

City of Wyoming

Parks & Recreation

FY 2006 ANNUAL REPORT

2006 Annual Report

Creating community through people, parks, & programs!



A Message From The Mayor

Dear Wyoming:

The benefits of parks and recreation services are endless, including increased property values, reduced juvenile crime, clean air, and improved physical health for our citizens.

Every year tens of thousands of lives are touched by the programs and services of the City of Wyoming's Parks and Recreation Department. Our vision is to offer services that allow community members to experience physical, mental, and social benefits through their leisure time participation, providing opportunities for young people, adults, and senior citizens to live, grow, and develop into healthy, contributing members of our community.

The job of providing you and your family high quality, safe recreation programs and park facilities is a challenge we work hard to fulfill with a goal to exceed your expectations. Through your continued support and participation, the City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department is able to make a difference in your quality of life and build a sustainable community.

Yours in service,

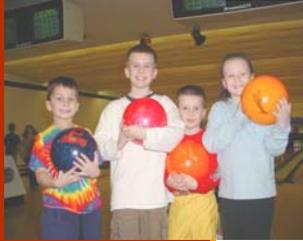
Carol S. Sheets

Carol S. Sheets, Mayor

“Every year tens of thousands of lives are touched by the programs and services of the City of Wyoming's Parks and Recreation Department.”

Our mission & vision

The mission of the City of Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department is to provide services that positively impact the social, economic, health and environmental quality of our community. Our vision is to offer services that allow community members to experience physical, mental, and social benefits through their leisure time participation, providing opportunities for young people, adults, and senior citizens to live, grow, and develop into healthy, contributing members of our community. The department is committed to providing leisure and recreation opportunities by developing and maintaining green spaces, facilities, and programs to enrich the quality of life for the citizens of the City of Wyoming.



Making friends, improving eye-hand coordination, and getting fit are all part of the fun in youth bowling.

“It is necessary for not only the staff, but also parents and the public at large to be involved in a community-wide effort to promote, support, and model health behaviors and habits.”

Kelloggville Public School District, Wellness Policy

Wyoming—A Leader in Promoting Healthy Lifestyles

After a year’s worth of evaluation, the City of Wyoming was presented with a Promoting Active Communities Bronze Level award from the State of Michigan Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sport. This award recognizes the community’s commitment to creating and maintaining policies, facilities, and programs that encourage residents to integrate physical activity into their daily routines. Wyoming has joined a network of more than 70 Michigan communities who have earned a Promoting Active Communities Award for taking steps to create active and healthy communities since the award’s debut in 2000.

The Benefits of Parks & Recreation

Increased property values

Peace

REDUCTIONS IN JUVENILE CRIME

Teaching independence

FUN!

Youth leadership development

Improved community health & wellness

Clean air

Preserving nature

Financial Highlights

Revenue		
Dedicated Millage	80%	\$3,113,020.50
Grants	9%	\$473,968.03
Fees	5%	\$248,149.55
Donations	1%	\$24,769.47
Miscellaneous	5%	\$86,591.17
	Sub-total	\$3,946,498.72
Expenses		
Administration	19%	\$711,160.66
Park Facilities	55%	\$2,219,797.20
Wyoming Senior Center	9%	\$377,218.14
Recreation (Youth, Family, Adult)	10%	\$383,569.13
Stepping Stones (Therapeutic Recreation)	2%	\$64,427.70
T.E.A.M. 21 (After-school Program)	5%	\$326,239.16
	Sub-total	\$4,082,411.99
	Total	(\$135,913.27)

The Parks and Recreation Department has been primarily funded by a dedicated millage since 1995.

Historical Budget Perspectives

The following chart reflects costs for operations only and does not include capital expenses. This allows for a more accurate analysis of base operations. *The significant differences within Administration are attributed to the increases required by the reimbursement of services to the General Fund which were \$76,300 in 1996, \$89,120 in 2000, and \$314,660 in 2006 (including City Hall Office Rental).

