

City of Caro Parks & Recreation Five-Year Master Plan

2022-2027



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Preparation and Adaptation:

The 2023-2028 Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan was developed during 2021 with assistance from numerous groups, community organizations, and individuals, many of whom will be mentioned and referred to in this document. The planning process and preparation of the document was overseen and facilitated by Nora Lipetzky, Project Coordinator, and Matthew Lane, City Manager. The facilitation of this document followed the Michigan Department of Natural Resources *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*.

Caro City Council

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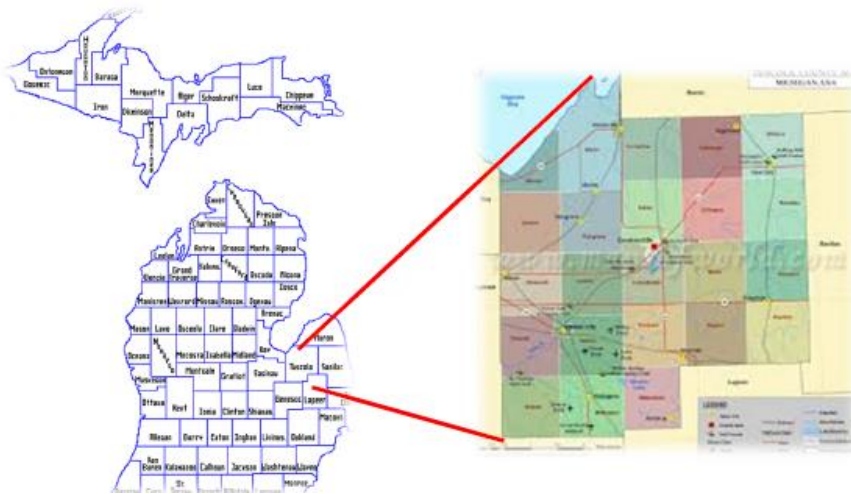
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1. Community Description

Geography:

The City of Caro is located in Tuscola County in Michigan's "Thumb" Region. Caro is located in the center of Tuscola County at the intersection of M-24 and M-81. The City of Caro is made up of 2.8 square miles of land straddling the Almer Township and Indianfields Township line.

Caro is the county seat of Tuscola County and is also the most populated area in the county.



Population:

The City of Caro had a population of 4,328 at the 2020 US Census. This is a marginal growth since the 2010 US Census, which estimated a total population of 4,229. Caro has enjoyed a relatively consistent and level population since the 1980s. The population of Caro has remained above 4,000 residents since the US Census of 1980 with a small population deficit of 88 (2%) over the last thirty years. Neighboring communities fair different, with Indianfields Township reported population at 2,539 and Almer Township reported at 2,097 residents.

Ethnic Composition:

The population of the City of Caro is over 93% white, according to the 2020 US Census and just over 4% Hispanic. Every other ethnic group makes up less than 1% of the population in Caro.

Poverty:

Current census estimates indicate that about 19.5% of Caro households are at or below the federal poverty guidelines, including 27.2% of residents under the age of 18 and 22.1% of residents over the age of 65. This estimated percentage for the City of Caro is 6.5% higher than the state average for Michigan.

Education:

Over eighty three percent of Caro residents have a high school degree or higher. Over twelve percent have bachelor's, graduate, or professional degrees. 16.3% of the population over the age of 25 does not have a high school degree or equivalent.

Households:

30.7% of Caro households are married couple families. Many households are occupied by single residents. 35.4% of residents in Caro are married, while 21.9% of residents are divorced, and 29.6% of residents have never been married.

Income:

Median household income (and benefits) in Caro is \$34,167 although the median family household income is \$49,392. The median household income for the state of Michigan is \$59,584.

Employment:

Forty-nine percent of residents over the age of 16 are employed. The leading industries in the city are educational services, and health care and social assistance (35.2%), manufacturing (12.1%), and construction (8.7%). Other industries that residents are employed in include agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining (3.7%), wholesale trade (5.3%), retail trade (7.8%), transportation and warehousing, and utilities (3.9%), information (1.5%), finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing (3.9%), professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management (2.2%), arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services (6.5%), public administration (1.5%), and other services (7%).

Age:

The median age of residents of Caro is 45.5 years. Over 23.0% of residents are over the age of 65. 80% of residents are between the ages of 18 and 64, with roughly 3.4% of residents under the age of 5. Caro is considered an aging community. Since 1980 the mean age of Caro residents has increased from 30.8 years during the 2000 US Census, to 39.6 years at the 2010 US Census. The 2020 US Census found that the median age of residents of Caro had surpassed the aggregated results from the 2010 US Census.

Michigan:

By comparison with the state of Michigan data¹:

- Caro residents are older than the state average by 5.7 years.
- Caro has a much lower percentage of non-Caucasian and ethnic residents.

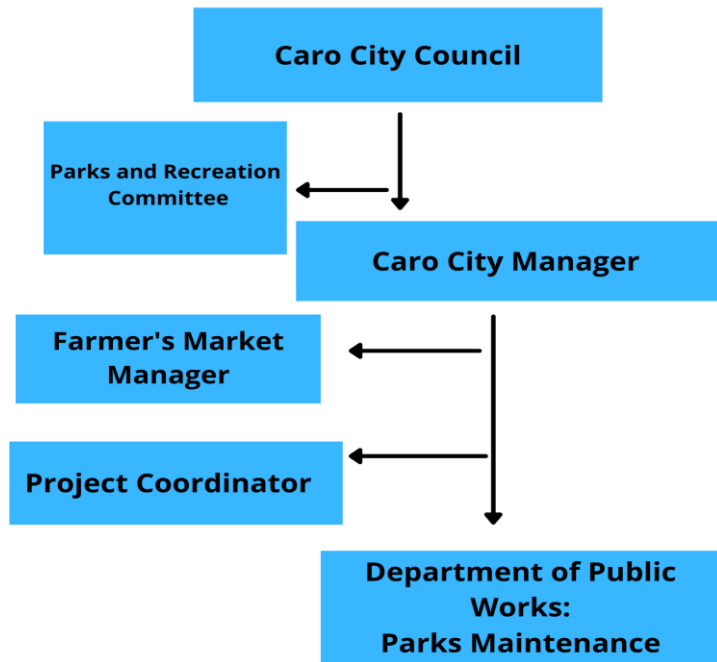
¹ [Census - Geography Profile](#)

- Caro has a higher proportion of senior citizens or residents over 65.
- Caro has a higher percentage of persons living in poverty.
- Caro has a lower average of persons with education beyond high school.
- Caro households have an income more than \$25,000 less than the state median.

Subject	Caro	Michigan
Ethnicity (% non-white):	6.1%	25.3%
Poverty (% population):	19.5%	13%
Education (High School or Higher):	87.5%	70%
(Bachelor's, Master's, Professional):	12.5%	30%
Income: (Median Household):	\$34,167	\$59,584
Employment (% in labor force):	49%	58.7%
(Not Employed):	5.9%	3.6%
Age (Median):	45.5 years	39.8 years
(% 18 and younger):	19.5 years	21.5 years
(% 65 and older):	23.0 years	17.7 years
With a Disability (Ages 18-64):	24.6%	14.3%

II. Administrative Structure

Organizational Structure:



City Council:

The City of Caro is organized as a Home Rule City in the State of Michigan. The City Council is made up of the mayor and six council members. Day-to-day operations of city government are handled by the City Manager.

Parks and Recreation in Caro is authorized under PA 56 of 1917; the Recreation and Playgrounds Act which is titled *AN ACT authorizing cities, villages, counties, townships and school districts to operate systems of public recreation and playgrounds.*

Parks and Recreation Committee:

The Mayor and City Council approve and appoint the Parks and Recreation Committee (PRC) which is comprised of:

- Five members who live in the Caro School District or have at least one child attending the Caro Community Schools PLUS:
 - One member of the City Council serves as a liaison and is appointed by the mayor.

The PRC serves as an advisory body to the City Council and the City Manager. The PRC advises the Council and Director on matters including policy development, park improvement, park and recreation planning, and other issues as requested. The PRC holds monthly public meetings.

Parks:

The Public Works Department provides maintenance support for Parks and Recreation and is responsible for mowing spaces including parks.

Recreation:

The City of Caro dissolved the Parks and Recreation Director position and has implemented two part-time positions: Farmer's Market Manager and Project Coordinator. The two positions work together with the City Manager to accomplish recreation tasks.

The Farmer's Market Manager oversees day-to-day operations at the Caro Farmer's Market. While daily tasks include working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA), vendors, and patrons of the Farmer's Market, the Farmer's Market Manager does, from time to time, works on recreational activities at the Farmer's Market, along with recreational activities at Atwood Park. The City of Caro recently completed construction on State Street Square, a state-of-the-art outdoor facility where the Farmer's Market is held. The facility can also be rented by residents and businesses and organizations for event usage.

The Project Coordinator works directly with the City Manager, City Council, Parks and Recreation, and the Farmer's Market Manager to oversee the development and completion of recreational-based activities. In the past, the City had contracted with a private service provider to plan, organize, and implement events and recreation programs for the City of Caro. The City Manager hired the part-time role of the Project Coordinator in order to remove the third-party planning service that the city had originally utilized.

The City will monitor the success of the two positions in order to determine if a newly structured Parks and Recreation Director is needed. Hiring seasonal personnel, recreation programming, and park maintenance have since been divided amongst the different positions within the organizational structure. Grant writing is divided between the Project Coordinator and City Manager.

Budget:

Caro Parks & Recreation Budget

Category	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Operations & Maintenance	\$32,319.83	\$23,245.28	\$94,643.00
Programming	0	\$1,300.00	\$4,000.00
Capital Expenditures	0	0	\$350,000.00
Total Budget	\$32,319.83	24,545.28	448,643.00

It is important to note that the capital expenditures for fiscal year (FY) 2020-2021 are significantly higher than in years past due to the construction and development of Aqua Zone, a splash pad built at Bieth Park in Caro. Aqua Zone operates from Memorial Day to Labor Day each summer. The splash pad offers multiple water entertainment functions, as well as a large bucket that dumps water on users of the splash pad.

Sources of Funding:

Parks and Recreation receives primary funding from the City’s general fund. User fees from recreation programs account for a minor portion of funding for parks and recreation. In addition to general fund allocations and user fees, parks and recreation includes donations from area businesses and organizations on a project-by-project basis. The City also applies for grant funding when appropriate.

Community Partners:

As is the case in most small communities, numerous organizations make up the fabric of parks, recreation and leisure services including the public sector, the non-profit sector, and the commercial sector. Caro is grateful to have several businesses, agencies, and organizations that play an active role in providing places, programs, and services to meet the needs of city residents.

