

2026-2030 Parks and Recreation Master Plan



Adopted · December 16, 2025



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The participation and cooperation of community leaders, residents, and members of civic organizations in the preparation of this 2026–2030 Parks and Recreation Master Plan are greatly appreciated; we thank everyone who participated in its development.

Planning Commission

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George Markle – Secretary/Village Trustee
Jaclyn Lyles – Commission Member
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Village Council

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Chapter 1. **INTRODUCTION**

The Village of Marcellus, Cass County, coordinated an open, public planning process to create a comprehensive vision for the community's parks and recreation programs, satisfying the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requirements for a Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

A Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a roadmap for parks and recreation decisions (including facilities and programming) made over a five-year period, as well as a way to project future needs. The Plan includes all required elements of a Parks and Recreation Plan and therefore qualifies the Village of Marcellus for funding through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR). The process taken to prepare the Plan gives the Village a better understanding of the needs and desires for parks, recreation facilities, and programming based on public engagement and industry trends going forward.

Parks and recreation are a critical component of a thriving community, and this Plan is an important document to help guide the Village in its pursuit of an enhanced quality of life, additional recreational opportunities, and inclusivity for the next five years and beyond.



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Chapter 2.

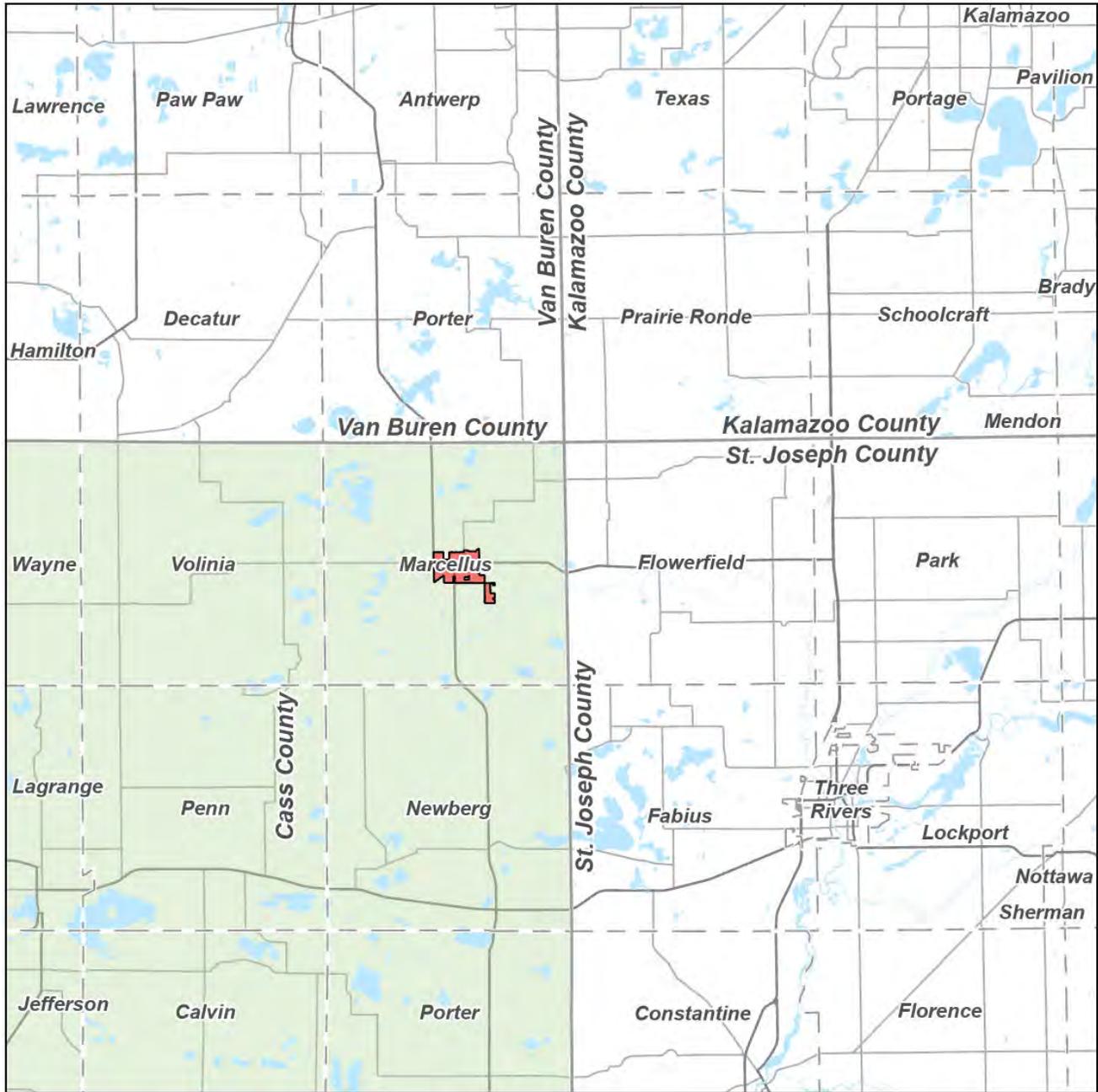
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The Village of Marcellus is approximately 0.7 square miles, located in the northeastern part of Cass County, Michigan and has a population of 1,074 based on the 2020 Decennial Census.

Direct access to the Village is provided via M-40 (north/south) and M-216 (east-west). In terms of regional location, the Village is approximately 12 miles northeast of the City of Cassopolis, 10 miles northwest of the City of Three Rivers and 18 miles southwest of the City of Kalamazoo., all measured "as the bird flies". The Village is composed of predominately single family residences, with a core area of commercial enterprises and limited industrial uses. The Village is surrounded by agricultural production and natural/open spaces.



Map 1: Regional Location



Regional Location

Village of Marcellus, Michigan

September 16, 2025

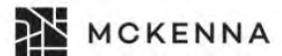
LEGEND

- Village of Marcellus
- Surrounding Municipalities
- Cass County

0 10,000
Feet



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: Cass County 2024.
McKenna 2024.



Demographics

The Village of Marcellus Parks and Recreation Master Plan is updated and maintained to determine the needs and opportunities that exist within the community. Consideration is given to:

- » Estimates of the number of likely users of recreational amenities;
- » Projections of what type of programs users will enthusiastically participate in; and
- » The facilities that are necessary to further the community’s parks and recreation-related goals and objectives.

By understanding current conditions and past trends, the Village can appropriately anticipate and plan for the future needs of the community.

Data within this plan is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2020 Decennial Census and 2022 American Community Survey, analyzed and synthesized by McKenna.

Population

Over the past decade, the Village of Marcellus has experienced population increase. Some nearby communities have also seen slight increases. The largest increase in the past decade is claimed by the Village, which has experienced a 15% population growth. Some of the area municipalities have seen slight population decreases, including Marcellus Township, the City of Dowagiac, and the City of Battle Creek, while the Village of Vandalia population growth.

Table 1: Population

Municipality	2010	2022	% Change (2010-2022)
Village of Marcellus	1,046	1,203	15%
Cass County	52,293	51,604	-1%
Neighboring Municipalities			
Marcellus Township	2,599	2,227	-14%
Village of Vandalia	366	389	6%
City of Dowagiac	5,930	5,680	-4%
City of Battle Creek	52,762	52,469	-1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates 2010, 2022

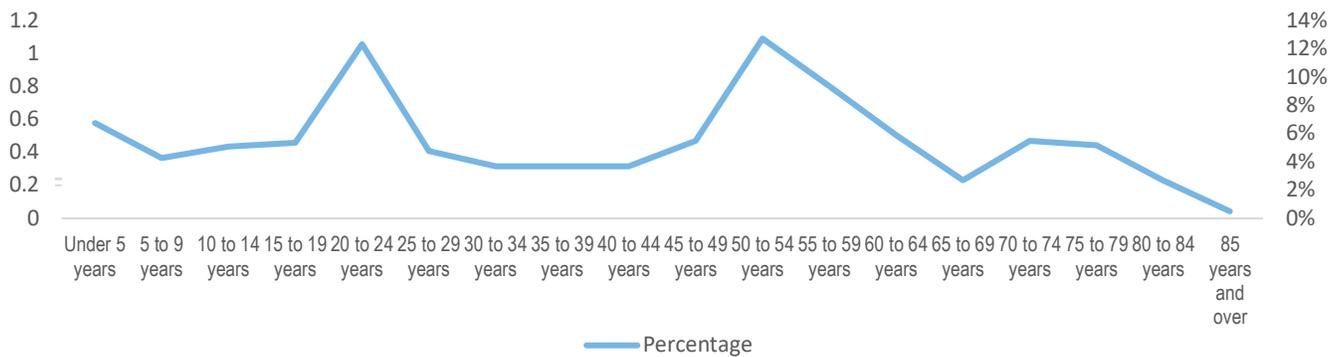
Over the past decade, the Village of Marcellus has experienced slight-to-moderate population increase. In contrast, the County and nearby municipality of Marcellus Township have experienced a decrease over the past decade. The above data, pulled from the American Community Survey 2022 analysis shows a population of 1,203 persons. However, because this is not an official count, compared to the 10-year Census, the U.S. Census Bureau notes that there is a margin of error of +/- 221 persons.

Age Structure

The age of a community’s population is extremely important when planning to improve parks and recreation facilities. Elderly residents may have different needs than childless adults, or families with children. Further, families with children also have different needs than one another, depending on the children’s ages living in the home. For example, households with younger children will likely require parks with restrooms, play equipment, splash pads, and other similar amenities. Households with older children, such as high school and college age, may require parks with a more robust trail network, ball fields, and courts, or exercise stations.

The following figure separates the Village of Marcellus population by age group:

Figure 1: Population by Age Group (ACS 2022)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022.

Table 2: Population by Age Group

Age Structure	Percentage of Population
Under 5 years	6.80%
5 to 9 years	4.30%
10 to 14 years	5.10%
15 to 19 years	5.40%
20 to 24 years	12.40%
25 to 29 years	4.80%
30 to 34 years	3.70%
35 to 39 years	3.70%
40 to 44 years	3.70%
45 to 49 years	5.50%
50 to 54 years	12.80%
55 to 59 years	9.40%
60 to 64 years	5.90%
65 to 69 years	2.70%
70 to 74 years	5.50%
75 to 79 years	5.20%
80 to 84 years	2.70%
85 years and over	0.50%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022.

Age structure (analyzing which proportions of a municipality’s population are in which stages of life) gives a nuanced view of the makeup of a community. To compare age structure, the percentage of the population in the Village of Marcellus is divided into the following age groupings.

The median age of residents in Village of Marcellus is 45 years old. The Village of Marcellus is similar to Cass County, which has a median age of 45.3 years old, and older than the State of Michigan, which has a median age of 39.9 years old.

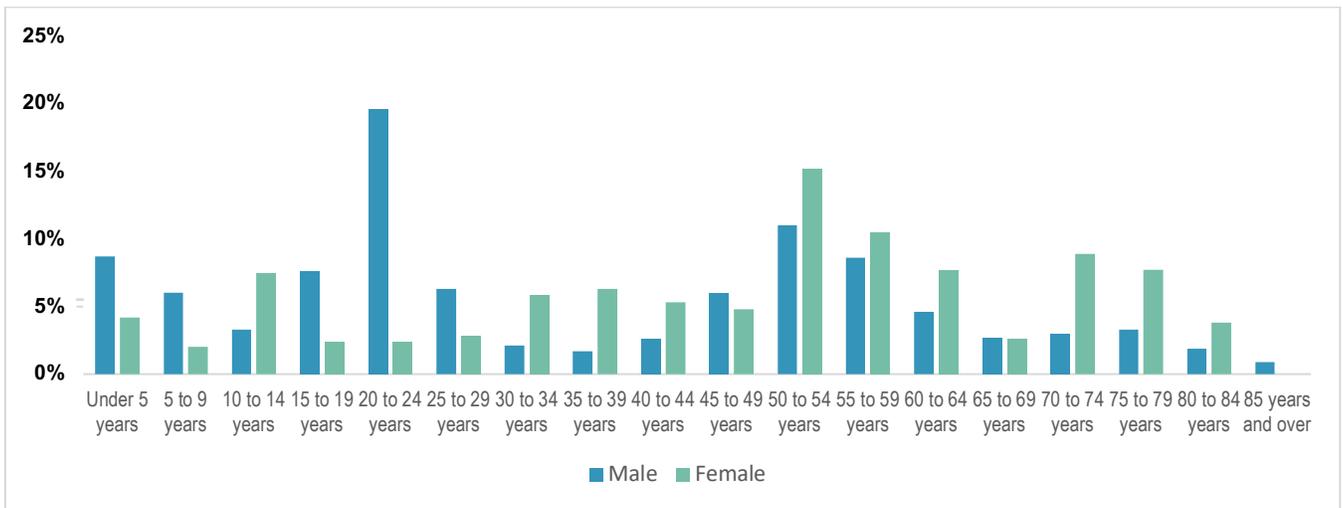
Table 2 provides an overview of how the Village's population varies by age and gender. Figure 2 accounts for the percentage of males in each age group with blue on the left and green on the right for females.

Table 3: Population by Age Group and Sex

Age Group by Years	Total	Male (#)	Female (#)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Under 5 years	61	21	8.7	4.2	61
5 to 9 years	42	10	6	2	42
10 to 14 years	23	38	3.3	7.5	23
15 to 19 years	53	12	7.6	2.4	53
20 to 24 years	137	12	19.6	2.4	137
25 to 29 years	44	14	6.3	2.8	44
30 to 34 years	15	30	2.1	5.9	15
35 to 39 years	12	32	1.7	6.3	12
40 to 44 years	18	27	2.6	5.3	18
45 to 49 years	42	24	6	4.8	42
50 to 54 years	77	77	11	15.2	77
55 to 59 years	60	53	8.6	10.5	60
60 to 64 years	32	39	4.6	7.7	32
65 to 69 years	19	13	2.7	2.6	19
70 to 74 years	21	45	3	8.9	21
75 to 79 years	23	39	3.3	7.7	23
80 to 84 years	13	19	1.9	3.8	13
85 years and over	6	0	0.9	0	6
Total	698	505			698

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022.

Figure 2: Population Percentage by Gender, (ACS 2022)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022.

In recent years, changing trends in childcare show that grandparents (older adults) are taking a larger role in assisting with childcare needs for parents. As such, park facilities and playgrounds are more frequently utilized by those who may no longer be active in the workforce. For this reason, it is imperative that park design and amenities also accommodate this age group as well. These amenities can include more benches and seating areas, pavilions, walking paths, and other items.

Population by race

The Village is primarily (90%) composed of a white/Caucasian population. It is important to note the proportion of white and Black or African American residents has decreased over the last decade. Other races have increased in proportion, which have added to the Village experiencing a slight diversification of its population.

Table 4: Population by Race

Race	2010	%	2022	%	% Change (2010-2022)
Total Population	1,046		1,203		15%
White/Caucasian	965	92.3	1,156	96.1	20%
Black/African American	57	5.4	12	1	-79%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0	0	7	0.6	-
Asian	5	0.5	10	0.8	100%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	-
Some Other Race	0	0	8	0.7	-
Two or more races	19	1.8	10	0.8	-47%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, P1 Redistricting Data 2010, 2022.

Income

Household income data can have important planning implications, particular in understanding how residents may decide to spend additional financial resources. The following table shows estimates (2010, 2015, 2020 & 2023) of median household income for the Village of Marcellus. Since 2010, the median household income has steadily increased; such an increase may attribute to residents' financial ability to partake in recreational activities.

Table 5: Median Household Income

Year	Median Household Income
2010	\$39,612
2015	\$43,750
2020	\$51,875
2023	\$55,417

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

In 2023, the median household income for Village of Marcellus was \$55,417, below Cass County's median income of \$73,978. The median income for the State of Michigan was \$77,748 in 2022.

According to the 2022 American Community Survey, an estimated 11.2% of the Village's population lives below poverty level. It is estimated that the unemployment rate is higher than both Cass County's average of 5.0% and Michigan's average of 4.5% at 5.3%.

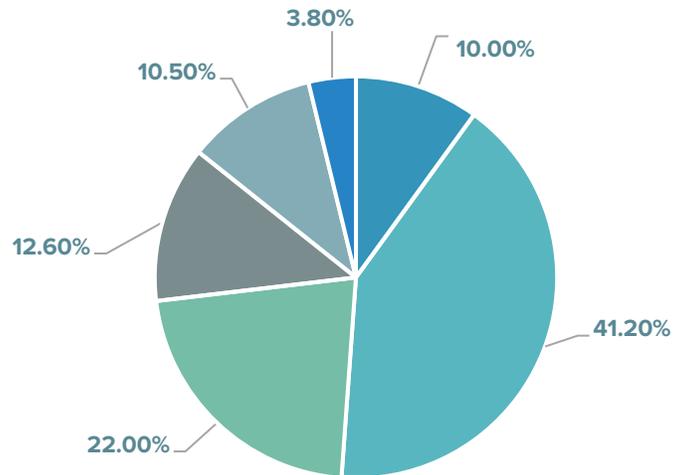
Education

Understanding the educational profile of a community can help decision-makers tailor programs, amenities, and outreach strategies to meet the diverse needs and interests of residents. By considering the educational dimension, parks and recreational facilities can be designed, promoted, and managed to cater to different preferences, foster engagement, and promote lifelong learning.

For the Village of Marcellus' population that is 25 years old and older, educational attainment is broken down into the following:

Educational Attainment

- Less than high school graduate:
- High school graduate (or equivalency):
- Some college, no degree:
- Associate's degree:
- Bachelor's degree:
- Graduate or professional degree:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimates, 2022.

Housing & Households

The composition of housing occupants within a community can provide additional information about the community's profile. Understanding owner-occupied units versus renter-occupied units can help determine the needs of a community, as the needs of renters versus homeowners often differ. Examples of differences between the two include socioeconomic status, age & generational makeup, lifestyle, and tenure.

