



City of Perry

## **Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan**

2022

30-Day Public Review Period: Dec. 16, 2022 – Jan. 15, 2023

Upon review, your comments are appreciated.

Please send any comments to [treasurer@perry.mi.us](mailto:treasurer@perry.mi.us) or drop off written comments to City Hall on or before Jan. 15, 2023.

# Table of Contents

Section 1: Introduction.....	2
Benefits of Outdoor Recreation .....	2
Rationale for the Plan.....	2
Required Plan Content .....	2
Section 2: Community Description.....	3
History .....	3
Physical Characteristics .....	3
Community Engagement.....	3
Demographics.....	3
Section 3: Administrative Structure .....	4
Administrative & Decision-Making Roles .....	4
Programming/Programs/Volunteers.....	5
Budget & Funding Sources .....	6
Coordination of Public & Private Entities.....	6
Section 4: Inventory.....	8
Park Inventory .....	9
Park Accessibility .....	10
Resource Inventory .....	10
DNR Grant Status Report.....	11
Section 5: Planning & Public Input Process .....	11
Planning Methods.....	11
Public Input Methods .....	11
2022 Survey Results.....	12
30-Day Public Review .....	12
Public Hearing & Resolution of Adoption.....	12
Section 6: Goals, Objectives & Actions.....	13
Goal 1: Improve Jubilee Park.....	13
Goal 2: Existing Park Facility Maintenance.....	14
Goal 3: Organized Activities.....	15
Goal 4: Trail Systems .....	15

## Section 1: Introduction

### **Benefits of Outdoor Recreation**

Outdoor recreation is critical to the quality of life and the economic health of Perry. Public parks provide places for all to enjoy and interact with nature, friends and family. They may provide natural resources as well as human made facilities such as sports fields, picnic areas and trails. They welcome residents and visitors, benefiting both the participants in recreation as well as those businesses who serve them with food, fuel, sporting goods, souvenirs, etc.

Outdoor recreation is a voluntary use of one's free time. It provides for enjoyment and fulfillment and is vital to a healthy and well-balanced life. Public recreation venues are especially valuable as they bring the community together and are available to all, regardless of economic or social status. This link to others and the natural world reminds each of us of the interrelatedness of our world and our dependency on clean air, water and living resources.

### **Rationale for the Plan**

Perry's previous plan expired within the past five years. Since that time, the city has been ineligible to receive state or federal grants to support the acquisition of land for outdoor recreation or the development of facilities for the same purpose. These grants, such as the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), are substantial. The MNRTF was created by Michigan voters in the state constitution in 1984 and solely provides monies for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation lands and facilities.

In the 2021-22 funding cycle, the MNRTF provided almost \$35 million to local units of government to buy land for outdoor recreation and to develop outdoor recreation facilities. Most funds to local units were provided at a rate of 3 state dollars matching every 1 local dollar.

Finally, by following the DNR prescribed planning process to develop an outdoor recreation plan, the city openly and transparently involves citizens in decision making and setting the future direction for locally owned public outdoor recreation opportunities. This is done by involving residents through public input opportunities such as public meetings and surveys to determine their outdoor recreation needs. The planning process also takes into account the track record of the city in maintaining existing outdoor recreation resources and the opportunities already provided by surrounding jurisdictions and the private sector.

### **Required Plan Content**

The DNR requires the following in an approved plan:

- Community Description
- Administrative Structure
- Recreation Inventory
- Resource Inventory
- Description of the Planning Process
- Description of the Public Input Process
- Goals and Objectives
- Action Program

## Section 2: Community Description

### History

Perry is a small city located in southwestern Shiawassee County. The city was established in its current location in 1879. The first settlers arrived in the Perry Area in 1836. They settled in the area south of the current city limits near the intersection of M-52 and Ellsworth Road. In 1879, as a result of the development of the Chicago-Port Huron Railroad line through the county, the city uprooted itself to its current location to utilize the services of this railroad line. Many residences and the Methodist Church were moved to their current locations as well.

The community experienced a fire in 1913 which destroyed much of the downtown and nearby businesses. The next decade was taken to completely re-develop the downtown and its residents' homes. They also followed up with constructing a water works system, which was completed in July 1914. In 1964, the Village was incorporated into a city, and the community has grown at a moderate rate since. The development of the Interstate Highway system (I69) assisted in making the City of Perry more accessible to neighboring and distant communities.

