



Parks & Public Works Committee Agenda Item Report

FROM: Scott Herbert – Public Works Superintendent

MEETING DATE: December 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Priority Recommendations

DESCRIPTION:

The PPW Committee continues refining priorities to recommend to City Council for consideration as they approach their annual Strategic Planning Session.

BUDGET ACTION REQUIRED:

N/A

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REVIEW:

N/A

LEGAL REVIEW:

N/A

SAMPLE MOTION:

Discussion only.

PPW Committee Planning Recommendations				
Project	2024/2025 Status	Category	2024 Comment	11-2025 Comment

Projects in Progress: 2025/2026				
Village Square	Active	Large	Basketball Court Resurfacing: can the surface include art?	MI DNR Trust Fund Grant received. Should we pursue artistic court floors? Other ideas?
Maple Street	Active	Extra Large	Pedestrian/cyclist safety	Planned sidewalk is ending at apartments near North St.; what is cost to extend to North St.?
Mount Baldy Infrastructure and Revegetation	Active	Large	Restrooms and step repair planned/underway. What about invasives, parking lot, and radar building?	Restrooms and step repair underway. Invasives/revegetation proposals received. Pavilion still needs work.
Invasive Species Assessment	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.	City Council 2025/2026 priority. Received proposal from ODC for comprehensive citywide assessment in 2026. Awaiting other proposals.
Saugatuck Natural Area	Active	Small	Ryan is finishing updates to the Management Document. PPW involvement?	ODC proposal to remove invasives and assess trails was approved by City Council on 12/8. Will need to implement trail recommendations in 2026.

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Signage	Active	Large		PPW Committee volunteers to identify signage needs for our parks.
Park Street	Active	Extra Large	PPW had this as a focus; still need us?	This continues to be a priority
Blue Star Trail	Active	Extra Large	Reaffirm commitment	Still stalled by tribal concerns.
New Infrastructure				
Elizabeth Street	Inactive	Large	Not a priority	Planning priority in 2026 with construction targeted for 2027.
Downtown Fire Pit	Inactive	Large		Project proposed by CVB; awaiting Council decision. No role for PPW Committee?
Streetscaping	Inactive	Large	Improve sidewalks, landscaping, and signage. Butler Street consideration with lead water line replacement	Should Butler Street planning begin in 2026?
Community Supported Projects				
Wicks Park	Inactive	Large	Restroom improvements	Restroom concerns validated by 2025 Master Plan Survey
Coughlin Park	Inactive	Extra Large	n/a	New restroom should be investigated; high priority for Master Survey respondents

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Add more benches and picnic tables	n/a	Small	n/a	PPW Committee will make recommendations for locations and placement
PPW Committee Recommendations				
Peterson Preserve	Inactive	Large	Need to address infrastructure and invasives	Water level controls located on private property remain a concern. Invasives will be included in Invasives Assessment.
Park Infrastructure Maintenance	n/a			Inventory all park structures and estimate remaining lifespan to anticipate future replacement costs.
Native Plantings	Active	Small	Encourage “Pocket Prairie” development in parks and by homeowners; first planting at Peterson Preserve.	Volunteers will continue adding plantings to Peterson Preserve. Estimates have been received for 2 additional planting zones. Donations will be sought to defray costs.
Dark Sky Initiative	Inactive	Large	Assess streetlights. Start with Lights Out - like Douglas?	Good effort in 2025; will attempt again in 2026. Support for dark skies was

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				substantial in 2025 Master Survey
Sustainable Community	Inactive	Large	Engage with MI Green Communities Initiative	PPW Committee recommends.
Long-Term (Dream Big) Projects				
Community Rec Center	Inactive	Extra Large	Is there a desire for a community rec center?	School District has acquired land adjacent to Douglas Community Church that may include this project.
Property Acquisitions	Inactive	Extra Large	Can we acquire the Peterson Mill Property when available?	Peterson Mill acquisition is recommended
Public Art Partnership	Inactive	Large	Encourage more art in public spaces, some could be rotating. Partner with SCA?	PPW Committee suggests creating an artist's group be formed that could recommend sites and art
Oval Beach Infrastructure				Replace current concession/facilities. This is big – will need to be Council priority
Miscellaneous				
Add Staff to Support Parks and Park Projects	Inactive			Hired Michelle in 2025. Additional staff are still required.
Oval Beach	Inactive	Small	Playground Spinner needs placement – Oval Beach possible?	No Playground Spinner for Oval Beach

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				See Long-Term Planning
Comprehensive Park Review	Inactive	Small/Medium	Inventory parks – what’s good and what could be improved	Still makes sense to do this.
Bicycle Racks and Fix-It Station(s)	Inactive	Small	Friends of the Blue Star Trail involvement possible	CVB addressed racks; Fix-It Station still needed
Kayak Launches	Inactive	Medium	Identify areas for public kayak launch (canoes and paddleboards too)	Will be included in Kalamazoo River Greenway project
Street End Leases				Need to understand lease agreements
Cook Park				Determine park boundaries available for use by city residents