

**Fremont Area Parks & Recreation
5-Year Master Plan
2020-2024**

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Community Description

Recreation Committee

For purposes of this plan, the Fremont Area Community includes the government jurisdictions of the City of Fremont, Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township. The three units understand and realize that, especially in regard to the provision of recreation, they function best as a single community. In 2000, they joined forces to produce the first Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan, sharing their vision to create an area-wide recreation plan that would enable the communities to provide recreational opportunities for their residents in the most efficient, effective and fiscally responsible manner.

The process of developing the first Recreation Master Plan was coordinated by the Recreation Advisory Committee originally created in 2000. Today, this committee is still comprised of representatives from the City of Fremont, Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township, plus representation from the Fremont Community Recreation Authority that was established in 2013. Recreation Authority representation was asked to serve on the Committee because they represent a diverse cross-section of community interests and have played an active role in recreational activities in the community throughout the past few years.

The Committee’s recent primary responsibility was to oversee the task of preparing and recommending an updated Recreation Master Plan for the Fremont Community. The Committee met throughout this renewal process and more specifically with each jurisdiction during their public hearings.

Location

The City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township and Dayton Township are located in southwest Newaygo County (see map below). The Fremont Area is approximately 30 miles northeast of the City of Muskegon and 45 miles north of the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. The northeast portion of the Fremont Area borders the City of White Cloud, the geographical center of Newaygo County. The Fremont Area is served by M-82/West 48th Street, which traverses all three jurisdictions and ties into M-120 and M-37.

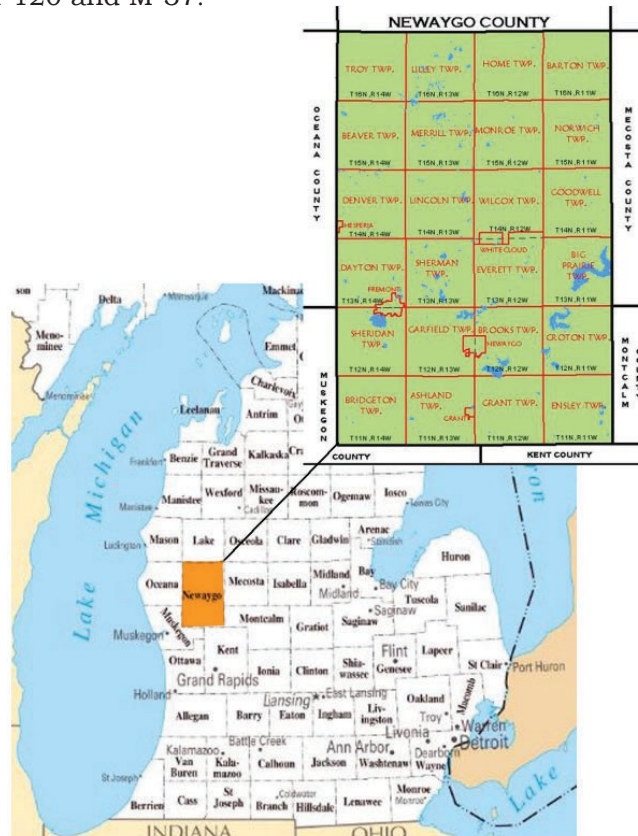


Figure 1: Location Map

Population Trends

Population data from 2012 through 2020 was gathered to establish the trends in population growth and decline within the jurisdictions of the Fremont Area. As data below indicates, from 2012-2020, the overall Fremont Area (including the City of Fremont, Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township) experienced a decline, with Dayton Township decreasing by approximately 21%, the City of Fremont decreasing by approximately 1%, and Sheridan Charter Township experiencing a more moderate 20% overall population increase. The Chart below shows the detail of that estimated growth from 2012-2020.

Population Trends

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Dayton Township	2,253	2,202	2,061	2,095	2,034	1,949	1,893	1,837	1,781
Sheridan Charter	2,504	2,609	2,679	2,538	2,671	2,814	2,879	2,944	3,009
City of Fremont	4,100	4,077	4,065	4,051	4,038	4,081	4,078	4,075	4,072

Population Age

As was previously stated, analyzing the breakdown of the population in a community in terms of age can assist in determining current and future needs for recreation. In this analysis, five divisions of the life-cycle are delineated below:

1. Preschool (Less than five years of age)
2. School (5 to 20 years)
3. Family Formation (21 to 44 years)
4. Empty Nest (45 to 64 years)
5. Senior (65 to 74 years)

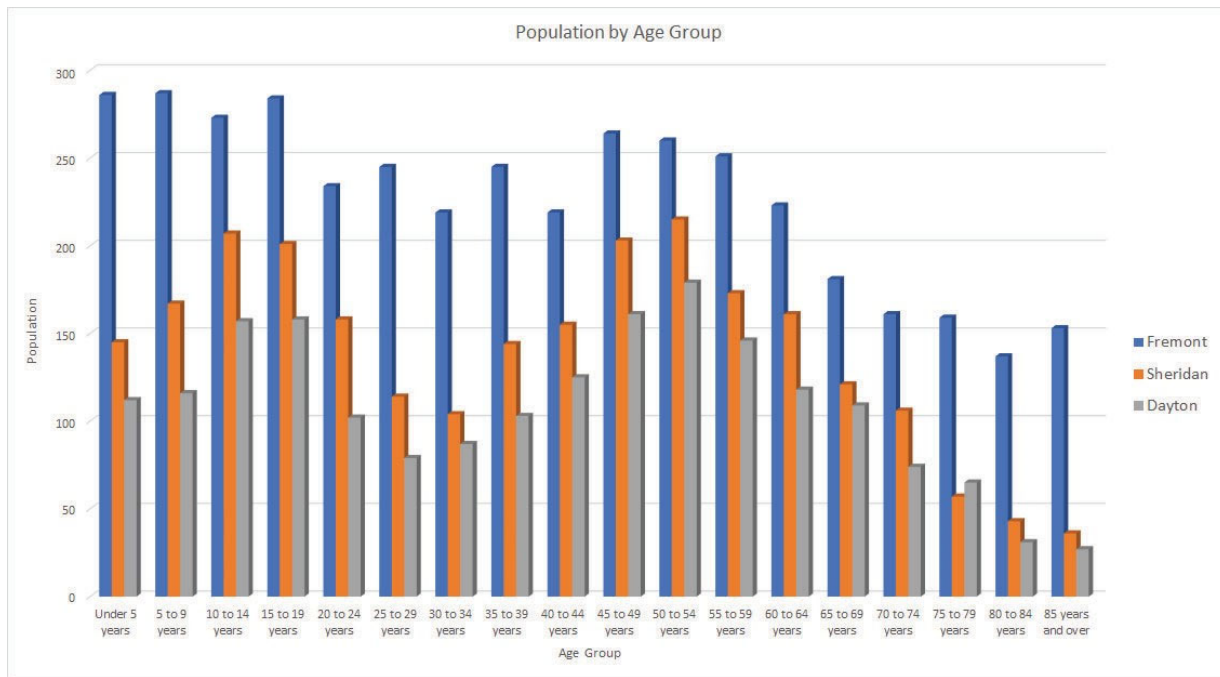


Figure 2: Population and age

Senior Citizens

Senior Citizens make up 20% of the three communities' residents 60 years or older, leading to a relatively higher demand for senior citizen activities and programs. In the past, senior citizen recreation programs were limited, but have more recently expanded at the Recreation Center. Many aspects of the parks are accessible to seniors, and popular events like Fremont's concerts in the park also help fill the recreational needs of that demographic.

Disability

Analyzing the disability status of a community can assist decision makers with facility development and programming issues such as accessibility, as well as the type and location of recreation facilities. The following tables illustrate the disability status of the population of the entire Fremont Area and the specific types of disabilities by percentage. This analysis should be referenced when making decisions regarding the type and locations of recreational facilities and programs. It is the goal of the community to design with the full range of human abilities in mind. The total percentage of citizens classified as disabled is slightly higher than the U.S. average. It is clear that in any case, design that incorporates accessible features into recreation opportunities is preferable.

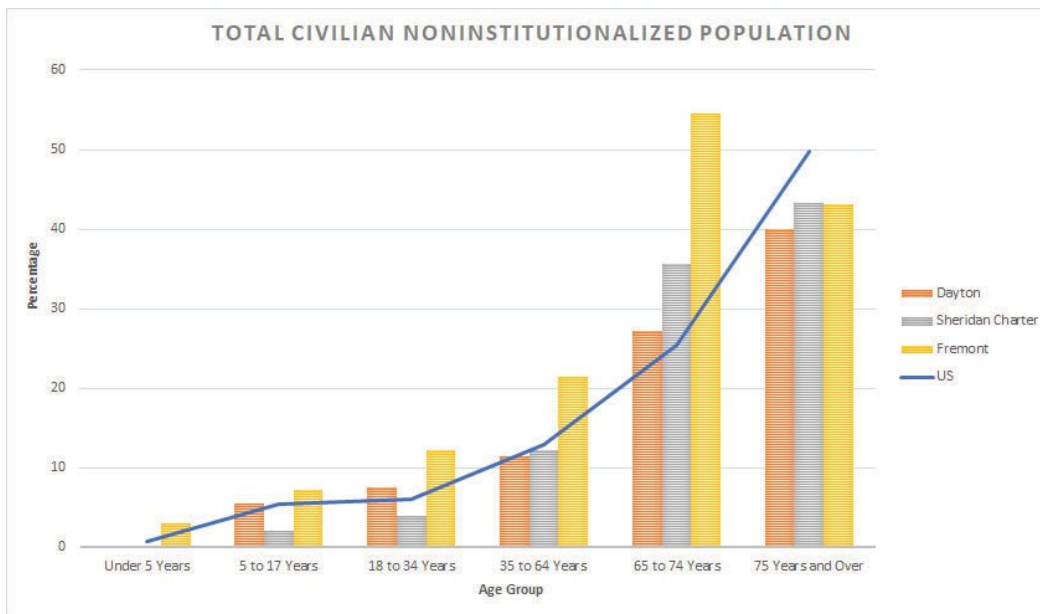


Figure 3: Non-Institutionalized Population

Figure 3 compares the age distribution of disabled individuals in the three communities versus the US. It is shown that collectively, the community has a larger percentage of 5-75-year-olds with disabilities than the national average. The highest percentage of disabled individuals is 65-74, which is well above the national average. It becomes especially critical to provide opportunities for this demographic in any future design project.

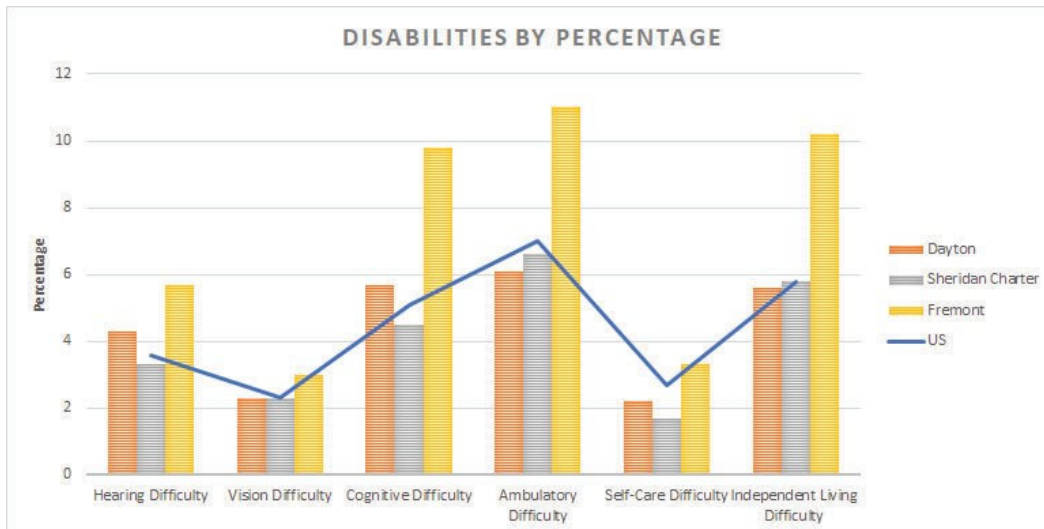


Figure 4: Type of Disability

Figure 4 shows an estimate from the US Census exploring the distribution of different types of disabilities within the three jurisdictions as compared to the US. The largest group within the community and the US are those with Ambulatory disabilities, making the ease of navigating the parks a high priority. Whether this Ambulatory disability requires a wheelchair or careful, easy foot placement, the circulation systems within the parks should be evaluated and streamlined wherever possible.

