Parks and Public Works Committee
Regular Meeting
November 25, 2025 – 10:00 am

This is an in-person meeting at Saugatuck City Hall, 102 Butler St, Saugatuck, MI 49453.
The meeting will also be available live, virtually on Zoom.

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call**

3. **Approval of Agenda**

4. **Approval of Minutes:**
   A. Regular Meeting – October 28, 2025

5. **Public Comment on Agenda Items Only** *(Limit 3 minutes)*

6. **Presentation:**
   A. Lisa Mize – Rose Garden Warming Station ***(Pg. 7)***

7. **Discussion:**
   A. Updates:
      1. DPW Administrative Update
      2. Pocket Prairies
      3. Village Square Courts
   B. Mt. Baldhead Revegetation ***(Pg. 15)***
   C. Invasive Species ***(Pg. 40)***
   D. 2026 Planning: ***(Pg. 44)***
      1. 2025 Year's Recommendations
      2. 2025 Master Survey Results
      3. 2024 Master Plan Recommendations
      4. PPW Assessment
   E. 2026 Schedule of Meetings ***(Pg. 72)***

8. **Public Comment** *(Limit 3 Minutes)*

9. **Correspondence**

10. **Committee Member Closing Comments**

11. **Adjourn** *(Voice Vote)*

NOTICE:
Join online by visiting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2698572603

Join by phone by dialing:
(312) 626-6799 -or-
(646) 518-9805

Then enter "Meeting ID":
2698572603

Please send questions or comments regarding meeting agenda items prior to meeting to:
scott@saugatuckcity.com

Requests for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact Saugatuck City Clerk at 269-857-2603 or sara@saugatuckcity.com for further information.

PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
October 28, 2025
The Parks and Public Works Committee met for a Regular Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
Saugatuck City Hall
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Call to Order:
The meeting was called to order by Chair Kimble at 10:00 a.m.

Attendance:
Present: Committee members Charak, Hoffman, Kimble, Roche, Stanton, & Thiel.
Absent: None.
Others Present: DPW Superintendent Herbert, Deputy Clerk Williams, DPW Administrative/Project Coordinator Gibson.

Approval of Agenda:
Motion by Hoffman, second by Stanton, to approve the agenda for the meeting October 28, 2025. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by Stanton, second by Hoffman, to approve the minutes from the September 23, 2025, regular meeting. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments (agenda items only): None.

Presentation:
Jon Vanderbeek and Glenna DeJong gave a presentation focusing on nominating the Saugatuck Wilds for the Old Growth Forest Network's community forest designation. They explained that the Old Growth Forest Network is a nonprofit aiming to create a network of protected forests across the nation. Saugatuck Wilds has rare old growth forest features, which are confirmed by a regional manager and supported by previous site visits. Only a small fraction of such forests remains nationally and in Michigan, making this site significant.

For eligibility, the forest must be publicly accessible, have a parking lot, and trails, which Saugatuck Wilds now provides. Advantages of the designation include community pride,

tourism, and strengthened conservation efforts. While anyone – including committee members or citizens – can submit a nomination online, the final designation may involve city council approval. There are no fees associated with the nomination, and additional protections stem from community support rather than new legal restrictions.

The presenters encouraged pursuing the designation while noting its benefits to conservation and potential to inspire other private landowners. They addressed criteria, nomination steps, and answered committee questions on requirements, involvement, and implications for the land.

Review/Discussion:

A. Public Works Updates:

DPW Administrative/Project Coordinator Gibson gave the following updates on Public Works:

- Erosion fencing was installed at Oval Beach, and they are considering an RFP for the concession stand lease, similar to nearby communities.
- Fall decorations were installed.
- Recent windstorm caused damage to the art installation at Cook Park and were quickly repaired.
- Progress was made on the Mount Baldhead restroom construction, with the foundation poured and walls being built.
- TMF mailers were sent out as part of lead and copper compliance efforts, supported by annual material inventories.
- Holiday lights were installed, and some minor electrical upgrades were needed on a few streets.
- The Saugatuck sign at Holland and Blue Star Highway was destroyed and replacement quotes are being reviewed, hoping for insurance coverage.
- Tree risk assessments are scheduled, new trees were planted, and ongoing asset management and capital improvement planning continue.
- Brush and leaf collection is underway, with more events scheduled in November.
- The update included a brief discussion on local beach concession leases, with Gibson providing details on how nearby communities manage those contracts.

The update was followed by a questions about the type of operators managing beach concessions in other towns and clarifications about how those arrangements work.

B. Dark Skies Update:

Committee member Thiel provided an update on the Dark Skies initiative. She reported that planned events, such as the proposed “Night at Oval Beach” were hindered by poor

weather conditions, but organizational efforts were successful, and preparations are in place for future activities. Plans include rescheduling a community Dark Sky event in April 2026 and increasing public education through possible partnerships with the library and the Shoreline Astronomical Society. The team also aims to distribute information about responsible lighting to raise awareness about light pollution. The committee remains committed to promoting dark skies and is looking for new opportunities to further this mission.

C. Pocket Prairies Update:

Chair Kimble reported on the pocket prairies initiative, noting new involvement from Saugatuck Douglas Garden Club members interested in enhancing the Peterson Preserve. Recent improvements included replacing outdated landscaping with donated native plants such as black-eyed Susans, coneflowers, and yarrows. Kimble described ongoing discussions about developing pocket prairies at the Mason Street embankment and the Coghlin Park drainage ditch. The update also mentioned considering a Monarch Way Station designation and seeking input from the ODC. Kimble invited further suggestions from the committee on moving the project forward.

D. Invasive Species:

1. & 2. Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area & Mount Baldhead:

The committee discussed management plans for both the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area and Mount Baldhead. For the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area, they reviewed consultant proposals for removing invasive species, assessing trails, and conducting ecological evaluations. The group found the ODC proposal comprehensive and well-aligned with West Michigan Land Conservancy recommendations, with a suggested budget of $35,000 over multiple fiscal years. There was consensus to recommend the full proposal, leaving budgetary details to city management.

For Mount Baldhead, the focus was on revegetating the dune slope and managing invasive species, with the city council already having approved $20,000 for revegetation. The ODC proposal splits this budget between invasive species management and dune restoration. Committee members highlighted the ecological rarity of open dune habitat, based on consultant input, and agreed on the value of conservation. However, they postponed a formal recommendation for Mount Baldhead until more historical and technical information could be reviewed.

In summary, both discussions emphasized aligning work with expert recommendations, staying within budget, and ensuring that implementation and funding logistics are handled by city administration.

Motion by Hoffman, seconded by Charak to recommend the ODC's proposal for the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area to City Council. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 4-0. (Roche abstained from vote, due to affiliation with the ODC Network.)

Public Comments (Limit 3 mins):

- Jon Vanderbeek explained that black locust trees, while non-native to the region, are native to America and are becoming more viable in the area due to climate change. ODC is open to keeping them, whereas the Land Conservancy prefers stricter native-only management. Additionally, Vanderbeek suggested that the city contact the Deem family, who own property separating Oval Beach from the preserve, to discuss a possible easement or connection for better public access between the sites, offering help if official outreach is needed.

Correspondence: None.

Member Closing Comments:

- Stanton – She thanked attendees for their work – particularly on the dark sky initiative – and expressed optimism that, since parts of the discussed projects have already been budgeted, progress will soon follow. She mentioned she needed to leave for another meeting and wished everyone well.
- Charak – He spoke about controlling microplastics from autumn decorations using spray glitter. He described environmental harms of microplastics, their, their impact on waterways, and urged using natural decorations and proper disposal methods. Charak advocated for city committees to read more about microplastic pollution and for DPW to find appropriate hazardous waste disposal for such decorations.
- Hoffman – He agreed with concerns about microplastics, remarking that everyone now carries microplastics in their bodies and, although the long-term effects are unknown, they are not good. He thanked the group and praised the progress made with the ODC proposal.
- Kimble – She encouraged the committee to start brainstorming ideas for 2026 so they can recommend priorities to the city council as it develops its strategic plan. She reviewed the committee's purpose—to advise on public works and parks—and outlined their duties, which include making recommendations about capital improvement, pathways, land acquisition, and park facilities. Kimble also mentioned she would send out last year's idea list to help guide the process.

Adjournment:

Motion by Charak, second by Roche, to approve adjournment of the meeting. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Chair Kimble adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sara Williams, City Deputy Clerk & DPW Admin. Assistant

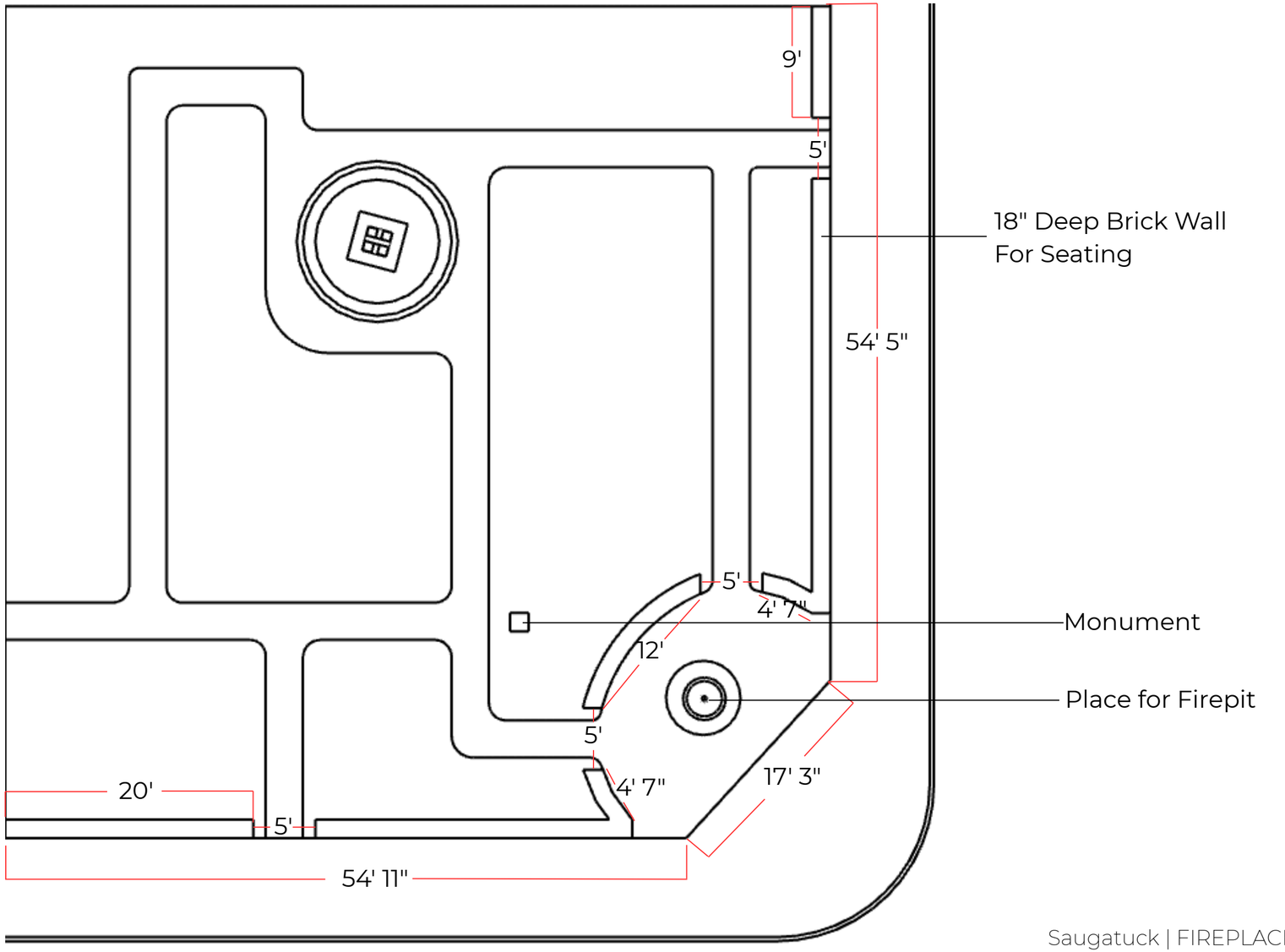
SAUGATUCK
WARMING STATION

BELDEN

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PLAN VIEW

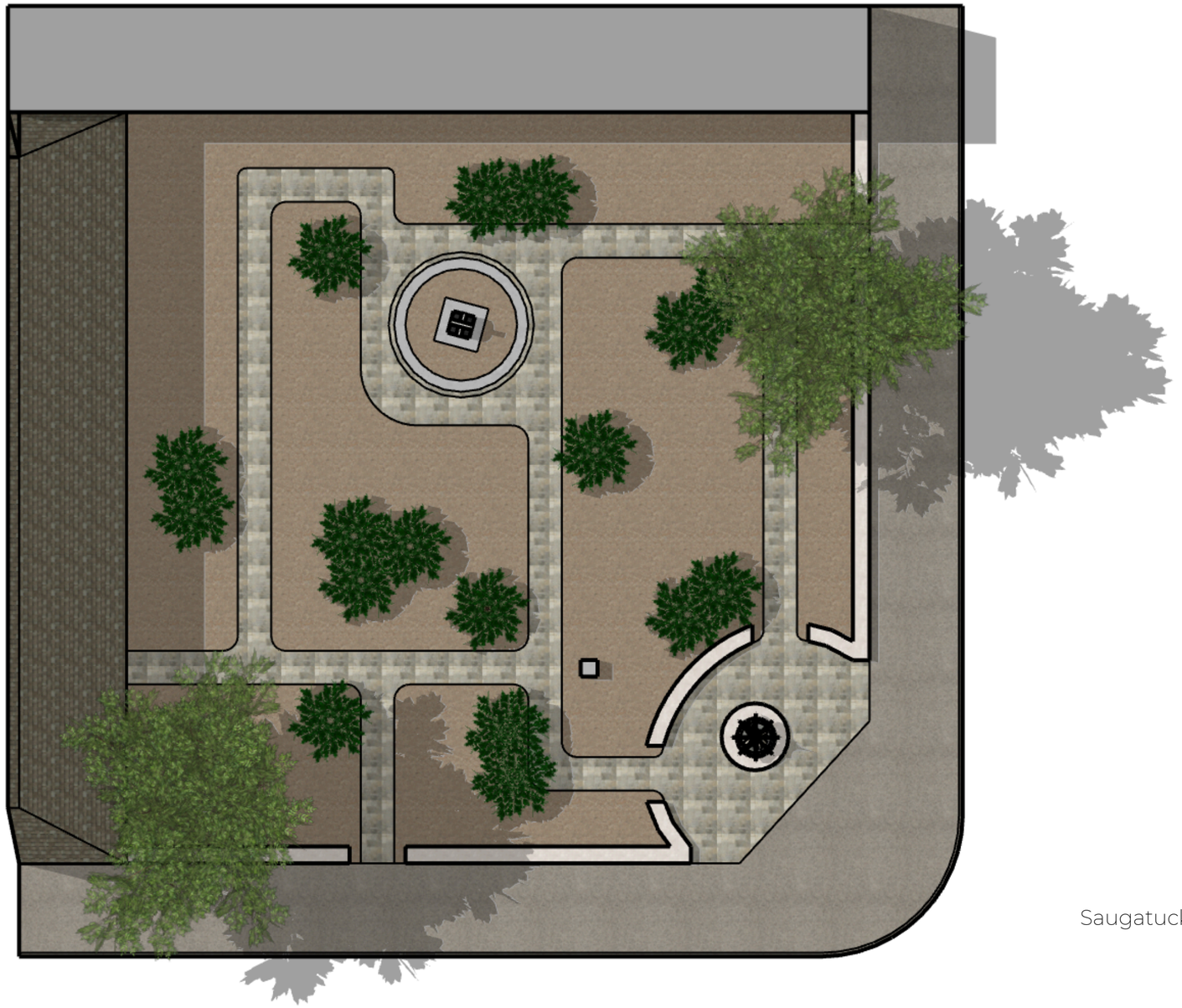
Location: Rosegarden



NOTE: These drawings are preliminary and for conceptual purposes only. Dimensions and layouts are not final.

