City of Albion Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016 - 2020

Fall 2015

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Resolution to Approve Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan 2016-2020 by City Council
Resolution to Create a Citizens Advisory Committee to Update the Parks And Recreation Master Plan
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Planning Commission Minutes – November 17, 2015 – Recommendations

Executive Summary

Kalamazoo River

The City of Albion, Michigan is committed to enhancing the quality of life of its citizens through the continued maintenance, enhancement and development of its parks and recreation system. The City of Albion Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016 – 2020 serves as a guide for the continued development of public parks, recreation, open spaces and greenways throughout the community.

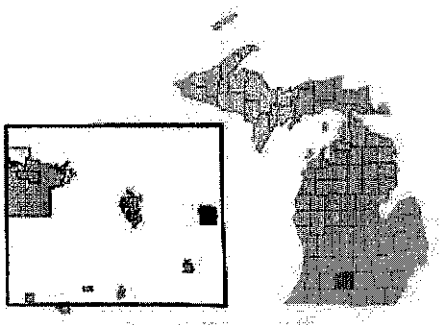
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires that an approved 5-year Community Recreation Plan be in place in order for communities to be eligible to apply for grant funding. This plan will make the city eligible for these grants, assisting our efforts to reach our parks and recreation goals.

The 2016 – 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan for the City of Albion focuses on the following: 1) maintenance and improvement of the current park and recreation system, incorporating a variety of recreational opportunities; 2) ensuring that there are sufficient recreational opportunities within walking distance of low-income neighborhoods; 3) enhancing recreational opportunities associated with the Kalamazoo River and the parks along the river and associated river trail; 4) addressing access to and safety within the park system; and 5) ensuring that, whenever possible, all applicable policies and environments promote physical activity.

The planning process involved gathering background information about the City of Albion, including location, history, and social characteristics, as well as conducting an inventory and assessment of existing facilities. Public input through surveys, town hall meetings, key stakeholder interviews, and supported by goals outlined in previous plans, was used to guide the development of the current plan's Goals and Objectives and Action Program/Capital Improvement Plan. The 2016 – 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan addresses those improvements and enhancements that best address the needs of the community.

Albion, Michigan

City



Location of Albion, Michigan

Coordinates: 42°14'48"N 84°45'12"W

Country	United States
State	Michigan
County	Calhoun
Area[1]	
• **Total**	4.51 sq mi (11.68 km²)
• **Land**	4.41 sq mi (11.42 km²)
• **Water**	0.10 sq mi (0.26 km²)
Elevation	951 ft (290 m)
Population (2010)[2]	
• **Total**	8,616
• **Estimate** (2012[3])	8,546
• **Density**	1,953.7/sq mi (754.3/km²)
Time zone	Eastern (EST) (UTC-5)
• **Summer (DST)**	EDT (UTC-4)
ZIP code	49224
Area code(s)	517
FIPS code	26-00980[4]
GNIS feature ID	0619906[5]

Community Description

Regional Context

The City of Albion comprises 4.51 square miles and is located immediately South of the I-94 corridor in the eastern portion of Calhoun County. The city is bordered by Albion and Sheridan Townships, and abuts the Calhoun County/Jackson County Line on the east, I-94 to the North, and the Kalamazoo River to the South. The City of Albion occupies a strategic position within a short driving distance of several major metropolitan centers in the Great Lakes region. Via the interstate highway system, Albion is just 40 miles from Lansing, 53 miles from Ann Arbor and 47 miles from Kalamazoo. On a larger scale it is 86 miles from Grand Rapids, 91 miles from Detroit, 98 miles from Toledo, and 93 miles from Fort Wayne, 175 miles from Chicago, 190 miles from Cleveland. In addition, Interstate 94 provides convenient access to international markets in Canada.

The benefit of Albion's centralized location is exemplified by its proximity to several excellent colleges and universities. Albion College, a private undergraduate liberal arts college, is located within the City of Albion. Additionally Kellogg Community College has a satellite campus just 2 miles outside of the City. The following higher education institutions are located within a 30 mile radius: Jackson College, Spring Arbor University, Kellogg Community College main campus, Miller College, Olivet College, Hillsdale College and Baker College. Several additional universities and colleges are within an approximate drive of one hour. These include the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo College, and Eastern Michigan University.

Development History

Mural reflecting development of community

Through its evolution from a small mill community developed along the banks of the Kalamazoo River to a regional industrial center, Albion fittingly serves as a microcosm of the industrial cities of the Northeast and Midwest. Despite its small size, the experience of Albion during the latter half of the 20th Century closely mirrors that of countless other cities several times its size. From its pre-industrial origins, to Urban Renewal, to the post-industrial era, in many ways the story of Albion is the story of the industrial Midwest. However the city's unique history is physically manifested in the arrangement of its streets and buildings and their relationship to the city's major geographical features. It is these features which capture the essence of the city and define its physical character.

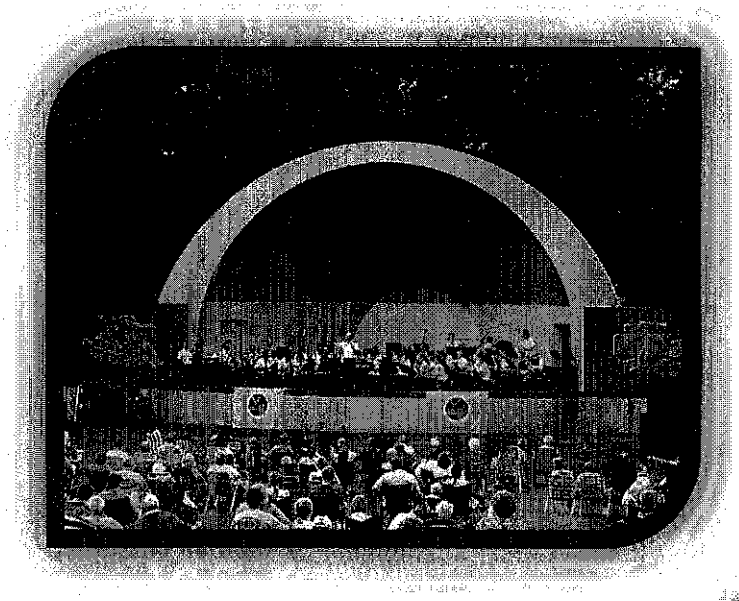
Albion was founded near the banks of the Kalamazoo River during the mid-1800s. Early mill operations located near the "Forks" formed the original nucleus of the settlement, which subsequently developed in a northward direction, out of the Floodplain and toward (what was then) the Territorial Road and the Michigan Central Railway. To this day, the City has a distinct north-south orientation, accentuated for the past several decades by the "gravitational pull" of I-94 developed in the mid-1950s.

Typical of most North American cities, Albion was laid out in grid form, and punctuated by a small number of radial streets which probably originated as early Native American trails and trade routes. The points at which these diagonal streets intersect the main street grid form neighborhood focal points (i.e., Five Points) and serve as distinct physical landmarks.

Superior Street forms the main axis of the City's central business district and runs in a north-south direction. Downtown Albion (i.e., Superior Street) is generally an in-tact collection of handsome turn-of-Century commercial buildings, approximately 4 blocks long and one block wide. The scale is modest (three to five stories) and pedestrian oriented.

The City's most intensive period of growth occurred in the post-war era when its population topped out at approximately 14,000 residents at around 1950. Post war development generally took place on the periphery of the central city in the form of suburban ranch and bungalow housing. This development was at its most intense northeast of the central city. Urban renewal activities in the 1960s laid bare several acres of land on the west side of town that remain largely vacant. Industrial land is found mostly north of the River and west of downtown.

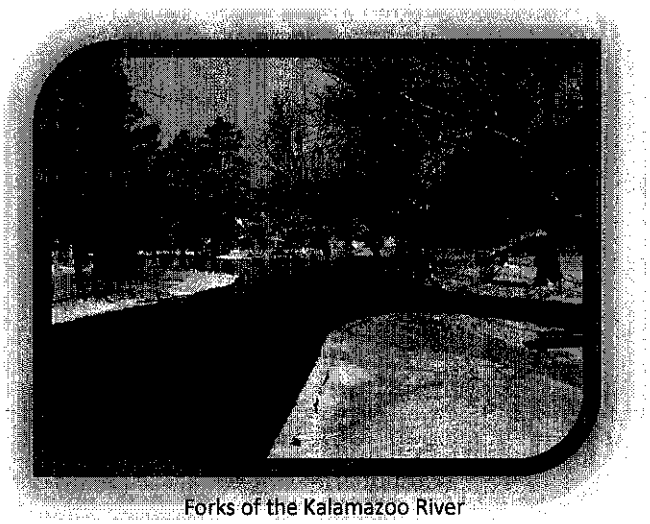
The City of Albion owns and maintains approximately 100 acres of parks and trails. The 17 developed city parks range in size and scale from mini-pocket parks to the nearly 40 acre Victory Park, complete with its WPA Bandshell. The facilities and amenities provided in these parks include a range of options, such as playgrounds, canoeing, ball fields, basketball courts, shuffle board, and disc golf. The City also maintains five properties (not all are owned by the city) that have not been designated permanent parks or open spaces, but are being utilized in this fashion. These include a dog park, memorial garden, and landscaped greenspaces. Finally, the 1.6 mile Albion River Trail along the Kalamazoo River bisects the city from Victory Park to Harris Field.



Albion River Trail

Albion River Trail

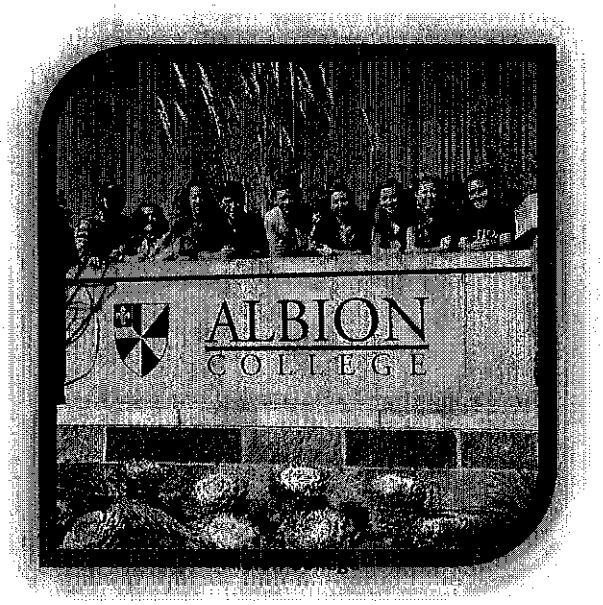
Natural Context and Physical Features


Forks of the Kalamazoo River

The city is endowed with many natural geographical features which contribute favorably to its ambiance. These include the gentle hills and bluffs which afford interesting views of the city, surrounding landscape, and the confluence of the two branches of the Kalamazoo River near the center of the City. The Kalamazoo River bisects Albion from the northwest to the Southeast and has affected the historical development of the City with respect to employment, early business locations, environmental issues, street layout and land use. In addition, the river provides a strong southern border and is a substantial asset to the area for its natural aesthetic quality, open space and recreational benefits.

Albion is also fortunate to possess a number of physical assets which lend it a strong visual imagery. This includes a cohesive downtown streetscape of well-preserved older buildings grouped along a traditional commercial thoroughfare. Street and sidewalk enhancements, done as part of the city's selection as a State "Main Street" community, and the church steeples which "bookend" the street and give it a well-defined beginning and end, provide a solid focus for the downtown. Significant buildings in the downtown include the Bohm Theatre, Railroad Depot, City Hall, Mary Sheldon Ismon House, and the Public Library.

The campus of Albion College is a handsome collection of architecturally significant buildings which lends the city an air of culture and repose. Historic preservation activities along Superior Street and Irwin Avenue and in other scattered parts of the city give the city an architectural richness and provide a direct visual connection to its past.



Floodplains and Wetlands

Over the years, the Kalamazoo River has carved a floodplain along its riverbanks. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has mapped these areas, which are normally dry but are expected to flood at least once every 100 years due to river overflow or surface water accumulation. The base flood level ranges from a 943 foot elevation at the City's eastern boundary near the Whitehouse Nature Center to 937 feet at Superior Street and 931 feet at the western City limits. Development proposed for land within this area should be restricted or planned to minimize the impact of flooding on development. The majority of this floodplain shall be preserved as open space or park land to minimize the harmful effect of flooding.

Kalamazoo River floodplain

Wetlands are saturated areas which include swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows, mud flats, and natural ponds. They are beneficial because they filter, store, and recharge groundwater; serve as a buffer for flood control; nurture wildlife such as water fowl and fish; purify water and produce oxygen; and often serve as recreational locations. Therefore, consistent with state and federal initiatives, development within areas affecting Albion's wetlands should be discouraged. The two most significant wetlands in the City are located south of the Kalamazoo River at the City's western boundary, and east of the Albion College athletic facility near the Whitehouse Nature Center.

Soils

Surveys completed in conjunction with the 1964 Albion Comprehensive Plan categorized soils within the following three general classifications: sandy clay and loam, sandy loam with gravel clay base, and undulating sandy loam. In general, the northern half of the City consists of level sandy loam fixed with a sandy and gravely clay subsoil.

The soils vary from well-drained loams to small regions of poorly-drained soils. The region is mainly level with some short, steep slopes next to the marshy areas. The southern half of the City is a sandy loam with a sandy clay subsoil. Erosion is light to moderate due to the more pronounced slope characteristic of the area.

Social Characteristics

City Population

Albion is a city in Calhoun County in the southcentral region of the Lower Peninsula of the U.S. state of Michigan. The population was 8,616 at the 2010 census and is part of the Battle Creek Metropolitan Statistical Area. Continuing a trend which began in the 1960s, Albion saw a decrease in population during the 2000s as shown in Table 1. It should be noted however, that the City's population figures and the trends they represent have historically been distorted by the nuances of census reporting, specifically the inclusion of the volatile college student population in some census counts and the exclusion during other census counts. Ultimately, however, there has been a steady decrease in the population over the past five decades.

In 2010, the population of the city of Albion was 8,616, representing a 5.77% decrease in the number of people living in the city since 2000.

Table 1: Pop. Change 1940-2010
*Source: U.S. Census

Year	Population	% Change
1940	8,345	3.00%
1950	10,406	24.70%
1960	12,749	22.52%
1970	12,112	-5.00%
1980	11,059	-8.69%
1990	10,066	-8.98%
2000	9,144	-10.02%
2010	8,616	-5.77%

Table 2: Age Characteristics 2010 *Source: U.S. Census

Age	Number	Percent
Total population	8,616	100.0
Under 5 years	574	6.7
5 to 9 years	525	6.1
10 to 14 years	439	5.1
15 to 19 years	1,129	13.1
20 to 24 years	1,364	15.8
25 to 29 years	438	5.1
30 to 34 years	404	4.7
35 to 39 years	372	4.3
40 to 44 years	399	4.6
45 to 49 years	480	5.6
50 to 54 years	513	6.0
55 to 59 years	464	5.4
60 to 64 years	391	4.5
65 to 69 years	287	3.3
70 to 74 years	244	2.8
75 to 79 years	217	2.5
80 to 84 years	168	1.9
85 years and over	208	2.4
Median age (years)	28.1	(X)

Age Structure

Age characteristics are a useful demographic indicator for recreation planning purposes, as a community's age composition helps determine the appropriate mix of needed recreation services and facilities. The types and location of recreation facilities and programs will depend, in part, upon the age structure of the population. The following table (Table 2)) breaks down the various age groups using data from the 2000 Census.

Persons with Disabilities

The 2009-2013 American Community 5-Year Survey estimates 7.5% of the population under 18 years of age, 16.4% of the population 18-64 years of age, and 32% of the population 65+ years of age are reported to have a disability.

Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), which took effect in 1992, prohibits discrimination, both intentional and unintentional, against individuals with disabilities in all programs, activities, and services provided by public entities. It applies to all state and local governments, their departments, agencies or special purpose districts of state or local governments.

The implications of ADA for the City of Albion are significant. Parking lots, sidewalks, picnic tables, play equipment, playground surfaces, wayfinding and other recreation facilities within parks must be examined regularly to determine if their design creates a barrier that prevents use by all segments of the population. Programs must be examined to be certain they provide recreation and leisure opportunities to all residents, regardless of their social, economic or physical status.

Administrative Structure

The City of Albion's Recreation Department is administered by the City Manager, with the Programming being managed by two part-time Recreation Program Coordinators. They handle the initial planning, program development, and day-to-day administration of the Recreation programs, activities, and special events. The staff also consists of an additional part-time position assistant position, plus seasonal staff, volunteers, and contractors that are brought on for different programs.

The parks in the City of Albion are administered by the Deputy Director of the Department of Public Services, who oversees Parks, Cemetery, and Forestry. The Parks Unit staff consists of two full-time maintenance personnel, plus seasonal labor in the summer months.

The Parks Division responsibilities include maintaining nineteen parks for a total of nearly ninety acres, plus Stoffer Plaza, the grounds of City Hall, Transportation Center, Albion District Library, City parking lots and several street boulevards. Structures in the parks include: picnic shelters, a band shell, a farmer's market, a skating shelter, restroom buildings, a concession building, a press box, a recreation pavilion and two maintenance buildings.

A variety of recreational opportunities are available, including softball, baseball, basketball, picnicking, fishing, boating, tennis, sledding, cross-country skiing, playgrounds, a fitness trail, concerts, wildlife feeding and scenic views of the river, waterfalls, flowerbeds and trees.

The Albion Recreation Department was created by a resolution of the City Council effective on January 1, 1982. Prior to that the Recreation Program was administered by the Albion Public Schools.

The Recreation Department's mission is to provide leisure services to all segments of the community. Based on demand, the primary emphasis is on recreational activities geared to various ages within the community and that provide a blend of cultural, recreational and entertainment related activities. The Recreation Department is funded by a millage. There are three part-time staff persons in addition to temporary staff including coaches and life guards, etc.

Program planning and administration for Parks and Recreation in Albion is conducted at several levels. Initial planning recommendations, program development and day-to-day administration of the Parks and Recreation Programs are handled by the respective administrators. They also recommend capital improvements to the Planning Commission, which has the responsibility to formulate a capital-improvement program (CIP). The Planning Commission reviews may make recommendations to the City Council on the capital improvements budget (CIB).

Description of the Planning Process

Albion's Parks and Recreation Plan was last updated in 2011, and was a basic update of the previous two five-year plans, which used the 2000 Master Comprehensive Plan for the Community as their basis. This plan is being updated concurrently with a revised Master Comprehensive Plan.

A citizen advisory committee was appointed by city council to assist in the development of this plan. The public was involved through on-line and in-person surveys. Additionally, several local advisory committees were consulted, such as the Riverfront Development Advisory Committee and Holland Park Transformation Advisory Committee. Previous plans were also consulted, and relevant information was incorporated into this plan.

The City of Albion also collaborates with the Calhoun County Recreation Plan, Iron Belle Trail Regional Coordinating Committee, and Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance on future recreation and trailway plans.

Parks and Recreation Funding

The funding for operating the city's parks system comes from the city's annual General Fund appropriation. Acquisition and development projects are typically funded through federal, state, private and community foundation grants, with matching funds coming from the City's Capital Improvement Fund, which comes from the city's General Fund as well as donations and other grants.

The annual budgets for both Parks and Recreation are drawn up by the City Manager in consultation with the City's Finance Director, and presented to City Council after reviewing the recommendations of the Director and Deputy Director of Public Services, which has oversight of the Parks Division, and Programming Staff from the Recreation department. The City Manager presents the recommended budget. The final budgetary decisions rest with the City Council, following a period for public input and a public hearing.

General Fund: The General Fund is the basic operating fund for the City of Albion. It was also the traditional source of operating funds for Parks and Recreation. General Fund revenues were derived from property taxes, state-shared revenues, federal grants, license and permit fees, charges for services, interest on investments, etc. Due to decreasing General Fund revenues, the Recreation Department budget was eliminated from the General Fund Budget in 2006 and was replaced by a recreation millage. Parks remain funded by the General Fund.

User Fees: User fees are charged for facility use (i.e., picnic shelters and pavilions) as well as for participation in recreational programs.

Recreation Millage: On May 2, 2006 the residents of the City of Albion approved a special recreation millage of 1.5 mills for 3 years dedicated to the operation of recreation programs for the City of Albion. In 2009, 2012, and 2015, that millage was renewed for an additional three years. The current millage expires in 2018.

Grants: The Department's budget is supplemented by outside grants from private, public, state and federal sources.

Memorial Bench Program: The Advisory Committee recommends adopting a Memorial Bench Program in 2016 to encourage private citizens and businesses to purchase memorial or honorary benches in Albion parks and along the Albion River Trail.

Adopt-a-Park: The Advisory Committee recommends beginning an Adopt-a-Park program in 2016. Similar to Adopt-a-Highway, the program would seek out area organizations and businesses to adopt a park. Volunteer groups would pick-up trash and notify the City of needed maintenance, etc.

Sponsors

The Albion Recreation Department has been fortunate to receive strong community support. Many individuals and organizations have contributed to operations and programs, including: All-American Bail Bond Agency, Elizabeth and Crystal Shepard, Pizza Hut, Albion Athletic Boosters, Free Methodist Church, On Two Wheels, Team Active Sports, Albion Men of Vision, Mr. Alan Photography, Albion-Homer United Way, Harry Worden Sr. Memorial Fund, Albion Philanthropic Women, Community Partners for Albion Youth, and Albion Community Foundation.

Recreation and Resource Inventory

The Citizen's Advisory Committee conducted an inventory of existing parks in August 2015 using the Community Park Audit Tool. The physical inventory of local facilities consisted of site inspections of all City parks and recreation sites. An inventory of playground equipment and park facilities was recorded and reviewed with regard to location, acreage, quantity, quality, accessibility and condition. In addition to an assessment of local parks and city-run recreational programs, we have included a summary of facilities and programs present in the community but operated by nonprofit or private entities. Please refer to the Calhoun County Parks and Recreation Master Plan for non-local parks and recreational opportunities.

