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# **Silver Creek Township Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan**

***2020 - 2024***

***October 2019***

Prepared for:  
Silver Creek Township

Prepared by:  
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In Accordance with:  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Guidelines for the Development of  
Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and  
Greenway Plans

November 2019



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# I. INTRODUCTION

This Community Recreation Plan is a general, long-range development tool used to achieve and maintain a high-quality park, recreation and open-space system. It evaluates the needs of the community and makes strategic recommendations for recreation, beautification and economic development to be implemented over the next five years.

## II. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

### A. Regional Context

Silver Creek Township is located in the northwest corner of Cass County, bordered to the west by Berrien County and to the north by Van Buren County. The city of Dowagiac borders the township to the southeast. The most unique features of this Township are the eight natural lakes, extensive wetlands, natural forests, a variety of soil types and the Dowagiac River.

The first settlers from the recently expanded United States arrived in the period 1812-15. Prior to that, for an undocumented period, the area was populated by a native people now classified as Native Americans of the Potawatomi Indian Nation. The most documented records are of the Pokagon Band named for its Chief in the above period. This group consisted of several settlements in the area. This tribe was involved with French Fur Traders who had traversed the area for most of the 17th Century; buying furs from the Indians for transportation to Europe. During this period, Chief Pokagon and many of his Tribal Members embraced Catholicism. In 1830, Chief Pokagon made two trips to Detroit to convince the Catholic Bishop there to establish a church for his people. Sacred Heart of Mary Catholic Church on Leach Road is the result of his efforts.

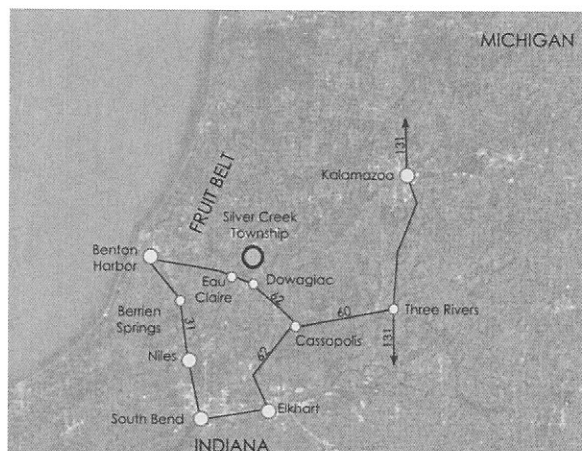
There are a variety of magnificent trees in the Township despite the extensive clear cutting of the forests that covered most of the area during the lumber harvesting of the mid to late 1800s. This activity did enhance the settlement of the area and stimulated economic growth while opening land for settlement for farming, which began the viable agricultural activity which continues.

The last development surge began after World War II. when the lakeshores of the principal lakes were developed with vacation homes adding a part time population which contributes to the economy of the township but does not significantly appear in most demographic data. A portion of these "cottages" have been upgraded or replaced by year around homes adding to the permanent population.

The preservation of the natural lakes as a unique feature to be saved and enjoyed in the future has gained significant support.

### B. Area to be Served

The service area is confined to the Township limits, covering approximately 34.2 square miles.



SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION MAP

### C. Plan Focus

This plan was completed for Silver Creek Township and includes all aspects of recreation.



### III. ADMINISTRATION STRUCTURE

#### A. Structure & Functions

The following section identifies the administrative structure for Silver Creek Township. It also describes the functions regarding parks and recreation for the Township. Silver Creek Township is a General Law Township, under the Michigan Township Enabling Act PA41 of 1846-revised statutes, Act 157 Of 1905 and Act 246 of 1945.

The Township is governed by a Township Board of five members a Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and two Trustees which meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month. The board is elected for four-year terms. Standing committees were created for Planning, Zoning Appeals, Public Safety, and Parks & Recreation. These committees are appointed by the Township Board for three-year terms. The Township contracts for its Fire & Ambulance Emergency Services and maintains a part time Police Department, of eight officers in addition to full time service provided by the Cass County Sheriffs Department. The Parks and Recreation Committee, which meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month quarterly, advises the Township Board on Parks and Recreation matters. Russom Park is partially developed, with further planned improvement. It is managed by a joint Russom Park Operating Committee with the City of Dowagiac which was established by an intergovernmental agreement.

#### B. Annual Budget

Below is the Silver Creek Township Parks and Recreation Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The fiscal year runs from April 1st – March 31st.

	2018/19 Budget	2018/19 estimated year-end balance	Proposed 2019/20	Adopted 2019/20
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Revenue from General Fund	\$0.00			
Interest Income	\$900.00	\$1,200.00		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
<b>LINE ITEM EXPENSES</b>				
<u>Russom Park Operation</u>				
Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$1,665.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Playground operations			\$500.00	\$500.00
Liability Insurance	\$271.00	\$271.00	\$280.00	\$280.00
<u>Capital Improvements</u>				
Russom Park-Capitol Imp.	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00
<u>Township Park</u>				
Capital Improvement				
Contingencies	\$5,000.00	\$4,975.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$12,271.00	\$6,911.00	\$37,780.00	\$37,780.00
Revenue less expenditures	(\$11,371.00)	(\$5,711.00)	(\$26,580.00)	(\$26,580.00)
Fund balance 3/31/18	\$306,709.00			
Estimated fund balance 3/31/19		\$300,998.00		
			revised 1/22/19	

Parks and Recreation capital improvement projects are principally funded from money allocated from the General fund for this purpose. Other funding sources may include Michigan Department of Natural Resources, user fees, or other funding sources to be determined. The current 5-year list of parks and recreation items from the Capital Improvement Plan, 2018-2022, is listed below.

Project No.	Project Title	Category	Total Cost	Township Funds	Other Funds
PR001	Play Ground	Development	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
PR002	Parking lot	Maintenance	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ Grant
PR003	Parking area Creek/river	Development	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ Grant
PR004	Township Hall Playground	Development	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ Grant
PR005	Township Hall Pavilion	Development	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ Grant
PR006	Russom Parks Pavilion	Development	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ Grant
PR007	Land Purchase, Natural park, trails	Development	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ Grant
PR008	<del>Russom Park, Fence around retention pond</del>	<del>Development</del>	<del>\$ 6,000.00</del>	<del>\$ 6,000.00</del>	<del>\$ Grant</del>
PR009	Bike path extension	Development	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ Grant
PR010	Land Purchase Russom Park	Development	TBD	TBD	\$ Grant
PR011	Russom Park Demolition Cost	Development	TBD	TBD	\$ Grant
PR012	Iceless Skating Pad	Development	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 39,000.00	\$ Grant
PR013	Enclosure for Iceless Skating Pad	Development	TBD	TBD	\$ Grant

### C. Funding Source

The funding for the Parks and Recreation budget is provided by the Township and does not have any outside sources of funding for their recreational park improvements. They expect to receive funding from private sources to match state funds.

### D. Volunteer Programs & Community Relationships

The Township does not have any large or heavily programmed parks areas so there is not a large need for volunteers regarding Parks and Recreation. The Township does utilize volunteer efforts when possible.

## IV. RECREATION INVENTORY

### A. Township Owned Recreation Facilities

#### *Russom Park*

In 2009 the Township acquired 17.5 acres along Yaw Street West of Middle Crossing Road. This is now designated Russom Park, which was named for the previous owner. It is adjacent to a 20.8-acre parcel directly east acquired at the same time by the City of Dowagiac. The joint facilities are administrated by a cooperative mutual Operating Committee.

The park includes the following recreation facilities:

- Walking paths
- Playground
- Soccer fields
- Parking lot
- Baseball fields
- Football field

A map of the public and privately-owned parks and recreation facilities located within Silver Creek Township showing a ¼ mile walking radius can be found in Appendix A.

### B. Accessibility Evaluation

An accessibility assessment was conducted at the time of the recreation inventory. Silver Creek Township has worked to include accessibility to the parks as they continue to update and further develop them. The rating for Russom park based on the following guidelines criteria is listed below.

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

Silver Creek Township will look to continued public comment throughout the implementation process, especially from those with special needs. Their suggestions play a key role in developing and implementing proposed barrier-free improvements.

- Parking Lot-205 spaces. Requirement of Section 208 is 7 wheelchair & handicapped spaces meeting dimensions. There are 10= this is met.
- Playground components Section 240 ground level components required 1 when there are 4 elevated. There are 2= this is met.
- Accessibility Routes relative to the walking paths. Section 403 Walkable hard surface. All paths are Asphalt and are 36mm wide or more. There are no gates or obstructions. Section 405 is slope standards. As the entire park is level this is met. Routes thus comply.
- The Little League has a Challenger Division for those with disabilities. One baseball diamond has been updated with ADA accessible dugouts.

Considering the above evaluation Russom Park is an Assessment level 4.

#### **C. DNR Recreation Grant Inventory**

*Silver Creek Area Youth Sports Park, 2008, TF08-151, \$100,000.00*

Acquisition of 18 acres for the development of youth soccer and football facilities, picnic pavilion, roadway, parking, and access to a bike path from Sister Lakes to Dowagiac.

*Silver Creek Russom Park Development, 2011, TF11-017, \$298,200.00*

Development to include construction of entrance road, 205-car parking area, ¾ mile paved universally accessible walking and exercise trail, and universally accessible play area.

#### **D. Recreation Facilities Not Owned by the Township**

There are resources available within Silver Creek Township which are not owned by the Township. The following is a brief description of some of the parks and recreational opportunities that are close by.

##### ***Russom Park East Side***

The East side of Russom Park is owned by the city of Dowagiac, it is located at the southwest corner of Middle Crossing Road and Yaw Street. The grounds provide baseball fields and open space.

##### ***Magician Lake Boat Launch***

DNR public access located on County Line Road, East of South Street, North side of Magician Lake.

