City of Bessemer

Regular Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

November 7, 2024, at 6:00 pm

City Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call – Fabbri, Jackovich, Longhini, Maki, Zak (Tacconelli if absent)
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting October 24th, 2024
5. Old Business
    a. Attend City Council Meeting to Discuss Rolling Over Funds
6. New Business
    a. First Review of Draft Recreation Plan
    b. Next Meeting
7. Public Comment
8. Adjourn

The next Parks & Recreation Commission meeting will be held on December __, 2024, at 6:00 pm at City Hall.

Park and Recreation Commission Meeting - October 24th, 2024
Bessemer City Council Chambers

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order by commissioner Longhini at 6:39 pm.

Roll Call

Present – Zak, Longhini, Jackovich, Fabbri
Absent – Maki

Approval of Agenda - Motion by Fabbri, and 2nd by Jackovich. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Meeting Minutes - Regular meeting September 19th, 2024 - Motion by Fabbri, 2nd by Zak. **Motion carried.**

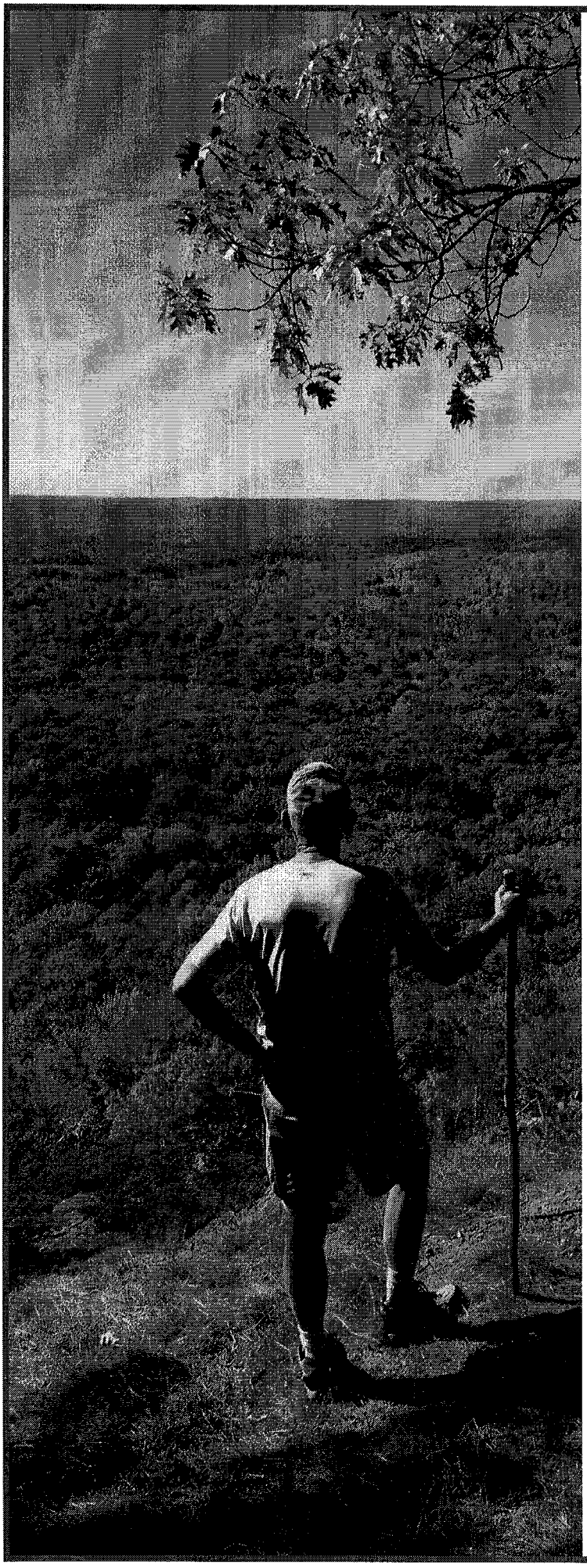
Old Business - None were discussed

New Business -

- Draft Recreation Plan – Motion by Zak to make the discussed changes to the plan and bring to the next meeting November 7th. 2nd by Fabbri. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment - None

Adjourn 7:20 pm - Motion by Zak, 2nd by Fabbri **Motion carried.**



Be Active

Five Year
Recreation Plan Update
2025-2030

Michigan
Bessemer

Contents

Community Description 3
Administrative Structure 4
Recreation Inventory 5
Previous Grant-Assisted Parks 5
Description of the Planning Process 7
Public Input Process 8
Goals and Objectives 8
Recreational Responsibilities Organizational Chart 10

Appendix A

- Figure 1 Project Location Map
- Figure 2 Map of Recreational Sites

Appendix B

- Table 1 Inventory of Existing Facilities
- Table 2 Capital Improvements Schedule for Proposed Projects

Appendix C

- Post Completion Self-Certification Reports

Appendix D

- Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan Certification Checklist
    - City of Bessemer DNR Grant History
    - Notice of Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment
    - Notice of Public Meeting
    - Copy of Minutes from the Public Meeting
    - Resolutions Adopted by Governing Body
    - Letter Transmitting Adopted Plan to County Planning Agency
    - Letter Transmitting Adopted Plan to Regional Planning Agency

Appendix E

- Survey Results and Meeting Minutes

Community Description

Incorporated in 1884, Bessemer is the County seat of Gogebic County, which is located towards the western end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This updated recreation plan is prepared for the City of Bessemer, limits of which are shown in Appendix A, Figure 1. The City of Bessemer has a 5 person elected City Council. The City maintains business offices at the City Hall, which is located at 411 South Sophie Street.

As of the 2020 census, the City population was 1,805. The City is situated within Bessemer Township, but is politically independent. Highway US-2, one of the MDOT's major roads in Gogebic County, runs through Bessemer. The City of Ironwood is located approximately 5 miles to the west and the City of Wakefield is located approximately 5 miles to the east of the City of Bessemer. Big Powderhorn, Snowriver, and Mt. Zion downhill ski areas are located between Bessemer and its neighboring cities. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, ice fishing and snowmobiling are also very popular winter time activities in this area known as "Big Snow Country". According to the United States Census Bureau, the City encompasses an area of 5.49 square miles of land. The following information comes from the 2020 Decennial Census of the City of Bessemer.

The area consists primarily of forest land, but also has an abundance of land for recreation, agriculture, and residential uses. The City of Bessemer consists of gently rolling to moderately steep hills, including numerous scenic rock bluffs. The area within the City limits is predominantly zoned for residential land use, with several smaller area reserved for commercial and industrial use.

The weather of the City of Bessemer is affected by its close proximity to Lake Superior. The average snowfall amount recorded at the Gogebic-Iron Wastewater (local treatment) Plant since 1985 has been 185.9 inches a year; with a maximum recorded amount of 302 inches. On average there is snow covering the ground from early November through April. The average monthly high temperature ranges from 20 degrees in January to 76 degrees in July. The average monthly low temperatures vary from 3 degrees to 56 degrees for these months in Bessemer.

Until the mid-1990s, the Copper Range Mining Company in White Pine, Michigan was the largest employer in the area, with a work force of several thousand employees. With the suspension of underground mining activities, that work force has been eliminated. The decline of the mining industry dramatically reduced local populations as displaced workers left the area for employment opportunities.

The main private sector employer in the City currently is the Bessemer Plywood Corporation employing approximately 200 employees.

The remaining employment in the Gogebic Range area is generally seasonal and is composed primarily of tourism generated by the local ski resorts and snowmobile recreation. The use of the local ski areas is expected to grow, along with summer tourism and the continued growth of the snowmobile industry. In addition, it is estimated that there

are five times as many all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in the State of Michigan as there are snowmobiles. This is an area of expected growth in the next five years. With this expected growth, the small commercial and retail business will also grow, especially on the major accessible transportation routes.

This seasonal employment results in the seasonal unemployment as well. With this high unemployment rate, the need for low cost recreation facilities is stressed. A decrease in population has been occurring for several years because of the outflow of young people due to high unemployment of the area. We believe that increased recreational opportunities can have a positive impact on population and employment. As recreational use increases so do the associated services required, both publicly and privately, employment and positive job creation can and will increase. This recreation plan, along with other economic development issues, is part of an overall plan for growth within the City of Bessemer.