Classification System for Local and Regional Recreation Open Space

A. Local/Close-to-Home Space: ¼ - 2 mile radius from one's home

Type of Park	Use	Local Parks
Mini-Park 1 acre or less	Specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as toddlers or senior citizens	Bournelis Park Molder Park Porter Street Canoe Dock
Neighborhood Park/Playground 15 + Acres	Area for intense recreational activities, such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus area, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc.	Harris Field Ketchum Field Washington Park Holland Park McIntosh Park McAuliffe Park
Community Park 25+ Acres	Area of diverse environmental quality. May include areas suited for intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes or large swimming pools. May be an area of natural quality for outdoor recreation, such as walking, viewing, sitting, picnicking. May be any combination of the above, depending upon site suitability and community need.	Victory Park Rieger Park

B. Space that may be local or regional and is unique to each community:

Type of Park	Use	Local Parks
Linear Park	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel, such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, canoeing and pleasure driving. May include active play areas. (Note: any of the above components may occur in the "linear park.")	Kalamazoo River Trail McClure Park Ski Trail Iron Bell Trail North Country Trail
Special Use	Areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, nature centers, marinas, zoos, conservatories, arboreta, display gardens, arenas, outdoor theaters, gun ranges, downhill ski areas, or areas that preserve, maintain and interpret buildings, sites, and objects of archeological significance. Also plazas or squares in or near commercial centers, boulevards or parkways.	Barnes Park Crowell Park Lloyd Park Stoffer Plaza Goldstar Park Riverside Cemetery
Conservancy	Protection and management of the natural/cultural environment with recreation use as a secondary objective.	McClure Park

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY STANDARDS –VS- ACTUAL

	Standard	Standard based	CITY	Public	Private	COLLEGE		Total Public	Difference
Local park Land (acres)	6.25-	57.15-96.012	90		10	29		129	+32.99
Badminton	1/5,000	1.82							
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	1/5,000	1.82	5-6	6	1	4		10	+8.18
Basket Ball Courts (Indoor)				5					
Handball/ Racquetball	1/20,000	Not required				2			+2
Ice Hockey (Indoor)	1/100,000	Not required						Aval.	N/A
Ice Hockey (Outdoor)	By climate	Not required	1 Natural		1 Natural				+2 Natural
Tennis	1/2000	4.572	4 outdoor	7		4	6		
Volleyball	1/5000	1.82							
Baseball (Official)	1/5000	1.82	2	1			1		
Baseball (Little League)	Lighted	Not required							
Field Hockey	1/20,000	Not required							
Football	1/20,000	Not required		1			1		+2
Soccer	1/10,000	1		1	0	0	2		+2
Golf-Driving Range	1/50,000	Not required							
Running Track	1/20,000	Not required		1		1	1		
Softball	1/5,000	1.82	5	2			3		
Multiple Rec. Court (BB, VB,	1/10,000	1							
Trails	1 system	Not Required							
Archery Ranges	1/50,000	Not Required	0		2	0	3		1
Combination Skeet and Trap	1/50,000	Not Required							
Golf Par 3 (18 Hole)	1/25,000	Not Required							
Golf 9-hole Standard	1/25,000	Not Required							
18 Hole Standard	1/50,000	Not Required							
Swimming Pools	1/20,000	Not Required		1	2	1			+4
Beach Areas	N/A	Not Required							
Bicycle Trails (miles)	1/40,000		0		0	0	0		.25 mile
Picnic areas (tables)	1/200		65		103	0	0		
Playgrounds	1/3,000		6		3	4	0		*
Rifle Ranges	1/50,000		0		2	0	0		
Shotgun Ranges	1/50,000		0		1	0	0		
Sledding Hills	1/40,000		2		0	0	0		
Boat Launches (parking)	1/400		1		2	0	1		
Campgrounds (campsites)	1/150		0		100	0	0		
CC Ski Trails (miles)	1/10,000		2.5		3	1	0		
Fishing Access (feet)	1,000/1,000		13,400		Lake		1,800		
Fishing Piers	1/100,000		2		1	0	0		
Hiking Trails (miles)	1/5,000		1.9		2	0	7.8		2 miles
Horseback Riding Trails	1/20,000		0		0	0	0		
Nature Areas (areas)	1/50,000		0		2	0	1		
Nature Trails (miles)	1/20,000		0		2	0	7.8		
ORV Areas (acres)	1/7,800		0		10	0	0		
ORV Trails (miles)	1/10,000		0		2	0	0		
Land Open to Snowmobiling	10/1,000		0		10	0	0		
Snowmobile Trails (miles)	1/3,000		0		2	0	0		1-1/3 miles
Swimming Beaches	1/25,000		0		3	0	0		

Deficiency due to use levels and/or location.

DESCRIPTION OF RECREATION PROGRAMS

Albion Recreation Department: The Albion Recreation Departments mission is to provide recreational activities for all segments of the community. Through partnerships with other organizations within the community and the surrounding areas we are able to provide services to our residents. Many of our programs and activities take place either in City parks or at the Albion Community School.

Role of Volunteers and Partnerships

The Albion Recreation Department is fortunate to have a number of individuals and public/private partnerships that provide volunteers, in-kind contributions, and support for recreation programming and park maintenance: Albion Community Schools, Marshall Public Schools, Albion College, Goodwill Industries, Kids N Stuff Museum, Pablo Lerma-Under the Lights, Albion Basketball Club, Starr Commonwealth, Blazer Track Club, New Level Sports Ministries, Schuler Arts, Mayor's Youth Council, Kids at Hope.

CITY OF ALBION RECREATION PROGRAMS INVENTORY

FALL	WINTER	SPRING	SUMMER
Adult Flag Football Mother – Son Dance Rocket Football Flag Football Cheerleading Junior Optimist Club	Water Aerobics Learn to Swim Elementary Basketball Middle School Basketball Adult Basketball Junior Optimist Club	Easter Egg Hunt Daddy – Daughter Dance Water Aerobics Learn to Swim Junior Optimist Club	T-Ball Baseball Family Swimming Peapods Summer Camp Summer Dreams Summer Camp Water Aerobics Learn to Swim Mommy and Me Swimming Music In The Park Community Bike Ride Program Junior Optimist Club

The goal of the Albion Recreation Department is to provide a full range of leisure time activities on a year–round basis geared toward the physical, psychological, social and emotional wellbeing of the citizens who reside within the city's boundaries. Many of the programming options are made possible through the collaborative efforts of partners within the community and surrounding areas.

Projected Programs by Season:

The Albion City Recreation Department's staff regularly evaluates the programming it offers. Based upon the projected needs of the community our programs will address those needs. Currently we are exploring the feasibility of offering dance classes, pottery-making classes, painting classes, a book club, and a reading and writing camp. We are also looking at ways to further develop two existing parks; McIntosh Park and the Dog Park.

The City's Recreation Department is housed within City Hall.

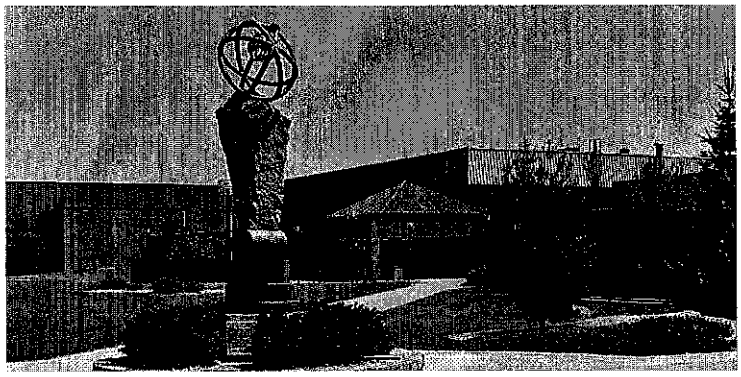
Significant Non-City Operated Recreation Facilities/ Opportunities

Nonprofit Facilities (alphabetical order)

Albion College Recreational and Cultural Facilities Inventory

Albion College: Albion College, founded by the Methodist Church, is a selective four-year undergraduate institution renowned for its high-quality liberal arts education. Albion College is comprised of a 90-acre main campus, 144-acre Whitehouse Nature Center and 340-acre Held Equestrian Center.

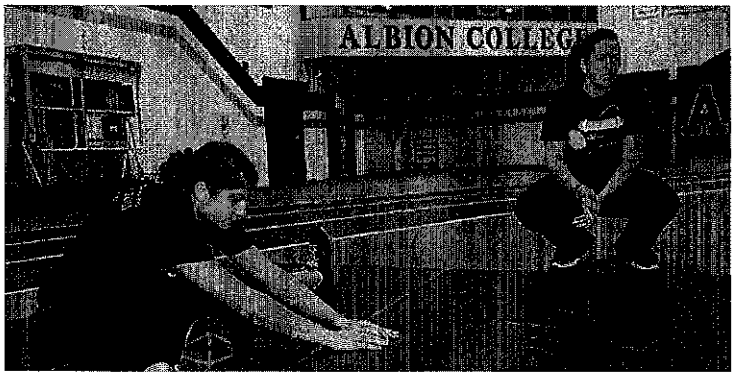
Kresge Gymnasium includes the varsity basketball and volleyball court, along with the Ferguson Dance Studio. Completed in 1925 and totally remodeled in 1988, the building is named in honor of philanthropist Dr. Stanley S. Kresge, '23. Alumni Field serves Albion's varsity and intramural athletic programs for men and women, as well as the Physical Education Department. The facility includes Sprankle-Sprandel Stadium, Frank L. Joranko Baseball Field, Dempsey Softball Field and soccer fields, surfaced tennis courts, a surfaced track with field events area, practice fields and a canoeing facility.



The Dow Recreation and Wellness Center, located adjacent to Sprankle-Sprandel Stadium, is devoted to educational and recreational purposes, including individual and group sports activities, physical conditioning, and health and wellness programs. The building was made possible by a gift from the Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation. The Fieldhouse is named for Dr. Bernard T. Lomas, president of the College, 1970-1983.

The following facilities are part of the Dow Recreation and Wellness Center:

Ungrodt Tennis Center : The Ungrodt Tennis Center offers a state-of-the-art, 4-court indoor facility intended to serve Albion College students, faculty, staff, and community members. In combination with our newly renovated outdoor courts by our Dow Student Recreation Center, players now have the option of top quality indoor or outdoor facilities.

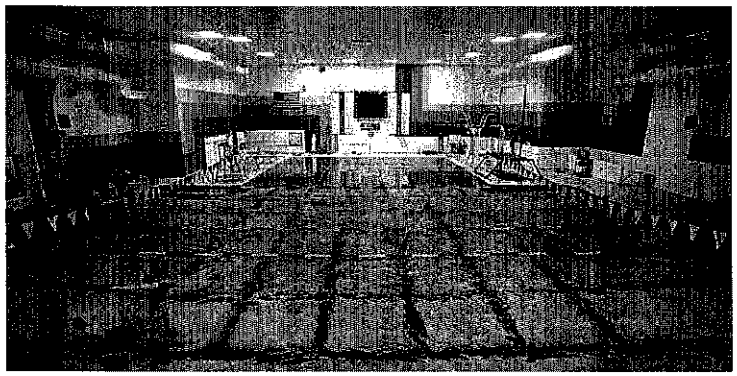


Lomas Fieldhouse: The Bernard T. Lomas Fieldhouse contains flexible court space for intramural basketball, volleyball, badminton and tennis as well as a 1/9-mile track and two racquetball courts.

The weight room is located within the Lomas Fieldhouse, adjacent to the right of the main entrance. The facility is open to all students and weight room-members during regular facility hours.

A cardiovascular fitness room was added to the Dow Recreation and Wellness Center in 2009. The room houses exercise bikes, elliptical trainers, treadmills, and StairMaster machines.

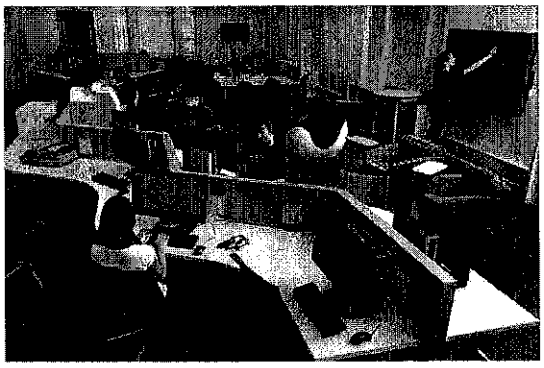
Three wall-mounted televisions are available for bike and elliptical users and each treadmill has a TV mounted above its display panel. Windows giving users a view of campus and of the activity in the Dow brighten the space.



Dean Aquatic Center: The facility's highlight is the T-shaped pool, 25 yards by 25 meters. The shallow end of the pool has a depth of just over four feet, while the deep end of the pool measures 14 feet deep. The deep end houses two one-meter diving boards and one three meter board. The pool was updated with new starting blocks, diving boards, and lane markers in 1999 and 2013. The diving boards are made by Duraflex and comply with NCAA regulations.

In recent years, a new a six-lane IST scoreboard was installed on the far wall, giving spectators constant updates of scoring throughout meets. Diving training on the one and three-meter boards was enhanced with the addition of a trampoline with a spotting rig for divers. An in-deck, eight person hot tub was added. Since 2000 there have been additional upgrades, including a state-of-the addition of an art ventilation system.

A unique feature of the pool is the underwater observatory windows, which allow spectators a chance to monitor swimmers and divers from below the water's surface. The room is located just below the three meter board and has three large viewing windows. Two of the windows face the deep end of the pool, while the third window faces the shallow end along the east wall of the pool.



The Mudd Learning Center/Stockwell Memorial Library complex houses the college collection of books and periodicals. In addition, the library houses a rare book collection, archives, and serves as a designated government depository library, housing a wide variety of government documents. While book loans are limited to college students, faculty and guest students, area residents are allowed to use the library facilities.

Whitehouse Nature Center: The greenest classroom on Albion College's campus. The Whitehouse Nature Center is 140 acres' worth of outdoor education and it comes complete with a Visitor's Center that houses a classroom, a wildlife observation room overlooking feeders and the Kalamazoo River, a large river-side deck, a library of natural history books and a small kitchenette. The Kalamazoo room holds displays and live exhibits of local reptiles and amphibians. The Whitehouse Nature Center is owned and operated by Albion College, but the facilities and services are open to the general public, schools and local communities for environmental education, recreation and birthday parties.

Features include 5 miles of hiking trails, open seven days a week, dawn to dusk; oak-hickory and floodplain forests, extensive marsh and swamp lands bordering the east branch of the Kalamazoo River; a wildlife habitat improvement area (3 small ponds and vegetation for wildlife); a managed tall-grass prairie and several acres of grasslands used for research projects. Nearly 400 species of plants have been collected and over 160 species of birds cited in the area. The nature center is also home to the student-run Organic Farm where students grow produce in the hoophouse and open gardens and raise honeybees. The Farm provides equipment and support for community gardening initiatives in the City of Albion.

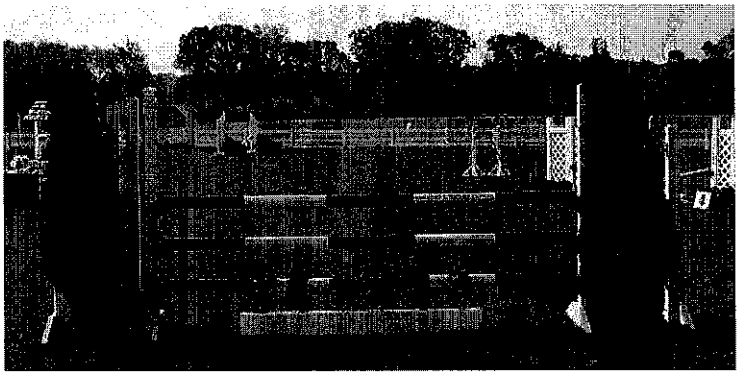
The WNC hosts year-round nature programs that are open to the general public many of which are free. Outdoor Education programs are also available for schools, scouts and civic groups that can be set-up in advance.

Nature Center Trails

- River's Edge Trail - 1.3 miles, 30-40 minutes, blue brochure. Along the shore of the Kalamazoo River, this trail offers views of the river and floodplain habitats.
- Prairie Trail - 1. 1 miles, 30 minutes, yellow brochure. The Prairie Trail passes through the Adele D. Whitehouse. Wildflower Garden, prairie, and oak-hickory forest.
- Beese Ecology Trail - 2.4 miles, 80 minutes; short loop, 60 minutes, green brochure. Good views of fence-row and open-field habitat. Brochure emphasizes ecological principles.
- McIntyre Marsh Trail - .5 miles/20 minutes, gold brochure. Boardwalk path over the marsh along the Kalamazoo River. Stowell Arboretum Trail - 1 mile, 25 minutes, red brochure. Educational opportunity for woody plant identification emphasizing Michigan trees and shrubs.
- History Trail - Markers 1-4/30 minutes, markers 5-9/80 minutes, purple brochure. Sites are identified to tell a story about the Nature Center land - bog fires, old mill, barn foundation, Interurban Railroad, quarry, gravel pit.

Bobbitt Visual Arts Center: Opened in 1965, the Center houses studios and lecture rooms of the Department of Visual Arts at Albion College. There are four galleries for the display of traveling exhibition, items for the permanent collection, and work of faculty and students. In addition, the center has facilities available for painting, sculpture, graphics, and numerous other art forms.

Herrick Center for Speech and Theatre: Located at the Dow Center along with the Dean Aquatic Center on the Albion College campus, the Herrick Center houses the college theater, drama, and communications programs. The general public is invited to many of the performances.



Nancy G. Held Equestrian Center: The Nancy G. Held Equestrian Center offers students not only a quality riding environment, but also comfortable study facilities with wireless Internet technology. The student lounge offers large windows overlooking the indoor and outdoor arenas, furniture for study, a coffee machine, and copies of the latest riding magazines.

Equestrian Center classroom In addition, the Center's classroom features a DVD player, a projector screen, and the Blanke Equestrian Collection (Albion College's own equestrian library of books and DVDs).

The barns at the Held Equestrian Center rank among the finest stabling facilities in the Midwest.

The barns boast 12' x 12' stalls for 79 horses. Each stall includes rubber floor matting and a state-of-the-art Nelson automatic watering system. In addition, the barns have automatic fly systems and separate bays for washing, veterinary care, and shoeing.

For riders, ample locker room space, showers and restrooms, a washer and dryer, heated tack rooms, and large storage areas are available.

Three arenas currently serve the Held Equestrian Center: the 100' x 400' Randi C. Heathman Indoor Arena with two heated viewing areas, and a 100' x 200' outdoor all-weather sand arena.

In addition, a 250' x 300' grass jumping arena greets visitors as they proceed up the Held Center driveway

The Held Equestrian Center is situated on 340 acres of lush countryside on the southernmost edge of the Albion College campus. The grounds feature 37 paddocks for turnout and manicured trails for students to ride on.

Each horse's individual paddock spans a half an acre.

Two European-style horse walkers allow horses stabled at the Held Equestrian Center to be exercised daily, even in the event of inclement weather or during school breaks.

The walkers can be programmed for individualized workouts at the walk, trot, and canter.

Community Recreational and Cultural Facilities Inventory

Albion Community Foundation: Albion Community Foundation works with the local faith based community to provide nutrition and physical activity promotion and programming through the statewide SNAP-Ed program.

Albion Community School: Albion Community School offers a variety of after school and summer programs and makes their facility available for use by the recreation department and community groups. Amenities include: pool, track, tennis courts, football field, baseball and softball diamonds, playgrounds, auditoriums for theatrical performances, gymnasiums and computer labs.

Albion District Library: The Albion District Library offers recreational and cultural activities to all ages. Community members may use public meeting rooms, local history resources, educational games, and computers. The Summer Reading Program is a major recreational program for the summer months.

Bohm Theatre: The Bohm Theatre provides a variety of film and live entertainment programs for all ages. It is utilized by the Albion 4-H Creative and Expressive Arts Program for their summer performance. Free movies are offered during the summer providing a safe place to go on Friday mornings when other programs are not operating.

Double Vision Center: Double Vision is in the process of renovating a former roller skating rink for use as a community center.

Forks Senior Center: Forks Senior Center is a membership-based organization that specializes in serving seniors 60 and older. Membership benefits include a fitness center, exercise classes, lunch and learn, games and social activities, support groups and volunteer opportunities. Non-membership services are offered to the senior community include information and referrals, diabetic foot care, Medicare & Medicaid counseling, and a Senior Meal Site. As the primary provider of recreational opportunities for older adults, FSC receives a portion of the recreation millage. Specific programs include: Ping Pong, Euchre, Silver Sneakers, Grocery Bingo, Diabetes Support Group, Walk With Ease, Whole Person Wellness, Blood Pressure Checks, Sit & Stitch, Bridge Club, Early Risers Exercise, Penny Bingo, Lunch & Learn, Cribbage, Potluck, Cooking Club.

Gardner House Museum: The Gardner House was built around 1875 by an Albion hardware merchant, Augustus P. Gardner, who came to Michigan from New York in 1837 as a young man. He lived in this Victorian brick house until his death in 1905. The Albion Historical Society purchased the Gardner House in May 1966 from the City of Albion Public Library Board and turned it into a museum. The Albion Historical Society received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History in 1969 for this Museum. In 1971, it was placed on the National Register of Historical Places. The Gardner House Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays 2-4 pm, May through September. It is also open by appointment for tours.

Kids at Hope Youth Development Center: The Center exists to provide a safe and nurturing environment for students and adults involved in youth service organization programs to interact, grow, learn, and succeed in a variety of areas. In order to get students to their life's destinations, the participating youth development organizations understand the Kids at Hope philosophy. The mission of the Center is to provide a space for programs that empowers children and youth of Albion to succeed. No exceptions! No excuses!

Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum: Kids 'N' Stuff Children's Museum provides fun hands-on learning experiences for all children and families through interactive exhibits and programs.

Starr Commonwealth School: Starr Commonwealth is a residential education center specializing in care for children with emotional and behavioral problems. It offers numerous athletic facilities for students and staff. Brueckner Museum, Gladsome Cottage Museum, and a cross-country ski trail are open to the public. The 350-acre campus and facilities are a Michigan Historic Site and can be seen by guided tour seven days a week. Montcalm Lake, located on the Starr Commonwealth campus, is normally open to the public for fishing or canoeing, with permission. Starr Commonwealth offers a relatively new and innovative Alternative Outdoor Education Program to students as well as levels of rope climbing and other physical group activities which emphasize building trust, self-confidence and positive group interaction. The Brueckner Museum is located on the campus of Starr Commonwealth Schools and features fine art paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by famous artists. Gladsome Cottage Museum is the first cottage built to house boys at Starr Commonwealth in 1913. Gladsome Cottage was restored as a home gallery in 1984 with much of the original furniture and floor plan preserved

Vision of Life: Vision of Life offers a variety of life skills and recreational programming for the community. Sewing classes are one of their more popular offerings.

Private Recreation

Golf Courses: Albion is provided with several golf courses within a short driving distance. Tomac Woods, Whiffletree Hill Golf Course, Concord Hills, Duck Lake Country Club and Burr Oak Golf Courses are all within ten miles.

Rockey's Campground located just north of Albion, provides a basketball court, mini-golf course, playground, boat launch, swimming beach and hiking trail for campers.

Duck Lake, located 10 miles north of Albion, has a DNR-maintained public access point with a boat launch. Nearby DNR public access sites are located at Bell Lake, Prairie Lake and Winnipeg Lake.

Bowling: University Lanes, just east of Albion, has 20 lanes and an arcade.

Walking Tours

Several walking tours have been developed to promote our community

- Albion Art Walk
- Downtown Architectural Scavenger Hunt
- Purple Gang Tour
- Riverside Cemetery Tours
- College Campus Tour

Community Events

Several community events provide recreational and entertainment opportunities. These include:

- Festival of the Forks
- NAACP Back to School Celebration
- Albion Week
- Healthy Babies Day

Local Advisory Committees

Riverfront Advisory Committee and Tree Committee: The Riverfront Advisory Committee of Albion Community Foundation focuses on Riverfront development, maintenance and use. A primary goal of the committee is the development of a white-water rapids canoe path on the Kalamazoo River and a multi-use linear trail system along the Kalamazoo River. Additionally, a subcommittee of the group addresses tree re-planting in the city right-of-ways.

