

CITY OF BRONSON COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

2022-2026



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CITY OF BRONSON

RECREATION PLAN 2022-2026

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I. INTRODUCTION

The 2022-2026 City of Bronson Community Recreation Plan was prepared by community officials to serve as a guide for future decision-making regarding recreational facility improvements and programs. This plan is the second five (5) year parks and recreation master plan that the City has developed and will serve as a decision-making tool for the next five (5) years.

The plan examines existing parks and recreation along with future opportunities and needs for the community and is intended to guide current and future decision makers in developing and improving community parks. The intent of this plan is also to enable the City of Bronson to apply for Federal and State grant programs that will assist in the funding of future projects.

This parks and recreation master plan was prepared for the City of Bronson but also examines parks and recreation opportunities that are available in neighboring communities.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Overview

The City of Bronson is located in the southwestern area of Branch County, which is mostly rural, located near the southern border of the mitt of Lower Michigan. Bronson is about 1.4 square miles in size, about 8 miles north from the Indiana boarder, at 41°52'20"N (Latitude), 85°11'41"W (Longitude). The city is 12 miles southwest of Coldwater, 12 miles northeast of Sturgis, 40 miles south of Battle Creek, and 56 miles southeast of Kalamazoo. The City of Bronson is bounded by Bronson Township to the north, west, south and bounded by Bethel Township to the east. The city is bisected by US-12 (also known as Chicago Street).

The main uses of land in the city are residential, commercial, industrial, public space, and agriculture. The city is in the Bronson Community School District with all school facilities located in the city.



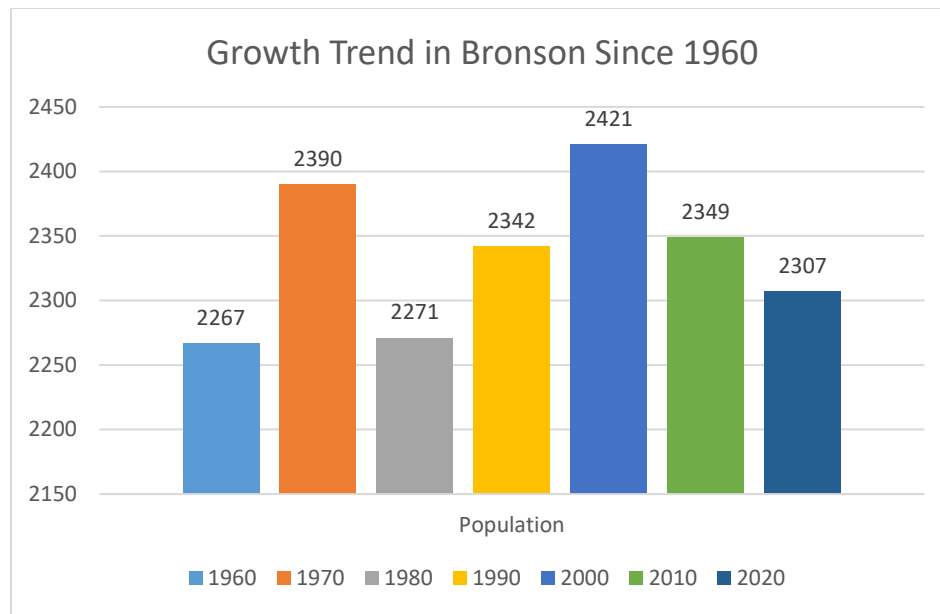


Figure 3- Growth Trend in Bronson Since 1960 (US Census Data)

The median age of Bronson residents in 2020 was 34.3 years which is much younger than the Michigan median age of 39.7 years. 7 percent of residents are Hispanic or Latino.

21.6 percent of residents are below the poverty level with the per capita income being \$22,125 which demonstrates the need for affordable recreation opportunities (according to 2009-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates). All of the parks in the City of Bronson are free of charge to residents of the city, neighboring communities, and tourists.

Household Data

	1990	2000	2010	2020
Households	902	891	834	924
Average Household Size	2.60	2.71	2.8	2.8
Median Age	n.a.	31.8	30.8	34.3

Figure 4- Household Data (US Census Data)

Owner-occupied housing accounts for 589 of the total households or 58 percent. Renter-occupied housing units accounts for 426 households or 42 percent. 924 housing units are occupied or 91 percent of the total housing units (1,016 total). The average household size is 2.4.

25% of Bronson residents are under the age of 18, 64% between the ages of 18 and 64, and 11% are over the age of 65. There are 691 households that have families or 68.1 percent of the city. This demonstrates the need for parks and recreation for people of all ages.

Land Use

A Master Plan indicating the Future Land Use for the City of Bronson is included in Appendix A.

Natural Features:

Topography- Bronson is characterized by flat topography. The city and most of the outlying areas in the surrounding townships have an elevation of about 918 feet above sea level, ranging from 885 to 935 feet.

Soils- Soils in Bronson consist of very deep well drained solids. The predominant series are Ormas, Branch, and Matherton. Corn and soybeans are the principal row crops. A few areas are used for pasture or wooded. Native vegetation is deciduous forest. Slopes range from 0 to 6 percent.

Climate- In the Bronson area, the July average temperature is a low of 59 degrees and a high of 82 degrees. The January minimum temperature is 15 degrees, with average highs near 30 degrees.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The City of Bronson is governed by a City Council made up of five members elected by the city residents. The City Manager oversees the day-to-day operations of the City with policy and legislative decisions made by City Council. The City Manager annually prepares the City budget, including the parks and recreation budget, with the City Council having final approval. The City Manager has primary responsibilities for the City's parks and recreation system and has the authority to accept grants under the direction of the City Council. The City Council has authority to purchase land on behalf of the community for parks and recreational purposes.