### Physical Characteristics

The city encompasses approximately 3.18 square miles.

There are no public major watercourses or other major natural resource assets in the city. Perry Lake is a small private access lake located within the Perry Lakes Subdivision.

Located on M-52, the city has the opportunity to reach a broad spectrum of individuals as they travel through the area on their way to other destinations.

Mature trees are located throughout the established residential areas of the city. An area of open fields used for agricultural production are located at the southern and eastern ends of the city limits.

### Community Engagement

Newspapers include the Lansing State Journal, the Shiawassee County Argus Press and The Independent. A community newsletter is mailed to residents three-four times a year.

The city maintains an active, up-to-date website at [www.perry.mi.us](http://www.perry.mi.us). The site provides information and news on public hearings, bids, meeting schedules, agenda, current events and opportunities to get involved in City government. The city also frequently posts on Facebook, highlighting current events, meetings or timely notices such as weather-related notices or hydrant flushing reminders. Smart911 can be utilized for emergency notifications.

### Demographics

The 2020 U.S. Census provides a breakdown of residents with many characteristics such as race, age, sex, education level and more. This information is based strictly on responses received while completing the Census. In the City of Perry, the data shows the 2,091 residents identified themselves as follows:

#### **Age Characteristics:**

8.1% Under 5

29.2% Under 18

70.8% 18 Years & Over

10.6% 65 Years & Over

The median age of residents in the city was reported as 30.9 years in 2020. This is the first decrease in the median age in decades. In 1990 the median age was 29.8 years, in 2000 it was 32.6 years, and in 2010 it was 34.1 years.

**Gender Characteristics:**

- 59% Female
- 41% Male

As a rule, the population is often distributed with a higher ratio of female to male as the female’s age expectancy is greater than males.

**Race Characteristics:**

- 1,914 individuals (94%) as White
- 7 individuals (0.33%) as Black or African American
- 7 individuals (0.33%) as American Indian
- 8 individuals (0.38%) as Asian
- 14 individuals (1%) as Hispanic or Latino
- 2 individuals (0.09%) as Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
- 9 individuals (.43%) as Some Other Race Alone
- 130 individuals (6%) as Multi-racial

**Housing Characteristics:**

In 1995 Perry real property had a state equalized value \$24,588,230 and a taxable value of \$24,205,056. In 2021, the SEV had risen to \$59,388,100 and the taxable value to \$48,213,723.

Perry’s population has slightly decreased 2010 to 2020, with a population of 2,188 in the 2010 census and 2,091 in the 2020 census. The public school district serving the City’s residents is the Perry Public Schools. Housing stock is generally single family residential, with 64% of owner-occupied homes and 36% occupied by renters.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020; Perry Master Plan 2010-2040.

## Section 3: Administrative Structure

### Administrative & Decision-Making Roles

Perry is a Home Rule city governed by a mayor and elected six-member Council. The board meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Thursday of each month in Council Chambers housed within the lower level of Perry City Hall, 203 West Polly Street, Perry, Michigan.

The City Council is the primary legislative, executive and financial authority responsible for managing Perry parks. The mayor is enabled to establish a sub-committee of the council as deemed necessary.

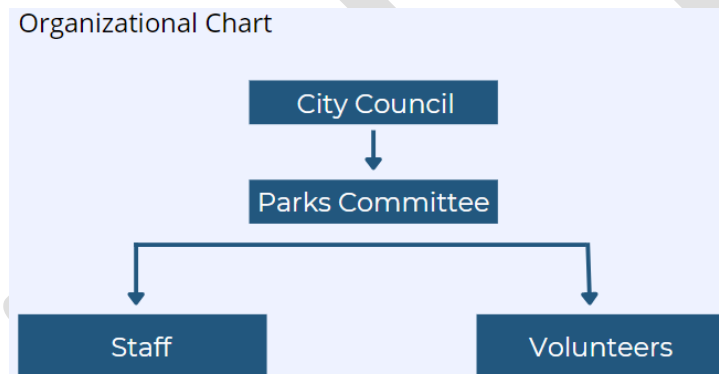
The role of the Parks Committee is to research ideas/information provided by City Council or through other means regarding improvement and/or enhancement of city parks and properties; make recommendations to City Council regarding its findings; and upon approval, implement/oversee projects. In addition, it is their responsibility to adopt and implement the five-year Park and Recreation Plan. The Parks committee is mayor appointed and includes three council members and one member of the public.

