

2026 - 2031

PARKS & RECREATION 5-YEAR PLAN



BEAVERTON
MICHIGAN



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Jennifer Harper	Mayor Pro Tem
Tiffany Burgess	Council Member
Christine Gerace	Council Member
Nellie List	Council Member
Colleen Reader	Council Member
Melisa Volders	Council Member

Parks & Recreation Committee

Tiffany Burgess	Chairperson
Raymond Nau	Member
Rev. Karen Blatt	Member
Pamela Cingano	Member
Janet Whitmer	Member

City Staff

Shannon Sirpilla	City Manager
Janelle Keen-Burgoyne	City Clerk
Jodie Klamer	City Treasurer
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East Michigan Council of Governments

Fleis and Vandenbrink

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	Page 1
2. Community Description	Page 3
3. Community Data	Page 4
4. Administrative Structure	Page 7
5. Recreation Inventory	Page 8
6. Budget	Page 17
7. Goals And Objectives	Page 19
8. Action Plan	Page 21
9. Grant History	Page 23
10. Planning Process	Page 24
11. Approval Process	Page 26

FIGURES

4.1 Administrative Structure	Page 7
------------------------------	--------

TABLES

3.1 Population Changes	Page 5
3.2 Population Characteristics	Page 5
3.3 Household Statistics	Page 6
5.1 City of Beaverton Recreational Facilities Inventory	Page 14
5.2 Park Accessibility Rating System	Page 15
6.1 FY 26/27 Recreation Budget	Page 17

MAPS

1.1 Beaverton Regional Map	Page 1
5.1 Beaverton Park Location Map	Page 8
5.2 Ross Lake Park Facility Map	Page 13

APPENDICES

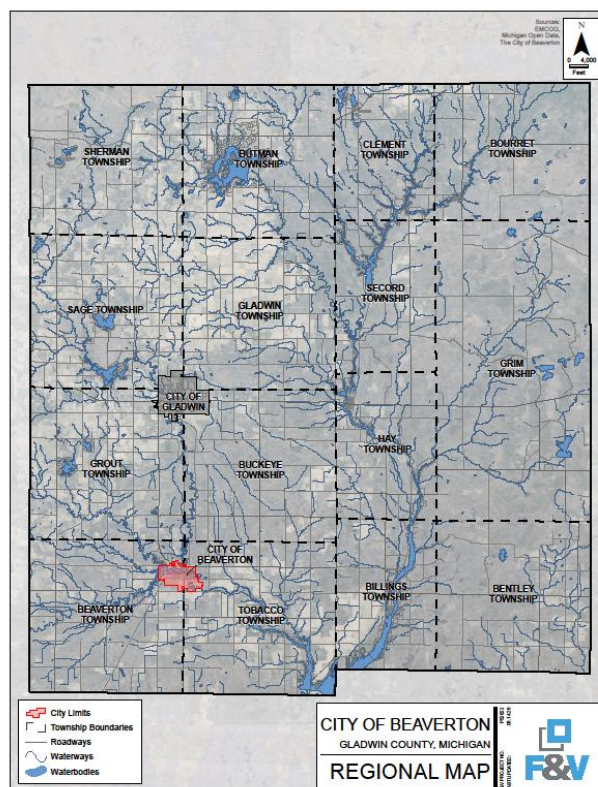
A Initial Flyer for the Community Survey	Page 27
B Final Flyer Notice for Community Survey	Page 28
C Community Survey	Page 29
D Community Survey Results	Page 32
E 30-Day Public Notice for Public Comment	Page 37

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

The City of Beaverton ("City") is located in southwestern Gladwin County, which is in the northeast-central part of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. (See Map 1.1.) The City is updating its 2019 Park and Recreation Plan, which expired in 2023. This five-year plan is being completed to meet present and future needs of the community, including land acquisition, facility needs, and program development. This plan evaluates the recreational facilities located within the City as well as facilities in the surrounding area that are frequently utilized by the residents of the City.

Map 1.1
Beaverton Regional Map



The Plan is an update of the City's 2019 Parks & Recreation Plan and is in accordance with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requirements as cited in the "Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans." This Plan is valid for five years from the date of resolution of adoption by the City. It will serve as the basis for financial assistance through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreation Passport (RP). These three programs are the primary source for development of parks and recreational facilities in Beaverton.

Clock in Downtown Beaverton



Photo by : EMCOG Staff

CHAPTER 2

Community Description

The City of Beaverton is approximately 90 miles east of Lake Michigan, 40 miles west of the Saginaw Bay coastline of Lake Huron, 130 miles northwest of Detroit, and 110 miles southeast of Mackinaw City. According to the United States Census Bureau, as of 2024, 1,061 people live within this beautiful 1.3 square mile community.

Ross Lake, formed by the convergence of the Tobacco and Cedar Rivers, horizontally splits the City into northern and southern halves. This 294-acre reservoir is a hub of outdoor activity, providing spaces for swimming, fishing, kayaking, and canoeing. It also houses a dam at its southern end, which Beaverton residents rely on for clean drinking water and flood mitigation.

Beaverton is within reach of multiple major transportation arteries. By air, visitors fly into Gladwin Zettel Memorial Airport in Gladwin and MBS International Airport in Saginaw. M-18 (Ross Street) serves as Beaverton's major north-south main street, which crosses Ross Lake to bisect the City over a single bridge. With M-30 to its east, M-61 eight miles north, and US-10 ten miles south, Beaverton is also surrounded by heavily trafficked roads through which visitors travel to its parks.

CHAPTER 3

Community Data

To properly plan for our parks system, we must first understand its current users. The City of Beaverton faces a declining population with high disability and poverty rates. As such, the City seeks to use its parks system to attract new residents while prioritizing ADA accessibility and continued lack of park fees to serve its current population.



Photo by: EMCOG Staff

Population Change

From 2010 to 2024, the City of Beaverton's population remained mostly the same, decreasing by less than 1%. In contrast, both the populations of Gladwin County and the State of Michigan increased by 1.2% and 1.9%, respectively. This information can be found in Table 3.1 on the following page.

