



CITY OF OAK PARK

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City Awards Bid to Bring New Pocket Parks to Nine Mile Part of a larger redevelopment effort, construction is set to begin in May

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 2, 2019

OAK PARK, MI – Today, the City of Oak Park is excited to announce that work on two new pocket parks along Nine Mile Road will begin in mid-May. The bid for the project was awarded to Warren Contracting & Development, Inc. from Shelby Township at the Monday, March 18 City Council Meeting. The pocket parks are a part of the larger effort to revitalize the Nine Mile Road corridor called the [Nine Mile Redesign](#).

These much-anticipated pocket parks will be located on the north side of Nine Mile Road at Seneca Street and Sherman Street. They will be created by closing off those streets right at their respective Nine Mile Road intersections. Sherman will feature a giant chess board, a cornhole game area, and various types of seating, whereas Seneca will feature open seating, open space, and a designated play area that the City is currently seeking funding for.

The Nine Mile Redesign was borne out of the City’s strategic planning process in 2014 with the [Center for New Urbanism](#). This process, which included various forms of community engagement, yielded results that pointed City officials in the direction of working towards improving and expanding public spaces and infrastructure. The City tested the pocket park concept in [July 2017 with what was called a “pop-up park”](#). This month-long park was tested at the site of the soon-to-be Sherman pocket park. It was received with overwhelmingly positive reviews, giving the City the greenlight to make permanent parks of this type.

“We want our residents to have fun places they can bring their kids after school. These pocket parks will become the gems of their respective areas. They will create a sense of place unmatched in the area,” said City Manager Erik Tungate.

After the first bidding for the pocket parks came back far higher than expected, the City rebid this project in March. The second round of bidding yielded better results, prompting City Council to award the bid for construction to Warren Contracting & Development, Inc., which is also the same contractor being used for the rest of the Nine Mile Redesign. The cost for both pocket parks totals about \$597,000. The funds for the parks are coming from grants, the City’s Corridor Improvement Authority, as well as its Major Streets Fund.

“The pocket parks, the first part implemented of the Nine Mile Redesign project, will improve public spaces for families living nearby, and for shoppers visiting the stores,” said Mayor Marian McClellan. “When the whole project is complete, it will be a game changer for Nine Mile Road.”

To finish off this phase of improvements along Nine Mile, the City hopes to construct a linear park on the south side of the road where a sparsely-used greenbelt currently sits. The City is currently working to identify funding sources to bring this plan to fruition.

Construction on the pocket parks as well as the rest of the Nine Mile Redesign, including the road diet, streetscape improvements, trailhead, and more, is anticipated to conclude this fall. The City plans to stay in constant communication with residents and business owners throughout the process. To stay up to date with the progress of the Nine Mile Redesign, visit <http://www.facebook.com/9MileRedesign>.

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About:

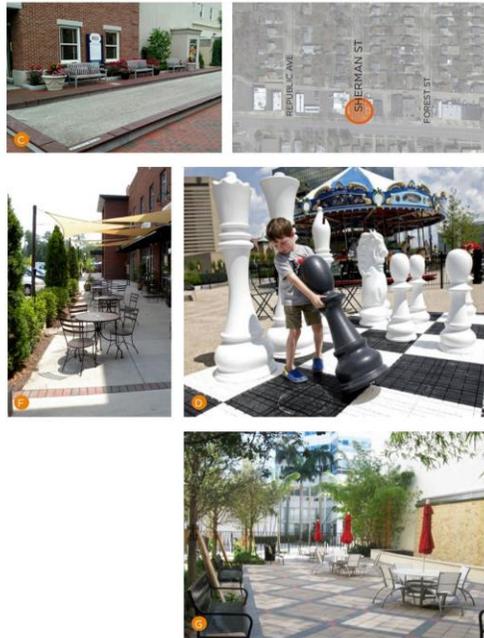
Situated within the southeast corner of Oakland County, the City of Oak Park has a long history of being an integral, inner-ring suburb of Detroit. With approximately 30,000 residents in 5.16 square miles, we pride ourselves on the richness of our cultural diversity and our safe, secure neighborhoods.

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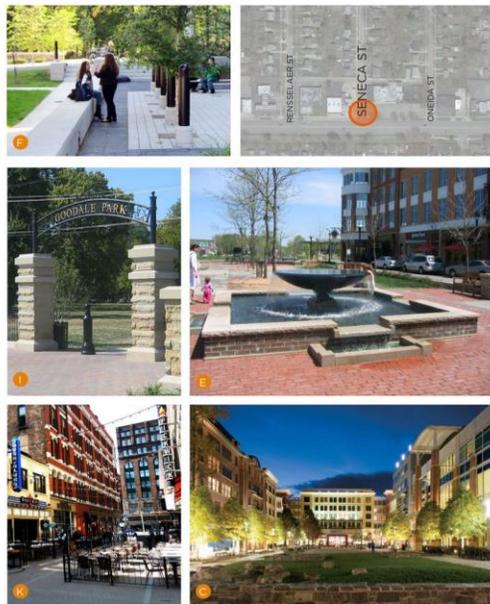
- Legend**
- A Landscape Buffer
 - B Entry Seat Walls
 - C Cornhole Gaming Area
 - D Outdoor Chess Set
 - E Ornamental Trees
 - F Private Outdoor Dining
 - G Moveable Table & Chairs
 - H Low Colorful Plantings



POCKET PARK CONCEPT



- Legend**
- A Bollards
 - B Private Outdoor Seating
 - C Lawn Panel
 - D Buffer Plantings
 - E Water Feature
 - F Seatwall
 - G Bench
 - H Decorative Hardscape
 - I Entry Pedestrian Archway
 - J Re-Aligned Parking



SENECA ST POCKET PARK CONCEPT