The Planning Commission relates to the Parks Committee in that the two entities work together to promote growth and proper land use, including Perry parks. The Planning Commission plans for

improvements to existing parks, and targets areas for future parks. It is their responsibility to develop and maintain a long-term Master Plan for the city, which outlines a vision, goals and objectives for how the city is to look into the short-term and long-term future. The Planning Commission is comprised of 7 members appointed to 3-year terms.

The Vision for the City of Perry 2010-2040 Master Plan is “to provide a solid plan and recommended guidelines to lead the City of Perry through the 21<sup>st</sup> century, integrating increased innovative planning practices (including “Smart Growth” principles), providing opportunities for increased residential, commercial and industrial growth along strategic transportation corridors, while also trying to maintain and sustain the small-town community atmosphere, sustaining essential services for the City, and maintaining the current statutes for the City”.

Responsibilities for maintaining park infrastructure and grounds are delegated to the Department of Public Works (DPW). City Hall staff are responsible for rental arrangements impacting the parks for events such as youth baseball leagues, private gatherings or community events. The city’s police department also plays a role through the monitoring of activities to protect the use and enjoyment of the city’s parks.



### **Programming/Programs/Volunteers**

The city does not have a designated events coordinator and relies heavily on community led events to bolster community participation. The city hosts community wide yard sales in May; National Night Out, sponsored by the Perry PD, the first Tuesday in August; and an annual Christmas Fantasy event in December. In addition to these three events, the city promotes events organized within the community. Examples of events are parades organized by the VFW and schools – including a homecoming celebration, and a farmers market hosted by the Perry Historical Society.

Park and recreation programming is provided by the City of Perry, citizen volunteers and non-profit organizations to which many local residents belong. This includes the Perry Police Department, the DPW, faith-based organizations, athletic leagues, etc. Key programming that occurs seasonally across the year is focused on youth athletics at the city parks (baseball, softball, T-ball, soccer, etc.). The city also owns the Calkins-Macqueen House, a historic home built in the 1870’s utilized by the Perry Historical Society as a museum highlighting local history.

Key volunteer contributions include time, labor, merchandise for events and funding for both operations and capital improvements. Organizations that provide assistance include, but are not limited to, local businesses, the Perry area Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Perry Chapter of the FFA and local scouting organizations.

## Budget & Funding Sources

The Park and Recreation budget is derived from general fund money annually appropriated for parks & recreation in the City of Perry budget and approved by City Council. The appropriated amount will vary year to year as the budget allows. The following chart represents a 5-year history of budgeted funds.

Budget Cycle	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Operating Supplies	500.00	500.00	300.00	2,300.00	1,500.00
Utilities	1,600.00	1,600.00	2,000.00	2,167.00	2,100.00
Park Maintenance	1,000.00	1,000.00	500.00	300.00	500.00
Capital Outlay	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	4,600.00	4,600.00	2,800.00	4,767.00	4,100.00

The operation, maintenance and development of parks and recreation in the City are funded by three (3) funding sources. These include:

- (a.) General Fund- The general fund is the primary funding source for the majority of activities and expenditures in the City. The revenue sources for the general fund include property taxes, state revenue sharing & other misc. sources.
- (b.) Grants- With an established and properly updated Park Plan, the City is eligible for a variety of grants for acquisition, development and operation of parks and recreation facilities.
- (c.) Rentals/Donations- The Parks fund accumulates revenues from rentals of facilities (pavilions and ball fields) as well as donations. From time-to-time various groups or individuals have donated funds for parks and recreation activities and improvements in the City.

## Coordination of Public & Private Entities

The Perry Public School facilities provide an important park and recreation asset to the City of Perry and residents in nearby townships. City residents utilize school facilities such as the track at Perry High School, a fitness course looping the varsity soccer field, disc golf, playgrounds at the Perry Elementary School and outdoor basketball courts at the lower elementary grounds. However, educational/student uses of these facilities take precedence of over broader community use.

In addition to the above-mentioned efforts, the city has also worked with the Perry School District to promote school/student sponsored activities; and involve student groups in City-promoted activities. The district has used the city park facilities to host softball/soccer practice/games/tournaments as well as end-of-season banquets and class gatherings.