	1996 Actual	2000 Actual	2006 Actual
Administration	\$232,611	\$278,580	*\$689,953
Park Facilities	\$863,513	\$1,168,740	\$1,588,747
Jackson Park Pool	\$83,030	\$78,250	\$0
Wyoming Senior Center	\$192,521	\$301,880	\$369,026
South Wyoming Senior Center	\$124,359	\$140,230	\$0
Recreation (Youth, Family, Adult)	\$333,924	\$497,600	\$383,569
Stepping Stones (Therapeutic Recreation), <i>Grant Funded</i>	\$0	\$25,140	\$64,428
T.E.A.M. 21 (After-school Program), <i>Grant Funded</i>	\$0	\$0	\$326,239
Total	\$1,829,958	\$2,490,420	\$3,421,962

Wyoming Senior Center



Card playing and billiards are popular pastimes at the Wyoming Senior Center.

Constructed in 1977, the Wyoming Senior Center is located at 2380 DeHoop SW, between 28th and Burton Streets. The facility features a large auditorium surrounded by several smaller activity rooms, kitchen, and offices. While the majority of funding for the center's operations comes from the dedicated parks and recreation millage, the Wyoming Senior Fellowship Club, a non-profit member driven organization, provides \$50,000 - \$60,000 annually in support of social programs (bingo, volunteer recognition dinners, etc) and facility needs. All center programs are open to older adults aged 55+ from throughout the Grand Rapids metropolitan area, however non-resident, resident, and member, non-member fees may apply. There are no fees to enjoy the center for drop-in programs such as cards, billiards, hearing screenings, tax assistance, etc.

"I have had more fun in my last two line dancing classes. I came alone and made friends and felt like I could be myself, mistakes and all. We laughed a lot and often."

Participant comment

Annual Senior Center Participation Rates

<u>FY 2003</u>	<u>FY 2004</u>	<u>FY 2005</u>	<u>FY 2006</u>
68,945	61,553	54,416	59,588

(Based on Monthly Report Statistics)

Annual Senior Center Program Distribution By Program Type

Total number of programs offered: 141

Arts & Crafts	14%
Clubs	8%
Education/Leisure	19%
Fitness (inc. dance)	26%
Social	18%
Social Service	7%
Sport	8%

Program Spot Light—Senior Prom

By adding a "Las Vegas" theme to the decorations, utilizing dance cards, spinning songs via a disc jockey and providing disposable cameras, the annual Senior Prom took on a more festive, throw-back look in FY 2006. Through a continued partnership with Wyoming Park High School's Student Council, student volunteers assisted with program planning and implementation, including taking photos, manning the punch bowl/appetizers and even dancing with the participants on the night of the event. Over 70 older adults participated in this year's Senior Prom, leading one of the participants, Dee Godley, to state, "This year's prom was the best ever!"



The Red Hat Society is full of fun at the center.

Initiative Prepares Way for Baby Boomers

Recreation and leisure interests change with the generations. Gone are the days where the senior center will need to appeal only to “old people.” Today’s older adult is vibrant, active, and ready for new social, mental, and physical leisure opportunities. In 2006, the Senior Visioning Initiative (SVI) was begun to evaluate what citizens are looking for in the way of programming and functional design of the senior center in meeting community needs today and well into the future. Over 21,000 surveys were mailed to adults aged 40+ to ask questions about their recreational interest and their perceptions of the senior center. A complete copy of survey results may be obtained by contacting the Parks and Recreation Department. A sampling of results follows:



Dance programs are very popular at the center.

Motivations for Recreating		Perceptions of Senior Center	
Have fun	73%	Must be 60 to attend	47%
Physical activity	71%	Old people go there	36%
Learn new things	54%	Everyone is welcome	33%
Stay mentally active	45%	It’s a fun place	30%

Grant Funds Enhance Older Adult Fitness Programs

By the year 2030, it is estimated that 20% of the United States population will be 65 and older while Medicare spending is expected to be above \$500 billion annually by 2012. When you combine those statistics with study information that shows that 20% of those 65 and older are considered obese (30 pounds or more overweight), then the need for exercise and wellness for this age group becomes very apparent.

