

An aerial photograph of a residential development, showing buildings, parking lots, and green spaces. A semi-transparent blue overlay covers the left and bottom portions of the image, serving as a background for the text.

Transform.
Activate. Gather.



CASCADE GATHERING PLACE

Agenda



- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Project Overview and Timeline**
- 3. Community Visioning and Input to Date**
- 4. Revised Park Concept Plan**
- 5. Input Session / Q&A**
- 6. Wrap Up**

Project Overview



1. Site Analysis and Background Research (May)
2. Stakeholder Meetings, Survey, Preliminary Concepts (May-June)
3. Public Input Session #1 (June 14)
4. Concept Plan Revisions (June-July)
5. Public Input Session #2 (July 26)
6. Refine Plan & Prepare Budget (August)
7. Present Final Plan to DDA and Township Board (September)

Township planning documents establish a basis for the Cascade Community Gathering Space

- 2009 Comprehensive Plan**
- 2014 Downtown Development Plan**
- 2014 Parks and Recreation Plan**

2009 Master Plan



Broad community input

- 647 survey respondents
- Dozens of committee members
- Several open houses and focus groups
- Public hearing

Demographics

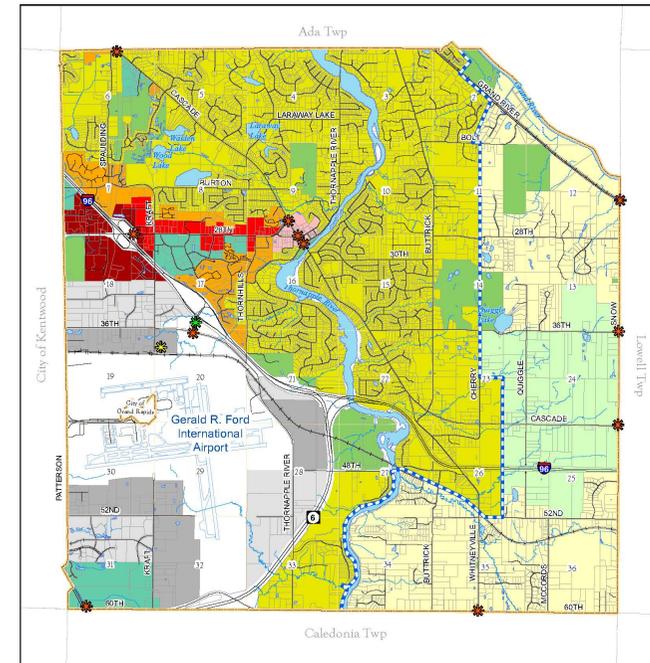
- 2.8/household (greater than Michigan and GR)
- Higher than average % of population aged 5-17 (22.5% avg. is 17%)

2009 Master Plan



Priorities

- Provide a park or green space within every section of the Township (Recreation Goal 4.4)
- Connecting housing, green spaces, and commercial corridors (Recreation Goal 4.7)
- Require a high-level of design in commercial areas, including landscaping standards (Economic Development Goal 5.6)
- Reinforce commercial corridor through signage, plantings, Village Goal 6.1)
- Improve pedestrian accessibility and connectivity within and through the village. (Cascade Village Goal 6.2)



Cascade Charter Township
Kent County, Michigan

Map 15
Future Land Use

Legend

Gateway Feature	Farmland Preservation
Park 'n' Ride	Rural Residential
Rail Station	Suburban Residential
Utility Service Area	Community Residential
	Village Commercial
	General Commercial
	Highway Commercial
	Mixed Use
	Heavy Industrial
	Light Industrial
	Community Facility/ Golf Course

