



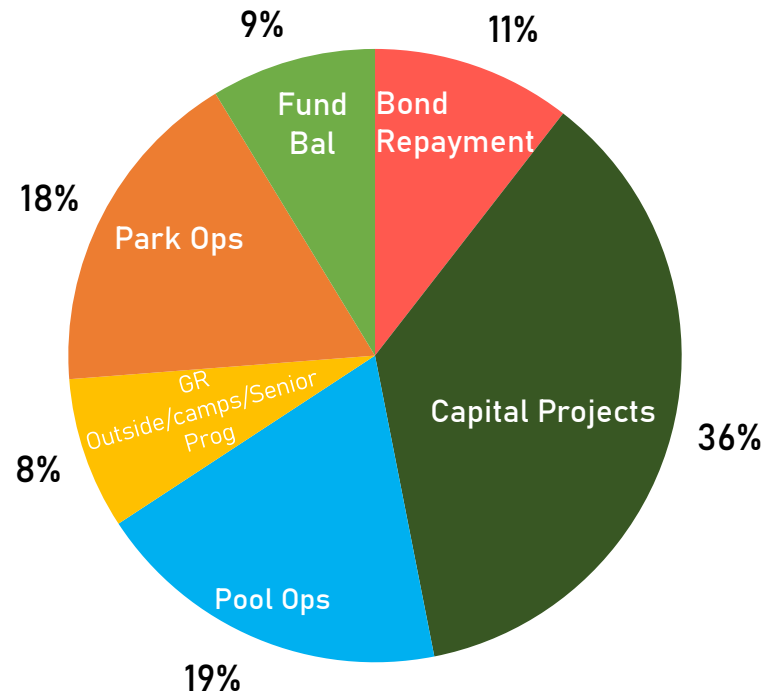
Parks & Recreation Annual Update

City Commission
Committee of the Whole
December 16, 2025

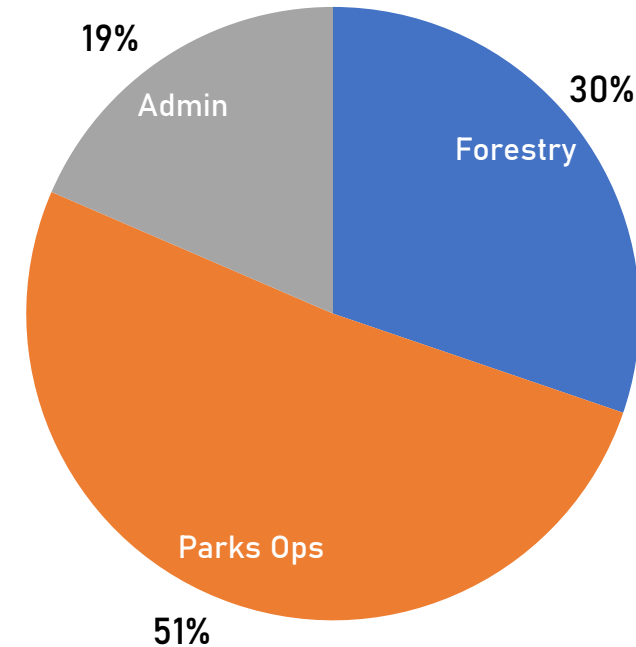


Parks Revenue Overview

Millage Revenue Allocation (\$7.42M)



Maintenance of Effort Allocation (\$8.78M)



2025 Impact



CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 10 park renovation projects completed or started
- \$51M+ leveraged investment
- 2,700+ residents involved in design



POOL OPERATIONS

- 44,474 open swim participants YTD
- 545 swim lesson participants
- Fully staffed all 3 pools (Briggs, MLK, and Richmond)



RECREATION PROGRAMMING

- 10,887 free outdoor fitness participants
- 4,164 adult program participants YTD
- 602 summer camp participants and 2,637 youth instructional/sports
- 4,403 senior programming visits YTD
- 8,792 GR Outside participants YTD