- Caro Community Schools: The City and Caro Community Schools have a longstanding, and positive working relationship. The city and schools share facilities, work together on sports tournaments, camps, and special events.
- Caro Senior Shuffleboard Club: The Caro Senior Shuffleboard Club is an active community organization offering classes and competition in the local community as well as hosting regional and state-wide events in Caro. The Shuffleboard Club helps to promote

health lifestyles particularly for residents 50 and older. The Club makes use of city outdoor courts with city partnering to provide maintenance and improvements.

- Tuscola County Fair Board: The Fair Board works with the City to maintain and manage the fairground property. The Fair Board sponsors the Tuscola County Fair on property owned by the city.
- Caro Area Trails System Committee: The city supports the work of the Trails Committee to promote and advance a system of community trails and improve opportunities for walking, running, and riding.
- Caro Chamber of Commerce: Promotes the Caro community. Sponsors Cars and Crafts weekend, Gingerbread Village, and other community activities and events.
- Caro Exchange Club: The Exchange Club leases 35 acres of heavily wooded property from the City. The Exchange Club works to promote the use of the property for walking, wildlife viewing, and outdoor recreation. The property is also used by local schools and scout groups to study forest ecology and environmental education.
- Cass River Greenway Planning Committee: The City partners with the Greenway Committee. Cass River Greenway is an effort by a group of local volunteers, assisted by professional resources and municipal leaders, working to enhance recreational opportunities and the environmental well-being of the Cass River Corridor.
- Caro Baseball Federation: The Caro Baseball Federation (CBF) organizes and runs youth baseball and softball for Caro area youth. The CBF uses and maintains the Knights of Columbus ball field complex just east of Caro on M-81.
- Caro American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO): The AYSO organizes and runs youth soccer program for Caro area youth and maintains fields located at Darbee Farmk Park just east of Caro on M-81.
- Caro Gun Club (Tuscola County Conservation Club): The gun club is a membership organization that leases 40 acres of city land. The gun club maintains facilities for shooting

sports and provides instruction and competition. The city supports the activities of the gun club.

- Caro Golf Club and Arrowhead Golf Club: Arrowhead is an 18-hole public course and Caro Golf Club is a 9-hole public course. Both courses provide opportunities for instruction, training, league play, tournaments, and open play.
- Caro Rotary Club: Raises funds for disc golf goals located at the fairground.
- Caro Moose Lodge: Baseball diamonds, campground, family recreation.
- Caro 150 Winterfest and Snowmobile Races: Started in 2009, the Caro Winter Fest (CWF) is a hometown festival featuring family fun, wintertime activities, professional snowmobile racing, and community happenings. The event typically takes place on the third weekend in January.
- Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival: The Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival is the premier fall festival in the Thumb of Michigan. The festival brings the beauty of fall to downtown Caro with painted and decorated pumpkins from area schools.
- Music in the Park: Atwood Park is the location for this longstanding Caro summertime favorite. Music in the Park is sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority and grants from the Tuscola County Community Foundation and is coordinated by local volunteers who plan the 13-week calendar of entertainment while the city manages the park for these events. Citizens arrive with lawn chairs that often overflow into the adjacent street.
- Indianfields Township Park: Indianfield Township Park, located just to the west of Caro on M-81, is a 67-acre mostly natural area along the bank of the Cass River. Indianfield Township Park includes opportunities for nature-based recreation, picnicking, hiking, river access, ball diamond, horseshoes, and volleyball.

- Almer Township Park: Darbee Farm Park is located just east of Caro on M-81 and includes seven soccer fields, two pavilions, a softball field, sand volleyball, basketball, playgrounds, and picnic areas.
- Tuscola County Technology Center/Tuscola ISD: The Technology Center makes its facilities and meeting spaces available for parks and recreation programs. Former students have participated in projects to enhance Caro parks including the construction of park signage. The Technology Center has also assisted with marketing recreation programs and conducting recreation interest surveys.

III. Parks and Recreation Inventory

Caro City Parks:

The National Recreation and Park Association created a *Recommended Classification for Local and Regional Recreation, Open Space, and Trails*. These recommended classifications are reiterated by the Department of Natural Resources *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans* handbook that guides park and recreation master planning in Michigan. In the case of the City of Caro, this classification system is being used.

Neighborhood Parks:

Neighborhood parks are generally about 5-10 acres, serving up to a ½ mile radius. They are the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood and typically consist of play equipment, open play areas, and sports fields. School sites often serve a similar purpose in communities.

By their size and residential locations, three Caro city parks can best be classified as Neighborhood Parks. Williamsburg Park, Colonial Park, and Northwood Heights Parks were deeded to the city by the developers as a condition of the development of these neighborhoods. Each of these properties is 1.5 acres, slightly larger than the designation for a mini park. These properties have remained relatively undeveloped except for at Northwood Heights, which has a baseball backstop and soccer nets.



Table 2: Colonial Park



Table 3: Northwood Heights Park



Table 4: Williamsburg Park

Community Parks:

A Community Park serves community-wide recreation needs. It is defined as serving a ½ to 3-mile radius, between 30 and 50 acres. These parks offer a diverse number of recreational opportunities.

Two city parks fit into the Community Park category: Bieth Park and Chippewa Landing Park. Being 20 and 16 acres respectively, they are small for community parks, but size is relative. The entire City of Caro is less than three miles across. Both parks have diverse recreation and leisure opportunities and were the “favorite” city parks based on the interest survey that was completed during the summer of 2016 for the Master Plan 2017-2022. Although both are located at the south end of the city, both are relatively accessible by surface street or sidewalk.

Bieth Park and the Tuscola County Fairground are both city-owned and the use areas are relatively inseparable. Bieth Park includes tennis courts, several playgrounds, basketball courts, shuffleboard facility, equestrian arena, a recently added splash pad, picnic pavilions, and restrooms.

There is one lighted softball field located in the infield of the fairground track that is used by area softball organizations sponsoring adult leagues. In addition, the Fairground property has a horse track, grandstands, and associated fairground buildings and stables.

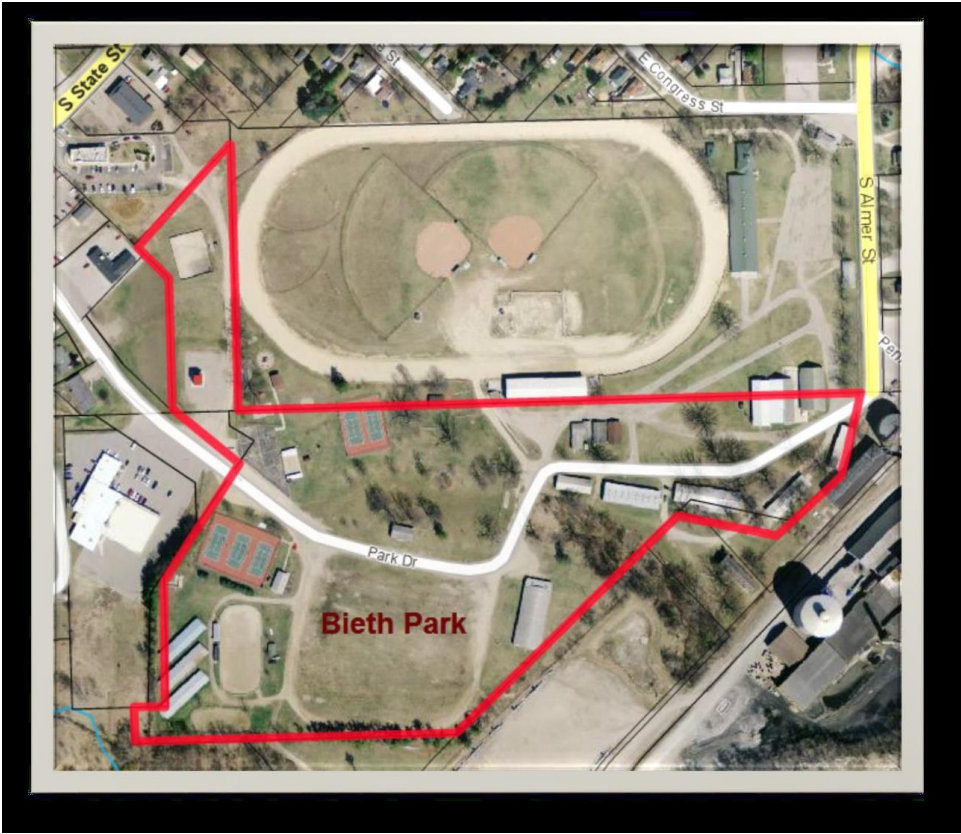


Table 5: Bieth Park & Tuscola County Fairgrounds

Chippewa Landing Park provides numerous leisure opportunities for Caro residents. Fronting on the Cass River, the park provides opportunities for water-based recreation including fishing and boating. A hard-surface boat ramp provides access when the water level is sufficiently high. A fishing pier is located at the west end of the park. The Park also offers several playground areas, picnic shelters, grills, tables, and a dog park. For winter recreation, the park has a sledding hill. There are also some great wildlife viewing opportunities along the river where deer and waterfowl can be spotted regularly.



Table 6: Chippewa Landing Park

Park Trail:

Park trails are multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. They focus on recreational value and harmony within the natural environment.

The Chippewa Landing Park trail is 1.1-mile paved trail that runs through Chippewa Landing Park and crosses the Cass River in two locations. The trail follows a pathway and boardwalk along M-24, passes through the park, then re-crosses the Cass River on a pedestrian bridge. The trail then connects to Columbia Street, Frank Street, and back to M-24.



Table 7: Chippewa Landing Park Trail

Natural Resource Area:

Natural resource areas are lands that are set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetic character, or buffering.

The Caro Exchange Club leases 45 acres of heavily timbered property on the southeast corner of M-24 and Gun Club Road. The Tuscola County Conservation (Gun Club) leases 40 acres.

The Exchange Club maintains and manages 45 acres on this public property in partnership with the city to provide opportunities for nature-based recreation, hiking, wildlife viewing, nature, interpretation, environmental education, and outdoor recreation.



Table 8: Exchange Club Forrest and Caro Gun Club

Special Use Areas:

Special use areas cover a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single purpose use.

Four city park properties seem to fit this classification best: Noble Boulder Garden, Memorial Gardens, and Botanical Gardens offer quiet, introspective, and meditative leisure opportunities for city residents. Atwood Park offers a quiet place near downtown with benches, attractive landscaping, and a small gazebo. Atwood is primarily known as the location for Music in the Park during the summer months.