Creative recreation opportunities should be developed to involve all disabled individuals. The percentage of individuals with Cognitive disabilities is significantly higher within Fremont and Dayton than the US. The community may choose to apply special focus on additional improvements and developments in a way that facilitates use by those with differing mental and physical capabilities.

Administrative Structure

Roles of Commissions and Advisory Boards

Public Act 156 of 1917, entitled Local Government Operating Systems of Public Recreation, authorizes cities, villages, counties, townships, and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds.

Section 1: Any City, Village, County, or Township may:

1. Operate a system of public recreation and playgrounds;
2. Acquire, equip and maintain land, buildings or other recreational facilities;
3. Employ a superintendent of recreation, and assistants; and,
4. Vote and expend funds for the operation of such a system.

Members of the Advisory Committee represented a diverse cross-section of the Fremont Area population and have also exhibited interest and dedication in Fremont Recreation over the years. The Advisory Committee met several times throughout the planning process and served as a sounding board, citizen voice and recommending body to the City Council and Township Boards and currently consists of the following citizens:

Dayton Township

Peter Lance, Planning/Zoning Administrator

Brian Frens, Twp Supervisor

City of Fremont

Todd Blake, City

Manager/Finance Director

Brian Hettinger, City DPW

Superintendent

Sheridan Charter Township

Bryan Kolk, resident

Jerry Dougan, Twp. Supervisor

Fremont Community Recreation Authority (FCRA)

Dawn Finch, resident

City of Fremont

All parks within Fremont are available to the general public, regardless of residency. While the City of Fremont does not have an organized Recreational Programming Department, there are several positions within city government that are responsible for maintenance of public parks and making planning and improvement decisions. The following personnel are involved with parks and recreation in the City.

City Manager

The City Manager works directly under the City Council and supervises all department heads and indirectly all other city employees. Operational duties include the initiation of planning and monitoring of operations to ensure quality services are provided in an efficient and timely manner. The City Manager is responsible for development of the annual budget, as well as dissemination and supervision of its application throughout the fiscal year. The Manager also develops the capital improvement schedule with the assistance of the Public Works Superintendent. The Manager recommends recreational policies and expenditures to the City Council and oversees all operations performed by his department heads and staff.

Public Works Superintendent

The Public Works Superintendent reports to the City Manager and directly supervises the Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor. The Superintendent performs administrative and supervisory tasks related to the operations of the City's parks, water/wastewater utilities, cemeteries, streets, airport and any other public works functions. The Superintendent implements public works capital projects and establishes departmental operating policies and priorities.

Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor

The Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor reports to the Public Works Superintendent and supervises employees assigned to cemetery, parks and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) District. The Supervisor also develops recommendations for changes in policies and parks and cemetery expansions and/or development, and oversees and assists with maintaining equipment and facilities including boat docks, picnic tables, park and playground structures, foot bridges, amphitheater, fountains, mowers, tractors, etc. The Supervisor also coordinates the set-up and breakdown of temporary shelters, staging and seating associated with festivals and other public events and ensures proper clean up after those events.

Public Works Laborer

This position is under direct supervision of the Public Works Superintendent and Supervisors and performs a wide range of semi-skilled tasks supporting public works operations throughout the City. More specifically to parks, this position is responsible for mowing, maintaining, repairing, pruning, etc. at the City parks.

Sheridan Charter Township

All park and recreation areas in Sherdian Charter Township are directly overseen by the Township Board, as the Township has no public works department or officials.

Sheridan Charter Township has several recreational opportunities. Among those, however, is one of the few mountain-biking/BMX trails on this side of the state. The Refuge is a constructed path system that occupies nearly fifty acres of the larger non-motorized trail area located off of Osborn Avenue and 88th Street with a total park acreage of one hundred and sixty eight. It contains numerous ramps, jumps and other built features to enhance the experience of riders. The park also allows for other seasonal uses such as hiking or cross-country skiing, and for those nearby it offers a convenient venue for horse-back riding as well. Currently, parking is limited and there are no sanitary facilities available at the site. However, as part of a recent restoration and repair of the biking trail, there has been discussion regarding plans to expand the existing parking area for visitors.

Another recreational facility that sees much activity is the boat launch located on the south side of Fremont Lake. Co-located with the township hall, the launch area is a large graveled area with room for parking and maneuvering. It possesses a concrete launch ramp and a seasonal dock to assist in launching and recovering of boats. A portable toilet is available on site from spring through fall. At this time, there are no firm plans to improve the launching facility, but there has been discussion regarding upgrading the ramp and improving the dock as well sometime in the near future. The site, nearer the hall, contains a playground, one small grill, and picnic tables overlooking the lake. Plans being considered for this area include a pavilion with more tables across the roadway, and possibly several more grills there as well.

Lastly, the township contains some elements of the Fremont Community Town and Country Bike Path. Primarily, this includes a dedicated portion of 64th Street from the hall and on around Fremont Lake on Green Avenue and Lake Drive, which then connects to the City of Fremont's outlying portions of the Path. At this time there are no plans to construct further lengths of the Path in Sheridan Charter Township.

Dayton Township

Dayton Township does not own or operate any parks or recreational facilities. The Township is governed by the Township Board with administrative duties and everyday operations facilitated by the Township Supervisor. The Township also has a Clerk, Treasurer, Assessor and Planning/Zoning Officer.

Fremont Community Recreation Authority

FCRA plays an essential role in the provision of recreational opportunities to the Fremont Area residents as well. Within their recreation facility is a Community Education Department which operates and maintains:

- Public Indoor Swimming Pool (swimming lessons, water aerobics...)
- Public Gymnasium
- Recreation Enrichment Programs (Aerobics, Pickleball, Karate...)
- Fitness & Exercise Equipment
- Outdoor Pickleball Court System

Under the direction of the Rec Center Director, the Recreation Center offers, organizes and operates the various recreational activities provided to area residents. The relationship of the Recreation Authority and the three Fremont Area communities truly is an example of a coordinated partnership. Recreation Enrichment works very closely with the City and School to coordinate the use and maintenance of the various parks used for programming. The City of Fremont maintains all of the public parks including Branstrom Park, the northern portion of which is owned by the school district. The schools schedule and organize the recreation programs and activities such as soccer, baseball, etc., on school properties, with the exception of the use of the ball field at Branstrom Park. The City maintains Branstrom Field and the School maintains the various other fields on school properties, getting first priority on all the ball parks, so that Fremont Little League schedules their games accordingly.

Annual Budgets

City of Fremont

The table below details the expenditures from fiscal years 2015/16 through 2020/21 for recreation and culture. Expenditures within one of seven categories including salaries and wages, supplies and materials, professional and contractual services, utilities, equipment rental and repairs and maintenance. The total expenditures from the City of Fremont for recreation and culture have decreased, due to fewer construction projects. But annual operation & maintenance costs have steadily increased.

CITY OF FREMONT							
GENERAL FUND	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	----- 19/20 -----	20/21	
	Year	Year	Year	Year	Amended	Estimated	Year
EXPENDITURES (Cont.)	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Year End	Proposed
PARKS & RECREATION							
702.000 Salaries	61,445	60,241	57,285	67,991	63,160	63,160	64,739
715.000 Social Security Taxes	4,308	4,545	4,680	5,134	4,830	4,830	4,951
740.000 Supplies & Materials	5,696	11,357	9,399	14,912	10,000	10,000	10,000
801.000 Professional & Contracts	23,040	2,920	21,145	3,023	5,000	5,000	5,000
920.000 Utilities	33,809	35,097	37,293	42,213	44,000	44,000	45,320
930.000 Repair & Maintenance	6,030	9,201	6,540	4,847	8,000	8,000	8,000
940.000 Equipment Rental	12,505	12,968	12,090	12,995	13,000	13,000	13,000
999.000 Trans Out-Capital Projects	17,000	0	20,000	66,122	14,000	30,000	16,000
Total PARKS & REC	163,833	136,329	168,432	217,237	161,990	177,990	167,010

Sheridan Charter Township

Sheridan Charter Township funds the maintenance and operation of their township-owned facilities, such as the boat launching dock and portable toilet on the south side of Fremont Lake. The only other maintenance related to the facility is dust control measures and the placement of additional gravel in the boat launch parking lot as needed. The Township annually permits and helps fund a private firework display over Fremont Lake for the public during Independence Day festivities. The event is paid for with private donations and contributions from Sheridan Charter Township and City of Fremont.

Dayton Township

Dayton Township does not have any public park facilities under its jurisdiction and therefore has no operating costs, but they have consistently participated in cost-sharing initiatives with the City and Sheridan for public recreation projects benefiting the Fremont community.

Fremont Community Recreation Authority

The Rec Authority has had positive growth over the last three years, with 2019 ending in a positive fund balance.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
Unrestricted Net Position (Deficit)				
Jan 1st:	(47,952)	(32,544)	(21,446)	(11,623)
REVENUES				
Property Tax Millage (1/2 Mill) - approved 3/08/16	123,323	126,760	130,610	130,000
Class Fees	45,429	34,994	43,773	34,200
Memberships	39,239	20,421	13,679	15,000
Rentals - Facility Spaces	50,566	108,641	116,646	76,900
Contributions	17,932	23,771	89,115	0
Reimbursements - Misc	3,025	11,840	26,388	20,000
Product Sales	1,024	6,060	1,487	2,700
TOTAL Revenues	\$280,538	\$332,487	\$421,698	\$278,800
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries	146,417	153,814	127,979	113,954
Supplies	23,299	14,425	27,813	22,000
Professional & Cont. Services - Refs & Officials	12,952	18,769	14,159	23,000
General Liability/Property & Work Comp Insurance	8,686	8,519	9,354	11,500
Utilities	61,516	96,437	118,586	75,000
Repair & Maintenance	7,360	23,237	15,835	12,000
Lease - FPS Facility Rentals	1,599	906	188	1,000
Miscellaneous	3,301	5,104	9,133	4,600
Capital Outlay	0	0	89,702	0
TOTAL Expenditures	\$265,130	\$321,389	\$412,749	\$263,054
NET OF REVENUES & EXPENDITURES	\$15,408	\$11,098	\$8,949	\$15,746
Unrestricted Net Position (Deficit) Dec				
31st:	(32,544)	(21,446)	(11,623)	\$4,123

Current Funding Sources

Budget information for expenditures and revenues was gathered for the four primary entities involved in the Recreation Planning process: The City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Dayton Township and the Fremont Community Recreation Authority. The City of Fremont and the Fremont Community Recreation Authority are the two primary monetary contributors to recreation provided to area residents and there is no specific financial agreement established between the various parties.

But while each community may not directly contribute funding annually to the City or Recreation Authority, all residents in the area pay a 1/2 mill on their property taxes, which contributes to operation and maintenance of the Recreation Center serving the entire Fremont Community.

Fremont Community Recreation Authority (FCRA)

FCRA operates as the traditional 'Recreation Department' for the Fremont Area, whereas it owns and operates a Recreation Center. FCRA administers and organizes all of the recreation programs as well as helps schedule sports programs in coordination with the School. In general, the programs offered through Recreation Enrichment support themselves, whereas participant fees cover the expenses needed to operate a particular program. Revenue from the 1/2 mill property taxes subsidize costs for personnel that organize the Enrichment Programs, as well as the operation and maintenance costs of the Recreation Center pool, gymnasium and facility in general.

City of Fremont

The City of Fremont funds maintenance and operation of its parks system under the Public Works Department Budget. The Parks and Cemeteries Supervisor and related staff perform operation and maintenance functions for the public parks system. The City also contributes funding on a project- by-project basis for various community projects that may include the Townships, FCRA and School.