The administration, financing, and maintenance of the city park system are handled by the City Manager as directed by the City Council. The actual maintenance of City parks is performed by the City's Department of Public Works (DPW). The DPW has a staff of three (3) employees and are supervised by the Director of Utilities/Department of Public Works. Appendix B shows the City's organizational structure.

55 percent of the City's general fund revenues are derived from property taxes and 26 percent coming from State of Michigan revenue sharing. Parks and Recreation makes up 5 percent of the annual budget for the city.

For the 2022 fiscal year the City of Bronson has budgeted \$76,869 for parks and recreation operations, maintenance, and programming (see Figure 5). Figure 6 lays out the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for park improvements.

	2018-2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2020/2021	2021/2022
<u>Parks & Recreation</u>	Actual	Actual	Budget	Projected	Proposed
Wages & Benefits	12,479	15,307	17,673	7,444	17,341
Building Maintenance	11,950	11,750	3,250	700	2,450
Grounds & Landscape Maintenance	25,400	18,900	19,900	12,324	22,900
Recreation Programing	11,900	6,400	6,400	6,400	6,400
Utilities	5,400	5,400	5,400	6,109	5,900
Service Contracts	8,500	13,000	13,000	12,503	14,350
Property & Liability Insurance	713	734	807	711	888
Vehicles & Equipment	6,315	6,315	6,446	6,446	6,640
Total Parks & Recreation	82,657	77,807	72,877	52,637	76,869

Figure 5- Parks and Recreation Budget

Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan

Parks & Recreation	2021/2022	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Capital Improvement Plan	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected
Greenwald Park Mulch Update	3,000				3,000
Bronson's Backyard Repairs	500	500	500	500	500
Kiwanis Park Playground Enhancements	10,000	50,000	10,000		
Picnic Table Purchases	7,000				
Railroad Recreation Trail		50,000			
Douglas Park Mulch Update	2,000				2,000
Total	22,500	100,500	10,500	500	2,500

Figure 6- Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan

Recreation Programming and the Role of Volunteers

The City of Bronson has partnered with the Bronson Youth Recreation Association (BYRA) to provide youth recreation programs for the greater Bronson community. BYRA is operated almost entirely through volunteers. BYRA provides a number of recreation programs for the youth of the community including; girls' softball, Little League, boys' baseball, soccer, Rocket football and cheerleading, and a Summer Park Program. These programs provide services to

between four and five hundred (400-500) area children each year. There is a director for each program who oversees the coaches and scheduling.

BYRA is comprised of representatives from the following organizations:

1. Bronson Community Schools
2. City of Bronson
3. Branch County United Way
4. Chamber of Commerce
5. Bronson Kiwanis Club
6. Member at Large
7. Member at Large

The Summer Park Program provides additional recreation activities for children. The program runs for six weeks each summer at the Douglas Park building and offers programs and games as well as special events. It is free of charge for children between the ages of 6 and 12.

The Bronson Youth Center also provides recreation and activities for children and is run by the Bronson School District. The Youth Center is housed at the Chicago Street School and offers workout equipment as well as tutoring and mentoring. The City of Bronson has a close working relationship with the Bronson School District and will continue to look for ways to partner together on Parks and Recreation.

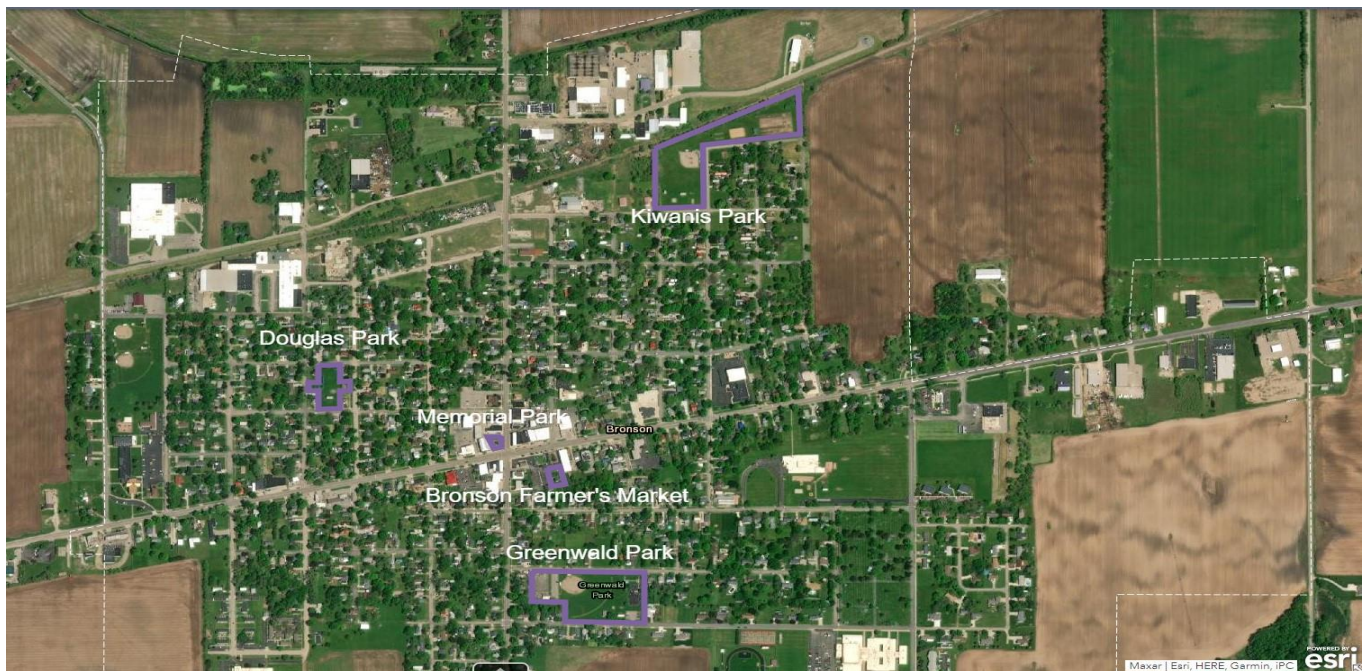
Volunteers and service organizations play a critical role for parks and recreation in the City of Bronson. Listed below are just a few of the many Parks and Recreation projects/outcomes provided by volunteers in the past:

- Bronson Youth Recreation Association Annual Recreation Programming
- Rubber safety mulch installation at Greenwald Park (Bronson's Backyard).
- Improved play areas, painted equipment, and placed new play equipment and park benches at Douglas Park as part of an Eagle Scout project performed by Ruhl Cook.
- Planning & Building of the Bronson's Backyard Playground.

III. RECREATION INVENTORY

A complete inventory of the City of Bronson Parks facilities was performed in order to determine the recreational needs for the future. The purpose of this inventory is to provide a complete description of the strengths and weaknesses of existing facilities and opportunities for the future.

The City of Bronson has four (4) City parks with a total of 13.75 acres of park land equaling 6.1 acres per thousand residents.



The MDNR establishes recommended service areas for each classification of parks. Mini-parks and neighborhood parks have a service area boundary of about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ of a mile.

Accessibility

The city parks were also given an accessibility rating based on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. A grading system was developed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in an effort to identify the accessibility of a park. The grading system is based on a five (5) point scale.

MDNR Accessibility Grading System for Parks and Recreation Facilities

Accessibility Grade	Definition
1	None of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
2	Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3	Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4	The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5	The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design.

Figure 7-

Mini-Parks- A mini-park is defined as a park which addresses limited, isolated, or unique recreational needs. Mini-parks are usually less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile distance to a residential setting and are less than an acre in size. The City of Bronson has one (1) park that is classified as a mini-park.

Memorial Park



Size: Approximately .16 acres (6,700 square feet)

Location: Memorial Park is prominently located in Downtown Bronson at Chicago Street (US-12) and Matteson Street.

Uses and Amenities: The Park features a gazebo in the northwest portion of the park that can be used as a stage during events or weddings. The Park features a cascading rock water feature in the middle of the park with benches, a brick walkway, and beautiful landscaping. The Park also features memorials dedicated to residents of Bronson who served in the military. The Park is enjoyed as a resting spot for residents and shoppers visiting the downtown area. The space is also utilized for memorial ceremonies on Memorial Day and Veterans Day as well as during the Annual Polish Festival in July. This Park was improved in 2016 and 2017 and is in great condition.

Accessibility Rating: 4- The entire Park meets accessibility guidelines. Ramp accessible sidewalk provides access to the other portion of the park and a pathway through the park provides access to the memorials and the gazebo.

Bronson Farmers Market:



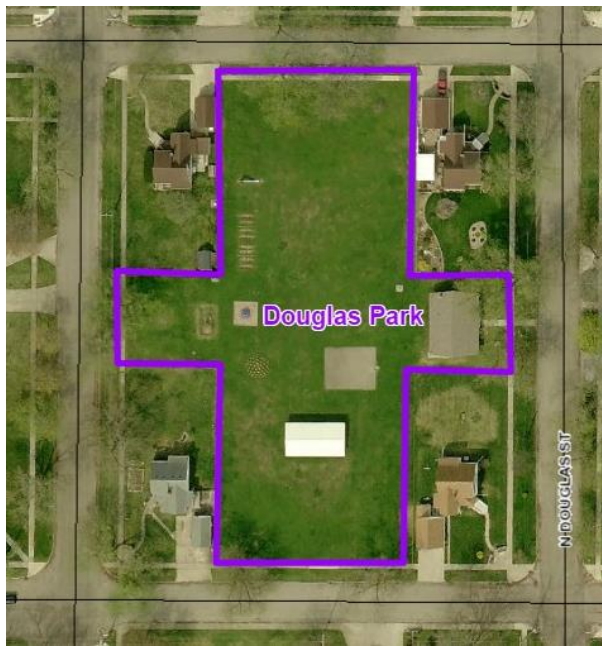
Size: .28 acres

Location: The Bronson Farmer's Market is located at 7 Foy Court and shares a parking lot with City Hall in Downtown Bronson.

Use and Amenities: In 2020, the city finished construction of the Bronson Farmers Market. The property was acquired in 2019 to serve as a permanent location for the market and to serve as a gathering place for the community. Starting in the summer of 2021, the farmers market was the host of the city's summer concert series. The pavilion is 30 feet by 60 feet and features picnic tables, outlets, and lighting for evening events. The market structure has attracted more vendors offering a better selection of fresh fruits and vegetables for the community. It has also been used for other community events such as the Polish Festival, City Council meetings, and as a resting place for Downtown visitors.

Accessibility Rating: 4- All of the park and facilities meet ADA accessible guidelines.

Neighborhood Parks- Neighborhood Parks are defined as the basic unit of the park system and typically serves a residential area of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile distance. A size of 5-10 acres is considered optimal for this type of park. This type of park has a focus on informal active and passive recreation.