Table 9: Noble Boulder Garden



Table 10: Atwood Park (L) and Memorial Garden (R)

Caro School Parks & Facilities:

Schools are also public property. Although primarily for educational use, school properties provide additional recreation and leisure opportunities for residents of the city and surrounding community.

The Caro Community School District includes four properties: a high school, a middle school, and two elementary schools. In addition, the Tuscola County Intermediate School District's Highland Pines School for special needs students is in the City of Caro.

All of the city schools have gyms, the elementary schools have playgrounds that may be used for community recreation on a space available basis.

Almer Township Park:

Almer Township Park, located just east of Caro, provides numerous opportunities for active and passive recreation including ballfields, volleyball and basketball courts, horseshoes, playground equipment, open field space, picnic areas and pavilions.

The southeastern third of the park hosts seven soccer fields, a pavilion, clubhouse, and concession stand that are home to the Caro American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) programs.



Table 11: Almer Township (Darbee Farm) Park

Indianfields Township Park:

Indianfields Township Park, located just west of Caro, offers excellent opportunities for natural resource-based recreation with access to the Cass River. The Park includes trails, picnic sites and pavilions.

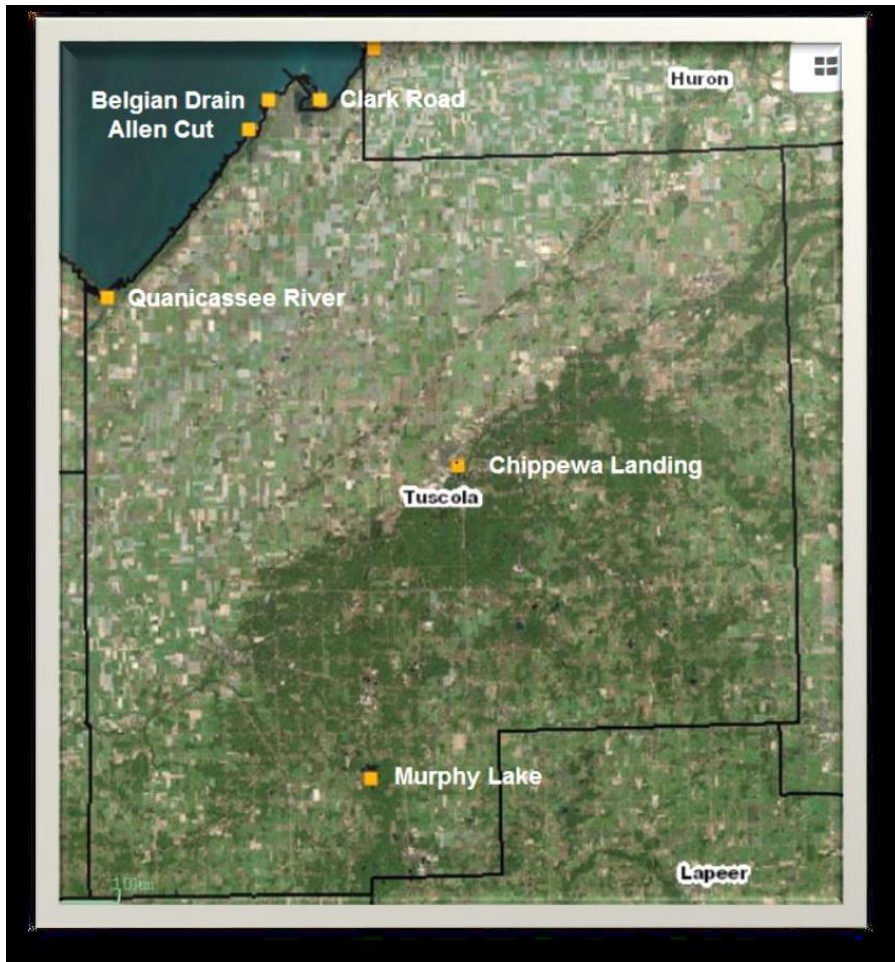


Table 12: Indianfield Township Park

Other Area Recreation & Park Resources:

Natural Resource Areas:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) maintains public access at five sites in Tuscola County.



In addition, several other municipalities and townships also maintain access points on lakes and rivers including:

- Anderson Ponds
- Cat Lake
- Fish Point State Wildlife Area

State fish and game areas in Tuscola County include:

- Almer Township State Game Area
- Cass City State Game Area (western portion; majority)
- Clark Lake State Game Area
- Columbia Township State Game Area

- Deford State Game Area
- Denmark Township State Game Area
- Elmwood Township State Game Area
- Fish Point State Wildlife Area
- Gagetown State Game Area (southern portion; majority)
- Murphy Lake State Game Area
- Quanicassee State Wildlife Area (eastern portion)
- Tuscola State Game Area
- Vassar State Game Area

The greater portions of state lands open for hunting are located just east and south of the City of Caro.

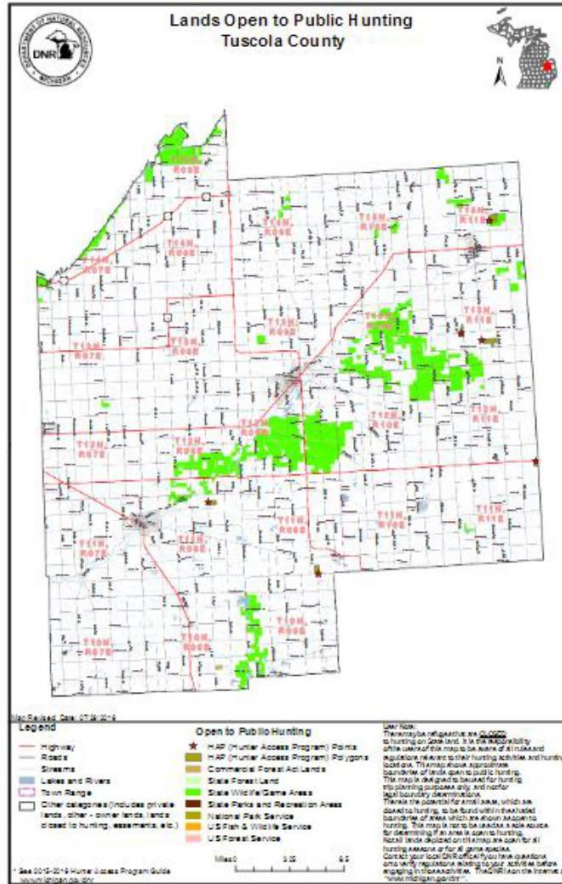


Table 13: State Lands Open to Hunting

While Tuscola County is currently undergoing their master plan, the 2017-2022 Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Master Plan contains a detailed inventory of Township, Village, and City Parks and Recreation areas within Tuscola County. Items such as the recently added splash pad and dog park in the City of Caro are not reflected in this inventory. The inventory is subject to change as Tuscola County undergoes their master plan.

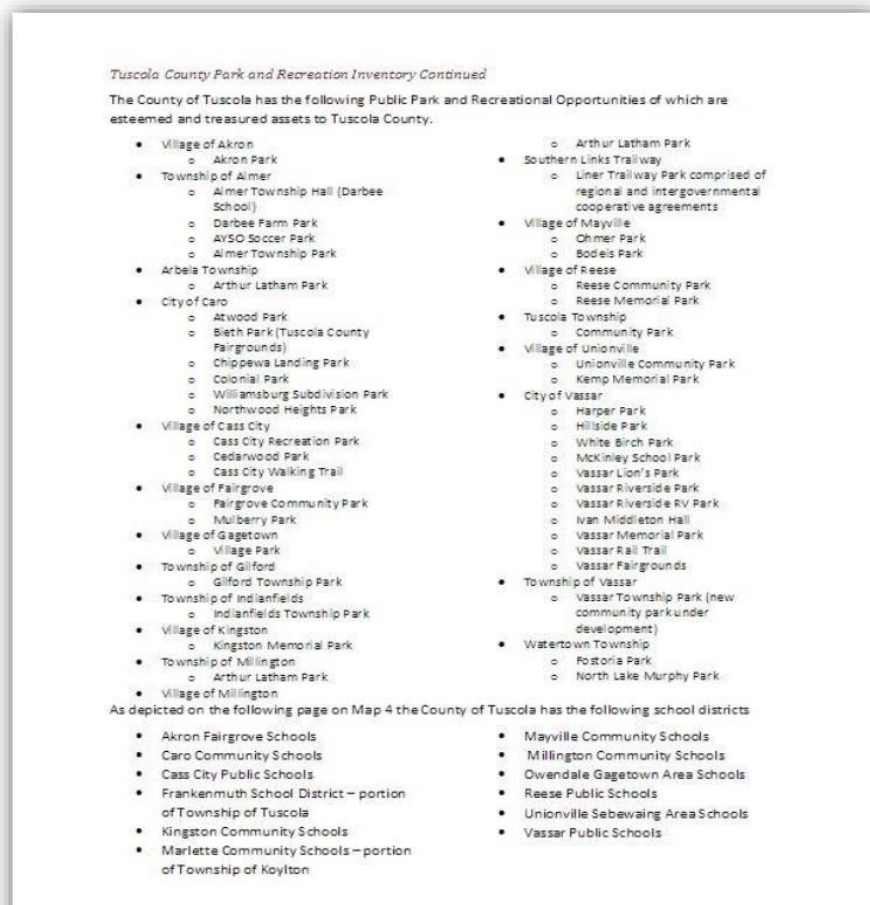


Figure 1: Tuscola County Inventory²

Standards Analysis:

Standards offer a method of making a general comparison of the recreation and park assets of a given community with a *national average*. Standards were developed in the 1960s and 1970s by a national park and recreation organizations to provide useful data for park and recreation planning. Standards most used are Park Land Standard, which measures the amount of park land needed, and the Activity Area Standard, which measures the types and number of recreation activity types in a community.

² Tuscola County Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2017-2021



Park Land Standard:

The City of Caro owns 43 acres of park space. Of that 38.5 acres are developed park spaces. The long-standing standard for park land for communities has been between 6.25 and 10.5 acres of developed land per 1,000 residents. Based on Caro’s population of 4,328, Caro has 9.1 acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents: well within the recommended standard.



Recreation Activity Area Standard:

Between the assets owned by the City of Caro, Caro Public Schools and other community organizations, the City of Caro meets or exceeds recommended standards for most activity types. For example, between the city, the schools and other organizations, there are 4 baseball and 9 softball fields serving the city, but the standard would suggest only 2 baseball (1 youth and 1 regulation) and 1 softball field.