##### ***Dewey Lake Boat Launch***

DNR public access, Located at the end of Huckleberry Lane, on the South side of Dewey Lake.

##### ***Doe Wah Jack's Canoe Rental***

Canoe rental for Dowagiac River, located on M-51 N, north of Swamp Street.

##### ***E. Root Fitch Memorial Camp***

Endowed private camp foundation located at the intersection of Fitch Road and Grove Street.

##### ***Snowmobile Staging Area***

Parking and trailhead located at the northeast corner of M-152 and Maple Island Road.

### *Bicycle Routes*

A system of bicycle routes has been developed along mostly less traveled county roads. There are two routes both beginning at Russom Park and terminating at the Township Hall. The Eastern route is 8.8 miles in length, Russom Park west on Yaw Street to California Road, north to Middle Crossing Rd, NW to Indian Trail, north to Downey Street, West to Leach Rd, north to Topash Street, west to Garrett Rd, north to Dixon Street, west to Township Hall. The Western route is 9.7 miles in length, Russom Park, same route as above untill, at Indian Trail and Middle Crossing Rd. continuing west to Burke Rd. south and west to Garrett Rd, south to School St, west to Indian Lake Rd, north to Dixon Street, east to Township Hall.

### *Midway Marine*

Retail Marine Store with boat launch located on M-152 between Brooke Road and Terry Drive.

A map of the public and privately-owned parks and recreation facilities located within Silver Creek Township showing a ¼ mile walking radius can be found in Appendix A.



Image 1: Russom Park



Image 2: Russom Park





Image 1: Russom Park



Image 2: Russom Park

# V. PLANNING & PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

## A. Planning Process

A citizen survey was created which included questions about age and recreational interest to name a few, as well as collected detailed recreation inventories along with deficiencies. The survey used a systems approach to planning which incorporated the information gained from the citizen surveys and the detailed recreation inventories and deficiencies to determine the recreation needs of the Township.

## B. Public Input Process

On October 22, 2018, the public input survey was posted on the Silver Creek Township webpage and shared in local Facebook groups. Physical copies of the survey were available for pickup at the Township Hall as well. The survey asked respondents 14 questions. Four of the questions included household location, ages of the people living in their household, and questions about the accessibility of the parks. The next 7 questions asked how often and what time of year they visit Russom Park, what facilities they use at Russom Park, what recreational opportunities and amenities they would like to see in Silver Creek Township, what project they would prioritize, thoughts on public access to water in the Township, questions about the use, quantity and location of the existing on-street bike trails, and if they would support a new park in Silver Creek Township. The Township received 89 responses to the public survey, most of the respondents to the survey were local.

In February an additional public input survey was sent through the mail along with summer taxes and asked to be returned by the end of July. The survey asked the respondents 10 questions. Questions asked about possible land acquisition for additional nature trails and preserves, addition of picnic areas, walking trails, nature trails, drinking fountain access, and port-a-potty access in the township. One question asked ages of the people living in their household. The last questions asked if, in general, the Township is providing the recreation needs they need and the how they would prioritize projects. The Township received 280 responses to the public survey.

The results of the surveys show that the majority of the respondents visit Russom Park 2-3 times per month, mostly during the spring, summer and fall, mostly using the walking paths and playground. Respondents put a splash pad/spray park as the first priority for additional amenities for Silver Creek Township. The respondents were split over the question of whether there is enough public access to water in the Township. Most of the respondents to the first survey do not use the existing on-street bike trails, however a majority said they would like to see more. The majority of respondents would like to see additional land acquired for natural trails and preserves and would like to see a further developed bike and walking trail system in the Township.

A copy of the surveys and a summary of the responses and comments received have been included in Appendix B.

A draft of the Community Recreation Plan for Silver Creek Township was available at the Township Hall for public review from [insert date] through [insert date]. Members of the public were invited through an announcement in [insert publication] to comment on the draft Community Recreation Plan. They were encouraged to submit written communication with Wightman, the Township's consultant, and/or by attending the public hearing. A copy of the notice of availability of the draft Community Recreation Plan for comment as well as the affidavit of public are included in Appendix C.

The second public input method used by the Township was the public hearing. The Township advertised a public meeting notice in [insert publication] on [insert date] to present the Community Recreation plan for Silver Creek Township for public input on [insert date]. The plan was presented for adoption during the regularly scheduled Township Board meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month where all Board

Members approved the resolution to adopt the Community Recreation Plan. A copy of the notice of the public meeting, the affidavit of publication for the public meeting and Township Board meeting minutes, have been included in Appendices C & D, respectively. A copy of the resolution adoption the Community Recreation plan dated [insert date] has been included in Appendix E.



## **VI. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Goal 1 – Plan for the recreational needs of all ages and abilities of people by providing a wide range of active and passive recreation opportunities that span Michigan’s four seasons.**

### **Objectives**

- Improve park accessibility for all user groups.
- Add to available facilities based on needs from community.
- Maintain existing facilities.

**Goal 2 – Provide walking, biking, running and other activities with trails, paths, and bikeways.**

### **Objectives**

- Attract young families and park-users to the Township.
- Add additional off-road trails that connect parks and neighborhoods within the Township as well as connect with nearby towns.
- Offer a new recreational opportunity within the Township.

**Goal 3 – Continue to strive to provide sufficient parks and public water access in the Township**

### **Objectives**

- Look for additional public access to the Dowagiac River, Lakes and Beaches.
- Look for additional property to add to parks system.

## VII. ACTION PROGRAM

Year	Action Item	Cost Per Item	Cost per Year	Funding Source
2020	Create updated master plan for Russom Park showing potential improvements	\$7,500.00	\$282,500.00	General Fund, MDNR Grants
	Provide Permanent ADA restrooms and Pavilion at Russom Park	\$125,000.00		
	Provide ADA sidewalks to all facilities in Russom Park (softball fields, baseball fields, swings, playground area)	\$150,000.00		
2021	Conduct a Trail Study to examine potential trail routes throughout Township (Indian Lake Area, Dowagiac to Sister Lakes, and Around Lakes)	\$20,000.00	\$130,000.00	General Fund, MDNR Grants
	Expand playground at Russom Park	\$50,000.00		
	Conduct a feasibility study for property acquisition for additional recreation needs	\$10,000.00		
	Add pavilion or shade structure, near soccer fields, for gathering, at playgrounds with picnic tables and grills	\$50,000.00		
	Install playground at Township Hall	\$10,000.00		
	Land purchase to create natural park and trails	\$75,000.00		
	Install dog park area at Russom Park	\$25,000.00		
2023	Install parking area near the Creek/River	\$75,000.00	\$550,000.00	General Fund, MDNR Grants
	Land purchase for Russom Park expansion	\$75,000.00		
	Install first phase of trails identified in Trail Study	\$400,000.00		
2024	Russom Park expansion demolition cost	\$50,000.00	\$60,000.00	General Fund, MDNR Grants
	Update Park and Recreation Plan	\$10,000.00		
Total 5-year Cost:			\$1,022,500.00	

# APPENDIX A

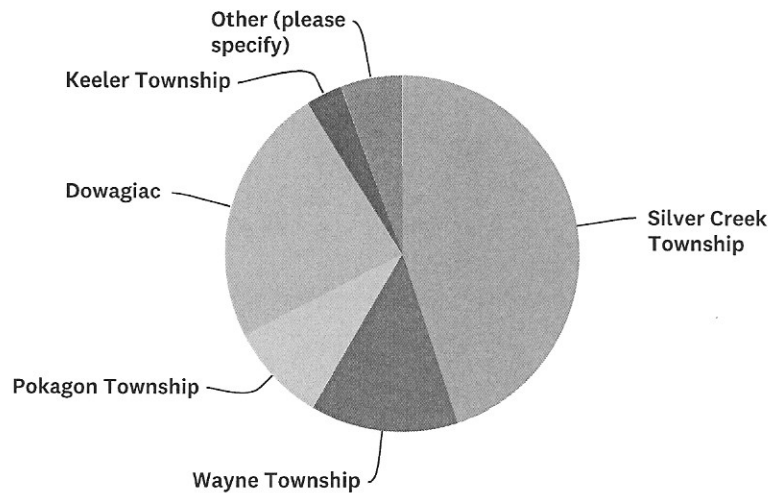
Silver Creek Township Parks Location and Walkability Map

# APPENDIX B

Survey Sample, Results & Comments

## Q1 Where is your primary household located?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 0

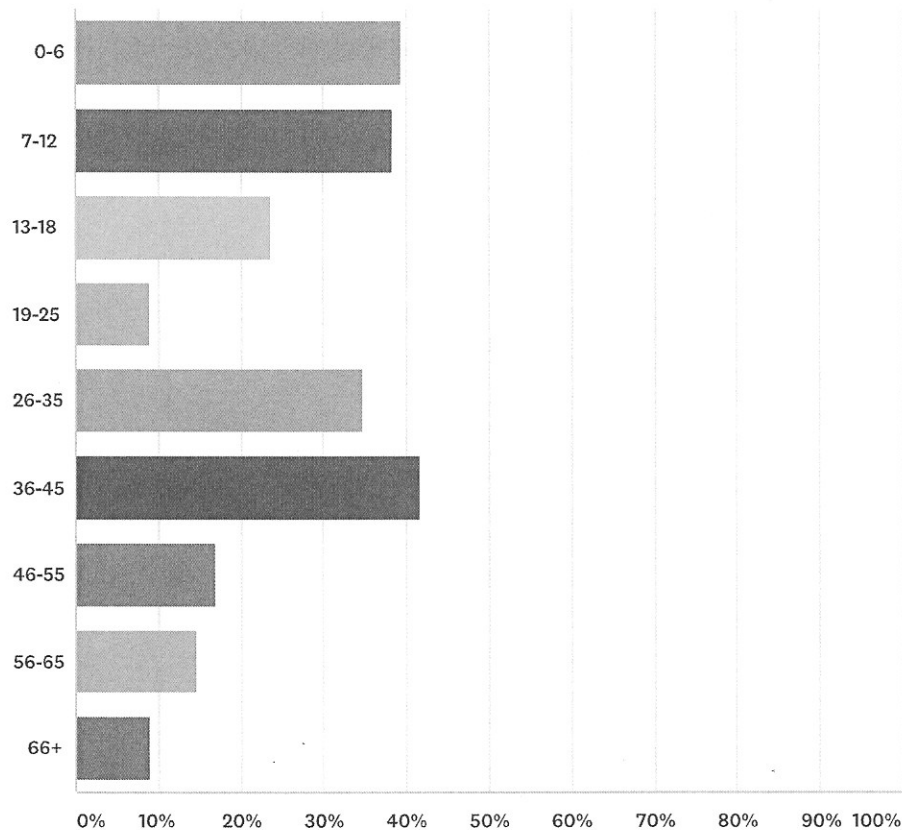


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Silver Creek Township		44.94%	40
Wayne Township		13.48%	12
Pokagon Township		8.99%	8
Dowagiac		23.60%	21
Pipestone Township		0.00%	0
Keeler Township		3.37%	3
Other (please specify)		5.62%	5
TOTAL			89