Douglas Park

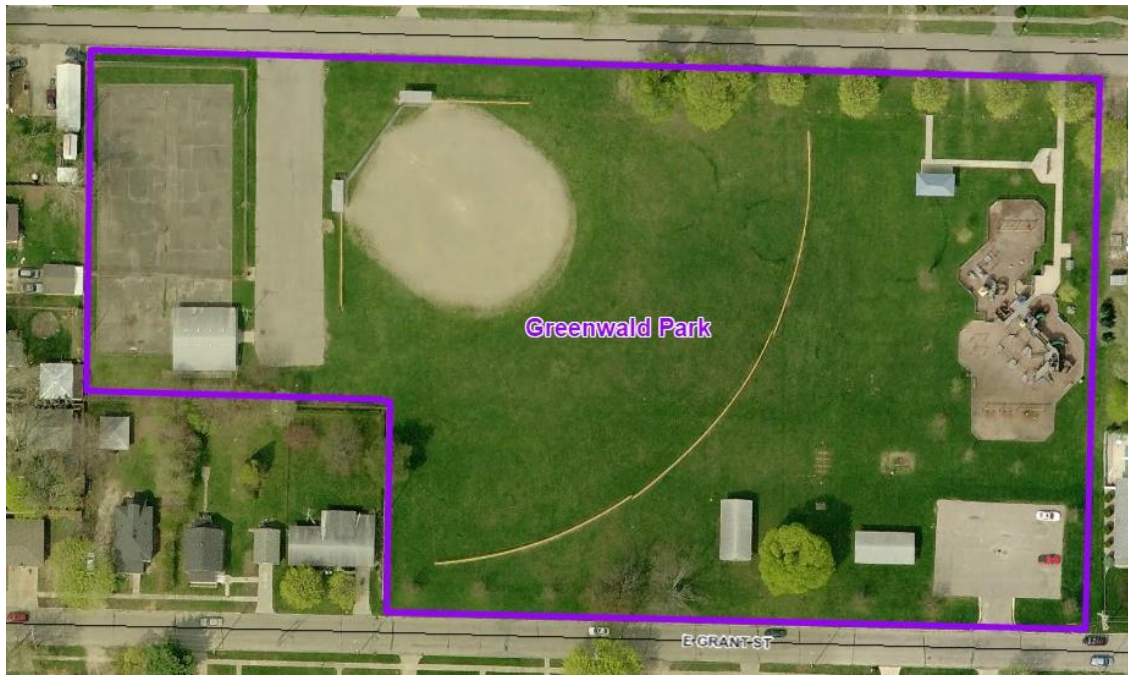
Size: 1.27 acres

Location: Douglas Park is bordered by North Douglas Street to the east, Franklin Street to the north, North Ruggles to the west, and York Street to the south.

Use and Amenities: Douglas Park features an open grass area, playground equipment, benches, picnic pavilion, BBQ grill, basketball court, and a brick building with space for events. The playground features a jungle gym, swing set, and slide with blue rubber safety mulch which was added in 2013. The brick building is used by local organizations like the Girl Scouts and Brownies for meetings. The building is also available for private events for residents and non-residents for a small fee. Douglas Park is host to the annual kid's day held during the Polish Festival in July.

Accessibility Rating: 2- Some of the park and facilities meets accessibility guidelines. The two restrooms in the park building were reconstructed and turned into one handicap accessible restroom during the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Greenwald Park (Bronson's Backyard)



Size: 5.42 acres

Location: Greenwald Park is bordered by East Grant Street to the south, Roosevelt Street to the north, and residential housing to the east and west.

Use and Amenities: Greenwald Park is the largest of the city parks. Features of this park include a large playground known as the Bronson's Backyard. The 10,000 square foot structure was built in 2000 by the community. Greenwald Park also features a baseball diamond with dugouts, jungle gym, swing set, restroom building, two (2) covered picnic pavilions, two BBQ grills (2) and a park building. The Park building is used by local non-profit organizations and for private events for a small fee.

Accessibility Rating: 2- Some of the park and facilities meet ADA accessible guidelines.

Kiwanis Park



Size: 6.90 acres

Location: Kiwanis Park is located in the north east portion of the city. The land was donated by the Bronson Kiwanis Club and designated as a public park. The Park is bordered by E. Railroad Street in the southwest, North Lincoln Street to the southeast, Raymond Street to the south west and Matilda Street to the northeast. The northern boundary of the park is bordered by the former Indiana Northeastern Railroad Company rail line that passed through the city.

The city would like to update and add new playground equipment to this park. The Park is underutilized and adding new playground equipment at this park ranked very high during the survey process.

