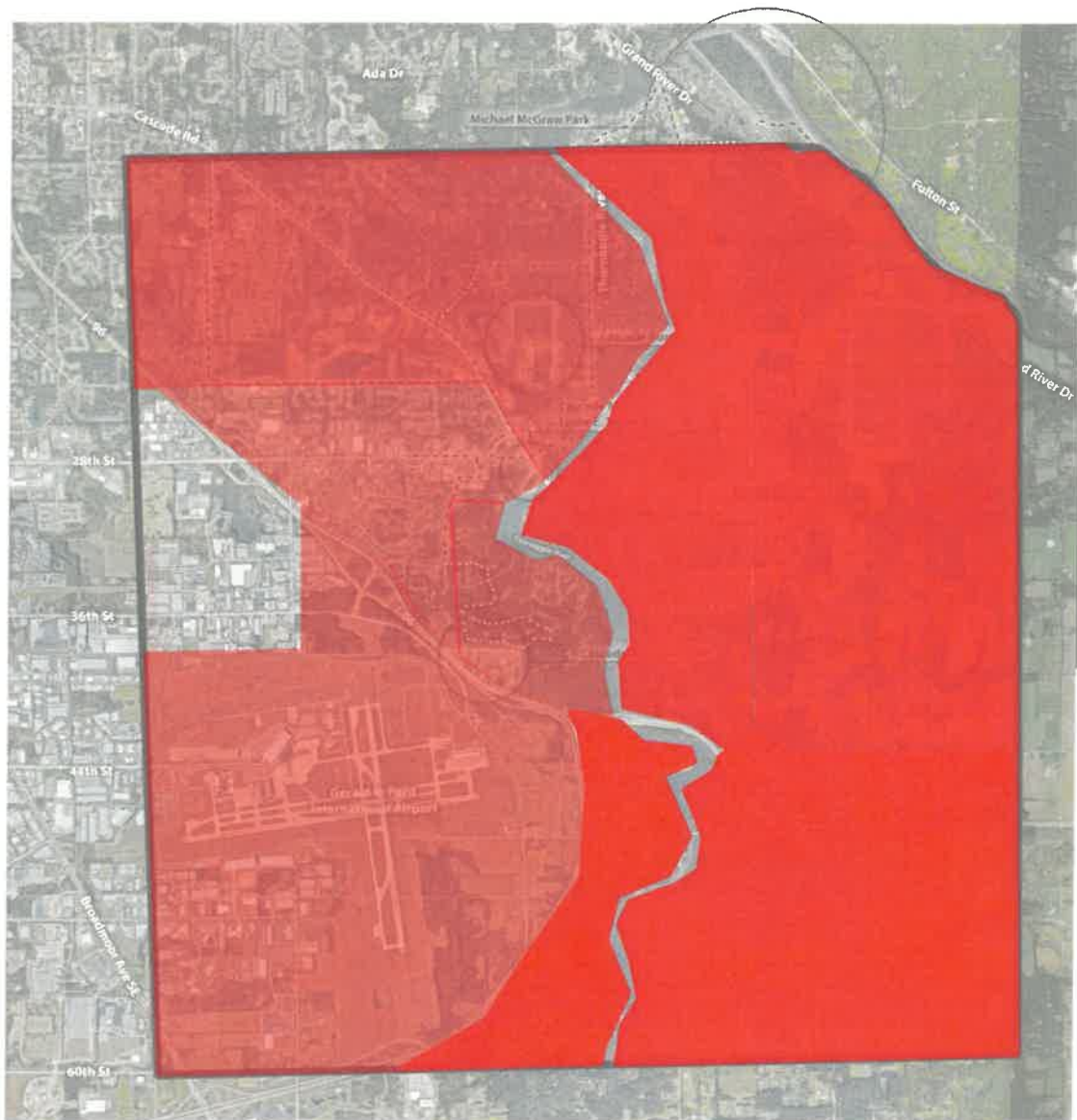


Priorities
Pedestrian Facilities



Priorities
Cleaning Up The Thomapple River

These graphics illustrate the priorities within the strategic plan that were related to parks and recreation. Darker colors indicate areas that ranked the specified area as a higher priority, and lighter colors indicate areas that ranked the specified area as a lower priority.