Of the 490 built homes in Village of Marcellus, 88 percent are occupied. Of the occupied houses, 86 percent are owner-occupied and about 14 percent are renter-occupied. The 59 existing vacant housing structures have the potential to accommodate an influx of potential residents and increase the population to exceed the population levels from the year 2010.

Average household size is another indicator of community composition. Larger average household sizes generally mean more children and fewer single-parent families. Nationally, household sizes have been shrinking as young single adults wait longer to get married and life expectancy increases for the senior population.

According to the 2022 American Community Survey Estimates, the average household size in the Village is 2.85 people. This statistic in conjunction with additional household data signifies that the average home is a family-occupied household with either two parents and a child or a single parent and two children. Most occupied households are single-family (90%), 93% of which are occupied by married couples. There are also a significant number of mobile [manufactured] homes, (5.7%) that are occupied mostly by non-family households. Supplementary housing types between these two extremes are necessary to supplement the market and further support current and future residents.

Table 6: Housing by Family Type and Unit Type

	Total Occupied Households	Household Composition			Non family household
		Married Couple Family	Male Householder, No Spouse	Female Householder, No Spouse	
Housing by Family Type (#)	422	199	55	83	85
Housing by Family Type (%)		47.2%	13.0%	19.7%	20.1%
Housing by Units/Housing Type:					
1-unit structures	90.80%	93.00%	100.00%	91.60%	78.80%
2-or-more-unit structures	3.60%	0.00%	0.00%	8.40%	9.40%
Mobile homes and all other types	5.70%	7.00%	0.00%	0.00%	11.80%

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2022.

Disability

While it is encouraged that all park and play equipment in the Village is compliant with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), the type of disability and number of residents impacted by disabilities will influence the design and accommodations within the Village's Parks and Recreation Master Plan and future improvements to Village facilities. The 2022 American Community Survey reports that approximately 12.6% of residents in the Village of Marcellus have a disability of some kind.

Of the total residents in the Village:

- » 5.2% have hearing difficulty;
- » 3.0% have vision difficulty;
- » 2.5% have cognitive difficulty;

- » 7.0% have ambulatory difficulty;
- » 2.9% have self-care difficulty;
- » And 4.1% have independent living difficulty.

Planning for parks and recreation could result in positive health outcomes for a population that already experiences difficulties on a day-to-day basis. Accommodations could include ramps or pavement improvements in order to ease accessibility concerns for those who suffer from ambulatory difficulties and installing audible and visually assisted crosswalks can assist those who may be visually or hearing impaired.

The ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), signed into law in 2010, detail enforceable standards for physical accessibility. However, these standards do not include elements designed for children with Down syndrome, sensory disorders, and visual and hearing impairments. New attention has been focused on inclusive playgrounds and universal design that can serve a diverse population, including children with physical, cognitive, emotional and sensory disabilities. The following elements are considered essential activities for inclusive play:

- » Sensory Play, Music, Swinging, Sliding, Spinning
- » Safety, comfort and access
- » Socialization/imaginative



Sources: United States Access Board, Landscape Structures; InclusivePlaygrounds.org

Physical Characteristics

Topography

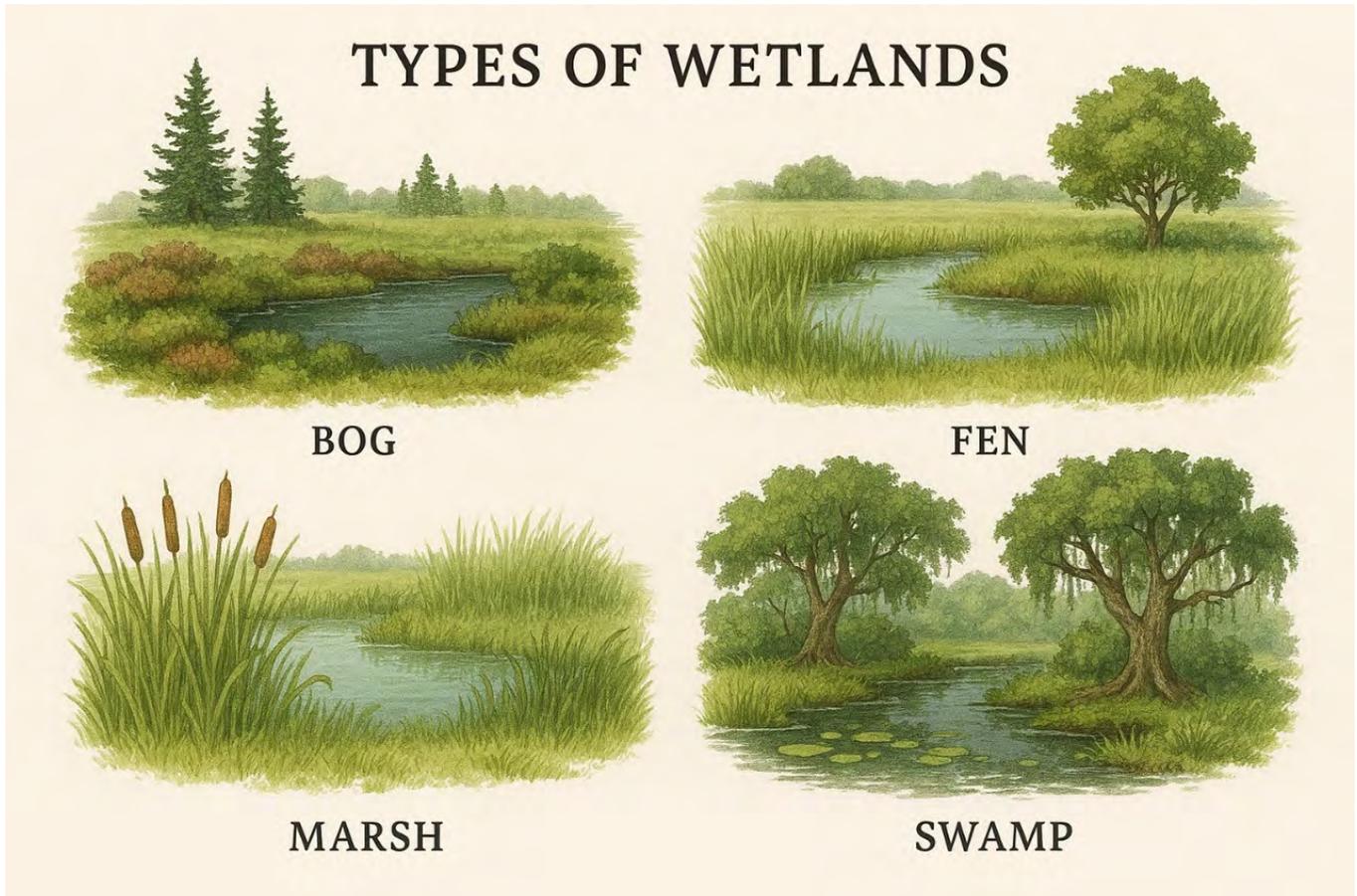
In comparison to its neighbors, the Village of Marcellus is relatively flat. The lowest elevations can be found along the southernmost and northwestern portions of the Village.

Understanding the local topography can aid in park planning in terms of amenities offered. For example, a trail system may be appropriate for areas that are relatively flat, in order to offer the widest potential use for patrons. Topographic review also aids in planning for stormwater management and potential adverse impacts the natural features may impose on park and amenity expansion. For example, designing a park that is in a low-lying area that is prone to stormwater collection may not be advantageous. Further, creating sports fields, with hard top ground coverings for activities such as basketball, tennis, pickleball, etc., requires relatively level ground.



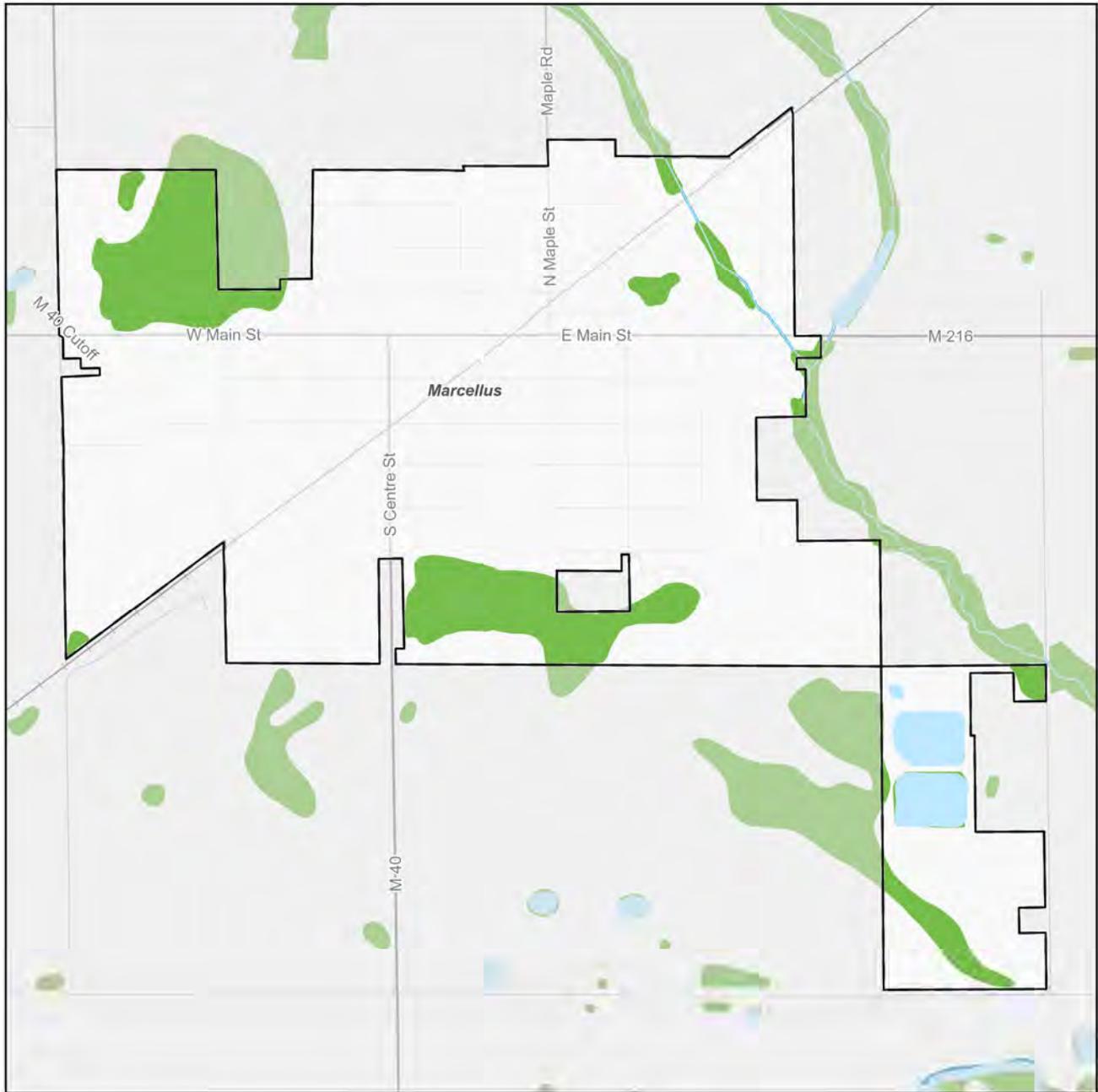
Wetland Features

The wetlands are found in areas of low topography as well as along the creek in the northeastern portion of the Village. Wetlands are associated with poor soil conditions and seasonal standing water. Although they are not ideal for development or agriculture, wetlands serve as green infrastructure as they work as a natural filtering system, which is important for rural communities like Marcellus that rely heavily on well water. In addition, wetlands serve as retention areas for stormwater and groundwater recharge. Wetlands also provide habitats and food sources for several native aquatic and terrestrial species. Future development and land use should be sensitive to the existing wetland patterns within the Village.



Morrow Hydro - Eagle Creek Renewable

Map 2: Wetland Features



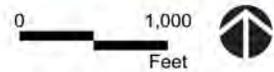
Wetland Features

Village of Marcellus, Michigan

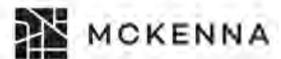
July 28, 2025

LEGEND

- Marine
- Estuary
- Marsh, Swamp, Bog, Prairie
- River
- Lake, Reservoir



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: Cass County 2024.
McKenna 2024.



Soils

Soil characteristics have an important influence on the ability of land to support various types of equipment, drainage, and park target locations. Four specific soil characteristics influence their ability to be used for various purposes. These include the following:

- » **Bearing capacity:** the ability to support the weight of trails, buildings, and vehicles;
- » **Erodibility/stability:** the susceptibility to withstand erosion hazards;
- » **Drainage:** the ability for soils to retain, drain, and receive water;
- » **Resource value:** the economic worth.

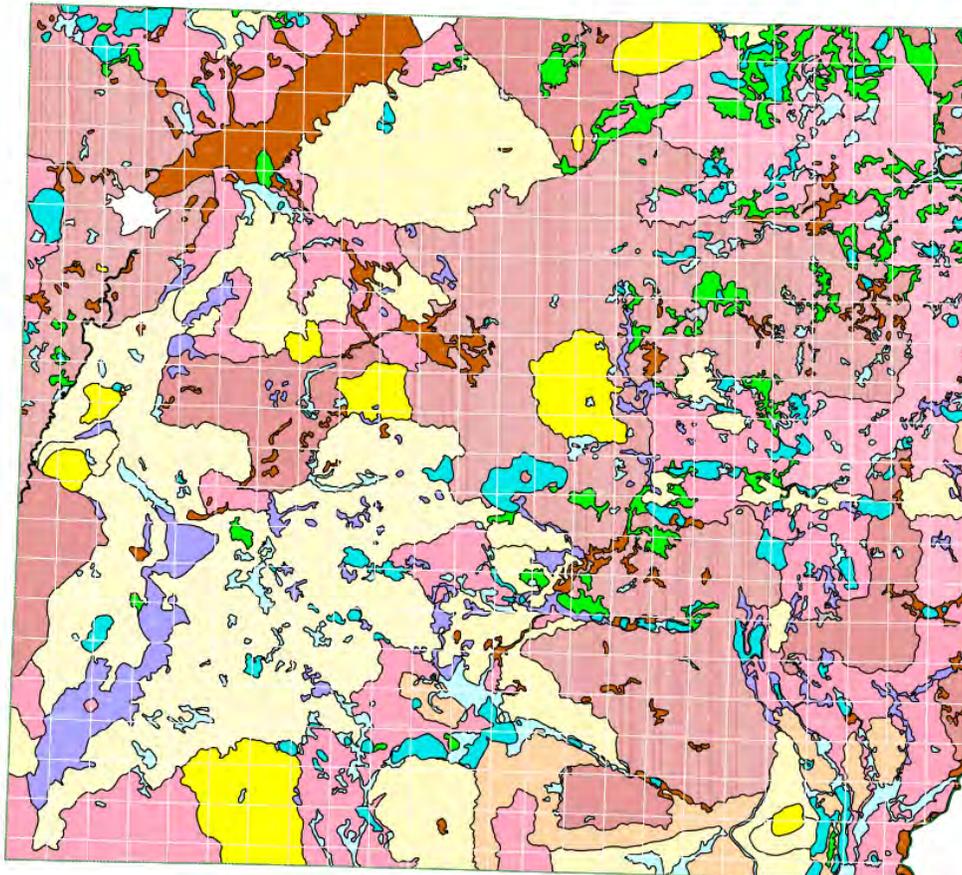
Cass County hosts a few soil associations: loamy soils underlain by sand and gravel, loamy soils, and wet organic and loamy soils. The Village is primarily dominated by the Hillsdale-Riddles and the Houghton-Palms-Sloan associations. The Hillsdale-Riddles being loamy soils and the Houghton-Palms-Sloan being wet organic and loamy soils.

These loamy soil types are good for agriculture and gardening. They offer good drainage, moisture retention, and fertility, making them suitable for a variety of crops including fruits, vegetables, and grains. Loamy soils are generally considered to be suitable for building because they offer good stability and can provide adequate support for structures. However, this can vary on a site-to-site basis.

Vegetation

Marcellus Village is largely residential and agricultural. As such, the Village's vegetation can be classified as wooded or agricultural. According to Michigan State University Extension, land cover historically looked like dense forests, swampland, and grasslands. Examples of vegetation found in the area include:

- » Beech and Sugar Maple forests
- » Shrub swamps/ emergent marshes
- » Oak and Hickory forests



Vegetation circa 1800 of Cass County, Michigan

An Interpretation of the General Land Office Surveys

By P. J. Connor and D. A. Albert
Michigan Natural Features Inventory
2007



Source: Michigan State University Extension, 1997

Climate

The general Cass area, which includes Marcellus Village, experiences a humid continental climate. This means there are four distinct seasons with warm to hot summers and cold winters. The average temperature ranges from 19 to 82 degrees Fahrenheit with an average overall temperature of 49.2 degrees. In the summer, the average daily high temperature is above 72°F. The hottest month of the year in Marcellus is July, with an average high of 82°F and low of 63°F. The winter season has an average daily high temperature below 41°F. The coldest month of the year in Marcellus is January, with an average low of 20°F and high of 32°F. Precipitation is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year, ranging from 6-10 days each month, with snowfall common in the winter months.

On average, Marcellus receives approximately 38 inches of rain per year, which is higher than the Michigan average of 34 inches per year. Alternatively, the Village receives an average of 59 inches of snow, which is lower than the State of Michigan average of 64 inches of snow per year. On average, there are 136 days per year with a measurable amount of precipitation. However, there are 175 sunny days per year in the Village of Marcellus.

These statistics are anticipated to change due to global climate change. Temperatures and precipitation amounts may vary widely. This amount of unpredictability should be considered, especially when looking at development that is existing or proposed near bodies of water.

Transportation Systems

The Village of Marcellus's circulation system is typical of Michigan townships and villages, where the circulation system is characterized by straight roads, dirt or paved, which are designed to move vehicles efficiently. Marcellus has a grid-like system, with M-40 and M-216 (East & West Main) being the predominant roadways into and out of the Village, with secondary roadways providing access for the residential component of the Village.