The City requires accessible, centrally located facilities that will supply the community with low cost recreation and will include activities for both the youngest and oldest age groups.

Administrative Structure

The City of Bessemer currently has a Parks and Recreation Department within their Department of Public Works. This department conducts the normal day to day operations of the items listed in the Recreation Inventory. The Public Works Leadman, under the direction of the City Manager, manages the day-to-day operation of the recreation program.

The Parks and Recreation Commission, acting on behalf of the City Council, currently provides input to the City Manager for park operations and future planning. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a legally established five-member board operating under the City Charter for the purpose of providing recreational planning and land and facilities use activities, along with coordinating the parks and recreation facilities in the City. Parks and Recreation Commission members are recommended and appointed by the City Council. An organization chart outlining the various recreation responsibilities is attached.

The City budget provides monies for both the operation and maintenance of the Parks Department; and also allocates monies for future development. In the event grant funding is obtained for the proposed developments, this allocation will be used as the matching local share. As the recreational facilities in the City grow, the accounts that allocate money for operations and maintenance will be increased as required. The 2023-2024 City of Bessemer amended budget contained $36,370 for the Parks and Recreation budget. $23,670 was allocated for operations and $10,000 was set aside for improvements and new equipment. The Iron Belle Trail's maintenance is completed by the Michigan Western Gateway Trail Authority and the Friend's of the Trail organization

that together host an annual half marathon and other fundraising activities to provide maintenance funds.

Volunteers are a very important part of the City of Bessemer's ability to provide high quality Park and Recreation opportunities for the public. The Parks and Recreation Commission is a volunteer group dedicated to organizing and planning for the parks. The City also utilizes volunteers to maintain the flower beds in the Ethnic Common's Park as well in the Downtown Park next to Abelman's. Volunteers are critical for building new facilities such as trails.

The City of Bessemer works closely with the School District to maintain Bluff Valley Park. The school utilizes the pond with their science classes, and they assist with the removal of invasive species. The gym class also frequents the park for activities such as snowshoeing in the winter.

The City of Bessemer works closely with the Western Gateway Trail Authority to continue the progress of the Iron Belle Trail. The City has assisted with the development of a parking lot to access the trail. The City has also assisted with prepping land for a storage shed for maintenance equipment. Western Gateway Trail Authority has continued the Iron Belle Trail through the City of Bessemer and will work on continuing the trail to Wakefield.

The Friends of the Trail provide volunteer labor to keep the Iron Belle Trail maintained. They assisted in clearing trees and branches after a large storm. They also have cleaned garbage and host an annual half marathon to build funds for maintenance. The City of Bessemer assists in the removal of garbage after. The City also assists with minor maintenance and semi-regular trail sweeping.

Gogebic Range Trail Authority is the sponsor for the motorized trail running through Bessemer. The City of Bessemer assists the group with grading the trail in the summer and removing snow from the streets in the winter.

Recreation Inventory

The City's existing recreational inventory was compiled and tabulated into Table 1 in Appendix B, which is attached. Figure 2 in Appendix A shows the locations of all the facilities in the inventory. In preparing the inventory, an attempt was made to include all indoor and outdoor recreational facilities, both publicly and privately owned within the City. Table 1 in Appendix B makes an assessment of each Park shown on Figure 2.

Previous Grant-Assisted Parks

DNR / LWCF: 26-01433 Bessemer Bluff Valley Park
Project Year: 1986

Project Description: Pavilion with restrooms, kitchen, picnic area, with equipment, parking lot, tot lot, basketball court, volleyball area, and LWCF sign.
Project Status: Closed

DNR / BF: BF90-024 1990 Bluff Valley Park Improvement
Project Year: 1990
Project Description: Develop pond area (benches, bridges, model boat area), trails, and playground; renovate tennis courts; lighting for courts
Project Status: Closed

DNR / LWCF: 26-01512 Steiger Field Improvements
Project Year: 1992
Project Description: Development of restrooms / concessions / storage facilities, tot lot, parking, handicap access and safety fencing.
Project Status: Closed

DNR / MNRTF: TF11-065 Mary Street Ethnic Commons and Trailhead Project
Project Year: 2011
Project Description: Development to include an Ethnic Commons and Regional Range Trailhead; including cultural and interpretive signs, flagpoles, greenspace development, gazebo, site furnishings, kiosk, pedestrian lighting, trees and landscape.
Project Status: Closed

DNR / MNRTF: TF13-056 Bluff Valley Park Development
Project Year: 2014
Project Description: Development to include new playground equipment, renovation of hiking/ exercise trail, exercise equipment, remove old equipment, install unitary playground surface
Project Status: Closed

DNR/ MNRTF: TF14-0166 Ironwood to Bessemer Trail Project
Project Year: 2015
Project Description: Trail Construction
Project Status: Closed

MDOT/ TAP: 2013115 Ironwood to Bessemer Non motorized Trail
Project Year: 2016
Project Description: Trail Construction
Project Status: Closed

DNR/ IBT: 2015-IBT 15-19 Design Assistance
Project Year: 2015
Project Description: Design assistance for the 4.2 mile segment from Ironwood to Bessemer on the Iron Belle Trail

Project Status: Closed

DNR/ IBT: 2016-IBT 16-02 Easement Acquisition
Project Year: 2016
Project Description: Purchasing easements for land between Bessemer and Wakefield on the Iron Belle Trail
Project Status: Closed

DNR / RTP: 16-08-01 City of Bessemer
Project Year: 2017
Project Description: Preparation and purchase of easement or land between Bessemer and Ramsay for Iron Belle Trail
Project Status: Closed

Description of the Planning Process

To continue in its efforts to develop the recreational facilities within the City, the City of Bessemer needed to update the City Recreation Plan. They felt that the approval of an updated Recreation Plan would be an important step to the financing and the future completion of City recreation projects. In September 2021, the City of Bessemer adopted our Master Plan. The Master Plan focused heavily on Recreation.

For the Master Plan, the City worked with the public to compose this strategic plan to shape the future of the City. In August 2020, the City of Bessemer began the planning process with the community. Since the creation of the Master Plan, Parks and Recreation Commission wanted further feedback to create the updated Recreation Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Commission met during two public meetings to hash out the plan after receiving feedback. They met on September 19th and October 24th. There were no public comments at these meetings despite being posted publicly and being an open meeting.

The commission reviewed the drafted plan on October 24th, 2024

Staff toured the facilities October 2024 and rated the ADA accessibility in Table 1 Appendix B and is defined as follows.

1) Very difficult to safely access. Involves steep, unpaved grades, stairs, etc.
2) Access is possible via unpaved trails or compacted grass with minimum grades. Equipment may not be universally useable or accessible.
3) Access is easier and equipment may be accessible but not fully universally useable.
4) Access is easy and equipment is accessible and mostly universally useable.
5) Access is universal and equipment is accessible and fully universally useable.

The Parks and Recreational Commission and City Staff developed this plan. This group acts as a Focus group, representing the City of Bessemer, who are actively involved and interested in making recreational improvements to the City.

Public Input Process

On August 1st, 2024, the City released a survey to the community asking for their input on what the Parks and Recreation Commission should focus on with the next plan. An online link was shared to the City's website and Facebook page as well as published in the paper. There were also postings inside City Hall during the primary election outside of the auditorium to advertise the survey. Advertisements of the survey were posted at Bluff Valley Park, Steiger's Ace Hardware, and in other locations in the City. Paper copies were available at City Hall and in the Library. The survey was available for the whole month of August before it was closed.

Several items of importance rose to the top. The highest ranked improvement was creating a splash pad in Bessemer. The next three improvements were installing new ADA play equipment at Bluff Valley Park, overhauling the pond at Bluff Valley Park, and creating the trailhead for the Iron Belle Trail. Further results showed that the most valued aspects of Bessemer's parks include the playground, trails and walking opportunities, baseball fields, and use in the winter for snowshoeing. We received 95 digital responses and 25 written responses. See Appendix E for a general overview and analysis of responses.