**Parks Related Priorities (listed within top 5)
Overlap**

The priority compilation map illustrates areas that ranked parks and recreation priorities within their top 5. The darker colors indicate areas that ranked multiple parks and recreation related priorities within their top 5 overall priorities within the strategic plan. Lighter colors indicate areas that ranked 1 – 2 parks related priorities within their top 5.

Strategic Plan workshop Goals/Priorities:

- Acquire and preserve green space
- Maintenance of current facilities
- Hire additional staff (director, maintenance)
- More dedicated funding sources - millage
- Academic & nature based programming
- Trail maintenance
- Expanding trails to different areas

Previous Plan Goals

- Consistent and continuous maintenance
- Provide spaces for residents to enjoy natural environments
- Continue to develop pathway system
- Assure that adequate land is available for parks
- Develop and improve universal design in the parks
- Waterfront access and utilization
- Coordination and expansion of recreational programs with other agencies and organizations
- Mechanisms for meeting future needs
- Preservation and integration of natural resources
- Continually reassess parks and recreation needs

Cascade Township

Parks and Open Spaces Property Acquisition Template

This tool is designed to help evaluate potential parks and open space sites for acquisition by Cascade Charter Township, using a set of established criteria that can be applied to any potential property. The goal is to provide a consistent and objective scoring of potential sites that can be utilized by the Parks Committee in making an informed recommendation to the Cascade Charter Township Board of Trustees.

Property Name/Nickname	
Property Address	
Owner Name(s)	
Zoning	
Person Completing Form	
Date	

Form Instructions: For each item list a score of 1 to 5, with one being the lowest rating and five being the highest rating

	Scoring	Notes
Natural Features		
Streams/Rivers/Lakes		
Wetlands/Riparian		
Habitat/Ecosystem Quality		
Forest Canopy		
Unique Features		
Total (Out of 25 Possible)	0	
Location/Connectivity		
Connects to Pathway System		
Connects to Water/Waterway		
Connects to Park or Other Community Asset		
Provides Space/Recreation for Underserved Area		
Adds Acreage to Existing Park or Open Space		
Total (Out of 25 Possible)	0	
Function		
Preserves Natural Resources		
Protects Historical or Cultural Elements		
Provides New or Increased Recreational Opportunity		
Add Significant Acreage of Open Space		
Improves Public Access		
Total (Out of 25 Possible)	0	
Feasibility & Practicality		
Appropriately Sized for Its Intended Use		
No or Reasonably Remediable Contaminants or Hazards		
Cost Practicality/Leveraging Opportunities		
Market Urgency/Potential for Development		
Management, Maintenance or Adjacent Property Considerations		
Total (Out of 25 Possible)	0	
Grand Total (Out of 100 Possible)	0	

Community trees supported with partnership grant program; applications due June 17

Grant proposals for community tree-planting projects are now being accepted by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the 2022 DTE Energy Foundation partnership grant program. This program assists communities in [DTE Energy's service area](#) with projects that reduce the effects of climate change and bring natural beauty and the benefits of trees to community streets and public spaces.

The DTE Foundation, DNR and nonprofit ReLeaf Michigan continue a legacy of tree planting in Michigan communities through the annual grant program. This year, a total of \$100,000 is available in 1-to-1 matching grants of up to \$4,000.

[Learn more and apply for a tree-planting grant by June 17.](#)

What began as partnership in 1996 has resulted in more than 20 million trees and \$3.5 million in funding invested in Michigan forests and communities.



"Trees provide many benefits, especially when it comes to slowing climate change, by naturally removing carbon dioxide from the air and releasing oxygen," said Lynette Dowler, president of the DTE Energy Foundation. "The DTE Foundation takes pride in supporting our partners who prioritize preserving our state's natural resources.

"Organizations like ReLeaf Michigan and the DNR create tangible change and encourage a cleaner, greener Michigan," Dowler said. "We are thankful to play a part in this growth and in the future of our great state of Michigan."

Grant funds are provided through the [DTE Energy Foundation](#), the philanthropic arm of DTE Energy which focuses on three key areas: jobs, equity and the environment. The DNR and ReLeaf Michigan provide program administration, project coordination and technical assistance to partners for planting projects.