Table 3.1: Population Change

	State of Michigan	Gladwin County	City of Beaverton
2010 Population	9,883,640	25,692	1,071
2024 Population	10,077,761	25,995	1,061
Percent Change	1.9%	1.2%	-0.9%

Source: 2010 U. S. Census, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

Population Characteristics

The City of Beaverton's population under 20 and over 65 years of age, and potentially the primary users of recreational facilities, is 39.8% of the City's population. This figure is slightly below the State of Michigan's 42.4% and Gladwin County's 47.9% for those age brackets. Beaverton's median age (39.9) skews slightly younger than Gladwin County (50.7) and the State of Michigan (40.2).

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The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that site development provide reasonable access to person with disabilities. Table 3.2 also identifies the non-institutionalized civilians with ambulatory and self-care difficulties in the State of Michigan, Gladwin County, the City of Beaverton. With the aged population (65 years +) increasing, there is also an increase in the number of people in that age group with either an ambulatory or self-care difficulty. Beaverton has a relatively high disabled population, with almost 1 in 4 people (23.5%) having a disability. This rate is moderately higher than Gladwin County's 20.1% and is nearly double the State of Michigan (14.3%.) The percentage of Beaverton's population with an ambulatory disability is at 13.6%, which is nearly double the State's 7.1 % and more than twenty-five percent higher than Gladwin County's 10.8%. This data can be found on Table 3.2 found below.

Table 3.2: Population Characteristics

	State of Michigan	Gladwin County	City of Beaverton
Percent of Population under 20	23.8%	20.7%	20.5%
Percent of Population 65+	18.6%	27.2%	19.3%
Median Age	40.2	50.7	39.9
Percent of Population with an ambulatory disability	7.1%	10.8%	13.6%
Percent of population with a self-care disability	2.7%	3.8%	6.0%
Percent of population with a disability	14.3%	20.1%	23.5%

Source: 2010 U. S. Census, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

Household Statistics

The City of Beaverton has a low median household income and high poverty rate. At \$30,050, the City’s median household income is approximately 50% lower than Gladwin County and 40% lower than the State of Michigan. The poverty rate is 18.2%, which is 1.7% lower than the County, but still 5% higher than the State. This data can be found in table 3.3 below.

Table 3.3 Household Statistics

	State of Michigan	Gladwin County	City of Beaverton
Median Household Income	\$72,875	\$55,349	\$30,050
Poverty Status	13.2%	14.9%	18.2%

Source: 2010 U. S. Census, 2020-2024 American Community Survey

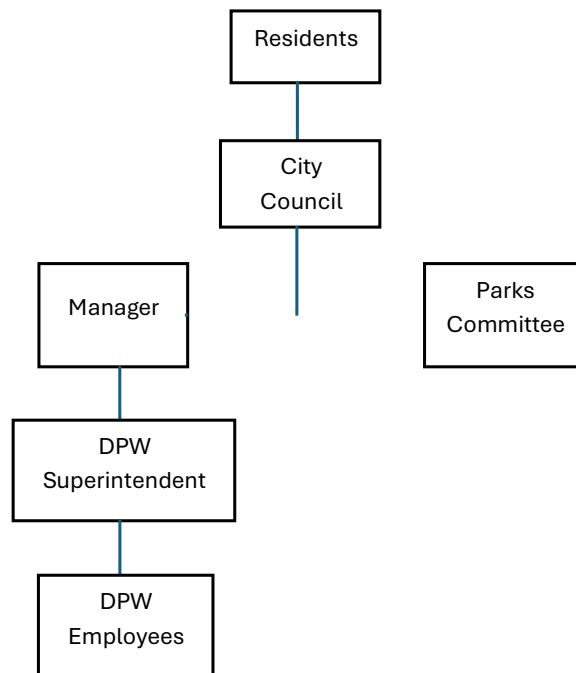
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CHAPTER 4

Administrative Structure

The City of Beaverton Parks & Recreation Committee is responsible for improving and maintaining the City's recreational facilities. It is comprised of representatives from the community, appointed by mayor and confirmed by City Council. The Committee meets monthly to discuss community improvements.

Figure 4.1 Beaverton City Administrative Structure



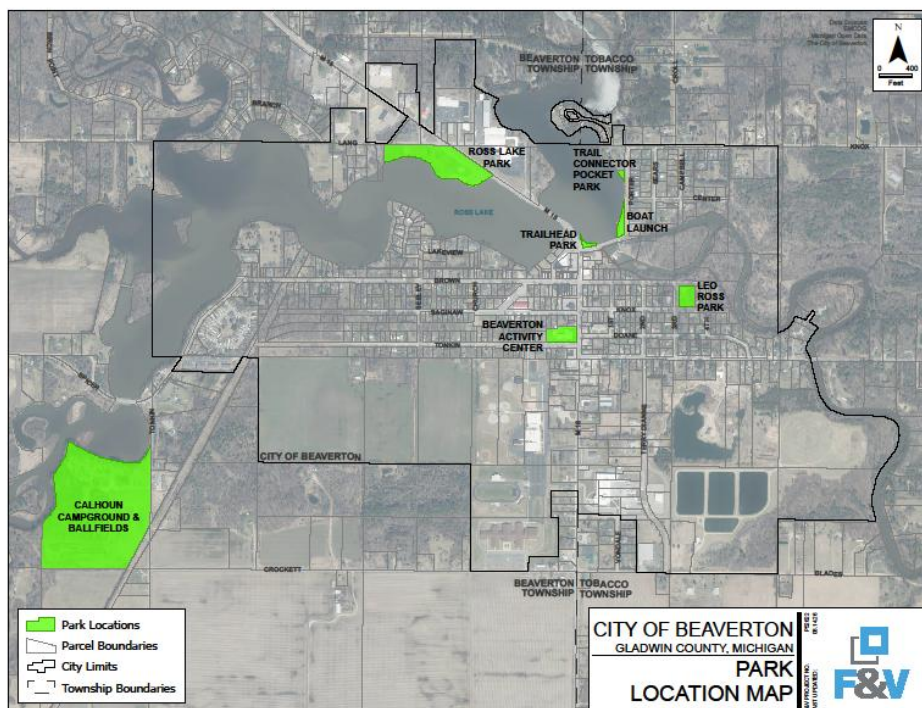
CHAPTER 5

Recreation Inventory

Within the City's 45 acres of public park land, a comprehensive inventory and evaluation of facility condition and accessibility was performed. Multiple site visits were completed by EMCOG staff, some with the assistance of Beaverton staff, at which time, the amenities were identified. These inspections provided insight to be used in goals and objectives for future projects. Refer to table 5.1 for an overview.