It should be noted the activity area standards should be looked at with caution as participation trends and populations have changed significantly since the standards were created and many currently popular recreation activities were not represented in the original standards: I.e., splash pad, dog park, disc golf, etc.

Classification	Size	Service Area	Acreage
(1) Mini-Park	2,500 S.F. to 1 Acre	Less than ¼ mile distance in residential settings	0.25 to .5 ac./1000
(2) Neighborhood Park	1 to 15 Acres	One neighborhood to ¼ to ½ mile radius	1.0 to 2.0 ac./1000
(3) Community Park	16-99 Acres	Several neighborhoods to 2-mile radius	5.0 to 8.0 ac./1000
(NA) Metropolitan Park	100-499 Acres	Several communities within 1 hours drive	5.0 to 10.0 ac/1,000
(NA) Regional Park	500+ Acres	Several communities within 1 hour' drive	Variable
(6) Special Use Areas	Varies depending on size	No applicable standard	Variable
(7) Linear Park/Linkages	Sufficient width to protect resources and provide maximum usage	No applicable standard	Variable

***** NA: Park Type not applicable in City of Caro*****

Table 14: Park Type Legend

Table 15: Parks & Recreation Inventory

City of Caro Parks/Facilities:

Williamsburg Park: 1.5 Acres, Ownership: City of Caro, Undeveloped Open Space

Colonial Park: 1.5 Acres, Ownership: City of Caro, Undeveloped Open Space

Atwood Park: Special Use Park; 0.75 acres; Ownership: City of Caro; 2 pavilions/shelter; Comments: bench seating, gardens.

Northwood Heights Park: 1.5 Acres, Ownership: City of Caro, 1 Baseball field, Undeveloped Open Space.

Bieth Park: Community Park; 20 acres; Ownership: City of Caro; 2 ball diamonds; 2+ basketball courts. 2 tennis courts; 4 horseshoe pits; playground equipment; 1 open playfield; 1 picnic area; 2 pavilions/shelters; 1 restroom*, Comments: disc golf, shuffleboard courts, riding arena, splash pad.
*Restrooms locked.

Chippewa Landing Park: Community Park; 16 acres; Ownership City of Caro; Playground Equipment, River access/boat launch*, Picnic area, 3 pavilions/shelter, 1* restroom (portable), walking trail; Comments: Sledding hill, boat ramp, fishing pier, BBQ pits, portable restrooms, dog park.

Noble Bolder Park (Garden): Special Use Park; 0.25 acres; Ownership: City of Caro; Comments: Bench seating, gardens.

Memorial Gardens: Special Use Park; 0.5 acres; Ownership: City of Caro; Comments: Bench seating, gardens.

Botanical Gardens: Special Use Park; 1 acre; Ownership: City of Caro; Comments: Bench seating, gardens.

Chippewa Landing Park Trail: Ownership: City of Caro; Comments: 1.1-mile paved trail passing through Chippewa Landing Park.

School Properties & Facilities:

McComb Elementary: School Park; 2 acres; Ownership: School; 1 basketball court; Playground equipment; open playfield.

Schall Elementary: School Park; 1.5 acres; Ownership: School; 1 basketball court; Playground equipment; open playfield.

Caro Middle School: School Park; 1 acre. Ownership: School; 2 basketball courts.

Highland Pines School: School Park; 2 acres; Ownership: School; 1 Football/Soccer field; 2 open playfields.

Caro High School: School Park; 7 acres; Ownership: School; 2 ball diamonds; 2 basketball courts; 1 football/soccer field; 2 open playfields; 1 pavilion/shelter; Comments: ¼ mile track, indoor pool.

Tuscola Technology Center: School Park; Ownership: County.

Other Local Parks & Facilities:

Tuscola County Fairground: Special Use Area; 20 acres; Ownership: City of Caro; 1 Ball Diamond; 1 pavilion/shelter; 3 restrooms; Comments: Horse track, stables show arenas.

Knights of Columbus Ball Diamond Complex: Special Use Area; 8 acres; Ownership: Private; 7 ball diamonds; 1 pavilion/shelter; 1 restroom; Comments: concession stand.

Indianfields Township Park: Community Park; 67 acres; Ownership: Township; 1 ball diamond; 1 volleyball court; 4 horseshoe pits; playground equipment; open playfield; river access/boat launch; picnic area; 4 pavilions/shelters; 2 restrooms; walking trail.

Darbee Farm Park: Community Park; 40 acres; Ownership: Private; 1 ball diamond; 1 basketball court; 1 volleyball court; playground equipment; open playfield; picnic areas; 1 restroom; walking trail.

Caro Exchange Club Forest: Special Use Area; 45 acres; Ownership: Private; walking trail; Comments: Natural area with interpretive trails.

Caro Gun Club: Special Use Area; 40 acres; Ownership: Private; Comments: Private membership club.

Arrowhead Golf Course: Special Use Area; Ownership: Private; Comments: 18-hole golf course.

Caro Golf Club: Special Use Area; Ownership: Private; Comments: 9-hole golf course.

#: Recreational facilities available to the public.

*: Open field areas not maintained for a particular sport activity.

Accessibility Evaluation:

Department of Natural Resources planning guidelines place a great deal of emphasis on Barrier Free access to parks and recreation areas. City parks underwent an ADA assessment in 2009.

The Department of Natural Resources strives for communities and parks and recreation divisions to aim for the seven principles of universal design. Parks that are designed with the principles of universal design are typically new constructions and keep the following principles in mind:

1. Equitable use: Design of projects and assets keep in mind accessibility for users with all abilities.
2. Flexibility in Use: The design accommodates choice in use and a diverse range of individual abilities.
3. Simple and Intuitive Use: Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of barrier.
4. Perceptible Information: The design communicates what is necessary for the user to know in a way that any resident, regardless of sensory abilities, could understand.
5. Tolerance for Error: The design minimizes as many unintended or adverse consequences as possible.
6. Low Physical Effort: The design has a low impact and can be used comfortably with minimal fatigue.
7. Size and Space for Approach and Use: Size and space is appropriate for any person within the demographic, regardless of body size or shape.

Visual inspection of the parks made during the inventory process reiterates the need to take additional steps to make parks more accessible. There is evidence that improvements have been made since 2009. This accessibility evaluation evaluates the six parks within City of Caro limits: Atwood Park, Bieth Park, Chippewa Landings Park, Williamsburg Park, Colonial Park, and Northwood Heights Park.

Park	Rating	Comments
Atwood	3	Lacks accessible parking and portable restroom usage, access to benches lacks direct pathway for wheelchair access.
Bieth	2	Playgrounds lack wheelchair accessibility and other similar features for equal access; pavilions, picnic tables, grills, and splash pad do not have an accessible pathway, lacks accessible parking and portable restroom usage.

Chippewa Landing	3	Lacks accessible parking and portable restroom usage. Chippewa Trail lacks benches for resting at appropriate intervals. Playground equipment lacks accessible pathway.
Colonial	N/A	Not developed.
Northwood Heights	2	Minimally developed. Lacks accessible parking and signage. Playground and sports equipment are not accessible.
Williamsburg	N/A	Not developed

Standards Key:

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 Park was developed/renovated using principles of universal design.



(1) Grill does not have accessible walkway for use.



(2) Benches do not have accessible pathways for use.



(3) Playground equipment is not accessible to all for use.



(4) Splash Pad does not have accessible pathway for use.

IX. Planning Process:

The planning process undertaken complies with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The planning process began on July 15, 2021, with an initial meeting between the City of Caro Project Coordinator and the City Manager. Due to the recent creation of the Project Coordinator role, the City Manager opted to have the Project Coordinator work to complete the five-year master internally. Background research (community description, administration and financial structure, recreation inventory) and public input (needs & interest survey, public input meeting) began in August.

X. Public Input:

Two primary methods of public input were chosen: a needs and interest survey and a public input meeting.

Public Survey:

With input from the Parks and Recreation Committee and the City Manager, a short survey was completed. The goal of the survey was to identify prior growth within the community, as well as development priorities for the City to focus on within the next five years.

The survey opened to the public on September 21, 2021. Both an online survey created through Survey Monkey and an identical paper survey were created. Paper copies of the survey were

available at Caro City Hall. The Parks & Recreation Committee members also helped to distribute paper copies at the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival, an annual festival in Caro. The event took place from October 1-3, 2021. The survey was left open three and a half weeks and closed on October 15, 2021.

Survey Results:

253 participants completed the parks and recreation survey between September 21 and October 15, 2021. Respondents overwhelmingly utilized the online version of the survey, with 239 respondents completing the survey online and 14 respondents with a paper version. Respondents represented a wide range of both local residents and individuals who frequently visit the City of Caro. The survey notably attracted more residents and visitors to complete the survey, with only 110 respondents having completed the needs and interests survey back in 2016 for the 2017-2022 Master Plan. This could be attributed to a variety of options, such as a better overall reception of city council members and city employees, diversity of questions, and/or more accessibility to the survey.

It is important to note that based on mixed results and possible confusion experienced in the 2017-2022 master plan, the Parks and Recreation Committee and Project Coordinator opted to combine Bieth Park and Tuscola County Fairgrounds (hereby referred to as Bieth Park/The Fairgrounds). This was decided on since Bieth Park and The Fairgrounds are located on the same property and are practically inseparable in reference.

Residence:

Respondents were asked to identify where they live. 46.61% of respondents answered that they lived within the City of Caro, representing most of the respondents. The second largest group of respondents’ residences was Indianfields Township, with 26.50% of respondents selecting this option. Uniquely, 64 respondents, or 25.50%, of respondents selected that they lived within Tuscola County, but not within Caro or neighboring townships. This is an indicator that while people may not live within Caro, however, that people are intentionally coming to Caro to enjoy the parks and recreational activities.

Answer Option	Response Percent	Response Count
City of Caro	46.61%	117
Almer Township	22.22%	26
Indianfields Township	26.50%	31
Juniata Township	0.04%	9
None of the Above, but within Tuscola County	25.50%	64
None of the Above, I reside in a different county	0.01%	2
Other	0.01%	2

Table 17: Where Respondents Live

Respondents Age: The largest group of survey respondents were 31-40, with 26.70% of respondents identifying within this age group. Between 19-70, most age groups were represented fairly equitably in responses, with the 19-30 age group following in second, with 21.12% of respondents identifying within this age group.

Answer Option	Response Percent	Response Count
5-12	0.01%	2
13-18	0.01%	3
19-30	21.12%	53
31-40	26.70%	67
41-50	18.73%	47
51-60	12.35%	31
61-70	14.34%	36
70+	0.05%	12

Table 18: Respondents' Age Demographic

Proximity to a City Park: The majority of respondents indicated that they lived closest to Chippewa Landings Park (37.45%) and Bieth Park/The Fairgrounds (33.86%), indicating that most survey respondents live on the south end of town.