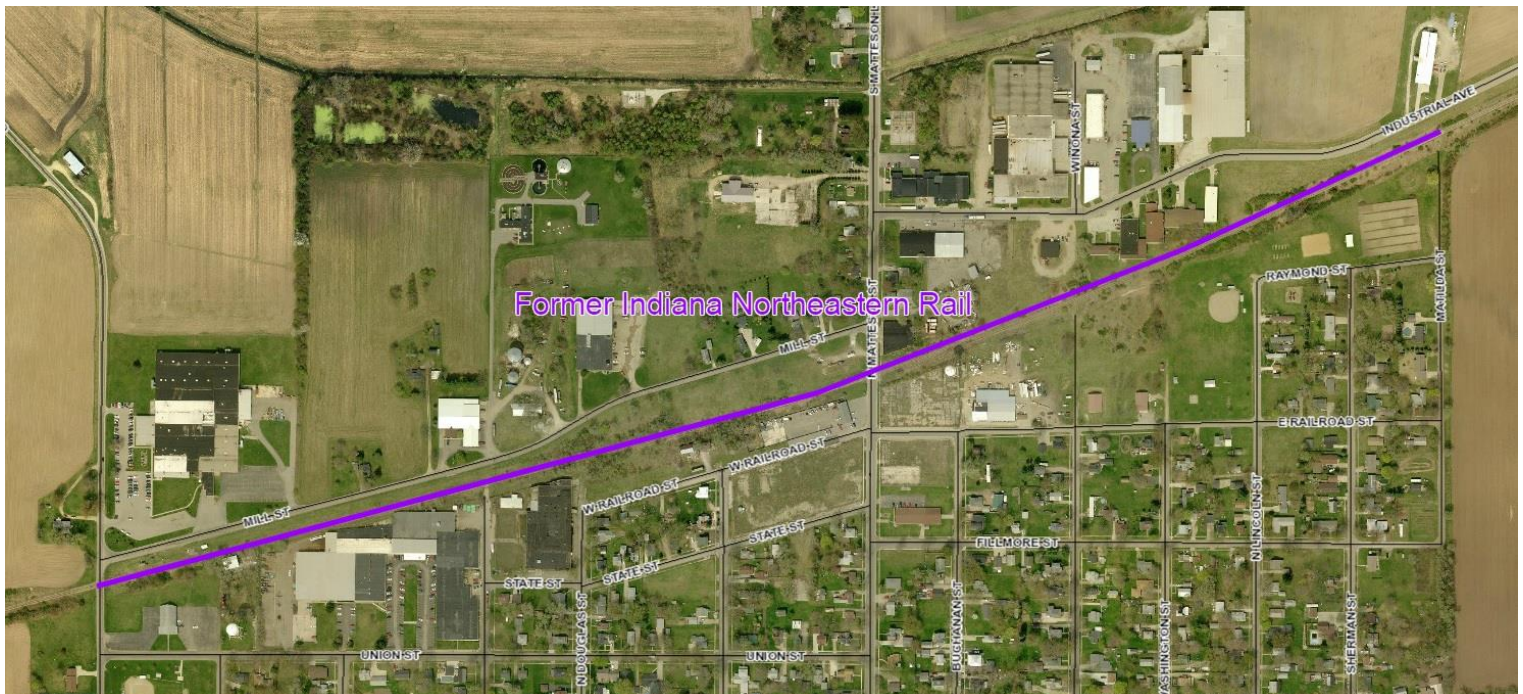
Use and Amenities: The Park features two picnic pavilions, the Community Garden, basketball court, slide, swing set, animal springers, baseball/softball field with dugouts, six (6) sets of horseshoe pits, beach volleyball court, BBQ grill, open space, and restroom building.

Accessibility Rating- 1- None of the site elements meet 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

Future Recreation Connector Trail (Former Indiana Northeastern Rail Line):

In 2014, the City finalized the purchase of abandoned rail line property which passes through the City near the northern border. A Phase I environmental study of the property was performed during the purchase process and the rails have been removed. The City purchased this property with the goal of making this a recreational connector trail for the community connecting Kiwanis Park and the other parks of the community through the existing sidewalk network. Substantial clear cutting and site preparation is needed prior to developing this trail. The trail property is approximately two thirds (2/3) of a mile in length with a width of about 150 feet. Unfortunately, the potential to make this a connector trail to a regional trail connecting Coldwater, Quincy, and Jonesville is limited as adjacent property owners have bought portions of the rail bed outside of the City limits in order to prevent a regional trail.

The entire scope of work needed to construct this trail has not yet been determined. The city is in the process of creating a Trail Master Plan to plan for this trail and adding connecting sidewalks at the start and of the trail. The City's Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan has budgeted \$50,000 in 2022-2023 fiscal year for this trail project. Additional costs will be added as they are identified.



School Facilities

There are four (4) Bronson Community Public School sites within the City of Bronson, providing additional recreation opportunities for community residents and students of the Bronson School District.

Chicago Street School- This site is the location of the Bronson Community School District Administration building. The site features playground equipment at the north end of the property and a gymnasium inside of the building.

Anderson Elementary School- The site features playground equipment, two (2) soccer fields, a pavilion, a small gymnasium, and a basketball court.

Ryan Elementary School – The site features two baseball diamonds, a small soccer field, a track, a small gymnasium, and playground equipment.

Bronson Jr./Sr. High- The site features five (5) tennis courts, six (6) lane track, three (3) baseball diamonds, a gymnasium, and a football/soccer field.

Private Recreational Facilities within the City of Bronson

Bronson Strike Zone Bowling Alley-The Bronson Strike Zone Bowling Alley provides recreation to the city and surrounding areas. The Strike Zone provides both bowling (16 lanes) and seasonal beach volleyball leagues (outdoors).

Saint Mary's Assumption Church and School- The Saint Mary's Assumption Church and school owns two baseball diamonds behind the church and school. The fields are leased to and used by the Bronson Youth Recreation Association Little League. The site also features playground equipment. The BYRA Little League constructed a new restroom building and concession stand which was built in the summer of 2018 to serve the baseball fields.

Regional Recreation Facilities and Opportunities

Regional parks are classified as parks able to serve communities within a one-hour drive time and are usually larger than 200 acres. Regional parks are typically made of land set aside for preservation of natural beauty or environmental significance, recreation use, historical, or cultural interest use. There are a number of regional, Branch County, and St. Joe County parks within an hour drive time of the City of Bronson.

Coldwater Linear Park (Coldwater, Michigan) – This City of Coldwater Park Offers mogul fields built for mountain biking and is over 25 acres in size.

Heritage Recreation Area (Coldwater, Michigan) – City of Coldwater Park featuring an Olympic sized swimming pool and waterslide, softball and soccer fields, winding paved trail, tennis courts, sledding hill, and a skate park.