M-40 is located along the western portion of the Village, connecting to M-216 (Main Street) and then traversing south through the Village as "Center Street". Once outside of the Village, it maintains its name as M-40. M-40 connects Marcellus to the Village of Lawton, located to the north in Van Buren County, and further to the Village of Paw Paw, located in Van Buren County.

M-216 is located along the eastern portion of the Village and is named "East Main Street" within the municipal boundaries. Once west of the municipal boundary, it is classified as "Marcellus Highway". M-216 connects to U.S. Route 131 and is located between the Village of Schoolcraft in Kalamazoo County and the City of Three Rivers, located in St. Joseph County.

The primary mode of transportation with the Village is the personal automobile. However, the Village does provide for an interior network of pedestrian sidewalks that connect the residential regions of the Village to the downtown core. For those residents who seek services outside of the Village, Cass County offers a "Dial-A-Ride" public transit option for County residents.

Future Outlook for Active Non-Motorized Transportation Networks

In support from strong community interest in walking trails and non-motorized multi-use networks, the Village seeks to forecast the potential need for such recreational amenities. Two key opportunities have been identified that warrant further exploration, as funding and staffing ability materialize in the coming years.

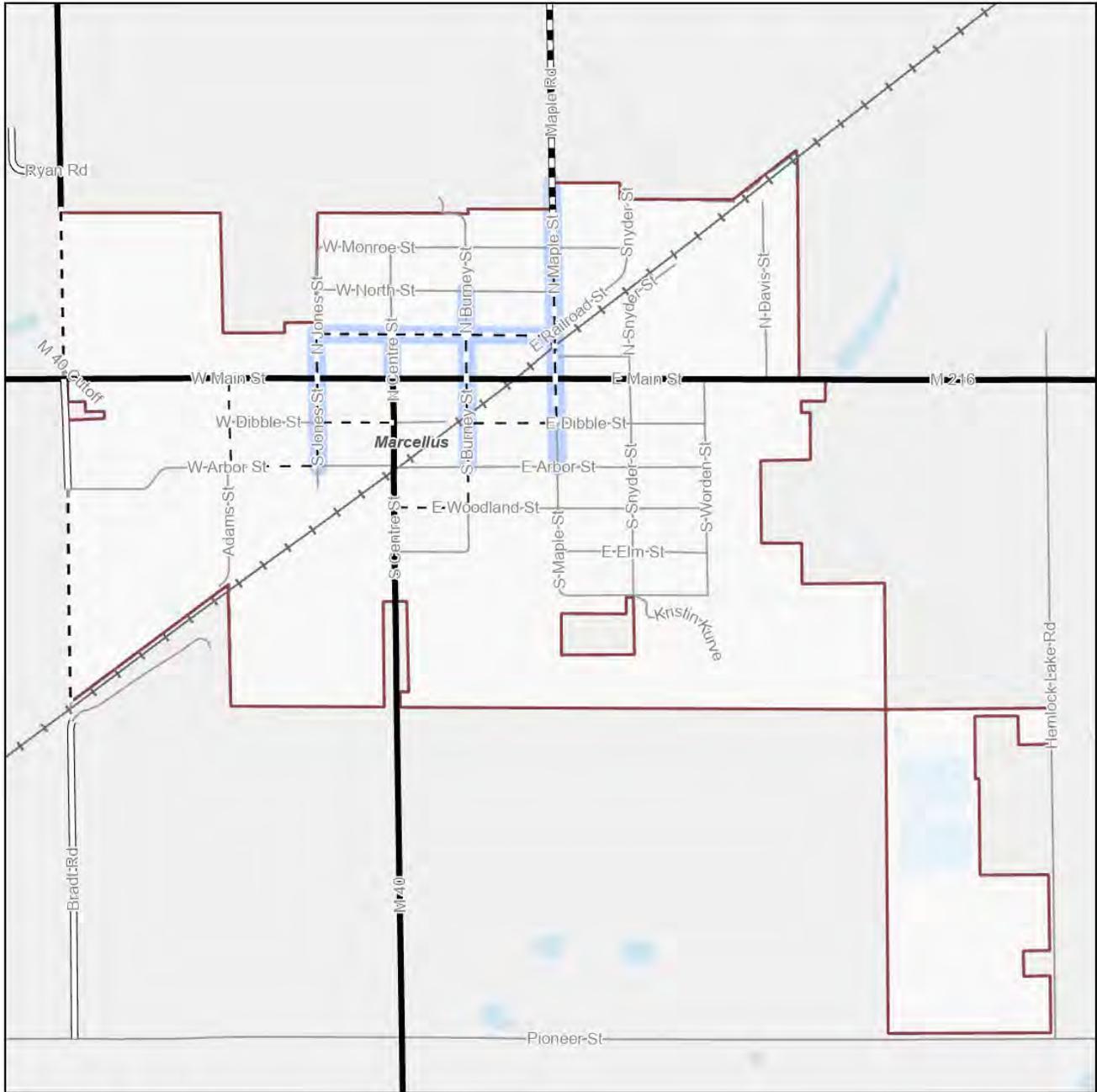
Village-to-Lake Connection

Assessing the feasibility of non-motorized trails (suitable for walking and bicycling) that can safely connect the Village of Marcellus to regional lakes (Hemlock, Cranberry, Pine, Goff, Big Fish, Cedar Lakes) which would draw recreational users into the downtown business district. Such assessment would also study the viability of securing permanent easements from property owners in order to create a multi-use trail network that would be managed in part by the Village of Marcellus and Cass County.

Regional Linkage

Identify strategic corridors to connect the Village of Marcellus trail system and pedestrian pathways to the wider Cass County Trail Network. Further, seek avenues to leverage funding from sources such as the Rural Task Force (RTF) Program, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and other regional agencies.

Map 3: Road Systems



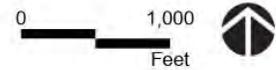
Road Systems

Village of Marcellus, Michigan

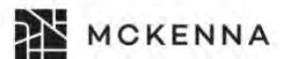
September 29, 2025

LEGEND

- All Seasons
- State Trunkline
- County Primary
- County Local
- Local Major
- Local



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: MDOT 2024.
McKenna 2024.





Chapter 3.

INVENTORY OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

The physical inventory of local facilities consisted of in-person and virtual site inspections of all Village parks and recreation sites. An inventory of playground equipment and park facilities was recorded and reviewed concerning location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility, and condition.



Parks	Acres	Accessibility Rating	Organized Sports				Play Area		Passive Activities						Amenities				
			Basketball	Ballfields	Beach Volleyball	Disc Golf	Swings (Sets)	Playground / Tot Lot	River/Lake Access	Natural Area/Field	Trail/ Sidewalk	Pavilion	Bleachers	Benches	Picnic Tables	Grill	Restrooms	Trash Bins	Doggy Bag Station
Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park	0.43	3					2	1*				1			4	1		1	
Columbian Park	0.20	5								1	1		7	4			1		
Village Commons	0.50	3							1	1	1			2			1		2
Steven's Park	0.53	2							1										
Totals:	1.66	-					2	1		2	2	3		7	10	1		3	2

Accessibility Rating

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

* The Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park has one dedicated play structure and seven (7) other interactive play equipment: one metal climbing dome; three metal spring riding animals; one metal merry-go-round; two metal monkey bars.

Municipal Facilities

At the time of this plan, the Village owns and/or operates the following parks and facilities. For a more detailed inventory of the Village's parks and facilities, please refer to the parks inventory previously listed.

Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park

0.43 ACRES



The Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park is located along Centre Street, approximately 0.15 miles south of the intersection of W Main Street/East Main Street and Centre Street. This park is adjacent to the west of Marcellus Middle School and can be accessed via pedestrian connections (sidewalks) along Centre Street or along East Arbor Street. For those utilizing motorized transportation, an auxiliary parking lot adjacent to the Marcellus Middle School abuts the northeastern portion of this park. The Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park can be classified as a pocket park due to its size being less than two (2) acres. The park is anticipated to be provided with updates in 2026 due in part to the partnership with the Marcellus Community School District 2026 graduating class.



Columbian Park

0.20 ACRES



Columbian Park is a small pocket-sized park located along East Main Street, between Centre Street and Burney Street. This park has direct frontage along East Main Street, with primary access via a brick pathway that traverses north-south through the 0.2 acre parcel. This pocket park offers a gazebo, benches and picnic tables for recreational leisure.

This park was formerly the site of the Columbia Hotel, which was removed pre-2019. The Village opted to place benches and a gazebo on this site in order to increase passive recreation opportunities within the downtown region. While no active/existing plans exist to sell the site, the Village seeks to continue to offer the property for passive recreational use, until such a time (if at all), that a new plan is put forth for development of the site.

The Village of Marcellus is engaging with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) on how to create a Developer Agreement and other information pertaining to the potential of private acquisition of the park land for reinvestment and revitalization of the downtown area. As previously referenced, the Village has no active plans to divest this asset to a private entity, but seeks to explore all potential options in order to promote this site for its highest and best use.

Village Commons

0.50 ACRES



Village Commons is located along the north side of East Main, between Centre Street and Burney Street, just west of Village Hall. This public amenity features a sheltered pavilion, bike racks, and direct pedestrian access along M-40 (Main Street) as well as an ADA accessible sidewalk around the pavilion and wheelchair accessible picnic tables.



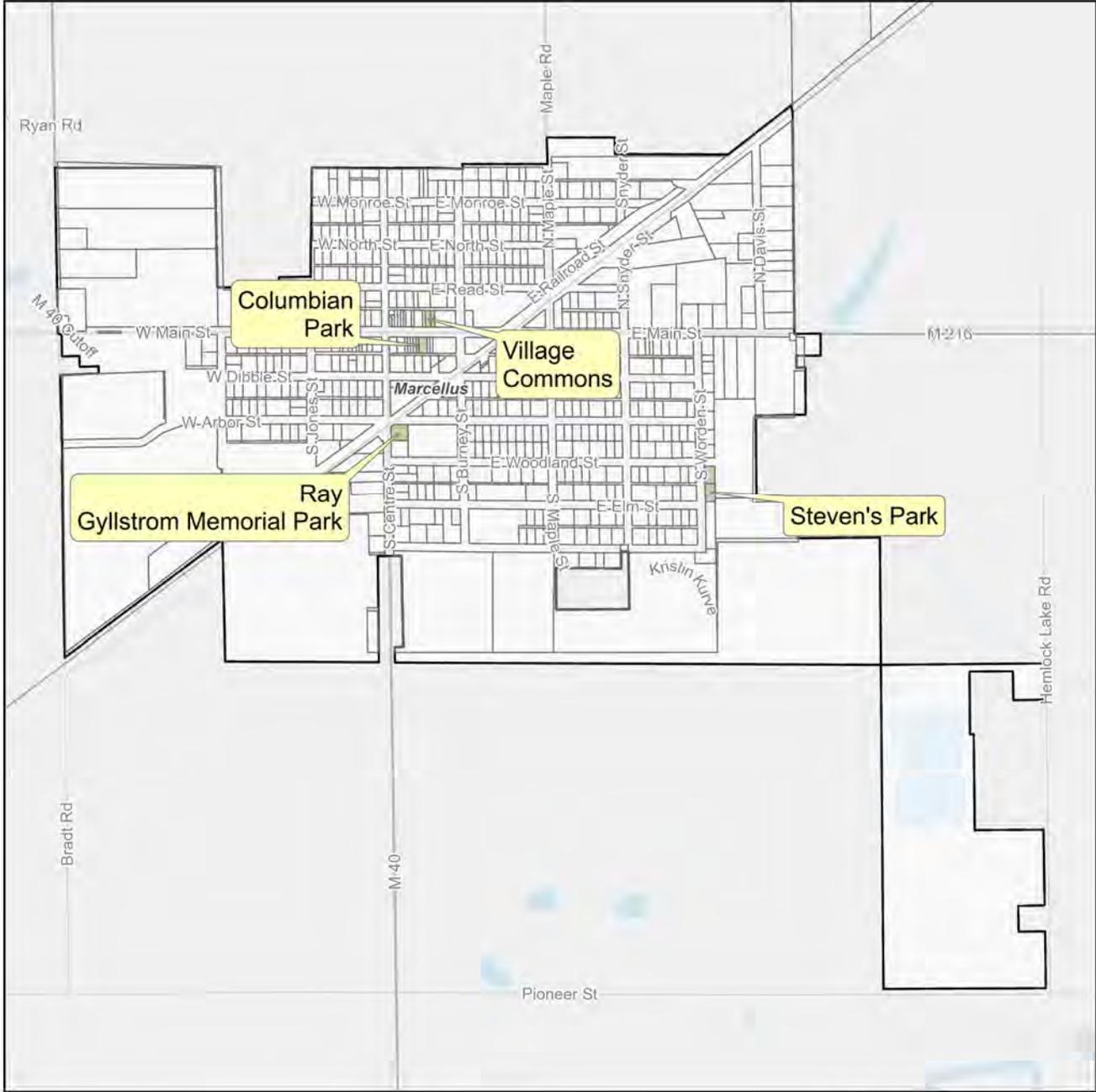
Steven's Park

0.53 ACRES



Steven's Park is located on Worden Street, between Woodland Street to the north and East Elm Street to the south. The park was dedicated as a memorial to James & Eva Stevens and is open for general use by the public. The memorial park does not have any permanent amenities or structures at this time.

Map 4: Parks Locations



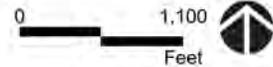
Parks Locations

Village of Marcellus, Michigan

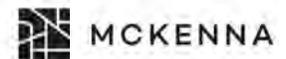
October 17, 2025

LEGEND

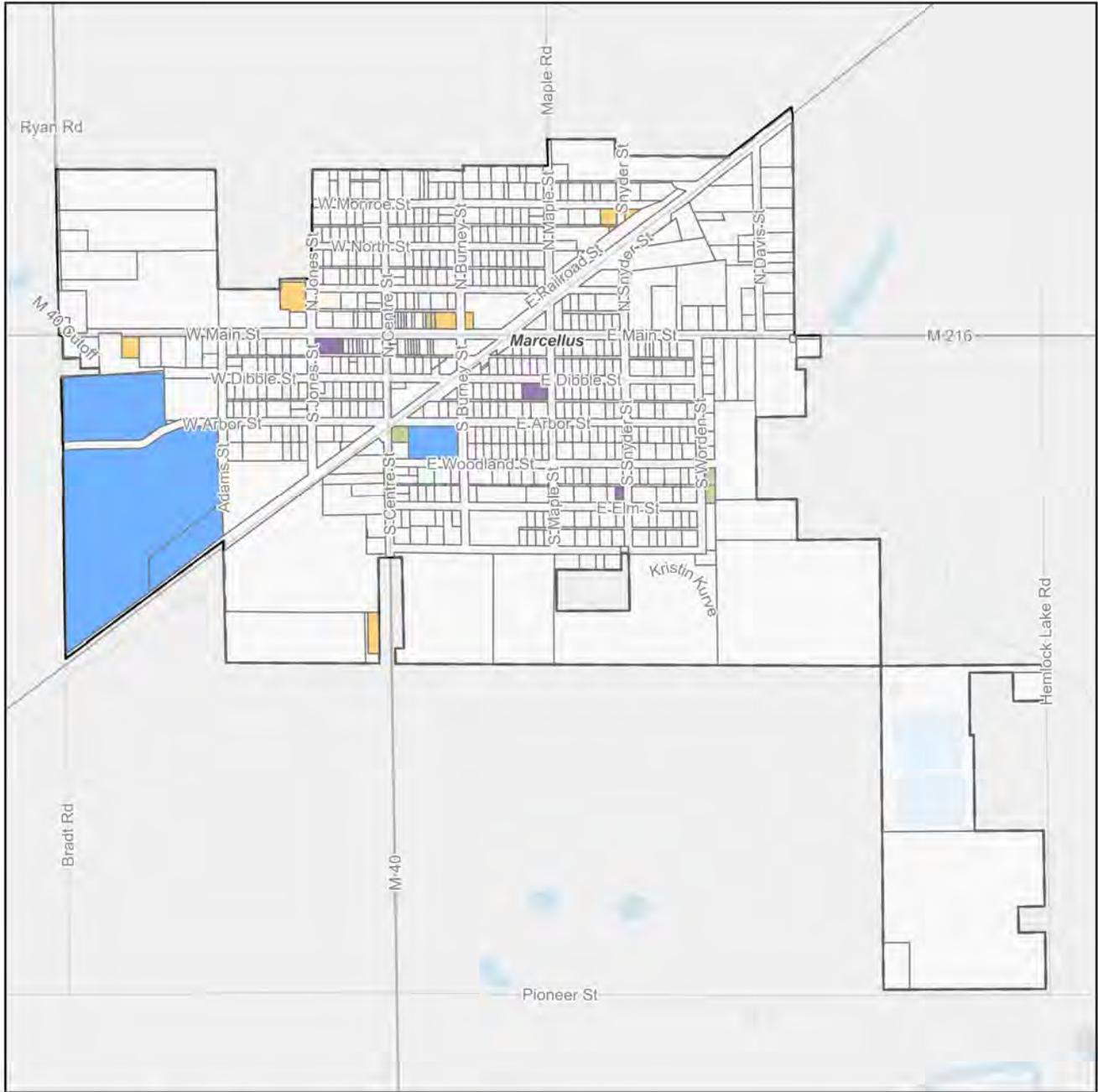
-  Major Streets
-  Lakes and Rivers
-  Park



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
 Data Source: Cass County 2024.
 McKenna 2024.