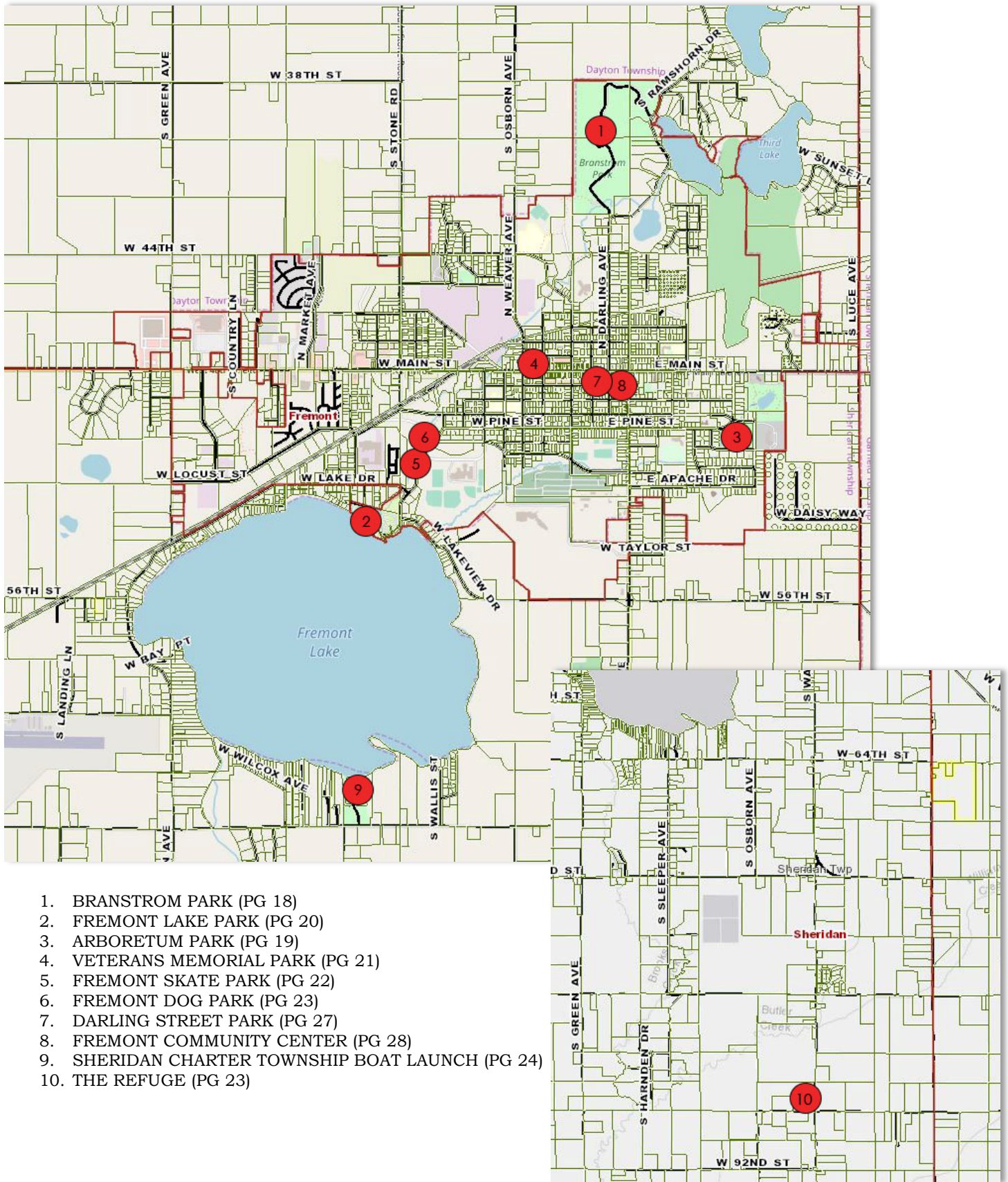
Recreation Inventory

Recreation facilities inventoried include those parks and facilities owned and operated by the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township and the Fremont Community Recreation Authority. Once the park inventory was complete, each public park and facility was categorized as either a neighborhood park or community park based on the following classification system for local and regional recreation open space developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association.

Methods

The recreation inventory began with a review of the 2012-2016 Fremont Area Recreation Master Plan, when all changes in the park system were recorded and updated. In 2019, a tour of all the park facilities was conducted, comparing the previous Plan's inventory to the existing park facilities, and the inventory was updated accordingly.

Location Map



1. BRANSTROM PARK (PG 18)
2. FREMONT LAKE PARK (PG 20)
3. ARBORETUM PARK (PG 19)
4. VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK (PG 21)
5. FREMONT SKATE PARK (PG 22)
6. FREMONT DOG PARK (PG 23)
7. DARLING STREET PARK (PG 27)
8. FREMONT COMMUNITY CENTER (PG 28)
9. SHERIDAN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOAT LAUNCH (PG 24)
10. THE REFUGE (PG 23)

Parks Inventory

The parks and recreation facilities were surveyed and classified into an inventory, which will be used as a basis for determining needs for specific recreational facilities within the area. The inventory has been broken down into multiple categories including regional, public, school and private facilities. This list was compiled using the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan, other City Resources and the recently adopted Newaygo County 2018-2022 Recreation Plan.

Regional Facilities

On a regional basis, recreation opportunities are also available outside of the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township and Dayton Township limits, some of which include:

Newaygo County Parks

There are various County parks offering recreational opportunities including:

Sandy Beach Campground

220 campsites on the backwaters of Hardy Pond near White Cloud

Henning Park Campground

60 campsites on the Muskegon River near Newaygo

Pettibone Lake Campground

16 campsites in northern Newaygo County near Bitely

Hardy Dam Marina

37 boat slips on the backwaters of Hardy Pond near White Cloud

Day-Use Parks (Four)

NC Winter Sports Park “John Grey’s Lodge”

Located on M-37, north of the City of Newaygo includes sledding hills and access to 84 miles of groomed snowmobile trails.

Camp Swampy

52 campsites, swimming area, beach volleyball, hiking trails, picnic area, boat rentals and boat launch on Diamond Lake, 6 miles northwest of White Cloud.

Huron-Manistee National Forest

There are over 108,000 acres of the Manistee National Forest in Newaygo County. The forests provide numerous recreational opportunities including camping, fishing, swimming, hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, motorcycling, ATV trails, snowmobiling, mushroom hunting, picnicking, hunting and canoeing.

Newaygo State Park

The Newaygo State Park is located at Beech and 32nd and offers picnicking, shelters, fishing, swimming, a bath house, boat ramp, campgrounds and hiking.

North Country National Scenic Trail

Newaygo County is the exact center of the 4,000-mile-long North Country National Scenic Trail which stretches from the Vermont/New York border through seven states onto the Lewis and Clark Trail, North Dakota. The trail traverses through many areas of Newaygo County including the Manistee National Forest. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the trail. Sponsored hikes are held throughout the year with several trail-heads located throughout Newaygo County. There is a “school house” owned by the North Country Trail, and located along 5 Mile Rd. It is a rent-able facility for trail travelers and the public.

True North (NCCS) Camp Newaygo and Wetland Trail

Camp Newaygo, owned by True North (formerly NCCS) is located not far from Fremont, north of Newaygo. The camp includes traditional summer programs such as resident camping, overnight camping for families and day camping for youth. True North is also collaborating with private groups, schools and others to offer training programs in professional development and recreation. The Camp is also home to a 1.25-mile boardwalk trail through an unusual bog to educate citizens about the importance of preserving natural areas and wetlands. The trail is the only one in Michigan to cross a sphagnum bog.

Camp Echo

Camp Echo is a YMCA camp located on Long Lake. The camp is operated by McGaw YMCA in Evanston Illinois. The camp includes several one to two-week summer programs for youth. Among other things the camp has several overnight cabins, beach access, a softball field, basketball courts, tennis courts, a volleyball court, horseback riding, bike trails, nature trails, a Frisbee golf course, ping-pong tables, an amphitheater and a craft center.

Newaygo County White Cloud Campground

The White Cloud Campground (formerly a state/city park) sits on 89 acres in the City of White adjacent to the White River. The campground can accommodate large groups and is equipped with showers, electric and sanitation hookups and an enclosed shelter with kitchen facilities.

Hardy Dam Rustic Nature Trail

The trail is a three-mile round trip along an unpaved trail over varying terrain. The trail parallels the Muskegon River.

Muskegon River

The Muskegon River flows through Newaygo County providing many unusual canoeing opportunities. Quiet water canoeing is available on the backwater of Croton and Hardy Dams and down river canoeing is accessible from below Croton Dam to Maple Island Road.

Dragon Tail

The Dragon at Hardy Pond is a non-motorized hiking and biking trail being developed around the Hardy Pond in Mecosta and Newaygo counties. The Dragon trail will stand out as a significant and unique outdoor adventure destination for people from around the state, region, nation and world. It promotes west Michigan's triple bottom line: financial, social and environmental performance measures. Hardy Pond boasts over 50 miles of shoreline and over 4,000 acres of fresh water. The Hardy Pond enjoys a long history as a premier recreational destination for tourists and residents alike. The Dragon trail will span over 47 miles along the banks of the Hardy Pond upon the Muskegon River as it winds through Mecosta and Newaygo counties, crossing the massive Hardy Dam. This project is strategically located within 45 minutes of Grand Rapids, 3 hours from Detroit and 3.5 hours driving time from downtown Chicago."

Public and Private Recreational Facilities

The following is a comprehensive list of public and private recreational facilities within the area.

Public Schools

There are seven public school properties in the Fremont Area, all of which are located within the boundaries of the City of Fremont. The schools in the area play a significant role in the recreation for the Fremont community and often times serve as community and neighborhood parks due to their size, location and amenities. Public school properties include the following:

Pine Street Elementary

The Pine Street Primary School serves as the District's office and a neighborhood park in the southeast portion of the City. The property includes over 16 acres of land with two junior soccer fields, a gazebo and playground equipment as well as a picnic shelter and tables. The school also has an indoor gymnasium.

Pathfinder Elementary

Pathfinder Elementary School (grades 1-3), a relatively new school constructed in 1997 and located in the northern portion of the City bordering Dayton Township. The school is on approximately 22-acres of land and includes open space, a regulation size soccer field (or three junior soccer fields), a practice baseball field, significant amounts of playground equipment, six basketball hoops, picnic tables and an indoor gymnasium. The school is also linked to the Town & Country Path, a non-motorized paved pathway system.

Daisy Brook Elementary

The Daisy Brook Elementary School (grades 4-5) is located on 13.9 acres, southeast of the Pathfinder Elementary School. The school provides a practice soccer field (or two junior soccer fields, practice baseball field, playground equipment, open space, a gazebo and picnic tables. Daisy Brook School is also linked to the Town & Country Path system.

Fremont Middle School

The Middle School property is a relatively large site encompassing over 69 acres of land in the southern portion of the City near Fremont Lake. The school serves as a community park due to its size and recreational opportunities. The property includes a regulation soccer game field, two baseball fields (one lighted), one softball field, eight new lighted tennis courts, two batting cages, eight basketball hoops, two indoor gymnasiums and a nature trail and gazebo along a creek south of the school. In addition, the Fremont Skate Park and Town and Country Path border the property to the west.

Fremont High School

Fremont constructed a new High School in 2012 that is located on just over 100 acres on the south side of the City along M-82/Warner. While the high school property provides little outdoor recreation activities, the new gymnasium is heavily used by residents of the Fremont Area.

Pine Street Athletic Field

The Pine Street Athletic Field is located south of Pine Street and is under is owned and maintained by Fremont Public Schools. The 16+ acre site includes a football stadium with bleachers, locker rooms, lights, public restrooms and concessions building. A 6-lane track encircles the football field and there is a practice T-ball field and two football practice fields.

Cedar Street / Quest Alternative Education Building

The Cedar Street School building and is located adjacent to the Fremont Middle School on ten acres off Cedar Street and Sullivan Avenue, and has a soccer game field and playground area located south of the building.

Private School Properties

There are three private school properties which also play a role in the provision of recreational opportunities within the Fremont Area:

Christian Middle School

The Christian Middle School is located on 13.4 acres on the east side of town along Hillcrest Avenue. Outdoor amenities include a soccer field, two practice ball diamonds and open space. The school also has an indoor gymnasium.