Goals and Objectives

The City contains an estimated 831 households; 658 of which have more than one person in the household. The population density was 330/square mile. There are 1,109 housing units at an average density of 202.7/square mile. The racial makeup of the City is 93.4% White, 0.7% African American, 0.8% Native American, 0.2% Asian, 0.2% Some Other Race, and 4.8% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race is 1.6% of the population.

Of the 831 households: 17% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 49.1% were married couples living together, 29.8% had a female householder with no husband present. 20.8% of all households were made up of individuals and 9.4% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.02 people per unit.

The median household income in the City was $49,323. Median family income is $71,250. Approximately 18.4% of all people had incomes below the poverty level; including 30.7% under 18 years old and 18.7% of those 65 years old or over living below the poverty level.

Due to the combination of an aging population base, median household income, and high poverty rate there is a great need for outdoor opportunities within the City that are open to the public. The local ATV and snowmobile clubs are very active and self-sufficient in maintaining the nearby trails.

As indicated in the Capital Improvement Schedule, the focus of this Recreation Plan is to provide and improve opportunities for non-motorized activities. This includes improving Bessemer's Bluff Valley Park, increasing opportunities to use trails, and improving low-cost seasonal activity choices.

Objectives

1. Maintain and Improve Bluff Valley Park: Bluff Valley Park is the heart of Bessemer and could use some updates and replacements. The Parks and Recreation Commission aims to overhaul the pond and the dam for fish habitats. The Parks and Recreation Commission has plans to rehab the various courts and add a pickleball court. Lastly the Commission plans on providing new park play equipment with emphasis on ADA compliant equipment that benefits people of all abilities.

2. Create new amenities within the City including a splash pad and ice rink for seasonal activities.

3. Continue to improve trails within and around the City. The Parks and Recreation Commission will continue to pursue grant funding to build a trailhead for the Iron Belle trail. They will also work on creating additional ADA accessible trails that are both separate from or connect to the existing Iron Belle Trail.

4. Continue to improve partnerships with other community groups and recreation providers: To further our goals and help Bessemer grow its recreational offerings, partnering with local and regional community groups is vital.

5. Provide for effective Park Administration and Funding: To continue the development and maintenance of the Parks in Bessemer, a steady income stream is necessary. Continue to explore creative ways to improve the parks through grants and other means.

Please see Appendix A, Figure 3 for a map of improvements within the City and Appendix B Tables 2 and 3 for improvement costs, timelines, and previously completed projects.

Recreational Responsibilities Organizational Chart
City of Bessemer, Michigan

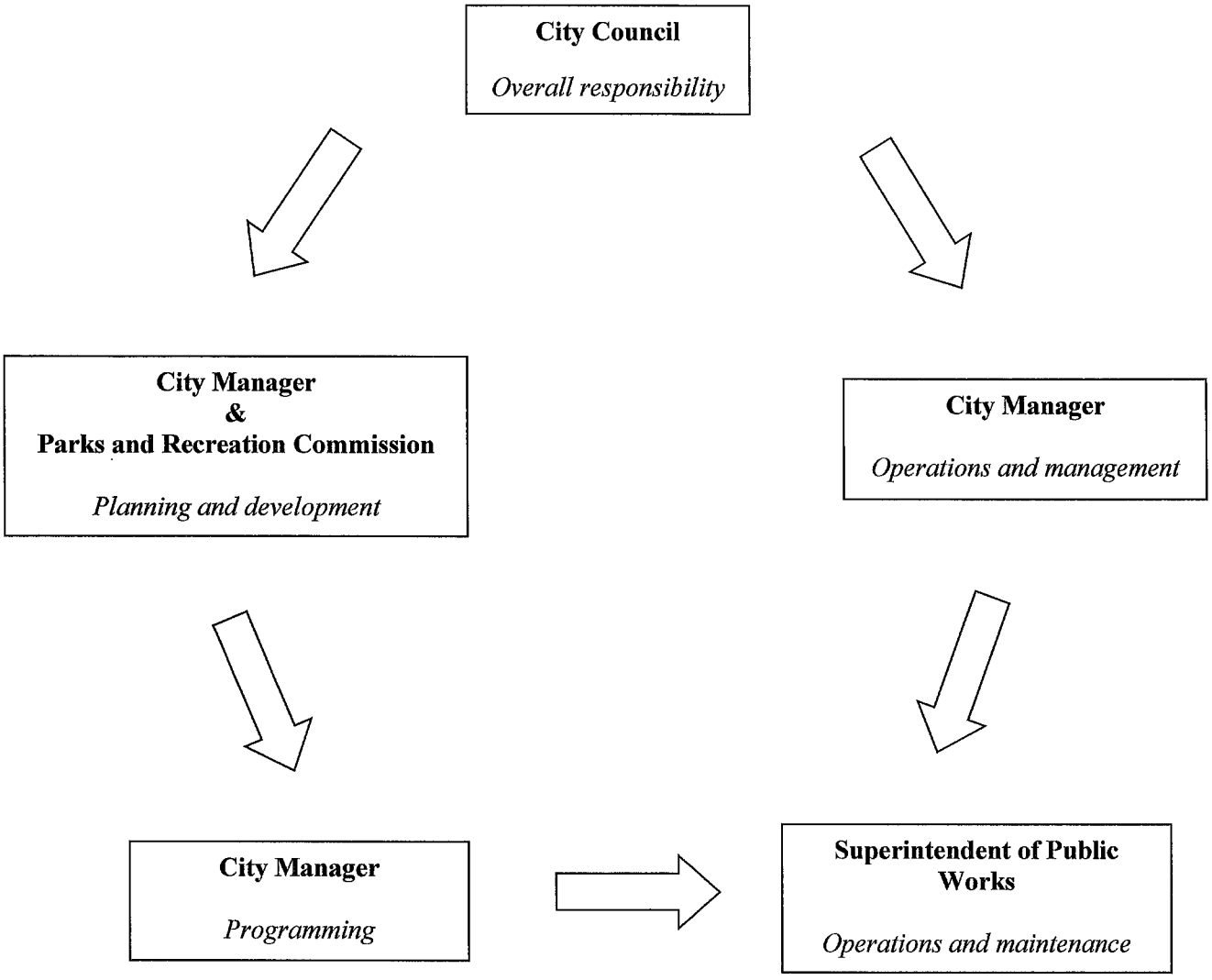
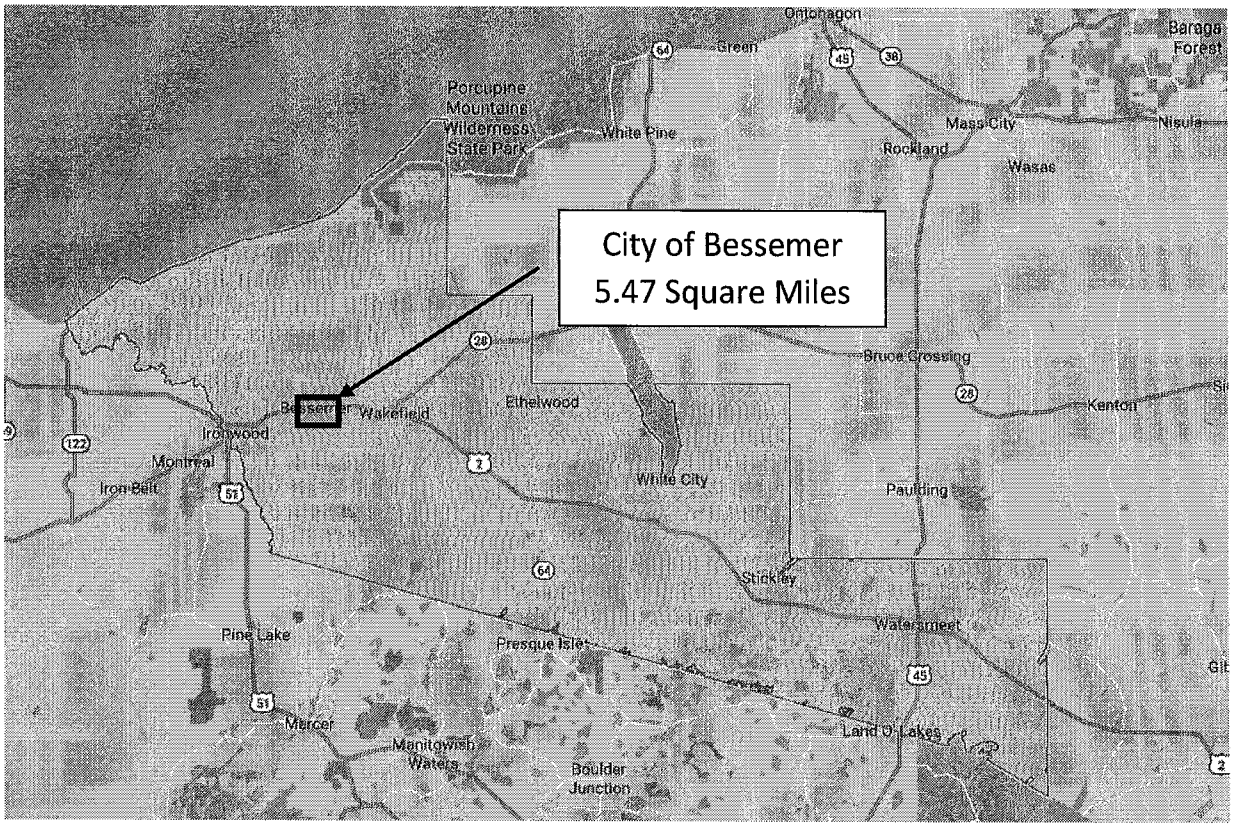
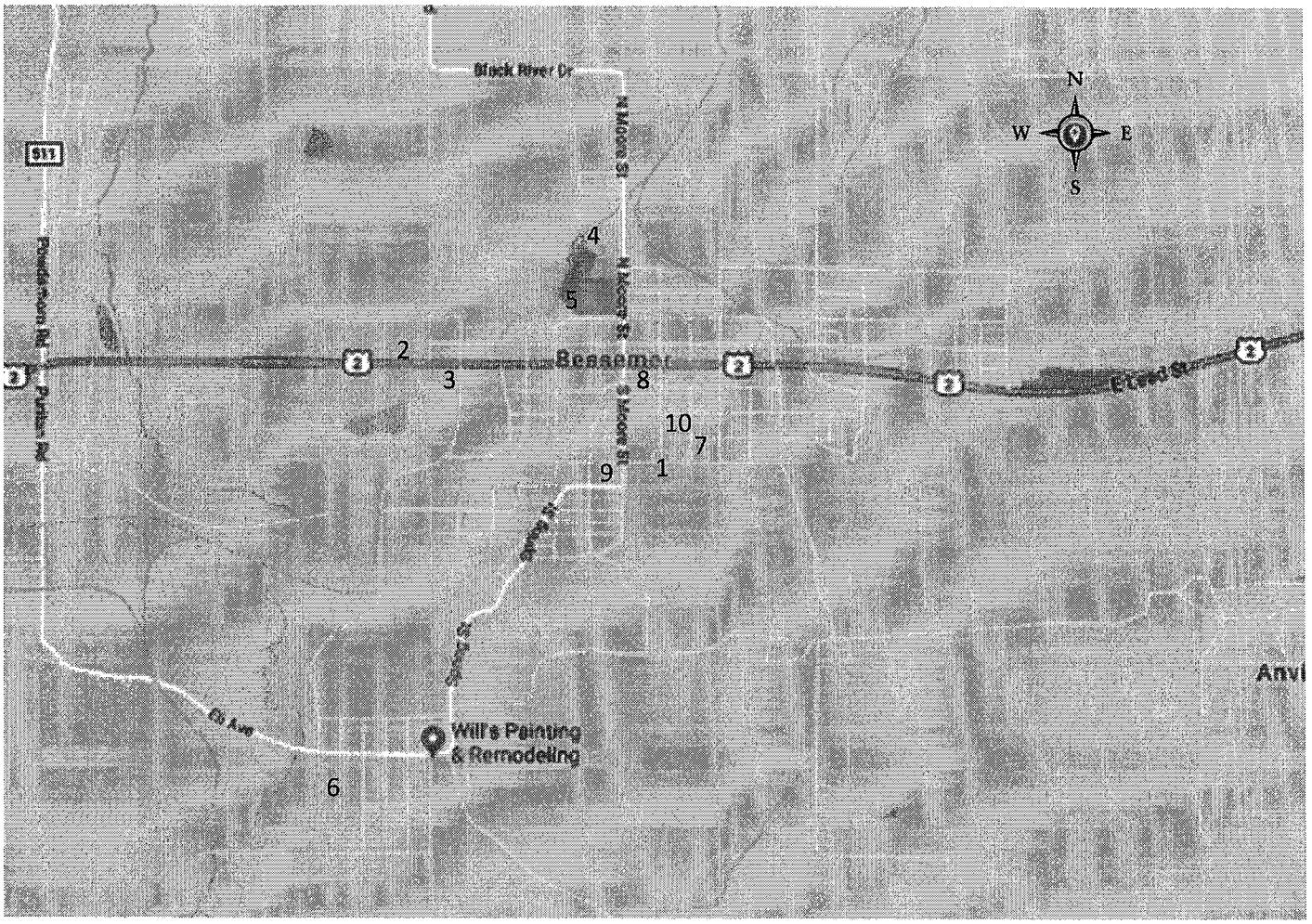