Map 5: Public Facilities



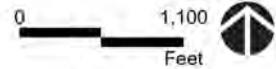
Public Facilities

Village of Marcellus, Michigan

October 17, 2025

LEGEND

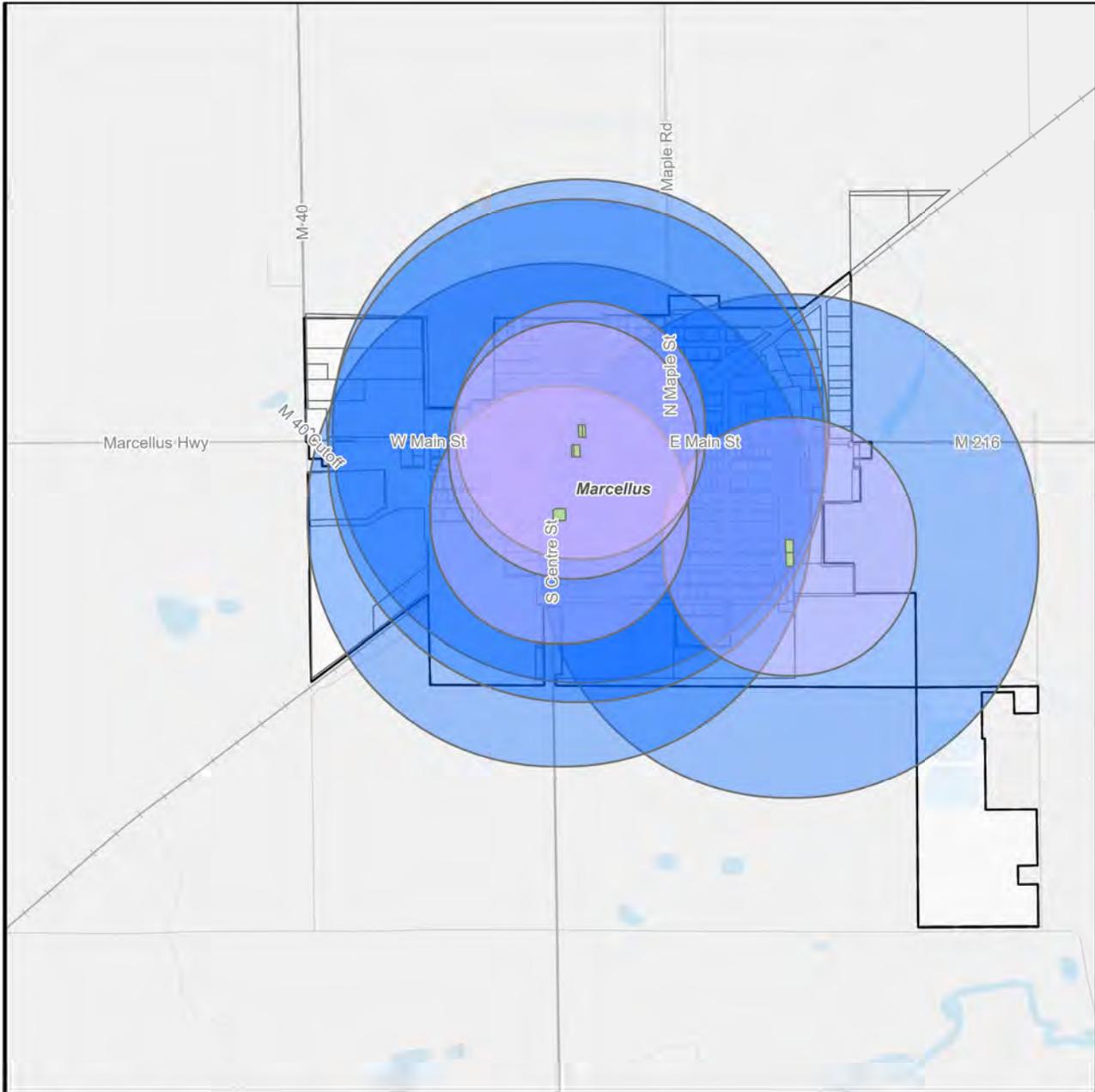
- Civic Institution
- Park
- Religious Institution
- School



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: Cass County 2024.
McKenna 2024.



Map 6: Walkability



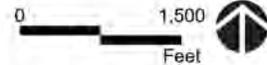
Walkability

Village of Marcellus, Michigan

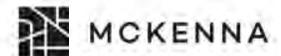
October 17, 2025

LEGEND

-  Park
-  5 Minute Walking Radius
-  10 Minute Walking Radius



Basemap Source: Michigan Center for Geographic Information, v. 17a.
Data Source: Cass County 2024.
McKenna 2024.



School Facilities

Schools offer a variety of recreational opportunities for students and, less frequently, for the public, due to increasing safety concerns faced by schools across the country. The Village of Marcellus is served by the Marcellus Community School District, which includes an elementary school, middle school, high school, and an alternative school.

Marcellus High School and Elementary School are located on the same campus on the west side of town and provide access to several baseball and softball fields, a 400-meter track and football facility, a soccer field, and a playground. Marcellus Middle School, located in the center of town, offers more limited recreational amenities, with a single playground, but it directly abuts Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park. The district’s alternative facility, Marcellus Volinia Outcomes, is located outside the Village limits in Decatur, Michigan, and includes a small ball field.

Private Recreation Facilities

Sometimes, a population will supplement their recreational inventory with private facilities. Private recreation facilities can include camps, sports arenas, golf courses, gyms, clubs, and more. The Village of Marcellus has no private recreation facilities.



Regional Recreation Resources

Regional recreation areas are large facilities serving people within a broad geographic area. The region has been defined as the area within roughly a one-half to one-hour driving radius of the Village of Marcellus. The following Table summarizes regional facilities located up to a 30-mile distance from the Village of Marcellus, Village Hall. The size and type of facilities vary.

Table 7: Regional Facilities Near Village of Marcellus

Regional Facility	Distance from Village of Marcellus* (miles)	Description
Cass County, MI		
Arthur Dodd Memorial Park	13.9	51-acre park with fishing areas, open fields, canoe and kayak access, picnic areas, play equipment, and volleyball court.
Dowagiac Woods Nature Sanctuary	21.7	384-acre nature sanctuary, offering a 1.5-mile loop trail and boardwalks.
Dr. TK Lawless Dark Sky Park	14.6	820 acres including ball fields, children’s play equipment, mountain biking, hiking, and cross-country skiing trails, disc golf, open fields, picnic areas, and volleyball court.
Fred Russ Forest Park	8.6	580-acre research forest with cross country skiing, equestrian, and hiking trails, fishing areas, kayak and canoe access, picnic areas, and children’s play equipment.
Harmon Parks	17.9	Two parks including boat launch access, swimming access, and picnic areas.
Henry Sears Park	13.9	This park offers boat access to Birch Lake.
Stevens Lakeside Memorial Park	7.7	2-acre swimming park, offering picnic area, rustic restrooms and a small picnic shelter
Stone Lake Beach	18.2	Offers a 200-foot pier, with 4 public transient boat slips, utility connections for mobile food vendors and a concession stand
Swiss Valley Ski Resort	6.7	12 Ski runs, 225 vertical foot peak, seven lifts
Russell’s M-40 Speedway	5.7	3/8 mile D shaped oval racing surface, with seating capacity of approximately 4,000.
VFW Post 4054	0.1	Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, with a meeting hall and a Memorial Walk
Kalamazoo County, MI		
Cold Brook County Park	41.7	Three lakes offering beach access, fishing, and disc golf.
Markin Glen County Park	35.2	Mountain bike trails and swimming beach.
Prairie View County Park	14.5	210-acre park offering lake access, dog park, picnic areas, athletic fields
River Oaks County Park	41.5	Soccer facilities, a splash pad, and dog park.
Scotts Mill County Park	33.3	Picnic areas and fishing.
Arthur & Mildred Woollam Nature Preserve	20.8	Hiking trails, fishing, and natural areas.

Regional Facility	Distance from Village of Marcellus* (miles)	Description
St. Joseph County, MI		
Covered Bridge Farm	19.1	6-acre park, offering restroom facilities, pavilion, river walk and non-motorized boat launch
Feek County Park	25.6	36 acres of natural, undeveloped land.
Hoshel Canoe Park	19.4	Offering kayak/canoe launch & picnic tables
Kettles County Park	15.5	54 acres including St. Joseph River frontage, three miles of hiking trails, and seating areas.
Meyer Broadway County Park	13.5	160-acre park, offering a variety of recreation types: sand volleyball, 36-hole disc golf course, 7-mile mountain bike trail, 5-acre dog park.
Plumb Lake County Park	39.3	126 acres of wooded hiking trails, picnic areas, fishing pier, kayak launch, and playgrounds.
Rawson's King Mill	26.2	12-acre park with picnic areas, gardens, paths, kayak and canoe access, and shaded areas.
Sand Lake County Park	27.8	9 acres including beach areas, fishing, kayak and boat launch, picnic areas, and playground.
St. Joseph County Park	41.6	97 acres including campsites, cabins, fishing and boat piers, swimming beach, hiking trails, sport courts, disc golf, kayak and canoe rentals, picnic areas, and playgrounds.
Timm Preserve	24.8	95 acres offering 3 miles of hiking trails.
Wahbememe Historical Monument	21.6	One-acre park with picnic and seating areas.
Van Buren County, MI		
County Courtyard Park	48.0	A 0.7 acre mini-park in downtown Paw Paw including a gazebo and seating areas.
North Pointe Conservation Area	47.8	17 acres including Lake Michigan beachfront.
Paw Paw Prairie Fen Preserve	11.0	106-acre preserve, offering hiking, snowshoeing, birdwatching
Portman Nature Preserve	17.5	189-acre; offers dirt trails, scenic views and birdwatching
Van Buren State Park	48.0	400 acres including dunes, Lake Michigan beachfront, trails, and campsites.

*Distance measured from the Village of Marcellus, Village Hall

Recreation Programs / Events

Christmas in the Village. Marcellus Village hosts Christmas in the Village in December to celebrate the holidays as a community. They run activities like cookie decorating, a senior luncheon, arts and crafts, a piano recital, food trucks, business specials, a Christmas tree lighting, and parade.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner. Each year the Marcellus Fire Department hosts a Spaghetti dinner to support families in need over the holidays.

Bluegill Frolic. Each year the Village hosts a festival with community events like cornhole, car shows, fishing contests, pony rides, food trucks, and carnival games.

Recycling and Waste Collection Events. The Village offers various cleanup days/drop off events to collect larger items like bulk furniture, stoves, microwaves, washers, and mattresses. These events are advertised on the Village's Website and Facebook page to keep their residents up to date. A recycling program is scheduled for the Fall of each year.

Marcellus Township also offers dump passes, which are available to the Village as part of the Township. Cass County offers additional times throughout the year to dispose of potential household hazardous waste, such as discarded electronics and vehicle tires that are not suitable for a landfill.

First Fridays in Marcellus: Fostering Downtown Vibrancy and Community Engagement. First Fridays are a popular monthly initiative in Marcellus, typically running from June through October. These events celebrate downtown businesses and serve as a vital catalyst for community gathering and local economic activity. Each First Friday features a rotating schedule of activities, often including a Farm & Artisan Market, live music, special promotions from downtown businesses, and unique exhibits or events hosted by the Marcellus Township Wood Memorial Library and other local organizations. This recurring event series significantly contributes to the Village's cultural vibrancy, attracts visitors, and strengthens community identity by drawing residents and neighbors to the downtown core.



BLUEGILL FROLIC
AUGUST 15 & 16, 2025
499 S BURNEY ST.
MARCELLUS, MI

JEREMY HARTMAN
4pm-7pm

FRIDAY

Spark U Fight
7PM-11PM

THE Y-NAUT BAND
1PM-5PM

CAR SHOW

BLOW UP COSTUME RACE
SATURDAY @ 5PM

R-P
7PM-11PM

SATURDAY
8AM-2PM

FISHING CONTEST, FOOD TRUCKS, VENDORS, GAMES, RIDES, DUNK TANK, CORNHOLE, RAFFLE PRIZES

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Chapter 4. **ADMINISTRATION**

The Village of Marcellus Planning Commission is a five-member elected body long established under Michigan Enabling Legislation Act 1905 PA 157. The Village of Marcellus Planning Commission members are elected to a three-year term and meets once per quarter with the ability to call special meetings as necessary.

The Parks and Recreation Committee is a group of two members who control the development and administration of the parks and recreation within the Village. They are responsible for ensuring the parks and recreational facilities and programming meet the needs of the community as well as developing plans to enhance recreational activities.

The Parks and Recreation budget approvals and personnel policy/records administration are conducted by the Village Council.



Parks and Recreation Funding

The primary funding for Parks and Recreation is provided by the General Fund. The Park Commission creates the budget for parks and recreation and makes a recommendation to the Village Council for approval. The Village Council reviews the request and appropriates funds for parks and recreation. The Village does not have a separate park millage.

General fund revenues are derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, and court fines or forfeitures.

Expenditures

Expense	2025 Approved Budget	2026 Projected Budget Expenditures
Supplies / Equipment - Operations	\$3,200	\$6,400
Contracted Services	\$10,000	\$20,000
Total Appropriations	\$13,200	\$26,400

Budget

Expense	2025 Approved Budget	12/31/2024 Actual Expense	12/17/2025 Amended Budget	2025 Budget	8/7/2025 Actual Budget	8/12/2025 Amended Budget	2026 Budget (Draft)
Operating Supplies	\$3,200	\$1,413.40	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$801.17	\$3,200	\$6,400
Contracted Services	\$10,000	-	-	\$10,000	-	\$10,000	\$20,000
Total Appropriations	\$13,200	\$1,413.40	\$3,200	\$3,200	\$801.17	\$13,200	\$26,400

Capital Improvement Plan (Subject to Change)

Expense	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
DPW Mower			\$20,000			
DPW Truck					\$110,000	
DPW Bobcat and Accessories	\$98,000					
Roof at Village-Owned Rental Buildings	\$96,000					
Paint Village-Owned Buildings	\$58,000					
Stevens Park				\$288,000	\$288,000	\$288,000
Storm System Improvements						
Tailgater Stabilization	\$63,974					
DPW Leaf Vac	\$50,000					
Sidewalks		\$56,000				
Storm Inlet and Spor Line Repair, Relocation		\$2,026	\$70,000			
Street Project		\$110,000			\$350,000	
Water Treatment Plant		\$1,500,000				
Elm & North Streets Main Replacements						\$2,500,000
Generator	\$90,000					
Pull and Refurb Wellheads					\$176,400	
Water Meters			\$160,800	\$160,800		
Steel Gravity Line to East			\$82,000			
Line Influent Splitting Structure		\$69,000				
Spot Lining Pipes	\$51,000			\$55,000		
Add Fall Protection to Lift Stations		\$31,824				
Add Valve and Pipes – South Lagoon C1 to LASA	\$35,000					
Remediation for Plastics Collection	\$230,000					
Sludge Removal					\$441,000	\$441,000
Anticipated Allocations	\$771,974	\$1,768,850	\$332,800	\$503,800	\$1,365,400	\$3,229,000

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants

The following is a summary of the three most well-known recreation grant programs now available through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for communities that have an up-to-date recreation plan:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF): Eligible projects include acquisition of land or rights in land for recreational uses or for protection of the land because of its environmental importance or scenic beauty, including additions to existing parks, forest lands or wildlife areas. Development of public outdoor-recreation facilities is eligible (such as picnic areas, beaches, boating access, fishing and hunting facilities, winter sports areas, playgrounds, ballfields, tennis courts, and trails). Funds are provided through the sale of oil and mineral leases on State land. Local contributions equal to at least 25 percent of the project cost are required. There is no minimum or maximum amount for acquisition projects. The minimum allowable grant for development is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$400,000.

There are three special initiatives approved by the Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Proposals will receive special attention if they:

- » Are located within U.S. Census Bureau Metropolitan Statistical Areas;
- » Increase environmental education facilities statewide; but particularly in urban areas; and
- » Acquire land or develop trail ways that contribute to the development of a statewide trail network.

Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): Administered eligible projects include community recreation and trailway improvements. These are grants of \$30,000 to \$500,000 to local units of government for development of facilities such as ballfields, tennis courts, playgrounds, trails and picnic areas; and including support facilities; renovation of existing facilities and retrofitting of existing facilities to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. Funds are provided through federal appropriations. The grant match basis is 50 percent MDNR/50 percent local.

Recreation Passport Grant: The Recreation Passport program is funded through proceeds of park passes purchased for admission to State Parks in Michigan. Grants of between \$7,500 and \$150,000 are available to communities mainly for the improvement of existing parks, though new park development is technically eligible.

Other Funding Sources

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Revenues obtained through the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program can be used for a variety of community improvement projects, including development of recreation facilities or land acquisition for new parks or athletic fields in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods that qualify under the program.

Donations. Businesses, corporations, private clubs, and community organizations will often contribute to recreation and other improvement programs to benefit the communities in which they are located. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, the donation of land, the provision of volunteer services, or the contribution of equipment or facilities.

Foundations. A foundation is a special non-profit legal entity that is established as a mechanism through which land, cash, and securities can be donated for the benefit of parks and recreation services. The assets are disbursed by the foundation board of directors according to a predetermined plan. Funding for recreation facilities through foundations is very limited.

Lease or Contractual Agreements. The Parks & Recreation Department may increase the availability of recreation facilities to its residents by leasing sites and facilities from other recreation providers. For example, the Village could agree to help maintain school recreation facilities in exchange for guaranteed availability of the facility to the public. The Village could also contract with private entrepreneurs to provide services at Village-owned Park facilities, such as recreation programming, food service, or facility maintenance. Privatization of services can increase recreation opportunities available to residents, while minimizing Village costs.

Public Use Conveyances. Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, this program provides state lands acquired through delinquent taxes for local government units for public use. Acceptable uses of land acquired under this program include development of local parks.

Grant History

Though the Village of Marcellus does not regularly receive grant funding for maintenance or improvements to its parks, it has been a recipient of grant funds for specific capital projects in the past. Table 5 provides a description of the projects for which the Village received grant funding.