The Holland Park Advisory Committee: The Holland Park Advisory Committee was formed in 2014 to address the deteriorating condition of Holland Park. As of the writing of this plan they have completed a new children's playground, developed a children's garden, are working with the Forks Senior Center on activities for Seniors and have secured funding for Heritage Hill, a testimonial to the history of the area and West Ward School.

Mini-Parks - 1 acre or less

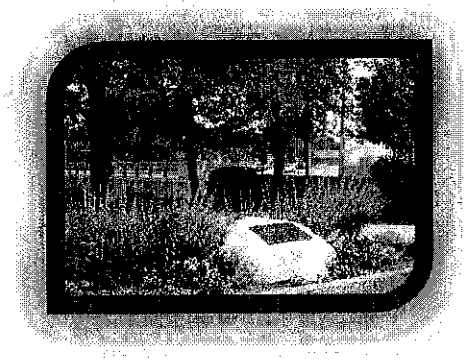
Bournelis Park

Location: NE Corner of Cass St. and Superior St.
Acreage: 0.1

Amenities: 2 benches, fishing, river trail access, flower bed, memorial plaque.

Accessibility Status:
Park facility does not meet accessibility guidelines due to access.

Description:
Bournelis Park provides a shady rest-stop for downtown workers. It overlooks the river, the historic Cass Street bridge, and the restored historic Coca Cola sign. The park is named for Pete Bournelis who operated a shoe repair shop at this corner for 44 years. (Located in neighborhood 13.)



Recommendations: Redesign Bournelis Park to improve compatibility with the character of Downtown Albion. Provide visual link with Stoffer Plaza, open the view to the river, and add shaded seating. Recommend constructing accessible sidewalk into the park.

Molder Park

Location: SW Corner of Superior St. and Michigan Ave.
Acreage: 0.1

Amenities: Benches

Accessibility Status:
Most of park facility meets.

Description:
Molder Park is a greenspace near downtown Albion. Named for "The American Molder," it has a bronze statue commemorating Albion's laborers in the foundries (circa 1974). The statue is said to be modeled after a photograph of John Passmore, a molder at Gale Manufacturing and Ideal Castings. Its highly visible location provides space for the community Christmas tree and the United Way fund drive sign.

Recommendations: update and improve benches and landscaping. Construct ADA access from street corner.

Porter Street Canoe Dock

Location: Between the Kalamazoo River at Stoffer Plaza and South Monroe St.

Amenities: Canoe launch

Accessibility Status:
Most of the facilities/ park meet accessibility guidelines. Street access is available, River Trail is accessible and canoe launch is accessible.

Description:
Porter Park is a green space where a pedestrian bridge crosses the Kalamazoo River connecting the Central Business District to the outlying neighborhood and Albion College campus to the east. An official Albion River Trail canoe launch site was established in 2003. The access site is about 100 yards from the parking lot and is accessed by walking across the bridge and turning left to the river. The launch site is small. Distance to Stuart's Landing is about 12.6 miles. Just down-stream the river runs underneath the city of Albion for a short distance.

Recommendations: Improve signage and add directional signage along river trail directing to Porter Park.

Neighborhood Park/ Playground 15+ Acres

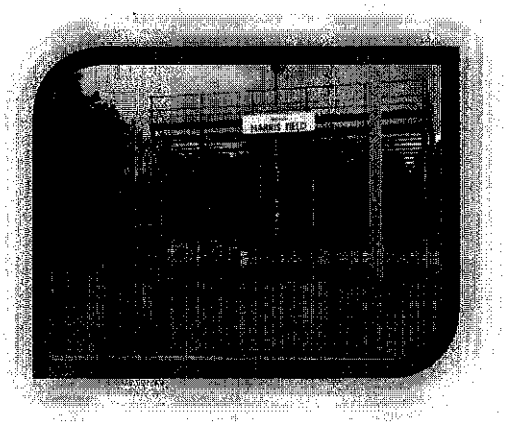
Harris Field

Location: 790 W. Cass Street

Amenities: Picnic tables, playground, concession stand, and restrooms.

Accessibility Status: Some of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines, restrooms are not accessible, general areas accessible only over grass or gravel.

Description: This 5.1 acre park on Albion's west side includes a lighted baseball filed, a concession stand, a picnic area and a playground. Restrooms are available also. Harris Field is located at the end of the river trail. Park is used for both baseball and softball.



Recommendations: Playground is usable, but in poor condition. Fields need to be treated (grub control). Fence could be secured, bathrooms and concession area could be updated.

Ketchum Field

Location: 1000 East North Street

Amenities: Picnic tables, playground, concession stand, and restrooms.

Accessibility Status: Some of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines, restrooms are accessible, some facilities are accessible but over grass or gravel.

Description: Located on Albion's east side, Ketchum Field's 4.4 acres include a lighted softball field, a concession stand, a playground, a volleyball court and a basketball court. Restrooms are available.

Recommendations: Volleyball court is overgrown, score board needs bulb, (several break-ins recently). Playground equipment needs to be updated.

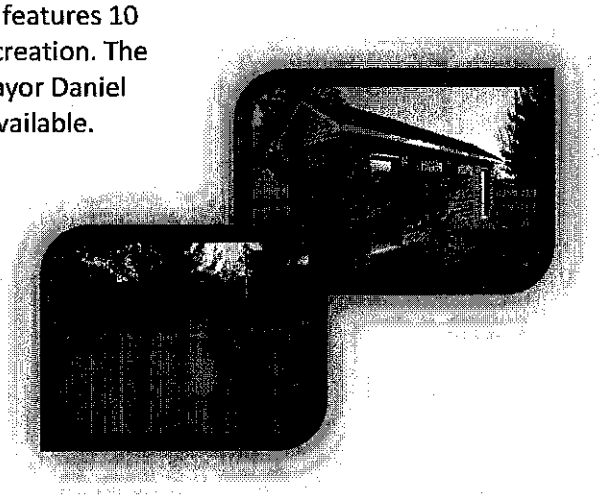
McAuliffe Park

Location: SW Corner of Albion St. and Austin Ave.

Amenities: One table and grill, restrooms.

Accessibility Status: None of the facilities/ park meet accessibility guidelines. Restrooms are not accessible, some minimal access but over grass lawn areas.

Description: Nearly 10 acre park includes baseball field, basketball court, picnic area, playground, flower garden and restrooms. This heavily-used park, next to the former Harvard Industries, features 10 acres for passive and active recreation. The park was named for former Mayor Daniel M. McAuliffe. Restrooms are available.



Recommendations: Upgrade playground equipment, paint sign, add benches.

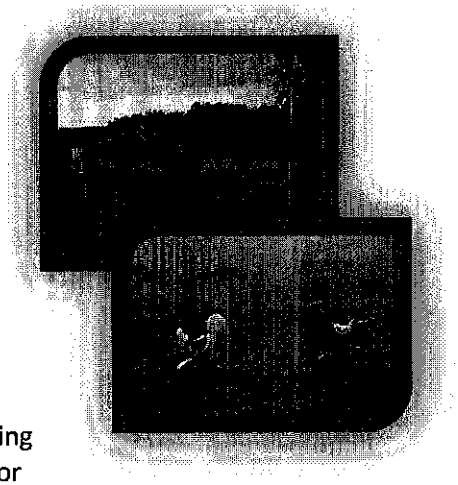
McIntosh Park

Location: State Street and Hoaglin Drive

Amenities: Sandlot ball field, playground, picnic shelter, basketball court, restrooms

Accessibility Status: Some of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines. Limited Access from street to restrooms, restrooms are not accessible, some facilities may be accessible, but over grass lawn areas.

Description: McIntosh Park provides over eleven acres of recreational amenities. Named for James McIntosh, Albion's first African-American councilman, McIntosh Park is located at State Street and Hoaglin Drive and has basketball courts, a picnic shelter, a playground and a sandlot ballfield. Restrooms are available.



Recommendations: Playground equipment does not meet current safety standards, though it has been recently painted. A walking path through the park is recommended. Prior to making any recommended changes, a soil/environmental assessment should be conducted. Bathrooms need upgrading and do not feel safe due to their orientation. This park serves one of the lowest income neighborhoods in the city and badly needs to be upgraded to meet the needs of the neighborhood.

Holland Park

Location: NE Corner of Albion and Cass St.

Amenities: Playground, children's garden, pavilion, restrooms, basketball courts, benches, picnic tables.

Accessibility: Some of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines. Restrooms are accessible, no access from street or parking areas, some facilities are accessible over grass lawn areas.

Description: Built on the old West Ward School site, Holland Park's 6.4 acres offer basketball and tennis courts, a picnic shelter, a playground, and a memorial to Robert Holland, Sr., who was instrumental in abolishing segregation in Albion. A restroom is available.

Recommendations: a multi-phase plan has been developed for upgrades to the park. See Action Program Plan.

Community Park – 25+ Acres

Victory Park/ Rieger Park

Location:
Victory Park: Located along the south and north branches of the Kalamazoo River, between Haven Rd and Hannah St.

Rieger Park: Located along the west side of the Kalamazoo River from Haven Road to Erie Street.

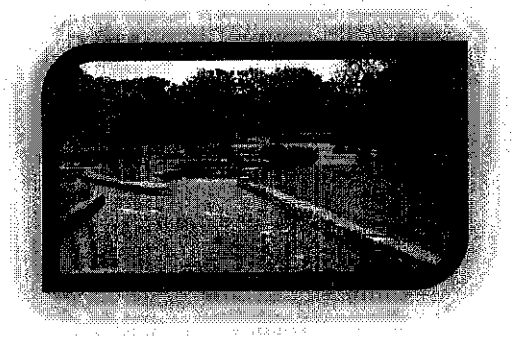
Amenities: Bandshell, playgrounds, pavilions, disc golf, warming shelter, pond, shuffle board, baseball, fishing, observation deck across from pond.

Accessibility:

Victory Park: Some of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines. Large play scape is accessible, some other facilities are accessible, but over grass lawn areas, restrooms are not accessible, picnic shelters are not accessible.

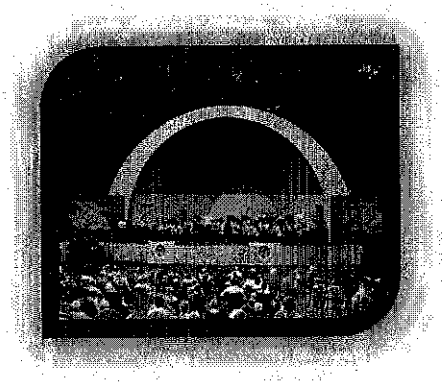
Rieger Park: Most of the facilities/ park meet accessibility guidelines. Park pond and warming facility are accessible, shuffleboard courts and other facilities are accessible but over grass lawn areas. Albion River Trail is accessible in this area.

Description: Covering 48 acres just south of downtown Albion, these adjoining riverbank parks include a waterfall, a wooded area, a natural spring and a formal garden.



Victory Park (38 acres) was named at the conclusion of World War I.

Recreation offerings include the Victory for Kids playground (constructed in a community build in 2003), band shell, baseball and football fields, a popular disc golf course, basketball and volleyball, a sledding hill, a fitness trail and a recreation pavilion. Restrooms are available. The recreation pavilion may be rented for use by groups or individuals.



Rieger Park (10 acres) was named for Hugo A. Rieger. It is located along the west side of the Kalamazoo River from Haven Road to Erie Street. The park has a warming shelter that includes restrooms and changing rooms for the swimming pond and beach. Shuffleboard courts are located just off of South Ionia Street adjacent to a Parks Department garage and restroom. Site can be used for winter ice skating.

Recommendations: Band shell needs to be assessed for structural integrity. Playground equipment in area 2 does not meet current safety guidelines. Tennis courts should be removed. Grills in the picnic area and full-court basketball should be upgraded. Pond debris needs to be addressed. Additional parking is needed to meet the use patterns of the park. Also, observation deck over the river needs repair and maintenance.

Special Use Parks

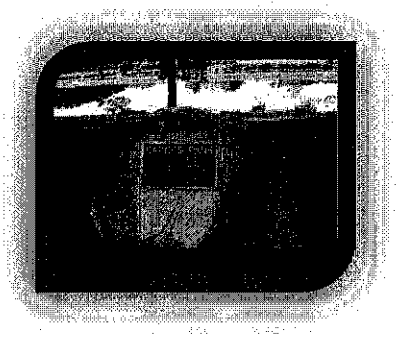
Barnes Park

Location: Located along the river next to Water Street.

Amenities: Beach, river access, dock.

Accessibility: Some of the facilities/park meet accessibility guidelines, no access from street, limited access to facilities but over grass lawn areas.

Description: West of Superior Street along Water Street, Barnes Park has a fishing pier, a boat launch and picnic areas. The park is named for Truman Barnes, a longtime advocate of river clean-up. Highlighted by beautiful views of the Mill Pond, it is visited each year by hundreds of migrating waterfowl.



Recommendations: Park has picnic areas and a boat launch but the dock needs to be replaced. Grills would increase the use of the park. The river has been dredged in the past but has filled in with silt.

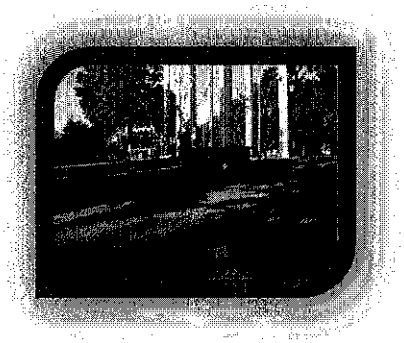
Crowell Park

Location: Between N. Superior and Clinton Streets

Amenities: Water tower

Accessibility: Some of the facilities/park meets accessibility guidelines. Park area is accessible from street and parking lot, there are no facilities in the park.

Description: Crowell Park is an open space park of two acres located on North Superior Street. One of Albion's first parks, the land was donated by Jesse Crowell and named Washington Park for the nation's first president. It was later renamed Crowell Park. Displayed in the park is the cornerstone from the 1845 stone mill at the current First Merit location, downtown. Crowell's hilltop location overlooks downtown and the historic Christ Apostolic Church, erected in 1884. The park is also the location of the City's water storage tower.



Recommendations: Would receive more use if seating was available.

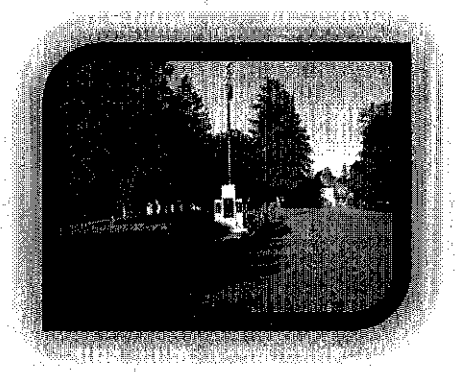
Gold Star Park

Location: SW corner of Michigan Avenue and Clark Street

Amenities: Memorial

Accessibility: None of the facilities/ park meets accessibility guidelines. There are no facilities.

Description: Gold Star Park provides an attractive welcome at the east entrance to Albion on Michigan Avenue. It contains a memorial to Albion's military members lost in World War II and Korea. This park, located at Five Points (Michigan Avenue and Clark Street), serves as a memorial to local lives lost in war. A River Birch Tree in honor of Viola Liuzzo, slain civil-rights advocate, was planted around the year 1993.



Recommendations: Would receive more use if seating was available.

Lloyd Park

Location: Located on E. Cass Street at the Kalamazoo River

Amenities: performance deck, river access, tables, benches.

Accessibility: None of the facilities/park meets accessibility guidelines, no access from street, limited access to facilities but over grass lawn areas.

Description: This riverfront park off of East Cass Street, is named for Thomas Lloyd, founder of the Albion Community Foundation. The park has a wooden platform that extends over the Kalamazoo River. It is frequently used for concerts and as a fishing pier.

Recommendations: None

McClure Park

Location: West of Albion Street along the Kalamazoo River

Amenities: Rivertrail, historic bridge, river access

Accessibility: Some of the park meets accessibility guidelines. Street access is available, the river trail is accessible, other facilities accessible over grass lawn areas.

Description: Named for former Mayor Jack McClure, the 30 acres of this natural riverfront park feature hiking trails, a picnic area, fishing and a restored train trestle bridge. The park's grounds run from Albion Street near Brownswood Road to the city limits along the north and south sides of the Kalamazoo River.

Recommendation: It has been suggested that a cross-country ski trail be developed in this area.

Stoffer Plaza / Market Place

Location: In the marketplace, between Erie, Cass and the Kalamazoo River.

Amenities: Farmer's Market pavilion

Accessibility: Most of the facilities/park meets accessibility guidelines, street and parking lot

Description: Stoffer Plaza, named for William R. Stoffer, is located in the marketplace between the river and downtown. It is surrounded by parking for downtown. The plaza is paved with brick trim, features a natural spring, a large outdoor marketplace, and parking for downtown. The Farmer's Market is held in the pavilion (in season) on Wednesdays and Saturday. A pedestrian bridge connects the Plaza to Porter Park.

access is available, Albion River Trail is accessible.

Recommendations: Plaza needs beautification, retaining wall between levels is structurally unsound. Pavilion needs to be painted. The structure needs evaluation, as does the wall painting.

Washington Street Park

Location: NW corner of Washington and Eaton Streets on both sides of the Kalamazoo River

Amenities: River access, fishing

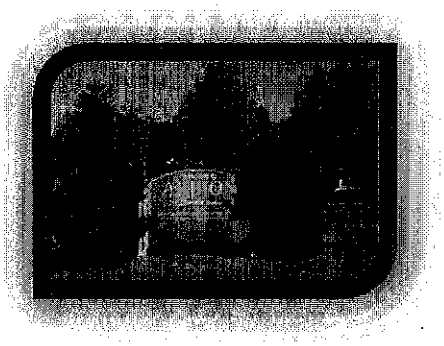
Accessibility: None of the facilities/park meets accessibility guidelines.

Description: This riverside park, bordered by North Eaton, Pearl and Washington Streets and the Kalamazoo River, offers fishing and picnic areas. It is a site of the Albion River Trail and 2014 environmental remediation.

Recommendations: Possible location for canoe/kayak landing. Needs bike racks.

Special Use – unofficial parks

Riverside Cemetery

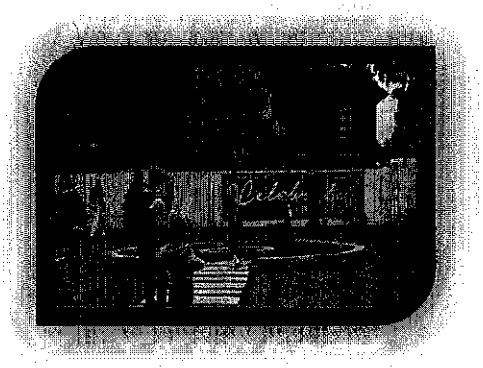


Description: While Riverside Cemetery is not included in the City's park system, it provides a beautiful setting for passive use. It was established in 1837, and overlooks the mill pond, a pleasant site for the fishing and migratory bird watching. Its park-like setting and historic burial markers invite visitors. An interpretive brochure highlights Albion's history.

Weatherford Garden

Description: Owned by the railroad, but maintained by the City and Citizens To Beautify Albion, this memorial garden contains plantings and a bench. The garden is situated between Clinton and Eaton Streets across the railroad tracks from the Albion Train Depot.

Collaboration Corner



Description: Owned by the landbank, this collaborative project of Albion College and the City of Albion shows the unitiy between the College and community. Benches, paths and raised planting beds are the cornerstone of this park at the corner of Michigan Ave. and Monroe St.

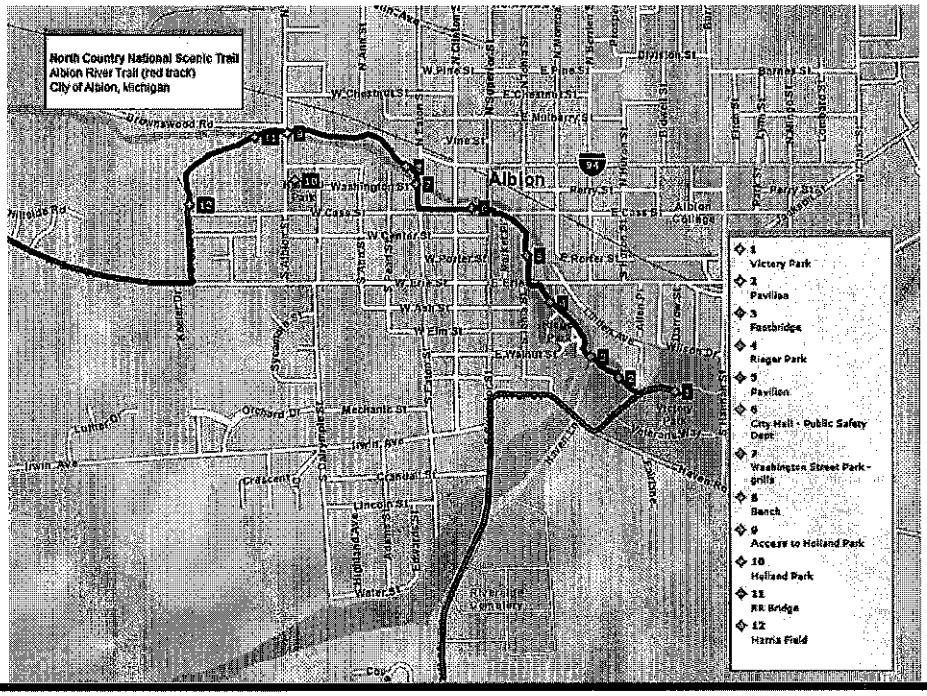
Albion Dog Park

Description: The Albion Dog Park is located at Berrien and Division Streets, on a vacant factory lot. The park needs signs, rules, shading and seating.

Linear Parks

Albion River Trail

The Albion River Trail is a 10 to14 foot wide paved path running along the Kalamazoo River for 1.6 miles through Albion. It begins in Victory Park and ends at Harris Park. With the exception of handicapped accessible vehicles, this is a non-motorized vehicle trail suitable for walking, running, biking, rollerblading, or skateboarding.
The trail is slated to be part of the Calhoun County Trailway. Both the Iron Bell Trail (Hiking) and North Country Trail traverse it.

