

CITY VIEW

Kalamazoo Awarded Nearly \$38 Million Grant to Reduce Arcadia Creek Flooding

The City of Kalamazoo will receive a nearly \$38 million grant to upgrade stormwater infrastructure and reduce the risk of flooding along the Arcadia Creek near downtown. The grant will help fund a multi-year project to redesign and increase the stormwater capacity of the creek.

When it's completed, about 60 acres of land and 70 homes and buildings will no longer be in a floodplain. It will also make our infrastructure more resilient to increasingly frequent and severe storms. Work will start this year near Westnedge Ave and progress westward in phases until it reaches Oliver St in 2028. A similar project for Arcadia Creek through downtown was successfully completed in the early 1990s.

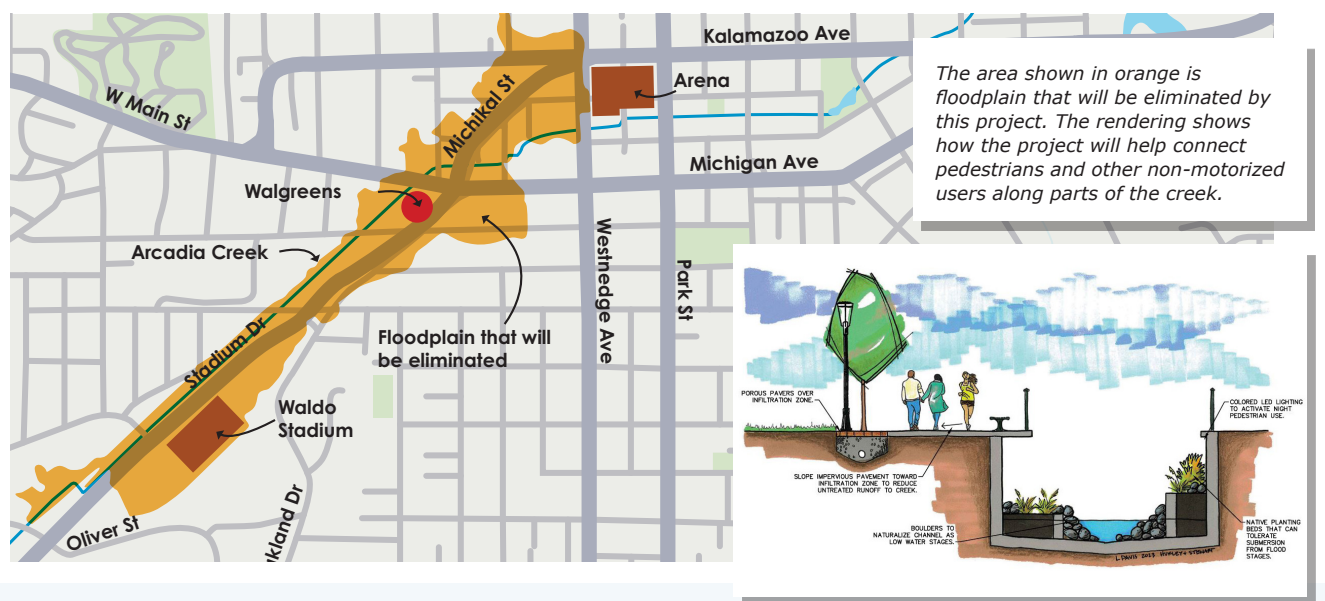
Currently, much of the creek in this area is underground. The infrastructure it flows through is as old as the 1880s in some

areas. The new creek design will uncover more sections of the creek- also known as "Daylighting"- and will help improve the quality of both the water and the environment. It will be coordinated with the upcoming event center and two-way street projects to help create safer connections for pedestrians through the area, too.

The grant funding comes from the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-saving Transportation

(PROTECT) Discretionary Grant Program, made possible by the Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Kalamazoo's grant is the largest of 80 awards nationwide. The developers of the event center also contributed nearly \$5.8 million to the project.

This grant will address flooding in this area of Arcadia Creek, and City staff are continuing to explore grant opportunities to alleviate flooding along Portage Creek and in other parts of the city.



Creating a Connected City: Streets For All

Keep your eyes peeled for construction headed to downtown Kalamazoo — perhaps on a street near you.

Kalamazoo Streets For All will emphasize the goal of safe travel for **all modes of transportation** in the city's downtown.

The campaign will communicate with the community at every step of the way to build awareness and understanding among those who travel downtown and who will experience differing levels of impact during construction work.

