2016
CITY OF WOODHAVEN
PARKS AND RECREATION
MASTER PLAN

Adopted February 16, 2016
Amended and Adopted February 20, 2018
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INTRODUCTION

The City of Woodhaven Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for parks and recreation in Woodhaven. The most recent Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted in 2010. It included both short and long-term goals, some of which were accomplished in the following years.

Over the past five years, the City of Woodhaven completed major upgrades to the parks system. Using the master plan as a guide, the City created quality individual and family opportunities within Civic Center Park by constructing an interactive play fountain/splash pad with zero entry area; the Big Timber Playscape, inline skate rink, a skate park; tennis court, dog park, bocce ball courts; football/soccer field; renovated the existing volley ball courts; and installed new shade systems.

The purpose of the current Parks and Recreation Master Plan is to guide recreation planning and development efforts of the City of Woodhaven Parks and Recreation Department over the next five-year period, through 2020. Once adopted, the Plan is the official document to be used by the community to guide decisions regarding parks and recreation. The revised and updated Plan is intended to meet state standards for community recreation planning which are necessary to gain eligibility for grant programs.

WHAT THIS PLAN CONTAINS

This Master Plan follows the format suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) in the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans (2009). The Community Description chapter provides a summary on both the social and physical characteristics of the community. The Administrative Structure chapter includes a description of how parks and recreation services are administered in the community including budget and funding information. The next chapter, Recreation Inventory describes the existing parks and recreational facilities of the community as well as those of the state and the region located nearby. The Public Participation portion of the Plan presents the input received from local officials, staff, and residents, which helped in formulating the Goals and Objectives chapter. The Action Program chapter outlines an action plan and strategies for implementation. The final chapter, Supporting Documents, includes the resolutions and notices documenting the plan’s adoption by City Council.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

The process used to generate the Plan consisted of three phases: background studies, evaluation, and plan development.

1. **Background studies** involved gathering and updating data from existing documents, plans, and from field observations. The data is organized into three main categories: community description, administrative structure, and recreation inventory.

2. The second phase in the planning process included the evaluation and analysis of the data to determine recreation facility deficiencies and needs. Public input to assess needs was sought at this level. A workshop was conducted where members of the public were encouraged to suggest improvements to the City parks and recreation system. Input from City officials and the members of the Recreation Commission was also used.

3. Finally, the last phase in the process involved **plan development** and adoption. Based
on the identified needs, goals and objectives were formulated and a specific action plan and facility improvement schedule developed. Strategies to implement the plan are also discussed.

The following diagram illustrates the planning process and its correspondence to the MDNR format described earlier.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDNR Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Background Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Inventory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficiency and Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plan Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The City of Woodhaven recognized the importance of public participation in the recreation planning process. This Master plan was developed with input from City officials, staff, community stakeholders, and residents. All meetings of the Recreation Commission were open to the public. The Plan was approved by Woodhaven’s Recreation Commission on January 11, 2016. Finally, the Plan was subject to a public hearing following the 30-day public comment period, and prior to the City Council adoption on February 16, 2016.

Table 1. Input Participation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Input Participation</th>
<th>Community Description &amp; Administrative Structure</th>
<th>Public Input</th>
<th>Goal Formulation</th>
<th>Action Program</th>
<th>Public Hearing</th>
<th>Plan Adoption</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Council</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Commission</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Staff</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Stakeholders</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Residents</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

The City of Woodhaven is located in the southern portion of Wayne County in southeast Michigan approximately 20 miles south of Detroit and 40 miles north of Toledo along Interstate 75. About 6.5 square miles in area, Woodhaven is located in the Detroit Downriver area, which is comprised of Detroit suburbs located south of the City along the Detroit River. The Downriver area is roughly bounded by River Rouge to the north, the Detroit River to the east, the county’s southern border to the south, and I-275 and I-94 to the west. A number of organizations work to enhance the quality of life in and attract investment to Downriver communities such as the Downriver Community Conference and the Southern Wayne County Regional Chamber.

Figure 1. Location Map

Wayne County is located in the west area of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) region. SEMCOG is the regional planning agency that conducts planning studies and maintains a comprehensive database of information about each community it serves. It is a source for some of the population and land use related data included in this report.

In planning for the future recreation needs of the City, it is essential to understand the community being planned for – both the community of people to be served and the recreation resources which the community has to offer. A determination of residents’ needs will define what types of recreational opportunities are desired, while an evaluation of the existing recreational resources will identify where and how these opportunities may be provided. The purpose of the first few chapters of the Master Plan is to provide an overview of the community’s characteristics and recreation resources with the goal of understanding the unique features and opportunities the community offers.
**Population and Housing**

Woodhaven’s population increased from 11,631 in 1990 to 12,530 in 2000. The 2000 number represents an 8 percent increase over the 1990 number. In 2010, the population growth leveled off with 12,875 persons residing in the City (a 2.8% increase). According to SEMCOG, the City’s population is projected to be 13,026 by the year 2020, and will remain stagnant or slightly decrease through 2040.

In 2000, the total number of households in Woodhaven amounted to 4,708, a 19 percent increase from 1990, and increased to 5,159 households in 2010. According to SEMCOG, the City’s total number of households is projected to be 5,217 by 2040, resulting in a stagnation in growth. This can be attributed to the City’s decreasing household size and is consistent with region-wide trends toward an overall decrease in household size, as well as the limited amount of developable area available for residential development within the City.

The number of housing units increased from 4,140 in 1990 to 4,850 in 2000, and increased to 5,508 in 2010. This represents a 17 percent increase between 1990 and 2000, and another 15 percent between 2000 and 2010. SEMCOG estimates that Woodhaven currently has 5,514 housing units (July 2015), a 10 percent increase over the 2000 number. The majority of the housing units, 60 percent, are single-family homes. Multi-family units account for 25 percent of the units. The remaining units include manufactured houses, townhouses/attached condos, and duplexes.

In summary, there has been a steady increase in population, households, and housing units between 1990 and 2000, through 2010. SEMCOG’s forecast shows that this trend will level off for both population and households, while household size will continue to decrease.

**Table 2. Population, Household, and Housing Units**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>11,631</td>
<td>12,530</td>
<td>12,875</td>
<td>12,521</td>
<td>12,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households</td>
<td>3,963</td>
<td>4,708</td>
<td>5,159</td>
<td>5,217</td>
<td>5,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Units</td>
<td>4,140</td>
<td>4,850</td>
<td>5,508</td>
<td>5,514</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household Size</td>
<td>3.18</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>2.36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

n.a.: not available.
Source: SEMCOG

Children age 17 or under make up 22 percent of the total population in the City of Woodhaven (a decrease of 3 percent from 2000), while the number of people 65 years and over is 12 percent (an increase of 5 percent from 2000). Projections by SEMCOG indicate that while the proportion of children will decrease to 18 percent of the population by 2040, the number of people 65 years and over will significantly increase to represent 22 percent of the total population by 2040.
LAND USE PATTERNS AND DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

According to the City’s Master Land Use Plan, the predominant land use in Woodhaven is single family residential land uses (27%). Industrial land makes up 20 percent of Woodhaven’s land area, while vacant land comprises over 18 percent of the City’s land area. The other land uses occupy approximately 35 percent of the City’s total area. Parks and recreation land uses make up only about 6 percent of the City’s land area. Figure 2 illustrates the existing land uses within the City of Woodhaven and Table 3 presents the land cover area for each land use category.

Table 3. 2012 Land Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single-Family Residential</td>
<td>932.9</td>
<td>26.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple-Family</td>
<td>171.0</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufactured Housing</td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td>365.3</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial</td>
<td>700.2</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional</td>
<td>188.5</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>217.4</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation, Communication, &amp; Utility</td>
<td>248.7</td>
<td>7.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>650.9</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Acres</td>
<td>3503.0</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Woodhaven Master Plan, 2012
Figure 2. 2012 Existing Land Use

EXISTING LAND USE
City of Woodhaven
Wayne County

Despite the increase in population and housing units from 1990 to 2010, the SEMCOG region has experienced a decline in residential construction. Table 4 shows that this trend is also true for the City of Woodhaven, which has seen a significant decline in residential building permits issued since 2004.