Table 8: Grant History, Village of Marcellus

Project Year / Project Number	Project Title	Grant Amount	Project Description
1978/26-01060 X2	Marcellus Tennis Courts	\$7,542.50	Tennis Courts and new signage. Scope items were determined to be obsolete.
1990/BF90-394	Youth Baseball/Softball	\$30,000	Access improvement as well as baseball and softball diamonds on school property.
2019	Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park	\$5,000	The Village received a PAR, Plan Risk Reduction, Grant for ground safety cover when installing a wheelchair swing.
Total Grant Funding	-	\$42,542.50	-

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Chapter 5.

BASIS FOR ACTION PLAN

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) has adopted a set of standards, based upon those developed by the National Parks and Recreation Association (NPRA), to determine the need for recreation facilities in each community. These standards establish 1) the specific recreation facilities such as tennis courts or soccer fields, which should be available based upon the population of the community; and 2) the “service areas,” or the number and type of parks that should be available to residents within a certain distance of their homes. Each of these standards will be applied to the existing inventory of Marcellus Village-owned and operated facilities to determine if deficiencies are present.

MDNR standards are evaluated alongside public input, which was garnered with a public survey. MDNR standards are not meant to be set-in-stone necessities of the Village and should instead be considered as recommendations, with equal priority being placed upon public opinion. The results of this analysis will be incorporated, in part, into the Action Plan that follows.

Summary of Public Input

Public input is extremely important to the Village of Marcellus, as residents, business owners, and community stakeholders are the experts of the community. The opinions gathered during the public engagement process were paired with the expertise of Village staff and consultants to inform the goals and objectives in this plan. To gather a sufficient amount of public opinion, the Village had multiple methods of collecting public comment including a survey, the public comment period, and public hearing.

Parks and Recreation Survey

The public survey was launched on April 15, 2025, and concluded on September 01, 2025. The survey had 11 questions and covered various topics related to the Village's parks and recreation facilities.

A Quick Response "QR" code was distributed to the residents at Village Hall from April 2025 to August 2025, in order to solicit feedback during summer tax bill payments. Residents and interested stakeholders were also given the option to complete a paper copy of the survey, which was available at Village Hall. The survey generated **178 responses**.

SUMMARY of KEY POINTS

1. **Safety.** Many respondents indicated a perceived lack of safety and security in public parks. As one of the Parks & Recreation Department's top priorities, it should consider how to increase feelings of overall safety. This could look like increased police presence, emergency call boxes, and surveillance.
2. **Desire.** Overall, there is a desire for more amenities in the Village. Specifically, restrooms, hiking and walking trails, canoe and kayak launches, special events and festivals, adult fitness and wellness, and pickleball.
3. **Variety.** Analysis of survey data indicates the need for more variety in amenity types so people of all ages and abilities can participate in recreational programming and activities. Variety may also look like the incorporation of fall and winter activities to promote all-season recreation.
4. **Connectivity.** Some respondents expressed disuse of recreational opportunities due to the lack of access and connectivity. Many survey respondents noted the desire for additional walking paths and trails. This concern is further analyzed later in this chapter.
5. **Programming.** Many respondents indicated a desire for programming, noting their availability is largely on weekends (Saturday and Sunday).

Parks and Recreation Plan Survey Results

The Parks and Recreation Plan survey engaged 178 residents, property owners, and visitors on questions pertaining to programming and activities, recreational facilities, and general concerns about the existing parks and recreation facilities.

The following are the top survey question responses:

What best describes your residential status?

1. I am a Village of Marcellus resident
2. I do not own property within the Village, but frequent services and establishments within
3. I am a resident of the Village of Marcellus

How long have you lived in the Village of Marcellus?

1. More than 20 years
2. 5-10 years
3. Less than five years

What is your age?

1. 45-54
2. 35-44
3. 23-34

Which parks and recreation facilities in or near the Village are you familiar with or have visited in the past?

1. Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboarding
2. Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park
3. Columbian Park (east of Tailgater)

How often do you or members of your household visit parks or recreational facilities?

1. Less than once per month
2. Monthly
3. Weekly

If you do not visit local / regional parks, recreation facilities, and/or programs, why not?

1. I do not know the location of parks and facilities
2. Quality of programs is poor
3. Desired programs or facilities not offered

In general, what kinds of recreational/leisure activities do you and your family members participate in (or would if they were available)?

1. Cultural events / festivals
2. Children's play
3. Exercise / fitness

Which of the following specific activities or facilities that you would be most interested in seeing the Village of Marcellus offer in the future?

1. Walking trails
2. Community gardens
3. Special events / festivals

What parks and/or recreational facilities would you MOST like to see developed in the Village in the future?

1. Passive parks, such as nature preserves with walking trails
2. Creation of trail facilities for leisure
3. Improvements to the Ray Gyllstrom Park - including new equipment

What is the best way that the Village of Marcellus can get information to you?

1. Social media (Facebook, Instagram, BlueSky, etc.).
2. Village Website
3. Email

Additional comments and ideas:

- » The majority of respondents want to see a complete, **accessible sidewalk network** and more **walking trails** for passive recreation.
- » Respondents want to see more **accessible and family-oriented parks** for all age groups and abilities (suggestions for park amenities include play structures, restroom facilities, tennis courts, pickle ball courts, splash pads, and parks with wheelchair accessible surfaces).
- » Respondents want to see more **community events, activities, and programming** happening in parks (and better information about these events online) but noted that existing parks would need to be cleaned and updated to comfortably accommodate these events.

Parks and Recreation Plan Survey Summary Tables

General	
Positives	Areas for Improvement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Support for more community events and activities » Support for improved facilities (play structures, restrooms, tennis/pickle ball courts, splash pads, community gardens, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Pedestrian infrastructure improvements: sidewalks and walking paths. » Appearance and upkeep of existing parks » Accessibility features: sidewalks, age-appropriate play structures, etc.
Events & Programming	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Strong support for more programming in outdoor venues similar to First Fridays » Support for family-friendly activities and programming in parks » Opportunities for new outdoor events like farmer’s markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Need for better information about community events, activities, and programming on social media and the Village of Marcellus website » To accommodate events, existing parks need to be cleaned and updated with restroom facilities, picnic tables, lighting, etc. » Need for more accessible features in parks: sidewalks that accommodate wheelchairs
Sidewalks & Walking Trails	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Strong support for more walking / biking trails and accessible sidewalks » Improved trail systems and parks may attract visitors » Opportunities for new types of parks: public beaches, dog parks, tennis / pickle-ball courts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Need for more walking / biking trails in and around the Village » Need for more sidewalks and repair of existing sidewalks to improve walkability and general accessibility

PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN SUMMARY

Overall, survey participants were primarily residents of the Village of Marcellus and respondents favored more passive parks with features like walking trails and nature preserves, emphasizing the need for more walkable areas in the Village. The most common themes reflected the need for more accessible sidewalks and walking trails, and programming, more family-friendly facilities and activities, and more community events, activities.

Accessible Sidewalks and Walking Trails

Respondents highlight the importance of improving walkability and general accessibility. Many participants note the lack of sidewalks and emphasize that improvements to parks should be primarily focused on creating and maintaining sidewalks and trails, allowing users of all ages and abilities to access parks and recreational facilities. Multiple responses highlight the need for wheelchair accessible pathways in particular.

Family-Friendly Facilities and Activities

Many participants are in favor of more family-friendly facilities including play structures, tennis / pickleball courts, splash pads, picnic tables, and restrooms. Survey responses also note concern that the current appearance and upkeep of the parks discourage users and that more family-friendly programming would encourage mindful use of parks and recreation facilities.

Community Events, Activities, and Programming

The survey shows strong support for more community events, activities, and programming in the parks. Many respondents mention First Fridays as being particularly important and would like to see more community events and activities like farmer's markets and community gardens but are concerned that the upkeep of existing parks would have to be improved before they could be used for these events. Additionally, respondents would like to see more information about events and programming both on social media and on the Village of Marcellus website.

Public Comment Period

Residents and stakeholders of the Village of Marcellus had the chance to provide feedback on the plan within the 30-day public comment period, commencing on October 29, 2025, and concluding on December 3, 2025. Notification about the public comment duration was posted online and at Village Hall. The plan was accessible both online and in-person at Village Hall for examination. No comments were received during this time.

Public Hearing

Prior to adoption, the Village Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 03, 2025. Notice for the public hearing was published on October 31, 2025, at Village Hall, included on the community calendar on the Village website and posted in a local paper of general circulation.

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Chapter 6. **ACTION PLAN**

This Chapter of the Plan is the culmination of a comprehensive planning effort that began with a thorough analysis of the physical and demographic attributes of the community, followed by public engagement, and park inventory. Existing parks and recreation facilities and programs were inventoried and evaluated. An assessment of need was then developed that considered both accepted recreation standards and the specialized needs of persons with disabilities. This information was all considered when forming the resulting Action Plan, which will guide the Village's decisions for parks and recreation for the next five years.

Mission Statement

The Village of Marcellus Park and Recreation committee works on behalf of the citizens of Village of Marcellus to build a healthy community and a sustainable environment by promoting active lifestyles and strong individuals and families through parks, programs, and partnerships.

Goals and Objectives

Goals should be broad and address general needs and establish the basis for setting specific programmed objectives. Objectives are measurable results that the community works toward accomplishing. The following goals and objectives resulted from demographic data, MDNR recommendations, previous Village goals, the conducted needs assessment, best practices and public input.

The following table identifies goals and objectives, while placing a priority ranking of Low (L), Medium (M) or High (H) based on the desired need. Further, the table identifies the timeline, on a year one to year five scale of when the objective is anticipated to be reached. Lastly, the table identifies the objective/project Lead in terms of organization that will be the primary party responsible for executing the objectives.

Priority		Lead	
H	High	VS	Village Staff
M	Medium	PC	Planning Commission
L	Low	PR	Parks and Recreation Committee
		V	Volunteers

Goal 1: Ensure and maintain safe recreation opportunities and facilities.			
Objective	Priority	Timeline (Years)	Lead
1.a Host regular park events and festivals to foster a sense of place.	H	1	VS PC PR V
1.b Regularly conduct a parks inventory to ensure the safety of equipment and facilities.	H	All	VS
1.c Regularly maintain parks facilities to create an inviting and physically safe environment.	H	All	VS
1.d Develop a volunteer team to assist in planning, designing, and implementing park and programming opportunities and events such as festivals, classes, and fitness groups.	H	All	PR V
1.e Update the facilities at Ray Gyllstrom Park.	M	2	VS

Goal 2: Provide a variety of recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities.

Objective	Priority	Timeline (Years)	Lead
2.a Update existing and create new parks and facilities which meet or exceed the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).	H	2	VS
2.b Provide recreational programming that is considerate of all age groups, backgrounds, and interests.	H	All	PR
2.c Seek opportunities to expand existing trails as well as locations for new trails.	H	1	VS PC
2.d Update picnic facilities at each park.	M	All	VS
2.e Investigate opportunities for Pickleball Courts.	M	2	PR
2.f Investigate opportunities for a dog park.	M	3	PR
2.g Investigate potential sites for new athletic fields.	M	2	PR
2.h Update parks signage to allow for ease of use.	L	3	VS

Goal 3: Sustainability, Resiliency & Natural Features Preservation

Objective	Priority	Timeline (Years)	Lead
3.a Encourage alternative methods of accessing parks and recreation facilities including bicycling and public transportation.	L	All	VS PR
3.b Establish pollinator gardens and habitats to support bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects as well as native plantings.	L	3	VS PR

Goal 4: Financial Resources and Investments

Objective	Priority	Timeline (Years)	Lead
4.a Seek additional funding opportunities through grant assistance.	H	All	PC PR
4.b Seek cooperative funding and community volunteer resources for programs and services with existing agencies, programs and organizations.	M	All	PC PR

Goal 5: Communication

Objective	Priority	Timeline (Years)	Lead
5.a Improve communication between Village Staff and residents using social media, the Village website, and email.	L	All	VS PC PR
5.b Provide communication tools with information related to all parks and recreation offerings and facilities.	L	All	VS PC PR

Park-specific Improvements

The following table is a summary of actions that the Village and its partners should undertake during the planning period, and beyond; these activities are discrete and consistent with the Goals and Objectives, public input received, and the analysis of the Village's parks and recreation needs.

Table 9: Summary of Action Items, Village of Marcellus

Park	Findings / Observations (Needs Identified)	Priority	Timeline (Years)
All Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Update park signs to promote a unified look and message display » Acquire new land for future expansion and development of recreational facilities » Increase safety » Create community events and programs » Add additional recreational features » Regularly maintain park facilities » Investigate opportunities for pollinator gardens and habitats to support bees, butterflies, and other pollinating insects as well as native plantings 	H	1-3
Ray Gyllstrom Memorial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Update play equipment to expand Inclusive Play designs. 	H	1 - 2
Village Commons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Update picnic equipment and add more seating 	M	2 - 3
Columbian Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Update picnic equipment and add more seating 	M	2 - 3
Steven's Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Develop programming opportunities using existing green space » Add picnic facilities » Investigate opportunities for recreational activities, such as pickleball, adult fitness & wellness, kids play structures and other desired amenities for inclusion. 	M	2 - 3



APPENDICES

- » APPENDIX A: Notice of 30-Day Public Comment Period
- » APPENDIX B: Publication of Public Hearing for Plan Adoption
- » APPENDIX C: Resolution of Plan Adoption by Village Board
- » APPENDIX D: Public Hearing and Adoption Minutes
- » APPENDIX E: Post-Certification
- » APPENDIX F: Community Engagement Results



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Appendix A: Notice of 30-Day Public Comment Period

**VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS
PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN AND MASTER PLAN**

COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for Community Parks and Recreation Plans that the draft the Village of Marcellus Parks and Recreation Plan will be available for viewing by the general public, and that a public hearing will be held on the plan. The Village Council authorized the 30-day comment period on October 28, 2025.

The plan will be available at the Village Office (177 E Main St, Marcellus, MI 49067) and at villageofmarcellus.org from October 31, 2025 to December 1, 2025.

The Village Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on December 3, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Village Office (177 E Main St, Marcellus, MI 49067).

Written comments on the proposed Parks and Recreation Plan can be submitted by email to clerk@villageofmarcellus.org, or by mail to PO Box 429, Marcellus, MI 49067.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Public Act No. 33 of 2008 the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, as amended, that the Village of Marcellus Plan will be available for viewing by the general public, and that a public hearing will be held on the plan. The Village Council authorized the 63-day comment period on October 28, 2025.

The plan will be available at the Village Office (177 E Main St, Marcellus, MI 49067) and at villageofmarcellus.org from October 31, 2025 to January 5, 2026.

The Village Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on January 14, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Village Office (177 E Main St, Marcellus, MI 49067).

Written comments on the proposed Master Plan can be submitted can be submitted by email to clerk@villageofmarcellus.org, or by mail to PO Box 429, Marcellus, MI 49067.

Jacqueline A. Terrill, Clerk/Manager

Publication Date: October 31, 2025
CERTIFIED: Jacqueline A. Terrill, Clerk/Manager

[Click here to view the Village of Marcellus Draft Parks & Recreation Plan](#)

[Click here to view the Village of Marcellus Draft Master Plan](#)

Appendix B:

Publication of Public Hearing for Plan Adoption

Bluegill from page two

shared storage arrangement with other local organizations and possible continued village storage.

- Discussions with the VFW regarding a car show/fundraising event during the festival will continue, with an update expected at the December meeting.
- The committee discussed a potential name change. If changed, the leading option is "Marcellus Spring/Summer Fling." Final decision pending.
- The third weekend in June is being considered for the 2026 festival to avoid weather challenges.
- Blake Terrill discussed potential collaboration with the DDA, including becoming a sub-committee to expand funding and volunteer support. Legal counsel review is required before proceeding.

New Business

- Welcome to new members Cindy Wilson and Dianne Mierzejewski.
- Patch & Remington confirmed as the meeting location for Thursday meetings. A \$20 donation per meeting is suggested. The committee will vote on how to fund this expense.
- For Christmas in the Village on December 6, the committee will again sell hot cocoa and baked goods. Volunteers should contact Todd.
- A new community volunteer group led by Mike and Alisa Burtleigh is forming to support positive initiatives in Marcellus. Contact Todd for meeting details.

Preliminary Role Assignments (Subject to Update)

- Fishing: Tommy
- Comhoie: Todd
- Raffle / Silent Auction: Todd
- Craft Vendors: Dianne
- Food Vendors: Chelsea
- Car Show: Todd + TBD
- Talent/Karaoke: Amber
- Rides: To be assigned
- Beer Tent/Bands: To be assigned
- Parade: To be assigned

Additional Notes

- Committee would like to include more educational activities such as DNR mobile fish tank and animal education programs.
- If festival moves to June, sponsorship letters should be prepared by end of year.
- Some businesses may prefer to donate before year-end due to fiscal year budgets.
- Meeting Adjourned: 7:13 PM
- Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, at 7:00 PM

Michigan elk hunting proposals would lengthen harvest time



A bull elk in the northern Lower Peninsula, which is home to about 1,100 elk.

The DNR welcomes public feedback on proposals through January 23

Michigan elk hunters would have longer harvest periods for the 2026-27 hunting cycle under draft proposals by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The proposals would lengthen both elk hunting periods in the northern Lower Peninsula, home to Michigan's elk herd.

- Hunt Period 1 would run from the second Saturday in September through the second Sunday in October – a 30-day, continuous period. Currently, Hunt Period 1 is broken up into three, four-day hunts stretching across August and September – 12 total hunting days.
- Hunt Period 2 would run from Dec. 1 through Dec. 15 – a 15-day period. Currently, Hunt Period 2 runs from Dec. 13 through Dec. 21 – a nine-day period.

Combined, the two hunting periods would provide 45 total days of harvest time, more than double the current 21 total days of harvest time. The proposals, which do not affect the 2025 elk hunting season, must be approved by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

In addition to making Hunt Period 1 longer and continuous, the change would move the period later in the season when the weather is generally colder and better for elk hunting.