Williams & Works
APRIL 22, 2009

2014 DDA Plan

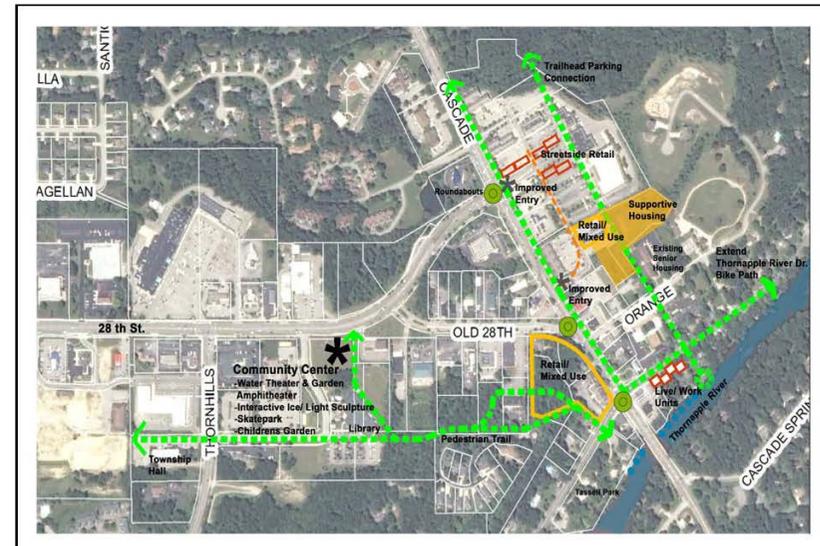
Broad Community Input

- Regular DDA steering committee meetings
- Open House
- Public hearing

TIF Priorities

- Make the Village area pedestrian friendly
- Have activities and destinations for all ages
- Enhance the Village to make it a welcoming destination
- The Village will have an improved recognition as a “place”

GRAPHIC 1. IMPROVEMENTS TO THE 28TH STREET AND VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT AREAS



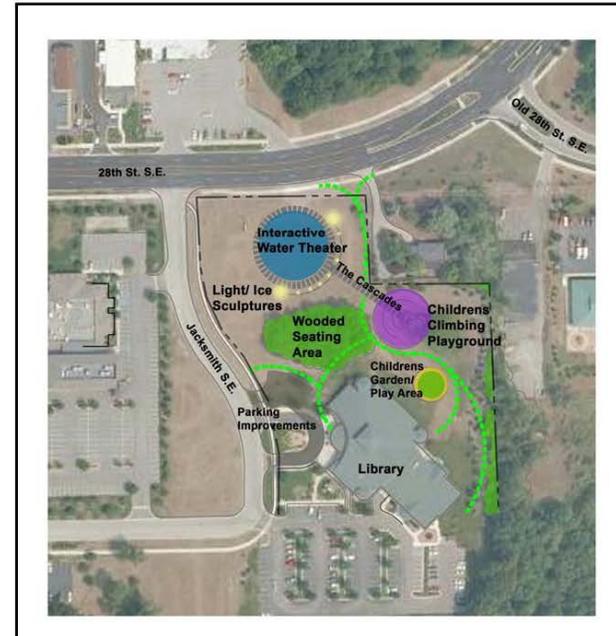
2014 DDA Plan

TIF Priorities

2012-2017

Create community gathering places along 28th, including near the library, such as a community center, skate park, rock climbing, sound park, amphitheater, natural area, and other public facilities

Develop a destination attraction for summer and winter months



Graphic 5.
Community Activity Center concepts for the Township-owned property at Jacksmith and 28th Street.

Broad Community Input

- Recreation survey (natural areas and small neighborhood-scale parks)
- Open House (activities for varying age groups, multi-use, trail, large gatherings)
- Public hearing

Facility Analysis

- Deficiencies (neighborhood parks, playgrounds, facilities for school-aged residents 24% of population)

Goals

- Acquire or negotiate joint ventures with other governmental entities (i.e. the library) to assure access and preservation of natural features, open space, parks, trails) (Goal 4, f)
- Explore options for an all access, inclusive playground. (Goal 5, d)
- Coordinate with the DDA in the revitalization of the Township Village (gathering space) (Goal 7, i)
- Work with the DDA to identify potential sites and properties for future recreational development (Goal 9,c)

2014 Parks & Recreation Plan

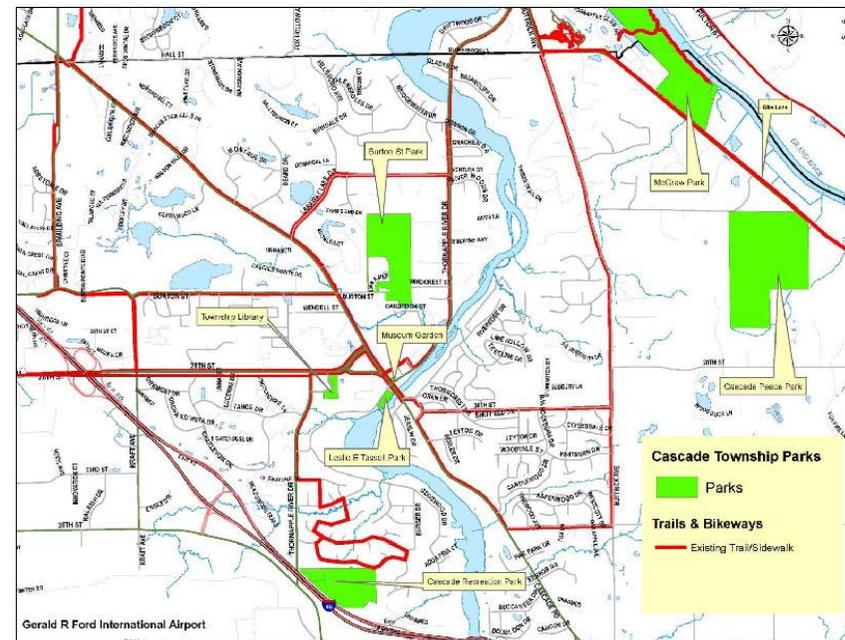


Action Plan

Township Library and its property will be considered and included in area-wide parks and recreation expansion