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Penn	11/20/2018 4:37 PM
2	Cass County	11/8/2018 7:27 AM
3	Lagrange Township	11/7/2018 9:40 PM
4	Penn	11/7/2018 8:48 AM
5	Cascade Township	11/6/2018 10:06 PM

## Q2 Which of the following age groups does your household consist of? Please select all that apply.

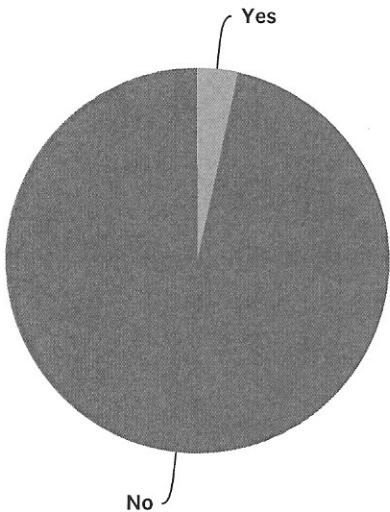
Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-6	39.33%	35
7-12	38.20%	34
13-18	23.60%	21
19-25	8.99%	8
26-35	34.83%	31
36-45	41.57%	37
46-55	16.85%	15
56-65	14.61%	13
66+	8.99%	8
Total Respondents: 89		

Q3 Does anyone in your household have special accessibility needs for park amenities?

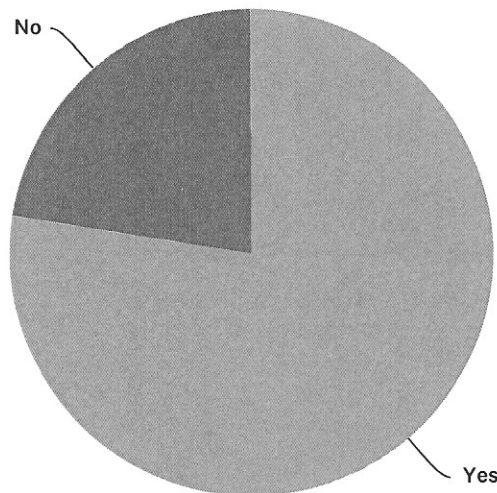
Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		3.37%	3
No		96.63%	86
TOTAL			89

## Q4 Do you think the Silver Creek Parks are accessible to everyone, including those requiring special needs for accessibility?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



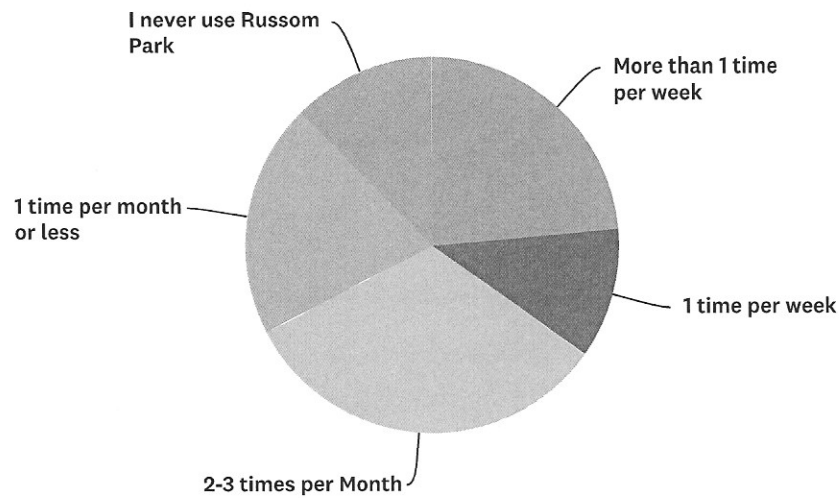
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	77.53%	69
No	22.47%	20
TOTAL		89

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE
1	Parking is too far from facilities	11/20/2018 4:37 PM
2	I think it could use a little improvement, more walk way space towards the swings and playground area	11/7/2018 4:45 PM
3	Need improvement to those facilities.	11/7/2018 8:57 AM
4	Needs more paths for those in wheelchairs to get to fields	11/7/2018 7:50 AM
5	No paved paths around the baseball fields for wheelchairs getting to watch a little league game is difficult	11/7/2018 7:50 AM
6	Need more accessibility for Little League fields	11/7/2018 12:04 AM
7	Don't know, but I work in disability field and bet it could be better. I've seen some amazing accessible designs & always encourage making options better.	11/6/2018 11:13 PM
8	The playground is. But not too get to the athletic fields.	11/6/2018 9:07 PM
9	There is no nearby parking Rossum Park making it harder to get to	11/6/2018 8:27 PM
10	It would be nice to have wheelchair accessible bathrooms. The park is not near any other bathroom options	11/6/2018 3:36 PM
11	Question is not clear. ARE they or SHOULD they be. They SHOULD	11/6/2018 3:26 PM
12	Don't know because I cannot use the parks if I want to walk my dogs.	11/6/2018 2:59 PM



## Q5 How often do you visit Russom Park?

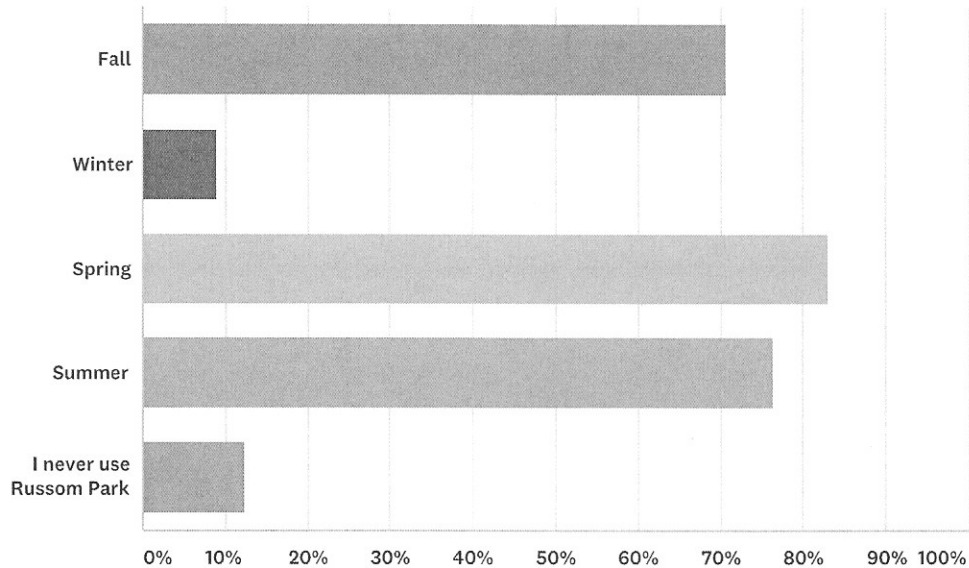
Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
More than 1 time per week	23.60%	21
1 time per week	11.24%	10
2-3 times per Month	32.58%	29
1 time per month or less	20.22%	18
I never use Russom Park	12.36%	11
TOTAL		89

## Q6 What time of the year do you visit Russom Park? (Please select all that apply)

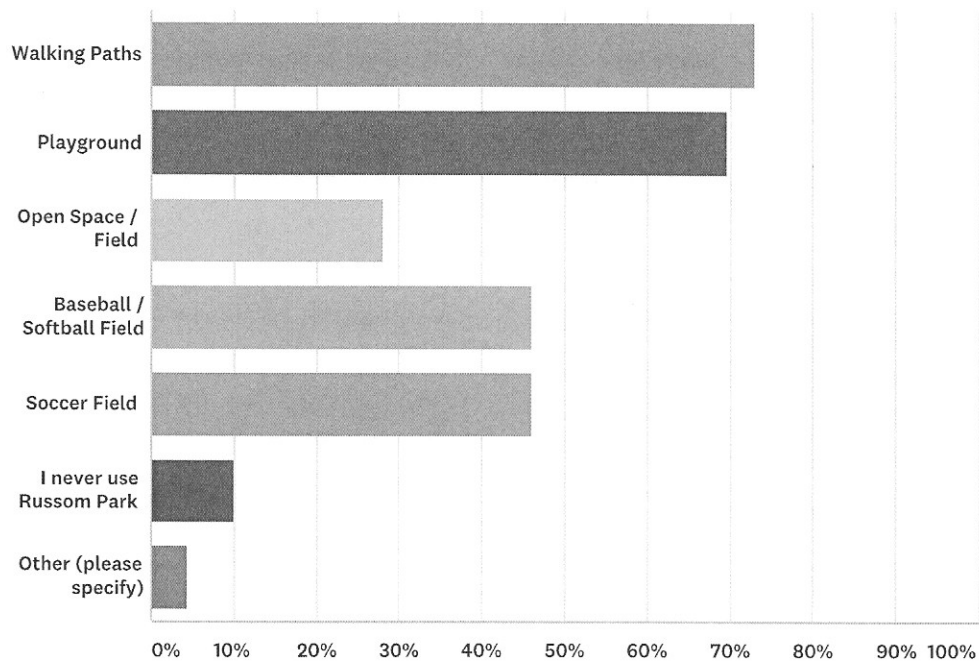
Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Fall	70.79% 63
Winter	8.99% 8
Spring	83.15% 74
Summer	76.40% 68
I never use Russom Park	12.36% 11
Total Respondents: 89	

