



# DRAFT The Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan 2025-2029 DRAFT

Adopted (enter date here)

The Village of Fruitport  
45 N 2nd Ave  
Fruitport, MI 49415

2025-2029 Edition (5-Year Update)

Prepared By:



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2019-2024 Edition (5-Year Update)

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2014 Edition Prepared By:



# Acknowledgments

## **Community Members of The Village of Fruitport**

*Thank you for all of your energy, enthusiasm, and wonderful ideas. Without your participation, this plan would not have worked to serve your needs. It is for your sake that this plan exists. Thank you for your involvement!*

## **The Village of Fruitport Administration and Council**

*Roger Vanderstelt, Village President  
Amy Haack, Village Clerk  
Ann LaCroix, Village Treasurer  
Jeff Guiles, Trustee  
Chris LeFaive, Trustee  
Bill Overkamp, Trustee  
Carl Rothenberger III, Trustee*

## **Project Staff**

*Amy Haack, Village Clerk  
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# Introduction

As a society, we are increasingly aware of the psychological and physical benefits provided by open space and recreation. It is the Village of Fruitport's primary goal to actively promote these benefits for the public's well-being in the form of providing and developing recreational areas and activities. Doing this helps to increase the community's livability. However, there are many issues to consider when planning for these recreational areas and opportunities. This plan intends to be the guiding document for the promotion of these recreational opportunities in the Village of Fruitport.

As ongoing health studies show, society is becoming more conscious of healthy living and the opportunities that recreation provides to further healthy lifestyles and improve our quality of life. Health studies also reflect the alarming need for increased physical activity for people of all ages in order to achieve these healthier lifestyles. Finally, improvement to a community's quality of life through recreation also has the potential to better the local economy by drawing new business opportunities to the area. Studies have shown that businesses are drawn to communities that provide quality lifestyles for prospective employees.

Therefore, it is important to project the future parks and recreation needs of the Village of Fruitport to ensure the availability of open space and recreation opportunities. To address these issues and opportunities, it is important for the village to produce a plan to guide the decision-making process. When implemented, this plan will guide the management and improvement of quality parks, recreation programs, and facilities throughout the community.

## **Purpose**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) requires that community recreation plans be updated every five years as criteria to apply for funding from the State in the form of grants for park and open space acquisition, park development, and existing park improvements. The purpose of this procedure is to provide an opportunity to include changing needs and assets for the community. This recreation plan was developed by analyzing an inventory of issues and physical features for the area and tailoring development of recreation programs and facilities in a systematic manner, or plan, through the next five years; in pursuit of the guidelines established by the DNR.

## **Scope**

The Community Recreation Plan for the Village of Fruitport inventories existing parks and recreation programs, and with this information, the needs for neighborhood parks, supporting facilities, trailway/greenway systems, and recreation programs are analyzed for the next five years. The recommendations in this plan are provided through analysis of demographic projections, village land-use trends, natural features inventory, citizen input, past and future recreational trends, state and federal grant funding requirements and potential land acquisition opportunities.

## Historic Accomplishments (Pre-2025)

Project	Organization/Department	Date
Band Shell	Lions Club	1981
Boat Launch	MDNR, Village Council	1991-1993
Bike Path	Fruitport Township	1991-1996
4 <sup>th</sup> Street Parking (Pomona Park)	Village Council	1996-1998
Fishing Pier	Lions Club, Village Council	2001-2005
Peach Tree Plaza	Jerry Alger, Village Council	2005, 2011-2014
Restrooms/Concessions	Lions Club, Village Council	2005-2006
ADA Walkway (Pomona Park)	Lions Club, Village Council	2006
Band Shell Modifications-Gables End	Lions Club, Village Council	2006
Band Shell Modifications-Reset Walls	Lions Club, Village Council	2011-2014
Historic Panels	Jerry Alger, Brian Zwart, Community Volunteers	2011-2014
Civil War Historical Marker	Jerry Alger, Ram Electronics, Community Support	Fall 2014
Veterans' Park	Community Volunteers, Village Council Members	Fall 2008
8 <sup>th</sup> Street Park Shoreline Improvements	Village Council	2017
Pomona Park Lighting	Lions Club, Village Council	2018
Boat Launch Improvements	Village Council	2018
Acquisition of Land Adjacent to Pomona Park	Private Donor, Village Council	2018
Village Marquee (electronic messaging sign)	Village Council and Staff	2020
ADA Kayak Launch with Parking, Benches, etc.	Village Council, Staff and Community Support	2022
Pomona Park Earthcam	Village Council and Staff	2022
New Playground	Village Council, Staff, Community Volunteers and Support	2022
Trolley with Pomona Park Stop	Village Council, Harbor Transit	2022
ADA Ramp Near Bandshell	Village Council	2023
New Roof on Bandshell	Village Council and Lions Club	2023
Basketball Court Upgrades	Village Council and Lions Club	2023
Volleyball Court	Village Council and Staff	2023
Additional and Upgraded Drinking Fountains	Village Council and Staff	2024
Picnic Table Upgrades in Pomona Park Picnic Shelter	Village Council and Staff	2024
Mural on back of Bandshell	Village Planning Commission and Council	2024
Pay Kiosk at Boat Launch	Village Council and Staff	2024
Design and Engineering Plan for Improvements to Land Acquired Adjacent to Pomona Park	Village Council, Staff, and Project Consultant Westshore Engineering	2024

## Vision for the Future

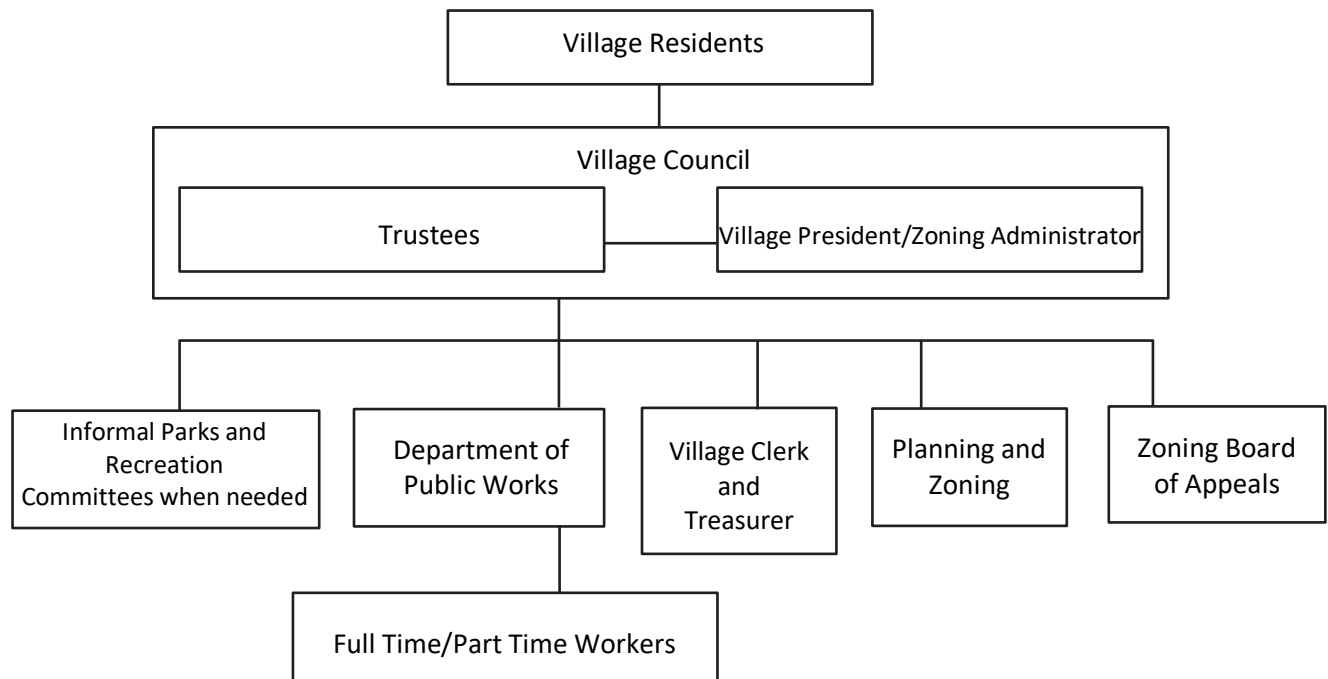
It is within the realm of parks and recreation that the village sees the power to develop community engagement, stimulate economic development, and improve the state of its natural resources. By managing and developing its natural resource's identity and brand through parks, the village will be able to foster an environment where people will want to establish families, set up businesses, and visit for leisure. The Village of Fruitport is committed to this long-term investment in community development. The Village's new motto is Small Village. Big Park.

# Community Description

The 2025-2029 Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Plan has been developed to serve as a guide for future recreation facilities and programs within the Village of Fruitport. This plan focuses on parks, trails and natural areas, including the development, acquisition, and collaboration of park lands for all aspects of recreation within the Village of Fruitport. The plan includes an assessment of current facilities and programs, as well as the acquisition and development of new facilities and programs based on current and future anticipated demands. It also considers linkages throughout the village to other communities. This community recreation plan covers the jurisdiction controlled by the Village of Fruitport, which encompasses one square mile of land that contains four parks and a trail system. The village is bordered on the west, north, and east by Fruitport Township and on the south by Spring Lake Township. The Village of Fruitport is positioned between two exits on I-96 which allows for easy access to the parks system, Pomona Park boat and kayak launch on Spring Lake, and other available services.