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Map 5.1 Beaverton Park Location Map



Leo Ross Park

Leo Ross Park is a hidden gem located in the residential neighborhood east of downtown. With playground equipment and a pavilion to the east, this facility is perfect for a peaceful afternoon under the trees.

Leo Ross Park Playground Equipment



Photo by: Beaverton Staff

Ross Lake Park

Ross Lake Park Entrance Sign



Photo by: EMCOG Staff

Easily its most beloved facility, Ross Lake Park is the heart of recreation in Beaverton. Families come from far and wide to swim in Ross Lake, picnic on the shore, play in the playground, and enjoy the newly-installed splash pad (see photo on page 11). The park's walking and bike path encourages active transportation and provides inclusive access to all park users. On the shore, fisherman and boaters enjoy the boat launch, which serves as the only public lake access on the north side of Ross Lake.

Ross Lake Park is also a key gathering place for holidays and special events. Every year, the community gathers in Ross Lake Park to honor fallen heroes at the World War II Memorial. The park also attracts a large crowd on the 4th of July, when the community gathers to watch the signature Independence Day fireworks over Ross Lake. Throughout the year, families rent out the pavilions to celebrate birthdays, graduations, family reunions, and so many more momentous occasions. Now, a brand new structure encourages youth to engage in healthy activities year-round, further cementing Ross Lake Park as a key community asset.

Ross Lake Park Splash Park



Photo by: City of Beaverton Staff

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Trail of Two Cities

The Trail of Two Cities is just one example of the City's commitment to accessibility and active transportation. This eight-mile non-motorized trail connects the City of Beaverton to the City of Gladwin, providing an ADA-accessible space for walking, biking, rolling, and more.

Trail of Two Cities



Photo by: Beaverton Staff

Trailhead Park

Trailhead Park



Photo by: Beaverton Staff

Located north of Downtown Beaverton, on Ross Street, Trailhead Park marks the beginning of the Trail of Two Cities. It includes a floating dock for fishing, photography, and birdwatching as well as handicap-accessible parking spaces to ensure that all users start their journey safely and conveniently.

Ross Lake Boat Launch

Located near the dam at the southeast corner of Ross Lake, this boat launch provides ADA- accessible water access to boats and canoes. A new kayak launch is mounted on the right, enabling access for even more watercraft.

Ross Lake Boat Launch



Photo by: Beaverton Staff

Calhoun Campground

Calhoun Campground Welcome Sign



Photo by: Beaverton Staff

Seasonally from May to October, campers come from across the nation to enjoy Calhoun Campground, a rustic experience in the woods nestled along the backwaters of Ross Lake at the mouth of the south branch of the Tobacco River. The campground houses 50 sites, offering water, sewer, and electric hookups in addition to modern sanitation facilities and a rentable pavilion. Campers and visitors alike come to utilize the free recreation facilities, including a canoe and kayak

launch, soccer field, disc golf nets, horseshoe pits, and lakeside foot path. Families especially enjoy the playground equipment and bikes provided and maintained by the Beaverton Area Fire Department. Below is a map identifying the facilities of Calhoun Campground.



Source: Beaverton Staff.

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Trail of Two Cities Pocket Park
Trail Connector Pocket Park



Photo by: EMCOCG Staff

Recently created using DNR Spark Grant funds, the Trail Connector Pocket Park is teeming with potential. Developed with active transportation accessibility in mind, the park features a bike rack and repair station, connecting directly to the Trail of Two Cities. Visitors can also enjoy a beautiful view of Ross Lake under the gazebo.

Ross Lake Boat Launch

Located near the dam at the southeast corner of Ross Lake, this boat launch provides ADA- accessible water access to boats and canoes. A new kayak launch is mounted on the right, enabling access for even more watercraft.