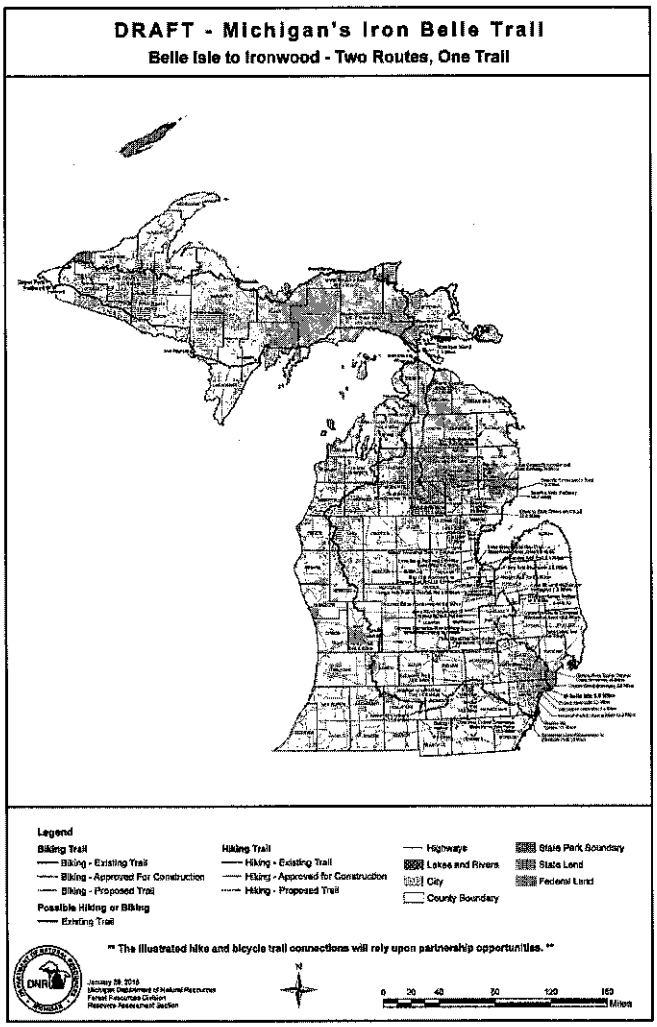


Calhoun County Trailway

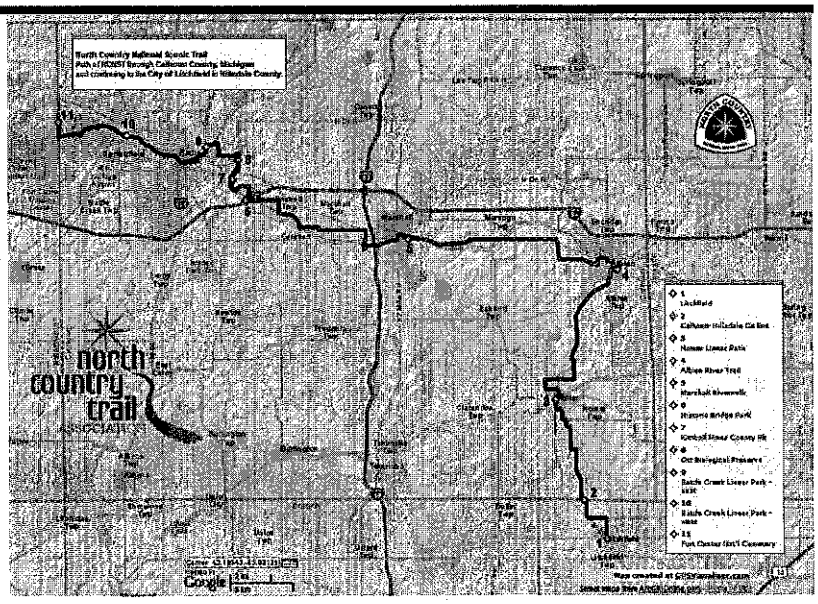
The Master Plan for the Calhoun County Trailway describes one trail that will span 40 miles from Battle Creek Linear Park to the Marshall Riverwalk, then to Albion and on to Homer. Expanding even further, the trail will connect our communities to the Great Lake to Lake Trail, which will connect lower Michigan from Port Huron to South Haven.

Iron Belle Trail (Statewide)

An exciting new trail network is in the works in Michigan to showcase our state's impressive array of scenic vistas, cultural resources, vibrant communities, and wildlife resources. The Iron Belle Trail is planned to connect Detroit's Belle Isle with Ironwood at the Upper Peninsula of Michigan's border with Wisconsin. The trail will comprise two principal routes, one a hiking trail and the other a biking trail — all non-motorized. The hiking trail portion will connect with the North Country National Scenic Trail in Calhoun County and follow the NCNST nearly to the Wisconsin border in the UP, with a connector to the City of Ironwood. This section traverses Albion.



North Country Trail (National)



The North Country National Scenic Trail (NCT) stretches approximately 4,600 miles (7,400 km) from Crown Point in eastern New York to Lake Sakakawea State Park in central North Dakota in the United States. Passing through the seven states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota, it is the longest of the eleven National Scenic Trails authorized by Congress. Like its sister trails, it was designed to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in some of America's outstanding landscapes.

Previous DNR Grants

1. McIntosh Park - Project #26-00151 Project Year: 1968 Grant Amount: $25,079
   Park is still in use with limited public facilities. Basketball court is in very poor condition. Original softball area is now being used for soccer fields. Restroom facility is still being used but in need of significant upgrades.

2. Victory Park and Canoe Ramp Park (Barnes Park) - Project #26-0106 E4 Project Year: 1978 Grant Amount: $15,489
   Victory Park is still in use with picnic tables, grills, lighted sled run, soccer and T-ball fields. During this project the overhead electrical wiring was buried underground. The fitness trail is no longer functioning, however, a disc golf course was recently installed in the park. The hockey boards installed on the large covered pavilion are still in place but used on a limited basis for floor hockey instead of ice hockey. Barnes Park is still in use and the canoe ramp is still in place and usable. Because of the sedimentation behind the Victory Park Dam there is not as much usage of the Kalamazoo River along Barnes Park.

3. Water Street Park (Barnes Park) - Project #26-01165 Project Year: 1980 Grant Amount: $2,931
   Barnes Park is still in use. The picnic tables and grills are still in use as well as the water fountain. The canoe ramp is still in place but sees limited usage. Also there is no evidence that the lifeguard chairs were ever installed. Because of the condition of the Kalamazoo River in this area, it is not suitable for swimming.

4. Riverfront Development - Project #TF86-242 Project Year: 1986 Grant Amount: $45,500
   The property acquired under this grant is part of the Albion River Trail which was completed in 2007.

5. Riverfront Acquisition II - Project # TF91-305 Project Year: 1991 Grant Amount: $9,800
   It is indicated that this grant was withdrawn, however, the City did acquire the abandoned railroad right-of-way and the old trestle and it is now part of the Albion River Trail which was completed in 2007.

6. Stoffer Plaza Improvements - Project #TF00-194 Project Year: 2000 Grant Amount: $55,500
   Stoffer Plaza is still in use and is a multi-function area for community activities. The canoe dock and launch area is accessible from the Stoffer Plaza area via the pedestrian bridge installed as part of the Albion River Trail project in 2007.

7. Kalamazoo Riverfront Trail Acquisitions - Project #TF01-070 Project Year: 2001 Grant Amount: $56,250
   The property acquired under this grant is part of the Albion River Trail which was completed in 2007.

8. Rieger Park Swimming and Beach Project - Project # TF07-004 Project Year: 2007 Grant Amount: $127,500
   This project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2010. The project will construct a swimming pond and beach using an existing pond which is fed by the Kalamazoo River. Also the project includes improvements to the bathrooms and the installation of a changing room in the adjacent warming shelter which is also used for ice skating in the winter.

ALBION PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN
Basis for Action Program

The Action Program contained in this plan is an update of previous plans with the addition of new and/or revised activities or projects identified by groups, individuals, and organizations in the community. Plans and surveys were consulted for commonality and contributed to the development of priorities for parks and recreation planning. Consultation with other efforts such as the Comprehensive Plan, Downtown Development Authority Plan, and Commercial Areas Improvements Plan, served multiple functions and received support from diverse interests. In addition, public comments, facility design standards, resource protection needs and observed use levels of programs and facilities were used in assessing needs.

As a result our plan is inclusive of ideas and needs of most groups and individuals in the community. In evaluating the proposed activities and projects, we have used standards proposed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Goal A: Provide for preservation and recreational use of the Kalamazoo River and Albion River Trail. (Basis: Comprehensive Plan, protection of unique resources, Parks and Recreation Survey.)

1. Develop a continuous linear park from east to west within the City along river, linking current parks, including the acquisition of the necessary properties.
2. Develop a whitewater rapids course from the Haven Street Dam to downtown.
3. Establish long-range plans with MDNR and governmental units in the region for recreation and parks development along the Kalamazoo River between Albion and nearby communities.
4. Maintain on-going river clean-up program with volunteers and City staff.
5. Acquire riverfront properties in the area as they become available.

Goal B: Develop Parks and Programming in the downtown area (see individual park recommendations).

1. Incorporate interactive public art whenever possible when enhancing parks, plazas and open spaces in the downtown area.

Goal C: Provide adequate facilities for outdoor athletics and recreation by improving parks, recreation properties, facilities and equipment, with an emphasis on ensuring ample recreational opportunities within walking distance of low-income neighborhoods (see individual park recommendations).

1. Ensure that basic amenities such as benches, tables, grills and trash cans are available and in good working condition in all parks, as needed.

Goal D: Address safety standards and security at all recreational facilities.

1. Replace playground equipment in neighborhood parks that does not meet current safety standards. This could include the installation of wireless telephones, security cameras and lighting.

GOAL E: Provide for comprehensive and shared recreational programming and facilities including cultural, educational, recreational and social programs for all ages.

1. Develop strategic relationships with nonprofit partners to ensure that the programmatic needs of all citizens are met.

2. Work with Albion Public Schools to review potential uses for closed excess school buildings and space in the community.
3. Review the opportunities for the development of a "community center" concept. Possibly share use with other groups.

Goal F: Address handicap accessibility in all parks, including access and equipment

GOAL G: Provide attractive entrances to the city with landscaping and welcome signs. (Basis: Partners for Progress, public comment, Planning Team recommendation.)

GOAL H: Promote recreation programs and park facilities. (Basis: Focus groups, public comment, Planning Team recommendation, Parks and Recreation Survey.)

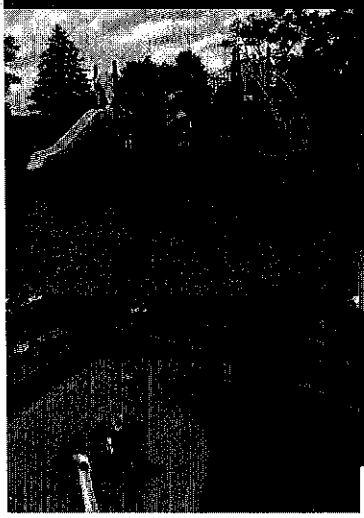
1. Publish "Leisure Guide" brochure, highlighting available public and private facilities, program offerings and the location of parks and trails. Integrate into the Leisure Guide a means of collecting continuous feedback and comment from public.
2. Encourage the local newspapers to publish a calendar of events as a regular feature.

Priority Action Item 1 - Holland Park Transformation

Phase I of the Holland Park Transformation project began in 2015 with the installation of a new playground for kids, a children's garden and walking path, and Little Free Libraries. The transformation of Heritage Hill, which will be a permanent interpretive center focused on the history of the area and West Ward School is slated to be complete in 2016.

Additional projects recommended for funding include:

- Senior Citizens fitness area, including shuffleboard courts,
- Senior Citizen walking path,
- Teen fitness area,
- Renovated bathrooms that will address accessibility,
- Storage and concessions facilities attached to bathrooms,
- 200 person capacity pavilion,
- Renovated basketball courts with bleachers, and
- Ensure adequate parking.



Priority Action Item 2 – Riverfront Development

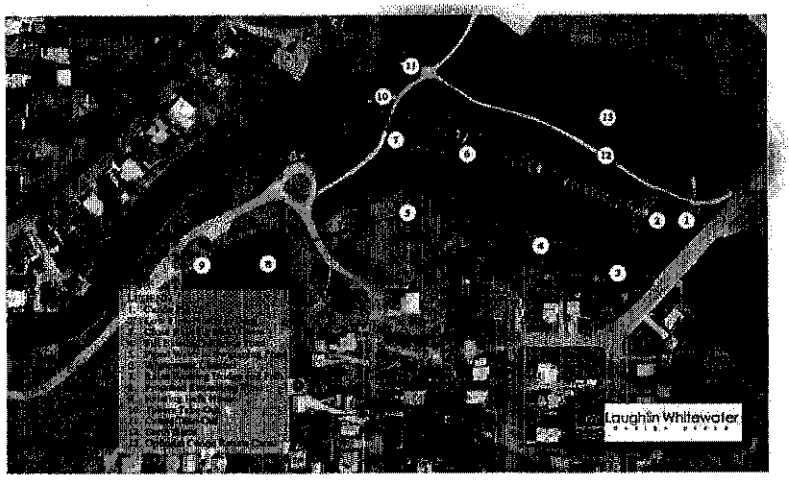
1. Expand linkages to the Albion River Trail
    a. Connect major activity areas such as the College campus and the downtown to the linear park.
    b. Explore linkage of Albion College Whitehouse Nature Center with Victory Park. Create a riverwalk adjacent to the College Athletic Field.
    c. Work with neighboring communities (Marengo, Marshall, Concord) to link Albion's future linear park to a county-wide system.
2. Develop a Whitewater Course beginning at Haven Dam and running to Rieger Park.
3. Support the addition of canoe launches throughout the city to assist in bypassing obstructions, such as low bridges.
    a. Suggested parks Washington Park, Holland Park and McClure Park.
4. Work with others to provide public access to the Kalamazoo River in outlying areas. Create parking, picnic areas and canoe docks in these outlying areas, establishing Albion as a destination or starting point (publish a canoe trip-tick).
5. Establish fish and wildlife habitat improvements.
6. Develop complementary water and cultural features along the river, such as a splash pad or interpretive center.

Haven Street Dam Whitewater Park
CONCEPTUAL PLAN

Whitewater Channel

The preferred concept is a whitewater channel that extends from the Albion dam to the confluence with the North Fork of the Kalamazoo River, approximately 650 feet downstream. It is a natural rock ramp which will serve as a passage for boats and a whitewater "park and play" destination, as well as an upstream fish passage. In addition, the massive rock fill behind the dam and other measures described below can be designed to affect needed repairs to the aging dam.

Hydraulic Profile



ALBION WHITEWATER PARK – CONCEPTUAL PLAN
APRIL, 2009

The boating course falls approximately 10 feet over its length at an average gradient of 1.5 percent. The length and drop are fixed by the physical constraints of the site. Within these constraints numerous hydraulic profiles are possible, and the presented plan is a starting point for design. Notably the plan contains two 150-foot long pools as a nod to the two fish spawning ponds, which this project displaces. These will provide fishing holes, as well as resting spots for paddlers as they wait their turn to surf on the waves which form at the head of each pool. The course starts with a relatively steep natural rock riffle in order to meet the existing grade quickly, thereby minimizing the amount of fill in the flood plain. At high water, over 200 cfs, the course will be appropriate for properly equipped novice to intermediate skilled whitewater boaters. At 100 cfs or below, common in the summer months, the site will be popular with tubers and beginning boaters.

Fish Passage

This study was commissioned primarily for recreation planning; fish passage requirements and criteria are not available from Michigan DNR. At this level of study we assume that a natural rock ramp, similar to the proposed boat passage, is also a favored method for fish passage at dams. However this would need to be confirmed with DNR. Should the project move to engineering design, the grades and details of the rock ramp would need to take into account fish passage criteria provide by agencies.

Dam Repair

The required dam repairs include removal of mature trees on the headrace pond embankment, repair of seepage through the left abutment, raising the right abutment, repairs to the weathered concrete, and isolating the headrace pond from the river[2]. The presented plan is consistent with these recommendations and the engineering design of the whitewater channel should include these repairs. Some of the repairs have already been accomplished: raising the right abutment and removal of small trees that were growing out of the cracks in the concrete[3].

Low Flow Notch in Dam

The plan includes a small notch in the center of the dam to focus the low summer flow, creating adequate depth to float a canoe or kayak. A narrow 6-inch deep notch will provide one-foot deep flow path over the dam, while having minimal effect on the upstream impoundment. By rough calculation, a 6 inch deep by 6 foot wide notch will lower the typical summer pool by less than 2 inches.

Earthen Embankments

The existing grades downstream and to the east of the dam are several feet lower than both the spillway crest and the proposed rock ramp. The concept plan therefore includes earthen embankments to contain the river to a defined channel above the surrounding grade. On the left, the former headrace pond embankment serves this purpose. On the right a new embankment must be created in the area of the existing fish spawning pools. Together, these earth structures function to contain flood flows without over topping, and to prevent lateral seepage and undermining. The design of these structures is highly dependent upon the underlying geology and flood hydraulics, as well as available materials and construction economy. This should be addressed in a preliminary engineering design and geotechnical investigation.

Flood Hydraulics

Two concerns with the preferred plan pertain to flood hydraulics. First, it places large amounts of fill in a floodway thereby reducing flood plain storage. Second, the rock ramp will likely decrease the hydraulic efficiency of the dam's spillway, potentially raising upstream flood elevations. We recommend a complete analysis of the flood hydraulics at the outset of any design work.

Optional Canoe Return Canal

The plan includes a return channel for boats which parallels the main river. The narrow waterway could be used to line canoes and kayaks back up to the course start.

Other Alternatives

Dam removal and partial removal were suggested in the public presentation of March, 27, 2009. These options were not well received, since they would eliminate the mill pond. Accordingly, these options were dropped from consideration. Likewise, a shorter course using only part of the dam's drop was not favored, as it would not provide fish passage.

Another rejected option would have routed a whitewater course through the millrace pond. It would create a level of activity incompatible with the adjoining residential neighborhood. The preferred in-river plan provides a 100-foot wide buffer strip behind the houses and preserves a row of mature trees.

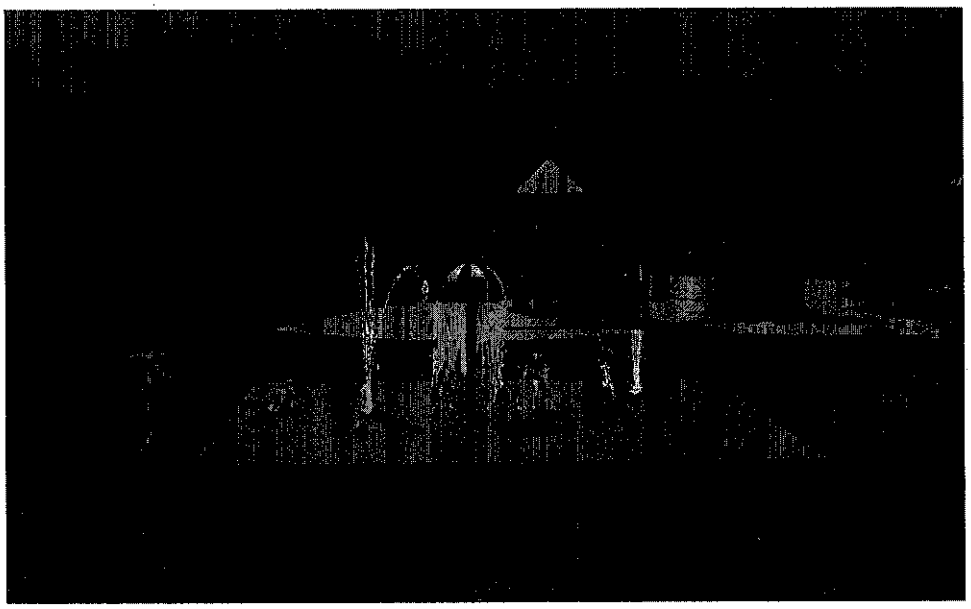
Other Impacts

Fish Ponds: These lie within the footprint of the new earthen embankment and will be replaced and incorporated into the new river plan. The two pools shown in the illustrative plan are intended to replace these features.

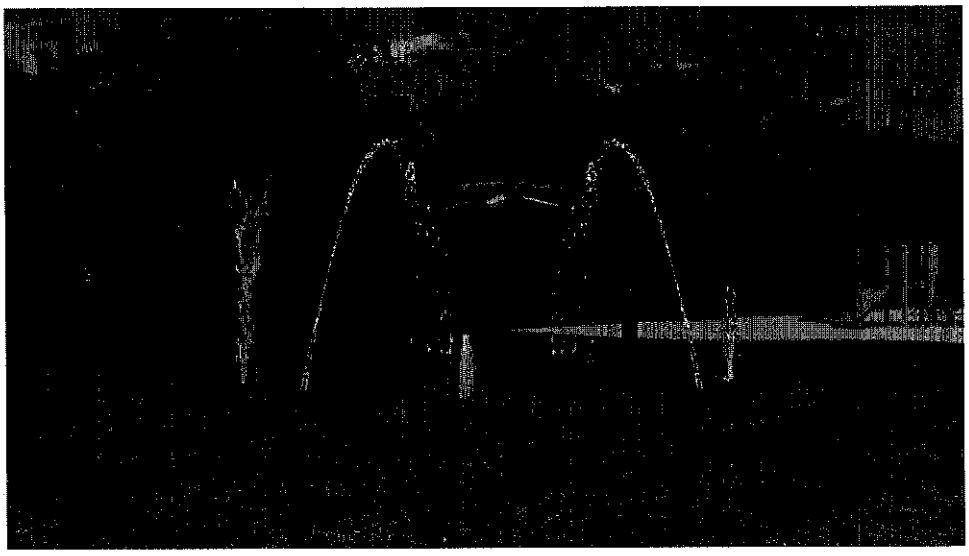
Pedestrian Bridges: The two low bridges at the downstream end of the fish pools are too low to pass underneath, so they will be eliminated. The wood arch bridge at the downstream end of the whitewater course has marginal head clearance and should be raised a few feet. The pedestrian path needs to be raised accordingly and re-graded to provide ADA compliant slopes up to the level of the bridge.

Utilities: Utility mapping shows a 24-inch storm sewer entering the river on the west bank about 20 feet downstream of the left abutment. The project will necessitate realignment of this sewer to a new outlet further downstream.

Splash Pad Conceptual Plan
Recommended Park: Rieger Park
Alternative Park Holland Park



The Rieger Park Swimming and Beach Project was completed in 2010. The project intent was to construct a swimming pond and beach using an existing pond which is fed by the Kalamazoo River. The project also included improvements to the bathrooms and the installation of a changing room in the adjacent warming shelter which is also used for ice skating in the winter. While the project was successfully completed, unforeseen issues have arisen. When the pond was dredged large boulders were removed and natural springs were either expanded or unearthed. Due to the natural temperature of the constantly flowing new water introduced to the pond through the springs, the pond has not been able to freeze over and is not able to be used as a skating pond. Additionally, we continue to struggle with vegetation control in the pond itself and the build-up of silt and plant life has made it less than desirable as a swimming pond.

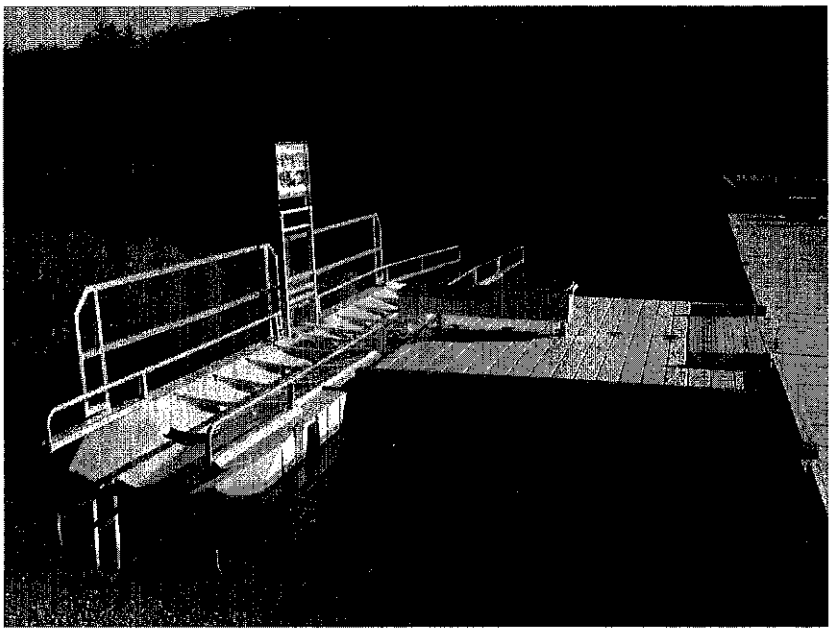


The original intent of the project was to keep individuals, kids in particular, from jumping off the dam to swim in the Kalamazoo River, as some drownings had occurred. Because significant resources were invested in the beach and warming shelter, we feel that developing a splash pad next to the pond would address the original intent of the project to keep kids safe through alternative water play options, as well as allow for the use of the warming shelter through use of the changing rooms and accessible bathrooms.