Christian Elementary School

The Christian Elementary School is located directly across Hillcrest from the Middle School. The school is on 3.9 acres and includes two practice ball diamonds, playground equipment, two basketball hoops, a soccer field and open space. The Elementary School also has a small indoor gymnasium.

Cornerstone Christian Academy

The Cornerstone Christian Academy (Grades K-8) is located on 3.6 acres in the northern portion of the City along 44th Street. The school has a play area, two basketball hoops, volleyball court and is linked to the Town & Country Path.

Privately-Owned Recreation

There are several private recreation providers within the Fremont Area including:

Fremont Lanes South (Bowling)

The Fremont Lanes South is located just 1/2 mile south of the City limits on Warner Avenue. The facility has 16 computer-controlled alleys and a restaurant open to the public, as well as an attached mini-brewery.

Water's Edge Golf Course

Water's Edge Golf Course is a private restaurant and golf course located on the City's north side on First Lake.

Northwood Golf Course

The Northwood Golf Course is a 142-acre, 18-hole course located in Dayton Township along Comstock Avenue between 24th and 32nd Streets.

Summer Breeze Par 3 Golf Course

The Summer Breeze Par 3 Course is a 9-hole course located in Sheridan Charter Township on the same site as the bowling alley on Warner Avenue.

Park Descriptions and Accessibility Assessment

The parks in the area are being constantly evaluated for effectiveness, safety and accessibility. Based on priorities set in past recreation plans and community input, several projects targeting accessibility have been completed in recent years, including accessible picnic pavilions, upgraded restroom facilities, and improved parking and facility access. All present and future renovations are completed with the principles of universal design in mind. Currently, the community has a wide variety of parks. The parks contain many different options for the community ranging from benches and grills, to playground equipment and sports facilities. Table 5 lists each parks type, service area, accessibility rating, acres and features. A further description of each park is also included following this Table.

	Branstrom	Arboretum	Fremont Lake	Veterans	Fremont Skate	The Refuge	Fremont Dog Park	SCT Boat Launch	T & C Path	Darling Walk	Fremont Rec Center
Park Type*	CP	LUP	CP	LUP	LUP	LUP	LUP	LUP	LUP	LUP	LUP
Service Area**	RC	RC	RC	RC	RC	RC	RC	RC	RC	RC	RC
Accessibility Rating ***	2	2	2	3	3	1	1	2	4	4	3
Acres	108	9.5	17	2.4	2	168	24	6.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ball Diamond	X										
Basketball	X										X
Gazebo											X
Ice Rink	X										
Open Play Field	X	X	X				X				
Pavilion	X		X	X							
Performance Shell				X							
Picnic Area	X		X	X				X			
Playground	X		X	X				X			
Grills	X		X								
Trash Receptacles	X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X	X
Drinking Fountains				X							
Restrooms	X		X	X							X
Sand Volleyball			X								
Sledding Hill	X										
Tennis Courts											
Pickleball Courts											X
Parking	X		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
Skate Park					X						
Disc Golf	X										
Camp Sites			X								
Lodge	X										
Trails/Paths	X	X				X		X	X	X	
Swimming Pool											X
Gymnasium											X

*Park Type
 CP=Community Park
 LUP=Large Urban Park
 MP=Mini-Park
 NP=Neighborhood Park

**Service Type
 N=Neighborhood
 RC=Regional Community

***Accessibility Rating
 1=none of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines
 2=some of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines
 3=most of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines
 4=the entire park meets ADA guidelines
 5=the entire park was developed/renovated using principals of universal design

Figure 5: Recreation Facilities

Branstrom Park

Location

935 N Darling Ave
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

108 Acres

Park Description/Overview

Branstrom Park is a community park located in the northeastern portion of the City of Fremont, bordering Dayton Township. The park remains relatively undeveloped offering acres of natural area to enjoy and explore. Due to its location, size and recreational opportunities the park serves residents in all of the participating jurisdictions.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

Amenities include fenced-in and lighted baseball field, rustic walking and hiking trails, paved biking and walking path (Town & Country Path), basketball courts, sledding hill, playground equipment, 24-hole professional disc golf course, picnic tables and pavilion and a rustic community lodge available for rental.

Accessibility Assessment of Branstrom Park

2-some of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines



Arboretum Park

Location

540 E Pine St
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

9.5 Acres

Park Description/Overview

Arboretum Park is a relatively large property nestled in the center of a residential neighborhood in the southeast portion of the City of Fremont. Originally developed as an arboretum, there are numerous ground markers identifying Michigan native trees, plants and floral.

Service Area

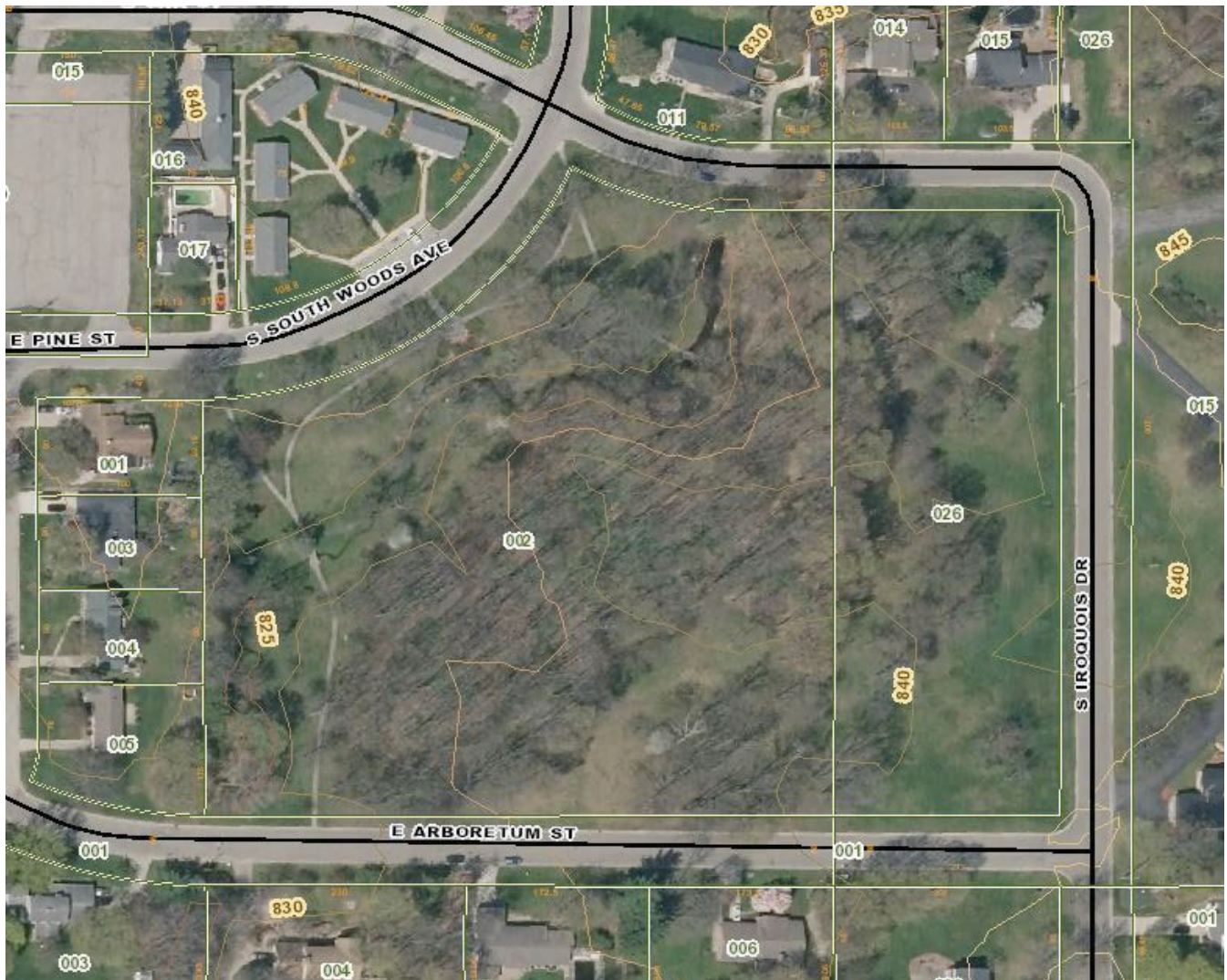
RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

Amenities include walking trails and paths, benches, picnic tables and two fieldstone staging areas used for weddings.

Accessibility Assessment of Arboretum Park

2-some of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines



Fremont Lake Park

Location

1028 Cottage Grove Ave
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

17 Acres

Park Description/Overview

Fremont Lake Park is a unique community park located on the northern shore of Fremont Lake in southwest corner of the City of Fremont.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

Amenities include a public campground offering 99 camp sites for trailer/tent camping and a public boat launch. The park also has a beach, parking, sand volleyball court, picnic shelter pavilions, picnic tables and grills, and is connected to the Town & Country Path system.

Accessibility Assessment of Fremont Lake Park

2- some of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines



Veterans Memorial Park

Location

119 W. Main St.
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

2.4 Acres

Park Description/Overview

The park serves as one of the focal points for the downtown area serving as a memorial to the Fremont area veterans of war. It also provides an amphitheater used for concerts and events, a picnic shelter with tables, grills and a restroom and a playground area.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

The park has paved sidewalks throughout it and an access point to the playground. There are paved pathways surrounding the memorial at the center of the park as well as leading to the handicapped seating surrounding the band shell and to the picnic pavilion. Restrooms at the park are handicap accessible and there is also a ramp for individuals to get up to the stage area.

Accessibility Assessment of Veterans Memorial Park

3- some of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines



Fremont Skate Park

Location

South Lake Drive across from
Middle School Bus Garage
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

2 Acres

Park Description/Overview

The park was completed in 2002 to accommodate the increasing popularity of skateboarding and trick bike riding.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

The park has seven types of ramps and parking is provided. This park is also connected to the Town & Country Path. The following ramps are provided: Half pipe, Quarter pipes (3 and 4 feet high), Wedges (3 and 5 feet high), 3-foot spine, fun box with grind bench on top and grind boxes.

Accessibility Assessment of Fremont Skate Park

3-some of the facilities/park area meets ADA guidelines



The Refuge

Location

At dead end of 88th Street, 1 mile west of
Warner Avenue
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

168 Acres

Park Description/Overview

The Refuge is located on a 168-acre parcel owned by Sheridan Charter Township in the southeast portion of the Township near the intersection of 88th Street and Osborn Avenue.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

The park has a myriad of various mountain biking and obstacle tracks with varying degrees of difficulty. The remaining 120 acres remains undeveloped passive recreation with natural walking and hiking trails

Accessibility Assessment of The Refuge

1- none of the facilities/parks area meets ADA guidelines.



Fremont Dog Park

Location

300 S. Lake Drive
Street Fremont, MI
49412

Size

24 Acres

Park Description/Overview

The City of Fremont has established a fenced-in, off-leash dog park where well-behaved dogs can play and exercise as long as the dog has adult human supervision. The Fremont Dog Park is open to residents in the Fremont Community and the general public. It is located on South Lake Drive, just south of Oak Street.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

Within the Park there are two fenced-in play areas, one for smaller and young dogs, and one for large, mature dogs. The Park has a few amenities, such as benches and trash receptacles with a doggy waste bag station provided.

Accessibility Assessment of Fremont Dog Park

1- none of the facilities/parks area meets ADA guidelines.



Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch

Location

6525 W. 64th Street
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

6.5 Acres

Park Description/Overview

The Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch is located on the south shore of Fremont Lake directly behind the Township Hall.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

The site has a large gravel area for parking and the maneuvering of vehicles and boats as well as a seasonal boat dock, playground and picnic area.