Ross Lake Boat Launch



Photo by: Beaverton Staff

Map 5.2 Ross Lake Park Facility Map

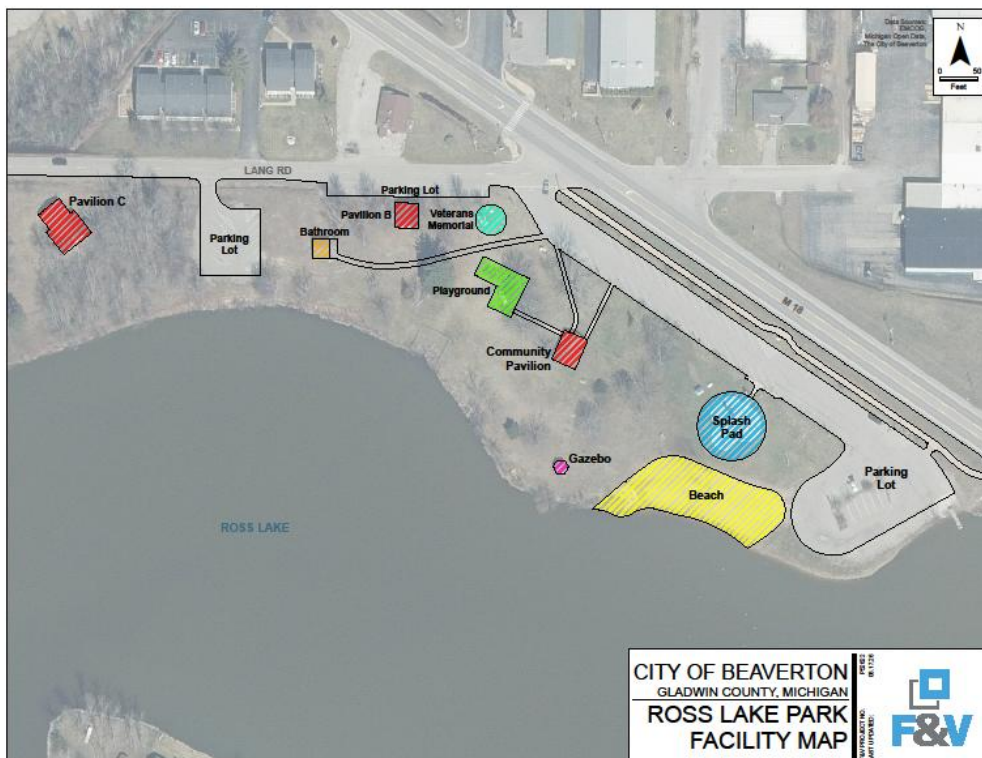


Table 5.1 City of Beaverton Recreational Facilities Inventory

Recreational Areas Amenities	Leo Ross Park	Ross Lake Park	Trail of Two Cities	Ross Lake Boat Launch	Connector Pathway Pocket Park	Trailhead Park	Calhoun Campground
Recreation Area	1.0 acre	6.0 acres	8 miles	0.3 acres	0.2 acres	0.3 acres	38.6 acres
Handicapped Accessibility	2	3	5	3	5	3	2
Beach/swimming		X					
Benches					X	X	
Bicycle Rack					X		
Bicycle Repair Station					X		
Bicycles (children)							X
Boat Launch		X	X	X			
Cabins							
Camping							X
Concession Stand							
Disc Golf							X
Fishing		X				X	X
Garbage Receptacles							X
Grills		X					
Handicapped Parking Spaces				X		X	
Horseshoe Pits							X
Kayak/Fishing Dock							X
Pavilions/Shelters	X	X					X
Pickleball Courts							
Picnic Tables		X					
Playground Equipment	X						X
Restrooms		X					X
Showers							X
Soccer Field							X
Splash Pad		X					
Tennis Courts							
Walking/Bicycle Trail		X	X				X

Table 5.2 Park Accessibility Rating System

DNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities		
Accessibility Grade	Definition	Characteristics
1	None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines.	There are no paths connecting elements. Restrooms are not accessible. Curb cuts are not present in the roads. Play elements are not accessible and the fall surface is not accessible or out of compliance.
2	Some facilities meet accessibility guidelines.	The park may contain one or two accessible elements, but the park as a whole is not accessible. For example, the park may contain an accessible picnic table, but there is no access path connecting the picnic shelter to the accessible parking spaces or sidewalk.
3	Most facilities meet accessibility guidelines	The majority of elements are accessible, such as paths connecting elements, accessible picnic tables, and designated accessible parking, but one or two elements do not meet guidelines. For example, the play structure may not meet accessibility guidelines.
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines.	All of the elements meet accessibility guidelines as they have been brought into compliance over time. For example, paths were added to connect elements, additional accessible play elements were added, and accessible restrooms were added.
5	The entire park was developed using the principles of universal design.	The entire park was designed and implemented with universal accessibility in mind. All elements fully comply with ADA, and may even go above and beyond requirements.

Other Outdoor Recreational Facilities in Beaverton

Beaverton Public School Campus

In the heart of the community, Beaverton Public Schools offers playground equipment in addition to multiple sports fields, including baseball, softball, football, and track.

Outdoor Regional Facilities Utilized by Beaverton Residents

Tittabawassee State Forest

2,000 acres of land on the eastern side of Gladwin County is dedicated to the Tittabawassee State Forest, an ideal hiking, birdwatching, and fishing destination administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Gladwin Golf Course

The Gladwin Golf Course, located 9 miles northwest of Beaverton, is a publicly accessible 18-hole golf course offering outdoor fun for all ages.

Beaverton School Nature Areas

Located east of Beaverton in Tobacco Township, the Beaverton School Nature Areas are used for hiking, snowmobiling, nature walks, and school science classes.

CHAPTER 6

Budget

Parks and Recreation activities are funded by the City of Beaverton's General Fund. Calhoun Campground generates the largest revenue and expenses, followed by pavilion rental fees at Ross Lake Park. All other park facilities are publicly available at no cost and maintained by 2 full-time public works staff and seasonal help. Below is the approved budget for FY 26/27.

Table 6.1 FY 26/27 Recreation Budget

Calhoun Campground	2024-25 Activity	Amended Budget	YTD As Of 05/31/2026	2026-27 RECOMMENDED
Description				
Estimated Revenues				
CALHOUN C.G. CHARGES	\$ 64,570.14	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 87,037.41	\$ 67,000.00
PAVILION RENTAL	\$ 134.00	\$ 110.00	\$ 274.00	\$ 100.00
DUMP STATION	\$ 640.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 799.55	\$ 800.00
FIREWOOD SALES	\$ 2,209.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,335.00	\$ 3,000.00
STORE SALES	\$ 370.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 171.00	\$ 250.00
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00
	\$ 67,923.14	\$ 68,510.00	\$ 89,706.96	\$ 71,200.00
Estimated Expenses				
DUES AND MEMBERSHIPS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47.38	\$ 50.00
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$ 29.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	\$ 234.66	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 56.98	\$ -
EQUIPMENT RENTAL	\$ 4,866.37	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,531.82	\$ 5,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS/FEES	\$ 364.53	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00
PARK REFUND OR REBATE	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 606.00	\$ -
SALARIES AND WAGES	\$ 11,824.10	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 12,847.00	\$ 12,000.00
PAYROLL TAXES	\$ 903.12	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 982.32	\$ 1,300.00
SUPPLIES	\$ 5,759.67	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,017.12	\$ 4,500.00
CONTRACTED SERVICES	\$ 2,706.69	\$ 500.00	\$ 9,024.99	\$ 10,150.00
INSURANCE	\$ 792.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,510.65	\$ 1,000.00
TELEPHONE AND COMMUNICATIONS	\$ 776.94	\$ 900.00	\$ 486.54	\$ 800.00
TECHNOLOGY	\$ 2,478.86	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,158.94	\$ 2,500.00
UTILITIES	\$ 9,486.45	\$ 9,200.00	\$ 13,467.23	\$ 15,000.00
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	\$ 3,937.93	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 10,943.54	\$ 5,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$ 814.80	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,342.71	\$ 1,500.00
TRANSFERS OUT	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 12,000.00
	\$ 58,975.82	\$ 65,200.00	\$ 75,723.22	\$ 71,100.00

Commented [6]: Update w/ approved budget

Commented [7]: Revenue from all park pavilions should be shown, not just the campground

To fund projects, such as those identified in the following sections, the City seeks grant funds through state and federal agencies. Recreational funding opportunities include the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF), the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and Recreation Passport (RP) through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Funding may also be available from the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for non-motorized facilities, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), and the Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation.