Table 4. Residential Building Permits, 2000-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Single Family</th>
<th>Two Family</th>
<th>Attach Condo</th>
<th>Multi Family</th>
<th>Total Units</th>
<th>Total Demos</th>
<th>Net Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>81</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>285</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>727</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>723</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SEMCOG

The City has planned for future growth with the update of its Master Land Use Plan. While modest growth in residential and commercial uses is envisioned, a decrease in industrial land use is planned. This would be replaced with mixed and downtown uses which would include areas devoted to a mix of retail, office, and residential uses.
NATURAL FEATURES

The City of Woodhaven is characterized by relatively flat terrain. The land surface of the City varies by approximately 30 feet from its lowest point to its highest point. In general, the lowest elevations occur in the eastern portion of the City and elevations rise towards the west. The lowest elevation is 580 feet (NGDV) and is located near Lower Constitution Park and the abutting utility corridor. The highest elevation is 610 feet in the northwest portion of the City adjacent to Dix-Toledo Road.

Half of the City is characterized by the Hoytville Silty Clay Loam soil association. According to the Wayne County Soil Survey, this association was created by clayey glacial till and modified by former lake waters. It is composed of somewhat poorly drained to poorly drained soils, located on low-lying, flat topography. The Blount Loam soil association is found along the eastern edge of the City and makes up approximately 18 percent of the City. It is formed in loamy glacial till. Nappanee Silt Loam and Pewamo Loam are the next most important soil associations, making up about 11 percent of Woodhaven’s land area.

There are two major floodplains in Woodhaven: an eastern and western floodplain. The eastern floodplain is predominantly a 100-year floodplain and runs from King Road to Vreeland Road, covering a majority of the area east of Allen road. The western floodplain is a mixed 100- and 500-year floodplain, extending in a southeasterly direction from northwestern Woodhaven, near Carter Road, to the southern border of the City near the intersection of Vreeland and Allen roads.

The great majority of the City lies in the Detroit River watershed, except for a small portion located in the southwest section of the City which is in the Huron River watershed. According to the National Wetland Inventory map, there are a dozen small wetland areas scattered in Woodhaven. Woodlands are found in the center, east, and north of the City, with isolated stands of trees located to the west of I-75.

The City of Woodhaven’s natural features are depicted in Figure 3 on the following page.
Figure 3. Natural Features
Today, the City’s woodlands and wetlands are fragmented by roads, building, and lawns. Historically, as is depicted in Figure 4, most of upland area of Woodhaven was covered a beech-sugar maple forest, while a black ash swamp and mixed hardwood swamp was included in the northwestern portion of the City. Abutting the swamp areas to the northwest was a wet prairie.

Figure 4. Pre-settlement Vegetation Circa 1800

Source: City of Woodhaven Master Plan, 2007
**Planning Initiatives**

While change is inevitable and growth in population, household, and housing has occurred, the City of Woodhaven is committed to managing that growth to enhance economic benefit, recreational activities, and overall quality of life for City residents.

Various local and regional planning efforts have taken place in the City of Woodhaven that have relevance to the current plan. They include:

- The 2017 Master Plan for the City of Woodhaven
- Efforts led by the Downtown Development Authority
- Trails and Greenways

**2017 City of Woodhaven Master Plan**

The City’s Master Plan includes several priorities that relate to parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation facilities and services in the City. They include the following:

- **Goal: Promote the use of non-motorized facilities throughout Woodhaven:**
  - Identify and prioritize road areas where additional pedestrian safety measures are needed, and determine appropriate improvement techniques.
  - Promote construction of a network of bicycle paths connecting residential areas with destinations such as Downtown, neighborhood shopping areas, schools, and parks, including a bridge over Marsh Creek at east end of Carter.
  - Develop and/or refine standards that require non-motorized facilities as a part of all new development.
  - Encourage non-motorized linkages with neighboring communities through participation in the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative and similar programs.

- **Goal: Maintain existing City services and public facilities, and promote the growth of public services consistent with the needs of the future population:**
  - Follow the most cost-effective paths when providing facilities and services. Evaluate opportunities for partnering with neighboring communities to provide services and facilities, such as recreational opportunities, where feasible and desirable.

- **Goal: Continue to improve the City’s parks system and recreational facilities:**
  - Provide enhanced access to existing parks and open space areas.
  - Evaluate service areas of the City’s existing parks and target new park site acquisition to underserved areas.
  - Seek out sites for new parks that incorporate natural features or protect important natural resources.
  - Maintain a balance between active and passive recreational opportunities (e.g., ballfields as well as nature areas).
  - Maintain existing recreational programming, and encourage recreational...
programming to continue to be responsive to changing demands of Woodhaven’s population.

- Implement Woodhaven’s Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and pursue the continued development and implementation of a regular cycle of five-year Recreation Plans.

- Consider results from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan surveys when making decisions regarding development of new recreational facilities and programs.

- Seek grants, contributions, and dedications to accomplish improvements to the parks system and recreational facilities and programs.

- Coordinate efforts to provide parks and recreation services and facilities with neighboring communities through joint development and/or operation.

- Participate in regional efforts such as the Heritage Water Trail, the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative, and the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge.

**Downtown Development Authority**

The purpose of the City of Woodhaven Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is to preserve, beautify, and unify the downtown to enhance the quality of life and enable an economically prosperous future. This committee works to improve the downtown’s image by enhancing its physical appearance. In addition to buildings, the DDA oversees the design of streetscapes, parking areas, signs, sidewalks, and promotional materials within the downtown.

The Downtown Development Authority has contributed to improving Woodhaven parks with funding to purchase landscaping materials, signage, and waste receptacles. Funding was also provided for upgrades to the Veteran’s Memorial, the dog park, and skate park.

**Trails and Greenways**

In 2001, 21 communities along with many business partners developed the Downriver Linked Greenway Initiative, a master plan that established an interconnected system of trails for bicycling and walking in the Detroit Downriver area. The plan identified several levels of pathways with regional, primary, and local non-motorized paths.

In 2006, the seven-county region of southeast Michigan updated the Southeast Michigan Greenways Vision to reflect the desired non-motorized connections in the region. This initiative was facilitated by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. Counties worked together with local municipalities and community interest groups to develop a long-term vision for a connected system of greenways and trails. The Wayne County Regional Trails and Greenways Vision was produced by holding several workshops to gather input. Figure 5 depicts the vision for the Woodhaven area, identifying the regional framework in which Woodhaven belongs.
Figure 5. Regional Greenways Vision

Source: Greenways Collaborative, 2006
Pathway System
Over the past several years, Woodhaven has been implementing a City-wide vision for pathways. Past and current results from online community surveys and from public workshops demonstrate the high priority residents place on current and future pathways within the City and access to the regional non-motorized system.

The City supports the continued development of the pathway system and is committed to ensuring routes connect residents to local park and recreation facilities, schools, business districts, and the regional linked greenways system. The commitment to a regional plan began in the summer of 2000, when many Downriver communities, institutions and individuals joined forces to create the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative (DLGI). The committee formed to coordinate the Downriver communities’ development efforts in regard to non-motorized trails which consists of regional, Downriver, and locally significant pathways. The Regional System will have the ability to accommodate large volumes of users of various types and abilities. This Regional System is conceptually proposed to traverse the I-275 corridor, the Rouge River, and Jefferson Avenue (Detroit River).

The Downriver Primary System has four major segments:
- a north/south connector which travels through Flat Rock, Woodhaven, Brownstown, Taylor, and Allen Park;
- an east/west connector which is proposed through Huron Township, Taylor, Southgate, Wyandotte, and Lincoln Park;
- an east/west connector which is proposed through Huron Township, Brownstown Township, and Trenton; and
- a non-motorized connection from the Regional System along Jefferson Avenue in Trenton along the Detroit River and the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge.

Since the inception of the DLGI, the City of Woodhaven has been a steadfast partner in the planning process and has been committed to opening the regional pathway system to the I-275 Connector and back to the Detroit River. The region’s rich history extends from the river to beyond Huron Township.

Beginning with the 2010 plan and continuing through 2017 the City has installed pathways along major roadways and greenways creating a loop connecting non-motorized access to key destinations within the City.

