CITY OF IONIA
Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan
2012-2017

Plan Adopted
August 7, 2012

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INTRODUCTION

The Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan 2012-2017 has been prepared according to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management Division. Eligibility under this plan for grants administered by the State of Michigan will expire December 31, 2017. This plan replaces the previous plan entitled “Five-Year Community Recreation Plan 2003-2007, adopted January of 2003.”
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The City of Ionia is located in central Ionia County, Michigan and serves as the County Seat. The City is surrounded primarily by Ionia Township, while Easton Township borders the City on the west. State of Michigan highway M-21 runs east and west through the City, while State of Michigan highway M-66 runs north and south through the City. Interstate expressway I-96 is located approximately six and one-half miles south of the City corporate line. The Grand Rapids metropolitan area lies approximately 30 miles to the west, and the Lansing metropolitan area lies approximately 32 miles to the southeast. The Grand River flows along the southern boundary of the City, while Prairie Creek runs along much of the eastern boundary of the City.

According to the 2010 US Census, the population of the City of Ionia is 11,394 persons which include 5,230 persons in group quarters. A substantial number of those persons are residents of the Michigan Department of Corrections Facilities. Therefore the actual population of the City outside the correctional facilities is approximately 6,000 persons.

The 2012 Parks and Recreation Plan has been developed by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Ionia, and will address all aspects of both programming and facilities development within the City’s municipal boundaries. However, while the City of Ionia is the municipal jurisdiction for which the plan has been prepared, both the recreation programs and facilities provided by the City serve citizens in approximately thirteen townships within Ionia County.
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The administrative structure of the City of Ionia Parks and Recreation Department is shown on the organizational chart on page five. The Program Coordinator is accountable to the Director of Parks and Recreation; the Recreation Committee is advisory to the Director of Parks and Recreation, who is directly accountable to the City Manager. The City Manager is accountable to the Mayor and City Council who are elected by the citizens of the City of Ionia.

Role of Recreation Committee

The Recreation Committee was formed for the purpose of advising the City of Ionia staff and elected officials in revising the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. The five members of the Committee represent parents whose children have participated in recreation programs through the City of Ionia Parks and Recreation Department, persons from the public schools, volunteers from recreation programs, and the City Council. The Recreation Committee may continue in this advisory role upon completion of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

Current Year Budget and Sources of Funding

The five-year Parks and Recreation Department budget for capital improvements is found in Appendix A. The primary funding source for these expenditures is the City of Ionia General Fund. The complete Budget Report of the City of Ionia Recreation Department for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 is also found in Appendix A. The complete budget reflects all revenues received in addition to the appropriations from the General Fund such as fees for youth and adult activities, special events revenues, Armory leasing fees, donations, and other sources of revenue. The budget reflects all department expenditures including salaries, services, maintenance, special events, youth and adult activities, and all other expenses for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

Role of Volunteers/Partnerships with Private Organizations

The City of Ionia maintains strong relationships with a variety of private organizations. Many of the coaching positions are filled by community volunteers; the Knights of Columbus organize the popular Breakfast with Santa; Ionia County Community Mental Health provides leaders, directors, and clients who assist with facilitation, park clean-up and other projects; The Rotary organizes the annual Easter Egg Hunt; and many other community members volunteer time in a variety of recreation activities.

The City’s Recreation Department also coordinates with the Greater Ionia Youth League which provides baseball and softball for 7-14 year-olds, while the City of Ionia Recreation Department offers T-ball for ages 3-6. Coordination also occurs with the Tri-County Basketball League, which offers travel basketball to 4th-6th graders, while the Recreation Department offers basketball up to 3rd grade.
Relationship with Ionia Public School System

The City’s Parks and Recreation Department maintains a strong relationship with Ionia Public Schools. The City may contract with the schools for use of facilities such as gyms, the track, or practice/playing fields, and the schools may utilize City facilities as needed. While the Recreation Department runs the Ionia Youth Football program, the school fields are used for practice and play. Men’s basketball run by the Recreation Department utilizes school gyms. The Recreation Department also has a relationship with the Ionia Football Boosters, and is permitted use of the concession stand for fundraising purposes during games.
Administrative Structure

Director of Parks and Recreation
Matthew Painter

Recreation Committee
- Paul Frost
- Matt Johnson
- Kimberly Paton
- Scott Swinehart
- Jeff Winters

Program Coordinator
Keegan Rice

Part-time Summer Day Camp Staff
Youth Sport Volunteer Coaches
Volunteers and Community Service Workers
Class Instructors
RECREATION INVENTORY

The recreation inventory describes all of the parks and recreation facilities owned and/or operated by the City of Ionia. The locations of all parks and recreation facilities are shown on City of Ionia Parks and Recreation Location Map found at the end of the Recreation Inventory section.

City of Ionia Parks and Recreation Areas and Descriptions

Armory Community Center
The Armory Community Center is located within the downtown business district and was formerly the National Guard Armory. In 1998, the City acquired the Armory for use as a Community Center. The 20,000 square feet facility has undergone extensive renovations to make needed repairs, increase ADA accessibility, and renovate the interior spaces to provide better recreation services.

Facilities within the building include the Parks and Recreation Department offices, the Chamber of Commerce offices, a U.S. Marine recruiting office, a fitness center, three meeting/programming rooms, a kitchen, and a gymnasium with a stage available for programming as well as seating for 250 persons.

Balice Park
Balice Park is a small .7-acre neighborhood/mini park located on East Adams Street. The park has an accessible play structure, swing set, picnic area, and open lawn space.

Governor Green Park
Governor Green Park consists of two acres of parkland located along Prairie Creek. The park once operated as a Girl Scout Camp, and is now used and maintained by the Girl Scouts for activities other than camping, although it is owned and operated by the City of Ionia. The park contains a pavilion and playground, and bank fishing is available.

Hale Park
Hale Park is a 3.8-acre neighborhood park located on the northeast corner of Lincoln Avenue and Division Street. Facilities at the park include three recreational basketball courts located on a lighted hard surface, play equipment, picnic area, and the Lions Club Community Building with restrooms which are available for use with a permit to utilize the Community Building. A small barrier free parking area is provided, but general public parking is along Division Street.
Harper Park
Harper Park is located on the west side of Cleveland Street and encompasses approximately 3.6 acres. This neighborhood park includes a baseball/softball field, a pavilion that may be reserved, play equipment, picnic area, and a gravel parking lot. This park is located directly adjacent to the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail although a direct walkway connecting the park facilities does not currently exist.

Harwood Softball Diamonds
The City operates and maintains two adult softball diamonds located at the Harwood Complex on land leased from the Ionia County Intermediate School District. The complex is located adjacent to the Intermediate School District facilities on Harwood Road. The complex also contains ten youth league ball diamonds operated and maintained by the Greater Ionia Youth League, parking, and a restroom facility.

Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail
The Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail is located primarily along the Grand River and begins at Quarry Road (south of the Grand River) located in Ionia Township to the east of the City boundaries. The trail, which is 2.7 miles in length, crosses to the north side of the river and runs to a point at the western edge of the Ionia Free Fair Grounds. The Trail is a 10-foot wide paved pathway and includes a 200-foot long trestle over the Grand River, fishing docks, a boat launch, benches, and a parking lot located at the Quarry Road trailhead. The Trail also provides connection to the commercial district, several neighborhoods, Riverside Park, the Ionia Free Fair Grounds, and a second non-motorized bridge over the Grand River located within the Fair Grounds. The trail may also be reserved for group use.

The River Trail is a facility that not only serves the residents of the City of Ionia, but also serves the surrounding townships, as well as visitors from the entire County and possibly outside Ionia County.

Ionia Theatre
Located in downtown Ionia, the historic Ionia Theatre is owned and operated by the City of Ionia Downtown Development Authority. Employees include a senior manager, a manager, and two part-time staff. The Theatre has been renovated and provides movies, live theater, and a variety of music and cultural performances. The Theatre is also available for rentals.

Jackson Street Tennis Courts
Jackson Street Tennis Courts are located on the southeast corner of Lincoln Avenue and Jackson Street. The area that encompasses the tennis courts along with an adjacent area that includes a building owned by the Jaycees consists of 2.5 acres. This neighborhood park has six tennis courts, three of which are lighted.

McCann Park
McCann Park is a small 0.5 acre neighborhood/mini park located on the southeast corner of Hackett and Rice Streets. The park includes play equipment and a picnic area.
Fun Forest/McConnell Park
McConnell Park is located between East Washington Street and East Main Street contiguous to Park Street. The park is a 4.3 acre neighborhood park with a large wooded hillside and an upper park area that is used for picnic and play. The park facilities include a picnic shelter with tables and grill that can be reserved, a large multi-station wood play structure, swings, and a gravel parking area.

Memorial Park
Memorial Park is a small parcel of land (mini-park) located on the west side of the Armory Community Center that serves as a downtown green space and location for the community's Veterans' Memorials. The park has memorials, plantings and benches.

Shattuck Park
Shattuck Park is located on the east side of Colby Street. The facilities in the two-acre neighborhood park include a picnic area, basketball court and play equipment.

Robinson Park
Robinson Park is a 1.5-acre neighborhood park located on the west side of State Street (M-66) between Chapman and Forest Streets. The park has a basketball court, play equipment, picnic area, and an accessible hard surface leading to the playground.

Skate Park
The Skate Park is located within the Ionia Free Fair Grounds but is operated by the City. The skate park is not supervised, and users are responsible for safe conduct and behavior. The service area of the skate park is the City, but likely includes users from the surrounding townships as well.

Well Fields
The City’s Well Fields property is located on 35 acres on the north side of East Fargo Street. The site is the location of the City’s municipal water wells. Facilities located on the site for public use are open green space, and a trail with exercise stations.

Ionia Free Fair Grounds and Riverside Park
The Fair Grounds and Riverside Park properties are owned by the City of Ionia, but operated by the Ionia Free Fair Association, a non-profit organization. However, the Fair Grounds and Riverside Park are included in the inventory since the facility is a significant component of recreation activities available to the City of Ionia and to the neighboring communities. The grounds are located on 160 acres adjacent to the Grand River in the southwestern portion of the City. During Free Fair week, up to 500,000 visitors may be present at various events. The fair grounds are available for rental for other events which have included horse shows, concerts,
weddings, and other special events. Facilities at the grounds include a large grand stand, dirt track, campsites, exhibition and livestock buildings, and a floral building, support buildings, and a privately operated go-cart facility.