PARK MAINTENANCE

- Increased parks rated A or B from 30% (2018) to 81% (2025)
- Increased park maintenance labor hour investment from 48,830 (pre-2019 Millage) to 80,290 (FY26)
- Implemented Brightly Park Maintenance Software to drive efficiency and asset management (2,035 workorders completed YTD)
- Asset condition assessment completed



Recreation Programming Highlights

River Activation

- 750 GRPS Scholars at the annual "Grand Canoe Experience"
- 249 participants in GR Outside kayaking programs
- 380 GRPS scholars in 16 water chemistry field trips
- 382 participants for free family paddle night
- 351 participants kayak rental program at Riverside Park



Pool Pass Program

- 7,002 free youth resident pool passes issued
- 6,310 adult paid program passes issued
- 44,474 pool visits



MLK Community Center Updates

Key Dates

- January 5 – Jobs posted
- January 22, 29 and 31 – Job fair at Neland Church
- February 21 – Grand opening
- February 22 – Reservations open for residents
- March 2 – Program Launch
 - Fitness Gold (50+)
 - Teens
 - Open gym basketball & pickleball
- March 9 – Adult fitness classes begin
- March 16 – Youth instructional classes begin



Leveraged Funding - \$51,062,720

Park	Funding Source	Amount
Bike Park	MDNR Trust Fund Grant	\$300,000
Camelot Park	Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program	\$479,600
Canal Park	DDA Monroe North TIFA	\$3,000,000
Canal Park	RAP 2.0 MEDC Grant	\$750,000
Leonard to Ann	DGRI Greenway Grant	\$2,459,605
Leonard to Ann	MDOT TAP, MDNR Trust Fund Grant, City ARPA	\$4,717,648
Leonard to Ann	West Michigan Trails and City Capital	\$2,025,867
MLK Park	MEDC – State Appropriation Funding	\$6,000,000
MLK Park	City Capital, ARPA Funding, Third Ward Equity Fund	\$12,550,000
Oxford Trail	DGRI Greenway Grant	\$8,000,000
Oxford Trail	City of GR ARPA funding	\$1,000,000
Plaster/Silver Creek	City of GR ARPA funding	\$1,500,000
Richmond Park	Mitten Foundation	\$50,000
Roosevelt Park & Plaza Roosevelt	State Appropriation Funding	\$5,000,000
Sullivan Field	Fans of Valley Field	\$1,500,000
Sullivan Field	RAP 2.0 MEDC Grant and State Appropriation Funding	\$1,730,000
TOTAL		\$51,062,720



2025 Park Projects

COMPLETED

- East Riverwalk: Riverwalk reconstruction between the Blue Bridge and Louis St.
- Griff's Icehouse: Refrigeration improvements
- Houseman Field: New playground (community build)
- Ottawa Hills: New restroom and parking lot reconstruction
- Richmond Park: Parking lot reconstruction

STARTED

- Canal Park: Full park reconstruction
- MLK: New community center and site improvements
- Oxford Trail: Reconstruction and extension
- Plaza Roosevelt: New park construction
- Silver/Plaster Creek Trail: Planning phase



*Houseman Field Playground Community Build Ribbon Cutting
(Credit: Mo'Photography)*



Upcoming Projects – Construction 2026/2027

- **Ball Perkins:** new parking lot and trail improvements
- **Bike Park:** new picnic shelter, parking lot reconstruction, bike trail improvements
- **Camelot Park:** splashpad, shelter, and restroom
- **Grand River Edges Trail:** Leonard to Ann new trail
- **Highland Park:** restrooms
- **Joe Taylor Park:** general park improvements
- **Lincoln Park:** improved site features
- **Otsego Drain Basin:** new park construction
- **Plaster Creek:** creekbank erosion control
- **Richmond Park:** new playground
- **Roosevelt Park:** lodge reconstruction and other site improvements
- **Sullivan Field Phase II:** site improvements
- **Tremont Greenspace:** small play space & seating