Not only will the upcoming work make it safer to navigate downtown Kalamazoo, but it will also:

- Make Downtown Kalamazoo more welcoming and inclusive for all modes of transportation.
- Cultivate a lively, robust atmosphere that increases the amount of time people want to spend downtown.
- Encourage economic prosperity and support local businesses.

The first step in shifting downtown Kalamazoo's traffic flow will begin on Michikal Street.

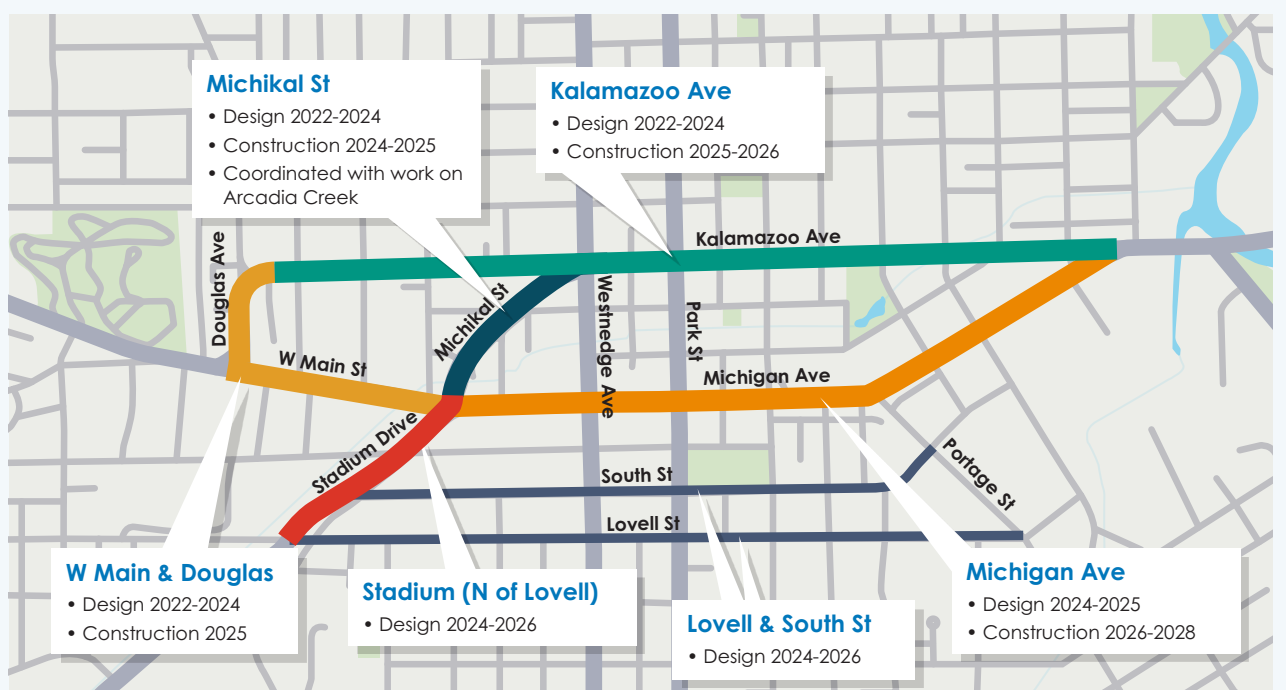
Michikal Street updates in 2024 will include:

- Reconstruction of the street, which will remain one-way for the near term. Once it's able to be converted to two-way, it will have two lanes of traffic heading south toward West Main Street and one lane heading toward Kalamazoo Avenue.
- Sidewalk added to the east side of the street.
- A non-motorized trail on the west side of the street.
- Updating water infrastructure at the intersection of West Main Street, Michikal Street, Michigan Avenue and Stadium Drive.

Work is anticipated to start this year, and additional information will be provided as soon as it is available.

This positive change will lead to long-term prosperity that far outweighs any short-term inconveniences!

We encourage you to stay tuned for additional updates — scan the QR code to sign up for the newsletter!





Observing “No Mow May” Can Help the Local Ecosystem

No Mow May is an initiative during the month of May to let lawns grow undisturbed and give pollinators food and habitat in the early part of the growing season.

In early spring, floral resources may be hard to find, especially in urban and suburban landscapes. By allowing lawns to grow longer, and letting flowers bloom, nectar and pollen become more available to help pollinators thrive.

Not mowing for a few weeks is a simple step in helping the local ecosystem, though it is only part of the solution. It acts as a starting point for moving toward increasing native habitats throughout the urban landscape.