To address that need, the Parks and Recreation Department applied for and was awarded a \$5,000.00 grant in FY 2006 from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan to purchase,

equipment, and enhance and expand exercise programs at the Wyoming Senior Center. A PreCor stationary bike and Nu-Step rehabilitation fitness machine, along with new exercise DVD’s were obtained and implemented into current programming, as well as providing a new opportunity for drop-in use.

The two existing exercise programs, moderate impact (Forever Fit) and low impact (Sweet and Low) exercise group participants were also provided with vital monitoring (blood pressure, pulse and respiration) throughout a twelve week period. At the completion of the twelve weeks, a healthy brunch and

t-shirts were offered to all participants. Initial participant evaluations showed that over 80% of the participants believed that their participation helped them maintain or lower their blood pressure as well as assisting them in maintaining or increasing their endurance levels.

Local partners in this programming effort include: The Laurels of Hudsonville, Heartland Health Care, Holland Home and Visiting Physicians Association of West Michigan.

“I told my doctor about this program and he thought it was great.”
Forever Fit Exercise Program Participant

Recreation Services

Everyone enjoys living in a safe, healthy community. The Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department works to provide a comprehensive listing of wellness, social, and sport programs to meet the needs of the children, adults, and families of the community. In addition, Recreation Services works closely with area schools, churches, and businesses in meeting their special and athletic event facility needs.



Wyoming is known for its quality softball fields and well run softball programs.

“I want to let the programmer know that myself and others in the Monday night class are very glad that changes were made to the yoga program.”
Participant Comment

Athletic & Special Event Support

Athletic and special event requests and usages posted a small increase in FY 2006 as compared to FY 2005. Some of the organizations that made athletic and special event requests this fiscal year included:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Vanguard Charter Academy | Consumer’s Energy |
| Vista Charter Academy | ViChem Corporation |
| Tri-unity Christian Schools | Classic Chevrolet |
| Potter’s House Christian Schools | Gordon Food Service |
| Wyoming Public Schools | Boy Scouts of America |
| Godwin Heights Public Schools | Wyoming Community Church |
| Kelloggsville Public Schools | Mars Hill Bible Church |
| Godfrey Lee Public Schools | Holy Trinity Lutheran School |
| Aquinas College | Pinery Park Little League |
| American Cancer Society | |

	2006	2005	2004
Events:	56	50	47

Featuring the “Top 3” Organized Programs by Service Area

<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Annual Participation</u>
Youth	Play & Learn	5,699
	Soccer	602
	Gymnastics	376
Adult	Commercial Bingo	5,941
	Softball	1,866
	Yoga/Pilates	679
Older Adult	Social Bingo	9,186
	Potlucks/Summer Suppers	1,443
	Christmas Craft Show	1,364
Family	Pumpkin Path	4,000

Yoga and Yoga/Pilates class offerings have been expanded over the years to meet demand.



Pumpkin Path—the “rec” way to economic development



2,000 children turn out for annual event.

Supporting area businesses while improving community social connections between families and children is part of the special event focus of the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Path. Held at

Pinery Park on Oct. 15, 2005, this year’s event engaged 65 local businesses and organizations as “hosts” along the Pumpkin Path, handing out

goodies and promotional items to almost 2,000 children. The estimated attendance for the 2005 event, including parents and guardians, was 4,000. The pumpkin carving contest continues to be a popular

activity within this event. All 100 of the decorated and carved pumpkins entered were displayed along the path. A Wyoming-Kentwood Chamber of Commerce Certificate of Recognition award winner, the Pumpkin Path is one of many programs, ensuring that Wyoming is a place where people want to live, work, and play.

“What a wonderful thing that an official Parks and Recreation Department is involved in placing caches rather than removing them!”
Website comment about Wyoming’s newest program—Geocaching

Program Impacts, Highlights

205 youth, adult, older adult, and family millage funded recreation, leisure, sport, and special event programs were offered in FY 2006.