# Administrative Structure

Parks and recreation activities, properties and facilities are controlled by the Village of Fruitport Council, under the General Law Village Act (Public Act 3, 1895). Responsibilities relating to the care and management of the village's parks have been given to the Department of Public Works. All day-to-day administration of recreation programming is the responsibility of the Village Council. The Planning Committee acts as a supporting committee that contributes to the planning and regulation of parks. The administrative structure is visualized in the flow chart below.





## Village Staff

The village council and staff include the following elected officials: village president and four trustees. The clerk and treasurer are appointed by the village president and confirmed by the village council (position is not a council seat). The village president and four trustees make up the village council, which is responsible for parks and recreation in the village. The village also employs three full-time DPW team members.

### *Elected Officials*

Roger Vanderstelt, Village President  
 Jeffrey Guiles, Trustee  
 Chris LeFaive, Trustee

Bill Overkamp, Trustee  
 Carl Rothenberger III, Trustee

### *Appointed Officials*

Amy Haack, Village Clerk  
 Ann LaCroix, Village Treasurer

## Recreation Funding

Parks and recreation is important to the Village of Fruitport and is primarily funded through the general fund. In the past about 5.5% has been annually allocated towards parks and recreation. Over the last three years, however, that percentage has increased to about 10.5%. Additional revenue is generated through boat launch permit sales, park reservations, and occasional private donations. Such revenue is reinvested in the park from where it was generated. The village council will continue to oversee and approve all allocation of funds. The chart below shows the current year and projected annual budgets for parks operation and maintenance, recreation programming, and capital improvements:

<b>Fruitport Village Budget</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>
Annual Allocation for Recreation	\$ 87,500*	\$150,000*	\$100,000*
<b>Revenue from Recreation &amp; Donations</b>	<b>2022-2023</b>	<b>2023-2024</b>	<b>2024-2025</b>
Boat Launch Permits	\$31,000	\$27,000	\$25,000
Park Reservations	\$4,000	\$6,100	\$4,000
Other Revenues	\$8,800**	\$156,000**	\$0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$43,800</b>	<b>\$189,100</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>

\* These numbers include the typical \$25,000 for maintenance and the additional allocation.

\*\* The 2019 MDNR grant is included in other revenues for 2023-2024. The 2022-2023 other revenues were playground donations.

## Fruitport Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

In 2014, the village council motioned to allow the formation of a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board with the intention that the advisory board would help the village council evaluate opportunities and create plans as they relate to parks and recreation. A year later, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was formally created by council vote and confirmed by resolution on February 16, 2015. The formal board was dissolved a few years later; however informal committees are formed in the village when large recreation projects arise.

## **Relationship with Other Local Entities**

### ***Neighboring Municipalities***

The Village of Fruitport has a positive relationship with Fruitport Township, Spring Lake Township, and the Village of Spring Lake. However, the Village of Fruitport does not currently have any parks and recreation cooperative agreements with those communities.

The Fruitport Village Planning Commission includes members who are residents of Fruitport Township and Spring Lake Township. This level of collaboration between the village and neighboring townships is admirable.

### ***Fruitport Public Schools***

The Village of Fruitport and Fruitport Community Schools (FCS) enjoy a long-standing collaboration on an as-needed basis. However, there are no plans for shared equipment and responsibilities of parks. The village prioritizes snow removal and control of village sidewalks first for safe walking linkages for students to the school complex and for residents who depend on sidewalks for walking, wheelchairs, and preference for non-motorized transportation.

### ***Spring Lake – Lake Board***

The Village of Fruitport has a positive relationship with the Spring Lake – Lake Board but does not currently have any official parks and recreation collaborative agreements with the board. Roger Vanderstelt, Village President, serves on the Spring Lake – Lake Board as a liaison.

### ***Clubs & Organizations***

The Village of Fruitport assists many clubs and organizations with community events and programs, including but not limited to the following:

- Fruitport Lions Club
- Fruitport District Library
- Numerous fishing groups
- Dancing Into the Sunset
- Fruitport Township Public Safety
- Numerous church groups and families

The Fruitport Lions Club has benefited from the village allowing them to use Pomona Park and facilities at no cost for a variety of organized events including Old Fashioned Days, a popular annual event. In return, the Lions has generously given part of their proceeds back to the park in terms of funding specific projects such as the band shell, pavilion, fishing dock and others. This collaboration dates back over 30 years and continues strong.

## **Role of Volunteers**

Other than involvement of the clubs and organizations discussed above, the Village of Fruitport does not rely upon volunteers for maintenance or operation of parks or recreation programs within the village. However, the Village of Fruitport would like to acknowledge the community's legacy of individual donors and benefactors who have contributed time and money to the parks system, its facilities, and attractions.

# Recreation Inventory

The recreation inventory is an essential component of this recreation plan. It allows the village council to assess the quantity, type, location, and accessibility of existing facilities. It also explains the variety of programs and events offered and where there may be opportunities for new programs and events. It serves to help identify where new facilities might be built and where ADA upgrades are needed. The inventory was initially developed by a consultant for the 2015 edition of this plan and has been reviewed and updated by the Village Council for the 2025 edition. It should be noted that new park and village office signage were erected in late 2019.



## Park Classification

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) published guidelines for park classification based on size and service area. These categories are recommended by the Michigan DNR guidelines and were used to classify the parks of the Village of Fruitport. The classifications used in this report are as follows:

Classification	General Description	Location Criteria	Size Criteria
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a 1/4 mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2,500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park (see appendix for definition of “neighborhood park”). Focus is on meeting community-based recreation needs & preserving unique landscapes & open spaces.	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more neighborhoods and 1/2 to 3 mile distance.	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually between 30 and 50 acres.

## Accessibility Assessment

Complying with accessibility standards and planning for universal design are two extremely important efforts that a municipality must undertake in its endeavors to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its people. This is true not only for those disabled by birth or by accident, but also for the growing population of people entering old age who are finding normal tasks more and more challenging. Many able-bodied persons forget that disability is often an eventuality as one grows older. Therefore, the Village of Fruitport should seek to improve the accessibility of its environment not simply to comply with law, but to think more broadly and take steps towards developing a compassionate, inclusive, and accessible community, unencumbered by physical barriers.

This inventory includes a cursory assessment of accessibility at existing parks. The Village Clerk, who is the writer of this plan update, stayed with the existing assigned accessibility ratings, which are based on 2010 ADA Standards referenced by the DNR's guidelines for recreation plans. It establishes a baseline assessment so that accessibility needs can be incorporated into future projects. This evaluation is not comprehensive and does not identify specific deficiencies.

### Accessibility Ranking System

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

## Comparison to Recreation Standards

The Village of Fruitport land was classified using the Recreation Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, published by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). The Village of Fruitport owns 8.33 acres of developed park land per 1,000 people, which is within the NRPA guidelines of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of land per 1,000 people. Currently, mini parks do not meet the recommended acreage per 1000 people, but only by .04 acres. The one community park in the Village of Fruitport meets the NRPA standard. A single connector trail also resides in the village, but there are no NRPA standards for recommended trail acreage or mileage. While there is a multi-school complex in the Village of Fruitport, school recreation facilities are not considered part of the Village of Fruitport's parks and recreation system.

# Park Facilities Inventory

## Inventory Tool

Facility Name	Acres	Park Classification	Accessibility Assessment	Ball Field	Soccer Fields	Football Fields	Tennis	Track & Field	Basketball Courts	Open Lawn	5-12 Play Structures	2-5 Play Structures	Swing Sets	Picnic Areas	Yard Games	Multi Use Path	Fishing Access/Pier	Boat Launch	Shelter/Pavilion	Kitchen Facilities	Restroom Building	Bike Racks	Site Amenities (Beaches, Etc)	Historical /Monument	Parking Area	Notes
8th Avenue Park	0.18	MP	1							•																Road end with sheet piling seawall.
Pine Street Park	0.25	MP	1																							Road end with concrete wall and naturalized shore.
Veteran's Park	0.07	MP	1																							
Pomona Park	8.6	CP	2							•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Park in center of town. 1000' of shoreline.
Lakeside Trail	NA	CT	3													•										Around Spring Lake.
Fruitport Public Schools	76	SP	3	5	2	1	8	•	3	•	•	•	•	•	•											Multi-School Complex. Fruitport High School, Fruitport Middle School, Edgewood Elementary School

CP = Community Park, CT = Connector Trail, MP = Mini Park, SP = School Park, • = Facility/Activity Present, # = Number of Facilities/Activities Present

### The Village of Fruitport Parks

(Population 1,103†)

	Mini Park 5A	Community Park (5-8A/1,000)	Total
<b>No. of Developed Parks</b>	3	1	4
<b>Total Acres by Type</b>	.5	8.6	9.1
<b>Acres/1,000 People</b>	.46	7.87	8.33*

Total Village Park Land - 9.1

Total Acres Park Land/1000 People - 8.33\*

Total City Parks - 4

\*NRPA recommends 6.25-10.5 Acres per 1,000 people

† 2020 U.S. Census.