CHAPTER 7

Goals and Objectives

The overall goal of the Parks & Recreation Committee is to improve and promote the existing facilities. In no particular order, the goals and objectives as identified by the Committee are:

Goal 1: Improve Ross Lake

As a key asset to the community and region as a whole, Ross Lake's environmental quality must be protected and maintained to serve community health and recreation needs.

- Dredge in key areas to improve water quality; anticipated to occur in 2026/27.
- Document natural resource attributes of Ross Lake.
- Document the economic impact of Ross Lake within the community.
- Develop water-trail/access points on Ross Lake.
- Program additional recreation and tourism events associated with Ross Lake.

Goal 2: Improve park facilities

Parks must continue to be improved and maintained to increase physical and mental health outcomes, attract visitors, and build a sense of community. Due to our financial limitations as a small community, grant funding is critical to achieve this goal.

- Improve recreational and restroom facilities for community use.
- Develop an implementation plan for improvements to Calhoun Campground to keep it as a valued destination.
- Seek grants for park improvements.
- Coordinate grant applications to ensure commitments for local match are not in conflict or over-extended.
- Use sponsorship opportunities with local and regional organizations for local match.
- Ensure all park equipment is ADA-accessible.
- Continue to improve landscaping at all parks.

Goal 3 Develop programs through collaboration

Collective action ensures our community is served most efficiently and cost-effectively. Collaborations with local organizations, including nonprofits, businesses, and nearby municipalities, encourages innovative thinking, builds community support, and reduces duplication of services.

- Explore cost sharing with the Downtown Development Authority to promote tourism and business growth along with "quality of life" assets in the community.
- Establish written partnership agreements between the City, school, and volunteer groups.
- Build on existing programs and private funding sources.
- Develop forecasting, cost recovery tracking and budgeting.

- Set best practices for stewardship (energy saving improvements, maintenance practices).

Goal 4: Increase walkability and accessibility

Create a comprehensive pedestrian friendly system that connects destinations within the community for use by residents and visitors.

- Complete pedestrian connections to park facilities and downtown.
- Maintain existing public non-motorized routes.
- Include “complete streets” model for future road improvements (consideration to include sidewalks, bike lanes, traffic calming, landscaping, and street furniture).

Goal 5: Increase communication on recreational opportunities in Beaverton

Communication and marketing are critical to ensuring our facilities are enjoyed by all. To use our community resources, people must know they are available.

- **Integrate the Beaverton Activity Center (BAC) Calendar:** The Beaverton Activity Center is already a central hub for community events, youth and senior programs, and fitness. The city can co-market its municipal park assets—like Calhoun Campground and Ross Lake Park—by integrating outdoor parks and trails data directly into the BAC’s digital calendar and physical flyers.
- **Leverage Regional Trail Authorities:** Beaverton features significant regional recreational assets like the Trail of Two Cities, managed via the Gladwin County Trails Recreation Authority. The city can improve communication by linking its municipal website directly to specialized county-level tools, such as the interactive maps hosted by the Gladwin County Conservation District, making it easier for residents to track trail expansions, safety notices, and trailheads.
- **Utilize Utility Bill Inserts:** Because a portion of the population may skew older or less digitally active, the City Treasurer’s office can include seasonal recreational inserts or quarterly recreation guides directly within the city’s paper water, sewer, and garbage utility bills.
- **Unified Digital Signage and Social Cross-Promotion:** The city can partner with Gladwin County schools, the local district library branch housed inside the BAC, and regional tourism entities (like Pure Michigan) to cross-promote community events. Placing an outdoor LED community dashboard near high-traffic zones.
- **Centralize Campground and Park Bookings:** Ensuring that reservations and detail updates for city-managed spaces like Calhoun Campground are transparent, digitized, and prominently displayed on the front page of the city’s web portal prevents informational gaps.

CHAPTER 8

Action Plan

Below is a list of recommended park and recreation improvements projects that have been identified for the City of Beaverton, along with an explanation of each proposed project. The projects are listed in order, based on the results of the community survey. Projects will be completed as funds become available.

Ability-Inclusive Playground Equipment

Install adaptive, accessible playground structures throughout new site developments or as retrofits and additions to existing equipment across all City parks. This initiative ensures that children of all physical, sensory, and cognitive abilities can play together safely, fostering an inclusive and welcoming recreational environment community wide.

Outdoor Fitness Facility

Install durable, weather-resistant outdoor exercise equipment at key municipal parks to promote active, healthy lifestyles for residents of all ages. This free community amenity will broaden access to recreational fitness without requiring a gym membership.

Beaverton Dam Overlook Pier

Create a safe public park and elevated viewing pier downstream of the hydro dam to restrict access to hazardous zones while providing scenic visual enjoyment. This enhancement will eliminate safety risks and create an attractive community landmark for residents and tourists alike.

Expanded Canoe/Kayak Launch Ports

Develop multiple non-motorized watercraft access points along Ross Lake and local rivers, with a strong emphasis on locations downstream of the hydro dam. These launches will significantly improve river accessibility, encourage eco-tourism, and expand local paddling opportunities.

Multi-Sport Field

Develop a flexible, multi-purpose athletic field on existing or newly acquired municipal land to support soccer, lacrosse, flag football, and other open-field sports. This versatile facility will address growing demand from local youth and adult sports leagues.