Other entities in, and within close proximity to, the city that have or may offer recreation or public gathering space include churches, civic groups, business owners and volunteer groups. Some, but not all, are noted below:

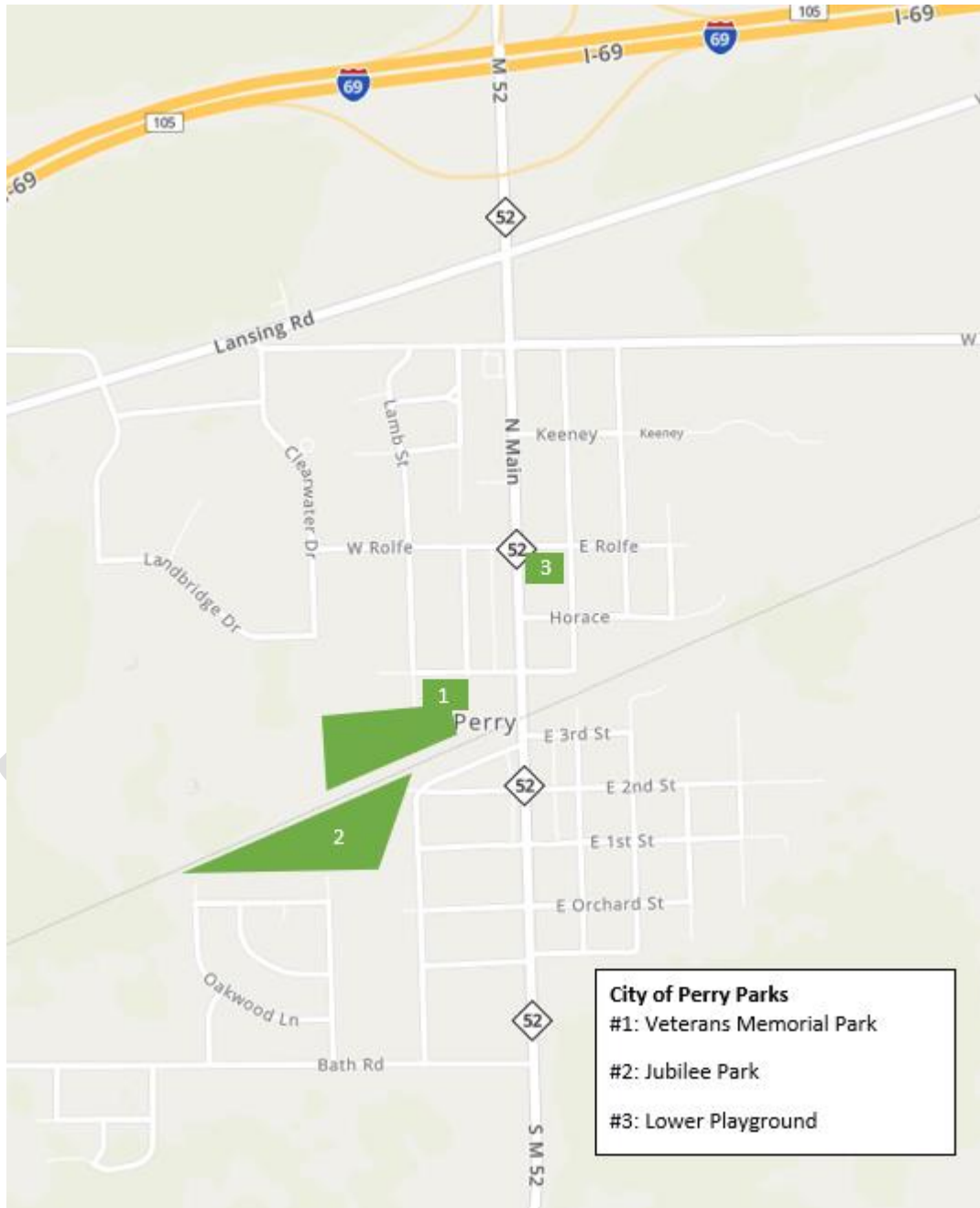
<b>Public</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Service/Volunteer Groups</b>
City of Perry	Café Sports	4-H MSU Extension
Community District Library	Childrens Community Theatre	Boy Scouts of American
Morrice Public Schools	Glenbrier Golf Course	FFA - Perry Chapter
Perry Public Schools	Joyful Sole	Girl Scouts of the USA
Woodhull Township	Perry Baptist Church	Perry Youth Baseball Softball Association
	Perry Church of the Nazarene	Perry/Morrice/Shafsburg Community Soccer
		VFW

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## Section 4: Inventory

The City of Perry has two city parks: Jubilee and Veteran’s Memorial. In addition, the Perry Public Schools have an area informally designated as a public park, the Lower Playground. For each park, an overview of the facilities, as well as an accessibility evaluation is provided. The primary service area of all parks is the City of Perry and the surrounding townships of Woodhull, Perry, Bennington and Antrim.