Figure 1: Project Location Map: City of Bessemer



Gogebic County, Michigan

Figure 2: Map of Recreational Sites



1) Bessemer City Hall
2) Bessemer Housing
3) Bessemer VFW
4) Bluff Valley Park
5) Steiger Little League Field
6) Barber Field
7) Washington Elementary
8) Mary Street Ethnic Commons
9) Iron Belle Trail
10) Downtown Park next to Abelman's

Table 1: Inventory of Existing Facilities

City of Bessemer

Map Key	Name	Size	Type / Classification	Ownership	Facility	Accesibility Rating (1 low to 5 high)	Assessment of Size (in reference to Suggested Facility Development Standards), quality, and wear and tear	Universal Access Design Considerations	Service Area
1	Bessemer City Hall	< 1 Acre	Recreation Facility (Indoor)	Public - City	Gymnasium	2	Good condition	Accessible entrance on rear side of building	Area Residents
					Stage	1	Good condition	No ADA access onto stage	
2	Bessemer Housing	4.6 Acres	Neighborhood Park (Outdoor)	Housing Residents	Playground Equipment	2	Good condition		Housing Residents
					Basketball Courts	2	Dimensions smaller than Standard. Court in Poor / Deteriorated Condition	Level, grass access	
3	Bessemer VFW	< 1 Acre	Special Use Park Resident (Outdoors)	Private	Horseshoe Pits	5	Good Condition	Level, grass access	VFW Members
4	Bluff Valley Park	28 Acres	Community Park Serving Area Residents/Tourists (Outoors)	Public - City	Tennis Courts	3	Dimensions meet Standard. Court Surface Deteriorated	Level, grass access	Area Residents, Tourists
					Skate Park	2	Mixed Condition		
					Outdoor Lighting for Courts	n/a	Poor Condition		
					Picnic Area	4	Good Condition, Grills replaced		
					Pavillion	5	Good Condition, New Roof & Restained		
					Basketball Courts	5	Dimensions smaller than Standard. Court in Poor / Deteriorated Condition		
					Gaga Pit	3	Good Condition, meets Standard		
					Sand Volleyball Court	3	Dimensions meet Standard.		
					Playground Equipment	3	Mixed Condition		
					Trail to Bluff	1	Poor Condition	Not ADA accessible	
					Gravel lower Walking Paths	4	Good Condition	Level, grass access	
					Engine	2	Good Condion, Needs Roof & Ceiling		
5	Steiger Little League Field	3 Acres	Special Use Park Residents/Tourists (Outdoors)	Public - City	Little League Baseball Field (Not Lighted)	1	Dimensions meet Standard.	Stairway access from south not meet ADA. Grass walking path access from north.	Area Residents
6	Barber Field	4.6 Acres	Special Use	Public - City	Softball Field	1	Dimensions meet Standard. Fences and Player Benches are in Poor Condition.	Not ADA accessible to field or viewing area.	Area Residents
7	Washington Elementary School	< 1 Acre	Recreation Facility (Indoor / Outdoor)	Public - School	Gymnasium / Stage	3	Well Maintained		Area Residents
					Practice Football Field	1	Dimensions meet Standard.	Level, grass access	
					Playground Equipment	2	Good Condition	Access path deteriorating	
8	Mary Street Commons Ethnic Park	0.23 Acre	Mini-Park	Public - City	Picnic Tables / Benches / Bike Racks	5	Good Condition	Level, paved access	Area Residents Tourists
					Gazebo	5	Good Condition	Level, paved access	
					Sidewalk	5	Good Condition	Level, paved access	

Table 2: Capital Improvements Schedule for Proposed Projects

Future Projects

When the City of Bessemer asked for feedback for the Parks and Recreation Plan, the City received fantastic feedback. The City received such great feedback that the Parks and Recreation Commission had to prioritize the projects based on cost and maintenance needs. The Commission will slowly start tackling several projects. Some projects will not be able to be undertaken by the Commission however, the commission will assist other committees or groups in pursuing certain activities.