Memorial Park (Coldwater, Michigan) –Branch County Park located on Messenger Lake, west of Downtown Coldwater. The 30-acre site features boat launches, restrooms, parking, campgrounds, picnic facilities, public beaches, and athletic facilities.

Angel Cove Park (Coldwater, Michigan) - Branch County Park located west of Coldwater. The Park is approximately 6 acres and features boat launches, restrooms, and a campground.

Gilead Lake Park (Bronson, Michigan)- Branch County Park located in Gilead Township. This Park is located 6 miles south of Bronson. The Park features boat launches, restrooms, parking, and picnic facilities.

Quincy Marble Lake Campgrounds (Quincy, Michigan)- Branch County Park located in Quincy. The Park is approximately 60 acres with boat launches, restrooms, parking, campgrounds, picnic facilities, and public beaches.

Riverbend Park (Union City, Michigan)- Branch County Park located northwest of Coldwater on Union City Road this park is 25 acres with picnic facilities and canoe access.

Pahl Point Park (Centerville, Michigan) - 15-acre site along the St. Joseph River north of Centerville. The site offers a gravel access road and parking, restrooms, picnic facilities, and nature trails.

Covered Bridge Park (Three Rivers, Michigan) - 12-acre waterfront site located on the south side of St. Joseph River opposite Pahl Point Park. The Park features water access to the river for small boats, gravel parking, picnic facilities, picnic shelter, restrooms, nature trails, nature pond, and play equipment.

Doyle Community Center Indoor Facility (Sturgis, Michigan)- Located on North Franks Avenue in Sturgis, the Doyle Community Center is a 75,000 square foot facility that houses a range of recreational facilities. The center features three (3) fitness rooms used for cardiovascular equipment, training, and free weights; an aerobics, dance, and martial arts room; childcare; four (4) multipurpose courts designed for tennis, basketball, volleyball, roller hockey, and indoor soccer; one (1) racquetball court; and a four (4) lane indoor walking/running track. The facility is a membership-based facility.

Plumb Lake County Park (Sturgis, Michigan) Located on E. Lafayette Road in Sturgis, this 126-acre park features hiking and walking trails, fishing/observation pier, ADA kayak launch, nature inspire playground, overlook deck, 2 picnic pavilions, picnic tables, restrooms, short grass prairie, cross country skiing trails, and is a 100% green park. The Park is owned by St. Joseph County.

Cade Lake County Park and Campground (Sturgis, Michigan) Located on Plumb School Road, this park is 98 acres, 53 acres which are wooded. The Park features; 32-acre private lake, 62 modern & rustic sites, fire rings and picnic tables, swimming beach, restrooms, fishing, boat/kayak rentals, volleyball court, pavilions, BBQ grills, playground, hiking and walking trails, rental cabin, and disc golf.

Meyer Broadway County Park (Three Rivers, Michigan)- Located on County Park Drive, this park is 160 acres and features; hiking and walking trails, paved multi-use trail, playground, pavilion, picnic tables, BBQ grills, sand volleyball court, restrooms, 36-hole disc golf course, 7-mile mountain bike trail, and a 5-acre dog park.

Timm Preserve (Sturgis, Michigan)- This 95 natural acre park is located on Engle Road in Sturgis and is preserved for conservation. The Park features; wetlands and woods, 3-mile trail, boardwalks, and is family and dog friendly.

Parks and Recreation Grant History

To date, the City has not received any grant funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund, Passport, or Land and Water Conservation Fund. The goal of this 5 Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to stay eligible for these grant programs.

IV. PLANNING PROCESS

The 2022-2026 City of Bronson Community Recreation Plan was prepared by city officials to serve as a guide for future decision-making regarding recreational facility improvements and programs.

The plan examines existing parks and recreation along with future opportunities and needs for the community.

This parks and recreation master plan was prepared by the City of Bronson. Demographics and statistical data were gathered using the City of Bronson Master Plan, 2020 U.S. Census data, and 2009-2019 American Community Survey Estimates. Recreation inventory data was collected by city staff about the four city parks with mapping imagery created using the City's GIS software.

Two opportunities were provided for public input and participation during the development of this plan. The first opportunity was a community survey, the results of which will be discussed in the next section. The survey was open from October 29, 2021 until November 29, 2021. The second opportunity for input was provided during a public hearing at the City Council at a regular governmental meeting.

Based upon staff input, Council input and survey responses, staff developed goals for parks and recreation in the City of Bronson. An action plan was developed using the same process. The completed draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan was developed by City staff and was released for comment from the public through the City's website, at City Hall, and on the City's Facebook page. The draft was available for thirty (30) days to provide an opportunity for residents and stakeholders to review the draft plan.

V. PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

In order to comply with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*, The City of

Bronson offered two different types of public input opportunities. The first was a community survey that allowed public input for a four-week period. The draft plan was also made available for comment for a 30-day period. The second input method was a public hearing at a City Council meeting prior to the adoption of the plan by resolution.

The online survey was developed and publicized through the City's Facebook page, and the City's website. Paper copies of the survey were on display at City Hall as well for those without computer access. Informational flyers were also posted with multiple copies at City Hall to inform residents about the survey along with an easy-to-follow link address to take the survey online. The advertisements were posted in both English and in Spanish. Several attempts were made to get surveys to people of all ages and socio-economic backgrounds. The survey and survey results are attached in Appendix D and Appendix E. Survey responses included residents of all ages, households, and length of residency. While not scientific, the survey is representative of the input of the community as a whole.