PLAN VIEW

Location: Rosegarden



PERSPECTIVE

Location: Rosegarden







Garnet Blend



Limestone

10" High

PERSPECTIVE

Location: Rosegarden



PERSPECTIVE

Location: Rosegarden



PERSPECTIVE

Location: Rosegarden



THANK YOU!

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Parks & Public Works Committee
Agenda Item Report

FROM: Scott Herbert – Public Works Superintendent

MEETING DATE: November 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Mt. Baldhead Revegetation

DESCRIPTION:
To support the City Council's goal of revegetating the Mt. Baldhead slope in the 2025–2026 fiscal year, the Parks and Public Works Committee requested proposals from PLM Lake Land and Management Corp., the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC). Both the Kalamazoo Nature Center and ODC submitted detailed proposals; however, given the City's strong working relationship with ODC, along with their pricing and project approach, staff and committee members have focused on refining ODC's proposal for consideration.

The proposed scope of work directly supports City Council's strategic goal by incorporating invasive species treatment and deer deterrent measures, both essential to improving the long-term success of the revegetation effort.

The latest ODC proposal is enclosed for the Committee's review and discussion.

BUDGET ACTION REQUIRED:
N/A

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:
N/A

LEGAL REVIEW:
N/A

SAMPLE MOTION:
N/A

PROPOSAL FOR CONSERVATION SERVICES

This proposal was created for:

City of Saugatuck – Mount Baldhead Park
Mt Baldhead Park Trail, Saugatuck, MI 49453

General Background and Scope of Work:

The purpose of this proposal is to restore ecological health at Mount Baldhead through targeted invasive species management and the replanting of native dune vegetation. Previous control efforts done by a separate contractor inadvertently caused mortality to significant canopy cover and reduced dune stabilization, creating openings now dominated by invasive plants. Following a recent survey of the site, our team recommends the following management and replanting plan for 2026:

1. **Invasive Species Management** (see *Appendix A* for map)
    - Several highly invasive species are present that threaten the integrity of the dune habitat, including: garlic mustard, multiflora rose, Asian bittersweet, Japanese barberry, tree-of-heaven, phragmites, and black locust.
    - Our management approach will prioritize **safe and targeted** control methods that avoid unnecessary herbicide use and prevent damage to surrounding vegetation. Hand pulling will be implemented where practical, while cut-stump and hack and squirt treatments will be used to ensure precise and minimal herbicide applications. When foliar applications are necessary, they will be applied selectively and with safeguards to prevent off-target impacts.
    - Includes procurement of all necessary permitting to apply herbicides through EGLE and MDARD.
        - **Note:** Many of the invasive species listed above typically require sustained and repeated management to successfully control. Effective treatment generally requires repeated management efforts over a period of multiple years to achieve meaningful reduction or eradication. Our team will continue to monitor the population annually and will provide updated pricing and management recommendations each year. The allows for adaptive management strategies based on observed changes in site conditions and treatment efficacy year-to-year.

2. **Dune Revegetation**
    - Large areas of exposed soil across the dune north of the stairway currently face high risks of erosion and rapid recolonization by adjacent invasive species. To stabilize these areas, prevent further invasive spread, and enhance both habitat quality and aesthetics, we propose installing a diverse mix of native trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs in the vacant space.
    - Species selection will highlight erosion control, drought tolerance, and deer resistance, recognizing the heavy browsing pressure present at this site. Plantings will be matched to each micro-site's soil and sunlight conditions to maximize survival rates and ecological value.
        - **Trees**: Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*), Tulip Poplar (*Liliodenddron tulipifera*), Basswood (*Tilia americana*), Red Pine (*Pinus resinosa*), White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), Oak (*Quercus spp.)*, Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.)*, etc.
        - **Shrubs**: Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginian*a), Bearberry (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), Sand Cherry (*Prunus pumila*), Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*), Red-osier Dogwood (*Cornus sericea)*, Beach Heath (*Hudsonia tomentosa*), Blueleaf Willow (*Salix myricoides)*, Sweet Fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), etc.
        - **Forbs/graminoids**: Canada Wild Rye (*Elymus canadensis*), Bottlebrush Grass (*Elymus hystrix*), Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Beach Grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), Sand Reed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), Penn Sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*), Hairy Puccoon (*Lithospermum caroliniense*), Dotted Mint (*Monarda punctata)*, Flowering Spurge (*Euphorbia corollata*), etc.

- Approximately **500** native plants will be installed throughout the unit, including, bare-root, 1-3 gallon, and 4” plugs.
    - Protective exclusion measure such as tree tubes and wire mesh with be used where applicable to protect larger, high-value plantings from herbivory and physical damage.
- In addition to the live plantings, a custom native seed mix highlighting dune-adapted forbs and graminoids will be seeded following invasive species management efforts to enhance diversity and further stabilize exposed soils.

Project Timeline:

- Invasive species management ongoing during the 2026 growing season
- Live plantings and native seeding will be phased as invasive species treatments allow, from spring through early fall of 2026

Project Budget:

- **Invasive Species Management in 2026** - **$10,000** (billed in June 2026) ☐
- **Dune Revegetation** (500 plants) - **$10,000** (billed in June 2026) ☐

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES ABOVE TO INDICATE ACCEPTED SERVICES

Note: *This proposal accounts for pricing of all labor, materials, and equipment necessary in order to perform the outlined invasive species management plan. If additional work is required beyond the scope of this proposal, we will provide written notification and pricing will be determined on a time and materials basis.*

Exclusions: This proposal does not account for:

- Installation of temporary wildlife exclusion fencing.
- Installation or management of irrigation features.
- Removal of standing dead plant material following invasive species control measures.
- Replacement of damaged lawn, landscape plants, trees or shrubs as a result of nearby invasive species control measures.
- Replanting of native vegetation following invasive species control measures (unless otherwise stated on the proposal).

INITIAL_____

Qualifications:
ODC Conservation Services staff are highly qualified conservation professionals.

- ODC Network, and its subsidiaries, is a fully insured 501c3 and carries an extensive liability policy to conduct habitat improvement services in Michigan
- State licensed herbicide applicators with certifications in Forest Pest, Right-of-Way, and Aquatic pesticide application
- Combined 25+ years experience in invasive species management
- Successfully restored over 250 acres of native prairie
- Successfully installed over 25 native gardens and landscape beds
- Manage 2,000+ acres of high quality natural area
- Experienced Michigan flora and fauna identification
- Advanced wetland delineation certification
- Experienced GIS professionals

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal. We look forward to discussing the opportunity further with you. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or clarifications. If you choose to accept this proposal, please sign and return a copy.

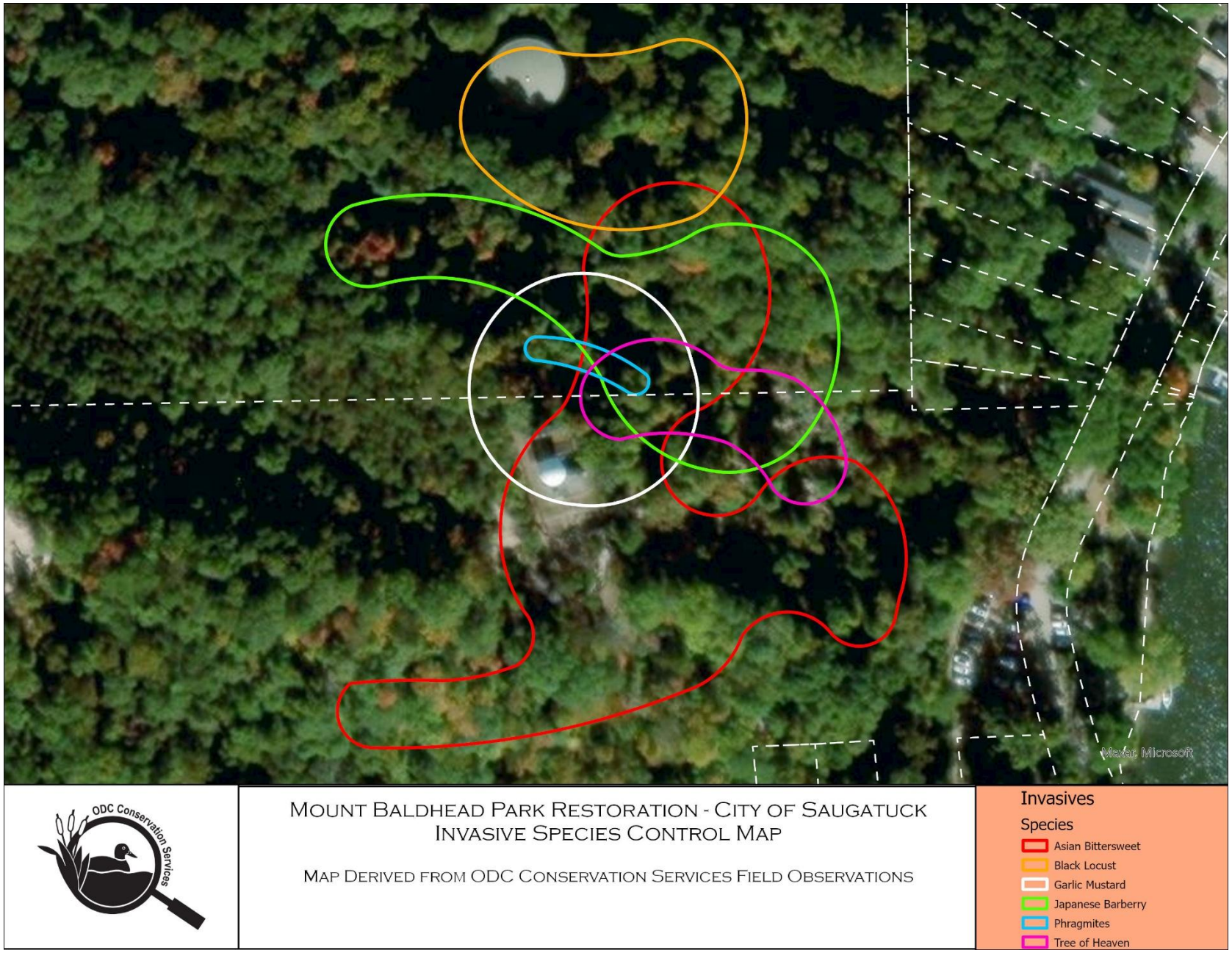
Tanner Bricker, Conservation Services Director
ODC Network
517-398-7800

If you wish to accept this proposal, please initial each page, as well as sign and date below:

_____ _____
Signature of Authorized Property Owner/Manager Date

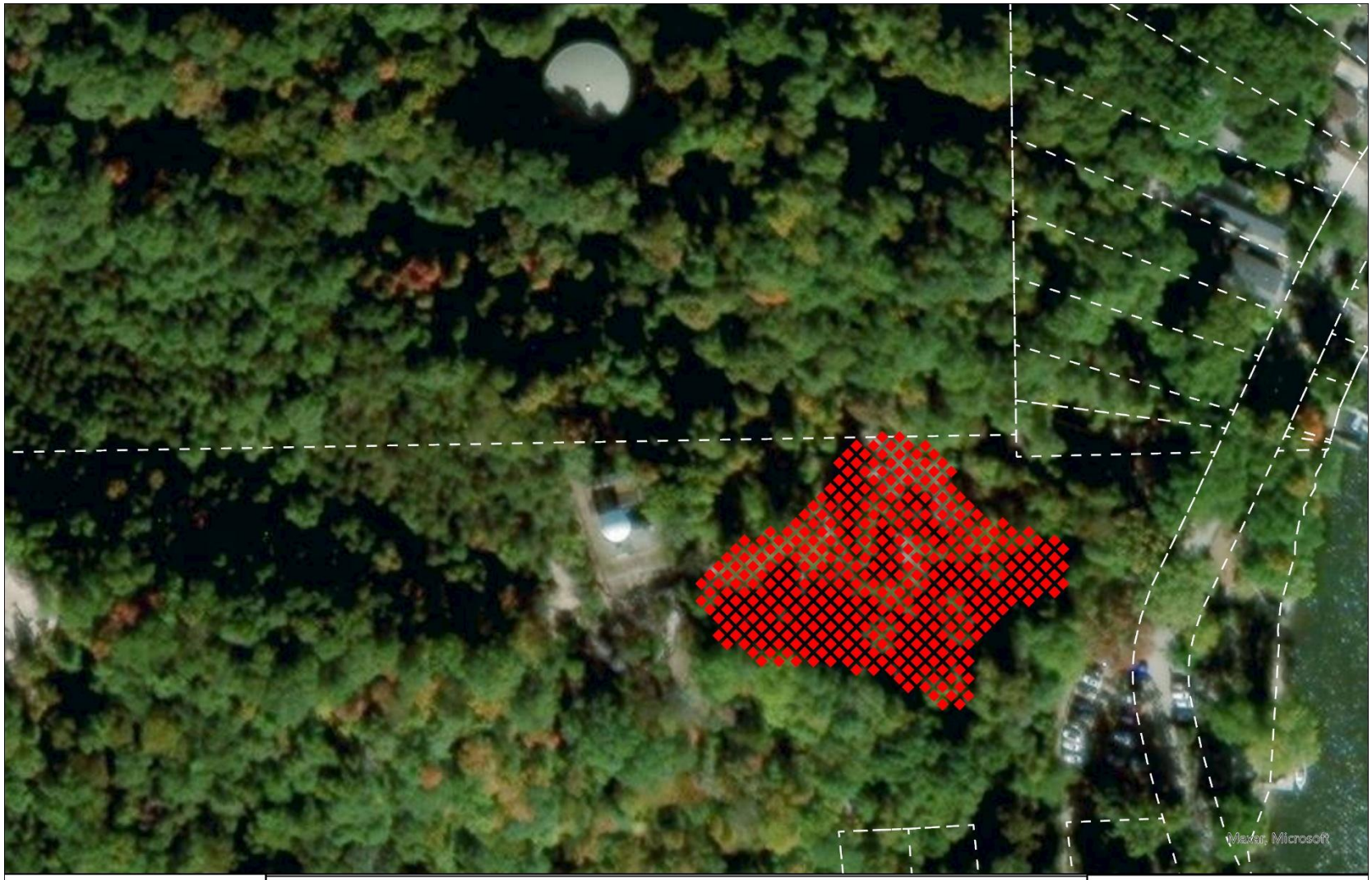
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Appendix A: Map of Surveyed Invasive Species



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Appendix B: Dune Replanting Focus Area



MOUNT BALDHEAD PARK RESTORATION - CITY OF SAUGATUCK
REFORESTATION MAP

MAP DERIVED FROM ODC CONSERVATION SERVICES FIELD OBSERVATIONS

PROJECT: MOUNT BALDHEAD RESTORATION
CLIENT: CITY OF SAUGATUCK
ISSUE: 8/28/2025
DRAWN BY: BH

INITIAL_____

Tree Removal, Replacement, and Erosion Control Plan

Mt. Baldhead

Allegan County, Michigan

10/7/2013

Prepared For:

Land Conservancy
OF WEST MICHIGAN

400 Ann St. NW, Suite 102
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Prepared by:

Cardno JFNew
11181 Marwill Avenue
West Olive, Michigan 49460
616-847-1680
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WEST MICHIGAN TREE SERVICES
A division of GRAND ARBOR GROUP, INC.
2146 Dean Lake NE
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Tree Removal, Replacement, and Erosion Control Plan
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Figure 3: Hazard Tree Locations
Figure 4: Proposed Tree Removal Plan

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Table 2: Tree Removal
Table 3: Proposed Tree Replacement
Table 4: Proposed Shrubs for Erosion Control
Table 5: Proposed Seed Mix for Disturbed Areas

INTRODUCTION

At the request of The Land Conservancy of West Michigan, Cardno JFNew and West Michigan Tree Services have been contracted to write a remediation plan for Mount Baldhead Park in Saugatuck, Michigan. The purpose of the remediation plan is to design a successful strategy to recreate the native habitat that was lost due to tree losses that occurred as a result of Oriental bittersweet control treatments..