## Park Inventory

### **#1 Veteran's Memorial Park**

This park of 4.2 acres is south and west of the Perry City Hall and north of the railroad tracks and is well maintained. The pavilion building provides ample covered space, picnic tables and benches for organized gatherings and has available restroom facilities as well as 2 grills in the same vicinity. The park offers a sledding hill – including a “free sled library” available in winter, a softball diamond with bleachers and benches, a large maintained open space and a number of large deciduous trees that provide considerable shade. A veteran memorial monument as well as six (6) flagpoles are also incorporated into the design of the park flying the flags of the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Flag, as well as a Prisoner of War (“POW”) and the Honor and Remember flag. Finally, there is a “City Seat” monument built of brick and engraved name plates recognized past and current residents surrounded by a series of park benches to sit and enjoy the landscaping. There is striped paved parking for at least 68 regular vehicle and 5 handicapper parking places.



### **#2 Jubilee Park**

This park of 8.5 acres is bounded on the north by the railroad tracks and on the south by a neighborhood. It provides a picnic pavilion with some tables, grills, older playground equipment (including a merry-go-round, large metal swings and a jungle gym), a tot swing, sledding hill, and a softball diamond with bleachers and benches. Parking is available for at least 40 vehicles, restroom facilities, and a sizeable area of mowed, hardscrabble turf (more than 5 acres). In 2022, a fitness loop with a marked path, 5 exercise stations and two benches was added. A paved sidewalk enters the site from the south (opposite the parking lot) from a cul-de-sac with a vehicle turnaround but no parking. This is convenient for those who enter the park on foot or bicycle from the neighborhood to the south.



### **#3 Lower Playground Park**

This park is not owned by the city, but by the Perry Public schools. It is slightly more than an acre and features well developed basketball courts, a small soccer area and a pavilion without picnic tables and minimal parking (approximately 8 cars parallel parked along Rolfe Street.) It is bound by Rolfe Street on the north, M-52 on the west and Madison on the east. The park has a strong youth focus with the basketball courts and the soccer area providing the majority of its recreation opportunity.



## **Park Accessibility**

It is important that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy these areas and any programs provided.

In order to address barrier-free and accessibility issues within the City's existing parks, it is necessary to review those parks and assign a rank. This assessment will assist in establishing goals, objectives and priorities in the future. Each existing park under the management and/or ownership of the city is ranked according to the schedule below.

Rank - 1: None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

Rank - 2: Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

Rank - 3: Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines

For each park ranked, some commentary is provided based on general knowledge of the park as well as general provisions outlined in the American Disabilities Act, Standards for Accessible Design (ADAAG).

### ***Veteran's Memorial Park – Rank 3:***

In terms of accessibility, there is sufficient handicapper parking. All handicapped parking connects by sidewalk with the restrooms, picnic pavilion, separate picnic table/grill area and both of the monuments. All the picnic tables in the pavilion are accessible with room for a wheelchair to sit up to the table at either end. There is no lip of an inch or more between the sidewalks, restrooms, pavilion or monuments. The site is firm, has sidewalks at appropriate slopes throughout all major facilities, has fully accessible restrooms and appropriate handicapper parking.

### ***Jubilee Park – Rank 2:***

In terms of accessibility, the site is generally flat and firm. There are paved walkways between the pedestrian entrance at the south side of the park and the restrooms and pavilion. None of the walkways have slopes greater than 5% or a cross slope or crowning that is greater than 1% and all are in reasonable repair. The picnic tables would accommodate a wheel chair on either end of the table and are in a paved pavilion with access on a paved sidewalk that has no lip of an inch or greater between the sidewalk and the pavilion. The playground equipment is not accessible.

## **Resource Inventory**

The intent of the resource inventory is not to identify areas already utilized for purposes of parks and recreation, but to identify areas that have the potential to be utilized for parks and recreation purposes. These can include areas of open space, natural features, and other areas that may be desirable to protect or acquire for future use.