Capital Investment Plan: FY27-31

- **32nd Street:** new park development
- **Aberdeen Park:** playground and parking lot/circulation renovations
- **Ah Nab Awen Park:** full park reconstruction
- **Boston Square:** new park acquisition
- **Campau Park:** improved sports courts
- **Douglas Park:** general park improvements
- **Garfield Park:** reconstruction of parking lots
- **Huff Park:** reconstruction of parking lots
- **Mackay-Jaycees Park:** reconstruction of parking lots/circulation and new dog park
- **Plaster Creek Trail:** trail improvements
- **Riverside Park:** reconstruction of parking lots/circulation



Emerging Opportunities

Indian Trails Golf Course

Updated architectural options in 2026

Belknap Park

Master Planning process underway

- New restroom facility
- Griff's Icehouse expansion
- Pickleball expansion

Greenway Trail System

Future investments in Greenway Corridor

Dog Parks



Celebrating Success

Record breaking investments:

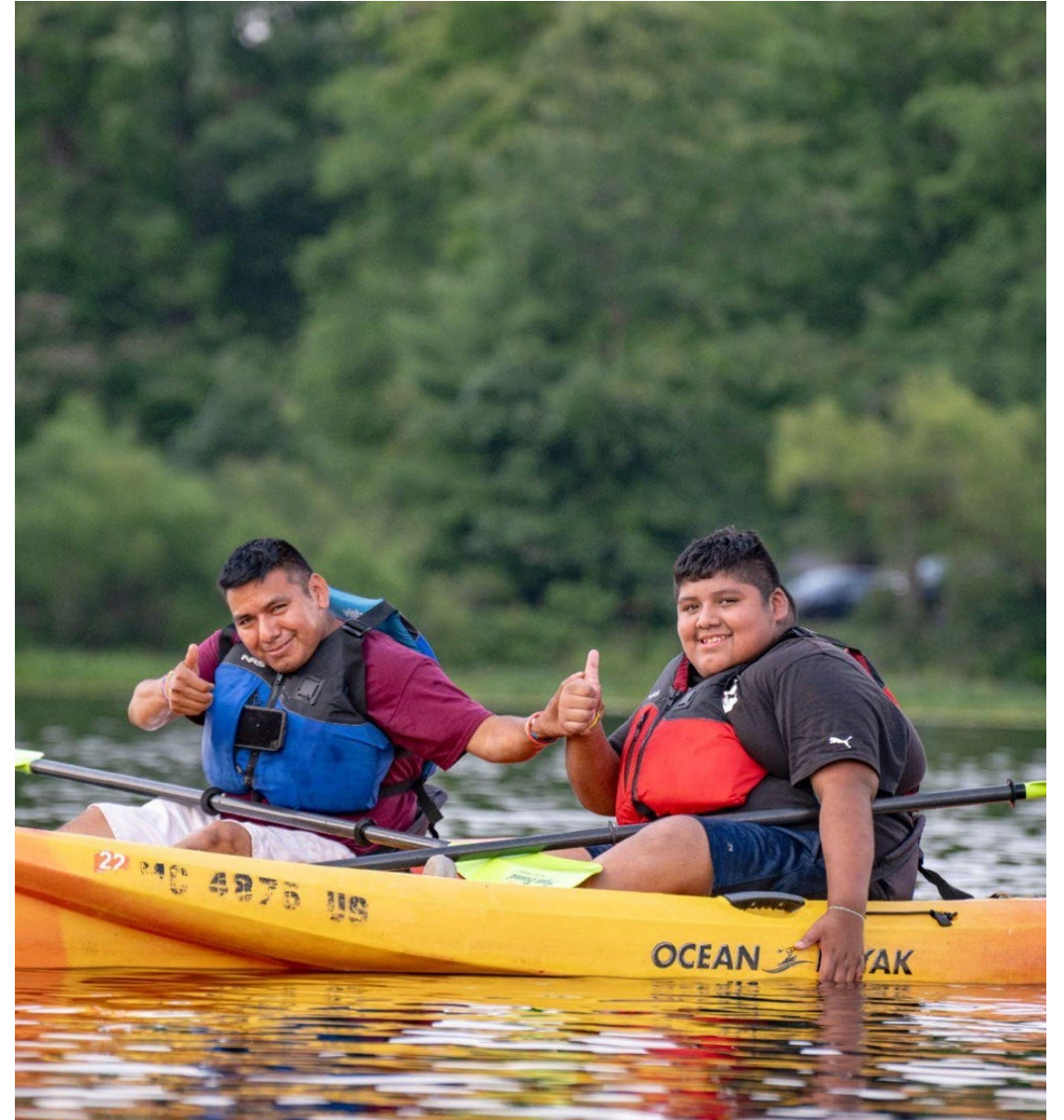
- \$51 million in leveraged funds
- \$11 million in bond funds
- \$2.7 million in Parks Millage funds