## Q7 What facilities do you use at Russom Park?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 0

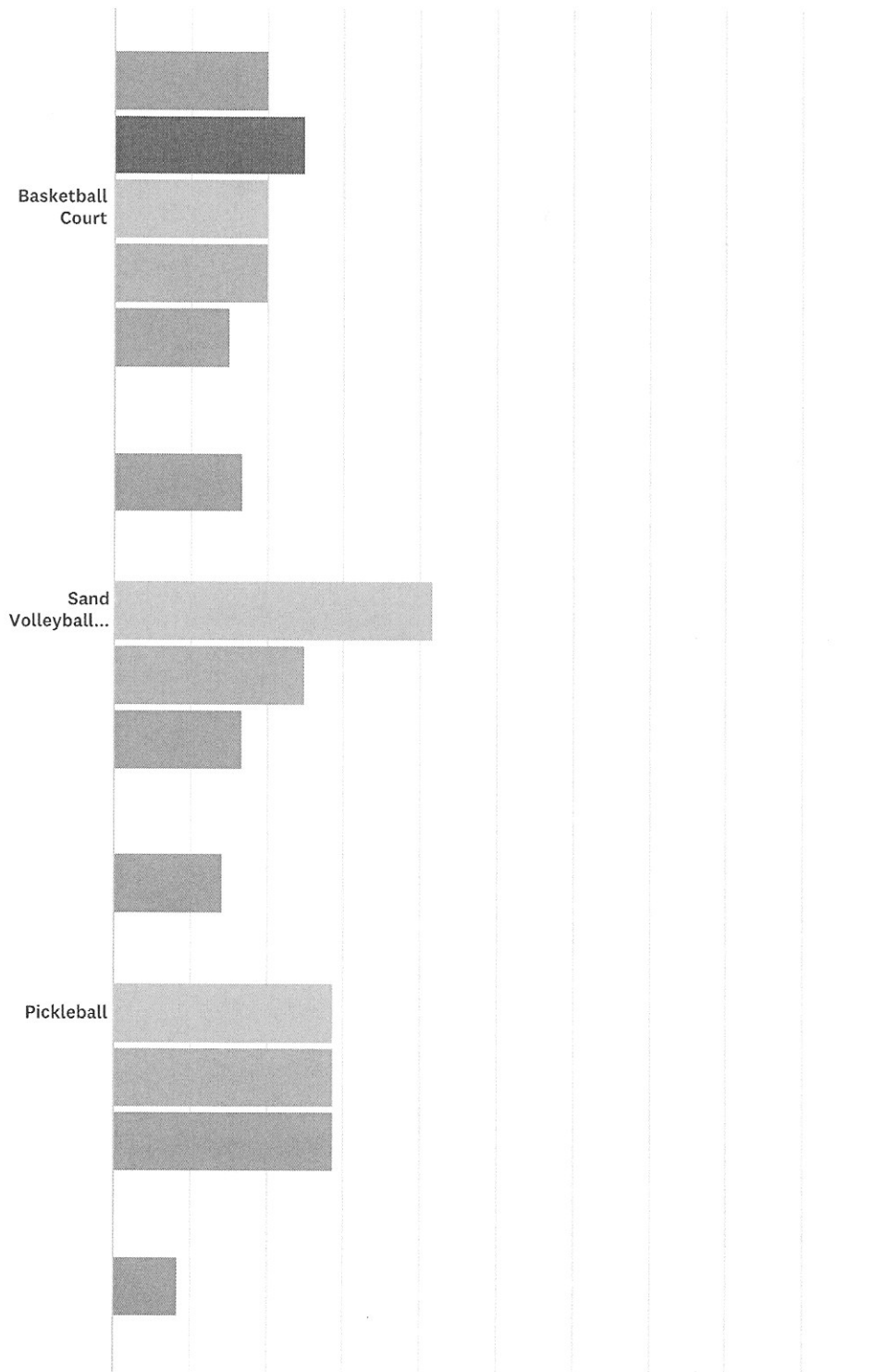


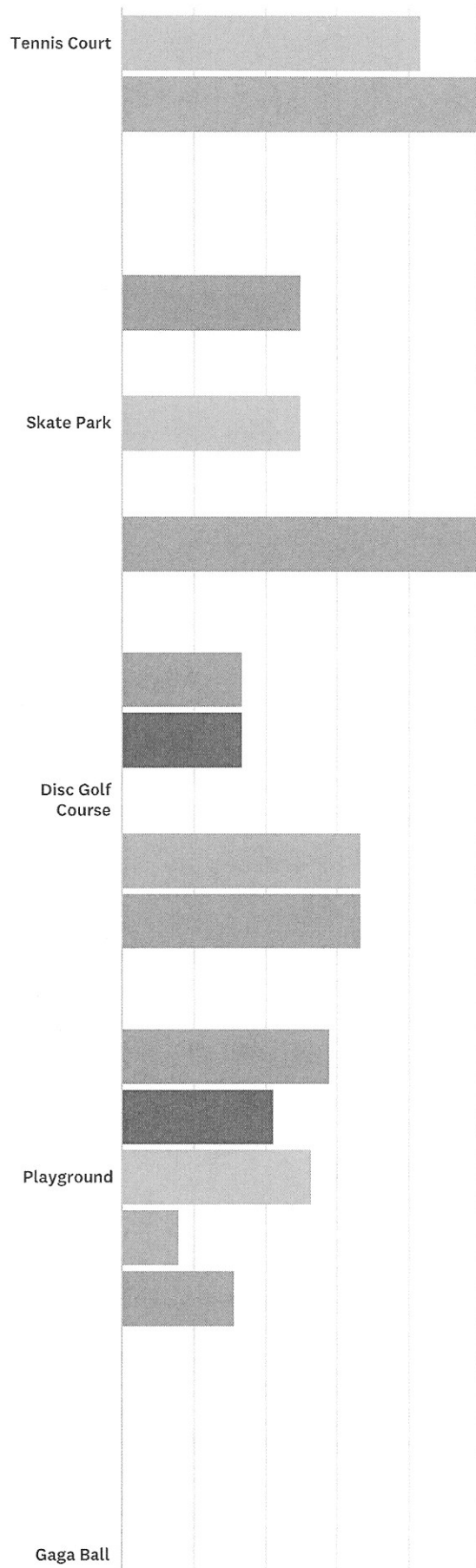
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking Paths	73.03%	65
Playground	69.66%	62
Open Space / Field	28.09%	25
Baseball / Softball Field	46.07%	41
Soccer Field	46.07%	41
I never use Russom Park	10.11%	9
Other (please specify)	4.49%	4
Total Respondents: 89		

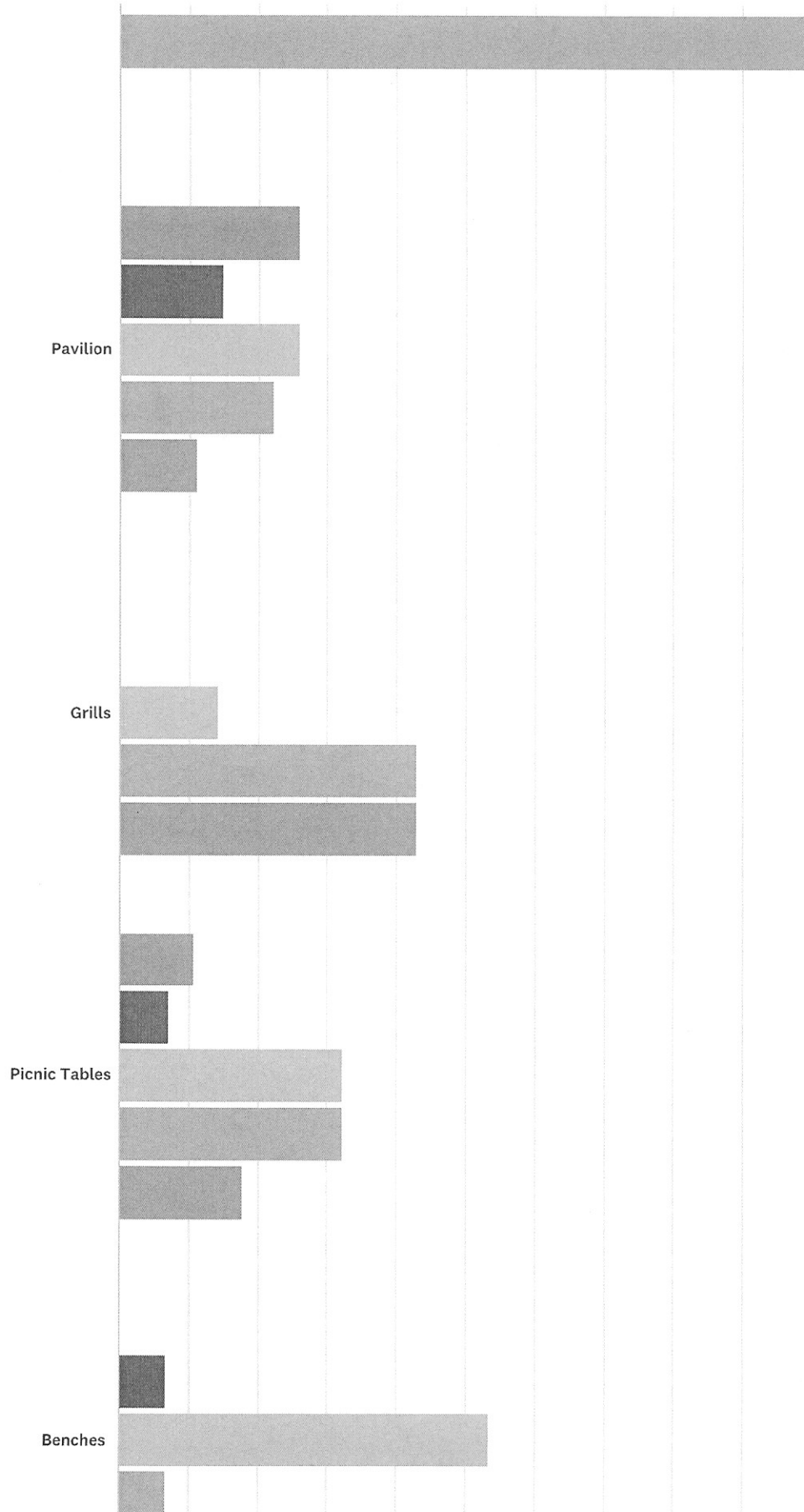
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	The open space/field is being turned into a football field for youth football	11/6/2018 10:09 PM
2	I will in the future	11/6/2018 4:33 PM
3	I would use a walking path if it were more connected to Sister Lakes area	11/6/2018 2:53 PM
4	Swimming ponds	11/6/2018 2:31 PM