### ***Waste Water Treatment Facility***

The City owns a large portion of land in its southwest quadrant. Access for this property is from Bath Rd, just before the railroad crossing. This property is primarily used as the lagoon system for City's municipal wastewater treatment. Though it is necessary that the wastewater treatment facility be a secure area and have limited exposure to the general public, there may be opportunities at the fringes of the property to provide green space and routes to connect use and recreation areas to the north east.

### ***Utilities Right of Way Trail***

Consumers Energy maintains electrical services to the City of Perry & it's residents. The utility right-of-

way and rail corridor presents an opportunity to create a trail system. The potential trail head would be near city hall allowing for ample parking. The right of way extends about a mile from City Hall west to the next major crossing at Russe Road. Future Planning with Perry Township and the Village of Morrice would present an opportunity for the potential trail to span for miles to the East.

### **DNR Grant Status Report**

It has been decades since Perry has applied for grants with the DNR. A brief park grant history is as follows:

B-190-AD – Multipurpose Park, City of Perry

In January 1970, the Legislature approved \$2,880 for acquisition and \$2,367 for development, a total of \$5,247 from the State Recreation Bond Fund. These funds established Jubilee Park.

26-00392 – Multipurpose Park, City of Perry

In the fall of 1973, the city was awarded a \$22,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant. These funds were used to further develop Jubilee Park to include infrastructure for restroom facilities, bath house, pavilion, sidewalk and parking.

## Section 5: Planning & Public Input Process

### **Planning Methods**

The planning process used is what the DNR, in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans, characterizes as the “systems approach to planning”. The needs of the community are assessed by multiple levels of public input and translated into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial and facility requirements to satisfy those needs.

The Parks & Recreation Plan was last updated, and adopted, in 2013. That plan was used as the framework for the most current version, with staff and committee members making appropriate updates regarding the physical condition, and improvements to the existing inventory, as well as consulting updated census data.

### **Public Input Methods**

The planning process used is what the DNR, in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans, characterizes as the “systems approach to planning”. The needs of the community are assessed by multiple levels of public input and translated into a framework for meeting the physical, spatial and facility requirements to satisfy those needs. The 2022 Plan gathered public input through an online survey, public meetings, and public hearing.

The online survey was announced via a postcard to all utility account holders, posted on Facebook, the city website, a flyer with QR code was also posted at the local grocery store and district library. Finally, it was also shared by the school’s superintendent to all families with students within the school district. The methods of promotion were in a best effort to reach not just tax payers but also local users of our park systems even if they don’t reside within the city limits. The survey was a series of 15 questions asking for input on current park inventory, needs/desires for improvements to existing park inventory, as well as needs/desires for amenities at potential future park sites. The survey also gathered demographic data for the respondents.

Mailer:

## Your opinions and ideas matter.

Completing the survey should take less than 10 minutes. After results are analyzed, the City will host a community forum to review the data and guide the city in setting goals and objectives for the 5-year plan.

### THANK YOU!

City of Perry  
203 W. Polly St.  
Perry, MI 48872  
Tel: 517-625-6155

First Class Mail  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Perry, Mich.  
Permit #1

The City of Perry is conducting a survey to establish priorities for the future development of our parks facilities, programs and services.

We will use the information obtained in this survey to update our City of Perry Five-Year Recreation Plan.

An important part of the planning process is receiving input from residents to help form our goals and objectives for the next five years.

# PARK PLANNING RESIDENT SURVEY

Scan the QR Code, visit [www.perry.mi.us/survey](http://www.perry.mi.us/survey) or assistance is available at city hall.



SCAN ME



Please respond by November 21, 2022.

Survey results can be viewed online using this link: [City of Perry Park Planning \(google.com\)](https://www.perry.mi.us/survey).

The Park Plan and potential improvement suggestions were discussed at numerous Park Committee Meetings throughout 2022. At the November Park meeting respondents who indicated they would be interested in future park planning and improvement received a personal email invitation to attend the meeting at which survey results were reviewed and goals were brainstormed. At the public meeting held on November 28, 2022 of the parks committee members reviewed the status of the project to update the Plan, the results of the survey, discussed future parks and recreation issues, and sought input from the public. The intent of the meeting was to establish the basis of the goals and objectives of the Plan, which in turn are utilized to formulate actions that are necessary to implement the Plan. Meetings are also posted on the city website and this particular meeting was also shared on Facebook and to a dedicated Park Planning Facebook Group.