To control a growing infestation of Oriental bittersweet on Mount Baldhead, the City of Saugatuck gave permission to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to administer applications of herbicides for Oriental bittersweet control. These herbicide applications occurred in 2010 and 2011.

Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus)* is an exotic, invasive vine that can destroy native habitats. The vine overruns trees, woody-plants, and ground covers. Oriental Bittersweet can become so pervasive the vines block sunlight to the foliage of desirable trees and native plants.

This remediation plan is intended to address the removal and replacement of impacted trees, as well as any soil erosion that may have occurred as a result of said impacts.

2.0 MT. BALDHEAD IMPACTS

Tree Impacts

Tree impacts were limited to the northeast side of Mount Baldhead and the perimeter of the parking area at the base of the hill. The area inspected extends from the top of the hill to the base of the hill, and from the path on the northeast side of the hill southward to approximately thirty feet south of the stairway.

The majority of the herbicide damage was limited to deciduous trees (there are very few conifer trees on Mount Baldhead). The size of the trees did not appear to have any influence on the extent of herbicide injury. Tree species, however, did have an influence. Sugar maples, red oaks and American basswoods were acutely affected. The mulberry trees and locusts incurred less damage. There is a grove of trees, approximately fifty feet in diameter, located three quarters of the way up the slope that suffered no damage.

Of the 191 trees inspected, 148 trees are dead or suffered more than fifty percent crown loss and have little to no chance of survival (Table 1). Forty three trees were not affected or suffered less than fifty percent crown loss.

Maple, oak and basswood comprised two-thirds of the trees examined. The remaining species consisted of ash, wild cherry, American elm, American beech, sassafras, locust, mulberry, walnut, tulip poplar, and Ailanthus.

Three of the trees examined died due to being overrun by the Oriental Bittersweet vines and a few trees (not listed in the inventory) were dead prior to 2010. Most of the damage we encountered was caused by the herbicide applications. Unless otherwise noted on the tree inventory, trees listed as being dead have perished due to the bittersweet treatments.

Table 1. Dead, or >50% Crown Loss Trees

	Sugar Maple	White Oak	Red Oak	Ash	Basswood	Sassafras	Cherry	Elm	Tulip	Black Locust	Tree of Heaven	Walnut	Beech	Mulberry
By North Home														
By South Parking Lot				1	1									
By South Home			1											
North of Path			2											
3/4 Up the Center of the Hill														
Mount Baldhead	55	8	22	2	33	5	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
South Side of Stairs	`		4		3									
Totals	55	8	29	3	37	5	2	1	3	1	1	1	1	1

Site Erosion

The loss of tree canopy has had several effects on the understory of the ecosystem. These effects include an increased amount of sunlight that has allowed the establishment of an herbaceous understory not likely present prior to the tree impacts. Dominant species in the understory include garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), bedstraw (*Galium aparine*), soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*), and Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus).* These opportunistic species establish in recently disturbed areas, such as those present at the impacted portion of Mt. Baldhead. One positive side effect is the new vegetative cover is helping to stabilize the soil..

When comparing the trees south of the staircase to the trees north of the staircase, there is a noticeable absence of vegetative diversity on the north side. The more native ecosystem south of the stairs has layers of herbaceous shrubs and tree cover, while the north side vegetation is limited to primarily the afore mentioned herbaceous cover. The north side will become more stable if these vegetative layers can be re-established.

The soil on the north side has few signs of active erosion. The vegetation and detritus that are present are minimizing erosion. However, small amounts of soil movement/erosion s are evident. The erosion is primarily superficial and limited to comparatively small (10-20 square foot) areas. No new erosional rills or gullies were observed. What erosional activity has occurred is primarily where there is a lack of detritus or herbaceous vegetation, or where public use has created disturbances.

There is a walking path on the north side of Mt. Baldhead. Although not related to invasive species treatments, this path creates potential instability because vegetation is unable to become established. With the loss of tree canopy cover, this path has a greater potential to erode if public use continues to inhibit the ability for vegetation to become established.

As a critical dune, Mt. Baldhead has been historically subject to movement. This is particularly evident where a wood retaining wall was installed at the toe of the slope to impede soil movement. Soil movement/erosion has historically been minimized by the presence of vegetation and detritus throughout the dune, as is evident in pre-disturbance photos and an evaluation of the non-impacted south side of Mt. Baldhead. Long-term stability of the impacted north side of the dune will depend on the presence of vegetation and detritus in some form. Recommendations for increasing stability are provided below.

3.0 TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT

Tree removal and tree replacement are required to address the 148 trees that suffered mortality. In order to maximize the unique social, cultural, and environmental benefits provided by Mt. Baldhead, tree removal and tree replacement measures must account for public safety, soil stability, and the ecology of the dune ecosystem.

Tree Removal

There are currently 148 trees (Figure 2) on Mt. Baldhead that have been identified as dead or dying as a result of invasive species treatments. For public safety and soil stability reasons, each of these 148 trees must be addressed in a manner that will protect the public safety and enhance resident ecological community.

Of the 148 dead or dying trees, 42 trees (Figure 3) have been identified as hazard trees. A hazard tree is defined as any dead and/or damaged tree caused by the application(s)

of non-selective herbicides, where limbs and/or the whole tree has the potential to fall and reach park visitors using the stairway, foot paths, private homes, and/or the parking lot or pavilion area. For public safety reasons, all hazard trees should be removed and the wood and brush scattered throughout the site, as described below.

In addition to the 42 hazard trees, an additional 45 trees should be removed to reduce potential soil erosion that could be caused by wind throw and to encourage the re-establishment of the native ecological community.

Scattering tree trunks and crowns throughout the site will re-introduce detritus to the system, provide microbial habitat and also serve to stabilize the soil. The remaining dead trees should be left standing in place for wildlife habitat.

Tree Removal Methodology

Removal of dead or dying trees shall be treated in one of two ways. They will either be left standing in place or they will be cut and scattered in appropriate locations for the reasons described above. Trees will be cut by the safest and most practical means necessary. Stumps will be cut flush to grade. Wood and brush will be spread throughout bare or open areas so as not to form “heaps” or piles. Tree crowns will be cut small enough to lay on the hill so that no portion extends more than four feet vertically from the ground surface. All cut material will be placed on the hillside in a manner that mimics natural detritus and minimizes erosion—cut material will not be placed in a manner that exacerbates erosion in any way.

Tree Replacement

To replace the 148 impacted trees, a combination of potted and bare-root trees should be installed. The 148 impacted trees should be replaced at a 1:1 ratio with potted stock, while additional bare-root stock will be installed at a 2:1 ratio. This would bring the total proposed tree replacement to a 3:1 ratio.

The unique ecology of Mt. Baldhead suggests that an emphasis be placed on selecting native tree species from local tree sources. This will best insure a re-establishment of the pre-application native conditions. However, not all of the impacted species are commercially available from local (Michigan-grown) genotypes. The recommended tree replacements have been narrowed based on commercially available local genotype species available from Michigan sources.

Oriental bittersweet continues to inhabit portions of Mt. Baldhead. As this plant will inhibit the establishment of native trees, it will need to be addressed.

Table 3. Proposed Tree Replacement

Botanical Name	Common Name	Qty (3-5 gallon potted)	Qty (bare-root)
Acer saccharum	Sugar Maple	55	110
Juglans nigra	Black Walnut	2	4
Liriodendron tulipfera	Tulip	1	2
Quercus alba	White Oak	5	10
Quercus rubra	Red Oak	30	60
Tilia americana	Basswood	37	74
Tsuga canadensis	Canadian hemlock	18	36

4.0 EROSION CONTROL MEASURES

Natural dune stability primarily results from the presence of vegetation and detritus. Therefore, mitigating future erosion on Mt. Baldhead will require the re-introduction of the recommended trees as well as vegetation and detritus to the dunes slope.

Woody shrubs are a critical vegetative layer for dunes stability. The shrub layer has not yet shown signs of re-growth. Therefore, re-introducing a shrub layer will more quickly stabilize the slope and minimize future erosion. Proposed shrub species are provided in Table 4. Quantities have been determined by assuming that approximately 50% of the 1.73 acre area will be planted with shrubs spaced 10' on-center.

In addition to the shrubs, a native seed mix (Table 5) should be installed in any disturbed areas. Seed should be installed by hand-spreading and covered with straw mulch.

Table 4. Proposed Shrubs for Erosion Control

Botanical Name	Common Name	Qty (bare-root)
Cornus florida	Flowering Dogwood	75
Hamamelis virginiana	Witch hazel	75
Lindera benzoin	Spicebush	75
Sassafras albidium	Sassafras	75
Viburnum acerifolium	Maple-leaved Vibrunum	75

Table 5. Proposed Seed Mix for Disturbed Areas

Botanical Name	Common Name	Oz/acre
Allium cernuum	Nodding wild onion	2
Anemone cylindrica	Thimbleweed	1
Aquilegia canadensis	Wild columbine	1
Aster lateriflorus	Side-flowering aster	2
Aster sagittifolius	Arrow-leaved aster	2
Avena sativa	Seed oats	640
Bromus pubescens	Woodland brome	2
Elymus canadensis	Canada wild rye	16
Elymus hystrix	Bottlebrush grass	32
Geranium maculatum	Wild geranium	1
Helianthus divaricatus	Woodland sunflower	2
Lolium multiflorum	Annual rye	5
Monarda punctata	Horse mint	2
Schizachyrium scoparium	Little bluestem grass	8
Solidago caesia	Blue-stemmed goldenrod	1
	Total PLS Ounces	**701.00**
	Total PLS Pounds	**43.81**

5.0 CONCLUSIONS

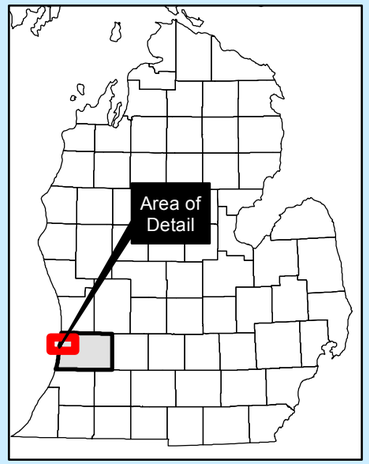
A multi-tiered approach is needed to address the impacts to Mt. Baldhead. Removing the recommended trees and scattering the cut material on the slope will provide detritus and slow erosion. Replanting the site with the recommended trees and shrubs will re-establish the native vegetation that was lost due to the herbicide applications.

Table 2. Tree Removal

DBH	SPECIES	CONDITION	ID#
8.3	Basswood	Dead	1
10	Basswood	Dead	2
6.4	Basswood (clump)	Dead	3
7.9	Basswood (clump)	Dead	3
7.1	Basswood (clump)	Dead	4
14	Basswood (clump)	Dead	4
16.2	Maple	Dead	5
11.3	Maple	Dead	6
11.8	Maple (clump)	Dead	7
12.3	Maple (clump)	Dead	7
12.4	Maple (clump)	Dead	8
18.4	Maple (clump)	Dead	8
8.7	Maple	Dead	9
19.9	Maple	Dead	10
6.9	Maple	Dead	11
23.2	Basswood	Dead	12
14.6	Basswood	Dead	13
10.7	Basswood	Dead	14
8.5	Basswood	Dead	15
12	Maple	50% Dead	16
18.8	Basswood	Dead	17
23.8	Maple	Unaffected	18
20.1	Cherry	Dead	19
10	Basswood	Dead	20
7.9	Maple	Mainly unaffected – previously blown out top	21
7.5	Ash	Dead – No evidence of EAB	22
12.1	Maple	90% dead – Part was previously dead	23
8.2	Ironwood	Unaffected	24
7.7	Ash	Dead – No evidence of EAB	25
13.2	Elm	Dead	26
7.6	Maple	Unaffected	27
23	Beech	50% from herbicide – previously blown out top	28
17.1	Maple	90% Dead	29
19.7	Maple	75% Dead	30
13.5	Maple	Dead	31
21	Cherry	Dead	32
14.7	Maple	75% Dead	33
16	Oak	Dead	34
7.2	Maple	40% Dead	35
8.7	Maple	60% Dead	36
8.6	Maple	Dead	37
16.1	Maple	30% Dead	38
9.5	Elm	Unaffected	39
13.2	Maple	Dead	40
14.8	Maple	Dead	41
10.1	Maple	Dead	42
9.9	Oak	Dead	43
6.8	Maple	95% Dead	44
9	Maple	10% Dead	45
17.4	Oak	Dead	46
8.7	Maple	Dead	47
13.6	Maple	Dead	48
15.6	Maple	Dead	49
14.7	Maple	Dead	50
12.9	Maple	Dead – Lots of vines	51
21.7	Oak	Dead	52
6.8	Oak	Dead	53
10.4	Basswood	Dead – Lots of vines	54
6.3	Maple	10% Dead	55
23.7	Maple	Dead	56
8.1	Maple	Dead	57
8.9	Maple	Dead	58
13.6	Oak	Dead	59
15.9	Maple	Dead	60
6.6	Maple	Dead	61
15.4	Oak	Dead	62
16.3	Oak	Dead	63
24.8	Maple	Dead	64
12.3	Maple	Dead	65
12.1	Maple	Dead	66
18	Basswood	Dead	67
12.7	Basswood	Dead	68
18.5	Basswood	Dead	69
8.1	Basswood	Dead	70
15	Black Locust	90% Canopy loss	70
4	Red Oak	Dead	71
9	Red Oak	Dead	71
9	Sugar Maple	Dead	72
17	Red Oak	Dead	73
16	Sugar Maple	Dead	74
18	Sugar Maple	Dead	75
12	Sugar Maple	Dead	76
9	Beech	Unaffected	77
22	Beech	Unaffected	78
12	Sugar Maple	Dead	79
8	Sugar Maple	Dead	80
24	Basswood	Dead	81
20	Sugar Maple	Dead	82
16	Sugar Maple	Unaffected	83
15	Sugar Maple	Dead	84
12	Sugar Maple	Dead	85
13	Sugar Maple	Dead	86
18	Basswood	Dead	87
16	Sugar Maple	10% Crown loss	88
18	Red Oak	Dead	89
16	Red Oak	Dead	90
15	Sugar Maple	Dead	91
19	Red Oak	Dead	92
11	Sugar Maple	Dead	93
13	Sugar Maple	Dead	94
26	Red Oak	Dead	95
11	Red Oak	Dead	96
17	Red Oak	Dead	97
6	Sugar Maple	Dead	98
11	Red Oak	Dead	99
17	Red Oak	Dead	100
16	Red Oak	Dead	101
7	Maple	Dead	102
14.3	Sugar Maple	20% Canopy Loss	111
24.8	White Oak	15% Canopy Loss	112
14.9	Ash	Dead	131
10.5	Basswood	Dead	132
10.5	Red Oak	Dead	133
8.3	Basswood	Dead	140
15.3	Basswood	Dead	141
20.9	Oak	Dead – Lots of vines	142
5.6	Basswood	Dead	143
7.6	Basswood	Dead	143
8.5	Sassafras	Dead	144
9	Sassafras	Dead	145
10.4	Sassafras	Dead	146
6.9	Maple	90% Dead	147
16.2	Basswood	Dead	148
26	Basswood	Dead	148
12.5	Maple	85% Dead	149
11.1	Basswood	Dead	150
11.9	Basswood	Dead	150
6.4	Basswood	Dead	151
8.5	Basswood	Dead	151
13.6	Basswood	Dead	151
6.2	Sassafras	Dead	152
5.2	Mulberry	Unaffected	153
5.4	Mulberry	Unaffected	153
6.9	Mulberry	Unaffected	153
28.3	Oak	Dead	154
7.2	Tree of Heaver	Dead	155
25.2	Maple	Dead	156
13	Oak	Dead	157
8.2	Maple	Dead	158
21.3	Oak	Dead	159
11.6	Tree of Heaver	10% Dead	160
6.5	Maple	Unaffected	161
14.2	Maple	Dead	162
16.3	Sassafras	Dead	163
29	Walnut	50% Dead	164
5.1	Locust	Tip die back	201
7	Locust	Tip die back	201
9.5	Locust	Tip die back	201
13.3	Scotch Pine	Unaffected	202
21.3	Tulip	Dead	203
9.9	Red Oak	Dying	204
21	Tulip	Dead	205
6.3	Locust	Slight tip die-back	206
22	Tulip	25% crown loss	207
7.3	Sugar Maple	Healthy	208
17.2	Red Oak	Dying	209
7.6	Sugar Maple	Dead	210
6	Sugar Maple	Unaffected – Healthy	211
15.3	Tulip	Dead	212
13.3	Red Oak	Dead	213
18.8	Red Oak	Dead	214
6.3	Basswood	Dead	215
16.2	Red Oak	Dying – 80% crown loss	216
15.6	Sugar Maple	Viable – 10% loss	217
13.9	Basswood	Dead	218
18.5	Beech	Dead	219
18.1	Basswood	Dead	220
15.6	Red Oak	Dead	221
16.2	Red Oak	80% crown loss	222
11.7	Red Oak	50% crown loss	223
23.9	Red Oak	80% crown loss	224
10.8	Sugar Maple	Unaffected	225
7.3	Sugar Maple	Unaffected	226
8.3	Sugar Maple	15% Canopy Loss	227
11.7	Red Oak	Dead from vines	228
16.2	Red Oak	Dead	229
9.2	Red Oak	Dead from vines	230
15.2	Mulberry	Dead from vines	231
17.5	Sugar Maple	80% crown loss	232
12.4	Basswood	Dead	233
9.2	Basswood	Dead	234
6.2	Basswood	???	235
7.6	Basswood	???	235
10.2	Basswood	20% Canopy Loss	235
19.7	Basswood	Dead	235