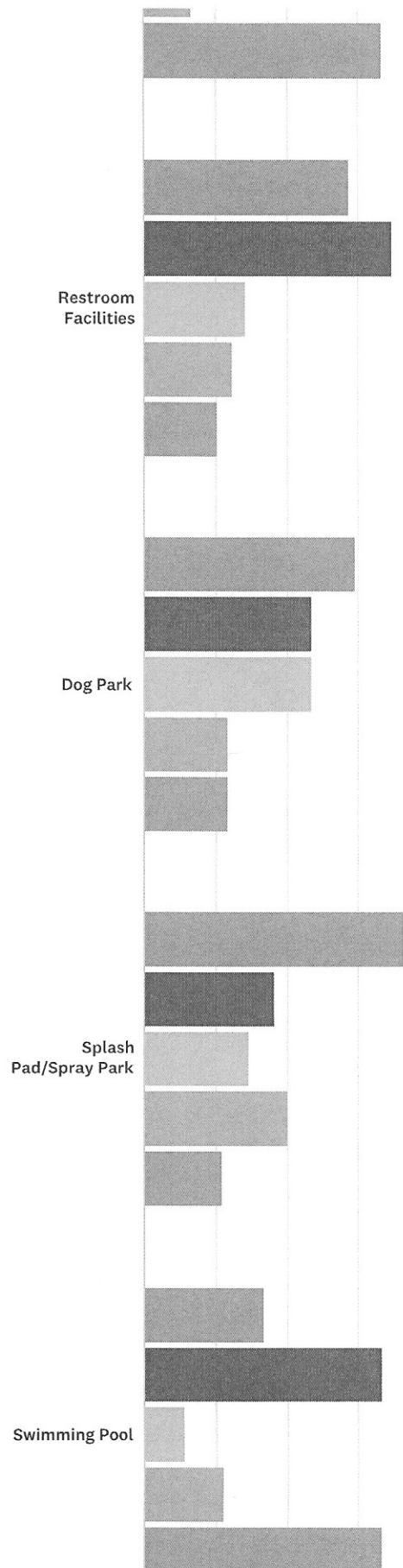
**Q8 Which of the following recreational opportunities and amenities would you or any member of your household use if it was available in Silver Creek? Please rank your top five (write in numbers 1-5 on your top 5 choices).**

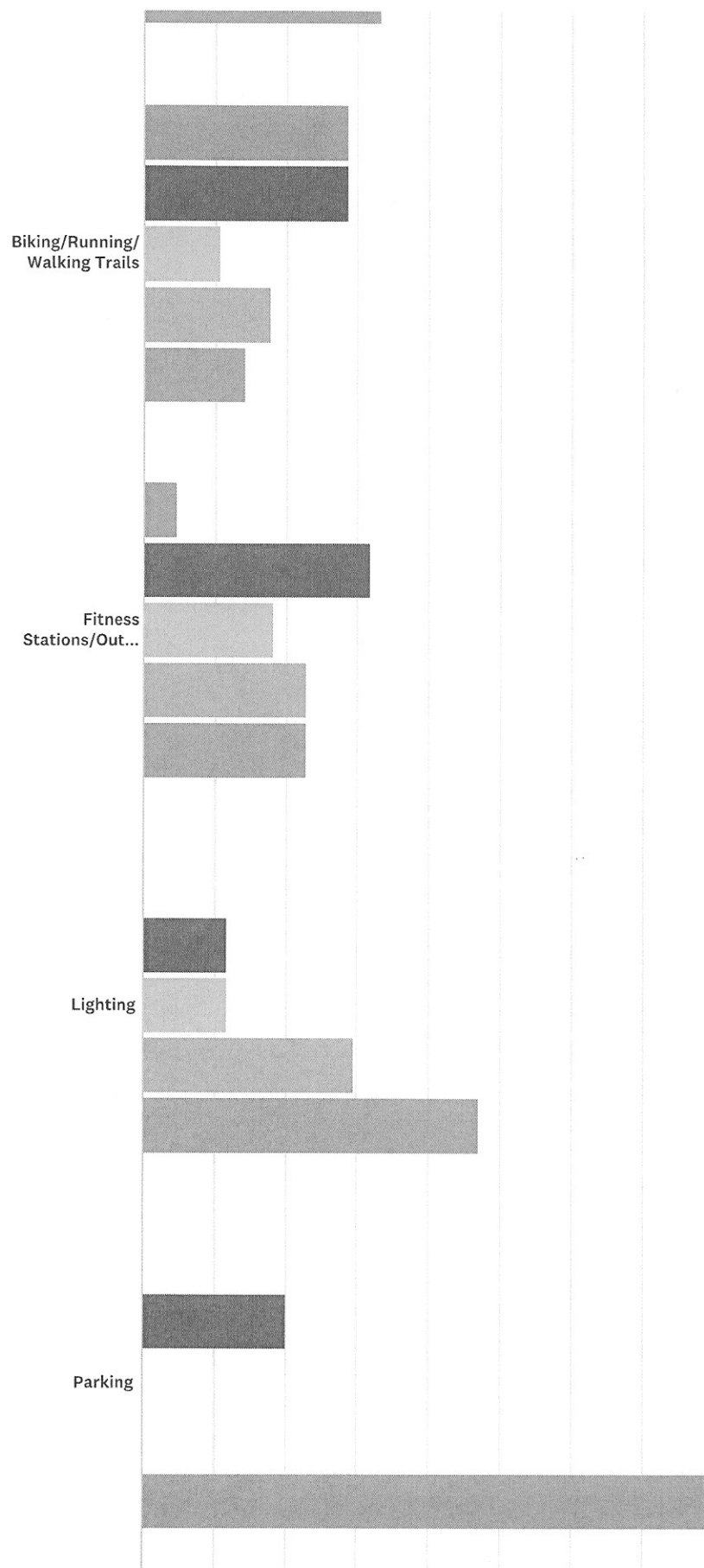
Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