2025/26

Item	Potential Funding	Amount	Potential Partners
Create Trailhead for Iron Belle Trail	DNR Grant Funding, Fundraising, MEDC Grant Funding	$400,000 ($100,000 City)	MWGTA, Friends of the Trail, GRHF
Replace Dam for Pond at Bluff Valley Park	General Fund, DNR Grant Funding	$75,000	School District, Gogebic Conservation District
Dredging and Cleaning of Pond Bottom	DNR Grant Funding	$50,000 - $100,000	School District, DNR, USFS, Gogebic Conservation District, Trout Unlimited
Install Sediment Trap in Pond at Bluff Valley Park	General Fund, DNR Grant Funding	$7,500	School District, DNR, USFS, Gogebic Conservation District, Trout Unlimited
Signs for Flora	Gogebic Conservation District		USFS, Gogebic Conservation District
Stock Fish in Pond at Bluff Valley Park	General Fund, DNR Grant funding	$2,000	School District, DNR, USFS, Gogebic Conservation District, Trout Unlimited

2026/27

Item	Potential Funding	Amount	Potential Partners
Install new ADA play equipment	General Fund, DNR Grant Funding, Hospital Foundation	$50,000	UP Health Dept, UP SAIL, School District, Public
Fix up Bluff Trail	General Fund, Hospital Foundation	$1,000	DPW
Replace South Bridge on Loop Around the Pond	General Fund, MSHDA Grant Funding,	$40,000	

2027/28

Item	Potential Funding	Amount	Potential Partners
Update Volleyball Courts	General Fund	$2,500	School District, Superior Volleyball League
Book Walk	Library Fund	$150	Library Board
Update Basketball Court	General Fund	$3,500	School District
Resurface Basketball and Tennis Courts	General Fund	$18,000	School District

2028/29

Item	Potential Funding	Amount	Potential Partners
Create Splash Pad	General Fund, DNR Grant Funding, Fundraising	$80,000 - $120,000	Public
Create Pickleball Court	General Fund, DNR Grant Funding, Hospital Foundation	$35,000	School District, Public

2029/30

Item	Potential Funding	Amount	Potential Partners
Walking Trail Around Perimeter of Bluff Valley Park	General Fund, Hospital Foundation, DNR Trust Fund	$5,000 - $7,500	DPW
Replace Material Under Play Equipment	General Fund, Hospital Foundation	$2,500	Bessemer Plywood Corporation
Continue to Upgrade to ADA Play Equipment	General Fund, Hospital Foundation, DNR Trust Fund	$20,000	UP Health Dept, UP SAIL, School District, Public
Create an ice rink 60' x 100' with lights. Create a warming area	General Fund, CDBG	$45,000	Residents

2030/31

Future projects

Replacement of aging equipment and park infrastructure

Support

The following are projects that the Parks and Recreation Committee will provide support for completing.

- Trails, including
    - Signage
    - New construction
    - Maintenance
    - Promotion
- Hosting a Winter Event

Consider

The following are projects that the Parks and Recreation Committee will consider taking on or supporting if the conditions are correct.

- Purchasing the County Commission Lot to expand Bluff Valley Park
- Replacing trees in Bluff Valley Park
- Creating a RV Park and/or Rustic Campsites
- Assisting creation of new mountain bike trails

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: *(Please select one)* ☐ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Bessemer

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01433 **PROJECT TYPE:**

PROJECT TITLE: Bluff Valley Park

PROJECT SCOPE: Pavilion with restrooms, kitchen, picnic area, parking lot, etc

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
City of Bessemer	Mandy Lake	City Manager
Address	**Telephone**	
411 S Sophie	906-663-4311 x2	
City, State, ZIP	**Email**	
Bessemer, MI 49911	mandy.lake@cityofbessemer.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). ☐Yes ☒No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐Yes ☒No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☐No

The Parking lot could be repaved and the bathrooms are not ADA accessible, otherwise in good shape

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☒Yes ☐No

Bathrooms were being affected. Installed timed locks and door closers and issue has improved.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Site is maintained daily. In summer, there is an employee checking M-F in the morning.
If rented, then checked and cleaned on weekends and holidays as needed.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☒No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☒Yes ☐No

Pavilion rental to access kitchen costs $75 per day with a required deposit of $100.
Existing non-profit policy exempts NP and governmental organizations from fee.

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Year round 7 AM to 10 PM. Pavilion tables are removed for winter and bathrooms locked.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Mandy Lake		
Please print	*Grantee Authorized Signature*	Date
Please print	*Witness Signature*	Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: *(Please select one)* ☐ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Bessemer

PROJECT NUMBER: BF90-024 **PROJECT TYPE:**

PROJECT TITLE: 1990 Bluff Valley Park Improvement

PROJECT SCOPE: Bridges and benches, trail, playground equip, RC track, lighting, etc

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
City of Bessemer	Mandy Lake	City Manager
Address	**Telephone**	
411 S Sophie	906-663-4311 x2	
City, State, ZIP	**Email**	
Bessemer, MI 49911	mandy.lake@cityofbessemer.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). ☒Yes ☐No

RC track was removed when infrastructure project went through the park. Grass was restored but track was not replaced.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐Yes ☒No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

One of the bridges is unusable and the other needs to be replaced soon but is ok for now

The tennis and basketball courts need to be refurbished. Working to replace/update

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☐Yes ☒No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Checked daily Spring to Fall. Annual comprehensive review of facilities.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☐Yes ☒No ☐N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☒No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☐Yes ☒No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Year round 7 AM to 10 PM

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Mandy Lake		
Please print	*Grantee Authorized Signature*	Date
Please print	*Witness Signature*	Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: *(Please select one)* ☐ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City of Bessemer

PROJECT NUMBER: 26-01512 **PROJECT TYPE:**

PROJECT TITLE: Steiger Field Improvement

PROJECT SCOPE: Restroom, concessions, tot lot, parking, ADA access, fencing

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
City of Bessemer	Mandy Lake	City Manager
Address	**Telephone**	
411 S Sophie	906-663-4311 x2	
City, State, ZIP	**Email**	
Bessemer, MI 49911	mandy.lake@cityofbessemer.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). ☐Yes ☒No

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐Yes ☒No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☒No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☐Yes ☒No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Checked at least annually. Maintained by the Little League team and frequently mowed by City DPW.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☒No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☐Yes ☒No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Spring to Fall, closed in Winter

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Mandy Lake		
Please print	*Grantee Authorized Signature*	Date
Please print	*Witness Signature*	Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: (Please select one) ☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE ☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City Of Bessemer, Michigan

PROJECT NUMBER: MNRTF: TF 11-065 **PROJECT TYPE:**

PROJECT TITLE: Mary Street Ethnic Commons and Trailhead Project

PROJECT SCOPE: Created the new park/ trailhead with picnic tables, gazebo, signage

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
City of Bessemer	Mandy Lake	City Manager
Address	**Telephone**	
411 S Sophie	906-663-4311 x2	
City, State, ZIP	**Email**	
Bessemer, MI, 49911	mandy.lake@cityofbessemer.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). ☐Yes ☒No

This park is relatively new, and has no changes or improvments to plan.