Grant awards will be announced in August, and projects must be completed by May 31, 2023.

Get more urban and community forestry information at Michigan.gov/UCF



CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

5920 Tahoe Drive SE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546-7123

April 18, 2022

Re: Dead Tree / Wood Removal Prohibition in Burton Park

Dear Burton Park Neighbor,

We are writing to you today in regards to the recent dead tree cutting and removal that has been taking place in Burton Park. We have recently spoken directly to several Burton Park neighbors that we witnessed cutting dead trees and removing wood, but also think it is a good reminder for all the residents in the area regarding this prohibited activity. Below is an excerpt from the Township Ordinances regarding Burton Park:

§ 282-36 **Preservation of property and natural features.**

A. No person shall injure, deface, disturb or defoul any part of the park nor any building, sign, sculpture, equipment or other property within the park. No tree, shrub, rock or other mineral within the park shall be removed, injured or destroyed.

You may not realize dead trees play an important role in the balance of nature and the health of Cascade's parks and open space ecosystems.

While dead trees may not be the most attractive part of a forest, they are essential to its health. Logs (dead trees on the ground) and snags (standing dead trees) are actually teeming with life. As the dead trees decay, they provide food, protection and habitat for many things, such as the soil, insects, birds, amphibians, mammals, plants and fungi. The decomposition process plays a vital role in the ecosystem and aids new plant growth by returning important nutrients to the ecosystem.

Large numbers of dead and decaying trees do not mean a forest is somehow "out of balance." Instead, these dead and decaying trees are critical to create a functioning forest ecosystem – they are equally as important as living trees. They should not be removed, except for possible danger to humans. Please support the health of the ecosystem at Burton Park and other open space properties by leaving dead trees where they are.

If you have any questions about this, or would like additional information, you can reach out to me by email at bswayze@cascadetwp.com or by phone at 616-949-1500.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Swayze
Township Manager

Assessing
949-6176

Building
949-3765

Building & Grounds
318-8785

Clerk
949-1508

Fire
949-1320

Manager
949-1500

Planning
949-0224

Treasurer
949-6944



Memorandum

TO: Cascade Township Strategic Plan Advisory Committee
FROM: Chris Khorey, AICP
Danielle Bouchard, Senior Planner
SUBJECT: Workshop Recap & Top Priorities
DATE: April 22, 2022

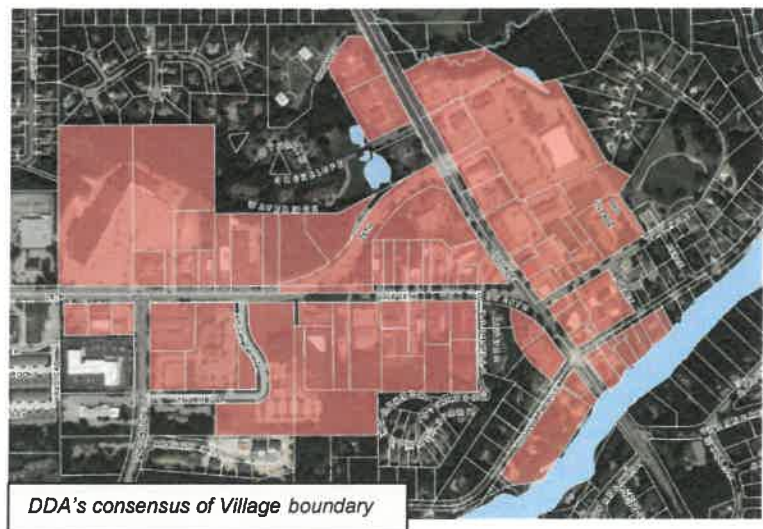
The following includes a summary of the workshop & Focus Group results to-date.