If you participate in No Mow May, you will be exempt from the tall grass and weeds ordinances, but there are still some areas you need to keep mowed (generally near the street, walkways and around the edges of your property). You can find full details at kalamazoocity.org/NoMowMay.

City Releases First Ever Greenhouse Gas Report

Two new reports are now available that detail Kalamazoo's greenhouse gas emissions. One focuses on those attributable to the City of Kalamazoo's municipal activities. The other more broadly looks at emissions from within the city limits.

Different greenhouse gases trap different amounts of heat, so the report measures CO₂e, or carbon dioxide equivalent. It's a standard measure that accounts for the differing impacts between different gases. Data for the reports comes from Consumers Energy and the City's Public Services Department. These reports cover emissions from the year 2022.

The City Commission declared a climate emergency in 2019 and the City's first Community Sustainability Plan was adopted in 2022. The plan calls for these reports to be produced every year, to help plan and evaluate progress towards our goal to become carbon neutral by 2050.

You can read the reports at kalamazoocity.org/sustainability.

Introducing Pre-Approved Housing Plans

To make it easier to build new housing in Kalamazoo, we're excited to introduce Pre-Approved Housing Plans. Twenty-six different sets of plans are now available to be built, including single-family homes, duplexes, fourplexes, and even accessory dwelling units (ADUs). Each set of plans is designed specifically to meet our local codes and fit into Kalamazoo's neighborhoods and lots.

Builders interested in using these plans simply need to apply and pay a package fee for their chosen design. This fee covers all necessary permits and inspections, eliminating the need to apply for them individually. Site inspections are scheduled promptly after payment, and construction could be approved to start in less than a week.

We're working on two more sets of plans for denser housing developments. We will be releasing plans for six- and twelve-unit apartments as soon as they are finished.

If you're interested in learning more, you can view plans or apply to build online at kalamazoocity.org/HousingPlans.

Two New Studies Explore Local Housing Market

Two recently released studies examine the housing market in Kalamazoo. An Analysis of Residential Market Potential studied the current conditions for the market, the potential for new units, and the characteristics of households. The Migration and Movership Analysis explores mobility patterns- where people are moving from and to in the city. Both reports are available at kalamazoocity.org/HousingAnalysis.



The Kik Pool offers daily open and lap swim times, fitness classes, and swim lessons. You can rent it for a party or event too.

Farmers Market Season Starts in May

The Kalamazoo Farmers Market reopens for the season this month at its renovated Bank Street location. It's open Saturdays from 8am to 1pm. Tuesday and Thursday markets start in June, and monthly Night Markets do, too! Visit pfcmarkets.com or find the Kalamazoo Market on social media for complete details.

Kik Pool & Splash Pads Opening Soon

Beat the heat this summer at one of Kalamazoo's splash pads or our community pool, the Kik Pool. Splash pads at LaCrone Park and on Florence St will open for the season on Saturday, May 25. You can enjoy them entirely free during park hours. Just press the button to start the water features.

The Kik Pool will open on Wednesday, June 5. Daily passes are available (\$4-7), or you can buy a season pass for yourself or your family(\$90-155). Season passes are also available for youth (\$40-55), and you can use financial assistance from Kalamazoo Friends of Recreation to pay for them. You can also rent the Kik Pool for parties or events! Visit kzooparks.org/KikPool to learn more.

Park Restrooms & Amenities Open for Season

Restrooms are open, the nets are up, and everything is ready for a summer of fun at our great city parks. Make it a point this season to enjoy some time outdoors with friends, family, and neighbors. City parks offer a ton of fun, with basketball and tennis courts, walking paths, exercise equipment, fishing, kayaking, swimming, disc golf... so many fun options!

Explore a new park or try something new this year! You can view all city parks and amenities at kzooparks.org/parks.

Bike Month Offers Series of Events for All Types of Riders

May is Bike Month, and there are fun & educational events to celebrate cycling all month long! Here are a few things on the horizon:

Kalamazoo-Area Bike Week Starts May 11 and offers daily rides and events in the area.

Bike month in May is a great opportunity to connect with other bicyclists, learn how to ride, explore the new amenities in the city, or just get some exercise in the nice spring weather!



Try a new route, meet some new cyclists, or learn something new! Find all of the details at kalamazoobikeweek.org.

The **Bicycle Show** will return to Bronson Park on Saturday, May 11 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Come check out cool vintage bikes, e-bikes, and other bicycling gear, plus community organizations will be there to share information and resources about biking in the city. There will also be food and live music!