Thanks to the critical support from:

- Grand Rapids Residents
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

And because of key partnerships with:

- Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc.
- Downtown Development Authority
- Fans of Valley Field
- Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
- Grand Rapids Pickleball Club
- Grandville Avenue Art & Humanities
- The Right Place
- CAA and Grand Action 2.0
- Mitten Foundation



Grand Rapids Forestry

Dedicated to ensuring public health & safety while maximizing environmental benefits of the Grand Rapids canopy

- Tree canopy increase from 34% to 37% since 2014
- Successful public/private approach in addressing priority work
- 1,400 trees planted per year
- Primarily reactive management
- Forestry O&M Plan



Forestry Priority 2 (P2) - Project Update

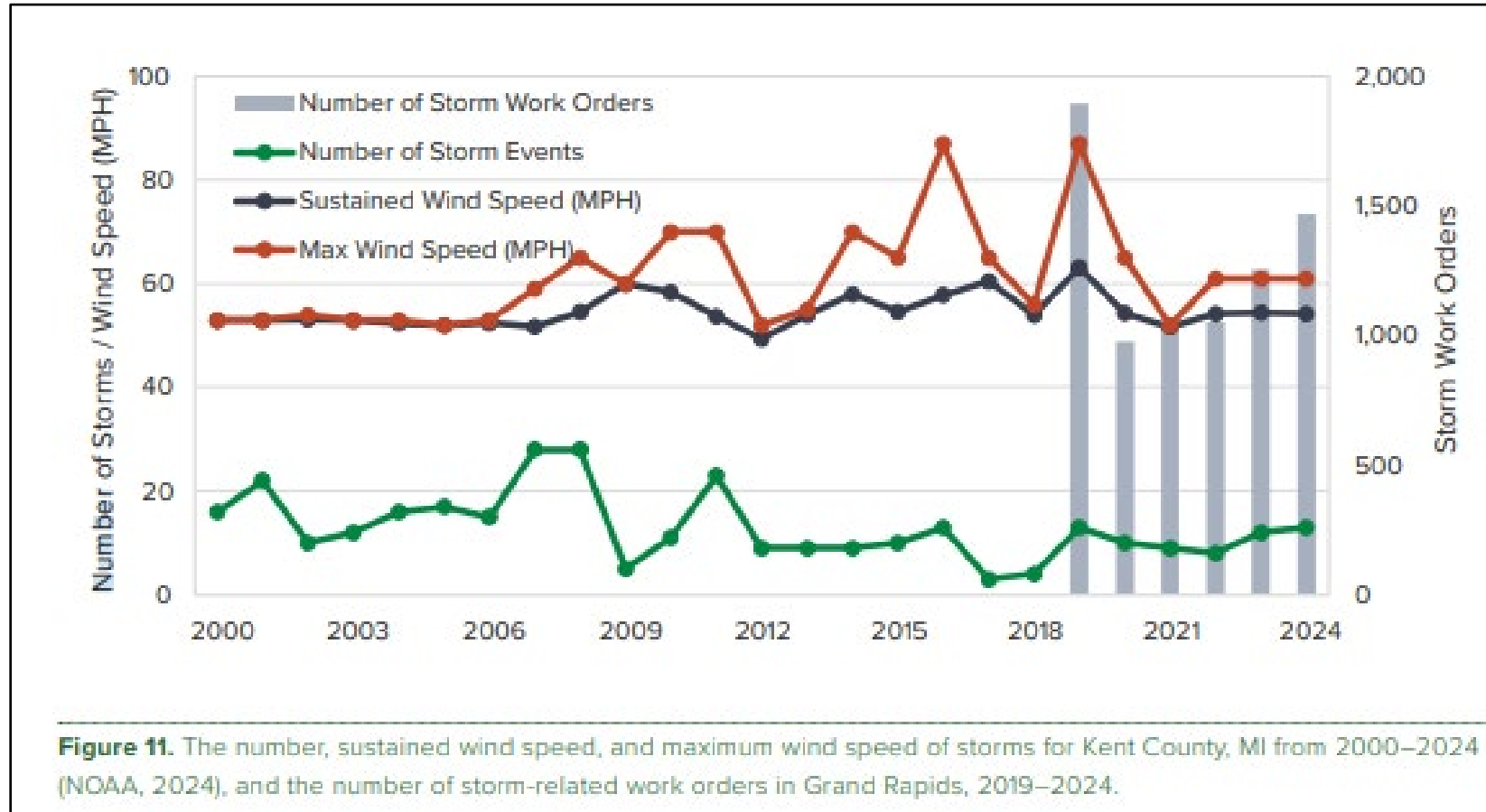
	Inventory Number 2017	Work Completion 2018-2023	Balance as of 6/2023	P I V O T	Completed post PIVOT	Balance Today	% Completed
P2 - Prunes	8,887	2,800	6,087		5,158	929	85%
P2- Removals	3,192	2,553	639		1,272	ongoing	105%