The grounds are available to the public for walking, river access, fishing, and use of the boat launch.

Riverside Park is located within the Fair Grounds adjacent to the Grand River and the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail. The park includes green space along the river, play equipment, and gravel parking.
**Regional Recreational Facilities**

**Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail**
A segment of the Fred Meijer Trail is planned for that portion of the former Central Michigan Railroad that runs east to west through the southern portion of the City. The trail is planned to extend to the City of Lowell to the west and to the Village of Muir to the east, eventually extending to the City of Owosso. Construction of the Ionia to Saranac portion of the trail is scheduled to begin in 2012. A trail head is planned within the City limits at the southeast corner of Dexter Street (M-66) and Adams Street. The City’s Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail will tie into the Fred Meijer Trail.

**Ionia County Bertha Brock Park**
Bertha Brock Park is a 186 acre Ionia County park located two miles west of the City of Ionia on M-21. It is a regional park that serves Ionia County and surrounding areas. Bertha Brock Park offers a campground, camping cabins, rental lodges, play areas, picnic shelters, hiking trails, sledding hill, play structures, and various family oriented recreational activities.

**Ionia State Recreation Area**
This recreation area is located at 2880 West David Highway, southwest of the City Ionia. The area consists of 4500 acres and offers a large range of recreational activities.
ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

An Accessibility Assessment of each park and recreational facility is required by State of Michigan Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans. Each park and recreational facility within or under the control of the City of Ionia was evaluated using the following ranking system provided by State of Michigan guidelines:

1 = none of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines
2 = some of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines
3 = most of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines
4 = the entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5 = the entire park was developed/renovated using the principals of universal design

Rankings of each park or facility and an explanation of that ranking are as follows:

**Balice Park = 2:**
This park was given a 2 since it contains a hard-surfaced path at a grade that does not exceed 5% which leads to a transfer platform on the play structure.

**Fun Forest/McConnell Park = 1:**
A hard-surfaced sidewalk leads to a ramp on the wooden “Fun Forest” but the sidewalk can only be accessed from a dirt parking lot which is not considered accessible. No other access to the park is available from the sidewalk.

**Hale Park = 2 or 3:**
This park contains accessible parking spaces, accessible restrooms, and a play structure accessible via a hard-surfaced path that does not exceed 5% which leads from the parking area to a transfer platform on the play structure. The remainder of the park is not accessible.

**Harper Park = 2:**
This park contains a hard-surfaced drive from the sidewalk at a grade that does not exceed 5%; a grassy area (that may be accessible depending upon the hardness of the area in various weather conditions) is adjacent to the drive/parking area. The grassy area leads to a pavilion; a hard-surfaced pathway with a grade that does not exceed 5% leads from the pavilion to a play structure with transfer platform.

**Jackson Street Tennis Courts = 2:**
The sidewalk adjacent to the eastern side of the tennis courts includes an accessible ramp at a grade of less than 5% that leads to the tennis courts.

**McCann Park = 1 or 2:**
A hard surfaced pathway at a grade that does not exceed 5% leads from the sidewalk to pavers that surround a portion of the play equipment but no transfer platform is present.
Robinson Park = 2:  
A hard-surfaced path at a grade of less than 5% leads from the sidewalk to a transfer platform on the play structure.

Shattuck Park = 2:  
A hard-surfaced path at a grade of less than 5% leads from the sidewalk to the basketball courts.

Memorial Park = 4:  
This small veteran’s memorial park is accessible via a hard-surfaced pathway at a grade of less than 5% that leads from City sidewalks which can be accessed by accessible parking spaces located at the nearby Armory Community Center.

Armory Community Center = 3:  
Extensive renovations over the past several years have increased ADA accessibility significantly. The Armory includes accessible parking spaces, an accessible entrance and an elevator.

Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail = 3:  
This trail and trail head were constructed in 2000 and were constructed primarily to ADA standards.

Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail - Trail Head on Steele Street = 2:  
No barrier free parking exists; trail connects to a section of sidewalk on the south side of Steele Street, however, the sidewalk is non-continuous along Steele Street.

Skate Park = 1:  
No barrier free parking exists at the Skate Park and no hard surface approaches to the skate park are present; however, use of skate parks by wheelchair users is well documented, and the City of Ionia Skate Park could potentially be used by wheelchair users if the parking area and approach were accessible.

Riverside Park = 2:  
No barrier free parking; no hard surface access to the play structure, but the grassy area may be accessible depending upon the hardness of the are in various weather conditions; a wooden ramp leads to a transfer platform on the play structure; no hard surface exists around the play structure.

Governor Green Park = 1:  
No facilities at Governor Green Park are currently compliant with ADA standards.

Hardwood Softball Diamonds = 1:  
No facilities at the Hardwood Softball Diamonds complex are currently compliant with ADA standards.

Well Fields = 1:  
No facilities or trails at the Well Fields property are currently compliant with ADA standards.
DNR RECREATION GRANT INVENTORY

Since 1976, the City of Ionia has received two Natural Resources Trust Fund grants:

1. 1993: $37,500 to acquire the rail corridor and trestle to accommodate the construction of the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail.

2. 1997: $269,300 to assist with the construction of the Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail.

In 2010, the City of Ionia received several grants from the State of Michigan related to the planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail described as follows:

1. $50,000 MDNR RTP (Recreation Trails Program) grant to assist in acquiring property for a trailhead planned at Dexter Street and Adams Street;

2. $65,000 MDNR RIF (Recreation Improvement Fund) grant (project RIF09-36-06) to “survey, design and engineer the trail segment between Ionia and Saranac”;

3. $8,500 MDNR RTP grant (project RTP10-47-01) to do an “engineering evaluation and cost estimate of the bridges on the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Trail”;

In 2012 is the following grants related to the planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail were received:

1. $200,000 MDNR RTP (project RTP10-47-03) for “assistance for construction of 10 miles of rail trail surface improvements including decking and railing of several railroad bridges.” This money will serve as a match for an Ionia County MDNR Trust Fund grant of $300,000 and a grant to the City of $950,000 from the MDOT Transportation Enhancement Activities Fund for the Ionia to Saranac Trail.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The process of preparing the Parks and Recreation Plan began in 2011 with the formation of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee composed of five members. These members represented a variety of recreational interests in the community as parents, volunteers, school officials, and City government. The Advisory Committee met regularly with the Director of Parks and Recreation and the consultant to coordinate all aspects of the planning process. An on-line community survey was launched in October of 2011 to gather input regarding existing and proposed recreation programs and facilities. The survey was done jointly with the process of updating the City of Ionia Master Land Use Plan. Paper copies of the survey were made available at City Hall, the library, and at a senior housing facility. A total of 172 persons completed the on-line survey, with another 24 completing paper surveys for a total of 196 persons responding. A copy of that portion of the survey that addressed parks and recreation issues along with results is included in Appendix B.
Public Comment Period and Public Hearing

Citizens of the City of Ionia were given 30 days to review and comment on the proposed Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan. Information describing the opportunities to review the plan was published in the City of Ionia Summer 2012 Quarterly Newsletter, sent with utility bills. The plan was available for review on the homepage of the City’s website. Print copies of the plan were available at City Hall and at the Armory Community Center. Comments were directed to the Parks and Recreation Director.

A well-advertised public hearing on the Recreation Plan was held on August 7, 2012, during the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting. Following the public hearing, the City Council adopted the Recreation Plan unanimously.

Results of the Survey

The Citizen Survey contained several questions regarding parks and recreation programs and services offered by the City. The following is a summary of the priority results of these questions. While the results of the survey will help guide the Action Plan, other programs and facilities may have ranked highly but were not necessarily in the top tier of results. Full survey results are available in Appendix B.

Which of the programs currently offered by the Parks and Recreation Department are you most likely to use? The top five scoring answers (in addition to the top scoring answer which was “None of the Above”):

- None of the above -23.5%
- Movies in the Park (All ages/No cost)-22.3%
- Santa Mailbox (All Ages/No Cost)-17.9%
- Festival of Trees (All Ages/No Cost)-17.9%
- Spring Garage Sale-17.3%
- Fall Soccer (Ages 4-12)-16.8%

Which of the programs not currently offered by the Parks and Recreation Department are you most likely to use? The top three scoring answers (in addition to the top scoring answer which was “None of the Above”):

- None of the above-36.4%
- Cooking Classes-30.6%
- Music Classes-26.6%
- Gymnastics-24.3%

Which facilities not currently available should be the priorities of the Parks and Recreation Department? Top three answers:

- Nature trails, natural areas and open space-52.3%
- Outdoor concert band shell-39.8%
- New/replaced playground equipment-29.5%
Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following: Top items:
Agree:
- More emphasis should be placed on leisure activities (trails, bike paths, picnic areas)- 78.1%
Disagree:
- New parks should be acquired-56.7%

Check any limitation that prevents or discourages you or a family member from using a City park or from participating in a recreation program: Top three answers (in addition to the top scoring answer which was “None of the Above”):

- None of the above-40.3%
- Lack of restrooms-27.3%
- Types of programs do not interest me or my family-19.3%
- Cost-15.9%

Check specific improvements to the following parks that you would favor: Top item in each park:

**Hale Park:**  Bathrooms-44.2%
**Robinson Park:**  Bathrooms-35.0% (Note: “None of the Above” was the top item at 41.4%)
**Harper Park:**  Bathrooms-37.9% (Note: “None of the Above” was the top item at 39.8%)
**McConnell Park:**  Bathrooms-47.5%
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following Goals and Objectives have been developed using the information gathered through the Community Survey, through evaluation of programs and facilities in highest demand as evaluated by the Parks and Recreation Department staff and the Recreation Committee, through input gathered during the public comment period and at the public meeting held by the City Council.

1. GOAL: Continue to maintain and improve the Armory Community Center as an important venue for community recreation programs and activities.

OBJECTIVES:

a. Continue improvements to bring the Armory into ADA compliance and to enhance recreational activities for all users.

b. Identify priority maintenance projects to insure that the Armory remains structurally sound.

c. Evaluate improvements to the Armory that will increase its value as a recreational venue.

d. Pursue acquisition of adjacent property to construct additional indoor recreation space including an additional gymnasium.