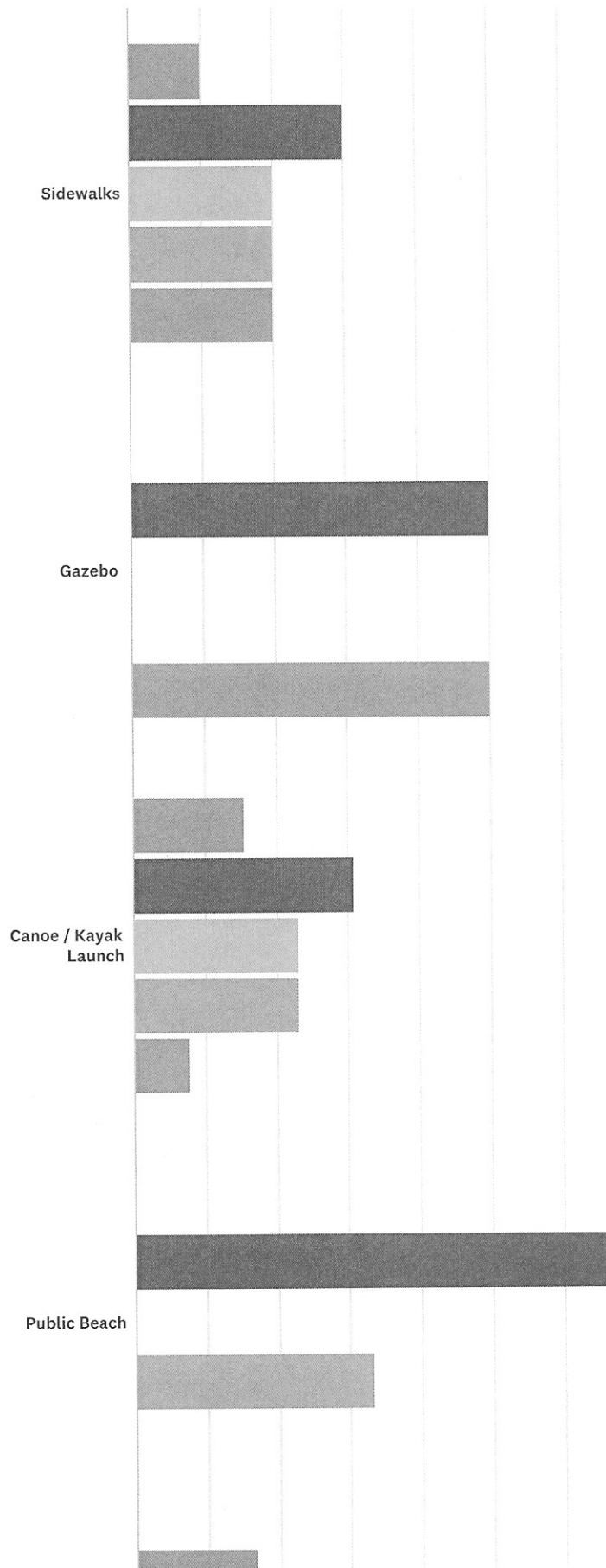


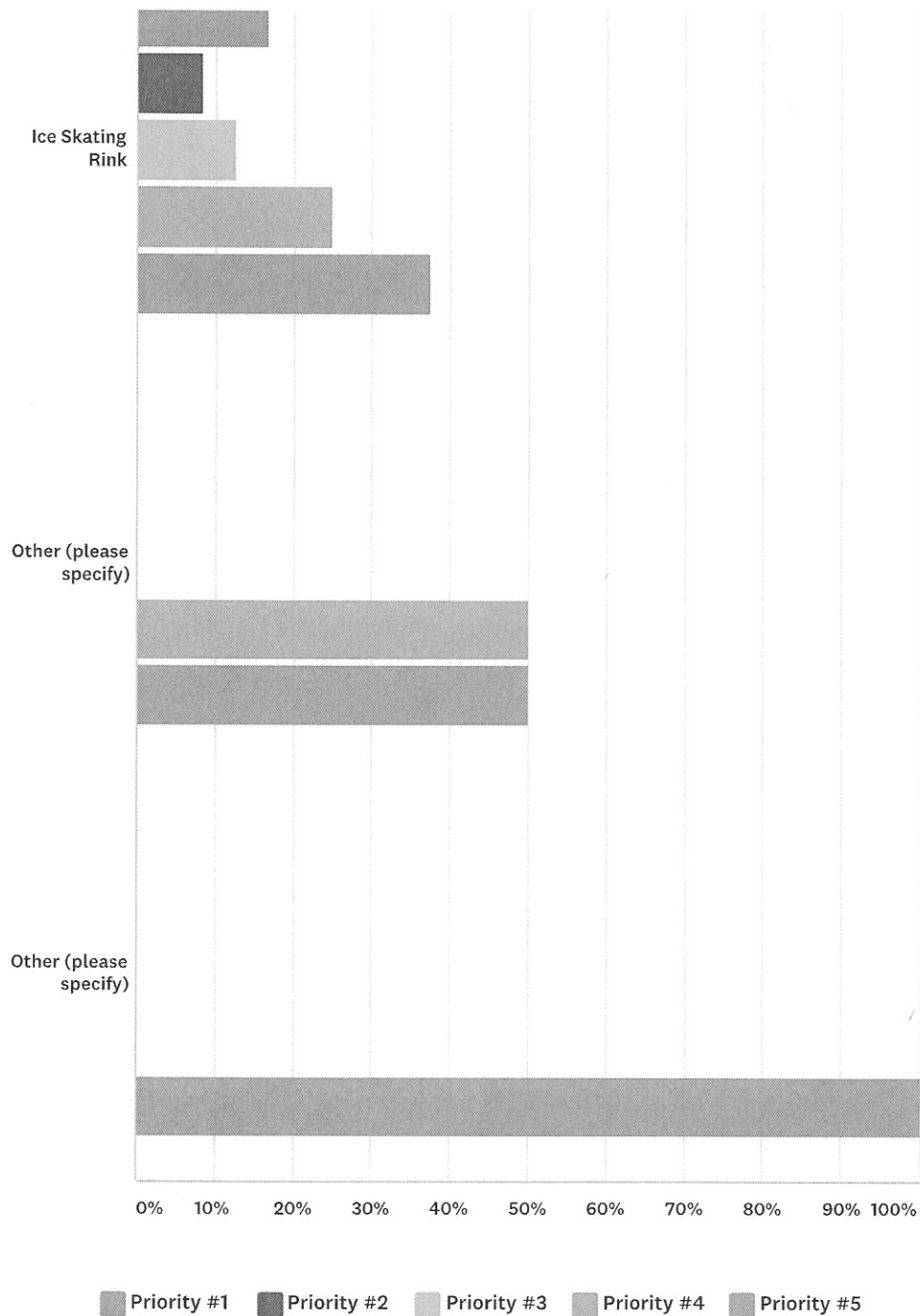












	PRIORITY #1	PRIORITY #2	PRIORITY #3	PRIORITY #4	PRIORITY #5	TOTAL
Basketball Court	20.00% 4	25.00% 5	20.00% 4	20.00% 4	15.00% 3	20
Sand Volleyball Court	16.67% 2	0.00% 0	41.67% 5	25.00% 3	16.67% 2	12
Pickleball	14.29% 1	0.00% 0	28.57% 2	28.57% 2	28.57% 2	7
Tennis Court	8.33% 1	0.00% 0	41.67% 5	50.00% 6	0.00% 0	12

## Silver Creek Township Public Input Survey

SurveyMonkey

Skate Park	25.00% 1	0.00% 0	25.00% 1	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	4
Disc Golf Course	16.67% 1	16.67% 1	0.00% 0	33.33% 2	33.33% 2	6
Playground	28.95% 11	21.05% 8	26.32% 10	7.89% 3	15.79% 6	38
Gaga Ball	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	0.00% 0	1
Pavilion	25.93% 7	14.81% 4	25.93% 7	22.22% 6	11.11% 3	27
Grills	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	14.29% 1	42.86% 3	42.86% 3	7
Picnic Tables	10.71% 3	7.14% 2	32.14% 9	32.14% 9	17.86% 5	28
Benches	0.00% 0	6.67% 1	53.33% 8	6.67% 1	33.33% 5	15
Restroom Facilities	28.57% 14	34.69% 17	14.29% 7	12.24% 6	10.20% 5	49
Dog Park	29.41% 5	23.53% 4	23.53% 4	11.76% 2	11.76% 2	17
Splash Pad/Spray Park	36.36% 20	18.18% 10	14.55% 8	20.00% 11	10.91% 6	55
Swimming Pool	16.67% 3	33.33% 6	5.56% 1	11.11% 2	33.33% 6	18
Biking/Running/Walking Trails	28.57% 8	28.57% 8	10.71% 3	17.86% 5	14.29% 4	28
Fitness Stations/Outdoor Exercise Equipment	4.55% 1	31.82% 7	18.18% 4	22.73% 5	22.73% 5	22
Lighting	0.00% 0	11.76% 2	11.76% 2	29.41% 5	47.06% 8	17
Parking	0.00% 0	20.00% 1	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	80.00% 4	5
Sidewalks	10.00% 1	30.00% 3	20.00% 2	20.00% 2	20.00% 2	10
Gazebo	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 2	4
Canoe / Kayak Launch	15.38% 2	30.77% 4	23.08% 3	23.08% 3	7.69% 1	13
Public Beach	0.00% 0	66.67% 2	0.00% 0	33.33% 1	0.00% 0	3
Ice Skating Rink	16.67% 4	8.33% 2	12.50% 3	25.00% 6	37.50% 9	24
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	50.00% 1	50.00% 1	2
Other (please specify)	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	100.00% 1	1

## Q9 In reference to Silver Creek Township parks and recreation - what is one project that should be completed immediately to provide the most significant impact for the community?

Answered: 76 Skipped: 13

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Trails for walking and riding bikes on	11/25/2018 8:41 PM
2	Add parking between baseball fields and soccer fields. It would be centrally located for use of all fields and the playground. The current parking is WAY to far from fields for the elderly or handicapped to watch games	11/20/2018 4:37 PM
3	Splash pad	11/10/2018 3:11 PM
4	Bathrooms or Pavilions. It's somewhat a turn off to not have those items when you have young kids who might have to go immediately. Shade and cover would be nice for longer stretches there.	11/9/2018 9:16 AM
5	Bike paths/trails	11/8/2018 10:53 PM
6	restrooms	11/8/2018 7:27 AM
7	?	11/8/2018 6:05 AM
8	Outdoor exercise equipment	11/7/2018 11:06 PM
9	A splash pad!	11/7/2018 11:02 PM
10	Splash pad	11/7/2018 10:44 PM
11	More shade at the playgrounds	11/7/2018 9:53 PM
12	Sand volleyball courts	11/7/2018 9:44 PM
13	Sports complex renovated	11/7/2018 9:40 PM
14	Bathrooms at Russom Park	11/7/2018 9:38 PM
15	Restrooms at the fields	11/7/2018 9:15 PM
16	Bathrooms	11/7/2018 8:40 PM
17	Splash pad	11/7/2018 7:52 PM
18	Rocket football	11/7/2018 7:40 PM
19	Pavilion to offer shade and seating near soccer fields	11/7/2018 7:06 PM
20	Ice rink	11/7/2018 6:34 PM
21	splash pad would be amazing	11/7/2018 5:28 PM
22	Rocket football field	11/7/2018 5:13 PM
23	Provide the playground arear with more picnic tables and benches	11/7/2018 4:45 PM
24	The younger kids need something to do rather it be a public pool ice rink for winter .. splash pad .. basketball court tennis court something more for these children to do beside get there selfs in trouble around being there is nothing for them to do !!	11/7/2018 3:09 PM
25	I love the new paths and playground. I would love to see paths from the parking lot to the fields. And maybe a smaller playground closer to the baseball / softball fields where younger siblings can play during games. The current playground is too far from the fields to let the littles go play during games.	11/7/2018 2:19 PM
26	Bigger playground	11/7/2018 2:04 PM
27	?	11/7/2018 9:15 AM
28	Family friendly and handicap accessibility.	11/7/2018 8:57 AM