Softball (Adult)—75% increase in teams was noted in our fall leagues, attributed in part to changes in the City of Grand Rapids Adult Softball Program. Adult Softball averages between 1,500 and 2,000 participants a year, with 2006 being no exception at 1,866.

Parent-Child Soccer (Family)—100% of program evaluations were satisfied with instructors.

Gymnastics (Youth)—75% of parents agreed that the instruction was appropriate and effective for their child.

Bowling (Senior)—93% of participants affirmed the program promotes physical fitness; 98% indicated bowling has social benefits; and 84% indicated their main goal for participating was fun and social opportunity.

Soccer (Youth)—602 children participated in this year’s developmental league, a 14% reduction over 2005.

Body Toning (Adult)—83% of participants noticed a difference in their muscle definition at the conclusion of the session.

Exercise (Senior)—74% of participants demonstrated a sustained blood pressure reading after 4, 8, and 12 weeks; 67.5% demonstrated sustained endurance through respiration and pulse rate; and 19% decreased their blood pressure.

Play & Learn (Youth)—5,699 children participated in this FREE drop-in program offered at 5 sites throughout the community during 6 weeks of the summer.

Line Dance (Adult & Senior)—14 classes were offered throughout the year enjoying 341 registered participants.



Detailed program statistics are available by calling (616) 530-3164.

Grant Programs

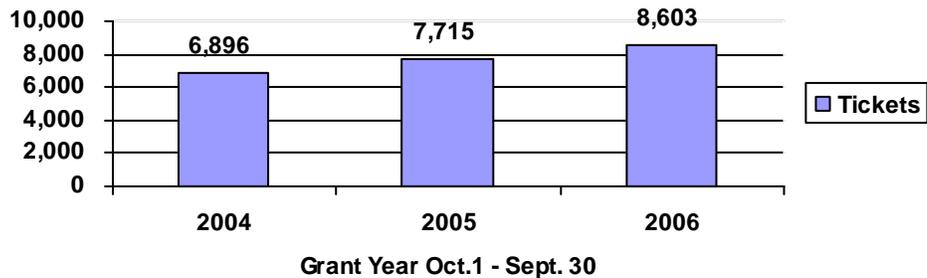


Aquatic therapy is a treatment option through the Stepping Stones program.

The Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department works diligently to compliment tax funded services with grants to maximize services to the community. Our youth tennis camps were enhanced by a grant from the Wyoming Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Committee which funded tennis racquets for economically disadvantaged children. Programs such as Transportation Assistance, Stepping Stones and T.E.A.M 21 are fully grant funded by Agency on Aging of Western Michigan Older Americans Act funding, Kent County Senior Millage funding, and a federal 21st Century Learning Center grant. Frog Hollow park and playground development was funded in large part from grants from the Steelcase Foundation, National Center for Boundless Playgrounds, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

"[I] thank God and Go! Bus for this service and the senior center for having this service for us"
- program participant

Go!Bus Transportation Assistance Program



Transportation Assistance

An 11.5% increase was seen in 2006 for Go! Bus transportation tickets provided to older adults who would otherwise be homebound. Program participants use tickets to attend the Wyoming Senior Center and to perform activities of daily living. The 2006 program participant evaluation survey indicates:

- 41% of survey respondents used tickets to access medical appointments
- 33% of tickets were used to access leisure & social activities
- 19% of tickets were used to obtain food
- 7% of tickets were used for work, volunteering, and misc. errands

114 disabled older adults participated in the discounted ticket program.