	<50% Canopy or unaffected
	Hazard tree--remove and scatter on site
	Non-hazard dead tree, remove and scatter on site
	Non-hazard dead tree, leave standing in place

FIGURES



Approximate Site Location

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Section: 09
Township: 03 N
Range: 16 W
Project No. 1210007.01

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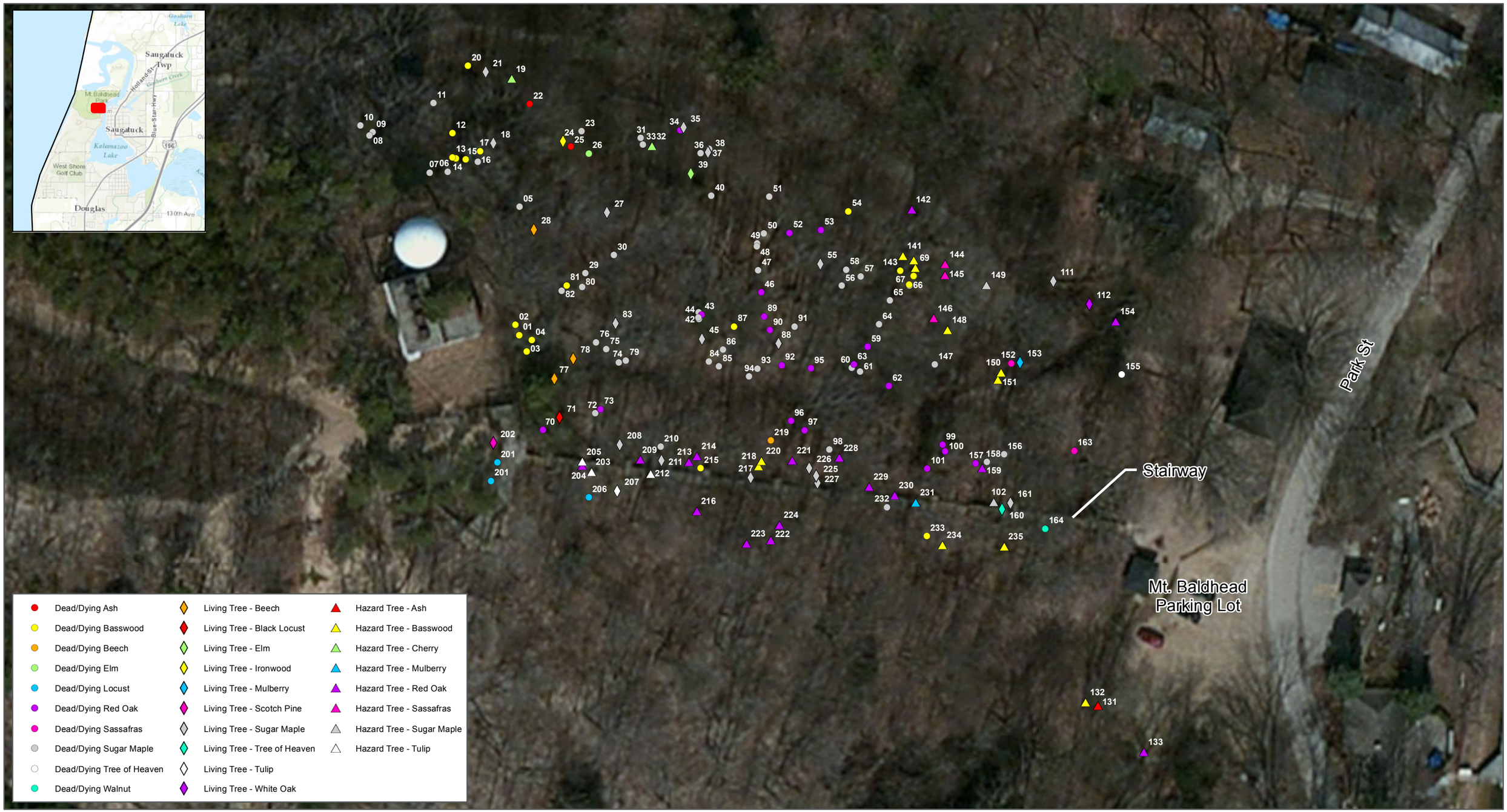
Figure 1 - Site Location Map

Mt. Baldhead Site
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Allegan County, Michigan

0 0.5 1 Miles
0 0.5 1 1.5 Kilometers

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GIS Analyst: erin.ferrante-cook



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Section: 09
Township: 03 N
Range: 16 W
Project No. 1210007.01

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Figure 2 - Tree Locations

Mt. Baldhead Site
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Allegan County, Michigan

0 25 50 Feet
0 15 Meters

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GIS Analyst: erin.ferrante-cook



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Section: 09
Township: 03 N
Range: 16 W
Project No. 1210007.01

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Figure 3 - Hazard Tree Locations

Mt. Baldhead Site
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Allegan County, Michigan

0 25 50 Feet
0 15 Meters

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Section: 09
Township: 03 N
Range: 16 W
Project No. 1210007.01

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Figure 4 - Tree Removal Plan

Mt. Baldhead Site
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Allegan County, Michigan

0 25 50 Feet
0 15 Meters

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Analyst: erin.ferrante-cook



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Section: 09
Township: 03 N
Range: 16 W
Project No. 1210007.01

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Figure 4a - Tree Removal Plan

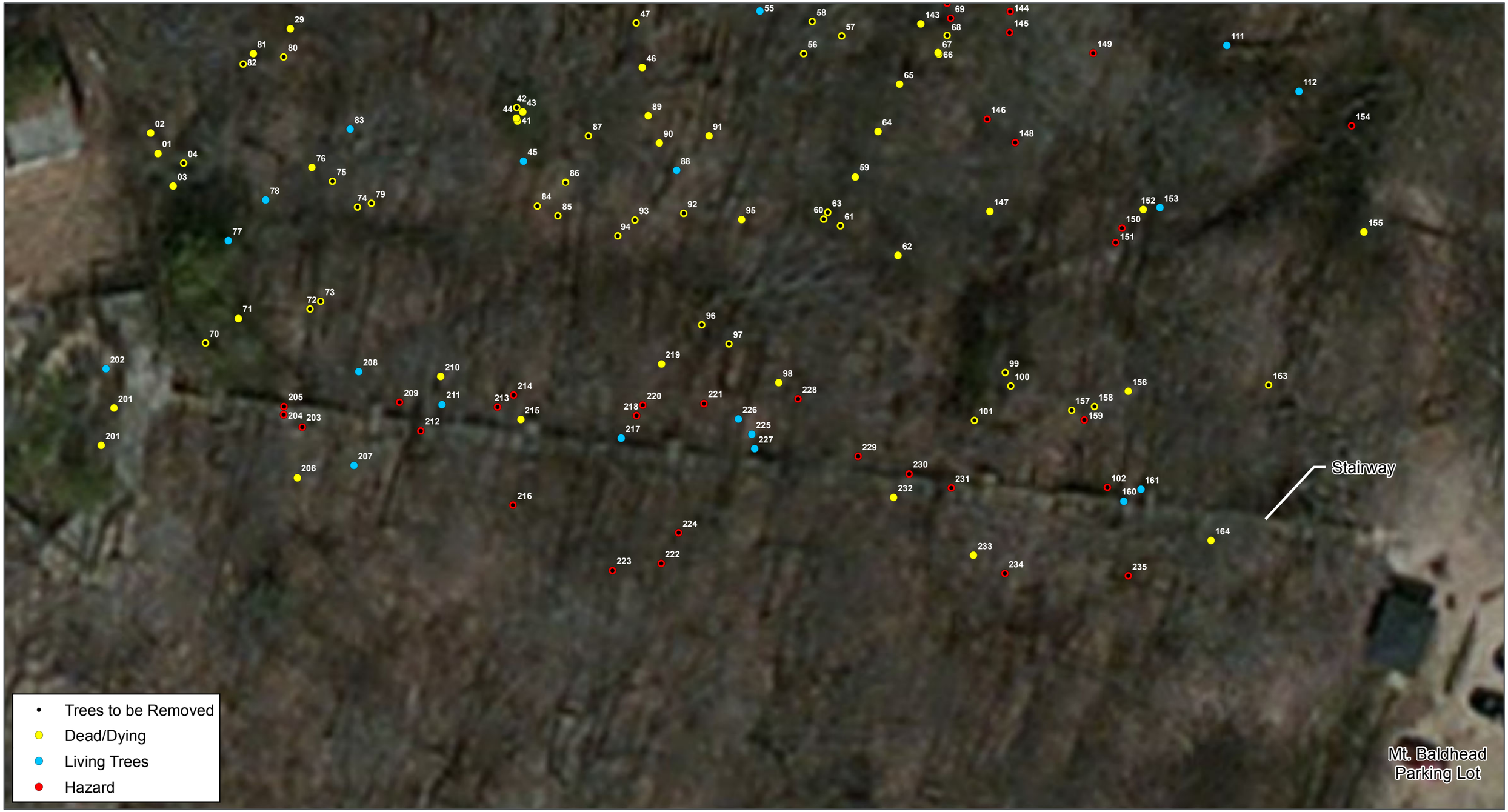
Mt. Baldhead Site
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Allegan County, Michigan

0 12.5 25 Feet
0 4 8 Meters

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Analyst: erin.ferrante-cook



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Section: 09
Township: 03 N
Range: 16 W
Project No. 1210007.01

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Figure 4b - Tree Removal Plan

Mt. Baldhead Site
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
Allegan County, Michigan

0 12.5 25 Feet
0 4 8 Meters

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Analyst: erin.ferrante-cook

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
KALAMAZOO DISTRICT OFFICE

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

December 17, 2014

Kirk Harrier
City of Saugatuck
102 Butler Street
PO Box 86
Saugatuck, Michigan 49453

Vaughn Maatman
Land Conservancy of West Michigan
1345 Monroe Avenue NW, Suite 324
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

Dear Mr. Harrier & Mr. Maatman:

SUBJECT: DEQ Complaint Number 12-03-0019-V
Allegan County, T3N, R16W, Section 9

The Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Water Resources Division (WRD) conducted an inspection of the above referenced site to determine if restoration was satisfactorily completed as required in our September 11, 2012 letter.

The DEQ finds that the site has been satisfactorily restored in accordance with our restoration requirements. The WRD will not seek further enforcement action in this matter.

Any further excavation, filling, or construction in regulated areas on this property will require a permit prior to initiating the activity under authority of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended. Copies of the statute and application forms are available from this office, or from our Web site at: http://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3307_29692_24403-67347--,00.html.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, you may contact me at 269-567-3564; bayhaj@michigan.gov; or DEQ, 7953 Adobe Road, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009.

Sincerely,

John Bayha, P.E.
Kalamazoo District Office
Water Resources Division

JB:se

cc: Allegan County Erosion Control Agent (Health Department)



Individual Tree Protections

Trees will receive a 4' tree tube following planting to discourage herbivory of meristems and destruction of periderm. Tubes also increase humidity around young tree to increase survivability.



Deer Exclusion Zones



30'x30' areas will be fenced off to prevent deer and anthropogenic disturbance while the plant community develops. Exclusion areas are strategically placed in sparsely vegetated areas prone to erosion.

Signage Options



Custom Sign Printing Available upon request

Parks & Public Works Committee
Agenda Item Report

FROM: Scott Herbert – Public Works Superintendent

MEETING DATE: November 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Invasive Species

DESCRIPTION:
City staff and the Parks & Public Works Committee solicited proposals from the Allegan Conservation District, the Kalamazoo Nature Center, and the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) Network to support the mapping and treatment of invasive species across City-owned properties, including road rights-of-way, parks, natural areas, and municipal grounds.

Based on responsiveness, scope alignment, pricing, and a strong history of collaboration with the City, staff and Committee members are moving forward with refining the scope of work with the ODC Network.

The ODC proposal is enclosed for the Committee's review, along with a sample motion.

BUDGET ACTION REQUIRED:
Budgeted Item.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:
N/A

LEGAL REVIEW:
N/A

SAMPLE MOTION:
Motion to approve the work proposal submitted by the Outdoor Discovery Center Network for invasive species survey work in the amount of $26,000.

PROPOSAL FOR CONSERVATION SERVICES

This proposal was created for:
City of Saugatuck
102 Butler St, Saugatuck, MI 49453

General Background and Scope of Work:
This proposal outlines a plan to conduct a comprehensive survey of invasive species and ecological threats within the City of Saugatuck. The purpose of this survey is to identify current and emerging ecological risks, enabling city staff and partners to prioritize management actions effectively and maintain the ecological quality of the city's natural areas and right-of-ways. We recommend the following work plan in 2026:

1. **Invasive Species Survey**
    - Conduct a comprehensive survey within the City of Saugatuck (see *Appendix A* for map) to identify existing and emerging invasive species and other potential ecological threats.
        - Surveys will include both road-side monitoring of public right-of-ways, as well as walking surveys within parks, natural areas, and other greenspaces.
        - Field surveys will take place during multiple periods of the growing season to capture seasonal variation and ensure a holistic assessment of the plant communities:
            - Spring-early summer 2026
            - Late summer-early fall 2026
    - Following completion of the field surveys, we will provide a detailed written report accompanied by key findings, maps, and ranked priorities of invasive species threats within the City.
        - Target date for report submission: **October 15, 2026**

Project Timeline:
- Field surveys will conducted between **May-September of 2026**.
- Completed report will be submitted by **October 15, 2026**.