Portable Canoe Dock

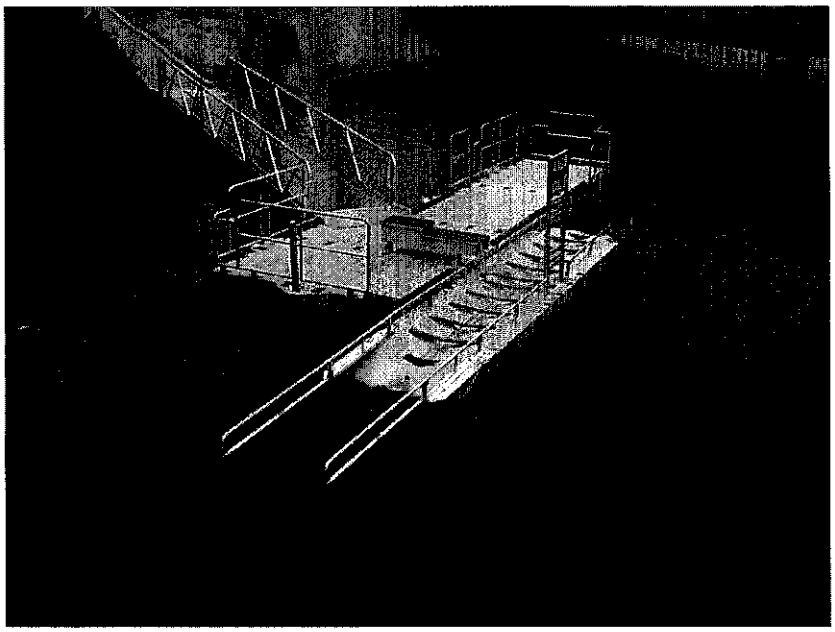
Recommended Parks: Washington, Holland, McClure

Utilizing the river to enhance recreational opportunities is a priority for Albion. One of the more popular pastimes is canoeing. The city boasts several canoe launches, however, due to the height of several of the bridges in town, additional launches are recommended, especially for the novice canoers. We recommend the installation of 1-2 additional canoe docks. The most cost efficient option is the EZ Dock portable dock system.



The EZ Dock system is designed as an environmentally friendly floating dock for use with boats, personal watercraft, and as a free floating swimming and fishing platform. The system can be used by residential and commercial applications. Appropriate uses include both recreational and commercial.

The EZ Dock system design is composed of two parts, the floating polyethylene sections and the molded rubber couplers. Both the polyethylene and rubber were chosen as materials for dock components as environmentally friendly products which are completely harmless to the environment and can be recycled when their designed use is finished. In addition to being environmentally friendly, the products offer superior performance characteristics.

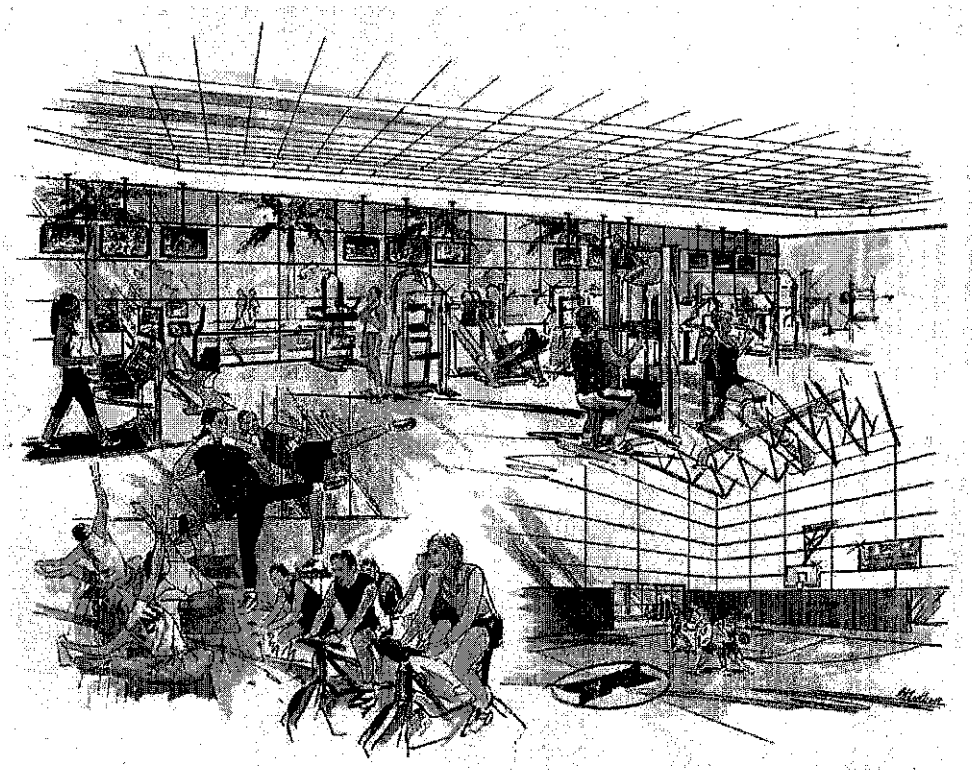


Priority Action Item 3 - McIntosh Park Playground Project

A priority of the City is to ensure that there are ample recreational opportunities within walking distance of low-income neighborhoods. McIntosh Park is located over an old landfill. It is the site of the first DNR grant received by the City in 1968. The playground equipment has not been significantly updated since that time and is in serious need of upgrading.

We propose a single play structure that would serve ages 2-12 years old as well as upgrades to the bathroom to ensure safety and access, as well as lighting, swings and a walking path.

Priority Action Item 4 – Community Center



The development of a community center is largely dependent on available resources.

Option A. Community Centered Recreation Facilities: Rather than having a singular site efforts would focus on coordinating programming at existing sites in order to provide the variety of services that would be found at a community center.

Option B. Renovated Community Center: Vacant school buildings would be assessed for the feasibility of renovating to create a community center. Multiple nonprofit and for-profit tenants would occupy the space and offer an array of programs and services typically found at a community center.

Option C. Community Center Complex: A community center would be constructed to meet the needs of the community .

Estimated Project Budgets

1.	**Holland Park**		
	a. Bathroom renovations	$40,000	
	b. Court improvements (basketball, shuffle board)	$25,000	
	c. Walking Path	$40,000	
	d. Parking	$150,000	
	e. Pavilion	$150,000	
	f. Teen and Senior Exercise Areas	$50,000	
			$455,000
2.	**Kalamazoo Riverfront Development**		
	a. White water rapids	$3,000,000	
	b. Splash Pad	$75,000	
	c. Canoe Docks	$75,000	
			$3,150,000
3.	**McIntosh Park Playground Project**		
	a. Walking Path	$40,000	
	b. Play-scape	$25,000	
			$65,000
4.	**Community Center**		
	a. Facility construction or renovations	$3,000,000	
			$3,000,000
5.	**General Park Maintenance and Improvement – all parks**		
	a. ADA improvements to bathrooms and entries	$500,000	
	b. Benches, trash cans, picnic facilities, tables, grills	$100,000	
	c. Signage	$50,000	
	d. Electrical Service Upgrades, ball field lighting	$200,000	
	e. Landscaping	$150,000	
	f. Safety and security improvements	$100,000	
	g. Public art	$100,000	
	h. Park facility improvements (bandshell, buildings)	$250,000	
	i. Athletic facility improvements (courts, fields)	$250,000	
			$1,700,000
			$8,370,000

Appendix A Funding Sources

Developing a funding plan will be a challenging, yet gratifying task. Locating and securing resources will be like assembling a puzzle, starting with key pieces and adding others to fill in the gaps. The key is matching the project to funder's interests. The following organizations may offer support to Albion. Since programs and deadlines may change, check websites for the most current information.

Federal Funding

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance has a database of all Federal programs, a one-stop for all Federal grant opportunities (www.cfda.gov). If the College or another local non-profit can be used, or is formed, grants.gov can help find, apply for, and win Federal grants.

Environmental

National Fish Passage Program (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

www.fws.gov/fisheries/FWSMA/FishPassage/fpprgs/GetInvolved.htm www.fws.gov/midwest/maps/michigan.htm

Midwest Field Office, Fort Snelling, Minnesota: 612-713-5360

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Fish Passage Program is a non- regulatory program that provides funding and technical assistance for removing barriers to fish. The application deadline is in August.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners

www.fws.gov/partners

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's "Partners for Fish and Wildlife" program offers technical and financial assistance to private (non-federal) landowners who voluntarily restore wetlands and other fish and wildlife habitats on their land.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

www.nfwf.org/guidelines.cfm

The General Matching Grants Program awards matching grants to projects that: address priority actions promoting fish and wildlife conservation and the habitats on which they depend; work proactively to involve other conservation and community interests; leverage available funding; and evaluate project outcomes. Funding ranges from $10,000 to $150,000 and the deadline is in September.

Fish and Wildlife Service

http://federalasst.fws.gov/wr/fawr.html

The Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson) provides funding for the selection, restoration, rehabilitation and improvement of wildlife habitat, wildlife management research, and the distribution of information produced by the projects.

Trout Unlimited/NOAA Partnership

www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners/troutunli mited.html

Awards support all aspect of a habitat restoration project: construction, engineering, planning, or outreach. Grants require 1:1 matches from a non- federal source or sources, and vary from $10,000 to $100,000. While there is no formal application process, the project must be sponsored by a TU chapter or state council, or by TU staff.

NOAA/American Rivers www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/restoration/projects_programs/crp/partners/american rivers.html

NOAA partners with American Rivers to fund community-based fish restoration that can include fish passage projects. The funding range is $5,000 to $25,000.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/

The Wildlife Habitat Program awards projects designed to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The program supports river projects such as fill removal, channel clearing and enlarging, fish passage construction, and replanting.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/pservices/206.htm

Plan Formulation Branch (313)-226-6758

Funds from the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration – Section 206 (Water Resources Development Act of 1996) program are awarded for river modification that improves water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.

ACOE may plan, design and build projects that restore aquatic ecosystems for fish and wildlife and include recreation, including dam removal. Their expertise does not include whitewater recreation, and they would need to contract with specialists for this skill.

ACOE provides the first $100,000 of feasibility study costs, then may share costs for study after the first $100,000 of expenditures (50%), design and construction (35%), recreational features (50%) and operation and maintenance (100%). The sponsor receives a credit for the value of real estate necessary to build the project. The entire non-federal share of the project cost may be credited as work- in-kind, but the services must be provided after a formal Feasibility Study Cost Sharing Agreement or Project Cooperation Agreement is signed to receive credit.

Non-federal sponsors must be public agencies or national non-profit organizations that are capable of taking care of ongoing operation, maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation.

www.lre.usace.army.mil/_kd/go.cfm?destination=Page&Pge_ID=2272

National Park Service
The Rivers, Trails, Conservation Assistance program supports grassroots efforts to preserve natural resources for public use. They broker partnerships and support projects financially with shared or matched funds. The link below illustrates an RTCA success in Bridgeport, IL and the Canal Origins Site.

www.ncrs.fs.fed.us/pubs/misc/chicagoriver/pdf/illmich.pdf

Economic Development

Economic Development Administration www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/FFON.xml Regional Office (312) 353-7148

Two grant programs for public works and economic development have been available in the past to initiate and support community revitalization:

Economic Development Assistance Programs – Availability of Funds under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965.

Regional Innovation Systems Research Project pursuant to the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009

Contact the Regional Office regarding these programs. While proposals are not being accepted at this time, it would be worth asking when the next grant solicitation calendar will be available, and periodically checking for funding program updates, since the federal stimulus may impact programs and requirements in 2009.

Health and Wellness

The Environmental Protection Administration supports projects that integrate environmental protection and partnerships that address local community and economic goals.

There is a specific issue that is a priority for our nation: the obesity epidemic, particularly among children. Concern about hampered lifestyles, longevity, insurance and health care costs have catalyzed a commitment by eleven federal agencies to support healthy lifestyles. The Center for Disease Control is the driving force for innovative programs and funding, and a few notes from their website are listed below.

Child Care and Out-of-School Time Programs

- The National Child Care Information Center has gathered a list of funding sources and ideas for funding child care.
- Afterschool.gov is a one-stop resource for information on federal funding sources.
- The Finance Project publishes brief reports that outline good strategies for sustaining, stretching and finding dollars for out-of-school and child care programs.
- Youth Action Net, a website for youth-run programs gives tips for fundraising and a list of current grants.
- Children's Health and Social Services
- Find out if you are eligible for federal funding and how to apply in the GrantsNet section of the Department of Health and Human Services.
- The Maternal and Child Health Bureau administers many federal programs to improve child and family health.
- The Center for Health and Health Care in Schools posts current funding opportunities and links to funding sources.
- The Community Toolbox for Children's Environmental Health offers small grants to community-based organizations each year.

Great Lakes drainage projects often include rivers like the Kalamazoo.
www.nmfs.noaa.gov/habitat/recovery/index.htm

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will spend $115 million for priority construction, repair, and habitat restoration, and another $165 million for critical deferred maintenance, capital improvements, habitat restoration and other projects. www.fws.gov/grants

Private / Foundation Funding

www.foundationcenter.org

Many private foundations support environmental improvement and have been the source of significant funding for whitewater courses that are restoring habitat and re-watering river reaches. In addition, new funding programs have been developed to support the nationwide movement to re-introduce children and young adults to outdoor play and recreation. For more information about the Forum for Children in Nature, visit

www.conservationfund.org/node/865. There may be model projects that spark ideas about fundable programs in Albion.

State Funding

www.michigan.gov/dnr-grants

Funding opportunities from state stimulus awards should be explored with these organizations:

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund supports acquisition and development of outdoor recreation or protection of Michigan's natural resources. This fund awarded $200,000 to the City of Williamston for a whitewater course. www.michigandnr.com/PUBLICATIONS/PDFS/fishing/dams/DamRemovalGui delinesForOwners.pdf

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust also supported Michigan Heritage Water Trails along with the Michigan Department of Transportation in response to the state's vision to connect the state with trails for non-motorized users. These funds have been applied periodically to water trails. www.michigan.gov/mdot. Look for "Projects and Programs/Grant Programs."

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation is the state's steward and advocate for travel and tourism resource grant opportunities http://michigan.org

County/Regional Funding

Regional revenue from hospitality assessments may be available. For more information on this program, contact the Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce.

In-Kind Assistance

Consultation regarding aquatic ecosystem restoration, dam deconstruction and infrastructure replacement may be available from US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Win-win partnerships can be developed through creative networking. Many whitewater courses have been built with rock from road building or unrelated excavation. Landowners can donate glacial rocks and become "Ten Ton Donors."

Appendix B Community Center Study Conclusions 2002

Two beliefs are apparent among those who participated in this study, youth, residents, and leaders. First, the people in Albion would like a community center that is very comprehensive and includes programming for people of all ages. Second, there is concern about whether there is enough commitment or support to really develop a center.

The loftiest goal of the community center seems to be to unify the community. It is seen as a place where people can develop or deepen personal relationships with each other across age, race, religious, economic class, and ethnic lines. Another significant mission for the center expressed by participants in this study is providing activities to keep youth off the streets and out of trouble. Improving the health of the community by providing physical fitness equipment, classes and a pool are other important parts of the vision of a community center in Albion. A community center is also seen as a means of increasing the attractiveness of the Albion area, providing a center for entertainment and activities.

Youth, residents and leaders all described similar patterns and shared common hopes for a community center. We have an active population. The desired features of a community center are similar across these groups. Everyone envisions space for physical fitness activities, sports, games, meetings, arts and crafts or woodworking, and offices. Some see an indoor pool or perhaps two and an indoor track. Some see dining facilities.

Many people agree that a center should be centrally located for convenience. The definitions of central may not all be the same but people expressed the desire that it be downtown on the former Union Steel land or at the former Dalrymple School site or on the river by Eaton Street. About one third of the responses were from people who approve the idea of more than one location, perhaps a place like the Ismon House for meetings, classes, computer lab, crafts, and quieter games and another location for a gym, exercise space, swimming pool, and more active games.

There are many concerns or challenges expressed by people in this study. Some feel it will be a challenge having people of different ages, economic classes, and races using the same facilities and maintaining popularity. Teens in the focus groups were somewhat troubled by possible over-regulation. People in every group expressed worry about management and supervision. The complexity and diversity of Albion are also seen as challenges in establishing a community center. People specifically mentioned racial segregation and a few are in favor while most are against it. We also have the challenges of economic, educational, and religious diversity. All three groups also expressed fears about whether funding could be located for building the center and sustaining it.

Idea about paying for the community center include grants, taxes, user fees, annual membership dues, corporate sponsors, collaborations with other organizations who pay rent for use of space (such as the hospital using a pool for therapy), fund raisers and contributions.

The participants in the focus groups, telephone surveys, and leader interviews demonstrated a wealth of experiences, life practices, hopes, sensitivities, and abilities. Albion is a city with a human capital that could be put to work meeting the challenges of building and sustaining a community center.

This study demonstrates that Albion needs a community center. Many of the hopes and dreams of area residents can help shape the vision of a comprehensive, sustainable community center. The challenges expressed in this report suggest areas where CCAT work needs to concentrate. These areas include

- sustaining commitment among CCAT members and
- expanding this group to include other potential stakeholders in the community center,
- forming a legal board or foundation for the community center,
- determining the comprehensive mission of the community center,

- developing programs that fulfill that mission,
- designing the facilities needed for these programs, and
- locating funding for building and sustaining a center that fits the needs of the area's residents.

Appendix C

Surveys

Festival of the Forks Community Input Survey

We shared a table with the Recreation department at the Festival of the Forks from 10am-6pm, surveying approximately 39 people. We did not require that everyone answer each question so as to make it quick and easy for those who might be less inclined to stop by and give us feedback.

We used a straw poll to survey most used/liked parks by setting up 16 cups, each dedicated to a park. Participants would put a straw in each of their two favorite parks. For the Rieger Park swimming hole and community center issues, we had people choose between the two options with a sticky note. For general feedback, we encouraged anyone with anything to say to write their feedback on a sticky note and post it on one of the boards.

Favorite Park (Pick two)

- Victory & Rieger: 44
- Holland: 22
- Barnes: 6
- Lloyd: 4
- Ketchum: 4
- McIntosh: 4
- Harris: 3
- Molder: 2
- Crowell: 2
- McClure: 1
- Stoffer, Washington, Gold Star, Bournelis, McAuliffe: 0

Community Center:

- Yes: 33
- No: 6

Rieger Park:

- Splash pad: 17
- Clean: 12
- Turn into fishing pond: 1

General Feedback and Ideas:

- Swimming pool at old steel plant parking lot
- Skate park in parking lot of old steel plant parking lot
- More vibrant downtown
- Friday night movie at Victory Park Band Shell
- Tennis program
- Community center
- Simultaneous youth and adult programs
    - This would solve babysitting issues and result in better turnouts for both
- Things for kids- ballet, karate, better restaurants downtown that are family friendly
- Skate park
    - Patrol/safety would be easy if it's off of Superior
    - Make this a designated spot for graffiti, too

- Battle Creek police officer has done this
- 4 people enthusiastically supported this
- The original participant has expressed interest in presenting this idea at a meeting and gathering a group of people in Albion who are also interested, I have her contact information

McIntosh Park Usage Survey

55 Total Participants

Q1 How many people reside in your household?

- 1 to 2
- 3 to 4
- 5 or more

Q2 How many children under age 18 reside in your household?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 or more

Q3 What would you like to see added to the park?

- swings
- merry-go-round
- exercise equipment
- picnic tables
- BBQs
- benches
- shelter/shade
- lighting/street lights
- water fountain
- sports field
- other

Pavillion, Football (x3), Basketball Court (x16), Bike Trail (x2), Walking Trail (x2), Volleyball, Baseball (x2), Soccer(x2), BabySwings, Slides, Softball, Batroom (x2)

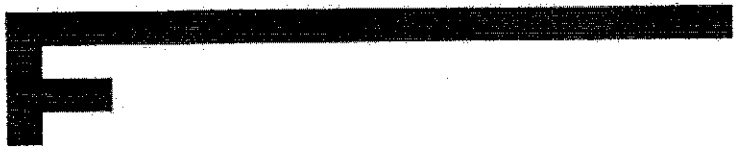
Q4 How frequently do you visit McIntosh Park?

- never
- occasionally
- often

Youth Recreation Survey

Q1 Who are you?

Student Age 10-14
Student Age over 15
Age 18-25
Parent/guardian of child 1-18
Senior 65+
Community member age 25-65



Q2 Gender

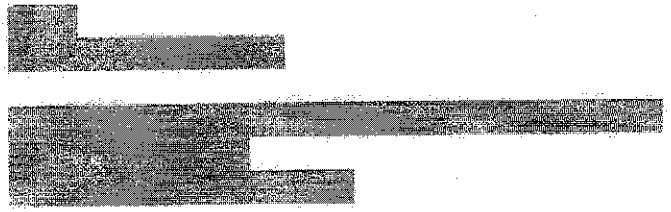
Male
Female

Q3 What age do you think best defines youth?

11-18 years
13-18 years
11-25 years
1-18 years

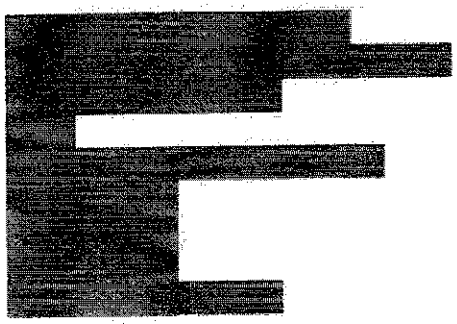
Q4 Recreational Activity Preference

A drop in session (no long term commitment)
Family Activity
Indivudal activity
Organized Program or sport
social seting
outdoor activity



Q5 What recreational activities are most important to you... those that we should make sure are available to you?

computer gaming/tech
organized sports
pick-up/drop-in with friends
church groups
playing/listening to music
school/community service clubs
being with family
arts/culture
dances



outdoor recreation activiies
youth activity nights
other:

Q6 How do you (or youth you know) get to recreation activities?

Getting a ride is my biggest problem
walk or bike
drive myself
family drives me
happens at school
ride with a friend
other:

Q7 Who inspired you to get involed in your current recreational activities?

Parent or guardian
friends
coach
relative
teahcer
myself
other:

Q8 what is the best way to inform youth of recreation activies and events?