2. GOAL: Maintain and increase the number of cost-free or low-cost recreational activities available to users.

OBJECTIVES:

a. Continue and expand the Movies in the Park events; explore establishing a film festival for area residents and as a possible tourism draw.

b. Continue holiday-themed events for all ages.

c. Continue and expand the spring garage sale.

d. Determine funding sources for additional cost-free or low-cost recreational activities and programs; seek sponsors for events that will benefit from advertising/exposure.
3. GOAL: Continue and expand youth recreational programming for ages 4-12.

OBJECTIVES:

a. Evaluate facilities to determine needs for continuing and expanding successful youth recreational activities.

b. Run pilot programs for those activities identified by the Community Survey as desired recreational activities not currently offered.

4. GOAL: Expand access to nature trails, bike paths, and natural areas/open space within close proximity to City residents.

OBJECTIVES:

a. Evaluate existing/planned trails, bike paths, and natural areas in the City to determine current conditions and to determine whether improvements to existing trails are feasible.

b. Identify additional areas within or near City boundaries for trail and bike path development.

c. Identify areas within the City for natural areas/open space and determine feasibility of acquisition.

d. Continue development and improvement of both existing and future trailheads.

e. Provide identifying signs throughout the City that assist users in identifying locations of trails, trailheads, and links to other facilities such as neighborhood parks.

5. GOAL: Establish an outdoor concert/activity space.

OBJECTIVES:

a. Coordinate identification of a location for an outdoor concert/activity space with the current City of Ionia Master Plan.

b. Determine feasibility and funding needs for implementation.

6. GOAL: Continue maintenance and improvements to existing neighborhood parks.

OBJECTIVES:

a. Provide accessible restrooms at neighborhood parks.

b. Prioritize the replacement and maintenance of playground equipment for all users.
c. Improve playground surfaces for safety and for access for all users.

d. Add and improve site amenities at neighborhood parks such as picnic tables and grills.

e. Continue to improve ADA approved accessibility at all neighborhood parks.

f. Evaluate lighting and other security measures at neighborhood parks and along trails and bike paths.

7. GOAL: Continue and expand the interest in softball, baseball, and t-ball programs for both youth and adults.

OBJECTIVES:

a. Continue support of, and improvements to, facilities located at the Harwood Softball Complex.

b. Evaluate the possible relocation or addition of softball, baseball, and t-ball facilities from the Harwood Softball Complex to the Steele Street Corridor Area.

8. GOAL: Coordinate plans for recreational facilities and programs with the goals of the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan.

OBJECTIVES:

a. Coordinate land use proposals and activities in the Steele Street Corridor area with goals and objectives of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan.

b. Maintain communication between the Parks and Recreation Department with the City of Ionia Planning Commission.

c. Coordinate with State of Michigan plans for improvements to the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail with the goals and objectives of the Five-Year Parks and Recreation Plan and the City of Ionia Master Plan.
ACTION PROGRAM

The following Action Program has been developed using several sources of input. The citizen survey was relied upon significantly, while the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Recreation Committee were largely responsible for shaping the Action Program. Additionally, The Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan was developed at the same time by the City Planning Commission as a component of the Master Plan update process. Many of the Action Steps described as follows are based upon those elements of the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan that address parks and recreation.

The following Action Program items are numbered for ease of reference and are not necessarily listed in order of priority.

1. **Improvements to Armory Community Center.**

   - Install modern security system, cameras, and fire detection systems to ensure the safety and security of all employees and visitors, and to ensure after-hours security and fire detection.
   - Install power door openers in a designated location to ensure ADA compliance.
   - Replace windows due to rotting of the original wood window frames. Window replacement should be compatible with the architectural character of the building.
   - Install new flooring or carpeting in identified locations throughout the Armory (not including the gymnasium).

**Rationale**

The Armory Community Center continues to be the central facility for indoor recreational opportunities offered by the City, and also houses the administrative offices of the Parks and Recreation Department. Use of the building continues to increase each year for a variety of activities including youth and adult basketball, youth and adult open gym, youth floor hockey, gymnastics, and other activities.

Maintenance and improvements to the building are essential to the continued success and growth of the Department of Recreation indoor programs and administration of all programs. Employees often work alone in the building or in remote areas of the building. Numerous door and window openings may invite theft and vandalism. Window replacement will improve energy efficiency when heating or cooling the building.

2. **Expansion of Armory Community Center to Include Additional Gyms and Indoor Recreational Space.**

   Acquire property adjacent to Armory in the vicinity of the former fast-food restaurant to construct an approximately 7,000 square foot addition to the Community Center which will include additional gyms and indoor recreational space. This addition will be architecturally compatible with the design of the original structure, but will provide structural provisions for programs which are not currently feasible in the current structure, such as increased ceiling...
height to accommodate advanced gymnastics, additional gymnasiums for popular programs, and possibly an indoor walking or running track.

**Rationale**

Popular programs currently offered by the City of Ionia Parks and Recreation Department which require indoor space include basketball for all ages, floor hockey, gymnastics, the fall craft show, Tae Kwon Do, Zumba exercise, youth open gym, and adult open gym. Numbers of participants in each of these activities has continued to increase each year, and it is projected that participation in these programs would continue to increase with the construction of an addition to the Community Center.

Currently, participation in some programs is limited due to lack of available space or appropriate space. For example, gymnastics is a new program strongly supported by the citizen survey, but appropriate space such as is required for advanced level gymnastics is not available in the current Community Center. Currently, some programs require the Parks and Recreation Department to seek additional space through arrangements with Ionia Public Schools or other venues.

On the citizen survey, citizens strongly supported parks and recreation programs and facilities, when asked which improvements to the City they would support with additional property taxes. Programs not currently offered by the Parks and Recreation Department that were strongly supported by the citizen survey include cooking and music classes which could be added with additional space. Other popular programs, such as Santa Visit or Breakfast with Santa could potentially expand with additional space.

3. **Install Large Multi-Level Indoor Play Structure in the Armory Community Center and Establish a Play Café.**

A large, multi-level play structure for young children will be installed in the lower level of the Armory to provide an opportunity for young children to play and exercise, and an opportunity for parents and caretakers to socialize.

**Rationale**

The addition of an indoor play café is based upon requests made to the Director of Parks and Recreation to provide more activities for very young children who might not be old enough to participate in organized sports and activities offered to older youth. Also, the unique attributes of the Armory Community Center provide an indoor location for such a facility not otherwise available in most communities.

4. **Improve Neighborhood Playgrounds**

The goal of the City of Ionia is to improve each neighborhood park with similar amenities, so as to provide each neighborhood with quality, accessible recreation opportunities for all users. Improvements to neighborhood parks will include accessible restrooms where feasible; replacement and maintenance of playground equipment, with accessible play equipment added where feasible; addition of safe and accessible playground surfaces; improved site amenities such as picnic tables and grills; evaluation of lighting and other security measures at each park and along trails and bike paths and improvements where needed.
Site visits to each neighborhood park were conducted early in the spring of 2012; specific improvements in individual neighborhood parks are planned as follows:

**Balice Park:**

1. Additional play equipment, edging and surfacing, accessible walkways.
2. New gazebo.
3. New sign.
4. Bike racks.
5. Access to the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail located directly to the south, and add drinking fountains near the access point of the trail.
6. Consider Balice Park as the possible location for a splash pad; move play structure and swing set to the east side of the property if park becomes location of splash pad.
7. Accessible parking on west side of the playground site.
8. Pavilion for picnic use.
9. Rustic restroom facility and/or portable restrooms during seasonal use.

**Hale Park:**

1. New play equipment, new sign, install new landscaping.
2. New basketball poles, backboards, and rims; re-paint basketball court lines.
3. Picnic shelter added with accessible grills and tables.
4. Add accessible walkways around south and west side of park.
5. Remove pine trees on west side near basketball courts and existing building for safety and visibility.

**Harper Park:**

1. Improve parking area with gravel or paved surface; provide ADA accessibility to the park from the parking area.
2. Remove overhead bars; replace with new climber.
3. Strip, prime and paint the rocket climber.
4. Rustic restroom facility and portable restrooms during seasonal use.

5. Repair and paint pavilion.

6. Define west side of park perimeter with landscaping.

7. Grade and reseed old t-ball area and improve outfield area.

8. Add paved walkway to Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail from the park to provide ADA accessibility.

9. Eliminate unsafe parking conditions at Cleveland Street.

10. Additional play equipment with edging and surfacing.

11. Accessible grills and picnic tables.

12. Accessible drinking fountain; new sign; install new landscaping.

**Jackson Street Tennis Courts:**

Implement the recommended improvements as shown on the Concept Plan for Jackson Street Park which follows the Action Program section. The concept plan includes the removal of six tennis courts which have deteriorated due to cracking and drainage problems, and installation of three new tennis courts, along with other significant improvements.

**McCann Park:**

1. Re-paint current plan equipment.

2. New ADA accessible play equipment with ADA accessible access.

3. Edging and surfacing of play equipment area.

4. New sign; move sign to northwest corner.

5. Install new landscaping.

6. Accessible drinking fountain.

**Fun Forest/McConnell Park:**

1. Re-paint and repair pavilion.

2. Rustic restrooms and portable restrooms during seasonal use.

3. Re-paint portions of playground structures to add color.
4. Pave parking area; construct ADA accessible pathways from parking area to play equipment/fun forest; add ADA accessible surfacing around play areas; edging.

5. Accessible grills, picnic tables, benches, drinking fountain.


7. Remove older play equipment on lower McConnell Park due to infrequent use and lack of ADA accessibility.

**Shattuck Park:**

1. New play equipment; edging and surfacing in play equipment areas.

2. Provide ADA accessible pathway from sidewalk to play area.

3. Replace poles, backboards, and rims for basketball court; repaint lines.

4. Safety surface for swing set.

5. Add fencing to the property line of the park; and/or define perimeter of park with landscaping.


7. Provide through signage or other means such as an on-street bike lane, a strong connection to the planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail Trail.

**Robinson Park:**

1. Paved ADA accessible pathway to play equipment and around perimeter.

2. New ADA accessible play equipment.

3. ADA accessible surface around play equipment; edging.

4. Rustic restrooms and portable restrooms during seasonal use.

5. Add pavilion to northeast corner.

6. Accessible water fountain.

7. Resurface basketball court; new poles, backboards, and rims.

8. Perimeter fencing; reseeding of grassy area.
9. Landscape or otherwise define the northwest side of the park near residential driveway.