Project Budget:
- Invasive Species Survey & Report
    - All parcels and natural areas outlined in *Appendix A* - **$22,000** (50% billed in June, 50% billed upon submission of report) ☐
    - Saugatuck Wilds Park (~170 acres) - **$4,000** (50% billed in June, 50% billed upon submission of report) ☐

PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES ABOVE TO INDICATE ACCEPTED SERVICES. TO ENSURE TIMELY SCHEDULING AND SERVICE DELIVERY, PLEASE RESPOND PROMPTLY. DELAYS IN RESPONSE MAY RESULT IN CHANGES TO PROPOSED PROJECT TIMELINE OR AVAILABILITY.

Exclusions:
The following items are excluded from this proposal:
- Creation of long-term stewardship or management plan.
- Treatment of any identified invasive species.
- Assessment of privately owned parcels (unless written permission is granted beforehand).
- Detailed assessments of natural communities beyond general invasive species observations.
- Permitting, regulatory approvals, or coordination with other agencies required for management actions.

While not covered under this proposal, we are happy to provide proposals for any of the above items upon request.

Note: *This proposal accounts for pricing of all labor, materials, and equipment necessary to execute the outlined work plan. If additional work is required beyond the scope of this proposal, we will provide written notification and pricing will be determined on a time and materials basis.*

INITIAL _____

Qualifications:
ODC Conservation Services staff is staffed by highly qualified conservation professionals with extensive experience in invasive species management, habitat assessment, and ecological restoration.

- ODC Network, and its subsidiaries, is a fully insured 501c3 and carries an extensive liability policy to conduct habitat improvement services in Michigan.
- State licensed herbicide applicators with certifications in Forest Pest, Right-of-Way, and Aquatic pesticide application.
- Manage 2,500+ acres of natural area across Michigan.
- Combined 25+ years' experience in invasive species management.
- Successfully restored over 250 acres of native prairie habitat.
- Experienced consultants in invasive species management, habitat assessment, and ecological restoration.
- Experience designing, installing, and maintaining native gardens/landscape beds.
- Proficient in identification of native and non-native Michigan flora and fauna.
- Advanced wetland delineation certification.
- Experienced GIS professionals.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this proposal. We look forward to discussing the opportunity further with you. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or clarifications. If you choose to accept this proposal, please sign and return a copy.

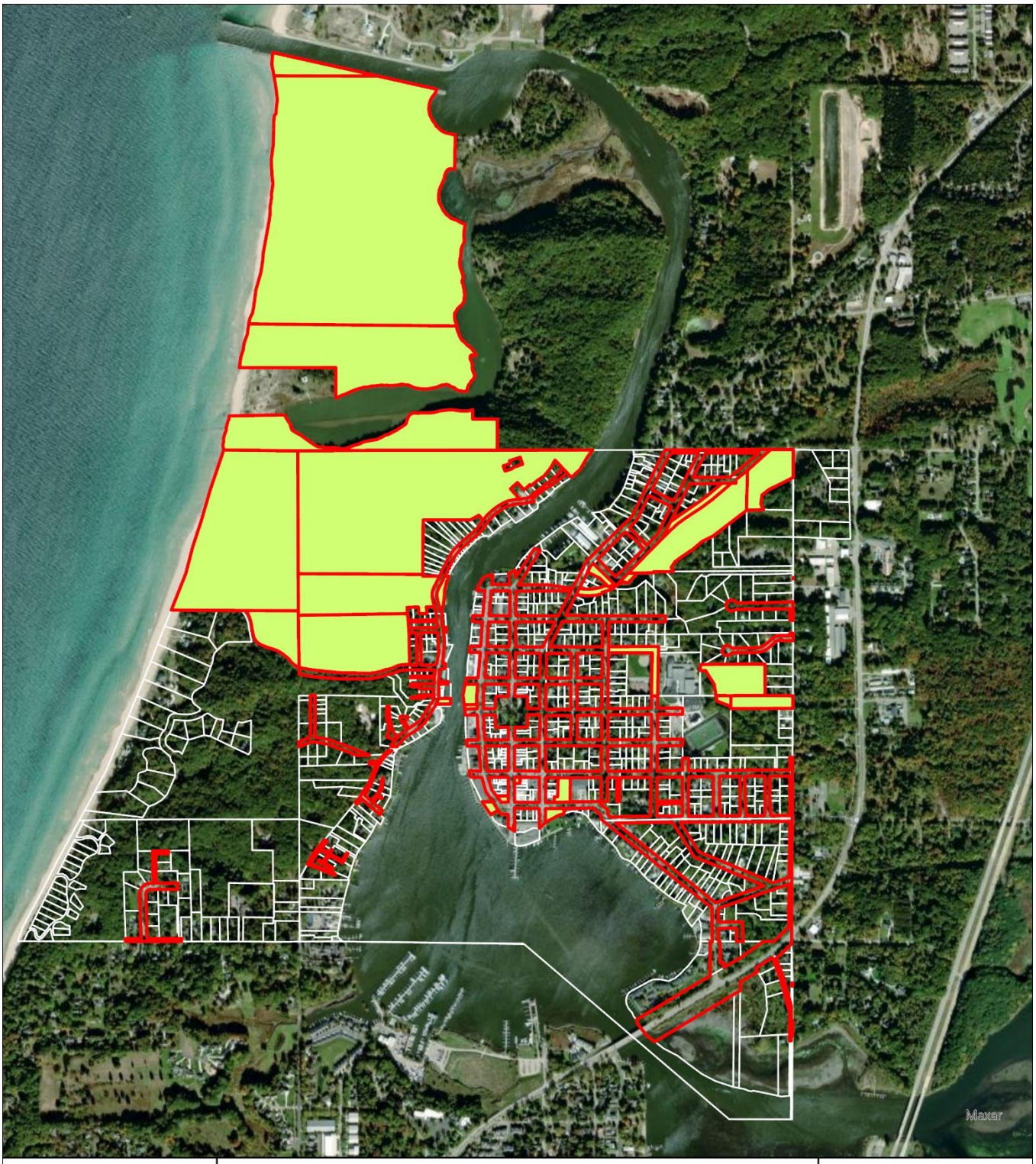
Tanner Bricker, Conservation Services Director
ODC Network
517-398-7800

If you wish to accept this proposal, please initial each page, as well as sign and date below:

_____ _____
Signature of Authorized Property Owner/Manager Date

INITIAL _____

Appendix A: Map of Survey Area



ODC Conservation Services

CITY OF SAUGATUCK - CITY MANAGED LANDS
INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEYING

DATA FROM ODC CONSERVATION SERVICES FIELD OBSERVATIONS AND DESKTOP ANALYSIS
RIGHT-OF-WAY: 92 ACRES
NATURAL AREA: 330 ACRES