## Silver Creek Township Public Input Survey

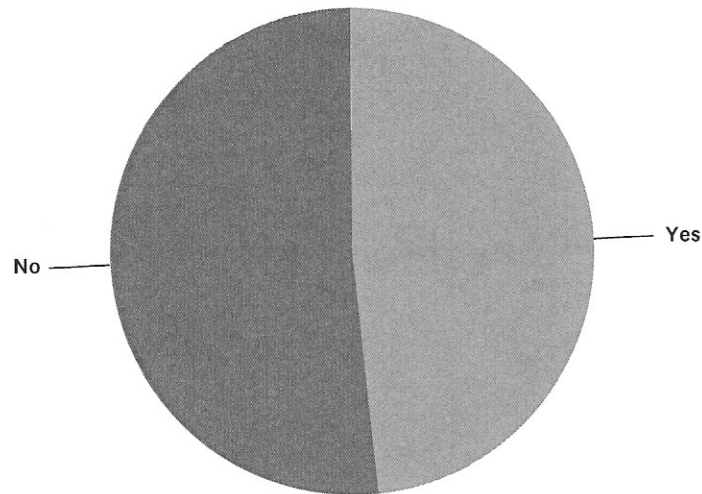
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29	Walking/running paths	11/7/2018 8:48 AM
30	Either an available pavilion to provide not only a location for gathering events at the park as well as revenue for the township or a bathroom facility.	11/7/2018 8:20 AM
31	outdoor facilities like basketball courts, tennis courts and etc for community to utilize	11/7/2018 7:52 AM
32	I think a splash pad would make a significant addition to Dowagiac and Silver Creek township for entertainment.	11/7/2018 7:51 AM
33	Football field and sidewalks	11/7/2018 7:50 AM
34	Making the softball/baseball fields more accessible to wheelchairs,	11/7/2018 7:50 AM
35	Pavilion	11/7/2018 7:39 AM
36	Sidewalks need to be added up through the baseball area and the soccer area. You put in parking lots with very few handicap spots, then expect them to walk over rough uneven ground to get too the fields/bleachers. You say your facility is ADA compliant, but that is very far from reality.	11/7/2018 6:54 AM
37	Football field for our rocket league	11/7/2018 6:43 AM
38	Splash pad/spray park. We have to drive over 30 minutes to get to one	11/7/2018 6:38 AM
39	Ice skating rink for families to enjoy during the colder months	11/7/2018 6:13 AM
40	Swimming pool	11/7/2018 5:36 AM
41	Restrooms	11/7/2018 2:37 AM
42	Dog park	11/7/2018 2:35 AM
43	Dog park	11/7/2018 2:08 AM
44	A splash pad would be amazing!	11/6/2018 11:18 PM
45	Bike lane or trail from Sister Lakes to Dowagiac	11/6/2018 11:13 PM
46	Bathrooms and pavilion	11/6/2018 11:12 PM
47	More playground equipment	11/6/2018 10:58 PM
48	I think a splash pad would be amazing. Or at least picnic tables to start so families could picnic and enjoy the park.	11/6/2018 10:43 PM
49	The paths to extend into the baseball/softball areas. This would help the parks feel more unified and cohesive.	11/6/2018 10:33 PM
50	Youth football field which is being done by the youth football league.	11/6/2018 10:09 PM
51	Improvements to the baseball and softball fields. I believe the township and the city should work with the little League to make the fields first class ball parks. Instead the little League is left to maintain and keep up the fields, with very limited resources.	11/6/2018 9:54 PM
52	Restroom Facilities	11/6/2018 9:47 PM
53	Splash pad	11/6/2018 9:46 PM
54	Bathroom facilities/improvement	11/6/2018 9:42 PM
55	Splash pad	11/6/2018 9:16 PM
56	Bathrooms at Russia park	11/6/2018 9:11 PM
57	.	11/6/2018 9:03 PM
58	Restrooms	11/6/2018 8:51 PM
59	Pavilion	11/6/2018 8:46 PM
60	A pavilion.	11/6/2018 8:40 PM
61	Shade or pavilion by the park area for families to bring snacks or lunch. Bathroom facilities close to the park for families and children.	11/6/2018 8:35 PM
62	Splash Pad	11/6/2018 8:27 PM
63	Restrooms	11/6/2018 8:08 PM

64	no clue	11/6/2018 8:02 PM
65	Covered pavilion at Russom park and restrooms.	11/6/2018 6:45 PM
66	Platground	11/6/2018 5:16 PM
67	A dog park would be great for the community.	11/6/2018 4:38 PM
68	Walking and biking lanes, created by widening and striping roadways.	11/6/2018 4:33 PM
69	Restrooms	11/6/2018 3:36 PM
70	Splash pad	11/6/2018 3:34 PM
71	N/A	11/6/2018 3:26 PM
72	Dog park	11/6/2018 2:59 PM
73	Modern bathroom facility	11/6/2018 2:56 PM
74	A biking, walking, running trail other than MI52 which is dangerous!	11/6/2018 2:53 PM
75	Get rid the wood chips the cheap ass city of Dowagiac put in the park in exchange for a uniform play area of all the same type ground covering.	11/6/2018 2:31 PM
76	Restrooms, maybe a gazebo for shade. Something more geared towards younger children.	11/6/2018 2:24 PM

## Q10 Do you feel that there is enough public access to water in Silver Creek Township?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 0

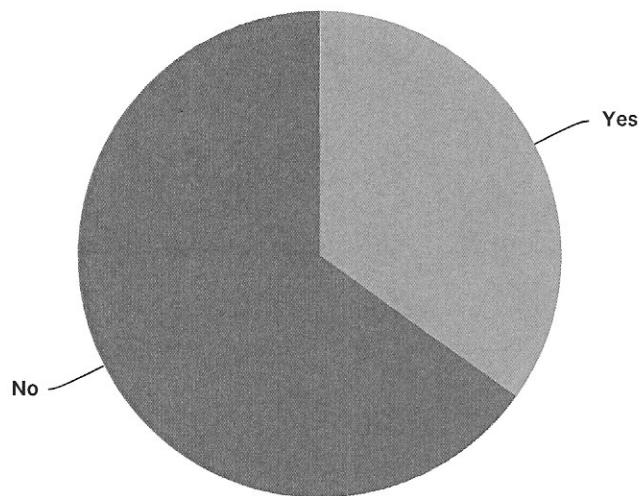


ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		48.31%	43
No		51.69%	46
TOTAL			89

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE
1	Need more drinking water fountains.	11/7/2018 5:28 PM
2	Most of the lakes don't have access/ that's a bummer	11/6/2018 9:42 PM
3	Other than Dewey Lake, It appears public boat launches are not easy to access.	11/6/2018 4:33 PM
4	There is no drinking water except when soccer is going	11/6/2018 3:36 PM
5	Public beach would be nice	11/6/2018 2:31 PM

## Q11 Do you use the existing on street bike trails in Silver Creek Township?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



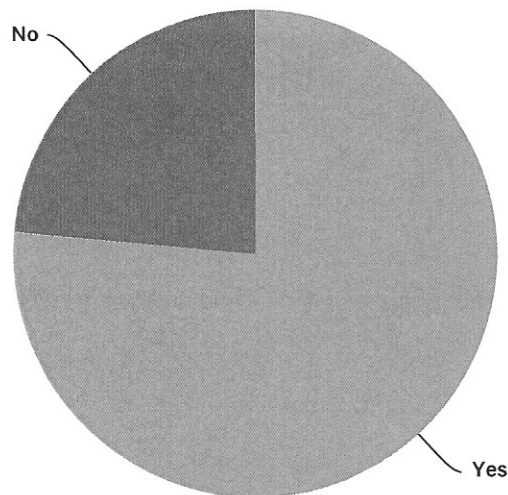
ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		34.83%	31
No		65.17%	58
TOTAL			89

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE
1	They are on busy roads	11/25/2018 8:41 PM
2	Didn't know about them?	11/8/2018 6:05 AM
3	Not enough shoulder room on the road and it's not safe	11/7/2018 7:06 PM
4	Being a parent of 2 small kids, and seeing the amount of disobedience for basic street laws right in front of my house, though I live on a bike route street I do not feel it is sufficiently safe for me to use these with my children.	11/7/2018 8:20 AM
5	Kids are not old enough but will likely use in the future	11/6/2018 10:58 PM
6	I feel it is still dangerous for children. There is not enough room on the sides of the road.	11/6/2018 10:33 PM
7	Too scary, should be separate bike paths.	11/6/2018 9:54 PM
8	Not safe with small children. Wish they were wider.	11/6/2018 4:53 PM
9	I am not comfortable with "sharing the road" with vehicles. I would prefer to see the roads widened and striped for safer bicycling.	11/6/2018 4:33 PM
10	More Bike Lanes on all roads	11/6/2018 3:26 PM
11	I share the road, but it is still dangerous to be out there using those trails	11/6/2018 2:53 PM



## Q12 Would you like to see more bike trails in Silver Creek Township?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Yes		76.40%	68
No		23.60%	21
TOTAL			89

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE
1	But only if they are trails. Something more than on the side of the road.	11/6/2018 4:38 PM
2	More Bike Lanes on all roads	11/6/2018 3:26 PM
3	Away from the roads like they are between Charlevoix and Petosky, MI	11/6/2018 2:53 PM

## Q13 Where would you like to see more trails in Silver Creek Township?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 22