Non-Motorized Park Connectivity

Expand and interlink the area's non-motorized transportation network using sidewalks, bike lanes, and multi-use trails. This project will safely connect internal city parks while extending pathways into neighboring townships for enhanced pedestrian and cyclist mobility.

Wayfinding and Informative Signage

Install a cohesive network of directional and educational signage across the city's parks and trail systems. These signs will guide visitors to local destinations while sharing rich details about the area's history, local wildlife, and natural ecosystems.

Park Tech (Wi-Fi & Solar Workstations)

Modernize core park infrastructure by introducing public Wi-Fi, solar-powered charging stations, and shaded seating areas. These upgrades will accommodate remote workers, students, and tech-connected visitors looking to spend time outdoors.

Dedicated Dog Park

Establish a secure, fenced, off-leash dog park equipped with double-gated entries, waste stations, and seating areas. This facility will provide local pet owners with a safe environment for canine exercise and socialization while helping minimize off-leash activity in other public parks.

Adult Softball Field(s)

Construct dedicated adult softball fields to fill a critical gap in local athletic facilities. This addition will enable the creation of organized adult recreational leagues, promoting active adult lifestyles and community engagement.

CHAPTER 9

Grant History

The City of Beaverton ("City") has received a total of six grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), three of which were for the development of Calhoun Campground.

Project No. 26-00398: \$26,000 to acquire 78 acres for outdoor recreation.

Project 26-00841: Land and Water Conservation Fund ("LWCF") grant of \$9,600 to develop a portion of the park to include site improvements, one (1) ball field, entrance road, and an LWCF sign.

Project No. BF89-357: \$206,250 to develop 39 camp sites with a service building, playground and access to Ross Lake.

Project No. TF05-068: \$59,000 for the development of two lighted fishing piers on Ross Lake.

Project TF-16-0068: \$50,000 for the development of a paved pathway and improved parking area for a trailhead along the Trail of Two Cities.

Spark Grant: \$769,500 in 2024 to finish the construction of the Trail of Two Cities between the City of Gladwin and the City of Beaverton. The construction included approximately 950 lineal feet of pathway and 260 lineal feet of boardwalk along the edge of Ross Lake.

CHAPTER 10

Planning Process

In late 2025, the City of Beaverton entered into an agreement with the East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) to complete an update to their 2019 Parks and Recreation Plan. In the spring of 2026 EMCOG staff met with the City's Parks & Recreation Committee to discuss the update process. The Commission is the planning body for the scheduling of recreational activities, updating/upgrading of equipment, and maintenance of the parks in Beaverton.

In early June, EMCOG and City staff completed a tour of the City's recreational areas and facilities. In June, the Committee reviewed the 2019 Plan's goals and objectives and updated them based on recent activities. The Committee also agreed to complete a community-wide survey for public input on the facilities.

Survey Results

From June 1 to July 10, 2026 a community-wide survey was conducted. The survey was online, and was advertised at local meetings, in the local paper, and accessible by QR Code flyers. A total of 46 surveys were submitted. These survey responses represent over 15% of the City of Beaverton's population. Of the respondents, 25 or 54% said that they use the amenities at least monthly. The most common use is walking/ running, followed by swimming and picnicking.

- **Amenity Satisfaction**

When asked to rate the quality and maintenance of the amenities over 76% of the respondents provided three or more stars (out of five). Over 82% of the respondents provided 3 or more stars in rating their overall experience at the parks. Several of the more negative comments were based on other people present at the parks, which may not be a true indication of the amenities or conditions of the parks.

- **Action Plan Priorities**

The respondents were also asked to prioritize ten (10) projects as identified in the survey. The projects were provided by the Park Commission based on previous discussions. The project that was identified as the highest priority was ability-inclusive playground equipment, followed by outdoor fitness facility, and Beaverton Dam Overlook. The complete list is found in the Action Plan and in Appendix D.

EMCOG staff attended the August Parks & Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the Plan and recommended several formatting changes. EMCOG staff then provided an overview of the approval process and asked to be placed on the September agenda, at which time the Plan would be discussed further.

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Adirondack Chair in Calhoun Campground



Photo by: EMCOG Staff

Approval Process

On August 5, 2026, the Parks & Recreation Committee was advised that the draft was nearly completed, and that they would get a copy for their review. The Plan was sent to the City Manager on August 6, 2026. She provided several recommendations that were put into the Plan. It was also determined that the approval process would begin with the start of the 30-day review process.

The notice for the 30-day review was posted on August 17, 2026 in the local newspaper.

APPENDIX A



APPENDIX B



BEAVERTON
PARKS
SURVEY

SURVEY CLOSING JULY 9TH

HELP SHAPE THE
FUTURE OF OUR PARKS!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT CITY HALL AT
(989) 435 - 3511

The poster features a background image of a park with trees and a red building. A large red rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing the text 'BEAVERTON PARKS SURVEY'. Below this, a yellow banner with a black border contains the text 'SURVEY CLOSING JULY 9TH'. A curved arrow points from the banner to a QR code. Below the QR code, the text 'HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR PARKS!' is displayed. At the bottom, a dark brown rectangle contains the text 'QUESTIONS? CONTACT CITY HALL AT (989) 435 - 3511'.

APPENDIX C

Community Survey



Parks Survey

Which activities do you enjoy?

- Walking / Running
- Biking / Rolling
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Kayaking / Canoeing
- Picnicking

During the time your favorite activities are in season, how often do you use any amenities at:

- Ross Lake Park,
- Leo Ross Park,
- DNR Trailhead Park; or
- Calhoun Campground?

1. At least weekly
2. Monthly
3. A few times

4. Rarely or never What park amenities would you like to see added or upgraded?

Please rank these potential projects in order of importance.

(1 being most important and 10 being least)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="text"/> Dog park | <input type="text"/> Wayfinding and informative signage |
| <input type="text"/> Expanded Canoe/Kayak | <input type="text"/> Adult softball field |
| <input type="text"/> Park tech (WiFi, solar powered workstations, covered seating) | <input type="text"/> Outdoor fitness facility |
| <input type="text"/> Launch ports | <input type="text"/> Dam overlook pier |
| <input type="text"/> Multi-sport field (soccer, lacrosse, flag football) | <input type="text"/> Non-motorized park |
| | <input type="text"/> Ability-inclusive playground connectivity equipment |

How many people of each age are in your household?