Answer Option	Response Percent	Response Count
Bieth Park/The Fairgrounds	33.86%	85
Williamsburg Park	4.01%	10
Northwood Heights Park	4.01%	10
Chippewa Landings Park	37.45%	94
Colonial Park	0.08%	2
Atwood Park	20.32%	51

Table 19: Proximity to a City Park

Parks Frequented: Bieth Park/The Fairgrounds was the clear choice, with 180 respondents (71.71%) naming the park as the park they utilize the most. Following behind in a close second was Chippewa Landings Park, with 147 respondents (58.8%) selecting the park as their most frequented park. Both parks have a number of options for residents and visitors to take advantage of, such as walking trails, covered pavilions, playgrounds, sports facilities, boat launch access, along with a recently added splash pad and dog park at each respective park. The least used park properties were the undeveloped parks: Williamsburg Park, Colonial Park, and Northwood Heights Park. All three parks are, for the most part, undeveloped, with the exception of Northwood Heights offering soccer nets and a baseball mound.

Answer Option	Response Percent	Response Count
Bieth Park/The Fairgrounds	71.71%	180
Williamsburg Park	0.28%	7
Northwood Heights Park	0.32%	8
Chippewa Landings Park	58.8%	147
Colonial Park	0.24%	6

Atwood Park	19.2%	48
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Table 20: Parks Frequented

Recreational Festival Attendance:

Respondents were asked to identify which recreational festivals within the City of Caro they attend the most. This was a question created by the local boards who oversee and facilitate each respective festival. Respondents were able to select more than one option if they attended more than one festival annually. An overwhelming majority of respondents selected the Pumpkin Festival as the recreational festival they attend most frequently, with 152 respondents (60.56%) selecting the festival that they attend the most annually.

Answer Option	Response Percent	Response Count
Tuscola County Fair	27.49%	69
Pumpkin Festival	60.56%	152
Cars & Craft	6.77%	17
Snow Fest	0.12%	3
None of the Above	9.16%	23

Table 21: Recreational Festivals Frequented

Opinions About Caro Parks:

Respondents were asked to gauge their agreement or disagreement with certain statements regarding Caro City Parks. A five-point scale ranging from 5 (Strongly Agree) to 1 (Strongly Disagree) was utilized.

Statement	5 (Strongly Agree)	4 (Agree)	3 Indifferent	2 (Disagree)	1(Strongly Disagree)	Rating Average
I feel that Caro parks are well maintained.	51	106	55	16	5	3.78
Caro parks contribute to the livability of the community.	106	84	35	5	3	4.22
I feel my family is safe when visiting and/or traveling to city parks.	108	90	28	7	0	4.31
I feel like the city needs to acquire	64	42	64	35	26	3.34

additional land for park development.						
I feel like city parks offer something for everyone in the community.	65	72	58	32	6	4.23
Caro residents have adequate access for river-based recreation.	28	55	76	50	24	3.01
Caro parks offer adequate opportunities to improve one's health and fitness.	46	74	74	31	8	3.51
The city is doing a good job of improving city parks.	71	89	51	17	4	3.89
Caro parks contribute to a sense of pride in the community.	98	84	36	11	4	4.12
Between the city and other local organizations there is an adequate range of recreational opportunities for all residents in Caro.	36	65	86	33	13	3.33

Table 22: Opinions About Caro Parks

Respondents gave the highest overall rating to the following statement: “*I feel my family is safe when visiting and/or traveling to city parks*” (4.31). Other notable high ratings included: “*Caro parks contribute to the livability of the community*” (4.22) and “*I feel like city parks offer something for everyone in the community*” (4.23).

Respondents gave the lowest overall rating to the following statement: “*Caro residents have adequate access for river-based recreation*” (3.01). An adequate range of recreational opportunities for all residents in Caro was also ranked low (3.33), followed by the acquisition of new land for parks and recreational development (3.34).

It is important to note that on the scale provided for respondents, the number “3” represents an indifference to the statement, meaning that the respondent neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement. While statements were ranked as the “lowest” rated statement, no individual statement were rated at or below a 3.00 rating. This means that, overall, respondents indicated some agreement or positive association with the statement.

Priorities for Park Improvements:

Respondents were asked to rank priorities for the City of Caro to work on regarding park improvements. A scale of 5 (Highest priority) to 1 (Lowest Priority) was utilized.

Statement	5 (Highest Priority)	4 (High Priority)	3 (Indifferent)	2 (Low Priority)	1 (Lowest Priority)	Rating Average
Acquire more land for parks.	35	40	74	37	36	3.02
Develop existing undeveloped park lands.	102	84	26	6	5	4.22
Expand and develop access to trails.	114	69	30	9	1	4.28
Develop additional river access opportunities.	90	69	40	18	6	3.98
Replace current recycling center location with a community center.	90	42	41	25	24	3.65
Improve parking at parks.	53	50	76	29	15	3.43
Improve restrooms at parks.	128	68	27	0	0	4.45
Improve access to park facilities for persons with disabilities.	79	71	61	9	3	3.96

Develop a community garden within Caro.	59	47	69	26	23	3.42
Develop space for recreational and/or rustic camping.	74	54	45	29	22	3.58
Develop more recreational sports activities, such as sand volleyball.	78	69	49	21	7	3.85
Develop a skate park and/or ice rink.	99	51	43	18	11	3.92
Improve the beautification of natural resources at parks.	86	78	49	4	6	4.05
Provide more volunteer opportunities.	47	71	77	20	8	3.58

Table 23: Priorities for Park Improvements

The preferred priority for current and future park improvements is to improve restrooms at parks (4.45). Currently, portable restrooms exist at most parks within the City of Caro. Within the last few years, there has been a push for at least the two most utilized parks, Bieth Park/The Fairgrounds and Chippewa Landings Park, to have stationary public restrooms that are maintained by the Department of Public Works or a third-party cleaning service. Three other priorities scored above a 4.0 from respondents: “develop existing undeveloped park lands” (4.22), “develop and expand access to trails” (4.28), and “improve the beautification of natural resources at parks” (4.05).

During the summer of 2021, the Parks and Recreation committee distributed a community involvement and engagement survey, where community members within the City of Caro were able to write down improvements they wished to see within the City’s parks and recreational activities. This survey was not conducted as a part of this master plan, but to gauge priorities and ideas that the Parks and Recreation Committee could explore within the near future. The survey yielded 35 responses and assisted greatly in adding additional priorities for parks improvement to the needs and interest survey. The last five questions on the needs and interest survey that respondents were asked were derived from the community involvement and engagement survey that the Parks and Recreation Committee conducted.

Priorities for Programs & Services:

Respondents were asked to prioritize which programs and services they would like the city to offer in the upcoming years. A scale of 5 (highest priority) to 1 (lowest priority) was utilized.

Teen programs were rated the highest priority for programming and services (4.25), followed by sports programs for children (4.16) and wellness and fitness programs (4.15). In the previous needs and interest survey, wellness and fitness programs were rated the top priority by residents for programs and services. While this type of program does remain in the top three high priority programs for respondents, there has been a shift towards more activities for residents and visitors under the age of 18.

Program	5 (Highest Priority)	4 (High Priority)	3 Indifferent	2 (Low Priority)	1 (Lowest Priority)	Rating Average
Nature-Based Programs	80	86	43	8	2	4.07
Sports Programs for Adults	55	82	61	11	10	3.74
Sports Programs for Children	100	75	30	8	6	4.16
Arts & Crafts Programs	75	78	47	12	7	3.92
Wellness & Fitness Programs	87	90	33	6	3	4.15
Cultural Programs	61	83	53	13	9	3.79
Teen Programs	108	69	34	5	3	4.25
Adult Senior Programs	89	69	44	8	9	4.01
After-School Programs for Children	97	74	33	8	8	4.11
Literacy Programs	64	83	48	10	15	3.78

Table 24: Priorities for Programs & Services

Sources of Information:

Respondents were asked to indicate where they find information about events happening throughout the city the most. Respondents were able to select more than one option for this question. Social media pages or groups, such as the different City of Caro Facebook Pages, were the leading source of information for respondents, with 154 respondents (70%) selecting this option. Other popular options were the City of Caro website (9.09%) and Signage, Word of Mouth, or Observation (12.27%). Radio (1.36%), City of Caro Public Access Television Channel (0.09%), and the Tuscola Tech Center (0.05%) were the least popular sources of information.

10 respondents selected the “Other” option, which makes up 4.55% of respondents. Initially, this question had only allowed respondents to select one option, and two respondents used the comment section to report the error. This error was quickly corrected and allowed future respondents to select more than one option. The comments from the “Other” option have been included in Appendix A for review. Notable options that already did not fit in one of the prescribed categories below include the Caro District Library, Caro Farmer’s Market, City of Caro City Council Meetings, and Tuscola County 4-H program.

Response	Response Count	Response Percent
City of Caro Website (www.carocity.net)	20	9.09%
Social Media Pages or Groups (City of Caro Facebook Page, Bieth Park Facebook Page, Etc.)	154	70%
Flyers and/or Brochures	7	3.18%
Newspaper	17	7.73%
Signage, Word of Mouth, Observation	27	12.27%
Radio	3	1.36%
Caro Schools	8	3.64%
City of Caro Public Access Television Channel	2	0.09%
Tuscola Tech Center	1	0.05%
Other	10	4.55%

Table 25: Sources of Information

Invited Public Meeting:

The City of Caro hosted a public input open house on November 10, 2021, at the Caro City Fire Hall. This location was selected as it was a neutral and accessible location for residents to attend. The event was held from 5:30-7:00PM and was designed as an open house, where participants could come and go as they pleased. City employees were also there to meet with residents who had any concerns regarding either the survey or happenings in the city. The public input open house was advertised using multiple forms of advertisement. The event was advertised on the City of Caro's Facebook page, along with other local entities, such as the Caro Farmer's Market and Caro Chamber of Commerce. Flyers were also advertised on the bulletin board at City Hall and were available to take when visiting City Hall.

Prior to the public input open house, the Caro Parks & Recreation Committee had met to discuss what type of ideas they would like to see achieved in the next five years and in what timeline. The list derived from that meeting was presented at this public input open house for residents to prioritize what was most important for them. Residents were presented with boards that contained different ideas to gauge their interest. They were then asked to rank how important these ideas were to them with post-it notes based on a color-coded system. The following color coding was used:

- Pink: Should be done immediately (within a year or less).
- Yellow: Should be done in the short-term (within 1-2 years).
- Green: Should be done in the medium-term (within 3-4 years).
- Blue: Would like to see it done but could be done at any point in time.