**Riverside Park:**

1. Install ADA accessible pathway from parking area and trail to play equipment.

2. Install ADA accessible surface around play equipment.

**Rationale**
The neighborhood park system in the City of Ionia is an asset valued highly by citizens. New and replaced playground equipment was a high ranking priority on the citizen survey. In addition, most people felt that new parks should not necessarily be acquired, preferring to focus on improving the existing neighborhood parks. Lack of restrooms ranked highly as a reason people are discouraged from using parks or participating in a recreational program. When specifically asked about improvements desired at Hale, Robinson, Harper, and McConnell Parks, respondents chose restrooms as the number one desired improvement.

**5. Improvements to Harwood Softball Complex.**
Improvements planned for the Harwood Softball Complex include ADA accessible restrooms, a concession building, and storage facility for field maintenance and sports equipment. In addition, two more t-ball diamonds are needed. However, improvements at the Harwood Complex may be modified depending upon improvements made to the Steele Street Corridor area. If additional ball fields/t-ball fields are constructed in the Steele Street area, these facilities would not be needed at the Harwood Complex. Similarly, concession and storage buildings may be added to the Steele Street area in place of or in addition to similar buildings at the Harwood Complex.

**Rationale**
The Harwood Softball Complex is currently the primary location for the Department of Parks and Recreation adult softball program, youth baseball and softball, and youth t-ball. The complex frequently hosts multiple games at a variety of levels, and is in need of permanent equipment storage, restrooms, and a concession building. Unless additional softball/baseball/t-ball facilities are constructed at other locations such as the Steele Street Corridor area, the Harwood Complex will remain the primary softball/baseball/t-ball facility.

**6. Determine Funding Sources and Sponsorships for Popular Cost-Free Activities Offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.**
Popular cost-free activities include Movies in the Park, Santa Mailbox, Visit with Santa, Festival of Trees, the Spring Garage Sale, and the Easter Egg Hunt. Sponsors and other private funding sources would ensure the continuation of these activities. In addition, the Recreation Department allocation of funds may place more emphasis on programs that are cost-free to participants.
Rationale
Many of the activities which ranked highest on the citizen survey were those activities which the Parks and Recreation Department offers free of charge and which are enjoyable for entire families. This citizen response was at least in part due to the economic downturn being experienced by citizens in the Ionia service area. For the foreseeable future, no-cost activities will be an important part of recreational programming in the City of Ionia service area.

7. Acquire Property as Identified by the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan for Natural Area Trails.
Within the City of Ionia, areas have been identified for off-road non-motorized trails through natural areas that remain in the City. The location of these proposed trails are such that they tie into the existing Fred Thwaites Grand River Trail, the planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail, and link remaining natural areas within the City. The goal of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide a family-friendly loop with choices of distances that vary from one to three miles through the City, with access to other planned recreational and commercial centers.

Rationale
When the citizen survey asked which facilities not currently available should be a priority of the Parks and Recreation Department, nature trails, natural areas and open space ranked highest with 52.3% of the vote. Another question asked whether respondents agreed or disagreed on various recreational action steps, and the item which received the greatest number of votes (78.1%) was the statement that more emphasis should be placed on leisure activities such as trails and bike paths. The trails proposed are part of a larger plan to provide family-friendly recreational opportunities near the downtown area, while connecting a variety of recreational opportunities, both planned and existing.

8. Acquire and Develop Property as Identified by the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan for Outdoor Concerts and Multi-use Plaza.
Areas in the Steele Street Corridor area have been identified as possible locations for outdoor concerts, plays, farmer’s market, art fairs, and other outdoor events. These areas may be individual acquisitions, or may be part of greater acquisitions by the City or private developers. Development of these areas within the Five-Year Action Plan is anticipated, but may be dependent upon development of other key areas within the Steele Street Corridor area.

Rationale
When the citizen survey asked which facilities not currently available in Ionia should be a priority of the Parks and Recreation Department, an outdoor concert band shell ranked second with 39.8% of the vote. When asked a question regarding what is needed most in the downtown, citizens overwhelmingly (70.7%) chose the response that included “plazas for special events”. The location for outdoor concerts and a multi-use plaza are part of a larger plan to revitalize the Steele Street Corridor area while providing a range of recreational activities that will include cultural activities.

9. Construct Bridge Over south Dexter Street (M-66) at Crossing Point of Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail to Provide a Safe Crossing for All Trail Users, Access to
Ionia Free Fair Grounds, Access to Ionia Natural Area Trail Loops, and to Serve as a Gateway to the City of Ionia.
The Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan includes a proposed location for a bridge that would tie the Ionia Free Fair grounds, the skate park, and Riverside Park to those facilities planned and existing on the east side of South Dexter Street. The bridge would serve not only as a safe non-motorized crossing, but also as a gateway element into the central business area of the City of Ionia.

Rationale
Citizens of Ionia strongly support the addition of trails to their community, as stated in the Rationale section of Action Step number 7. The location of M-66 presents a particular challenge in linking major recreational opportunities on the east side of M-66 with those on the west side of M-66. The planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail will draw users from the region as well as the City of Ionia service area. Therefore, a safe crossing over M-66 which also serves as a gateway will be a valuable asset to both the local community and the region.

10. Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail Trailhead Site Amenities Construction.
Currently, the location of the trail head at the southeast corner of Adams Street and south Dexter Street (M-66) has been determined; however, funding for site amenities has not been secured, nor has the property in this location adjacent to the trail been purchased. Amenities planned for the trailhead include parking, restrooms, children’s outdoor play area, and vintage caboose display. A priority for the City is to purchase or otherwise secure property in that area of the trailhead, and then to begin funding amenities such as parking and restrooms.

Rationale
The planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail provides an opportunity to bring both residents and visitors to the central area of the City as they utilize a trail of regional significance. The trailhead will function not only as a necessary element of the trail (especially in regard to restrooms), but also a gathering location where trail users can access the recreational and commercial amenities both planned and existing in the Steele Street Corridor area. Additionally, the trailhead will enhance the gateway into Ionia planned for that portion of South Dexter Street (M-66).

11. Acquire Properties for Construction of a Linear Park and Silo Park that Parallels the Planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail.
Properties adjacent to the planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail are shown on the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan. These properties may or may not lie within the right-of-way of the trail. Upon identification of ownership, acquisition may be pursued and development plans for each segment developed at the time of acquisition.

Rationale
The planned Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail provides an opportunity to expand upon this regional facility through the addition of adjacent green space which will tie into planned recreational facilities in the Steele Street Corridor Area. The location of the linear park ties into the planned preservation of existing landmark silos and planned park space adjacent to the silos.
12. Acquire Additional Green Space Adjacent to Memorial Park as Identified by the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan.
Expansion of the Armory Community Center to add additional gyms and indoor recreation area should be coordinated with the addition of green space south of Memorial Park in the vicinity of a former fast-food restaurant. This acquisition will enhance the gateway into Ionia along that portion of Dexter Street (M-66) that will include the planned trailhead that will serve the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail.

Rationale
The area adjacent to Memorial Park to the south is that portion of a greater plan to link recreational facilities and trails in Ionia. Specifically, the acquisition will link the Armory Community Center, Memorial Park, the planned trail head for the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail, a playground planned near the trail, and the trail itself.

13. Acquire Property as Identified by the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan for Two Soccer/T-ball Practice/Multi-Purpose Fields.
The Steele Street Plan includes a location for two soccer fields that can also serve as t-ball practice fields and other purposes as identified. The fields are part of a greater plan to provide youth and family recreational activities near the downtown in an area rich in additional recreational and community facilities.

Rationale
Fall soccer for 4-12 year olds ranked highly in the community survey as a program currently offered by the Recreation Department that respondents were most likely to use. The program has seen consistent growth in numbers of participants. The soccer program currently takes place on Ionia Public School soccer fields, and the City program would benefit from ownership of fields with adequate equipment storage buildings and flexibility in scheduling games and practices.

14. Acquire Property as Identified by the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan for Indoor Ice Hockey.
The Steele Street Plan includes an area identified as the future location of an indoor ice hockey facility at the location of a former discount store. Demolition of the existing building, site preparation, and construction of a new facility will be next steps following acquisition, and may be achievable within the scope of the Five-Year Action Plan.

Rationale
When the citizen survey asked which facilities not currently available in Ionia should be a priority of the Parks and Recreation Department, hockey rink received 20.5% of the vote. While hockey rink did not necessarily emerge as a priority item on the survey, the hockey rink project is supported by a group of parents and citizens who champion the project. The rink could well become a destination for those families who wish to access ice more frequently in a convenient location for recreational skating as well as ice hockey.

Additionally, the proposed location of the ice hockey rink is part of a greater plan to bring a range of recreation opportunities to the downtown area, and to revitalize the Steele Street Corridor.
15. Acquire Property as Identified by the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan for Additional Children’s Play Areas.
Two areas are shown on the Steele Street Corridor Plan as recommended for children’s play areas. One area is located adjacent to the planned trail head for the Fred Meijer Grand River Valley Rail-Trail. Another is located near the proposed soccer/t-ball/multi-purpose fields. The children’s play areas are intended to provide opportunities for younger children in locations where families are expected to utilize other planned recreation activities.

Rationale
A comment expressed by the Recreation Committee was the need for play areas for young children while attending other recreational activities such as movies in the park. This philosophy has been extended so that when planning for new recreational facilities, the needs of families with young children will be met by providing play areas within viewing distance of other recreational amenities.

16. Acquire Property as Identified by the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan for Additional Softball/Baseball Fields/Historic Baseball Field as Identified by the Steele Street Corridor Concept Plan.

An area on the Steele Street Corridor Plan is shown as Multi-Purpose Sports Fields and Natural Areas with Trails. As part of the overall plan to provide additional recreation areas near downtown Ionia, this area has been designated as a possible site for additional softball or baseball fields, which may replace or augment the opportunities now available at the Harwood Complex located several miles outside of the City.

An area is shown on the Steele Street Plan for an historic-design baseball field. This field could serve a number of purposes, including providing a facility for youth baseball, as well as a venue for adult baseball games. The field could also serve as a focal point for historic community activities, exhibition games, corporate events, and tourism much as Abner Doubleday Field in Cooperstown, New York. Development of this property will be dependent upon priorities established by the City as it seeks to develop a wide range of recreational facilities within the Steele Street area.