"Shifting the period later in the year should give hunters more favorable weather conditions," said Scott Eggeman, a Gaylord-based field operations manager for the DNR Wildlife Division. "And a monthlong, continuous hunting period would provide hunters with more opportunities, allow flexibility to choose when they want to hunt and help them safely and effectively target an appropriate elk by reducing the pressure on them to make a kill quickly."

The proposed change to Hunt Period 2 not only lengthens the period, but also moves it further away from the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays. Currently, Hunt Period 2 ends Dec. 21; under the proposal, it would end Dec. 15.

In another proposed change, hunters would have 72 hours to register their elk with the DNR. Currently, elk

DAR America 250! Scholarships Accepting Applications Through January 31, 2026

Ten \$25,000 scholarships for students studying American history will be given by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 2026 to mark America's 250th anniversary.

WASHINGTON – Undergraduate and graduate students studying American history can apply for a \$25,000 scholarship from the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) now through January 31, 2026. The DAR America 250! Scholarship will provide a one-time \$25,000 award to ten students in 2026 and is offered to mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

"We are so thrilled to expand the America 250! Scholarship in its final year of being awarded in order to be able to offer ten \$25,000 scholarships to students," said Ginnie Sebastian Storage, DAR President General. "We see no better way to celebrate America's 250th anniversary than with these transformative and life-changing scholarships investing in the development of the next generation of American historians who will study our past and help us understand new aspects of the great American story."

The DAR gives more than 30 scholarships annually, awarding close to a total of \$250,000 a year to students across the country, but the organization has never provided a singular scholarship of this size. The significant amount of the America 250! Scholarship, and that it will be awarded to ten separate students, is a testament of the importance of American history education that DAR places emphasis on and in honor of the special celebrations taking place throughout 2026 in honor of the 250th anniversary of the nation.

Applicants should apply through the DAR online scholarship portal, DAR Academic Works: <https://dar.academicworks.com/>

Students currently majoring in American history in an accredited university or college undergraduate or graduate program in the year 2026 are eligible to apply. Recipients must be United States citizens, prove a minimum 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale or equivalent, and prepare a one-page online essay either on the founding of our nation or on the applicant's personal volunteer achievements for community and country.

Students are urged to apply well ahead of the January 31, 2026 deadline, as the scholarship application requires transcripts and letters of recommendation that must be submitted by others. Applicants will find that the scholarship portal will offer other DAR scholarships they may qualify for as well. Questions can be addressed to america250scholarship@nsdar.org.

Applications may be submitted at: <https://dar.academicworks.com/>
About the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
 One of the largest patriotic women's service organizations in the world, DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and several foreign countries. DAR members promote historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more. For additional information about DAR and its relevant mission, visit www.dar.org.

Paw Paw Community Chorus Plans Christmas Concert

The Paw Paw Community Chorus will present their 26th Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 7, 4 p.m., at the Paw Paw United Methodist Church located at 420 W. Michigan Avenue, Paw Paw. The chorus, under the direction of Theresa Vaughn, will be accompanied on piano by Ewone Heystek.

The following selections will be presented by the chorus: "We Are Waiting" by Sally-K. Albrecht, Charles Wesley, & Jay Althous, "There Is Faint Music" by Nancy Buckley & Dan Forrest, "Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)" by Amy Grant & Chris Eaton/Arr. by Roger Emerson, "Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, "Bring Us Hope" by Ruth Elaine Schram, "In December"

See Concert page eight

must be registered within 24 hours of harvest.

The draft proposals do not include any recommended changes to Michigan's elk management unit boundaries or the annual elk drawing.

The DNR hosted an open house Thursday in Gaylord to outline the proposals and receive public comment. Feedback on these draft proposals can also be emailed to DNR-Elk-Hunt@Michigan.gov by Jan. 23, 2026.

Final proposed elk regulations and elk license quotas for 2026-27 will be presented to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission at its March 2026 meeting. As with all regulations, the final recommendations will be available through a link to the March agenda when it is available on the NRC webpage. Additional input can be provided directly to the NRC at that time.

VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

NOTICE OF PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER PARKS & RECREATION PLAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS, CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Village of Marcellus Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on December 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Marcellus Village Hall, located at 177 E. Main St., Marcellus, Michigan, Cass County, regarding the following item:

1. A public hearing on the Village of Marcellus Parks & Recreation Plan.

Written comments will be received concerning the above matter by the Village of Marcellus Clerk via first class mail to PO Box 429, Marcellus, MI 49067 or by email to clerk@villageofmarcellus.org and may be further submitted to the Planning Commission during the meeting.

A copy of the Draft Parks & Recreation Plan may be examined by visiting the Village's website, www.villageofmarcellus.org, under Announcements, or by contacting the Village of Marcellus Clerk via first class mail to PO Box 429, Marcellus, MI 49067 or by email to clerk@villageofmarcellus.org after publication of this Notice and may also be examined at the meeting. All interested persons are invited to be present at the aforesaid time and place.

The Village of Marcellus will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services at the hearing to individuals with disabilities upon receipt of notice at least five (5) days prior to the public hearing. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Village Clerk.

Dennis Irwin, Village Council President
 James Thomas, Jr., Planning Commission Chair
 Jacqueline A. Terrill, Village Manager/Clerk

From the Editor:

Please plan ahead!
 Due to the MHS band's trip to Orlando the week of November 24, 2025, all submissions for the November 27 edition of The News must be received no later than 5pm, Friday, November 21.
 Thank you! KSM

Winter Parking Notice

Winter Parking and Snow Removal Ordinance No. 256 is in effect between November 1 and March 15 of each year between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

During regulated parking times, parking is limited to:
 1. Monday, Wednesday and Friday of each week, park only on the south and west side of any street.
 2. Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday of each week, park only on the north and east side of any street.

The Full Ordinance is Available from the Utilities Clerk at the Marcellus Village Hall, 177 E. Main St., Marcellus, MI.

October 28, 2025

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 CASS COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
 WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2025 4:00 PM**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with the provisions of Public Act No. 33 of 2008 the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, as amended, that the Cass County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing as noticed above on November 19, 2025 at 4:00 pm in the Commissioners Chamber, at 120 N. Broadway Street, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031. The Planning Commission will consider recommendation of adoption of the proposed Cass County Master Plan. This public hearing marks the end of the 63-day review period which was authorized by the Cass County Board of Commissioners on September 4, 2025.

The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. The proposed Master Plan is available to read online at: www.casscountymi.org/1658/Cass-County-Draft-Master-Plan.

All members of the public who would like to speak on the Master Plan have the right to speak at the public hearing for up to 3 minutes when the floor is opened for public comment. Written comments are also encouraged and can be provided by sending an email to the Cass County Marketing & Communications Manager at ambrosian@ambrosian.com. Written public comments can also be mailed to or dropped at the Cass County Administration Office: Attn: Ambrosia Neldson, 120 N. Broadway Cassopolis, Michigan, 49031.

Following public comment and discussion, the Planning Commission may vote to recommend adoption of the Master Plan to the Cass County Board of Commissioners. Following the Planning Commission's recommendation, the Cass County Board of Commissioners must vote on whether to adopt the Master Plan in order for it to be finalized.

Publication: [Date]

Public Notice of Rescheduled Regular Meeting and Budget Workshops

The Marcellus Village Council has rescheduled its Tuesday, November 12, 2025, Regular Meeting to Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

The Village Council will hold two Budget Workshops to discuss the proposed 2025/2026 Fiscal Year Budgets for all Village funds. The workshops are scheduled as follows:

1. Tuesday, November 18, 2025: Held during the rescheduled Regular Meeting.
2. Tuesday, November 25, 2025: Held during the standard Regular Meeting.

All meetings will be held at the Marcellus Village Hall, 177 E. Main St., Marcellus, MI 49067, unless otherwise notified.

Jacqueline A. Terrill
 Village Manager/Clerk
 177 E Main Street
 Marcellus, MI 49067
 269-646-5485
clerk@villageofmarcellus.org

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT

Notice is given under Section 3212 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the Circuit Court in Cass County, 60206 M-62, Cassopolis, MI 49031, starting promptly at 11:00 a.m., November 26, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.

Default has been made in the conditions of a Mortgage by Peter Krebs, Irene Krebs and Eric Krebs, the original mortgagors, to Honor Credit Union, Mortgagee, dated July 17, 2015, and recorded on August 03, 2015 in Liber 1093 on Page 10, in Cass County, Michigan Records, on which Mortgage there is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of \$33,632.80 including interest at 8.5% per annum. Said premises is situated in the City of Dowagiac, County of Cass, State of Michigan, and described as:

Part of the West half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 27, Town 6 South, Range 16 West, described as, from the East Quarter of Section 27, Messuage West along the East and West Quarter line, 1821.80 Feet to the point of beginning of the Lands herein described; thence West along said Quarter Line, 290.50 feet to a point that is 497.00 feet East of the Center of said Section 27; thence North 300.00 feet; thence East 290.50 feet; thence South 300.00 feet to the point of beginning.

Commonly known as: 30380 Wells Street, Dowagiac, Michigan 49047

The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 52 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this Notice.

THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Date: October 22, 2025

For more information, please call:

HONOR CREDIT UNION
 Mark D. Hofstee (P66001)
 Bohouse, Hofstee & McLean, P.C.
 Grandville State Bank Building
 3599 Chicago Dr SW
 Grandville MI 49418-1384

Appendix C: Resolution of Plan Adoption by Village Board

Resolution 2025-09

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026 PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN BY THE MARCELLUS VILLAGE COUNCIL

**VILLAGE OF MARCELLUS,
COUNTY OF CASS, STATE OF MICHIGAN**

At a Regular Meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Marcellus, County of Cass, State of Michigan, held in said Village on December 16, 2025, there were:

Present: Markle, Engstrom, Webb, Irwin, Haley M., Haley G., and Watts.

Absent: Webb.

The following resolution was offered by Irwin and seconded by Haley M.:

WHEREAS, the Village of Marcellus Planning Commission, Parks & Recreation Committee and Village Staff have undertaken the development of a five (5) year Parks and Recreation Plan regarding development, maintenance and use of parks and recreation facilities in the Village for the period 2026 through 2030; and

WHEREAS, residents of the Village were provided with an opportunity during the development of the Plan to provide comments and ask questions regarding the Parks & Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, residents and the public were given notice of the opportunity to review and comment on the master plan during a noticed 30-day comment period, which period ran from October 28, 2025, to December 3, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held at a special meeting of the Planning Commission December 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. to allow the public to express opinions, ask questions and provide comments regarding the 2026 - 2030 Parks and Recreation Plan; and

WHEREAS, at its special meeting on December 3, 2025, the Village of Marcellus Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the 2026 - 2030 Parks and Recreation Plan to the Marcellus Village Council.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Marcellus Village Council hereby adopts the 2026 – 2030 Village of Marcellus Parks and Recreation Plan as a guideline for improving recreation for the residents of the Village of Marcellus.

All resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Yeas: Haley G., Watts, Markle, Irwin, Haley M. and Engstrom

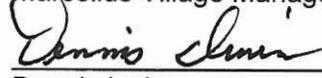
Nays: None

Dated: December 16, 2025



Jacqueline A. Terrill
Marcellus Village Manager/Clerk

Dated: December 16, 2025



Dennis Irwin
Marcellus Village President

Certification: I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Marcellus, County of Cass, State of Michigan, at a meeting held on December 16, 2025, the original of which is on file in my office and available to the public. Public Notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least 18 hours prior to the time set for said meeting.

Dated: December 16, 2025



Jacqueline A. Terrill
Marcellus Village Manager/Clerk

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Appendix D: Public Hearing and Adoption Minutes

Village of Marcellus
Planning Commission Special Meeting
Meeting 12/03/2025

Chair James Thomas Jr. called the Special meeting of the Marcellus Village Planning Commission to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Trustees **present:** James Thomas Jr., Jaclyn Lyles, George Markle and Brian Wilmore
Trustees **absent:** Kim Fox

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment

None Received

Agenda Review & Approval:

Motion by Thomas Jr., seconded by Markle, to approve the agenda as presented.
Ayes: All Present Nays: none **Motion carried**

Minutes Review & Approval:

Motion by Thomas Jr., seconded by Wilmore, to accept the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of 10/15/2025 as presented.
Ayes: All Present Nays: none **Motion carried**

Incentive Policy and Application

Motion by Markle, seconded by Lyles, to approve the Village of Marcellus Incentive Policy and Application as presented.
Ayes: All Present Nays: none **Motion carried**

Public Hearing on Village of Marcellus Parks and Recreation Plan

Motion by Thomas Jr., seconded by Markle, to open the Public Hearing at 7:07 PM for the Village of Marcellus Parks and Recreation Plan
Ayes: All Present Nays: none **Motion carried**

McKenna discussed the Parks and Recreation Plan and the end desire from the Public Hearing and Meeting that the Planning Commission will review and recommend to the Village Council to adopt the 2026 to 2030 Parks and Recreation Plan. The McKenna Graphics team will finish making the document visually appealing pending the output of this meeting. This document will be presented to Council, hopefully it will be formally adopted with a resolution. The appendices that are noted in the document will be finalized with the resolution and compiled as a complete packet. After that packet is completed, it will be uploaded to MiDNR. Also discussed was the

very likely pause that will happen after uploading as they ask for clarification on specific sections or appendices, which is a standard process with them.

Discussion on the Public Comment period and no outside comments were noted as received. But that while reaching out to the county for the Master Plan reminder, they will add a note about the Parks and Recreation Plan potentially being finalized and adopted.

Sarah Engstrom asked what some common comments that may have been received from other communities regarding the Master Plan or the Parks and Recreation Plan. This led to discussion of potential trail connections or shared boundaries with county parks being possible types of comments.

Discussion continued regarding trails and the Safe Routes to School that may be something in the Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Plan as part of the public or non-motorized transportation. MSU is offering a class starting in January of 2026 where they will potentially help create a plan to connect to regional trails. This was discussed about adding a potential note in the document about non-motorized transportation trails in the Transportation section. A paragraph or two that would be broad about the potential connections based upon the MSU Extension conversations and classes as that is a long-term goal of adding more trails. Trails and walking capabilities were a part of the feedback received by the surveys.

Discussion on verifying the language previously brought up about the downtown parks and the one the south side potentially being an economic development property if an investor is found.

Discussion what the final document format and look will be like. What the final document format would be, Word or InDesign. Discussion led to Word being the preferred as it was more easily editable. The goal is to present it to Village Council on 12/26/25.

Gerald Haley, Sr. asked about Steven's Park and the previous discussion on putting a pickleball court there. Discussion on the wording in the Park-Specific Improvements section of the document was had making sure on what applies to which park. Moving the note about pollinator gardens and habitats to All Parks since we are in the middle of an agricultural area and it is beneficial to all. Discussion on making sure that Wellburn Park is removed as it is a school property not a Village property and verifying all references throughout the document.

Discussion on making sure that the consensus is for three potential changes to the document presented. These changes include.

- Transportation Section – Broad notation of potential connections to regional trails and non-motorized transportation
- Park-Specific Improvements Section – Removing item about pollinator gardens and habitats from individual parks and placing in All Parks section.
- Entire Document – Change references of Wellburn Park (Little League Fields) from Village to School owned and operated/maintained.

No further discussion was had in the Public Hearing

Motion by Thomas Jr., seconded by Wilmore, to close the Public Hearing at 7:55 PM for the Village of Marcellus Parks and Recreation Plan
Ayes: All Present Nays: none **Motion carried**

Motion by Thomas Jr., seconded by Lyles, to forward the Village of Marcellus 2026 to 2030 Parks and Recreation Plan to the Village Council with the modifications discussed and bulleted below with the recommendation to adopt.

- Transportation Section – Broad notation of potential connections to regional trails and non-motorized transportation
- Park-Specific Improvements Section – Removing item about pollinator gardens and habitats from individual parks and placing in All Parks section.
- Entire Document – Change references of Wellburn Park (Little League Fields) from Village to School owned and operated/maintained.

Roll Call Vote – Lyles, Aye; Wilmore, Aye; Thomas Jr., Aye; Markle, Aye **Motion carried**

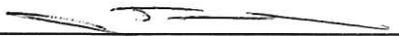
Public Comment

Sarah Engstrom expressed a Thank You to the Planning Commission for the work on the plan. Jacqueline Terrill noted that it seems weird looking at the plan being from 2026 to 2030, because 2030 seems really far away, but is not. And glad that we have a Planning Commission and Council that is wanting to make better living spaces for their residents. And Thank You for the work put into it.

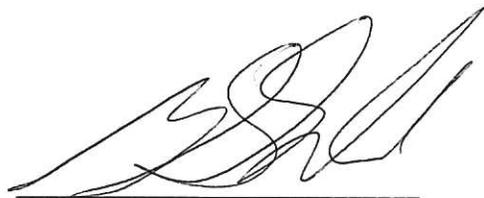
George Markle, Thank You to Kyle and the entire McKenna team for their work. And Thank You to the rest of the Planning Commission and the residents for working to get the large survey response rate.

Adjournment:

Motion by Markle, seconded by Thomas Jr., to adjourn at 8:01pm.
Ayes: All Nays: none **Motion carried**



James Thomas Jr.
Chair, Marcellus Planning Commission



George Markle
Secretary, Marcellus Planning Commission

Appendix E: Post-Certification

See documents below.

Appendix F: Community Engagement Results

See results below.