Completed projects include:
- **Hall Road** – King Road to Van Horn Road
- **Van Horn Road** – Allen Road to Cabot Drive
- **Allen Road** – King Road to Van Horn Road
- **West Road** – Connector over I-75 Expressway

The West Road Connector was funded through a $2.5 million MDOT/TAP grant matched with City funds. The project connects existing sidewalks on the east and west sides of I-75. The connector will be a major link opening the system to the I-275 corridor and the Detroit River. This major development also provides an east/west connector to parklands, commercial recreation facilities, and small businesses that did not exist before 2017.
The I-75 connector will also link to the newly developed Westwood Drive and planned Westwood Trail on the east side of the I-75 corridor which connects West and Van Horn Roads. The Westwood Trail will provide users the option to exit the commercial portion of the trail as they head to and from the Detroit River and western areas of the system.

The Westwood Trail will link the new nature area which acts as a natural buffer between the commercial district and the expressway. Users will eventually be able to use a scenic trail coming from either West or Van Horn Roads. The Westwood Trail will also provide a pedestrian and bicycle trail to a planned regional soccer/lacrosse sports facility set for construction in 2018.

Future Pathway Projects include:

- Construct shared use path connecting Civic Center Park trails to Van Horn Road
- Construct shared use path along proposed Westwood Road connecting West Road and Van Horn
- Construct pathway loop connecting Westwood Road pathway to Woodhaven Nature Area
- Construct pathway route within the floodplain connecting Van Horn and Vreeland Roads

The King Road pathway running from Allen to Hall Roads will eventually connect to I-275 and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks to a north-south off-road existing pathway in Trenton.

The City’s current Pathway Plan, illustrated in Figure 6, shows the major pathway routes.
Figure 6. Woodhaven Pathways Plan

ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The City of Woodhaven Recreation Commission was established in 1976 under Public Act 156 of 1917. The eight-member Recreation Commission includes citizen members that are appointed by City Council. The Commission is an advisory body to City Council. It develops plans for the development and improvement of the City parks, and advises on the management of parks and recreation.

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of parks and recreation services in Woodhaven is the responsibility of the Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks and Recreation Director is responsible for all City park activities and programs, assists with the Recreation Commission involvement, promotes the role of parks within the City of Woodhaven, and serves as a liaison between the City Council and the Recreation Commission.

While parks are planned by the Parks and Recreation Department, maintenance is the responsibility of the Department of Public Services. The Department of Public Services Director is responsible for all park maintenance. The Parks and Recreation Director and the Department of Public Services Director report to the City Administrator who, in turn, reports to City Council. Figure 7, below, illustrates the organizational structure of the City of Woodhaven as it relates to parks and recreation services.

Figure 7. City of Woodhaven Organizational Structure
FUNDING AND BUDGET

Funding for parks and recreation is appropriated from the City general fund. A portion of the Department of Public Services’ fund is specifically allocated for the maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. As shown in Table 5, expenditures for parks and recreation have varied from about $579,815 in 2014 to $642,522 in 2016. Additional funds are designated for the park’s maintenance through the Department of Public Services. Additional revenues also come from gifts, sponsorships, and donations.

Table 5. Park and Recreation Budget Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016 proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use &amp; Admissions</td>
<td>$154,616</td>
<td>$164,845</td>
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<td>Community Center Rental</td>
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<td>$24,200</td>
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<td>Park Pavilion Rental</td>
<td>$1,090</td>
<td>$1,260</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
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<td>Misc. Revenues</td>
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<td>$61,419</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>$250,550</td>
<td>$263,050</td>
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<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation Department</td>
<td>$568,864</td>
<td>$599,124</td>
<td>$608,888</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation Commission</td>
<td>$2,675</td>
<td>$2,325</td>
<td>$9,634</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Center</td>
<td>$8,376</td>
<td>$58,768</td>
<td>$24,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$579,915</td>
<td>$660,217</td>
<td>$642,522</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Woodhaven Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating programming efforts with neighboring communities including Brownstown Township, and the cities of Trenton and Riverview. Area schools, volunteers, service clubs, community groups, government agencies, and private businesses play an active role in supporting parks and recreation in the City of Woodhaven.

Woodhaven/Brownstown Schools include a number of athletic fields and other recreation facilities that are open for leagues. The City offers Youth Baseball, Men’s Softball, and Coed Leagues. The active athletic groups providing services in the City are the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), Woodhaven Warriors Junior Football, Woodhaven Hockey Association, Junior Warriors Wrestling Club, and the Michigan Youth Flag Football. These organizations use the facilities offered by the City and the schools.

Service clubs and community groups have also played a significant role in providing volunteer labor and financial support for park facilities and programs. Recent park volunteer opportunities include assistance with the Easter Bunny Breakfast, Community Spring Clean-up, Uncle Sam Jam Celebration, the Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Hallohaven, Supper with Santa, and the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and the 2015 Downriver Senior Olympics hosted by the City of Woodhaven. The clubs and groups include:
• Civic and other organizations: City of Woodhaven DDA
  Woodhaven/Brownstown School District
  Wayne County TEFAP
  American Cancer Society (Relay for Life)
  Michigan Humane Society (Mega March for Animals)
• Sports organizations & clubs: American Youth Soccer Organization
  Woodhaven Hockey Association
  Junior Warriors Wrestling Club
  Michigan Youth Flag Football
  Woodhaven Band Boosters
• Local service clubs: Woodhaven Garden Club
  Woodhaven Senior Citizens
• Fraternal organizations: Kiwanis Club
  Goodfellows
  Loyal Order of Moose
  Woodhaven-Browstown Rotary Club
• Scouting groups: Boy Scouts of America
  Girl Scouts of America
• Land conservancies: Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
• Private businesses: Meijers
  Wal Mart
  Farm Bureau – J.C. Muzzy-Moczydlowsky

Easter Bunny Breakfast
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RECREATION INVENTORY

The residents of the City of Woodhaven have a variety of available recreational resources at the local level as well as at the regional, county, and state levels. There are also a host of public and private schools as well as privately-owned facilities in the area. This section describes these recreational facilities. The information was derived from a variety of sources including previous documents and a field survey of the parks.

CITY OF WOODHAVEN PARKS

The City of Woodhaven currently operates seven parks totaling over 116 acres of land. Figure 10 illustrates these parks as well as the community facilities in Woodhaven.

In 2015, the Recreation Department completed a safety audit of playground equipment and safety surfacing throughout the community parks. The purpose of the audit was to identify non-conforming equipment and designs, installation problems, and environmental conditions that could pose hazards to park users. The audit utilized the standards of care established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM).

Bates Park

Located in the northwest part of the City, Bates Park is a 3.8-acre park north of Bates Elementary School. While the school grounds include playgrounds, athletic fields, and parking, the park includes:

- Multi-purpose field
- A small ball field

Bates Park
Figure 8. City of Woodhaven Parks and Community Facilities

Figure 9. Civic Center Park Existing Facilities
Civic Center Park
With over 71 acres, Civic Center Park is the largest park in the City. It is centrally located, south of West Road, and incorporates City Hall and the Community Center. This community park is a City landmark visible from motorists traveling along I-75. The park contains the following recreation facilities:

- Gazebo
- Memorial
- Fountain
- Football field
- Parking areas (2)
- Skating rink
- Baseball fields (4 fields, 2 lighted)
- Skate Park
- Inline Skate Rink
- Tennis and Pickleball Courts
- Safety Town
- Splash Pad
- Sled hill
- Picnic pavilion/restrooms
- Playground (2)
- Inclusive Playground
- Sports Practice Fields
- Sand volleyball courts (2)
- Concession Building/Restrooms
- Paved pathways
- Fitness Trail
- Dog Park (small & large)
- Bocce Ball Courts (2)
- Horseshoe Courts (4)
- Disc Golf Course
Westwood Nature Area

The 100-acre Westwood Property was donated to the City by the Ford Motor Company in 2017. Bordered to the south, east, and west by the Clee Drain, the property represents one of the largest publically accessible natural areas remaining in Woodhaven. Wetlands and open ponds are scattered across the property. Roughly 30 acres of the site is forested.

Development plans include local trails throughout the area with connection to the Westwood Road pathway, an ADA compliant parking lot, pond and wetland overlooks, a possible picnic pavilion and/or comfort station, and park amenities such as benches, bike racks, and trash receptacles. Soccer fields are proposed for the southwest corner of the property. A tree program, stewardship plan, and educational programs are also under development. Safety and general maintenance upgrades are ongoing.