# Recreation Facilities Map





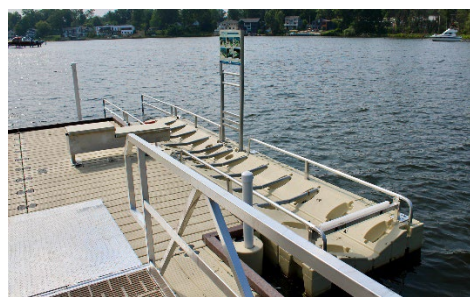
**Pomona Park**

Pomona Park is a small waterfront community park that offers a boat launch, ADA kayak launch, fishing, picnicking, as well as a multi-use path, a band shell, a new playground, and temporary event space for carnivals or festivals. Winter activities also take place with sledding as a highlight. It is the largest of the parks in the village and serves a much larger population than just village residents due to its public boat launch on the north end of Spring Lake. This provides boaters with direct access to the Grand Haven waterfront, Lake Michigan, and the Grand River. In 2018, the village acquired a 3-acre parcel adjacent and to the west of Pomona Park. The land is currently undeveloped, and therefore not considered “park space” for the purpose of this plan. The Village is currently working toward the development of this parcel with walking trails, shoreline boardwalk, etc. The Village is contracting with a professional design and engineering consultant with the intention of securing a MDNR grant.



**Statistics**

- Type: Community Park
- Size (acres): 8.6
- Service Area: 30 Miles
- Accessibility Assessment: 2





### ***8th Avenue Park***

8th Avenue Park is a waterfront park situated at the end of 8th Avenue on the border of The Village of Fruitport and Fruitport Township. It is the third largest park in the village. It offers views of the lake and sunsets, resides on a historical site, has an open lawn area, and a shoreline that was stabilized/improved with large rocks in 2017. It is a popular spot for fishing from the shore.

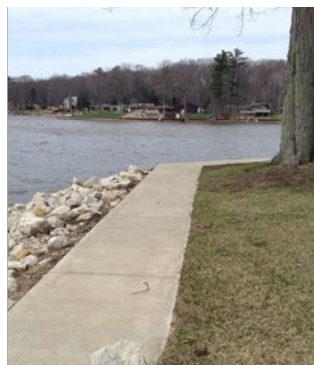
### ***Statistics***

Type: Mini Park

Size (acres): .18

Service Area: 1/2 Mile

Accessibility Assessment: 1







### ***Pine Street Park***

Pine Street Park is a waterfront park situated at the end of Pine Street. It is the second largest park in the village. It is used by some who sit on bench to view the water. It was once a village beach.

### ***Statistics***

Type: Mini Park

Size (acres): .25

Service Area: 1/2 Mile

Accessibility Assessment: 1





***Veteran's Park***

Veteran's Park is a small park situated in the commercial district of the Village of Fruitport. It contains several monuments dedicated to war veterans.

***Statistics***

Type: Mini Park

Size (acres): .07

Service Area: 1/2 Mile

Accessibility Assessment: 1





## Lakeside Trail

The Lakeside Trail, a picturesque 15 mile path around Spring Lake, is part of a larger regional network of bike trails and pathways. The Lakeside Trail loops through Fruitport on the north-east end of Spring Lake at Pomona Park. Pomona Park, with proximity to I-96 and Airline Road is considered a trailhead for the Lakeside Trail. The trail meanders through the park between Park Street and Norris Creek to the South. This heavily used and popular pathway provides easy access to cycle routes on both sides of the Grand River including connections to the Lake Michigan Circle Tour scenic roadway system. Users often stop at the park for water and restroom breaks or to take a rest on the benches along the trail with views of Spring Lake. The trail is used for running, marathon races, and cycling events. Pomona Park is often used as a trailhead for these activities. Locally, the trail connects to the North Shore, Ferrysburg, Waverly North Beach, Hoffmaster State Park as well as Spring Lake, the Grand Haven waterfront and beaches. Access to the Lakeshore Connector Path linking Grand Haven and Holland is extremely popular.

## Statistics

Type: Connector Trail

Size (acres): NA

Service Area: 10 Miles

Accessibility Assessment: 3



## Program Inventory

### *Activities and Events*

The Fruitport Village Clerk is responsible for the facilitation of programming activities and events within the village parks. In conjunction with the Fruitport Village Council, the village does not staff a parks department to operate activities, but it does collaborate with organizations, churches, non-profits, and businesses to host public events within the parks. This involves holding reservations for space, opening up facilities for event planners and organizers, and maintaining the facilities before and after the events take place. The following activities are recurring events that take place in the Village of Fruitport.

<b>Event Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Organizer</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Old Fashioned Days	Carnival, music, parade, etc	Lion's Club	Annual-Spring
Lion's Easter Egg Hunt	Community Event	Lion's Club	Annual-Spring
Old Fashioned Christmas	Sleigh/Hay Rides, Santa Visit, Food and Drinks, Music	Lion's Club	Annual-Winter
Dancing Into Sunset	Free community dancing and music at Pomona Park.	Susan Halter	Thursdays after Memorial Day, from 7:00 PM until sunset.
Fishing Tournaments	Local Amateur and Pro-Am Fishing Tournaments	Local Fishing Clubs, Bassmaster (Occasionally)	Periodic
Craft Fairs	Vendors sell hand-crafted goods	Various	Periodic
Slip & Slide	Giant slip & slide for the community to enjoy	Lions Club, Fruitport Public Safety, Fruitport Trojans Youth Club	Annual
Misc. Community Events and Concerts	Misc. nonprofits and businesses rent the park for community events and concerts.	Misc.	Periodic

### *Rentals and Services*

The Village of Fruitport is responsible for the operation and administration of facilities that are available for rent or for a small fee. These fees go back into the maintenance and operation of the facilities. The following facilities are available for rent for a small fee.

<b>Facility</b>	<b>Seasonal Availability</b>	<b>Operations Department</b>	<b>Rates</b>
Boat Launch	April-September	Public Works	Please contact Village for current rates
Pavilion & Bandshell	Year Round	Public Works	Reservation Fee

## Regional Recreation Opportunities

Recreation opportunities are abundant around the region. Below is a sample of the parks, trails, schools, and other recreation facilities that are available in nearby municipalities.

### *Fruitport Township*

#### **Public**

- Farr Road Park
- Pine Park

#### **Private**

- Craig's Cruisers
- Lakeshore Sports Center
- Lakes Mall
- West Wind Golf Club

### *Fruitport Community Schools*

- Beach School
- Cummings School Forest
- Fruitport Campus
- Shettler School

### *Spring Lake Township*

- Rycenga Park
- Rycenga Park Foot Trails

### *Muskegon County*

- Blue Lake Park
- Deremo Park
- Duck Lake State Park
- Fairchild Park
- Meinert Park
- Moore Park
- Muskegon State Game Area
- Muskegon State Park
- Patterson Park
- Pioneer Park
- P.J. Hoffmaster State Park
- Twin Lake Park
- Dune Harbor Park

### *Newaygo County*

- Baptist Lake Park
- Croton Dam Park
- Manistee National Forest

### *Ottawa County*

- Bass River Recreation Area
- Berlin Fairground

- Deer Creek Park
- Grand Haven State Park
- Grose Park
- Hager Park
- Holland State Park
- Kirk Park
- North Beach Park
- Pigeon Creek Park
- Riverside Park
- Spring Grove Park
- Tunnel Park

### *Kent County*

- LMCU Ball Park
- Johnson Park
- Lamoreaux Park
- Lydell Park
- Long Lake Park
- Palmer Park
- Rouge River Park
- Rouge River State Game Area
- Walfield Park

## Status Report for All Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

In 2020 the Village of Fruitport received a Michigan DNR Trust Fund Grant to assist in the funding of the ADA kayak launch in Pomona Park. The first edition of this plan (2014) was the first recreation plan completed by the Village to better organize improvements and secure funds from the DNR's grant programs.

# Existing Boating Inventory

## **Boat Launch at Pomona Park**

Pomona Park is a small waterfront community park that includes a public boat launch and an ADA kayak launch on Spring Lake. The ADA kayak launch was built partially with a MDNR Trust Fund Grant awarded in 2020. This provides boaters with access to Spring Lake, Norris, Creek, the Grand River, Grand Haven waterfront, and Lake Michigan (including the Lake Michigan Water Trail). It is very popular with boaters seeking access to these areas and serves residents and regional visitors. The village made improvements and expansions to the boat launch in 2017, including new launch docks and parking lot improvements. Also, an open-air information station with roof, cement floor, and permanent table and seating was added in 2018. Due to reasonable (some might say “cheap”) launch fees and relative ease of access to highly desirable boating waters, this facility is often very busy during the summer. A payment kiosk was added to the boat launch in the summer of 2024.

### *Size of Facility*

This facility currently meets the demands of residents and is considered appropriate in size. Despite its popularity, further expansion of the boat launch is not easily feasible due to the small size of the location and the limitations to accommodate additional trailer traffic and parking.

### *ADA Accessibility*

Two ADA accessible pit toilets are available. ADA accessible parking spaces are available. The boat launch dock is at least 60” wide. The kayak launch is ADA accessible.

### *Site Development Plans*

Future site developments may include transient slips adjacent to the boat launch within Pomona Park.

### *Marketing, Events, and Partnerships*

Unofficial fishing tournaments have taken and continue to take place at the boat launch. Also, historically a boat launch assistant was hired on a part-time basis during busy summer weekends arising around holidays and local events. The pay fee kiosk that was installed at the boat launch in the summer of 2024 is expected to do away with the need to hire an attendant.

### *Dredging*

There is currently not a dredging schedule, but conversations have been taking place with local advisors regarding future dredging needs and possible schedule.

### *Annual Maintenance Schedule*

Repairs and maintenance, annual supplies, annual services - \$10,660

- Pit toilet and temporary porta-potty because of busy season
- Buildings
- Parking lot maintenance
- Lawn mowing
- Seasonal dock removal and spring set-up of dock. Both kayak and boat.
- Dock maintenance
- Office supplies
- Insect control
- Topsoil
- Buoy install and remove

### *Minor and Small-Scale Infrastructure Replacement*

A pay to launch fee kiosk was implemented in the summer of 2024.