0 - 5 years old	15 - 18 years old	40 - 49 years old
6 - 10 years old	19 - 29 years old	50 - 59 years old
11 - 14 years old	30 - 39 years old	60+ years old

Please rate the quality and maintenance of our amenities.



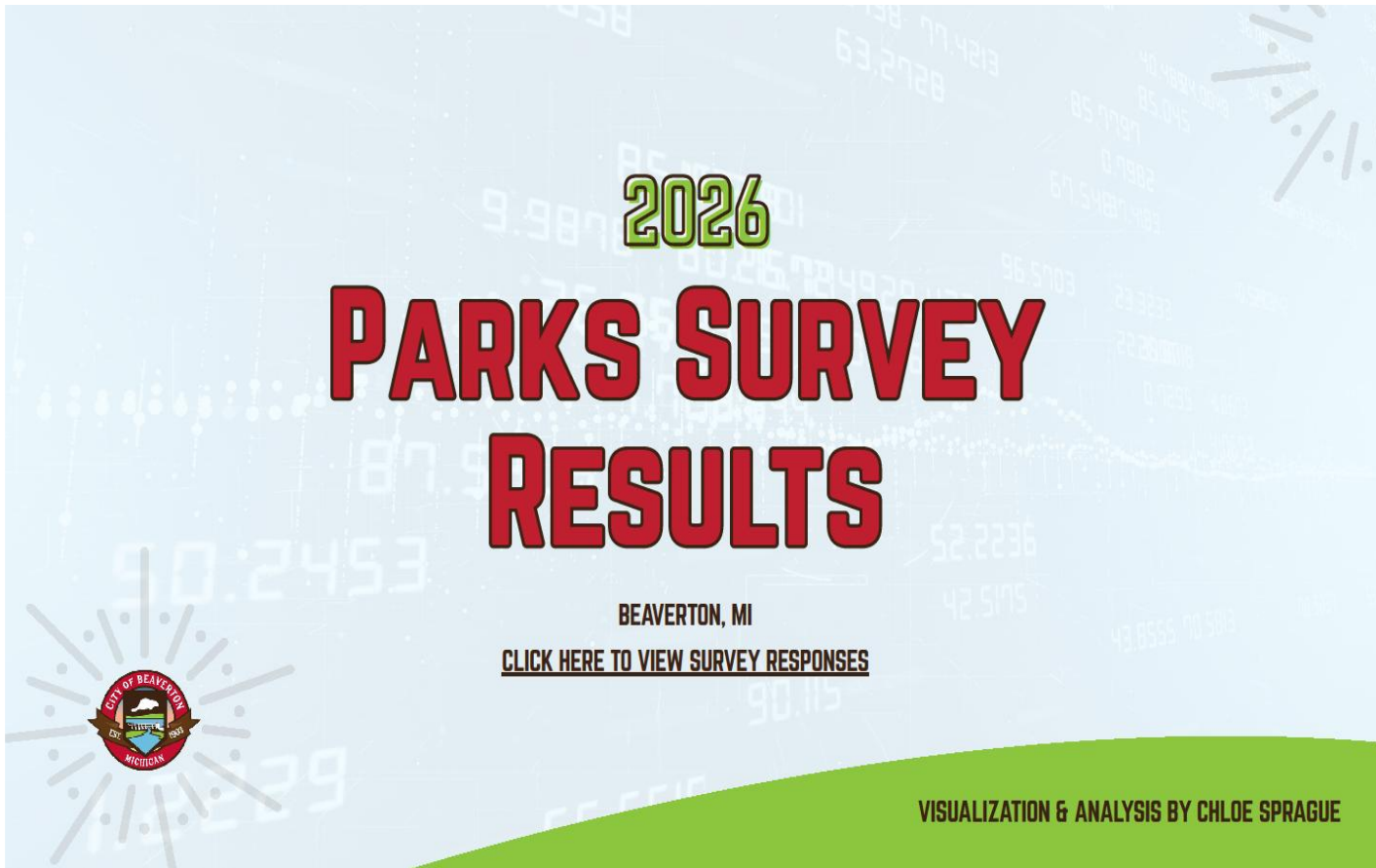
Why did you give this rating?

Please rate your overall experience at our parks.



Why did you give this rating?

APPENDIX D

A graphic for the 2026 Parks Survey Results. The background is light blue with faint, scattered numbers and a sunburst pattern. The text '2026' is in green with a black outline. 'PARKS SURVEY RESULTS' is in large, bold, red letters with a black outline. Below this, 'BEAVERTON, MI' is in black. A link 'CLICK HERE TO VIEW SURVEY RESPONSES' is in black with a black underline. The City of Beaverton logo is in the bottom left. A green curved bar is at the bottom right.

2026

PARKS SURVEY RESULTS

BEAVERTON, MI

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW SURVEY RESPONSES](#)

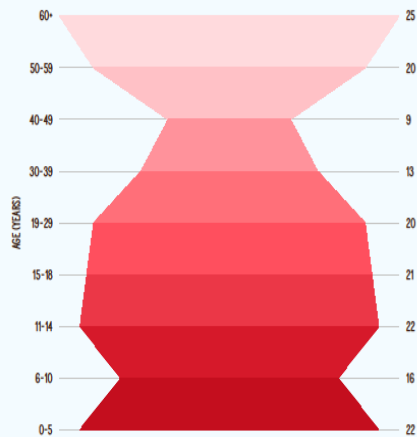
VISUALIZATION & ANALYSIS BY CHLOE SPRAGUE

DEMOGRAPHICS

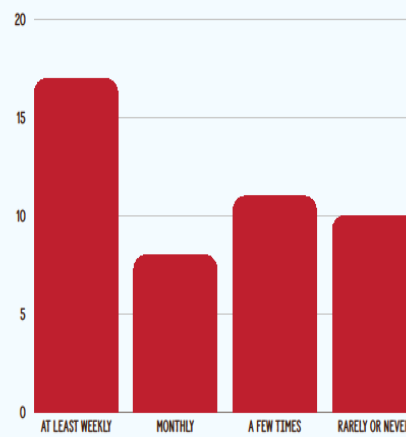


- Variety in age, skewed slightly younger
- Most respondents use the regularly
- Variety of activities enjoyed