Stepping Stones

The demand for Stepping Stones' specialized application of recreation and experiential activities or interventions that help maintain or improve the health status, functional capacities, and quality of life for older adults continues to grow. The most current program data indicates:

- 100% of program participants report increased quality of life
- 100% of participants report maintaining or improving their ability to perform Activities of Daily Living
- 77% report increased leisure participation levels
- 85% report increased leisure participation levels one month after discharge
- 20% of participants have benefited by aquatic therapy
- 65% of participants were successfully reintegrated back into the community or had their restorative benefits maximized



Meeting personal goals is the foundation of treatment planning for Stepping Stones participants.



team.21
TEACH ENRICH ACHIEVE MOVE

The T.E.A.M. 21 after school program, a collaborative effort between Wyoming's Parks and Recreation Department and Wyoming Public Schools, has been providing social, recreational and academic learning for local families and children attending Parkview, Rogers Lane and Taft Elementary schools.

In only its second year of existence, T.E.A.M. 21 increased programming days by 30% (37 total days) and has provided more than

280 days and 1,000 hours of service at each of the three program sites. During the school year, 150 children (300 during the summer) attend the T.E.A.M. 21 program daily where they receive academic assistance and participate in activities that provide physical, mental and social benefits.

Gardening, karate, science, journalism, homework help, physical fitness, character education and several other activities are

used to teach children about making healthy lifestyle choices and developing positive relationships with their peers and other community members.

The T.E.A.M. 21 program, its work in creating quality students, has contributed to each of the three elementary schools exiting the State of Michigan school restructuring process in only two years, the minimum amount of time to do so.

“Just wanted to let you know how helpful the after school program has been with my math class. My kids got extra help and can now help others!! Yeah team.”
Wyoming schools elementary teacher speaking about the benefits of T.E.A.M. 21

Park Facilities

The City of Wyoming is blessed with 665 acres of park land. Our facilities include 2 lodges, 12 picnic shelters, 23 softball and baseball diamonds, 12 basketball courts, 29 tennis courts, 6 sand volleyball courts, 20 play-

grounds, a skateboard park, and one in-line hockey court. Annually we operate and maintain 15 restroom facilities. During this past year 2,699 hours of reservations were accepted for lodge, shelter, and sec-

tion rentals at Pinery, Lamar, and Ideal parks. The community can be proud that 99% of renters were satisfied/very satisfied with the conditions of our facilities.



Family fun and great food offered at picnics in Pinery Park.

“The park itself was clean and very beautiful, Wyoming on a whole does a superb job at maintaining all its parks”
 Facility evaluation survey comment

Wyoming is working to ensure that all children, regardless of ability or disability, have the opportunity to play.



YTD Facility Reservations	Very			Very	Permits returned
					90
Level of Satisfaction	Satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	n =
Cost for facility	53%	43%	3%	0%	90
Overall condition of facility	69%	31%	0%	0%	88
Cleanliness of facility	69%	30%	1%	0%	87
Electrical Services	69%	26%	4%	2%	54
Indoor heating/cooling	65%	30%	5%	0%	20
Kitchen facilities	89%	11%	0%	0%	18
Restroom facilities	50%	44%	5%	1%	84
Safety/Security	57%	42%	1%	0%	79
Service by office personnel	75%	24%	0%	1%	85
Service by park attendant/staff	69%	27%	3%	1%	67
Registration process	66%	32%	1%	1%	85
Special event equipment	55%	41%	5%	0%	22
Water services	62%	36%	3%	0%	39
Grills - charcoal	46%	49%	3%	3%	39
Lighting	73%	19%	8%	0%	26
Seating - tables & chairs	60%	40%	0%	0%	80
Trash receptacles	61%	37%	2%	0%	84
Vehicle parking	57%	37%	4%	2%	82

Park Spot Light—Frog Hollow

Frog Hollow—every child’s playground—opened to the public in September 2005. The first universally accessible park in Wyoming and the first Able-to-Play park in Kent County was funded through a combination of donations, grants, and park funds to a tune of over \$800,000. A study completed in May 2006 affirmed over 5,000 children and adults were enjoying the playground monthly.

Park Service Milestones

\$27,674 in improvements were made to Lamar Park entrances.

New softball field, tennis court and basketball court lights were completed at Lemery Park for \$185,000.

