

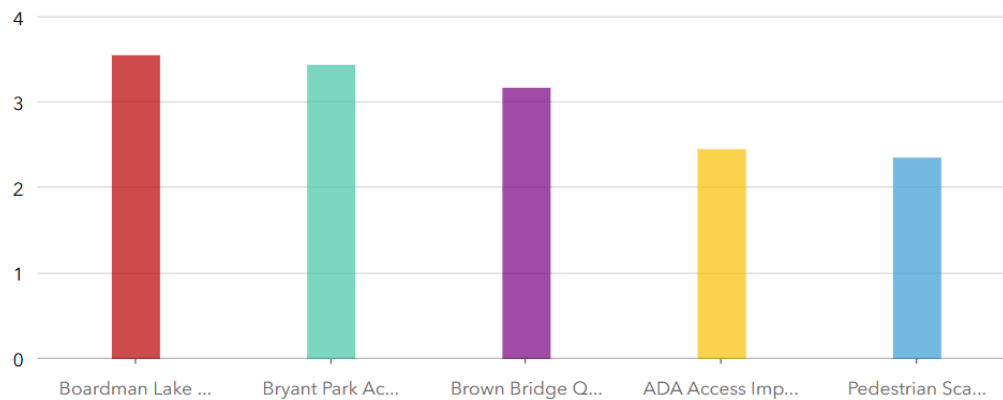


CITY OF
TRAVERSE CITY

BROWN BRIDGE TRUST FUND

AUGUST 2025 SURVEY: 464 RESPONSES

Rank the following projects related to safe and equitable access to City parks and public space.



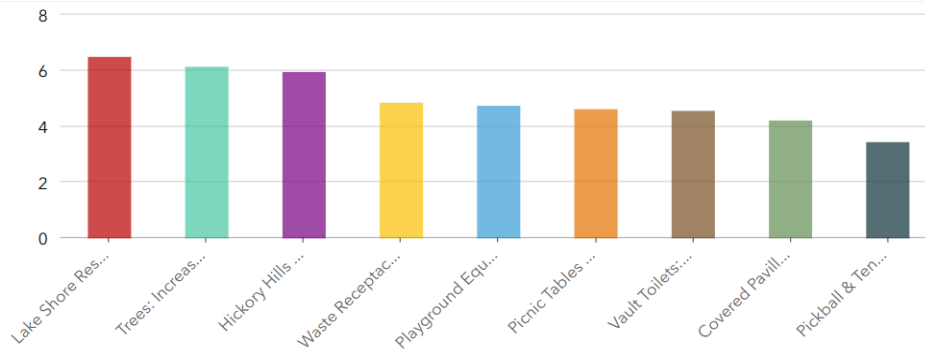
[Hide table](#)

Show/hide choices Sort

Rank	Answers	1	2	3	4	5	Average score
1	Boardman Lake Loop Trail Access: For example, safe crosswalk at Sixteenth and Cass Street	26.38% 110	34.05% 142	15.83% 66	16.55% 69	7.19% 30	3.56
2	Bryant Park Access: Improved pedestrian and bicycle access	28.78% 120	21.1% 88	24.46% 102	17.27% 72	8.39% 35	3.45
3	Brown Bridge Quiet Area New Trailhead: Spring Lake (newly acquired land)	30.94% 129	15.83% 66	15.83% 66	14.87% 62	22.54% 94	3.18
4	ADA Access Improvements: For example, Hannah, Lay, and Ashton Parks	7.67% 32	14.39% 60	23.98% 100	23.98% 100	29.98% 125	2.46
5	Pedestrian Scale Lighting: For example, Hull and Wags West	6.24% 26	14.63% 61	19.9% 83	27.34% 114	31.89% 133	2.36

Answered: 417 Skipped: 47

Rank the following projects related to City parks and public space improvements.