Rationale
The location of an area proposed for additional softball and/or baseball fields is part of the greater plan to improve access to recreational programming in the downtown/Steele Street area of Ionia, in a location where a variety of recreation facilities are available, and where commercial uses are present or are planned to support increased numbers of both residents and visitors to the downtown area.

The location of an area proposed for an historic baseball field is part of the greater plan to improve access to recreational programming in the downtown/Steele Street area of Ionia, in a location where a variety of recreation facilities are available, and where commercial uses are present or are planned to support increased numbers of both residents and visitors to the downtown area.
17. **Identify Location for a Splash Pad; Construct Splash Pad as Funding Sources are Identified.**

A splash pad is a desired park amenity that may become an improvement to one of the neighborhood parks. Other locations may be considered as public opinion is gathered.

**Rationale**

Splash pads have become a popular community amenity as a way to provide water play on hot summer days, without the safety concerns of a pool or other body of water. When the citizen survey asked residents which facilities not currently available should be the priorities of the Parks and Recreation Department, 27.3% of respondents supported a splash pad. The splash pad may become a priority of the Parks and Recreation Department, or may be championed by a citizen fund raising effort.
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**TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES**

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GL NUMBER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>11-12 APPROVED BUDGET</th>
<th>11-12 ADOPTED BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>249-560.000-751.000</td>
<td>SPECIAL EVENT ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-560.000-752.000</td>
<td>ADULT ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-560.000-753.000</td>
<td>YOUTH ACTIVITIES</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-560.000-762.313</td>
<td>YOUTH FOOTBALL ADVISORY BOARD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals for dept 560.000-OPERATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>43,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept 755.000-ARMORY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>39,150</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GL NUMBER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>11-12 APPROVED BUDGET</th>
<th>11-12 ADOPTED BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>249-755.000-702.000</td>
<td>SALARY &amp; WAGES</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-755.000-707.000</td>
<td>CENTRAL GARAGE ALLOCATION</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-755.000-710.000</td>
<td>PAYROLL TAXES &amp; FRINGE BENEFIT</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-755.000-710.100</td>
<td>CENTRAL GARAGE FRINGE BENEFITS</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-755.000-775.000</td>
<td>REPAIR &amp; MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-755.000-801.000</td>
<td>CONTRACTUAL &amp; PROFESSIONAL SEV</td>
<td>4,600</td>
<td>4,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-755.000-920.000</td>
<td>PUBLIC UTILITIES</td>
<td>19,000</td>
<td>19,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-755.000-931.000</td>
<td>BUILDING REPAIR &amp; MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals for dept 755.000-ARMORY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>39,150</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,150</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept 770.000-PARK MAINTENANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>74,800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GL NUMBER</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>11-12 APPROVED BUDGET</th>
<th>11-12 ADOPTED BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-707.000</td>
<td>CENTRAL GARAGE ALLOCATION</td>
<td>26,000</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-710.100</td>
<td>CENTRAL GARAGE FRINGE BENEFITS</td>
<td>13,000</td>
<td>13,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-740.000</td>
<td>OPERATING SUPPLIES</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-743.000</td>
<td>OPERATING SUPPLIES-GAS &amp; OIL</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>1,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-801.000</td>
<td>CONTRACTUAL &amp; PROFESSIONAL SEV</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-920.000</td>
<td>PUBLIC UTILITIES</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-930.000</td>
<td>VEHICLE REPAIR &amp; MAINTENANCE</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-940.000</td>
<td>EQUIPMENT RENTAL</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>249-770.000-980.000</td>
<td>CAPITAL OUTLAY</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals for dept 770.000-PARK MAINTENANCE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>74,800</strong></td>
<td><strong>74,800</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>287,150</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 249**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>26,304</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BEGINNING FUND BALANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>26,304</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENDING FUND BALANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appropriations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>8,561</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix B
1. You are a:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resident or property owner of the City of Ionia</td>
<td>66.3%</td>
<td>126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a resident or property owner of the City of Ionia</td>
<td>33.7%</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 190
skipped question 6

2. The location of Sparrow-Ionia Hospital is shown on the map below. If the use of this site were to be changed to something other than a hospital, which of the following uses do you think is best? (Choose no more than two)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing for senior citizens</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condominium housing for all ages</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public library (Balice Clinic)</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offices</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove the hospital and plat for single family houses</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City park</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 191
skipped question 5
### 3. The Steele Street corridor is shown on the map below. It includes the former K-Mart plaza, the grain silos, and several industrial and commercial uses. What do you think is the best future land use for this area? (Choose one)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A mix of uses (commercial, residential, and green space) in a village pattern that ties into the downtown area</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A mix of commercial and industrial uses that require larger lots</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial uses only</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic fields/recreation use</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- answered question 191
- skipped question 5
4. For the M-21 (Lincoln Avenue) corridor from Dexter Street eastward to the City limits please check the answer that best fits your opinion of the future of land use along this corridor: (Choose one)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More commercial and office uses should be planned along Lincoln Avenue, with landscaping and sign regulations that enhance the appearance of the corridor.</td>
<td>41.6%</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The appearance and function of the Lincoln Avenue corridor is primarily acceptable the way it is.</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 190

skipped question 6

5. In general, do you favor zoning regulations which allow a wider range of uses in the downtown area, such as churches and schools?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 188

skipped question 8
6. The ratio of owner-occupied dwellings to non-owner occupied dwellings (rental units) in the City of Ionia is currently 54% owner occupied to 46% renter occupied. In your opinion, this ratio is: (Choose one)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not enough owner-occupied dwelling units as a percentage of all dwelling units</td>
<td>66.0%</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough rental units as a percentage of all dwelling units</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The ratio is just right as it is</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 188
skipped question 8
7. Of the following, which would you be willing to support with additional property tax millage? (Choose all that apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquire and construct public parking lot on former Clothing Care site</td>
<td>26.3%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City grants to property owners to maintain historic homes</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extend the ornamental lamppost project to additional streets</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>City grants to new/start-up businesses downtown</strong></td>
<td><strong>41.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>77</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve/replace buildings on the grounds of the Ionia Free Fair</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beautification such as street trees, landscaping, and sculptures</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New library</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovations to the Armory</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and recreation programs and facilities</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>19.4%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 186

skipped question 10
8. What are the most pressing issues facing the City today? (Choose no more than three)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vacant commercial buildings</td>
<td>80.4%</td>
<td>148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing</td>
<td>30.4%</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of desirable housing in the City limits</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City finances</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratio of owner-occupied to renter occupied dwellings in the city</td>
<td>19.6%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A vibrant vision for the city that will attract and retain the younger generation</td>
<td>44.6%</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation of historic houses</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of code enforcement</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 184

skipped question 12
9. What does the downtown need most? (Choose no more than two)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More off-street parking lots (attractive, well-lit)</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More landscaping (street trees, flowers)</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Way-finding signs (directional, points of interest)</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A more contemporary feel (outdoor cafes, coffee shops, plazas for special events)</strong></td>
<td>70.7%</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No change; I like it the way it is now</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 184
skipped question 12

10. Would you favor the creation of designated bicycle lanes on major streets in the City?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>62.9%</td>
<td>117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 186
skipped question 10
11. Which of the programs CURRENTLY offered by the Parks and Recreation Department are you most likely to use? (Choose no more than five)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult softball</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st-3rd Grade Basketball (Ages 5-9)</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult City League Basketball (17 &amp; up)</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Bowling (Ages 5-14)</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lil’ Hooper March Madness (Ages 4-9)</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Garage Sale</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Outdoor Soccer (Ages 4-12)</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Egg Hunt (All Ages/No Cost)</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-Ball (Ages 3-6)</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Adult Softball (17 &amp; up)</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies in the Park (All Ages/No Cost)</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Day Camp at Hale Park (Ages 5-12)</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Hacker (Age 10 &amp; Up)</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5k Run (All Ages)</td>
<td>11.2%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flag Football (Ages 4-Third Grade)</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th-8th Grade Tackle Football</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th-8th Grade Cheerleading</td>
<td>2.2%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Adult Softball (17 &amp; up)</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Soccer (Ages 4-12)</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Bowling (Ages 5-12)</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>Count</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Floor Hockey (Ages 5-12)</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Mailbox (All Ages/No Cost)</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Visit (All Ages/No Cost)</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breakfast with Santa (All Ages/No Cost)</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Festival of Trees (All Ages/No Cost)</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tae Kwon Do (Ages 4 &amp; up)</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zumba Exercise (Ages 16 &amp; up)</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Open Gym Basketball</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Open Gym Basketball</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 179
skipped question 17
12. Which of the programs NOT CURRENTLY offered by the Parks and Recreation Department are you most likely to use? (Choose no more than three)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Volleyball</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Volleyball</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Classes</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooking Classes</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Lacrosse</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Soccer</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>36.4%</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 173
skipped question 23
13. Which facilities NOT CURRENTLY available should be the priorities of the Parks and Recreation Department? (Choose no more than three)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature trails, natural areas and open space</td>
<td>52.3%</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor in-line skating/hockey rink</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splash pad</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/replaced playground equipment</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor concert band shell</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>No Opinion</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eliminate/sell some of the existing parks and concentrate on improving fewer parks</td>
<td>39.2% (69)</td>
<td>43.2% (76)</td>
<td>17.6% (31)</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New parks should be acquired</td>
<td>21.1% (36)</td>
<td>56.7% (97)</td>
<td>22.2% (38)</td>
<td>171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More emphasis should be placed on sports leagues</td>
<td>31.4% (54)</td>
<td>36.6% (63)</td>
<td>32.0% (55)</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More emphasis should be placed on leisure activities (trails, bike paths, picnic areas)</td>
<td>78.1% (139)</td>
<td>7.9% (14)</td>
<td>14.0% (25)</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15. Check any limitation that prevents or discourages you or a family member from using a City park or from participating in a recreation program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Limitation</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill level</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of transportation</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility due to a physical limitation</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time of day program is offered</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of park of program</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of restrooms</td>
<td>27.3%</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of safety/lighting</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Types of programs do not interest me or my family</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>None of the above</strong></td>
<td><strong>40.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>71</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

answered question 176
skipped question 20
### 16. Hale Park - (Division St. & Lincoln St.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site amenities such as picnic tables &amp; grills</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground equipment</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bathrooms</strong></td>
<td><strong>44.2%</strong></td>
<td><strong>73</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball courts</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answered question: 165
Skipped question: 31