**Figure 10. Westwood Property Proposed Development**
Constitution Park
Located in the southeast part of the City within a residential subdivision, Constitution Park is a neighborhood park containing a total of 15.8 acres of land bisected by Blakely Drain. The upper portion of the park is accessible from Bradford Road while the lower portion is accessible from Montebello and Maywood roads and includes the following facilities:

- Multi-purpose field
- 2 playgrounds
- Paved pathway
- Picnic pavilion

Deerfield Park
Deerfield Park is a neighborhood park located along I-75 in the north part of the City within Woodhall Forest Subdivision. It contains 5.1 acres with:

- Playground
- Picnic pavilion
Heritage I Park
Heritage I Park is located in the west part of the City within Heritage Square Subdivision. It has 5 acres of land with the following facilities:

- Picnic pavilion
- Playground equipment
- Paved pathway

Heritage IV Park
Heritage IV Park is also located in the west part of the City within Heritage Square Subdivision. It has 5.9 acres of land with the following facilities:

- Playground equipment (Removed old structure, installed new one in 2015)
- Swingset
- Small picnic pavilion
- Paved pathway

Woodhaven Woods Park
Woodhaven Woods Park is located in the northeast part of the City and is accessible from Mayfair Road. It is a 10-acre open space along Blakely Drain.
**SCHOOL FACILITIES**
In addition to the City parks, there are schools offering recreation opportunities to the residents of the City of Woodhaven. These facilities are shown on Figure 10 and are briefly described as follows.

**Bates Elementary School**
Located in the northwest part of the City, it includes about 10.4 acres of land with:

- 2 ball fields
- 2 soccer fields
- 1 basketball court
- Play structure
- Playground equipment
- Indoor gymnasium

**Erving Elementary School**
Located south of Civic Center Park on Hall Road, Erving Elementary includes 8.5 acres of land with:

- 2 ball fields
- 2 soccer fields
- Play structures
- Playground equipment
- Fitness area
- Indoor gymnasium

**Patrick Henry Middle School**
Located immediately south of Erving Elementary School, Patrick Henry Middle School includes 21.6 acres of land with:

- 1 baseball fields
- 1 basketball court
- Indoor gymnasium

**Weiss Elementary School**
Located in the south part of the City, Weiss Elementary School contains 12.1 acres of land with:

- 1 ball field
- 3 basketball courts
- 2 play structures
- Playground equipment
- Indoor gymnasium

**Yake Elementary School**
Located in the northeast part of the City, Yake Elementary School contains 13.1 acres of land with:

- 2 ball fields
- 2 basketball courts
- 2 play structures
- Playground equipment
- Paved pathway
- Indoor gymnasium

**Woodhaven High School**
Located on Van Horn Road east of Telegraph Road in Brownstown Township, the school
facilities include:

- Football Field
- Running Track
- Soccer Field
- Varsity Baseball Field
- Varsity Softball Field
- 2 Recreation baseball/softball fields
- 8 Tennis Courts
- Swimming Pool
- Wrestling Room
- Fitness/weight Room
- Theatre
- Cafeteria

**RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

The City of Woodhaven offers outstanding youth and adult team and individual sport opportunities and special events to City residents and non-residents. The programs listed below are offered by the City of Woodhaven Parks and Recreation Department.

**Special Events:**

Uncle Sam Jam
Easter Bunny Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt
Baseball Kick-off Concerts in the Park
Mother & Son Bowling

**Community Travel:**

Theater (Various Venues) Concerts (Various Venues)
Parks, Nature Center, Color Tours and Orchards Sporting Events

**Adult Activities:**

Adult Dodgeball Total Body Sculpt
Cardio Aerobics Aquacise
Deep Water Aquacise Adult Martial Art
Cross Training Tai Chi
Adult Softball Pilates
Zumba Bootcamp Yoga

**Seniors:**

Chair Exercise Class Senior Club
Downriver Senior Olympic Games Luncheon Series
Zumba Bocce Ball
Self Defense Meals on Wheels
Pickleball Health Series

Men’s Softball League & Co-ed League
Aerobics
Aqua Zumba
Pound: Rockout-Workout
Line Dancing
Health & Wellness Series
Off Road Vehicle Safety
Snowmobile Safety
Marine Safety
Painter Workshops
Drop-In Painting
Co-Ed Sand Volleyball
Puppy and Dog Obedience

Travel Program Tai Chi
Theme Parties (Holidays & Sports) Walking Program
Horseshoes Transportation
A Matter of Balance Senior Golf League
Afternoon Tea Party
Youth:
Learn to Swim Program
Martins Swim Club
Preschool Art Classes
Youth T-Ball
I League
Boys Baseball, 18 years & under
Girls Softball
Babysitting Workshop
After School Sports
Art Around the World
Youth Flag Football
Speed & Agility Clinics
Safety Town
Gymnastics
Yoga N’ Books
After School Craft Spectacular
Park Playground Program
Youth Tennis Program
Dodgeball
Kids in the Kitchen
Pre-K Sports
Preschool Music
Self Defense/Karate
Cheerleading

There are also other organizations providing recreation programs in Woodhaven. They include the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO), the Woodhaven Warriors Junior Football, Woodhaven Hockey Association, Junior Warriors Wrestling Club, and the Michigan Youth Flag Football.

REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

Although there are no state or county parks within the City of Woodhaven, a variety of major regional recreational facilities and opportunities are available nearby to residents. There are over 2,000 acres of parkland owned by Wayne County Parks, over 6,700 acres of state or federally owned land and recreational facilities, and an additional 6,150 acres of parkland from the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA). These facilities are considered regional recreational facilities. They are large facilities that provide opportunities such as camping, swimming, boating, fishing,
hunting, hiking, and golfing which are typically beyond the ability of a local municipality to provide. Figure 10 depicts the location of the regional parks around Woodhaven while Table 6 lists the recreational activities they offer.

**Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge**

One of the largest regional recreation facilities near Woodhaven is the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, which is located along the Detroit River south of Wyandotte. It is along the major flyway for many migratory birds and a great place to see waterfowl. The refuge includes 465 acres of islands, coastal wetlands, marshes, shoals, and waterfront lands along both the Detroit River and the Lake Erie shorelines. It contains Humbug Marsh, Grassy Island, and Mud Island. The refuge manages land for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and for Detroit Edison and includes, within its boundaries, several existing parks and state game areas.
Table 6. Regional Recreation Facilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wayne County Parks</th>
<th>HCMA Parks</th>
<th>State &amp; Federal Land</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crosswinds Marsh</td>
<td>1,000 Ac.</td>
<td>Elizabeth Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,183 Ac.</td>
<td>1,162 Ac.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lake Erie Metropark</td>
<td>1,607 Ac.</td>
<td>Lower Rouge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oakwoods Metropark</td>
<td>1,758 Ac.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lower Huron Metropark</td>
<td>1,258 Ac.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Willow Metropark</td>
<td>1,531 Ac.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Erie State Game Area</td>
<td>1,519 Ac.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pointe Mouillee State Game Area</td>
<td>3,466 Ac.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sterling State Park</td>
<td>1,300 Ac.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge</td>
<td>465 Ac.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passive Activities</th>
<th>Picnicking</th>
<th>Play Areas</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
<th>Paved Trail</th>
<th>Nature Trail</th>
<th>Hiking Trail</th>
<th>Equestrian Trail</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Water Activities</td>
<td>Swimming Beach</td>
<td>Swimming Pool</td>
<td>Spray Park</td>
<td>Wave Pool</td>
<td>Boating</td>
<td>Boat Rental</td>
<td>Canoe/Kayak Rental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Activities</td>
<td>Ice Skating</td>
<td>Tobogganing</td>
<td>Sledding</td>
<td>Cross-country Skiing</td>
<td>Ski Rental</td>
<td>Nature Center</td>
<td>Wildlife Viewing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive Facilities</td>
<td>Ball Fields</td>
<td>Court Games</td>
<td>Skate Park</td>
<td>Disk Golf</td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>Golf Course</td>
<td>Marina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Court &amp; Turf Games</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
State Recreation Areas
There are several state-owned facilities located within a short drive of Woodhaven including Sterling State Park, Pointe Mouillee State Game Area, and Erie State Game Area. The state-owned facilities provide opportunities such as hunting, fishing, camping, swimming, boating, and hiking.