Facebook
Twitter
School bulletines
Posters at local school or store
other:

Inst Email
Myself

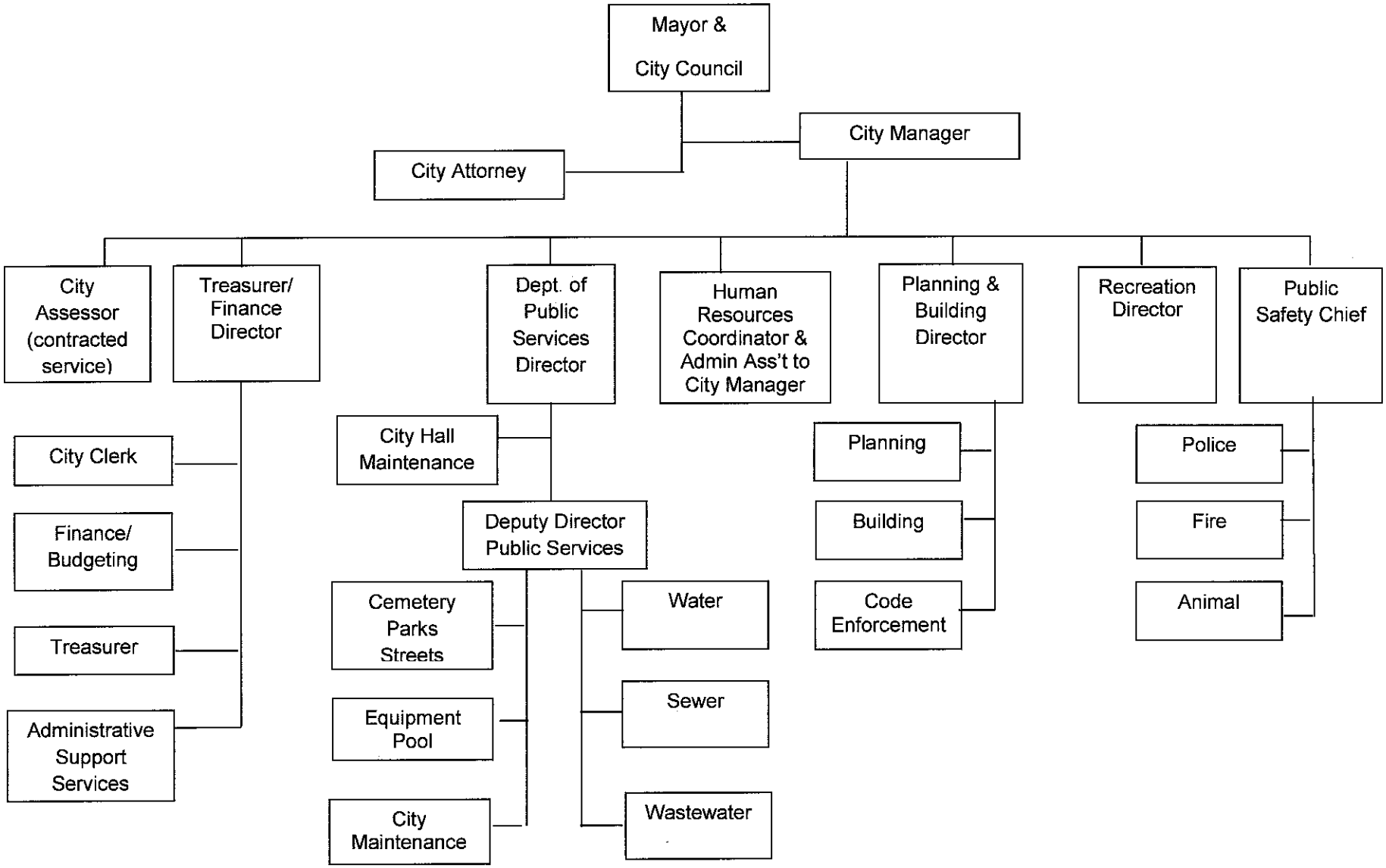
Q9 When youth participate in recration, what should be the main goals?

to be creative	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	5	4	4	4	5		4			5	3	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	4	
have a safe and fun place to do activities	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	5	5		5		5	5	4	4	5		4	4	5	5	5	
stay healthy	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5	5	5		5		4	4	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	
to be outdoors	5	3	1	4	4		4	4	4	5	4	3		4		5	3	5	4	3		4	5	5	5	4	
to be with friends	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4		5		5	5	5	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	4	
to contribute to the community	5	5	5	5	3	3	4	5	5	4	5	5	5	3		3	4	4	5	3		4	3	5	5	3	
to look for a challenge/take risks	4	4	5	5	3	3	4	5	3	4	3	5		3		3	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	3	

5-strongly agree
4-agree
3-unsure
2 - dissagree
1-strongly disaree

	to improve skills or knowledge	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	5	4	5	2	4	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	4	4	5	5	4
	other:																										
Q10	**What questions are most important when you are deciding about youth recreation opportunities?**																										
	What is the fee for registration?	3			5	5	4	4	2	4	5	3			4	1	5	3	4	3	4	4	4	5	4	4	4
	What is the cost of eqipment/supplies?	4			5	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	3		4	5	3	4	4	4	4		4	4	4	4	4
	Is transportation available?	5			1	4	2	3	5	4	4	5		5	4	4	2	5	5	3	4	4	4	5	5	4	3
	What is cost of transportation?	3			5	3	2	3	5	4	4	4		4	4	1	2		5	3	4		4	4	5	4	3
	Easy to do?	4			5	2	2	3	4	3	5	3	1		2	4	1	4	4	4	1		4	5	2	4	3
	Can a person just show up?	3			3	3	4	2	4	3	4	4	4		1	1	2		3	2	4		4	4	5	4	4
	Will friends be there?	4			3	5	4	3	5	3	4	3	5		4	5	5	4	4	5	3		4	5	5	4	4
	Is my skill level good enough?	4			1	5	5	4	1	4	5	5	5		5	5	2	3	5	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4
	Is the schedule flexible/convenient?	5			1	5	4	4	4	4	5	4	4		3	5	1	5	4		3		4	4	5	4	4
	Are leaders fun and welcoming?	5			5	5	4	4	4	4	5	5	4		4	5	4	5	4	5	4		4	4	5	4	4
	Are youth involved in planning or leading?	4			5	5	3	4	3	4	5	4	3	1	2	5	1	5	3	5	3		4	5	5	4	5
	Other:																										
Q11	**What programs, services, or ways of thinking about youth recreation in our community should be discontinued?**											Fighting	Cursing														
Q12	**What new programs or activies do you think would help improve youth recreational programming in Albion?**	Archery								Anything	Wre	Hockey		Boxing				Swim	Te	Band		Basl	Ban	Band			

Appendix D
2016 Organizational Chart – City of Albion



Appendix #
Recreation Budget

12/01/2015 BUDGET REPORT FOR CITY OF ALBION

GL NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	2015 PROJECTED ACTIVITY	2016 MGR RECOM'D BUDGET
Fund 208 - RECREATION FUND			
Dept 780-RECREATION			
ESTIMATED REVENUES			
208-780-402.00	CURRENT PROPERTY TAXES	121,500	116,500
208-780-402.01	PROPERTY TAX CHARGEBACKS	(5,000)	(5,000)
208-780-410.00	DELINQUENT PERSONAL PROP TAXES	100	100
208-780-424.00	PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES	1,023	500
208-780-445.00	PENALTY & INTEREST ON TAXES	1,100	1,100
208-780-573.00	LOCAL COMMUNITY STABILIZATION STATE REIM	4,711	2,100
208-780-590.00	LOCAL GRANTS	1,700	
208-780-608.00	RECREATION FEES	11,500	12,000
208-780-665.00	INTEREST	70	60
208-780-667.00	RENTS	1,296	1,300
208-780-675.00	CONTRIBUTIONS-PRIVATE INDIVIDU	6,650	
208-780-675.01	CONTRIB - INDIVID - VAN	25	
208-780-676.00	REIMBURSEMENTS & RESTITUTIONS	100	
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		144,775	128,660
APPROPRIATIONS			
208-780-702.00	SALARIES AND WAGES	4,001	
208-780-703.00	PART TIME WAGES	66,625	66,600
208-780-704.00	OVERTIME	1,000	
208-780-714.00	MEDICARE	1,050	1,050
208-780-715.00	FICA	4,420	4,420
208-780-716.00	HOSPITALIZATION INSURANCE	177	
208-780-717.00	LIFE INSURANCE	22	
208-780-719.00	PENSION CONTRIBUTION	89	
208-780-720.00	WORKERS COMPENSATION	300	
208-780-721.00	UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE	1,200	1,200
208-780-723.00	RETIREE HEALTH SAVINGS CONTRIB	88	
208-780-726.00	OFFICE SUPPLY	50	300
208-780-728.00	DUES, BOOKS, PERIODICAL		200
208-780-776.00	MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES	4,500	6,000
208-780-778.00	GASOLINE	2,000	4,000
208-780-780.00	VEHICLE & EQUIP MAINT SUPPLIES	1,000	1,000
208-780-802.00	CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	3,800	4,000
208-780-804.00	PRINTING AND COPYING	350	200

208-780-840.00	ADMINISTRATION FEES	7,266	7,266
208-780-851.00	TELEPHONE	1,100	1,100
208-780-882.00	PROGRAM EXPENSES	4,000	3,500
208-780-882.01	SENIOR CENTER	8,700	8,700
208-780-885.00	TRAINING		1,000
208-780-906.00	ENTRANCE FEES	700	3,000
208-780-922.00	ELECTRICITY	1,650	2,000
208-780-943.00	EQUIPMENT RENTAL	10,500	9,500
208-780-950.00	INSURANCE AND BONDS	1,725	1,750
208-780-955.00	MISCELLANEOUS	250	150
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		126,563	126,936
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - 780-RECREATION		18,212	1,724
Dept 781-POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT			
ESTIMATED REVENUES			
208-781-590.00	LOCAL GRANTS	6,625	
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		6,625	
APPROPRIATIONS			
208-781-882.00	PROGRAM EXPENSES	11,871	6,625
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		11,871	6,625
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - 781-POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT		(5,246)	(6,625)
Dept 782-JUNIOR OPTMISTS - JOOI			
ESTIMATED REVENUES			
208-782-675.00	CONTRIBUTIONS-PRIVATE INDIVIDU	605	50
TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES		605	50
APPROPRIATIONS			
208-782-882.00	PROGRAM EXPENSES	439	166
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS		439	166
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - 782-JUNIOR OPTMISTS - JOOI		166	(116)
ESTIMATED REVENUES - FUND 208		152,005	128,710
APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 208		138,873	133,727
NET OF REVENUES/APPROPRIATIONS - FUND 208		13,132	(5,017)
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE		1,652	14,784
ENDING FUND BALANCE		14,784	9,767

CITY OF ALBION

RESOLUTION # 2015-07

TO CREATE A CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO

UPDATE THE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, there is significant interest and value in evaluating opportunities for improving the parks and recreational opportunities in the Albion Community, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires that an approved 5-year Recreation Plan be in place in order for communities to be eligible to apply for grant funding, and

WHEREAS, Albion's Parks and Recreation Five Year Master Plan was last updated in 2011, in conjunction with the 2000 Comprehensive Master Plan.

WHEREAS, the City of Albion needs to undertake a planning process to determine the long-range recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents covering the next five year period, and

WHEREAS in past years, several community groups have been formed to address recreational opportunities in the community. Previously, the City of Albion has formed planning advisory groups with City staff and members of organizations and the community-at-large participating.

WHEREAS, the Albion City Council, under Section 8.15 of the City Charter may establish citizen advisory committees to study and/or investigate issues of interest to the community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Albion as follows:

1. The City of Albion Citizens Advisory Committee for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is hereby created.
2. The Committee shall consist of eleven (11) members, with no more than two members from the City Council.
3. City Council shall appoint the committee members, with recommendations from the Mayor.
4. The term of the committee shall end on December 31, 2015, unless extended by the City Council.
5. The committee shall choose a chairperson, vice-chairperson, and secretary from among its members to carry on and record the committee's business.
6. The committee is established for the purpose of studying and reporting its recommendations to the Planning Commission (for inclusion in the Comprehensive Master Plan) and City Council for the adoption of the Parks and Recreation 5-year Master Plan.
7. The City Manager and staff shall provide assistance to the committee to help them carry out their duties as appropriate.
8. The Committee shall provide periodic reports to the City Council and Planning Commission on their activities; with a final recommendation no later than October 1, 2015.
9. The membership of the committee should represent a broad cross-section of the Albion community, and every effort should be made to include representatives from:
    a. Albion Community Schools (administration, staff, board)
    b. Albion College Student

c. Albion College Administration/Staff
d. Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce
e. Albion Youth Organizations
f. Albion City Council
g. Albion Forks Senior Center
h. Trail Network/Alliance
i. Albion Residents
j. Calhoun County Parks and Recreation

Council Member Barnes, supported by Council Member French, moved to approve this resolution for the creation of the Citizens Advisory Committee to update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted on February 17, 2015, in a regular session of the Albion City Council and this is a true copy of that resolution.

Ayes 7

Nays 0

Absent 0

Jill Domingo

Jill Domingo, City Clerk

RESOLUTION #2015-35

5 Year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation 2016-2020 for the City of Albion

WHEREAS, The Citizens Advisory Committee for The City of Albion has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2016 through 2020; and

WHEREAS, The Citizens Advisory Committee is made up of representatives from the City of Albion; and

WHEREAS, The Citizens Advisory Committee for the City of Albion began the process of developing a Five Year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities; and

WHEREAS, Residents of the City of Albion were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Five Year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation ; and

WHEREAS, The public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the Five Year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation for a period of at least 30 days; and

WHEREAS, A public hearing was held on December 7·2015 at City of Albion, City Hall.2"d Floor Council Chambers, 112 W. Cass Street, Albion,MI,49224 to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions and discuss all aspects of the Five Master Plan for Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, The Citizens Advisory Committee for the City of Albion has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the City of Albion; and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, The Albion City Council voted to adopt said Five Year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Albion City Council hereby adopts the Five Year Master Plan for Parks and Recreation.

Motion by Council Member Krause supported by Council Member French, to approve the foregoing resolution.

I hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted on December 7, 2015 in a regular session of the Albion City Council and this is a true copy of that resolution.

Ayes 7
Nays 0
Absent 0

Jill Domingo
Jill Domingo, City Clerk

CITY OF ALBION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FIVE YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2016-2020

The City of Albion will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on December 7, 2015 at 7:00 P.M at City of Albion, City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers,

112 W . Cass Street ,Albion, MI 49224 for the purpose of the approval of the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Comments may be submitted in writing through (December 7, 2015) or made in person at the public hearing. Citizen views and comments on the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan are welcome. Copies are available on the City's website at www.cityofalbionmi.gov ,Clerk's Office, Albion District Library and the Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce.

City of Albion

Jill Domingo, City Clerk

112 W.Cass St.

Albion, MI 49224

517.629.7864

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CITY OF ALBION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FIVE YEAR PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN 2016-2020

The City of Albion will conduct a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on December 7, 2015 at 7 p.m. at City of Albion, City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 112 W. Cass Street, Albion, MI 49224 for the purpose of the approval of the Five Year Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Comments may be submitted in writing through (December 7, 2015) or made in person at the public hearing. Citizen views and comments on the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan are welcome. Copies are available on the City's website at www.cityofalbionmi.gov, Clerk's Office, Albion District Library and the Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce.

City of Albion
Jill Domingo, City Clerk
112 W. Cass St.
Albion, MI 49224
517.629.7864

Planning Commission
November 17, 2015

I. Call To Order

The November 17, 2015 Planning Commission meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Strander and a quorum declared.

II. Roll Call of the Commission

W Dick, T Pitt, G Brown, J Tracy, S Brown, G Strand, J Domingo, G Strander

Staff Present: S Mitchell, City Manager; S MacGeorge, Recording Secretary

Absent: L Washburn

III. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

S Brown moved, Pitt supported, CARRIED, to approve the August 18, 2015 Planning Commission minutes as drafted.

IV. Correspondence – None

V. Order of Business

A. City of Albion Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020

City Manager Mitchell reported that a Citizen Advisory Committee had been meeting to develop the 2016-2020 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. A college intern has assisted them with data collection. The document presented to the Planning Commission is the culmination of their work.

Comments were received by Pitt, Strand, Domingo, Dick, S Brown, and G Brown.

The following corrections were noted:

- Page 18 – Dean Aquatic Center. "...and lane markers in 1991". The pool has been updated again since 1991.
- Page 18 – Dean Aquatic Center. Second to the last paragraph – "In 1997" should be changed to "In 2013".
- Page 23 – Duck Lake. Remove "Silver Beach is a privately operated swimming area open to the public." (It was noted Silver Beach is no longer open to the public.)
- Page 23 – Walking Tours. Add bullet "College Campus Tour".
- Page 23 – Community Events. Remove empty bullet at bottom of the page.

- Page 27 – McIntosh Park. Recommendations – Add after first sentence "A walking path through the park is recommended. Prior to making any recommended changes, a soil/environmental assessment should be conducted."
- Page 31 – Barnes Park. Remove in 3rd line "with water skiing buoys".
- Page 31 – Gold Star Park. Line 8, should read "A River Birch Tree". Last line in 1st paragraph should read "...was planted in the year 1993."
- Page 35 – Riverview Ski Trail. Remove entire section.
- Page 49 – Kalamazoo Riverfront Development. 2.a. White water rapids. Change $1,000,000 to "$2.5 - $3 million".
- Page 49 – Grand Total. Change grand total at bottom of page with new figures to reflect the change in the Kalamazoo Riverfront Development.
- Page 36 – Iron Bell Trail. Bell should be spelled as "Belle".
- Pages 50-54 – Outdated funding sources, but can be left in the document because that information is ever-changing.

The commission noted that there should be an annual review of the plan; it is a living document.

Strand moved, Pitt supported, CARRIED unanimously, to recommend the City of Albion Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020 be adopted by Council with the noted amendments.

B. Approval 2016 Meeting Dates

S Brown moved, Strand supported, CARRIED, to approve the 2016 meeting dates as presented.

C. Excuse Absent Commissioners

S Brown moved, G Brown supported, CARRIED, to excuse commissioner Washburn from the November 17, 2015 meeting.

VI. Citizen Comments – None

VII. Adjournment

Pitt moved, G Brown supported, CARRIED, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Recorded By: Sandee MacGeorge, Recording Secretary

City of Albion
City Council Meeting
December 7, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Domingo opened the regular session at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Garrett Brown (3), Rebecca Decker (4), Cheryl Krause (5) and Andrew French (6) and Mayor Joseph Domingo.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jim Lenardson, Director of Public Services; Tom Mead, Finance Director and Scott Kipp, Chief of Public Safety.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO BE OBSERVED

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The City Manager requests an Executive Session under the Open Meetings Act (Section 15.268 (c) P. A. 267 of 1976, as amended) for strategy and negotiation sessions connected the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement when either negotiating party requests a closed hearing.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Adjourn to Executive Session (7-0,vv)

Council resumed regular session at 7:15 p.m.

VI. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Mayor Domingo.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. FY 2016 Budget

Mayor Domingo opened the public hearing at 7:16 p.m.
No public or council comments were received.

Mayor Domingo closed the public hearing at 7:17 p.m.

B. Five Year Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020

Mayor Domingo opened the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

Comments were received from Carl Gibson, Calhoun County Senior Services who was expressed concern about the long term care of our parks and asked if a long term maintenance plan was in place.

City Manager Mitchell stated the maintenance for the parks come from the general fund. She stated we also partner with local entities such as Starr Commonwealth, Michigan Works and Albion College all of whom help with the maintenance of the seventeen (17) parks in the City.

City Manager Mitchell would also like to thank the members of the Citizens Advisory Committee:

Alena Farooq
Tamara Crupi
Gregg Strand
Greg Polnasek
Joanne Konkle
Elizabeth Schultheiss
Lenn Reid
Larry Williams

Mayor Domingo closed the public hearing at 7:21 p.m.

VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Comments were received from Jeff Codas, 925 Hall St; Carrie Nichols, 815 Huntington Blvd; Sonya Brown, 713 Orchard Dr.; Donna Cahill, 912 N. Superior St.; Jess Roberts, 915 S. Superior St.; Susan Harden, 1100 Maple St.; Marcola Lawler, 918 N. Berrien St.; Darlene Corey, 809 E. Broadwell; Harry Wilson, 511 Albion Rd.; Wesley Dalton, Albion College; Alfredia Dysart-Drake, 1016 S. Superior St.; Lonnie Brewer, Hillside Rd.; Donnie Brewer, 918 N. Clinton St.; Connor Neely, Albion College and Mike Bearman, 11016 29 Mile Rd.

All comments pertained to Agenda Item K-Resolution # 2015-34, A Resolution Disapproving the Proposed Annexation of Albion Public Schools by Marshall Public Schools in the Absence of Specific Guarantees, Assurances and Answers.

IX. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV)
(Items on Consent Calendar are voted on as one unit)

A. Approval Regular Session Minutes-November 16, 2015

Approval Budget Study Session Minutes-November 23, 2015

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (7-0, vv)

X. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Request Approval to Close City Hall on December 18th, 2015 from 11:30 to 1:00 for Employee Christmas Party (VV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve City Hall Closure on December 18th, 2015 from 11:30 to 1:00 for Employee Christmas Party. (7-0, vv)

B. Request Approval of 2016 Fee Schedule (RCV)

City Manager Mitchell stated a change to the payment extension/modification will be a $10.00 flat fee.

Comments were received from Council Member French and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, To Approve the 2016 Fee Schedule with the change to the payment extension/modification fee to a $10.00 flat fee as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Request Approval 1st Reading Ordinance # 2015-08, Vehicles for Hire Ordinance (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Brown and French and City Attorney Harkness.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, To Approve Ordinance # 2015-08, Vehicle for Hire Ordinance as presented. (7-0, rcv)

D. Request Approval of 2015 TPOAM Contract (RCV)

French moved, Barnes supported, CARRIED, To **Remove** Approval of 2015 TPOAM Contract from the Agenda. (7-0, rcv)

E. Request Approval of Parks & Recreation Five Year Master Plan 2016-2020 (RCV)

Krause moved, French supported, CARRIED, To Approve Parks & Recreation Five Year Master Plan 2016-2020 as presented. (7-0, rcv)

F. Request Approval to Authorize Purchase and Financing of Recreation Department Vehicle (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell and Scott Evans, CEO, Homestead Savings Bank.

Barnes moved, French supported, CARRIED, To Approve Purchase and Financing of Recreation Department Vehicle as presented. (7-0, rcv)

G Discussion-Albion Housing Providing Bus Shelters for Kids in the Winter Months

Council Member Barnes asked Albion Housing if they would consider providing bus shelters for kids in the winter months. Albion Housing responded they did not have the funds to provide this service.

Council Member Barnes asked if the school district would provide these shelters for the kids.

City Manager Mitchell stated Marshall Schools said they would look into providing them throughout the City.

H. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-31, 90/10 Health Insurance (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

French moved, Barnes supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2015-31, 90/10 Health Insurance as presented. (7-0, rcv)

I. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-32, A Resolution for Proposed Ballot Language to Amend Chapter 10, Section 22 of the City of Albion Charter (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member French ; City Manager Mitchell, and City Attorney Harkness.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2015-32, A Resolution for Proposed Ballot Language to Amend Chapter 10, Section 22 of the City of Albion Charter as presented. (7-0, rcv)

J. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-33, To Prohibit Truck Traffic on Barnes St. (Between Clark and Mingo Streets) (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member Krause, Chief Kipp and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2015-33, To Prohibit Truck Traffic on Barnes St. (Between Clark and Mingo Streets) as presented. (7-0, rcv)

K. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-34, Resolution Disapproving the Proposed Annexation of Albion Public Schools by Marshall Public Schools in the Absence of Specific Guarantees, Assurances and Answers (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Krause, Barnes, French, Reid, Brown and Decker and Mayor Domingo.

Brown moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2015-34, Resolution Disapproving the Proposed Annexation of Albion Public Schools by Marshall Public Schools in the Absence of Specific Guarantees, Assurances and Answers as presented. (4-3, rcv) (Barnes, French and Krause dissenting)

L. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell highlighted the following items:

- The City has received a $294,000 grant from the DNR for the Albion River Trail
- ADPS will be doing the county wide "Shop with a Cop" this Saturday and approximately 15 children from Albion will be participating
- Tuesday, December 8th will be the last day for our French Intern, Marie Macone. City Manager Mitchell thanked Marie for all her hard work and her positive and cheerful personality.
- The Council is invited to Business After Hours from 5-6:30 on Tuesday, December 8th, 2015 at Homestead Bank to welcome Scott & Connie Evans.

Comments were received from Marie Macone, French Intern, who thanked Sheryl and the Albion Community for all they did for her during her internship.

M. Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

N. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s)

No action needed as all members were present.

XI. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to agenda items and to no more than five (5) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from Vivian Davis, 901 Huntington Blvd.; Mike Bearman, 11016 29 Mile Rd. and Sonja Brown, 713 Orchard Dr.

All comments pertained to Agenda Item K-Resolution # 2015-34, A Resolution Disapproving the Proposed Annexation of Albion Public Schools by Marshall Public Schools in the Absence of Specific Guarantees, Assurances and Answers.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Brown moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Regular Session. (7-0, vv).

Mayor Domingo adjourned the Regular Session at 9:10 p.m.

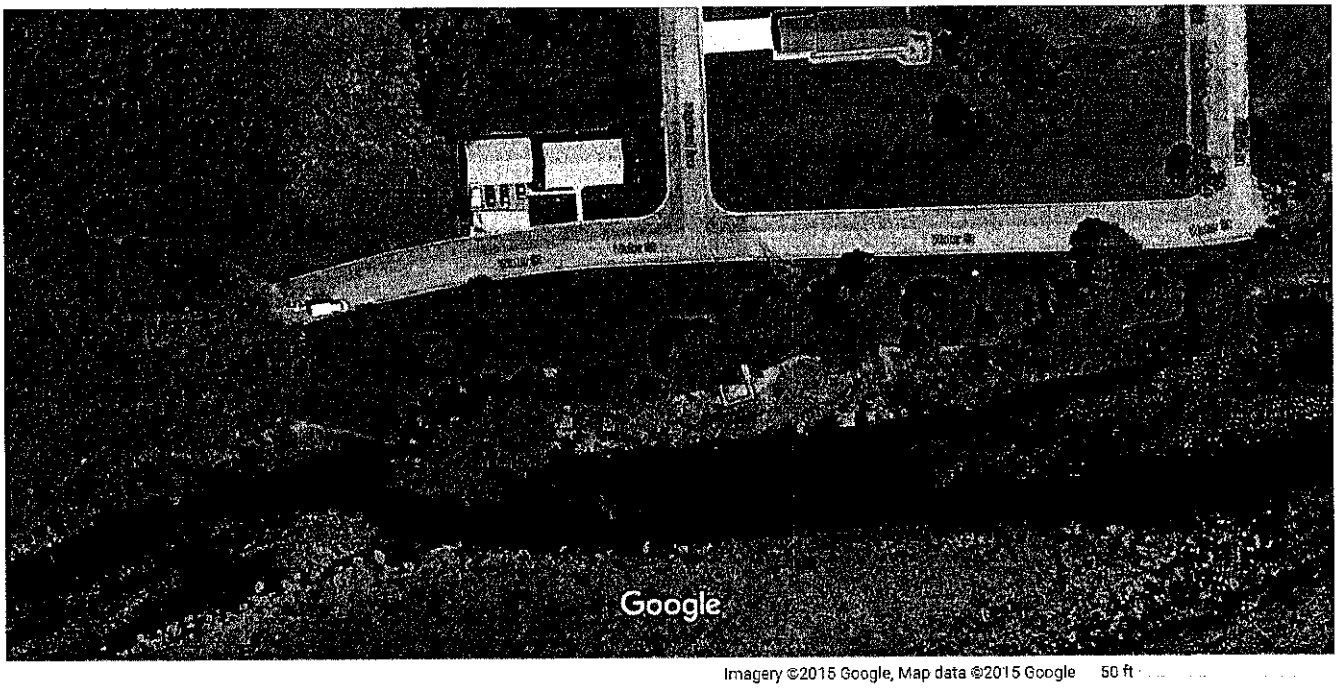
12-8-15
Date

Jill Domingo
Jill Domingo
City Clerk

Appendix D

Park Maps

Google Maps Barnes Park Albion MI



Imagery ©2015 Google, Map data ©2015 Google 50 ft

Albion College
Ad www.**albion**.edu/
Get Ready to Get Ahead at **Albion**, A Top 100 Liberal Arts College.
611 E Porter St, Albion, MI 49224

City of Albion
City Government Office · N Superior St

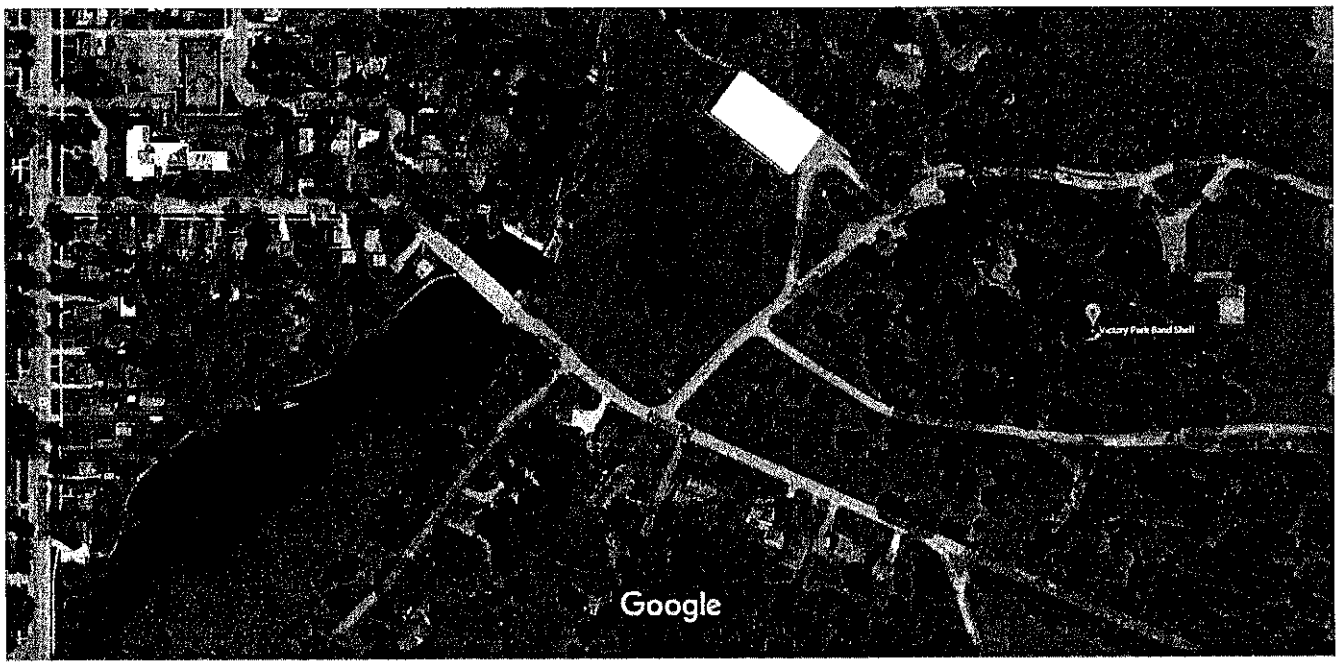
Albion Design & Marketing
Graphic Designer

Guardian Building Products
Hardware Store · Barnes St

Albion College
4.2 (7)
College · E Porter St

J Kevin Tidd Funeral Home

Google Maps Victory Park Band Shell



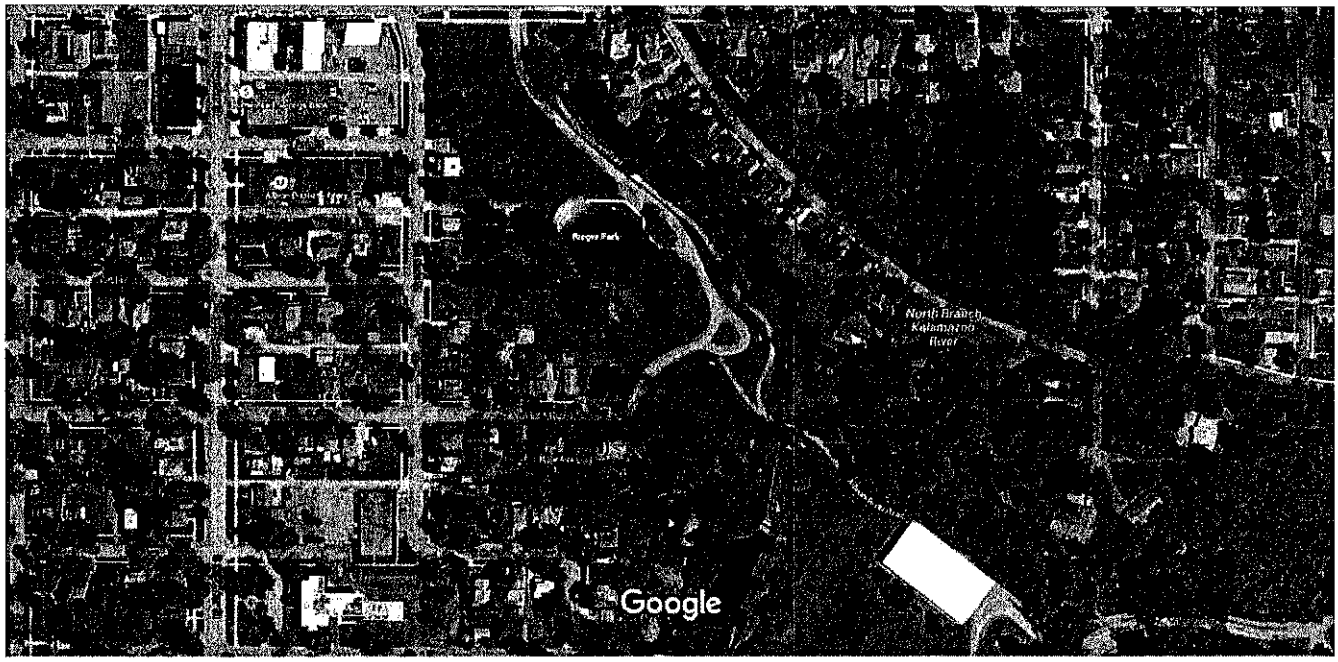
Imagery ©2015 Google, Map data ©2015 Google 100 ft

Victory Park Band Shell

Stage

Albion, MI 49224

Google Maps Rieger Park

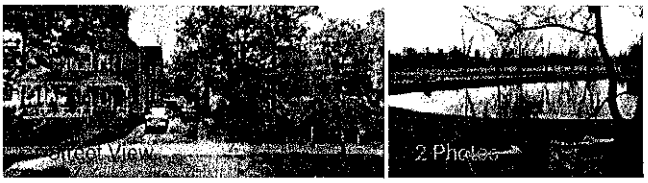


Imagery ©2015 Google, Map data ©2015 Google 100 ft

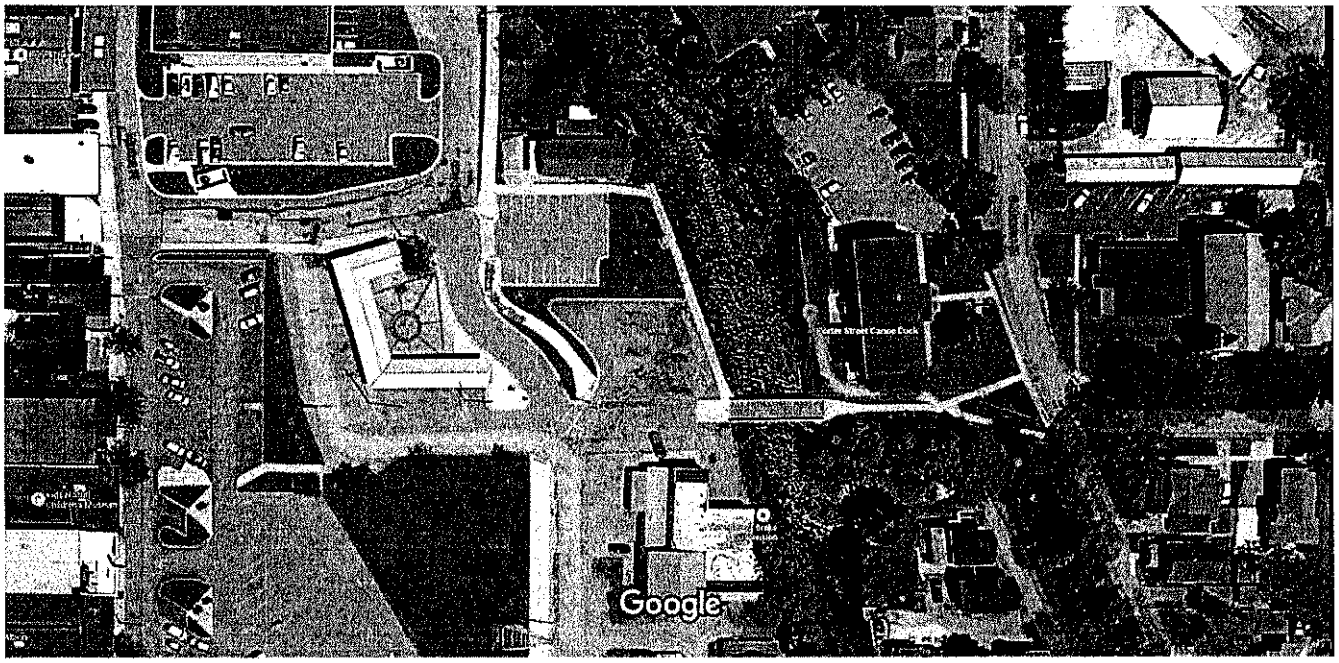
Rieger Park

Park

200 E Erie St, Albion, MI 49224



Google Maps Porter Street Canoe Dock



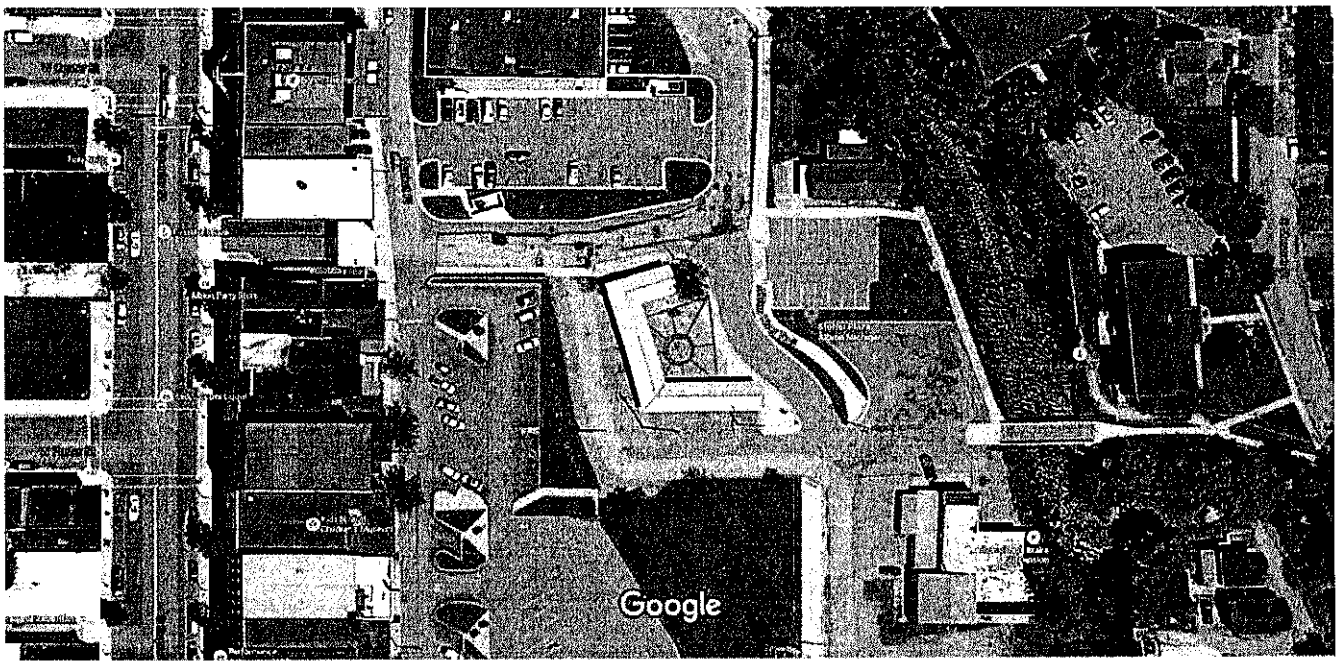
Imagery ©2015 Google, Map data ©2015 Google 50 ft

Porter Street Canoe Dock

Park

Albion, MI 49224

Google Maps Stoffer Plaza Albion Michigan



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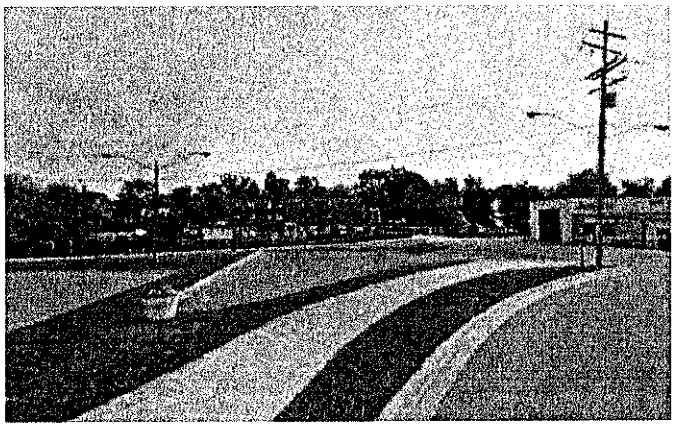
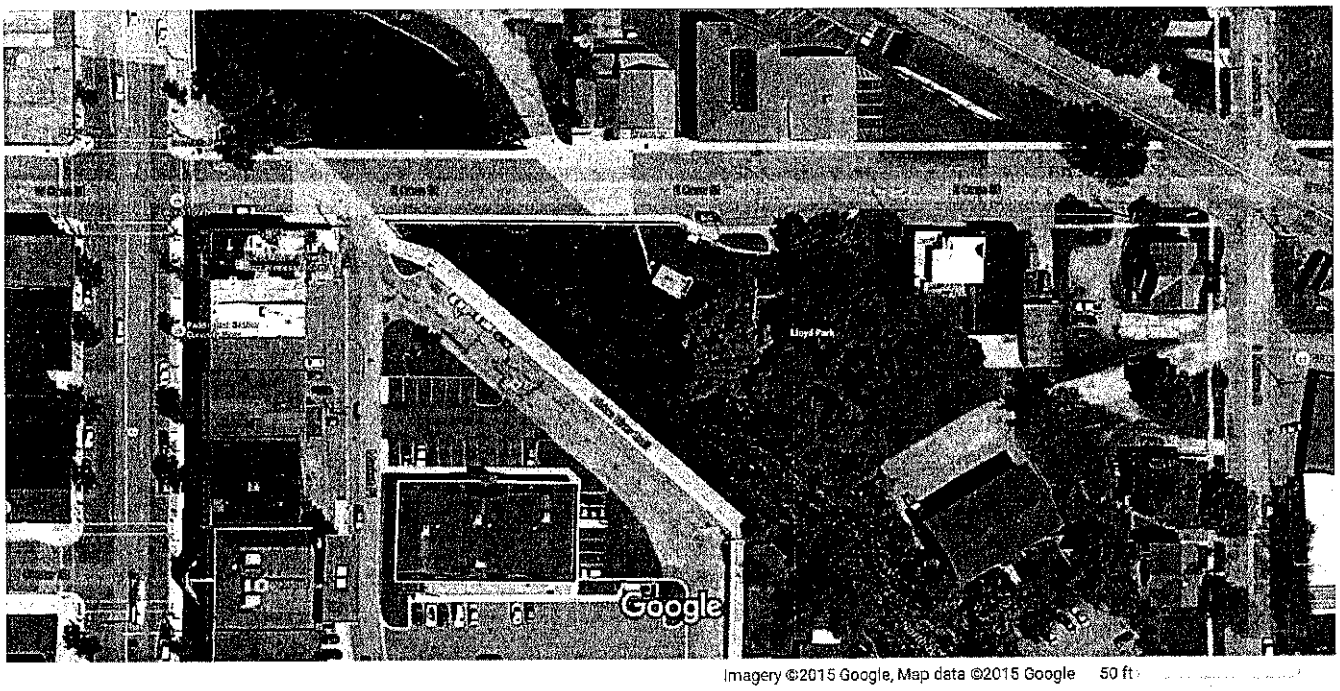


Stoffer Plaza Albion Michigan

Albion River Trail, Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-5533

Google Maps Lloyd Park



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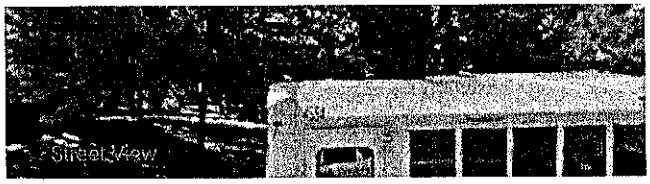
Lloyd Park