FY2024 - \$20,000

### *Large Scale Maintenance and Replacement Schedules*

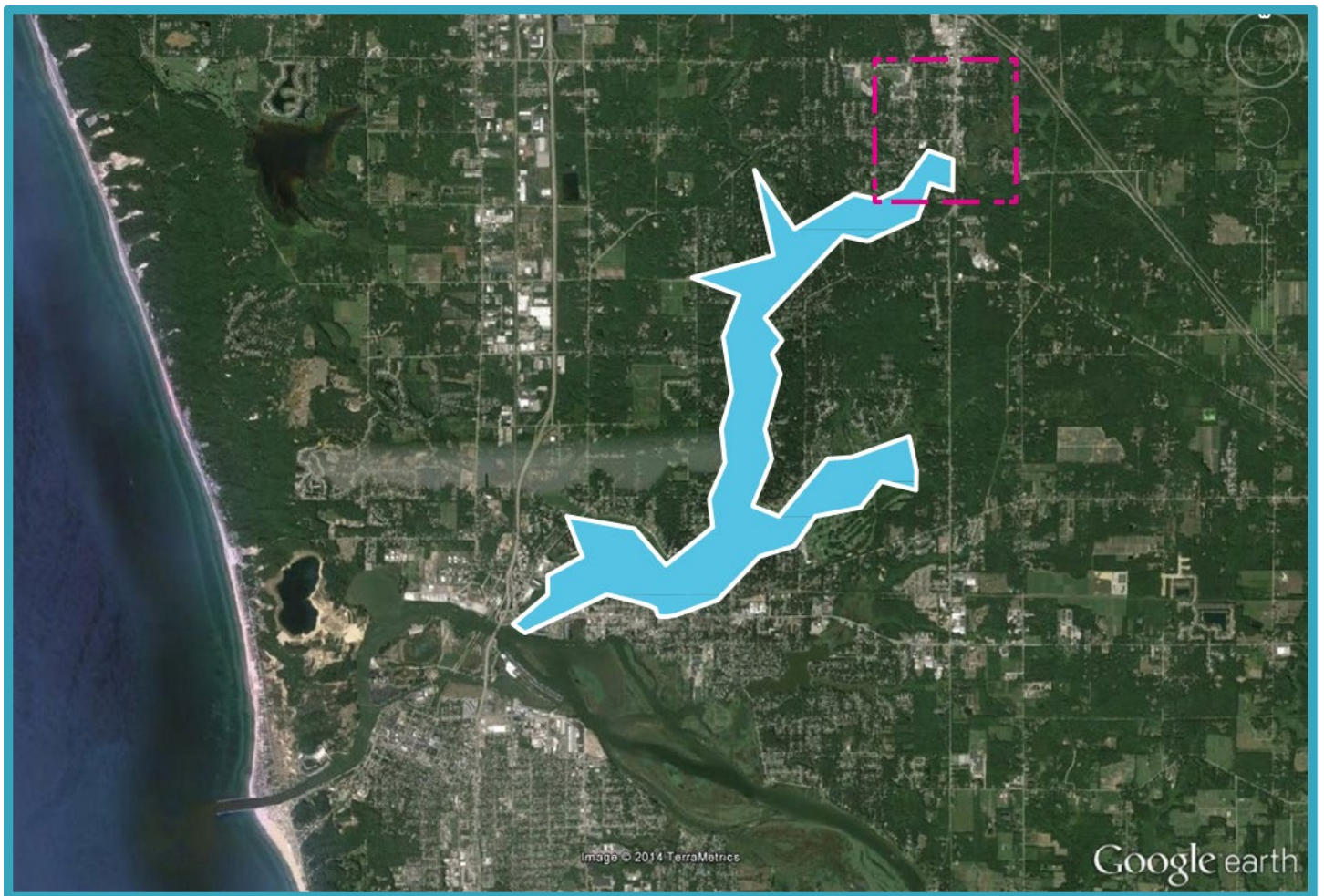
Possible maintenance dredge in FY2027 - \$25,000

Dock decking and parking lot maintenance in FY2027 - \$1,500

# Resource Inventory

## Spring Lake

The Village of Fruitport includes approximately 1,200 feet of shoreline along the most north-eastern finger of Spring Lake. The village surrounds the lake on three sides, forming a bay. Spring Lake is over five miles long and often hundreds of yards wide, offering opportunities for recreational boating, kayaking, fishing, and swimming. It is connected to the mouth of the Grand River, which spills into Lake Michigan at Grand Haven. From there, a person launching at Fruitport has access to the greatest collection of freshwater bodies in the world – the Great Lakes.



While Spring Lake is a valuable recreation waterway and used by many, the condition of the lake is threatened by environmental pollution. Recent studies have revealed a systemic phosphor loading problem that has resulted in highly eutrophic conditions in the lake. No study has conclusively identified the sources of the lake's



pollutants. However, this nutrient overload has likely occurred as a result of a combination of pollution sources which may include lawn fertilizers, historic industrial waste, historic use of phosphor- based detergents, septic system failure, septic leeching from improperly placed septic fields, or run-off pollutants from urbanized environments (roadways, rooftops, etc.). Since there is no sewer system in the Village of Fruitport, contamination from septic systems is a real possibility.

Important steps have been taken by the Spring Lake – Lake Board to help raise awareness and establish guidelines for homeowners to follow. However, the eutrophic condition of Spring Lake has not been addressed with comprehensive regional planning, policy making, and enforcement. As phosphor levels continue to accumulate, Spring Lake will inevitably become hypereutrophic (too many nutrients), leading to a variety of serious problems. The environment will eventually become uninhabitable by fish and most other forms of aquatic life (critical to the life of a lake’s ecosystems), as well as generally unattractive to and unusable by people (critical to human recreation and consumption). Therefore, it is extremely important to the livelihood of the communities living around the lake that the local communities do what they can to ensure that the lake remain vibrant and usable for generations to come.

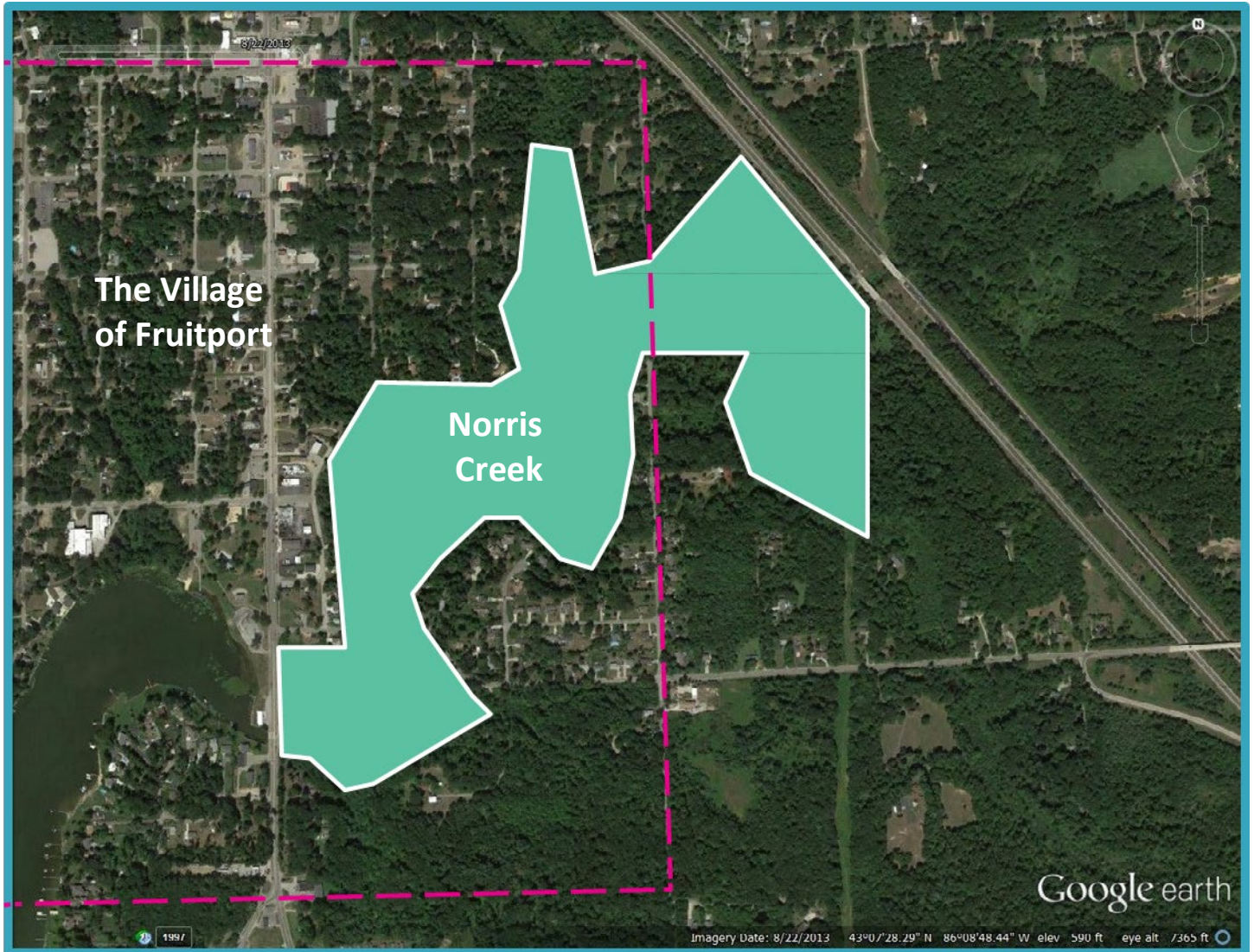
## **Norris Creek**

The Village of Fruitport has a large wetland at the tail waters of Norris Creek. It includes navigable waterways with depths ranging from less than a foot deep to depths of over six feet or more. There are several miles of water that can be explored by kayak, canoe, and even small motorboats. This wetland ecosystem includes habitat for waterfowl, songbirds, birds of prey, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals. It is bordered by houses, a cemetery, and a highway.