At the **Bike Rodeo** on Wednesday, May 15, kids can learn how to bike safely and make sure their gear is fitted and in tip top shape. It's totally free from 5-7 p.m. at Mayors' Riverfront Park.

National Ride Your Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 17! Leave your car at home for the day and bike in! Or ride your bike every day that week... it is **Bike to Work Week**, after all!

Bike Corral Pilot Moves New Bike Parking Around Downtown Kalamazoo

There's a new option for bike parking downtown! We're excited to introduce a pilot "Bike Corral" that offers 10 parking spaces for bikes in the place of one car parking space. The Corral will move to different locations downtown to see where new permanent bike parking would be most useful. It will be at the northeast corner of Bronson Park during the Bicycle Show, so try it out! You can find more information and locations at kalamazoocity.org/BikeCorral.

Downtown Placemaking Plans in their Final Stages

A collaborative, community effort to reimagine some of our downtown areas is nearly complete. Final designs will be shared at the Bronson Park Bicycle Show on Saturday, May 11.

The areas being considered are Exchange Alley and Farmers Alley, Rose Street Plaza, North Kalamazoo Mall, and Burdick St between Lovell & Cedar. The projects are not only meant to improve the specific areas they are located in but to better connect the downtown area and guide visitors to different amenities. Stop by our table to see the final designs, learn more about this project, and share any feedback you might have!

Tire Recycling Available for City Residents this Summer

City residents can get rid of unwanted scrap tires for FREE on Tuesday, June 11. From 1-7 p.m., you can bring unpainted passenger tires (without rims) to the parking lot at 322 Stockbridge Ave. We'll collect the tires so they can be recycled into other products.

Appointments are required. You can sign up for an appointment and get complete details at kalamazoiconservation.org.

There are two more collections on July 11 in Vicksburg and August 7 in Comstock. All events are open to any Kalamazoo city or county residents.

Historic Preservation Awards will be Presented on May 29

This year's Historic Preservation Awards of Merit will be presented on Wednesday, May 29 at the Kalamazoo Non-Profit Advocacy Coalition (KNAC) at 315 W Michigan Ave. The ceremony will start at 6 p.m. in the Clough Room on the first floor.

The awards honor people or projects that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to preserving local history in Kalamazoo. They are presented annually in May, which is recognized as Historic Preservation Month.

The ceremony is open to the public so join us to learn about these projects and historic preservation work in the city.

Project Starts to Rebuild Sewer, Address Odors

Work is starting on a \$3 million project to rebuild a section of sewer near Graphic Packaging and the Kalamazoo Water Reclamation Plant.

The existing design was built in the 1960s and is too large for current needs. It has drops that cause turbulence (splashing) in the wastewater flow, which can release hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) into the air and may contribute to odors in the area. This project will replace the current sewer with an appropriately sized pipe. It will have a consistent grade so wastewater flows smoothly into the treatment plant, without any turbulence. The new design is also mechanically sealed to prevent air from escaping.

Since 2019, the City has invested more than \$15 million to address odors near the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Air quality sensors have been placed in the area, industrial air filters have put into service, and a number of changes have been made to the treatment process. These investments have made a big difference, and our team remains committed to improving the air quality and reducing odors related to treatment and industrial activity in the area.

Easy Parking throughout Downtown Kalamazoo

Spring and summer mean lots of fun and exciting events throughout Kalamazoo. If Downtown is your destination to take in the action, parking is easy to navigate. There's plenty of parking options, including more than 400 free 90-minute on-street parking spaces, paid parking garages, and lots. There's also on-street metered parking spots throughout the downtown, with prices ranging from \$1.75 per hour to \$3 per day. Parking is free after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all day Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

Visit downtownkalamazoo.org for information on parking, paying tickets, a parking map, and more.

Remember, parking is not allowed on city streets between 2 and 6 a.m. unless signed otherwise.

Cannabis Chamber Schedules First Events

The new Social Equity Cannabis Chamber has scheduled its first two events in Kalamazoo, a community networking and listening session on Thursday, May 30 and a Networking Event for Cannabis Professionals on Thursday, June 27.

The May 30 event is intended for community leaders, residents in Kalamazoo neighborhoods, or others that are interested in opportunities in the cannabis industry. It will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Douglass Community Center.

The June 27 event is a professional networking event for cannabis operators, industry professionals, and advocates. It will be held from 6-8 p.m. at the Foundry.