McKenna

Form Results Summary

Apr 15, 2025 - Aug 27, 2025

Project: Marcellus Online Engagement Hub

Form: Marcellus Master Plan Survey

Tool Type: Form

Activity ID: 64

Exported: Aug 28, 2025, 02:25 PM

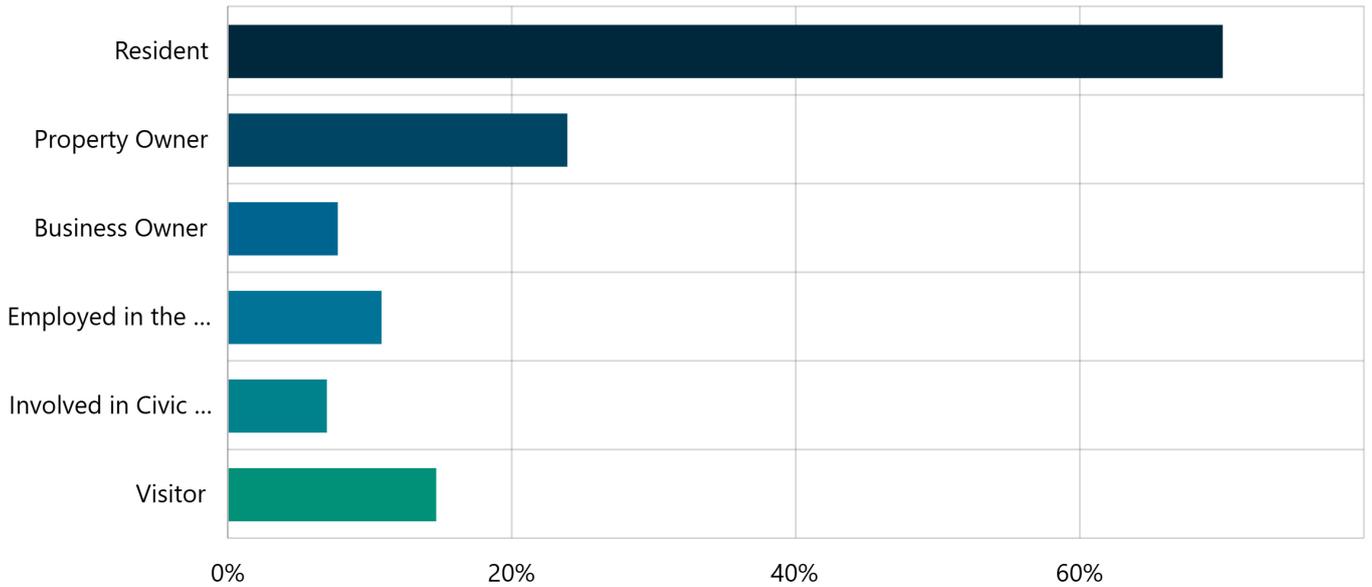
Exported By: kmucha

Filter By: No filters applied.

Contribution Summary

1. What is your connection to the Village of Marcellus? (select all that apply)

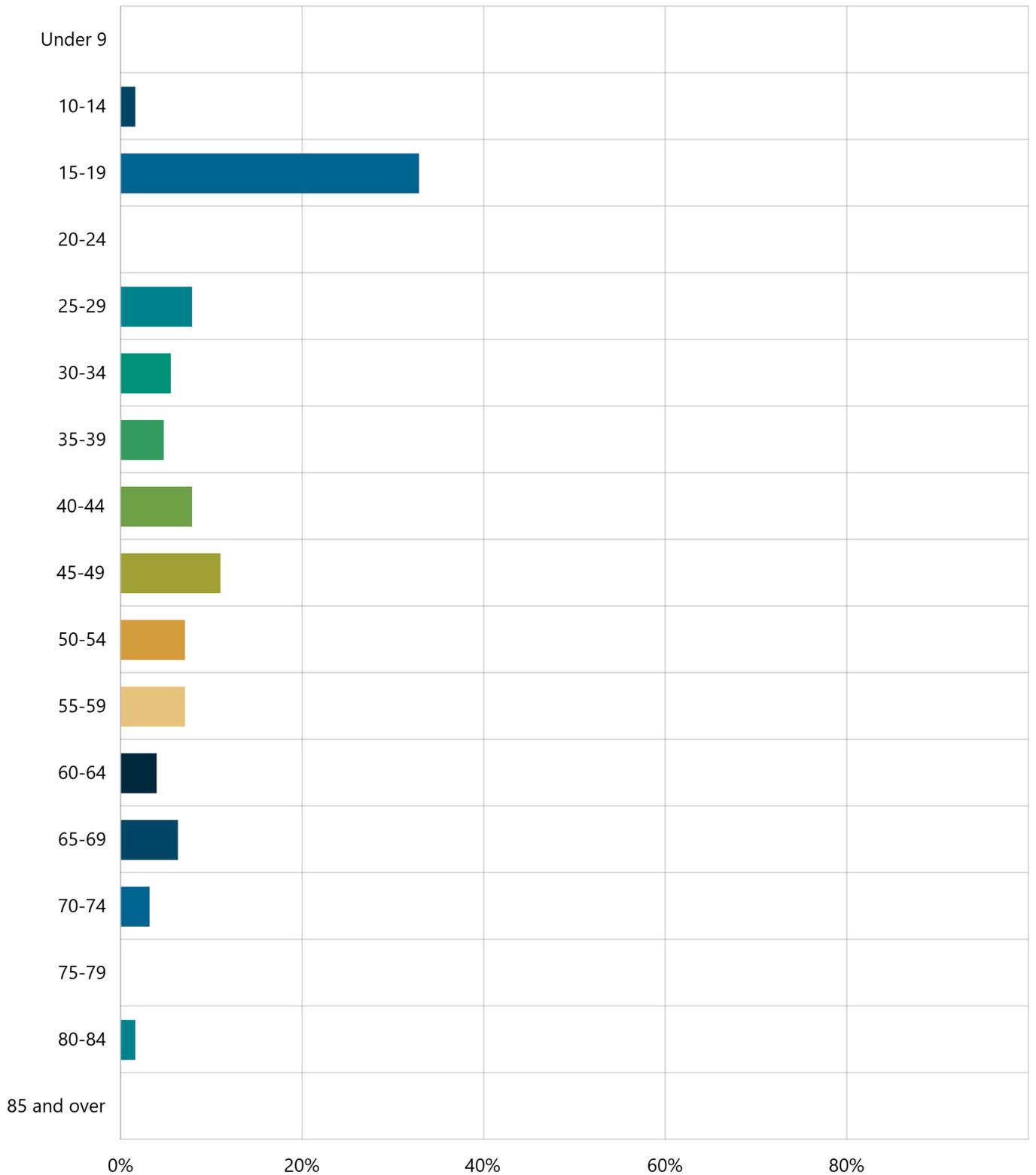
Multi Choice | Skipped: 2 | Answered: 130 (98.5%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Resident	70.00%	91
Property Owner	23.85%	31
Business Owner	7.69%	10
Employed in the Village of Marcellus	10.77%	14
Involved in Civic Organizations	6.92%	9
Visitor	14.62%	19

2. Age Group

Select Box | Skipped: 4 | Answered: 128 (97%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Under 9	0%	0

10-14	1.56%	2
15-19	32.81%	42
20-24	0%	0
25-29	7.81%	10
30-34	5.47%	7
35-39	4.69%	6
40-44	7.81%	10
45-49	10.94%	14
50-54	7.03%	9
55-59	7.03%	9
60-64	3.91%	5
65-69	6.25%	8
70-74	3.13%	4
75-79	0%	0
80-84	1.56%	2
85 and over	0%	0
Total	100.00%	128

3. What is your favorite aspect of the Villag

Long Text | Skipped: 36 | Answered: 96 (72.7%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

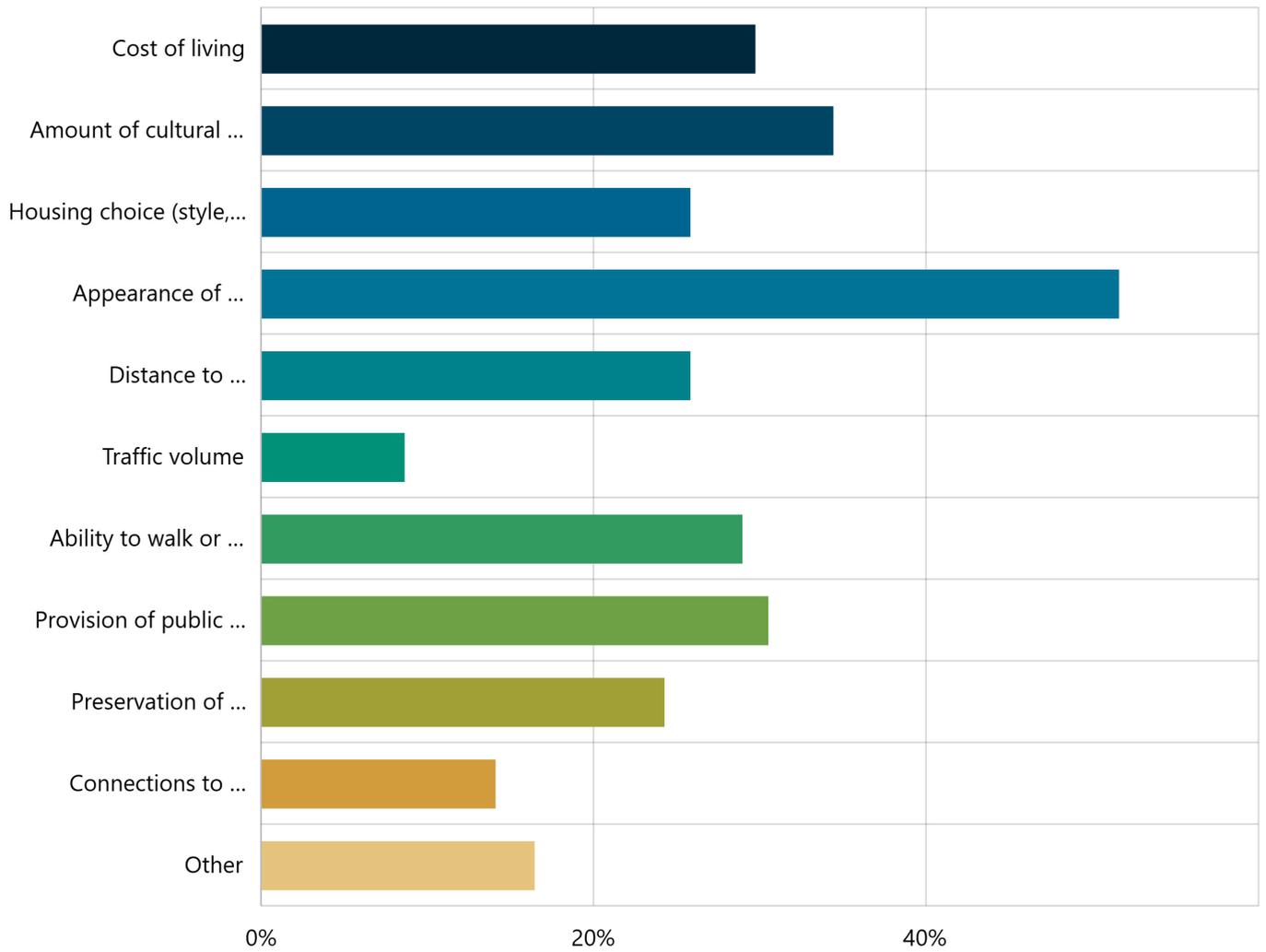
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

4. What are your top concerns for the Village of Marcellus? (select all that apply)

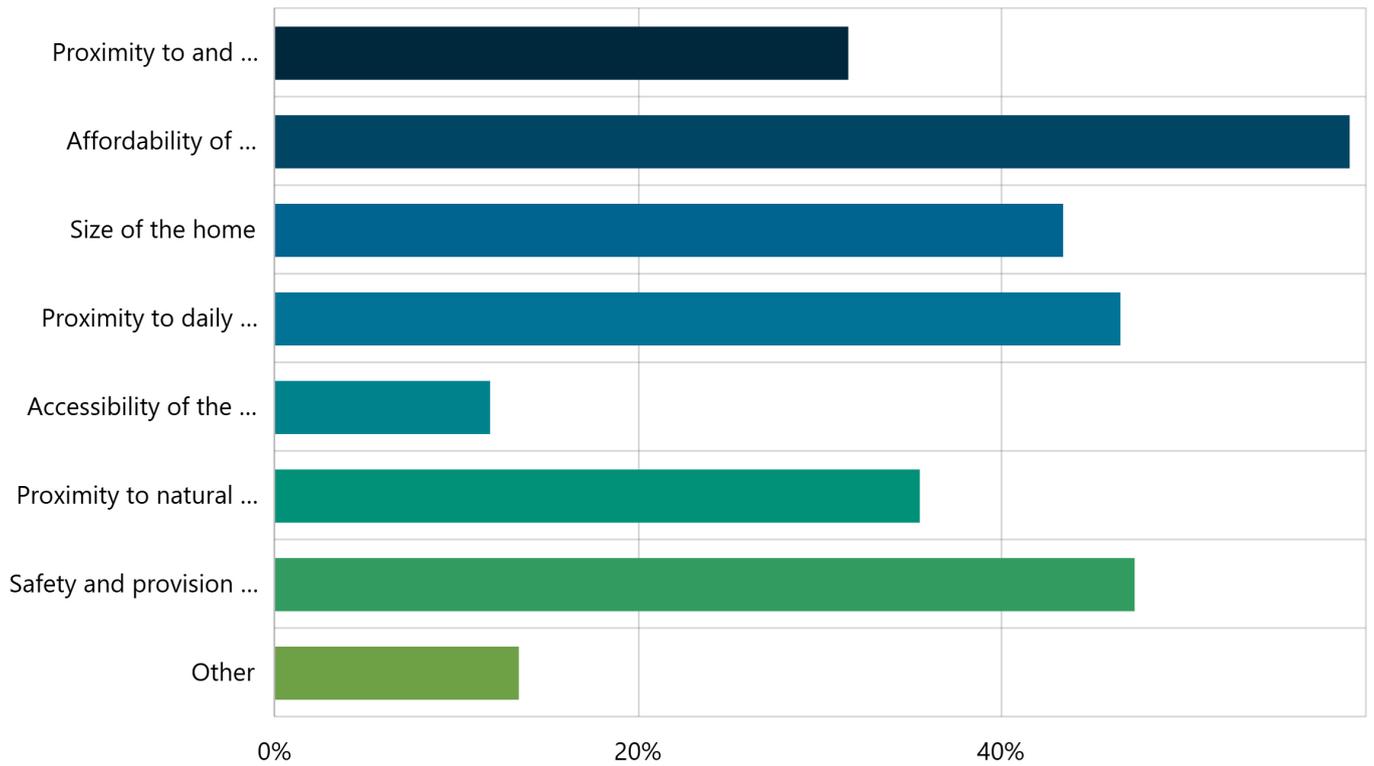
Multi Choice | Skipped: 4 | Answered: 128 (97%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Cost of living	29.69%	38
Amount of cultural events/entertainment options	34.38%	44
Housing choice (style, price-point, etc.)	25.78%	33
Appearance of commercial areas	51.56%	66
Distance to employment opportunities	25.78%	33
Traffic volume	8.59%	11
Ability to walk or bike to services or destinations	28.91%	37
Provision of public safety services	30.47%	39
Preservation of natural resources (woodlands, wetlands)	24.22%	31
Connections to public transportation	14.06%	18
Other	16.41%	21

5. What factors do you consider when renting or buying a house in the Village? (select all that apply)

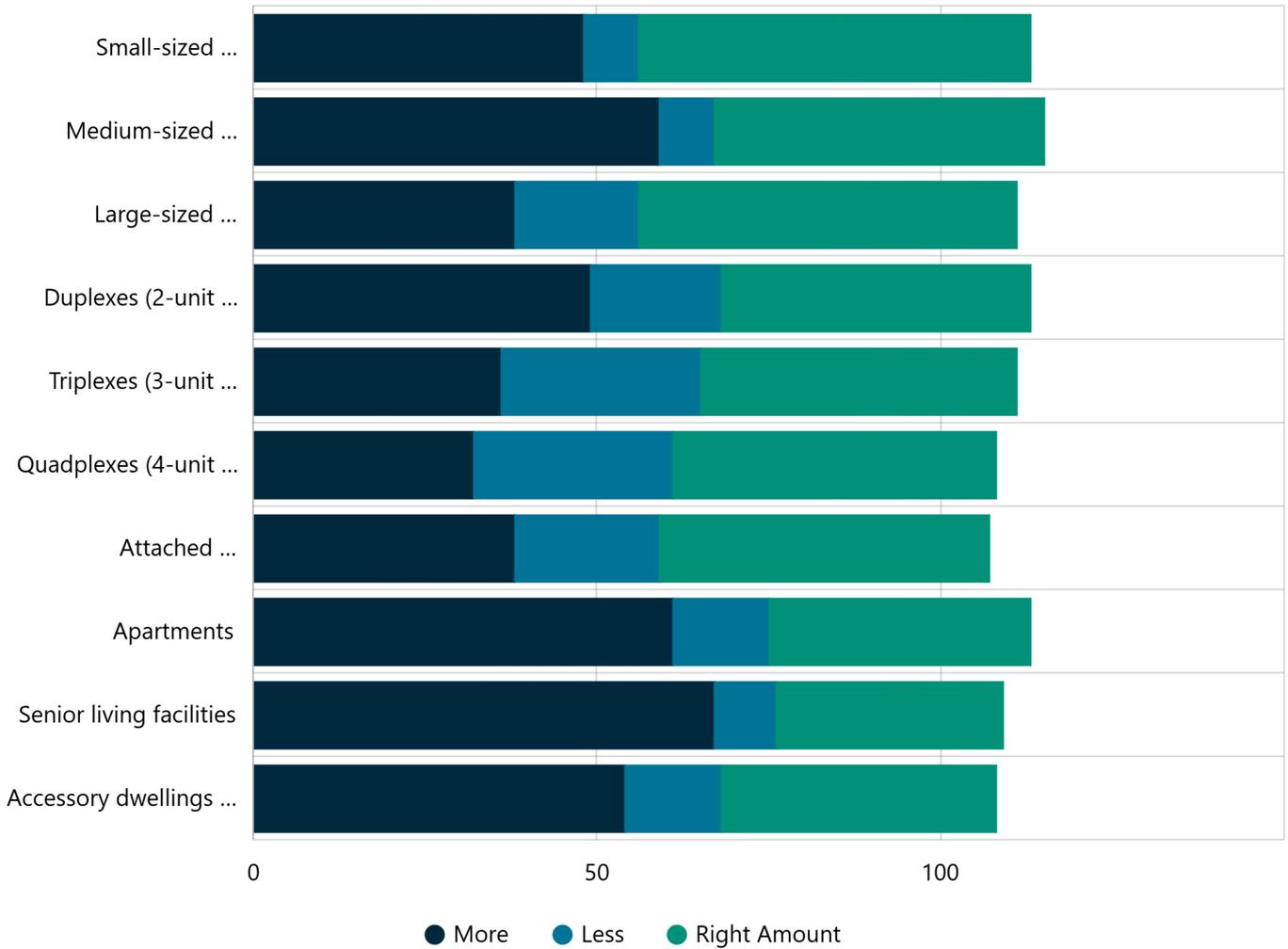
Multi Choice | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 127 (96.2%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Proximity to and quality of schools	31.50%	40
Affordability of rent or house payment	59.06%	75
Size of the home	43.31%	55
Proximity to daily errands or activities (e.g. grocery store, bank, medical offices, etc.)	46.46%	59
Accessibility of the home for disabled residents (e.g. first-floor accessibility, reduced stairs, etc.)	11.81%	15
Proximity to natural features (e.g. lakes, parks, woodlands, etc.)	35.43%	45
Safety and provision of public services	47.24%	60
Other	13.39%	17