This wetland, referred to as Norris Creek, has the potential to support a vibrant fishery, massive populations of migratory birds, and stable numbers of year-round animals. It could support the sustained productivity of not just the local ecosystem, but also the regional ecosystems that depend on Norris Creek’s fish, bird, and mammal nursery to restock populations in Spring Lake, the Grand River, Lake Michigan, and across the landscape of the Muskegon-Ottawa County area.

From an education perspective, it is unparalleled within the village, providing boundless opportunities for experience-based learning and in-the-field studies. Elementary, middle, and high school programs could

incorporate the natural area into the core science curriculum by getting out on site and observing natural processes at work.



In addition to these benefits, the wetland complex has the potential to provide profound ecosystem services to the human landscape (and likely already does). The massive area occupied by the high-bank wetland offers tremendous flood storage capacity to take on changes in lake elevations. This helps mitigate damage to homeowners and businesses residing near flood-prone areas. The wetland complex also filters run-off that is collected and channeled into the creek. Plants, soils, and bacteria serve to strip nutrients, waste, and some chemicals from the water, converting those compounds into energy, biomass or non-toxic waste, neutralizing the pollution and immobilizing the suspended particles. The filtered runoff flows into Spring Lake, replenishing

it and helping to dilute its pollution. The plant mass and organic soils also serve another function as a carbon sink, capturing carbon emissions and converting them into organic, reusable materials.

Threats to Norris Creek currently include the presence of invasive species and the existing monoculture of cattails. First, several invasive species have begun to take hold within the wetland complex. The most notable invasive species is Phragmites; a tall, fast-growing plant that spreads through subsurface rhizomes and wind-borne seed dispersion. This plant can expand its reach by 50' to 100' each season, crowding out existing plant communities. Another notable invasive species is Reed Canary Grass. Like Phragmites, it spreads quickly and can out-compete native plants, but it is much shorter and usually passes as overgrown lawn to the untrained eye. Both types of invasive species are significant fire hazards to nearby buildings and they both decimate the livelihood of the ecosystems they inhabit. Other invasive species may be present as well.

Second, the monoculture of cattails has acted as an invasive species, crowding out most other plants and creating an unproductive landscape. While some animals benefit from cattails, many that would otherwise live in this area do not. The result is lower diversity and fewer total numbers of plants and animals. The cattails are also tall, making it difficult to see anything beyond the edge of the stream, restricting views into the habitat. This diminishes the recreation opportunities for wildlife viewing, photography, and other passive, nature-based activities.

While Norris Creek is already a vast sea of cattails, it has yet to be inundated by invasive species. Future actions can be taken to mitigate the oncoming invasive species and to re-diversify the vegetation to encourage a more vibrant ecosystem. This calls for a comprehensive landscape management plan that addresses all of the threats and sets a realistic schedule of corrective actions. This should be undertaken as soon as possible to prevent the massive spread of invasive species, which, when unmanaged, will make it harder and harder to restore the wetlands with each passing year.

# The Planning Process

## Plan Development Process

This recreation plan is an update of a plan that was developed in 2014-2015 and updated in 2019. The village council hosted a community visioning session on November 4, 2024. Information gathered at that meeting was then used to evaluate the inherited recreation plan goals and objectives. The village council, with the assistance of the village clerk, reviewed the goals and objectives at a council meeting on November 18, 2024 and reviewed the list of potential recreation projects on November 18, 2024. All meetings were open to the public. A draft document was made available for public review from December 2, 2024, through December 31, 2024; after which a public hearing was held by the village council. The plan was adopted by the village council on January 20, 2025 following the public hearing.

A new section, "Existing Boating Inventory," was added to the inherited plan in the event that an opportunity arises for the village to apply for a waterways grant within the next five years.

## Public Participation

All Fruitport Village residents and business owners were mailed a post card inviting them to attend the public visioning session on October 24, 2024. In addition, notice of the meeting was published on the Fruitport Village website and on social media platforms. Community stakeholders received an emailed version of the post card on or about October 25, 2024. During the meeting, the Village Clerk gave an overview of the recreation planning process and then facilitated a visioning session. The visioning session included a presentation from Westshore Engineering with a project feedback session regarding the design and engineering of a trail, etc. project on the newly acquired property next to Pomona Park. Attendees were then divided into two groups of six to eight individuals. Each group was presented with a list of the following four questions and given time to discuss and answer them. Each group then reported out to the group the main answers to each question.

1. What do you like about the existing recreation opportunities in Fruitport Village?
2. What don't you like about the existing recreation opportunities in Fruitport Village, or what would you like to see changed?
3. What new program or facilities would you like to see in Fruitport Village?
4. Other comments regarding current and future recreation opportunities in Fruitport Village?

This was a similar set of questions used to solicit public comments for the creation of the community's first recreation plan in 2014-2015 and the update in 2019. Doing so allowed the village council to observe how comments from the public changed over time. A compilation of comments gathered during this exercise is included in the appendix.

When a draft recreation plan was prepared, the following efforts were taken to notify and engage the public of the 30-day review period: 1) a public notice was published in the **November 9 and December 7** editions of the Grand Haven Tribune; 2) the proposed recreation plan was posted on the Fruitport Village website along with notice of the public meeting to follow the review period; 3) a post was made on the Village's Facebook account, and 4) a paper copy of the proposed draft was available in the Village office for public viewing. **No comments were received from the public, either in writing or during the public hearing. Therefore, no substantial adjustments were made to the proposed recreation plan draft. (paragraph to be updated after public comment period has ended.)** The public comment questionnaire summary from the 2019 update of this plan has been carried forward and preserved in the appendix of this document.



Pictured above: Attendees of the November 4, 2024 public involvement meeting for the update of the recreation plan.

# Goals and Objectives

After careful study of demographics, review of public comment and past studies, and comparison to national standards the following goals and objectives were established for the Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Plan. Many goals and objectives were identified through the planning process. They are numbered for ease of discussion but do not reflect any particular priority.

## Goals and Objectives

- I. **Create and provide a framework for an effective, responsible, and cooperative parks and recreation system that seeks to benefit visitors and residents of the village.**
  - A. **Enhance the operations and maintenance of the parks and recreation system by establishing and maintaining operation and maintenance cooperative agreements and contracts with other organizations**
    1. Look for ways to strengthen and sustain public involvement.
    2. Look for ways to continue working with the surrounding townships of Fruitport and Spring Lake.
    3. Identify and carry out opportunities to work with other organizations/agencies to support parks and recreation operations and maintenance.

### **Rationale:**

Partnerships help to provide high quality operation and maintenance services without duplicating efforts. The Village Council should look for mutually beneficial relationships that enhance the operation and maintenance of the parks system.

- B. **Develop and maintain partnerships/coalitions with community groups, organizations, businesses, local and regional governmental jurisdictions, and educational institutions that provide services that enhance the parks and recreation system**
  1. Collaborate with other municipalities, townships, and counties to serve the broader recreational service area.
  2. Continue to work with clubs and organizations such as the Lions Club to provide community programs and support capital improvement projects.
  3. Develop collaborations with user groups.
  4. Create and maintain partnerships with entertainment and event planners to bring in new programs.
  5. Maintain communication and cooperation with the Spring Lake – Lake Board.

### **Rationale:**

The Council coordinates and has partnerships with many organizations within the community and will continue to maintain these relationships as well as seek to establish new partnerships. These

partnerships are mutually beneficial and provide important recreation opportunities to the community.

**C. Maintain a budget that is sufficiently funded and appropriately allocated.**

1. The Village general fund is the major source of funding for the parks and recreation system. The Village Council will work to provide the necessary funding to adequately serve the residents of the Village of Fruitport.
2. Seek grant approvals whenever feasible to extend available village dollars and provide quality capital improvement projects.
3. Donations, gifts, endowments, corporate partnerships or other contributions toward maintaining and developing the park system need to be encouraged for specific projects.

**Rationale:**

Parks and recreation activities are funded by the general fund. While this continues to be a viable funding source, it is important to supplement these dollars with others in order to maintain a healthy budget. The village has been successful in obtaining grant funding and donations in the past and will continue to pursue these and other opportunities to enhance and preserve the park system to meet the community's recreation needs.

**II. Provide quality recreational facilities that meet the recreation needs and wants of the village residents.**

**A. Update, renovate, and maintain existing waterfront, parks, trails and other recreation facilities.**

1. Norris Creek – Develop management strategy for short and long-term ecosystem improvements.
2. Pomona Park – Continue boat launch amenities updates, continue to upgrade ADA access and trail enhancements, clean up shoreline, maintain playground, and upgrade pavilion kitchen.
3. 8th Avenue Park – Maintain beautification and public access.
4. Pine Street Park – Maintain beautification and public access.

**Rationale:**

Existing park facilities must be properly maintained throughout the life of the facility. Some facilities must be renovated when they have reached the end of their safe and effective life. Others must be replaced. These types of projects help to achieve a high level of quality at all of the existing park facilities.

**B. Expand or develop existing waterfront, parks, trails, and other recreation facilities, to accommodate new recreation opportunities and to meet growing demand**

1. Pomona Park – Create boardwalk trail along shoreline, develop interpretive/educational shoreline areas, continue to work with library board on possible renovation/expansion of current library.