CLIENT: CITY OF SAUGATUCK
PROJECT: INVASIVE SPECIES SURVEYING
ISSUED: 9/19/2025
DRAWN BY: BH

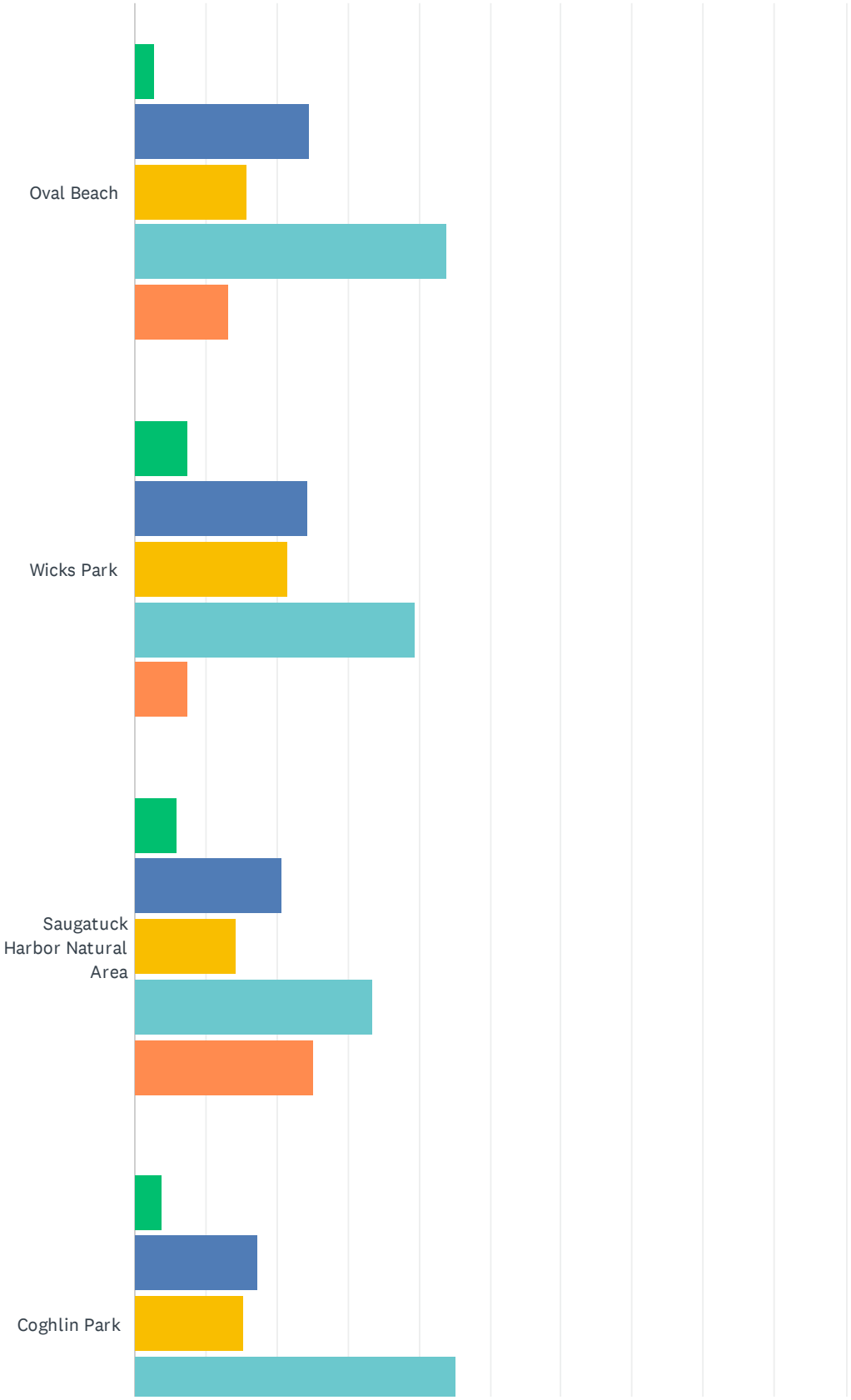
INITIAL _____

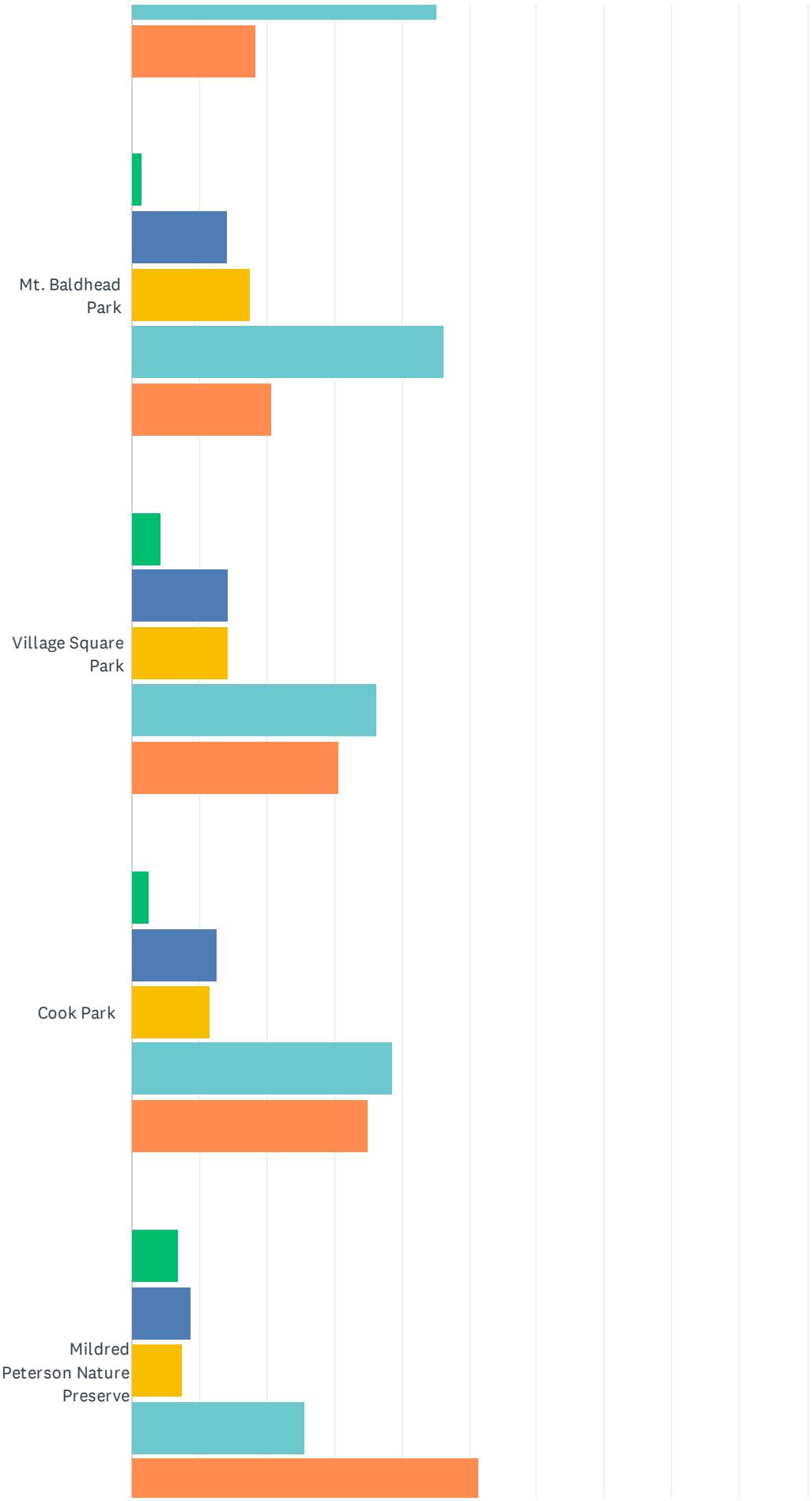
Master Plan Survey Results

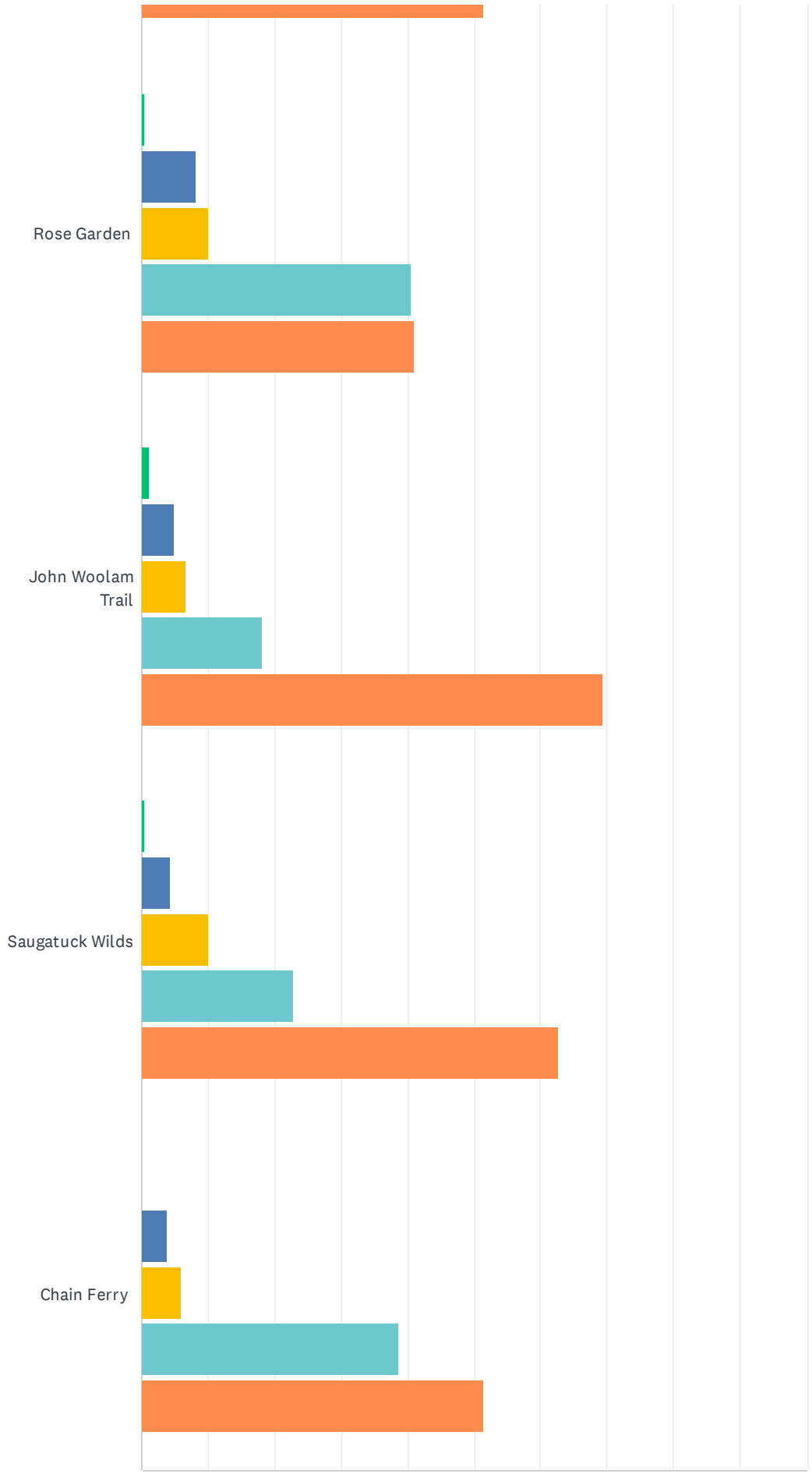
Restrooms	Comment Number	Number of Comments	Duplicate Comments	Total Comments	% Total Comments
Oval Beach	88,91,113	3			
Wicks Park	2,18,19,38,49,65,72,87,116,147	10			
Coughlin Park/S End of Town	18,32,35,37,38,45,49,52,72,87,103,104,105,109,114,115,116,149,165	19	-5		
Undesignated More/Cleaner	7,10,27,28,34,41,50,53,54,59,61,82,87,93,101,113,145,146,148,154,162,164	22			
ADA Compliance	93	1			
Butler Street	18,19,110	3	-1		
Mt. Baldhead	30,48	2			
Saugatuck Wilds	136	1			
		61	-6	55	**33%**
Picnic Tables	4,5,33,74,102,137	6		6	4%
Benches	47,67,75,102,107,113,144	7		7	4%

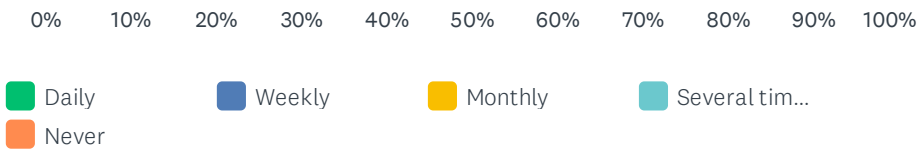
Q19 How frequently do you use the following parks?

Answered: 323 Skipped: 63




Mt. Baldhead Park
Village Square Park
Cook Park
Mildred Peterson Nature Preserve


Rose Garden
John Woolam Trail
Saugatuck Wilds
Chain Ferry



	DAILY	WEEKLY	MONTHLY	SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR	NEVER	TOTAL
Oval Beach	2.82% 9	24.45% 78	15.67% 50	43.89% 140	13.17% 42	319
Wicks Park	7.37% 23	24.36% 76	21.47% 67	39.42% 123	7.37% 23	312
Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area	6.07% 19	20.77% 65	14.38% 45	33.55% 105	25.24% 79	313
Coghlin Park	3.85% 12	17.31% 54	15.38% 48	45.19% 141	18.27% 57	312
Mt. Baldhead Park	1.59% 5	13.97% 44	17.46% 55	46.35% 146	20.63% 65	315
Village Square Park	4.25% 13	14.38% 44	14.38% 44	36.27% 111	30.72% 94	306
Cook Park	2.63% 8	12.50% 38	11.51% 35	38.49% 117	34.87% 106	304
Mildred Peterson Nature Preserve	6.80% 21	8.74% 27	7.44% 23	25.57% 79	51.46% 159	309
Rose Garden	0.32% 1	8.12% 25	10.06% 31	40.58% 125	40.91% 126	308
John Woolam Trail	0.99% 3	4.97% 15	6.62% 20	18.21% 55	69.21% 209	302
Saugatuck Wilds	0.33% 1	4.30% 13	9.93% 30	22.85% 69	62.58% 189	302
Chain Ferry	0.00% 0	3.83% 12	6.07% 19	38.66% 121	51.44% 161	313

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Interurban path	10/4/2025 7:43 AM
2	Can’t wait to go	10/3/2025 5:14 PM
3	You cannot depend on the chain ferry.	10/2/2025 12:57 PM
4	Saugatuck Dunes State Park	10/1/2025 10:58 PM
5	I walk along the docks from Willow Park to Coughlin Park on a nearly daily	9/30/2025 5:22 PM
6	I visit the County parks daily, saugatuck hastoo many tourists to enjoy the parks	9/30/2025 1:32 PM
7	Plan to go but it’s new	9/30/2025 11:17 AM
8	you left out the board walk, used weekly in summer season	9/29/2025 8:23 PM
9	The downtown boardwalk, from Coughlin Park all the way to Willow park at the north end of town; almost daily	9/29/2025 8:22 PM
10	Saugatuck Dunes State Park when oval is full or bringing my dog	9/29/2025 9:56 AM
11	Boardwalk downtown	9/28/2025 8:16 PM
12	I am not sure what you mean by "use" the areas. I live right on Lake Kalamazoo so I see	9/27/2025 2:31 PM

	many of the areas daily or weekly so I'm not sure what is meant by "use" the areas. Some I have not heard of like the John Woolam Trail, and what is considered the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area and the Saugatuck Wilds? I don't go to Mt. Baldhead park often but I look at Mt. Baldhead every day from my home. I enjoy looking at the Rose Garden every time I am downtown. So if 'looking at" or enjoying their presence is "use" then I use a lot of them very often.	
13	waterways	9/27/2025 12:42 PM
14	I prefer shops and restaurants	9/25/2025 3:50 PM
15	Wick's park.	9/24/2025 8:35 AM
16	Love the parks	9/23/2025 8:16 PM
17	Not sure where the John Woolam Trail is located	9/11/2025 11:59 AM
18	Once. Hard to find.	9/9/2025 10:05 AM
19	Blue Star Highway Bike Lanes Blue Star Trail (existing completed segments) Mount Baldhead Staircase/Trail Riverfront Walkways/Boardwalk Pearl Street Park Regional Trail Connections (linking to Douglas, Holland, etc.)	9/8/2025 9:32 AM
20	Veterans Memorial Park 2x	9/6/2025 11:58 PM
21	Saugatuck State Park monthly	9/6/2025 4:48 PM
22	Saugatuck State Park	9/6/2025 2:36 PM
23	Use places, but not sure of names.	9/6/2025 12:37 AM
24	InterUrban Trail through the gulley.	9/5/2025 8:45 PM
25	Saugatuck Dunes State Park monthly	9/5/2025 2:06 PM
26	The river board walk daily	9/3/2025 10:37 AM
27	Docks/Boardwalk through the city.	8/30/2025 3:39 PM
28	Unfortunately not familiar with most of these areas	8/29/2025 5:17 PM

Q20 Considering the previous list of City parks, what improvements do you feel are necessary and where?

Answered: 167 Skipped: 219

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Biger parking lot Oval Beach	10/6/2025 2:30 PM
2	Bathroom facilities at wicks park	10/4/2025 6:45 PM
3	Coughlin - maintain open space, maintain dinghy dock	10/4/2025 7:43 AM
4	More picnic tables in Wicks Park and Willow Park.	10/3/2025 9:56 PM
5	A lack of picnic tables exist at Willow Park.	10/3/2025 9:48 PM
6	Coughlin Park~Shopping Dock either change the sign or control the over night docking. Boats docked Almost every night. And not just 1. Last year a man docked for 2 1/2 months. Yes we called a lot 7years ago.	10/3/2025 5:14 PM
7	At least one additional public restroom	10/3/2025 2:54 PM
8	Stop wasting DPW time and money on parks located outside city limits.	10/3/2025 2:34 PM
9	Cook Park needs more activities	10/3/2025 1:14 PM
10	Upgrade of restroom facilities to make them ADA compatible.	10/3/2025 11:58 AM
11	Focus only on property within City limits.	10/3/2025 10:11 AM
12	Peterson nature preserve needs to have pond kept cleaner.	10/2/2025 7:27 PM
13	Staff the chain ferry on weekends in the fall. Plant trees on Mt. Baldhead. Paint the Gazebo in wicks park. Playground and bathroom in Coghlin park, add flowers to the Village Square park and fix all of the cracked uneven side walks.	10/2/2025 12:57 PM
14	Downtown sidewalks and infrastructure.	10/2/2025 11:17 AM
15	Wooden boardwalks seem old and questionably safe. The area behind Coral Gables is an eyesore	10/2/2025 11:16 AM
16	In the city Limits	10/2/2025 8:33 AM
17	Maintaining clean and safe facilities	10/2/2025 8:25 AM
18	bathrooms upgrades, Butler Street Bathroom is heavily used and needs to be upgraded and cleaned more often, it is kind of grose.. Wicks park bathroom upgrades and install bathrooms at Coghlin park area	10/1/2025 10:58 PM
19	Wicks Park restroom should be renovated - it reflects poorly on the quality of our city. The Village Square restroom has a broken hand dryer. Peterson Preserve is overlooked by city officials. It is a jewel within city limits. The infrastructure needs improvements. Invasive plants need to be removed.	10/1/2025 8:19 PM
20	More native plants and landscaping	10/1/2025 8:13 PM
21	Mt. Baldhead Park could use more attention. Happy to see the new restroom. Support the Radar Tower	10/1/2025 3:43 PM
22	Keep them as beautiful and well maintained as they are today	10/1/2025 2:52 PM
23	Shuffle board on the town square	10/1/2025 12:02 PM
24	None	10/1/2025 8:48 AM
25	Several flower gardens with blooms April through November.	10/1/2025 8:12 AM

50

26	Keep up the good work	10/1/2025 8:09 AM
27	More bike racks and restrooms on each section of our town	9/30/2025 7:44 PM
28	Bike racks and more public restrooms	9/30/2025 7:39 PM
29	I think Willow Park has changed with the addition of the fire boats and a garden so that it’s difficult to have a few of the water unless you go up on the deck.	9/30/2025 5:22 PM
30	Mt Baldhead bathroom, steps and pavilion area need improvement Chain Ferry should operate post 'summer end'/Labor day. Ideal to run weekends for Mt B Challenge and for the visitors that come in fall	9/30/2025 2:20 PM
31	I am from Indiana and moved to Michigan last summer 2024. I have only worked in Saugatuck just over a year and live in Kalamazoo. I don’t have the opportunity to come to town very often since I come to work. The days I have come, it has always been great experiences. Just have not had the time to explore everything the town has to offer yet.	9/30/2025 12:05 PM
32	Bathrooms at Coghlin Park needed. Updated existing bathrooms in Wicks Park and Village Square. Better parking at Mt Baldhead.	9/30/2025 7:34 AM
33	More picnic tables at coghlin and wicks parks. No overnight camping in parks.	9/30/2025 5:45 AM
34	Bathrooms	9/29/2025 11:45 PM
35	Restrooms in Coughlin Park	9/29/2025 10:53 PM
36	disc golf	9/29/2025 10:50 PM
37	Bathrooms in Coughlin Patk	9/29/2025 10:41 PM
38	maintain the parks, decent bathrooms at Wicks Park and bathroom on the south end of town. Clean up and maintain park street, DPW will not maintain that street, it is the only way to get to the beach and Mt Baldhead, get rid of the floating home eyesores, Heule's covered boat house and the wall and the electrical panels that present a hazard to pedestrians and traffic	9/29/2025 8:23 PM
39	No suggestions. They seem very nice.	9/29/2025 8:22 PM
40	Safety on Park street	9/29/2025 4:53 PM
41	Clean public restrooms or porta-pots.	9/29/2025 4:23 PM
42	Creating more. Green space that is publicly available to use is so important.	9/29/2025 3:01 PM
43	Control the traffic	9/29/2025 2:52 PM
44	Bike a bowl and walkable pathways that are safe for the residence and the tourist	9/29/2025 2:47 PM
45	Bathroom needed by the Butler area. Oval Beach should be free to tax payers. Dogs should be allowed	9/29/2025 9:56 AM
46	improve that old tennis court	9/29/2025 8:27 AM
47	More seating if possible near the the new playground	9/29/2025 7:36 AM
48	Mt Baldhead Park - improve bathrooms, improve stairs, improve/more parking Oval Beach - more parking, bring back lifeguards	9/28/2025 9:41 PM
49	Bathrooms (additional location and/or improve Wicks Park bathrooms).	9/28/2025 8:16 PM
50	More restrooms and parking	9/28/2025 3:31 PM
51	Keep what we have. No more major waterfront developments, you will loose the quaint small town feeling. We meet people who have come here for years with great memories.	9/28/2025 9:14 AM
52	I think the most important improvement would be bathrooms by Coghlin Park and the shopper dock. I know that people get off their boats and need a place to "go". I hear from residents in that area that people just "go" in the bushes for lack of an appropriate choice! And permanent use of Porta Potties is NOT a good look for our town. I also think transient boat slips would be high on my list ensuring that boating tourism remains strong in our town. If there were a municipal marina in Lake Kalamazoo, we could get state money for dredging protecting an important tourism draw for the area in lake Kalamazoo. I see the lake all day almost every day	9/27/2025 2:31 PM

	and I cannot count the number of boats that get stuck in the shallow waters in the middle of Lake Kalamazoo. What would happen if Mother Nature decided to completely fill in that Lake? I think there are other infrastructure areas of improvement that are also important. I know there are roads that are narrow, dangerous and hard to maneuver without injuring a pedestrian or biker, though I realize the issues and cost with that project. Then there are the pipes downtown that will need to be replace. It is important to balance the importance of a project with the costs.	
53	A commitment to upkeep and preservation ... addition of restrooms	9/27/2025 1:10 PM
54	bathrooms	9/27/2025 12:42 PM
55	Allowing alcohol on the beach	9/27/2025 9:17 AM
56	A dog park would be a plus. Parking of course. More public seating.	9/26/2025 4:40 PM
57	landscaping and flowers at Peterson Preserve	9/26/2025 1:51 PM
58	Parking at Mt. Baldhead.	9/26/2025 1:18 PM
59	Bathrooms	9/26/2025 12:52 PM
60	The parks are a core reason we continue to live in Saugatuck. Continue to invest in the parks, expand their footprints, focus on the water ways and make sure they are here for the future generations.	9/26/2025 12:09 PM
61	Cleaner public bathrooms	9/26/2025 12:04 PM
62	I dont use them enough to provide valuable input.	9/25/2025 11:08 PM
63	Cook park needs to be upgraded. Interactive sculptures that you can climb on.	9/25/2025 9:35 PM
64	More dog poop bag stations Recyclying containers	9/25/2025 7:17 PM
65	Restroom at wicked park	9/25/2025 4:33 PM
66	Nothing. Fewer parks, more community services	9/25/2025 3:50 PM
67	A few more benches	9/24/2025 11:13 AM
68	The new bandshell with an appropriate sound system and opportunity to have more entertainment options should have happened years ago. This was a huge mistake by that City Council.	9/24/2025 8:35 AM
69	None	9/24/2025 7:22 AM
70	Would love a small park on the hill	9/23/2025 8:16 PM
71	Stop overspending on park maintenance	9/23/2025 1:21 PM
72	Bike path to Oval beach and Mt Baldhead, Improved bathrooms at Wicks Park, fix up pickleball/tennis court in town, fix up basketball court in town, kayak launch maybe by shopper's dock with designated drop off loading spot, bathrooms at Coughlin Park, splash pad at Village Square that turns into an ice rink or ice trail for winter activities.	9/23/2025 12:36 PM
73	none	9/23/2025 12:28 PM
74	more picnic tables at beach, Coghlin, Village square; Cook general check of all structures in parks for wear and tear. Oval: provide area to sit with some protection from sun.	9/22/2025 9:44 PM
75	more benches in the downtown area and on Perryman St.	9/22/2025 9:22 PM
76	None	9/22/2025 8:09 PM
77	play structures for Mt Baldhead park	9/22/2025 7:26 PM
78	Bike/walking trail down Ferry Rd/Park Street from Center to Mt Baldhead.	9/22/2025 6:53 PM
79	They’re kept in good shape	9/22/2025 3:50 PM
80	Would be great if the docks at Coughlin park could be cleared of goose poop. There are many ways to divert the geese from hanging out on the docks	9/22/2025 2:42 PM