The following ideas were divided based on different categories for ease of access for residents to vote on items.

Teen Programs:

- Develop special interest groups/clubs for teens.
- Develop a teen/young adult action group for Parks & Recreation.

After School Programs for Children:

- After School & Summer programs for children.

Wellness & Fitness Programs:

- Develop a multi-purpose skate park/barn facility.
- Gaga ball pits.
- Development of racetrack for various activities.
- Development of indoor horse arena.
- Develop group exercise classes.
- Development of sand volleyball court.
- Addition of bike racks across parks.

Nature-Based Programs:

- Development of rustic camping facilities.
- Establish a regional trail system & programming.
- Develop more opportunities for river-based recreation.
- Improve green energy capabilities in town.
- Create a community garden space.
- Development of RV camping & dump station.

Arts & Crafts Programs:

- Arts & crafts programming, classes, and partnerships.

Literacy programs:

- Offer literacy programs.

Sports Programs for Children:

- Develop various sports leagues.
- Establish sports clinics for children.

Sports Programs for Adults:

- Further develop disc golf course.
- Improve existing tennis courts/development of pickleball.
- Develop basketball tournaments.

Development & Infrastructure:

- Establish a paid parks & recreation staff person.
- Security upgrades at parks.
- Development of permanent Wi-Fi options at parks.
- Develop more arts & sculptures throughout town.
- Update restrooms and changing rooms at parks.
- Improve signage throughout town.
- Development of recycling center into community center.
- Develop drinking fountain/bottle refill stations at parks.
- Improve Lion Drinking Fountain.
- Upgrades at racetrack, including fencing & security.
- Long-Term partnerships with motorized scooters.
- Strive for universal design and handicap accessibility at most facilities.
- Further develop undeveloped parks.
- Repaving midway at the Fairgrounds.
- Establish more restrooms at parks.
- Improve accessibility of parking at parks.
- Improve sidewalks at parks.
- Installation of electrical vehicle charging stations.

- Improve grand entry to Fairgrounds.
- Develop baseball/softball/kickball fields.
- Installation of charging stations & electrical grids.
- Clubhouse development at Bieth Park.
- Improvement of existing grandstand area at Fairgrounds.
- Addition & improvement of grills, benches, and trash cans at parks.
- Establish revenue-generating sponsorship programs for parks.
- Develop a new recreational facility.
- Development & improvement of soccer & football fields.
- Improve/maintain water levels.
- Repair drainage at splash pad.

Adult Senior Programs:

- Implement more senior programming.

Cultural Programs:

- Develop a food truck rally event.
- Develop more cultural experience programs.

The results of the responses from the public input open house are reflected in Appendix B. Some of the ideas that residents believed should be tended to within the next year or two included the development of a racetrack at the Tuscola County Fairgrounds, the development of rustic camping facilities at parks, developing more opportunities for river-based recreation, security upgrades at parks, and upgrading restrooms and changing facilities at parks.

XI. Goals and Objectives

Following completion of the community description, needs and interest survey, and public input open house, the City Manager and Project Coordinator met with the Parks and Recreation Committee to review and aggregate the findings. In order to develop goals and objectives for the upcoming years, the following question was posed:

What should parks do for the City of Caro?

Goal 1: Promote Active, Healthy Lifestyles

- Add new and improved current park features that encourage long-term investments in physical activities for citizens of all ages.
- Create an interconnective system of trails, pathways, and sidewalks that connect residents to parks and recreational opportunities throughout town.

Goal 2: Contribute to Building a Connected Community

- Expand opportunities for community members of all ages to participate in parks and recreational activities.
- Continue to support local festivals and fairs and provide additional opportunities for citizens to remain active and involved in their community.
- Provide opportunities for community members to remain active and involved with their community.

Goal 3: Contribute to a Positive Image, Pride, and Sense of Community

- Maintain, develop, and improve park features that create a sense of community pride.
- Offer recreation programs and activities that are relevant and important to community members.
- Create an environment that attracts new businesses and residents.
- Exercise good stewardship of the park resources.

Goal 4: Provide Access to Recreation Opportunities for All Citizens

- Assure that the City of Caro makes positive steps to ensure that all park resources are physically accessible to residents of any ability.

- Provide a variety of recreational opportunities that reach different demographics of the community.

Goal 5: Administration, Infrastructure, and Operations

- Implement administrative policies and procedures that encourage planning, financing, marketing, and maintenance of park resources.
- Implement policies to account for adequate staffing consideration for parks and recreational opportunities.
- Invest in security upgrades in all parks and throughout the community for the safety of the community.

XII. Action Plan

Following the completion of the inventory, public input open house, needs and interest survey, analysis of survey data, and creation of goals and objectives for the next five years, a list of proposed actions items were created. The Parks and Recreation Committee reviewed the previous action items from the 2017-2022 Master Plan and assessed what had not been achieved or was an ongoing project. From there, the Parks & Recreation added ideas from the public input open house and previous meetings to their action items for the next five years. Action items fall under one of three categories of action:

- **Policy Development:** Policy development items include actions that can be taken by the Parks and Recreation Committee, City Council, and the City Manager to position Caro to take positive steps to meet its greater goals and objectives.
- **Planning:** Planning goals include items to be taken up by the Parks and Recreation Committee, City Council, City Manager, and/or community members to study, investigate, and implement ideas and solutions that will further parks and recreational goals and objectives.
- **Improvement:** Improvements are actions that can be taken in the immediate or near future to make improvements, additions, or updates to park facilities and areas.

Following the identification of action items, members of the Parks and Recreation committee ranked all proposed items on a scale of one to five in terms of priority for the City of Caro. One represents the least amount of priority but would like to be seen completed, and five represents an immediate priority. An estimated timeframe was also included.

Action Item Rankings

Action Item	Goal(s)	Rank	Year
Improvement: Security upgrades to include cameras and other security repairs.	5	5.0	2023
Improvement: Create shaded seating area at Bieth Park.	2,3,4,5	4.75	2023
Improvement: Create and maintain accessible picnic sites (accessible route, table, grill, trash can) in parks that offer picnicking.	2,3,4	4.75	2023
Improvement: Upgrade existing restroom facilities in Chippewa Landings Park & Bieth Park.	4,5	4.75	2023
Improvement: Create accessible pathways to and onto playground equipment at Chippewa Landings Park & Bieth Park.	2,4,5	4.25	2024
Marketing: Explore a partnership with the library to promote, plan, and conduct recreational programs within the community.	1,2	3.5	2024
Policy: Develop a park maintenance plan for each park based on use.	5	3.25	2024
Improvement: Create accessible pathway	2,4,5	3.25	2026

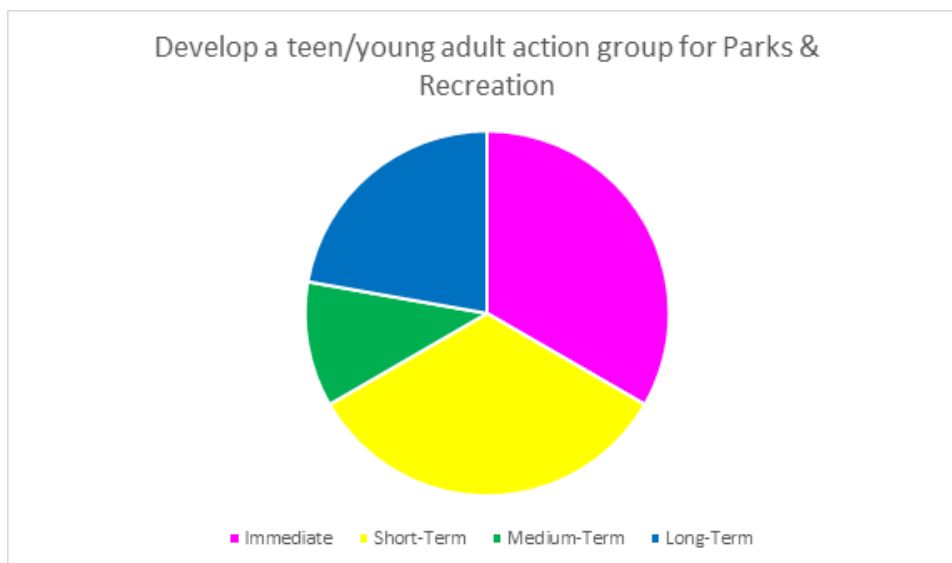
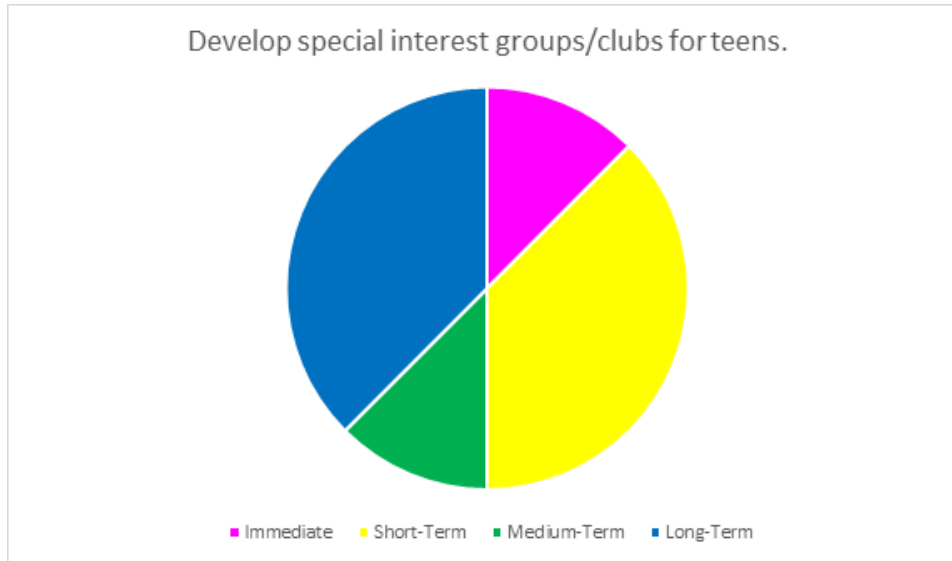
and signage directly to city parks.			
Improvement: Add a warming house at sledding hill in Chippewa Landings Park.	5	3.25	2024
Improvement: Create and maintain accessibility at Atwood Park and consider parking and/or open space at lot across the street.	4,5	3.0	2025
Improvement: Continue to add uniform park and community signage.	2,4	3.0	2026
Policy: Assure all future park improvements meet ADA guidelines or are planned following universal access guidelines.	1,2,3,4,5	2.75	2025
Improvement: Maintain usable disc golf design at Bieth Park/Fairgrounds.	3,4	2.75	2024
Improvement: Repair and/or replace current tennis courts and add pickleball courts.	3,4,5	2.75	2025
Planning: Explore alternatives for a community center.	5	2.75	2025
Improvement: Create senior exercise trail.	2,5	2.75	2026
Improvement: Add, maintain, and replace playground equipment in all city parks.	1,2,3,4,5	2.75	2026
Improvement: Create accessible feature(s) in Exchange Club	1,2,3,4,5	2.75	2027