### 17. Robinson Park - (State St. & Chapman St.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Site amenities such as picnic tables &amp; grills</td>
<td>30.6%</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground equipment</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bathrooms</strong></td>
<td><strong>35.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball courts</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td><strong>41.4%</strong></td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answered question: 157
Skipped question: 39
### 18. Harper Park - (Cleveland St. & Bayard St.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site amenities such as picnic tables &amp; grills</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground equipment</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathrooms</td>
<td>37.9%</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball diamond</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- answered question: 161
- skipped question: 35

### 19. McConnell Park - (East Washington)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site amenities such as picnic tables &amp; grills</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground equipment</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathrooms</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of the above</td>
<td>39.4%</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- answered question: 160
- skipped question: 36
Appendix C
Opportunity for Public Comment - Recreation Plan: Since last fall a committee consisting of residents Paul Frost, Matt Johnson, Kimberly Paton, Scott Swinehart and Jeff Winters has been working with Parks and Recreation Director Matt Painter and planners from MainStreet Planning on updating the City's Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan. We thank the committee for their volunteerism and commitment in establishing the new plan which will guide the use of funding for recreation programming and parks improvement projects during the next five years. Prior to the proposed plan being forwarded to the City Council for consideration and adoption (it will be an action item on the Council's August 7, 2012 meeting agenda), the Committee is interested in your input regarding the draft plan. The plan is available for review on the homepage of the City's website – www.ci.ionia.mi.us or in printed form at City Hall and at the Parks and Recreation Offices in the Armory Community Center. Your comments should be directed to Matt Painter, Parks and Recreation Director, by August 3, 2012, either via e-mail at mpainter@ci.ionia.mi.us or via mail at 439 West Main Street, Ionia.

Fall Dump Your Junk Program: The City-wide Fall Dump Your Junk Day will be held on Saturday, September 29, 2012. Dumpsters will be available at the City's Public Works Garage, 303 South Jackson Street, from 8:00 to Noon. Materials NOT ACCEPTED include lead acid batteries, yard waste, hazardous waste, liquids of any kind, radioactive materials, barrels or drums which are not empty and crushed, compressed gas cylinders which are not empty and disabled, appliances containing Freon (unless a valid reclamation sticker is attached). Passenger car and light duty truck tires (with or without rims) will be taken. Fuel oil tanks are accepted but must be rinsed out and cut into pieces.

In conjunction with the Fall Dump Your Junk Program, Ionia County will hold its Hazardous Household Waste Collection Program. Items accepted include home dyes, printer cartridges, aerosols, batteries, pesticides, weed killer, stains, paints, solvents, etc. Further information is available at the County's website at www.ioniacounty.org or by contacting the Ionia County Conservation District at 527-2620 extension 101.

Fall Brush Removal Program: The City fall brush pick up program will occur during the week of September 10, 2012. All brush must be placed by the streetside by 7:00 AM, Monday, September 10, 2012 since streets will be covered one time only. The purpose of this program is to remove brush from routine lawn maintenance and not to remove brush associated with tree removal. Brush placed by the streetside may not be larger than 8” in diameter and not longer than 8’ long so that it can be handled by removal equipment. Brush larger than 8” in size may be disposed of directly by the property owner at the City's composite site off Apple Tree Drive.

What's happening in your community?
A Quarterly Newsletter
Summer 2012

Yeomans Street/West Washington Street Improvements Underway

Work started on the Yeomans Street/West Washington Street improvement project on June 18. As part of the $1.1 million project, Yeomans Street and West Washington Street (west of Yeomans Street) will be reconstructed. This includes the removal and replacement of municipal water and sanitary sewer mains, new service lines to the residences, and removal and replacement of the concrete curb, sidewalk, driveway approaches and street surface. The project is expected to be completed in early November. During construction, the streets are closed to all thru traffic. Motorists that usually travel Yeomans Street are strongly encouraged to avoid this area by following the posted detour route sign. As part of the project, a large storm sewer main is being replaced at the Yeomans Street/West Main Street intersection. This work has resulted in the closure of West Main Street at this location with West Main Street to remain closed until approximately July 13.

Utility Rate Information: As part of adopting the City's Fiscal Year 2012-2013 budget, the City Council approved increases in water and sewer utility rates. The increases are necessary to off-set the general cost of operation of the utility systems including chemicals, utilities and routine maintenance and to cover capital improvements to the systems such as replacing sanitary sewer collection and water system distribution mains under Lafayette Street and Yeomans Street. The following rates will be implemented as part of the July 2012 utility bill:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commodity Charge</th>
<th>Facilities Maintenance Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water $2.45/1,000 Gallons</td>
<td>$18.75/REU/Quarter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer $3.75/1,000 Gallons</td>
<td>$41.00/REU/Quarter</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The commodity charge is the cost of providing the water and sewer service to the customer. The facilities maintenance charge covers the cost of outstanding debt for water supply and sanitary sewer system capital improvements.
Summer Property Tax Deferments: State law provides for eligible property owners to defer payment of their summer property taxes if a deferment is filed by September 15, 2012. A valid deferment permits summer property taxes to be paid by February 14, 2013, without penalty/interest. An eligible property owner is one who meets the following criteria:

- Has a total gross household income of $40,000 or less for the preceding tax year, AND
- Is totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, hemiplegic, quadriplegic, OR
- Is an eligible serviceperson, eligible veteran, or eligible widow or widower, OR
- Is at least 62 years of age.

If you believe you are an eligible property owner and would like to defer your summer property taxes, visit or call City Hall at (527-4170) for additional information.

Dial-A-Ride Fare Adjustments: Due to increases in fuel costs coupled with decreases in state and federal aid that assist the City in off-setting the cost of delivering public transportation services, passenger fares will increase effective July 1, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ridership Category</th>
<th>Fare for One-Way Trip</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult Riders</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors/Young Children</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parks and Recreation News: Free Zumba Classes: Join Missy Millard for free Zumba classes at Hale Park on July 11, August 1, and September 5. Classes start promptly at 6:00 PM on the basketball court. Alternate location in the case of wet weather - gymnasium of the Armory Community Center at 439 W. Main Street, Ionia.

2012 Elections: City Clerk Lynn Lafler reminds voters that there are two important elections later this year. The State’s Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 7 and the National General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 6. Please remember that when voting in the Primary Election, you may vote in one party section only; you may not “split your ballot.” If you vote in more than one party section, your partisan ballot will be rejected. During the November General Election, you may vote in more than one party section.

When voting you may notice new ballot marking instructions on the secrecy sleeve. Earlier this year Governor Snyder signed House Bill 4992 which became Public Act 128 of 2012. This act requires that ballot secrecy sleeves contain ballot marking instructions which will now appear on the front of the sleeve in a clear plastic pocket rather than printed on the ballot as in previous years.

Trash/Recycle Rate Adjustment: The trash and recycling service charges that appear on the quarterly utility bill will increase based on the contract with Granger. The following rates will be implemented as part of the July 2012 utility bill:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Quarterly Charge</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 Gallon Container</td>
<td>$19.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 Gallon Container</td>
<td>$20.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curbside Recycling</td>
<td>$9.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bag Tags (each)</td>
<td>$1.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free Fair Parade Route: The 2012 Ionia Free Fair parade will be held on Saturday, July 21, beginning at 11:00 AM. Although the parade route was changed the past two years due to highway construction projects, the parade route for 2012 will be the “regular” route which is Main Street west to Steele Street, Steele Street south to Brown Boulevard, Brown Boulevard west to the main entrance to the Free Fair grounds. Staging for the parade will begin at the Ionia Community Library on East Main Street and continue east utilizing Main Street and contiguous side streets.

Movies in the Park: Two more movies are scheduled for this year’s Movie in the Park series at Hale Park. “Journey 2” will be shown on Wednesday, July 11, and “Tin Tin” will be shown on Wednesday, August 8.

Remember your Lawn Chair!

Movies begin at dusk.
CITY OF IONIA | CITY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC
City of Ionia – 2012 Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The City of Ionia City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 7, 2012 at City Hall, 114 North Kidd Street, Ionia, for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed City of Ionia – 2012 Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan. If approved, the proposed plan replaces the 2003 Parks and Recreation Plan previously approved by the City Council. The purpose of the plan is to address all aspects of recreation programming and parks facilities development within the City during the next five years. The proposed plan may be viewed from the homepage of the City’s website at www.ci.ionia.mi.us or at the City’s Parks and Recreation Department Office in the Armory Community Center at 439 West Main Street during regular business hours.

Comments regarding the proposed plan may be offered at the Public Hearing or may be submitted to Jason Eppler, City Manager, 114 North Kidd Street, Ionia, Michigan 48846 or via e-mail at jepler@ci.ionia.mi.us prior to the Public Hearing.
CITY OF IONIA

City Council

NOTICE OF PUBLIC
City of Ionia – 2012 Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan

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Comments regarding the proposed plan may be offered at the Public Hearing or may be submitted to Jason Eppler, City Manager, 114 North Kidd Street, Ionia, Michigan 48846 or via e-mail at jeppler@ci.iona.mi.us prior to the Public Hearing.
Primary Election August 7, 2012 Poll Opens 7am
Voters will see some changes from Read on...

Primary Election Results
Polls close 8:00pm, 8/7/12. When all Read on...

City Council - Public Hearing - Recreation Plan:
The City Council will conduct a Public Read on...