2. Pomona Park – Develop trailhead signage within Pomona Park for the Lakeside Trail.
3. Pomona Park – Continue research boat launch amenities upgrades.
4. Pomona Park – Explore feasibility of transient docks.
5. Promote Pomona Park boat launch as an access point of the Spring Lake segment of the Lake Michigan Water Trail.
6. Enhance recently acquired land adjacent to Pomona Park following the design and engineering plan developed in consultation with Westshore Engineering which includes trails, signage, benches, hammocks, shoreline boardwalk, etc.

**Rationale:**

It is important to continue expanding and developing existing facilities in order to provide a variety of recreation options that keep up with trends in recreation. The public input process identified many needs and wants that have come forth as potential projects for Pomona Park.

**C. Identify uses for undeveloped properties, utilizing community input through the master planning process, in order to develop new parks, trails, and other recreation facilities that accommodate new recreation opportunities and meet growing demand**

1. Norris Creek - Develop waterway into pristine quiet-waters experience, find opportunities to utilize waterways for outdoor education.
2. 2nd Avenue - Develop trail along upper ridge of Norris Creek.

**Rationale:**

Undeveloped or underutilized properties are in public domain. As the community has grown around these properties, it has become clear that there is a need to develop them for recreation use. Each undeveloped area could have the potential to host a variety of facilities and amenities, ranging from highly-sophisticated buildings to simple nature trails. In order to fully understand their potential, these properties need to go through the master planning process.

**III. Bring the village park facilities up to current accessibility and safety standards**

**A. Evaluate and determine playground deficiencies throughout the park system.**

1. At least once with every code change and once every 5-10 years as equipment ages, conduct playground audits of existing facilities to identify deficiencies.

**Rationale:**

As standards change and as equipment ages, it is important to re-evaluate the conditions of the facilities to ensure that all play equipment meets code.

**B. Improve or replace playground equipment that is out of compliance or under-used**

1. When necessary, develop construction plans for and construct code-compliant equipment to replace all non-compliant equipment.

**Rationale:**



Equipment should be maintained up to code to ensure the safest environment possible. New equipment should be installed to meet the needs of the community.

**C. Perform a system-wide accessibility evaluation and upgrade**

1. Develop ADA Transition Plan that addresses accessibility barriers throughout the recreation system.
2. Implement the schedule from the ADA Transition Plan.

**Rationale:**

The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990, requires that public accommodations must remove architectural barriers and communication barriers that are structural in nature in existing facilities. However, "A [Title II] public entity is not required to take any action that would result in a fundamental alteration in the nature of its service, program, or activity or in undue financial and administrative burdens."

The U.S. Board of Health, Education, and Welfare's view is that compliance "would in most cases not result in undue financial and administrative burdens on a public entity." The burden of proof rests on the public entity, making it harder to justify non-compliance. Therefore, while required only for municipalities with more than 50 employees, it is highly recommended that a "Transition Plan" be in place to demonstrate that The Village of Fruitport is attempting to the best of its ability to complete these changes in a reasonable timeline. Completing improvements will allow all members of the community the ability to experience recreational facilities and programs.

**IV. Acquire land for recreation in quantities sufficient to meet the existing and future recreation needs of the village residents and to protect the village's natural resources, especially the waterfront**

**A. Study specific demographic trends that correspond to the recreation and entertainment services within a geographical target area to determine if additional land is required to meet the needs and demands of the community**

1. Study potential of acquiring all or part of the Modular Systems property for recreation use.

**Rationale:**

There are many questions that need to be answered relative to serving a recreational need, identifying the market, determining the funding for acquisition, and feasibility and logistics of operation. It is important to understand these issues before making decisions about park expansions.

Modular Systems is available for sale. It is prime time to study and evaluate whether a portion of the property or the entire property should be assimilated into the park system.

Because of its proximity to Pomona Park, Modular System provides a link between the neighborhood and Pomona Park. It also has Spring Lake shoreline that could provide recreation

opportunities such as fishing, bird watching, and water access. Converting it to a park would help preserve the shoreline with its natural habitat.

However, the existing building on site may require extensive renovation and its potential use is unknown. This requires additional study to determine if all or part of the property should be acquired.

**B. Identify and acquire land adjacent to existing park lands to allow for program expansion and to create connections between parks throughout the park system**

1. Study a connection between Fruitport Community Schools and Pomona Park.
2. Study potential linkages to active local/regional trail projects, including non-motorized trails and waterway trail designations.
3. Study trails on historic interurban right-of-way to convert right of way into recreation corridor.

**Rationale:**

Having the ability to expand or connect existing park facilities is a crucial strategy of a park system as this allows the parks system to reach as many residents as possible and serve a diverse set of recreation needs.

**C. Identify and acquire land that has significant natural features that are high quality and strategically located, and that serve populated areas or significant natural areas.**

1. Study recreation potential of lands in river corridors and natural areas.
2. Evaluate Norris Creek/Spring Lake area to determine possible connections to Pomona Park and the regional trail system as well as potential public access points.

**Rationale:**

The village does not have a park that focuses on natural features. Natural features can be expensive to restore and hard to find in urbanized areas making it important to protect lands with existing high quality features. Finding these types of lands will provide the park system with the ability to provide a variety of passive, nature-based recreation uses.

**V. Promote the development of new recreation programs with active sports facilities and passive leisure opportunities which are in high demand, or are innovative, or are unique or not presently provided by municipal or private sectors**

**A. Identify new trends in recreation/leisure programming**

1. Send Village Council members to conferences or other educational programs to learn about new trends in recreation/leisure programming.
2. Review recommendations from residents.

**Rationale:**

New trends in recreation programming offer exciting opportunities for residents to participate in and often help create attractive, dynamic places to live. Ignoring trends can lead to under-served residents.

**B. Facilitate third-party programs to provide recreation programming options in the village parks and park facilities**

1. Explore funding and staffing partnerships to help facilitate third-party program providers.
2. Coordinate recreation resources and identify ways to facilitate programs in other village or non-village affiliated facilities.
3. Reach out to organizations to attract events and recreation programs such as performances, farm markets, art and car shows, fundraisers, water-sports, and triathlons to the Village of Fruitport facilities.

**Rationale:**

By sharing facilities and other resources and coordinating programming services with other entities, the village can support a wider variety of programs to residents than would otherwise be possible with parks staff alone.

**C. Monitor service and participation levels of existing programs to inform future planning efforts.**

1. Produce a programming review and restructure activities as necessary to provide residents with convenient and appropriate recreation opportunities.
2. Compile user records and numbers in quantified format to assist in determining participation rates and trends.

**Rationale:**

Tracking participation levels helps monitor demand and assess recreation needs. The board does not currently monitor programming, but should do so on a yearly basis.

# Action Plan

The following action plan outlines potential future recreation projects in the Village of Fruitport. It is a long-term wish list that was developed with detailed information gathered for the previous editions of this recreation plan (extensive public input, interviews, demographic data, land use trends and efforts of adjacent communities), community input gathered for the purpose of performing the 5-year update of the previous editions, and thoughtful input from the Village Council.

Potential projects may be considered as opportunities arise and resources become available. Potential funding may be offered by the Michigan DNR, such as through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport Grants, Waterways Program Grants, Michigan Habitat Improvement Fund Program Grants, Invasive Species Grant Program, or Wildlife Habitat Grant Program. On occasion, other grants may be available through private corporations, non-profit organizations, and other state and federal agencies as well.

Please note: The projects are categorized by location and not listed in priority order. At the time this list was created, the village was working with Westshore Engineering on an engineering and design plan which includes trails, signage, benches, hammocks, shoreline boardwalk, etc. on the new property adjacent to Pomona Park.

## Potential Projects

Location	Description
Pomona Park	Pickle court
	Snack vendor, food trucks
	Shoreline boardwalk and shoreline improvements that follow the design and engineering plans of project consultant Westshore Engineering
	Library building upgrade/expansion in conjunction with the Library Board
	Additional parking that follows the design and engineering plans of project consultant Westshore Engineering
	Additional fishing pier
	Pavilion kitchen upgrades
	Transient boat docks
	Landscaping, irrigation, beautification of park
	Gazebo
New Property Adjacent to Pomona Park	Construct trail and boardwalk that follow the path of Maple Creek and construct boardwalk along shoreline
	Benches, hammocks, nature and historic signage that follow the design and engineering plans of project consultant Westshore Engineering
	Gazebo
	Transient boat dock
Modular Systems	If property becomes available again, investigate acquisition of building and surrounding property by studying renovation needs, potential environmental issues, potential uses, and finance
Norris Creek and Spring Lake	Water quality study, invasive and unwanted species eradication, land scape management plan, dredging
Norris Creek	Ridgeline trail development/study

**Resolution of Adoption** *(to be replaced with new after adoption)*

**RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTING  
A RECREATION PLAN**

***THE VILLAGE OF FRUITPORT COMMUNITY RECREATION MASTER PLAN***  
*For Fruitport Village,  
Muskegon County, MI*

WHEREAS, Fruitport Village has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five-year period covering the years 2020 through 2024, and

WHEREAS, Fruitport Village began the process of developing a community recreation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Fruitport Village were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the final draft plan for a period of at least 30 days, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 16, 2019 during the regular Fruitport Village Council meeting to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the proposed Fruitport Village Recreation Plan, and

WHEREAS, Fruitport Village has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for Fruitport Village, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Fruitport Village Council voted to adopt said Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Fruitport Village Council hereby adopts the Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan.