Forest including parking, trails, and interpretive information.			
Planning: Create site plans for Bieth Park/Fairground and the water treatment property across the river.	5	2.5	2027
Improvement: Develop a multi-use skate park.	1,2,4,5	2.5	2027
Planning: Organize community advisory groups around Colonial, Williamsburg, and Northwood Heights Parks to explore development and use of those properties.	2,3,4,5	2.25	2028
Policy: Work with local landowners and public officials to increase and/or maintain water levels on the Cass River.	5	2.0	2028
Improvement: Create accessible and safe pathway from Bieth Park to Chippewa Landings.		2.0	2028

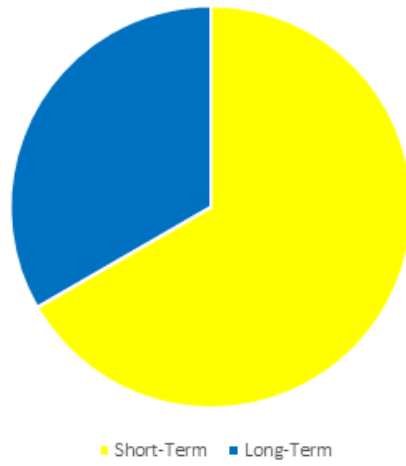
Appendix A: Sources of Information, “Other” Comments

1. Viewing the changes as I view the park.
2. Facebook friends
3. Whatever is decided to improve or build, there must be more patrolling by the police! So much vandalism. I visited the fairground numerous times this summer and never saw an officer cruising through, only responding to delinquents. When visiting Cass City or Sebawaing parks, you always see someone roll through!
4. Facebook
5. Library
6. Caro District Library
7. By Chance
8. It will only let me pick one.
9. City council members.
10. Tuscola County 4-H.
11. Survey only allowed one choice for me.
12. Caro Farmer’s Market.
13. City Council Meetings.

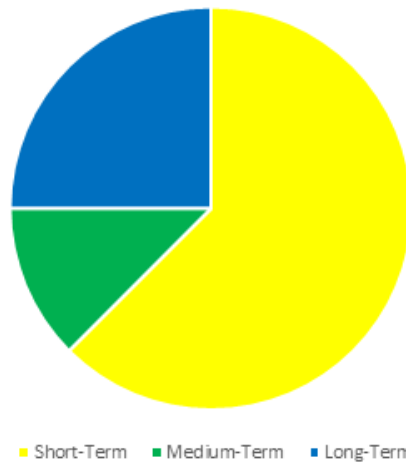
Appendix B: Public Input Open House, Results:



After-School & Summer Programs for Children



Develop a multi-purpose skate park/barn facilities.



Gaga Ball Pits



■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Develop group exercise classes

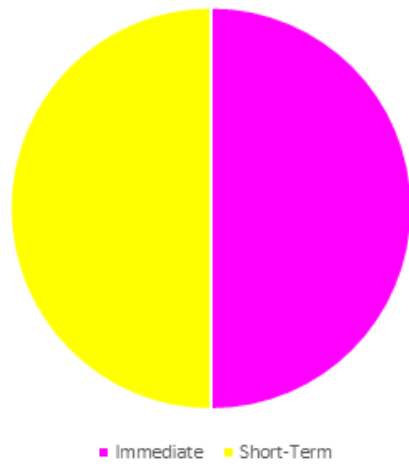


■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

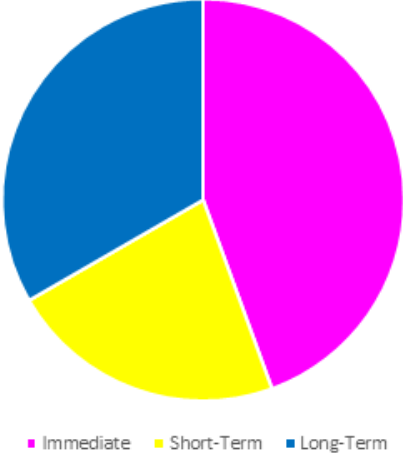
Development of indoor horse arena



Development of racetrack for various activities.



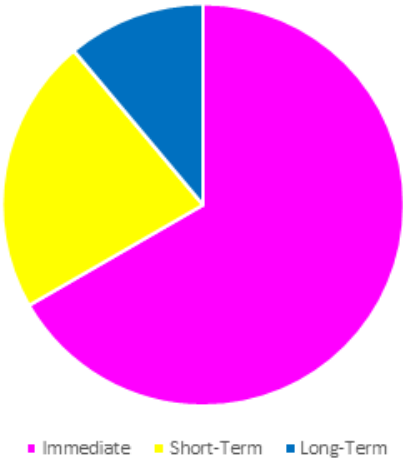
Development of sand volleyball court.



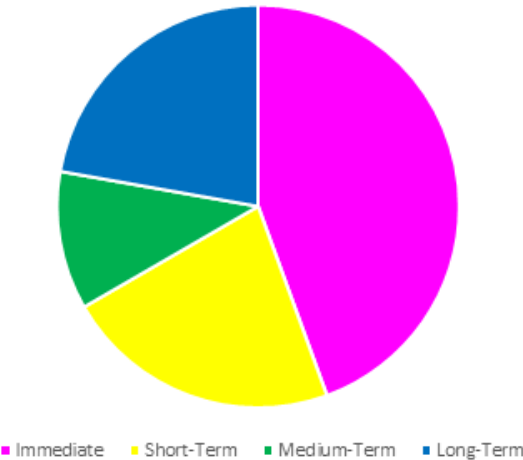
Addition of bike racks across parks.



Development of rustic camping facilities.



Establish a regional trail system & programming.

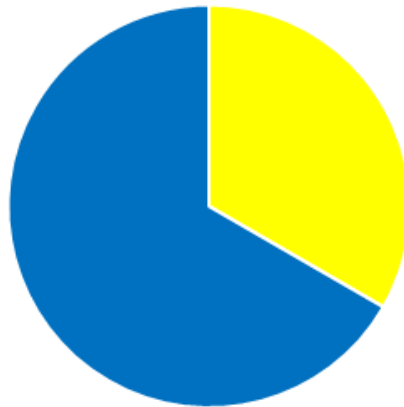


Develop more opportunities for river-based recreation.



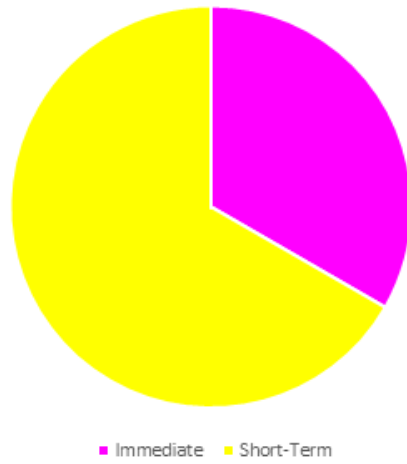
■ Immediate ■ Short-Term

Improve green energy capabilities in town.

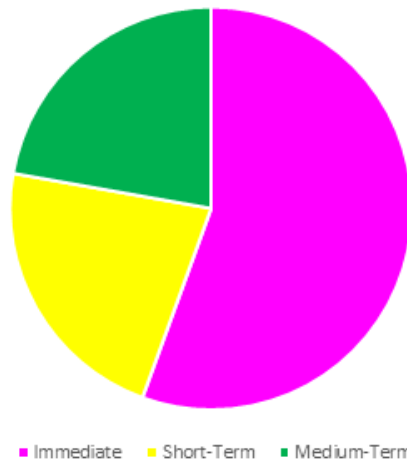


■ Short-Term ■ Long-Term

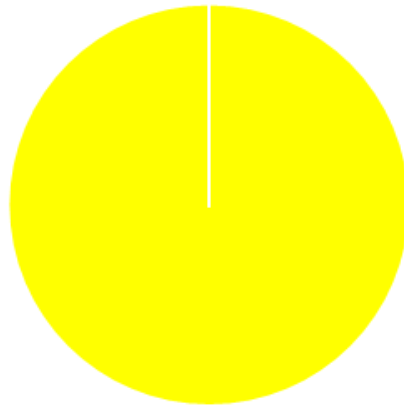
Create a community garden space.



Development of RV camping & a dump station.

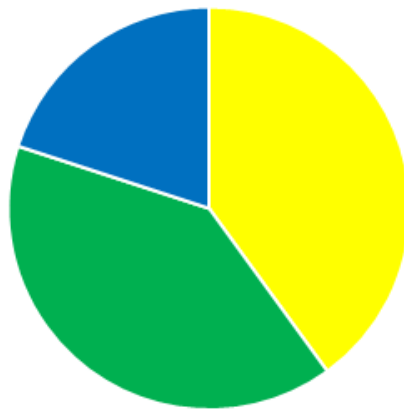


Arts & crafts programming, classes, & partnerships.



■ Short-Term

Offer literacy programs.



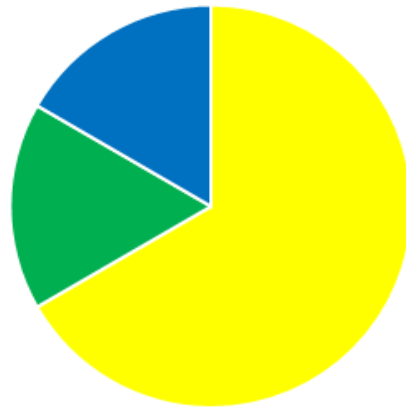
■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Develop various sports leagues.



■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term

Establish sports clinics for children.



■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Further develop disc golf course.



■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Long-Term

Improve existing tennis courts/development of pickleball.



■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Long-Term

Develop basketball tournaments.