The Social Equity Cannabis Chamber is a partnership with the Detroit Cannabis Project funded by cannabis tax revenues. Its goal is to share opportunities in this new industry more broadly, particularly with those who have historically been impacted by cannabis prohibition. It provides the knowledge, tools, network, and access to capital to create sustainable cannabis businesses.

Learn more about our partnership with the Detroit Cannabis project and events at detroitcannabisproject.com/kalamazoo-mi.

Beats on Bates, Workout Wednesday Start June 5

Two of Downtown’s favorite event series get started for the season on Wednesday, June 5. Head over after the workday ends, or make a trip downtown to get your workout in, enjoy some live music, or both!

Beats on Bates is a free live music series from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Bates Alley. It offers visitors and locals alike the chance to wind down on a Wednesday evening, grab some food and drinks, and enjoy live music under the beautiful lights of Bates Alley.

Workout Wednesday is a fun & free weekly workout in Bronson Park. Every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m., enjoy a different outdoor workout from a local fitness organization.

Summer Events Start with JumpstArt Weekend June 7-8

JumpstArt weekend is when summer officially starts in Kalamazoo, with major events like the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts Fair, Art on the Mall, the Do-Dah Parade, Kalamazoo Pride, and Concerts in the Park bringing our community together and inviting thousands of visitors to experience the best of Downtown Kalamazoo.

On Friday, June 7 the **KIA Arts Fair** will be in Bronson Park from 3 - 8 p.m., and **Art on the Mall** will be on the Kalamazoo Mall from 12 - 8 p.m. **Kalamazoo Pride** starts at Arcadia Creek Festival Place at 6 p.m.

On Saturday, June 8, the KIA Arts Fair and Art on the Mall continue from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. The **Do-Dah Parade** steps off at 11 a.m., starting on Lovell St near John St. Kalamazoo Pride starts at 12 p.m.

On Sunday, June 9 the **Concerts in the Park** series starts with the Kalamazoo Concert Band live in Bronson park at 4 p.m.

Visit jumpstartkzoo.com or the organizer’s websites for more information.



Lunchtime Live! Returns to Bronson Park Starting June 14

Downtown Kalamazoo’s Friday lunch break is back starting on June 14, the first Lunchtime Live! of the year. Lunchtime Live! brings the community together for a lunch in Bronson Park with live music on the stage and lots of

local vendors and food trucks to serve you. It’s every Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Lunchtime Live! is sponsored by Lake Michigan Credit Union. Find details and the music lineup at kzooarks.org/LunchtimeLive.

First Summer Cinema Showing on June 28

What’s better than a movie outside? Join us this summer for Summer Cinema, a series of free movie showings in our city parks. The first movie will be a drive-in-style showing of The Super Mario Bros. Movie on Friday, June 28 in Spring Valley Park. The next two movies will be chosen by viewers, with showings at Frays Park on July 26 and Crane Park on August 30. Activities start at 6 p.m. and the movie begins at 7.

Mark your calendars! Find more details at kzooarks.org/SummerCinema.



Get your sweat on on Workout Wednesdays, a FREE weekly outdoor workout in Bronson Park.



241 W South Street
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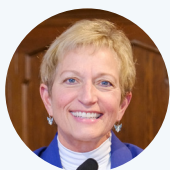


Kalamazoo City Commission

City Commissioners are the elected representatives of Kalamazoo residents. The Commission meets twice each month at City Hall (241 W South Street), typically on the first and third Mondays. Informational Committee of the Whole meetings start at 5 p.m. and Business Meetings start at 7 p.m.



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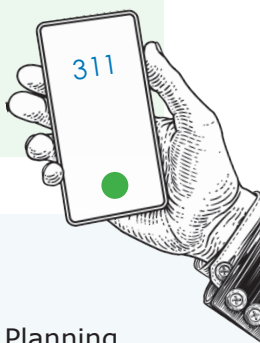


Alonzo Wilson
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Need Help? Just call 311!

Dial 311 for help with any City services or to report any issues. We’re available to help Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you’re outside the city limits, call 337-8000.

Report issues online anytime at kalamazoocity.org/311.



Watch Meetings Live

Meetings of the City Commission, Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, and some other boards and commissions are televised and livestreamed by Public Media Network on Spectrum Channel 189-190, ATT Channel 99, and on the City of Kalamazoo’s Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Meeting Calendar

You can find information about boards and commissions, a meeting calendar, minutes and agendas, how to watch meetings, and more at kalamazoocity.org/meetings.

About City View

City View is an official publication from the City of Kalamazoo. It’s delivered to every household every other month.