Accessibility Assessment of Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch

2-some of the facilities/park's areas meet ADA guidelines



Town and Country Path

Location

Varies

Size/Length

5.5+ miles

Park Description/Overview

The Town and Country Path is a non-motorized paved pathway for walking, biking, hiking, rollerblading and skate boarding. The Path connects Parks, schools, residential areas and business districts and is part of the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

Paved pathways and trail heads

Accessibility Assessment of Town and Country Path

4- the entire park meets ADA guidelines



Darling Walkway

Location

1st & 2nd block of Darling Avenue,
South of Main Street
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

3 Street ROW blocks

Park Description/Overview

The City of Fremont Darling Walkway entailed the removal of two blocks of Darling Avenue and one block of Sheridan Street, to implement a Streetscape project that includes a walkable parkway with decorative sidewalk, art nodes, landscaping, benches, lighting and a new parking lot. The Walkway project also included installation of a new Outdoor Pickleball Court system and pavilion on the Rec Center's parking lot immediately south of the Walkway at the corner of Darling and Maple.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Park Amenities

Walking paths, benches, trash receptacles, pavilion and new parking lot.

Accessibility Assessment of Darling Walkway

4-the entire park meets ADA guidelines



Fremont Recreation Center

Location

201 East Maple Street
Fremont, MI 49412

Size

4.25 Acres

Description/Overview

Formerly Fremont High School, this building now operates as Fremont Community Recreation Authority (FCRA). FCRA offers recreational opportunities to the City of Fremont and surrounding areas.

Service Area

RC-Regional Community

Amenities

Olympic-sized pool	Gymnasium
Indoor/Outdoor Pickleball courts	Classrooms
Rental space for parties	Workout area

Accessibility Assessment of Fremont Recreation Center

3- most of the facilities/park areas meet ADA guidelines



Previous Grant Status Report

Newaygo-City of Fremont
Project Number-05-107
Fremont Town and Country Path
Grant Amount-\$130,600
Development Public Act-PA 153 of 2006

Newaygo-City of Fremont
Project Number-10-114
Fremont Lake Park Development
Grant Amount-\$180,300
Development Public Act-PA 16 of 2011

Planning Process

The planning process began with a review of the 2012-2016 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plan that was originally adopted in February of 2011, and expired December 31, 2016. The plan outlined goals for the development of park and recreational opportunities within the Fremont Area for 5 years.

Discussions to renew the Plan began in August 2019, with the hiring of a consultant (Paradigm Design) at the end of September. Results of the previous masterplan and general ideas for the new plan were discussed and it was determined that a thorough and well distributed survey would be vital to the success of adopting a new recreation master plan.

The survey was distributed to the community on October 21st, and responses were accepted through November 25th. These responses were reviewed by Advisory Committee members on December 11th and board members of the participating jurisdictions via email a couple weeks prior to the meeting. The main body of the masterplan was also distributed for preliminary review by the committee and board members. Meeting participants discussed objectives and a plan of action for the new masterplan based on the survey feedback.

The survey feedback and meeting discussion were incorporated into an updated list of goals and objectives, which was then translated into an Action Plan. This plan and the main body of the masterplan were reviewed by the Advisory Committee and changes were incorporated into a draft updated masterplan, which was posted for public review on December 20, 2019. Citizens were encouraged to comment through the city's website and social media presence and paper copies were also available for review and comment at the Fremont District Library as well as City Hall. The City also notified Fremont area residents on the City's Facebook page and throughout its email database.

Another advisory committee meeting took place on January 15th before the scheduled jurisdictional public hearings, to review comments to date and make necessary changes to the draft Plan. Newspaper notice for the public hearings was circulated on January 1st and 15th, 2020 and notice via email and social media was distributed. Comments from the public review period were incorporated into the masterplan prior to the meeting. After taking comments at this meeting, the Advisory Committee resolved that the plan should be presented to the participating jurisdictions as edited after the community review period.

Changes based on this advisory committee meeting were incorporated to the Plan and it was presented during each of the public hearings in January 2020. It was approved as presented and submitted to Newaygo County and the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Public Input

Methods

Public input was the primary guide to developing this masterplan. Several methods were used, including a community survey at the beginning of the process, a public posting of the plan for community review, and community meetings by each participating jurisdiction near the end of plan development.

The community survey was developed based on the previous recreation plan's questions and responses. Several recreation plans, including that of the State of Michigan, as well as the previous recreation masterplan, were reviewed for applicable questions to incorporate into the survey. Special care was taken to process and incorporate any written feedback received during the previous community survey. Developed online using Survey Monkey, the new community survey was distributed using the city's website and social media presence. A press release was also sent out in a local newspaper giving residents options to take the survey. Community members could take the survey online or call the City Offices to have a paper copy mailed. An effort was made to reach as many citizens as possible. Overall, 500 plus people responded to the survey, this group believed to be representative of the community as a whole. Survey responses are incorporated into the Action Program Rationale and a full copy of the survey and responses can be found in Appendix A: Survey and Results.

The plan was posted for a 30-day public/community review on December 20, 2019 (see Notice of Plan Availability for Review in Appendix B.) Citizens could contribute feedback in several ways, including through an online comment form, via email, or phone, and they were encouraged to attend the public hearings. Feedback included several suggestions for clarification of existing content.

Each participating jurisdiction conducted public hearings after the 30-day public review period, with the City of Fremont's on January 20, 2020, Sheridan Charter Township's on January 21, 2020 and Dayton Township's on January 23, 2020 (see Notice of Public Hearing in Appendix C). Comments were received regarding the masterplan update during the public hearing process and minutes from those meetings can be found in Appendix D: Minutes from Public Meetings.

Goals and Objectives

1. Provide safe, inclusive community based recreational opportunities that improve the overall quality-of-life for all area residents.

Parks provide a natural gathering place for the community as well as provide for free or low-cost recreational activities. Therefore, it is important to continue to provide and improve these facilities. The City will, based on community input, continue to provide and improve these facilities.

Objective: Continue to, based on community input, improve and upgrade the communities recreational and support facilities that residents can be proud of.

Objective: Provide better and increased access to and through the City Parks and Trails System.

Objective: Add passive and active programming based on community input and available financing.

2. Promote regional cooperation between the City of Fremont, Sheridan Charter Township, Dayton Township and other public and private organizations within the County, to better provide comprehensive recreational opportunities to the residents.

It makes financial and practical sense to coordinate recreation within the community in a way that is aware and supportive of the surrounding areas. The City, Townships, School and Recreation Authority have been working together for years providing shared recreation programs and facilities. Further collaboration with the Townships and other organizations will prove to an important component in providing quality recreational programs and facilities to the community.

Objective: Continue to work with the existing partners to provide recreational programming and facilities.

Objective: Continue to explore options for new and expanded partners, providing additional recreational opportunities.

3. Enhance the quality of local neighborhoods through establishment and maintenance of quality neighborhood parks conveniently located to all City and Township residents.

Park facilities are among the most visible indicators of community identity and pride. Every park in the system was shown to be the most important park to several responding households, with all parks being used by individuals on a bi-weekly basis or more frequently. Several respondents said clean and quality restrooms and playground areas were the most important features of a park.

Objective: Continue to upgrade playground equipment and access, paying special attention to universal access.

Objective: Keep parks well maintained and safe.

Objective: Investigate all appropriate methods to provide facilities, including providing incentives to private developers and promoting donation of property and facilities.

4. Provide universally accessible recreation opportunities designed with all community members in mind.

The communities wish to provide recreational activities for residents of all abilities. With ambulatory and cognitive disabilities shown to be higher than the national average, special care should be taken to actively incorporate facilities for these users.

Objective: Partner with organizations that service-disabled individuals to better understand and provide for community needs.

Objective: Make sure that all improvements and upgrades to park facilities, where feasible, are universally accessible.

5. Acquire property, as necessary, to meet the long-term recreational needs of the residents.

In the past, the City and Townships have purchased valuable parks and recreation land but has also sold land to other entities providing them with land to expand their facilities. Local officials must be conscious of the need to retain and acquire additional parkland.

Objective: Retain existing parkland to meet recreational needs of the City and Townships.

Objective: Encourage the use of open spaces for recreational purposes.

Objective: Evaluate every opportunity to expand the park system and take action where practical. Natural conservation should be considered in addition to facility expansion.

6. Promote healthy, active lifestyles through the City and Townships with the Recreation facilities and programs.

Considering national problems of obesity, heart health, diabetes, and other health issues, it is important to take into consideration the health impact of new and existing facilities and programs.

Objective: Promote awareness of existing facilities and programs that support healthy lifestyles and choices.

Objective: Provide additional health and fitness programming.

Objective: Provide additional facilities and opportunities, including walking and biking trail systems, which foster healthy choices and lifestyles.

Objective: Provide innovative recreation opportunities for all seasons that encourage active year-round lifestyles.

Action Program

The action plan for the Parks and Recreation Plan includes proposed action items including capital improvements, organizational, and recreational programming changes. Priority rankings are based on survey responses, goals, and discussion within the Advisory Committee. Project types consist of; Capital Improvements (C), which involve monetary investment in new facilities or equipment, Maintenance (M), which involve renovating and maintaining existing features, and Planning (P), which involve brainstorming ideas and generating community buy in for new developments.

Park	Project	Project Type	Related Goal	Priority
Branstrom Park	Landscaping	M	1, 4	Low
	New Lodge	C	1, 4	High
	Playground equipment upgrade	C		Medium
	Future property acquisition	C		Low
Arboretum Park	Landscaping (replace lost trees)	C	1, 4	Low
	Pavilion	C	1, 4	Low
Fremont Lake	Playground Equipment Upgrade	C	1, 4	Medium
	New Cabins in Campground	C		High
	Restroom Renovation	C		Medium
	Boat launch area dredging	M		High
Veterans Park	Restroom Renovation	C	1, 4,	Medium
	Play Equipment upgrade	C	1, 4,	Medium
Fremont Skate Park	Add new ramp equipment	C		Medium
The Refuge	Renovate ramps throughout course	M		Medium
Fremont Dog Park	Add canine-friendly play/exercise equipment	C		Low
SCT Boat Launch	Play Equipment upgrade	M		Medium
	Pavilion	C		Medium
T & C Path	Construct new sections of pathway	C	2	Medium
Darling Walkway	Add Art Features in identified art nodes	C		Medium
Fremont Rec Center	Renovate Community Room	M		High

FREMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AUTHORITY STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND GOALS

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1: CREATE A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

1. Engage the community at multiple levels: grassroots, agency, faith-based, business, government and others
2. Strengthen community image and sense of place
3. Cultivate deep interpersonal connections among community members

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2: CREATE AND ATTRACT PROGRAMS THAT WORK

1. Ensure that programs connect people
2. Ensure that programs respond to community needs and initiatives
3. Develop program evaluation and documentation process
4. Explore options/opportunities to implement programs that advance Fremont Community Recreation Authority's values and goals.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3: ENSURE PHYSICAL SPACE REFLECTS FREMONT COMMUNITY RECREATION AUTHORITY'S VALUES AND GOALS

1. Continue and expand indoor recreational opportunities to increase facility usage
2. Update systems for good building stewardship
3. Ensure appropriate technology and software

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4: ENSURE FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

1. Ensure sound financial practices
2. Develop a high-performing board
3. Ensure mechanisms to recruit, reward and retain high performing staff
4. Diversify income sources to achieve financial goals
5. Develop robust marketing and development process



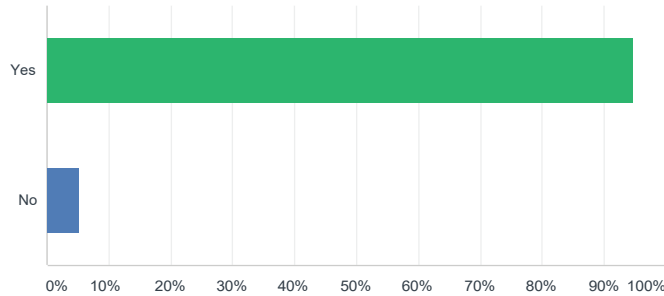
Appendix A: Survey and Results

Fremont Community Recreation Plan Survey

SurveyMonkey

Q1 Do you or members of your household visit any City of Fremont Sheridan Charter Township or Dayton Township

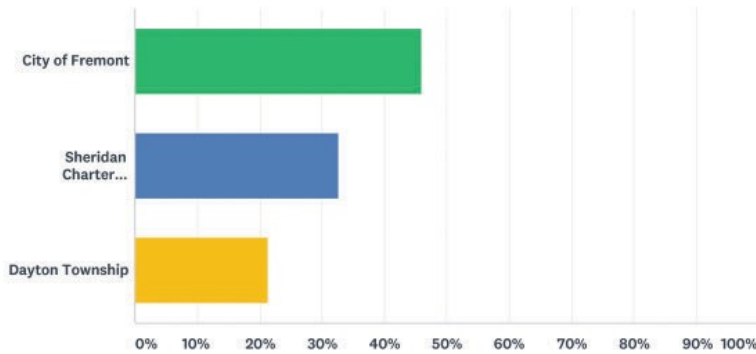
Answered: 523 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
yes	94.84%	496
no	5.16%	27
TOTAL		523

Q2 What jurisdiction do you live in?