6. For each housing type, please indicate whether the Village of Marcellus needs more, less, or has the right amount.

Matrix | Skipped: 12 | Answered: 120 (90.9%)

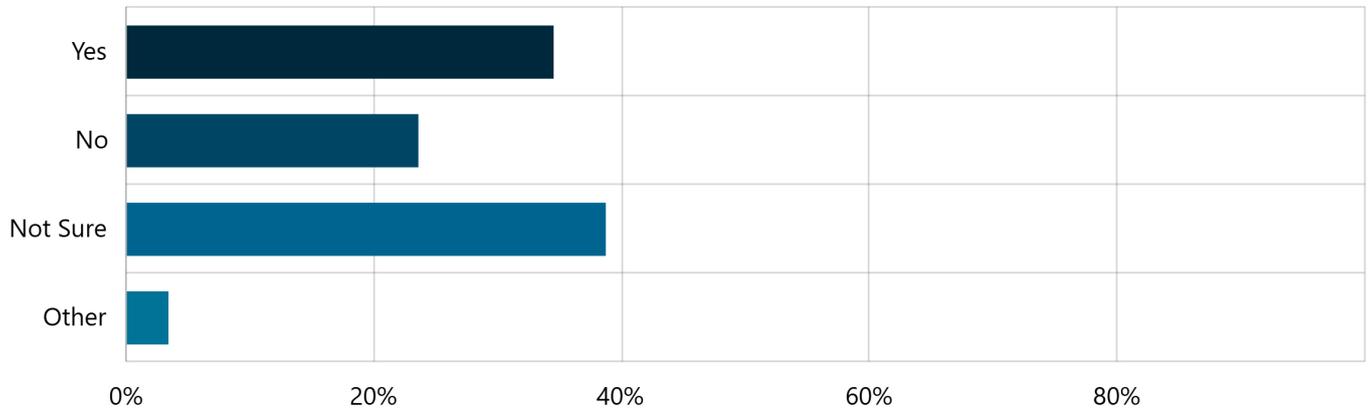


	More	Less	Right Amount	Count	Score
Small-sized single-family housing (less than 1,500 square feet)	42.48% 48	7.08% 8	50.44% 57	113	2.08
Medium-sized single-family housing (1,500 - 2,500 square feet)	51.30% 59	6.96% 8	41.74% 48	115	1.90
Large-sized single-family housing (more than 2,500 square feet)	34.23% 38	16.22% 18	49.55% 55	111	2.15
Duplexes (2-unit structure)	43.36% 49	16.81% 19	39.82% 45	113	1.96
Triplexes (3-unit	32.43%	26.13%	41.44%	111	2.09

structure)	36	29	46		
Quadplexes (4-unit structure)	29.63% 32	26.85% 29	43.52% 47	108	2.14
Attached townhouses or row houses	35.51% 38	19.63% 21	44.86% 48	107	2.09
Apartments	53.98% 61	12.39% 14	33.63% 38	113	1.80
Senior living facilities	61.47% 67	8.26% 9	30.28% 33	109	1.69
Accessory dwellings (grandparent flat, in-law suites, and rooms for rent within a house or above a garage, etc.)	50.00% 54	12.96% 14	37.04% 40	108	1.87

7. Do you feel that housing options in the Village match your price range/budge

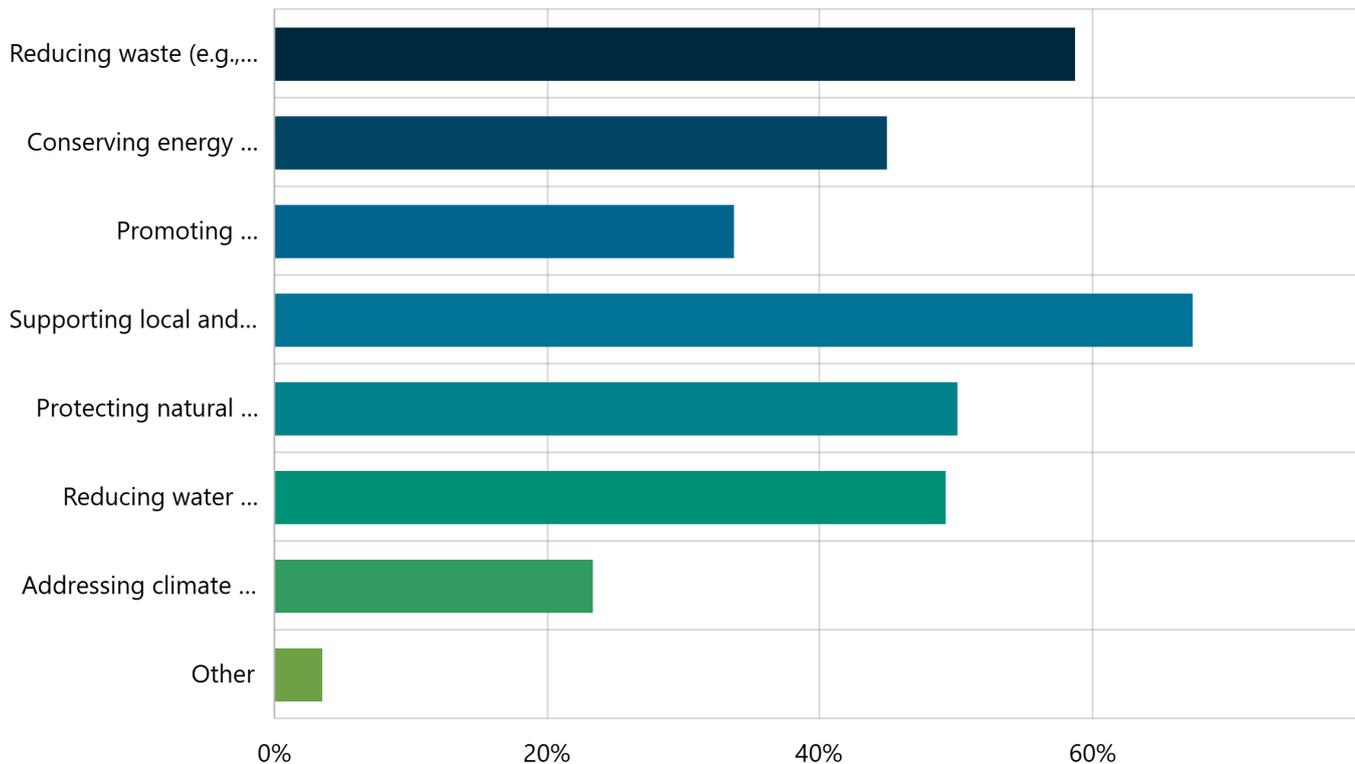
Select Box | Skipped: 13 | Answered: 119 (90.2%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Yes	34.45%	41
No	23.53%	28
Not Sure	38.66%	46
Other	3.36%	4
Total	100.00%	119

8. Which of the following environmental sustainability issues are most important to you? (select all that apply)

Multi Choice | Skipped: 16 | Answered: 116 (87.9%)

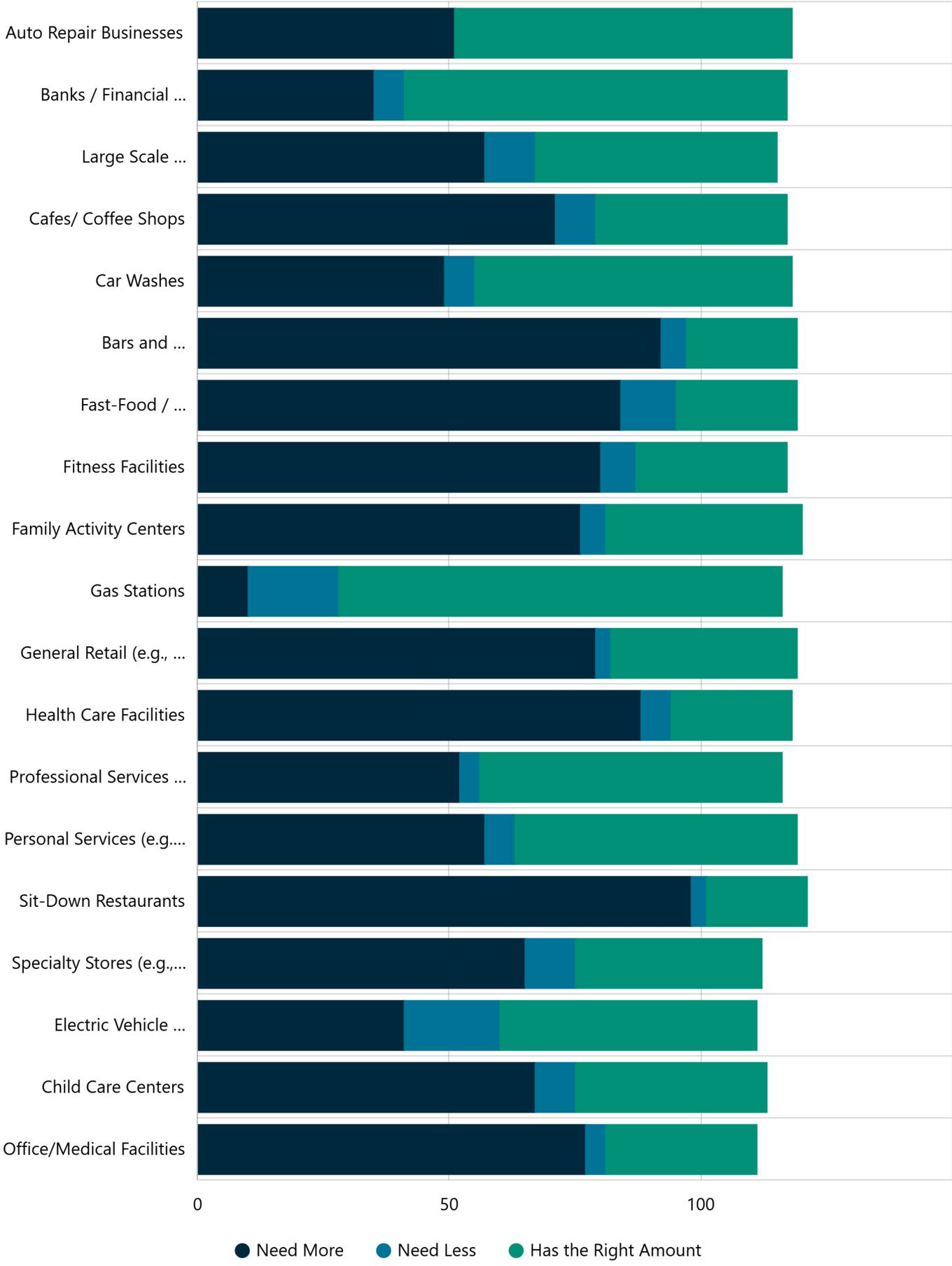


Answer choices	Percent	Count
Reducing waste (e.g., recycling, composting)	58.62%	68
Conserving energy (e.g., renewable energy, energy efficiency)	44.83%	52
Promoting sustainable transportation (e.g. biking, electric vehicles)	33.62%	39
Supporting local and organic food systems	67.24%	78
Protecting natural habitats and biodiversity	50.00%	58
Reducing water usage and improving water quality	49.14%	57
Addressing climate change and reducing carbon emissions	23.28%	27
Other	3.45%	4

9. For each business type, please indicate whether the Village of Marcellus needs more, less, or has the right amount.

Matrix | Skipped: 5 | Answered: 127 (96.2%)

	Need More	Need Less	Has the Right Amount	Count	Score
Auto Repair Businesses	43.22% 51	0% 0	56.78% 67	118	2.14
Banks / Financial Institutions	29.91% 35	5.13% 6	64.96% 76	117	2.35
Large Scale Commercial Stores	49.57% 57	8.70% 10	41.74% 48	115	1.92
Cafes/ Coffee Shops	60.68% 71	6.84% 8	32.48% 38	117	1.72
Car Washes	41.53% 49	5.08% 6	53.39% 63	118	2.12
Bars and Entertainment Venues	77.31% 92	4.20% 5	18.49% 22	119	1.41
Fast-Food / Drive-Thru Restaurants	70.59% 84	9.24% 11	20.17% 24	119	1.50
Fitness Facilities	68.38% 80	5.98% 7	25.64% 30	117	1.57
Family Activity Centers	63.33% 76	4.17% 5	32.50% 39	120	1.69
Gas Stations	8.62% 10	15.52% 18	75.86% 88	116	2.67
General Retail (e.g., clothing, shoe stores, etc.)	66.39% 79	2.52% 3	31.09% 37	119	1.65
Health Care Facilities	74.58% 88	5.08% 6	20.34% 24	118	1.46
Professional Services (e.g., lawyer, architect, etc.)	44.83% 52	3.45% 4	51.72% 60	116	2.07
Personal Services (e.g., hair salon, dry cleaners, etc.)	47.90% 57	5.04% 6	47.06% 56	119	1.99
Sit-Down Restaurants	80.99% 98	2.48% 3	16.53% 20	121	1.36
Specialty Stores (e.g., bookstores, galleries, etc.)	58.04% 65	8.93% 10	33.04% 37	112	1.75
Electric Vehicle Charging Hubs	36.94% 41	17.12% 19	45.95% 51	111	2.09
Child Care Centers	59.29% 67	7.08% 8	33.63% 38	113	1.74
Office/Medical Facilities	69.37% 77	3.60% 4	27.03% 30	111	1.58



10. Please share any other business types that you feel are needed.

Long Text | Skipped: 93 | Answered: 39 (29.5%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

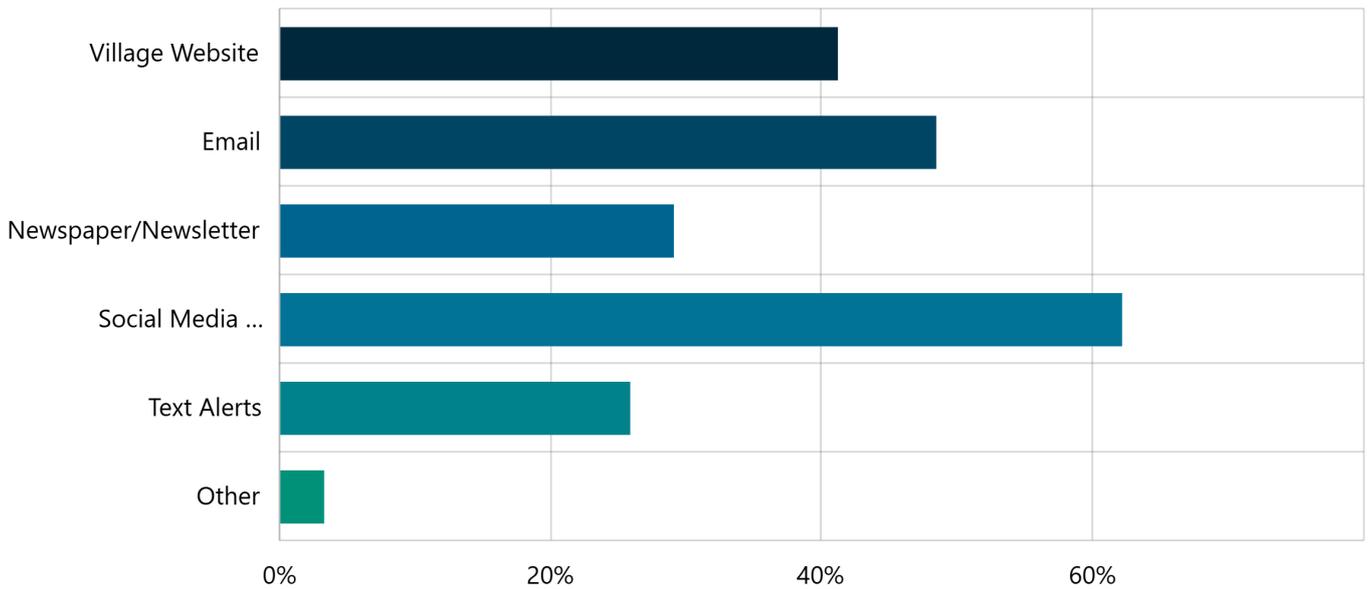
No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions

11. What is the best way that the Village of Marcellus can get information to you? (Select all that apply)

Multi Choice | Skipped: 8 | Answered: 124 (93.9%)



Answer choices	Percent	Count
Village Website	41.13%	51
Email	48.39%	60
Newspaper/Newsletter	29.03%	36
Social Media (Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, etc.)	62.10%	77
Text Alerts	25.81%	32
Other	3.23%	4

12. If you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the Village of Marcellus Master Plan Update, please write them below.

Long Text | Skipped: 105 | Answered: 27 (20.5%)

Sentiment

No sentiment data

Tags

No tag data

Featured Contributions

No featured contributions



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