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐Yes ☒No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☒No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☒Yes ☐No

Stolen light bulbs. Change in lighting to non-removalbe bulbs. Dog excrement is left by users, placed a dog waste container and extra trash cans.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Irrigation system for warm seasons, regular mowing and cleaning by DPW. Annual review of facilities for major maintenance.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☒No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☐Yes ☒No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Spring through Fall, not winter. No formal hours of operation.

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Mandy Lake		
Please print	*Grantee Authorized Signature*	Date
Please print	*Witness Signature*	Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925

Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION GRANT
POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT

This information required under authority of Part 19, PA 451 of 1994, as amended; the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, 78 Stat. 897 (1964); and Part 715, of PA 451 of 1994, as amended.

GRANT TYPE: *(Please select one)*
☒ MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND ☐ CLEAN MICHIGAN INITIATIVE
☐ LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND ☐ RECREATION PASSPORT ☐ BOND FUND

GRANTEE: City Of Bessemer, Michigan

PROJECT NUMBER: MNRTF:TF13-056 **PROJECT TYPE:**

PROJECT TITLE: Bluff Valley Park Development

PROJECT SCOPE: New play equipment, renovation of hiking trail, exercise equipment

TO BE COMPLETED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY (GRANTEE)

Name of Agency (Grantee)	Contact Person	Title
City of Bessemer	Mandy Lake	City Manager
Address	**Telephone**	
411 S Sophie	906-663-4311 x2	
City, State, ZIP	**Email**	
Bessemer, MI, 49911	mandy.lake@cityofbessemer.org	

SITE DEVELOPMENT

Any change(s) in the facility type, site layout, or recreation activities provided? If yes, please describe change(s). ☒Yes ☐No

Butterfly garden was added on NW side of pond

Has any portion of the project site been converted to a use other than outdoor recreation? If yes, please describe what portion and describe use. (This would include cell towers and any non-recreation buildings.) ☐Yes ☒No

Are any of the facilities obsolete? If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☒No

SITE QUALITY

Is there a park entry sign which identifies the property or facility as a public recreation area? If yes, please provide a photograph of the sign. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Are the facilities and the site being properly maintained? If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Is vandalism a problem at this site? If yes, explain the measures being taken to prevent or minimize vandalism. ☐Yes ☒No

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

Is maintenance scheduled on a regular basis? If yes, give schedule. If no, please explain. ☒Yes ☐No

Site is checked daily in the warm months. Annual review of equipment and safety.

GENERAL

Is a Program Recognition plaque permanently displayed at the site? If yes, please provide a photograph. (Not required for Bond Fund Grants) ☒Yes ☐No ☐N/A

Is any segment of the general public restricted from using the site or facilities? (i.e. resident only, league only, boaters only, etc.) If yes, please explain. ☐Yes ☒No

Is a fee charged for use of the site or facilities? If yes, please provide fee structure. ☐Yes ☒No

What are the hours and seasons for availability of the site?

Year round, 7 AM to 10 PM

COMMENTS (ATTACH SEPARATE SHEET IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED)

There is a yearly invasive species clean up.

POST COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT - CONT'D

CERTIFICATION

I do hereby certify that I am duly elected, appointed and/or authorized by the Grantee named above and that the information and answers provided herein are true and accurate to the best of my personal knowledge, information and belief.

Mandy Lake		
Please print	*Grantee Authorized Signature*	Date
Please print	*Witness Signature*	Date

Send completed report to:

POST COMPLETION GRANT INSPECTION REPORTS
GRANTS MANAGEMENT
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
PO BOX 30425
LANSING MI 48909-7925

COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Plans must be submitted to the DNR **with** a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan. Plans may be submitted at any time of the year, but no later than February 1 of the year the local unit of government is applying for grants.

PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan:
Be Active, Bessemer Five Year Recreation Plan update 2025-2030

List the community names (including school districts) that are covered under the plan and have passed a resolution adopting the plan.	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
City of Bessemer	Gogebic	

PLAN CONTENT

INSTRUCTIONS: Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

- ☐ **1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**
- ☐ **2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**
  - ☐ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
  - ☐ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
  - ☐ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation Programming
  - ☐ Current Funding Sources
  - ☐ Role of Volunteers
  - ☐ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations

  Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only:
  - ☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
  - ☐ Articles of Incorporation
- ☐ **3. RECREATION INVENTORY**
  - ☐ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
  - ☐ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
  - ☐ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
  - ☐ Accessibility Assessment
  - ☐ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities
  - ☐ Waterways Inventory (if applicable)
- ☐ **4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL)**
- ☐ **5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS**

☐ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

☐ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received

☐ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice _____

Type of Notice newspaper

Plan Location City Hall

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) -- Days

☐ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice _____

Name of Newspaper Daily Globe

Date of Meeting _____

☐ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☐ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☐ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

☐ **9. POST-COMPLETION SELF-CERTIFICATION REPORT(S)**

PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION

APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION: For multi-jurisdictional plans, **each** local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

☐ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: _____

☐ 2. Official resolution of the Parks and Recreation Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: _____

☐ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: _____

☐ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: _____

OVERALL CERTIFICATION

NOTE: For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

City of Bessemer, MI *includes the required content, as indicated*

(Local Unit of Government)

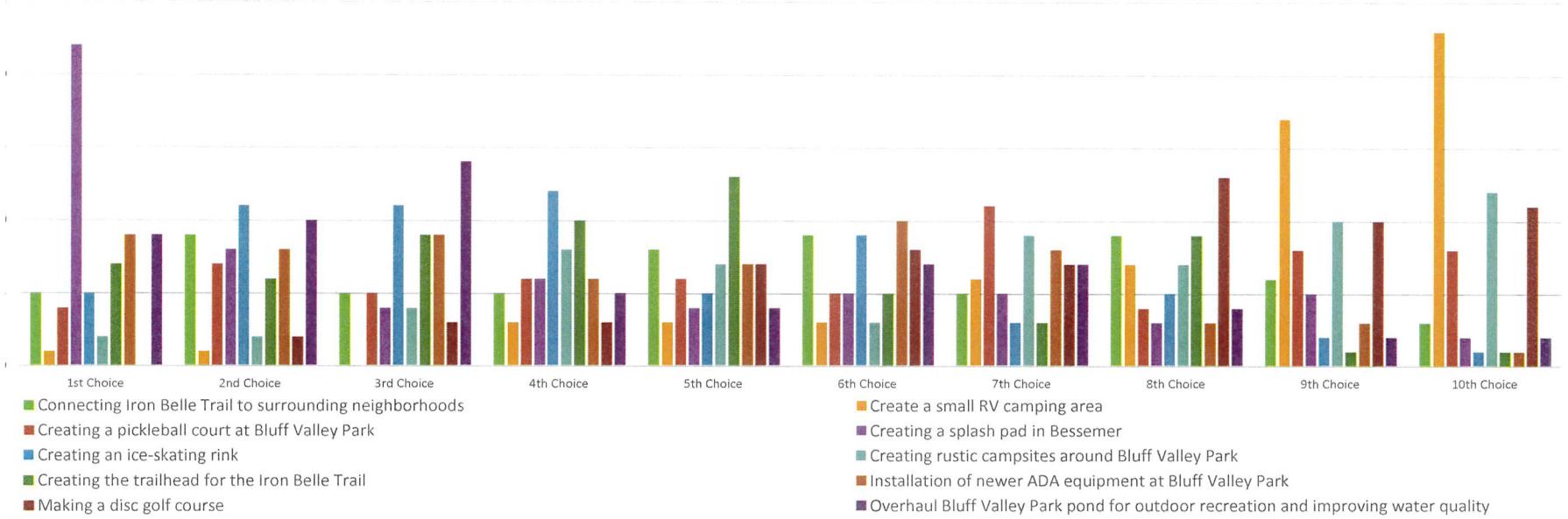
above and as set forth by the DNR.