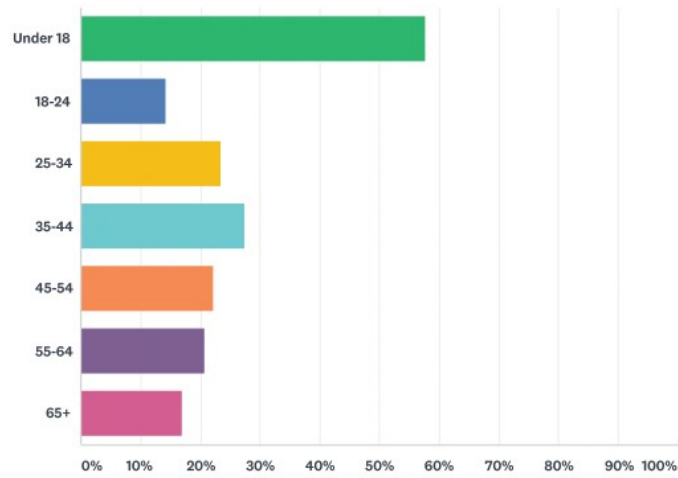
Answered: 476 Skipped: 49



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
City of Fremont	46.01%	219
Sheridan Charter Township	32.56%	155
Dayton Township	21.43%	102
TOTAL		476

Q3 What age are the park users in your household? (Please check all that apply)

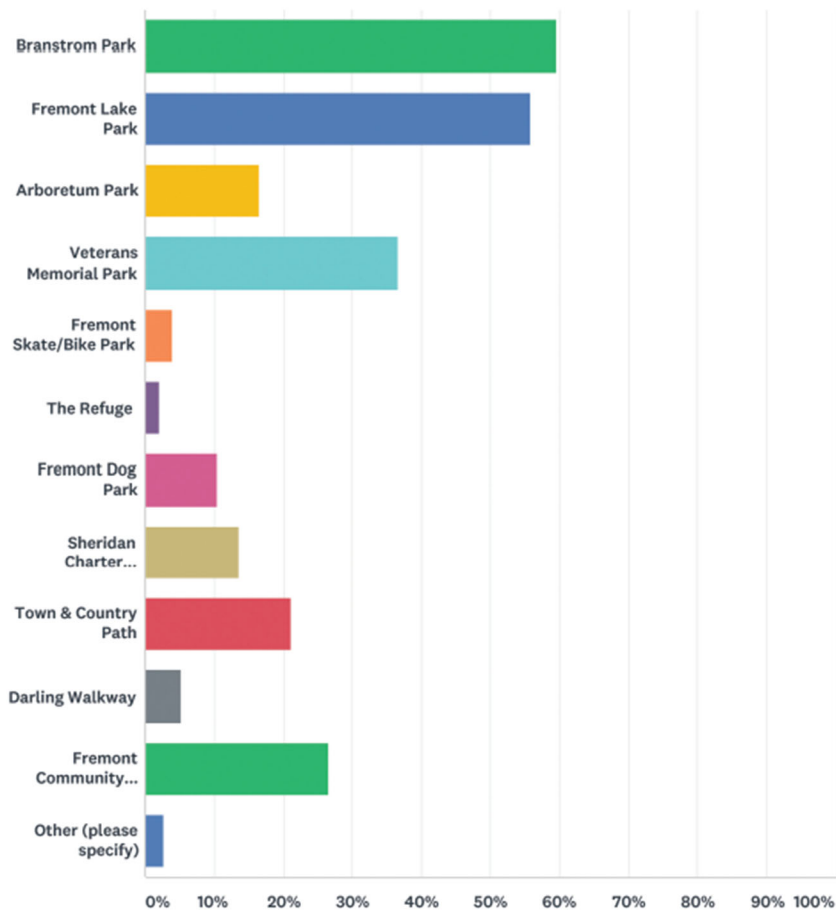
Answered: 519 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	57.80%	300
18-24	14.26%	74
25-34	23.51%	122
35-44	27.36%	142
45-54	22.16%	115
55-64	20.81%	108
65+	16.96%	88
Total Respondents: 519		

Q4 Please select the park or facility you would consider most important to your household.

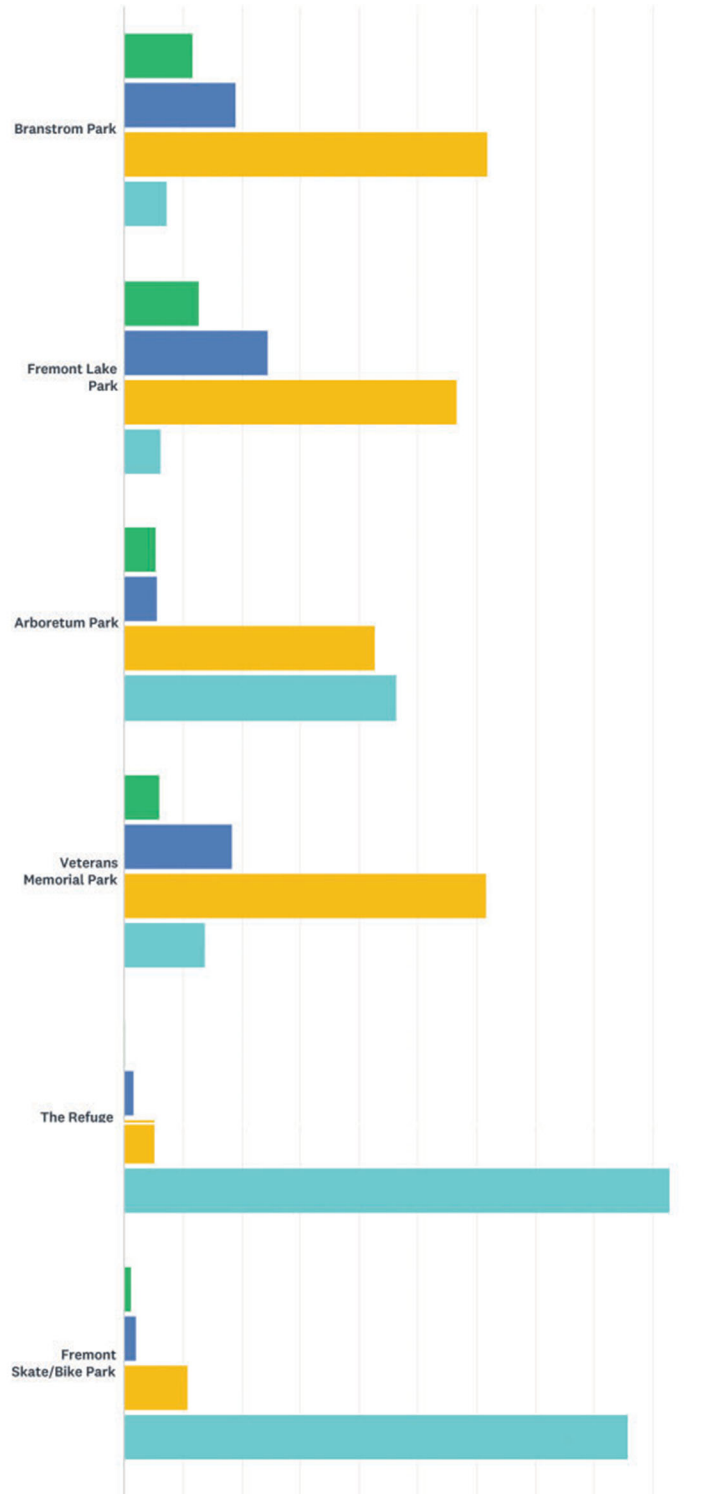
Answered: 523 Skipped: 2

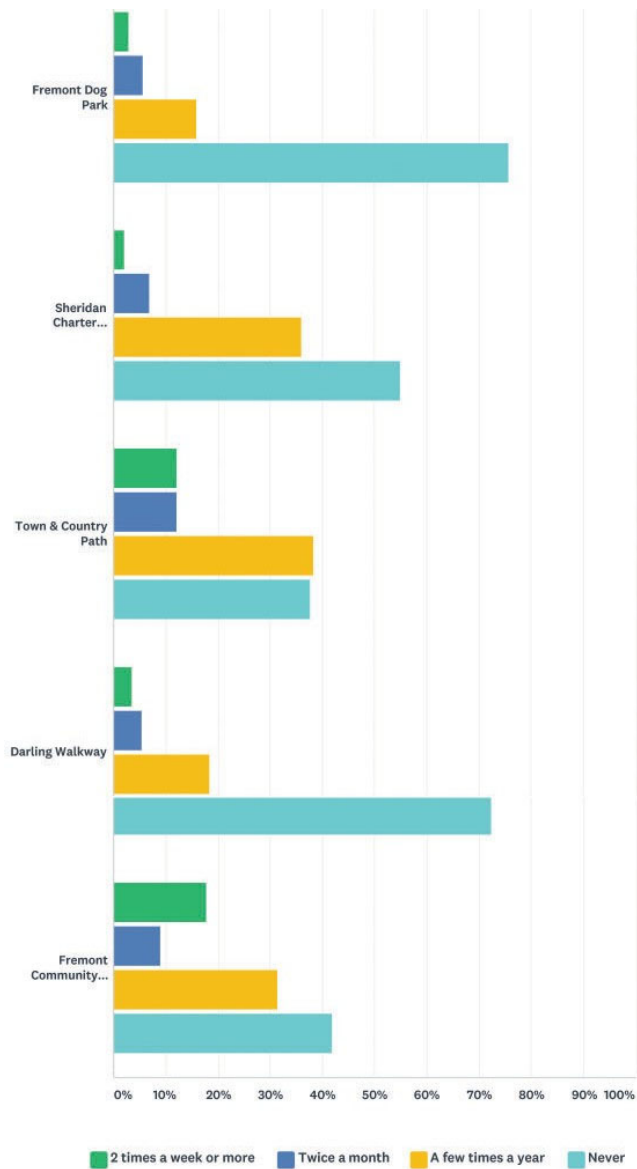


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Branstrom Park	59.66%	312
Fremont Lake Park	55.83%	292
Arboretum Park	16.44%	86
Veterans Memorial Park	36.71%	192
Fremont Skate/Bike Park	4.02%	21
The Refuge	2.10%	11
Fremont Dog Park	10.52%	55
Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch	13.58%	71
Town & Country Path	21.03%	110
Darling Walkway	5.16%	27
Fremont Community Recreation Center	26.58%	139
Other (please specify)	2.68%	14
Total Respondents: 523		

Q5 How frequently do you or members of your household use each park or facility?