Efforts to update the Plan relied heavily on recent survey results, but previous survey responses from 2013 were considered as well. City staff took the lead on updating the plan, and sought input from the public, council, planning commission and Park Committee. Comments on drafts of the plan were requested throughout the process. In addition to publishing meeting notices, a Public Hearing was advertised to invite the public to discuss the plan.

## 2022 Survey Results

The Survey received 92 responses; results are available online through Google Forms: [City of Perry Park Planning \(google.com\)](https://www.perry.mi.us/survey)

## 30-Day Public Review

Describe methods of notice, where/how posted.

Ask for comments to [treasurer@perry.mi.us](mailto:treasurer@perry.mi.us)

Certified published notice

List of any suggestions received and how the plan was revised.

## Public Hearing & Resolution of Adoption

Include resolution of adoption, copy of published notice, approved certified council minutes.

## Section 6: Goals, Objectives & Actions

The following goals, objectives and actions are established for the City of Perry's Five (5) Year Parks and Recreation Plan. These goals, objectives and actions are based on discussions by the parks committee based upon review of the following:

- (a) The physical and social description of the City, including population, housing, land use patterns and transportation systems;
- (b) A recreation inventory of existing facilities, including an assessment of barrier-free accessibility and the status of any on-going parks and recreation improvements utilizing public funding;
- (c) An inventory of land, routes and other resources that could potentially be utilized for parks and recreation purposes or utilized to enhance existing or future recreation facilities; and
- (d) A survey of households and the general public, including information obtained through publicized community meetings.

The action plan is designed to lay out a calendar of events. This is not a rigid schedule, rather it is a hoped-for timetable. The action plan also does not commit the city to the dollar amounts. It may be that financial circumstances necessitate waiting to apply for a grant or that costs come in below those estimated. It is instead a guideline that details the intentions of the city. It should also be noted that the primary grant source noted is the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Recreation Passport Grant Fund (RPGF). Both have a maximum match rate of 3:1, meaning for every one dollar the local unit puts up, the MNRTF or RPGF will provide three. Those funds do not include maintenance costs. This means that any improvement will have long term operating costs. However, development of lower maintenance facilities, greater public interest in existing parks and more partnerships with local organizations can all reduce maintenance costs to the city as well as grow support for efforts to meet the recreational needs of Perry residents and be an engine of community growth and pride. In particular, all future design/construction should emphasize low maintenance, sustainable features.

In lieu of specifying an exact year that projects will be considered, the Action Plan presents projects on a short-term, mid-term, and long-term basis. Short-term projects are those that should be considered in the first year or two of the five-year period. Mid-term projects are those that should be considered during the next five years. Long-term projects are those that may require significant planning and coordination that could begin in the five-year period, but would likely not be constructed until after the five-year time horizon.

### **Goal 1: Improve Jubilee Park**

#### **Objective A: Update Play Equipment**

The existing play equipment is from the early 80's and has outlived its life expectancy. The park is in need of age-appropriate playscapes for children of all ages. Separate areas for younger and older children are a large focus for many responses to the planning survey.

It is the desire of the community, and the city to include inclusive play options for visitors of all abilities. ***Action Plan time frame Short Term:** Developed a site plan, application made for the Spark Grant in 2022. If grant is not awarded reapply in 2023 rounds as well as begin to fundraise.*

### **Objective B: Improve Fitness Loop**

There is a ¼ mile fitness loop with five stationary exercise equipment stations. The path is mowed and marked with paint. To make the loop more accessible and user focused, it should be paved a minimum of 6ft wide to allow for traffic in either direction, wheel chairs, strollers, etc. Paving would allow the path to be used in all seasons as it could be easily cleared of snow. The path is adjacent to the area identified for playscape improvements and would allow parents/guardians the ability to supervise children while also being active. Survey responses indicated the fitness loop is a step in the right direction but needs further development to make the most of the equipment.

***Action Plan time frame Short Term:** Developed a site plan, application made for the Spark Grant in 2022. If grant is not awarded reapply in 2023 rounds as well as begin to fundraise.*

### **Objective C: Ballfield Improvements**

Ballfields are used by local little-league organizations and the general public. Fields are in need of maintenance including potential resurfacing to make them safer for players. Player benches would benefit from the addition of a formal dugout for safety during games and allowing shelter from sun and at times inclement weather. The survey indicated that the field is currently in fair to poor condition.