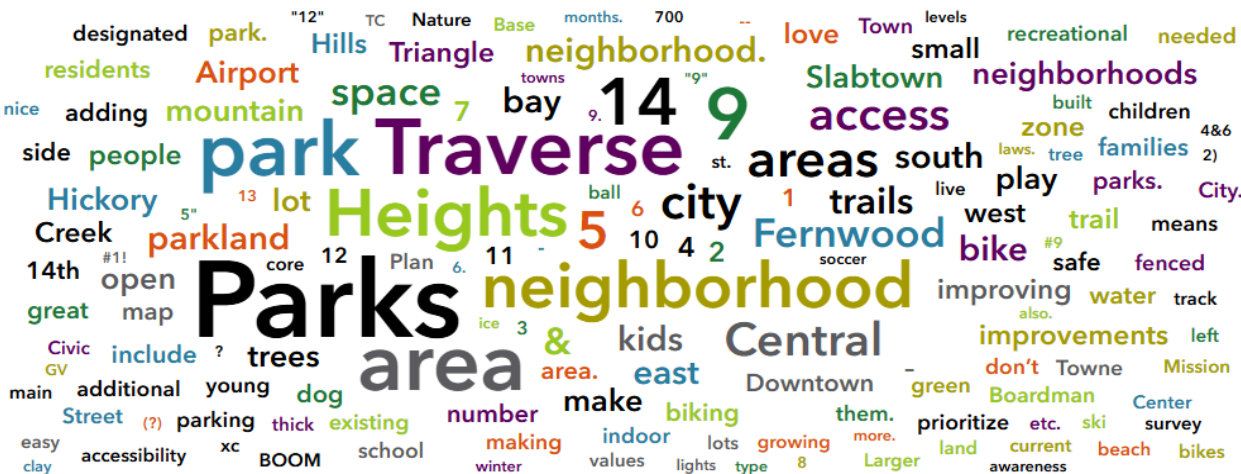
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Show/hide choices Sort

Rank	Answers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Average score
1	Lake Shore Restoration: For example, erosion control (bank stabilization), water quality improvement (storm water and e. coli), native vegetation, access (recreation use and	23.97% 105	21% 92	18.26% 80	8.45% 37	5.94% 26	5.94% 26	5.71% 25	6.49
2	Trees: Increasing canopy and shade	14.61% 64	22.6% 99	15.53% 68	11.19% 49	11.42% 50	7.76% 34	7.76% 34	6.14
3	Hickory Hills Mountain Bike Trail Design & Development	42.24% 185	5.25% 23	3.88% 17	4.79% 21	7.08% 31	5.48% 24	8.45% 37	5.95
4	Waste Receptacles: Increase and replace for unified look	5.25% 23	8.45% 37	11.42% 50	17.81% 78	11.64% 51	15.3% 67	12.1% 53	4.85
5	Playground Equipment (including traditional and interactive features like musical elements): For example, Sunset, Hull, Jupiter, and Lay Parks	3.88% 17	10.5% 46	13.7% 60	13.01% 57	11.64% 51	13.01% 57	11.87% 52	4.74
6	Picnic Tables & Benches: Increase and replace for unified look	0.91% 4	7.08% 31	12.1% 53	12.1% 53	20.32% 89	17.81% 78	13.47% 59	4.62
7	Bridge Quiet Area (Spring Lake and Additional Trailhead)	3.88% 17	10.73% 47	11.64% 51	12.1% 53	10.27% 45	12.1% 53	14.84% 65	4.56
8	Covered Pavilions: For example, Hull, F&M, and Darrow Parks	2.05% 9	6.62% 29	5.71% 25	15.75% 69	13.93% 61	14.38% 63	15.53% 68	4.21
9	Pickball & Tennis Court Reconstruction at Slabtown Corners	3.2% 14	7.76% 34	7.76% 34	4.79% 21	7.76% 34	8.22% 36	10.27% 45	3.44

Answered: 438 Skipped: 26

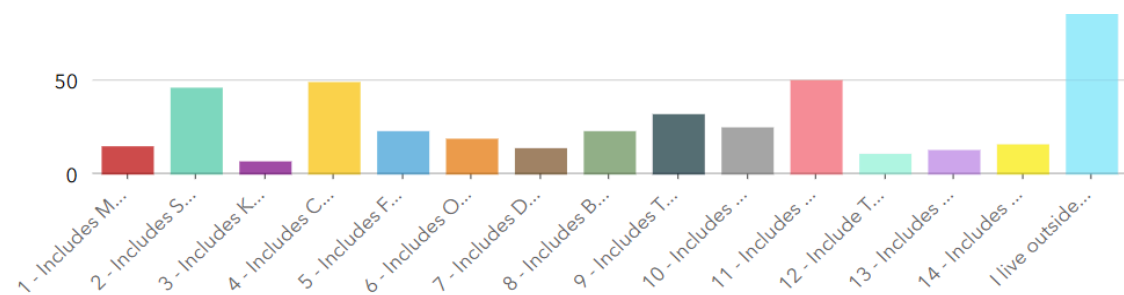
Which neighborhood has the most significant need for increased parkland?



Key Insights

- **Most Underserved:**
 - Traverse Heights stands out significantly, with the highest number of mentions (33).
 - Fernwood and the Airport Area also show strong concern, each receiving 22 mentions.
- **Moderately Underserved:**
 - Central (15) and Slabtown/Downtown (11 each) also emerge as notable areas.
- **Lower Mentions:**
 - Oak Park and Indian Woods received very few mentions, suggesting less perceived need relative to other areas.