A 30-day comment period was held at the end of November, December, and the beginning of January; a public hearing was advertised in the Daily Reporter and the public hearing was held on January 10, 2022 to collect comments on the final draft of the plan and input on Parks and Recreation in the City of Bronson (see Appendix F for Plan Adoption Documentation)

VI. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section outlines the goals and objectives the City has for Parks and Recreation over the next five (5) years. The formation of these goals was based on public input gathered during the Community Survey process as well as input from the City Council.

GOAL #1: MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE PARKS

As park facilities age and with wear and tear on equipment and facilities it is important to renew the City of Bronson's focus on high standards for Parks and Recreation.

OBJECTIVES

- Determine what facilities and equipment has outlived their useful life and determine a plan for renovation, replacement, or elimination. It is also important to explore ways to improve upon existing parks by the addition of new amenities.
- Ensuring Parks safety is also paramount to the city.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Develop a list of existing playground equipment with ratings based on condition.
- Implement annual playground safety inspections and logs to ensure safety.
- Install new/additional playground equipment at Kiwanis Park and install rubber mulch or other safe surface under play equipment at Kiwanis Park. Adding rubber mulch can be accomplished by applying for a grant through the City's liability insurance carrier.

New playground equipment or a splash pad at this park scored very high during the survey process and this park is the most underutilized park in the system.

- Continue to monitor and level existing rubber mulch in Greenwald Park and Douglas Park to maintain a safe play environment. Funds have been budgeted for mulch updates to Greenwald Park and Douglas Park in the 2021/2022 budget.
- Look for ways to renovate, replace or eliminate existing facilities and equipment to improve the appearance and usefulness of City Parks. Restart the summer Department of Public Works seasonal employees to help keep up with painting of parks equipment.
- Explore additional amenities that could be added to existing parks including but not limited to; splash pad, new/additional playground equipment, walking paths, a dog park, restrooms/restroom improvements, basketball courts/basketball court improvements, drinking fountains, and ice skating. These items all ranked high in the community survey that was conducted.

GOAL #2: DEVELOP NORTHEASTERN RAILROAD PROPERTY INTO NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL

In 2014, the City purchased the abandoned rail line property which passes through the city East and West and is located near the northern border of the City.

OBJECTIVES

The City purchased this property with the goal of making this a recreational connector trail for the community connecting Kiwanis Park and the other parks of the community through the existing sidewalk network to provide for increased recreational opportunities. Increased access to non-motorized pathways will increase the health and quality of life for the residents of Bronson as well as residents of neighboring communities and tourists. The community survey demonstrated overwhelming (over 93%) support for the creation of this trail.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Clear cut and prepare site as needed. The trail property is approximately two thirds (2/3) of a mile in length with a width of about 150 feet.
- Pave trail with hot-mix asphalt using Universal Design.
- Work towards developing a scope of work and design for the trail along with associated costs.

GOAL #3: DEVELOP EXISTING PARKS AND FACILITIES TO ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL VISITORS

In an effort to ensure that the City Parks and facilities are accessible to everyone regardless of disability, existing parks will need to be improved and upgraded to be ADA/Universal Design compliant.

OBJECTIVES

Update/renovate parks to achieve ADA/Universal design compliance as funds become available.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Increase accessibility of the existing playgrounds and add additional accessible playground equipment.
- Maintain and increase (as needed) accessible parking at City Parks.
- Increase accessibility of existing restrooms and Park facilities.
- Pave trails and non-motorized pathways throughout existing parks with flat easy grades. Creating walking paths and trails throughout City Parks ranked very highly during the public input process.

GOAL #4 RECREATION PROGRAMMING

In an effort to promote healthy and active lifestyles for residents of all ages in the city it is important to continue to work with local organizations like the Bronson Youth Recreation Association and others to provide recreation opportunities for all ages and backgrounds. The community expressed great interest during the public input process for additional programming for youth, teens, and adults.

OBJECTIVES

Provide and/or facilitate opportunities for residents of all ages to participate in recreational activities.

POTENTIAL ACTIONS

- Continue to work with the Bronson Youth Recreation Association and Bronson School District to provide sports and activity programs for youths and teenagers.
- Explore opportunities for sports and other recreation activities for adults as well as seniors.
- Explore new partnerships with area organizations to provide programming utilizing City Parks and facilities.
- Modify and improve existing facilities and parks to accommodate recreation needs for residents of all age groups.

VII. ACTION PROGRAM

The Action Program explains how investments are proposed to be allocated over the course of the next five years. The Goals and Objectives, from the previous section, serve as a guideline for the development of the Action Program to determine a possible time line for improvements. The Parks and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan projects the potential expenditures for the next five years needed to begin working towards the Goals and Objectives of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This period of time will not be sufficient to accomplish all of the goals and objectives but it begins the process of achieving these goals.

This is also not an exhaustive list of potential projects as additional projects may arise in the future that are currently unknown.

Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Plan	2021/2022 Projected	2022/2023 Projected	2023/2024 Projected	2024/2025 Projected	2025/2026 Projected
Greenwald Park Mulch Update	3,000				3,000
Bronson's Backyard Repairs	500	500	500	500	500
Kiwanis Park Playground Enhancements	10,000	50,000	10,000		
Picnic Table Purchases	7,000				
Railroad Recreation Trail		50,000			
Douglas Park Mulch Update	2,000				2,000
Total	22,500	100,500	10,500	500	2,500

Goal #1: Maintain and Improve Parks

The city is planning playground improvements to Kiwanis Park; Greenwald and Douglas Park mulch updates, Bronson's Backyard repairs, picnic table purchases, basketball court updates at Douglas and Kiwanis Park, are all measures to help the city meet the Goals and Objectives in item #1 from the previous section. The city also plans on repainting equipment and structures along with increased maintenance of existing facilities. The city would also like to work towards adding amenities listed in the goals and objectives section as funds or grants become available. These specific projects will begin working towards this broad goal of maintaining and improving City Parks over the next five (5) years.