- Amenities for youth ages 10-18 (residents feel this group is most underserved, yet at highest risk)
- Centrally located
- Adjacent to trail network
- Economic development tool

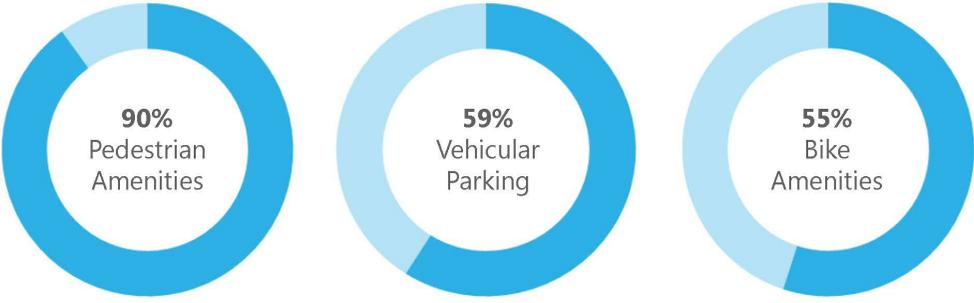
Cascade
Township
Parks, Recreation,
and Open Space
Plan
2014-2019



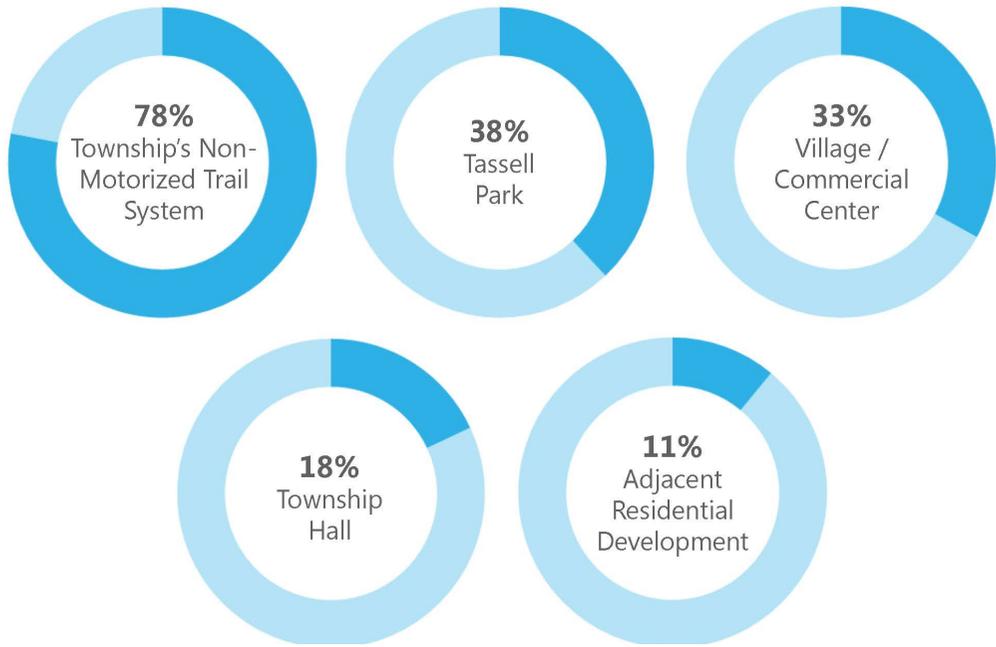
Analysis of Survey Results



What mobility needs should be considered?



What connections are important to make from the community gathering space?



Analysis of Survey Results



What are your desired amenities for the community gathering space?