81	Protect them all.	9/22/2025 11:23 AM
82	Cleaner bathrooms	9/21/2025 9:49 AM
83	Preserving the waterfront for public enjoyment ,already have too many things built that privatize the waterfront	9/20/2025 7:01 PM
84	Shuffle board courts	9/20/2025 11:21 AM
85	More parking	9/20/2025 8:05 AM
86	More parking	9/19/2025 7:14 PM
87	Our parks are beautiful but updated restrooms and possibly one at Coghlin would be nice. Better if it weren't solely on residents to pay for - we need to capture tourism dollars for infrastructure	9/18/2025 5:36 PM
88	Improvements or reconstruction of Oval Beach restaurant, restrooms, and beach patrol buildings are needed. Make it a destination rather than a concession stand. The building was underwhelming and a missed opportunity since its inception. Mount Baldhead Park observation platform is also in dire need of reconstruction and removal of ugly chain link and barbed wire fencing around radar tower.	9/17/2025 5:34 PM
89	Nicer less controlling fire department	9/17/2025 1:22 PM
90	Stop wasting money on parks that only serve one of the smallest populations of Saugatuck's residents	9/15/2025 9:37 PM
91	Oval needs an overhaul of the infrastructure. I've seen beautifully done multi-purpose spaces with bathrooms, concession and restaurants facilities as I travel and we should look at this when Oval is redone. Kudos to Council and PPW for working on Baldy restrooms and decking!	9/15/2025 9:13 AM
92	Times are changing, with more local business owners invested downtown, now is the time to start building year-round attractions for Saugatuck. Even beginning with small steps — like a seasonal rink at Wicks Park or a simple tubing lane at Mt. Baldhead — could help extend the visitor season, support businesses, and keep our town vibrant beyond summer. We don’t need to do everything at once, but starting somewhere will set the foundation for Saugatuck’s future as a true four-season destination.	9/14/2025 11:22 PM
93	Clean and ADA compliant bathrooms	9/14/2025 5:13 PM
94	Our city parks foremost need to be PROTECTED by our elected city leadership. It is not the city of Saugatuck’s responsibility to take care of the homeless. We need ordinances so our parks/pavilions/gazebo don’t become future campgrounds. Look to near-by communities on Lake Michigan for guidance on how to develop language and enforcement. Let the non-profits take care of housing options & the citizens of Saugatuck can donate individually as desired to help these individuals.	9/11/2025 12:51 PM
95	The city needs to do a better job maintaining our current parks and should not focus on creating more parks to maintain, but to better take care of the parks we have for resident and visitor use.	9/11/2025 12:26 PM
96	We need to have ordinances to prevent our picturesque parks, especially Wicks Park with its iconic gazebo, from becoming an overnight stay location.	9/11/2025 11:59 AM
97	-Formalization of John Woolam walking trail from west side chain ferry landing to Oval Beach, Mt. Baldhead Park and Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area. Trail improvements, better signage, etc. are needed to allow families with young children to use these assets. -More consistent chain ferry service, which should run reliably every day during posted hours from Memorial Day to Labor Day weather permitting. As it stands now, the chain ferry is advertised as an amenity of the city yet often closes early or simply does not run on days it should. I have personally witnessed tourists waiting for the chain ferry that never comes leaving them “stranded” on the west side of the river.	9/11/2025 11:14 AM
98	Wicks - remodel/refurbish gazebo	9/10/2025 5:22 PM
99	steps and viewing area on Mt. Baldhead	9/10/2025 3:06 PM
100	Signage for the new Saugatuck Wilds.	9/10/2025 12:42 PM
101	better restroom facilities....everywhere	9/10/2025 11:40 AM

102	Picnic tables and benches with adequate waste disposal at all parks.	9/9/2025 9:43 PM
103	Restrooms are needed in Coughlin Park. The "Shoppers Dock" was expanded and there was no further thought to where the excess people coming in on vessels were to find bathrooms. They have to walk to the other end of town or come in private establishments.	9/9/2025 2:15 PM
104	Public restrooms near the Coghlin Park	9/9/2025 10:55 AM
105	Rest rooms near Coghlin Park end of town.	9/9/2025 10:15 AM
106	The gazebo at Wick's park is in need of updates.	9/8/2025 9:06 PM
107	Mildred Peterson could use a few more benches.	9/8/2025 8:25 PM
108	Ice skating in one of the parks	9/8/2025 3:14 PM
109	Restrooms needed at coughlin park	9/8/2025 2:57 PM
110	Public restrooms downtown (by Village Square playground) are in desperate need of attention and upgrades. These are gross and embarrassing.	9/8/2025 1:46 PM
111	Oval beach pedestrian traffic is dangerous	9/8/2025 1:00 PM
112	More trash cans, pet waste stations, fish cleaning station	9/8/2025 10:24 AM
113	Oval Beach Improved accessibility (ADA-compliant pathways, ramps, beach mats) Expanded restroom and shower facilities to handle peak summer crowds Better parking flow and signage to reduce congestion Shaded picnic areas for families Mt. Baldhead Park & Staircase Staircase maintenance and structural upgrades Trail erosion control and safety railings Wayfinding signs connecting to surrounding trails and riverfront Chain Ferry Improved accessibility at docking points Updated signage for visitors (hours, fees, connections to trails/parks) Better integration with bike and pedestrian routes Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area Habitat restoration and invasive species removal Boardwalk or trail improvements for durability and accessibility Interpretive signage on ecology and history Coghlin Park Upgraded docks and fishing access Enhanced lighting for evening use and safety Public restrooms or improved facilities Cook Park & Rose Garden Landscape maintenance and seasonal plantings Seating and shade structures Event infrastructure (electric hookups, trash/recycling stations) John Woolam Trail Trail surface maintenance and widening for shared use (walkers + cyclists) Mile markers and wayfinding signs Lighting in key areas for safety Village Square Park Playground updates (accessible play structures, surfacing) Picnic shelters and restrooms Community gathering space enhancements (gazebo, performance space upgrades) Mildred Peterson Nature Preserve Trail maintenance and signage for low-impact use Habitat protection improvements Benches or quiet reflection areas Wicks Park Riverfront seating upgrades Performance area improvements for concerts/events Shade structures and landscaping Saugatuck Wilds & Regional Trails (incl. Blue Star Highway Bike Lanes) Improved trail connectivity between Saugatuck, Douglas, and surrounding areas Safety features along Blue Star Highway bike lanes (buffered lanes, signage) Maintenance and clear wayfinding for multi-use trail system	9/8/2025 9:32 AM
114	Public restrooms at Coghlin Park; Walkable path to Oval Beach along Perryman/Park	9/8/2025 8:36 AM
115	Restroom on south end of town.	9/7/2025 9:42 PM
116	Coughlin park bathrooms Wicks park bathroom upgrade	9/7/2025 8:44 PM
117	More trash cans	9/7/2025 5:32 PM
118	I would like to use the chain ferry more often and would appreciate a lower fare for city residents. I remember when I could buy a season's worth of tokens for a modest fee.	9/7/2025 2:08 PM
119	I think they all look great!	9/7/2025 8:36 AM
120	Keep natural areas natural!!	9/6/2025 6:25 PM
121	Allow dogs at Oval Beach in non peak months- September through May	9/6/2025 4:48 PM
122	Our parks are excellent	9/6/2025 2:42 PM
123	More activities at the gazebo. Fire pits or places. More things to do in winter	9/6/2025 12:21 PM
124	Fireplaces or pits. More winter activities. More things to do at the gazebo	9/6/2025 12:09 PM

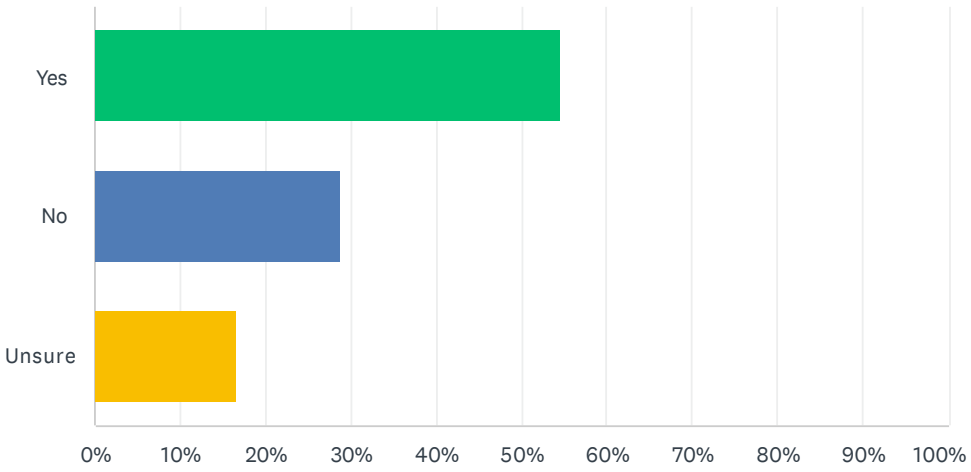
125	The Rose Park used to be beautiful and worth a visit. Remember when brick wall was covered in plants and lots and lots of HAPPY Birds...now nothing. Remember when park had many beautiful roses, and other flowers...now nothing. Whoever destroyed the rose garden needs to be replaced. Please restore the bird wall and lovely rose garden.	9/6/2025 12:37 AM
126	Put it a fire pit. Ice skating rink, more winter activities	9/5/2025 9:43 PM
127	Extend the boardwalk as far as possible	9/5/2025 9:40 PM
128	Maintain what is there	9/5/2025 9:07 PM
129	A sign to explain about the InterUrban Trail history and the Mildred Peterson Preserve and at North Street. Events for Locals held at the newer park areas.	9/5/2025 8:45 PM
130	A permanent outdoor performance structure in Coughlin Park. Something with viewing and acoustics thought of as part of the design.	9/5/2025 8:00 PM
131	Shuffle board at village square	9/5/2025 7:57 PM
132	Engage those who are frequent users especially young families … locals and tourists	9/5/2025 5:59 PM
133	None I can think of	9/5/2025 4:46 PM
134	None	9/5/2025 4:43 PM
135	I was with a friend who is in a wheelchair this past weekend and there are spots along the waterfront that are inaccessible. There are "ramps" in a few spots, but they have such a huge lip on them you can't get a wheelchair up them.	9/5/2025 2:06 PM
136	Restrooms at Saugatuck Wilds	9/5/2025 2:03 PM
137	Add tables and benches for playing dominoes, chess, checkers, cards.	9/5/2025 1:23 PM
138	I need to visit these parks and trails. SAFETY first	9/5/2025 10:59 AM
139	Shuffle board in village square	9/5/2025 10:08 AM
140	More seats	9/5/2025 9:24 AM
141	More ATM machines, businesses incentivizing the use of cash over plastic.	9/5/2025 8:37 AM
142	More Bike racks at all areas	9/5/2025 8:28 AM
143	None	9/5/2025 8:07 AM
144	I think it would be nice to have even more seating in Wick's Park. I love when I visit and there's a bunch of people sat enjoying the serenity of the park	9/5/2025 7:37 AM
145	More Bathrooms	9/5/2025 7:20 AM
146	Better bathrooms downtown.	9/3/2025 6:29 PM
147	The restroom at Wicks Parj could use new bathroom toilets. I would hate to see the building torn down but remodeled.	9/3/2025 10:37 AM
148	Public restroom additions.	9/3/2025 10:34 AM
149	Bathrooms at coglin park and charter fishing dock/ fish cleaning station	8/31/2025 5:39 PM
150	Picnic table in wicks park, public pickleball courts downtown would be really cute, and more flowers and landscaping in Coghlin park	8/31/2025 9:26 AM
151	#1 Dune steps for the elderly, or anyone, at Oval Beach. #2 Lower the cost at Oval Beach	8/30/2025 9:42 PM
152	I think they are fine as of now	8/30/2025 7:09 PM
153	Water refill stations at all parks. Saugatuck Wilds: Picnic tables and restroom with running water	8/30/2025 5:49 PM
154	Improved restrooms	8/30/2025 4:28 PM
155	Mt Baldhead needs more than just bathrooms. The city walks all need major improvement.	8/30/2025 3:39 PM

55

156	Stop people from smoking weed in/near the children's park	8/30/2025 12:42 PM
157	Baldhead is run down	8/30/2025 10:34 AM
158	We don't need more parks we can't afford to take care of the ones we have.	8/30/2025 8:08 AM
159	Reduce deer to improve the native species of plants and animals. Very little exists under 6'. Not only does this visually affect the terrain there is little habitat for animals and birds. The ecosystem is crumbling.	8/30/2025 7:39 AM
160	Mt Baldhead could use a little tidying up at the parking area	8/30/2025 7:24 AM
161	Ordinance to allow law enforcement to prevent use of city parks as an encampment.	8/30/2025 6:07 AM
162	Restrooms	8/30/2025 4:54 AM
163	more flower beds	8/29/2025 7:54 PM
164	Bathroom	8/29/2025 6:11 PM
165	Bathroom at Coghlin Park	8/29/2025 5:48 PM
166	Parking is needed at all of these places and trails	8/29/2025 5:25 PM
167	Unable to comment	8/29/2025 5:17 PM

Q21 Is there a need for an additional public restroom downtown?