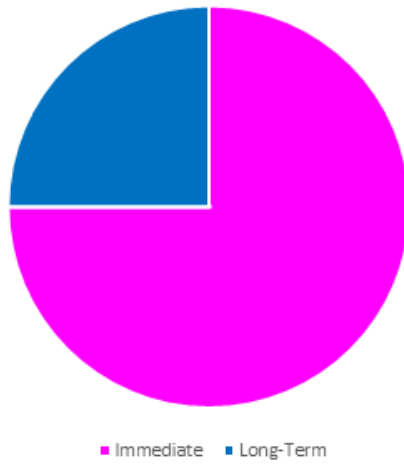
■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Establish a paid parks & recreation staff person.

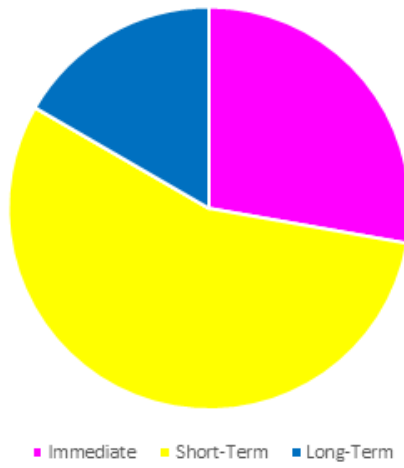


■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Security upgrades at parks.



Development of permanent wifi options at parks.



Develop more arts & sculptures throughout town.



■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Upgrade restrooms & changing rooms at parks.



■ Immediate ■ Long-Term

Improve signage throughout town.



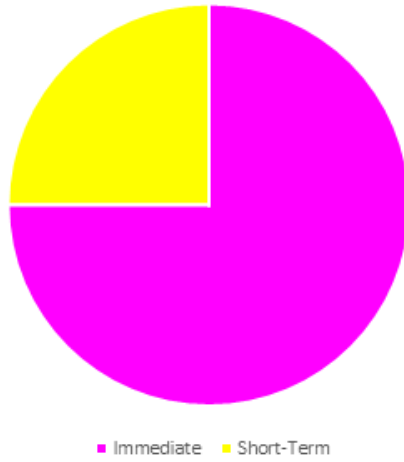
■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term

Development of recycling center into community center.

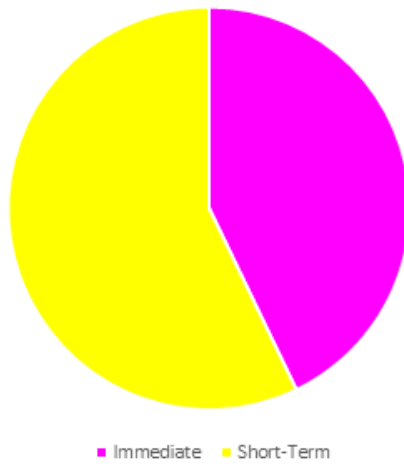


■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Develop drinking fountain/bottle refill stations at parks.



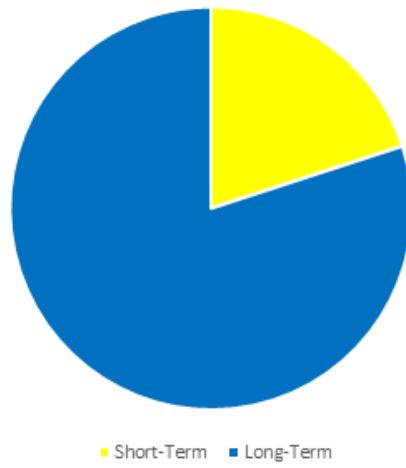
Improve Lion Drinking Fountain.



Upgrades at racetrack, including fencing & security.



Long-term partnerships with motorized scooters.



Strive for universal design & handicap accessibility at most facilities.



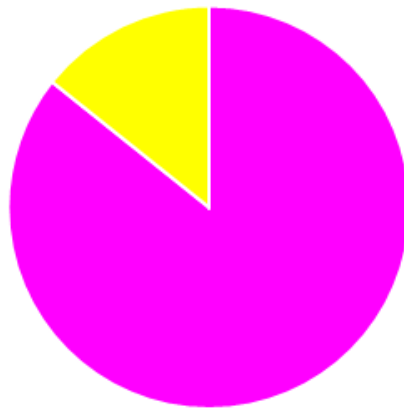
■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Further develop undeveloped parks.



■ Immediate ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Repaving midway at Fairgrounds.



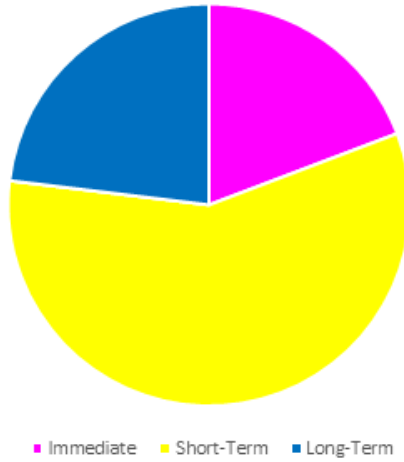
■ Immediate ■ Short-Term

Establish more restrooms at parks.

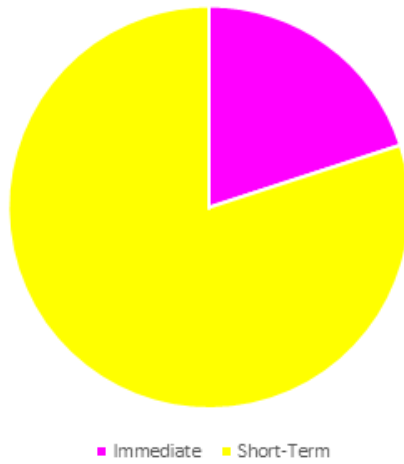


■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

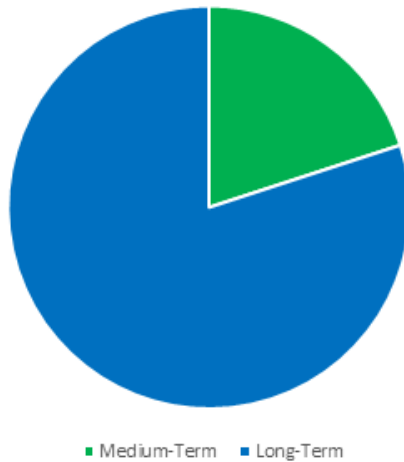
Improve accessibility of parking at parks.



Improve sidewalks at parks.



Installation of electrical vehicle charging stations.



Improve grand entry at Fairgrounds.



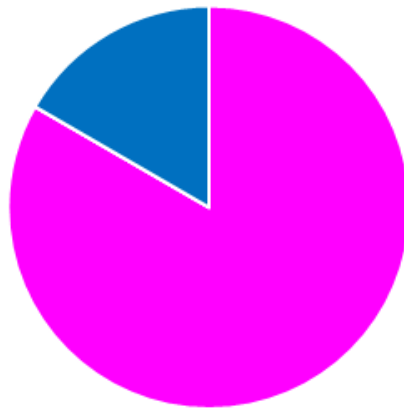
■ Immediate ■ Medium-Term

Develop baseball/softball/kickball fields.



■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Installation of charging stations & electrical grids.



■ Immediate ■ Long-Term

Clubhouse development at Bieth Park.



■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term ■ Long-Term

Improvement of existing grandstand area at Fairgrounds.



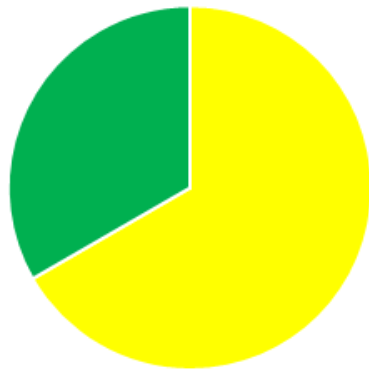
■ Immediate ■ Short-Term

Addition & improvement of grills, benches, & trash cans at parks.



■ Immediate

Establish revenue-generating sponsorship programs for parks.



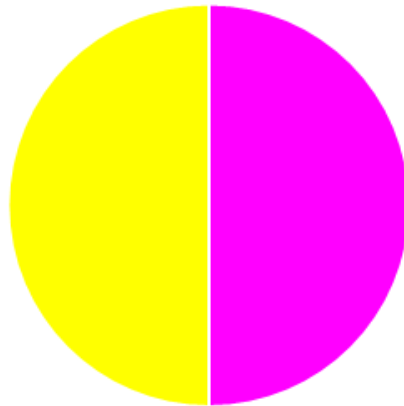
■ Short-Term ■ Medium-Term

Develop a new recreational facility.



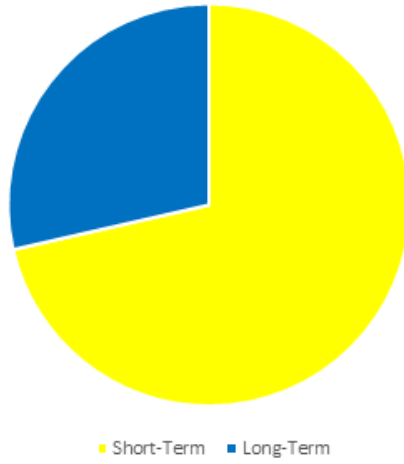
■ Immediate ■ Short-Term ■ Long-Term

Development & improvement of soccer & football fields.

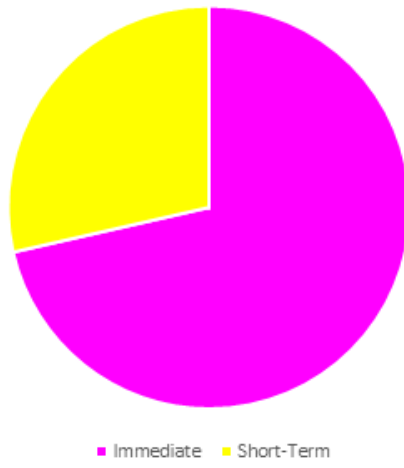


■ Immediate ■ Short-Term

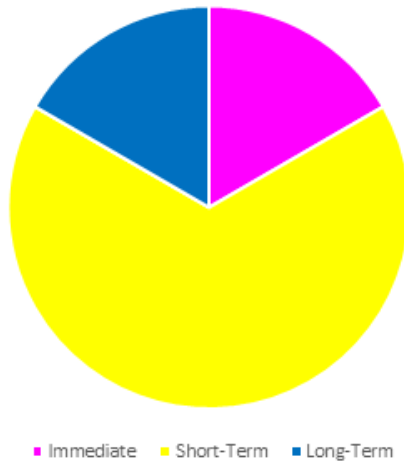
Improve/maintain water levels.



Repair drainage at Splash Pad.



Implement more senior programming.



Develop a food truck rally event.



Develop more cultural experience programs.