City Council Public Hearing - Fireworks Ordinance:
The City Council will hold a Public Read on...
You are here: Home > News Flash

Home

Posted on: July 16, 2012

City Council - Public Hearing - Recreation Plan:

The City Council will conduct a Public Hearing at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, August 7th at City Hall for the purpose of receiving public comments regarding the proposed 2012 Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan. Click on the hyperlink below to review the plan:

Recreation Plan

< Previous: Primary Election Results, Next: City Council Public Hearing - Fireworks Ordinance >

Other News in Home

Primary Election August 7, 2012 Poll Opens 7am
Posted on: July 19, 2012

Primary Election Results
Posted on: August 7, 2012

City Council Public Hearing - Fireworks Ordinance:
Posted on: July 11, 2012

114 N. Kold St. - Ionia, MI 48846 • Ph: (616) 527-4170 • Fax: (616) 527-0810
Home • Accessibility • Powered by CityPulse • Copyright Notices
A. Call to Order

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call
   Councilmembers Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Paton, Patrick, Millard, Cowling-Cronk, Johnson and Mayor Balice

D. Public Hearing
   Public Hearing #1: A Public Hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance No. 495 regarding Fireworks.
   Public Hearing #2: A Public Hearing to receive comments on the proposed City of Ionia – 2012 Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

E. Public Comments

F. Approval of Minutes
   July 10, 2012 Regular Council Meeting

G. Old Business
   1. Approve – Second Reading and Adoption – Ordinance No. 495 - Fireworks

H. New Business
   1. Approve – City of Ionia – 2012 Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan
   2. Approve – Extension of Engineering Services Agreement – Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber
   4. Approve – Purchase of Brush Truck Chassis – Public Safety Department
   5. Confirm – Selection of Robin Marhofer as Delegate to MERS Annual Meeting

I. City Councilmember Comments
   Accounts Payable – August 9, 2012 – Patrick and/or Milewski
   August 23, 2012 – Kelley and/or Winters
   September 6, 2012 – Paton and/or Johnson

J. Adjournment

Public Participation

Section 3.02 of the City Council’s Rules of Order and Conduct for City Council Meetings dated December 30, 2008 provides an opportunity for the public to address Council during the Public Comment section identified on the agenda. Your opportunity to speak occurs after you have been recognized by the Mayor. When addressing the City Council please give your name and address. Comments are limited to 5 minutes unless additional time (up to 10 minutes) is granted by the Mayor.
CALL TO ORDER
Deputy Mayor Kim Patrick called the regular meeting of the City Council to order and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL
Roll call revealed Councilmembers John Milewski, Jeff Winters, Gordon Kelley, Kim Patrick, Tom Millard, Brenda Cowling-Cronk, Matt Johnson, and Mayor Balice (arrived at 7:10 pm) present. Ted Paton was excused.

Staff present included Robin Marhofer, Chris Kenyon, Linda Curtis, Troy Thomas, Matt Painter and Jason Eppler.

PUBLIC HEARING
Deputy Mayor Patrick opened the Public Hearing to receive comments on proposed Ordinance No. 495 regarding Fireworks and the proposed City of Ionia – 2012 Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

No comments were received.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
There were no public comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
It was moved by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Millard to approve the July 10, 2012 regular council meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Patrick, Millard, Cowling-Cronk and Johnson.
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS
Approve – Second Reading and Adoption – Ordinance No. 495 – Fireworks
The City Manager reported that at the July 10, 2012 meeting, Council reviewed proposed Ordinance No. 495 which, if approved, incorporates into the City Code certain standards for the use of fireworks in the City. At that meeting Council approved the ordinance on first
reading and scheduled the Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance for this meeting. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the Sunday, July 15, 2012 edition of the *Sentinel-Standard Weekender*. The City Manager also stated that to date no comments on the proposed ordinance were received.

It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to remove from the table the matter of Ordinance No. 495 regarding fireworks and permit the record of the August 7, 2012 meeting to reflect the second reading and adoption of the ordinance with the ordinance to become effective upon publication in the Sunday, August 12, 2012 edition of the *Sentinel-Standard Weekender*.

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF IONIA BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER WHICH NEW CHAPTER SHALL BE DESIGNATED AS CHAPTER 692 OF SAID CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING FIREWORKS**

**THE CITY OF IONIA HEREBY ORDAINS:**

**PART SIX – GENERAL OFFENSES CODE**

*Chapter 692 FIREWORKS*

A new Chapter 692 is added to the City of Ionia Code of Ordinances entitled Fireworks as follows:

**692.01 DEFINITIONS.**

(a) “Consumer Fireworks” shall mean fireworks devices that are designed to produce visible effects by combustion, that are required to comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations promulgated by the United States consumer product safety commission under 16 CFR parts 1500 and 1507. Consumer fireworks does not include low-impact fireworks.

(b) “Firework” or “Fireworks” shall mean any composition or device, except for a starting pistol, a flare gun, or a flare, designed for the purpose of producing a visible or audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation.

(c) “Low-impact Fireworks” shall mean ground and handheld sparkling devices.

(d) “Minor” shall mean an individual who is less than 18 years of age.

**692.02 GOVERNANCE.**

The sale, discharge, storage, transportation and distribution of fireworks in the City of Ionia shall be governed by the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, Act 256 of 211.

**692.03 USE OF LOW IMPACT FIREWORKS.**

The use of low impact fireworks shall be permitted year-round.
692.04 USE OF CONSUMER FIREWORKS.
Consumer fireworks use in the City of Ionia is limited to the day before, the day of, and the day after, a federal holiday, contingent on the following:

(a) Fireworks shall not be sold to a minor.

(b) A minor shall not use, possess, explode or cause to explode any fireworks, as defined herein, within the City.

(c) A minor shall not buy, purchase, acquire or obtain any fireworks, as defined herein, within the City.

(d) A person shall not ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks upon another person’s property or within 15 feet of another person’s property without such property owner’s permission. No person shall ignite, discharge, or use consumer fireworks on public property, public street or public right-of-way, school property, or church property without permission. A person shall not ignite, discharge or use consumer fireworks closer than 10 feet from any building or structure on his or her property and on adjoining properties.

(e) For purposes of this Chapter, federal holidays are: New Year’s Day, Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington’s Birthday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

692.05 USE OF FIREWORKS UNDER THE INFLUENCE.
No person shall use consumer fireworks or low-impact fireworks while under the influence of alcoholic liquor, a controlled substance, or a combination of alcoholic liquor and a controlled substance, as the terms are defined in the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code, Act 300 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1949, as amended from time to time.

692.06 DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION; SEIZURE.
If a Public Safety Officer determines that a violation of this Chapter has occurred, the officer may seize the consumer fireworks as evidence of the violation. Following final disposition of a finding of responsibility for violating this Chapter, the City may dispose of or destroy any consumer fireworks retained as evidence in that prosecution.

692.99 PENALTY.
Persons who violate a provision of this Chapter or fail to comply with any of the requirements thereof, shall be guilty of a civil infraction and subject to the fines set forth in Section 202.99(b) of the City of Ionia Code of Ordinances.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Patrick, Millard Cowling-Cronk, Johnson, Milewski Winters and Balice.
Nays: Kelley
MOTION CARRIED
NEW BUSINESS
Approve – City of Ionia – 2012 Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan

The City Manager reported that last August, Council approved the appointment of an Ad-Hoc Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee consisting of Paul Frost, Kim Paton, Matt Johnson, Scott Swinehart and Jeff Winteres to oversee the process of updating the City’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The current plan expired in 2008. The City Manager also stated that an up to date plan is a pre-requisite for applying for recreation grants through the MDNR. As the Planning Commission worked to update the City’s land use plan, the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee worked in tandem with Main Street Planning to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The result of the effort of the committee was presented to Council in the form of the “City of Ionia Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan”. The City Manager reported that both the format and content of the plan are consistent with the requirements established by the MDNR. The MDNR requires that the public be provided an opportunity to offer comment regarding the plan for a minimum of 30 days. The public comment period began on July 1st when the plan was placed on the City’s website and notice of the public comment period placed both on-line and in the City’s quarterly newsletter. Additionally, the MDNR requires that a Public Hearing on the proposed plan be held by the legislative body prior to adopting the plan and the notice was published in the July 22nd edition of the Sentinel-Standard Weekender.

Parks and Recreation Director Matt Painter, in conjunction with Jan Johnson from Main Street Planning provided a power point presentation to Council which offered highlights of the plan.

Council held a brief discussion about the possibility of levying a millage to financially support some of the recommendations included in the plan. Councilmember Johnson asked that staff prioritize some of the projects and share this list with Council at the September meeting.

It was moved by Councilmember Johnson, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve a prepared Resolution adopting the City of Ionia Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia has undertaken the development of a Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the City of Ionia physical features and existing parks and recreation facilities and open spaces, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain these facilities during the period between 2012 and 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia has developed the Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to adopt the Plan as a document to assist in meeting the needs of the community for parks, recreation and open space; and,

WHEREAS, the public has had an opportunity to comment on the proposed plan, express opinions and ask questions through both a thirty day public comment period as well as during the Public Hearing held by the City Council at its August 7, 2012 regular meeting; and,
WHEREAS, both the Ad-Hoc Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission have recommended that the City Council adopt the Plan, the Planning Commission having taken action at its July 11, 2012 regular meeting; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ionia City Council hereby adopts the City of Ionia Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan 2012-2017 as a guideline for improving the parks system and recreation opportunities for the residents of the City of Ionia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the City Manager to submit the Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Millard, Cowling-Cronk, Johnson, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Patrick and Balice.
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

Approve – Extension of General Engineering Services Agreement – FTCH
The City Manager reported that Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber (FTCH) currently serves as the City’s engineer of record. In this position City staff periodically calls upon FTCH to provide advice on engineering matters ranging from site plan reviews to offering recommendations for resolving a drainage problem on a street. FTCH’s performance in this role is governed by the General Engineering Services Agreement dated December 13, 2002, as amended. The City contracts separately with FTCH, or other engineering firms, on a project to project basis for larger improvements the City undertakes.

It is necessary to amend the General Engineering Services Agreement with FTCH to incorporate their new rate schedule.