Indicate where you live



[Hide table](#) ☒ Empty categories [↑↓ Sort](#)

Answers	Count	Percentage
1 - Includes Morgan Farms Neighborhood	15	3.23%
2 - Includes Slabtown Neighborhood	46	9.91%
3 - Includes Kids Creek Neighborhood	7	1.51%
4 - Includes Central Neighborhood	49	10.56%
5 - Includes Fernwood Neighborhood	23	4.96%
6 - Includes Old Towne Neighborhood	19	4.09%
7 - Includes Downtown and Midtown Neighborhoods	14	3.02%
8 - Includes Boardman Neighborhood	23	4.96%
9 - Includes Traverse Heights Neighborhood	32	6.9%
10 - Includes Oak Park Neighborhood	25	5.39%
11 - Includes Base of Old Mission (BOOM) Neighborhood	50	10.78%
12 - Include Triangle Neighborhood	11	2.37%
13 - Includes Indian Woods Neighborhood	13	2.8%
14 - Includes airport area	16	3.45%
I live outside the City limits	148	31.9%

Answered: 464 Skipped: 0

Which neighborhood has the most significant need for increased parkland?

Base of Old Mission

11

???

The area near west middle school.

Traverse Heights, SOFO

Airport area and Traverse Heights

NONE. Use the money for preventive maintenance. Plan ahead for future costs. Stop creating more SOFO? I can't think of any parks over there. The area North of parsons, but west of the cemetery also. I LOVE TREES! But I think most of our parks are shady enough. A legacy plan or planting on a schedule is important.

I don't support expanding the number of parks owned and operated by the City. Seems like we lack the resources to maintain the parks we have.

Need to know more - like a map of where all of our 25-30 parks currently are.

Downtown and Midtown

Not sure

Central

Zone 9 — Traverse Heights has a growing number of young families and very few parks, especially with lights and accessibility during the dark winter months.

Triangle neighborhood by Terrace, Belmont etc.

Airport area

What happened to the proposed plan to create a fenced in dog park at the Civic Center

Traverse Heights

I live in East bay township, near brown bridge, so i am not as familiar with some of the smaller city parks that dont have beaches.

however, I strongly believe that every child needs to have access to parks and green space that they can safely access (routes safe from traffic) so they can get out to parks and play without relying on an adult to drive them. this means sidewalks, bike paths, ect. I was able to independently go to parks as a kid growing up in Midland, and that influenced my dev into a well adjusted adult

so neighborhood 9 & 5 & 14 ?

in addition, the largest need for parks very well might be outside of the city limits! in the suburban areas that are rapidly expanding, such as around the hammond road and lafrainier corridor.

park access and safe route connectivity should also be prioritized in lower income areas -- because those kids and people may have a harder time getting to recreation AND families may have transportation limitations since cars are EXPENSIVE!

Zone 4 near the mall

Traverse Heights

Fernwood

I would prioritize improving existing parks over adding new ones. Parks are distributed fairly equitably.

Triangle Neighborhood; Airport area

9

Neighborhood 7 in map below

Traverse Heights and Fernwood

Central

Hickory Hills

Traverse City Bay beaches need to be regulated in use by people, events and boating so bacteria levels, garbage, and sewage do not make it a toxic environment! Try cleaning up the stench from the sewage processing plant instead of worrying about benches and picnic areas!!

Don't allow vagrants to make the library area a garbage , menacing dump!!

South of 14th

#1

I honestly don't know!

Honestly, I think we have plenty of parks. I'd focus on improving maintenance on what we have. That might even include additional plantings.

Boardman neighborhood

3

Central neighborhood
7-8 on your map
Fernwood

I believe Hickory Hills needs to continue with improvements to sustain and build on the parkland improvements investments from a few years ago. It's important to include long term sustainability of this valuable parkland with year round use and accessibility.

I don't know

Unsure.
Greilickville
West Bay, farthest west
Slabtown
And
Downtown, near Farmers Market

No Necessarily more parkland but better utilization of parkland. For example; a fenced dog park in Traverse Heights. Right now the only fenced play area is at Traverse Heights Elementary and that is Traverse heights we are always left behind

9. There is more need for parks in that neighborhood.

This isn't the correct question. What percentage of land has biggest ROI for the City if designated parkland? Where should the increase be located? I suspect it is SoFo.

South of 14th and Triangle neighborhood

I would love to see more things for young families to do. The one splash park at Clinch is small and old looking. Kingsley now has a better splash pad area than TC. We should have several of these at

Southwest quadrant of the City as there are no public parks in this area.