Answered: 524 Skipped: 1

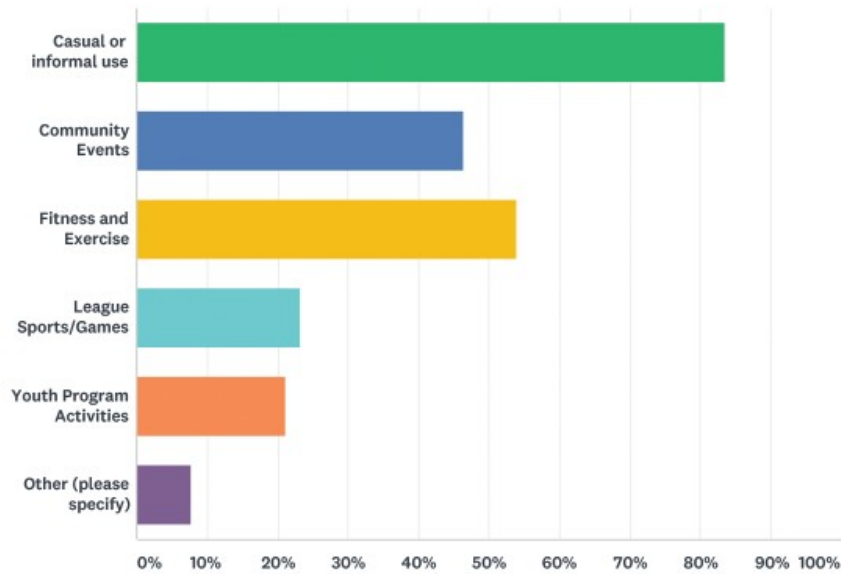




	2 TIMES A WEEK OR MORE	TWICE A MONTH	A FEW TIMES A YEAR	NEVER	TOTAL
Branstrom Park	11.72% 60	18.95% 97	61.91% 317	7.42% 38	512
Fremont Lake Park	12.70% 65	24.41% 125	56.64% 290	6.25% 32	512
Arboretum Park	5.35% 25	5.57% 26	42.61% 199	46.47% 217	467
Veterans Memorial Park	6.06% 30	18.38% 91	61.82% 306	13.74% 68	495
The Refuge	0.23% 1	1.61% 7	5.28% 23	92.89% 405	436
Fremont Skate/Bike Park	1.33% 6	2.00% 9	10.89% 49	85.78% 386	450
Fremont Dog Park	2.83% 13	5.65% 26	15.87% 73	75.65% 348	460
Sheridan Charter Township Boat Launch	2.16% 10	6.93% 32	35.93% 166	54.98% 254	462
Town & Country Path	12.04% 56	12.04% 56	38.28% 178	37.63% 175	465
Darling Walkway	3.61% 16	5.42% 24	18.51% 82	72.46% 321	443
Fremont Community Recreation Center	17.83% 87	9.02% 44	31.35% 153	41.80% 204	488

Q6 For what reasons do users in your household visit area Parks or facilities? (Please check all that apply)

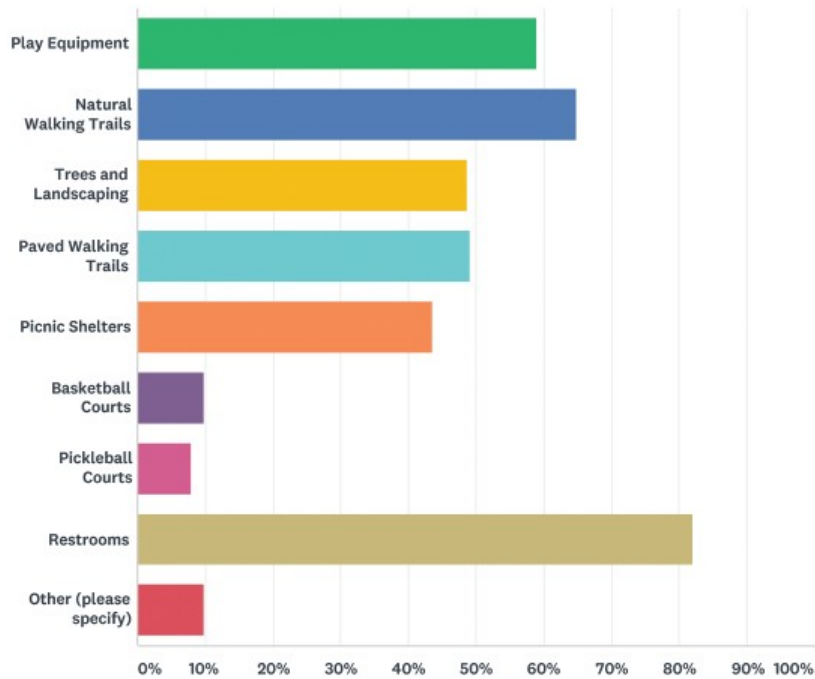
Answered: 523 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Casual or informal use	83.56%	437
Community Events	46.46%	243
Fitness and Exercise	53.92%	282
League Sports/Games	23.14%	121
Youth Program Activities	21.22%	111
Other (please specify)	7.65%	40
Total Respondents: 523		

Q7 Please select the four (4) features you would consider to be the most important when visiting a park.

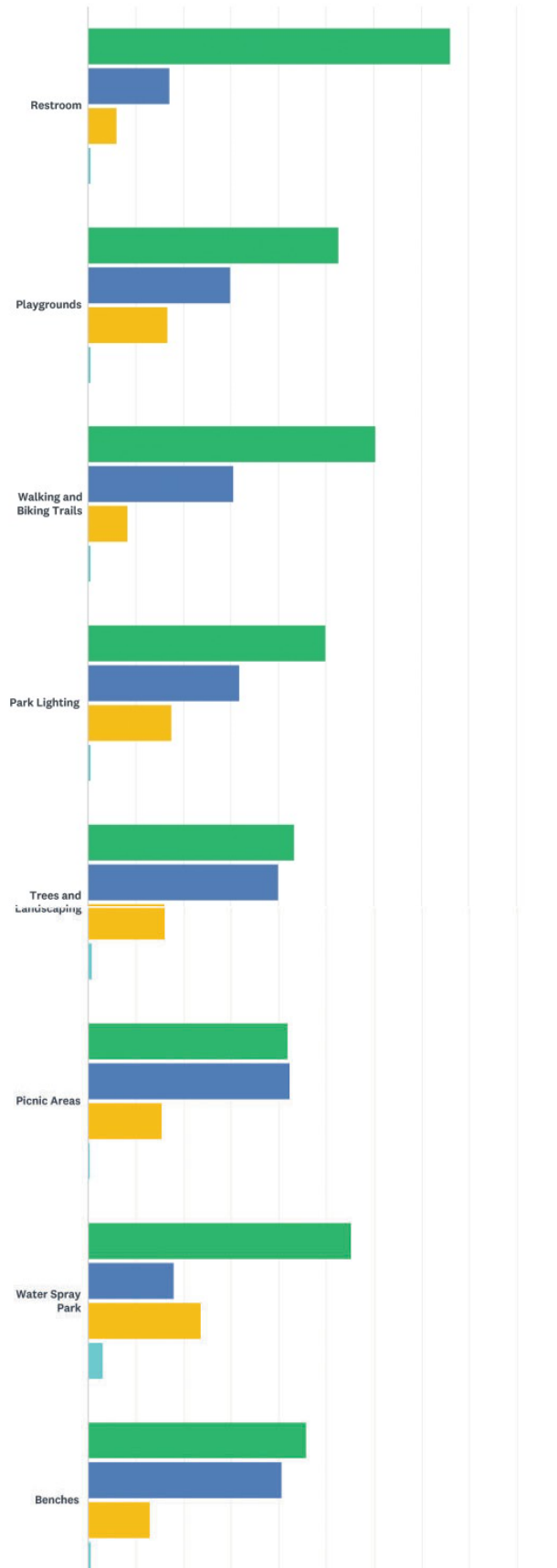
Answered: 522 Skipped: 3

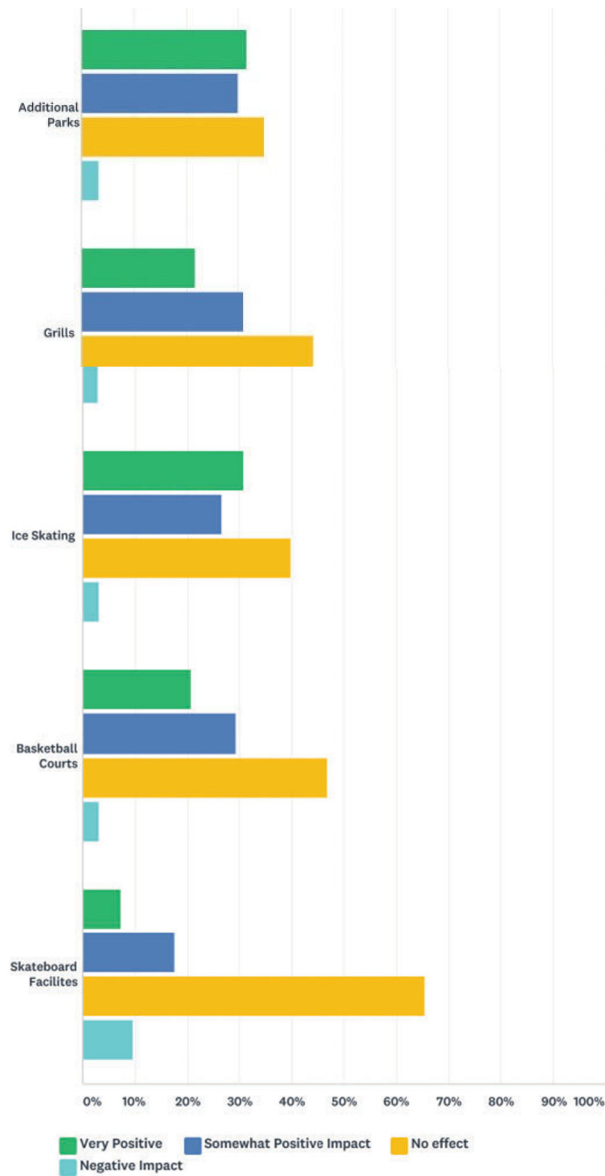


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Play Equipment	59.00%	308
Natural Walking Trails	64.75%	338
Trees and Landscaping	48.66%	254
Paved Walking Trails	49.23%	257
Picnic Shelters	43.49%	227
Basketball Courts	9.77%	51
Pickleball Courts	8.05%	42
Restrooms	81.99%	428
Other (please specify)	9.77%	51
Total Respondents: 522		

Q8 How would the improvement or addition of the following features impact your satisfaction with parks in the Fremont Community?

Answered: 520 Skipped: 5

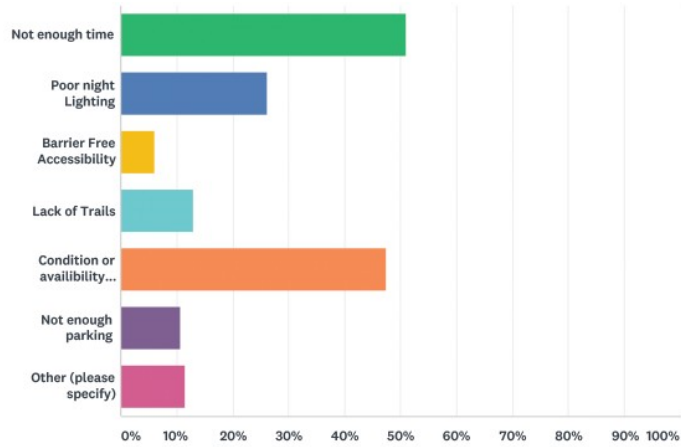




	VERY POSITIVE	SOMEWHAT POSITIVE IMPACT	NO EFFECT	NEGATIVE IMPACT	TOTAL
Restroom	76.21% 394	17.21% 89	6.00% 31	0.58% 3	517
Playgrounds	52.68% 265	30.02% 151	16.70% 84	0.60% 3	503
Walking and Biking Trails	60.39% 308	30.59% 156	8.43% 43	0.59% 3	510
Park Lighting	49.90% 252	31.88% 161	17.62% 89	0.59% 3	505
Trees and Landscaping	43.28% 219	39.92% 202	16.01% 81	0.79% 4	506
Picnic Areas	41.75% 210	42.35% 213	15.51% 78	0.40% 2	503
Water Spray Park	55.20% 276	18.00% 90	23.60% 118	3.20% 16	500
Benches	45.74% 231	40.59% 205	13.07% 66	0.59% 3	505
Additional Parks	31.68% 153	30.02% 145	34.99% 169	3.31% 16	483
Grills	21.70% 107	31.03% 153	44.42% 219	2.84% 14	493
Ice Skating	30.77% 152	26.52% 131	39.68% 196	3.04% 15	494
Basketball Courts	20.70% 101	29.30% 143	46.93% 229	3.07% 15	488
Skateboard Facilities	7.26% 35	17.63% 85	65.56% 316	9.54% 46	482

Q9 Which of the following factors, if any, do you feel limit your park use?
(Please check any that apply)

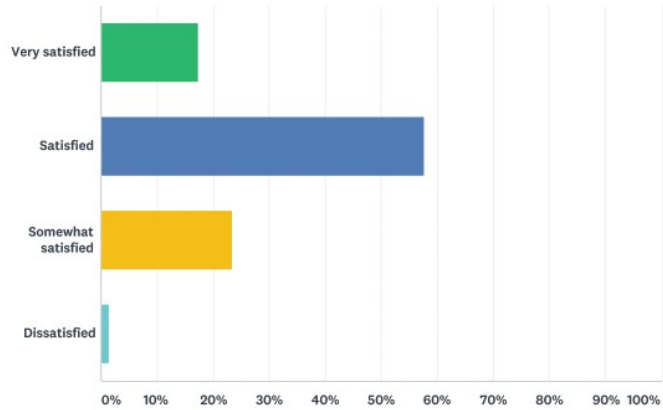
Answered: 498 Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Not enough time	51.00% 254
Poor night Lighting	26.10% 130
Barrier Free Accessibility	6.02% 30
Lack of Trails	13.05% 65
Condition or availability of restrooms	47.59% 237
Not enough parking	10.64% 53
Other (please specify)	11.45% 57
Total Respondents: 498	

Q10 How would you describe your overall satisfaction with Parks in the Fremont Community?