Mandy Lake _____

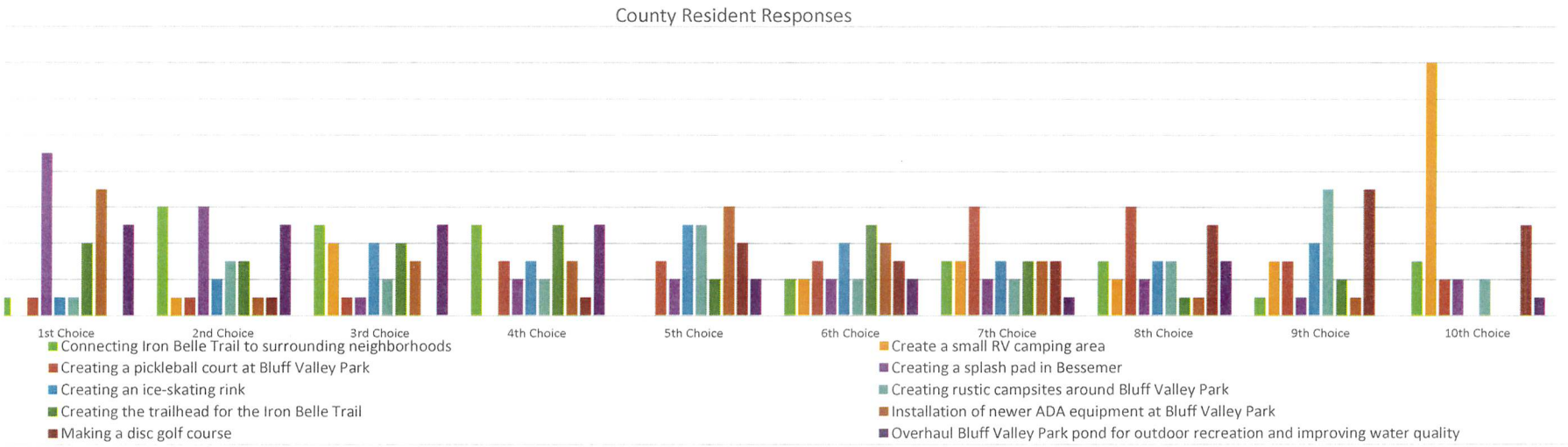
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

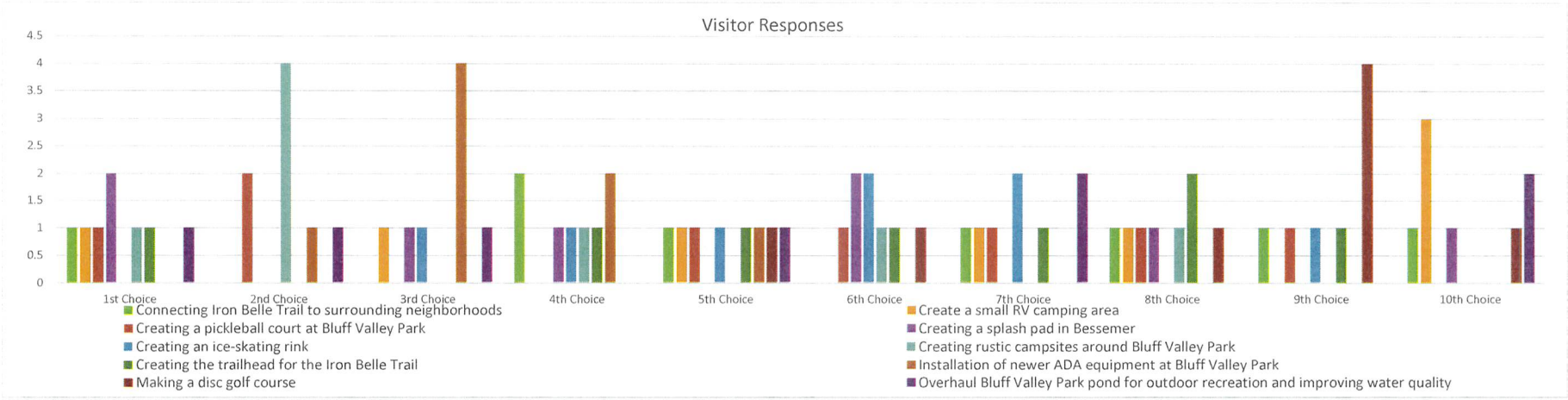
This completed checklist must be uploaded in MiRecGrants.

