Making a Positive Impact
Five Years of Parks Millage Results

73% parks improved
(100% by the end of 2021)

24 playground renovations

$4,963,390 in new park improvements

Over $12 million leveraged in outside grants and funding

$10,908,601 in park rehabilitation and repairs

$3,741,565 to fund pools

2018 Project Highlights

BIKE PARK, 580 KIRTLAND ST. SW
Advanced pump tracks, bike loop for kids 5 and younger, bike playground/skills loop and various site improvements

CHESEBRO PARK, 951 MERRIT ST. SE
New multi-age playground, picnic tables, bench seating, bike racks, site lighting, shade trees and an improved entryway

COIT PARK, 727 COIT AVE. NE
Improved playground, community gathering/picnic space, shuffleboard and four-square court, fruit trees and a pollinator garden

HUFF PARK, 2399 RAIL AVE. NW
New boardwalk with an overlook deck, rest areas and interpretive signage, new playground and accessibility upgrades to concession and restroom building

MOONEY PARK, 314 LOGAN ST. SE
Improved playground, new site lighting, walkways, masonry seat wall, planter and landscape bed

OTTAWA HILLS PARK, 2060 OAKFIELD AVE. SE
New park made possible by a long-standing partnership with GRPS that includes fully universally accessible playground, picnic area, benches, lighting and shade trees

ROOSEVELT PARK, 739 VAN RAALTE DRIVE SW
New circular pathway, exercise equipment and community mural

WILCOX PARK, 100 YOUELL AVE. SE
Renovated basketball court project - dedicated in memory of Eastown resident Mike Sanders – is a reality thanks to $28,500 in community fundraising accompanying $37,000 in millage funding

2018 Pool Season

• 46,585 pool admissions (14.85% increase from 2017)
• 356 enrolled in swim lessons
• 33 new lifeguards certified
• 14 Junior Lifeguard program participants

Footnotes:
2. Sources: Michigan DVR, CDBG, City Capital Improvement Fund, Friends of GR Parks, Human Miller Canis Foundation, Peters C. and Emajyon Cook Foundation, Patrini/Lyff/MEDC, Elizabeth Sanderson, My GR City Points, National Parks and Recreation Association, DGR, DDA, Brownfield, Wave Foundation, KeckM
3. Through June 30, 2019
4. Source: Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
5. 2014-2018

It wasn’t long ago that we had broken drinking fountains, closed pools and rundown playgrounds. Grand Rapids residents entrusted us to do something about it when they passed the 2013 Parks Millage. We’re making great progress so we can keep our promise.
— Mayor Rosalyn Bliss

The improvements made through the voter-approved dedicated parks millage are transforming play experiences for children, social spaces for families and recreational opportunities for swimmers. The millage has also allowed the City to leverage significant outside funding that otherwise wouldn’t be available.
— David Marguardt, Parks and Recreation Director

With a focus on sustainability, accessibility and nature-based play, we’re excited about the next set of projects made possible by the 2013 Parks Millage. We have a transparent process and are accountable for making sure all neighborhood parks benefit.
— Ryan Walkes, Parks Advisory Board President

2019 Park Projects (construction)

Alger
Joe Taylor
MacKay-Jaycees
Belknap
Lexington
Martin Luther King
Briggs
Lincoln Place
Rasberry Field
Foster
Look Out
Reservoir

Cherry Park Splash Pad
Richmond Park Pool
“From the very beginning, we were invited to share our ideas for improvements at Coit Park. The park feels like a reflection of our community and is safer, cleaner and more welcoming than ever.”
- Barbara LeBeau, Belknap Lookout neighbor

Our Mission
To provide our community with inspirational experiences through the responsible management and collaborative stewardship of the City’s natural, educational and cultural resources.

Our Vision
Creating and supporting a healthy, vibrant community through:
- Active neighborhoods
- Inclusive programs and events
- Innovation and best practices
- Exceptional services
- Embracing diversity

Major Goals

CONNECTED NETWORK
Create a connected network of parks, natural areas and waterways accessible to the entire Grand Rapids community

HEALTHY COMMUNITY
Create programs and projects that support the physical, mental and emotional well-being of community members

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENTS
Create diverse experiences by drawing on community feedback, local ecology and national trends

SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM
Seek innovative solutions to become more financially self-sustainable and diversify funding sources

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