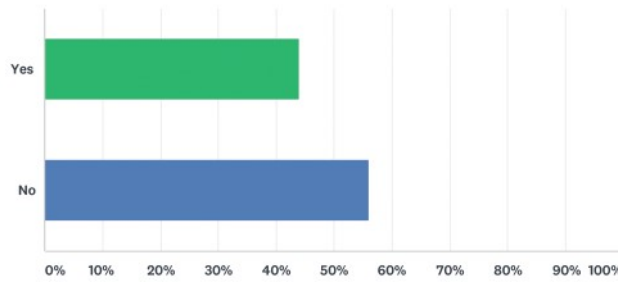
Answered: 521 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Very satisfied	17.27% 90
Satisfied	57.77% 301
Somewhat satisfied	23.42% 122
Dissatisfied	1.54% 8
TOTAL	521

Q11 Do you (or members of your household) participate in Fremont Recreational Programs?

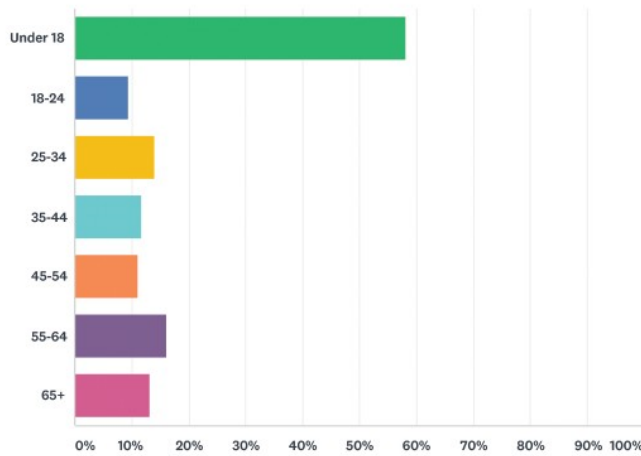
Answered: 523 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	43.98%	230
No	56.02%	293
TOTAL		523

Q12 What age are the Recreation Program users in your household? (Please check all that apply)

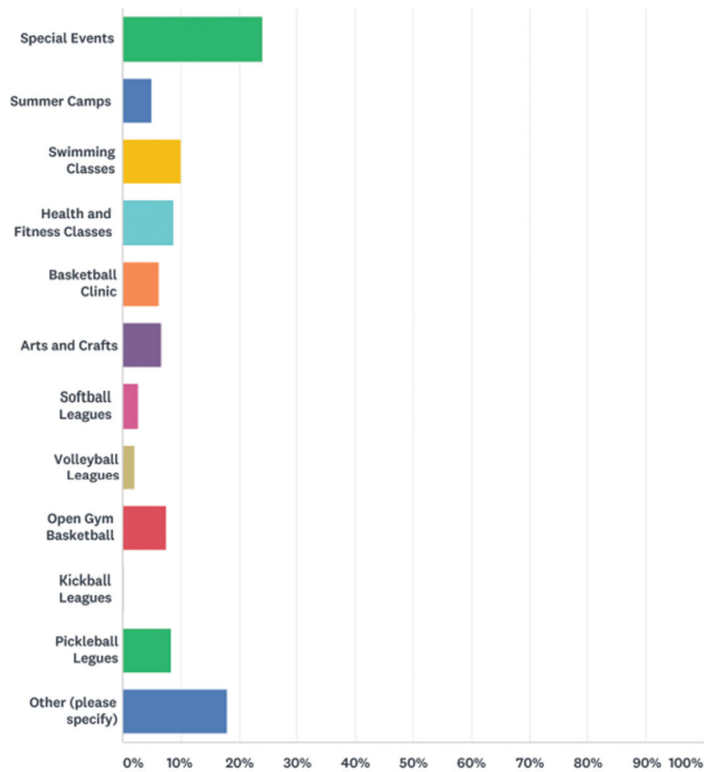
Answered: 404 Skipped: 121



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	58.17%	235
18-24	9.41%	38
25-34	14.11%	57
35-44	11.63%	47
45-54	11.14%	45
55-64	16.09%	65
65+	13.12%	53
Total Respondents: 404		

Q13 How frequently do you or members of your household participate in each Recreational Program?

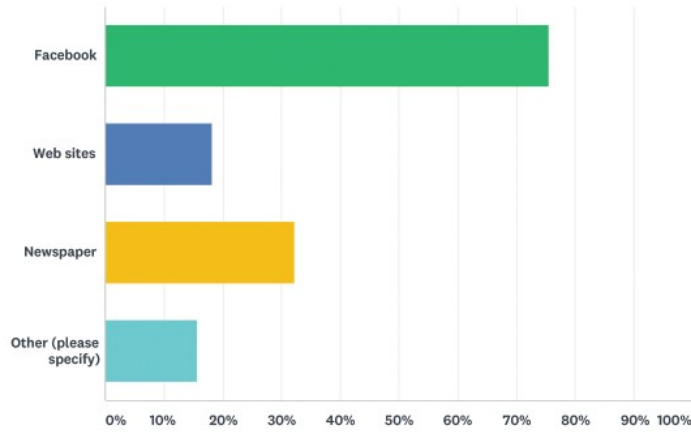
Answered: 398 Skipped: 127



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Special Events	24.12%	96
Summer Camps	5.03%	20
Swimming Classes	10.05%	40
Health and Fitness Classes	8.79%	35
Basketball Clinic	6.28%	25
Arts and Crafts	6.78%	27
Softball Leagues	2.76%	11
Volleyball Leagues	2.01%	8
Open Gym Basketball	7.54%	30
Kickball Leagues	0.25%	1
Pickleball Legues	8.29%	33
Other (please specify)	18.09%	72
TOTAL		398

Q14 Through what media have you heard about Fremont Community recreational programming and events? (Please check all that apply)

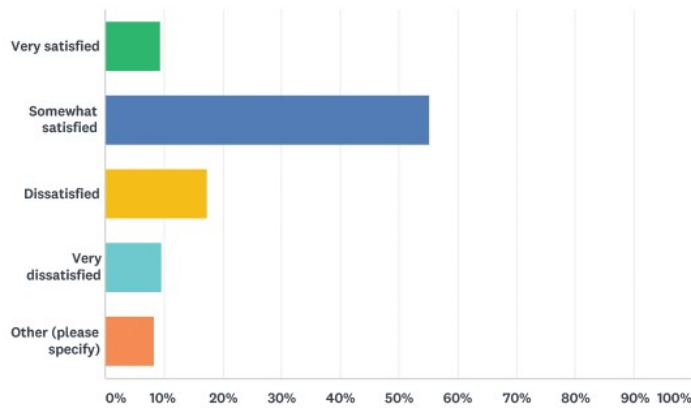
Answered: 498 Skipped: 27



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Facebook	75.50%	376
Web sites	18.27%	91
Newspaper	32.13%	160
Other (please specify)	15.66%	78
Total Respondents: 498		

Q15 How satisfied are you with the current Recreation Programs in the Fremont Community?

Answered: 489 Skipped: 36



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Very satisfied	9.41%	46
Somewhat satisfied	55.21%	270
Dissatisfied	17.38%	85
Very dissatisfied	9.61%	47
Other (please specify)	8.38%	41
TOTAL		489

Appendix B: Notice of Plan Availability for Review

Posted in the Times Indicator and the City of Fremont website

**Notice of Public Viewing
Of the Fremont Area Parks &
Recreation 5-Yr Master Plan**

Notice is hereby given that the Fremont Area Parks & Recreation Master Plan is being updated and available for review for the 30-day period of December 20, 2019 to January 20, 2020. The local government jurisdictions of the City of Fremont, Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township joined together to develop and adopt the first Fremont Area 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan in 2001, and have since updated it several times. It was envisioned that creating an area-wide joint Recreation Plan would enable the community to provide recreational opportunities to their residents in the most efficient, effective and fiscally responsible manner.

The current 5-yr Recreation Plan has expired, so an advisory committee has started the renewal process and each of the three participating jurisdictions will hold public hearings after the 30-day public review process to receive input on the proposed updated Plan. Following each Public Hearing, each jurisdiction will then consider final adoption of the updated recreation plan and recommend its adoption to the other participating local government jurisdictions.

The hearings are intended to provide an opportunity for residents of the City of Fremont, Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township to provide input, express their opinions, ask questions, and discuss the aspects of the proposed updates regarding recreation in the Fremont community. For those unable to attend the meetings, a **Draft 5-yr Plan is available for viewing on the City of Fremont's website www.cityoffremont.net and at each of the participating jurisdiction's offices.** Please send written comments to the attention of Todd Blake, Fremont City Manager / Coordinator of Fremont Area Park & Recreation Plan Advisory Committee, 101 E. Main, Fremont, Michigan 49412, by no later than noon on Monday, January 20, 2020. The Public Hearing's will be scheduled for January and the dates for each jurisdiction will be announced soon.

Appendix C: Notice of Public Hearing

Posted in the Times Indicator and the City of Fremont website

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF THE UPDATED
FREMONT AREA PARKS & RECREATION
5-YR MASTER PLAN**

Notice is hereby given that the Fremont Area Parks & Recreation Master Plan is being updated and has been available for review for a 30-day period (December 20, 2019 to January 19, 2020.) The local government jurisdictions of the City of Fremont, Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township joined together to develop and adopt the first Fremont Area 5-Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan in 2001, and have since updated it several times. It was envisioned that creating an area-wide joint Recreation Plan would enable the community to provide recreational opportunities to their residents in the most efficient, effective and fiscally responsible manner.

Following the 30-day public review process, each of the three participating jurisdictions will hold public hearings to receive input on the proposed updated Plan. Following each Public Hearing, each jurisdiction will then consider adoption of the updated Recreation Plan and recommend its adoption to the other participating local government jurisdictions.

The hearings are intended to provide an opportunity for residents of the City of Fremont, Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township to provide input, express their opinions, ask questions, and discuss the aspects of the proposed updates regarding recreation in the Fremont community. **A Draft 5-yr Plan is available for viewing on the City of Fremont's website www.cityoffremont.net and at each of the participating jurisdiction's offices.**

Please send written comments to the attention of Todd Blake, Fremont City Manager / Coordinator of Fremont Area Park & Recreation Plan Advisory Committee, 101 E. Main, Fremont, Michigan 49412, of Peter Lance, Planning & Zoning Officer for Dayton Township and Sheridan Charter Township by no later than noon on Monday, January 20, 2020. The Public Hearing's for each jurisdiction are scheduled as follows:

City of Fremont:

**Monday at 7pm, January 20, 2020, 101 E. Main St,
Fremont, MI**

Sheridan Charter Township:

**Tuesday at 7pm, January 21, 2020,
6360 S Township Pkwy, Fremont, MI**

Dayton Township:

**Thursday at 6pm, January 23, 2020, 3215 S Stone Rd,
Fremont, MI**

Appendix D: Minutes from Public Meetings

Appendix E: Official Resolution of Adoption

Appendix F: (Copy) letter to county planning agency

Appendix G: (Copy) letter to regional planning agency