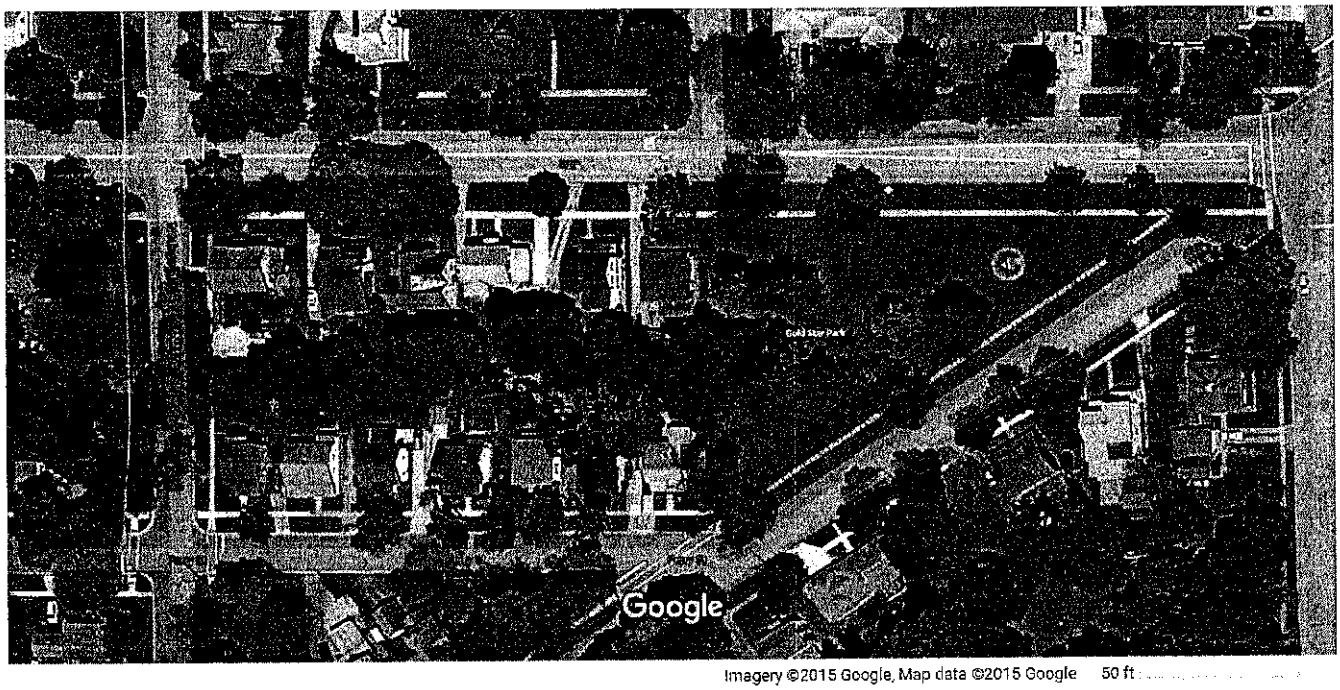
Park

200 E Cass St, Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-5535



Google Maps Gold Star Park



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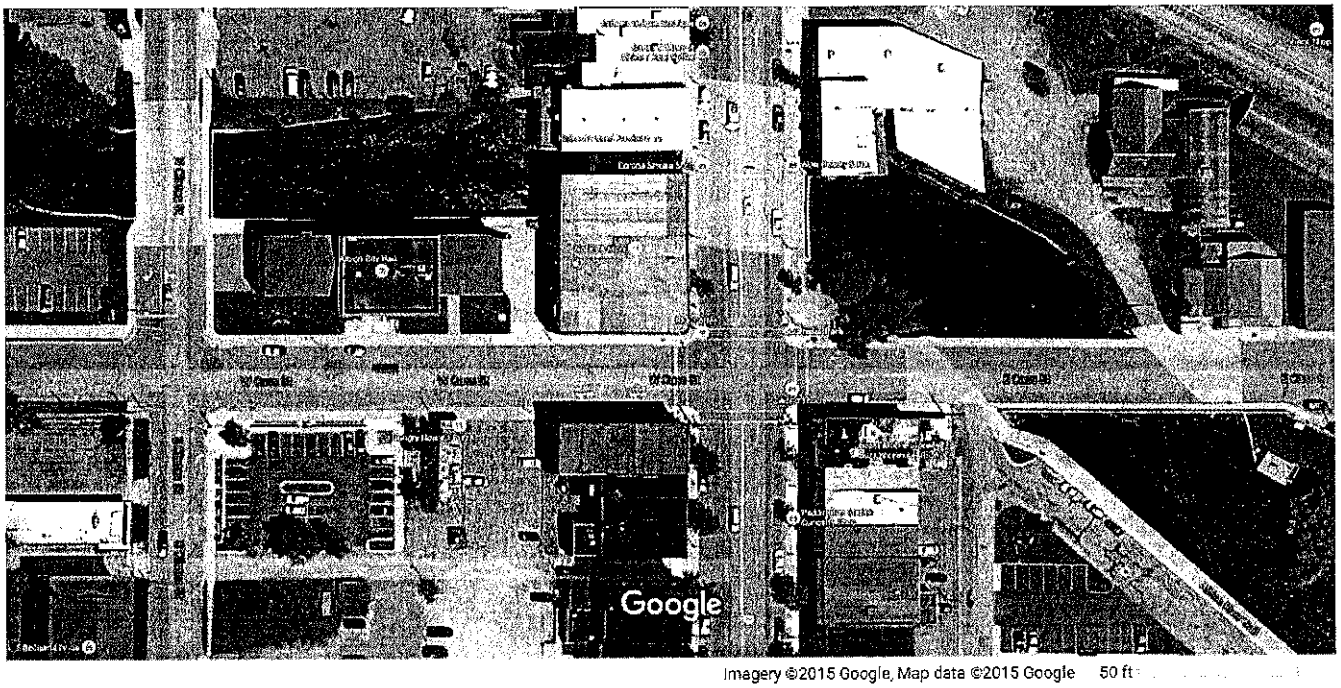
Gold Star Park

Park

1300 E Michigan Ave, Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-3610

Google Maps Bournelis Park



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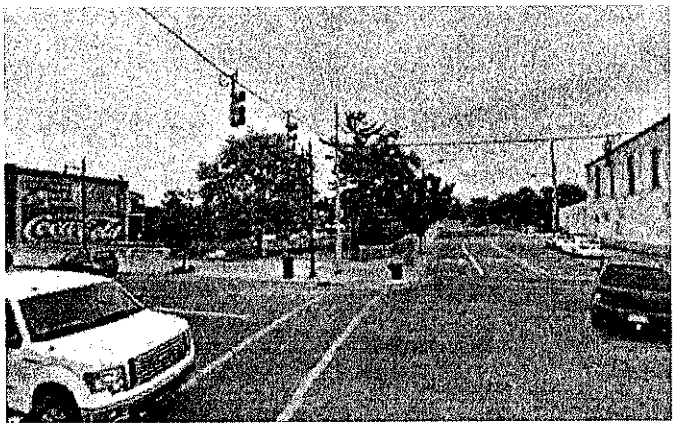


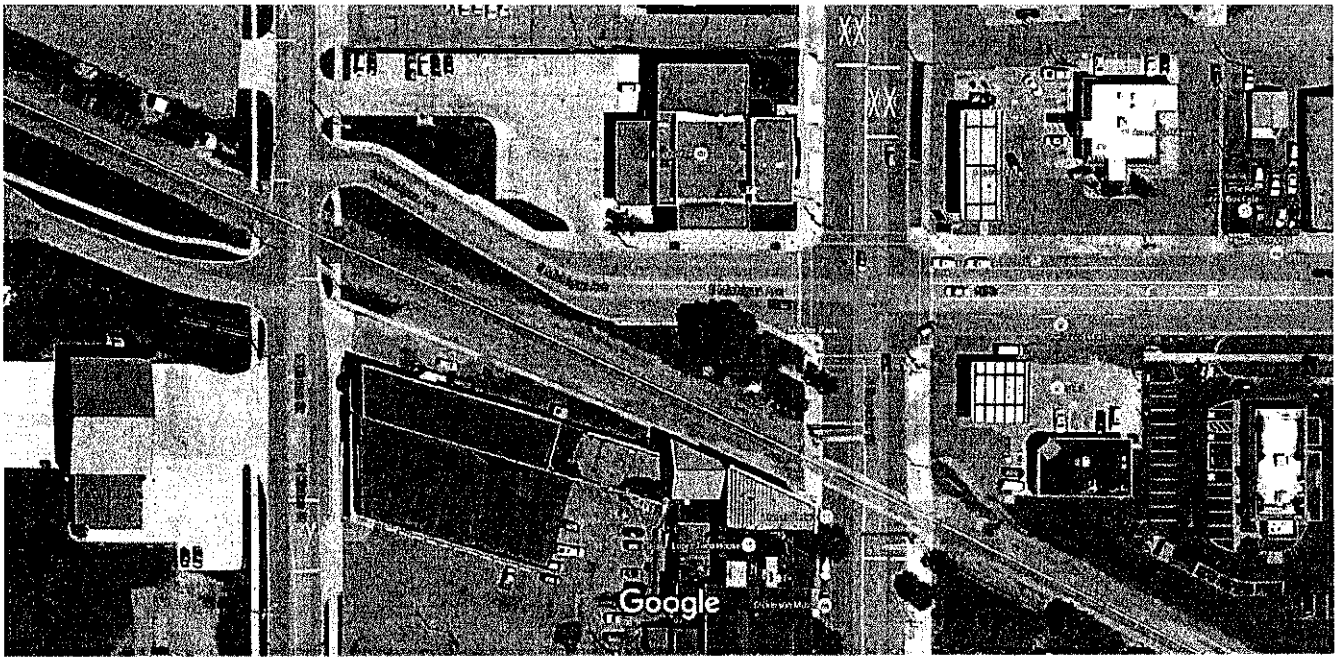
Bournelis Park

Park

100 N Superior St, Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-3933

Google Maps Molder Park



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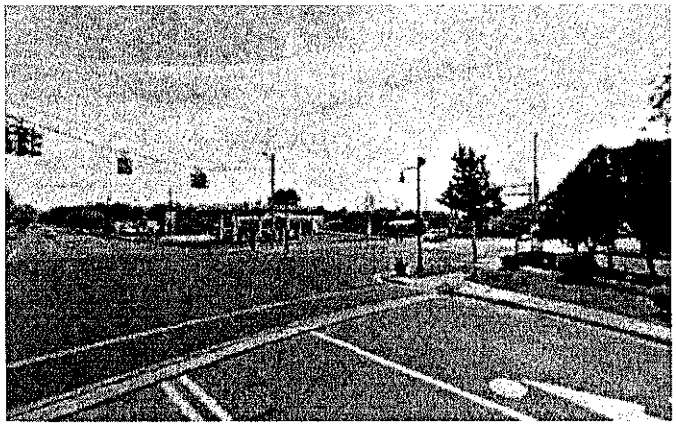


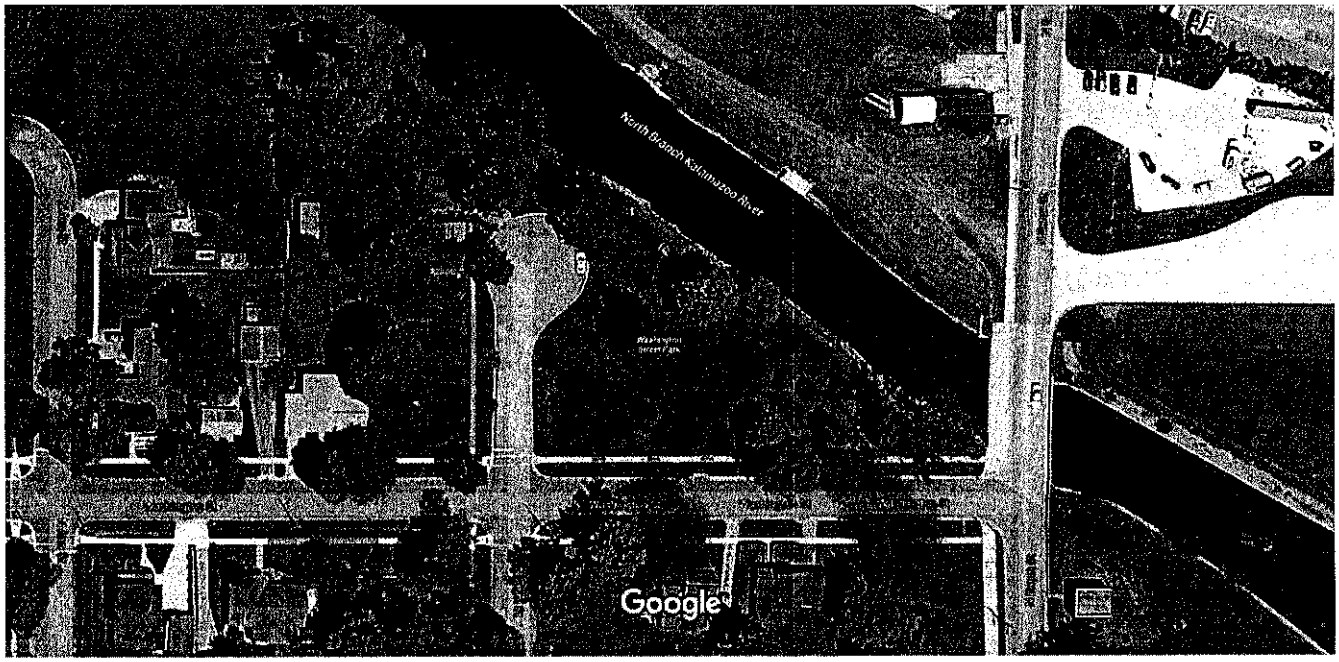
Molder Park

Park

100 W Michigan Ave, Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-3610

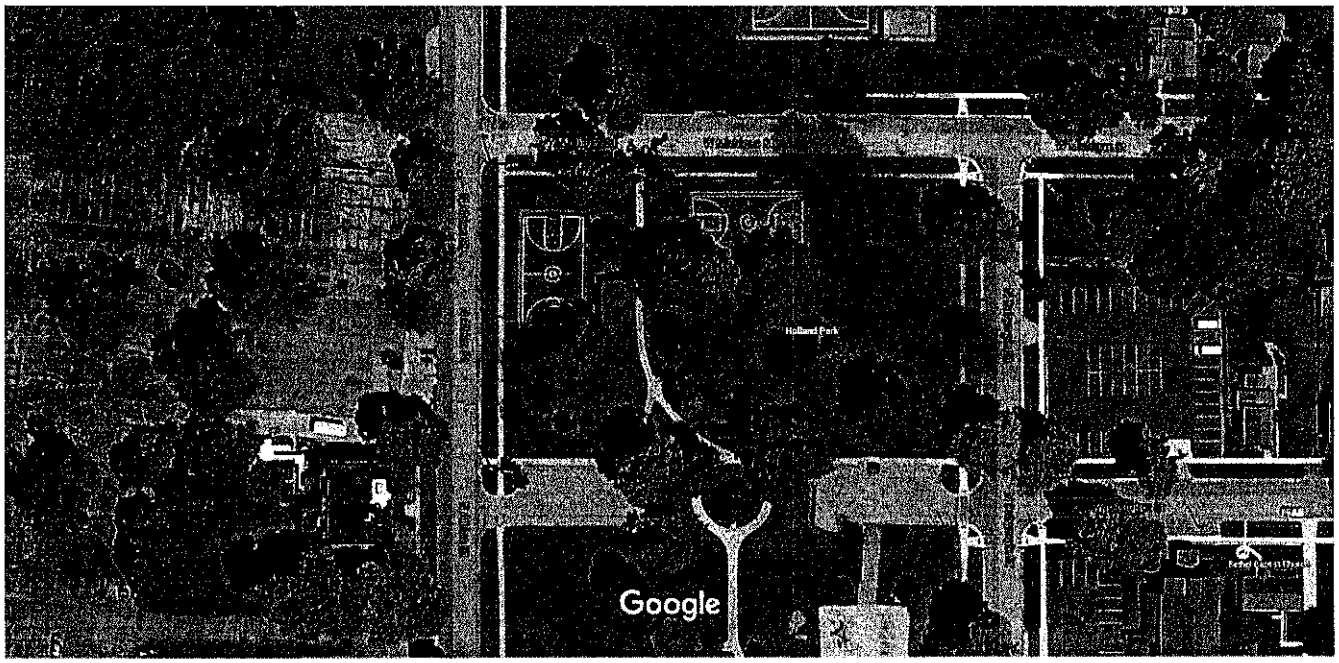
Google Maps Washington St



Imagery ©2015 Google, Map data ©2015 Google 50 ft

Washington St
Albion, MI 49224

Google Maps Holland Park



Imagery ©2015 Google, Map data ©2015 Google 50 ft

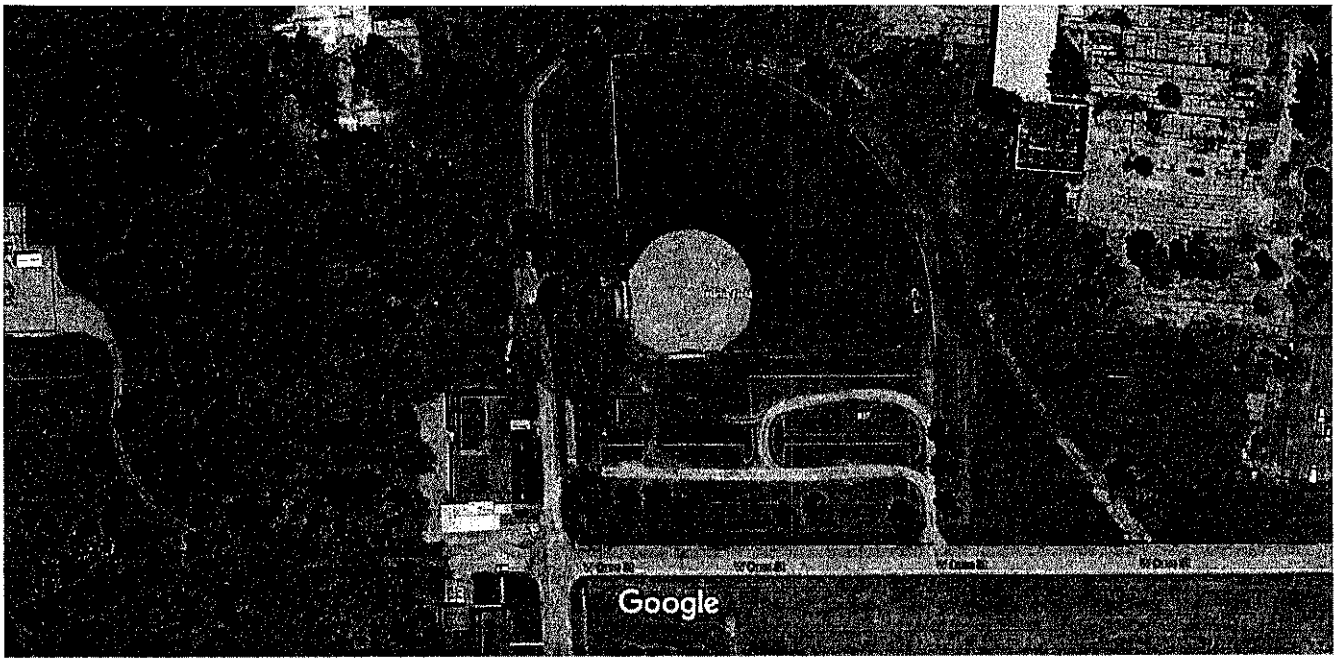
Holland Park

Park

100 N Albion St, Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-5535

Google Maps Harris Field



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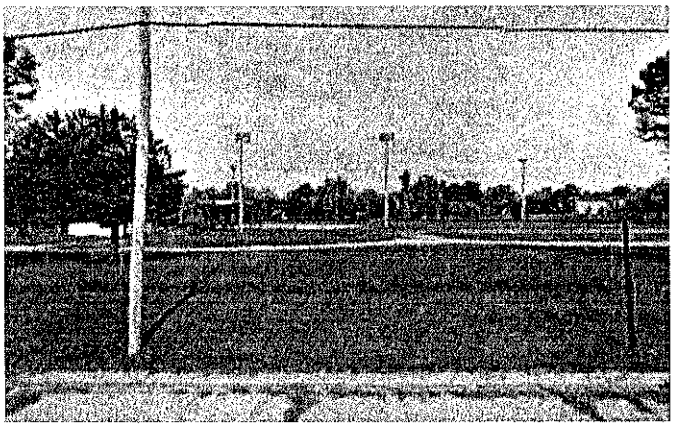
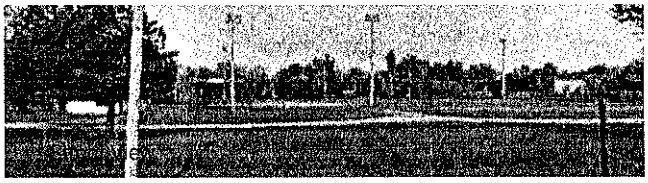


Harris Field

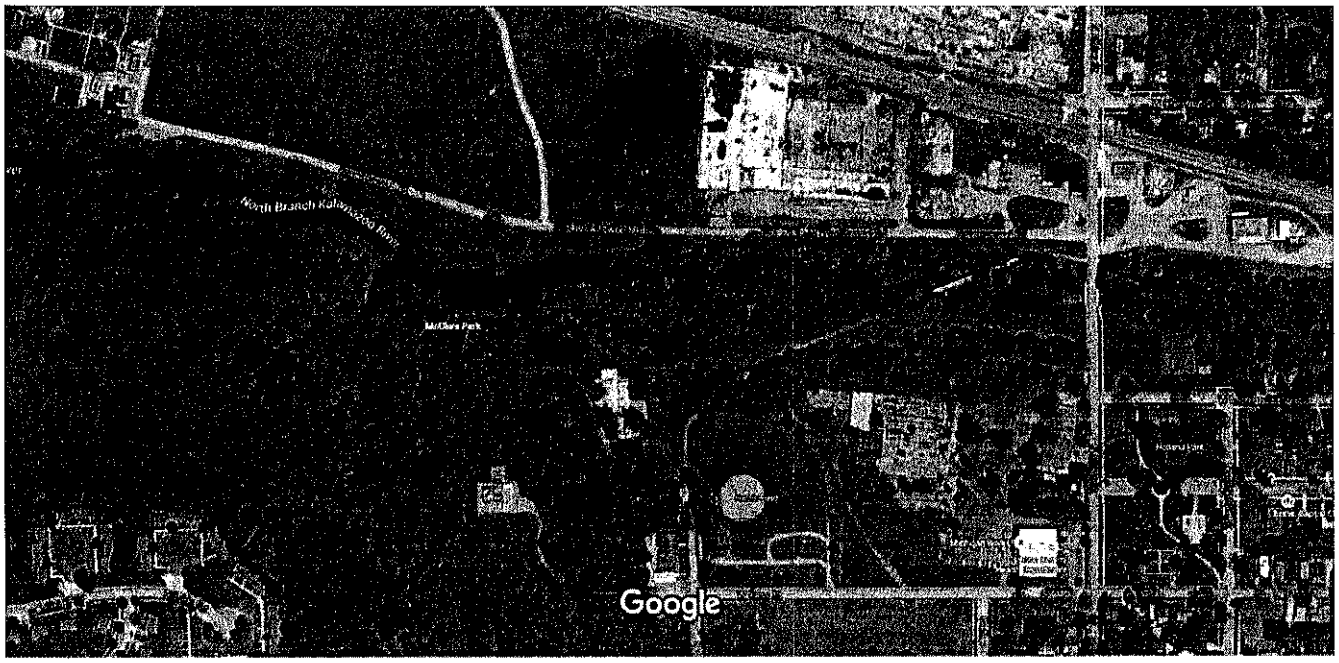
Park

790 W Cass St, Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-3933



Google Maps McClure Park



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McClure Park

Park

Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-3933