It was moved by Councilmember, Millard seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the amendment to the General Engineering Services Agreement between the City and Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr and Huber which incorporates the rate schedule dated June 9, 2012 and authorize the City Manager to sign the amendment on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Cowling-Cronk, Johnson, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Patrick, Millard and Balice.
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

Approve – City of Ionia/Ionia Public Schools – Dial-A-Ride Contract
The City Manager reported that since 1989, the City, through Dial-A-Ride, has provided transportation services to the Ionia Public School System. Under the contract, Dial-A-Ride transports students as directed by the School System. In exchange for transporting the students, the School System pays the City $50.00 per vehicle hour and $2.00 per special needs or other students transported. The rate is consistent with the amount charged during FY11-12 which remains adequate to cover the City’s expenses associated with delivering the service. The City Manager also reported that the School Board approved the contract as written at its July 16th meeting.
It was moved by Councilmember Winters, seconded by Councilmember Johnson to approve the Transportation Contract between the City of Ionia Dial-A-Ride and Ionia Public School System for the term September 4, 2012 to June 30, 2013 and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Paton, Patrick, Millard, Cowling-Cronk and Balice.
Nays: None.
MOTION CARRIED

Approve – Purchase of Brush Truck Chassis – Public Safety Department
The City Manager reported that the FY12-13 Public Safety Replacement Fund budget includes $50,000 to replace Squad #4 (grass/brush truck). Squad #4 is a 1993 and is equipped with a 200 gallon water tank and associated portable equipment. The replacement of this truck was identified as the City’s second priority in the Strategic Plan for Fire Apparatus Replacement approved by Council in 2009. The City Manager stated that replacing Engine #4 was identified as the first priority in the report and this was achieved last year. As with the 1993 truck, staff has determined that the most cost effective way to procure the new Squad #4 is to purchase the truck chassis and then bid the conversion/equipping of the chassis with the tank and firefighting equipment (similar to how we purchase our DPW dump/plow trucks). The City Manager reported that bid specifications for the conversion/equipping of the chassis have been prepared with bids due on August 16th. Accepting a bid will be on the Council’s September 4th meeting agenda.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Winters to authorize the City Manager to purchase one 2012 Ford F-350 Crew Cab Truck from Betten Ford, Grand Rapids, for $25,951.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Patrick, Millard, Cowling-Cronk and Balice
Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED

Confirm –Selection of Robin Marhofer as Officer Delegate to MERS Annual Meeting
The City Manager reported that the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) annual meeting will be held in October in Grand Rapids. The City Manager stated that Robin Marhofer will be attending and would like to be designated as the City’s “officer delegate” to the meeting. Being recognized as a delegate permits her to participate in discussions regarding MERS policy matters as well as vote on agenda items placed before delegates.

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Winters to select Robin Marhofer as the officer delegate to the 2012 Municipal Employees’ Retirement System (MERS) annual meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Patrick, Millard, Cowling-Cronk, Patrick and Balice.
Nays:
MOTION CARRIED
MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Balice: Stated that it appears the Ionia Free Fair had a very successful year and the preliminary finances look good. Also stated that the concessionaires appeared very happy.

Johnson: Stated that the Ionia Free Fair was fantastic and is a nice community show case.

Millard: Also stated that the Ionia Free Fair went very well with a variety of events and a good carnival.

Patrick: Also stated that the Ionia Free Fair went very well. Commented that the Citizen Patriot bins located throughout the City were for a profit organization and he had concerns with the donations going outside of the community and not being utilized by the local churches.

Kelley: Inquired if the City has a template for the Parks Restroom Plan. Also inquired if there was any consideration given to having a permanent Parks and Recreation Commission that would oversee the Parks and Recreation 5 Year Plan.

Milewski: Stated that the Ionia Free Fair went very well. Complemented Public Safety Officers for their demeanor during a first responder incident on Lafayette Street.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Patrick, seconded by Councilmember Millard to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lynn Lafler, Clerk
A RESOLUTION BY THE RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF IONIA ADOPTING THE CITY OF IONIA FIVE-YEAR COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN COVERING 2012 TO 2017

At a regular meeting of the City of Ionia Recreation Advisory Committee July 24th, 2012, the following resolution was offered by Paton and seconded by Frost:

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia has undertaken the development of a Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the City of Ionia physical features and existing parks and recreation facilities and open spaces, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain these facilities during the period between 2012 and 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to adopt the plan as a document to assist in meeting the needs of the community for parks, recreation and open space; and,

WHEREAS, the public has had an opportunity to comment on the proposed plan, express opinions and ask questions through a thirty day public comment period,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ionia Recreation Advisory Committee recommends the City of Ionia Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan 2012-2017 be adopted by the City of Ionia City Council.
A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF IONIA PLANNING COMMISSION REGARDING THE FIVE-YEAR COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

At a Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, the following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Evonne Ulmer and second by Commissioner Chris Young:

RESOLVED to recommend to the City Council that the proposed City of Ionia Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan (2012-2017) be adopted as presented.

YES: Commissioners Dave Cook, Boomer Hoppough, Mark Jennings, Gordon Kelley, Tim Lee, Evonne Ulmer and Chris Young

NO: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINING: None

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution is a true, accurate and correct copy of a Resolution duly resolved by the City of Ionia Planning Commission at a Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012.

Jason Eppler, Recording Secretary
Date: August 8, 2012
CITY OF IONIA

CITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IONIA ADOPTING THE CITY OF IONIA FIVE-YEAR COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN COVERING 2012 TO 2017

At a Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia City Council held on Tuesday, August 7, 2012, the following Resolution was offered by Councilmember Johnson seconded by Councilmember Winters:

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia has undertaken the development of a Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan which describes the City of Ionia physical features and existing parks and recreation facilities and open spaces, and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain these facilities during the period between 2012 and 2017; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Ionia has developed the Plan for the benefit of the entire community and wishes to adopt the Plan as a document to assist in meeting the needs of the community for parks, recreation and open space; and,

WHEREAS, the public has had an opportunity to comment on the proposed plan, express opinions and ask questions through both a thirty day public comment period as well as during the Public Hearing held by the City Council at its August 7, 2012 regular meeting; and,

WHEREAS, both the Ad-Hoc Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee and the Planning Commission have recommended that the City Council adopt the Plan, the Planning Commission having taken action at its July 11, 2012 regular meeting; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Ionia City Council hereby adopts the City of Ionia Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan 2012-2017 as a guideline for improving the parks system and recreation opportunities for the residents of the City of Ionia.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council directs the City Manager to submit the Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

YES: Councilmembers Cowling-Cronk, Johnson, Kelley, Milewski, Millard, Patrick, Winters and Mayor Balice

NO: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Paton

ABSTAINING: None

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution is a true, accurate and correct copy of a Resolution duly resolved by the City of Ionia Planning Commission at a Regular Meeting held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012.

Lynn E. Lafler, City Clerk
Date: August 8, 2012
August 9, 2012

Ms. Stephanie Hurlbut, Administrator
Ionia County
100 West Main Street
Ionia, Michigan 48846

RE: City of Ionia Five-Year Community Recreation Plan

Dear Stephanie,

Enclosed please find one copy of the City of Ionia Five-Year Community Recreation Plan (2012-2017) as adopted by the Ionia City Council.

Should you have any questions, please feel free contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

[Signature]
Jason Eppler
City Manager
August 9, 2012

Mr. Dave Bee, Director
West Michigan Regional Planning Commission
820 Monroe Avenue, NW, Suite 214
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

RE:  City of Ionia Five-Year Community Recreation Plan

Dear Dave,

Enclosed please find one copy of the City of Ionia Five-Year Community Recreation Plan (2012-2017) as adopted by the Ionia City Council. This copy is being sent to you as required by the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

[Signature]
Jason Eppler
City Manager
August 9, 2012

Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Grants Management
Post Office Box 30425
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7925

RE: City of Ionia Five-Year Community Recreation Plan

Enclosed please find one copy of the City of Ionia Five-Year Community Recreation Plan (2012-2017) as adopted by the Ionia City Council.

Should you have any questions, please feel free contact me.

Sincerely Yours,

Jason Eppler
City Manager
**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

### PLAN INFORMATION

**Name of Plan:**
City of Ionia Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Ionia</td>
<td>Ionia</td>
<td>August, 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PLAN CONTENT

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

- [x] 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION
- [x] 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE
  - [x] Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
  - [x] Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
    - Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation
  - [x] Programming
  - [x] Current Funding Sources
  - [x] Role of Volunteers
  - [x] Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations
    - Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only
      - Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of
  - [x] Participating Communities
  - [x] Articles of Incorporation
- [x] 3. RECREATION INVENTORY
  - [x] Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
  - [x] Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
  - [x] Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
  - [x] Accessibility Assessment
  - [x] Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
- [x] 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)
- [x] 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS
6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

- Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
  Date of the Notice: July 1, 2012
  Type of Notice: City of Ionia Resident Newsletter & City website
  Plan Location: City Hall, Armory Community Center, City website
  Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at least 30 Days): July 1-August 7, 2012
- Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan’s Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)
  Date of Notice: July 22, 2012
  Name of Newspaper: Ionia Sentinel-Standard Weekender
  Date of Meeting: August 7, 2012
- Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

8. ACTION PROGRAM

### PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

Plans **must** be adopted by the highest level governing body (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board, or other local Board or Commission, the plan should **also** include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are **required** and must be included in the plan.

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- **1.** Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: August 8, 2012
- **2.** Official resolution of the Recreation Advisory Committee Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: July 24, 2012
- **3.** Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: August 9, 2012
- **4.** Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: August 9, 2012

### OVERALL CERTIFICATION

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

The City of Ionia, Ionia County, Michigan includes the required content, as indicated

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

[Signature]

Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government

Date: 8.30.12

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

**GRANTS MANAGEMENT**
**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**
PO BOX 30425
LANSING, MI 48909-7925

**DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community(ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

[Date]

By:

Grants Management

[Date]
Appendix D
Steele Street Corridor Study
City of Ionia

City of Ionia
Proposed Non-Motorized Bridge
Over Dexter Street (M-66)

Existing Fred Thwaites.
Grand River Trail

Proposed Bike Path
Along Steele Street

Proposed Commercial PUD

Proposed Attached Multi-Family Residential Village or Mixed Use Live-Work PUD

Proposed Special Events Gathering Plaza

Proposed Commercial PUD With Preserved Green Space Frontage Along Dexter Street

Proposed Three-Acre Pond With Outdoor Theatre, Ice Skating Trail and Preserved Natural Areas

Proposed Site Redevelopment Into Condominiums, Commercial or 540 Art Exhibit (See Image)

Proposed Trailhead Park With 3,000 SF Building, Open Space, 48-Car Parking, Children’s Play Area, Water Park and Vintage Caboose

Proposed South Expansion Forming Gateway Entrance Along Steele Street

Proposed Downtown Expansion

Proposed Trail With 1-Mile, 2-Mile and 3-Mile Loops

Proposed Civic Recreation Area with Farmer’s Market, Urban Plaza, Indoor Soccer/Ice Arena Building, Trailside Commercial and Parking

Proposed Civic Recreation Area with Historic Baseball Field, Seven Soccer Fields, Four 1-Ball Fields, Three Softball Fields, A Children’s Play Area and Restrooms

Proposed Fred Meyer Grand River Trail (Linear Park). This intersection of trails offers a dramatic view north to the Ionia Courthouse.

Gran Elevator Reuse Concept

MAY 2012

RJM Design
Land/Planning Landscape/Architecture