Huron-Clinton Metroparks
The Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority operates more than a dozen parks in southeast Michigan. The parks closest to Woodhaven include Lower Huron, Willow, and Oakwoods Metroparks along the Huron River, and Lake Erie Metropark on Lake Erie’s shoreline. They provide a wide range of recreation opportunities including picnicking, play, hiking, swimming, boating, fishing, golf, court games, cross-country skiing, ice-skating, tobogganing, and sledding.

Wayne County Parks
Wayne County Parks also provide other large parkland areas providing opportunities for active sports, picnicking, exercise, play, and nature viewing. The Lower Rouge Parkway, Crosswinds Marsh, and Elizabeth Park are the closest of the County Parks to Woodhaven. The Lower Rouge Parkway is a greenway along the Rouge River including three park areas: Colonial, Inkster, and Venoy parks, which include active sports fields, picnic areas, playground, and restrooms. Crosswinds Marsh, located west of Woodhaven in Sumpter Township, includes 1,000 acres of wetland preserve offering hiking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, picnicking, canoeing, fishing, and a variety of environmental education programs. Historic Elizabeth Park consists of 162 acres of land along the Detroit River featuring a Victorian shelter and a riverwalk. Activities include softball, fishing, cycling, in-line skating, hiking, cross-country skiing, and ice-skating.

Elizabeth Park

Crosswinds Marsh
**Comparison to Recreation Standards**

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has classified parks and recommended an appropriate amount of parkland for a given population size. Although these guidelines are useful in pointing out deficiencies, a community’s recreation system should be tailored to meet the needs of the community and not based on national guidelines.

According to the NRPA, parks and open spaces are categorized as mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, and preserves. The mini, neighborhood, and community parks are the *close-to-home* parks, designed to satisfy the recreational needs of local communities within a service radius of up to two miles. All City Parks are considered *close-to-home* parks. According to NRPA standards, the amount of *close-to-home* parkland recommended is 6.25 to 10.5 acres for every 1,000 residents.

Regional parks are parks that serve a broader area than community parks and focus on meeting the recreation needs of the region as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. For Woodhaven residents, this would include the Wayne County Parks, the HCMA metroparks, and the state- and federally-owned parks and recreation areas described in the preceding pages. The NRPA standard for regional parks is 15 to 20 acres of parkland per 1,000 people.

The NRPA also recognizes other types of parks such as schoolyards and private recreation facilities, which can contribute to the local parks and recreation system. This would include the public schools and private recreation facilities discussed earlier. These facilities, however, offer some limitations to regular public access for Woodhaven residents.

Table 7 compares the NRPA suggested standard with existing City parks based on 2009 population and projected population for 2035. As evident from this comparison, Woodhaven parks meet the acreage requirements for close-to-home parkland in 2009 and 2035. In addition, the residents of the City of Woodhaven are well-served by the regional park facilities provided by the county, HCMA, the state and federal governments that are located in and around Woodhaven.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Park</th>
<th>NRPA standard Per 1000 pop.</th>
<th>Required Based on 2009 population 12,538</th>
<th>Required Based on 2035 population 14,640</th>
<th>Existing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Close to Home Parkland</strong></td>
<td>6.25 - 10.5 Ac.</td>
<td>79 – 132 Ac.</td>
<td>92 – 154 Ac.</td>
<td>116.7 Ac.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Regional Parks</strong></td>
<td>15 - 20 Ac.</td>
<td>189 – 251 Ac.</td>
<td>220 – 293 Ac.</td>
<td>15,247 Ac.</td>
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<td><strong>Schools (within City)</strong></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>65.7 Ac.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 8 is a comparison of the City’s park facilities against NRPA’s suggested park facility development standards. The City generally meets the public active recreational facilities standards, except for tennis and badminton courts. Other activities such as golfing, driving range, swimming pool are served by area businesses including the Riverview Highlands Golf Course, Woodside Meadows Golf Course, Westburn Golf Club, and the Downriver YMCA in Southgate.
# Table 8. Comparison to Suggested Facility Development Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>NRPA Standard Unit/pop.</th>
<th>Suggested Based on 2009 pop. (12,538)</th>
<th>Existing in Woodhaven</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Outdoor Basketball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handball</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>1/100,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>1/2,000</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf-driving Range</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/4 Mile Running Track</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>1/5,000</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multi-use court</td>
<td>1/10,000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>1/region</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archery range</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skeet/Trap Field</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golf</td>
<td>1/50,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor Swimming Pools</td>
<td>1/20,000</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Safety Town](image)
ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND STATUS OF GRANT ASSISTED PROJECTS

A critical component in planning for recreation facilities is providing barrier-free access to accommodate the needs of all people, including disabled individuals. The ranking system suggested by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines (2006) to determine accessibility was used to evaluate City parks. The ranking system ranges from 1 to 5:

1. None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet accessibility guidelines
4. The entire park meets accessibility guidelines
5. The entire park was developed/renovated using the principles of universal design

Each of the parks was evaluated using the MDNR ranking system (Table 9). The specific elements that were evaluated include parking, paths of travel from parking to activity areas, activity areas themselves, support facilities such as restrooms, and surfacing.

Table 9. Accessibility Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Park</th>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bates Park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>There is an accessible route to the ball field but not the soccer field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Center Park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>There are accessible routes to most activity areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower and Upper Constitution Park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>There are accessible routes to most activity areas, except for some play equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deerfield Park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>There are accessible routes to most activity areas, except for some play equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage I Park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>There are accessible routes to most activity areas, except for some play equipment and picnic shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heritage IV Park</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>There are accessible routes to most activity areas, except for some play equipment and picnic shelter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodhaven Woods Park</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Undeveloped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-75 Connector</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Trail was designed to be ADA compliant.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future park projects will be designed to comply with or exceed accessibility guidelines of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Current deficiencies regarding accessibility are mainly the result of older equipment or facilities which pre-dates ADA guidelines. It is the intent of the City of Woodhaven Parks and Recreation Department to retrofit these facilities with park upgrades and renovation projects.

As part of this effort, the Parks and Recreation Department completed safety inspections for each playground in the City. These inspections were intended to improve safety and eliminate any potential hazards. The inspection process provided basic information on compliance, training of staff and support documentation for the maintenance staff caring for the parks.

All of the playgrounds were found deficient the appropriate amount of safety surfacing at varying degrees. The Parks and Recreation Department completed a playground safety surfacing project at all City Parks in 2015.
The City of Woodhaven has received one Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) grant for parkland development in 1977, and a tree grant in 2012. Table 10 presents a description of this grant as well as its current use and condition.

**Table 10. MDNR Grant Assisted Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Number</th>
<th>Application Year &amp; Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Grant Amount</th>
<th>Current Use/condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#26-00953</td>
<td>LWCF 1977</td>
<td>2 baseball fields, backstop fencing, and LWCF sign</td>
<td>$30,219</td>
<td>The ball fields are being used and in good condition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTE 12-5</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Tree planning in Civic Center Park and neighborhood parks.</td>
<td>$6,050</td>
<td>Replace trees damaged or stricken by disease.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAP/MDOT</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>I-75 connector pathway along West Road</td>
<td>$2,524,700</td>
<td>Pathway is in use and in excellent condition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*LWCF: Land and Water Conservation Fund*
NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

An essential task in the recreation planning process is to determine the needs of the community as a basis for an action plan to improve the parks system. Needs provide the rationale for the formulation of goals and objectives as well as identify areas for capital improvements. To assess needs, consideration was given to current recreation trends and a public meeting was conducted, and an on-line survey was made available. The opinions focused on identifying priorities for park development in the future.

NATIONAL RECREATION TRENDS

Recreation trends on a national level and in Michigan provide insight into activities that show the greatest growth in popularity and may affect the future direction of parks and recreation. The National Sporting Goods Association (NSGA) regularly conducts national surveys to measure participation in physical activities and track changes from previous years. Table 11 lists the top five outdoor activities in 2010.