Yeas:     7          Nays:     0          Absent:     0    

I, *Ann LaCroix, Clerk*, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Fruitport Village Council at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 16th day of December, 2019.

*Ann LaCroix*

# Meeting Minutes - 12/16/2019 – Public Hearing & Plan Adoption

*(to be replaced with new after adoption)*

VILLAGE OF FRUITPORT  
COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>, 2019

1. **Call to Order**  
President Roger Vanderstelt called the meeting to order at 7pm
2. **Pledge**
3. **Prayer**
4. **Roll call**  
Present: Roger Vanderstelt, Donna Pope, Amy Haack, Bill Overkamp, Jay Bolt, Jeff Guiles and Carl Rothenberger (arrived at 7:06pm excused) and Ann LaCroix
5. **Approval of December 16<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Agenda**  
Motion made by Donna to approve the agenda, supported by Amy. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.
6. **Approval of November 18<sup>th</sup> Council meeting minutes**  
Motion made by Amy to approve the meeting minutes, supported by Jeff. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.
7. **Public Comment**  
None
8. **Correspondence**  
Ann read a letter from resident Bob Weber regarding 3 axle trailers at the boat launch.  
Ann advised that the Village received correspondence from the State of Michigan regarding the transfer of a liquor license at 340 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Approval of the local government is not required but we may submit an opinion on the application.
9. **Report from Officers**  
**Donna** had nothing to report.  
**Jeff** had nothing to report.  
**Amy** advised that the Village was award the Kayak Launch grant from the MDNR in the amount of \$125,000.00. The local Village match is \$75,000.00 for a total cost of \$200,000.00. Additional information is required from the Village and will be put together in January.  
**Jay** advised that the next Planning Commission meeting is tomorrow December 17<sup>th</sup>. They will discuss administrative issues, the Master Plan and possibly appointing committees.  
**Carl** had nothing to report.  
**Bill** had nothing to report.  
**Roger** had nothing to report.
10. **Appointment to Library Board**  
Roger referred council to a letter from Rose Dillon, Library Chair recommending the appointment of Bill Overkamp to the open library position replacing Donna Pope. Motion made by Roger to appoint Bill Overkamp to the library board, supported by Amy. Roll call AYES: Pope, Haack, Rothenberger, Overkamp, Bolt, Guiles and Vanderstelt NAYS: None

**11. Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals**

Roger discussed appointing Alex Vickers to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion made by Roger to appoint Alex Vickers to the Zoning Board of Appeals, supported by Carl. Roll call AYES: Pope, Haack, Rothenberger, Overkamp, Bolt, Guiles and Vanderstelt NAYS: None

**12. Recognition of Planning Commission Member**

Jay presented the Distinguished Service Award to DeVere Bendixen for is many years of service to the Village of Fruitport. DeVere served on the Planning Commission, the Council and is an active member of the Lions Club. The council thanked DeVere for his service to the Community.

Motion made by Carl to close the regular council meeting at 7:16pm, supported by Amy. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

Motion made by Amy to open the Public Hearing at 7:16pm, supported by Carl. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

**13. Community Recreation Master Plan Public Hearing**

Stephen Carlson discussed the updating of the Community Recreation Plan. He advised that the plan was available for review for the last 30 days and this hearing is an opportunity for the public to ask questions or make comments. No comments were made by the public. Stephen advised that the Community Recreation Plan is a companion to the Master Plan. Stephen commended the council for investing in the plan and being pro-active. He also complimented the gem of a community we have in the Village of Fruitport.

Motion made by Carl to close the Public hearing at 7:26pm, supported by Amy. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

Motion made by Amy to open the council meeting at 7:26pm, supported by Carl. With a unanimous vote the motion carried.

**14. Resolution for Adopting Community Recreation Master Plan**

See attachment.

**15. End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Repair**

Roger passed out pictures of an issue at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. We have 1 bid for repairing it and are waiting on 2 additional bids. The item is tabled until the next meeting.

**16. 2020 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Project**

Jay advised that documents have been submitted to MDOT. Work will go out for bids in March and construction starting mid-June. Roger received a proposal for Professional Engineering Services from Prein and Newhof. The amount was higher than originally proposed. Jay will check with Prein and Newhof on why there is a difference in cost and report back at the next council meeting.

**17. 5<sup>th</sup> and Beech Project**

Roger reviewed the project and there was a suggestion of running the new pipe at a diagonal. He will have contractors requote the project with a diagonal run and report back at the next council meeting. A discussion took place about engineering services and Carl suggested that we get multiple engineering services bids for future projects.

**18. Public Comment**

None

**19. Warrants**

Motion made by Carl to approve the warrants, supported by Amy. Roll call AYES: Pope, Haack, Rothenberger, Overkamp, Bolt, Guiles and Vanderstelt NAYS: None

**20. Adjournment**

Motion made by Donna to adjourn at 7:55pm, supported by Carl. With a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ann LaCroix  
Clerk

# Letter to Regional Planning Agency *(to be replaced with new after adoption)*

December 18, 2019

Erin Kuhn, Executive Director  
West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission  
316 Morris Ave, Suite 340  
Muskegon, MI 49440

Dear Ms. Kuhn,

On behalf of the Fruitport Village Council, and pursuant to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the development of a community park and recreation plan, I am transmitting to you the recently adopted Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024.

Please contact the Village at 231-865-3511 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Roger Vanderstelt, President  
Village of Fruitport

Enclosure



**Letter to County** *(to be replaced with new after adoption)*

December 18, 2019

Bob Lukens  
Community Development Director  
Muskegon County  
610 W. Western Avenue  
Muskegon, MI 49440

Dear Mr. Lukens,

On behalf of the Fruitport Village Council, and pursuant to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the development of a community park and recreation plan, I am transmitting to you the recently adopted Village of Fruitport Community Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024.

Please contact the Village at 231-865-3511 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Roger Vanderstelt, President  
Village of Fruitport

Enclosure

# Meeting Notices

Postcard Mailed to All Village Residents, business owners, etc.



## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Fruitport Village Council has begun the process of updating the Fruitport Village Recreation Plan. This document will communicate the community's vision for the Village-owned and operated recreation facilities over the next 5 to 20 years. Successful completion of the recreation plan will enable the village to apply for recreation grants offered through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

All Fruitport Village residents are invited to attend a public visioning session at 6pm on Monday, November 4, 2024, at the Village of Fruitport DPW, 45 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Fruitport, MI. The meeting will feature a summary of the planning process and opportunities to comment on recreation within the village.

For additional information about the Fruitport Village Recreation Plan or the public meeting, please contact the Village Clerk at (231) 865-3577 or at [amy@fruitportvillage.org](mailto:amy@fruitportvillage.org).

**30-Day Public Review Notice & Public Hearing Notice - 1st (11/09/19) (to be replaced before plan completion)**

PRINTED COPY

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC REVIEW AND  
PUBLIC HEARING  
FRUITPORT VILLAGE  
RECREATION PLAN**

The Fruitport Village Council will hold a public hearing on December 16th to receive comments regarding the proposed Fruitport Village Recreation Plan update. The hearing will take place at 7pm at 45 N. 2nd Avenue, Fruitport. The hearing will be in conjunction with the regular council meeting. The meeting is open to the public. Those with an interest in the Fruitport Village Recreation Plan are encouraged to attend. A copy of the proposed Recreation Plan will be available from November 15th through December 16th for public viewing at 45 N. 2nd Avenue, Fruitport and online at [villageof-fruitport.org](http://villageof-fruitport.org).

Written comments regarding the proposed draft may be submitted by December 15th to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, 316 Morris Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440 or via email at [scarlson@wmsrdc.org](mailto:scarlson@wmsrdc.org).

Questions should be directed to Mr. Stephen Carlson (231) 722-7878 (extension 11).

The Village will provide necessary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice to the Village.

ANN LACROIX  
CLERK  
231-865-3577  
November 9, 2019

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF OTTAWA**


Chelsea Carlson, being duly sworn, says:

That she is a Customer Service Representative of the Grand Haven Tribune, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in Grand Haven, Ottawa County, Michigan; that the publication, a copy of which is attached hereto, was published in the said newspaper on the following date(s):

**November 9, 2019**

That said newspaper was regularly issued and circulated on those dates.

SIGNED:

  
Chelsea Carlson

Scribed and sworn before me on  
November 9, 2019

  
Audra A. Fitzpatrick-Cook

Notary public, State of Michigan, County of Ottawa

My commission expires: November 13, 2023

AUDRA A FITZPATRICK-COOK  
Notary Public, State of Michigan  
County of Ottawa  
My Commission Expires 11-13-2023  
Acting in the County of \_\_\_\_\_

**30-Day Public Review Notice & Public Hearing Notice - 2nd (12/07/2019) (to be replaced with new after adoption)**

PRINTED COPY

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING  
FRUITPORT VILLAGE RECREATION PLAN**

The Fruitport Village Council will hold a public hearing on December 16th to receive comments regarding the proposed Fruitport Village Recreation Plan update. The hearing will take place at 7pm at 45 N. 2nd Avenue, Fruitport. The hearing will be in conjunction with the regular council meeting. The meeting is open to the public. Those with an interest in the Fruitport Village Recreation Plan are encouraged to attend. A copy of the proposed Recreation Plan will be available from November 15th through December 16th for public viewing at 45 N. 2nd Avenue, Fruitport and online at [villageof-fruitport.org](http://villageof-fruitport.org). Written comments regarding the proposed draft may be submitted by December 15th to the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission, 316 Morris Avenue, Muskegon, MI 49440 or via email at [scarlson@wmsrdc.org](mailto:scarlson@wmsrdc.org). Questions should be directed to Mr. Stephen Carlson (231) 722-7878 (extension 11). The Village will provide necessary aids and services to individuals with disabilities upon reasonable notice to the Village.