PLANNING COMMISSION – MARCH 7, 2022

1. Ensure that zoning processes are clear, efficient, and promote both economic development and Township planning goals
2. Populate Boards and Commissions with residents who represent the diversity of the Township and ensure that those that serve on Boards and Commission receive training and support to be effective in their roles
3. Ensure that existing parks meet the needs of the portion of the community that they serve
4. Create a Central Gathering Place for the Township
5. Create new parks to serve the community as it grows
6. Amend the Zoning Ordinance to ensure it reflects Township priorities and market realities

DDA – MARCH 15, 2022

1. Road design and streetscapes, speeds, and safety
2. Placemaking initiatives (community gathering space, review design committee, marketing, gateways signage)
3. Business attraction and retention efforts (remove barriers to development, but encourage quality design, address commercial & industrial vacancies, enhance public/private partnerships)
4. Strategic Plan for the DDA to use as a guidelines for short, long, and mid-term projects





TOWNSHIP BOARD – MARCH 22, 2022

1. Creating a gathering space (connecting assets) and developing a Village area
2. Planning growth and development to designated areas
3. Fiscal responsibility/accountability and training opportunities
4. Environmental and river protection (planning growth to maximize sustainability)
5. Improving Parks

PARKS AND TRAILS COMMITTEE – MARCH 24, 2022

1. Land acquisition and capitol
 - a. Acquire greenspace for preservation (wetlands, woodlands, property along river, etc.)
 - b. Park maintenance (staff, resources, funding, schedule, etc.)
2. Personnel/Programming
 - a. Establish a consistent stream of funding sources
 - b. Hire additional staff (parks director, nature program director, maintenance, etc.)
 - c. Academic programming (invasive species education, nature education, transparency, tree planting program)
3. Trails
 - a. Park maintenance and construction standards
 - b. Expand the trails system to neighborhoods and between neighborhoods
 - c. Consider the feasibility of the pedestrian bridge over the River and I-96
 - d. Clear budgeting processes

DOWNTOWN VILLAGE FOCUS GROUP – MARCH 24, 2022

1. Define the village area, including the “upper village” and “lower village”
2. Enhance streetscapes to improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists within this defined area
3. Establish partnerships with public and private entities for project implementation
4. Utilize the library space and Township-owned properties to enhance connectivity

PARKS AND TRAILS – MARCH 29, 2022

1. Expand the Township’s parks and trails system, particularly to connect to important community hubs, neighboring communities, and other regional trails
2. People really enjoy the variety of the Township’s current parks amenities
3. Better trail and park signage, particularly for Burton Park and including a “you are here” sticker on the trail maps
4. More pickleball facilities and better online resources and systems for booking parks facilities
5. More community events at parks and a space that people can rent
6. Utilize the riverfront for more parks and recreation opportunities

GROWTH MANAGEMENT AND PRESERVATION – APRIL 14, 2022

1. Focus rural preservation efforts to east of Butrick and north of 96



2. Cascade Road and Whitneyville (that triangular portion of land) may be a prime location for a small hamlet of small-scale/local commercial development and residential development
3. Expand the Township's industrial business presence to areas nearest the airport, as applicable
4. Focus redevelopment efforts (including re-energizing and reviving underutilized or vacant commercial sites) near the village area, particularly at Cascade Road and 28th Street
5. Focus residential density to areas within close proximity to the highway

BUSINESS LEADERS – APRIL 19, 2022

1. Infrastructure improvements (i.e., cell service, broadband connections, sidewalk maintenance, road maintenance)
2. Expanded bus services and innovative public transportation alternatives (such as uber or lyft vouchers, how to get people from Downtown Grand Rapids quickly and easily to work in Cascade)
3. Enhanced parks amenities, community gathering space, skate park, and regional athletic fields (including river access and trail maintenance)
4. More flexible land uses (more mixed-use land uses, maker spaces, etc.)
5. Decreased impediments to commercial and industrial building expansions and additions (such as less requirements and more streamlined processes)
6. Zoning ordinance amendments, particularly for signage
7. Assist with labor shortages, such as a Township hosted job fair for local businesses

TOWNSHIP STAFF – APRIL 19, 2022

1. Growth management, such as zoning creativity and flexibility and property acquisition, while considering the long-term costs for maintenance and staff resources
2. Creating a downtown village
3. Prioritize safety and emergency services, considering the soon-expiring millage
4. Enhanced/improved parks and community gathering space (define the "what and how" for the community gathering space)
5. Define the Township Staff organizational structure
6. Environmental preservation, including enhanced streetscapes and corridor beautification

ROAD SAFETY AND STREETSAPES – APRIL 21, 2022

To be discussed.