Table 11. National Sports Participation, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Running, Jogging, &amp; Trail Running</td>
<td>53.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater, Saltwater, &amp; Fly Fishing</td>
<td>46.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Biking, Mountain Biking, &amp; BMX</td>
<td>42.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car, Backyard, &amp; RV Camping</td>
<td>38.0 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>34.5 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Outdoor Participation Report, 2013, The Outdoor Foundation

These national trends are consistent with trends in Michigan. According to a telephone survey of Michigan residents conducted as part of the 2013-2017 Michigan Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the top 10 outdoor recreation activities are: biking (all types), camping, fishing, walking outdoors (including dog walking), hiking (all types), playing outdoor games/sports, hunting or trapping, swimming (all types), boating, and visiting playgrounds.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration have published a list of future trends compiled from different sources that will influence the direction of recreation planning and programming. These trends include increases in:

- Environmentally sensitive lifestyles, natural area management, and water quality protection
- Concerns for personal and family security, in the importance for wellness activities, and a desire to preserve and maintain cultural heritage
- Public costs, in the provision of leisure services through the public and private sectors and partnerships, a greater recognition of the economic value of parks, open space, and green infrastructure
- Senior citizens and number of smaller households
Monitoring parks and recreation trends is important in determining how parks and recreation services should evolve. Conclusions regarding the implication of the trends noted combined with the demographic and physical characteristics of the City of Woodhaven are summarized below:

- As population increases, demand for recreation will likely increase;
- Recreation facilities and programs should respond to the expected increase of seniors;
- There is and will continue to be a need for more linear parks and corridors to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian pathways for recreation and non-motorized transportation;
- With the increased popularity of exercise walking and fitness-related activities, there will continue to be an increased importance on recreation contributing to walkable, livable, and sustainable communities; and
- The continued collaboration and partnerships between public, private, and non-profit agencies as well as with adjacent local municipalities for the provision of parks and recreation programs and facilities will continue to be critical to the future success of the City of Woodhaven Parks and Recreation.
PUBLIC MEETING

In order to gain a high degree of citizen input into the recreation planning process, the public was invited to attend a meeting early in the plan’s development. A public notice was posted at City Hall, the Community center, and the City’s website and the meeting was advertised on the local cable television channel. In addition, invitation letters were mailed to community stakeholders including City officials, civic organizations, and service clubs. The meeting was held on July 27, 2015 at City Hall.

Following an introductory presentation, which included a description of the master planning process and the information gathered to date, attendees were asked to provide input and details related to park development, program enhancement, and any other issues. The input received is listed in Table 12; six topics (and “other”) were discussed, including: youth programming, adult programming, senior programming, special events, facility expansion/new facilities, and accessibility/inclusion.

Table 12. Public Meeting Input

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Statement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Youth Programming</td>
<td>• Baseball/Softball (current successful programs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Soccer is provided, but not through City – use of football field?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Lacrosse gaining popularity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Sports sampler for young children always successful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Library / Schools – look for ways to cooperate/coordinate youth programming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide different individual day/night programs (not sports related)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Improve communication with surrounding communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Second session summer program at Erving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Programming</td>
<td>• Softball – regular and co-ed offered in both summer and fall – successful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Bocce ball league successful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Exercise classes year-round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Roller Hockey – discussed previously, never coordinated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Programming</td>
<td>• Nothing lacking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Successful programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• FULL – not excepting new members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilities</td>
<td>• An audit of existing facilities was conducted in the spring, and will be incorporated into the plan update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• More seating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Dog walking supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Grants to upgrade smaller parks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>• Better communication of existing resources (ex. Water-proof wheelchair for splash pad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Bike path connectivity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On-Line Survey

During the months of July through mid-October 2015, Woodhaven residents were invited to participate in an on-line survey to provide ideas and suggestions related to the City’s Recreation Plan update. The survey was made available through the City website, and was advertised on cable television.

One hundred forty-four (144) persons provided responses to the survey. Of the total respondents, 87.5% were residents of Woodhaven. A summary of survey responses in addition to the entire survey including tables, graphs, and open-ended responses are provided in the appendices of this document.

Public Review and Public Hearing

After the Recreation Commission considered the input received, reviewed the recreation trends, needs, and other background information, they established the master plan goals, objectives, and an action program for implementation. The Recreation Commission endorsed the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan on January 11, 2016.

A draft plan was then made available for public review for one month beginning on January 15, 2016. Copies were placed at the Community Center and City Hall. The plan’s availability for public review was posted in the local newspaper and on the City’s website (Appendix A). Following the public review period, the Recreation Commission considered the comments received, made adjustments to the Master Plan, and recommended adoption of the Plan by City Council at their regular meeting February 16, 2016 (Appendix B). The public input into the plan culminated in an advertised public hearing held at the City Council meeting of February 16, 2016 (Appendix A & C). After the hearing, the Council adopted the plan (Appendix C).

The overall parks and recreation issues considered by the Recreation Commission focused on

- Existing park maintenance and upgrade
- Park facility development
- Linear park system development
- Parkland acquisition
- Recreation services, communication, and partnerships
- Administration and funding

These issues served to formulate the goals and objectives of City of Woodhaven Parks and Recreation Master Plan.
PUBLIC INPUT FOR PLAN AMENDMENT

The 2016 Recreation Plan was updated in January of 2018 to reflect the addition of the Westwood Nature Area and completion of the I-75 connector pathway. Public input was sought at multiple points throughout the process to ensure that resident opinions were considered. Input sessions were held at a Recreation Commission meetings on January 15 and February 19, and again at a City Council meeting on January 16. The input sessions were advertised in the Downriver News Herald on January 14 and February 4.

The February 4 announcement included notice that the revised plan was available for two-week public review. City Council also alerted the public to the review period at their meeting on February 6. The plan was made available electronically on the City website, and in hard copy form at the Community Center and City Hall.

The February 4 announcement also included information on a Public Hearing to be held as part of the City Council meeting on February 20. Following the Public Hearing, the City Council voted to adopt the updated plan.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The City of Woodhaven Recreation Commission has formulated the following goals and objectives for the next five-year planning period. The goals and objectives are broad enough to encompass the needs expressed from the public and from City officials and staff and the observed deficiencies in the recreation resources of the area. They also consider demographics, current growth and forecasted development, the area’s physical resources, and recreation trends.

GOALS

The City of Woodhaven should provide outdoor recreational opportunities for persons of all ages and all abilities.

The City of Woodhaven should provide clean, safe, and healthy environments for outdoor recreation.

The City of Woodhaven should consider the future needs of the community and take actions to preserve natural resources, provide linkages, and dedicate parkland and community space in order to meet future recreational needs of the community.

OBJECTIVES

I. Maintain existing parks

There is a need to ensure that existing park and recreation facilities are maintained and upgraded to a high quality standard. Facilities that are safe, functional, and well-maintained are essential to Woodhaven’s parks and recreation system. This would include upgrading aging existing facilities, removing barriers, improving the parks’ aesthetics, and park maintenance.

II. Develop new park facilities

There is also a desire to continue developing new park and recreation facilities that respond to the changing needs of community residents such as developing more activity areas in Civic Center Park and other park facility development at other existing parks.

III. Establish a continuous city-wide walkway system

The establishment of greenways and trails to connect the parks and form a continuous park system tying community facilities, schools, neighborhoods, downtown Woodhaven, and parks is recognized as a priority for the community. This city-wide system should also be tied to the regional greenway system planned for the area.

IV. Future parkland acquisition/dedication

The City of Woodhaven is characterized by stable neighborhoods located at the periphery of the City, a central civic center focused on a community park, a downtown commercial area along Allen Road, and industrial areas and I-75 bisecting these areas. Future parkland acquisition and dedication should focus on linking neighborhood and parks to overcome this fragmented City pattern, and on providing community open space in new residential and commercial developments. Coordination with the City Council, Planning Commission, and Downtown Development Authority will be necessary to carry on this effort.
V. **Recreation Services, Communication, and partnerships**

Park and recreation services in the Downriver area are operated by a variety of public and private entities. Improved coordination between and among the various regional entities can yield a more efficient and effective recreation system for Woodhaven residents. In addition to the region’s recreation providers, the continued coordination with the City’s Downtown Development Authority, schools, civic groups, and business organizations, is important to maximize the City’s recreation potential. The Recreation Commission should play a role in the coordination of such services by focusing on increasing public awareness and support for park and development projects and meeting community recreational needs for both parks and programs. The Recreation Commission should use recreation as a catalyst to bring people together and promote a sense of community pride, health and wellness, and a high quality of life for the residents.