ANN LACROIX  
CLERK  
231-865-3577  
December 7, 2019

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF OTTAWA**

Lee Ann M. LaDronka, being first duly sworn, says that she is the **OFFICE CLERK** of the Grand Haven Tribune, a newspaper published in the English language for the dissemination of local or transmitted news and intelligence of a general character and legal news, which is a duly qualified newspaper. And that annexed there to is a copy of a certain order taken from said newspaper, in which the order was published.

December 7th, 2019

*Lee Ann M. LaDronka*  
Lee Ann M. LaDronka

Scribed and sworn before me on

December 7th, 2019

*Audra A. Fitzpatrick-Cook*  
Audra A. Fitzpatrick-Cook  
Notary public in and for Ottawa County  
State of Michigan  
My commission expires: November 13, 2023

AUDRA A. FITZPATRICK-COOK  
Notary Public, State of Michigan  
County of Ottawa  
My Commission Expires 11-13-2023  
Acting in the County of \_\_\_\_\_

# Regional Trail Map

Ride to the lighthouse pier in Grand Haven.

Access Site	Parking	Restrooms	Water
1 Pomona Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
2 North Bank Trailhead	Yes	No	No
3 Central Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
4 Mill Point Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
5 Ferry Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
6 Linear Park	Yes	Yes	No
7 Chinoak Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
8 Grand Haven State Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
9 Mercury Drive Park	Yes	No	No
10 Pottawatomie Park	Yes	Yes	No
11 Holma Park	Yes	Yes	Yes
12 Rosy Mound Natural Area	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Grand Haven/Spring Lake/Ferrysburg Trail Network

The tri-cities of Grand Haven, Spring Lake and Ferrysburg have become a crossroads for trail riders with an extensive network of paved paths and bike lanes interwoven throughout these communities. Wherever you are in this area, you'll find trails nearby and easy connections to other local trails. Spend a sunny day or weekend exploring the area's beaches, bayous, lakes, rivers, parks, and local attractions by bike, brisk run or leisurely stroll.

There are plenty of public access areas to embark on your journey. In Grand Haven, you'll find easy access to the Grand Haven Waterfront Trail at Grand Haven State Park and public parking areas along the waterfront.

### Lakeside Trail

When you cross over the north side of the US-31 drawbridge, the trail system connects with the 15-mile Lakeside Trail, which encircles Spring Lake through the communities of Ferrysburg, Fruitport and Village of Spring Lake. Trails in the Village of Spring Lake also lead to the

Elevated boardwalk on the Lakeside Trail travels along the channel between Ferrysburg and Spring Lake.

North Bank Trail

Grand River Greenway Trail North with views of the Grand River.

Grand Haven Waterfront Trail

### North Bank Trail

The first 3 miles of the North Bank Trail were paved and opened to the public in 2011. State funding has been approved to acquire the remaining section of abandoned rail bed to be developed from Spring Lake to Cooperville, where it will eventually connect to the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail and downtown Grand Rapids. Starting at Central Park, the trail travels through a scenic landscape of blueberry fields, woodlands and marshes.

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Village of Fruitport  
Community Recreation Master Plan 2020-2024

Grand Haven • Spring Lake • Ferrysburg Trail Network

# Public Visioning Meeting 11-4-2024

## Questionnaire Results

### 1. *What do you like about the existing recreation opportunities in Fruitport Village?*

Like it the way it is	Well used / Accessibility
Opportunities in local / centered in Pomona Park	Trail Access
Easy to get to	Boat Launch
Land/water around the park	Basketball courts
Aesthetics	Pavilion Rental
Diversity of sporting activities	Dog waste stations
Picnic area	Well maintained
Bandshell	Public support
Library location in Pomona Park	Fishing pier
Small/quaint	We like Pomona Park
Water bowls for dogs	Family areas
Bike repair station	Fishing
Trolley route	Trash stations
Kayak launch, fishing, basketball court	Pavilion well maintained
Playground	Lots of public support

### 2. *What don't you like about the existing recreation opportunities in Fruitport Village, or what would you like to see changed?*

Duckweed	Volleyball sand box
Porta John by boat ramps	Annoying goose debris/poop
Old pavilion piles/pylons	Do not want to get larger
Cattails	Stay as is / small quaint
Volleyball court	Volleyball court lack of maintenance
Third and Park Street Traffic	Limited parking
Don't want to get too big, too large	

### 3. *What new program or facilities would you like to see in Fruitport Village?*

New pier to replace old pavilion – boat pier	Dog park
Beachfront / Swim area	Lighthouse / beacon that can be seen from other side of Spring Lake
New library in place of old one (expansion)	Pickleball court in place of volleyball court
Dredging program under bridge	Better location for craft sales
Nice restaurant	Kitchen / cooking at pavilion upgrade
Snack shack	New fishing pier
Sewer system	
Stairs to future new paths in new park property on NW corner	

### 4. *Other comments regarding current and future recreation opportunities in Fruitport Village:*

Consider bending path out over water (referring to new park property future path)	Consider sign / lighthouse Restaurant or snack shack
---	---

Spot in park for food truck (or trucks)  
Municipal sewer  
Stay same / small quaint  
Accessibility of school facilities (can we share?)  
Like historical markers  
Length of boardwalk

Focus on keeping the park accessible and family friendly  
Snack shack  
Would like additional parking  
Dislike portapottys  
Share facilities with school

# Public Visioning Meeting 7-15-2019

## Questionnaire Results

*For continuity purposes, the public involvement questionnaire results from the updating of the 2020-2024 recreation taking place during 2019 are included below because they are still considered relevant and hold value.*

### 1. **What do you think is the best thing about the park system? (40 comments)**

Pomona Park	Basketball court
Size / Like how open the park is	Lights
Water / On the water / Water access	Library at park
Pavilion expand / Picnic shelter	Slip-n-slide
Availability for (park) use	Potential of the park & the new property
Bike path / Trail connectivity / Bike path/walkway / Bike path	
Bandshell / Bandshell / Band shelter / Bandshell	
Concerts / Events in the park / Old fashioned days / Dancing into sunset	
Central location / Centralized / Community center	
View / Very peaceful / More park-like setting / Great place to have	
Landscaping / Well-maintained / Landscaping (trees) / Shade trees	
Boat launch / Boat launch / The boat launch is a real plus for the village	

### 2. **What do you think are the park system's biggest weaknesses? (28 comments)**

Playground update / Playground parking / Tot lot needs overhaul & expansion	Signage
Irrigation / No irrigation	Small flag
Water quality / Weeds/algae in water	Kitchen needs update – would bring in more events
Access (to water) / Access to the waterfront	Parking
Needs public beach / Public beach	Needs more drinking fountains by tot lot
Needs boardwalk	Not enough bike racks (boat launch needs one)
Pylons / Old pilings	Needs a big gazebo
Lighting / Lighting at small parks	Kayak launch
Underutilization / Under development of water	Visiting boat dock for quick stops
	8 <sup>th</sup> Ave Park neighbors want “no trespassing” sign

### 3. **What types of recreation activities do you have an interest in? (19 comments)**

Swimming / Swimming / Swimming/beach / Swimming	Splash pad
Walking / Walking / Hiking	Kayak fitness stations
Dog Park / Dog park	More bike paths
Pavilion / Restaurant facility/pavilion	Safer crosswalks
Concerts	Tree house
Boat dancing	Kayaking



**4. What do you want to see accomplished in the next 5 years? (22 Comments)**

Playground / Move playground / Playground update  
Swimming beach / Public beach  
Boardwalk / Boardwalk  
Kayak launch / Kayak launch  
Visiting boat dock  
Docking areas from new property  
New property development  
Dog park  
Splash pad

Trailways  
Waterfront development  
Update kitchen  
Bike racks  
Improvements to picnic area  
Bigger flag  
Park/library/community center (future)  
Pomona house (future)

**5. Other Comments (12 comments)**

- Combination community center
- Playground relocation
- Trailway connectivity with existing trails
- Norris Creek environmental issues
- Pomona Park and Dancing into Sunset is a pleasant addition for us “more mature folks” plus nice to see young mom bringing kids down and having fun outside.
- I realize you are working on a kayak launch so sooner the better so we don’t mix with the boaters at the launch. The process is long and takes time but please don’t give up on it.
- If the Lions Club stops having this a Lions Club event and will know longer support it, will the Village be able to keep it running with their current budget? Hate to see it go away.
- The three acres that were donated to the Village could be turned into a Land of Oz theme like in North Carolina – Beach Mountain Resort that is only open twice a year for a few weeks [www.landofoznc.com](http://www.landofoznc.com). Give reason for people to come to Fruitport for an adventure. A huge thought but every idea starts with a thought. Or not such a big feat, how about miniature golf?
- How about an exercise program in the park in the morning. Or a bike club meets in the park and travels together on around the lake. Sometimes people don’t want to go by themselves.
- I run Sunrise Water Adventures in Florida and would love to see it happen during the summer on Spring Lake
- I would love to see a boardwalk all along the Village property on the water with boat slips to rent out like Grand Haven and transit ones as well and little shed building along the boardwalk to keep the building cost down, does not have to be permanent like Grand Haven but like the ones in Muskegon along the road that can house vendors during the summer. Again give people a reason to come to Fruitport by land and water.
- Keep up the good work of keeping things nice and neat and festive.