June 14 Community Input

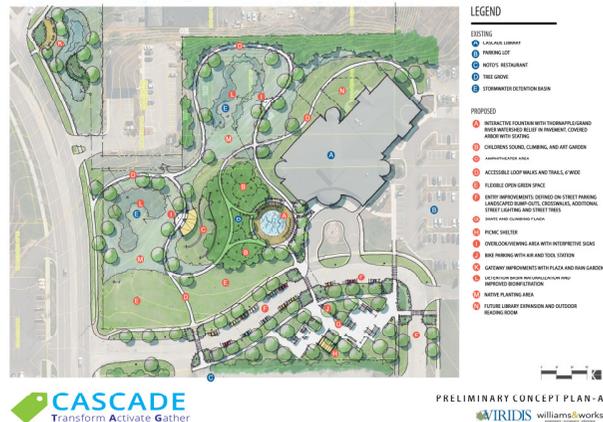
- DESIRED AMENITIES | The following amenities were chosen by stakeholders in order of preference:**
 - Walking paths, native landscaping
 - Venue for music, entertainment and festivals, flexible open green space for casual/social events, seating and viewing areas
 - Shelter/pavilion, public art/sculpture, decorative lighting
 - Educational, environmental or historical interpretive amenities

- PRIORITIES | The following priorities were chosen by stakeholders in order of preference:**
 - Passive/Quiet/Natural
 - Safe and Visible
 - Accessible to all ages and abilities
 - Four-season use
 - Active/Vibrant/Festive

Cascade Township Gathering Place

Please rank the following priorities for the community gathering space in order of importance. (number 1-5)

Accessible to all ages and abilities	4 season use	Passive/Quiet/Natural	Active/Vibrant/Festive	Safe and Visible
4	3	1	5	2
4	3	1	5	2
4	3	1	5	2
2	4	1	5	3
3	5	1	4	2
1	4	3	5	2
3	5	1	4	2
3	1	2	4	5
5	4	3	3	4
3	4	5	2	4
1	5	4	3	2
3	4	5	1	2



June 14 Community Input



Overall Citizen Input Themes

- Skate and climbing plaza with shelter
- Walking paths with seating and overlook areas
- Amphitheater flexible for intimate events (less than 50 people) and larger events (250+ people)
- Water Feature (recirculating from stormwater capture) meandering and cascading through site for sound, sight, and touch. Not designed for human spray and soaking interaction
- Restroom/storage to minimize use of library facilities
- Native upland prairie and wet meadow enhancements to promote flora and fauna biodiversity and reduce stormwater impacts to local watershed as well as provide educational/ interpretive opportunities

June 14 Community Input



Overall Citizen Input Themes

- Improve on-street parking, visual appeal, and pedestrian connectivity by incorporating traffic calming measures and streetscape improvements along Jacksmith Ave.
- Protect and preserve existing tree grove as well as memorial trees near library
- Consider future Library expansion
- Flexible open areas for existing and proposed library outdoor programming
- Proposed improvements that are designed for day-to-day public access will not exceed the capacity of the Township-owned lot or available on-street parking. Large events (4th of July or similar) that require traffic control measures will need to be handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of events.
- Village gateway beautification and stormwater improvements at “triangle lot” (old 28th Street)



LEGEND

EXISTING

- A** CASCADE LIBRARY
- B** PARKING LOT
- C** NOTO'S RESTAURANT
- D** TREE GROVE
- E** STORMWATER DETENTION BASIN
- F** MEMORIAL TREES

PROPOSED

- A** RECIRCULATING CASCADE FOUNTAIN STARTING AT TREE GROVE AND TERMINATING AT BANDSHELL OVERLOOK
- B** CHILDRENS SOUND AND DISCOVERY GARDEN (+/- 8,000 SF)
- C** AMPHITHEATER AREA (+/- 9,000 SF)
- D** ACCESSIBLE LOOP WALKS AND TRAILS (2,200 LF)
- E** FLEXIBLE OPEN GREEN SPACE
- F** ENTRY IMPROVEMENTS: DEFINED ON-STREET PARKING LANDSCAPED BUMP-OUTS, CROSSWALKS, ADDITIONAL STREET LIGHTING AND STREET TREES
- G** SKATE AND CLIMBING PLAZA (+/- 15,000 SF)
- H** PICNIC SHELTER (20'X40')
- I** OVERLOOK/VIEWING AREA
- J** BIKE PARKING WITH AIR AND TOOL STATION
- K** VILLAGE GATEWAY IMPROVEMENTS WITH NEW SIGN AND RAIN GARDEN
- L** DETENTION BASIN NATURALIZATION AND IMPROVED BIOINFILTRATION
- M** NATIVE PLANTING AREA
- N** FUTURE LIBRARY EXPANSION
- O** RESTROOM, STORAGE, AND EVENT KIOSK (20'X20')





Amenities Examples



CLIMBING WALLS

AMPHITHEATER

CASCADING WATER FEATURE

Amenities Examples



READING GARDEN

MUSIC GARDEN



BIKE LOOPS

BIKE REPAIR STATION



SKATE PLAZA



NATIVE LANDSCAPING



BENCHES

Community Input



**Please be sure to share your
input on the comment cards!**

Thank you for coming!