9

We need a much larger and more useable dog park within the city limits. The current one is much too small for large dogs to the point of being unusable. Ideally a small area of dog beach would be very helpful. It doesn't matter which neighborhood, but it is necessary given the leash laws.

Slabtown

I believe we should preserve parkland in TC wherever the opportunity still presents itself. I think we are at a crossroads, where in the past open space in the greater TC metropolitan area was a given with easy availability and accessibility. Within the last decade or so we have seen much of that "given" open space filled in, resulting in a net loss of open space, trees (particularly our big deciduous and pine trees) and greenery disappear. We must retain and protect whatever open space is left wherever it is in

Downtown

Retention of open space regardless of neighborhood location

Kids Creek neighborhood. It would be great if in Veterans Park could be enhanced and better integrated into the neighborhood. Veteran's Park doesn't have great entry access points either. It'd be great if they could make a couple of different access points say to along division between 9 & 10th and the back side by the Women's trail. We also need to clear out the thick brush and downed trees along the Women's trail and incorporate it into Veteran's park by making it a loop. It's always been unsafe because of thick brush and low visibility of what's around you hence it doesn't get much use. They should also add a parking lot which could be used for many purposes not just park goers but also for the Thursday night music events, craft shows, etc. This would reduce the congestion in that area when

Need directional signage on main streets to neighborhood parks.

Zone 2

Fernwood

I'm not sure which neighborhood needs it most, but I would encourage the city to prioritize underserved neighborhoods and available, appropriate properties.

Old Towne and zones 4,5,6 need North-South access to waterfront in a protected, dedicated bike lane, or expanded sidewalk. No one pays attention to bikes trying to get to the bay -- they have to use main roads. This is the only access to the bay waterfront from these neighborhoods.

Central

Anywhere with a high concentration of residents would be amazing! Parks with the intent of drawing full-time residents instead of tourists would be so beneficial in drawing families to stay and build the economy long-term. Nature based play areas like the new one on Boon St are fantastic.

Triangle neighborhood

Would be nice to have green area with trails (gravel or paved) with trees for shade in any area where you can loop/circle around for walking in ANY area that is not along roads or in a hilly or forested area.

East side needs better trail connections and pedestrian crossings

All neighborhoods should have an equal number of quality parks based on population numbers.
Traverse Heights and Fernwood.

Central

We need to improve indoor recreational facilities for our youth. Please consider adding indoor turf fields for soccer, baseball, football, softball leagues. An indoor pickle ball / tennis court, basket ball track, class rooms for fitness and additional ice skating space

I am not sure but would love if the city could proactively purchase some of the small lots that are coming for sale in the older neighborhoods and set them aside as green space vs continued building.
Numbers 9 and 14 on the map below

5 and 6. Without the schools, we wouldn't have playgrounds

Central neighborhood.

9 & 10

Traverse Heights

All seem to have adequate access to nearby City/County Parks or recreational areas
Kid's Creek Neighborhood

5

I think we have enough parks. I would like to see a focus on improving the playground structures at them. Larger play structures and more swings. Improving safe access via sidewalks and crosswalks

Would love to see more nature type play areas that reflect the outdoor values of many families.

<https://www.beanstalkbuilders.com>

Kids Creek

7

Most neighborhoods would benefit from improvements at Clinch Park east of the designated swim area. The new GV Pkwy and TART trail improvements did not: 1) include improvements to the old railroad ties (?) supporting the banks, 2) address areas of erosion, or 3) the protections and stabilization of the trees that keep the banks in place. More bike racks are needed to prevent people from locking and leaning bikes on trees (cheap, easy fix). More controlled access to the beach is needed (improved the SEWER and septic should be this towns very top priority. There are still clay drains on the 700 7,8,10,11 #9, #5, #14

7

None
Just maximize what you've got

4

9 and 14
14, 1

Slabtown and kids creek to connect the greenway of the commons and hickory.

14

Zone 5

9 & 14

9

5

9

2 and 3

2

Hickory hills mountain bike trails is the most important thing needed.

2
14

Traverse Heights

We need more awesome mountain biking and pickleball

East bay township and th Forest Lakes

6

2 Mountain bike, hiking and xc ski trails

14
5

Hickory and The Commons need professionally built mountain bike trails. This would offer a safer solution than the independently made trails that have developed in these areas over the years/decades. Mountain biking has been booming activity since the pandemic. By putting professionals designed and dedicated trails, it would offer a safer recreational experience for everyone. It would help reduce biking and hiker encounters on trails, while also offering a trail system that was built with modern features, accessibility, and safety considerations.