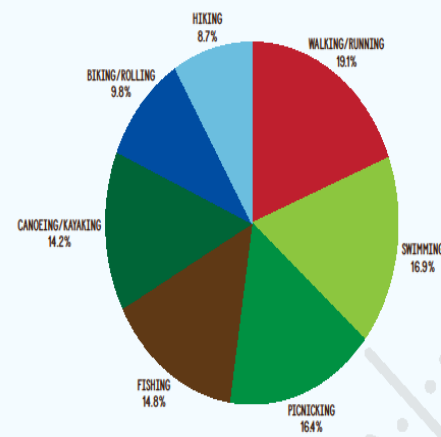
AGES IN HOUSEHOLD



FREQUENCY OF PARK USE



ACTIVITIES ENJOYED



QUALITY & MAINTENANCE

- Almost all comments about Ross Lake Park
- Families enjoy the beach
- Mostly clean and well-maintained
- Complaints about bathrooms and goose poop



Average rating (3.24)



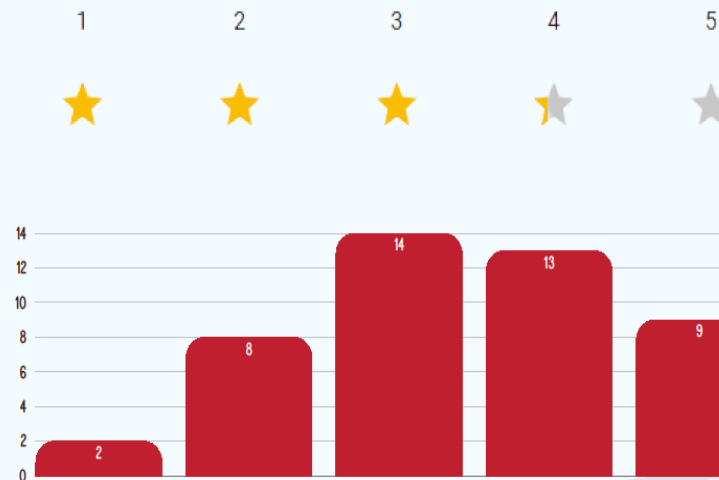
Made with Flourish • Create a hierarchy graph

OVERALL EXPERIENCE

- Almost all comments about Ross Lake Park
- Mostly positive
- Families enjoy splash pad
- Complaints about new building and rough people



Average rating (3.41)



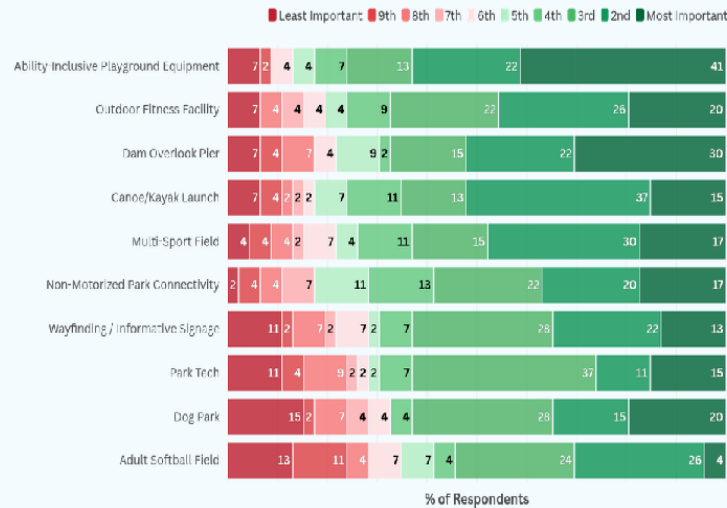
Made with Flourish • Create a hierarchy graph

ADDITIONS & IMPROVEMENTS

WHAT AMENITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ADDED OR UPGRADED?

pavilion outdoor fitness area
 building/structure appearance giveaways
 community activities park signage swings
 (re)move building/structure dog park
 covered outdoor seating picnic tables
 trash cans wifi electrical outlets community stage
bathrooms cornhole
 baby swing green space beach fishing access
 kayak launch beach wall rename building/structure
 bike racks live music boat/kayak/tube rentals
 popcicles splash pad playground equipment
 community garden christmas decorations

RANK THESE POTENTIAL PROJECTS IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE.



Made with Flourish - Create a chart

- Most popular requests:
 - Ability-inclusive playground equipment
 - Bathrooms upgrade
 - Beach improvement
 - Covered outdoor seating

APPENDIX E

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF BEAVERTON

NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

DRAFT COMMUNITY PARK AND RECREATION PLAN

Notice is hereby given that the draft **City of Beaverton Parks and Recreation Plan** is available for public review and comment. The plan outlines goals, objectives, and proposed capital improvements for park facilities and recreational programs within the City of Beaverton.

Public Comment Period:

The 30-day public comment period begins on **Monday, August 17, 2026**, and will conclude at **5:00 PM on Wednesday, September 16, 2026**.

Location of Draft Plan for Inspection:

Physical copies of the draft plan are available for public inspection during regular business hours at:

- **Beaverton City Hall**, 128 S. Ross Street, Beaverton, MI 48612

An electronic copy of the draft plan is also available online at <https://beavertonmi.org/parks-recreation/> or by contacting Beaverton City Hall.

Submission of Comments:

All interested persons are encouraged to review the draft plan and submit written comments before the public comment period ends. Comments may be submitted by mail or email to:

- **Email:** Intern@beavertonmi.org
- **Mail/In-Person:**
Attn: Parks & Recreation Planning
City of Beaverton
128 S. Ross Street
Beaverton, MI 48612

Following the 30-day public comment period, a public hearing will be scheduled before the City Council for final consideration and adoption of the plan.

City of Beaverton

Published: August 17, 2026