\$27,315 in playground equipment improvements were made at Pinery Park near the shelter capping off a two year improvement plan.

New park signs were installed at Prairie, 40th, and Gezon Park in addition to Palmer Field.

Published the "Great Get-away Guide", a guide to Wyoming's 21 parks, and distributed it to over 30,000 resident households.

Over \$8,000 in tree plantings were completed.

In response to a youth developed "master plan" for Southlawn Park, new swings, both tot and traditional, were installed.

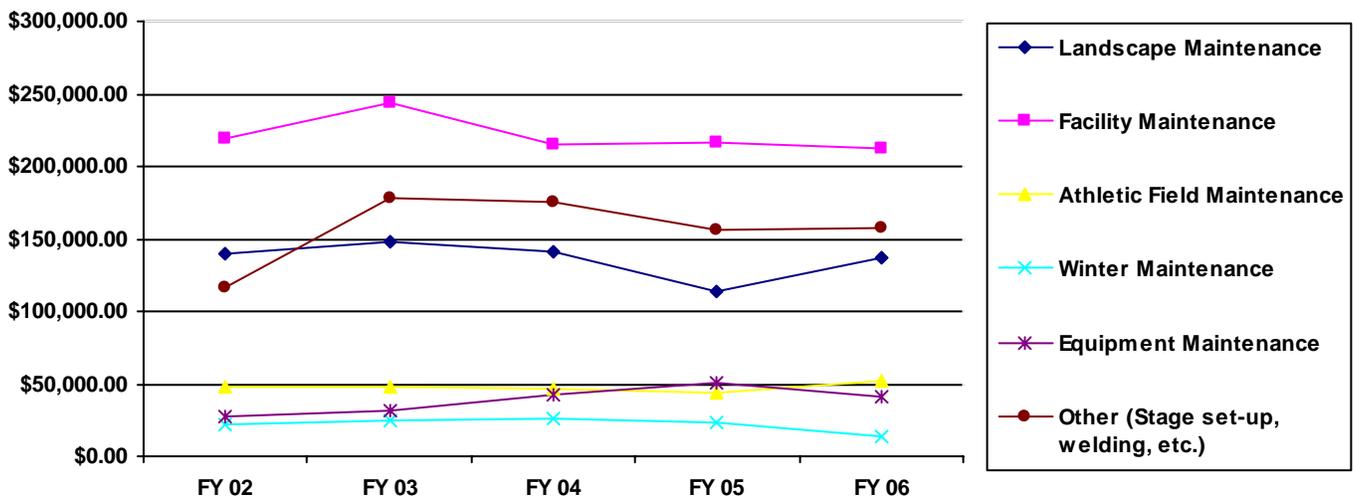
Over 300 man hours were committed to inspecting and maintaining safe playgrounds.

As self reported, 32,488 people enjoyed lodge, shelter, and section reservations.

"Everything Excellent! Last year we had problems with yellow jackets. We told the office, they must have sprayed" Facility use survey comment

Activity	FY 2006 Man Hours
Landscape maintenance	8,971
Facility maintenance (shelters, playgrounds, etc.)	12,920
Athletic field maintenance	3,388
Winter maintenance (plowing, salting)	574
Equipment maintenance	2,386
Other (stage set-up, welding, etc.)	4,708

Park Services Cost Report Trends By Activity
 FTE wages and equipment only (benefits, contractual services not included)





Cost Report by Park Location

The following table reflects basic equipment and wage costs attributed to each park's operation for FY 2006. Employee benefits and consumable supplies (e.g. stone dust, toilet paper) are not included.