I'd also recommend adding a pump track near the Hickory Lodge to make that a year round asset with 4 and 5

Two and 13

#7 and it would be nice to put a slowdown to the Warehouse district as you have way too many ugly hotels being approved in that area. One was enough. That lot next to Indigo would have made an incredible park for all across from the open space but now it's going to be an ugly brick building.
9,

Skatepark needs an upgrade!

Traverse Heights

9, 11, 4, 5 - more walkable playspace/developed playscapes/gathering areas needed for residents, not Neighborhoods 1, 14, and 5 could all benefit from additional pocket parks, improved and bike-friendly striping, and traffic calming measures.

Brown Bridge Quiet Area

Tons of potential in #1!

Any southeastern neighborhood.

Base of old mission

We have a lot of underutilized parks already in our small footprint. I'd rather see investment in existing ones and programs/awareness campaigns of what we already have than adding more. Definite would like to see a citizen survey of awareness of current parkland before any purchase that would not

West neighborhood.

6,9,14

Old town

Need internet service for east bay park

1 & 9, also 4&6

Hickory Hills needs to replace the old water lines for snow making and include strategically located shut off valves so water lines can supply water for snow making without having to shut down the whole

14th Street up to the city limit ""area 5""

Turn 12 acre parcel owned by the City for the Oakwood Cemetery at Airport Access and Parsons into a wooded park area
Airport Area and Traverse Heights.

Neighborhood-5, South of Fourteenth St., doesn't seem to have a single park other than the BLLT Scenic Overlooks. More Boardman Lakeshore parkland with picnic tables would be great!
10 & 12

It would appear that the neighborhoods on the south side of town could use more parkland. Perhaps prioritize by density--as well as number of school age children assuming this info is available. We are very fortunate to have so much beautiful park area around our Slabtown neighborhood and utilize it often. Your maintenance and ongoing thoughtfulness in the use and design of these areas is much appreciated. Of course, ongoing consideration for the basics like infrastructure and natural tree canopy is a first concern. Thank-you for offering this survey and valuing the opinion of Traverse City residents.

Traverse Heights and Fernwood

Central Neighborhood. I believe we are the only neighborhood without a park for children to play on equipment. Something similar to Boardman's park would be great. The schools prohibit all use while school is in progress.

Downtown

Area 14

9 and also 14

Add the ATT parking lot to rotary square.

None - the city has enough parks. People just have to be willing to get off their butts and go to them.
N/A

BOOM

This should be a high priority
Park acquisition then linking parks w safe pedestrian/cycling routes at a rate that exceeds local development means we may be able to preserve core community values related to outdoors and active lifestyle that are what most people associate with our community

Traverse heights and Ferneood

Slabtown

The areas designated ""9"" (adjacent to the airport) and ""12"" (blue) on the image below.

Fernwood, although I much prefer SoFo.

Near Indian Trail and Pine Grove

Unsure! We live in Central neighborhood and there are lots of options for parks via bike/walk, so not sure who needs it most. Improving what we have would be great!

9, 10, 12

Areas south of 8th Street and east of Boardman Lake

Old Towne

14

All! but especially Traverse Heights and Airport area (14). The more parkland on the water, the better! By all means acquire land for parks where available. But in an urban area, you could make more areas more park-like by increasing tree canopy, requiring trees in parking areas, and removing unused pavement (on formerly developed sites, for example).

All of the core residential neighborhoods do not have playgrounds within them, other than school facilities. Slabtown is served by Darrow Park on its edge and Traverse Heights has two parks on its south edge. The Civic Center serves alot of the east side of the City. Central, Old Town, and Fernwood

Central, Old Towne, and others close by that require crossing division to get to a nearby park.

BOOM

I don't know.

14
9

Please serve the most vulnerable folks first. Those with less resources. I trust you to make the decision and know where that is. Thank you for your service to our community.

I just wish whoever is in charge of the parks, would treat them as their Own! Most parks not mowed on a regular basis(especially around a Holiday), Weeds in flower beds, the residents around F & M park take great pride in their yards, too bad Parks director isn't reciprocating.

Fernwood

Triangle, Indian Hills

5

Central

Fernwood neighborhood, south of 14th street needs a park. I believe it's zone 5 in the below map. All our parks need a refresh.....spending time maintaining seems like the best use of our limited dollars.

9

Traverse Heights

Kids Creek.

There are no active parks in Kid's Creek, and there are a lot of kids and a lot of new young adults with

7

Garfield/Hannah st. Area

#1and #2, more xc ski trails and maintenance- plus they can double as running and walking trails. NO MORE mountain bike trails please!