***Action Plan time frame Mid Term:** Coordinate efforts with the local little league association – seek in-kind labor and/or share costs of potential improvements with the non-profit association.*

## **Goal 2: Existing Park Facility Maintenance**

### **Objective A: Security & Monitoring**

A long-time concern of the parks, Jubilee in particular, is monitoring activities and maintaining safety in our parks. Cameras are in place at all park locations. Possible improvements to the security system should consider improved lighting, and additional camera angles for monitoring, and patrolling of parks. These items will promote positive behavior and discourage vandalism.

***Action Plan time frame Short Term:** Current cameras are being monitored and parks are patrolled by the PD.*

### **Objective B: Access to Restroom Facilities**

Restrooms at Jubilee are locked unless the pavilion is rented due to prior vandalism. Restrooms at Veterans Memorial Park are open seasonally, but only during office hours. Implementing remote access locks or timed locks would allow more accessibility to the facilities while still monitoring times the facilities are open for public use.

***Action Plan time frame Short Term:** In progress, the city has applied for a federal grant through Rep. Mollenaar's office in 2022 These funds would be used throughout city buildings and would afford the opportunity to lock/unlock the restrooms remotely. If funds are not awarded, the city should continue to explore options for timed, yet monitored, locking/unlocking options.*

### **Objective C: Promotion & Signage**

Per the planning survey, 27% of respondents haven't visited a park in the past 12 months. A few responses indicated they were not aware of the park's location(s). To increase traffic to parks, signage at park entrances should be evaluated for possible improvement and/or beautification. As more

features are added to parks the city should promote them online and with community partners such as news outlets, schools, churches and daycare facilities.

***Action Plan time frame Mid Term:** Research best practices for signage promoting parks from main roadways, as well as at park entries. As new amenities are added to parks the city should utilize the website, social media and local community outreach outlets to promote the improvements as much as possible to increase interest in the parks.*

### **Goal 3: Organized Activities**

#### **Objective A:** Encourage Activities by Third Party Organizations

Survey respondents expressed a desire for more organized activities, specifically for children. Local groups such as art clubs, theatre groups and the Community District Library often host these events. The city should explore partnerships that allow such groups to host events at city parks, drawing more users to the parks. The city can in turn promote these activities to the community fostering partnerships with residents and the hosting organization.

***Action Plan time frame Mid Term:** While planning and discussion with local organizations may begin in the short term, it will take time to build relationships with local organizations – and time yet for them to consider options for activities that could be hosted using park inventory. These activities may have a limited seasonal scope due to weather conditions.*

#### **Objective B:** Ice Rink

Winter activities at the city are limited to a sledding hill. A community ice-rink that is temporary should be explored to utilize space that is otherwise unused during the winter providing residents more options for physical activity during a time that many may feel secluded, or unable to participate in an activity promoting physical and mental health.

***Action Plan time frame Short Term:** The city has begun to price and explore options for future winters. The goal would be to start as basic as possible with rink structure, and partner with the local fire department to fill the rink. Future development of the site or potential improvements to rink structure would be determined by use and response from residents in the first season or two of availability.*

### **Goal 4: Trail Systems**

#### **Objective A:** Develop a non-motorized trail Plan

Developing a non-motorized trail plan was a goal of the 2013 Park Plan but progress was not made. This item should remain a priority in conjunction with other nearby municipalities including the Village of Morrice, Perry Township, Woodhull township and beyond.

***Action Plan time frame Mid Term:** Develop a route, include identifying existing easements and right-of-way's to be improved. Begin discussion with neighboring communities for potential to partner on the project. Host community forums for public input on potential plans.*

#### **Objective B:** Utility/Railroad Right of Way Trail System

A high-priority for survey respondents was non-motorized trail options for walking/running biking. The city should connect with Consumers Energy and CN Railroad to discuss options for development of a non-motorized trail system using the utility right of way. The potential trail may use existing roads and their rights of way, sidewalks and newly developed trails dedicated to non-motorized use.

This will be done in conjunction with broader planning efforts for non-motorized circulation planning at



the local, county and regional level and may also integrate with efforts of many non-profit organizations representing a variety of non-motorized trail users, Michigan Department of Transportation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, health interests, schools (e.g. Safe Routes to Schools), etc.

**Action Plan time frame Long Term:** *Continue to build on partnerships with neighboring communities, and trail planning organizations. Set budget for scope of project based on Objective A's development of a non-motorized trail plan. Funding will limit the city's ability to take on such a large scale project without the support of grants, partners, or donations.*

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