VI. **Administration and funding**

A quality park and recreation system is dependent on the prudent use of available funds. Park improvements and operations have been funded through the City’s general fund. A means of generating revenues through grants and fundraising where possible must be a priority to provide capital improvement projects and parkland acquisition.

**ACTION PROGRAM**

The action program details the manner in which the goals and objectives will be met. It includes a list of specific projects, as well as suggested improvement projects, timing, and strategies for implementation.

**ACTION PLAN**

The following outlines a list of specific projects and actions which are recommended for accomplishment during the planning period. Concept plans showing Civic Center Park improvements and the City-wide pathway system is also included to illustrate the proposed actions.

1. **Maintain and upgrade existing park facilities and landscaping (All City parks)**

   This objective includes replacing old equipment which are in a state of disrepair, are outdated, or are dangerous. It also includes improving the appearance of the City Parks and properties through appropriate landscaping and maintenance. All upgrades must be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and efforts should be taken to remove all existing barriers to universal access. Proposed actions or projects include:

   - Removal/repair of outdated play equipment at all neighborhood parks
   - Install new play equipment focusing on all ages and abilities
   - Continue to upgrade all park facilities based on Safety Assessment
   - Repair, upgrade, and install new accessibility pathways
   - Refurbish baseball/softball field at Bates Park
   - Install park amenities including benches, picnic tables, trash receptacles, and signage
- Maintenance and safety inspections of park equipment, facilities and athletic field surfaces
- Refurbishing of parking area and walkway pavement surfaces
- General maintenance of restroom buildings and park pavilions including roof repair, exterior painting, and other repairs
- Evaluate areas for and install field sports in neighborhood parks.

2. **Improve Civic Center Park as the main community park for the City of Woodhaven**

   Because of its prime location and size, Civic Center Park is a high priority for future park improvements. Proposed improvements are described below for the north and south portions of the park as well as for the overall property. Figure 13 illustrates the overall property concept development plan while Figure 14 shows the proposed preliminary layout for the development of the north area of the park.

   **North Area:**
   - Installation of pickleball courts.
   - Install an inclusive playground universally designed that exceeds ADA requirements for people with diverse abilities
   - Renovate safety town buildings with all-weather siding
   - Improve lighting and site amenities at outdoor skating rink

   **South Area:**
   - Installation of a pavilion and band shell or portable stage
   - Redevelopment of existing Civic Center Drive into a parking area with lighting, pedestrian circulation, and storm water management
   - Maintain existing picnic shelter, exterior painting and roof repairs
   - Renovate four (4) outfields at the baseball/softball complex
   - Enhance bleacher and dugout areas and the location for improved spectator/participant experiences at baseball/softball complex
   - Repair concession building roof and replace shingles/gutters
   - Development of a central pathway from Hall Road to eastern developed pathway
   - Maintain and improve play structure and surrounding area with improved access and site amenities
   - Install new all-weather dasher boards at the inline skate rink
   - Improve athletic fields for youth sports practice and games
   - Improve activity areas and surfacing to exercise stations along fitness trail

   **Overall:**
   - Improve drainage throughout park
   - Continued development of a property-wide walkway system with trailheads and pedestrian amenities including kiosks, maps, drinking fountains, benches, and mile markers
   - Enhancement of the site’s vegetation with addition of shade trees, vegetation buffer along I-75 maintaining selective view onto the site, management of the forested area, and other landscaping improvements
   - Repair and seal paved pathways throughout the park.
Figure 13. Civic Center Park Concept

- **Civic Center Park Concept Plan**

- **Install proposed pavilion/stage**
- **Install proposed inclusive playground**
- **Provide a trail head by Community Center with kiosk incorporating map of walkways, benches, and water fountain**
- **Install proposed central pathway link**
- **Install proposed westwood nature area connector**
- **Install proposed pickleball courts**
- **Install proposed inclusive playground**
- **Renovate play structure with better edging using pedestrian pathway, add safety surface, relocate and add benches along walkways, and remove barriers to accessibility**
- **Install proposed inline skaterink**
- **Dash board replacement**
- **Install proposed pickleball courts**
- **Add mile markers along pedestrian walkways**
- **Install new large pavilion for special events - raised, with electricity and sound system**
- **Add pedestrian walkways connections to west side of the park with a pedestrian bridge**
- **Complete a walkway connection to City sidewalks to close loop**

**Civic Center Park**

**City of Woodhaven**

**Wayne County, Michigan**

**Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc.**

**Community Planners and Landscape Architects**
3. **Develop Westwood Nature Area**

Access to natural areas improves resident well-being and offers a number of health benefits. Providing access to the Westwood Nature Area and offering passive-use facilities should be a priority for this property. This includes:

- Develop accessible trailhead and local trails within the Nature Area
- Provide connection to the Westwood Trail on the east side of I-75
- Develop an ADA compliant parking lot
- Develop soccer complex
- Install picnic pavilions, shelters, and comfort stations
- Install overlooks near the ponds and wetlands
- Install entry, educational, and wayfinding signage
- Provide park amenities such as benches, bike racks, and trash receptacles
- Develop a tree maintenance and replacement program
- Develop educational programs and stewardship plans
- Perform safety upgrades and general maintenance upgrades on an ongoing basis

4. **Develop a continuous pathway/trail system**

There is a need for more walking paths within the City. Priority should be placed on the development of walkways/pathways connecting the parks to form a continuous park system tying community facilities, schools, neighborhoods, and downtown Woodhaven. This includes:

- Construct West Road connector over I-75
- Construct shared use path connecting Civic Center Park trails to Van Horn Road.
- Construct shared use path along property Westwood Road.
- Construct pathway within Westwood Nature Area
- Construct pathway route within the floodplain connecting Van Horn and Vreeland Roads.
- Coordinate with Planning Commission and City Council to implement walkways connecting neighborhoods, parks, and schools.
- Coordinate with City Council and Planning Commission in the review of development proposals to ensure sidewalks/walkways are built in conjunction with new developments
- Attract sponsors and donations to install benches, trash receptacles, drinking fountains, and signage.

6. **Acquire and dedicate parkland and community space**

Future parkland acquisition and dedication is an important action the City should consider as opportunities arise. Desired parkland should focus on providing connection to existing parks. This includes:

- Working with City Council, Planning Commission, and the Downtown Development Authority to ensure parkland needs are considered in the review of new developments and to encourage developers to set aside land for parks or community space.
7. **Improve Woodhaven recreation services**
Facilitate and promote the use of City parks, recreation programs, and facilities by community groups including seniors, youth groups, and public schools. More specific actions include:

- Evaluate and monitor recreation programs and work to broaden the participant base
- Continue to broaden the variety of activities for all ages and abilities
- Expand community special events at Civic Center Park
- Maintain and expand volunteer opportunities
- Raise community awareness of the Recreation Department offerings, staff, opportunities, and facilities by seeking alternate communication opportunities. These should include use of the City website, Facebook page, email, provision of guides and maps at City departments, and through use of emerging technologies, such as social networking, websites, and/or cable television
- Continue to develop on-line services to include facility maps/inventory, program registration, interactive calendar of community events/activities to assist in facility use and scheduling.
- Develop and implement a marketing campaign for the Recreation Department that highlights the resources and quality programming and services provided to residents and non-residents alike.

8. **Continue to forge new partnerships with other recreation providers**
Continue to increase coordination and involvement with other recreation providers. Proposed actions include:

- Coordination of the shared-use of facilities with civic organizations, area sports organization, public schools, adjacent community and regional recreation providers, and other private recreation groups

9. **Administration and finance**
A means of curbing operational costs and increasing revenues where possible must become a priority to support the desired park improvement projects and to maintain the existing and future park facilities to a high quality standard. Seeking grants and sponsorships where possible must be done aggressively. Recreation Commissioners must become advocates and promote the social, economic, and environmental values and benefits of parks and recreation by reaching to the community and the region.
## Project Schedule

Table 13 lists individual projects along with the specific tasks to be accomplished, the project goal/objective reference, a cost estimate, and potential funding sources. In addition, a time frame for completion has been assigned. Short-term projects (ST) are recommended for completion within one to three years, medium-term (MT) within two to five years while long-term projects (LT) may take longer to complete. There are also tasks that are on-going (OG).