Remaining Work

- Contract Pruning – FY26 investment \$582,000
 - Backlog to be done by 6/30/26
- Contract Stump Removal – FY26 investment \$243,000
 - Backlog to be done by 6/30/26



Storm & Weather Response July 2023 - Present

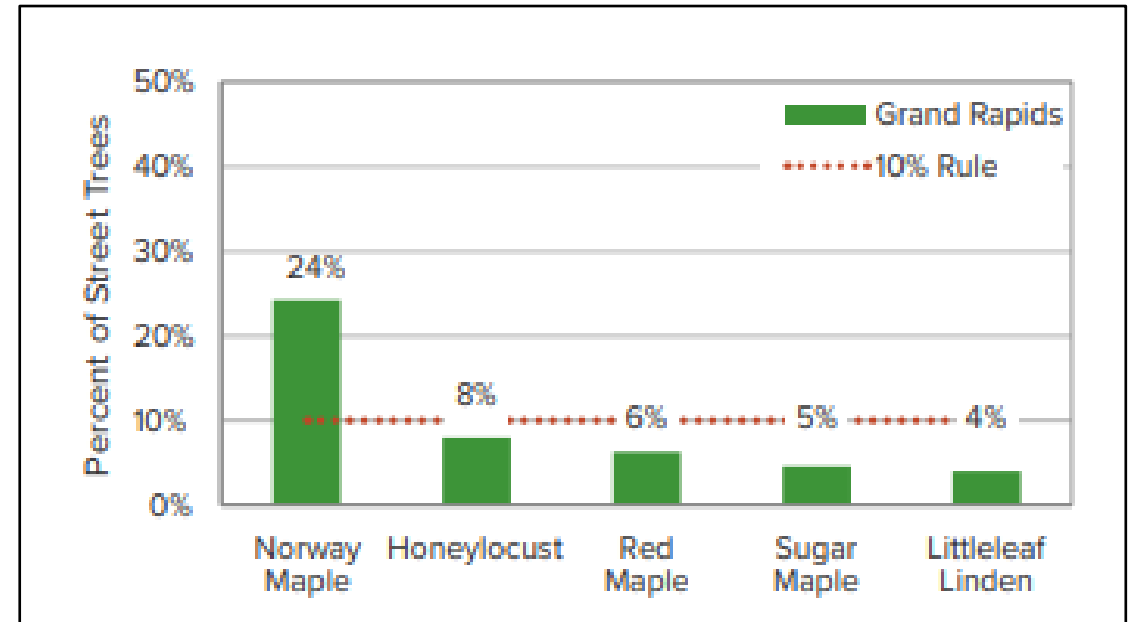
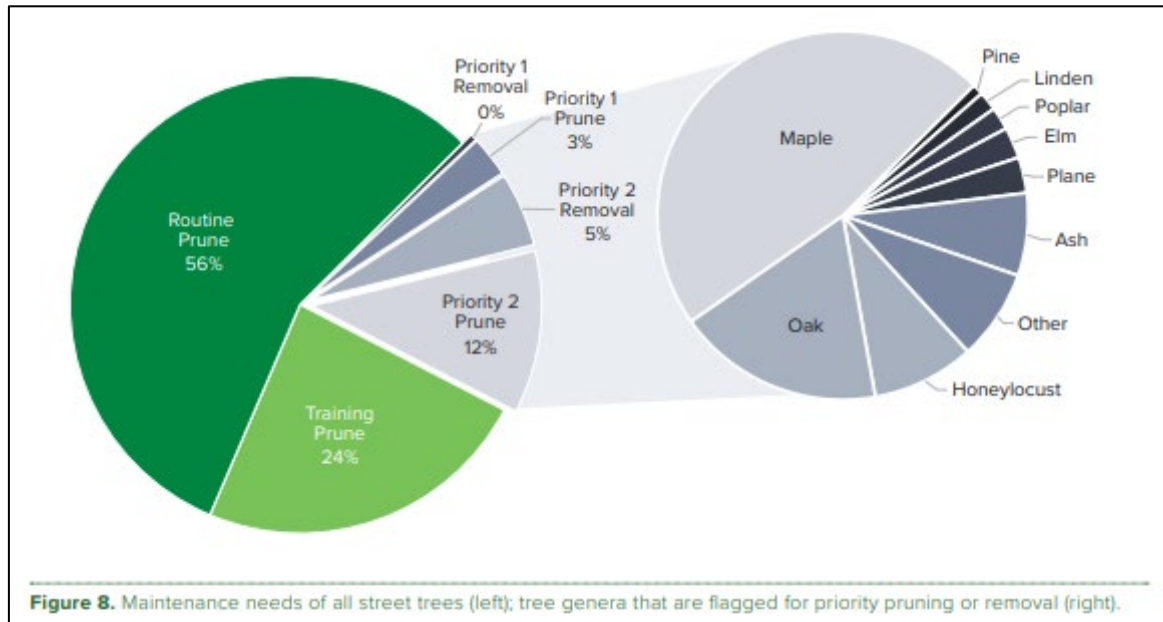


- 2,500 storm response work orders completed
- In-house, reliable, first response crew



Forestry Operations & Management Plan: Davey Resource Group

- Storm response is a critical Forestry function
- Risk potential increases as trees age without proactive management
- Need for up-to-date inventory data
- Large component of canopy is maples
- Proactive management saves money in the long run
- Over 17,000 young trees (24%) require training pruning



Forestry Operations & Management Plan – Recommendations

- Initiate a proactive public tree maintenance program
- Build the capacity of the forestry division
- Leverage data for informed urban forestry management
- Increase diversification and resilience of public tree species
- Conduct an updated tree inventory to support prioritization of maintenance and removal needs
- Coordinate citywide forestry efforts across departments
- Keep Grand Rapids on a path of tree canopy growth





Thank you