Goal #2: Develop Northeastern Railroad Property into Non-motorized Trail

The city will continue to work towards a plan to develop the abandoned Northeastern Rail into a non-motorized trail and will work to determine the Scope of Work needed to construct the trail. The city has \$50,000 budgeted for this project in 2022/23 and more will be budgeted once cost estimates have been prepared. The city has also engaged with Williams & Works to create a Trail Master Plan.

Goal #3: Develop Existing Parks and Facilities to Ensure Accessibility to all Visitors

Updates to the Kiwanis Park restroom and adding wheelchair ramps to allow access to playground structures will help the city work towards Goal #3 (Develop Existing Parks and Facilities to Ensure Accessibility to all Visitors). The city will look for ways to work towards this goal by exploring funding possibilities for non-motorized trails and increased access to parks for those with disabilities. The city will plan/design new amenities so that they are accessible to all.

Goal #4: Recreation Programming

The city will continue to provide staff support and funds (where needed) for the Bronson Youth Recreation Association and annual funds for the Bronson Youth Center (see Figure 5 on page 8)

as long as it is financially able to do so. Currently this amounts to \$6,400 annually. The city will also explore ways to work with these organizations and others to offer or facilitate recreation programming for residents of all ages.

Funding Sources:

Funding for parks and recreation improvements comes from a variety of sources including local, state, and federal programs. One of the goals of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to apply for state grant funding opportunities as well as other grant opportunities through public or private organizations.

City of Bronson

Future Land Use

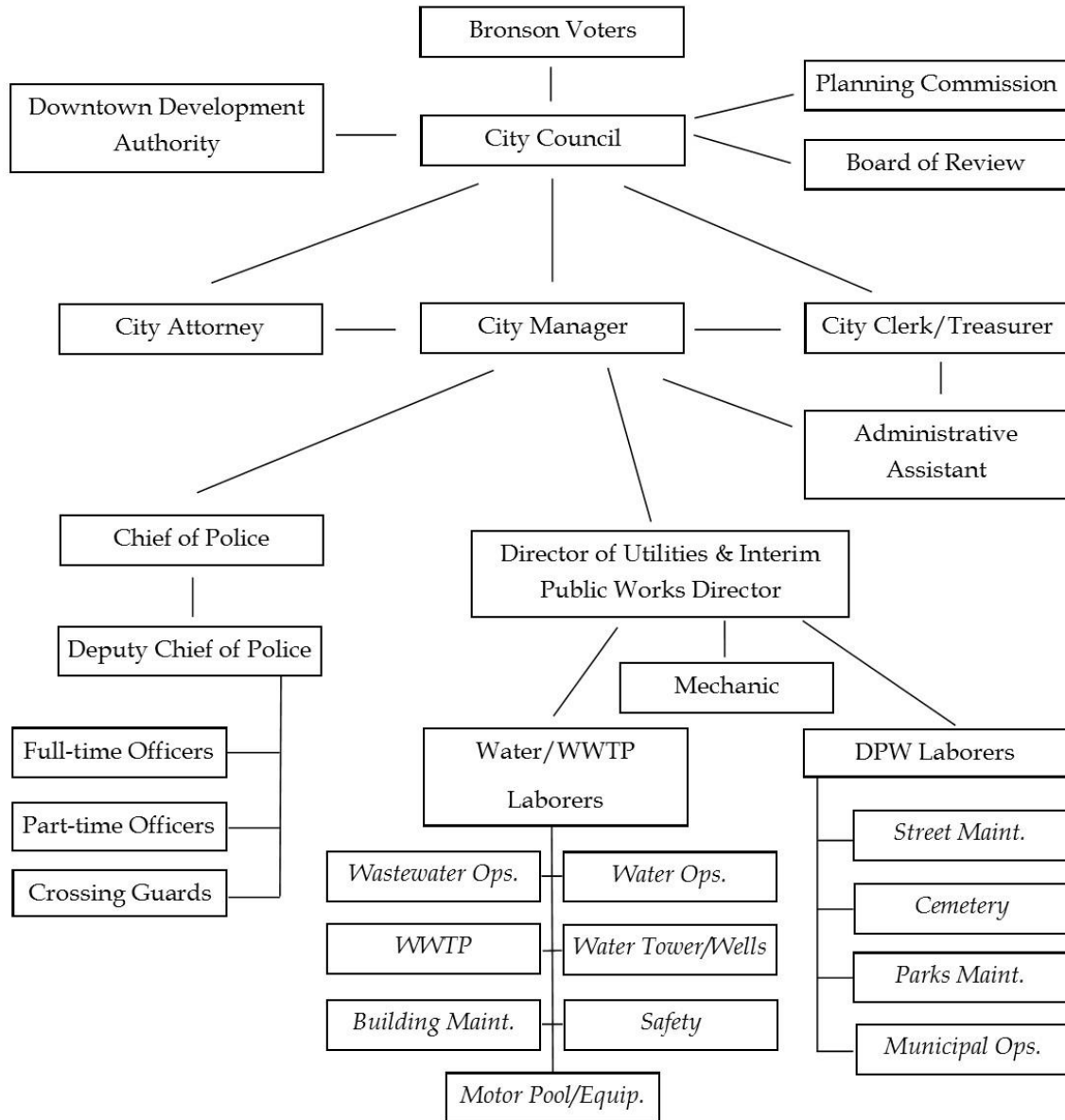


Appendix B



Organization Chart

November 2015



Appendix D
Survey Questions and Summary of Survey Results

Appendix E- Plan Adoption Documentation