### Table 13. Project Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project/Tasks</th>
<th>Obj.</th>
<th>Cost Estimate</th>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Time Frame</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General park upgrade</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove/upgrade outdated play equipment at Upper Constitution, Lower Constitution, Deerfield and Heritage IV parks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, Grants, donations, and volunteer effort</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate areas for and install field sports in neighborhood parks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, Grants, donations, and volunteer effort</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair, upgrade, and install new accessibility pathways</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, Grants, donations and volunteer effort</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refurbish baseball/softball field in Bates Park</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install park furnishings including benches, trash receptacles, and signs at all neighborhood parks</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to upgrade all park facilities based on Safety Assessment.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, Grants, donations, and volunteer effort</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Center Park</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve drainage throughout the park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, DDA fund, CDBG fund, &amp; grants</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct large pavilion/band shell in southern area of the park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install an Inclusive Playground universally designed that exceeds ADA requirements for people with diverse abilities.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovate (4) outfields at the baseball/softball complex</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance and find better placement for bleacher areas at baseball/softball complex</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair concession building roof and replace shingles</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovate football/soccer practice fields at south end of park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install new roadway and parking area at south end of park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>LT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project/Tasks</td>
<td>Obj.</td>
<td>Cost Estimate</td>
<td>Funding Source</td>
<td>Time Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct central, east-west paved pathway connecting baseball/softball complex to Hall Road and the north-south pathway extending along I-75</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve activity areas and surfacing to exercise stations along fitness trail</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renovate safety town buildings with all-weather siding</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install new all-weather dasher boards at in-line skate rink</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair and seal paved pathways throughout the park</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insert trailheads and pedestrian amenities along walkways including kiosks, maps, drinking fountain, benches, and mile markers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add shade trees, vegetation buffer along I-75, and other landscaping</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Westwood Nature Area</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop accessible trailhead and local trails within the Nature Area</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$500 – 600,000</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide connection to the Westwood Trail on the east side of I-75</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop an ADA compliant parking lot</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$50 – 100,000</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install picnic pavilions, shelters, and comfort stations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>MT - LT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install overlooks near the ponds and wetlands</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>MT - LT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install entry, educational, and wayfinding signage</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$15 – 18,000</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide park amenities such as benches, bike racks, and trash receptacles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>$10 – 15,000</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop a tree maintenance and replacement program</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop educational programs and stewardship plans</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perform safety upgrades and general maintenance upgrades on an ongoing basis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Continuous pathway/walkway system</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct West Road connector over I-75</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>$3,000,000</td>
<td>General fund &amp; grants</td>
<td>ST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct shared use path connecting Civic Center Park trails to Van Horn Road</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct pathway route within the floodplain connecting Van Horn and Vreeland Roads.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants &amp; donations</td>
<td>LT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project/Tasks</td>
<td>Obj.</td>
<td>Cost Estimate</td>
<td>Funding Source</td>
<td>Time Frame</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construct shared use path along proposed Westwood Road</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>To be determined</td>
<td>General fund, grants, &amp; donations</td>
<td>LT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate with Planning Commission and City Council to implement walkways</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate with Planning Commission and City Council to ensure walkways</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate with Planning Commission and City Council to ensure walkways are</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attract sponsors and donations for installing benches, trash receptacles,</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work with Planning Commission, City Council, and Downtown Development</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate and monitor recreation programs and work to broaden the participant</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue to broaden the variety of activities offered</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand community events at Civic Center Park</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintain and expand volunteer opportunities</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expand the use of web-based communication tools</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raise community awareness of Recreation services and facilities</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop and implement a marketing campaign</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordinate the shared-use of facilities with civic organizations, area</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and finance</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>OG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to accomplish the recommended actions during the next five years, it will be necessary to secure adequate funding. The current budget provides a limited amount of money for parks and recreation facilities. Therefore, the following strategies are recommended in order to proceed as planned.

Apply for Federal Funding

At the federal level, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) funds Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities. To be eligible, a project must fall into one of the 12 TE activities and relate to surface transportation. A minimum 20 percent local match is required for proposed projects and applications are accepted online on an on-going basis. Activities which may apply to the City of Woodhaven include:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles including new or reconstructed sidewalks, walkways, curb ramps, bike lane striping, wide paved shoulders, bike parking, off-road trails, bike and pedestrian bridges, and underpasses
- Provision of safety and educational programs for pedestrians and bicyclists designed to encourage walking and bicycling
- Acquisition, planning, designing and constructing abandoned railway corridors

The Safe Routes to School (SR2S) program is a national movement to make it safe, convenient, and fun for children to bicycle and walk to school. In Michigan, the program is sponsored by the Michigan Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness. With the passage of the federal transportation legislation in 2005, Michigan’s SR2S program will make schools eligible for transportation enhancement funds, providing for infrastructure improvements and education campaigns.

The program had authorized $612 million over five years beginning with 2016. Schools must be registered, attend a day-long training session, and develop a Walking Audit in order to be eligible to apply. SR2S funding is 100 percent federal and no match is required.

Apply for State Funding

At the state level, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) continue to be the primary funding sources for parkland acquisition and development.

The MNRTF provides funding for the purchase and development of parkland for natural resource-based preservation and recreation. Goals of the program are to:

- Protect natural resources and provide for their access, public use, and enjoyment
- Provide public access to Michigan’s water bodies, particularly the Great Lakes, and facilitate their recreation use
- Meet regional, county and community needs for outdoor recreation opportunities
- Improve the opportunities for outdoor recreation in urban areas
- Stimulate Michigan’s economy through recreation related tourism and community revitalization

Grant proposals must include a local match of at least 25 percent of the total project cost. There is no minimum or maximum for acquisition projects. For development projects, the
minimum funding request is $15,000 and the maximum is $500,000. Applications are due in April and August for acquisition projects and April (only) for development projects.

The LWCF is a federal appropriation to the National Park Service, which distributes funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for development of outdoor recreation facilities. The focus of the program has recently been on trailway systems and other community recreation needs such as playgrounds, picnic areas, skate parks, ball fields, soccer fields, and walking paths. Minimum grant requests are $30,000 and maximum grant requests are $75,000. The match percentage must be 50 percent of the total project cost. Applications are due on April 1st.

Other funding conducted in partnership with the MDNR is available through other state government divisions, such as the Fisheries Division (Inland Fisheries Grant) and the Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management Division (DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant and Forest Stewardship – Outreach and Education Grant).

The Inland Fisheries Grant program considers projects that enhance habitat and fisheries, riparian property for public fishing use, water quality, and ecology. Grant funding is made available in October.

The DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting funds are available to local units of government within the service territory of DTE Energy for tree planting projects in parks, road right-of-ways, school grounds, and public lands. A total of up to $3,000 may be granted to eligible tree planting projects on public and school property with a 50 percent local match. Applications are typically due in the fall.

Local units of government may use the Forest Stewardship program to develop a management plan for a municipal forest which would include a component targeting outreach to private landowners. A total of $2,000 may be granted with a 50 percent local match. Applications are due in September. Nongame Wildlife Fund Grants have also been offered in the past to identify, protect, manage, and restore native plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

Apply for Other Grant Funding
There are also a variety of smaller grant programs available for the establishment of greenways/pathways or greenway-related facilities such as Bikes Belong Coalition. The Bikes Belong Coalition is sponsored by members of the American Bicycle Industry. Their mission is to put more people on bikes more often. The program funds projects in three categories: Facility, Education, and Capacity Building. Requests for funding can be up to $10,000 for projects such as bike paths, trails, lanes, parking, and safe routes to school. Applications are reviewed on a quarterly basis.

Seek Other Sources of Funding
The City of Woodhaven should investigate additional sources of funding. Seeking donations, attracting sponsors, holding fund-raising events, and seeking out other revenue sources are methods that should continue to be pursued aggressively to raise funding for park acquisition and development.
Supporting Documents
ON-LINE SURVEY SUMMARY
NOTICES OF DRAFT PLAN AVAILABILITY AND PUBLIC HEARING
RECREATION COMMISSION RESOLUTION