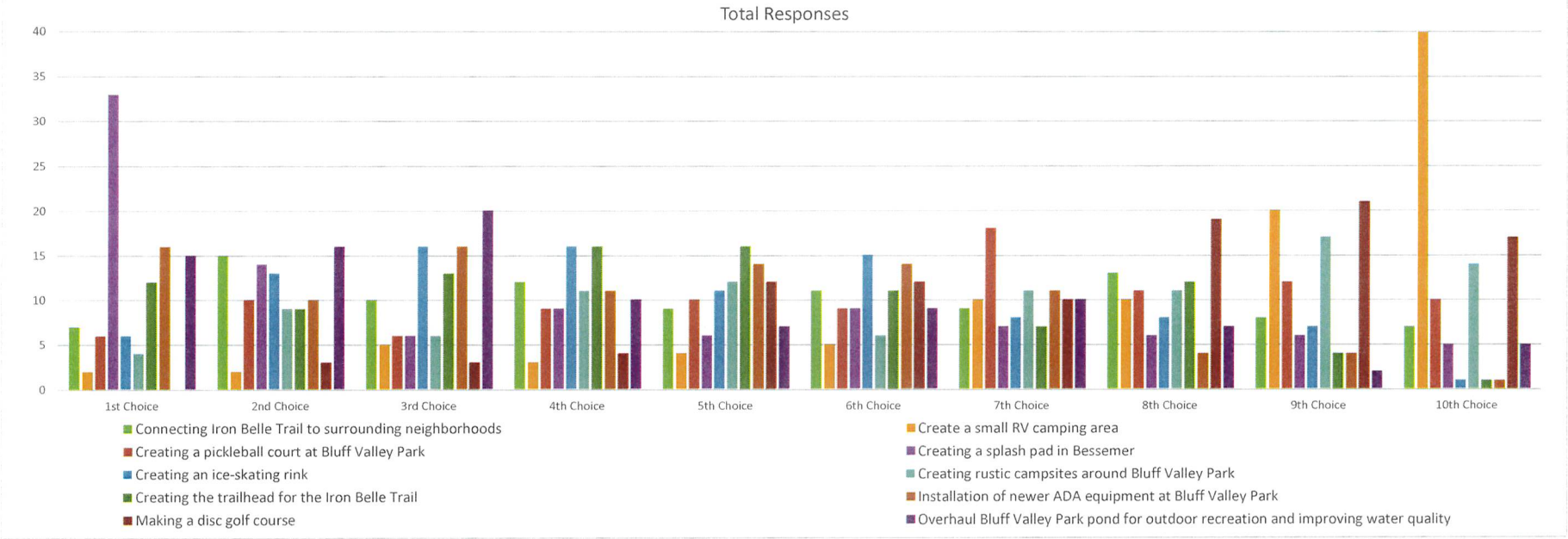
City Resident Responses



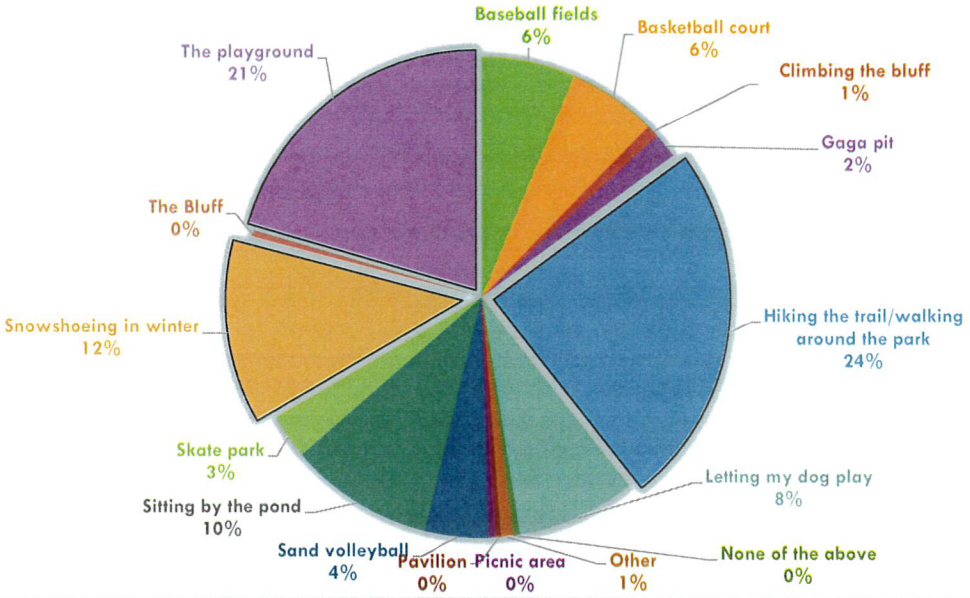
County Resident Responses



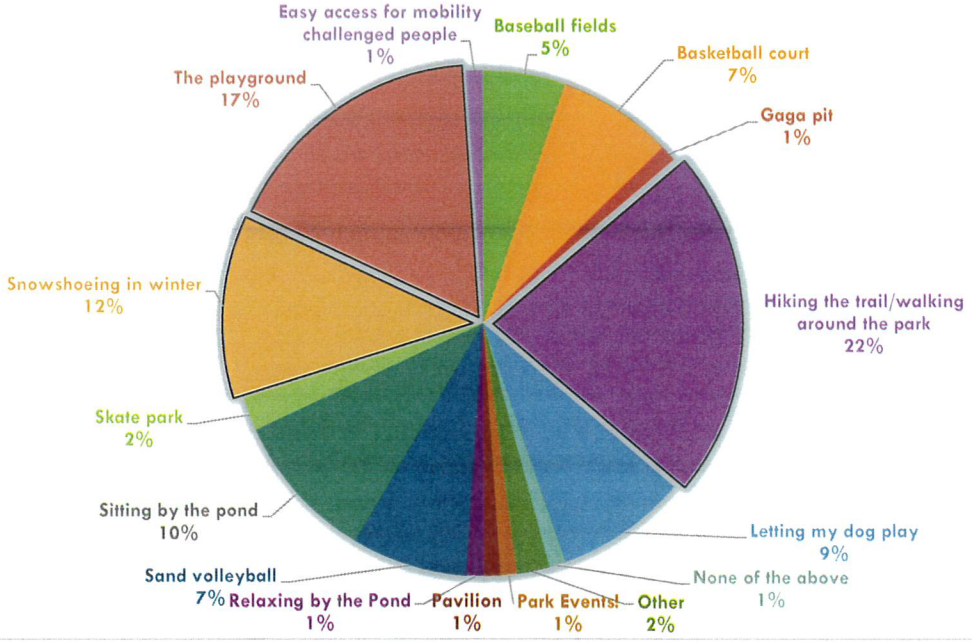

Visitor Responses
4.5
4
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
1st Choice
2nd Choice
3rd Choice
4th Choice
5th Choice
6th Choice
7th Choice
8th Choice
9th Choice
10th Choice
Connecting Iron Belle Trail to surrounding neighborhoods
Create a small RV camping area
Creating a pickleball court at Bluff Valley Park
Creating a splash pad in Bessemer
Creating an ice-skating rink
Creating rustic campsites around Bluff Valley Park
Creating the trailhead for the Iron Belle Trail
Installation of newer ADA equipment at Bluff Valley Park
Making a disc golf course
Overhaul Bluff Valley Park pond for outdoor recreation and improving water quality


Total Responses
40
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1st Choice
2nd Choice
3rd Choice
4th Choice
5th Choice
6th Choice
7th Choice
8th Choice
9th Choice
10th Choice
Connecting Iron Belle Trail to surrounding neighborhoods
Create a small RV camping area
Creating a pickleball court at Bluff Valley Park
Creating a splash pad in Bessemer
Creating an ice-skating rink
Creating rustic campsites around Bluff Valley Park
Creating the trailhead for the Iron Belle Trail
Installation of newer ADA equipment at Bluff Valley Park
Making a disc golf course
Overhaul Bluff Valley Park pond for outdoor recreation and improving water quality

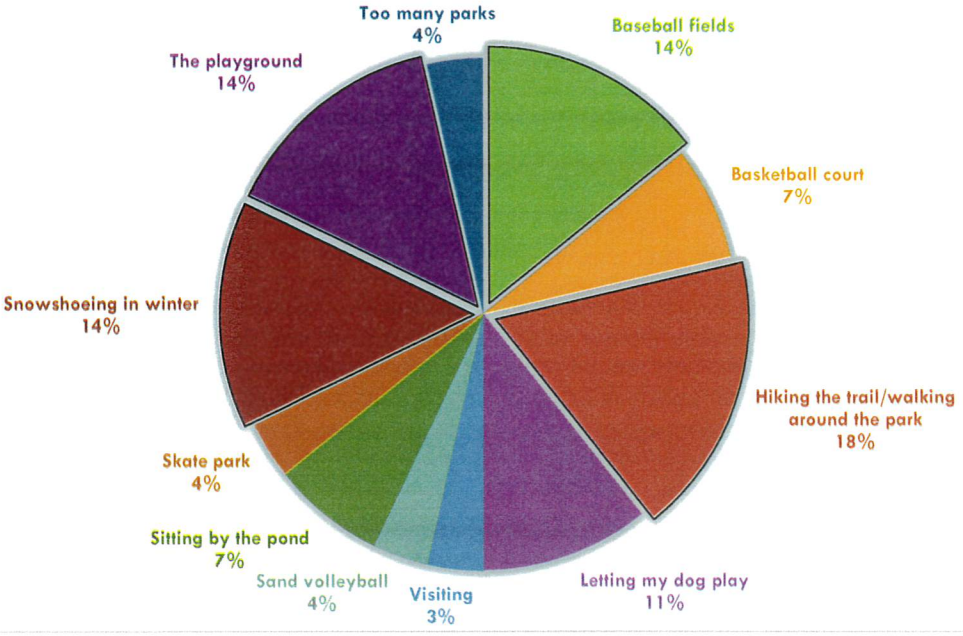
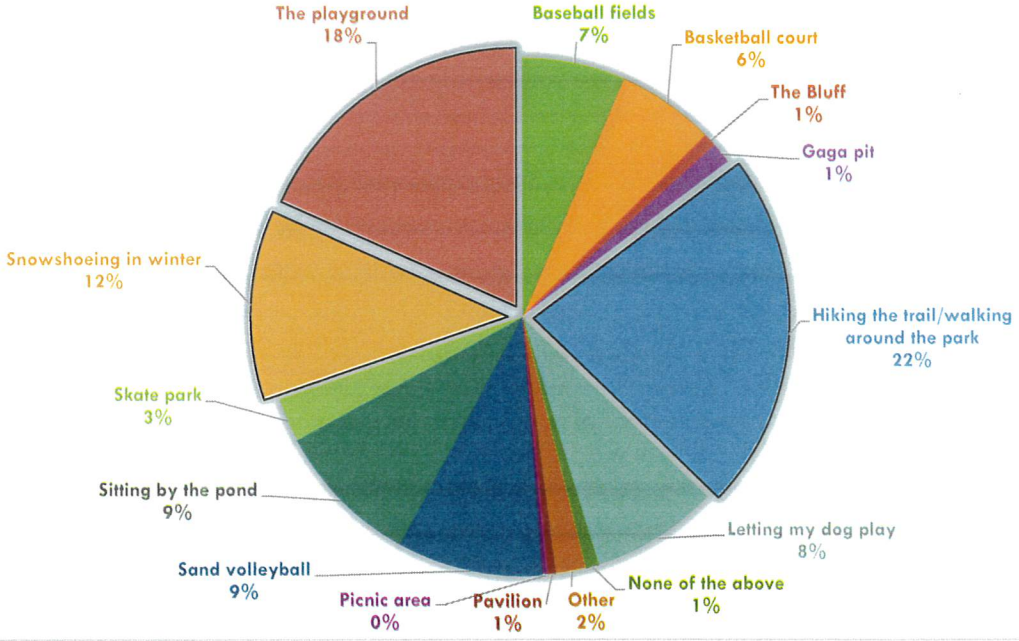
BEST ABOUT USING BESSEMER PARKS - CITY RESPONSES



BEST ABOUT USING BESSEMER PARKS - COUNTY RESPONSES



BEST ABOUT USING BESSEMER PARKS - VISITOR RESPONSES



BEST ABOUT USING BESSEMER PARKS - TOTAL