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Connecting lake community to city	11/25/2018 8:41 PM
2	No	11/20/2018 4:37 PM
3	In open areas for safety reasons	11/10/2018 3:11 PM
4	Everywhere! Connecting to larger trail networks.	11/8/2018 10:53 PM
5	?	11/8/2018 7:27 AM
6	?	11/8/2018 6:05 AM
7	Through forest areas	11/7/2018 11:06 PM
8	Na	11/7/2018 10:44 PM
9	Near River	11/7/2018 9:44 PM
10	Idk	11/7/2018 9:40 PM
11	ORV Trails 4 wheeler trails	11/7/2018 9:29 PM
12	Woodsy roads	11/7/2018 9:15 PM
13	I don't	11/7/2018 8:40 PM
14	None	11/7/2018 7:40 PM
15	Anywhere that space is offered and not on the roads. Roads are for vehicles.	11/7/2018 7:06 PM
16	Not sure	11/7/2018 6:34 PM
17	Yes	11/7/2018 5:28 PM
18	Anywhere	11/7/2018 4:45 PM
19	More on middle crossing	11/7/2018 3:09 PM
20	Everywhere	11/7/2018 2:04 PM
21	?	11/7/2018 9:15 AM
22	Safely placed not so close to traffic.	11/7/2018 8:57 AM
23	Yes	11/7/2018 8:48 AM
24	Among the Sister Lakes	11/7/2018 8:20 AM
25	none	11/7/2018 7:52 AM
26	Sister Lakes area and roads adjacent to Dowagiac from Silver Creek township.	11/7/2018 7:51 AM
27	Around the lakes	11/7/2018 7:50 AM
28	Yes	11/7/2018 7:39 AM
29	We need more paved trails at russom park.	11/7/2018 6:54 AM
30	Leading to the parks, down pokagon st and in the industrial park near there	11/7/2018 6:43 AM
31	Back roads to give the kids a safe place to ride around downey st and further	11/7/2018 6:13 AM
32	Unknown	11/7/2018 5:36 AM
33	Yes	11/7/2018 2:37 AM
34	Around lakes	11/7/2018 2:35 AM
35	Lakes area	11/7/2018 2:08 AM

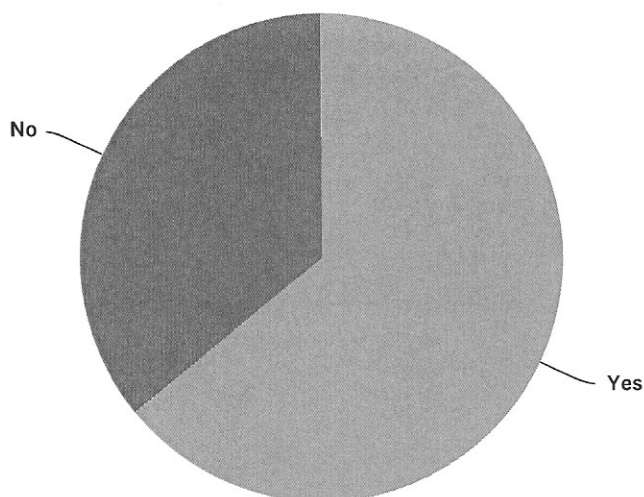
## Silver Creek Township Public Input Survey

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36	Something to bring more families together, splash pan, etc.	11/6/2018 11:18 PM
37	From Lakes to Dowagiac do biking there can be done safely	11/6/2018 11:13 PM
38	Anywhere	11/6/2018 11:12 PM
39	Unsure	11/6/2018 10:58 PM
40	The main busy roads.	11/6/2018 10:43 PM
41	I would like to see a more defined lane for bike riders.	11/6/2018 10:33 PM
42	Near the lakes and a roadside park either along m51 or m62	11/6/2018 10:09 PM
43	Sister lakes	11/6/2018 10:06 PM
44	Connecting sister lakes to the city of Dowagiac	11/6/2018 9:54 PM
45	Heavy summertime traffic areas near Sister Lakes	11/6/2018 9:47 PM
46	All over	11/6/2018 9:46 PM
47	More rural trails outside of SL	11/6/2018 9:42 PM
48	More county roads	11/6/2018 9:16 PM
49	Off the streets to be safer for young children	11/6/2018 9:11 PM
50	.	11/6/2018 9:03 PM
51	Kid friendly	11/6/2018 8:51 PM
52	Going to Russom park	11/6/2018 8:40 PM
53	In safe lighted areas	11/6/2018 8:27 PM
54	hiking trails along the dowagiac river	11/6/2018 8:02 PM
55	From the township to the city of dowagiac. Down Indian Lake Rd or a similar path	11/6/2018 6:45 PM
56	Sister lakes area	11/6/2018 5:16 PM
57	Along m152 around Sister Lakes	11/6/2018 4:53 PM
58	Near the township hall	11/6/2018 4:38 PM
59	Around the lakes	11/6/2018 4:33 PM
60	Along the roads or some trails next to the river	11/6/2018 3:36 PM
61	Anywhere	11/6/2018 3:34 PM
62	Yes	11/6/2018 3:26 PM
63	Anywhere where I don't have to share the road. So dangerous.	11/6/2018 2:59 PM
64	Not sure	11/6/2018 2:56 PM
65	Connecting with trails to the north, and south. We need a cooperative effort, not stand alone trails.	11/6/2018 2:53 PM
66	Wooded trails would be nice. To many drunk, high or distracted drivers to safely ride on the roads.	11/6/2018 2:31 PM
67	In sisterlakes to keep both bikers/walkers as well as drivers safe.	11/6/2018 2:24 PM

## Q14 Would you favor a new park in Silver Creek Township?

Answered: 89 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	64.04%	57
No	35.96%	32
TOTAL		89

#	ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:	DATE
1	Silver Creek should help support Lions Park, which is just outside the boundaries of the township and used by many Silver Creek residents.	11/10/2018 11:46 AM
2	With a splash pad	11/7/2018 11:02 PM
3	Possibly	11/7/2018 2:37 AM
4	Existing park should allow leashed dog walkers and receptacles for dog waste	11/7/2018 2:08 AM
5	Let's update what we have.	11/6/2018 11:18 PM
6	I love what has been done to Russom and would love to see more added there.	11/6/2018 9:47 PM
7	unless it is more supervised than Rotory park skate park. The people who use Rotory vandalize everything. The restrooms are trashed. The baseball and softball storage units are frequently broken into and tagged with graffiti.	11/6/2018 8:46 PM
8	Not necessarily	11/6/2018 4:33 PM
9	Depends on type	11/6/2018 2:59 PM
10	No, more walking, running, biking trails other than MI52 and Middle Crossing Road	11/6/2018 2:53 PM

# Silver Creek Township Park and Recreation survey We Need Your Input!

Silver Creek Parks and Recreation Committee request your input in developing parks, trails, and or recreational opportunities in our township. Your comments will help direct our efforts in seeking available grants through Federal, State, and other sources.

1. Would you like to see land acquired for Nature Trails and preserves? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
2. Would you like to see a picnic area or Pavilion somewhere in Silver Creek Township similar to Lions Club Park at Sister Lakes? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_  
If so where? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Would you like to see a further developed bike and walking trail in the township? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_  
If so where? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Would you like to see a developed Nature Trail with benches and places to stretch and exercise to enjoy nature? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
5. Would you like to see a maintained port-a-potty or drinking water access along the present bike route, possibly at or near the Silver Creek Township Hall? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
6. Which of the following age groups does your household consist of? Please select all that apply.  
\_\_\_ 0-18 \_\_\_ 19-45 \_\_\_ 46-66+
7. Do you feel Russom Park satisfies all your Recreational and Park needs? Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
8. As a resident / property owner of Silver Creek Township, I would like to see more Parks and Recreational facilities available to me. Yes\_\_\_ No\_\_\_
9. Out of the top eight please prioritize your top three projects in order of importance to you. \_\_\_, \_\_\_, \_\_\_
10. Please share any ideas or desires you may have.

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**Help us make Silver Creek Township a great place to live and play, and return your Survey today! Just Fold, Tape, Stamp, & Mail Thank –you, Your Park and Recreation Committee**

## 2019 Silver Creek Township Survey Results

### 1. Would you like to see land acquired for Nature Trails and preserves?

a. Yes – 163

b. No – 117

### 2. Would you like to see a picnic area or pavilion somewhere in Silver Creek Township similar to Lions Club Park at Sister Lakes?

a. Yes – 108

b. No – 161

If so where?

Russom Park – 11

Township Hall – 7

Other – 14

### 3. Would you like to see a further developed bike and walking trail in the township?

a. Yes – 160

b. No - 111

If so where?

Indian lake area

Dowagiac to Sister Lakes

around the lakes

most comments were for off road paths.

### 4. Would you like to see a developed Nature Trail with benches and places to stretch and exercise to enjoy nature?

a. Yes – 131

b. No – 107

### 5. Would you like to see a maintained port-a-potty or drinking water access along the present bike route, possibly at or near the Silver Creek Township Hall?

a. Yes – 123

b. No – 137

### 6. Which of the following age groups does your household consist of? Please select all that apply.

a. ( 0-18 ) – 59

b. ( 19 – 45 ) – 90

c. (46 – 66 ) – 311

### 7. Do you feel Russom Park Satisfies all your Recreational and Park needs?

a. Yes – 117

b. No – 105

### 8. As a resident / property owner of Silver Creek Township, I would like to see more Park and Recreational facilities available to me.

a. Yes – 137

b. No – 122

### 9. Out of the top 8 please prioritize your top three projects in order of importance to you.

a. # 3 was listed as most important

b. # 1 was a close second.

### 10. Please share any ideas or desires you may have.

a. Off road walking and bike paths, more play equipment at Russom Park, Splash Pad, Pickle Ball, Hiking trails.

# APPENDIX C

Notice of Availability for Public Comment, Notice for Public Meeting & Affidavits of Publication

# APPENDIX D

Meeting Minutes from Public Meeting



# APPENDIX E

Official Resolution of Adoption

# APPENDIX F

Copies of Letters Transmitting Adopted Plan to County and Regional Planning Agencies