*“Great Location,
beautiful
facilities - we
looked at many
parks but this
had definitely
the most to offer
for a family
reunion.”
Facility
reservation
survey comment*

<u>Park</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Battjes	\$12,795
Buck Creek Nature Preserve	\$10,658
Ferrand	\$1,618
40th Street	\$3,858
Frog Hollow	\$13,298
Gezon	\$38,626
Hillcroft	\$6,183
Ideal	\$47,203
Jackson	\$5,291
Kimble Field	\$26,878
Kelloggsville	\$14,776
Lamar	\$70,346
Lemery	\$21,374
Lions	\$359
Marquette	\$15,711
Oriole	\$9,803
Palmer Field	\$14,790
Pinery	\$100,288
Prairie	\$7,453
Southlawn	\$3,063

Park Ranger Program

In the fifth year of operation, the Park Ranger Program’s goals are to reduce related maintenance costs associated with improper use of park property, and to improve the experience of all park patrons through customer service and education.

A significant increase was noted in the need for staff to advise patrons of rules and regulations, as well as unauthorized section or athletic field usage.

For the third year, Rangers had the authority to issue tickets for violation of the community’s dog ordinance. Education continues to be our primary response, and appears successful as staff only wrote one ticket this past summer.



Public safety is a priority for the Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department.

<u>PARK RANGER TALLY SHEET</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
ADVISE RULES REGULATIONS	504	284	850	395	376
DOG ORDINANCE	178	160	87	229	96
UNAUTHORIZED SECTION/FIELD USAGE	86	3	67	37	61
FIRST AID	1	6	1	5	4
MAINTENANCE REFERRAL/HAZARD	4	2	1	2	3
MAINTENANCE REFERRAL/GENERAL	6	56	33	46	31
INCIDENT/COMPLAINT	1	9	5	10	16
REFER TO POLICE	20	15	18	26	21
WEED INSPECTIONS	0	0	183	0	0
VANDALISM GRAFFITTI REPORT	6	15	15	25	42
<u>TOTALS</u>	<u>806</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>1260</u>	<u>775</u>	<u>650</u>

“The park ranger was very helpful!”

Our 2006 Partners

AARP

Aquinas College

Bayberry Farms Village

Calvin Christian Schools

Disability Advocates of Kent County

District 7 Umpire Association

Edward Jones

First Assembly Church

Friends of Labor

Godfrey Lee Public Schools

Godwin Heights Public Schools

Grand Rapids Community College

Grand Valley State University

Heartland Health

Holland Home

Iron Workers Local 340

John Ball Park Traveling Zoo

Laurels of Hudsonville

Metro Health Hospital

Mercantile Bank

Michigan Amateur Softball Association

Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns

Michigan Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Mixed Greens

National Center for Boundless Playgrounds

Paragon Lanes

Park Center Lanes

Parkview Elementary PTA/PTO

Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services

Pinery Park Little League

P.M. Blough Inc.

Rogers Heights Christian Reformed Church

Rogers Lane Elementary PTA/PTO

Rogers Lane Neighborhood Association

Senior Meals Program, Inc.

Skanska USA

Soccer Zone

South Kent Recreation Association

Spectrum Health

St. John Vianney Catholic Church

Taft Adopt-a-Block

Taft Elementary PTA/PTO

Teamsters Local 406

Theresa Wolf Hearing Consultants

Wedgewood Christian Services

Wesley Park United Methodist Church

West Michigan Physicians

West Michigan Plumbers, Fitters, and Service Trades Local Union No. 174

Wyoming Clean Water Plant

Wyoming Engineering Department

Wyoming Fellowship Club

Wyoming Fire Department

Wyoming Lions Club

Wyoming Park United Methodist Church

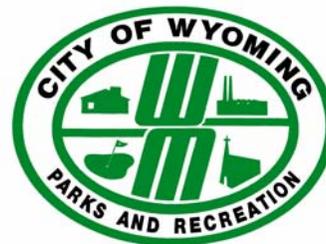
Wyoming Planning and Development Department

Wyoming Police Department

Wyoming Public Schools

Visually Impaired Persons

YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids



Our partners—they rolled up their sleeves and worked directly with Parks and Recreation Department staff in bringing quality recreation programs and park facilities to the citizens of Wyoming.



Creating Community through
People, Parks, and Programs

Wyoming Parks and Recreation Department
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