Answered: 320 Skipped: 66



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	54.69%	175
No	28.75%	92
Unsure	16.56%	53
TOTAL		320

PPW Committee Planning Recommendations				
Park Improvements	**2024/2025 Status**	**Category**	**2024 Comment**	**11-2025 Comment**
Mount Baldy	Active	Large	Restrooms and step repair planned/underway. What about invasives, parking lot, and radar building?	Restrooms and step repair underway Invasives/revegetation nearly complete
Village Square	Active	Small	Basketball Court Resurfacing: can the surface include art?	Plan now includes tennis and basketball courts; 12/10/2025 MI DNR Trust Fund Grants will be announced
Airport Property	Active	Small	Naming project - involve students? PPW take the lead?	Complete
Cook Park	Active	Medium	Willow tree removal – what's next?	Tree Replacement Complete. Should we pursue better understanding of park boundaries and uses?
Wicks Park	Inactive	Large	Restroom improvements	Improvements still needed; Restroom concerns validated by 2025 Master Plan Survey
Oval Beach	Inactive	Small	Playground Spinner needs placement – Oval Beach possible?	No Playground Spinner for Oval Beach See Long-Term Planning
Peterson Preserve	Inactive	Large	Need to address infrastructure and invasives	Invasives to be included in comprehensive invasive study. Infrastructure remains an issue

PPW Committee Planning Recommendations				
Park Improvements	**2024/2025 Status**	**Category**	**2024 Comment**	**11-2025 Comment**
Saugatuck Natural Area	Active	Small	Ryan is finishing updates to the Management Document. PPW involvement?	ODC proposal to be presented to City Council at 12/3 Workshop that includes Invasives removal and trail recommendations. Will need to implement trail recommendations in 2026
Coughlin Park	n/a	Large	n/a	New restroom should be investigated; high priority for survey respondents
Comprehensive Park Review	Inactive	Small/Medium	Inventory parks – what's good and what could be improved	?
Environmental				
Invasive Species Program	Active	Small	The focus is on community education. Website development is underway. Kalamazoo River invasives and wooly adelgid have been past focus but there are many more.	Received proposal from ODC ACD? KNC? Will continue to be a priority in 2026+
Native Plants	Active	Small	Encourage "Pocket Prairie" development in parks and by homeowners; first planting at Peterson Preserve. Review mowing regulations	In addition to Peterson Preserve, we have identified two additional Pocket Prairie locations. Quotes requested from KNC, ODC, and John Clese
Kalamazoo River Greenway	Inactive	Large	Spearheaded by OTC; need to determine status. Catalog current	Remove? No identified involvement for PPW Committee

PPW Committee Planning Recommendations				
Park Improvements	**2024/2025 Status**	**Category**	**2024 Comment**	**11-2025 Comment**
			usage in city of herbicides and pesticides; assess waterway impact	
Sustainable Community	?	Large	Engage with MI Green Communities Initiative	?
Dark Sky Initiative	Inactive	Large	Assess streetlights. Start with Lights Out - like Douglas?	Good effort in 2025; will attempt again in 2026 Good feedback for dark sky lighting on 2025 Master Survey
Infrastructure				
Blue Star Trail	Active	Extra Large	Reaffirm commitment	Reaffirm commitment
Streetscaping	Inactive	Large	Improve sidewalk, landscaping, and signage uniformity. Butler Street consideration with lead water line replacement	Should planning begin in 2026?
Saugatuck Sign on Holland Street	Active	Small	Artistic Involvement?	Replaced and demolished
Maple Street	Active	Extra Large	Pedestrian/cyclist safety	Sidewalk planned; complete from PPW perspective
Park Street	Active	Extra Large	PPW had this as a focus; still need us?	?
Bicycle Racks and Fix-It Station(s)	Inactive	Small	Friends of the Blue Star Trail involvement possible	CVB addressed this; complete?
Kayak Launches	Inactive	Medium	Identify areas for public kayak launch (canoes and paddleboards too)	?
Long-Term (Dream Big) Projects				

PPW Committee Planning Recommendations				
Park Improvements	**2024/2025 Status**	**Category**	**2024 Comment**	**11-2025 Comment**
Community Rec Center	Inactive	Extra Large	Is there a desire for a community rec center?	Discuss…
Property Acquisitions	Inactive	Extra Large	Can we acquire the Peterson Mill Property when available?	Discuss…
Public Art Partnership	Inactive	Large	Encourage more art in public spaces, some could be rotating. Partner with SCA?	Discuss…
Tri-Community Connectivity		Large	Key Component of the Tri-Community 5-Year Parks Plan (parks, trails, waterways, schools, etc.)	? Being addressed by Kalamazoo River Greenway project?
Oval Beach Infrastructure				This is big – will need to be Council priority
Funding				
Develop Gifting Process	Active	Large	Develop donation policies; create 501c3 foundation for gifts to City? Create Friends of the Parks?	Delete - Not a PPW task
Miscellaneous				
Add Staff to Support Parks and Park Projects	Inactive			Hired Michelle!

CITY OF SAUGATUCK
PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

The City of Saugatuck features 12 parks that include a mix of unique pocket parks, natural areas, and active spaces. Refer to page 70 for the park facility matrix.

MINI PARK

COGHLIN PARK

Coghlin Park is a 0.5-acre site located in downtown Saugatuck and includes 200' of Kalamazoo River shoreline. The Park is primarily open space that is utilized for weddings and festivals such as the popular annual Venetian Festival. The park also offers “shoppers” docks that allow boaters to park and enjoy the downtown.

Park Features: Open space for free play or picnicking, art sculpture, picnic pavilion, waterfront access with docks and paved paths, festival space, picnic tables, benches, and fishing.

Opportunities: The existing shelter/gazebo has fixed picnic tables that allow for some seating but overall the structure is not configured for other types of use such as Music in the Park. During special events, a separate temporary stage has been utilized in the south-east corner of the park. Consider adding a permanent band shell, a restroom building, and expanded floating docks.

Accessibility Rating = **2**





MINI PARK

COOK PARK

Cook Park is a one-acre green space with an overlook at the Kalamazoo River used for art fairs/watercraft and fireworks viewing. Lake frontage is leased from city and used for boat mooring by Singapore Yacht Club. This park is utilized primarily by the City for the Art Fair and its identity as a public park is less than other community parks due to an ambiguous boundary on where the park begins and ends.

Park Features: open space for free play or picnicking, art sculpture, waterfront access with boardwalk and docks, picnic tables, festival space, scenic views, and fishing.

Opportunities: Review options for boardwalk renovation and explore the addition of a walking path along Water Street to improve accessibility of area.

Accessibility Rating = **2**



JONES PARK

Jones Park is a 0.5-acre park located at the intersection of Butler, Water and Culver Streets in downtown Saugatuck. Formerly known as Information Booth Park because of the white building that holds pamphlets and maps about the area, it was renamed after the late Lyle A. Jones, a city police chief who held the position for 33 years.

Park Features: brick sidewalks, benches, landscaping, plaque dedicated to Chief Jones, and a scenic view of the Lake Kalamazoo Harbor.

Opportunities: Consider a maintenance plan for landscaping and a site identification sign.

Accessibility Rating = **4**



CITY OF SAUGATUCK PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

MINI PARK

MIZE ROSE GARDEN



Located in the heart of downtown Saugatuck at the intersection of Mason St and Butler St, the 0.2-acre garden is overflowing with unique roses and other flowers. The garden opened in 1998 and was a gift to the City from Roxie Ann Mize. Her estate gave the city $445,486 to create and maintain the garden in honor of her, her brother, Sam, and his wife, Doris.

Park Features: stone path, bench, landscaping, art, contemplation space, and ornamental fencing.

Opportunities: Consider a maintenance plan for the site, additional benches, and interpretive signs.

Accessibility Rating = **4**

WILLOW PARK



Willow Park is a 0.2-acre area that includes 132 feet of frontage on the Kalamazoo River and offers scenic views.

Park Features: waterfront access, scenic views, elevated wooden boardwalk, benches, fishing, and wildlife observation.

Opportunities: The elevated boardwalk decking and rails are reaching the end of their effective life-cycle and replacement is necessary. As part of the improvements to the boardwalk, lowering the rail sections to meet ADA guidelines.

Accessibility Rating = **3**

MINI PARK

WICKS PARK

Wicks Park is a 0.5-acre park on Water Street between Mary and Main Streets. The park uses are mostly passive in nature and include excellent views of the Kalamazoo River. The existing restroom has a mural depicting “A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte” by Georges Seurat which is a focal feature in the park, and the existing gazebo serves as prime location for the Music in the Park series which features popular bands. Given the proximity to the waterfront, Wicks Park has a high degree of visibility and visitors first impressions of the community are reflected by the park. The Saugatuck Chain Ferry is located just north of the park.

Park features include: waterfront access, scenic views, historical significance, restrooms, gazebo, art, benches, picnic tables, and open lawn space.

Opportunities: The existing restroom and gazebo are not ADA accessible and although it may be challenging to achieve, consider modifications to allow for access by all. Parking access for this park can be a challenge on busy days as the parking overlaps with downtown parking.

Accessibility Rating = **2**





CITY OF SAUGATUCK
PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

VILLAGE SQUARE PARK

This is a 2.5-acre centrally located park at the three corners of the intersection of Butler and Main Street and is the City's only neighborhood park. The park has both active and passive zones with the northwest corner of the park containing the children's playground and serving as the site of Memorial Day/Veterans Day festivities. The southwest section of the park is more passive in use and contains a walking path, benches and statuary art.

Park Features: playground equipment, tennis court, basketball court, bike racks, restrooms, drinking fountain, benches, walking path, art, pedestrian walk connection to Griffith Street, Veteran's Memorial, and landscaping.

Opportunities: Adaptive re-use to repurpose tennis court and basketball court areas for pickleball and multi-use sport court. Landscape maintenance to improve sight lines in southwest quadrant. Expansion of the Veterans Memorial in northwest quadrant. Pedestrian crossings and park signage. Since the park is separated by existing roads, work to develop strategy to create a cohesive park.

Accessibility Rating = **3**





REGIONAL PARK

OVAL BEACH

Oval Beach is a highly used facility consisting of 50 acres that is adjacent to Mt. Baldhead to the east and Lake Michigan to the west. Oval Beach is open year-round and has been rated by Conde Naste's Traveler Magazine as one of the 25 best shorelines in the world. This facility provides direct access to the beaches of Lake Michigan and is so popular that during peak summer hours the existing parking lot reaches capacity quickly. This facility requires a fee for entry and the City offers parking passes that can be purchased in advance.



Park Features: public beach, swimming, waterfront access to Lake Michigan, nature trails, concession stand, restrooms, changing rooms, concrete plaza area with tables and benches, paved parking area with approximately 480 spaces, barbecue grills, picnic tables, beach/hiking trails, swing set, storage shed scenic views, and nature and wildlife observation.



Opportunities: upgrades to the Restroom/concession/changing room building to increase capacity and provide storage, addition of new accessible playground equipment, addition of kayak and beach equipment rentals, improved accessibility, and additional picnic tables and grills.

Accessibility Rating = **3**

CITY OF SAUGATUCK PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

REGIONAL PARK

MT. BALDHEAD PARK

Mt. Baldhead Park, locally known as Mt Baldy, is a 100-acre park on the west bank of Kalamazoo River in the heart of a critical dune area that leads down to Oval Beach and Lake Michigan. The park features a 300-step wooden staircase that traverses up 250 feet to an observation deck on top of the Mt. Baldhead dune and offers panoramic views of Kalamazoo River valley and Lake Michigan. The park also is home to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Museum, which offers historical information about the site and area. Another iconic feature of the site includes the radar station tower which looks like a giant white ball on a tower and dates back to the 1950s. The tower, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was used by the U.S. government to monitor aircraft activity from the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Park Features: Picnic pavilion, restrooms, gravel parking, picnic tables, waterfront and beach access, boardwalk and docks, fishing, nature trails, scenic views, nature observation, historical significance, museum, and interpretive signs.

Opportunities: The viewing dock decking and rail are reaching the end of their useful life-cycle and in need of replacement. The stair case needs of maintenance and decking replacement. The restroom building, parking lot and viewing dock are deficient in ADA compliance. Consider improvements to the parking lot, restroom building, and viewing dock to improve barrier-free access and increase utilization. Consider adaptive re-use and maintenance issues related to the radar station tower. Consider adding a dock for visitors, camera for viewing from deck for ADA, educational opportunities for pavilion, wayfinding signage, and holistic activation of the site.

Accessibility Rating = **2**





NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

SAUGATUCK HARBOR NATURAL AREA

The Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area is a 173-acre tract of dune land along the Lake Michigan shore north of Oval Beach. It was acquired by the City of Saugatuck in 2011 with the help of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. The property, accessible from the Oval Beach parking lot, is the site of the original mouth of the Kalamazoo River, which was bypassed by the construction of the present channel in 1906. Much of it is a peninsula bounded by Lake Michigan, the Kalamazoo River and the Oxbow Lagoon. The latter is the original channel of the Kalamazoo River. The land demonstrates the unique geological and ecological features of Great Lakes dunes, including globally imperiled inter-dunal wetlands, Great Lakes shore and beach, Great Lakes marsh, and riparian shoreline and adjacent marshes. These features, as well as the plants, birds and other animals inhabiting them, are described under Natural Communities. Some of these inhabitants are quite rare in Michigan. To protect these species, dogs are not allowed in the Natural Area. The site also has historical significance as the site of the original mouth of the Kalamazoo River. Old pilings from the original river opening still extend out into Lake Michigan. A fishing settlement known as Fishtown was located on the north side of what is now the Oxbow Lagoon. The site was abandoned when the original mouth drifted closed soon after the opening of the present channel.

Park Features: Waterfront access, extensive network of beach/hiking trails, scenic views, historical significance, and nature and wildlife observation.

Opportunities: Consider the addition of wayfinding signage.

Accessibility Rating = **2**





CITY OF SAUGATUCK PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

OLD SAUGATUCK AIRPORT

The vacant, city-owned property includes approximately 154 acres of woods and fields within Saugatuck Township, east of 63rd St and 134th Ave. The site was originally intended to become an airport following the Great Depression, however the plan never materialized. Recently, the Outdoor Discovery Center completed a Strengths, Opportunity, Aspiration, and Results study to understand the natural features of the site and benefits of keeping it natural. The findings indicated that the east half of the site includes high-quality habitat that should be preserved and the west half of the site could be developed due to lower ecological quality.

Site Features: Natural areas, scenic views, wildlife and nature observation, and informal nature paths.

Opportunities: Development of an overall site Master Plan to guide development, open the park for public use, consider adding accessible parking, accessible trails, benches, picnic tables, formal nature trails, and wayfinding signs. Potential collaboration with the school district for development of cross-country trails and development of field space on the western half of the site.

Accessibility Rating = **0**





NATURAL RESOURCE AREA

MILDRED A. PETERSON NATURE PRESERVE AND INTERURBAN TRAIL

The Mildred A. Peterson Nature Preserve and Interurban Trail consists of 16-acres of pristine, natural habitat areas where native landscaping, wildlife, and water features can be observed. The preserve also features a section of the original interurban rail line that ran from Holland in the early 1900's and is now a trail.

Park Features: nature trail with benches, bird watching, observation of wildlife and wildflowers, scenic views on west edge of dammed backwater of Goshorn Creek, fishing, and historical significance.

Opportunities: Consider adding parking, a paved trail option for barrier-free access, benches, picnic tables, and interpretive signs.

Accessibility Rating = **2**





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Saugatuck Parks & Public Works Committee
2026 Schedule of Meetings

Saugatuck Parks & Public Works Committee meetings are held at Saugatuck City Hall, 102 Butler Street, Saugatuck, MI 49453 at 10:00 a.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month unless otherwise noted.

January 27, 2026

February 24, 2026

March 24, 2026

April 28, 2026

May 26, 2026

June 23, 2026

July 28, 2026

August 25, 2026

September 22, 2026

October 27, 2026

November 24, 2026

December 22, 2026